

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye,
Ashford, TN25 5EJ**



NGR: NGR: 605733 147094

Planning Ref: 16/01226/AS

**ASE Project No: 170456
Site Code: WYE 17**

**ASE Report No: 2017413
OASIS id: archaeol6-296771**

Author Chris Russel

**With contributions by
Isa Benedetti-Whitton and Elke Raeman
Illustrations by Antonio Reis**

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Wye Free School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Kent between 26th May and 11th September 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Rydon Construction Ltd. in advance of development.

Head deposit geology was noted in all trenches even though the west of the site appeared to have been disturbed by modern development. A small collection of post medieval finds was recovered in the west of the site which were probably deposited by agricultural processes. No evidence was seen to suggest that this area of Wye has ever been anything other than peripheral agricultural land until relatively recently.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Rydon Construction Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Wye Free School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Kent (NGR 605733 147094, Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on West Melbury Marly Chalk bedrock with superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed works involve residential development of the site. Planning permission has been granted by Ashford Borough Council subject to conditions (16/01226/AS). The archaeological condition is as follows:

8 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:

i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and / or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.2 A Specification for Archaeological Evaluation was prepared by ASE (2017) prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and the Kent County Council Standard Specification for Archaeological Evaluation (2007).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 The scope of this report is to detail the results of the archaeological evaluation at Wye free school. The work took place between the 26th of May 2017 and the 11th of September 2017. The work was carried out by Steve Price, Chris Russel, and Gemma Ward. Neil Griffin project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological Background

- 2.1.1 The full archaeological background for the site is detailed in a Desk Based Assessment prepared by ASE (2016). This document set out the potential for archaeological remains to be preserved at the site, which is summarised below.
- 2.1.2 The site has moderate potential for Romano-British remains to be present and low potential for remains of all other periods.
- 2.1.3 The site has moderate/high potential for archaeological remains to be present relating to later post-medieval buildings/structures, including those relating to 20th century buildings.
- 2.1.4 Past development is likely to have had a significant localised impact on the archaeological resource, particularly within the western half of the site. The eastern half of the site has been less affected but will have been impacted to some degree by cultivation.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The broad aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and characterise (nature, date, complexity and extent) any deposits which may be affected by the proposed scheme.
- 2.2.2 The WSI for the site identified two specific research questions that the site has the potential to address within the South-East Research Framework. The site was considered to be able to;
- Contribute towards the study of the transition from late Iron Age to Roman period
 - Contribute towards the study of Roman communication (and roadside settlement)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A total of six trenches, all measuring 1.8m wide and 30m long, were excavated at Wye Free School in two distinct phases. The first four were excavated in May 2017 and dug in agricultural land in the east of the site. Two further trenches were excavated in the west of the site in September 2017 in an area previously used as a school playground.
- 3.1.2 Trenches were set out using DGPS but were moved slightly to avoid on site obstacles. The locations of the trenches are shown in Figure 2. Trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.1.3 Trenches were recorded using standard ASE trench sheets. Deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets. A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made.
- 3.1.4 Finds, where present, were retrieved, securely bagged and labelled with the appropriate site code and context number on site, and retained for specialist identification and study.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Ashford Borough Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	12
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	41
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
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)	0
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 (Figure 3)

4.1 Trenches 1-4

4.1.1 Trenches 1-4 showed fairly consistent stratigraphy with head deposit geology noted at between 43.63 and 49.0m AOD. This was overlain by orange brown clay silt colluvium in trenches 1-3, which was absent in Trench 4. Above this was light grey brown silty clay subsoil and dark grey brown fine silt topsoil. No archaeological features were noted in these trenches.

4.2 Trenches 5 & 6

4.2.1 Trenches 5 and 6 were excavated in the west of the site in a playground to the north of the main school complex. The trenches were 1.8m wide and 30m long. The western portion of Trench 6 contained an electricity cable. The geological substrate (head deposits) was encountered at 47.17m AOD in Trench 5 and consisted of blue grey clay silt. This was overlain by what appeared to be a very compact buried soil, comprising of dark brown grey silt. The deposit sequence appeared to be intact but there was a degree of compaction and or disturbance evident, caused by the construction of the playground. The stratigraphic sequence was capped by made ground and asphalt. The trenches were left to weather for 24 hours but no archaeological features were observed. A representative sample of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) from the buried topsoil was collected.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Wye Free School, Olantigh Road, Wye. 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 3). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	CBM	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)
5/002	2	54		
6/002	3	99	1	<2
Total	5	153	1	<2

Table 3: Finds quantification

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.2.1 Five pieces of tile weighing a total of 153g were collected from two buried topsoil contexts: [5/002] and [6/002]. All the tile was composed of the same fabric type, which is incredibly common across the south-east and recorded in the London typology as 3201 and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust as fabric 32. It is pinkish in colour with common calcareous speckle and deposits. Unfortunately, this fabric type has a broad use period from the 16th (or possibly the 15th) century until the 19th century, and therefore the CBM cannot be dated more precisely.

