

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE EXCAVATION:
ROEBUCK PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST MARGARETS
STEVENAGE
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 2466 2252

on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

October 2010

ASC: 1343/SRS/2



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Site Data

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------|
| <i>ASC project code:</i> | SRS | <i>ASC project no:</i> | 1343 |
| <i>OASIS ref:</i> | Archaeol2 79185 | <i>Event/Accession no:</i> | |
| <i>County:</i> | Hertfordshire | | |
| <i>Village/Town:</i> | Stevenage | | |
| <i>Civil Parish:</i> | Stevenage | | |
| <i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i> | TL 2466 2252 | | |
| <i>Extent of site:</i> | 2.4ha | | |
| <i>Present use:</i> | School playing ground | | |
| <i>Planning proposal:</i> | Construction of new school building | | |
| <i>Planning application ref/date:</i> | Not known | | |
| <i>Local Planning Authority:</i> | Stevenage Borough Council | | |
| <i>Date of fieldwork:</i> | 15/09/2010 – 07/10/2010 | | |
| <i>Client:</i> | Hertfordshire County Council Herts Property County Hall Hertford SG13 8DN | | |
| <i>Contact name:</i> | Bob Chapman | | |

Internal Quality Check

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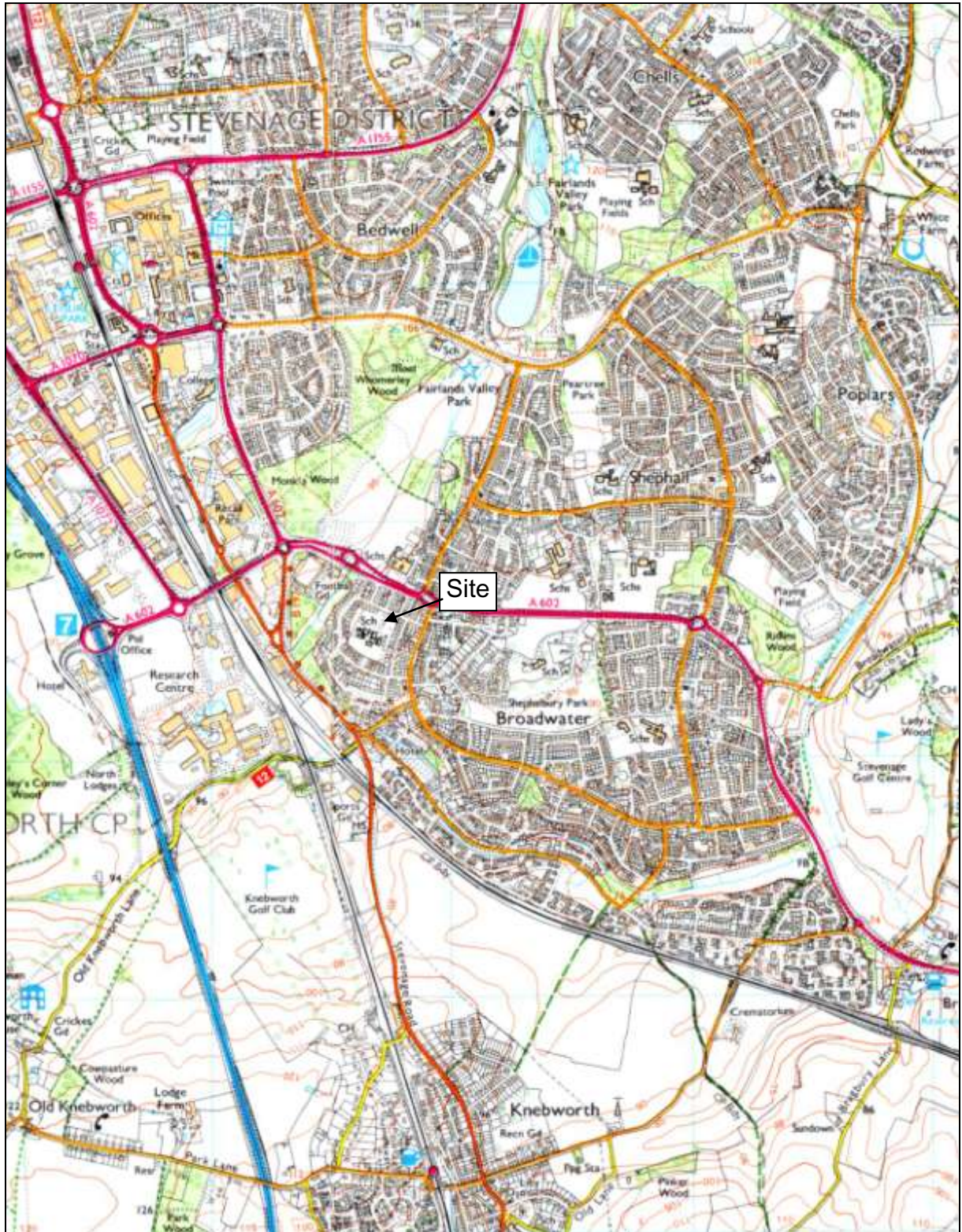


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During September and October 2010, a strip, map and sample excavation and subsequent watching brief were carried out on land at Roebuck Primary School, St Margaret's, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, following a programme of archaeological evaluation earlier in the year which uncovered a Bronze Age pit containing a large amount of pottery.

