

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Folkestone Cricket Club,  
Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent**

**Planning Ref: Y10/0075/SH**

**NGR 621000136700**

**Project No. 4624  
Site Code: FCG11**

**ASE Report No. 2011041  
OASIS id: archaeol6-96735**

**Alice Thorne**

**With contributions by  
Anna Doherty, Luke Barber, Elke Raemen, Sarah Porteus, Karine Le Hégarat**

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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](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Folkestone Cricket Ground, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR, 621000 136700) from the 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. Nine trenches were excavated, measuring up to 25m in length. Four trenches were found to contain features of probable Late Iron Age to early Roman date which may represent activity associated with a farmstead. Fragments of residual and unstratified pottery of Neolithic, Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval date were also identified from across the site. In addition, the location of a probable WW11 Air raid shelter was recorded.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Folkestone Cricket Club, The County Ground, Cheriton Road, Folkestone (NGR TR 210 367; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the British Geological Survey (Folkestone and Dover: Solid and Drift: Sheet 305) as comprising of Folkestone Beds of Lower Greensand.
- 1.2.2 The site is situated within the area of terraced sports fields associated with Folkestone Cricket Ground and comprises a number of sports pitches used for cricket and football.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Planning permission (Ref: Y10/0075/SH) has been granted at the site for the development of a pavilion, sports hall and a number of specialist external sports surfaces, as well as for general works. The permission is subject to a suite of planning conditions of which number 21 relates to archaeology:

*"No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority*

*Reason: In order to safeguard any remaining archaeological interest on the site in accordance with policies BE7 of the Shepway District Local Plan Review."*

### **1.4 Scope of Fieldwork and Report**

- 1.4.1 A Risk and Method Statement (RAMS) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by Archaeology South-East with reference to a Desk-Based Assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting Limited (Smith 2010). The RAMS was submitted to all parties for approval (ASE 2011).
- 1.4.2 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with this document, and the standard IFA guidelines for archaeological evaluations (IFA 2008). This report outlines the results of the evaluation.
- 1.4.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Thorne (Senior Archaeologist), Ronald Matteson, Nina Ollofsen, Chris Kileen and Sam Whitehead on the (21st to the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2011). The surveying was undertaken by Lesley Davidson (Surveyor) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2011. The site was excavated under very poor weather conditions

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Archaeological Potential**

2.1.1 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was prepared for the site by CgMs Consulting (Smith 2010). This document concluded that there is potential for Iron Age and Roman small scale rural settlement at the study site.

### **2.2 Impact on Archaeological Remains**

2.2.1 Although general past impacts at the site are thought to have been moderate to severe, they are only thought to have entirely removed archaeological potential within the footprint of the current All Terrain Pitch.

2.2.2 Based on current information it is considered that the development proposals are likely to have a negative archaeological impact at the site.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Excavation and Backfilling of Trenches

- 3.1.1 Nine trenches, of up to 25m long, were machine excavated by a 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. One further trench was abandoned, owing to the reputed presence of a WWII Air-raid shelter in this part of the site (results section 4.10).
- 3.1.2 The working area was demarked with orange netlock fencing and warning signs displayed.
- 3.1.3 The locations of the trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. In several cases, small alterations to the length and position of trenches had to be made, to negate risk from live electricity cables and land drainage across the site (results section 4.0).
- 3.1.4 The trenches were excavated under constant ASE supervision until the top of archaeological features were exposed or the underlying natural ground encountered. Spoil was stored upon lengths of Terram fabric, located to either side of the trenches to protect the turf.
- 3.1.5 Spoil was stored adjacent to the trenches and was backfilled and compacted by machine upon completion of the recording. No further reinstatement was undertaken.

#### 3.2 Recording Methodology

- 3.2.1 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.2.2 All context numbers were prefixed by the relevant trench number.
- 3.2.3 The location of the trenches were surveyed by Global Positioning System, and tied in to the National Grid.
- 3.2.4 The evaluation generated a site archive which is quantified in table 1.

Number of Contexts	51
No. of files/paper record	1 File
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	3
Photographs	39 (digital images)
Bulk finds	1 small box
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Overburden and Geology

4.1.1 The trenches were located within a terraced sports field. The topsoil across the site comprised a dark greyish-brown friable sandy silt and measured between 0.65m to 0.40m in depth. A subsoil deposit, present within each trench comprised a mid orangish-brown, heavily bioturbated sandy silt. The natural Folkestone Beds were found to be of very variable colour, hue and texture, ranging from a mottled orangish-brown, greenish yellow silty sand containing frequent areas of iron mineralisation (associated particularly with outcrops of large sandstone blocks) to a mid brownish orange clayey sandy silt.

4.1.2 In the eastern part of the site, Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were found to contain modern deposits of sand and sandy-silt made ground, likely to derive from the re-deposition of natural soils following terracing and ground reduction in other parts of the site.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on an east to west alignment. This trench was shifted slightly to the east from its original location, to avoid a live electrical cable running around the perimeter of the all weather sports ground.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.65 – 0.40m	35.48
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25 – 0.15m	34.83
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	34.68

Table 2: Context Register, Trench 1

4.2.2 A substantial deposit of topsoil was present in the western end of this trench, indicating that the terrace associated with the all-weather sports field has been built up in this area. The topsoil across the remainder of the trench measured 0.40m in thickness.

4.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on a south-east to north-west alignment. This trench was also shifted slightly, to avoid the location of the live electrical service and mains drain, located at the north-west end of the trench. A drain, crossing the trench on an E-W axis, required a 2m wide baulk to be left in situ towards the northern end.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m	34.99
2/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m	34.61
2/003	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m	34.43
2/004	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m	34.35
2/005	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	34.11

Table 3: Context Register, Trench 2

#### 4.3.2 Summary of overburden in Trench 2

Deposits of made ground identified within this trench indicate that the ground surface has been built up by approximately 0.25m in this area. Deposit [2/004] is thought to represent the remains of a buried subsoil, incorporating residual fragments of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and three fragments of probable later medieval to post medieval tile. The presence of this probable subsoil indicates that the potential archaeological horizon in this area has not been impacted during landscaping associated with the creation of the modern sports fields.

4.3.3 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

#### 4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

4.4.1 Trench 3 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on a north to south alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m	34.22
3/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m	33.89
3/003	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.19m	33.63
3/004	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	33.44
3/005	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	33.19

Table 4: Context Register, Trench 3

#### 4.4.2 Summary of overburden in Trench 3

Deposits of made ground identified within this trench indicate that the ground surface has been built up by approximately 0.55m in this area. Deposit [3/004] is also thought to represent the remains of a buried subsoil, which incorporated 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval pottery fragments, a post-medieval earthenware body sherd and several fragments of probable late medieval to post medieval tile.

