Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation at Steyning Grammar School, School Lane, Steyning, West Sussex

NGR 517847 111230

Adur District/Horsham Borough

ASE Project No. 4004

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With contributions by
Elke Raemen, Gemma Ayton,
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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) at Steyning Grammar School, West Sussex (NGR 517847 111230) in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The archaeological work was commissioned by RLF on behalf of their client West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and was carried out between 12th and 19th October 2009.

Five archaeological trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 35.5m in advance of a proposed redevelopment. Saxo-Norman/medieval features comprising ditches and pits of late 11th- to early/mid 13th- century date were revealed and investigated in four of the five excavated trenches. Evidence of modern levelling was evident in Trench 5. Unstratified finds were also recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits for analysis.

The natural geology, comprising light yellowish grey degraded chalk, was encountered at a maximum height of 15.01m AOD in the south-western end of Trench 5, falling away to 12.68m AOD in the north-eastern end of Trench 1. All of the features were sealed by an intact layer of accumulated subsoil. With the exception of a land drain uncovered in Trench 1 no modern intrusion or truncation of the subsoil was revealed within the trial-trenches.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by RLI on behalf of their client, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Steyning Grammar School, School Lane, Steyning, West Sussex (NGR 517847 111230), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase of work in which five trial trenches were investigated. The trenches measured a cumulative length of 35.5m with a width of 1.6m.

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern edge of the historic centre of Steyning, and is situated between the main High Street / Church Street to the west and south-west and the church to the north. The site is bounded by Fletcher's Croft and its garden to the south, various school buildings and grounds to the west and north and a car park to the east. The main historic buildings of Steyning Grammar School lie to the south-west, across School Lane. The site is currently occupied by the northern part of the garden belonging to Fletcher's Croft, a disused and back-filled swimming pool and the school dining hall. The garden and pool are separated from the dining hall by a flint wall. The house and its front yard are excluded from the proposed development. The site centre is at NGR TQ 5178 112.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (BGS 1996 - Sheet 318/333 for Brighton and Worthing), the natural geology of the site comprises Lower Chalk sloping down to a dry valley to the south and east descending from the scarp of the South Downs, and filled with Head. A series of geotechnical investigations have been carried out, but the results were unavailable at the time of writing.

1.2.3 The natural geology was revealed at its highest in Trench 5 at 15.01m AOD and at its lowest in Trench 1 at 12.68m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 This evaluation was undertaken under the terms of a planning condition. Due to the potential for archaeological deposits to survive on the site John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council advised the Local Planning Authority that a Stage 1 archaeological field evaluation be carried out in order to establish the presence, or absence, of archaeological deposits on the site. The results of the evaluation will then be used to assess the impact of the proposed development and put forward suitable mitigation measures for those impacts.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the evaluation was prepared by Archaeology South East (ASE 2009a). The document was compiled with reference to the *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC 2007), henceforth "the standard conditions" issued by WSCC. The WSI was duly approved by John Mills, Archaeologist, WSCC, prior to the

commencement of archaeological works. All fieldwork undertaken during the evaluation works was carried out in accordance with the WSI.

1.3.3 A Desk-based Assessment (DBA) of the site was carried out by ASE earlier this year (2009b)**.**

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The evaluation set out to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality/degree of survival of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened was studied, and attention given to features and deposits of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).

1.5 Scope of the Report

1.5.1 An interim report summarising the results of the evaluation was submitted to in October 2009.

1.5.2 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out at Steyning Grammar School, between 12th and 19st October 2009.

1.5.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist) with the assistance of Chris Russel and Dave Honess. The trenches were located by Rob Cole (Surveyor). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The preceding Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2009b) notes that the site is situated on a gentle slope towards the east, from Church Street down to the River Brad. The levels range from 15.59mAOD adjacent to the dining hall down to 13.02mAOD at the south-eastern corner of the Site (a fall of 2.5m across a distance of c.50m) (Fig. 2). Most of the visible surfaces have been terraced, with built-up terracing evident across much of the Site and very little clear indication of terracing into the natural slope (although the true nature of the landform was difficult to judge given the developed and landscaped nature of the surroundings). The terraced lawn lies to the north of the house. The backfilled former swimming pool (of unknown depth) sits on an artificial platform to the north of the house. The dining room is built into the gentle slope north-west of the house.

2.1.2 The Site and much of the DBA Study Area lies within the Steyning Conservation Area.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Summary

2.2.1 The Old English derivation of the name Steyning, *Staening,* is thought to mean a place 'characterised by stone', although it remains speculation as to what stones determined this topographical place name (Harris, 2004).

2.2.2 The archaeological background of the site has been discussed in detail in the DBA (ASE 2009b).

2.2.3 The potential of the site was detailed in the Desk Based Assessment in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains. These included listed buildings and archaeological sites/findspots, recorded in the WSCC Historic Environment Records (HER's) within 250m wide radius of the site.

2.2.4 The identified sites are tabulated in Appendix 1 and shown plotted on Figure 1. The following points (paragraphs 2.2.5-2.2.11) are pertinent to this evaluation and have been included for reference below with all due acknowledgement (ASE 2009b).

2.2.5 Steyning appears to have originated as an ecclesiastical settlement associated with the minster church of St Andrew, with the main settlement focus largely to the north of School Lane and the church. It subsequently acquired royal status, and King Aethelwulf of Wessex, father of Alfred the Great, was buried there in 858. By the later Saxon period, it had urban status. Three Anglo-Saxon sites are known within the Study Area. **3** refers to its status as a mint from the reign of Cnut onwards. **4** relates to a farmstead found during excavations in 1988-9. **5** comprises two features of late Anglo-Saxon date found at excavations in Coombe Court – a large rubbish pit and an elongated pit.

2.2.6 The main focus of the medieval town moved westwards to the dual axis formed by High Street and Church Street, with a standard medieval morphology of tenements along the street frontages with long narrow crofts running behind. The town's urban importance was reduced due to the rise of

New Shoreham (Harris 2004) and its river port had disappeared, due to silting of the river, by the 14th century.

2.2.7 Ten medieval sites are recorded within the Study Area. **6** relates to a holy well, **7** to St Andrew's Church, **8** is a general reference to the medieval town, **9** concerns a number of medieval pits found during excavations at Chantry Green House in 1988, **10** and **11** comprise a series of 12th century buildings and 13th century rubbish pits found during excavations at Coombe Court in 1992, **12** relates to pits found during excavations on the new library site. Further medieval features, including pits, post-holes and tenement boundaries, were found at the museum site in 1992 and 2004 (**13** and **14**). Finally, the Grammar School itself (**15**) is of medieval origin, being founded in a building originally used as the Brotherhood Hall of the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity.

2.2.8 Four of the Listed Buildings are of medieval date: **22**, the original Brotherhood Hall of the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity; **23**, the former Smugglers Arms Inn, now the Bursars office for the school; **23**, Nos 13 and 15 Holland Cottage; and **31**, St. Andrew's Church.

2.2.9 The town retained some status as a market town during the post-medieval period, with limited suburban expansion to the north-west and south-west. It was an important communications centre, with a number of coaching inns, and also had administrative significance with the quarter sessions held there in 1667-1743. The grammar school was founded in 1614. In the early 19th century a barracks was built in the town, and a number of breweries were established. The town largely remained confined to its historic core until the 20th century, which saw an increase in suburban growth.

2.2.10 Three post-medieval sites are recorded within the Study Area. **16** refers to a timber privy and flint wall associated with a brewery, **17** consists of a 17th century bread oven and **18** concerns a timber gateway of unknown date.

2.2.11 Nine Listed Buildings are of post-medieval date: **25**, Harry Gough's House; **26**, Nos 25 and 27 Amberley Cottages; **27**, Gable End; **28**, No. 33 Church Street; **29**, Nos 51 and 53 Church Street; **30**, Penfold Hall; **32**, Jarvis; **33**, Jarvis Hall; and **34**, Malthouse Cottage.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Work in Steyning

2.3.1 Two overlapping excavations carried out at St. Cuthman's Field, Church Street in 1962 (before extensions to Steyning Grammar School) and then in 1994-5 (prior to the construction of Steyning Public Library) revealed evidence of Late Anglo-Saxon and Saxo-Norman occupation including rubbish pits and, most notably, a sunken floored building with timber posts (Barton 1986: Gardiner and Greatorex 1997).

2.3.2 The 1967-8 excavations in Fletcher's Croft car park (Evans 1986) revealed boundary ditches of probable 11th to 12th century date. Another 11th to early 12th century ditch on a very similar alignment to those uncovered in the 1960's was uncovered during a small excavation in 1989 in advance of the construction of Steyning Museum (Reynolds 1992).

2.3.4 The Chantry Lane excavations of 1977 (off of Tanyard Lane) revealed Late

Anglo-Saxon rubbish pits while the 1994 excavation at the western end of Tanyard Lane uncovered pottery dating to after c.1100 within the lowest deposits (Harris 2004). In 1989 a small area was excavated in the rear garden of Chantry Green House and uncovered pits containing butchered bones and abundant pottery sherds dating from the late 10th to the middle of the 12th century (Bennell 2000).

2.3.5 The most significant excavations in Steyning were carried out in Market Field in 1988-9 prior to the construction of a housing estate. This work revealed two contemporary Late Anglo-Saxon farmstead enclosures and demonstrated that settlement ceased on the site by the late 11th or 12th century (Gardiner 1993).

2.3.6 In 1985, excavations at Testers, White Horse Square produced residual Anglo-Saxon pottery, and Saxo-Norman pottery in a ditch and pit of 12th or early 13th century date (Gardiner 1988).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methods Employed

3.1.1 The evaluation work comprised five archaeological trenches excavated under constant archaeological supervision using an 8 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned across the development area so as to ensure that an optimum sample of the area was uncovered (Figure 2). Trench 6 was excavated by hand since machine access was not possible in this area.

3.1.2 During an on-site meeting with the County Archaeological Officer it was decided that Trenches 2 and 3 would not be excavated. Due to the steep slope and the location of Trench 3 alongside the school playground it was decided that for safety reasons Trench 4 (a contingency trench) would be opened instead. Since an intact land drain was uncovered in Trench 1 it was also deemed unnecessary to open Trench 2 as the alignment of this service showed that it would continue into the other trench.

