

**Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Evaluation
at The Wyvern School, Ashford Road
Ashford, Kent TN23 4ER**

Planning Refs: AS/10/TEMP/0002 & AS/10/380

**NGR TQ 99052 42368
NGR 599052 142368**

**Project No: 4383
Site Code: WSA 10**

**ASE Report No: 2010136
OASIS ID: archaeol6-84009**



**Dylan Hopkinson MA
Illustrations by Fiona Griffin**

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds of Wyvern School, Ashford Road, Ashford. The work was carried out between 23rd and 26th August 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of their client KCC Property Group prior to a planning decision being made regarding plans to extend the school to form a new primary school wing; construct a Multi Agency Specialist Hub (MASH); a nursery and to create new access roads and car parking facilities. A total of 10 trenches measuring 25 metres in length were excavated in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site in order to inform the planning decision.

The site lies on the Weald Clay Formation, which is overlain in the western part of the site by 3rd Terrace River Gravel deposits and in the eastern part by alluvium indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 289. The river gravels have the potential for the survival of rare Palaeolithic remains while deposits of overlying alluvium could contain palaeoenvironmental remains. The school may also lie within the grounds of the 17th century Bucksford Manor, and the remains of the 18th century Buxford Mill House lies c.150 metres to the south.

In the east of the site a number of ditches thought to be field boundaries were identified cutting into the natural alluvium. In the western part of the site 1.7 to 2 metres of made ground consisting of mixed sand and gravels was encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) has been commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC) Property Group (hereafter referred to as the client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Wyvern School, Ashford Road, Ashford (NGR 599052 142368; Fig. 1) prior to a planning decision being made regarding plans to extend the school to form a new primary school wing; construct a Multi Agency Specialist Hub (MASH); a nursery and to create new access roads and car parking facilities.
- 1.1.2 Two areas of the site were evaluated; one to the east of the current school buildings and a second larger area to the west of these buildings on land that was evidently at a much higher level.
- 1.1.3 A total of ten evaluation trenches were excavated, three in the eastern area and seven in the western area.
- 1.1.4 A geo-archaeological evaluation was also undertaken generally with two deeper test-pits excavated at either end of each evaluation trench (Fig. 2).

1.2 Location and geology

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Survey Sheet 289, Canterbury) the site lies on the Weald Clay Formation, which is overlain in the western part of the site by 3rd Terrace River Gravel deposits and in the eastern part by alluvium.
- 1.2.2 The evaluation trenches and geo-archaeological test-pits encountered the River Terrace Gravels at a height of 38.30 – 38.80 mAOD in the eastern area and at approximately 39.00 mAOD in the western area; although only one test-pit encountered these gravels in the western area where a substantial dump of made ground was encountered; this generally placed the gravel strata below the depth of the test-pits which were generally around 2.00 to 2.50 metres deep.
- 1.2.3 The topography of the site was greatly influenced by this layer of made ground which had been deposited during the development of the current school and formed the extensive sports field to the west of the school (pers. comm. Jim Keefe, school caretaker).
- 1.2.4 The sports field was at a height of 41.64 - 42.27 mAOD; some 2.80 metres higher than the eastern area which lay at between 38.78 - 39.61 mAOD.

1.3 Planning background

- 1.3.1 A planning application (AS/10/TEMP/0002) was submitted to Kent County Council regarding plans to extend the existing Wyvern School to form a new primary school wing; construct a Multi Agency Specialist Hub (MASH); a nursery and to create new access roads and car parking facilities.
- 1.3.2 On the basis of present archaeological information regarding the significant potential of the site to preserve rare Palaeolithic remains and potential palaeoenvironmental remains, Wendy Rogers, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological and geoarchaeological work in advance of determination of this application in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site.
- 1.3.3 A specification for archaeological evaluation at The Wyvern School was developed by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group covering the archaeological and geo-archaeological elements of the evaluation (KCC 2010a; KCC 2010b; KCC 2010c)
- 1.3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with these documents and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1994 -2001).
- 1.3.5 A brief interim report was submitted to Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group in advance of the determination of the planning application.
- 1.3.6 The application has since been determined with ref AS/10/380 by the Planning Applications Committee on 7th September 2010.

1.4 Scope of the report

- 1.4.1 This report provides a detailed account of the archaeological and geo-archaeological evaluation. The work was undertaken between 23rd and 26th August 2010 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), Liane Peyre (Geo-Archaeologist), Cat Douglas (Assistant Archaeologist) and Rob Cole (Surveyor).
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and historical potential

- 2.1.1 An assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed development was made by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group in their Manual of specification and Specification for archaeological evaluation documents (KCC 2010a; KCC 2010b; KCC 2010c).
- 2.1.2 This potential was gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains as listed in the Historic Environment Record entries within 500m of the site boundaries and on the potential archaeological implications of the known geology. The results of this analysis are summarised below.
- 2.1.3 The application site lies on 3rd Terrace River Gravel deposits; these have the potential for survival of rare and sensitive Palaeolithic remains. The alluvial deposits which overly the gravel beds may also contain palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 2.1.4 The site also lies to the south of Bucksford Manor; a Listed Building dating to the 17th century or earlier, and it is possible that the school grounds may have previously formed part of its grounds (HER ref MKE22626; Fig. 1).
- 2.1.5 Buxford Mill House, dating to the 18th century, lies c.150m to the south of the proposed development (HER ref MKE22817; Fig. 1).
- 2.1.6 The site of a possible 19th century windmill also lies adjacent to Buxford Mill House (HER ref MKE8237; Fig. 1).
- 2.1.7 The Historic Environment Record also lists Watercress Farm approximately 400 metres to the east of the site. This was marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of c.1861 (HER ref MKE16641; Fig. 1).
- 2.1.8 Approximately 200 metres to the north of the site lies Leacon Cottages, listed as Grade II listed buildings dating to 1650 - 1799 AD (HER ref MKE21689; Fig. 1).
- 2.1.9 In the same vicinity of these cottages lies two pillboxes (HER refs MKE39577 and MKE39578; Fig. 1), and the London to Dover railway line completed in 1844 (HER ref MKE44253; Fig. 1).
- 2.1.10 Further information on the above is provided in the County Historic Environment Record Kent which is located with the Heritage Conservation Group, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the guidance documents provided by the Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (KCC 2010a; KCC 2010b; KCC 2010c) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA).
- 3.1.2 A total of ten evaluation trenches were excavated using a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket, each 25 metres long. These were recorded over four days by an archaeologist to assess the level of archaeological survival, and all the trenches were left open for at least two days to allow features to weather out.
- 3.1.3 After the archaeological evaluation trenches were opened and initial recording had been completed the geo-archaeological test-pits were excavated.
- 3.1.4 The geo-archaeological test-pits were located at each end of the evaluation trenches except where it was not appropriate due to observed archaeology or service runs.
- 3.1.5 The geo-archaeological test-pits each measured approximately 2.50 by 1.80 metres and were excavated to an average depth of 2.5 metres.
- 3.1.6 In the western area a deposit of made ground was encountered that was up to 1.70 metres thick; in most cases the surface of this was identified throughout the trench and the deeper stratigraphy was confirmed through the geo-archaeological test-pits. It would not have been safe to open the trench to below this deposit and any surviving archaeological deposits at this level would not have been affected by the development.
- 3.1.7 All archaeological deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection, except the geo-archaeological deposits which were recorded using a standard Munsell Soil Colour Chart.
- 3.1.8 Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale on plastic drafting film, and a full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.9 The trench and feature locations were recorded using GPS surveying equipment and all features were planned in relation to Ordnance Datum heights.