4.4.3 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

#### 4.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

4.5.1 Trench 4 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on a south-west to

north-east alignment. However, this trench was found to contain two services running approximately 15m along the length of the trench on an E-W axis. As a result, only approximately 10m of the trench was excavated to full depth.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	34.49
4/002	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.54m	34.21
4/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	33.67
4/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	33.52

Table 5: Context Register, Trench 4

#### 4.5.2 Summary of overburden in Trench 4

Context [4/002] shows that the ground surface within the area of this trench has been raised by up to 0.54m. Context [4/003] is thought to represent a buried subsoil, as found in Trenches 2 and 3, and was found to contain fragments of post medieval flowerpot, and an earthenware plate fragment.

4.5.3 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

### 4.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

4.6.1 Trench 5 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.46m	35.03
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m	34.57
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	34.30
5/004	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.85m	0.21m	34.16
5/005	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.85m	0.21m	34.16

Table 6: Context Register, Trench 5

#### 4.6.2 Summary of archaeological features in Trench 5

A single north-east to south-west orientated ditch was observed within Trench 5: [5/005]. This feature had a shallow concave cut and was filled by a firm light orangish brown sandy clay, [5/004], which contained occasional flecks of charcoal, and three fragments of CBM. The CBM included a fragment of roman tile and two other fragments of uncertain date. Some root disturbance was also noted within the line of the feature.

### 4.7 Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

4.7.1 Trench 6 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on an east to west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	35.40
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	34.95
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	34.80
6/004	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	1.48m	0.29m	34.67
6/005	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.48m	0.29m	34.67
6/006	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	0.70m	0.25m	34.72
6/007	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.70m	0.25m	34.72
6/008	Fill	Gully	Tr.	0.74	0.09m	34.68
6/009	Cut	Gully	Tr.	0.74	0.09m	34.68
6/010	Fill	Pit	-	0.66m	0.26m	34.73
6/011	Cut	Pit	-	0.66m	0.26m	34.73

Table 7: Context Register, Trench 6

#### 4.7.2 Summary of archaeological features in Trench 6

Feature [6/005] comprised a ditch orientated approximately north to south, with a broad concave profile, and was filled by [6/004]: a compact, mid orangish brown, sandy clay, containing occasional flecks of charcoal, small gravels and flint nodules, and a tiny fragment of possible Iron Age pottery. This feature is thought to represent a drainage or boundary ditch. Considerable root disturbance was present on the eastern edge of the feature.

Feature [6/007] comprised a north-west to south-east orientated, slightly curving, ditch, with a concave profile. It was filled by [6/006]: a compact light orangish brown sandy clay, containing occasional flecks of charcoal, small gravels, flint nodules, two fragments of possible Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery and a single fragment of struck flint. This feature is also thought to represent a drainage or boundary ditch.

Feature [6/009] comprised a ditch, orientated approximately north-west to south-east, with a very shallow, ephemeral, concave profile. It was filled by [6/008]: a compact mid orangish brown sandy clay, containing very occasional flecks of charcoal and a single fragment of worked flint. This feature is also thought to represent a drainage or boundary ditch.

Feature [6/011] comprised a small sub-circular pit, partially exposed, extending out from the southern baulk of the trench. This feature had steep, tapered sides, and an irregular undulating base. It was filled by [6/010]: a dark grey, compact sandy clay, containing frequent charcoal, occasional small to moderate angular flint nodules, frequent fragments of Iron Age pottery and several fragments of worked flint, including two refitting pieces and an end-and-side scraper. The pottery sherds are heavily worn, and although thought to derive from the same vessel, are likely to have been broken when deposited. An environmental sample from this feature has provided evidence of wood charcoal fragments, charred wheat, barley and weeds as well as some burnt bone, providing evidence of arable and domestic activity. No in-situ evidence of burning was identified, and overall, the environmental and artefactual evidence contained within the fill of the pit may indicate waste from domestic activities; however, the possibility of a ritual element associated with the deposition of these artefacts cannot be

ruled out.

#### 4.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 5)

4.8.1 Trench 7 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	34.81
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	34.41
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	34.26
7/004	Fill	Ditch	11m (as seen)	0.80m (as seen)	0.34m	34.15
7/005	Cut	Ditch	11m (as seen)	0.80m (as seen)	0.34m	34.15

Table 8: Context Register, Trench 7

#### 4.8.2 Summary of archaeological features in Trench 7

4.8.3 A single linear feature, [7/005] was observed within this trench. This feature was partially exposed, extending from the western baulk of the trench, and only became apparent following two days of weathering. No full profile of the feature could be obtained, but a slot excavated against the baulk indicated that the feature has concave sides and a flattish base. It is filled by [7/004]: a light orangish brown, sandy clay, which contained very occasional fragments of charcoal, a tiny fragment of possible later Bronze Age pottery and two fragments of worked flint.

#### 4.9 Trench 8 (Fig. 6)

4.9.1 Trench 8 measured 25m in length, and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	36.68
8/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	36.28
8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	36.18
8/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.30m	0.80m	35.97
8/005	Fill	Ditch	Tr.	1.30m	0.30m	35.97
8/006	Fill	Ditch	-	-	0.40m	35.67
8/007	Fill	Ditch	-	-	0.14m	35.27
8/008	Cut	Possible pit	-	0.45m	0.18m	35.92
8/009	Fill	Possible pit	-	0.45m	0.18m	35.92
8/010	Cut	Ditch	-	-	0.25m	35.92
8/011	Fill	Ditch	-	-	0.25m	35.92

Table 9: Context Register, Trench 8

#### 4.9.2 Summary of archaeological features in Trench 8

A very substantial ditch, [8/004] was observed, crossing Trench 8 on an approximately north to south axis. This feature had slightly irregular edges in plan, possibly caused by outcrops of natural sandstone boulders at its edge, which may have influenced the original alignment as the feature was cut. The feature had steep tapered edges, culminating in a rounded point at its base. It contained three fills: the primary fill, [8/007], comprised a soft, yellowish grey, clayey sand, and is thought to represent an initial silting deposit; the secondary fill, [8/006], comprised a mid to dark grey, sandy silt, which contained occasional natural flint nodules; the upper fill of the ditch, [8/005], contained a soft, dark grey, clayey sand, which contained fragments of probable Late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery, a residual fragment of Neolithic pottery, fragments of horse bone and a single fragment of worked flint. This upper fill may represent a deliberate deposit of backfill.

