King Ethelbert School
Birchington
Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prepared by: Neil Lambert
Position: Supervisor
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Checked by: Alan Hardy
Position: Senior Progect Manager
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Approved by: Nick Shepherd
Position: Head of Fieldwork
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Signed.....

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Illustrated by: Amy Tiffany Hemingway

Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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King Ethelbert School

Birchington

Kent

NGR TR 313 693

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

Between 7th and 11th April Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at King Ethelbert School, Birchington, Kent (NGR TR 313 693) on behalf of William Verry Construction, as part of the Kent 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) programme. Several circular cropmarks are recorded on aerial photographs in the immediate vicinity of the site which suggest the possible location of a barrow cemetery. There is also evidence for extensive Iron Age and early Roman settlement and agricultural landscapes in the surrounding area, particularly to the south and south-east of King Ethelbert School (eg the Scheduled Monument at Quex Park, 560 m south-east of the site). Archaeological features may be expected to survive in patches of undisturbed ground within the school site.

Of the five trenches excavated, only Trench 3 contained any significant archaeology, a single ditch of probable later prehistoric date, buried at a depth of 0.5m. The dating evidence comprises a small group of pottery sherds, including a hard fired, slightly beaded rim, probably from a fairly simple barrel-shaped jar, the form of which suggests a mid- to late- Iron Age date.

The evaluation results indicate that the eastern part of the new building footprint and associated carparks have been extensively disturbed by modern groundworks, to depths in excess of 1.5m (Trenches 1, 4 and 5). The western side of the building footprint (Trenches 2 and 3) appears relatively undisturbed, as demonstrated by the survival of the probable Iron Age ditch in Trench 3, cut into weathered chalk at a depth of c 0.5m.

A watching brief is recommended on construction groundworks, to record the extent of the probable Iron Age ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 7th and 11th April 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at King Ethelbert School, Birchington, Kent (Fig. 1) on behalf of Land Securities Trillium in respect of a planning application for redevelopment of the school, and in accordance with a specification set by Kent County Council. The development site is centred at NGR TR 313 693 and is *c* 5.4 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as Cretaceous Upper Chalk overlain by Pleistocene and recent Head Brickearth (younger) (GSGB, 1980, Sheet 274). The site is located at an approximate height of 22 m OD. The trenches (Fig. 2) were all located to the north of the existing school buildings on a terraced grass lawn.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 In January 2007 Parsons Brinckerhoff, on behalf of Kent County Council, commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) examining the archaeological resource at King Ethelbert School, Birchington in Kent. For the purposes of the DBA the archaeological and cartographic sources, including results from archaeological investigations in close proximity to the site and a 1 km study area around it, were examined. The DBA report includes the results of a walkover survey, carried out on 26th February 2007.

2.1.2 The following archaeological background is summarised from the DBA:

2.2 Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings

2.2.1 There is one Scheduled Monument within the study area, the Quex Park Iron Age - Roman settlements (SAMKE 367, c 560 m south-east of the site). There are no Registered Parks or Gardens, or Historic Battlefields within the site or the study area.

2.2.2 There are no Listed Buildings within the site. Within the study area, however, there are six Grade II Listed Buildings and one non listed Historic Building recorded in the NMR and SMR.

2.2.3 An historic buildings assessment of the existing school buildings has been carried out separately, as part of a general assessment survey of eleven Kent Schools being redeveloped as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

2.3 Previous archaeological work.

2.3.1 Within the site one archaeological evaluation has taken place within the last year. A report is not yet available, but it is understood that no archaeological remains were found (Simon Mason, KCC, pers. comm.).

2.3.2 There are five recorded archaeological investigations within the study area. Of these investigations, two recorded no significant archaeological remains, two recorded prehistoric activity, one of which also recorded medieval features, and one recorded World War 2 features.

2.4 Known archaeology

2.4.1 The NMR and SMR list two sets of cropmarks within the site which may be of prehistoric origin. One is a pair of circular features recorded as being possibly ploughed out barrows in the south west corner of the site, the other is an L shaped linear feature which is located within the western area of the site. In addition a number of possible enclosure cropmarks were identified during a walkover survey, although some of these may be natural features.

The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods (c 500,000 BC to 4000 BC)

2.4.2 Palaeolithic populations were hunter-gatherers. Little remains to indicate Palaeolithic communities apart from artefacts mainly consisting of stone tools and animal remains.

Many of these are likely to have been disturbed from their original depositional sequence by later re working through glacial, riverine, estuarine and human activity.

