

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
St Georges School
Broadstairs, Kent**

NGR: 637043 168067

ASE Project No: 7990

Site Code: SGE15

ASE Report No: 2016157

OASIS id: archaeol6-248640




By Tom Munnery

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
St Georges School
Broadstairs, Kent**

NGR: 637043 168067

**ASE Project No: 7991
Site Code: SGE15**

**ASE Report No: 2016157
OASIS id: archaeol6-248640**

Prepared by:	Tom Munnery	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	April 2016		
Revision:			

**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**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Baxall Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent, between the 7th December 2015 and 7th January 2016.

Observations were made in the car park in the south-western part of the school site and the southern spur to Westwood Road. A test pit in the western side of the car park revealed a deep deposit of made ground sealing the geological horizon. The eastern side of the car park contained much modern disturbance from the quarrying and infilling of part of the site. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.

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

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
Table 3: List of recorded contexts

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Development plan and monitored areas
Figure 3: Photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Baxall Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent (hereafter 'the site'; centred NGR; 637043 168067, Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land lying to the north of Westwood Road (A256) and bounded by school playing fields to the east and agricultural land to the north and west.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the site comprises Margate Chalk to the south and Thanet Formation Sand Silt and Clay to the north. Superficial deposits are not recorded (BGS 2015).
- 1.2.3 The site was until recently occupied by grassed sports pitches.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment (CAT 2015) concluded that the site lies in an area of moderate to high archaeological potential, though previous impacts relating to late 19th and early 20th century brick work quarrying are thought to have been severe.
- 1.3.2 Thanet District Council granted planning consent for residential development subject to conditions, including:

Archaeology

25. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents, or successors in title, has secured the implementation of
- (i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority; and
 - (ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the County Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.

- 1.3.3 A geotechnical investigation undertaken in the southern part of the site identified deep (1m+) deposits of made/re-worked ground lying over the geology in all but the very southern periphery of the site (Constructive Evaluation 2014).
- 1.3.4 Subsequent dialogue between Baxall Construction and the KCC Archaeological Advisor resulted in the scope of works being revised to a watching brief, with particular attention paid to targeted watching brief of the

car park in the southern part of the site.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The main objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks in order to ensure that any deposits and features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest, are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 The specific research objectives of the watching brief are:

- To establish whether evidence for prehistoric activity extends into the site
- To recover evidence for the industrial use of the site.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results the watching brief carried out intermittently between 7th December 2015 and 7th January 2016 by Tom Munnery, Simon Stevens and Lucy May. The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The full archaeological background to the site is presented in the Desk-Based Assessment produced by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT 2014). What follows is a summary of this document.
- 2.2 A number of finds of prehistoric flint work spanning the Palaeolithic to Neolithic have been made within a 1km radius of the site. Extensive Neolithic pitting has been investigated nearby at Thanet Reach Business Park.
- 2.3 A chalk shaft found 300m south-east of the site may be a flint mine of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Several more have been found in the vicinity.
- 2.4 Bronze Age landscape features including field systems, enclosures and probable barrows have been identified in the general vicinity of the site.
- 2.5 The nearest Roman activity lies 700m south-east of the site, a mixed cremation and inhumation cemetery.
- 2.6 The site appears to have occupied agricultural fields until brickworks were established in the late 19th century.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 In the areas of road monitored, machining was undertaken with a toothless ditching bucket and reduced to the level required by the developer in spits of up to 0.10m down to a depth of around 0.35m-0.40m. Access was granted to investigate any potential archaeological deposits.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Spoil was removed directly from the excavations by machine, providing little opportunity for its visual scanning for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2.2 Archaeology South-East were not informed of the construction of the building to the north of the car park therefore no monitoring took place in this area.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable local repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	2
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	38
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	5
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Car park formation monitored between 7/12/15 and 14/12/15 (photos 1-6)

4.1.1 The road portion of the eastern half of the car park was monitored and revealed a stratigraphy of mid brown loamy clay topsoil (102) above either mid orange-brown sandy-clay subsoil (103) or disturbed ground (100). Where present, the subsoil sat directly above the natural geology (101)

4.1.2 Much of the observed road had been disturbed and comprised made ground of mid-dark grey-brown loamy clay filled with glass and earthenware bottles, ironwork and some plastics.

