

**Summary Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at
the Former Wyverns School, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent.**

NGR: 602900 142400

**Project No:3579
Site Code: FWS08**

**ASE Report No. 2008188
OASIS id:archaeo16-49813**

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October 2008

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), on behalf of Bovis Homes Ltd, during geotechnical works on the site of the former Wyvern School, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent (NGR: 602900 142400) (Fig 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission has been granted for a residential development which includes a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken in order to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.
- 1.3 The work was undertaken by Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist) on the 9th and 10th of October 2008.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.2 Test pits were excavated by JCB using a flat bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision, until natural undisturbed ground was reached.
- 3.1 Contexts encountered were recorded on standard pro-forma recording sheets with a record kept of the stratigraphy of each test hole. A full photographic record was also maintained during the course of the watching brief.

3.0 RESULTS

- 3.1 A total of 10 test pits (TP), three soak away (SA) test pits and two boreholes (WS2 and TPE) were monitored, TPE was investigated using a borehole machine rather than the proposed machine test pit. The test pits were numbered using the reference codes used by the onsite geotechnical team. Each test pit measured 2metres by 0.5metres (13metres squared area in total) to a maximum depth of 3metres were observed by the archaeologist in attendance. The columns from two borehole probes were also examined. The geotechnical works were spread over an area of approximately 200square metres (fig. 2).
- 3.2 The natural geology Sandgate Beds [003] occurred between 0.40 and 1.30 metres below ground level (fig. 3) and was overlain by a yellowish brown silty sand subsoil [002] of between 0.30 and 1.50metres thickness on the sloping and high ground and by subsoil [005] on lower ground. The subsoil of the lower ground was siltier and more orangey brown in colour than that of the higher ground. Overlying these deposits was either a friable dark brown humic silty sand topsoil [001] of between 0.10 and 0.40 metres thickness or modern tarmac deposits [004] of 0.45metres thickness.
- 3.3 Any other deposits identified were modern in origin. A modern artificial mound [006] (fig.4) comprised of heaped topsoil measuring 1.0metres above present ground level was identified in TPH, at the highest point of the site and contained occasional fragments of modern brick and concrete. A

backfilled swimming pool [009] (fig 5) associated with the School with a depth of 1metre was identified in TPB, modern crisp packets dated the backfill [007] to the early 1980's, excavation of this test pit ceased at the concrete base of the pool. A made ground deposit [006] of 1.50metres thickness was identified in TPB1 containing residual post medieval pottery and modern plant pots. A 0.08metre thick concrete floor [010] of a modern building, demolished but appearing in school plans, was identified in TPB2.

Number	Type	Date of deposit (where known)	Description	Deposit thickness range
[001]	Deposit		Topsoil	0.10m to 0.40m
[002]	Deposit		Subsoil of high and sloping ground	0.30m to 1.5m
[003]	Deposit		Natural	N/A undisturbed natural was observed at between 0.40 and 1.30 metres below surface depending on overburden.
[004]	Deposit	Modern	Tarmac overburden	0.35m to 0.45m
[005]	Deposit		Subsoil of lower ground	0.10m to 0.50m
[006]	Deposit	Modern	Made ground of artificial mound	1.0m
[007]	Fill	Modern	Backfill of disused swimming pool	1.0m
[008]	Deposit	Modern	Possible made ground	1.50m
[009]	Concrete	Modern	Concrete base of swimming pool	Unknown
[010]	Concrete	Modern	Concrete floor of former oil tank storage.	0.08m

Table 1: Context List

TPA	Depth below surface	TPB	Depth below surface	TPB1	Depth below surface	TPB2	Depth below surface	TPC	Depth below surface
[004]	0m	[001]	0m	[001]	0m	[001]	0m	[001]	0m
[003]	0.40m	[007]	0.20m	[008]	0.30m	[010]	0.10m	[002]	0.30m
		[009]	1.00m	[003]	1.50m	[005]	0.18m	[003]	0.60m
						[003]	0.48m		

Table 2: Stratigraphy of test pits

TPD	Depth below surface	TPF	Depth below surface	TPG	Depth below surface	TPH	Depth below surface	TPI	Depth below surface
[001]	0m	[001]	0m	[001]	0m	[006]	0m	[004]	0m
[002]	0.10m	[002]	0.10m	[002]	0.40m	[002]	1.00m	[005]	0.30m
[003]	1.00m	[003]	1.00m	[003]	0.60m	[003]	1.20m	[003]	0.40m

Table 2 continued: Stratigraphy of Test Pits

SA1	Depth below surface	SA2	Depth below surface	SA3	Depth below surface
[004]	0m	[004]	0m	[001]	0m
[005]	0.35m	[003]	0.40m	[002]	0.30m
[003]	0.50m			[003]	1.20m

