



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, near Bobbing,
Sittingbourne, Kent

Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K749
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Stuart Holden		August 2004
Graphics Prepared by:	Steve Every		August 2004
Graphics Checked by:	Tim Bradley		August 2004
Project Manager Sign-off:	David Divers		August 2004

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

**Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, near Bobbing, Sittingbourne,
Kent**

Evaluation

**Site Code: KKHB 04
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 8741 6458**

**Written and Researched by Stuart Holden
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2004**

Project Manager: Jim Leary

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bryant Homes

**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
E-mail: ddivers@pre-construct.com
info@pre-construct.com**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
August 2004**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	Abstract	1
2	Introduction	2
3	Planning Background	5
4	Archaeological and Historical Background	6
5	Methodology	7
6	Geography and Topography	8
7	Archaeological Sequence	9
8	Conclusion and recommendations	15
9	Acknowledgements	16
10	Bibliography	17

Illustrations	Figure 1 Site Location	3
	Figure 2 Trench Location	4
	Figure 3 Plan of Trench 1	10
	Figure 4 Sections 1, 4, 6 + 8	14

Appendices

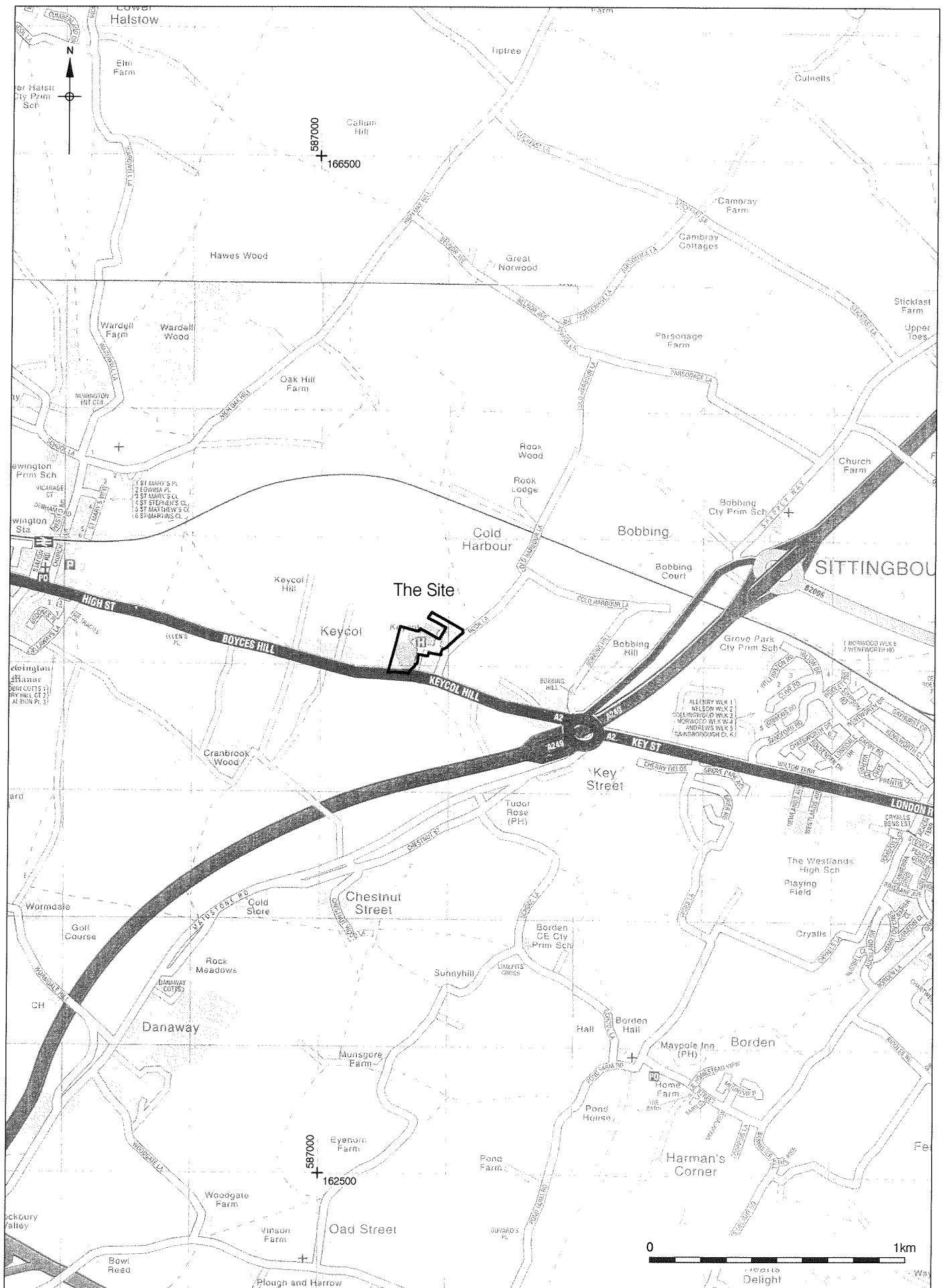
Appendix 1	Context Descriptions	18
Appendix 3	CBM assessment	19
Appendix 2	KCC SMR Form	20

