
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

PROPOSED NEW INDOOR CRICKET CENTRE, MERCHANT TAYLOR'S SCHOOL, SANDY LODGE LANE, MOOR PARK, HERTFORDSHIRE HA6 2HT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

HER request No. 171/20
OASIS ID: archaeol7-399472

Author: Keeley Bingham (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs (Research)	
NGR: TQ 09134 94096	Report No: 6042
District: Three Rivers	Site Code: AS 2037
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 8335
	Date: 14 May 2020

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483**

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 *INTRODUCTION***
- 2 *DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE***
- 3 *TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS***
- 4 *ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***
- 5 *METHODOLOGY***
- 6 *DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS***
- 7 *CONFIDENCE RATING***
- 8 *DEPOSIT MODEL***
- 9 *DISCUSSION***

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Proposed New Indoor Cricket Centre, Merchant Taylor's School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Hertfordshire HA6 2HT</i>		
<p><i>In May 2020 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Merchant Taylors School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Hertfordshire, HA6 2HT (Figs.1 & 2; NGR TQ 09134 94096). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new indoor cricket centre (Three Rivers Planning Approval Ref. 19/2039/FUL). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>The site had the potential to reveal archaeology dating from the Palaeolithic through to the post-medieval period. No archaeological features or finds were present. The site stratigraphy was intact, including as it did a subsoil, and therefore had archaeological features been present they would likely have been preserved.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>11th May 2020</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>8335</i>	Site code	<i>AS 2037</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of archaeological significance (No.15)</i>		
Current land use	<i>School sports field</i>		
Planned development	<i>Indoor cricket centre</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Three Rivers</i>	<i>Moor Park</i>
HER for area	<i>Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HA6 2HT</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.2000m2</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 09134 94096</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 50m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Merchant Taylors' School</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed Indoor Cricket Centre, Merchant Taylors School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Bingham, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>6042</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2020</i>		

**PROPOSED NEW INDOOR CRICKET CENTRE,
MERCHANT TAYLOR'S SCHOOL, SANDY LODGE LANE,
MOOR PARK, HERTFORDSHIRE HA6 2HT**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2020 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Merchant Taylors School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Hertfordshire, HA6 2HT (Figs.1 & 2; NGR TQ 09134 94096). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new indoor cricket centre (Three Rivers Planning Approval Ref. 19/2039/FUL). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

The site had the potential to reveal archaeology dating from the Palaeolithic through to the post-medieval period. No archaeological features or finds were present. The site stratigraphy was intact, including as it did a subsoil, and therefore had archaeological features been present they would likely have been preserved.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2020 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Merchant Taylors School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Hertfordshire, HA6 2HT (Figs.1 & 2; NGR TQ 09134 94096). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new indoor cricket centre (Three Rivers Planning Approval Ref. 19/2039/FUL). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with advice from HCC HEAT and a specification compiled by AS (24th February 2020), and approved by HCC HEAT. It was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains (and palaeoenvironmental remains) liable to be threatened by the proposed

development, in order to provide further information in determining the planning application;

- To understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment; and
- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

Planning policy

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies within the northern part of the grounds of Merchant Taylor's School, located to the north of Sandy Lodge Lane at Moor Park, within the Colne Valley. It currently comprises an area of grass adjacent to an existing all-weather hockey pitch at the school.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The school and evaluation site are located to the north-east of the settlement of Moor Park, which is dominated by Moor Park Mansion, 1.7km to the west-south-west of the site.

3.2 The larger settlement of Rickmansworth is located c. 4km to the north west of the site at Merchant Taylors' School. Watford lies c. 3km to the north-east and Northwood is located 2.5km to the south. The site lies within the Area of Archaeological Significance No. 15, designated on the Local Plan. It lies on gravel terraces, some 200m to the south of the River Colne, at an average height of 51 – 54m AOD.

