

**An Archaeological Evaluation
on Land at Maison Maurice,
Butlers Yard,
181-185 Broadway
Bexleyheath
London Borough of Bexley**

NGR: 548850 175240

Planning Ref: 15/01007/FULM

**ASE Project No: 8570
Site Code: BTL 16**

**ASE Report No: 2016053
OASIS id: archaeol6-241518**

**By Paulo Clemente
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**

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Date of Issue:	February 2016		
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East have carried out an archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches on Land at Maison Maurice, Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway, Bexleyheath, London Borough of Bexley in February 2016.

The site is characterised by a sequence of modern made ground layers overlying an intermittently recent subsoil, overlying the sands and gravels of the Harwich Formation. There was disturbance by modern services in Trenches 1 and 2.

No archaeological features, artefacts or deposits were present.

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HER Summary
OASIS Form

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) been commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Maison Maurice, Butler's Yard, 181-185 Broadway, Bexleyheath, London Borough of Bexley (Figure 1, NGR. 54885 17524).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The following information is taken from the desk-based assessment for the site (CgMs 2014).
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2016) indicates that the solid geology within the vicinity of the site consists of Harwich Formation – Sand and Gravel. No superficial deposits are recorded.
- 1.2.3 The site is generally level at a height of c.49m AOD. It is likely that modern development within the area of the site has masked the original topography.
- 1.2.4 The River Shuttle lies approximately 1km to the south of the site.
- 1.2.5 The site is bound by Broadway to the north, Albion Road to the south, and commercial properties to the east and west.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted to Bexley Council (Planning Ref: 15/01007/FULM) for the demolition of the existing structures and the construction of part three/part five storey building comprising 26 x 1 bed and 23 x 2 bed retirement apartments with associated communal facilities, car parking, landscaping grounds with access from Albion Road.
- 1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared in support of the application (CgMs 2014). Archaeological potential was recorded as 'moderate' for below ground archaeological deposits associated with the Roman period, and 'low' for archaeological deposits associated with all other periods. Late 19th century development, and subsequent modern redevelopment of the site, is likely to have had a widespread moderate to severe negative impact on below ground deposits.
- 1.3.3 Having considered the assessment the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), in their role as advisors to the London Borough of Bexley recommended that a condition be attached to planning consent for a programme of archaeological work. Accordingly Condition 8 states:

"No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological assessment in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

REASON: To ensure that adequate archaeological records can be made in respect of the site and in the interests of the heritage of the area. These details are required at the start of the project so as to ensure they are included in the construction."

