

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
DURING PHASE ONE
WORKS TO THE
CAR PARK AT
SOUTH BOROUGH
PRIMARY SCHOOL,
STAGSHAW CLOSE,
MAIDSTONE,
KENT,
ME15 6TL**

REPORT NO: R12605

SEPTEMBER 2016



**PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING PHASE ONE WORKS TO
THE CAR PARK AT SOUTH BOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, STAGSHAW
CLOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6TL**

Site Code: KSBM16

Planning Permission Ref: MA/16/5034

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 76318 54608

Written and Researched by Guy Seddon

Project Manager: Charlotte Mathews

Commissioning Client: Kent County Council

Contractor:

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre

96 Endwell Road

Brockley

London

SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

Email: cmathews@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

PCA Report No: P12605

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

September 2016

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

PHASE ONE WORKS
TO THE CAR PARK AT
SOUTH BOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL,
STAGSHAW CLOSE,
MAIDSTONE,
KENT,
ME15 6TL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited	
Project Number	K4668
Report Number	R12605

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Guy Seddon		01/09/2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		01/09/2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	01/09/2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Charlotte Matthews	<i>Charlotte Matthews</i>	01/09/2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

CONTENTS

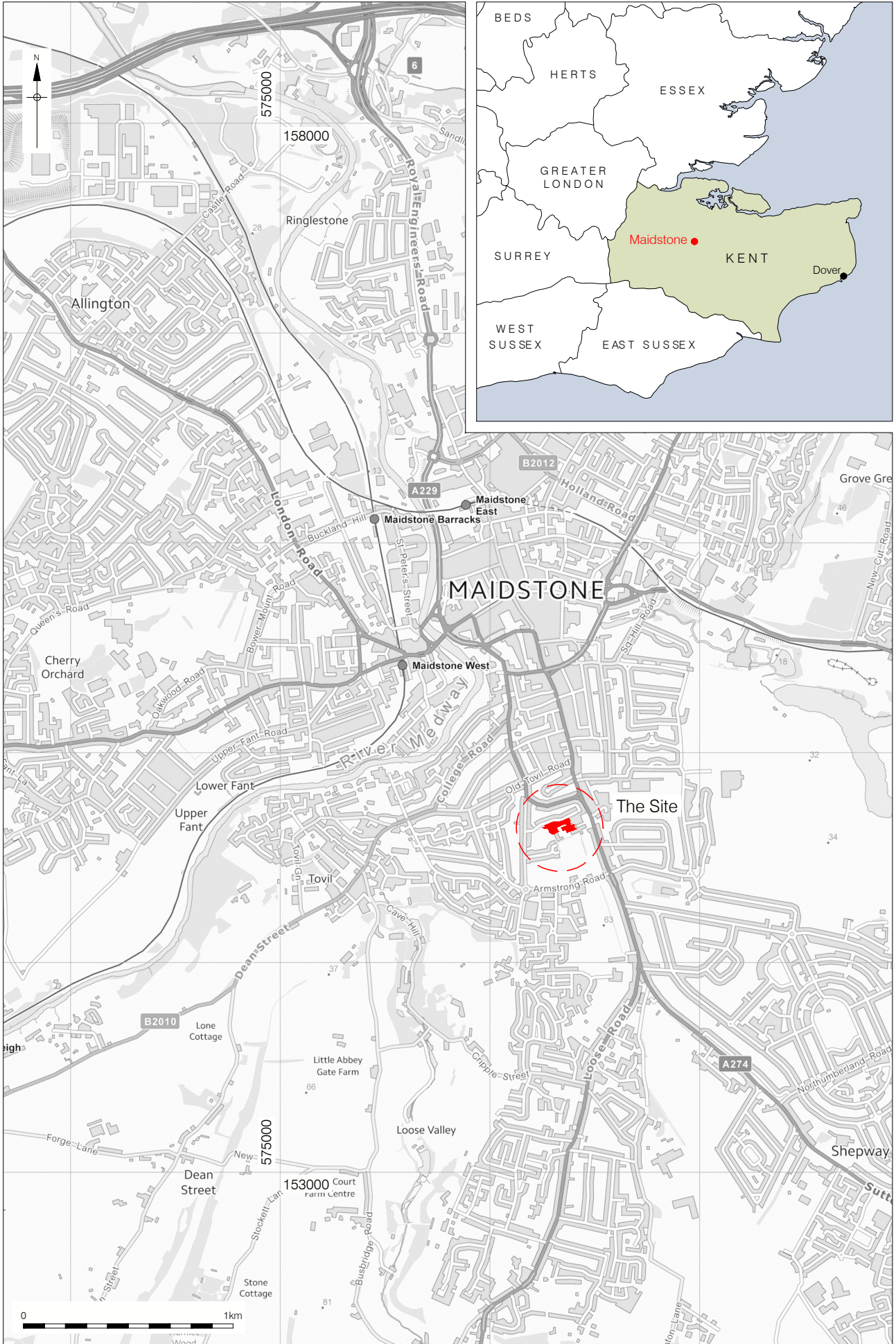
1	ABSTRACT	1
2	INTRODUCTION	2
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND	5
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	7
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	8
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION	9
7	INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS	10
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	18
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	19
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX	20
	APPENDIX 2: STRATAGRAPHIC MATRIX	21
	APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	22
	FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION	3
	FIGURE 2: AREAS MONITORED	4
	FIGURE 3: SECTIONS 1 AND 2	11
	PLATES:	17

