

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Teynham Warehouse Extension
London Road, Kent**

NGR: TQ 9428 6270

**ASE Project No: 6554
Site Code: TLT14**

ASE Report No: 2014100



By Kristina Krawiec

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March 2014

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Abstract

In March 2014 Archaeology South-East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed warehouse extension at Teynham, London Road, Kent. A total of 12 trenches were excavated across the area all of which were devoid of archaeological features.

The evaluation revealed that the site has been extensively truncated by modern aggregate extraction for the production of bricks. After this the site was backfilled with a mixed deposit of topsoil and clay that contained modern and post-medieval material.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CGMS to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed warehouse extension at London Road, Teynham, Kent (NGR TQ9428 6270). The evaluation comprised 12 trenches across the footprint of the development.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises the Thanet Sand formation (sand silt clay) which is overlain by head deposits of clay and silt.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new warehouse extension to the west of the existing warehouse, with associated parking and hard-standing and landscaping (Ref:SW/13/1573).

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced (CGMS 2013) and was submitted to support the application. This evaluation is being conducted to inform the interested parties on the archaeological potential of the site.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the evaluation are:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the development
- To determine the survival, character, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- To enable the KCC archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site

1.4.2 The specific aims are:

- To determine the presence of Iron Age and Roman remains on the site, specifically those relating to Watling Street and any associated settlements
- To assess the extent and severity of any modern truncation on the site due to previous development.

1.4.3 The evaluation will also seek to inform on the following areas of the research framework for the south east:

- The evolution of settlement and land division from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age
- Clarification of the characteristics of the lesser nucleated settlements, and hence of their role in relationship to surrounding rural settlements

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report records the results of the evaluation carried out between 18th-20th March 2014. The field work was supervised by Kristina Krawiec with assistance from Steve Price. The project was managed by Paul Mason in the field and Jim Stevenson in post excavation. The illustrations were provided by Justin Russell.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background is set out in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) prepared for the site by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2013) and is summarised here; please refer to that document for a full background.

Prehistoric

- 2.2 A significant Le Moustier type activity site was identified west of Haywood Farm, Bapchild on the western side of a dry valley associated with a gravel deposit in 1927. More than 400 worked flint tools and pieces of debitage were recovered (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW 228; TQ 93800 62400).
- 2.3 Overall in view of the site's geology and topography, a low archaeological potential for finds of this period can reasonably be identified.
- 2.4 No finds from the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods are recorded within a 1km radius of the site. Small quantities of residual flint tools and struck flint could be present.
- 2.5 A Middle or Late Bronze Age knife is recorded as a metal detecting find from a field south east of Claxfield Farmhouse (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW 302; TQ 946 621). An assemblage of late Bronze Age pottery is recorded from slightly further south of the knife's findspot (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW 301; TQ 9471 6197), suggesting a possible Bronze Age occupation site in this area.
- 2.6 An archaeological investigation at Henley Place, Teynham revealed a small worked flint assemblage of probable Bronze Age date (HER Ref: TQ 96 SW 310; TQ 9477 6264).
- 2.7 Overall the site can reasonably be concluded to have a low potential for the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and a moderate archaeological potential for the Bronze Age.

Iron Age and Roman

- 2.8 There is considerable continuity between the late Iron Age and early Roman periods in this part of Kent and both periods are well represented within a 1km radius of the site. A number of Iron Age coins are recorded principally as metal detecting finds (HER Refs: MKE 73072, TQ 93900 62800; MKE 73664, TQ 93900 62900; MKE 76367, TQ 93900 62900; MKE 73668, TQ 93900 62800; MKE 73669, TQ 93900 62800; MKE73670, TQ 93900 62800; MKE 73675, TQ 94400 62700; MKE 73677, TQ 93900 62800), together with a copper alloy brooch (HER Ref: MKE 73073; TQ 93900 62800).
- 2.9 The dominant Roman feature in the landscape is the Roman Road, Watling Street from London to Canterbury, now represented by the A2 immediately north of the site. A Roman settlement site represented by numerous finds is recorded west of the site at Radfield (HER Refs: EKE 8330, EKE 4045, EKE 4723, EKE 4807, EKE 4560, TQ 96 SW 29). There are indications from Iron Age finds that this settlement which extends across the field immediately west of Radfield south of the A2 (TQ 93897 62796) originated in the late Iron

Age.

