

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Maidstone East Station, Station Road, Maidstone, Kent

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 7590 5620

**Written by Elliott Wragg
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
October 2004**

Site Code: KMES 04

Project Manager: Jon Butler

Commissioning Client: Ove Arup and Partners

Contractor:

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

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: jbutler@pre-construct.com

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
December 2004**

The Material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent.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 Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	Abstract	4
2	Introduction	5
3	The Archaeological Sequence	8
4	Interpretation and Conclusions	10
5	Acknowledgements	11

Appendix 1:	Oasis Form	12
-------------	------------	----

Illustrations:

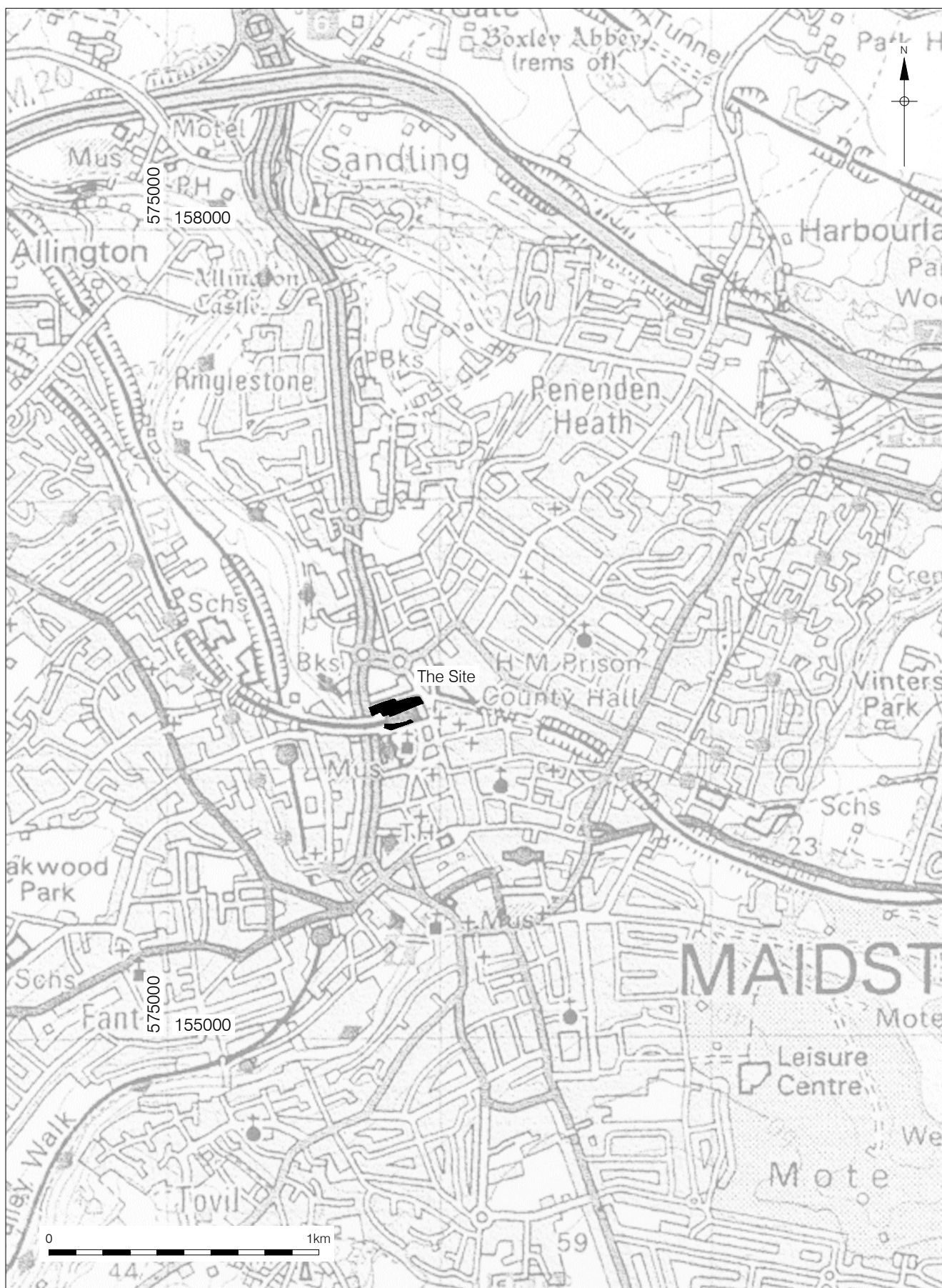
Figure 1	Site Location	6
Figure 2	Trial Pit Location	7

ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for Ove Arup and Partners at Maidstone East Station, Station Road, Maidstone (Fig. 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 7590 5620. The watching brief took place between the 9th and 10th September 2004 and was conducted by an archaeologist from Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of the observation of the excavation of eleven geotechnical trial pits to a maximum depth of c.4.50m.
- 1.3 Natural yellow orange brown sand, sandy clay and sandstone was observed in the central and eastern parts of the site where it had been terraced into and truncated at a height of between 16.20m and 16.71m OD.
- 1.4 In the west of the site 19th century dumped deposits were exposed to a depth of 4.40m.
- 1.5 The above deposits were sealed by 19th/20th century made-ground and the current carpark surfaces.
- 1.6 No archaeological deposits or artefacts earlier than the 19th century were observed during the watching brief.

