

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
The Canterbury Primary School  
Franklyn Road, Canterbury, Kent**

**NGR: 613551 157527**

**Canterbury City Council Planning Reference: 14/00836**

**ASE Project No: 7042  
Site Code: CAH 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014370  
OASIS id: archaeol6-195252**



**By Sophia Adams and Tom Munnery**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
The Canterbury Primary School  
Franklyn Road, Canterbury, Kent**

**NGR: 613551 157527**

**Canterbury City Council Planning Reference: 14/00836**

**ASE Project No: 7042  
Site Code: CAH 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014370  
OASIS id: archaeol6-195252**

**By Sophia Adams and Tom Munnery**

**November 2014**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at Canterbury Primary School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury. The archaeological work comprised monitoring the machine excavation of foundation trenches.*

*No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were found.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Form**

## **FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Watching brief areas
- Figure 3: Photographs of trench sections

## **TABLES**

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## **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 Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new school block at The Canterbury School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury (Figure 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 613551 157527.
- 1.1.2 The site comprises an irregularly-shaped parcel of land occupied by the school and its grounds. The site is bounded by City View to the north, a wooded strip of land flanking the railway line to the south, the grounds of Canterbury High School to the east and residential properties to the west.
- 1.1.3 The site was attended from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October but archaeologically supervised intrusive groundworks only took place on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site is situated on Thanet Formation - sand silt and clay, overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits 2 - sand and gravel. Previous evaluation (ASE 2014a) indicated that the river terrace gravels were intact across much of the site, with only partial truncation.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework a desk based assessment (DBA) was produced in order to identify and assess the significance of heritage assets within the site (CAT 2013). This concluded that the site has a high potential for containing archaeological deposits relating to prehistoric activity, with further potential for Roman and later deposits and features.
- 1.3.2 A planning application was submitted for the construction of new school buildings and car park areas (14/00836). Canterbury City Council's archaeological advisor was subsequently consulted on a scope for evaluating the site in order to determine the impact that the proposals may have on buried archaeological and geoarchaeological remains.
- 1.3.3 In June 2014 a trial trench and test pit evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2014a). Two trenches, and three test pits were excavated. They revealed minimal truncation but generally undisturbed river terrace deposits were recorded over the majority of the site. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were identified.
- 1.3.4 The preservation of river terrace gravels, and associated Palaeolithic/environmental potential was of interest to Canterbury City Council's archaeological advisor - who has subsequently left post. A condition for further archaeological work was therefore attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer, or their successor(s) in title has secured; firstly, the implementation of an archaeological assessment of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the potential impact of the proposed development on any buried archaeological features and deposits; secondly, implementation of any mitigation measures, including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the assessment, to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains; and, thirdly a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication of any matters of archaeological interest. All archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been first submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority*

- 1.3.5 Following consultation with Canterbury City Council's planning department, and in the absence of a specifically defined scope of work, it was proposed that an archaeological watching brief be maintained for the duration of the intrusive groundworks (ASE 2014b).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development.

- 1.4.2 Two specific research aims were addressed:

- Examination of the river terrace deposits with particular emphasis on whether evidence for prehistoric flint working exists on the site
- Determination of whether the Iron Age activity discovered in the neighbouring site extends into the development area

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 The scope of this report is to detail the results of the watching brief at The Canterbury Primary School, Canterbury, Kent carried out between 28th and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 by Sophia Adams.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The following background is paraphrased from the desk-based assessment of the site (CAT 2013).

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 A later prehistoric flint core and a blade or flake were recovered 'at some time before 1977' from a field which now falls within the site, and several Neolithic and Bronze Age flint flakes and implements including scrapers, barbed arrowheads and cores have been recorded from the garden of 15 Summer Hill, approximately 500m to the north-west.

2.2.2 Iron Age activity has been noted on two archaeological evaluations approximately 300m to the north-east at Canterbury High School. These yielded some evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, both evaluations reporting a sparse scatter of features of probable Iron Age date.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 No Roman period archaeological remains have been recorded from within the site, but it lies within an area of known Romano-British activity. Extra-mural cemeteries are known to exist to the north-east along parts of St. Dunstan's Street, London Road and St. Dunstan's Terrace. Similarly, the large Romano-British cemetery known in the Wincheap area lies approximately 500m to the south but does not extend to the site.

### **2.4 Medieval**

2.4.1 The evaluations at the nearby Canterbury High School produced four sherds of early and one of late medieval pottery and two fragments of medieval roof tile.

2.4.2 The Pilgrim's Way, a route taken by medieval pilgrims from London to Canterbury, approaches from a south-westerly direction passing approximately 380m to the north-west of the site, before joining London Road and heading towards Canterbury's west gate.

