



Land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR

Archaeological evaluation report

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation on land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR (centred NGR 565393 172893) was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust between 7 and 10 July 2026. The work was commissioned by RPS Tetra Tech on behalf of their client Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd, prior to development of the land including 'conversion of existing Victorian building into six flats, demolition of other existing buildings and development of the site to provide a mixed-use development comprising a new three-storey GP Surgery, fifty-four new residential dwellings with access, public open space and landscaping' (Planning Application Ref: 20240013).

The proposed development site lies within an area of largely unknown archaeological potential as few archaeological investigations have taken place in the wider surrounds. However, Palaeolithic flint implements have been recovered c 600m north-east of the site, and a denehole (chalk extraction shaft) is located immediately south of the site, possibly of Iron Age date, based on two lithic implements from shaft's backfill, though these are likely to be residual, as are Roman-era tiles recovered from the same fill. This suggests at present a low likelihood of activity from these periods in and around the site, as is also the case for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, though in these later periods an agricultural use for the site and its environs is likely. The development area is likely to have formed part of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural hinterland to settlement at Milton and Gravesend, before becoming incorporated into the orchards of a post-medieval farmstead, and later forming the grounds and location of a Victorian villa, prior to becoming the site of a modern school with associated playing fields.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twelve evaluation trenches positioned across the footprint of the proposed development scheme.

Geology comprised orange-yellow brown compact sandy clay with rare, rounded flints and pebbles, identified as bedrock geology of Thanet Formation (sand). Geology was exposed in every trench save Trench 8 at a depth range of 0.70–1.20m below ground level, at a height range of 27.53m–29.80m above Ordnance Datum.

The archaeological resource was mainly concentrated within the north-eastern section of the evaluation area in Trenches 7, 8 and 9, with finds suggesting prehistoric and later activity in this area. The north-west to south-east oriented linear cuts in trenches 7, cuts [704], [707] and [709] are likely to be continuations of cuts [909], [911] and [913] observed in Trench 9.

Where present, the archaeological resource has been identified at a relatively shallow depth (0.17m–1.45m below ground level) indicating that the development impact will be high within the north-eastern corner of the Site.

Project contributors

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Reporting:	Dr J Grigsby

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Canterbury Archaeological Trust would like to thank Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological evaluation.

The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Jake Warrender, Senior Archaeological Officer at Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council.

Plant and operator were provided by the client.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation on land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR (centred NGR 565393 172893; Figure 1; Photos 1–3) was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 7 and 10 July 2026.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development site lies within an area of largely unknown archaeological potential as few archaeological investigations have taken place in the wider surrounds of this part of Gravesend. However, Palaeolithic flint implements have been recovered c 600m north-east of the site, and a denehole (chalk extraction shaft) is located immediately south of the site, possibly of Iron Age date, based on two lithic implements from shaft's backfill, though these are likely to be residual, as are Roman-era tiles recovered from the same fill. This suggests at present a low likelihood of activity from these periods in and around the site, as is also the case for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, though in these later periods an agricultural use for the site and its environs is likely. The development area is likely to have formed part of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural hinterland to settlement at Milton and Gravesend, before becoming incorporated into the orchards of a post-medieval farmstead, and later forming the grounds and location of a Victorian villa, before becoming the site of a modern school.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological works were commissioned by RPS Tetra Tech on behalf of their client Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd, who propose to develop the land for the 'conversion of existing Victorian building, demolition of other existing buildings and development of the site to provide a mixed-use development comprising a new three-storey GP Surgery, fifty-four new residential dwellings with access, public open space and landscaping' (Planning Application Ref: 2024 0013).
- 1.1.4 Under the Town and Country Planning Act, Gravesham Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA), has recommended approval for the proposed works, with the following Planning Condition (6).

Archaeology

6 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:

- a) A programme of archaeological field evaluation works, in accordance with a Specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.
- (b) Following completion of archaeological field evaluation works, no development groundworks shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or archaeological mitigation excavation and recording in accordance with a Specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.
- (c) The archaeological safeguarding measures, mitigation excavation and recording shall be completed in accordance with the agreed Specification and timetable.
- (d) Within 6 months of the completion of archaeological works a Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall be in accordance with Kent County Council's requirements and include:

‘i. a description and assessment of the results of all archaeological investigations that have been undertaken in that part (or parts) of the development;

ii. an Updated Project Design outlining measures to analyse, report and disseminate the findings of the archaeological investigations, together with an implementation strategy and timetable for the same;

iii. a scheme detailing the arrangements for providing and maintaining an archaeological site archive and its deposition following completion.

(e) The measures outlined in the Post-Excavation Assessment Report shall be implemented in

full and in accordance with the agreed timings.

- 1.1.5 Due to the potential impact that proposed development works may have on the buried archaeological resource, and in accordance with the provision of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2024), RPS Tetra Tech on behalf of their client Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd. commissioned CAT to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation within the site to determine the presence or absence of potential archaeological remains.
- 1.1.6 The archaeological evaluation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) compiled by RPS Tetra Tech (2026), submitted to and approved by the Kent County Council (KCC) Heritage Conservation Group (HCG).
- 1.1.7 The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twelve trenches measuring up to 30m by 2m. The purpose of the evaluation was to inform on the potential below ground archaeological resource within the PDA to enable RPS Tetra Tech on behalf of their client Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd, the LPA and KCC HCG to formulate the scope of any further archaeological mitigation works that might be required in line with existing national and local planning policy and guidance.
- 1.1.8 This report sets out the results of the archaeological evaluation and defines the extent and nature of any significant archaeological resource within the site. The evaluation was monitored by Jake Warrender Senior Archaeological Officer at KCC HCG and Lorraine Mayo of Tetra Tech.

2 Location, geology and topography

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on the site of the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, in the Windmill Hill area of Gravesend in North Kent and is located on the south side of Old Road East (B261).
- 2.1.2 The evaluation area covers a total area of c 1.6ha and comprises the St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, which occupies a three storey, late-nineteenth century building inclusive of modern extensions and portacabins, as well as an area of hardstanding to the west/north-west and a large area of green space at the south of the site. The site is currently vacant following the closure of the school in 2021.
- 2.1.3 The PDA is bordered to the east by residences off Hillside Drive, to the south by residences off Coombe Road and Laurel Avenue, to the west by residences off Whitehill Road, and to the north by Old Road East (B261).
- 2.1.4 Bedrock geology within the PDA is mapped as Thanet Formation (sand). There are no superficial deposits recorded for the site, but the 2026 WSI (RPS Tetra Tech 2026) records that nearby excavations and HER records suggest that if present, these are likely to belong to the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. However, Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation is not considered a superficial deposit in geological terms, and it seems more likely these deposits are connected to bedrock deposits of Seaford Chalk Formation which is mapped c 150m south of the site. BGS mapping records the nearest superficial deposits as Head (Diamicton), which are recorded c 200m north and c 400m south of the site (BGS 2026).
- 2.1.5 The PDA is located on gently sloping ground at a height range of c 28–32m above Ordnance Datum (OD), rising from south to north.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeological and historical background comprised an examination of evidence from the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) and other sources mainly within a 1km search radius of the PDA (NGR 565393 172893; centred). However, there have been limited archaeological investigations in the nearby area, as reflected in the results of the HER search.
- 3.1.2 In addition, a WSI (RPS Tetra Tech 2026) produced for the site in support of the planning application, has also been consulted.
- 3.1.3 The PDA does not affect or directly impact upon any World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, or Conservation Areas.
- 3.1.4 A chronological summary of results is presented below with only relevant results reproduced.

3.2 Prehistoric (500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 3.2.1 There are a small number of records on the HER for the Palaeolithic period within a 1km search radius of the site. These include two Palaeolithic handaxes recovered from Windmill Hill, c 600m north-east of the site (HER TQ 67 SW 435) and a further handaxe (along with a possible flake-tool) from the general location c 700m north-east of the PDA (HER TQ 67 SE 279).
- 3.2.2 A denehole (chalk extraction shaft, HER TQ 67 SW 12) located immediately south of the PDA is possibly of Iron Age date, based on two lithic implements from shaft's backfill, though these are likely to be residual.

