

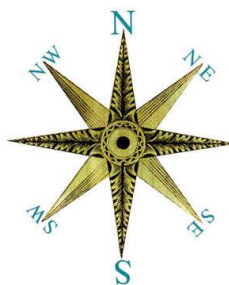
76 NORTH STREET, BARMING, KENT, ME16 9HF

An Archaeological Watching Brief



August 2017

COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

76 NORTH STREET,
BARMING, KENT, ME16 9HF

An Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning ref: 16/501727/FULL/FLMA

Site code: NST16

NGR (centre): 72535 55008

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
250 YORK ROAD, BATTERSEA,
LONDON SW11 3SJ

Telephone: 020 7801 9444

e-mail: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

Author: James Aaronson

August 2017

©Compass Archaeology Ltd.

Abstract

In Late October and early November 2016 an archaeological watching brief was conducted during the initial site strip and subsequent excavation of strip footings for a new residential development at 76 North Street, Barming, ME16 9HF.

The natural geology was shown to be overlain by a buried soil of 19th century or earlier date as indicated by the presence of blue-and-white transfer-printed ware and some earlier 16th century peg tile. This buried soil was overlain by varying degrees of made ground dating from construction of the extant property in the 1960s; a greater depth observed in the south of the site, shallower in the north. This reflects the natural topography of the area as it slopes south towards the Medway.

Contents		Page
1	Introduction	1
2	Acknowledgments	2
3	Site location, geology, and topography	2
4	Archaeological and historical background	4
5	Planning and objectives	10
6	Methodology	11
7	Results	13
8	Conclusions	22
9	Bibliography	23
Appendix I	Kent Historic Environment Record Report Form	24
Appendix II	OASIS data collection form	25

List of figures

	Page
<i>Front Cover – Aerial view of the watching brief site</i>	
Fig.1 Site location plan	1
Fig.2 Detailed location plan of the site	2
Fig.3 The site in relation to the underlying geology	3
Fig.4 Map showing the site in relation to relevant KHER entries	4
Fig.5 Detail from the 1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing 119: Addington	7
Fig.6 Extract from the 1895 Ordnance Survey showing the Broumfield Farmstead which the site once formed a part of	8
Fig.7 Extract from the 1963 OS plan TQ7254 & 7255, 1:1250 scale	9
Fig.8 Section 1, facing east, 0.60m scale	14
Fig.9 Section 1, west-facing	15
Fig.10 Site plan showing location of trenches observed and sections recorded in relation to the new development plot	16
Fig.11 Section 2, facing north, 0.60m scale	17
Fig.12 Section 2, south-facing	18
Fig.13 Section 3, east-facing, 0.80m scale	19
Fig.14 Section 3, east-facing	20
Fig.15 Strip footings for the proposed development, facing SW	21

Figs.1-4 reproduced from OS data with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO ©Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd, licence no. AL 100031317

Fig.10 adapted from survey drawings provided by the client. Original drawings by Robert Shreeve Associates Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a report detailing the findings of a recent archaeological watching brief carried out on the site of No.76 North Street, Barming, ME16 9HF, (fig.1).



Fig.1: Site location plan

1.2 The archaeological works were carried out as part of planning condition AR4 attached to application refs.16/501727/FULL/FLMA, for the demolition of the existing structure and the construction of a new dwelling.

1.3 The application was flagged by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team due to there having once been a small farm building on the site in the 19th century.

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 2.1 Compass Archaeology would like to thank Mark Canning for commissioning them to undertake the monitoring works and supporting the post-excavation process. Thanks also to the site contractors Martin Spencer, led by Robert Pearse, for helping arrange monitoring visits throughout the groundworks programme.

3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site lies on the east side of North Street, Barming, c55m south of the junction with Heath Road. The site is surrounded by the property Broumfield to the north, No.74 North Street to the south and No.153 Heath road to the east. Opposite the site, on the west side of North Street, are open arable fields.

The site was occupied by a single dwelling, more or less centrally within the plot, with a paved driveway to the front, and a rear garden laid to lawn.

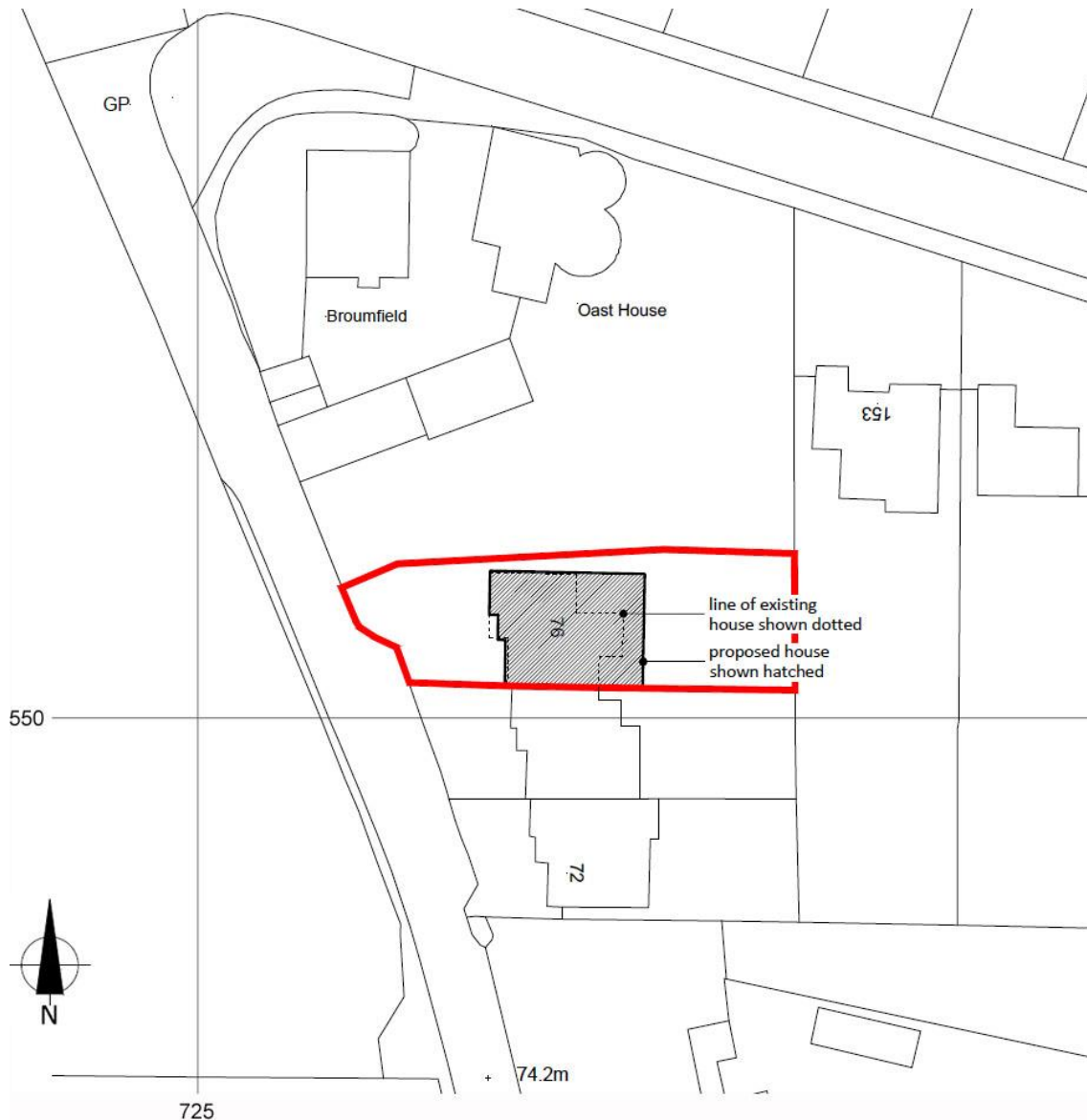


Fig.2: Detailed location plan of the site, (application area in red)

3.2 According to the British Geological Survey, Sheet 288: Maidstone the site overlies part of the Hythe Formation, an area of sand and silts with pebbly inclusions. To the south is a meandering corridor of Atherfield Clay Formation and Weald Clay Formation representing the course of the River Medway. A similar corridor lies 350m to the north, formed of a mixture of Sandgate Formation, Head and River Terrace Deposits.

