An Archaeological Evaluation at the Perse School, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

An Archaeological Evaluation at the Perse School, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: January 2016

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HER Event No:	ECB 4514
Date of Works:	August 2015
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Client Ref:	
Planning Ref:	14/2070/FUL
Grid Ref:	TL 4634 5571
Site Code:	CAMPAC15
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Signed:	.....

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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

List of Tables

Summary

An archaeological evaluation of six trenches took place at the Perse School, Cambridge, covering an area of 243m². This took place ahead of the development of a performing arts centre. The work took place in two phases: the first, covering the area of tennis courts, took place between the 3rd and 4th of August 2015, and comprised 3 trenches covering 108m². The second phase, covering the area of an all-weather pitch, took place between the 15th and 16th of December 2015, and comprised of 3 trenches covering 135m².

The evaluation uncovered limited archaeological remains. The first phase revealed four undated ditches, with two of these probably furrows and the other two part of field systems in the area. This phase also revealed the shallow remains of a pit, possibly used for storage, a posthole, and natural rooting. Much of this area was disturbed ahead of layers being built up for the levelling of the tennis court, with the subsoil heavily truncated.

The second phase of the evaluation revealed a single ditch, two pits and a posthole, plus a series of natural features that spread across the site. All of these features were undated. This area saw less disturbance of the subsoil, with the levelling layers built up on top of the subsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Perse School, Cambridge, National Grid Reference TL 4634 5571 (see Figure 1). The work was undertaken ahead of the development of a performing arts centre on land currently used as an all-weather pitch and tennis court. The evaluation took place in two phases: the first at the south-eastern end of the development area, in the area covered by two tennis courts, and the second in the north-western area, covered by an all-weather pitch.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Stewart 2015; Planning Application 14/2070/FUL), supplemented by a specification prepared by Tom Philips of OA East (Phillips 2015).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the area is West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation grey chalk (British Geological Survey 2002).

1.2.2 The development area is located in the south of Cambridge, between Addenbrooke's Hospital (to the south) and the city centre (to the north), and within the grounds of the Perse School. The site lies on the western side of Hills Road and approximately 3km to the east of the Cam/Granta river valley.

1.2.3 The site lies on relatively flat ground at a height of 16.2mOD. The south-west corner of the site (Trench 1) lies just outside the area of tennis courts (which cover the southern end of the site and trenches 2 and 3). The northern area (trenches 4-6) was used as an all-weather pitch.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following archaeological background is based upon the written scheme of investigation (Phillips 2015), Clarke (2008) and the HER data for a 1km radius around the site.

Prehistoric (to AD 43)

1.3.2 Mesolithic artefacts have been recovered from the vicinity of the development area. Flints were recovered during the excavations of the Hutchison Site (CHER CB15770) 400m to the south-west; and fieldwalking adjacent to Long Road Sixth Form College (MCB16139), 500m to the west-south-west, recovered a Mesolithic tranchet axe and a large number of worked flakes.

1.3.3 Middle Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement activity has also been identified at Addenbrooke's Hospital, about 550m to the south-west of the current site. This was represented by postholes, pits, gullies and quarry pits (CHER CB 15770).

1.3.4 Further Middle Iron Age settlement activity has also been identified in the form ofa large rectangular enclosure with associated postholes and gullies (CHER 04800), again at the Addenbrooke's complex. This activity became more intense through time, with a Late Iron Age settlement identified – as evidenced by multiple roundhouses and an enclosure system (CHER MCB 17888) – 300m to the west; and some activity to the south of the current site – in the form of a ditch, gully and roundhouse (CHER CB 15010).

Roman (AD43–410)

1.3.5 The prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Perse School continued into the Roman period, with excavations on the Addenbrooke's site showing the evidence of settlement in the form of pottery kilns, ovens, a series of enclosures, and a small mixed inhumation and cremation cemetery (MCB 17888).

1.3.6 Further Roman activity in the area is shown by the *Via Devana*, a Roman road linking the military forts at Colchester and Chester (Walker 1910, 166-7), running through the development area on a course parallel with Hills Road (which lies to the east). The identified parts of the road lie to the north of the current site, but the route is thought to have crossed the current development area. Walker noted that the Roman road existed as a ridge running through the grounds of the school in 1910 when it was levelled. He recorded a section of the road as 12-15 feet wide with a 9 inch hardcore of rammed chalk, 2.25 feet of gravel and earth with chalk above, and the metalled surface robbed away (Walker 1910, 166).

1.3.7 Other Roman activity has been identified within the grounds of the school, and is represented by the recovery of artefacts in the northern half of the school site: pottery (including samian bowls), tiles, coins, tessarae and a cremation vessel (CHER 04819, 04820, 04821 and 04824).

1.3.8 Roman activity extended outside the grounds of the Perse School, and is represented by pottery and building material recovered from Hills Road and Luard Road to the north (CHER 04735 and 04812), and a possible small enclosure system identified during evaluation work at Homerton College (again to the north; CHER 11958).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066) and **Medieval** (AD1066–1485)

1.3.9 Anglo-Saxon evidence is not as strong in the vicinity of the development area, but excavations have shown that the Addenbrooke's Hospital area had 5th to 6th century settlement (MCB 17800 and 17890) that included pits, wells, domestic waste, small scale iron smelting, an enclosure ditch, and a possible large timber structure.

1.3.10 Medieval evidence near the current site becomes even more scarce than that for the Anglo-Saxon period, and is limited to ditches identified during an evaluation at Homerton College (CHER 11958).

Post-Medieval (AD 1485–present)

1.3.11 Post-medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the Perse School in the form of ditches – probably associated with agricultural boundaries – identified at Homerton College to the north (CHER MCB 17702 and 11958) and Glebe Road to the east (CHER CB 15272). Postholes were also identified at the Perse School for Boys directly to the west of the current development area (HER 11902; Leith 1996).

