

**LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE PRESBYTERY
CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE, HIGH
STREET, EDENBRIDGE**

KENT

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND
WATCHING BRIEF**



May 2012

COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE PRESBYTERY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST
LAWRENCE, HIGH STREET, EDENBRIDGE

KENT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: EDB12

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 4428 4639

PLANNING REF: 04/03102/FUL; 11/00501/CONVAR

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief of a site in the land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge, took place in March and April 2012. The evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to the construction of five residential houses, plus associated gardens, parking, and an access road (Application No. 04/03102/FUL; 11/00501/CONVAR).

The site had potential for archaeological evidence of Roman, medieval, and later activity. The Roman London to Lewes road ran along the line of Edenbridge High Street, with evidence for Roman activity being uncovered in archaeological work in the vicinity. There was also a Saxon settlement at Edenbridge, presumably centred around the Church of St Peter and St Paul (to the south of the site), which then expanded northwards along the road during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Previous archaeological work in the area has uncovered evidence for such Saxon and medieval activity, and for the later post-medieval expansion.

Three trenches were initially excavated on the site, covering an area of approximately 43 square metres. Two archaeologically significant features were uncovered within these – one shallow linear ditch with 12th – 13th Century pottery and iron slag in; and one much larger deeper feature (with 12th Century pot, but also later (15th – 18th Century) ceramic building material).

Based on these findings, a watching brief of the foundations for the houses was proposed and undertaken. This traced the line of the shallow linear feature north-south across the site for some 15m, and involved the recovery of further medieval pottery and slag from it. Another part of the deeper feature was uncovered, although this was slightly shallower, suggesting that it had an undulating bottom.

This archaeological work has therefore provided evidence for medieval activity in this area, including evidence for iron-processing / smithing activity. This corroborates similar evidence from work in other areas of Edenbridge, such as that uncovered during the construction of the Edenbridge relief road.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report presents a summary of an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land just to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge, in Kent. The site was located on the western side of Edenbridge High Street, just south of the junction with Stangrove Court (figs. 1-3). The proposed development area is approximately centred at NGR TQ 4428 4639. The work took place as part of the planning process for the construction of five residential houses plus gardens, parking, and an access road from Stangrove Court (Planning Application No. 04/03102/FUL; 11/00501/CONVAR).

Compass Archaeology undertook the evaluation fieldwork on the 29th and 30th March and 2nd April 2012, and the watching brief fieldwork took place between the 16th April and 24th April 2012.

- 1.2** The site is located in an area with potential for a range of archaeological remains, particularly including Roman, medieval, and later. The Roman London to Lewes road is believed to have run along the line of Edenbridge High Street, and Roman remains have been found in the area. There was a Saxon settlement at Edenbridge, centred around the Church of St Peter and St Paul, and mentioned in 11th Century documents and reflected in the archaeological record. This continued (and expanded) into the medieval and post-medieval period, and included metalworking.
- 1.3** Further to the condition of planning consent, Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken prior to development. It was agreed that this should consist of three trial trenches in the proposed area of development, so as to establish the potential impact of the groundworks on archaeological remains.

A subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation detailed the evaluation, including the location of the trial trenches within the proposed redevelopment footprint (Compass Archaeology, March 2012).

- 1.4** Following the evaluation, when a shallow linear gully (with 12th Century pottery and evidence for iron-working), plus a larger deep feature, were uncovered, Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team advised that further archaeological work to be undertaken. This took the form of a watching brief on the digging of the house foundations.

2. Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Ed Sham (The Tomei and Mackley Partnership LLP), on behalf of Bhag Mahie (St Mirren Group).

3. Background

3.1 Location and topography

The site itself is located on the western side of Edenbridge High Street, just south of the junction with Stangrove Court (centred at NGR TQ 4428 4639). The development footprint, within the site, lies just to the north of the Presbytery

Church, behind houses currently fronting onto the High Street and Stangrove Court, in an area of currently open land.



Fig. 1: Site location, with site marked in red.

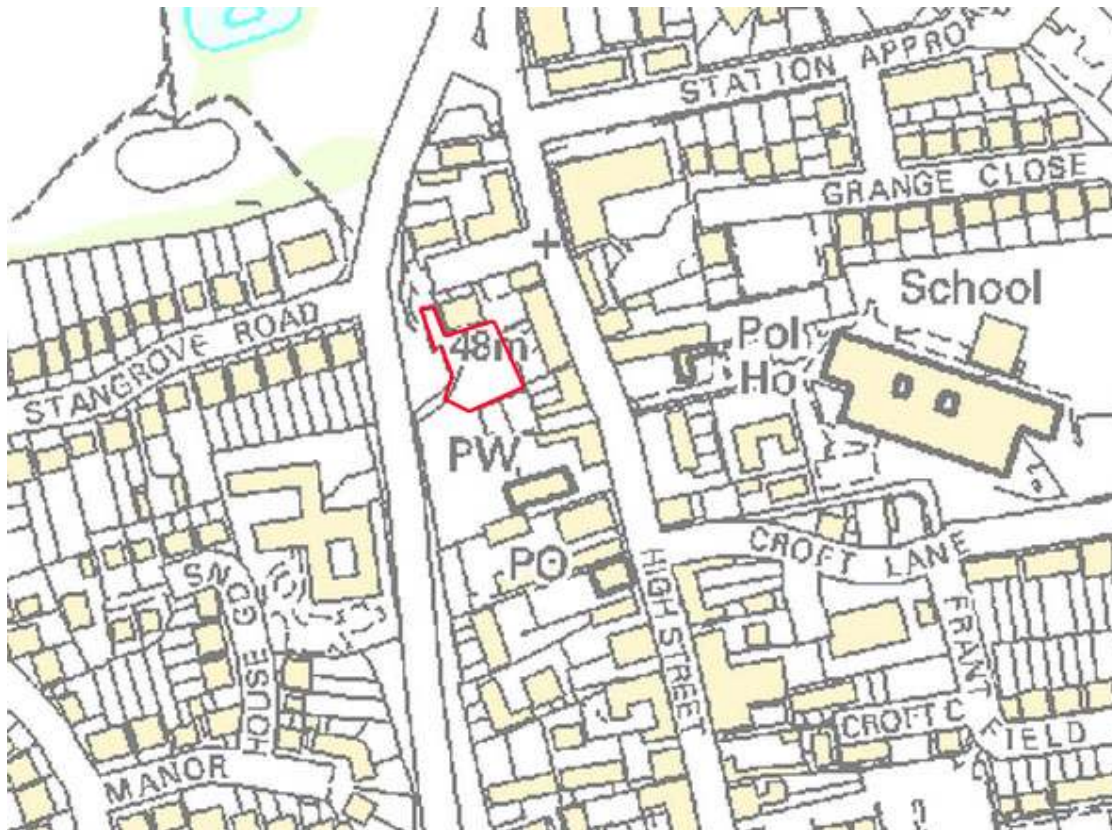


Fig. 2: Close-up of site location, with site outline marked in red.



Fig. 3: Site outline.

The ground-level across the site slopes down slightly to the west (away from the High Street), from an uppermost level of *c.*48.8mOD at the site's eastern end, down to *c.*45.7mOD at the western end. Across a wider area, the land is relatively flat, with the majority of Edenbridge lying on land at *c.*40-50mOD just above the valley of the River Eden.

The British Geological Survey shows the site lying on Weald Clay, with River Terrace gravels just to the south.

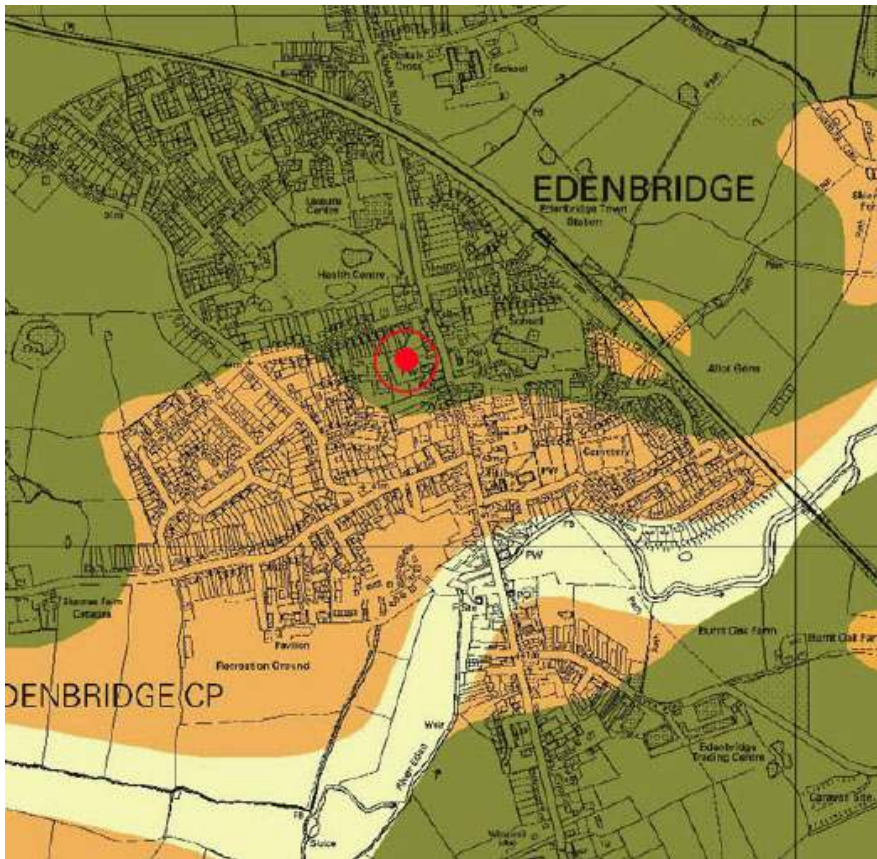


Fig. 4: Geology map, with site marked. The green denotes Weald Clay, with river terrace gravels to the south.

3.2 Archaeology and history

3.2.1 HER Search:

A search of the online Kent Historic Environment Records database, for ‘Edenbridge’ and using the map-search for an area of c.500m around the site, uncovered the following results. Only the ‘archaeological’ results (and not those for listed buildings) have been included.

A discussion of the following results, combined with further research about the history of Edenbridge, is included below.