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at South Borough Primary School, Stagshore Close, Maidstone, Kent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The watching brief was conducted from 10th to 12th August 2016.
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of archaeological monitoring during ground reduction in order to enlarge the school car park (Phase 1). The second phase of work (as yet to be undertaken) concerns the construction of a two storey extension to facilitate the expansion of the school from 1FE (i.e. 30 places 1 form of entry) to 2 FE (i.e. 60 places 2 forms of entry).
- 1.3 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated with Barton Roman Villa and a possible Roman road. There is also the possibility of post-medieval and modern activity, including an anti-tank ditch, which zig-zags through the south and east of the study site.
- 1.4 During the exercise no features of archaeological significance were discovered.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at South Borough Primary School, Stagshore Close, Maidstone, Kent. The objectives as outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation for the work (Matthews, 2016), were as follows:
- To preserve 'by record' the extent and significance of any surviving archaeological features and deposits within the site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site and the extent of modern truncation.
- 2.2 The watching brief area covered three sides of the existing car park which were covered with made up with embankment/ground (**Figure 2**). This involved excavation to 400mm below the existing car park surface to provide sufficient sub-base for the car park extension. The other element of the works involved excavation to 240mm below the existing car park surface in order to create a path around the west and south side of the car park.
- 2.3 The central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 76318 54608.
- 2.4 The site was given the unique site code KSBM16.
- 2.5 The project was monitored by Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council, project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Charlotte Mathews and supervised by the author.
- 2.6 The commissioning client was Kent County Council.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2016
 18/08/16 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