3.2 Aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to record assess with a greater degree of certainty the presence or absence of any significant archaeological deposits on the site that may be affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2.2 To assess the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- 3.2.3 To establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- 3.2.4 To assess how such remains might be affected by the development of the site and what options, if any, should be considered for mitigation.

3.3 Site archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Trench Record Sheets	10
Number of Context Sheets	24
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Drawing Sheets	1
No. of files/paper record	1
Bulk Sample Register Sheets	1
Bulk Environmental Sample Forms	3
Photographs	68

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Western Area - Trenches 1 to 7

- 4.1.1 The trenches in the western area of the site all revealed very similar results and can be discussed together.
- 4.1.2 The earliest deposits identified were the natural gravels [010; 003] and overlying alluvial clayey sands [011; 013; 015; 016; 017] identified at a maximum height of 40.68 mAOD (see 6.0 below).
- 4.1.3 Sealing these natural strata was a deposit of well mixed medium silty sand and angular flint gravels that ranged between 1.10 - 1.70 metres in depth [009]. This deposit was interpreted as made ground that had been deposited during the construction of the existing school buildings.
- 4.1.4 Overlying this dumped deposit was a layer of friable pale brownish orange sandy silt subsoil, which ranged between 0.08 - 0.41 metres in depth across the western area [014; 018]. Context 014 identified in trench 5 contained a single abraded sherd dating to mid 13th to mid 14th century; while context 018 identified in trench 4 contained a small sherd of abraded and oxidised cooking pot with a probable 15th century date. Given that the subsoil overlies made ground these finds are *ex-situ*.
- 4.1.5 The uppermost deposit in the sequence was a mid brownish grey silty clay layer of topsoil and turf that ranged between 0.20 - 0.44 metres in depth [001].
- 4.1.6 No archaeological features or *in situ* finds were identified in the western part of the site.

Number	Trench	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
001	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.20 - 0.44 m	42.27
003	2	Deposit	Natural Gravel	-	-	0.60 m	39.25
009	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	Deposit	Made Ground	-	-	1.1 - 1.70 m	42.08
010	7	Deposit	Natural Gravel	-	-	0.20 m	40.55
011	5	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.55 m	40.68
013	3,5,7	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.85 m	40.35
014	1,2,3,5,6,7	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	0.08 - 0.41 m	40.71
015	1,2,4	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.90 m	40.15
016	6	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.60 m	40.22
017	1,2,4	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.70 m	40.57
018	4	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	0.18 m	42.07

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in western area

4.2 Eastern Area - Trenches 8 to 10

- 4.2.1 The earliest deposits in the eastern area of the site where three trenches (8, 9 and 10) were excavated were natural strata of alluvial clays [004; 006; 011, 012], overlying these deposits was a layer of river gravels [003] and an upper layer of alluvium [002] (see 6.0 below).
- 4.2.2 The upper alluvial stratum was firm yellowy brown clayey silt [002]. This had zones of greenish grey and bluish grey within it. Upon initial exposure it appeared that there were no features cutting into this deposit; however the excavation of geo-archaeology test-pit D in trench 8 soon revealed a linear feature at the southern end of the trench. As a result Geoarchaeology test-pit D was moved and trenches 8, 9 and 10 were re-machined to the level where features became apparent. It was clear however from studying the sections that all these features were in fact cut from the upper surface of the alluvium [002] at around 38.60 mAOD. The features discussed in trenches 8, 9 and 10 below were all sealed by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil [001] that was up to 0.64 metres thick.

Trench 8

- 4.2.3 In trench 8, a linear cut was observed aligned northeast to southwest [007] was recorded (Fig. 3). This was 0.58 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.34 metres; however the full depth as seen in the section was 0.60 metres. Ditch [007] was 3.30 metres long but the feature could be seen to extend to the northeast into trench 9 where it was recorded as [019].
- 4.2.4 The ditch was filled with bluish grey clayey silt [008]; no finds were recovered.
- 4.3.5 No other features were observed in trench 8.

Trench 9

- 4.3.6 In trench 9 a linear feature [019] was observed cutting into the natural alluvium that shared the same alignment as [007] (Figs. 3 and 4). This ditch was observed cutting across the trench for a length of 1.73 metres and was 0.35 metres wide. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.30 metres but could be seen in section to be 0.50 metres deep.
- 4.3.7 Ditch [019] was filled with a single fill of compact light greyish green clayey silt [020]. No finds were recovered from the ditch fill and a soil sample taken revealed no significant information.
- 4.3.8 To the southeast a second linear cut feature was observed [021] (Fig. 4). This ditch was aligned northwest to southeast and measured 4.21 metres in length, was 0.40 metres wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.30 metres.
- 4.3.9 Ditch [021] was filled with a single deposit of light greyish green clayey silt [022]. No finds were recovered from the ditch fill and a soil sample taken revealed no significant information.
- 4.3.10 No further features were observed in trench 9.

Trench 10

4.3.11 In trench 10 a linear feature [023] was observed cutting into the natural alluvium (Fig. 5). This ditch was observed for a length of 3.76 metres and was 0.60 metres wide. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.22 metres but could be seen in section to be 0.57 metres deep in total.

4.3.12 Ditch [023] was filled with a single deposit of light bluish grey clayey silt [024]. No finds were recovered from the ditch fill and a soil sample taken revealed no significant information.

4.3.13 The feature was cut by two modern features a water service and a field drain. No further features were observed in trench 10.

