

DRAFT

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
North Borough Junior School, Peel Street, Maidstone, Kent.**

**NGR 576113 156991
TQ 76113 56991**

Planning Ref: MA/07/TEMP/0056

**Project No. 3304
Report No. 2008218
Oasis ID. 52785**

**by
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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the main building of North Borough Junior School, Peel Street in Maidstone, Kent. The work comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks including a topsoil strip and trenching for services and foundations. Monitoring took place during the 28th and 29th of July 2008. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were noted during the course of watching brief and it seems likely that modern disturbance may have served to destroy any archaeological remains had they been present. The general stratigraphy comprised, top soil, over made-ground, with the underlying solid geology formed by sands of the Sandgate Beds.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), was commissioned by King and Johnston Building Contractors Ltd on behalf of North Borough Junior School to undertake a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the main building of North Borough Junior School, Peel Street in Maidstone, Kent. (site centred NGR 576113 156991, Fig. 1).

- 1.2 Kent County Council's planning reference for the proposal was MA/07/TEMP/0056.

- 1.3 The KCC Heritage Conservation Group advised Kent County Council' that the following condition, for a programme of archaeological work should be placed on the planning consent for the development:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, 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.

- 1.4 The monitored groundworks comprised the machine excavation of foundations and services as well as ancillary works.
- 1.5 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are 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.
- 1.6 The British Geological Survey sheet shows that the site is situated on a narrow band of Sandgate Beds between a capping of Folkestone Beds to the immediate east and an exposure of Hythe Beds to the immediate west.
- 1.7 A specification for these works was prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group at KCC. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist) on the 28th and 29th of July 2008. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located in the north of Maidstone, between the River Medway and Penenden Heath, just south of the Invicta Park Barracks.

- 2.2 In 1939, a group of Iron Age urns, Romano British pottery sherds and associated finds were located during the construction of ARP trenches

within 25m of the application site (1: TQ 75 NE 25). A Second World War anti tank ditch surrounds the school (6: TQ 75 NE 147) and prehistoric and Roman find spots have been made further away. The Roman road from Maidstone to Rochester ran 350m to the west.

- 2.3 The HER data revealed twenty pages of archaeological entries within a 500m radius of the site. A selection of those deemed most relevant are tabulated below and illustrated on Figure 1.

| N.o | HER No. | NGR | Description |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | TQ 75 NE 25 - MKE1900 | TQ 7611 5699 | Belgic Cinerary Urns & Roman Pottery found at Northborough County Primary School, Maidstone. |
| 2 | TQ 75 NE 54 - MKE1929 | TQ 7625 5655 | Romano-British bronze figure & 2 coins, found near Boxley Road, Maidstone. |
| 3 | TQ 75 NE 66 - MKE1941 | TQ 7646 5682 | Bronze Age round scraper found at 4, Knowle Road, Maidstone. |
| 4 | TQ 75 NE 79 - MKE1954 | TQ 758 568 | Romano-British coin found near 24 Albert Road, Maidstone. |
| 5 | TQ 75 NE 119 - MKE1989 | TQ 756 566 | Springfield Paper Mill, Maidstone. |
| 6 | TQ 75 NE 147 - MKE1997 | TQ 75971 56958 | World War II anti-tank ditch at Northborough County Primary School, Maidstone |
| 7 | TQ 75 NE 151 - MKE2001 | TQ 76718 56528 | World War II anti-tank ditch near Recreation Close, Maidstone |
| 8 | TQ 75 NE 191 - MKE15121 | TQ 758 575 | Icehouse (site), Invicta barracks, Maidstone |
| 9 | TQ 75 NE 270 - MKE16829 | TQ 7627 5749 | Limekiln in quarry square (site) |
| 10 | TQ 75 NE 418 - Mke21179 | TQ 75594 57052 | Post-medieval Pottery at Former Council Offices, Springfield, Maidstone. |

Table 1: HER entries from the vicinity of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The groundworks involved a topsoil strip to a maximum depth of 0.45m and foundation excavations to 1.00m (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 Groundworks were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until/unless it becomes clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils, below which there would be no archaeological remains present). Where possible excavation was undertaken using a flat bladed bucket in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be recorded prior to disturbance from being driven over. If possible archaeological remains were encountered, machine excavation ceased to allow the remains to be investigated further.