A second slot, [8/010], excavated to the south, provided little additional information but did suggest a shallower profile at the edge of the feature in this area, possibly suggesting an area of spread or trample adjacent to the western edge. Three fragments of Late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery were recovered from the fill, [8/011]. This feature may represent a boundary or defensive ditch

A small sub-circular feature, [8/008], measuring 0.45m wide by 0.18m deep, with a steep concave profile, may represent a small pit or the head of a gully intersecting with ditch [8/004], although no relationship could be observed in plan or section. No finds were recovered from this fill of this feature, [8/009].

#### 4.10 Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

4.10.1 Trench 9 had originally been located to the south of the Astroturf. However, on arrival at site we were informed by the groundkeeper that a WWII Air-raid shelter was located in this area. As a result, the trench was abandoned.

4.10.2 The Air-raid shelter is reputed to have been constructed of concrete, with a wooden roof. A shallow depression in the ground surface within this area is thought to have resulted from partial collapse of this roof (Larry, Groundkeeper, pers. comm.). A discrete topographic survey of this depression was undertaken and its location is shown on figure 2.

#### 4.11 Trench 10 (Fig.2)

4.11.1 Trench 10 measured 19m in length, having been shortened to the north-west as a result of the electrical cables, circling the perimeter of the Astroturf.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	36.46
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	36.06
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	35.96

Table 10: Context Register, Trench 10

4.11.2 Summary of features in Trench 10

4.11.3 A single circular pit located towards the south-eastern end of the trench was not recorded archaeologically as it was found to be of modern origin, containing modern glass, plastic and crisp packets.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological work, which is quantified in table 11. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)
1/001	1	<2	5	52					1	<2			1	2		
10/002	6	28					3	17								
2/004	20	34	3	38			4	9								
3/004	7	16	8	132											2	4
4/003	3	18	4	30							1	18				
5/004			3	234												
6/002	1	4														
6/004	1	4														
6/006	2	12					1	17								
6/008							1	8								
6/010	45	164					12	216								
7/004	1	<2					2	2								
8/002	4	10														
8/005	4	14			10	100	1	3								
8/011	3	22					1	5								
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Table 11. Quantification of the finds.

### 5.2 The Prehistoric to Early Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

#### 5.2.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of prehistoric to early Roman pottery, totalling 73 sherds, weighing 250g, was recovered from the evaluation; these are predominantly small bodysherds, many of which are unstratified. The near absence of diagnostic feature sherds and lack of associated stratified groups makes the dating of the assemblage problematic, although it seems likely that activity from a range of different periods is represented.

#### 5.2.2 Methodology

The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and broadly classified according to its main inclusion type; it was quantified by sherd count and weight. If a larger assemblage is recovered in the event of further excavation on the site, the evaluation assemblage should be integrated and it may be necessary to refine further the fabric definitions.



### 5.2.3 Possible Neolithic pottery

Three sherds from two different vessels, found in contexts [8/005] and [10/002], are in very ill-sorted flint-tempered fabrics with laminar matrixes which are fairly typical of Neolithic wares. One of these also features simple impressed decoration which may belong to either the Earlier Neolithic Decorated Bowl or Later Neolithic Peterborough Ware tradition. However, in both cases, these sherds were stratified with substantially later pottery and are likely to be residual.

### 5.2.4 Possible post Deverel-Rimbury pottery

Several other flint-tempered sherds are in fabric types considered more likely to belong to the post Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to earlier 1<sup>st</sup> millennium although, again, none of these were securely stratified in archaeological deposits.

### 5.2.5 Iron Age to early Roman pottery

The majority of the assemblage is made up by sherds of one fragmentary vessel found in context [6/010]. It is a crudely formed jar with a slightly beaded/out-turned rim in a coarse vesicular fabric with common voids of 1-3mm, representing shell leached out by acidic soil conditions. Overall, the sherds probably comprise about 20% of a complete vessel but there are no obvious cross-fits between the sherds and the sherd edges are quite worn, suggesting that they were already well broken when deposited and had perhaps been redeposited. This vessel is certainly of Iron Age date, although only a partial rim profile is present, so the dating cannot be further refined at present.

A few other quartz-rich fabrics, some containing fine flint, and one sparsely glauconitic sherd, can also probably be broadly assigned to the Iron Age. It may be possible to refine further the dating of these fabric types if larger, better stratified groups are recovered, in the event of further excavation on the site.

In terms of estimated vessels numbers, the most common inclusion type is grog. There is some variability in grog-tempered fabrics and several examples also contain flint. Most of these sherds probably belong to the Late Iron Age/ early Roman period; however, in south-east Kent, grog and flint fabrics can be encountered throughout the later prehistoric period so these fabric types are difficult to date with certainty, when found in isolation.

## 5.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

### 5.3.1 Introduction

The small assemblage of post-Roman pottery from the site is of three distinct periods. With the exception of the latest material the assemblage consists of small sherds (most under 20mm across) that show moderate to heavy abrasion suggesting they have been subjected to extensive reworking.

### 5.3.2 Medieval pottery

The earliest material consists of a 1g granule of shell tempered ware (Kent fabric EM2) and two sand and shell tempered (EM3) granules (1g) from [2/004]. All are of probable 12<sup>th</sup>- to very early 13<sup>th</sup>- century date. The bulk of the medieval assemblage is slightly later in date, spanning the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. This group is totally dominated by oxidised sandy ware cooking pots from the Tyler Hill industry (M1). Context [2/004] contained seven sherds (26g), including the down-turned club rim of a cooking pot while context [3/004] produced another five sherds (14g), including a simple everted rim, probably of the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### 5.3.3 Early post-medieval pottery

The early post-medieval period is represented by a single slightly abraded glazed buff earthenware bodysherd, possibly intrusive in [3/004]. A date between 1550 and 1750 is likely but further sherds would be needed to refine this dating.

### 5.3.4 Late post medieval pottery

The late post-medieval period produced more sherds, and the only ones from the site which show no/little sign of abrasion. Context [4/003] produced two sherds from unglazed earthenware flower pots and a refined white earthenware plate fragment. A further unglazed earthenware flower pot sherd was recovered from [10/002]. This assemblage is likely to relate to mid/late 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century activity.

## 5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

### 5.4.1 Introduction

A total of 23 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 486g were recovered from five contexts.

