

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls
(Phase 1)**

Summary Report

**ASE Project No. 3279
Planning Ref. TM/05/00347/FL**

**Project No. 3279
Site Code: TGS 10**

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Introduction

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), have been commissioned by Rydon Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of housing development within Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls grounds, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (centred NGR TQ 59102 45307; Fig. 1). The evaluation comprises of two phases of field work and this document provides a brief summary of Phase 1 of the archaeological evaluation. A full evaluation report will be completed once Phase 2 has been completed.

No previous archaeological investigations have taken place at the site and so archaeological potential was gauged in relation to known archaeological remains in proximity to the school. HCGKCC recommended to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to achieve better clarity of archaeological potential. As such an archaeological condition was attached to the planning approval.

Methodology

Eight evaluation trenches (Fig 2) were excavated by tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. The trenches were allowed to weather for 48 hours prior to backfilling.

Results

As was clear from a pre-evaluation site walkover, the site lies on quite a pronounced north-facing slope and extensive modern landscaping in the form of terracing has occurred. This relates to the construction of the existing school buildings. The impact of this terracing was clearly visible in several of the trenches and further disturbance was also evident from land drains and rooting which had further disturbed the potential archaeological horizon.

No archaeological features were recorded during this evaluation phase and only a small amount of recent finds were recovered from deposits of made ground related to the terracing. Although the impact from this terracing was moderate in extent, mainly Trenches 2, 3 and 4, deposits of remnant topsoil were encountered and it is thought that the archaeological horizon was largely intact.

- **Trench 1** was excavated to a length of c.25metres and to depths of between c.0.3m (57.83m A.O.D) at the western end and to c.0.65m (58.08m A.O.D) at the eastern end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	58.43m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact,mid brown grey clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.1m	N/A
1/003	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	58.08m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench, and a land drain ran along its length. A sondage was dug to a maximum depth of 0.65m below the existing ground surface at the eastern end.

- **Trench 2** was excavated to a length of c.25 metres and to depths of between c.0.45m (58.14m A.O.D) south-eastern end and to c.0.9m (57.22m A.O.D) at the north-western end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	58.57m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact,mid brown grey clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.06m	N/A
2/003	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	58.14m
2/004	Layer	Madeground, Variable,mid brown grey clay – mid grey yellow clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.07m	N/A

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench and it was noted to be disturbed by terracing.

- **Trench 3** was excavated to a length of c.25 metres and to depths of between 0.7m (59.72m A.O.D) at the south-western end and to c.0.9m (59.2m A.O.D) at the north-eastern end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m	60.46m
3/002	Layer	Madeground, Variable, mid brown grey clay – mid grey yellow clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m	N/A
3/003	Layer	Remnant Topsoil. Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	N/A
3/004	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	59.72m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however it was disturbed by terracing and land drain was encountered at the south-western end.

- **Trench 4** was excavated to a length of c.25 metres and to depths of between c.0.6m (62.7m A.O.D) at the south-western end and to c.1.2m (61.56m A.O.D) at the north-eastern end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m	63.19m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact, mid brown grey clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	N/A
4/003	Layer	Madeground, Variable, mid brown grey clay – mid grey yellow clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.6m	N/A
4/004	Layer	Remnant Topsoil. Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m	N/A
4/005	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	62.7m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however it was disturbed by terracing and a land drain was encountered at the south-western end.

- **Trench 5** was excavated to a length of c.25metres and to a depth of c.0.6m (63.55m A.O.D) at the south-western end and to a depth of c.0.6m (62.91m A.O.D) at the north-eastern end , at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
5/001	Layer	Tarmac and Bedding.	20m	Tr.	0.3m	64.15m
5/002	Layer	Remnant Topsoil. Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	N/A
5/003	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	5m	Tr.	0.3m	63.2m
5/004	Layer	Subsoil, Compact, mid brown grey clay silt	5m	Tr.	0.2m	N/A
5/005	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow and contaminated green blue clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	63.55m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however an area of discoloured green blue natural was encountered directly under the tarmac of an existing netball court.