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was prepared by ASE and approved by CgMs Consulting and GLAAS (ASE 2016).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Land at Maison Maurice, Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway, Bexleyheath, LB Bexley, and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The evaluation took place during 1st-2nd January 2016. The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and was undertaken by Paulo Clemente with assistance from Tom Rugg. Post-excavation was managed by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is taken from the desk-based assessment for the site (CgMs 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The GLHER records two prehistoric findspots within the vicinity of the site. The earliest objects recorded are five Neolithic axe heads found in a garden on Mount Road in the 19th century, approximately 750m to the southwest of the site.
- 2.2.2 A possible Bronze Age artefact was found near the junction of Broadway and Albion Way, c.80m to the west of the site.
- 2.2.3 Overall, due to the limited number of prehistoric finds identified within the area, the archaeological potential of the site for these periods can be defined as low.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 Watling Street, which forms the northern boundary of the site, follows the principal Roman road linking London with Canterbury, Dover and Richborough. A Roman settlement has been identified immediately north of the Roman road at Welling, c.1.75km west of the site.
- 2.3.2 A possible Roman ditch was identified during archaeological work at 131 Broadway, c.170m to the east of the site, which potentially represented a road side ditch.
- 2.3.3 An isolated find, a Roman coin, has been found in the general vicinity of the site to the south.
- 2.3.4 It is likely that during the Roman period the site lay within open land. Despite the limited evidence for the Roman period within the area the site is immediately adjacent to the course of Watling Street and as such, the archaeological potential of the study site for the Roman period can be defined as moderate.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 A settlement had been established at Bexley by the late Saxon period. The 1086 AD Domesday Survey records 56 households in the town, a large settlement in the early medieval period.
- 2.4.2 No finds of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date have been identified from within the vicinity of the site. The original core of Bexley village lies some distance to the south and it is thought that the site lay within uninhabited heathland during these periods.
- 2.4.2 Overall the archaeological potential of the site for these periods can be defined as low.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.5.1 During the majority of the post-medieval period the area of the site appears to have remained as uninhabited heathland.
- 2.5.2 The earliest cartographic depiction of the site is shown on Andrews, Dury and Herbert's map of 1769, locating the site in an area of heathland immediately to the south of Watling Street. The nature of the site is shown unchanged in 1799. By 1839 the area adjacent to Watling Street has been subject to ribbon development. The site itself lies on the periphery of this 19th century development, and according to the Tithe Apportionment, is listed as an arable field. The layout of the site is shown unchanged in 1865.
- 2.5.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1897 identifies that the site had been developed by this time. It appears the site has been developed into a yard for light industrial purposes. Several narrow outbuildings and sheds can be observed focused around the yard, in association with a larger glasshouse. With the exception of a reduction in size of the existing glasshouse, the layout of the site remains unchanged on mapping from 1909.
- 2.5.4 By 1936 the glasshouse is shown removed completely, replaced by a much smaller glasshouse further to the north. By 1961 the eastern area of the site has been remodelled. Two small outbuildings have been demolished and replaced by a much larger industrial unit. The building located in the northwest corner of the site is also shown to have been demolished. The layout of the site remains unchanged in 1973-85.
- 2.5.5 The current layout of the site shows many of the buildings previously in the western area of the site have been demolished, thus increasing the size of the central yard. This layout conforms to the present site plan.
- 2.5.6 The potential for below ground archaeological remains on the site of post-medieval date is low.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The aims of the evaluation were:
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development.
 - To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
 - To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
 - To enable the archaeology advisor at GLAAS to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A site code (BTL 16) was been agreed with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) and is used as the unique site identifier for all records.
- 3.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2016), the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a, b and c) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service's (GLAAS) Standards for Archaeological Work (HE 2015).
- 3.1.4 Three trenches were excavated, measuring 20m x 1.8m at base as set out on Figure 2. Trench 1 to the north of the site was moved slightly south and slightly shortened when cable pipes were encountered with the agreement of GLAAS and CgMs Consulting. Trench 3 was moved 1m westwards due to the detection with a CAT Scan device of two possible pipes alongside the edges.
- 3.1.5 The evaluation trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.
- 3.1.6 Excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until the top of the underlying natural sediments were reached. Care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.
- 3.1.7 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the GLAAS Advisor were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated.

3.2 Excavation and Recording Techniques

- 3.2.1 Excavation and recoding was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2016).
- 3.2.2 All excavated features, layers and/or deposits were planned, photographed and recorded utilising the assigned Museum of London site code. All site drawings were digitised. A full digital photographic record was made.
- 3.2.4 The trenches were recorded and levelled relative to Ordnance Datum by an archaeological surveyor, using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) technology. The interventions were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in due

course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	21
No. of files/paper record	6
Plan and sections sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	28
Permatrace sheets	1
Trench Record Forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

4.1.1 Trench 1 measured 20m long by 1.8m wide by 1.01m deep. Frequent services were present, however the Harwich Formation sands and gravels were encountered at the centre and east end of the trench.

4.1.2 It revealed three deposits [1/001] to [1/003]. A modern drain/sewer pipe was left in situ at the east end.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Made ground	20	1.80	0.51-0.89	52.30-52.51
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	4.20	1.80	0.50	-
1/003	Geology	Natural sands and gravels	7.20	1.80	N/A	51.51-51.63

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.3 The natural orange sand and gravel [1/003] was overlain by a subsoil layer comprised of an orangey brown compact clayed silt [1/002] with occasional small flecks of CBM (not retained). This subsoil had been previously removed at the east end of the trench and modern made ground (containing brick rubble and tarmac), [1/001] directly overlay the natural sands and gravels.

4.1.4 No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 Trench 2 was 20m long by 1.8m wide by 0.67m deep (Fig. 3). It revealed four deposits [2/001] to [2/004].

