

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent**

**Planning Ref: SH/07/TEMP/0042**

**NGR 606637 125187**

**Project No. 3498  
Site Code: SNS 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008108  
OASIS id: archaeol6-45676**



**Dylan Hopkinson MA**

**July 2008**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent (NGR: 559230 174665). The work was carried out between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July for Neilcott Special Works Ltd.*

*Two trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 29.42m in advance of the construction of a new single storey children's centre to assess the archaeological potential of the site.*

*The site lies towards the northern extent of the archaeologically sensitive area associated with early medieval and medieval remains of New Romney, and features of early/mid 13th to early/mid 14th centuries date were found in both trenches at a depth of around 1m from the current surface.*

*Within both trenches the topsoil/turf deposits overlay very homogenous sterile subsoil layers between 0.70m thick in the east and 0.50m thick in the south. Below the subsoil a layer of dark brown colluvial material was observed with a high level of artefactual material dating to either 1225/50 - 1325/50 or 1325 - 1425 depending on the nature of intrusive or residual material in the assemblage. This deposit was consistent with a medieval subsoil and formed a sealing layer below which a number of cut features representing refuse pits and postholes were identified. These features contained evidence of activity dating to between 1225 and 1350. A large amount of environmental and artefactual material was recovered from three soil samples from refuse pits, and suggests that fish processing and repairs to boats were taking place on the site during this phase.*

*In the east of the site these features were cut into the top of a natural depression in the surface of the natural gravels, the depression which appeared to have been scoured by a stream was aligned north to south, and presumably flowed down to the medieval coastline a little way to the south.*

*The underlying natural geology comprising Storm Gravel Beach Deposits and Aeolian Sands was encountered at a maximum height of 3.05m OD in the east of the site falling away to 2.48m OD in the south.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London,, was commissioned by Neilcott Special Works Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent (NGR TR 066 251) (Fig.1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development involves the construction of a new children's centre within the school grounds, to be built on pad foundations.

### **1.2 Planning background**

- 1.2.1 Planning permission was obtained for the development of the existing school grounds to add a new single storey children's centre (Planning Ref: SH/07/TEMP/0042), permission was subject to an archaeological planning condition advised by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council, to ensure that features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded. This condition 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.'*

- 1.2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site (section 2.0) the Kent County Council (KCC) Archaeological Officer, Adam Single agreed an archaeological mitigation strategy in the form of an archaeological evaluation. A *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* was then prepared (Single, A. 2007), which outlined the aims and objectives for the fieldwork and which was followed throughout the evaluation works. This strategy required the excavation of two trenches, toaling 29.42m in combined length
- 1.2.3 At the time of the archaeological evaluation no other work had commenced that may have impacted the potential archaeological remains and was limited to setting up site facilities, identifying service runs and making the site secure.

### **1.3 Scope of the report**

- 1.3.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land at St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent.
- 1.1.3 Two trenches were excavated and were located in the southern and eastern portions of the proposed development area, avoiding extensive service cables and pipes in other areas of the site (Fig. 2).
- 1.3.2 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 7th and 9th July by Dylan

Hopkinson (Archaeologist) with the assistance of John Woodall (Site Assistant). The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager), Louise Rayner and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Managers).

## **2.0      ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1      Location and geology**

- 2.1.1    The site is situated within the town of New Romney approximately 2km from the current coastline at Littlestone on Sea. The surrounding landscape is largely low lying Salt Marshes known as Romney Salts. The site lies in a residential area with properties to the north and east and the existing school buildings and grounds to the south and west, and is bounded by Craythorne Lane to the east (Fig. 1).
- 2.1.2    According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 305/306, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000 scale) the site lies on Storm Gravel Beach Deposits and is adjacent to an area of Aeolian sands to the north, which in turn lie above Hastings Beds.
- 2.1.3    The site covers a small area around 680m<sup>2</sup> and has a generally flat and level topography with an average elevation of 3.96m OD.
- 2.1.4    The site is known to have been disturbed by utilities trenches for gas, electricity and telecommunications, these are mostly located along the north and western extents of the site and a small electricity substation lies directly to the south of the development area within the school grounds.

### **2.2      Archaeological and historical potential**

- 2.2.1    The potential of the site has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Kent within 500m of the site's boundaries and assessed and in reference to the *Historic Towns Survey for New Romney* (KCC, 2003) and to the *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* (Single 2007). Extended references to the HER search can be seen in Appendix 1 and are shown on Figure 1.
- 2.2.2    The Specification identifies that the site lies on the northern limits of an archaeologically sensitive area; the New Romney High Street Conservation Area, where the early medieval and medieval remains of New Romney have been identified.
- 2.2.3    The Specification also reports three specific sites of interest in the immediate environs of the development; these were two recent archaeological excavations which identified important archaeological remains at the adjacent sites of Sainsburys (the former site of Southlands School - HER Ref: TR 02 NE 65) and a residential property 'Malaine' on Fairfield Road, while to the north of the development the crop-marks of a medieval moated site and field system are visible (HER Ref: TR 02 NE 15).
- 2.2.4    There has been no previous phase of archaeological investigation on the proposed development site.

### **2.3      Archaeological overview**

2.3.1 Pre-urban evidence

Very little is known about the prehistory of this area, it is thought that the underlying deposits of New Romney were formed during the late Neolithic. A shingle spit is thought to have been deposited by longshore drift between Hastings and Hythe forming a barrier behind which an area of salt marshes developed through the silting of waterways that were later to become the river Limen (later known as the river Rother) (KCC, 2003, 5). There is some potential for prehistoric activity in the beach deposits however no find points have been identified in the vicinity of the development.

2.3.2 Two isolated Iron Age finds have been identified to the north of New Romney (KCC, 2003, 1), but there have so far been no significant discoveries in the vicinity of the site.

2.3.3 A single Roman brass coin has been identified in the wider New Romney area (KCC, 2003, 1); however again there are no significant finds or monuments in the immediate environs of the site.

2.3.4 Early medieval period (AD 410 to 1066)

Around c. AD 450-700 the late Neolithic shingle ridge is thought to have been breached by the sea forming a wide bay between Dymchurch and Lydd, and by the mid eighth century a small spur in the northeast of this bay was occupied by a small settlement of fisherman's houses somewhere in the vicinity of the Saxon church of St Martin (HER Ref: TR 02 SE 2) near where it is thought the river Limen debouched into the bay (KCC, 2003, 5). The settlement gradually grew in size and importance, with a planned town being laid out between 960 and 1000 (KCC, 2003, 5). The High Street eventually developed along an early road between Hythe and Old Romney.

2.3.5 Medieval period (AD 1066 to 1540)

After the Battle of Hastings the town and port of New Romney was one of the first places to be subdued by William, Duke of Normandy, since the townspeople had earlier defended themselves when the invading forces attempted to land there. Within twenty years the town had a harbour, church and a mint, and by the early eleventh century New Romney had a market probably along the harbour area. By AD 1200 New Romney was one of the Cinque port towns extracting privileges from the king in return for supplying vessels and crew for the defence of the southern coast of England (KCC, 2003).

2.3.6 During the medieval period, New Romney was a trading town with shipping connections to Europe; written records of levies on tradesmen dating from 1352 onwards mention a 'master carpenter of ships' and 'master fishermen' and finds of clench nails and roves have been found on the former site of Southlands School on Fairfield Road (HER Ref: TC 02 65) attest to the presence of shipbuilding and ship-breaking activities in the area (KCC, 2003, 10) and places the medieval foreshore within 100m of the development site (KCC, 2003).

2.3.7 During the 13<sup>th</sup> century a combination of silting of the harbour and the use of vessels with a much greater draught, plus a series of devastating storms led to a decline in the growth of the town, and by c.1540 the harbour was no longer viable (KCC, 2003, 10).



- 2.3.8 The New Romney High Street Conservation Area lies directly to the south and southwest of the proposed development area. Within 500m of the site and within this archaeologically sensitive area there are the remains of roughly half the secular town and two parish churches with medieval origins, St Nicholas church (HER Ref: TR 02 SE 1) dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century AD; and St Martin's (HER Ref: TR 02 SE 2) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century AD. The remains of a c.13<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian Grange known as Romney Priory or St John's Priory (HER Ref: TR 02 SE 5) also lie within this area. Due to the limited nature of development in the town there is a high likelihood that remains of the historic fabric of the early medieval and medieval town survive below ground and activities associated with the periphery of the town are likely to be found within the development site.
- 2.3.9 The HER for Kent identifies a number of medieval sites other than those from the built environment in the immediate vicinity of the development area, these include find spots and archaeological investigations where occupation layers, pitting and domestic activities have been identified. These sites are laid out in Appendix 1.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

**3.1** Two trenches were excavated to an accumulative length of 29.42m using a JCB JS130 machine fitted with a 1.80m wide flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The machine was monitored and under constant supervision by an archaeologist and excavation from the surface was taken down in spits of no more than 100mm thickness to ensure that deposits and features were not over-excavated.

