

# LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS, BRENCHLEY GARDENS, MAIDSTONE, KENT

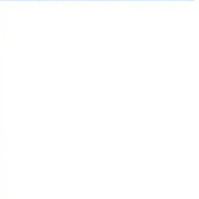
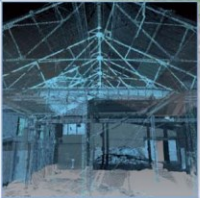
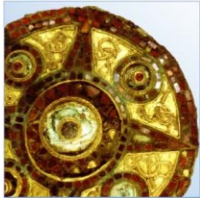
## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 7592 5615

AOC Project no: 30463

Site Code: MFK07

Date: June 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Landscape Improvements, Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone, Kent

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

**On Behalf of:** Maidstone Borough Council  
Maidstone House  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** TQ 7592 5615

**AOC Project No:** 30463

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**Date of Watching Brief:** 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Date of Report:** June 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Non-Technical Summary

Between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 an archaeological Watching Brief, on behalf of Maidstone Borough Council, was carried out on a programme of ground works at Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone. This involved ground reduction as part of garden re-landscaping works.

The excavation, by machine, of a single trench was observed, in association with scanning of the spoil produced during the course of the works. During the Watching Brief a small quantity of disarticulated human remains was recovered from the trench. The remains are thought to represent up to 15 individuals, 12 adults and 3 juveniles, who had been buried in the post-medieval cemetery associated with St. Faith's Chapel. By the mid 1870s the cemetery had been re-landscaped and converted into municipal use as Brenchley Gardens.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Site Location**

- 1.1.1 The site is located in central Maidstone, immediately to the south of Maidstone East Station, in the Borough of Maidstone. It is bounded by Brenchley Gardens to the south and west, by Station Road to the east, and Maidstone East Station car park to the north (Figures 1 & 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 7592 5615, is square in shape, and covers a total area of approximately 25m<sup>2</sup>. The area of the watching brief is located in the northeast corner of Brenchley Gardens.
- 1.1.2 The site is currently occupied by shrubbery and an existing set of stairs providing access to the gardens from street level. The development plan is the re-landscaping of several areas of Brenchley Gardens.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is Maidstone Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (KCC).
- 1.2.2 The development of the site includes re-landscaping parts of Brenchley Gardens. More specifically, within the area of the site, the alteration of the existing vegetation and access point. The intrusive groundworks consisted of general ground reduction associated with the insertion of a new set of stairs.
- 1.2.3 The involvement of archaeologists occurred due to the chance encounter with human remains during the ground works. Due to the unplanned nature of the archaeological intervention, no archaeological condition was placed upon the planned works.
- 1.2.4 AOC Archaeology Group Ltd were commissioned by Maidstone Borough Council to carry out the Archaeological Watching Brief in accordance with the specification issued by Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (KCC 2009). This document detailed how the Watching Brief would be undertaken.

### **1.3 Geology and Topography**

- 1.3.1 According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on Hythe Beds, with Atherfield Clay deposits nearby (KCC 2009).
- 1.3.2 The site is located approximately 150m east of the River Medway, on high ground overlooking the river. The gardens have a moderate gradient descending west towards the River Medway, lying at an approximate height of 20m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 1.3.3 No geotechnical investigations are known to have been conducted within the development area.

## **2. Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **2.1 General Background**

- 2.1.1 Preliminary map regression shows the location of a graveyard in 1650, in what is now Brenchley Gardens, attached to St. Faiths Chapel, now St. Faiths Church. Later maps demonstrate that by

1821 the churchyard was no longer in use, and had been landscaped to form Brenchley Gardens by the mid 1870s (AOC 2003).

## **2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigation**

2.2.1 In June 2003 an earlier watching brief was undertaken at Brenchley Gardens when human remains were unexpectedly uncovered during the excavation of service trenches (Figure 2). A total of 73 inhumations were recorded, located in the northwest, northeast and eastern corners of the gardens. The majority of the burials were post-medieval and associated with the cemetery attached to St. Faiths Chapel. Five of the inhumations were probably medieval and located separately in a discrete area some way to the west of the main group (AOC 2003). The inhumations recorded during the course of the 2003 watching brief were reburied on site.

## **3. Strategy**

### **3.1 Aims of the Investigation**

3.1.1 The general aim of the Watching Brief was defined as being:

- To contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits. Strategy

3.1.2 The specific aim of the Watching Brief was defined as being:

- To retrieve human remains affected by the works and will include excavation of whole graves where the burial is compromised by the works.