3.3 Romano-British (AD 43–450)

- 3.3.1 Roman-era tiles HER TQ 67 SW 12) recovered from the fill of the denehole immediately south of the PDA are likely to be residual.
- 3.3.2 Four cremation burials and associated vessels (HER TQ 67 SE 6) have been found at No. 27 Kings Drive, c 800m south of the PDA.
- 3.3.3 The surface find of a coin of the Emperor Domitian (HER TQ 67 SW 32) is recorded as being found in an allotment garden, c 1km south-west of the PDA.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon (AD 450–1066) and medieval (AD 1066–1540)

- 3.4.1 The town of Gravesend is likely to have come into existence as a riverside settlement by the late Anglo-Saxon period, to the north of the PDA. The PDA most likely lay in open ground, outside any main settlement area, as it appears on the historic map records.
- 3.4.2 Four Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials (HER TQ 67 SE 100) are recorded as being found within the grounds of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, c 1km north-east of the site, the site of a later twelfth century church, arguably built on the site of an Anglo-Saxon church, which is mentioned in the Domesday survey.
- 3.4.3 The nearest settlement to the PDA recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 is Milton, which lay c 700m north-north-east of the PDA. Milton was a settlement in the *hundred* of Tollingtrough with a recorded population of 26 households. Other resources recorded included one mill, and one church (Domesday on-line, sv Milton). Gravesend is also recorded in the Domesday book in the *hundred* of Tollingtrough with a recorded population of twelve households, and a church (Domesday on-line, sv Gravesend).

- 3.4.4 THE HER records a possible fourteenth-century beacon (HER TQ 67 SW 9) c 600m north-east of the PDA, one of fifty-two recorded in the Medieval period in Kent prior to their abandonment c 1640.

3.5 Post-medieval (AD 1540–1900) and modern (AD 1900–present)

- 3.5.1 The Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769 and Mudge map of 1801 record the PDA as set in undeveloped land south of the road from Chalk Street to North Fleet. The PDA is likely to have continued as open agricultural land until becoming an orchard within the grounds of Parrock Farm (the Paddock Park of the Andrews, Dury and Herbert map) sometime in the nineteenth century. By the time the First edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map was produced in 1866, the area north of the road had been extensively developed residentially, and the land to its south, off the newly built Whitehill Road, including the PDA, was being utilised as allotments, gardens and orchards, with some of these plots south of the PDA containing detached residential houses. The 1866 OS map shows Parrock Villa erected within a plot of land immediately west of the PDA, and south of Parrock farm, which lay north of the road. It depicts paths running from Old London Road across the western section of the PDA in a north-south direction. This section of the PDA is also shown as containing two small buildings, which may have been used for agricultural purposes. The PDA in general appears to be being used as planted orchards and agricultural land. Caiger (1960, 88) states that 'chalkwells were sited on lands belonging to the old Manor of Parrock and it is possible that the chalk was mined and used for building material'. It is possible, then, that the denehole found immediately south of the PDA was, in fact, a post-medieval chalk well.
- 3.5.2 By 1897 a large detached three storey villa fronting London Road East with a service wing and several greenhouses to the rear had been built south of the road, on the west side of the PDA. A large garden extended to its south. The remainder of the PDA appears to have been in separate ownership at the time with the eastern section of the site still comprising orchards.
- 3.5.3 Orchard clearance within the PDA was complete by the 1950s, by which time the St Joseph School had taken possession of the villa site and playing fields were created. Post-1960 a number of new school buildings have been erected on site south of the original Victorian buildings, but little development has been undertaken on site since the early 2000s.
- 3.5.4 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the KHER. These records should be consulted by the appointed archaeological contractor prior to commencement of the fieldwork so an understanding of the surrounding archaeological resource and the general historical and topographical landscape can be made.

4 Aims and objectives

4.1 Aims and objectives

- 4.1.1 The aim of an archaeological field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2023a) is to:

Determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area. The scope of the work will be described in a project design that is fit for purpose and will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with that design and the CIfA Code of conduct and give due regard to the guidance for archaeological field evaluation. All archaeological field evaluations will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive.

- 4.1.2 The principal aim of the evaluation work was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site, and to ascertain their extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition.

- 4.1.3 Specific objectives were outlined in the approved WSI (Tetra Tec 2026) as follows:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains
- To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site
- To record the nature and extent of any previous impacts on the archaeological sequence across the site
- To enable the KCC Senior Archaeological Officers to make an informed decision as to the requirement for and scope of any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.

The site-specific aims of the archaeological investigation are as follows:

- Is there evidence for prehistoric archaeology?
- Is there evidence for Roman archaeological activity?
- Is there evidence for Anglo-Saxon/Medieval activity?
- Is there evidence for post-medieval agricultural activity?

- 4.1.4 Assessment of the evaluation results will provide guidance on what additional mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include preservation *in situ* and/or further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. The results of the evaluation works will also inform later investigation and assessment/analysis.

5 Methodology

5.1 Methodology

- 5.1.1 The evaluation was carried out by professional archaeologists in the employ of CAT and to the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid*) and the Kent County Council Manual of Specifications Part B: Evaluation – trial trenching requirements.
- 5.1.2 All archaeological work was conducted in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidance set out in the ClfA *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023b). Canterbury Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation with ClfA and conforms to their Code, regulations and standards and guidance.
- 5.1.3 All stages of the project were carried out following the procedures laid down in Historic England’s 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).
- 5.1.4 The archaeological evaluation was monitored by the KCC HCG Senior Archaeological Officer and archaeological consultants RPS Tetra Tech.
- 5.1.5 The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twelve evaluation trenches using a 13 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed grading bucket. The trenches were opened at roughly their proposed positions as specified in the WSI (Tetra Tech 2026) each measuring approximately 30m in length and 2m in width, with the exception of trench 6, which was shortened to 10.27m due to the presence of one of the school buildings that was yet to be demolished as planned.
- 5.1.6 The evaluation trenches were excavated using the mechanical excavator which reduced the trench to the upper surface of the archaeological or geological horizon. Where exposed, archaeological features and deposits were sample excavated by hand.
- 5.1.7 Mechanical excavation was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface, whichever was the higher. The underlying geological deposits were not overly reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present ground surface.
- 5.1.8 Following mechanical clearance, the exposed sections in each trench were photographed and the trenches recorded using *pro forma* trench recording sheets. The trenches were surveyed using a Leica GS16 GNSS with Smart Net, tied to the OS National Grid (EPSG: 27700 OSGB36). A full digital photographic record of the evaluation was maintained. The digital photographic record comprises part of the site archive.

5.2 Health, safety and welfare

- 5.2.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2026b), and CAT’s Company Policy and Procedural Manual for Health, Safety and Welfare (CAT 2025).
- 5.2.2 All CAT and plant operatives were inducted on site safety procedures before commencement of works. CAT is a Constructionline Gold and Acclaim SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) member.
- 5.2.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. On site constraints comprising the presence of a school building to the north-west of proposed Trench 6 was identified pre-

commencement of works. To avoid any potential impacts, and following consultation with the KCC HCG Senior Archaeological Officer, the location of the north-western end of evaluation Trench 6 was shortened by approximately 10m to the north-west.

5.3 Project archive

- 5.3.1 The project archive has been prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (AAF 2011; ClfA 2019; ClfA 2020a, 2020b).
- 5.3.2 The archive name is recorded as 'St Joseph's, Gravesend', CAT site code EV SJG 26, and project number 56380 have been used.
- 5.3.3 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made. A digitised plan of the archaeological resource has been compiled using AutoCAD and QGIS. Photographic records have been catalogued and cross-referenced with trench records. All environmental samples collected were registered on site and processed at CAT's office.
- 5.3.4 An online OASIS record (canterbu3-544847) has been created for the project (Appendix 2). The OASIS record will be submitted to the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER). Project reports uploaded to the OASIS record will be available on-line as open-access pdf files via the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website (<https://archaeologydataservice.acuk/>).
- 5.3.5 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be transferred to an approved local archive receiving body as recommended by KCC Heritage Conservation Group.

6 Results

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation results are outlined below by chronological phase. The archaeological trench records are presented in Tables 1–12. Context data is expressed as thickness of deposit/feature and depth below ground level (BGL) in metres to the top of the deposit.

6.2 Trench 1 (figure 2)

- 6.2.1 Trench 1 was situated at the north-western side of the PDA just west of the school buildings on an area of hardstanding and was aligned north to south.

