

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Tunstall Church of England Primary School
Tunstall, Kent**

NGR: 589943 161875

Planning Ref: SW/14/153

**ASE Project No: 6951
Site Code: TPS14**

ASE Report No: 2014301



By Dylan Hopkinson

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Tunstall Church of England Primary School
Tunstall, Kent**

NGR: 589943 161875

Planning Ref: SW/14/153

**ASE Project No: 6951
Site Code: TPS14**

**ASE Report No: 2014301
OASIS ID: archaeol6-189600**

By Dylan Hopkinson

**With contributions by
Luke Barber and Trista Clifford**

September 2014

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Faithful+Gould to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works in advance of development of land at Tunstall, Kent. Eight test pits were monitored for archaeological significance during machine excavation of a geological soil survey.

No significant archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. A similar simple stratigraphic sequence was observed overlying the natural in all test pits with roughly equal depths of subsoil and topsoil observed to depths of between 0.35m and 0.50m. The intact subsoil horizon identified in all test pits indicates that the site has been subject to little previous impact in the areas monitored. A small quantity of unstratified post-medieval finds was recovered from the ground surface.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

FIGURES

Front Cover: Test Pit 6

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Site plan

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

Table 3: Overview of the finds assemblage

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 Faithful+Gould to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works in advance of development of land at Tunstall, Kent, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 589943, 161875 and location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014), the solid geology of the site consists of Seaford Chalk Formation, with a capping of silt and clay head deposits recorded in the north of the site.

1.2.2 The site is situated at a maximum elevation of around 55m AOD in the south-west corner of the site, falling away to around 42m to the east.

1.2.3 The site comprises an irregular trapezoidal plot of arable farmland. It is bounded by Tunstall Road to the north, by further arable farmland to the east and south and by fields and the gardens of the Grade II listed Cedar House to the west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted for the construction of a primary school with associated external play areas and parking facilities (Planning Reference SW/14/153).

1.3.2 The first stage of this development is an extensive programme of geotechnical site investigation works in order to inform on existing ground conditions.

1.3.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in a prior Desk Based Assessment of the site (ASE 2013), Condition 17 of the planning consent notice states that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority;

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.”

1.3.4 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE for the archaeological monitoring of this initial stage of site investigation works (ASE 2014). This was developed in accordance with

the standards set down in the KCC specifications for watching briefs, in addition to the Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Evaluations and Watching Briefs of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1994a, 1994b), and other codes and relevant documents of the IfA.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The broad aims of the watching brief were laid out in the WSI (ASE 2014) and are reproduced here:

- To record the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits on site, and to;
- provide sufficient information to allow the KCC Heritage Conservation Group to formulate appropriate strategies for future stages of archaeological fieldwork

1.4.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the work, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological watching brief. The work was undertaken between 29th August 2014 and 2nd September 2014 by Antonio Reis (Archaeologist).

1.5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Project Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following information is drawn from the desk-based assessment prepared for the site (ASE 2013), which considered recorded archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the site. For a more complete background refer to that document.

2.2 Period Summaries

Prehistoric

- 2.3 No Palaeolithic or Mesolithic material is recorded within a 1km radius of the site.
- 2.4 Neolithic activity is limited to a group of three postholes, containing worked flint and Neolithic pottery to the southeast of the site.
- 2.5 Bronze Age activity includes a looped and socketed axe to the south of the site and Bronze Age pottery to the southeast.
- 2.6 Late Bronze Age ditches with associated finds, thought to represent elements of a Bronze Age field system, were also identified during an evaluation at Fulston Manor to the east of the site.
- 2.7 Iron Age evidence in the vicinity of the site includes a cemetery recorded to the east of the site, while Iron Age pottery was also recovered during metal detecting to the south of the site.

Roman

- 2.8 Evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the site includes a possible crop-mark to the south of the site, which may form the continuation of a known Roman road and a series of Romano-British graves to the east of the site.

Saxon and Medieval

- 2.9 There is no evidence for Saxon activity in proximity to the site. A total of nine sites of medieval date are recorded within a 1km radius of the site, of which six comprise listed buildings. The remainder of these sites include a medieval copper alloy harness fitting located to the south of the site; the site of a now demolished house to the north of the site, possibly of medieval manorial origins; and a medieval track way recorded to the east of the site.

