Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
ATAM Academy, Little Heath
Redbridge, London

NGR: TQ 4683 8881

ASE Project No: 161121
Site Code: BLE17
ASE Report No: 2017215
OASIS id: 284724

By Angus Forshaw

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological evaluation on land at ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge, London in May 2017. The evaluation revealed ditches, pits and pits/postholes in 5 of the 8 trenches.

Most of the postholes and pits appear to be of a Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date, situated in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 6; in the central and southern parts of the site. However, prehistoric pottery was sometimes also found alongside post-medieval material in these features. Post-medieval field boundaries, that appear to relate to agricultural features shown on early Ordnance Survey maps, were also recorded. These were in the western and central/eastern parts of the site. Several further, undated features in the south-central part of the site could belong to either period.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting at ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge, London.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The district of Little Heath is within the London Borough of Redbridge. The site lies immediately to the south of the A12, 3.5 miles to the west of Romford, located in an area formerly occupied by a recreation ground. It is bounded by Redbridge College to the north, Newbridge School to the west, Grove Primary School to the east and residential properties to the south (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The development site is *c.*1.72ha in extent and consists of generally flat land at *c.* 26.00m AOD.

1.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as London Clay, forming the London Basin, overlain by a drift geology of Boyn Hill Gravel Member.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in fulfilment of a planning condition attached to consent in relation to planning reference 4984/16 for the proposed redevelopment of the site south of Redbridge College into the ATAM Academy with additional nursery, associated landscaping and sports provision, car parking and access from Little Heath.

1.3.2 As the site is located within the Little Heath Archaeological Priority Area (DLO38195) the archaeological trial trench evaluation was required in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area and, where present, allow informed mitigation measures to be put in place. This advice is in line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG 2014).

1.3.3 Accordingly, following discussions regarding the scope of work required, a brief of works was issued for the trial trench evaluation by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).

1.3.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation was subsequently prepared (CgMs 2017) and approved prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out the between 2nd and 4th of May 2017.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background of the site has been described comprehensively in previous documents (CgMs 2017) and is not repeated in detail here. The following is a summary of the most pertinent information taken from this earlier reports. The locations of sites and find spots are indicated on Figure 1.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 An archaeological excavation undertaken within the former Goodmaynes Hospital located approximately 175m to the north-west of the site contained the earliest evidence of human activity in the vicinity of the site in the form of several truncated Iron Age structures associated with an enclosure ditch (MLO26389, MLO26391, MLO55962, MLO57091, MLO57092)

2.2.2 A possible prehistoric ring ditch has been identified by aerial photography, c.375m to the north-west of the site, and adjacent to a potentially contemporary field system (MLO25378, MLO77798)

2.2.3 Residual fragments of prehistoric burnt flint were recovered during an archaeological watching brief c.175m to the north of the site (MLO73643).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 There are no records relating to Roman activity occurring within a 500m radius of the site area.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 There are no records relating to Anglo-Saxon activity occurring within a 500m radius of the site area.

2.4.2 The nearest settlement recorded within the Domesday Book of 1086 is at Ilford, 3.2km to the south-west.

2.4.3 The settlement of Little Heath is first refered to in documentary sources in 1369 by the name of *'Lytel Ylleford Heath'*, and again in 1456 as *'Litelheth'*. By 1650 it is recorded as a main settlement clustered around the central village green, which lies 0.26km to the north of the site (MLO104570, MLO14523).

2.4.4 The medieval settlement of Chadwell Heath is located c.375m to the north-east of the site (MLO73256).

2.4.5 Residual fragments of medieval pottery were recovered during a watching brief c.175m to the north of the site (MLO73641).

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.5.1 During much of the post-medieval period the study area is likely to have been located within the immediate agricultural hinterland of the settlement at Little Heath.

2.5.2 Ordnance Survey maps of the area indicate that in 1864 the site was occupied by multiple field plots located immediately to the south of the settlement at Little Heath.

2.5.3 With the exception of alterations and removal of previously extant field boundaries the layout of the site remains unaltered between 1875 and 1963.

2.5.4 The technical college immediately to the north of the site was constructed by 1977 and it is presumed that the bulk of the site was converted into playing fields at this time. The layout of the site remains unaltered up to present day.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation is to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation should be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

3.1.2 Specific aims of the fieldwork are:

- Determine the presence of any prehistoric activity and identify if it could be associated with known evidence for Iron Age settlement recorded nearby?
- Determine the presence of any Roman activity.
- Determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon activity.
- Determine the presence of any medieval activity. Is this indicative of occupation activity associated with the historic settlement at Little Heath?
- Establish the likely impact of past land use and development

3.1.3 In the event that significant discoveries are made, the significance and potential of the results were to be considered with reference to pertinent research themes and questions identified in *A research framework for London archaeology* (MoL/EH 2002), *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

3.2 Fieldwork Method

3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation method was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017) and Method Statement (ASE 2017).

3.2.2 Eight evaluation trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a 360˚ tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches measured 30m long and 1.80m wide. Mechanical excavation was undertaken to the depth of the natural stratum and/or the top of any archaeological deposits present. All spoil heaps were scanned visually for artefacts during machining of the trenches.

3.2.3 The trenches were arranged across the site area. Trenches 1 & 4 were realigned from the position shown in the WSI (CgMs 2017) slightly due to presence of a service alignment. All trenches were accurately located using Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment.

3.2.4 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for*

Archaeological Work, London Region (GLAAS 2014).

3.2.5 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and sample excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.

3.2.6 Where required, a 50% sample of all contained features and a minimum of 1m length of linear features was excavated. Post-medieval and modern features were excavated as necessary in order to establish their date and significance. Features were excavated using hand tools and planned by hand and using digital survey equipment.

3.2.7 The trenches were scanned with a metal detector prior to excavation, with spoil heaps and the bases of the trenches then scanned following excavation and prior to backfilling.

3.2.8 Where present, all finds were collected from all excavated deposits and retained for specialist identification and study.

3.2.9 Bulk soil samples were collected for the purposes of the recovery of environmental material and small artefacts. Samples were taken from deposits from uncontaminated and potentially dated deposits judged to have the potential for the survival of plant macrofossils.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in due course. The contents of the primary archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Description	Number	Type
Trench sheets	8	A4 paper
Context sheets	24	A4 paper
Plan and section sheets	4	Permatrace
Environmental sample register	1	A4 paper
Bulk sample sheets	3	A4 paper
Drawing register	1	A4 paper
Site photographic register	2	A4 paper
Digital images	71	Hi-res JPGS

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological remains were encountered in 5 of the evaluation trenches and are described in sections 4.3-4.8, below. Elsewhere, the evaluation generally revealed a straightforward sequence of topsoil and occasional subsoil deposits overlying a variable undisturbed natural geology.

4.1.2 The results from the archaeologically negative trenches are briefly described in section 4.8 and further detail tabulated in Appendix 1.

