

Dane Court Grammar School Broadstairs Kent



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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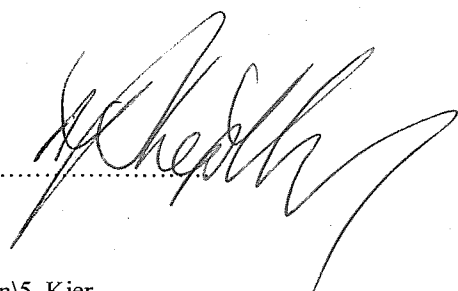
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Dane Court Grammar School Broadstairs, Kent

TR 379 678

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

Between 11th and 14th August 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological field evaluation at Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs, Kent (TR 379 678) on behalf of Kent County Council and Kier Group Plc. The evaluation followed desk-based archaeological and development impact assessments of the site carried out by OA for the Council, which form part of the ongoing BSF Schools development programme in Kent.

The evaluation consisted of ten trenches, three of which to the south-west part of the site revealed late prehistoric/early Roman activity. This took the form of a flint filled pit, a posthole and a number of field ditches. Pottery from the pit, the posthole and the ditches was of late Iron Age/early Roman date, probably spanning the crossover time of these two periods. The presence of a number of flints of Mesolithic and Neolithic date to the south-west part of the site suggest a prehistoric focus lies nearby. Overall, it seems likely that the features represent a small area of occupation with the ditches representing part of a late prehistoric/early Roman field system, with evidence of earlier occupation in the general area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 As part of the current Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs, Kent on behalf of Kent County Council (KCC) and Kier Group PLC in August 2008. The site is within the administrative area of Thanet District Council.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation work was undertaken under archaeological guidelines issued by KCC. The development site is centred on TR 379 678 (Fig. 1) and encompasses 10.8 ha. of school buildings and recreation areas.

1.2 BSF Schools Project Background

- 1.2.1 The Kent Schools 2008 Project involves the assessment and recording of ten schools in the County of Kent, prior to commencement of redevelopment works under the Government's BSF programme.
- 1.2.2 Through the BSF programme, significant investment in buildings and in Information and Communications Technology is being made to support the Government's educational reform agenda. Funds are intended to be devolved to Local Authorities and schools throughout England to spend on maintaining and improving their school buildings and in some cases for major rebuilding and remodelling projects.

1.2.3 Archaeological investigation in the form of trial trenching has been incorporated into this programme, in order to mitigate any damage to the archaeological resource present at the any of the schools currently under redevelopment.

1.3 Geology and topography

1.3.1 The underlying geology of the site is Cretaceous Upper Chalk, which is overlain at the north of the site by a drift geology of Pleistocene and recent Head Brickearth (older), and in its eastern extent by Pleistocene and recent Head Brickearth (younger) (GSGB, 1978, Sheet 255). The site is located at an approximate height of 41 m OD.

1.4 Archaeological and historical background

1.4.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate archaeological desktop study. OA was commissioned by Parsons Brinckerhoff to undertake the desktop assessment on behalf of KCC in 2007. A walkover survey of the development area formed part of the assessment strategy. The archaeological assessment examined an area of 1-km radius around the school and included a gazetteer of known archaeological findspots/investigations in the area of the development. Each of these was allocated an OA gazetteer number in the assessment document (OA/PB 2007).

1.4.2 There have been no previous recorded archaeological investigations within the site itself. Iron Age activity is known some 500 m east of the site at Vale Road (OA 88) and a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age structure was revealed on Westwood Road (OA 93). An undated crop-mark (OA17) to the north-west comprising a double ring-ditch and two enclosures may be of Iron Age date.

1.4.3 Roman pottery and flint implements were found in the vicinity of the site within a pit in the late 19th century (OA gazetteer No. 63). Probable Roman burials are known south of Dane Court School (OA 56) and further Prehistoric and Roman activity has been recorded in the general area of the school (OA gazetteer Nos. 79, 82, 85, 88, 89, 94). The desk-based assessment suggested a low to moderate potential for the survival of prehistoric remains on the site; a moderate potential for Roman archaeology and a low potential medieval activity in the vicinity.

1.4.4 In the post-medieval period the site was arable land, possibly subject to ploughing up to the 19th/20th centuries. The desktop assessment suggested a low potential for features of medieval and post-medieval date on the site.

1.4.5 In the southern area of the site a former brick-works established in 1908 has been identified. This is likely to have had a negative affect on the potential survival of archaeological remains in this area of the site due to quarrying activity. It was thought likely that the foundations associated with the brick-works and its outbuildings would survive below ground.

1.5 Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 The archaeological desktop assessment (OA/PB 2007) was supplemented by an Impact Assessment Report that assessed the potential effects of the development proposals archaeological deposits at Dane Court School. OA was commissioned by Kier Group and Land Securities, to carry out this work on behalf of KCC in March 2008 (OA 2008).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine the quality, character, date and extent of any archaeological remains present on the site, to supplement information gathered during the desk-based archaeological and impact assessments made of the site.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of ten trenches (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were located to investigate areas of anticipated construction impact from new building footprints. Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 10 were located as close as reasonably practicable to areas of proposed car-parking. Six of the trenches (2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9) measured 20 m x 1.65 m. Trench 1 measured 3.5 m x 1.65 m, Trench 4 measured 25 m x 1.65 m, Trench 7 measured 10 m x 1.65 m and Trench 10 was 22 m x 1.65m.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under close archaeological supervision, the overburden was removed to the first archaeological horizon or to undisturbed natural geology, whichever was encountered first. The layers of overburden were kept separate from each other so that they could be replaced in the correct order during backfilling of the trenches.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were then cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black-and-white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Bulk environmental samples were collected from all suitable archaeological deposits to ascertain the potential for further environmental works on the site.

4 RESULTS:

4.1 Description of Trenches

- 4.1.1 The evaluation comprised ten trenches, which were located at various points across the site (Fig. 2). These were used to ascertain the density of the archaeological features and their overall condition in terms of survival and potential for further study.
- 4.1.2 Three of the ten trenches (4, 5, and 10) contained late prehistoric/early Roman archaeological features with residual earlier prehistoric flints. The remainder (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9) were devoid of archaeological features, although a single prehistoric flint flake was recovered from the topsoil (901) in Trench 9.