### **2.5 Post medieval**

2.5.1 The site seems to have remained in agricultural use throughout the post medieval period. In the early part of the 20th century the land was listed on the 1936 Land Utilisation Survey map as 'new orchards' (planted since 1914-16).

2.5.2 As part of the post-war redevelopment of Canterbury a housing estate was constructed on the hill immediately to the north-east. It is probably at this time that the land now occupied by the school was levelled up.

## **2.6 Recent Archaeological Investigation**

- 2.6.1 In June 2014 a trial trench/test pit evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2014a). Two trenches, and three test pits were excavated. They revealed minimal truncation but generally undisturbed river terrace deposits were recorded over the majority of the site. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were identified.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 The significant intrusive ground works associated with the proposed development are mainly confined to the footprint of the new school block (Figure 2).

3.1.2 These and any other intrusive groundworks associated with the development were to be monitored by an archaeologist. However, upon commencing monitoring, it became apparent that any further work was unnecessary. Any machine used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil was fitted with a toothless bucket. All hand and mechanical excavation and plant movement carried out by the ground work contractor was undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

3.2.1 There were no constraints during the archaeological watching brief.

#### **3.3 The Site Archive**

3.3.1 ASE informed Canterbury Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Canterbury Museum in due course. Canterbury Museum does not give out archive accession numbers. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	30 (Digital)

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 10% of the foundation footprint was excavated by machine under watching brief conditions on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October (equivalent to 5% of the entire groundworks on the site). This revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence. A further evaluation trench was excavated at the western end of the site on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014.
- 4.1.2 At the easternmost end of the site, in the grassed area surrounding the current playground, the trench contained only turf and topsoil [001] overlying natural flint gravel in a sand matrix [003] (Section 1). Where the foundation trench cut through the existing playground, the sequence consisted in the main part of tarmac and made ground [002] over the natural gravels [003] (Sections 2 and 3). On the southern edge a 3m long stretch of the foundation trench also revealed natural sand [004] overlying the gravel [003] and sealed by made ground [002] (Section 4).
- 4.1.3 An evaluation trench 4m long (north to south) and 2m wide (east to west) was excavated at the western end of the site to confirm the stratigraphy remained the same across the site. This trench cut through the grassed area. The sequence here consisted of turf and topsoil [001] directly overlying the natural gravel [003] (Section 5).
- 4.1.4 No archaeological features or artefacts were found in any of the excavated areas.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Deposit	Turf and Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30
002	Deposit	Tarmac and Made Ground	Trench	Trench	0.30
003	Deposit	Natural Gravels	Trench	Trench	0.65+
004	Deposit	Natural Sand	3.00	2.00	0.20

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were found in the foundation trenches or western evaluation trench. Previous test pit and evaluation survey of the site also revealed no archaeological remains (ASE 2014). It appears that the site had been truncated in the past prior to the construction of the current school and playground as evidenced by the absence of material between the natural gravels and the made ground or topsoil. Truncation may have occurred as part of a levelling process for the playground construction.
- 5.2 The geological evidence corresponds with the expected deposits of River Terrace Deposits 2: sand and gravels.
- 5.3 No evidence for flint knapping and no worked flints were discovered at the site.
- 5.4 No evidence was found for Iron Age activity.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2013. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land in Tunstall, Kent*. Unpublished client report

ASE 2014a *Archaeological Evaluation Report Canterbury Primary School Franklyn Road, Canterbury, Kent*, Unpublished client report

ASE 2014b. *Tunstall C of E Primary School, Kent - Archaeological Watching Brief - Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report

Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2013, *Canterbury Primary School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury: Preliminary desk-based assessment*. Unpublished Grey literature.

English Heritage 2002. *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation and Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*

English Heritage 2008. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation*

ESCC. 2008. *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex*

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief/evaluation/excavation*

McKinley, J I 2005 'Compiling a skeletal inventory: cremated human bone' in M Brickley and J I McKinley (eds) *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Bone*, IFA Paper no. 7, 9–13

McKinley, J I and Roberts, C 1993 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*, IFA technical paper no. 13

MoLAS 1994. *Site Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*

Watkinson, D E & Neal V, 2001, *First Aid for Finds*, RESCUE/UKIC Archaeology Section

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the Wates Construction for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and the County Archaeologist Kent County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Sophia Adams. Rob Cole produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

Site Code	CAH14				
Identification Name and Address	The Canterbury School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury				
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Canterbury City Council				
OS Grid Refs.	613551 157527				
Geology	Thanet Formation				
Arch. South-East Project Number	7042				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban		Other	
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 28/10/14- 30/10/14	Other	
Sponsor/Client	Wates Construction				
Project Manager	Paul Mason, Jim Stevenson				
Project Supervisor	Sophia Adams				
Period Summary					
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at Canterbury Primary School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury. The archaeological work comprised monitoring the machine excavation of foundation trenches.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were found.</i></p>					



Project supervisor    Sophia Adams

Type                    of Client  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name                    of Wates Construction  
sponsor/funding  
body

---

**Project archives**

Physical    Archive No  
Exists?