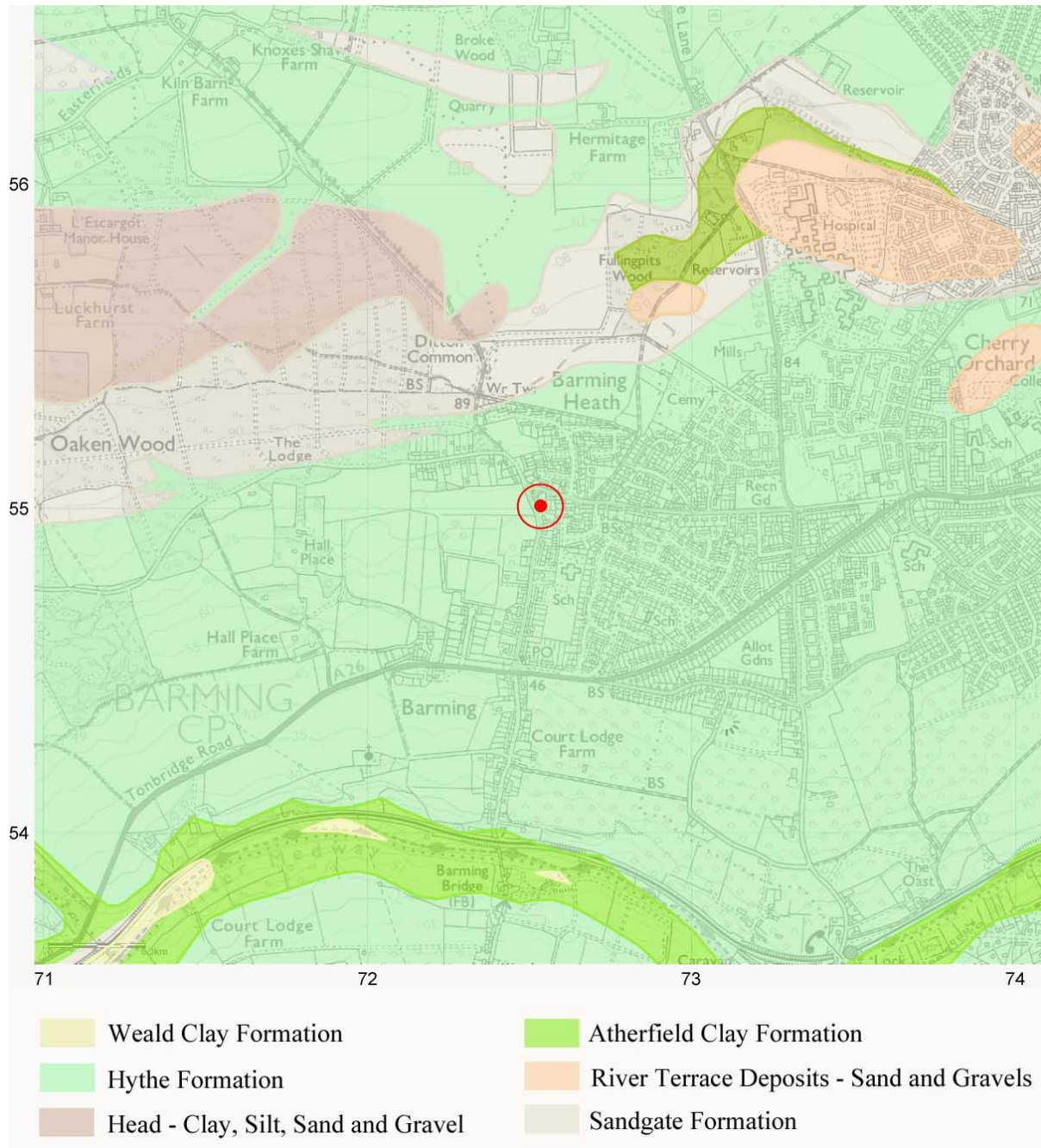


Fig.3: The site in relation to the underlying geology

3.3 The site lies on relatively level ground, with only a slight northwards slope from 75.92mOD in the centre of the southern boundary to 76.34mOD along the northern boundary.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A basic search of the Kent HER database was made for a radius of 250m around the site via <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/> and the following section is largely based upon this evidence. It returned a small number of results focussing on the 19th century development of the agricultural landscape, (see fig.4 and accompanying table below).