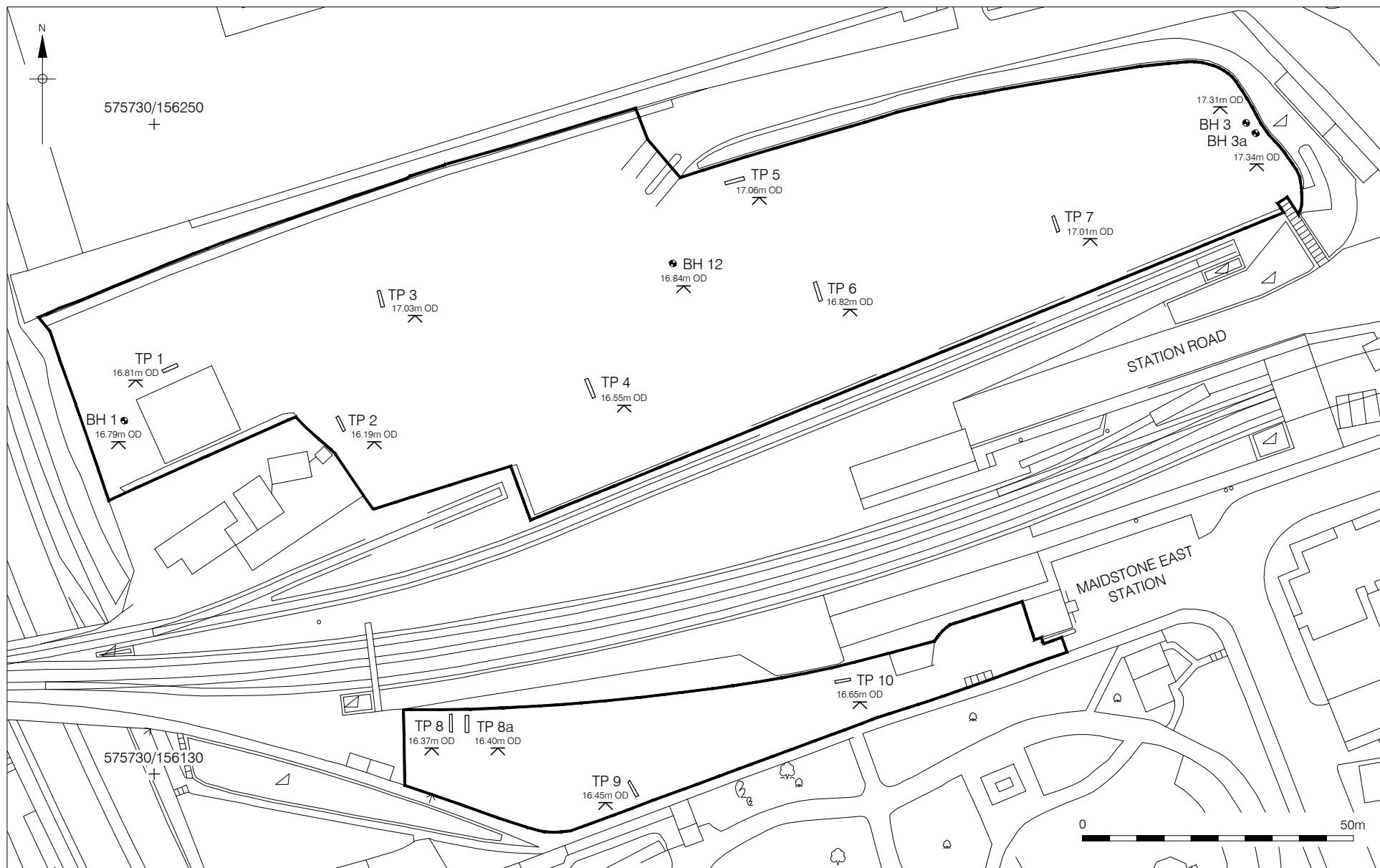
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. between the 9th and 10th September 2004 at Maidstone East Station, Station Road, Maidstone, Kent (Fig. 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 7590 5620. The study site was bordered to the north by a Sorting Office, to the east by Victoria Parade and Week Street, to the south by Benchly Gardens, and to the west by Fairmeadow.
- 2.2 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on geotechnical test pits to assess the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains, and the potential impact to them by the proposed structural works.
- 2.3 The watching brief was commissioned by Richard Hughes on behalf of Ove Arup and Partners. The project was managed by Jon Butler and undertaken by the author.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the site code KMES 04.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:50,000. Crown Copyright 2003.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1000

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

3.1 Trial Pit 1.

- 3.1.1 The lowest deposit observed in this trial pit, encountered at a depth of 1.20m below ground level (BGL), 15.61m OD, and over 2.80m thick, comprised 19th century made-ground. This was overlain by 20th century rubble and a concrete floor surface, which, in turn, was sealed by more rubble and the current asphalt carpark surface.

