
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED ALL-WEATHER SPORTS PITCH,
WHITSTABLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
BELLEVUE ROAD, WHITSTABLE, KENT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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NGR: TR 611665 165576	Report No. 3105
District: Whitstable	Site Code: AS1081
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P2969
Signed:	Date: June 2008

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Proposed all-weather pitch, Whitstable Community College, Whitstable, Kent: Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
<p><i>During August and September 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for a proposed all-weather pitch at Whitstable Community College, Whitstable, Kent (NGR TR 611665 165576).</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds. Some modern disturbance was noted on the site from the construction of the adjacent sports hall</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>28th August 2007 – 1st October 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	
P. number	<i>2969</i>	Site code	<i>AS1081</i>
Type of project	<i>Watching Brief</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Grassed and landscaped playing field</i>		
Planned development	<i>Creation of an all-weather pitch</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Canterbury</i>	<i>Whitstable</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Kent SMR</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>0.9 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TR 611665 165576</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 20m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Kent County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Iain Williamson</i>		
Funded by	<i>KCC for the Community College Whitstable</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Proposed all-weather pitch, Whitstable Community College, Whitstable, Kent: Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Unger, S</i>		
Report no.	<i>3105</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2008</i>		

PROPOSED ALL-WEATHER SPORTS PITCH, WHITSTABLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BELLEVUE ROAD, WHITSTABLE, KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

During August and September 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for a proposed all-weather pitch at Whitstable Community College, Whitstable, Kent (NGR TR 611665 165576).

The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds. Some modern disturbance was noted on the site from the construction of the adjacent sports hall

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for a proposed all-weather pitch at Whitstable Community College, Whitstable, Kent (NGR TR 611665 165576; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Jonathon Holland Architects on behalf of their client Kent County Council for Whitstable Community College. It was undertaken in accordance to a planning condition (planning application no. CA/07/TEMP/00015) imposed by Kent County Council (KCC).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was undertaken in response to a brief issued by KCC (17th July 2007) (planning application no. CA/07/TEMP/00015). The programme of works also complied with the document; Gurney *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (2003) *EAA Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 2001)*.

1.3 The monitoring was undertaken during the groundworks for the proposed all-weather pitch at Whitstable Community College.

1.4 The objectives of the project were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect 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 publication of the project results, if appropriate; and
- To secure the conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site is located on high ground to the south of the centre of Whitstable, to the rear of Whitstable Community College. The evaluated area lies at approximately 30m AOD and

comprised a relatively flat area of grassed playing field bounded to the east and west by existing tennis courts. School buildings, including the sports hall and new Basic Need unit, lie to the north and west respectively. The proposed development site is bounded to the south-east by Clifford Road (Figs.1-2).

2.2 The maps of the British Geological Survey, indicate that the proposed development site is located on a geology of London clay. The soils are of the Windsor association, described as slowly permeable waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils, suitable for dairying and some cereals (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The first archaeological site to be recorded in the vicinity of the site was a Roman cellar, discovered during the 1960s on South Street, to the south of the college (Kent SMR TR 16 NW 22). The 11th century Church of All Saints is located c. 500m to the north (Kent SMR no. TR 16 NW 5). The Canterbury Archaeological Trust also advised that evidence for a medieval settlement may be present on the site.

3.2 During a ten year improvement programme of the Thanet Way, the remains of a hill-top settlement were excavated to the south of South Street, 1.8km south-east of the site (CAT 1991; CAT 1999). The settlement evidence consisted of rubbish pits, postholes and hearths, along with abundant ceramic evidence dating to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. Two features contained late Iron Age pottery, suggesting the possible presence of a later settlement to the south of the site. A further excavation, 300m east of the hill-top site, found more evidence of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity, represented by a trackway and a hut (Cross 1997; Allen 1997a; Allen 1997b; Allen 1998; Allen 1999; Allen 2000).

