



Maltings Academy, Spinks Lane Witham, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**MALTINGS ACADEMY, SPINKS LANE, WITHAM,
ESSEX**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for
Enviros Consulting Ltd
Enviros House,
Shrewsbury Business Park,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire,
SY2 6LG

By
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

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MALTINGS ACADEMY, SPINKS LANE, WITHAM, ESSEX

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Enviros Consulting Ltd, (the Client) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on the Maltings Academy, Spinks Lane, Witham, Essex (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 581509 214314.

A planning application was submitted to Braintree District Council for the redevelopment of the Site and the Historic Environment Officer advised that an archaeological field evaluation was required in order to inform the planning proposal of the archaeological potential of the Site.

A total of ten evaluation trenches were machine-excavated under archaeological conditions and identified archaeological remains relating to two phases of medieval occupation of the Site. The earliest phase consisted of three parallel north-east to south-west aligned ditches, dated by pottery evidence to the 11th-12th centuries. A later more intensive phase of activity, dating to the 13th-15th centuries, was evidenced by a curving north south aligned ditch which may form part of an enclosure, within which ten pits were recorded suggesting domestic occupation of the Site.

The archaeology was largely confined to an area to the north of the Site with the only features recorded to the south being a late post medieval track-way and evidence of 20th century gravel quarrying.

The identification of well preserved medieval archaeology at the Maltings Academy could potentially provide evidence regarding the early development of Witham, particularly as the evidence suggests that the Site was occupied during the origins of the planned new town in the early 13th century.

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Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to Steve Draper of the Maltings Academy for facilitating access to the Site throughout the duration of the project.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson assisted by Mark Stewart, Andy Sole, Daniel Joyce and Nicki Mulhall.

This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with specialists reporting by Lorraine Mephram (Finds). The report illustrations were produced by Kenneth Lymer.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Enviros Consulting Ltd, (the Client) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on the Maltings Academy, Spinks Lane, Witham, Essex (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference 581509 214314 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The fieldwork was required following the submission of a planning application (09/01013/FUL) to Braintree District Council for the redevelopment of the Site, to provide a replacement three storey building with new access, parking for 104 cars and associated works, including landscaping and provision of a multi-use games area.

1.1.3 The Site is located in close proximity to the Witham Lodge earthwork enclosure, an Iron Age and Romano British settlement site. Given the potential, the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) of Essex County Council advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application.

1.1.4 This report documents the results of the evaluation and presents an assessment of the results of these works, taking account of the stated aims of the evaluation.

1.1.5 The evaluation fieldwork was carried out from the 26th to 30th October 2009.

1.2 Site Location, Land Use, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is bounded to the north by residential properties, to the west by Spinks Lane and to the east by the River Brain and its flood plain. To the south of the Site a number of buildings fronting onto Bridge Street are positioned. The area proposed for development covers an area of 8485 square meters or 0.8485 hectares and is located at a height of c. 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.2 The Site is currently occupied by a school, with the existing school buildings to the south and areas of playing fields to the north.

1.2.3 The soils underlying the Site are predominantly River terrace gravel deposits (British Geological Survey Sheet 241).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This section summarises the existing knowledge of the archaeological resource in and around the Site.
- 2.1.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted and information provided within a 500m radius of the Site. The entries in the EHER cover a range of archaeological periods, with particular emphasis on the post-medieval and modern. Of the 79 records, over 30 refer to Listed Buildings within the vicinity of the Site and a number refer to isolated find spots. Although no finds or features are recorded on the Site itself, Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity is recorded immediately to the west.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 A collection of over 30 Palaeolithic hand axes were identified in two deposits at Ivy Chimneys in the 1970s. There is also evidence of Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity at Chipping Hill to the north of the Site, but no evidence for occupation. Later Neolithic evidence at Chipping Hill suggests occupation at that time.
- 2.2.2 Excavation of the NEACC Complex, Spinks Lane in 2006 to the west of the Site uncovered archaeological features including boundary ditches, a gully, pits and stake holes indicative of settlement activity during the Middle to Late Iron Age.
- 2.2.3 The settlement is thought to relate to the Witham Lodge earthwork enclosure, an irregular enclosure with an internal bank and two or three ditches first excavated in the early 1970s. A hut circle and postholes forming a possible structure were excavated and on the fringe of the settlement, a single inhumation burial was also identified.
- 2.2.4 Excavations in 1970-2 and 1979-80 at Ivy Chimneys, revealed evidence for an Early or Middle Iron Age enclosure, containing at least six round-houses and a number of four-post structures (Turner, 1982). There was also a possible precursor to the Roman temple, (see below), located outside the enclosure ditch. Examination of a sewer trench close to the London-Colchester road at Witham Lodge in 1970 revealed a pair of parallel ditches, that have been interpreted as representing a large enclosure (56 ha.) which surrounded the previous enclosure (Rodwell, 1993).

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 Isolated Roman finds have been found in Witham and stray finds recorded at Chipping Hill Camp to the north of the Site. The primary focus of settlement is at Ivy Chimneys (Turner, 1982) and Maltings Lane (Wade 1997).
- 2.3.2 In the 1st century AD a settlement at Ivy Chimneys was replaced by a temple complex, with the probable temenos delimited by a ditch. Within the temenos was a man-made pond, two timber-built structures interpreted as temples and a pottery kiln. Votive objects were recovered, including a chalk

figurine and over thirty Palaeolithic hand-axes. In the late fourth and early fifth century AD a small stone building, a small sunken hexagonal, tile-lined pond and a larger timber-revetted pond were constructed. The former two structures have been interpreted as a Christian chapel and baptismal font (Turner, 1982).

