

Bishop of Rochester Academy, East Campus, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief Report

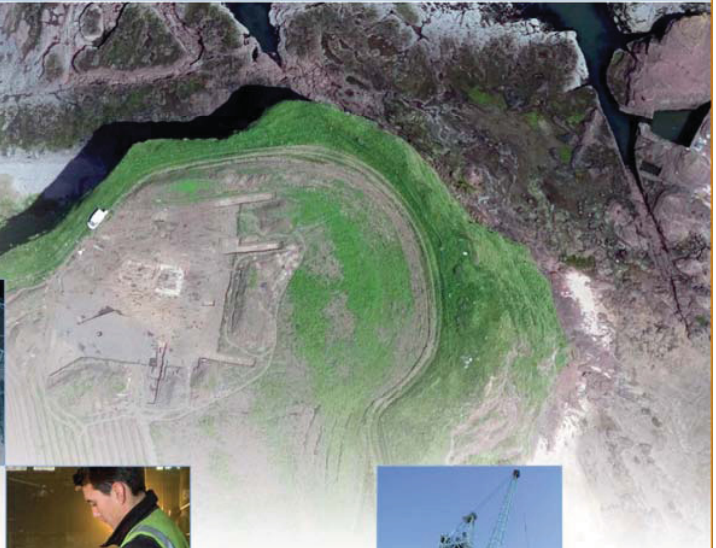
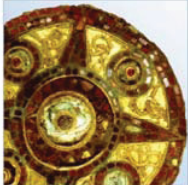
Planning Reference: WA/2008/2238

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 7646 6624

AOC Project No: 30678

Site Code: BOR 11

Date: August 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

**Bishop of Rochester Academy, East Campus, Magpie Hall Road,
Chatham, Kent:**

An Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: BAM Construction Ltd
Centrium
Griffiths Way
St Albans
AL1 2RD

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 7646 6624

AOC Project No: 30678

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

Between 20th and 22nd July 2011 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief and an evaluation at the Bishop of Rochester Academy, Chatham, Kent. The watching brief comprised the recording of ordnance investigation pits and the evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of seven trial trenches. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Mace Group.

The archaeological investigation revealed no archaeological remains relating to the nearby late 19th – early 20th century Fort Luton. The only archaeological feature that was noted lay in the area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings; this was a shallow, undated posthole.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded within the area of the proposed soakaways to the north-east of the existing school buildings. Based on the results of the evaluation and watching brief, AOC recommends that no future mitigation works are required in these areas.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of a one day watching brief and a three day evaluation at the Bishop of Rochester Academy, Chatham, Kent. The watching brief comprised the recording of ordnance investigation pits while the evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of seven trial trenches. The archaeological investigation took place between 20th and 22nd of July 2011 and was commissioned by Mace Group.
- 1.2 The site is irregularly shaped with an area of approximately 8.5 hectares and is located within the Bishop of Rochester Academy, Chatham, Kent, centred on NGR TQ 7646 6624 (Figure 1). The site is bounded to the north and west by Magpie Hall Road and associated housing, the Millennium Green Park to the north; and undeveloped scrubland / woodland to the east (Daisy Banks), south-east and south (Coney Banks). The late 19th century Fort Luton is situated adjacent to the site to the south / south-east.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation targeted two areas: an irregular parcel of land south of the main academy building and west of Fort Luton and an area of the playing fields north-east of the main academy buildings. The area to the south required a watching brief on the excavation of ordnance investigation pits and the excavation and recording of five evaluation trenches, measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide, within the area of the proposed car park. Three evaluation trenches were excavated and recorded, measuring 15m long and 1.8m wide, in the playing fields in advance of the excavation of a proposed soakaway.
- 1.4 This programme of works aimed to identify and record the nature and extent of any archaeological deposits to inform any programme of archaeological mitigation.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted for the development of the site (Planning Reference: WA/2008/2238) subject to an archaeological condition under the Government Policy Guidance (PPG16) current at the time. The condition based on PPG16, states:

'No development shall take place until the applicants or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'.
- 2.2 Since this permission was granted PPG 16 has been superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). Materially the implementation of PPS5 does not alter the requirement stated in the Condition on Planning made under PPG16.
- 2.3 Consultation with Ben Found, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, indicated that there are currently no areas or sites of archaeological priority / importance (as designated by Kent County Council or detailed in the Medway Local Plan) within, or within the immediate vicinity of the academy.
- 2.4 Prior to the submission of the planning application, a desk-based assessment was prepared for the site by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2009) as part of the initial phase of the project and a watching brief was carried out on the excavation of four geotechnical pits and one trench (AOC 2011a).
- 2.5 No cultural heritage features within the site boundary were identified during the production of the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2009). However, the southern section of the

proposed development site lies adjacent to the Scheduled Monument of Fort Luton; an artillery fort completed in c.1892 as part of the Chatham Ring Fortresses. No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the watching brief. Localised horizontal truncation was noted in test pit 2, to the immediate east of the college building: within the vicinity of the proposed soakaways.

- 2.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011b) set out the methodology for both this phase of works and a future watching brief on grubbing out of foundations at Bishop of Rochester Academy. The WSI also outlined a contingency for the excavation of eight further trenches measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide in the orchard area, to the south of the proposed car park area, based on the results of the archaeological investigation within the car park area.

3 Geological & Topographical Background

- 3.1 The solid geology of the site is Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1979). The chalk is overlain by drift geology comprising head deposits of clay and silt.
- 3.2 The site is located on the southern side of the Medway Valley and lies at approximately 25m OD on relatively flat land.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The following information is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2009).