Post Medieval

- 2.10 A total of 17 post-medieval sites are recorded within the vicinity of the site, of which 13 consist of listed buildings. Archaeological sites of this date include a 17th century hoard of gold coins; the remains of a 17th century mansion to the south of the site; the site of a former 18th century park to the north of the site; and Highsted Chalk Quarries to the east of the site, which originated sometime after 1870.
- 2.11 Historic mapping indicates that the site has remained essentially undeveloped from the end of the 18th century onwards, although the available mapping shows the western half of the site to consist of orchards from 1872 until 1979. The remainder of the site appears to have consisted of little more than open fields throughout its documented history.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The watching brief entailed a watching brief during the excavation of 8 trial pits as shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The trial pits were excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket 0.40m wide.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard context sheets and test pit record sheets used by ASE.
- 3.1.4 A photographic record of the watching brief was made.

3.2 The Site Archive

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Number of Contexts | 24 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 |
| Photographs | 20 |
| Bulk finds | 1 small box |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Test pits 1 to 8

- 4.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence in all eight test pits was the same with some slight variations in deposit thickness as indicated in Table 2. A summary of these deposits with average thicknesses is provided here.
- 4.1.2 The topsoil was loose mid brown silty clay containing rootlets and small stones and ranged in thickness from 0.12m to 0.27m.
- 4.1.3 The subsoil was friable mid-brown silty clay containing small stones and ranged in thickness from 0.16m to 0.28m.
- 4.1.4 The natural was firm sandy clay with occasional small stones.

| Context | Type | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Deposit Thickness |
|---------|-------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.21m |
| 1/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.24m |
| 1/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 2/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.29m |
| 2/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.16m |
| 2/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 3/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.12m |
| 3/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.28m |
| 3/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 4/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.17m |
| 4/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.18m |
| 4/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 5/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.15m |
| 5/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.20m |
| 5/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 6/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.21m |
| 6/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.22m |
| 6/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 7/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.27m |
| 7/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.23m |
| 7/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |
| 8/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.25m |
| 8/002 | Layer | Subsoil | Trench | Trench | 0.25m |
| 8/003 | Layer | Natural | Trench | Trench | - |

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations at Tunstall Cof E Primary School (table 3). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context. Finds are packaged and stored according to IFA guidelines (2008). No further conservation is required.

| Context | Pottery | Wt (g) | CBM | Wt (g) | Glass | Wt (g) |
|---------|---------|--------|-----|--------|-------|--------|
| Surface | 9 | 118 | 3 | 48 | 2 | 10 |
| Total | 9 | 118 | 3 | 48 | 2 | 10 |

Table 3: Overview of the finds assemblage

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 Nine sherds of late post-medieval pottery were recovered from surface collection during the archaeological monitoring. These consist of sherds of unglazed earthenware (1/11g: flower pot), yellow ware (5g), English stoneware (1/32g: a vessel with Bristol glaze), blue transfer-printed ware (1/21g: a willow-patterned serving dish), refined white earthenware (2/17g: saucers) and English porcelain (2/6g: saucers). Taken as a group they suggest domestic refuse of later mid/late 19th to early 20th century.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Trista Clifford

- 5.3.1 Three fragments of very abraded roofing tile were recovered from the surface, total weight 48g. Two fabrics are represented. Two fragments were recovered in a fine silty fabric with sparse coarse calcareous inclusions and the remaining piece was in a similar matrix with moderate coarse rounded quartz. The tile is undiagnostic of date beyond a broad range of 1200-1800.

5.4 The Glass by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 Two fragments of clear vessel glass of late post medieval date were recovered weighing a total of 10g.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. A similar simple stratigraphic sequence was observed overlying the natural in all test pits with roughly equal depths of subsoil and topsoil observed to depths of between 0.35m and 0.50m.
- 6.2 The intact subsoil horizon identified in all test pits indicates that the site has been subject to little previous impact in the areas monitored.
- 6.3 A small quantity of unstratified post-medieval finds was recovered from the ground surface.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2013. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land in Tunstall, Kent*. Unpublished client report.

