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**NEW ALL-WEATHER FLOODLIT PITCH,
SWADELANDS SCHOOL, LENHAM, KENT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Adam Dyson BA (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs BA (Research)	
NGR: TQ 892 523	Report No: 3643
District: Kent	Site Code: AS 1322
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3835
Signed: 	Date: September 2010

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD
98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB
Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel: 01992 558170
Fax: 01992 553359
E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
Web: www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

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Project details			
Project name	<i>New All-Weather Floodlit Pitch, Swadelands School, Lenham, Kent. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In July and August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a new all-weather floodlit sports pitch at Swadelands School, Lenham, Kent (NGR TQ 892 523). The monitoring was undertaken during the various stages of the development specifically, the removal of topsoil, the site grading which comprised a cut and fill operation, and the excavation of services. The site grading exposed archaeological features at the north-eastern end of the proposed sports pitch, and a soakaway excavated at the south-western end also revealed archaeological features.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest feature (F1003) dated to the Early Bronze Age (EBA) and comprised a steep-sided ditch, aligned NE/SW, and extended the entire length of the sports pitch. Within the soakaway trench Pit F1023 also contained EBA pottery. Adjacent to Pit F10123 Gully F1025 contained a single platform flint core consistent with ?Late Neolithic or Bronze Age reduction technology. At the northern end of the site Gully F1009 contained Neolithic – Iron Age pottery. Also at the northern end of the site undated pits (F1015, ?F1017, F1019, F1031), undated ditch (F1007), and two undated ?hearths (F1005 & F10011) were recorded. Natural features comprised Tree Hollow F1013 and seven unexcavated tree hollows, and four natural hollows (F1021, F1029, F1017 & F1033).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>30th July – Aug 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3835</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1322</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>School playing field</i>		
Planned development	<i>All-weather floodlit sports pitch</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditch, pit, gully</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Prehistoric pottery and struck flint</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Maidstone</i>	<i>Lenham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>ME17 2LL</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.0.77 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 892 523</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>131m / 128m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Swadelands School</i>		
Full title	<i>New All-Weather Floodlit Pitch, Swadelands School Lenham, Kent. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Dyson, A & Higgs, K</i>		
Report no.	<i>3643</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2010</i>		

NEW ALL-WEATHER FLOODLIT PITCH, SWADELANDS SCHOOL, LENHAM, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In July and August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a new all-weather floodlit sports pitch at Swadelands School, Lenham, Kent (NGR TQ 892 523). The monitoring was undertaken during the various stages of the development specifically, the removal of topsoil, the site grading which comprised a cut and fill operation, and the excavation of services. The site grading exposed archaeological features at the north-eastern end of the proposed sports pitch, and a soakaway excavated at the south-western end also revealed archaeological features.

The earliest feature (F1003) dated to the Early Bronze Age (EBA) and comprised a steep-sided ditch, aligned NE/SW, and extended the entire length of the sports pitch. Within the soakaway trench Pit F1023 also contained EBA pottery. Adjacent to Pit F10123 Gully F1025 contained a single platform flint core consistent with ?Late Neolithic or Bronze Age reduction technology. At the northern end of the site Gully F1009 contained Neolithic – Iron Age pottery. Also at the northern end of the site undated pits (F1015, ?F1017, F1019, F1031), undated ditch (F1007), and two undated ?hearths (F1005 & F10011) were recorded. Natural features comprised Tree Hollow F1013 and seven unexcavated tree hollows, and four natural hollows (F1021, F1029, F1017 & F1033).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July and August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new all-weather floodlit pitch at Swadelands School, Lenham, Kent (NGR TQ 892 523; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Clipston Construction Control Ltd on behalf of Swadelands School, and it was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Kent County Council Planning Ref. MA/09/TEMP/0052, MA/09/2245).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by Adam Single of the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (KCC), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 05/03/2010), and approved by KCC. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

1.3 The fieldwork objectives of the project were

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

Planning Policy

1.4 The monitoring was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology, and PPG15 (1994), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible), have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment.

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located at the western side of the village of Lenham (NGR TQ 892 523), with the North Downs scarp to the north and the River Len approximately 2km to the south. It currently comprises the grounds and buildings of Swadelands School.

2.2 The site lies at an approximate height of 131m AOD at the north-eastern end, falling to 128m AOD at the south-western end. The underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey is head deposits capping Lower Chalk.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Relatively little is known of the prehistory of Lenham and its surrounding area, and very little archaeological work has taken place within the village. However, evidence of small-scale prehistoric occupation of the area is shown by the discovery of a Palaeolithic ovate flint and Iron-Age quarter-stater coin, both at Chapel Farm c. 5km to the south-east of the site (Here's History – Kent website). The Romano-British period for Lenham also remains relatively unknown, although Romano-British bricks are built into the south wall of Lenham parish church (Page 1932, 158).

3.2 The manor and settlement of Lenham emerges into the archaeological record during the Anglo-Saxon period, in particular during a charter of AD 804, which records that King Cenwulf of Mercia and King Cuthred of Kent, granted land at West *Leanaham* or Lenham and swine-pastures in the Weald to the abbot of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury (Sawyer 1968, charters 159, 300, 324, 1212 & 1649). The Domesday Book of 1086 confirms that the manor was held by the abbot of St Augustine's Abbey and was valued at £28 (Morgan 1983). It is thought, however, that the settlement of Lenham was in existence by the 6th century given the discovery of three Saxon burials of that date in the centre of the settlement (Here's History – Kent website).

3.3 Nonetheless, it is certain that the Saxon and subsequent medieval settlement of Lenham stood some distance from the site, in the vicinity of the village's Conservation Area c. 1km to the east. The HER database reveals that the site lies beyond the medieval, post-medieval and even early modern core of Lenham (DoE 1984) and thus within 500m of only one HER site. Located on Maidstone Road and 420m east of the site lies Parapet House, which comprises a Grade II listed residence constructed 1800 – 1866 (HER TQ 85 SE 224 - MKE28349). Very little archaeological investigation have so far been undertaken within Lenham or its immediate surroundings, so little is known about the extent of surviving archaeological sub-surface deposits (Here's History – Kent website).

