

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Shoreham Academy, Shoreham, West Sussex**

(NGR: 523634 105620)

**Project No. 4294
Site Code: SAS10**

ASE Report No. 2010200

OASIS id: archaeol6-86245

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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork at Shoreham Academy, Kingston Lane, Shoreham, West Sussex (NGR: 523634 105620). A single archaeological feature was encountered, which is thought to form part of a Romano-British field-system possibly associated with the nearby Southwick Roman Villa.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Gifford on behalf of Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for new academy buildings and associated facilities at Shoreham Academy (formally King's Manor Community College), Shoreham, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as the 'site' (NGR: 523634 105620) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) sheet (318/333) shows that the site lies on solid geology of Chalk (Upper and Middle), and drift geology of Head deposits.
- 1.2.2 The site is located on the boundary between Shoreham-by-Sea and Southwick, in West Sussex. It is bounded by school buildings to the east, Stony Lane to the west and by residential housing to the north and south. The site lies 0.8km from the English Channel and 0.6km north of the River Adur/Shoreham Harbour.

1.3 Planning background

- 1.3.1 The work forms a part of a programme of archaeological pre-determination and mitigation of the site which has been co-ordinated by Gifford and West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Senior Archaeologist. The mitigation element of the archaeological investigations (the watching brief) was governed by Planning Condition 9 of planning permission WSCC/038/10/SU.
- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by ASE in February 2010 (Garland 2010). The results of this evaluation informed the scope and nature of the archaeological mitigation which followed (the watching brief, detailed in this report). The archaeological mitigation strategy was expressed in a report prepared by Gifford and submitted as a supporting document to the planning application (Gifford 2010).
- 1.3.2 A written scheme of investigation outlining the requirements was prepared by Gifford, and approved by John Mills, Senior Archaeologist (WSCC) prior to the works commencing (Gifford 2010a). This required the presence of an archaeologist to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development.

1.4 Scope of report

- 1.4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Margetts and Justin Russell at intermittent periods during August and September 2010. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Desk based assessment

- 2.1.1 A Desk Based Assessment of the site was undertaken by LP Archaeology in 2008 and is summarised below with due acknowledgment (Young 2008).

2.2 Palaeolithic/Mesolithic (520,000 BP - 3,500 BC)

- 2.2.1 While Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity has been noted in the general area of the site, no finds of either date have been found within the surrounding area.

2.3 Neolithic (3,500 - 2,000 BC)

- 2.3.1 No evidence of Neolithic activity has been recovered from within the surrounding area. However, previous excavations on the site (Stevens 2007) have recovered a small lithic assemblage indicating some prehistoric activity.

2.4 Bronze Age (2,000 - 700 BC)

- 2.4.1 Bronze Age pottery was recovered 150m to the south of the site within a gravel pit, possibly indicating activity and settlement in the surrounding areas.

2.5 Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43)

- 2.5.1 Archaeological excavations in the surrounding area have provided good evidence of Iron Age activity. Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the gravel pit mentioned above as well as evidence of field systems at Truleigh Hill. The excavation of Southwick Roman Villa also identified evidence for early buildings.

2.6 Roman AD (AD 43- 410)

- 2.6.1 A range of evidence from the Roman periods surrounds the site, most notably Southwick Roman villa, 500 metres to the east. Further evidence includes a corn-drying kiln, a well and a 'v'-shaped ditch at Kingston Buci, uncovered in 1949.

2.7 Medieval (AD 1066 – 1550)

- 2.7.1 The site lies within Kingston parish, a settlement that flourished in the medieval period. However, the silting up of the harbour meant that the settlement fell into decline. The Church of St Julian, which is located just to the south of the site, may have originated in the Saxon period. An archaeological evaluation on the site in 2007 by ASE produced two sherds of Saxon pottery, both from unstratified contexts (Stevens 2007).

2.8 Post-medieval (AD 1550 – to date)

- 2.8.1 Post-medieval evidence in the surrounding area is limited. However, during this period the majority of occupation would have been located in the centre of Shoreham, and the site would have been used for agricultural production, as shown on the 1845 tithe map.