SMR no.	Description and record type	Location
TQ 44 NW 63	2004 archaeological evaluation – 13 th / 14 th Century tile fragments found along the route of the Edenbridge Western Relief road.	West of Stangrove Parade, Edenbridge
TQ 44 NW 58	2004 archaeological evaluation – found one sherd of 13 th / 14 th Century pottery and four sherds of 19 th Century pottery, plus post-medieval tile and undated iron slag.	8 Stangrove Road, Edenbridge
TQ 44 NW 62	2004 archaeological evaluation – found tile, iron slag, and 13 th / 14 th Century pottery, immediately north of Stangrove Road.	North of Stangrove Road, on Edenbridge Relief Road, Edenbridge

TQ 44 NW 128	2005 archaeological evaluation – found 2 post-medieval postholes and a 13 th / 14 th Century linear ditch (with evidence for metalworking in). The ditch is at right angles to the High Street, and may represent a boundary ditch.	Behind 25 High Street, Edenbridge
TQ 44 NW 59	A number of intercutting pits and ditches (large pit, several smaller pits, boundary ditch, and several gullies that feed into a large pond or channel).	Edenbridge Western Relief Road, just north of Lingfield Road, Edenbridge
TQ 44 NW 60	Watching brief in 2004 during the construction of Edenbridge Western Relief Road – found evidence of a large pond or water channel 60m north of the river – possibly the remains of a diverted watercourse.	Edenbridge Western Relief Road.
TQ 44 NW 52	Watching brief uncovered a pre-13 th Century soil horizon; four pits and a ditch sealed by a soil deposit dated to 1200-1300; ten pits and two post-holes dated to c.1200-1325; a wall foundation; and 18 th Century building foundations.	Rear of 68a High Street, Edenbridge
TQ 44 NW 19	1973 excavation uncovered a 19 th Century land drain, stone built culvert, and 18 th / 19 th Century farm track.	Land west of Church of St Peter and St Paul, Edenbridge
TQ 44 NW 61	Watching brief and excavation in 2004 during the construction of Edenbridge Western Relief Road discovered a large east-west post-medieval ditch.	Edenbridge Western Relief Road
TQ 44 NW 57	Excavations along the route of Edenbridge Western Relief Road uncovered a large watercourse which possibly carried water to the moat of Edenbridge manor house. Metalworking debris was also uncovered, indicating smithing activity in the 12 th – 13 th Century.	

3.2.2 Prehistoric

Archaeological work in the area around Edenbridge has found the occasional prehistoric find, such as a late Mesolithic flint axe at Devil's Den, and a flint hammer stone at Marlpit Hill. Nothing of prehistoric date has, however, been found within Edenbridge itself, and it seems unlikely that there was any form of prehistoric settlement within Edenbridge (particularly as much of it lies on Weald Clay, unpopular for prehistoric settlement).

3.2.3 Roman

The Roman London to Lewes road is believed to have run along the line of Edenbridge High Street, with the present bridge probably marking the original crossing over the River Eden. There have been various finds of Roman date in and around Edenbridge, including a couple of Roman coins and the small group of cremation burials about 1km to the west of the High Street. It is unclear whether there was also an associated Roman settlement, or just Roman roadside activity.

3.2.4 Saxon

Edenbridge probably formed part of the royal estate of Westerham during the Saxon period. The place-name 'Edenbridge' derives from the Old English 'Eadhelm' and 'bridge'. It is not clear precisely when a Saxon settlement began, however the Church of St Peter and St Paul is mentioned in the 1089 Textus Roffensis, suggesting that a settlement must have existed from at least the 11th Century, although little archaeological evidence for this settlement has been found. It seems likely, however, that it would have been centred around the church – to the south of the site.

3.2.5 Medieval

During the medieval period Edenbridge appears to have grown. Archaeological evidence for this medieval settlement has been found throughout Edenbridge, with 13th / 14th Century medieval tile uncovered just to the west of Stangrove Road; medieval pottery and tile, plus evidence for iron-working, uncovered during work before the construction of Edenbridge Relief Road (to the west of the site); medieval post-holes, ditches, pottery and slag uncovered in an evaluation behind 25 High Street; and a pre-13th Century soil horizon plus numerous pits and ditches uncovered in a watching brief behind 68 High Street. This medieval settlement was, however, probably centred around the church and river-crossing, to the south of the site, with ribbon development along the road to the north, as depicted on early post-medieval maps such as the 1711 Map of Edenbridge. Beyond this ribbon-development, the area was probably agricultural or horticultural in nature. The medieval manor house, Stangrove Manor House, was also located to the south-west of the site, at the junction of Lingfield Road and Crouch House Road.

3.2.6 Post-Medieval

Edenbridge expanded further in the post-medieval period. Archaeological evidence for this has been found on a number of sites, with 18th Century wall foundations uncovered during a watching brief behind 68a High Street; post-medieval pottery and tile in an evaluation at No.8 Stangrove Road; and a series of pits and ditches (possibly associated with metalworking) uncovered during work associated with the construction of Edenbridge Relief Road. Edenbridge began to focus on the production of leather and iron in the 15th and 16th Centuries (alongside agriculture). It expanded in size (to the north, along the High Street), as is reflected in historic maps (before this, the area to the north of the centre of Edenbridge was probably agricultural or horticultural in nature). This development generally took the form of houses fronting onto the High Street, with gardens / allotments behind. The Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence was constructed in the mid-19th Century, and it is believed that the site retained its layout since this date.

3.2.7 Cartographic Evidence

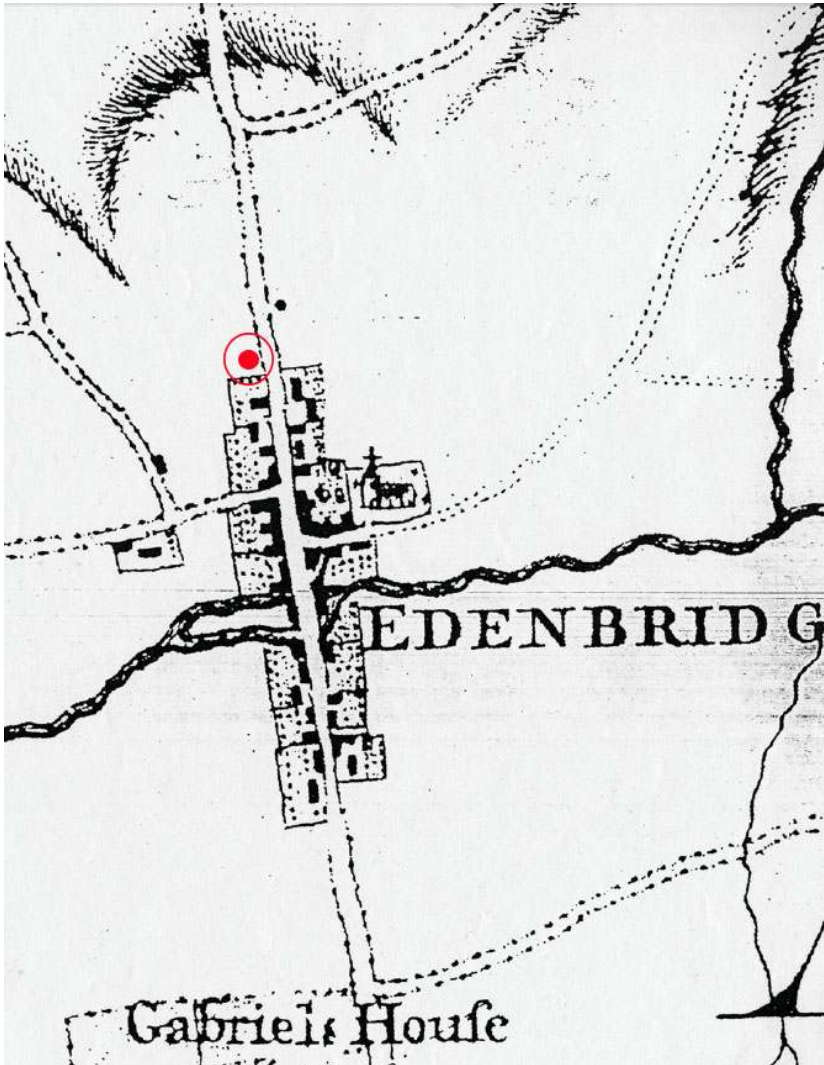


Fig. 5: Andrews, Drury and Herbert's map of Edenbridge, 1769, with site location marked.

This 1769 Map of Edenbridge shows settlement along the main road (the High Street), clustered around the church and the river. Settlement has not, however, extended all the way along the road, such that our site still lies just beyond the northern limit of the settlement at this time.



Fig. 6: 1870 First Edition 25inch OS Map, with site outline marked.

This First Edition 25inch OS Map (1870) shows how settlement in Edenbridge had extended further to the north along the High Street, thereby encompassing the area of this site. The Presbytery Church of St Lawrence was established by this date, and the site area itself lay within apparently open land, with some trees depicted (possibly indicating an orchard of some description).

4. Aims and objectives

4.1 Archaeology and planning

The proposed development involves the construction of five residential houses (plus gardens, parking, and an access road) (Sevenoaks District Council Planning Application No: 04/03102/FUL, with the upgraded application number 11/00501/CONVAR). The development site measures approximately 1200 square metres.

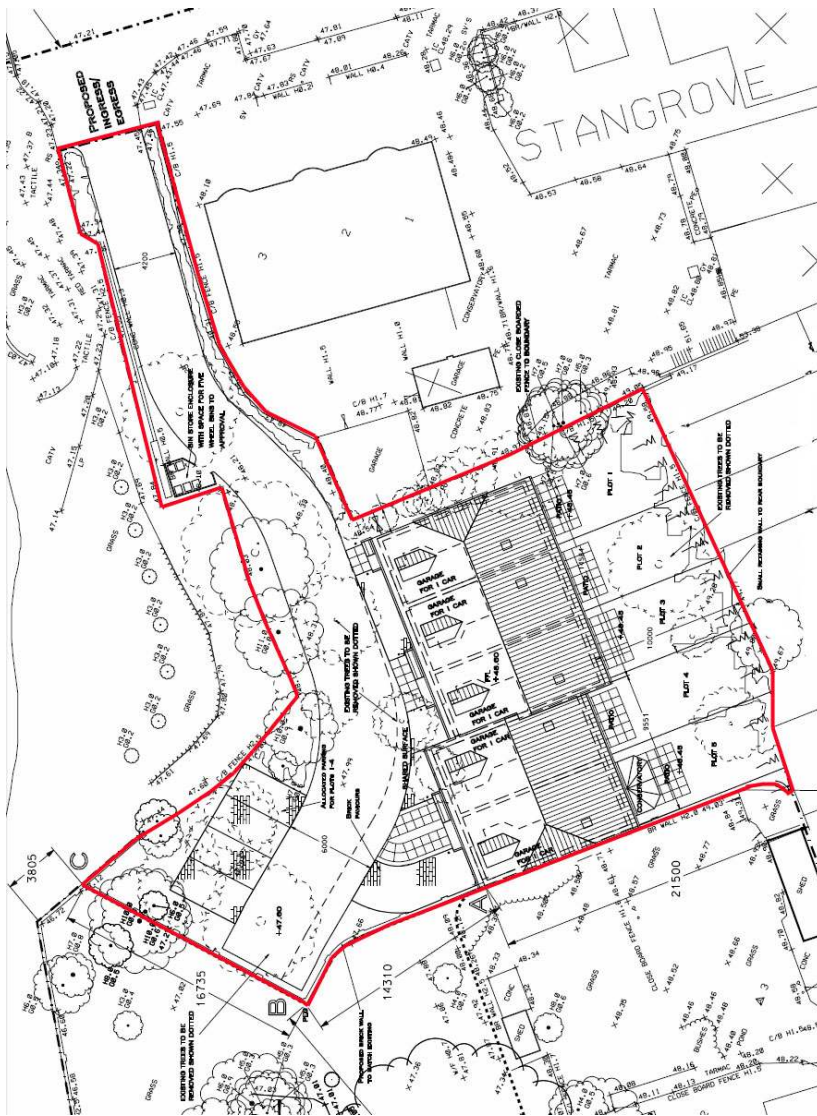


Fig. 7: Plan of proposed development.

