

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Swansmere School,
Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey**



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**With contributions by
Lucy Allott and Gemma Driver**

July 2008

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Swansmere School, Ambleside
Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey**

NGR 511354 166213

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Abstract

Archaeology South East have carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client A+ Homes Ltd at Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey (NGR 511354 166213). An earlier desk based study of the site (Darton 2008) identified a low to moderate potential for prehistoric remains. Fifteen Evaluation trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 375m. Four trenches contained potential archaeological features although all were undated. One bone was found within a pit in Trench 3.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Sample**
- 7.0 Discussion**
- 8.0 Conclusions**

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

SMR Summary Sheet

OASIS Form

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Location

Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2: Plan and sections:

Figure 4: Trenches 3 and 6: Plans and sections

TABLES

Table 1: HER Data of a 1km radius

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 6: South facing section of [6/008]

Plate 2: Trench 13: South facing general shot

Plate 3: Trench 11: South facing general shot

Plate 4: Trench 15: North facing general shot

Plate 5: Trench 6: South-west facing general shot

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, A+ Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment at Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey (hereafter referred to as the site). The site is centred on NGR 511354 166213 and its location is shown in Fig. 1.

1.1.2 Currently, the site is occupied by school buildings and areas of hardstanding used as school playgrounds. The site is bounded to the south by Ambleside Avenue and to the north by the new school buildings, Walton Oak School. The proposed redevelopment of the site comprises the demolition of the current buildings and the construction of a new residential development.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London) to be Kempton Park Gravels of the fourth River Terrace. The site is located on flat ground.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 CgMs Consulting adhere to a code of Best Practice whereby the potential impact of their activities on archaeological remains is considered and mitigation strategies implicated. In line with this, and as part of CgMs Consulting Ltd normal consultation process, advice was sought from the County Archaeological Officers at Surrey County Council. As a result, it was decided to produce a Desk Based Assessment (DBA), (Darton 2008), of the development site to establish any possible archaeological potential, and to provide guidance on ways to accommodate any archaeological constraints identified. Following on from this DBA and given the nature of the groundworks involved and the proximity to known archaeological sites, the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer, Gary Jackson, recommended that an archaeological evaluation by trial trench would be an appropriate mitigation response in the first instance.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The current report represents the findings of the evaluation undertaken on the week beginning 16th June 2008 (for a total of five working days) by Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologist) and John Woodall (Site Assistant).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment prepared by CgMs, (Darton 2008), provides a detailed background study of the site.
- 2.2** In summary, the DBA identified the site as having a low to moderate potential for discovering prehistoric remains. It was also considered that the site had a low potential for all other archaeological and historic periods (Darton 2008).
- 2.3** Table 1 below, gives a summary of the HER and previous archaeological interventions within a 750m radius of the site.

Table 1: HER Data of a 1km radius

SMR No	NGR	Description
3184	TQ11500 65700	Three Palaeolithic handaxes found along Ryden's Road c. 500m south of the study site
6505	TQ11040 67080	A Mesolithic flint blade found in Charlton Road, 1km north-west of the study site
6505	TQ0994 6616	An evaluation revealed a possible chipping floor in the form of five worked but unused Mesolithic flint tools
2988	TQ10000 670000	Neolithic flint and stone axes are known from the Thames at Walton
220	TQ115 657	Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead recovered from Rydens Road in 1957, c.750m south of the study site
216	TQ1104 6684	Five Roman coins dating between the late 1 st Century and the mid 2 nd Century AD were found in Florence Road during 1946-7, c. 500m north west of the study site.
558	TQ091 660	Remains of Tumuli (barrows or burial mounds) thought to be Saxon in origin were identified west of the site close to the Thames.
561	TQ9400 66200	A decorated Saxon bowl was identified west of the study site in 1927, close to the River

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation, as set out in the Specification issued by CgMs (Hawkins 2008) are summarised below.

3.1.2 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation *in situ*.

3.1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the development.

3.1.4 The evaluation sought to ascertain the nature and extent of existing disturbance and truncation and thus the degree of archaeological survival on the site.

3.1.5 Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, those factors affecting the present state of preservation and the effects of the proposed development should also be considered.

3.1.6 In addition to these general aims, the evaluation sought to address the following, site specific, objectives.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of any prehistoric or later activity/occupation and to define the date and nature of such activity/occupation.
- To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

3.2 The fifteen trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 375m and to a width of 1.8m. The maximum depth reached was 1.0m at the southern end of Trench 8. The general trench depth across the site was c. 0.50m beneath the current ground level.

3.3 The excavations were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. This excavation was taken down to the top of any archaeological horizons or the underlying natural sediments. A toothed bucket was used to break through the tarmac hardstanding. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.

3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system as modified for

use by Archaeology South-East.

- 3.5** A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.
- 3.6** The trenches were levelled in relation to a Bench Mark on the corner of the original school building with a height of 12.50m AOD.
- 3.7** Photographs of a selection of trenches (Trenches 6, 11, 13 and 15) are included as Figures 5-9.

