Isle of Sheppey Academy
East Site
Minster
Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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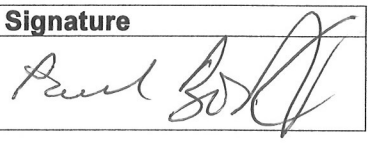
1	Dan Sykes Project Officer	Stuart Foreman Senior Project Manager	Paul Booth Senior Project Manager	

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Isle of Sheppey Academy – East and West Sites – Minster-on-Sea and Sheerness, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Dan Sykes and illustrated by Markus Dylewski and Leo Heatley

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Summary

In February 2011 Oxford Archaeology (OA), on behalf of Kier Build, carried out an archaeological evaluation at the Isle of Sheppey Academy, East Site, Minster, which is to be redeveloped as part of the government-funded 'Building Schools for the Future' programme.

Prior to the evaluation the archaeological potential of the area was considered moderately high – A group of three Roman cremation burials was found in 1968, prior to construction of the existing school buildings. However the area of the existing school buildings, where the burials were discovered, now has low potential for surviving archaeology, as it has been extensively levelled and landscaped, and disturbed by building foundations, services and drainage. The playing fields to the west, where the new school building is to be constructed, were considered to have higher potential for surviving archaeology, although the ground was also extensively terraced when the playing fields were created. One of the key objectives of the evaluation was to establish the potential for archaeology surviving beneath layers of made ground in the terraced playing field areas.

Ten trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new school building, towards the western side of the site. Archaeological features and finds were sparsely distributed. Only Trench 6 uncovered archaeological features, comprising a series of three north-south aligned ditches. One of the ditches produced sherds of late Iron Age pottery and one produced a 19th century clay pipe fragment. The third ditch did not produce any datable finds.

The features discovered in Trench 6 are not particularly significant in themselves. The discovered late Iron Age ditch adds to existing fragmentary evidence for understanding the late Iron Age/ early Roman landscape of the Minster area. Nevertheless, on the basis of this evaluation it appears that pockets of archaeology may survive in the least disturbed parts of IOSA East site. It is unlikely that more extensive excavation of the new school building would be productive, given the highly disturbed ground conditions. However a watching brief on the construction and landscaping groundworks may allow patches of undisturbed archaeology to be recognised and investigated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the Isle of Sheppey Academy (IOSA), East Site, Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12.3JQ, centred on NGR TQ 936 726 (Fig.1), within the administrative area of Swale Borough Council. The Site, which was formerly known as Minster College, was investigated on behalf of Kier Build and Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from 21st to 25th February 2011 (during half term) concurrently with an evaluation at Isle of Sheppey Academy West Site, 1.5km to the north-west, which is the subject of a separate report (OA March 2011).

1.1.2 The area evaluated at IOSA East Site was 15.6 hectares, which currently includes school buildings, recreation areas and playing fields. The ten trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new school building which is to be constructed on the playing fields in the western part of the site. The existing school buildings will be demolished as part of the redevelopment, and the area extensively landscaped (Fig.2).

1.1.3 This redevelopment is part of the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF, Wave 4). Through the BSF programme significant investment in buildings and in information and communications technology is being made to support the Government's educational reform agenda. Funds have been devolved to Local Authorities and schools throughout England to spend on maintaining and improving their school buildings and in some cases for major rebuilding and remodelling projects.

1.1.4 Kent County Council originally commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) in April 2009 to produce an archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) for IOSA East Site, which was updated in September 2010 on the instruction of Kier Build. The DBA assessed the impact of the development on known and potential heritage assets and presented proposals for archaeological investigation.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the East Site is Eocene London Clay (GSGB), 1974, Sheet 272). The natural east-west slope of the site has been subject to extensive terracing to create sports pitches. The western extent of the East Site is located at 35m OD, whilst the eastern extent is at 15m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site is detailed in the DBA (OA Sept 2010) and is therefore not repeated here. In summary, the archaeological potential of the site is considered high based on previous discoveries, although the site has been extensively disturbed by previous development.

