

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EY**

**Planning Ref: TM/06/3260/FL**

**NGR 559347 146616**

**Project No. 3136  
Site Code: LCT 07**

**ASE Report No. 2007126  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-31263**

**Deon Whittaker**

**September 2007**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at the site of 38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EY (NGR 559347 146616). Groundworks involved the excavation of approximately 12m of footing trench to a depth of 1m. A linear feature probably represents a boundary ditch was identified. The feature was undated but was most likely of post-medieval or modern date.*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report is concerned with an archaeological watching brief maintained at 38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EY (NGR 559347 146616) (Figs 1 & 2).

1.2 The site has planning permission for an extension of the kitchen to form a breakfast room (Fig. 2). The Local Planning Authority's planning reference for the proposal is TM/06/3260/FL.

1.3 The Local Planning Authority has placed the following condition on the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, 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.*

1.4 The watching brief involved the archaeological monitoring by an archaeological contractor of the groundworks connected with the development, and recording of any features revealed.

1.5 The watching brief was maintained at the end of the programme of ground excavation. The archaeological contractor confirmed the extent of proposed ground excavations with the site developer and informed the County Archaeological Officer that arrangements were in place for attendance as required.

1.6 The site is located to the eastern end of Lyons Crescent in Tonbridge (NGR 559347 146616) (Fig. 1). The site is located to the north of the River Medway and to the north-west of the Mill Stream. According to the maps of the British Geological Survey Sheet 303 Solid and Drift Edition, the site lies on Tunbridge Wells Sand, which is sealed to the south by alluvium associated with the River Medway.

1.7 The fieldwork was undertaken by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) of the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager) managed the project.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development site lies within the historic centre of Tonbridge, although outside the medieval walls. Remains associated with medieval or post-medieval activity may survive on site. The line of the town wall lies to the west, and a section some 105m to the north-west is designated as Scheduled Monument (Kent SAM 136). Some 90m to the north-west outside of the line of the town wall is The Hermitage; a sixteenth-century Grade II Listed Building. (HCG 2007).
- 2.2 An undated water channel was recorded during a watching brief undertaken in 2000, c.90m to the south-west on Lyons Crescent (Kent SMR No. TQ 54 NE 45) (HCG 2007).

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed as a result of the groundworks. Particular attention was to be made to the character, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2 Intrusive groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no further archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils).
- 3.3 All excavation was undertaken by hand. Samples were taken of any archaeological deposits.
- 3.4 A further digital copy of this report (including plans, illustrations and photographs) is held by East Sussex Historic Environment Record on CD-ROM in a .pdf format.
- 3.5 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form has been completed online at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> following the completion of fieldwork and a printout included as an appendix with this report.
- 3.6 The written and drawn archive will be deposited in an appropriate museum. The archive will be prepared according the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the requirements of the recipient museum.
- 3.7 A full photographic record of the work was kept using digital format and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade.
- 3.8 All excavations were monitored by examining the section of the trenches after they had been fully excavated. Throughout the works the contractor made all the excavations fully accessible to the archaeologist and assisted the archaeologist where necessary to obtain samples safely within the confined space of the trench. All archaeological layers were fully explored and recorded to appropriate archaeological standards.

#### 4.0 RESULTS (see Figs 3 & 4)

4.1 12m out of 16m of foundations were inspected. The remaining 4m lie under the existing rear of the building. Trenches were 0.5m in width and 1m in depth. Deposits were recorded in three sections of footing trench – south, east and north.

##### 4.1.1 Table 1. List of Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.4m
02	Deposit	Sand	4m	Trench	0.1m
03	Deposit	Clayey silt	8m	Trench	0.4m
04	Deposit	Natural sandy clay	Trench	0.5m	N/A
05	Deposit	Silt	1.8m	0.3m	0.1m
06	Deposit	Silty clay	4m	Trench	0.2m
07	Deposit	Silt	4m	Trench	0.2m
08	Cut	Linear	0.5m	1.8m	0.6m
09	Deposit	Silt	0.5m	1.8m	0.6m

4.1.2 The natural dark yellow, fine sandy clay [04] was seen throughout the foundation trench at 0.65m below ground level. Overlying the natural was yellow, fine silty clay subsoil [06] with no inclusions. Cutting subsoil [06] was a linear [08] aligned north to south with a concave sides and base. The fill was firm yellow grey silt [09] with no finds. A sample of this fill produced no archaeological or environmental finds (see below). Sealing the linear was yellow grey silt [03/07] with occasional flint pebbles. Above [03/07] were discrete lenses of yellow sand [02] with occasion fragment of modern ceramic building materials (CBM) and dark grey silt [05] with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional sub angular flint fragments. Overlying was dark grey brown clay silt topsoil [01] with frequent flint gravel and modern CBM fragments.