ASE 2014. *Tunstall C of E Primary School, Kent - Archaeological Watching Brief - Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report.

BGS 2014. British Geological Survey online map viewer (accessed 04/09/2014)
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

English Heritage 2008. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation*

IfA 1994a *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Revised 2008

IfA 1994b *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Revised 2008

MoLAS 1994. *Site Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Hannah Moon and Tim Stolton of Faithful+Gould for commissioning the work and for her assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was directed by Antonio Reis. The author would like to thank Diccon Hart who project managed the excavations and Jim Stephenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Site Code | TPS 14 | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Land at Tunstall Road (opposite Cranbrook Drive), Tunstall, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1RE | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Swale | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | 589943 161875 | | | | |
| Geology | Seaford Chalk Formation, with a capping of silt and clay Head Deposits | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 6951 | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | | | Watching Brief X | | |
| Type of Site | Green Field X | | | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | | | WB. 29/08/2014 to 02/09/2014 | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Faithful+Gould | | | | |
| Project Manager | Diccon Hart | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Antonio Reis | | | | |
| Period Summary | | | | | |
| | | | PM X | | |
| <p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Faithful+Gould to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works in advance of development of land at Tunstall, Kent. Eight test pits were monitored for archaeological significance during machine excavation of a geological soil survey.</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. A similar simple stratigraphic sequence was observed overlying the natural in all test pits with roughly equal depths of subsoil and topsoil observed to depths of between 0.35m and 0.50m. The intact subsoil horizon identified in all test pits indicates that the site has been subject to little previous impact in the areas monitored. A small quantity of unstratified post-medieval finds was recovered from the ground surface.</i></p> | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-189600

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Archaeological Watching brief at Tunstall Church of England Primary School, Tunstall, Kent |
| Short description of the project | Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Faithful+Gould to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works in advance of development of land at Tunstall, Kent. Eight test pits were monitored for archaeological significance during machine excavation of a geological soil survey. No significant archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. A similar simple stratigraphic sequence was observed overlying the natural in all test pits with roughly equal depths of subsoil and topsoil observed to depths of between 0.35m and 0.50m. The intact subsoil horizon identified in all test pits indicates that the site has been subject to little previous impact in the areas monitored. A small quantity of unstratified post-medieval finds was recovered from the ground surface. |
| Project dates | Start: 29-08-2014 End: 02-09-2014 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | TPS14 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | KENT SWALE SITTINGBOURNE Tunstall C of E Primary School |
| Postcode | ME10 1FB |
| Study area | 22500.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 89943 61875 51.3236442992 0.726412623177 51 19 25 N 000 43 35 E Point |

Project creators

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Name of | Archaeology South-East |
|---------|------------------------|

Organisation

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Project brief originator | Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council |
| Project design originator | Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council |
| Project director/manager | Diccon Hart |
| Project supervisor | Antonio Reis |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Client |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Faithful+Gould |

