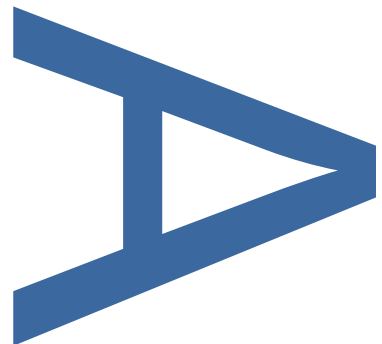
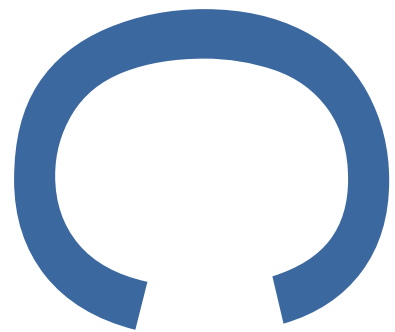


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
SOUTH BOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
STAGSHAW CLOSE,  
MAIDSTONE,  
KENT,  
ME15 6TL**



**PCA REPORT NO: R12699**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SOUTH BOROUGH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL, STAGSHAW CLOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT,  
ME15 6TL**

**Site Code: KSBM16**

**Planning Permission Ref: MA/16/5034**

**Ordnance Survey Central National Grid Reference: TQ 76318 54608**

**Written and Researched by Guy Seddon**

**Project Manager: Charlotte Matthews**

**Commissioning Client: WW Martin**

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**PCA Report No: R12699**

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November 2016**

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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

### Site Name

South Borough Primary School,  
Stagshaw Close,  
Maidstone,  
Kent  
ME15 6TL

### Type of project

Archaeological Evaluation

#### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4771
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Report Number			R12699
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Guy Seddon		01/11/2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		01/11/2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	01/11/2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Charlotte Matthews	<i>Charlotte Matthews</i>	01/11/2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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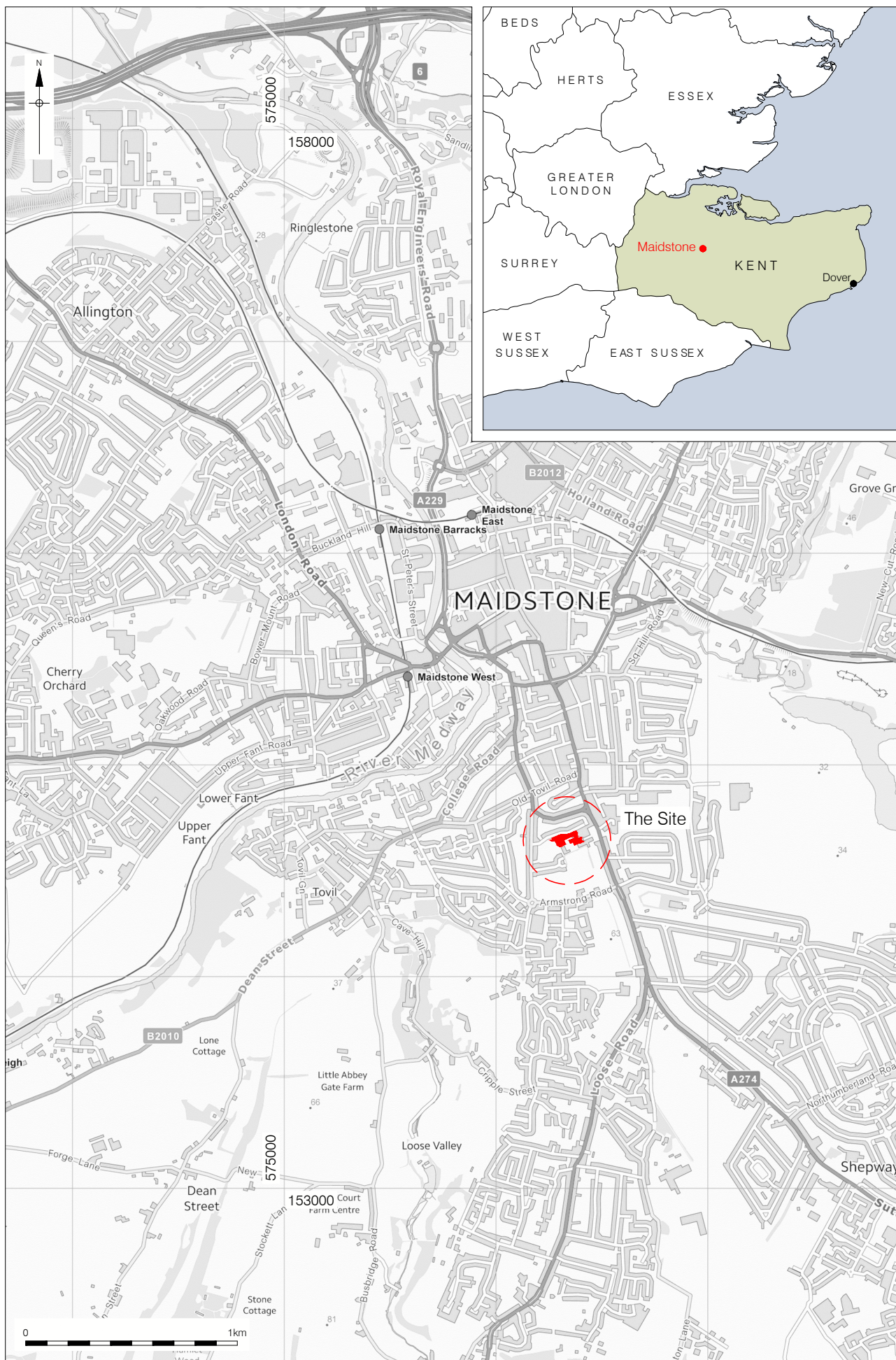
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The evaluation was conducted from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches located within the footprint of a two storey extension that will 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 three late post-Medieval pits were discovered.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