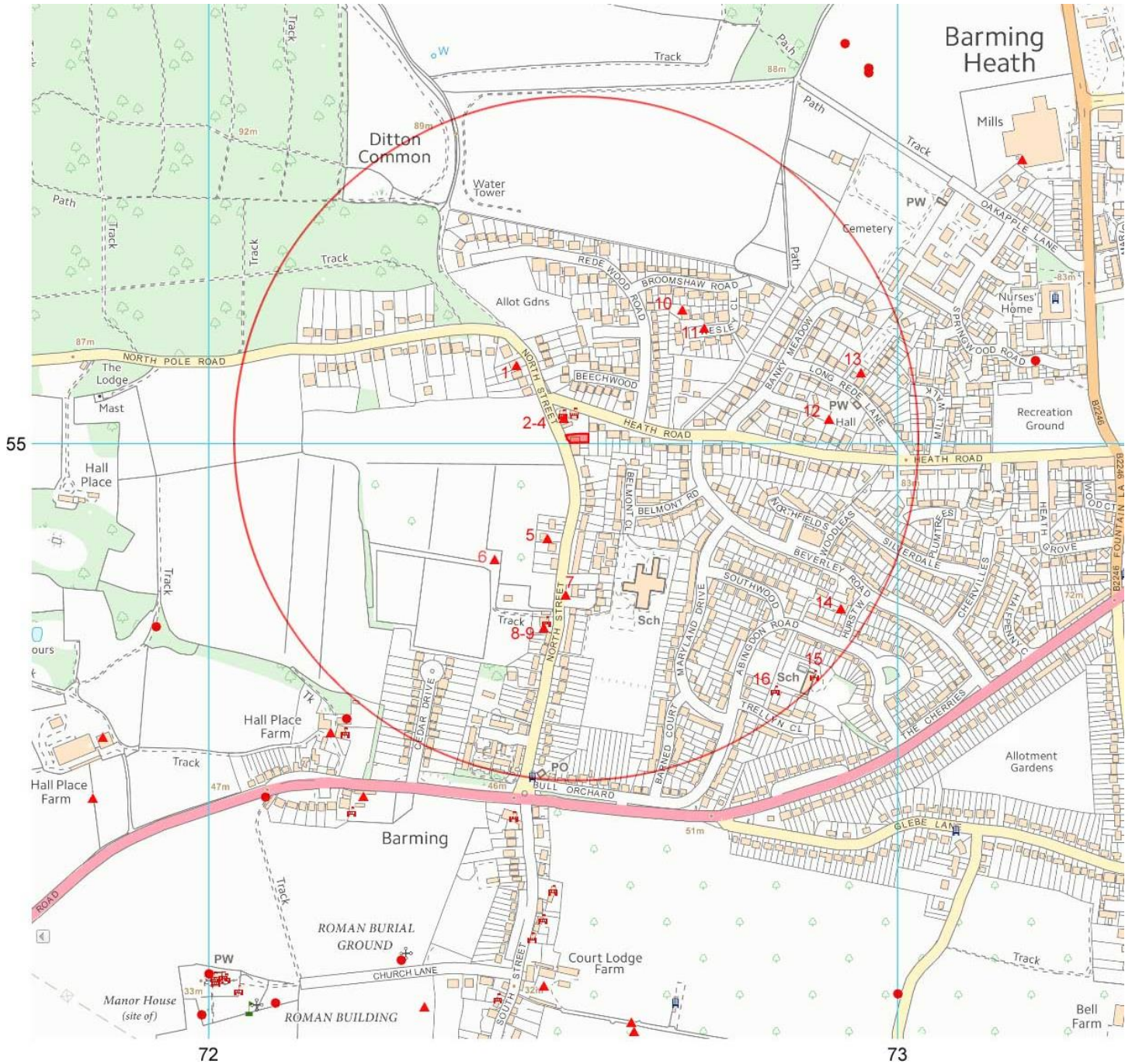


Fig.4: Map showing the site in relation to relevant KHER entries

No on fig.4	KHER ref.	TQ ref.	Description	Sources
1	MKE88588	7244 5511	Former site of an outfarm or field barn group consisting of two detached buildings. 19 th C. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
2	MKE84572	7251 5503	Broumfield. A dispersed plan farmstead of 19 th C origins	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
3	Listed building ref: 1344349	7253 5504	The Oast House, Heath Road, Barming. Grade II listed building. 19 th C building with 20 th C alterations.	Unpublished document: English Heritage, <i>List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest</i> , (Map)
4	Listed building ref: 1270256	7251 5504	Broumfield, North Street, Barming. Grade II listed farmhouse, early 19 th C (1800-1832). Formerly known as North House	Unpublished document: English Heritage, <i>List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest</i> , (Map)
5	MKE84575	7249 5486	Farmstead southwest of Broumfield. 19 th C. A regular courtyard farmstead with buildings to three sides of the yard incorporating an L-plan element. Only farmhouse survives	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
6	MKE88590	7241 5483	Site of a former outfarm with a loose courtyard plan with a building to one side of the yard. 19 th C. NW of St Cuthberts Cottage. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
7	MKE88589	7251 5478	Former site of an outfarm with a loose courtyard plan with a building to one side of the yard. 19 th C. NE of St Cuthberts Cottage. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
8	MKE84576	7248 5473	St Cuthberts Cottage and Bridge Cottage. A dispersed farmstead dating from the 17 th C. Less than 50% survival	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
9	Listed building ref: 1263800	7249 5474	St Cuthberts Cottage and Bridge Cottage. Grade II listed building. Possibly 16 th C, but with definite 17 th C rear wing. Timber framed, ground floor painted brick walls, upper floor rendered.	Unpublished document: English Heritage, <i>List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest</i> , (Map)
10	MKE88864	7268 5519	Site of an outfarm NW of Long Rede. 19 th C. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>

No on fig.4	KHER ref.	TQ ref.	Description	Sources
11	MKE84571	7271 5516	Former site of the Farmstead known as Long Rede. 19 th C. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
12	MKE84574	7290 5503	Site of an outfarm SE of Long Rede. 19 th C. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
13	MKE84573	7294 5510	Former site of a Farmstead SE of Long Rede. 19 th C. More than 50% demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
14	MKE88865	7291 5476	Former site of a loose courtyard plan. Farmstead with buildings to two sides of the yard. 19 th C. Since demolished	Unpublished document: Forum Heritage Services, (2012), <i>Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project</i>
15	Listed building ref: 1086294	7287 5466	Barming Place. An 18 th C Grade II* listed building. Built in 1733 as a 3 storey and basement house	Unpublished document: <i>OS Card / NAR index entry - OS 1:2500 1961</i>
16	Listed building ref: 1086249	7282 5464	The Gazebo. Grade II listed building at No.1 Tonbridge Road. 18 th C. 1 storey red brick, with hipped slate roof.	Unpublished document: English Heritage, <i>List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest</i> , (Map)

4.2 Prehistoric – Medieval

4.2.1 Due to Kent's proximity to the continent it has often been at the forefront of transitional trends such as the emergence of farming societies in the Neolithic period, however very little evidence of such activity has been identified within the immediate area of the site bar residual worked flints found in the topsoil during cultivation. Iron Age farming activity on a moderate scale has been more commonly found.

4.2.2 A Roman presence close to Barming has been confirmed on several occasions over the past 150 years¹ with villa sites being identified 900m southwest of the site near the Parish Church of St Margaret, 2.6km west in Teston, one 3.5km to the east in Maidstone, and another 2km to the south. Cemetery sites have also been identified 800m southwest associated with the villa site by St Margaret's, and just over 1km to the northeast of the site around Maidstone Hospital and Hermitage Farm. The immediate vicinity of the site itself was probably within the wider cultivated landscape surrounding these villas and associated cemeteries. If so then Roman remains would more likely be confined to residual pottery sherds or fragments of building material mixed with cultivation soils as fertiliser.

4.2.3 The site remained undeveloped into the medieval period, with East Barming forming one of several small villages surrounding the larger settlement of Maidstone. In 1086 Domesday records East Barming as being held of Richard, son of Count Gilbert and consisting of 5 villagers, 8 smallholders and 13 slaves, and holding enough land for 4 ploughlands, 4 acres

¹ See Archaeologia Cantiana Vols.10, 13, and 134

of meadow and woodland for 10 swine². Thus it was of a fairly modest size with no great wealth.

The Parish Church of St Margaret was originally built in 1120 close to the Manor House. However the settlement developed along the main north-south road leading to the river crossing of the Medway and the east-west road leading to Maidstone, in a linear fashion; a form it retained until the later 20th century.

4.3 Post-medieval

4.3.1 Therefore the study site has lain within a rural / agricultural landscape for much of history. The KHER entries returned largely refer to nearby Listed buildings associated with the farming industry and none of these date back before the 16th century, with the majority being of 19th century origin.

4.3.2 By the end of the 18th century the site formed part of a larger farmstead known as Broumfield, the farmhouse and oast houses of which still survive to the immediate north of the site, (KHER entries 2-4). On the 1797 Ordnance Survey drawings, (fig.5) the watching brief site can be seen to contain a long-fronted brick building, (indicated by the pink colouration), fronting the street, aligned N-S. The building was probably some form of barn, stable, or other ancillary. The 1896 OS map shows a central entrance to the building accessed directly off of North Road. The surrounding fields to the east and west of the building were shown as arable, cultivated ground.

4.3.3 The farm survived until the early-1960s and the same building survived within the plot until at least 1947, (the final OS map to show it), by 1963 the OS map shows an empty plot, (fig.7).