A gully and two small, undated postholes were identified close to the eastern boundary of the site. Three small sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the gully, suggesting it is contemporary with the pit uncovered during the evaluation.

Following analysis of the evaluation pottery, it was suggested that the pit may have had ritual significance and was likely to have been located close to a settlement. The lack of archaeological evidence observed across the western part of the site suggests that the settlement, should it exist, may be located to the east and south of the development, under the present school and car park.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September and October 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a strip, map and sample excavation at Roebuck Primary School, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Hertfordshire County Council*, and was carried out at the request of the local planning authority (LPA), *Stevenage Borough Council*, to a project design (Fell 2010) prepared by ASC.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This excavation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

Roebuck Primary School is located in the Broadwater district of Stevenage new town, centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TL 2466 2252 (Fig. 1). The school site occupies a roughly square area of c.2.4 hectares, bounded on all sides by modern residential development. The school buildings are located in the centre of the site, with a tarmac area to the north-east. The remainder of the site is under grass, with a few mature trees. Access is from St Margaret's, to the north. The extension is to be constructed in the northwest part of the site, north of the existing buildings.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is located on more or less level ground, at an elevation of *c.*90m AOD. As the site is within an urban area, soils have not been mapped. However, they are likely to belong to the *Hornbeam 2* or *Hornbeam 3 Association*, both described as '*deep fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging*' (Soil Survey 1983, 582c or 582d). The underlying geology is Middle Chalk (BGS 221, Hitchin).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises demolition of the present school buildings, and construction of a new school to the immediate north, along with new access and parking arrangements.

1.5 *Previous Archaeological Work*

An archaeological evaluation and historic building survey were undertaken in July 2010 (Shane 2010; Zeepvat 2010). The building recording was undertaken to English Heritage Level 3 standards (EH 2006) and provided a record of the existing school buildings. The archaeological evaluation revealed the existence of two archaeological features within the footprint of the new development, notably a pit containing an assemblage of Bronze Age pottery (Shane 2010, Appendix 4).