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Made ground	20	1.80	0.13-0.21	52.34-52.53
2/002	Layer	Made ground	20	1.80	0.08-0.22	
2/003	Layer	Subsoil	20	1.80	0.24-0.28	
2/004	Geology	Natural sands and gravels	20	1.80	N/A	51.89-51.90

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.2 The natural brownish yellow gravel with sand lenses, [2/004], was overlain by a brown silt subsoil, [2/003], with frequent rounded pebbles and containing occasional small fragments of clearly modern brick, glass and china (not retained). Overlying the subsoil was a firm greyish yellow silty sand and brick rubble made ground layer, [2/002], likely to be demolition material. Sealing this was a compact dark grey silt and gravel with brick rubble and tarmac, [2/001].

4.2.3 No archaeological features or finds were present.

4.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

4.3.1 Trench 3 was 20m long, 1.8m wide and 1.28m deep. A sondage was excavated at the south end which revealed five deposits [3/001] to [3/005].

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Made ground	20	1.80	0.11-0.18	52.60-52.64
3/002	Layer	Made ground	15	1.80	0.29	
3/003	Layer	Subsoil	20	1.80	0.32-0.42	
3/004	Geology	Natural soil	20	1.80	0.44	51.95-52.12
3/005	Geology	Natural soil	4	1.80	N/A	51.39

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.2 The natural sands and gravels ([3/005] and [3/004]) were overlain by a mid brown clay silt with gravel (subsoil, [3/003]). The subsoil contained small fragments of modern CBM, construction stone and glass (not retained). The natural sands were disturbed by modern services.

4.3.3 Overlying the subsoil, [3/003], was a comprised yellowish brown sand with modern brick rubble [3/002], (demolition material). Overlying this was a dark grey layer of coarse sand and gravel and crushed tarmac levelling ([3/001]).

4.3.4 No archaeological features or finds that predated the early modern period were unearthed.

5.0 FINDS

- 5.1 The trial-trenching found no pre-modern artefacts. Modern building material was plentiful, derived from the made ground layers that covered the site, and occasionally from the subsoil, but were not retained.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

- 6.1 No environmental soil samples were taken...

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The site is characterised by a deposit sequence of modern made ground layers, overlying subsoil, overlying the natural Harwich Formation sands and gravels. No subsoil was present in the east of Trench 1 probably because of the degree of truncation by the installation of services.
- 7.1.2 The natural Harwich Formation geology comprised gravels with some sandy lenses and occurred at 51.89-52.12m OD. The variable thickness of the subsoil overlying these sands and gravels (0.24-0.50m) is possibly due to later truncation. No remnant topsoil was encountered.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 No finds features, deposits or artefacts predating modern period were present.
- 7.2.2 The 'subsoil' identified on the site contained only modern artefacts and therefore is of recent derivation. It is possible that this indicates some degree of truncation by previous building activity which may have adversely effected the archaeological evidence, if it was ever present on the site, (see 7.2.3).
- 7.2.3 Additionally, the complete absence of unstratified finds and of ancient deeper cut features could also indicate that little archaeological activity had occurred in the site or its immediate vicinity.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

- 7.3.1 No evidence of Roman date was found during the evaluation, perhaps implying that limited occupation to the south of the Roman road in this vicinity.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

- 7.4.1 The evaluation has successfully characterised the archaeological potential of the site. No archaeological remains were detected and that there has been some degree at least of disturbance by modern building activity.

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Historic England 2015, *Standards for Archaeological Work in Greater London*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Stevenson (GLASS) for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

Site code	BTL16					
Project code	8570					
Planning reference	15/01007/FULM					
Site address	Land at Maison Maurice, Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway, Bexleyheath					
District/Borough	London Borough of Bexley					
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 48850 75240					
Geology	Harwich Formation – Sand and Gravel					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	1-2/02/2016					
Sponsor/client	CgMs					
Project manager	Andrew Leonard					
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente					
Period summary						
						Modern
Project summary (100 word max)	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land at Maison Maurice, Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway, Bexleyheath NGR TQ 48850 75240, between the 1st and 2nd February 2016. Three trenches measuring up to 20m in length were excavated. No evidence of activity was found predating the modern period.					
Museum/Accession No.	BTL16					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-241518

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Maison Maurice,
Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway Bexleyheath London Borough
of Bexley

Short description
of the project The site is characterised by a sequence of modern made
ground layers overlying an intermittently recent subsoil,
overlying the sands and gravels of the Harwich Formation.
There was disturbance by modern services in Trenches 1 and 2.
No archaeological features, artefacts or deposits were present.