### **3.2 Excavation aims and objectives**

**3.2.1** The aims and objectives of the excavation were outlined in the Specification (Single, A. 2007).

**3.2.2** The overall aim of the excavation was to investigate the archaeological resource, to analyse results, and to subsequently publish the findings. The specific aims as highlighted in the specification were to:

- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains using the results of the fieldwork
- Assess the impact of past development on the site's archaeological potential.
- Assess the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains
- Assess the potential for prehistoric remains to be present in the gravels
- Establish the degree of medieval and post-medieval activity on the site
- Establish the degree of Roman activity on the site
- Contribute to the environmental and landscape history of the area

### **3.3 Methodology**

**3.3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Specification (Single, A. 2007) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

**3.3.2** The site comprised of an area measuring roughly 20m by 34m (Fig. 2), in which the specification recommended a single 30m trench, 1.80m wide was to be excavated. Due to the limitations of excavating in a restricted area and the large number of active utility services in the north and west of the site this was modified to two trenches totalling 29.0m overall. The KCC Archaeological Officer approved these modifications.

**3.3.3** Both trenches were excavated by a JCB JS130 machine using a flat-bladed bucket to the top of potential archaeological features cut into the natural deposits. The excavated surface was then cleaned and left open overnight before being recorded. A representative sample of each of the features was then excavated by hand over the following two days.

**3.3.4** Trench 1 measured 19.40m by 1.80m and was excavated by machine to a minimum depth of 1.04m before archaeological features were observed.

- 3.3.4 Trench 2 measured 10.02m by 1.80m and was excavated by machine to a minimum depth of 1.09m at which archaeological features were identified.
- 3.3.5 All features and layers were excavated stratigraphically and recorded on pro forma record sheets. All pits and postholes were half sectioned.
- 3.3.6 A full photographic archive (black and white film; and colour digital) was maintained throughout the evaluation as appropriate.
- 3.3.7 All features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 on multi-context trench drawings and section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale.
- 3.3.8 All trenches were levelled in relation to an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark located on the western corner of the southwest facing wall of 'Owen House', a residential building close to the site on the corner of Craythorne Lane and Fairfield Road (value = 5.18mAOD). A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was brought onto the site from this. The TBM was located on the central 'BT' logo of a concrete telecommunication services hatch set into the ground on site. Tables 2 and 3 show heights relating to each identified feature.
- 3.3.9 After completion of all excavation and recording, the trenches were mechanically backfilled and compacted.

### **3.4 Constraints**

- 3.4.1 The underlying substrate into which the majority of features were cut was loose sand of the Storm Gravel Beach Deposits and Aeolian sands indicated on the British Geological Survey sheets for the area. This made feature edges difficult to preserve and excavation problematic due to the possibility of section collapse.
- 3.4.2 The deeper features ([1/014] and [2/020]) were found to extend below the current water table which made excavation of the lower extent difficult and exacerbated the difficulties of preserving feature edges in soft sand as water flowed into the excavated spaces.
- 3.4.3 For a large part of the excavation the work was undertaken in rainy conditions which slowed the recording and progress.

### **3.5 Status of site archive**

- 3.5.1 The site archive is currently held at offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).
- 3.5.2 Table 1. Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts / Context Sheets	28
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	2 (1 x B&W and 1 x Digital Colour)
Drawing Register Sheets	1

Levels Record Sheets	1
Bulk Sample Register Sheets	1
Bulk / Environmental Sample Forms	3
Trial Trench Record Sheets	2
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	4 x A3 (2 x 1: 20 and 2 x 1: 10)
Trench Location Sketch	1
Photographs	1 black and white film (partially used) and 13 digital colour photographs
Bulk Samples	3
Bulk finds	1 large box, 1 narrow box, 1 stewart tub
Registered finds	22
Environmental flots/residue	1 bag in large box with finds

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

**4.2** Trench 1 which was aligned east to west measured 19.40m by 1.80m and was excavated to a minimum depth of 1.04m in the east and a maximum depth of 1.37m in the west. This trench represented the relocated section of the 30m trench required by the specification which could not be excavated due to the location of gas, power and telecommunications services in the northern and western extents of the proposed site.

### 4.3 Table 2: Summary of contexts identified in Trench 1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	OD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	4.09m
1/002	Fill	Fill of modern cut	+1.00m (partially exposed)	Tr.	+1.00m (partially exposed)	3.98m
1/003	Cut	Modern cut	+1.00m (partially exposed)	Tr.	+1.00m (partially exposed)	3.98m
1/004	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m	3.98m
1/005	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	3.80m
1/006	Deposit	Sealing Medieval Subsoil Layer	Tr.	Tr.	0.56m	3.56m
1/007	Deposit	Natural Sands	Tr.	Tr.	-	3.25m
1/012	Cut	Posthole cut	0.12m	0.10m	0.17m	2.91m
1/013	Fill	Posthole fill	0.12m	0.10m	0.17m	2.91m
1/014	Cut	Pit cut	1.32m	+0.80m (partially exposed)	0.52m	2.91m
1/015	Fill	Pit fill	1.32m	+0.80m (partially exposed)	0.52m	2.91m
1/016	Cut	Posthole cut	0.09m	0.08m	0.09m	2.90m
1/017	Fill	Posthole fill	0.09m	0.08m	0.09m	2.90m
1/027	Deposit	Re-deposited Natural	Tr.	0.90m	0.35m	3.05m
1/028	Cut	Natural water-cut channel	5.40m	Tr.	0.35m	2.70m

## 4.4 Summary

**4.4.1** The natural geology, which was comprised of loose fine yellowy brown sand with occasional rounded gravel pebbles <20mm in diameter, [1/007], was encountered at a maximum height of 3.25m OD in the eastern end of the trench and sloped down gradually to 2.64m OD in the west.

**4.4.2** In the eastern end of the trench this loose sand had been truncated by an irregular cut feature, [1/028], which measured 5.40m wide at the northern side of the trench and only 2.80m wide at the southern side of the trench only 1.80m away. This cut had a rough wide and shallow “U” shaped profile with gradual break of slope at the top and bottom of the sides; the sides

themselves were irregular and had a fairly shallow inclination. The base was generally flat and the cut had a maximum depth of 0.35m. This feature is not thought to be archaeological and was probably formed by water runoff southwards down the beach to the shoreline in antiquity, forming a 'stream' cut.

- 4.4.3 Along the eastern edge of this potential stream cut there was a dump of mid yellowy brown sand, [1/027], which formed the primary fill of the cut. This fill comprised of mixed sands and occasional pebbles, <20mm in diameter, probably redeposited by the movement of the water in the stream. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.4.4 Truncating the redeposited stream sands, [1/027], was an irregular pit cut, [1/014], with a maximum length of 1.32m and an observed width of 0.80m (Fig. 4). The feature extended further into the southern limit of excavation but appeared not to extend for a considerable distance as the base of the feature was beginning to rise at the southern extent. This feature was 0.52m deep and was filled with a single dark greyish brown sandy silt fill, [1/015], which was friable in consistency and contained pottery dating to 1225-1325 as well as bone and iron objects including several fish-hooks. A single 40 litre bulk soil sample was taken from the base of this fill (Sample 1). This feature was interpreted as a medieval refuse pit.
- 4.4.5 The fill of pit [1/027] was cut by a smaller feature, [1/012], which was roughly circular in plan and measured c. 0.20m in diameter and was 0.17m deep (Fig. 3). The cut had a "U" shaped profile with sharp break of slope at the top and gradual break of slope at the bottom of the vertical sides, the base was concave. This feature may be the cut of a posthole and was filled with a single mid brown compact silty clay fill with occasional small pebbles <20mm in diameter, [1/013], from which a single sherd of pottery was recovered, dating to 1225-1325.
- 4.5.6 A second small cut feature with circular plan [1/016], was observed cutting directly into the southern edge of the 'stream' feature [1/028]. This showed many similarities to the probable posthole [1/012]. The cut measured 0.09m in diameter and was 0.09m deep which makes it slightly smaller than the first posthole, however it had the same steep sided "U" shaped profile with sharp break of slope at the top and was filled with a very similar compact mid brown silty clay fill which contained occasional small pebbles <20mm in diameter [1/017]. No artefactual material was recovered from this fill. The feature has also been interpreted as a posthole.
- 4.5.7 Both postholes were sealed by a 0.56m thick, moist, mid greyish brown, fine sandy-silt, [1/006], which contained frequent small rounded pebbles generally <20mm in size and common charcoal flecks. The deposit was observed as a layer that extended beyond the limit of excavation in all directions. This layer contained moderate quantities of medieval pottery and tile, in addition to moderate amounts of bone and oyster shell. The pottery assemblage from layer [1/006] contains some residual or intrusive fragments and dates to either 1225/50-1325/50 with a few intrusive later 14<sup>th</sup>- century sherds or 1325-1425 with a number of earlier 13<sup>th</sup>- century vessels. It is quite possible that this deposit was formed and in use over an extended period and that the later material merely comes from the latest phase of use. However the dating might suggest that the area was temporarily abandoned between the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century and early 14<sup>th</sup> century,

which fits with the time of the major storm events of the late 13<sup>th</sup> century that had a large impact this part of the coastline.