3.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### **3.2 Methodology**

3.2.1 The general methodology of the Watching Brief was guided by the KCC Specification (2009).

3.2.2 Prior to removal of any human remains a Ministry of Justice Licence was obtained in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 (license number: 09-0071).

3.2.3 The Watching Brief not only involved the monitoring of groundwork, the spoil generated from the earlier phase of groundwork was also scanned through in order to recover any human remains present. In addition, a box of human bone was collected from Maidstone Museum which had already been retrieved from the site and deposited by the groundworks crew.

3.2.4 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) (MoL 1994).

3.2.5 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).

- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 1992).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2001).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 1997).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).
- Council for British Archaeology – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1987).

3.2.6 The Watching Brief was carried out during the later stages of ground reduction ahead of the construction of new access stairs for the garden.

3.2.7 A unique accession code **MNEMG:2009.69** for the project was acquired from Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery..

3.2.8 The Watching Brief was undertaken by the author, under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Divisional Head of Fieldwork at AOC Archaeology Group.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 20.39m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
20.39-19.89m	0.00m	(101)	Made Ground/Topsoil. Firm, dark grey, sandy silt, occasional CBM fragments.
19.89- 19.79m	0.50m	(102)	Made Ground. Loose, reddish brown, powdered rubble.
19.79- 19.29m	0.60m	(103)	Graveyard Soil. Soft, dark yellowish brown, silty sand.
19.29-18.74m (NFE)	1.20-1.75m	(104)	Natural. Firm, mid yellowish brown, silty sand.

4.1.2 Trench 1 was approximately 4m by 3m in size. The earliest deposit recorded was a firm, mid yellowish brown, silty sand (104), at its highest it was observed at 19.29m AOD, and interpreted as the natural.

4.1.3 Overlying the natural was a substantial deposit, up to 0.5m thick, of soft, dark yellowish brown, silty sand (103). In the northern side of the trench, this deposit had been heavily disturbed by both tree rooting and the excavation of previous service trenches. From this layer a small quantity of

disarticulated human bone was recovered. No *in-situ* articulated burials were identified. The human bone was collected from both the trench and the spoil previous excavated. An assessment of the human remains (Appendix B) identified that the assemblage was highly fragmented limiting the potential for detailed analysis. The assessment indicated that up to 15 individuals were represented, incorporating 12 adults and 3 juveniles, with only two adults demonstrating potential for age-at-death and sex determination, represented by an adult male and a young adult (18-25 years) male. Several corroded iron objects were recovered in association with the human remains, which may represent coffin nails, but no further evidence for coffin remains was identified. Due to the homogenous nature of layer (103) no grave cuts were apparent, nor was it possible to establish any stratigraphical relationship between the disarticulated remains recovered. A small quantity of pottery and clay pipe stems were recovered from context (103), suggesting a post-medieval date for the burial of the human remains.

- 4.1.4 Sealing graveyard soil (103) was thin layer of made ground (102) comprising of crushed and powdered ceramic building material (CBM) and mortar, measuring up to 0.1m thick. This in turn was overlain by a thick deposit of firm, dark grey, sandy silt (101) believed to be disturbed topsoil. Layer (101) was up to 0.5m thick, contained occasional fragments of CBM, and demonstrated heavy rooting activity derived from the surrounding vegetation.

## 5. Finds

- 5.1 A limited selection of finds comprising of post-medieval pottery, clay pipe stems, and fragments of oyster shell, were collected from context (103) during the course of the watching brief.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Natural deposits were identified as being present across the area of the trench, at a depth of 19.29m AOD.
- 6.2 In Trench 1 the sequence of deposits identified the presence of a layer (103), overlying the natural, which contained a small quantity of disarticulated human bone and interpreted as post-medieval graveyard soil. This horizon had subsequently been overlain by later made ground deposits.
- 6.3 The human remains identified in Trench 1 appear to be a small cluster of burials which are likely to be associated with the larger group of burials identified 15m to the southwest of the trench during the watching brief undertaken in 2003. There is a strongly possibility that these burials also lie within the post-medieval burial ground associated with St. Faith's Chapel.
- 6.4 The made ground deposits overlying the grave yard horizon appear to have been deposited after a phase of horizontal truncation. The depth and character of the material deposited indicate this phase of activity occurred during the re-landscaping of the immediate area prior to the creation of Brenchley Gardens in the mid 1870s.
- 6.5 Due to the limited significance and research potential of the human remains assemblage, the assemblage is to be boxed up and reburied in a suitable location at Brenchley Gardens.

