

**New Sports Hall, St Andrews Catholic School,  
Leatherhead, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Scott Wilson Limited on behalf of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton**

**Building Services Company Ltd**

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ASL 08/88

**August 2008**

## Summary

**Site name:** New Sports Hall, St Andrews Catholic School, Leatherhead, Surrey

**Grid reference:** TQ 1752 5714

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 18th August 2008

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Simon Cass

**Site code:** ASL 08/88

**Area of site:** c. 0.10ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or features were encountered

**Monuments identified:** None

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 28.08.08
	Steve Preston ✓ 28.08.08

# **New Sports Hall, St Andrews School, Leatherhead, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Simon Cass

**Report 08/88**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at St Andrews School, Grange Road, Leatherhead, Surrey (TQ 1752 5714) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James MacQueen of Scott Wilson, West One, Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 1BA on behalf of Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Building Services Company Ltd.

Permission (MO/2005/1285) has been granted by Mole Valley District council for development of the site at St Andrews School to include the construction of a new sports hall. A condition was placed upon this consent, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works prior to the commencement of construction.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass and Marta Buczek on the 18th August 2008 and the site code is ASL 08/88. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Leatherhead Museum.

An archaeological appraisal (Scott Wilson 2008) identified the site as lying in an area of general potential, with prehistoric, Roman and Saxon features and findspots within the general vicinity, though not in direct proximity to the site.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located between Leatherhead and Ashstead, immediately to the east of the M25 and north of the A24 (Fig. 1). The site slopes down slightly to the south-west, at an approximate height of just over 60m AOD. The underlying geology is shown as upper chalk, though an area of Thanet Beds and Reading Beds is known close by (BGS 1978). The geology observed in the trenches consisted of clay and flint/gravel, with occasional outcroppings of degraded chalk and sandy patches, generally consistent with the site lying on the boundary

between these areas. Prior to this construction the site was used as school playing fields (Fig. 2) although a hardcore piling mat had been laid prior to the evaluation taking place.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems in the main from its location in an area of general archaeological interest, with known sites and findspots covering several periods (Bird and Bird 1987; Cotton *et al.* 2004, Scott Wilson 2007). Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by a Palaeolithic backed blade, and Mesolithic axes to the north and east, while late Iron Age settlement activity is known a short distance to the north-east, and residual finds of Late Bronze and Iron age pottery were found to the east. Roman activity is known further away, with Stane Street Roman road to the southeast approximately 2km from the site, with a villa on Ashstead Common, nearly 3km to the north.

Various features and artefacts of Saxon date are also known from previous work in Leatherhead, ranging from a bronze pin to the south-west of the site to a Saxon cemetery *c.* 750m to the south-east. During the Medieval period Leatherhead was a market town, granted a charter in AD1248 and was largely rebuilt after a fire in the 13th century.

## **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. Specific aims of the evaluation were to:

- identify the presence/absence, nature, depth, extent and date of any archaeological deposits present
- provide information on the extent of any modern disturbance;
- identify potential archaeological and non-archaeological features;
- determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- determine the significance of any archaeological remains present;
- help establish the future mitigation strategy, if necessary.

Four trenches were to be excavated by a 360° machine fitted with ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. They were sited to investigate the whole area of likely disturbance during impending groundworks, with particular attention to main foundations. One trench was to be 30m long, one 15m long and two 10m long. The trenches were to be 1.6m wide. All spoilheaps were to be monitored during and after excavation including use of a metal detector.

Archaeological features were to be hand-cleaned and excavated carefully and in stratigraphic sequence where possible and the sequence recorded. Intersections would be excavated where encountered and samples taken of relevant features. The excavation strategy was to take account of any features likely to be worthy of preservation *in situ*, avoiding damage where possible. A minimum of 20% (or 1m, whichever is greater) along the length of all linear features was to be investigated, with at least one section against the edge of the trench where possible, with all intersections and termini investigated. Discrete features would normally be half-sectioned, unless they were of significant size in which case a sufficient sample of the feature would be excavated in order to satisfy the aims of the evaluation.

## **Results**

The trenches were excavated in level spits down to the top of undisturbed natural geology. The trenches were all 1.8m wide and ranged in length between 10.1 and 30.3m and depth between 0.54 and 0.94m.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench was 10.2m long, 1.6m wide, 0.94m deep and orientated south west – north east. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2m of made ground (modern demolition crush piling mat) above 0.55m of brown sandy silt subsoil with frequent small stones. This lay above a mottled brown silty sand deposit with occasional small stones, interpreted as a natural formation. There were no archaeological finds or deposits present in this trench.