2.9 Previous archaeological work

- 2.9.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site by Archaeology South-East in 2007 (Stevens 2007). Three archaeological trenches and two geo-archaeological test pits were excavated along the eastern side of the sports field. No archaeological features were uncovered, although some finds from the prehistoric, Saxon and early modern periods were recovered.
- 2.9.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site by Archaeology South-East in 2010 (Garland 2010) as part of the mitigation of impacts arising from the current development. Eight trenches were excavated across the site and revealed four ditches, a posthole and a small gully that probably relate to agricultural activity in the surrounding area. The finds recovered from these features point to an early Roman date and they may represent field systems associated with Southwick Roman Villa to the east of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The main aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify any further remains of archaeological provenance surviving within areas of the site where development impact coincided with remains uncovered during the evaluation, and to map and characterise them prior to their removal during construction. This was in order to provide information on the extent and longevity of the Romano-British field system implied by the results of the evaluation work. It was targeted to allow determination of the relationships between the various ditches uncovered during the evaluation exercise.
- 3.1.2 The overall objective of the watching brief was to link the archaeological results with the historic data already synthesised in the previous DBA and archaeological evaluations.

3.2 Methodology and areas monitored

- 3.2.1 The groundwork comprised the excavation of a service trench and the stripping of an area within the footprint of a new building (Fig. 2).
- 3.2.2 These targeted areas were located in order to reveal more of the ditch system suggested by the results of the evaluation trenching (Garland 2010). The area of archaeological monitoring centred on the northern wing of the proposed academy building, was intended to reveal the age and nature of the ditch or gully exposed in Trench 10, and any associated features.
- 3.2.3 Archaeological monitoring of a second area to the west of the site, where a new sports pitch was to be constructed, (as specified in the WSI) was not required. This was because the area was eventually raised in level with imported material and subsequent groundworks did not impact sub-surface.
- 3.2.4 Any encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation, using *pro-forma* context record sheets. Sections through archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.2.5 A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course be offered to Marlipins Museum, Shoreham.
- 3.2.6 The areas that were to be subject to archaeological monitoring and supervision are those shown on Figure 2. These areas were mechanically stripped of their top and sub-soils under archaeological supervision. The machine used to conduct this exercise was fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket to allow clean surfaces from which to identify archaeological remains.

- 3.2.7 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned and examined by one or more archaeologists in order to locate and define the nature and extent of these elements. Where necessary, machining would cease until archaeological features and deposits have been adequately recorded. All remains thus exposed were cleaned and recorded using a single-context recording system. All surfaces and deposits, including overburden, exposed during the exercise were scanned by metal detector operated by an experienced metal detectorist.
- 3.2.8 A photographic record of the work was kept (digital images) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade.

4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 2 and 3)

4.1 Service Trenches

4.1.1 The groundwork comprised the excavation of a service trench for a drain measuring 0.30m wide, 0.60m deep and 27m in length (Figure 2). The following sequence of deposits was encountered:

- mid orange clay natural with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions (Context 010).
- 0.25m mid orange brown clay subsoil, with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (Context 009).
- 0.35m topsoil (Context 008).

4.1.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

4.1.3 As detailed in 4.1.1, above, most of the drainage trenching was subject to archaeological monitoring. However, in the far west of the site some drainage trenching was carried out without Archaeology South-East being informed and were not, therefore, subject to archaeological monitoring.

4.1.4 Further groundworks, including the area of the all-weather pitch and the western part of the proposed MUGA were not subject to watching brief as they did not impact on or expose the archaeological horizon. Therefore any archaeological deposits present are preserved *in-situ*.

4.2 Building footprint (northern wing of Academy building)

4.2.1 The groundwork comprised the excavation of an area measuring between 13m and 30m wide, 0.55m deep and 57m in length (Fig. 2). The following sequence of deposits was encountered:

- mid orange clay natural with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions (context [003]).
- 0.25m mid orange brown clay subsoil, with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (context [002]).
- 0.35m topsoil (context [001]).

