

**An Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation at
New Line Learning Academy, Loose, Maidstone**

Phase 2

Planning Ref: MA/08/TEMP/0047

**NGR 576916 152835
(TQ 76916 52835)**

**Project No: 3743
Site Code: NLL 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009059
OASIS id: archaeol6-62706**



**Nick Garland
With contributions by
Dr Lucy Allott and Chris Butler**

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by Archaeology South East at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Road, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken intermittently between the 6th February 2009 and the 1st April 2011 on behalf of Carillion Ltd. This was the second phase of works on the site, following a 19 trench evaluation, also undertaken by Archaeology South East in November 2008.

Two trial trenches, both measuring 20m in length by 1.8m in width were excavated across areas of proposed development. Several areas of development including the site of a Multi-Use Games Area, the main school building footprint and the location of a septic tank were monitored to determine the existence of archaeological remains.

The underlying natural was encountered at a maximum height of 92.236 m OD to the south west of the area of investigation falling away to 87.498 m OD to the north west of the area of investigation.

No artefacts were recovered in the archaeological evaluation, however, a number of undated features were recorded. The nature of these features suggests agricultural activity possibly interrelated with nearby Romano-British earthworks.

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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 and watching brief at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, hitherto 'the site'. The site was centred at NGR TQ 76916, 52835, (Fig. 1.)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site was 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 lay immediately to the north and east. The trial trenches were located within grassed areas within the school complex, with buildings located on all sides.

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 Planning permission was granted by Kent County Council for the development of the site into a new vocational centre with outdoor playing pitches and sports hall. (MA/08/TEMP/0047). A condition was placed on the development requiring archaeological evaluation of the site; the first phase of which was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in November 2008 (ASE 2008).

1.3.2 The present investigations form the second phase of these works. Two further evaluation trenches were excavated in order to evaluate areas of the development that were not previously accessible. The watching brief was part of the mitigation strategy resulting from the archaeological evaluation of 2008 and included detailed monitoring of all intrusive ground works associated with the development.

1.3.3 A specification for the watching brief was produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (KCC 2009). The documentation consisted of a site specific element (Part A) and a set of guidelines covering general procedures (Part B). The evaluation trenches were to be excavated in accordance with the Phase 1 KCC specification (KCC 2008).

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 2009) and are summarised below.

1.4.2 The main objectives for the watching brief were to 'contribute to the knowledge of Maidstone through the recording of any archaeological remains'. Particular focus was paid to the 'character, height below ground level, condition, dates and significance of the deposits' (KCC 09).

- 1.4.3 The main aim of the watching brief was to 'investigate and understand the undated features revealed' and to provide ongoing feedback to the County Archaeologist (KCC 09).

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken by Nick Garland, Lesley Davidson, Dylan Hopkinson, Andy Margetts, Michelle Statton, Rob Cole and Giles Dawkes between the 6th February 2009 and 1st April 2011. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Kent County Council (KCC), and held at County Hall, Maidstone, was consulted and the results are summarised below. Details were taken of all archaeological sites and listed buildings within a 500 metre radius of the centre of the Site. The identified sites (numbered 1 – 2) are discussed below and plotted on Fig. 1.

2.2 Summary

2.2.1 Roman

A Roman road, running in a north-west to south-east direction, is approximately 150 metres to the east of the site (1). The road appears to run from the centre of Maidstone to the south-east, towards the south coast.

2.2.2 Undated

A set of undated earthworks are located approximately 200 metres to the east of the site (2: TQ 75 SE 21). The earthworks at Mangravet Wood were excavated in 1927, however no dating evidence was recovered. The earthworks defined a univallate enclosure of approximately seven hectares containing two simple entrances. Three short section of ditches and banks remain as much of the earthworks have been completely destroyed by a housing estate. Although no dating evidence has been recovered its alignment with the Roman road suggests a Romano-British date.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigation

2.3.1 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in November 2008. Nineteen evaluation trenches were excavated across the area of proposed development Garland (2008).

2.3.2 Although no dating evidence was recovered from the evaluation, archaeological remains in the form of ditches and smaller linear features were recorded.

2.3.3 Four large linear features perhaps representing paleo-channels and a series of smaller linear features, concentrated in the northern part of the site, may have represented drainage features or ring gullies. Several larger linear and curvilinear features may have represented boundaries or enclosure ditches.

2.3.4 While there was no dating evidence for prehistoric periods, the presence of a later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in the vicinity (although beyond the 500m radius of the HER search) and Roman remains located to the east, the archaeology recorded in the evaluation was thought to possibly represent evidence of settlement and boundaries of probable Late Bronze Age to Romano-British date.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Trenches

- 3.1.1 Two trial trenches, measuring 20m by 1.8m were machine excavated across the area of proposed development under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). All of the trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using an 8 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.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the specification 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.
- 3.1.4 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.

Number of Contexts	12 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Bulk Samples	1 sample
Photographs	32 photographs (B+W, Colour slide and digital)

Table 1: Quantification of site archive, evaluation trenches

3.2 Watching Brief

- 3.2.1 The watching brief covered any ground works that were associated with the development. These were anticipated to included: topsoil and site grading, excavation of service, excavation of building foundations and the creation of access, parking and landscape areas (Fig. 2).
- 3.2.2 All excavation was monitored under constant archaeological supervision. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts. All archaeological deposits and stratigraphy encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using context record sheets..
- 3.2.3 A full photographic record of the area including any associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slide and digital images) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at

Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course be submitted to a suitable local museum.

3.2.4 The KCC Archaeological officer was notified in the event that any significant archaeological remains were encountered during the excavations.

Number of Contexts	64 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	5 sheets
Bulk Samples	15 samples
Photographs	234 photographs (B+W, Colour slide and digital)

Table 2: Quantification of site archive, watching brief

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Evaluation Results

Two trenches were excavated in order to further understand the nature of the archaeology across the area of development (Fig. 3). The trench numbers continued from those used in Phase 1 of the evaluation works. Trench 20 was located in the 'Donkey field' in the centre of the school complex and Trench 21 was located to the south of the school in close proximity to the location of the new building.

