

**An Archaeological Evaluation at New Line Learning Academy,
Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent**

Planning Ref: MA/08/TEMP/0047

NGR TQ 76916 52835

**Project No: 3648
Site Code: NLL 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008205
OASIS id: archaeol6-54200**

**Nick Garland
With contributions by
Lucy Allott**

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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 undertaken at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Road, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 3rd and 10th November 2008 on behalf of Carillion Ltd. Nineteen trenches, all measuring 20 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width were excavated across the area of proposed development.

The underlying natural was encountered at a maximum height of 92.349 m OD to the south of the area of investigation (Trench 17) falling away to 88.659 m OD to the north of the area of investigation (Trench 2).

No finds material was recovered in the archaeological evaluation, however, a number of undated features were recorded, mainly in the central and northern parts of the site. The nature of these archaeological features suggests that they may form evidence of settlement and boundary probably of Late Bronze Age to Romano-British date.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by Carillion Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, hitherto 'the site'. The site was centred at NGR TQ 76916, 52835, (Figure 1.)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located immediately to the east of New Line Learning Academy on level ground and is bounded to the south playing fields also associated with the academy. Green fields lie immediately to the north and east.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) sheet (288) shows that the site lies on Hythe Beds on a north slope of the Greensand ridge .

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 In response to planning permission for the redevelopment of the school (planning ref. MA/08/TEMP/0047), the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council specified that an archaeological evaluation of the site must be conducted prior to development. The proposed redevelopment involves demolition of existing school buildings, the erection of a new vocation centre and includes outdoor playing pitches and a sports hall.

1.3.2 The specification for archaeological work state that:

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

(i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and a written timetable which has been written to and approved by the Local planning Authority; and

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

1.3.2 A specification for the work was produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (KCC 2008). The documentation consisted of a site specific element (Part A) and a set of guidelines covering general procedures (Part B). In combination, these documents outlined the methods to be used during the archaeological evaluation.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were outlined in Kent County Councils (KCC) Site Specific Requirements (KCC 2008) and are

summarised below with due acknowledgement.

- 1.4.2 (a) Is there any evidence of Roman activity in the development areas? How does this relate to previous findings within the surrounding area, such as the road?
- (b) Is there any evidence for prehistoric and/or medieval activity on the site?
- (c) Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity on the site?
- (d) What potential is there for geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits on the site?
- (e) Has modern disturbance reduced archaeological potential?
- (f) What impact will the development proposals have on the potential archaeological resource?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by Nick Garland, Richard Woolley and John Woodall between the 3rd and 10th November 2008. The project was managed by Giles Dawkes (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website was searched for information in the vicinity of the site. Details were taken of all archaeological sites and listed buildings within a 2 km radius of the centre of the site and are summarised below.

2.2 Archaeological Periods Represented

2.2.1 Prehistoric
Neolithic 5,000 - 2,300 BC
Bronze Age 2,300 - 600 BC
Iron Age 600 - AD 42

2.2.2 Historic
Roman AD 42 - 410
Post Medieval AD 1486 - date

2.3 Summary

Neolithic

2.3.1 A findspot, consisting of two flint scrapers, was found to the west of the site on Loose Road (TQ 75 SE 17).

2.3.2 A narrow Neolithic flint axe was discovered to the north of the site on Broadoak Avenue (TQ 75 SE 13).

Bronze Age

2.3.3 During investigation by RPS Clouston in 1999 Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age features were uncovered. This included pits, ditches and postholes and some possible evidence of iron smelting as well as some further undated ditches. These finds were located to the south of the site on Boughton Lane (TQ 75 SE 83).

Iron Age

2.3.4 Investigations in 1999 by Oxford Archaeology to the south of the site at Cliff Hill Road uncovered a Late Iron Age to Early Roman settlement. This included the uncovering of ditches, pits and postholes as well as a small assemblage of Neolithic struck flint (ID – 1342621).

Roman

2.3.5 A Roman road, running from Maidstone to Dover via Lympe is located 150 metres to the east of the site (NMR no: Linear 328).

2.3.6 A walled cemetery dating to the Roman period was discovered to the east of the site on Firmin Avenue in 1842. Two towers, one rectangular and one square, were uncovered as well as seven cremation burials containing

grave goods (TQ 75 SE 2)

- 2.3.7 The site of a possible Roman villa also lies to the east of the site on Eight Acres Field. Foundations of a building and Roman tile were discovered in the field in 1840 and indicate a possible villa although this has yet to be determined (TQ 75 SE 19).
- 2.3.8 Several Cinerary urns and a Samian patera were uncovered in Hayle Place to the north-west of the site in 1834 (TQ 75 SE 13).

Post-Medieval

- 2.3.9 Three historic buildings are located in close proximity to the area of development. Hart's House lies to the south of the site on Quarry Lane and dates to the 16th century (TQ 75 SE 65). Rock Cottage also lies to the south of the site on Bottlescrew hill and dates to the late 16th century (TQ 75 SE 46). Old Mill House, a timber framed house dating between the 16th and 17th century, is located to the west of the site on Salt Lane (TQ 75 SE 74).
- 2.3.10 A watching Brief undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1997 on Cliff Hill Road recovered Post-medieval finds, however, no features were seen.