- 4.5.8 This artefact rich layer was in turn overlain by a 0.28m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown sandy silt which contained occasional rounded pebbles <20mm in diameter but no artefacts [1/005]. This deposit, which extended beyond the limits of the trench was interpreted as a late post-medieval soil.
- 4.5.9 This was sealed throughout the trench by a 0.42m thick layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt, [1/004], which could be distinguished from the layer below by the frequent quantities of rounded pebbles it contained which measured <20mm in diameter. As with the underlying layer no artefacts were observed in this layer, which was also interpreted as late post-medieval soil.
- 4.5.10 A distinctive vertical sided cut feature, [1/003], was observed in the extreme east of the trench and truncated all the deposits eastwards from the level of the second late post-medieval subsoil. This modern cut feature may have been associated with some unobserved utility service to the east; however the location of the cut in the very northern end of the trench and the depth which extended down below the 1.00m of the trench at this point made it impossible to identify the origin of the cut. This cut was filled by two layers which were recorded as a single fill, [1/002], due to the late date and time constraints. The deposit was a mid brown friable sandy silt containing moderate rounded pebbles <20mm and no artefacts. The top 0.20m contained a much higher sand content and was consequently a lighter yellowy brown in colour.
- 4.5.11 A turf and soil layer, [1/001], measuring 0.15m thick was observed across the whole of the trench and composed of friable grey brown sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles generally <20mm in diameter and contained no finds. This was interpreted as late post-medieval topsoil.

#### **4.6 Trench 2 (Fig. 5)**

- 4.7 Trench 2 which was aligned north to south measured 10.02m in length and 1.80m wide was situated at the southern part of the site. This trench was the southern extent of the 30m trench identified in the specification; however the northern extent had to be relocated as Trench 1 due to the presence of live utility services detected prior to excavation.

#### **4.8 Table 3: Summary of contexts identified in Trench 2**

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	OD
2/008	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m	3.99m
2/009	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	3.80m
2/010	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	3.55m
2/011	Deposit	Sealing Medieval Subsoil Layer	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	3.27m
2/018	Fill	Pit fill	+1.10m (partially exposed)	+0.50m (partially exposed)	0.45m	3.00m
2/019	Fill	Primary Pit fill	+1.00m (partially	+0.37m (partially	+0.28m (partially	2.79m

			exposed)	exposed)	exposed)	
2/020	Cut	Pit cut	+1.10m (partially exposed)	+0.50m (partially exposed)	+0.73m (partially exposed)	3.00m
2/021	Fill	Pit fill	1.00m	0.65m	0.34m	2.76m
2/022	Cut	Pit cut	1.00m	0.65m	0.34m	2.76m
2/023	Deposit	Spread	1.70m	1.30m	0.16m	2.76m
2/024	Fill	Pit fill	1.06m	+0.76m (partially exposed)	0.32m	3.00m
2/025	Cut	Pit cut	1.06m	+0.76m (partially exposed)	0.32m	3.00m
2/026	Deposit	Natural Sands	Tr.	Tr.		2.94m

## 4.9 Summary

- 4.9.1 The natural geology was encountered at a maximum height of 2.94m OD in the southern end of the trench and sloped down gradually to 2.48m OD in the north. This natural was comprised of loose fine yellowy brown sand with common rounded gravel pebbles <20mm in diameter, [2/026].
- 4.9.2 In the central part of the trench a natural depression with an uneven surface had been filled with a grey brown silty sand [2/023] which contained common rounded pebbles between <20mm in diameter and common sub angular gravels less <3mm in diameter (Fig. 6). This deposit contained bone and pottery dating to 1225-1325.
- 4.9.3 This deposit was cut by a feature with an oval shape in plan [2/022] measuring 1.00m by 0.65m (Fig. 6). The feature had an inverted bell shaped profile in section, with slightly stepped steep sides and gradual break of slope at both the top and bottom. The overall depth of the cut was 0.34m. This feature was filled by a single fill of greyish brown silty sand, [2/021], which contained common rounded pebbles <20mm and common sub angular gravels <3mm in diameter, as such the fill was almost identical to the surrounding spread [2/023]. The fill contained bone and pottery dating to 1225-1325. The feature may have been a small refuse pit. However the similarity between the fill of the 'pit' and the surrounding spread of material allow an alternate interpretation that the feature was naturally formed by a tree or bush throw and that the cultural material became incorporated with underlying beach sands when the ground was disturbed.
- 4.9.4 In the southern extent of the trench the natural sand and gravel [2/026] was cut by what would have been a sub circular feature, [2/025]. This feature was 1.06m east to west and 0.76m north to south. However, the feature extended into the limit of excavation southwards and had been truncated to the east by a similar cut feature [2/020]. Cut [2/025] had the form of an open shallow scoop 0.32m deep with a sharp break of slope at the top and gradual break of slope at the bottom of the slightly concave sides which were sloped at about 45° from horizontal. The fill was dark grey brown in colour and composed of friable sandy silts with common rounded pebbles <20mm in diameter. Pottery dating to 1225-1325 as well as bone was found in this context and its contents were typical of a refuse pit in this location. A 60 litre environmental sample being taken of the lowest part of the fill The feature was interpreted as a refuse pit.



- 4.9.5 The surface of fill [2/024] was cut by an intrusive feature with an oval shape in plan, [2/020] (Fig. 7). This cut measured 1.10m east to west and continued slightly into the eastern limit of excavation, its north-south dimension was 0.50m and was possibly only half exposed in the trench with its southern extent also continuing into the limit of excavation. The shape in section was a smooth "U" shape with concave sides and sharp break of slope at the top. It was not possible to fully excavate this feature because at 2.49m OD the water table was encountered and due to the soft sands in which the feature was cut, sand movement and undercutting of the sides began to occur at a depth of 0.20m below the water table. The feature once partially excavated also stood at the bottom of a 1.31m high standing section to the west and so it was considered unsafe to continue. Two fills were excavated from cut 2/020. The primary fill, [2/019], was a friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional rounded pebbles <20mm in diameter; this was 0.28m deep and contained pottery from 1250-1350, as well as bone and iron objects. Overlying this was a further fill deposit 0.45m deep [2/018]. This was also a clayey silt with occasional rounded pebbles <20mm in diameter which differed only in colour being mid orangey brown. The finds assemblage consisted of pottery from 1250-1325/50, as well as bone and iron objects. It is possible that the differentiation in colour in these fills is post depositional and a result of the presence of the water table around this level.
- 4.9.6 Sealing all the features in the trench and stratigraphically above pit fills [2/018] and [2/021] was a 0.30m layer that extended beyond the limit of excavation in all directions, [2/011]. This was a firm dark brown sandy silt with common rounded pebbles <20mm in diameter, common charcoal flecks and occasional oyster shells. Pottery dating to 1250-1325/50 and bone were found in this context. This deposit may be a buried medieval topsoil.
- 4.9.7 Overlying layer, [2/011], was a 0.25m thick layer of very clean firm mid brown sandy silts, [2/010]. There were no finds from this layer and very few inclusions with only occasional rounded pebbles <20mm in diameter. This deposit, which extended beyond the limits of the trench was interpreted as a late post-medieval sub-soil.
- 4.9.8 This clean layer was sealed throughout the trench by a 0.25mm thick layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt, [2/009] which was distinctive from the layer below due to the frequent inclusions of rounded pebbles which measured <20mm in diameter. Again no artefacts were recovered from this layer, which was also interpreted as late post-medieval subsoil.
- 4.9.10 The final and uppermost context recorded was a 0.12m thick turf and soil layer, the matrix was friable greyish brown sandy silt containing common rounded pebbles <20mm, this was interpreted as the topsoil.