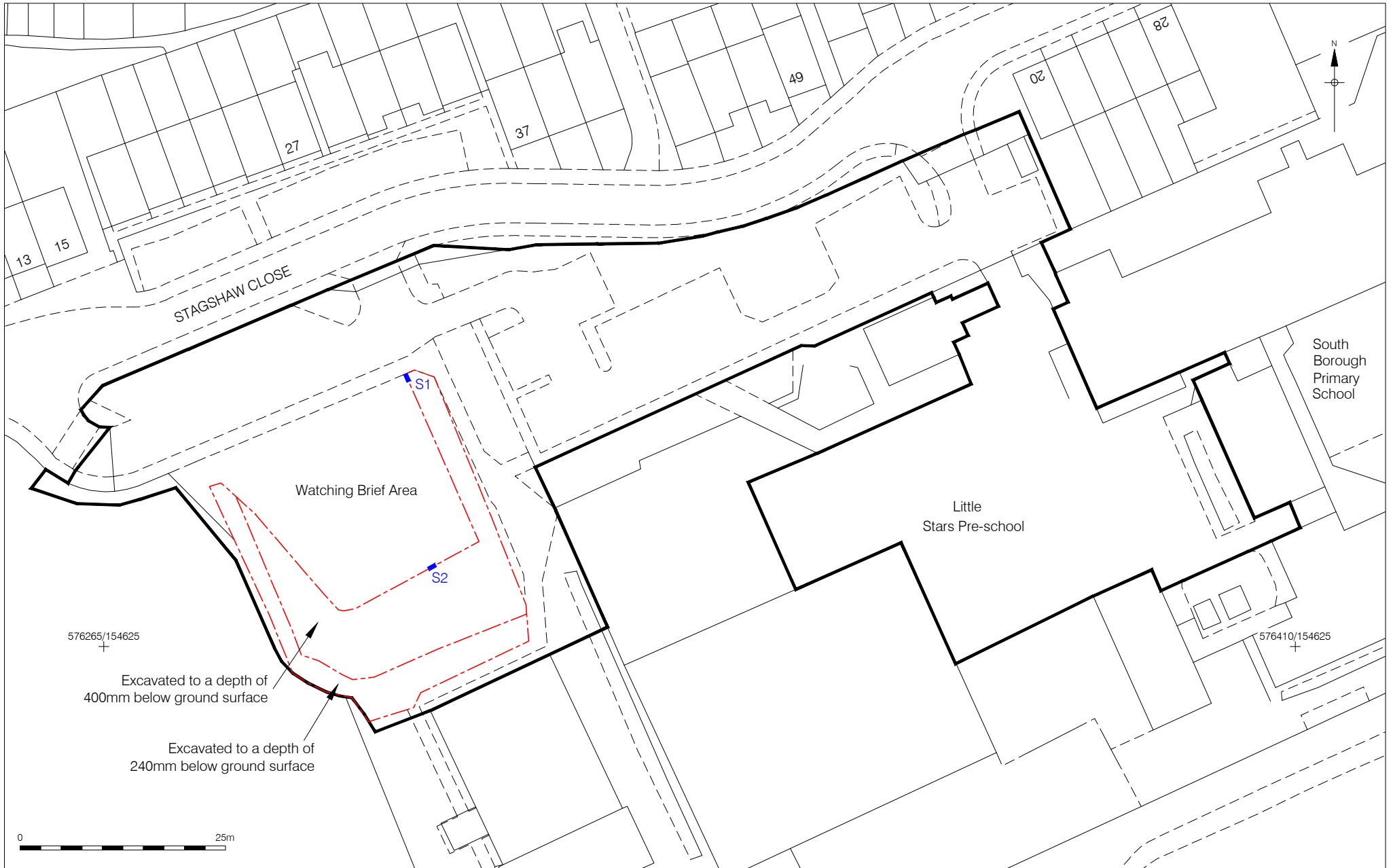


Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission (MA/16/5034) has been granted for a 'Two storey extension to facilitate the expansion of the school from 1FE (i.e. 30 places 1 form of entry) to 2 FE (i.e. 60 places 2 forms of entry) and the remodelling of the car park area'. An archaeological condition (8) attached to the permission requires the following:

Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents, or successors in title, will secure and implement :

- (i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority; and
- (ii) Further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. Archaeological remains could be damaged by development therefore an approved programme of archaeological investigation must be in place before development starts.

3.2 The proposed development has been split into 2 phases: the phase one Car Park and the phase two main New Build. The phase one Car Park works and subject of this report started in August 2016. The phase one Car Park works comprise the following:

- a) The main excavation area is to one end of the existing car park through made up embankment/ground. This will involve excavation to 400mm, below the existing car park to provide sufficient sub-base for the car park (**Figure 2; Plates 3 to 6**).
- b) The other element of works which involves excavation relates to the formation of paths around the car park. This will only be excavated to 240mm (**Figure 2; Plates 1 and 2**).
- c) The other areas will not involve excavation and the ground will be made up.
- d) Localised work to the existing surface.

