

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton, Hampshire**

**NGR: 445231 112243
(SU 45231 12243)**

Planning Refs: 18/00520/FUL



January 2019

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Hampshire**

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Prepared by:	Greg Priestley-Bell	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Lucy Sibun	Senior Archaeologist	
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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton, Hampshire. The evaluation comprised seven trial trenches. All recorded archaeological remains dated to the late post-medieval/ modern period, perhaps the earliest being a line of six postholes that may have represented the site of one of the early 20th-century temporary school buildings. Four shallow undated features and a deposit of made ground were all likely to have been late post-medieval/modern in origin. No earlier archaeological remains, neither features nor residual material were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by PCH Associates to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton, Hampshire (hereafter 'the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference SU 45231 12243 (445231 112243) and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online, the natural geology across the site is Wittering Formation - Sand, Silt and Clay. Most of the site has no recorded superficial deposits, but superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel are located in the north-east corner.

1.2.2 The site lies to the south of Bitterne on the eastern side of the River Itchen, and comprises a playing field within the grounds of Itchen Sixth Form College, with Middle Road to the east, Sholing Junior School to the south, Spring Road to the west and the college buildings immediately to the north. The playing field occupies a hillside that slopes gently from 45.14m AOD in the north to 41.48m AOD in the south.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The proposed development involves the installation of a 3G football turf pitch with associated fencing, flood lights and storage containers (Planning Application 18/00520/FUL). The existing grass pitch is on sloping land. It is proposed that the new pitch will be constructed partly by cutting into the existing slope on the north-east side of the site, and partly by building up the land behind new retaining walls elsewhere. There will also be new flood lights, storage units and possibly drains. The total area of the main part of the site (excluding the access road but including the full extent of the area to be cut away) is some 8500 square metres or 0.85 hectares.

1.3.2 In light of the size of the site and the potential for archaeological deposits to be impacted by the proposed football pitch construction, the archaeological advisor at the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Southampton City Council (SCC), Ingrid Peckham, requested an archaeological evaluation to be carried out in advance of any construction work taking place. It was determined that the evaluation trenches should be located in the part of the site that was to be reduced in level, and along the proposed lines of the new retaining walls. The requirement for further work would be dependent upon the results of the evaluation. The following conditions were attached to any planning consent:

APPROVAL CONDITION Archaeological evaluation investigation [Pre-Commencement Condition] No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in development procedure.

APPROVAL CONDITION Archaeological evaluation work programme [Performance Condition] The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological

work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

APPROVAL CONDITION Archaeological investigation (further works) [Performance Condition] The Developer will secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which will be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the additional archaeological investigation is initiated at an appropriate point in development procedure.

APPROVAL CONDITION Archaeological work programme (further works) [Performance Condition]

The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed.

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation was prepared (ASE 2018) in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a and b). The WSI was submitted to Ingrid Peckham, the archaeological advisor at the Historic Environment Team, for approval prior to commencement of the work.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between the 13th and 18th December 2018. The work was carried out by Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Vas Tsamis (Senior Archaeological Surveyor) and Carina Mincioni (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Leonie Pett and the post-excavation process by Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is collated from ASE's general regional and chronological background, other nearby archaeological assessments (ASE 2016), the HET consultation document (dated 24/5/2018) and an assessment of readily available historic maps.

2.1.2 The site lies within an area defined as a Local Area of Archaeological Potential, as defined in the Southampton Local Plan and Core Strategy -- LAAP 16 (The Rest of Southampton). Several prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, and medieval finds and sites have been found within 1km radius. Given the absence of previous archaeological investigation within the site, there is some potential for thus far unknown remains to be present.

2.2 Prehistoric

Early prehistoric period

2.2.1 The Palaeolithic covers an extended period from the evolution of our earliest hominid ancestors up to the end of the last ice age. The Palaeolithic environment would have been harsh, which may explain the limited evidence for activity during this period. Flintwork deriving from the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods show that hunter-gatherer communities were exploiting the natural resources in the county. Palaeolithic artefacts have been found in the river terrace gravels in this area. Such deposits may extend into the site from the north-east.

2.2.2 The site is located in a preferred topographic zone for settlement during the earlier prehistoric periods. During the Mesolithic period the Solent was a river valley, but rising sea levels inundated it west of the Isle of Wight. Consequently, there are old landscapes on the seabed where people hunted and gathered in the Palaeolithic and early Mesolithic periods. The site itself lies on an area of higher ground (watershed) between two north-east to south-west flowing streams, albeit the streams are sometimes now culverted.

2.2.3 The Neolithic period is marked by the introduction of agriculture to Britain, which necessitated the clearance of the forests which covered much of the country. This was a period of increasing temperatures and more settled human occupation, allowing not just for the construction of large earthen monuments, but the development of more permanent farming systems. This picture is amplified by the results of pollen and mollusc studies indicating forest clearance. Evidence for Neolithic settlement sites is limited, with many suitable locations in coastal and floodplain areas, and possibly chalk-land dry valleys, likely to be buried deeply beneath later deposits.

Later Prehistoric period

2.2.4 The Early Bronze Age is characterized by the introduction of metals, generally associated with new types of pottery such as Beakers, and the construction of new types of ceremonial sites, notably round barrows often forming linear cemeteries on ridges. The Middle and Late Bronze Age saw a change in emphasis away from ceremonial and monumental landscapes towards the development of large-scale agricultural landscapes, typified by blocks of field systems associated with scattered

settlements. The southern end of the site lies some 37m north of the possible location of a Bronze Age barrow (MSH408), shown on the 1806 Ordnance Survey map, although given the small scale of this map, the precise location of the barrow is uncertain. The application site is just uphill of the possible barrow and it is possible that archaeological remains associated with the barrow will be present.

- 2.2.5 The Iron Age is characterised by increasing evidence for field systems and the development of defended sites. The Iron Age saw a general continuation of trends from the preceding period, with increasing numbers of open settlements and defended enclosures evident. It represents a developing period of social and political changes in Britain before the invasion of Claudius's army in AD 43. The Late Iron Age saw a major change in the social attitudes towards death in southern Britain, with the introduction of more careful methods of burial (Cunliffe 1993). In the south-east of the country, it became normal for cremated ashes to be buried in containers in small cemeteries (*ibid.* 1993, 231).