4.1.3 Excavated trench positions are shown in Figure 2 and recorded features/deposits in Figures 3-6.

4.2 General Soil descriptions

4.2.1 An overlying topsoil deposit was recorded in all of the trenches and was generally formed of moderately compact mid grey brown sandy silt averaging between 0.28m and 0.43m, containing common rounded and angular stones. Underlying subsoil deposits were present within all of the trenches and consisted of dark grey brown clay silt varying in thickness between 0.03m and 0.27m.

4.2.2 The underlying geology was generally compact gravels within a mid grey brown matrix, with areas of light greyish yellow compact brick earth.

4.2.3 All archaeological remains were encountered either cutting the subsoil or directly into the underlying geological deposits.

4.3 Trench 1

Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.8m x up to 0.67m deep
Ground level: 25.93m AOD (NE), 25.89m AOD (SW)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.28 – 0.33
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.04 – 0.07
1/003	Layer	Natural	trench	-
1/004	Cut	Modern ditch	-	-
1/005	Fill	Upper fill of [1/004]	-	-

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 1 was located in the northwest of the site and was aligned northeast/southwest. It contained an overlying topsoil of friable mid greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional angular stones. An underlying subsoil of dark grey brown clay silt was directly over natural deposits of compact gravel with light greyish yellow brick earth.

4.3.2 A modern ditch [1/004] was located at the northeast end of the trench and continuing off the trench baulk. The ditch was aligned north/south with a modern land drain following the same alignment. The upper fill [1/005] was formed of dark grey brown

sandy silt with occasional fragments of modern brick and CBM. The ditch was not excavated in this trench, but continued to the south, where it was excavated within Trench 7.

4.4 **Trench 3** (Fig.3)

Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.8m x up to 0.60m deep
Ground level: 26.04m AOD (W), 26.04m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.35 – 0.38
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.19 – 0.21
3/003	Layer	Natural	trench	-
3/004	Fill	Upper fill of [3/006]	-	0.38
3/005	Fill	Fill of [3/006]	-	0.52
3/006	Cut	Modern ditch	trench x 1.65	0.76
3/007	Fill	Single fill of [3/008]		0.35
3/008	Cut	Modern drain	trench x 0.15	0.35

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the northeastern part of the site and was aligned east/west. It contained a stratigraphic sequence of mid grey brown compact sandy silt topsoil [3/001] with common gravels and dark brown sandy silt subsoil [3/002]. Orange and grey brown sandy silt and gravel natural [3/003] was at the base of the trench.

4.4.2 Ditch [3/006] ran north/south across the eastern end of the trench and measured 1.65m wide and 0.76m deep. The ditch appeared to cut through the subsoil deposits, though there was a diffuse boundary between the subsoil and upper fill. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and contained an upper fill [3/004] of friable mid brown silty sand and a lower fill [3/005] of dark brown silty sand containing post-medieval CBM.

4.4.3 The ditch fills were both cut by a land drain [3/008] which had the same alignment as the ditch and ran along its western side. The fill around the drain was a clean mid brown sandy silt, with no finds.

4.5 **Trench 5** (Fig. 4)

Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x up to 0.60m deep
Ground level: 26.11m AOD (NE), 26.31m AOD (SW)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.30 – 0.33
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.20 – 0.27
5/003	Layer	Natural	trench	-
5/004	Fill	Upper fill of [5/005]	-	0.40
5/005	Cut	Pit	2.25 x 0.90	0.40
5/006	Fill	Primary fill of [5/005]	-	0.10

Table 4: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 5 was located on the eastern extent of the evaluated area and was aligned northeast/southwest. The trench contained a similar stratigraphic sequence to the surrounding trenches of mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil and dark brown silty sand subsoil overlying natural gravels.

4.5.2 A pit [5/005] lay against the southeastern baulk of the trench. The pit measured 2.25m in length and 0.90m at its widest point, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained an upper fill [5/004] of light brown silty sand with occasional gravel which measured 0.40m in depth and contained sherds of Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age and post-medieval pottery as well as an iron nail, which could be intrusive from the above subsoil. The primary fill of the pit [5/006] was formed of gravel and mid grey brown sandy silt and measured 0.10m in depth.

4.6 **Trench 6** (Fig. 5)

Dimensions: 30.00m x 1.80m x up to 0.63m deep
Ground level: 26.12m AOD (NW), 26.19m AOD (SE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.25 – 0.28
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.12
6/003	Layer	Natural deposit	trench	-
6/004	Fill	Single fill of [6/005]	-	0.29
6/005	Cut	Pit/Posthole	0.46 x 0.55	0.29
6/006	Fill	Single fill of [6/007]	-	0.34
6/007	Cut	Gully	0.66	0.34
6/008	Fill	Single fill of [6/009]	-	0.17
6/009	Cut	Gully	0.59	0.17
6/010	Fill	Single fill of [6/011]	-	0.15

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
6/011	Cut	Gully	0.39	0.15
6/012	Fill	Single fill of [6/013]	-	0.26
6/013	Cut	Pit/Posthole	0.41 x 0.41	0.26
6/014	Fill	Single fill of [6/015]	-	0.19
6/015	Cut	Pit/Posthole	0.41 x 0.35	0.19
6/016	Fill	Single fill of [6/016]	-	0.27
6/017	Cut	Gully	0.56	0.27

Table 5: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 6 was aligned northwest/southeast and was located in the middle of the site. The trench contained overlying topsoil of mid grey brown silty sand containing moderate rounded stones, and subsoil deposits of dark brown clayey silt containing occasional stones and fragments of CBM. Natural deposits of compact gravels and mid red brown silty sand were at the base of the trench.

4.6.2 Two small pits/postholes were located at the northern end of the trench. Feature [6/015] measured 0.41m x 0.35m x 0.19m and was circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill [6/014] of compact dark grey brown clay silt which contained 4 pottery sherds of a possible Early or Middle Iron Age date and an iron nail shank fragment. Pit/posthole [6/013] was to the immediate southwest and measured 0.41m x 0.41m x 0.26m with steep/vertical sides and a concave base. The feature had a single fill of dark grey brown clay silt including a single pottery sherd of a Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date.

4.6.3 Four shallow gullies ran across the middle of the trench, all of which were undated and only visible within the confines of Trench 6. Gully [6/011] was aligned east/west and measured 0.39m wide and 0.15m in depth. It contained a single fill [6/010] of dark reddish brown clay silt, and had moderately sloping sides leading to a flat base. Gully [6/009] was to the immediate south and parallel with [6/011]. It contained a single fill [6/008] of dark brownish grey with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate angular stones. The gully measured 0.59m wide and 0.17m deep with moderate straight sides and a flat base.

4.6.4 Gully [6/007] was aligned northeast/southwest within the middle of the trench, with a single fill [6/006] of mid red brown clay silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and angular stones. There were no finds from within the feature, which had moderate straight sides and measured 0.66m wide and 0.34m deep. The southernmost gully within the trench [6/017] ran east/west with a dark grey brown clay silt fill [6/016]. The gully measured 0.56m wide and 0.27m deep and contained no dating material.