3.1.3 Prior to the commencement of excavation on site, the area surrounding each trench was secured with Heras fencing.

3.1.4 The potential locations of below-ground services were located with a CAT scanner and highlighted with yellow spray-paint.

3.1.5 The trenches were located approximately according to the proposed trench location plan and flexibility for the trench locations was approved in case of any onsite constraints. Due to the slight relocation/resizing of some trenches it was necessary to re-plan their new positions (Figure 2) using a Total Station fitted with a Global Positioning System (GPS).

3.1.6 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited stratigraphically during the backfilling. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts which were recovered and bagged for dating and analysis.

3.1.7 The trenches were located and levelled using a Total Station (Figure 2) and tied into the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area. Any uncovered archaeological features or deposits were planned and sections of each trench and every feature were drawn. A day-to-day digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) SLR photographic record of all trenches and archaeological features. Samples of archaeological deposits were collected for environmental processing. The trenches were fully recorded on trial trench record sheets and ASE context sheets. Each deposit uncovered during the archaeological trial-trenching was assigned its own unique context number system prefixed with the trench number.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (
Table 1).

Number of Trenches	5
Number of Contexts	45
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 plan sheet at 1:20 & 2 Section sheets @ 1:10
Bulk Samples	7 (11 Buckets)
Photographs	1 b&w film, 1 colour film & 55 digital colour photographs
Bulk finds	1 large box, 1 small box, 1 stewart tub
Registered finds	3
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction and summary of stratigraphic sequence

4.1.1 Four of the five trenches (Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7) excavated during the evaluation contained archaeological features. Trench 1 contained only overburden deposits, modern intrusion and natural geology.

4.1.2 Natural geology [003], comprising light yellowish grey weathered chalk, was encountered in all of the trenches at varying depths. This was overlain, in all of the trenches by a layer of lightly compacted mid grey clayey silt subsoil, [002], with white chalk flecked mottling, which sealed all of the revealed archaeological features. The subsoil contained including frequent oyster shell fragments, rare, angular and sub-rounded flints, occasional pottery sherds, variable quantities of ferrous objects (e.g. nails, bolts and belt buckles) and occasional animal bone fragments. All of the trenches were sealed with a loose, homogenous, dark grey silty topsoil [001] containing inclusions of rare small sub-rounded stones, pottery sherds of variable dates, clay pipe stem fragments, several ferrous objects and ceramic building materials (CBM).

4.2 Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1**,** measuring 6.5m northeast-southwest with a maximum depth of 0.55m and a maximum depth of 0.85m, was located adjacent to the museum and close to the Library in the northern part of the site. No archaeological remains were revealed.

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Heights m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25-0.35m	NE 13.53 SW 13.68
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.3-0.5m	NE 13.18 SW 13.43
1/003	Deposit	Natural	-	NE 12.68 SW 13.13

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 1

4.2.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural geology, [1/003], was encountered at 0.55m (13.13m AOD) below ground level in the south of the trench falling to 0.85m (12.68m AOD) in the north.

A land drain was crossed the trench on an oblique northeast-southwest alignment. This modern service cut the subsoil deposit [1/002]. The trench was sealed by topsoil [1/001] and turf.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Not excavated

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 Not excavated

4.5 Trench 4 (Figures 2 and 4)

4.5.1 Trench 4**,** measuring 8m east-west with a maximum depth of 0.61m, was located west of the school canteen/dining area. One linear feature of medieval date was revealed.

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Heights m AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.15-0.22m	E 15.74 W 15.83
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.38-0.61m	E 15.54 W 15.73
4/003	Deposit	Natural	-	E 14.93 W 15.3
4/004	Cut	N-S Ditch	-	14.93
4/005	Fill	Fill of 4/004	0.38m	14.93

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 4

4.5.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural geology [4/003] was encountered at 0.53m (15.3m AOD) below ground level in the west of the trench falling to 0.81m (14.93m AOD) in the east.

A north-south aligned ditch, [4/004], (0.7m wide and 0.38m deep) with a sharp break of slope, fairly steep sides and slight concave base was revealed crossing the trench and cutting [4/003]. This ditch was filled with light grey firm clayey silt, [4/005], with occasional angular flint inclusions and moderate chalk flecking. This feature contained potsherds which date from the late 11th to late 12th century, animal bone fragments and shell.

The feature was sealed by subsoil, [4/002], which was overlain by the topsoil, [4/001], and turf.

4.6 Trench 5 (Figures 2 and 5)

4.6.1 Trench 5**,** measuring 7m northeast-southwest with a maximum depth of 0.95m, was located south of the school canteen area. Several medieval intercutting pits and linear features were revealed.

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Heights m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.2-0.35m	NE 15.89 SW 15.91
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.4-0,5m	NE 15.44 SW 15.61
5/003	Deposit	Natural	-	NE 14.94 SW 15.01
5/004	Deposit	Made Ground	0.1m	NE 15.54 SW 15.71
5/005	Deposit	Collapsed modern wall footing/rubble	0.12m	-
5/006	Deposit	Collapsed modern wall footing/rubble	0.12m	-
5/007	Cut	NE/SW Linear – Slot 1	-	14.97
5/008	Fill	Fill of 5/007	0.32m	-
5/009	Cut	Linear gully/ beam slot	-	14.88

5/010	Fill	Fill of 5/009	0.13m	-
5/011	Cut	SE-NW Linear	-	14.92
5/012	Fill	Primary fill of 5/011	0.4m	-
5/013	Cut	Pit	-	14.88
5/014	Fill	Fill of 5/013	0.3m	-
5/015	Cut	Pit	-	14.87
5/016	Fill	Fill of 5/015	0.24m	-
5/017	Cut	NE/SW ditch – Slot 2	-	14.88
5/018	Fill	Fill of [5/017]	0.35m	-
5/019	Cut	NE/SW ditch – Slot 3	-	14.87
5/020	Fill	Fill of 5/019	-	-
5/021	Fill	Upper/secondary fill of 5/011	0.1m	-
5/022	Cut	Gully	-	14.9
5/023	Fill	Fill of 5/023	0.28m	-

Table 4: List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 5

4.6.3 Summary of Contexts

Natural geology [5/003] was encountered at 0.9m (15.01m AOD) below ground level in the southwest of the trench sloping gradually to 0.95m (14.94m AOD) in the northeast.

A northeast-southwest aligned ditch was investigated by three slots, ([5/007], [5/017] and [5/019]). The cut for this ditch was fairly shallow (c.0.45m deep) with slight concave sides and base. This feature was filled with mid, brownish grey, firm silty clay ([5/008], [5/018] and [5/020] with occasional angular flint inclusions and chalk flecking. Animal bones, oyster shell and mussel shell fragments, charcoal and 11th to mid/early 13th century pottery sherds were recovered from this fill. A gully, [5/022], with steep, almost vertical sides, also on northeast-southwest alignment was revealed in the base of this ditch. This gully contained a single mottled light yellowish greenish brown clay fill (possible cess inclusions) [5/023]. 11th to early 12th century pottery sherds were recovered.

A narrow, linear feature, [5/009], on a northeast-southwest alignment was present at the eastern side of the trench. The feature had concave sides and base and was filled with mid grey loose clayey silt, [5/010], with chalk flecks and fine shell fragments. An animal tooth was recovered from this fill. It is possible that this feature may represent a beam slot.

A southeast-northwest aligned ditch, [5/011], was revealed in the north-eastern end of the trench. The ditch contained two fills. The primary fill [5/012] comprised light to mid grey, moderately compacted silty clay with rare chalk flecks, early 12th to early 13th century pottery sherds and oyster shell fragments. The upper fill, [5/021], had a similar composition to the lower fill, but with more frequent inclusions, including angular flint stones and chalk flecks. This ditch cut ditch [5/007].

Further hand-excavated slots were used to investigate the relationships between two pits, [5/013] and [5/015], revealed in the south-western end of the trench and the northeast-southwest ditch [5/ 007 / 5/017 / 5/019].

Oval pit, [5/015], measured 0.95m north-south, 0.75m east-west and 0.24m deep. It was filled with a mid grey, loose clayey silt, [5/016], with occasional sub-angular stones, chalk flecks, oyster and mussel shell fragments, charcoal flecks, 11th to mid 12th century pottery sherds and animal bone. Hand-excavation revealed that the pit [5/015] cut ditch [5/017 / 5/019].

Circular pit, [5/013], had a diameter of 1m and a depth of 0.3m. This pit was filled with mid grey firm clayey silt [5/014] with occasional sub-rounded flint stones, frequent chalk flecking and later 11th to mid/late 12th century pottery sherds. The pit was cut by ditch [5/017 / 5/019]. Gully [5/022] was also present in the base of ditch [5/017].

The features in this trench were sealed by subsoil, [5/002], which was overlain by made ground, [5/004], which was overlain by topsoil, [5/001], and turf. The character of the overburden deposits found within this trench suggests that the grass verge had been built up in the recent past.

4.7 Trench 6 (Figures 2 and 6)

4.7.1 Trench 6, measuring 4m northeast-southwest with a maximum depth of 0.7m was located in the garden of Fletcher's Croft north of the house. Due to restricted access into the garden area this trench was excavated by hand. One linear feature and a pit of medieval date were revealed and investigated within this trench.

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Heights m AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.32-0.35m	NE 14.57 SW 13.99
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.25-0.35m	NE 14.22 SW 13.67
6/003	Deposit	Natural	-	NE 13.97 SW 13.36
6/004	Cut	Linear	-	13.87
6/005	Fill	Fill of 6/004	c.0.3m	13.87
6/006	Cut	Pit	-	13.15
6/007	Fill	Fill of 6/006	c.0.1m	13.15

Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 6

4.7.3 Summary of Contexts

Natural geology [6/003] was encountered at 0.6m (13.97m AOD) below ground level in the northeast of the trench sloping gradually down to 0.7m in the middle and then up again in the southwest to 0.63m (13.36m AOD).