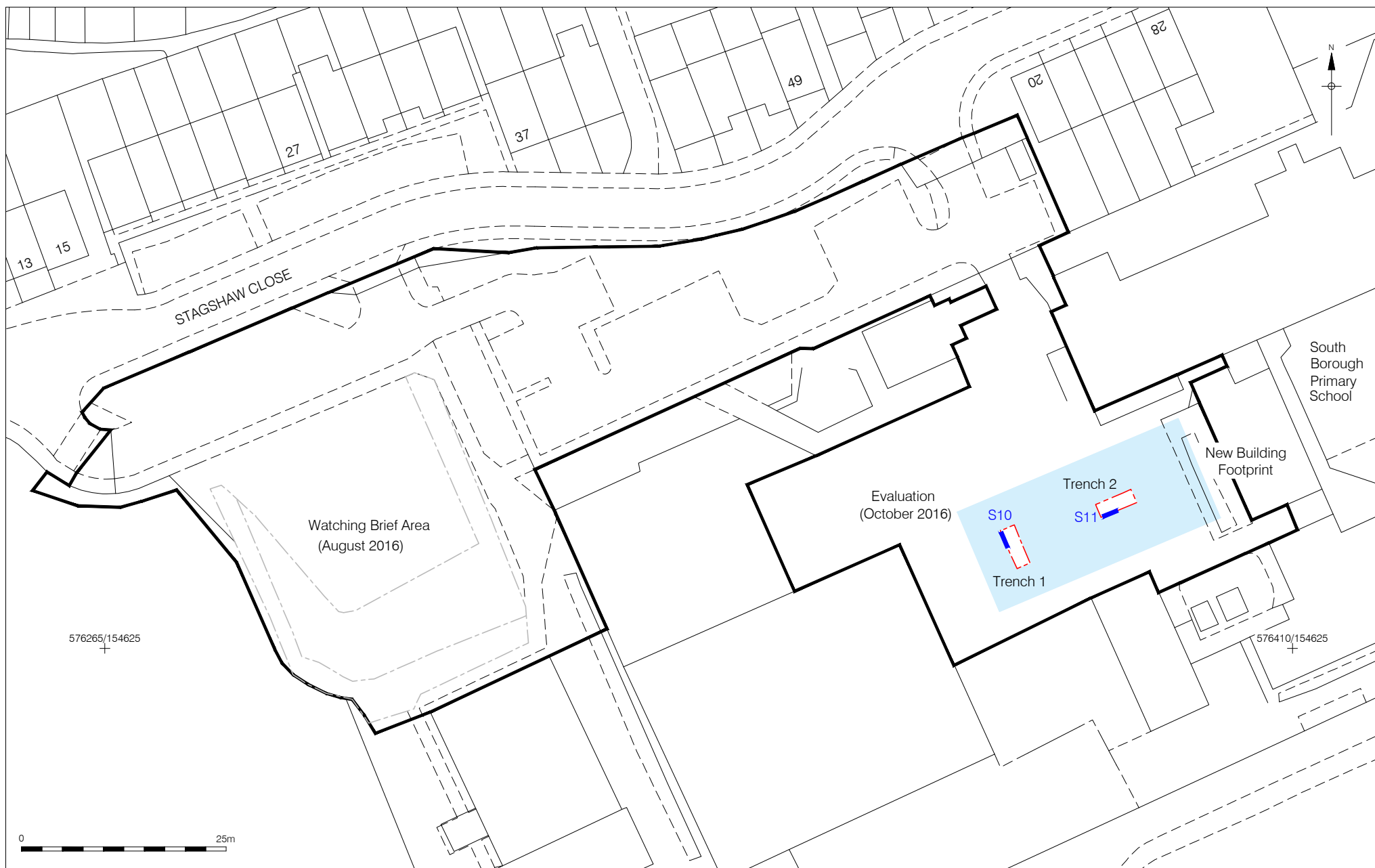
- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent (**Figures 1 and 2**). The objectives as outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation for the work (Matthews, 2016), were as follows:
- To confirm the presence or absence of prehistoric remains,
  - To confirm the presence or absence of Roman remains; particularly relating to the Barton Roman Villa and the possible Roman Road
  - To confirm the presence or absence of Saxon activity;
  - To confirm the presence or absence of medieval activity;
  - To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval and modern activity, especially the World War Two anti tank ditch which zig zagged through the site.
- 2.2 The evaluation trenches were located within the footprint of a proposed two storey extension to the school buildings. Each trench measured 5m by 1.8m and reached a depth of c.0.6m below the current ground surface. Three pits dating to the late post-Medieval period were recorded in Trench 2.
- 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 Matthews and supervised by the author.
- 2.6 The commissioning client was WW Martin.



