Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead, West Sussex

Planning Ref: WSCC/095/09

NGR 54011 13814

Kathryn Grant MSc AIFA

With contributions by
Elke Raeman, Luke Barber and Sarah Porteus
Illustrations by Justin Russell

OASIS id: archaeol6-83014

Project No: 4256
Site Code: EEG 10
ASE Report No. 2010153

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Abstract

Archaeology South East (ASE) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological monitoring on land at Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead, West Sussex (NGR: 54011 13814) between the 29th June and 18th August 2010. The watching brief was carried out during redevelopment works within the school grounds. The site falls gently downwards from south west to north from 114.96m AOD to 106.95m AOD with the underlying natural geology, comprising Wadhurst Clay, occurring at c.550mm below the ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the construction works. A small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered from the unstratified overburden covering the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Estcots Primary School, West Sussex (NGR 54011 13814: Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The monitored ground works related to a redevelopment at the school and comprised the excavation of an access road and games court.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located within the Weald of Sussex in Bourg-De-Peage Avenue (RH19 3TY) and is centred on NGR TQ 4011 3814. The area which is undergoing redevelopment is located to the north of the main school buildings in a playing field.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey Sheet 302 for Horsham (BGS 1996) shows the site lies on a Wadhurst Clay Formation of Mudstone.

1.2.3 The site falls gently downwards from south west to north from 114.96m AOD to 106.95m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the site (Planning ref: WSCC/095/09).

1.3.2 An *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (DBA) for the study site was carried out in September 2009 (Gailey 2009). The assessment demonstrated that the site had low archaeological potential for all periods. In light of this a condition was attached to the planning permission stating that:

Prior to the commencement of development a written scheme of archaeological investigation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority. Thereafter the approved scheme shall be implemented in full by an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologist.

1.3.3 Consequently, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological monitoring was produced by Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting in March 2010 (Dicks 2010). The WSI document outlined the methods to be used during the watching brief and was compiled with reference to the *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC 2007), henceforth "the standard conditions" issued by WSCC. The methodology was agreed and the WSI subsequently approved by the County Archaeological Officer (in his role as advisor to the local planning authority) prior to the commencement of work. All fieldwork undertaken during the evaluation works was carried out in

accordance with the WSI.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that would be affected by the proposed ground works were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 The objectives of the watching brief were outlined in the WSI (2010) and are reproduced below with due acknowledgement. The principle objective of the watching brief monitoring was to record any archaeological artefacts and ecofacts and their context. In addition, the archaeological monitoring had the following objectives:

- To determine, if possible, the date of the earliest human activity in this area and the subsequent sequence of occupation.
- To help further inform our understanding of past activity in this area of West Sussex.
- To record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during construction work.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief carried out over the course of three site visits between 29th June and 18th August 2010.

1.5.2 The work was undertaken by Kathryn Grant and Simon Stevens with the assistance of Rob Cole (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Jon Sygrave, Darryl Palmer and Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A detailed account of the archaeological background for the site is given in the DBA (Gailey 2009) and a summary has been reproduced here with due acknowledgement. The DBA used historical, archaeological, cartographic and other evidence in order to fully assess the archaeological potential of the site.

2.2 The DBA notes that the natural topography of the site was significantly altered by terracing prior to the development of the school in the 1970's (Gailey 2009, 6).

2.3 The assessment identified that the site does not lie within an Archaeological Priority Area and no Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie on or close to the site. Additionally, the assessment concluded that the site had a low potential for all archaeological periods.

2.4 No evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity has been recorded within a 1km parameter of the site. Although there is small-scale evidence of medieval sites within the area, specifically the medieval town of East Grinstead and a *Ferriana* (ironworks) which was mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, the archaeological potential for activity dating to this period at the site was defined as low. However, it was noted that there may be potential for evidence of land division and agricultural activity at the site. Map regression indicated that the site lay undeveloped, in agricultural or horticultural use from 1795 up until the 1970's when the school and associated playing fields were constructed.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Before the ground work commenced a programme of excavation methodology was agreed between the contractors and CgMs Consulting to ensure that all relevant parties were aware of the monitoring requirements. The agreed ground works to be monitored by an archaeologist included:

- Excavation for an access road
- Excavations of areas for new games courts
- Any other significant intrusive ground works

3.2 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Dicks 2010), and complies with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists, (IfA 2001), and the WSCC *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC 2007). The complete adopted methodology can be referenced in the WSI (Dicks 2010). A summary of the methodology is given below. A *Risk Assessment* of the fieldwork to be carried out was produced by ASE (2010) prior to any work on site.