- 2.10 A number of other Roman finds are recorded within a 1km radius of the site (HER Ref: TQ 96 SE16, horse bit and urns, TQ 95 63; HER Ref: TQ 96 SW32, inhumation burial, TQ 9332 6247; HER Ref: TQ 9399 6250).
- 2.11 Overall the archaeological potential of the site for these periods can be defined as good. Evidence for roadside settlement, activity and agriculture could be represented.

Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

- 2.12 No finds of this period are recorded within a 1km radius of the study site. Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can be defined as low.

Late Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.13 Andrew's and Drury's map of 1769 (CgMs 2013) shows no details of the site though it is indicated to lie in an area of agricultural land between Radfield and Green Street.
- 2.14 The 1797 Ordnance Survey shows Claxfield House with the site comprising parts of two agricultural fields.
- 2.15 By 1896 further subdivision of the site had been carried out together with extensive orchard planting.
- 2.16 In 1908 the site was largely unchanged from 1896. Between 1908 and 1961 no significant changes took place to the site.
- 2.17 By 1985 a transport depot had been constructed on the east of the site. Subsequently this has expanded westwards and southwards.
- 2.1.18 Overall the archaeological potential of the site for this period can be defined as generally low except for the existing listed building Claxfield House and its immediate environs.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.0.1 Trench locations are depicted on Figure 2. Twelve trenches measuring 30m x 2m were excavated in a random (5%) sample of the area of the site impacted by the development.
- 3.0.2 The trenches were accurately located by means of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS or similar).
- 3.0.3 The trench locations were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.0.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost.

3.1 Excavation and Recording Techniques

- 3.1.1 Excavation strategy was in accordance with KCC Manual of Specification for Archaeological evaluation (Part B).
- 3.1.2 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE context record sheets.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the appropriate repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	38
No. of files/paper record	1file
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	65 digital photos
Bulk finds	3 bags

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 1-12

- 4.1.1 Due to the homogenous nature of the deposits encountered the results for each trench are provided in the table below. The site had clearly been reduced due to the extraction of the clay head deposits for the brickmaking industry. This was demonstrated in base of each trench where scars left by the teeth of the bucket of a mechanical excavator were clearly visible. The natural geology, Thanet Sand formation, varied in colour from yellow to orange-brown and contained occasional natural flint nodules. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts of any antiquity were recovered.
- 4.1.2 The Thanet Sand was overlain by a mixed deposit of topsoil, subsoil and clasts of natural clay (Trenches 1-11). In places this was up to 0.50m thick and modern debris was noted throughout, in particular a crisp packet stamped 1987. The encountered levels on the underlying geology varied across the site, presumably in relation to the seam of clay which was extracted. A table illustrating these levels in relation to Ordnance Datum is provided in Appendix 1. This deposit was then overlain by a loose topsoil (e.g 1/001).
- 4.1.3 Across the centre of the area the topsoil was overlain by a recent sandy flinty dump deposit (e.g. 2/001). The area had been used during flooding as a place to pump water from the existing warehouse complex and this deposit may relate to the excavation of drainage gullies around the site as well as the sediment included in the flood water. This was mainly seen in the northern half of the site which is lower lying than the south. In places this overlay the topsoil and turf of the area as could be seen in Trench 3.
- 4.1.4 Trench 12 was excavated 100m to the east of the main trenching area and as such was in close proximity to a stable complex relating to the surrounding farm. The backfill deposit in this trench was comprised of a darker more charcoal-rich material indicative of hearth rakeout which was within a matrix of sandy silt. Within this mixed deposit was building rubble, post-medieval pottery, glass and tile. This seems to represent a refuse and demolition deposit which probably derives from the farm and has been used to backfill the quarry once it ceased to be operational.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay	30	2.0	0.40m
1/002	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.50m
1/003	Natural	Red brown fine sand occ clay			
2/001	Deposit	Light brown silt flint dump deposit	16.0	2.0	0.07m
2/002	Topsoil	Grey brown silty clay	30	2.0	0.30m
2/003	deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.12m
2/004	Natural		30	2.0	
3/001	deposit	Light brown silt flint dump	30	2.0	0.14m
3/002	topsoil	Red brown sandy clay dump	30	2.0	0.20m
3/003	deposit	Grey green decomposition leaching from turf	30	2.0	0.03m
3/004	topsoil	Buried topsoil and turf	30	2.0	0.13m
3/005	deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.50m
3/006	natural		30	2.0	
4/001	Deposit	Light brown silt flint dump	30	2.0	0.31m
4/002	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.20m
4/003	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.40m
4/004	natural		30	2.0	
5/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay		2.0	0.40m
5/002	natural		30	2.0	
6/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.36m
6/002	deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.20m
6/003	natural		30	2.0	
7/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.35m
7/002	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.22m
7/003	natural		30	2.0	
8/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.36m
8/002	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.30m
8/003	natural		30	2.0	
9/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.46m
9/002	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.20m
9/003	natural		30	2.0	
10/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.46m
10/002	deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.40m
10/003	natural		30	2.0	
11/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.34m
11/002	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and clay backfill	30	2.0	0.30m
11/003	natural		30	2.0	
12/001	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	30	2.0	0.39m
12/002	Deposit	Mixed topsoil and black sand silt backfill	30	2.0	1.00m
12/003	Natural		30	2.0	