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts	64
No. of files/paper record	70
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	86 (digital, c/s and b/w)
Bulk finds	1
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	1 small bag

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	20m	1.8m	0.40m	11.70m (E) 11.85m (W)
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	20m	1.8m	0.13m	11.47m (E) 11.29m (W)
1/003	Deposit	Natural	20m	1.8m	-	11.17m (E) 11.19m (W)
1/004	Deposit	Cut of a posthole	0.40m	0.30m	0.13m	11.17m
1/005	Fill	Fill of 1/004	0.40m	0.30m	0.13m	11.17m

4.1.2 Summary

Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 20m and to an average depth of 0.65m. This trench was shortened to avoid a live service and an established tree. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the trench. The earliest recorded deposit was the natural silts with gravels, [1/003]. Above the natural was a subsoil deposit of light-mid brownish silty clay, [1/002], which was c. 0.10-0.13m in depth. The latest deposit was topsoil, [1/001], of a dark greyish brown colour and a silty clay texture.

One feature was recorded, context [1/004] cut into the natural clay. This feature was 0.30m in width and 0.13m in depth (Fig 3; Section 1). It had concave sides and an almost flat base. It was filled by [1/005], a mid greyish brown silty clay of a very firm consistency which contained occasional gravels, charcoal specks and brick specks. This feature was interpreted as a post hole or small pit. The brick flecks suggest that it is probably of modern date.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3)

4.2.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.50m	11.83m (W) 11.86m (E)
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.35m	11.36m (E)- 11.50m (W)
2/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	-	11.11 (W) 11.15m (E)
2/004	Cut	Linear	2m	0.62m	0.27m	11.29m
2/005	Fill	Fill of 2/004	2m	0.62m	0.27m	11.29m
2/006	Deposit	Modern garden deposit	5m	2m	0.18m	11.36m
2/007	Cut	Cut of a large pit	5.25m	1.00m	0.20m	11.20m

2/008	Fill	Fill of 2/009	0.80m	0.67m	0.27m	11.00m
2/009	Cut	Cut of a square shaped pit	0.80m	0.67m	0.27m	11.00m
2/010	Fill	Fill of 2/007	5.25m	1.00m	0.20m	11.20m

4.2.1 Summary

Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m and was moved slightly to avoid an established tree. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of the following contexts. The earliest recorded deposit was the natural sand with gravels, [2/003]. This was a mid yellow orange colour and contained frequent gravel patches throughout. Directly above the natural was subsoil, [2/002]. This was a mid greyish brown silt clay, c. 0.35m in thickness, containing occasional rounded gravel nodules (<50mm). The latest recorded deposit was the topsoil, [2/001], a c. 0.50m thick dark greyish brown silty clay which contained occasional sub angular flint nodules throughout.

Three possible features were identified:

Cut into the natural geology was context [2/004], a 0.62m wide linear feature of 0.27m depth. It had concave sides and a gently rounded base (Fig 3; Section 3). This feature contained one fill [2/005], a dark brownish grey silty sand of a friable consistency, from which blue and white china was recovered.

On the western side of ditch [2/004], was a spread, [2/006]. This spread contained modern china and bottles and was therefore sampled by a machine excavated half section. It was found to be c. 0.20m in depth, was of a dark brownish grey mixed silty clay and contained modern debris throughout. On removal of one half of the deposit tooth marks created by a machine could be seen cut into the natural at the base.

A large irregular shaped pit, [2/007], cut into the natural geology and sealed by subsoil, [2/002], was 50% hand excavated. It had a minimum width of 1.00m, a length of 5.35m and a depth of 0.20m. This feature had concave sides and an irregular shaped base (Fig 3; Section 2). It was filled by [2/010], a mid greyish brown silty sand of a friable consistency, which contained a moderate quantity of sub, rounded gravels (<50mm). At the base of feature [2/007], was another cut of a square shape, [2/009], 0.27m in depth, with steep concave sides and an almost flat base. It had one fill [2/008], which was a dark blackish grey colour and of a silty clay texture. This fill contained no finds but an environmental sample was taken.

4.3 Trench 3 (Fig 2 and 4)

4.3.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.30m	11.73m (W) 11.84m (E)
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.20m	11.37m (W) 11.59m (E)

3/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	-	11.07m (W) 11.29m (E)
3/004	Cut	Cut of linear	2m	0.96m	0.69m	11.09m
3/005	Fill	Fill of 3/004	2m	0.35m	0.15m	11.39m
3/006	Fill	Fill of 3/004	2m	0.60m	0.25m	11.35m
3/007	Fill	Fill of 3/004	2m	0.80m	0.18m	11.30m
3/008	Fill	Fill of 3/004	2m	0.63m	0.19m	11.30m
3/009	Fill	Fill of 3/004	2m	0.66m	0.23m	11.04m
3/010	Cut	Cut of pit	Min 1.5m	1.7m	0.67m	11.03m
3/011	Fill	Fill of 3/010	Min 1.5m	1.7m	0.67m	11.03m
3/012	Cut	Cut	c. 1.40m	0.30m	0.08- 1.00m	11.03m
3/013	Fill	Fill of 3/012	c. 1.40m	0.30m	0.08- 1.0m	11.03m

4.3.2 Summary

Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m and was re-positioned to avoid a tree canopy. The stratigraphy across the trench consisted of the following contexts. The natural geology, [3/003], was a light brownish orange silty sand with frequent river gravel. Overlying this was a mid greyish brown sandy silt, [3/002], with occasional sub rounded gravels. The latest deposit was [3/001] a c. 0.30m thick topsoil which was a dark greyish brown colour and silty clay texture.