3.3 Machine excavation was undertaken by a 15 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits. All excavations were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts. All archaeological deposits and stratigraphy encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using ASE standard record sheets. A full photographic record of the area including any associated deposits and features was kept and will form part of the site archive.

3.4 The project archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course to a suitable local museum (East Grinstead). The contents of the project archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	c.50 digital photographs

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Figure 2 shows the areas which were monitored by an archaeologist during the watching brief at Estcots Primary School. Four areas were monitored and these have been labelled A-D. Photographs of the ground works can be seen on Figure 3.

4.2 Three contexts were recorded during the monitored ground works within these areas and no archaeological features or deposits were uncovered. The contexts have been tabulated below:

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)
001	Deposit	Topsoil	c. 200
002	Deposit	Subsoil	c.300
003	Deposit	Natural	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.3 The excavations were taken to varied depths of between 150mm to 550mm. The stratigraphy in all areas comprised firm light brownish orange clay geology [003] overlain by light orange-brown loose clayey silt subsoil [002] and sealed by light brownish grey sandy silt topsoil [001]. The site falls gently downwards from south west to north from 114.96m AOD to 106.95m AOD.

4.4 A summary of the findings for each area has been provided below:

- Area A (access road). This area was stripped to a depth of 550mm where the undisturbed natural geological horizon was encountered. Although a few unstratified finds were collected from the overburden deposits in this area, no archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

- Area B (games court). This area was much the same as Area A although some plough furrows were noted.

- Area C (games court). This area was noticeably shallower than the previous areas with a maximum depth of 250mm. As a result of the shallow excavations natural geology was not uncovered within this area and subsoil was only revealed in limited patches.

- Area D (games court). This area was reduced to only 150mm and as such only topsoil was removed. The high quantity of finds within this area suggest that the topsoil may be overlying made ground which probably resulted from terracing/levelling as mentioned in the WSI (Dicks 2010, 3).

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds, entirely unstratified, was recovered during the archaeological work. An overview can be found in Tables 3 and 5. Finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by material and according to IFA guidelines. None of the finds require x-ray or further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
001	11	86	7	170			4	166	8	338	4	16	5	60
U/S Area B	14	80	14	458			2	12	7	166	1	4	5	16
U/S Area C	35	216	29	856	1	8	2	96	13	610	9	22	18	296
Total	60	382	50	1484	1	8	8	274	28	1114	14	42	28	372

Table 3: Quantification of the finds assemblage

5.2 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Three unstratified groups of pottery were recovered: Areas B and C u/s and context [001]. All show a similar chronological spread of material and the generally small size of the sherds suggests the material has been subjected to repeated reworking. The earliest sherd appears to be a late Frechen stoneware bottle fragment (13g) from [001] which is likely to be of 17th-century date though the robustness of such vessels makes them quite common finds well into the 18th century. The same deposit also produced an 18th- century Nottingham stoneware sherd with rouletted decoration. Area C also contained some London stoneware sherds (bottles and tankard) of mid/later 18th- century date. Sherds of early/mid 18th- century white salt-glaze stoneware were recovered from both Areas B and C (4g and 1g respectively) though the industrialised wares of the later 18th- to early 19th- century are far more common. Creamware sherds (plates and mug) were recovered from all three contexts (3/11g, 13/57g and, from [001] 1/5g) though pearlware was only recovered from Areas B and C (2/6g and 1/2g) indicating some refuse of the early 19th century.

5.2.3 The remaining fabrics can all be placed in a broad 19th- century date bracket though no pieces need be after 1875. A typical domestic range of wares is represented including unglazed earthenware (usually flower pots), glazed red earthenware (jars and bowls), Sunderland-type slipware (bowls), Normandy-type stoneware (margarine tub), yellow ware (bowls, usually with mocha decoration), Rockingham earthenware (teapot), transfer-printed wares (table and teawares) and refined white earthenware (uncertain forms).

