



Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA

Archaeological evaluation report

Project Code: EV FWF 22
 Planning Ref: 22/00586/AS
 Client: GYD Architecture
 NGR: 607881 141948 (centred)

CAT Report No: 2022/208
 CAT Archive No: 4931
 OASIS ID: canterbu3-511942

Prepared by: DC Boden
 Date: 16 December 2022

Document Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Version	Approved by	Position	Comment	Date
01	Richard Helm	Senior Project Manager		16/12/22

Conditions of Release

This document has been prepared for the titled project, or named part thereof, and should not be relied on or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd being obtained. Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person by whom it was commissioned. This document has been produced for the purpose of assessment and evaluation only. To the extent that this report is based on information supplied by other parties, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd accepts no liability for any loss or damage suffered by the client, whether contractual or otherwise, stemming from any conclusions based on data supplied by parties other than Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd and used by Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd in preparing this report. This report must not be altered, truncated, précised or added to except by way of addendum and/or errata authorized and executed by Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd.

© All rights including translation, reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd
 92a Broad Street · Canterbury · Kent · CT1 2LU
 +44 (0)1227 462 062 · admin@canterburytrust.co.uk · canterburytrust.co.uk
 Registered Charity no: 278861 · Company Registered no: 1441517 (England)



Contents

Contents	i
Summary	iii
Project contributors	iv
Acknowledgements	iv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 Location, topography, and geology	1
2 Archaeological and historical background	2
2.1 Heritage potential	2
2.2 Prehistoric (c 500,000BP – AD 43)	2
2.3 Romano-British (c AD 43–450)	2
2.4 Medieval (c AD 1066–1540) and post-medieval (c AD 1540–1900)	2
2.5 Modern (c 1900 – 2000)	3
3 Aims, objectives and methodology	4
3.1 Aims	4
3.2 Objectives	4
3.3 Methodology	4
3.4 Health, safety and welfare	5
3.5 Project archive	5
4 Results	6
4.1 Trench 1	6
4.2 Trench 2	6
4.3 Trench 3	7
4.4 Finds	7
4.5 Environmental data	7
5 Archaeological interpretation and development impact	8
5.1 Interpretation	8
5.2 Development impact	8
5.3 Conclusion	8
5.4 Confidence rating	8
References	9
Appendix 1. Kent County Council Sites and Monuments Record Form	10
Appendix 2. OASIS record	11
List of tables	
Table 1. Trench 1 contexts	6
Table 2. Trench 2 contexts	6
Table 3. Trench 3 contexts	7
List of photos	
Photo 1. View of the PDA showing the rise to adjacent fields, looking north-east (no scale)	12
Photo 2. View of the PDA, looking east (no scale)	12
Photo 3. View of the PDA showing the location of Trench 1, looking south-east (no scale)	13
Photo 4. View of the PDA, looking north-west (no scale)	13
Photo 5. View of the PDA, looking north (no scale)	14

Photo 6.	View of the PDA, looking south (no scale).....	14
Photo 7.	Trench 1, looking north-west (scale 1m).....	15
Photo 8.	Trench 1 showing large pit or quarry [104], looking south-east (scale 1m)	15
Photo 9.	Trench 2, looking south-west (scale 1m).....	16
Photo 10.	Trench 2, looking north-east (scale 1m).....	16
Photo 11.	Trench 2 geological deposits, looking north-east (scale 1m).....	17
Photo 12.	Trench 2 geological deposits looking north (scale 1m).....	17
Photo 13.	Trench 3, looking east-north-east (scale 1m).....	18
Photo 14.	Geological deposits at the north-north-eastern end of Trench 3 looking north-north-west. Scale 0.50m	18

List of figures

Figure 1.	Project location	19
Figure 2.	Plan of evaluation trenches	20

Summary

Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA (NGR 607881 141948, centred). The work was conducted on 5 December 2022 and was commissioned by GYD Architecture, acting on behalf of Mr and Mrs R Mifsud, as part of preparatory works for the erection of an agricultural building, incorporating a charity shop and office, along with associated works (Planning Application Ref: 22/00586/AS).

The evaluation comprised the machine cutting of three trenches to assess the potential, character, and extent of any buried archaeological resource within the proposed development area. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the underlying geology, which comprised Gault Formation deposits of clay and gravel encountered at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.30m below ground level.

In trench 1, the geological deposits were cut by a large pit or quarry feature from which late post-medieval or modern brick and roof tile was recovered.

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in trenches 2 and 3.

