



**Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Ethelbert Primary School,  
Ethelbert Road, Faversham, Kent  
*July-August 2010***

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**Ethelbert Primary School, Ethelbert Road, Faversham, Kent.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: 601054 160755  
Site Code ETHEL/WB/10**

**Report for  
BSF Consulting Engineers Ltd**

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief at Ethelbert Primary School,  
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**NGR 601054 160755**

**Site Code: ETHEL/WB/10**

## **1.0 SUMMARY**

*In July and August 2010, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at Ethelbert Primary School, Faversham, Kent. (Fig. 1).*

*The works were carried out on behalf of BSF Consulting Engineers Ltd. An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine stripping of tarmac (July 2010) in advance of the construction of an additional classroom and the cutting of foundation trenches and other groundworks (August 2010). Planning Application Number: SW/10/288).*

*The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.*

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

A planning application (PAN:SW/10/288) for the construction of a single storey art classroom extension with cloak area and store (Fig. 2) was submitted to Swale Borough Council.

Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks.

The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

*1.3. Before the development hereby permitted is commenced, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the County Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of archaeological interest and finds are recorded, and no works shall start on site until a written programme and specification for the archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the County planning Authority.*

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### **2.2 Schedule of Visits**

An Archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on the following dates:

26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> July. 12<sup>th</sup> August

### **2.3 Aims and Objectives**

The reason for the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

*'To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded (KCC May 2010: 1.3)*

### **2.4 Proposed Groundworks**

The groundworks involved;

- A strip of the playground tarmac
- Excavation of trenches for footings and drainage
- Any other ancillary groundworks associated with the application

### **2.5 Confidence Rating**

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is bedrock comprising the Seaford Chalk Formation.

(KCC 2010: 1.7)

Topographically the site is situated in a zone of suburban houses and gardens to the south of Ethelbert Road and east of Egbert Road. According to the KCC Archaeological Specification (KCC May 2010) the site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with the course of the Roman Watling Street, c.70m to the south. The site also lies c. 200m south west of an area of Iron Age, Roman and Anglo Saxon burials (KCC 2010: 2.2).

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Ifa: 2008). The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

The Watching Brief was carried out in several phases according to the needs

of the building contractors between the 26<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Excavation of the footings and the stripped area were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with the intention of removing the tarmac overburden to the formation level in spits, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section. Features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, Kent County Council.

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## **5.0 RESULTS**

### **5.1 General**

The site, formerly playground, was stripped of its tarmac by machine and foundation trenches dug (Plates 1-3). The tarmac and associated hardcore were about 20cm thick. The removal of the tarmac and further machining revealed the subsoil of Brickearth at about 40cm thick. Continued machining of the subsoil to a maximum depth of 1.20m revealed Chalk under the Brickearth. No archaeological features were exposed. A 1m deep service trench to the north for services was watched and no archaeological features were exposed.

### **5.2 Deposit Model**

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m-0.20m Tarmac and hardcore.

0.20m-0.60m          Subsoil of Brickearth.

0.60m-1.20+m      Chalk

## **6.0 FINDS**

No archaeological features present and no finds were retrieved.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Ethelbert Primary School revealed that no archaeological features were present.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

## **9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank BSF Consulting Engineers Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2010

## **REFERENCES**

IFA (1999 & 2008) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council (2010) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Ethelbert Primary School, Ethelbert Road, Faversham, Kent.*

## APPENDIX 1

## Kent County Council SMR summary form

<b>Site Name:</b> Ethelbert Primary School, Ethelbert Road, Faversham, Kent. <b>Site Code:</b> ETHEL/W/10	
<b>Site Address:</b>  As above.	
<b>Summary:</b>  In July and August 2010 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at the above address. The works were carried out on behalf of BSF Engineering Ltd in advance of the construction of an additional classroom (Planning Application Number: SW/10/288).  The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features or finds.	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Swale District/Faversham	<b>Parish:</b> Faversham
<b>Period(s):</b> N/A.	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> NGR 601054 160755 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Watching Brief	
<b>Date of Recording: start-</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
<b>Geology:</b> Seaford Chalk	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b>  Wilkinson P. (2010) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief at Ethelbert Road Primary School, Kent. (SWAT Archaeology)</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  As above.  <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Dr P. Wilkinson	<b>Date</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2010



## Appendix 2 – Summary of Archaeological Sites within 250m of Site

Period	HER Reference	Type	National Grid Reference	Description (For further data on sites consult the HER data kept at KCC County Hall, Maidstone)
Roman & Anglo-Saxon	TR 06 SW 16	Find spot	N/A	Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery evidence
Iron Age	TR 06 SW 118	Find spot	N/A	Iron Age burials found in Athelston Road in about 1846-49
Roman & Anglo-Saxon	TR 06 SW 199	Find spot	N/A	Same find spot as TR 06 SW 118 but with additional data
Modern	TR 06 SW 203	Site	N/A	Brickfield shown on the 1876 OS map