Three features were identified:

Cut into the natural geology and the subsoil was [3/004], a linear feature with a width of 0.96m and a depth of 0.69m. It had sharp concave sides and a gently rounded base (Fig 4; Section 6). This feature had five fills. The primary deposit was [3/009], a 0.23m thick silty clay of a dark greenish grey colour. Overlying this was [3/008], a 0.19m thick silty sand of a mid yellowish orange colour, possibly redeposited natural. Overlying this was [3/007], a 0.18m thick clay silt of a dark blackish brown colour. Above this was [3/006], a 0.25m thick silty sand of a mid yellowish orange colour, possibly re-deposited natural. The latest deposit was [3/005], a 0.15m thick mid greyish brown silty sand. It contained concrete and brick fragments of a modern date. This northwest-southeast aligned ditch was sealed by the topsoil, [3/001].

Cut [3/010] was a sub circular shaped feature which had a width of 1.70m and a depth of 0.67m. This feature was sealed beneath the [3/002] and cut through the natural sands and gravels [3/003]. The feature had a stepped eastern side of a concave shape and an irregular base (Fig 4; Section 5). This feature had one fill [3/011], a mid brownish grey silty sand of a friable consistency. It contained frequent gravels (<50mm). A single animal bone was recovered.

Cut [3/012], was a curved linear feature of c. 0.30m width and had a varying depth of between 0.08m and 0.50m. It had a bowl shaped profile in section and concave sides (Fig 4; Section 4). This feature was cutting through the subsoil [3/002], and natural [3/003]. It was sealed by topsoil only [3/001]. The fill of this feature, [3/013], was heterogeneous and consisted of a grey brown silty clay, similar to the topsoil, [3/001], with patches of re-deposited

natural. No finds were recovered.

4.4 Trench 4 (Fig 2)

4.4.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Tarmac with a base of gravels	25m	1.8m	0.15-0.17m	11.83 (N) 12.17m (S)
4/002	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.13-0.40m	11.64m (N) 11.97 (S)
4/003	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.05-0.13m	11.31m (N) 11.57m (S)
4/004	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	/	11.18 (N) 11.52m (S)

Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a depth of 1.8m. The stratigraphy consisted of the natural geology, located at the base of the trench [4/004], which was a light coloured yellowish orange sand with gravels throughout. Directly above this was a c. 0.13m thick deposit of a light silver grey sandy clay, [4/003]. Overlying this was [4/002], a dark greyish brown silty clay with some lighter patches of re-deposited natural throughout. This deposit was the remnant of topsoil. The latest recorded deposit was a hardcore deposit of gravels and tarmac [4/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench.

4.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2)

4.5.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Builders sand	5m	1.8m	0.10m	12.15m
5/002	Deposit	Topsoil	5m	1.8m	0.28m	11.74m
5/003	Deposit	Subsoil	5m	1.8m	0.10m	11.46m
5/004	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	-	11.36m (W) 11.38m (E)
5/005	Cut	Cut of modern service trench	20m	1m	-	c. 11.36m
5/006	Fill	Fill of 5/005	20m	1m	-	c. 11.36m
5/007	Deposit	Tarmac with a base of type 1	20m	1.8m	0.10m	12.00m
5/008	Deposit	Topsoil	20m	1.8m	0.35m	11.91m
5/009	Deposit	Subsoil	20m	1.8m	0.18m	11.56m

4.5.2 Summary

Trench 5 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. At the western end of the trench the overburden consisted of the following contexts. The natural light yellowish orange silty sand with gravel patches,

[5/004], was seen at the base of the trench. Overlying this was, [5/003] a c. 0.10m thick layer of mid orange brown silty sand, subsoil. Overlying this was [5/002], a 0.28m thick deposit of dark greyish brown silty sand, topsoil. A layer of builders sand, [5/001] was the latest deposit seen at this end of the trench, laid down to support a temporary soft playground surface.

At the eastern end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of the following contexts. The natural gravels, [5/004] were located at the base of the trench. Overlying this was [5/009] a c. 0.18m thick layer of light brownish grey silty sand with orange sand mottling throughout. Overlying this was [5/008], a 0.35m thick deposit of dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil (more mottled than [5/001]). [5/007] was a c. 0.10m thick deposit of tarmac with a thin layer of pink coloured type 1 gravel beneath it.

At the base of the trench orientated on an approximate NE-SW direction was the cut of a large service trench. This trench was likely cut to contain a mains water supply (*pers. comm.* the school caretaker: Chris Page).

4.6 Trench 6 (Fig 2 and Fig 4)

4.6.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.46m	11.92m (NE) 12.10m (SW)
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.11m	11.31m (NE) 11.61m (SW)
6/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	-	11.20m (NE) 11.53m (SW)
6/004	Cut	Cut of pit	1.70m	0.80m	0.45m	11.34m
6/005	Fill	Fill of 6/004	1.70m	0.80m	0.45m	11.34m
6/006	Cut	Cut of pit	2.10m	1.05m	0.45m	11.29m
6/007	Fill	Fill of 6/006	2.10m	1.05m	0.45m	11.29m
6/008	Cut	Cut of pit	3.20m	0.80m	0.15m	11.33m
6/009	Fill	Fill of 6/008	3.20m	0.80m	0.15m	11.33m

4.6.2 Summary

Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the trench. The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded. The natural light yellowish orange coloured sand and gravels, [6/003], were seen at the base of the trench. Overlying was [6/002], a 0.13m thick silty sand of a mid orange brown colour. The latest deposit was, [6/001], a 0.40m thick layer of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil.