1.3.2 There are no listed buildings or scheduled monuments within the site boundaries.

1.3.3 There is one previously recorded archaeological investigation within the site, which was carried out in 1968, prior to the construction of Minster College. Excavations revealed three Roman cremation burials, each consisting of an urn containing human bone, and one or two platters or beakers. A small necklace or bracelet of glass and jet beads and imitation pearls was also found. The burials have been dated to the mid to late 2nd century AD (OA NMR 639400; 420372; HER MKE3699).

1.3.4 The NMR also records the discovery a coin hoard of 415 silver coins, probably deposited c.1648, within the site boundaries (OA 1220; NMR 420369; HER MKE3698).

1.3.5 A WWII heavy anti-aircraft battery was formerly located within the site, near the eastern boundary, although no trace it now survives above ground. It was armed with eight 3.7-inch Mark IIc guns, and was occupied from July 26th 1944 (NMR 1478202; HER MWX17981).

1.3.6 In the wider area, a watching brief was carried out *c* 100m to the north east of the site and a further four other archaeological investigations have previously been carried out to the south-east of the site, recording a wide range of archaeological evidence, ranging in date from the prehistoric through to the medieval periods (OA September 2010.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Kier Build and Isle of Sheppey Academy provided assistance and support during the evaluation. The OA site team comprised Dan Sykes (Project Officer), Laura King (Supervisor, West Site), Emily Plunkett (Surveyor), Nathan Chinchen and Mark Gibson. Fencing was undertaken by Harsco Ltd, and plant was supplied by Taylor Brothers Ltd.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving within the study area. Attention was to be given to remains of all periods, including evidence for past environments, with provision for environmental sampling if needed. A particular aim of the trenches in this case was to establish the extent of disturbance caused by previous terracing of the site, and the potential for archaeology to survive beneath raised terraces.

Detailed aims and objectives

2.1.2 (i) To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.

(ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

(iii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.

(iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.

(v) To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.

(vi) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.

(vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 All trenches were laid out by a surveyor using a GPS system tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.

2.2.2 All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Mechanical plant was supervised by a banksman both during excavation and when moving around the site. The working area was enclosed with Heras fencing prior to excavation.

2.2.3 Trenches were excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately and reinstated in reverse order of excavation. All trenches were excavated to the surface of the superficial geology (no significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered at a higher level). Test pits were dug as required to establish the depth of made ground.

2.2.4 All trenches also had their sediment sequences recorded and all were photographed using a digital camera along with 35mm black and white and colour slide film. The trenches had Ordnance Datum levels recorded at ground level at both ends and at points along their bases.

3 RESULTS

3.1 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.1.1 The few archaeological features uncovered during the evaluation were all found in Trench 6 and consisted of a series of three inter-cutting north-south aligned ditches. The upper fills of one of these contained pottery dating from the Iron Age, while a second contained a 19th century clay pipe fragment. The third ditch produced no datable artefacts. No other archaeologically significant features were found. Small quantities of mainly modern pottery, clay pipe fragments and ceramic building material were recovered from made ground and soil deposits.

3.1.2 There was extensive evidence of landscaping, dating from the construction of the existing school buildings and sports pitches in the late 1960's.

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 - Lower northern terrace

3.1.3 The lower northern terrace (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) appeared to have been truncated as the London Clay was encountered beneath relatively shallow topsoil and levelling deposits. There was no trace of archaeological features within these three trenches. It seems likely that material excavated from this area was used to build up the adjacent western terrace.

Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 - Upper western terrace

3.1.4 Three north-south aligned ditches were found in Trench 6, all of which were cut into the London Clay (610). In the middle of the trench, a 1.85 metre wide ditch [607] contained a single compact dark brown silty clay fill which produced seven small worn pieces of pottery that have been dated to the late Iron Age (See Section 3). This ditch was cut on its eastern side by ditch 609 whose fill (608) contained iron slag and a 19th century clay pipe stem. Further to the east within Trench 6, a third ditch (605) produced no datable artefacts – This feature was quite substantial being 2.7 m wide and more than 0.5m deep. None of the features were completely excavated due to health and safety restrictions.