1.3.12 The area around the school is developed and includes residential areas on the other side of Hills Road to the east, and schools on the western side of Hills Road.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

1.3.13 A large number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the area of the Perse School. The earliest of these that is known about was done by Walker (HER 05146) in 1910, where he uncovered evidence of a Roman road, running on a north-west to south-east alignment, to the north of the current development area and now lies under school buildings. The road was also identified when the playing fields were levelled further to the north (HER 04819). It is expected that the course of the road may continue through the development area. Drainage work during the 1960s, for the school's playing fields, revealed a cremation urn and four samian bowls (HER 04820; Liversidge 1977, 21). Work for foundations to school buildings, 100m to the north of the current site, recovered Roman pottery (HER 04824).

1.3.14 More recent archaeological investigations have also identified activity within the vicinity of the development area: work 100m to the west revealed three alignments of ditches (ECB 3864; Haskins 2012) that have been dated as prehistoric and Roman or medieval. Slightly closer to the current site, an evaluation in 2008 uncovered a post-medieval boundary ditch and some undated ditches (ECB 2949; Clarke 2008). Between the work in 2008 and the current development area, an area was evaluated in 1996 that revealed minimal archaeological activity (ECB 925; Leith 1996).

1.3.15 Slightly further from the current evaluation area, work to the south (at Long Road Sixth Form College) revealed Iron Age and Roman pottery kilns, inhumations and cremations (Mackay and Evans 2003, 216). Located even further to the south, at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Bronze Age to Saxon occupation material has been recovered (CHER CB 15010, 15770, MCB 15027, 16500, 17800, 17888, 17890, 17896). A large scale evaluation and subsequent excavation at Clay Farm and Trumpington Meadows has also revealed extensive Bronze Age through to Roman occupation (MCB 17912).

1.3.16 To the south-east of the current development area, and just to the west of Hills Road, part of an inhumation was found during repair works at 278 Hills Road. This burial was on an east to west orientation (HER 07972).

1.3.17 To the north-east of the current development area, evaluations carried out at Glebe Road have identified Iron Age, Roman and undated features (Connor 2000a, 2000b, Gilmour 2011, Muldowney 2007). Works at Homerton College have also revealed field-systems related to Roman and post-medieval farming and drainage (HER 11958, MCB 17702; Alexander 1997; Webb and Dickens 2006).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The work was commissioned by the Perse School. Machine excavation and tarmac cutting was carried out by Lattenbury Services, and hand excavation by Andy Greef, Ted Levermore and Robin Webb. The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown and Gareth Rees. The site was managed by Tom Phillips and run by Robin Webb. Advice and monitoring was provided by Gemma Stewart of CCC HET.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of six trenches were excavated, totalling 243m². This was carried out in two phases: the first (trenches 1-3) covering the southern half of the development area in an area with tarmac covered tennis courts and hardcore; and the second phase (trenches 4-6) in an area covered by a carpeted all-weather pitch.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360º excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The outlines of trenches 2 and 3 were cut out in the tarmac to provide straight edges for the re-use of the tennis court.

2.2.3 The site was located to Ordnance Survey co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 GPS fitted with Smartnet.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 The first phase of the site was excavated in dry conditions, with strong sun for the majority of the time. The second phase of the evaluation was carried out in mixed conditions with occasional drizzle.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The evaluation showed the presence of limited human activity consisting of cut features, but with no artefacts to provide any dating. The natural across the area was a soft light grey-white sandy clay (4 (Phase 1), 59 (Phase 2)).

3.1.2 The site was excavated in two phases: phase 1 consisting of trenches 1-3 (Figure 2) and phase 2 of trenches 4-6 (Figure 3). The results are presented in these two groupings in trench order.

3.2 Phase 1

3.2.1 The trenches excavated in the first phase of the evaluation were in the southern half of the development area. Trench 1 was in an area of hardcore just outside the tennis courts, whilst trenches 2 and 3 were within the tennis courts.

Trench 1

3.2.2 Trench 1 (Plate 1), at a height of 16.3mOD, was in the south-west corner of the development area, and consisted of the natural (4) overlain by a plastic light yellow-brown silty clay subsoil (3) and a modern concrete (1). The trench contained only natural features: rooting patches and a channel (**5**) aligned north-west to south-east across the middle of the trench. This channel had a linear shape in plan, steep sides and an irregular base, and was filled by a soft mid yellow-brown sand (6). No artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 2

3.2.3 Trench 2 (Plate 2), at a height of 16.2mOD, was situated across the middle of the tennis courts towards the southern edge of the development area. It consisted of the natural (4) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy clay subsoil (24) and a series of modern layers (shown in plate 3). These layers were: a plastic dark grey-brown silty clay (23) overlain by a loose mid red silt and 75% stone (22), a loose mid grey silt with 75% stone (21), and tarmac (20). No artefacts were recovered from this trench.

3.2.4 This was the busiest of the three trenches in the southern part of the development area. The north-western end of the trench had a ditch terminus (**9**) aligned north-east to south-west cutting a ditch (**11**) that was aligned north-west to south-east. The ditch terminus (**9**) had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown silty clay (8) that was overlain by a friable mid red-brown clayey silt (7). The ditch (**11**) had gentle sides, a flat base, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy clay (10). This latter feature was likely to be a furrow that was part of the same field system as ditch **15** at the eastern end of this trench (see paragraph 3.2.7).

3.2.5 Running across the trench, 14m from the western end, was a ditch (**60**, Figure 4, Section 2; Plate 4) aligned north-east to south-west. This ditch had steep sides and a concave base and was filled by a soft mid yellow-brown sandy silt (61). This ditch was cut through by ditch **18**, which ran over the top and had steep sides and a concave base. This ditch was filled by a soft mid yellow-brown sandy silt (19), and may have formed part of a boundary that ran across the site.

3.2.6 The eastern end of the trench had a sub-rectangular pit (**13**) with gentle sides, a flat base, and that was filled by a friable mid red-brown silty sand (12). This pit cut a small pit (**17**) that was circular in plan, had gentle sides and a concave base, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (16).

