

Former Maidstone and District Bus Station, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

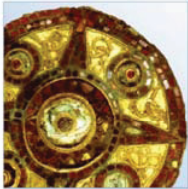
Planning Application: APP/M2270/A/10/2138774

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 7637 3056

AOC Project No: 31033

Site Code: HAW 11

Date: October 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Former Maidstone and District Bus Station, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: **GL Hearn**
20 Soho Square
London
W1D 3QW

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 7637 3056

AOC Project No: 31033

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Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

Date of Fieldwork: 16th - 27th of September 2011

Date of Report: October 2011

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

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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 16th and 27th of September 2011 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at the Former Maidstone and District Bus Station, Hawkhurst, Kent. The watching brief was commissioned by GL Hearn. This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief, undertaken during the excavation of groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey Tesco store

No archaeological horizons, features or finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief. It is concluded that landscaping of the site, presumably in association with its former development as the Maidstone and District Bus Station, truncated the original ground level and any deposits that may have predated the Bus Station.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site of the former Maidstone and District Bus Station is located on the eastern periphery of Hawkhurst within the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. It is situated on the northern side of the A268 Rye Road, centred on national grid reference TQ 7637 3056 (Figure 1). The site is approximately 0.52 ha in size and is bounded by residential properties and gardens to the north, east and west and the Rye Road to the south. A school field adjoins the north-east corner of the site (Figure 2).
- 1.2 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey Tesco store with ancillary car parking provision for 82 vehicles.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the Borough is provided by Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation.
- 2.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the site boundaries or within the 1km of the site. Part of the site adjoins, but lies outside, the eastern boundary of the Hawkhurst Conservation Area and there are two Grade II listed buildings nearby.
- 2.3 Following appeal, planning permission was granted for the demolition of the former bus station and the erection of a single storey retail unit with ancillary car parking provision for 82 vehicles. The appeal decision (APP/M2270/A/10/2138774) stipulated the requirement for an archaeological watching brief as a condition of development (Section 30). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced, detailing the methods and standards to which the monitoring would adhere (AOC 2011).
- 2.4 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken within, or in close vicinity to, the development area.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 Hawkhurst is located within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposed development site occupies a flattish parcel of land on the eastern periphery of Highgate, the most northerly of the two villages (the southern being The Moor) which comprise the settlement of Hawkhurst.
- 3.2 The British Geological Survey records the underlying geology of the development site as Wealden Group – Sandstone and Siltstone (British Geological Survey 2011). Superficial deposits are not recorded; however, the interface between Tunbridge Wells Sand and Wadhurst Clay drift geology is known to fall within Hawkhurst (English Heritage 2007).

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.1 No finds or activity of this period are recorded within the boundary of the site.
- 4.2 A Lower Palaeolithic handaxe was found in a garden approximately 500m to the west (English Heritage 2007).

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410) and Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 4.3 No finds or activity of this period are recorded within the boundary of the site.
- 4.4 A copper-alloy key dating to the Roman period was found by metal detector within 350m of the site (Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Ref: KENT – 1BFF87)
- 4.5 The area around Hawkhurst is known to have been exploited for its ironstone since the Roman period. The Wealden Iron industry flourished until the 19th century.

Medieval (AD 1066-1536)

- 4.6 No finds or activity of this period are recorded within the boundary of the site.
- 4.7 Hawkhurst is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) which refers to the village as *Hawkshyrst* belonging to Battle Abbey (Hawkhurst Community Partnership 2010). The medieval manor house of Congehurst was located to the south-west of the site, to the south of The Moor. No trace of the building survives, but part of the moat is preserved as a pond.
- 4.8 A silver penny of John I (1261-1294) was found by metal detector within 350m of the site (PAS KENT – 94D9E4)
- 4.9 The medieval core of Hawkhurst is centred on The Moor; this includes the Church of St Lawrence, first mentioned in charters of the 13th century; the earliest parts of the existing church date to the 14th/15th centuries. A medieval market cross was formerly located a short distance to the south-east but was dismantled sometime prior to 1659 (English Heritage 2007).

