

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road,
Worthing, West Sussex**

Planning Ref: WB/10/0264/WBR3

**NGR TQ 15883 03513
NGR 515883 103513**

**Project No: 4431
Site Code: DGS 10**

**ASE Report No: 2010116
OASIS ID: archaeol6-80933**

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 515883 103513). The work was carried out between 4th and 5th August 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of the client Joynt Construction prior to the construction of an improved school canteen. An area 164 metres square representing the footprint of the development was mechanically excavated to reduce the ground level. Pits for concrete pads and wall foundations were also excavated; this work was monitored in order to record any remains that were likely to be disturbed by the development.

The natural geology, Raised Beach Deposits, was identified at a depth of 0.40 metres below current ground level.

No archaeological features or finds were identified, the natural sands had previously been truncated by the construction of the school and were overlain by made ground levelling deposits for a paved courtyard and concrete road.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Joynt Construction (hereafter referred to as the client within this report) to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Davison High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 515883 103513) in advance of the redevelopment at the site (Figure 1).

1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 A planning application for the erection of an improved school canteen on land at Davison High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex has been approved by West Sussex County Council (Planning Reference WSCC/051/10/WB).

1.2.2 Due to the potential for archaeological deposits to survive on the site, West Sussex County Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be conducted out in order to record the presence, or absence and the character and nature of any archaeological deposits on the site (Figure 2).

1.2.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE; WSI 2010) was prepared by ASE with reference to the *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* issued by WSCC (WSCC 2007) and this was submitted to the WSCC Senior Archaeologist for approval prior to the commencement of works.

1.2.4 The watching brief was carried out between 4th and 5th August 2010. All work was carried out in accordance the WSI and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report covers the results of the archaeological watching brief on the site. The work was undertaken by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist).

1.3.2 The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

2.1.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 318/333 Worthing & Brighton) the natural geology of the site comprised Raised Beach Deposits (gravel and sand interbedded). This was identified at a depth of only 0.25 metres below current ground level.

2.1.2 The site is located in a paved courtyard directly to the west of the school's existing Main Hall. It is bounded to the north by the existing Print Room and to the south by the School Kitchen; to the west is a concrete road.

2.2 Archaeological and historical potential

2.1 The archaeological background of the site has been derived from a 0.5km radius search of the WSCC Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 The data is summarised below in Table 1 and locations marked on Figure 1.

2.3 There are no listed buildings or scheduled monuments within the search area. A Roman occupation site lies approximately 150m outside of the search area (HER Officer, *pers comm.*).

WSCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates	Description	Period
4822-MWS1264	TQ 16100 03200	Quartzite pebble hammer found in Worthing. Precise find spot not known	Unknown
5132-MWS3845	TQ 16000 04000	Hoard of bronze tools including 3 axes found at some point along Cokeham Lane	Bronze Age
6126-MWS4790	TQ 16200 03400	Brickworks in operation by 1878	Post-medieval
6129-MWS4792	TQ 15700 03800	Brickworks in operation by 1907	Post-medieval
6135-MWS4798	TQ16000 03750	Brickworks in operation from 1910 to 1930s	Post-medieval
3351-MWS5630	TQ 15590 03510	Evidence of Bronze Age occupation found during cable laying outside 30 Chesswood Road	Bronze Age
3321-MWS5834	TQ 15580 03590	Roman burial urns and calcined bone, in addition to Samian pottery and one unidentifiable coin found during trenching and railway works in 1881	Roman
7261-MWS7314	TQ 15820 03514	Base and partial body sherd of New Forest Ware beaker found in Worthing	Roman
7875-MWS7969	TQ 15682 03684	Roman pottery found in 1878	Roman

Table 1: Summary of data held by WSCC HER within 500m of the site

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE; WSI 2010) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA).
- 3.1.2 The monitored works involved a reduced dig of the entire footprint of the proposed development by 0.25 metres and the excavation of pad foundation pits and foundation trenches for walls to an additional depth of 1.00 metres. The area was excavated using a 0.60 metre wide toothless ditching bucket and was recorded by an archaeologist to assess any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection. Sections were drawn at appropriate scales on plastic drafting film.
- 3.1.4 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.5 All features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 on multi-context trench drawings and section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale.