3.3 Archaeological work by Archaeological Solutions in recent years (Crank & Grassam 2004; Williamson 2004) in connection with new extensions at the college revealed a concentration of Iron Age and Romano-British features around 50m south-west, comprising ditches of an open field system with associated rubbish pits and evidence of tree clearance. An archaeological watching brief (Doyle and Williams 2005) and an evaluation (Grassam, Cameron and Williamson 2006) recorded nothing of archaeological significance.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

4.2 The monitoring and recording encompassed the groundworks associated with the construction of an all-weather sports pitch and access. Site visits were undertaken to monitor these works from 28/08/2007 to 01/10/2007.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Site visit 28th August 2007 Fig. 2

Monitoring of topsoil stripping was carried out during the site visit on the 28th August

North of the site 0.00=28.6m AOD	
0.00 – 0.40m	L2000. Topsoil. Mid grey brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel and CBM fragments (up to 150mm).
0.40m +	L2001. Natural drift. Mid yellowish orange London Clay with occasional angular flint clasts (<200mm).

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

5.2 Site visit 29th August 2007 Fig. 2

Monitoring of topsoil stripping was carried out during the site visit on the 29th August
The stratigraphic sequence to the north of the site was as follows:

North of the site 0.00=28.6m AOD	
0.00 – 0.40m	L2000. Topsoil. Mid grey brown firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint gravel and CBM fragments (up to 150mm).
0.40m +	L2001. Natural drift. Mid yellowish orange London Clay with occasional angular flint clasts (<200mm).

Description: Two land drains were revealed during the topsoil strip at the north of the site. One drain was aligned north-east to south-west and abutting this drain was a second aligned north-west to south-east. There was some modern disturbance of topsoil and natural drift adjacent to the sports hall. No archaeological features or finds were present.

5.3 Site visit 31st August 2007 Fig. 2 DP 2

Monitoring of the area of reduced strip towards the south of the site and levelling was carried out on the 31st August. The archaeological sequence in this area of the site slightly differed slightly:

South-west corner 0.00=29.1m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.60m	L2001. Natural drift. As above.

Corner close to playground 0.00=27.3m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.80m	L2001. Natural drift. As above.

North-west corner	
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0.00=28.6m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	L2000. Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.40m+	L2002. Natural drift. Mid brownish orange compacted with flint gravel.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

5.4 Site visit 27th September 2007 Figs. 2-3 DP 3 (base 1)

The excavation of flood light bases was monitored.

Base 1 (1.20m deep) North-west corner 0.00=28.6m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	0.00 – 0.20m
0.20 – 0.40m	0.20 – 0.40m
0.40m+	0.40m+

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 2 (1.40m deep) 0.00=28.8m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	0.00 – 0.20m
0.20m+	0.20m+

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 3 (1.20m deep) 0.00=28.9m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	0.00 – 0.20m
0.20m+	0.20m+

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 4 (1.30m deep) 0.00=29.1m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	0.00 – 0.20m
0.20m+	0.20m+

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 5 (1.30m deep) South-east corner 0.00=27.3m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	0.00 – 0.20m
0.20– 0.35m	0.20– 0.35m
0.35 - 1.00m	0.35 - 1.00m

1.00m+	1.00m+
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Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 6 (1.30m deep) 0.00=27.9m AOD	
0.00 – 0.20m	0.00 – 0.20m
0.20– 0.30m	0.20– 0.30m
0.30 – 0.45m	0.30 – 0.45m
0.45+	0.45+

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 7 (1.35m deep) 0.00=28.3m AOD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L2003. As above
0.25– 0.35m	L2004. As above
0.35 – 0.70m	L2005. As above
0.70m+	L2001. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

Base 8 (1.30m deep) 0.00=28.6m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	0.00 – 0.30m
0.30– 0.35m	0.30– 0.35m
0.35 – 0.55m	0.35 – 0.55m
0.55m+	0.55m+

Description: No archaeological features or finds were recovered.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The stratigraphy consisted of a mid firm brown silty clay topsoil (L2000) with occasional sub-angular flint gravel and CBM fragments present at a depth of 0.20m -0.40m. This overlaid a deposit of natural drift consisting of mid yellowish range London clay (L2001). Redeposited London clay mixed with topsoil was also present in one area of the site (L2003) with a pinkish grey layer revealed below (L2004). Layer L2005 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and comprised made ground for the construction of a pitch.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 No archaeological features or finds were present within the area subject to the monitoring and recording, therefore no association with the previous discoveries were revealed.