5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.3.1 A single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment (wt <2g) was recovered from [6/002]. The piece is unmarked and undecorated and dates between c. 1750-1910.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 Head deposit geology was noted in all six trenches at between 43.63m AOD in Trenches 1-4 and 47.17 to 47.87 in trenches 5 & 6. Trenches 1-4 contained undisturbed topsoil and subsoil with a colluvial deposit recorded in trenches 1-3. Topsoil and subsoil were noted in Trenches 5 & 6 although these deposits had been disturbed and compacted by modern development. The geological horizon seemed undisturbed in all trenches despite some obvious disturbance to the overlying deposits in the west of the site.

6.2 Consideration of research aims

6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was successful in establishing the absence of archaeological remains on the site. Although a small selection of finds was recovered during the evaluation no archaeological features were observed and the work was therefore unable to address any of the specific research questions set out in section 2.

6.3 Conclusions

6.3.1 Head deposit geology was noted in all trenches even though the west of the site appeared to have been disturbed by modern development. A small collection of post medieval finds was recovered in the west of the site, which were probably deposited by agricultural processes. No evidence was seen to suggest that this area of Wye has ever been anything other than peripheral agricultural land until relatively recently.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2016. *Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Ashford, TN25 5EJ Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Heritage Statement)*. Unpublished ASE document.

ASE 2017. *Land at Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Ashford, TN25 5EJ* Specification for Archaeological Evaluation. Unpublished ASE document

CIfA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Kent County Council, 2007 *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief/evaluation/excavation*

Online Resource

British Geological Survey Map Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 25/09/2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Rydon Construction 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

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	WYE 17					
Project code	170456					
Planning reference	16/01226/AS					
Site address	Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Ashford, TN25 5EJ					
District/Borough	Kent					
NGR (12 figures)	605733 147094					
Geology	West Melbury Marly Chalk					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	12/5/17-11/9/17					
Sponsor/client						
Project manager	Neil Griffin					
Project supervisor	Steve Price/Chris Russel					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Wye Free School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Kent between 26th May and 11th September 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by xxxxx in advance of development.</p> <p>Head deposit geology was noted in all trenches even though the west of the site appeared to have been disturbed by modern development. A small collection of post medieval finds were recovered in the west of the site which were probably deposited by agricultural processes. No evidence was seen to suggest that this area of Wye has ever been anything other than peripheral agricultural land until relatively recently.</p>					
Museum/Accession No.						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-296771

Project details

Project name Wye School Evaluation

Short description of the project This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Wye Free School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Kent between 26th May and 11th September 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by xxxxx in advance of development. Head deposit geology was noted in all trenches even though the west of the site appeared to have been disturbed by modern development. A small collection of post medieval finds were recovered in the west of the site which were probably deposited by agricultural processes. No evidence was seen to suggest that this area of Wye has ever been anything other than peripheral agricultural land until relatively recently.

Project dates Start: 26-05-2017 End: 12-09-2017

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 170456 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes WYE 17 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds CTP Post Medieval

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT ASHFORD WYE WITH HINXHILL Wye School