## **5.0 THE BULK FINDS**

- 5.1 A medium sized assemblage of bulk finds has been recovered during the evaluation (Appendix 2). All finds have been washed and dried or air dried

as appropriate. The finds have been quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context.

## **5.2 The Pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered 217 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 4,643g, from nine individually numbered contexts. On the whole context groups are small – by far the largest consisting of 138 sherds from [1/006]. The sherds range from small (10mm across) to large (150mm across) and virtually all are in fresh condition with little or no signs of abrasion. The vast majority of sherds are of the High Medieval period, fitting within a date range of the early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Only a few sherds may be later than this, perhaps being as late as the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century or beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.2.2 The assemblage is dominated by sand and shell tempered coarsewares. Cooking pots with a variety of rounded or rectangular club rims are by far the most common form though at least one tubular skillet handle (context [1/006]) and two shallow bowls, both with external sooting, are present (context [1/006]). In addition several sherds of possible chimney pot are present in [1/015] and [2/021]. Although sand and shell tempered wares are dated earlier in east Kent (normally up to 1225/50) it is almost certain that they continued later on Romney Marsh as indeed they do in other parts of north and west Kent. It is also now certain that such wares were being made in New Romney itself as wasters have been produced from other Archaeology South-East excavations within the town. The current assemblage is in keeping with a 1225-1300/25 date range in both the developed forms of many of the coarsewares and their consistently well-fired nature. A number of sherds have very few shell inclusions suggesting they come from the end of the shell-tempered tradition on the Marsh.
- 5.2.3 A number of well-fired fine to medium sand tempered sherds are also present in the assemblage. Although some cooking pots are represented the vast majority of these sherds derive from glazed jugs. The source of many of these is uncertain though a local origin is thought likely. Indeed, there appears to be a few Rye products in the assemblage (context [2/018]). The jug sherds, are often undecorated though where present, incised line decoration dominates. Two notable exceptions include a sparsely-glazed fine sand tempered hard-fired oxidised jug with rouletting on the rim [1/015] and a well-fired reduced bodysherd in fine/medium sand tempered ware with applied white rouletted clay strips under an even dark green glaze [2/019]. It is quite possible a number of these sandy jugs were made within the town – context [2/018] produced two over-fired bodysherds, one of which shows signs of warping suggesting at least ‘seconds’ were present. A larger assemblage may produce definite wasters. Only three imported sherds are present, all of which are from French green-glazed whiteware jugs, two of which are almost certainly from the Saintonge industry (context [1/006]).
- 5.2.4 The latest pottery from the site is from context [1/006]. Although the vast majority of this group consists of sand and shell coarsewares with a scattering of well-fired sandy glazed jugs probably of early/mid 13<sup>th</sup>- to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup>- century date, there are five sherds which are more likely to be of the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century or even the early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

These consist of three sherds of Late medieval/Transitional sparse medium sand tempered ware and two very hard-fired fine sand tempered ware sherds (a cooking pot base and a pitcher with rilling under spots of green glaze). No later pottery was recovered.

### **5.3 Ceramic Building Material** by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from four different contexts. The majority of fragments consist of roof tile fragments, mainly dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. A single piece of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date in deposit [1/006] may be intrusive. Fragments are medium fired with moderate fine to medium sand-tempering. The pieces from deposit [2/024] are clearly all part of one tile, which exhibits a round peg hole and has an additional tempering of occasional ?shell. The fragment of 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date is medium fired and sparse fine sand-tempered with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 2 mm.

5.3.2 In addition, a single high fired brick fragment was recovered from pit [2/022] ([2/021]). The piece is sparse fine sand-tempered with angular flint inclusions to 2 mm, as well as slag inclusions to 11 mm. This fragment is of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date and is likely to be intrusive.

### **5.4 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Driver

5.4.1 Nine contexts produced a total of 265 fragments dated to the C13th-C14th. The bone is in good condition with many large fragments and little surface weathering. Cattle, sheep, pig, deer, dog, cat and bird, including chicken, are represented. A large number of fish bones were recovered through hand collection and environmental sampling. Evidence of butchery and burning are present on cattle, sheep and bird bone. There was no evidence of pathology or gnawing on the bone.

5.4.2 Table 4. NISP count for the bulk bone assemblage

<b>NISP</b>	<b>No.FRAG</b>
Cattle	125
Sheep	69
Pig	9
Deer	1
Dog	2
Cat	3
Bird	17
Uni	39

Table 4 shows the NISP (Number of Individual Species Present) count for the assemblage. Cattle dominate the assemblage followed by sheep. Both cattle and sheep bones displayed signs of butchery suggesting that both species were utilised as a meat source. The NISP count shows a relatively large number of bird bones for the size of the assemblage.

5.4.3 Table 5. Age data for Cattle

CATTLE		FUSED	UNFUSED	TOTAL	% FUSED
7>18	Scapula	2			
MONTHS	P.Radius	1			
	D. Humerus	1			
	PHG 1				
	TOTAL	4			100%
2>3	D. Tibia	2			
YEARS	D. Metap	1	1		
	TOTAL	3	1		75%
3.5>4	P.Ulna				
YEARS	P.Humerus		1		
	P.Femur				
	D. Femur				
	D. Radius				
	P. Tibia				
	Calcaneum	1	3		
	TOTAL	1	4		20%

Table 5 shows a limited amount of age data available for Cattle. This suggests that the majority of the cattle would have been killed between 3 and 4 years though a small number of mature animals were retained for secondary products such as milk and traction. Sheep and pig are also represented by juvenile and adult bone.

- 5.4.4 All the species are represented by meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements which suggests that the animals were butchered on the site.

## 5.5 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 The excavations produced an assemblage of 13 nails and nail fragments from three different contexts. Most of these consist of general purpose nails, although two complete heavy duty nails were recovered from deposit [1/006].
- 5.5.2 Three fragments of daub in a sparse fine sand-tempered fabric with moderate organic tempering were recovered from [1/015]. No wattle imprints survive.
- 5.5.3 A single broken flint flake from a beach cobble was recovered from deposit [2/024].

## 5.6 Potential

The assemblage as it stands is of limited interest. The pottery has some potential to illustrate a number of the forms, as the assemblage includes a few good groups. The bone assemblage has no potential for further statistical analysis due to the lack of data. All other bulk assemblages are too small to warrant additional work. However, the current bulk finds assemblage should be studied in conjunction with finds from any further

excavation stages, as these would greatly increase the potential for further analysis.

## 6.0 THE REGISTERED FINDS by Elke Raemen

**6.1** A number of finds have been assigned a unique registered finds number (RF <00>). The registered finds (Table 6) have been washed and dried or air dried. Objects have been packed according to IFA guidelines and have been recorded on individual pro forma sheets for archive.

**6.2** A number of these objects require X-radiography, in order to either establish their identification, or for further analytical purposes. These include all fish hooks, a selection of clench bolts and RF <21>.

**6.3** Thanks are due to Luke Barber for the identification of the geological material.

## 6.4 Table 6. Summary of Registered Finds

RF No.	Context	Object	WT (G)	Material	Period	Comments
1	1/006	WHET	22	STON	MED	
2	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
3	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
4	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
5	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
6	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
7	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
8	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
9	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
10	1/015	ROVE	8	IRON	MED	
11	2/018	ROVE	98	IRON	MED	2 individual
12	2/018	BOLT	48	IRON	MED	
13	2/018	BOLT/ROVE	2634	IRON	MED	27 individual
14	2/018	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
15	2/019	BOLT/ROVE	1882	IRON	MED	15 individual
16	1/015	FISH	<2	IRON	MED	
17	1/015	FISH	2	IRON	MED	
18	1/015	BOLT	16	IRON	MED	
19	1/006	WHET	32	STON	MED	
20	1/006	HOOK	10	IRON	MED	
21	1/006	TOOL	8	IRON	MED	
22	2/019	BOLT	34	IRON	MED	

## 6.5 Fish Hooks

The site contained a total of eleven fish hooks fragments. Ten of these were recovered from pit [1/014] ([1/015]), mainly from the environmental sample. The only other context containing a fish hook fragment (RF <14>) is pit [2/020] ([2/018]). Four of the pieces can almost certainly be identified as spade-end fish hooks (RF <2>, <3>, <7> and <9>). An eyed fish hook may be represented as well (RF <14>), but further confirmation is needed through X-radiography. The barb survives in only one example (RF <4>).

## 6.6 Tools

Two whetstone fragments were recovered, both from deposit [1/006]. These were in Norwegian rag stone (RF <1>) and ferruginous Wealden sandstone (RF <19>). An iron rod fragment (RF <21>) with rectangular to round

section may also represent a tool fragment.