4.2 Archaeologically significant trenches

Trench 4 (Fig. 3, 4)

- 4.2.1 Trench 4 measured 25 by 1.65 m. It was excavated to an average depth of 0.64 m, where the natural comprised red/brown sandy clay brickearth (402). This was overlain by a yellow/red-brown soil layer (401) on average 0.3 m deep. Above this was a turf-covered mid grey/brown silty clay topsoil (400) averaging 0.32 m deep. The archaeological features revealed within this trench were all cut into the natural (402), and all sealed by the 401, probably a former turf line. The fills of all the features consisted of slightly reddish-brown/light grey-brown sandy clays.
- 4.2.2 A north-south aligned ditch (407) was revealed approximately 5.5 m from the north-west end of the trench. The ditch averaged 1.7 m in width and was 0.45 m deep with a shallow 'U'-shaped profile. The single fill (408) produced pottery late Iron Age to early Roman date, a sherd of possibly 2nd-century Roman pottery and burnt and worked flint of uncertain but prehistoric date. The edge of a similarly oriented linear feature (409) was partially revealed at the south-eastern end of the trench, although it was not excavated.
- 4.2.3 A sub-circular pit (405) measuring 2.15 m in diameter by 0.22 m in depth was partially revealed approximately 5 m west of ditch 409. The single fill (406) was a mix of sandy clay and burnt and unburnt flint, which produced a pottery sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. An environmental sample was taken from fill 406.
- 4.2.4 Towards the top of the feature a number of clearly modern worked flint blocks were recovered, suggesting that these had been introduced into the fill of pit 405 by later

activity (perhaps ploughing or landscaping). However, flints towards the base of the pit were of late Mesolithic/Neolithic date, indicating a prehistoric presence nearby.

- 4.2.5 A single posthole (403), measuring 0.4 m in diameter and 0.18 m in depth was revealed 1.5 m north of ditch 409. A small pottery fragment of early Roman date was recovered from the fill (404). A modern geo-technical test pit was also noted within this trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3, 4)

- 4.2.6 Trench 5 measured 20 m by 1.65 m. It was excavated to an average depth of 0.66 m to natural, a reddish-brown sandy clay brickearth (503). This was overlain by a yellow/ brown soil layer (502), averaging 0.34 m in depth. Above this was a turf covered mid grey/brown silty clay topsoil (501), some 0.32 m deep. A single feature in the trench cut the natural (503) and was overlain by soil layer (502).
- 4.2.7 An east-west aligned ditch (504) extended obliquely along the eastern half of the trench. It was 1 m wide and 0.26 m deep with a shallow 'U'-shaped profile. The single brown sandy clay fill (505) produced a sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and prehistoric flint. The flints comprised chips and a part of a blade of undiagnostic but prehistoric date. An environmental sample was taken from fill 505.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3, 4)

- 4.2.8 Trench 10 measured 22 m by 1.65 m. It was excavated to an average depth of 0.56 m exposing the natural red-brown sandy clay brickearth (1003). This was overlain by a yellow/brown soil horizon (1002), averaging 0.32 m in depth.
- 4.2.9 Overlying this was a turf covered grey/brown silty clay topsoil (1001), up to 0.24 m deep. The archaeological features in the trench cut the natural (1003) and were sealed beneath soil layer (1001).
- 4.2.10 The archaeological features in the trench comprised three intercutting ditches (1004, 1006 and 1008). Each ditch was sample excavated, but, after consultation with KCC, their relationships were left unexcavated for potential further investigation.
- 4.2.11 The fills of each ditch (1005, 1007 and 1009 respectively) consisted of light red/ brown sandy clays. Prehistoric flint chips were recovered from fill 1005, a prehistoric flint flake and a small crumb pottery of uncertain date were recovered from fill 1007, and fill 1009 was sterile. An environmental sample was taken from fill 1005.

4.3 Non-archaeologically significant trenches

Trenches 1, 2 and 3

- 4.3.1 Trench 1 measured 3.5 m by 1.65 m. It was excavated to an average depth of 1.1 m where natural comprised light brown sandy clay brickearth (104). This was overlain by a slightly yellow/orange brown soil layer (103), with a thickness of 0.4 m. Above this was a mid to dark brown silty clay modern makeup layer (102), with a thickness of 0.25 m, overlain by topsoil (101).
- 4.3.2 Trench 2 measured 20 m by 1.65 m and was excavated to a depth of 0.6 m where natural consisted of brown sandy clay brickearth (203). This was overlain by a yellow/brown soil layer (202), beneath the topsoil (201).
- 4.3.3 Trench 3 was 20 m in length by 1.65 m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.56 m where natural comprised brown sandy clay brickearth (302). This was overlain the same sequence of deposits as seen in Trench 1 and 2.

Trench 6

- 4.3.4 The trench measured 20 m by 1.65 m and was excavated to an average depth of 1.05 m (Fig. 4, section). Natural comprised light brown sandy clay brickearth (605), overlain by a light brown soil layer (604), with a thickness of 0.36 m. Above this lay a further soil layer consisting of mid-grey/brown silty clay (603), with a thickness of 0.17 m. This was overlain by a yellow brown silty clay makeup layer (602), measuring 0.16 m deep.
- 4.3.5 This was subsequently covered by another makeup layer, a mid grey brown silty clay (601) with a thickness of 0.20 m. Layer 601 was sealed by a turf-covered mid grey brown silty clay topsoil, context (600), with a thickness of 0.16 m. The sequence here suggests raising of the ground levels or levelling, but probably in modern times.

Trench 7

- 4.3.6 The trench measured 10 m by 1.65 m and was on average 1.2 m deep. Natural consisted of brown sandy clay brickearth (704) overlain by a yellow/brown soil layer (703), with a thickness of 0.63 m. Above this was a mid grey brown silty clay buried topsoil (702), with a thickness of 0.19 m.
- 4.3.7 Covering layer 701 was a red-brown silty clay makeup layer (701) with a thickness of 0.18 m. This was overlain by a turf-covered mid-brown silty clay topsoil layer (700), which was 0.20 m thick. Again the sequence of recent soils suggests make-up/landscaping in this area.

Trenches 8 and 9

- 4.3.8 The trench was 20 m in length by 1.65 m and excavated to an average depth of 0.74 m. Natural consisted of brown sandy clay brickearth (803) overlain by a brown soil layer (802), with a thickness of 0.4 m. Above this was turf/topsoil (801).

- 4.3.9 Trench 9 measured 20 m by 1.65 m. It was 0.62 m and natural comprised red/brown sandy clay brickearth (903). This was overlain by a yellow/brown soil layer (902), with a thickness of 0.28 m. Above this lay the topsoil and turf (901), from which a possible Neolithic flint blade was recovered.

4.4 **Finds summaries**

Pottery summary by Lisa Brown (OA)

- 4.4.1 The assessment and table of pottery forms is presented as Appendix 2. Fourteen sherds (156 g), some no more than large crumb size, were examined. Fabrics include flint-tempered wares (white, calcined flint, generally relatively fine), a fine smooth Roman grey ware and grog-tempered ware.
- 4.4.2 None of the sherds need date to earlier than the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Diagnostic sherds include a bead-rim jar, bead-rim bowl and a black-slipped beaker, the latest dateable vessel being the beaker, which could be 2nd century AD. The other sherds probably represent a continuation of a native later prehistoric courseware tradition continuing into the early Roman period.