An archaeological evaluation of the site was recommended by the Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team, in response to a condition of the planning consent to implement a programme of archaeological work.

The protection of archaeological sites is a material planning consideration. The initial evaluation was designed to provide all parties, particularly the Local Planning Authority, with sufficient material information upon which to base informed decisions, incorporating adequate heritage safeguards.

The results of the evaluation led to the Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team requesting further archaeological work, in the form of a targeted watching brief of the house foundations.

4.2 The archaeological brief

The accepted brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the

proposed redevelopment (English Heritage, *Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*).

Thus the objective is to establish information on as many of the research questions as possible, whilst primarily answering the terms of the brief which is to provide information on which decisions can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action (*e.g.* preservation *in situ* or archaeological rescue excavation), or for no further action.

Should the evaluation identify significant archaeological remains that would be affected by the proposed development then further archaeological excavation (including provision for post-excavation analysis and publication) is required to mitigate the impact of development.

In this case, this took the form of a targeted watching brief, of the house foundations.

4.3 Archaeological research questions

The evaluation and watching brief presented an opportunity to address several research questions, as defined in the preliminary Specification (*Compass Archaeology, March 2012*):

- *Is there any evidence for Roman activity, particularly in association with the London to Lewes road which ran along the line of Edenbridge High Street, on the site? Does this just take the form of roadside activity, or is there any evidence for occupation / settlement?*
- *Is there any evidence for Saxon activity on the site? This could help establish an idea of the date of such a Saxon settlement, and its possible location?*
- *Is there any evidence for Medieval activity or settlement on the site? What information can this provide about such a Medieval settlement – its location, age, form, etc?*
- *Is there any evidence for Post-Medieval activity or settlement on the site, particularly in association with the 17th Century (and onwards) development of the site?*
- *What impact will the building proposals have on any buried archaeology?*

5. Methodology

5.1 All of the fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Kent County Council guidelines (in particular, *Manual of Specifications, Parts A and B*) and those of the Institute for Archaeologists. Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Institute. The Written Scheme was produced prior to the start of fieldwork.

Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team had valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, and steel-toe-capped boots as required during the evaluation and watching brief.

- 5.2** The evaluation comprised three trial trenches located within the area of the proposed development, as indicated on fig 8. The trenches measured 8.2m X 1.8m (trench 1), 9.2m X 1.8m (trench 2), and 6.7m X 1.8m (trench 3), thereby covering a total area of approximately 43 square metres. They were dug to the level of clean natural deposits or the base of archaeological deposits.

Initial clearance of the evaluation trenches were undertaken by a mechanical excavator (360° excavator using a ditching bucket and working under archaeological supervision). The modern topsoil over a thin subsoil were removed to reveal the natural deposits, c.0.4 – 0.6m beneath the modern ground-surface, which were then cleaned, recorded, and photographed by the archaeologists. Archaeological features within this were also cleaned, excavated for finds and dating evidence, recorded, and photographed.

- 5.3** The watching brief focused on the monitoring of the digging of the foundations for the new houses. These measured approximately 0.6-0.75m in width, were dug to depths of between 1.7 and 2.2m. Approximately 100m of linear trenching was monitored, as plotted on fig. 19.

- 5.4** The deposits and features exposed in both the evaluation and the watching brief were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan (scale of 1:20) and section (scale 1:10). The recording system used followed the MoL Site Manual for on-site work. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. The fieldwork record was supplemented by photography as appropriate. Levels were derived from an OSBM located on the south-west corner of No. 13 High Street, on the eastern side of the road. This OSBM had a value of 49.17mOD.

The position of the evaluation trenches and foundations monitored during the watching brief were located to the existing site boundary by taped measurement, with the resultant plan in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey grid as derived from the 1:1250 map.

5.5 Post-excavation work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering of the site archive.

5.6 Finds and samples

Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds*'. Finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record. Assessment was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff.

5.7 Report procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group, Sevenoaks District Council, and the local museum.

A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the Kent County Council SMR Summary Form, an OASIS Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

5.8 The site archive

The records from the archaeological project (written notes, plans, levels, and samples) will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in Edenbridge Museum. The records from the evaluation and watching brief have been allocated the site code: EDB12.

6. The archaeological evaluation

6.1 Summary of the findings

The three evaluation trenches were dug from the present ground surface (c.48mOD – 49mOD). Excavation was generally to the top of the natural deposits, removing the modern topsoil and the subsoil.

In general the sequence was quite straightforward, with the loose modern garden topsoil overlying a relatively thin layer (c.50-100mm) of subsoil: a compact friable brown-grey silty-clay, with occasional pebbles and slightly disturbed by root action. This overlay the natural deposits – a firm yellow-brown clay (the Weald Clay), which was silty in places, and patchy in other places where it had been disturbed by root action.

One shallow linear gully was observed in trench 1, running north-south across the width of this trench, and measuring at least 0.4m in width by 200mm in depth (cut into the natural deposits). Finds from this feature included iron slag and 12th Century pottery.

Another larger deep feature was observed at the southern end of trench 3, measuring approximately 3m north-south, by 1.2m east-west. It was roughly semi-circular as exposed, continuing into the eastern section, and stretching down to c.2.8m beneath the modern ground-surface (cut into the natural for a depth of c.2.2m). This was filled with three distinct fills, and contained pieces of ceramic roof tile, iron slag, and mid-12th to 13th Century pot.

6.2 List of recorded contexts:

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Deposit Friable firm mid-brown / grey silty-clay, with the occasional rounded and angular pebble. c.50-100mm thick, covering the whole of trench 1. Directly beneath the modern topsoil.	Subsoil. Apparently the same as (5) in trench 2 and (6) in trench 3. Slopes gently down towards the west in line with the natural topography.

2	<p>Fill</p> <p>Firm compact mid-brown / orange clay (within silty-soil matrix). Within cut [3]. Contains iron slag (<i>c.</i>5% of fill), plus the occasional pottery sherd (12th Century in date). <i>c.</i>200mm deep.</p>	<p>Fill of small linear gully running north-south across trench 1. Pottery dates it to the mid-12th Century, and the pieces of iron slag within it indicate iron-working in the vicinity.</p>
3	<p>Cut</p> <p>Small shallow linear gully running north-south across trench 1. Measures 1.8m north-south (whole width of trench), by 0.4m in width, by 0.2m in depth. Gently sloping bowl profile, with sloping sides. Cut into the natural deposits.</p>	<p>Small shallow linear gully running across trench 1. Fill = (2).</p>
4	<p>Deposit</p> <p>Firm yellow / light brown clay (slightly silty in places). Uncovered across the whole site (in all trenches), at between 0.4m and 0.6m beneath the modern ground-surface, to an unknown depth.</p>	<p>Undisturbed natural deposit. Wealden Clay.</p>
5	<p>Deposit</p> <p>Friable grey / brown silty-clay, with occasional pebble. <i>c.</i>50-100mm thick, covering the whole of trench 2. Occasional piece of CBM and pot recovered. Directly beneath the modern topsoil.</p>	<p>Subsoil.</p>
6	<p>Deposit.</p> <p>Friable grey / brown silty-clay, with occasional pebble. <i>c.</i>50-100mm thick, covering the whole of trench 3. Directly beneath the modern topsoil.</p>	<p>Subsoil.</p>
7	<p>Fill</p> <p>Compact grey / brown silty-clay deposit, flecked with pieces of roof tile. <i>c.</i>300mm in depth (maximum). Extends across the whole width of the feature (cut = [10]).</p>	<p>Upper fill within cut [10]. Clearly distinct from lower fills because of quantity of tile within it.</p>
8	<p>Fill</p> <p>Compact grey clay deposit. Occasional pieces of tile and slag in. <i>c.</i>1m in depth (maximum). Extends across whole width of the feature (cut = [10]).</p>	<p>Middle fill within cut [10].</p>
9	<p>Fill</p> <p>Compact grey / blue clay deposit. Occasional piece of slag in. <i>c.</i>1.4m in depth (maximum). Extends across whole width of the feature (cut = [10]).</p>	<p>Lowest fill within cut [10]. Possibly alluvial in nature, suggesting that the feature may be a drainage feature or deep well, or that water had simply accumulated in it?</p>