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

TRO1 Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: N–S Ground level: 30.87m OD (N) – 29.53m OD (S)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
100	Modern hardstanding	Soil/ brick rubble/tarmac sequence	0.12–0.16	-	Modern	
101	Ploughsoil	Compact thick layer of silty sandy clay	0.16–0.18	0.14–0.16	Undated	
102	Upper subsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam	0.08–0.10	0.28–0.30	Undated	
103	Lower subsoil	Mottled pale brown compact silty sandy clay	0.12+	0.38–0.70	Undated	

- 6.2.2 Due to modern obstructions the natural geology was not reached. The limit of excavation lay at 28.73m–29.77m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 6.2.3 A lower subsoil deposit (103) up to 0.12m thick was exposed at a depth of 0.38m. A further upper subsoil deposit of mottled pale brown compact silty sandy clay (102) lay above this, at a depth of 0.28–0.30m BGL. This was capped by a layer of ploughsoil 0.16–0.18m thick at a depth of 0.14–0.16m.
- 6.2.4 A layer of modern hardstanding comprising a soil/ brick rubble/tarmac sequence (100) between 0.12m and 0.16m thick capped the deposits and formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.3 Trench 2 (photos 6 and 7; figure 2)

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 was situated towards the north-west area of the PDA and was aligned east to west.

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

TRO2 Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: E–W Ground level: 28.20m OD (E) – 28.72 OD (W)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
200	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.20–0.28	-	Modern	
201	Subsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces	0.10–0.12	0.20–0.28	Modern	
202	Chalk horizon	Pale brown-grey, compact, sandy clay with common chalk flecks, rare CBM, common small rounded flint	0.12–0.22	0.28–0.50	Modern	
203	Deposit/subsoil?	Same as (201) less chalk flecks	0.16–0.22	0.50–0.74	Modern	
204	Natural	Pale yellow grey, soft, clayey sand with common small, rounded flint, rare chalk	0.45+	0.72+	-	
205	Natural	Bright reddish-orange, soft, clay sand with some small rounded flint and rare chalk and charcoal flecks	0.42+	0.75+	-	

TR02 Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: E–W Ground level: 28.20m OD (E) – 28.72 OD (W)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates
206	Geology	Pale grey green yellow soft silty clay	0.20+	1.00+	-

- 6.3.2 Superficial geology comprising sandy clay (204, 205 and 206) was exposed at a depth of 0.72m BGL (27.53—27.92m OD).
- 6.3.3 Geology was sealed by a possible subsoil deposit (203), up to 0.22m thick, itself sealed with a chalk horizon (202) also up to 0.22m thick.
- 6.3.4 A layer of subsoil (201), up to 0.28m thick, sealed the chalk layer and was traced throughout the trench section.
- 6.3.5 A layer of topsoil (200), up to 0.28m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 6.3.6 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

6.4 Trench 3 (photos 8 and 9; figure 2)

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 was situated towards the south-west area of the PDA on the western side of the playing fields and was aligned north to south.

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

TR03 Length: 27.83m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N–S Ground level: 28.42m OD (N) – 28.44m OD (S)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates
300	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.17—0.19	-	Modern
301	Subsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces	0.09	0.17—0.19	Modern
302	Levelling	Mottled pale brown compact silty sandy clay with very common small medium chalk fragments throughout	0.07—0.06	0.26—0.28	Modern
303	Levelling ploughsoil	Predominantly light yellowish brown compact silty sandy clay with small occasional carbon flecks throughout	0.32—0.50	0.33—0.34	Modern
304	Geology	Orangey yellow brown compact sandy silty clay	-	0.71—0.83	-

- 6.4.2 Superficial geology comprising orangey-yellow -brown compact, sandy, silty clay (304) was exposed at a depth of 0.71–0.83m BGL (27.53m—27.60m OD). The geology was obscured between 0.67m and 0.84m below present ground level and across the whole length of the trench.
- 6.4.3 Geology was sealed by a 0.18m levelling ploughsoil deposit (303). A further, thin, levelling deposit of mottled, pale brown, compact, silty, sandy clay (302) lay above this but was only seen in eastern section of the trench. This level contained very common small medium chalk fragments throughout and is possibly associated with the levelling off of the area prior to the construction of the school playing fields in the modern period.
- 6.4.4 A layer of subsoil (301), up to 0.09m thick, lay above these deposits, and was capped by a layer of topsoil (300), up to 0.19m thick, which formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 6.4.5 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench. Modern glass was found in contexts (300) and (303) but was not kept.

6.5 Trench 4 (photo 10; figure 2)

- 6.5.1 Trench 4 was situated just to the south of a single storey classroom on the western side of the former playing fields and was aligned east to west.

Table 4. Trench 4 contexts

TR04	Length: 30m	Width: 1.82m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 29.14m OD (E) – 28.46m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
400	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.18—0.25	-	Modern	
401	Subsoil	Pale grey brown and darkish grey brown very compact silty sandy clay with occasional brick fragments, carbon flecks, common small rounded flints and common small chalk flecks	0.10—0.21	0.28—0.46	Modern	
402	Levelling	Concentrated chalk fragments forming horizontal band	0.07	0.17	Modern	
403	Ploughsoil	Compact thick layer of silty sandy clay	0.28–0.40	0.35–0.47		
404	Brick floor surface	Placed/positioned half-brick and full bricks laying horizontally in ground, mostly unfrogged, extending 1.90m E-W and 1.27m N-S, edge visible on south side. Possible remains of brick production on south side floor surrounded by loose dark grey clinker and grit	0.10–0.12	0.18	19 th century	
405	Geology	Yellowish brown clayey sand	-	0.75–0.87	-	

- 6.5.2 Superficial geology comprising yellowish-brown clayey sand (405) was exposed at a depth of 0.75m–0.87m BGL (27.77m–28.09m OD).
- 6.5.3 Geology was sealed by ploughsoil (403), up to 0.40m thick, that lay below subsoil of 0.10m to 0.21m depth. A concentrated horizontal chalk deposit (402) was observed just below the topsoil at a depth of 0.17m, though not as well defined as in Trench 3.
- 6.5.4 A nineteenth-century brick surface/floor (404) was observed at the western end of the trench, located 0.17m below present ground level. The visible extent measured 1.80m x 1.40m, and it extended northwards into the section. Fragments of late post-medieval pottery and glass were recovered from this surface.
- 6.5.5 Topsoil (400), 0.18m– 0.25m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.6 Trench 5 (photos 11 and 12; figure 2)

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 was situated centrally on of the former playing fields and was aligned north to south.

Table 5. Trench 5 contexts

TR05	Length: 22.8m	Width: 1.82m	Orientation: N–S	Ground level: 29.55m OD (N) – 29.15m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
500	Topsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces.	0.33—0.36	-	Modern	
501	Subsoil/Ploughsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces.	0.23–0.30	0.33—0.43	Undated	
502	Lower Ploughsoil	Yellowish brown clayey sand with small occasional chalk inclusions	0.16	0.52—0.81	Undated	
503	Fill (of 506)	Darkish grey friable silty sandy clay, inclusions of chalk fragments and rounded flints, and small light brown lump of mortar	Up to 0.12	0.37	Modern	

TR05 Length: 22.8m Width: 1.82m Orientation: N–S Ground level: 29.55m OD (N) – 29.15m OD (S)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates
504	Fill (of 506)	Mottled light brown and grey-brown sand with abundant inclusions of glass	Up to 0.06	0.45	Modern
505	Fill (of 506)	Primary fill light brown sandy clay	0.10	0.34	Modern
506	Cut of Pit	Curved base seen only in section	0.17	0.35	Modern
507	Geology	Yellowish brown soft clayey sand	-	0.70–0.98	-

6.6.2 Superficial geology comprising a bright yellowish-brown clayey soil (507) was recorded at a depth of 0.70m–0.98m BGL (28.16–28.73m OD) and was seen along the entire length of this trench below a layer of chalk-flecked ploughsoil (502), 0.16m thick. The lower ploughsoil was sealed by an upper ploughsoil/subsoil layer (501) c 0.23m–0.30m thick, which was cut by a modern pit [506] containing inclusions of modern glass fragments and a lump of mortar.

6.6.3 A layer of topsoil (500), up to 0.36m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.6.4 The concentrated layer of chalk levelling observed in Trenches 3 and 4 does not extend in to this trench.

6.7 Trench 6 (photos 13 and 14; figure 2)

6.7.1 Trench 6 was situated towards the north of the PDA close to the school buildings, and was aligned south-east to north-west.