Post Medieval and Modern Period (AD 1536 - 1900)

- 4.10 A number of post-medieval metal detector finds, mainly coins, have been made within a 500m radius of the site (PAS).
- 4.11 Highgate is largely a post-medieval addition to the village, the name taken from the 'High Gate' that gave access to the commons to the north of the church (Hawkhurst Community Partnership 2010). The settlement here was built around a canopied Colonnade of shops, built c 1790, which still forms a focal point of the village.
- 4.12 A number of post-medieval listed buildings are located in close vicinity to the site, the closest being 'Galimorph', a Grade II 18th-century stable block converted into a shop lying c 150m to the west. The 19th century Church of All Saints is located c 250m to the south-west.
- 4.13 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1872) shows the area of the site lay in the south-western part of a large, irregularly-shaped, lightly wooded field; most probably parkland associated with Copt Hall, a probable 19th century structure formerly located to the south of Rye Road.
- 4.14 The bus station is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1961.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - 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 the archaeology advisor to Tunbridge Wells Borough 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 make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the archaeological watching brief were defined as being:
- To determine whether any archaeological remains pre-dating the documented post-medieval origins of Highgate are present.
 - To characterise land use within the site boundary in the historic period.
 - To investigate evidence relating to the medieval and post-medieval development of Hawkhurst.
 - To establish whether evidence relating to the Wealden iron industry is present.
 - To assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by modern buildings on the site.
- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief was undertaken between the 16th and 27th of September. It involved the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the foundation pads for the new retail unit (1296m²) and associated service trenches, located to the north of the site and centred over the footprint of the former bus station, together with a sub-station foundation and service trench in the southern part of the site. As work on some of the store foundation pads had begun prior to arrival, an assessment was made of all previously excavated areas on the 16th September.
- 6.2 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3rd Edition) (MoL 1994).
- 6.3 The monitoring, recording and reporting conform to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).
 - English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998b).
 - English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
 - English Heritage – Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (EH 2006)
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008a).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008b).
 - Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2008c).
 - Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).
 - Museum of London – A Research Framework for London Archaeology (Mol 2002).
 - 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).

6.4 Archaeological recording consisted of:

- Limited hand cleaning of deposits sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
- A scaled photographic record of representative exposed features, sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
- A record of the levels of deposits with reference to the Ordnance Datum.
- Annotations of existing plans provided by the client and sections of exposed deposits drawn at 1:20 scale.

6.5 A unique site code for the project (HAW11) was used as the site identifier for all records produced.

6.6 The monitoring was undertaken by Helen MacQuarrie under the overall direction of Paul Mason, Project Manager. The watching brief was monitored by Wendy Rogers, Archaeologist with Kent County Council Heritage Conservation.

7 Results

7.1 Store Foundation Excavations

7.1.1 A total of 112, 1.4m by 1.4m, foundation trenches were excavated as pile pads for the proposed store in the northern part of the site (store foundation excavations). The depths of the pad foundations varied from between 0.4m and 2.6m below ground level. The excavations also included the excavation of beam trenches in the north-east and south-west corner of the proposed store (Figure 3).

Level (OD) (Top of deposit)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
75 – 74.9m	0.00 – 0.10m	(01)	Modern demolition layer: loose, light grey-brown, silty-sand with concrete, metal and red brick inclusions
74.90m	0.10	(02)	Modern demolition layer: loose, light reddish-brown, silty-sand with a crushed concrete matrix
74.40m	0.25 – 0.5m	(03)	Redeposited geology: mid reddish-brown, silty-clay with occasional charcoal and root inclusions
74.50 – 74.90m	0.4m	(04)	Redeposited geology: white/grey, sandy-clay with occasional charcoal and root inclusions
75 – 74.6m	0.00 – 0.4m	(05)	Redeposited geology: mixed
74.6 – 70.95m	0.4m - 1.4	(06)	Buried topsoil: compact very fine mid orange-brown silty-sandy-clay (20 th century glass fragment recovered)
74.10m - 70.95m	1.2 - 1.4m	(07)	Geology: compact light orange-brown silty-sand
75m	0.00	(09)	20 th century brick drain
75m	0.00	(10)	20 th century brick wall footings
75m	0.00	(11)	20 th century brick wall footings
74m	1m	(20)	Concrete foundation

