

**Cleves School, Oatlands Avenue,
Weybridge, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Cleves School**

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSW08/09

February 2008

Summary

Site name: Cleves School, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0955 6472

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th–6th February 2008

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: CSW 08/09

Area of site: c.0.3ha

Summary of results: No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were encountered during this evaluation.

Monuments identified: None.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Elmbridge Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 19.02.08 Steve Preston✓ 20.02.08

Cleves School, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 08/09

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Cleves School, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge (TQ 0955 6472) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike O'Hanlon of Michael Edwards and Associates, The Granary, Abbeymill Business Park, Lower Eashing, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2QW, on behalf of Cleves School.

Planning consent (2006/2348) was granted by Elmbridge Borough Council for the construction of new housing on a small parcel of land within the bounds of Cleves School. This consent was subject to a condition relating to archaeology requiring an investigation of the archaeological potential of the area to take place prior to the development.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, adviser to the Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass, Natasha Bennett and David Platt on the 5th and 6th of February 2008 and the site code is CSW08/09. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Elmbridge Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of the centre of Weybridge within a residential area (Fig. 1). The site is a roughly triangular portion of land within the grounds of Cleves School; the main school buildings are located immediately north east of the development area (Fig. 2). The southern boundary of the site is defined by the railway line and Oatlands Avenue marks out the north-western boundary. St Mary's Church is situated on the opposite side of Oatlands Avenue. The site lies at a height of 30m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey (1981) the underlying geology is Boyn Hill Gravel. A yellow sand natural was observed in the excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk based assessment (Shaikhley 2005) which records the presence of Early and Middle Bronze Age activity within close proximity of the site. A large number of Middle Bronze Age cremations were recorded during the construction of the railway, south of the site and during development work adjacent to the school Early Bronze Age Beaker and Collared Urns were recorded. Roman activity has been recorded within the grounds of Cleves School during its prior use as allotments, as well as opposite the site during the construction of a house in the mid 19th century (Bird and Bird 1987; Cotton *et al.* 2004).

Immediately to the north west of Cleves School is the site of Oatlands Palace which was one of Henry VIII's principal houses, situated within the Manor of Oatlands; the manor is not recorded in Domesday Book (1086).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. More specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any funerary deposits of Early or Middle Bronze Age date are present; and
- to determine if any deposits of Roman date are present.

Five trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were located to target the areas of new development immediately to the south-west of the school. The trenches were to be 1.6m wide and 22m long. Spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. A contingency was provided for an additional 25m length of trenching if required to clarify initial findings.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All discrete features of medieval or earlier date would be investigated by hand and at least 50% of the volume of each pit or posthole sampled. A 25% sample of each linear feature would be dug, and 50% of all structural linear features (beamslots, ring ditches). Structural elements such as walls and collapse/debris were to be exposed and recorded. Provision was made to increase sampling levels if necessary.

This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The five trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 3). The trenches were 1.6m wide and between 19.80m and 23.60m in length and varied in depth between 0.50m to 0.88m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

This trench was orientated SW–NE and was 22.3m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy encountered comprised 0.40m of dark brown grey sandy silt topsoil overlying yellow sand natural geology (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were encountered in this trench.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 20.80m long and 0.72 m deep, and was orientated SW–NE. The stratigraphy encountered comprised 0.62m dark brown grey sandy silt topsoil overlying yellow sand natural. An electricity cable was encountered crossing this trench. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in this trench.

Trench 3 (Plate 1)

This trench was orientated NW–SE and was 19.80m long and 0.88m deep. Topsoil in this trench was much shallower with only 0.20m covering 0.30m of made ground, this in turn sealed a layer of mid brown grey sandy silt (buried soil?) which overly the yellow sand natural. A possible feature was encountered approximately 3.80m from the south-east end. The pit appeared triangular in plan and when excavated was vertical sided with a flat base. Modern (20th century) pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill which was a dark grey brown silty sand; the finds were not retained The pit was approximately 1.30m wide and 0.60m deep. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in this trench.

Trench 4

This trench was orientated NNW–SSE and was 21.60m long and 0.76m deep. The typical stratigraphy encountered comprised 0.12m of Tarmac over 0.16m of made ground. This layer sealed 0.27m of brown grey

silty sand (buried soil?) which overley the yellow sand natural. A linear feature was encountered at 19.50m from the south east end, modern pottery was recovered from its fill and this feature was therefore not excavated further.