3.1.5 All three archaeological features were found at a depth of *c* 0.7m, sealed beneath a soil sequence comprising (from top to bottom): Topsoil (601); a mixed brown/orange layer of redeposited clay (602); a dark silty clay buried soil horizon (603). The buried soil contained modern finds and a single residual prehistoric potsherd.

3.1.6 The topography of the terraces suggests that the upper western terrace was built up using material excavated from the lower terraces to the north and south. The made ground was not always easy to distinguish from the natural clay, although a buried modern soil horizon was clearly visible in Trench 6 The depth of made ground appeared highly variable – partly due to the thick wedges of made ground forming the edges of the terrace, and partly due to the in-filling of hollows in the original land-surface. The Iron Age and modern archaeological features in Trench 6 were exposed at a depth of only *c* 0.7m, and were cut into the natural clay. In the adjacent Trench 5 the natural clay was not positively identified even though excavation continued to a depth of 1.2m. In Trench 4 the depth of made ground increased from *c* 0.8m at the western end of the trench, to in excess of 2.7m at the eastern end, indicating a sharp increase in the thickness of made ground at the eastern edge of the terrace.

3.1.7 This area clearly has some potential for archaeology to survive, at variable depth underneath the western terrace made ground deposits. This is demonstrated by the

remains found in Trench 6. However the ground in the surrounding trenches is clearly disturbed and this group of features may be an isolated survival.

Trenches 8, 9 and 10 – Lower southern terrace

3.1.8 The soil sequence in the lower southern terrace (Trenches 8, 9 and 10) appeared severely truncated to the point that no archaeology could be expected to survive. The London Clay was found below a shallow sequence of topsoil and levelling layers. It seems likely that material excavated from this area was used to build up the adjacent western terrace.

3.2 Finds report

Pottery *by J.Cotter (prehistoric pottery identified by E.Biddulph)*

3.2.1 A total of 29 sherds of pottery weighing 247 g. were recovered from 7 contexts. This is mostly of 19th-century date with a few sherds of Iron Age pottery also present. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight are recorded in Table 1, with the context spot-date, which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes used in the spreadsheet are those of the Kent type series housed at the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

3.2.2 The assemblage is mostly in a very fragmentary condition although some individual sherds are fairly fresh. Six of the seven contexts produced only pottery types of broadly Victorian or 19th-century date including transfer-printed refined white earthenwares from Staffordshire (LPM14) and sherds of modern stoneware flagons (LPM10) from London and possibly elsewhere. Other contemporary types are detailed in Table 1. None of these is of any great interest or significance. Context (606), however, produced seven worn sherds of Iron Age pottery, representing a minimum of three vessels, including grog-tempered, and flint- and grog-tempered sherds, dating to the Late Iron Age or *c* 100 BC – 43 AD. A residual Iron Age sherd also occurred in context (603). No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

Table1: Pottery finds

Context	Spot-date	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
202	c1835-1925	3	50	LPM10 Bristol-glazed stoneware jar sherd. LPM2 flowerpot base. LPM14 Staffs refined whiteware
402	c1825-1900	3	3	LPM14 dish with blue transfer printed dec
403	c1825-1900	5	43	LPM14 dish bss & rim incl 2 with green dendritic transfer printed dec. 1x LPM1 late redware closed form with int brown iron-streaked glaze - poss High Halden?
502	c1830-1900	3	20	LPM14. Sherds from 3 separate dishes with transfer printing - 2 blue, 1 black
503	c1780-1875	1	23	LPM10. Flagon bs prob London stoneware w brown salt-glazed ext & clear glaze int