3.3 The underlying solid geology comprises Eocene London Clay, overlain by a later drift geology of Boulder Clay (BGS 2015). The site is located on the boundary between two different soil associations; Sonning 1 and Bursledon (SSWE 1983). Where Sonning 1 exists, the site lies above a solid geology of plateau gravel and river terrace drift, relating to the River Colne, a well drained flintly coarse, loamy and sandy soils, mainly over gravel. Where Bursledon exists, the site lies above a solid geology of Eocene and Jurassic clay. Bursledon Association is described as being deep, fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and light seasonal waterlogging association with deep, coarse, loamy soils variably affected by groundwater. These two soil associations are suitable for the cultivation of cereals, especially barley, sugar beet and other arable crops; gravel extraction (Sonning 1) and some horticultural crops.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Palaeolithic remains

4.1 The Colne valley, Hertfordshire, has yielded evidence for human activity dating to the earliest prehistoric periods (Munby 1977). Palaeolithic flint implements have been found widely in the Colne and Chess valleys in Hertfordshire, suggesting occupation of the area in Palaeolithic times (MoLAS 2000). Within the school grounds, a bone gouge tool, a flint flake tool and other flints have been found (SMR 202). These artefacts date from the prehistoric period, though more precise dating is not possible

Mesolithic remains

4.2 Evidence of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of the site is well attested. Casual finds of flintwork suggest the presence of several Mesolithic and Neolithic occupation sites in the immediate area, for instance at Hamper Mills, on the Sandy Lodge Golf Course and Tolpits Lane. At Hamper Mills, a deposit of Mesolithic material was discovered comprising flints and oak charcoal. A total of 216 Mesolithic flints were recovered, the majority of which were primary flakes (SMR 11515).

4.3 Important scatters of *in situ* lithic and faunal material were excavated south of the present site, at the nationally important ‘kill site’ of Three Ways Wharf, Oxford Road, Uxbridge in the late 1980s (SMR 51023, Lewis *et al* 1992). Excavations revealed a sequence of hunter-gatherer butchery sites on gravel islands in the floor of the Colne Valley (Lewis 2000). Scatters of struck flints were found in association with animal bone, including reindeer and horse that was carbon dated to c. 10,000 BP. Other flint scatters were of early Mesolithic date, c. 8000 BP, and were associated with red deer, beaver and swan remains.

Neolithic remains

4.4 Concentrations of struck flint have been collected over the years, either from gravel pits or in the course of dredging and deep ploughing. Such finds have been recovered from the Sandy Lodge Golf Course 600m south of the site. An area of Neolithic occupation was discovered at the north-east of the course (SMR 843). Associated implements included scapers and knives, but fragments of Neolithic pottery, arrow heads, pounders and hammers were also found. A series of Neolithic pits were also found on the golf course, containing leaf shaped arrow heads and other worked flints (SMR 4921).

4.5 Four areas of Neolithic flint scatters were recorded during previous archaeological monitoring at the Batchworth Golf Course, although no associated features were identified (McDonald 1995). In 1975, Neolithic flint flakes were also found in the location of Hamper Mills (SMR 4972).

Bronze Age remains

4.6 Bronze Age and Beaker finds have also been found in the locality. Within the school grounds late Bronze Age flints were discovered (SMR 577). At the Sandy Lodge site in 1978, rusticated pottery sherds from the Beaker period (early Bronze Age) were also recovered (SMR 4922).

Iron Age remains

4.7 The Sandy Lodge site has also revealed evidence of occupation probably dating to the early Iron Age (SMR 844). More significantly, Iron Age pottery was recovered from pits at Hamper Mills (SMR 822). Evidence recovered during former gravel extraction at that site also indicates the possibility of a Belgic pile dwelling as a result of the discovery of water logged piling (SMR 2264).

Romano- British remains

4.8 During the Roman period, the immediate area appears to have been largely rural in character, with a number of small farmsteads along the valley. The Colne Valley, however, continued to be intensively occupied throughout the Romano-British period, with a number of villa estates, industrial sites and other settlements scattered throughout the countryside. Roman finds are

known from the school grounds. These finds consisted of Roman pottery sherds and animal bone found associated with post- medieval clay pipe fragments (SMR 847).

4.9 A Roman building was excavated in the 1960s at Sandy Lodge Golf Course and stray finds of coins, pottery and building material have been recovered, many recovered from the Sandy Lodge area to the north-west. Post holes and at least one Roman pit was also discovered at the Sandy Lodge Golf Course (SMR 4919).

4.10 A Roman settlement at Hamper Mill was recorded in the 1930s during gravel extraction, with evidence of a building and track in addition to other features. The occupation site comprised waterlogged deposits of domestic rubbish, late 1st to late 2nd century pottery and fragments of plaster (SMR 821). A Roman *tegula* has also been recovered near to the Hamper Mills site (SMR 980).

