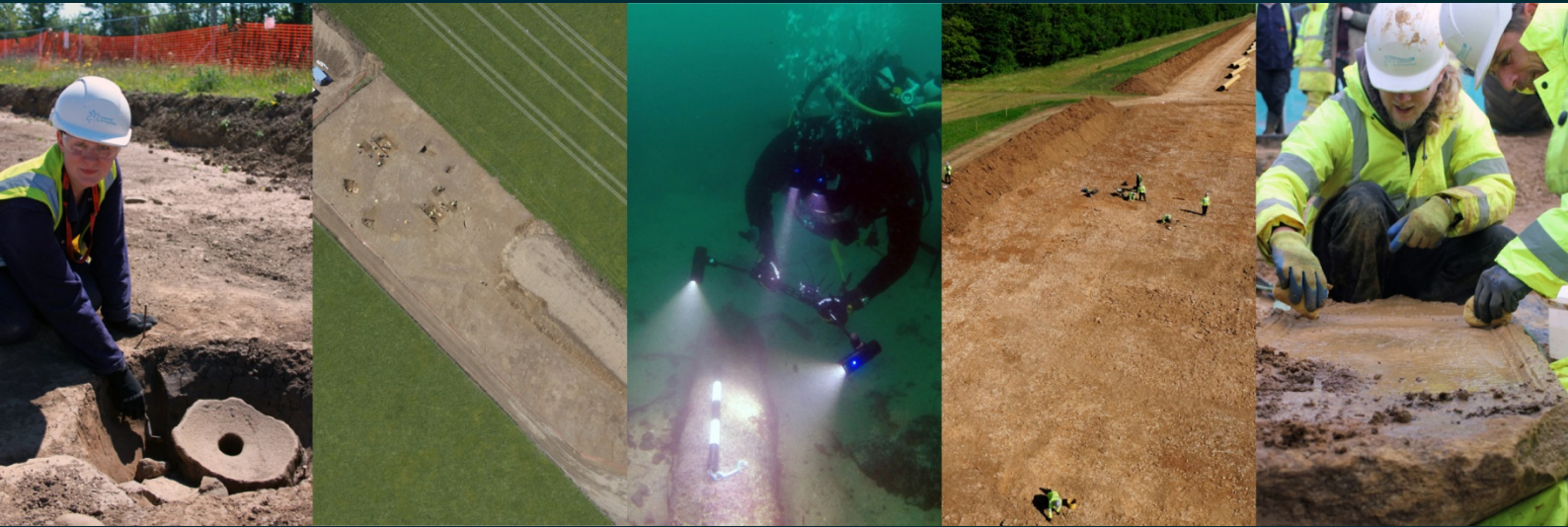


**Martindale School  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
CgMs Consulting  
on behalf of  
Vincent & Goring

CA Project: 660436

CA Report: 15173

Site Code: MSH15

April 2015



Martindale School  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Version	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
Final	20-4-15	SCC	DE	Client approved		

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead
<b>Location:</b>	Boxted Road, Hemel Hempstead
<b>NGR:</b>	TL 0373 0796
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	30 March–2 April 2015
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Dacorum Heritage Trust
<b>Site Code:</b>	MSH15

Between 30th March and 2nd April 2015, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of the site of the former Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The evaluation, comprising the excavation of eight trial trenches, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Vincent & Gorbing.

A geophysical survey of the site had shown that it was unlikely to contain archaeological features, although two anomalies of uncertain origin were detected. The evaluation investigated one of these anomalies and demonstrated that it was related to variations in the geological substrate. No archaeological remains associated with a farm building shown on historic mapping in the eastern corner of the site were encountered. Ground level in the western part of the site appears to have been reduced, possibly to level out the surface of the school playing field.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 30th March and 2nd April 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of the site of the former Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (site centred on NGR: TL 0373 0796; Fig. 1). The evaluation, comprising the excavation of eight trial trenches, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs), acting on behalf of Vincent & Goring.
- 1.2 The site is located within the administrative boundary of Dacorum Borough Council and archaeological advice on planning matters has been provided by Kate Batt, Archaeological Officer with Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HCCHET). The scope of the evaluation, which was informed by a *Desk-Based Assessment* (DBA) prepared by CgMs (2013) and a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (2015), was determined following discussions between CgMs and HCCHET. The scope was formalised in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2015).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CA 2015) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The site, which covers an area of c. 1.46ha, is located off Boxted Road, Warner's End, a suburb on the north-western outskirts of Hemel Hempstead. It comprises a roughly triangular plot of land, currently occupied by the buildings and playing fields of the former Martindale Primary School (Figs. 3 and 4). It is bounded by Boxted Road to the north and properties fronting on to Martindale Road to the south-east and Hollybush Lane to the west and south-west. The ground slopes to the east, from c. 151m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on the western boundary to 148m aOD in the eastern corner of the site.