4.1.3 The disturbed ground was recorded over much of the eastern portion of the site (see photos 2-5) but its overall thickness was not established.

4.1.4 No archaeological finds or features were recovered from the monitoring.

4.2 Test pit 7/01/16 (photo 7)

4.2.1 A single 1.50m by 1.50m test pit was excavated in the south-west corner of the site, in the location of a former bund. The test pit revealed a stratigraphy of 1.10m made ground (100), above natural geology (101). No finds were recovered from the work.

4.2.2 As the formation level of the car park in this area did not extend below the upper part of the made ground deposit the watching brief in this part of the site was curtailed.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
100	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	1.10
101	Layer	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	-
102	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.11
103	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.12
104	Layer	Made ground	-	-	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 No finds or features were recorded across the site during the watching brief.

5.2 Consideration of research aims

- 5.2.1 In the areas monitored, the watching brief did not establish the presence of prehistoric activity on the site, nor did it recover evidence of any industrial use of the site, save for the presumed infilling of the quarrying activity that had previously been established.

5.3 Conclusion

- 5.3.1 The monitored portion of the site revealed no archaeological finds or features. The formation of the car park lay within made ground deposits. It is not possible to draw conclusions on those areas not monitored.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2015 St Georges School, Broadstairs, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation

CAT, 2014 *St George's C of E School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT.

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*

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 Baxall Construction for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Kent County Council Archaeologist for their guidance. The excavation was directed by Tom Munnery and Simon Stevens. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Lauren Gibson produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.					
Site code	SGE15				
Project code	7991				
Planning reference					
Site address	St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent				
District/Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	637043 168067				
Geology	Margate Chalk and Thanet Formation Sand Silt and Clay				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	7/12/15 – 7/01/16				
Sponsor/client	Baxall Construction				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery				
Period summary	None				
Project summary (100 word max)	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent NGR 637043 168067, between the 7th December 2015 and 7th January 2016. Observations were made on the eastern side of the road and the southern spur to Westwood Road. The western side of the carpark and the building to the north were not monitored. The eastern side of the car park contained much modern disturbance from the quarrying and infilling of part of the site. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.				
Museum/Accession No.					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-248640