- 3.3 The archaeologist inspected the surfaces revealed. The main contractor allowed the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.
- 3.4 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards. A full photographic record was kept of the work as appropriate. The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1. The deposits encountered during the course of the groundworks consisted of:

| Number | Type | Description | Max. Depth |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 001 | Deposit | mid grey brown sandy silt | 0.45m |
| 002 | Deposit | light orange brown clay silt | 0.2m |
| 003 | Deposit | mid orange brown Sandgate Beds | unknown |

Table 2: Encountered deposits.

- 4.2 A topsoil strip extended over the area of the new extension (see Fig. 2). The removed topsoil (Context **[001]**) comprised of mid grey brown sandy silt friable consistency. It contained occasional inclusions of rounded pebbles as well as charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered during the strip and no archaeological features were encountered.
- 4.3 The excavations of the foundation trenches (see Fig. 2 for locations) occurred after the removal of the topsoil. The further deposits encountered comprised firstly a light orange brown clay silt with no noticeable inclusions (Context **[002]**). Directly beneath **[002]** was the mid orange brown Sandgate Beds natural **[003]**. This deposit was disturbed by drains, however no archaeological features or finds were encountered.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The underlying geology encountered during the course of the groundworks comprised Sandgate Beds.
- 5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were noted during the course of watching brief. The site had received a degree of disturbance during the construction of the adjacent school. It seemed likely that the natural ground had been truncated to some depth by this disturbance, which would have served to destroy any archaeological remains had they been present. Made ground **[002]** is thought to be a levelling deposit.

SMR Summary Form

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|---|----------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | NBS08 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | North Borough Junior School, Maidstone, Kent | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Kent County Council | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | NGR 576113 156991 | | | | | |
| Geology | Sandgate Beds | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 3304 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | Watching Brief ✓ | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Other School Grounds | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | WB. 28 th – 29 th July 2008 | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | King and Johnston Building Contractors Ltd | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Neil Griffin and Louise Rayner | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Dylan Hopkinson | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. | Neo. | BA | IA | RB |
| | AS | MED | PM | Other Modern✓ | | |
| <p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the main building of North Borough Junior School, Peel Street in Maidstone, Kent.. The work comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks including a topsoil strip and trenching for services and foundations. Monitoring took place during the 28th and 29th of July 2008. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were noted during the course of watching brief and it seems likely that modern disturbance may have served to destroy any archaeological remains had they been present. The general stratigraphy comprised, top soil, over made-ground, with the underlying solid geology formed by sands of the Sandgate Beds.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS ID: archaeol6-52785

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | An Archaeological Watching Brief at North Borough Junior School, Peel Street, Maidstone, Kent |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the main building of North Borough Junior School, Peel Street in Maidstone, Kent.. The work comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks including a topsoil strip and trenching for services and foundations. Monitoring took place during the 28th and 29th of July 2008. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were noted during the course of watching brief and it seems likely that modern disturbance may have served to destroy any archaeological remains had they been present. The general stratigraphy comprised, top soil, over made-ground, with the underlying solid geology formed by sands of the Sandgate Beds. |
| Project dates | Start: 28-07-2008 End: 29-07-2008 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | NBS08 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Community Service 1 - Community Buildings |
| Monument type | 0 None |
| Significant Finds | 0 None |
| Investigation type | 'Watching Brief' |
| Prompt | Planning condition |

Project location

Archaeology South East
North Borough Primary School, Maidstone, Kent.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE North Borough Junior School |
| Postcode | ME14 2XX |
| Study area | 50.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 576113 156991 50.9186181222 0.242562104639 50 55 07 N 000 14 33 E Point |
| Lat/Long Datum | Unknown |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 0.60m Max: 0.70m |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South East |
| Project brief originator | Heritage Conservation Kent County Council |
| Project design originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project director/manager | Neil Griffin |
| Project supervisor | Dylan Hopkinson |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | school |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | King and Johnston Building Contractors Ltd |

Project archives

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
|--------------------------|----|

