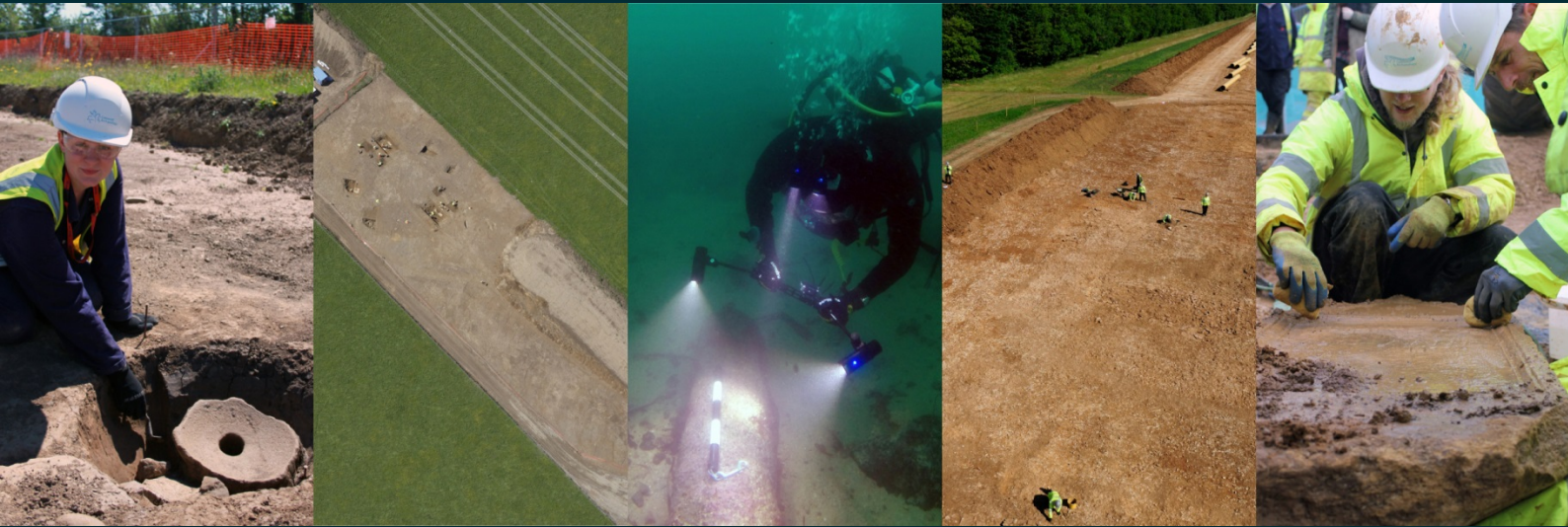


**Phase 1, Parklands Community School,
Durnford Close
Chichester
West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Consulting Ltd.

on behalf of
Parklands Community School

CA Project: 770495
CA Report: 16725

December 2016



Phase 1, Parklands Community School
 Durnford Close
 Chichester
 West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Phase 1, Parklands Community School
Location:	Parklands, Community School, Durnford Close, Chichester
NGR:	SU 8524 0518
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19-20 December 2016
Planning Reference:	WSCC/047/16/CC
Location of Archive:	The Novium
Site Code:	PLS16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2016 at Parklands Community School, Durnford Close, Chichester, West Sussex. Five trenches were excavated.

The trenches were not targeted on any archaeological anomalies but were distributed across the proposed development in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible. All five trenches had to be moved due to the presence of street furniture, trees, or areas of hard standing with the approval of the County Archaeologist.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Parklands Community School at Parklands Community School, Durnford Close, Chichester, West Sussex (centred on NGR: SU 8524 0518; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Condition 13) attached to a planning permission granted by West Sussex County Council (Planning Ref. WSCC/047/16/CC) for a two storey extension, revised car park arrangements and associated hard/soft landscaping of Parklands Primary School, Durnford Close, Chichester, West Sussex. This evaluation will be Phase 1 of the mitigation works, another phase of work to mitigate any impacts caused by the construction of drainage trenches and the creation of a playground in the area of the temporary classrooms will be undertaken at a later date.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CgMs (2016) and approved by John Mills, Senior Archaeologist at West Sussex County Council (SAWSCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the *Sussex Archaeological Standards*. It was monitored by John Mills, including site visits on the 19th of December 2016.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 0.25ha, and comprises a primary school and associated carparks and play grounds. The site is surrounded by housing development. It is bound by Durnford Close to the north and Sherbourne Road to the west. To the south of the main school building lies open grass playing field. The site lies at approximately 6m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and is relatively level, much of the site has been modified by the construction and the grading of the site for a park and ride car park.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Superficial deposits are recorded as River

Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) - Sand, Silt And Clay. These formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of the known archaeological information prior to the evaluation taken from the Written Statement of Investigation for the site by CgMs (2016).