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, of land at Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, near Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken as part of the redevelopment of the site by Bryant Homes.
- 1.3 A pit containing a high quantity of charcoal but with no dating evidence was the only feature to be recorded from any of the archaeological trenches. A single fragment of Ceramic Building Material (cbm), probably dating to the late medieval period, was recovered from a sequence of modern made ground.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at Keycol Hospital (Figure 1) during redevelopment of the site.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted between the 2nd and 5th August 2004 and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bryant Homes.
- 2.3 The evaluation consisted of twelve trenches measuring between 9 and 42.3m in length and 1.8m in width, positioned across the site (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the centre of the site is TQ 8741 6458
- 2.5 The site was assigned the unique code KKHB 04.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Holden and assisted by Strep Duckering, Ellie Sayer and Guy Seddon. The project was managed by Jim Leary for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey. Crown Copyright 1987.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

Figure 2
Trench Locations
1:1250

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning background

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of Swale Borough Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Council's deposited draft 'Swale Local Plan', revised in 2004, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development is subject to the Environment Policy:

POLICY 15

Whether they are currently known, or discovered during the Plan period, there will be a preference to preserve important archaeological sites in-situ and to protect their settings. Development that does not achieve acceptable mitigation of adverse archaeological effects will not be permitted.

Where development is permitted and preservation in-situ is not justified, the applicant will be required to ensure that provision will be made for archaeological excavation and recording, in advance of and/or during development.

3.1.3 In response to planning application SW/99/1144, Swale Borough Council attached the following condition to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent, or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

3.1.4 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings on site.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The specification produced by Kent County Council (Heritage Conservation Group, 2004) proposed that consideration should be given to all periods but that there was a higher potential for Roman remains.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has previously been prepared by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (S. Mason *pers comm.*), as had a specification, prepared by Kent County Council (Heritage Conservation Group, 2004). The Desk-Based Assessment and the Specification refers to the archaeological potential of the site, and the following section reiterates this information.
- 4.2 A lower Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded as having been found on the site, probably during sand and gravel extraction during the nineteenth century.
- 4.3 The corridor of the major Roman road known as Watling Street, now the A2, forms the southern boundary of the site. This road formed one of the most important supply and transport links in Britain, connecting the ports on the Kent coast with London and on to the Legionary fortress at Chester.
- 4.4 Known sites of Roman date in the vicinity include buildings found 275m to the west and a cremation burial 400m to the west. Scatters of Roman (and medieval) pottery have been recovered from field walking exercises in the surrounding fields.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The excavation of fifteen trenches was agreed with Kent County Council. However constraints such as standing buildings, trees with Preservation Orders and live services, led to the relocation and abandonment of some trenches. In total twelve trenches, measuring between 9m and 42.3m long, were excavated.
- 5.2 Under archaeological supervision, a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used to remove unproductive soils down to the natural horizon. The trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand.
- 5.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeology.
- 5.4 All trenches were recorded in plan and in section using standard recording methods. A photographic record was also made as appropriate.
- 5.5 Temporary benchmarks were traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark, located on the boundary wall on Keycol Hill to the south of the site (value 58.62m OD).
- 5.6 Following the completion of the works, the trenches were backfilled with the excavated material and tamped by machine.