Fig.5: Detail from the 1797 Ordnance Survey Drawing 119: Addington with site ringed in red

² <http://opendomesday.org/place/TQ7254/east-barming/>

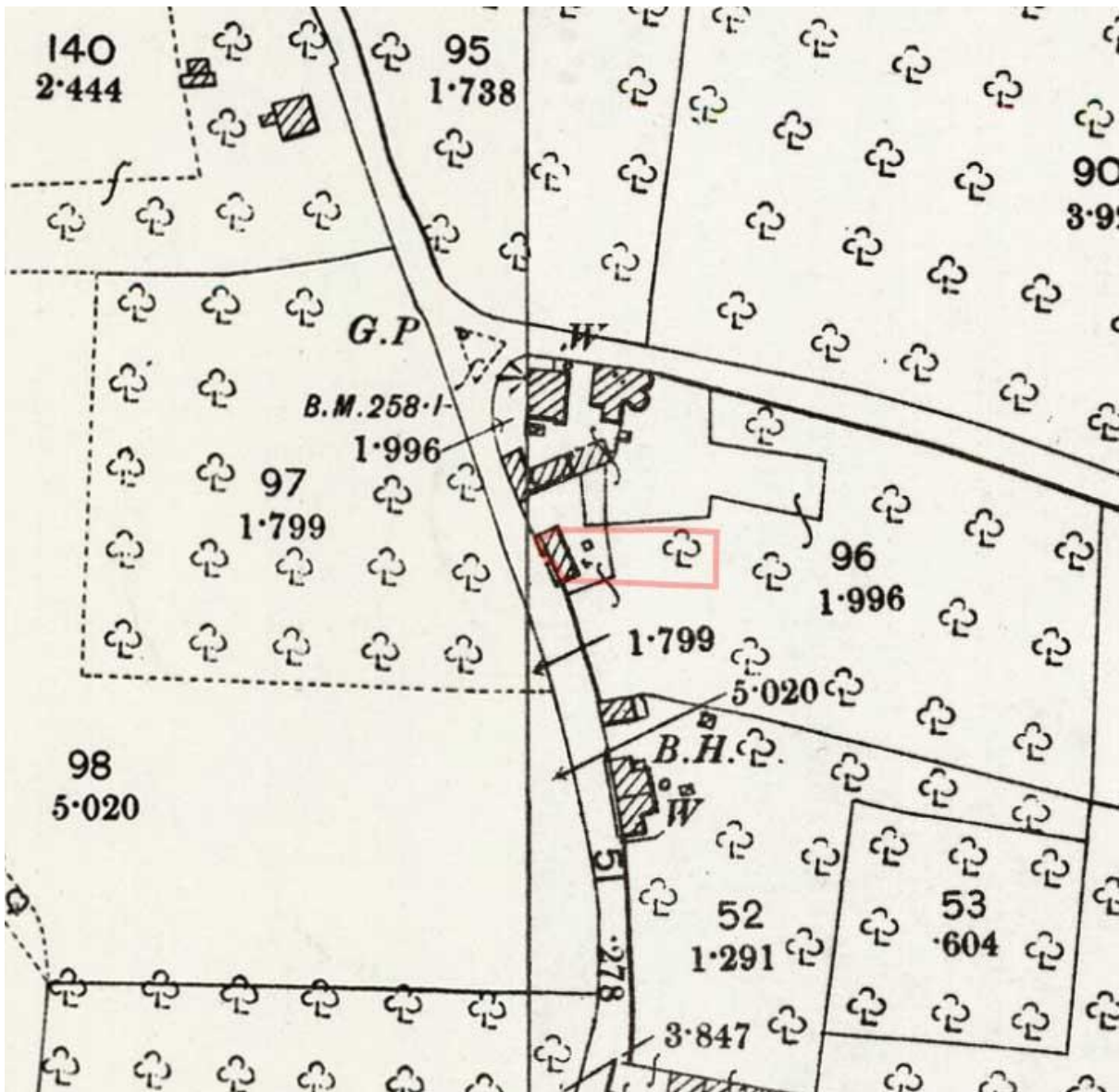


Fig.6: Extract from the 1895 Ordnance Survey showing the Broumfield Farmstead which the site once formed a part of

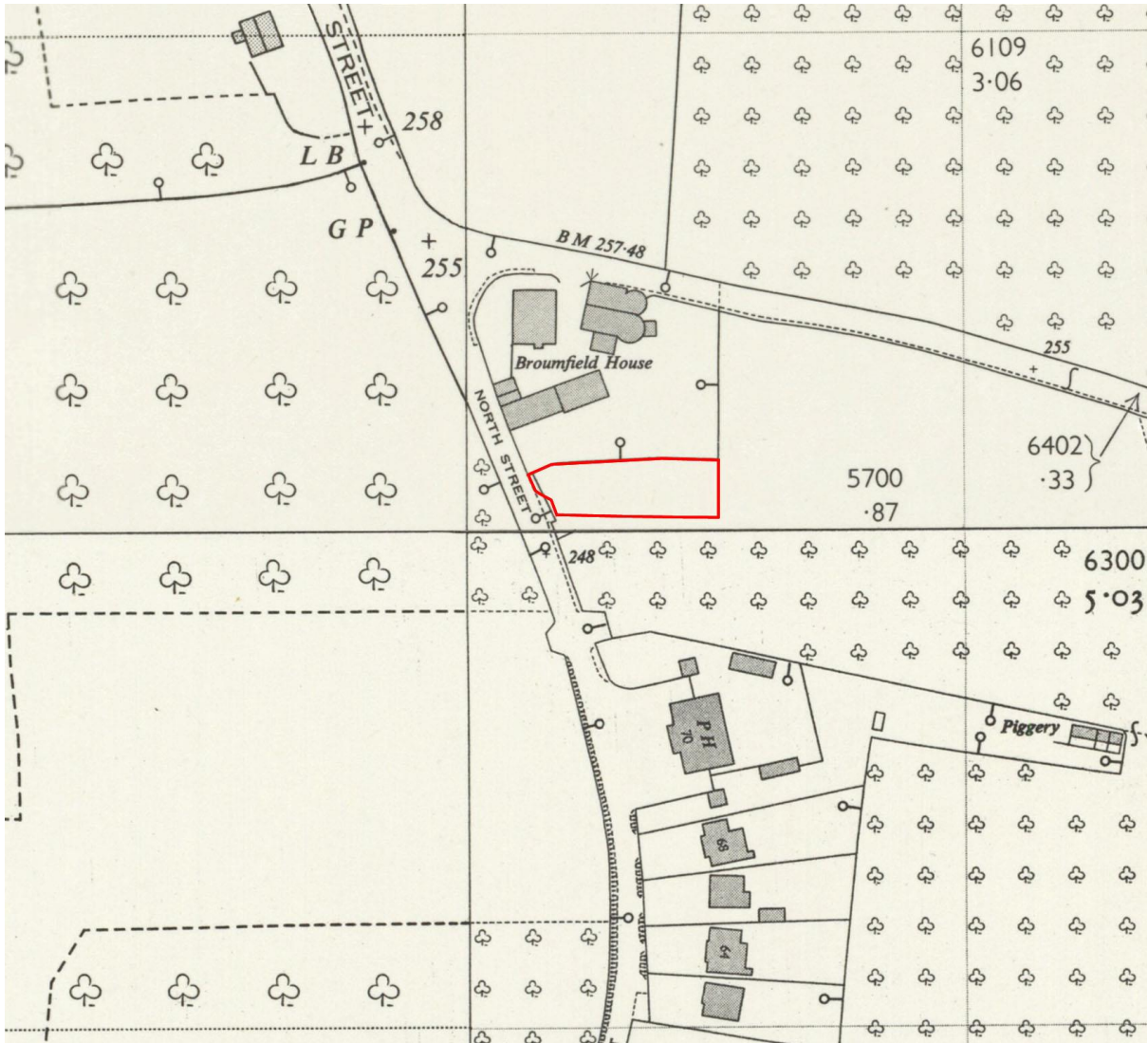


Fig.7: Extract from the 1963 OS plan TQ7254 & 7255, 1:1250 scale

5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The Government adopted the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), in March 2012, replacing PPS 5 ‘Planning for the Historic Environment’ and policies HE6 and HE7.