Context	Spot-date	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
603	c1835-1900	7	63	3x LPM14 incl blue transfer print. 1x Yellow ware bowl rim LPM5. 1x stoneware flagon Bristol-glazed. 1x LPM7 white porcelain small discoid dish - poss a child's toy or poss a chemist's mixing dish? 1x small bodysherd (3g) flint-tempered prehistoric pot - prob Iron Age
606	c100BC-43AD	7	45	Iron Age. Mixture of worn sherds incl jar sherds - some grog-tempered, some flint and grog-tempered. Mostly black with surfaces missing, some with traces of original brown surfaces (ident by Ed Biddulph)
TOTAL		**29**	**247**	

Clay pipes *by J.Cotter*

3.2.3 Five pieces of clay pipe weighing 8 g. were recovered from two contexts (603 and 608). These are all of 19th-century date and include four short stem fragments and a damaged bowl with claw-like decoration (603).

Ceramic building material *by C.Poole*

3.2.4 A total of 8 fragments (156.5g) of ceramic building material was recovered from six contexts. In addition 7 fragments of 20th century cylindrical field drain pipe found in contexts 402 and 502 have been discarded. The assemblage is recorded in the table below. All pieces are fairly small with a mean fragment weight (MFW) of 20 g. Abrasion is low to moderate. The majority of the assemblage is of post-medieval/ modern date (probably 18th-19th century) comprising mainly flat roof tile, together with some brick fragments and a glazed wall tile. A single fragment may be Roman, possibly the corner of an imbrex. A tiny fragment of ceramic material recovered by sieving is of indeterminate function.

Table 2: Ceramic building material

Context	No	Wt (g)	Form	Fabric	Comments
202	1	31	Imbrex?	Red, fine clay, no visible inclusions	Corner fragment; 20 mm th. Character if edge is typical of imbrex. RB. Abrasion low.
402	1	31	Brick	Orange fine sandy clay	One flat surface; >22 mm th. Probably PM brick. Abrasion moderate.
403	1	22	Roof: flat	Orange fine sandy with occasional coarser sand grits.	One very smooth slightly convex surface; other side damaged. 13 mm th. Abrasion moderate. Post-medieval.
403	1	7	Brick	Red. Fine sandy clay	Small fragment. Abrasion high. Post-medieval.
502	1	26	Roof: flat	Red, fine smooth clay, occasional voids	Abrasion low. 10 mm th. Post-medieval.
603	1	17	Roof: flat	Light orange fine smooth clay	Well finished; 9 mm th. Post-medieval. Abrasion low-moderate.
603	1	22	Wall tile	Reddish orange, very fine well sorted sand	Flat tile with dark brown glaze on one surface. Smooth back with slight linear groove for keying. 12 mm thick. Abrasion low. C19-earlyC20
604	1	0.5	indet	porous	Ceramic fragment from sieved sample <2>
Total	**8**	**156.5**	**MFW 20g**		

Animal bone *by R.Nicholson*

3.2.5 Two small indeterminate fragments of bone were recovered from the residue retained after sieving soil sample 1, from context 606. An even smaller indeterminate calcined fragment was recovered from the residue of sample 2, context 604. None of these fragments have any research value and they can be discarded.

Metalwork *by I.Scott*

3.2.6 The only metalwork comprises 2 pieces of copper alloy, both from context 402. One piece is a small square section rod or nail bent and with one end burred (L extant 20 mm; L extended: *c* 32 mm). Possibly it was used as a rivet. The object is not closely datable.

3.2.7 The second piece is a decorative terminal comprising a small oval knob with two small mouldings below (L extant: 14 mm). It is possibly the top of a hairpin, but the identification is not clear. Again the dating of the object is not clear.

3.3 Environmental samples

by Sharon Cook

3.3.1 Two bulk environmental soil samples were collected for charred plant remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts from two ditches in Trench 6, one probably of Iron Age date (context 604) and one undated (context 606).

3.3.2 The volume of each bulk soil sample collected was 40L. These were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf-style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) sieved to 500µm. Flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room at approximately 30˚C, following which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and biological remains. A portion of the flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a low-power binocular microscope at x10 magnification.