10	<p>Cut</p> <p>Deep cut feature at southern end of trench 2. Measures <i>c.</i>3m north-south by 1.2m east-west (continuing into eastern section). Distinct sloping sides cut into the natural deposits, for a depth of <i>c.</i>2.8m beneath the modern ground-surface.</p>	<p>Large circular deep cut feature. Clearly manmade due to the steepness of the lower sides and three distinct fills. Possibly alluvial of some sort.</p>
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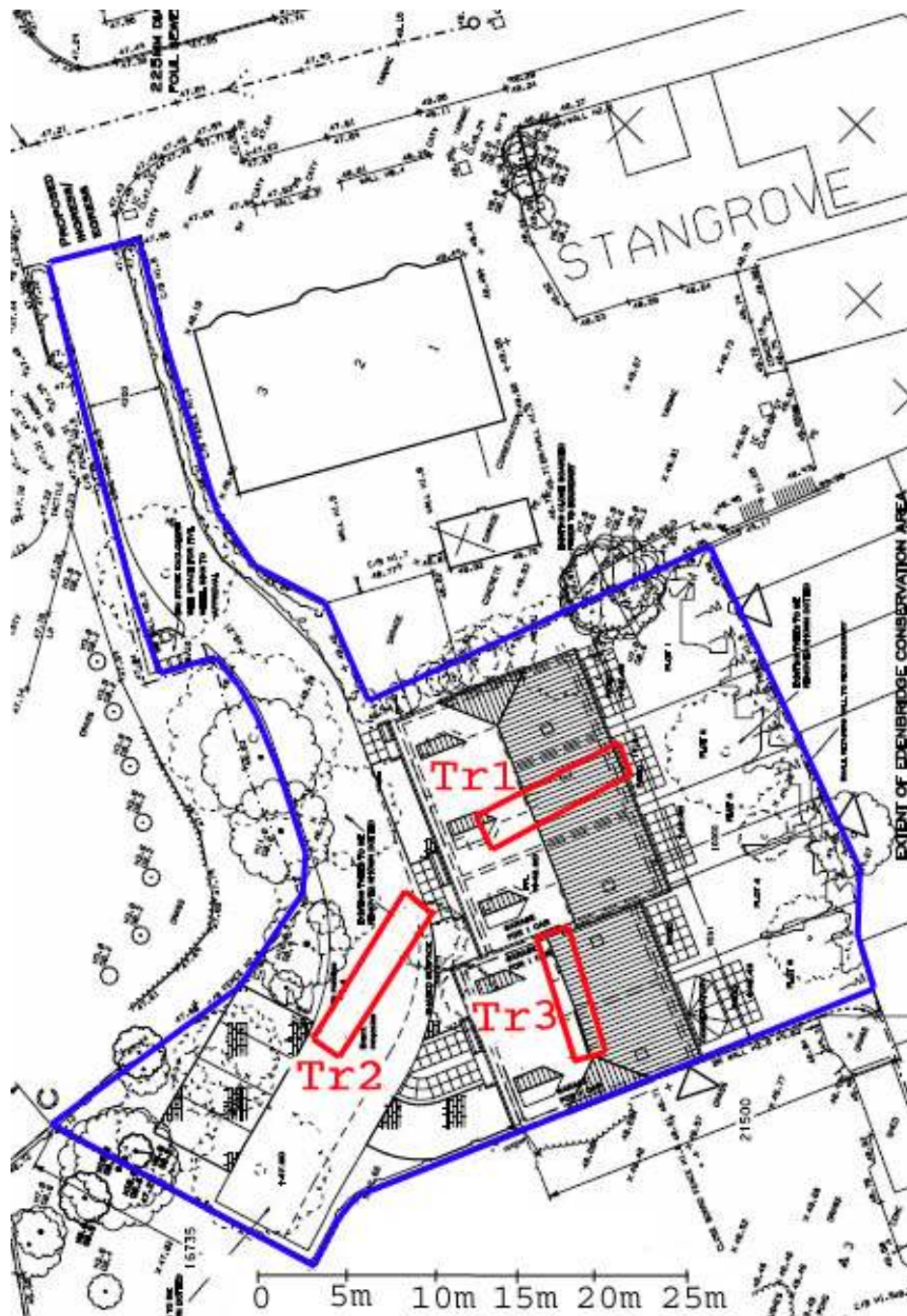


Fig. 8: Plan of the three evaluation trenches, superimposed over the proposed development plan.

6.3 Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 8.25m in length, by 1.8m in width, and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.8m.

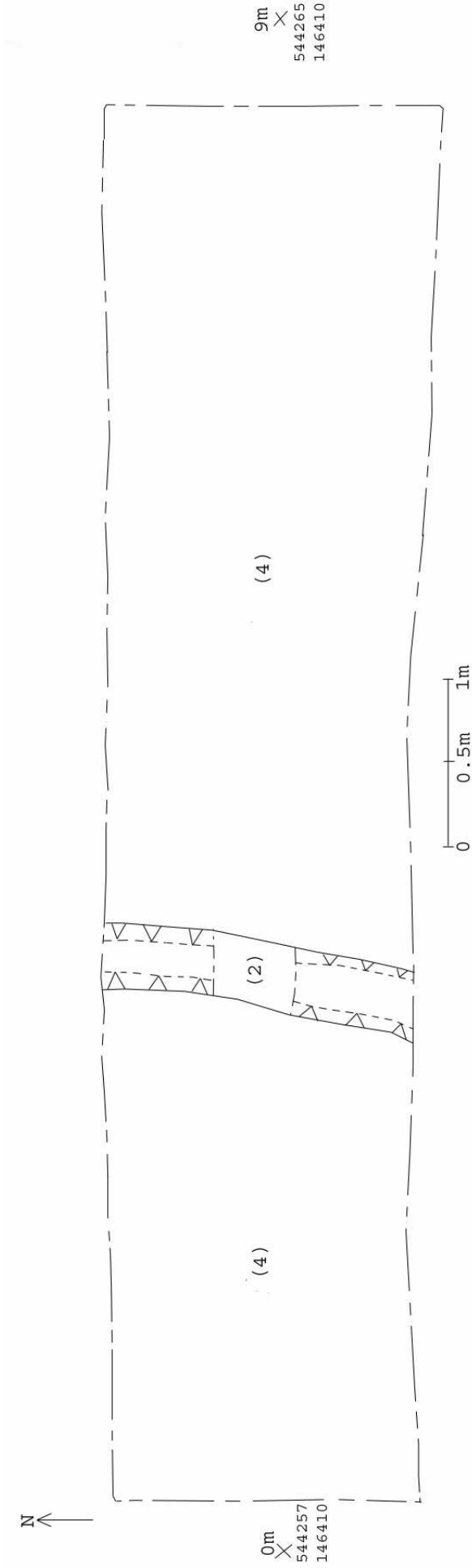


Fig. 9: Plan of evaluation trench 1.

The loose modern garden topsoil overlay a relatively thin layer (c.50-100mm) of subsoil: a compact friable brown-grey silty-clay, with occasional pebbles and slightly disturbed by root action (context (1)). This directly overlay the natural deposit: a firm yellow-brown clay (the Weald Clay), which was silty in places, and patchy in other places where it had been disturbed by root action (context 4). This natural deposit was found over the whole trench, at an uppermost level of 48.44mOD (at the eastern end of the trench).



Fig. 10: Photo of trench 1, looking west, showing the natural clay deposits overlying the whole trench.

One feature, a linear gully (context 3) was observed running north-south across the trench and cutting into the natural deposits. This stretched across the whole width of the trench (1.8m), and measured 0.4m in width (east-west), by 200mm in depth (base at 48.14 - 48.16mOD). This had sloping sides with a gentle sloping bowl profile, though sealed and evidently truncated by reworking of the overlying soil horizon. Interestingly, it appeared to curve round to the south-west slightly - being c.0.15m further to the west in the southern section than it was in the northern section. Its fill (context 2) was a compact mid-brown orange clay, within a silty-soil matrix. Finds from this feature included iron slag (approximately 5% of the fill), plus five coarse pottery sherds. The slag is waste from industrial processes, probably iron smithing, which was presumably taking place around this area (with a

series of pits and ditches possibly associated with metalworking being uncovered during archaeological work alongside the construction of Edenbridge relief road; Brady and Biddulph, 'Feeding the Moat: Excavations Near The Site of Edenbridge Manor House', *Archaeologia Cantiana* 127 (2007)). The pottery consisted of two sherds of Shelly wares, and three of grey-brown sandy wares, dating to the late 11th to 12th Century. This therefore represents the medieval settlement and activity in Edenbridge (evidence for this has also been found in archaeological work along the High Street, finding pottery, tile, ditches, etc). It is unclear precisely what this feature is - it could be part of a far larger ditch, associated with metalworking; or for drainage or agriculture; or simply a property or field boundary, particularly as it is roughly parallel to the High Street.

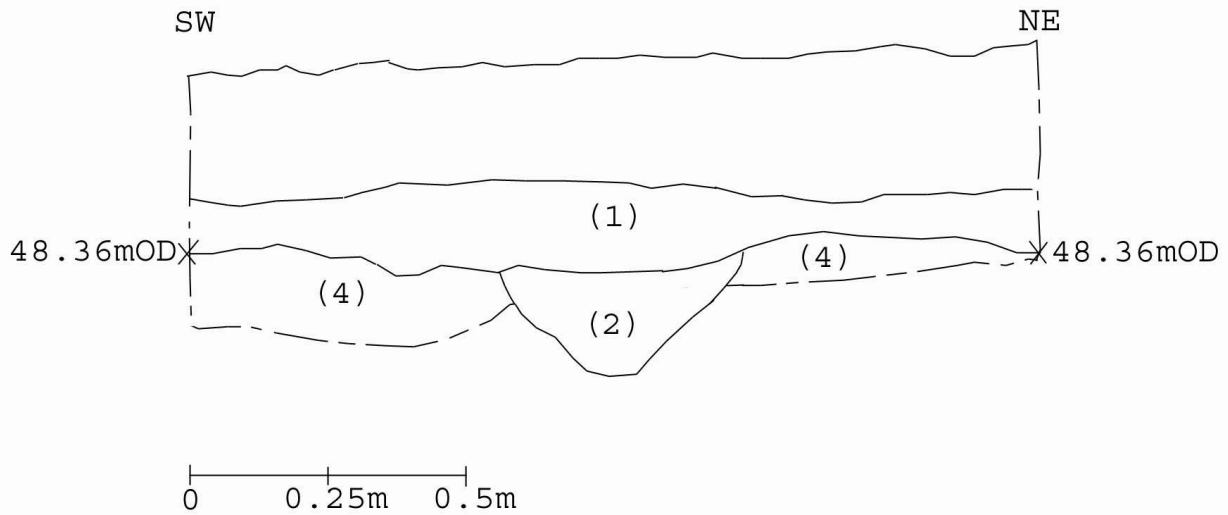


Fig. 11: Section through feature (2) / [3] in trench 1.



Fig. 12: Photo of the linear gully in trench 1 (context 3), looking north-east (0.2m scale).



Fig. 13: Photo of the linear gully in trench 1 (context 3), in south-facing section.

6.4 Trench 2

This trench measured 9.2m in length, by 1.9m in width, and was excavated to a depth of c.0.6m.

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed in this trench, with a simple sequence of the loose modern topsoil, overlying the thin layer (c.50-100mm) of compact brown-grey silty-clay subsoil (context 5). Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this subsoil (1 sherd of grey-brown sandy-wares, and one of orange sandy wares), which were dated to the mid-12th to 13th Century. A further sherd of Limpsfield ware was recovered in clearance, dated late 13th – 15th Century. One fragment of brick, plus two pieces of peg tile were also recovered from this subsoil deposit – dated to 1480-1700. This represents the residual medieval – early post-medieval activity taking place on and around this site, but does not, in itself, indicate in situ settlement or occupation.

This subsoil directly overlay the natural Weald Clay deposit (context (4)), with no other features cut into it. This clay was observed at a level of c.47.38mOD (at the western end of trench). The differences in the levels at which natural was observed in trench 1 and trench 2 is because of the natural topography of the site, sloping down towards the west.



Fig. 14: Photo of trench 2, looking north-west. The modern topsoil, overlying the subsoil, over the natural deposits, can be seen in section.

6.5 Trench 3

This trench measured *c.*6.7m in length, by 1.8m in width, and was excavated to a maximum of *c.*3m beneath the modern ground-surface.

The modern garden topsoil overlay the brown-grey silty-clay subsoil deposit (context (6)). This overlay the compact yellow – light brown clay deposit (the natural – context (4)).