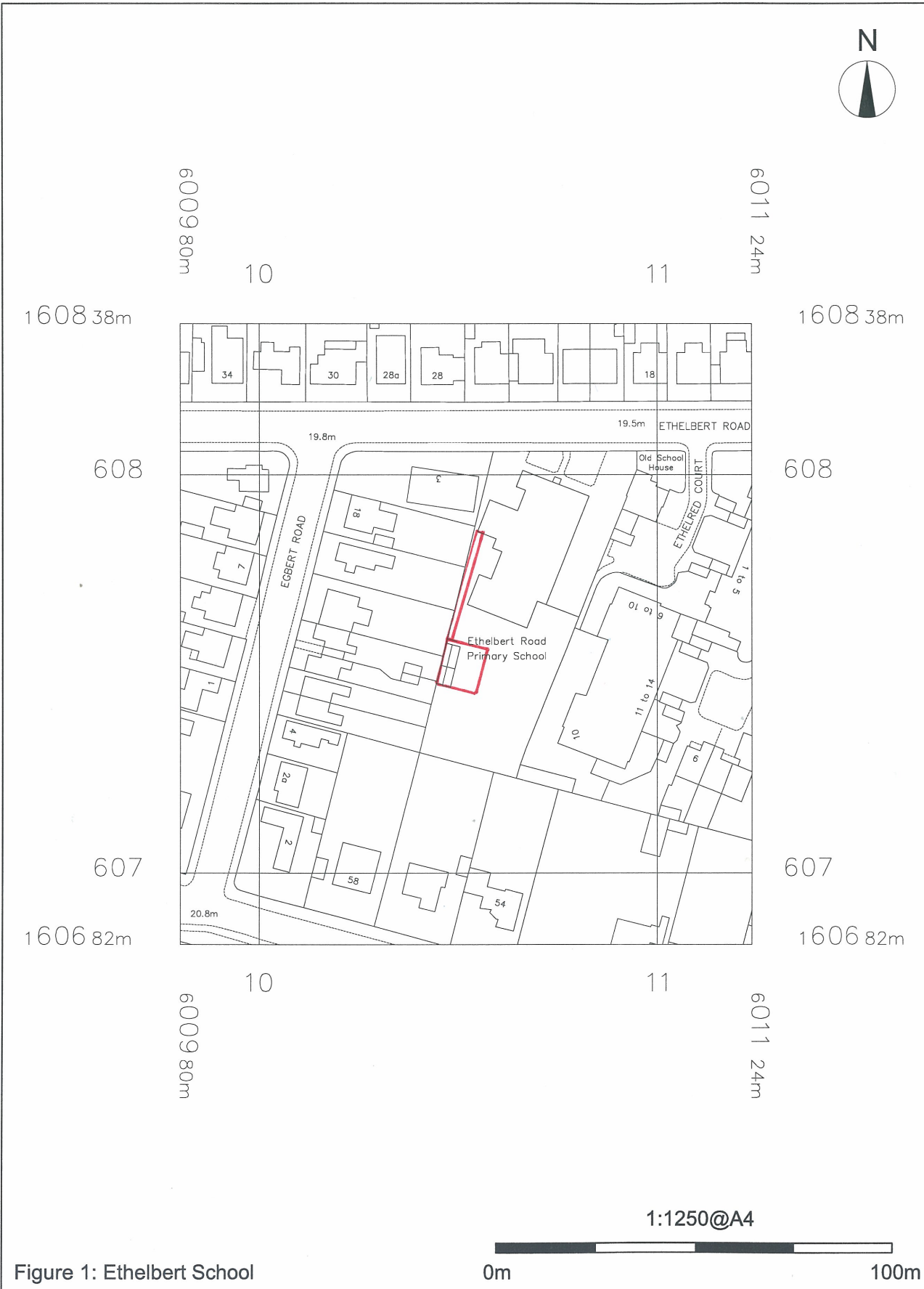
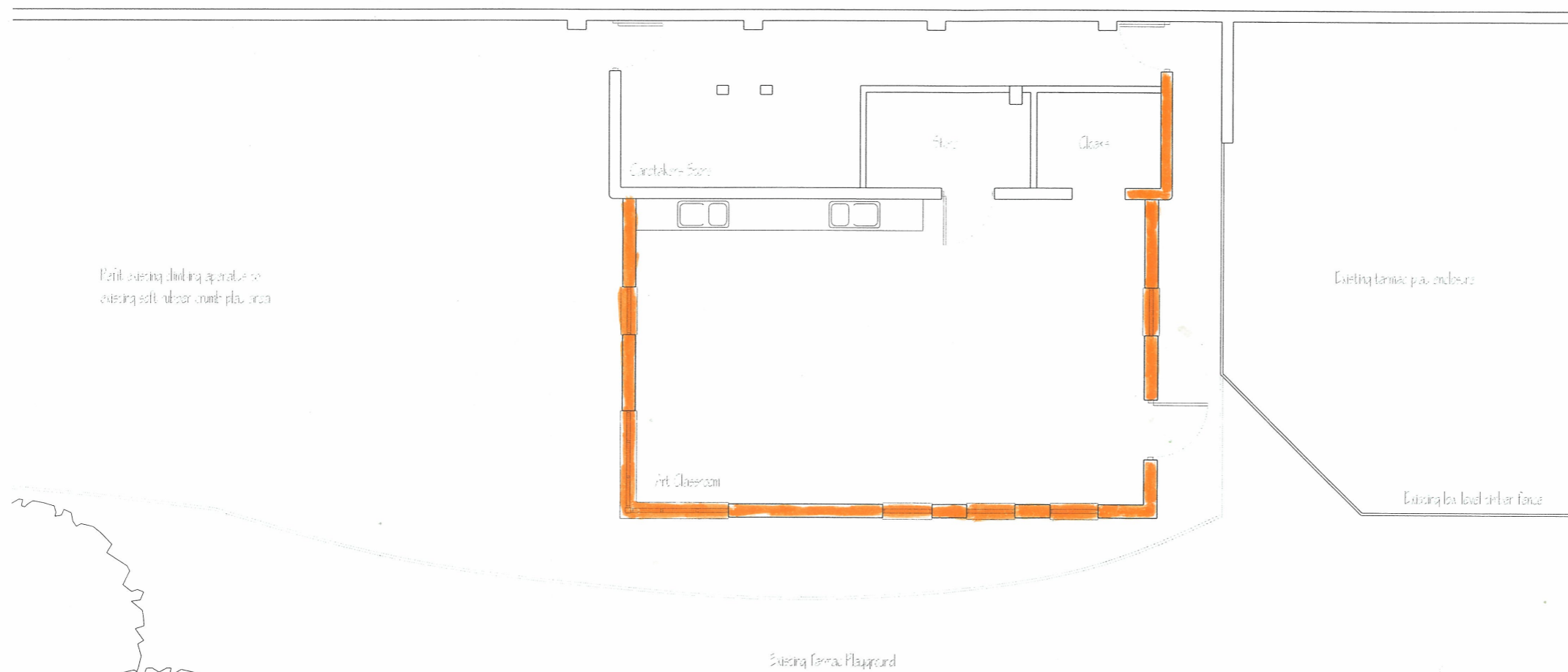