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 Hampshire's position in the south of England meant that it was probably in contact with Rome from an early date, first through trade and then conquest. It was only in AD 43 that southern Britain was brought firmly into the Empire by Claudius, who succeeded where Caesar, Augustus and Gaius Caligula had failed previously. Roman rule resulted in considerable socio-cultural and economic changes to the southeast of England. The region saw, for example, the establishment of centralised administrative control from planned urban centres, the development of industry and the construction of roads providing arteries of communication throughout the country.
- 2.3.2 The City of Southampton has been a port of importance since the Roman era yet the actual location of the settlement has moved at various time. Located to the north of the modern-day city centre, *Clausentum* was a small town in the Roman province of Britain, believed to have been located in Bitterne Manor, to the north of the site on the east side of the river Itchen (Cunliffe 1993). Other evidence for Roman settlement has been identified elsewhere in Southampton.

2.4 Early Medieval

- 2.4.1 The demise of Roman authority in Britain saw a return to older ways of life, with a gradual decline in both the economy and administration of the colony, and an influx of settlers from Germanic lands across the North Sea. This migration of Germanic peoples introduced a new language and material culture into southern and eastern Britain. However, knowledge of the period following the departure of the Romans is fragmentary, in part due to issues with dating evidence, as a result of the lack of official coinage and the decline of the big pottery industries.
- 2.4.2 The Anglo-Saxons moved the centre of the town across the River Itchen to what is now the St Mary's area. This new settlement 42–45ha with a pre-planned north-south aligned street grid, was known as *Hamwic* (Middle Saxon Southampton) and was established c.AD700. It was prosperous and productive from its service of the kingdom of Wessex (Morton 1992). It is located to the west of the Itchen but to the north-east of the city centre whereas medieval Southampton was the forerunner of the modern city (Russel 2001).
- 2.4.3 The 10th century/Late Saxon settlement port was established on land overlooking the

Test, to the west of Hamwic (ie, broadly the area that became the medieval town).

- 2.4.4 By the middle of the 11th century, the area is described as South *Ham tun* by Anglo Saxon Chroniclers, which is likely to be the derivation of the city's name today (Coates 1989). Historically, the site was located within the district of Sholing Common.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 By the time of the Norman invasion Southampton's prosperity was assured, when it became the major port of transit between Winchester (the capital of England until the early 12th century) and Normandy. The Domesday Book indicates that Southampton already had distinct French and English quarters at the time of the Norman Conquest (Rance 1986, 31). The Black Death, from 1348, caused a loss in population in the Southampton area reflected by the decrease in tax demanded and the decline in ordinations.
- 2.5.2 The 15th century saw a high point in prosperity for Southampton, stimulated from trade in Mediterranean luxury goods. Religious houses fostered trading activity at this time in a variety of havens such as Quarr (near Ryde). Southampton port has a long trading history, together with Portsmouth as the Solent's major ports. Southampton had significantly more port traffic before 1500 than Portsmouth.

2.6 Post-medieval

- 2.6.1 In the 19th-century period, Southampton became known as the 'gateway to the world', increasing its commercial trade and passenger status. Iconic ocean-going liners such as the Titanic, Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Mary II set sail from Southampton. The docks were concentrated above the confluence with the Itchen.
- 2.6.2 The banks of the River Itchen have a long history of early settlement, land-reclamation and water dependent industries such as ship building/repair, the manufacture of quicklime and metal castings and the recycling and import of construction materials. Several factors contributed to changing the character of the small country villages east of the Itchen, the first being the inauguration of the Floating Bridges across the River Itchen in 1836, coupled with the construction of Southampton Docks in 1840.
- 2.6.3 Cartographic sources indicate that the area of the site was undeveloped in 1865, with no map convention to indicate land use, located north of Sholing Green and Sholing Common. In the 19th century the area was part of Sholing Common (named as Shoreland Common on the 1806 map). The undeveloped Sholing Common was used as a holding area for troops awaiting embarkation in the late 18th -and early 19th-century wars with France. It was home to a Volunteer Rifle Range in the 1880s, recalled in the local road names of Butts Road, Dragoon Close, Shooters Hill Close and the local public house, 'The Target'.
- 2.6.4 By the 1895 Revision of the OS map, Middle Road has been constructed, probably to serve a large brickworks immediately to the south. Under the OS 'Uncultivated Ground' heading the convention for 'Rough or Heathy Pasture' describes the site.
- 2.6.5 Seven acres of land were bought in 1912 for the planned Itchen Secondary School (now Itchen College); at the time of the purchase the land was described as 'rough, unfenced and with an abundance of gorse, bracken and blackberry bushes' (Vennis, 2012, 249; although not a primary source, *A Lifetime in English Education* was

researched and written by the daughter of Philip Vennis, a former principal of Itchen College). However, it was not until 1921 that the first pupils arrived on the present Itchen College site. They were accommodated in temporary ex-army huts with felt roofs and described as 'flimsy'; these huts would remain in use until 1934 when they were replaced with more permanent temporary buildings (*ibid.* 252). The foundation stone for the present main building was laid in December 1925 but many factors, including a major fire, meant that it was not fully completed until 1938. The application site currently lies within part of the college playing field.

2.7 Modern

2.7.1 In 1940, Southampton was heavily bombed over two nights (30th November and 1st December) in the height of the 'Blitz', because of the area's proximity to the railway connecting London and Southampton Docks. At least four bombs are recorded as having fallen on the playing field site (MapSouthampton online interactive map), requiring it to be repaired and re-turfed after the war (Vennis, 2012, 256). Several more bombs fell around the periphery of the playing field and there is an account of one bomb that did not explode that fell through the dining room roof (Vennis, *ibid.*).

2.7.2 During WWII no known development took place on the playing field itself. In 1939 many pupils from the school were evacuated to combine with Andover Grammar School and the school buildings were used as an ARP Post, a Casualty Station with Medical Services and a British Restaurant. In 1946 the school's name was changed to Itchen Grammar School. The last remaining temporary accommodation was finally demolished in 1963.

2.8 Project Aims and Objectives

2.8.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To inform on the proposed scheme with regard to its archaeological implications and to enable informed planning decisions and appropriate mitigation measures.

2.8.2 The site specific aim of the project is summarised as follows:

- To identify and record the nature, dimensions, and relationship of natural deposits exposed by the archaeological investigation, and assess the potential of those deposits to contain or conceal archaeological evidence.