4.1.1 Trench 20

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23 m	89.94
20/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.56 m	89.71
20/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	89.15
20/004	Cut	Cut of large linear feature	Tr.	6.33 m	0.52 m	89.15
20/005	Fill	Fill of large linear feature	Tr.	6.33 m	0.52 m	89.15
20/006	Layer	Natural	Tr.	8.05 m	0.25 m	89.13
20/007	Layer	Redeposited natural	Tr.	8.2 m	0.19 m	89.70

Table 3 - List of recorded contexts, Trench 20

4.1.2 The natural, a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones [20/003], was observed between 89.15m OD to the east of the trench and 90.05m OD to the west of the trench. A thick layer of subsoil [20/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [20/001].

4.1.3 A large, natural, feature [20/004] was observed at the eastern end of the trench orientated in a north to south direction. The feature was carefully excavated by machine to make certain that it was not man-made. It had gently sloping sides as exposed and was filled by a sterile mid brown grey clayey silt [20/005] with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stone inclusions. No finds or archaeological material was recovered from the sterile fill of this feature and it was almost certainly of natural origin.

4.1.4 Underlying the subsoil, [20/002] at the western end of the trench, was a mid yellowish orange silty clay with occasional sub-rounded small stone inclusions, [20/006]. No finds were recovered and it is probable that this was a variation in the natural geology.

4.1.5 A layer of redeposited natural [20/007] was observed in the section of this trench, underlying the topsoil. This layer was 0.19m in depth and represented the dumping of material, probably associated with the excavation of modern service to the west of the trench.

4.1.6 Trench 21

Number	Type	Description	Max.	Max.	Deposit	Height
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			Length	Width	Thickness	m.AOD
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17 m	92.31
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19 m	92.14
21/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	91.95
21/004	Cut	Cut of pit	0.67 m	0.63 m	0.25 m	91.93
21/005	Fill	Fill of pit	0.67 m	0.63 m	0.25 m	91.93

Table 4 - List of recorded contexts, Trench 21

4.1.7 The natural, a mid orangish red stony silt with frequent inclusions of small and medium sub-angular stones [21/003], was observed between 91.95 OD to the north-east of the trench and 92.01 OD to the south-west of the trench. A layer of subsoil [21/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the natural and underneath the topsoil [21/001].

4.1.8 A small pit, [21/004] was observed at the north-eastern end of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a light orangish yellow stony silt [21/005] with frequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. The majority of the inclusions within this fill were located along the edge of the cut of the pit. No finds or archaeological material was recovered from this feature and there was no indication of possible function.

4.2 Watching Brief Results

4.2.1 Four areas of excavation were monitored during the watching brief stage of the works. These included the excavation of the main school building footprint, the septic tank footprint; the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) footprint and the removal of the concrete slab of the former school building (Fig 2).

4.2.2 Main School Building Footprint(Figs 4 and 5)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15 m	91.43
002	Layer	Subsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15 m	91.58
003	Layer	Natural	Area.	Area.	N/A	91.73
004	Cut	Cut of linear feature	81.7 m	2.1 m	0.24 m	91.62
005	Fill	Fill of linear feature	81.7 m	2.1 m	0.12 m	91.62
006	Fill	Fill of linear feature	81.7 m	2.1 m	0.12 m	91.62
007	Cut	Cut of linear feature	81.7 m	1.34 m	0.29 m	91.65
008	Fill	Fill of linear feature	81.7 m	1.34 m	0.13 m	91.65
009	Fill	Fill of linear feature	81.7 m	1.34 m	0.16 m	91.65
010	Cut	Cut of irregular feature	2.8 m	0.94 m	0.34 m	91.71
011	Fill	Fill of irregular feature	2.8 m	0.94 m	0.34 m	91.71
012	Cut	Cut of linear	49.4 m	0.44 m	0.09 m	91.73

		feature				
013	Fill	Fill of linear feature	49.4 m	0.44 m	0.09 m	91.73
014	Cut	Cut of linear feature	49.4 m	0.41 m	0.08 m	91.63
015	Fill	Fill of linear feature	49.4 m	0.41 m	0.08 m	91.63
016	Cut	Cut of linear feature	81.7 m	0.97 m	0.29 m	91.67
017	Fill	Fill of linear feature	81.7 m	0.97 m	0.29 m	91.67
018	Cut	Cut of linear feature	8.1 m	0.65 m	0.23 m	91.68
019	Fill	Fill of linear feature	8.1 m	0.65 m	0.23 m	91.68
020	Cut	Cut of linear feature	3.07 m	0.64 m	0.20 m	91.99
021	Fill	Fill of linear feature	3.07 m	0.64 m	0.20 m	91.99
022	Cut	Cut of linear feature	49.4 m	0.65 m	0.14 m	91.94
023	Fill	Fill of linear feature	49.4 m	0.65 m	0.14 m	91.94
024	Cut	Cut of linear feature	49.4 m	0.57 m	0.14 m	91.95
025	Fill	Fill of linear feature	49.4 m	0.57 m	0.14 m	91.95
026	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.44 m	0.23 m	0.21 m	91.92
027	Fill	Fill of posthole	0.44 m	0.23 m	0.21 m	91.92
028	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.24 m	0.22 m	0.14 m	91.96
029	Fill	Fill of posthole	0.24 m	0.22 m	0.14 m	91.96
030	Cut	Cut of linear feature	16.5 m	1.42 m	0.83 m	91.97
031	Fill	Fill of linear feature	16.5 m	1.42 m	0.83 m	91.97

Table 5 - List of recorded contexts, Watching Brief: Building Footprint Area

- 4.2.3 The building footprint was an L-shaped area measuring 112 metres in length and 108 metres in width along its longest axis (Fig. 4). A series of features were observed cutting the natural substrate, [003].
- 4.2.4 A ditch, [004] / [007], orientated north to south, was located along the western edge of the building footprint. This feature varied in width from 0.97m to 2.1m and varied in depth from 0.24m to 0.29m. Its primary fill was a light brown stony clay; [005] and [008], which contained frequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. The secondary fill was light yellowish brown silty clay; [006], [009], that contained occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. It is likely that this was a boundary ditch, possible part of a field system.
- 4.2.5 This north-south aligned ditch cut a smaller linear feature, [016]. This gully was also orientated approximately north-south and was filled by a light orangish grey stony/silty clay [019] that contained moderate small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. Potentially [004] / [007] represents a re-cutting of this gully.

