

Whittington College Felbridge Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief



for
SGC Consulting Ltd

on behalf of
The Mercers' Company

CA Project: 770254

CA Report: 160277

May 2016



Whittington College
Felbridge
Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

CA Project: 770254
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Whittington College
Location:	Felbridge, Surrey
NGR:	TQ 3716 3987
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	07 December 2015, 08 April 2016
Planning Reference:	TA/2015/66
Location of Archive:	Guildford Museum
Site Code:	WHI15

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2015 and April 2016 at Whittington College, Felbridge, Surrey. Two trenches were excavated and one trench observed during the watching brief.

The two evaluation trenches were distributed in an L-shape across the southern development footprint in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible. Trench 2 contained one linear, identified as a probably gully, which was orientated in a N/S direction. No finds were recovered from this feature, but based on its soil characteristics it was to be most likely post-medieval in date. Topsoil finds comprised ceramic building material dating to the post-medieval period, as well as modern rubbish, plastic etc. The remaining trench revealed no archaeological features.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief of groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern period was recovered from the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2015 and April 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief for SG Consulting Ltd on behalf of the Mercers' Company at Whittington College, Eastbourne Road, Felbridge, Surrey (centred on NGR: TQ 3716 3987; Fig. 1). The evaluation and watching brief were undertaken to accompany a planning application (TA/2015/66) for the demolition of unit 37 and associated garages serving Ebbisham Court and the erection of 14 alms houses.
- 1.2 The evaluation and watching was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council (AOSCC), the archaeological advisor to Tandridge District Council and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Nigel Randall. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site is located on the northern side of Felbridge, to the north of the junction of Eastbourne Road (A22) and Copthorne Road (A264), approximately 5km to the north-west of East Grinstead town centre. The site, which covers an area of 2.9ha, comprises a complex of buildings, mostly residential, set in mature parkland to the west of Eastbourne Road. The site is classified as an area of high archaeological potential in the Tandridge District Council's Local Plan.
- 1.4 The site lies on a gentle, south-facing slope at c. 101m aOD, and overlooks the valley of Felbridge Water. The geology within the site comprises Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, a Cretaceous rock of interbedded sands, sandstone and siltstone, in places up to 100m thick.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2012 CA was commissioned to produce a Heritage Desk Based Assessment. Below is a succinct summary of the results of this DBA.
- 2.2 The accommodation building known as 'Felbridge Place' is of probable later 18th-century date. Although it is not a Listed building it is of historic interest due to its associations with the former main Georgian house, now demolished. It is also of some architectural interest, and displays the original arched carriage entrances on the south side. The building is a Building of Character as defined by Tandridge District Council. Although local Buildings of Character do not have the statutory protection afforded to Listed buildings, the Council will seek to keep them wherever possible. It is a building, therefore, of local heritage significance.
- 2.3 The location of the earlier Felbridge Place, the former main house, is located on together with other former buildings. These include the former estate chapel, building G. The HER records that probable remains of the chapel were encountered during landscaping and construction of the present college buildings in the 1960s. It is likely that these works heavily impacted upon any such remains of the former buildings, although it is possible that below-ground structural elements such as foundations do survive. Any such remains would be of some, but limited, archaeological interest, as the former buildings are relatively well documented, and no extant elements survive.
- 2.4 The baseline survey has established little potential for currently unrecorded archaeological remains pre-dating the 18th century within the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information was used enable AOSCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the

development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised one L shaped trench, each arm being 25m long, targeted in the southern half of the site in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Trench 1 had to be moved slightly to avoid a foul water sewer with the approval of Gary Jackson. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*. A subsequent watching brief was maintained (following demolition of the existing structure) during fresh groundwork for the new build within the northern part of the development.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Guildford Museum under accession number. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-4)