A linear feature [6/004] on north-south alignment was revealed obliquely crossing the northwest corner of this trench. The ditch was 0.4m wide as exposed with a depth of 0.3m. It was filled with dark grey, firm clayey silt, [6/005], with rare angular flints, occasional chalk flecking and frequent roots. Pottery sherds, animal bone fragments, ferrous objects and oyster shells were recovered.

A shallow pit [6/006] (0.4m wide and 0.2m deep as exposed) with mid grey, firm clayey silt fill [6/007] was half-sectioned along the western baulk.

The features within this trench were sealed by subsoil [6/002] which was overlain by the topsoil, [6/001], and turf.

4.8 Trench 7 (Figures 2 and 7)

4.8.1 Trench 7, measuring 10m northeast-southwest with a maximum depth of 0.87m was located in the eastern part of the proposed development and was east of Trench 6 in the garden of Fletcher's Croft. This trench was machine excavated. Two medieval pits were revealed and investigated within this trench.

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Heights m AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.28-0.32m	NE 13.86 SW 13.30
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.12-0.55m	NE 13.54 SW 13.18
7/003	Deposit	Natural	-	NE 13.09 SW 12.9
7/004	Cut	Pit	-	12.98
7/005	Fill	Fill of 7/004	0.17m	12.98
7/006	Cut	Pit	-	12.76
7/007	Fill	Fill of 5/006	0.25m	12.76

Table 6: List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 7

4.6.3 Summary of Contexts

Natural geology [7/003] was encountered at 0.4m (12.9m AOD) below ground level in the southwest of the trench sloping moderately up to 0.87m (13.09m AOD) in the northeast.

An elongated ovoid pit [7/004], measuring 1.5m north-south, 0.6m east-west and 0.17m deep, was revealed in the south-western end of this trench. The feature had a moderately compacted, light grey brown silty clay fill [7/005] with occasional roots, sub-angular flints, chalk flecks and pottery sherds.

Pit [7/006], measuring approximately 0.9m in diameter with a depth of 0.25m, was revealed within the north-eastern end of the trench. This feature, had concave sides and base and a single mid greenish greyish brown, firm clayey silt fill [7/007] with rare sub-angular flints and frequent chalk flecks.

The features within this trench were sealed by subsoil, [7/002], which was overlain by the topsoil, [7/001] and turf.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Overview

5.1.2 A relatively large assemblage of finds, mainly consisting of pottery and bone, was recovered during the evaluation.

5.1.3 A summary of the finds recovered from the evaluation have been tabulated and can be found in Appendix I.

5.2 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The evaluation produced a relatively large assemblage (157 sherds weighing a little under 2kg) of post-Roman pottery from both sealed features and more mixed overburden layers. On the whole the material is in good condition with relatively little signs of extensive abrasion, suggesting that not a great deal of reworking has occurred. Sherd sizes vary from small (< 20mm across) to large (> 50mm across) though most are between 20 and 40mm across. Residuality in sealed features is often present in small quantities but is much more notable in the overlaying layers. Intrusiveness is also present, with some High Medieval and late post-medieval sherds being recovered from earlier Saxo-Norman deposits. The intrusive material is usually easily isolated but there are a few contexts where the low numbers of sherds make identifying what is residual or intrusive more problematic. Context groups are generally small, though this is not unexpected on an evaluation. Despite this a number of rim sherds are present, particularly for the Saxo-Norman period.

5.2.2 The earliest pottery from the site can be confidently placed in the later Saxon period, though all is residual in later deposits. The sherds all consist of low/medium fired body fragments tempered with moderate/abundant coarse multicoloured flint grits and occasionally sparse shell and/or chalk. The vast majority of these sherds are reduced and can best be placed between the late 8th/early 9th and early 11th centuries. Pottery of this period is notoriously difficult to date closely in Sussex and the absence of feature sherds in the current assemblage means dating has had to rely on fabric and manufacture alone. Definite Late Saxon sherds were recovered from [5/008] (1/4g), [5/016] (1/6g) and [5018] (3/21g).

5.2.3 The largest part of the assemblage (113 sherds) can be placed in the Saxo-Norman period (11th to 12th/early 13th century), though the vast majority of this appears to be of later 11^{th-} to 12^{th-} century date. This period is characterised by better fired, usually oxidised, vessels with more pronounced everted flaring rims. Although fabrics are still solely flint tempered to begin with, albeit often with sparse chalk/shell inclusions, the flint has a tendency to become slightly finer. However, the division between pre and post-Conquest pottery on fabric alone is perhaps not the most reliable indicator. Sand becomes more common as a tempering agent in many vessels from about the early/mid 12th century. By the early 13th century vessels are essentially sand tempered but with sparse flint often persisting. The current site has all three fabric groups represented (flint, flint and sand and sand with sparse flint) suggesting occupation continued through into the early part of the 13th century. A number of rims are present whose form agrees with this chronological range. They tend to be either simple out-turned early types (as in [5/020]) and sharply everted rims (as in [7/005]) which have their roots

firmly in the Late Saxon period through to more developed types such as beaded club rims ([5/008] and [6/002]) and more intricately moulded types more likely to be of the early 13th century. All of the pottery of this period consists of undecorated cooking pots, one with a sooted handle.

5.2.4 The assemblage contains a notably small assemblage of High Medieval pottery of the early/mid 13th to mid 14th centuries suggesting that much less refuse disposal was occurring at this time. Sand tempering dominates, being coarser (and lower fired) in the 13th century, becoming finer with developed flat topped rims in the 14th century. Glazed jugs also become more notable in the assemblages of this period. Context [5/002] contains three sherds of this period from two vessels: a sandy cooking pot and a fine sandy jug/pitcher, both with spots of glaze. The rims that are present are generally of 13th-century types (for example a triangular club rim in [5/012]). Glazed vessels are few but include jug sherds possibly from Surrey (context [6/002]) and the Saintonge region of south-west France (context [6/005]). This small assemblage need not go far beyond the middle of the 13th century and may represent the tail-end of activity noted from the previous period.

5.2.5 The assemblage includes a small quantity of Transitional pottery, dating to the 15th to mid 16th centuries, though all appears to be residual or intrusive in their contexts. The majority of these sherds comprise oxidised hard-fired painted wares. Examples were recovered from [1/002], [5/001] and [6/002] (x2). The latter context also contained a 15th- century Siegberg stoneware sherd as well as a later 16th- century Frechen piece.

5.2.6 With the exception of the Frechen sherd the earliest post-medieval pottery from the site is of the later 18th to early 19th centuries suggesting a period of possible abandonment, or at least the hiatus of refuse deposition. These few sherds consists of Nottingham stoneware (in [6/001]), local glazed red earthenware (context [5/001]) and pearlware (context [5/001]). The bulk of the late post-medieval assemblage consists of sherds of mid 19th- to early 20th-century date. This material was recovered mainly from the upper levels (contexts [6/001], [6/002] and [7/002]). A typical range of domestic wares is represented including unglazed earthenware flower pots, glazed red earthenware jars, refined white earthenwares (including a Dundee marmalade jar from [6/001]), transfer-printed tablewares and English porcelain.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 Ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from seven contexts. The majority of the material is of post-medieval or modern date with small amount of medieval material represented.

5.3.2 Possible Medieval CBM was recovered from three contexts. Peg tile from context [1/001] in an orange fabric with abundant coarse quartz and sparse calcareous inclusions of probable 15th to 17th century date is likely to be residual to the context. A fragment of peg tile from context [5/008] in a fine sandy fabric with sparse red iron rich silt is of 12th to 15th century date. A fragment of sooted and abraded fine orange brick with moderate coarse quartz from context [5/023] is of probable 15th to 17th century date.

5.3.3 Post-medieval CBM was represented by a variety of forms. Peg tile was

represented by two fabrics: T1, an orange fabric with moderate coarse to very coarse black iron rich inclusions and sparse coarse quartz with cream silt marbling of 17th to 19th century date and T3 a generic fabric number covering machine made tiles of 19th or 20th century date. Peg tile in fabric T1 was recovered from contexts [1/001] (3/294g), [5/001] (1/36g), [5/014] (1/4g), [6/001] (5/128g) and [6/002] (7/142g). Late post-medieval or modern peg tile (T3) was recovered from contexts [1/001] (2/104), [5/014] (1/6g), [6/001] (2/48g), [6/002] (6/124g). A single fragment of possible pantile was recovered from [6/002] also of 17th to 19th century date. Brick fragments were recovered from four contexts. Contexts [5/001], [6/001] and [6/002] contained fragments of red brick similar to Museum of London fabric MoL3033 of probable 17th to 19th century date. A modern machine made frogged brick fragment was recovered from context [1/001]. A possible modern mortar fragment was recovered from context [5/014]. An additional fragment of 20th century porcelain tile and a fragment of glazed tile were also identified from context [6/002].

5.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe (CTP) by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A total of 13 clay tobacco pipe fragments and one Bakelite mouthpiece were recovered during the evaluation. The earliest fragments are of mid 17th-century date ([5/001], [6/002]). A fragment of later 17th- to early 18th-century date was recovered from [5/018]. Pieces from [6/001] and [6/002] date to the mid 18th- to 19th-century. Finally, the mouthpiece ([6/001]) is of early 20th-century date.

5.5 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Ironwork was recovered from three different contexts. Context [6/001] contained a mix of general purpose nails, headless nails, floorboard nails and heavy duty (structural) nails. Included are some machine-made late post-medieval examples. Screws were represented as well. The context contained in addition a possible wall tie and small wedge. A similar mix, though lacking screws or dateable nails, was recovered from [6/002]. A general purpose nail was also recovered from [6/005].

5.5.2 Other metal includes a fragment of lead waste from [6/002] and a copper alloy sheet fragment from [6/001].

5.5.3 A few finds were assigned individual Registered Finds numbers (RF <00>), an overview of which can be found in Table **7**.