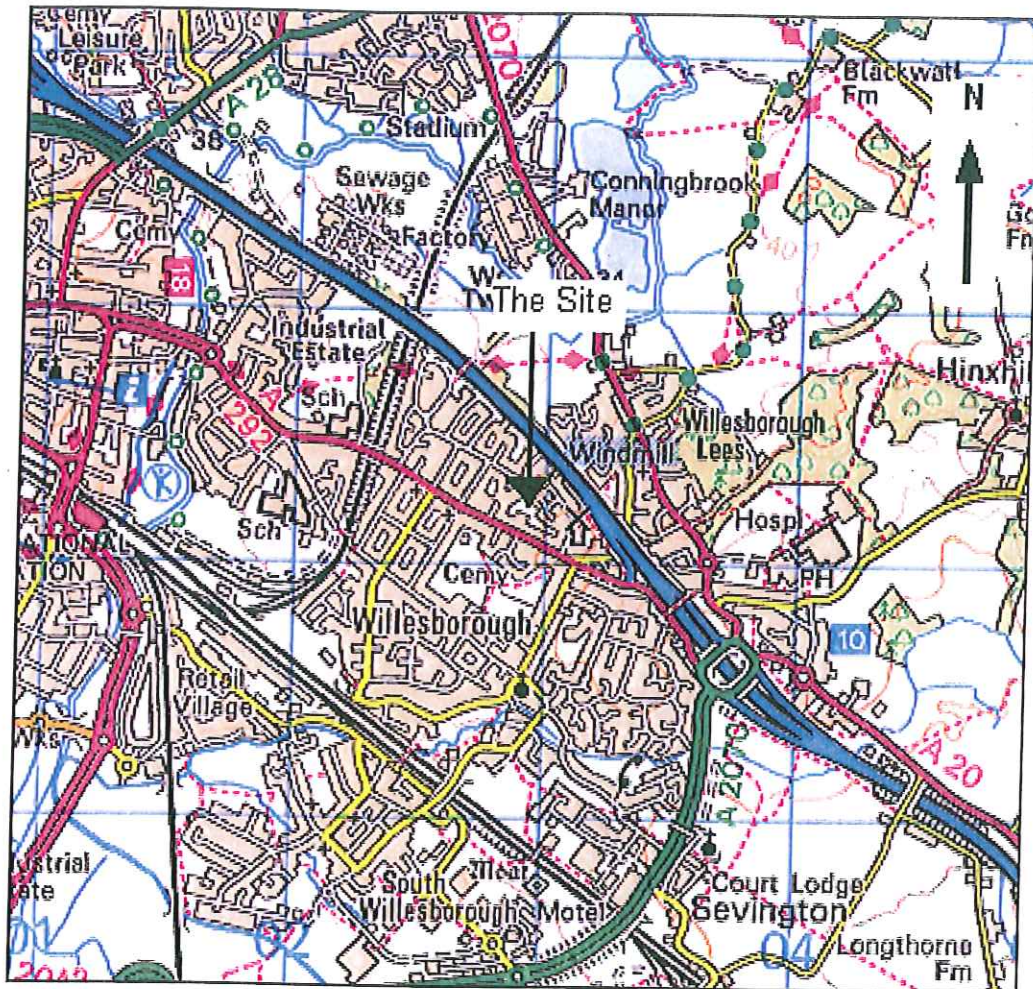
Table 3: Stratigraphy of soak away test pits

TPE	Depth below surface	WS2	Depth below surface
[004]	0m	[001]	0m
[002]	0.20m	[002]	0.20m
[003]	0.40m	[003]	0.50m

Table 4: Stratigraphy of bore holes

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The site at the Wyvern School has been extensively modified in modern times during the construction of the school and associated structures and playing areas. Made ground deposits found close to the school most likely relate to the excavation landscaping and levelling of ground during the construction of the school. A large man made mound was identified at the top of the hill composed of topsoil, again likely to have been moved during the construction of the school. No archaeological features, artefacts or deposits were identified during the geotechnical works.
- 4.2** The archaeological potential for the remainder of the site is low with all deposits identified being sterile or modern in date and a majority of the area having been reduced in height and levelled.
- 4.3** It is unlikely that the current proposed development will affect any archaeological remains.