## 7. Publication and Archive Deposition

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Kent Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).



- 7.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings and digital photographs, will be deposited with Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery.

## 8. Bibliography

AOC Archaeology Group 2003. *Report on a Watching Brief at Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone.*

Association of County Archaeological Officers 1994. *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations*

Brown, D. 2007. Archaeological Archives; A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. Archaeological Archive Forum.

Council for British Archaeology 1987. *First Aid for Finds (Second Edition).*

Department of the Environment 1990. Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16).

Institute for Archaeologists 1992. *Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work.*

Institute for Archaeologists 1997. *Code of Conduct.*

Institute for Archaeologists 2001. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Kent County Council 2009. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief and the Retrieval of Human Remains from Spoil at a Site in Brenchley Gardens, Station Road in Maidstone, Kent.*

Museum of London 1994. Archaeological Field Manual 3rd Edition.

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1983. *Conservation Guidelines No 2.*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990. *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice.*

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

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## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
101	Made ground/Top soil	4m	3m	0.50m
102	Made ground	4m	3m	0.10m
103	Graveyard soil	4m	3m	0.50m
104	Natural	4m	3m	0.20m+

## Appendix B – Specialist Report

### An Assessment of the Human Remains

*by*

Rachel Ives

## 1 Summary

- 1.0.1 This report presents the results of an osteological assessment of the human bones recovered from service works at Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone. The digging of service trenches disturbed human remains, which may potentially have derived from a post-medieval burial ground from the nearby St Faith's Church. Archaeological work was undertaken to recover any disturbed human bone from the trenches and from the associated spoil. The human bone was subject to a post-excavation osteological assessment.
- 1.0.2 A minimum number of four individuals was estimated in the disarticulated remains based on duplication of the femoral head. A plausible estimate of 15 individuals could be partially reconstructed from the remains present and included 12 adults (18+ years) and three juveniles. Bone surface preservation was variable on site and evidence of root erosion was clear on some bone surfaces. Several cases of minor pathological changes were observed in the collection and likely derived from lifestyle and dietary or hygiene practices.
- 1.0.3 Due to the disarticulated nature of the human bones, there is limited potential for further post-excavation osteological analysis or research. The remains were unstratified and have no clear association with datable finds. Further documentary research is recommended in order to attempt to establish the date of the burials, which will enhance the local significance of the remains.

## 2 Introduction

- 2.0.1 AOC Archaeology Group were notified by Maidstone Borough Council in May 2009 that human remains had been disturbed during service works at public open parkland at Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone, NGR 575917 156147. A small quantity of human bone was detected both on site and in spoil that had been removed to the contractor's depot. In addition, disturbed human bone had removed from the site by the contractor and deposited in the Maidstone Museum. A watching brief was undertaken to remove any visible human bone from the open trenches as well as recovery via hand trowelling through all of the site spoil as outlined in the site specification (AOC 2009). The human bone held at Maidstone Museum was also recovered and all of the bone was subject to a post-excavation osteological assessment. The work was undertaken in consideration of the programme of reporting outlined in the specification for an archaeological watching brief (AOC 2009).

- 2.0.2 The aim of the assessment was to determine the minimum number of individuals present in the disarticulated assemblage as well as to assess the potential for the osteological determination of age, sex, general health throughout life, possible cause of death; pathology and nutritional condition. The assessment will also clarify the potential of the human bone assemblage for obtaining social and cultural information on the human(s) in the burial.

### 3 Methods

- 3.0.1 The assessment of the inhumation burials followed guidance established by English Heritage (1991, 2002), as well as recent guidance recommended by BABAO/IFA (Brickley & McKinley 2004). The recording protocol of the assessment requires an examination of the remains to quantify the minimum number of individuals (MNI) present, and to determine an inventory of the human bones as well as the completeness and degree of preservation of the skeletal remains. A rapid estimate of the osteological age-at-death and sex was also undertaken. The specific methods used for the assessment of the human bones are outlined further below.

#### 3.1 Inventory

- 3.1.1 An inventory of the human bones present was compiled using a rapid recording system. A count of the bones of the skull, dentition, torso, pelvis, legs, feet, arms, hands present were recorded.