RF No	CONTEXT	OBJECT	MATERIAL	PERIOD	WT (g)	COMMENTS
1	6/005	BUCK	IRON	PMED	44	Horse harness - C18th-19th
2	6/002	UNK	IRON	PMED	80	drain cover - C19th-EC20th
3	5/018	strip	IRON	UNK	26	strip frag with two nails/rivets in situ

Table 7: Summary of the Registered Finds from the Evaluation

5.6 **The Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A small amount of three amorphous fragments in a sparse fine sand-tempered clay was recovered from [5/023], which also contains 11th- to early 12th- century pottery.

5.7 **The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.7.1 A small selection of stone was recovered from the site. A small amount was recovered from Saxo-Norman contexts: a piece of upper greensand from [5/020] and two pieces of hard chalk from [5/018]. None of these pieces are worked and the stone types are local. Context [6/001] contained four pieces of 19th- century Welsh slate, with another two pieces being recovered from [6/002]. The latter context also produced three pieces of coal and two of Horsham stone. Although the coal is almost certainly of 19th- century origin Horsham stone became common for roofing from the 15th to 16th centuries.

5.8 **The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.8.1 The evaluation recovered a piece of 19th- century clinker from [6/002] and a small fragment of iron smithing slag in medieval context [6/005].

5.9 **The Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton

5.9.1 The animal bone assemblage contains 239 fragments of bone which are in a fair condition with just a small percentage of the bone displaying signs of surface erosion. The bone was recovered through hand collection and derives from medieval contexts, the majority of which are dated to the 13th century.

5.9.2 Wherever possible bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using the in-house reference collection and Schmidt (1972). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size. The larger fragments are recorded as cattle-sized and the smaller fragments as sheep-sized. To assist with the MNE calculations and in an attempt to avoid the distortion caused by differing fragmentation rates, the elements have been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present. The MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) will be calculated from the most common element according to the MNE, by taking sides into consideration. The state of fusion has been noted and tooth wear has been recorded using Grant (1982). Each fragment has then been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology. The assemblage did not provide any useful measurements.

5.9.3 The NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) count is shown in Table 8. The species identified are cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), horse (*Equidae*) and domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus*). One fragment of fish vertebra was recovered from context [5/008].

SPECIES	NISP
CATTLE	55
SHEEP/GOAT	80
PIG	7
HORSE	2
CHICKEN	50
BIRD	2
FISH	1
UNIDENTIFIABLE	41
TOTAL	**238**

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Table 8: NISP Counts

5.9.4 The assemblage has potential for further statistical analysis including the examination of species representation, Minimum Number of Elements (MNE), Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) and mortality profiles. This will add to our understanding of the animal husbandry regime adopted in the area from the 12th to the 14th Century.

5.10 The Shell by Elke Raemen

5.10.1 A total of 89 shell fragments (wt 1786g) were recovered from 15 different contexts, including the top- and subsoil in various trenches. The majority of these (75 pieces) consist of oyster, which was present in all contexts containing shell. Upper and lower valves are fairly evenly represented, though a large number of them is immature. Some show traces of parasitic activity (i.e. [5/016], [6/002], [7/002]) with a few retaining signs of overcrowding (i.e. [5/008], [5/016]). In addition, two landsnails were recovered from [4/005], [5/016] and [5/018] contained mussel valves and a possible carpet shell fragment was recovered from [5/023]. Context [6/002] contained six scallop fragments.

5.11 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

5.11.1 The only piece of worked flint consists of a waste flake from [1/001].

5.11.2 Glass was only recovered from [6/001] and [6/002] and consists of late 19th- to 20th-century material, including wine and beer bottle fragments, mineral water bottle fragments, a milk bottle fragment and window glass.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hegarat & Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken during archaeological work at Steyning Grammar School to establish evidence for environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca. Samples were taken from the fills of linear features [4/004], [5/017] and [6/004] and pits [5/015], [6/006], [7/004] and [7/006].

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 The samples were processed in their entirety 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 (Appendix II, Table 10). Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and an overview of their contents recorded (Appendix II, Table 12). Preliminary identifications have been provided for macrobotanical remains present through reference to modern comparative material and reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 On the whole these samples produced small flots that are dominated by uncharred vegetation including seeds such as *Sambucus nigra* sp. (elder), *Rubus* sp. (bramble), *Chenopodium* sp. (fat hen) and taxa from the Amaranthaceae (Pigweed) family. These uncharred components are relatively modern, intrusive elements and their presence provides evidence for some post-depositional disturbances. Archaeological remains present in these samples are detailed below:

6.3.2 *Sample <1>, context (6/005) - spot dated C12th - C13th:*

Wood charcoal fragments and charred macrobotanical remains account for approximately 60% of this small flot (25ml). The wood charcoal assemblage contains some large fragments over 4mm although these are not particularly numerous. Charred macroplants are moderately preserved and the assemblage includes some indeterminate crop grains (Cerealia), *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and indeterminate Legumes (beans/peas) as well as one weed seed from the Amaranthaceae (Pigweed) family. The sample also contains a small quantity of land snail shells and occasional fragments of industrial debris are present.

6.3.3 *Sample <2>, context (6/007) – spot dated C12th - early13th:*

This small flot (45ml) contains wood charcoal fragments the majority of which are <4mm in size and some charred macrobotanical remains. Charred macroplants remains that have been identified include cereal crop grains (cerealia), *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Triticum aestivum s.l.* (bread wheat) and cf. *Pisum sativum* sp. (pea); and two weed seeds from the Caryophyllaceae (Pink) family all of which are moderately preserved. A very small quantity of land snail shells and some occasional fragments of industrial debris are also

present.

6.3.4 *Sample <3>, context (7/007) – spot dated C12th - early 13th:*

The flot, measuring 50ml, contains some wood charcoal fragments (many <4mm) and charred macrobotanical remains. Amongst the charred macroplants are some crop grains (cerealia, *Triticum* sp. (wheat)) and weed seeds such as *Polygonum/Rumex* sp. (knotweeds/docks). They are generally moderately well preserved. The macro fossils also include two partly mineralised cf. *Ficus* carica (fig) seeds. In addition the flot contains a very small quantity of land snail shells, one small mammal bone and some fragments of industrial debris (possibly coke/coal fragments).

6.3.5 *Sample <4>, context (7/005) – spot dated later C11th – mid 12th:*

This large flot (200ml) contains wood charcoal fragments, many of which are <4mm in size and some charred macrobotanical remains. The charred macroplants include crop grains (cerealia, *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and some indeterminate Legumes (beans/pea) as well as some weed seeds including one *Polygonum/Rumex* sp (knotweeds/docks) and one seed from the Asteraceae (Daisy) family. A very small quantity of land snail shells and some small fragments of industrial debris are also present.

6.3.6 *Sample <5>, context (5/016) – spot dated C11th – mid 12th:*

This sample produced a small flot, 45ml, containing wood charcoal fragments and macrobotanical remains. The wood charcoal assemblage includes some larger fragments greater than 4mm. Crop grains of *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Triticum aestivum s.l.* (bread wheat) and *Hordeum* sp. (barley) were recorded and this assemblage contains some well preserved specimens. A single fragment of a mineralised macrofossil was also noted however as no distinguishing anatomical features were evident it is considered indeterminate. The assemblage also contains a very small quantity of land snail shells and some industrial waste fragments.

6.3.7 *Sample <6>, context (5/018) – spot dated C12th – early 13th (Low residual C9th – mid 11th):*

The flot (60ml) contains some wood charcoal fragments (including some large fragments over 4mm) and charred macrobotanical remains. Amongst the charred macroplants are some crop grains of *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and some indeterminate Legumes (beans/peas) as well as some weed seeds including *Avena/Bromus* sp. (oat/bromes) and *Polygonum/Rumex* sp. (knotweeds/docks). A small amount of the crop grains are well preserved although preservation is very variable. Very small quantities of land snail shells are also present.

6.3.8 *Sample <7>, context (4/005) – spot dated later C11th – later 12th:*

This sample produced a large flot (350ml) dominated by uncharred vegetation (83%) including modern roots, twigs and uncharred seeds. The flot also contains some wood charcoal fragments the majority of which are <4mm in size and some charred macrobotanical remains. The charred macroplants include crop grains (cerealia, *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and

possibly one indeterminate Legume (bean/pea)) as well as some weed seeds including some *Avena/Bromus* sp. (oat/bromes). One additional cf. Rosaceae (Rose) family seed that is mineralised was also recorded. The assemblage also produced a moderate quantity of land snail shells representing 12% of the flot

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of wood charcoal fragments, charred macrobotanical remains and a small quantity of mineralised remains. As the wood charcoal assemblage is too small to provide detailed information regarding the past woody vegetation or fuel use no further analysis has been undertaken.

6.4.2 The crop grain assemblage is dominated by poorly preserved indeterminate cereal grains although several wheat taxa (including both glume and free threshing breadwheat) and barley are evident. Due to the absence of chaff no further identifications have been provided for the glume wheats however their presence suggests continued cultivation of glume wheat alongside bread wheat as late as the medieval period. Samples from an excavation on a nearby late Anglo-Saxon site (at the Market Field, Steyning) contained similar assemblages in which both bread type wheat grains (*Triticum* cf. *compactum* and *T.* cf. *aestivum*) and glume wheats were also recorded (Hinton 1993). Although many of the cereal grains in this assemblage were also poorly preserved, some rachis and glume bases helped in the identification of a wider range of cereals including both spelt and emmer wheat.

6.4.3 Amongst the crop assemblage, the small amount of non cereal crops, only seven possible specimens in all, are generally poorly preserved and unidentifiable with the exception of one possible pea. The potential of this assemblage is limited due to the scarcity and poor preservation of remains. A more diverse range of cultivated plants, or plants that might have been cultivated, were identified in the Market Field site assemblage. These include *Linum usitassimum* sp. (flax), *Vicia sativa* (common vetch), *Vicia faba* (broad bean or horse bean), *Papaver somnifera* (opium poppy) and *Brassica*/*Sinapsis* sp. (cabbage/mustard) (Hinton 1993).