Undated

- 2.3.11 A set of undated earthworks have been identified to the east of the site on visual inspection of aerial photographs. These earthworks lie in green fields (TQ 75 SE 21).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Nineteen trial trenches, measuring 20 m by 1.8 m were machine excavated across the area of proposed development under archaeological supervision (Figure 2). The trenches were arranged across the site in order to uncover a random sample of the archaeology of this area.
- 3.2 The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). All of the trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a 15 tonne 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify any archaeological deposits or features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. All spoil removed from the trenches was scanned visually and with a metal detector for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections generally drawn at a scale of 1:10. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.4 A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.5 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine and kept separately. The excavation was taken, in spits of no more than 0.1m down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural'.

Number of Contexts	101 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	2 drawings sheets
Bulk Samples	4 samples
Photographs	124 photographs

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Nineteen trenches were excavated across Area 1. All of the trenches were excavated to a length of 20 metres and a width of 1.8 metres except trenches 14 and 16. As there was not enough space to excavate Trench 14, it was excavated to a length of 18 metres and Trench 16 was extended to 22 metres in length to compensate. Archaeological features and sections are shown on Figures 3, 4 and 5.

4.1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the north of the area of investigation in a north-east to south-west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16 m	89.545
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17 m	89.384
1/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	89.215
1/004	Fill	Fill of large linear	Tr.	2.3 m	N/A	89.016
1/005	Cut	Cut of large linear	Tr.	2.3 m	N/A	89.016

Summary

The natural [1/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 89.300 OD to the north-east of the trench and 89.129 OD to the south-west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [1/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [1/001].

A large linear [1/005] ran across the western end of the trench in a north-south direction. It measured 2.3 metres in width, however, due to flooding in the trench, this feature could not be excavated. The feature was filled by a mid brown silty clay [1/004]. It appears to be similar to composition to features found in [12/004], [13/004] and [14/004].

4.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the north of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2 m	89.079
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22 m	88.879
2/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	88.659
2/004	Layer	Natural Deposit	9 m	Tr.	N/A	88.659

Summary

The natural [2/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 88.982 OD to the south of the trench and 88.337 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [2/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [2/001].

A natural deposit, a light brown silty clay (2/004) was noted to the north of Trench 2. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

4.1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the north-east of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15 m	89.944
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.1 m	89.794
3/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	89.694
3/004	Cut	Cut of linear terminus	2.34 m	0.69 m	0.28 m	89.521
3/005	Fill	Fill of linear terminus	2.34 m	0.69 m	0.28 m	89.241
3/006	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	0.6 m	0.14 m	89.559
3/007	Fill	Fill of linear	Tr.	0.6 m	0.14 m	89.419

Summary

The natural [3/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 89.742 OD to the south of the trench and 89.647 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [3/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [3/001].

A curvilinear feature [3/004] terminated at the southern end of the trench. It was filled by a mid yellowish grey silty clay [3/005] with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was observed within the fill. The curvilinear feature possibly represents possible drip gully or, more likely, a drainage feature.

A linear feature [3/006] was uncovered north of the trench. It was filled by a mid yellowish grey silty clay [3/007] with moderate amounts of small sub-angular stone inclusions. No archaeological material was observed within the fill. This linear appears to represent a ditch, possibly associated with drainage or a land boundary. The fill of this feature was very similar to the curvilinear feature, possibly suggesting contemporaneity.

4.1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located to the north of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13 m	89.772
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23 m	89.642
4/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	89.412

Summary

The natural [4/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 89.468 OD to the east of the trench and 89.356 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [4/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [4/001]. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

4.1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to the north of the area of investigation in a north-east to south-west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15 m	90.440
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15 m	90.290
5/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	90.140
5/004	Fill	Fill of linear terminus	3.81 m	0.69 m	0.27 m	90.023
5/005	Cut	Cut of linear terminus	3.81 m	0.69 m	0.27 m	89.753

Summary

The natural [5/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 90.167 OD to the south-west of the trench and 90.114 OD to the north-east of the trench. A layer of subsoil [5/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [5/001].

A single curvilinear feature [5/005] was uncovered in the north of the trench. It was filled by a light brown silty clay [5/004] with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions. No archaeological finds or material were observed within this fill. The regular shape and profile of the feature suggests that it is archaeological in nature, despite a lack of dating evidence. It may represent a drip gully or a drainage feature.

4.1.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located to the north of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17 m	90.333
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26 m	90.163
6/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	89.903
6/004	Fill	Fill of linear	Tr.	0.65 m	0.13 m	89.952
6/005	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	0.65 m	0.13 m	89.822
6/006	Fill	Fill of oval feature	0.34 m	0.64 m	0.23 m	89.919
6/007	Cut	Cut of oval feature	0.34 m	0.64 m	0.23 m	89.689
6/008	Fill	Fill of linear terminus	1.78 m	0.55 m	0.03 m	89.923
6/009	Cut	Cut of linear terminus	1.78 m	0.55 m	0.03 m	89.893
6/010	Fill	Fill of sub-circular feature	0.8 m	0.75 m	0.02 m	89.995
6/011	Cut	Cut of sub-circular feature	0.8 m	0.75 m	0.02 m	89.975

Summary

The natural [6/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 90.044 OD to the south of the trench and 89.762 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [6/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [6/001]. Four features were uncovered during the excavation of this trench.

A linear feature [6/005] located in the southern end of the trench, was regular in profile and shape and may represent an archaeological feature. It was filled by a light brown silty clay [6/004] with frequent small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material were recovered from the fill. This linear probably represents a drainage feature or small boundary ditch.

A small oval feature [6/007] was located along the eastern side of the trench and was filled by a light brown silty clay [6/006] with moderate amounts of sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was recovered from this fill. Due to its shallow depth this feature probably represents a natural hollow, in-filled by subsoil material.

