

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Inclusion and Family Centre, The Marsh Academy, Station Road,  
New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB**

**NGR: 606839 125119  
(TR 06839 25119)**

**Planning Ref: SH/11/0189**

**Project No: 5154  
Site Code: MAA 09**

**ASE Report No: 2012070  
Oasis No: archaeol6-121813**

**Dylan Hopkinson MA**

**With contributions by Luke Barber, Liz Chambers  
Trista Clifford, Dr Matt Pope, Sarah Porteus, Lucy Sibun  
John Whittaker, T. Walker and D.S. Young**

**March 2012**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Inclusion and Family Centre, The Marsh Academy, Station  
Road,  
New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB**

**NGR: 606839 125119  
(TR 06839 25119)**

**Planning Ref: SH/11/0189**

**Project No: 5154  
Site Code: MAA 09**

**ASE Report No: 2012070  
Oasis No: archaeol6-121813**

**Dylan Hopkinson MA**

**With contributions by Luke Barber, Liz Chambers  
Trista Clifford, Dr Matt Pope, Sarah Porteus, Lucy Sibun  
John Whittaker, T. Walker and D.S. Young**

**March 2012**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy to conduct an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB.*

*A single geoarchaeological test pit revealed similar evidence to that recorded in a previous phase of work to the north. This showed the upper part of a marine/estuarine sequence. Weathered alluvium containing areas of unweathered alluvium was observed at the top of the sequence. This evidence along with analysis of mollusc and micropalaeontological remains indicates a tidal environment subjected to high energy events (i.e. storm surges) and may relate to the silting of the harbour following a period of storms in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century.*

*A small number of late medieval or early post-medieval features were revealed in the evaluation trenches, including clusters of postholes which may represent a structure.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Geoarchaeological and Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Methodology**
- 4.0 Archaeological Results**
- 5.0 Geoarchaeological Results**
- 6.0 Finds**
- 7.0 The Molluscs and Micropalaeontological Remains**
- 8.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**Appendix A: Gazetteer of Sites, Finds and Listed Buildings within a 500m radius of the site**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Summary**

## **TABLES**

Table 1:	Quantification of site archive
Table 2:	Trench 10 Sediment Log
Table 3:	List of contexts in Trench 5
Table 4:	List of contexts in Trench 6
Table 5:	List of contexts in Trench 7
Table 6:	List of contexts in Trench 8
Table 7:	List of contexts in Trench 9
Table 8:	Quantification of finds
Table 9:	Provisional CBM fabric series
Table 10:	Summary of molluscs at 0.5m
Table 11:	Summary of molluscs at 0.9m
Table 12:	Summary of samples processed for microfossils
Table 13:	Summary of organic remains, foraminifera and ostracods in samples 1-3

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Trench location
Figure 3:	Trench 5 plan, sections and photographs
Figure 4:	Trench 6 plan, sections and photograph
Figure 5:	Trench 7 plan, and photograph

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy to undertake an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB (NGR 606839 125119; Fig. 1)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology of the site comprises Marine Alluvium (Clay) with Marine Alluvium (Sand) to the east and south west and Storm Gravel Beach Deposits to the west (BGS; 1:50,000 map sheets 305/306 – Folkestone and Dover).

1.2.2 The site is located near the northern edge of New Romney town, immediately to the east of Dymchurch Road at the junction with Station Road to the south. Currently the site consists of various footings for temporary buildings and associated hard standing and grassed areas, over an area of 2750m<sup>2</sup>.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3 A planning application (SH/11/0189) has been made to develop the site into an Inclusion and Family Centre attached to the Marsh Academy. On the basis of present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for the Local Planning Authority recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site and guide appropriate mitigation measures for the future development.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 A Specification for the archaeological work was prepared in advance of the evaluation by Kent County Council (KCC 2011). The document set out the following aims and objectives:

#### **1.4.2 General**

- To determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate.

#### **1.4.3 Specific**

- To identify evidence of medieval coastal activity and clarify the nature and extent of that activity;
- To identify evidence of post medieval coastal activity and clarify the nature and extent of that activity;
- To provide an assessment of the medieval and post medieval environment and landscape, especially evidence for the retreat of the sea or marine activity (storm deposits etc).

**1.5 Scope of the Report**

- 1.5.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 28<sup>th</sup> February and the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), Dr Matt Pope (Geoarchaeologist), Liz Chambers (Assistant Geoarchaeologist) Cat Douglas (Assistant Archaeologist), and Rob Cole (Surveyor).
- 1.5.2 The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post-excavation analysis).

## **2.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 New Romney may have been an early medieval trading centre and port and it developed into an important medieval port and market town. It was one of the original five Cinque Ports. It lost its access to the sea and its port facilities during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, mainly due to natural storms and diversion of the River Rother. It retains much of its medieval and post medieval character and the limited extent of modern development appears to have ensured good survival of buried archaeological remains.
- 2.1.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by KCC, and held at County Hall, Maidstone, was consulted for records relating to an area within a 500m radius of the current site. The results are tabulated, numbered 1 – 55, in Appendix A and plotted on Figure 1.

### **2.2 Geoarchaeological Background**

- 2.2.1 Romney Marsh is a dynamic environment and the third largest coastal wetland in Britain (Rippon, 2000, 2002) with a huge potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains. Geo-archaeological assessment work is needed to clarify the nature of the resource and how it may be affected by this development, especially the foundations.
- 2.2.2 New Romney is situated on the edge of Romney Marsh, within 1 mile of the present coastline. Historically this area was formed from enclosure/drainage on Romney Marsh (to the north) and later land reclamation (to the south) (Rippon, 2002). Over the centuries it has been subjected to a variety of coastal and estuarine activity. The nature of the migrating cusped foreland means that this area has seen, not only episodes of erosion and destruction (i.e. storm events), but also periods of sediment accumulation and land reclamation (Gulliver 1897).
- 2.2.3 There has been some debate over the original course and diversion of the River Rother that flowed into New Romney. This was a freshwater river but the flow would not have been strong enough to shift the amounts of silt that would have been deposited by the tide in the marine inlet at New Romney (Eddison, 1988, 1995).
- 2.2.4 Storm events have played a significant role in the development of New Romney. A historically documented period of bad weather during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, culminated in the Great Storm of 1287, which was probably a cause of the diversion of the river. Deposits linked with this event have been tentatively identified in geoarchaeological investigations in New Romney, at three locations on Fairfield Road just to the north-west of the current site (Linklater 2001; Jarrett 2002; ASE 2009).
- 2.2.5 Erosional/depositional environments specific to coastlines necessarily lead to changes in land usage as areas are repeatedly flooded and drained. The calcareous and decalcified soils of Romney Marsh and the surrounding area, as originally identified by R. D. Green (1968), are direct evidence of this.
- 2.2.6 To the south was a shingle headland (called Great Stone) said to be the northern limit of the Dungeness shingle and probably in existence since the early 1600's. By about 1800 shingle also started to move south from Dymchurch and began to form a spit (named Little Stone) and a barrier to the sea. The 1816 Ordinance Survey map shows an embayment still present east of New Romney, called Romney Sand, fringed by saltmarsh. The building of sea walls in the 19th century saw this bay finally closed by 1900.



2.2.7 A previous phase of geoarchaeological work at the site was located less than 100m to the north of the current Trench 10 (ASE 2010a). These four test pits showed that the depth of alluvium thickened appreciably to the south and the range of depositional environments increased. The presence and preservation of microfossils was noted as being exceptional.

### **2.3 Archaeological Background**

2.3.1 Information held on the HER suggests that the Academy buildings lie on alluvium deposited during or after the medieval and post medieval periods. Organic remains (wood, leather) of prehistoric and medieval date may survive as well as palaeoenvironmental remains.

2.3.2 The site (formerly known as Southlands School) was subject to archaeological investigations for a new block constructed around 1999. The investigations, close to the Dymchurch Road, revealed evidence of medieval coastal activity including a pit or ditch, kiln and possible road, all associated with medieval and later pottery (HER No: TR 02 NE 64).

2.3.3 The site has been subject to several previous phases of archaeological work. Much of the work along the Dymchurch Road side has revealed evidence of medieval and post medieval coastal activity (ASE 2010a; 2010b).

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Specification prepared by Heritage Conservation Unit KCC (KCC 2011) and followed the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008). Wendy Rogers, of Heritage Conservation Unit KCC, was informed of progress of works and was available to meet on site to review progress.

#### **3.2 Geoarchaeological Methodology** by Liz Chambers

3.2.1 The geoarchaeological investigation consisted of one machine excavated test pit (designated as Trench 10), measuring 2m<sup>2</sup> x 2.5m (maximum depth). This was scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT).

3.2.2 The trench was dug under constant supervision by a geoarchaeologist and detailed sediment logs were made. All units and unit boundaries were fully described following the methodology of Jones *et al.* (2000) and Tucker (1996).

3.2.3 Three samples were taken from different depths, 0.50m, 0.90m and 1.70m, for mollusc and micropalaeontological (micropal.) analysis. The mollusc samples were sent to the relevant specialists, for processing and assessment.

#### **3.3 Archaeological Methodology**

3.3.1 The methodology comprised the excavation of 5 trenches; their locations recorded using a survey grade digital GPS (Fig. 2). As previous phases of work have been conducted by ASE under the same site code, the trench numbers begin with Trench 5.