4.2.3 A 6m length of a single linear feature was encountered during ground reduction within this area. Two sections, each 1m in length, contexts [004] and [006], were excavated across this ditch (Figure 3). These showed the feature to have sharply sloping sides and a rounded base. Sealed by subsoil and cutting the natural, the feature was between 0.30m and 0.40m in width, c.0.30m in depth and was filled by compact mid-light orange brown silt clay (contexts [005] and [007]) that produced finds of struck flint, fired clay and post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM). The ditch petered out approximately 6m from the eastern edge of excavation. However, a faint trace was observed in places to the west (shown as a dashed, but speculative, line on Figure 2).

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological work. An overview can be found in Table 1.

Context	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	F. Clay	Wt (g)
[005]	1	44	1	12		
[007]			1	12	1	<2

Table 1: Quantification of the finds.

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.2.1 A single fragment of peg tile was recovered from context [005]. The fragment is in an orange fabric with cream silt marbling and sparse medium sized quartz and iron rich inclusions and is of broadly 17th- to 19th- century date.

5.3 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.3.1 Two struck flints were recovered during the course of the archaeological work at Shoreham Academy. Both pieces were broken and displayed intensive post-depositional edge damage. The small assemblage represented pieces of flint debitage. The first flake fragment from context [007] was made from light grey flint displayed surface gloss, incipient traces of white surface discolouration as well as iron mould spots but technological traits were insufficient to assist with dating. The second flake fragment from context [005] was manufactured from dark brown fine-grained flint with white slightly rolled off and pitted cortex. The piece presented characteristics of a soft hammer technology, associated with Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

5.4 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 A single piece of fired clay was recovered from [007]. The fragment is amorphous and in a low fired, sparse fine sand-tempered fabric with rare iron oxide inclusions to 1mm and rare crushed flint temper to 1mm.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The general aim of the fieldwork was met insofar as all encountered archaeological remains were investigated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. The area of the all-weather pitch and the western part of the proposed MUGA were not subject to watching brief as the groundworks did not impact on or expose the archaeological horizon. Therefore, further investigation/clarification of the archaeological remains encountered in this area during the evaluation stage (Garland 2010) was not possible. These remains are, however, preserved *in-situ*.
- 6.2** The only archaeological remains encountered during the fieldwork comprised a single shallow gully or ditch. This was the continuation of the linear feature encountered within Trench 10 of the preceding evaluation. However, the majority of the course of the feature, as shown on Figure 2, is speculative as for the most part it was only visible as very intermittent, faint trace. Where investigative slots were able to be excavated, the dating evidence proved fairly inconclusive, although the results from the preceding evaluation show it to be probably a part of a wider Romano-British field-system possibly associated with the nearby Southwick Roman Villa.

References

Buckley, A., 2010. *Shoreham Academy, Kingston Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Gifford report No. 16416.GE.CHA.R01

Garland, N. 2010, *An Archaeological Evaluation at Shoreham Academy, Kingston Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex*, ASE Report No. 2010023

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Gifford 2010a, *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief during Groundworks for New Academy Buildings and Associated Facilities*, Gifford report 16416.GE.CHA.R01

Stevens, S., 2007, *An Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) at King's Manor Community College, Kingston Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex*, Archaeology South-East unpublished report

Young, J., 2008, *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of King's Manor Community College*, L-P Archaeology report

Appendix 1:

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SAS10					
Identification Name and Address	Shoreham Academy, Shoreham, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 23634 05620					
Geology	Chalk with Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4294					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other School Playing Field ✓		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 23 rd - 24 th , 26 th , 31 st Aug + 1 st , 13 th Sept 2010	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Gifford on behalf of Balfour Beatty					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts and Justin Russell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB✓
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork at Shoreham Academy, Kingston Lane, Shoreham, West Sussex (NGR: 523634 105620). A single archaeological feature was encountered, which is thought to form part of a Romano-British field-system possibly associated with the nearby Southwick Roman Villa.</p>						

Appendix 2:

OASIS ID: archaeol6-86245

Project details

Project name	Shoreham Academy
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork at Shoreham Academy, Kingston Lane, Shoreham, West Sussex (NGR: 523634 105620). A single archaeological feature was encountered thought to form part of a Romano-British field-system possibly associated with the nearby Southwick Roman Villa.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2010 End: 13-09-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SAS10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	FIELDSYSTEM Roman
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA Shoreham Academy
Postcode	BN43 6YT
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 23634 05620 50.8363162418 -0.244014715698 50 50 10 N 000 14 38 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.50m Max: 11.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Gifford
Project design originator	Gifford
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Project supervisor	Justin Russell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Gifford on behalf of Balfour Beatty