2.8.3 In the absence of previous excavation and in light of the rich archaeological resource within the wider area, the site holds the potential for archaeological deposits from all periods, therefore the site also has the potential to address a broad range of the research issues outlined in the Solent – Thames Research Framework (Hey & Hind 2014); specific targeted research objectives will be refined dependent on the results of the evaluation. The archaeological evaluation sought to address the following research objectives (set out by sub-periods):

Early/ Middle Palaeolithic

4.1.1 *An improved chrono-stratigraphic framework, both for sets of deposits within clearly defined zones such as specific river valleys, and between sets of deposits in, for instance different valley systems*

Late Upper Palaeolithic/ Mesolithic

6.1.1 *The extent to which developer-funded work can change our understanding of the extent of Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity in this region needs to be recognised, and sites of these dates should be more actively sought when devising mitigation strategies.*

Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age

8.2.2 *Identifying and investigating sites with both late Mesolithic and early Neolithic material present, especially where these can be linked to environmental and datable sequences*

8.2.4 *Better refinement of early Bronze Age chronologies, for example the dating of early Bronze Age 'Wessex' burials – linking burials and settlement evidence, where this exists*

8.4.2 *Is the impression that there is more extensive and denser settlement in the later Neolithic in many parts of the region real and, if so, does increasing population have an impact on other aspects of human activity, such as ceremony and ritual activity and burial practices?*

Later Bronze Age/ Iron Age

10.1.3 *The potential to compare the Solent-Thames with other sub-regions to investigate regionalism in late prehistory.*

10.10.3 *European connections from the south coast and down the Thames and their influence on patterns of exchange at different periods should be studied.*

Roman

12.2.1 *Sites with well-preserved deposits of both late Iron Age and Roman date should be given careful attention in order to investigate continuity of local tradition at these sites. Sampling strategies should ensure that as wide a range of contexts are sampled as possible. Excavations of deep, well-sealed features are required (as opposed to buildings).*

12.7.2 *The hinterland settlement and mortuary land - scape of both 'large' and 'small' towns requires further research. Examples with hinterlands relatively untouched by modern development offer major opportunities for research.*

Early medieval

14.1.2 *This is a period that remains relatively underrepresented and poorly understood in the archaeological record across much of the region, and remains a high priority for investigation when opportunities arise.*

14.1.3 *The region offers a good opportunity to compare land-based and water-based transport in the early medieval period.*

14.3.1 *The date of earliest Anglo-Saxon settlement and the degree of overlap with Romano-British culture.*

Later medieval

16.4.1 The chronology of development and character of field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region needs to be further explored.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 In accordance with the WSI, the archaeological evaluation was to comprise the machine excavation, under archaeological supervision, of 4 x 30m x 1.8m (Trenches 1 – 4) and 3 x 20m x 1.8m (Trenches 5 – 7) trial trenches. Trenches 1-4 represented a 5% sample of the proposed area of ground reduction only in the north of the site (c.4630m²; Figure 2). Trenches 5-7 were targeted on the proposed retaining walls around the southern edge of the site. On site constraints resulted in some amendments to the trench layout (see below).
- 3.1.2 A Risk Assessment was produced prior to the commencement of the work. The locations of all the trenches were checked with a CAT scanner prior to the commencement of excavation. An unrecorded underground electricity service was located crossing the northern end of Trench 1. For this reason, the trench was shortened by approximately 3m and a continuous watching brief was maintained by an Unexploded Ordnance Specialist during mechanical excavations. Due to on site obstructions, Trench 6 was excavated in two halves and Trench 7 was reduced to 15m in length, shortened at the western end.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were accurately located using offsets from known positions or a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.1.4 The trenches were excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator, through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 100mm with artefact recovery taking place until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. The excavator was fitted with a smooth grading bucket and care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining. All machining stopped when archaeological deposits were encountered. Spoil was banded around the edges of the trenches and these were not fenced.
- 3.1.5 Where appropriate, the exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned. Where possible, machined areas were left overnight to allow features time to weather out and become more visible.
- 3.1.6 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.

3.2 Excavation and recording techniques

- 3.2.1 All archaeological features were excavated and recorded according to standard Archaeology South-East practice, the HET brief and in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2014a, b).
- 3.2.2 The HET brief recommended the following percentage of each deposit type be excavated (note: these are minimum values. Sometimes a greater percentage would be required:

- Site layers not in cut features: Percentage hand excavation depending on deposit type. Hearths, floors, etc usually 100%. Entire layer should be removed to check for underlying features;
- 100% graves or other funerary deposits;
- 100% stakeholes;
- 50% of pits, postholes, and other contained features such as limekilns;
- 50% structural linear features, in quadrants, giving continuous longitudinal section to pick up postholes; and
- Linear features: 50% of beam slots; 30% other linear features, if less than 20m long; 10% if over 20m long; in all cases, including all termini and intersections.

3.2.3 A full record (text, drawn and photographic) of archaeologically significant contexts was maintained. Representative drawings of each trench section were produced, while a drawing of the full section of Trench 1 was made. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.

3.2.4 Where appropriate, the sides and base of the evaluation trenches were cleaned. The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

3.2.5 Archaeological features and deposits were planned at an appropriate scale (usually 1:20 or 1:50). Sections were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10 on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by Archaeology South-East. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum wherever practicable.

3.2.6 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork. A photographic register was maintained detailing, as a minimum, the feature number, location and direction of shot.

3.2.7 All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained and processed according to the standards laid down in "Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives" (Southampton City Council, 2016) and per the guidelines laid out in the HET project brief and ASE artefacts collection policy.

3.2.8 Provision was made for bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) to be taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered.

3.2.9 Provision was made for the strategy for specialist sampling of archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) to be developed with reference to Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Historic England 2011) and waterlogged wood (Historic England 2010) and in consultation with the Historic England regional advisor or relevant specialists. No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered

3.2.10 Provision was made that in the event that human remains were found, work would cease and all necessary statutory provisions followed. No such remains were encountered.

3.2.11 Provision was made that any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory

definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, should be reported to the local Finds Liaison Officer. No such finds were made.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. The Archaeology Curator at Southampton City Council has been contacted with regards to obtaining an accession number and arranging a Collections Assessment of the material archive. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2). Unless otherwise stated, all finds have been retained pending potential further stages of mitigation at the site. A further selection, retention and disposal process will be carried out prior to the final deposition of the archive.