Digital Archive
Exists? No

Paper Archive
Exists? No

**Project
bibliography 1**

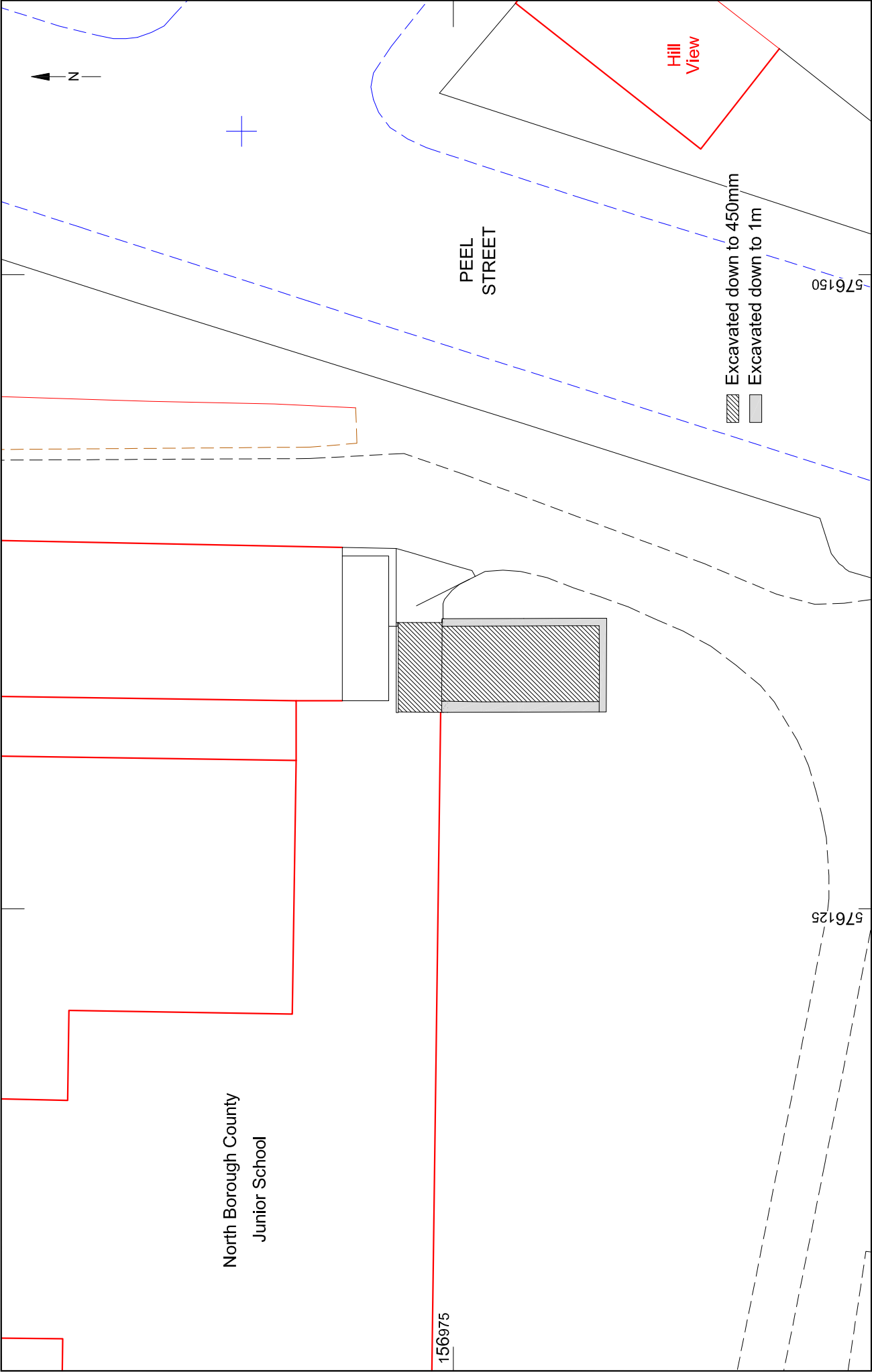
| | |
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|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | North Borough Primary School | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 3304 | March 2009 | Site Location and HER Data | |
| Report Ref: 2008218 | Drawn by: HLF | | |

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|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | North Borough County Junior School | | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 3304 | March 2009 | Site Plan Showing Monitored Areas | | |
| Report Ref: 2008218 | Drawn by: HLF | | | |