The pit or quarry in trench 1 and the underlying geological deposits in trench 3 were both sealed by a former topsoil. The former topsoil had been buried by a modern levelling deposit, above which a new topsoil had been laid, recorded across trenches 1, 2 and 3. This topsoil formed the existing ground surface across most of the PDA, though in some areas the underlying levelling deposit and geological deposits formed the existing ground surface indicating that the site had been truncated in recent times.

Project contributors

CAT Project Manager:	Richard Helm
CAT Fieldwork:	Damien Boden
CAT Survey:	George Carstairs
CAT Post-excavation:	Damien Boden

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mathew Kettle of GYD Architecture, on behalf of Mr and Mrs R Mifsud. Existing ground survey of the proposed development area was provided by Vlad Cracium of GYD Architecture.

Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council, was consulted on the written scheme of investigation prior to submission for approval.

On-site plant was provided by Mr R Mifsud.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 On 05 December 2022, Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA (centre point NGR TR 607881 141948). The work was commissioned by GYD Architecture on behalf of Mr and Mrs R Mifsud as part of preparatory works for the erection of an agricultural building, incorporating a charity shop and office, along with associated works (Planning Ref: 22/00586/AS).

1.1.2 Under the Town and Country Planning Acts, Ashford Borough Council (ABC), the Local Planning Authority, granted permission for the development on 13 September 2022 with the attached condition:

Condition 9:

‘Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been approved by the Local Planning Authority.’

REASON: ‘To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with NPPF’ (2021).

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (CAT 2022a) submitted and approved by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group. The WSI recommended the excavation of two evaluation trenches located within the footprint of the proposed new building, with contingency for a third trench, located on the line of a proposed new surface water drain. Each trench would measure approximately 12.5m long by between 1.6m and 1.8m wide and would be excavated to the upper surface of significant archaeology or the surface of geology, whichever was the higher.

1.1.4 The purpose of the evaluation was to inform on the potential below ground archaeological resource surviving within the PDA. The results would enable the LPA to formulate the scope of any further archaeological mitigation works that might be required in line with existing national and local planning policy and guidance.

1.1.5 This report sets out the results of the evaluation and will seek to define the extent and nature, so far established, of any significant archaeological resource within the PDA.

1.2 Location, topography, and geology

1.2.1 The PDA is located adjacent to Fords Water Farm, a Grade II Listed Building, situated within a rural setting in the parish of Brabourne, on land off Manor Pound Lane, and approximately 6.8km east of Ashford town centre.

1.2.2 The PDA forms a roughly rectangular plot, on gently rising ground from south-east to north-west, with a height range of approximately 65-66m Ordnance Datum (OD) (Photos 1–6).

1.2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS Online 2022) maps the bedrock geology within the PDA as Gault Formation – Mudstone, with no overlying superficial deposits recorded.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Heritage potential

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical potential of the site has been set out within the WSI (CAT 2022a).
- 2.1.2 There are no designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Parks or Gardens, Conservation Areas or Protected Military Remains) located within the PDA.
- 2.1.3 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the PDA.
- 2.1.4 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) and CAT archives. The search covers a radius of approximately 500m around the PDA centre, although significant features further afield have also been included. These records have been assessed in terms of their particular relevance to the PDA and only significant evidence is cited in this report.

2.2 Prehistoric (c 500,000BP – AD 43)

- 2.2.1 The earliest evidence of archaeological activity within proximity to the PDA is a cropmark of a double ring-ditch (KHER TR04 SE130), as identified in an aerial photograph of 1961, located to the north-west of Bircholt Court and approximately 680m south-west of the PDA. The ring-ditch potentially represents the remnants of a Bronze Age barrow or funerary monument. The outer ring ditch is 42m across and the inner measures 21m across. Immediately north of the outer ring-ditch is a linear cropmark which runs for 248m on a north-west to south-east alignment. There is a parallel mark to the south-east.

2.3 Romano-British (c AD 43–410)

- 2.3.1 Evidence of Roman-period industrial activity is recorded approximately 390m south-west of the PDA, and 450m north-east of Brabourne Court, in the form of a Roman tile kiln at Bircholt Forstal (KHER TR04 SE142). The kiln was reputedly exposed but perhaps not fully excavated in 1983. The KHER records that a small sample of tiles from the site were assessed as part of work on the tile from Folkestone Roman villa. According to an update of KHER records in 2018, the present farmer of the land thinks the kiln site might now be occupied by a badger sett. As well as bricks, flue tiles, imbrices, tegulae and fragments of kiln furniture, some pottery fragments, at least five coins, half a quern and the 'metal end of a spade' were also recovered from the site, but the present whereabouts of this finds assemblage is unknown.