- **Trench 6** was excavated to a length of c.25 metres and to depths of between 0.65m (61.91m A.O.D) at the northern end and to c.0.65m (62.61m A.O.D) at the southern end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
6/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	63.08m
6/002	Layer	Subsoil, Compact, mid brown grey clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.4m	N/A
6/003	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	62.61m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

- **Trench 7** was excavated to a length of c.25 metres and to depths of between c.0.4m (59.01m A.O.D) at the southern end and to c.0.7m (57.79m A.O.D) at the northern end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

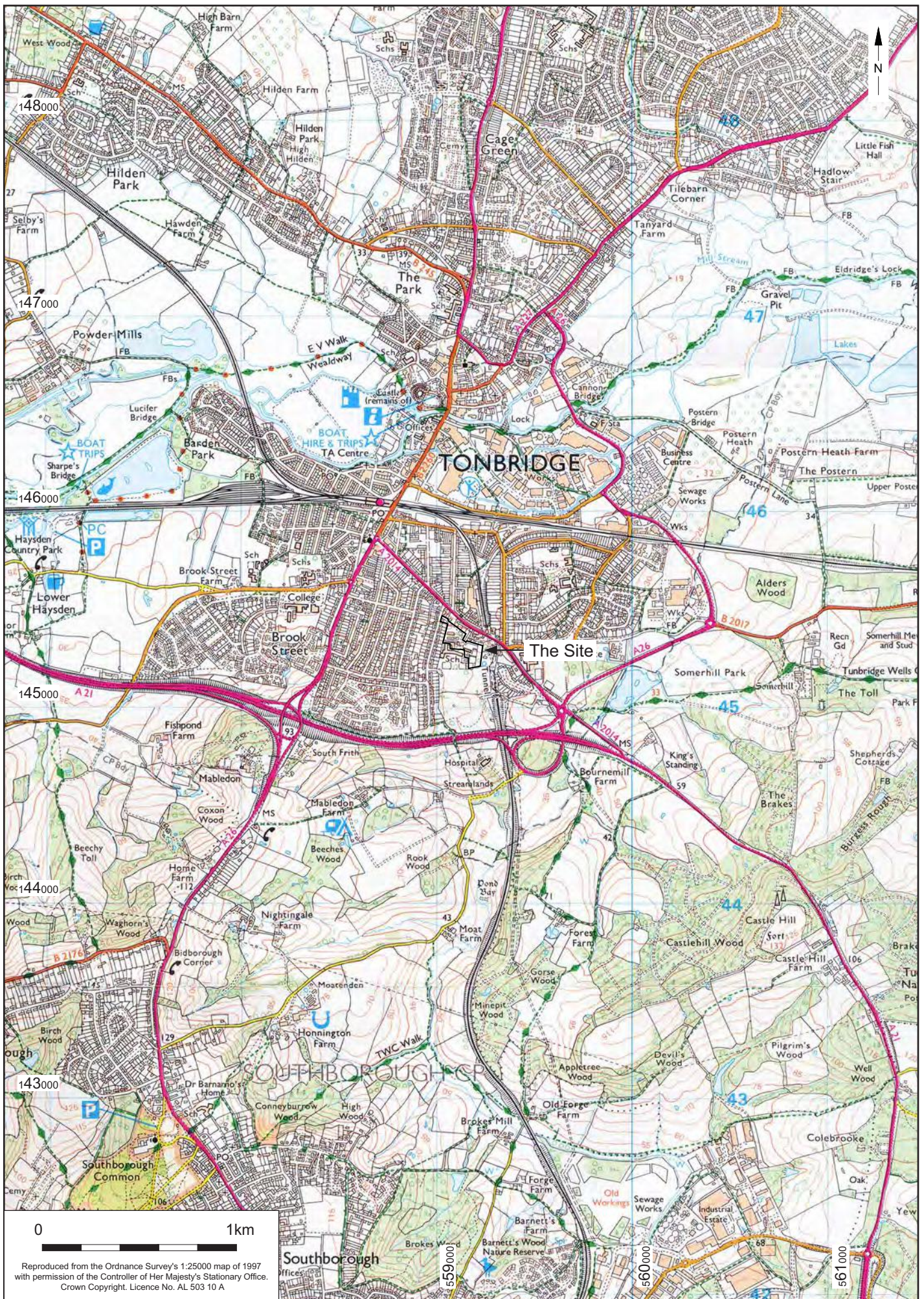
Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
7/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m	59.41m
7/002	Layer	Colluvium/Subsoil, Compact, mid brown grey clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m	N/A
7/003	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	59.01m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however a land drains were encountered.