3.3 In an email exchange with Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, Emily Stapley of Infrastructure Division of Kent County Council, pointed out that the area of the phase one car park works has previously been disturbed when the car park was originally created and when the "Smarties" nursery was built. Wendy Rogers replied 'I would be happy to accept that archaeological works could comprise a programme of monitoring. Archaeological monitoring would need to be in accordance with the attached specification. You will also need to

appoint an archaeological contractor to undertake the works and provide me with progress reports. There may only need to be one or two visits but the groundworks need to be done in a manner conducive to archaeological observation i.e. back-acting machine and no vehicle tracking on exposed surfaces until area signed off by archaeologist. For the phase 2 building works we can look again at the need for trenching, subject to the results of the phase one works. So I would be happy for groundworks for the car park to take place over the summer but you will need to set up the archaeological watching brief'.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey of England and Wales (Sheet 271) states that geology on the site comprises Hythe Formation of alternating sandy limestones ("Ragstone") and glauconitic sandy mudstones (Hassock). The superficial deposits on the site are river terrace deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. These superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Here the local environment was previously dominated by rivers.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The study site is irregular in shape and lies adjacent to and to the south of Stagshaw Close (**Figure 2**). It is bounded to the west by school playing fields, to the east by school buildings and to the south by a playground.

4.2.2 The watching brief area gently sloped from 47.86m AOD in the south to 46.04m AOD in the north.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 An archaeologist from Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of all groundworks by 360° tracked excavator. This included the stripping of subsoils and ground reduction above the natural deposits. The machine was fitted with flat bladed ditching buckets (**Plates 1 to 6**), and removed the earth in spits of no more than 0.10m per pass.
- 5.2 After the removal of each distinguishable soil layer the areas of excavation were examined for archaeological artefacts, features, structures and deposits. The spoil heaps were also examined for artefacts.
- 5.3 The faces of the trenches that required examination and recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels was by hand.
- 5.4 All recording systems employed were fully compatible with those used elsewhere in Kent; that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, and presented in PCAs Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009). Individual descriptions of archaeological strata and features excavated and/or exposed were entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:50, 1:100, and 1:200, and the sections at 1:20 and 1:10, as appropriate. The recording system used was a combination of single or multicontext plans complemented by sections, where appropriate.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the investigations was prepared in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews, 2016).
- 5.6 The completed archive, including all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the local museum.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

6.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was natural brickearth [2], recorded at heights ranging from a maximum of 46.73m OD (Ordnance Datum) in the south to 45.82m OD further to the north (**Figure 3**).

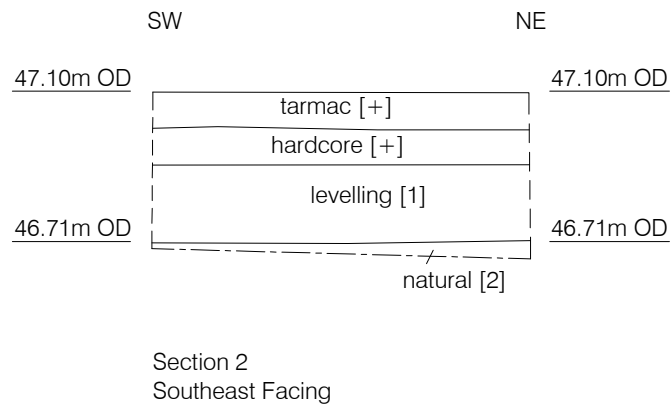
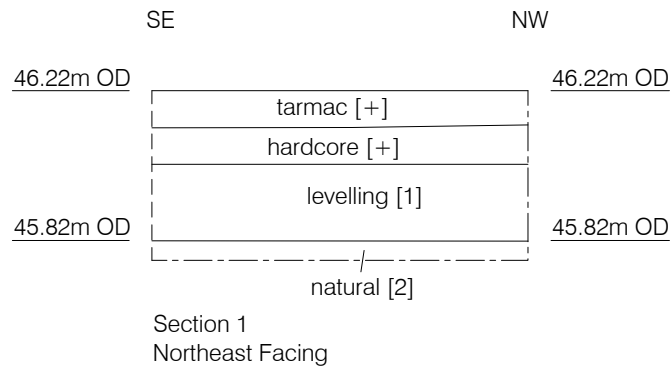
6.2 Phase 2: 20th Century

6.2.1 Overlying the brickearth was a levelling layer of firm - compact mid yellowish brown sandy silt, [1], c.0.2m thick, falling from 46.93m OD in the south to 46.02m OD in the north and contained moderate amounts of small – medium-sized brick fragments dating to the 20th century along with plastic bags and crisp packets (**Figure 3**).

