

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Edenbridge Bowling Club  
Grange Close, Edenbridge  
Kent, TN8 5LT**

**NGR: 544407 146442**

**Planning Ref: SE/14/01153/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 160157  
Site Code: ECL16  
ASE Report No: 2016472  
OASIS id: archaeol6-269771**



**By Steve Price**

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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Edenbridge Bowling Club, Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, between the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The work was commissioned by Asprey Homes Ltd. The groundwork excavations for a small housing development were monitored.*

*Within housing plot 6, an Early Roman ditch and a post-medieval soakaway were recorded.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Asprey Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the former site of the Edenbridge Bowls Club, Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5LT centred at NGR 544407 146442 (Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies on Weald Clay Formation; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The proposed works involve residential development of the site. Sevenoaks District Council has approved the application (SE/14/01153/FUL) subject to conditions. Condition 7 is for archaeology:

7) No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a "watching brief". This shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved in writing by the Council so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council.

To investigate and record archaeological features as supported by Policy EN25A of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan.

1.3.2 Accordingly, a Specification (WSI; ASE 2016) was produced and approved by KCC prior to commencement of fieldwork.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The archaeological works aimed to establish whether Roman remains associated with Watling Street were present.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken by ASE from the 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 7<sup>th</sup> October. The fieldwork was undertaken by Lucy May, Tom Simms, Gary Webster and Steve Price and managed by Darryl Palmer and Paul Mason; the post excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

- 2.1.1 The site lies c. 100m east of High Street which respects the line of Watling Street Roman road. To the north of the site, archaeological work undertaken as part of the Edenbridge Western Relief Road scheme revealed evidence for medieval tanneries and iron working (ASE 2004). A short distance to the south watching briefs at 1 High Street and 23a High Street have proven negative.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The monitored ground works comprised the mechanical removal of a modern made ground horizon and excavations for foundation trenches. The work was monitored between 22/09/16 and 07/10/16.
- 3.1.2 Where practical a mechanical excavator was fitted with a smooth grading bucket and care was taken to ensure that any archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining. Initially, a toothed bucket was used to remove the made ground horizon across site, which was found to be overlying truncated subsoil and natural.
- 3.1.3 Excavation strategy was in accordance with *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (KCC 2007) and with the *Specification* (ASE 2016). Archaeological deposits/features were cleaned, recorded and excavated sufficiently to characterise their nature.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded on ASE recording sheets. Plans were made by digital means. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record of the work was kept.

### 3.2 The Site Archive

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

Context sheets	10
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	143
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	10
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	2 bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Housing plots 1 to 6 monitored 22/09/16 – 07/10/16**

- 4.1.1 The deposits encountered were the same across the entire site, with natural geology overlain by subsoil, made ground and topsoil.
- 4.1.2 Initially, a modern made ground horizon [110] and topsoil [101] were removed across the site exposing the underlying subsoil. Following this, foundation trenches for six houses were excavated to depths of up to 1.20m.
- 4.1.3 The natural geology [103], consisted of firmly compacted mid orange-yellow clay with mid grey mottling, was overlain by subsoil [102], consisting of moderately compacted mid brown clayey silt with inclusions of occasional small angular stones measuring c.10-20mm. The subsoil was measured at depths of 0.20-0.50m Below Ground Level (BGL) and, in some areas, had been truncated or completely removed.
- 4.1.4 The subsoil, and in places the natural geology, was overlain by a made ground deposit [110], which consisted of pieces of concrete and brick, mottled mid greenish grey/ light orange-yellow silty clay with inclusions of moderate rounded and angular stones measuring c.30-70mm. This deposit was presumably a make-up/ levelling layer for the bowling green and associated facilities.
- 4.1.5 The made ground [110] was overlain by imported topsoil [101], consisting of loosely compacted light-mid greyish-brown clayey silt.

#### ***Plot 6***

- 4.1.6 Within plot 6, a north-south ditch was encountered cut into the natural geology [103]. Two slots were excavated ([104] and [106]) at intervals along the ditch. It was found to have been heavily truncated by groundworks associated with the bowling club, and was visible for 6.85m long x 0.65m wide. It measured between 0.20 and 0.25m deep.
- 4.1.7 Ditch [104]/ [106] contained a single fill [105]/ [107], which consisted of firmly compacted mottled light bluish-grey/ light yellowish-orange silty clay, with inclusions of frequent manganese. A number of pottery sherds dating to the Early Roman period were recovered, along with some animal bone and pieces of fired clay.
- 4.1.8 The ditch was truncated at the south end by a land drain, and by a large modern rectangular feature [108] at the north end. This was thought to have been a soakaway associated with the bowling club. It measured 2.35m long, 1.25m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.42m.
- 4.1.9 Feature [108] contained a single deliberate backfill [109], consisting of moderately compacted mottled light grey/ light brownish-yellow silty clay, with inclusions of moderate manganese and occasional charcoal flecks. Post-medieval CBM and residual Roman pottery, of the same date as that from the ditch [104]/ [106], were recovered. The pottery is thought to derive through