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







### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 National Planning Policy

3.1.1 In March 2012, the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Section 12 of the NPPF, entitled *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 12 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

- Delivery of sustainable development
- Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment
- Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and
- Recognition of the contribution that heritage assets make to our understanding of the past.

#### 3.2 Planning Permission

3.2.1 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'.

3.2.2 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 work was carried out in August 2016 and was covered by an archaeological watching brief by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Seddon, 2016; **Figure 2**). The Phase Two Main New Build is

the subject of this evaluation.

## **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 proposed school extension is rectangular in plan and lies to the south of Stagshaw Close (**Figure 2**). It is bounded by existing school buildings to the north, east and south and by the school playground to the west.
- 4.2.2 The site boundary for the car park and extension works is irregular in plan (**Figure 2**). Ground level within this area slopes from 49.18m OD in the south of the site to 47.70m OD in the north.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 All machine excavation of the trial trenches was carried out under constant archaeological direction using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Machine excavation from the surface was taken down in spits of no more than 100mm thickness to ensure that deposits and features were not over-excavated and that any artefacts/biological evidence in the soil are recorded. Distinct deposits were stored separately and at least 1 metre from the edge of the evaluation trench. The excavation by machine was taken down to the top of the archaeological horizon, on the top of 'natural' geological deposits.
- 5.2 The faces of the trenches that required examination and recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological levels was by hand. Exposed surfaces were left for a minimum of 48 hours to allow weathering-out of features to occur.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 A photographic record of the investigations was prepared in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews, 2016).
- 5.5 The completed archive, including all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the local museum.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 6.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

- 6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was natural head deposits which took the form of brickearth, recorded in Trench 1 as [12] and Trench 2 as [14]. It sloped down from a maximum height of 48.42m OD in Trench 2 to a lowest height of 48.08m OD in Trench 1.