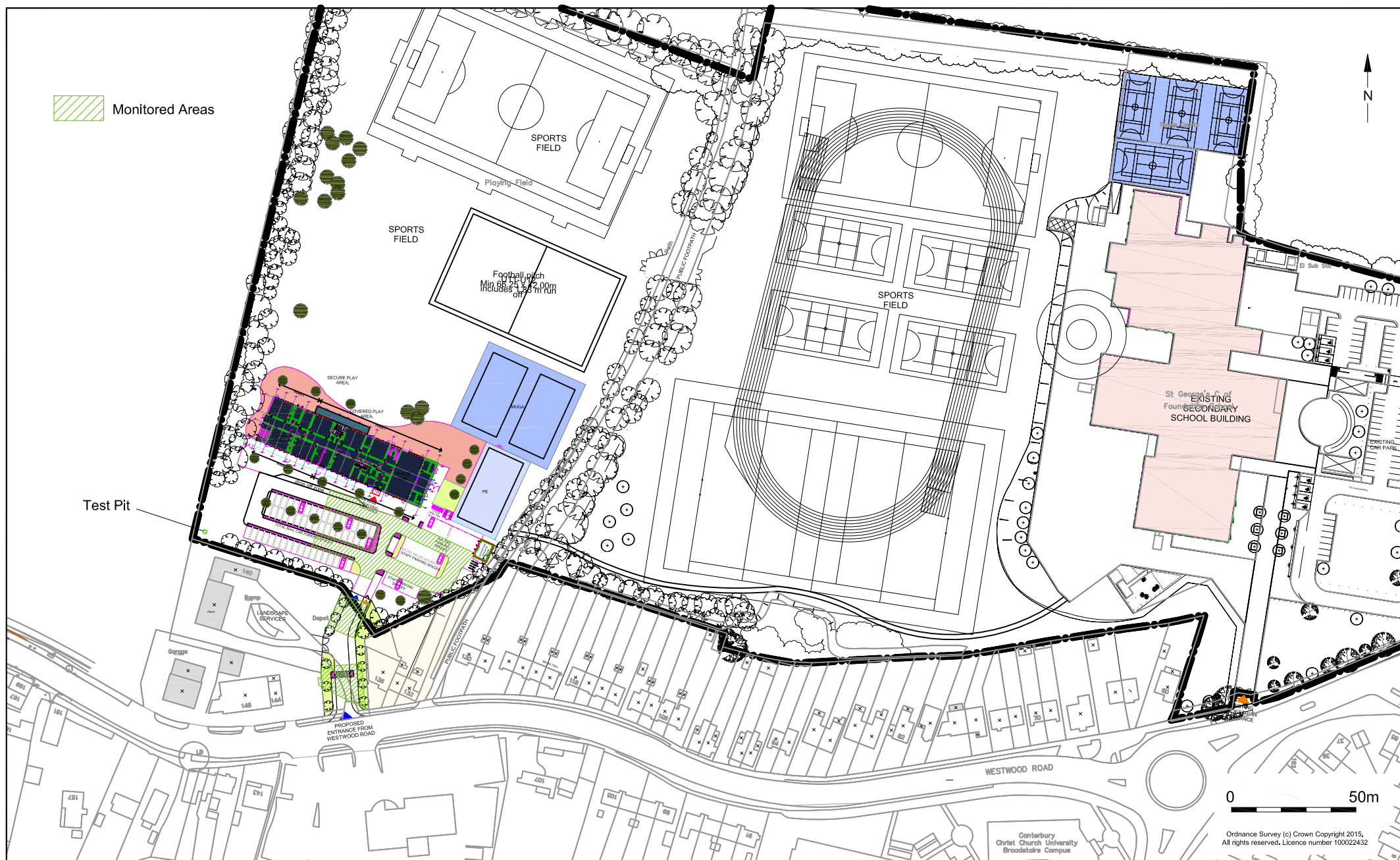
Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Georges School, Broadstairs, Kent
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent NGR 637043 168067, between the 7th December 2015 and 7th January 2016. Observations were made on the eastern side of the road and the southern spur to Westwood Road. The western side of the carpark and the building to the north were not monitored. The eastern side of the car park contained much modern disturbance from the quarrying and infilling of part of the site. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 07-12-2015 End: 27-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7991 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SGE15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT THANET BROADSTAIRS AND ST PETERS St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent
Postcode	CT10 2PB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 37043 68067 51.36146244338 1.405448427186 51 21 41 N 001 24 19 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason

Project supervisor	Tom Munnery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Baxall Construction
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Georges School, Broadstairs, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Munnery, T.
Other bibliographic details	2016157
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Kent HER
Entered by	Tom Munnery (t.munnery@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	18 April 2016



© Archaeology South-East		St George's Primary School, Broadstairs	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7991	April 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016157	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 7991

Report Ref: 2016157

April 2016

Drawn by: LG

St Georges Primary School, Broadstairs

Proposed Development and Watching Brief Areas

Fig. 2



View of road watching brief, looking south



View of road watching brief, looking south



View of road watching brief, looking east



View of road watching brief, looking north-east



View of road watching brief, looking west



View of road watching brief, looking east



Test pit looking south-east

Sussex Office

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

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
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
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