Lithics summary by David Mullin (OA)

- 4.4.3 Full details of the assessment are in Appendix 3. A large quantity of flint was recovered from the fill of pit 405 (406), which included large, squared nodules which appear to be modern pieces prepared for use in a building or wall. Newman (1969, 27) states that flint was used extensively as a building material in the coastal towns of Kent and, although no traces of mortar were present on these pieces, this seems the most likely origin of this material.
- 4.4.4 Also within the fill 406 were worked flints of prehistoric date, including blade shatter, a core rejuvenation tablet, a possible bladelet and burnt flint. These are all likely to be late Mesolithic/early Neolithic in date, suggesting that the fill of this feature is very mixed.
- 4.4.5 The utilised flake from (901) is probably Neolithic in date and the rod microlith from (1005) is late Mesolithic. The other flint from this feature, and that from the remaining features on the site, is difficult to assign a date to and is likely to span the late Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

4.5 **Palaeo-environmental summary**

- 4.5.1 Full details of the assessment are in Appendix 4. Three environmental were collected for charred plant remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts from pit and ditch features that are late prehistoric/early Roman in date (one from each of contexts 406, 505 and 1005). The samples contained little artefactual or environmental evidence. No bone was present in the samples and snail preservation was poor. The

samples revealed some evidence of possible flint working in the area. One piece of pottery was recovered from sample <3> (406).

- 4.5.2 In sample <1> (1005) several wheat grains (*Triticum cf. spelta* L.) were observed and some poorly preserved chaff (*Triticum sp.*) was noted. Weed / wild taxa observed include small grass (POACEAE) seeds and one large grass seed (*Avena sp. /Bromus sp.*). Sample <2> (505) contained one badly preserved wheat grain (*Triticum sp.*), possibly spelt (*Triticum cf. spelta* L.).

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Archaeology

- 5.1.1 The limited scale of the archaeological deposits precludes detailed interpretation. Only three of the trenches (Nos. 4, 5, and 10) in the south-western part of the site revealed archaeological deposits. The small quantity of pottery recovered from the features suggests a late Iron Age/early Roman date.
- 5.1.2 The similarity of the fill between the various features gives reasonable grounds to suggest with some confidence that all of the identified features belong in the same broad period of activity. However, there is a disparity in the linear features' alignment, which may indicate more than one phase within that period.
- 5.1.3 The ditches probably represent part of a field system. No clear settlement pattern was evident, although the pit and posthole in Trench 4 could suggest that a domestic focus might be situated close by. Although only one posthole was identified, given the narrow width of the trench, it is possible that it represents part of a structure.
- 5.1.4 Prehistoric flints were found from a number of contexts, with a few late Mesolithic/early Neolithic pieces present in the assemblage. This gives an indication of the presence of prehistoric settlement/occupation in the general vicinity of the site, particularly in the area of Trench 4.
- 5.1.5 The presence of potentially early Roman material adds to the small but growing corpus of Roman evidence in the general area of Dane Court School.

5.2 Potential impact of development

- 5.2.1 The Impact Assessment (OA 2008) indicated that development plans for this site include the demolition of sections of the existing school and the construction of new buildings, car parks and landscaping. The main new building and car parks will be partly located in an area where the existing school buildings stand.
- 5.2.2 It is likely that a degree of truncation of any archaeological deposits may have occurred here. However, deep features could have survived previous construction works. Minor impacts will be caused by the insertion of new services, the construction of new roads and areas of hard-standing and landscaping.

5.2.3 The area of archaeology revealed to the south of the school site (in Trenches 4 and 5) will be unavoidably affected by the construction of the new sports hall. The archaeological features exposed in Trench 10 lie in a proposed car-park area. The car park formation depth is expected to exceed the recorded depth of the archaeology (c 0.55 m) unless special measures are adopted to preserve the archaeology *in situ*.

5.3 Recommendations for further work

- 5.3.1 It is recommended that the new sports hall footprint be subject to Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) excavation in conjunction with groundworks for the new building.
- 5.3.2 The formation depth and construction method for the car park areas is under review at the time of writing, to determine whether preservation *in situ* is a viable option. If not, an expanded SMS excavation is recommended, covering the car park areas between Trenches 2 and 9 (which contained no archaeological features).
- 5.3.3 The excavation area will be delimited to the south-west by an area of retained hard-standing, and to the north-east by the existing school buildings.
- 5.3.4 A watching brief will be maintained on construction groundworks outside these areas, where there is potential for archaeological features to be exposed.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Ctx</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Width (m)</i> | <i>Thick. (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> | <i>Finds</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 101 | Layer | | 0.45 | Topsoil | | |
| | 102 | Layer | | 0.25 | Makeup | | |
| | 103 | Layer | | 0.40 | Soil | | |
| | 104 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 2 | 201 | Layer | | 0.26 | Topsoil | | |
| | 202 | Layer | | 0.35 | Soil | | |
| | 203 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 3 | 300 | Layer | | 0.26 | Topsoil | | |
| | 301 | Layer | | 0.30 | Soil | | |
| | 302 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 4 | 400 | Layer | | 0.32 | Topsoil | | |
| | 401 | Layer | | 0.30 | Soil | | |
| | 402 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| | 403 | Cut | 0.40 | 0.18 | Posthole | | |
| | 404 | Fill | 0.40 | 0.18 | Fill of Posthole 403 | Pot | Early Roman |
| | 405 | Cut | 2.15 | 0.22 | Pit | | |
| | 406 | Fill | 2.15 | 0.22 | Fill of Pit 405 | Pot, Flint, Burnt Flint | LIA/Early Roman |
| | 407 | Cut | 1.80 | 0.45 | Ditch | | |
| | 408 | Fill | 1.80 | 0.45 | Fill of Ditch 407 | Pot, Flint, Burnt Flint | LIA/early Roman |
| | 409 | Cut | Un-ex | | Ditch | | |
| | 410 | Fill | Un-ex | | Fill of Ditch 409 | | |
| 5 | 501 | Layer | | 0.32 | Topsoil | | |
| | 502 | Layer | | 0.34 | Soil | | |
| | 503 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| | 504 | Cut | 1.10 | 0.26 | Ditch | | |
| | 505 | Fill | 1.10 | 0.26 | Fill of Ditch 504 | Pot, Burnt Flint | LIA/early Roman |
| 6 | 600 | Layer | | 0.16 | Topsoil | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|------|------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | 601 | Layer | | 0.20 | Makeup | | |
| | 602 | Layer | | 0.16 | Makeup | | |
| | 603 | Layer | | 0.17 | Buried Topsoil | | |
| | 604 | Layer | | 0.36 | Soil | | |
| | 605 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 7 | 700 | Layer | | 0.20 | Topsoil | | |
| | 701 | Layer | | 0.18 | Makeup | | |
| | 702 | Layer | | 0.19 | Buried Topsoil | | |
| | 703 | Layer | | 0.63 | Soil | | |
| | 704 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 8 | 801 | Layer | | 0.34 | Topsoil | | |
| | 802 | Layer | | 0.40 | Subsoil | | |
| | 803 | Layer | | | Archaeological Natural | | |
| 9 | 901 | Layer | | 0.34 | Topsoil | Flint | ?Neolithic |
| | 902 | Layer | | 0.28 | Soil | | |
| | 903 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 10 | 1001 | Layer | | 0.24 | Topsoil | Flint | Pre-Historic? |
| | 1002 | Layer | | 0.32 | Soil | | |
| | 1003 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| | 1004 | Cut | 0.85 | 0.62 | Ditch | | |
| | 1005 | Fill | 0.85 | 0.62 | Fill of Ditch 1004 | Flint | Mesolithic/ pre-Historic |
| | 1006 | Cut | 0.70 | 0.28 | Ditch | | |
| | 1007 | Fill | 0.70 | 0.28 | Fill of Ditch 1006 | Pot, Flint | Undated/pre- Historic? |
| | 1008 | Cut | 0.70 | 0.18 | Ditch | | |
| | 1009 | Fill | 0.70 | 0.18 | Fill of Ditch 1008 | | |