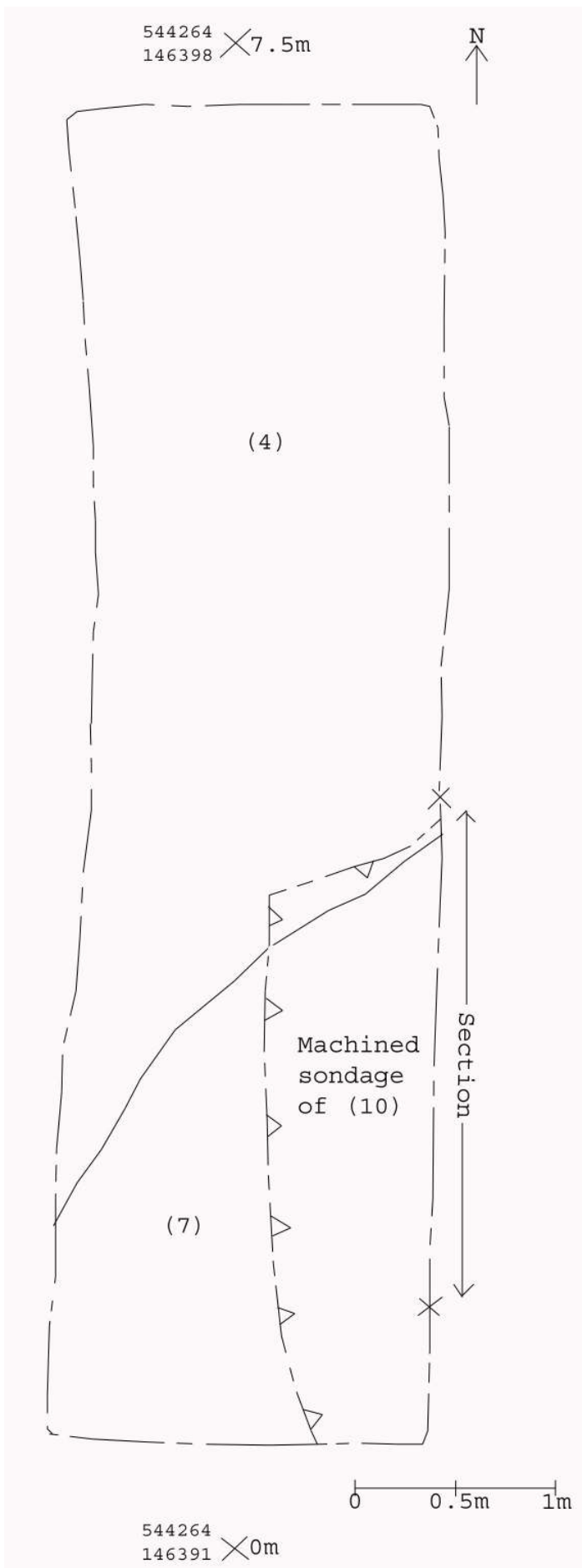


Fig. 15: Plan of evaluation trench 3.

A large deep cut feature (context 10) was observed at the southern end of trench 3. This measured approximately 3m north-south, by 1.2m east-west (continuing into the eastern section), and stretched down to *c.*2.8m beneath the modern ground-surface (cut into the natural for a depth of *c.*2.2m). This was roughly semi-circular in plan (either continuing to form a complete circle under the eastern section, or being the butt-end of a feature continuing further east to form a sausage-shape). It had distinctly sloping sides (such that it was only approximately 0.9m north-south at its base), cut into the natural deposits.

Three fills were observed in this. The uppermost (context 7) was a grey-brown compact silty-clay deposit, with tile fragments and iron slag in, and was *c.*300mm in depth (down to 47.37mOD). Six pottery sherds were recovered from this deposit – five grey-brown sandy wares, and one orange sandy wares, dating to the mid-12th to 13th Century. Some peg-tile was recovered from this deposit, plus one brick fragment, and a cobble. This appeared to be mixed in date – some possibly medieval bits and one post-1700 piece, but the majority dating to *c.*1400-1600.

Underlying this was a compact grey clay deposit (context 8) with one piece of peg tile and occasional slag, for a depth of 1.2m (down to 46.17mOD). The tile recovered from this deposit was dated to 1200-1500.

The lowest fill (context 9) was a compact grey-blue clay (distinct from the natural because of its blue colour) with some iron-working slag in it, for a depth of *c.*0.5m (down to 45.67mOD - the base of the feature).

It is unclear what this feature may have been - it is clearly a manmade feature with deliberately deposited uniform fills, and is apparently later medieval – early post-medieval in date (based on the pottery and ceramic building material). It is possible that it is water-related / alluvial in some way (a pond or drainage ditch of some form?), or simply a large pit of some description into which water later accumulated.



Fig. 16: Photo of the large feature (10) in trench 3, before excavation, looking north. Its darker fill, in contrast with the surrounding yellow natural clay, can be seen.

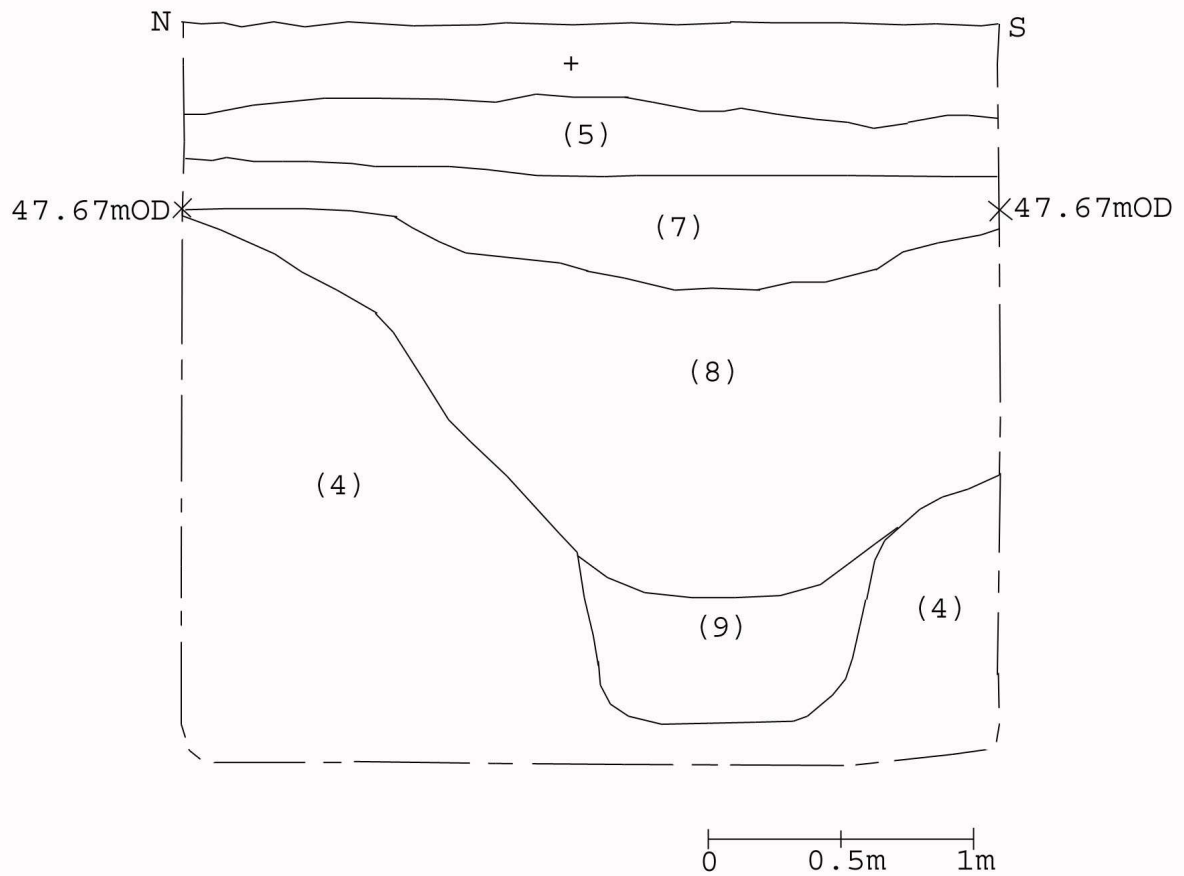


Fig. 17: Section through feature [10] in evaluation trench 3, after excavation.



Fig. 18: Photo of the excavated feature (10) in the west-facing section. The different fills, and sloping sides, of the feature can be seen, cutting into the natural.

6.6 Conclusions from the evaluation

To conclude, the three trenches generally exposed a natural soil profile of modern topsoil overlying subsoil overlying natural clay deposits. In two trenches, however, features were observed cutting into the natural deposits. In trench 1, this was a north-south (slightly curving) shallow linear gully, with slag and pottery in, indicating iron-working in the vicinity, and presumably medieval in date. In trench 3, a large deep semi-circular feature was observed - clearly a manmade feature of some sort, later medieval – early post-medieval in date, with an unknown function. These features act as evidence for medieval activity on this site, and for iron-working in the vicinity, particularly in the later 12th – 13th Century (based on pottery evidence).

The results of this evaluation led to the decision made by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team that a targeted watching brief needed to be undertaken on the digging of the foundations of the houses.

7. Watching Brief

7.1 Summary of the findings

A watching brief of the digging of the foundations for the five new houses was then undertaken by Compass Archaeology between the 16th and 24th April 2012. This monitored approximately 100m of linear trenching (all about 0.6 – 0.75m in width, and dug to depths of between 1.7 and 2.2m beneath the modern ground-surface). The layout and location of the foundations monitored is shown on fig.19.