2.4.3 There is extensive evidence for Lower Palaeolithic activity in Kent. Many flint collections have been retrieved from the Thames gravels, whilst other rivers in Kent have also produced Palaeolithic material. Hominid presence was not limited to the river courses however, with artefacts dating to the Palaeolithic period having been found as surface finds in east and west Kent.

2.4.4 There are no archaeological artefacts or features of the Palaeolithic period recorded within the site or study area.

2.4.5 Evidence for early and mid Mesolithic activity is more common but still, in the main, comprises isolated surface finds or artefacts retrieved from rivers. By the later Mesolithic period, microliths (very small flint tools) were geometric in shape, and there have been many discoveries throughout Kent of artefacts of this nature. These finds are among the most common of any phase of post-glacial hunter gatherer activity in Kent, and may indicate an increase in population during this time.

2.4.6 There are no archaeological artefacts or features of the Mesolithic period recorded within the site or study area.

The Neolithic period (c 4000-2400 BC)

2.4.7 The emergence of the settled farming societies of the Neolithic period was a slow process, with certain areas developing faster than others. Kent appears to have been one of the first to undergo the transition.

2.4.8 There are no archaeological artefacts or features of the Neolithic period recorded within the site. Amongst a group of Roman burials found within the study area at the end of the 19th century (*c.* 270 m east of the site), were some burials which are alleged to be of Neolithic origin, although there is little evidence to support this claim.

The Bronze Age (c 2400-700 BC)

2.4.9 During the Bronze Age, increasing population occurred alongside an intensification of land use and a change in farming methods. Natural divisions of land such as river lines and ridges became more important as boundaries, and rivers became important communication routes. This is apparent in Kent, where the Thames Valley became politically and socially dominant, and there was a dramatic growth in settlement throughout this region.

2.4.10 There are no recorded archaeological artefacts or features from the Bronze Age period within the site. However, Bronze Age barrows are located *c* 50 m to the south of the site and cropmarks *c* 40 m west may indicate Bronze Age ring ditches and possible burials.

The Iron Age (c 700BC- AD 43)

2.4.11 During the Early Iron Age, settlement appears to have been mainly concentrated in eastern Kent, specifically on the Isle of Thanet and other coastal areas. Middle Iron Age settlements are noticeably rare throughout the county, but an expansion in population during the Late Iron Age led to a widespread expansion of settlement in Kent.

2.4.12 The Scheduled Monument at Quex Park, 560 m south-east of the site, is a series of probable Iron Age or early Roman settlement enclosures (SAMKE 367). These cropmarks are the only features within the area strongly associated with the Iron Age period. There have also been two discoveries of Iron Age artefacts within the study area. A coin of Cunobelinus *c* 730 m north-east of the site and some pottery *c* 800 m to the east.

The Romano-British Period (AD 43-410)

2.4.13 During the Roman period, the Wantsum Channel was still a river open at each end to the sea. The fort of Regulbium (Reculver) and Rutupiae (Richborough) were built to protect the then eastern coast of mainland Kent.

2.4.14 There are many known villas throughout western Kent, but noticeably fewer in eastern Kent, with the exception of the Isle of Thanet where at least nine are known.

2.4.15 The study area is rich in archaeology of the Roman period, although there is no recorded archaeology of this period within the site. As mentioned above, the Scheduled Monument at Quex Park is believed to have been of Late Iron Age to Roman date. There have also been ten additional recorded archaeological finds of the Roman period, the closest being a collection of Roman cremations, located 215 m to the east of the site.

The Early Medieval Period (AD410-1066)

2.4.16 There is little archaeological evidence for the period following the decline of Roman infrastructure in the 5th to 6th centuries AD. In Kent evidence for the 5th to 8th centuries almost exclusively comes from cemeteries, which are abundant, especially in the east of the county.

2.4.17 There is little evidence for where the site lay in the early Medieval landscape. It is likely that early Medieval settlements such as Birchington would have been located around the present historic churches, and the nearest historic church to the site, St Albans, lies over a kilometre to the west. It is therefore likely that the site lay well beyond the main medieval settlement focus of Birchington.

The Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

2.4.18 The parish of Birchington was a member of the town and port of Dover from as early as the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). During the later Medieval period the site was located between the historic centres of the two nearest settlements at Birchington (*c*

1.2 km to the west of the site) and Westgate on Sea (*c* 1 km east of the site), and it is likely that the site was used as farm land during this period.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1550+)

2.4.19 Hall's 1792 map of the Isle of Thanet is the earliest detailed map of the site and study area to be viewed. The site is clearly shown as being outside the settlement centres of both Birchington and Westgate-on-Sea. Hasted's map of the Isle of Thanet (1800) shows Birchington to have expanded, but still not as far east as the site.