Evaluation

- 5.1 Confirming the limited archaeological potential of the site as indicated in the Heritage DBA (CA 2012) only a single archaeological feature was recorded in Trench 2. Within the remaining trench no archaeological features or deposits were recorded and they were all archaeologically sterile.
- 5.2 The general deposit sequence identified across the site comprised of a mid-yellow, (with grey patches), compact silty clay natural geology overlain by 0.31m of mid yellowish brown clayey friable silt brown subsoil and 0.27m of mid/dark brown loose clayey silt topsoil.
- 5.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4) contained an N-S orientated linear **203**, identified as a probable gully or ditch, which was 0.2m deep and 0.76m wide. It contained a single fill (**203**), and no finds were recovered

Watching Brief

- 5.4 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. As can be seen in the sections of the construction trench, there was approximately 600mm of overburden sealing over the natural yellow silty clay.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation and watching brief confirmed the limited archaeological potential of the site as indicated in the Heritage Desk Based Assessment (CA 2015). No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation apart from a single gully.
- 6.2 This may be due to the marginal nature of the land, which may have made it undesirable for the location of any settlement or occupation activity.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Kennedy and Tony Brown, assisted by Jack Marten-Jones. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinka. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer* Accessed December 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 Whittington College, Eastbourne Road, Felbridge, Surrey: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Whittington College, Eastbourne Road, Felbridge, Surrey: Written Statement of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works comprising Trial Trench Evaluation and Watching Brief

Felbridge Parish Council Meeting 19 February 2015

<http://www.felbridgevillage.co.uk/council/March%2015%202015%20Minutes.htm>



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

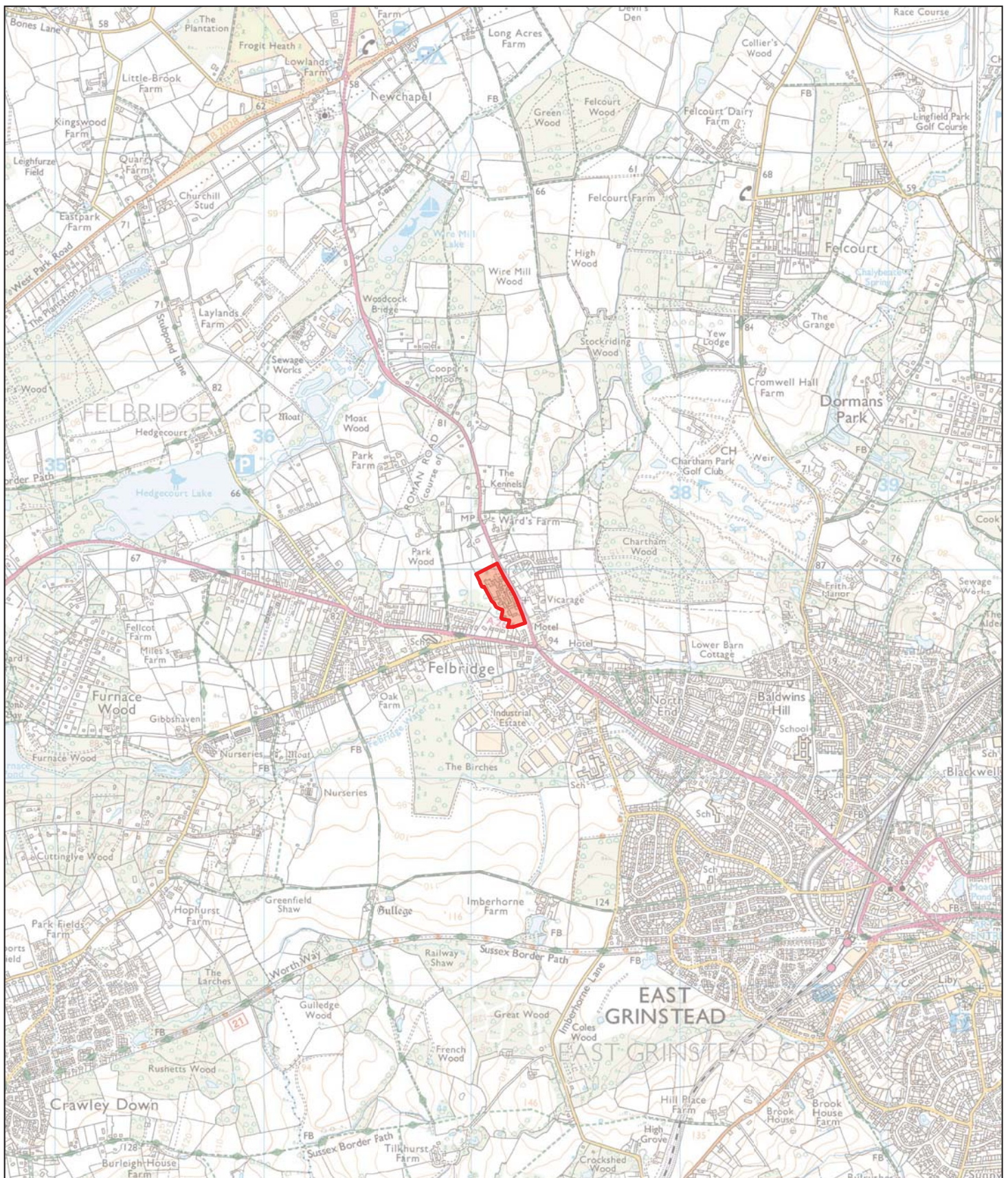
N.B. All archaeological features and deposits highlighted in **bold**.