- 2.3.3 At Maltings Lane evidence was found for domestic occupation during the Roman period, including rubbish pits and ditches, as well as considerable quantities of Roman building material residual in Saxon contexts. The finds suggest a second to third century date with a lesser degree of activity into the fourth century.

2.4 Saxon

- 2.4.1 Saxon features dating to the fifth to seventh centuries including two possible Sunken Featured Buildings, a possible well, ditches, postholes and rubbish-pits, as well as a possible cemetery area indicated by a single cremation, were excavated at the Wood End Farm, Maltings Lane (Wade, 1997) to the south of the Site.
- 2.4.2 At Ivy Chimneys (Turner, 1982) the walls of the stone chapel were almost completely robbed and the floor tiles removed and the font was backfilled with rubble. There is some evidence for other activity including the digging of a large pit which contained the remnants of a burnt daub wall which may be Saxon in date. The early Saxon evidence from Chipping Hill is slighter, consisting of a single pottery sherd.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology, 2009) set out the aims and objectives, strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology would implement the archaeological evaluation. In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1999), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (as amended 2008). The WSI was submitted to and approved by the HEO prior to the start of the fieldwork.

3.2 Archaeological Field Evaluation

- 3.2.1 The aims and objectives were as follows:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development.
- identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- produce a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive. This

will facilitate judgements on the status of the archaeological resource and allow the formulation of an appropriate response ('a mitigation strategy') to the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological deposits, if required.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following methodology was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, 2003) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.1.2 In line with the Archaeological Brief issued by the HEO a 7% sampling strategy of the Site was agreed equating to the excavation of 11 trenches measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide, covering 594 square meters or 0.0594 hectares of the Site. Due to on Site constraints Trench 2 could not be excavated and a number were shortened due to the presence of foul sewer and storm water drains in the north of the Site, tree coverage and the newly set out football pitch.

4.2 Evaluation Trenches

4.2.1 The evaluation of the Site was therefore undertaken by the mechanical excavation of 10 trenches each measuring between 20m and 31m long by 2.2m wide covering an area of 605 square meters or 0.0605 hectares (7.1% of the Site). The trenches were numbered 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

4.2.2 The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator with a toothless grading bucket. The mechanical excavation proceeded in spits to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or natural geology which ever was encountered first. The machine excavated arisings were stored adjacent to the trench and were scanned for artefacts.

4.2.3 All features, both archaeological and naturally formed, were subsequently hand cleaned and sample excavated in keeping with the methodology set out in the WSI. Features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets and a unique numbering system for individual contexts, and were planned at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at 1:10.

4.2.4 All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum. The trenches were located using a Leica GPS survey system.

4.2.5 A photographic record of the evaluation was maintained, including black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeological remains revealed, and the Site as a whole. Following all investigation and recording, the trenches were backfilled.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following sections provide a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the Site archive and a detailed tabulated version of these can be found in **Appendix 1**.

5.1.2 The results of the evaluation are presented below.

5.2 Site-wide Stratigraphy

5.2.1 The overlying topsoil comprises a layer of turf associated with the current rugby pitch ranging between 0.09m and 0.20m thick and recorded as (101), (301), (401), (501), (601), (701), (801), (901), (1001) and (1101). This sealed a deliberate landscaping layer, potentially derived from the excavation of the footings for the school to the south with the excavated up-cast utilised to level ground for the playing fields. This was observed in 7 of the trenches and recorded as (402), (502), (602), (802), (902), (1002) and (1102). Beneath this deliberate levelling layer was a buried ground surface or subsoil recorded as (403), (503), (603), (803), (903), (1003) and (1103).

5.2.2 The northern most trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 revealed a layer of alluvial material which sealed the archaeology; this was recorded as (102), (303), (404) and (405), (504), and (604).

5.2.3 A similar layer of alluvial type material was observed in the southern trenches 8, 9, 10 and 11 and recorded as (803), (904), (1004), (1105).

5.3 Underlying Natural Geology

5.3.1 There was a clear geological boundary aligned roughly north-east south-west across the Site defining the edge of a gravel island or terrace, the southern edge of which was less well defined. The northern most trenches revealed the natural basal geology as a mixture of water-borne tufaceous material indicative of slow water movement along the edge of the gravel terrace and water-borne alluvial silts deposited at the edge of the terrace. This was best demonstrated in Trench 5, which showed the tufaceous material at the northern end overlying the alluvium as the land rose up on to the gravel island at the south of the trench.

5.3.2 The tufaceous material at the northern end of the Site is potentially early Holocene/Mesolithic in date (c.10,000-8,500 BC) or Bronze Age (2400-700 BC), the two periods when the climate was favourable for such formation.

5.3.3 There was a clear concentration of significant archaeological features in the northern end of the Site focused along the edge of the gravel terrace; these features were revealed cutting the tufaceous material or the alluvium and were conspicuous by their absence on the higher ground of the gravel terrace to the south. This suggests the terrace may have been truncated at some point prior to the post-medieval period as only post-medieval or modern features were observed cutting the gravel.

