

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Morehall Primary School, Chart Road,
Folkestone, Kent**

NGR TR 20758 36864

Project No. 3597

Site Code: MSC 08

ASE Report No. 2008153

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks at Morehall Primary School, Chart Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR TR 20758 36864). The monitoring was carried out between 8th And 9th September 2008 on behalf of Neilcott Special Works Ltd. for the client Kent County Council (KCC). An area measuring approximately 15m by 33m was excavated to the north of the main school building for the construction of a new Modular Children's Centre building.

The ground works revealed overburden deposits consisting of modern made ground associated with construction for the building that was previously located on the site. Archaeological deposit survival appears to have been greatly reduced as a result of the foundations and service runs associated with this previous building. It is likely that this activity has removed or displaced any historic deposits that may have once overlain the natural stratum.

No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. The underlying natural geology, comprising Folkestone Beds, was encountered at a minimal depth of 0.35m and a maximum depth of 0.55m below ground level.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background and Location

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the UCL Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Neilcott Specialist Works Ltd on behalf of Kent County Council (KCC) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works for the construction of a Modular Children's Centre at Morehall Primary School, Chart Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR TR 20758 36864) (Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The site is located between the M20 and the railway line, east of Cheriton and approximately 500m northwest of Folkestone West station. The working area is bounded to the west by a car parking area and residential properties, to the north and east by recreational fields/play area and to the south by a further playground and the main school building (Figure 2).

1.1.3 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 305/306, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000) the underlying geology comprises Folkestone Beds.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Local planning authorities in Kent, including Kent County Council Planning Applications Group, received advice regarding archaeological matters from the Heritage & Conservation Group ((HCG) of Kent County Council (KCC). In this case, the HCG, requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks.

1.2.2 A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief was prepared by the HCG in April 2008. This outlined the strategy for the fieldwork and was followed throughout the watching brief programme.

1.3 Scope of Report

- 1.3.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief monitoring carried out at Morehall Primary School, Chart Road, Folkestone, Kent in accordance with the Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief drawn-up by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group.
- 1.3.2 The groundworks were monitored by an ASE Archaeologist between the 8th and 9th September 2008. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeological Field Officer). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Existing Disturbances

2.1.1 Prior to the programme of redevelopment works, the working area was the location of another school building. This was demolished prior to the watching brief monitoring. The foundations and services (e.g. drainage) associated with this building are likely to have truncated/disturbed potential archaeological layers.

2.2 Potential

2.2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the sites proximity to archaeological remains recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER). The site lies approximately 350m west of a late Iron Age and Roman findspot at Harvey Grammar School. Earlier prehistoric remains have been found to the north of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief, as set out in the Specification (HCG 2008) were as follows:

- To contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavation in connection with the development.
- To specifically identify any areas of modern ground disturbance and record the depth, character and date of any archaeological horizons or potential archaeological horizons revealed.
- To inform on the scope and extent of any subsequent archaeological work.

3.1.2 In this regard, all intrusive groundworks were monitored in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundworks were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Particular attention was to be made to the extent, character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

3.2 The Ground-works

3.2.1 The intrusive ground works comprised the excavation of footing trenches (for the erection of new retaining walls) (Figure 3) around the perimeter of the working area. Forty-two foundation pits/pads were also excavated in advance of the construction of the new building. On arrival at site on the 8th September 2008, the existing building had been demolished and the working area had been levelled and tracked-over.

3.3 Excavation Methodology

- 3.3.1 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. The 3.5 tonne mechanical excavator was fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits. Unclear surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.3.2 A day-to-day digital photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief.
- 3.3.3 As only simple stratigraphic sequences were uncovered during the watching brief monitoring, representative sections (1m wide) of revealed contexts were sketched (Figure 4). A sketched plan showing the monitored groundworks and representative sections has been included for reference within this report (Figs. 3 & 4).
- 3.3.4 A series of levels were taken around the site, but unfortunately these have not been related to Ordnance Datum as there was no access to a known bench mark in the vicinity whilst onsite. The foresight data is recorded as part of the archive for the site. For reference, the levels used within this report are in relation to a fixed onsite datum (a nearby manhole cover: M9 060 B125/B.S. EN124) with the value of 0. The actual heights relating to Ordnance Datum will be calculated as soon as the necessary TBM value becomes available and the report will be updated accordingly.
- 3.3.5 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

3.4 The Archive

- 3.4.1 The site archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, East Sussex pending submission to a suitable local museum. The

contents of the site archive are summarised in Table 1.

3.4.2 Table 1: Quantification of the Site Archive

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	30 Digital photographs taken
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction (Figures 2,3 & 4)

4.1.1 The development area located north of the main school building measured approximately fifteen metres north-south and thirty-three metres east-west. Only three contexts were recorded across the entire area during all of the groundworks. These were recorded as follows:

4.1.2 Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (max)	Max Height (see 3.3.4)
001	Deposit	Topsoil	550mm	0.65
002	Deposit	Made-ground	500mm	0.05
003	Deposit	Natural	-	0.15

4.2 Footing Trenches (Figs. 3 & 4)

A series of footing trenches were excavated around the perimeter of the working area, extending along the north edge, western edge and part of the southern edge (in the southwest corner). Measuring 1.5m wide and a maximum depth of 1.05m deep, these trenches were machine-excavated for the new retaining wall using a flat-bladed bucket.