Context sheets	43
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	84
Context register	2
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	7

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	2 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 Introduction

4.1.1 Trenches containing archaeological features and deposits are detailed in the following sections. Details of natural geology and overburden found in blank trenches, together with their levels AOD, are provided in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	Tr	0.15	43.29-43.44 average
1/02	Layer	Subsoil	Tr	Tr	0.25	43.92-43.29 average
1/03	Deposit	Natural	Tr	Tr	n/a	43.04 average
1/04	Cut	Posthole	0.59	0.55		43.04
1/05	Fill	Of 1/04	0.59	0.55	>0.07	39.97-43.04
1/06	Cut	Posthole	0.51	0.28		42.80
1/07	Fill	Of 1/06	0.51	0.28	Unexcavated	
1/08	Cut	Posthole	0.39	0.34		42.60
1/09	Fill	Of 1/08	0.39	0.34	Unexcavated	
1/10	Cut	Posthole	0.43	0.40		42.40
1/11	Fill	Of 1/10	0.59	0.55	Unexcavated	
1/12	Cut	Posthole	0.56	0.49		43.20
1/13	Fill	Of 1/12	0.56	49	Unexcavated	
1/14	Cut	Posthole	>0.40	?		43.40
1/15	Fill	Of 1/14	?0.40	?	unexcavated	

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Natural geology [1/03], consisting of variegated mid/dark brownish/blackish yellow silty clay, was overlain by subsoil [1/02] consisting of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional or frequent rounded pebbles. Natural was cut by a series of five equally spaced postholes ([1/04], [1/06], [1/08], [1/10] and [1/12]), each measuring between 0.39m - 0.59m long, 0.28m - 0.55m wide and for [1/04] at least 0.07m deep. Each posthole contained a single fill ([1/05], [1/07] etc.) consisting of mid/dark brownish grey sandy silt. Four identical iron brackets measuring 0.14m x 0.14m x 0.16m were recovered from the fills, one each from [1/05] and [1/07], and two from [1/11]. In addition, a single piece of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from fill [1/05].

4.2.2 The edges of a further posthole in the same series [1/14] was recorded in the trench section. Cut [1/14] measured at least 0.40m long and contained a single fill [1/15] consisting of dark brownish grey sandy silt. The posthole fills were overlain by topsoil [1/01], consisting of dark brownish grey sandy silt.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	Tr	0.15	45.03-45.18
2/02	Layer	Subsoil	Tr	Tr	0.25	44.78-45.03
2/03	Deposit	Natural	Tr	Tr		44.78
2/04	Cut	Depression	>0.74	0.61		44.78
2/05	Fill	Of 2/04	>0.74	0.61	0.12	44.66-44.78
2/06	Cut	Depression	>1.16	0.37		44.78
2/07	Fill	Of 2/06	>1.16	0.37	0.14	44.64-44.78

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Natural geology [2/03], consisting of variegated mid/dark brownish/blackish yellow silty clay, was overlain by subsoil [2/02] consisting of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional or frequent rounded pebbles. Natural was cut by two shallow depressions ([2/04] and 2/06]) measuring at least 0.74m long, 0.61m wide and 0.12m deep, and at least 1.16m long, 9.37m wide and 0.14m deep respectively. The single fills, [2/05] and [2/06] were identical, consisting of soft dark greyish brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered. The depression fills were overlain by subsoil and topsoil [2/01], consisting of dark brownish grey sandy silt.

4.4 Trench 5 (Figure 8)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	Tr	0.19	41.76-41.95
5/02	Layer	Subsoil	Tr	Tr	0.20	41.56-41.76
5/03	Deposit	Natural	Tr	Tr		41.56
5/04	Cut	Posthole	0.70	0.70		41.56
5/05	Fill	Of 5/04	0.70	0.70	0.14	41.42-41.56

Table 5: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Natural geology [5/03], consisting of variegated mid/dark brownish/blackish yellow silty clay, was overlain by subsoil [5/02] consisting of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional or frequent rounded pebbles. The natural and overlying subsoil were cut by posthole [5/04], measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.14m deep, that contained a single fill [5/05] consisting of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the fill. The posthole fill was overlain by topsoil [5/01], consisting of dark brownish grey sandy silt.

4.5 Trench 6 (Figure 9)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
6/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	Tr	0.12	41.83-41.95
6/02	Layer	Made ground	c.11	>1.8	>0.25	41.58-41.83
6/03	Layer	Buried topsoil	c.11	>1.8	>0.30	41.28-41.58
6/04	Deposit	Natural	Tr	Tr	n/a	41.28
6/05	Cut	Depression	>1.8	0.90		41.28
6/06	Fill	Of 6/05	>1.8	0.90	0.13	41.15-41.28

Table 6: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Natural geology [6/04], consisting of variegated mid/dark brownish/blackish yellow silty

clay, was overlain by a buried topsoil [6/03] consisting of dark blackish brown sandy silt. Buried topsoil [6/03] was overlain by modern made ground [6/02] consisting of mid brownish grey silty sand with 50% pebbles, which was overlain by topsoil [6/01] consisting of dark greyish brown sandy silt. Natural was cut by a linear depression [6/05], measuring >1.8m long, 0.90m wide and 0.13m deep. The depression contained a single fill [6/06] consisting of soft dark brownish grey sandy silt, very similar in nature to the buried topsoil [6/03] that overlay it.

4.6 Trench 7 (Figure 10)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
7/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr	Tr	0.12	41.16-41.28
7/02	Layer	Made ground	Tr	Tr	0.17	40.99-41.16
7/03	Layer	Buried topsoil	Tr	Tr	0.25	40.74-40.99
7/04	Deposit	Natural	Tr	Tr	n/a	40.74

Table 7: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Natural geology [7/04], consisting of variegated mid/dark brownish/blackish yellow silty clay, was overlain by a buried topsoil [7/03] consisting of dark blackish brown sandy silt. Buried topsoil [7/03] was overlain by modern made ground [7/02] consisting of mid brownish grey silty sand with 50% pebbles, which was overlain by topsoil [7/01] consisting of dark greyish brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered.

4.7 Archaeologically Negative Trenches

- 4.7.1 Trenches 3 (Figure 6) and 4 (Figure 7) did not reveal any archaeological deposits, features or finds. The stratigraphy consisted of natural overlain by between 0.20-0.25m of subsoil, overlain by 0.15m of topsoil. The context details for these trenches are tabulated in Appendix 1.
- 4.7.2 Colour variations were seen in the natural deposits at the base of some trenches. Exploratory sondages were excavated in the base of Trench 4 to confirm that these were undisturbed natural deposits.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of just two finds was recovered from context [1/05] during the evaluation on Itchen College, Middle Road in Southampton. Both 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 8). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Iron	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
1/05	1	2381	1	3
Total	1	2381	1	3

Table 8: Finds quantification

5.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.2.1 A single clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment weighing 3g was recovered from [1/05]. The fragment is unmarked and undecorated. It dates broadly between c. 1750 and 1910.