Table 6. Trench 6 contexts

TR06 Length: 10.27m Width: 1.82m Orientation: SE–NW Ground level: 30.45m (OD) (NW) – 29.6m OD (SE)

Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates
600	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.28–0.37		Modern
601	Subsoil/Ploughsoil	Light pale yellow brown compact clayey sandy silt with very common inclusions of small chalk fragments and small rounded pebbles	0.28–0.43	0.28–0.37	Undated
602	Lower Ploughsoil	Compact light yellow brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded pebbles	0.12–0.21	0.62–0.66	Undated
603	Fill of large quarry/ lynchets feature	Compact greyish brown clayey sandy silt with common small and medium rounded black pebbles and occasional chalk flecks	0.29+	0.83	Undated
604	Cut of potential lynchets	Observed at south-east end of trench. Only south-east edge visible.	0.29+	0.95+	Undated
605	Geology	Bright yellowish brown clayey sand with common small/medium black rounded pebbles. Only seen at south-east end of trench	-	0.95+	-

6.7.2 Superficial geology comprising bright yellowish-brown clayey sand (605) was exposed at a depth of 0.95m BGL (28.83m–29.26m OD). This had been quarried at some point to form a possible quarry or lynchets [604] and was filled with a compact greyish brown clayey sandy silt (603). The natural geology was observed within a very narrow strip at the south-east end of the trench, cut away on the north-west side by the quarry feature.

6.7.3 Above the quarry fill lay a 0.12m–0.21m thick layer of lower ploughsoil (602), sealed by a thicker layer (0.28m–0.43m deep) of subsoil.

6.7.4 A layer of topsoil (600), up to 0.37m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.8 Trench 7 (photos 15–18; figure 2)

- 6.8.1 Trench 7 was situated on the northern edge of the playing field area of the PDA and was aligned north to south.

Table 7. Trench 7 contexts

TR07	Length: 26.8m	Width: 1.82m	Orientation N-S	Ground level: 30.41m OD (N) – 29.49m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
700	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.25–0.32		Modern	
701	Subsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces	0.17–0.47	0.25–0.32	Undated	
702	Fill of [704]	Dark greyish brown clayey sand with occasional small black rounded pebbles throughout	0.55	0.80	Undated	
703	Lower fill of [704]	Darkish grey clayey sand with common small rounded pebbles	0.18	1.15	Undated	
704	Cut of linear feature	Potential linear feature		0.95	Undated	
705	Upper fill of linear [707]	Pale grey brown compact clayey silty sand	0.31	0.77	Undated	
706	Primary fill of linear [707]	Yellowish brown clayey sand located against north-east edge of linear	0.17		Undated	
707	Cut of potential linear feature	Potential narrow linear			Undated	
708	Fill of linear [709]	Pale greyish brown clayey sand	Excavated by machine	Base approximately at 1.45	Undated	
709	Cut of potential linear feature	Potential narrow linear			Undated	
710	Lower Ploughsoil?	Pale yellow brown compact sandy clay with chalk flecks	0.15–0.20	0.40–0.45	Undated	
711	Geology	Very pale brown and yellow brown compact clayey sand	-	0.57	-	
712	Geology	Orangey brown compact clayey sand	-	1.20	-	

- 6.8.2 Superficial geology comprising an orangey-brown, compact, clayey sand (712) was exposed at a depth of 1.20m BGL (28.74m–29.80m OD).
- 6.8.3 This was capped by a further geological layer, of pale brown and yellow, compact, clayey sand (711). Above this was a layer of lower ploughsoil (710) cut by three separate linear features, all similarly aligned north-east to south-west [704, 707 and 709] these were all sealed by subsoil (701). Linear [704] formed a particularly wide feature measuring 3.2m wide and was excavated by machine to locate its base, which was at 1.48m from the surface, and which was a shallow curve.
- 6.8.4 A layer of topsoil (700), up to 0.32m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 6.8.5 Finds included brick fragments from (701); rare pottery and occasional small to medium burnt flints from (702), ceramic building material (CBM) from (703) and small to medium burnt flints from (705).

6.9 Trench 8 (photos 19–24; figures 2–3)

- 6.9.1 Trench 8 was situated towards the north-east of the PDA and was aligned east to west.

Table 8. Trench 8 contexts

TR08	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: E–W	Ground level: 30.46m OD (E) – 29.49m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
801	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay, with abundant roots	0.15		Modern	
801	Subsoil	Mid yellowish grey firm sandy clay, with moderate flint inclusions	0.11–0.15	0.14–0.40	Undated	
802	Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty sandy clay, rare small flint inclusions	0.16	0.27–0.40	-	
803	Secondary fill of [804]	Mid brownish grey firm sandy clay with rare small flint inclusions	0.08	0.30	Undated	
804	Gully	Linear gully running NW–SE	0.08	0.30	Undated	
805	Secondary fill of [807]	Mid to dark brownish grey firm silty clay, rare medium rounded flints	Up to 0.25	0.15–0.40	LBA/IA	
806	Primary fill of [807]	Light brownish grey firm sandy clay, rare medium rounded flints	0.02–0.10	0.40	LBA/IA	
807	Pit	Sub-circular pit			LBA/IA	
808	Fill of [809]	Mid brownish grey form sandy clay, rare small flints	0.35	0.10	LBA/IA	
809	Ditch	Linear ditch running NE-SW			LBA/IA	
810	Fill of [811]	Mid brownish grey firm silty clay, rare small rounded flints	0.42	0.40–0.82	LBA/IA	
811	Ditch	Linear ditch running N-S	0.42	0.40–0.82	LBA/IA	
812	Fill of [813]	-	-	-	Undated	
813	Post-hole	-	-	-	Undated	

6.9.2 Superficial geology was not recorded within this trench.

6.9.3 A number of archaeological features were recorded cutting into the natural (802; 0.40m BGL) including two ditches (809, 811) a gully (804) and a post-hole (813), while a sub-circular pit [807] cut the subsoil (801) at a depth of 0.15m BGL.

6.9.4 A layer of topsoil (800), 0.15m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.9.5 Finds from this trench included burnt flint and late Bronze Age/Late Iron Age pottery from the fill (810) of the north-south running ditch [811], burnt flint from the primary fill (806) of the pit [807], burnt flint, pottery of late Bronze Age/iron Age date, CBM and cattle bone from its secondary fill (805), and more late Bronze Age/Late Iron Age pottery from the fill (808) of the ditch [809].

6.10 Trench 9 (photos 25–29; figures 2 and 4)

6.10.1 Trench 9 was situated on the eastern side of the PDA and was aligned north-south.

Table 9. Trench 9 contexts

TR09	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: SE–NW	Ground level: 30.09m OD (N) – 29.49m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
900	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.25–0.28		Modern	
901	Subsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces	0.22–0.30	0.12–0.22	Undated	
902	Buried subsoil	Mid grey brown soft clayey sand with common thin roots, rare rounded small and sub-angular flints	0.05–0.11	0.10–0.50	Undated	
903	Fill of [904]	Mottled mid brown/ yellow brown clayey sand with rare rounded sub-angular small flint, rare burnt flint	0.09	0.62	Undated	
904	Pit	Sub-oval pit	0.09	0.62	Undated	

TR09	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: SE–NW	Ground level: 30.09m OD (N) – 29.49m OD (S)		
Context	Interpretation	Description		Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates
905	Fill of linear [906]	Mid brown grey soft clayey sand, rare small rounded and sub-angular flint and rare burnt flint inclusions		0.12	0.61	Undated
906	Linear	N–S thin linear		0.12	0.61	Undated
907	Buried soil	Dark grey brown compact clayey sandy silt		Up to 0.3	0.22 to 0.55	Undated
908	Fill of [909]	Yellowish brown soft sandy clay with inclusions of occasional small/medium angled and rounded flint		0.26	0.84	Undated
909	Linear	Wide (3m) linear running N–S, possible lynchet			0.76	Undated
910	Fill of [911]	Greyish brown compact clayey sand with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions		0.37	0.74	Roman?
911	Linear	Linear with 'V'-profile oriented N–S				Roman?
912	Fill of [913]	Greyish brown compact clayey sand		0.28	0.64	Undated
913	Linear	Not excavated		0.28	0.64	Undated
914	Geology	Pale brown and yellow soft clayey sand		-	0.70	-

6.10.2 Superficial geology comprising pale brown and yellow, soft, clayey sand (914) was exposed at a depth of 0.70m BGL (28.72m—29.51m OD). Buried soil (907) was encountered at 0.22m to 0.55m BGL, sealed by another buried soil layer (902) at a depth of 0.10m to 0.50m, partially capped by subsoil (901), 0.12m–0.22m beneath a topsoil layer (900) up to 0.28m thick, which formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.10.3 Archaeology was observed mainly across the northern part of the trench, consisting mainly of a sub-oval pit [904] at a depth 0.62m BGL, and linear features [909, 911, 913]. Finds included burnt flint from (907), fills (908) and (910), with the latter also containing a piece of worked flint and a single fragment of Romano-British pottery which is possibly residual. Cut [911], a linear ditch, capped by buried soil (907) at a depth of 0.38m BGL was cut away on the northern side by linear [909]. This feature [909] was recorded as a possible lynchet.