- 4.2.6 A small irregular feature, [010], was located towards the south of the building footprint. It was filled by a mid orangish brown silty clay, [011] which contained a moderate amount of small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature, however, the loose compaction of the fill may suggest that it was fairly recent in date.
- 4.2.7 A small gully, orientated north to south, [012], [014], [022] and [024] was located to the east of the building footprint. This feature varied in width from 0.41m to 0.65m and varied in depth from 0.08m to 0.14m. It was filled by a light orangish grey silty clay; [013], [015], [023] and [025], which contained occasional small and medium sub-angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered.
- 4.2.8 An irregular shaped feature, [020], orientated north to south, was located to the south of the building footprint. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled by a light orangish grey stony silt/clay, [021] which contained occasional and moderate sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered.
- 4.2.9 Two postholes were located to the south-east corner of the footprint of the building. The larger of the two postholes, [026], was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay, [027], which contained occasional small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The smaller posthole, [028], was located approximately 1m metre to the south and was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay, [029], which also contained occasional small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks.
- 4.2.10 A large slightly irregular linear feature, presumably a ditch, [030], orientated in a north-west to south-east direction, was located to the south of the building footprint. This feature had a clear terminal and to the north, located in close proximity to ditch [022] / [044]. It was filled by a light orangish grey silty clay, [031], which contained occasional small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. This ditch may be associated with ditch [007] / [004], forming part of a wider system.

4.2.11 Septic Tank Footprint

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
032	Layer	Topsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15	90.440
033	Layer	Subsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15	90.290
034	Layer	Natural	Area.	Area.	N/A	90.140
035	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.7 m	0.5 m	0.2 m	90.005
036	Fill	Fill of posthole	0.7 m	0.5 m	0.2 m	90.005
037	Cut	Cut of linear feature	1 m	0.66 m	0.18 m	90.274
038	Fill	Fill of linear feature	1 m	0.66 m	0.18 m	90.274
039	Cut	Cut of linear feature	1 m	0.73 m	0.21 m	90.270
040	Fill	Fill of linear feature	1 m	0.73 m	0.21 m	90.270
041	Cut	Cut of linear feature	1 m	0.6 m	0.1 m	90.144
042	Fill	Fill of linear feature	1 m	0.6 m	0.1 m	90.144

043	Cut	Cut of linear feature	0.75 m	0.4 m	0.12 m	90.090
044	Fill	Fill of linear feature	0.75 m	0.4 m	0.12 m	90.090
045	Cut	Cut of feature	3.9 m	1.25 m	0.4 m	90.288
046	Fill	Fill of feature	3.9 m	1.25 m	0.4 m	90.288
047	Cut	Cut of feature	1.8 m	0.4 m	0.12 m	90.355
048	Fill	Fill of feature	1.8 m	0.4 m	0.12 m	90.355
049	Cut	Cut of gully	11.5 m	0.4 m	0.11 m	90.045
050	Fill	Fill of gully	11.5 m	0.4 m	0.11 m	90.045
051	Cut	Cut of feature	2.7 m	1.78 m	0.07 m	89.985
052	Fill	Fill of feature	2.7 m	1.78 m	0.07 m	89.985
053	Cut	Cut of linear feature	2.7 m	0.75 m	0.35 m	90.596
054	Fill	Fill of linear feature	2.7 m	0.75 m	0.35 m	90.596
055	Cut	Cut of pit	1 m	0.75 m	0.24 m	90.517
056	Fill	Fill of pit	1 m	0.75 m	0.24 m	90.517
057	Cut	Cut of pit	0.60 m	0.60 m	0.22 m	90.531
058	Fill	Fill of pit	0.60 m	0.60 m	0.22 m	90.531
059	Cut	Cut of gully	11.5 m	0.30 m	0.07 m	89.991
060	Fill	Fill of gully	11.5 m	0.30 m	0.07 m	89.991
061	Cut	Cut of feature	2.7 m	1.78 m	0.05 m	90.068
062	Fill	Fill of feature	2.7 m	1.78 m	0.05 m	90.068
063	Cut	Cut of feature	4.2 m	3.25 m	0.50 m	90.515
064	Fill	Fill of feature	4.2 m	3.25 m	0.50 m	90.515

Table 6 - List of recorded contexts, watching brief: septic tank footprint

4.2.12 The septic tank footprint was a rectangular area which measured approximately 30.4m in length (north-south) and 20.1m in width (Fig. 6). A series of features were observed cut into the natural horizon [034].

4.2.13 A sub-circular posthole, [035], was located to the north of the area. It was u-shaped in profile and had steeply sloping sides. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown clayey silt [036] that contained some flint nodules and frequent small sub-angular stones.

4.2.14 A gully, represented by [037], [039], [041] and [043] and orientated north to south, was located along the western edge of the tank footprint. This feature varied in width from 0.5m to 0.73m and varied in depth from 0.12m to 0.21m. It was filled with a mid reddish brown clayey silt; [038], [040], [042] and [044], which contained occasional small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. This gully may be a continuation of gully [069], identified in the M.U. G.A. area and may also be associated with gullies [059] and [075] which are aligned approximately parallel to the east.

4.2.15 Two irregular shaped features, [045] and [047], were located immediately to the west of the north-south aligned ditch. Feature [045] was irregular in shape, U shaped in profile and had moderately steeply sloping sides. Feature [047] was linear in shape, U-shaped in profile and had gradually sloping sides. Both features were filled by a mid yellowish brown clayey silt [046] and [048] respectively, that contained frequent small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered and their function is unclear.

4.2.16 A further gully, orientated north-west to south-east, was located in the north-east corner of the tank footprint, represented by [049] and [059]. This feature varied in width from 0.3m to 0.4m and varied in depth from 0.07m to 0.11m. It was filled by a mid reddish brown clayey silt; [050] and [060], which contained moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. This gully may form part of a wider pattern with the other gullies excavated in this area and the M.U.G.A footprint.

4.2.17 A large shallow feature, represented by [051] and [061], was also located to the north-east corner of the tank footprint, and was cut by the above gully. This feature was irregular in shape, had moderately sloping sides and was shallow in nature. It was filled by a mid reddish brown clayey silt, [052] and [062] that contained frequent inclusions of sub-angular stones and flint nodules. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature and its function was unclear.

4.2.18 A small linear feature, [053], orientated in a north-west to south east direction, was located to the south-west corner of the tank footprint. It measured 2.7m in length before reaching the limit of excavation to the south. It was U-shaped in profile and had steeply sloping sides. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silt [054] that contained occasional medium sub-angular sandstones.

