

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School
Park Farm Road, Folkestone
Kent CT19 5DN

NGR: 622222 137237 (TR 222 372)

Planning Ref: KCC/SH/0158/2014

ASE Project No: 6638 Site Code: FOX14

ASE Report No: 2014319
OASIS id: archaeol6-192040



By Steve Price

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By Steve Price

October 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by BAM Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN. Nine trenches were excavated; two further trenches were not opened due to the presence of various buried services.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the evaluation.

The majority of trenches contained various modern made ground deposits presumably associated with the now demolished school. Some deposits of industrial waste were also noted in trenches 9 and 11, suggesting that some of the made ground may be associated with late 19th century brickworks or mid-20th century textile works which stood on the site prior to Foxwood and Highview School in the 1970s.

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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 (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by BAM Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN, centred on NGR: 622222 137237 (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site comprises an irregular trapezoidal area with a rectangular extension to the south. The eastern boundary of the site is formed by Park Farm Road. The northern and western boundaries are formed by the gardens of the houses on Lynwood, the playing fields of the Folkestone Academy, and the factories and warehouses on Barnfield Road. The site is bounded to the south by Broadmeadow Residential Care Home. The site was formerly occupied by the now demolished Foxwood and Highview School. The remains of the former school are evident across much of the site in the form of terracing, areas of hardstanding and concrete roads. Elsewhere the site is covered in scrub and rough grass (ASE 2014; KCC 2014).
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone of the Gault Formation (BGS 2014).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The site is the subject of a planning application for the construction of a "new two storey Special Educational Needs School with associated car parking and landscaping". The County Planning Authority's planning reference number for the proposal is KCC/SH/0158/2014.
- 1.3.2 The planning application is currently awaiting determination. Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group, which provides archaeological advice to the County Planning Authority, advised that a programme of archaeological work would likely be required at the site. Such a programme would comprise a phased programme initially involving trial trenching, to be followed by appropriate safeguarding or investigation. Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group has recommended the following planning condition be attached to any forthcoming consent:

AR1 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable 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 Accordingly, a specification was prepared by Kent County Council (2014) detailing the aims of the archaeological evaluation. The specification sets the requirements and aims of the field evaluation.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aim of the evaluation work was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation was designed to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE between the 22nd-26th September 2014 on land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN. The fieldwork was directed by Steve Price with the assistance of Lauren Figg. The field work was managed by Paul Mason, and the post excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from an archaeological desk-based study of the site (ASE 2014), the specification for the archaeological evaluation (KCC 2014) and the Kent HER.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The study area contains Bronze Age material of national significance in the form of a very rare Beaker Settlement. However, this settlement is located on the high ground to the north of the site and there is nothing to suggest that it extended downhill. Although other Prehistoric finds have been made within the study area they are typical of the general background scatter of material left as casual losses by a nomadic population.
- 2.2.2 The potential of the site for this period is low.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 Although there are a handful of Romano-British sites recorded within the study area none of them are within or close to the site.
- 2.3.2 The potential of the site for this period is low.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.1 There is only one Anglo-Saxon findspot known within the study area. Although the town of Folkestone and the defended site on Castle Hill are known to have Anglo-Saxon origins the scarcity of material within the study area suggests that the site was peripheral to the foci of activity at the time.
- 2.4.2 The potential of the site for this period is low.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 Park Farm is likely to have medieval origins as a moated farmstead. The site is known to have been part of the farm in the post-medieval period so it is likely that this would also have been the case in the medieval period. Although the majority of farm buildings are thought to have lain outside the Site some are known to have been built in the southern extension and may have had medieval precursors. The moated farmstead would have sat within a managed agricultural landscape and so there is a possibility that hitherto unknown field boundaries and drainage ditches are also present.
- 2.5.2 The potential of the site for this period is moderate.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 The site was part of Park Farm for much of the post-medieval period and there are two HER entries relating to the farm that lie very close by. Farm buildings are known to have existed in the southern extension of the site.