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The site is located 3.5km to the south of the estuarine marshes of the River Medway where it meets with the out flowing River Thames. It is positioned on the northern end of an elongated rise of land measuring c.750m north to south, by c.300m east to west and a height of c.61m OD. Much of the area is typified by these hummocks that rarely exceed a variation in height of more than 20m.
- 6.2 According to the British Geological Survey, the site is located upon the Woolwich Beds overlain in the northeast of the site by Head Gravels. A programme of geotechnical investigation, undertaken prior to the commencement of the evaluation, and involving the excavation of six test pits, indicated a general sequence of around 0.50m of topsoil over natural sands and gravels. One test pit identified a possible former topsoil buried beneath 1.5m of made ground and a second appeared to indicate truncation into natural deposits (Heritage Conservation Group, 2004).
- 6.3 The excavations exposed deposits of sand and gravel at levels varying from 62.48m OD at the west to 57.00m OD at the northeast.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The evaluation trenches revealed that the area surrounding the hospital complex appears to have been terraced into the top of the natural deposits during its construction. A single feature was recorded in Trench 1 at the extreme north of the site, although this remains undated. A single fragment of cbm, most likely late medieval in date was recovered from made ground in Trench 6 in the centre of the site.

7.2 Trench 1 (Figures 3 and 4)

- 7.2.1 This was excavated along the northern boundary of the site and measured 24.90m in length, cut from a level of between 58.44m OD and 57.71m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.71m and 0.58m.
- 7.2.2 The natural present in this trench was a mid orange slightly silty sand with marbling of light grey sand [2] between 57.00m OD and 57.87m OD.
- 7.2.3 A pit [4] was excavated and recorded within this trench that contained a high quantity of charcoal in the fill [3]. This was a moderately compact dark grey silty sand within a sub circular cut 0.59-0.67m in diameter and 0.10m in depth cut from a level of 57.40m OD with steep sides and a flat base. No cultural material was present in the fill. The natural surrounding the feature was discoloured with a reddish hue, implying that the charcoal resulted from *in situ* burning.
- 7.2.4 The trench was cut through a 0.22m thick layer of dumped cbrn [6] and made ground of yellowish brown silty sand [5] landscaped with topsoil.

7.3 Trench 2

- 7.3.1 The area in which this trench was positioned had been reduced as a part of the redevelopment. The resulting section was cleaned by hand and as no evidence for archaeologically sensitive activity was forthcoming, only a sample of this section was recorded.
- 7.3.2 A natural deposit of mid orange slightly silty sand with marbling of light grey sand [2] was recorded below a natural layer of light orangey grey clay silt sand brickearth [1] at a level of 59.90mOD and 0.28m in thickness. Above this there was a landscaping layer of topsoil 0.25m thick.