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A total of 50 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 1484g were recovered from context [001] and unstratified from areas A and B. The material is of post-medieval date. Fabric descriptions are given in Table 4.

5.3.2 Context [001] contained peg tile in fabric T1H (4/94g) of 19th to 20th century date. Brick in fabric B1 of 17th to 19th century date (1/46g) was also present along with a fragment of brick in fabric T1 (1/14g). A fragment of 20th century field drain in fabric P1 (1/18) was also recovered. Unstratified from area B were peg tile fragments in T1H (4/144g), T1 (3/126)g of 19th to 20th century date and T2 (5/116g) of 18th to 19th century date. Also recovered was a vitrified brick fragment with glazed header of 18th to 19th century date (2/70g) and a 20th century fragment of porcelain wall tile (1/4g). Unstratified from area C were fragments of peg tile in fabric T1 (12/358g) and brick and peg tile in fabric T1H (10/428g) and (2/36g) respectively all of 19th to 20th century date. Two 20th century peg tile fragments (2/22g) in fabric T3 and a vitrified field drain fragment (1/16g) were also identified.

Fabric	Description	Date
T1 (T1H)	Reddish orange fabric with fine cream silt marbling and sparse medium sized quartz with sparse very coarse iron rich inclusions (T1H is a hard fired version of the fabric)	C19th-C20th
T2	Orange underfired silty fabric with moderate medium sized coarse quartz with moderate voids and sparse cream silt inclusions.	C18th-C19th
T3	Pale orange fabric with abundant calcareous inclusions with chunky silt inclusions	C20th
B1	Brownish orange fabric with moderate fine to medium sized black iron rich inclusions	C17th-C19th
P1	Fine cream silt fabric	C20th
Porcelain	Glazed porcelain tile	C20th

Table 4: Provisional CBM fabric descriptions

5.3.3 The material holds no potential for further research and it is recommended the material be discarded.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A small assemblage of 28 glass fragments was recovered from three individually numbered contexts (all topsoil). Fragments all date to the mid/late 19th to 20th century. The largest group of pieces consists of green glass wine bottle body sherds, all dating to between the mid 19th and mid 20th century. The neck fragment of a small pale blue bottle of unknown shape and dating to the late 19th to mid 20th century is likely to have contained medication or toiletries. A clear wine glass base of late 19th to mid 20th century date was also recovered. No other diagnostic vessels were recovered although a clear glass bottle rim fragment is likely to represent a 20th century milk bottle (Area C, unstratified). Other pieces, including aqua, clear and yellow fragments, are from cylindrical vessels, usually bottles. Window glass is represented by five

pane fragments, the earliest two of which are green 19th-century examples (Area B, unstratified), whereas three clear, 20th-century pieces were recovered from context [001] and Area C (unstratified).

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 A small assemblage of 14 plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments was recovered from three individually numbered contexts (all unstratified). All pieces, none of which are marked or decorated, are fairly abraded and none are conjoining. The earliest piece was recovered from Area C (unstratified) and dates to the mid 17th century. Two fragments dating to the late 17th to early 18th century were recovered from context [001]. All other pieces are of mid 18th to early 20th century date.

5.6 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A total of eight pieces of bulk ironwork was recovered, including one heavy duty nail and three general purpose nail fragments. The latter incorporate a machine-made, late post-medieval example (topsoil Area B). A bolt with flat, rectangular (22 by 24mm) head was also recovered (topsoil Area C). Other pieces consist of two circular-sectioned rod fragments (di. 6 to 9.5mm) and an amorphous lump, all from [001].

5.7 The Registered Finds by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 Four objects were assigned individual registered finds numbers (RF <00>; Table 5). These were bagged individually and recorded in detail on pro forma sheets for archive. None of the finds require x-ray. The pieces include two iron metalworking files. An iron strip fragment and a copper-alloy plain disc with nail holes along the edge, both of unknown function, were also recovered. All pieces are of late post-medieval date.