disturbance of the ditch.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
101	Layer	Topsoil	Site	Site	0.22-0.28
102	Layer	Subsoil	Site	Site	0.10-0.50
103	Layer	Natural	Site	Site	-
104	Cut	Ditch	>6.85	>0.65	0.20-0.25
105	Fill	Fill, single	>6.85	>0.65	0.20-0.25
106	Cut	Ditch	>6.85	>0.65	0.20-0.25
107	Fill	Fill, single	>6.85	>0.65	0.20-0.25
108	Cut	Soakaway	>2.35	1.25	>0.42
109	Fill	Backfill	>2.35	1.25	>0.42
110	Deposit	Made ground	Site	Site	0.28-0.39

Table 3: List of recorded contexts housing plots 1-6

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)
105	23	501			4	20	5	69
109	8	109	2	65				
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>69</b>

Table 4: Finds quantification

### 5.2 The Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered amounting to 31 sherds and weighing 610g, all from contexts [105] and [109]. Both of these produced material of similar character, predominantly made up by grog-tempered wares with some examples of Roman sandy fabrics (Table 5). In [105] the non-grog-tempered wares were sherds of north Kent/Thameside fine grey ware from a single vessel whilst, in [109], unsourced oxidised wares were present alongside a single sherd of burnt Baetican amphora. The only feature sherd is a substantial rim from a grog-tempered bead rim storage jar with slashed chevron decoration on the shoulder, recovered from [105].

Fabric codes	Description	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
BAETE	Baetican amphora	1	92	1
GROG	Grog-tempered wares	20	495	3
NKGW	North Kent/Thameside fine grey ware	6	14	1
OXID	Unsourced oxidised sandy wares	4	9	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>6</b>

Table 5: Quantification of Roman pottery fabrics

5.2.2 Because grog-tempered wares are generally quite long-lived in the Weald it is difficult to date these groups very closely but they are likely to belong to the earlier Roman period (c.AD50-120).

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Two fragments of slight curving tile collectively weighing 65g were collected from [109]. They were formed from a pinkish-orange fabric with cream silty deposits and were 13mm thick. The tile is most likely to be of post-medieval date although the size of the fragments makes dating tenuous at best.

**5.4 The Fired Clay** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 Five pieces of fired clay weighing 69g were recovered from context [105]. They were all formed of the same orange fabric with pale silty marbling which had become very hard. Two fragments had flattened surfaces, although no further indication of original function.

**5.5 The Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.5.1 A small assemblage containing 4 animal bone fragments were retrieved from context [105] weighing 20g. The bones were hand-collected and are in a moderate-poor state of preservation, showing signs of surface erosion and weathering.

5.5.2 The specimens have been identified as fragments of cattle dentition; roots and enamel from two adult mandibular molars. Analysis of the dentition occlusal surfaces shows that the teeth were in-wear at the time of death.

5.5.3 No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology has been noted. Due to the size of the assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was natural clay geology overlain by subsoil, made ground and topsoil deposits.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

6.2.1 The site had been quite heavily truncated by groundworks associated with the bowling club. In some areas, the subsoil had been completely removed. Although a single archaeological feature was exposed, this was also truncated. Extensive truncation may, or may not, have removed, or impacted upon other potential areas of archaeology not exposed in the watching brief. Further archaeology, therefore, may survive at the site.

### **6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains**

6.3.1 Within housing plot 6, an Early Roman ditch and a post-medieval soakaway were recorded.

### **6.4 Consideration of research aims**

6.4.1 The Early Roman ditch may relate to Watling Street, though as this is some 100m to the west of the site this is impossible to confirm.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeology South East, 2016. *Edenbridge Bowling Club, Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5LT: Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief*

CIfA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Asprey Homes Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rodgers, County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was conducted by Lucy May, Tom Simms, Gary Webster and Steve Price. Darryl Palmer and Paul Mason managed the fieldwork, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

