

**Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at
Wincheap Primary School,
Hollowmede, Canterbury,
Kent**

NGR 614153 156731

**Project No. 3520
Site Code: WPS08**

**ASE Report No. 2008183
OASIS id: archaeol6-50906**



By

David Britchfield

November 2008

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Abstract

In June 2008, Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury in Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Neilcott Special Works during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (2008).

The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Geology and Location

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by Neilcott Special Works to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury in Kent., Works during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The site is centred on NGR 614153 156731 and its location is shown on Fig. 1. Maps of the British Geological Survey (Sheet 289) show that the proposed development is situated on Upper Chalk overlain by Head Brickearth (KCC 2008:1.6).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Local planning authorities in Kent, including Kent County Council Planning Applications Group and Kent County Council Property Group, received advice regarding archaeological matters from the Heritage & Conservation Group, Kent County Council (KCCHC). In this case, KCCHC, requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks.

1.3 Schedule of Visits

1.3.1 An Archaeological Project Officer attended the site and monitored excavation works on 25th, 26th and 30th June 2008

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

'contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks' (KCC 2008: 3.1)

In addition, objectives of the monitoring were:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required.
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

The specific archaeological requirements of the project are summarised below:

- Monitoring of all ground works.
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that archaeological remains are encountered.
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

1.5 Confidence Rating

- 1.5.1 No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1981, a disturbed Roman cremation burial was found by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust during allotment cultivation, around 30m to the west of the development site (Kent HER No. TR 15 NW 465). Two Roman roads leading into Canterbury run within 400m of the site. (KCC 2008:2.2).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Archaeological monitoring was conducted in accordance with standard operating procedure as adopted by Kent County Council and included within the specification and also complied with the Institute of field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The

archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of demolition and groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed development, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds. The examination of spoil and the recording of soils profiles were carried out during mechanical reduction of the site and excavation of pad foundation bases.

3.2 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented below.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The contexts recorded during the work are tabulated below.

Number	Type	Description	Top of deposit	Bottom of deposit
001	Layer	Topsoil mid grey brown silty clay with occasional fragments of modern building material	0m	0.49m
002	Layer	Disturbed natural brickearth heavily mottled and truncated by frequent pressed-in inclusions of brick, concrete, tile, charcoal and hardcore rubble	0.49m – 0.58m	0.72m – 0.81m
003	Layer	Natural brickearth comprising mid orange silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and angular flint	0.72m	
004		Concrete raft foundations for concrete floor		
005		Concrete slab former floor associated with the canteen	0m	0.32m

Table 1: table of recorded contexts

4.2 The proposed development site, which measured approximately 25m in length by 14-19m in width, was located within the south-western corner of the site, adjacent to the main vehicular entrance (see Fig. 2). The natural

Brickearth was located at approximately 0.72m below ground level across the excavated area. In the area outside the demolished canteen the natural was beneath a layer of disturbed natural (002) recorded at a depth of approximately 0.50m. This in turn underlay the mid-grey silty clay topsoil (001). A modern drain was uncovered in the north-west corner of the site.

4.3 Within the perimeters of the demolished canteen, the natural (003) was cut by the concrete foundations of the canteen floor (004). These foundations were overlaid by a concrete slab floor (005).

4.4 A total of forty-eight pad foundations were excavated to a depth of 1.10m below the formation level. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were present within the area (Fig. 3).

5.0 FINDS

5.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the monitoring exercise.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 From the outset it was clear that the foundations and drainage associated with the former canteen had truncated the upper levels of the natural geology. In fact no underlying subsoil or buried soil was present within the proposed development area. It is therefore suggested that the preparation of the site prior to the construction of the former canteen had removed upper archaeological and geological horizons.

6.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording carried out at Wincheap Primary School revealed no archaeological features or finds.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological remains have been affected as a result of the development programme.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Neilcott Special Works for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Adam Single (Archaeological Officer) for his assistance. This report was edited and collated by Diccon Hart (Project Manager Archaeology South-East).

9.0 REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation Group (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief during the Construction of a Modular Children's Centre Building at Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury*

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WPS-WB-08					
Identification Name and Address	Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury					
County, District &/or Borough	Canterbury/KCC, Wincheap					
OS Grid Refs.	614153 156731					
Geology	Upper Chalk overlain by Head Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2008183					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 25 th -26 th & 30 th June 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Neilcott Special Works					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	David Britchfield					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>In June 2008, Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury in Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Neilcott Special Works during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (2008). The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered.</p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-50906

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury, Kent
Short description of the project	In June 2008, Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Wincheap Primary School, Hollowmede, Canterbury in Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Neilcott Special Works during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (2008). The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 25-06-2008 End: 30-06-2008
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	3520 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2008183 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT CANTERBURY CANTERBURY Wincheap Primary School

Postcode CT1 2

Study area 375.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TR 1415 5673 51.2688054744 1.070284551170 51 16 07 N 001 04 13 E
Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Heritage Conservation Kent County Council

Project design originator The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council

Project director/manager Giles Dawkes

Project supervisor David Britchfield

Type of sponsor/funding body Neilcott Special Works

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive Local Museum

recipient

Digital Archive
Exists? No

Paper Archive
recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'none'

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Hollowmede, Canterbury, Kent

Author(s)/Editor(s) Britchfield, D.

