

**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at
Darenth Community Primary School,
Green Street Green Road, Darenth,
Kent**

NGR 557493 170924

**Project No. 3526
Site Code: DPS08**

**ASE Report No. 2008184
OASIS id: archaeol6-50916**

By

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November 2008

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Abstract

In June 2008, Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Darenth Community Primary School in Darenth, Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Neilcott Special Works during the excavation ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (2008). The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Geology and Location

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by Neilcott Special Works to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring at Darenth Community Primary School in Darenth, Kent. The works were carried out during the excavation ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The site is centred on NGR 557493 170924 and its location is shown on Fig. 1. Maps of the British Geological Survey (Sheet 271) show that the proposed development is situated on Upper Chalk, overlain by Head Brickearth.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Local planning authorities in Kent, including Kent County Council Planning Applications Group and Kent County Council Property Group, received advice regarding archaeological matters from the Heritage & Conservation Group, Kent County Council (KCCHC). In this case, KCCHC, requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks.

1.3 Schedule of Visits

1.3.1 An Archaeological Project Officer attended the site and monitored excavation works on 3rd July 2008.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

'contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks' (KCC 2008: 3.1)

1.4.2 In addition, objectives of the monitoring were:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required.
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

1.4.3 The specific archaeological requirements of the project are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works.
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that archaeological remains are encountered.
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

1.5 Confidence Rating

1.5.1 Excavation had commenced prior to the site visit and upper geological horizons had been truncated, albeit to a relatively shallow depth. With the possible exception that very discrete features may have been lost, no factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies on land close to a Roman cremation cemetery encountered during earthmoving on the other side of Green Street Green Road, approximately 150m north east of the school. Darent Roman villa is a scheduled site approximately 1km west of the site and a further Roman building is recorded 1.2km to the north east. A prehistoric ring ditch and numerous deneholes are recorded in the surrounding fields (KCC 2008:2.2).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological monitoring was conducted in accordance with standard operating procedure as adopted by Kent County Council and included within the specification and also complied with the Institute of field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed development, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds. The examination of spoil and the recording of soils profiles were carried out during mechanical reduction of the site and excavation of pad foundation bases (Fig. 3).

3.2 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented below.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The proposed development site, which measured approximately 21m in length by 15m in width, was located adjacent to the south-western corner of the existing school building (see Fig. 2). The following stratigraphy was revealed within the proposed development area (Fig. 4):

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Depth
001	Deposit	Topsoil: Mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional mottled dark grey clay	0.00-0.21m
002	Deposit	Subsoil: mid red brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and rounded pebbles	0.21-0.36m
003	Deposit	Natural: brickearth comprising mid red brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and angular flint	0.36m+

Table 1: List of recorded contexts

4.2 The natural Brickearth (**003**) was located at a depth of approximately 0.36m below ground surface. Above the natural was a mid red brown sandy silt

subsoil (**002**) at a depth of between 0.21 and 0.36m below ground surface. This was beneath mid brown-grey sandy silt topsoil (**001**). No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were present within the excavated area.

5.0 FINDS

- 5.1** No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the monitoring exercise.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1** Limited excavations associated with this development presented little potential to expose anything other than chance finds or features. No archaeological deposits were encountered and no material culture was recovered during the monitoring of groundworks associated with construction at Darenth Community Primary School. This would suggest that the cremation cemetery recorded with the HER does not extend to the southern area of the school grounds. Similarly, residual material indicative of surrounding prehistoric occupation was completely absent.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1** Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological remains have been affected as a result of the development programme.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Neilcott Special Works for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Adam Single (Archaeological Officer) for his assistance.

9.0 REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation Group (2008) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief during the Construction of a Modular Children's Centre Building at Darenth Community Primary School, Green Street Green Road in Darenth near Dartford*

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Code	DPS-WB-08					
Identification Name and Address	Darenth Community Primary School, Green Street Green Road, Darenth					
County, District &/or Borough	Dartford, Darenth					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 557493 170924					
Geology	Upper Chalk overlain by Head Brickearth					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2008184					
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. 3 rd July 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Neilcott Special Works					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	David Britchfield					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>In June 2008, Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Darenth Community Primary School in Darenth, Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Neilcott Special Works during the excavation of ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (2008). The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered.</p>						