2.4 Medieval (c AD 1066–1540) and post-medieval (c AD 1540–1900)

- 2.4.1 A deserted medieval village is listed at Bircholt, Brabourne (KHER TR04 SE8) in a publication of 1971 (Beresford and Hurst's 'Deserted Medieval Villages'), roughly 600m south-west of the PDA. However, the location of a medieval deserted village here is tenuous. Bircholt is mentioned in the Domesday Monachorum and a hundred of Bircholt is recorded in both Domesday and the Lay Subsidy of 1334. The site of the former St Margaret's Church (KHER TR04 SE2) lies further to the south at Bircholt Court. The former church is mentioned in wills of 1490 and 1517, but there are no longer any traces of this building and the site of the church falls within a garden plot. No foundations or other evidence of a former church building have been reported.
- 2.4.2 The house at Fords Water is a Grade II Listed timber-framed building of sixteenth-century date, with eighteenth-century additions (KHER TR04 SE67; NHLE 1232941). Its associated farmstead, Fords Water Farm (KHER MKE87463), is an historic post-medieval loose courtyard plan farmstead (since significantly altered) and is identifiable on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1876.
- 2.4.3 Further properties and farmsteads of early post-medieval date are recorded in the nearby vicinity. They include Bircholt Court, located 850m south-west of the PDA, which is a sixteenth-century timber-framed Grade II Listed building, altered in the late seventeenth and mid nineteenth century (KHER TR04 SE59; NHLE 1232627). It is located on a manorial site, and the site of the former church of St Margaret's lay adjacent and to the north (KHER TR04 SE2). An associated historic, regular courtyard farmstead is dated to the post-medieval period (KHER MKE87459).

- 2.4.4 Boulding House, located 320m north-east of the PDA, is a sixteenth-century (or earlier) timber-framed Grade II Listed building, altered in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (KHER TR04 SE55). Fallon Farmhouse, located 580m west of the PDA, is a sixteenth-century (or earlier) timber-framed Grade II Listed building clad in the early eighteenth century (KHER TR04 SE49). It is thought to have a hall-house origin.

2.5 Modern (c 1900 – 2000)

- 2.5.1 Historic OS maps of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, aerial photographs and satellite images all indicate the plot has remained undeveloped since at least the 1870s. A row of buildings, to the immediate south-west of the plot, are shown on the First Edition OS map of 1876, but they appear to have been reduced to just one structure on the 1897 OS map, with no significant changes noted on the 1908 and 1947 OS maps.
- 2.5.2 An aerial photograph from the 1940s shows no changes within the PDA, whilst an expansion of development, to the south-west of the PDA (within the farmstead area) is apparent in aerial photographs from the 1960s and 1990. More recent satellite images show an equestrian facility at the site, including stables and riding arena, however the field in which the PDA is located has remained largely unchanged throughout the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

3 Aims, objectives and methodology

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a) is to ‘determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practises. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project and comply with the code of conduct (CIfA 2021) and other relevant regulations of CIfA.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological evaluation is further explained as ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’.
- 3.1.3 The evaluation will thus provide sufficient information for all parties concerned, particularly the Local Planning Authority, to devise appropriate mitigation strategies, if required. An evaluation may therefore result in the need for an agreed mitigation strategy and the implementation of further archaeological works with a further WSI potentially required to fulfil planning conditions.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 The principal objective of the evaluation, as set out within the WSI (CAT 2022a), was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. The purpose of the evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposits, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- 3.2.2 More specific objectives comprised:
- understand the nature, character, date and extent of any prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern activities present on site;
 - assess whether there is any evidence for later medieval and post-medieval occupation or activity within the PDA, particularly that which can be associated with the historic farmstead and sixteenth-century house;
 - place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within context of other recent investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

3.3 Methodology

- 3.3.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with parts A and B of the agreed WSI (CAT 2022a) and the methods of practice outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a).
- 3.3.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation by machine of three trenches, two located within the footprint of the proposed new building, and a third contingency trench, located on the line of a proposed new surface water drain. The trenches measured 12.5m long by 1.8m wide and were cut in the locations specified in the WSI.
- 3.3.3 The trench footprints and surrounding areas were scanned using a suitably calibrated CAT scanner by a suitably qualified operative, in consultation with an issued service plan. The PDA was located within a fenced and secure area that ensured no unauthorised access to the excavations.
- 3.3.4 Mechanical excavation was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or geology, whichever was the higher. Ground reduction was undertaken using an 8-tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated overburden was removed in spits of approximate 100mm thickness and stockpiled to the north of the footprint of the PDA.