5.3 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.3.1 Context [1/05] contained a large plate, possibly representing a corner brace from a wooden structure (weight 2381g). It comprises a rectangular plate (6mm) folded widthways to form a corner. One end has its corners removed, resulting in an angled profile. The other side contains two central triangular apertures. The plate measures 320mm long (unfolded) and 151mm wide. It dates to the 19th to early 20th century.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

6.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The site occupied a green space within the grounds of Itchen College, most of which is currently used as a playing field. The site sloped from 45.15m AOD in the north-east down to 41.28m AOD in the south.
- 7.1.2 The underlying natural geology was very variable, with distinct bands of pale deposits (see Trench 5 photo, Figure 8). It comprised a mixture of sands, silts and clays (Wittering Formation), into which archaeological features were cut. A subsoil up to 0.25m deep and consisting of mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional or frequent rounded pebbles was recorded over most of the site. The exception was the south-east corner where a made ground deposit and a buried topsoil in Trenches 6 and 7 were recorded overlying natural geology. No other superficial deposits, specifically river terrace deposits, alluvium or colluvium were identified. In all other areas of the site, subsoil was directly overlain by 0.15m thick topsoil.
- 7.1.3 Late post-medieval/modern features or deposits were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7. No earlier archaeological features were identified and no residual material such as burnt/fire-cracked flint was recovered.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 The surface of the underlying natural geology was heavily weathered and uneven with what appeared to be significant scarring and shallow pitting. However the map regression suggests that the site was unlikely to have been cleared or ploughed for agricultural purposes after 1865. The 1912 description of the site as 'rough, unfenced and with an abundance of gorse, bracken and blackberry bushes' (Vennis, 2012, 249), clearly indicates that it was undeveloped and probably still part of Sholing Common. If the site was as overgrown as described, it is probable that at some time before 1919 (when the transfer of the school to the Middle Road site began) it was cleared by mechanical means, perhaps a steam plough. By the start of WWII the site had been transformed into a playing field.
- 7.2.2 It is recorded that the 'cricket square and field' had been damaged during WWII and that several attempts to repair and re-turf the area were made before it was finally restored (Vennis, 2012, 256). No evidence of WWII bomb damage was identified however. The subsoil recorded across most of the site contained a large proportion of rounded pebbles (up to 50%), although pebbles were not common in the surface of the natural geology. This suggests that most of the depth of existing subsoil may derive from the initial pre-WWII ground preparation or from the post-war repair and preparation for re-turfing; the addition of a high proportion of pebbles would have improved drainage.
- 7.2.3 Alternatively, the natural and subsoil could represent the site's former use as part of Sholing Common, predating the early 20th century development of the site. The presence of pebbles in the subsoil could be explained by the downslope movement of weathered and eroded river terrace deposits, recorded as present in the north-east corner of the site.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Late Post-medieval/Modern

- 7.3.1 The earliest identified features on the site were probably a line of six postholes recorded in Trench 1. The 1933 OS map (1933 Ordnance Survey county Series (Hampshire) 1:2500 (25")) shows temporary school buildings at the northern end of the site and in the same alignment as the posthole line. It is possible therefore that postholes [1/04] *et al.* are associated with the establishment of temporary school huts and associated railings and sheds recorded as being erected between 1919 and 1921 (Vennis, 2012, 250).
- 7.3.2 The remaining features, comprised a linear depression in Trench 6, a posthole in Trench 5 and two shallow depressions in Trench 2. Although no independent dating evidence was recovered. All the fills were soft and humic in character, strongly suggesting a modern origin. A deposit of made ground recorded in Trenches 6 and 7 was almost certainly related to the terracing of the southern part of the site for the construction of the nearby tarmac games area and the Itchen Junior School playground.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

- 7.4.1 The general aims of the evaluation have been met insofar as the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of archaeological remains have been assessed.
- 7.4.2 The specific research aim set out in the WSI related to natural deposits and their potential to contain or conceal archaeological evidence. The work has showed that the weathered and heavily scarified surface of the Witterings Formation lay immediately below either subsoil or a buried topsoil. No superficial deposits in the form of river terrace sands and gravels, alluvium or colluvium were identified. However, the pebbles present in the subsoil may represent weathered and eroded river terrace deposits.
- 7.4.3 Due to the largely negative results of the evaluation, the current work has no potential to address the range of the research issues detailed in the WSI as outlined in the Solent – Thames Research Framework (Hey & Hind 2014).
- 7.4.4 The evaluation has enabled the Historic Environment Team (HET) at Southampton City Council (SCC), to make an informed decision on the requirement for any further mitigation work that might be required. The results of the work will be published in booklet form as 'grey literature'.

7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 The complete absence of prehistoric remains suggests that the Bronze Age barrow recorded just to the south of the site may have been isolated or peripheral to settlement. Bronze Age barrows are often located so as to be seen from below, often against the skyline, and it is possible that any associated settlement lay further to the south.
- 7.5.2 The absence of Roman or medieval remains also suggests a low level of activity in the vicinity during the earlier historic periods. Cartographic evidence indicates that from at least 1806 the site was undeveloped and part of Sholing Common, with the earliest recorded development occurring between 1912 and 1919 when the site was cleared in preparation for the first school buildings. The very limited results from the current

work support this.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	HET 8871					
Site code	SOU 1826					
Project code	180451					
Planning reference	18/00520/FUL					
Site address	Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton					
District/Borough	Southampton					
NGR (12 figures)	SU 45231 12243					
Geology	Wittering Formation - Sand, Silt and Clay. Most of the site has no recorded superficial deposits, but superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel are located in the north-east corner.					
Fieldwork type	Eval X	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	13/12/2018 – 18/12/2018					
Sponsor/client	PCH Associates					
Contracting Unit	Archaeology South East					
Project manager	Leonie Pett					
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval X	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton, Hampshire. The evaluation comprised seven trial trenches. All recorded archaeological remains dated to the late post-medieval/ modern period, perhaps the earliest being a line of six postholes that may have represented the site of one of the early 20th-century temporary school buildings. Four shallow undated features and a deposit of made ground were all likely to have been late post-medieval/modern in origin. No earlier archaeological remains, neither features nor residual material were identified.</i></p>					
Museum/Accession No.						

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Max Length m	Max Width m	Deposit Thickness m (average)	Height m AOD (average)
T3	3/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15	43.30-43.45
T3	3/02	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25	43.05-43.30
T3	3/03	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.		43.05
T4	4/01	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15	43.35-43.50
T4	4/02	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	43.15-43.35
T4	4/03	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.		43.15

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol6-339534

Project details

Project name Itchen College, Southampton

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton, Hampshire. The evaluation comprised seven trial trenches. All recorded archaeological remains dated to the late post-medieval/modern period, perhaps the earliest being a line of six postholes that may have represented the site of one of the early 20th-century temporary school buildings. Four shallow undated features and a deposit of made ground were all likely to have been late post-medieval/modern in origin. No earlier archaeological remains, neither features nor residual material were identified.