2.4.20 At present the site straddles the border of two parishes, Acol and Birchington. The Tithe Map of Acol (1839) shows the majority of the site to the east to have been divided into two plots, both utilised as arable land, whilst the Birchington Tithe Map of 1840 shows just one plot of land, which is also labelled as being used as arable land. Acol is a relatively new parish that was created in the 1830s as a result of the Great Reform Act of 1832. Historically, the site lay within the parish of Birchington.

2.4.21 The 1877 1st edition OS map through to the 3rd edition OS map (1908) show no activity on the land occupied by the site, and the site is shown to still be located beyond the urban extent of both Birchington and Westgate-on-Sea at this time, most probably still being utilised as farm land. The Revised OS map of 1936 shows two field boundaries to be present within the site, but these had been removed by the Provisional edition OS map of 1938, by which time King Ethelbert School is present.

3 EVALUATION AIMS

3.1.1 The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine the quality, character, date and extent of any archaeological remains present on the site.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Scope of fieldwork

4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of five evaluation trenches. These were each 20 m long and approximately 1.65 m wide.

4.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

4.2.1 The overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under close archaeological supervision. Excavation proceeded to the first archaeological horizon or to undisturbed natural geology, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were then cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples.

4.2.2 All features and deposits encountered were issued a unique context number. A plan was drawn of each trench at a scale of 1:50, and a sample section of the edge of the trench was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Each excavated feature was also recorded in section at a scale of 1:10. Colour transparency and black-and-white photographs were

taken of each feature, as well as more general shots of each trench. Digital photography was also used. All recording was conducted in accordance with the procedures detailed in the OA Fieldwork Manual (OAU 1992).

4.3 Finds

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

4.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

4.4.1 A single bulk environmental sample of 40 litre was collected from the only suitable context (fill 304 of ditch 303).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Description of Trenches

5.1.1 The evaluation comprised five trenches, which were located on the site of proposed new school buildings (Fig. 2). These were used to ascertain the density of the archaeological features and their condition in terms of survival, and potential for preservation *in situ* or by record.

Empty trenches

5.1.2 Of the five trenches, four contained no significant archaeological features or deposits (Trench 4 contained a modern service, while in Trenches 1, 2 and 5 there were no features at all). The natural geology in these trenches comprised chalk bedrock, or an overlying layer of light yellow brown sand containing patches of chalk. In the western part of the site this was overlain by a firm mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil layer, probably a cultivated soil. In the eastern part of the site (Trenches 1, 4 and 5) the chalk was encountered at depths in excess of 1.5 m, sealed by thick layers of made ground, containing clearly modern material such as tarmac.

Archaeologically significant trenches

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

5.1.3 Trench 3 was aligned approximately E-W. It measured 22 m long and 1.65 m wide. The average depth to the chalk (306) was 0.5 m. Patches of mid orange brown silty clay were present in the surface of the chalk in the eastern half of the trench. The only archaeological feature in this trench was a single 'U'-shaped, N-S aligned ditch (303) which was 0.6 m wide and 0.32 m deep. The fill of the ditch (304) was a firm mid grey brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. It was sealed by a firm mid grey brown silty clay layer (305) which was covered by loose chalk, possibly made ground (302). This was overlain by a turf covered firm mid grey brown silty clay topsoil (301). The western portion of Trench 3 had a simpler stratigraphic sequence, comprising chalk bedrock overlain by a mid yellow brown, firm silty clay subsoil, which was then overlain by the turf covered topsoil.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 A total of 13 sherds of pottery were recovered, all from the fill (304) of ditch 303. Ten of these were recovered from the environmental sample and included some very small fragments, only two being greater than 6 mm. The largest sherd (16 g) was a hard fired, slightly beaded rim, probably from a fairly simple barrel-shaped jar, the form of which suggests a mid- to late- Iron Age date.

5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

5.3.1 A single 40 litre environmental sample was taken from the fill (304) of ditch 303 (see Appendix 4 for discussion).

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1.1 Within the five trenches opened during the course of this evaluation a single archaeological feature, a ditch of mid-late Iron Age date, was found. The ditch is fairly ephemeral and may have functioned as a drainage channel or field boundary. The pottery recovered from this feature suggests that it may be of mid to late Iron Age date. The soil sample taken from the ditch fill contained 10 very small pot sherds. A few of these had blackened surfaces, and one was identified as having a blackened internal face, which could suggest that the pot was a cooking vessel, suggesting domestic activity nearby. Flint artefacts, both worked and burnt were also recovered from the same context. The flint is probably residual and can only be used to suggest the presence of prehistoric activity generally.

6.1.2 Mollusc and charcoal fragments were recovered from the same ditch fill. The majority of the molluscs were found to be modern and intrusive and only one fragment of charcoal could be tentatively identified to species. Abundant modern roots were present in the sample.