8.2 Some modern disturbance was noted on the site, and material within L2001 indicates previous ground disturbance from the construction of the sports hall. This may have caused disturbance to any archaeological remains present on the site.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 The archive will be deposited with the Canterbury Museum. The archive will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2* and other relevant reference documents. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank The Community College, Whitstable for funding the works and their agents, Clipston Construction Control Ltd, for commissioning the works and for their kind assistance (in particular Mr Bob Clipston).

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of McArdle Sport-Tec on site.

AS would like to thank Mr Adam Single of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group for his assistance and advice.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1
General site shot



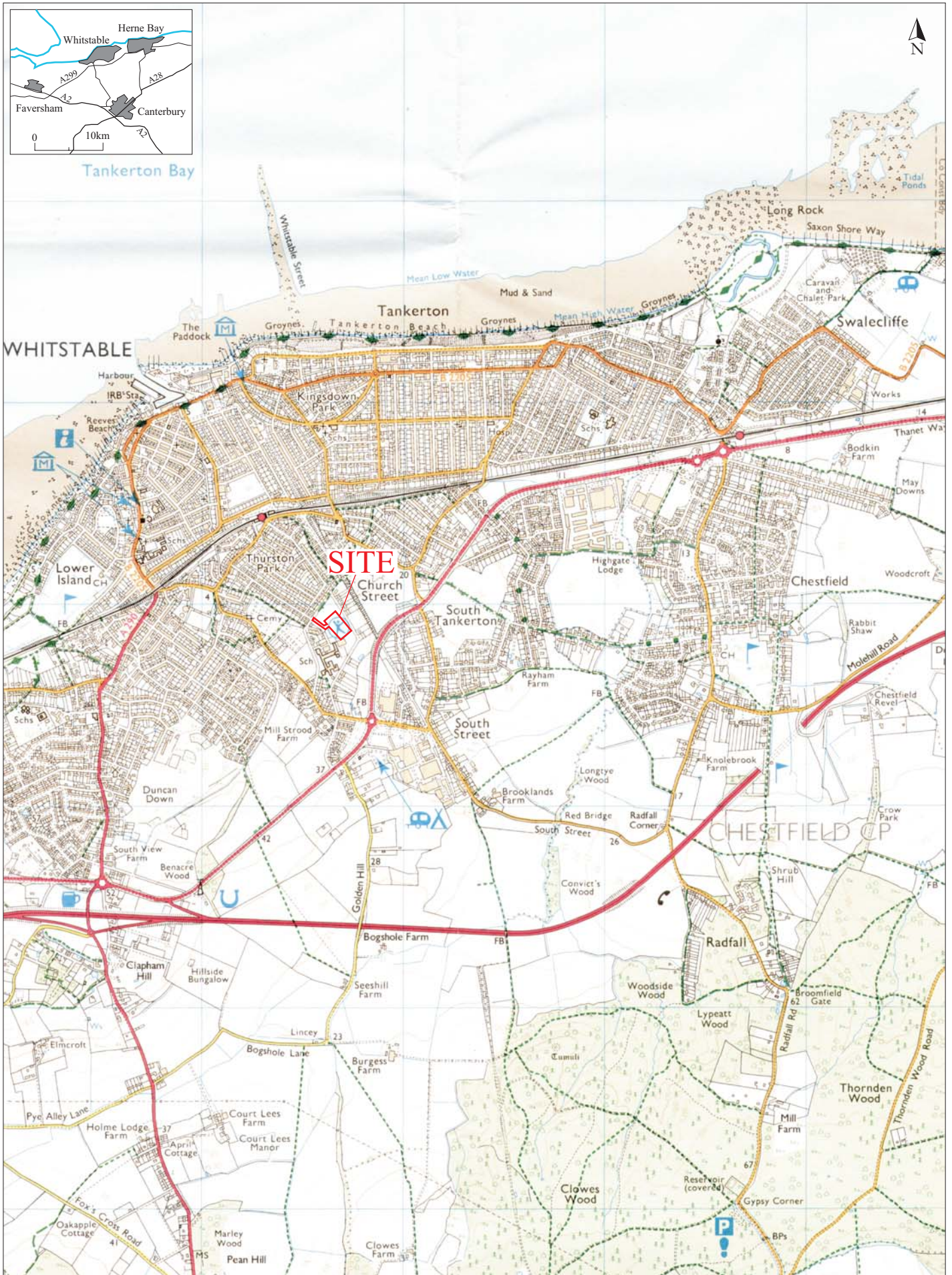
DP 2
View of reduction area facing north