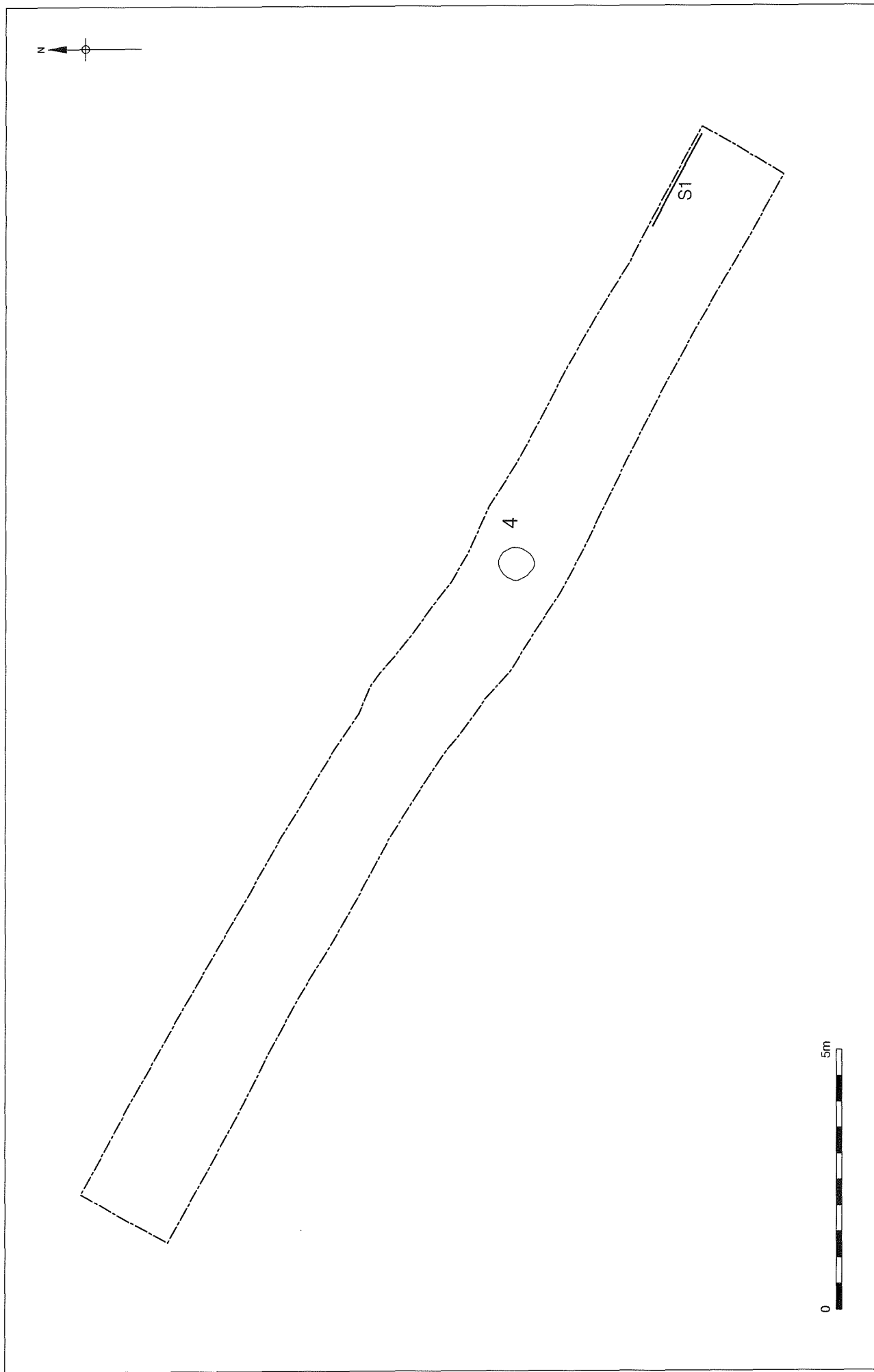


Figure 3
Trench 1
1:100

7.4 Trench 3

- 7.4.1 This was excavated within the western part of the site and measured 17.00m in length, cut from a level of between 53.31m OD and 53.20m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 1.00m and 0.82m.
- 7.4.2 Natural gravels were exposed at a level between 52.31m OD and 52.45m OD overlain by a 0.08m thick layer of light orange brown clayey sandy silt subsoil and 0.60m of brownish grey silty sand made ground.