**6.7 Clench Bolts**

A total of 42 complete clench bolts with diamond-shaped roves were recovered from pit [2020] ([2/018] and [2/019]). These exhibit a flat to low domed square or circular head. Where identifiable, shanks are square-sectioned. Dimensions are distorted through adhering corrosion materials but the thicknesses of the timbers secured (i.e. the measurement between the inner surfaces of the bolt head and rove) measure between 20 and 41 mm.

**6.8 Other**

A single wall hook with tapering shank has been recovered from deposit [1/006].

**6.9 Potential**

The Registered Finds assemblage as it stands has only a limited potential for further analysis. However it forms a good group, clearly demonstrating the importance of maritime industry, particularly fishing, for the town. As such, the group increases the data set for New Romney, to allow assemblages to be compared to other ports such as Dover, Shoreham and Hastings, as well as smaller fishing settlements such as Denge West on Dungeness Forland. As it stands, no further work is required, but the assemblage should be kept and studied in conjunction with finds from any further stage excavations.

## **7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES** by Lucy Allott

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 Three samples were taken from Medieval pit fills during archaeological works at St. Nicholas School, New Romney. Sampling aimed to establish the presence of environmental remains such as wood charcoal and other plant remains, bone and shell, to characterise these assemblages and assess their potential to provide further information about the economy of the site, the past vegetation, the functions and deposition histories of the features samples. All samples were taken from the basal deposit within the pits.

7.2 Table 7. Sample Numbers and their related context numbers

Sample Number	Context
1	1/015
2	2/019
3	2/024

### **7.3 Methods**

7.3.1 Bulk samples were processed in a flotation tank, the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and allowed to air dry. The residues were sorted for archaeological and environmental remains and are quantified in Table 8. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 9). Identifications have been made with reference to modern comparative material and reference texts (Cappers et al. 2006). Nomenclature used follows Stace (2005).

### **7.4 Results**

7.4.1 The flots and residues from these samples were rich in plant remains, bone and marine shell as well as fragments of pot, ceramic building material (cbm) and iron.

7.4.2 Plant remains present included wood charcoal fragments as well as charred and mineralised macro plant remains. Charcoal fragments were frequently >4mm in size and were well preserved. Cereals including *Triticum* sp. (wheat) and *Hordeum* sp. (Barley) and *Avena* sp. (wild or cultivated oats) were present in each sample. Weed seeds such as *Chenopodium* sp. (fat hen), *Polygonum/Rumex* (knotgrass/dock) and *Carex* sp. (sedge) were noted in samples <1> and <2>. No weeds were recorded in sample <3>. Cereals tended to be well preserved and where present the charred seeds were moderately well preserved. Mineralised plant remains, including a *Prunus* sp. stone (in sample <1>), were present in each of the samples although many of these are fragmented and only moderately preserved.

7.4.3 Mammal bones (see bone report) and fish were common in these assemblages. Fish bones and scales were particularly frequent in sample <1>. On the whole these appear well preserved. The remains from both the flots and the residues should be viewed with fish bones from samples taken during future phases of archaeological work. In addition, several fly pupae and insects were also present and should also be incorporated into future



phases of work.

- 7.4.4 The shell assemblage included *Ostrea edulis* (oyster), *Cerastroderma* sp. (cockle), cf. *Chlamys* sp. (scallops) fragment and several fragments of snail shells that are currently unidentified.

## **7.5 Discussion**

- 7.5.1 Sampling at St. Nicholas School has confirmed the presence of a broad range of environmental remains. The sample from context [1/015] was particularly rich in fish bones, scales and charred plant remains with smaller components of shell, mammal bones, mineralised plant remains and some pupae and insects. The other pit assemblages produced a similar range of environmental remains although these were generally present in smaller quantities.

- 7.5.2 These assemblages are fairly typical of waterlogged medieval pit fills. The presence of mineralised remains and fly pupae may also suggest that cess deposits were present within these pits. Samples from other locations in this region, such as The Elms (ASE 2007) and Dymchurch Road (Stevenson 2006) have produced similar environmental assemblages and the remains from this site should be compared with these.

## **7.7 Potential and Further work**

- 7.7.1 These samples have potential to provide further information regarding the diet and economy of the people using these pits during the medieval occupation. Together with data from other sites both in the immediate vicinity of New Romney and the region as a whole (such as Lydd) the deposits at St. Nicholas School have the potential to elaborate on a growing body of knowledge about the Medieval occupation, industry and land use of this area.

- 7.7.2 It is recommended that the flots are fully sorted for fish, fly pupae and insects as well as charred and mineralised plant remains. The charred macro plant remains from samples <1>, [1/015] and <2>, [2/019] have some potential to provide further dietary information. The assemblage from sample <3>, context [2/024] is more limited and therefore displays less potential, however, the cereals from this deposit should be analysed. Mineralised remains from each sample should be analysed and identified where possible. Wood charcoal fragments have some potential to provide information about the woody vegetation of the area, however, as the deposits within pit fills are likely to derive from several phases of infilling their potential to provide detailed information may be limited. The fish, insect and charred plant remains assemblages should be analysed by appropriate specialists.

Table 8. Residue Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1/015	pit fill	40	40	***	44	***	12	***	5	**	34	****	46	**	106	Pot**/102 CBM*/10 FE*/44
2	2/019	pit fill	40	40	**	34	**	4			**	46	****	8	**	216	FE*/40 Pot**/60 CBM*/4
3	2/024	pit fill	30	30	***	34	**	6			*	1	****	8	*	160	Pot*/42 Metal*/16

(\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Table 9. Flot Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Flot volume ml	Uncharred vegetation %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	crop seeds charred (quant. and preservation)	Identifications	weed seeds charred (quant. and preservation)	Identifications	other botanical charred (quant. and preservation)	Identifications	Min botanicals (quant. and preservation)	Identifications	Insects, Fly Pupae etc min	large mammal bone	burnt bone	fish, amphibian, small mammal bone	LSS	Marine molluscs	hammerscale
1	1/01 5	220	5	1 0		** *	*** *	*** *	**(*) good	<i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp. & others to id	**(*) good-mod	cf. Asteraceae, <i>Polygonum</i> / <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Carex</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae	* mod	occ stems (reeds/ rushes?), twisted ?threads ?	** mod	<i>Prunus</i> sp. & others to id	**	*	*	*** *	*	*	*
2	2/01 9	15	<5	1 0	Y	*	***	*** *	** mod	<i>Triticum</i> sp.	*(*) mod-poor	Chenopodiaceae & others to id			* mod	to id	*			***	**		
3	2/02 4	40	30	5	Y	*	***	*** *	** mod	<i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum</i> , <i>Avena</i> sp.					** mod	to id	*			*	*		

(\* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250), preliminary identifications and preservation indices (poor, moderate & good)

## **8.0 DISCUSSION**

- 8.1** Medieval features were present within both trenches indicating that further archaeological remains of this period are may exist across the development site. The date of these features fits with use of the area during the early/mid 13th to early/mid 14th centuries. Evidence for use beyond the mid 14th century is sparse and it is perhaps possible to speculate that this area of New Romney had reverted to agriculture by this time, represented by the 0.30 to 0.56m thick buried medieval topsoil, contexts [1/006] and [2/011].
- 8.2** Three refuse pits and two post-holes from the early/mid 13th to early/mid 14th centuries provide evidence of probable light industrial activity on the site which fits well with similar evidence at recently excavated sites immediately to the east and southeast.
- 8.3** Environmental finds from soil samples relating to the lowest fills of these pits revealed large quantities of fish bone and in two pits, [1/014] and [2/020], a large number of fish-hooks where found which suggest activities relating to fish industries. One refuse pit, [2/020], contained large quantities of iron fastenings in both its fills, [2/018] and [2/019] likely to be roves or bolts from dismantled boats relating to ship-breaking or repairs. All of which attest to the strong maritime influence of the town.
- 8.4** The upper fill of pit [2/020], [2/018], also revealed the potential for local production of pottery in the form of overfired and warped ceramics.
- 8.5** Alongside the evidence for light industrial processes there are some suggestions of more domestic activities. The ceramics found on the site included coarsewares and tablewares including a small quantity of imports, and there is some evidence to suggest the use of pit as cesspits. This is likely to be a reflection of the sites location on the edge of the town between residential and working areas.
- 8.6** It is likely that the site reverted to agricultural use after this light industrial phase and this is evidenced by substantial soil accumulation [1/006], [2/011].