4.11 The Colne valley and its tributary streams are known to have been densely settled in the Romano-British period, with extensive evidence from throughout Hertfordshire. Such remains include villa estates, rural farmsteads and industrial activity. A Roman villa, for example, is detailed on modern Ordnance Survey maps 1km to the south-west of the site, within the grounds of Moor Park mansion. To the east, a significant Romano- British settlement lies near a ford on the opposite site of the River Colne (SMR 2264).

Medieval remains

4.12 The medieval Manor of the Moor lay less than a kilometre to the west of the site. It is marked by two moated enclosures (VCH 1908). The earliest reference to the Manor of the Moor (*La More*) dates from 1182, when it was given by the abbot of St Albans to Adam Agnū (Aignel) in exchange for two hides and a half in Horwood (VCH 1908).

4.13 The Manor of the Moor was built in 1426 as an elaborate brick courtyard house. The manor was demolished in 1650, however the site was excavated in 1952–55 (Pevsner 1953). The manor had been altered and enlarged by successive occupants including Archbishop Neville of York, Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII. A possible medieval occupation site is also known at Sandy Lodge Golf Course, and the Manor of the Rose lies 800m to the south-east.

4.14 Medieval pottery was found in 1975 to the east of Hampermill House (SMR 4973). Similar pottery, along with jug fragments and wooden artefacts were also found to the north-west in Rickmansworth (SMR 6025).

Post- medieval remains

4.15 The site appears to have remained in agricultural use during the post- medieval period, until the school was moved there in 1933. It was originally

founded in London in 1561. The main school building itself was built using in 1931–33 in a neo-Georgian style by W. G. Newton (Pevsner 1953).

4.16 Moor Park Mansion, 1.50km to the south-west of the site, is regarded as the grandest 18th century mansion in Hertfordshire (Pevsner 1953). It was located on a new site on a hill, some distance south-west of the medieval Manor of the Moor. Moor Park itself is a remodelling of the 17th century house built by the Earl of Bedford and later owned by the Duke of Monmouth.

4.17 Moor Park was designed and built by Thornhill as a stone mansion with a splendid giant Corinthian portico and paintings by Amigoni throughout the hallway (Pevsner 1953). Its grounds were planned by (Capability) Brown and within them lies a private house, which was originally a tea pavilion designed by Robert Adam. In the 1930s a number of Early Modern houses were constructed at Moor Park by the architects Connell, Ward and Lucas.

5 PREVIOUS PHASES OF INVESTIGATION

5.1 Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the site is extensive (Fig. 3). Excavations on the site of the Manor of the More were undertaken in 1952 – 55 on behalf of the Merchant Taylors' School Archaeological Society (Biddle, Barfield & Millard 1959). An area to the south of the main building complex was not excavated, although it was assumed that buildings of Cardinal Wolsey's alterations after 1521 must have been present there. This area was bulldozed in 1959-60 and then partially levelled with dumped clay. Occupation at the Manor of the More could be divided into two phases – before and after 1426; when a royal licence was granted for the construction of a large and elaborate building. The first occupation at the site consisted of a rectangular moated enclosure apparently palisaded, and dated c. 1250 – 1300.

5.2 In 1991, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT, now AS) carried out an evaluation at Northwood Preparatory School at Moor Farm (HER EHT4252, Cooper-Reade 1991). The evaluation trench dug within the footprint of a proposed new building revealed a spoil tip about 1m deep, overlying at least a metre of clay and loam containing modern rubble. Although excavation was restricted, the quantity of modern deposits may indicate deliberate fill of a large feature.

5.3 In 1996, a watching brief at the Manor of the More, specifically for a new sports hall at Northwood Preparatory School, found a considerable difference between two foundation pits (HER EHT4244; Guttman 1996). Pit 1 contained 3.6m of made ground, redeposited alluvial clay and modern building rubble, the layers sloping steeply to the north. The other pit contained a much shallower sequence, *'indicating that the edge of the infilled moat probably lies between the two foundation pits'* (*ibid.*). In 1997 a desk-based assessment and field evaluation were carried out by HAT (now AS) prior to the creation of a hockey pitch (Guttman 1997; Humphrey 1997). The evaluation comprised

test pitting and trial trenching (Humphrey 1997). No archaeological features were revealed, although struck flint was recovered from the topsoil. In 1999, an evaluation in advance of a proposed new building at Northwood Preparatory School revealed sandy silt containing modern rubble above sandy clay subsoil, which also contained some modern debris (HER EHT4845; Hillelson 1999). In 2000 monitoring during construction of a new building noted the presence of a substantial post-medieval building (HER EHT4952; Hillelson & Ashworth 2001).