74m	1m	(21)	Concrete foundation
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- 7.1.2 Some excavations, which were completed prior to arrival in the eastern part of the store's footprint, were inspected for archaeological features. Where it was possible to inspect (where concrete had not been poured) no archaeological features were observed.
- 7.1.3 The geology was a light orange-brown silty-sand (07) which was observed at a height of 70.95mOD at the northern limit of the store footprint and 74.10mOD at the southern limit. Geology was not exposed in every foundation pit (Figure 3). The geology was overlain, in the northern limit of the site, by a 0.30m-thick buried topsoil deposit (06). A fragment of modern 19th/20th century green bottle glass was recovered from this deposit (discarded) (Section 2 illustrates the lower portion of the section which was stepped – see Plate 1). Buried topsoil was only observed in the northern limit of the site where the slope of the original ground surface was the most acute. The buried topsoil (06) in the north and truncated geology (07) elsewhere was overlain by redeposited geology (05), (04), (03) which varied in depth from c 4m in the very north of the site to 0.4m to the south of the store footprint. A series of concrete foundations (20), (21) and red brick foundations (09), (10), and (11) were observed in the central and southern part of the store foundations. The position and alignment of these features suggest they are associated with the demolished Maidstone and District Bus Station. These features, and the redeposited natural deposits were overlain by modern demolition layers (02) and (03).



Plate 1: Northern limit of site – illustrating made-ground deposits (direction north-east)

7.2 Sub-station and associated service trench (Trench 1)

- 7.2.1 A 4.5m x 5m foundation was excavated to a depth of c 1.6m below ground level for a sub-station in the south-east of the site. A 55m-long service trench, aligned north to south from the northern side of the sub-station excavation, was also excavated. It was 0.5m wide and excavated to a depth of approximately 1.05 – 1.62m below ground surface (Figure 2).

Level (OD) (Top of deposit)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
75.6 – 75.82m	0.00m	(12)	Topsoil: light orange-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal inclusions
75.96m	0.00m	(16)	Modern deposit: loose modern crush and demolition layer
74.81 – 75.6m	0.00 – 0.42m	(15)	Modern deposit: mixed deposit of medium compaction with concrete and red brick fragment inclusions
74.5 – 75.14m	0.8 – 0.7m	(13)	Modern deposit: compact grey/black clinker
74.36m	0.35m	(17)	Fill of [18]: loose mixed deposit with red brick and grey/black clinker
74.36m	0.35m	[18]	Cut of 20 th century foundation trench: north-south axis
75.34m	0.00m	(04)	Redeposited geology: white/grey, sandy-clay with occasional charcoal and root inclusions
74.34m	1m	(05)	Redeposited geology: mixed
75.62 – 74.26m	0.2 – 0.9m	(07)	Geology

7.2.2 The geology recorded in the service trench was a light orange-brown compact clay (07). Towards the north of the service trench the geology was overlain by two layers of redeposited clay. Up to 0.20m of the earliest deposit, (05), and up to 0.8m of the later deposit (04) was exposed within the trench.



Plate 2: Trench 1 - sub-station excavations (direction south)

7.2.3 Along the eastern edge of the service trench the geology was encountered 0.2m below ground surface at 75.62mOD. This was overlain by a 20m-thick deposit of *in situ* topsoil (12) (Figure 4; Section 1). The topsoil (12) and geology (07) was truncated, through the centre of the service

trench, by a north-south aligned 20th century wall foundation [18], filled by a loose mixed deposit with red brick and grey/black clinker (17) (Figure 4; Section 4). The geology had been reduced by c 0.90m to the west of this north-south axis. Overlying the truncated geology, to the west of the wall foundation, was a 0.10 – 0.20m thick modern deposit of grey/black clinker (13), overlain by a 0.25 – 0.82m thick deposit of modern made ground (15) (Figure 4; Section 8). In the southern part of the trench a loose modern deposit, 0.42m thick, was observed.