- 3.3.5 Care was taken not to damage any archaeological deposits or structures by unnecessary excavation. In particular, the underlying geological deposits were not overly reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present surface (also expressed as height above OD).
- 3.3.6 A full colour digital photographic record of all phases of the evaluation works was produced. The photographic record comprises part of the site archive.
- 3.3.7 All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using appropriate recording systems.

3.4 Health, safety and welfare

- 3.4.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2022b) and the CAT health and safety general policy (CAT 2022c).
- 3.4.2 All CAT operatives hold valid Construction Skill Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is AcclaimSSIP accredited
- 3.4.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, all trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool scanner. No buried services were uncovered during the investigation.

3.5 Project archive

- 3.5.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance to archiving guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa 2020b), with the archive name 'Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA', site code EV FWF 22, and archive number 4931.
- 3.5.2 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency, and a full digital copy made.
- 3.5.3 No artefacts have been retained.
- 3.5.4 Upon completion of the project the project archive will be prepared and transferred to an approved local archive receiving body as recommended by Ashford Borough Council.
- 3.5.5 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU).

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

TR 1	Length: 12.5m	Width: 1.80m	Orientation: NW–SE	Max Depth: 0.52 (NW)–0.86m (SE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth bgl (m)	Provisional date	
100	Modern topsoil	Mid to dark, greyish brown, soft, friable, sandy loam with rare, small, rounded, and sub-angular flint pebbles.	NW 0.12 SE 0.10	-	Modern	
101	Levelling deposit	Predominantly light to mid, greyish brown, firm, blocky textured clay with small lenses of mid to dark greyish brown, friable, sandy loam topsoil.	NW 0.17 SE 0.20	NW 0.12 ESE 0.10	Modern	
102	Buried topsoil	Mid greyish brown, firm, sandy, silty clay with occasional, small, rounded, and sub-angular flint pebbles.	NW 0.15 SE 0.16	NW 0.28 SE 0.30	Modern	
103	Fill of [104]	Mixed, mid to dark greyish brown, friable, silty, sandy loam/mid, grey to greyish brown, stiff clay containing, occasional, small to large rounded and sub-angular flint, occasional, brick, tile, and stone fragments.	NW +1m	NW 0.30	Modern	
104	Probable pit/quarry	Large, probably sub-circular, moderately steep sided cut. In excess of 1.8m wide, c 4.5m long and in excess of 0.24m deep. Not excavated.	NW +1m	NW 0.30	Poss. C19th to C20th	
105	Geology	Light, very slightly yellowish grey, firm/stiff clay.	NW +0.14 SE 0.21	NW 0.46 SE 0.30	-	
106	Geology	Light grey, stiff clay	NW c 0.20	NW 0.58	-	
107	Geology	Light slightly greyish/yellowish, firm/stiff clay	NW c 0.06	NW 0.67	-	
108	Geology	Light grey, firm/stiff clay	NW + 0.14	NW 0.73	-	

- 4.1.1 The upper surface of geology (105) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.30m BGL at the south-eastern end of the trench.
- 4.1.2 At the centre of the trench, the uppermost of the geological deposits (105) was cut by a large pit or quarry [104]. The pit or quarry measured in excess of 1.80m wide by 4.5m long and extended below the level of excavation to a depth in excess of 1.0m bgl. The pit or quarry contained a mixed fill of redeposited natural clay and a dark brown topsoil (103) which contained occasional flint pebbles and fragments of brick and tile.
- 4.1.3 The pit or quarry was overlain by a buried topsoil (102) which was present across the full extent of the trench. The buried topsoil was overlain by a layer of mixed grey clay and topsoil, representing a modern levelling material (101), which was overlain by a thin, modern topsoil (100).