5.4 A trial trench evaluation was also carried out by AS in 2005 in advance of the construction of the adjacent sports facilities (Doyle & Williams 2005). It revealed undated archaeological features, including a ditch and five pits, and at a depth of only c.0.26m (HER 12832).

5.5 In 2007, a watching brief was undertaken at Northwood Preparatory School prior to the development of a new air conditioning enclosure (HER EHT1343; Turner 2007). The monitoring revealed the remains of several walls of early to mid 19th century date. The walls relate to buildings associated with the post-medieval farm that stood on the site in the late 18th - early 19th century. The evidence suggests that at least part of the farmyard was remodelled between 1800 - 1839, including the demolition of the aisled barn to the north, and the possible structures recorded. No evidence for the medieval Manor of the More was identified. The stratigraphy consisted of a thin layer, 0.10m deep, of dark silty topsoil, a dark brown silty sandy subsoil, and the natural, which consisted of gravel with sandy clay glacial striations, typical of gravel terraces.

5.6 In 2011 a geophysical survey was carried at Northwood Preparatory School. The survey aimed to *'define the size and position of the main house, the location and size of the long gallery and also to try to locate the original main entrance tower'* (GSB Prospection 2011). The footprint of the main manor house was recorded with clarity, showing features interpreted as buttresses, doorways, floors, and bays. A possible earlier structure was detected within the inner courtyard. The north-east corner of the building complex did not appear clearly, perhaps indicative of phases of robbing. A pier base, identified in earlier excavations as being part of the long gallery, was detected, and also an isolated response to the north. No further anomalies possibly associated with the long gallery were detected. Structures relating to the outer (or base) court remained elusive as did the principal gatehouse.

5.7 In 2012, an archaeological evaluation was on the site of the new dining hall at Northwood Preparatory School (HERs EHT7178 & EHT8253; Densem & Jones 2012). Three evaluation trenches and six test pits revealed a 20th century layer of clay imported to build up the surface by 1.2 - 1.5m. This clay sealed a buried soil containing CBM and modern glass, suggestive of open ground, above a possible demolition layer (probably 19th century) overlying natural clay. No discrete features, that might be considered to be of archaeological significance, were uncovered although, if present, these would be likely to be protected by more than 1m of mixed overburden.

5.8 In 2012 an evaluation in conjunction with Time Team sought to reveal further information about the Manor of the More at Northwood Preparatory School (HER EHT7465; Thompson *et al.* 2013). Two geophysical surveys (GSB Prospection 2011) had mixed results; they revealed the layout of the Inner Court and associated buildings, but were unable to find any trace of the Base Court and Long Gallery. The evaluation consisted of seven trenches within the scheduled area in the school playing fields and confirmed the results of the geophysical survey. The earliest identified structures were the remains of two timber-framed buildings in Trenches 2 and 3 respectively. These buildings are likely to have pre-dated a licence to crenellate of 1426. The remaining structures identified include the Great Hall, the tower of the gatehouse from the Base Court into the Inner Court, and the north-east corner of the northern and eastern accommodation blocks. These structures are likely to date from between 1426 and the period of Cardinal Wolsey's alterations, after 1521.

5.9 In March 2014 AS carried an archaeological evaluation prior to the demolition of an existing single storey building and the erection of a two storey Design Technology and Art block with associated facilities, new perimeter road and remodelling of existing parking provision (Pozorski 2014). The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

5.10 In November 2019 AS carried out an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a single-storey reception building and parking (Bingham 2019). The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological features or finds pre-dating the 19th century. The site stratigraphy was truncated and numerous modern services were present.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 HCC advice required the excavation of trial trenches to evaluate the presence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed development. A sample of the area proposed for the new cricket centre and associated car park was trial trenched, and three trenches of 20m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig.3).