7.3 Service Trench (Trench 2)

7.3.1 A c 64m, north-south aligned, service trench was excavated along the western limit of the site with a c 25m east-west return at the north end (Trench 2). The 0.5m wide trench was excavated to an approximate depth of 0.90m below ground surface (Figure 3).

Level (OD) (Top of deposit)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
75.53m	0.00m	(14)	Modern deposit: tarmac
75.45m	0.08m	(05)	Redeposited geology: mixed
75.27 - 74.65	0.18 – 0.80m	(19)	Redeposited geology: firm, mid-orange-brown, slightly silty-sand
75.17 – 74.55m	0.80m	(07)	Geology

7.3.2 The geology was a white-orange silty-sand (07) observed at a height of 75.17mOD towards the south of the trench and 74.55mOD towards the north. The geology (07) was directly overlain by two successive deposits of redeposited natural: a 0.10m thick firm mid orange-brown, slightly silty-sand (19) and a 0.10 – 0.50m thick mixed redeposited geology (05) (Figure 4; Section 3). This indicates that this part of the site was stripped of topsoil and then levelled using redeposited natural material, presumably from the southern part of the site.

8 Finds and Environmental Samples

8.1 A small fragment of modern green bottle glass was recovered from layer (06) which was discarded on site. No further artefacts were recovered during the archaeological investigations and no environmental samples were taken.

9 Conclusions

9.1 The observations made during the excavation of the store footprint, sub-station and associated service trenches (Figure 2), indicate that the original topography of the site has been greatly altered by landscaping. In the southern part of the site, the geology has been reduced on a roughly north-south axis by approximately 0.90m. The modern make-up layers recorded in the sub-station and associated service trench excavations (Plate 2) would place this phase of activity in the 20th century – presumably related to the development of the site as the Maidstone and District Bus Station. It appears that the excavated material from the southern part of the site was subsequently deposited in the northern part of the site to create a horizontal surface.

9.2 *In situ* topsoil was recorded at 74.60m OD, along the eastern periphery of the site where, prior to development a slight bund and shrubery was located. A partially truncated buried topsoil deposit (06) was also recorded in the northern part of the site at 70.50m OD. No archaeological finds (other

than a single fragment of modern bottle glass) or features were recorded in associated with this layer during the course of the watching brief.

- 9.3 It is concluded that the previous landscaping of the site, presumably in association with the development of the Maidstone and District Bus Station, either truncated any archaeological deposits that may have pre-dated the bus station in the south of the site or sealed them beneath deep deposits of made ground in the north.

10. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature 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 Kent Archives.

11 Bibliography

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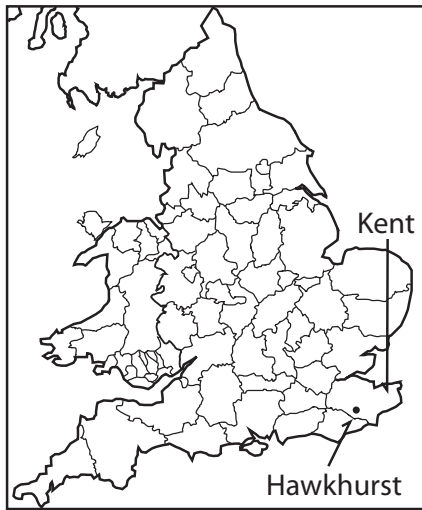
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Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales

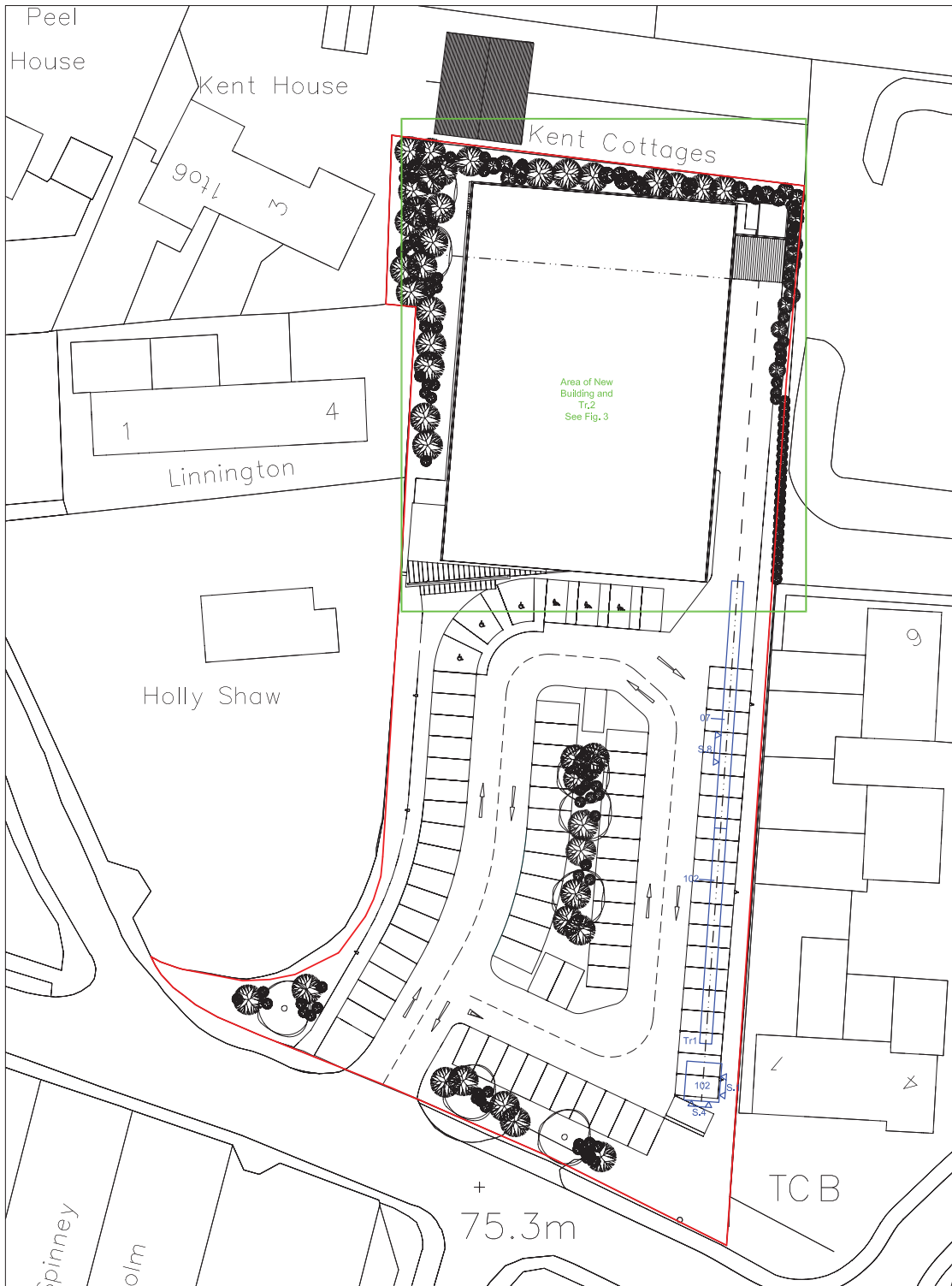


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Figure 1: Site Location



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- Site Outline / Watching Brief Area
- Trench 1 / Substation and Associated Service Trench
- Truncation
- Projected Line of Truncation

Figure 2: Detailed Site / Trench 1 Location (on the Proposed Layout)