DP 3
Floodlight base 1 facing north west

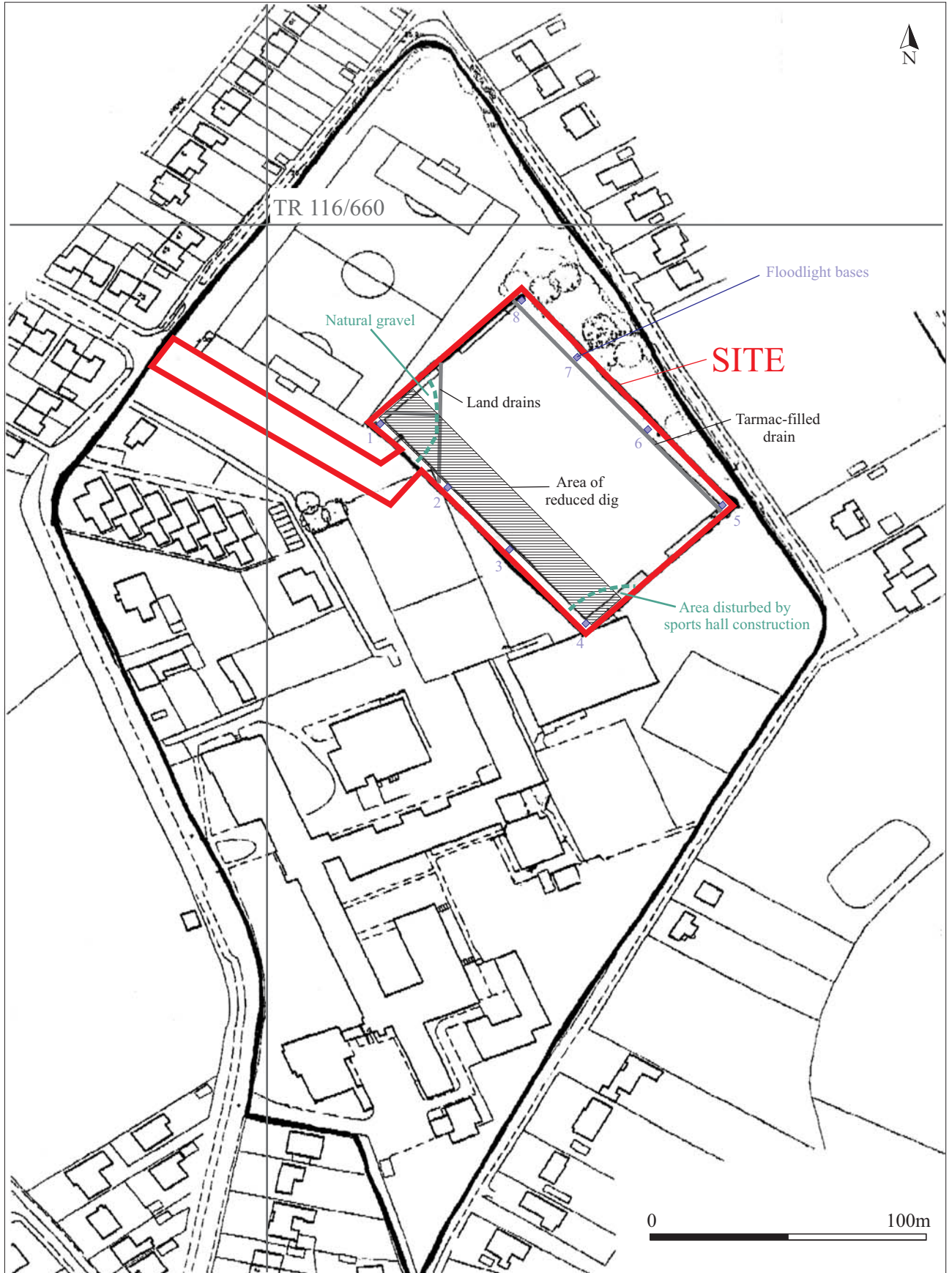


DP 4
Completed construction pre-final surfaces facing south



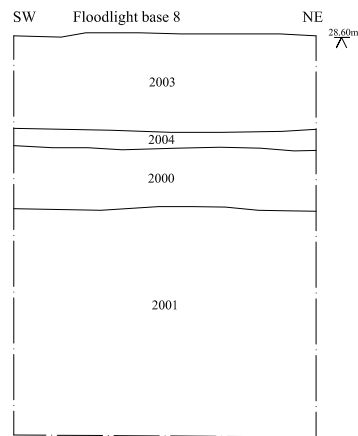
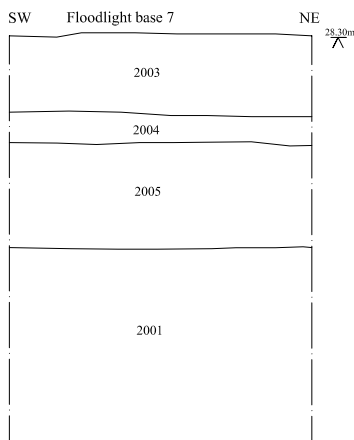
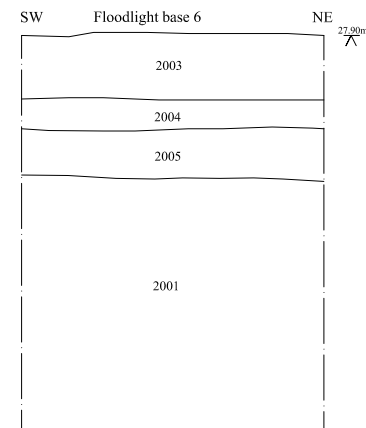
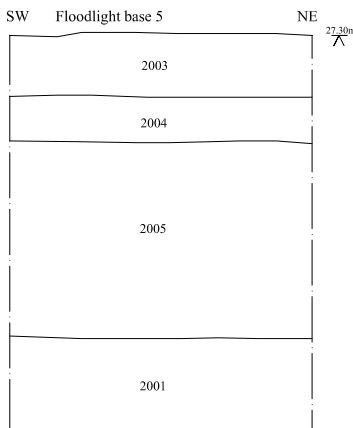
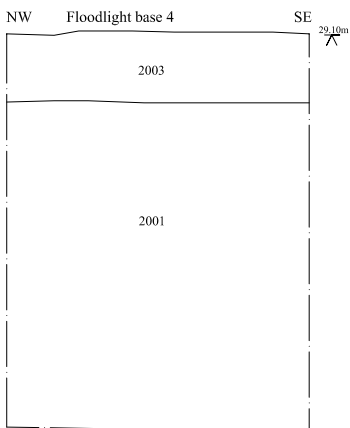