#### 4.2 Environmental Report by Lucy Allott

A single sample was taken from context [09] within a ditch/gully to verify the site identification of slag within this deposit. The sample was put through a flotation tank to establish whether any hammerscale or charcoal fragments were present. The flot (captured on a 250µm mesh) was very small (<5ml) and produced no charred botanicals, hammerscale flakes or spheroids. The residue (retained on a 500µm mesh) consisted of a large concretion of non-magnetic material containing flint nodules. These flint inclusions do not show any signs of heating and the matrix does not display features characteristic of slag (Barber pers. comm.).

Although on site the material from context [09] was identified as slag it became apparent, once washed, that the matrix is a natural (possibly iron-

rich) deposit with flint inclusions. As the material recovered from this sample is not manmade it does not hold any further potential for analysis.

## **5.0 RESULTS and DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 The watching brief identified a single cut feature, linear [08], probably representing a boundary ditch. The feature was undated but cut subsoil [06] and was probably of post-medieval or modern date. Modern deposits sealed the feature. The development did not impact upon any significant archaeological deposits,

## **REFERENCES**

- English Heritage 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects*. London: English Heritage
- Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) 2007. 'Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 IEY.' Heritage Conservation Group: Kent County Council



**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	LCT07					
Identification Name and Address	Lyon's Crescent Tonbridge					
County, District &/or Borough	West Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 559347 146616					
Geology	Tonbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3136					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban		Other	
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 12 Sept 07		Other	
Sponsor/Client	Kent County Council					
Project Manager	Niel Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern ✓		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at the site of 38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EY (NGR 559347 146616). Groundworks involved the excavation of approximately 12m of footing trench to a depth of 1m. A linear feature probably represents a boundary ditch was identified. The feature was undated but was most likely of post-medieval or modern date.</i></p>						

**Appendix - Oasis Summary Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-31263****Project details**

Project name	38 Lyons Crescent Tonbridge
Short description	Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at the site of 38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EY. (NGR 559347 146616). Groundworks involved the excavation of approximately 12 metres of footing trench to a depth of 1 metre. A poorly drained linear feature was revealed. No further archaeology was recovered.
Project dates	Start: 12-09-2007 End: 12-09-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	KENT 38 lyons crescent tonbridge
Postcode	TN91EY
Study area	16.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 591 465 51.1949881027 0.277269605749 51 11 41 N 000 16 38 E Point
Height OD	Min: 0m Max: 0m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
funding body	Developer