5.4 Archaeological Features by Period

Medieval

- 5.4.1 Stratigraphically the earliest feature noted was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch observed in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 and recorded as (408/508/616). This feature was located cutting the tufaceous material at the edge of the gravel terrace but no dating was recovered. A second ditch (410/510/614), aligned parallel to (408/508/616) was observed in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 and was interpreted as potentially contemporaneous with, or the re-alignment of, a slightly earlier feature. Ditch (410/510/614) was located slightly to the north of (408/508/616) and contained 11th to 12th century pottery. These ditches were identified at a height of 19.50m aOD.
- 5.4.2 A third north-east south-west aligned ditch was observed in Trench 1 and recorded as (104). Ditch (104) is similarly aligned to the aforementioned ditches, with each filled with similar tufaceous water-borne material, indicating natural silting occurring at a similar period. Ditch (104) was identified at a height of 19.40m aOD
- 5.4.3 The second stratigraphic phase of archaeology on the Site was a curving roughly north-south aligned ditch observed in Trenches 3 and 6 and recorded as (305) and (630) that cut earlier ditch (618) and contained 11th to 13th century pottery. Two very small sherds of possible later prehistoric pottery from (305) are likely to be residual. This ditch was observed at a height of 19.48m aOD.
- 5.4.4 This curving ditch appears to form an enclosure to the west which contains a series of 6 roughly similar sized and shaped pits. The pits were recorded as (606), (608), (610), (612), (616) and (625). Pits (616) and (625) were revealed cutting earlier ditch (618) with pottery recovered from (616) dating to the 11th-12th century. Pits (606) and (612) were also excavated with pottery from 606 indicated a probable 14th/15th century date and pottery dating to the 13th and 14th century recovered from (612).
- 5.4.5 Further probable medieval pits were observed in Trench 1 and recorded as (106), (109), (111) and (113). Pit (113) was lined with clay (114) which previously functioned as some kind of water-proofing, though the reason for this is unclear. Once this clay lined pit went out of use it was backfilled with domestic refuse including an almost complete pottery vessel of Colchester ware dating to the 14th-15th century. Pit (113) was identified at a height of 19.67m aOD.
- 5.4.6 The concentration of medieval archaeology was clearly confined to the northern portion of the Site on the tufaceous material and alluvium. The archaeology revealed cutting the gravel terrace was identified as post-medieval or later.

Post-medieval to modern

- 5.4.7 Trench 9 revealed two identical parallel gullies recorded as (906) and (908) which were interpreted as wheel ruts from a post-medieval trackway. The centre of the each gully was 1.7m apart and each contained sherds of pottery dating to the post-medieval period
- 5.4.8 Trenches 8 and 11 revealed evidence of modern gravel extraction quarries which had subsequently been utilised as domestic rubbish pits. Quarry pit

(1111) was only partially revealed but contained modern bottle glass. Quarry pit (805) measured nearly 20m wide and had been backfilled with domestic rubbish post 1911. As well as a variety of 20th century glass bottles and earthenware pottery, an industrial whiteware commemorative cup was recovered, produced by the 'Witham Co-operative Society' celebrating the coronation of George V and Queen Mary on 22nd June 1911.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of finds, deriving from contexts within six of the ten trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trenches 4, 7, 10 or 11). The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to modern, with an emphasis on the medieval period.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised in **Table 1**. For the purposes of this assessment, all categories of finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, condition and potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for datable finds (pottery).

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. The assemblage is mainly of medieval date, with very small quantities of prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval material.

Prehistoric

6.2.2 Two tiny body sherds from ditch (305) are in a coarse, flint-tempered fabric which is likely to be of later prehistoric date. These sherds, however, are almost certainly residual in this context, since the same ditch (which was also revealed in Trench 6) also produced medieval sherds.

Romano-British

6.2.3 A single sherd from a pit (113) has been identified as a Romano-British coarse greyware; this was residual in a medieval context.

Medieval

6.2.4 The majority of the pottery assemblage (62 sherds) is of medieval date. Several early medieval and medieval wares are represented. The earliest are shelly/sandy, sandy/shelly and sandy wares (Fabrics 12B, 12C and 13 respectively in the Essex type series), dating broadly to the 11th to early 13th century. Diagnostic sherds are limited to a dish/bowl (or possibly skillet) rim from alluvial layer (303).

6.2.5 Medieval sandy greywares (Fabric 20) and orange sandy wares (Fabric 21) have broad date ranges from late 12th to 14th or perhaps 15th century; there is one greyware jar rim, probably of late 12th or early 13th century date (pit 612).

6.2.6 Probably falling latest within the sequence are sherds of Colchester ware (Fabric 21A), a fine orange sandy ware; most of the sherds here are slip decorated under a patchy clear glaze, and include the lower part of a squat

jug (pit 113). The decorative style of this vessel places it in the 14th or 15th century (Cotter 2000, fig. 75, nos. 29-30).

- 6.2.7 In terms of the chronological evidence that this provides for the Site, there is nothing from Trench 3 that necessarily dates later than the early 13th century (although the presence of 13th/14th century wares in ditch (305/630) may be noted). In Trench 1, only one feature (pit 113) produced dating evidence: 13th/14th century wares from the lining (114) and 14th/15th century wares (including the Colchester ware jug) from the backfill (115 and 116). The only datable sherd from Trench 5 (an orange sandy ware) came from the subsoil (504), which also contained post-medieval brick. In Trench 6, features appear to range in date from 11th/12th century (ditch 614) to 14th/15th century (ditch 606) - the projected alignments of these ditches within Trenches 4 and 5 produced no dating evidence. No medieval pottery was recovered from Trenches 8 or 9.

Post-medieval

- 6.2.8 Post-medieval sherds occurred in cart track (906), comprising coarse redwares, which cannot be dated any more closely, and in quarry pit (805), which contained part of a Coronation mug dated 1911.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and Fired Clay

- 6.3.1 One piece of CBM may be Romano-British (residual within medieval pit 113); the remainder comprises fragments of medieval and post-medieval roof tile, and post-medieval brick. One unusual curved, flanged piece from ditch (606) is of unknown function, but may be part of a piece of roof furniture (chimney pot or louver) of medieval date.
- 6.3.2 The small amount of fired clay, which consists of small, abraded and undiagnostic fragments, is also likely to be of structural origin, from hearth/pit linings or upstanding wattle-and-daub structures. All fragments comprise a clay/chalk mix ('cob').