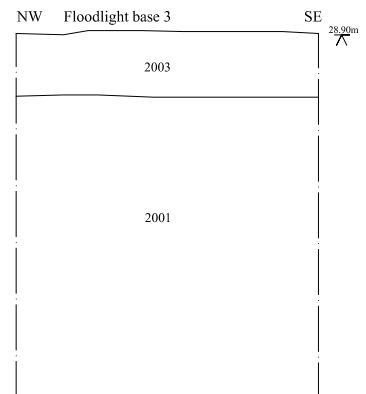
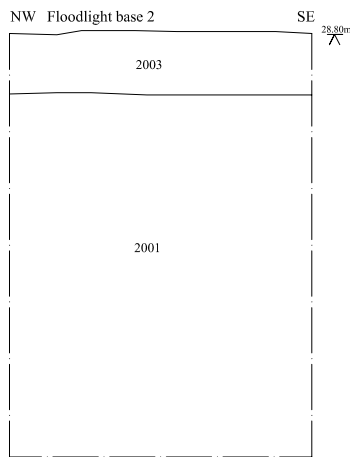
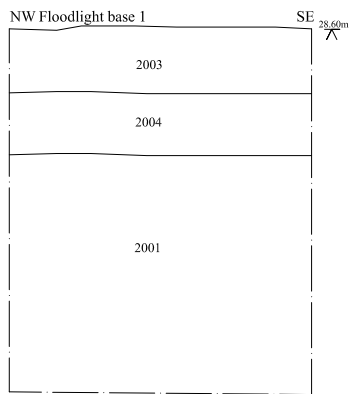
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Fig. 1 Site Location
 Scale 1:25000



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



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Fig. 3 Sections in floodlight bases
 Scale 1:25 at A4