4.3.14 Ditches [021] and [023] in trenches 9 and 10 shared the same northwest to southeast alignment.

Number	Trench	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m.AOD
001	8,9,10	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.38 - 0.64 m	39.31
002	8,9,10	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.50 - 1.05 m	39.11
003	8,9,10	Deposit	River Gravels	-	-	0.69 m	38.51
004	8,9,10	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.70 m	37.81
005	9	Deposit	Flinty grit	-	-	0.10 m	36.98
006	8,9	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.20 m	37.01
007	8	Cut	Ditch cut	3.30 m	0.58 m	0.60 m	38.60
008	8	Fill	Ditch fill	3.30 m	0.58 m	0.60 m	38.60
011	8,10	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.60 m	38.24
012	8	Deposit	alluvium	-	-	0.71 m	37.40
019	9	Cut	Ditch cut	1.73 m	0.35 m	0.50 m	38.60
020	9	Fill	Ditch fill	1.73 m	0.35 m	0.50 m	38.60
021	9	Cut	Ditch cut	4.21 m	0.40 m	0.30 m	38.48
022	9	Fill	Ditch fill	4.21 m	0.40 m	0.30 m	38.48
023	10	Fill	Ditch fill	3.76 m	0.60 m	0.57 m	38.53
024	10	Cut	Ditch cut	3.76 m	0.60 m	0.57 m	38.53

Table 3: List of recorded contexts in eastern area

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Wyvern School, Ashford. The finds are quantified in Table 4 below

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt(g)	F Clay	wt (g)
001/014			1	20				
002/014	1	42					1	12
004/018	1	<2	5	52				
005/014	1	4	3	38				
T4 u/s	1	2	4		1	<2		
Total	3	48	13	110	1	0	1	12

Table 4: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered three sherds of pottery. The earliest sherd consists of a tiny heavily abraded oxidised cooking pot bodysherd tempered with coarse sand (context [4/018]) A 13th- century date is probable. Another medieval sherd was recovered from [5/014]. This example is tempered with fine/medium sand and also shows notable abrasion, though not as extensive as the earlier sherd. A mid 13th- to mid 14th- century date is considered likely for the piece.

5.2.2 The final sherd was recovered from [2/014] and consists of part of a Sunderland-type slipware bowl of 19th- century date.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered. The assemblage is predominantly comprised of peg tile in a pale orange fabric with abundant calcareous speckling and sparse coarse voids of 17th to 19th century date. Peg tile was recovered from contexts [001/014] (1/20g), [004/018] (5/52g), [005/014] (2/36g) and unstratified from trench 4 (2/4g). A single undated brick fragment in an orange sandy fabric with moderate medium sized quartz inclusions were also recovered from context [005/014] (1/2g).

5.4 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 A single piece of fired clay was recovered from context [002/014]. The fabric is poorly mixed mid orange with buff streaks, well fired, fine sand tempered and sparse iron rich inclusions to <1mm. The fragment shows no diagnostic features and therefore is not inherently datable. There is no potential for further work.

5.5 Environmental Samples by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.5.1 Three samples were taken during evaluation work at the site to recover environmental remains such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. Two 10 litre samples were taken from field boundary ditches [019] and [021] and a third 40 litre sample was taken from a ditch fill [024]. Samples were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 5). Flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 6).
- 5.5.2 Flots are dominated by uncharred vegetation including small modern fine roots and infrequent uncharred seeds such as knotgrass/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) and seeds from the pink (Caryophyllaceae) family. The archaeobotanical remains are largely restricted to small fragments of wood charcoal evident in each sample and with the exception of one poorly preserved possible cereal grain as well as an indeterminate charred plant remain in the residues from sample <12> no other classes of biological materials are present. The flots and residues produced no artefact remains. The charcoal assemblages are too limited to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use or the vegetation environment or to provide material suitable for dating. The macrobotanical remains have no potential to provide detailed information regarding the infilling of the linear features or the agriculture or past vegetation environment.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)
12	20	Ditch fill	10	10			*	<2	*	<2
13	22	Ditch fill	10	10			*	<2		
14	24	Ditch fill	40	40	*	<2	**	<2		

Table 5: Residue Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Insects, Fly Pupae etc min
12	20	2	40	96	4				*	
13	22	<2	6	99	1				*	
14	24	4	75	89	10	* <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Caryophyllaceae indet.			*	* Fly puparia

Table 6: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

5.6 Wet sieving by Karine Le Hégarat

5.6.1 Two samples were taken from River gravels deposits [E/003] and [F/010] during archaeological work at Wyvern School Ashford to establish evidence for artefactual remains. Samples <7> and <9> were wet sieved using a 500µm mesh and the remaining fraction was sorted for artefacts. No artefacts were recovered from these samples.

6.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY by Liane Peyre

6.1 Methodology

- 6.1.1 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated at each end of each trial trench, in accordance with the methodology set out in Kent County Council Appendix 3: Methodology for palaeolithic and geoarchaeological investigation (KCC 2010c).
- 6.1.2 The test pits were excavated to a depth of 2.0m or the depth of impact of the proposed ground works, whichever was greater, and were generally 2.5m by 1.80m in plan. If modern services or field drains were located at the end of the evaluation trench, the test pits were moved accordingly or shortened. Test pits were only abandoned if services were encountered. Unless it could be demonstrated that made ground lay immediately over pre Quaternary geology trial pits were taken to full depth.
- 6.1.3 Within each trial pit, the sediment was removed by machine in spits up to 250mm thick and following the interfaces between sedimentary units wherever possible. Each spit and sedimentary unit was numbered separately. Samples from each Pleistocene sedimentary unit were, where possible, visually inspected and sieved to retrieve artefacts and coarse ecofacts. Where sedimentary units are divided into spits, samples were retrieved if appropriate.
- 6.1.4 Pleistocene sediments were recorded in the following manner: Beneath the modern horizons, the sediments were logged at 0.25m intervals or at the junction of major stratigraphic or lithological boundaries. The descriptions comprised matrix lithology, coarse components, sediment cohesion as well as characterisation of superficial structures and likelihood of decalcification. Given the presence of depositional contexts likely to preserve either artefactual or macrofaunal material at depths which are below the possibility of direct in-situ inspection, the arisings were placed in stratigraphical order to enable description and recording. Spoil was visually inspected for evidence of cultural material or organic rich deposits.
- 6.1.5 Sediment chromas and hues were recorded using a standard Munsell Soil Colour Chart. Section photography was undertaken of at least one section in every test pit and when appropriate, a plan photograph of depositional changes.
- 6.1.6 Where deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered (buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting horizons, alluvium and river gravels) soil samples were taken for environmental analysis.