### Trench 2 (Plate 2)

This trench was 15.3m long, 1.6m wide, 0.89m deep and orientated north west - south east. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.4m of made ground (again, modern demolition crush) above 0.4m of subsoil as in Trench 1. This overlay brown silty sand deposit as in Trench 1 with occasional small to medium stones. There were no archaeologically finds or deposits within this trench.

### Trench 3 (Plate 3)

This trench was 10.1m long, 1.6m wide and 0.85 deep, orientated north east - south west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of modern demolition crush above 0.45m of orange/brown silty clay with

occasional medium stones and small tree roots. This lay above orange/brown clay and stones with occasional degraded chalk present. There were no archaeological finds or deposits present in this trench.

#### Trench 4 (Plate 4)

This trench was 30.3m long, 1.6m wide and up to 0.85m deep, orientated north east - south west. Due to the position of this trench across the main site access it was necessary to excavate it in segments, with one area partially backfilled prior to the excavation of the access road to provide a working platform for the excavator. This did not affect the visibility of any archaeological deposits, and a photographic record was made prior to the partial backfilling. The stratigraphy encountered at the north-eastern end consisted of 0.25m of demolition crush, above 0.55m of brown sandy silt subsoil with moderate small to medium stones. This overlay mottled brown silty sand with occasional small to medium stones. At the south-west end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of demolition crush, above 0.2m of subsoil which in turn lay above orange/brown clay with moderate stones and occasional chalk outcropping. There were no archaeological finds or deposits present in this trench.

## **Finds**

The only finds recovered from the evaluation consisted of fragments of modern pottery. These came from the made ground which had been imported into the site to construct the piling mat. The finds were not retained.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation has found no evidence of any archaeological finds or deposits of any date on the site. Based on the results of this trenching exercise, the site appears to have little or no archaeological potential.