Trench 5 (Plate 2)

This trench was 23.60m long and 0.50m deep and was orientated ENE–WSW. At the west end of the trench the stratigraphy comprised 0.38m of topsoil which directly overlay the yellow sand natural. Towards the opposite end of the trench 0.10m of Tarmac was encountered overlying 0.44m of made ground which lay directly above the yellow sand natural. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in this trench.

Finds

Only modern finds were recovered during the evaluation. The modern pottery and animal bone were not retained.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits relating to Bronze Age funerary activities were recorded on the site and indeed no archaeological finds or features of any date were encountered during the investigation.

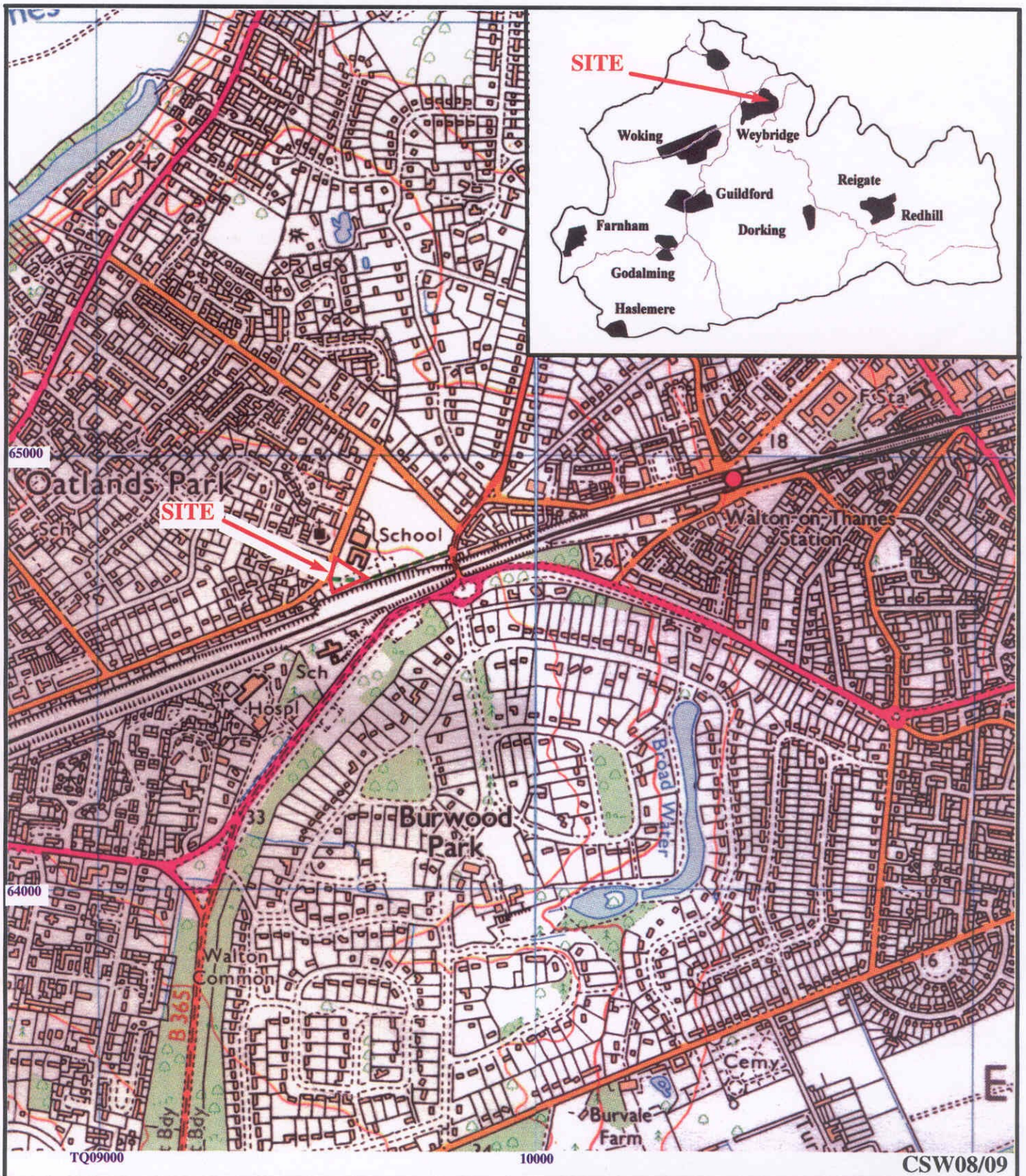
References

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Bird, J and Bird, D G (eds), 1987, *The Archaeology of Surrey*, Guildford
Cotton, J, Crocker, C and Graham, A (eds), 2004, *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey*, Guildford
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Shaikhley, N, 2006, 'A preliminary archaeological assessment of proposed development land at Cleves School, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge', Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Woking