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

**9.1** Medieval remains of local importance have been shown to be well preserved at the site, and are likely to extend across the whole development area. Fish and animal bone survival from this period is also good. The level information shows that the remains are well sealed below c.1.00-1.40m of accumulated soils including up to 0.56m of deposits thought to relate to medieval agricultural activity. The features identified occurred between 2.76m OD and 3.00m OD. The top of the potential medieval soils were exposed between 3.27m OD and 3.56m OD

**9.2** Late post-medieval and modern disturbance appears to be very low, with only one such cut feature being observed in the extreme east of Trench 1. Although utilities services in the north and west of the site have been identified by CAT scan and survey plans, the trenches cut to lay them are unlikely to extend beyond the 1.0m of overburden observed across the rest of the site.

### **9.3 Potential Impact of Groundworks**

**9.3.1** Two different groundwork schemes are currently in consideration: pad foundations and slab foundations. Neilcott Special Works Ltd have provided preliminary information regarding the impact depth of these two schemes. No detailed plans are currently available showing the extent in plan of these groundworks

#### **9.3.2 Pad Foundations**

The information provided shows that pad foundations would require excavations to a depth of 1400mm (1.4m) below the existing ground surface. The natural storm deposit into which cut medieval remains were identified is encountered at between 1.0m and 1.2m below current ground level in Trench 1 and at 0.92m below ground level in Trench 2. The pad foundations would therefore impact into this cut feature horizon by 0.20-0.40m in the vicinity of Trench 1 and 0.48m in the vicinity of Trench 2.

#### **9.3.3 Slab Foundations**

The information provided shows that slab foundations would require excavations to a depth of 900mm (0.90m) below the existing ground surface. The natural storm deposit into which cut medieval remains were identified is encountered at between 1.0m and 1.2m below current ground level in Trench 1 and at 0.92m below ground level in Trench 2. Therefore in the vicinity of Trench 1 the cut feature horizon would be sealed by c 0.10-0.30m of soil. In the vicinity of Trench 2, it is likely that the surface of the cut feature horizon would be exposed in places but not cut into by the slab excavations.

**9.4** The methodology employed at this site has proved effective in determining the presence, depth and state of preservation of archaeological deposits. The confidence rating is therefore considered to be high.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to Neilcott Special Works Ltd. for funding the evaluation and their on-site assistance from Dave Coombs, and to the Heritage Conservation Group/Kent County Council for providing relevant background information.

**Appendix 1.** Kent Historic Environment Record search results (Figure 1)

SMR Number	Site Name	Description	Monument Type	Date
TR 02 NE 15	Land between Rolfe Lane and Cockreed Lane, New Romney	A large moated site and remains of field system. Partially levelled post 1946 to make playing fields.	MOAT	1066 AD to 1539 AD
TR 02 NE 53	Stable House, Fairfield Road, New Romney	Mid 13thC-Mid 14thC pit found containing pottery 1250-1350 and cess material, probably a cess pit.	CESS PIT	1250 AD? to 1350 AD?
TR 02 NE 56	Prince of Wales Public House, Fairfield Road, New Romney	Early medieval clay floor sequence and central hearth yielded a small collection of small finds.	FLOOR	1066 AD to 1539 AD
TR 02 NE 64	Opposite Southlands School House, New Romney High Street	Evaluation trench uncovered sand deposits relating to late 13 <sup>th</sup> century storms and medieval deposits. The medieval deposits consisted of three features. A large pit or ditch, a kiln or forge and to the west a road. The road was constructed of mortar and gravel. A channel along its length was interpreted as wheel runnel. The road was sealed by a layer of dark sand containing late medieval pottery. At the eastern side of the site a fire pit was found with a flue exposed at its southern end. Near the flue were a number of unfrogged orange and yellow bricks set on end into a clay base. The pit was filled with dark sand which contained medieval pottery. In the central area of the site the last feature was recorded. A large pit which had been cut into the storm sand and was found to contain bone and late medieval pottery. All three features were later covered and sealed by garden soil.	PIT	1200 AD? to 1500 AD?
			ROAD	1287 AD? to 1500 AD?
TR 02 NE 65	Site of the former Southfields School, now supermarket	A series of foreshore deposits were found suggesting a sloping shingle or sand bank. Deposits found, a coin and	FEATURE	1150 AD? to 1350 AD?



	between Fairfield Land, George Lane and New Romney High Street	pottery fragments date to between 1150 - 1350.		
TR 02 NE 67	'High Point', Dymchurch Road, New Romney	Medieval pits, a kiln and a road-way were located. Most activity dated to the 13th - 14th century though some features were from the 19th century. The kiln was particularly significant as it is the first direct evidence of medieval pottery production at New Romney. Low level industrial activity such as smithing, fishing and ship repair probably also occurred on site.	PIT	1200 AD to 1300 AD
			POTTERY KILN	1200 AD to 1300 AD
			ROAD	1200 AD to 1400 AD
TR 02 NE 68	'The Elms', New Romney High Street	The earliest activity on this site is dated to the later 12th and 13th centuries and was located on a north-east slope of a dune. Refuse pits and a possible ditch were cut into these deposits. Post-medieval activity, probably relating to the 16th century was recorded on top of the dune and consisted of refuse pits and a stone lined well.	DITCH?	1100 AD to 1200 AD
			RUBBISH PIT	1100 AD to 1200 AD
			RUBBISH PIT	1500 AD to 1600 AD
			WELL	1500 AD? to 1600 AD
TR 02 NE 69	'Bay Tree House', Cannon Street, New Romney	Medieval features were found in four evaluation trenches which included a possible kiln/oven with associated flue, pits, post holes and two possible buildings.	DITCH	1066 AD to 1539 AD
			KILN	1066 AD to 1539 AD
			PIT	1066 AD to 1539 AD
TR 02 SE 2	St Martin's Church	Site St Martin's Church demolished c.1540	CHURCH	1066 AD to 1539 AD
			CHURCH	1540 AD to 1900 AD
TR 02 SE 67	New Romney High Street	Medieval road & pot along New Romney High Street	ROAD	1066 AD to 1539 AD

TR 02 SE 72	Properties of 'Sun Ray' and 'Sun Spot', Church Road, New Romney	<p>A sequence of medieval deposits, features and evidence for at least two medieval buildings. The earliest feature was a long linear ditch cut into the natural beach. The earliest building probably rectangular in shape and constructed of timber was of two phases indicated by two phases of wall beam slots and a series of clay floors and occupation levels, built directly onto natural beach deposits. The building suffered marine inundation and was abandoned. This was replaced by a masonry built building constructed over the marine deposits.</p> <p>The second building which was probably rectangular shaped was only seen in part but it had at least two if not three phases. The structure built of mortared ragstone rubble set on mortared stone foundations also had clay floors. During its second phase the building was foreshortened and a new end wall and new clay floors were added. Later it too suffered marine inundation and was largely abandoned, although evidence of an isolated series of clay floors suggests a possible third phase at one end of the building before it was robbed away and finally abandoned.</p> <p>No dating evidence was recovered from the buildings however an early medieval date is suggested. Evidence from an adjacent pit suggests that final abandonment of the site took place in c.1500 - 1550.</p>	BUILDING	1066 AD? to 1550 AD?
			OCCUPATION SITE	1066 AD? to 1550 AD?
			PIT	Unknown
TR 02 SE 73	Church Villa, Church Close, New Romney	Post-medieval archaeological deposits and structural remains were encountered during the excavations for the building work as well as significant remains of medieval pottery and bone.	PIT	1066 AD to 1539 AD
			WALL	1540 AD to 1900 AD

## Appendix 2. Bulk Finds Quantification

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	F. Clay	wt (g)	Spot Dates
1/006	119	2930	3	58	114	2364			8	180			Slightly mixed. Either 1225/50-1325/50 with x5 intrusive later 14 <sup>th</sup> - century sherds or 1325-1425 with a number of earlier 13 <sup>th</sup> - century vessels.
2/011	8	254			15	272							1250-1325/50
1/013	1	4											1225-1325
1/015	14	414	2	136	12	58			3	24	3	58	1225-1325
2/018	22	594			18	268							1250-1325/50
2/019	8	96			5	106							1250-1350
2/021	7	198	1	12	15	396							1225-1325
2/023	1	8			14	226							1225-1325
2/024	20	176	3	84	48	514	1	8	2	12			1225-1325
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4674</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>4204</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>	

### SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SNS 08					
Identification Name and Address	St. Nicholas' School, Fairfield Road, New Romney, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Shepway					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 606637 125187					
Geology	Aeolian Sands and Storm Gravel Beach Deposits overlying Hastings Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3498					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b> ✓	<del>Excav.</del>	<del>Watching Brief</del>	<del>Standing Structure</del>	<del>Survey</del>	<del>Other</del>
Type of Site	<del>Green Field</del>	<b>Shallow Urban</b> ✓	<del>Deep Urban</del>	<del>Other</del>		
Dates of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b> ✓ 07-07-08 to 09-07-08	<del>Excav.</del>	<del>WB.</del>	<del>Other</del>		
Sponsor/Client	Neilcott Special Works Ltd.					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	<del>Palaeo.</del>	<del>Meso.</del>	<del>Neo.</del>	<del>BA</del>	<del>IA</del>	<del>RB</del>
	<b>AS</b>	<b>MED</b> ✓	<b>PM</b>	<del>Other</del> <del>Modern</del>		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was conducted at St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent. Two trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 29.42m in advance of the construction of a new single storey children's centre. Features of early/mid 13th to early/mid 14th centuries date were found in both trenches at a depth of around 1m from the current surface and sealed below a 0.56m buried medieval agricultural subsoil of similar date. A number of cut features representing refuse pits and postholes were identified and found to contain evidence of fish processing and boats repairs dating to between 1225 and 1350.</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-45676**

**Project details**

Project name	St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent
Short description of the project	Two trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 29.42m in advance of the construction of a new single storey children's centre to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The site lies towards the northern extent of the archaeologically sensitive area associated with early medieval and medieval remains of New Romney, and features of early/mid 13th to early/mid 14th centuries date were found in both trenches at a depth of around 1m from the current surface. Within both trenches below the topsoil and subsoil a layer of dark brown colluvial material was observed with a high level of artefactual material dating to either 1225/50 - 1325/50 or 1325 - 1425 depending on the nature of intrusive or residual material in the assemblage. This layer was 0.56m thick to the east of the site and contained significantly larger amounts of bone, ceramic and iron artefacts than were observed in the central and southern area of the site where it was only 0.30m deep. This deposit was consistent with a medieval agricultural subsoil and formed a sealing layer below which a number of cut features representing refuse pits and postholes were identified and found to contain evidence of light industrial activity dating to between 1225 and 1350. A large amount of environmental and artefactual material was recovered from three soil samples from pits, and suggests that fish processing and repairs to boats were taking place on the site.
Project dates	Start: 07-07-2008 End: 09-07-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SH/07/TEMP/0042 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SNS 08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Area of archaeological sensitivity
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	POST HOLE Medieval

Monument type	BURIED SOIL HORIZON Medieval
Monument type	RUBBISH PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	ROVE Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey','Photographic Survey','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY NEW ROMNEY St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent
Postcode	TN28 8BP
Study area	680.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 06637 25187 50.9883045277 0.944640434877 50 59 17 N 000 56 40 E Point
Height OD	Min: 2.48m Max: 3.05m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Neilcott Special Works Ltd.
Project design originator	KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Project director/manager	Diccon Hart
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Neilcott Special Works Ltd.

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at St. Nicholas' School, New Romney, Kent

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Hopkins, D

Date                              2008

Issuer or publisher      Archaeology South-East

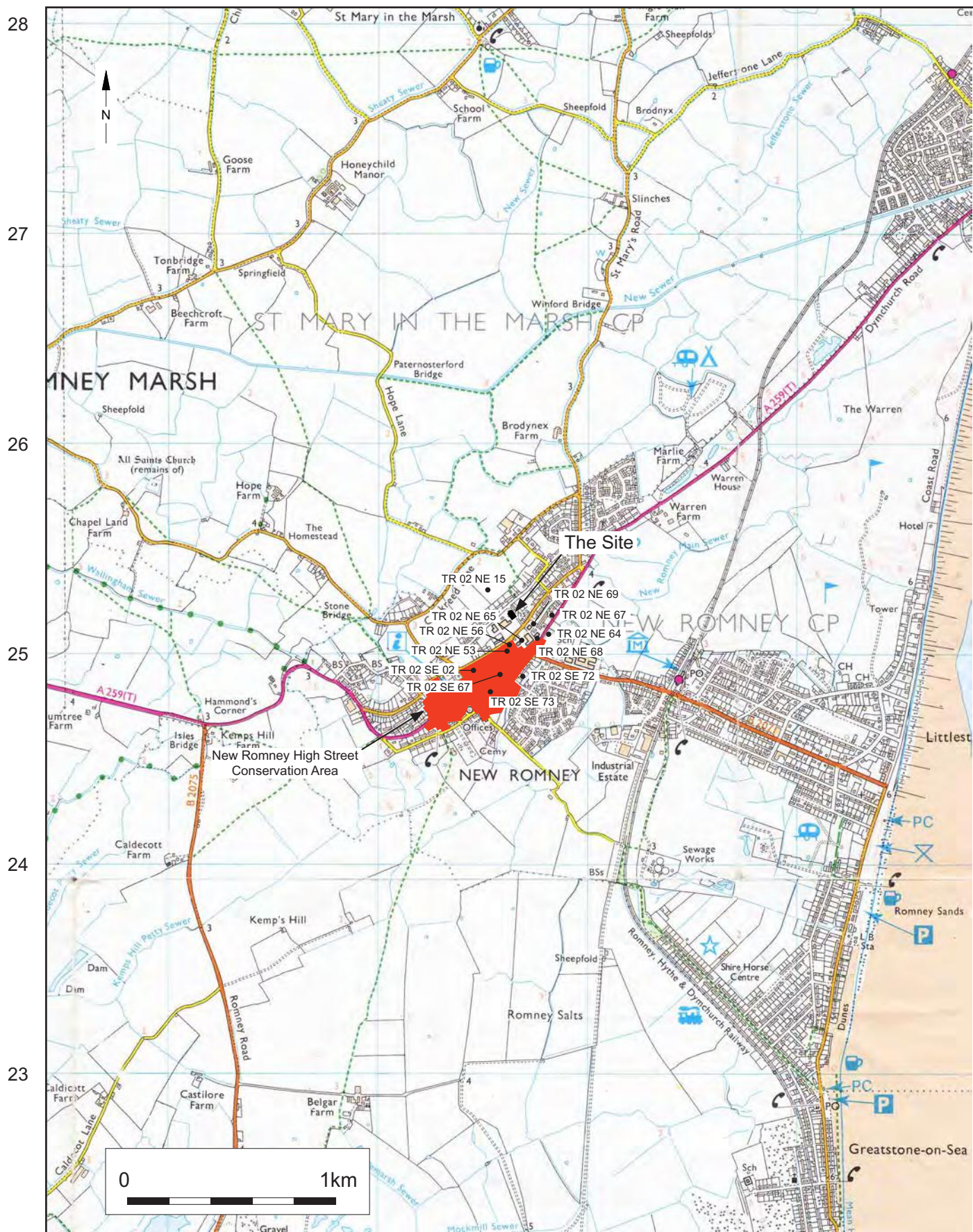
Place of issue or  
publication              Portslade, Brighton

Description              20 page A4 bound report with 7 figures on 6 pages

Entered by              Dylan Hopkins (dylan.hopkinson@btinternet.com )