6.4 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 6.4.1 The worked flint consists almost entirely of waste flakes; there is one scraper from pit (113). This small group cannot be dated any more closely than Neolithic/Bronze Age. Most if not all of this material is clearly residual in later (medieval) contexts.
- 6.4.2 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered. This material type, although intrinsically undatable, is frequently taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. Its occurrence here broadly coincides with the incidence of worked flint.

6.5 Animal Bone and Marine Shell

- 6.5.1 The animal bone includes identifiable bones from the common domesticates – cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The largest group came from pit (113) and includes horn cores and skull fragments; this could be primary butchery waste, while the remainder is more likely to be kitchen (consumption) waste.
- 6.5.2 The marine shell consists entirely of oyster; both left and right valves are present, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste.

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise an iron nail (pit 113), two fragments of clay pipe stem (cart track 906), and two tiny fragments of modern glass (cart track 908).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
101						3/15		
110	2/208	4/214						
112	1/20				2/15			
114				1/3		1/8		
115						2/699		
116	55/414	4/22	4/521	2/17	3/47	31/157	7/73	1 iron
302						3/14		
303	3/131					2/107		
306	2/3	4/13				1/1	1/12	
308	1/47	1/8		1/1		2/1	2/26	
504			3/37			1/1		
601						1/24		
607			3/921	1/47		5/22		
613						4/44	2/19	
615		3/114		4/21	1/9	2/29		
617	1/4				2/12	3/26	5/69	
632	3/20			3/19	3/8	4/141	3/35	
806						1/142		
907			4/24			4/24		2 clay pipe
909			3/57					2 glass
TOTAL	68/847	16/371	17/1560	12/108	11/91	70/1458	20/234	

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 It was clear from the excavated features and the recovered dateable pottery sherds that the archaeological remains identified date to the early medieval period, from the 11th century onwards, with a distinct lack of earlier material. This is surprising considering the proximity of the Site to known Iron Age sites such as the NEACC Complex on the western side of Spinks Lane.
- 7.1.2 The identification of ditches infer landscape division, either farm plots or possible housing plots and the identification of domestic rubbish pits and the clay lined pit in Trenches 1 and 6 suggest settlement activity close by.
- 7.1.3 The *Witham Town Assessment Report* produced by Essex County Council (ECC 1999) which formed part of the Essex Historic Towns Survey, an extensive urban survey of 32 historic settlements in Essex as defined by English Heritage (1992) states '*Witham is of considerable archaeological and historical importance as the site of a Saxon burh and as an example of a medieval 'new town'*'. (ECC 1999 15) The 'new town' was developed by the Knights Templar in or around 1212 following the granting of the manor of

Witham to the Templars by King Stephen and Queen Matilda in 1147 (ibid 15). The 13th century settlement was focused immediately to the south of the Site along Newland Street, on the north bank of the River Brain and the results from the evaluation suggest the settlement extended further than previously thought.

- 7.1.4 The identification of well preserved early medieval archaeology at the Maltings Academy could potentially provide evidence regarding the development of Witham, particularly as the results suggest that the Site was occupied during the origins of the planned new town in the early 13th century.

7.2 Assessment of archaeological importance.

- 7.2.1 The identification of at least two distinct phases of early medieval archaeology indicate a concentration of activity in a relatively small area at the northern end of the Site which potentially has '*a significance at a local and possibly regional level*'.

7.3 Review of strategy and confidence rating

- 7.3.1 It is considered that the overall evaluation strategy was appropriate and the results are a fair and accurate reflection of the archaeological potential across the Site as a whole. Throughout the evaluation weather conditions were good and therefore the confidence rating applied to the fieldwork results can be described **high**.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Site records

- 8.1.1 The excavated material and archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices in Salisbury under the project code 72780. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Colchester Museum

8.2 OASIS

- 8.2.1 An OASIS form detailing the Site and the works undertaken will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database upon approval of this report.

9 REFERENCES

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Appendix 1: Evaluation Trench Context Summary Tables