Prehistoric

- 4.2 The site lies on the side of the Medway Valley, which has been subject to human settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. River valleys were attractive areas due to the utilisation of their natural resources, their use in trade and communication and as sites for settlement, ritual and industrial activity.
- 4.3 Some of the earliest remains of human activity in Britain have been recovered in Kent and many examples of Palaeolithic stone hand-axes have been recorded across the Medway area. Specific Palaeolithic finds include flints artefacts found 500m west of the site recorded in the 1920s by local antiquarian Syd Turner from Stonecross gravel pit. Further examination suggested the material represented a working floor (an area where the nomadic Palaeolithic hunters would have stopped and flint implements were made) and was sited on the crest of a divide between two lateral valleys.
- 4.4 The Kent Historic Environment Record records a further findspot of Palaeolithic material comprising 13 Palaeolithic hand axes and 28 pieces of debitage located c. 60m to the north of the site; though the find is recorded in the KHER as 'no specific provenance' and this may be an arbitrary location rather than a specific findspot.
- 4.5 Adjacent to the site, to the south-east, burials and caves of a possible prehistoric date were discovered during excavations for the glacis (a low graded artificial slope of earth) for Fort Luton in 1890-1891. The excavations uncovered two large oval chambers excavated into the chalk bedrock; one measuring c. 27ft by c. 15ft with a passage on its eastern side between c. 6- 7ft wide, and a second smaller chamber measuring c. 15ft by 12ft. The floors of these chambers fell from c. 3ft at the passage entrance to c. 7ft at the edge of the chamber (Heard 1994, 7).
- 4.6 The larger of the two chambers had been filled in with chalk rubble which, when removed, yielded a stag antler, a few fragments of bone and five potsherds of Roman date. In the northern end of the passage a human skeleton was discovered a foot below the surface, missing a skull but with a small blackware urn. In line with the mouth passage a cremated deposit comprising a coarsely made

cinerary urn with calcified bones and another smaller urn was also recorded. Further areas of burnt material were noted near the mouth of the entrance and to the south of the chamber, possibly indicating further cremations.

- 4.7 Approximately 42ft south of the larger chamber, a small cist was discovered c. 2ft deep containing fragments of burnt wood, whilst '*some 36 paces further down the banks*' (Heard 1994, 8) three human inhumations were noted, one of which included the bones of a small dog.
- 4.8 The precise provenance of these discoveries is not known, with no concrete date given to the human remains and several interpretations suggested for the chambers. The specific location of the finds is also not known, with no records from the works available – however, it has been stated that the discoveries were made '*on the banks overlooking Epps Farm, commonly known as Street End*' (Heard 1994, 8) presumably meaning the glacia on the eastern side of Fort Luton.
- 4.9 It has been suggested the chambers were pre-Roman habitations, re-used at a later date for Roman burials (Heard 1994, 8), though the coarse pottery found with the cremations could suggest they are of an earlier date. The chalk chambers themselves are notoriously difficult to date; often with chambers of similar design being used for caves or excavating chalk (often referred to as Dene Holes) from the latter prehistoric through to the post-medieval period; however it is likely that they are either contemporary or of an earlier date to the possible cremations and the inhumation missing its skull.
- 4.10 A probable Bronze Age inhumation cemetery was recorded in the 19th century 300m north of the site; however the remains have since been lost so this cannot be verified.

Roman

- 4.11 During the Roman period, a substantial Roman settlement, the town of *Durobrivae*, grew up around the bridge head of Rochester c. 3km to the north-west of the site, and is mentioned in several 2nd to 4th century Romano-British sources (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 8).
- 4.12 The strategic position of Rochester meant it was second only to Canterbury in the *civitas* of the *Cantiaci* and was likely to be the administrative centre for the surrounding area. Its presence undoubtedly encouraged the establishment of farms and villa estates in the Medway valley such as those at Cobham, Frindsbury, Hoo and that discovered during works at Fort Amherst c. 2km to the north of the site.
- 4.13 Within the area surrounding the site, foundations of a Roman structure and numerous finds of Roman date were noted during digging for brickearth in 1869, approximately 580m to the north-east of the site. The site was interpreted as a possible walled Roman cemetery based upon the assemblage of artefacts discovered, which included several pieces of glassware, a bronze jug and basin, an iron lamp, bronze hasp, a possible iron spade and Samian Ware pottery dish, plate and cups. No cremations or inhumations were recorded, however the brickwork labourers described a number of 'bushels of bone' which had already been discovered and sold (Heard 1994, 9).
- 4.14 Approximately 830m to the west of the site a Roman lead coffin containing the skeleton of a middle-aged man dated to the 4th century was discovered in 1878. Further Roman evidence just outside the immediate area but within the same parish includes:
- A supposed 'burial chamber' containing coins and pottery discovered in Luton Road area opposite Christ Church;
 - Urns, vessels, calcified bone and bronze artefacts discovered at Batchelor's and Gransden's brickfields;

- Bones and a Roman vase discovered when sinking a well at Luton Waterworks in 1896 (Heard 1994, 9); and
- The line of the Roman road of Watling Street, which passes c. 880m to the north-east of the site.