5.7.2

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
1	1	FILE	IRON	PMED	180
2	1	FILE	IRON	PMED	150
3	1	UNK	IRON	PMED	50
4	1	DISC	COPP	PMED	22

Table 5: Summary of the registered finds

5.8 The Geological Material by Elke Raemen

5.8.1 A single fragment of Welsh slate was recovered from the topsoil in Area C.

5.9 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.9.1 The work recovered a small assemblage of slag from the site. All was recovered from unstratified deposits (Areas B and C u/s and [001]). The most common type is glassy blast furnace smelting slag of post-medieval date (5/98g, 8/334g and 4/132g respectively). Both black and olive green examples are present. The remaining material consists of undiagnostic iron slag. However, as some pieces exhibit glassy areas and all are quite light/aerated, it is quite probable they also derive from blast furnace smelting.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Watching brief findings

6.1.1 The natural geology was only exposed in two of the areas (A and B). In the remaining areas, (C and D) the excavations were not deep enough to exposed the archaeological horizon. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the watching brief.

6.2 The finds

6.2.1 A small, but varied assemblage of finds was recovered from unstratified overburden during the excavations. All of the material was of post-medieval and dated from the 17th century onwards. The assemblage included pottery, CBM, glass, clay tobacco pipe stems, slag, ironwork, stone and four registered metal objects.

6.2.2 The presence of post-medieval glassy blast furnace smelting slag is interesting considering the potential for iron working within this area of the Weald, but is not necessarily an indicator of on-site iron-working as slag was frequently moved around the Weald as a favoured ingredient of road/track metalling. The fact that the site does not lie on iron-rich geology and is rather more of mudstone formation, would also suggest it is unlikely to have been exploited for iron working or processing and that the assemblage is more likely to have been brought in from elsewhere.

6.3 Conclusions

6.3.1 The archaeological watching brief monitoring has demonstrated that since no archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the redevelopment area, the archaeological resource has not been impacted by the construction works.

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SMR Summary Form

Site Code	EEG 10					
Identification Name and Address	Estcots Primary School, Bourg-De-Peage Avenue, East Grinstead					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 4011 3814					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay/Mudstone (British Geological Survey Sheet 302)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4256					
Type of Fieldwork	~~Eval.~~	~~Excav.~~	Watching Brief✓	~~Standing Structure~~	~~Survey~~	
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	~~Shallow Urban~~	~~Deep Urban~~	~~Other~~		
Dates of Fieldwork	~~Eval.~~	~~Excav.~~	WB. 29-06-2010 18-08-2010	~~Other~~		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant, Simon Stevens, Rob Cole					
Period Summary	~~Palaeo.~~	~~Meso.~~	~~Neo.~~	~~BA~~	~~IA~~	~~RB~~
	~~AS~~	~~MED~~	**PM** **Finds only**	Other Modern		

100 Word Summary.

Archaeology South East (ASE) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological monitoring on land at Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 4011 3814) between the 29th June and 18th August 2010. The watching brief was carried out during redevelopment works within the school grounds. The site falls gently downwards from south west to north from 114.96m AOD to 106.95m AOD with the underlying natural geology comprising Wadhurst Clay c.550mm below the ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the construction works. A small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered from the unstratified overburden covering the site.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-83014

Project details

Project name	Estcots school, East Grinstead
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East (ASE) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological monitoring on land at Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 4011 3814) between the 29th June and 18th August 2010. The watching brief was carried out during redevelopment works within the school grounds. The site falls gently downwards from south west to north from 114.96m AOD to 106.95m AOD with the underlying natural geology comprising Wadhurst Clay c.550mm below the ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the construction works. A small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered from the unstratified overburden covering the site.
Project dates	Start: 29-06-2010 End: 18-08-2010
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EEG 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WSCC/095/09 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Significant Finds	IRONWORK Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