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	22.30	1.6	0.72	0-0.40m dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil; 0.40m+ yellow sand natural geology
2	20.80	1.6	0.72	0-0.62m dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil; 0.62m+ yellow sand natural geology. Power cable
3	19.80	1.6	0.88	0-.0.20m dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil; 0.20-0.50m made ground; 0.50-0.80m dark brown grey sandy silt (buried soil?); 0.80m+ yellow sand natural geology. Power cable and modern pit [Plate 1]
4	21.60	1.6	0.76	0-0.12m Tarmac; 0.12-0.28m made ground; 0.28-0.55m dark brown grey silty sand (buried soil?); 0.55m+ yellow sand natural geology. Modern linear feature
5	23.60	1.6	0.50	0-0.38m dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil; 0.38m+ yellow sand natural geology. [Plate 2] .

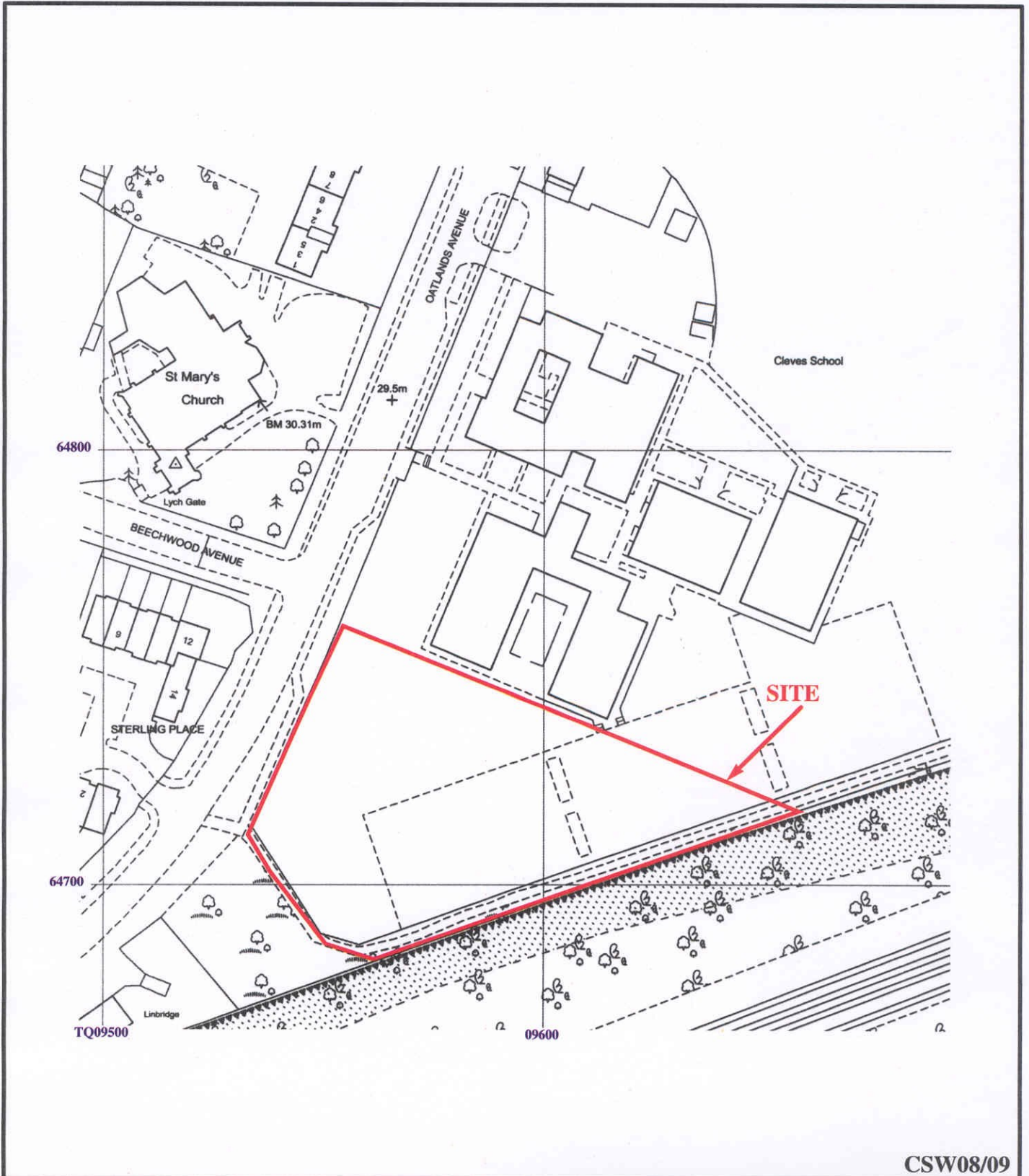


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Figure 1. Location of site within Weybridge and Surrey

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Weybridge

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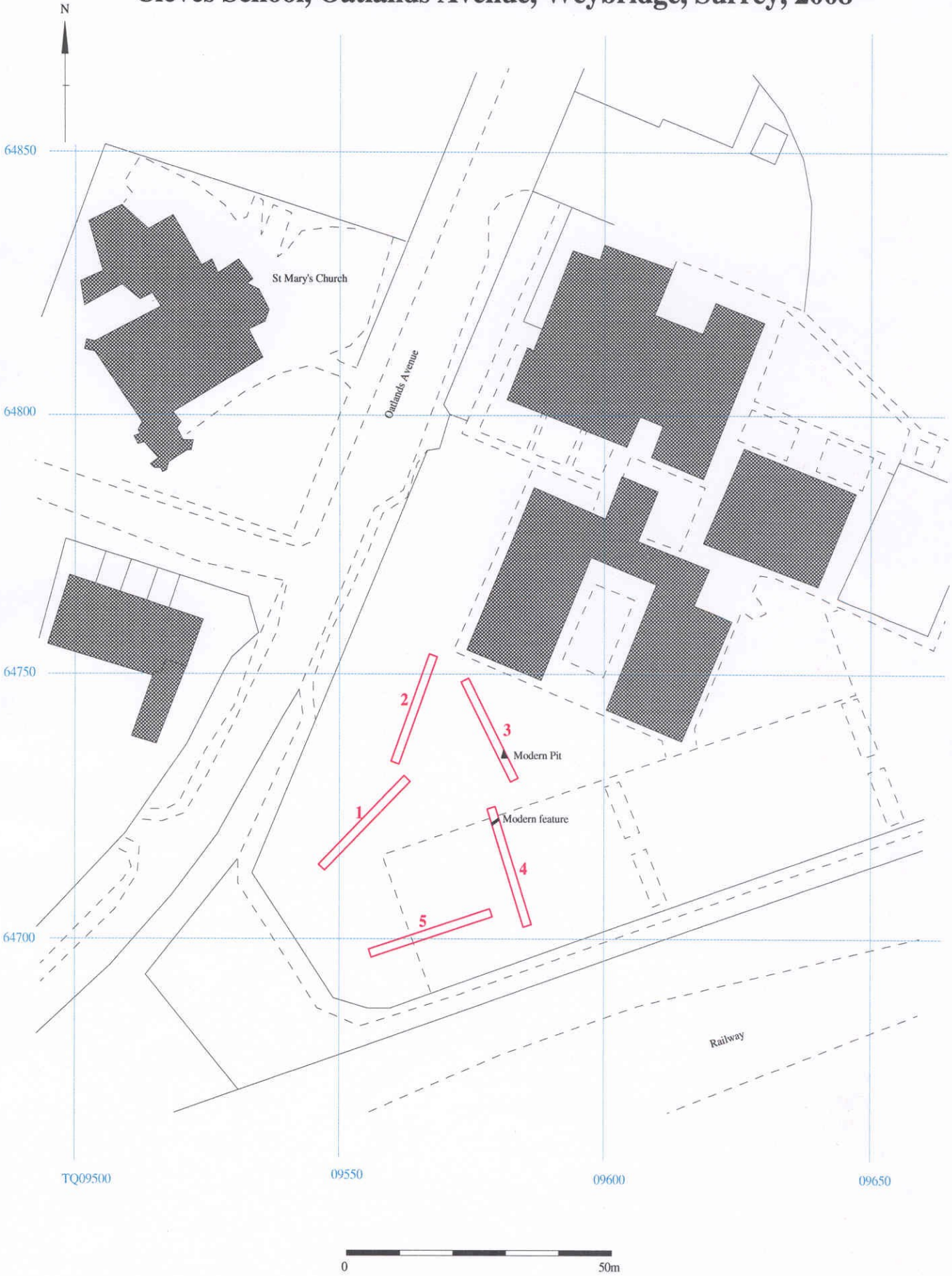