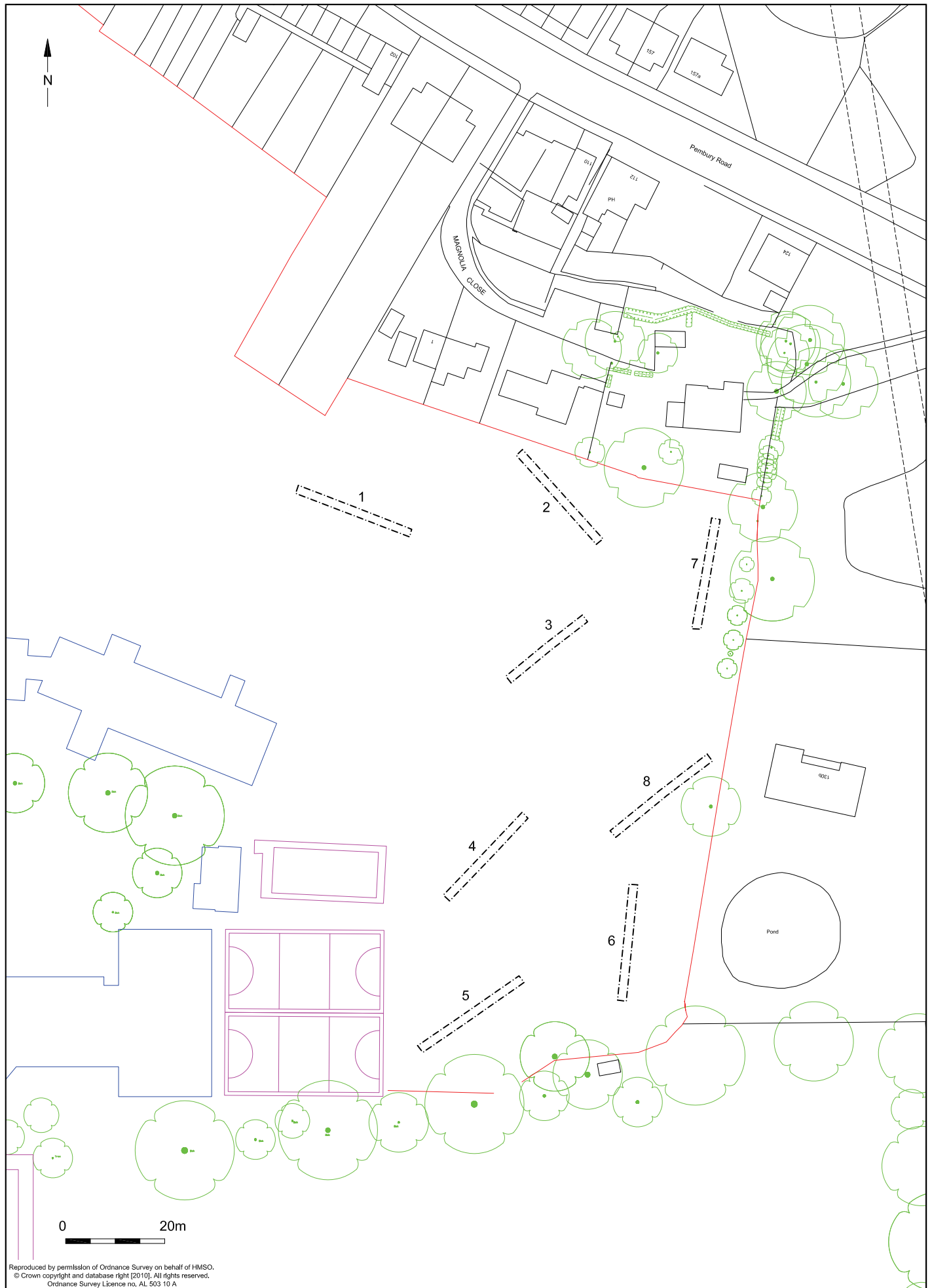
- **Trench 8** was excavated to a length of c.25 metres and to depths of between c.0.6m (60.44m A.O.D) at the north-eastern end and to c.0.6m (61.43m A.O.D) at the south-eastern end, at which point Weald Clay deposits were encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (mAOD)
8/001	Layer	Topsoil Clay silt, mid grey brown.	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m	61.96m
8/002	Layer	Colluvium/Subsoil, Compact, mid brown grey clay silt	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	N/A
8/003	Deposit	Natural. Mottled mid grey yellow clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	61.43m

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.



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			Fig. 1



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© Archaeology South-East		Tonbridge Grammar School		Fig. 2
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