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark/mid brown clayey silt which is loose and moist	25	1	0-0.27
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clayey friable silt brown with modern debris inclusions, CBM etc.	25	1	0.27-0.58
1	102	Layer	Natural	Mid yellow, with mid grey patches, compact silty clay	25	1	0.58+
1	103	Deposit	Fill	Modern rubble deposit, contains brick, CBM, plastic, etc.	1.8	1	0-0.5
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark/mid brown clayey silt which is loose and moist	25	1	0-0.27
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clayey friable silt brown with modern debris inclusions, CBM etc.	25	1	0.27-0.52
2	202	Layer	Natural	Mid yellow, with mid grey patches, compact silty clay	25	1	0.52+
2	203	Cut	Gully	Cut of Gully			
2	204	Fill	Secondary Fill of 203	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with rare sub-angular stone inclusions			
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey loam.	<2		0-0.4
3	301	Layer	Made ground	Dark brown compact sandy clay with rubble inclusions	<2		0.4-1
3	302	Layer	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common angular mudstone inclusions	<2		1+
3	303	Layer	Cut	Modern service drain			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Whittington College, Felbridge, Surrey
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2015 and April 2016 at Whittington College, Felbridge, Surrey. Two trenches were excavated and one trench observed during the watching brief.</p> <p>The trenches were distributed in an L-shape across the proposed development in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible. Trench 2 contained one linear,</p>

	<p>identified as a probably gully, which was orientated in a N/S direction. No finds were recovered from this feature, but based on its soil characteristics it is most likely post-medieval. Topsoil finds comprised ceramic building material dating to the post-medieval period, as well as modern rubbish, plastic etc. The remaining trench revealed no archaeological features.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	7 th December 2015, 8 th April 2016	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Whittington College, Felbridge, Surrey	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.9ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TQ 3716 3987	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Surrey County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Ray Kennedy	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Guildford Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		No finds
Paper		2no. files
Digital		Survey/Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Whittington College, Eastbourne Road, Felbridge, Surrey: <i>Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 160277</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Whittington College, Felbridge, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

