

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at Curious Brewery, Victoria Road,  
Ashford,  
Kent**

**NGR: 0097642184  
(TR 0976 2184)**

**Planning Ref: 16/01157/AS  
ASE Project No: 170103  
Site Code: ACB17  
ASE Report No: 2017181  
OASIS id: archaeol6-282170**

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With contributions by  
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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Curious Brewery, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Gleeds Management Services Ltd, in advance of the development for the Curious Brewery.*

*A total of 5 trenches were excavated, three of which revealed several red, frogged brick and concrete foundations relating to a 19<sup>th</sup> century school. One linear feature was also recorded it probably relates to a medieval field boundary.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Gleeds Management Services Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Curious Brewery, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 00976, 42184 and its location is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

1.1.2 The site is located directly to the south of the railway line for Ashford International and to the north of Victoria Road with the A2042 running along the eastern side of site. Industrial warehouses are located to the west and southwest of the site.

1.1.3 The site forms part of a larger parcel of land which is subject to three separate planning applications and is divided into two parts and is located on either side of Victoria Road comprising of c.2 ha in total. This archaeological evaluation is only concerned with the eastern part of the northern half; the brewery site (c.0.65 ha, Figure 2)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017) the underlying geology of the site comprises of the Weald Clay Formation to the north of Victoria Road, and deposits of Third River Terrace Gravels to the south.

1.2.2 Geotechnical investigation of the site indicated that the Weald Clay lies at a depth of c.5-7m below the existing ground level. This is overlain by an alluvium typically 2-5m thick in turn overlain with deposits of modern made ground which on average is 1m thick. River Terrace Gravels were not recorded (MLM 2016).

1.2.3 The topography of the site is relatively level and is located at c.43m OD. The area consists of either concrete, tarmac or topsoil.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted to Ashford Borough Council for the development of a brewery, with shop, bar and restaurant, three commercial units and 216 residential units with associated parking, substations, landscaping and access works (Planning Ref: 16/01157/AS).

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by ASE (2017) and approved by the Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council (HCGKCC) prior to the commencement of archaeological works on site.

## **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between the 3rd and 6th April 2017 in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2017). The work was carried out by Archaeologist Lucy May with assistance from Gemma Ward. The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following summary is taken from a Desk-based Assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting, with due acknowledgement (CgMs 2016).

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 There is little evidence of prehistoric activity within the vicinity the site. Some evidence of possible Iron Age settlement activity was found to the southeast. Elsewhere in the vicinity, occasional finds of prehistoric date have been recovered, including a Bronze Age dagger and a palstave axe.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 A possible Roman settlement was identified some distance to the south and southeast and the possible route of the Roman road from Benenden to Canterbury Roman Road lay close to the eastern boundary of the site.

2.3.2 Other finds of Roman date from the area include a cremation burial in Albert Road and residual Roman pottery identified during evaluation at The North School.

### **2.4 Medieval**

2.4.1 The only Anglo-Saxon remains in central Ashford, are 7<sup>th</sup> century inhumation burials identified to the north. The Domesday Book records the manor of *Essetesford* with two villagers, 15 smallholders, three slaves, a church, a priest, two mills with a value of 100 shillings.

2.4.2 Ashford is understood to have developed as a small market town during the medieval period. A market was granted in 1243, and the church was rebuilt 1483. The only medieval building in the vicinity is the Mummers, to the north of the site.

### **2.5 Post Medieval**

2.5.1 Post-medieval maps show the site as open land to the south of the historic core of Ashford until the construction of the Victoria Flour Mills in 1890, situated on the western boundary of the site. The mills were in use until its demolition following a fire in 1983. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1898 shows that Victoria Road has been laid out and the site is occupied with a school and the eastern end of the Victoria Flour Mills.

## **2.6 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.6.1 The broad aims of the evaluation were:

- *To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits.*
- *To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site;*
- *To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site; and*
- *To assess what options should be considered for mitigation (e.g. further archaeological investigation and recording and/or engineering design to allow for meaningful preservation in situ).*

2.6.2 Specific aims were to:

- *Determine the presence/absence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval remains;*
- *Identify the location of the Victoria Flour Mill complex and characterise any remaining structures or cultural material;*
- *Identify the location of the school complex and characterise any remains structures or cultural material.*



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)**

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork methodology was initially set out in the WSI (ASE 2017). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the Kent County Council Manual of Specifications for Evaluation (KCC 2017), the CifA Standards for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CifA 2014a) and Code of Conduct (CifA 2014b).
- 3.1.2 Trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator with a breaker and a flat bladed ditching bucket under archaeological supervision and scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool.
- 3.1.3 According to the WSI (ASE 2017) a total of 6 trenches were due to be excavated, comprising of four trenches measuring 30m x 2m, one trench measuring 20m x 2m and one of 15m x 2m. However, only five trenches were excavated, three of which had to be shortened to avoid obstructions and services. Trench 6 was not excavated due to live services (Figure 2).
- 3.1.4 Some of the trenches were excavated to depths greater than 1.2m therefore stepping of the sides was required. Due to the depths and instability of the soils some of the trenches were not accessible.
- 3.1.5 Trench 1 had an area of 6m left unexcavated due to several services being located within the centre of the trench.
- 3.1.6 Trench 3 had to be shortened by 3m to the northeast of the trench due to a service, also, an area of 7m to the southwest encountered wall foundations where excavation ceased.
- 3.1.7 Trench 5 had to be shorted by 4m at the northeast end of the trench due to the sharp drop of an extant concrete ramp.
- 3.1.8 Trench 6 had to be left unexcavated due to high readings from the CAT and the proximity to possible live services.
- 3.1.9 All recording was undertaken in line with the WSI (ASE 2017) and the Kent County Council Manual of Specifications of Evaluation (KCC 2017). The trenches and all features were planned using either digital survey technology or hand planned where needed. Sections were hand drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches, excavated features and of the site in general.