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Since there is no evidence for later structures in this area it is likely that the foundations of these buildings persist beneath the ground either in the form of material remains or as backfilled post holes and wall trenches.

2.6.2 The potential of the site for this period is considered to be high.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation was to comprise the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 11 archaeological trial trenches in a predetermined pattern to avoid known buried services on the site of the former Foxwood and Highview School. However, services were located using a CAT scanner running directly through trenches 1 and 3, and due to the close proximity of other known services, the decision was taken not to excavate them. Additionally, trench 2 had to be cut short by 2.40m at the south-west end to avoid buried services. The location of Trench 10 had to be altered slightly in order to avoid a line of trees. It was moved 2.50m to the east at the northern end and 2.00m to the east at the southern end. A total of 9 trenches were excavated. Each trench measured 20m in length by 1.8m in width, except for trench 2 which measured 17.60m in length.
- 3.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner
- 3.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.5 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. Where required, the exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping.
- 3.6 All areas were left open to allow for potential weathering out of features, and inspected regularly. Potential features were investigated by hand-digging sections through them.
- 3.7 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the ASE recording sheets. Post-excavation plans were made both by digital means and by hand planning at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.8 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.
- 3.9 The site archive 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	45
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	49

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

- 4.1.1 Each trench measured 20m by 1.80m, with the exception of trench 2, which was cut short by 2.40m at the south-west end to avoid buried services. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the course of the evaluation. All contexts are summarised in Table 2 below.
- 4.1.2 The natural geology consisted of the Gault Clay formation; this varied in colour throughout the site. In trench 2, the natural consisted of mid greenish-brown clay with inclusions of frequent rounded and angular stones and occasional flint nodules. In trenches 4 and 5, the clay was found to be a mid greyish-blue colour, in trench 6 it was light greenish-brown, and in trenches 7, 9, 10 and 11 it was generally light brown with patches of light blue-grey. In trench 8, the colour varied between dark greyish blue and dark brown. The topsoil encountered was found to be the same across the whole site.
- 4.1.3 In trench 2, the natural [2/005] was overlain by mid greyish-brown subsoil [2/004], which had occasional small angular flint inclusions and measured 0.15m thick. Overlying the subsoil was a layer of buried modern topsoil [2/003], which consisted of dark greyish-brown clay with occasional small sub rounded stones, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of modern CBM. This measured a thickness of 0.17-0.25m. The buried topsoil was overlain by a layer of modern made ground [2/002] which consisted of crushed brick, fine light yellowish-brown sand, modern CBM, frequent small angular stones and occasional large lumps of concrete; it measured 0.13-0.34m thick. This was overlain by a thin layer of overburden [2/001] consisting of dark brown sand with frequent small rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions. It measured between 0.06 and 0.10m thick.
- 4.1.4 Trenches 4 and 5 both had the same stratigraphical make up. A layer of firmly compacted mid brown clay [4/003], measuring 0.31-0.57m thick, and [5/003], measuring 0.25-0.55m thick, with occasional chalk fleck inclusions overlaid the natural. This could possibly be interpreted as colluvial, as both trenches were located on sloping ground. This was overlain by subsoil [4/002], measuring a thickness of 0.13-0.16m, and [5/002], measuring 0.11-0.14m thick. This layer consisted of firmly compacted mid grey clay, with orange-brown streaks which could be indicative of re-oxidisation as a result of poor drainage. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil [4/001] and [5/001], which was made up of dark greyish-brown silty clay which was moderately compacted and quite rooted. In both trenches, it measured between 0.14-0.17m thick.
- 4.1.5 Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 featured various deposits of obviously modern made ground overlying the natural which were most likely associated with the now demolished school buildings.
- 4.1.6 At the north-east end of trench 6, a substantial deposit of dark greyish-green clay [6/004] with inclusions of occasional angular modern CBM fragments and also occasional pieces of wood was found to be overlying the natural clay [6/006]. This deposit extended from the north-east end for 5.80m, and as it was removed the underlying natural was found to be sloping down

considerably at this end. At its thickest point, it measured 1.21m. Therefore it was concluded that [6/004] was most likely a levelling deposit, possibly associated with landscaping for the former school.