A curvilinear feature [6/009] was located to the north of the oval feature. It was filled by a light brown silty clay [6/009] with frequent small sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was noted within the fill to indicate its date. The shallow nature of the feature possibly indicates that

it has been truncated, perhaps by landscaping of this area.

A final sub-circular feature [6/011] was observed to the north of the trench truncated by a modern water pipe. It was filled by a light brown silty clay [6/010] with moderate amounts of sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was noted within the fill. The excavation of the feature showed it to be very shallow in nature (approximately 0.05m) and therefore, probably represents another natural hollow.

4.1.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located to the north of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15 m	90.562
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13 m	90.412
7/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	90.282
7/004	Fill	Fill of linear terminus	1.54 m	0.52 m	0.15 m	90.244
7/005	Cut	Cut of linear terminus	1.54 m	0.52 m	0.15 m	90.904

Summary

The natural [7/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 90.265 OD to the east of the trench and 90.299 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [7/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [7/001].

A single linear feature [7/005] was observed across the centre of the trench. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay [7/004] with moderate amounts of small sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was recovered from this feature. The terminus of the feature was square in shape and was truncated by a modern land drain. The steep sides and flat base of the feature suggests that it is more likely recent in date.

4.1.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max.	Max.	Deposit	Height
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			Length	Width	Depth	m.AOD
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17 m	90.684
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12 m	90.514
8/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	90.394
8/004	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	1.71 m	0.23 m	90.161
8/005	Fill	Fill of linear	Tr.	1.71 m	0.23 m	90.391
8/006	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	2.39 m	0.24 m	90.178
8/007	Fill	Fill of linear	Tr.	2.39 m	0.24 m	90.418

Summary

The natural [8/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 90.542 OD to the south of the trench and 90.246 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [8/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [8/001].

Two parallel linear features ran across Trench 8 in an east to west orientation. The northern linear [8/004] was concave in profile and contained a mid greyish silty clay fill [8/005] with occasional sub-angular small stones.

The southern linear [8/006] was shallower in depth but still concave in profile. It was filled by a dark brownish grey silty clay fill [8/007] with occasional sub-angular small stone inclusions. No archaeological finds were recovered from either fill.

The regular shape and profile of these features indicates that they are probably archaeological in nature, however the difference in fills possibly indicates that they are part of two phases of activity.

4.1.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located to the south of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.29 m	92.527
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28	92.237
9/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.957

Summary

The natural [9/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 92.070 OD to the south of the trench and 91.844 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [9/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [9/001]. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

4.1.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15 m	91.115
10/002	Layer	Landscaping layer	Tr.	Tr.	0.28 m	90.965
10/003	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23 m	90.685
10/004	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	90.455
10/005	Fill	Fill of all features	14 m	Tr.	0.68 m	90.195
10/006	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	1.49 m	0.68 m	89.515
10/007	Cut	Cut of small linear	Tr.	0.67 m	0.08 m	90.115
10/008	Cut	Cut of irregular feature	Tr.	14 m	N/A	90.247

Summary

The natural [10/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 90.567 OD to the south of the trench and 90.343 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [10/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [10/001].

Three features were uncovered during the excavation of the trench. All three features were filled with a light brown silty clay [10/005] that contained no archaeological finds or material. This may represent a naturally deposited material that silted over the features in this area.

A linear feature [10/006] uncovered to the north of the trench was irregular to concave in profile and had moderately steep sides. This feature possibly represents a continuation of one of the features from Trench 8.

A small linear feature [10/007] was uncovered in the centre of the trench was very ephemeral in nature. It was concave in profile with very shallow and smooth sloping sides. This feature probably represents a natural hollow in filled by silting.

A large irregular feature [10/008] was uncovered along the western half of the trench. Due to the depth of the trench this feature was unexcavated. It may represent the continuation of linear [10/006] as a curvilinear or represents a natural dip in the landscape which has been in filled by silting. Not enough of the feature was uncovered by the trench to be certain.

4.1.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17 m	91.140
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16 m	90.970
11/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	90.810
11/004	Cut	Cut of curvilinear	6.86 m	1.89 m	0.93 m	90.686
11/005	Fill	Fill of curvilinear	6.86 m	1.89 m	0.93 m	89.756

Summary

The natural [11/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 90.722 OD to the east of the trench and 90.898 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [11/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [11/001].

A single curvilinear feature [11/004] was observed within the eastern half of the trench. The profile of this feature was V-shaped and was reached a depth of 0.93m. It was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay [11/005] with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill of the feature.

4.1.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23 m	91.711
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20 m	91.481
12/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.281
12/004	Cut	Cut of large linear	Tr.	3.75 m	0.62 m	91.323
12/005	Fill	Fill of large linear	Tr.	3.75 m	0.62 m	90.703

Summary

The natural [12/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 91.319 OD to the south of the trench and 91.243 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [12/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [12/001].

A large linear feature [12/004] ran across the southern end of the trench in a north-east to south west direction. It has gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid brown stony silt [12/005] with occasional small and medium stone inclusions. A concentration of stones

was found at the base of the cut. No finds or archaeological material were observed within the fill.

4.1.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18 m	91.417
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19 m	91.237
13/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.047
13/004	Cut	Cut of large linear	Tr.	4.15 m	0.42 m	90.836
13/005	Fill	Fill of large linear	Tr.	4.15 m	0.42m	90.416

Summary

The natural [13/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 91.159 OD to the east of the trench and 90.936 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [13/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [13/001].