Early Medieval and Medieval

- 4.15 There is a dearth of physical evidence relating to early medieval and medieval activity within the site and surrounding immediate vicinity, with the only known site recorded on the KHER being that of a three early medieval gold foils found in a 'tumulus'; the grid reference given is arbitrary and the location of this find is more likely to be located within the Chatham Lines area further to the north.
- 4.16 Historically, the area of the site is located within the Parish of Christ Church, Luton, which was created in 1842 out of the larger ecclesiastical parish of St. Mary's, Chatham. The specifics of the origin of settlement at Luton are not fully known, though the place name comprises Old English elements which could suggest an early medieval origin.
- 4.17 Whilst there is no direct physical evidence of early medieval activity close to the site, there is considerable documentary and physical evidence which indicates settlement activity in the wider surrounding area and landscape.
- 4.18 The town of Chatham most likely originated as a mid-Saxon settlement (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 1). Chatham is first recorded in AD 880, as 'Cetham', taking its roots from the Saxon language either from 'cyte', (a cottage) or 'cet' (wood), and 'ham', (a village) meaning 'the village of cottages' or 'wood or forest settlement' (Hasted 1798, 191-226; Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 3). By the end of the 9th century, Chatham was ranked as a half hundred within the Hundred of Chatham and Gillingham, and by AD 947 a church is documented (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 3 - 4).
- 4.19 Archaeological evidence in the surrounding area includes evidence of an Anglo-Saxon church and cemetery in Rochester; 6th and 7th century Anglo-Saxon burials discovered to the north-east of Fort Amherst, Chatham (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 3).
- 4.20 Chatham is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which records a church, a mill, 16 carucates (c. 480 acres) of arable land, 20 acres of meadow, five fisheries and woodland for the pannage of one hog within the hundred of 'Ceteham' (Hasted 1798, 191-226).
- 4.21 There is no documentary evidence of a manorial settlement at Luton during the early medieval or medieval periods and it appears Luton was part of the Manor of Chatham, likely comprising a small hamlet. The site itself would have also lain within the Manor of Chatham; though it may have been part of the farmland or demesne land of one of the nearby smaller sub-manors rather than Chatham itself, possibly either Snodhurst to the south-west or Sittington to the south.

Post-Medieval

- 4.22 The Luton area and the site appears to have remained relatively rural and undeveloped through the post-medieval period. Chatham itself largely remained a small settlement based on an agricultural and fishing economy throughout the medieval period until the dockyards and anchorage were established in the Elizabethan period and the town began to expand (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7-8).
- 4.23 The first documentation relating to the navy's use of Chatham for the storage of ships is dated 1547 and records the use of 'storehouses for winter storage of ships' with the Naval Headquarters established at Chatham in 1567 (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7 - 8). A series of

- land reclamation works (possibly begun as early as the Late Middle Ages) provided more space for additional housing and wharves and the dockyards continued to expand through the period soon overtaking Woolwich and Deptford in importance, becoming and the most important royal yard in the country during the Dutch Wars of 1652-1674 (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7 - 8).
- 4.24 Given the importance of the Chatham Dockyards it became necessary for defences to be constructed to protect the naval ships and commercial interest of the docklands. This included Upnor Castle on the western bank of the Medway in 1559 and in 1649 Gillingham Fort (Gillingham Castle) was built above the dockyard.
- 4.25 In the 18th century new dockland fortifications were constructed on the hillside on the landward side of the docklands to provide protection from landward attack with work on the Chatham Lines begun in 1756. During the Napoleonic period the dockyard was extensively rebuilt to cope with the expansion of the Navy and was subject to extension and fortification each time invasion threatened; including the American Revolutionary War (1775-83) and the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15). The Lines were extended in the 1890s with a series of forts in a semi-circle approximately two miles outside Chatham and these comprise the last traditional fortifications to be constructed in Britain (Kent County Council & English Heritage 2004, 7 – 8; Medway Council 2009).
- 4.26 The fortunes of the settlement of Luton would have undoubtedly been tied into that of Chatham, though the degree of settlement expansion in Luton during this period is relatively minor compared to the increased activity at Chatham and the Dockyards. Within the area of the site there are only two examples of surviving 17th century buildings, located c. 600m to the east / north-east of the site. The village was eventually tied into the suburban development of Chatham during the 19th and early 20th centuries with the population of Luton rising to c. 2200 in 1859, c. 7454 in 1891 and up to over 13,000 by 1911 (Heard 1994, 9).
- 4.27 Further post-medieval activity recorded within the 1km of the site mostly comprises light industrial activity of a late post-medieval date, including:
- Late post-medieval brickworks at Luton Road c. 500m to the north-east of the site; Magpie Hall Road c. 730m to the north of the site, Luton Brickworks c.270m to the north-east and a later larger brickworks c. 400m to the east.
 - Late post-medieval clay pits c. 830m and c. 560m to the east of the site respectively; and
 - The site of a corn mill on Chalk Pit Hill c. 800m to the north / north-west and a second windmill c. 860m to the north, as marked on 1st edition Ordnance Survey Maps.
- 4.28 The primary evidence of later post-medieval activity within the vicinity of the site is Fort Luton, located adjacent the site to the south-east. Construction on the Fort began in 1876 and was completed in 1892 and it was one of Chatham Ring Fortresses designed to defend the land between the two larger forts of Darland and Horsted.
- 4.29 The fort never saw combat action, but was used for number of war games and siege operations including one in 1907 when part of the ditch and defences were blown up. The fort served as barrack accommodation during the First World War, as Allied Air Command for the Medway area during the Second World War and remained in Ministry of Defence hands until 1961 when it was handed over to the Kent Education Authority.
- 4.30 During the Second World War, further buildings including accommodation, stores and offices were constructed on the western side of the fort, south of the entranceway. The site of these buildings lie within the south-western area of the site, and although no upstanding remains survive, uneven and

undulating ground conditions were noted in this area during the site walkover which may be earthworks related to these buildings.