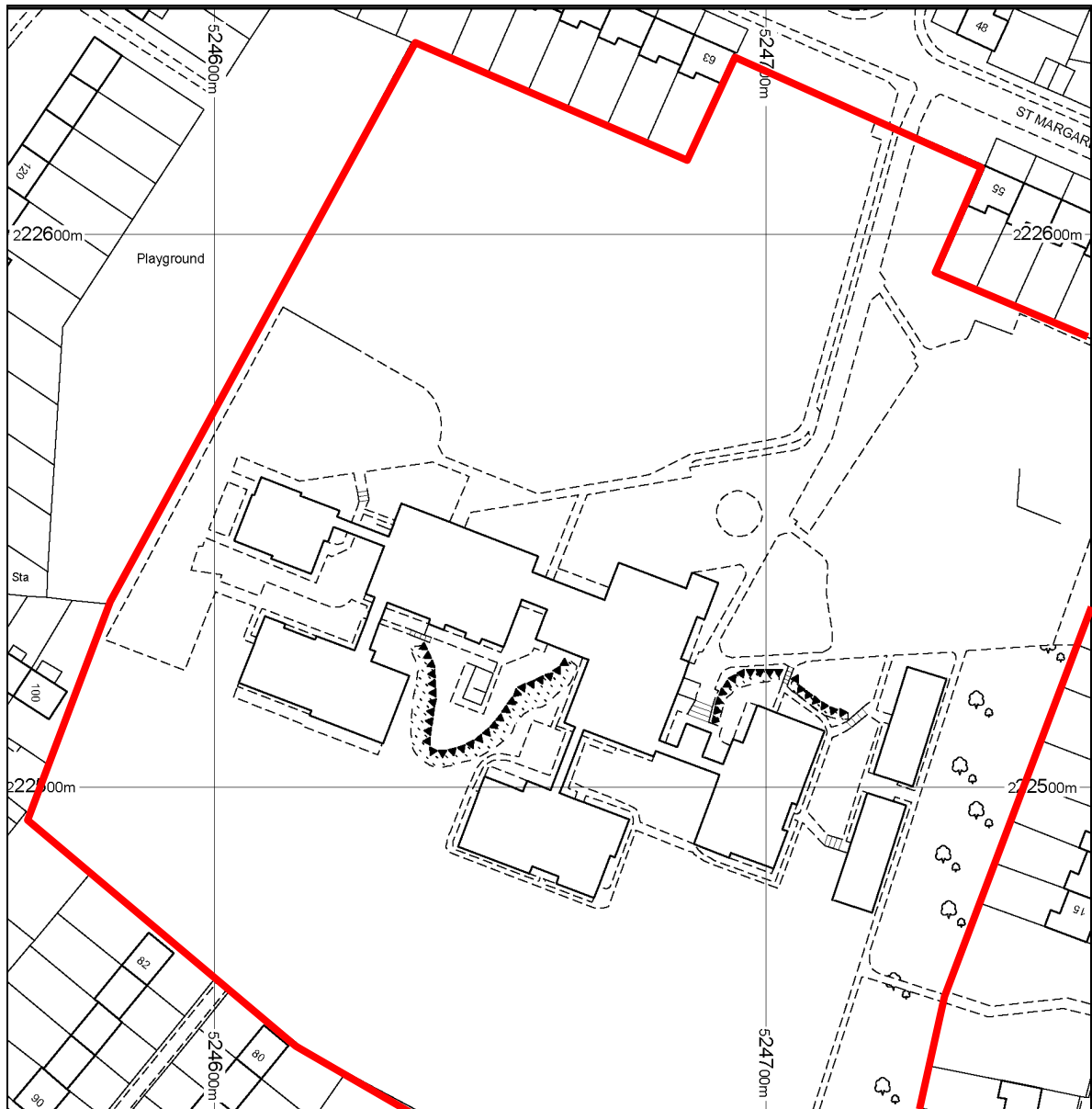


Figure 2: Site plan (Scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

In line with the requirements of the AA, the aims of the excavation were:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the areas of development
- The analysis, conservation, and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the methods outlined in the project design (Fell 2010).

2.4 Constraints

During the initial strip the natural was only exposed in the eastern part of the site, as the ground level dropped to the west, and the area was to be built up prior to the excavation of the footing trenches. As a result, a watching brief condition was put on the excavation of the footing trenches in those areas where the natural subsoil was not encountered.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

HER = Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

3.1 *Early Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

Evidence for this period is poorly represented in the Stevenage area and the excavation is required because a pit containing an assemblage of Bronze Age pottery was present in one of the trial trenches (Shane 2010). Neolithic stone axes have been recovered from Barnwell School, Shephall (HER0424) and south of Ridlins Wood (HER0611) but the only major prehistoric site identified in the area is at Bragbury End some 2.5km south east of the school. Fieldwork at this site revealed quantities of struck flint, Beaker and Bronze Age pottery, and gullies, pits and postholes suggesting occupation in the late Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Murray 1994).

3.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

Little is known of the Iron Age in the Stevenage area but a significant late Iron Age enclosure has been recorded at Shephalbury Manor, c.800m east of the school (HER11604; Grant & Hounsell 2003).

3.3 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

During this period, the Stevenage area formed part of the tribal canton or *civitas* of the *Catuevallauni*, the capital of which was at *Verulamium* (St Albans). A possible Roman road linking Welwyn and Baldock (HER4637: Viatores 1964) is said to follow the line of the B197, passing 0.5km west of the site. Apart from two Roman coins (HER0440, HER0452) the only finds of this period recorded in the HER in the vicinity of the site consist of Roman brick and tile and a coin of Constantine, recovered from a building site at the east end of Broadwater Crescent (HER0444). Occupation sites are known at New Farm and at Great Collens Wood. 2nd-century material was also recorded at Shephalbury Manor (Grant & Hounsell 2003).

3.4 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

The only site belonging to this period lay at the east end of Broadwater Crescent, where traces of Anglo-Saxon settlement (HER0455) were recorded on the Roman site mentioned above (HER0444). The settlement evidence consisted of a rectangular sunken-featured building, with possible post-holes placed centrally at either end. Shephall village (HER2626) is of probable Anglo-Saxon origin, since its landholdings prior to the Conquest are recorded in the Domesday survey.

3.5 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that Shephall (*Escephale*) was divided into two parts. One, of three hides, was held by the abbot of St Albans as part of the abbey demesne. The other, containing two hides, was held by Anschitil Ros of Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury (Morris 1976, sections 2.3 and 10.8). Anschitil's lands had belonged to the Abbey demesne in the time of Edward the Confessor, and could not be sold or alienated from the church.

3.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

The Abbey's tenure of Shephall was terminated during the Dissolution, when in 1542 the manor, with a pension of five shillings from the Rectory, was granted by Henry VIII to George Nodes, serjeant of the royal Buckhounds. Nodes had previously been

lessee of the manor. In 1564 Nodes obtained licence to grant the manor to his nephew Charles Nodes and his heirs.

3.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

The manor of Shephall remained in the possession of various branches of the Nodes family until 1939, when it was sold to William Harrison Moss (Ballin 1967). In 1957 the estate and manorial rights were purchased by Stevenage Development Corporation, and Roebuck Infants School was built in the early 1960s as part of the development of the new town. The AA has made the following observations regarding the site:

Much of Stevenage was built without archaeological intervention, but where archaeological investigations have taken place archaeological remains have often been found. For example in north eastern Stevenage a Late Iron Age and Roman settlement was excavated at Boxfield Farm, Chells (HER4506: Going & Hunn 1999) and a possible cremation cemetery nearby (HER7368). Another Iron Age and Roman settlement was found further to the north at Lob's Hole (HER9222: Hunn 1997). The site is situated close to *Area of Archaeological Significance* 15, as identified in the Local Plan. This notes that the hamlet of Broadwater is recorded as early as 1221. It is probably the meeting place of the old Anglo-Saxon Hundred of Broadwater recorded in the Domesday Book. The Roebuck Hotel dates from the 15th century. London Road is likely to follow the course of a Roman road.