### 5.4.2 Summary of the assemblage by context

The earliest material was recovered from context [5/004] which contained a fragment of probable Roman tile in an under fired fabric with fine quartz and micaceous sparkle and sparse orange speckling. Also from context [5/004], were two abraded fragments of tile: one in a fine sandy fabric with moderate rose quartz; the other in a fine pinkish orange fabric with moderate calcareous speckling. Both fragments are of uncertain date and may be either Roman or post Roman in date.

Context [4/003] contained abraded fragments of probable brick in a sandy fabric, another fragment in a calcareous fabric and a fragment of under fired tile, none of which could be closely dated.

Context [1/001] contained fragments of tile in sandy and calcareous fabrics, all abraded and undated, along with a possible fragment of fired clay. Also recovered from [1/001] was a fragment of tile in a fine sandy fabric of 11mm thickness in a fine sandy fabric with fine quartz inclusions which is of

probable post-medieval date.

Context [2/004] and [3/004] both contained tile in a calcareous fabric with fine micaceous speckling, the fragments are abraded and likely to be of later medieval to post-medieval date. Also recovered from context [3/004] were two fragments of possible concrete mortar of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A single plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was recovered from topsoil [1/001]. Although a small part of the spur survives, it is not possible to establish the bowl type. The fragment dates to between 1750 and 1920.

## **5.6 The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

### 5.6.1 Introduction

A small assemblage of 25 struck flints, weighing 277g, and a single burnt unworked flint, weighing less than two grams, was recovered from six of the nine excavated trenches. A summary of the flint assemblage by context is provided in table 12. The material originated from nine individual contexts with almost half the assemblage (12 pieces) found in context [6/010]. None of the struck flints are diagnostic of a particular period but the artefacts indicate prehistoric human activity in the area.

### 5.6.2 Raw material

Two raw materials were used for the production of the debitage and tools. The majority of the flints are manufactured from mid to dark grey to almost black, fine-grained flint with a very abraded and heavily battered grey cortex. This material is derived from beach gravel and pebble sources and would have been available locally. Two pieces made from similar good quality flint display a thin, white, smooth cortex. The majority of the flints are in a poor condition, exhibiting considerable edge damage, which implies that the material has undergone substantial post-depositional disturbance.

### 5.6.3 Debitage and core dressing

The assemblage consists almost entirely of pieces of flint debitage, including six flakes, ten fragmentary flakes and five shattered pieces. These make up 88% of the total assemblage. The assemblage found in context [6/010] includes two pieces which could be refitted and a primary flake which could indicate that knapping activity was performed in the vicinity of Trench 6. The small core face/edge rejuvenation flake from context [6/006] displays single-directional flake scar removals on the dorsal face.

### 5.6.4 The Implements

The retouched and utilised tools consist of an end-and-side scraper, an unclassifiable retouched artefact and a single utilised piece (together making up 12% of the total assemblage). Unfortunately none of these artefacts are diagnostic. The end-and-side scraper from context [6/010] was manufactured on a broken flake. Both the distal and proximal ends are absent. The selected

flake is wholly re-corticated to a light, bluish-white colour with the dark grey colour of the flint appearing only where the edges of the flake have been subsequently retouched to create a scraper. The light bluish-white discoloration appears on both the distal and proximal scars, suggesting that the flake was already damaged when selected. Scrapers are difficult to date as they represent a standard tool form common in most prehistoric toolkits. The continuous direct semi-abrupt and invasive retouches on the left-hand edge and the partial direct semi-abrupt retouches on the right-hand and distal edges are not characteristic of a specific period. Another flake found in context [6/010] shows signs of having been utilised and the flake is therefore classified as an implement. A miscellaneous retouched piece on a flake fragment, found in context [10/002], exhibits inverse semi-abrupt retouches along the left lateral edge and partial direct abrupt retouches along the right lateral edge.

5.6.5 The assemblage is limited in size and lacking in diagnostic material. Nonetheless it should be retained to allow integration with any assemblage recovered in the event of further work.

Context	Flake	Broken flake	Core dressing	Shattered piece	Scraper	Misc. retouched piece	Utilised piece	Burnt (unworked)
1/001								1
2/004	1	2		1				
6/006			1					
6/008				1				
6/010	2	5		3	1		1	
7/004	2							
8/005		1						
8/011	1							
10/002		2				1		
Total	6	10	1	5	1	1	1	1

Table 12: The flintwork

## 5.7 Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Context [3/004] produced two small fragments of lightweight fuel ash slag. These could have been derived from any number of high temperature processes including domestic hearths.

## 5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Context [4/003] produced a single piece of coal.

## 5.9 Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

- 5.9.1 A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from a single context, [8/005]. The bone was in a poor state of preservation and fragmentary as a result. In addition to several fragments of horse molar enamel, the context contained cattle-sized fragments of scapula and innominate bone.
- 5.9.2 The environmental samples provided a very small assemblage of equally fragmented bone. Samples from [8/006] and [8/007] (samples <3>, and <2> respectively) contained fragments of cattle-sized longbone and scapula as well as a single fish vertebrae ([8/007]) and small quantities of unidentifiable calcined bone. Unidentifiable calcined bone was also recovered from [6/010].

## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hégarat

### 6.1 Introduction

Three bulk soil samples were taken to establish the presence of environmental indicators such as wood charcoal, charred macro-botanical remains, fauna and mollusca, as well as to provide material suitable for dating.

### 6.2 Methodology

The 20L sample extracted from pit fill [6/010] and both 40L samples, taken from ditch fills [8/006] and [8/007], were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 1). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Preliminary identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through reference to taxa documented in identification manuals (NIAB 2004, Cappers *et al.* 2006 and Jacomet, S. 2006) and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

### 6.2 Results

#### 6.2.1 Samples <2> and <3>, ditch [8/004]

The flots from samples <2> and <3>, extracted from the primary fill, [8/007], and secondary fill, [8/006], of ditch, [8/004], were dominated by uncharred botanical remains, including a high proportion of fine modern roots. The flots and residues produced a small quantity of wood charcoal fragments, the majority of which were <4mm in size (and often less than 2mm in size). Charred macrobotanical remains were infrequent in both samples, consisting of seven unidentified cereal grains (Cerealia), a single charred grass seed (Poaceae) and an unidentified charred glume base. Overall, the charred remains were poorly preserved. The caryopses were highly fragmented and vesicular and the chaff component retained only its gross morphology. A small quantity of unburnt and burnt mammal bones was present in the samples. A single spherical hammerscale was noted in sample <2> and a single small piece of flint debitage was present in sample <3>. Both deposits produced a small assemblage of pottery.