3.3.2 Once the trenches and excavation area had been scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanner, they were excavated under archaeological supervision by a mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All the trenches were left open to allow potential features to weather-out.

3.3.3 The machine was used to remove undifferentiated made ground or overburden in spits of no more than c. 100mm until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments were reached. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits by over machining.

3.3.4 All archaeological features were recorded following procedures outlined in the MoLAS site manual (1994). Features and sections were drawn on plastic drafting film. Features and deposits were described on standard ASE *pro-forma* recording sheets. A photographic record of all features was made in digital format and with black and white and colour slide film.

3.3.5 All archaeological finds retrieved from sealed archaeological contexts were collected. Archaeological features were bulk sampled to retrieve environmental material and evidence of industrial residues.

#### **3.4 Onsite constraints**

3.4.1 Trench 5 was originally planned to measure 20m x 1.8m. Owing to the presence of live services, the centre of the trench could not be excavated.

### 3.5 Site Archive

3.5.1 The site archive is currently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex. The local museum is not presently accepting archaeological archives. The contents of the archive (tabulated below) will continue to be held by Archaeology South-East until a long term storage solution can be found:

Trench Record Sheets	5
Number of Context Register Sheets	1
Number of Context Sheets	25
Photographic Record Sheets	3
Photographs	34
Drawing Sheets	2
Bulk Sample Register Sheets	?
Bulk Sample Record Sheets	?
No. of files/paper record	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The earliest deposits identified in Trench 10 were a sequence of marine sands and gravels, recorded from the base of the trench to a depth of 0.9m. These were overlain weathered alluvium to a depth of 0.25m and sealed by made-ground. A detailed sediment log is presented below in Table 2.

Depth (m)	Stratigraphy	Lithology	Colour	Clast	Sample	Notes
0	Made Ground	-	-	-	-	Brick and crushed concrete.
0.25	Weathered Alluvium	Clay Silt	10YR 6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	Clinker Fragments 10-15mm	-	Contaminated with made ground
0.5	Weathered Alluvium	Clay Silt	10YR 6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	Abundant molluscs	Sample 1	Patch of unweathered blue-grey alluvium mid trench
0.9	Marine Sands and Gravels	Medium Sand	10YR 6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	40-60% rounded flint cobbles 20-50mm. Oyster shell	Sample 2	Grades into overlying alluvium
1.2	Marine Sand	Medium Sand	10YR 6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	40-60% rounded flint cobbles 20-50mm. Oyster shell		Abrupt contact with below.
1.4	Blue Marine Sand	Medium Sand	Blue-grey	40-60% rounded flint cobbles 20-50mm. Oyster shell		Appears to fill channel cut into below which deepens to the west.
1.7	Blue Marine Sand	Medium Sand	Blue-grey	40-60% rounded flint cobbles 20-50mm. Oyster shell	Sample 3	Channel Fill
2.1	Marine Gravel	Medium Sand	10YR 6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	80% rounded flint cobbles 20-60mm		Apparently Bedded, high energy marine.
2.5	Base of Hole	Medium Sand	10YR 6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	80% rounded flint cobbles 20-60mm		

Table 2: Trench 10 Sediment Log

## 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

#### 5.1.1 Natural geology and geoarchaeological deposits

A natural deposit, [5/003], comprising loose pale yellow sandy marine gravels, was identified at a height of 2.36m AOD at the south-eastern end of the trench and 2.94m AOD in the north-western end. In the south-east these gravels were overlain by alluvium, [5/008], that was up to 0.34m thick.

#### 5.1.2 Subsoil

In the north-western part of the trench, the natural gravels were overlain by 0.23m of firm dark grey brown silty clay subsoil [5/002].

#### 5.1.3 Pit [5/005]

A large rounded pit, [5/005], cut the subsoil [5/002]. This was 1.95m in length by 0.50m in width, extending north-east into the trench section. The pit contained two fills, [5/006] and [5/007], of mid brown silty clay and contained modern finds, including a soft drinks can.

#### 5.1.4 Overburden

The pit was sealed by a layer of geotextile overlain by [5/004], a layer of friable pale yellowy brown gravels and silts up to 0.11m thick and in turn by the topsoil, [5/001], consisting of friable dark brown sandy silt

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.11 - 0.57m
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.23m
5/003	Deposit	Natural marine gravels and intertidal silts	-
5/004	Fill	Made ground	0.11m
5/005	Cut	Modern pit cut	0.79m
5/006	Masonry	Upper fill of [5/005]	0.30m
5/007	Fill	Lower fill of [5/005]	0.40m
5/008	Deposit	Alluvium	0.34m

Table 3: List of contexts in Trench 5

## **5.2 Trench 6 (Fig. 4)**

### **5.2.1 Natural geology**

In Trench 6, a natural deposit, [6/004], comprising loose pale yellow sandy marine gravels, was identified at a height of 2.66m AOD at the south-eastern end of the trench and 3.11m AOD in the north-western end.

### **5.2.2 Pit [6/006]**

In the north-western corner of the trench a small pit, [6/006], measuring 0.18m deep and 1.20m by 0.50m, extended out of the trench to the south and west. This was filled by, [6/005], a friable mid brown sandy silt and very common gravels containing CBM and animal bone.

### **5.2.3 Posthole group**

Directly to the east of pit [6/006] was a small cluster of three small postholes that ranged in size from 0.25m to 0.33m wide and from 0.08 m to 0.23m deep. Two of these, [6/008] and [6/010], were round in plan; while the third, [6/012], was squared. They all contained identical fills of loose gravels in mid brown sandy silt matrixes and contained no finds (fills [6/007], [6/009], and [6/012] respectively).

### **5.2.4 Geoarchaeological deposits and overburden**

All the cut features were sealed below [6/003], a deposit of slightly plastic dark brown sandy silt, containing frequent gravels, from which a small quantity of CBM was recovered. This layer was 0.18m thick in the north-west and 0.45m thick in the south-east

A zone of silty sands, [6/002] was seen to overly this layer in the north-western 3.2m of the trench and contained fine micro lenses of light yellow sand and brown silt throughout, no finds were recovered from this layer which was up to 0.27m thick.

The final deposit was, [6/011], a thick deposit of firm dark brown sandy silt topsoil. This was 0.50m thick over most of the trench but 0.80m thick close to the bank of Dymchurch Road. A small quantity of CBM was recovered

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.80m
6/002	Deposit	Storm deposited sands	0.27m
6/003	Deposit	Subsoil	0.45m
6/004	Deposit	Natural marine gravels	0.18m
6/005	Fill	Fill of pit [6/006]	0.18m
6/006	Cut	Pit cut filled by [6/005]	0.18m
6/007	Fill	Fill of posthole [6/008]	0.18m
6/008	Cut	Posthole cut filled by [6/007]	0.18m
6/009	Fill	Fill of posthole [6/010]	0.23m
6/010	Cut	Posthole cut filled by [6/009]	0.23m
6/011	Fill	Fill of posthole [6/012]	0.08m
6/012	Cut	Posthole cut filled by [6/011]	0.08m

Table 4: List of contexts in Trench 6

### 5.3 Trench 7 (Fig. 5)

#### 5.3.1 Natural geology

A natural deposit, [7/003], comprising loose pale yellow sandy marine gravels, was identified at a height of 2.80m AOD at the north-eastern end of the trench and 2.98m AOD in the south-western end.

#### 5.3.2 Postholes

In the north-eastern end of the trench a single squared posthole, [7/010], was identified cutting the natural geology; this measured 0.86m by 0.60m and was filled with [7/011], a dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels containing animal bone and CBM.

In the south-western end of the trench, a further small rectangular posthole was observed measuring 0.52m by 0.43m. This was filled with a similar of dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravels, [7/013]; no finds were recovered from the fill of this feature.

#### 5.3.3 Overburden

Both features were overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of mid grey brown gravelly silt subsoil, [7/009], and then by a 0.50m thick deposit of dark brown sandy silt topsoil, [7/001].

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.50m
7/003	Deposit	Natural marine gravels	-
7/009	Deposit	Subsoil	0.30m
7/010	Cut	Cut of squared posthole	0.12m
7/011	Fill	Fill of posthole 7/010	0.12m
7/012	Cut	Cut of squared posthole	0.11m
7/013	Fill	Fill of posthole 7/012	0.11m

Table 5: List of contexts in Trench 7

## 5.4 Trench 8 and 9

### 5.4.1 Natural geology

In Trenches 8 and 9, a natural deposit, [8/003] / [9/003], comprising firm orangeish-brown clay, was identified at a consistent height of around 2.35m AOD.

### 5.4.2 Overburden

No archaeological features were observed within either of these evaluation trenches. The natural marine gravels were sealed by a 0.60m thick deposit of firm mid brown alluvium, [8/002] / [9/002] and then by up to 0.50m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil, [8/001] / [9/001].

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.50m
8/002	Deposit	Alluvium	0.47m
8/003	Deposit	Natural marine gravels	-

Table 6: List of contexts in Trench 8

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.50m
9/002	Deposit	Alluvium	0.65m
9/003	Deposit	Natural marine gravels	-

Table 7: List of contexts in Trench 9



## 6.0 THE FINDS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Marsh Academy, New Romney. The finds are quantified in Table 8.