6.4.4 Two possible fig seeds and a seed from the Rosaceae family that are mineralised provide the only evidence for non crop food remains at the site. Preservation of mineralised remains often occurs where faecal matter is found and their occurrence here is therefore interesting because they may provide evidence for cess within these features. The remaining weed assemblage includes seeds such as *Polygonum/Rumex* sp (knotweeds/docks) and *Avena/Bromus* sp. (oat/bromes) that may be found on arable land. Seeds from the Amaranthaceae (Pigweed), Asteraceae (Daisy) and Caryophyllaceae (Pink) families were also present and although many taxa within these families also grow as crop weeds, they could also provide evidence for natural vegetation in the site vicinity (depending on the species present). Unfortunately poor preservation has hindered the identification of these.

6.4.5 The potential of the current assemblage from the grammar school site is limited but based on other excavations within the town further work in this area is likely to reveal further and perhaps more abundant remains.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Archaeological features (ditches and pits) were revealed in Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7. Trench 5 contained a concentration of intercutting ditch and pit features of late 11th- to early/mid 13th- century date and also some residual later Saxon material which dates to the late 8th/early 9th and early 11th centuries. In addition, although less intensive, Trenches 4, 6 and 7 also contained datable medieval features.

7.2 Saxo-Norman/medieval remains of local importance have been shown to be well preserved at the site and are sealed below accumulated subsoil measuring between 0.45-0.95m in thickness. The ditches uncovered during the evaluation seem to be on a similar alignment to those uncovered in the adjacent 1967-8 excavations and may help to further illustrate the medieval boundary systems. It is possible that the 12th century east-west ditch revealed within the 1967-8 excavations may in fact be a continuation of the ditch crossing Trench 5 on a very similar alignment [5/011].

7.3 The archaeological evidence uncovered during the evaluation is in keeping with what is known more generally in the Steyning area during the medieval period. The activity revealed in Trenches 4 to 7 may be indicative of medieval domestic activity associated with the tenements of School Lane. The majority of pottery sherds in the Saxo-Norman date range were undecorated cooking pots which suggest domestic activity within the vicinity.

7.4 The evaluation at the Steyning Grammar School site has proved informative and has provided valuable information pertaining to the nature and date of human activity on the site. This information may also prove to be useful in our understanding of activity/occupation within the wider Steyning area. The evaluation has provided evidence of activity on the site from the Saxo-Norman period through to the High Medieval period with a possible period of abandonment at the site or at least a hiatus of rubbish disposal until the later 18th to early 19th centuries. The Saxo-Norman date range of the features (mostly 11th to 12th century) uncovered on the site demonstrates the concentration of occupancy within that period.

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SMR Summary Form

Site Code	GSS 09					
Identification Name and Address	Steyning Grammar School, Steyning					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 517847 111230					
Geology	Lower Chalk and Head					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4004					
Type of Fieldwork	**Eval.**	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	**Eval. 12/10/09-19/10/09**	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	RLF on behalf of West Sussex County Council					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS Residual finds	**MED Pits/ditches**	**PM Unstrat. finds**	**Modern**		

100 Word Summary.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) at Steyning Grammar School, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 178 112) in advance of proposed development works. The archaeological work was commissioned by RLF on behalf of their client West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and was carried out between 12th and 19th October 2009.

Five archaeological trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 35.5m in advance of a proposed redevelopment. Saxo-Norman/medieval features comprising ditches and pits of late 11th- to early/mid 13th- century date were revealed and investigated in four of the five excavated trenches. Evidence of modern levelling was evident in Trench 5. Unstratified finds were also recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits for analysis.

The natural geology, comprising light yellowish grey degraded chalk, was encountered at a maximum height of 15.01m AOD in the south-western end of Trench 5, falling away to 12.68m AOD in the north-eastern end of Trench 1. All of the features were sealed by an intact layer of accumulated subsoil. With the exception of a land drain uncovered in Trench 1 no modern intrusion or truncation of the subsoil was revealed within the trial-trenches.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-68796

Project details

Project name	Steyning Grammar School, School Lane, Steyning, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East (ASE) at Steyning Grammar School, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 178 112) in advance of proposed development works. The archaeological work was commissioned by RLF on behalf of their client West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and was carried out between 12th and 19th October 2009. Five archaeological trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 35.5m in advance of a proposed redevelopment. Saxo-Norman/medieval features comprising ditches and pits of late 11th- to early/mid 13th- century date were revealed and investigated in four of the five excavated trenches. Evidence of modern levelling was evident in Trench 5. Unstratified finds were also recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits for analysis. The natural geology, comprising light yellowish grey degraded chalk, was encountered at a maximum height of 15.01m AOD in the south-western end of Trench 5, falling away to 12.68m AOD in the north-eastern end of Trench 1. All of the features were sealed by an intact layer of accumulated subsoil. With the exception of a land drain uncovered in Trench 1 no modern intrusion or truncation of the subsoil was revealed within the trial-trenches.
Project dates	Start: 12-10-2009 End: 19-10-2009
Any associated project reference codes	GSS 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM STEYNING Steyning Grammar School, School Lane
Postcode	BN44 3
Site coordinates	TQ 517847 111230 50.8790591065 0.157820329336 50 52 44 N 000 09 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.68m Max: 15.01m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	RLF/West Sussex County Council

Entered by	Kathryn Grant (kathryn.grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	2 December 2009

APPENDIX I:

Table 9: Quantification of the Finds from the Evaluation

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Cu.Al	Wt (g)	Pb	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Concrete/ Mortar	Wt (g)	Fired. Clay	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Bakelite	Wt (g)
1/001			8	614					1	4																						
1/002	2	38			4	44	5	280																								
4/005	6	36			7	92	5	24																								
5/001	3	94	3	246																							1	6				
5/002	5	120			7	248	13	466																								
5/008	27	270	1	92	54	530	12	154					3	4	1	16																
5/010					3	4																										
5/012	5	56			5	68	6	134																								
5/014	16	160	2	10	4	12	1	4															1	24								
5/016	8	78			21	52	4	38							1	6																
5/018	16	194			38	880	11	208			3	182	2	66													1	2				
5/020	1	92	2	54									1	10																		
5/023	2	136	1	74			2	18																	3	4						
6/001	25	124	8	192	3	22	1	<2					4	34	28	356	1	<2									2	6	14	104	1	6
6/002	34	318	18	364	117	332	20	266					7	94	21	258			1	50	1	4	1	18			9	20	7	102		
6/002 Base of Layer	6	62			2	12									1	6																
6/005	9	30			16	60	4	20							1	4					1	6										
6/007	3	12					1	<2																								
7/002	4	30			6	54	3	170																								
7/005	4	56																														

7/007	2	4			2	8	1	4																							
Total	178	1910	43	1646	289	2418	89	1786	1	4	3	182	17	208	53	646	1	0	1	50	2	10	2	42	3	4	13	34	21	206	1	6

APPENDIX II

Table 10: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 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)	Charred Botanical Remains	Bone and Teeth	Cremated/Burnt?	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	6/005	linear feature	10	10	*	<2	*	<2		**	N	12	*	<2			*	12	
2	6/007	pit	10	10	*	2	**	<2		*	N	4							Pot */<2g
3	7/007	pit	10	10	*	<2	**	<2		*	N	6					*	4	W Flint */18g, Pot */4g, Glass */<2g
4	7/005	pit	20	20	*	<2	**	4	* cerealia & legumes	*	N	4							Pot */10g
5	5/016	pit	20	20	*	2	**	2		**	N	42	**	2	*	6			Burnt Material */3g, Pot */12g, Slag */6g
6	5/018	linear feature	20	20	*	<2	**	2	* cerealia & legumes	**	N	50	*	2	*	20			Pot */24g
7	4/005	linear feature	20	20			*	<2	* cerealia	*	N	18					**	32	Pot */18g

Table 11: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Mineralised remains	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	Land snail shell quantity and %	Ind debris hammerscale
1	6/005	6	25	36	2	*	**	***	***	*	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., Fabaceae indet.	++	*	Amaranthaceae indet.	++					* 2	*
2	6/007	12	45	33	10	*	*	**	***	**	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., *T. aestivum s.l.,* Fabaceae cf. *Pisum sativum* sp.	+/ ++	*	Caryophyllaceae indet.	+/ ++					* 2	*
3	7/007	18	50	37	20	**	*	**	***	*	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp.	+/ ++	*	*Polygonum/ Rumex* sp.	++	*	cf. *Ficus* sp.	+/ ++	*	* 3	*
4	7/005	32	200	60	20	**	*	**	***	**	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., Fabaceae indet.	+/ ++	**	Asteraceae indet., *Polygonum/ Rumex* sp.	+/ ++					** 3	*
5	5/016	16	45	51	4	*	**	***	***	**	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., *T. aestivum s.l.*, *Hordeum* sp.	+/ +++	*		++	*	frag indet.	+		** 3	*

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Mineralised remains	Identifications	Preservation	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	Land snail shell quantity and %	Ind debris hammerscale
6	5/018	22	60	55	4	*	**	***	***	**	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., Fabaceae indet.	+/ +++	*	*Avena/Bromus* sp., *Polygonum/ Rumex* sp.	+/ ++	*	indet.			** 3	
7	4/005	66	350	78	5	*	*	**	***	**	Cerealia, *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., Fabaceae indet.	+	*	*Avena/Bromus* sp.	++	*	cf. Rosaceae	++		*** 12	