- 1.5 The solid geology of the site comprises undifferentiated Cretaceous rocks of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of Clay-with-Flints (BGS 2015).

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The historical and archaeological background of the site has been presented in detail in the DBA prepared by CgMs (2013). This concluded that there are currently no designated or undesignated heritage assets within the site or in the immediate vicinity, although a late 18th-century map shows a building, probably a farm building, located in the eastern part of the site. The building and two other associated buildings just to the east of the site are not shown on later maps, suggesting that they had been demolished by the early years of the 19th century. The site remained in agricultural use until the general area was developed in the late 1950s and 1960s.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015) identified two anomalies of uncertain origin; one of these was investigated in Trench 3 of the current evaluation and was shown to relate to variations in the geological substrate.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2015), were to:
- Establish the location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
  - Determine the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site through the assessment of bulk soil samples taken from any suitable archaeological deposits;
  - Determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.
- 3.2 The evaluation results will enable HCCHE, archaeological advisor to Dacorum Borough Council, to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and develop plans to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage

resource conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trial trenches (250 linear metres) in the locations shown in Figure 2. There were four 40m, one 30m and three 20m trenches, each with a width of 1.8m. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009).
- 4.2 The trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003). No archaeological deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental sampling and there were no finds (other than modern building debris) in the excavated deposits.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation, which is currently held by CA at their office in Milton Keynes, will be deposited with the Dacorum Heritage Trust. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

#### **5. EVALUATION RESULTS**

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trial trenches in the area covered by the former school playing field (250 linear metres; Fig. 2). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in any of the trenches and it appeared that ground level in part of the site had been reduced and the topsoil reinstated, probably to create a level playing field. A number of modern services passed through Trench



8, which was located in the eastern corner of the site. Details of the features and deposits recorded by the evaluation are presented in Appendix A and are summarised below.

### ***General stratigraphy***

- 2.2 The geological substrate was predominately firm mid brownish-orange or orange clay with bands and patches of angular flint pebbles, in places loose and gravelly (Figs. 5 and 6). The overlying subsoil, which was intermittent and of variable thickness, comprised soft mid brown silty clay (Fig. 7); its absence in Trenches 1 and 3 suggests that it had been removed when the school was built to provide a more level surface for the playing field. The topsoil, comprising dark greyish-brown sandy clay, occasionally contained modern brick rubble and modern refuse, suggesting that in parts of the site it had been redeposited.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The evaluation broadly confirmed the results of the geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (2015), which had identified only two anomalies within the site, both of which were of uncertain origin. Investigation of one of these anomalies demonstrated that it was related to variations in the geological substrate, which was predominately clay, with bands and patches of flint pebbles, in places loose and gravelly. No archaeological evidence was encountered for the former farm buildings shown on historic mapping in the eastern corner of the site (CgMs 2013).
- 6.2 The absence of subsoil in the western part of the site suggests that ground level may have been reduced in this area, possibly to provide a more level surface for the playing field when the school was built. The topsoil in this area contained fragments of modern building rubble, supporting the view that the ground had been reduced and the topsoil reinstated.

## **7. CA PROJECT TEAM**

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Mordue, assisted by Caoimhín O' Coileain. The report was written by Simon Carlyle and the illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.



## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 [www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex), accessed 20 March 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished document

CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2013 *Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, report **SD/15085**

DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Stratascan 2015 *Geophysical Survey, Hemel Hempstead*, report **J7819**

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Context Interpretation	Context Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot-date
<b>Trench 1</b>						
100	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles and modern building rubble.	-	-	0.26	
101	Geology	Firm orange clay with mod. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles and nodules, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	
<b>Trench 2</b>						
200	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.16	
201	Geology	Firm brownish-orange clay with mod. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles and nodules, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	
202	Subsoil	Soft, mid greyish-brown sandy clay, only occurs in centre of trench.	-	-	0.26	
<b>Trench 3</b>						
300	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.25	
301	Geology	Firm orange clay with mod. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles and nodules, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	
<b>Trench 4</b>						
400	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.18	
401	Subsoil	Soft, mid greyish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.19	
402	Geology	Firm brownish-orange clay with mod. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles and nodules, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	
<b>Trench 5</b>						
500	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.12	
501	Subsoil	Soft, mid brown sandy silty clay, thickest at S end of trench (downslope), thins to N.	-	-	0.55	
502	Geology	Firm brownish-orange clay with mod. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles and nodules, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	
<b>Trench 6</b>						
600	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.18	
601	Subsoil	Soft, mid brown sandy silty clay, thickest at SE end of trench, thins to NW.	-	-	0.29	
602	Geology	Firm orange clay with occ. to mod. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	

<b>Trench 7</b>						
700	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.14	
701	Subsoil	Soft, mid greyish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.15	
702	Geology	Firm yellowish-brown sandy clay with freq. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	
<b>Trench 8</b>						
800	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles.	-	-	0.14	
801	Subsoil	Soft, mid greyish-brown sandy clay.	-	-	0.15	
802	Geology	Firm yellowish-brown sandy clay with freq. fine to coarse angular flint pebbles, pockets of orangey-brown clayey sand in places.	-	-	-	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead	
Short description	A geophysical survey of the site had shown that it was unlikely to contain archaeological features, although two anomalies of uncertain origin were detected. The evaluation investigated one of these anomalies and demonstrated that it was related to variations in the geological substrate. No archaeological remains associated with a farm building shown on historic mapping in the eastern corner of the site were encountered. Ground level in the western part of the site appears to have been reduced, possibly to level out the surface of the school playing field.	
Project dates	30 March–2 April 2015	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2013); geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Martindale School, Boxted Road, Hemel Hempstead	
Study area	c. 1.46ha	
Site co-ordinates	TL 0373 0796	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA) and Rob Bourn (CgMs)	
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Mordue (CA)	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		
	Accession no: -	Content
Physical	Dacorum Heritage Trust	None
Paper		Site records
Digital	Hertfordshire HER	Report, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Martindale School, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>150173</b>		

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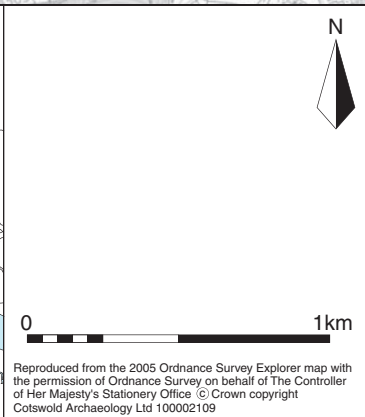
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Martindale School, Boxted Rd, Hemel Hempstead