3.2 Watching brief aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to record the presence or absence of any archaeological features within the site.
- 3.2.2 To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of all archaeological remains and deposits.

3.3 Status of site archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive including the evaluation phase are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	2
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	1
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	19

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

- 4.1.1 The natural geology across the site indicated to be Raised Beach Deposits (gravel and sand interbedded) [002] showed at a depth of 0.25 metres below the existing ground level of the paved courtyard where the redevelopment is sited.
- 4.1.2 This was firm but friable pale orangey brown fine and coarse sand and silt with occasional gravels.
- 4.1.3 In the northeast corner of the site, west of the 'Existing Print Room' this deposit could be seen to have existed in section at a higher level indicating that there had been some horizontal truncation of the raised beach deposits during the construction of the school.
- 4.1.4 There was a thin covering of overburden across the site that consisted of a 0.25 metre thick layer of modern surface makeup layers for a concrete road and paved area [001].
- 4.1.5 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The watching brief proved successful at assessing the nature of archaeological survival on the site.
- 5.2 The natural geology horizon was observed at a depth of 0.25 metres below the existing courtyard and was overlain by modern surface deposits.
- 5.3 The natural appeared to have been previously truncated removing any archaeological horizons that may have existed prior to the construction of the school.

Bibliography

ASE; WSI 2010: *Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2JX: Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation.* Neil Griffin ASE June 2010

WSCC 2007: *Recommended standard conditions for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work.* West Sussex County Council guidance document 2007.

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Joynt Construction for commissioning the work and John Mills, WSCC for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	DGS 10					
Identification Name and Address	Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2JX					
County, District &/or Borough	Worthing					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 515883 103513					
Geology	Raised Beach Deposits (gravel and sand interbedded)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4431					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching brief. ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	W.B. 04/08/10 - 05/08/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Joynt Construction					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
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 conducted at Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 515883 103513). The work was carried out between 4th and 5th August 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of the client Joynt Construction prior to the construction of an improved school canteen. An area 164 metres square representing the footprint of the development was excavated to reduce the ground level and pits for concrete pads and wall foundations were excavated; this work was monitored in order to record any remains that were likely to be disturbed by the development.</i></p> <p><i>The natural geology comprised Raised Beach Deposits (gravel and sand interbedded), indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 318/333 Worthing & Brighton. This was identified at a depth of only 0.40 metres below current ground level.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or finds were identified, the natural sands had been horizontally truncated by the construction of the school and was overlain by made ground, levelling deposits for a paved courtyard and concrete road.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-80933

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief at Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 515883 103513). The work was carried out between 4th and 5th August 2010 by Archaeology South-East on behalf of the client Joynt Construction prior to the construction of an improved school canteen. An area 164 metres square representing the footprint of the development was excavated to reduce the ground level and pits for concrete pads and wall foundations were excavated; this work was monitored in order to record any remains that were likely to be disturbed by the development. The natural geology comprised Raised Beach Deposits (gravel and sand interbedded), indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 318/333 Worthing and Brighton. This was identified at a depth of only 0.40 metres below current ground level. No archaeological features or finds were identified, the natural sands had been horizontally truncated by the construction of the school and was overlain by made ground, levelling deposits for a paved courtyard and concrete road.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2010 End: 05-08-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DGS 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WSSCC/051/10/WB - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey','Photographic Survey','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX WORTHING WORTHING Davison CE High School for Girls, Selborne Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2JX

Postcode	BN11 2JX
Study area	164.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 15883 03513 50.8189815858 -0.354718925286 50 49 08 N 000 21 16 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	west sussex county council
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Joynt Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph'