#### 3.2 Preservation and Completeness

- 3.2.1 The preservation of the human bone was evaluated according to the Museum of London recording schema, which classifies the degree of surface preservation using the following criteria:

**1** = Bone surface is in **good** condition with no erosion, fine surface detail such as coarse woven bone deposition would be clearly visible (if present) to the naked eye.

**2** = Bone surface is in **moderate** condition with some post-mortem erosion on long bone shafts but the margins of articular surfaces are eroded and some prominences are eroded.

**3** = Bone surface is in **poor** condition with extensive post-mortem erosion resulting in pitted and eroded cortical surfaces and long bones with articular surfaces missing or severely eroded.

- 3.2.2 The percentage completeness of each skeleton was calculated on the basis that that the skull equates to 20% of the skeleton, the upper limbs 20%, the torso 40%, and the lower limbs 20%.

#### 3.3 Sex Determination

- 3.3.1 Sexually dimorphic regions of the pelvis and cranium develop with the onset of puberty. The development of these features can be variable and some areas such as the cranium may not remain static over the course of an individual's lifetime. Older females, for example, can develop robust and rugged traits more frequently associated with male characteristics (Meindl *et al* 1985;



Walker 1995; Brickley 2004). Prior to puberty, it is not possible to accurately determine the sex of a juvenile skeleton without undertaking destructive biomolecular analyses.

- 3.3.2 Various regions of the pelvis and skull were recorded in order to provide an estimation of the sex of each adult skeleton assessed. The female pelvis is typically more gracile than a male pelvis, and is also broader as modified for childbirth. The assessment of specific regions of the adult skull and pelvis for the determination of sex followed the methods of Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994, 20) and Brickley & McKinley (2004). There are five possible classifications of sex: male, probable male, indeterminate, probable female, female.

### **3.4 Age Determination**

- 3.4.1 Methods of adult age-at-death determination are based on degenerative changes that occur at various joint surfaces including the pubic symphysis and auricular surface of the pelvis, as well as at the sternal rib end and have been reviewed by Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994, 21-32) and Bass (1995). Methods for the determination of age-at-death from juvenile remains include a rapid assessment of the degree of tooth formation and eruption sequence, together with estimations of growth derived from long bone diaphyseal lengths and additional bone size estimates (eg. width and length of the pars basilaris and ilium) and estimates of epiphyseal fusion rates (see Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, 40; Scheuer & Black 2000).

### **3.5 Pathology**

- 3.5.1 The bones were examined for evidence for pathological changes across the skeleton following standard osteological references including Brothwell (1981), Barnes (1994), Rogers & Waldron (1995), Hillson (1996), Aufderheide & Rodríguez-Martín (1998), Ortner (2003) and Roberts & Manchester (2005), as well as guidance issued in Roberts & Connell (2004). Depending on the observations of pathology present on the remains, the need for X-rays and photography will be considered.

## **4 Results and Discussion**

- 4.0.1 The human bone was identified to bone elements present and was macroscopically observed for any evidence of ageing or sexing characteristics as well as pathological changes. A count of the identifiable bone elements present is shown in Table 1. A minimum number of individuals present in the assemblage was gauged by a count of the most frequently occurring identifiable bone element, which was a femoral head. There were four left femoral heads and two right femoral heads indicating a minimum number of individuals of four based on duplicated bone counts of identified fragments. The highest number of bone counts was for any part of a right femur with 11 bone fragments present.

**Table 1. Number of identifiable bone fragments from Brenchley Gardens.**

<b>Bone elements</b>	<b>Number of fragments</b>			<b>Bone elements</b>	<b>Number of fragments</b>		
<b>Cranial</b>	<b>50+</b>	<b>Unsidings/Side not applicable</b>		<b>Lower limb</b>	<b>Left</b>	<b>Right</b>	<b>Unsidings</b>
Frontal	10			Femora	8	11	13
Parietal	14			Tibiae	8	3	9
Occipital	3			Fibulae	1	1	3
Temporal	6			<b>Feet</b>			
Maxilla	5			Talus	2	2	0
Mandible	6			Metatarsals	3	0	0
Other cranial	2			<b>Axial</b>	Unsidings/Side not applicable		
<b>Teeth</b>				Ribs	27		
Permanent teeth	21	Deciduous teeth	4	Cervical vertebrae	8		
<b>Upper limb</b>	<b>Left</b>	<b>Right</b>	<b>Unsidings</b>	Thoracic vertebrae	12		
Humeri	4	5	7	Lumbar vertebrae	4		
Ulnae	3	2	4	Sacrum	1		
Radii	2	3	0	Pelves	8		
Scapulae	4	8	6	Sternum	0		
Clavicles	1	4	0				
<b>Hands</b>							
Metacarpals	2	1	0				
Phalanges	0	0	4				