- 4.31 The Medway Community College was formed from the two separate schools of Christchurch High School and Fort Luton High School, which occupied the current school site. Construction of the current school buildings began in 1948 with Christchurch County Secondary School for Girls and Luton County School for Boys (Fort Luton Boys School) moving into the new buildings on Tuesday 18th April 1950 (Bennett 1984, 18). In September 2010 the college reopened as the Bishop of Rochester Academy.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the evaluation and watching brief were defined as follows:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable Ben Found, Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To disseminate the results of the investigation to all interested parties.

- 5.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:

- To determine whether evidence for prehistoric activity is present within the development site.
- To determine whether the evidence for Roman activity in the locality extends into the site and, if present, to characterise the nature of this activity.
- To determine whether structural evidence of 19th century - Second World War date relating to Fort Luton survive within the development site.

- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

6 Methodology

Scope of Works

- 6.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011). The evaluation trenching and watching briefs with all associated recording and reporting will conform with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – English Heritage – Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (EH 2006).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).

- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998a).
 - English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IfA 2008).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2008).
 - Kent County Council Manual of Specification for Evaluation Trenching
 - Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (MoL 1994)
 - RESCUE & ICON – First Aid for Finds (RESCUE & ICON 2001).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- 6.2 A unique site code for the project has been created BOR 11; this was used as the site identifier for all records produced. Archaeological records produced as part of this evaluation and watching brief sequent the records commenced as part of earlier archaeological investigations (AOC 2011).
- 6.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a team comprised of a Project Supervisor and a Site Assistant, under the overall direction of Alan Ford, Project Manager. The work was monitored by Ben Found on behalf of Kent County Council.

7 Results

7.1 Watching Brief on Ordnance Investigation

- 7.1.1 25 test pits were excavated as part of an ordnance investigation within the area of the proposed car park, south of the existing school buildings. Each test pit required the excavation of a 2m by 2m trench by a JCB over areas of magnetometry anomaly. The majority of the test pits were very shallow: 0.20 – 0.60m. The earliest deposit noted was naturally deposited degraded clay chalk head deposits (1002) at 0.40 – 0.60m BGS, which was only observed in test pits 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 21. Within test pits 9, 11, 14 and 22 the earliest deposit noted was a dark, mixed chalky silt made ground deposit (1001). In test pits 6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 22 a 0.20m thick subsoil was observed (1003). The majority of the test pits (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30 and 31) were excavated to a level within topsoil (1000), which covered the entire area and sealed all of the test pits. No archaeological features were recorded in any of the test pits.

7.2 Trench 1

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	100	Topsoil
0.20m	101	Made ground
0.35m	102	Natural clay
0.35m	103	Natural head deposits

- 7.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the southern area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings; the trench was aligned roughly east west and measured 20m by 2m (Figure 2).
- 7.2.2 Naturally occurring head deposits were observed at a depth of 0.35m below ground surface. The head deposits consisted of firm, mid orange silty clay (102) and loose, pale brown white silty chalk (103) (Figure 4; Section 1). These deposits were overlain by a 0.15m thick deposit of dark brown clay silt with frequent chalk and occasional CBM fragments (101). This made ground deposit probably represents a phase of re-landscaping within the area. The made ground was overlain by 0.20m of dark brown, friable clay silt topsoil (100). No archaeological features were observed in this trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1 (direction east)

7.3 Trench 2

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	200	Topsoil
0.30m	201	Subsoil
0.50m	202	Natural head deposits

- 7.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the eastern area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings; the trench was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 20m by 2m (Figure 2).
- 7.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 2 was loose pale brown white silty chalk head deposit (202) at a depth of 0.50m BGL (Figure 4; Section 2). The head deposit was overlain by 0.20m of subsoil (201) and 0.30m of topsoil (200). 20th century material, including a fragment of glass bottle and a brass button, and an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic (Appendix B) were recovered from the topsoil (200). No archaeology was recorded in this trench.



Plate 2: Trench 2 (direction north)

7.4 Trench 3

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	300	Topsoil
0.30m	301	Subsoil
0.60m	302	Natural clay
0.60m	303	Natural head deposits

- 7.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the central area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings; the trench was aligned roughly east west and measured 20m by 2m in plan (Figure 2).
- 7.4.2 Natural clay (302) and natural head deposits (303) were observed at a depth of 0.60m BGL and were sealed by 0.30m of mid brown silty clay subsoil (301) (Figure 4; Section 3). The subsoil was overlain by a deposit of dark brown, friable topsoil (300) 0.30m thick; no archaeology was recorded.



Plate 3: Trench 3 (direction east)

7.5 Trench 4

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	400	Topsoil
0.30m	401	Subsoil
0.50m	402	Natural head deposits
0.50 – 0.57m	403	Fill of posthole
0.50 – 0.57m	404	Cut of posthole

7.5.1 Trench 4 was located in the northern area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings; the trench was aligned roughly east west and measured 20m by 2m in plan (Figure 2).

7.5.2 Natural head deposits (402) were observed throughout the trench at a depth of 0.50m BGL (Figure 4; Section 4). A sub-rounded posthole, 0.20m in diameter, was recorded in the eastern part of the trench. This feature [404] was 0.07m in depth, and was filled with a loose, dark blackish red silty clay fill with charcoal (403). A small amount of fragmented, undiagnostic burnt clay (Appendix B) was also recovered from the fill of the feature (403). The posthole was sealed by a 0.20m thick subsoil deposit (401). The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown, friable topsoil (400).