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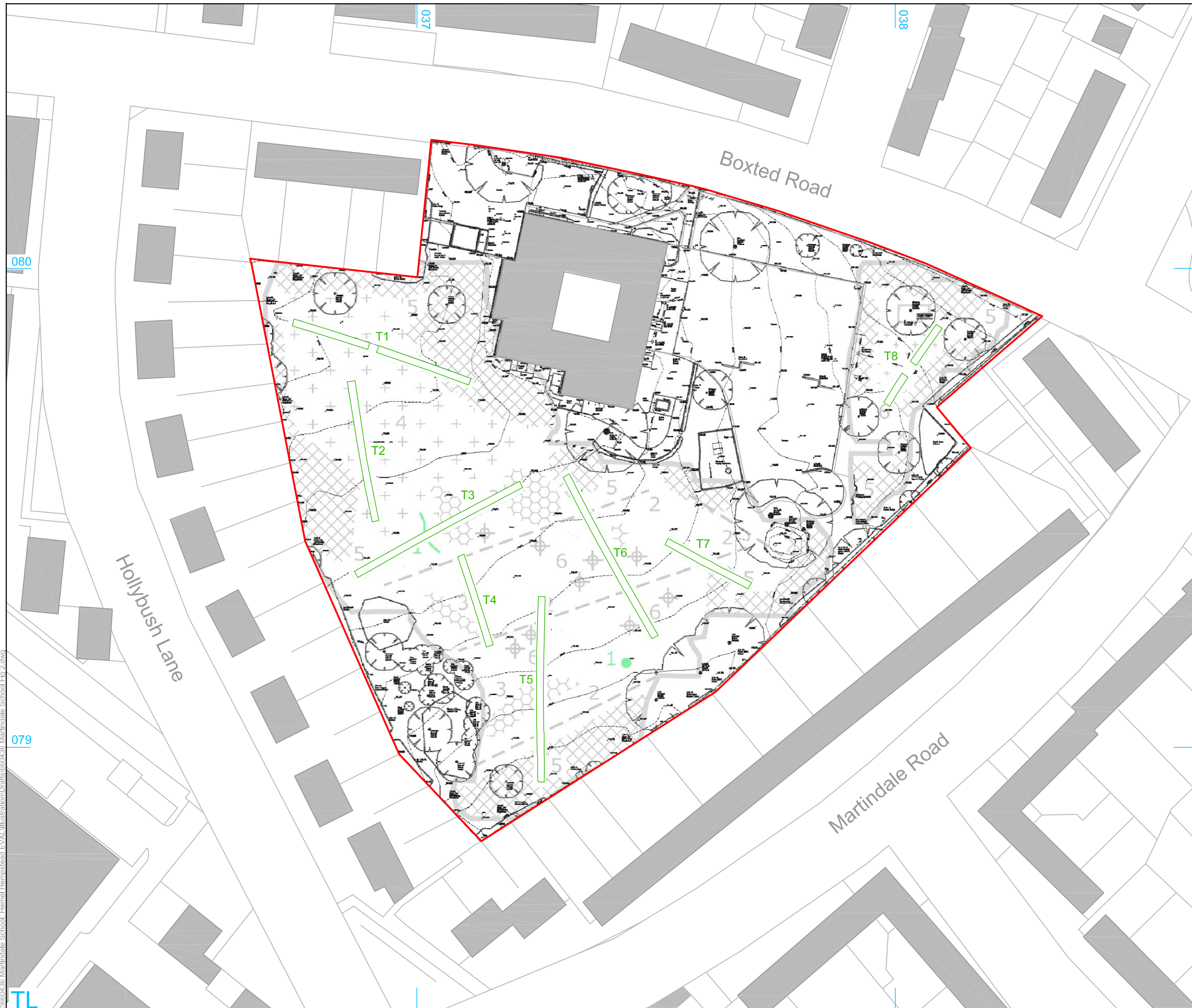
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>660436</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>JB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>15-04-2015</b>	
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site boundary

### Geophysics Key (Stratascan)

#### OTHER ANOMALIES

	Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
	Linear anomaly - of uncertain origin
	Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
	Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
	Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
	Scattered magnetic debris
	Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
	Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY DJB PROJECT NO. 660436 FIGURE NO. 2  
 CHECKED BY JB DATE 16-04-2015  
 APPROVED BY SCC SCALE/A3 1:750

P:\660436 Martindale School - Hemel Hempstead EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\660436 Martindale School Fig 2.dwg

TL





3



4

3 General view of the site, looking north

4 General view of the site, looking north-east



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.  
**3 & 4**





5



6

5 Trench 6, looking north-west (scales 1m)

6 Trench 3, looking north-east (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.  
**5 & 6**



7

**7 Trench 7, soil profile (scale 1m)**



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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

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 CHECKED BY **JB** DATE **15-04-2015**  
 APPROVED BY **SCC** SCALE @ A4 **NA**

*FIGURE NO.*

**7**