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 A small collection of finds was recovered in deposits that also contained modern material (not kept) during the evaluation. These were:
- 5.2 Context [1/002] contained small fragments of plain creamware and combed slipware of 18th century or later date.
- 5.3 Context [5/001] contained a fragment from the rim of a willow pattern plate.
- 5.4 Context [12/002] contained a complete 'Virol' jar together with a number of fragments of creamware, transfer ware and pearlware. This context also contained two blue glass poison bottles and a fragment from a clay tobacco pipe stem. Although the pipe stem is of late 17th-18th century date the rest of the finds are of 18th-20th century date.
- 5.5 Given that all of the finds are residual within modern deposits and none are of any significance as intrinsically interesting objects, all of the finds have been discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation carried out at London Road, Teynham has revealed that the site has been extensively truncated by modern aggregate extraction for the production of bricks. The overlying head deposits have been removed and the upper surface of the Thanet Sands has been truncated to an unknown degree. The presence of marks made by the teeth of a mechanical excavator in all trenches confirms this.
- 6.2 After this quarrying the site was backfilled with a mixed deposit of topsoil and clay that contained modern and post-medieval material. The only difference in this deposit was seen in Trench 12 which contained a refuse deposit derived from domestic waste and building demolition.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CGMS Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Simon Mason County Archaeologist Kent County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Kristina Krawiec with Steve Price providing assistance. Robert Cole produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift managed the post-excavation process.

Appendix 1: Trench levels

Location	Level m OD
TR1 south top	14.503
TR1 south base	13.555
TR1 north base	14.212
TR1 north top	14.916
TR2 west top	14.519
TR2 west base	14.066
TR2 east base	14.484
TR2 east top	14.977
TR3 east top	14.314
TR3.west base	13.553
TR3 east base	13.396
TR3 east top	14.282
TR4 west base	14.247
TR4 west top	14.687
TR4 east base	13.436
TR4 east top	14.114
TR5 north top	14.533
TR5 north base	14.791
TR5 south base	14.766
TR5 north base	14.029
TR6 west base	15.254
TR6 west top	15.786
TR7 south base	15.607
TR7 south top	16.028
TR7 north base	15.693
TR7 north top	16.386
TR8 east top	16.851
TR8 east base	16.333
TR8 west base	15.81
TR8 west top	16.252
TR9 east top	15.11
TR9 east base	14.601
TR9 east top	15.108
TR9 west top	15.158
TR9 west base	14.799
TR10 north top	14.575
TR10 north base	13.923
TR10 south base	14.275
TR10 south top	14.876
TR11 east top	15.459

Location	Level m OD
TR11 east base	14.947
TR11 west base	13.973
TR11 west top	14.694
TR12 east top	17.027
TR12 east base	15.966
TR12 west base	16.493
TR12 west top	16.988

HER Summary

Site Code	TLT14					
Identification Name and Address	London Road, Teynham, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ9428 6270					
Geology	Head Deposits, Thanet Sands					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6554					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CGMS					
Project Manager	P. Mason					
Project Supervisor	K.Krawiec					
Period Summary						
						Modern
<p>Summary</p> <p>In March 2014 Archaeology South-East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed warehouse extension at Teynham, London Road, Kent. A total of 12 trenches were excavated across the area all of which were devoid of archaeological features.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed that the site has been extensively truncated by modern aggregate extraction for the production of bricks. After this the site was backfilled with a mixed deposit of topsoil and clay that contained modern and post-medieval material.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-175604