### 3.3 Archive

3.3.1 Ashford Museum are no longer responding to emails regarding the production of archaeological archives as a result of fieldwork. Therefore they are effectively 'closed' to site archives. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE until a suitable repository can be found. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	34
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	67
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	6

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	4 bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1/001	Layer	Surface	24	2.2	0.12-0.15
1/002	Layer	Made ground	24	2.2	0.23-0.58
1/003	Layer	Natural alluvial deposit	24	2.2	0.22-0.40
1/004	Layer	Natural alluvial deposit	24	2.2	0.08-0.10

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The stratigraphy for this trench consisted of a redeposited natural alluvium [1/004] comprising pale bluey grey clay/silt with occasional roots and occasional gravels. This was at a depth of 0.90-1.25m below ground level and was overlain by a darker grey clayey silt [1/003]. This was interpreted as a stained interface between made ground [1/002] and the alluvium [1/004]. The made ground deposit [1/002] comprised an orangey brown silty clay with gravels and CBM. It produced finds of 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, clinker and glass. It probably related to a levelling and bedding deposit for the overlying layer of tarmac. [1/001]

### 4.2 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	18	2.2	0.16-0.40
3/002	Layer	Made ground	18	2.2	0.40-0.52
3/003	Layer	Natural	18	2.2	0.30-0.35
3/004	Masonry	Foundation	6	0.47	0.8

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Natural river terrace geology [3/003] was excavated within this trench between 0.56-0.92m below ground level (41.20m AOD). This consisted of a yellowy orange silty clay with occasional areas of sub-angular gravels. Overlying this, was a made ground/demolition deposit [3/002] consisting of a mid-red brown silty clay with occasional CBM and demolition rubble. Also overlying the natural gravels at an elevation of 41.54m AOD were disturbed concrete and brick foundations [3/004], any sign of a construction cut had been truncated during demolition of the associated building. The bricks were approximately 225x110x65mm, shallow frogged, laid as stretchers forming a wall foundation at least 0.80m deep. Above this was a soft, dark, greyish brown clay silt topsoil [3/001].

### 4.3 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
4/001	Layer	Surface	30	2.2	0.24-0.50
4/002	Layer	Made ground	30	2.2	0.10-0.60

4/003	Layer	Surface	30	2.2	0.11-0.20
4/004	Layer	Made ground	30	2.2	0.20-0.30
4/005	Layer	Natural	30	2.2	0.22-0.36
4/006	Layer	Natural	30	2.2	0.10-0.12
4/007	Cut	Ditch	3.4	2.2	0.65
4/008	Fill	Fill, basal	1.85	2.2	0.23
4/009	Fill	Fill, upper	3.4	1	0.45
4/010	Layer	Made ground	30	2.2	0.34
4/011	Layer	Made ground	30	2.2	0.4
4/012	Masonry	Foundation	2.2	0.85	0.6

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Natural weathered Weald Clay or clayey terrace gravel geology [4/006] was encountered between 1.13-1.84m below ground level. Overlaying this was a thin layer of river terrace gravels [4/005], comprising a slightly darker red brown sandy silt with more frequent gravels. Truncating this deposit in the northern end of the trench was a wide linear feature [4/007] encountered at 42.75m AOD and consisting of two fills. This was very regular with very gradual sloping sides and break of slope at the base. The basal fill [4/008] was a pale to mid-grey, clay/silt with moderate gravels. [4/009] was a much darker brown-grey clay silt with occasional CBM and gravel as well as finds of High Medieval (c. AD 1225-1350) pottery. Overlying the ditch, [4/004] comprised a mid-grey silty clay made ground or former topsoil with CBM inclusions. [4/004] appeared to be contaminated by overlying tarmac deposit [4/003]. [4/003] was in-turn overlain by made ground/levelling deposit [4/002] comprising orange- grey sandy rubble.

4.3.2 The southern area of the trench consisted of natural [4/005] overlain by a deposit consisting mainly of bricks [4/011]. This was possibly from the demolition of the school building which previously occupied the site. Above this further made ground/levelling deposit [4/010] consisted of mid-grey silty clay with moderate CBM and building demolition debris. Overlying the natural was a brick and concrete foundation [4/012] running east to west across the trench (measuring approximately 0.85m width by 0.60 depth). This was similar in construction to the masonry found within Trenches 3 and 5. An associated building had obviously been demolished and then tarmac [4/003] was laid above. Made ground deposit [4/002] sealed tarmac [4/003] and was in-turn sealed by a thick layer of concrete [4/001].

#### 4.4 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
5/001	Layer	Surface	26	2.2	0.16-0.18
5/002	Layer	Made ground	26	2.2	0.40-1.70
5/003	Layer	Natural	26	2.2	0.20-0.40
5/005	Layer	Surface	26	2.2	0.20-0.26
5/006	Layer	Made ground	26	2.2	0.40-0.40
5/007	Masonry	Foundation	2.2	0.6	0.56

5/008	Layer	Natural	26	2.2	0.1
5/009	Masonry	Foundation	2.2	0.7	1.3
5/010	Masonry	Foundation	2.2	2.5	1.3

Table 5: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 At the south-west end of the trench a sondage was excavated to check the thickness of the natural geology. A natural pale orange-yellow sand [5/008] was overlain by natural yellowy orange silty clay with occasional areas of sub-angular terrace gravels, [5/003]. This was excavated at a depth between 1.44-2.20m below ground level. Above this, within the centre of the trench, was a layer of dark grey clay silt with CBM and glass inclusions [5/006]. This can be interpreted as a made ground or buried former topsoil. Overlying this was a thick made ground/levelling deposit [5/002] consisting of a red- brown, clay sand, with moderate frequencies of CBM and 19<sup>th</sup> century glass bottles. A single sherd of late post-medieval stoneware pottery was recovered. Overlying the natural were three disturbed masonry features. [5/009] and [5/010] were similar to those found in Trenches 3 and 4, however, [5/007] was slightly different as it lacked concrete and consisted only of red bricks and sandy mortar laid as English bond. Any construction cut related to these foundations had been truncated. They relate to part of the school building which previously stood on the site. The difference noted in the construction is the result of alterations to the building around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the trench was a layer of tarmac [5/005], followed by a layer of mixed sand [5/004] possible used as levelling for the concrete [5/001] encountered on the ground surface.