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/SPOT DATING*By Lisa Brown (OA)*

Fourteen sherds (156 g), some no more than large crumb size, were examined. Fabrics include flint-tempered wares (white, calcined flint, generally relatively fine), a fine smooth Roman grey ware and grog-tempered ware.

None of the sherds need date to earlier than the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Diagnostic sherds include a bead-rim jar, bead-rim bowl and a black-slipped beaker, the latest dateable vessel being the beaker, which could be 2nd century AD.

The other sherds probably represent a continuation of a native later prehistoric courseware tradition continuing into the early Roman period.

Table A.2.1 Pottery by context and date

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Spot date</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 404 | Crumb of abraded fine grey ware | Early Roman | |
| 406 <3> | 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware sherd | LIA/early Roman | |
| 406 <3> | Grog-tempered bead rim fragment | LIA/early Roman | |
| 406 <3> | Fine flint and grog | Early Roman | |
| 406 | Three joining sherds of a coarse bead-rim bowl with fine flint temper | Early Roman | Slightly odd profile |
| 406 | Fine grey ware (as 404) with rilled decoration - probably jar sherd | Roman | |
| 408 | 2 joining sherds grog-tempered ware | LIA/early Roman | |
| 408 | Fine flint temper | Later Preh or early Roman | Crumb sized sherd |
| 408 | Roman beaker with black slip | 2nd C? | |
| 505 | Body sherd very large storage jar - flint tempr | LIA/early Roman | |
| 1007 | Crumb sized sherd, fine clay fine flint temper | ? | |

APPENDIX 3 FLINT

By David Mullin (OA)

Introduction

A total of 132 lithics were recovered from eight contexts including 59 unworked burnt flint nodules. In addition a battered, rounded flint hammerstone was recovered from (406).

Methods

The flint was catalogued according to a broad debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning and breaks was recorded and where identifiable raw material type was also noted. Where possible dating was attempted.

Cores were classified according to the number and position of their platforms, following Clark (1960) and core maintenance pieces were classified to the following criteria. Core rejuvenation flakes are pieces representing the removal of the top or bottom of a core in order to improve the flaking angle of the platform.

Core trimming flakes are flakes, which remove a substantial part of a core in order to aid working by removing an imperfection in the core, a miss-hit or other impediment to flaking. The nature of any remnant flake scars on the dorsal surface of core trimming flakes was noted.

Flakes were classified following Saville (1990, 155), which allows an identification of the stage in the core reduction process to which the flake belongs. Terminations such as hinge fractures were noted. Chips are defined as pieces measuring less than 10mm by 10mm. Flakes having a proportions length to breadth ratio of greater than 2:1 were classified as blade-like, those with a greater length to breadth ratio being classified as blades.

Mid-sections of blades with no bulb of percussion were classified as blade shatter (Andrefsky 1998, 81-3). Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, Healy 1988, Bradley 1999, Butler 2005). No attempt was made at refitting or use-wear analysis.

Results

A large quantity of flint was recovered from the fill of pit 405 (406), which included large, squared nodules which appear to be modern pieces prepared for use in a building or wall. Newman (1969, 27) states that flint was used extensively as a building material in the coastal towns of Kent and, although no traces of mortar were present on these pieces, this seems the most likely origin of this material.

Also within the fill of (406) were worked flints of prehistoric date, including blade shatter, a core rejuvenation tablet, a possible bladelet and burnt flint. These are all likely to be Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic in date, suggesting that the fill of this feature is very mixed.

The utilised flake from (901) is probably Neolithic in date and the rod microlith from (1005) is late Mesolithic. The other flint from this feature, and that from the remaining features on the site, is difficult to assign a date to and is likely to span the late Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

Table A.3.1: lithics identification and quantification

| Context | Flint |
|---------|---|
| 404 | Burnt flint |
| 406 | Large, quartered nodule lacking formal platforms ?modern building flint |
| 406 | Large nodule with two flat faces which are not platforms ?modern building flint |
| 406 | Nodule with squared faces ?modern building flint |
| 406 | Small, quartered nodule ?modern building flint |
| 406 | Battered nodular flint which has been squared ?modern building flint |
| 406 | Primary flake with pronounced bulb |
| 406 | Secondary flake, severely lipped platform |
| 406 | Tertiary flake, large, lipped platform |
| 406 | Small tertiary flake, similar bulb morphology to above |
| 406 | Secondary flake |
| 406 | Secondary flake, removed by hard (?metal) hammer |
| 406 | Tertiary flake x8 |
| 406 | ?core rejuvenation tablet |
| 406 | Blade shatter |
| 406 | ?bladelet |
| 406 | Chips x20 |
| 406 | Burnt flint x11: all fairly well rounded |
| 406 | Burnt flint x23 from sieving |
| 408 | Large secondary flake, removed by hard hammer (?metal) |
| 408 | Secondary flake, concoidal butt |
| 408 | Tertiary flake |
| 408 | Secondary flake, choncoidal butt |
| 408 | Secondary flake |
| 408 | Secondary flake, wide, flat platform |
| 408 | Small primary flake, very diffuse bulb |
| 408 | Burnt flint |
| 505 | Burnt flint x13 |
| 505 | Chips x8 |
| 505 | Blade shatter |
| 901 | Secondary flake with utilisation along one margin ?Neolithic |
| 901 | Blade shatter with subsequent utilisation along the break |
| 1001 | Tertiary flake with utilised edges |
| 1005 | Secondary flake, broad platform and ?utilisation |
| 1005 | Secondary flake of ?gravel flint |
| 1005 | Secondary flake |
| 1005 | Tertiary flake x3 |
| 1005 | Burnt flint x11 |
| 1005 | Rod microlith |
| 1005 | Chips x3 |
| 1007 | Tertiary flake |

APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

By Rachel Scales (OA)

Introduction

Three bulk environmental soil samples were collected for charred plant remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts from pit and ditch features believed to be prehistoric in date. Sampling was undertaken specifically to:

- Identify the range of soils and sediments and the range, quality, method of preservation and concentration of preserved plant, animal and mollusc remains.
- Identify if artefacts are present.
- Assess the archaeological relevance and importance of the biological material and sediments.
- Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

Methods and results

The volume of each bulk soil sample collected was 40L. These were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf-style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) sieved to 500µm. Flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room at approximately 30°C, following which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and biological remains.

The flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a low-power binocular microscope at x15 magnification. Charred plant identifications were made without comparison to the Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and, therefore, should all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

Sediment, bones and artefacts

The samples were made up of a moist yellow brown sandy loam with flint inclusions. Finds from the samples are detailed in Table A.4.1. The samples contained a number of pieces of flint, some of which may give evidence of flint working. One piece of pottery was recovered from sample 3 (406). No animal bone was recovered.

Molluscs

All three samples were assessed for the preservation of land snails by E. Stafford. A degree of modern intrusion is indicated by the frequency of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* and evidence of rooting. A small number of Helicids were noted in the samples. Given the large volumes of the samples processed the snail shell preservation for this site is considered to be very poor.

Charred Plant Remains

Table A.4.2 summarises the assessment results for the flots recovered. The samples produced flots, which were in general very limited. They yielded a small amount of very fragmented, poorly preserved charcoal, which was typically <2 mm in size and unidentifiable. Modern roots and insects were noted in all three flots.

In sample <1> (1005) several wheat grains (*Triticum cf. spelta* L.) were observed and some poorly preserved chaff (*Triticum sp.*) was noted. Weed / wild taxa observed include small grass (POACEAE) seeds and one large grass seed (*Avena sp. /Bromus sp.*). Sample <2> (505) contained one badly preserved wheat grain (*Triticum sp.*), possibly spelt (*Triticum cf. spelta* L.).

Comments and Recommendations

The environmental samples from Dane Court Grammar contained very little artefactual or environmental evidence. No bone was present in the samples, whether this is because bone is not well preserved at the site or was simply not present in these particular deposits is unclear.

Snail preservation was very poor and it is recommended that in any future excavations snails samples should only be taken from visually rich snail deposits.

Although the CPR from these particular samples was limited, they do indicate that charred plant remains are preserved on site and could be more abundant in other features. If further excavations are undertaken, CPR should be sampled for, using standard 40L bulk samples. Future evaluations and excavations should sample in accordance with the most recent Oxford Archaeology Sampling Guidelines (OA 2005) and English Heritage Sampling Guidelines (EH 2002). At present, it is not recommended that any further analysis should be carried out on the material generated from this evaluation excavation.

Table A.4.1. Number of artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the heavy residues.

| Sample Number | Context Number | Charred Plant Remains | Snail | Pottery | Burnt Flint | Worked Flint | Flint Debitage |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1005 | - | - | - | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| 2 | 505 | <5 | <5 | - | <5 | - | <5 |
| 3 | 406 | - | - | <5 | <25 | <5 | <25 |

Table A.4.2 Environmental Assessment Results

| Context | Sample No. | Floated Volume (L) | Flot Vol. (ml) | Grain | Chaff | Weeds | Charcoal | Mollusc | Comments on charred plant remains (CPR) | CPR Potential | Full Analysis CPR | Charcoal Potential | Full Analysis Charcoal |
|---------|------------|--------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|---------|---|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1005 | 1 | 30 | 30 | ++ | + | ++ | ++ | | 100% of flot scanned. Modern roots, weed seeds and insects present. Some charcoal present - most fragments are < 2mm. Modern land snails present . Several wheat grains (<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> L.) were observed and some poorly preserved chaff (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) was noted. Weed / wild taxa observed include small grass (POACEAE) seeds and one large grass seed (<i>Avena</i> sp. / <i>Bromus</i> sp.). CPR assessed as POOR. | C | N | C | N |
| 505 | 2 | 40 | 10 | + | - | - | ++ | +++ | 100% of flot scanned. Modern roots, weed seeds and insects present. Some charcoal present - most fragments are < 2mm. One very badly preserved cereal grain (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) noted. Modern land snails present .CPR assessed as POOR. | C | N | C | N |
| 406 | 3 | 28 | 10 | - | - | - | ++ | ++ | 100% of flot scanned. Modern roots, weed seeds and insects present. Some charcoal present - most fragments are < 2mm. Modern land snails present .CPR assessed as POOR. | C | N | A | N |

APPENDIX 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Dane Court Grammar School.