4.0.2 Following the estimation of the minimum number of individuals present from the bone count, it was possible to determine groups of remains that indicated the presence of discrete individuals,

based on bone surface preservation, colour and morphology changes such as bone robusticity or the development of muscle attachment sites. It was possible to estimate that a minimum of 15 individuals were present in the disarticulated bone as outlined in Table 2. This estimate comprised of three juveniles; one identified by a neonatal or very young infant rib, one aged four to six years from dental development of the permanent mandibular incisors, and one aged five to seven years from dental eruption and tooth development age. The remaining 12 individuals represent adults. Only two adults demonstrated any potential for age-at-death and sex determination and were represented by an adult male and a young adult (18-25 years) male.

- 4.0.3 The bone preservation was variable across the assemblage. Some bone surfaces presented smooth near perfect external cortical bone surface. Other bones, particularly long bones displayed root etching and weathering of the external bone surfaces to a significant extent (Grades 3-4, McKinley 2004). There was no metal staining on any of the bone fragments either as green copper-alloy or orange/brown iron stains. Several heavily corroded iron objects were recovered together with the human bone and may represent coffin nails, although no other evidence for coffin remains were identified due to the site disturbance. There was no evidence for burning to any of the human bone, indicating inhumation burial rather than cremation burial had occurred on the site.
- 4.0.4 Several examples of pathological changes were identified in the bone assemblage. The presence of repetitive stress either due to over-exertion or to increased physical activity at the point of muscle or tendon insertions into the bones can result in enlarged attachment sites referred to as enthesophytes. These changes were noted as the anterior tibial tuberosity on one adult, at the soleal line of the posterior of left and right tibiae from one individual and at the deltoid insertion of an adult left humerus. One adult displayed degenerative joint disease with breakdown and porosity through the acromio-clavicular joint surface of a right scapula. Such joint disease can occur with age but can also be exacerbated by injury or by physical activity as well as by genetic predisposition to joint alterations (Waldron, 2007). One fragment of adult unisided fibula shaft displayed a small raised accumulation of smooth lamellar cortical periosteal new bone formation, which is indicative of a localised inflammation or infection having affected part of the leg. One fragment of adult maxilla presented two periapical abscesses, one draining externally into the alveolar bone at the left maxillary canine together with an internally draining abscess into the maxillary sinus at the second left maxillary premolar. These pathological changes occur frequently in many past populations and are likely indicative of the combined effects of lifestyle as well as dietary and dental hygiene practices in the past.

**Table 2. Catalogue of Skeletons Reconstructed from Disarticulated Human Bone at Brenchley Gardens.**

Skeleton no.	Pr	%	Sk	D	T	P	L	F	A	H	Age	Sex	Pathology/Notes	Photo	X-ray
1	2	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	-	-	Lytic proximal tibia, enthesophytes soleal line	N	N
2	2	10	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	YA	M		N	N
3	2	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	-		N	N
4	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	Enthesophyte anterior tuberosity tibia	N	N
5	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	-	-		N	N
6	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	-	-	Enthesophyte deltoid humerus	N	N
7	2	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	-	-		N	N
8	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	-		N	N
9	2	10	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	-	-		N	N
10	1	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	-	-		N	N
11	2	10	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	-	-		N	N
12	1	10	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	-	Juv		N	N
13	2	5	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	Juv		N	N
14	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	Juv		N	N
15	2	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	Ad	M		N	N

Abbreviations: OA – Osteoarthritis, IVD – Intervertebral disc disease, RA – Rheumatoid arthritis. Pr = preservation grade ( 1 = good, 2 = moderate, 3 = poor), % = percentage completeness, Sk = skull (1 = present, 0 = absent, D = dentition, T = torso, P = pelvis, L = legs, F = feet, A = arms, H = hands, YA young adult, Ad adult, M male, Juv juvenile.

- 4.0.5 One adult left tibia displayed a slightly more unusual pathological change with an area of scalloped or lobulated lytic cortical bone resorption on the external surface of the proximal posterior tibia shaft. The bone removal had affected the articulating facet for the proximal fibula. It is possible that this was due to a pathological inflammation within the soft tissue attachment surrounding the fibula articulation with the proximal tibia, or alternatively may have been caused by a localised neoplastic growth on the external bone aspect.