Appendix 2

OASIS ID: archaeol6-50916

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Darenth Community Primary School, Green Street, Green Road, Darenth, Kent
Short description of the project	In June 2008, Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Darenth Community Primary School in Darenth, Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Neilcott Special Works during the excavation ground works associated with the construction of a modular children's centre building. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (2008). The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 03-07-2008 End: 03-07-2008
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2008184 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	3526 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD DARENTH Darenth Community Primary School
Postcode	DA2 7
Study area	315.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5574 1709 50.9316271773 0.216552020045 50 55 53 N 000 12 59 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Heritage Conservation Kent County Council
Project design originator	The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Giles Dawkes
Project supervisor	David Britchfield
Type of sponsor/funding body	Neilcott Special Works

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Dartford Museum

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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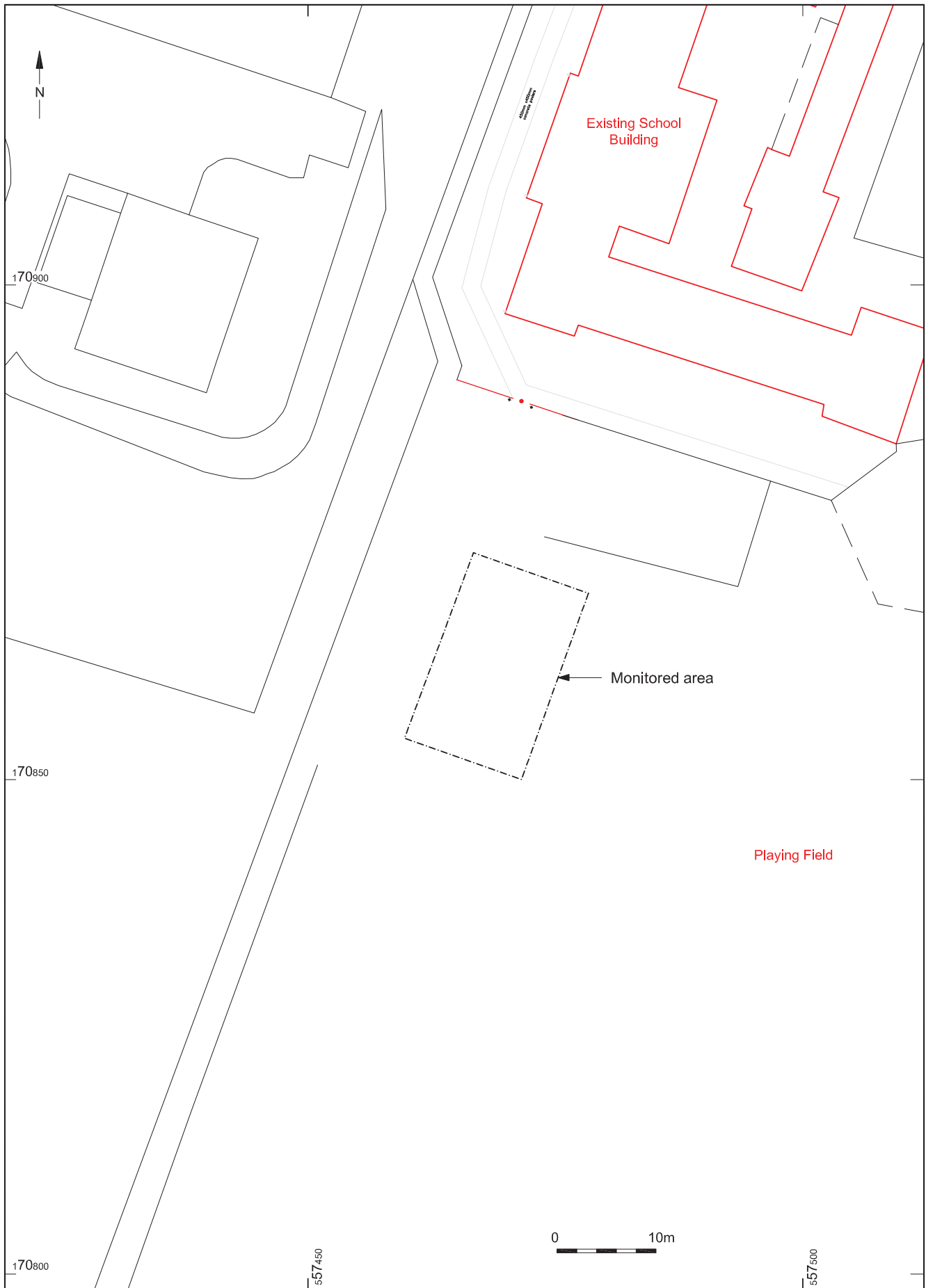
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© Archaeology South-East		Darenth Community Primary School, Darenth, Kent	Fig. 2
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Fig. 3: The site, looking south



Fig. 4: Southern profile

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Project Ref: 3526	Nov 2008		
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