Plate 4: Trench 4 (direction west)

7.6 Trench 5

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	500	Topsoil
0.20 – 0.30m	501	Subsoil / ploughsoil
0.30 – 0.50m	502	Natural clay
0.30 – 0.50m	503	Natural head deposits

7.6.1 Trench 5 was located in the south-east of the of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings; the trench was aligned roughly north-south and it measured 20m by 2m in plan (Figure 2).

7.6.2 Natural clay (502) and natural head deposits (503) were observed throughout the trench (Figure 4; Section 5). The natural head deposits were overlain by a 0.20m thick subsoil deposit (501). The subsoil was overlain by a 0.30m topsoil (500). No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.



Plate 5: Trench 5 (direction north)

7.7 Trench 6

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	600	Topsoil
0.22m	601	Made ground
0.48m	602	Natural clay

7.7.1 Trench 6 was located in the southern part of the playing fields north-east of the main academy buildings; the trench was aligned roughly east west and it measured 15m by 2m in plan (Figure 2).

7.7.2 Natural mid orange brown firm clay (602) was observed throughout the trench 0.48m BGL (Figure 4; Section 6). The clay was overlain by 0.22m of orange brown silty clay made ground (601). The made ground was sealed by 0.22m of dark brown friable topsoil (600). No features were observed in this trench.



Plate 6: Trench 6 (direction west)

7.8 Trench 7

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	700	Topsoil
0.20m	701	Natural clay and gravel
0.55m	702	Natural clay

7.8.1 Trench 7 was located in the central part of the playing playing fields north-east of the main academy buildings; the trench was aligned north south and it measured 15m by 2m in plan (Figure 2).

7.8.2 Natural clay (702) was observed throughout the trench at 0.55m BGL (Figure 4; Section 7). The clay was overlain by a 0.35m thick natural deposit of clay and gravel (701). The clay deposit was sealed by 0.20m of dark brown friable topsoil (700). No features were observed in this trench.



Plate 7: Trench 7 (direction south)

7.9 Trench 8

Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0.00m	800	Topsoil
0.22m	801	Made ground – re-deposited gravel
0.36m	802	Made ground – re-deposited clay
0.56m	803	Natural head deposits
1.42m	804	Natural chalk

7.9.1 Trench 8 was located in the northern part of the playing playing fields north-east of the main academy buildings; the trench was aligned north south and it measured 15m by 2m in plan (Figure 2). This was an additional trench which was excavated in the north part of the site to ensure that the area of the proposed soakaways was fully evaluated.

7.9.2 The earliest deposit encountered Trench 8 was natural hard white chalk (804), which was recorded within a sondage in the northern part of the trench at a depth of 1.42m BGS. The chalk was overlain by a 0.56m thick loose pale brown white silty chalk head deposits (803). The natural deposits were overlain by a 0.36m thick modern clay made ground deposit (802) and a 0.22m thick mixed gravel made ground deposit (801). This was sealed by 0.22m dark brown friable topsoil (804) (Figure 4; Section 8). No archaeology was recorded in this trench.



Plate 8: Trench 8 – west facing section (direction east)

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

8.1 A sample of un-diagnostic burnt clay (403) recovered as part of the fill of posthole [404] was retained as well as a glass fragment, a brass button and an undated fragment of pot from the topsoil (200) (Appendix B). Neither the form nor the fabric of the burnt clay was indicative of function or date. No environmental samples were taken.

9 Conclusions

9.1 The watching brief and archaeological trenches within the area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings demonstrate that no archaeological deposits relating to the late 19th

century Fort Luton survive in this area. The sole archaeological feature recorded within this area was an undated posthole from Trench 4, to the north of this area. The shallow posthole [404], which was cut into the natural, was filled with a loose, dark, blackish red silt clay fill with undiagnostic burnt clay fragments and occasional flint and charcoal inclusions (403). The natural head deposits were overlain by a mid brown silt clay subsoil with frequent flint and chalk inclusions. The only area of obvious truncation identified was in the southern part of this area, within Trench 1, which contained a 0.15m made ground deposit. Based on the proximity to the former route into Fort Luton it would seem likely that this phase of truncation relates to late 19th – early 20th century activity.

- 9.2 Within the playing field area to the north-east of the existing school buildings no archaeological features were recorded. Based on the stratigraphy in the centre of this area, which consisted of topsoil sitting directly on natural clay and gravels, it appears that this area has been truncated. Within Trench 8 in the north of this area, and Trench 6 in the south of the site, made ground deposits were recorded which indicates that the area has been re-landscaped, presumably in association with the construction of the playing fields.
- 9.3 Based on the results of the evaluation and watching brief, AOC recommends that no future mitigation works are required in the areas sampled by this phase of works. Further archaeological works as part of the redevelopment of this site include a Watching Brief during the slab removal and grubbing of foundations during demolition of the existing buildings.

10. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the limited findings of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the Kent Archaeological Review and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, finds and digital records will be deposited with the local museum.