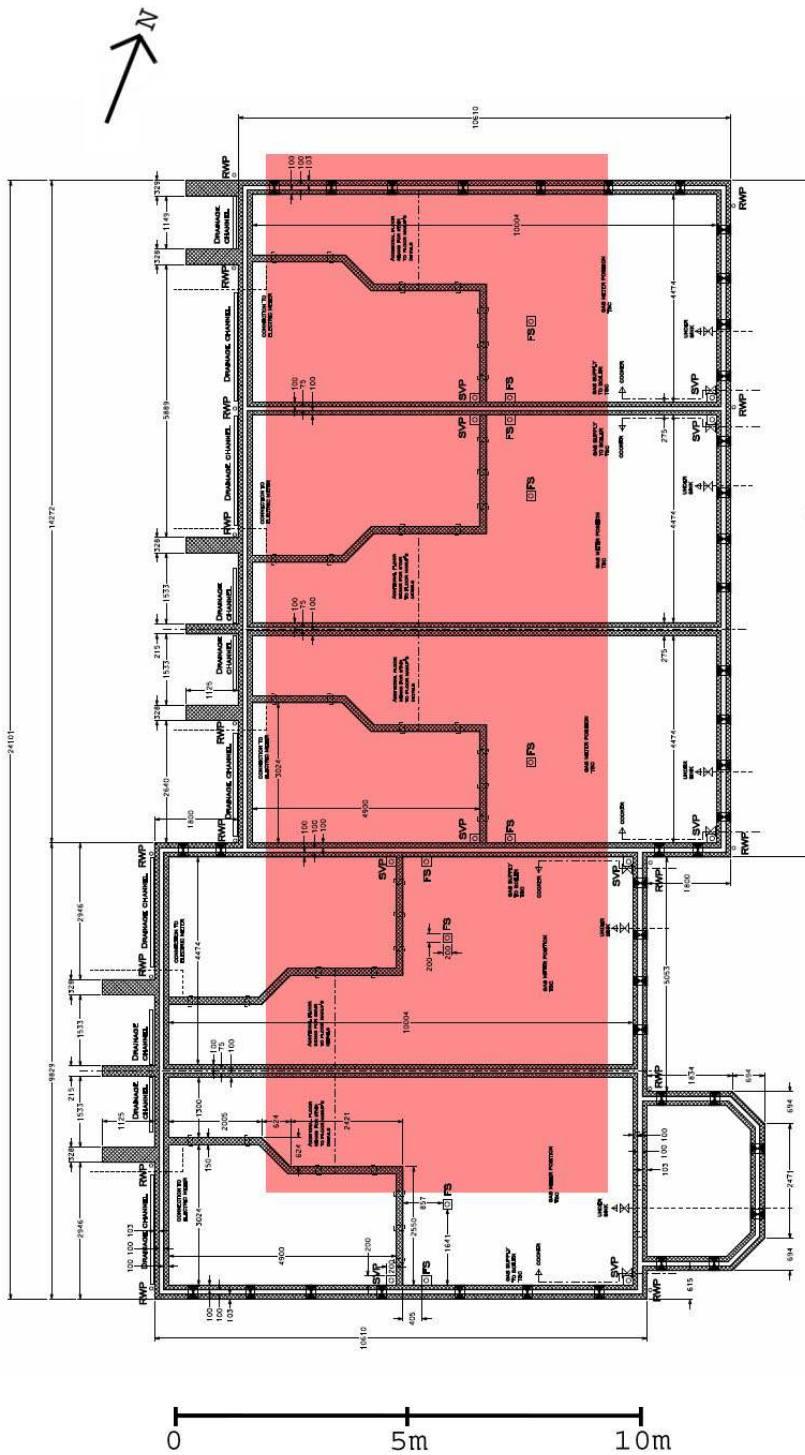


Fig. 19: Foundation plan, showing the foundation trenches to be monitored. The area highlighted in red is that shown in fig. 20.

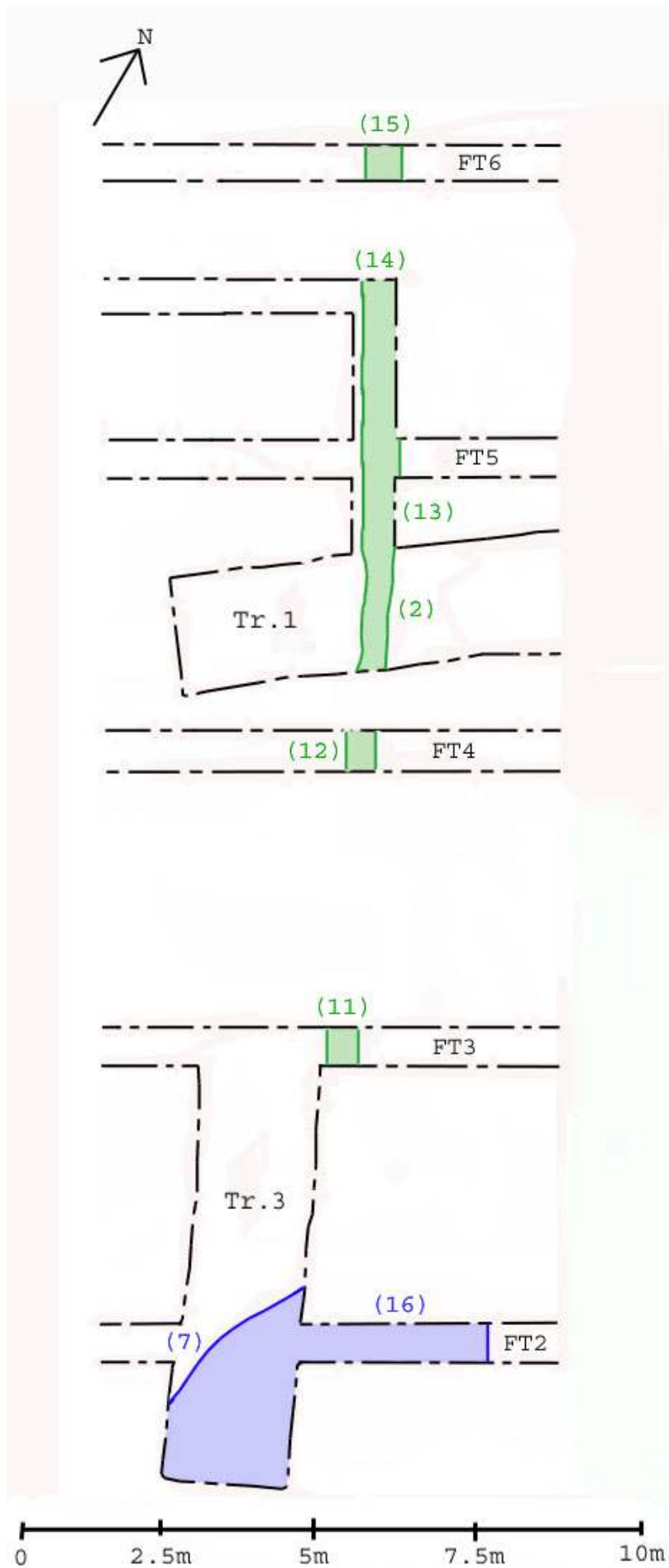


Fig. 20: Plan of the archaeological features observed during the evaluation and watching brief. The green depicts the shallow linear gully (3) (running north-south), with the blue depicting the larger deeper feature (10).

In general, the sequence was the same as that observed during the evaluation – the loose modern garden topsoil overlying the compact brown-grey silty-clay subsoil, overlying the natural Weald Clay.

The shallow linear gully (context [3] in the evaluation) was observed in several places within these foundation trenches, running approximately north-south across the majority of the site (although cut away in the southern-most trench). This measured between 0.4 and 0.67m in width, and was c.0.23m in depth (cut into the natural deposits). Further slag, pottery, and ceramic building material was recovered from this feature, and was dated to the 12th – 13th Century.

In foundation trench 2 (2nd from the south), part of the large deep feature observed in evaluation trench 3 was observed. This measured 1.6m in depth, and c.2.8m of it was exposed east-west in width at the uppermost level (0.72m width at its base). Some tile was recovered from this, dated to 1200 – 1600, plus slag at its base. It seems certain that this was part of the deep feature observed in evaluation trench 3, possibly with an undulating bottom (explaining the different depths to which it has been dug).

Although the relationship was not directly observed, it is believed that the linear gully was earlier in date than the deeper pit, and that this pit cut through the linear gully when it was inserted. It is therefore possible that the linear gully once continued further to the south, beyond the site limit.

7.2 List of recorded contexts:

Context	Description	Interpretation
11	Fill Firm compact mid-brown / orange clay (within silty-soil matrix). Contains iron slag, plus the occasional pottery sherd. 0.57m in width in section (east-west), by 0.22m in depth (to 0.65m beneath the modern ground-surface). Observed across whole width of foundation trench north-south (0.65m).	Fill of linear gully running north-south across site. This context number refers to where it was observed in foundation trench 3 (third from the south).
12	Fill Firm compact mid-brown / orange clay (within silty-soil matrix). Contains iron slag, plus the occasional pottery sherd. 0.54m in width in section (east-west), by 0.22m in depth (to 0.62m beneath the modern ground-surface). Observed across whole width of foundation trench north-south (0.63m).	Fill of linear gully running north-south across site. This context number refers to where it was observed in foundation trench 4 (fourth from the south).
13	Fill Firm compact mid-brown / orange clay (within silty-soil matrix). Contains iron slag, plus the occasional pottery sherd. 0.67m in width (east-west), by 0.24m in depth (to 0.64m beneath the modern ground-surface).	Fill of linear gully running north-south across site. This context number refers to where it was observed in the short north-south foundation trench between foundation trenches 4 and 5. It was exposed in plan here as was in a shallow trench (elsewhere it was exposed in section).

14	Fill Firm compact mid-brown / orange clay (within silty-soil matrix). Contains iron slag, plus the occasional pottery sherd. 0.41m in width in section (east-west, although full width was not exposed), by 0.23m in depth (to 0.63m beneath the modern ground-surface).	Fill of linear gully running north-south across site. This context number refers to where it was observed in the short north-south foundation trench between foundation trenches 5 and 6.
15	Fill Firm compact mid-brown / orange clay (within silty-soil matrix). Contains iron slag. 0.66m in width in section (east-west), by 0.23m in depth (to 0.63m beneath the modern ground-surface). Observed across whole width of foundation trench north-south (0.61m).	Fill of linear gully running north-south across site. This context number refers to where it was observed in foundation trench 6 (sixth from the south).
16	Fill Compact grey / brown silty-clay deposit, flecked with tile. Cut into the natural deposits. 0.6m beneath the modern ground-surface, for thickness of c.0.8m. Width of 2.78m (maximum). Observed in northern section of foundation trench 2 (second from the south).	Upper fill within probable cut [10] (observed in evaluation trench 3). Believed to be part of the large feature observed in evaluation trench 3.
17	Fill Compact dark grey silty-clay deposit. Slag in it. Observed at 1.6m beneath modern ground-surface, for a depth of c.0.2m. 0.72m in width. Observed in northern section of foundation trench 2 (second from the south).	Lower fill within probable cut [10] (observed in evaluation trench 3). Believed to be the bottom of the large feature observed in evaluation trench 3, with an undulating bottom.

7.3 The Majority of the Site

In the majority of the foundation trenches monitored, a simple sequence of loose modern garden topsoil, overlying a thin grey-brown silty-clay subsoil deposit, overlying the natural deposits (a compact sterile yellow-brown clay) was observed. This was the same as that observed in most of the evaluation trenches, and of no archaeological significance.



Fig. 21: Photograph of the foundation trenches monitored, looking east. The topsoil over subsoil over natural deposits can be seen.



Fig. 22: Photograph of the foundation trenches monitored, looking south-east. The topsoil over subsoil over natural deposits can be seen.



Fig. 23: Photograph of the foundation trenches monitored, looking west. The topsoil over subsoil over natural deposits can be seen.

7.4 Shallow Linear Gully (3)

The shallow linear gully which was observed in the evaluation trench 1 was observed in a number of places during the watching brief. This is recorded under context numbers 11 – 15; each context number refers to the feature observed in a different foundation trench (see plan, fig. 20).

