

**Bowling Green, High Street, Snodland, Kent
NGR 5706 1620**

**A Geophysical Survey
Archaeological Evaluation and
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Local Planning Authority: Tonbridge and Malling Council

**Site Code: SFS 08
Project Nos: 4076 and 4469**

ASE report Number: 2010127

**OASIS ids:
archaeol6-81235
archaeol6-81015**

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August 2010

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Abstract

A geophysical survey, archaeological evaluation and archaeological watching brief were undertaken by Archaeology South-East in advance of the construction of new housing at land at the Bowling Green, High Street, Snodland. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and took place between November 2009 and July 2010.

No archaeological deposits or features were found and no finds of note were made.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF REPORT

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation at the Bowling Green, High Street, Snodland, Kent (NGR 5706 1620; Fig 1).

1.2 The archaeological investigations comprised a geophysical survey, an archaeological trial trench evaluation and watching brief ahead of the redevelopment of the site.

1.3 The redevelopment comprises of new domestic housing units in the northern half of the site and gardens to the south.

1.4 The Kent County Council (KCC) Archaeological Advisor recommended the work be undertaken during the groundworks to identify and record any potential archaeological remains

1.5 Specifications for all of the work were prepared by CgMs and ASE and were approved by KCC.

1.6 Aims and Objectives

1.7 According to the specifications, the objectives of the work were to identify any buried anomalies of possible archaeological origin; to identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains exposed in the archaeological evaluation trenches; and during the watching brief to contribute to archaeological knowledge of the site through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the geotechnical investigations.

1.8 Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

1.9 The archaeological evaluation and watching brief will seek to establish the extent to which previous land use on the site may have affected archaeological deposits.

1.10 Particular issues to be addressed by the watching brief include: establishing any archaeological and archaeo-environmental potential at the site and to:

- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area, from the prehistoric to the modern.
- assess the potential impact of future development on archaeological deposits.
- to enhance understanding of the landscape and environmental history of the area.

1.11 Geology and Topography

1.12 The geology of the area comprises Terrace deposits of light brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions and occasional natural Sarsen stones approximately 500 to 750mm below existing ground level.

1.13 The site is located toward the base of the Medway Valley at around 5m AOD approximately 200m west of the river bank.

1.14 Scope of Report

1.15 This report aims to outline the findings of the geophysical survey, the archaeological evaluation and the watching brief.

1.16 The geophysical survey was undertaken by Chris Russell on the 24th November 2009, the archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Greg Priestley-Bell on the 3rd December 2009 and the watching brief was undertaken by Giles Dawkes on the 27th, 28th and 29th July 2010. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager) and Jim Stephenson (Post-excavation Manager).

1.17 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.18 The background to the site has been covered by the desk-based assessment (CgMs, 2009) and is not be repeated here.

2.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (Figs 1, 2 and 3)

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A magnetometry survey of the Bowling Green at Mill Street, Snodland was undertaken on the 24th of November 2009. The aim of the survey was to identify any buried anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The survey area was limited to the playing surface of the Bowls club.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.2 A Bartington Grad 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer was used to survey an area of 0.63 hectares. A 30 metre grid was set out across the survey area and transects were walked every meter across these grids. Samples for the magnetometry survey were taken at 0.25m intervals along each transect.

2.2.3 The survey data was processed using Geoplot 3.0. The raw data was clipped with a range of -3 to +3 and de-spiked. High and low pass filters were applied along with zero mean grid. Finally the results were interpolated in the Y axis.

2.3 Results

2.3.1 It was not possible to conclusively identify any buried archaeological features from the survey. There appears to be a great deal of interference on site which has affected data collection. The interference is a combination of the electro-magnetic field emanating from the cables supplying power to the floodlights at the Bowling club and the high degree of sub-surface disturbance caused by the laying of the playing surface.

2.4 Conclusion

2.4.1 A combination of the interference noted above has caused the magnetometry survey to have been ineffectual at the Bowling Green, Snodland meaning that any sub-surface archaeology cannot be detected using this technique.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (Figs 1 and 2)

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of two archaeological trenches 5m long and 1.8m wide (T1 and T2). The work was carried out on 3rd December 2009.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360 degree tracked machine fitted with a flat ditching bucket.
- 3.1.3 Topsoil and subsoil were removed using the machine down to the surface of natural brickearth which was then hand-cleaned and inspected for archaeology.