Figure 3. Trench location plan

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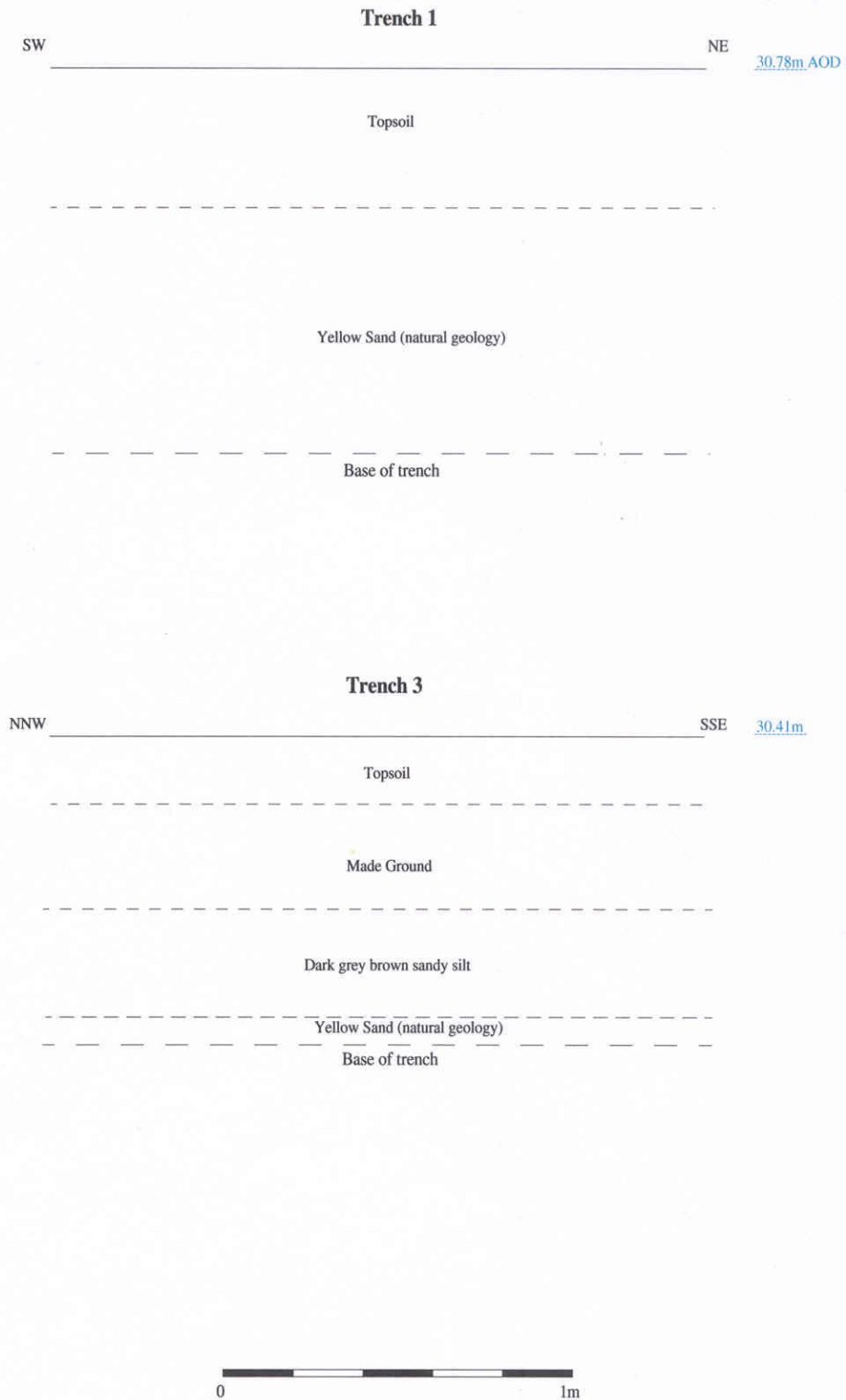


Figure 4. Representative sections



Plate 1. Trench 3 looking NNW, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 5 looking ENE, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 1m.