A large linear feature [13/004] was observed at the western end of the trench orientated in a north-east to south-west direction. It had gently sloping side and a concave base, similar to linear [12/004]. It was filled by a mid orangish brown clayey silt [13/005] with occasional small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was recovered from the fill of this feature and may indicate that it is natural in origin.

4.1.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in a east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max.	Max.	Deposit	Height
--------	------	-------------	------	------	---------	--------

			Length	Width	Depth	m.AOD
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22 m	92.063
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27 m	91.843
14/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.573
14/004	Cut	Cut of large linear	Tr.	5.6 m	0.8 m	91.368
14/005	Fill	Fill of large linear	Tr.	5.6 m	0.8 m	90.568

Summary

The natural [14/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 91.450 OD to the east of the trench and 91.697 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [14/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [14/001].

A large linear feature [14/004] was observed across the eastern end of the trench orientated in a north-east to south-west direction. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a light brown stony silt [14/005] with frequent small and medium sub-angular stones. A concentration of stones lay at the base of the cut.

This feature was similar in shape and profile to feature [12/004] and [13/004]. No archaeological finds or material was recovered from this feature possibly indicating it was natural in origin.

4.1.15 Trench 15

Trench 15 was located to the centre of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30 m	92.256
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27 m	91.956
15/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.396
15/004	Layer	Natural deposit	16.95 m	1.7 m	0.29 m	91.686

Summary

The natural [15/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 91.463 OD to the south of the trench and 91.329 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [15/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [15/001].

A natural deposit, a light orange silt [15/004] was observed on the eastern half of the trench, overlying the natural [15/003]. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

4.1.16 Trench 16

Trench 16 was located to the south of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25 m	92.474
16/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	92.224
16/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.115

Summary

The natural [16/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 92.031 OD to the east of the trench and 92.198 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [16/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [16/001]. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

4.1.17 Trench 17

Trench 17 was located to the south of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14 m	92.719
17/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23 m	92.579
17/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.349

Summary

The natural [17/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 92.138 OD to the east of the trench and 92.560 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [17/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [17/001]. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

4.1.18 Trench 18

Trench 18 was located to the south of the area of investigation in an east to west direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max.	Max.	Deposit	Height
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			Length	Width	Depth	m.AOD
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35 m	92.306
18/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22 m	91.956
18/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.736
18/004	Cut	Cut of linear terminus	1.96 m	0.67 m	0.08 m	91.603
18/005	Fill	Fill of linear terminus	1.96 m	0.67 m	0.08 m	91.683
18/006	Cut	Cut of linear	Tr.	0.96 m	0.32 m	91.134
18/007	Fill	Fill of linear	Tr.	0.96 m	0.32 m	91.454
18/008	Cut	Cut of large linear	Tr.	3.07 m	0.21 m	91.321
18/009	Fill	Fill of large linear	Tr.	3.07 m	0.21 m	91.531

Summary

The natural [18/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 91.681 OD to the east of the trench and 91.791 OD to the west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [18/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [18/001]. Three features were uncovered during the excavation of the trench.

A small linear feature [18/004] was uncovered at the western end of the trench. It had gently sloping sides and a concave profile. It was filled by a light orangish brown clayey silt [18/005] with occasional small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. The shallow nature of the feature suggests that perhaps it was a undulation in the natural horizon or has been heavily truncated by later landscaping of this area.

A linear feature [18/006] was located in the centre of the trench, running in north to south orientation. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a light grey stony silt [18/007] with frequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No archaeological material was recovered from the fill of this feature. The regular shape and profile of this feature indicate that it is possibly archaeological in nature.

A large linear feature [18/008] ran in a north-south orientation at the eastern end of the trench. Due to the location of services only a small section could be excavated from this feature, revealing a depth of only 0.21 metres. The feature had gradually sloping sides and a concave profile. It was filled by a light grey stony silt [18/009] with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. The shallow nature of the feature may indicate that this is a layer of material used to level the area, rather than a cut feature.

4.1.19 Trench 19

Trench 19 was located to the south of the area of investigation in a north to south direction.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26 m	92.585
19/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17 m	92.325
19/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	92.155

Summary

The natural [19/003], a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones, was observed between 92.161 OD to the south of the trench and 92.149 OD to the north of the trench. A layer of subsoil [19/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [19/001]. No archaeological features or finds were present in this trench.

5.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Lucy Allott

- 5.1 Seven bulk soil samples were taken the from fills of linear features during the evaluation to retrieve environmental remains such as charred botanical remains, bone and shell. This report characterises the assemblages and assesses their potential to provide information regarding the economy of the site, past vegetation and depositional conditions contributing to the formation of the features sampled. The samples were specifically taken to retrieve material suitable for dating.
- 5.2 Samples were processed in a flotation tank, the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves and each fraction sorted (Table 2). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and its content recorded (Table 3).
- 5.3 The samples have produced small assemblages of charcoal fragments (mostly <2mm). Some of the charcoal was vitrified suggesting it had been burned at a high temperature. Samples <5>, <6> and <7>, from linear fill contexts (8/007), (3/005) and (3/007) respectively, contain moderate quantities of small (mostly <2mm) charred botanical remains. These are likely to be charred seeds however the majority retain no clear distinguishing anatomical features that would assist their identification. The lack of morphological features suggests they may have been abraded and redeposited. No charred cereal grains or other crop seeds were present in these samples. Sample <5>, (8/007) produced small fragments of modern glass. No other finds were present in any of the samples.
- 5.4 The sparse and poorly preserved environmental assemblages in these linear fills present no potential for vegetation reconstruction or site interpretation and unfortunately there is insufficient charcoal suitable for identification and dating.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other
1	18/007	linear fill	20l	20l			
2	11/005	linear fill	20l	20l			
3	10/005	linear fill	20l	20l			
4	8/005	linear fill	20l	20l			
5	8/007	linear fill	20l	20l			Glass */1g
6	3/005	terminus fill	20l	20l			
7	3/007	linear fill	20l	20l	*	1g	