4.2.19 Two intercutting, pits [055] and [057], were also located to the south-west corner of the Tank footprint. Both features were u-shaped in profile and had moderately steep sloping sides. They were both filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay, [056] and [058], respectively, that contained occasional small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature. Pit [055] cut earlier pit [057]. Again, there was no indication of the function of these two features.

4.2.20 A large irregular feature, [063] was located to the south-west corner of the tank footprint. It was sub-circular in shape, had moderately sloping sides and a U shaped profile. It was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay [064] with occasional small and medium stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature. Although fairly sizable, the shallowness of this feature suggests that it was not a stock waterhole and there was no further indication of function.

4.2.21 MUGA Footprint

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
066	Layer	Topsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15 m	90.08
067	Layer	Subsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15 m	89.93
068	Layer	Natural	Area.	Area.	N/A	89.78
069	Cut	Cut of linear feature	20.9 m	0.35 m	N/A	89.81
070	Fill	Fill of linear feature	20.9 m	0.35 m	N/A	89.81
071	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.2 m	1.1 m	N/A	89.85
072	Fill	Fill of Pit	1.2 m	1.1 m	N/A	89.85
073	Cut	Cut of Irregular feature	4.5 m	0.90 m	N/A	89.79
074	Fill	Fill of Irregular feature	4.5 m	0.90 m	N/A	89.79
075	Cut	Cut of linear	22.1 m	0.66 m	N/A	89.80

		feature				
076	Fill	Fill of linear feature	22.1 m	0.65 m	N/A	89.80

Table 7 - List of recorded contexts, Watching Brief: MUGA Area

4.2.22 The Multi Use Games Area measured approximately 40.5m in length (north-south) and 36.7m in width (Fig. 6). The area was levelled prior to the construction of the MUGA which included the reduced excavation of the southern side of the area and the building up of the northern side. The features listed above were those revealed through subsoil stripping but were not excavated as they were to remain insitu underneath the sports pitch. The location of these features and general observations were recorded.

4.2.23 Linear features, probably gullies or ditches [069] and [075] were orientated in a north-west to south-east direction and were observed across the area stripped to the natural horizon. Feature [069] was filled by a light orangish brown silty clay, [070] with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions and feature [075] was filled by a mid brown clayey/sandy silt [076] with moderate amounts of small and medium sub-angular sand inclusions. No archaeological material was visible in the fills of either linear from surface observation. The parallel positioning of these features suggests they may be have been interrelated, perhaps forming a trackway or, alternatively represent a redefined boundary. They are almost certainly continuations of similarly aligned ditches [037] / [041] / [039] and [059] identified in the septic tank watching brief area

4.2.24 Pit [071] was located 2m to the north east of linear feature [069]. It was filled by a light brown clayey silt [072] with moderate small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No archaeological material was visible in the fill of this pit from surface observation.

4.2.25 An Irregular feature [073] was located between the linear features [069] and [075]. It was filled by a light orangish brown silty clay [074] with occasional small and medium sub-angular stone inclusions. No archaeological material was visible in the fill of this feature from surface observation. This feature was located across the location of Trench 3 from the Phase 1 evaluation and equates to feature [3/006].

4.2.26 Concrete Slab of Former School Building and soakaway

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
077	Layer	Topsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15 m	91.20
078	Layer	Subsoil	Area.	Area.	0.15 m	91.05
079	Layer	Natural	Area.	Area.	N/A	90.90
080	Layer	Concrete slab of former school buildings	50 m	40 m	1 m	91.90

4.2.27 The removal of the concrete slab [080] of the former school buildings did not exposed any archaeological features and the area within the former school building seems have been truncated to a depth of around 1m below ground level.

4.2.28 A soak-away (5m by 5m in area) adjacent to the former buildings was also monitored as a final stage of archaeological works in April 2011. and only A sequence of topsoil [077] and subsoil [078] overlying natural [079] was seen. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Flint work by Chris Butler

- 5.1.1 A single piece of worked flint was recovered from context [36] during the fieldwork. Classification follows Butler (2005). No archive has been produced as full details of the piece are incorporated into this report.
- 5.1.2 This hard hammer-struck flake is a light grey coloured flint with a slight trace of iron staining. The dorsal side is partially covered with cortex, which also exhibits some iron staining. The platform is broad and has a central impact point, perhaps suggesting the use of a punch in its removal, however there is no evidence of platform preparation. Although it is difficult to date a single undiagnostic piece such as this, it is more likely to be Later Prehistoric; i.e. Later Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.
- 5.1.3 It is recommended that no further work be undertaken on this assemblage, although the flake should be retained for possible further study in the future, or incorporated into a report if further work is to be undertaken at the site.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

A total of 21 bulk samples were taken during the evaluation (7 samples) and excavation (14 samples) phases of work at the site. Samples were taken from the fills of linear features, pits and post holes to retrieve environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, bone and shell. The results of the main evaluation have been documented in detail (Allott 2009) elsewhere. This report characterises the assemblages from the watching brief and additional evaluation trench samples 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. Sampling also aimed to retrieve material suitable for dating.

6.2 Methods

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 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (see Appendix 1). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and their content recorded (see Appendix 2).

Preliminary identifications have been made through consultation with modern comparative material and reference atlases (Cappers et al 2006, Hather 2000, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Charred Macroplant Remains -

Evaluation samples <5>, <6> and <7>, from linear feature fill contexts (8/007), (3/005) and (3/007) respectively, contained moderate quantities of small (mostly <2mm) charred botanical remains. These are likely to be charred weed seeds however the majority retain no clear distinguishing anatomical features to enable further identification. No charred cereal grains or other crop seeds were present in the evaluation samples. The watching brief samples produced similar assemblages of charred macrobotanical remains although some of these have been given preliminary identifications of cabbage / mustard (cf. *Brassica* / *Sinapsis* sp.) and vetch/tare (*Vicia* / *Lathyrus* sp.). A single cereal fragment was noted in sample <14>, (38) however no further identification could be attributed to this.

6.3.2 Charcoal –

Charcoal fragments were infrequent in the evaluation samples. The majority of the excavation samples contain charcoal in small quantities and many of these fragments are <2mm in size. Several samples contained vitrified charcoal, suggesting it had been burned at high temperatures. Charcoal fragments present in both the flots and residues were unsuitable for identification although during the assessment several fragments of deciduous oak (*Quercus* sp.) were noted.