3.3.3 Both samples were made up of a sediment consisting predominantly of a compact, mid brown clay with only occasional sub-rounded pebbles and angular flint.

3.3.4 A small quantity of bone was present in both samples, reported in 3.2.5 above

3.3.5 Charred plant remains (CPR): Both samples produced very small flots (<4g) most of which was unidentifiable to species. Charcoal was the main constituent of both flots and was mostly small (<2mm). Modern roots and grass were noted in both flots. Small quantities of charred grain were observed in both samples, although the majority of these were too degraded to identify to species. Occasional glume base fragments were present in both samples and a small number of grains would indicate these are of a wheat type, although whether spelt or bread wheat was unclear. A fragment of legume was present within sample <1>. However this was too small and degraded to identify to species.

3.3.6 A small quantity of weed seeds were present in both samples including *Chenopodium* and *Sambucus*, which appear to be modern in origin and may be the result of contamination. In addition a number of charred examples of *Anthemis cotula* were present, these are commonly found on heavy clayey soils.

3.3.7 The quantity of CPR from these samples indicates that while not abundant, there is some preservation of charred plant remains on site.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Ground conditions and visibility were reasonable despite heavy rain at times. The extent of the trenches within the new building footprint provides good coverage of this part of the site. The overall reliability of the investigations can be considered high.

4.2 Evaluation results

4.2.1 On the basis of the previous discovery of Roman cremation burials in 1968, and other finds in the surrounding area, the background archaeological potential of the site was considered moderately high. However it appears that the area of the existing school buildings, where the cremation burials were discovered, has low potential for surviving archaeology, as it has been extensively levelled and landscaped, and disturbed by building foundations, services and drainage. The playing fields to the west, where the new school building is to be built, was considered to have higher potential for surviving archaeology, although the ground was also extensively terraced when the playing fields were created.

4.2.2 Ten trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed new school building, towards the western side of the site. One of the key objectives of the evaluation was to establish the potential for archaeology beneath layers of made ground in the terraced playing field areas. It was established that the lower terraces to north and south of the site have been extensively truncated, probably to generate material to build the upper western terrace. The thickness of made ground in the upper western terrace is highly variable, ranging from 0.7m to in excess of 2.75m, due in part to the thick build-up of made ground around the terrace edges, and partly due to the in-filling of hollows in the original land surface.

4.2.3 Archaeological features and finds were sparsely distributed. Only Trench 6 uncovered archaeological features, comprising a series of three north-south aligned ditches. One of the ditches produced sherds of late Iron Age pottery, one produced a 19th century clay pipe stem and the third was undated.

4.2.4 The features discovered in Trench 6 are not particularly significant in themselves. The discovered late Iron Age ditch adds to existing fragmentary evidence for understanding the late Iron Age/ early Roman landscape of the Minster area. Nevertheless, on the basis of this evaluation it appears that pockets of archaeology may survive in the least disturbed parts of IOSA East site. It is unlikely that more extensive excavation of the new school building would be productive, given the highly disturbed ground conditions. However a watching brief on the construction groundworks may allow patches of undisturbed archaeology to be recognised and investigated.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern levelling deposit which sealed a buried subsoil that overlay clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.62
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
101	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.4	Levelling deposit	-	-
103	Layer		0.22	Buried subsoil	-	-
104	Layer	-	>0.10	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern levelling deposit that overlay clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
201	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.5	Levelling deposit	Y	modern
203	Layer	-	>0.04	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern levelling deposit that overlay clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
301	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.12-0.4	Levelling deposit	-	-
303	Layer		>0.12	Natural	-	-