3.4 The HER database did not contain any information regarding Swadelands School or the 19th century Swadelands House upon which the school was reputedly built. The 1839 Lenham tithe award did not include any specific mention of Swadelands House (Kent Archaeological Society website). Similarly, there was no mention of Swadelands House in *Bagshaw's Directory* 1847 for Lenham, yet the property had presumably been constructed by 1899 when the *Kelly's Directory* reveals that *Swadelands* was occupied by Mrs Akers. *Kelly's Directory* for Lenham dated 1934 records that Swadelands was

by then occupied by Capt. Gordon Mitchell. It is known that Swadelands School opened in 1952 as a secondary school.

3.5 Historic cartographic sources confirm that the site of Swadelands School's buildings was formerly occupied by an extensive residential property known as *Swadelands*. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1871 reveals that *Swadelands* stood on land now occupied by both the school and Mitchell Close, and consisted of a detached property with two driveways running southwards of Maidstone Road. The site of the proposed new sports pitch, however, consisted of part of an undeveloped agricultural field (#346) located to the immediate west of *Swadelands*. Subsequent Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1897 – 1923 do not depict any development within the site or the surrounding agricultural field, yet the gardens and yards associated with *Swadelands* were extended south-eastwards. Historic cartographic sources do not document the date at which *Swadelands* was demolished to make way for the school, although it is likely that large residential property fell into decline following World War II.

4 METHOD OF WORK

Methodology

4.1 The archaeological monitoring observed the removal of topsoil across the entire development area surrounding the sports pitch, approximately 70m x 120m. It also included the corridor of a temporary road which provided access to the site from Ham Lane to the NW. The groundworks were undertaken with a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. No archaeological features or finds were revealed during this stage.

4.2 The second principal phase of the groundworks was a cut and fill exercise. The ground level of an area measuring approximately 65m x 30m was reduced at the NE end of the proposed sports pitch (Fig. 2) in order to fill the other end of the site and provide a level surface. The subsoil was removed to reveal the natural geological deposit of mixed clay silt and gravel. The groundworks were undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Thereafter, investigations were undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed when appropriate.

4.3 Additional works monitored during second phase of the groundworks consisted of a batter being cut around the excavated area, and the excavation of a soakaway trench at the SW end of the pitch.

4.4 Further works monitored included the excavation of services within the pitch.

Elements of the Monitoring

The monitoring comprised:

- **Topsoil removal.** Topsoil was removed across the entire development area of the sports pitch, an area measuring approximately 70m x 120m, and along the route of the temporary access road. The groundworks revealed a subsoil present across the whole site, and no archaeological features or finds were revealed. Topsoil L1000 comprised a turf overlying a dark orange brown loose silt (0.15 – 0.20m) (05/07/2010).
- **Site grading,** the natural geology was revealed at the NE end of the proposed sports pitch (08/07/2010 – 22/07/2010).
- **Soakaway trench,** excavated beyond the pitch at the SW end (08/07/2010 – 22/07/2010).
- **Excavation of services** The services consisted of a drainage trench running the length of the sports pitch against the SW side (0.30m wide x 0.60m deep) (DP14), and a series of lateral drains at 10m intervals spanning the width of the pitch (0.30m wide by 0.30-0.40m deep) (Fig.15, DP15). Towards the SW end the drains were not deep enough to reveal the natural geology. Elsewhere, no archaeological features or finds were revealed (27/07/2010 and 29/07/2010).

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 SAMPLE SECTIONS, SITE GRADING

Four sample sections of the stratigraphy were recorded at intervals around the edge of sports pitch (Fig.3), and are tabulated below. The topsoil had already been removed.

Sample Section 1 Fig.4 0.00 = 131.09m AOD		
0.00– 0.23m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, moderately compact, sandy silt with frequent medium angular flint and occasional small CBM fragments.
0.23m+	L1002	Natural. Light yellowish orange, compact, silt, clay and flint gravel.

Sample Section 2 Fig. 4 0.00 = 130.25m AOD		
0.00– 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 3 Fig. 4; DP2 0.00 = 131.04m AOD		
0.00– 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 4 Fig. 4 0.00 = 130.87m AOD		
0.00– 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark orange brown loose silt.
0.08– 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.43m+	L1002	Natural. As above

SAMPLE SECTIONS, SOAKAWAY TRENCH

A sample section of the stratigraphy was recorded. The results are tabulated below:

Sample Section 5 Fig.4; DP 13) NW end, NE facing 0.00 = 128.21m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural geological deposit. As above.

5.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

During the grading of the site where the ground was cut (the northern end of the site) archaeological features were revealed. Features were also revealed within the soakaway trench at the southern end of the site.

The earliest feature (F1003) dated to the Early Bronze Age (EBA) and comprised a steep-sided ditch, aligned NE/SW, and extended the entire length of the sports pitch. Within the soakaway trench Pit F1023 also contained EBA pottery. Adjacent to Pit F10123 Gully F1025 contained a single platform flint core consistent with ?Late Neolithic or Bronze Age reduction technology. At the northern end of the site Gully F1009 contained Neolithic – Iron Age pottery. Also at the northern end of the site undated pits (F1015, ?F1017, F1019, F1031), undated ditch (F1007), and two undated ?hearths (F1005 & F10011) were recorded. Natural features comprised Tree Hollow F1013 and seven unexcavated tree hollows, and four natural hollows (F1021, F1029, F1017 & F1033).

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (c.112+ x 1.60 x 0.70m) oriented north-east/south-west (Fig. 3). It had steep V-shaped sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid orange brown, compact clay silt with moderate medium sized angular flint. It was excavated in two segments tabulated below. An intrusive fragment of 16th to 19th century peg tile (1; 140g) was recovered from the top of the ditch during the machining of the soakaway trench.