Table 2: Residue quantification (*= 0-10 fragments) and weight in grams

Sample Number	Context	Flot volume ml	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation
1	18/007	<5			*	**	*	sm. indeterminate seeds	+			
2	11/005	<5			*	**						
3	10/005	<5	*		*	**	*	sm. indeterminate seeds	+			
4	8/005	<5			*	**	*	sm. indeterminate seeds		*	frags indeterminate some vitrified	+
5	8/007	<5				**	***	sm mostly round & with no clear anatomical features	+			
6	3/005	<5			*	**	**	sm mostly round & with no clear anatomical features	+			
7	3/007	<5	*		*	**	***	sm mostly round & with no clear anatomical features	+			

Table 3: Flot quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Although no dating evidence was recovered from the evaluation, archaeological remains in the form of ditches and smaller linear features were recorded.
- 6.2 Four large linear features were located in trenches 1, 12, 13 and 14. Whilst these features were quite wide, none extended to any great depth, and the lack of archaeological or environmental material and the nature of the fills suggests that they may be natural in origin, and perhaps represent paleochannels (old stream channels).
- 6.3 Smaller linear features were concentrated in the northern part of the site in trenches 3, 5, 6 and 7. These consisted of three linear and three curvilinear features as well as two small pits. The linear features may represent drainage features, whilst the curvilinear features could be ring gullies.
- 6.4 Several other large linear and curvilinear features were concentrated in trenches 8, 10 and 11 as well as an isolated patch around trench 18. These features were much larger in size and could represent boundaries or enclosure ditches.
- 6.5 Without finds and/or environmental evidence it is difficult to date the features effectively. However, known archaeology in the area suggests that they are most likely of Late Bronze Age to Romano-British date.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 Outcome of Aims

- 7.1.1 In relation to the aims listed above, we can address some of the issues outlined by the Kent County Council specification.
- 7.1.2 No dating evidence for prehistoric, Roman, medieval or post-medieval activity was recovered in the evaluation. However, given that a later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age site was excavated to the south and that Roman archaeology is also present in the area (see section 2) the archaeology recorded in the evaluation is thought likely to represent evidence of settlement and boundary of probable Late Bronze Age to Romano-British date.
- 7.1.3 The site appears to be little affected by modern disturbance. While there is a couple of layers of material that may represent the levelling of this site for its use as a playing field, there doesn't appear to be any truncation. This is supported by the amount and condition of features encountered during the evaluation. It appears that any surviving archaeology at the site should be in good condition.

7.2 Further Work

- 7.2.1 The undated features have been tentatively interpreted as of likely Late Bronze Age to Romano-British date and perhaps represent elements of settlement and boundary.
- 7.2.2 The potential for archaeological remains as such is thought to be greater in the northern and central parts of the site, with less, but some potential in the south.
- 7.2.2 The significance of the remains recorded in the evaluation cannot be properly assessed due to the lack of dating evidence.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Alan Westgate and Andrew Beavis of Carillion PLC is gratefully acknowledged.

SMR Summary Form

Site Name: New Line Learning Academy, Maidstone	
Site Address: New Line Learning Academy Boughton Lane Maidstone, Kent	
Summary: <i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Road, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 3rd and 10th November 2008 on behalf of Carillion Ltd. Nineteen trenches, all measuring 20 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width were excavated across the area of proposed development.</i> <i>The underlying natural was encountered at a maximum height of 92.349 m OD to the south of the area of investigation (Trench 17) falling away to 88.659 m OD to the north of the area of investigation (Trench 2).</i> <i>A number of linear and curvilinear features were uncovered during the works, focused mainly to the centre and north of the area of excavation. While the nature of these features suggests that they may be prehistoric or Romano-British, no finds or environmental material was recovered to date these features.</i>	
District/Unitary: Maidstone	Parish:
Nature of Development: Redevelopment of educational academy	
Period(s): Unknown	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): NGR 573974 167914 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 3rd to 10 th November 2008	
Unit undertaking recording: Archaeology South-East	
Geology: Hythe Beds	
Title and author of accompanying report: An Archaeological Evaluation at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent by Nick Garland MA	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) Unknown date: A series of linear and curvilinear features	
Likelihood of surviving archaeological remains on-site: Moderate to High:	
Location of archive/finds: Currently held at the offices of ASE	
Contact at Unit: Giles Dawkes	Date: 13 th November 2008

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-54200

Project details

Project name	archaeological evaluation at New Line Learning Academy
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Road, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 3rd and 10th November 2008 on behalf of Carillion Ltd. Nineteen trenches, all measuring 20 metres in length by 1.8 metres in width were excavated across the area of proposed development. The underlying natural was encountered at a maximum height of 92.349 m OD to the south of the area of investigation (Trench 17) falling away to 88.659 m OD to the north of the area of investigation (Trench 2). A number of linear and curvilinear features were uncovered during the works, focused mainly to the centre and north of the area of excavation. While the nature of these features suggests that they may be prehistoric or Romano-British, no finds or environmental material was recovered to date these features.
Project dates	Start: 03-11-2008 End: 10-11-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	NLL 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	school
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE LOOSE New Line Learning Academy
Postcode	ME15
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 76 52 51.2394297702 0.521627941707 51 14 21 N 000 31 17 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 88.66m Max: 92.35m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Giles Dawkes
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	school
Name of sponsor/funding body	New Line Learning Academy