3.2.7 Located just to the east of the pit was a linear ditch (**15**) with gentle sides, a flat base, and that was filled by a friable mid grey-brown silty sand (14). This ditch was aligned north-east to south-west. This ditch is likely to have formed a furrow as part of the same field system as ditch **11** at the western end of this trench.

3.2.8 A modern plastic drain also ran north-west to south-east across the middle of the trench (aligning with the drain in Trench 3), with a second one on a similar alignment at the eastern end. Adjacent to the drain cutting across the middle of the trench were two concrete blocks.

Trench 3

3.2.9 Trench 3 (plate 5), at a height of 16.2mOD, was located across the top of the tennis courts in the southern part of the development area. It consisted of the natural (4) overlain by a friable mid brown sandy clay subsoil (30=24 in Trench 2), a plastic dark grey-brown silty clay (29=23), a loose mid red-grey silt and 75% gravel (28), a concreted mid red-grey silty clay (27), a loose mid grey silt with 75% stone (26=21), and tarmac (25=20). No artefacts were recovered from this trench.

3.2.10 The south-western corner of this trench contained a ditch (**35**) that is probably a continuation of ditch **11** from Trench 2. Where the ditch was visible it was curvilinear in plan with gentle sides and a flat base, and was filled by a soft mid yellow-brown sandy silt (36). This may have been because the ditch was turning, but may possibly also have been from it terminating. Located 21m and 23m from the western end of the trench were two linear gullies (**31** and **33**) that were aligned north-west to south-east. Both of these had gentle sides and a concave base, and were filled by a soft mid grey-brown clayey silt (32 and 34 respectively). These were probably plough scars.

3.2.11 The middle of the trench had a natural depression filled with sand and gravel. A modern plastic drain cut across the middle of the trench, aligning with the drain across the middle of Trench 2.

3.3 Phase 2

3.3.1 The trenches in the area of the second phase of work were excavated through an all-weather pitch. This pitch had had a level surface created by a series of make-up deposits (57, see Figure 4, Section 18; Plate 6) above the subsoil (58). The make-up deposits consisted of a plastic mid blue-grey clay that was overlain by a loose light red and grey gravel and sub-angular stone deposit; a loose mid red sub-angular stone layer; a loose mid brown-grey silt with 50% gravel; a black asphalt layer; a terram membrane sheet; and a green synthetic carpet with sand mixed in. The subsoil (58) was a friable mid yellow-brown sandy silt.

Trench 4

3.3.2 Trench 4 (plate 7) was located towards the southern end of the all-weather pitch at a level of 16.0mOD. No artefacts were recovered from this trench. Situated near the north-east end of the trench was a small sub-circular pit (**43**; plate 8) with gentle sides and a concave base that contained a soft mid red-brown silty sand (44). The south-western end of the trench contained a linear ditch (**45**; figure 4, section 12; plate 9) on a north-west to south-east alignment that had gentle sides and a concave base, and contained a soft mid yellow-brown silty sand (46).

3.3.3 Between these two features was a small sub-circular feature (**47**) that had steep sides and an irregular base, and that was filled by a loose mid yellow-brown silty sand (48). This may have been a small pit, but with its irregular base was most likely to have been

tree rooting. To the north-east of this were natural features (**49**, **51**) that had irregular shapes and were filled by a soft mid yellow-brown sand (50 and 52 respectively).

Trench 5

3.3.4 Trench 5 (Plate 10), located along the eastern edge of the all-weather pitch at a height of 16.0mOD, contained a single posthole (**53**) that was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. This posthole was filled by a firm mid red-brown silty clay (54). Adjacent to this posthole was a curvilinear natural feature (**55**) that had an irregular shape in plan and irregular sides and base. This was filled by a soft mid grey-brown sand (56). The natural changed to a soft yellow-brown sand at each end of the trench. No artefacts were recovered from this trench.

Trench 6

3.3.5 Trench 6 (Plate 11) was located along the northern edge of the all-weather pitch at a height of 15.9mOD. This trench contained a single pit (**37**) that was sub-circular in plan, extending to the north of the trench, and had steep sides and a flat base. It contained a firm mid red-brown clayey silt (38). This pit cut into an irregular shaped natural feature (**39**) that was filled by a soft light red-brown sand (40). Along the southern edge of the trench, opposite the pit, was a sub-circular natural feature (**41**) with gentle sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm light white-brown clayey silt (42). This was probably a shallow natural depression. No artefacts were recovered from this trench.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 No artefacts were recovered from either the first or second phase of the evaluation.

3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 A total of four environmental samples were taken from the evaluation in order to retrieve any small artefacts or ecofacts. These samples contained no artefacts or ecofacts; instead only an abraded, charred cereal grain from pit **37**, that may well be intrusive, was recovered. A small amount of charcoal was recovered from pit **43** and ditch **45**, with a slightly larger amount recovered from pit **37**.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Undated features

4.1.1 The first phase of the evaluation identified a small number of ditches that are likely to represent part of a field system. Furrow **11** continues as furrow **35** to the north-west and is orientated almost perpendicularly to furrow **15**. It is possible that these conjoined to the south of Trench 2. There are two other ditches (**9** and **18**) that may form part of a field system, but the difference in alignment and profile suggests that they were from different phases of activity on the site. The westernmost of these two ditches (**9**) is at least later than the activity represented by the furrows as it cuts into furrow **11**.

4.1.2 Two plough scars that were identified towards the eastern edge of the development area suggest that there was continued use of the development area as agricultural land prior to the development of the school, with developments in farming machinery allowing ploughing to go deeper.

4.1.3 Other activity within the development area is suggested with the presence of a shallow pit (**13**) and a small pit that may have been a posthole (**17**), whose uses are difficult to ascertain from their shallow and truncated nature.

4.1.4 Moving north, into the second phase of the evaluation, human activity was even more limited, with a single shallow ditch, probably from cultivation, a small pit that may have been a posthole with no associated features, and two pits. The alignment of the ditch identified under the all-weather pitch again suggests that there was another phase of activity on the site utilising slightly different alignments.