Segment	Dimensions (m)	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds finds;count
A	1.60 x 0.70m	V shaped sides, narrow concave base	L1004	Mid orange brown, compact, clay silt with moderate medium-sized angular flint	Early Bronze Age Pottery (2; 20g) Slag (3; 204g)
B	1.20 x 0.64m	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	S. Flint (5; 42g)

Segments of Gully F1003

Gully F1009 was linear in plan (3.52 x 0.50 x 0.31m) oriented north-east/south-west (Fig. 3; DP4). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid red orange, moderately loose sandy silt with moderate small and medium angular flint. It cut Pit F1031. It was excavated in three segments tabulated below:

Segment	Dimensions (m)	Profile	Fill	Description	Finds
A Terminus	0.48 x 0.28m	Steep sides, flattish base	L1010	Mid orange brown, moderately loose, sandy silt with moderate small and medium angular flint	-
B Terminus	0.50 x 0.29m	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	-
C	0.46 x 0.36m	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Neolithic – Iron Age pottery (2; 2g)

Segments of Gully F1003

At the southern end of the site Pit F1023 was oval in plan (1.13 x 1.11+ x 0.42m) (Fig. 3 & DP12). It had shallow sides and an irregular concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a mid orange brown friable silt with moderate gravel. It contained early Bronze Age pottery (2; 2g), and struck flint (6; 43g).

Also at the southern end of the site Gully F1025 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 0.75 x 0.11) oriented N/S (Fig. 3). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1026, was a mid orange brown friable clay silt. It contained struck flint (2; 367g) including a single platform core reminiscent of Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age reduction techniques (Lithics report below).

Undated Features

F1005 and F1011 were both shallow circular features of a similar size, containing burnt deposits. They may represent hearths (DP5, 6 & 7).

Pit F1005 was circular in plan (0.56 x 0.56 x 0.05m). It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1006, was a mottled mid orange and black moderately compact mix of clay silt and charcoal with occasional small angular flint

fragments. No finds were present. The natural clay at the sides and base of the pit had been partially scorched red; evidence of *in situ* burning that suggests a possible hearth.

Pit F1011 was sub circular in plan (0.60 x 0.56 x 0.05m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a mottled mid orange brown and black mix of silty clay and charcoal with occasional small angular flint fragments. No finds were present. The natural clay had been scorched as with F1005, suggesting *in situ* burning, and possible use as a hearth.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (5.00+ x 1.30 x 0.22m) oriented ENE/WSW (DP 8). Its terminus was rounded with shallow sides and an uneven flattish base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid reddish brown compact clay silt with frequent small angular flint fragments and sparse charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Pit F1015 was sub-circular in plan (0.85 x 0.74 x 0.31m) (Fig. 3 & DP10). It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1016, was a light yellowish brown compact clay silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

?Pit F1017 was an irregular oval in plan (1.60 x 1.44 x 0.33m) (Fig 3). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a mid yellowish brown compact silt with occasional small angular flint fragments. No finds were present.

Pit F1019 was oval in plan (0.76 x 0.62 x 0.28m) (Fig. 3). It had shallow sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1020, was a light brownish grey compact silt with moderate small charcoal fragments. No finds were present.

Pit F1031 was sub-circular in plan (1.10 x 1.08 x 0.37m) (Fig 3). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1032, was a mid orange brown moderately loose silty sand with moderate to frequent small and medium sized stones and flint. No finds were present. It was cut by Gully F1009.

Natural Features

Tree hollow F1013 was irregular in plan (1.49 x 0.90 x 0.29m) (Fig 3). It had irregularly sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1014, was a mid orange brown compact silt. Finds comprise fired clay (4; <1g and struck flint (1; 2g).

Two tree hollows were recorded in plan adjacent to Tree Hollow F1013. Similarly five tree hollows were located close to Ditch F1003.

F1021 was sub-circular in plan and likely a natural hollow (1.56 x 1.22 x 0.23m) (Fig. 3). It had irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a mid whitish grey compact clay silt with occasional small angular flint fragments

and stones. No finds were present. The leached appearance of L1022 and its irregular profile are suggestive of a natural hollow.

Natural Depression F1029 was irregular in plan (9.70 x 6.20 x 0.32m). It was investigated by test pits, labelled A-E, located to record profiles across the feature (Fig. 3 and DP9). It had very shallow sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1030, was a light grey compact clay silt with very frequent small sub-rounded flints. No finds were present.

Hollow F1033 was cut by Hollow F1027, and each were subsequently truncated by Depression F1029 (Figs. 3 & 4; DP9). F1033 was oval in plan (1.20+ x c.1.20 x 0.75m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a mid to dark greyish brown compact silt with occasional medium sized sub-rounded flint fragments. No finds were present. Hollow F1027 was an irregular oval in plan (c.1.25 x 1.30 x 0.42m). Its fill, L1028, was a light to mid orange brown mottled with mid greyish brown, compact silty clay with frequent small sub-angular and occasional sub-rounded flint. Finds comprise struck flint (1; 1g).

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The topsoil L1000 consisted of turf overlying a dark orange brown loose silt (0.15 – 0.20m thick), and it was present across the whole site. Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown moderately compact sandy silt with frequent medium angular flint fragments and occasional small CBM fragments (up to 0.46m thick). Below L1001 was the natural geological deposit, L1002, a light yellowish orange compact mix of silt, clay and flint gravel.