5.2 The NPPF integrates planning strategy on ‘heritage assets’ - bringing together all aspects of the historic environment, below and above ground, including historic buildings and structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and wrecks. The significance of heritage assets needs to be considered in the planning process, whether designated or not, and the settings of assets taken into account. NPPF requires using an integrated approach to establishing the overall significance of the heritage asset using evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values, to ensure that planning decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of significance.

5.3 In line with NPPF, this planning application was subjected to the following condition:

AR4 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded

5.4 The site does not contain any listed buildings, although the property known as Broumfield to the north is Grade II Listed. The site is not within a Conservation Area, or any Archaeological Priority Area, or close by any Scheduled Monuments.

5.5 The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity or associated features?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity? Could this be associated with the known features of the landscape of the period; villas, roads, cemeteries?
- Is there any evidence for medieval activity?
- What evidence is there for post medieval activity, and can any of this be related to the use of the site as a farmstead, specifically the former building on the front of the plot? Can these be related to cartographic sources?
- At what levels are any archaeological deposits, and also natural horizons, present across the site?

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Standards

6.1.1 The field and post-excavation work conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (CIfA, 2014a), *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

6.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) Cards, and were equipped with PPE as required. All members of the fieldwork team also followed contractors' health and safety guidelines.

6.2 Fieldwork

6.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was conducted over the course of two site visits on the 24th October and the 1st November 2016 to view the initial site strip and the subsequent excavation of several strip footings.

6.2.2 Where archaeological remains were exposed adequate time was allowed for investigation and recording, although every effort was made not to disrupt the contractor's programme.

6.2.3 Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and finds dating recovered.

6.2.4 Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan and section, at a scale of 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were taken across the site derived from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark.

6.2.5 The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography (24.7mp), in .jpeg and RAW formats.

6.2.6 The recording system used follows the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

6.2.7 The Client and Kent County Council's Archaeological Officer were advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

6.3 Post-excavation and report procedure

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

6.3.2 Finds and samples

6.3.2.1 Assessment of finds has been undertaken by appropriately qualified staff. Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate CIfA guidelines, (CIfA 2014b). Due to the nature and age of the finds these were discarded after an appropriate record was made.

6.3.3 Report procedure

6.3.3.1 The following report of the watching brief has been deemed commensurate with the results; but as a minimum stands as a sufficiently detailed report on the archaeological monitoring to serve both future research and inform future planning decisions taken on the site.

6.3.3.2 The report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including at a minimum a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has been appended using both the Kent County Historic Environment Record Report Form and OASIS Data Collection Form.

6.3.3.3 Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, Kent County Council's Archaeological Officer, and to the Local Studies Archive.

6.3.4 The site archive

6.3.4.1 Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive will be compiled in line with CIfA standards and guidance, (CIfA, 2014c), and will be deposited in a local archive under site code NST16. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the appropriate local museum

7 RESULTS

7.1 *The watching brief*

7.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was conducted over two site visits. On the 24th October 2016 a visit was made to observe the initial site strip of topsoil and involved the recording of Sections 1 and 2. On the 1st November 2016 a second visit was made to observe a collection of strip footings dug for the new development, and the recording of Section 3.

7.1.2 What follows is a written description of the observed stratigraphy and trenches as excavated, detailing observations made, accompanied by illustrative photographs to highlight key findings. Contexts are shown in the text in rounded brackets, (xxx), for deposits, and squared brackets, [xxx], for cut features. Contexts are prefixed with the section number in which they were observed; therefore (100) - (103) were present in Section 1, contexts (200) - (203) were observed in Section 2 and (300) – (305) were present in Section 3. This section should be read in conjunction with fig. 10 for location of observations, and figs. 8-9 and 11-15 for illustrated sections.

7.2 *Section 1, (fig.9)*

7.2.1 Section 1 was recorded in the southeast corner of the site close to the back of the proposed development. Weathered natural, (103), was exposed from 75.80mOD and comprised a mottled orange-brown firm sandy clay with scattered pebbles and stone fragments.

7.2.2 This was sealed below a buried brownish-grey soil, (102), containing pebbles and small fragments of stone. This soil represented the original ground surface pre-dating the 1960s development of the site and was seen to slope north to south, and produced the single pottery find from the site. This comprised two-conjoining pieces of blue and white transfer-printed earthenware saucer with an original diameter of approximately 160mm. The underside retained the manufacturer's trademark, including at the base the name 'COREA'. The maker is uncertain although this particular name can be related to patterns produced between the 1840s and early 20th century by the Davenport and Wedgwood factories. Within the same profile a single flake of light-orange tile weighing 9g and with a thickness less than 7.5mm. It has been tentatively suggested that it could have been Roman, but with such a small fragment it is difficult to confirm³.

7.2.3 To facilitate the construction of the existing property the ground had been raised and levelled out using a light to mid-brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles, stones and occasional CBM fragments, (101). The made-ground varied from c0.12m in the north and c0.26m in the south so the ground would have sloped considerably in the past. This made ground produced a fragment of a small moulded glass vessel, c45mm, formed as a double ring with vertical lines lightly embossed on the sides above. This was most likely part of a paste jar, dating to the earlier 20th century. (101) also produced a single plain knife handle in worked bone. The item was 90mm long and

³ Pers. Comm. Sue Pringle

had a cross-section $c17\text{mm} \times 9\text{mm}$ (tapering slightly towards the lower end). The handle retained a single rivet from top to bottom about halfway along its length, but otherwise there was no trace of metalwork. The item is presumably mass-produced and of later 19th – earlier 20th century date.