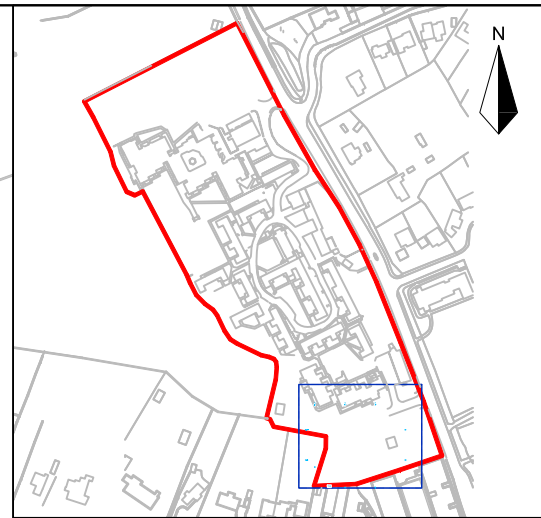
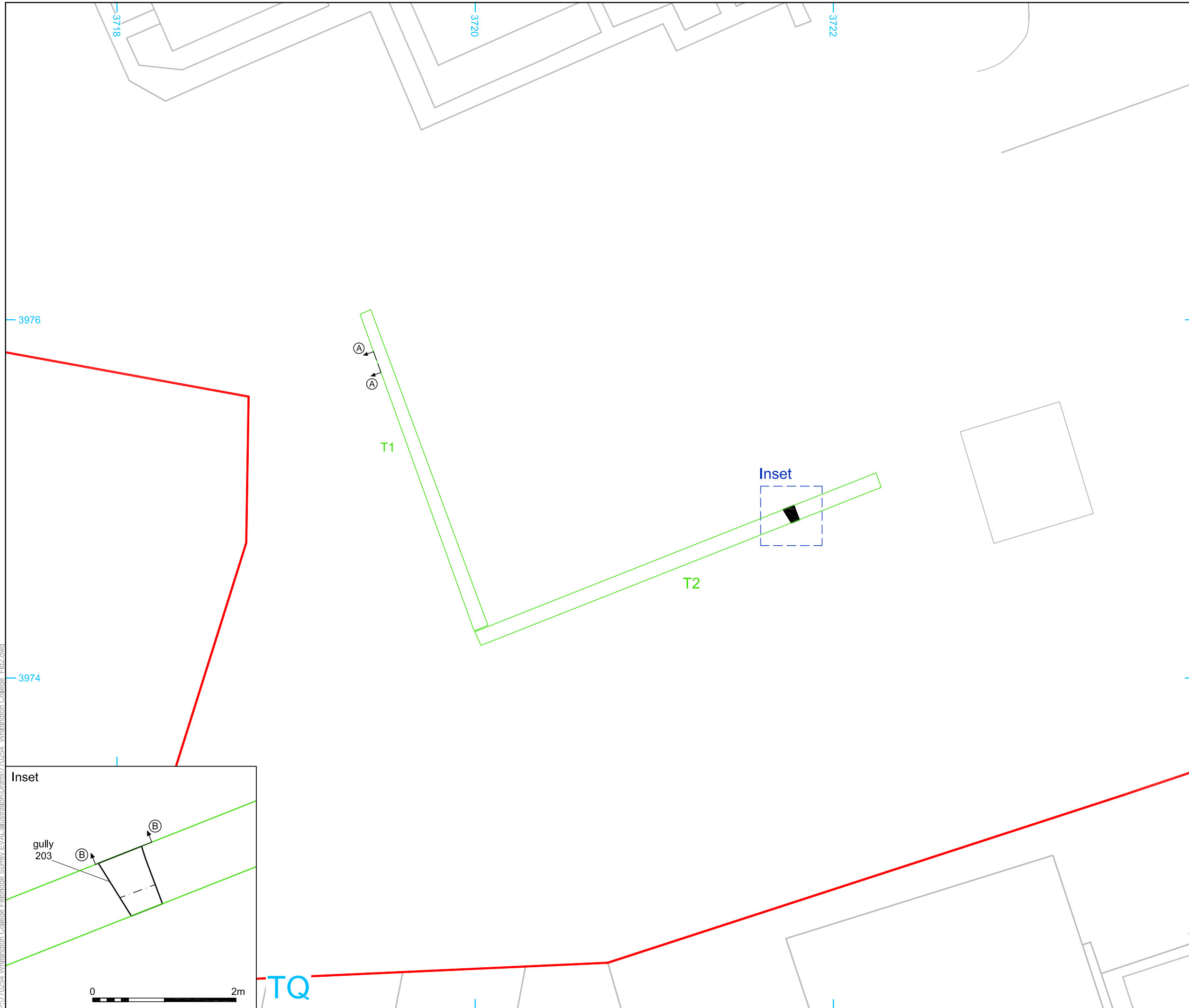
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 CHECKED BY DJB
 APPROVED BY REG

