

KERSEY CEVCP SCHOOL, KERSEY (KSY 017) Archaeological Monitoring Report

SMR Information

Planning Application No: B/03/01886/CDP

Date of Fieldwork: 18/08/04 - 20/08/04

Grid Reference: TM 0018 4387

Funding Body: Kersey CEVCP School

Introduction

Planning permission (B/03/01886/CDP) has been granted for the building of an extension at Kersey CEVCP School, Kersey (centred approximately on NGR TM 0018 4387). The site lies at approximately 51m AOD on level ground, although the land then falls very sharply by over 10m to the centre of the village *c.* 250m to the north.

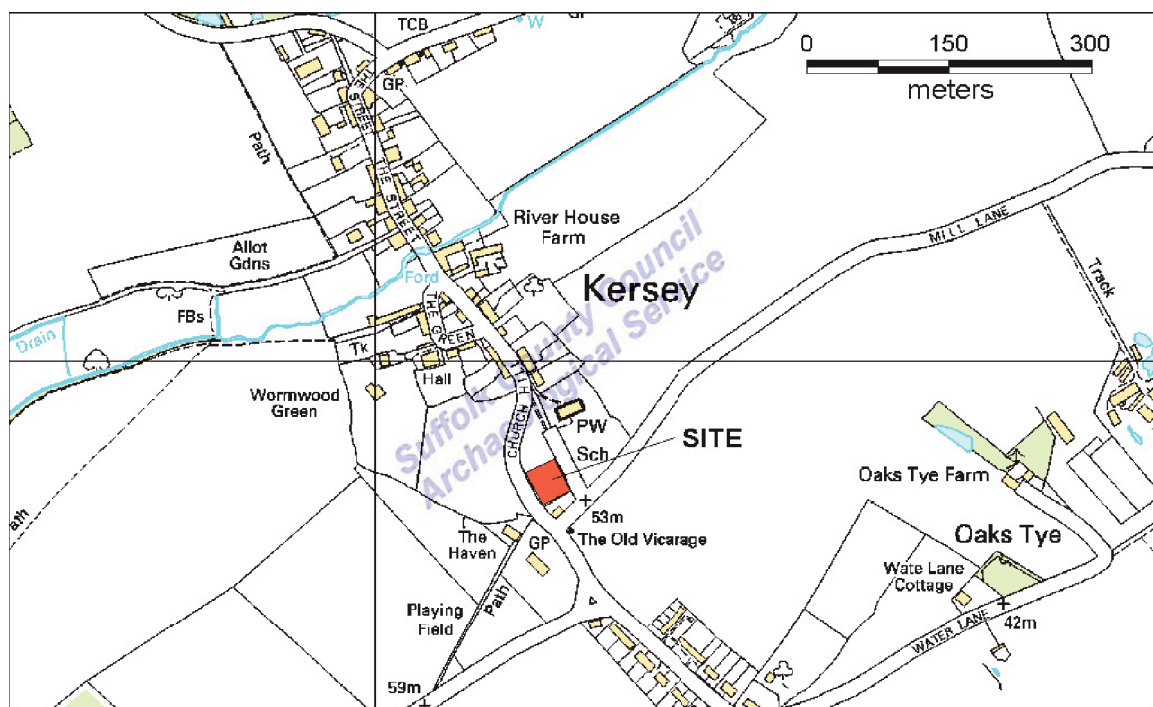


Figure 1. Site location

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Given the archaeological potential of the site, which lay immediately adjacent to St Mary's Church (*c.* 60m to the north), and the intrusive nature of the groundwork (strip foundations) an Archaeological Watching Brief was recommended by Robert Carr of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The SCCAS Field Team were subsequently commissioned to carry out the work.

Methodology

Visits were made on the 18th and 20th of August in order to observe the digging of the strip foundations. Some 24m of foundation trenches were excavated (see Fig. 2 for location). All the trenches were 0.5m wide and had been excavated to a uniform depth of 1.1m using a small 360^o tracked mechanical excavator (minidigger). In addition, the digging of some 11m of 0.5m wide and *c.* 0.7m deep drainage run was monitored. This extended to the south-west into the area of the schoolyard from the north-west corner of the new foundations.