4.6.5 An isolated pit/posthole [6/005] was located at the south-eastern end of the trench. The feature was circular in plan measuring 0.46m x 0.55m x 0.29m with slightly concave sides and a flat base. The single fill [6/004] consisted of firm dark brownish grey silty clay containing Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age and late post-medieval pottery as well as occasional charcoal flecks and CBM fragments.

4.7 **Trench 7** (Fig. 6)

Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m x up to 0.0.55m deep
Ground level: 25.98m AOD (NW), 26.07m AOD (SE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.29 – 0.34
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.09 – 0.25
7/003	Layer	Natural	trench	-
7/004	Fill	Single fill of [7/004]	-	0.43
7/005	Cut	Modern Drain	0.27	0.43
7/006	Fill	Single fill of [7/007]	-	0.54
7/007	Cut	Ditch	1.59	0.54

Table 6: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 7 was located in the southeast of the site and was aligned northwest/southeast. It contained a stratigraphic sequence that was similar to the surrounding trenches, with mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil and dark grey brown clay silt subsoil overlying natural strata of mottled gravel and light orange brown brick earth.

4.7.2 A single feature [7/007] ran north/south across the middle of the trench and likely represents a boundary ditch. The ditch measured 1.59m wide and 0.54m deep and contained a single fill [7/006] of dark grey brown silty clay containing occasional CBM fragments, charcoal flecks and post-medieval pottery.

4.7.3 A modern land drain [7/005] was cut through fill [7/006] and was dug in the same alignment as the ditch. It was cut through the subsoil deposits and was filled with dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent brick fragments. The ditch and drain continued to the north where they were seen at the eastern end of Trench 1.

4.8 **Archaeologically Blank Trenches**

4.8.1 Three of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 2, 4 and 8) contained no archaeological remains. All of the trenches contained the same basic deposit sequence seen in surrounding trenches, the detail of which is presented in Appendix 1.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation ATAM Academy, Redbridge. 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 CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Metal	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
3/001					1	155		
3/005			1	744				
4/002			1	148	1	8	1	2
5/004	7	140			1	10		
6/004	13	52						
6/012	1	6						
6/014	4	<2			1	4		
7/006	1	6					1	232
Total	**26**	**204**	**2**	**892**	**4**	**177**	**2**	**234**

Table 7: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 **The Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A small assemblage of later prehistoric pottery was recovered from the site, amounting to 22 hand-collected sherds, weighing 185g. Pit fill [5/004], and pit/postholes fills [6/004] and [6/012] all produced flint-tempered bodysherds, containing moderate frequencies of inclusions, ranging from moderately fine (c.0.5-1.5mm) to moderately coarse (c.0.5-4mm) in size; all of these sherds have silty to very fine sandy matrixes (with quartz of 0.1mm or less). In addition to the 13 hand-collected sherds from context [6/004], a further 30 similar bodysherds, weighing 112g, were recovered from the residue of environmental sample <1>.

5.2.2 Overall the range of fabrics is broadly in keeping with a Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date range (c.1150-600BC), though no diagnostic feature sherds are present. It is unclear whether the prehistoric pottery should be considered securely stratified because the small groups of pottery from [5/004] and [6/004] were found alongside very small sherds of post-Roman pottery, whilst the single sherd from [6/012] was found without any accompanying datable material.

5.2.3 In addition, pit/posthole fill [6/014] contained four tiny ceramic flecks, collectively weighing 1g. They do not appear to contain any flint-temper and they are unoxidised with a somewhat coarser sandy matrix than the other prehistoric sherds. As such, they *could be* consistent with Early or Middle Iron Age pottery fabrics but, as no original surfaces survive, it is difficult to determine conclusively whether they represent pottery or fired clay.

5.2.4 It is probably worth noting that the description of the pottery from previous excavations by Passmore Edwards Museum staff, immediately to the north-west of the site, at Goodmayes Hospital, suggests that it is of different character to the current assemblage (Anon n.d.). Although no specialist report was undertaken on this material, it is described as ‘grass-tempered’ and therefore probably unlikely to belong to the same period as the flint-tempered pottery described above.

5.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Three contexts produced post-Roman pottery from the site. Context [5/004] produced a very worn body sherd (4g) in a fine quartz-tempered redware with internal clear glaze. Although very similar to Essex-type redwares (PMFR) the fabric has notable larger quartz grains sparsely scattered throughout. A general date between c. 1550 and 1750 is suggested.

5.3.2 Context [6/004] produced two tiny scraps (1g) from a probable cup in green transfer-printed whiteware with foliage design. A date between c. 1825 and 1900 is likely though the sherds could easily be intrusive.

5.3.3 Context [7/006] produced another glazed redware body sherd, this time more typical of the fine quartz tempered Essex products (PMFR). The sherd has clear glaze on one faces and is most likely to fall in the 17th or early 18th centuries.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 Two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 892g were collected from two evaluation contexts: [3/005] and [4/002]. One was a fragment of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) defined fabric 3032 (Table 8), which was most popular in the late 17th and 18th centuries, after the Great Fire of London. The piece of brick recovered here measured 102mm wide and 65mm thick, although it was broken across the length, and was hard-fired and unfrogged.

5.4.2 The second brick fragment was in a fabric similar to MOLA 3033. Some surface areas were overfired and the brick was too broken to provide any measurements. Variations of this fabric type were commonplace between the late 15th and 19th centuries, and because of the absence of dateable characteristics this brick fragment cannot be dated any more specifically.

Fabric code	Description
MOLA 3032	Dark red-purple fabric; parts of the surface are often discoloured by fine yellow speckling. Common burnt black ash and flint inclusions (up to 6mm) with varying amounts of quartz (up to 0.8mm). Clay pipe stems in some bricks.
MOLA 3033	Fine fabric with scatter of quartz (up to 0.8mm), calcareous/calcium carbonate inclusions (up to 1.5mm) and black iron oxide (up to 1.5mm). Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles (up to 7mm).

Table 8: Fabric descriptions for the CBM from ATAM Academy

5.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A small assemblage of glass comprising just two fragments (weight 234g) was recovered from two different contexts. Context [7/006] contained a green wine bottle base fragment (diameter 90mm) with high kick. The fragment is likely to date to the late 19th to mid-20th century. A cobalt blue fragment from a cylindrical poison bottle dating to the mid-19th to early 20th century was recovered from [4/002].

5.6 **The Bulk Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A total of four metal objects (weight 177g) were recovered during the evaluation. Included are iron general purpose nail shank fragments ([5/004] and [6/014]). Both are hand wrought and undiagnostic of date.

5.6.2 A further two objects were recovered by metal detector. Topsoil [3/001] contained an iron reinforcement sheath for a wooden, rectangular-sectioned post. The piece is complete, with adhering fragments of wood, and dates to the late 19th to 20th century. A copper-alloy 12 bore shot gun case was recovered from [4/002]. The cartridge is by F. T. Baker London and probably dates to the 1880s or 1890s.

5.7 **Burnt bone** by Dr Paola Ponce

5.7.1 Only one small fragment of burnt bone was recovered from the fill of pit/posthole [6/014]. The excavated fill of the deposit underwent flotation and was processed as environmental sample <3>. The bone fragment was collected from the 2-4mm sieve fraction and weighed less than 0.5 grams.