Context	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Metal	Wt (g)
Tr 10 0.8m			78	138				
5/006	3	90			1	20	1	4
6/001	2	2106						
6/003	2	572						
6/005	6	376	3	114				
7/001	1	630						
7/011	1	54	1	6				
8/002	4	518						
9/002			5	152				
Trench 5/ unstrat			1	106				
Total	19	4346	88	536	1	20	1	4

Table 8 Quantification of finds

### 6.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

#### 6.2.1 Introduction

A total of 19 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), with a combined weight of 4346g, were recovered from seven contexts. The material is all of later medieval to early post-medieval date.

#### 6.2.2 Method

The assemblage has been entered into an Excel spreadsheet for archive. A provisional fabric series has been drawn up with the aid of a X10 binocular microscope (Table 9). Fabric samples and items of interest have been retained for archive and the remainder of the material (approximately 35% by weight) has been discarded.

Fabric	Description	Form	Date	Contexts
T1	pinkish orange fine fabric with moderate fine cream silt speckles	Peg tile	C16th-C18th	5/006, 6/005, 7/011, 8/002
B1	Pale orange fabric with very sparse calcareous inclusions.	Brick?	C15th-mid C18th	5/006
B2	Orange sandy fabric with moderate coarse chunky cream silt inclusions and moderate coarse iron rich silt	Brick	C16th-mid C18th	6/001, 7/001
B3	Fine sandy fabric with pale yellow to orange colour	Brick	C14th-C16th	6/001, 6/005, 8/002
B4	Orange fine sandy fabric with sparse fine quartz inclusions	Brick	C15th-C17th	6/003
FT1	Fine sandy orange fabric with moderate fine quartz inclusions, no glaze remaining.	Floor tile	C15th-C16th	6/005

Table 9: Provisional CBM fabric series

### 6.2.3 Brick

The earliest material is most likely to be brick in fabric B3, a soft, under-fired, pale yellow brick fabric; this is possibly of Flemish origin and dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century. Brick in fabric B3 is unfrogged with rounded arises; it has a complete width of 105mm and a complete thickness of 55mm. An abraded upper surface was noted in a brick from context [6/001], suggesting use in flooring.

A fragment of orange brick fabric B4 was recovered from context [6/003]. This has a thickness of 49mm and is of possible Tudor date, although similar fabrics continue in use into the early post-medieval period. It can therefore be assigned a 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

A calcareous fabric of possible brick B1, similar to peg tile fabric T1 was recovered from context [5/006]. The fragment weights only 10g and may be a thick example of tile. This can be assigned to a broad 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date-range.

A later brick fabric, B2, of 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from contexts [6/001] and [7/001]. A complete example, measuring 215 by 100 by 49mm, is unfrogged. Both fragments have heavily abraded upper surfaces and are likely to have been used in paving or flooring.

### 6.2.4 Peg tile

A single peg tile fabric, T1, was identified; this is a calcareous fabric, common to Kent and similar to Canterbury Archaeological Trust fabric CAT32. The fabric is long lived and remains similar with only slight variations in form from the later medieval into the post-medieval period. Peg tile recovered from the evaluation was fragmentary with little evidence for complete form; it therefore has a broad 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date range.

### 6.2.5 Floor tile

A single highly abraded fragment of floor tile was recovered from context [6/005]. The tile retained a single knife cut edge with slight chamfer; no upper surface remained to identify glazing. The tile is of probable 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Floor tiles are often found in houses of the wealthy or ecclesiastical buildings.

#### 6.2.6 Overview

The small assemblage of ceramic building material is typical of fabrics and forms found during previous watching brief and evaluation work at the site. The presence of possible Flemish brick is common to the Kent and East Sussex coasts in the later medieval period. Calcareous peg tile fabric, T1, is also well represented across Kent and around New Romney. The majority of the brick fragments appear to have been used in paving or flooring rather than walling.

### 6.3 The Slag by Luke Barber

6.3.1 Context [5/006] produced a single piece of mid/dark grey aerated clinker of late post-medieval date.

### 6.4 The Metalwork by Trista Clifford

6.4.1 Context [5/006] contained a fragment from a modern steel drinks can. This has been discarded.

### 6.5 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

6.5.1 A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from three stratified and two unstratified contexts. The bone is in a good state of preservation but largely fragmented, with a number of conjoining fragments. Cattle long bone and mandible fragments were identified in [6/005] and a cattle radius in [9/002]. The remaining stratified context, [7/011] produced a single fragment of sheep-sized rib. A cattle metatarsal was unstratified in Trench 5 and a highly fragmented cattle horn-core and fragments of probable innominate were recorded from Trench 10 at 0.8m. Where it was possible to ascertain, the cattle fragments were from mature animals. The long bone fragment from [6/005] had been chopped transversely through the shaft.

## 7.0 THE MOLLUSCS AND MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL REMAINS

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Three small grab samples were taken from the geoarchaeological test pit (Trench 10) from depths of 0.50m, 0.90m and 1.70m, for mollusc and micropalaeontological analysis.

### 7.2 The Molluscs by T. Walker and D.S. Young

#### 7.2.1 Introduction

The overarching aim of this investigation was provide a preliminary interpretation of the environmental conditions at the time of the deposition of the Mollusca remains, to investigate the provenance of the mollusc assemblages in each of the samples, and to examine the nature and extent of human activity associated with the mollusc remains.

#### 7.2.2 Method

Three bulk samples were processed for the recovery of Mollusca remains. The extraction process involved the following procedures: (1) measuring the sample volume by water displacement, (2) disaggregating the sample in Hydrogen peroxide (10%) and (3) processing the sample by wet sieving using 300µm and 1mm mesh sizes. Each sample was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and the Mollusca were picked out and identified. Identifications are based on comparison with reference material and on descriptions in Beedham (1972), Hayward *et al.* (1996), Kerney (1999), Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macmillan (1968).

#### 7.2.3 Results

The largest assemblage was found at 0.5m below ground level in weathered alluvium of probable medieval to post medieval intertidal origin. The assemblage is summarised in Table 10

<i>Peringia ulvae</i>	78
<i>Trochulus</i> sp.	1
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	1

Table 10: Summary of molluscs at 0.5m

A smaller assemblage (summarised in Table 11) was found at 0.9m below ground level in high energy marine sands and gravels, possibly derived from a medieval storm beach event. In addition, a few very small fragments of the following marine shells were present: *Ostrea edulis* and *Tellina* sp.

<i>Peringia ulvae</i>	3
<i>Trochulus</i> sp.	2
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	1

Table 11: Summary of molluscs at 0.9m

No mollusc fragments were found at 1.7m in marine sands of medieval or pre-medieval date. This deposit was thought to represent an intertidal zone or channel. It did, however, contain 5 small fish bones, whole or fragmented. There is therefore no indication from the Mollusca remains of the local environment at the time this sample was deposited.

7.2.4 Discussion

*Peringia ulvae* is a very common species living in brackish water, found in estuaries, on mudflats and in saltmarshes. The 0.5m sample is therefore entirely consistent with an intertidal origin, but in a habitat which is not liable to high energy water flows. An estuarine or saltmarsh habitat is likely. The shells of the two terrestrial species (*Trochulus* and *Vallonia*) were probably washed in from the dry land above the intertidal zone. Both are common in coastal areas and nothing can be stated concerning the dry land habitat from these single specimens.

At 0.9m there are too few shells for reliable comment concerning their origin. It is not possible to determine whether they are from the local area or were washed in by tidal action from elsewhere. No comments can be made concerning the environment at the time of deposition. The marine shell fragments are of common species and are likely to have been washed in to the deposit.

7.3 The Microfossils by John Whittaker

7.3.1 Introduction

The purpose of the analysis was to establish the environment of New Romney and the associated estuary of the Rother at the time that deposits identified in Trench 10 were formed.

7.3.2 Method

The samples were placed in a ceramic bowl and dried in an oven. All the sediment provided was used in each case, it being broken up into small pieces, first, by hand. Hot water was then poured over the samples and a teaspoon of sodium carbonate added to remove the clay. They were left soaking overnight and then washed through a 75 micron sieve, using hand-hot water. Two of the samples broke down quite readily, but for Sample 1 the process had to be repeated to successfully remove the clay fraction. The residues were finally dried in an oven, before being put through a nest of sieves and examined under the binocular microscope. A summary of the samples is given in Table 12.

Sample no.	Depth	Weight processed
1	0.5m	190g
2	0.9m	255g
3	1.7m	180g

Table 12: Summary of samples processed for microfossils

7.3.3 Results

The organic remains, together with the species lists of all the various types of foraminifera and ostracods, are broken down by sample in Table 13 below. The colour-coding in the table is as follows: grey: calcareous foraminifera of low-mid saltmarsh and tidal flats; green: brackish ostracods of tidal flats and creeks; blue: essentially marine foraminifera and ostracod species, but able to penetrate outer estuaries. General organic remains are logged on a presence (x)/ absence basis only. Foraminifera are logged as follows: o - one specimen; x - a few specimens; xx – common.