Three features were recorded sealed beneath the subsoil [6/002] and cut into the natural sub strata [6/003].

[6/004] was 0.17m in width and 0.45m in depth. It was of a sub-circular shape (as exposed) and had concave sides forming an almost flat base (Fig 4; Section 9). Only half of this feature was visible within the trench. This feature had a single fill, [6/005], a dark blackish brown silty sand which

contained natural gravels throughout (noticeably three large sub angular brown coloured gravels (<150-200mm) near the top. No finds were recovered.

[6/006] was 2.10m in length, 1.05m in width and 0.45m in depth. It had a lobate shape in plan and steep concave sides forming a gently rounded base (Fig 4; Section 8). Not all of this feature was visible within the trench. It was filled by [6/007], a silty sand of a mid-dark blackish brown colour which contained gravels throughout. No finds were recovered from this fill.

[6/008] was 3.20m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had a linear shape in plan and concave sides forming a gently rounded base (Fig 4; Section 7). It was filled by [6/009], a silty sand with a light brownish grey colour. The trench was extended in a north-west direction to ascertain whether this was the terminal end of a ditch. This extension revealed a further terminus, the feature forming a cigar shape in plan. No finds were recovered from.

4.7 Trench 7 (Fig 2)

4.7.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.30m	11.89m (W) 11.84m (E)
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.40m	11.55 (W) 11.70m (E)
7/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	-	11.15m (W) 11.26m (E)

4.7.2 Summary

Trench 7 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy sequence was consistent along the trench. The natural sands and gravels, [7/003], were exposed at the base of the trench. Directly above the natural was [7/002], a c. 0.40m thick deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand which contained occasional gravels. The topsoil was the latest deposit which was a c. 0.30m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench.

4.8 Trench 8 (Fig 2)

4.8.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
8/001	Deposit	Tarmac	25m	1.8m	0.06-0.09m	11.80m (NE) 11.97m (SW)
8/002	Deposit	Hardcore	25m	1.8m	0.40-0.60m	11.52m (NE) 11.59m (SW)
8/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	-	11.12m (NE) 10.99m (SW)

4.8.2 Summary

Trench 8 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the trench. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [8/003]. Directly above this was a hardcore layer c. 0.60m in thickness which contained CBM throughout [8/002]. The final deposit was a c. 0.06m thick deposit of tarmac [8/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench.

4.9 Trench 9 (Fig 2)

4.9.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.10-0.20m	11.86m (W) 11.74m (E)
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.33-0.36m	11.64m (W) 11.41m (E)
9/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	/	11.31m (W) 11.05m (E)

4.9.2 Summary

Trench 9 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the trench section. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [9/003]. Directly above this was a light brownish grey subsoil layer c. 0.36m in thickness which contained occasional gravels throughout [9/002]. The final deposit was a c. 0.20m thick deposit of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil [9/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench. Two modern service trenches were noted at the base of the trench.

4.10 Trench 10 (Fig 2)

4.10.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	25m	1.8m	0.20-0.30m	11.89m (E) 11.97m (W)
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.15-0.30m	11.63m (E) 11.68m (W)
10/003	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.20-0.28m	11.47m (E) 11.38m (W)
10/004	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	/	11.37m (E) 11.10m (W)

4.10.2 Summary

Trench 10 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent throughout the trench. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [10/004]. Directly above this was a 0.20m thick layer of mid orange brown silty sand, [10/003]. Overlying this was [10/002], a mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil which contained some gravels throughout. The latest deposit was the topsoil, a 0.20m thick deposit of dark brownish grey sandy silt, [10/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench.

4.11 Trench 11 (Fig 2)

4.11.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
11/001	Deposit	Tarmac	25m	1.8m	0.05-0.13m	11.93m (N) 11.92m (S)
11/002	Deposit	Hardcore	25m	1.8m	0.17-0.21m	11.66m (N) 11.58m (S)
11/003	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	/	11.46m (N) 11.41m (S)

4.11.2 Summary

Trench 11 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the trench section. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [11/003]. Directly above this was a 0.20m thick layer of hardcore, [11/002] containing modern CBM throughout. The final recorded deposit was 0.05m thick tarmac [11/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench.

4.12 Trench 12 (Fig 2)

4.12.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
12/001	Deposit	Tarmac	25m	1.8m	0.20-0.30m	11.89m (E) 11.97m (W)
12/002	Deposit	Hardcore	25m	1.8m	0.15-0.30m	11.63m (E) 11.68m (W)
12/003	Deposit	Natural Interface layer	25m	1.8m	0.20-0.28m	11.47m (E) 11.38m (W)
12/004	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	/	11.37m (E) 11.10m (W)

4.12.2 Summary

Trench 12 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [12/004]. Directly above the natural was a 0.14- 0.21m thick layer of dark greenish grey silty sand, [12/003]. This deposit may be natural ground contaminated with hydrocarbons. Overlying this was, [12/002], a mid reddish grey silty sand hardcore layer. The latest deposit was a c. 0.06m thick deposit of tarmac [12/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench. Two modern service trenches were noted at the base of the trench.