6.2 Results

6.2.1 Test pits were lettered A – R (Fig. 2) and are discussed here in two groups; the area to the east of the current school buildings and the western area, which lies on higher land. The following observations were recorded:

East area test-pits A - E

Depth (m)	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	alluvium (002)	Gley 1 8/1 with 40% 10YR 5/8	Silty Clay	Occ' to freq clusters of Fe pan	Blocky, dry, medium, compact with variable fe pan. post deposition gleying. Archaeological features within this layer
1.1	River Gravels (003)	10YR 4/6 with 30% Gley 2 8/1	Gravels	Sub angular & sub rounded flint nodules, moderately sorted, frequent Fe pan	Very moist, clayey matrix, malleable
1.5	alluvium (004)	Gley 2 6/1	Sandy Clay	Flint grits 10%	Possible organic preservation, medium, moist, plastic clay
2.1	Flint grit	-	Iron pan / flint grit		Thin seam
2.2 – 2.3	alluvium (006)	7.5YT 5/8	Clay Sand	-	Homogenous, slightly plastic, waterlogged

Table 7: Test-pit A (Trench 9)

Depth (m)	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	alluvium (002)	Gley 1 8/1 with 40% 10YR 5/8	Silty Clay	Occ to freq clusters of Fe pan	Blocky, dry, compact. Alluvial clay with post deposition gleying. Archaeological features within this layer
1.25-1.5	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay	-	Maleable, medium, moist
1.5 – 2.1m	alluvium (004)	Gley 2 6/1	Sandy Clay	Flint grits 10%	medium, moist, plastic clay

Table 8: Test-pit B (Trench 10)

Depth (m)	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	alluvium (002)	Gley 1 8/1 with 40% 10YR 5/8	Silty Clay	Occ to freq clusters of Fe pan	Blocky, dry, medium, compact with variable fe pan. Alluvial clay with post deposition gleying. Archaeological features within this layer
8.0	River Gravels (003)	10YR 4/6 with 30% Gley 2 8/1	Gravels	70% Sub angular & sub rounded flint nodules 10 – 50mm, moderately sorted, frequent Fe pan	Very moist, clayey matrix, malleable
1.1	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay	-	Maleable, medium, moist
1.5 - 2.2	alluvium (004)	Gley 2 6/1	Clay Sand	Flint grits 10%	Mmoist, plastic clay

Table 9: Test-pit C (Trench 10)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	alluvium (002)	Gley 1 8/1 with 40% 10YR 5/8	Silty Clay	Occ to freq clusters of Fe pan	Blocky, dry, medium, compact with variable fe pan. Alluvial clay with post deposition gleying. Archaeological features within this layer
1.10	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay	-	Maleable, medium, moist
1.7	alluvium (004)	Gley 2 6/1	Sandy Clay	Flint grits 10%	Moist, plastic clay
2.0 – 2.2	alluvium (006)	7.5YT 5/8	Clay Sand	-	Homogenous, slightly plastic,

Table 10: Test-pit D (Trench 8)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	alluvium (002)	Gley 1 8/1 with 40% 10YR 5/8	Silty Clay	Occ to freq clusters of Fe pan	Blocky, dry, medium, compact with variable fe pan. Alluvial clay with post deposition gleying. Archaeological features within this layer
0.7	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay	-	Maleable, medium, moist
0.85	River Gravels (003)	10YR 4/6 with 30% Gley 2 8/1	Gravels	70% Sub angular & sub rounded flint nodules 10 – 50mm, moderately sorted, frequent Fe pan	Very moist, clayey matrix, malleable
1.54-2.25	alluvium (012)	10YR 4/3	Sandy Clay	Seams of compact Fe pan 10mm	Clay lenses, slightly plastic, coarse granular sand

Table 11: Test-pit E (Trench 8)

Western area test-pits F - R

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed playing fields
0.2	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, 1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.6	alluvium with Gravels (010)	7.5 YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	Sub rounded and sub angular flint nodules 20 – 70mm, flint grits	Larger, more conformed flint nodules in clay matrix, no Fe pan, hue changes to Gley 1 4/1 before interface with (013)
1.8 – 2.4	alluvium (013)	10YR 5/6	Silty Clay		Mid brown yellow alluvium with green – grey smears, quite compact and plastic

Table 12: Test-pit F (Trench 7)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	40% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits,	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact.
1.75	alluvium with Gravels (010)	7.5 YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	Sub rounded and sub angular flint nodules 20 – 70mm, flint grits	Larger, more conformed flint nodules in clay matrix, Fe pan
2.2	Gleyed alluvium (017)	Gley 1 6/1 with 40% 7.5YR 5/8 50/50%	Clay Sand	Occasional sub round flint c. 40mm, occasional Fe pan	Alluvial clay sand deposits with ochre laminations and leached mineral deposits. Similar to (002)
2.35 – 2.6	alluvium (013)	10YR 5/6	Silty Clay		Mid brown yellow alluvium, quite compact and plastic

Table 13: Test-pit G (Trench 7)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.2	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, Fe pan, ,1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.4+	Victorian Drain				Work ceased due to land drain

Table 14: Test-pit H (Trench 6)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.4	alluvium with Gravels (016)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub rounded flint nodules, 1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.7 - 2.3	alluvium (016)	7.5YR 5/6	Clay Sand	Fine, moderate rounded black flint grits,	Similar to (006) but sandier

Table 15: Test-pit I (Trench 6)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.3	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	40% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, Fe pan, , 1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact Field Drain located to base of the deposit but avoided
2.1 - 2.3m	alluvium (013)	10YR 5/6	Silty Clay		Mid brown yellow alluvium, quite compact and plastic

Table 16: Test-pit J (Trench 3)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.4	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, Fe pan, ,1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down. Poorly sorted. Dark green stained clay seam on boundary to (015)
1.7	alluvium (015)	80% 7.5YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	20% inclusions of fine laminae of greenish grey and yellow brown silts	alluvium with fine sequential silty deposits visible overlying river gravels
2.6	River Terrace Gravels (003)	7.5 YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	Sub rounded and sub angular flint nodules 10 – 100mm, flint grits	Larger, poorly sorted flint nodules in clay matrix, bo Fe pan. Diffuse boundary onto (013)
3.2	Weald Clay	10YR 5/6	Clay		Mid brown yellow alluvium, quite compact and plastic

Table 17: Test-pit K (Trench 2)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.3	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grit.	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.8 - 2.3	Gleyed alluvium (017)	Gley 1 6/1 with 40% 7.5YR 5/8 50/50%	Clay Sand	Occasional sub round flint c. 40mm, occasional Fe pan	Alluvial clay sand deposits with ochre laminations and leached mineral deposits. Similar to (002)

Table 18: Test-pit L (Trench 2)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.4	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits,	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.3	alluvium with Gravels (016)	10YR 5/6	Silty Clay	Fe pan	Strong, compact seam of Fe pan
1.7 - 2.4	alluvium (015)	80% 7.5YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	20% inclusions of fine laminae of greenish grey and yellow brown silts	alluvium with fine sequential silty deposits visible