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
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Physical Archive ID	NLL 08
Physical Contents	'Environmental'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	NLL 08
Digital Contents	'Environmental','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	NLL 08
Paper Contents	'Environmental','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation','Research','General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

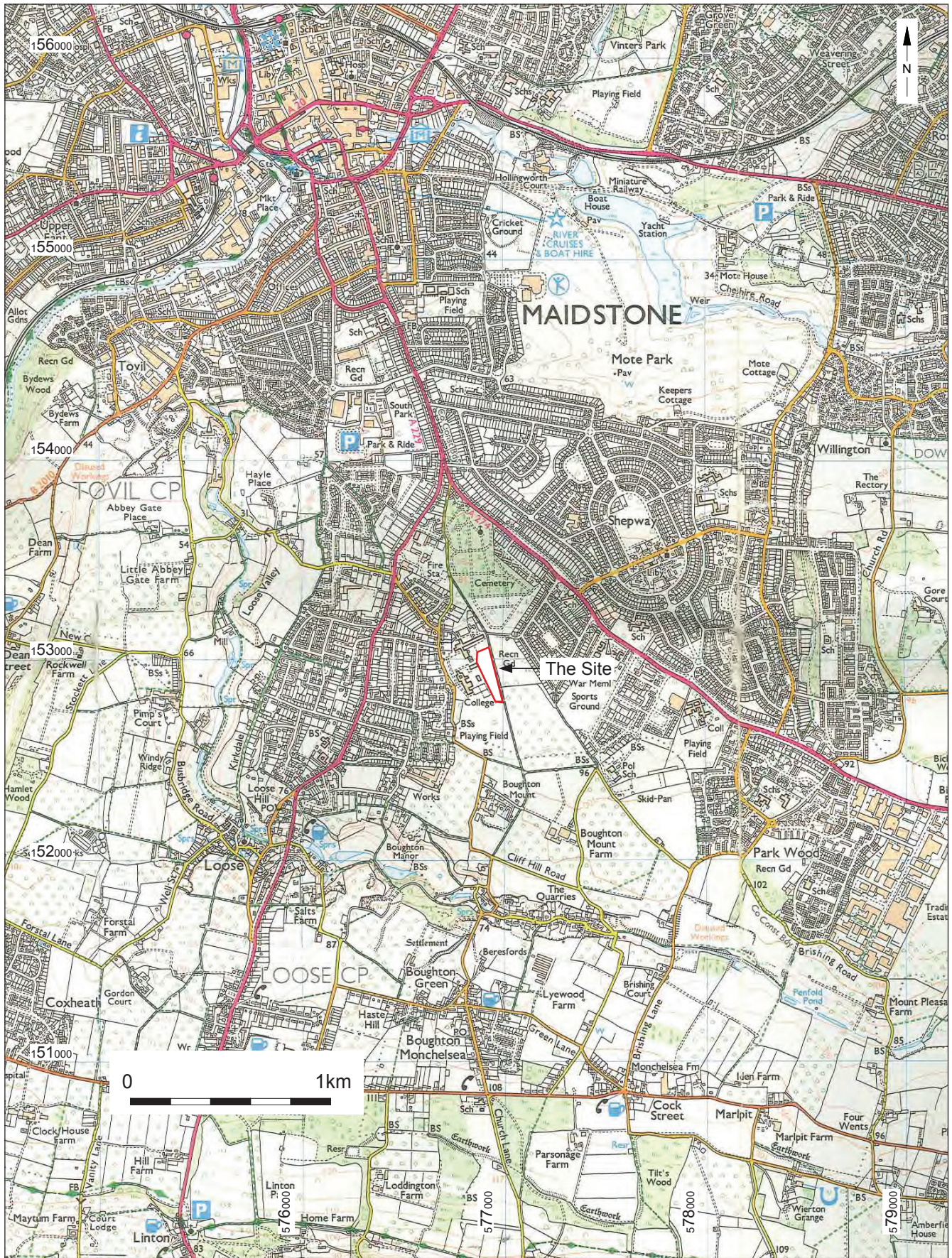
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Nick Garland, edited by Dan Swift
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2008205
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	ASE