6.11 Trench 10 (photo 30; figure 2)

6.11.1 Trench 10 was situated centrally within the PDA and was aligned south-east to north-west.

Table 10. Trench 10 contexts

TR10	Length: 30m	Width: 2m	Orientation: SE–NW	Ground level: 29.63m OD (E) – 29.33m OD (W)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
1000	Topsoil	Grey brown friable topsoil	0.33—0.35	-	Modern	
1010	Subsoil	Mottled light brown sandy clay and silty clay loam with common small to medium pebbles, flints and small chalk pieces	0.19	0.33—0.35	Undated	
1002	Deposit	Pale brown-grey, compact, sandy clay with common small sub-angular and rounded flint, rare burnt flint and CBM	0.15—0.17	0.52—0.53	Undated	
1003	Buried subsoil?	Pale brown yellow-grey firm clayey sand with common small rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions	0.13—0.17	0.68—0.70	Undated	
1004	Geology?	Pale yellow grey, soft, clayey sand with common small, rounded flint, rare burnt flint	-	0.80—0.87	-	

6.11.2 Superficial geology comprising pale yellow-grey, soft, sandy clay (1004) was exposed at a depth of 0.80m to 0.87m BGL (28.32—28.69m OD).

6.11.3 Geology was sealed by a buried subsoil (1003), up to 0.17m thick, itself sealed with a pale brown-grey, compact, sandy deposit (1002) up to 0.17m thick.

6.11.4 A layer of subsoil (200) 0.19m thick capped this deposit, sealed by topsoil up to 0.35m thick, which formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.11.5 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

6.12 Trench 11 (photos 31 and 32; figure 2)

6.12.1 Trench 11 was situated on the central south side of the PDA and was aligned north to south.

Table 11. Trench 11 contexts

TR11 Length: 26m Width: 2m Orientation: N–S Ground level: 29.19m OD (N) – 28.76 OD (S)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
1100	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey firm sandy silt with moderate rooting	0.38			Modern
1101	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt with common rounded flints	0.09	0.35		Undated
1102	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clayey silt with rare small, rounded flints	0.12–0.22	0.59–0.65		Undated
1103	Geology	Mid yellowish brown firm sandy clay with rare small, rounded flints	0.16–0.22	0.79–0.85		-

6.12.2 Superficial geology, comprising mid yellowish-brown, firm, sandy clay (1103) was exposed at a depth of 0.79m–0.85m BGL (27.92m–28.48m OD), it topped by subsoil (1102), up to 0.22m thick, itself sealed by a similar subsoil deposit (1101) up to 0.09m thick.

6.12.3 A layer of topsoil (1100), up to 0.38m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.

6.12.4 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

6.13 Trench 12 (photos 33 and 34; figure 2)

6.13.1 Trench 12 was situated at the south-east of the PDA and was aligned east to west.

Table 12. Trench 12 contexts

TR12 Length: 30m Width: 2m Orientation: E–W Ground level: 29.42m OD (E) – 28.91m OD (W)						
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth BGL (m)	Spot dates	
1200	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey firm sandy silt with moderate rooting	0.30	-		Modern
1201	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt with common rounded flints	0.45	0.30		Undated
1202	Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clayey silt with rare small, rounded flints	0.15	0.75		Undated
1203	Geology	Mid yellowish brown firm sandy clay with rare small, rounded flints	0.05	0.90		-
1204	Fill of [1205]	Mid greyish-brown firm sandy silt with rare small angular flint inclusions	0.04	0.92		Undated
1205	Pit	Sub-circular pit (of unknown date)	0.04	0.92		Undated

6.13.2 Superficial geology comprising mid-yellowish-brown, firm, sandy clay (1203) was exposed at a depth of 0.90m BGL (28.43–28.07m OD). This was cut by a sub-circular pit [1205] of unknown date at a depth of 0.92m BGL.

- 6.13.3 Geology and the pit feature were sealed by a subsoil (1202), up to 0.15m thick, which was encountered at a depth of 0.75m BGL. This was sealed with a subsoil layer (1201) up to 0.30m thick.
- 6.13.4 A layer of topsoil (1200), up to 0.30m thick, formed the final deposit in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 6.13.5 No archaeological deposits were recorded in this trench.

7 Finds

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR produced a small assemblage (a total of 56 bulk finds) of burnt flint, pottery sherds, fragments of ceramic building material and some modern glass, recovered from a total of eight contexts, as presented in Table 13.

Table 13. Bulk finds assemblage

Trench	Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spot-date	Notes
4	404	Pottery	3	31	C18th–C20th AD	x2 joining stoneware sherds glazed brown exterior and off-white interior colour; x1 white glazed sherd
4	404	Glass	1	14	Modern	clear blueish glass fragment
7	703	Burnt flint	3	48		
7	703	CBM – fired clay	1	4		
7	705	Burnt flint	10	119		
7	705	CBM – fired clay	1	5		
8	805	Burnt flint	6	358		
8	805	Animal bone	3	82		Cattle bone, very abraded
8	805	Pottery	3	13	LBA/IA	Includes base sherd
8	805	CBM – fired clay	1	7		
8	808	Burnt flint	5	47		
8	808	Pottery	8	43	LBA/IA	
8	810	Burnt flint	2	164		
8	810	Pottery	1	2	LBA/IA	
9	908	Burnt flint	3	93		
9	910	Burnt flint	2	22		
9	910	Worked flint	1	18		
9	910	Pottery	1	4	C1st AD - C2nd AD	Sandy sherd

Context 404

- 7.1.2 Three sherds of late post-medieval pottery were recovered from context 404, a post-medieval brick surface, and comprised two joining stoneware sherds glazed brown exterior and off-white interior colour and one white glazed sherd dating to the eighteenth to twentieth centuries AD. Also found was a fragment of modern clear bluish glass.

Contexts 703 and 705

- 7.1.3 These contexts produced fired-clay CBM and thirteen fragments of burnt flints.

Context 805

- 7.1.4 This context produced three fragments of late Bronze Age/iron Age pottery, including a base sherd, an abraded cattle bone, fired clay CBM and a large amount (358g) of burnt flint.
Context 808
- 7.1.5 Eight sherds of late Bronze Age/iron Age pottery and five pieces of burnt flint were produced from this context.
Context 810
- 7.1.6 A single sherd of late Bronze Age/iron Age pottery and two pieces of burnt flint were produced from this context.
Context 908
- 7.1.7 93g of burnt flint were produced from this context.
Context 910
- 7.1.8 A single sherd of Romano-British pottery (4g) was recovered from context 910. It is described as 'sandy' and likely dates to the First and Second centuries AD, it is possible that this could be residual, incorporated within a later feature. A worked flint (18g) was also found, as well as two fragments of burnt flint.

8 Conclusion

8.1 Discussion

Geology

- 8.1.1 Geology comprised orange-yellow-brown, compact, sandy clay with rare, rounded flints and pebbles, identified as bedrock geology of Thanet Formation (sand). Geology was exposed in every trench save Trenches 1 and 8 at a depth range of 0.70–1.20m BGL and at a height range of 27.53m–29.80m above OD.

Archaeological features

- 8.1.2 The evaluation identified a total of eighteen archaeological features comprising nine linear features/ditches, four pits, two possible quarry features or lynchets, one post-hole, a chalk levelling deposit, and a brick floor surface. Features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12.
- 8.1.3 The earliest datable finds were fragments of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery found in two ditches [809 and 811] and a gully [804] in Trench 8. A sandy sherd of First or Second-century AD Romano-British pottery was found in the wide linear feature [909] in Trench 9.
- 8.1.4 Undated finds included a worked flint from context (910) and thirty three burnt flint fragments, with a combined weight of 950g, from a number of contexts - occasional small to medium burnt flints from (702), and small to medium burnt flints from (705), all linear features in Trench 7; burnt flint from the fill (810) of the north-south running ditch [811], burnt flint from the primary fill (806) of pit [807], and burnt flint from its secondary fill (805) in Trench 8; burnt flint from buried soil [907], and linear features [909] and [911], in Trench 9, and rare burnt flint from deposit (1002) in Trench 10.
- 8.1.5 A post-medieval (nineteenth century) brick surface/floor at the western end of Trench 4, located 0.17m below present ground level, and measuring 1.80m x 1.40m, where visible. Other finds from this period or later included a chalk levelling deposit (202, 302, 402), likely modern prior to the erection of the school buildings; CMB and eighteenth to nineteenth

century stoneware pottery sherds from the modern chalk layer (202, 404) a modern pit [506], at a depth of 0.35m within Trench 5, containing inclusions of modern glass fragments and a lump of mortar.