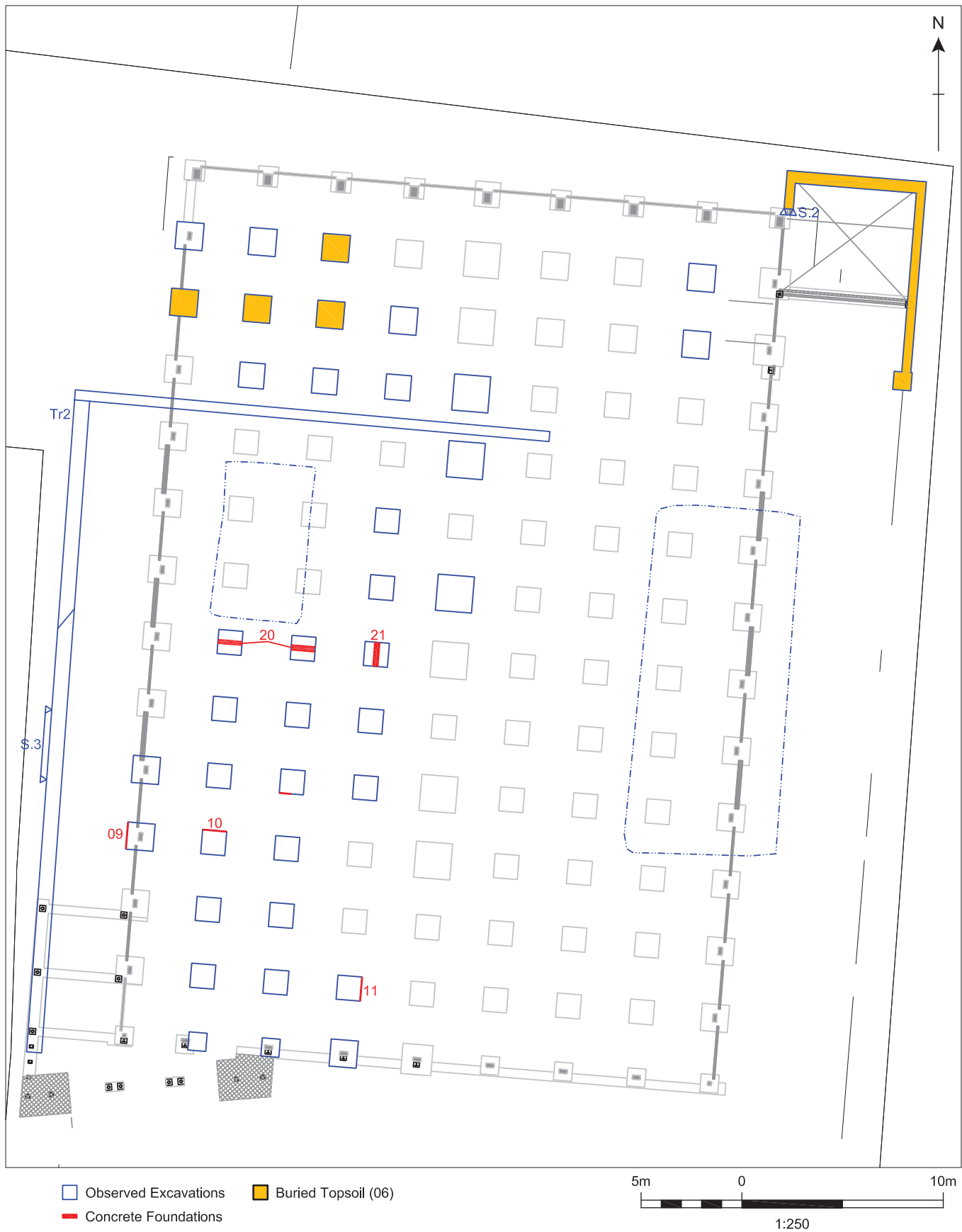
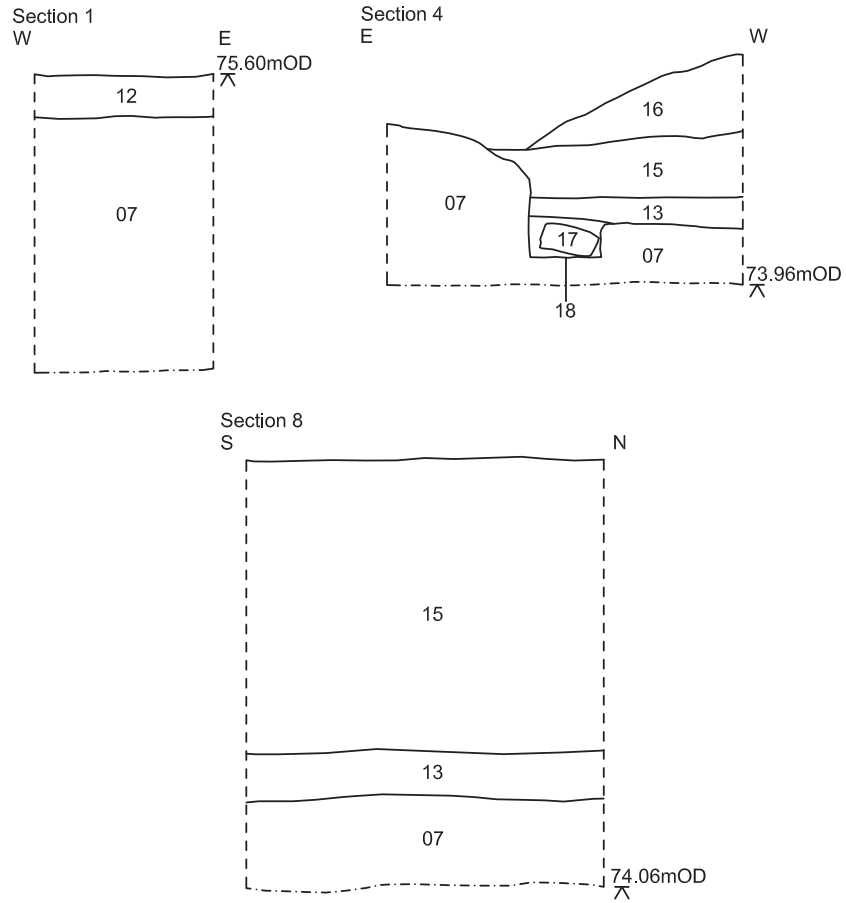
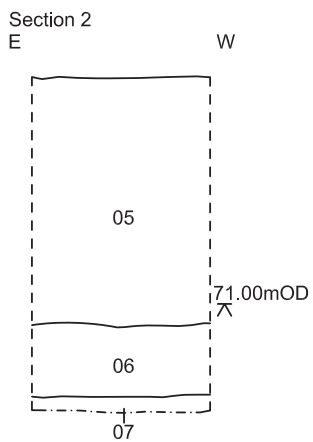