7.2.4 This in turn was sealed below the extant dark friable topsoil and turf, (100), 90mm thick.



Fig.8: Section 1, facing east, 0.60m scale

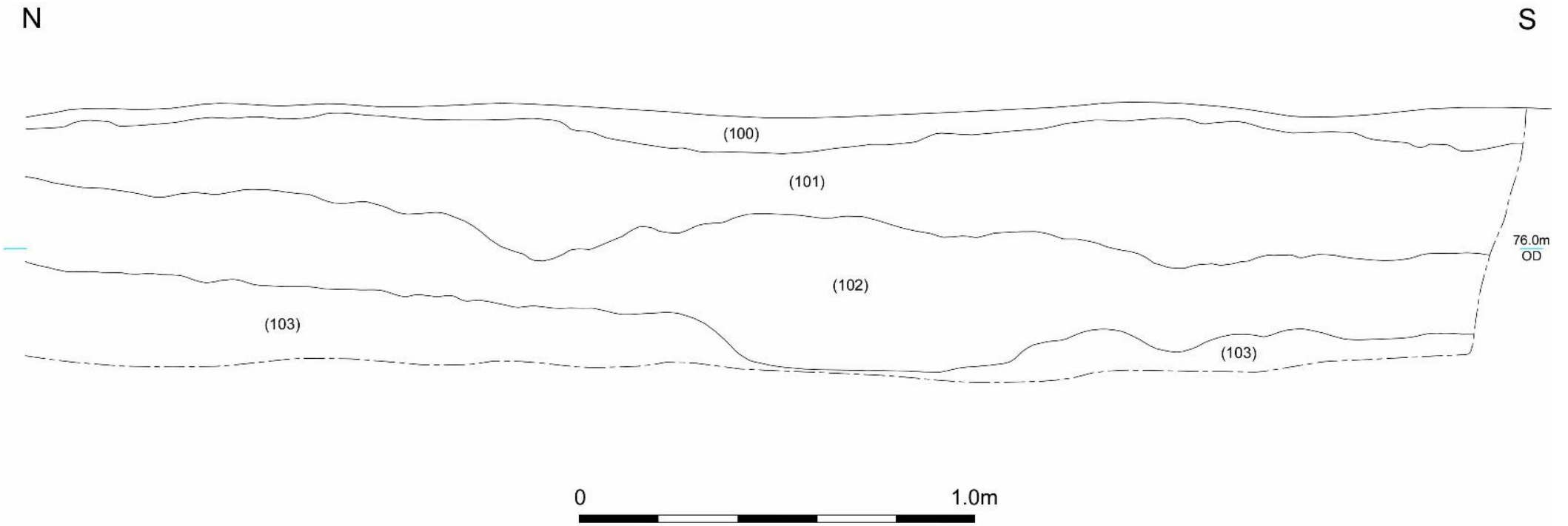


Fig.9: Section 1, west-facing

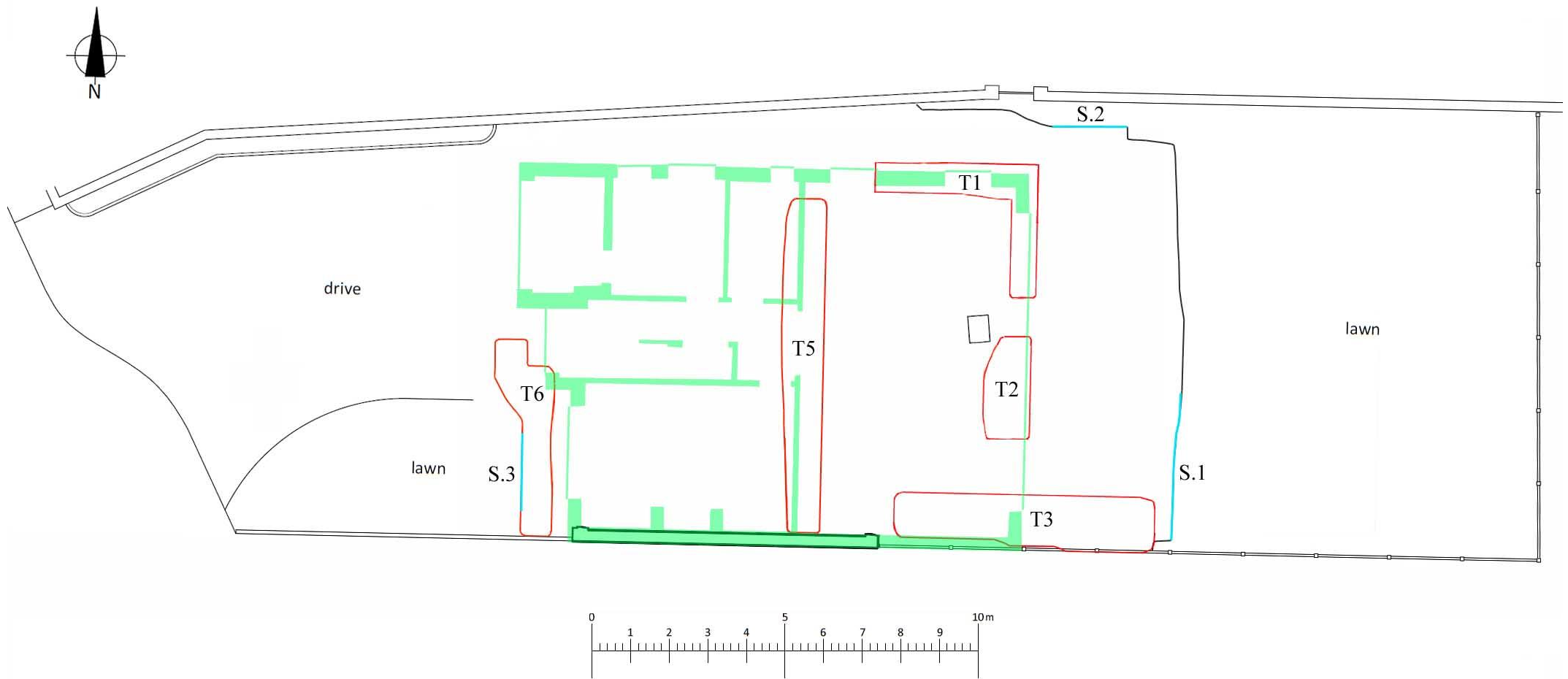


Fig.10: Site plan showing location of trenches observed, (red), and sections recorded, (blue), in relation to the new development plot, (green)

7.3 Section 2, (fig.12)

7.3.1 Section 2 was located in the northeast corner of the site, south-facing.

7.3.2 Natural, (203), clean and untouched, was exposed at 76.23mOD formed of firm, orange-brown silty-clay with lighter and more homogenous clay near the base of excavation at 75.45mOD. This was overlain by 0.24m of weathered natural, (202) similar to that observed in Section 1, and which produced a single small fragment of peg tile, probably dating from the 15th or 16th century.

7.3.3 As in Section 1 the natural was overlain by a buried soil profile, (201), a mixed brownish-grey sandy-silt with occasional pebbles, stones and a few CBM fragments. One such fragment was a piece of peg tile of 15th or 16th century date weighing 48g, and measuring 11-13mm thick. It was quite neatly made with sharp arrises, but with a relatively coarse fabric containing iron-rich inclusions with a narrow reduced core.

7.3.4 There was no made-ground overlying the truncated soil, representing the original ground surface and illustrating the fact that the ground sloped from this point down, so was used as the baseline for construction level. It was sealed below the concrete pavers of the rear patio with some sandy gravel bedding, (200).