4.13 Trench 13 (Fig 2)

4.13.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
13/001	Deposit	Tarmac	25m	1.8m	0.07-0.09m	12.17m (NW) 12.16m (SE)
13/002	Deposit	Hardcore	25m	1.8m	0.13-0.24m	12.10m (NW) 12.07m (SE)
13/003	Deposit	Natural Interface layer	25m	1.8m	0.20-0.24m	11.83m (NW) 11.84m (SE)
13/004	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	/	11.60m (NW) 11.62m (SE)

4.13.2 Summary

Trench 13 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the trench. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [13/004]. Directly above this was a 0.20- 0.24m thick layer of dark greenish brown gritty sand [13/003], possibly contaminated natural sand. Overlying this was [13/002], a 0.13m thick, dark greyish brown hardcore layer. The latest deposit was a c. 0.07- 0.09m thick deposit of tarmac [13/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench. Live modern services were encountered at the far eastern end of the trench and left undisturbed.

4.14 Trench 14 (Fig 2)

4.14.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
14/001	Deposit	Tarmac	20m	1.8m	0.13-0.19m	12.07m (W)
14/002	Deposit	Hardcore	20m	1.8m	0.04-0.10m	11.87m
14/003	Deposit	Natural Interface layer	20m	1.8m	0.17-0.26m	11.77m
14/004	Deposit	Natural	20m	1.8m	/	11.50m (W) 11.44m (E)
14/005	Deposit	Subsoil	5m	1.8m	0.31m	11.71m
14/006	Deposit	Topsoil	5m	1.8m	0.26m	11.97m

4.14.2 Summary

Trench 14 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The following contexts were recorded at the eastern end of the trench. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [14/006]. Directly above the natural was [14/003], a 0.17m thick layer of a mid greyish orange silty sand. Overlying this was [14/002], a hardcore deposit containing CBM and concrete. It provided a base for context [14/001], tarmac hardstanding.

At the western end of the trench the stratigraphy was different. The natural sand and gravels were seen at the base of the trench [14/006]. Directly above the natural was context [14/005], a 0.31m thick layer of mid orange brown subsoil. Topsoil, [14/004], was the latest recorded deposit

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench. Two modern service trenches were noted traversing the trench and the cut of a geo-technical test pit was also seen.

4.15 Trench 15 (Fig 2)

4.15.1 List of recorded contexts

No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
15/001	Deposit	Tarmac	25m	1.8m	0.12-0.15m	11.95m (S) 11.85m (N)
15/002	Deposit	Hardcore	25m	1.8m	0.12-0.17m	11.75m (S) 11.68m (N)
15/003	Deposit	Subsoil	25m	1.8m	0.12m-0.30m	11.58m (S) 11.44m (N)

15/004	Deposit	Natural	25m	1.8m	c. 0.10m	11.28m (S) 11.21 (N)
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4.15.2 Summary

Trench 15 was excavated to a length of 25m and to a width of 1.8m. The stratigraphy was consistent along the length of the. The natural sand and gravel was the earliest recorded deposit, [15/004]. Directly above the natural was a 0.12-0.30m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay subsoil, [15/003]. Overlying this was [15/002], a 0.15m thick dark brown hardcore layer. The latest deposit was a c. 0.15m thick deposit of the tarmac [15/001].

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded within this trench. One cable trench was seen at the northern end of the trench.

5.0 THE FINDS by Gemma Driver

- 5.1** Context [3/011] produced 34 fragments of animal bone weighing 32g. The bone is in very poor condition with a high level of surface weathering and a number of very small fragments. The assemblage appears to consist of a mixture of long bone and rib fragments but species identification is not possible due to the poor preservation of the assemblage.
- 5.2** There are no other finds from this site and the assemblage has no potential for further analysis.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A single sample <1001> was taken during archaeological works at Swansmere School to establish the presence of environmental remains such as charred botanicals and bone. A 20 litre sample was extracted from the dark fill [2/008] of a square shaped pit, context [2/009].

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 The sample was processed in a flotation tank, the flot and residue were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and allowed to air dry. The residue was sorted by eye for archaeological and environmental remains. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications.

6.3 Results

6.2.3 The sample residue produced a single fragment of charcoal. The flot was dominated by modern uncharred roots and contained a few small charcoal fragments. No other environmental remains were recorded. This sample has shown that the blackening of the soil within this pit cannot be attributed to the presence of charred wood or other botanical remains.

6.4 Further work

6.2.4 This sample holds no potential for further work.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1** The archaeological evaluation suggests that modern made ground deposits exist across the eastern part of the development site, in the vicinity of Trenches 11-14. It is notable that of these trenches, Trenches 11-13 do not exhibit any evidence of surviving subsoil. Potentially, the subsoil was removed during the construction of the school buildings in the 1930's and 1960's, and these groundworks may also have impacted on the archaeological horizon (surface of the natural sands and gravels). In these areas there is also evidence of contamination, possibly by hydrocarbons or leached material from the overlying tarmac.
- 7.2** In the trenches located in areas previously unaffected by development (Trenches 1-10 and also Trench 15), the natural ground appears to survive broadly intact.
- 7.3** The trenches which contained cut features were mainly focused around the north-western end of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 3), although some were also present in Trench 6.
- 7.4** The linear features recorded within Trenches 2 & 3 ([2/004] and [3/004]) were almost certainly modern in origin, given the material recovered from their fills. The large pit shaped features recorded in Trenches 2, 3 & 6 ([2/007], [3/010], [6/004], [6/006], [6/008]) although undated were well sealed beneath subsoil deposits indicating that they may be of a more ancient origin.
- 7.5** It is possible, that cigar shaped pit, [6/008], may be part of a segmented ditch. Such features are common from the prehistoric periods. No finds were discovered within its fill but its light grey colour and sandy texture was distinctive compared to the darker grey silty clay fills of the other near by features.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1** The evaluation at the Swansmere School site was useful in proving that the areas previously affected by groundworks associated with the construction of the school buildings (broadly, the east of the site) did not contain any potential archaeological remains.
- 8.2** The areas currently under grass which have not been affected by previous development (northwest of the site) have the best potential for the survival of archaeological remains.