7.5 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

- 7.5.1 This was excavated in an 'L' shape within the western part of the site and measured 42.30m in length, cut from a level of between 63.36m OD and 63.05m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.79 and 0.62m. The east-west orientated part of the trench was riddled with services including a live gas main, therefore natural deposits were not attained here.
- 7.5.2 A compact natural layer of light reddish brown flint gravels with a silty sand matrix [22] were present between 62.48m OD and 62.26m OD, this was overlain by a 0.28m thick layer of redeposited sand and gravels [21] and a 0.24m thick layer of redeposited sand [20]. The sequence was completed with 0.20m of asphalt hardstanding and associated levelling material [20].

7.6 Trench 5

- 7.6.1 This was excavated within the western part of the site and measured 22.55m in length, cut from a level of between 63.04m OD and 62.85m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.84m and 0.80m.
- 7.6.2 Natural light reddish brown silty sand and gravels was present at between 62.05m OD and 62.29m OD [19] overlain by 0.70m of made ground with asphalt hardstanding [18].

7.7 Trench 6 (Figure 4)

- 7.7.1 This was excavated in the central part of the site and measured 35.40m in length, cut from a level of between 60.93m OD and 60.63m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.92m and 0.69m.
- 7.7.2 Natural silty sand [29], dark orangey brown in colour with grey bands was attained at levels between 60.24m OD and 59.78m OD which included patches of flint gravel.

Above this was 0.63m of made ground: a light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions [28] from which, a single fragment of cbm, probably dating to the late medieval period, was recovered. A 0.20m thick layer of topsoil completed the sequence.

7.8 Trench 7

7.8.1 This was excavated in the central part of the site and measured 9.00m in length, cut from a level of between 60.87m OD and 60.49m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.66 and 0.52m.

7.8.2 The natural mid reddish brown sandy gravel [33], exposed at a level between 60.21m OD and 60.32m OD was cut by a service trench running east-west, beneath 0.43m of topsoil [32].

7.9 Trench 8 (Figure 4)

7.9.1 This trench was 'T' shaped and excavated in the eastern part of the site, measuring 21.05m in total length, cut from a level of between 62.09m OD and 61.35m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.62m and 0.48m.

7.9.2 Natural greyish orange clayey sandy silt [9] was exposed at levels between 60.83m OD and 61.47m OD beneath a light brownish grey sandy silt landscaping topsoil [10].

7.10 Trench 9

7.10.1 This was excavated in the central part of the site and measured 10.50m in length, cut from a level of between 62.13m OD and 62.05m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.58m and 0.50m.

7.10.2 Natural silty sand and gravel, light reddish brown in colour and at levels ranging from 61.55m OD and 61.65m OD was found highly truncated by service trenches. This was overlain a 0.15m of yellowish grey silty sand, possibly a subsoil and 0.40m of landscaped topsoil [36].

7.11 Trench 10

7.11.1 This was excavated within the western part of the site and measured 12.50m in length, cut from a level of between 63.05m OD and 62.88m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.75m and 0.68m.

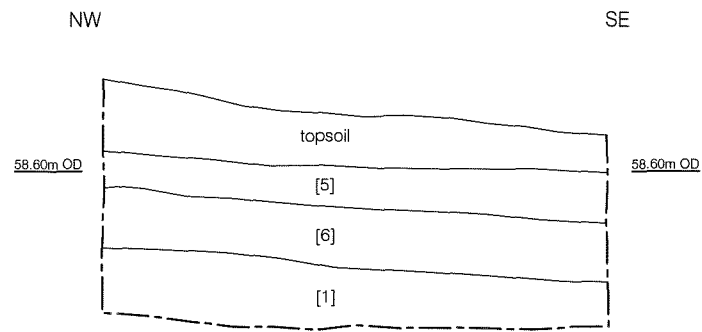
- 7.11.2 Mid brownish orange sandy silty clay and flint gravel was recorded at a level of 52.3m OD. This had been cut by service trenches and built up with layers of made ground, capped with asphalt hard standing amounting to 0.72m in thickness.