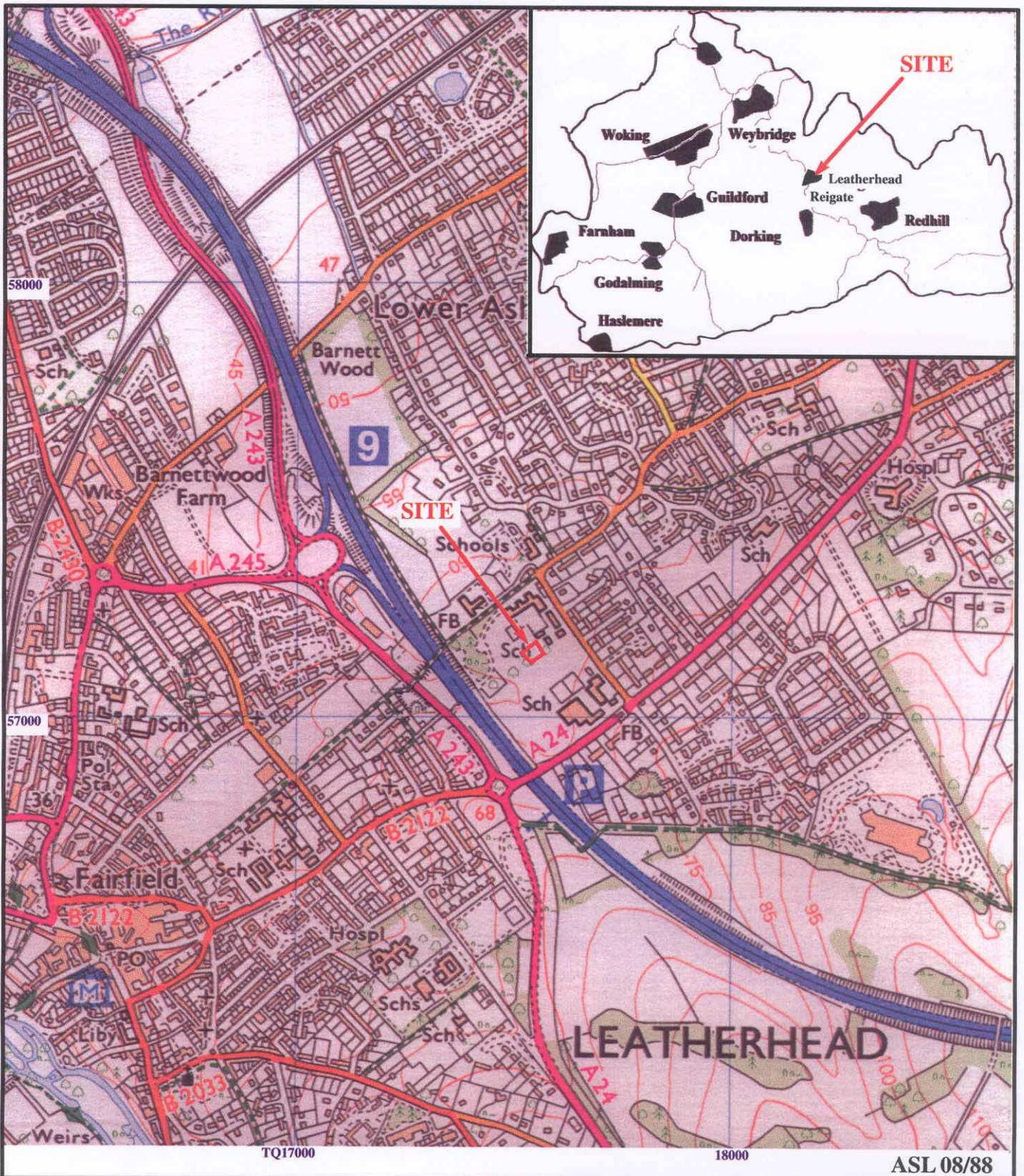
## **References**

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Bird, J and Bird, D G, 1987, (eds) *The Archaeology of Surrey*, Guildford  
Cotton, J, Crocker, C and Graham, A (eds), 2004, *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey; towards a research framework for the county*, Surrey Archaeol Soc, Guildford  
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO  
Scott Wilson, 2008, 'St Andrews Catholic School - New Sports Hall Specification for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation' project D118737, Scott Wilson Ltd, Leeds

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**  
 0m at South or West end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.2	1.8	0.94	0-0.2m Made ground (demolition rubble over geotextile matting); 0.2-0.75m subsoil (brown sandy silt with frequent small stones); 0.75m+ natural geology (brown mottled silty sand with occasional small stones) <b>[Plate 1]</b>
2	15.3	1.8	0.89	0-0.4m Made ground; 0.4-0.8m subsoil (brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium stones); 0.8m+ natural geology (brown mottled silty sand with occasional small stones) <b>[Plate 2]</b>
3	10.1	1.8	0.85	0-0.3m Made ground; 0.3-0.75m Subsoil (orange/brown silty clay with frequent small to medium stones and tree roots); 0.75m+ natural geology (Orange/brown silty clay with frequent small to medium stones and degraded chalk) <b>[Plate 3]</b>
4	30.3	1.8	0.85	0-0.25m Made ground; 0.25-0.80m subsoil (brown sandy silt with occasional small to medium stones); 0.8m+ natural geology (brown mottled silty sand with occasional small stones to north-east, orange/brown silty clay with frequent small to medium stones and degraded chalk to south-west) <b>[Plate 4]</b>