The feature clearly runs across the site for some 15m on an approximate north-south alignment (slightly south-east to north-west). It was *c.*0.23m in depth (down to *c.*0.63m beneath the modern ground-surface), and *c.*0.54 – 0.67m in width. It was generally observed in the sections of the foundation trenches, however one small section of shallow north-south trenching revealed it in plan (context (13)).

Its fill was similar to that observed in evaluation trench 1 – a compact mid-brown / orange clay within a silty-sand matrix. Finds recovered from this feature included iron slag plus some pottery. This pottery was mainly a grey-brown sandy ware, dated to the 12th – 13th Century (as found in the evaluation – context (2)). One piece of peg tile was also recovered from context (11), and dated to 1200 – 1500.

This feature was traced to the northern extent of the site (observed in the northern-most foundation trench, context (15)). It was not, however, traced to the far southern end of the site. It was observed in foundation trench 3 (context (11)), but not in the two trenches to the south of this. This does not, however, act as definitive evidence that the feature did not continue to the south, particularly because the large feature ((16) and (17)) was observed in foundation trench 2, and appears to be later in date than the linear gully (see discussion below), so may well have truncated / cut away the gully. Furthermore, the southern-most trench (foundation trench 1) had

been heavily disturbed by the stepped wall foundations of the modern boundary wall and a modern drain running roughly parallel with the wall, such that the linear gully may have once continued this far south but has since been cut away. It is therefore possible that the linear gully continued beyond the extent of the site, in both a northerly and southerly direction.

It is difficult to ascertain what the precise function of this linear gully was, but it is clearly representative of 12th – 13th Century activity in this area. It is possible that it may be the base of a boundary ditch of some description, particularly because it runs roughly parallel to the line of the High Street. Furthermore, the quantity of slag found within this feature suggests that substantial metalworking activity was being undertaken in the locality.



Fig. 24: Photograph of context (11), in section, looking south.



Fig. 25: Close-up photograph of context (11), in section, looking south.



Fig. 26: Photograph of context (12), in section, looking south.



Fig. 27: Photograph of context (13), in plan, looking north.

Fig. 28: Photograph of context (13), in the foreground, with context (14) visible in the section beyond. Looking north.





Fig. 29: Photograph of context (13), in section, looking south.



Fig. 30: Photograph of context (14), in section, looking north.



Fig. 31: Close-up photograph of context (15), in section, looking south.



Fig. 32: Photograph of context (15), in section, looking south.

7.5 The deep feature in the southern part of the site (10)

A larger deeper feature was observed in foundation trench 2. This was observed directly beneath the subsoil (*c.*0.6m beneath the modern ground-surface), down to a maximum of *c.*1.6m beneath ground-surface (*c.*1m in depth).

The base of this feature consisted of a dark silty matrix with some iron slag (context (17)), for a width of *c.*0.72m, and depth of *c.*0.2m.

Overlying this, within this feature, was context (16) – a compact grey-brown silty-clay deposit, flecked with tile. *c.*0.8m of this was observed, in depth, for a maximum width of 2.78m. This is clearly the upper fill of this feature.

This feature lies directly to the east of the large feature observed in evaluation trench 3. It is slightly shallower in depth than that observed in trench 3, but the fills are similar (with tile in the upper fills and slag in the lower ones), suggesting that they probably are part of the same larger feature. It therefore seems likely that this feature had an undulating bottom.

The tile recovered from (16) was peg tile, dated 1200 – 1600. This therefore dates this feature to a slightly later date than the shallow linear gully (mid-12th Century). Unfortunately no pottery was recovered from this feature, such that no better indication of date could be gained, although previous finds from the evaluation suggests a possible later medieval to early post-medieval date.

No evidence for the shallow linear gully was observed in the area of this larger feature. It seems likely therefore, that the larger deeper feature was added at a later date and cut away the shallow linear gully.

It is unclear what the precise function of this feature was. It is possibly alluvial in nature, although it may have simply been a large feature in which water later accumulated.

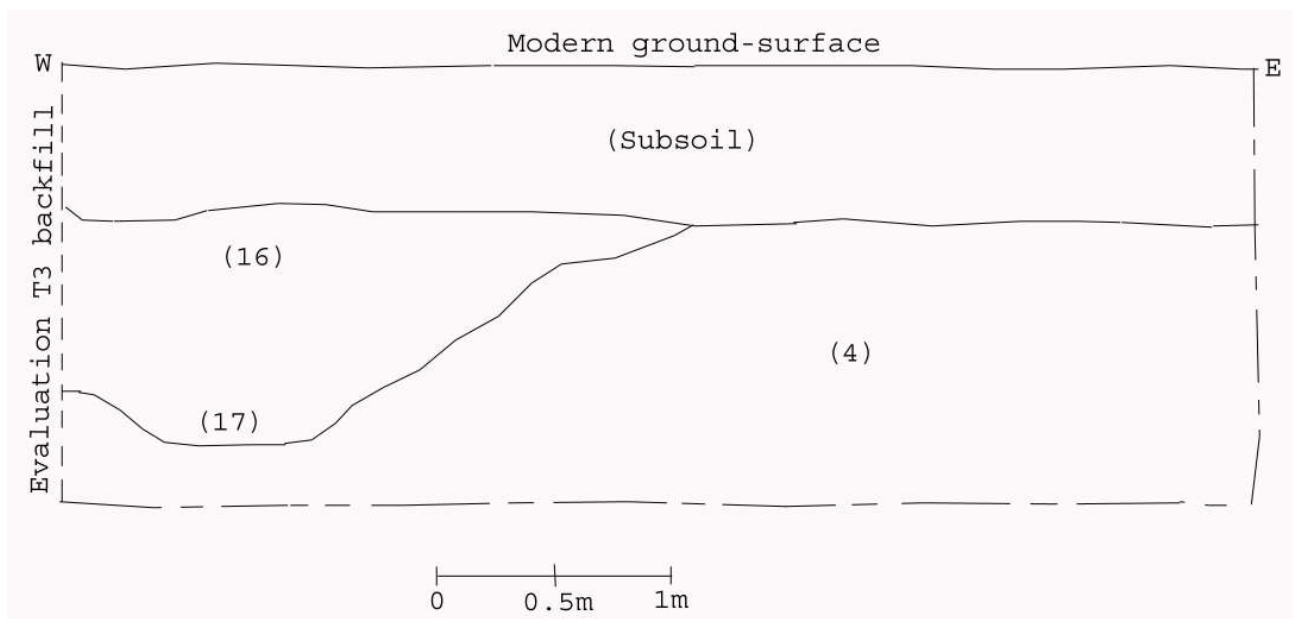


Fig. 33: Section of feature (16) / (17) in the second foundation trench.



Fig. 34: Photograph of feature (10), plus fills (16) / (17), in the second foundation trench, looking north.



Fig. 35: Photograph of feature (10), plus fills (16) / (17), looking north-east.

7.6 The southern-most foundation trench

The southern-most east-west running foundation trench (foundation trench 1) was, unfortunately, heavily disturbed by modern activity, such that any earlier features (particularly the possible continuation of the north-south shallow linear gully) had been cut away.

The southern boundary wall base was observed for a depth of *c.*1.14m. This was a stepped foundation, stepping out (into the foundation trench) for a distance of *c.*0.22m. The foundation consisted of a mixture of stone footings and brick relieving arches.

The northern section of this foundation trench was disturbed by a modern ceramic drainpipe (with an external diameter of *c.*180mm). The base of this was *c.*0.6m beneath the modern ground-surface. As it ran towards the west, it was converging on the wall-line (i.e. running at a slight northeast – southwest angle).



Fig. 36: Photograph of foundation trench 1, looking west. The stepped foundations of the boundary wall are visible.

8. Assessment of the results

The archaeological evaluation and watching brief have provided an opportunity to address the site-specific objectives that were defined within the preliminary *Specification* (4.3 above). The responses to these are outlined below:

- *Is there any evidence for Roman activity, particularly in association with the London to Lewes road which ran along the line of Edenbridge High Street, on the site? Does this just take the form of roadside activity, or is there any evidence for occupation / settlement?*

No evidence for any Roman activity was observed during this work.

- *Is there any evidence for Saxon activity on the site? This could help establish an idea of the date of such a Saxon settlement, and its possible location?*

No evidence for Saxon activity was observed during this work.

- *Is there any evidence for medieval activity or settlement on the site? What information can this provide about such a medieval settlement – its location, age, form, etc?*

A shallow linear gully feature, with mid-12th to 13th Century pottery and iron-working slag in, was observed running north-south across the site. It is unclear precisely what this was – possibly the base of a boundary ditch as it runs roughly parallel to the line of the High Street. It does, however, reflect the existence of medieval activity in the area, and iron-working in the vicinity.

The deep cut feature at the southern end of evaluation trench 3, believed to be part of the same feature as that observed during the watching brief works, is clearly a manmade feature, later medieval to early post-medieval in date (based on the finds recovered). It is also clearly later in date than the shallow linear gully (and presumably cuts away the southern continuation of this), as cuts this away at its southern end. Its precise function is unknown.

- *Is there any evidence for Post-Medieval activity or settlement on the site, particularly in association with the 17th Century (and onwards) development of the site?*

The only evidence for post-medieval activity on the site took the form of the deep cut feature discussed above, and believed to be later medieval to early post-medieval in date. No other finds or features of post-medieval date were recovered, possibly because the area has been open land throughout the post-medieval period.

- *What impact will the building proposals have on any buried archaeology?*

The building proposals should not have any further impact upon the buried archaeology, as the only intrusive groundworks to take place are the digging of the foundations for the houses, and these were monitored and recorded.

9 Conclusions and recommendations

This evaluation and watching brief uncovered remains and finds relating to medieval activity, including iron-working, in the area. This took the form of a shallow linear gully feature running north-south across the whole site, which contained 12th – 13th Century pottery and iron slag. This was possibly a boundary ditch, as runs roughly

parallel to the line of the High Street. Another large deep pit was uncovered which also contained later medieval – early post-medieval finds and slag.

These features reflect the fact that there was medieval activity in this area, as was also found in other archaeological work, such as that before the construction of the Western Edenbridge Relief Road, and that behind 25 High Street. This acts as evidence for the early settlement in Edenbridge, which was presumably concentrated just to the south of this site.

The evidence for metalworking found during this work, in the form of slag, is also mirrored in other archaeological work in the area, particularly before the construction of the Edenbridge Western Relief Road and that behind 25 High Street. This reflects the fact that iron-working was an important trade within Edenbridge, and the Weald area in general (the geology of sands and clays in this area yielded the iron ore to produce the iron). It was particularly important during the Roman period and during Tudor – early Stuart times, when it acted as the main iron-producing region in Britain.