Roebuck Primary School was opened in 1955 (Zeepvat 2010, 36). The post war programme of school building in Hertfordshire is described by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) as “world class architecture with a uniquely British flavour” (Elwall 2000, 7) and which the noted International Modernist architect Walter Gropius acclaimed in 1952 as the most advanced in the world (*ibid*, 30). A recently published guide to the refurbishment of school buildings by English Heritage includes a case study of Hertfordshire schools. Seven are listed out of a post-war total of thirty-eight listings throughout the country (English Heritage 2010, 5). The Design and Access Statement (para. 4.16) however states that the school buildings are in poor structural condition.

4. Stratigraphic Report

4.1 *Site Stripping*

An area of c.5000 sq m (Fig. 3) was mechanically stripped of topsoil under close archaeological supervision, as required in the brief. The topsoil comprised mid brown silty loam, and was 0.1-0.15m deep. The site was then levelled, which comprised reducing the eastern side of the site by between 0.45m and 0.3m, while the western part of the site was built up by a maximum of 0.9m (Plates 1 & 2).

The stratigraphy encountered comprised:

- Topsoil - mid brown silty loam 0.1-0.15m (001)
- Made ground – light brown silty sandy clay, with frequent flint, pebbles and modern inclusions 0.3m (002)
- Subsoil – reddish brown silty sand with frequent flint and pebbles 0.1m (003)

The underlying natural strata comprised orange sandy clay with frequent large flint inclusions (004), and was only encountered in the eastern part of the site (Plates 7 & 8).

4.2 *Results – Strip, Map and Sample*

On completion of the site strip, archaeological features comprising a gully and two post holes were revealed. Both post holes were located less than a metre from the eastern boundary of the site. The gully was aligned northeast-southwest, and continued outside of the eastern limit of excavation. The southwestern extent of the gully was not seen, as it continued outside of the area where the natural strata was revealed.

Both post holes were half-sectioned. Posthole [102] was 0.4m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.18m. It was filled by a soft mid orange-brown silty sandy clay (101) (Plate 4). Posthole [104] 0.35m in width, and was 0.16m deep. This posthole was filled by a firm mid grey-brown-orange silty clay with frequent medium sized flint inclusions (103) (Plate 3). No finds were recovered from either feature.

Two sections were excavated through the gully [106] (Plates 5 & 6). The northernmost section was filled by a firm mid orange-brown silty clay with frequent large flint inclusions (105). At this point the gully was 0.35m wide, and 0.12m deep. In the southern section, the gully was 0.65m in width, and had a maximum depth of 0.22m. This part of the gully contained two fills: friable mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles and flint (107); and friable mid/light orange brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles and flint (108). Three small sherds of pottery were recovered from within (107).

Following the concreting of the footing trenches (see below, Section 4.3) the ground was reduced by a further 0.3m between each trench. The natural strata was exposed in

some places during this process, but no further archaeological finds or features were observed (Plates 13 & 14).

4.3 **Results – Watching Brief**

The watching brief was carried out over four visits, during which the excavation of the footing trenches was observed. The depth of the trenches varied across the site, from 1.1m to 2.7m.

At the western end of the site, where the ground had been built up by 0.9m, the footing trenches revealed between 0.1m and 0.4m of orange sandy subsoil. The footing trenches did not reach the natural strata in this part of the site (Plates 9 & 10).

The excavation of the footing trenches in the middle and eastern parts of the site saw the amount of made ground diminish to c.0.2-0.4m, over 0.3m of subsoil, which overlay the natural strata (Plates 11 & 12). No archaeological finds or features were observed within any of the footing trenches.

4.4 **Results – Pottery**

Three sherds of pottery were found during this phase of fieldwork. All three were recovered from the southern section of gully [106], and were made of a similar flint tempered coarse fabric. The two smaller sherds were dark grey in colour, whilst the largest was red on what appears to be the interior and beige on the probable exterior (Plate 23). All three bear a strong resemblance to the pottery recovered from pit [208] in the evaluation (Plates 15-22), which were dated to the Bronze Age, and their deposition is thought to have had ritual significance (Slowikowski, 2010).