Sample	1	2	3
Depth	0.5m	0.9m	1.7m
plant debris	x	x	x
iron minerals	x	x	
earthworm granules	x	x	
molluscs	x	x	x
fish remains	x	x	x
brackish foraminifera	x	x	
brackish ostracods	x	x	
marine/outer estuarine foraminifera		x	x
marine/outer estuarine ostracods		x	
insect remains			x
Ecology	<i>brackish estuary; intertidal mudflats</i>	<i>wide, open estuary</i>	
			<i>?storm event</i>
BRACKISH FORAMINIFERA			
Sample	1	2	3
Depth	0.5m	0.9m	1.7m
<i>Haynesina germanica</i>	xx	xx	
<i>Elphidium williamsoni</i>	x	xx	
<i>Ammonia</i> sp. (brackish)	o		
MARINE/OUTER ESTUARINE FORAMINIFERA			
<i>Ammonia batavus</i>		xx	xx
miliolids		x	
<i>Elphidium macellum</i>		x	
BRACKISH OSTRACODS			
Sample	1	2	3
Depth	0.5m	0.9m	1.7m
<i>Leptocythere castanea</i>	x		
<i>Loxoconcha elliptica</i>	x		
<i>Leptocythere psammophila</i>	x	x	
MARINE/OUTER ESTUARINE OSTRACODS			
<i>Pontocythere elongata</i>		x	
<i>Leptocythere pellucida</i>		x	
<i>Urocythereis britannica</i>		x	
<i>Loxoconcha rhomboidea</i>		x	
<i>Heterocythereis albomaculata</i>		o	
<i>Hemicythere villosa</i>		o	
<i>Cythere lutea</i>		o	

Table 13: Summary of organic remains, foraminifera and ostracods in samples 1-3

#### 7.3.4 Discussion

Sample 1 (from 0.5m depth) was a brown silty clay and contained an important brackish foraminiferal and ostracod fauna, as well as hydrobid molluscs, and is indicative of intertidal mudflats within a brackish estuary. These mudflats had clearly been subject to weathering (evidenced by iron mineral) and contained a terrestrial component (many earthworm granules) and some terrestrial molluscs, which had been washed out of the surrounding grassland, but there did not seem to be any saltmarsh present (the

characteristic agglutinating foraminifera being completely absent, in spite of a diligent search).

Sample 2 (from 0.9m depth), in contrast, was a brown silty sand with small pebbles. With regards to the organic remains, it contained much of what had been seen in Sample 1 but now the microfauna indicates a much more open estuary as it also contains a number of essentially marine foraminiferal and ostracod species which are able tolerate outer estuaries (these being colour-coded blue in Figure 1).

The final sample (Sample 3, from 1.7m) was a grey silty sand with pebbles, one or two of them being quite large. The colour of the sediment was largely influenced by the abundant plant remains (there were even insects), but the microfauna was confined to one species of robust marine foraminifera (Figure 1), many of the specimens being rather worn. This looked like a sand that had been introduced in a storm event or surge, incorporating landward vegetation in the process. In spite of a close search, there was again no evidence of a saltmarsh component being present.

## **8.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Geoarchaeological Discussion**

- 8.1.1 The geoarchaeological trench was located only 68m south-west of TP1 (from the 2010 evaluation (ASE 2010a). As expected, the sediment logs for these pits are consistent with each other (although TP1 was stopped at 1.5m below ground surface). This demonstrates that the succession identified in 2010 is part of a more extensive sequence covering a wider area.
- 8.1.2 The sediment successions recorded at both locations comprise the upper part of a marine/estuarine sequence. The high energy sands and low energy gravels represent a marine deposit, which the organics and fish bone from Sample 3 confirm. In terms of the micropalaeontological results, only Sample 2, from 0.9m below ground level, was directly comparable to the results from 2010. Sample 1, from 0.5m below ground level, seems to indicate an estuary already becoming restricted and perhaps silting up. The much deeper and older Sample 3, from 1.7m below ground level, appears to represent a catastrophic event of some sort, to which the mouth of such an estuary as this site must have always been very prone.
- 8.1.3 In general, the mollusc and micropalaeontological results are consistent with what we already know about the history of the area. The presence of marine specimens moving towards brackish water species higher up the profile suggest an infilling and silting up of the channel observed in Trench 10.
- 8.1.4 The geomorphology and aquatic movements are apparent in the undulating depths and appearance of 'hummocks' of unweathered alluvium observed in the weathered alluvial areas, at the top of the geoarchaeological sequence. These indicate a tidal environment subjected to high energy events (i.e. storm surges). Prior to the Great Storm of 1287, New Romney had been a flourishing port on the north bank of the Rother. As it silted, the harbour naturally became more centred toward the seaward end. What we might be seeing here is evidence of this actual silting in Sample 1.
- 8.1.5 In general, the sequence of geoarchaeological deposits identified in the evaluation trenches on the south-eastern half of the site was consistent with those noted in the geoarchaeological test pit (Trench 10). It is worth noting that alluvium was present in the south-eastern end of Trench 5 and throughout Trenches 8 and 9 but not in Trenches 6 and 7, suggesting that alluviation did not extend any further to the north-west. However, a localised layer of sand and silt was recorded to the north-west of Trench 6. The position of this deposit above the archaeological features indicates that it is of post-medieval date and it was directly overlain by the topsoil.
- 8.1.6 All the data suggests that we are only seeing evidence for the medieval period onwards. For instance, there has been no indication of the saltmarsh of Roman times in the test pits. This area requires further mapping to establish the extents and limits of various types of deposit which will lead to a greater understanding of the formation of Romney Marsh, the usage of land and a chronology supported by geoarchaeological evidence.

### **8.2 Archaeological Discussion**

#### **8.2.1 Late medieval/ early post-medieval features**

The only cut feature to produce dating evidence in Trench 6 was [6/006], a wide shallow pit. A small amount of ceramic building material (CBM) from this feature dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century or later. It was sealed by a thin deposit, [6/003], which produced CBM of 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date.



Nearby, a cluster of three post-holes of similar dimensions and containing similar fills was recorded; this may suggest that a structure was present. Given the small size of the trench and the lack of finds, it is difficult comment of the nature or extent of the structure. However, the fact that all three are sealed by the same deposit as a nearby pit [6/006] suggests that all the features may be contemporary.

Two post-holes, [7/010] and [7/012], of similar size and containing fairly similar fills, were noted nearby in Trench 7. The only dating material is provided by small amounts of ceramic building material, but again a 16<sup>th</sup> century or later date range was indicated. It is therefore possible that these represent part of the same structure as features identified in Trench 6, or an associated structure.

#### 8.2.3 Modern feature

The only other feature recorded in the evaluation is a pit, [5/005], of very recent origin, which is of no archaeological significance.

### 8.3 Geoarchaeological Conclusions and Recommendations

8.3.1 Previous geoarchaeological evaluation suggested 'even a modest programme of follow up work could utilise the sites potential to deliver an account of changing sedimentary regime, storm surge activity and changing land use for New Romney and the wider marsh' (ASE 2010a). The test pit survey provided a useful mechanism to characterise the depth of sediments under direct threat from development at the site. They provide an intact, further sequence of estuarine alluviation and marine transgressions (to be added to those of 2010 and earlier works) and an indication of the extent/limits of deposits.

8.3.2 The alluvial sediments have been shown to contain an exceptional assemblage of preserved microfossils which allow for detailed classification of tidal regime and sedimentary history (ibid) even on the basis of coarse sampling and rapid assessment.

8.3.2 If further work is to take place in this area then a programme of boreholing at strategic points and the collection of samples for mollusc and micropalaeontological analysis is recommended, given the quality of preservation and the potential for refining our understanding of the area.

### 8.4 Conclusions: Archaeological Evaluation

8.4.1 The evaluation proved successful in characterising the extent and nature of the archaeology on the site. A few features of late medieval or early post-medieval date were identified, including post-holes forming a possible structure; however relatively little material culture was recovered, suggesting this may have been a marginal area, used less intensively because of the influence of the tides.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2009 *Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design Report St. Nicholas School, Fairfield Road, New Romney, Kent*. ASE unpub. Rep.

ASE 2010a, An Archaeological Watching Brief at Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB, unpubl. ASE rep No 2010179

ASE 2010b. An Archaeological Evaluation at Southlands School, Dymchurch Road, New Romney, Kent, unpub ASE rep No 2010003.

Beedham, G.E. (1972) *Identification of the British Mollusca*. Hulton Group, Amersham.

Eddison, J. 1988. 'Drowned lands': changes in the course of the Rother and its estuary and associated drainage problems, 1635-1737, in Eddison, J. and Green C. (eds) *Romney Marsh: Evolution, Occupation, Reclamation*. Oxford University Committee for Archaeology 24: 142-61. Oxford.

Eddison, J. 1995. Attempts to clear the Rother channel, 1613-1624, in Eddison, J. (ed.) *Romney Marsh: the Debatable Ground*. Oxford Committee for Archaeology 46:65-88. Oxford.

Green, R.D. 1968. *Soils of Romney Marsh*. Soil Survey of Great Britain Bulletin 4. Harpenden

Gulliver, F.P. 1897. Dungeness Foreland. *Geographical Journal* 9: 536-46

Hayward, P., Nelson-Smith, T. and Shields, C. (1996) *Collins Pocket Guide: Seashore of Britain and Europe*. Harper Collins, London.