Prehistoric

2.2 Although there are several extremely important early prehistoric archaeological sites in the Chichester District, near Boxgrove for instance, their location tends to depend on very specific geological and topographical factor. There are no finds of Palaeolithic material recorded on the HER within a 750m radius of the site.

2.3 A small number of reworked flint flakes of Mesolithic type were recovered during an excavation at Westward House, Chichester in 1992, c. 1km south-west of the site. Overall, the archaeological potential for this period is considered to be low.

Late Prehistoric

2.4 Evidence for Neolithic activity was recovered during an evaluation on land off Fishbourne Road East c. 550m south of the site. Several undated features which may have been prehistoric in date were excavated and worked flint including a blade, flake and core were recovered from a number of features. Due to the presence of Neolithic finds and possible features on the site itself a high potential is identified for further evidence of later prehistoric activity on the site.

2.5 During an evaluation to the rear of 6 St Bartholomew's Close c.400m south-east of the site two ditches were observed. The ditches appeared to run parallel to each other on a north east - south west alignment and contained late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, worked flint and bone. These two ditches, along with a third also running parallel, were seen once again during a limited excavation undertaken the following year in 2004. Three pits were also found; one truncated by a ditch and a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age spread. A possible Bronze Age burnt mound was

also found. Overall, a low to moderate potential is identified for Late prehistoric remains on the site.

Iron Age

- 2.6 Possible Iron Age entrenchments are located c. 50m south of the site. The entrenchments are a group of fifteen linear earthworks on the gravel plain between the foot of the South Downs and Chichester Harbour, with the exception of two lines they are within an area to the north and west of Chichester.
- 2.7 An Iron Age gold coin was found in 1976 in the garden of 33 Barker Close, c.500m to the west of the site. Late Iron Age pottery sherds and a possible trackway were revealed during the evaluation at a site off Fishbourne Road East c. 550m south of the site. Although Chichester is usually described as being a city with a Roman foundation date, Iron Age settlement and activity is now widely evidenced around the city fringes. Most of the settlement evidence from this period has come from the Downs and, increasingly, the Coastal Plain. Overall, a low-moderate potential is identified for Iron Age sub-surface features on the site.

Roman

- 2.8 The site lies over 1km to the north-west of the Roman town of Noviomagus Regensium, the Roman name for Chichester, which was occupied from the 1st to the 4th centuries, but was not fortified until the 3rd century. Noviomagus was built on the route of Stane Street, the main Roman road from London to Sussex. As the civitas capital, Noviomagus Regensium, was the administrative centre of probably the whole of Sussex. The villa economy south of Chichester may have been partly based on salt production which was widely practised along the coast.
- 2.9 Evidence of Roman occupation has been revealed at a number of sites along Fishbourne Road East to the south of the site. The line of the Roman road west of Chichester is thought to cross east-west south of the site, running from the West Gate of Roman Chichester to the Roman Palace. Fishbourne Road East was formerly named 'Roman Road'. However no road surface has been found and it is now thought to lie further north. Overall the archaeological potential of the site for the Roman period can probably be defined as low-moderate.

Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.10 No finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been identified within a 750m radius of the site. A low potential can therefore be identified for this period at the site itself.
- 2.11 During the Medieval and Post-Medieval period the site lay some distance from settlement at Chichester. Accordingly, a low potential is identified for medieval and Post-Medieval subsurface features although evidence of agricultural activity and land division could conceivably be present.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 CgMs Consulting produced a WSI (2016) stating the objectives of the evaluation are 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 will enable the WSCC 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 the excavation of 5 trenches; all were 10m long and 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Each trench was moved due to play ground furniture, hard standing and tree coverage with the approval of John Mills. **Trench 1** was within the canopy of a tree and close to a school shed as such it was moved 37m to the east to an area of open ground. **Trench 2** was partially within hard standing and was moved 7m to the east. **Trench**

3 was partially within the hard standing play area and was realigned to the northern-eastern edge of hard standing. The eastern end of **Trench 4** was under the canopy of a tree and was moved 5m to the south. **Trench 5** was partially within the hard standing play area and was realigned to the south-eastern edge. 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.