4.2 Trench 2

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

TR 2	Length: 12.5m	Width: 1.80m	Orientation: SW–NE	Max Depth: 0.80m (SW) – 0.56m (NE)		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth bgl (m)	Provisional date	
200	Modern topsoil	Mid to dark greyish brown, soft friable, sandy loam with rare, small, rounded, and sub-angular flint pebbles	SW 0.15 NE 0.12	-	Modern	
201	Geology	Light yellowish/orangey brown, firm, clayey sandy gravel to gravelly clay	SW 0.20	SW 0.15	-	
202	Geology	Light to mid grey, firm, sandy clay	SW 0.10 NE 0.18	SW 0.35 NE 0.12	-	
203	Geology	Light slightly yellowish grey, firm, clay	SW 0.10 NE 0.10	SW 0.50 NE 0.30	-	
204	Geology	Light grey, firm, clay	SW +0.20 NE + 0.13	SW 0.60 NE 0.44	-	

- 4.2.1 The upper surface of geology (201) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.15m BGL.
- 4.2.2 No archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench.
- 4.2.3 The uppermost geological deposit was overlain throughout the trench by a thin, modern topsoil (200).

4.3 Trench 3

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

TR 3					
Length: 12.5m		Width: 1.80m	Orientation: WSW–ENE	Max Depth: 0.45m (WSW) – 0.95m (ENE)	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)	Depth bgl (m)	Provisional date
300	Modern topsoil	Mid greyish brown, firm, sandy, silty clay with occasional, small, rounded, and sub-angular flint pebbles.	ENE 0.06	-	Modern
301	Redeposited topsoil/levelling deposit	Predominantly light to mid, greyish brown, firm, blocky textured clay with small lenses of mid to dark greyish brown, friable, sandy loam topsoil.	WSW 0.20 ESE 0.27	WSW 0.15	Modern
302	Buried topsoil	Light to mid grey, firm, sandy, clayey loam.	WSW 0.10	WSW 0.35 ENE 0.12	Modern
303	Geology	Light yellowish grey, firm/stiff clay.	WSW +0.14	WSW 0.50 ENE 0.30	-
304	Geology	Light, grey, firm/stiff clay.	ENE + 0.31	WSW 0.60 ENE 0.44	-
305	Geology	Light yellowish brown/orangey brown, firm, clayey gravel.	ENE 0.22	-	-
306	Geology	Light grey/greyish brown, firm, clayey, sandy gravel.	ENE +0.25	-	-

- 4.3.1 Natural geology (303) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.30m BGL towards the north-eastern end of the trench.
- 4.3.2 No archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench.
- 4.3.3 The uppermost of the geological deposits (303) was overlain throughout the trench by a buried topsoil (302). The buried topsoil was overlain by a layer of mixed grey clay and topsoil, modern levelling material (301), which was overlain by a thin, modern topsoil (300).

4.4 Finds

- 4.4.1 A small assemblage of seven fragments of nineteenth- or early twentieth-century dated brick and tile were recorded from the fill (103) of pit or quarry feature [104].

4.5 Environmental data

- 4.5.1 No soil samples were collected for assessment of environmental data.

5 Archaeological interpretation and development impact

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 Geological deposits (105), (106), (107), (108), (201), (202), (203), (204), (303), (304), (305) and (306) were recorded in all three evaluation trenches and consisted primarily of light yellow, light grey and light yellowish grey stiff clays interspersed with flint gravels consistent with deposits of Gault Formation.
- 5.1.2 In trench 1, the geological deposits were cut by a large pit or quarry feature [104] from which late post-medieval or modern brick and roof tile was recovered.
- 5.1.3 The large pit or quarry feature in trench 1 and the uppermost of the geological deposits in trench 3 were both overlain by a former topsoil or developed soil horizon (102) and (302).
- 5.1.4 The former topsoil in trenches 1 and 3 was overlain by a redeposited, mixed layer of clay and topsoil (101) and (301). This was variable in thickness and appeared to represent a modern levelling deposit.
- 5.1.5 Deposits (101) and (301), and the uppermost of the geological deposits in Trench 2 were overlain by a thin and patchy, modern topsoil (100), (200) and (300). This was present across most of the PDA, although in some areas this was almost non-existent, with the underlying levelling deposit (101) and (301) and the clay geological deposits in trench 2 forming the modern ground surface.
- 5.1.6 Spreads of redeposited topsoil, clays and modern material were also observed across the wider area around the PDA, all of which were deposited as levelling materials.

5.2 Development impact

- 5.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were recorded in the evaluation trenches. The proposed groundworks will not have any impact on known significant archaeology.

5.3 Conclusion

- 5.3.1 This evaluation confirmed that the underlying geological deposits comprised of clay and gravel of the Gault Formation bedrock.
- 5.3.2 The single feature, a probable large pit or quarry, identified in Trench 1, on the eastern side of the PDA would appear to confirm anecdotal evidence of the area being used as a clay pit or quarry in the late nineteenth century, as reported by the client during the evaluation works, and the site may have been truncated in recent times as suggested by the overlying levelling deposits and relatively flat and level topography of the field in which the PDA sits, in contrast to the surrounding elevated and more undulating pastureland.