Figure 1: Ethelbert School

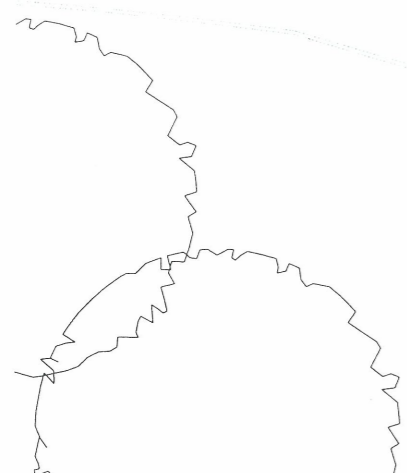


Paint existing building separate to existing soft outdoor crumb play area

Existing terrace paving

Existing level of car fence

Existing Formal Playground



Proposed Floor Plan 1:100

Fig. 2.

NOTES:  
 Do Not Scale.  
 Report all discrepancies, errors and omissions.  
 Verify all dimensions on site before commencing any work on site or preparing shop drawings.  
 All materials, components and workmanship are to comply with the relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice, and appropriate manufacturers recommendations that from time to time shall apply.  
 For all specialist work, see relevant drawings.

Rev.	Date.	Description.

Project Title:  
 Proposed Extension  
 Ethelbert Road Primary School  
 Ethelbert Road  
 Faversham  
 ME13 8SQ

Drawing Description:  
 Proposed Floor Plan

Scale.	1:100	Date.	January '10
Drawn by.	CS	Checked by.	SG

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 Email: stevegee666@gmail.com

Drawing No.	1047A / 04	Revision.	
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**Plate 1.** Location of site of proposed development at Ethelbert Primary School, Ethelbert Road, Faversham, Kent. (NGR 601054 160755). Facing south west with tarmac removed and foundation trenches being cut under archaeological supervision.



**Plate 2.** Foundation trench on the north side of the development, and facing west. Sides of trench have been cleaned by an archaeologist after inspecting the base of trench cut into the Chalk- shovel is 1m in length (100cm).



**Plate 3.** North trench facing east showing the geology consistent across the site of tarmac and hardcore (20cm), Brickearth (40cm), and Chalk (60cm). Shovel is 1m in length (100cm).