Project details

Project name	Teynham Warehouse Extension, Kent, archaeological evaluation
Short description of the project	In March 2014 Archaeology South-East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed warehouse extension at Teynham, London Road, Kent. A total of 12 trenches were excavated across the area all of which were devoid of archaeological features. The evaluation revealed that the site has been extensively truncated by modern aggregate extraction for the production of bricks. After this the site was backfilled with a mixed deposit of topsoil and clay that contained modern and post-medieval material.
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2014 End: 20-03-2014
Type of project	Field evaluation
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Prompt	Pre-planning application

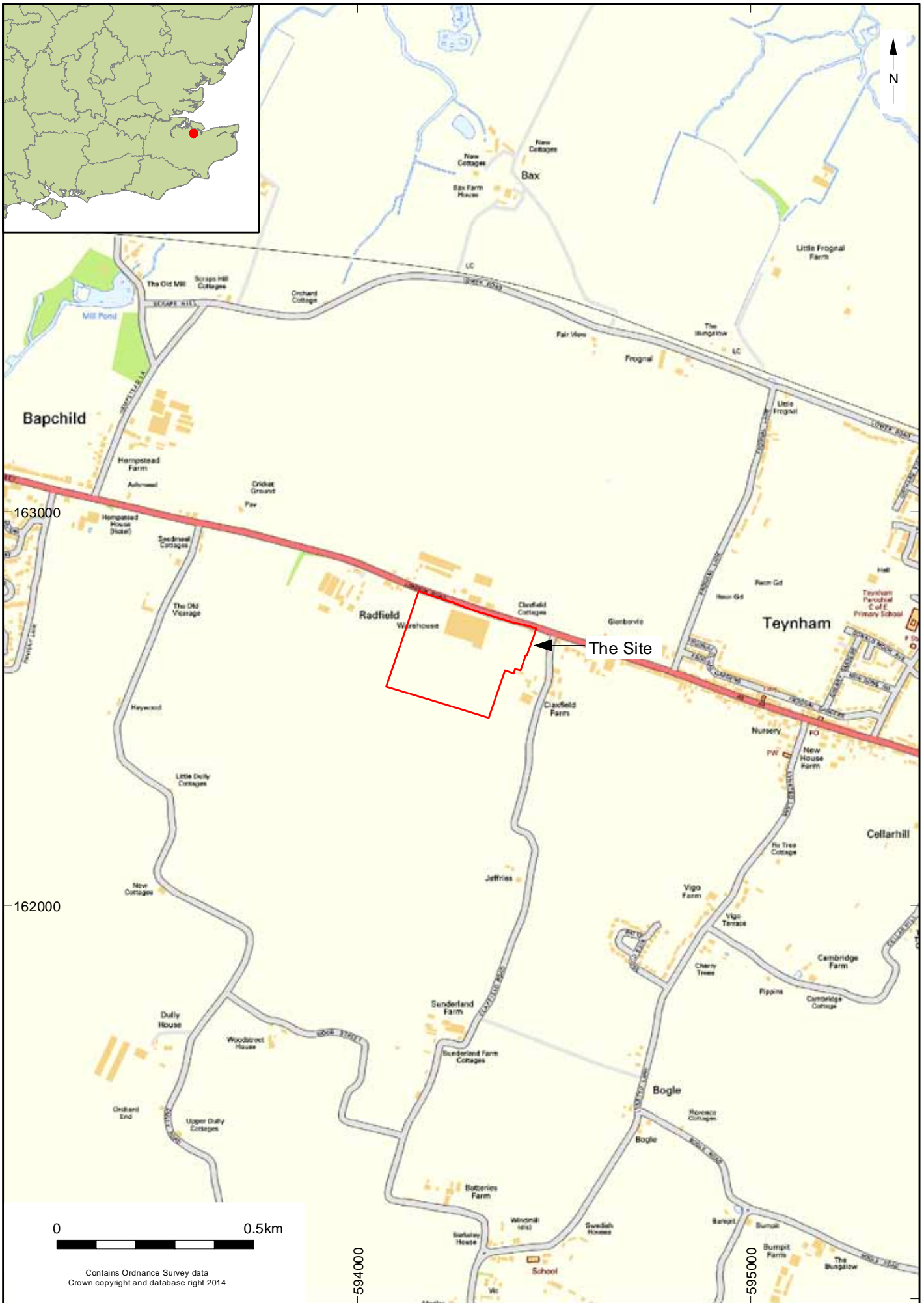
Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE TEYNHAM Teynham Warehouse Extension
Postcode	ME9 9PT