11 Bibliography

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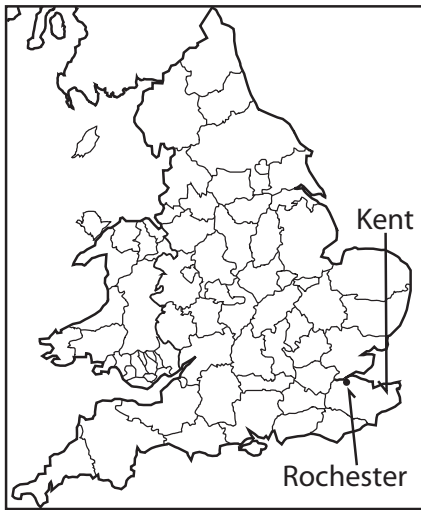
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BISHOP OF ROCHESTER ACADEMY, EAST CAMPUS, MAGPIE HALL ROAD, CHATHAM, KENT:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION & WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



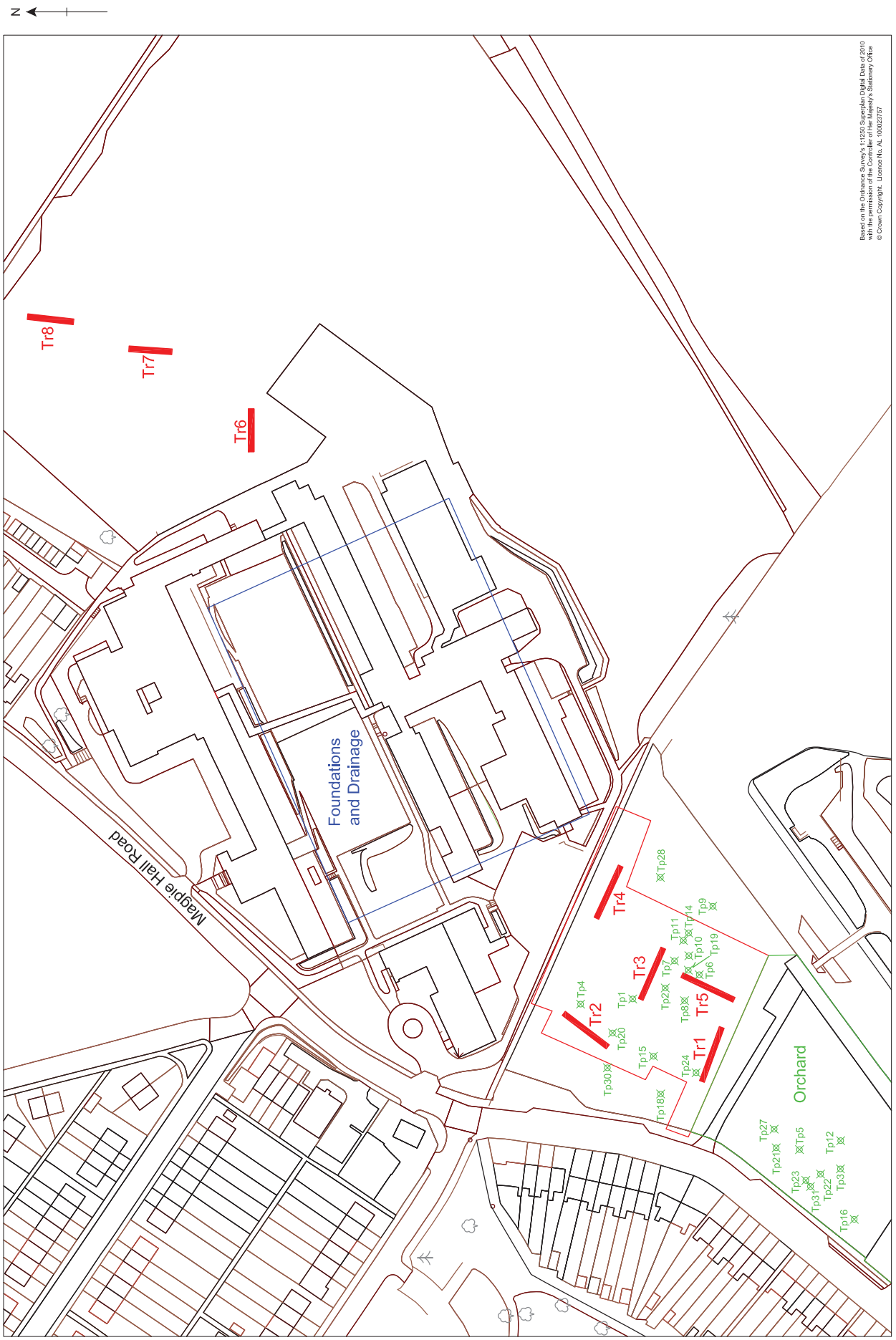
Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2003 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

500m 0 2 km
1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:250 Superplan Digital Data of 2010
 Ordnance Survey, Ordnance Survey's Stationary Office
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Figure 2: Detailed Trench and Watching Brief Location Plan