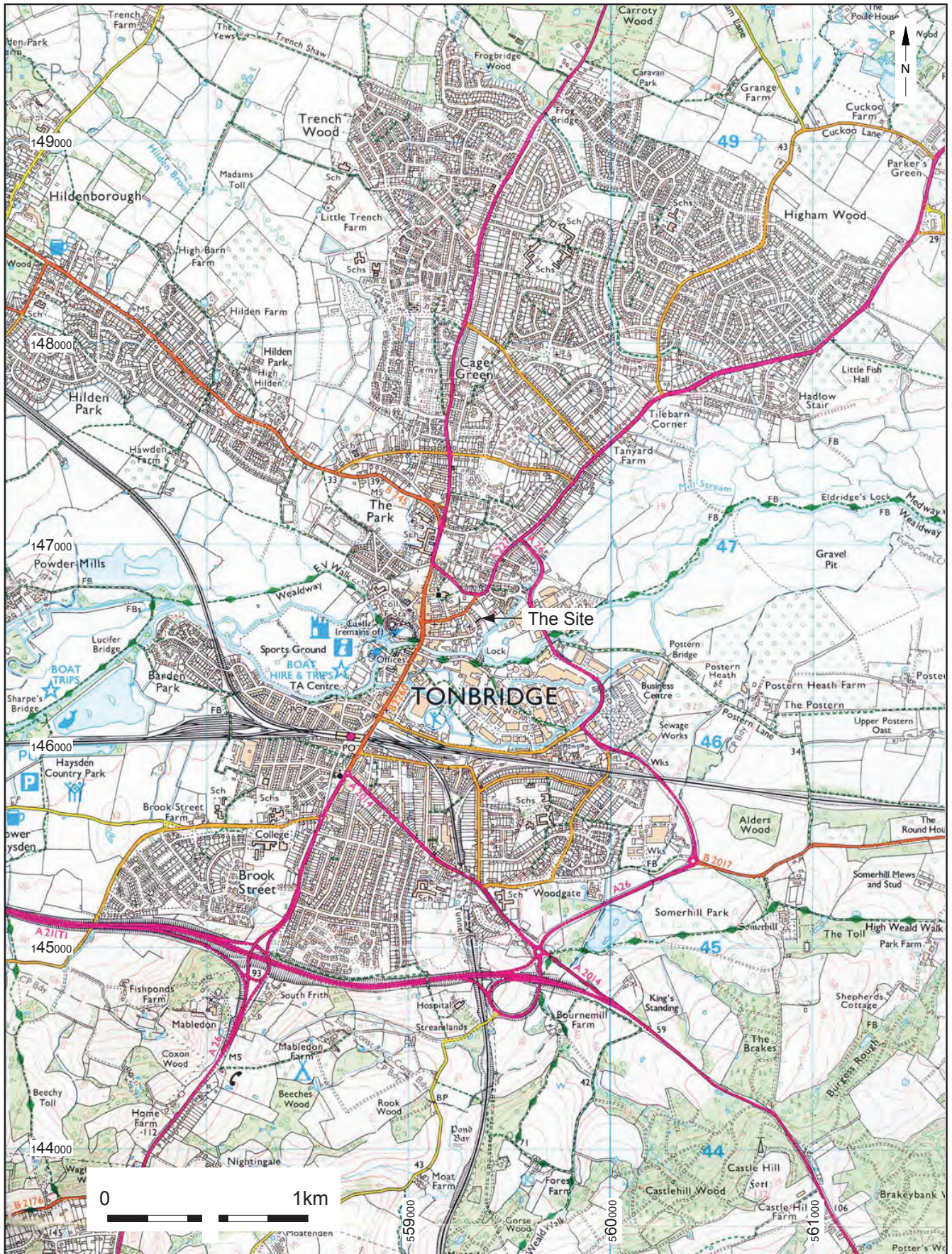
**Project archives**

Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Contents	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum  
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'  
Paper Media available 'Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title 38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EY.  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Whittaker, D.  
Date 2007  
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South East  
Place of issue or publication Portslade Sussex  
Description A4 Spiral Bound Card Cover Word Processed Ariel  
Entered by Deon Whittaker (mushak@hotmail.co.uk)  
Entered on 12 September 2007