Figure 3: Store Foundation Excavations and Trench 2

Sections Within Trench 1



Section Within the Store Footprint



Section Within Trench 2

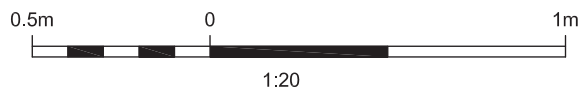
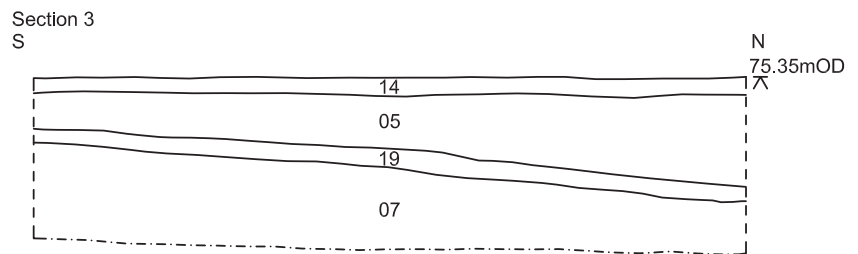


Figure 4: Sections



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Dimensions	Location	Thickness	Top of deposit (OD)
01	Modern demolition layer: loose light grey-brown, silty-sand with concrete, metal and red brick inclusions	c 45 (north-south) - < 20m (east-west)	S.T.E	0.20 – 0.84m	75.00 – 74.90m
02	Modern demolition layer: loose, light reddish-brown, silty-sand with crushed concrete matrix	c 15 (north-south) - < 10m (east-west)	S.T.E (southern)	0.10 – 0.40m	74.90
03	Redeposited geology: mid reddish brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal and root inclusion	c 12 (north-south) - < 5m (east-west)	S.T.E	0.30m	74.40
04	Redeposited geology: white/grey, sandy clay with occasional charcoal and root inclusion	c 20 (north-south) - < 10m (east-west)	S.T.E, Trench 1	0.40 – 0.55m	74.50 – 74.90m
05	Redeposited geology: mixed	c 12 (north-south) - < 5m (east-west)	S.T.E, Trench 1, Trench 2	0.46 – 1.80m	75.00 – 74.6m
06	Buried topsoil: compact, very fine, mid orange-brown silty-sandy (glass recovered)	Fragmenary	S.T.E	0.30 – 0.60m	74.60 – 70.95m
07	Geology: compact light orange-brown, silty-sand	NFE	Trench 1, 2 & S.T.E	N.F.E	74.62 - 70.50m
08	Void				
09	20 th century brick drain: north-south running	<1.4m (north-south) x <0.4m (east-west)	S.T.E	c 0.50m	75.00m
10	20 th century brick wall footings	<0.4m (north-south) x <1.4m (east-west)	S.T.E	c 0.50m	75.00m
11	20 th century brick wall footings	<1.4m (north-south) x <0.4m (east-west)	S.T.E	c 0.50m	75.00m
12	Topsoil: light orange brown silty sand with occasional charcoal inclusions	<45m (north-south) x 4m (east-west)	Trench 1	0.20 – 0.24m	75.60 – 75.82m
13	Modern deposit: compact black / grey clinker	<60m (north-south) x <5m (east-west)	Trench 1	0.10 – 0.20m	74.50 – 75.14m
14	Modern deposit: tarmac	<35m (north-	Trench 2	0.10	75.35m

		south) x c 5m (east-west)			
15	Modern deposit: mixed deposit of medium compaction with concrete & red brick inclusions	<60m (north-south) x <5m (east-west)	Trench 1	0.25 – 0.82m	74.81 – 75.60m
16	Modern deposit: loose modern crush and demolition layer	<5m x 5m	Trench 1	0.42m	75.96m
17	Fill of [107]: loose mixed deposit with red brick and black / grey clinker	0.4m (east-west) x <5m (north-south)	Trench 1	0.30m	74.36m
18	Cut of 20 th foundation trench	0.4m (east-west) x <5m (north-south)	Trench 1	0.30m	74.36m
19	Redeposited geology: firm mid orange slightly silty sand	16m (north-south) x c 5m (east-west)	Trench 2	0.10m	75.10 – 74.75
20	Concrete foundation: east-west	< 6m (east-west) x 0.4m (north-south)	S.T.E	N.F.E	74.00m
21	Concrete foundation: north-south	> 1.4m (north-south) x 0.4m (east-west)	S.T.E	N.F.E	74.00m

Abbreviations:

N.F.E: Not found extent

S.T.E.: Store Foundation Excavations

Appendix B – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-104387

Project details

Project name Tesco Hawkhurst

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief on ground works associated with the construction of a single storey retail unit. No archaeological horizons, features or finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief. As such it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required on site.

Project dates Start: 16-09-2011 End: 27-09-2011

Previous/future work No / No

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS HAWKHURST Former Maidstone and District Bus Station

Postcode TN18 4HE

Study area 0.52 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 7637 3056 51.0466918540 0.516421820937 51 02 48 N 000 30 59 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Position derived from charts

Height OD / Depth Min: 70.50m Max: 74.62m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Group
Organisation

Project brief Kent County Council
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group
originator

Project Paul Mason
director/manager

Project supervisor Helen MacQuarrie

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of GL Hearn
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive Kent Museum Service TBC
recipient

Digital Archive Kent Museum Service TBC
recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital available Media 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper recipient Archive Kent Museums Service TBC

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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

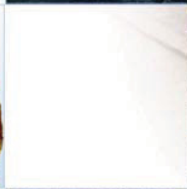
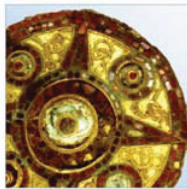
Entered on 5 October 2011

OASIS:

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