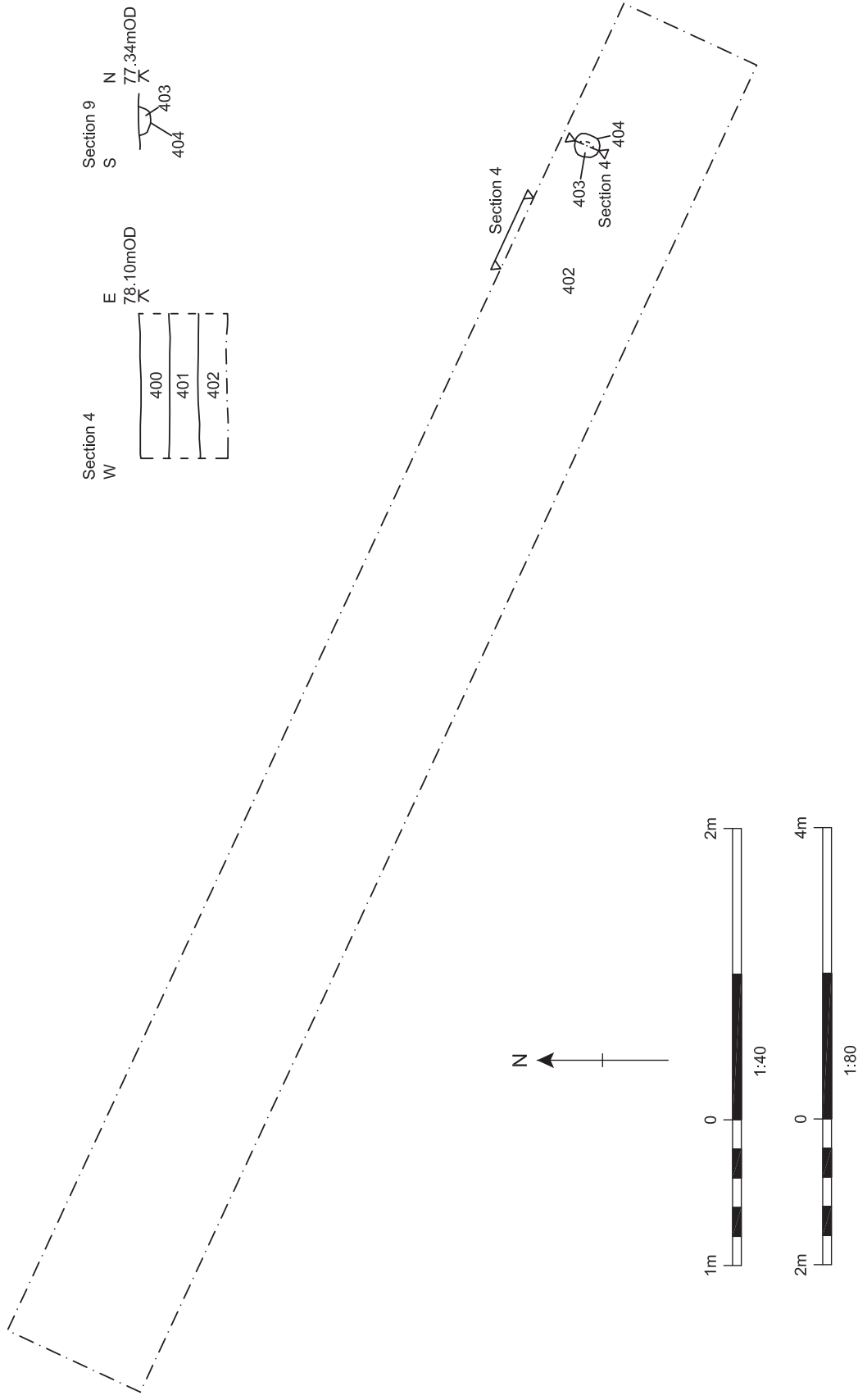
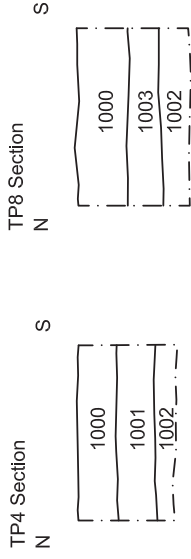


Figure 3: Trench 4: Plan (1:80) and Sections (1:40)

