

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM & BENTLIF ART GALLERY

EAST WING DEVELOPMENT

ST FAITH'S STREET

MAIDSTONE,

KENT ME14 1LH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



May 2008

COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM & BENTLIF ART GALLERY

EAST WING DEVELOPMENT
ST FAITH'S STREET
MAIDSTONE ME14 1LH

KENT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: MMM 08

SITE CENTRE NGR: 575926 156012

PLANNING REFERENCES: MA/07/1365

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

5-7 Southwark Street

London SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660

Facsimile: 020 7403 9661

e-mail: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

May 2008

© Compass Archaeology Limited

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief took place on the site of the proposed East Wing development of Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH, Kent on 16th to 18th April 2008 and 7th to 9th May 2008. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on geotechnical groundworks in the form of five small test pits located across the redevelopment area.

The watching brief was carried out as part of the planning process prior to a proposed redevelopment of the site for the new East Wing development. The site lies within an area of known archaeological importance and has the potential to contain archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period. It is also possible that previously unrecorded finds and features relating to the medieval manor house of Chillingdon Manor that has stood on the site since the fourteenth century, may survive in the redevelopment area.

All exposed deposits and strata were recorded and photographed, but no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in the small areas monitored. It remains possible that archaeological deposits and finds may survive across the rest of the redevelopment area.

Contents		page
1	Introduction	1
2	Acknowledgements	2
3	The Planning background	2
4	The archaeological background	4
	4.1 Geology and topography	4
	4.2 Archaeological potential	4
	4.3 Constraints on archaeological monitoring	6
5.	Objectives of the watching brief	9
	5.1 Watching brief methodology	10
6	Recording	11
7	Geotechnical test pits	12
8	Conclusions	24
Appendices		
I	Kent Fieldwork notification Form	25
II	OASIS Report Form	26

Figures page

Front cover: Maidstone Museum archive drawing of Chillingdon Manor, 1795. © Maidstone Museum.

1	Site location in relation to the 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map	1
2	Location of the Watching Brief test pits	3
3	Extract from 1867 OS map series	5
4	The 1870's Gatehouse	6
5	Archive photographs	7
6	Current views of the 1974 Security Store	7
7-8	Archive photographs	8
9-10	General views of TP 1	9-12
11	Section drawing TP 1	13
12-13	General views of TP 2	14
14	Section drawing TP 2	15
15	General views of TP 3	16
16	Section drawing TP 3	17
17-19	General views of TP 4	18-19
20	Section drawing TP 4	20
21-23	General views of TP 5	21-22
24	Section drawing TP 5	23

1. Introduction

An archaeological watching brief of geotechnical test pits took place on the site of the proposed East Wing development of Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent (NGR 575926 156012). Compass Archaeology carried out the watching brief fieldwork between the 16th and 18th April 2008 and between the 7th and 8th May 2008. Maidstone Borough Council commissioned the archaeological watching brief.

The site is located at the eastern end of Maidstone Museum (the East Wing) on St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent. The museum is located within the centre of modern-day Maidstone adjacent to Brenchley Gardens Public Park.