4.1.5 These suggest that the development area was on the fringes of agricultural activity, perhaps related to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British landscapes that have been revealed to the south (Armour 2001, 17; Phillips 2015, 3), although a lack of finds means the features cannot be dated with confidence.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The construction of the tennis courts, and their precursor as an all-weather pitch, resulted in the truncation of the layers above the archaeological remains, and left a patchy subsoil that only had a shallow depth. Little in the way of archaeological remains have been identified in the southern portion of the development area.

4.2.2 The all-weather pitch in the northern area of the development did not demonstrate the same level of truncation of the subsoil, but was instead built up to provide a flat surface. This means that the archaeology survived, although there was only a limited amount present.

4.2.3 Due to the absence of artefacts and the paucity of environmental evidence, it is likely that the ditches within the development area were an outlying part of field systems that were associated with the settlements that have been identified elsewhere – at Glebe Road to the east, or the area of Clay Farm, Trumpington Meadows and Addenbrooke's Hospital to the south.

4.2.4 Although the line of the *Via Devana* was projected through the development area, no sign of it was uncovered during the evaluation, suggesting that the alignment suggested in the 1910 records was inaccurate.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained only a natural channel and rooting from trees. Consists of modern hardcore overlying a modern backfill layer and a subsoil. These overlay a natural of sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.78
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	10
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.18	Hardcore surface	-	Modern
2	Layer	-	0.42	Backfill/levelling layer	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil (same as 24, 30)	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5	Cut	1.5	0.2	Cut of natural channel	-	-
6	Fill	1.5	0.2	Fill of natural channel **6**	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a ditch and ditch terminus aligned north-east to south-west, two furrows (one running north-west to south-east, the other north-east to south-west), a posthole and a pit alongside two modern pipes. Trench consists of modern tarmac overlying two hardcore layers, a backfill/levelling layer and subsoil. These overlay a natural of sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.56
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
7	Fill	0.75	0.12	Upper fill of ditch terminus **9**	-	-
8	Fill	0.6	0.03	Lower fill of ditch terminus **9**	-	-
9	Cut	0.75	0.15	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
10	Fill	>1	0.1	Fill of furrow **11**	-	-
11	Cut	>1	0.1	Cut of furrow	-	-
12	Fill	1.12	0.1	Fill of pit **13**	-	-
13	Cut	1.12	0.1	Cut of pit	-	-
14	Fill	1.45	0.14	Fill of furrow **15**	-	-
15	Cut	1.45	0.14	Cut of furrow	-	-
16	Fill	0.3	0.13	Fill of posthole **17**	-	-
17	Cut	0.3	0.13	Cut of posthole	-	-

18	Cut	1.1	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
19	Fill	1.1	0.5	Fill of ditch **18**	-	-
20	Layer	-	0.07	Tarmac surface (same as 25)	-	Modern
21	Layer	-	0.07	Hardcore levelling layer (same as 26)	-	Modern
22	Layer	-	0.07	Hardcore levelling layer	-	Modern
23	Layer	-	0.2	Backfill/levelling layer	-	Modern
24	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil (same as 3, 30)	-	-
60	Cut	0.36	0.27	Cut of linear ditch	-	-
61	Fill	0.36	0.27	Fill of ditch **60**	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained the edge of a furrow and two plough scars alongside natural depressions. Trench consists of modern tarmac overlying two hardcore layers, a gravel levelling layer, a backfill/levelling layer and subsoil. These overlay a natural of sandy clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.76
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
25	Layer	-	0.06	Tarmac surface (same as 20)	-	Modern
26	Layer	-	0.09	Hardcore levelling layer (same as 21)	-	Modern
27	Layer	-	0.1	Levelling layer	-	Modern
28	Layer	-	0.1	Hardcore levelling layer	-	Modern
29	Layer	-	0.2	Backfill/levelling layer (same as 23)	-	Modern
30	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil (same as 3, 24)	-	-
31	Cut	0.14	0.06	Cut of plough scar	-	-
32	Fill	0.14	0.06	Fill of plough scar **31**	-	-
33	Cut	0.16	0.05	Cut of plough scar	-	-
34	Fill	0.16	0.05	Fill of plough scar **33**	-	-
35	Cut	>0.75	0.07	Cut of furrow	-	-
36	Fill	>0.75	0.07	Fill of furrow **35**	-	-

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a small pit at the north-east end, a linear ditch	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.62

aligned north-west to south-east at the south-east end, and a series of natural features. Trench consists of modern build-up layers overlying subsoil and a natural of clayey chalk.	**Width (m)**	1.8
	Length (m)	25

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
43	Cut	0.47	0.1	Cut of small pit	-	-
44	Fill	0.47	0.1	Fill of pit **43**	-	-
45	Cut	0.55	0.1	Cut of linear ditch	-	-
46	Fill	0.55	0.1	Fill of ditch **45**	-	-
47	Cut	0.5	0.2	Cut of natural feature	-	-
48	Fill	0.5	0.2	Fill of natural feature **47**	-	-
49	Cut	0.56	0.28	Cut of natural feature	-	-
50	Fill	0.56	0.28	Fill of natural feature **49**	-	-
51	Cut	0.6	0.24	Cut of natural feature	-	-
52	Fill	0.6	0.24	Fill of natural feature **51**	-	-
57	Layer	-	0.45	Modern make-up layers	-	Modern
58	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
59	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a single posthole towards the middle of its length with natural features on either side. Trench consists of modern build-up layers overlying subsoil and a natural of chalky clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.65
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	25

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
53	Cut	0.27	0.14	Cut of posthole	-	-
54	Fill	0.27	0.14	Fill of posthole **53**	-	-
55	Cut	2	0.2	Cut of natural feature	-	-
56	Fill	2	0.2	Fill of natural feature **55**	-	-
57	Layer	-	0.43	Modern make-up layers	-	Modern
58	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
59	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a single pit on its northern edge that cut through rooting activity and a shallow natural depression. Trench consists of modern build-up layers overlying subsoil and a natural of chalky clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.71
	Width (m)	1.8