bgl = below ground level. CBM = ceramic building material

TRENCH 1			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 25m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 0.41mm	Ground level: 20.16 m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
101	Topsoil	Fairly loose mid grey brown silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints 0.03m. Current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch.	0-0.20m	
102	Subsoil	Fairly compact light brown silty clay loam, alluvium subsoil layer.	0.20-0.41m	
103	Natural	Mixed natural at base of trench, Light to mid yellow 'orange' brown silty clay loam at the northern end with light grey white tufaceous material to the south. Evidence of slow or water action along the edge of the gravel terrace to the south. This is potentially early Holocene/Mesolithic in date (c.10,000-8,500 BC) or Bronze Age (2400-700 BC) when the climate was favourable to such formation.	0.41m+	
104	Cut	Cut of north east south west aligned shallow ditch recorded as 1.18m wide and 0.35m deep with straight steepish sides and flat base. In filled with natural siltings. Probable boundary or drainage ditch. Filled with (105).	0..35m deep	
105	Fill	Pale grey with mid 'orange' mottling, silty clay loam. Single fill of ditch (104). Fill is derived from tufaceous material washing in naturally form elsewhere as ditch is cut through 'orange' silty clay natural.	0.35m thick.	
106	Cut	Cut of pit or possible ditch terminus recorded as 0.85m long by 0.98m wide and 0.32m deep. Sub rectangular in shape with moderate concave sides and a slightly concave base. Filled with (107) and (108).	0.32m deep	
107	Fill	Pale brown grey silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded and rounded flints <0.05m. Fill distinguished by the clear presence of redeposited tufaceous material through which the feature is cut. Earliest recorded fill of (106), overlain by (108).	0.09m thick.	
108	Fill	Brown grey silty clay loam with occasion rounded and sub rounded flints <0.05m, and occasional flecks of charcoal. Material derived from the surrounding land surface. Natural erosion material. Overlies (107) In (106).	0.25m thick	
109	Cut	Cut of unexcavated possible feature	-	
110	Fill	Upper fill of (109).	-	
111	Cut	Cut of unexcavated possible feature	-	
112	Fill	Upper fill of (111).	-	
113	Cut	Cut of circular pit with vertical sides and flat base recorded as 1.30m in diameter and 0.58m deep. (113) is lined with a deliberate lining of clay (114), derived from the natural alluvium. Initial use of the feature is a possible water storage pit. Secondary use as domestic rubbish pit. Filled with (115) and (116).	0.58m deep	
114	Fill	Deliberate clay lining of pit (113). Material is derived from the natural through which (113) is cut and contains fragments of gravel and rare chalk. Overlain by (115) following end of the pits primary use.	0.20m thick	
115	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate angular to sub rounded flint gravels <0.08m and pottery and CBM fragments. Seals clay lining (114) and overlain by (116).	0.16m thick	
116	Fill	Upper fill of pit (113). Mid greyish brown silty clay loam with moderate inclusion so sub angular to sub rounded flints and gravels <0.10m with burnt and struck flint with animal bone,	0.26m thick	

		oyster shell, pot and CBM. Deliberate backfill event.	
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TRENCH 3			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 22m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 1m	Ground level: 19.79 m aOD	
context	description		Depth (bgl)	
301	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with rare angular chalk fragments <0.05m with rare flint gravels. Current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch.	0-0.42m	
302	Subsoil	Light grey brown with orange hue silty clay loam.	0.42-0.62m	
303	Alluvium	Light grey brown silty clay loam with moderate orange mottling, with moderate chalk flecks.	0.62-0.90m	
304	Natural	Light grey brown tufaceous material with orange alluvium patches.	0.90m+	
305	Cut	Cut of SSE –NNW aligned ditch revealed as 1.82m wide and 0.32 m deep, the ditch appears to be slightly curved and is equal to ditch (630) in Trench 6. filled with (308) and (306).	0.32m deep	
306	Fill	Light grey brown silty clay loam with tufaceous material, orange alluvium concentrated towards the base of the fill. Natural erosion material containing rare charcoal, moderate snails, rare oyster shell, animal bone and pottery.	0.15m thick	
307	VOID	VOID	VOID	
308	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with tufaceous material. Natural erosion material.		

TRENCH 4			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 30m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 1.09m	Ground level: 19.67m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
401	Topsoil	Fairly loose mid grey brown silty clay loam, current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch.	0-0.09m	
402	Layer	Possible levelling layer for the rugby pitch, very similar to (401).	0.09-0.17m	
403	Buried ground surface	Earlier ground surface which has been sealed by (402), light grey brown silty clay loam, with considerable root disturbance.	0.17-0.45m	
404	Subsoil	Pale yellow brown silty clay loam, with occasional sub rounded flints <0.05m. alluvium reworked as subsoil to (403).	0.45-0.74m	
405	Interface	Dirty pale grey interface between the natural (406) and (404).	0.74-1.09	
406	Natural	Pale grey silty clay loam tufaceous natural.	0.53m+ at south end of trench	
407	Natural	Natural pale orange alluvium.	1.09m+	
408	Cut	Cut of unexcavated ditch equal to (508) in Trench 5.	-	
409	Fill	Upper fill of (408)	-	
410	Cut	Cut of unexcavated ditch equal to (510) in Trench 5.	-	
411	Fill	Upper fill of (410).	-	

TRENCH 5			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 30m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 0.95m	Ground level: 19.62m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
501	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay loam with occasional rounded or sub rounded flints <0.06m. current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch.	0-0.16m	
502	Layer	Yellow brown silty clay loam with frequent sub angular and sub rounded flints <0.05m, forms a clear boundary between (501) and (503), perhaps represents an old ground surface and may be remnants of a levelling layer for the rugby field. Clear only in the	0.16-0.19m	

		northern half of the trench.	
503	Topsoil	Partially buried topsoil sealed beneath (502) in the northern half of the trench.	0.19-0.55m
504	Subsoil	Yellowish brown fine silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded and rounded flints <0.10m.	0.55-0.77m
505	Natural	Grey to very pale grey clay silt with frequent tufaceous inclusions and occasional sub round and rounded flints<0.10m, limited to the northern end of the trench and appears to overly natural layer (506). Water-borne material.	0.77m+
506	Natural	Dark yellow-orange silty clay, natural alluvium material located at the northern end of the trench and sealed beneath (505) and overlies gravel (507).	0.45m+
507	Natural	Natural flint gravel, sub angular and rounded flints mostly <0.01m – 0.06m, matrix is similar to (506), and revealed just below the topsoil at the southern end of the trench indicating it is rising sharply upwards. Gravel terrace or island.	0.18m +
508	Cut	Cut of north east south west aligned ditch which is equal to (408) in Trench 4. Recorded as 0.89m wide and 0.18m deep with convex sides and a flat base. One of two parallel ditches located at the edge of the gravel terrace, associated with (510). In filled with natural silting events, material infill tufaceous in nature suggesting material washed in from elsewhere. Filled with (509)	0.18m deep
509	Fill	Light grey silty cay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.04m. Natural infilling derived from material being washed in from elsewhere, the material is tufaceous in nature. The tufaceous material is located just to the north. Very sterile fill.	0.18m thick
510	Cut	Cut of north east south west aligned ditch which is equal to (410) in Trench 4. Recorded as 0.67m wide and 0.16m deep. One of two parallel ditches located at the edge of the gravel terrace, associated with (508). In filled with natural silting events, material infill tufaceous in nature suggesting material washed in from elsewhere. Filled with (511)	0.16m deep
511	Fill	Light grey silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.02m, single fill of (510) natural infilling.	0.16m thick