5.7.2 It was not possible to identify whether the fragment belonged to human or animal bone therefore no demographic information was yielded.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Stacey Adams

6.1 Bulk Samples

Introduction

6.1.1 Three samples were taken during excavations at Redbridge from pit/posthole fills [6/004], [6/012] and [6/014] for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca. The following report details the preservation of the charred plant material and discusses its potential to inform on the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site as well as fuel selection and use and potential for dating.

Methodology

6.1.2 The flotation samples, ranging from 10 to 20L in volume, were processed, in their entirety, by flotation tank with a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air dried. The heavy residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2a). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned, in their entirety, under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2b). Provisional identification of the charred remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild species and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals.

6.1.3 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residues and flots were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather, 2000; Schoch *et al.,* 2004; Schweingruber, 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Ten fragments were submitted for identification from samples with >3g of wood charcoal from the residues. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Appendix 2a and nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

6.2 Results

Samples <1> [6/004], <2> [6/012} and <3> [6/014]

6.2.1 The heavy residues from the environmental samples contained small amounts of industrial material, fire-cracked flint and magnetic material. Pit/posthole fill [6/004] contained pot fragments whilst metal and glass were recovered from pit/posthole fill [6/014]. Charcoal fragments were recovered from all of the samples but were only present in sufficient quantities (>3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue) in pit/postholes fill [6/004] to be submitted for identification. Charred plant macrofossils were present in pit/posthole fills [6/012] and [6/014], a single fragment of burnt bone was also recovered from the latter feature.

6.2.2 The flots contained between 60 and 80% of uncharred material of modern roots and recent seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Charcoal fragments were present within all of the flots and the flots from pit/posthole fills [6/004] and [6/012] contained small amounts of industrial material.

Charred Plant Macrofossils

6.2.3 Preservation of the charred plant macrofossils ranged from moderate to good with a number of the seeds identifiable to species-level. Pit/posthole fill [6/004] contained a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) caryopsis whilst pit/posthole fills [6/012] and [6/014] both contained possible rye (cf. *Secale cereale*) grains. The majority of the charred plant macrofossils within the flots were those of arable weeds. Fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) are both common arable weeds and were present in significant quantities. Wild grasses (Poaceae) and dead-nettles (*Lamium* sp.) were also present within the assemblage. A single hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragment was recovered from the heavy residue of pit/posthole fill [6/014].

Charcoal

6.2.4 All of the charcoal fragments submitted for evaluation were identifiable and their preservation moderate. The preservation of several fragments was affected by acute thermal degradation from the burning process limiting the identification. Alder (*Alnus* sp.) was the most common taxon with oak (*Quercus* sp.) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) also present. A severely distorted fragment from the birch family (Betulaceae) was also identified. Over two thirds of the fragments derived from round wood.

6.3 Discussion

6.3.1 The charred plant macrofossils likely represent ‘background noise’ of cereal processing at Redbridge with both cereal grains and arable weeds present. The hazelnut shell fragment indicates the exploitation of wild resources possibly for use as food or incorporated with wood collected for fuel. The presence of cereal remains and associated weed seeds at the site have the potential to inform on the arable economy and diet of the site and indicate the potential for the future recovery of such remains if secure primary deposits are targeted for environmental sampling.

6.3.2 The moderately well-preserved charcoal from Redbridge demonstrates the exploitation of small branches and twigs for use as fuel likely indicating opportunistic fuel collection. Alder thrives in damp areas and would have been widely available throughout the Thames valley whilst field maple would have been collected from light open areas (Rodwell 1991; Polunin & Walters 1985). The identification of variable taxa and the presence of round wood at Redbridge highlight the potential for radiocarbon dating. The charcoal from Redbridge indicates the exploitation of different ecological niches for the collection of fuel and has the potential to inform on fuel selection and the local environment.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 Most trenches revealed a similar sequence of undisturbed natural geological deposits overlain by a 0.03m-0.27m thickness of subsoil deposits and topsoil of 0.28-0.43m thickness, averaging 0.33m. The total thickness of overburden therefore varied between 0.39m (Trench 1) and 0.63m (Trench 6) across the site.

7.1.2 Of the 8 trenches excavated, 5 contained archaeological features. These were encountered directly under subsoil where present, or else directly under topsoil, and cut into the natural deposit.

7.1.3 A generally low-density, low-complexity and limited range of types of remains were present across the site. An increased density of remains was recorded in the south of the site (Trench 6).

7.1.4 The recorded remains comprised ditches, pits and/or postholes. Cultural material was also fairly sparse within the excavated fills, and within the overlying subsoil and topsoil as established by metal detecting.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 The topsoil and subsoil deposits encountered were consistent across the site suggesting minimal intrusive works in the area. There was no significantly disturbance of the tops of archaeological remains within trenches.

7.2.2 Land drains, some containing ceramic pipes, were encountered in some trenches. These were all located cutting into, and followed the alignment, of post-medieval ditches running across the site and their impact upon archaeological remains appeared negligible.

7.3 Discussion of the archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

7.3.1 Limited evidence for prehistoric activity was recorded. The fours pits/postholes excavated from within Trench 6 [6/005, 6/013, 6/015] and Trench 5 [5/005] all contained fragments of flint tempered pottery broadly dating to Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age.

7.3.2 The features likely represent isolated activity at this time, such as evidence for small scale occupation/structures possibly associated with agricultural use.

Post-medieval and modern

7.3.3 The two linear features running north/south across the site are interpreted to mark the position of post-medieval field boundaries. The north/south ditch recorded [1/004 and 7/007] correlates to a boundary ditch identified in historic OS mapping between 1864 and 1898. The glass and pottery retrieved from [7/006] confirms this date, and an end of use as late 19th century.

7.3.4 While the other boundary [3/006] is not visible on mapping of the area its similarities in form suggest that it could represent an earlier boundary, with dating indicating that it

may have been utilised in the late 17th and 18th centuries.

7.3.5 Small abraded sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered alongside prehistoric sherds from within pit [5/005] and pit/posthole [6/004]. The small abraded nature of these sherds may suggest that they are intrusive in nature.

Undated

7.3.6 None of the four gullies in Trench 6 contained any dating material.

7.3.7 The proximity of these gullies to each other, to the recorded prehistoric activity as well as their consistency in form suggests that they may be related in date and function. That these gullies did not continue into any of the surrounding trenches may suggest that they represent localised prehistoric activity in the area of Trenches 5 and 6.

7.3.8 Equally plausibly however, three of the guillies run east/west across the site, at right angles to the post-medieval ditches identified in Trenches 1, 3 and 7, and so could in fact represent further post-medieval evidence of land-division.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 The evaluation has successfully identified the presence/absence, type, date and distribution of archaeological remains within the development site.

7.4.2 Whilst the site contains some limited evidence for prehistoric activity and may indicate contemporaneity with the Iron Age settlement recorded to the northwest at Goodmaynes Hospital, the difference in pottery types between the two sites suggests that this activity could also be distinct, and possibly earlier.