Plate 1: Eastern edge of site, during topsoil strip, looking north east, 2m scale



Plate 2: Car park after removal of tarmac, looking east



Plate 3: Posthole [104], looking south-south-west, 0.4m scale



Plate 4: Posthole [102], looking north-north-east, 0.4m scale



Plate 5: Gully [106], looking east-north-east, 0.4m scale



Plate 6: Gully [106], looking west-south-west, 0.4m scale



Plate 7: Site during levelling, looking south west



Plate 8: Typical section, looking east-south-east,
1m scale



Plate 9: Footing trench in western part of site,
looking east, 2m scale



Plate 10: Section of footing trench in western
part of site, looking southeast, 2m scale



Plate 11: Footing trench in former car park,
looking east, 2m scale



Plate 12: Footing trenches in central part of the
site, looking west-south-west, 2m scale



Plate 13: Ground reduction between footing trenches, looking north east



Plate 14: Ground reduction between footing trenches, showing evaluation trench, looking north



Plate 15: Pottery from Bronze Age pit found in evaluation, 20cm scale



Plate 16: Evaluation: Rim sherd with hole, drilled post firing, 20cm scale



Plate 17: Evaluation: Base sherd, 20cm scale



Plate 18: Evaluation: Base sherd, 20cm scale



Plate 19: Evaluation: Carinated body sherd,
20cm scale



Plate 20: Evaluation: Base sherd, 20cm scale



Plate 21: Evaluation: Spindle whorl, 20cm scale



Plate 22: Evaluation: Spindle whorl, 20cm scale



Plate 23: Pottery recovered from Strip, Map and
Sample [106], 20cm scale

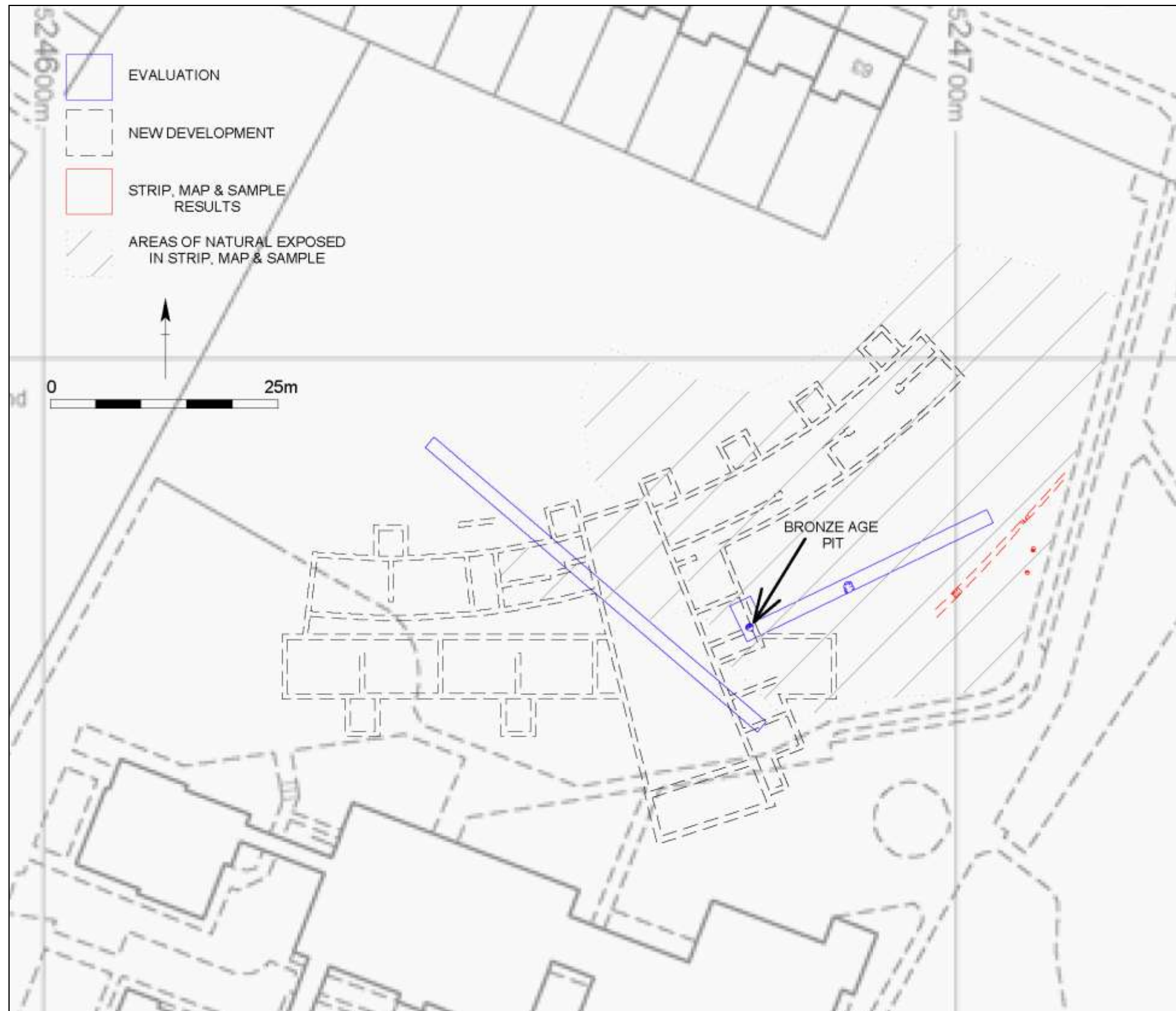


Figure 3: Site plan showing combined results of all fieldwork (Scale 1: 500)