#### 4.5 Archaeologically Negative Trenches

4.5.1 The stratigraphy for Trench 2 consisted of the natural geology [2/004] overlain by a dark grey sandy silt made ground/former topsoil with inclusions of tarmac and CBM. This was overlain by another made ground/levelling deposit [2/002] consisting of a mid-grey brown silty sand with CBM, disused service pipes and glass. This was in turn overlain by a layer of gravel/roadstones [2/001]

4.5.2 A table of contexts recorded is provided in Appendix 1.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Curious Brewery, Ashford. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 7). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
1/002	5	372			1	1	2	350		
4/009	2	28	2	57						
5/002	2	372					11	1353	1	9
5/007			1	2428						
Total	9	772	3	2485	1	1	13	1703	1	9

Table 7: Finds quantification

### 5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological evaluation recovered just nine sherds of pottery, weighing 772g, from three individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 8 as part of the visible archive. In addition each context was spot dated to help site phasing.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented)
1/002	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	3	278g	Wash basin x1 (Continental landscape with urn and floral borders); dish x1 (blue sheet pattern on rim and blue transfer-printed oval cartouche on base with pattern name – DIAMOND – in centre and maker 'D' below – uncertain maker. Also a semi-circular illegible stamp on base)
1/002	Green transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	58g	Tureen lid x1 (floral design)
1/002	Polychrome transfer-printed whiteware	LPM	1	36g	Tureen lid x1 (moulded body, dull green transfer-print of swans on a lake with flowers and bird in bush in foreground. Bird and flowers highlighted in blue, red and yellow)
4/009	Ashford-type sandy ware	HM	2	28g	Cooking pots x2 (oxidised), x1 worn, x1 fresh base
5/002	English stoneware	LPM	2	372g	Preserve jar x1 (grey, Bristol glaze. Plain cylindrical form with horizontal impressed/moulded row of beading 17mm down from squared rim. 125mm tall, base diameter 105mm)

Table 8: Pottery assemblage (HM – High Medieval c. 1225-1350; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

5.2.2 By far the earliest pottery consists of the two High Medieval sherds from context [4/009]. Although one is notably worn the other is quite large and fresh. Both are of the local Ashford-type oxidised sandy ware (Canterbury Archaeological Trust code M40B) and are best placed between c. 1250 and 1350. The remaining pottery consists of quite large fresh sherds of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup>. The assemblage is too small to comment on reliably but there is clearly a range of kitchen, serving and sanitary vessels present.

5.2.3 The pottery assemblage is small and consists of types well known of in the area. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

### **5.3 The Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Three pieces of ceramic building material weighing a total of 2476g were hand-collected from two contexts: [04/009] and [05/007]. Included in this assemblage was an intact brick from [5/007], almost fully encased in a layer of very friable, sandy beige coloured mortar which is of a 19<sup>th</sup> century type. The brick fabric was over-fired, but looked like a local version of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) fabric 3032, a post-1666 fabric characterised by the inclusions of burnt black ash and flint in addition to domestic refuse such as burnt animal bone.

5.3.2 The other brick fragments were small, and the fabric was also vitrified, appearing crystalline under the microscope. The fabric appeared to be similar to MOLA post-medieval fabric 3033 which has a use period from c.1500-1800, but the fragments in question are too broken to provide any more specifically dateable characteristics.

### **5.4 The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Context [1/002] produced two fresh pieces (1g) of matt black aerated clinker from coal burning. The material would be in keeping with the later 19<sup>th</sup>- century date suggested by the pottery.

### **5.5 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A small glass assemblage comprising 13 fragments and weighing 1703g was recovered from two different contexts.

5.5.2 The largest group was found in made ground [5/002], which contained 11 bottles and bottle fragments. Included are two wine bottle fragments, a beer bottle fragment, three mineral water bottle fragments, a possible sauce bottle and a cobalt blue poison bottle fragment. Two pharmaceutical bottles are embossed, including a near complete, aqua, panelled bottle with "TRUE DAFFY'S ELIXIR" on the front. The bottle is embossed "DICEY & Co No 10 BOW CHURCH YARD LONDON" on the reverse and "Over the Cork" "The Medicine is" "Counterfeit" "Unless the Name" "of DICEY & Co" "Is in the Stamp" embossed on each of the six side panels. A complete rectangular bottle embossed "KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE OF LINSEED" on the front and "KAY BROTHERS" and "STOCKPORT". The group doesn't include closely dateable bottles and can only be dated broadly to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup>

century.

5.5.3 Made ground [1/002] contained a faceted tumbler fragment as well as a cylindrical ink bottle embossed "H. C. S. STEPHENS LONDON" beneath the base. The latter dates between 1864 and 1925.

**5.6 The Marine Shell** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A single fragment from the right valve of an oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) was recovered from [5/002].



## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 The general stratigraphy across Trenches 3, 4 and 5, comprised either of concrete or tarmac as the ground surface, followed by a series of made ground deposits, measuring up to a depth of 1.7m. Within Trenches 4 and 5, a buried tarmac surface was also found. Directly below this tarmac surface and were a number of wall foundations relating to the school complex which had once stood on site from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 7). Below the made ground deposits one single linear feature, encountered in Trench 4, dating to the medieval period was cut into the underlying natural. This feature had two fills, consisting of a darker deposit which had inclusions of CBM and pottery, overlaying a much siltier deposit. It probably relates to a field boundary. The natural geology comprised yellowy orange silty clay with occasional areas of sub-angular gravels, this was encountered between 0.50-2.20m below ground level.
- 6.1.2 Previous geotechnical investigations (MLM 2016) suggested an alluvium in turn overlain by modern made ground, however, the only trench to have shown alluvium was Trench 1 and this is thought to have been redeposited. This was at a depth of 0.90-1.25m below ground level. The natural deposits are discussed in a geoarchaeological assessment (section 6.2) below.

### **6.2 Geoarchaeological assessment by Ed Blinkhorn**

- 6.2.1 Basal lithologies revealed in the trenches are concordant with either Holocene alluvium or Pleistocene river terrace deposits. Site investigation records (MLM 2016) interpret subsurface sediments as 'alluvium' at the site, although curiously the report claims that no superficial geology is mapped at the site by the BGS – contradicted by both the DBA (CgMS 2016) and online BGS resource (BGS 2017). However, the report notes high shear strength for the 'alluvium' and caveat this interpretation (MLM 2016, 10), suggesting Atherfield Clay and Head as alternatives. The 'alluvium' is typically described as variants of brown or orange sandy clays with a coarse component of flint gravels. Considering the BGS mapping and field observations, Pleistocene river terrace deposits is a preferred interpretation although periglacial slope processes may contribute to their formation.
- 6.2.2 The river terrace deposits in the immediate vicinity of the site derive from the third terrace of the River Stour. Only a very few Palaeolithic artefacts are known from around Ashford (CgMS 2016; Wymer 1999), and none are well provenanced spatially. Results of the Stour Basin Palaeolithic Project are awaited to enhance understanding of the Palaeolithic potential of geoarchaeological units in the area. As manifest at the site, the exposed river terrace had a composition too cohesive to efficiently evaluate in this phase of works and is of probable low significance.
- 6.2.3 The blue grey silt clay exposed in Trench 1 is highly likely to be Holocene alluvial material. However, its position away from the river, relatively higher position above other mapped local Holocene alluvium, and its location in a built-up area beside a railway line point to redeposition. It is therefore of little interest.

### **6.3 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 6.3.1 The natural geology was recorded throughout four of the five trenches and the presence of made ground covering the entire area indicates that the site has been heavily disturbed over the years by the construction and demolition of the school and various other buildings on the site.

### **6.4 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 6.4.1 One linear feature was uncovered which dates to the medieval period. It probably relates to an earlier field boundary.
- 6.4.2 The brick and concrete foundations uncovered during the evaluation relate to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century school complex which continued in use until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 7). Masonry [3/004] related to a detached building within the school complex whereas [4/012], [5/007], [5/009] and [5/010] related to the main school building. Footings [5/007] and [5/009] relate to later alterations to the building made around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **6.5 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

- 6.5.1 The potential impact on archaeological remains is considered to be low due to the developers using piling as part of their foundation design, however, the upper parts of the previous school footings may be truncated during groundworks. The archaeological remains encountered were of reasonably low archaeological significance.

### **6.6 Consideration of research aims**

- 6.6.1 The methodology was successful in establishing that within the evaluated areas there is evidence of the previous school complex. However, very little remains due to various groundworks and developments on site. No Roman or earlier remains were encountered, however, a medieval linear feature thought to be related to a field boundary was encountered in Trench 4. No remains of the Flour Mill complex were encountered. Though this building once existed in the vicinity of Trench 1 no structural evidence was encountered, however, 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century finds may relate to the mills use.

## **6.7 Conclusions**

- 6.7.1 A total of 5 trenches were excavated, three of which revealed several red, frogged brick and concrete foundations found amongst made ground deposits. These were related to the construction and demolition of the late 19th century school complex. One linear feature was also recorded probably relating to a medieval field boundary.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

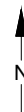
ASE would like to thank Gleeds Management Services Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers, County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Lucy May. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Antonio Reis who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project managed the excavations and Andy Margetts who project managed the post-excavation process.



© Archaeology South-East		Curious Brewery, Ashford		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170103	April 2017	Site location		
Report Ref: 2017181	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Curious Brewery, Ashford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170103	April 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017181	Drawn by: AR		



