

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
King's Avenue, Ashford
Kent**

NGR TR 00247 43057

**ASE Project no: 6775
Site Code: AKA 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014164
OASIS ID: archaeol6-179319**



By Giles Dawkes

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May 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of the King's Avenue, Ashford in advance of redevelopment.

Three trenches of up to 10m by 1.6m were machine excavated and no archaeological features or finds were identified. The site had suffered extensive modern truncation. No archaeological features or finds were identified in the evaluated areas. Only natural clay deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches, and no other natural deposits, such as gravels were identified.

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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 (CAA), Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at King's Avenue, Ashford, Kent (TR 00247 43057; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The eastern half of the site is underlain by the Sandsgate Formation of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. The western half of the site is underlain by Hythe Formation sandstone and limestone (BGS 2014).
- 1.2.2 The site comprises an irregularly-shaped plot of land to the north of King's Avenue. It is bounded to the north by Chart Road, to the east by the rear gardens of the Western Avenue and to the west by scrubland. The buildings formerly occupying the site have been demolished. The existing topography of the site is entirely a product of previous modern land use and development. The site is terraced into the lower slopes of Barrow Hill at around 55 to 57m AOD. The site has suffered extreme ground disturbance as a result of its development in the 20th century as the site of Ashford Hospital.
- 1.2.3 The development proposal is for the comprehensive redevelopment of the site for residential purposes. A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014) was prepared in advance of the fieldwork.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects are:
- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
 - To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
 - To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
 - To assess what options should be considered for mitigation
- 1.3.2 The evaluation will seek to inform on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):
- The evolution of settlement in the Iron Age period
 - The transition to the late Iron Age period including the role of Kent in the emerging political structure of south-east England
 - The transition to the Roman period and the study of its agricultural economy

1.3 Scope of Report

- 1.3.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site on the 19th May 2014. The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is paraphrased from the Desk-based Assessment prepared by CgMs (2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic material are recorded within a 1km radius of the site. Unspecified finds of Bronze Age material are recorded from the former gasworks site at Gasworks Lane, Ashford (HER Ref: EKE 10299; TR 00504 42406).
- 2.2.2 Phases of archaeological investigation at the site of the former Ashford Barracks revealed evidence for late Iron Age to early Roman settlement and associated field systems (HER Ref: TQ 94 SE 46; TQ 9970 4351; HER Ref: TQ 94 SE 182, TQ 9991 4350; HER Ref: TQ 94 SE 183, TQ 999 436; HER Ref: TQ 94 SE 185; TQ 9993 4344; HER Ref: EKE 9254; TQ 9973 4348; HER Ref: EKE 8999, TQ 9993 4363; HER Ref: EKE10784, TQ 9994 4372; HER Ref: EKE 9585, TQ 9986 4352).
- 2.2.3 Road widening works to the M20 revealed a number of mid to late Iron Age ditches including a possible driveway (HER Ref: TR 04 SW 398; TR 0007 4374, also HER Ref: EKE 11347; TR 0013 4376).

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The Iron Age settlement at Ashford Barracks appears to have passed out of use in the early Roman period and this may have been part of a more widespread re-organisation of the rural landscape at this time.
- 2.3.2 A Roman cremation burial is recorded from Albert Road, Ashford and dated to the 1st to 3rd centuries (HER Ref: TR 04 SW5, TR 008 431).

2.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 No sites or finds of Anglo Saxon or early medieval date are recorded within a 1km radius of the site.
- 4.4.1 Although a number of late medieval sites and finds are recorded within a 1km radius of the site, none of these has any relevance for the study site's archaeological potential.

2.5 Post Medieval/Modern

- 2.5.1 Historic map evidence shows that the study site comprised agricultural land until the construction of the former Hospital in 1926-8.
- 2.5.2 Ashford Hospital was built in 1926 to 1928 and was demolished in 2009-2012 following a programme of archaeological building recording (HER Ref: TR 04 SW 106; TR 0023 4304).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2014) and the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009).
- 3.1.2 Three evaluation trenches were excavated on the site, measuring 10m by 1.6m, 6m by 1.6m and 5m by 1.6m (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 The trenches were scanned by Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.25m to the top of the underlying natural substrate.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological contexts were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the archaeological work.

3.2 Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive, which has been assigned the site code AKA 14, is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	10
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	6 Digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Evaluation Trench 1

4.1.1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.5m
1/002	Deposit	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	+1.2m
1/003	Cut	Modern truncation	6m	Tr.	N/A
1/004	Fill	Modern fill	6m	Tr.	N/A

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in Trench 1

4.1.1.2 The natural clay [1/002] was identified at a depth of 0.5m below ground level (c. 55.5m OD) through modern made ground [1/001]. The natural clay was machine tested by machine to a depth of 1.2m below ground level and no other natural deposits were seen. The majority of the trench had suffered extensive modern truncation [1/003]. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

4.2 Evaluation Trench 2

4.2.1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m
2/002	Deposit	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	+1.2m
2/003	Cut	Modern truncation	2m	Tr.	N/A
2/004	Fill	Modern fill	2m	Tr.	N/A

Table 3: List of recorded contexts in Trench 2

4.2.2 The natural clay [2/003] was identified at a depth of 0.45m below ground level (c. 56.1m OD) through modern made ground [2/001]. Part of the trench had suffered modern truncation [2/003]. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

4.3 Evaluation Trench 3

4.3.1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	1m
3/002	Deposit	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 4: List of recorded contexts in Trench 3

4.3.2 The natural clay [3/002] was located at c. 56m OD. Overlying was a deposit of made ground [3/001]. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified in the evaluated areas.
- 5.2 The site had suffered extensive truncation, almost certainly as a result of the previous developments, especially the 20th Century hospital. Only natural clay deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches, and no other natural deposits, such as subsoil or gravel were identified.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2014, Written Scheme of Investigation *Archaeological Evaluation, Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent*, Archaeology South-East unpublished report

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IfA 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Published online at <http://www.archaeologists.net/>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work.