#### 6.2.2 Sample <1>, pit [6/011]

Uncharred vegetation was also common in the flot from sample <1>, taken from fill [6/010], of pit [6/011]. The uncharred botanical remains accounted for 70% of the flot and included fine roots and uncharred seeds, such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) as well as seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. The sample contained infrequent wood charcoal fragments. The small assemblage was highly comminuted and the majority of the pieces were <4mm in size.

Nonetheless, a small assemblage of charred macrobotanicals was recovered from the deposit, consisting of charred cereal remains and charred wild/weed

seeds. Although the small assemblage of charred caryopses was dominated by poorly preserved unidentified grains, caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) were noted. The transverse rippling/wrinkling on the outer surface of a grain of barley may indicate the presence naked barley. However, it is impossible to fully attest the presence of the naked variety as only a fragment of the surface was present on the poorly preserved grain. Chaff elements were also recorded, consisting of seven glume bases, four rachis fragments and two culm nodes. Although one of the glume bases displayed a more prominent secondary keel which is typical of emmer wheat (cf. *Triticum dicoccum*), the majority of the glume bases were only identified as glumes of spelt/emmer wheat type (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*). The rachis fragments were characteristic of barley.

Charred wild/weed seeds were also present in this sample and so far, identified taxa included ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), blackbindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), grass seeds (Poaceae), probable pale persicaria (cf. *Persicaria lapathifolia*), possible small cleaver/woodruff (cf. *Galium* sp./*Asperula arvensis*), a single possible seed from the mallow (Malvaceae) family as well as seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family.

A small assemblage of bones (burnt and unburnt) was recovered in this sample. Pottery sherds were recorded in the residue.

### 6.3 Discussion

- 6.3.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of environmental remains, including wood charcoal fragments, charred crops and weeds as well as some burnt and unburnt bone. The small assemblage of charred crop remains and charred wild/weed seeds provides limited evidence for waste derived from arable and domestic activities in the deposits. Both wheat and barley are indicated and glume bases confirm the presence of non-free threshing glume wheat such as spelt or emmer. The presence of waste chaff components (glumes and rachis) might be indicative of domestic crop processing activities within the immediate excavated area or may suggest that crop processing waste was redeposited in this location. Unfortunately the botanical assemblage is too limited and too poorly preserved to determine whether these cereals were grown locally and fully processed at this location or whether they were imported to the site part-processed. The majority of the wild/weed taxa indicated are associated with cultivated or otherwise disturbed grounds.
- 6.3.2 The wood charcoal fragments were infrequent and predominantly small (<4mm). Owing to the limited nature of this assemblage, no identifications were undertaken. These samples have revealed interesting but very limited evidence for domestic activities associated with later prehistoric land use and any further work at the site should integrate the botanical assemblages recovered.



## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 In general, archaeological features were encountered at a depth of around 0.50-0.60m below the ground surface, beneath topsoil of around 0.35-0.45m and subsoil of around 0.10-0.15m in depth. In the area of Trenches 2, 3 and 4, fairly substantial deposits of made-ground were encountered below the topsoil, ranging from 0.25 to 0.55 in depth. In these trenches, a possible preserved subsoil of medieval to post-medieval date was encountered below the made-ground. Although no archaeological features were recorded in these trenches, the evaluation has confirmed that modern landscaping of the sports fields has not seriously impacted the archaeological resource.

7.1.2 Archaeological remains, primarily ditches, have been preserved in Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8. Dating evidence from stratified deposits was generally fairly inconclusive, although, on balance, the majority of features are considered most likely to belong to the Late Iron Age/ early Roman period.

### **7.2 Prehistoric Period**

7.2.1 Several sherds of probable Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery have been recovered from across the site, which may indicate the possibility of earlier prehistoric remains within the vicinity but none of these were securely stratified within features

### **7.3 Late Iron Age to Early Roman**

7.3.1 The evaluation has uncovered evidence of ditches and a pit probably dating from the Late Iron Age to early Roman period. This activity is focussed within Trenches 5, 6 and 8, and may represent features associated with the Late Iron Age to Roman period occupation, previously discovered at Harvey Grammar School to the south of the site (Smith 2010, 9). Whilst no clear structural evidence has been discovered, a number of ditches and a small pit, containing the broken remains of a single vessel may indicate remains associated with a farmstead type of settlement pattern.

7.3.2 The substantial ditch in Trench 8 may have an enclosure or defensive function, although further work is required to confirm this.

7.3.3 The poorly dated ditch observed in Trench 7 may also be connected to this complex of features, and the single fragment of probable later Bronze Age pottery contained within the fill may be residual.

### **7.4 Medieval**

7.4.1 Possible medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity has been suggested by the recovery of several pottery sherds from subsoil deposits across the site. Often in a heavily abraded condition, these fragments may simply represent re-deposited material resulting from manuring/ agricultural processes, possibly connected to Broadmead Manor to the east (Smith 2010, 10).



## **7.5 Modern**

- 7.5.1 The location of a possible WWII Air-raid shelter has been recorded during the evaluation. These remains have been recorded from personal communication only, and were not accessible for inspection during the course of the evaluation. This feature is believed to represent part of the complex of Air-raid tunnels constructed at the site of Harvey Grammar School during the Second World War (Smith 2010, 12).

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMS Consulting for commissioning the project and Matthew Smith of CgMS and Ben Found of Kent County Council for their guidance during the project.

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**Appendix 1: Residues quantification (\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51 – 250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights (in grams)**

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume (litres)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Crem bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Crem Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg Ind, pot, cbm)
1	6/010	Fill of pit	20	20	*	<2	*	<2					*	<2	Pottery **/34g
2	8/007	Primary fill of linear	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	*	16					Pottery */4g
3	8/006	Secondary fill of linear	40	40	*	<2	*	<2	*	14	*	<2			Pottery */10g - Flint */<2g



Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation	Min botanicals	Fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	Ind debris hammerscale	Potential	Further work	
3	8/00 6	2	85	92	4	* <i>Sambucus</i> sp.		**	** *	*	Cerealia	+											CH D M A D	fine roots, Cerealia small frag., poorly preserved , fragment ed pitted