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Hawkins D 2008. *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation; Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey*. Unpub CgMs Document.

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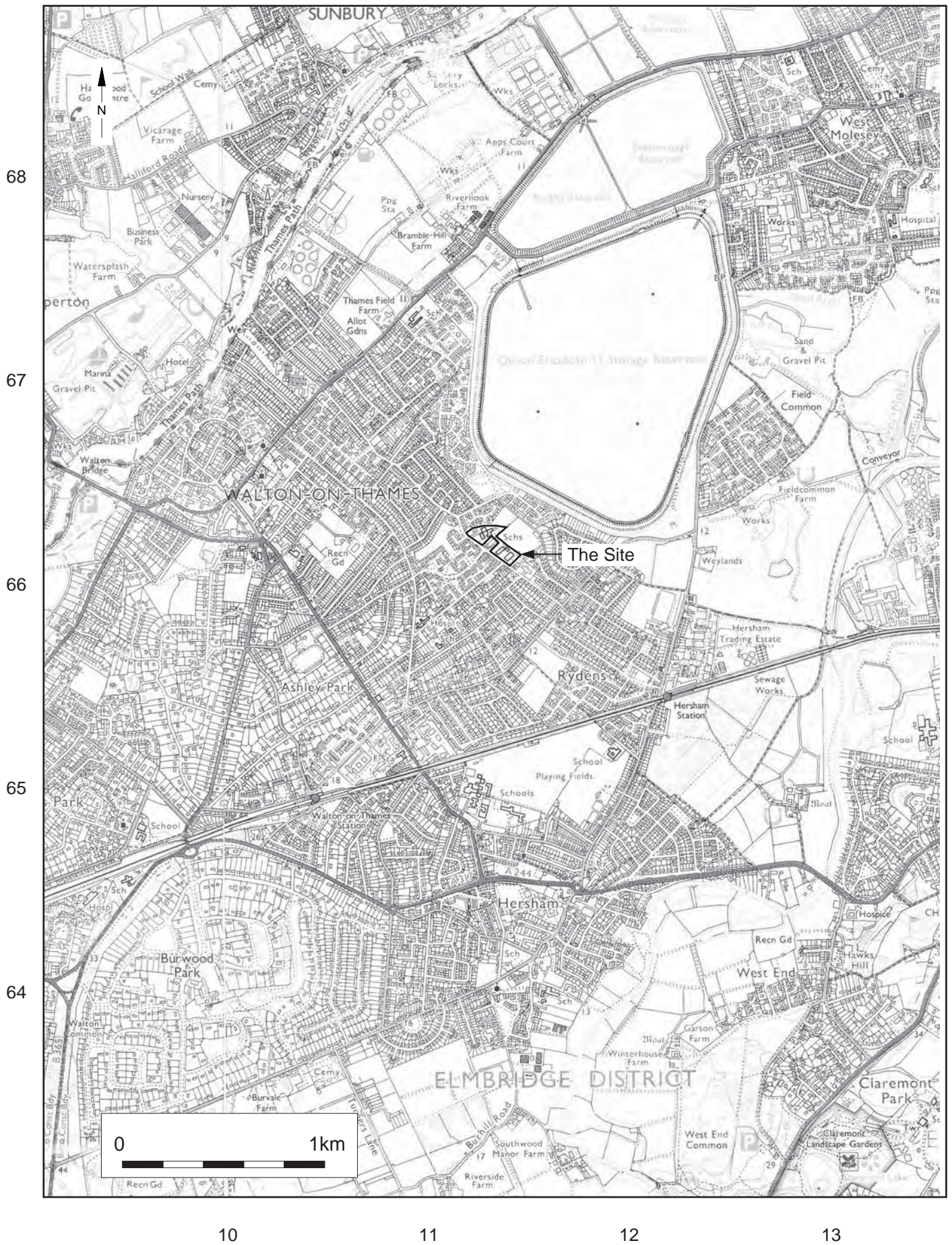
SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SWT 08					
Identification Name and Address	Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames					
County, District &/or Borough	Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 511354 166213					
Geology	Kempton Park Gravels of the Fourth River Terrace					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3323					
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. 16 th -20 th June 08	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	Paul Riccoboni					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South East have carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client A+ Homes Ltd at Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey (NGR 511354 166213). An earlier desk based study of the site (Darton 2008) identified a low to moderate potential for prehistoric remains. Fifteen Evaluation trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 375m. Four trenches contained potential archaeological features although all were undated. One bone was found within a pit in Trench 3.</p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-44532	
Project details	
Project name	Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client A+ Homes Ltd on land at Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey (TQ 113 661). An earlier desk based study of the site (Darton 2008) identified a low to moderate potential for prehistoric remains. Fifteen Evaluation trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 375 metres. Four trenches contained archaeological features, but all features were undated. One bone was found within a pit (trench 3).
Project dates	Start: 16-06-2008 End: 20-06-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SWT08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT None
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SURREY ELMBRIDGE WALTON ON THAMES Swansmere School, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey
Postcode	KT12 3LN