IFA, 2008, The Institute of Field Archaeologists, Standards and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation published online at [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) Accessed 24.03.12

Jarrett, C, 2002 An assessment of archaeological excavations on the site of Southlands School, Fairfield Road, New Romney, Kent. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpub. rep.

Jones, A., Duck, R., Weyers, J., Reed, R. 2000. *Practical Skills in Environmental Science*. Prentice Hall, Harlow

KCC 2011, Specification for archaeological evaluation at Inclusion and Family Centre Marsh Academy, Dymchurch Road, New Romney

Kerney, M. (1999) *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*. Harley Books, Colchester.

Kerney, M. and Cameron, R.A.D. (1979) *A Field Guide to the Land Snails of Britain and North-west Europe*. Collins, London.

Linklater, A, 2001 An interim report of an archaeological excavation at the rear of Prospect House, Fairfield Road, New Romney, Kent. Canterbury Archaeological Trust, unpub. rep.

McMillan, N.F. (1968) *British Shells*. Frederick Warne & Co Ltd, London.

MoLAS, 1994, MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual; Third Edition (1994)

Rippon, S. 2000. *The Transformation of Coastal Wetlands*. The British Academy: London.

Rippon, S. 2002. Romney Marsh: Evolution of the Historic Landscape and its Wider Significance. In Long, A., Hipkin, S. and Clarke, H. (eds) *Romney Marsh: Coastal and*

*Landscape Change through the Ages*. OUSA Monograph 56, 84-100.

Tucker, M. E. 1996. *Sedimentary Rocks in the Field*, 2nd ed. The Geological Field Guide Series, John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

### **Acknowledgements**

ASE would like to thank Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy for commissioning the work and Wendy Rogers, Heritage Conservation Unit KCC for her guidance throughout the project.

**Appendix A - Gazetteer of Sites, Finds and Listed Buildings within a 500m radius of the site:**

<b>No. on Figure 1</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>SMR Reference</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Details / Description</b>
1	TR0731 2484	TR02SE 10	Roman	Findspot: Coin of Maxentius
2	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 63	Early med/med	Arch. Exc.: Ditch
3	TR0655 2532	TR02NE 15	Med	Moat and field system
4	TR06732 25148	TR02NE 69	Med	Arch eval: ditch, kiln, pit
5	TR06815 25188	TR02NE 67	Med	Arch. Exc: pit, pottery kiln, road
6	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 61	Med	Arch.Exc.: Ditch
7	TR0668 2507	TR02NE 65	Med	Foreshore
8	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 60	Med	Arch. Exc.: Pit complex
9	TR068 251	TR02NE 64	Med	Arch. Eval.: Pit and road
10	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 58	Med	Arch. Exc.: Building
11	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 57	Med	Arch. Exc.: Oven/furnace
12	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 59	Med	Arch. Exc.: Pit complex
13	TR0662 2505	TR02NE 56	Med	Arch. Exc.: Clay floor
14	TR0661 2502	TR02NE 53	Med	Arch. Exc.: Cess pit
15	TR0674 2502	TR02SE 13	Med	New Romney town
16	TR0658 2491	TR02SE 67	Med	Arch. WB: Road and pit
17	TR0643 2484	TR02SE 5	Med	St John's Priory
18	TR0659 2508	TR02NE 100	Med	Sub-circular features
19	TR0682 2523	TR02NE 76	Med	Frogs Hall, House Grade II
20	TR0662 2475	TR02SE 81	Med-post-med	Church of St Nicholas, Grade I

No. on Figure 1	NGR	SMR Reference	Period	Details / Description
21	TR0644 2482	TR02SE 83	Med, Post-med	St Johns Priory, including the ruins of the Priory, Grade II*
22	TR0674 2506	TR02NE 82	Med/post-med	Stone House, Grade II
23	TR0668 2490	TR02SE 72	Med – Post-med	Arch. Eval.: Building, occupation site, pit
24	TR06535 24831	TR02SE 73	Med and Post-med	Pit, wall
25	TR0646 2493	TR02SE 2	Med/Post-Med	St Martin's Church
26	TR06748 25081	TR02NE 68	Med/Post-med	Ditch, rubbish pits, well
27	TR0651 2491	TR02SE 142	Med, Post-med	Arch Eval: animal burial' rubbish pits, floor
28	TR0662 2504	TR02NE 83	Post-med	Prince of Wales PH, Grade II
29	TR0648 2479	TR02SE 100	Post-med	Assembly rooms and schoolroom, Grade II
30	TR0686 2529	TR02NE 81	Post-med	Page Cottage, Grade II
31	TR0657 2491	TR02SE 112	Post-med	House, Grade II
32	TR0663 2505	TR02NE 72	Post-med	House, Grade II
33	TR0671 2518	TR02NE 92	Post-med	Garden wall between Craythornes and Crathorne Cottages, Grade II
34	TR0688 2533	TR02NE 78	Post-med	Gun House, Grade II
35	TR0695 2539	TR02NE 90	Post-med	Brissenden, House Grade II
36	TR0664 2503	TR02NE 77	Post-med	House, Grade II
37	TR0653 2502	TR02NE 84	Post-med	Fairfield House, Grade II
38	TR0647 2481	TR02SE106	Post-med	Rating Office, Grade II
39	TR0685 2529	TR02NE 75	Post-med	The Governor's House, Grade II
40	TR0683, 2525	TR02NE 74	Post-med	Millside, House, Grade II
41	TR0646 2484	TR02SE 101	Post-med	House, Grade II

<b>No. on Figure 1</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>SMR Reference</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Details / Description</b>
42	TR0645 2484	TR02SE 88	Post-med	House, Grade II
43	TR0668 2497	TR02SE 93	Post-med	The Ship Hotel, Grade II
44	TR0645 2481	TR02SE 92	Post-med	House, Grade II
45	TR0670 2498	TR02SE 117	Post-med	House, Grade II
46	TR0645 2481	TR02SE 85	Post-med	House, Grade II
47	TR0666 2499	TR02SE 119	Post-med	High House, Grade II
48	TR0654 2489	TR02SE 118	Post-med	Henbury Cottage, Grade II
49	TR0724 2470	TR02SE 57	Post-med	Gas works
50	TR070 250	TR02NE 26	Post-med	Railway station
51	TR0660 2484	TR02SE 99	Med-modern	Mittell house, Grade II
52	TR0681 2476	TR02SE 141	Post-med/ modern	17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> -century artefacts
53	TR0644 2480	TR02SE 78	Post-med/modern	Plum Tree House, Grade II
54	TR0642 2482	TR02SE 97	Post-med/ Modern	House, Grade II
55	TR0674 2525	TR02NE 71	Post-med/modern	Craythornes, House Grade II

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	MAA09					
Identification Name and Address	Inclusion and Family Centre, The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Shepway, New Romney					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 526758 136836					
Geology	Marine Alluvium (Clay) with Marine Alluvium (Sand); Storm Gravel Beach Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5154					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav. <u>  </u>	Watching brief. <u>  </u>	Standing Structure <u>  </u>	Survey <u>  </u>	Other <u>  </u>
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	<u>Shallow Urban</u>	Deep Urban <u>  </u>	Other <u>  </u>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓ 28.02.12-01.03.12	<u>Excav.</u>	W.B. <u>  </u>	Other <u>  </u>		
Sponsor/Client	Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo. <u>  </u>	Meso. <u>  </u>	Neo. <u>  </u>	BA <u>  </u>	IA <u>  </u>	RB <u>  </u>
	AS <u>  </u>	<u>MED</u> ✓	<u>PM</u> ✓	Other Modern <u>  </u>		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy to conduct an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB.</i></p> <p>A single geoarchaeological test pit revealed similar evidence to that recorded in a previous phase of work to the north. This showed the upper part of a marine/estuarine sequence. Weathered alluvium containing ‘hummocks’ of unweathered alluvium was observed at the top of the sequence. This evidence along with analysis of mollusc and micropalaeontological remains indicates a tidal environment subjected to high energy events (i.e. storm surges) and may relate to the silting of the harbour following a period of storms in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century</p> <p>A small number of late medieval or early post-medieval features were revealed in the evaluation trenches, including clusters of postholes which may represent a structure.</p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-121813****Project details**

Project name	Inclusion and Family Centre, The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy to conduct an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB. A single geoarchaeological test pit revealed similar evidence to that recorded in a previous phase of work to the north. This showed the upper part of a marine/estuarine sequence. Weathered alluvium containing 'hummocks' of unweathered alluvium was observed at the top of the sequence. This evidence along with analysis of mollusc and micropalaeontological remains indicates a tidal environment subjected to high energy events (i.e. storm surges) and may relate to the silting of the harbour following a period of storms in the later 13th century. A small number of late medieval or early post-medieval features were revealed in the evaluation trenches, including clusters of postholes which may represent a structure.
Project dates	Start: 28-02-2012 End: 01-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5154 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MAA09 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	POST-HOLES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Grab-sampling', 'Targeted Trenches', 'Test Pits'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

**Project location**



Country	England
Site location	KENT SHEPWAY NEW ROMNEY Inclusion and Family Centre, The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB
Postcode	TN28 8BB
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 26758 36836 51.1162344718 -0.188781270164 51 06 58 N 000 11 19 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.94m Max: 3.65m