+ 600989, 142269

TR1



+ 601012, 142261



Trench 1, looking east

© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 170103

April 2017

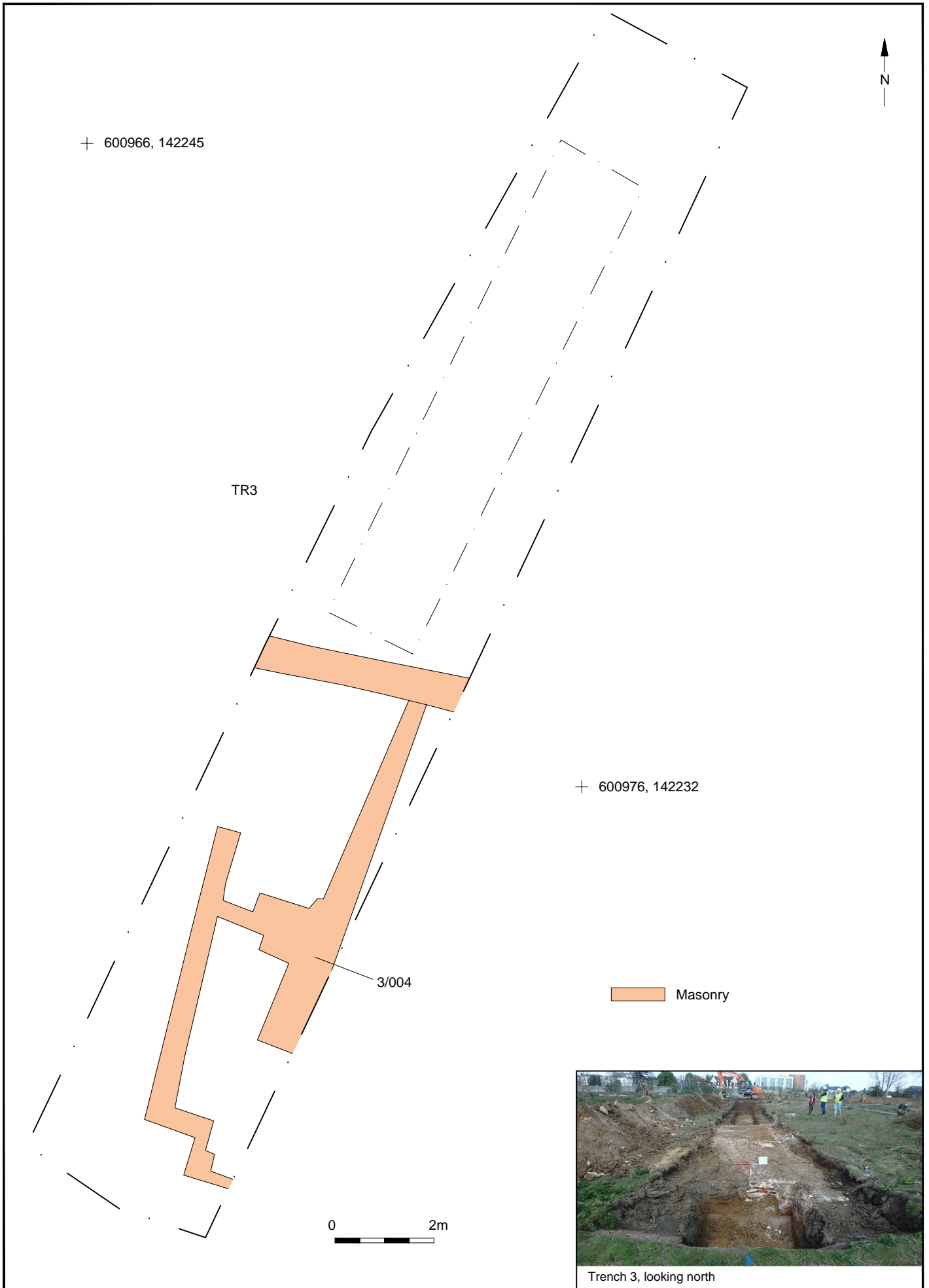
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Drawn by: AR

Curious Brewery, Ashford

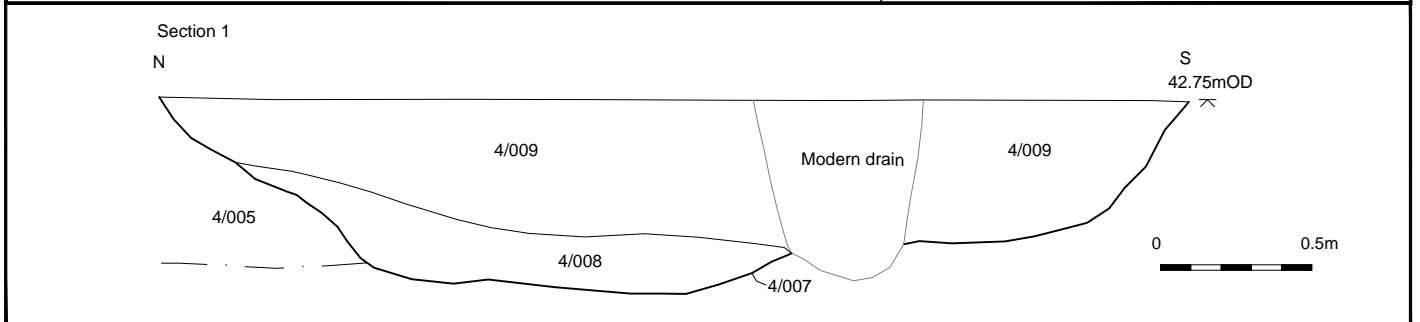
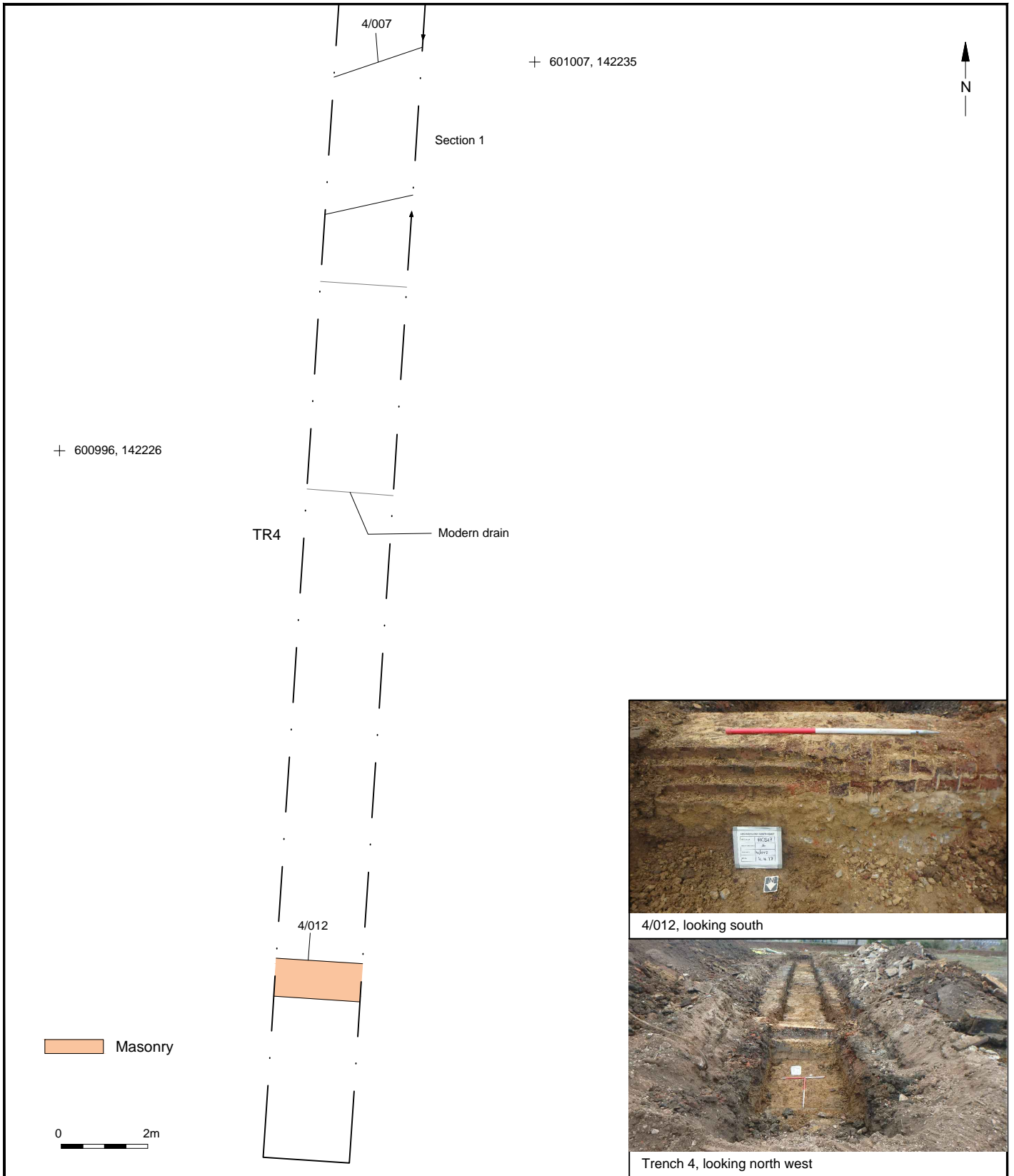
Trench 1, plan and photograph