Project archives

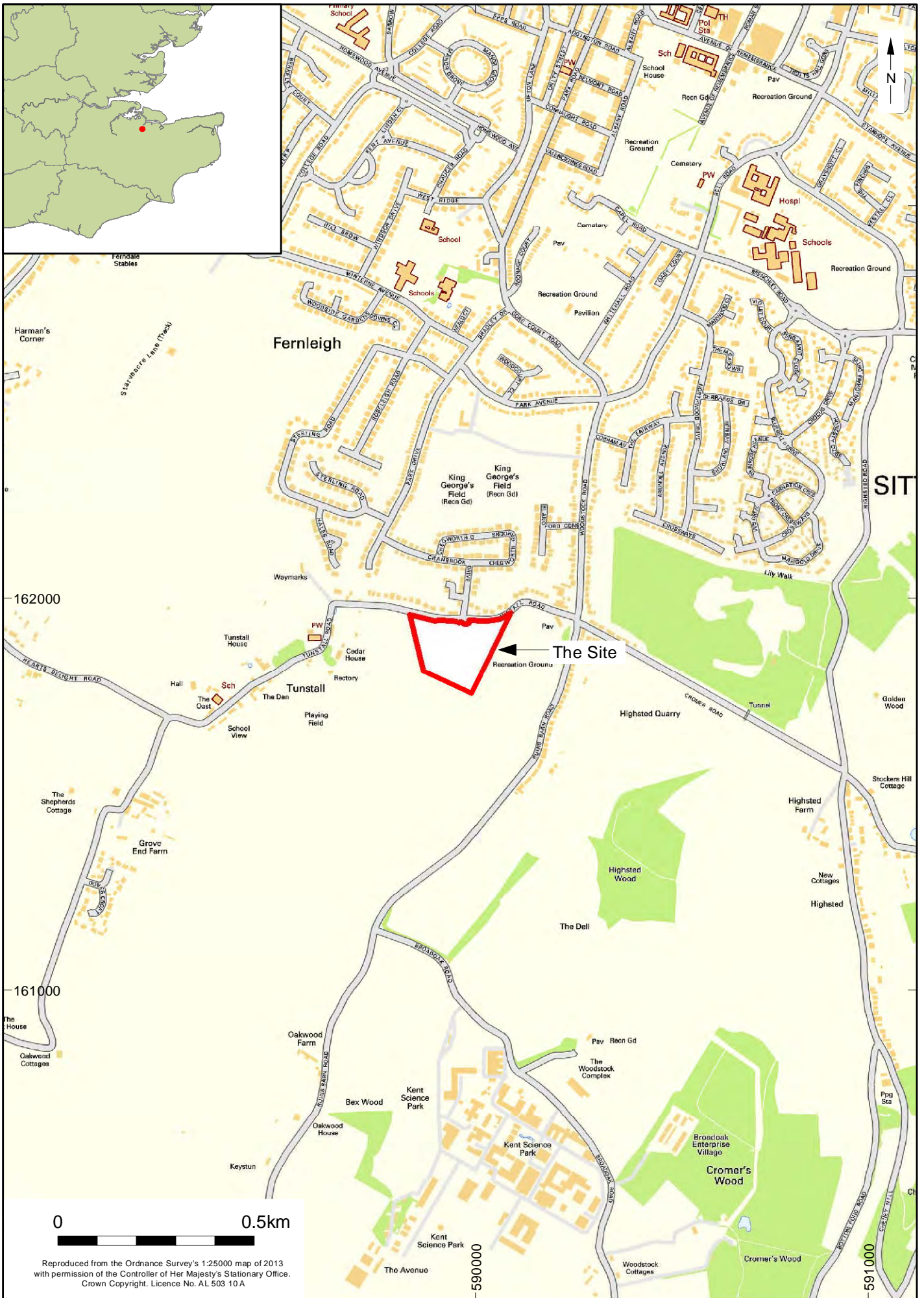
| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Ashford Museum |
| Physical Archive ID | TPS14 |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics","Glass" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Ashford Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | TPS14 |
| Digital Contents | "Ceramics","Glass" |
| Digital Media available | "Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Ashford Museum |
| Paper Archive ID | TPS14 |
| Paper Contents | "Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Report" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Watching brief at Tunstall Church of England Primary School, Tunstall, Kent |