Place of issue or
publication ASE

Description Grey literature

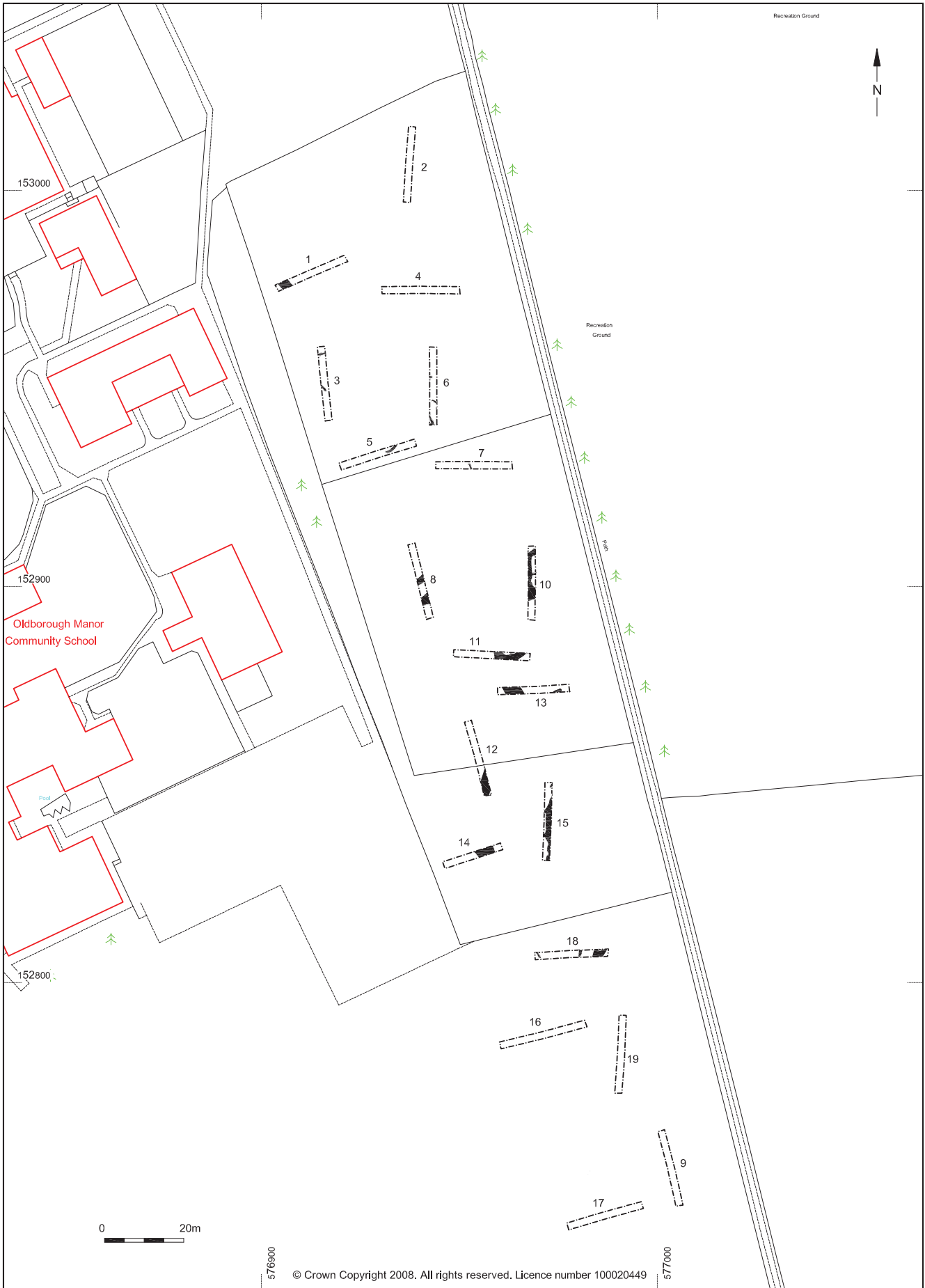
Entered by Nick Garland (tcrnng@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 19 January 2009

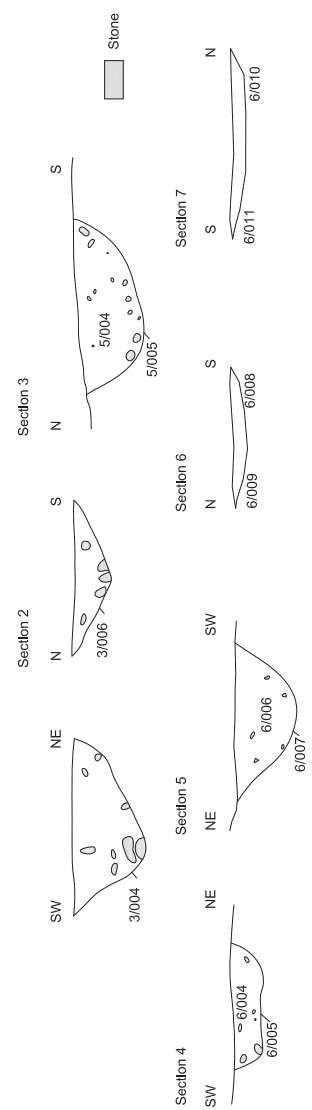
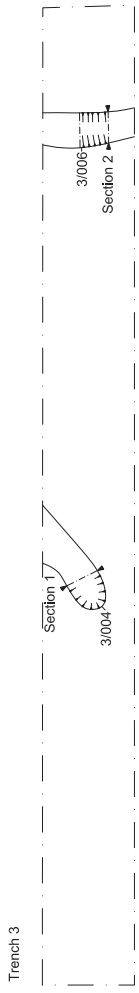


© Archaeology South-East		New Line Learning Center		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3648	Jan 2009	Site Location Plan		
Report Ref: 2008205	Drawn by: HLF			

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© Archaeology South-East		New Line Learning Academy, Maidstone		Fig.
Project Ref: 3648	Nov 2008	Trench location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: LD/JR			