4.2.1 The southern footing trench measuring c.12m by 1.5m extended along the south-western edge of the working area at an angle (in line with the site perimeter). This trench was stepped towards the eastern end. The stratigraphy within this trench comprised natural geology [003] consisting of compact mottled yellow-orange sand with grey-brown lenses to the limit of excavation at a maximum depth of c.1.05m sealed by topsoil [001] to a maximum depth of 550mm (Fig. 4 S1). No archaeological remains were uncovered within this trench.

4.2.2 The western footing trench measuring c.15m by 1.5m extended along the

western edge of the working area. The stratigraphy within this trench comprised natural geology [003] to the limit of excavation sealed by modern made ground [002] to a maximum depth of 500mm (Fig. 4, S2). This made-ground/hardcore debris is left-over from the foundations of the original building that stood in this area prior to the redevelopment works. It is likely that the deposit [002] would have originally extended across the central part of the working area, which has since been reduced and was therefore only observed in the east-facing section of the western footing trench. No archaeological remains were uncovered within this trench.

- 4.2.3 The northern footing trench measuring c.33m by 1.5m extended along the northern edge of the working area. The stratigraphy within this trench comprised topsoil [001] to a maximum depth of 400mm, overlying natural geology [003] to the limit of excavation at a maximum depth of c.700mm (Fig. 4, S3, S4). No archaeological remains were uncovered within this trench.

4.3 Pile Excavations (Figure 3)

A total of forty-two foundation pads, measuring c.800mm² and c.900mm deep (from the formation level) were excavated to provide foundations for the new proposed building. Since these pads were excavated below the level of natural geology only [003] was exposed within them. Service pipes for drainage and occasional concrete slabs were also observed truncating natural geology within this area. No archaeological cut features or finds were uncovered within these trenches.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Finds Quantification

5.1.1 The excavations at Morehall Primary School produced only a few finds. A summary of the assemblage can be found in Table 3. All finds were recovered from topsoil [001].

5.1.2 Table 3: Quantification of the Finds

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)
001	1	4	4	84	2	16

5.2 The Pottery and Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 A single unglazed red earthenware flowerpot fragment was recovered from the topsoil. The fragment dates to the mid 19th to 20th century. Also from the topsoil are two low fired, sparse fine sand-tempered pieces of fired clay, both of which are amorphous.

5.2.2 The assemblage is very small, late in date and unstratified, and does therefore not hold any potential for further analysis. It is recommended that the finds are discarded.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A small assemblage of post medieval and modern ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from the topsoil, context [001].

5.3.2 A single fragment of fine sand tempered roof tile was identified and dates to the 18th or 19th centuries.

5.3.4 A total of three abraded brick fragments from context [001] were also present. A brick fragment of sparse fine tempered fabric with poorly mixed clay

marbling and occasional clay pellet inclusions up to 4mm dates from the 18th to 19th centuries. A second brick fragment of fine sand tempered fabric with no visible inclusions dates from the 18th to 19th centuries. The third fragment is of a fine sand tempered brick with sparse quartz grain inclusions up to 3mm and dates to the mid 19th to 20th century.

5.3.5 There is no potential for further work upon the assemblage and it is recommended that the material is discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological deposits or features were recorded during the archaeological watching brief at the Modular Children's Centre at Morehall Primary School. The underlying natural geology, comprising Folkestone Beds, was encountered at a minimal depth of 0.35m and a maximum depth of 0.55m below ground level.
- 6.2 The ground works revealed overburden deposits consisting of modern made ground associated with construction works for the building that was previously located on the site. Archaeological deposit survival appears to have been greatly reduced as a result of the foundations and service runs associated with this previous building. It is likely that this activity has removed or displaced any historic deposits that may have once overlain the natural stratum.
- 6.3 The small assemblage of recovered material from the topsoil is indicative of late post-medieval activity.
- 6.4 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 redevelopment programme.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The author would also like to thank the staff and students of Morehall Primary School for their patience and understanding during these works.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	MSC 08					
Identification Name and Address	Morehall Primary School, Folkestone					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 620758 136864					
Geology	Folkestone Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3597					
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. 08 th – 9 th Sept. 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	<i>Kent County Council (KCC)</i>					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Kathy Grant					
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 maintained during groundworks at Morehall Primary School, Chart Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR TR 20758 36864). The monitoring was carried out between 8th And 9th September 2008 on behalf of Neilcott Special Works Ltd. for the client Kent County Council (KCC). An area measuring approximately 15m by 33m was excavated to the north of the main school building for the construction of a new Modular Children's Centre building.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were encountered.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-53668

Project details

Project name Morehall Primary School, Folkestone

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks at Morehall Primary School, Chart Road, Folkestone, Kent (NGR 620758 136864). The monitoring was carried out between 8th And 9th September 2008 on behalf of Neilcott Construction Ltd. for the client Kent County Council (KCC). An area measuring approximately 15m by 33m was excavated to the north of the main school building for the construction of a new Modular Children's Centre building. No archaeological cut features were uncovered within the trench. Although a made-ground deposit was encountered along the western edge of site, the only other overburden deposit was topsoil. Modern service pipes were seen truncating natural deposits during the construction works.