TRENCH 6			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: m by 2.3m		Max. depth: 0.88m	Ground level: 20.13m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
601	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.04m. current topsoil and turf of rugby field.	0-0.12m	
602	Layer	Deliberate levelling layer, not very thick. Mottled dirty mid orange – grey brown silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.03m. sealed by (601) and overlies old ground surface (603).	0.12-0.23m	
603	Buried ground surface	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.03m and very occasional chalk flecks. Old ground surface which is sealed by (602).	0.23-0.46m	
604	Layer	Pale yellow brown silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.05m and occasional chalk flecks. Alluvium layer, waterborne material at the edge of the gravel terrace.	0.46-0.60m	
605	Natural	Mottled orange – pale yellow clay at the east end of the trench with light grey tufaceous silts to the west.	0.60m+	
606	Cut	Cut of possible pit or ditch terminus, unclear as only partially revealed in section. Recorded as 0.62m long by 1.46m wide and 0.23m deep and roughly sub rounded in shape. Concave sides and rounded base. Cuts natural (605) and in filled with (607).	0.23m deep	
607	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch (606). Mid to dark grey brown silty clay	0.23m thick	

		loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.05m and occasional chalk inclusions <0.03m. single fill of feature, possible pitch of ditch terminus, derived from surrounding land surface washing in.	
608	Cut	Cut of unexcavated pit.	-
609	Fill	Upper fill of pit (608)	-
610	Cut	Cut of unexcavated pit.	-
611	Fill	Upper fill of (610)	-
612	Cut	Cut of sub rectangular concave sided slightly concaved bottomed pit, recorded as 1.77m long (in full), 1.37m wide and 0.23m deep. Well defined but quite shallow pit. One of a number of fairly similar appearing pits. Filled with (627) and (613).	0.23m deep.
613	Fill	Upper fill of (612), grey brown silty clay loam with fairly frequent rounded and sub rounded flints <0.08m, with occasional pottery sherds and oyster shell. Erosion of the land surface around the pit, no evidence of deliberate dumping activity. Seals (627)	0.19m thick
614	Cut	Cut of north east south west aligned linear ditch with straight sides and a flat base recorded as 0.90m wide and 0.19m deep cutting the light tufaceous natural towards the western end of the trench. Ditch is potentially the continuation of ditch (410) and (510), in Trenches 4 and 5. Contains a single fill (615).	0.19m deep
615	Fill	Secondary fill of (614). Light grey silty clay loam with occasional sub rounded flints <0.03m and very occasional chalk flecks. Material derived from erosion of the feature edges.	0.19m thick
616	Cut	Cut of sub rectangular steep concave sided and concave bottomed pit recorded as 0.60m long by 0.95m wide and 0.58m deep an filled with (617). Cuts through (624) the upper fill of ditch (618).	0.58m deep
617	Fill	Single fill of pit (616) grey brown silty clay loam, multiple depositions of material over time including cess material to create a thick homogenous deposit	0.58m thick
618	Cut	Cut of north east south west aligned ditch with steep concave sides and a concave base recorded as 0.74m wide and 0.42m deep. Ditch is continuation of ditch (408) and (508) identified in Trenches 4 and 5, located on the edge of the gravel terrace. The upper fill (624) of (618) is cut through on the northern side by pit (625) and the southern side by (616). Unusual 'U' shaped feature with peculiar fills, all seem well sorted, fluvial-type material. Filled with (619), (620), (621), (622), (623) and (624).	0.42m deep.
619	Fill	Lowest recorded secondary fill of ditch (618) light slightly pinkish grey fine silty clay with occasional white mineral concretions, tufaceous material. Does not look like any material with the immediate vicinity and must have been washed in from the where the ditch cuts through more tufaceous material. Overlies (618) and sealed by (620).	0.07m thick
620	Fill	Pale grey silty clay with c.60% hard white mineral concretions, natural erosion from where the ditch cuts through tufaceous material to the west. Natural water borne material. Overlies (619) and sealed by (621)	0.07m thick
621	Fill	Grey compact silty clay, distinct band of material within paler deposits. water borne material. seals (620) and overlain by (622).	0.04m thick
622	Fill	Pale grey silty clay with c.80% hard white mineral concretions, with a tiny flat platelet type structure. Water borne from elsewhere.	0.07m thick
623	Fill	Light grey silty clay with very occasional sub rounded and sub angular flints <0.03m and c. 10% tiny hard white concretions.	0.05m thick
624	Fill	Pale grey silty clay with c.50% hard white mineral concretions	0.09m thick