7.4.3 The site contains no/negligible evidence for Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity or land use.

7.4.4 The site contains no evidence of medieval activity related to the historic settlement of Little Heath focused around the green to the north. The site area was likely utilised for agricultural use at this time.

7.4.5 The majority of features are of post-medieval date and relate to agricultural use and management from the 17th to 19th century. Some of the undated features are likely to relate to this phase of land use.

7.5 Updated Research Agenda

7.5.1 Can the limited evidence for prehistoric activity recorded in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 6; in the central and southern parts of the site; be more securely dated and linked or dispelled in terms of its contemporaneity to the activity recorded at Goodmaynes Hospital?

7.5.2 Can the undated features in the south-central part of the site, and uncertainly dated, features be more securely dated as prehistoric or post-medieval?

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The evaluation revealed ditches, pits and pits/postholes in 5 of the 8 trenches. The recorded archaeological remains survive untruncated below *c*.0.39-0.63m of overburden.

7.5.2 Most of the postholes/pits appear to be of a Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date, however, prehistoric pottery was sometimes also found alongside post-medieval material in these features. Post-medieval field boundaries, that appear to relate to agricultural features shown on early Ordnance Survey maps, were also recorded. Several further, undated features could belong to either period. Any potential further work should focus upon positively dating the archaeological activity at the site.

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Appendix 1: Summary of archaeologically blank trenches

Trench	Context	Description	Depth/thickness	Height (m AOD)
2	2/001	Topsoil	0.28 – 0.36	26.07
	2/002	Subsoil	0.13 – 0.18	-
	2/003	Natural	-	25.54
4	4/001	Topsoil	0.34 – 0.42	26.02
	4/002	Subsoil	0.03 – 0.05	-
	4/003	Natural	-	25.50
8	8/001	Topsoil	0.31 – 0.42	26.28
	8/002	Subsoil	0.04 – 0.11	-
	8/003	Natural	-	25.52

Appendix 2a: Environmental soil sample residues

Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams. Key: rw=round wood, PDSE=Post depositional sediment encrustations

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Preservation	Other Charred Botanicals	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	6/004	Pit Fill	20	**	9	***	3	*Alnus* sp. (5) [RW:4, D:1, PDS:1] *Quercus* sp. (3) [RW:2] *Acer campestre* (1) [RW:1] Betulaceae (1) [D:1]	++					Pot (**/115g) Ind.Mat. (**/13g) FCF (*/2g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (*/<1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**/<1g)
2	6/012	Pit Fill	10	*	<1	**	1			*	<1			Ind.Mat. (**/4g) FCF (*/1g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (*/<1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**/<1g)
3	6/014	Pit Fill	10	*	<1	**	1			*	<1	*	<1	Metal (*/4g) Ind.Mat. (*/<1g) FCF (*/21g) Glass (*/<1g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (*/<1g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (**/1g)

Appendix 2b: Environmental soil sample flots

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other Charred Botanicals	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial Debris
1	6/004	3	10	60		*	**	***	*	*Triticum* sp. (1)	++	**	*Veronica hederifolia* *Chenopodium album*	+++				*
2	6/012	1	5	80		*	*	**	*	cf. *Secale cereale* (1) (from residue)	++	**	*Veronica hederifolia* *Chenopodium album* *Lamium* sp. Poaceae (small)	+++				*
3	6/014	2	5	75	*Sambucus nigra* *	*	**	***	*	cf. *Secale cereale* (1)	++	**	*Chenopodium album* Poaceae (small)	+++	*	*Corylus avellana* (shell fragment) (from residue)	+++	

Appendix 3: HER Summary Form

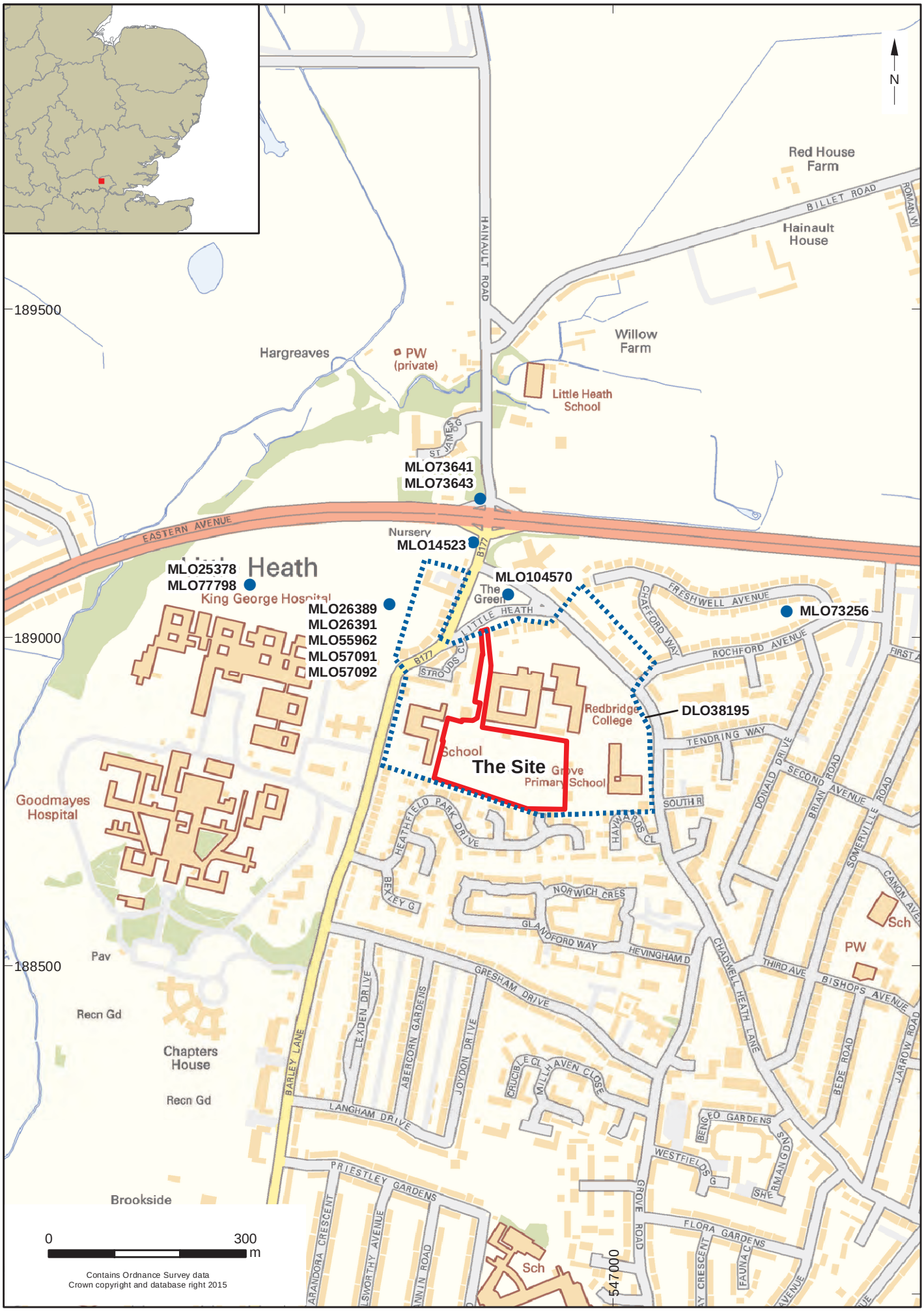
***Site name/Address**: ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge*	
***Parish:** London Borough of Redbridge*	***District:** Little Heath*
***NGR:** TQ 4683 8881*	***Site Code:** BLE17*
***Type of Work:** Archaeological Evaluation*	***Site Director/Group:** A. Forshaw, Archaeology South-East*
***Date of Work:** 2/5/2017 – 4/5/2017*	***Size of Area Investigated:** 1.72 hectares*
Location of Finds/Curating Museum:	***Funding source:** Landowner/Developer*
***Further Seasons Anticipated?:** unknown*	***Related HER Nos:***
***Final Report:** annual summary*	***OASIS No:***
***Periods Represented:** Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Post-medieval*	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: *Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological evaluation on land at ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge, London in May 2017. The evaluation revealed ditches, pits and pits/postholes in 5 of the 8 trenches.* *The recorded archaeological remains survive untruncated below c.0.39-0.63m of overburden. Most of the pits and pits/postholes appear to be of a Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date, however, prehistoric pottery was sometimes also found alongside post-medieval material in these features. Post-medieval field boundaries, that appear to relate to agricultural features shown on early Ordnance Survey maps, were also recorded. Several further, undated features could belong to either period.*	
Previous Summaries/Reports: *None*	
***Author of Summary:** A. Forshaw*	***Date of Summary:** May 2017*