- 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 The Novium. 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 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed within the 5 trenches. The natural geology consisted of a mid-yellow/brown, soft silty clay in **Trenches 1 to 4**. **Trench 5** contained mid-grey/brown silty clay gravel. All trenches were overlain by between 0.24m and 0.26m of subsoil, light grey/brown, soft silty clay and in turn sealed by 0.19 to 0.22m of topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the site due to previous finds of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman artefacts in the vicinity, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation. 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.
- 6.2 The natural geology (clay and gravel) was intact and displayed little impact associated with the modern development which suggests any underlying archaeology would have still been observed. The results of the Phase 1 evaluation make it clear, that the site does not contain any significant archaeology and as such has a very low potential to yield any valuable (other than negative) information.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, assisted by Keighley Wasenczuk. The report was written by Ray Kennedy and Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* Accessed 20 December 2016

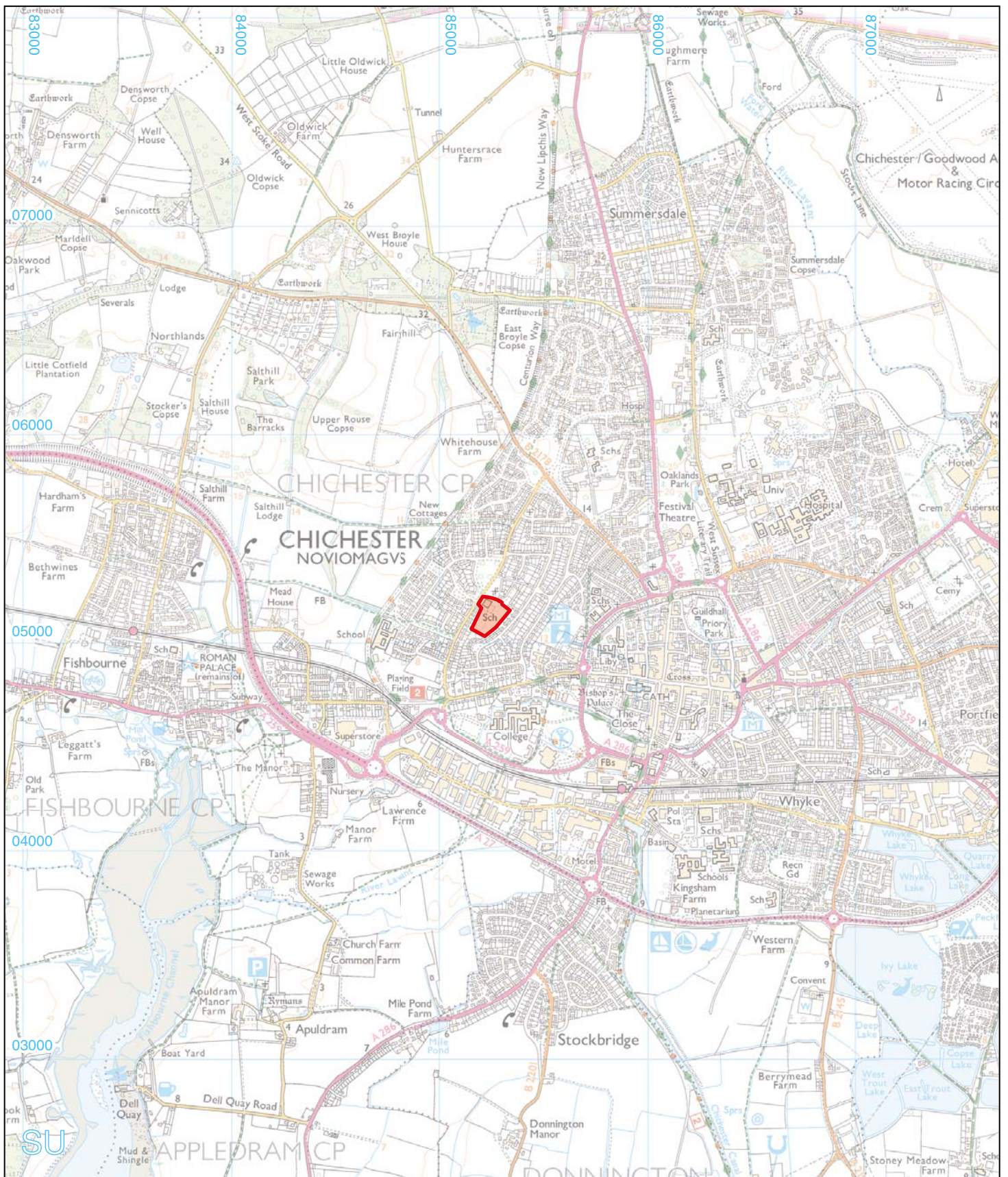
CgMs Ltd, 2016, *Phase 1, Parklands Primary School, Durnford Close, Chichester, West Sussex, Written Statement of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0 - 0.21
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.21 - 0.42
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.42+
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0 - 0.20
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty softly compact clay	10	1.8	0.2 - 0.46
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.46+
3	203	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0 - 0.22
3	300	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.22 - 0.47
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.47+
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0 - 0.19
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.19 - 0.45
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.45+
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0 - 0.21
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown softly compact silty clay	10	1.8	0.21 - 0.46
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown softly compact silty clay gravel	10	1.8	0.46+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Parklands Community School	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2016 at Parklands, Community School, Durnford Close, Chichester. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The trenches were not targeted on any archaeological anomalies but were distributed across the proposed development in order to assess the archaeological potential across as wide an area as possible. All five trenches had to be moved due to the presence of street furniture, trees, or areas of hard standing with the approval of the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	19-20th December	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Parklands Community School, Durnford Close Chichester West Sussex	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SU 85241 05153	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) The Novium	Content
Physical		None
Paper		Trench sheets, photographic register
Digital		Database, digital photos survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Add reference this report only, for example:		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Parklands Community School, Chichester: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16725		