		<0.05m. Tufaceous material. this fill is cut by pits (616) and (625) and ditch (630).	
625	Cut	Cut of unexcavated pit which clearly cuts through the upper fill of (618).	-
626	Fill	Upper fill of (625).	-
627	Fill	Grey brown orange mix of silty clay with very occasional sub rounded and sub angular flints <0.05m, primary fill of pit (612), erosion of the pit walls, and stabilisation of the feature edges.	0.04m thick
628	Cut	Cut of unexcavated pit	-
629	Fill	Upper fill of (628)	-
630	Cut	Cut of substantial roughly north south aligned ditch with possible slight curve to the west. Recorded as 1.79m wide and 0.75m deep and potentially represents the continuation of ditch (305) in Trench 3. Ditch (630) revealed in plan cutting the upper fill (624) of north east south west aligned ditch (618). Due to the curve of the feature it is possible it is enclosing an area to the west containing the area of pits. Contains fills (631) an (632).	0.75m deep
631	Fill	Grey brownish orange slightly sandy silty clay fill of (630) comprised of redeposited natural and probable topsoil material, primary fill, erosion of feature edges. Overlies (630) and is sealed by (632).	0.15m thick
632	Fill	Grey brown silty clay loam fill of (630) multiple depositions of similar material giving rise to thick homogenous deposit. Derived from surrounding land surface.	0.63m thick

TRENCH 7		Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 30m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 0.45m	Ground level: 20.35mOD
context	description	depth (bgl)	
701	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with rare rounded fine gravels, current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch.	
702	Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with common well sorted fine to coarse gravels.	
703	Natural	Common well sorted fine to coarse gravel natural within a mid yellow brown sandy clay matrix, with patches of yellow orange clay.	

TRENCH 8		Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 29m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 0.61m	Ground level: 19.57m aOD
context	description	depth (bgl)	
801	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay loam with frequent root disturbance, current topsoil and turf of rugby field.	
802	Layer	Redeposited material to create level playing field. Overlies (803) and sealed by (801).	
803	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay alluvium material reworked.	
804	Natural	Flint gravel natural in an orange silty clay matrix.	
805	Cut	Cut of massive gravel quarry recorded as at least 19m wide. This feature was not excavated as filled with modern debris.	
806	Fill	Very mixed fill of quarry pit (805). Clearly backfilled in the 20 th century as contained two ceramic cups commemorating the coronation of George V and Queen Mary on 22 nd June 1911.	

TRENCH 9			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 278by 2.2m		Max. depth: 1.04m max	Ground level: 20.08m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
901	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with sparse sub angular and rounded flints.	0-0.39m	
902	Layer	Redeposited natural levelling layer, material probably derived from the construction of the school buildings to the south, and used to level the playing field. Mid yellow brown silty clay loam.	0.39-0.45m	
903	Buried ground surface	Mid grey brown silty clay loam, old ground surface or subsoil which has been overlain by redeposited material (902), to flatten landscape for rugby pitch.	0.45-0.61m	
904	Alluvium	Mid yellow grey brown silty clay loam with moderate sub angular and rounded flints.	0.61m +	
905	Natural	Natural gravel which is only c.0.20 below the ground surface at the western end of the trench it then begins to dive down at the eastern end of the trench. Indicative of a gravel terrace or island.	0.20m+	
906	Cut	Cut of post-medieval or modern cart track, aligned roughly north east south west and associated with fellow track (908). Recorded as 0.40m wide and 0.12m deep.	0.12m deep	
907	Fill	Fill of cart track (906).	0.12m thick	
908	Cut	Cut of post-medieval or modern cart track, aligned roughly north east south west and associated with fellow track (906). Recorded as 0.39m wide and 0.08m deep.	0.08m deep	
909	Fill	Fill of cart track (908).	0.08m thick	

TRENCH 10			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 20by 2.2m		Max. depth: 1.16m	Ground level: 19.77m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
1001	Topsoil	Current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch, mid yellow brown silty clay loam with rare small sub rounded flints <0.03m	0-0.20m	
1002	Layer	Redeposited natural gravel clay layer light yellow brown compact silty loam with common gravels, material potentially derived from the excavation of footings for the school to the south, and the excavated up cast utilised to level the rugby pitch.	0.20-0.36m	
1003	Buried ground surface	Mid to dark brown silty loam, buried ground surface which is sealed by (1002) and overlies (1004). This was cut by north east south west aligned modern galvanised pipe.	0.36-0.66m	
1004	Alluvium	Light to mid yellow silty clay loam, water borne material which seals gravels (1005)	0.66-0.95m	
1005	Natural	Natural gravels, mid to dark orange clay with flints gravels. Modern feature observed cutting (1005).	0.95m +	

TRENCH 11			Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 31m by 2.2m		Max. depth: 1.55m	Ground level: 20.09m aOD	
context	description		depth (bgl)	
1101	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay loam with very occasional sub rounded flints <0.02m current topsoil and turf of rugby pitch	0-0.12m	
1102	Layer	Possible levelling layer, mid grey brown silty clay loam, seals buried ground surface (1103)	0.12-0.24m	
1103	Buried ground surface	Old topsoil layer which has been sealed by overlying material during the levelling of the rugby pitch. Mid grey brown silty loam.	0.24-0.38m	
1104	Subsoil	Fairly compact pale brown silty clay loam, possible alluvial material with moderate sub rounded flints.	0.38-0.49m	
1105	Natural	Compact mid orange clay with very occasional sub rounded flints, alluvial material.	0.49-0.92m	

1106	<i>Natural</i>	Gravel natural.	0.92-1.32m
1107	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of modern quarry pit (1111). Deliberate backfill of mottled mid orange and light grey silty clay loam. Sealed beneath (1104) and overlies (1108)	0.24m thick
1108	<i>Fill</i>	Light grey silty clay loam, deliberate backfill within quarry pit (1111) seals (1109) and overlain by (1107)	0.24m thick
1109	<i>Fill</i>	Mottled light orange and mid grey silty clay loam deliberate backfill of quarry pit (1111). Sealed by (1108) and overlies (1110).	0.58m thick
1110	<i>Fill</i>	Mid grey brown silty clay loam filled with modern bottles and debris, deliberate backfill deposit with quarry pit (1111). Sealed by (1109) and overlies cut (1111).	0.78m thick
1111	<i>Cut</i>	Cut of large quarry pit for the extraction of gravel, revealed in sondage at the eastern end of Trench 11. Only the very edge of the feature revealed. Backfilled in modern period.	1.09m deep.