8.1.6 The remaining features are undated and comprise the following:

- linear features [707] and [709] in Trench 7
- two linear feature [813] – and a pit – [807] in Trench 8
- a possible pit [904] and linear features [906], [909], and [913] in Trench 9
- a pit [1205] in Trench 12.

8.1.7 The majority of the archaeological resource was identified at a depth range of 0.17–0.84m BGL. The quarry/lynchet features [604] and [909] in Trenches 6 and 9 were recorded at a depth of 0.95m BGL and 0.76m BGL respectively, with only the wide linear feature [704] in Trench 7 identified at a deeper depth of 1.45m BGL.

8.1.8 The archaeological resource was mainly concentrated within the north-eastern section of the evaluation area in Trenches 7, 8 and 9, with finds suggesting prehistoric and later activity in this area. The north-west to south-east oriented linear cuts in trenches 7, cuts [704], [707] and [709] are likely to be continuations of cuts [909], [911] and [913] observed in Trench 9.

8.1.9 The final layer in the stratigraphic sequence comprised a layer of modern topsoil, 0.15–0.38m thick.

8.2 Conclusion

8.2.1 Prehistoric archaeological remains were recorded in the North East corner of the site at Trench 8, comprising pits and ditches at a depth of around 0.3-0.4m.

8.2.2 The remainder of the site is demarcated by a linear feature, possibly a lynchet which beyond which the natural deposits at a depth of around 0.7-0.9m. This suggests that either that the archaeological remains were concentrated on naturally higher ground in the northeast of the Site, or it is possible that there was some ground reduction or levelling.

8.3 Statement of Significance

8.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has identified evidence for low-level activity within the PDA potentially dating from as early as the late Bronze Age/Iron Age period, including linear features, with a later presence likely reflective of medieval and post-medieval agrarian activity, as represented by the various linear alignments recorded within the trenches and a scattering of small pits, and a post-medieval brick floor.

8.3.2 The archaeological remains exposed are considered to be of local significance only.

8.4 Development impact

8.4.1 The proposed development of the site will comprise a variety of groundworks, including but not exclusively, landscaping, the cutting of foundation trenches and/or piling, drainage and utility trenches.

8.4.2 There was a concentration of activity identified within the north-eastern section of the evaluation area.

- 8.4.3 Where present, the archaeological resource has been identified at a relatively shallow depth within the north-east of the Site, indicating that the development impact will be high within the north-eastern corner of the site.

8.5 Confidence rating

- 8.5.1 The evaluation is considered to have sufficiently determined the nature, character and extent of archaeology surviving within the PDA.
- 8.5.2 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and was conducted under mainly dry and fair weather conditions.
- 8.5.3 The overall confidence rating is therefore considered good.

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Appendix 1. Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, Gravesend	
Site Address: St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR	
Summary: An archaeological evaluation on land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR (centred NGR 565393 172893) was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust between 20 and 23 April 2026. The work was commissioned by RPS Tetra Tech on behalf of their client Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd., prior to development of the land including 'conversion of existing Victorian building, demolition of other existing buildings and development of the site to provide a mixed-use development comprising a new three-storey GP Surgery, fifty-four new residential dwellings with access, public open space and landscaping' (Planning Application Ref: 2024 0013). The proposed development site lies within an area of largely unknown archaeological potential as few archaeological investigations have taken place in the wider surrounds. However, Palaeolithic flint implements have been recovered c 600m north-east of the site, and a denehole (chalk extraction shaft) is located immediately south of the site, possibly of Iron Age date, based on two lithic implements from shaft's backfill, though these are likely to be residual, as are Roman-era tiles recovered from the same fill. This suggests at present a low likelihood of activity from these periods in and around the site, as is also the case for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, though in these later periods an agricultural use for the site and its environs is likely. The development area is likely to have formed part of the medieval and post-medieval agricultural hinterland to settlement at Milton and Gravesend, before becoming incorporated into the orchards of a post-medieval farmstead, and later forming the grounds and location of a Victorian villa, prior to becoming the site of a modern school with associated playing fields. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twelve evaluation trenches positioned across the footprint of the proposed development scheme. Geology comprised orange-yellow-brown, compact, sandy clay with rare, rounded flints and pebbles, identified as bedrock geology of Thanet Formation (sand). Geology was exposed in every trench save Trench 8 at a depth range of 0.70–0.1.20m BGL at a height range of 27.53m–29.80m above OD. The evaluation identified a total of eighteen archaeological features comprising nine linear features/ditches, four pits, two possible quarry features or lynchets, one post-hole, a chalk levelling deposit, and a brick floor surface. Features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12. The archaeological evaluation has identified evidence for low-level activity within the proposed development area potentially dating from as early as the late Bronze Age/Iron Age period, including linear features, with a later presence likely reflective of medieval and post-medieval agrarian activity, as represented by the various linear alignments recorded within the trenches and a scattering of small pits and a post-medieval brick floor. The archaeological remains exposed here hold local significance only. The archaeological resource was mainly concentrated within the north-eastern section of the evaluation area in Trenches 7, 8 and 9, with finds suggesting prehistoric and later activity in this area. The north-west to south-east oriented linear cuts in trenches 7, cuts [704], [707] and [709] are likely to be continuations of cuts [909], [911] and [913] observed in Trench 9. Where present, the archaeological resource has been identified at a relatively shallow depth (0.17m–1.45m BGL) indicating that the development impact will be high within the north-eastern corner of the site.	
District/Unitary: Gravesham Borough Council	Parish: Gravesend
Period(s): Prehistoric, Roman?, post-medieval, Undated	
NGR: 565393 172893 (centred)	
Type of archaeological work: Evaluation	

Date of Recording: 07/07/2026 – 10/07/2026	
Unit undertaking recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust	
Geology: Bedrock geology of Thanet Formation (sand).	
Title and author of accompanying report: Land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR - Archaeological evaluation report, document no. 56380.1.1, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Grigsby, John	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate): Geology comprised orange-yellow brown compact sandy clay with rare, rounded flints and pebbles, identified as bedrock geology of Thanet Formation (sand). Geology was exposed in every trench save Trench 8 at a depth range of 0.70–0.1.20m BGL and at a height range of 27.53m–29.80m above OD. Archaeological features The evaluation identified a total of eighteen archaeological features comprising nine linear features/ditches, four pits, two possible quarry features or lynchets, one post-hole, a chalk levelling deposit, and a brick floor surface. Features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12. Finds were limited, but provided some dating evidence for the features. The earliest datable finds were fragments of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery found in two ditches [809 and 811] and a gully [804] in Trench 8. A sandy sherd of First or Second-century AD Romano-British pottery was found in the wide linear feature [909] in Trench 9. Undated finds included thirty three burnt flint fragments, with a combined weight of 950g. Large quarry features (possibly lynchets) were observed at a depth of 0.95m in Trench 6 [604], and 0.76m [909] in Trench 9. A nineteenth-century brick surface/floor at the western end of Trench 4, located 0.17m below present ground level, and measuring 1.80m x 1.40m, where visible. Other finds from this period or later included a chalk levelling deposit (202, 302, 402), likely modern prior to the erection of the school buildings; CMB and eighteenth to nineteenth century stoneware pottery sherds from the modern chalk layer (202, 404) a modern pit [506], at a depth of 0.35m within Trench 5, containing inclusions of modern glass fragments and a lump of mortar. The majority of the archaeological resource was identified at a depth range of 0.17–0.84m BGL. The quarry/lynchet features [604] and [909] in Trenches 6 and 9 were recorded at a depth of 0.95m BGL and 0.76m BGL respectively, with only the wide linear feature [704] in Trench 7 identified at a deeper depth of 1.45m and BGL. The archaeological resource was mainly concentrated within the north-eastern section of the evaluation area in Trenches 7, 8 and 9, with finds suggesting prehistoric and later activity in this area. The north-west to south-east oriented linear cuts in trenches 7, cuts [704], [707] and [709] are likely to be continuations of cuts [909], [911] and [913] observed in Trench 9.	
Location of archive/finds: Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU	
Contact at Unit: Adrian Gollop	Date: 21/07/2026

Appendix 2. OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID)	canterbu3-544847
Project Name	Land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR - Archaeological evaluation report
Sitename	St Joseph's, Gravesend
Sitecode	EV SJG 26
Project Identifier(s)	St Joseph's Gravesend
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	20240013
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination

Organisation Responsible for work	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	07-Jul-2026 - 10-Jul-2026
Location	St Joseph's, Gravesend NGR: TQ 65393 72893 LL: 51.43090352769122, 0.377843125144847 12 Fig: 565393,172893
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Kent Local Authority District: Gravesham Parish: Gravesham, unparished area
Project Methodology	The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of twelve evaluation trenches positioned across the footprint of the proposed development scheme.
Project Results	The evaluation identified a total of eighteen archaeological features comprising nine linear features/ditches, four pits, two possible quarry features or lynchets, one post-hole, a chalk levelling deposit, and a brick floor surface. Features were recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12. The archaeological evaluation has identified evidence for low-level activity within the proposed development area potentially dating from as early as the late Bronze Age/Iron Age period, including linear features, with a later presence likely reflective of medieval and post-medieval agrarian activity, as represented by the various linear alignments recorded within the trenches and a scattering of small pits and a post-medieval brick floor. The archaeological remains exposed here hold local significance only. The archaeological resource was mainly concentrated within the north-eastern section of the evaluation area in Trenches 7, 8 and 9, with finds suggesting prehistoric and later activity in this area. The north-west to south-east oriented linear cuts in trenches 7, cuts [704], [707] and [709] are likely to be continuations of cuts [909], [911] and [913] observed in Trench 9.
Keywords	Linear Feature - Late Bronze Age - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Linear Feature - Early Iron Age - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Linear Feature - Iron Age - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Linear Feature - Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Linear Feature - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Floor - Post Medieval - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Galliard (Gravesend) Ltd
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Mark Williams
HER Identifiers	

Report generated on: 05-08-2026:1241

Photographs



Photo 1. The proposed development area, looking north from western side



Photo 2. The proposed development area, looking south-west from eastern side



Photo 3. The proposed development area, looking north towards school buildings



Photo 4. The Trench 1 from the south looking north



Photo 5. Section on western side of Trench 1



Photo 6. View of excavated Trench 2, looking west



Photo 7. Section 2 of Trench 2, looking south. Scale 1.0 m.



Photo 8. View of excavated Trench 3, looking north. Scale 1.0m



Photo 9. Section of Trench 3, looking east. Scale 1.0m



Photo 10. View of excavated Trench 4, looking west. Scale 1.0m



Photo 11. View of excavated Trench 5, looking north. Scale 1.0m



Photo 12. Modern pit in Trench 5. Scale 1.0m



Photo 13. Excavated Trench 6, looking south-east. Scale 1m.



Photo 14. Lynchet and north-west end of Trench 6. Scale 1.0m



Photo 15. View of excavated Trench 7, looking south. Scale 1.0m



Photo 16. Linear feature [704] in Trench 7 looking north. Scale 1.0m



Photo 17. Linear feature [707] in Trench 7 looking south-east. Scale 1.0m



Photo 18. Linear feature [709] in Trench 7 looking north-west. Scale 1.0m



Photo 19. View of excavated Trench 8, looking west. Scale 1.0m



Photo 20. View of post hole [813] in Trench 8, looking west. Scale 0.1m



Photo 21. View of linear [804] in Trench 8, looking south-west. Scale 0.5m



Photo 22. View of linear [811] in Trench 8, looking east. Scale 1.0m



Photo 23. View of linear [809] in Trench 8, looking south-east. Scale 0.5m



Photo 24. View of ditch [807] in Trench 8, looking north-west. Scale 0.5m



Photo 25. View of excavated Trench 9, looking north-west. Scale 1.0m



Photo 26. Half-section of pit [904] in Trench 9. Scale 1.0m



Photo 27. Linear feature [906] in Trench 9, looking east. Scale 0.2m



Photo 28. Linear feature [906] in Trench 9, looking west. Scale 1.0m



Photo 29. Linear feature [909] in Trench 9, looking east. Scale 1.0m



Photo 30. Section 2 in excavated Trench 10, looking north-east. Scale 1.0m



Photo 31. View of excavated Trench 11, looking south. Scale 1.0m



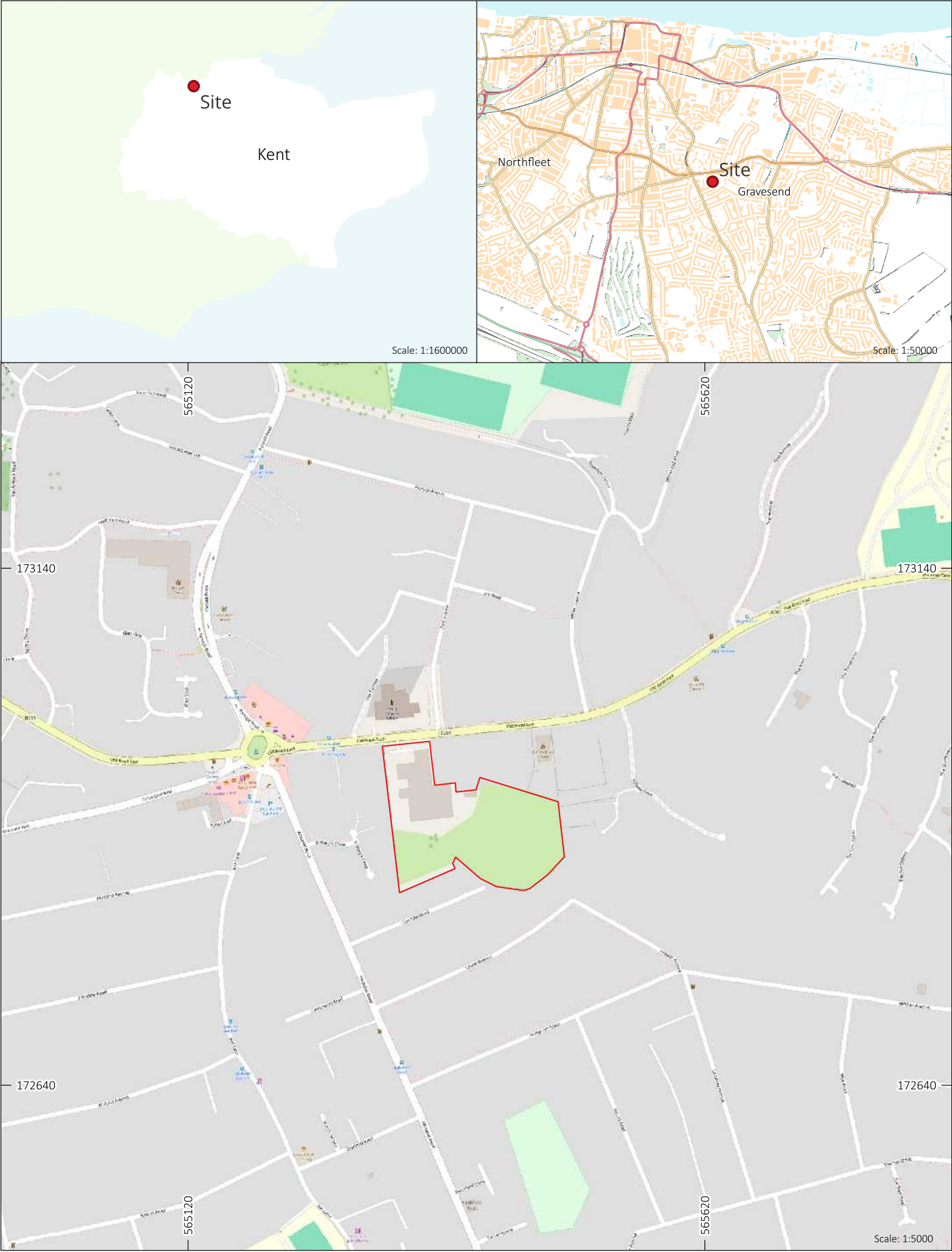
Photo 32. Section 1 of Trench 11, looking west. Scale 1.0m



Photo 33. View of excavated Trench 12 looking east. Scale 0.5m



Photo 34. Cut [1205] in Trench 12, looking east. Scale 0.5m



T:\Active Projects\56380 - St Joseph's Gravesend EV\Project Data\GIS\St Joseph's Gravesend.dwg

 Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU t: 01227 462062 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk w: canterburytrust.co.uk	PROJECT Land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR	DRAWN BY TA	SCALE(S) 1:5000@A4
	COMMENTS Contains Ordnance Survey data @ Crown Copyright and database right 2023+6.	DATE 05/08/2026	LAST REVISION -/-/-/-
	CHECKED —	REF/DRG NO. 56380_EV SIG 26_PEX_Fig01	
	CRS: OSGB36 / British National Grid		