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

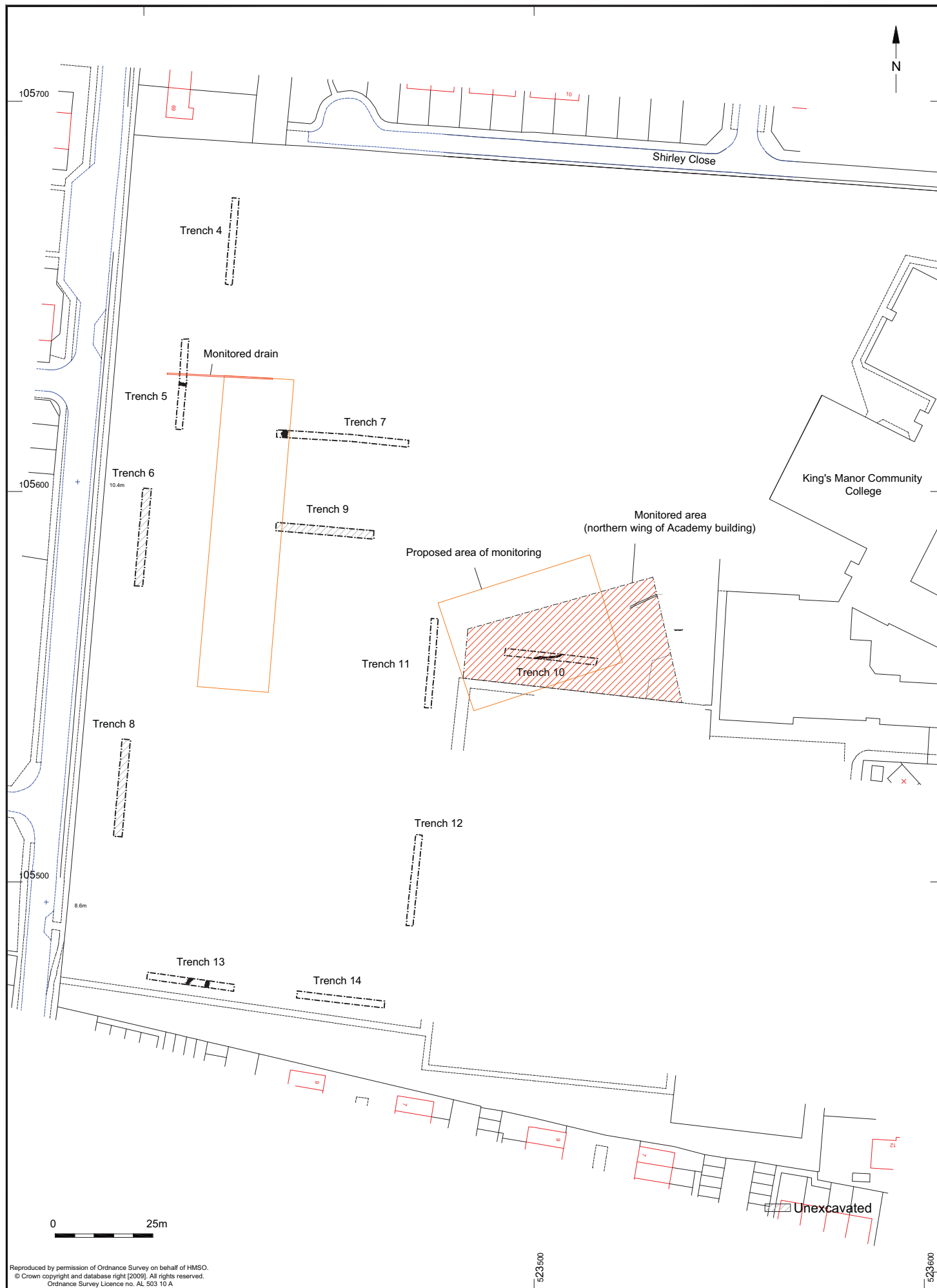
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Shoreham Academy, Shoreham, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A
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Description	WB Report