Plate 1: West facing section of Ditch 104




Plate 2: West facing section of Ditch 106

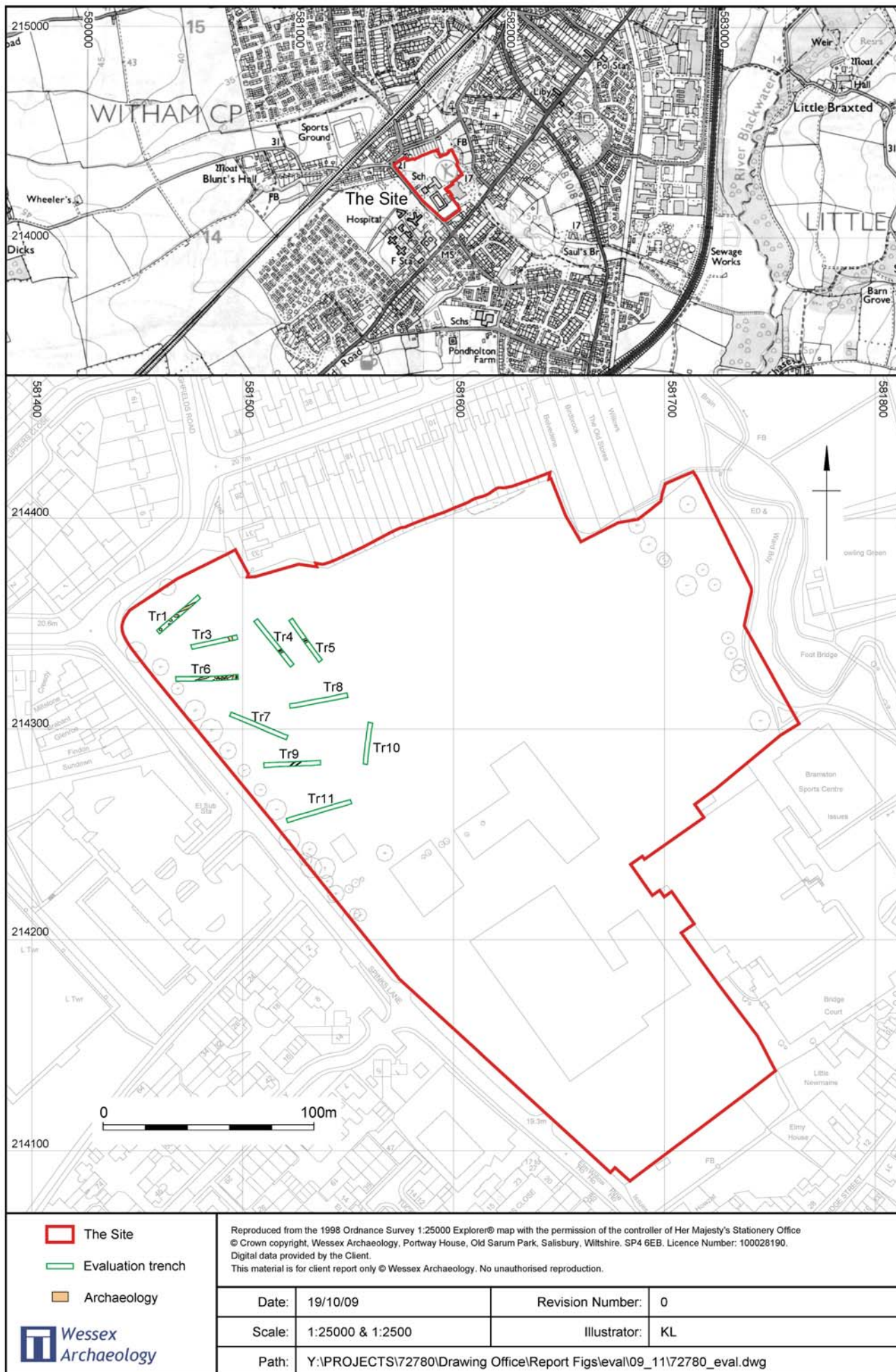


Plate 3: North-east facing section of Ditch 113



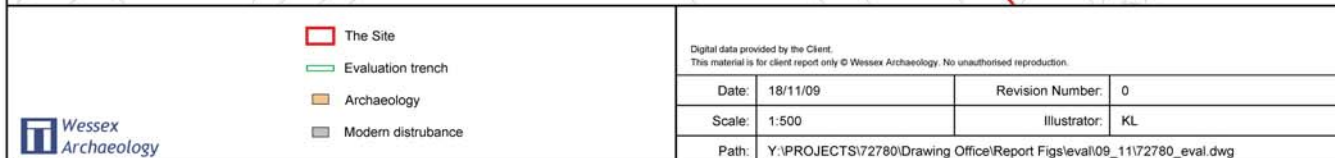
Plate 4: South facing section of Ditch 630

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			Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	LJC
			Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\72780\Drawing Office\Report Figs\		



Site location and trench plan

Figure 1





WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weaving Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.

Tel: 01622 739381 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