 Site location

0  1km

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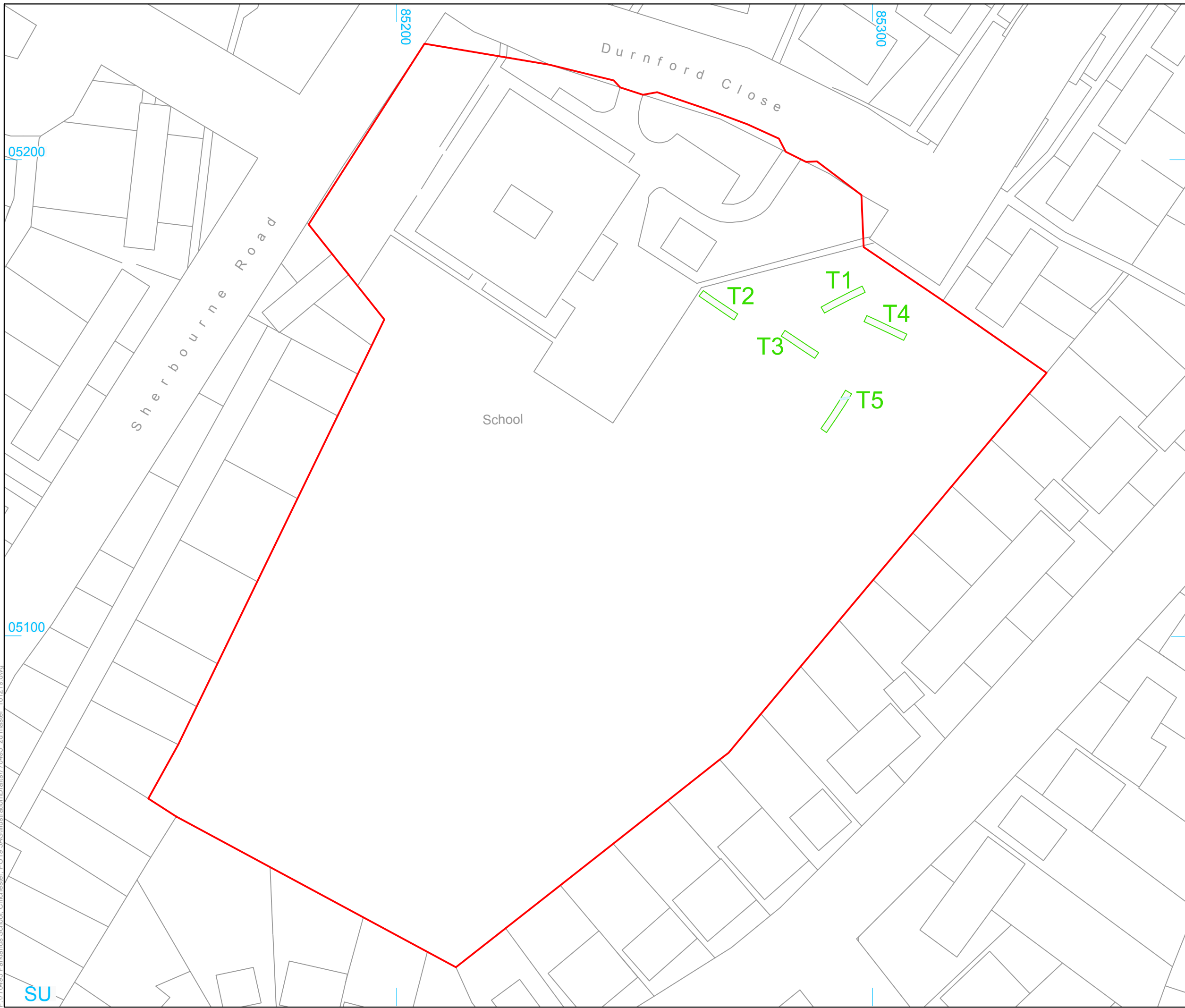


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PROJECT TITLE
Parklands primary school, Chichester,
West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY TC	PROJECT NO. 770495	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY AO	DATE 21/12/2016	
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- field drain



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PROJECT TITLE
Parklands School, Chichester, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770495	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	REVISION	01	01
DATE	21-12-2016	SCALE@A3	1:750	

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



Trench 2, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking south (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking east (1m scales)



Trench 5, looking north-east (1m scales)

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