Project dates Start: 01-02-2016 End: 02-02-2016

Previous/future
work No / Not known

Any associated
project reference codes BTL 16 - Sitecode

Any associated
project reference codes 8570 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type SOAKAWAY Modern

Monument type GUTTER Modern

Significant Finds BRICK Modern

Significant Finds POT Modern

Significant Finds GLASS Modern

Methods &
techniques ""Sample Trenches""

Development
type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Prompt Archaeological Priority Area

Position in the
planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BEXLEY BEXLEYHEATH Land at Maison Maurice, Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway

Postcode DA6 7ER

Study area 0.3 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 548850 175240 50.935758285202 0.204577450459 50 56
08 N 000 12 16 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD /
Depth Min: 51.51m Max: 52.12m

Project creators

Name of
Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief
originator CgMs Consulting

Project design
originator ASE

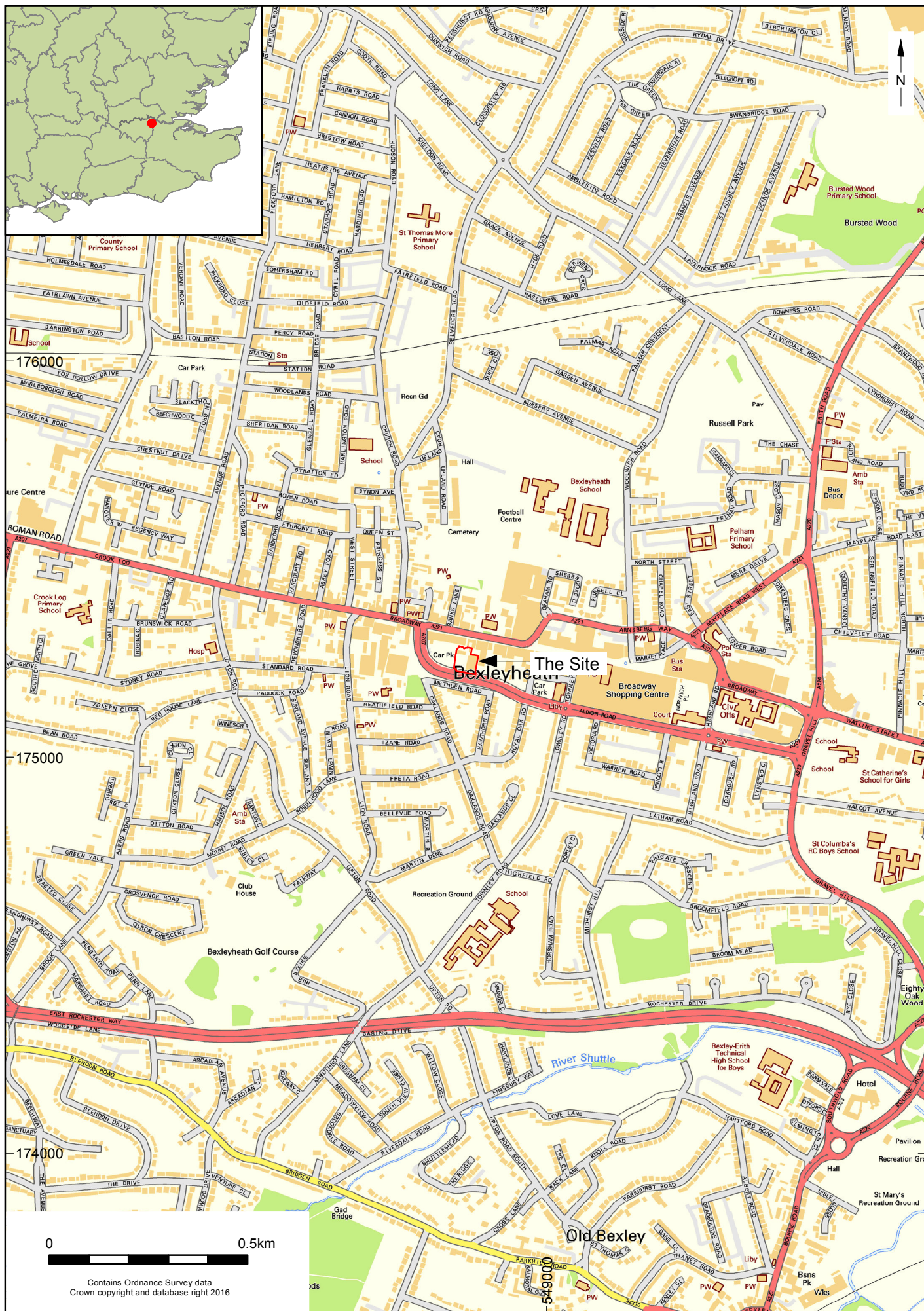
Project
director/manager Andrew Leonard

Project
supervisor Paulo Clemente

Type of
sponsor/funding
body CgMs Consulting

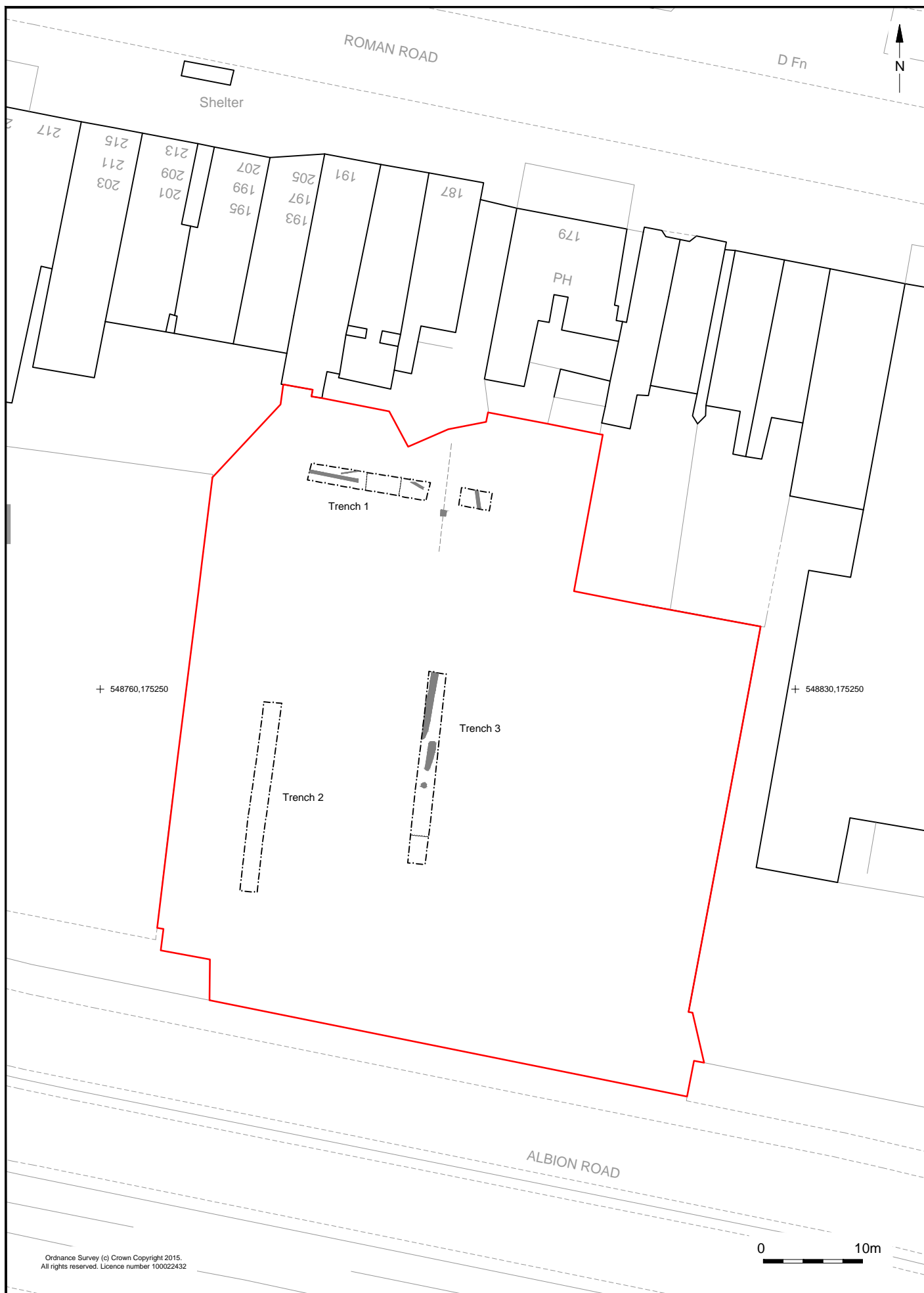
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Entered by	Jim Stevenson (jim.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	15 February 2016