### 6.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

- 6.2.1 Cutting into the natural geological deposits in Trench 2 were two pits, [18] and [20] dated to the post-Medieval period (**Figure 3**). Pit [20] was also truncated by a later pit [16], which has been dated to this phase as well (**Figure 4**). The dimensions of the pits are shown in the table below. The fills of the pits were very similar in composition, comprising loose – firmly compacted, mottled mid grey and mid reddish brown sandy clay. Pottery dating to c.1740 – 1830 was recovered from [17]; the fill of pit [18] and a small heavily abraded fragment of cbm (ceramic building material) dating to between c.1480 and 1900 came from [15] the fill of pit [16].

Context Number	Filled By	Length	Width	Depth	Max OD	Min OD
16	15	0.64m	0.34m	0.18m	48.39m	48.27m
18	17	0.64m	0.58m	0.12m	48.45m	48.34m
20	19	0.5m	0.36m	0.10m	48.40m	48.34m

- 6.2.2 Sealing the pits was a layer of sub-soil which was evident in both of the evaluation trenches. In Trench 1 it was recorded as [11] and in Trench 2 as [13] (**Figure 4**). The subsoil was firmly compacted, mid greyish brown sandy clay, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. It had a maximum height of 48.62m OD in Trench 2, falling to 48.11m OD in Trench 1.
- 6.2.3 Overlying the sub-soil was a sequence of modern made ground and bedding for the tarmac which comprises the current ground surface (**Figure 4**).

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Discussion of Phase 1 – Natural Head Deposits**

- 7.1.1 The natural geological deposits within the evaluation trenches took the form of head deposits comprising of brickearth. It sloped from a maximum height of 48.45m OD in Trench 2 to a height of 48.11m OD in Trench 1.

### **7.2 Discussion of Phase 2 – Post-Medieval**

- 7.2.1 The pits recorded in Trench 2 and the subsoil that was present in both of the trenches demonstrates some activity in the post-Medieval period. Historical maps show that the study site was open fields and orchards until the construction of the school buildings during the inter war period. It is therefore most probable that the subsoil is an agricultural/horticultural layer.
- 7.2.2 The three pits probably date to between the mid 18<sup>th</sup> and mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## 8 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 8.1.1 The investigation's aims and objectives, as defined before the evaluation were as follows (Matthews, 2016), and these can now be addressed:

**To confirm the presence or absence of prehistoric remains**

- 8.1.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity was found in the evaluation trenches.

**To confirm the presence or absence of Roman remains; particularly relating to the Barton Roman Villa and the possible Roman Road**

- 8.1.3 No evidence of Roman remains was found in the evaluation trenches.

**To confirm the presence or absence of Saxon activity**

- 8.1.4 No evidence of Saxon activity was found in the evaluation trenches.