PROJECT NO. 770254
 DATE 08/12/15
 SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1

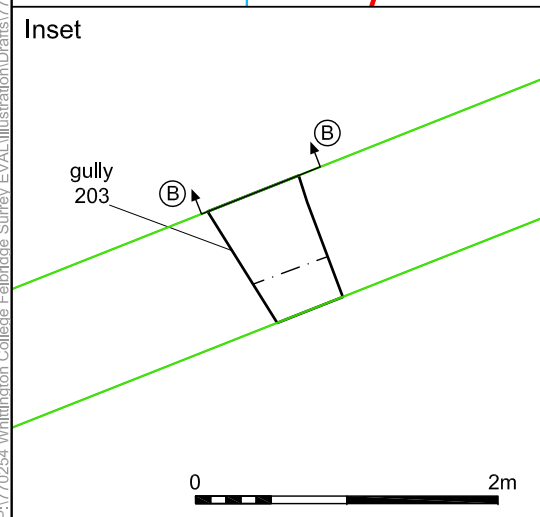


- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- archaeological intervention
- section location



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PROJECT TITLE
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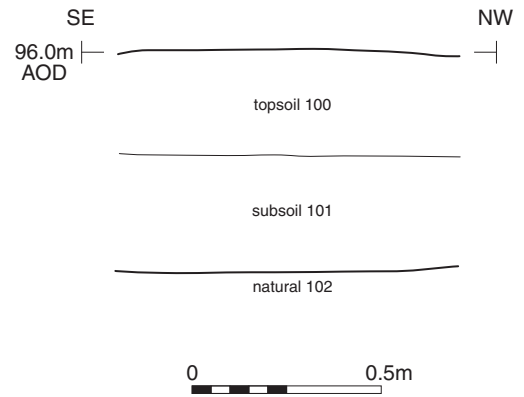
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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Trench 1, looking south (1m & 0.5m scale)

Section AA



Trench 1, east facing representative section (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

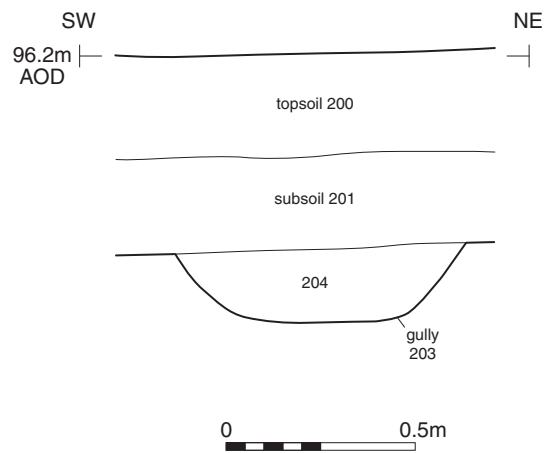
Trench 1: section and photographs

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Trench 2, looking west (1m & 0.5m scale)

Section BB



Trench 2, south facing section of gully [203] (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: section and photographs

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FIGURE NO.

4



5

5 General working shot



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	26/05/2016	
APPROVED BY	REG	SCALE@A4	n/a	5



6

6 General working shot, looking south-west



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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