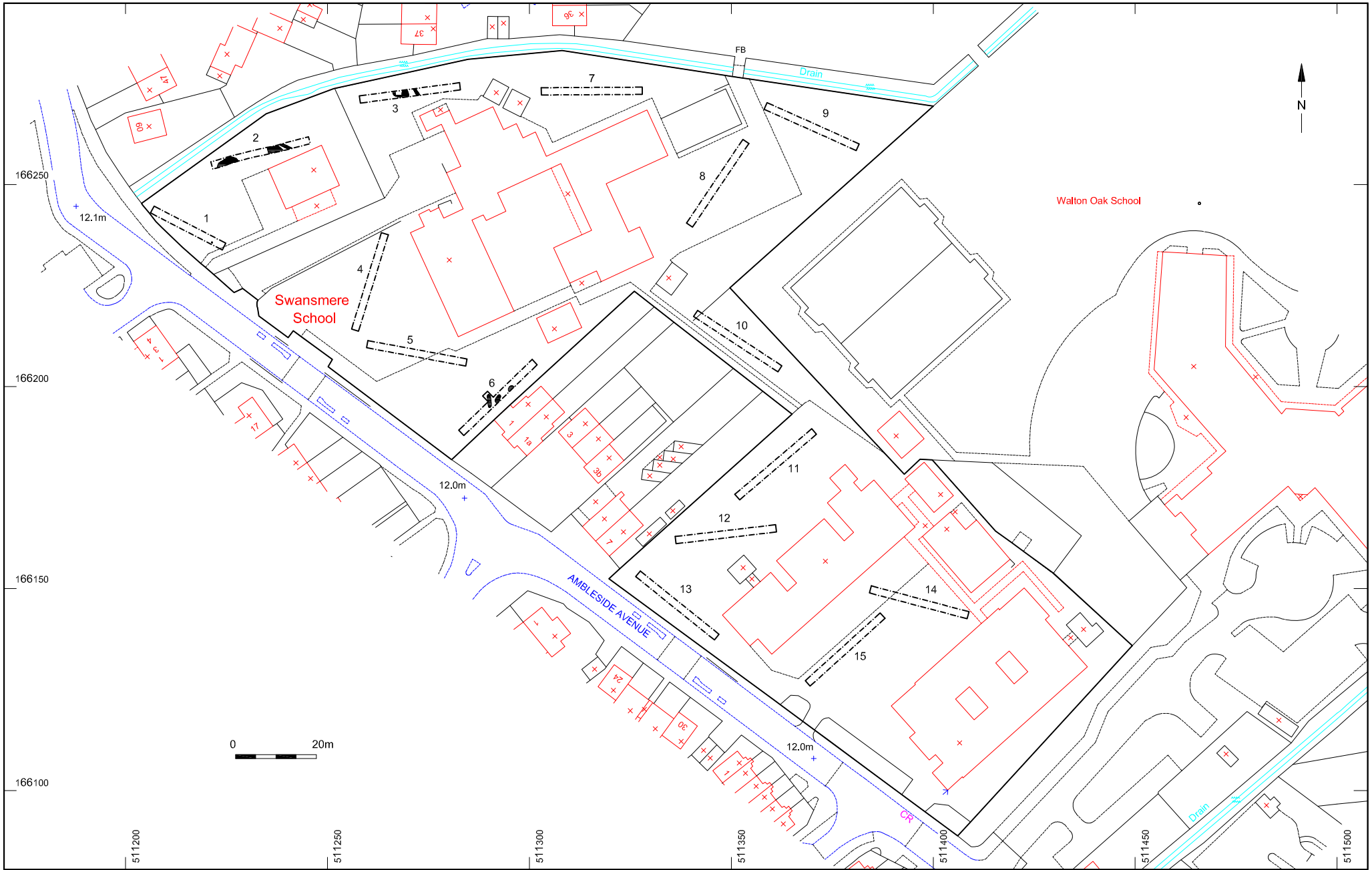
Study area	12500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 511354 166213 50.9286433314 0.150873278787 50 55 43 N 000 09 03 E Point
Height OD	Min: 11.00m Max: 11.50m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Diccon Hart
Project supervisor	Paul Riccoboni
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones'
Digital Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Map','Microfilm','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type	
Title	An archaeological Evaluation at Swansmere School, Ambleside Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Riccoboni, P
Other bibliographic details	3323
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Date	2008
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Entered on	25 June 2008



© Archaeology South-East		Swansmere School, Walton-on-Thames	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3323	June 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008097	Drawn by: JLR		

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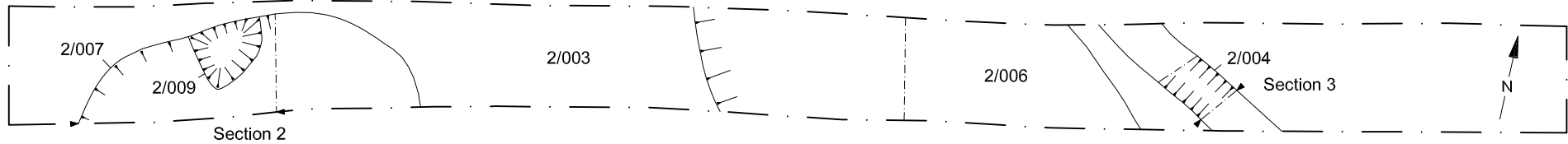