HER Summary

Site Code	AKA14					
Identification Name and Address	Kings Avenue, Ashford, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 2988 5962					
Geology	Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6775					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓					
Type of Site		Shallow✓ Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 19-05- 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary						
				Other✓ Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of the King's Avenue, Ashford in advance of redevelopment.</p> <p>Three trenches of up to 10m by 1.6m were machine excavated and no archaeological features or finds were identified. The site had suffered extensive modern truncation. No archaeological features or finds were identified in the evaluated areas. Only natural clay deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches, and no other natural deposits, such as gravels were identified.</p>						

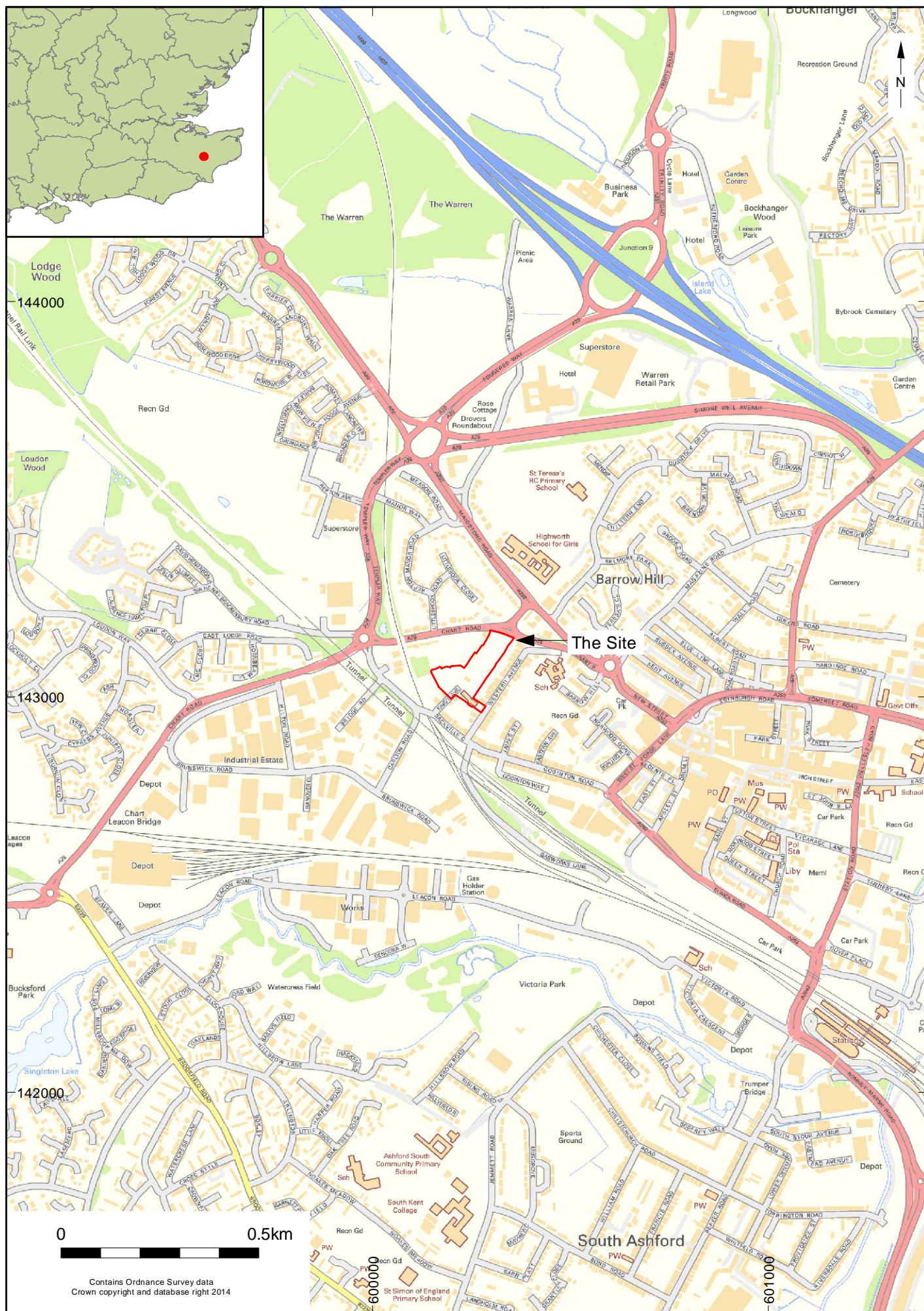
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-179319

Project details

Project name	King's Avenue, Ashford
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of the King's Avenue, Ashford in advance of redevelopment. Three trenches of up to 10m by 1.6m were machine excavated and no archaeological features or finds were identified. The site had suffered extensive modern truncation. No archaeological features or finds were identified in the evaluated areas. Only natural clay deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches, and no other natural deposits, such as gravels were identified.
Project dates	Start: 19-05-2014 End: 19-05-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	AKA14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	6775 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT ASHFORD ASHFORD King's Avenue, Ashford
Postcode	TN23 1LY
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TR 00247 43057 51.1510799029 0.863599995848 51 09 03 N 000 51 48 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 55.00m Max: 56.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs

Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		Kings Avenue, Ashford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6775	May 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014164	Drawn by: RHC		





Trench 1 facing north-west



Trench 2 facing north-west



Trench 3 facing north-west

© Archaeology South-East		King's Avenue, Ashford	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6775 Report Ref: 2014164	May 2014 Drawn by: JLR	Photographs of trenches 1-3	

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