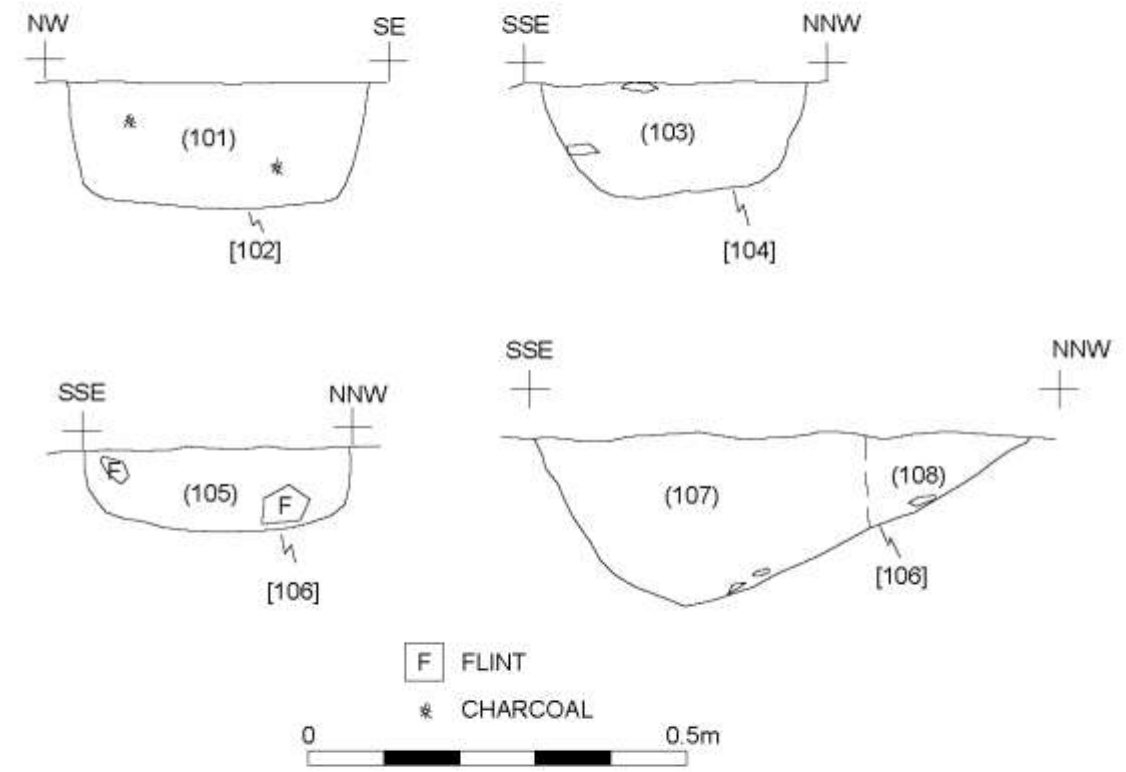
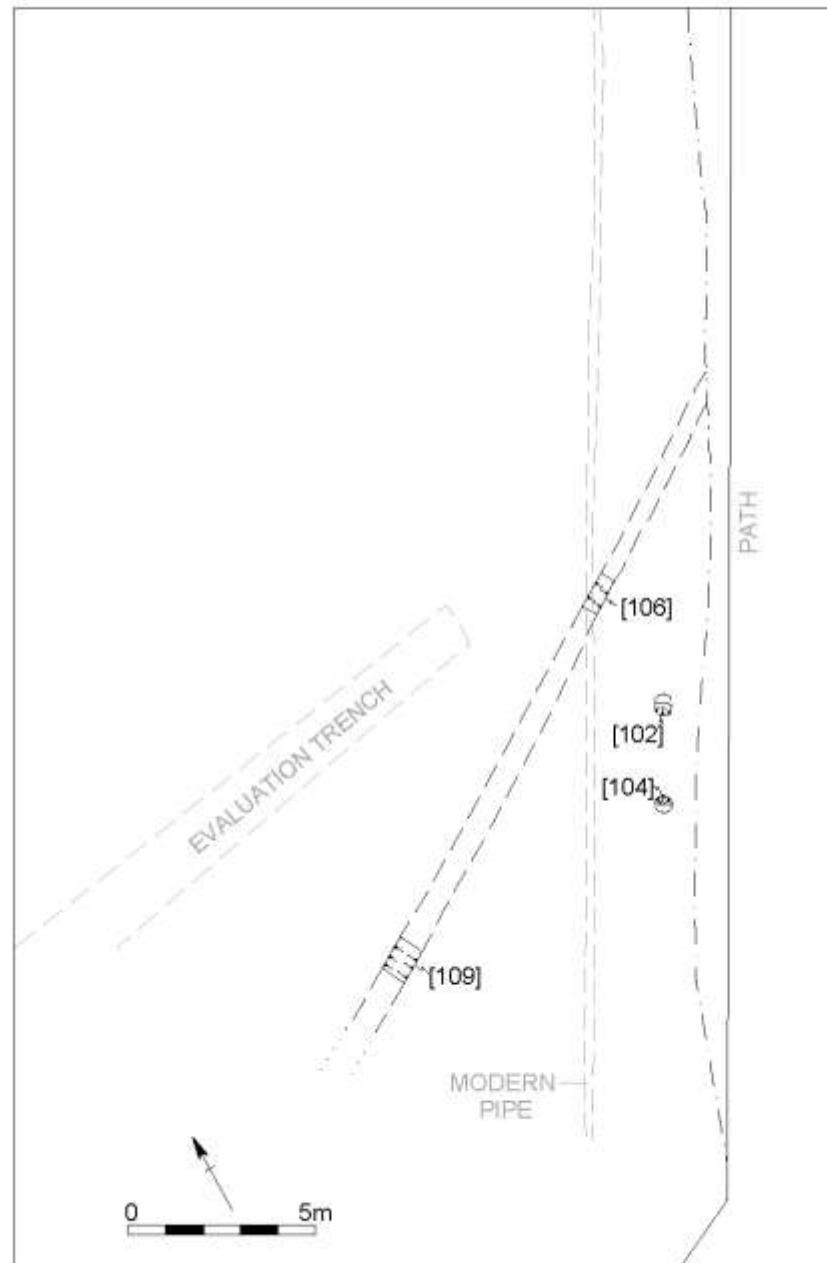