Project dates Start: 13-12-2018 End: 18-12-2018

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 180451 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes SOU 1826 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type POSTHOLES Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Amenity area (e.g. public open space)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton

Postcode SO19 7TB

Study area 0.85 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 45231 12243 50.907331022135 -1.356620767954 50 54

	26 N 001 21 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41.48m Max: 45.14m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Southampton City Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Leonie Pett
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	PCH Associates
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Itchen College, Middle Road, Southampton, Hampshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Priestley-Bell, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report no 2019014

Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	A4 booklet
Entered by	Greg Priestley-Bell (gregpbell@btinternet.com)
Entered on	15 January 2019

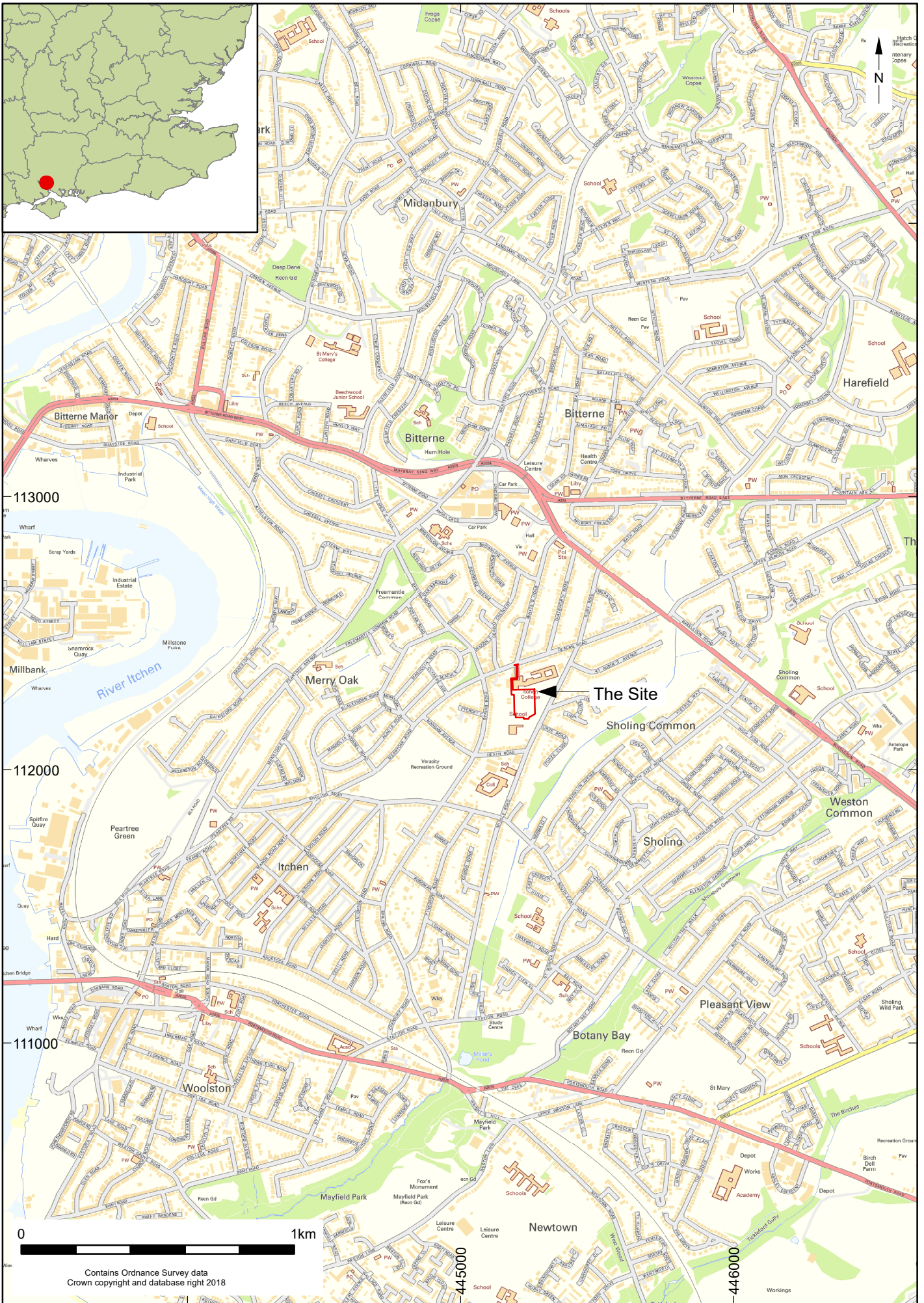
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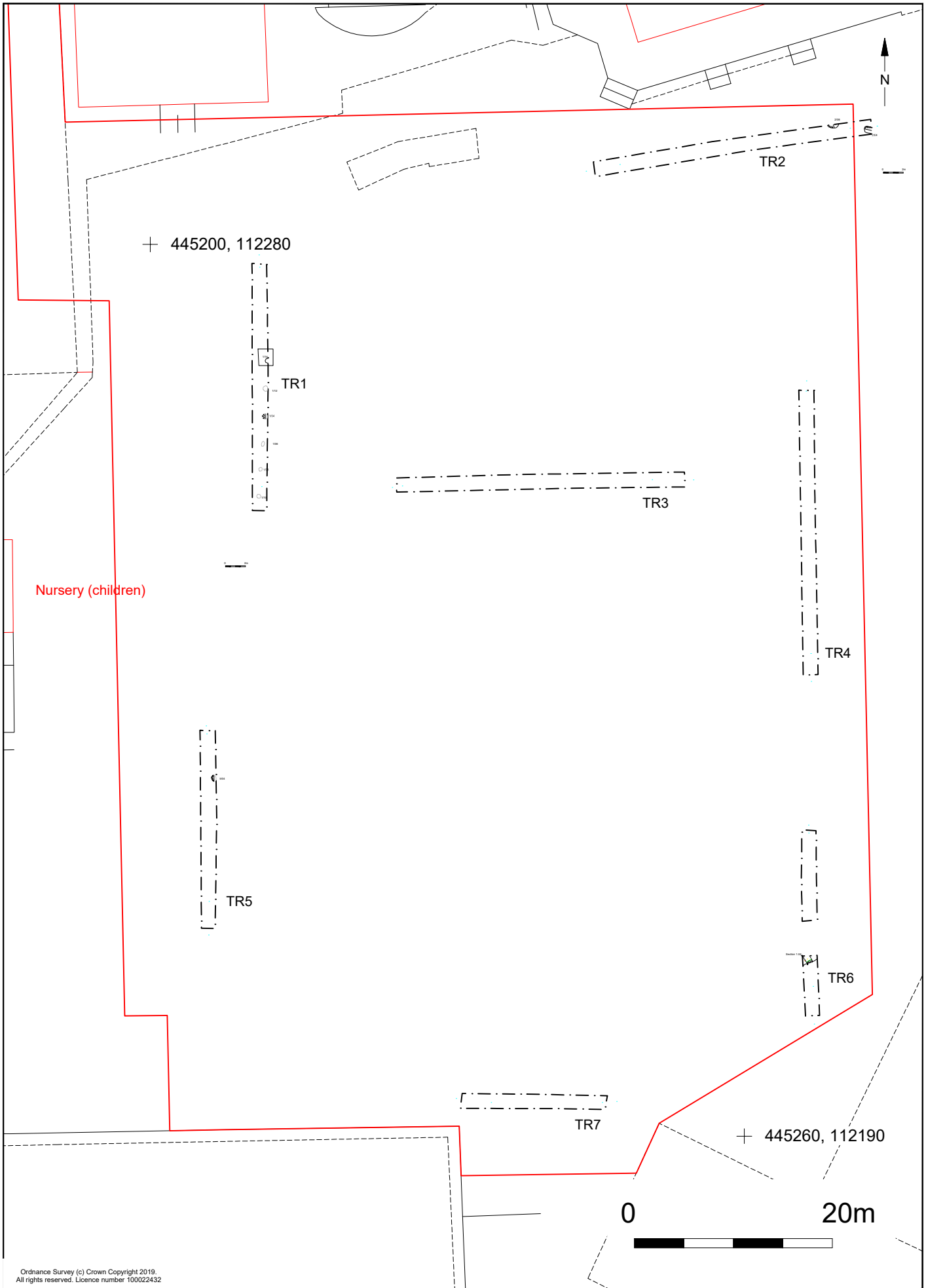
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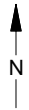
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Project Ref: 180451	January 2019	Site location		
Report Ref: 2019014	Drawn by: KLGR			