01

02

03

04

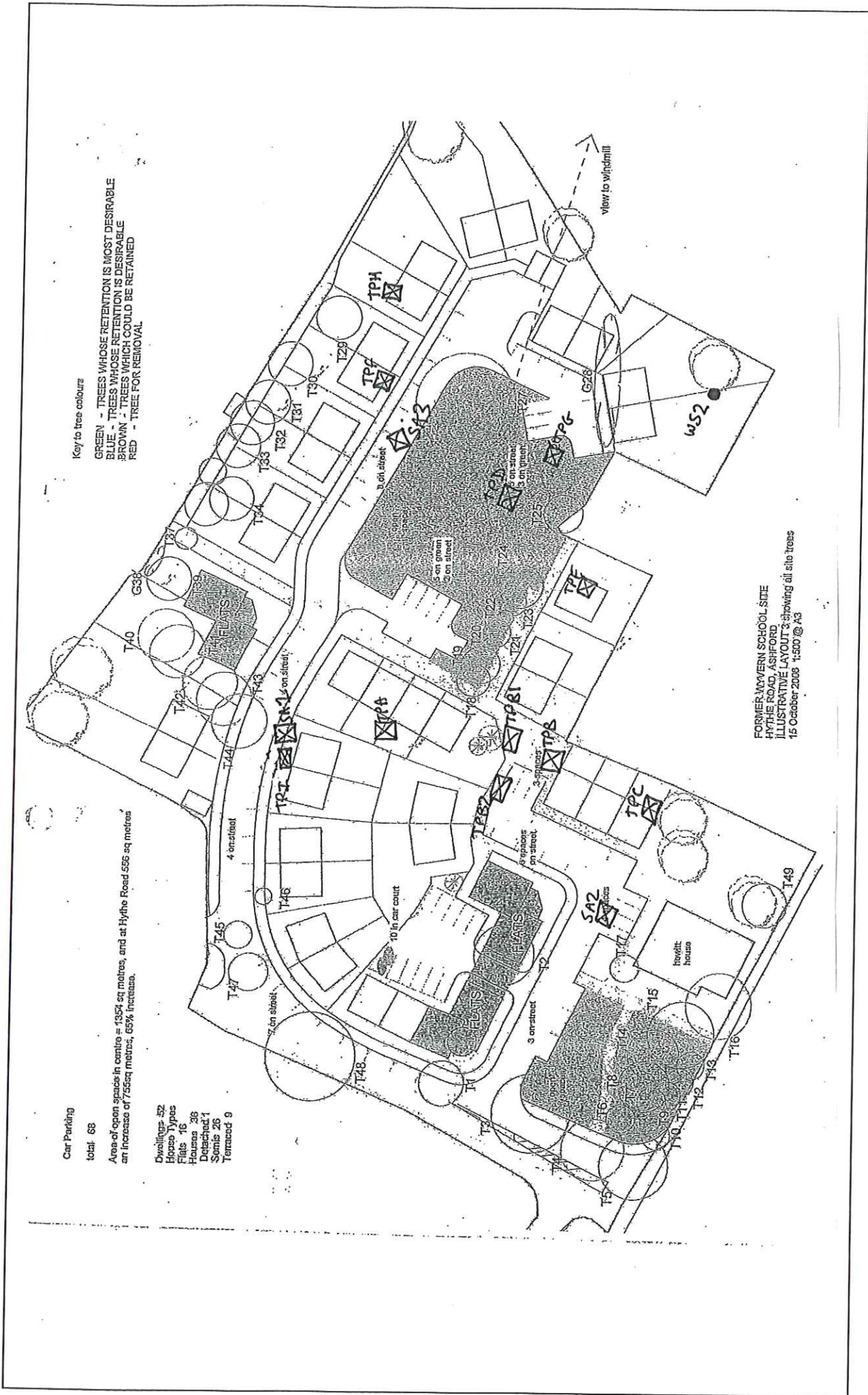
0km

2km



Archaeology South-East		Former Wyvern School, Kent	Fig.1
Project Ref:3579	Oct 2008	Site Location	
Report Ref:2008188	Drawn by:SLP		

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Archaeology South-East	Former Wyvern School, Kent
Project Ref: 3579	Oct 2008
Report Ref: 2008188	Location of probe holes in relation to proposed development Drawn by: SLP

Fig. 2



Figure 3. Typical site stratigraphy in TPC



Figure 4. Artificial modern mound [006] in TPH.



Figure 5. Backfilled Swimming pool [007], [009].

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	FWS08					
Identification Name and Address	Former Wyvern School, Hythe Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Ashford, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	602900 142400					
Geology	Sandgate Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3579					
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.	Excav.	WB. ✓	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Bovis Homes Ltd					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical works undertaken in advance of development at the site of the former Wyvern School in Ashford, Kent. No archaeological evidence was uncovered, artefacts or features and the land was found to have been significantly altered during the construction of the school including a substantial amount of ground reduction.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-49813

Project details

Project name An archaeological watching brief on geotechnical works at the former Wyvern School, Hythe Road, Kent.

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical works undertaken in advance of development at the site of the former Wyvern School in Ashford, Kent. No archaeological evidence was uncovered, artefacts or features and the land was found to have been significantly altered during the construction of the school including a substantial amount of ground reduction.

Project dates Start: 09-10-2008 End: 10-10-2008

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type SCHOOL Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT ASHFORD ASHFORD Former Wyvern School, Hythe Road

Postcode TN24 0

Study area 200.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TR 602900 142400 50.8681768248 1.699867909720 50 52 05 N
001 41 59 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator Kent County Council

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Sarah Porteus

Type of sponsor/funding body Bovis Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient n/a

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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