Fig. 3

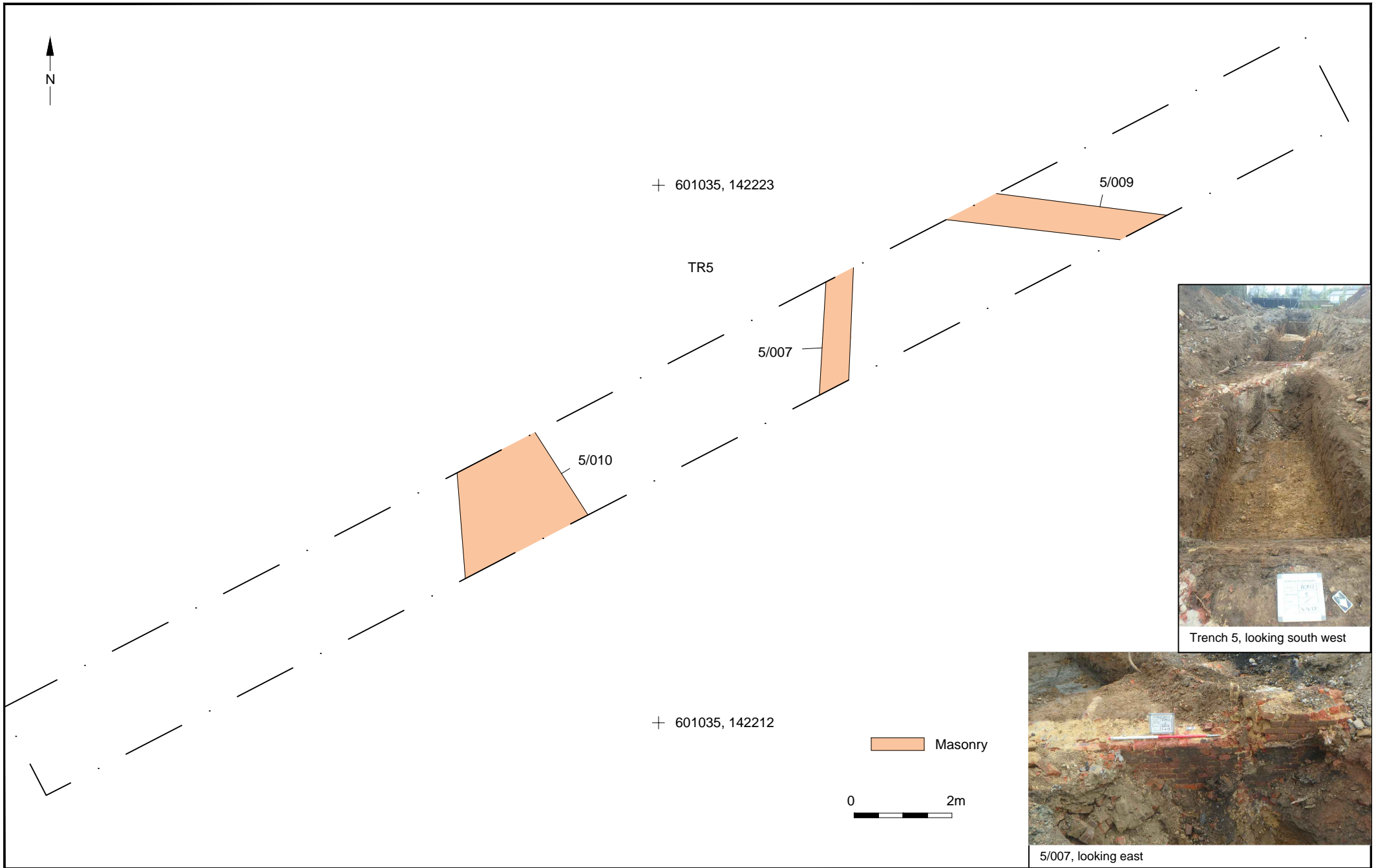


© Archaeology South-East		Curious Brewery, Ashford	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170103	April 2017	