Appendix 4: OASIS Form

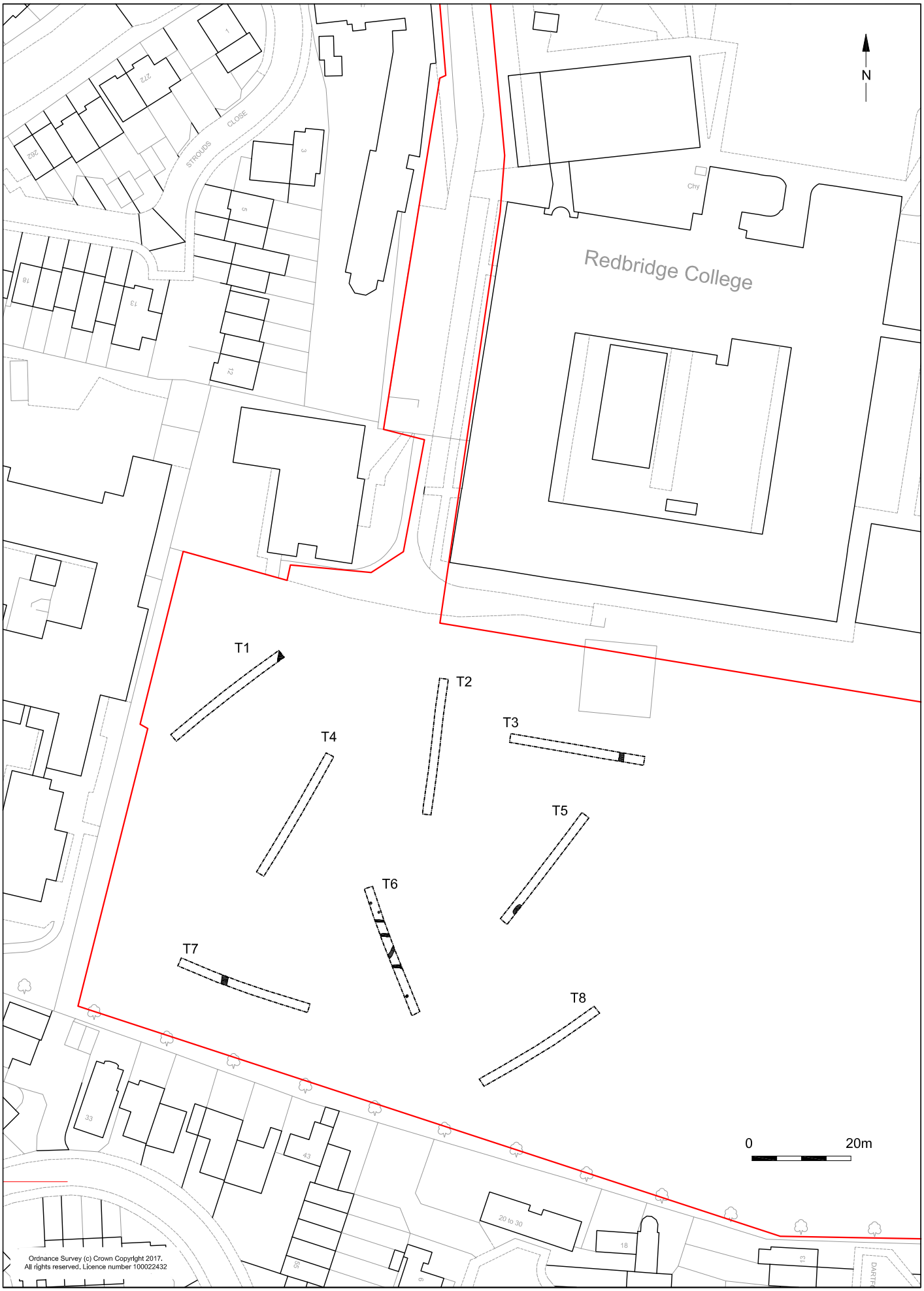
OASIS ID: archaeol6-284724

Project details	
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation: ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge, London
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to conduct archaeological evaluation on land at ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge, London in May 2017. The evaluation revealed ditches, pits and pits/postholes in 5 of the 8 trenches. The recorded archaeological remains survive untruncated below c.0.39-0.63m of overburden. Most of the pits and pits/postholes appear to be of a Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date, however, prehistoric pottery was sometimes also found alongside post-medieval material in these features. Post-medieval field boundaries, that appear to relate to agricultural features shown on early Ordnance Survey maps, were also recorded. Several further, undated features could belong to either period.
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2017 End: 04-05-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	161121 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BLE17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT/POSTHOLES Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	GULLIES Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"'Sample Trenches"'
Development type	School development
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON REDBRIDGE ILFORD ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge
Postcode	RM6 4FG
Study area	1.72 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 4673 8888 51.579208 0.117933 51 34 45 N 000 07 04 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	WGS 84 Datum

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Angus Forshaw
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Forshaw, A
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No: 2017215
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	11 May 2017



© Archaeology South-East		ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Site location	
Report No: 2017215	Drawn by: APL		