8 DISCUSSION

Summary of the archaeology

8.1 The earliest feature (F1003) dated to the Early Bronze Age (EBA) and comprised a steep-sided ditch, aligned NE/SW, and extended the entire length of the sports pitch. Within the soakaway trench Pit F1023 also contained EBA pottery. Adjacent to Pit F10123 Gully F1025 contained a single platform flint core consistent with ?Late Neolithic or Bronze Age reduction technology. At the northern end of the site Gully F1009 contained Neolithic – Iron Age pottery. Also at the northern end of the site undated pits (F1015, ?F1017, F1019, F1031), undated ditch (F1007), and two undated ?hearths

(F1005 & F10011) were recorded. Natural features comprised Tree Hollow F1013 and seven unexcavated tree hollows, and four natural hollows (F1021, F1029, F1017 & F1033).

Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

8.2 The site background suggests that the highest potential for remains probably relate to the 19th century school itself with moderate potential for Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains associated with the core of the settlement some distance from the assessment site. The presence of pre-historic activity is therefore significant given the paucity of evidence for such activity in the immediate area.

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the Maidstone Museum & Bentsliff Art Gallery. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Robert Clipston of Clipston Construction Control Ltd for commissioning the project, and the Governing Body of Swadelands School, Lenham for funding the works.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the main contractor, McArdle Sport Tec Ltd.

AS also gratefully acknowledges Ben Croxford at Kent Historic Environment Record HER, for his input and advice.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input, advice and assistance of Mr Adam Single of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group.

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Kent Archaeological Society website;
<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk>

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS BY FEATURE

AS 1322: Swadelands School, Lenham, Kent

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Other
U/S	U/S						Glass (1) 287g
1003	1004		Ditch Fill	Early Bronze Age	(3) 20g	148	Slag (3) 204g S. Flint (5) 42g
1009	1010	C	Gully Fill	Neolithic - Iron Age	(2) 1g		
1013	1014		Tree Hollow Fill				F. Clay (4) <1g S. Flint (1) 2g
1023	1024		Pit Fill	BA-EIA (prob. EBA)	(2) 2g		S. Flint (6) 43g
1025	1026		Gully Fill	?LN/Bronze Age			S. Flint (2) 367g
1027	1028		Hollow Fill				S. Flint (1) 11g

SPECIALIST REPORTS

Prehistoric Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The monitoring recovered a total of seven sherds (33g) of prehistoric date, the bulk of which is probably of later prehistoric (Bronze Age to early Iron Age) date. All sherds except one in Ditch F1003 (L1004) are extremely small, and all sherds are highly abraded.

Gully F1009 (L1010 Seg. C) contained three sherds (3g) in a reduced fabric with sparse-common flint temper (0.25-5mm) that could date from the Neolithic to the Iron Age.

Ditch F1003 (L1004) contained three sherds (27g) in a fabric with oxidised orange surfaces, a reduced dark grey core, and inclusions of common medium sand (0.1-0.5mm), sparse grog and sparse voids (dissolved calcareous inclusions?) (both 0.25-3mm). A single fragment (24g) in this context comprises the base/body junction of a handmade vessel that is most consistent with Bronze Age form types, notably those used for early Bronze Age Beaker and Food Vessel Urns. The fabric type would also be consistent with the range of inclusions commonly found in fabrics used for these vessels. Two further small sherds (3g) in this fabric were also contained in Pit F1023 (1024).

Lithics

Andrew Peachey

The monitoring recovered a total of 14 fragments (514g) of struck flint, including a single core, that are consistent with late Neolithic to early Bronze Age lithic technology. The raw material of the core and debitage occurs entirely in mid to dark grey flint with a thick white, slightly pitted cortex that suggests it was sourced from primary deposits of local chalk. The bulk of the struck flint is in an un-patinated condition, except for debitage flakes in Ditch F1003 (L1004) that exhibit a slight white patination suggesting they have been subject to weathering, probably due to re-deposition.

Methodology & Terminology

The flint will be quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type (after Healy 1988, 48-9), patination and colour were also recorded as part of this data set.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005,

104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'non-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as its breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio).

Commentary

Gully F1025 (L1026) contained a single Type A2 core (375g) associated with a single tertiary flake of debitage (29g). The core is relatively large and was formed on a frost-cracked cobble-like fragment of flint that has maintained its cortex around its circumference. The core has a single striking platform with blade-like to slightly irregular flakes removed part the way around the platform. There is no evidence of platform preparation or of any attempt to rejuvenate the striking platform once the striking angle became too steep. The selection and technology of this core combined with the limited exploitation/reduction of the core prior to its discard are characteristic of flint reduction in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods. The remaining debitage flakes in the assemblage comprise sparse blade-like to slightly irregular tertiary and uncorticated flakes in Pits F1023 (L1024), F1027 (L1028) and Gully F1025 (L1026), with sparse broad, squat tertiary flakes contained in Ditch F1003 (L1004). All these debitage flakes are consistent with flint reduction technology of the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age, which remains systematic but lacks the finesse and skill of earlier flint technology.

Bibliography

Andrefsky, W. 2005 *Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis* (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Healy, F. 1988 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham, Part VI: Occupation during the Seventh to Second Millennium BC*. EAA 39

Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

A single fragment of highly abraded, post-medieval peg tile (140g) was contained in Ditch F1003 (L1004). The fabric of the peg tile has pale orange surfaces that fade to an orange core, with inclusions of sparse calcareous grains or voids (0.1-4mm), sparse quartz (0.1-0.5mm) and occasional black iron rich grains (0.25-2mm). This type of tile was probably produced within the Kent region between the late 16th to 19th centuries.

SPECIFICATION

NEW ALL-WEATHER FLOODLIT PITCH, SWADELANDS SCHOOL, LENHAM, KENT

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

5th March 2010

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
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NEW ALL-WEATHER FLOODLIT PITCH, SWADELANDS SCHOOL, LENHAM, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1 Namely:

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 As set out in the Research Design (below). It is understood that the programme of archaeological investigation should comprise monitoring and recording during the groundworks (principally soil stripping and service trench excavation) for the proposed new all-weather pitch at Swadelands School.

3.2 The site lies to the east of Maidstone and west of the centre of the village of Lenham, to the south of the A20 road. The BGS records head deposits capping Lower Chalk. The site currently comprises part of the school playing field, to the immediate west of the school buildings.