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Project Ref: 3323	June 2008	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2008097	Drawn by: JLR		

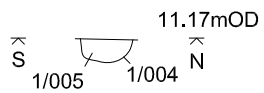
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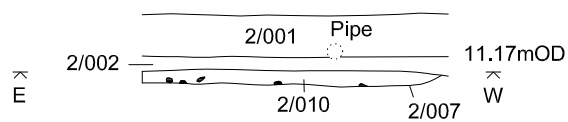
Trench 2



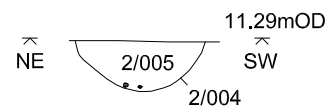
Section 1



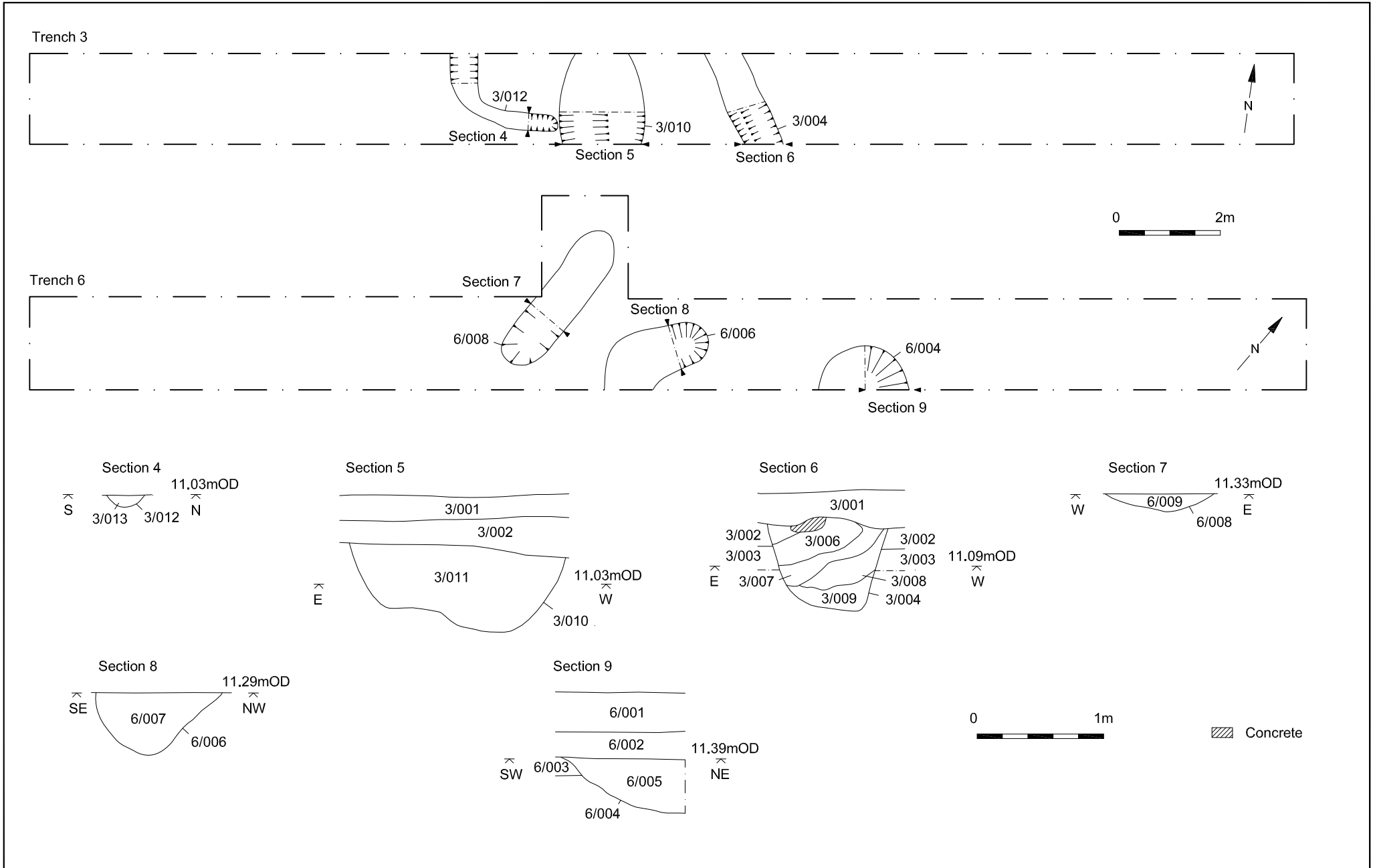
Section 2



Section 3



Gravel



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Project Ref: 3323	June 2008	Trenches 1 and 2: Plans and sections	
Report Ref: 2008097	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 5: Trench 6, showing south facing section of feature [6/008]



Fig. 6: Trench 13, east facing general shot

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Project Ref: 3323	June 2008	-	
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Fig. 7: Trench 11, south facing general shot



Fig. 8: Trench 15, north facing general shot

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Project Ref: 3323	June 2008	-	
Report Ref: 2008097	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 9: Trench 6, south-west facing general shot

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Project Ref: 3323	June 2008	-	
Report Ref: 2008097	Drawn by: JLR		