Site code	ECL16				
Project code	160157				
Planning reference	SE/14/01153/FUL				
Site address	Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5LT				
District/Borough	Kent				
NGR (12 figures)	544407 146442				
Geology	Weald Clay Formation				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	22 <sup>nd</sup> September – 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016				
Sponsor/client	Asprey Homes Ltd				
Project manager	Darryl Palmer, Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Lucy May, Tom Simms, Gary Webster, Steve Price				
Period summary					
	Roman				
Project summary	<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Edenbridge Bowling Club, Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, between the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The work was commissioned by Asprey Homes Ltd. The groundwork excavations for a small housing development were monitored.</p> <p>Within housing plot 6, an Early Roman ditch and a post-medieval soakaway were recorded.</p>				

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-269771

#### Project details

Project name	Edenbridge Bowling Club, Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5LT
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Edenbridge Bowling Club, Grange Close, Edenbridge, Kent, between the 22nd September and 7th October 2016. The work was commissioned by Asprey Homes Ltd. The groundwork excavations for a small housing development were monitored. Within housing plot 6, an Early Roman ditch and a post-medieval soakaway were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2016 End: 07-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS EDENBRIDGE Edenbridge bowling club
Postcode	TN8 5LT
Site coordinates	TQ 544407 146442 50.909997741666 0.197038603016 50 54 35 N 000 11 49 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Asprey Homes
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/ Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Lucy May, Tom Simms, Gary Webster, Steve Price
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Section"