6.1.3 The single archaeological feature identified, a ditch of probable mid to late Iron Age date in Trench 3, indicates the potential for surviving archaeology in the western part of the proposed new building footprint.

6.1.4 The potential for the survival of archaeological features in the eastern part of the development site appears to have been compromised by modern disturbance, as there is strong evidence for in-filled modern excavations into the chalk bedrock, probably the result of landscaping during construction of the school. This is demonstrated by the thick layers of made ground found in Trenches 1, 4 and 5, which extend to depths in excess of 1.5 m, compared with the apparently undisturbed area around Trenches 2 and 3, where the bedrock was encountered at a depth of just 0.5m.

6.1.5 A number of circular cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs in the immediate vicinity of the site suggest the possible location of a barrow cemetery. No evidence for earlier prehistoric activity was found in the present evaluation, but features may be expected to survive in patches of undisturbed ground within the school site. The recovery of a small group of mid-late Iron Age pottery sherds, from a single ditch, is

consistent with the evidence for extensive Iron Age and early Roman settlement and agricultural landscapes in the surrounding area, particularly to the south and south-east of King Ethelbert School (eg the Scheduled Monument at Quex Park).

6.2 Recommendations for further work

6.2.1 This evaluation suggests limited potential for significant archaeology to survive in patches of undisturbed ground in the north-east corner of the King Ethelbert School grounds. With regard to the present development, the area of archaeological potential is limited to the western part of the new building footprint, as demonstrated by the presence of a ditch, of possible mid- to late- Iron Age date, in Trench 2.

6.2.2 Given the small size of the area of archaeological potential, and the small range and number of archaeological features present, it is recommended that a watching brief be carried out during topsoil stripping for the construction work, to record the extent of the mid-late Iron Age ditch, and any other features that may be present.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thick. (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*Date*
1							
	100	Layer		0.32	Topsoil		
	101	Layer		0.66	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	102	Layer		0.43	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	103	Layer			Natural		
	104	Layer			Natural		
2							
	200	Layer		0.10	Topsoil		
	201	Layer		0.17	Subsoil		
	202	Layer			Natural		
3							
	300	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
	301	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
	302	Layer		0.10	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	303	Cut	0.60	0.32	Ditch		
	304	Fill	0.60	0.32	Fill of Ditch (303)	Pot Flint	LIA Mesolithic / Neolithic
	305	Layer		0.28	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	306	Layer			Natural		
4							
	400	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	401	Layer		0.32	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	402	Layer		0.48	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	403	Layer		0.50	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	404	Layer		0.52	Subsoil		
	405	Layer			Natural		

5							
	500	Layer		0.37	Topsoil		
	501	Layer		0.12	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	502	Layer		0.27	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	503	Layer		0.37	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	504	Layer		0.80	Made ground / Levelling layer		
	505	Layer		0.24	Subsoil		
	506	Layer			Natural		

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

Thirteen handmade sherds weighing 48 g were recovered from ditch fill context (304), ten of these (28 g), including some very small fragments, from a soil sample. Of the ten sherds, about which any assessment of fabric was possible, nine were tempered with moderate flint inclusions (?calcined in one case), supplemented in several cases with quartz sand and occasional organic inclusions in a slightly micaceous clay matrix. The tenth sherd had grog and quartz sand inclusions. The flint-tempered fabrics are characteristic of later prehistoric material ranging from the late Bronze Age through the Iron Age. The largest of these sherds, however (16 g) was a hard fired slightly beaded rim, probably from a fairly simple barrel-shaped jar. This form suggests a middle to late Iron Age date. A late Iron Age date is supported by the presence of the grog-and-sand-tempered sherd which, although only weighing 3 g, was, like the rim sherd, in fairly fresh condition. Some of the flint-tempered sherds were more abraded and may represent residual, earlier Iron Age material.

APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT

A total of 14 flints were recovered from a single context. The majority of the material is waste flakes from flint knapping, but there is a small element of Mesolithic material in the assemblage and a single, possibly Neolithic, scraper.

Context	Description
304	Side scraper on primary flake. Dark grey flint
304	Proximal end of narrow blade. Light brown flint
304	Narrow blade shatter. Dark brown flint
304	Narrow blade shatter. Dark brown flint
304	Narrow blade shatter. Dark brown flint
304	Narrow blade shatter. Dark brown flint
304	Secondary flake. Patinated light grey flint
304	Primary flake. Patinated light grey flint
304	Burnt flint
304	Burnt flint
304	Burnt flint
304	Burnt flint
304	Burnt flint
304	Burnt flint

In addition the following were recovered from environmental samples:
Context (304) / sample 1contained 49 chips.