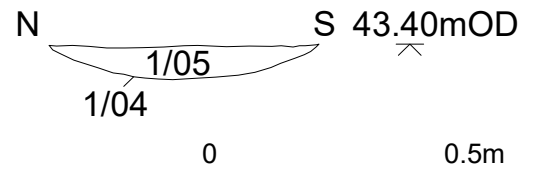
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Project Ref: 180451	January 2019	Trench plan	
Report Ref: 2019014	Drawn by: JC		

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Section 1.11



1/04 facing east



Trench 1 facing south

TR1

1/14

1/12

1/04 Section 1.11

1/06

1/08

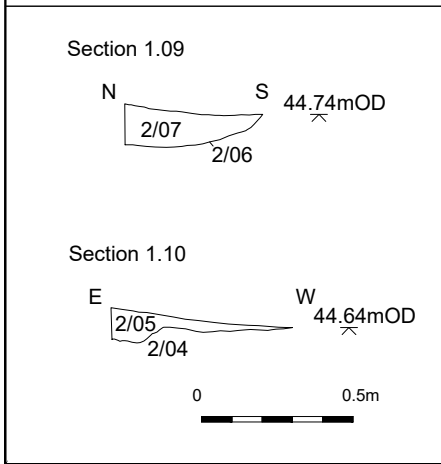
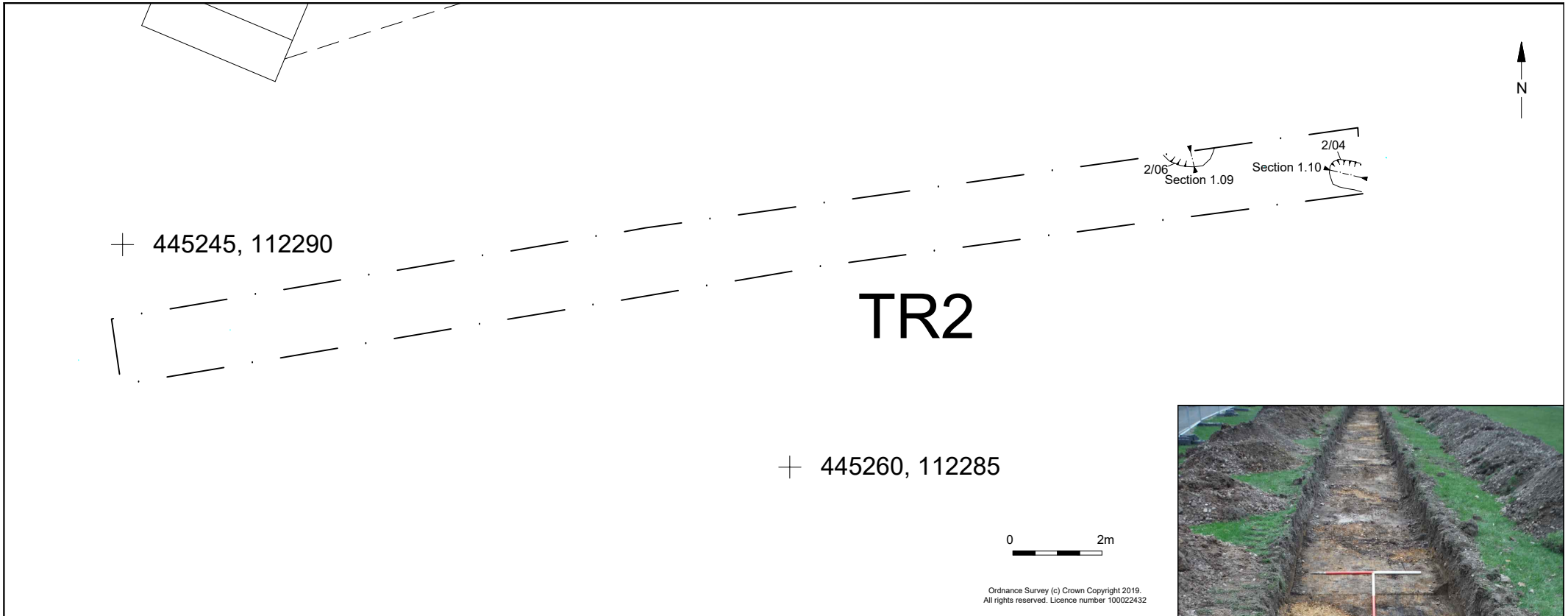
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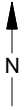
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Project Ref: 180451	January 2019	Trench 1 plan, section and photographs	
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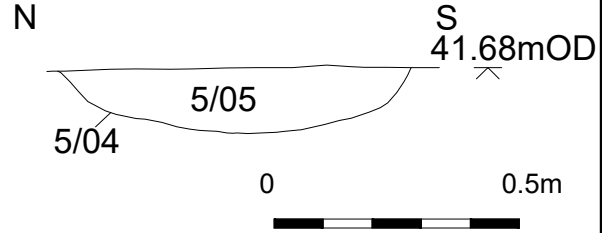
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Section 1.07