7.12 Trench 11

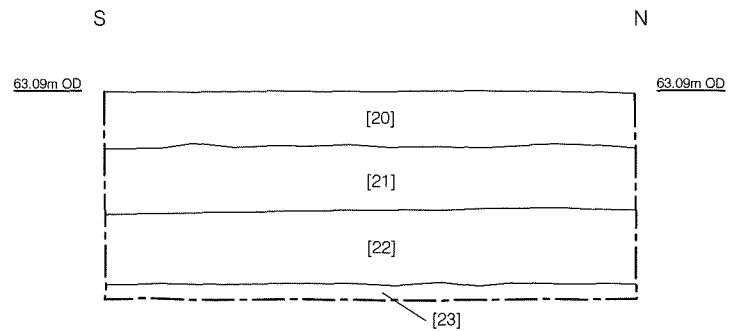
- 7.12.1 This was excavated within the western part of the site and measured 11.00m in length, cut from a level of between 62.59m OD and 62.20m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 1.41m and 0.89m. The presence of a large concrete access chamber prevented the natural deposits to be attained at the western end of this trench. However, it appeared that this area had been heavily truncated by services.
- 7.12.2 At the eastern end of the trench, the natural was exposed to be mid orange silty sand with grey bands tending to gravels at the extreme east [26]. This was found at between 61.33m OD and 61.44m OD beneath 0.66m of made ground [25] and 0.18m of asphalt and associated levelling [24].

7.13 Trench 12

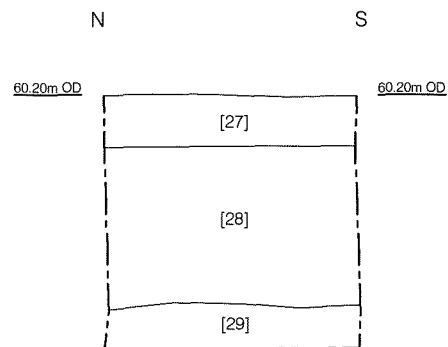
- 7.13.1 This was excavated within the western part of the site and measured 9.50m in length, cut from a level of between 62.85m OD and 62.69m OD. The depth of excavation ranged between 0.92m and 0.80m.
- 7.13.2 Natural mid orange silty sand was exposed between 61.90m OD and 62.03m OD. Along the northern edge of the trench a live gas main was present and excavation halted. Up to 0.88m thick of made ground layers and asphalt completed the sequence.



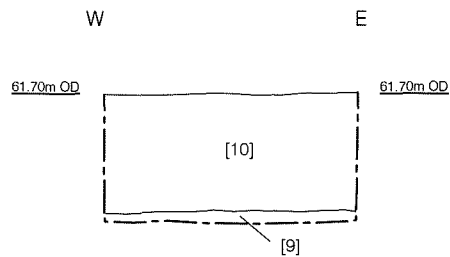
Section 1: south-west facing in Trench 1



Section 4: east facing in Trench 4



Section 6: west facing in Trench 6



Section 8: south facing in Trench 8



Figure 4
Sections
1:30

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation suggests an absence of archaeologically sensitive deposits across the site, probably due to the terracing and truncation of Natural deposits when the hospital was originally constructed. No datable evidence was present in the fill of a burnt pit and therefore is of minimal interest. The single abraded fragment of cbm recovered, cannot be attested to a particular period with any great certainty and was found within a layer of modern made ground that may have been imported to the site from some distance away.
- 8.2 Two large areas at the western side of the site were inaccessible due to the presence of standing buildings and trees with preservation orders attached (TPO's). As a result, these areas were left unevaluated. Further archaeological investigations may therefore be necessary in these areas.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work, and Bryant Homes for funding it. The author would like to thank the following: the Site Manager Graham Johnson; the field staff (Streph Duckering, Ellie Sayer and Guy Seddon); Hayley Baxter for the illustrations; the finds specialist (John Brown, cbm) and Jim Leary and for his project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, 2004 '*Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Former Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill near Bobbing, Sittingbourne in Kent*'. KCC unpublished document