**To confirm the presence or absence of medieval activity**

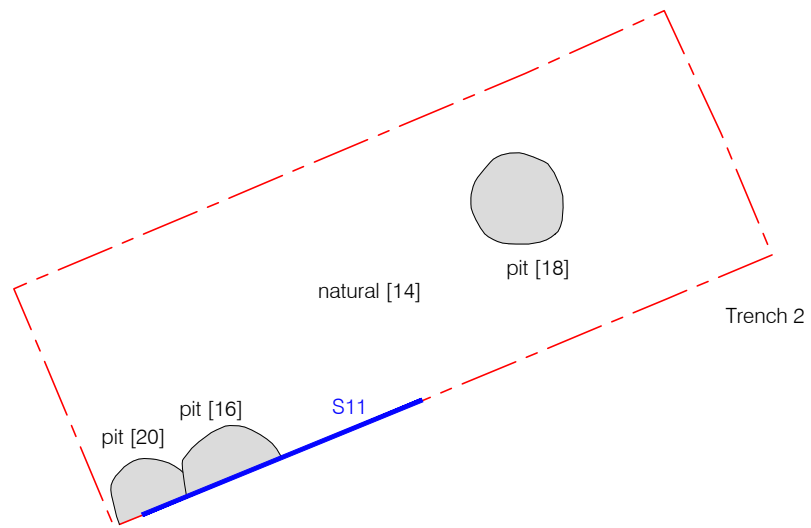
- 8.1.5 No evidence of medieval activity was found in the evaluation trenches.

**To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval and modern activity, especially the World War Two anti tank ditch which zig zagged through the site.**

- 8.1.6 The three pits and layer of horticultural soil that were recorded on the site are the only evidence of post-medieval activity found within the evaluation trenches. The function of the pits is unknown, but the presence of the horticultural soil ties in with historic maps showing the site as open ground until the inter-war years, when the current school buildings were constructed.

- 8.1.7 No evidence of the World War Two anti tank ditch was found in the evaluation trenches. The line of the ditch is visible on a 1946 aerial photograph (available on the Kent County Council website <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.HeritageMaps.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx?xmin=575885&xmax=577169&ymin=154216&ymax=155080&bg=aerial1946>). This shows that the school had been built by that date and the south-west to north-east ditch joined the south-west corner of the school without extending into the school grounds..





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Figure 3  
Trench 2 Plan  
1:50 at A4

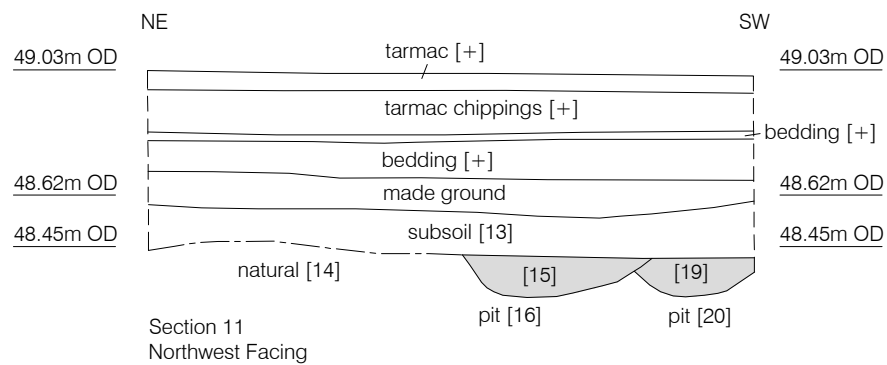
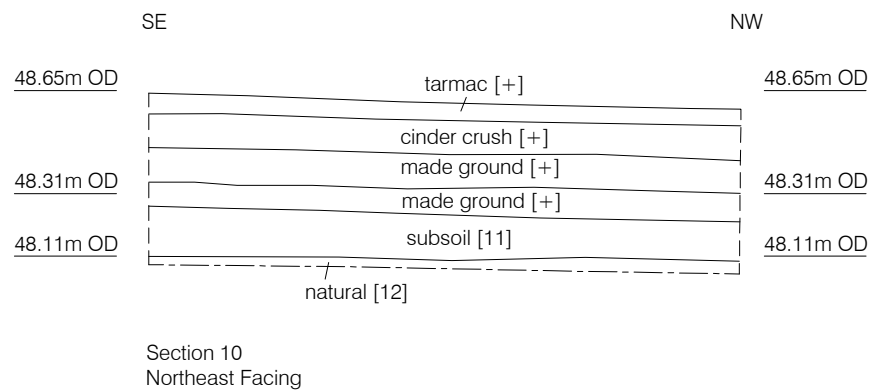