Site code: KS6BRD08

Grid reference: TR 379 678

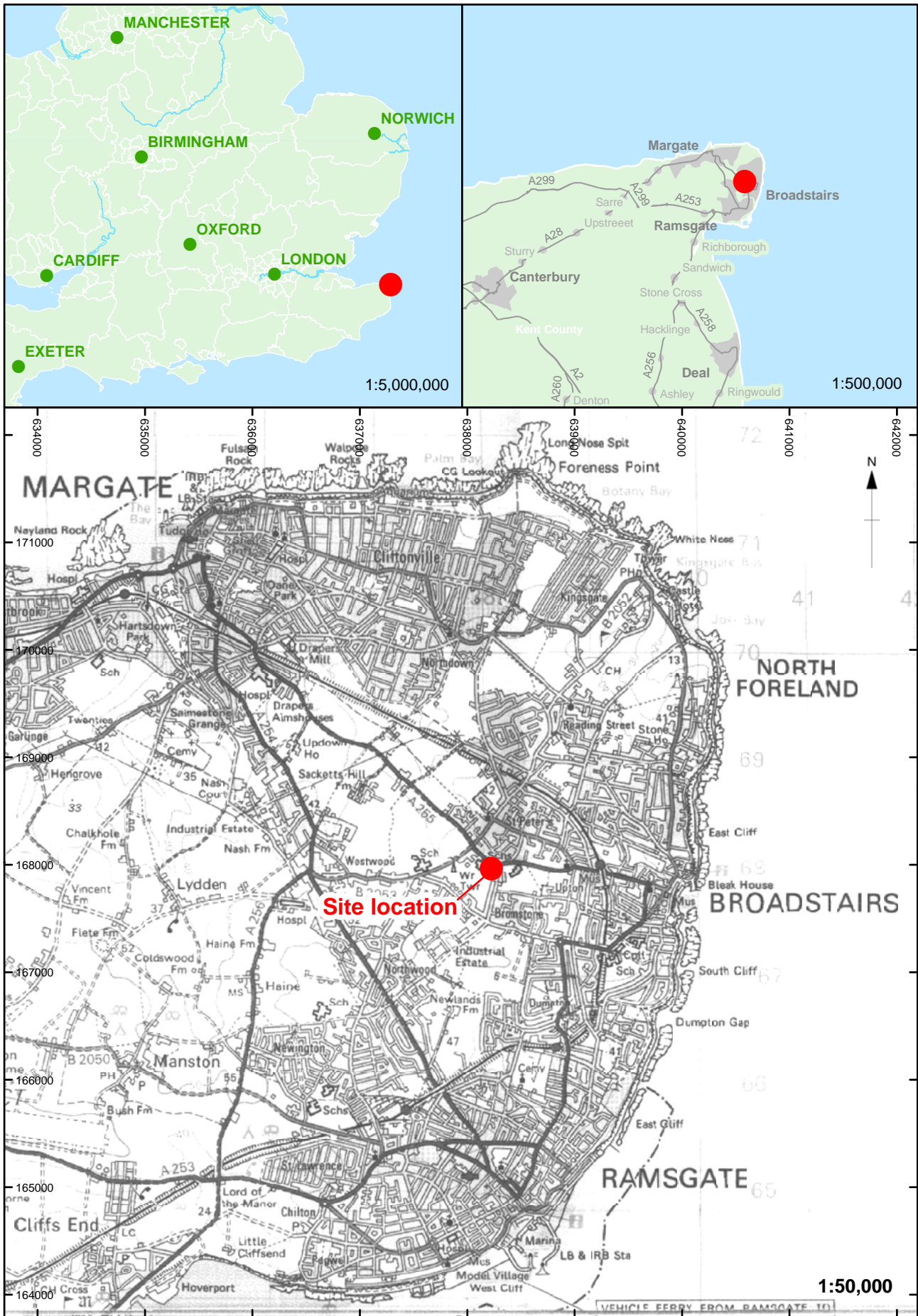
Type of evaluation: 10-trench archaeological field evaluation.

Date and duration of project: Between 11th and 14th August 2008.

Area of site: 10.8 hectares

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs, Kent on behalf of Kent County Council and Kier Group PLC. The evaluation consisted of ten trenches, three of which to the south-west part of the site revealed prehistoric activity. This took the form of a flint filled pit, a posthole and a number of field ditches. Pottery from the pit, the posthole and the ditches was of late Iron Age/early Roman date, probably spanning the crossover time of these two periods. The presence of a number of flints of Mesolithic and Neolithic date to the south-west part of the site suggest a prehistoric focus lies nearby. Overall, it seems likely that the features represent a small area of occupation with the ditches representing part of a late prehistoric/early Roman field system, with evidence of earlier occupation in the general area.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with a suitable local museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location

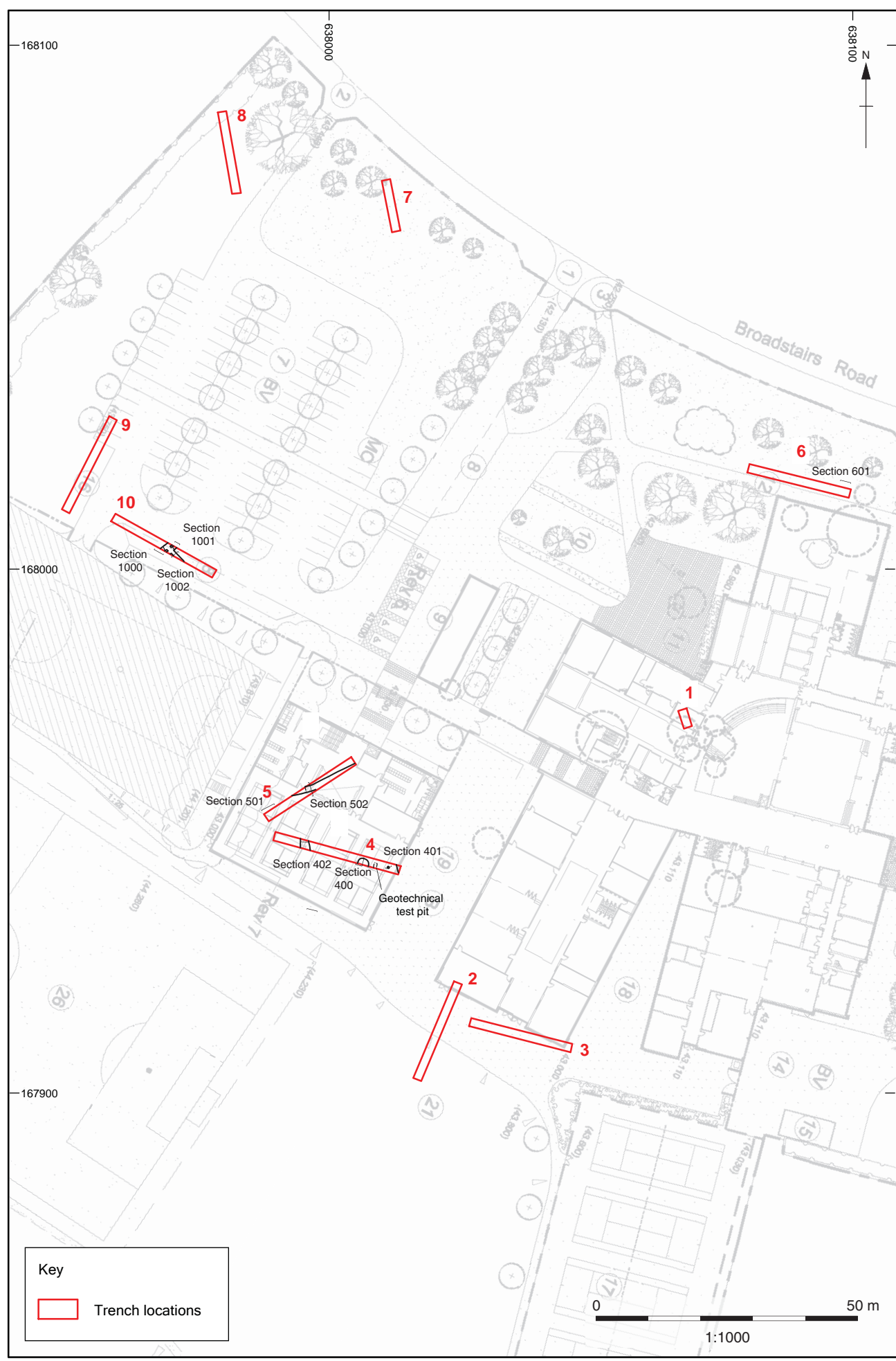


Figure 2: Trench location plan, overlaid on proposed Landscape Masterplan (Drawing ref: DCG-L-L-(90)X01 Rev 7).