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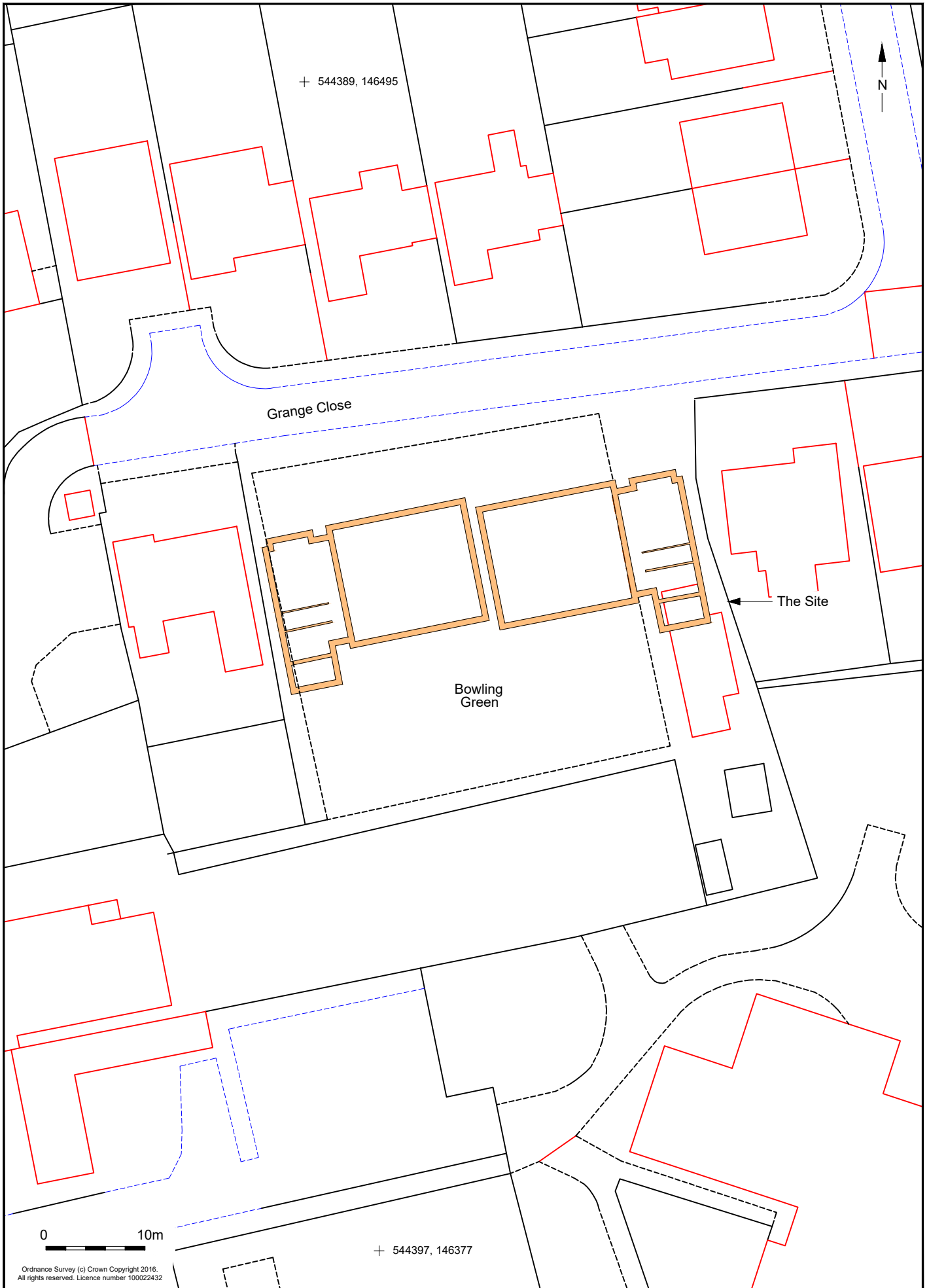
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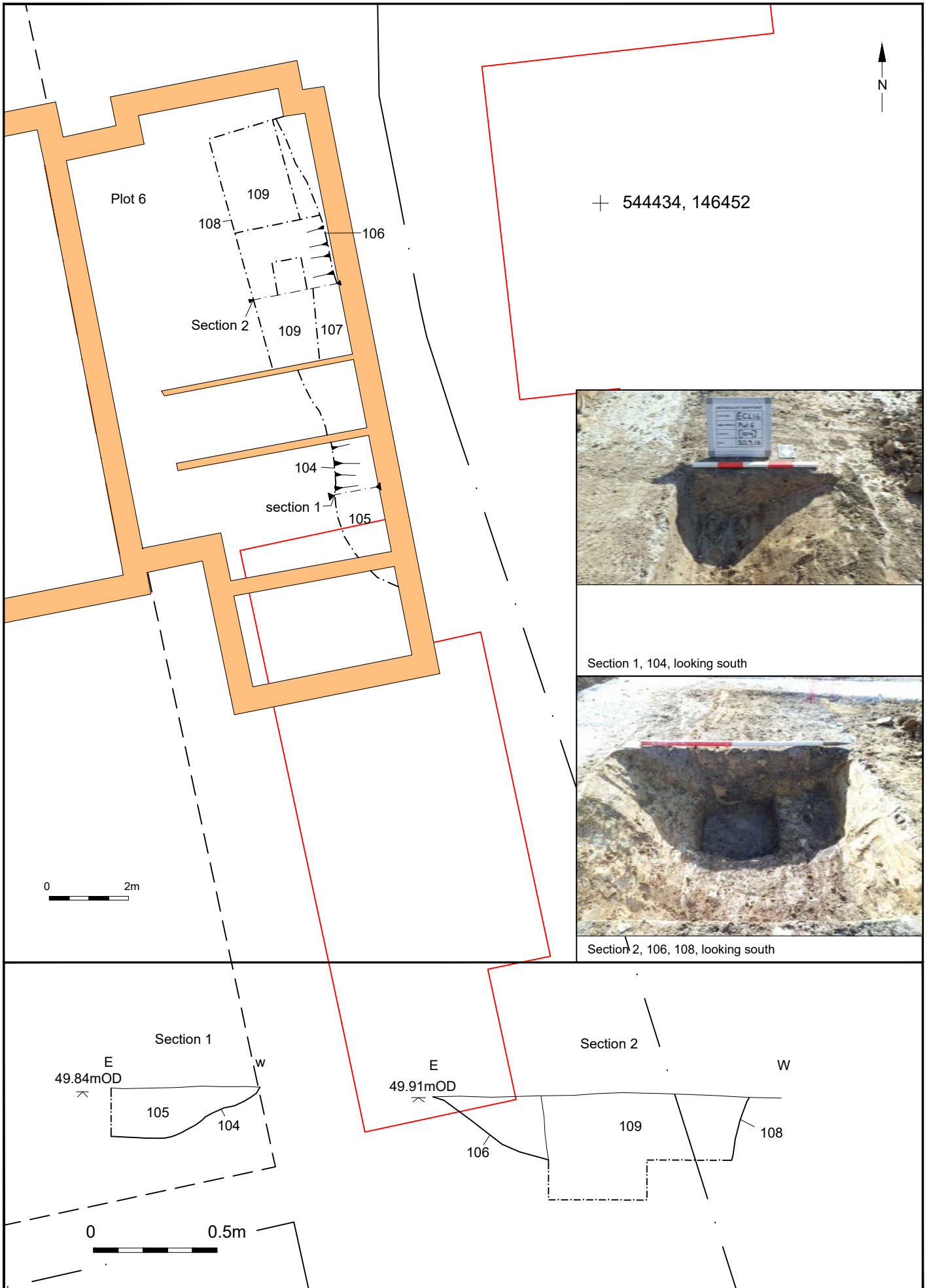


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© Archaeology South-East		Edenbridge Bowling Club		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160157	Nov 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016472	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Edenbridge Bowling Club	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160157	Nov 2016	Location of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2016472	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Edenbridge Bowling Club	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160157	Nov 2016	Plot 6 - monitored groundwork, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016472	Drawn by: AR		

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