Fig.11: Section 2, facing north, 0.60m scale

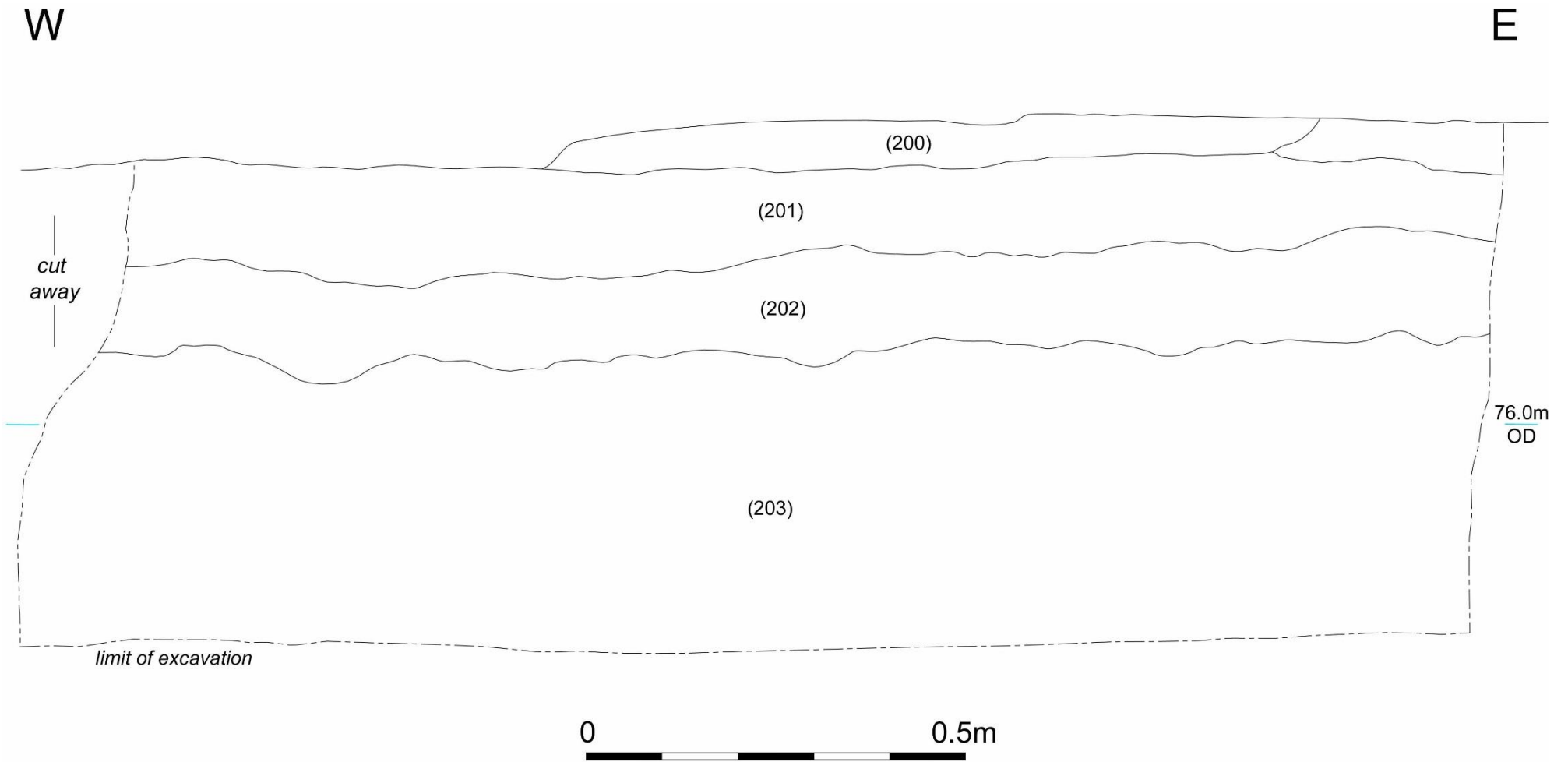


Fig.12: Section 2, south-facing

7.4 *Section 3, (fig.14)*

- 7.4.1** Section 3 was located in the south-west corner of the site close to the frontage of the former property.
- 7.4.2** Natural was observed from *c*1.15m below ground level, 74.97mOD, the deepest observed natural across the site. This natural was composed of fragmented stone in a matrix of pale yellowish / buff silt and fine stone fragments, (305). This was overlain by (304) a yellow-brown sandy-clay with occasional stone fragments, (also a natural deposit). This was in turn overlain by the re-worked natural, orange-brown sandy clay with occasional stone fragments and pebbles, (303).
- 7.4.3** Modern service cut [302] was observed in the centre of the section, filled by a mixed and loose mid-brown sandy-clay with some stone fragments, and was seen to cut through underlying deposits (303), (304) and (305), and undoubtedly dated to the construction of the property 76 North Street in the 1960s.
- 7.4.4** Service cut [302] and deposits (301) and (303) were sealed below the extant topsoil and turf; a dark-grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional small pebbles, (300).