5.4 Confidence rating

- 5.4.1 The confidence rating for this evaluation should be regarded as good: it was sufficiently resourced and conducted for the majority of the time under fair weather conditions.
- 5.4.2 The evaluation has determined an absence of buried archaeological features and deposits within the PDA and has successfully met the principal objective of the works.

References

- BGS Online 2022 British Geological Survey Online, Natural Environment Research Council, accessed 07/11/2022, <http://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>, British Geological Survey
- CAT 2022a *Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA. Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- CAT 2022b *Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA. Risk assessment and method statement for archaeological evaluation*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- CAT 2022c *Health and safety general policy*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- CIFA 2020a *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeology, Reading
- CIFA 2020b *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeology, Reading
- CIFA 2021 *Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- Kent County Council Historic Environment Record, accessed 07/11/2022, <http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/advancedsearch.aspx>
- NPPF 2021 *National Planning Policy Framework*, HMSO, accessed 07/11/2022, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

Appendix 1. Kent County Council Sites and Monuments Record Form

Site Name: Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA	
Site Address: Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Fords Water Farm, Brabourne, Kent (NGR 607881 141948). The work was conducted on 5 December 2022 as part of preparations for the construction of an agricultural building, incorporating a charity office, shop and associated works (planning ref: 22/00586/AS).</p>	
District/Unitary: Ashford	Parish: Brabourne
<p>Periods:</p> <p>Late post-medieval/modern</p>	
National Grid Reference: 607881 141948 (centred)	
Type of archaeological work: Evaluation	
Date of recording: 5 December 2022	
<p>Unit undertaking recording:</p> <p>Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU Tel: 01227 462062 Email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk</p>	
Geology: Gault Formation	
<p>Title and author of accompanying report:</p> <p>Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford TN25 5NA Archaeological evaluation report Report no 2022/208 Archive no 4931 DC Boden</p>	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The investigation revealed geological deposits of clay and gravel Gault Formation at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.30m bgl.</p> <p>In trench 1, the geological deposits were cut by a large pit or quarry feature from which late post-medieval or modern brick and roof tile was recovered.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in trenches 2 and 3.</p> <p>The pit or quarry in trench 1 and the underlying geological deposits in trench 3 were both sealed by a former topsoil. The former topsoil had been buried by a modern levelling deposit, above which a new topsoil had been laid, recorded in trenches 1, 2 and 3. This topsoil formed the existing ground surface across most of the PDA, although in some areas the underlying levelling deposit and geological deposits formed the existing ground surface indicating that the site may have been truncated in recent times.</p>	
Location of Archive: Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd	
Contact at Unit: Richard Helm	Date: December 2022

Appendix 2. OASIS record

OASIS ID (UID)	canterbu3-511942
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA
Site Name	Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	FWF EV 22
Planning Id	22/00586/AS
Reason For Investigation	Planning: post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	05-Dec-2022 - 05-Dec-2022
Location	Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA NGR : TR 07881 41948 LL : 51.1390489635577, 0.970256874494798 12 Fig : 607881,141948
Administrative Areas	Country: England County: Kent District: Ashford Parish: Brabourne
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation comprising 3no. 12.5m x 1.8m mechanically excavated trenches under archaeological supervision followed by hand cleaning and recording in accordance with accepted professional standards.
Project Results	<p>The investigation revealed geological deposits of clay and gravel Gault Formation at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.30m bgl.</p> <p>In trench 1, the geological deposits were cut by a large pit or quarry feature from which late post-medieval or modern brick and roof tile was recovered.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in trenches 2 and 3.</p> <p>The pit or quarry in trench 1 and the underlying geological deposits in trench 3 were both sealed by a former topsoil. The former topsoil had been buried by a modern levelling deposit, above which a new topsoil had been laid, recorded in trenches 1, 2 and 3. This topsoil formed the existing ground surface across most of the PDA, although in some areas the underlying levelling deposit and geological deposits formed the existing ground surface indicating that the site may have been truncated in recent times.</p>
Keywords	Clay Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private individual
HER	Kent HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Damien, Boden
HER Identifiers	-
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Ashford Museum



Photo 1. View of the PDA showing the rise to adjacent fields, looking north-east (no scale)



Photo 2. View of the PDA, looking east (no scale)