Figure 4  
Sections 10 & 11  
1:25 at A4

## PLATES



**Plate 1: Trench 1, Looking South**



**Plate 2: Section 10, Trench 1, Looking West**



**Plate 3: Bioturbation Trench 1, Looking East**

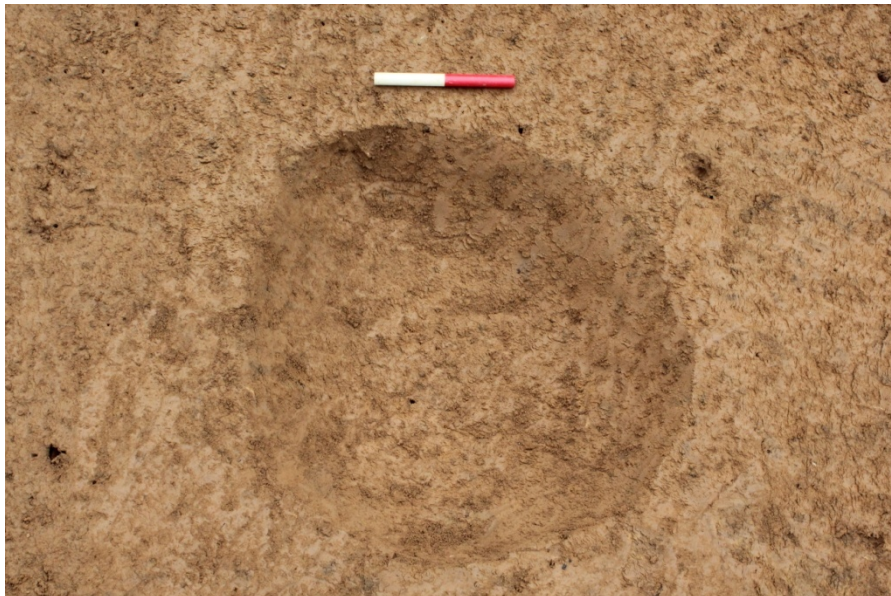


**Plate 4: Trench 2, Pre-Excavation, Looking West**





**Plate 5: Section 11, Trench 2, Looking South**



**Plate 6: Pit [18], Trench 2, Looking South**



**Plate 7: Pits [16] and [20], Trench 2, Looking South**

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank WW Martin for commissioning the work. The collaborative role of Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council is gratefully acknowledged.
- 9.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Charlotte Matthews. The evaluation was supervised by Guy Seddon with the assistance of Bruce Ferguson. The illustrations were prepared by Jennifer Simonson.



## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Matthews, C. 2016b. *Extension to South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6TL: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Unpublished Report

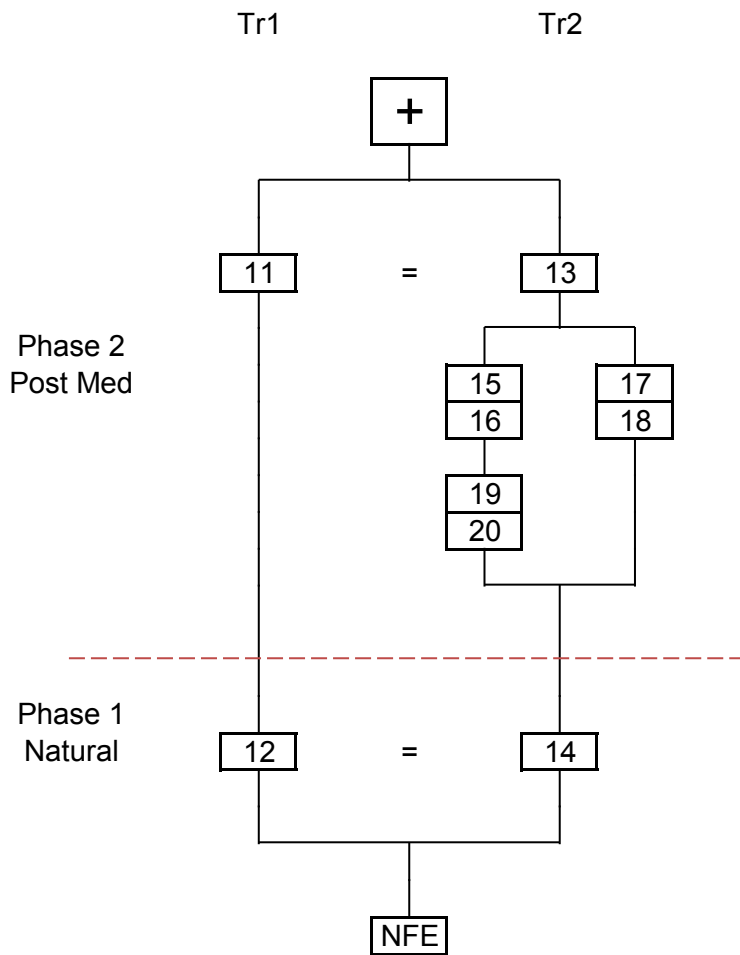
Seddon, G. 2016. *Archaeological Watching Brief during the Phase One Works to the Car Park at South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6TL* Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Unpublished Report