Trench 4

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying modern levelling deposits. A test pit located at the eastern end of the trench was excavated to 2.7m in depth but failed to reveal the clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	1.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
401	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	1.5	Levelling deposit	Y	modern
403	Layer		0.8	Levelling deposit	Y	modern
404	Layer	-	>0.22	Levelling deposit	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a series of modern levelling deposits that overlay clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.3
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
501	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.9	Levelling deposit	Y	modern
503	Layer		0.6	Levelling deposit	Y	modern
504	Layer	-	0.6	Levelling deposit	-	-
505	Layer	-	>0.5	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three N-S aligned ditches all of which were sealed by a modern levelling deposit .					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
601	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.4	Levelling deposit	-	-
603	Layer		0.1	Levelling deposit	Y	modern
604	Fill	-	>0.5	Ditch fill	Burnt stone	Prehistoric?
605	Cut	2.55	>0.5	Ditch cut	-	-

606	Fill		>0.4	Ditch fill	pot	IA
607	Cut	1.85	>0.4	Ditch cut	-	-
608	Fill		>0.4	Ditch fill	slag/clay pipe	modern
609	Cut	2.96	>0.4	Ditch cut	-	-
610	Layer		>0.2	Natural		

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a subsoil which sealed clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.2
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
701	Layer	-	0.09	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
703	Layer		>1.4	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a subsoil which sealed clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
801	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
803	Layer		>0.18	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern levelling deposit which sealed a probable buried topsoil and subsoil that overlay clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.46
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
901	Layer	-	<0.38	Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.08	Levelling deposit	-	-

903	Layer	-	0.1	Levelling deposit	-	-
904	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
905	Layer	-	>0.10	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern levelling deposit which sealed a buried topsoil and subsoil that overlay clay natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1001	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.3	Levelling deposit	-	-
1003	Layer	-	0.08	Levelling deposit	-	-
1004	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1005	Layer	-	>0.05	Natural clay	-	-

Appendix B. Bibliography and References

English Heritage, 2002. Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2002.01

Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1974, Sheet 272

Oxford Archaeology, 2005. Sampling Guidelines. Unpublished document.

Oxford Archaeology, September 2010, Isle of Sheppey Academy – East Site, Sheerness, Kent, Archaeological desk-based assessment, for Kent County Council and Kier Build

Oxford Archaeology, March 2011, Isle of Sheppey Academy - West Site, Minster, Kent, Archaeological evaluation report, for Kent County Council and Kier Build

Appendix C. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Isle of Sheppey Academy – East and West sites

Site code: KW4MIN10

Grid reference: TQ 936 726

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 21/2/2011-25/2/2011

Area of site: 15.6 hectares

Summary of results: Ten 30m x 2m trenches revealed a site heavily truncated and disturbed by terracing during construction of the school in the late 1960s. Nevertheless one ditch of probable late Iron Age date, one ditch of 19th century or later date and one undated ditch were found in one trench.

Location of archive: Kent museums are currently not accepting new archives due to a shortage of storage space. Until this situation is resolved the archive will be retained at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

\\Servergo:/oaupubs1_ltoQ*KESWAVCO*Laleham Gap Secondary School (New Greenfield site)). Broadstairs, Kent*jm*05.06.09