Digital        Archive TBC  
recipient

Digital        Media "Images raster / digital photography"  
available

Paper         Media "Context sheet","Report"  
available

---

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type    Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title                    An Archaeological Watching Brief, The Canterbury Primary  
School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury, Kent

Author(s)/Editor(s)    Adams, S. and Munnery, T.

Other bibliographic    2014370  
details

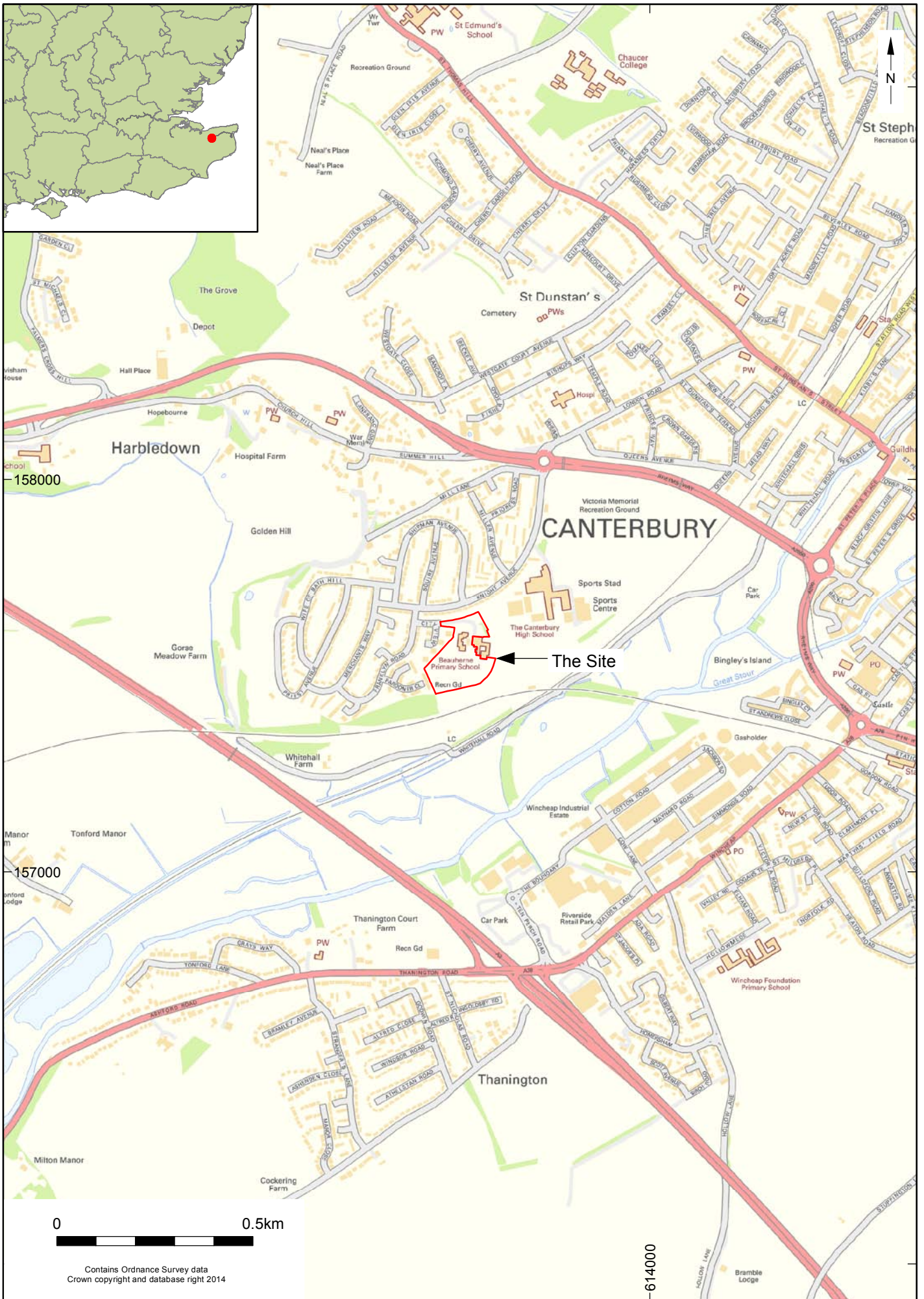
Date                    2014

Issuer or publisher    Archaeology South East

---

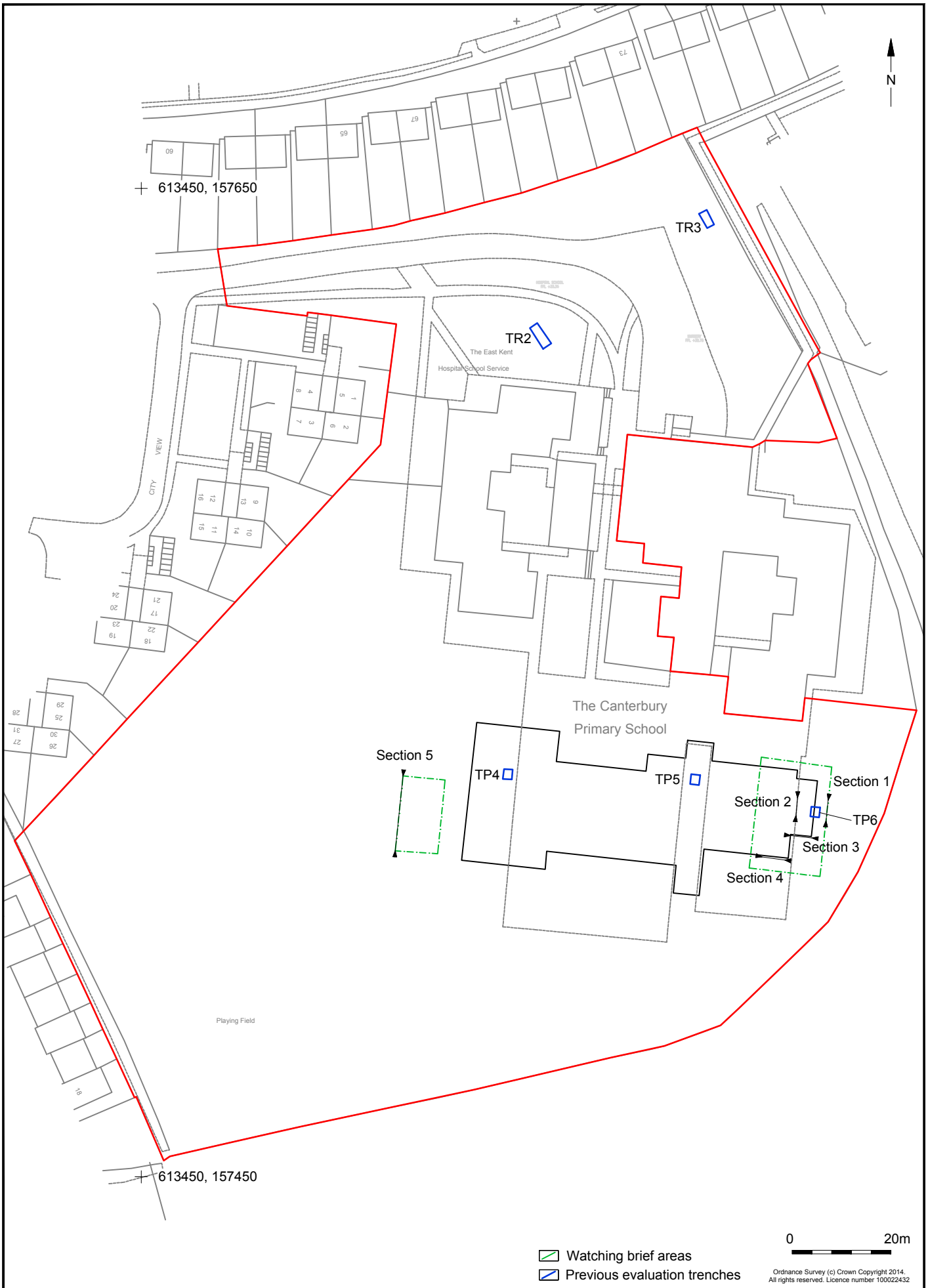
Entered by                Tom Munnery (t.munnery@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on                14 November 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Canterbury Primary School		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7042	November 2014	Site location		
Report Ref: 2014370	Drawn by: RHC			





© Archaeology South-East		Canterbury Primary School	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7042	November 2014	Watching brief areas	
Report Ref: 2014370	Drawn by: RHC		



Section 1: eastern foundation trench (facing east)



Section 2: eastern foundation trench (facing west)



Section 3: eastern foundation trench (facing south)



Section 4: southern extent of foundation trench



Section 5: western evaluation trench (facing west)

**Sussex Office**

Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
tel: +44(0)1273 426830  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**Essex Office**

The Old Magistrates Court  
79 South Street  
Braintree  
Essex CM7 3QD  
tel: +44(0)1376 331470  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**London Office**

Centre for Applied Archaeology  
UCL Institute of Archaeology  
31-34 Gordon Square  
London WC1H 0PY  
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