Leary, J, 2004, '*Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, Near Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent*', PCA unpublished document

Swale Borough Council, 2004, '*Swale Local Plan*' Deposited Draft

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Highest	Lowest
1	Layer	1	Natural subsoil	59.90	
2	Layer	1+2	Natural	59.70	
3	Layer	1	Fill of [4]	57.40	
4	Layer	1	Burnt pit	57.40	57.33
5	Layer	1	Landscaping	58.68	58.60
6	Layer	1	Brick rubble levelling	58.54	58.40
7	Layer	8	Fill of tree bole	60.87	
8	Layer	8	Cut of tree bole	60.87	
9	Layer	8	Natural	61.47	60.83
10	Layer	8	Made ground	62.09	61.35
11	Layer	3	Made ground	63.20	
12	Layer	3	Subsoil	62.60	
13	Layer	3	Natural	62.45	62.31
14	Layer	10	Natural	62.30	
15	Layer	10	Made ground	63.01	
16	Layer	12	Made ground	62.85	
17	Layer	12	Natural	62.45	61.90
18	Layer	5	Made ground	62.85	
19	Layer	5	Natural	62.29	62.05
20	Layer	4	Levelling and hard standing	63.36	
21	Layer	4	Made ground	63.15	
22	Layer	4	Made ground	62.90	
23	Layer	4	Natural	62.48	62.26
24	Layer	11	Levelling and hard standing	62.59	62.22
25	Layer	11	Made ground	62.41	62.04
26	Layer	11	Natural	61.44	61.33
27	Layer	6	Topsoil	60.93	60.63
28	Layer	6	Made ground	60.70	
29	Layer	6	Natural	60.24	59.78
30	Layer	7	Made ground	60.81	
31	Layer	7	Natural	60.40	
32			VOID		
33			VOID		
34	Layer	9	Natural	61.65	61.55
35	Layer	9	Subsoil	61.71	
36	Layer	9	Topsoil	62.13	62.05

APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

John Brown

A single fragment of cbm was recovered from the site and analysed under x20 magnification. The piece was highly abraded and undiagnostic in form. The fabric was orange, fine sandy clay with high silt content, resulting in it being fairly soft. This suggests that the raw material was sourced from an estuarine region, in keeping with the sites proximity to the Swale.

It is possible that the fragment is a part of a Roman brick, although more likely to be late medieval in date.

APPENDIX 3: Kent County Council SMR Archaeological Report Form

Site name: Keycol Hospital (KKHB 04)		
Site address: Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, Nr Bobbing, Sittingbourne		
Summary: An evaluation consisting of twelve trenches was undertaken by PCA Ltd that revealed that the area had been terraced prior to the construction of the hospital and therefore no archaeological remains were recorded other than an undated pit. A single fragment of CBM, probably dating to the medieval period, was recovered from modern made ground.		
District/Unitary: Swale	Parish: Newington near Sittingbourne	
NGR (centre of site: 8 figures): TQ 8741 6458		
Type of archaeological work (delete)		
Evaluation	Watching Brief	Field Walking
Documentary Study	Building Recording	Earthwork Survey
Excavation	Geophysical Survey	Field Survey
Geoarchaeological Investigation		
Date of recording: 2 nd -5 th August 2004		
Unit undertaking recording: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
Geology: Woolwich Beds overlain to the northeast of the site by Head Gravels. Deposits of sand and gravel were recorded at levels varying from 62.48m OD at the west to 57.00m OD at the northeast.		
Title and author of accompanying report: 'An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, near Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent.' Stuart Holden		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate): <u>Undated</u> A pit containing a high quantity of charcoal but with no dating evidence was the only feature to be recorded from any of the archaeological trenches. A single fragment of Ceramic Building Material (cbm), probably dating to the late medieval period, was recovered from a sequence of modern made ground.		
Location of archive/finds: temporarily stored at PCA Ltd		
Contact at Unit: David Divers	Date: 12 th August 2004	