Figure 4: Results of Strip, Map and Sample (Scales as shown)

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The strip, map and sample excavation revealed a total of three features, all within the eastern part of the site. Dating evidence was not recovered from the two postholes, so they cannot be attributed to any period with confidence. However, the pottery recovered from the gully is sufficiently similar to that recovered during the evaluation to suggest that this feature is likely to also date from the Bronze Age.
- 7.2 Following analysis, it was suggested that the pit [208] found during the evaluation may have had ritual significance, and was likely to have been located on the edge of a nearby settlement (Slowikowski, 2010). Gully [106] is not of sufficient size to be interpreted as a settlement boundary ditch, but it is possible that it had a more pastoral function. This would also suggest that the features are located away from the main settlement.
- 7.3 In conclusion, the presence of further Bronze Age evidence strengthens the argument for there being a settlement from that period in the vicinity of the development site. The results of the strip map and sample excavation, and the watching brief, suggest that the settlement may be located further to the east or south of the development site, possibly in the area of the current school and car park.
- 7.4 *Confidence Rating*
The strip, map and sample excavation and the watching brief were carried out in mixed weather conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. Therefore a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the fieldwork.

8. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council. The writer is grateful to Lee Edwards of May Gurney for his assistance. The project was monitored by Andy Instone of the *Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council* on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Calli Rouse BA PIFA and Gareth Shane BSc. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

9. Archive

9.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

9.2 The archive will be deposited with Stevenage Museum.

10 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- Fell, D 2010 *Roebuck Primary School, St Margarets, Stevenage Project Design for Strip, Map & Sample Excavation*. ASC/1343/SRS/1
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Zeepvat, B. 2010 *Roebuck Primary School, St Margarets, Stevenage Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording*. ASC/1310/SRS/1

Secondary Sources

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- Shane, G 2010 *Archaeological Evaluation at Roebuck School, St Margarets, Stevenage, Hertfordshire* ASC/1310/SRS/2
- Slowikowski, A 2010 *Report on the ceramics from Roebuck Primary School, Stevenage, Herts*
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Register

| Context | Type | Description |
|---------|-------|--|
| 001 | Layer | Topsoil – mid brown silty loam |
| 002 | Layer | Made Ground - light brown silty sandy clay, with frequent flint, pebbles and modern inclusions |
| 003 | Layer | Subsoil - reddish brown silty sand with frequent flint and pebbles |
| 101 | Fill | Mid orange brown silty sandy clay – fill of posthole [102] |
| 102 | Cut | Cut of Posthole |
| 103 | Fill | Mid grey brown orange silty clay – fill of posthole [104] |
| 104 | Cut | Cut of Posthole |
| 105 | Fill | Mid brown orange silty clay – fill of gully [106] |
| 106 | Cut | Cut of Gully |
| 107 | Fill | Mid brown orange silty clay – fill of gully [106] |
| 108 | Fill | Mid/light orange brown silty clay – fill of gully [106] – possibly discoloured natural |
| 004 | Layer | Natural – mid orange sandy clay with frequent large flint inclusions |

Appendix 2: Finds Concordances

| Context | Pottery | | Bone | | Flint (no) | Shell (g) | Stone (no) | Other Finds | |
|---------|---------|-----|------|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|------|
| | (no) | (g) | (no) | (g) | | | | Type | (no) |
| 107 | 3 | 36 | | | | | | | |