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	FCG11					
Identification Name and Address	Folkestone Cricket Ground, Folkestone					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TR 210 367					
Geology	Folkestone Beds of Lower Greensand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4624					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 21- 25 <sup>th</sup> / 03/2011	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA X	RB X
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Folkestone Cricket Ground, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR, 621000 136700) from the 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of March 2011. Nine trenches were excavated, measuring up to 25m in length. Four trenches were found to contain features of probable Late Iron Age to early Roman date which may represent activity associated with a farmstead. Fragments of residual and unstratified pottery of Neolithic, Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval date were also identified from across the site. In addition, the location of a probable WW11 Air raid shelter was recorded.</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeo16-96735****Project details**

Project name	Folkestone Cricket Ground
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Folkestone Cricket Ground, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR, 621000 136700) from the 21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> of March 2011. Nine trenches were excavated, measuring up to 25m in length. Four trenches were found to contain features of probable Late Iron Age to early Roman date which may represent activity associated with a farmstead. Fragments of residual and unstratified pottery of Neolithic, Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval date were also identified from across the site. In addition, the location of a probable WW11 Air raid shelter was recorded.
Project dates	Start: 21-03-2011 End: 25-03-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	FCG11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	AIR RAID SHELTER Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY FOLKESTONE Folkestone Cricket Ground
Postcode	XXXXXX
Study area	225.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 2100 3670 51.0863233729 1.156019583130 51 05 10 N 001 09 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34.00m Max: 35.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Environmental remains','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'

Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Section'

---

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological evaluation at Folkestone Cricket Ground
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Thorne, A
Other bibliographic details	2011041
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East
Description	grey literature

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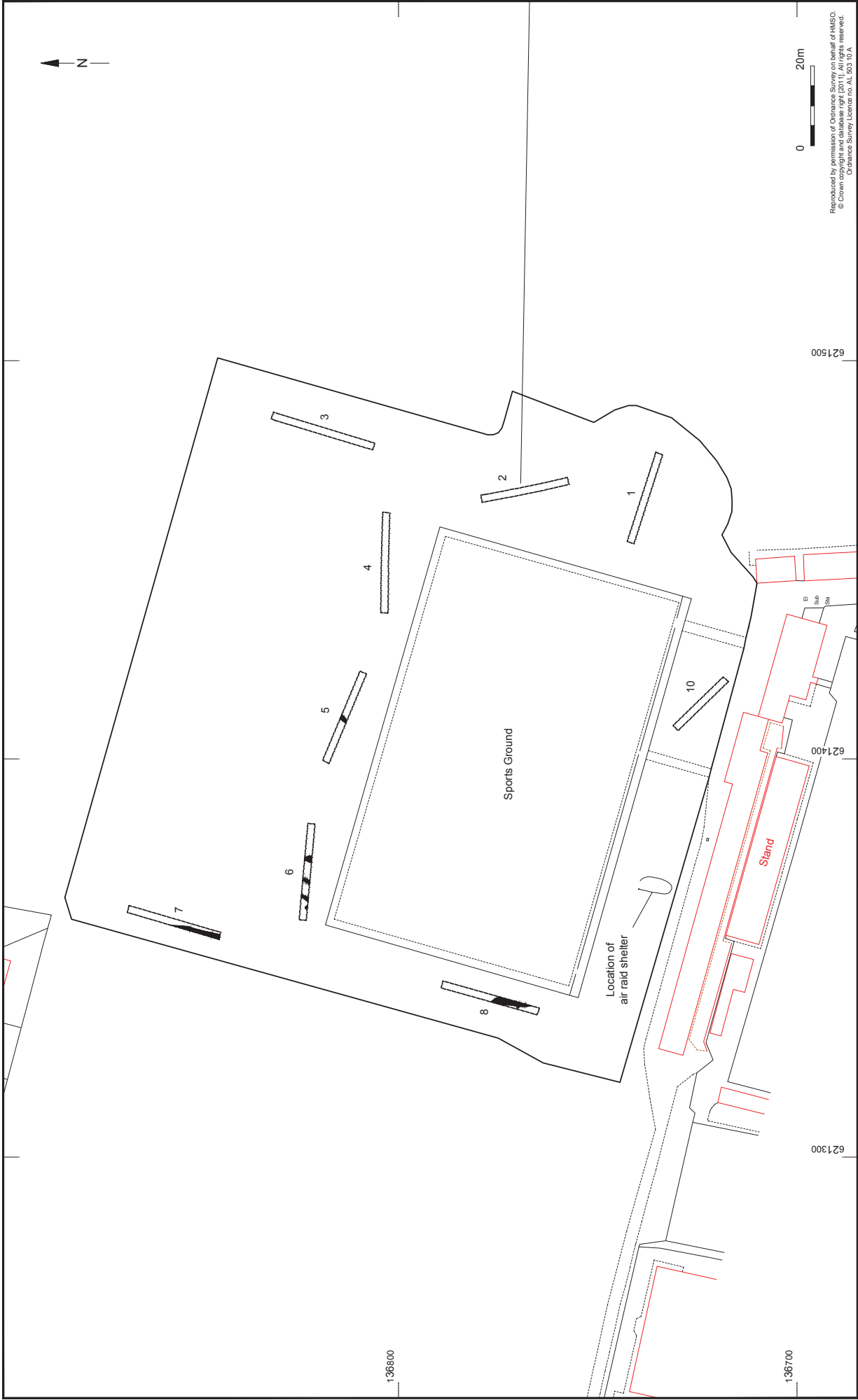
Entered by	Alice Thorne (tornath @ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	21 March 2011