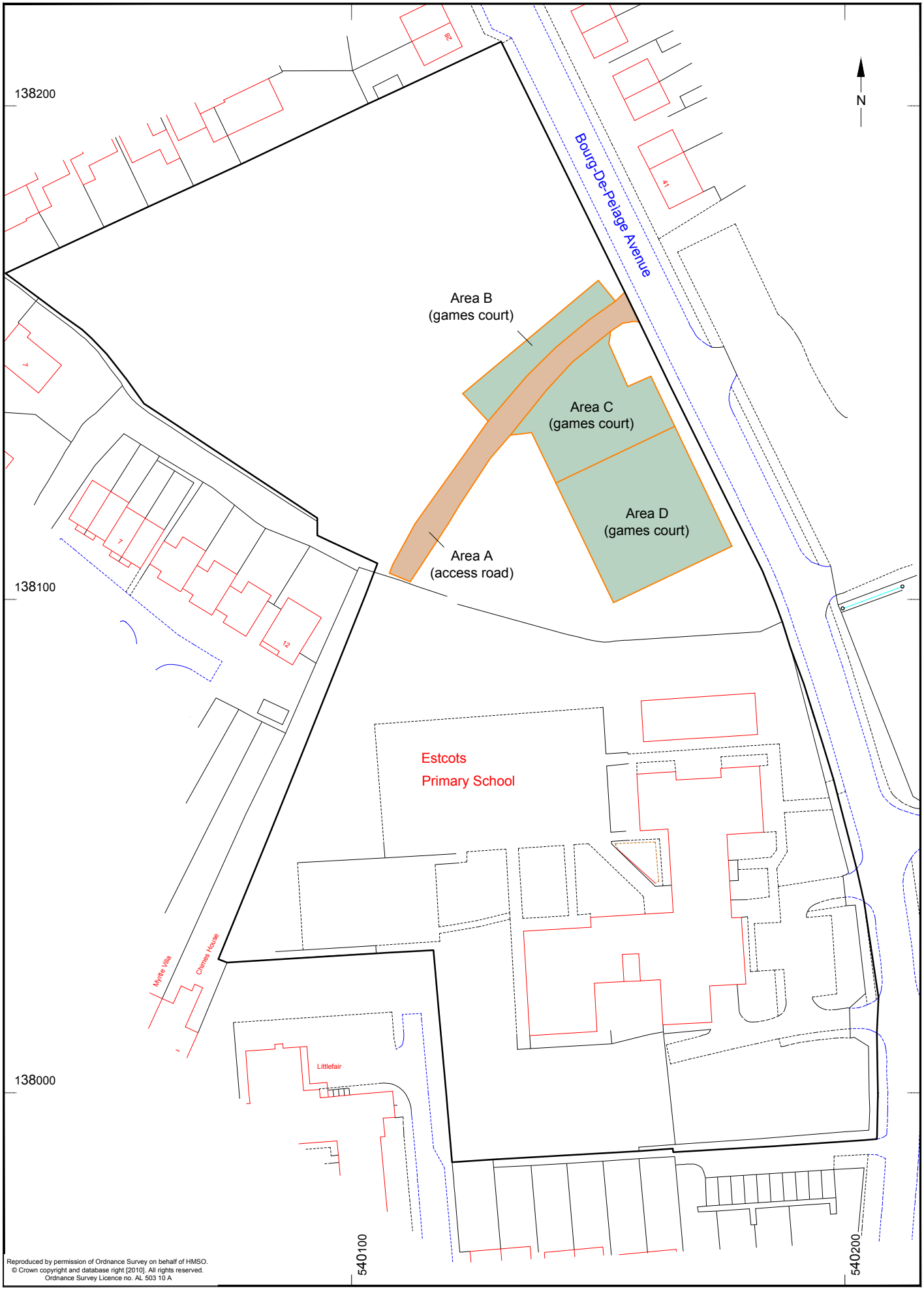
Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX EAST GRINSTEAD Estcots School
Postcode	RH19 3TY
Site coordinates	TQ 4011 3814 51.1248383827 0.00239075182360 51 07 29 N 000 00 08 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 106.95m Max: 114.96m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Entered by	Kathryn Grant (Kathryn.Grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	21 September 2010

© Archaeology South-East		Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4256	Sept 2010	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010153	Drawn by: JLR		



© **Archaeology South-East**		Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4256	Sept 2010	Monitored groundworks	
Report Ref: 2010153	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 3.1: Area A access road

Fig. 3.2: Area B strip

Fig. 3.3: Area C strip

Fig. 3.4: Area D strip

© Archaeology South-East		Estcots Primary School, East Grinstead	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4256	Sept 2010	Photographs showing monitored areas	
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