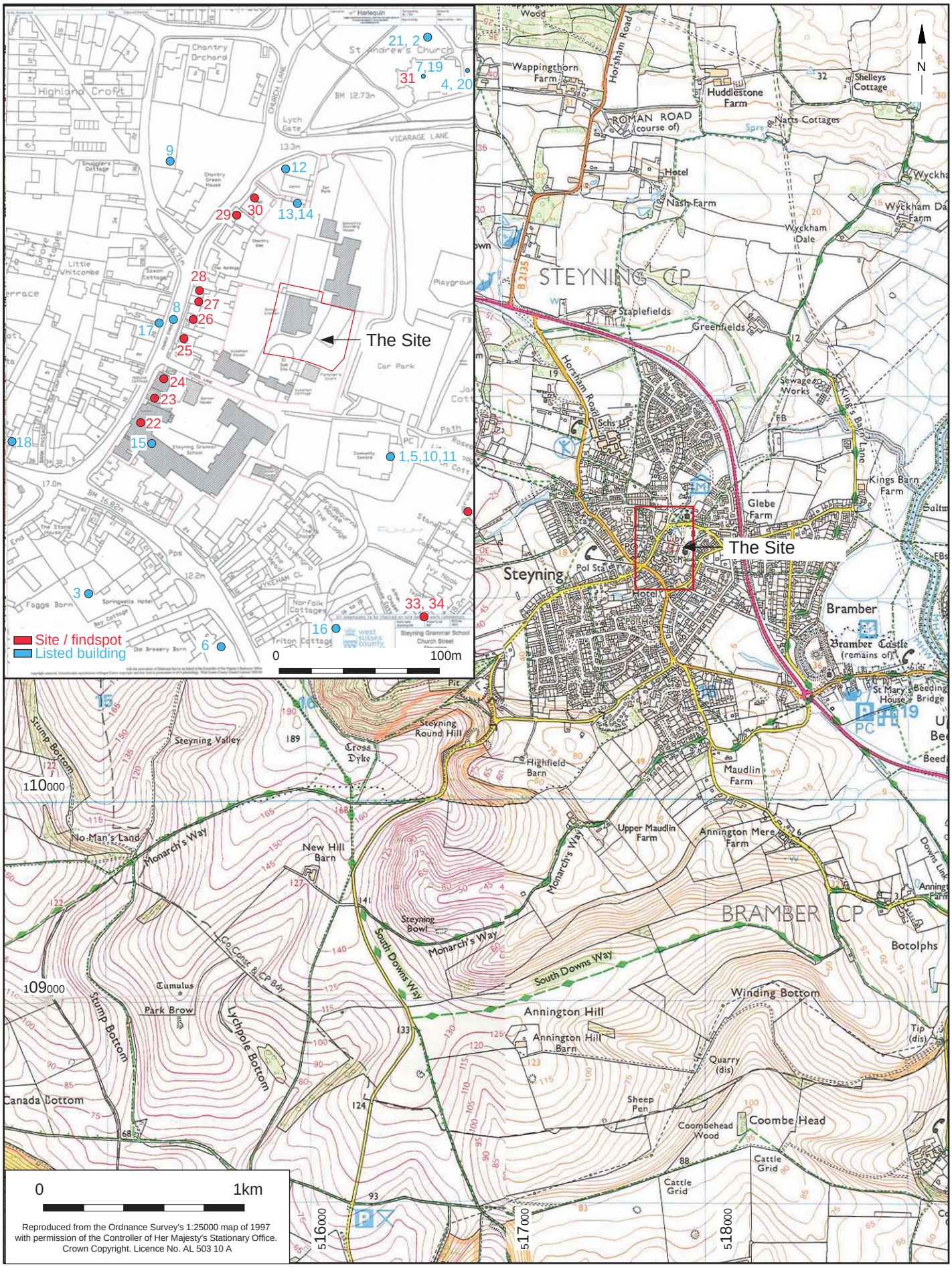
APPENDIX III –

Table 12: Summary Table of Archaeological Sites (refer to Fig. 1)
(Listed Building numbers are in *italics*)

Site No.	HER/*LBS* No.	NGR (TQ)	Description	Period
1	5673	1787 1118	Prehistoric Flintwork – Coombe Court: Several flint flakes and pottery found during excavations at Coombe Court, 1992.	Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age
2	3502	1790 1143	Roman Occupation – Steyning Churchyard: Roman pottery, brick and oyster shells found in the churchyard. *Archaeologically Sensitive Area*	Romano-British
3	3539	177 111	Saxon Mint: Coins dating from the reigns of Cnut (1017-35) and Edward the Confessor (1042-66) indicate the presence of a mint.	Anglo-Saxon
4	5273	178 114	Anglo-Saxon Farmstead – Market Field: Building evidence, including ditches, wells, cess-pits and rubbish pits found during excavations in 1988-89.	Anglo-Saxon
5	5674	1787 1118	Early Medieval Buildings – Coombe Court: Evidence for three buildings and associated pits dating to 950-1150 found during excavations 1992.	Anglo-Saxon - Medieval
6	3507	1778 1106	Well: Holy well, formerly associated with a vanished chapel, situated on the south side of the High Street.	Medieval
7	4334	1791 1140	St. Andrew's Church and Saxon College: 12th – 18th century church on the site of an earlier building. *Archaeologically Sensitive Area*	Medieval
8	4335	1775 1125	Steyning Town: Historic town, dating from at least the early 11th century. *Archaeologically Sensitive Area*	Anglo-Saxon, Medieval & Post-Medieval
9	5271	1775 1135	Medieval Pits – Chantry Green House: Pits found during construction of garden wall in 1988.	Medieval
10	5275	1788 1117	Medieval Buildings – Coombe Court: 12th century building platforms and 13th century pits found during excavations in 1992.	Medieval
11	5675	1787 1118	Medieval Features – Coombe Court: Two 13th century rubbish pits and a 14th-15th century boundary ditch found during excavations in 1992.	Medieval
12	5700	1783 1134	Medieval Occupation – Steyning Library: Excavations in 1994 found pits and structures dating from 1150-1720.	Medieval - Post-Medieval
13	7199	17822 11314	Medieval Features – Steyning Museum: Archaeological evaluation in 2004 found pits and ditches of 12th-14th century date.	Medieval
14	7850	1782 1133	Excavations at Steyning New Museum: Excavations in 1992 found a ditch and two shallow pits, with material dating from 10th-	Anglo-Saxon - Medieval

			15th centuries.	
15	3531	1773 1119	Steyning Grammar School: 15th century building originating as the Brotherhood Hall of the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity, which ceased to exist after the Dissolution. The school was founded in 1614.	Medieval - Post-Medieval
16	5706	180 110	Privy – Jarvis Lane: Probable timber privy and 18th-19th century flint wall found on old brewery site in 1993.	Undated
17	7483	1774 1125	The Old Bakery – 17th c. oven.	Post-Medieval
18	7932	17646 11186	Wood's, High Street: Possible medieval gateway truss within older building.	Medieval - Post-Medieval
19	5269	179 114	Key – St. Andrews Church: Badly corroded iron key found near north doorway of church.	Undated
20	5270	1795 1139	Burials – Steyning Church: 6 burials found prior to 1938.	Undated
21	5387	1790 1143	Floor/Oven Tiles – St. Andrews Church: 19 pieces of tile found during gravedigging.	Undated
22	*298667*	17737 11192	9 Church Street – 15th century timber-framed with 17th and 19th century brick porch. *Listed Building Grade I*	Medieval - Post-Medieval
23	*298668*	17744 11212	Smugglers Arms Inn (11 Church Street – now the Bursars office) – medieval timber-framed. *Listed Building Grade II*	Medieval - Post-Medieval
24	*298669*	17750 11219	Holland Cottage (13 & 15 Church Street) – Medieval timber-framed. *Listed Building Grade II*	Medieval - Post-Medieval
25	*298670*	17766 11249	Clematis Cottage, Court Cottage & Harry Gough's House (19-23 Church Street) – 17th century timber-framed. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
26	*298671*	17767 11254	Amberley Cottages (25 & 27 Church Street) – 18th century brick cottages. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
27	*298673*	17771 11268	Gable End (31 Church Street) – 17th century refronted flint and tile house. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
28	*298674*	17772 11273	33 Church Street – early 19th century brick house. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
29	*298675*	17792 11317	51 & 53 Church Street – early 19th century brick houses. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
30	*298676*	17805 11325	Penfold Hall (55 Church Street) – former National School, built 1840. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
31	*298687*	17906 11400	St Andrews Church. *Listed Building Grade I*	Medieval
32	*298765*	17937 11141	Jarvis – early 16th century timber-framed with brick ground floor.	Post-Medieval

			Listed Building Grade II	
33	*298766*	17906 11079	Jarvis Hall – early 19th century Plymouth Brethren chapel. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval
34	*298767*	17891 11067	Malthouse Cottage – early 19th century brick cottages. *Listed Building Grade II*	Post-Medieval



© **Archaeology South-East**		Steyning Grammar School, School Lane, Steyning	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4004	Jan 2010	Site location plan showing HER locations	
Report Ref: 2009027	Drawn by: HLF		

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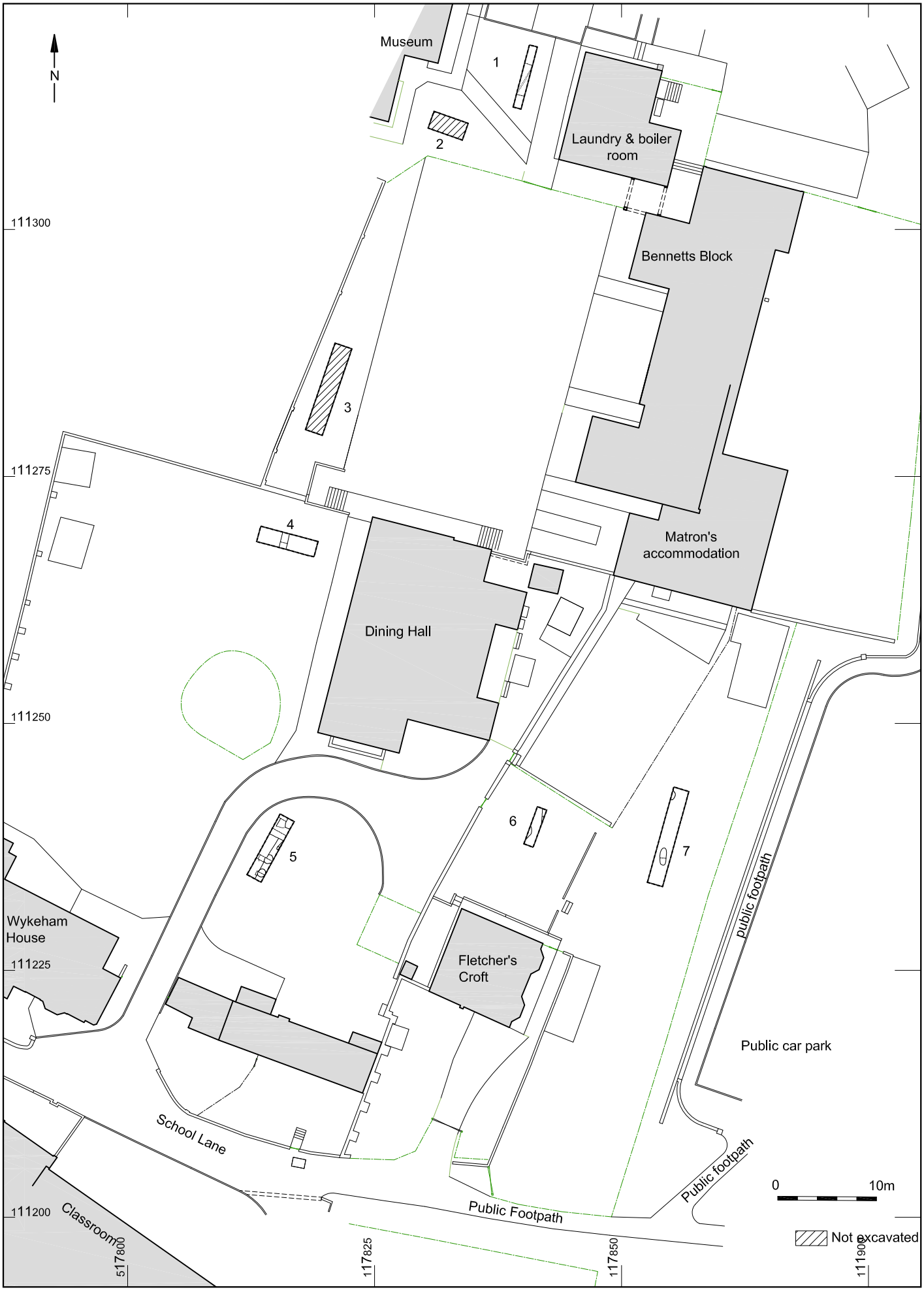