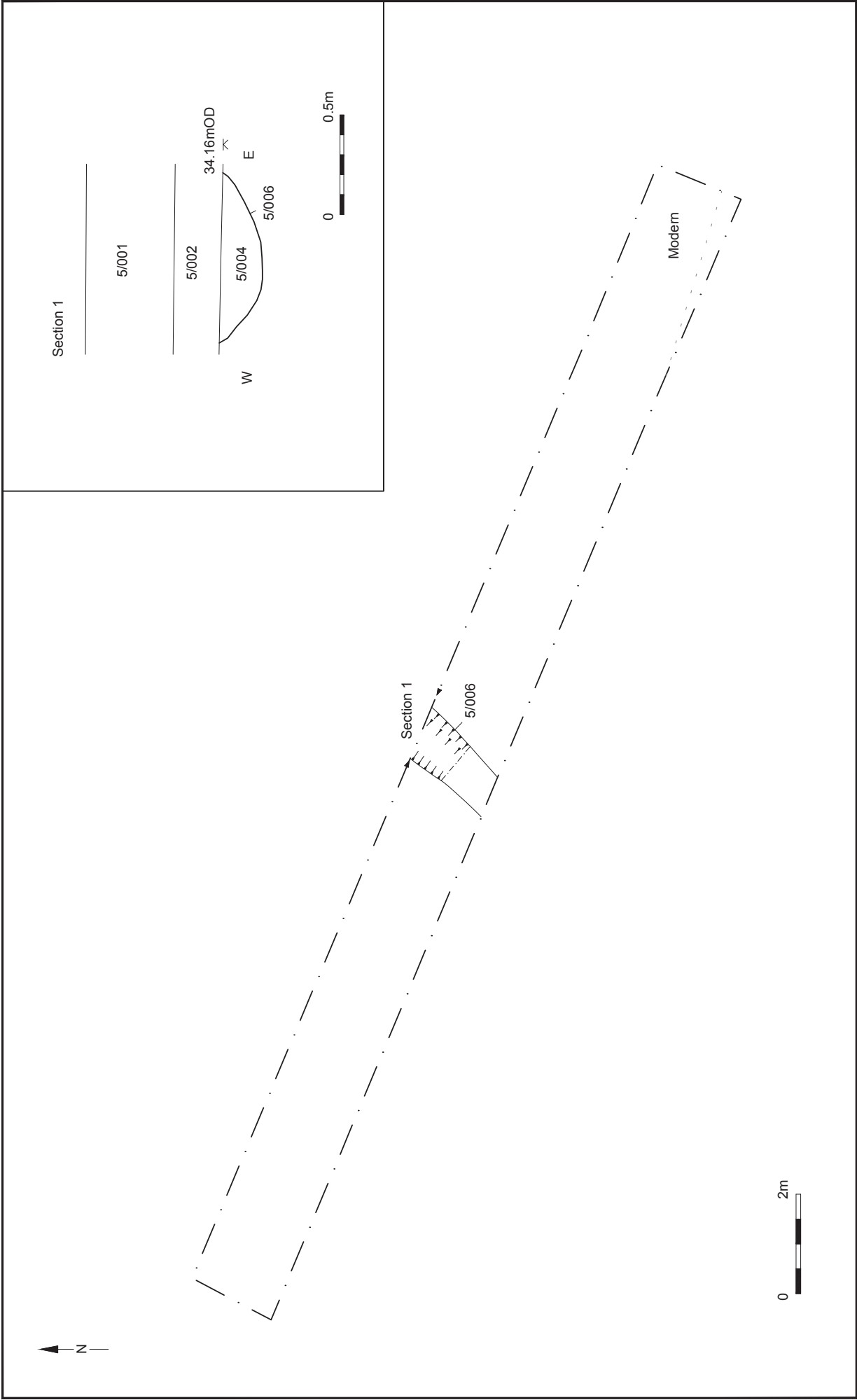
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Project Ref. 4624	Feb 2011	Site location		
Report Ref. 2011041	Drawn by: JLR			





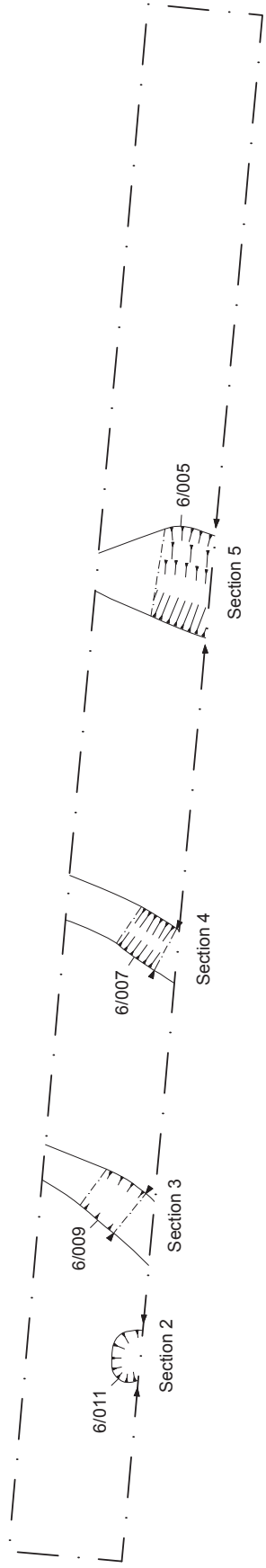
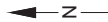
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Project Ref: 4624	Feb 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011041	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 2



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Project Ref: 4624	Feb 2011	Trench 5: Plan and section	
Report Ref: 2011041	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 3