Project

bibliography 1

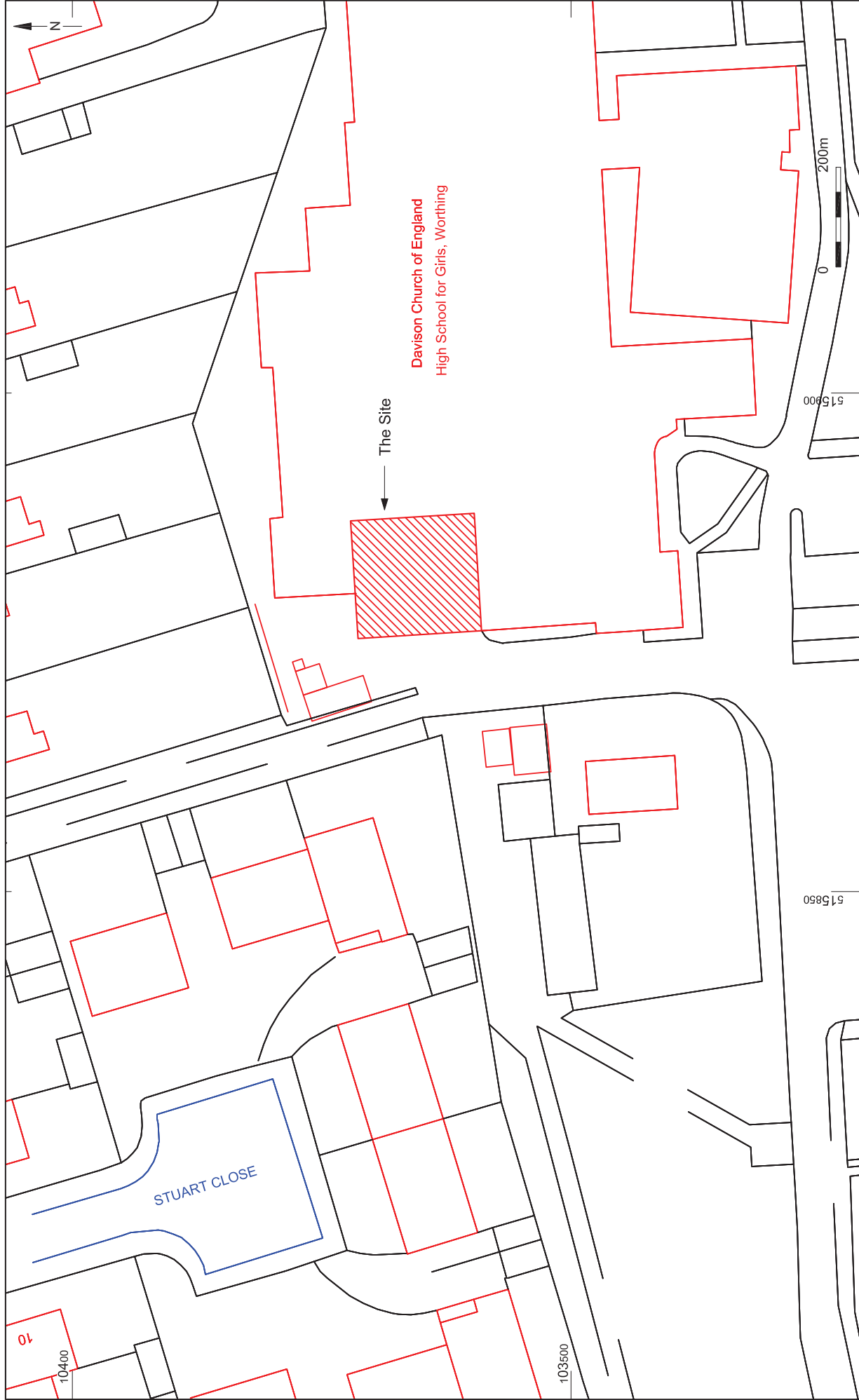
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© Archaeology South-East		Davisons Girls School, Worthing	
Project Ref: 4431	August 2010	Site location and WSCC HER data	
Report Ref: 2010116	Drawn by: DJH		

Fig. 1



© Archaeology South-East		Davisons School for Girls, Worthing	
Project Ref: 4431	August 2010	Site plan showing area monitored	
Report Ref: 2010116	Drawn by: DJH		