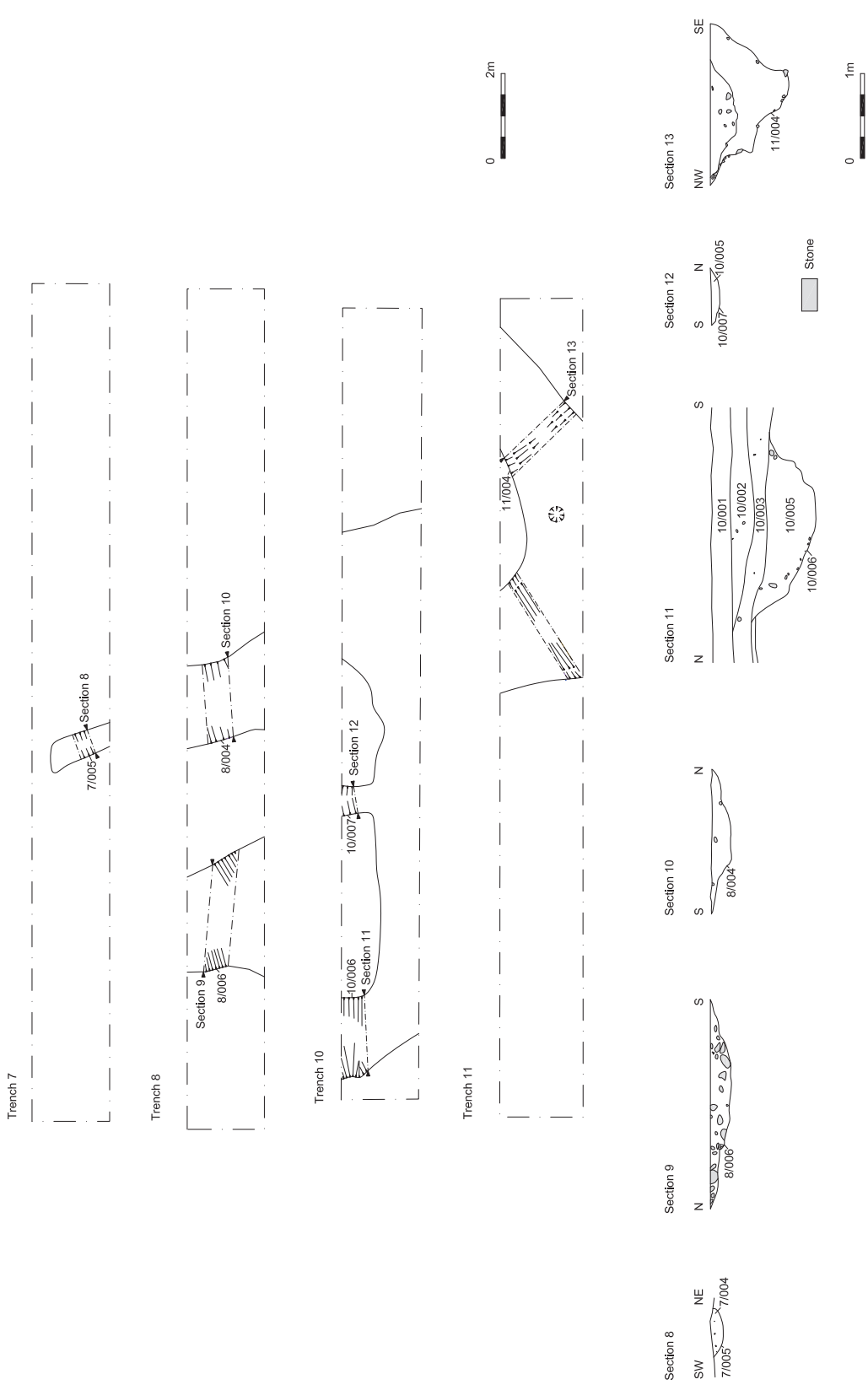
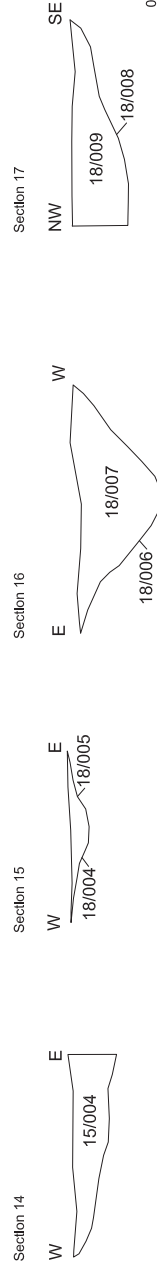
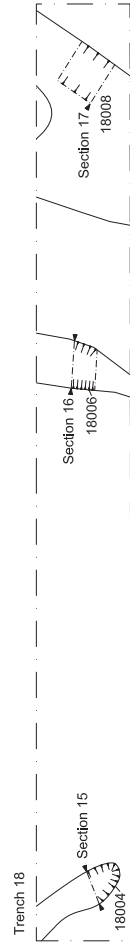
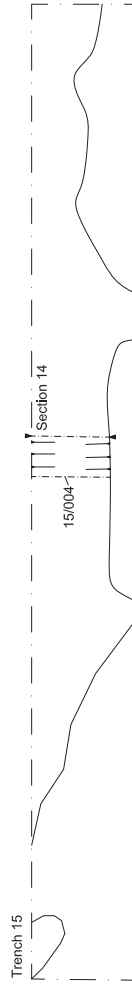
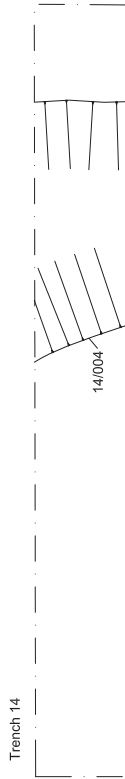
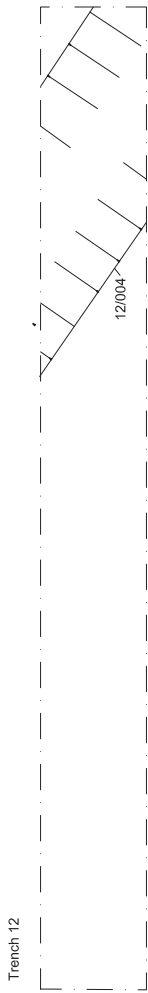


Fig. 4



Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

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