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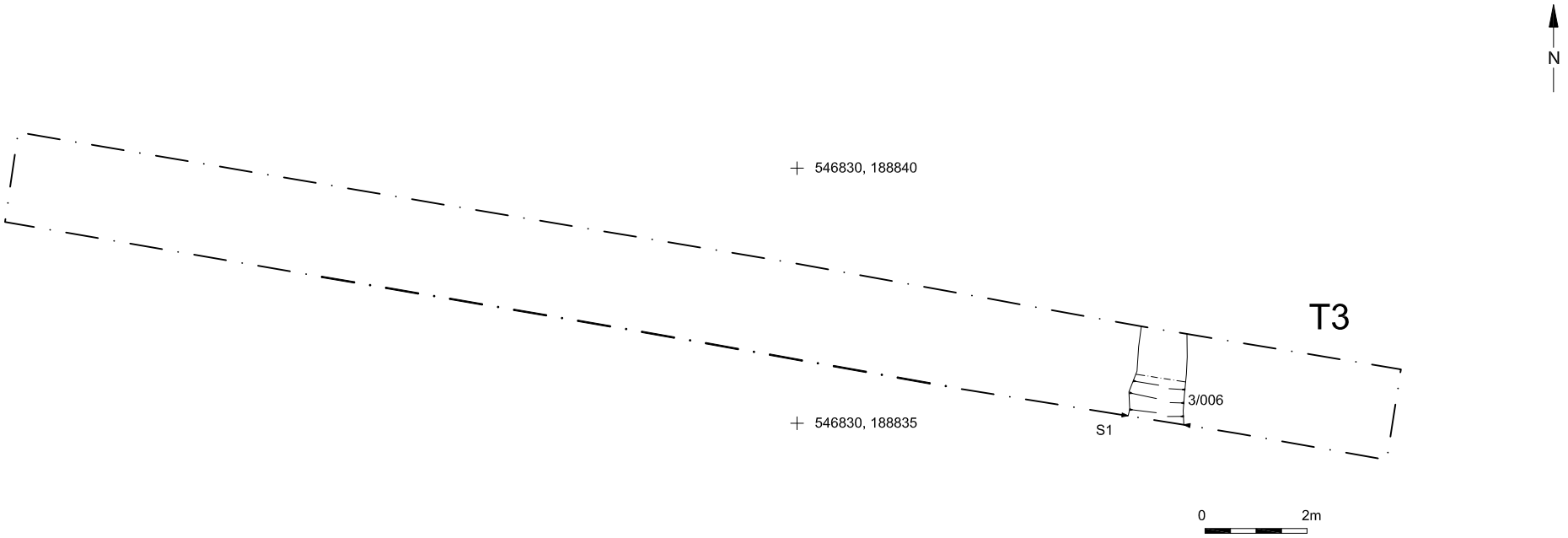
Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2017215	Drawn by: APL		



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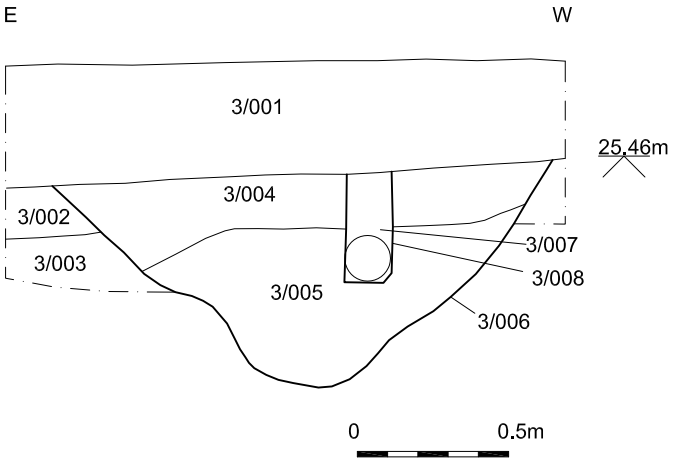

trench 3 looking west, 1m scales

Ditch 3/006 looking south, 1m scale

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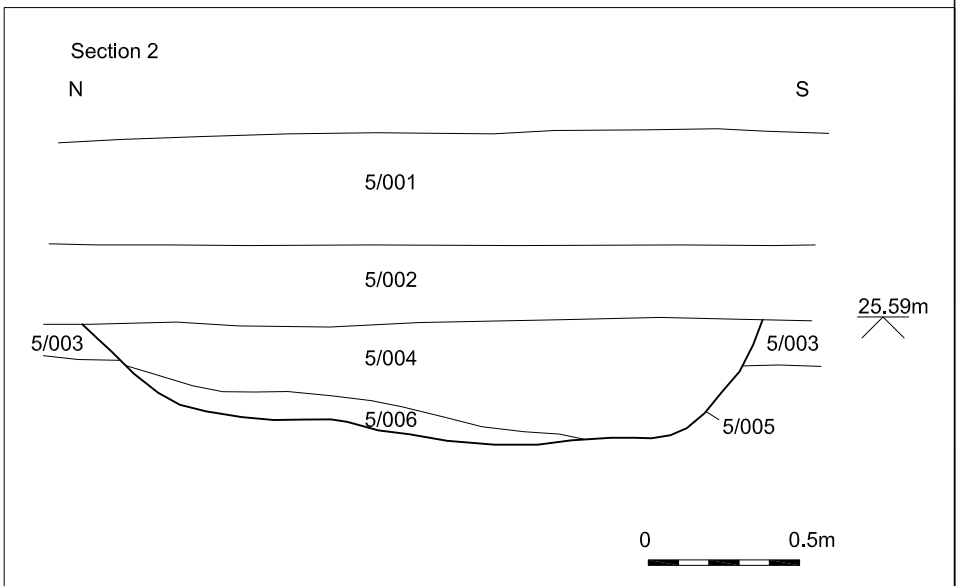
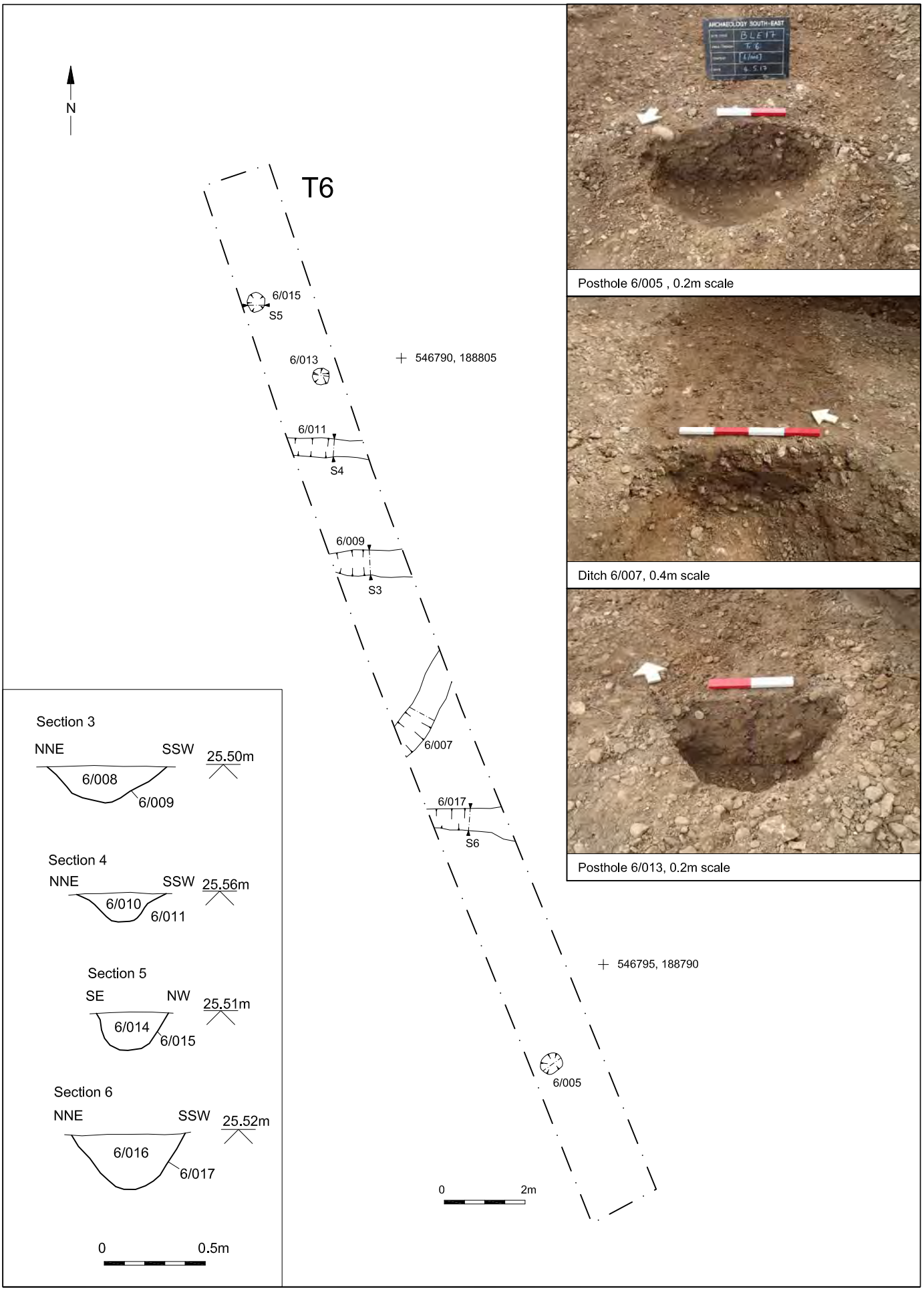
Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Trench 3 plan section and photograph	
Report Ref:2017215	Drawn by: APL		