Table 19: Test-pit M (Trench 1)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.3	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, Fe pan, ,1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.4	alluvium (017) and Gravels	Gley 1 6/1 with 40% 7.5YR 5/8 50/50%	Clay Sand	Occasional sub round flint c. 40mm, occasional Fe pan	Alluvial clay sand deposits with ochre laminations and leached mineral deposits.
1.7 – 2.9	alluvium (015)	80% 7.5YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	20% inclusions of fine laminae of greenish grey and yellow brown silts	alluvium with fine sequential silty deposits visible

Table 20: Test-pit N (Trench 1)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.3	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, Fe pan, ,1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
1.7	Gleyed alluvium (017)	Gley 1 6/1 with 40% 7.5YR 5/8 50/50%	Clay Sand	Occasional sub round flint c. 40mm, occasional Fe pan	Alluvial clay sand deposits with ochreous laminations and leached mineral deposits.
2.4 – 3.3	alluvium (015)	80% 7.5YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	20% inclusions of fine laminae of greenish grey and yellow brown silts	alluvium with fine sequential silty deposits visible

Table 21: Test-pit O (Trench 4)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.38	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grit.	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact.
2.2 – 2.5	alluvium (015)	80% 7.5YR 4/6	Sandy Clay	20% inclusions of fine laminae of greenish grey and yellow brown silts	alluvium with fine sequential silty deposits visible

Table 22: Test-pit P (Trench 4)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.25	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grit.	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact.
1.65	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay	Intermittent layers of flint gravel	Maleable, medium, moist with flint gravel layers
2.2 – 2.5	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay		Maleable, medium, moist

Table 23: Test-pit Q (Trench 5)

Depth	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0.0	Topsoil (001)	10YR 4/3	Silty Clay	Occasional flint fragments, fine rooting	Grassed lawn
0.3	Made Ground (009)	7.5YR 4/6	Silty Sand	30% angular, sub round and sub platy flint nodules, flint grits, , ,1% ironstone fragments	Occasional clay lenses, very dry and friable, compact appears packed down.
2.0	alluvium (011)	7.5YR 5/8	Sandy Clay		Maleable, medium, moist
2.4 – 2.7	alluvium (013)	10YR 5/6	Silty Clay		Mid brown yellow alluvium, quite compact and plastic

Table 24: Test-pit R (Trench 5)

6.3 Geoarchaeological Discussion

6.3.1 The Eastern Area

6.3.2 Five out of six test pits were completed on the east side of the school, one test pit was abandoned due to a drainage run.

6.3.3 The stratigraphy of these test pits were largely cohesive, with a silty topsoil [001] approximately 200mm thick overlying blocky, dry alluvial deposits [002] which varied in colour and displayed qualities consistent with post depositional gleying under waterlogged anaerobic conditions (this was supported by on site school staff who confirmed the area was prone to flooding). Within deposit [002], a series of linear ditches were identified marking potential field boundaries. The nature of the fill of these ditches was very similar if not identical to the leached deposits within [002]. This deposit varied between 0.6 – 1.1m in depth (Fig. 6: TP A).

6.3.4 Underlying the most recent alluvium deposit [002] was either River Terrace Gravels [003] in test pits A and C or mid yellow brown malleable alluvial clay [011] in test pits B, D and E. In test pit E, river terrace gravels were then located beneath [011].

6.3.5 River terrace gravels are positively identified in this area (Fig. 6: TP C) between 0.8 – 1.1m below ground level (38.80m AOD – 38.30m AOD) underlying more recent alluvial deposits which have archaeological features cut into them. Beneath the gravels are a series of alluvial deposits which have the potential to retain organic material.

- 6.3.6 Strong grey blue alluvial clay [004] was recorded at a depth between 1.25 – 1.7m within test pits A – D but was not located in test pit E. Test pits A, D and E terminated at a depth of 2.0 – 2.2m within mid yellow brown alluvium [006] or [012].
- 6.3.7 **The Western Area**
- 6.3.8 Thirteen test pits were excavated in the west side of the school; one pit could not be completed due to the presence of a drain.
- 6.3.9 The topsoil [001] was consistent with that on the east side and made up the surface for the school playing field. Beneath a deposit of mixed medium silty sand and angular flint gravels [009] interpreted as made ground was encountered, this was probably built up during levelling of the field as part of the construction of the current school buildings (Fig. 6: TP K). The thickness of the made ground varied from 1.1 - 1.70 m across the whole of the west area. In test pits J and H, Victorian field drains (S. Porteus pers. comm.) were located at the base of this fill.
- 6.3.10 Context [009] was directly overlying and/ or cut into alluvial deposits (Fig. 6: TP R) which consisted of either a strong yellow brown sandy clay [013] and [016], a leached alluvium [017] with ochre sand inclusions or a mid yellow sand with fine silty grey laminae [015]. Clear River Terrace Gravels of Pleistocene age were only encountered in Test Pit K (Fig. 6: TP K) at a depth of 2.6 – 3.2m (approximately 39m AOD) beneath [015] and above [013]. This depth coincides with the gravels encountered on the east side of the school.
- 6.3.11 There is a clear discordance between these observations and those logged as part of an earlier geotechnical assessment of the site (Evans and Longford 2009). The discordance rests on comparison of the Test Pit O in the vicinity of WS1 (Fig. 2) and a lack of direct equivalence between the recorded depths of made ground between both records. This may be due to real localised variation in the depth of fill or it might arise due to difficulties in determining the junction between a gravel-rich full deposits and underlying gravel seams within the alluvium. Similarly the record made at WS1 for terrace gravels at depths of less than 0.6m were not replicated in the course of the current geoarchaeological work. Two possibilities explain this: that the surface of the gravels varies greatly, perhaps due to an earlier phase of gravel extraction or that deposits recorded in the geotechnical study as terrace gravels were in fact gravel seams or gravel-rich layers within the alluvial deposits.