Number of Contexts	6
No. of files/paper record	6
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	8 digital
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive -evaluation

3.2 Results

3.2.1 Trench 1

Topsoil [Context 1/01] was 300mm thick and consisted of mid/dark yellowish brown slightly clayey silt with occasional rounded pebbles. The topsoil overlay 100mm of subsoil [1/02], consisting of mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel. The subsoil overlay natural (Brickearth), [1/03], consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay with 5% angular gravel.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

3.2.2 Trench 2

Topsoil [2/01] was 300mm thick and was the same as recorded in trench T1. Topsoil produced two fragments of very abraded CBM, an abraded fragment of oyster shell and a piece of coal. Topsoil [2/01] overlay 100mm of subsoil [2/02], which produced one fragment of peg tile and a small abraded piece of animal bone. Subsoil [2/02] and natural (Brickearth) [2/03] were the same as recorded in Trench T1.

No archaeological feature or deposits were present.

3.3 Discussion

- 3.3.1 The small quantity of finds recovered is not significant and probably represents the expected background level for these classes of material. Given the complete absence of archaeological features and the paucity of residual finds, it is likely that

only a low level of activity took place in the immediate vicinity of trenches T1 and T2 in antiquity.

- 3.3.2 No archaeological features were identified. A small quantity of finds was recovered, comprising CBM from the topsoil and one piece of animal bone and CBM from the subsoil.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (Figs 1 and 4)

4.1 Introduction

4.2 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 27th, 28th and 29th July 2010.

4.3 The work was undertaken in accordance with the methodology laid out in the specification.

4.4 The groundworks to be monitored consisted of the machine stripping of the site and the excavation of foundation trenches in the northern half of the site through the natural ground.

4.5 Deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All deposits were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum wherever practicable. A photographic record was made.

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	3
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	12 digital
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 2: Quantification of site archive –watching brief

4.6 Results

4.7 The site strip was monitored on the 27th and 28th July 2010. The natural light brown gravel clay [3] was seen across the majority of the site with overlying subsoil [2] and topsoil [1]. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recovered.

4.8 On 29th July the foundation trench excavations were monitored. Similarly, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were recovered.

4.9 Discussion

4.10 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified or recovered.

4.11 The watching brief succeeded in its general aim of monitoring and recording the groundworks.

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 A small quantity of CBM and animal bone were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in evaluation Trench 2.
- 5.2 Topsoil [2/01] produced two fragments of very abraded unidentifiable CBM, an abraded fragment of oyster shell and a piece of coal. Subsoil [2/02] produced one fragment of peg tile and a small abraded piece of animal bone.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The magnetometer survey of the bowling green did not reveal any anomalies attributable to archaeological activity because the background interference from nearby electricity cabling and the make-up of the bowling green rendered any such anomalies undetectable.
- 6.2** The trial trench evaluation, located just to the north of the bowling green was archaeologically negative and it is unlikely that there was a significant degree of ancient occupation in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.3** No archaeological features or finds were identified or recovered in the archaeological watching brief.

Bibliography

Archaeology South-East, 2009, *A Report on a Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Snodland Bowling Green*. ASE Report no: 2009200

Archaeology South-East, 2010, *A Summary Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Land at Snodland Bowling Green*. ASE Report no: 2010122

CgMs, 2009 *Desk-based Assessment, Land at Bowling Green, High Street, Snodland, Kent*

CgMs, 2010, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Land at Bowling Green, High Street, Snodland, Kent*

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for commissioning and KCC Archaeological Advisory Service the guidance through the project.

OASIS ID: archaeo16-81235**Project details**

Project name	geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation at Snodland Bowling Green
Short description of the project	geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation at Snodland Bowling Green
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2009 End: 03-11-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SFS 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Methods & techniques	'Geophysical Survey','Test Pits'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Solid geology	Unknown
Drift geology	BRICKEARTH, MAINLY LOESS
Techniques	Magnetometry

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING SNODLAND Snodland Bowling Green
Postcode	ME6 5
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 570 162 50.9232866015 0.234086997271 50 55 23 N 000 14 02 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Greg Priestley-Bell
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive ID	SFS 08
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive ID	SFS 08
Digital Contents	'Survey'

Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive ID	SFS 08
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-81015