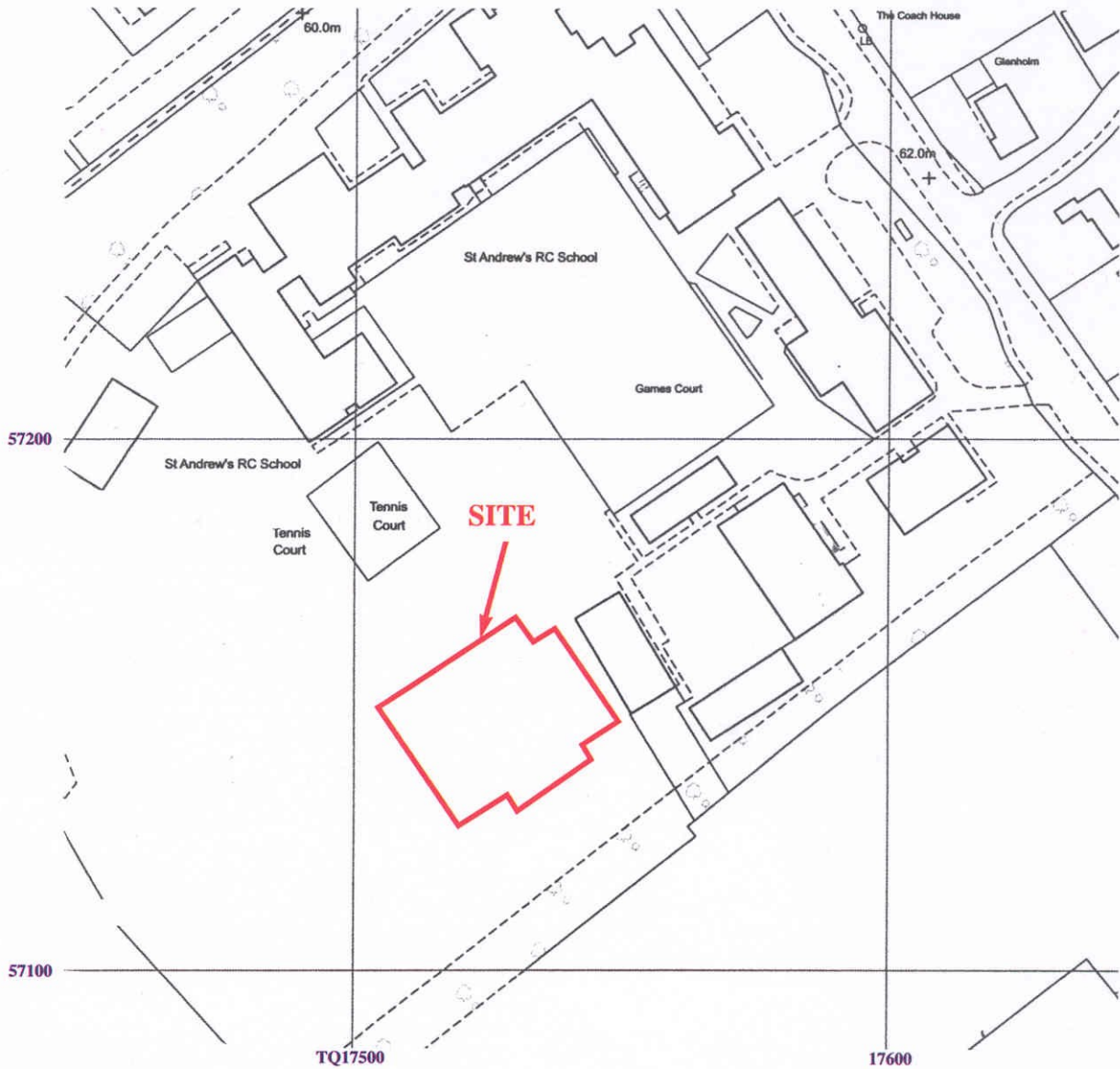
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Figure 1. Location of site within Leatherhead and Surrey.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site at  
St Andrew's School.