---

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP on behalf of their clients The Marsh Academy

---

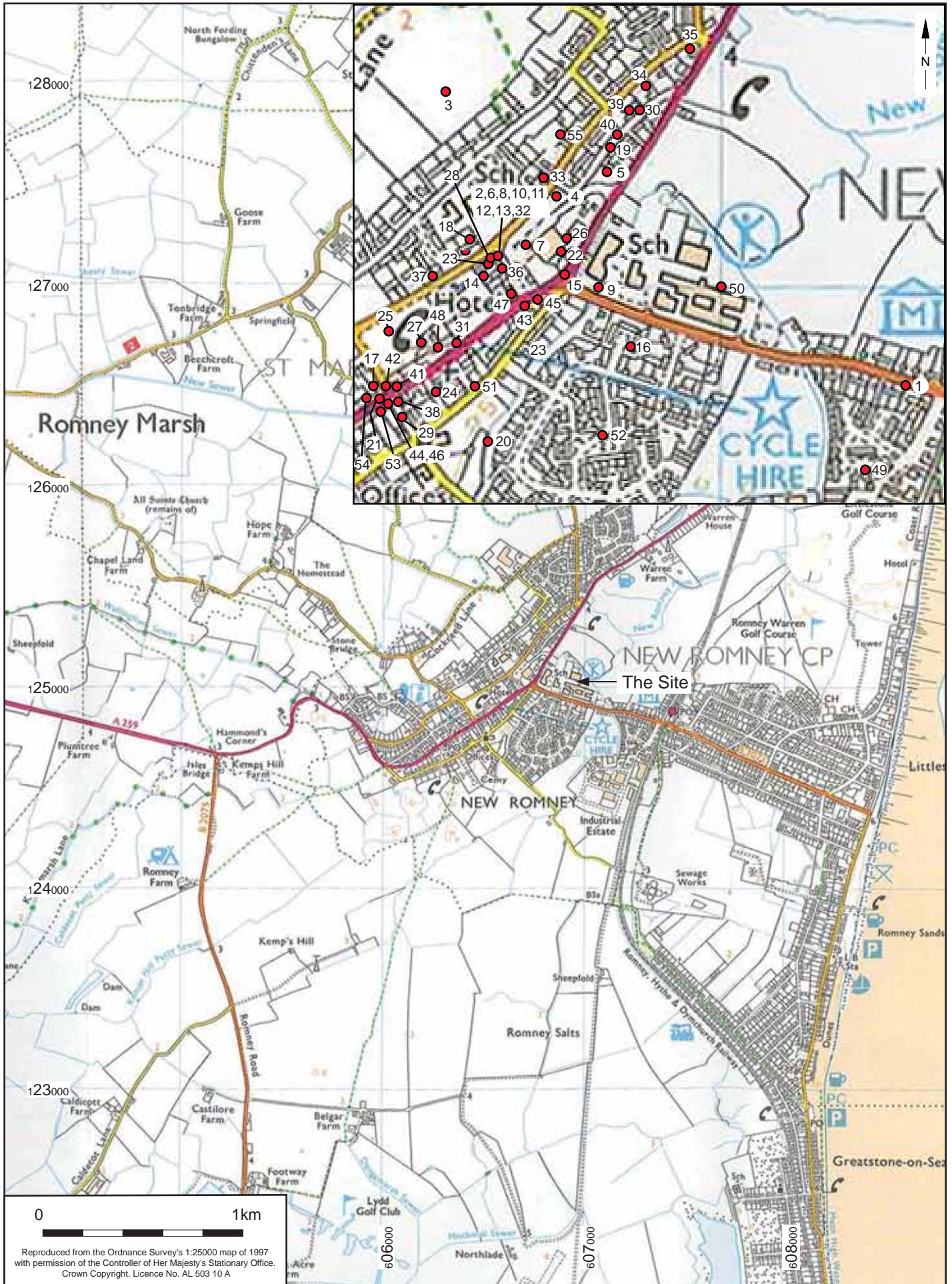
**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Plan','Section'