- 4.1.7 The levelling deposit [6/004] was overlain by a layer of modern made ground [6/003] which consisted of mid grey coarse sandy material with moderate modern brick and modern CBM inclusions. This layer also extended from the north-east end of the trench for about 5m, and measured 0.20m thick. Overlying this was a mid grey firmly compacted clay layer [6/002], also extending from the north-east end of the trench for 6m and measuring 0.16m thick. Overlying [6/002] was a layer of topsoil [6/001].
- 4.1.8 For the remainder of trench 6, the natural [6/006] was overlain by another layer of modern made ground [6/005] which consisted of mid brownish-green clay with frequent angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, frequent crushed stones, moderate modern CBM and occasional chalk flecks. This layer measured between 0.25-0.34m thick. This was overlain by the topsoil [6/001], which measured 0.08-0.14m thick across the whole trench.
- 4.1.9 The natural clay [7/004] in Trench 7 was overlain by modern made ground [7/003] consisting of mid brown firmly compacted clay with moderate chalk flecks. This was presumed to be a levelling/ make up layer. Overlying [7/003] was a mid grey clay subsoil [7/002], which appeared to be the same as that noted in trenches 4 and 5. This was overlain by topsoil [7/001].
- 4.1.10 In trench 8, a square post-hole was noted 2.80m from the south end cut into the natural clay [8/007], although it was clear that it was modern as a substantial part of a wooden post was found still protruding from it. The soil conditions were not conducive to preserving wood, and so it was concluded that the post must have been quite recent. At the south end of the trench, [8/007] was overlain by a light brownish-grey clay layer [8/005] with frequent chalk inclusions. This measured a thickness of 0.11m and extended for 7m from the south end before petering out. This was overlain by [8/004] which consisted of mid brown clay with occasional chalk flecks. This layer was found to be between 0.22-0.24m thick, and petered out at 24.50m from the south end of the trench. Overlying [8/004] was a chalk layer [8/003], which measured 0.15-0.18m thick and also petering out 24.50m from the south end. Each of these layers most likely were modern levelling layers, presumably part of the landscaping for the former school. Overlying [8/003] was a mid grey clay subsoil [8/002], which was overlain by the topsoil [8/001].
- 4.1.11 Towards the north end of trench 8, [8/003] and [8/004] were replaced by a different layer of modern made ground [8/006]. This was found to be overlying the natural clay [8/007], and it consisted of firmly compacted light greyish-brown clay with moderate modern CBM inclusions, and moderate manganese flecks. It measured 0.42m thick, and was overlain by the subsoil [8/002], which in turn was overlain by topsoil [8/001].
- 4.1.12 In trench 9, the natural clay [9/006] was overlain by modern made ground [9/004] consisting of greyish-brown clay, presumably a levelling layer. It measured between 0.20-0.28m thick. This was overlain by a further deposit of modern made ground [9/003], which consisted of fine light grey sandy clay measuring 0.21-0.41m thick. This was overlain by subsoil [9/002] consisting

of mid grey firmly compacted clay measuring 0.08-0.16m thick; the subsoil was overlain in turn by topsoil [9/001], here measuring a thickness of 0.10-0.28m.