3.3 The KCC specification notes that the school occupies the site of 19th century Swadelands House, and is 500m west of the medieval village centre at Lenham. The old Maidstone Road (A290) to the north has revealed evidence of Roman-British activity along parts of its course.

3.4 The project report will include reference to the background archaeological information held on the Kent Sites and Monuments Record.

References

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J (eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Glazebrook, J (eds), 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

4 SPECIFIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 As required by the KCC specification the programme of work will include the following stages:

- initial clearance of overburden under archaeological observation
- monitoring of all groundworks
- mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording, if archaeological remains are present
- assessment
- post-excavation and publication, as appropriate to the results of the project

All of the above stages and operations will be carried out in accordance with MAP2 (EH 1991)

5 STAGE DETAILS

5.1 **Site clearance:** under archaeological observation

5.2 **Excavation and recording:** of those features which cannot be preserved and will be substantially disturbed. In accordance with the following standards:

- excavation of all discrete features
- all industrial features to be sampled for appropriate scientific analysis
- full written records of each context and all contexts to be planned
- sampling will adhere to the guidelines prepared by Drs Peter Murphy and Patricia Wiltshire and the guidelines of English Heritage (*Environmental Archaeology; A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, 2002).

5.3 **Archaeological Observation and Recording** of all groundworks

- Observation of all groundworks, and subsequent recording of archaeological deposits
- Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features

- Rapid investigation and recording of any exposed archaeological features/deposits
- Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Further rapid investigation of any exposed archaeological features/deposits
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material (including scanning by metal detector)
- If significant remains are identified a meeting will be convened with the client and KCC in order to agree an appropriate investigation
- A programme of post-excavation field work analysis, archiving and publication, as appropriate to the results of the project.

5.4 Where possible effective **mitigation measures** will be devised according to the circumstances on site

5.5 **Assessment of the site archive.** The assessment will be completed within two months following the completion of the field work

5.6 **Post-excavation analysis and publication** The publication, if appropriate, will be completed within six months following the completion of the field work

6 GENERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

6.1 *Staffing*

Staff profiles are presented (Appendix 2).

6.2 *Method Statement*

The investigation will adhere to the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations and Watching Briefs* (both revised 2001). A Method Statement for dealing with archaeological remains, where present, is presented (Appendix 1).

6.3 The following elements of the project will be observed (as appropriate):

- site preparation/ground reduction;
- service/foundation trenches; and
- any further intrusive groundworks

It is understood that the topsoil will be stripped from the whole footprint of the proposed all-weather pitch, after which the site will be subject to a cut and fill operation to level the clay substrata. This will be followed by perimeter drain trenches and a power cable trench for the floodlighting.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1. General photo of cut and fill operation, looking S.



DP2. Sample Section 3, NE edge of pitch, SW facing, looking NE.



DP3. Ditch F1003 Segment B, looking NE.



DP4. F1009 Segment A, mid-excavation, looking NE.



DP5. Hearth F1005 mid-excavation, looking N.



DP6. Hearth F1011 pre-excavation, looking N.



DP7. Hearth F1011 mid-excavation, looking N.



DP8. Ditch Terminus F1007, looking ENE



DP9. Pits F1027 and F1031 and Tree Hollow F1029, looking SW.



DP10. Pit F1015, looking NW.



DP11. Pitch area post-excavation photo, looking SE



DP12. Pit F1023, looking SE.



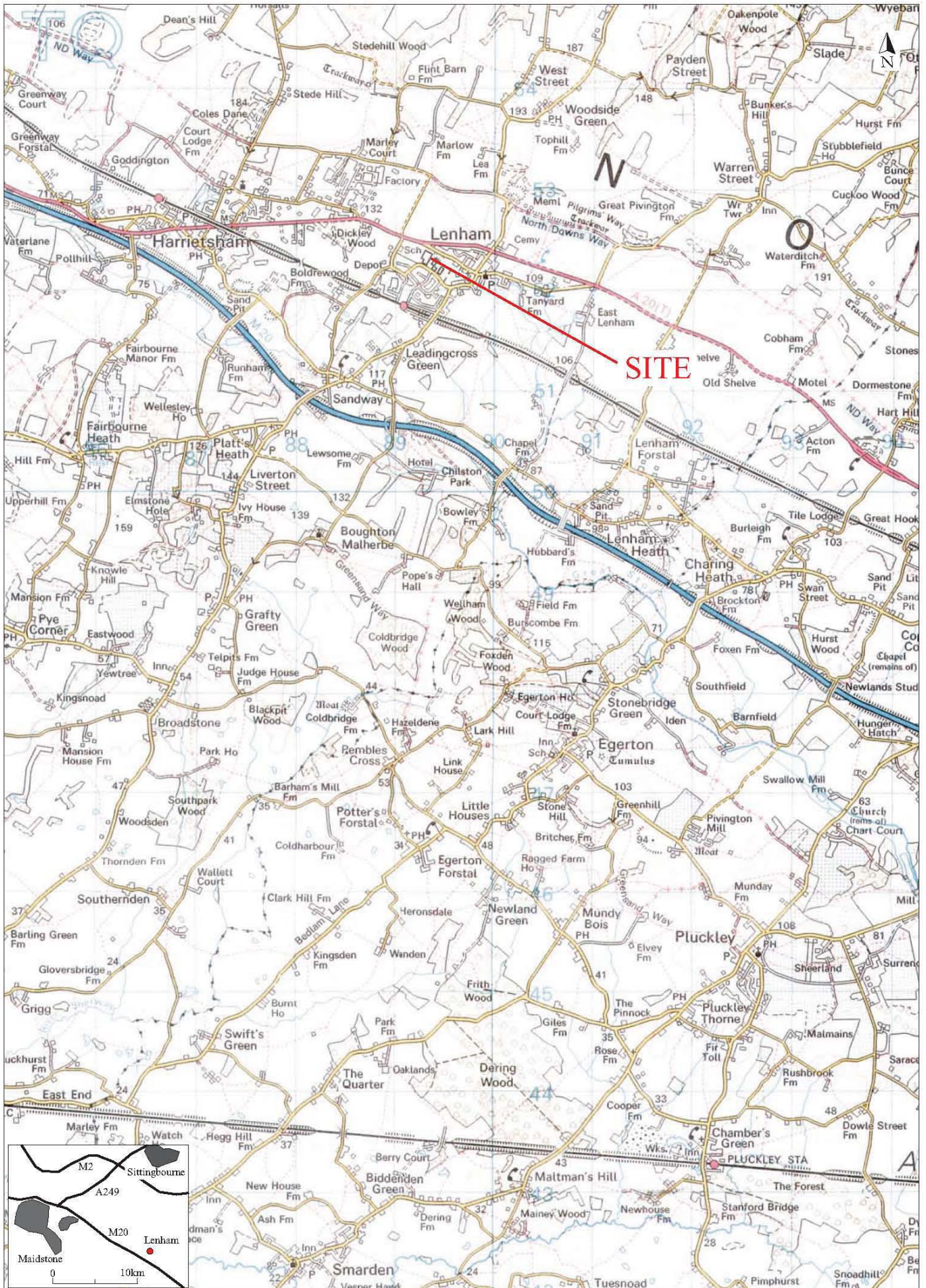
DP13. Soakaway trench post-excavation photo, looking SE.