Fig.13: *Section 3, east-facing, 0.80m scale*

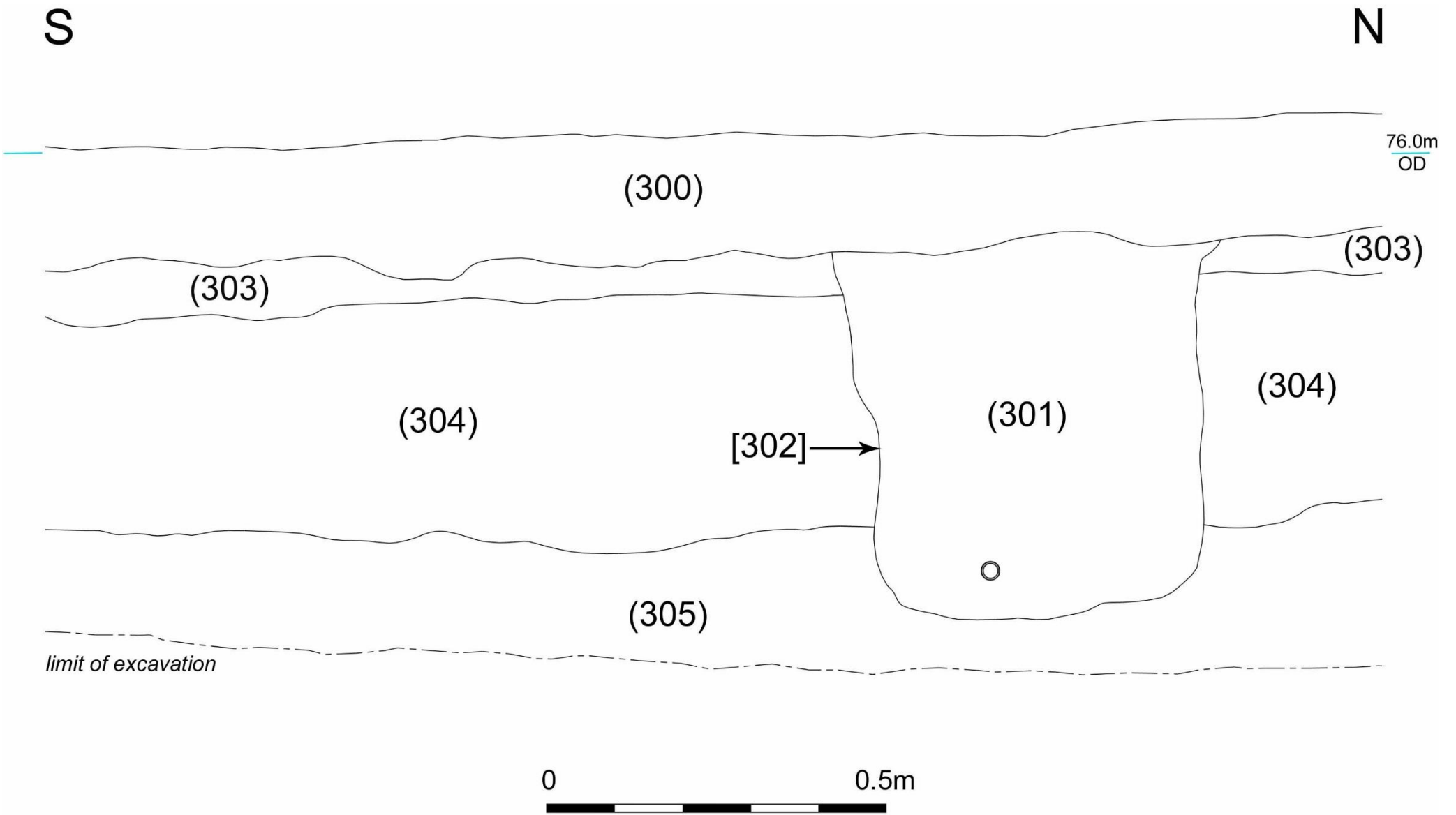


Fig.14: Section 3, east-facing

7.5 *Strip footings 1-5, (fig.15)*

7.5.1 On the 1st November 2016 a site visit was made to monitor the excavation of five strip footings:

- Trench 1 was an L-shaped trench in the northeast corner of the proposed development and measured 0.90m wide by 4.25m long and up to 0.85m deep in the northern arm and 0.90m wide by 2.50m long and up to 1.70m deep in the eastern arm.
- Trench 2 was south of Trench 1, centrally located along the eastern end of the new property, aligned N-S and measuring between 0.80m to 1.20m wide, 2.75m long and up to 1.60m deep.
- Trench 3 spanned the southern corner of the property and extended further to the east. It measured 1.10m to 1.50m wide, 7.25m long, and 2.35m deep at the eastern end, 1.90m in the centre and 1.30m at the west end. The trench was aligned E-W close against the southern side of the plot.
- Trench 4 was situated in the centre of the proposed property and extended from the southern edge of the plot and measured 9.25m long, up to 1.10m wide and between 0.90m and 1.05m deep.
- The final Trench, 5, was 0.60m to 0.80m wide, more so at the northern end, 5.50m long, and up to 0.85m deep. The trench was situated along the western frontage of the new property aligned N-S.



Fig.15: *Strip footings for the proposed development, facing SW*

7.5.2 The trenches were dug from formation level, and so the overlying topsoil and subsoil had largely been removed on the previous occasion. As such the trenches were not recorded in detail, but a photographic record was made. They exhibited the same stratigraphic sequences as observed in Sections 1 to 3

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The watching brief has proved successful in several ways; helping inform us as to the levels of natural ground across the site; the levels at which archaeological deposits survive; and some indications as to the nature of those deposits. We will now return to the research questions set out in section 5.5 and pass comment based upon the findings so far.

8.2 Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity or associated features?

No evidence of prehistoric activity was identified on site.

8.3 Is there any evidence of Roman activity? Could this be associated with the known features of the landscape of the period; villas, roads, cemeteries?

No evidence of Roman activity was observed in any form on site. The peg tile taken from Section 1 was little more than a flake and so its 'Roman' date is extremely tenuous.

8.4 Is there any evidence for medieval activity?

No evidence of medieval occupation or exploitation of the site was recorded on site.

8.5 What evidence is there for post medieval activity, and can any of this be related to the use of the site as a farmstead, specifically the former building on the front of the plot? Can these be related to cartographic sources?

Three fragments of early post-medieval peg tile and a single sherd of 19th century pottery were recovered from weathered natural and buried land surfaces across the site suggesting a certain level of ground disturbance on site in the latter part of the 20th century. The finds were not relatable to any specific function or focus on the site.

8.6 At what levels are any archaeological deposits, and also natural horizons, present across the site?

Archaeological deposits were limited to buried soil horizons with no cut features or structures observed on site. The level of the buried soil horizons varied across the site, but were recorded at a lower level in the south of the site, reflecting the natural topographic slope down to the Medway. Natural in the form of yellow-orangey-brown sandy-clay followed a similar trend and again reflected the wider topography.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 Written sources

Beamish, H, (2010), *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Oaken Wood, Ditton, Kent*, (Unpublished client report by Oxford Archaeology South)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a. *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b. *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014c. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Communities and Local Government, 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*

Grieg, I.M, (1998), *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of a site at Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent*, (Unpublished client report by Archaeology South-East)

Heritage Conservation Group, (Kent County Council), 2007. *South East Research Framework*

Heritage Conservation Group, (Kent County Council), 2016. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Payne, G, (1880), 'Roman Remains found at Chatham and at Barming', in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol.13

Roach Smith, C, (1876), 'On a Roman Villa Near Maidstone' in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol.10

Stevens, S et.al. (2014), 'Archaeological Investigations at Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Barming', in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Vol.134

Wessex Archaeology, (2013), *Land East of Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent: Heritage Statement*

9.2 Cartographic sources

Ordnance Surveyors Drawings, *Sheet 119: Addington* (1797)

Ordnance Survey, *Kent Sheet XLII*, (surveyed 1865-67, published 1870)

Ordnance Survey, *Kent Sheet XLII.6*, (revised 1895-96, published 1898)

Ordnance Survey, *Kent Sheet XLII.NW*, (revised 1938, published 1946)

Ordnance Survey, *TQ 7255-7355 and TQ7254-7354, 1:1250 scale*, (surveyed 1956-61, published 1963)

APPENDIX I Kent Historic Environment Record Report Form

Site Name: 76 North Street, Barming	
Site Address: 76 North Street, Barming, Maidstone, ME16 9HF	
<p>Summary: An archaeological watching brief conducted during the initial site strip and subsequent excavation of strip footings for a new residential development. The natural geology was overlain by a buried soil of 19th century or earlier date as indicated by the presence of blue-and-white transfer-printed ware and some earlier 16th century peg tile. This buried soil was overlain by varying degrees of made ground dating from construction of the extant property in the 1960s; a greater depth observed in the south of the site, shallower in the north. This reflects the natural topography of the area as it slopes south towards the Medway.</p>	
District/Unitary: Maidstone	Parish: Barming
Period(s): Post—medieval, (16 th century +)	
NGR: TQ 72535 55008	
Type of archaeological work Archaeological watching brief	
Date of Recording: 24 th October to the 11 th November 2016	
Unit undertaking recording: Compass Archaeology Ltd	
Geology: Orangey-brown sandy-clay	
Title and author of accompanying report: 76 North Street, Barming, Maidstone, ME16 9HF: An Archaeological Watching Brief – James Aaronson	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief conducted during the initial site strip and subsequent excavation of strip footings for a new residential development. The natural geology was overlain by a buried soil of 19th century or earlier date as indicated by the presence of blue-and-white transfer-printed ware and some earlier 16th century peg tile. This buried soil was overlain by varying degrees of made ground dating from construction of the extant property in the 1960s; a greater depth observed in the south of the site, shallower in the north. This reflects the natural topography of the area as it slopes south towards the Medway.</p>	
Location of archive/finds: Compass Archaeology Ltd	
Contact at Unit: Geoff Potter	Date: 30 th August 2017

APPENDIX II OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-294328

Project details

Project name	76 North Street, barming, Kent: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief conducted during the initial site strip and subsequent excavation of strip footings for a new residential development. The natural geology was overlain by a buried soil of 19th century or earlier date as indicated by the presence of blue-and-white transfer-printed ware and some earlier 16th century peg tile. This buried soil was overlain by varying degrees of made ground dating from construction of the extant property in the 1960s; a greater depth observed in the south of the site, shallower in the north. This reflects the natural topography of the area as it slopes south towards the Medway.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2016 End: 01-11-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NST16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	kent062 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/501727/ful/flma - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BURIED SOIL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE BARMING 76 North Street
Postcode	ME16 9HF
Study area	430 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 72535 55008 51.267517225125 0.473483950711 51 16 03 N 000 28 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 74.97m Max: 76.23m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	76 NORTH STREET, BARMING, KENT, ME16 9HF: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, London, SW11 3SJ
Description	Summary report of the watching brief, including development background, historic and archaeological background, fieldwork methodology and fieldwork observations made, conclusions and appended Kent HER report form. Accompanied by relevant site plans, historic maps and illustrative photographs.