The flint occurs in low numbers and all appear to be from residual contexts, making a detailed analysis impossible, beyond noting the presence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers in the area.

APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Method

A single bulk soil sample was collected from the fill (sample 1, context 304) of what is believed to be a Late Iron Age ditch feature (303). Sample 1 was 16 l in volume and was processed at Oxford Archaeology by flotation using a modified Siraf-style flotation machine. The resulting flot (the material which floats) was sieved to 250µm and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) was sieved to 500µm. The flot and heavy residue were dried in a heated room at approximately 30°C. The dried heavy residue was sorted by eye for charred plant remains, along with other ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, charcoal, molluscs, etc.) and artefacts (e.g. pottery, flint, etc.).

Results

Table 1 presents the results for the flot from sample 1, context (304) from ditch (303) and Table 2 presents the results for this sample's heavy residue. A few indeterminate charred cereal grain / large grass (POACEAE) caryopses were observed in the flot and heavy residue fractions. Small-sized charcoal (all < 2 mm and unlikely to be identifiable) were observed in the flot and one large fragment of charcoal, tentatively identified as beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) was recovered from the >10 mm heavy residue fraction. Land snails were abundant in the flot, with *Ceciliodes acicula* frequently observed. This snail can burrow to depths of 2 m and it is likely to be intrusive and probably relatively modern. Plant roots were also abundant in the flot (see Table 1). A few fragments of marine shell (possibly mussel) were recovered in the 10–4 mm fraction of the heavy residue from sample 1, context (304). The flot and all environmental remains sorted from the heavy residue fractions have beeen retained.

In terms of artefacts, this sample produced both worked and burnt flint in several of the heavy residue fractions (see Table 2). As a result, the entirety of the 4–2 mm and 2–0.5 mm heavy residue fractions have been retained for worked flint / flint debatage. A small quantity of coarseware body sherds were recoverd from the >10 mm and 10–4 mm heavy residue fractions. In some cases blackened surfaces were noted. In the case of a sherd from the >10 mm fraction, the blackened surface was clearly on the interior surface. The pottery and flint recovered from the heavy residue have been retained.

Archaeological potential

Only a small quantity of indeterminate charred cereal grain / large grass (POACEAE) caryopses was observed in sample 1, context (304) from ditch (3030. Charcoal from the flot was too small in size to be identifiable and only one potentially identifiable fragment

(tentively identified as beech - *Fagus sylvatica* L.) was recovered from the heavy residue. Land snails were abundant in the flot, but likely to be intrusive. Small quantities of pottery (all coarseware body sherds, some of which have blackened surfaces), worked flint and burnt flint were recovered in the heavy residue from sample 1, context (304). No further analysis is required of the environmental remains. The artefacts recovered will be retained for further analysis should further work be carried out at this site.

Recommendations

This sample produced only a few charred grains / caryopses and one identifiable fragment of charcoal. No further analysis of land snails (which are likely to be modern), charred plant remains (which are too poor to be interpretable) or charcoal (which is primarily too small-sized to be identifiable) recovered from this sample is necessary. The marine mollusc fragments have been retained for assessment / analysis if further work is carried out at this site. Fragments of pottery, worked flint and burnt flint have been retained; no further work is necessary now, but if further work is carried out on this site these should be fully assessed by the appropriate specialist.

Iron Age remains from this region of Kent are extremely limited and no published reports are listed on the English Heritage Environmental Archaeology Bibliography (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/eab_eh_2004 – consulted 22 April 2008). As a result, archaeobotanical data of Late Iron Age date from this site is of regional importance and collection of Iron Age archaeobotanical data should be a research objective in any future excavation of this site or in the area.

Table 1: Results for the flot from sample 1, context (304), ditch (303) at King Ethelbert School, Birchington, Kent

Site Code	Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Purpose	Phase	Floated Volume (L.)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Bone	Charcoal	Mollusc	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential	Full Analysis CPR	Charcoal Potential	Full Analysis Charcoal
KS3ACK08	1	304	ditch 303	Charred plant remains	Late Iron Age	16 L	18 ml	-	-	-	-	-	++	++ ++	100% of flot scanned. Abundant modern root. A few small fragments of indeterminate cereal grain/ large grass (POACEAE) caryopses noted. Charcoal present - but primarily < 2mm. Molluscs abundant - all land snails and dominated by *Cecilioides acicula*. CPR assessed as POOR.	C	N	C	N

Table 2: Results for the heavy residue from sample 1, context (304), ditch (303), at King Ethelbert School, Birchington, Kent