## 5 Recommendations

- 5.0.1 The results of the osteological assessment have identified the remains of an estimated number of fifteen individuals although the remains are extremely fragmented and incomplete. Even following the reconstruction of the human bone into the remains of probable individuals, the bone remains of disarticulated and was extremely disturbed. The potential for further osteological interpretations from this assemblage is limited and the findings are of local significance. It is recommended that no further osteological analysis is undertaken on the human remains. No specific photography or radiography is required for the further analysis of the human remains. The skeletal assemblage presents only very limited research potential and as there is no accurate archaeological context associated with the remains it is recommended that the human remains are reburied on site.
- 5.0.2 A small array of pottery, shell and clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from the site together with the human bone. The ceramic evidence is suggestive of a post-medieval date with the presence of blue transfer print and mocha ware. The heavily disturbed nature of the site means that it is not possible to ascertain a stratigraphic relationship between the burials and the finds. It is possible that the remains date to medieval or post-medieval interments made in the area associated with St. Faith's Church, Station Road although Ordnance survey maps dating from 1868 to 1908 show the area of the site as covered by orchards and parkland. Roman burials have been found to the south of the site and the possible extent of burials from this or earlier dates has not yet been established. It is therefore recommended that documentary research is undertaken in order to attempt to establish some relationship between the burials and either the church of St. Faith or else to earlier phases of burial activity in the area of the site.

### 5.1 Conservation requirements and retention policy

- 5.1.1 The bones in this collection have no special conservation requirements. Given the limited scope of information that would be derived from a scientific osteological analysis due to the disarticulated nature of the assemblage, it is recommended that the human remains do not require further analysis and should be reburied on the site subject to the agreement of the GLAAS monitor.

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## Appendix C – Oasis Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-59706**

### Project details

Project name            Brenchley Gardens

Short description of the project    An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out on a programme of ground works at Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone. This involved ground reduction as part of garden re-landscaping works. The excavation of a single trench was observed, in association with scanning of the spoil produced during the course of the works. During the Watching Brief a small quantity of disarticulated human remains was recovered from the trench. The remains are thought to represent up to 15 individuals, 12 adults and 3 juveniles, who had been buried in the post-medieval cemetery associated with St. Faith's Chapel. By the mid 1870s the cemetery had been re-landscaped and converted into municipal use as Brenchley Gardens.

Project dates            Start: 15-05-2009 End: 26-05-2009

Previous/future work    Yes / No

Any project codes    associated reference    30463 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes    associated reference    MNEMG:2009.69 - Museum accession ID

Type of project            Recording project

Site status                None

Current Land use        Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings

Monument type            INHUMATION Post Medieval

Significant Finds        NONE None



Investigation type      'Watching Brief'

Prompt                      Unexpected discovery of human remains

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### Project location

Country                      England

Site location                KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE Brencley Gardens,Station Road

Postcode                    ME14 1RF

Study area                  25.00 Square metres

Site coordinates          TQ 7592 5615 51.2767386184 0.522523917646 51 16 36 N 000 31 21 E Point

Height OD / Depth        Min: 19.29m Max: 19.29m

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### Project creators

Name                        of AOC Archaeology Group  
Organisation

Project                      brief Kent County Council  
originator

Project                      design N/A  
originator

Project                      Andy Leonard  
director/manager

Project supervisor        Chris Clarke

Type                        of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name                        of Maidstone Borough Council  
sponsor/funding

body

### Project archives

Physical Archive Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery  
recipient

Physical Archive ID MNEMG:2009.69

Physical Contents 'Human Bones'

Physical Archive To be reburied at Brenchley Gardens  
notes

Digital Archive No  
Exists?

Digital Archive Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery  
recipient

Digital Archive ID MNEMG:2009.69

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'  
available

Digital Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to be archived.

Paper Archive Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery  
recipient

Paper Archive ID MNEMG:2009.69

Paper Contents 'Human Bones'

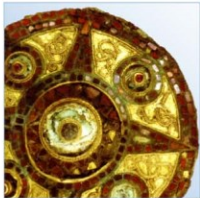
Paper Media 'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section'  
available

Paper Archive notes To be held at AOC until ready to be archived.

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS, BRENCHLEY GARDENS, MAIDSTONE, KENT: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text, 3 illustrations, 23 pages, thermally bound between plastic covers

Entered by	Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	11 June 2009



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