The base of all and upstanding soil sections were hand cleaned where necessary to further define any archaeological features or stratigraphy. All the deposits encountered were individually described and allocated context numbers in a continuous numbering system. The site was assigned the SMR number KSY 017. A written and drawn record of all recorded deposits was maintained throughout.

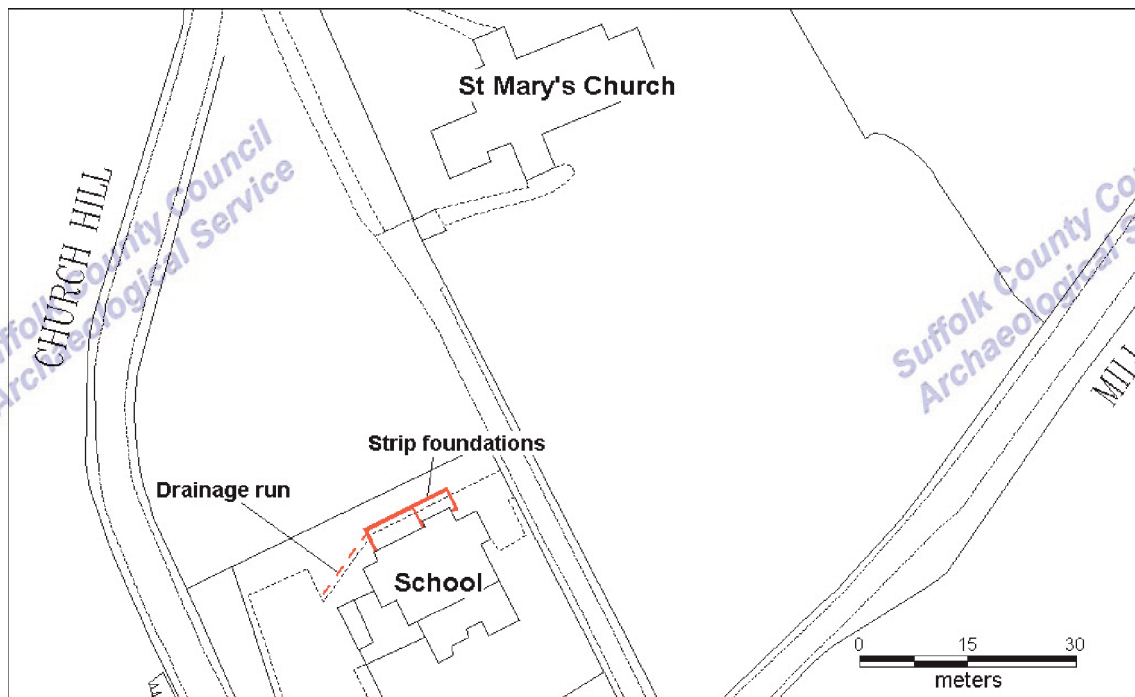


Figure 2. Location of foundation trenches

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Results

No archaeological finds or features were observed and the following common stratigraphy was recorded throughout the trenches:

Context	Depth (bgl.)	Description
0002	0 - 0.5m	<i>Made ground.</i> Poorly sorted soft mid brownish grey silty clay (60%) with frequent small to medium flint pebbles/cobbles (40%). Contained rare brick/tile fragments. Topped with a thin turf line
0003	0.5 - 1.1m+	<i>Natural Boulder Till.</i> Poorly sorted stiff mid orange-brown clay (70%), coarse sands (10%) and sub-rounded to sub-angular flint cobbles (10%).

Conclusions

Recent made ground (0002) was observed to a uniform depth of *c.* 0.5m throughout the foundation and drainage trenches. This directly overlay clean natural drift deposits (0003). No evidence of archaeological occupation was recorded, either in the form of incised features or as finds recovered from the upcast spoil.

Report No. **2004/109**
 Rhodri Gardner for SCCAS, August 2004.