3.2 Trial Pit 2.

- 3.2.1 The earliest deposit observed in this trial pit was, again, 19th century made-ground. This had a top height of 0.35m BGL (15.84m OD) and was over 4.05m deep. This was overlain by the asphalt carpark surface.

3.3 Trial Pit 3.

- 3.3.1 Natural sandy clay was exposed in this trial pit at a depth of 0.70m BGL (16.33m OD). This deposit was over 1.55m thick.
- 3.3.2 This was sealed by a layer of 19th/20th century made-ground which was 0.50m thick. This, in turn, was overlain by the 20th century rubble make-up, 0.20m thick, for the asphalt carpark surface.

3.4 Trial Pit 4.

- 3.4.1 The lowest deposit observed in this trial pit was natural degraded sandstone, which had a top height of 0.35m BGL (16.20m OD) and was over 3.05m thick.
- 3.4.2 This was overlain by a deposit of 19th century made-ground which was 0.15m thick and was, in turn, sealed by 20th century made-ground, 0.20m thick, and the carpark surface.

3.5 Trial Pit 5.

- 3.5.1 Natural degraded sandstone was recorded at a height of 0.35m BGL (16.71m OD) and was over 1.40m thick.
- 3.5.2 This was sealed by 20th century made-ground and the asphalt carpark surface which were 0.35m thick.

3.6 Trial Pit 6.

- 3.6.1 Natural sandstone and sandy clay, over 2.10m thick, were observed in this trial pit at a height of 0.32m BGL (16.50m OD).
- 3.6.2 These deposits were sealed by a layer of 19th century made-ground 0.14m thick, which was, in turn, overlain by 20th century made-ground and the carpark surface which together were 0.18m thick.

3.7 Trial Pits 7 and 8.

- 3.7.1 Due to the results from the other trial pits it was decided that Trial Pits 7 and 8 did not need to be monitored for archaeologically significant deposits.

3.8 Trial Pit 8a.

- 3.8.1 This trial pit was discontinued due to the presence of a storm water drain exposed at an approximate depth of 1.00m BGL (15.40m OD). It was overlain by its backfill to a height of 0.40m BGL (16.00m OD), which was sealed by a layer of possible garden soil 0.15m thick. This, in turn, was sealed by 20th century made-ground and the carpark surface which together were 0.25m thick.

3.9 Trial Pit 9

- 3.9.1 The lowest deposit recorded in this trial pit was a layer of 19th century made-ground which was encountered at a height of 0.40m BGL (16.05m OD) and was over 1.45m thick. This was cut by the truncation for a sewer pipe whose backfill was sealed by a layer of possible garden soil 0.15m thick. This deposit was overlain by 20th century made-ground and the carpark surface which were 0.25m thick.

3.10 Trial Pit 10

- 3.10.1 Due to the results from the other trial pits it was decided that Trial Pit 10 did not need to be monitored for archaeologically significant deposits.

4 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The earliest deposits encountered comprised natural sandstone, degraded in parts, and sandy clay. These deposits were observed in Trial Pits 3, 4, 5 and 6 located in the centre and east of the site where the area had been terraced in the 19th century.
- 4.2 Trial Pits 1, 2, 8a and 9, located in the west and south of the site, contained thick deposits of 19th century made-ground which had been dumped to level up the ground surface to the same height as the terraced natural. These dumped deposits extended to the full depth of the trial pits, and no buried soil horizons or natural deposits were recorded in this area of the site.
- 4.3 The above deposits were sealed by 19th/20th century made ground which was, in turn, sealed by the current asphalt carpark surface.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 5.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. wishes to thank Richard Hughes for commissioning the work and Ove Arup and Partners for funding the work.
- 5.2 The author wishes to thank Fiona Keith-Lucas for the surveying, Jon Butler, for his project management and report editing, and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations.

APPENDIX 1 – OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-4122

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Maidstone East Station, Station Road, Maidstone.
Short description of the project	The watching brief comprised observation of the digging of eleven geotechnical trial pits up to approximately 4.50m deep. The earliest deposits encountered comprised natural sandstone, degraded in parts, and sandy clay. These deposits were observed in the centre and east of the site where the area had been terraced in the 19th century. The trial pits located in the west and south of the site, contained thick deposits of 19th century made-ground which had been dumped to level up the ground surface to the same height as the terraced natural. The above deposits were sealed by 19th/20th century made ground which was, in turn, sealed by the current asphalt carpark surface.
Project dates	Start: 09-09-2004 End: 10-09-2004
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KMES 04 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE Maidstone East Station
Site coordinates	TQ 7590 5620 51.2771940198 0.522262048721 51 16 37 N 000 31 20 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Jon Butler
Project director/manager	Jon Butler
Project supervisor	Eliott Wragg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'

Paper Media available 'Report','Survey '

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Maidstone East Station, Station Road, Maidstone.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wragg, E
Date	2004
Issuer or publisher	OveArup and Partners
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 document

Entered by	J Butler (psteele@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	27 September 2004