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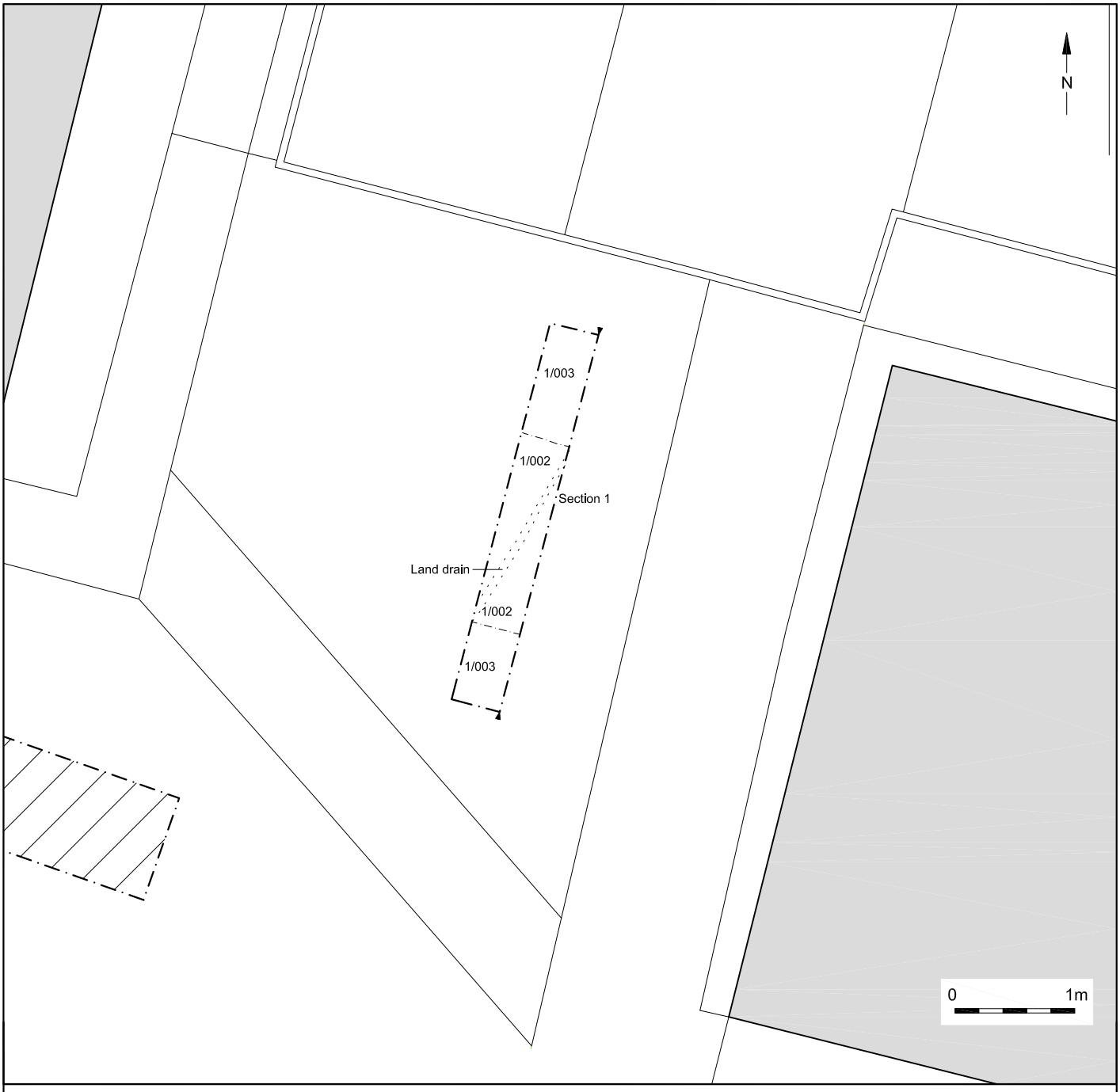
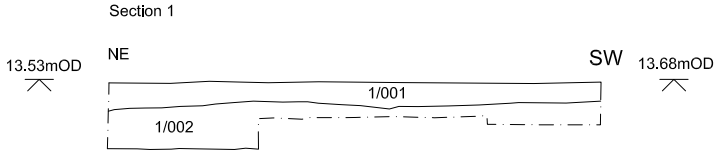
Report Ref: 2009163	Drawn by: JLR		





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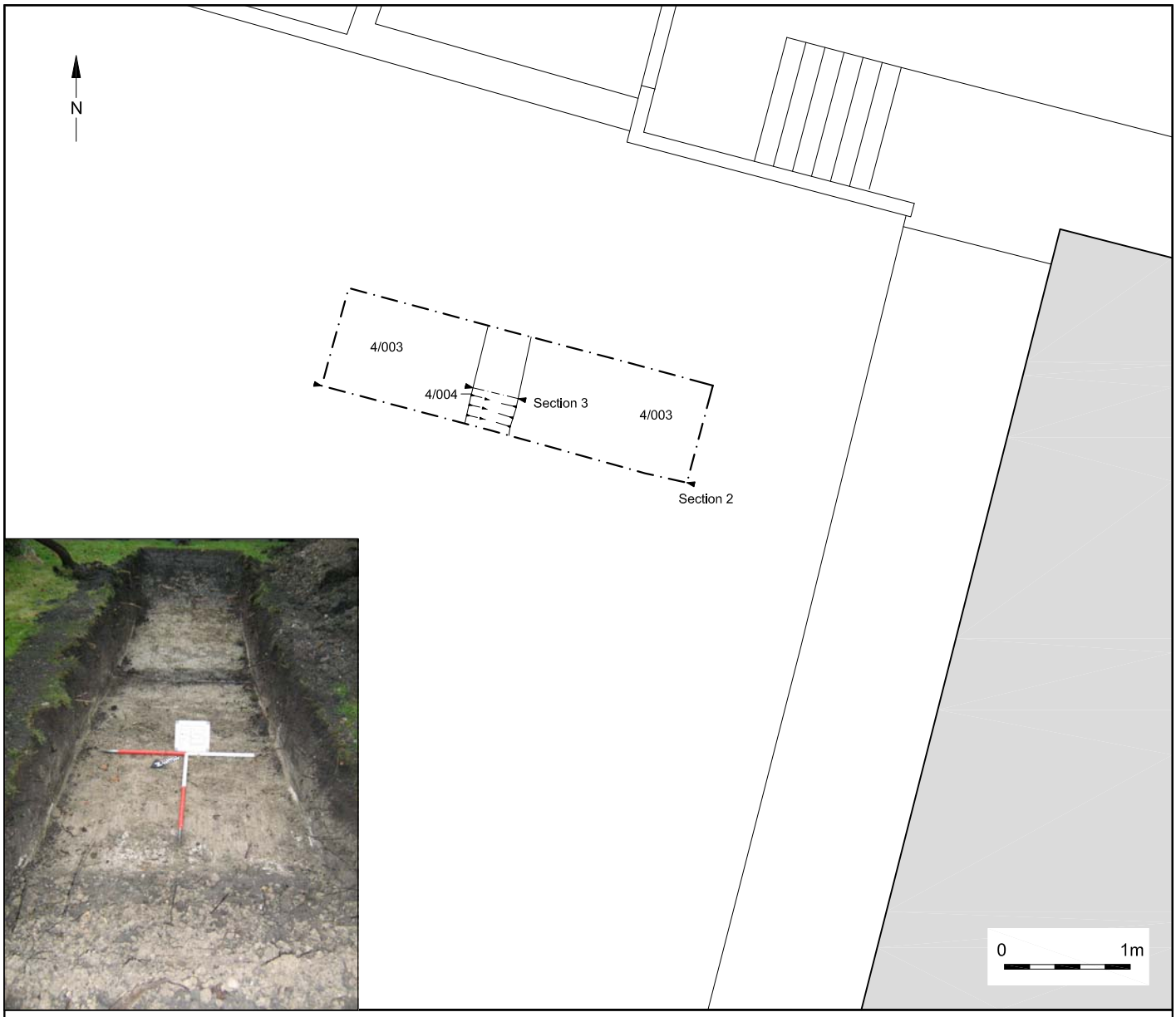
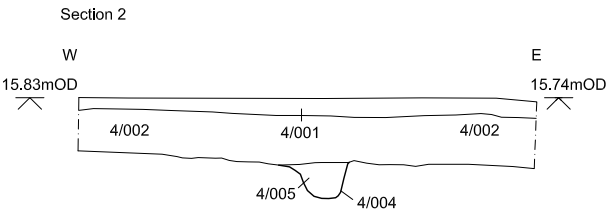
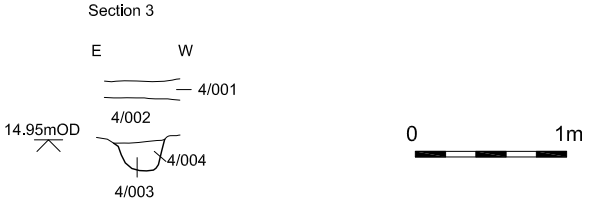
Report Ref: 2009163	Drawn by: HLF		







