

**Additional Evaluation Trenches on Land at the Former  
Southfields School, Singlewell Rd., Singlewell, Gravesend,  
Kent.**

**Addendum to project 2362**

**Planning Ref:GR/2004/1146**

**NGR 565044 171381**

**Project No. 3386 (Addendum to project 2362)  
Site Code: SSG06**

**ASE Report No. 2008028  
OASIS id:archaeol6-40300**

**Sarah Porteus**

**April 2008**

**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](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*An additional four evaluation trenches were requested by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer, on the site of the former Southfields School, Singlewell, Gravesend, following on from an earlier evaluation of 26 trenches. The trenches measured between 18 and 20 metres each in length. No archaeological features or deposits were found in any of the four trenches.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were requested by Rydon Construction Ltd to excavate four evaluation trenches as an addendum to 26 earlier trenches excavated on the site of the former Southfields School, Singlewell Road, Singlewell, Gravesend, Kent (NGR 565044 171381) (Fig.1). The additional trenches had been requested by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer and followed the methodology of the original brief, (for a detailed description of the site background and methodology see ASE, 2006). The four additional trenches were excavated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2008 by Sarah Porteus and Caroline Russell of ASE.

### **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

1.2.1 The aim of the additional four trenches was to investigate the area to the east of the original trenches to be affected by the current development work and identify any archaeological features or deposits. The trenches were located near to Trench 7 (from the first phase of archaeological works). A possible Palaeolithic flint tool had been uncovered from the subsoil in this trench. The objective of the additional trenches was to identify whether any further evidence of Palaeolithic activity was present in the area.

### **1.3 Scope of Report**

1.3.1 This report is an addendum to the report of the first phase of works (ASE 2006) which summarises the findings of the four supplementary trenches.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 For details of the archaeological background please refer to the original evaluation report (ASE, 2006).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The methodology of the site followed the original specifications laid out for Phase 1 of the evaluation; for detailed description please refer to the original evaluation report (ASE 2006).
- 3.2 Four trenches were excavated using a 25 tonne tracked machine with a 1.8m flat edged ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench numbering continued from that of Phase 1 with the first of the additional four trenches detailed in this report being Trench 27. Trenches were excavated to the width of the bucket and to variable lengths of between 18.20m and 20.30m. An area of 138.60m was excavated in total during phase 2 of the evaluation.
- 3.3 All trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 27 (Fig.3)

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
27/001	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.50m	60.43m
27/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	60.23m

#### Summary

Trench 27 was excavated to a length of 18.50 metres with a width of 1.80 metres. The depth of the trench ranged from 0.20m at the western end to 0.50m at the eastern end of the trench. The natural [27/002] was variable comprising of chalk with frequent flint inclusions at the western end and brickearth to the east. Overlying [27/002] was context [27/001] a reddish orangey brown clayey silt subsoil with flint inclusions with a maximum thickness of 0.50m. The topsoil and tarmac deposits which had previously overlain the trench had been removed prior to arrival on site. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

### 4.2 Trench 28 (Fig. 4)

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
28/001	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	61.03m
28/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	60.73m

#### Summary

Trench 28 was excavated to a length of 20m and a width of 1.80m. The trench ranged from 0.0m to 0.30m in depth. At the base of the trench lay the variable natural [28/002], comprising chalk deposits with frequent flint inclusions and brick earth. Overlying this was context [28/001], a reddish orangey brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions. Context [28/001] ranged in thickness from 0.20 metres in the south west of the trench tapering to 0.0m towards the centre of the trench. The tarmac deposit and topsoil which had previously overlain the trench location had been removed prior to arrival on site. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

### 4.3 Trench 29 (Fig. 5)

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	60.83m
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.60m	60.56m
29/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	60.29m

## Summary

Trench 29 was excavated to a length of 20.30 metres and a width of 1.80 metres. The depth of the trench ranged from 0.57m at the east of the trench to 0.80m at the west. At the base of the trench lay the variable natural [29/003], comprising brick earth with chalk patches. Overlying this was context [29/002], a reddish orange brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions. Context [29/002] ranged in thickness between 0.60m and 0.24m. A dark greyish brown loose silty clay topsoil [29/001] overlay the subsoil layer. The topsoil deposit had been partially removed prior to arrival on site. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