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

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site_Code	Context	Trench_no	Section_no	Type	Interpretation	Levels_high	Levels_low	Phase
KSBM16	11		10	Layer	Subsoil	48.27mOD	48.21mOD	2
KSBM16	12	TR1	10	Layer	Natural Brickearth	48.13mOD	48.08mOD	1
KSBM16	13		11	Layer	Subsoil	48.62mOD	48.58mOD	2
KSBM16	14	TR2	11	Layer	Natural Brickearth	48.52mOD	48.41mOD	1
KSBM16	15		11	Fill	Fill of Pit [16]	48.39mOD		
KSBM16	16	TR2	11	Cut	Cut of Post-Med Pit	48.39mOD	48.27mOD	2
KSBM16	17			Fill	Fill of Pit [18]	48.45mOD		2
KSBM16	18	TR2		Cut	Cut of Post-Med Pit	48.45mOD	48.34mOD	2
KSBM16	19		11	Fill	Fill of Pit [20]	48.4mOD		2
KSBM16	20	TR2	11	Cut	Cut of Post-Med Pit	48.4mOD	48.34mOD	2

## APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



## **APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT**

Chris Jarrett

Pottery was recovered from a single deposit (context [17]) and consisted of two non-diagnostic sherds: post-medieval red earthenwares (PM1), dated 1550–1800 (2g) and creamware (PM43/LPM11), dated c.1740–1830 (1g). The latter dated the context.

The pottery has no significance as it occurs in such a small quantity and as such small sherds that they were likely to have been deposited under tertiary circumstances. The only potential of the pottery is to date the context it was recovered from and there are no recommendations for further work on the material.

## APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL REPORT

Amparo Valcarcel

### BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
15	Local sandy 2276type fabric	Post medieval abraded peg tile	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1900	No mortar

### Review

The small assemblage (1 fragment) consists mainly of one small piece of fragmentary and abraded post medieval peg tile.

The building material assemblage reflects the post medieval development of this site and none of the material is of intrinsic interest. No further work recommended.

## APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-267011**

### Project details

Project name	South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at South Borough Primary School, Stagshaw Close, Maidstone, Kent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 24th and 26th October 2016. The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within the footprint of a two storey extension to the school. During the exercise three late post-medieval pits were discovered.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2016 End: 26-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KSBM16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a 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: 48.08m Max: 48.42m

### Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Organisation

Project brief Wendy Rogers  
originator

Project design Charlotte Matthews  
originator

Project Charlotte Matthews  
director/manager

Project supervisor Guy Seddon

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of WW Martin  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive Local Museum  
recipient

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive Local Museum  
recipient

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital  
available photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive Local Museum  
recipient

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Stratigraphic"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Plan","Report","Section","Survey  
available ","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT SOUTH  
BOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, STAGSHAW CLOSE, MAIDSTONE,  
KENT, ME15 6TL

Author(s)/Editor(s) Seddon, G.

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Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

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