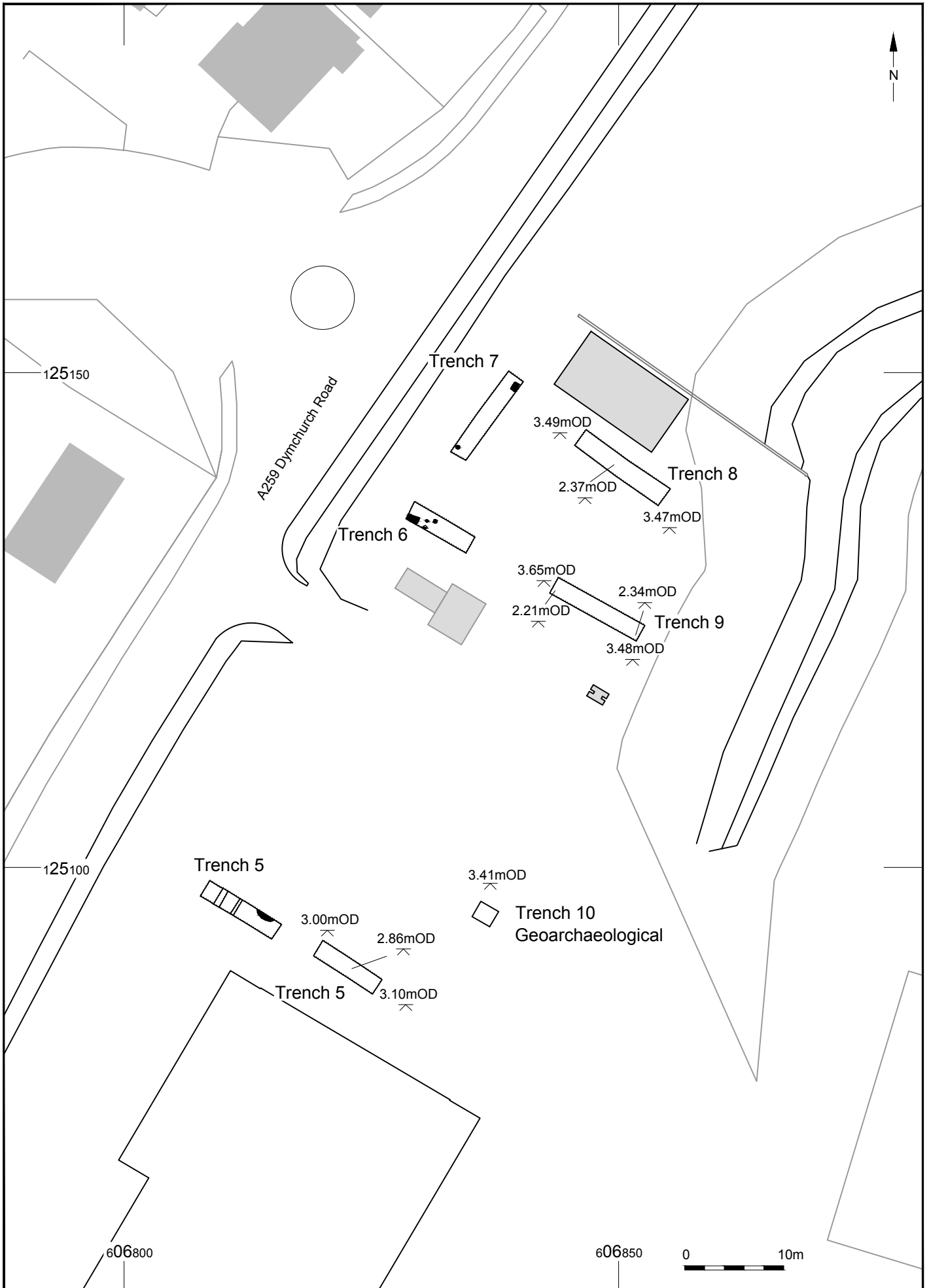
---

**Project bibliography 1**

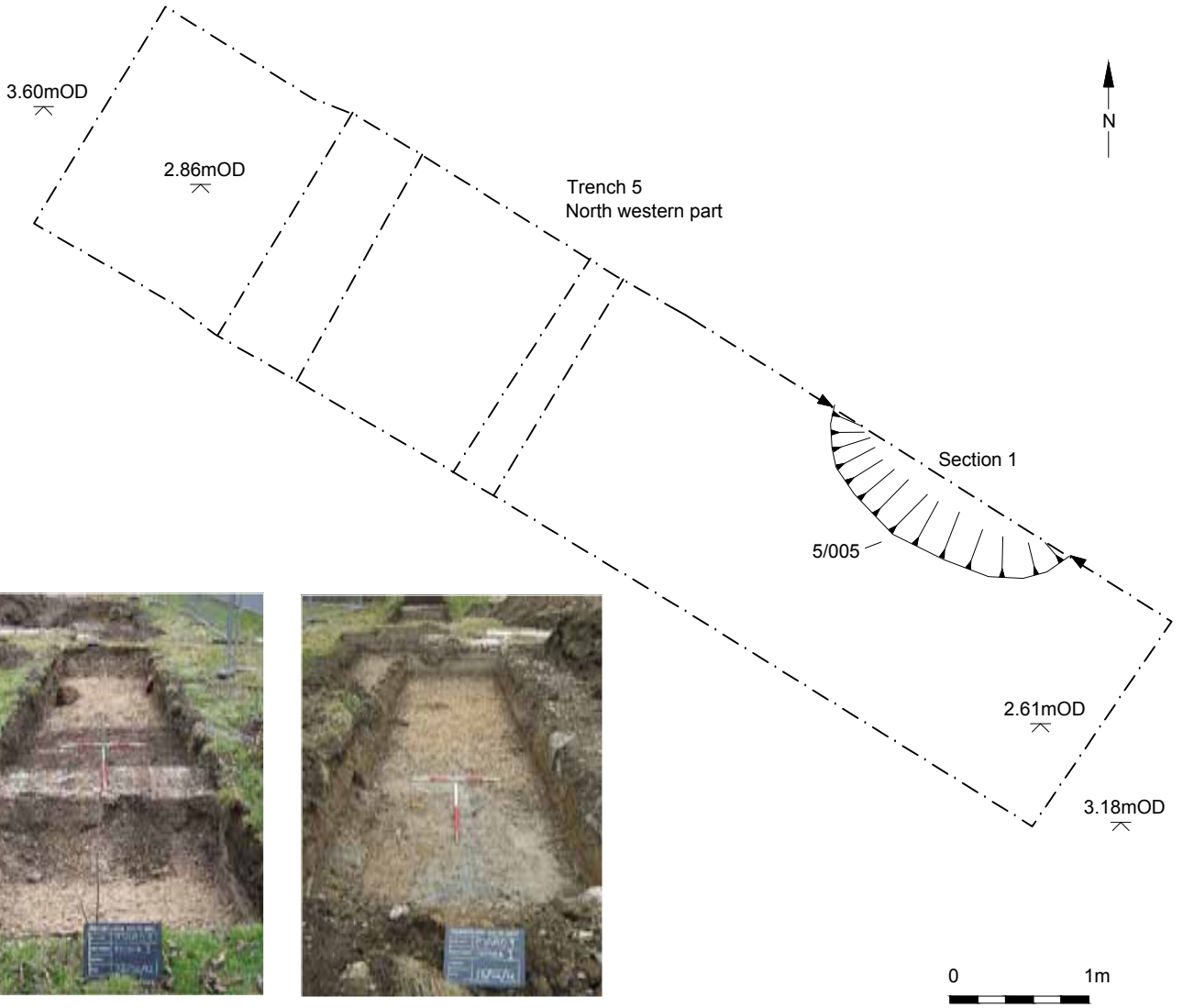
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Inclusion and Family Centre, The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8BB
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hopkinson, D
Other bibliographic details	2012070
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Grey literature report PDF with figures
Entered by	Anna Doherty (anna.doherty@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	23 March 2012



© Archaeology South-East		Marsh Academy, New Romney		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5154	March 2012	Site location with Sites, Finds and Listed Buildings		
Report Ref: 2012070	Drawn by: FEG			



© Archaeology South-East		Marsh Academy, New Romney	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5154	March 2012	Trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2012070	Drawn by: FEG		



Trench 5 looking south east



Trench 5 looking north west

Section 1

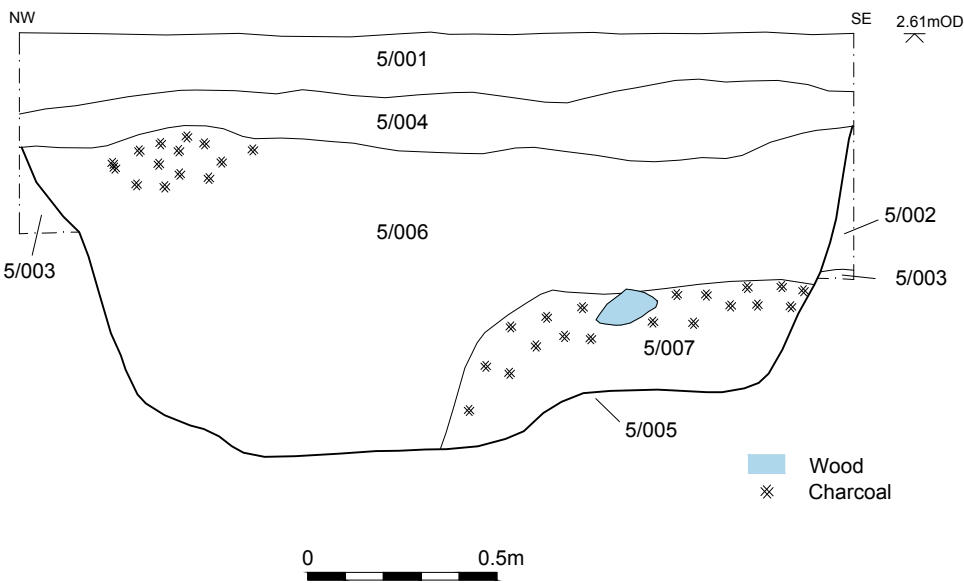
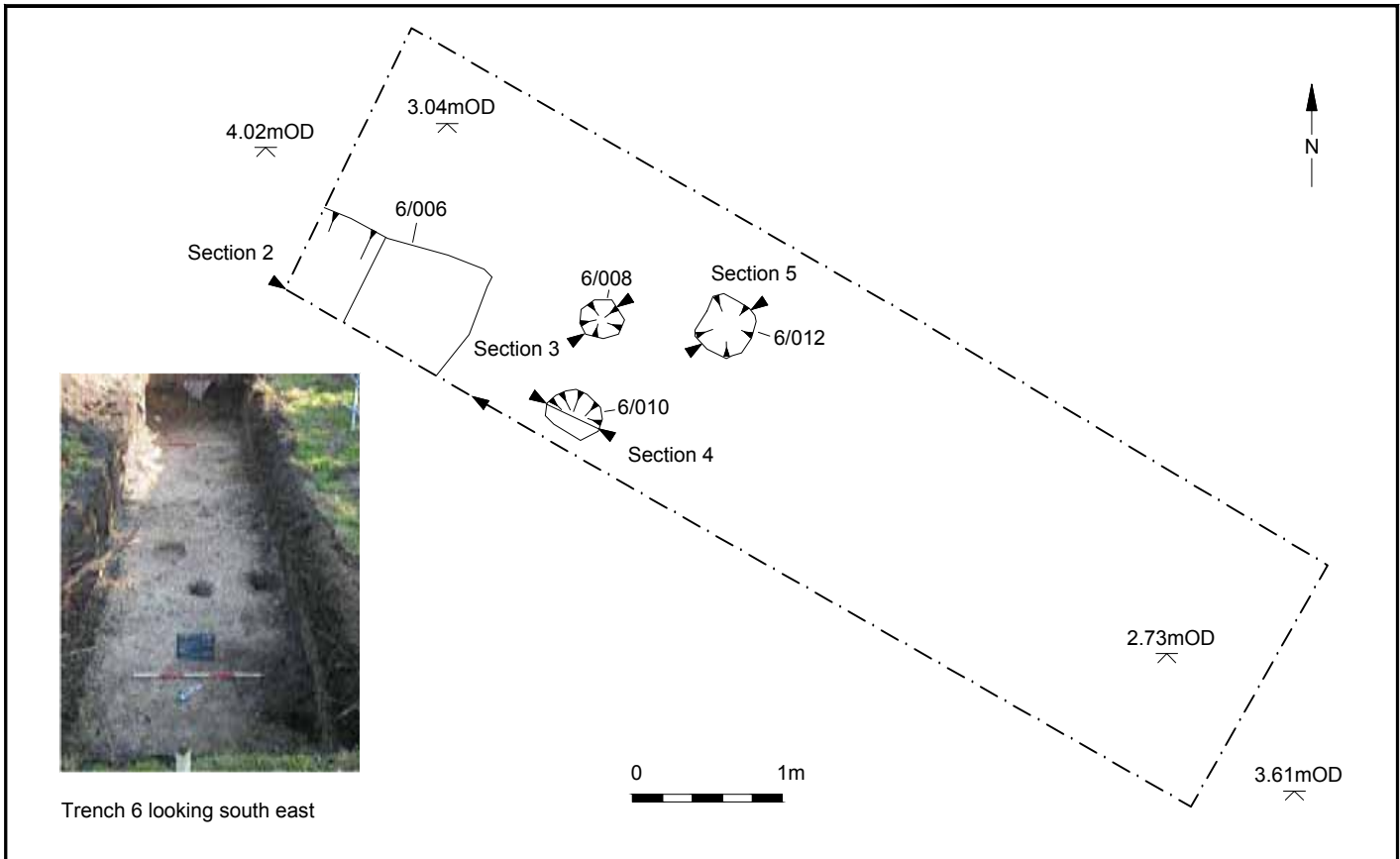
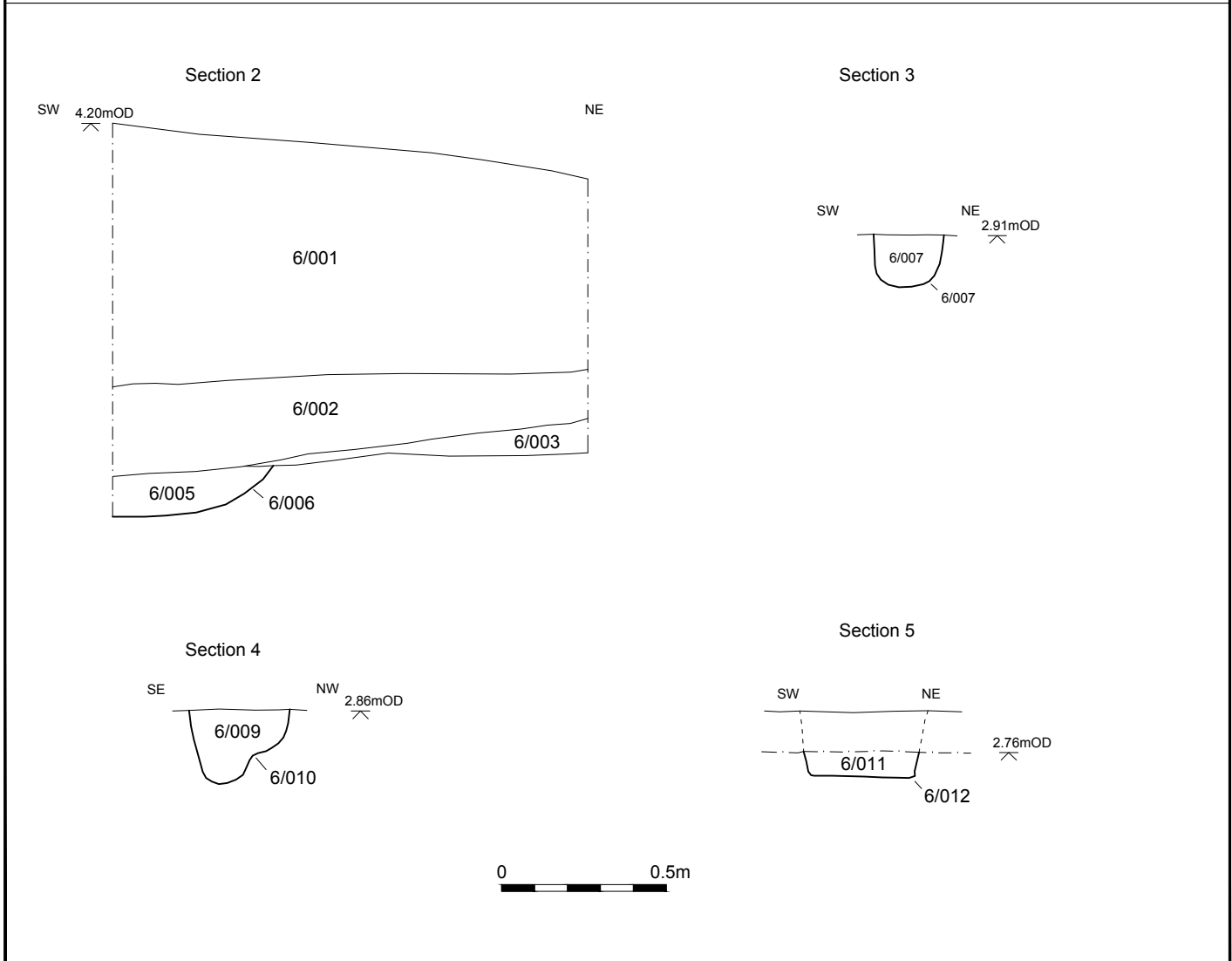