Trench 3, plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017181	Drawn by: AR		

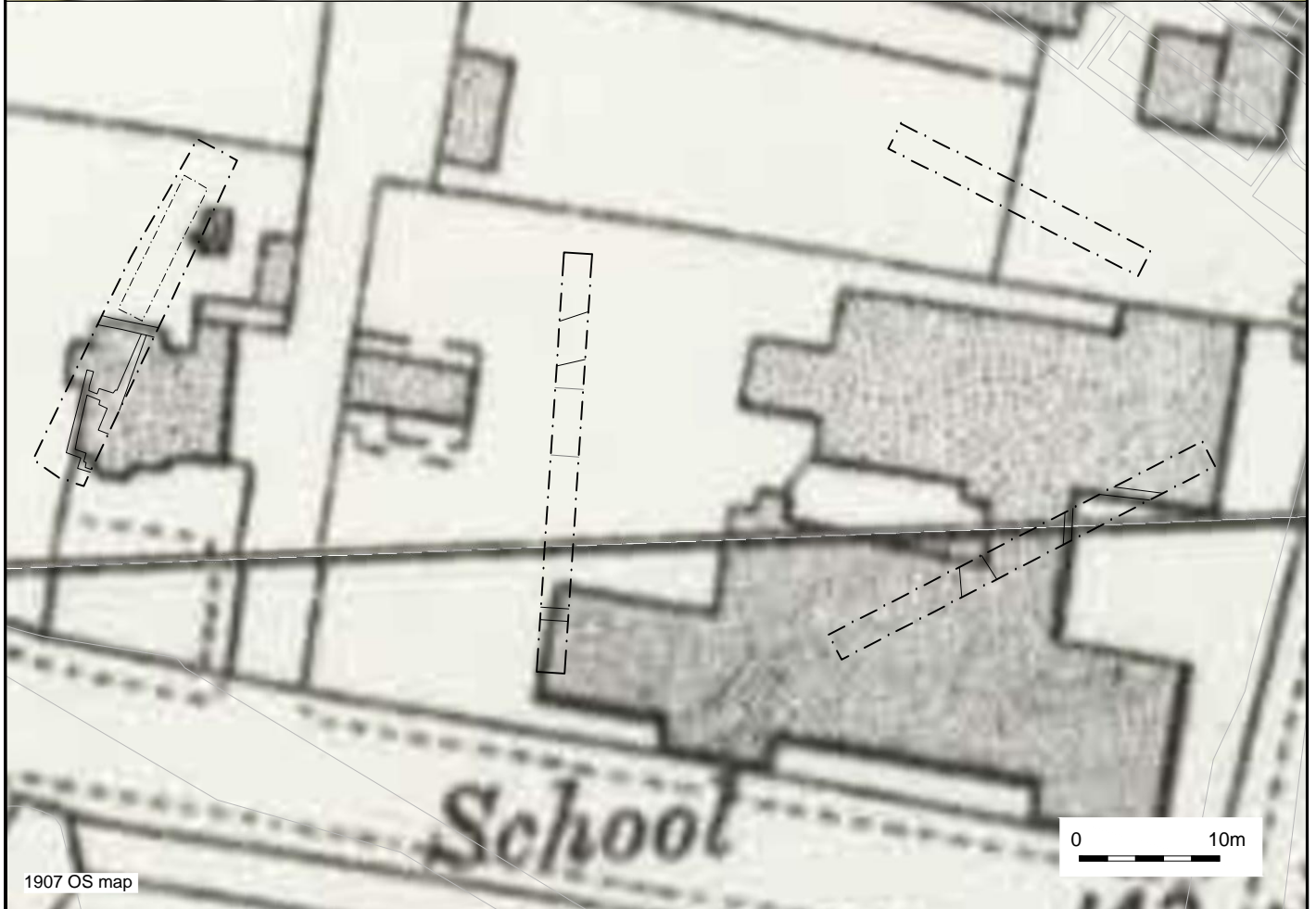
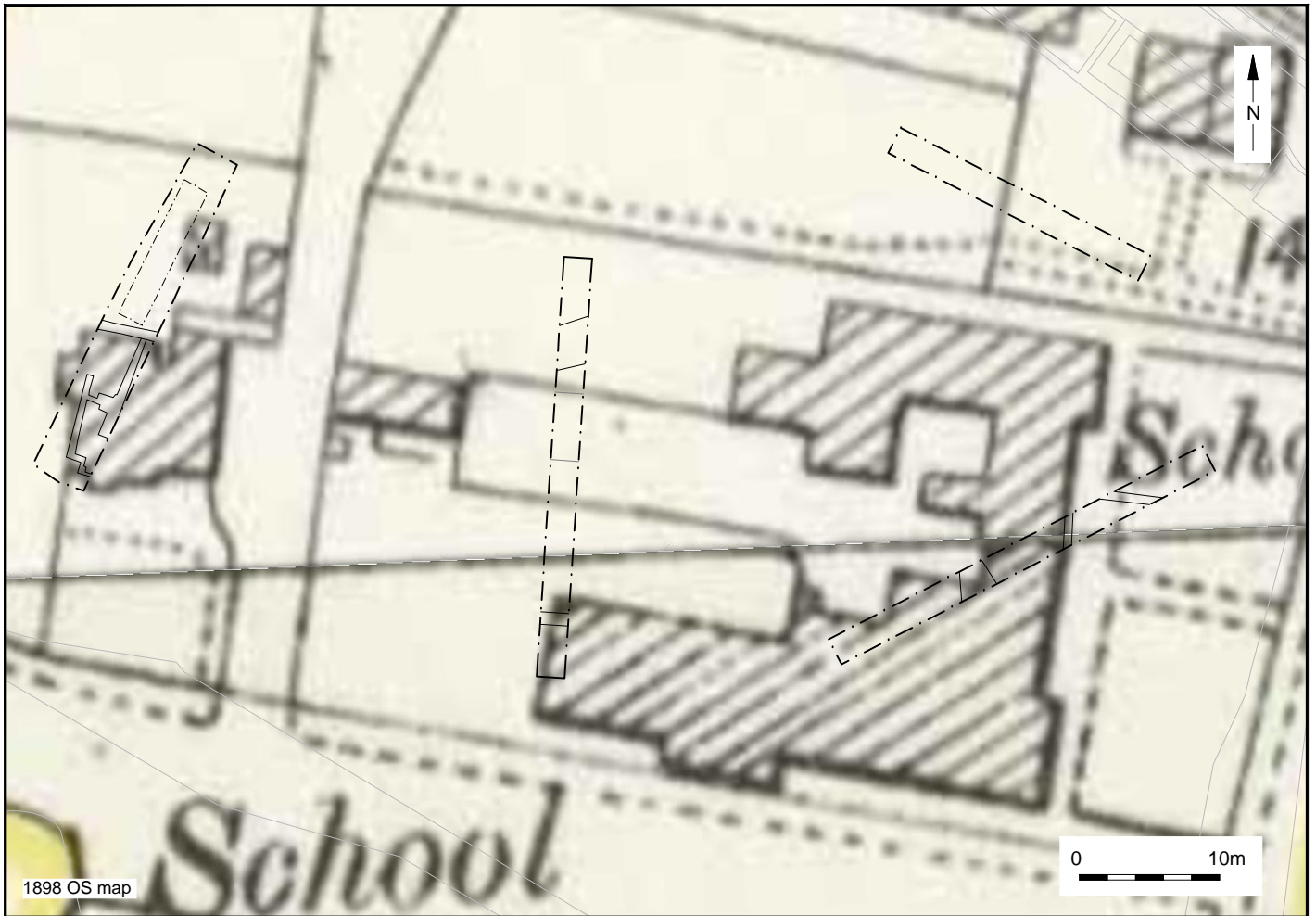