					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
37	Cut	0.8	0.42	Cut of pit	-	-
38	Fill	0.8	0.42	Fill of pit **38**	-	-
39	Cut	0.53	0.25	Cut of natural feature	-	-
40	Fill	0.53	0.25	Fill of natural feature **39**	-	-
41	Cut	1	0.12	Cut of shallow hollow	-	-
42	Fill	1	0.12	Fill of shallow hollow **41**	-	-
57	Layer	-	0.48	Modern make-up layers	-	Modern
58	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
59	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Table 1: Context list by trench

APPENDIX B. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

B.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken from undated features within the excavated areas at the Perse School, Performing Arts Centre in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

B.1.2 The total volume (up to 24 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm sieves. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

Results

B.1.3 A single charred cereal grain was recovered from sample 4, fill 38 of undated pit **37**. It is abraded and can only be identified as a cereal grain due to the characteristic morphology. All of the other samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments. No finds are present in the sample residues.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample size (L)	Area/Trench No.	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments	Residue comments
1	44	43	Pit	20	4	18	45	0	0	+		No finds
2	46	45	Ditch	30	4	24	10	0	+	0		No finds
3	54	53	Post hole	10	5	3	1	0	0	0		No finds
4	38	37	Pit	30	6	24	10	#	+	+	Single indet grain	No finds

Table 2: Environmental samples from CAMPAC15

Discussion

B.1.4 The environmental samples from this site are devoid of ecofacts and artefacts other than a single charred grain which cannot be considered significant and may well be intrusive.

Appendix C. Bibliography

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Maps Consulted

British Geological Society. 2002. Saffron Walden. England and Wales Sheet 205. Solid and Drift Geology edition.

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-234885		
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at the Perse School, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	03-08-2015	Finish	17-12-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMPAC15	Planning App. No.	14/2070/FUL
HER No.	ECB 4514	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Uncertain	None	None
Pit	Uncertain		Select period...
Posthole	Uncertain		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Cambridge City	The Perse School Hills Road Cambridge	
Parish	Queen Ediths		
HER	Cambs Historic Environment Record		
Study Area	243 m sq	National Grid Reference	TL 4634 5571

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart (CCCHER)
Project Design Originator	Tom Phillips (OA East)
Project Manager	Tom Phillips (OA East)
Supervisor	Robin Webb (OA East)

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	OA East	CCC Stores
CAMPAC15	CAMPAC15	CAMPAC15

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☐	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☒	☒
Survey		☒	☒
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☒	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☒ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☒ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☒ Map
☒ Survey	☒ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☒ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