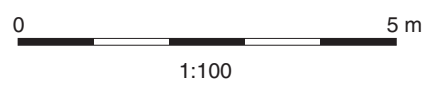
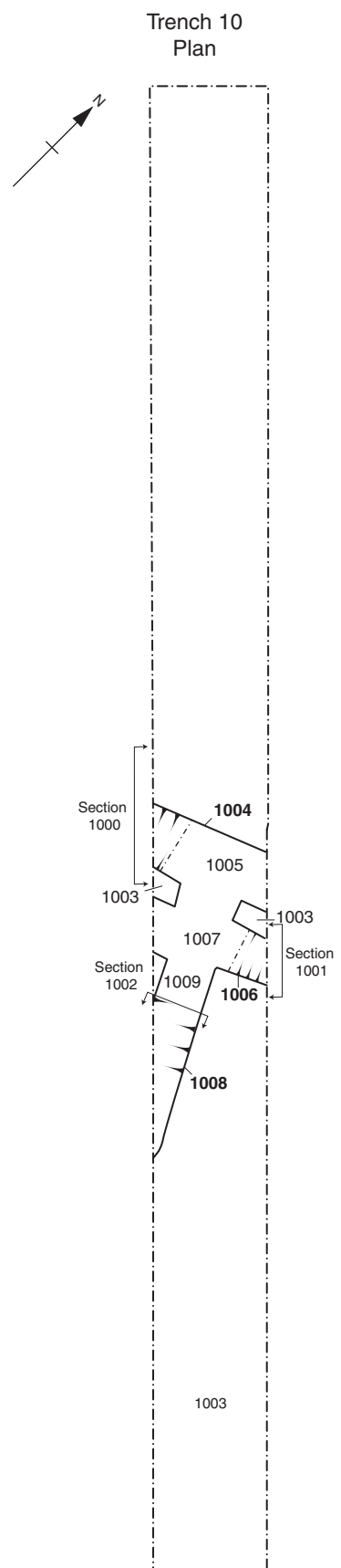
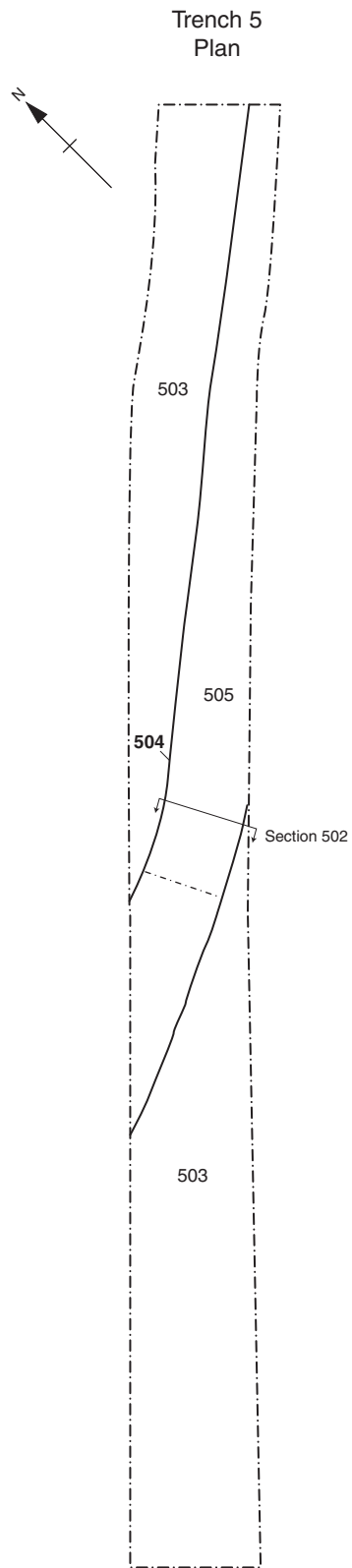
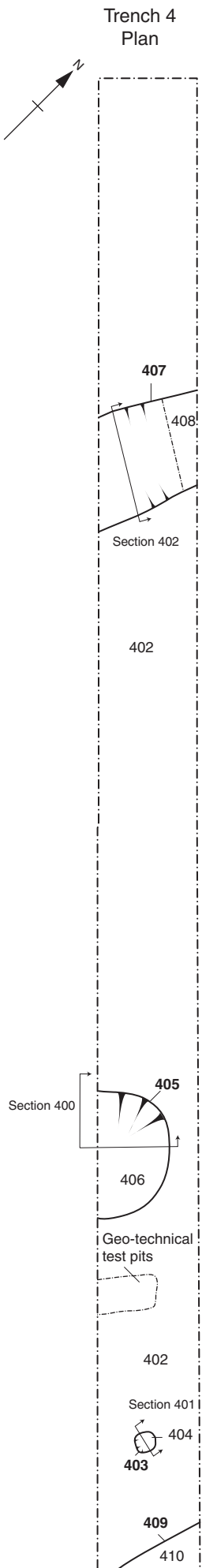
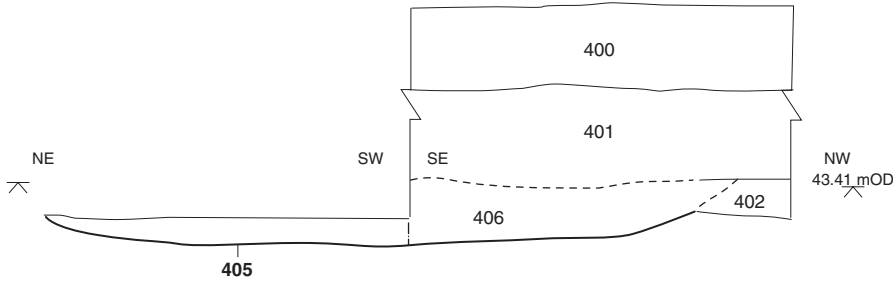