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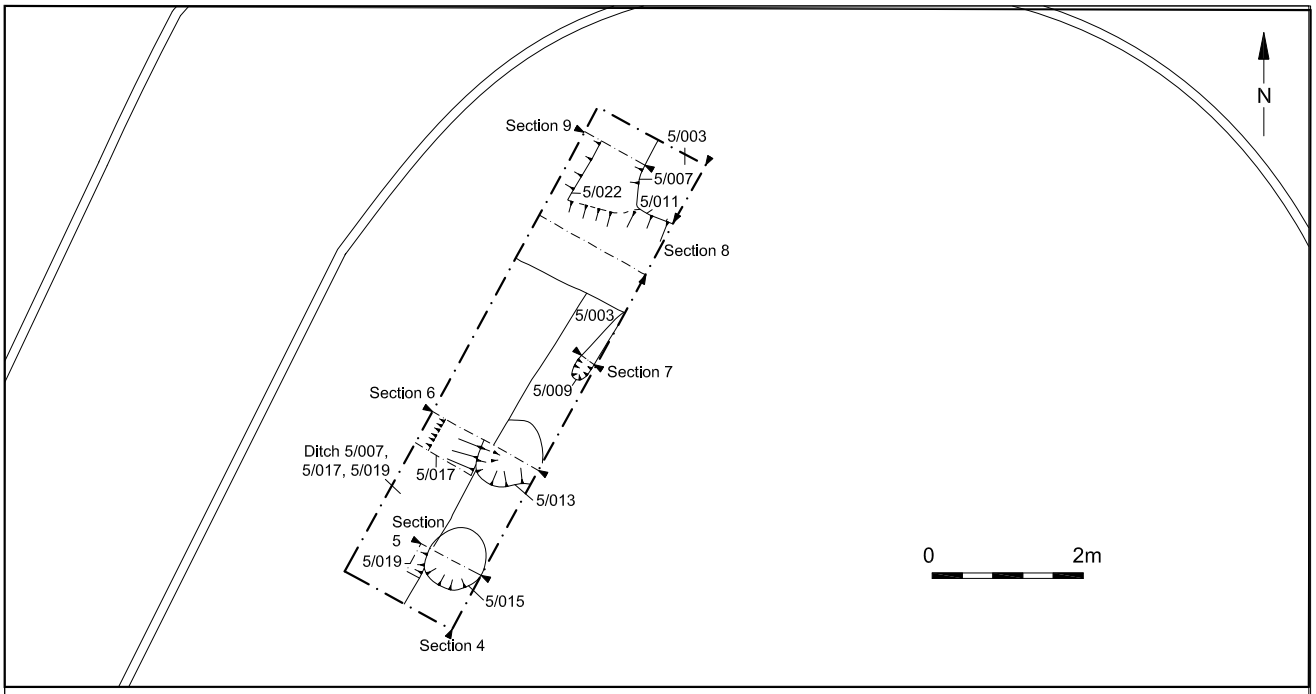

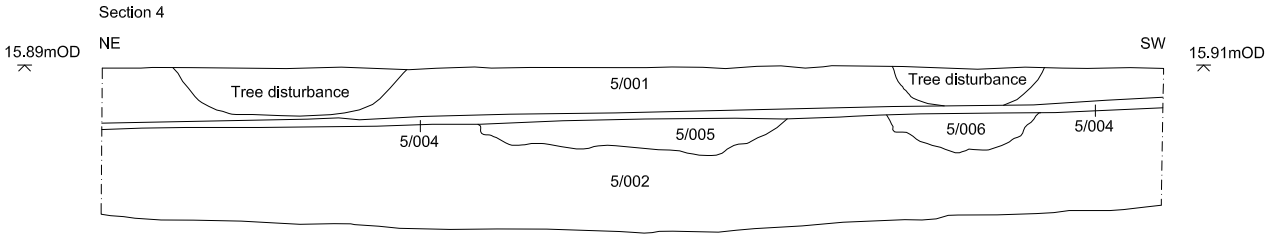

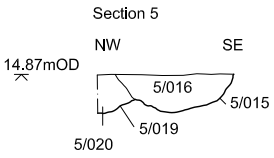

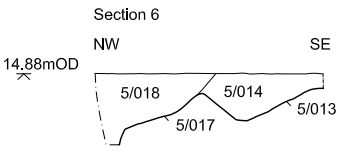

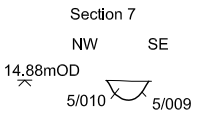

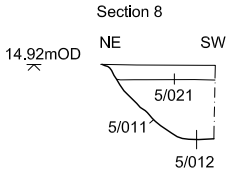

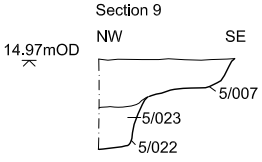

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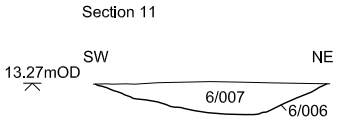

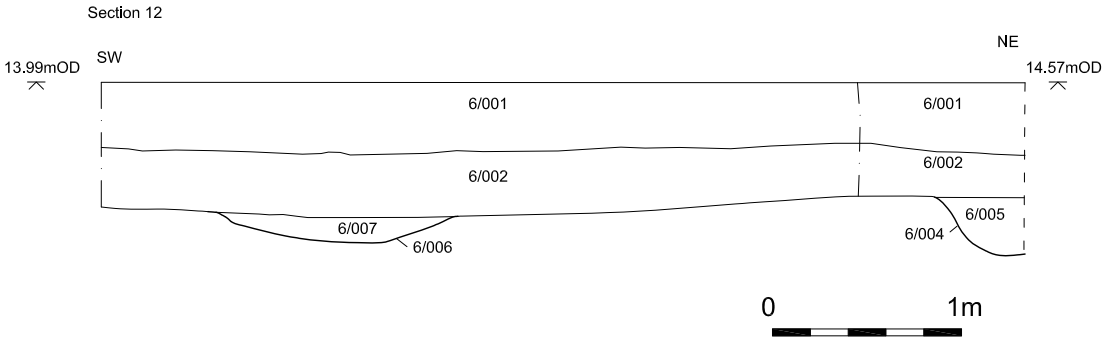

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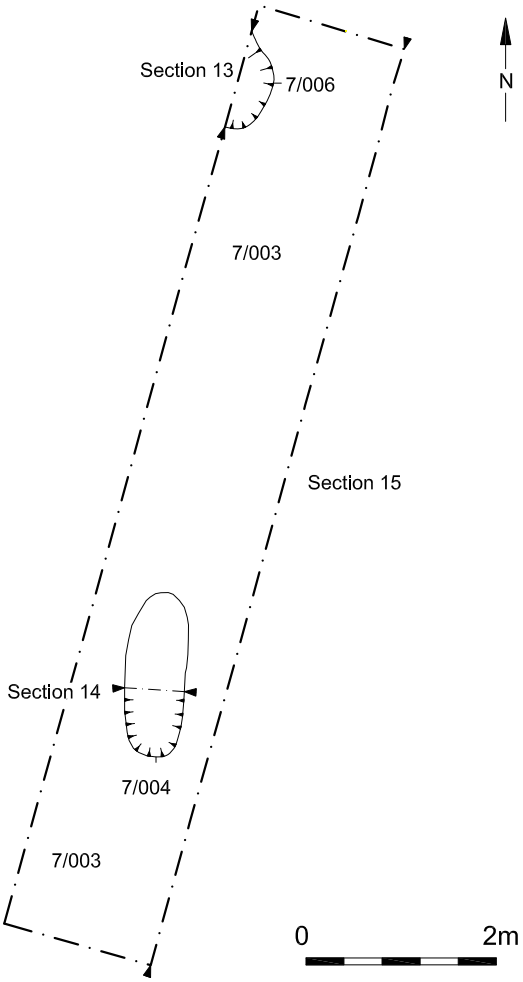

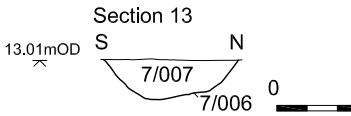

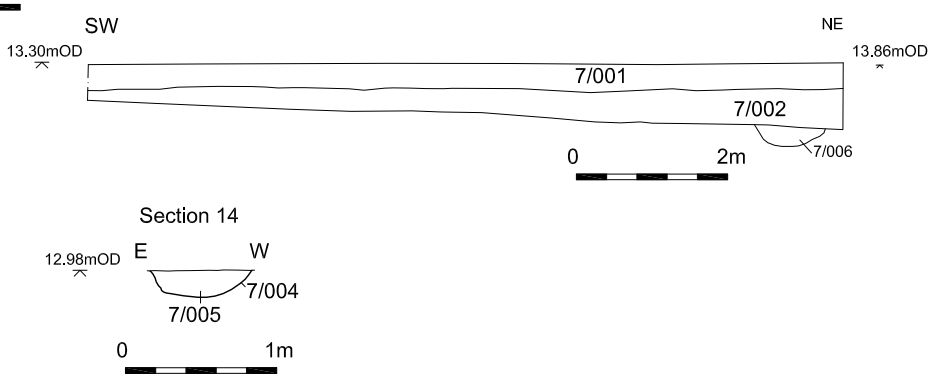

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