6.2.2 Sealing the levelling layer was a hardcore sub-base to the current car park, 0.2m thick which was sealed in turn by the current tarmac ground surface.

7 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.
- 7.2 The earliest deposit observed during the watching brief was the natural brickearth [2], which was directly overlain by levelling layer [1] which was in turn sealed by the current car park. It is possible, if not probable that the brickearth layer was horizontally truncated during the construction of the original school car park, thus removing any shallow features that may have previously existed.
- 7.3 All sediments were thoroughly examined on site and none were deemed suitable for sampling or further investigation.



PLATES



Plate 1 West side of Watching Brief area looking south towards South Borough Primary School



Plate 2 West side of Watching Brief area looking south towards South Borough Primary School



Plate 3 East side of Watching Brief area looking south towards South Borough Primary School



Plate 4 View from east side of Watching Brief area looking west



Plate 5 East side of Watching Brief area looking south-east



Plate 6 East side of Watching Brief area looking east

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Kent County Council for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Wendy Rogers for monitoring the project on behalf of Kent County Council.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Charlotte Mathews of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited for her project management and editing, and Jenny Simonson for the illustrations.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

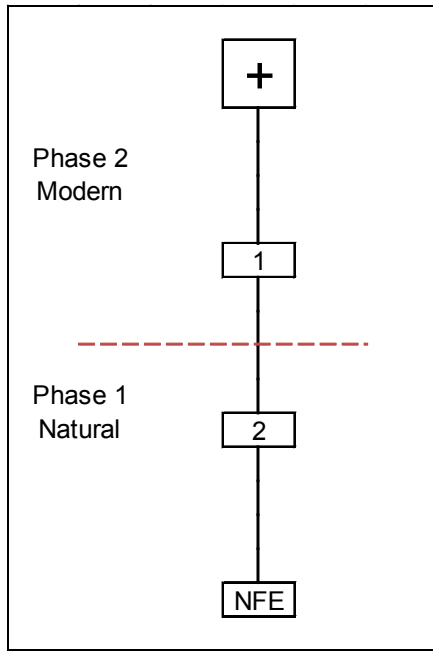
Mathews. C, 2016. *Phase One Works to the Car Park at South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6TL, Written Scheme of Investigation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report

Taylor, J with Brown, G 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd*.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context number	Description
1	Moderate - Compact mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Freq inclusions of modern bricks.
2	Natural Brickearth

APPENDIX 2: STRATAGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-260285

Project details

Project name	South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief undertaken on the site of South Borough Primary School, Stagshore Close, Maidstone, Kent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The Phase 1 watching brief consisted of archaeological monitoring during ground reduction in order to enlarge the school car park. The second phase of work, (as yet to be undertaken) concerns the construction of a two storey extension to facilitate the expansion of the school from 1FE (i.e. 30 places 1 form of entry) to 2 FE (i.e. 60 places 2 forms of entry). No features of archaeological significance were discovered.
Project dates	Start: 10-08-2016 End: 12-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	KSBM16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE South Borough Primary School
Postcode	ME15 6TL
Site coordinates	TQ 76318 54608 51.262761732088 0.527464326013 51 15 45 N 000 31 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.82m Max: 46.73m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
----------------------	-----------------------------------

Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Charlotte Matthews
Project director/manager	Charlotte Matthews
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Kent County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief during Phase One Works to the Car Park at South Borough Primary School, Stagshore Close, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6TL
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seddon, G.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Brockley, London
Description	A4 client report, blue cover.

Entered by Charlotte Matthews (cmatthews@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 1 September 2016

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