Fractions sorted for:	Sample	context	> 10 mm	10-4 mm	4–2 mm	2-0.5 mm	Comments
charcoal	1	304	1				Tentatively identified of beech-type (cf. *Fagus sylvatica* L.) charcoal.
charred plant remains	1	304			3		2 indeterminate cereal grains and 1 indeterminate plant remain.
land snails	1	304		4			not identified
land snails	1	304			2		not identified
marine molluscs	1	304		16			fragments of ?mussel shell
pottery	1	304	2				2 coarseware body sherds. Smaller fragment with blackened internal face
pottery	1	304		8			coarseware body sherds - none >6 mm - a few are blackened.
worked flint	1	304	1				confirmed to be worked by David Mullin
worked flint	1	304		1			confirmed to be worked by David Mullin
flint debatage	1	304		15			some are confirmed to be worked by David Mullin - all 15 retained
burnt flint	1	304	8				confirmed to be burnt - by David Mullin
burnt flint	1	304		25			confirmed to be burnt - by David Mullin
Fractions retained for:	**Sample**	**context**	**> 10 mm**	**10 - 4 mm**	**4 - 2mm**	**2 - 0.5 mm**	
flint debatage/ snail/ CPR	1	304					entire fraction retained
flint debatage	1	304					entire fraction retained

APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: King Ethelbert School
Site code: KS3ACK08
Grid reference: TR 313 693
Type of evaluation: Five 20 m x 1.65 m mechanically excavated trenches.
Date and duration of project: The fieldwork was carried out between 7th and 11th April 2008.
Area of site: 5.4 hectares.
Summary of results: Between 7th and 11th April OA carried out a field evaluation at King Ethelbert School, Birchington, Kent (NGR TR 313 693) on behalf of William Verry Construction, as part of a programme of archaeological work in relation to the Kent Building Schools for the Future Programme. The evaluation consisted of five mechanically excavated trenches. Of these, only Trench 3 contained an archaeological feature. This was in the form of a single linear feature of probable mid-late Iron Age date.
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.