Project details

Project name	Bowling Green, Snodland
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East during the groundworks in advance of the construction of new housing at land at the Bowling Green, High Street, Snodland. The work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client. Works included the stripping of topsoil and subsoil to the natural gravel clay and the excavation of foundation trenches. Site visits were made to monitor groundworks in July 2010. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were found.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2010 End: 29-07-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SFS08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4469 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING
SNODLAND Bowling Green, High
Street, Snodland

Postcode ME6 5

Study area 0.10 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 5706 1620 50.9232702239
0.234940094919 50 55 23 N 000 14
05 E Point

Height OD /
Depth Min: 5.00m Max: 5.00m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief
originator Kent County Council

Project design
originator CgMs Consulting

Project
director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Giles Dawkes

Type of
sponsor/funding private client
body

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive
recipient Local Museum

Digital Media 'Text'

available

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Plan'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Giles Dawkes

Other bibliographic details 2010122

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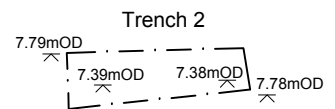
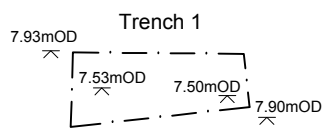
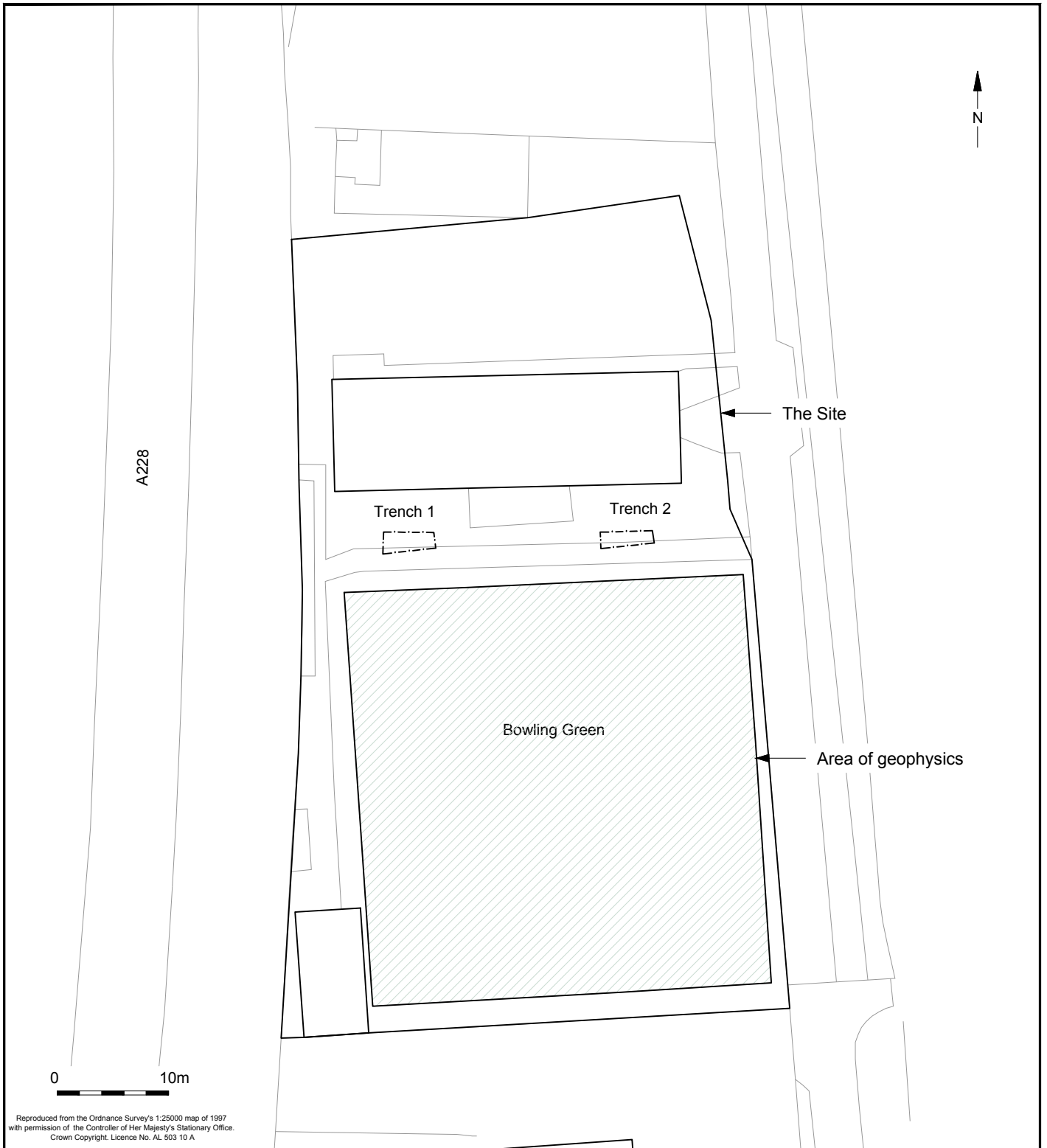
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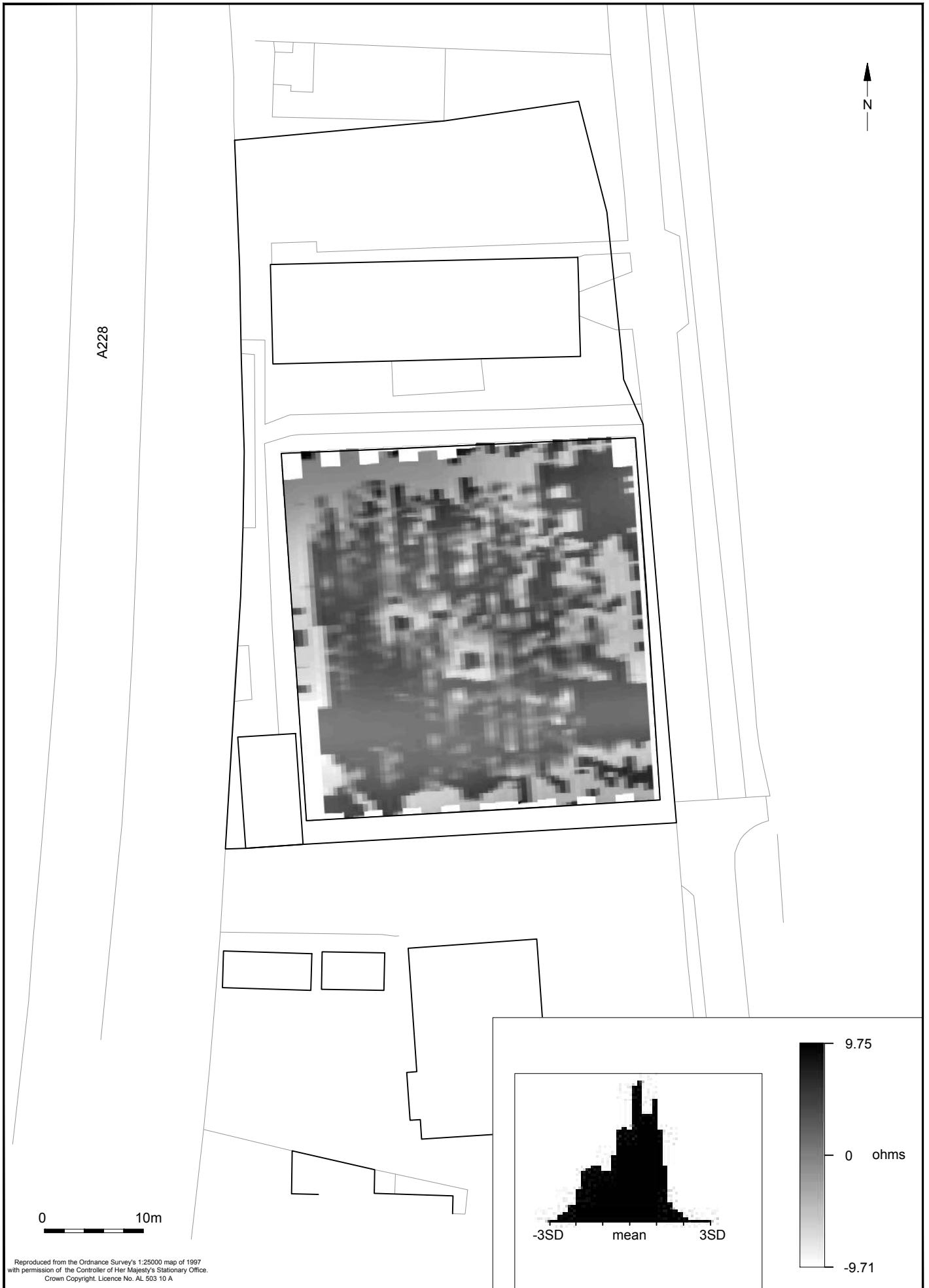
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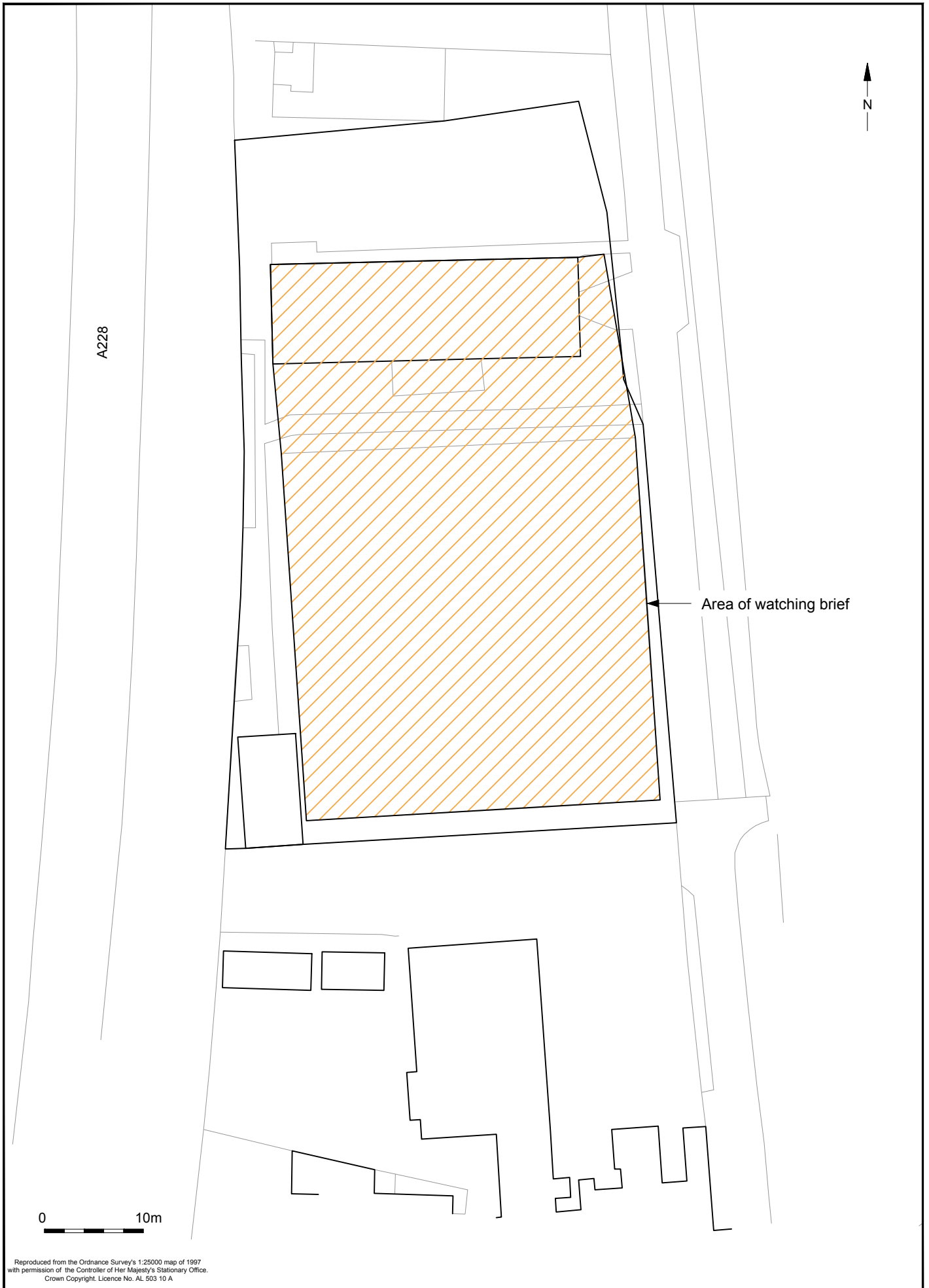
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Project Ref: 4469	Aug 2010	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR			



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Project Ref: 4469	Aug 2010	Trench location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



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Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



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Project Ref: 4469	Aug 2010	Area of watching brief	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		