Project dates Start: 08-09-2008 End: 09-09-2008

Any associated project reference codes MSC - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Methods & techniques 'Visual Inspection'

Development type Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT SHEPWAY FOLKESTONE Morehall Primary School

Postcode CT19 4

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Heritage Conservation Kent County Council

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

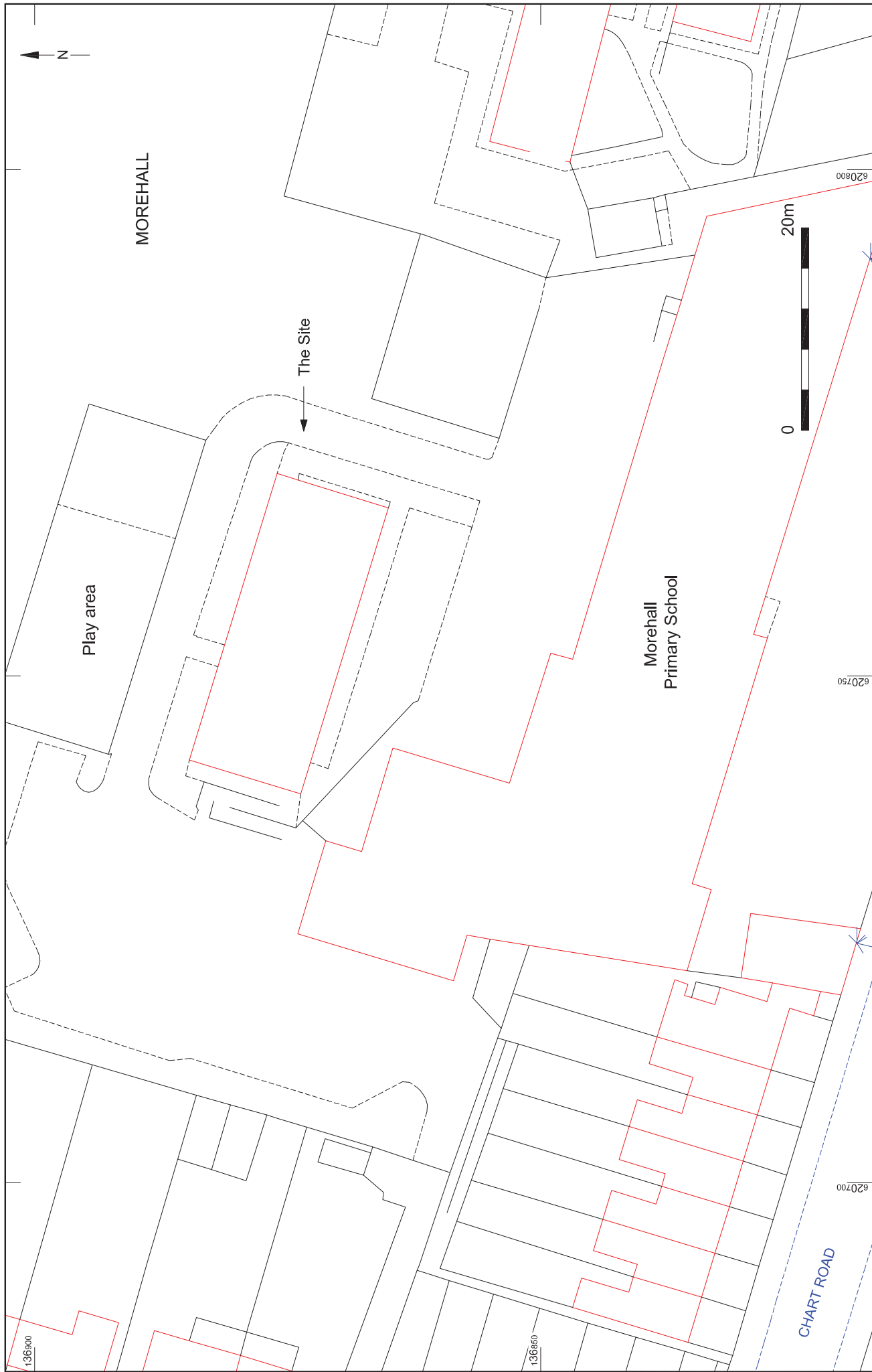
Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

Type of sponsor/funding body County Council



© Archaeology South-East		Morehall Primary School, Folkstone	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3597	Jan 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008153	Drawn by: HLF		

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Project Ref: 3597	Jan 2009	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2008153	Drawn by: HLF	Fig. 2	