Project creators

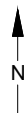
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Kristina Krawiec
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Entered by	d (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 March 2014



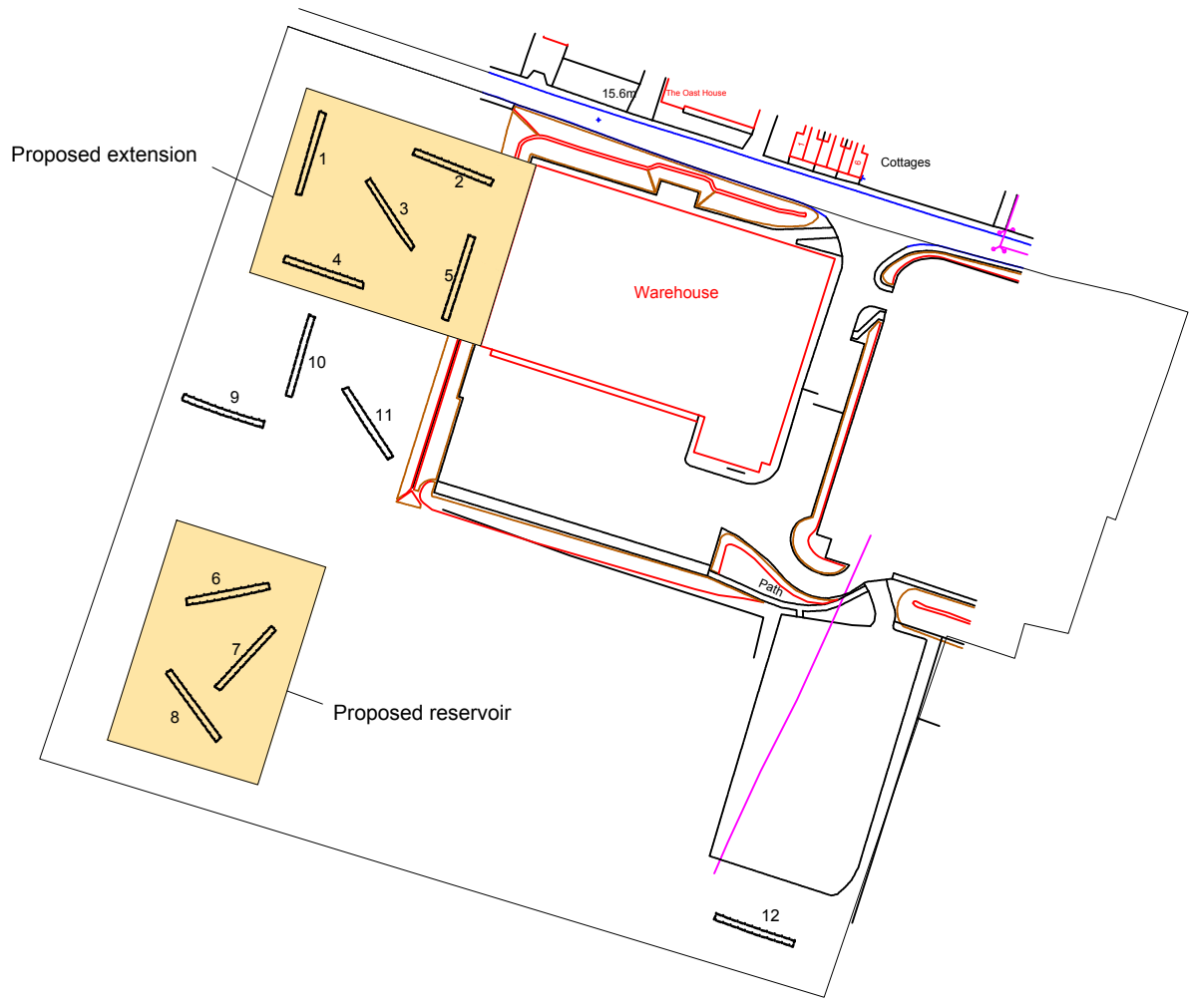
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© Archaeology South-East		Teynham Warehouse Extension, London Road, Teynham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6554	March 2014	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2014100	Drawn by: RHC		

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