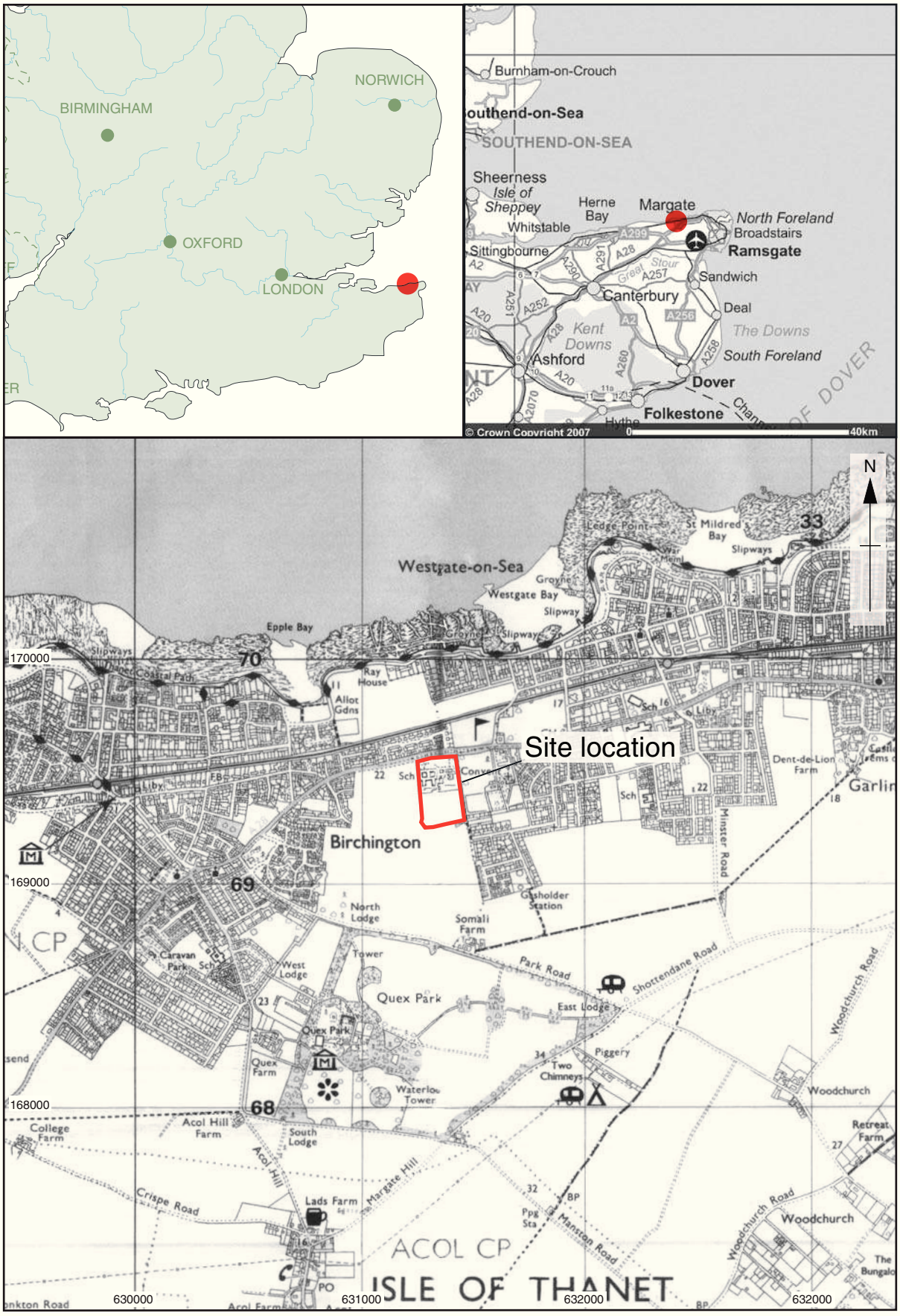

Figure 1: Site location

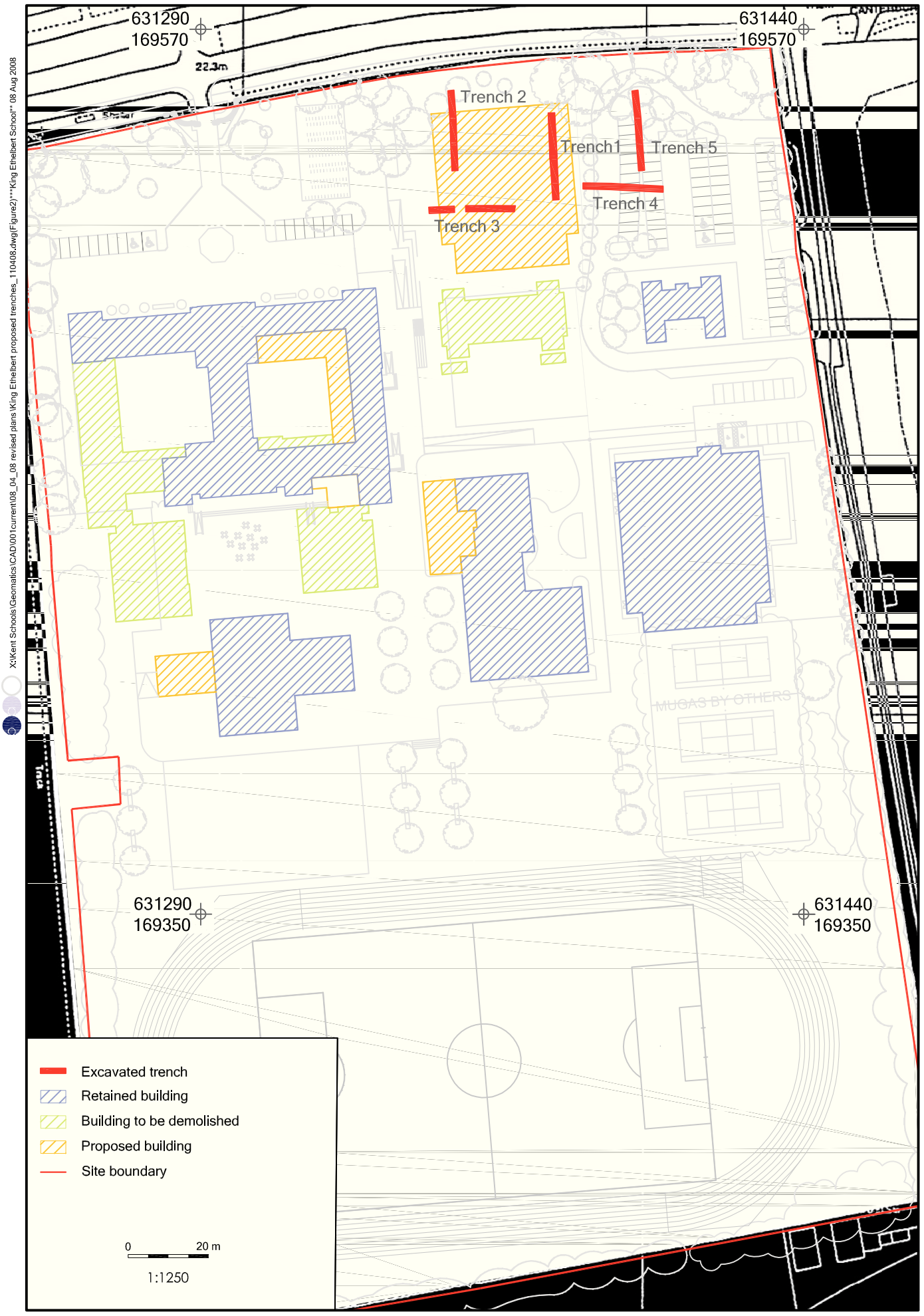

Figure 2:Excavated trench layout at King Ethelbert School

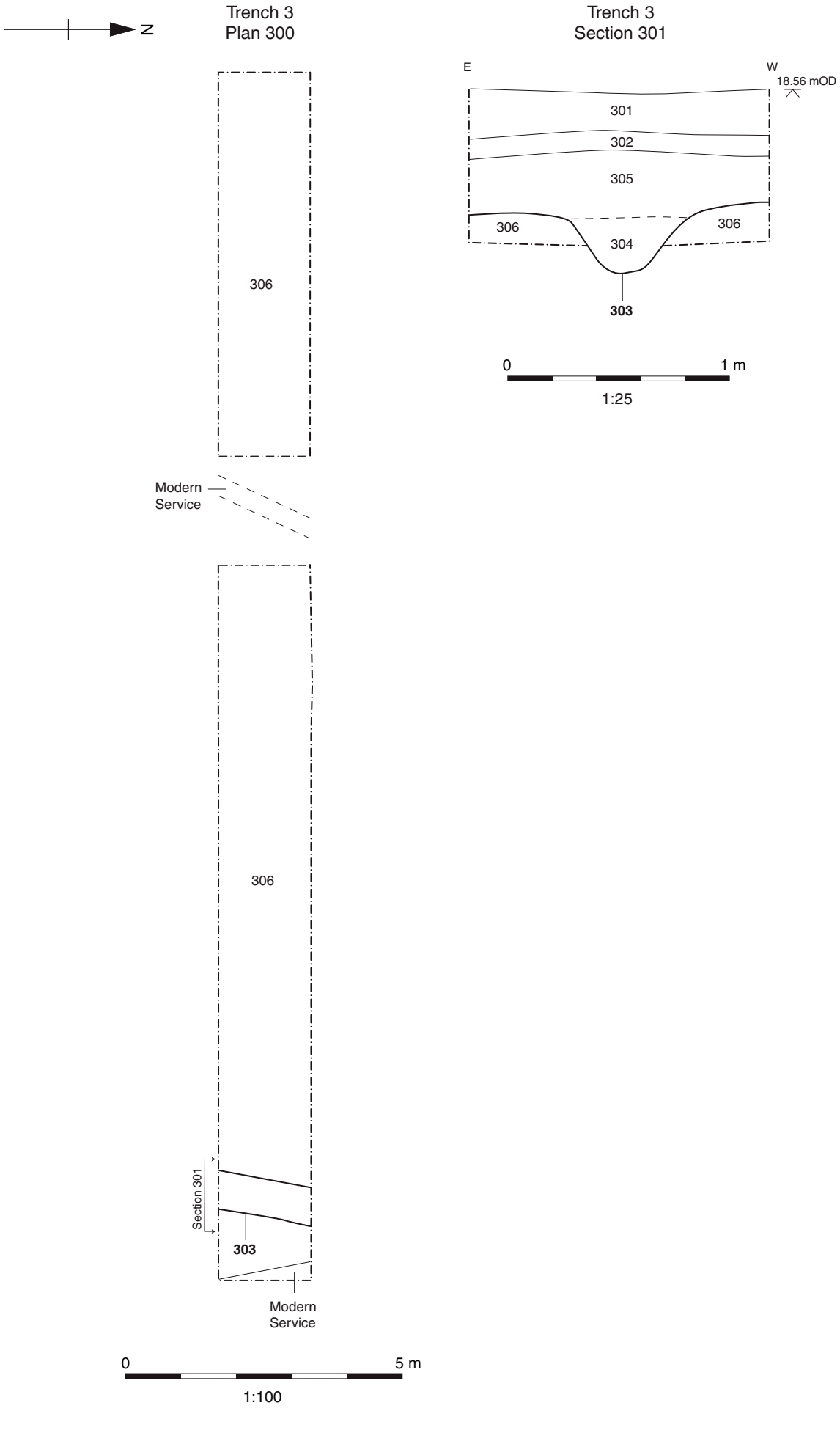

Figure 3 : Trench 3 plan and section

Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: oamed@oamed.fr
w: http://oamed.fr/

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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