6.4 Geoarchaeological Conclusions

- 6.4.1 The geoarchaeological test pitting confirms the presence of a series of alluvial deposits in both the eastern and western areas of the school grounds. River gravels encountered in test pits A, C, E and K all share a similar elevation in mAOD and the deposits are entirely consistent with Pleistocene fluvial gravel. Despite the potential for Pleistocene artefacts and ecofacts, none were encountered in the course of this investigation. The area to the west of the school has undergone a phase of remodelling where the level of ground has been increased to create sports fields. This fill reaches depths of up to 2.0m below ground level, with river terrace deposits not being encountered until at least 2.6m and only at one location (Test-pit K). Further detailed modelling of both geotechnical and geoarchaeological observations in the area is suggested as a necessary prerequisite for fully determining the likely degree of impact on terrace deposits through this development.
- 6.4.2 The results of the archaeological evaluation showed that there exists the potential for archaeological features to be preserved within the upper alluvial deposits directly beneath the topsoil on the eastern side, these deposits have already been disturbed or removed on the western side. River gravels are still preserved on the western side of the school beneath the made ground and alluvium although their distribution is patchy, discontinuous and hard to predict without further modelling of results.
- 6.4.3 Going forward, work should be directed towards understanding more fully the controls over terrace formation, its age and post-depositional history at the site. Desk top modelling of geology across the site will provide a guide, in combination with a foundation plan, of the precise areas where development are likely to impact upon the surviving fluvial terrace gravels. These can then be possibly targeted through a further phase of field work aimed at a purposive, targeted characterisation exercise for the deposits including palaeoenvironmental sampling and dating, possibly using OSL.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1** The evaluation strategy was successful in characterising the nature and extent of the archaeological and geoarchaeological remains around the school within the impact zone of the proposed development.
- 7.2** The geoarchaeological test pitting confirmed the presence of alluvial deposits in both the eastern and western areas of the site, and that there exists the potential for archaeological features to be preserved within the upper alluvial deposits on the eastern side of the school. The test-pits also suggest that these deposits may have already been disturbed or removed on the western side.
- 7.3** The area to the west of the school has undergone a phase of remodelling where the level of ground has been increased to create sports fields. This deposit effectively buried the river terrace deposits, which could only be positively identified in the deepest test-pit in this area.
- 7.4** Although river terrace gravels were observed across the whole site, no Palaeolithic remains were recovered within this stratum. However, further detailed modelling of both geotechnical and geoarchaeological observations and subsequent comparison with the detailed proposed development foundation design may determine the likely degree of impact that the proposed development will have on the river terrace deposits and thus on potential Palaeolithic remains.
- 7.5** A number of ditches were identified in the area to the east of the school. These are most likely to be field boundary ditches. No artefacts were recovered from these features so it is not possible to date them, and the charcoal assemblages are too limited to provide material suitable for dating.
- 7.6** One of the ditches [007] / [019] was observed to extend between trenches 8 and 9 over a distance of 30.47 metres but could not be traced on the same northeast to southwest alignment into trench 10.
- 7.7** The remaining two ditches in trenches 9 and 10 ([021; 023]) shared identical northwest to southeast alignments and were 20.15 metres apart.
- 7.8** It was not possible to show any significant relationship between these two alignments or to relate the ditches to historical mapping or existing land units, however they do roughly respect the present course of The Great Stour in that they are either roughly parallel or perpendicular to it.
- 7.9** Geoarchaeological test-pits to the west of the school suggest that the uppermost alluvial deposit overlying the river terrace gravels may have been disturbed or removed during the remodelling of the sports field. Any archaeological features would therefore probably have been destroyed.
- 7.10** In short, there is good potential for archaeological survival particularly to the east of the school in the area of trenches 8 – 10 where several ditches of possible antiquity were excavated. It is the recommendation of this report

therefore that:

- Further desktop work should be undertaken to model and compare deposit survival against the proposed development foundation design in order to ascertain any potential impact on the river terrace gravels which may contain Palaeolithic remains.
- Any ground reduction which will impact upon the upper alluvial layer in which features have been identified should be conducted under archaeological direction in order that the date, nature and extent of archaeological activity may be ascertained and that the stripped area should be left open and not tracked-over etc for a suitable period of time in order that features may 'weather-out'.

Bibliography

KCC 2010a - *Manual of specifications Part A - Site specific requirements - Specification for geoarchaeological evaluation at The Wyvern School, Great Chart Bypass, Ashford.*

KCC 2010b - *Manual of specifications Part B - Evaluation – Trial trenching requirements.*

KCC 2010c - *Specification for archaeological evaluation at The Wyvern School, Great Chart Bypass, Ashford - Appendix 3 Geoarch.*

IFA 1994 (Rev. 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching briefs*

IFA 1995, Revised 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

IFA 1999, *Code of Conduct*

IFA 1999 *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

IFA 2001 *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank KCC Property Group for commissioning the project and Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group for their guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	WSA 10					
Identification Name and Address	Wyvern School Great Chart Bypass Ashford TN23 4ER					
County, District &/or Borough	Ashford					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 599052 142368					
Geology	<i>Weald Clay Formation, overlain in the western part of the site by 3rd Terrace River Gravel deposits and in the eastern part by alluvium</i>					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4383					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching brief.	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 23/08/10 - 26/08/10	Excav.	W.B.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	KCC Property Group					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>The site lies on either side of the existing Wyvern School buildings. The western area lies on much higher ground. In the eastern area of the site a number of ditches were identified cutting into the natural alluvium and are thought to be field boundaries, no dating evidence was identified from within these ditches. The western extent of the site had been buried under a 1.7 to 2 metre deep dump of made ground consisting of mixed sand and gravels.</i></p> <p><i>A geoarchaeological survey as part of this work identified the presence of river terrace gravels over the whole site but did not identify any evidence of archaeological remains within these gravels.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-84009

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Wyvern School, Ashford Road, Ashford TN23 4ER
Short description of the project	The site lies on either side of the existing Wyvern School buildings. The western area lies on much higher ground. In the eastern area of the site a number of ditches were identified cutting into the natural alluvium and are thought to be field boundaries, no dating evidence was identified from within these ditches. The western extent of the site had been buried under a 1.7 to 2 metre deep dump of made ground consisting of mixed sand and gravels. A geoarchaeological survey as part of this work identified the presence of river terrace gravels over the whole site but did not identify any evidence of archaeological remains within these gravels.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2010 End: 26-08-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WSA 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	AS/10/TEMP/0002 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS/10/380 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Site status (other)	Area of potential due to river terrace gravels and alluvium
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey','Photographic Survey','Sample Trenches','Test Pits','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Development type	School Extension
Prompt	Planning condition
Prompt	Pre-determination of planning consent
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON Wyvern School, Ashford
Postcode	TN23 4ER
Study area	1.55 Hectares
Site coordinates	0 0 599052 00 00 N 142368 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.32m Max: 40.68m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Kent County Council Property Group