6.4 Discussion

The sparse and poorly preserved environmental assemblages in these

features present no potential for vegetation reconstruction or to assist in furthering the site interpretation. Although several fragments of oak have been noted the majority of the charcoal fragments are too few and too small for identification and are therefore also considered unsuitable for dating.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1** The two evaluation trenches revealed little evidence of further archaeological material. The large linear feature [20/004] represents a natural feature, similar to those observed in the first phase of evaluation. The pit [21/004] may represent small scale activity in the vicinity, although its date and function is unknown.
- 7.2** While the watching brief revealed a number of features, both in the footprint of the building and the footprint of the septic tank, virtually no dating information was recovered. No finds, apart from a single flint of broadly prehistoric date, were collected and the environmental evidence could not add any further information to provide a definite date.
- 7.3** The final stage of watching brief carried out in april 2011 did not reveal any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.
- 7.4** Four gullies or ditches, (numbered [012], [014], [022] and [024] within the footprint of the building, [037], [039], [041], [043], [049] and [059] within the footprint of the tank and [069] and [075] within the footprint of the MUGA), were all orientated in a broadly north to south direction. It is possible that these approximately parallel features flanked a track or driveway. This may also be represented by a larger ditch, feature, [004] / [007], which lay along the western edge of the building footprint site; although given the larger size of this ditch, it may have formed a major boundary with the smaller gullies representing internal divisions or drainage features. An earlier phase of this larger field boundary, [016], may indicate prolonged agricultural activity in this area.
- 7.5** It is also possible that these parallel gullies / ditches were not contemporary and represent the shifting or redefinition of field boundaries
- 7.6** Various features, possibly representing scattered settlement were also uncovered during excavation. Two postholes, [026] and [028], and a large ditch [030] were found to the far south-east of the building footprint and may represent the remains of a small enclosure, however, without further archaeological evidence this remains conjectural. It is more likely that the ditch is part of the probable field system already identified, perhaps with a greater feature depth surviving.
- 7.7** Features to the north of the area of investigation which include a posthole [035], two intercutting pits [055] and [057] and a single pit [070] may also indicate small scale occupation of this area.
- 7.8** Several irregular features, such as [020] to the south of the building footprint, [051], [061], [053] and [063] within the tank footprint and [072] within the footprint of the MUGA are probably naturally occurring and represent tree boles or other vegetation types.
- 7.9** The almost complete lack of finds and the very poor environmental evidence is telling and it is probable that there is not major occupation in the immediate vicinity. Such a paucity is, however, in keeping with an agricultural or pastoral landscape as is suggested by the, albeit, ephemeral sequence of ditches,

gullies, pits and occasional posthole.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1** The features uncovered during these works appear to relate to agricultural activities in the area, with possible field boundaries and drainage channels. Small scale habitation of the area in the form of postholes and pits may be related to this activity, however, this cannot be stated for certain.
- 8.2** The proximity of the features to the probable Romano-British earthworks and a known Roman road may indicate their origins in the late prehistoric / Early Romano-British period. The probable agricultural nature of the features may relate to habitation represented by earthworks, approximately 200 metres to the east.

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Appendix 1: Residue Quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
Excavation Samples											
1	11	fill of poss pit	20	20	*	1	*	1			
2	15	fill of small linear feature	20	20	*	1	*	1			
3	15	fill of small linear feature	20	20	*	1	*	1			
4	17	fill of linear feature	20	20							Empty
5	19	fill of linear feature	20	20			*	1			
6	27	fill of post hole	2	2	*	1	**	2			
7	29	fill of post hole	10	10	*	1	*	1			
8	31	fill of ditch	20	20	*	1	*	1			
9	21	fill of poss pit	20	20	*	1	*	1			Flint */<1g
10	23	fill of linear feature	20	20	*	1	*	1			
11	25	fill of linear feature	20	20	*	1	*	1			
12	21/005	fill of pit	10	10			*	<1			
14	38	fill of linear feature	30	30	*	<1	*	<1	*	<1	Flint */<1g
15	44	fill of linear feature	30	30	*	<1	**	<1			
Evaluation Samples											
1	18/007	linear fill	20l	20l							Empty
2	11/005	linear fill	20l	20l							Empty
3	10/005	linear fill	20l	20l							Empty
4	8/005	linear fill	20l	20l							Empty
5	8/007	linear fill	20l	20l							Glass */1g
6	3/005	terminus fill	20l	20l							Empty
7	3/007	linear fill	20l	20l	*	1g					

Appendix 2: Flot Quantification including preliminary identifications and assessment of the preservation of botanical remains
Key: Quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250), Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good), cpr = charred plant remains, indet. = indeterminate, monocot = monocotyledon.

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal identifications/Notes	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	LSS
Excavation Samples																				
1	11	<2	<5	10	90				*	frags v. compressed Not id'able?				*	small round indet. cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/++				
2	15	<2	<5	40	50				*	too small no ids				**	small round indet. cf. Fabaceae & cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/++				
3	15	<2	<5	60	20	*			*	charcoal indet. Mostly vitrified, & 1 cpr puffed & indet in res				*	small round indet. cf. Fabaceae & cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/++				
4	17	<2	<5	30	70	*				too small and too few										
5	19	4	5	20	20					too small and too few				*	small round indet. cf. Fabaceae & cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/++				
6	27	<2	<5	70	20	*			**	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (in 2-4mm fraction)				*	small round indet.	+				
7	29	2	5	20	20	*	*	**	**	non-oak taxa present in res., <i>Quercus</i> sp. noted in flot				**	small round indet. cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/++				
8	31	2	5	98	<5				*	too small and too few										
9	21	<2	<5	98	<5				*	cf. <i>Quercus</i> sp. & poss. Others				**	small round indet. cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/++				
10	23	<2	<5	90	<5				*	charcoal to id in 2-4mm fraction				*	small round indet. & 1 indet.	++				