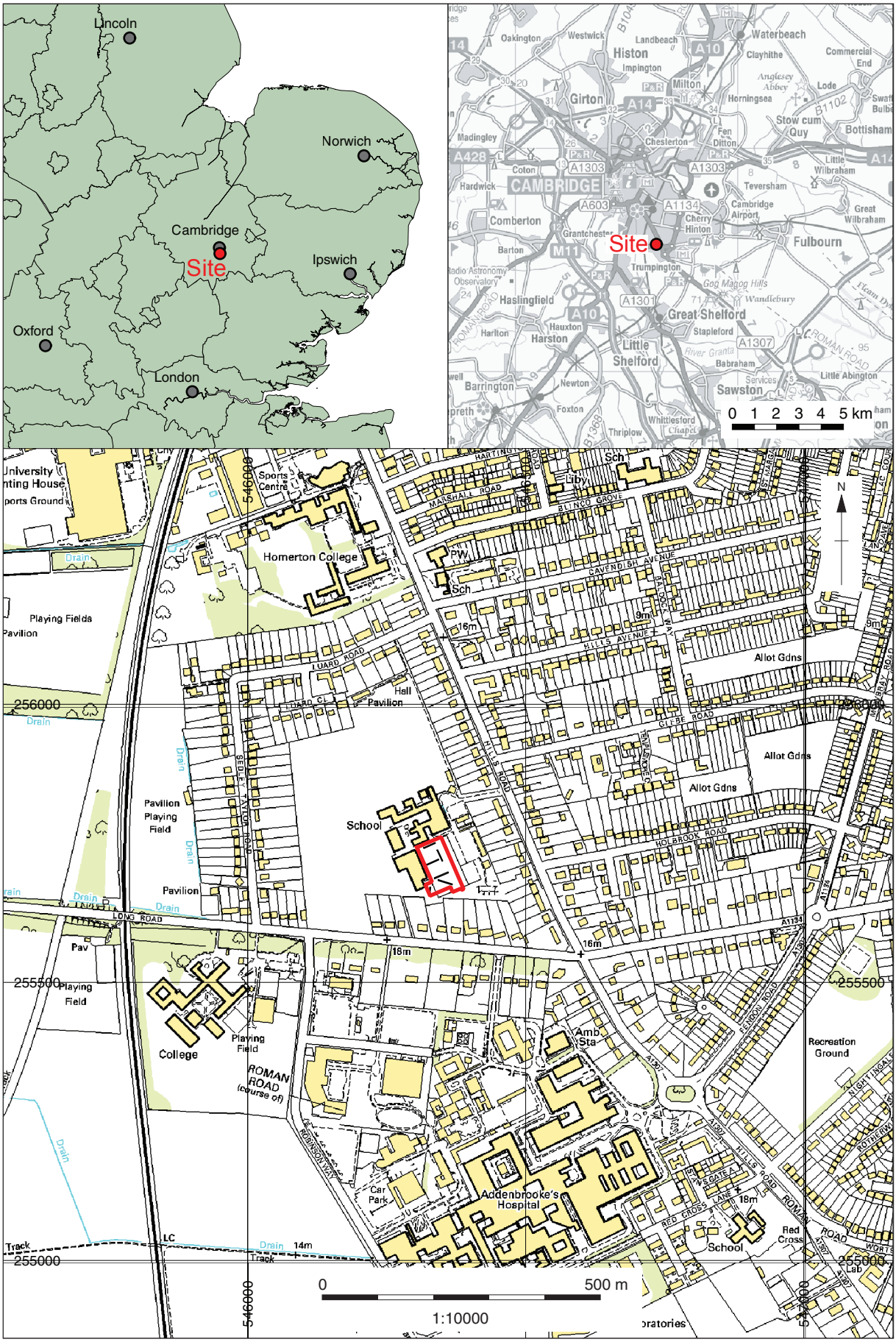

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

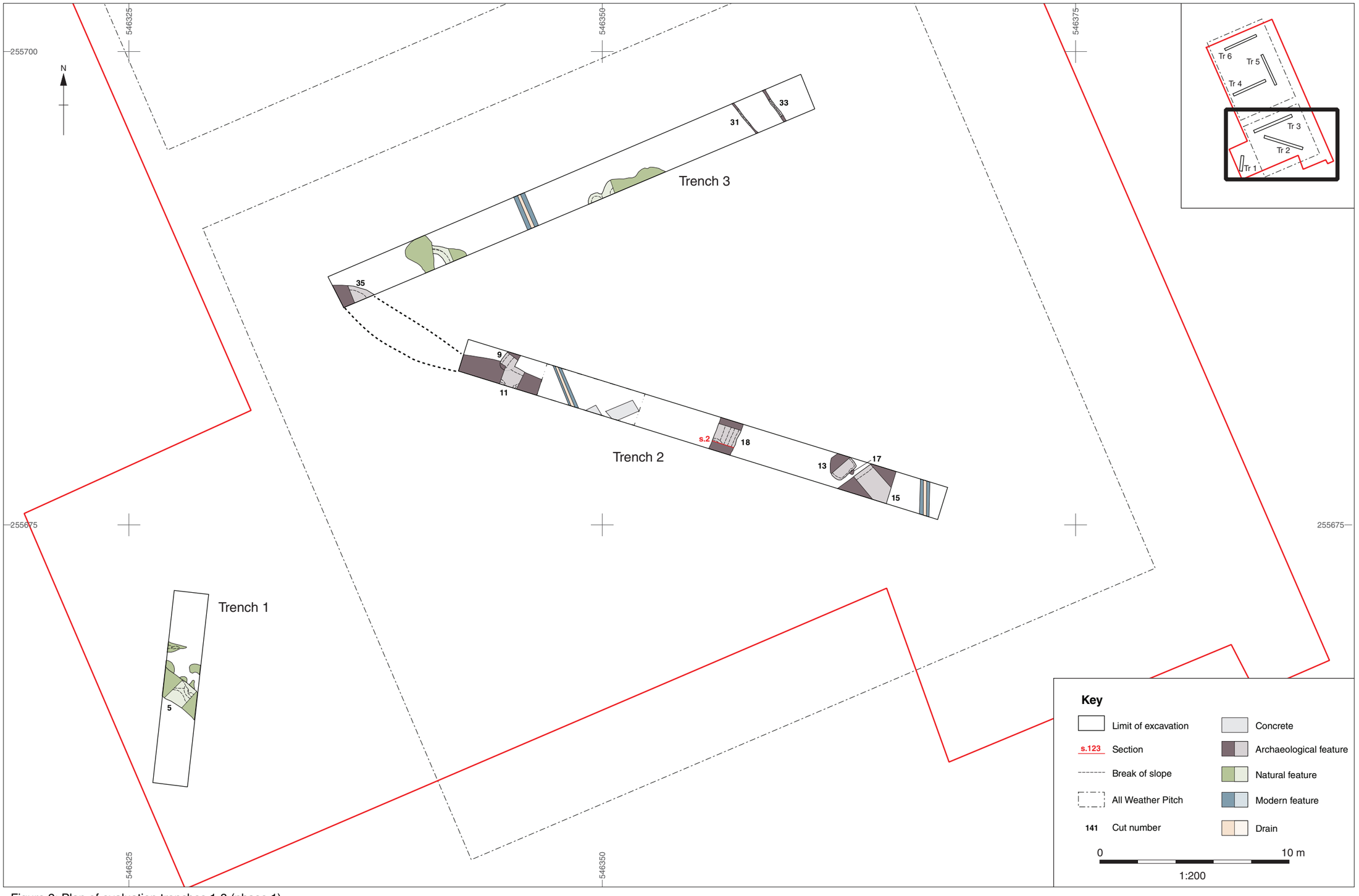

Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches 1-3 (phase 1)