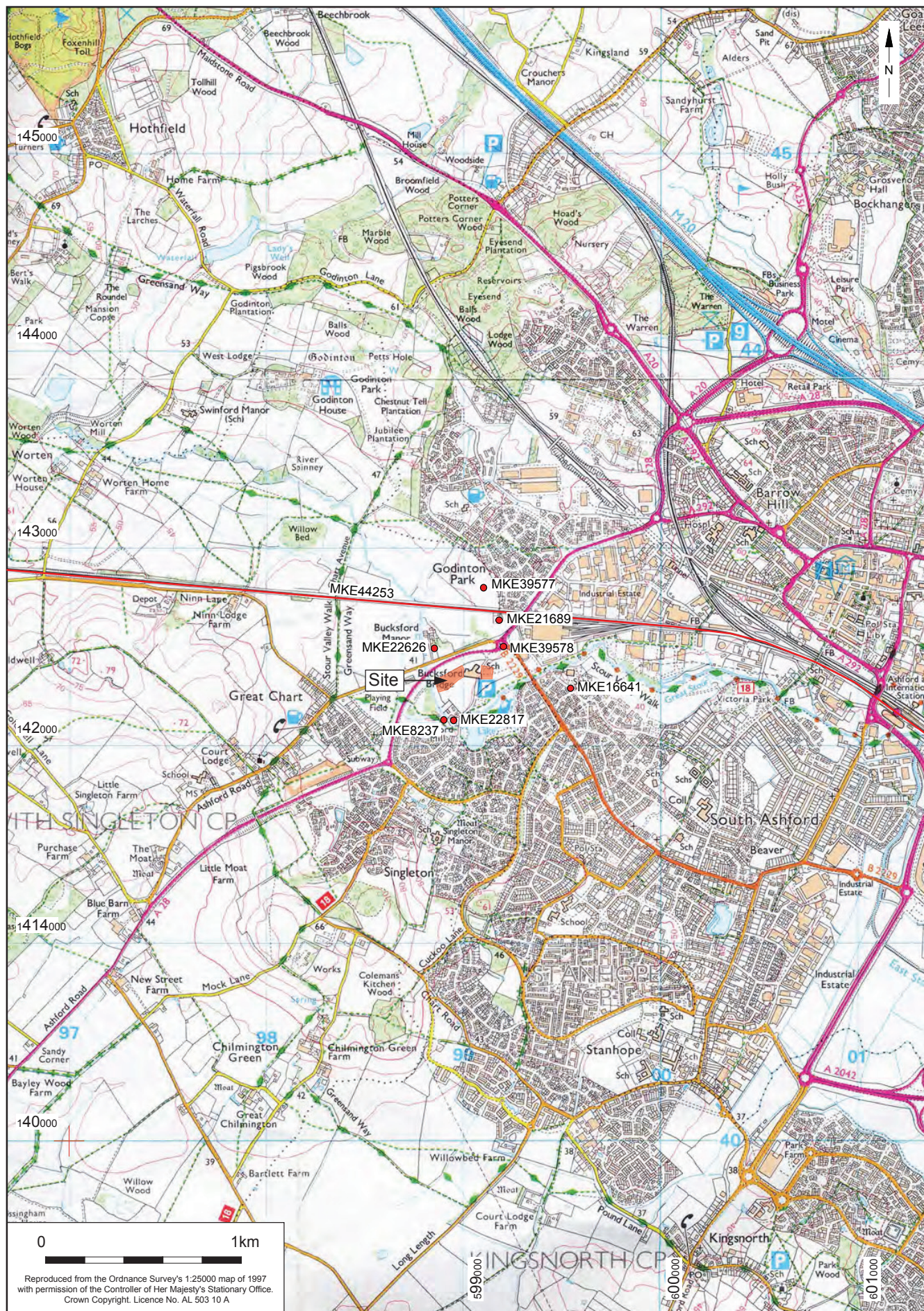
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Wyvern School, Ashford Road, Ashford TN23 4ER
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hopkinson, D.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2010136
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, Brighton
Description	A4 bound report 36 pages of text and 6 illustrations.

Entered by	Dylan Hopkinson (dylan.hopkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	7 October 2010



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Project Ref: 4383

Report Ref: 2010136

September 2010

Drawn by: DJH

Wyvern School, Ashford

Site location and HER data

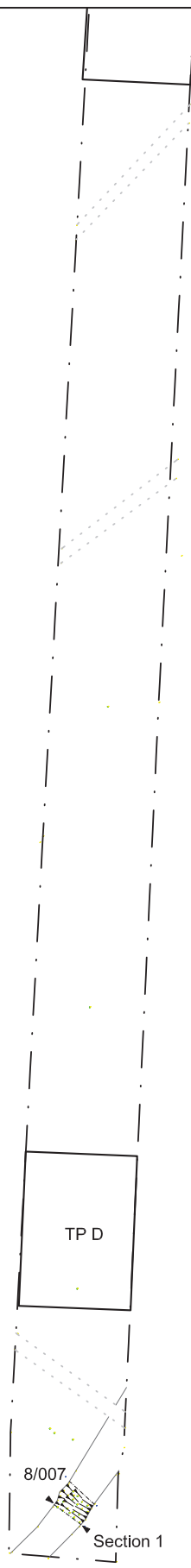
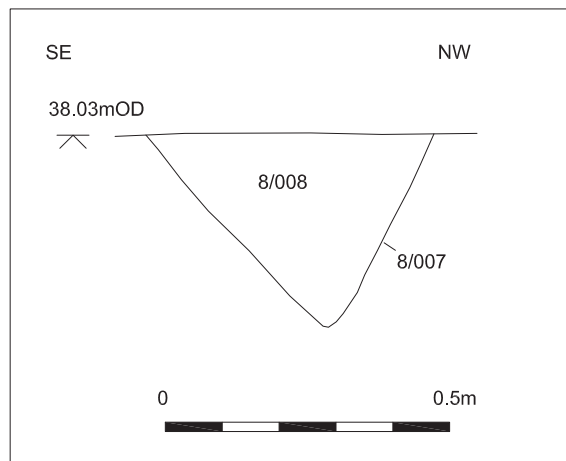
Fig. 1