Photo showing section of 5/005 looking north east



Trench 6 looking south east

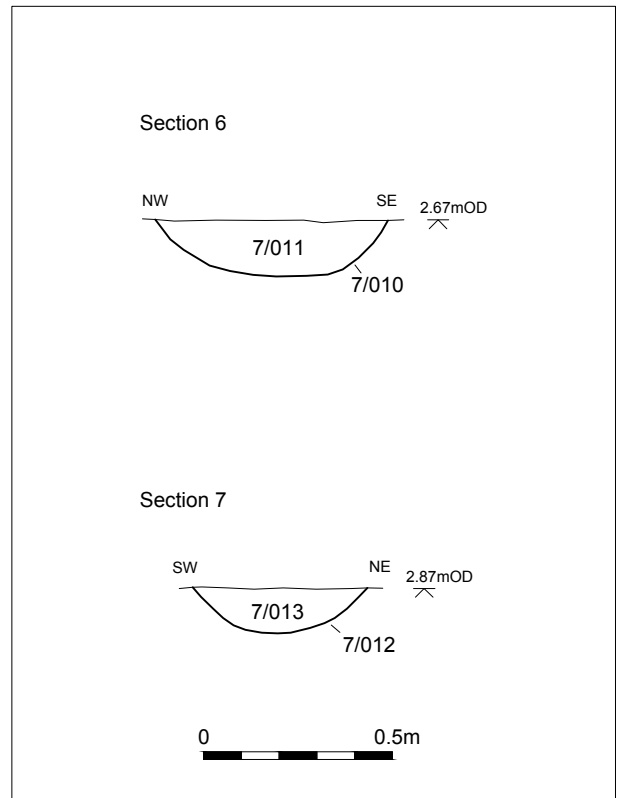
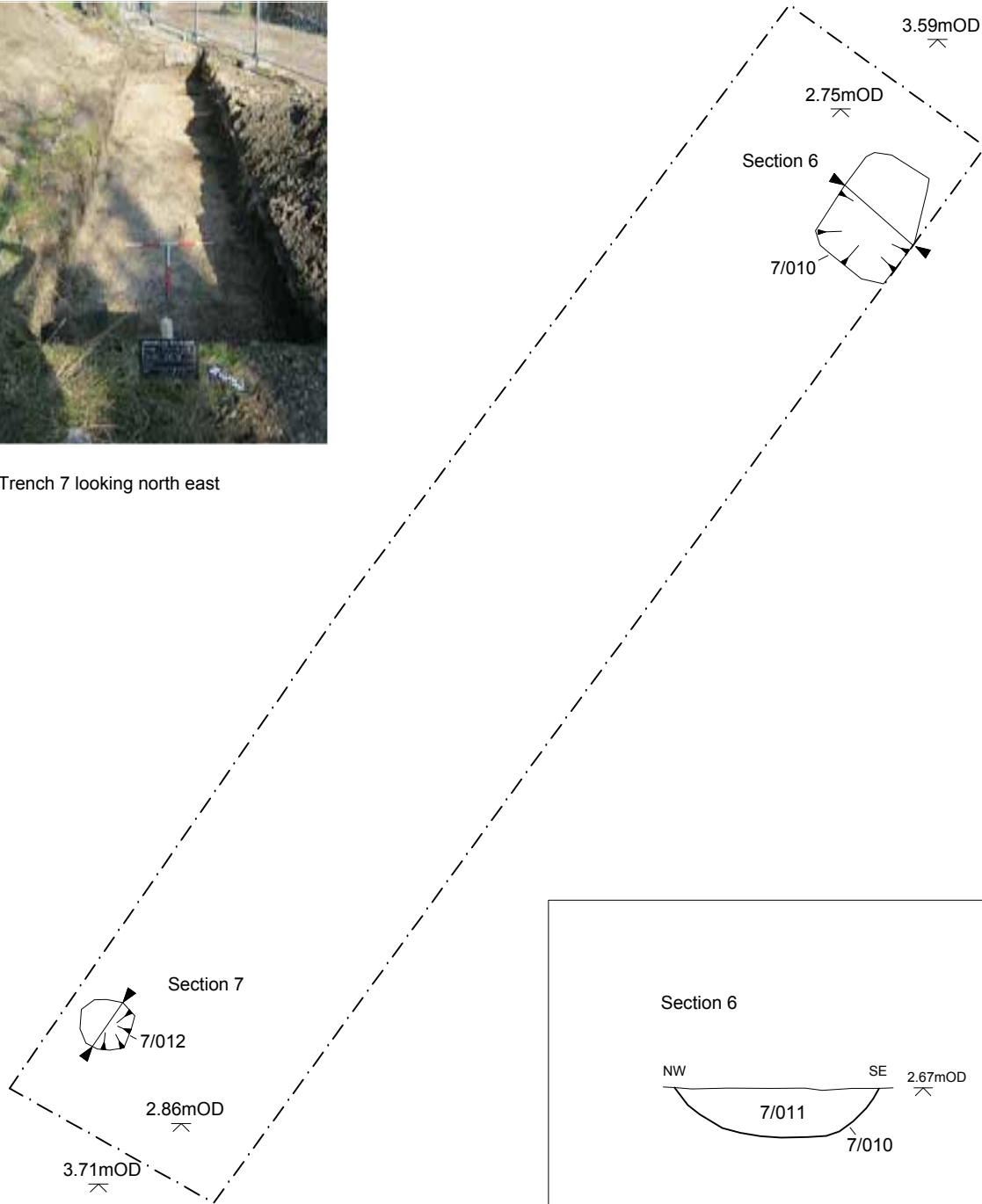


© Archaeology South-East		Marsh Academy, New Romney	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5154	March 2012	Trench 6 plan, section and photos	
Report Ref: 2012070	Drawn by: FEG		





Trench 7 looking north east



© Archaeology South-East		Marsh Academy, New Romney	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5154	March 2012	Trench 7 plan, section and photos	
Report Ref: 2012070	Drawn by: FEG		

Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East