- 4.1.13 Around the middle of trench 9, [9/004] was not visible, and instead a layer of what appeared to be burnt modern industrial waste metals [9/005] had been deposited overlying the natural [9/006]. This was overlain by [9/003]. The made ground encountered in this trench appeared to be a series of levelling deposits.
- 4.1.14 Trench 10 contained a series of modern rubbish dumps cut through the subsoil containing modern bricks and other modern CBM fragments, cement, polystyrene and some substantial concrete beams. A potential linear feature was investigated but found to be archaeologically negative, and may have represented a depression in the natural. The natural Gault Clay [10/003] was overlain by subsoil [10/002], consisting of mid grey clay measuring a thickness of 0.08-0.17m. This was overlain by the topsoil [10/001], which was found to be 0.13-0.16m thick.
- 4.1.15 At the east and west ends of Trench 11 the natural clay [11/003] was overlain by mid grey firmly compacted subsoil [11/002] measuring between 0.11 and 0.14m thick. This was overlain by topsoil [11/001], measuring a thickness of 0.16-0.19m. At 9.10m from the eastern end of the trench, made ground deposits were identified. At this point, a layer of mottled brownish grey clay modern made ground [11/006] was found to be overlying the natural clay, which sloped downwards quite sharply at this point. The made ground measured a thickness of 0.33m, and extended for 2.04m. Overlying [11/006] was a layer of burnt modern industrial waste metals [11/005], the same as that found in trench 9. This was found to be 0.17m thick and extended for 3.82m. This was overlain by another modern made ground deposit [11/004], which measured a thickness of 0.24m and extended for 5m. This was sealed by the subsoil [11/002].

Trench Number	Context	Туре	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2	2/001	Layer	Overburden	0.06-0.10m	33.91
2	2/002	Layer	Made Ground	0.13-0.34m	
2	2/003	Layer	Buried Topsoil	0.17025m	
2	2/004	Layer	Subsoil	0.15m	
2	2/005	Layer	Natural	-	33.40- 33.07
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.17m	33.74- 32.33
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13-0.16m	
4	4/003	Layer	Poss. colluvial	0.31-0.57m	
4	4/004	Layer	Natural	-	33.16- 31.43
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.17m	34.60- 33.33
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.14m	
5	5/003	Layer	Poss. colluvial	0.25-0.55m	
5	5/004	Layer	Natural	-	33.74- 32.83

Trench Number	Context	Туре	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.08-0.14m	31.35- 30.50
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16m	
6	6/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.20m	
6	6/004	Deposit	Levelling deposit	1.21m	
6	6/005	Layer	Made Ground	0.25-0.34m	
6	6/006	Layer	Natural	-	30.93- 28.83
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11-0.18m	34.54- 34.16
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.09-0.15m	
7	7/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.19-0.58m	
7	7/004	Layer	Natural	-	34.15- 33.25
8	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0-14m	33.53- 33.16
8	8/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.09m	
8	8/003	Layer	Chalk make up	0.15-0.18m	
8	8/004	Layer	Made Ground	0.22-0.24m	
8	8/005	Layer	Made Ground	0.11m	
8	8/006	Layer	Made Ground	0.42m	
8	8/007	Layer	Natural	-	32.79- 32.51
9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.28m	33.91- 33.70
9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.16m	
9	9/003	Layer	Made Ground	0.21-0.41m	
9	9/004	Layer	Made Ground	0.20-0.28m	
9	9/005	Deposit	Made Ground	0.21m	
9	9/006	Layer	Natural	-	33.09- 33.07
10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.16m	33.94- 33.21
10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.17m	
10	10/003	Layer	Natural	-	33.66- 32.97
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.16-0.19m	33.43- 33.37
11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0-14m	
11	11/003	Layer	Natural	-	33.10
11	11/004	Deposit	Made Ground	0.24m	
11	11/005	Deposit	Made Ground	0.17m	
11	11/006	Deposit	Made Ground	0.33m	