Postcode TN25 5EJ

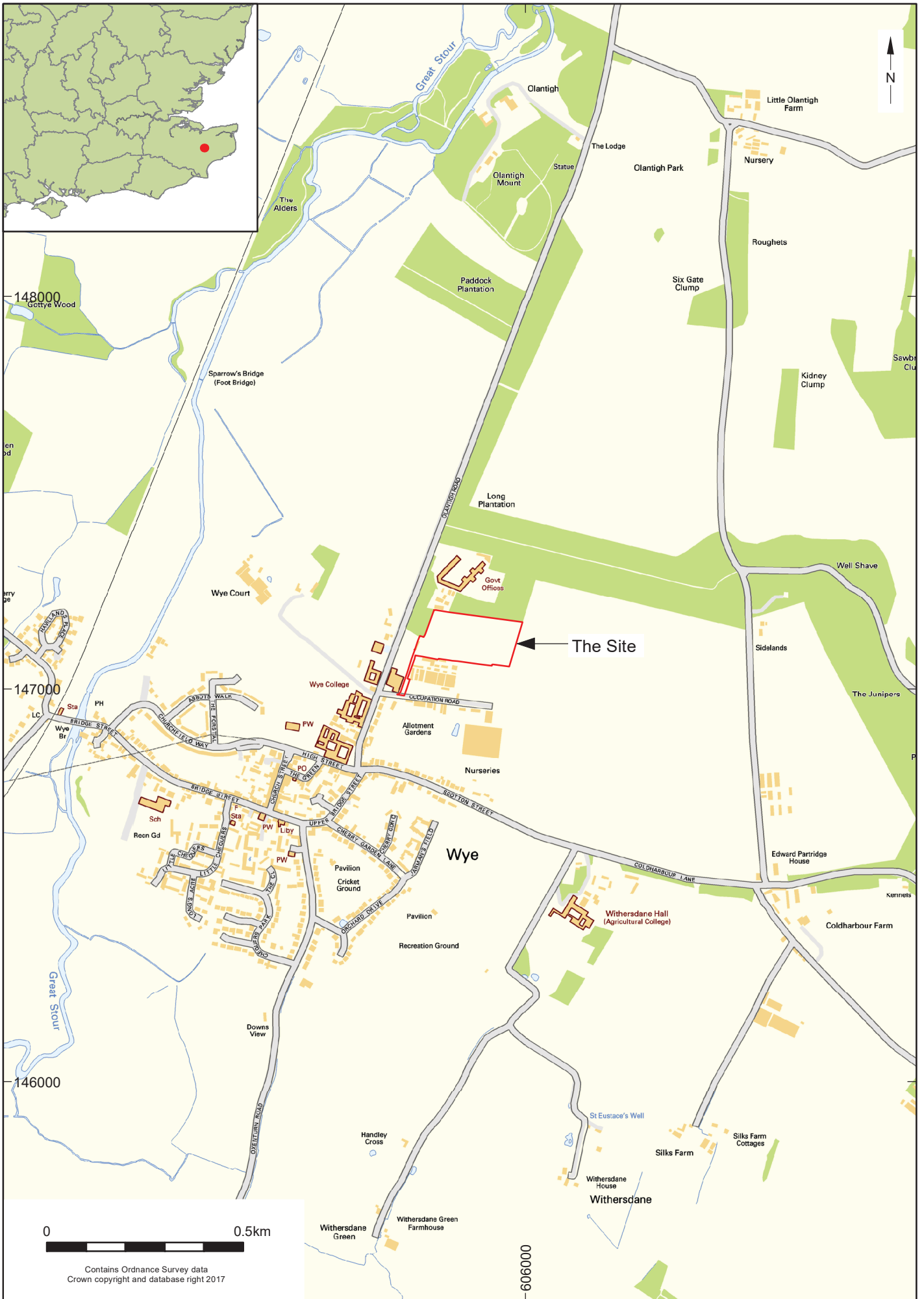
Study area	3 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 605733 147094 50.908905423473 0.284235661129 50 54 32 N 000 17 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43.63m Max: 49m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Steve Price/Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Wye School, Olantigh Road, Wye, Ashford, TN25 5EJ
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel,C.
Other bibliographic details	Report Number:2017413
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE

Place of issue or publication Portslade
Entered by Chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 26 September 2017

