

## Telegraph Hill Industrial Estate, Minster, Kent



## Archaeological Mitigation Report

October 2012

Client: White's Transport



Issue: 1

OA Job No: 5461

NGR: NGR: TR 3166 6552





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## Telegraph Hill Industrial Estate, Minster, Kent

*Archaeological Mitigation Report*

*Written by Dan Sykes*

*and illustrated by Gary Jones*

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## Summary

*From 17th to 20th September 2012, Oxford Archaeology carried out archaeological mitigation during works to extend a haulage yard on land at Telegraph Hill, Minster, Kent (centred on NGR TR 3166 6552). The work was commissioned White's Transport Limited.*

*No archaeological features were revealed during the works although two struck flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by White's Transport Limited to carry out archaeological mitigation at the site of a proposed extension to the present haulage yard at Telegraph Hill Industrial Estate, Thanet, Kent (centred on TR 3166 6552).

1.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2012) approved by the Kent County Council Heritage Team.

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of the current Telegraph Hill Industrial Estate which lies to the south of the newly constructed East Kent Access Phase 2 (EKA), and to the west of Laundry Road (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development, c 0.35ha in extent, currently consists of agricultural land.

1.2.3 The site is on a ridge of higher ground, forming the highest part of Thanet at approximately 49m aOD. The underlying geology consists of chalk, cut in places by a series of parallel, generally north - south, 'stripes' of periglacial origin.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A large number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the area in recent years which have shown that Thanet contains a rich and varied archaeological resource. A useful recent overview of the archaeology of Thanet can be found in Thanet from Prehistory to the Norman Conquest (Moody 2008).

1.3.2 The site and the adjacent area to the east were evaluated in 1995 (Perkins 1995). A ditched enclosure, presumed to be of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date and visible as a cropmark, and a burial dated to c. AD 600, which was thought to be part of a burial ground of unknown extent, were recorded in the area to the east of the current site. No archaeological remains were recorded within the site itself. However, the location of the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age enclosure is uncertain and it is possible that it extends into the site.

1.3.3 The extensive excavations associated with the construction of the East Kent Access Phase 2 (Oxford-Wessex Archaeology 2011) recorded Bronze Age ring ditches with associated burials to the west and east of the site. Iron Age activity was recorded to the north of the site, including ditches associated with several phases of field system and a small horseshoe-shaped enclosure (Fig.1). Two shallow ditches were thought to be of



later, medieval date. No archaeological remains were recorded in the access road to the industrial estate which was constructed as part of the scheme.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 White's Transport Ltd funded the project and Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Ltd acted as consultant. Wendy Rogers, the Archaeological Officer of Kent County Council, monitored the work. The fieldwork was conducted by Dan Sykes who also produced this report. The project was managed for OA by Ken Welsh.

## **2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 The aims of the investigation were to supervise the mechanical excavation of the area in order to ensure that archaeological features were not disturbed and to map any revealed features prior to an appropriate mitigation strategy being agreed.

### **2.2 Methodology**

- 2.2.1 Removal of topsoil and any subsoil by the main contractor was constantly supervised by an archaeologist in order to ensure that there was no impact on any archaeological deposits which might have been present.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Description of deposits**

- 3.1.1 A mid grey brown calcareous silt topsoil, 0.3-0.5m thick, overlay the weathered chalk natural geology.
- 3.1.2 No archaeological features were present within the stripped area.

### **3.2 Finds**

- 3.2.1 Two undiagnostic worked flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil during the stripping of the site.

## **4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were revealed during the works. The enclosure plotted from cropmarks to the immediate east of the site, and which it was thought might extend into the site (Perkins 1995), was not present. The presence of worked flint flakes within the topsoil is unsurprising in an area rich in prehistoric remains.
- 4.1.2 Given the absence of archaeological features, it was agreed, in consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, that there was no requirement for further measures to mitigate the impact of the development.



## APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Finds	Date
1	Layer	0.3-0.5m	n/a	n/a	Topsoil	Flint	Prehistoric
2	Layer	n/a	n/a	n/a	Natural geology		





## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Moody, G, 2008 *Thanet from Prehistory to the Norman Conquest*, Tempus

Oxford Archaeology, 2012 Telegraph Hill Industrial Estate, Minster, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation

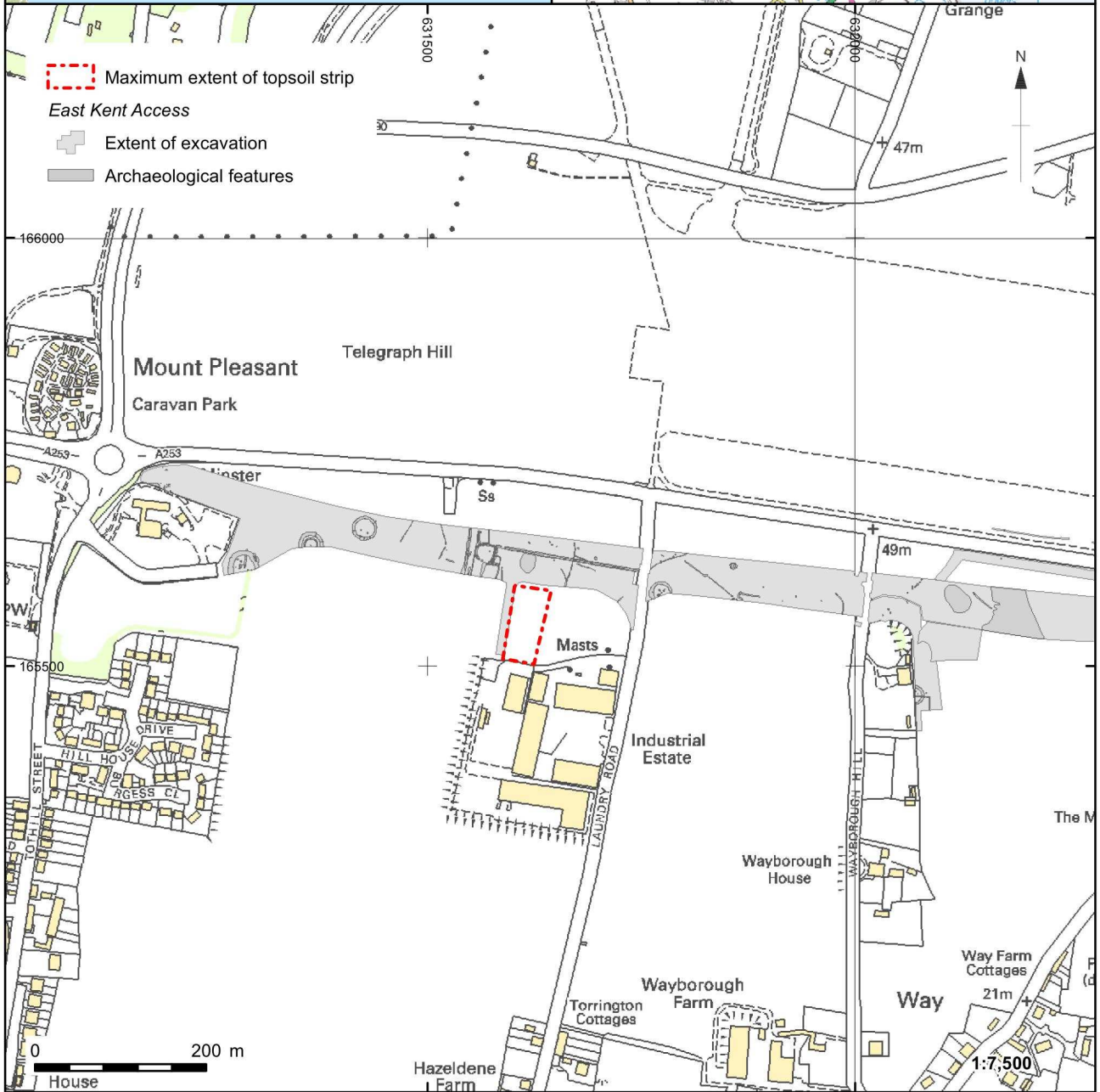
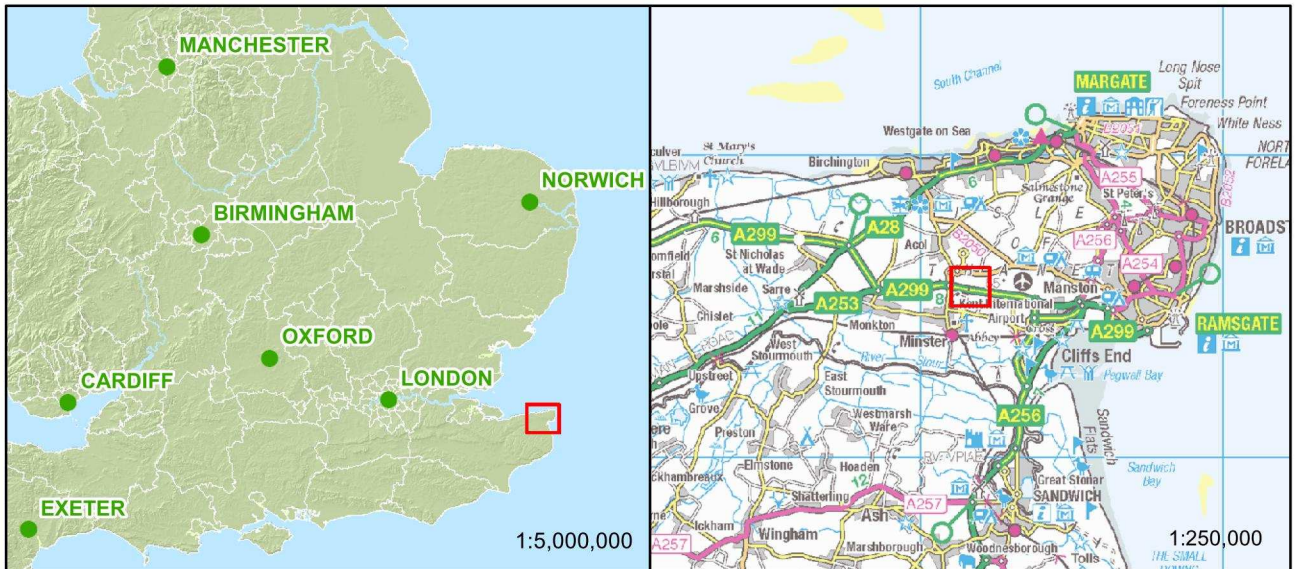
Oxford Wessex Archaeology, 2011 East Kent Access, Phase 2, Thanet, Kent: Post Excavation Assessment

Perkins, D R J, 1995 An Archaeological Evaluation at Laundry Road, Minster, Isle of Thanet, unpublished client report



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Telegraph Hill Industrial Estate, Minster, Kent
Site code:	MITH12
Grid reference:	Centred on NGR TR 3166 6552
Type of work:	Archaeological mitigation
Date and duration of project:	01/09/12
Area of site:	0.35ha
Summary of results:	No archaeological features were revealed during the works although two struck flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil.
Location of archive:	Archive currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES and will be deposited with a suitable receiving museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location





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