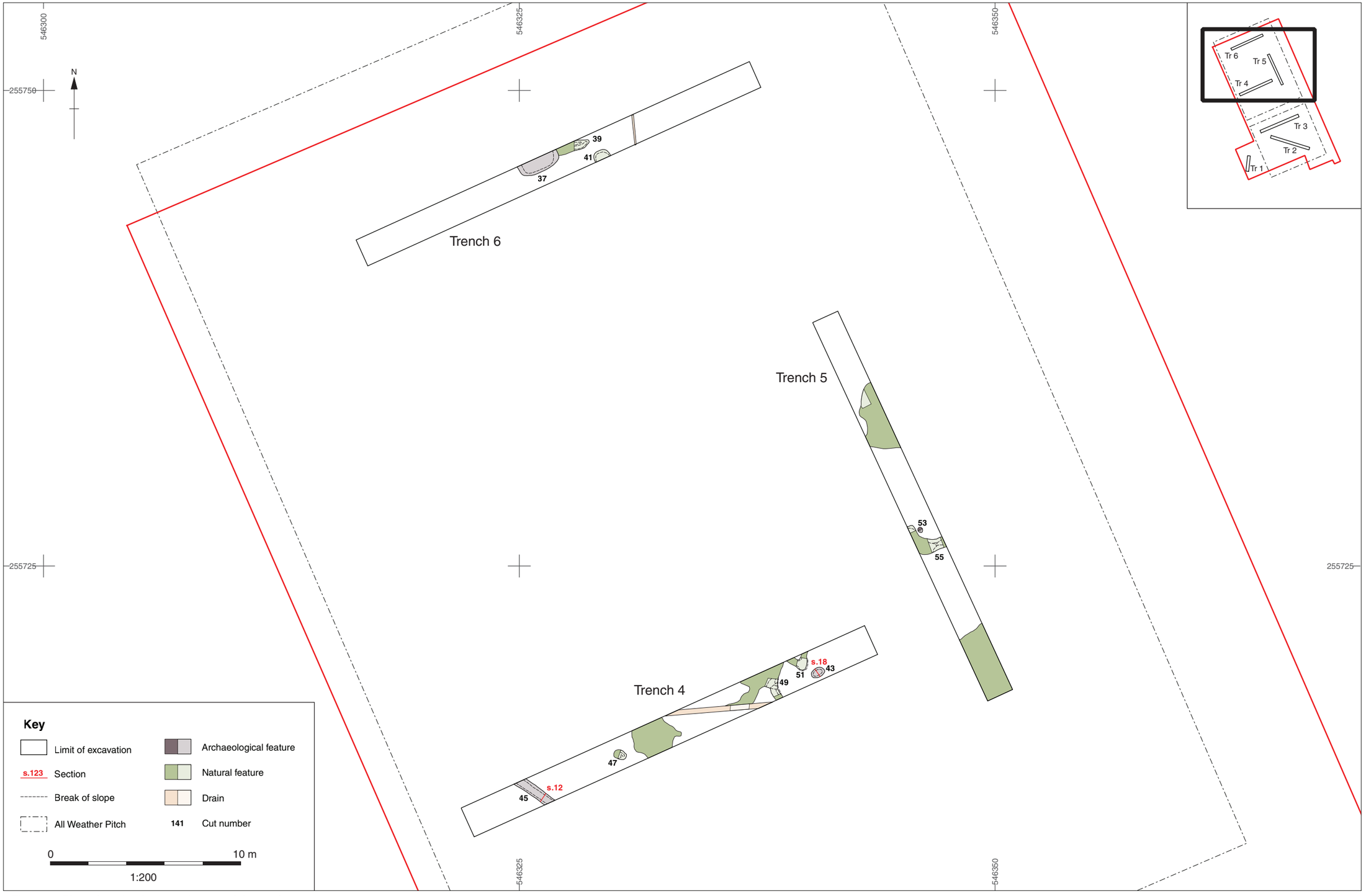

Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trenches 4-6 (phase 2)