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

| SITE NAME: Roebuck School, St Margarets, Harpenden, Hertfordshire | | | SITE NO/CODE:1343/SRS |
|---|-----|---------|---|
| Shot | B&W | Digital | Subject |
| 1 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking east-north-east |
| 2 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking southwest |
| 3 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking northeast |
| 4 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking northeast |
| 5 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking east |
| 6 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, showing evaluation trench 1, looking northeast |
| 7 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, showing evaluation trench 1, looking east |
| 8 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking southwest |
| 9 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking southwest |
| 10 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking southwest |
| 11 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, showing evaluation trench 2, looking southwest |
| 12 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking southwest |
| 13 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking south-south-west |
| 14 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking northeast |
| 15 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking east, 2m scale |
| 16 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking north-north-east, 2m scale |
| 17 | ✓ | ✓ | Initial strip, looking north-north-east, 2m scale |
| 18 | ✓ | ✓ | Car park area after removal of tarmac, looking east |
| 19 | ✓ | ✓ | Car park area after removal of tarmac, looking southwest |
| 20 | ✓ | ✓ | General site shot, looking northwest |
| 21 | ✓ | ✓ | General site shot, looking northwest |
| 22 | ✓ | ✓ | General site shot, looking southwest |
| 23 | ✓ | ✓ | Posthole [104], looking south-south-west, 0.4m scale |
| 24 | ✓ | ✓ | Posthole [102], looking north-north-east, 0.4m scale |
| 25 | ✓ | ✓ | Gully [106], pre excavation, looking northwest |
| 26 | ✓ | ✓ | Gully [106], looking east-north-east, 0.4m scale |
| 27 | ✓ | ✓ | Gully [106], looking west-south-west, 0.4m scale |
| 28 | ✓ | ✓ | Levelled east end of site, looking south-south-west |
| 29 | ✓ | ✓ | Levelled east end of site, looking southwest |
| 30 | ✓ | ✓ | Levelled east end of site, looking west-south-west |
| 31 | ✓ | ✓ | Levelled east end of site, looking south-south-west |
| 32 | ✓ | ✓ | Levelled east end of site, looking west-south-west |
| 33 | ✓ | ✓ | General view of site after levelling, looking west |
| 34 | ✓ | ✓ | Typical section after levelling, looking east-north-east, 1m scale |
| 35 | ✓ | ✓ | Footing trench at west end of site, looking east, 2m scale |
| 36 | ✓ | ✓ | General shot, looking northeast, 2m scale |
| 37 | ✓ | ✓ | Footing trench in centre of site, looking northwest, 2m scale |
| 38 | ✓ | ✓ | Footing trench in centre of site, looking east, 2m scale |
| 39 | ✓ | ✓ | Typical section of footing trench in centre of site, looking southeast, 2m scale |
| 40 | ✓ | ✓ | Footing trench in car park area, looking east-south-east, 2m scale |
| 41 | | ✓ | General shot of footing trenches in car park area, looking west, 2m scale |
| 42 | | ✓ | General shot of footing trenches in car park area, looking west, 2m scale |
| 43 | | ✓ | General shot of footing trenches in car park area, looking west, 2m scale |
| 44 | ✓ | ✓ | Ground reduction between footing trenches, looking north east |
| 45 | ✓ | ✓ | Ground reduction between footing trenches, showing evaluation trench, looking north |

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------|
| Project Name: | Roebuck Primary School, St Margaret's, Stevenage | OASIS reference: | |
| Short Description: | <p>During September and October 2010, a strip, map and sample excavation and subsequent watching brief were carried out on land at Roebuck Primary School, St Margaret's, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, following a programme of archaeological evaluation earlier in the year which uncovered a Bronze Age pit containing a large amount of pottery.</p> <p>A gully and two small, undated postholes were identified close to the eastern boundary of the site. Three small sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the gully, suggesting it is contemporary with the pit uncovered during the evaluation.</p> <p>Following analysis of the evaluation pottery, it was suggested that the pit may have had ritual significance and was likely to have been located close to a settlement. The lack of archaeological evidence observed across the western part of the site suggests that the settlement, should it exist, may be located to the east and south of the development, under the present school and car park.</p> | | |
| Project Type: | Strip, map and sample; watching brief | | |
| Previous work: (eg. SMR refs) | Evaluation | Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed) | None |
| Current land use: | School playing field | Future work: (yes/no/unknown) | No |
| Monument type: | - | Monument period: | - |
| Significant finds: (artefact type & period) | Pottery – Bronze Age | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | |
| County: | Hertfordshire | OS reference: (8 figs min) | TL 2466 2252 |
| Site address: (+ postcode if known) | Roebuck Primary School, St Margaret's, Stevenage, SG2 8RG | | |
| Study area: (sq. m. / ha) | 2.4ha | Height OD: (metres) | c.90 |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | |
| Organisation: | Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd | | |
| Project brief originator: | A. Instone | Project design originator: | D. Fell |
| Project Manager: | R. Zeepvat | Director/Supervisor: | R. Zeepvat |
| Sponsor / funding body: | Hertfordshire County Council | | |
| PROJECT DATE | | | |
| Start date: | 15/09/2010 | End date: | 07/10/2010 |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | | |
| | Location (Accession no.) | Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) | |
| Physical: | Stevenage Museum | Pottery | |
| Paper: | | Archive Box | |
| Digital: | | CD | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) | | | |
| Title: | Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation: Roebuck Primary School, St Margaret's, Stevenage, Hertfordshire | | |
| Serial title & volume: | ASC Ltd Report ref. 1343/SRS/2 | | |
| Author(s): | Calli Rouse BA PIFA | | |
| Page nos | 1-24 | Date: | 12/10/2010 |