Table 2: Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 list of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The natural Gault Clay was encountered at levels ranging from 28.83 to 34.15m AOD across site.
- 5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the evaluation. The post hole encountered in trench 8 was clearly modern and therefore did not represent any archaeological significance.
- 5.3 All trenches apart from 4 and 5 contained various modern made ground deposits, and so clearly there was a substantial degree of modern truncation which would have impacted on the survival of any potential archaeological remains. Most of the made ground deposits were likely associated with the construction of the former Foxwood and Highview School buildings and landscaping. However, the deposits of industrial waste noted in trenches 9 and 11 could possibly be associated with the late 19th century brickworks or mid-20th century textile works which stood on the site prior to Foxwood and Highview School (ASE 2014).
- 5.4 As no archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, the research aims could not be addressed.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank BAM Construction for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Ben Found, County Archaeologist, Kent County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Steve Price. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason project managed the excavations and Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	FOX14			
Identification Name and Address	Land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN			
County, District &/or Borough	Kent			
OS Grid Refs.	622222 137237			
Geology	Mudstone of the Gault Formation			
Arch. South-East Project Number	6638			
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.			
Type of Site				
Dates of Fieldwork	22 nd -26 th September 2014			
Sponsor/Client	BAM Construction			
Project Manager	Paul Mason			
Project Supervisor	Steve Price			
Period Summary				

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by BAM Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN. Nine trenches were excavated; two further trenches were not opened due to the presence of various buried services.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the evaluation.

The majority of trenches contained various modern made ground deposits presumably associated with the now demolished school. Some deposits of industrial waste were also noted in trenches 9 and 11, suggesting that some of the made ground may be associated with late 19th century brickworks or mid-20th century textile works which stood on the site prior to Foxwood and Highview School in the 1970s.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-192040

Project details

Project name

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by BAM Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at the Former Foxwood and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DN. Nine trenches were excavated; two further trenches were not opened due to the presence of various buried services.

Short description of the project

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the evaluation.

The majority of trenches contained various modern made ground deposits presumably associated with the now demolished school. Some deposits of industrial waste were also noted in trenches 9 and 11, suggesting that some of the made ground may be associated with late 19th century brickworks or mid-20th century textile works which stood on the site prior to Foxwood and Highview School in the 1970s.

Previous/future

Project dates

work

No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Start: 22-09-2014 End: 26-09-2014

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT SHEPWAY FOLKESTONE Land at the Former Foxwood

and Highview School, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent

Postcode CT19 5DN

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TR 622222 137237 50.8626637385 1.72690123589 50 51 45 N

001 43 36 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South East

Project brief originator

BAM Construction

Project design originator

Kent County Council

Project

director/manager

Paul Mason

Project supervisor Steve Price

Project archives Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Physical Archive recipient