© Archaeology South-East		Curious Brewery, Ashford	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 170103	April 2017	Trench 4, plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017181	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Curious Brewery, Ashford	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 170103	April 2017	Trench 5, plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017181	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Curious Brewery, Ashford	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 170103	April 2017	1898 and 1907 OS maps in relation to trenches	
Report Ref: 2017181	Drawn by: AR		

## HER Summary

<b>Site code</b>	ACB17				
<b>Project code</b>	170103				
<b>Planning reference</b>	16/01157/AS				
<b>Site address</b>	Curious Brewery, Victoria Road, Ashford,				
<b>District/Borough</b>	Kent				
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	00976 42184				
<b>Geology</b>	Weald Clay, Terrace Gravels				
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	Eval				
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> April				
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	Gleeds Management Services Ltd				
<b>Project manager</b>	Paul Mason				
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Lucy May				
<b>Period summary</b>					
			Medieval	Post-Medieval	
<b>Project summary (100 word max)</b>	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Curious Brewery, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Gleeds Management Services Ltd, in advance of the development for the Curious Brewery.</i></p> <p><i>A total of 5 trenches were excavated, three of which revealed several red, frogged brick and concrete foundations relating to a 19<sup>th</sup> century school. One linear feature was also recorded it probably relates to a medieval field boundary.</i></p>				
<b>Museum/Accession No.</b>					

## Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	Medieval	Small bag
Pottery	Ceramic	Post-medieval	Bag
CBM	Brick	Post-medieval	Bag

Bottles	Glass	Post-medieval	Bag
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## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-282170**

### Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at Curious Brewery, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Gleeds Management Services Ltd, in advance of the development conducted at Curious Brewery, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent, NGR 00946 45184, between the 3rd and 6th April 2017. 5 trenches were excavated revealing several red, frogged brick and concrete foundations found amongst made ground deposits. These are potentially related to the construction and demolition of the late 19th century school complex. One linear feature was also recorded. No other finds or features of archaeological interest were noted
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2017 End: 06-04-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	170103 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ACB17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD ASHFORD Curious Brewery, Victoria Road,
Postcode	TN23 7HE
Study area	0.65 Hectares
Site coordinates	TR 601038 142215 50.868095222286 1.697213918111 50 52 05 N 001 41 49 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East

Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Lucy May
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Gleeds Management Services Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"
Entered by	Lucy May (l.may@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	10 April 2017

**Appendix 1:** Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>
2/001	Layer	Surface	20	2.2	0.12-0.30
2/002	Layer	Made ground	20	2.2	0.32-0.38
2/003	Layer	Made ground	20	2.2	0.41-0.60
2/004	Layer	Natural	20	2.2	0.45-0.50

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