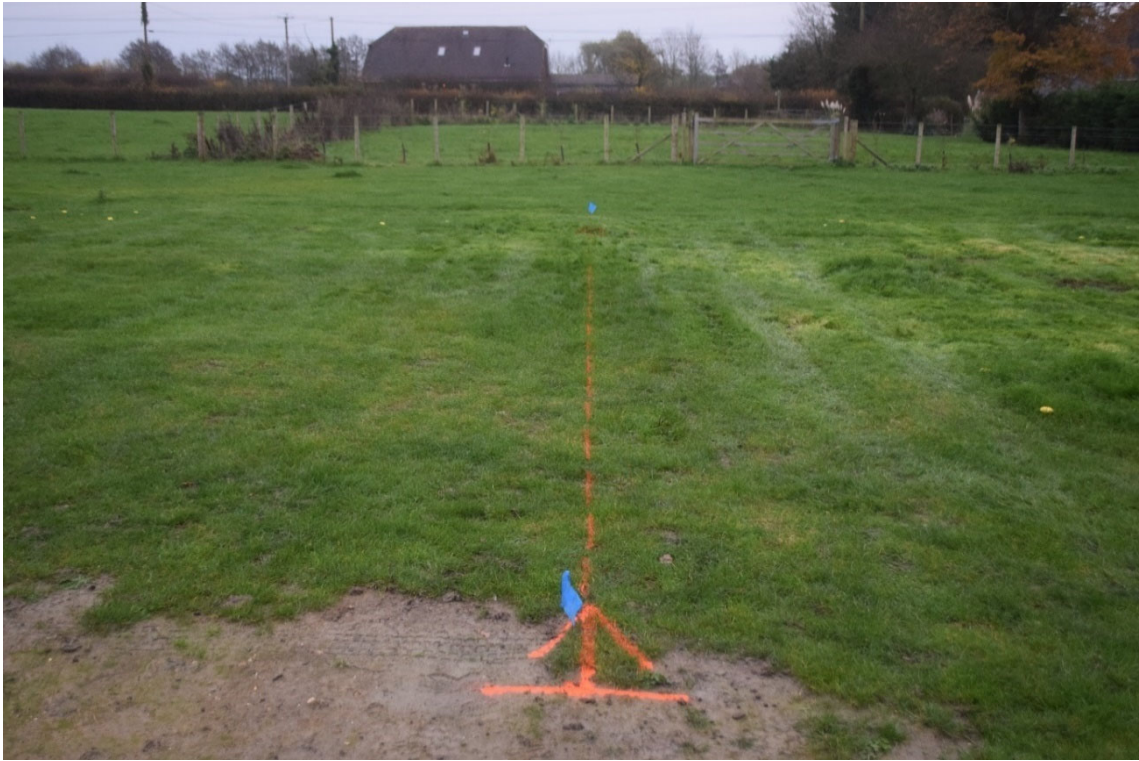


Photo 3. View of the PDA showing the location of Trench 1, looking south-east (no scale)



Photo 4. View of the PDA, looking north-west (no scale)



Photo 5. View of the PDA, looking north (no scale)



Photo 6. View of the PDA, looking south (no scale)



Photo 7. Trench 1, looking north-west (scale 1m)



Photo 8. Trench 1 showing large pit or quarry [104], looking south-east (scale 1m)



Photo 9. Trench 2, looking south-west (scale 1m)



Photo 10. Trench 2, looking north-east (scale 1m)



Photo 11. Trench 2 geological deposits, looking north-east (scale 1m)