DP14. NE/SW drain, looking SW.

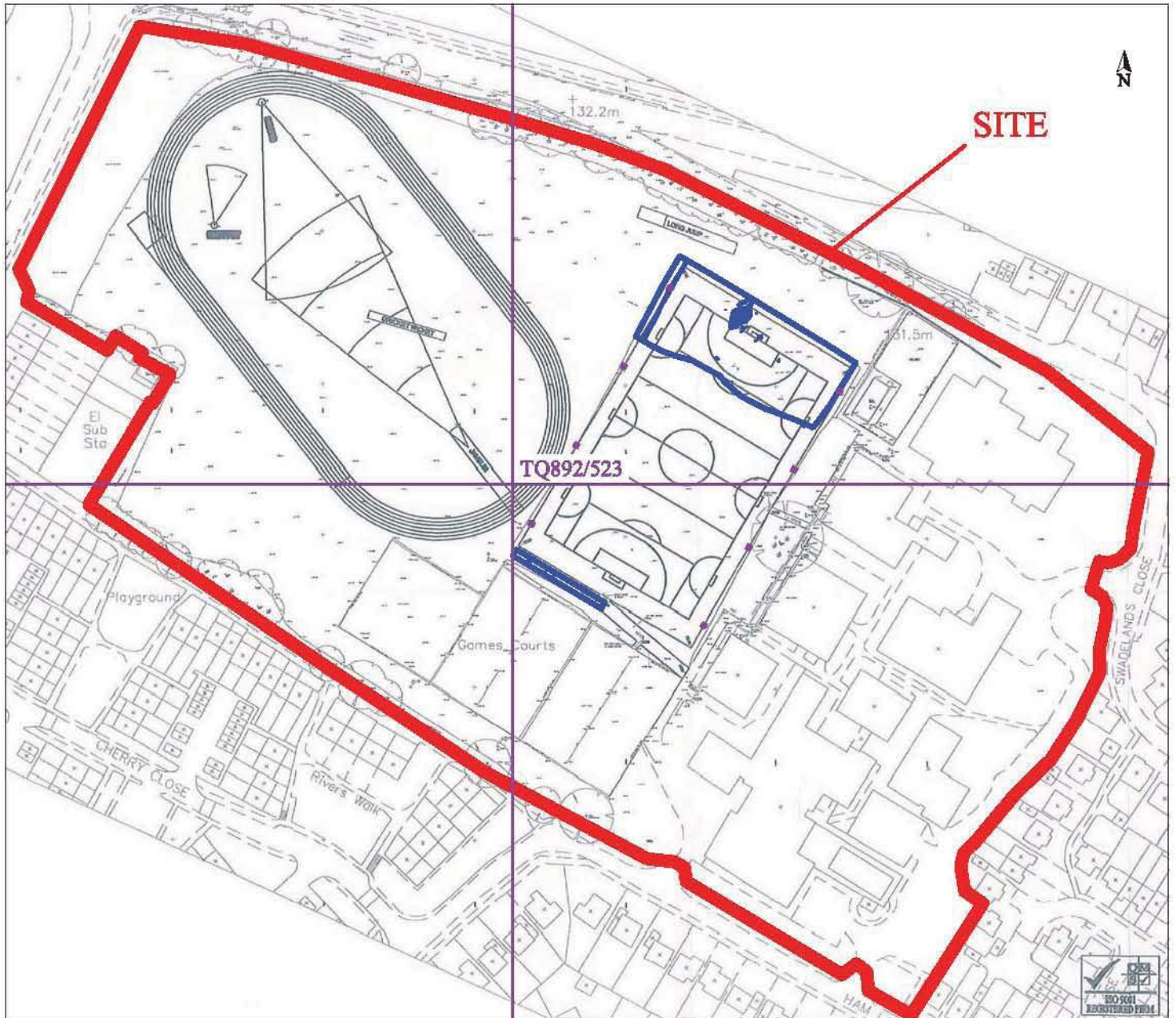


DP15. Lateral drains, looking NW.