Pit 5/005 looking south-east, 1m scale

Trench 5 looking north-east, 1m scales



© Archaeology South-East		ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge	Fig.4
Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Trench 5 plan section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017215	Drawn by: APL		

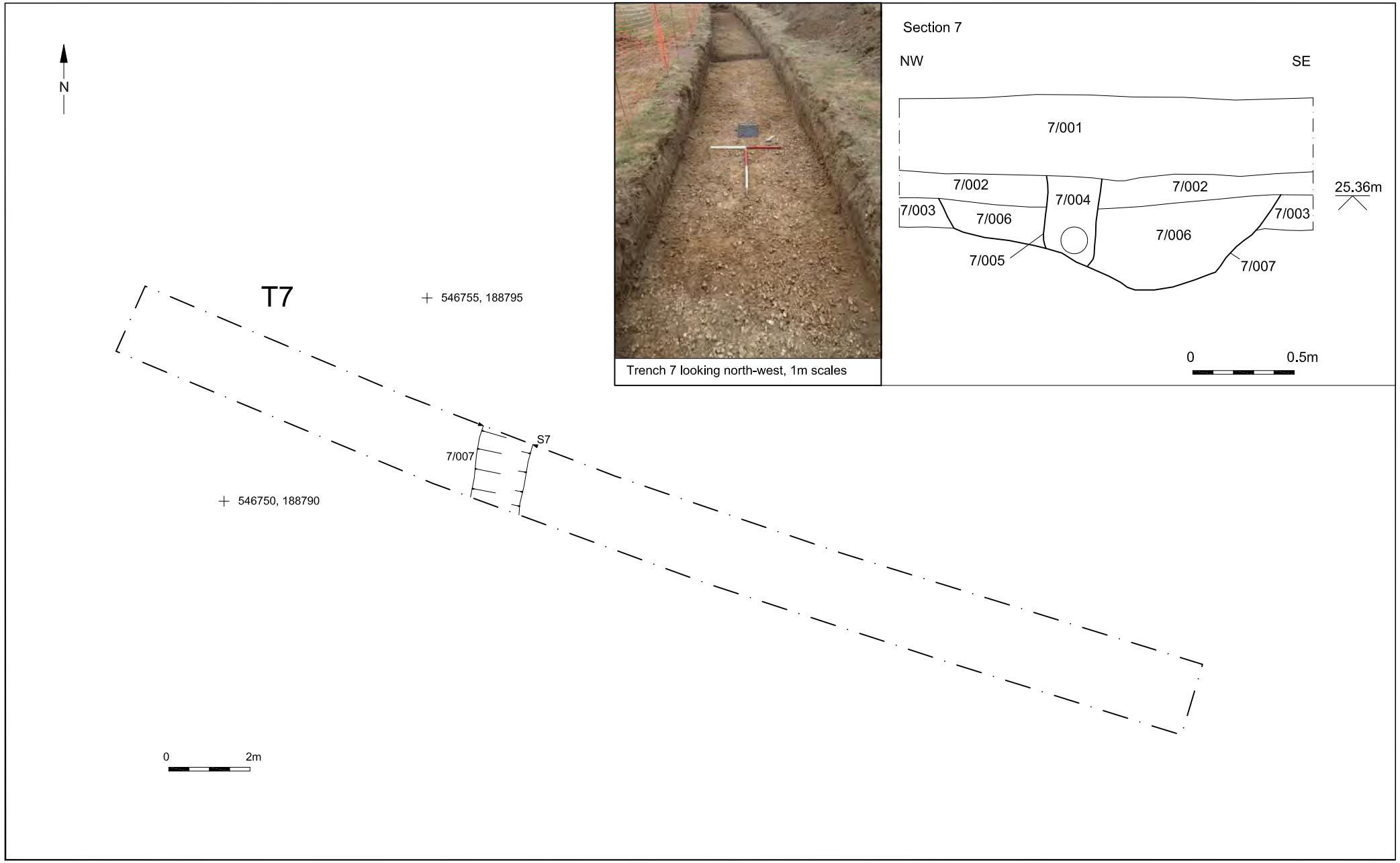


Posthole 6/005 , 0.2m scale

Ditch 6/007, 0.4m scale

Posthole 6/013, 0.2m scale

© Archaeology South-East		ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge	Fig.5
Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Trench 6 plan section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017215	Drawn by: APL		



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Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Trench 7 plan section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017215	Drawn by: APL		

Trench 1 looking south-west, 1m scales

Sondage in Trench 2, 1m scale

Trench 4 looking south-west, 1m scales

Trench 8 looking south-west, 1m scales

© **Archaeology South-East**		ATAM Academy, Little Heath, Redbridge	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 161121	May 2017	Photographs of trenches 1, 2, 4 and 8	
Report Ref: 2017215	Drawn by: APL		

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