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal Identifications/Notes	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	LSS
11	25	2	5	80	15	*		*	*	charcoal indet. Mostly vitrified				*	small round indet. cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp. & cpr frags	+	*	monocot. Stem frags	++	**
12	21/005	<2	<5	98	-	*				too small and too few				*	small round indet.	+				
14	38	<2	<5	85	10	*			*	charcoal to id	*(1)	indet. Cerealia frag	+	*	small round indet.	+	*(1)	vitrified indet. cpr	+	
15	44	<2	<5	95	<5				*	charcoal indet. Mostly vitrified, & indet cpr present				**	small round indet. cf. Fabaceae & cf. <i>Brassica</i> / <i>Sinapsis</i> sp.	+/ ++				
Evaluation Samples																				
1	18/007		<5	10	80			*	**					*	sm. Indet. seeds	+				
2	11/005		<5	10	90			*	**											
3	10/005		<5	25	70	*		*	**					*	sm. Indet. seeds	+				
4	8/005		<5	50	40			*	**		?	indeterminate	+	*	sm. Indet. seeds	+	*	frags indet. some vitrified	+	
5	8/007		<5	20	70				**					***	sm mostly round & with no clear anatomical features	+				
6	3/005		<5	50	40			*	**					**	sm mostly round & with no clear anatomical features	+				
7	3/007		<5	40	40	*		*	**					***	sm mostly round & with no clear anatomical features	+				

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	NLL08					
Identification Name and Address	New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Maidstone, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	576916, 152835					
Geology	Hythe Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3743					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 6/4/09 to 7/4/09	Excav.	WB. 6/2/09 to 9/6/09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Carillion Ltd					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by Archaeology South East at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Road, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 6th February and the 9th June 2009 on behalf of Carillion Ltd. This was the second phase of works on the site, following a 19 trench evaluation, also undertaken by Archaeology South East in November 2008.</p> <p>Two trial trenches, both measuring 20m in length by 1.8m in width were excavated across areas of proposed development. Several areas of development including the site of a Multi-Use Games Area, the main school building footprint and the location of a septic tank were monitored to determine the existence of archaeological remains.</p> <p>The underlying natural was encountered at a maximum height of 92.236 m OD to the south west of the area of investigation falling away to 87.498 m OD to the north west of the area of investigation.</p> <p>No artefacts were recovered in the archaeological evaluation, however, a number of undated features were recorded. The nature of these features suggests agricultural activity possibly interrelated with nearby Romano-British earthworks.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-62706

Project details

Project name New Line Learning Academy

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken by Archaeology South East at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Road, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 6th February and the 9th June 2009 on behalf of Carillion Ltd. This was the second phase of works on the site, following a 19 trench evaluation, also undertaken by Archaeology South East in November 2008.

Short description of the project Two trial trenches, both measuring 20m in length by 1.8m in width were excavated across areas of proposed development. Several areas of development including the site of a Multi-Use Games Area, the main school building footprint and the location of a septic tank were monitored to determine the existence of archaeological remains.

Short description of the project The underlying natural was encountered at a maximum height of 92.236 m OD to the south west of the area of investigation falling away to 87.498 m OD to the north west of the area of investigation.

Short description of the project No artefacts were recovered in the archaeological evaluation, however, a number of undated features were recorded. The nature of these features suggests agricultural activity possibly interrelated with nearby Romano-British earthworks.

Project dates Start: 06-02-2009 End: 09-06-2009

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes NLL08 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

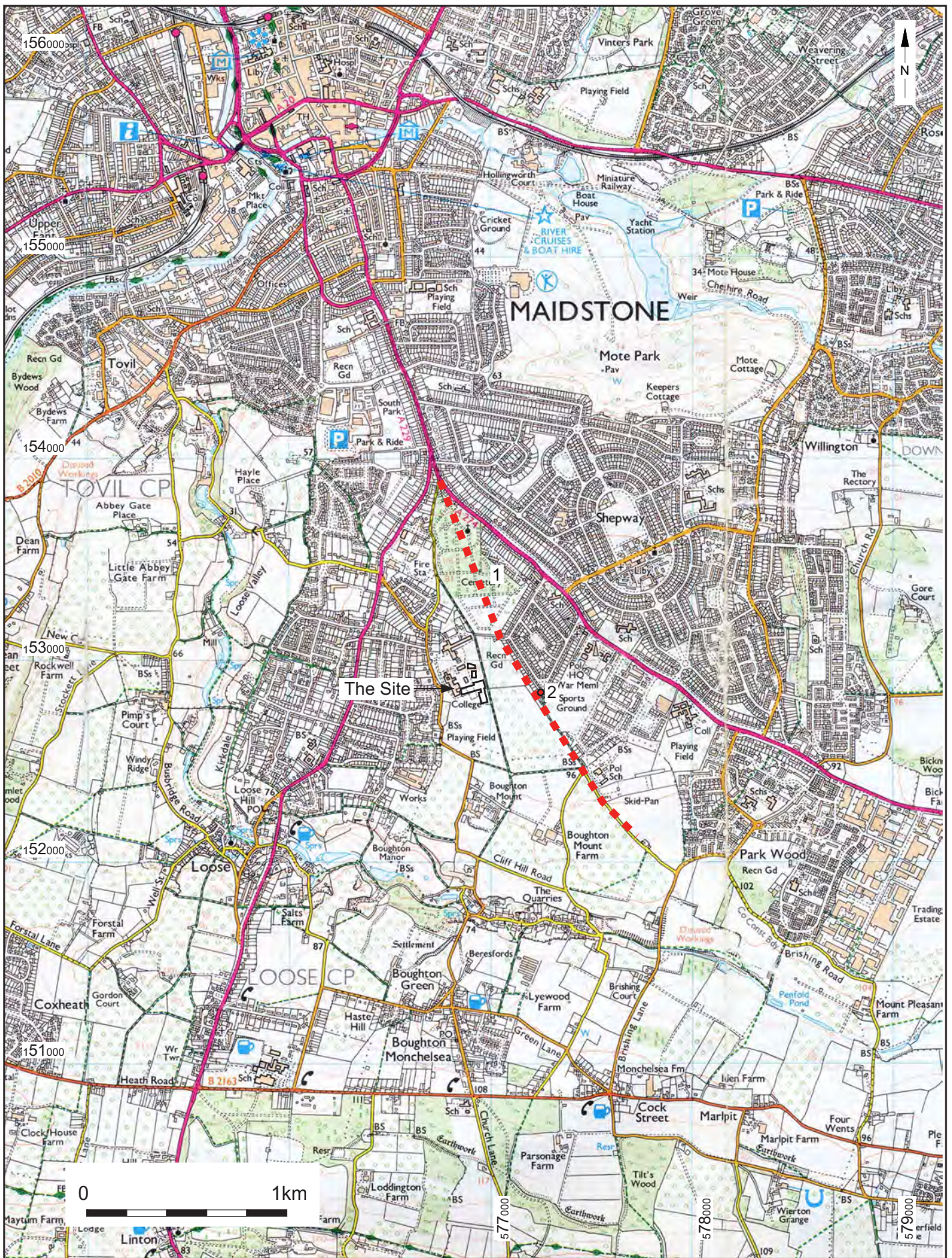
Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE LOOSE New Line Learning Academy
Postcode	ME15 9
Study area	7143.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 76916 52835 51.2466471023 0.535150762426 51 14 47 N 000 32 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 87.50m Max: 92.24m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body	Carillion Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Environmental', 'Survey', 'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Survey', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Survey', 'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Survey '
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation at New Line Learning Academy, Loose, Maidstone
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garland, N (author), Stevenson, J (editor)
Other bibliographic details	2009059
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade

Entered by Nick Garland (n.garland@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 31 July 2009

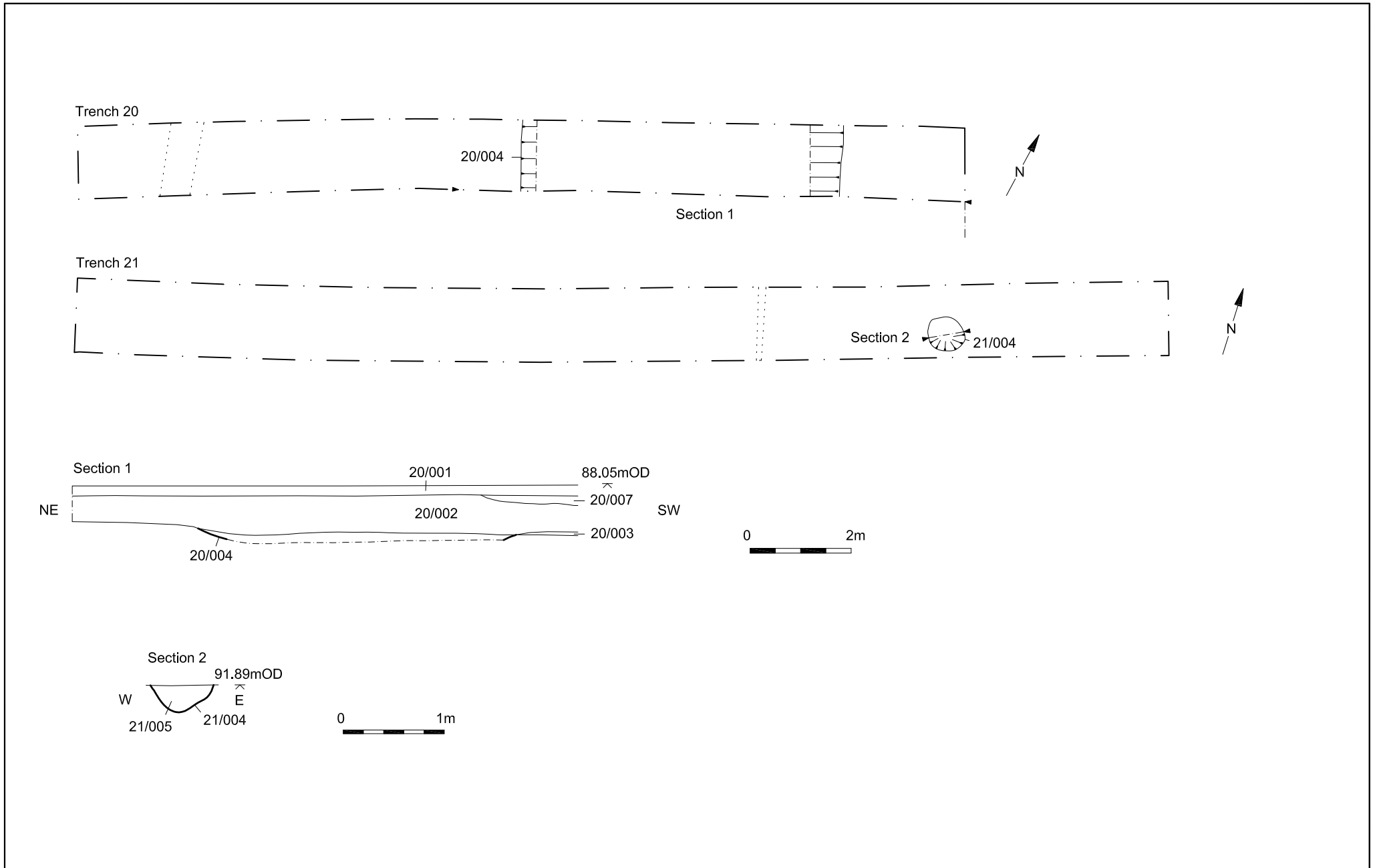


© Archaeology South-East		New Line Learning Academy, Maidstone		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3743	July 2009	Site location plan		
Report Ref: 2009059	Drawn by: JLR			