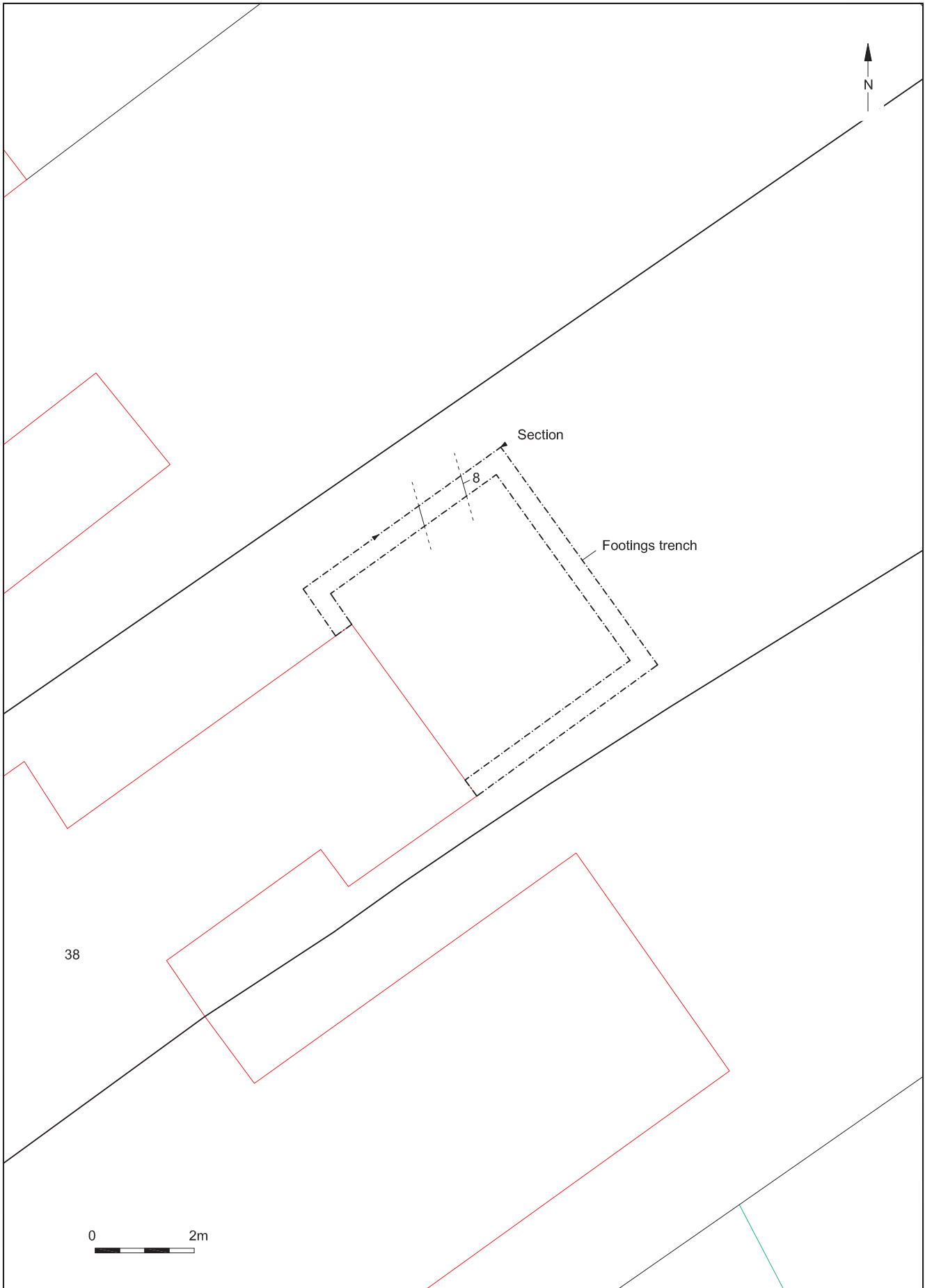


© Archaeology South-East		38 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3136	Oct 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2007126	Drawn by: JLR		

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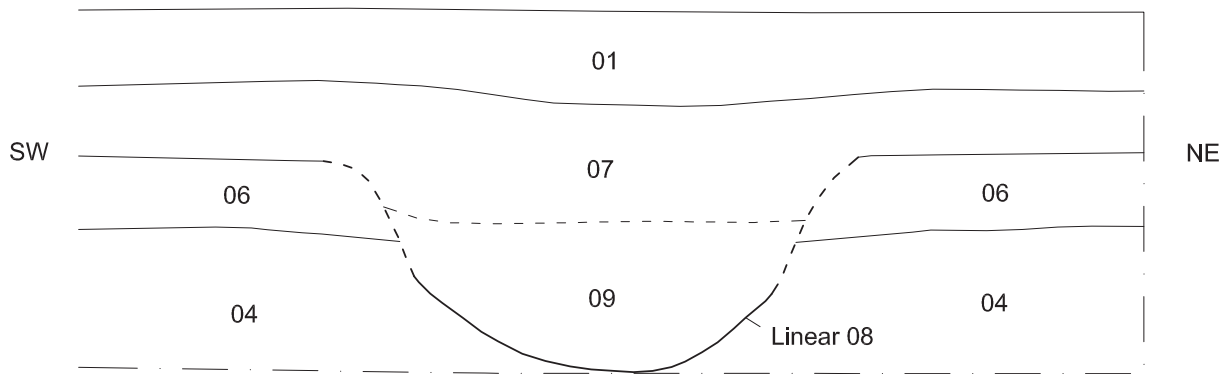


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© Archaeology South-East		38 Lyon Crescent, Tonbridge	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3136	Oct 2008	Site plan	
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North-west section of linear 08



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