Although little is known about iron-working in the Saxon period (the Domesday Book only mentions the industry once for Sussex, near East Grinstead), more evidence for such production exists from the medieval period. For example, mines and bloomeries around Ashdown Forest (to the south of Edenbridge) were producing ore and blooms in the 12th and 13th Centuries, that were probably used by village smithies to serve the local population. Medieval references to iron-making in Crawley and near Horsham support this picture further. It seems likely that Edenbridge would have had a smithy (a secondary smithing site). The slag found during this archaeological work was probably produced by smithing activity, and thrown into the nearest cut features, or found its way there through backfilling. It is, therefore, further evidence for the medieval Wealden iron industry, operating in Edenbridge.

10 Bibliography

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APPENDIX I: Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: Land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence	
Site Address: Land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, High Street, Edenbridge, Kent	
Summary: Archaeological evaluation and watching brief before and during groundworks for the construction of five residential buildings plus gardens, parking, and a new access road. Evidence for medieval activity, in the form of one long shallow linear gully with 12 th – 13 th Century pottery in (possibly a boundary ditch?), and a larger deeper pit with medieval pot and later, earlier post-medieval, ceramic building material, in. Evidence for iron-working, in the form of iron slag, was also recovered.	
District/Unitary: Sevenoaks	Parish: Edenbridge
Period(s): Medieval	
NGR: TQ 4428 4639	
Type of archaeological work Archaeological evaluation and watching brief	
Date of Recording: 29 th and 30 th March and 2 nd April 2012 (evaluation); 16 th – 24 th April 2012 (watching brief).	
Unit undertaking recording: Compass Archaeology Ltd	
Geology: Weald Clay	
Title and author of accompanying report: Land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, High Street, Edenbridge, Kent; An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief, Jeffery, E.	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) An archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge, took place in March and April 2012. The evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to the construction of five residential houses, plus associated gardens, parking, and an access road (Application No. 04/03102/FUL; 11/00501/CONVAR). Three trenches were initially excavated on the site, covering an area of approximately 43 square metres. Two archaeologically significant features were uncovered within these – one shallow linear ditch with 12 th – 13 th Century pottery and iron slag in; and one larger deep feature (with 12 th Century pot, later ceramic building material, and slag). Based on these findings, a watching brief of the foundations for the houses was proposed and undertaken. This traced the line of the shallow linear feature north-south across the site, and involved the recovery of further medieval pottery and slag from it. Another part of the deeper feature was uncovered, although this was slightly shallower, suggesting that it had an undulating bottom. This archaeological work has therefore provided evidence for medieval activity in this area, plus evidence for industrial activity.	
Location of archive/finds: Compass Archaeology Ltd	
Contact at Unit: Geoff Potter	Date: 2 nd May 2012

APPENDIX II: Archaeologia Cantiana Summary

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge, took place in March and April 2012. The work was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to, and during the groundworks for, the construction of five residential houses, plus associated gardens, parking, and an access road (Application No. 04/03102/FUL; 11/00501/CONVAR).

Three trenches were initially excavated on the site, covering an area of approximately 43 square metres. Two archaeologically significant features were uncovered within these – one shallow linear ditch with 12th – 13th Century pottery and iron slag in; and one larger deep feature (with iron slag, 12th Century pot, and later ceramic building material).

Based on these findings, a watching brief of the foundations for the houses was proposed and undertaken. This traced the line of the shallow linear feature (possibly the base of a boundary ditch?) for c.15m north-south across the site, and involved the recovery of further medieval pottery and slag from it. Another part of the deeper feature was uncovered, although this was slightly shallower, suggesting that it had an undulating bottom.

This archaeological work has therefore provided evidence for 12th Century and later activity in this area, plus evidence for industrial activity, corroborating the evidence gleaned from other work in the Edenbridge area.

Appendix III: OASIS Report

OASIS ID: [compassa1-124757](#)

Project details

Project name	Land to the north of the Presbytery Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation and watching brief of a site in the land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge, took place in March and April 2012. The evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to the construction of five residential houses, plus associated gardens, parking, and an access road (Application No. 04/03102/FUL; 11/00501/CONVAR). Three trenches were initially excavated on the site, covering an area of approximately 43 square metres. Two archaeologically significant features were uncovered within these - one shallow linear ditch with 12 th – 13th Century pottery and slag in; and one larger deep feature (with 12th Century pot and later ceramic building material). Based on these findings, a watching brief of the foundations for the houses was proposed and undertaken. This traced the line of the shallow linear feature north-south across the site, and involved the recovery of further medieval pottery and slag from it. No other archaeological features were observed. This archaeological work has therefore provided evidence for medieval activity in this area, plus evidence for industrial activity, corroborating the evidence gleaned from other work in the Edenbridge area.
Project dates	Start: 29-03-2012 End: 24-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	GULLY Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON SLAG Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS EDENBRIDGE Land to the north of the Presbytery Church of St Lawrence, Edenbridge
Postcode	TN8
Study area	1200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4428 4639 51.1979448921 0.06525526380150 51 11 52 N 000 03 54 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 47.38m Max: 48.44m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Emma Jeffery
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	St Mirren Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Edenbridge Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Edenbridge Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Metal'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Edenbridge Museum
Paper Contents	'Metal'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the north of the Presbytery Catholic Church of St Lawrence, High Street, Edenbridge, Kent; An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jeffery, E
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	Report detailing the results of both the archaeological evaluation and watching brief. Includes background research to the history and archaeology of the area (cartographic, Kent HER, etc), plus background to the project itself. Also includes plans, sections, photos, of the evaluation trenches and watching brief works, plus analysis and conclusions reached from these, and specialist reports of finds.

Appendix IV: Pottery Report

Pottery from Edenbridge, Kent (Site EDB12)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 23 sherds with a total weight of 190g. It was all medieval. Due to its location, the range of pottery types is far more typical of Surrey than Kent. Hence, it was recorded using the codings and chronology of the provisional type series of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (Jones 1998, 211-238), as follows:

- S2: **Shelly wares**, late 11th – 12th century. 2 sherds, 7g.
Q2: **Grey-brown sandy wares**, 12th – 13th century. 17 sherds, 123g.
OQ: **Orange Sandy Wares**, mid 12th – 13th century. 2 sherds, 9g.
LQ: **Limpsfield Reduced Ware**, late 13th – 15th century. 2 sherds, 51g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of pottery types is typical of the area, and consists of a mixture of jars and jugs in local fabrics, all of which were unglazed. It all indicates that activity at the site was largely limited to the 12th – early 13th century. Certainly, Surrey Whitewares (Pearce and Vince 1988), a common find at sites in the area from the early-mid 13th century onwards, were entirely absent, indicating that it is likely to have been abandoned by that time. The sherds were generally all in good condition and unabraded, other than the single unstratified sherd, which is somewhat worn and appears likely to be the result of manuring rather than occupation.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds

Cntxt	S2		Q2		OQ		LQ		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S							1	43	U/S
2	2	7	3	8					12thC
5			1	8	1	8			M12thC
7			5	40	1	1			M12thC
11			4	51					12thC
12			2	8					12thC
13							1	8	L13C
14			2	8					12thC
Total	2	7	17	123	2	9	2	51	

Bibliography

Jones, P, 1998 Towards a type series of medieval pottery in Surrey to c AD1700 *Surrey Archaeol Collections* **85**, 215-38

Pearce, J and Vince, A, 1988 *A Dated Type-Series of London Medieval Pottery. Part 4: Surrey Whitewares* London and Middlesex Archaeol Soc Special Paper **10**

Appendix V: Ceramic Building Material Report, Susan Pringle

Context	Interpretation	Context date	CBM	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	Th	Condition	Comments
5	Kentish version of fabric with cream silt inclusions; 1450-1700.	1480-1700		PM	3033	Brick	1	173	90+	42+	51	M	Indented margin; vitrified mortar on top and stretcher faces
5	1480-1800.	1480-1700		PM	3201	Peg tile	1	59	0	0	13		Fine moulding sand; part diagonally set square nail hole. Early post-med?
5	1300-1800.	1480-1700		M / PM	3201	Peg tile	1	20	0	0	14	A	Late med or early post-med?
7	1700-2000.	Mixed 18 th century (with residual medieval)		PM	3201	Peg tile	1	71	0	0	0		Fairly modern version of fabric, fine moulding sand.
7	1400-1600?	Mixed 18 th century (with residual medieval)		M / PM	3201	Peg tile	10	491	0	0	0		2 conjoin x 2; medium moulding sand. 1 polygonal, 1 square nail-hole. Early post-med.
7	Fine orange-red fabric with sparse to moderate medium to coarse quartz and red iron-rich inclusions. 1200-1600	Mixed 18 th century (with residual medieval)		M / PM	?	Peg tile	2	97	0	0	0		
7	Fine orange fabric with very coarse dark iron-rich inclusions. 1450-1800.	Mixed 18 th century (with residual medieval)		PM	?	Brick	1	33	0	0	0		Flake; sharp arrises. Probably 18th c.
7	?	Mixed 18 th century (with residual medieval)		N/A	Stone	Cobble	1	344	0	0	0		Greensand. 1 flat face, probably reworked slab or block.

8	Sandy, silty fabric. 1200-1500.	1200-1500	M	2586	Peg tile	1	48	0	0	12	A	
11	1200-1500.	1200-1500	M	2271	Peg tile	1	54	0	0	0	Rd, A	Very abraded and reduced tile. Two small parallel indentations in top surface - unclear whether pre- or post-firing. Reduced core.
16	1200-1600	1200-1600	M	2586	Peg tile?	1	6	0	0	0	A	Flake; medium moulding sand.
16	1200-1800	1200-1600	M / PM	3201	Peg tile?	1	17	0	0	0	A	Flake - base missing.
16	1200-1800	1200-1600	M / PM	3201	Peg tile?	2	3	0	0	0	A	Two small flakes.

Appendix VI: Slag Report, G.L King

Context	No. of pieces	Combined weight (in grams)
2	31	1491
5	2	66
6	3	348
7	10	876
8	6	2969
9	7	302
11	6	872
12	8	180
13	7	1558
14	3	430
15	7	1080
17	9	4205

A small assemblage (just over 14kg) of iron slag was recovered by Compass Archaeology. The slag was fragmentary, consisting of some large and some small pieces. It was residual – some pieces were recovered from the site generally, such as that from contexts (5) and (6), (the subsoil in evaluation trenches 2 and 3 respectively). Much of it was recovered from the north-south shallow linear gully (contexts (2), (11), (12), (13), (14), and (15). Large quantities were also recovered from the deeper pit feature (contexts (7), (8), (9), and (17)).

The slag appears to have been produced by smithing activity, with no slag diagnostic of smelting present in the assemblage. This suggests that smithing was taking place in the vicinity (that Edenbridge was a secondary smithing site), and that such pieces of slag were then thrown into the nearest cut features. Other dating material recovered from these features suggests that this activity may have been taking place in the medieval to early post-medieval period. The fact that it was found in both features (of different date) suggests that smithing may have been an ongoing activity.



(2)



(13)



(8)



Fig. 37: Cross-section slag samples from the shallow linear feature ((2) and (13)), and the larger deeper pit feature (8).