### 4.4 Trench 30 (Fig. 6)

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	60.38m
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.60m	59.91m
29/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	59.76m

Trench 30 was excavated to a length of 18.20 metres and a width of 1.80 metres. The depth of the trench ranged from 0.56m at the east end of the trench to 0.72m to the west. At the base of the trench lay chalk natural [30/003] the chalk was naturally undulating in nature (Fig. 7) and in filled in places by the subsoil [30/002] giving the appearance of a series of linear features. Investigation of these linear 'features' proved them to be non-archaeological. Subsoil [30/002] was a reddish orange brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions and ranged in thickness between 0.15m and 0.60m. Overlying the subsoil was a friable, orange-dark brown silty clay topsoil of 0.32m thickness. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.



**5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The four additional evaluation trenches excavated at the former Southfields school site, Singlewell, Gravesend, did not contain any archaeological features or deposits. The stratigraphy on site consisted of topsoil, where this had not been removed prior to arrival on site, overlying an orange brown silty clay subsoil which, in turn, overlay a variable natural of undulating chalk deposits and brick earth. The depth of the natural deposits uncovered ranged from 59.76m OD to 60.73m OD.
- 5.2 There were no Palaeolithic artefacts recovered during the evaluation.
- 5.2 The absence of archaeological features from both phases of the evaluation suggests that there is not a dense pattern of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2006. *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Former Southfields School, Singlewell Rd, Singlewell, Gravesend, Kent*. Archaeology South-East Unpublished Report.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation of the staff from Rydon Ltd is gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SSG 06 (Addendum)					
Identification Name and Address	Former Southfields School Site, Singlewell Road, Singlewell, Gravesend.					
County, District &/or Borough	Gravesham Borough Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 565044 171381					
Geology	Upper Chalk with localised deposits of Brick Earth.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3386					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. √	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban √	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 1st-2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2008	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Rydon Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Sara Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other – Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Four evaluation trenches were excavated as an addendum to an earlier evaluation at the former Southfields school site, Singlewell Rd, Gravesend, Kent. The site was evaluated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2008. A total of 138.60 metres squared were excavated during this phase of works. Natural deposits were encountered across at a shallow depth across the site consisting of head brickearth and natural chalk. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-40300**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at the former Southfields School, Gravesend
Short description of the project	The development site lies on land formerly occupied by Southfields School, Singlewell Rd, Singlewell, Gravesend, Kent. The site is 250m north of the alignment of Watling Street (the main London to Canterbury Roman road). The site was evaluated between 9th and 13th October 2006. Twenty four trial trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 480m. The natural geological drift deposits (Head brickearth) were encountered mostly at shallow depths across the development site. A total of six features were identified and sampled. Two of the features contained modern material. The other four features produced no dating evidence. A possible Palaeolithic flint tool (but could be later prehistoric in date) was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 7. As a result a 2m <sup>2</sup> test pit was excavated at the western end of this trench. The total depth of the Head deposit was ascertained at 1m. No more worked flint pieces were seen in this test pit. The potential for finding further archaeological remains on this site is considered to be low. An additional four trenches excavated in April 2008 revealed no archaeological features or deposits.
Project dates	Start: 09-10-2006 End: 01-04-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Significant Finds	FLINT TOOL Palaeolithic
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT GRAVESHAM GRAVESEND Former Southfields School, Singlewell, Gravesend.
Postcode	DA12 5

Study area            300.00 Square metres

Site coordinates    TQ 565044 171381 50.9318519315 0.227443154280 50 55 54 N 000 13 38 E Point

Height OD            Min: 56.19m Max: 62.07m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation    Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator    Rydon Construction Ltd

Project design originator    The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council

Project director/manager    Neil Griffin

Project supervisor    Paul Riccoboni

Project supervisor    Sarah Porteus

Type of sponsor/funding body    Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body    Rydon Construction Ltd

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient    MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Physical Contents    'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient    MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Digital Contents    'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Media available    'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

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**Archaeology South-East**  
Additional evaluation trenches at Southfields School, Singlewell: 2008028

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Paper Archive recipient      MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Paper Contents      'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'

Paper Media available      'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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Entered by      Sarah Porteus (s.porteus@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on      7 April 2008

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**OASIS:**

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