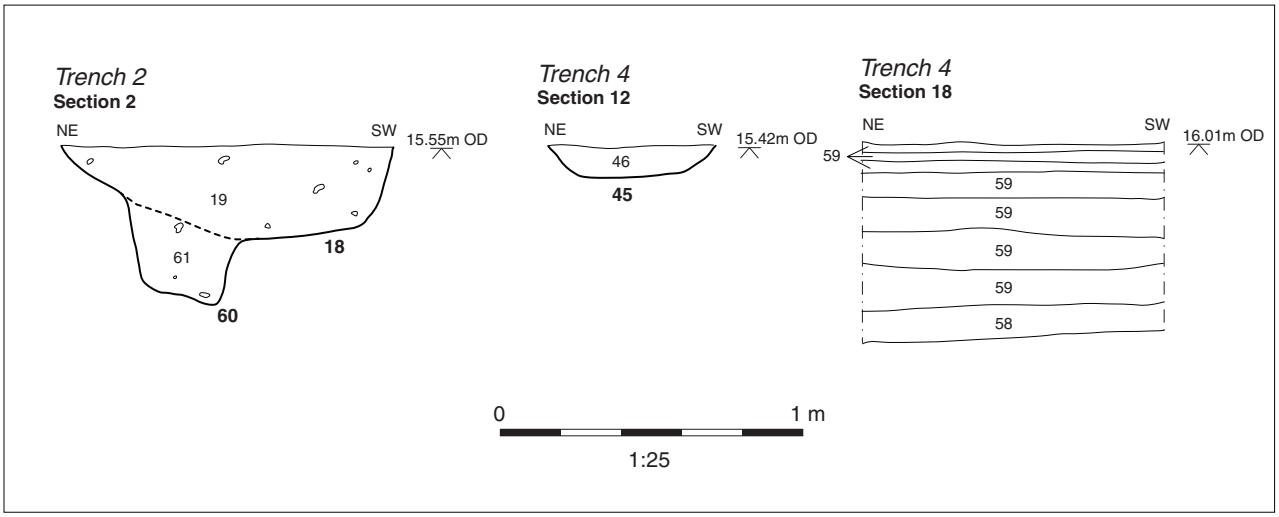

Figure 4: Selected sections

Plate 1: Photograph of trench 1, taken from the north

Plate 2: Photograph of trench 2, taken from the south-east

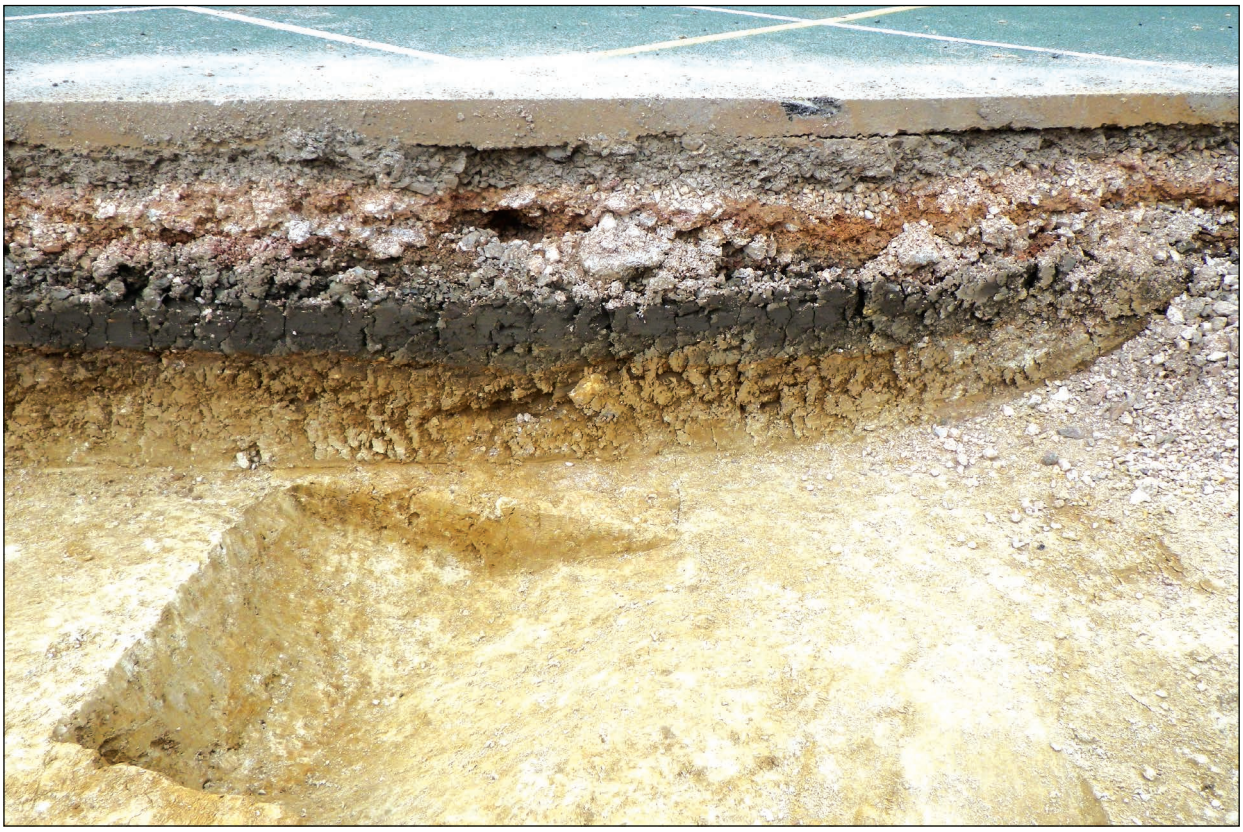

Plate 3: Photograph showing the layers that were used to build up the tennis court over ditch terminus **9**, taken from the south-west

Plate 4: Photograph of ditch **18**, taken from the north-east

Plate 5: Photograph of trench 3, taken from the north-east

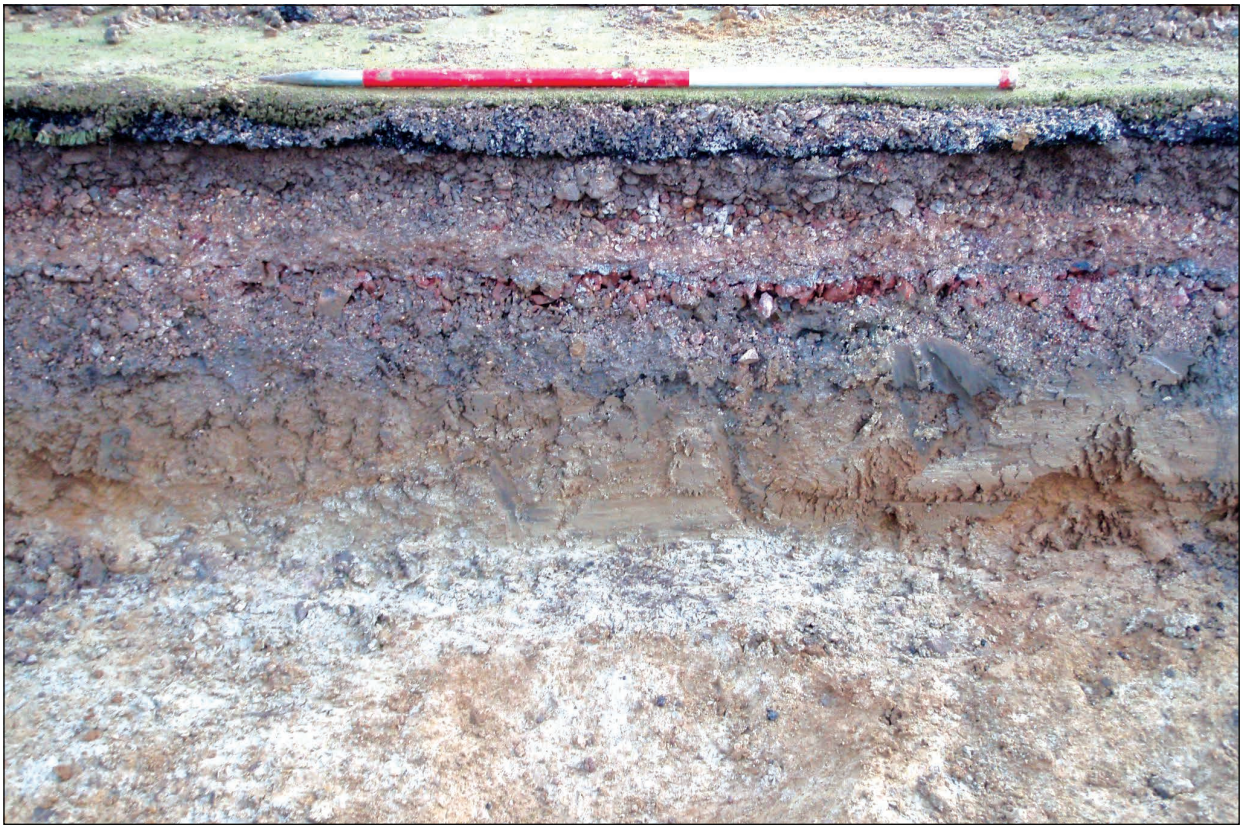

Plate 6: Photograph showing the build up layers for the all-weather pitch (57), taken from the north-west

Plate 7: Photograph of trench 4, taken from the east

Plate 8: Photograph of pit **43**, taken from the east

Plate 9: Photograph of ditch **45**, taken from the north-east

Plate 10: Photograph of trench 5, taken from the north-east

Plate 11: Photograph of trench 6, taken from the south-west

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