Section 2

6/001

6/002

34.73mOD

E

6/010

W

6/011

Section 3

6/001

6/002

34.68mOD

SE

6/008

NW

6/009

Section 4

6/001

6/002

34.72mOD

SE

6/006

NW

6/007

Section 5

6/001

6/002

34.67mOD

E

6/004

W

6/005



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Project Ref: 4624

Report Ref: 2011041

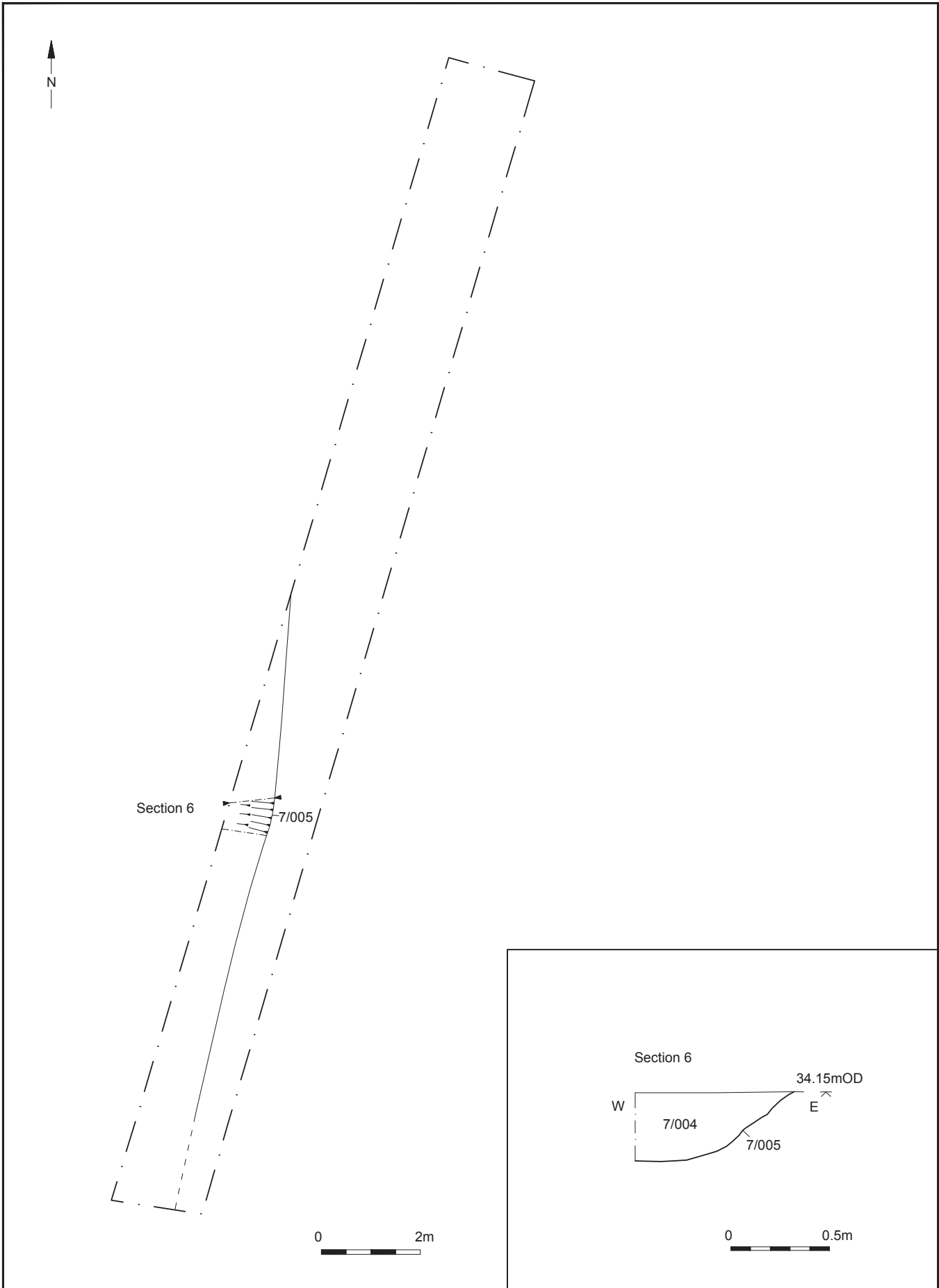
Feb 2011

Drawn by: JLR

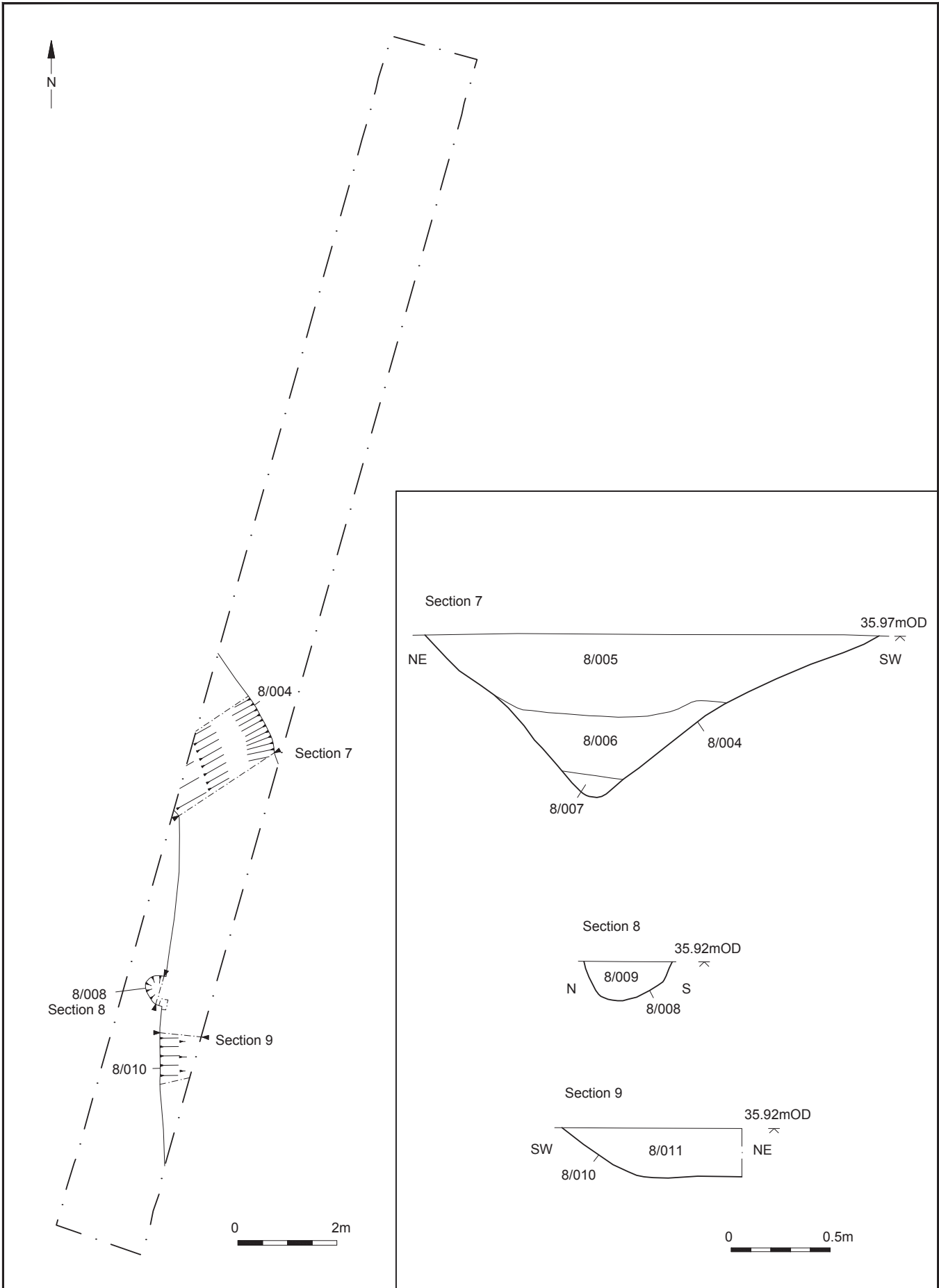
Folkestone Cricket Ground

Trench 6: Plan and sections

Fig. 4



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Project Ref: 4624	Feb 2011	Trench 7: Plan and section	
Report Ref: 2011041	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Folkestone Cricket Ground	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 4624	Feb 2011	Trench 8: Plan and sections	
Report Ref: 2011041	Drawn by: JLR		



Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572  
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