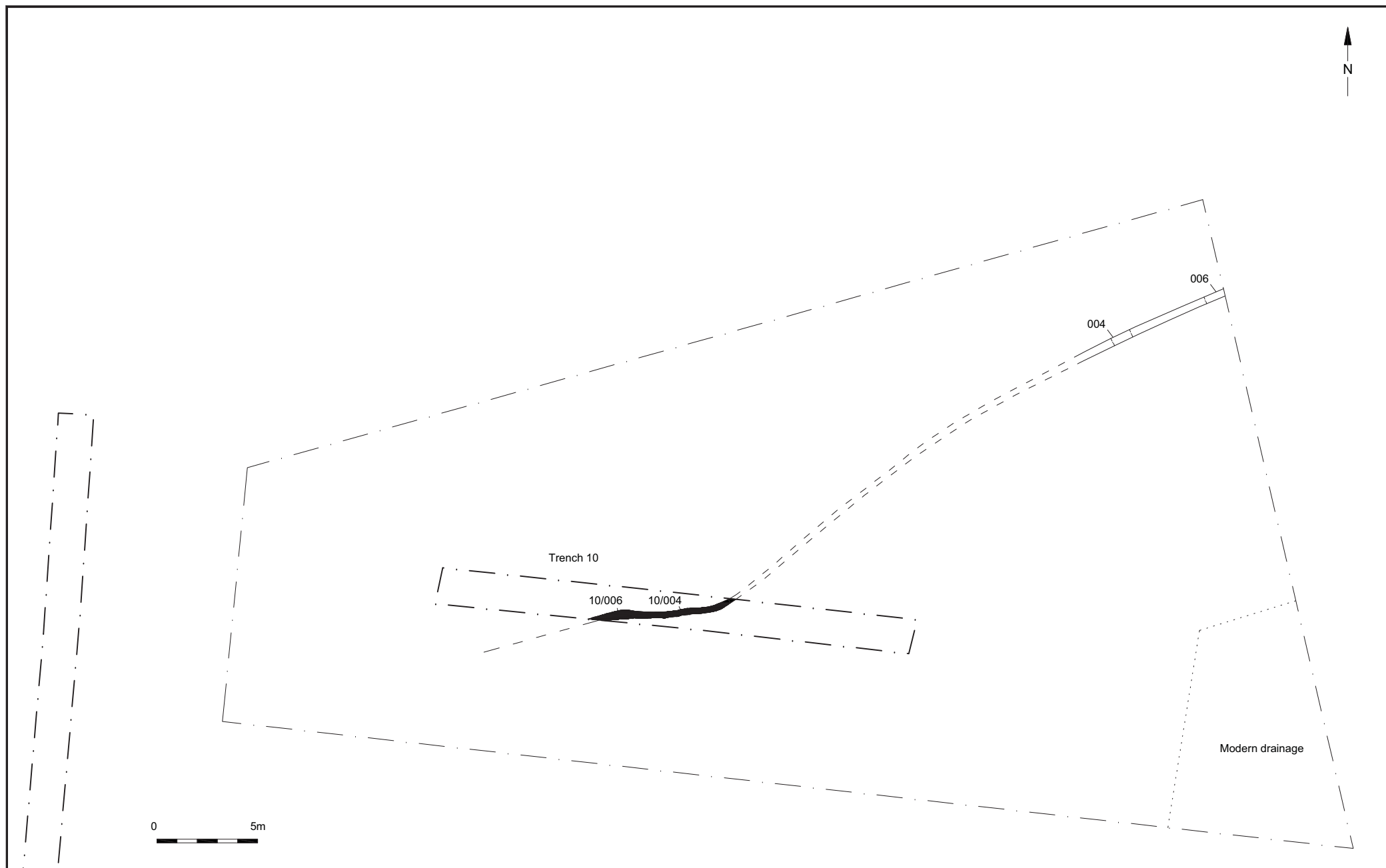
Entered by	Andy Margetts (a.margetts@ucl.ac.uk)
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Entered on 12 November 2010