6.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. (4 - 5)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 49.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.21 – 0.84m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty clayey sand with moderate small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.84m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Varies from a friable mid yellow brown sandy gravels to a firm mid yellow brown clayey silt and clay.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 49.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.23 – 0.84m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.84m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 Figs. (4 - 5)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 49.86m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.15 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.54m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 49.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.22 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.52m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 Figs. (4 - 5)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 49.78m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.18 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.42 – 0.50m	L1003	Modern deposit. Friable, coarse yellow sand and gravel containing modern green plastic string.
0.50m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 49.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.15 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.60m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. (0.15 – 0.23m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a Firm, mid grey brown silty clayey sand with moderate small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.

9.2 At the base of the stratigraphy, the natural deposits, L1002, varied from a friable mid yellow brown sandy gravels to a firm mid yellow brown clayey silt and clay (0.50 - 0.84m below the current ground surface).

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within an Area of Archaeological Significance (15) designated on the Local Plan which encompasses an area of multi-period occupation with known sites of Mesolithic and Neolithic occupation of the valley, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British farmsteads and the well-preserved Tudor manorial site here. The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes findings of prehistoric flint scatters and Iron Age pottery sherds to the south of the site of the proposed new cricket centre building. A trial trench evaluation was also carried out by AS in 2005 in advance of the construction of the adjacent sports facilities (Doyle & Williams 2005) revealing several undated archaeological features, including a ditch and pits close to the proposed new cricket building, at a depth of only c.0.26m (HER 12832).

10.2 The site had the potential to reveal archaeology dating from the Palaeolithic through to the post-medieval period. No archaeological features or finds were present. The site stratigraphy was intact, including as it did a subsoil, and therefore had archaeological features been present they would likely have been preserved.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Three Rivers Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Merchant Taylors School for funding the works and for their assistance (in particular Messrs Ian Williams, Mr John Harratt and Mr Richard Ayling), and all the assistance of Sports Clubhouses Ltd (in particular Mr Andy Macdonald).

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Simon Wood, Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor

13 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bingham, K., 2019. *Merchant Taylors Prep School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation*, AS Report No. 5954.

British Geological Survey 1991 *East Anglia Sheet 52°N-00° 1:250,000 Series Quaternary Geology*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*, Reading, ClfA

Collins, D et al 1976 *The archaeology of the London area; current knowledge and problems*. London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Special Paper No.1

Cooper-Reade, H. 1991 *Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Farm, junior school site; an archaeological evaluation*. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT, now AS) unpublished report No. 166

Crawford, OGS 1953 *Archaeology in the Field* London

Densem, R. & Jones, G. 2012 *New Dining Hall, Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation*. The Heritage Network unpublished report No. 737

Doyle, K & Williams, J., 2005. *Merchant Taylor's School, Moor Park, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation*, AS Report 1749

GSB Prospection 2011 *Manor of the More, Hertfordshire, Geophysical Survey Report*. GSB Prospection unpublished report

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Guttmann, E. 1996 *Manor of the More, Northwood Sports Hall, Rickmansworth; observation and recording*. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT, now AS) unpublished report No. 158

Hillelson, D. 1999 *New science and technology block, Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts. Archaeological evaluation*. The Heritage Network unpublished report No. 699

Hillelson, D. & Ashworth, H. 2001 *New science & technology block, Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts. Archaeological monitoring report*. The Heritage Network unpublished report No. 851

Humphrey, R., 1997 *Merchant Taylors' School, Moor Park. A Field Evaluation*. HAT Report No. 244

McDonald, T 1995 'The A41 Project, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust', in R Holgate (ed) *Chiltern Archaeology, Recent Work; A handbook for the next decade*. Dunstable; The Book Castle

MoLAS 2000 *The Archaeology of Greater London: an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*. Museum of London Archaeology Service/English Heritage/City of London Archaeological Trust

Page, W (ed) 1908 *Victoria County History of Hertfordshire*. Volume II. University of London Institute of Historical Research.