Photo of 8/007 looking south west



Section 1



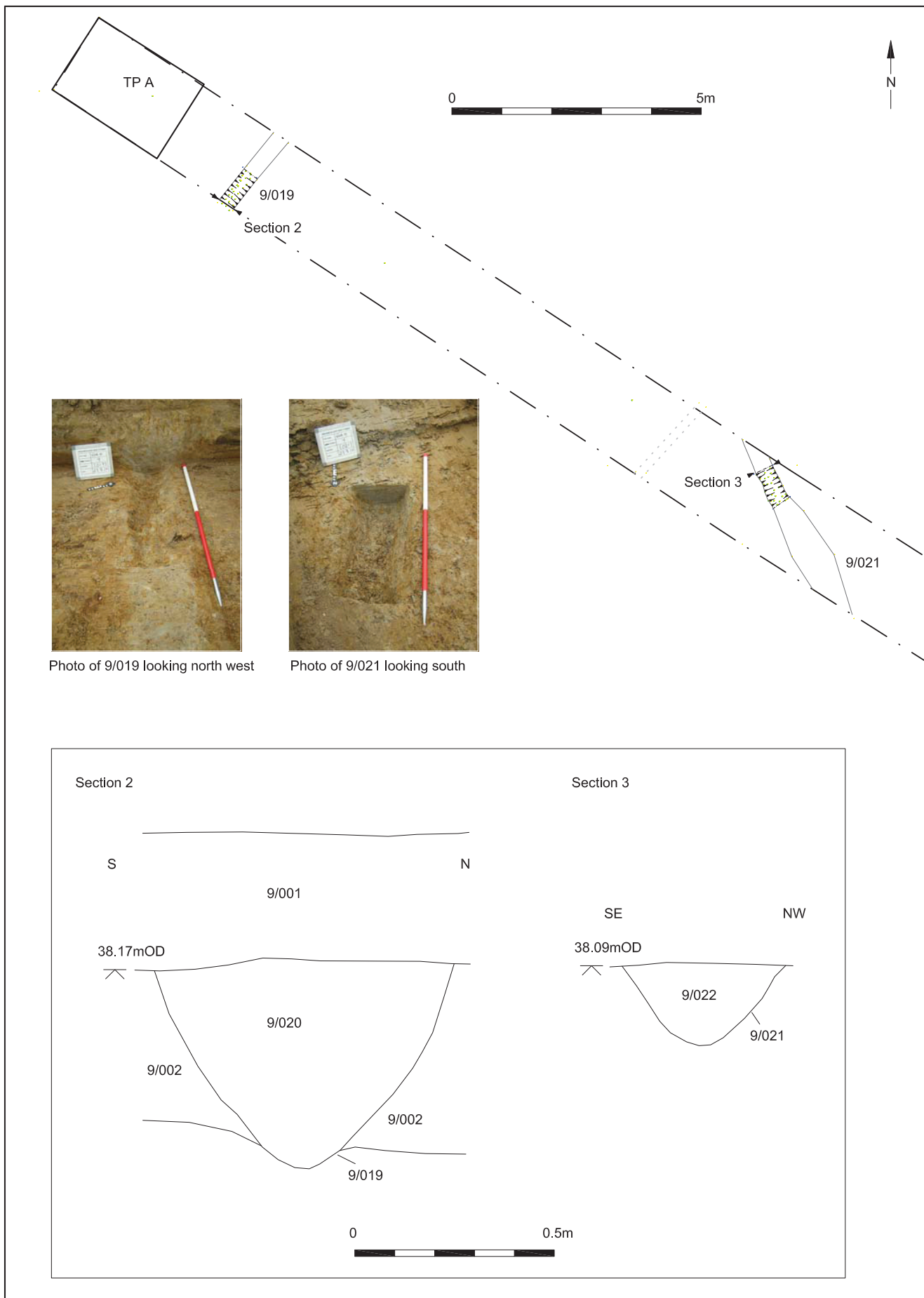


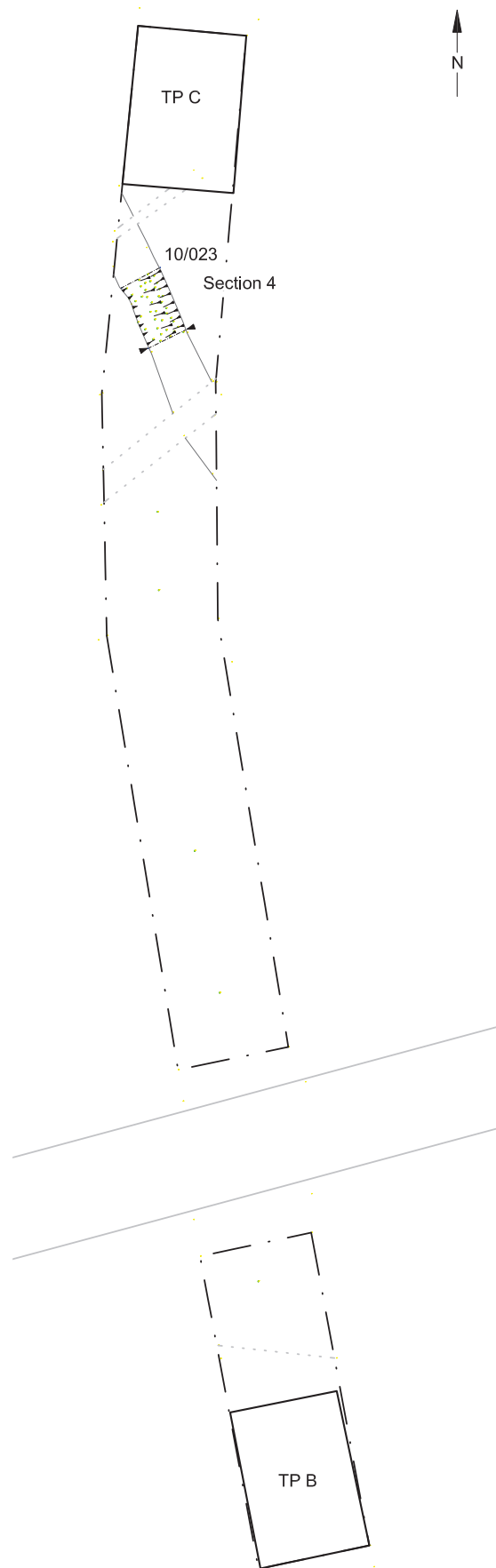
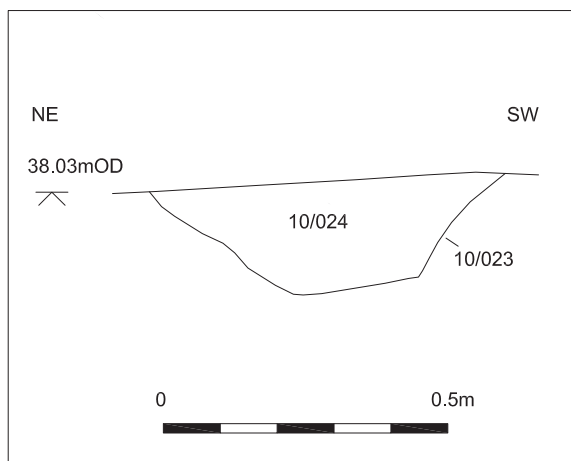
Photo of 10/023 looking south



Photo of 10/023 looking south east



Section 4





Section of TP A showing (002) and (004) alluvial deposits



TP C: Section showing river gravels



TP K: Section showing (009) made ground over alluvium and river gravels



TP R: Section showing alluvial deposits beneath (009) make up- above gravels

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