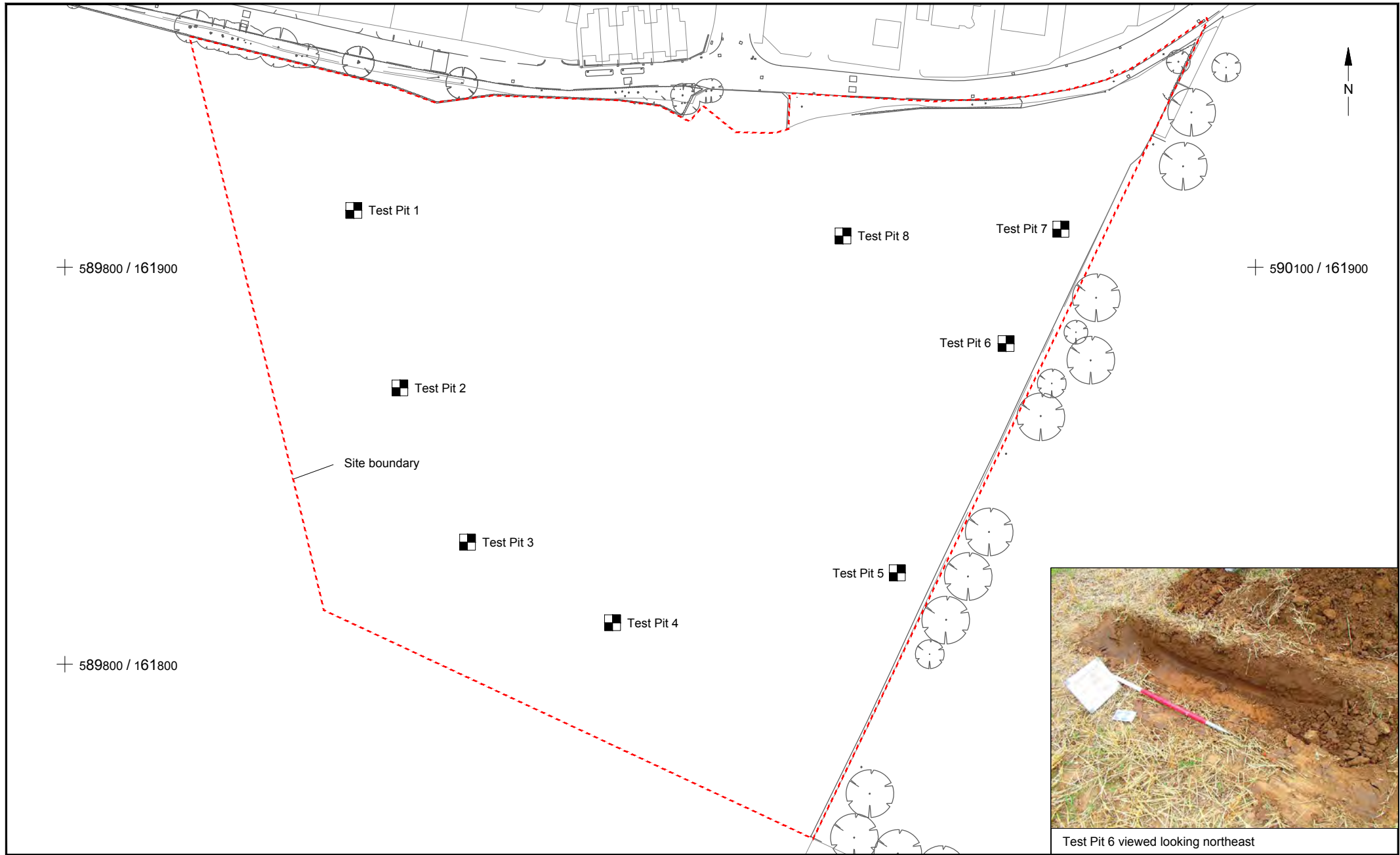
| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Hopkinson, D |
| Other bibliographic details | ASE Report No: 2014301 |
| Date | 2014 |
| Issuer or publisher | ASE |
| Place of issue or publication | Portslade |
| Description | Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Faithful+Gould to undertake an archaeological watching brief during site investigation works in advance of development of land at Tunstall, Kent. Eight test pits were monitored for archaeological significance during machine excavation of a geological soil survey. No significant archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. A similar simple stratigraphic sequence was observed overlying the natural in all test pits with roughly equal depths of subsoil and topsoil observed to depths of between 0.35m and 0.50m. The intact subsoil horizon identified in all test pits indicates that the site has been subject to little previous impact in the areas monitored. A small quantity of unstratified post-medieval finds was recovered from the ground surface. |

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Entered by | Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk) |
| Entered on | 8 September 2014 |



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 2013 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Tunstall C of E Primary School | | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 6951 | September 2014 | Site location | | |
| Report Ref: 2014301 | Drawn by: DJH | | | |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Tunstall C of E Primary School | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 6951 | September 2014 | Test pit locations | |
| Report Ref: 2014301 | Drawn by: DJH | | |

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