local museum

Digital Archive recipient

local museum

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient

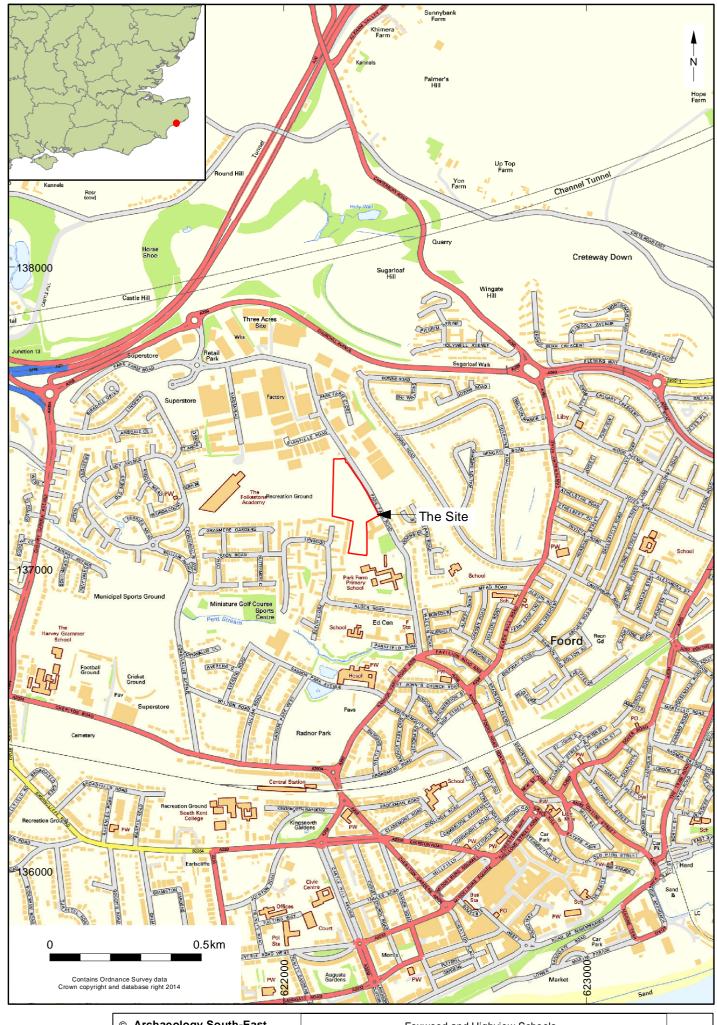
local museum

Paper Media available

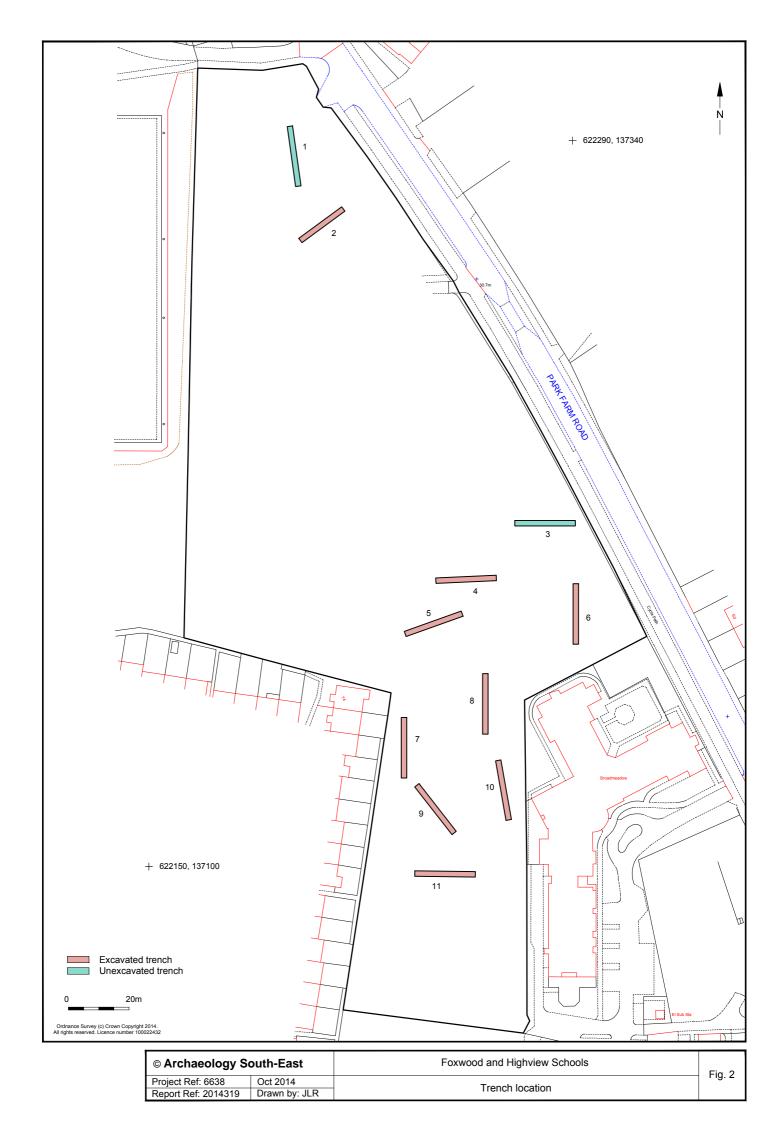
"Photograph","Report","Section"

Entered by Steve Price (steven.price@ucl,ac,uk)

Entered on 8 October 2014



Archaeology South-East		Foxwood and Highview Schools	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6638	Oct 2014	Site location	1 19. 1
Report Ref: 2014319	Drawn by: JLR	Site location	



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