

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent**

**NGR 561510 141387
(TQ 614 413)**

**Project No: 3802
Site Code: PHT07**

**ASE Report No. 2011252
OASIS id: archaeol6-112690
By Gary Webster
Illustrations by Justin Russell and Dylan Hopkinson**

October 2011

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Road, Pembury, Kent**

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By Gary Webster

November 2011

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 7th June and the 13th September 2011.

No archaeological finds, deposits or features were uncovered during the monitoring.

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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 University College London, was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke to undertake a archaeological watching brief at Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the East of the A21 and the West of the A228. It is to the North East of Royal Tunbridge Wells and South East of Tonbridge (Fig.1). The site lies on a levelled slope, surrounded by some light woodland. There was previously occupied by a hospital and associated buildings.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey show the site sitting on Lower Tunbridge Wells sand and Ardingly sandstone (BGS 2011).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the redevelopment of the site and its replacement with a modern hospital, application reference TW/07/02595.
- 1.3.2 Following advice from the Heritage Conservation Group (KCC) (in their role as advisers to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on archaeological matters), the following condition was applied to the final planning consent.

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

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.3 The watching brief applied to works on the northern and western parts of the site.
- 1.3.4 A specification for the work was produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, KCC (KCC 2009).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The objectives of the watching brief were detailed in the specification (KCC 2009). Generally this included increasing knowledge of the Pembury hospital site through any encountered archaeological remains. More specifically it included:

- Characterising and dating any remains encountered that were connected with medieval and post-medieval use of the site including those connected with the workhouse and hospital
- Identifying as far as is possible, any Roman and prehistoric activity on the site
- Identifying and plotting areas of the site where archaeological potential has been destroyed or damaged by modern development
- Contributing to the environmental history of the area

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Rob Cole and Gary Webster between the 7th of June and 13th September 2011. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager, Fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, Post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER) search

2.1.1 Within a 1km radius of the hospital, there are five HER entries of relevance (Fig. 1)

No (on Fig 1)	HER	NGR	Type	Description
1	TQ 64 SW 9	TQ 6245 4095	Find Spot	Bronze Age flint scraper
2	TQ 64 SW 12	TQ 6167 4110	Find Spot	Neolithic flint axe
3	TQ 64 SW 27	TQ 6115 4209	Monument	Post-medieval earthwork banks
4	TQ 64 SW 28	TQ 6115 4130	Monument	Medieval bank and ditch boundary
5	TQ 64 SW 28	TQ 6115 4130	Monument	Post-medieval brickworks

2.1.2 Perhaps the most significant of these is the alignment of a possible medieval ditch boundary which may continue into the site from the west (Fig.1 no. 4) although the Neolithic axe and flint scraper found nearby indicate that there was also prehistoric activity in the vicinity. There are also four Grade II listed buildings within the 1km radius of the site (not shown).

2.1.3 It is suggested in the specification for the work (KCC 2009) that this is due to a lack of work in the area rather than a barren landscape.

2.2 Previous archaeological investigations at Pembury Hospital

2.1 The work follows on from a watching brief on geotechnical works undertaken by Archaeology South-East (Riccoboni 2008). The specification also makes mention of a programme of building recording undertaken of the workhouse and early hospital buildings at the site by Gifford and archaeological trial trenching of the south and east of the site by John Moore Heritage Services (KCC 2009).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Watching brief methodology

3.1.1 The area monitored during the watching brief is shown on Figure 2 (Area 1). Groundworks in Area 2, (Fig. 2) were to be monitored dependant on the result of the initial, Area 1, archaeological watching brief, as agreed with Adam Single, (KCC Archaeological Officer). The negative results of the Area 1 monitoring (see Results, below) meant that continuation of the watching brief into Area 2 was not required.

3.1.2 The excavations were undertaken, where appropriate, by a 360 degree mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Excavations in Area 1 were monitored by an archaeologist until it became clear that no archaeological remains were present.

3.1.3 Archaeological monitoring took place on 7/6/11 and 13/9/11.

3.2 The site archive

3.2.1 ASE informed Tunbridge Wells Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. ASE awaits confirmation of the acceptance of the archive by Tunbridge Wells Museum. In the meantime, the site archive is currently held at ASE offices. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	2
Photographs	30

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Area 1, ground reduction (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Made Ground	c. 0.3m -0.7m
002	Layer	Natural Sandstone	-

Table 5: List of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Summary

The monitored area of ground reduction in Area 1 revealed a sequence of 0.3m to 0.7m of made ground (demolition material) directly overlying the natural sandstone.

There was no remaining topsoil or subsoil observed and no archaeological artefacts, features or deposits were present.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1** The previous archaeological appraisal of the geotechnical test pits (Riccoboni 2008) suggested that there may be an areas of intact soils, with the potential for archaeological remains being preserved in this (the northwest) part of the Pembury Hospital complex.
- 7.2** However, the watching brief undertaken in Area 1 a revealed a stratigraphic sequence of made ground (demolition material) directly overlying the natural sandstone. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present. Because of these results, it was not necessary to extend the watching brief into Area 2.
- 7.3** This is consistent with results from the majority of the other areas of the site (Riccoboni 2008) and strongly suggests that the deposits (subsoil, topsoil and potential archaeological layers) which formerly overlay the natural horizon in this area were removed during the construction of the hospital.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2011 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed on 26/10/11 http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html,

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council 2009 '*Specification for and Archaeological Watching Brief during development at the site of Pembury hospital near Tunbridge Wells in Kent*' Unpublished grey literature.

Riccoboni, P. 2008 An Archaeological Watching Brief during geotechnical test pitting at the site of Pembury hospital, Tonbridge Road, Kent. ASE client report. Project no. 3112.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Laing O'Rourke for commissioning the work and Adam Single of KCC for his guidance.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	PHT07					
Identification Name and Address	Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 614 413					
Geology	Ardingly Sandstone and Tunbridge Wells Sands					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2011252					
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.	WB. 07/06/11 - 13/09/11	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Laing O'Rourke					
Project Manager	John Sygrave					
Project Supervisor						
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 7th June and the 13th September 2011.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds, deposits or features were uncovered during the monitoring.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent
Short description of the project	<i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Pembury Hospital, Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 7th June and the 13th September 2011.</i>
	<i>No archaeological finds, deposits or features were uncovered during the monitoring.</i>
Project dates	Start: 07-06-2011 End: 13-09-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PHT07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Status	Incomplete
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS PEMBURY Pembury Hospital
Postcode	TN2 4QJ
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 614 413 LL - 51.1476156268 0.307827386575 (decimal) LL - 51 08 51 N 000 18 28 E (degrees) Point
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator (other)	Laing O'Rourke
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Physical Archive Exists?	'No physical archive'
Missing Fields	Digital Archive recipient, Digital Contents, Paper Archive recipient, Paper Contents
Title	Specification for and Archaeological Watching Brief during development at the site of Pembury hospital near Tunbridge Wells in Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council
Date	2009



© Archaeology South-East		Pembury Hospital	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3802	Nov 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011252	Drawn by: JLR		



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