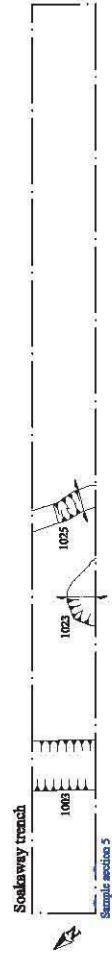
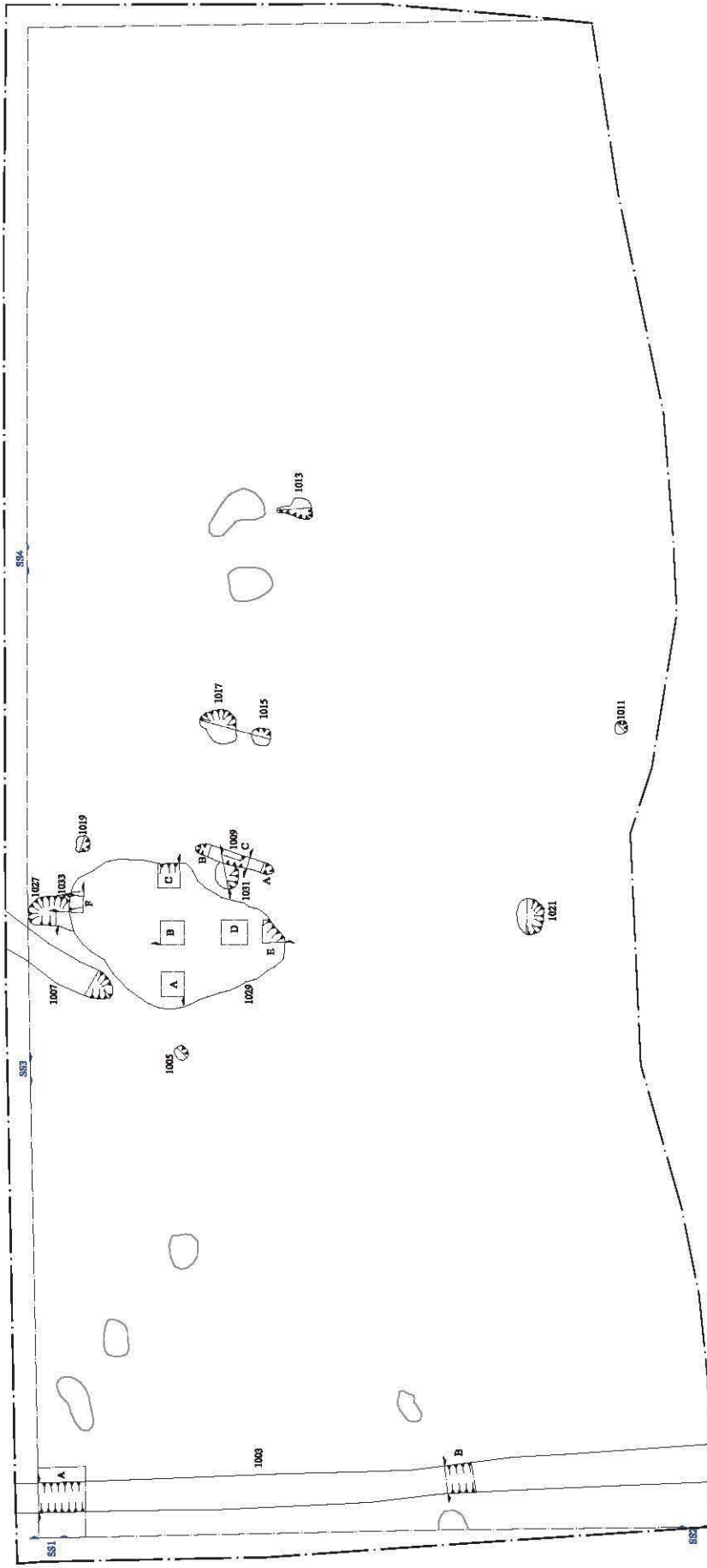
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:50,000 at A4