Entered on              30 July 2008





05

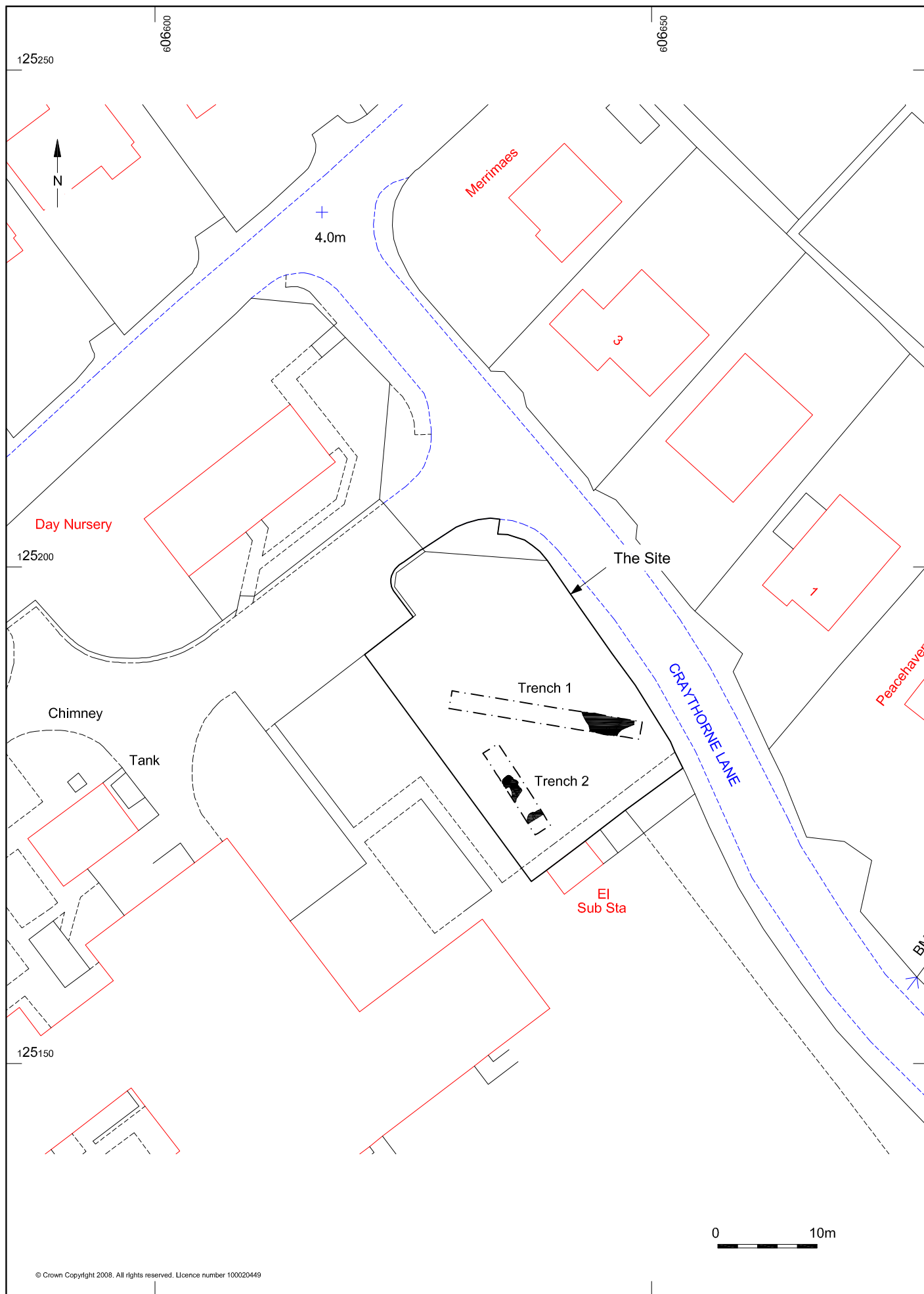
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08

© Archaeology South-East		St Nicholas School, New Romney	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3498	July 2008	Site Location and HER Data	
Report Ref: 2008108	Drawn by: JLR		

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Project Ref: 3498	July 2008	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2008108	Drawn by: HF		

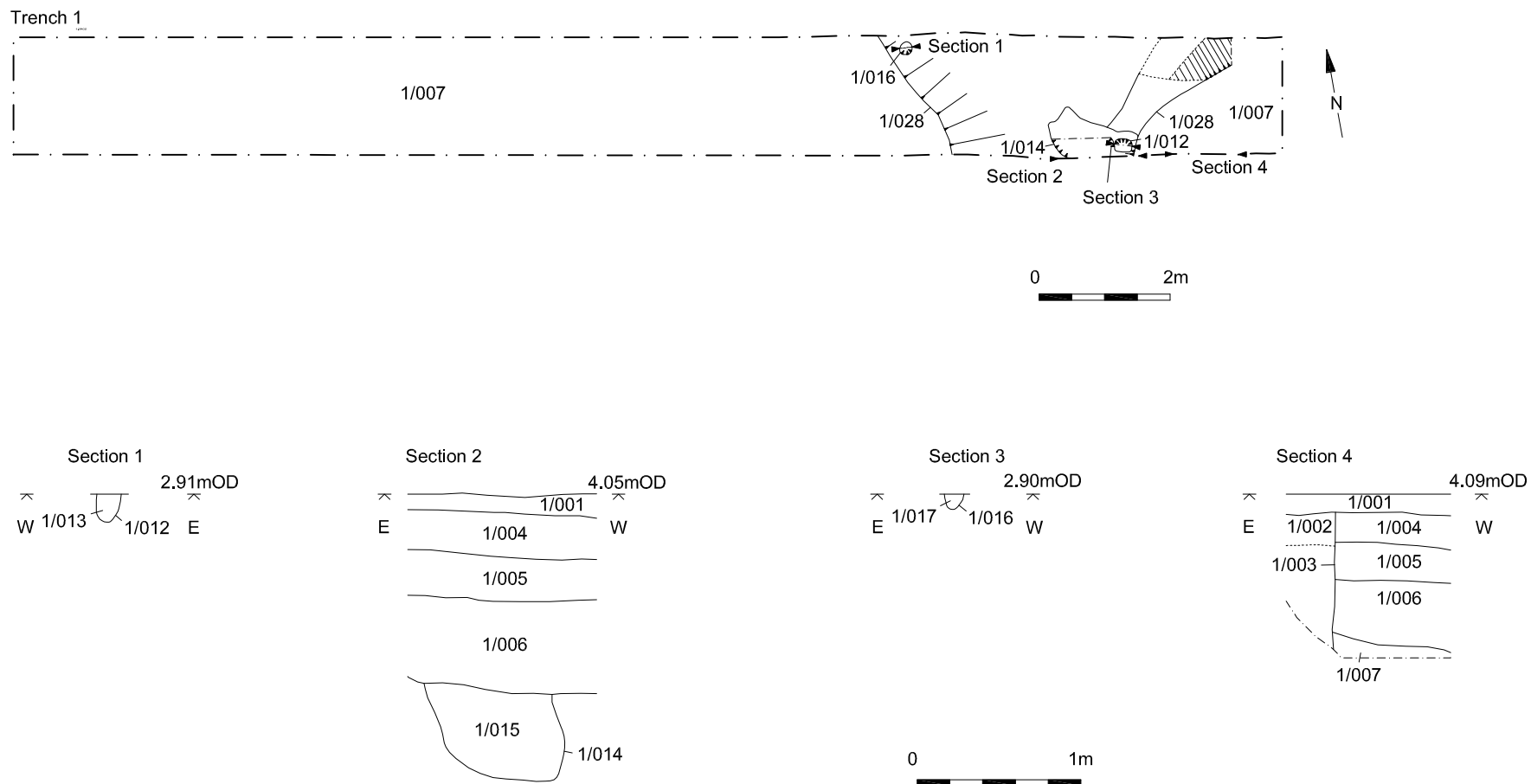
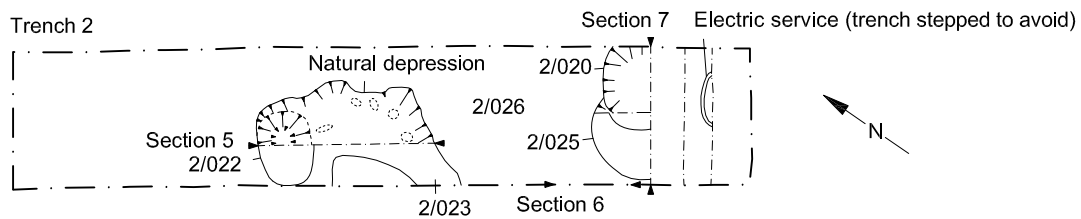




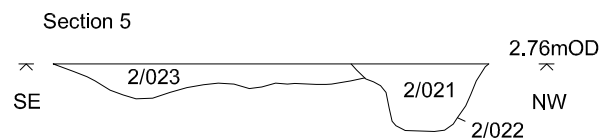


Fig. 4: North facing sections of pit [1/014] and posthole [1/012]

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Project Ref: 3498	July 2008		
Report Ref: 2008108	Drawn by: JLR		



0 2m



0 1m

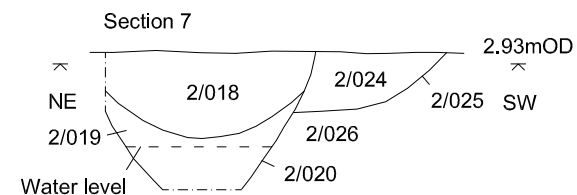
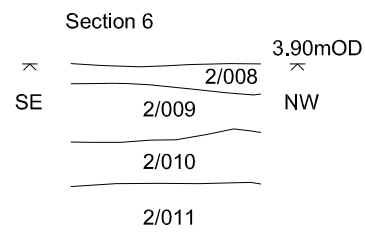




Fig. 6: East facing section of pit [2/022] and spread [2/023]



Fig. 7: North facing section of pits [2/020] and [2/025]

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Project Ref: 3498	July 2008		
Report Ref: 2008108	Drawn by: JLR		

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