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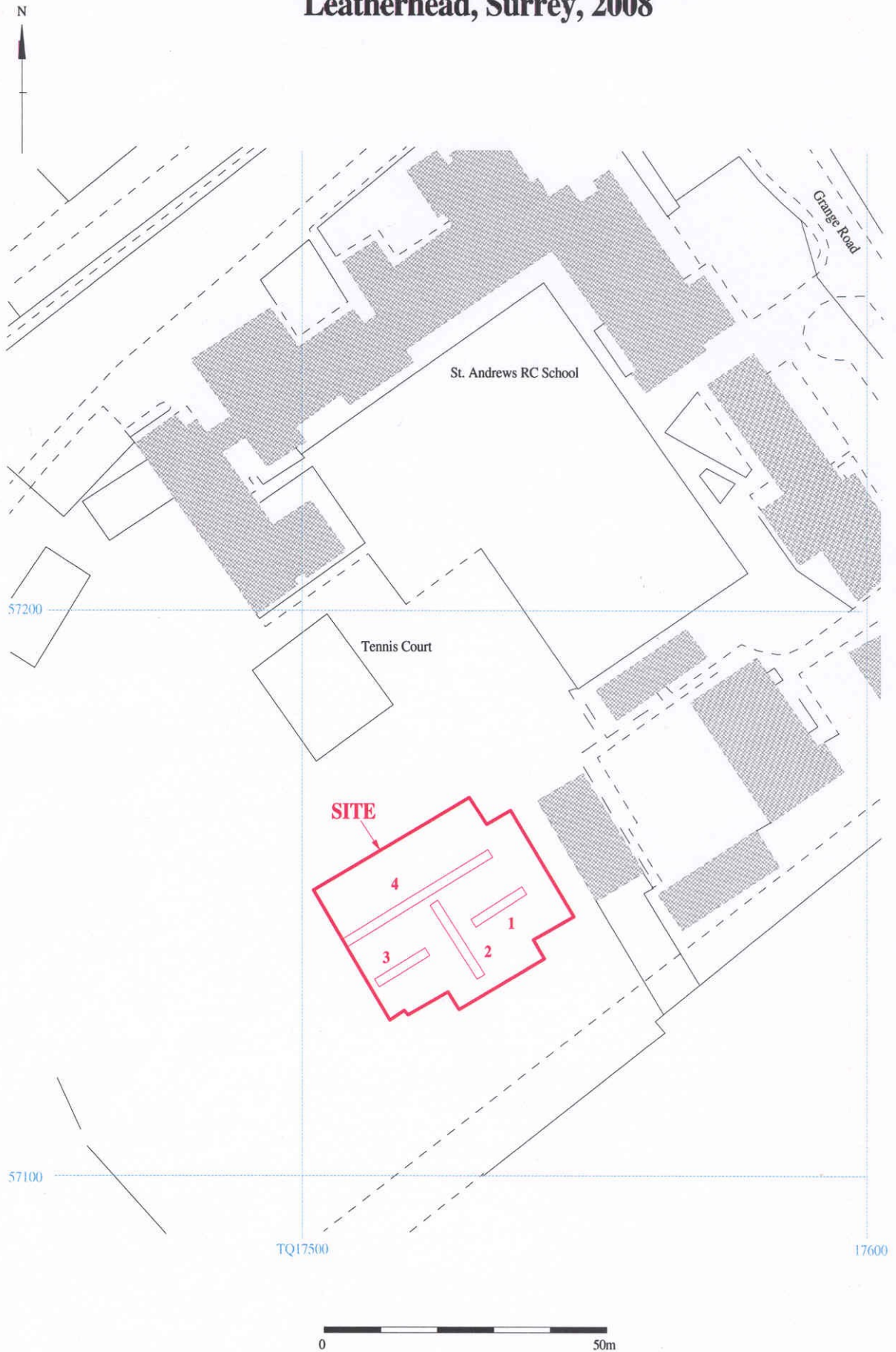
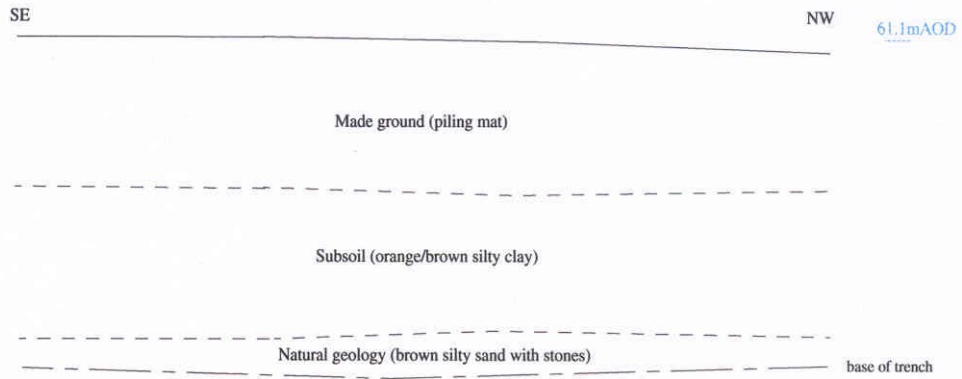


Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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## Trench 2



## Trench 4 (NE end)

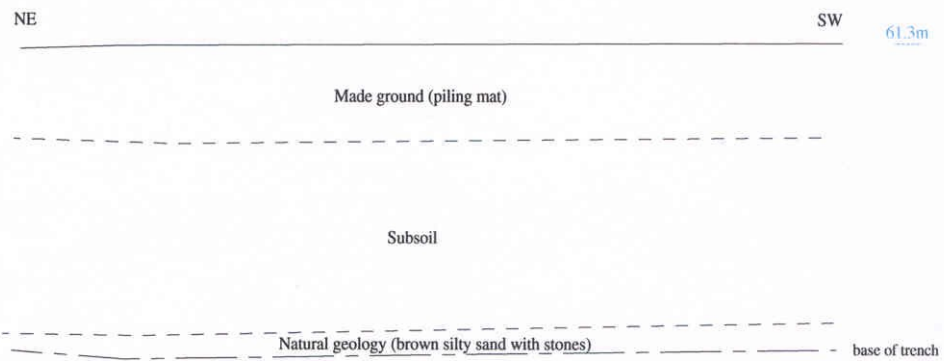


Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north-east, Scales 0.5m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking south-east, Scales 0.5m, 1m and 2m.





Plate 3. Trench 3 looking south-west, Scales 0.5m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 4 looking south-west, Scales 0.5m, 1m and 2m.