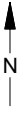


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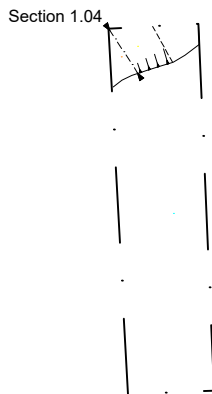


Trench 5 facing north

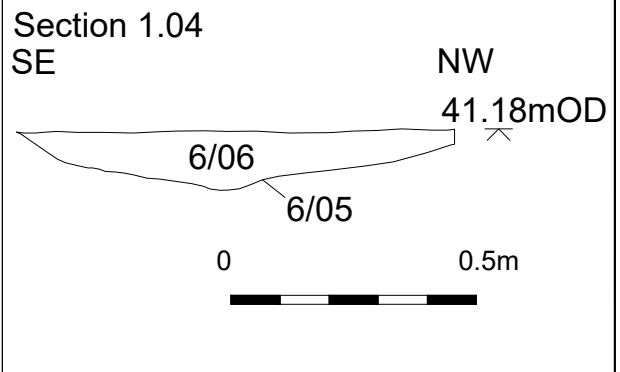
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TR6



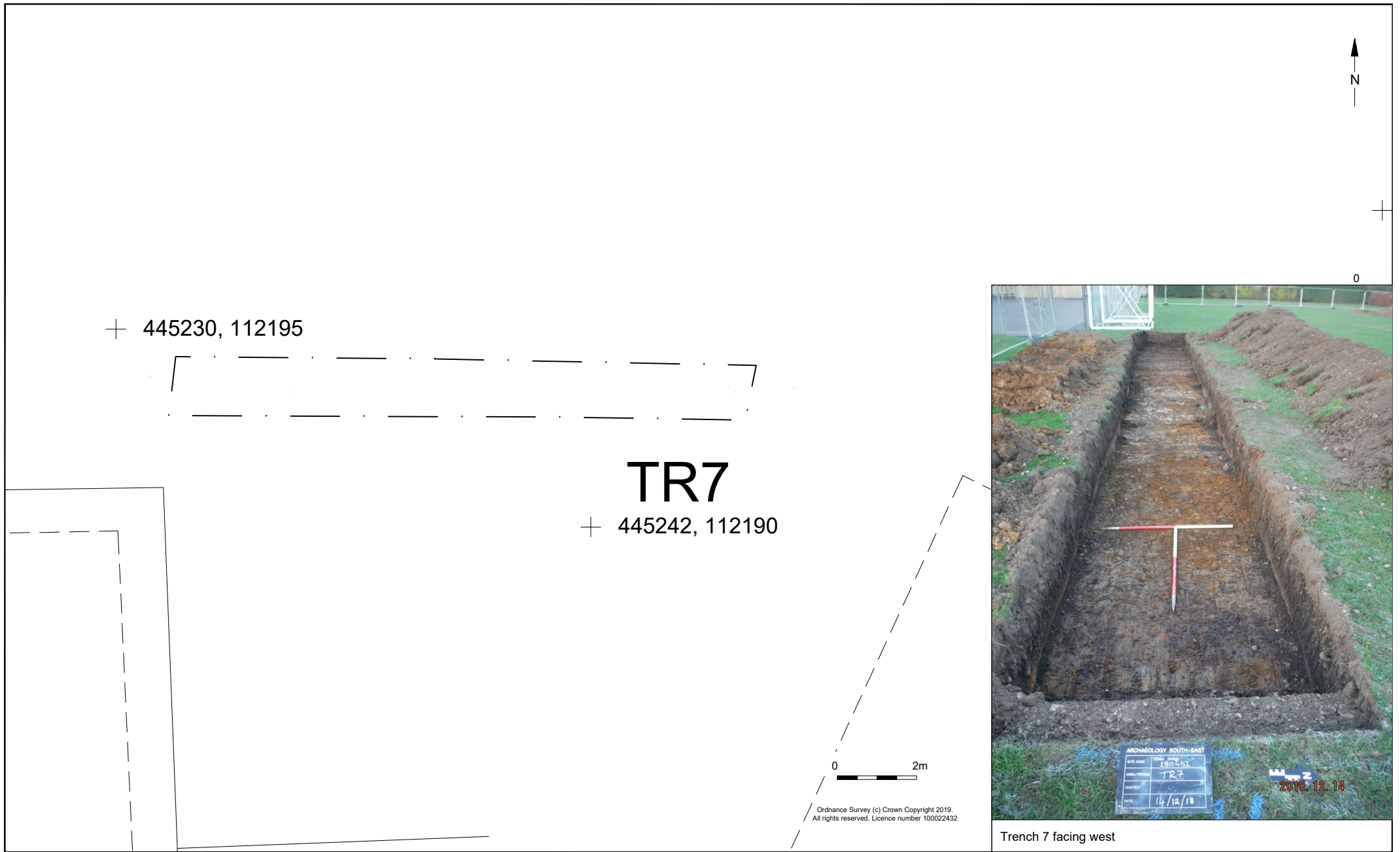
6/05 facing wet

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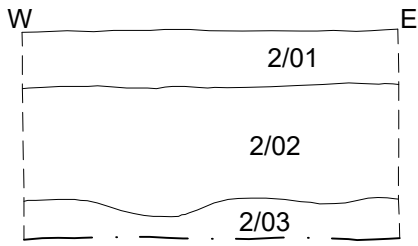
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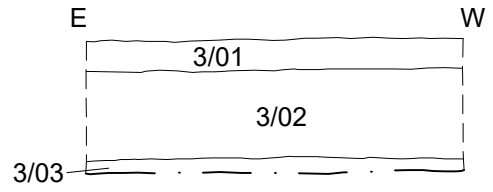


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Section 1.08



Section 1.01



Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