Pevsner, N & Cherry, B 1953 *The Buildings of England; Hertfordshire*. London; Penguin books

Pozorski, Z., 2014. *Merchant Taylors Prep School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation*, AS Report 4533.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales Harpenden

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural

Turner, C. 2007 *Northwood Preparatory School, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts. Archaeological monitoring report.* The Heritage Network unpublished report No. 414

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	4
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	21

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Merchant Taylors' School, Moor Park
County: Herts	District: Three Rivers
Village/Town: Moor Park	Parish: Moor Park
Planning application reference:	Three Rivers Planning Approval Ref. 19/2039/FUL
Client name/address/tel:	Merchant Taylors' School
Nature of application:	School sports field
Present land use:	Indoor cricket facility
Size of application area: c.2000m ²	Size of area investigated c.110m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TQ 09134 94096
Site Code:	AS 2037
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological evaluation
Date of work:	11 th May 2020
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Three Rivers Museum
Related SMR Nos: 577	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	<p><i>Humphrey 1997 Merchant Taylors' School, Moor Park; a field evaluation. HAT</i></p> <p><i>Doyle, K & Williams, J, 2005, Merchant Taylor's School, Moor Park, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation, AS Report 1753</i></p> <p><i>Pozorski, Z., 2014. Merchant Taylors Prep School, Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation, AS Report 4533.</i></p>
Summary of fieldwork results:	No archaeological features or finds were present. The site stratigraphy was intact, including as it did a subsoil, and therefore had archaeological features been present they would likely have been preserved.
Author of summary: Keeley-Jade Bingham	Date of Summary: 14 May 2020

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8335)



