

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Canterbury Primary School  
Franklyn Lane, Canterbury, Kent**

**NGR: 613551 157527  
(TR 13551 57527)**

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

**ASE Project No: CAH 14  
Site Code: 6842**

**ASE Report No: 2014200  
OASIS id: archaeol6-181315**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the land at The Canterbury School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury.*

*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.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at The Canterbury Primary School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury (Figure 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 613551 157527.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 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 Primary School to the east and residential properties to the west.

1.2.2 The site is situated on Thanet Formation - sand silt and clay, overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits 2 - sand and gravel (CAT 2013). The general area has undergone extensive truncation and disturbance over the course of recent years, with possible re-deposition and levelling within the site itself.

### **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 high potential for containing archaeological deposits relating to prehistoric activity and further potential for Roman and later deposits/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 (Richard Cross) determined that the site should be subject to archaeological evaluation to determine:

- what impact the construction of the existing school and associated landscaping had on any potential archaeological/geoarchaeological remains
- what impact the development proposals may have on any archaeological/geoarchaeological remains at the site

1.3.3 Accordingly, a WSI was produced (ASE 2014) outlining the methodology that was used during the evaluation. This was submitted to Canterbury City Council and approved prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.3.4 Additionally, some geotechnical work carried out by BWB Consulting (BWB 2013) is considered in the discussion section of this document.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation which took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2014. The work was carried out by Gary Webster (Archaeologist), Lucy May (Assistant Archaeologist) and John Cook (Surveyor). The work was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and the post excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 This is the archaeological background as it appears in the WSI, which is itself a summary of that in the DBA (CAT, 2013).

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 A later prehistoric flint core and a blade or flake were recovered '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 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 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.6.1 These are the project aims, as laid out in the WSI (ASE 2014);

- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits/features
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To enable Canterbury City Council to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site
- To determine whether river terrace deposits survive within the site and if so, to establish the potential for future geoarchaeological work.
- To investigate whether evidence for prehistoric flint working exists on the site, with particular reference to the finds previously discovered within the site.
- To determine whether the Iron Age activity discovered in the neighbouring site extends into the development area
- To investigate whether evidence for Roman occupation is present, with particular reference to the city's cemeteries.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

(Figure 2)

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 The trenches and test pits were excavated using a JCB, with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The areas to be excavated were laid out using a Global Positioning System (GPS), tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid. The trenches measured 5m x 1.8m, 3.2m x 1.8m and test pits 2m x 1.8m.

3.1.2 Prior to excavation, all areas were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool, to ensure that no live services were encountered. The trenches at the front of the school were fully fenced off before excavation commenced and then backfilled before moving on to the next. The test-pits at the rear of the school were only excavated when the children had left the school after 15:00 hours.

3.1.3 Excavations were taken to the depth of the natural geology, or the archaeological horizon, whichever was highest. All excavations were monitored by a representative of Wates Construction (Ian Maddon).

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

3.2.1 The proposed Trench 1 to the east of the school (ASE 2014) was not excavated. Upon arrival to site, this was flagged by Trevor Clifton (Wates Construction) as not laying within the area of land belonging to the school. On that basis Paul Mason (Project Manager, ASE) made enquiries, and advised not to excavate it.

3.2.2 Trench 3 was located too close to a boundary hedge and could not be moved far, due to nearby services. As a result the trench was made slightly smaller (3.2m x 1.8m).

#### **3.3 Archive**

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Canterbury Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	18
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	38
Bulk finds	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	5	1.8	0.2	33.3
2/002	Layer	Made Ground	5	1.8	0.45	33.1
2/003	Layer	Brown Gravel	5	1.8	0.15	32.65
2/004	Cut	Geological	1.8	0.4		
2/005	Fill	Geological	1.8	0.4	0.3	
2/006	Layer	Natural Gravel	5	1.8	-	32.50

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 The orange natural gravel [2/004] was directly overlain by a darker brown gravel [2/003]. This in turn was overlain by made ground [2/002], which was capped with by the topsoil [2/001].
- 4.1.2 There was a suspected linear feature [2/004] seen in the natural. Upon hand excavation, and then subsequent machine excavation, it was found to be a geological feature and not of archaeological significance.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in this trench.

### 4.2 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	3.2	1.5	0.2	33.3
3/002	Layer	Made Ground	3.2	1.5	0.32	33.1
3/003	Layer	Brown Gravel	3.2	1.5	0.36	32.78
3/004	Layer	Natural Gravel	1.8	0.4	-	32.42

Table 3: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The orange natural gravel [3/004] was directly overlain by a darker brown gravel [3/003]. This in turn was overlain by made ground [3/002], which was capped by the topsoil [3/001].
- 4.2.2 There was a modern disturbance at the north end of Trench 3, cut into the natural [3/004] from the base of the topsoil.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in this trench.