Appendix 1

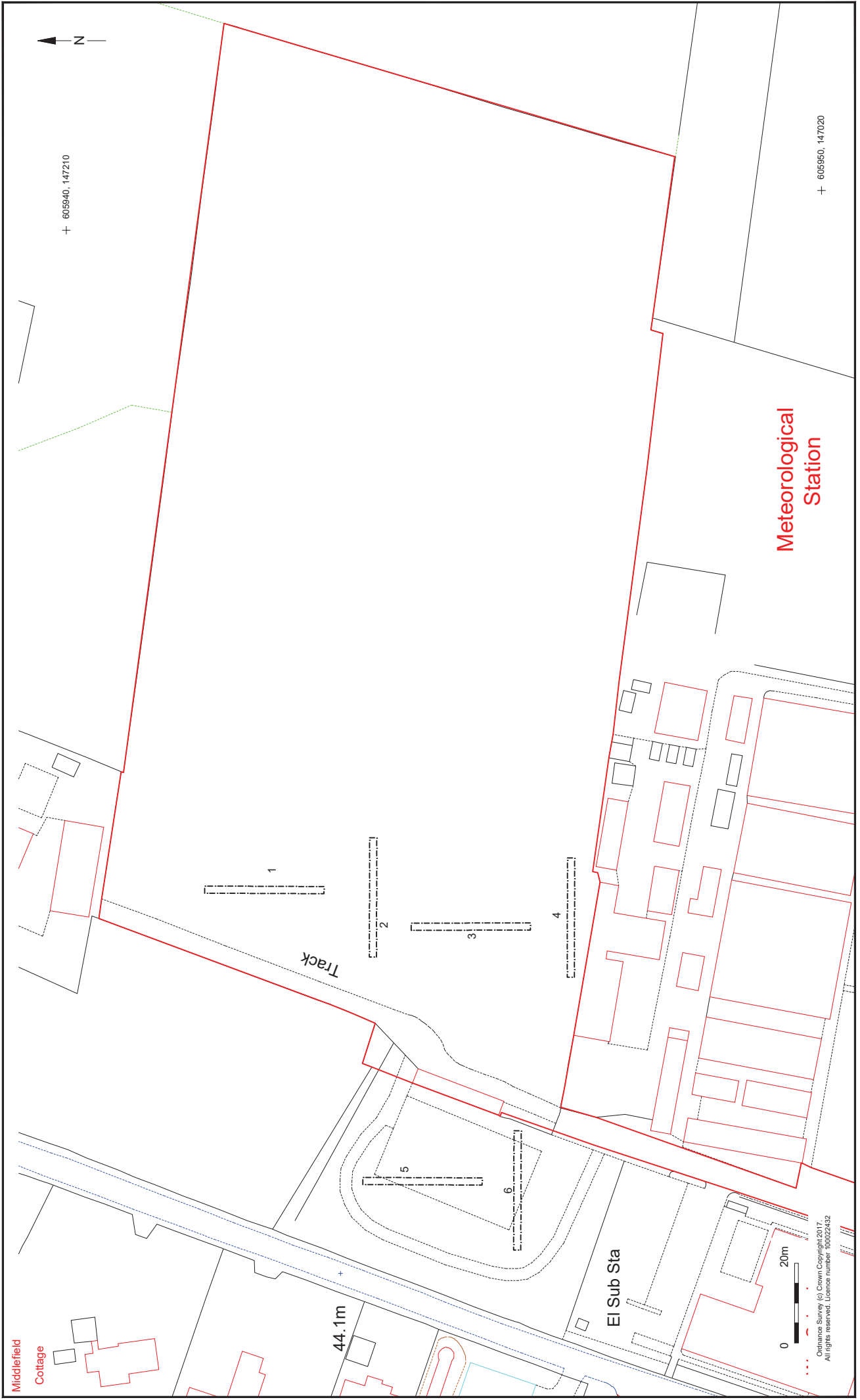
Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.12	
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.26	
1	1/003	Layer	Colluvium	0.32-0.78	
1	1/004	Layer	Head Deposit		43.63
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.25	
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.17	
2	2/003	Layer	Colluvium	0.08-0.17	
2	2/004	Layer	Head Deposit		46.86
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.08-0.30	
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.07-0.22	
3	3/003	Layer	Colluvium	0.16-0.32	
3	3/004	Layer	Head Deposit		48.23
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.20	
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.18	
4	4/003	Layer	Head Deposit		49.00
5	5/001	Layer	Made Ground	0.30-0.35	
5	5/002	Layer	Buried Topsoil	0.25-0.35	
5	5/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.25-0.45	
5	5/004	Layer	Head Deposit		47.17
6	6/001	Layer	Made Ground	0.25-0.35	
6	6/002	Layer	Buried Topsoil	0.20-0.30	
6	6/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.35-0.45	
6	6/004	Layer	Head Deposit		47.87

Table 4: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts



Contains Ordnance Survey data
Crown copyright and database right 2017

© Archaeology South-East		Wye Free School	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170456	October 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017413	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Wye Free School	
Project Ref: 170456	October 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017413	Drawn by: AR		

Fig. 2



General view across the site, looking north



Trench 6, looking east



Trench 5 - sample section, looking east

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