1
General site overview



2
General site overview



3
Trench 1 looking north-east



4
Sample section 1A looking south-east



5
Sample section 1B looking north-west



6
Trench 2 looking south-east



7
Sample section 2A looking south-west



8
Sample section 2B looking north-east



9
Trench 3 looking south-west



10
Sample section 3A looking south-east

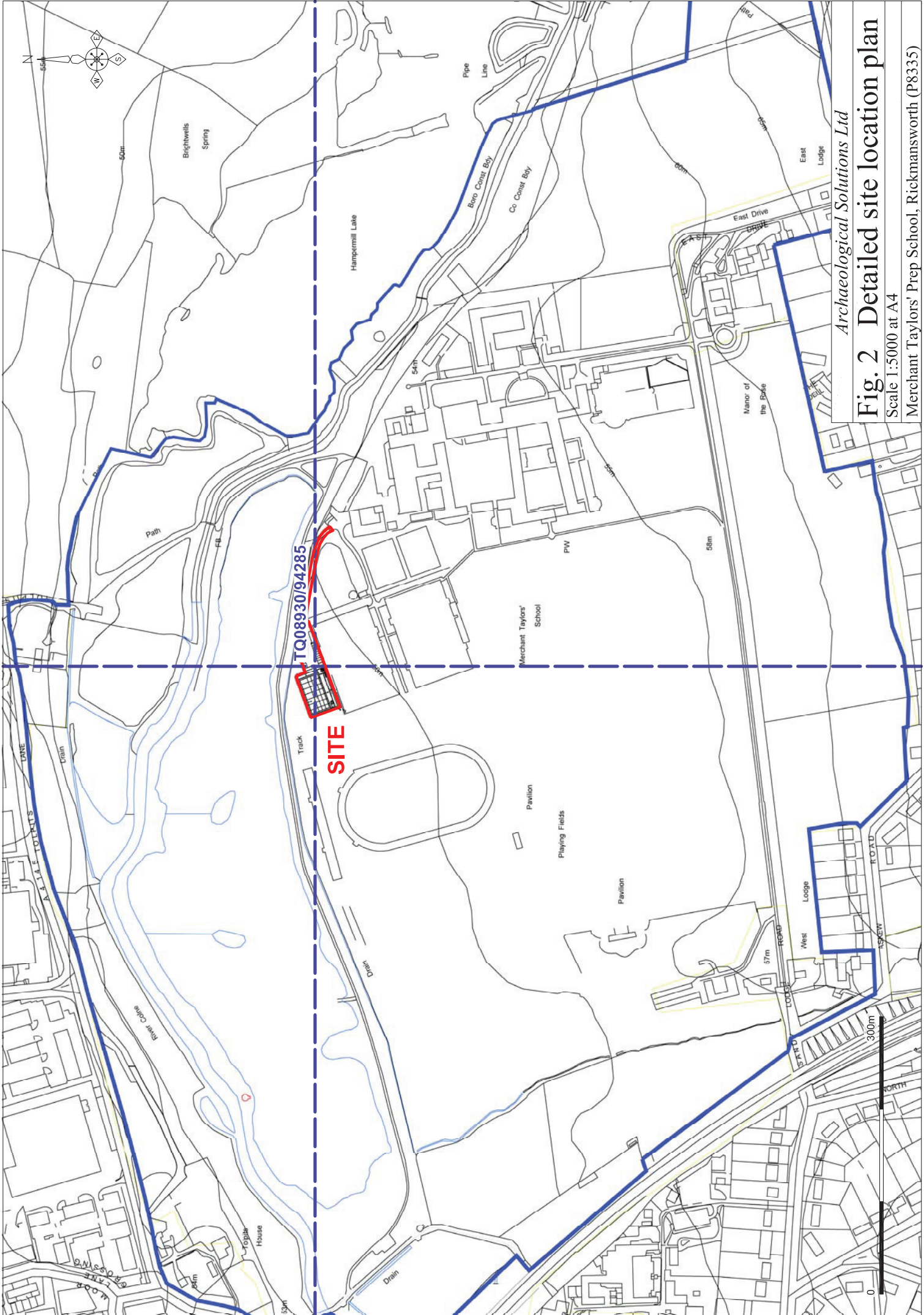


11
Sample section 3B looking north-west



Reproduced from the 2009 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Merchant Taylors Prep School, Rickmansworth (P8335)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:5000 at A4

Merchant Taylors' Prep School, Rickmansworth (P8335)