### 4.3 Test Pit 4 (Figure 5)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	2	2	0.23	33.2
4/002	Layer	Natural	3.2	1.5	0.6+	32.97

Table 4: Test Pit 4 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The natural gravel [4/002] was directly overlain by the topsoil [4/001].

4.3.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in this trench.

### 4.4 Test Pit 5 (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	2	2	0.16	32.8
5/002	Layer	Brown Gravel	2	2	0.12	32.64
5/003	Layer	Natural	2	2	-	32.52

Table 5: Test Pit 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 The natural orange gravel [5/003] was overlain by brown gravel [5/002]. This was capped by topsoil [5/001].

4.4.2 A field drain ran across the base of the pit, on a north-south alignment. It was excavated until the ceramic pipe was found.

4.4.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in this trench.

### 4.5 Test Pit 6 (Figure 7)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	2	2	0.21	33.1
6/002	Layer	Made Ground	2	2	0.14	32.89
6/003	Layer	Brown Gravel	2	2	0.18	32.75
6/004	Layer	Natural	2	2	-	32.57

Table 6: Test Pit 6 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 The natural orange gravel [6/004] was overlain by brown gravel [6/003]. This was overlain by made ground [6/002], which was capped by topsoil [6/001].

4.5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in this trench.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

5.1.1 The natural geology was encountered at a depth of between 32.42 AOD and 32.97AOD. There was some variation in the natural geology in Trench 2, but this was very localised. Test pit 4, in the south-west of the site was in the only area where the darker gravel was not seen overlying the orange gravel, and was instead immediately overlain by topsoil. In Trenches 2 and 3, and in test pit 6 a small layer of made ground was recorded directly overlying the brown gravel. This suggests that truncation in the northern and eastern parts of the site that have been investigated has occurred to depths of between 0.35m and 0.47m.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

5.2.1 Despite the landscaping of the area for the construction of the school, natural river terrace gravels were generally intact, perhaps with the exception of the area around test pit 4, where they may have been disturbed or were not discernible from the natural geology. The cause of the truncation seen in the north of trench 3 is unknown and only appears to have affected a very small area of the site. It is possible that the truncation is from BWB pit CBR02 (BWB2013), as discussed below.

5.2.2 The report compiled by BWB (*ibid.*) describes a similar stratigraphic sequence to that described in this report. The brown gravel is emphatically listed as a river terrace deposit by BWB. These river terrace gravels are also seen across the entire site, in the boreholes and test pits, overlying the Thanet Formation, proving their widespread survival.

### **5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

5.3.1 There were no archaeological finds, features or deposits identified on site.

### **5.4 Consideration of research aims**

5.4.1 We have been able to answer several of the research questions:

- Some truncation (to depths of between 0.35m to 0.47m) of River Terrace (brown) gravels was recorded in the investigated areas
- Although there was no evidence of archaeology recorded in any of the investigated areas, it is worth noting that these only provide a very small sample of the site as a whole

### **5.5 Conclusions**

5.5.1 The evaluation has successfully determined the potential for archaeological remains and levels of truncation in the investigated areas. However, it is worth noting that the investigated areas are only a very small sample of the site and that further archaeological work may be required.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Wates Construction for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Richard Cross, Canterbury City Councils archaeological advisor for his guidance. The excavation was directed by Gary Webster. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary**

Site Code	CAH 14					
Identification Name and Address	The Canterbury Primary School, Franklyn Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Canterbury, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	613551 157527					
Geology	River Terrace deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2014200					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓					
Type of Site		Shallow Urban ✓				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2014					
Sponsor/Client	Wates Construction					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the land at The Canterbury School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury.</p> <p>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.</p>						

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-181315

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#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at The Canterbury Primary School, Franklyn Lane, Canterbury
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the land at The Canterbury School, Franklyn Road, Canterbury. 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.
Project dates	Start: 10-06-2014 End: 11-06-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CAH 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Test Pits"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT CANTERBURY CANTERBURY The Canterbury Primary School
Postcode	CT2 8PT
Site coordinates	TR 13551 57527 51.2761883929 1.06218595732 51 16 34 N 001 03 43 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 32.70m Max: 33.90m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief	Wates Construction

originator

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Gary Webster

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Canterbury Museum

Paper Archive recipient Canterbury Museum