0 50 100 m

 Site outline

Figure 1. Site location



Figure 2. Trench plan

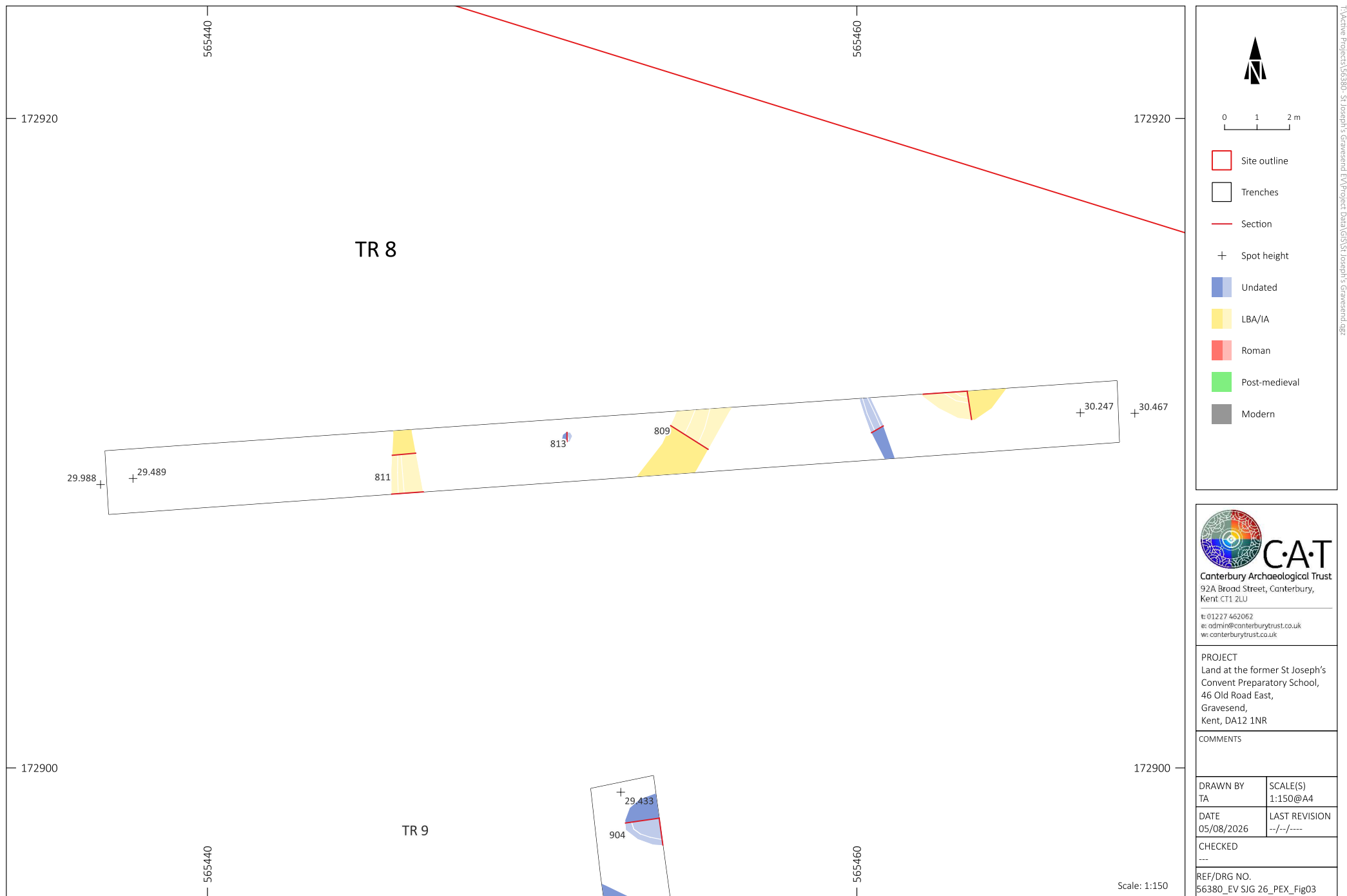
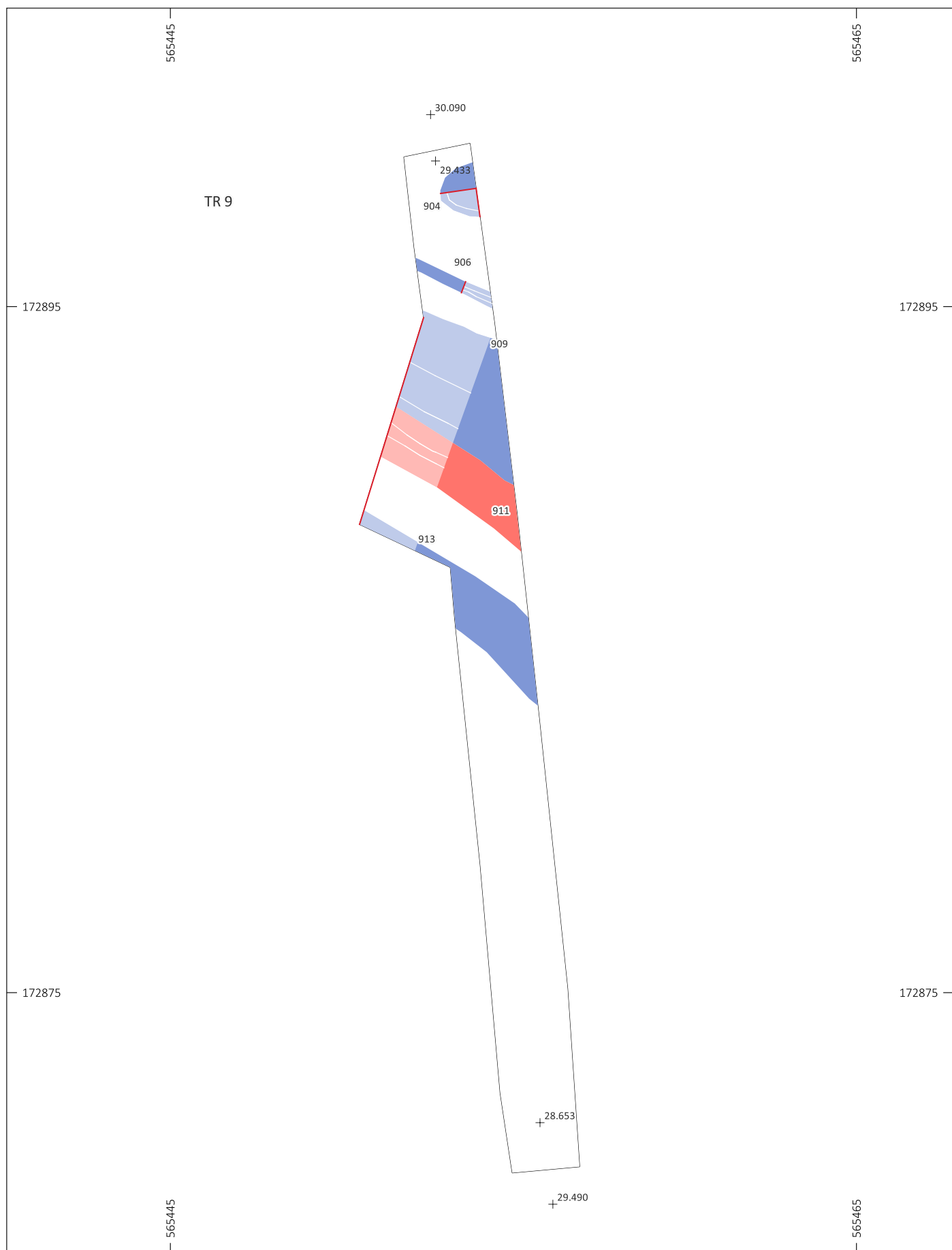


Figure 3. Plan of trench 8



 Canterbury Archaeological Trust 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU t: 01227 462062 e: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk w: canterburytrust.co.uk	PROJECT Land at the former St Joseph's Convent Preparatory School, 46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NR	DRAWN BY TA	SCALE(S) 1:150@A4	 0 1 2 m	Trenches Section Spot height Undated LBA/IA Roman Post-medieval Modern
	COMMENTS	DATE 18/08/2026	LAST REVISION --/--/----		
	CHECKED —	REF/DRG NO. 56380_EV SIG 26_PEX_Fig04			

Figure 4. Plan of trench 9