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Project Ref: 8570	Feb 2016	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



© Archaeology South-East		Butlers Yard, 181-185 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Bexley	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8570	Feb 2016	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2016053	Drawn by: APL		



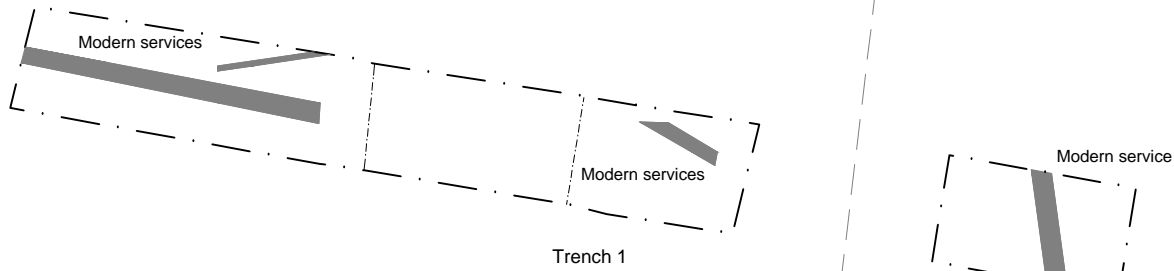
Trench 1 looking west (1m scale)



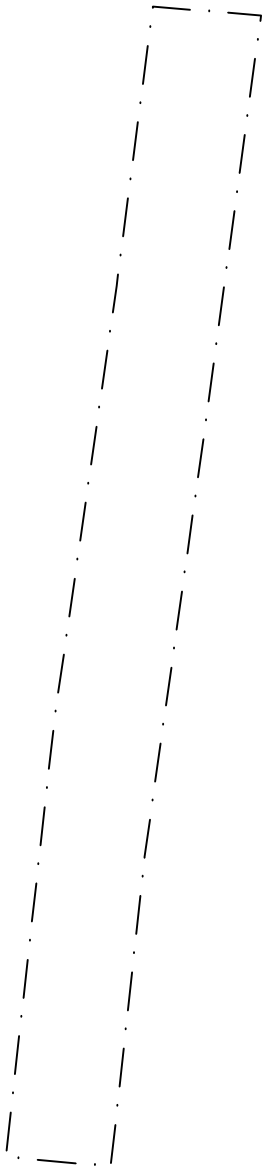
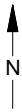
Trench 2 looking north (1m scale)



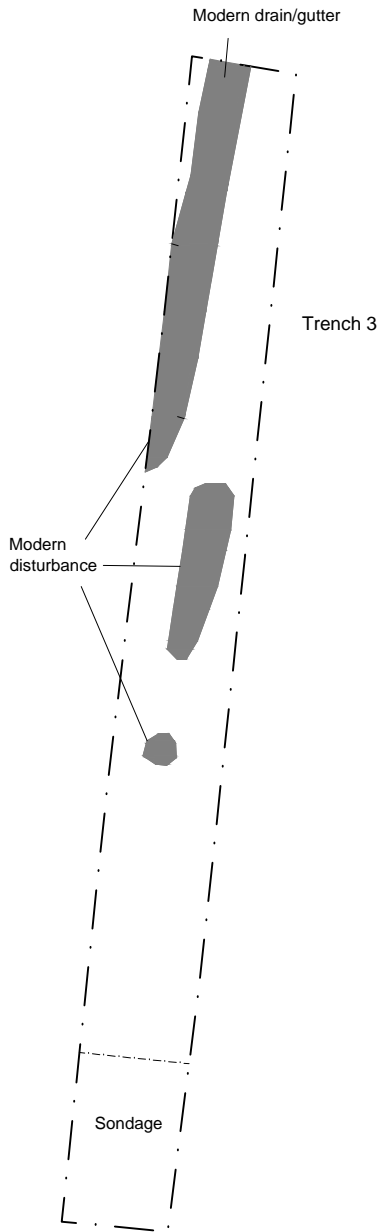
Trench 3 looking south (1m scale)



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Trench 2



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