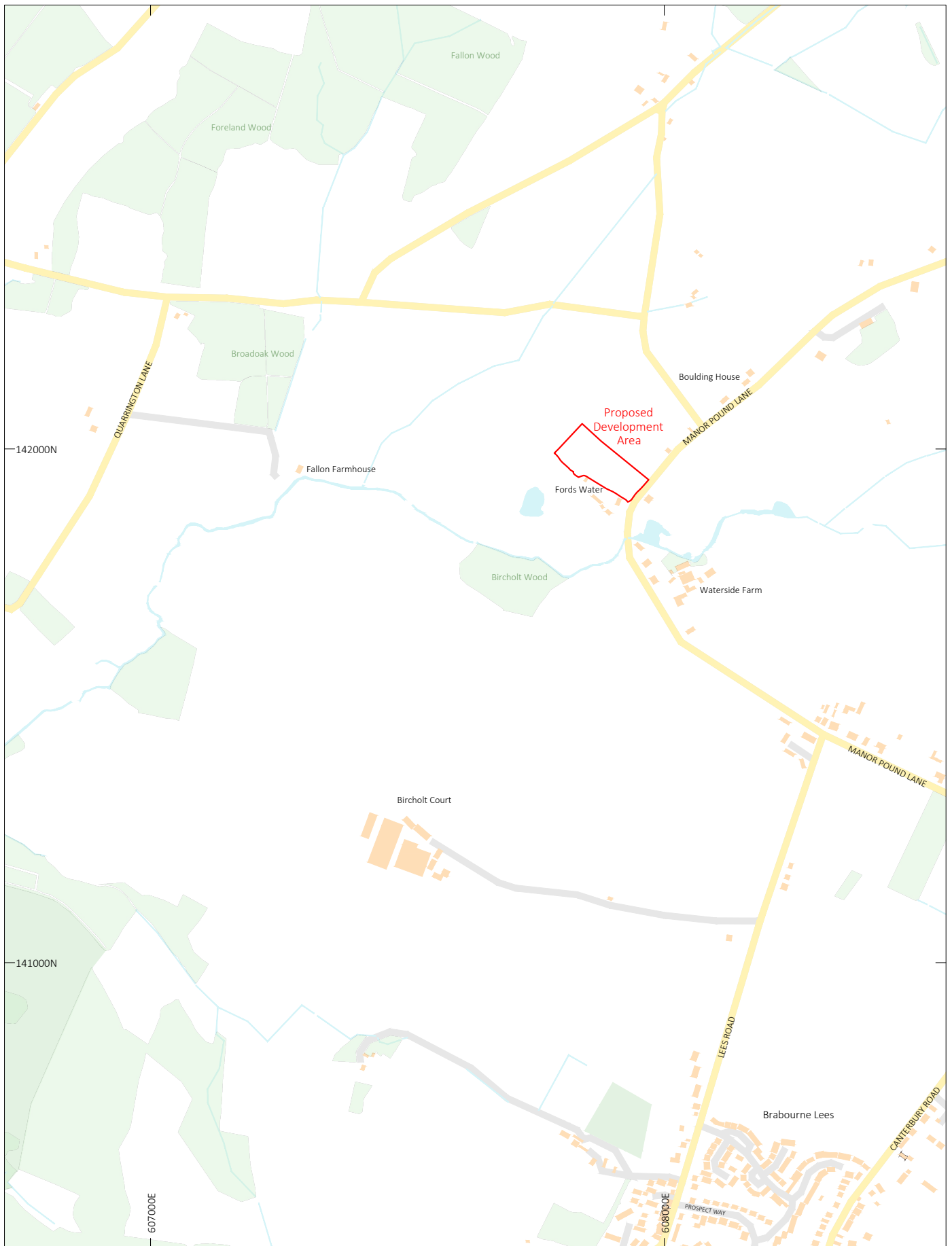
Photo 12. Trench 2 geological deposits looking north (scale 1m)



Photo 13. Trench 3, looking east-north-east (scale 1m)





Photo 14. Geological deposits at the north-north-eastern end of Trench 3 looking north-north-west.
Scale 0.50m



<p>CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL</p> <p>TRUST LTD.</p> <p>A REGISTERED CHARITY</p> <p>92a Broad Street, Canterbury Kent, CT1 2LU Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk</p>	<p>PROJECT Land at Fords Water Farm, Manor Pound Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA</p>	<p>DRAWN BY RMH</p>	<p>SCALE(S) 1:10000 @ A4</p>	
	<p>COMMENTS Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown Copyright 2009, All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100021009</p>	<p>DATE 16/12/2022</p>	<p>LAST REVISION -/-/----</p>	
	<p>CHECKED ---</p>	<p>REF/DRG NO. EV FWF 22_Figure 1.dwg</p>		

Figure 1. Project location




 10m


**CANTERBURY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST LTD.**

A REGISTERED CHARITY

92a Broad Street, Canterbury
Kent, CT1 3JH
Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724
Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk

PROJECT
 Fords Water Farm,
 Manor Pound Lane,
 Brabourne,
 Ashford, Kent TN25 5NA

COMMENTS
 Ordnance Survey data reproduced by
 permission of Ordnance Survey on
 behalf of HMSO Copyright Crown
 Copyright 2009. All rights reserved.
 Licence No. AL100021009

DRAWN BY RMH	SCALE(S) 1:500 @ A4
DATE 16/12/2022	LAST REVISION --/--/----
CHECKED ---	
REF/DRG NO. EV FWF 22_Figure 2.dwg	

Figure 2. Plan of evaluation trenches