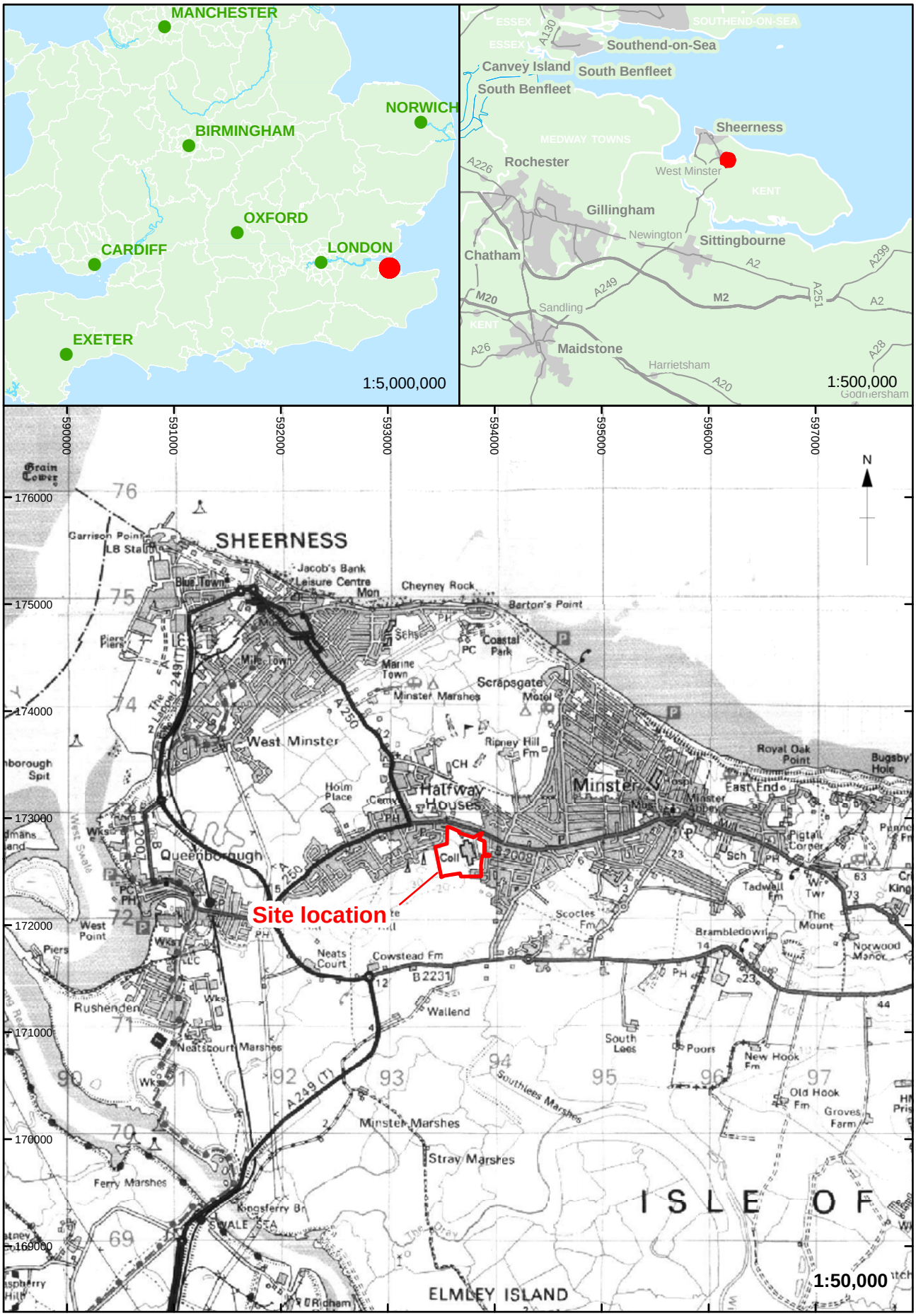
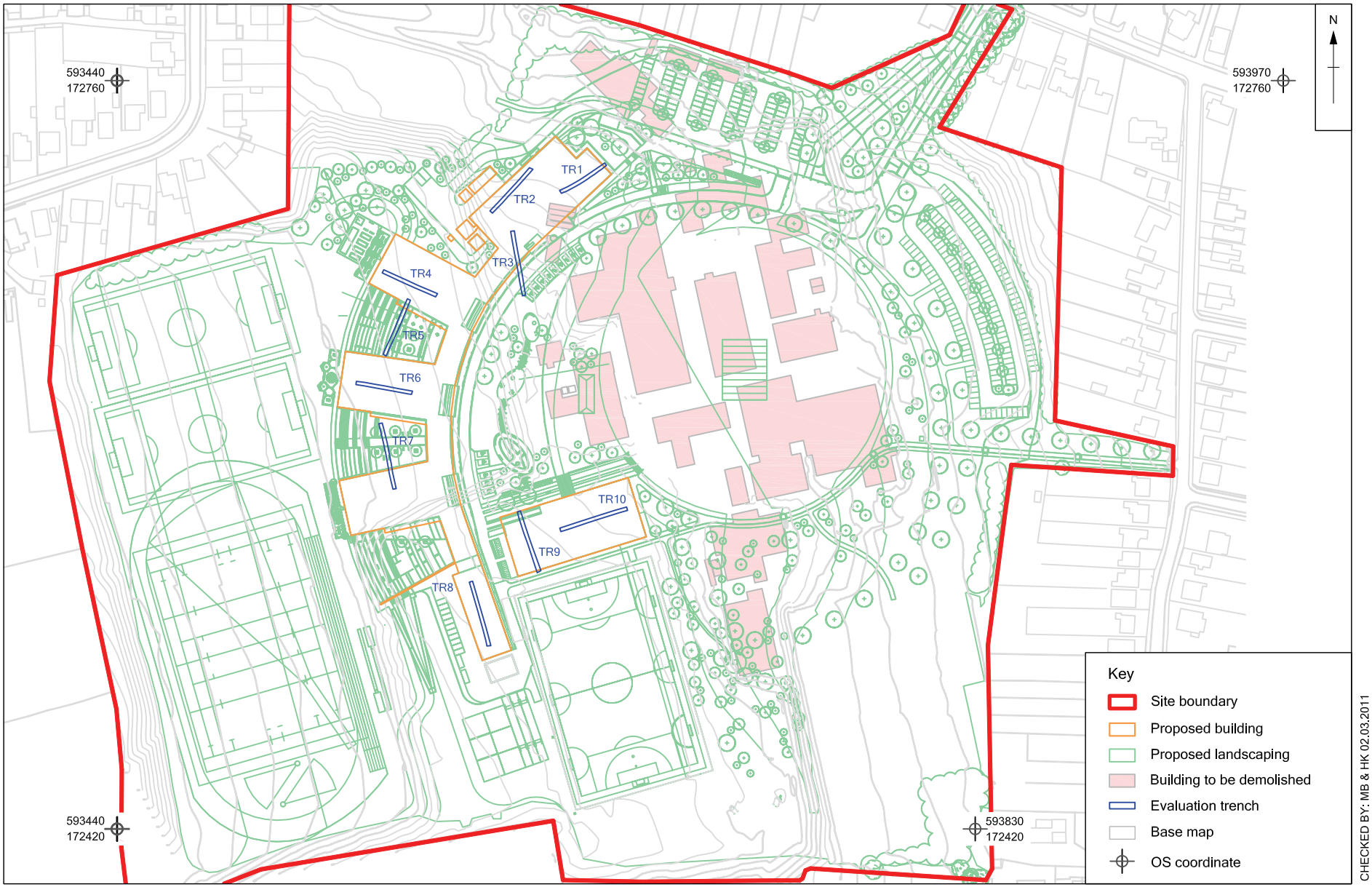


Figure 1: Site location

X:\Kent_BSF_Schools_Wave4_confirmed projects \Isle of Sheppey Academy_East Site \010Geomatics\02 CAD\001current\Minster_College_KW4MIN10_2010-03-01.dwg(Figure 2)*KW4MINEV*Minster College*leo.heatley* 02 Mar 2011



CHECKED BY: MB & HK 02.03.2011

0 100 m

Scale at A4 1:2500

Figure 2: East Site - evaluation trench locations

Trench 6
Plan 601

N

606 606

608 608

Section 601

609

604 604

605

Section 602

607

606 606

Section 601

605

Section 602

0 2 m

1:50

Section 601

E W

601

Field drain

602

24.79 mOD

603

606 608

610

607 609

Section 602

W E

601

602

24.58 mOD

603

610 610

604

605

0 1 m

1:25

Figure 3: Trench 6, plan and sections

Trench 2, typical test pit section reduced northern terrace

Trench 5, typical of raised western terrace

Figure 4: Sample photographs

Trench 7, made ground on raised western terrace

Trench 10, typical of reduced southern terrace

Figure 5: Sample photographs

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