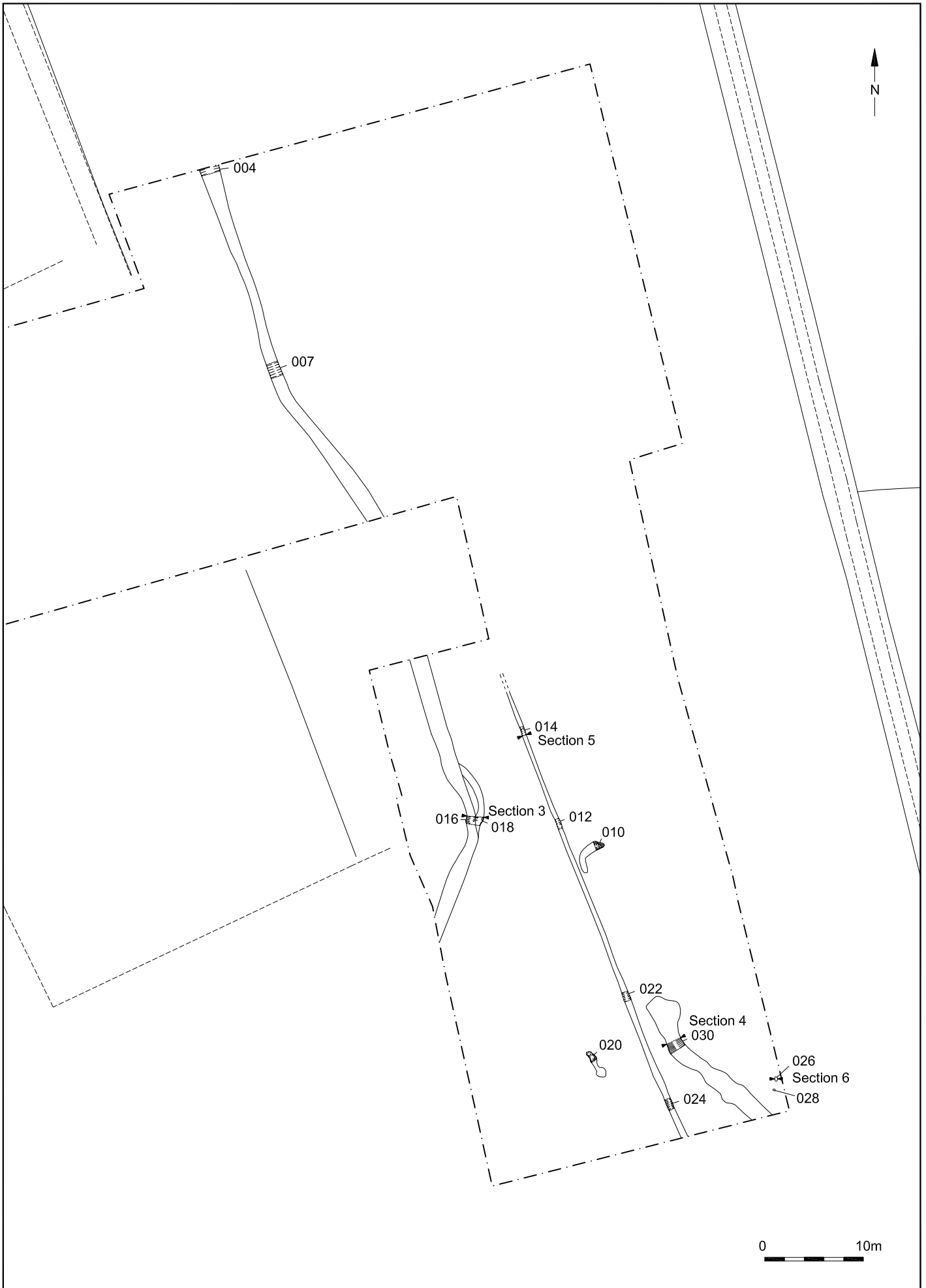
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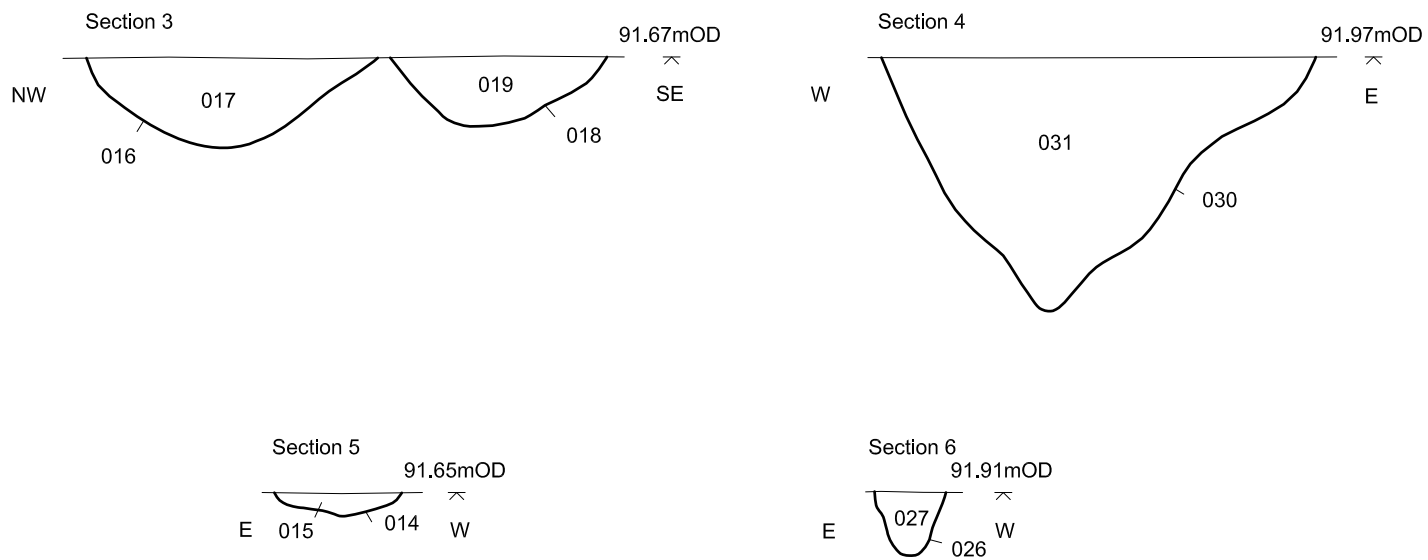
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Project Ref: 3743	July 2009	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2009059	Drawn by: LD/JR			



© Archaeology South-East		New Line Learning Academy, Maidstone	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3743	July 2009	Trenches 20 and 21: plans and sections	
Report Ref: 2009059	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 3743	July 2009	Plan of building footprint area		
Report Ref: 2009059	Drawn by: LD/JR			





© Archaeology South-East		New Line Learning Academy, Maidstone		Fig. 6
Project Ref: 3743	July 2009	Plan of septic tank and M.U.G.A. footprint area		
Report Ref: 2009059	Drawn by: LD/JR			

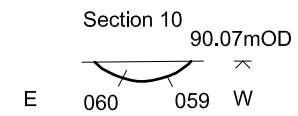
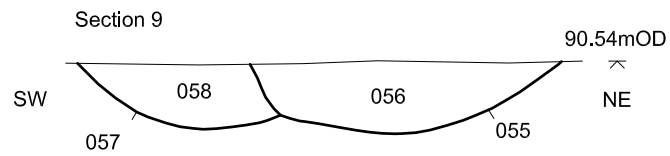
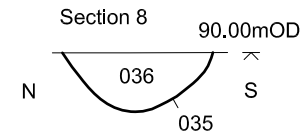




Fig. 8: Post ex photo of posthole 028



Fig. 9: South facing section of ditch 007



Fig. 10: South facing section of linear 022

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Project Ref: 3743	July 2009		
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Fig. 11: South-east facing section of 030



Fig. 12: South facing section of linear 039



Fig. 13: South-east facing section of pits 055 and 057

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