Figure 3: Trench plans 4,5 and 10



Section 400



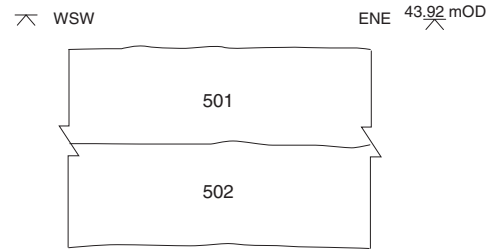
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Section 402



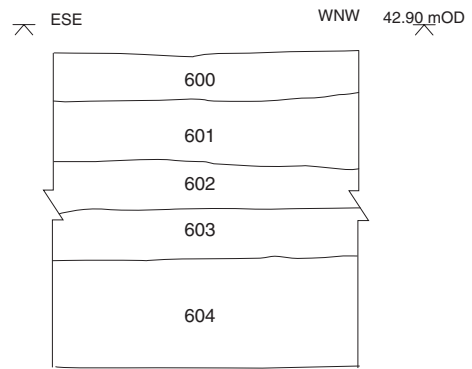
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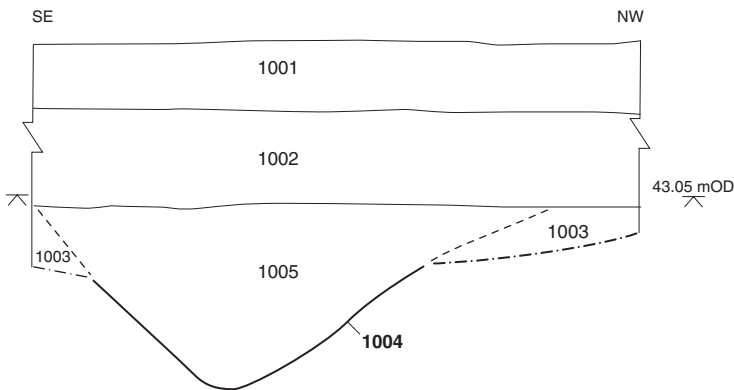
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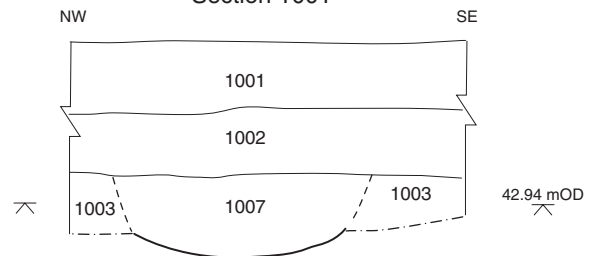
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Section 1000



Section 1001



Section 1002

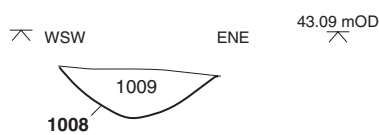


Figure 4: Sections

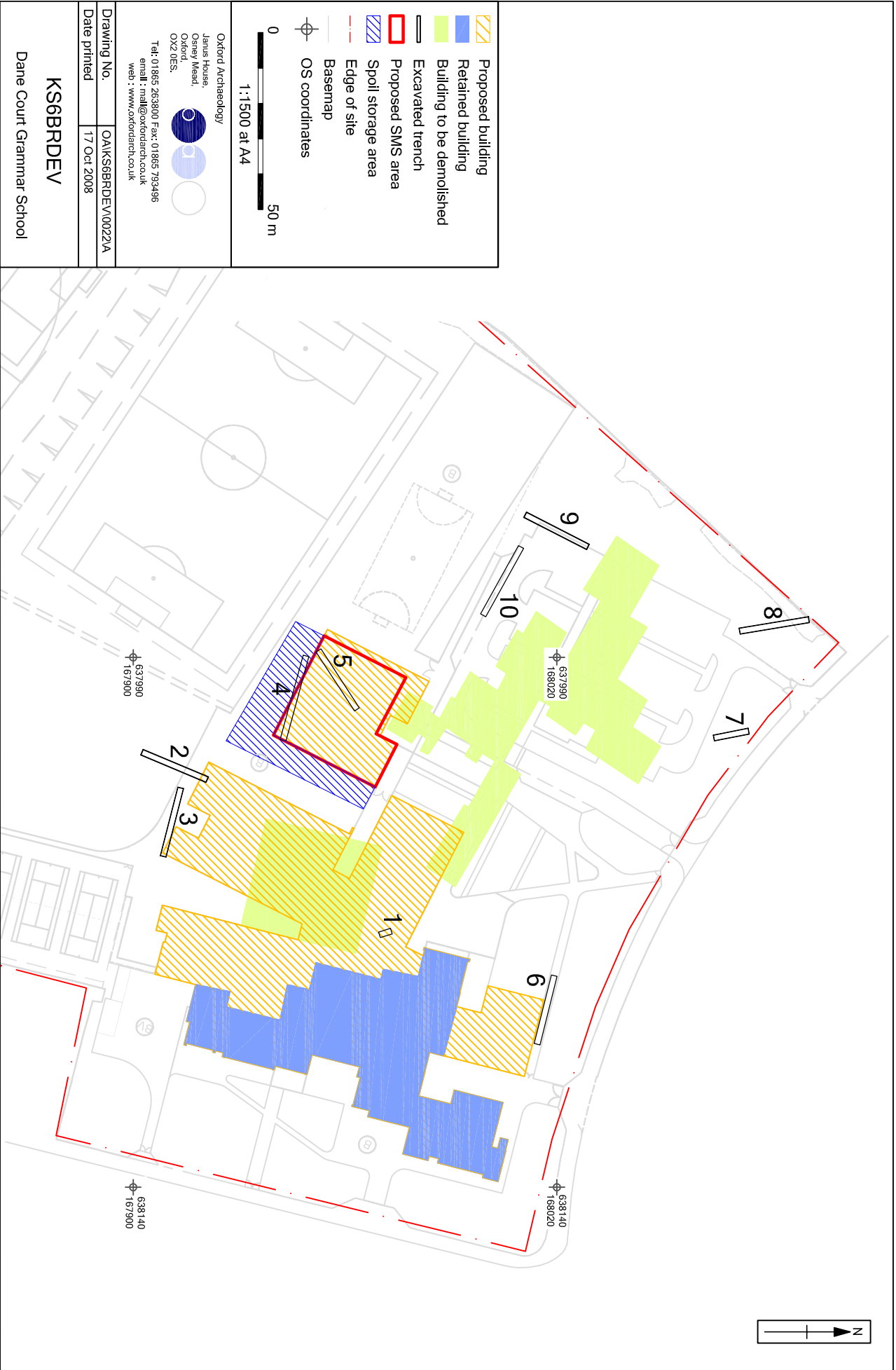


Figure 5: Location of evaluation trenches and proposed further archaeological work at Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs, Kent