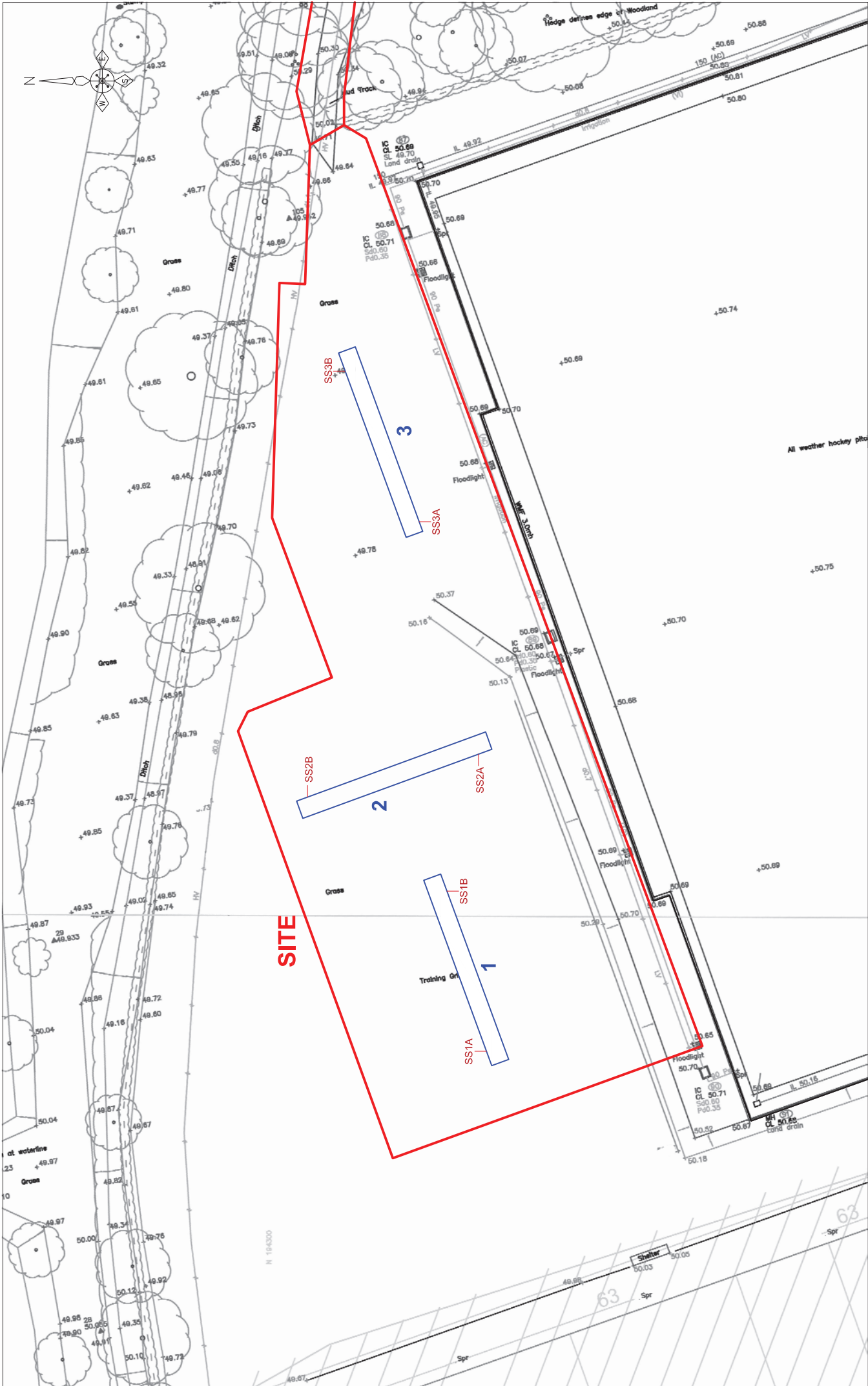


Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 3 Previous work at the site

Scale 1:5000 at A4

Merchant Taylors' Prep School, Rickmansworth (P8335)



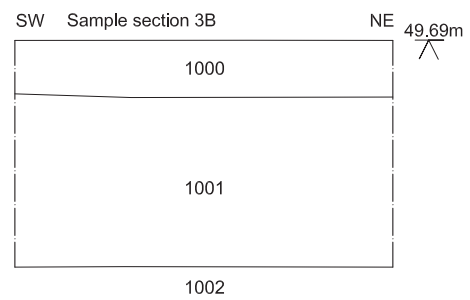
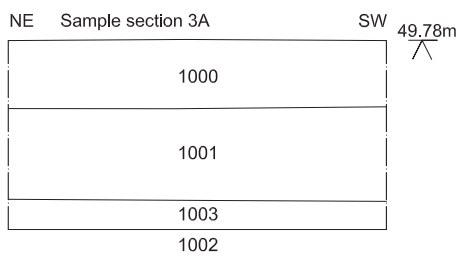
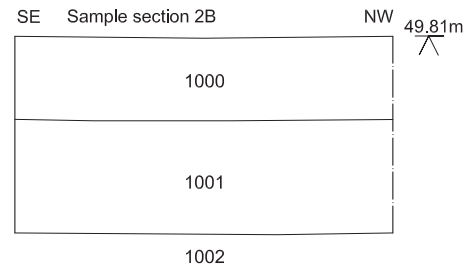
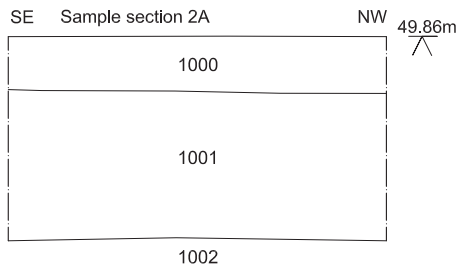
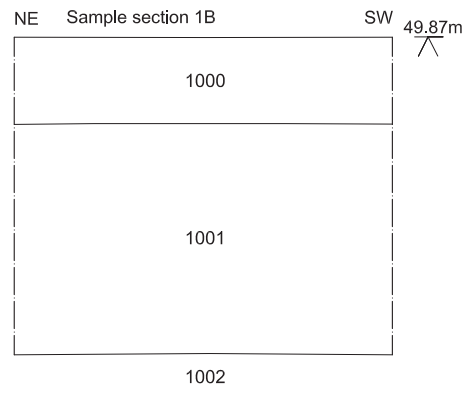
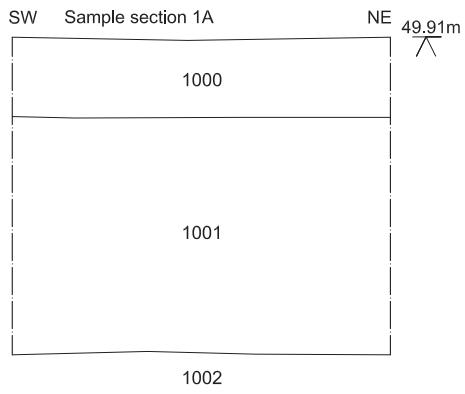
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 4 Trench location plan

Scale 1:500 at A4

Merchant Taylors' Prep School, Rickmansworth (P8335)

0 30m



0 Sections only 1m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 5 Sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
Merchant Taylors' Prep School, Rickmansworth (P8335)