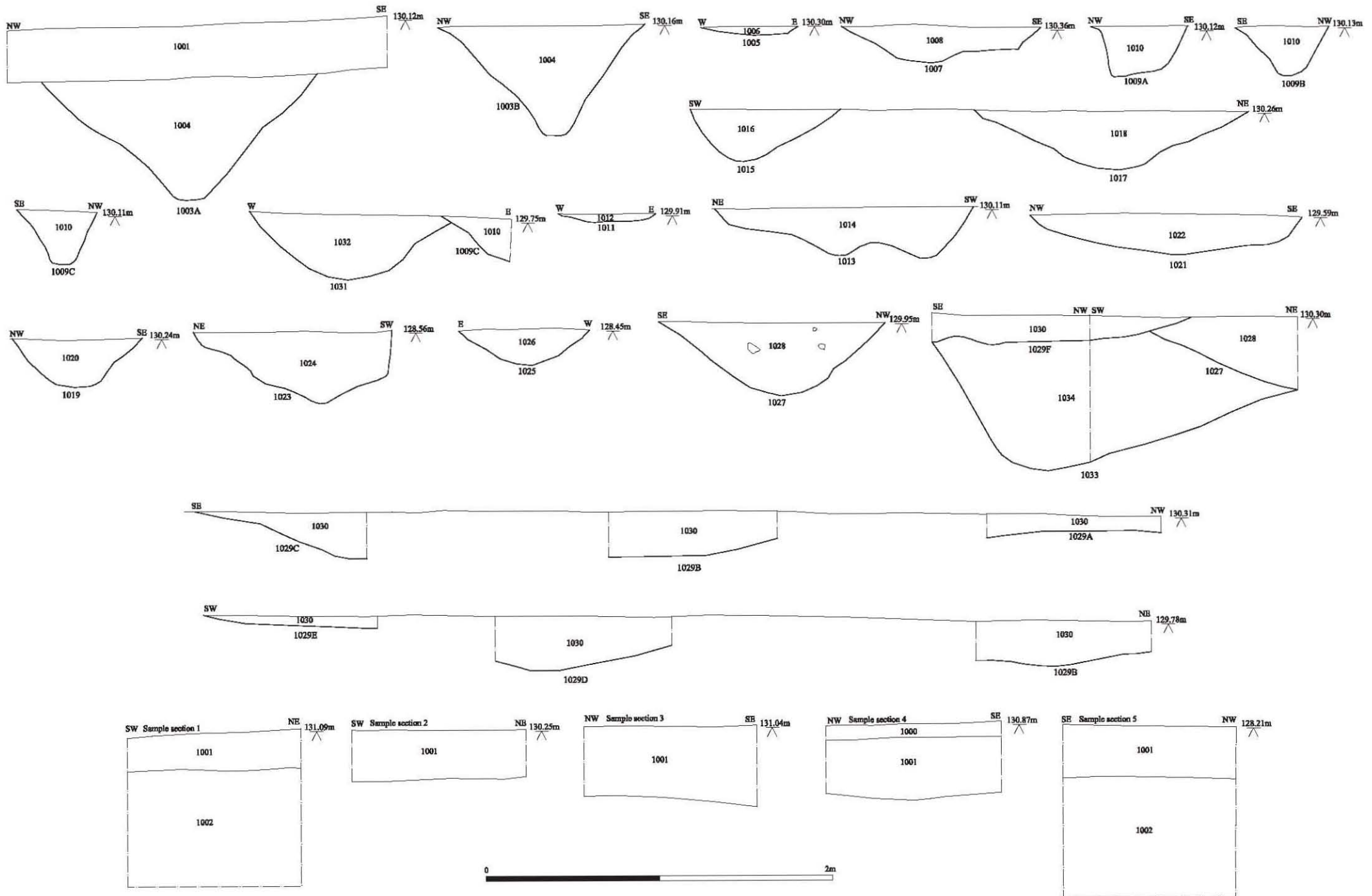


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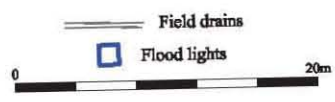
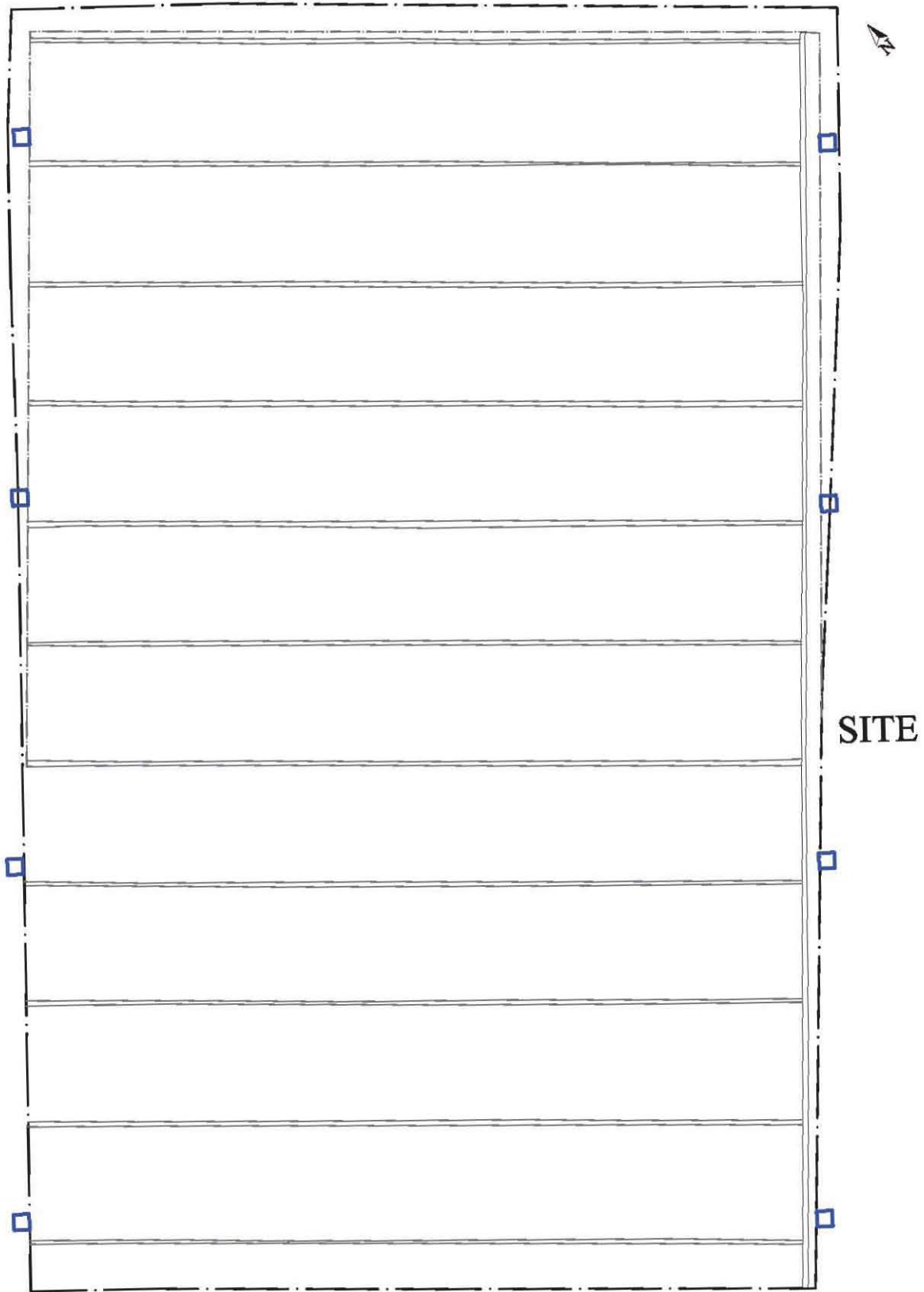
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location
Scale 1:2000 at A4



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Fig. 3 All features plan
 Scale 1:200 at A3



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Fig. 4 Sections
 Scale 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 5 Location of field drains & flood lights
Scale 1:500 at A4