Other
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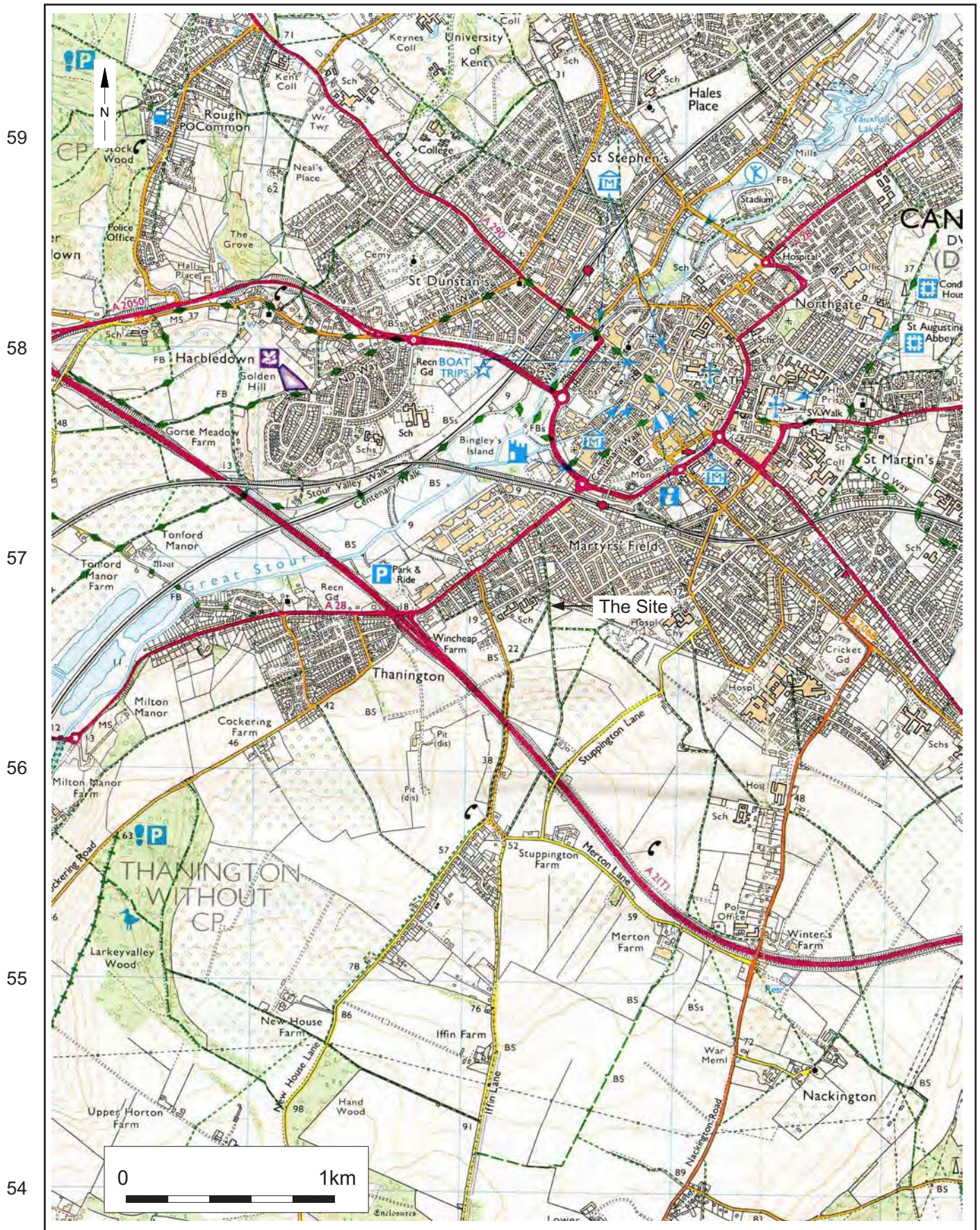
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© Archaeology South-East		Wincheap Primary School, Canterbury	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3520	Nov 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008183	Drawn by: SM		

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Site Plan

Fig. 2



© Archaeology South-East		Wincheap Primary School, Canturbury	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3520	Nov 2008	Site after removal of overburden	
Report Ref: 2008183	Drawn by: SM		

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