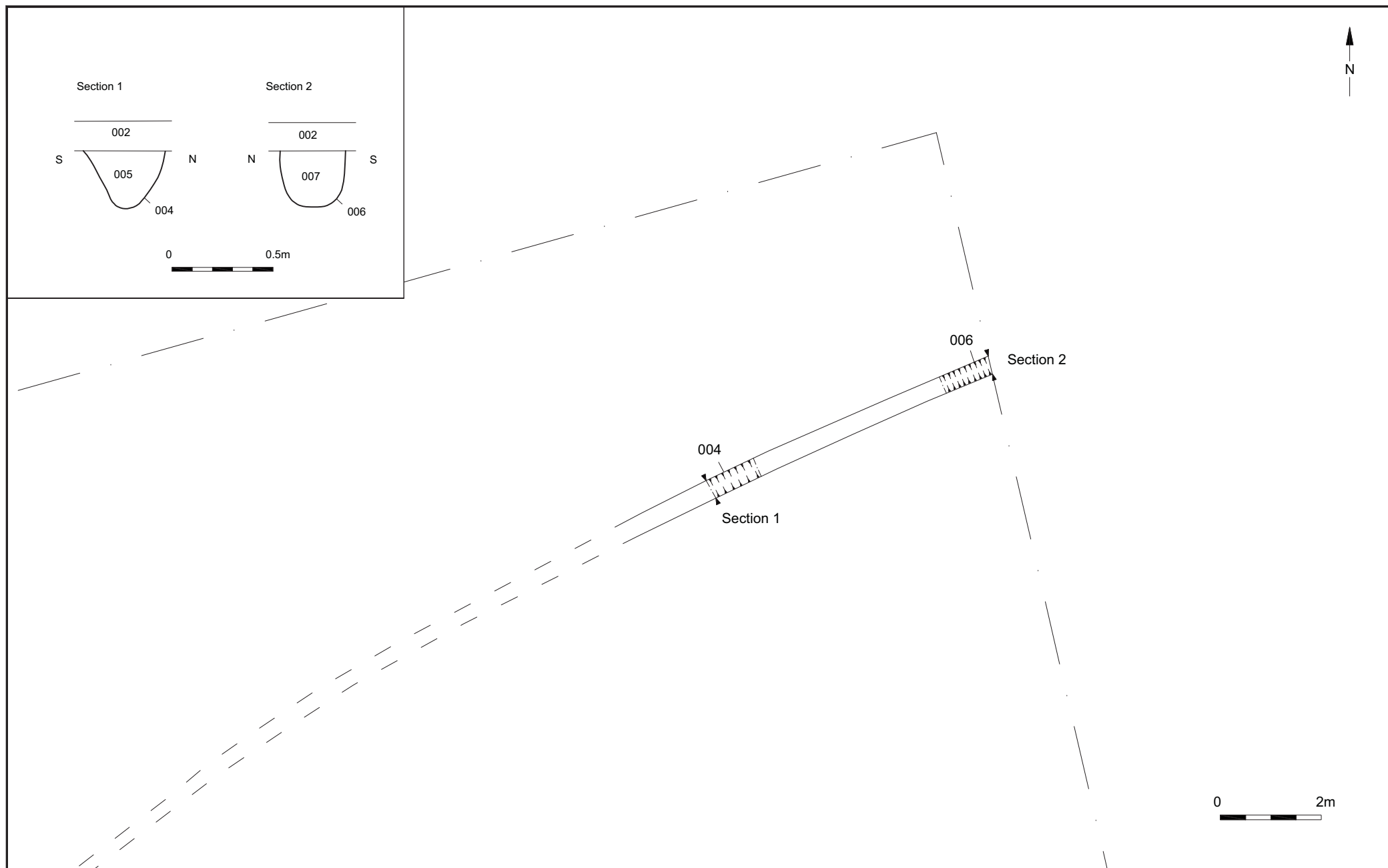




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© Archaeology South-East		Shoreham Academy	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4294	Nov 2010	Plan of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2010200	Drawn by:JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Shoreham Academy	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4294	Nov 2010	Plan and sections	
Report Ref: 2010200	Drawn by:JLR		