Test Pit Sample Sections



Evaluation Trench Sample Sections

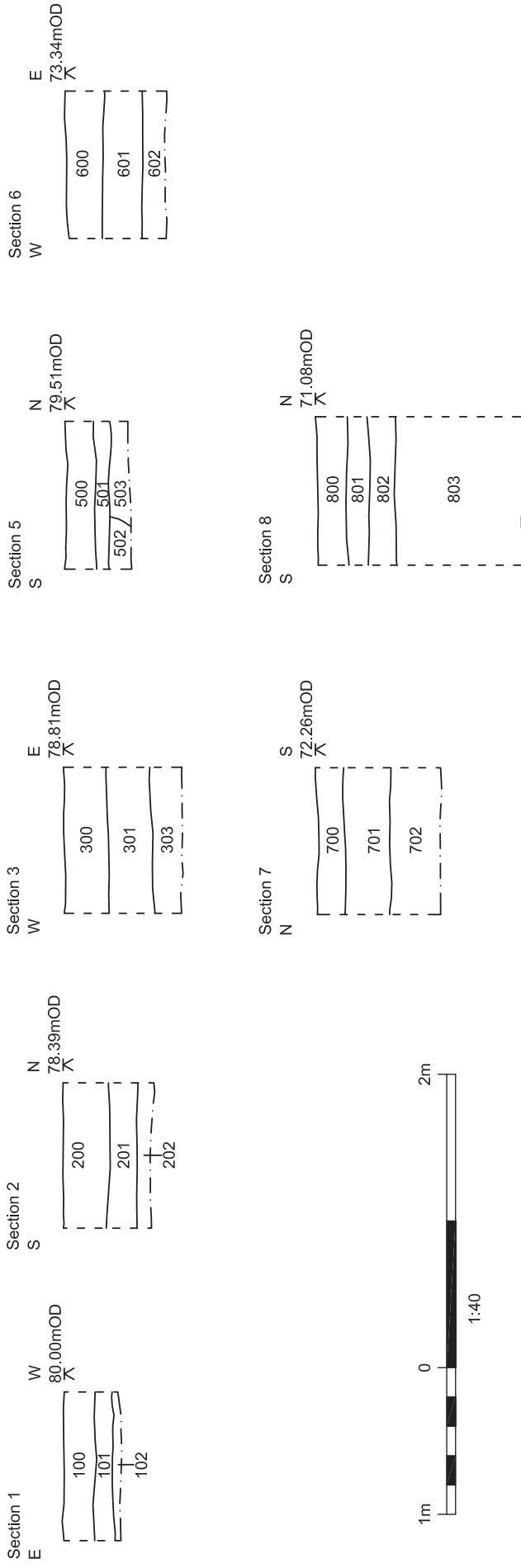


Figure 4: Sample Sections



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Thickness
100	Topsoil	20m	2m	0.2m
101	Made ground	20m	2m	0.15m
102	Natural clay	11.50m	2m	<0.40m
103	Natural head deposits	8.50m	2m	<0.10m
200	Topsoil	20m	2m	0.30m
201	Subsoil	20m	2m	0.20m
202	Natural head deposits	20m	2m	<0.10m
300	Topsoil	20m	2m	0.30m
301	Subsoil	20m	2m	0.30m
302	Natural clay	2m	2m	<0.4m
303	Natural head deposits	18m	2m	<0.20m
400	Topsoil	20m	2m	0.30m
401	Subsoil	20m	2m	0.20m
402	Natural head deposits	20m	2m	<0.10 m
403	Posthole fill	0.20m	0.20m	0.07m
404	Posthole cut	0.20m	0.20m	0.07m
500	Topsoil	20m	2m	0.20 – 0.30m
501	Subsoil / ploughsoil	20m	2m	0.10 – 0.20m
502	Natural clay	14m	2m	<0.40m
503	Natural head deposits	6m	2m	<0.20m
600	Topsoil	15m	2m	0.22m
601	Made ground	15m	2m	0.26m
602	Natural clay	15m	2m	NFE
700	Topsoil	15m	2m	0.20m
701	Natural clay and gravel	15m	2m	0.35m
701	Natural clay	15m	2m	NFE
800	Topsoil	15m	2m	0.22m
801	Made ground – redeposited gravel	15m	2m	0.14m
802	Made ground – redeposited clay	15m	2m	0.20m
803	Natural head deposits	15m	2m	0.86m
804	Natural chalk	2.5m	2m	NFE
1000	Topsoil – as observed in test pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,	2m	2m	0.20 – 0.30m

	23, 24, 27, 28, 30 and 31			
1001	Made Ground – as observed in test pits 3, 4, 9, 12, 16, 19, 20, 27, 28, 30 and 31	2m	2m	0.20 – 0.30m
1002	Natural head deposits – as observed in test pits 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 21	2m	2m	<0.10 – 0.30m
1003	Subsoil – as observed in test pits 6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 22	2m	2m	0.20m

Appendix B – Specialist Reports

Finds Assessment

by
Helen MacQuarrie

A very small assemblage of finds was collected from 2 contexts over the course of the archaeological evaluation in August 2011. The majority of finds are 20th century and undiagnostic.

Glass

A single fragment of glass was recovered from topsoil (200). The fragment, 36 grams in weight, is likely to form part of large, nineteenth/ twentieth century wine (?) bottle.

Ceramics

A single fragment of light orange ceramic was recovered from topsoil (200). The fragment, 5 grams in height, is well worn with few notable inclusions.

Metal

A single stamped bronze button was recovered from topsoil (200). The button, 1 gram in weight, has the words 'Improved' 'Patent' stamped on the rim of the button.

Fired clay

Five pieces of burnt clay weighing 73 grams were recovered from the fill of posthole (403) [404]. All of the recovered fragments have the same fabric: a poorly mixed natural looking clay with fine sand and only occasional chalk inclusions. Neither the form nor the fabric are indicative of function or date.

Appendix C – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-103230

Project details

Project name Bishop of Rochester Academy, Chatham, Kent

Short description of the project Between 20th and 22nd July 2011 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a one day watching brief and a three day evaluation at the Bishop of Rochester Academy, Chatham, Kent. The watching brief comprised the recording of ordnance investigation pits while the evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of seven trial trenches. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Mace Group. The archaeological investigation revealed no archaeological remains relating to late 19th - early 20th century Fort Luton. The only archaeological feature within the area of the proposed car park to the south of the existing school buildings was a shallow, undated posthole. No archaeological finds or features were recorded within the area of the proposed soakaways to the north-east of the existing school buildings. Based on the results of the evaluation and watching brief, AOC recommends that no future mitigation works are required in these areas. Future work includes a watching briefs on the grubbing of foundations and slab during demolition of existing buildings on the site.

Project dates Start: 01-06-2011

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 30678 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'
Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country England
Site location KENT MEDWAY CHATHAM Bishop of Rochester Academy, Magpie Hall Road,
Chatham
Postcode ME4 5JB
Study area 8.50 Hectares
Site coordinates TQ 7646 6624 51.3672189768 0.535254710107 51 22 01 N 000 32 06 E Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Contractor (design and execute)
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project Alan Ford
director/manager

Project supervisor Helen MacQuarrie

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Mace Group
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Kent Museum Service TBC
recipient

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'

Digital Archive Kent Museum Service TBC
recipient

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Survey'

Paper Archive Kent Museums Service TBC
recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Medway Community College, Chatham, Kent: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s) AOC Archaeology

Date 2009

Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Bishop of Rochester Academy, East Campus, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,

Kent: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation and
Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) AOC Archaeology

Date 2011

Description A4 printed document

Entered by Helen MacQuarrie (helen.macquarrie@aocarchaeology.com)

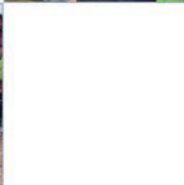
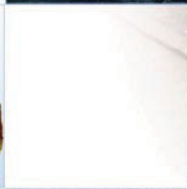
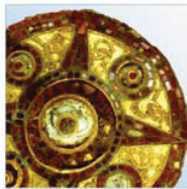
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OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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