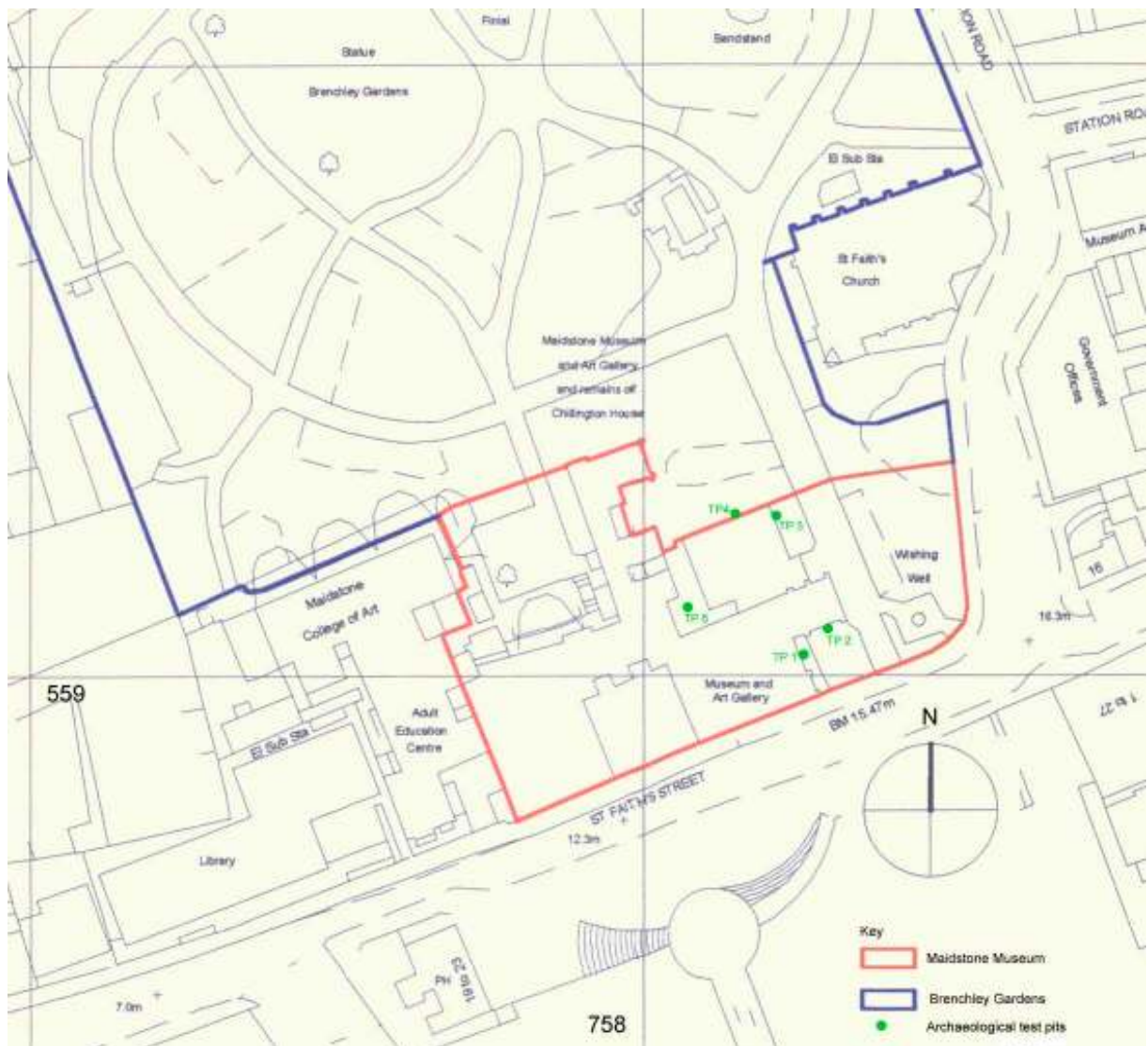


Figure 1: Site location, showing the geotechnical trial pits marked in green in relation to the current Ordnance Survey map.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey data with permission of the HMSO. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. *Compass Archaeology Ltd., London SE1 1SG, licence no.AL 100031317.*

2 . Acknowledgements

Compass Archaeology is grateful to Maidstone Borough Council for commissioning the archaeological watching brief and to the following individuals:

Adam Single, Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council
Kevin Brice and the staff of Maidstone Museum
Gianluca Rendina, Hugh Broughton Architects Ltd.
Anthony Tomlin, Maidstone Architects Consultancy
Adrian Hollamby and the staff of Steadline Ltd.

3 The planning background

A planning application and application for Listed Building consent (planning reference number MA/07/1365) has been submitted for the redevelopment of Maidstone Museum East Wing, comprising of internal refurbishment, new two/three storey extension and glazed atrium café. As part of the pre-development works the applicant proposed to excavate five geotechnical test-pits around the exterior of the existing building to expose the structures footings.

Planning consent was granted on 20th September 2007 with a condition referring to archaeological matters as follows:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of (i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and (ii) following on from the evaluation, and safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further investigation and recording in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The requirements for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the excavation of the test-pits were set out in two specifications prepared by Adam Single of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council. Further specification(s) will be issued for any additional archaeological work required at the site.

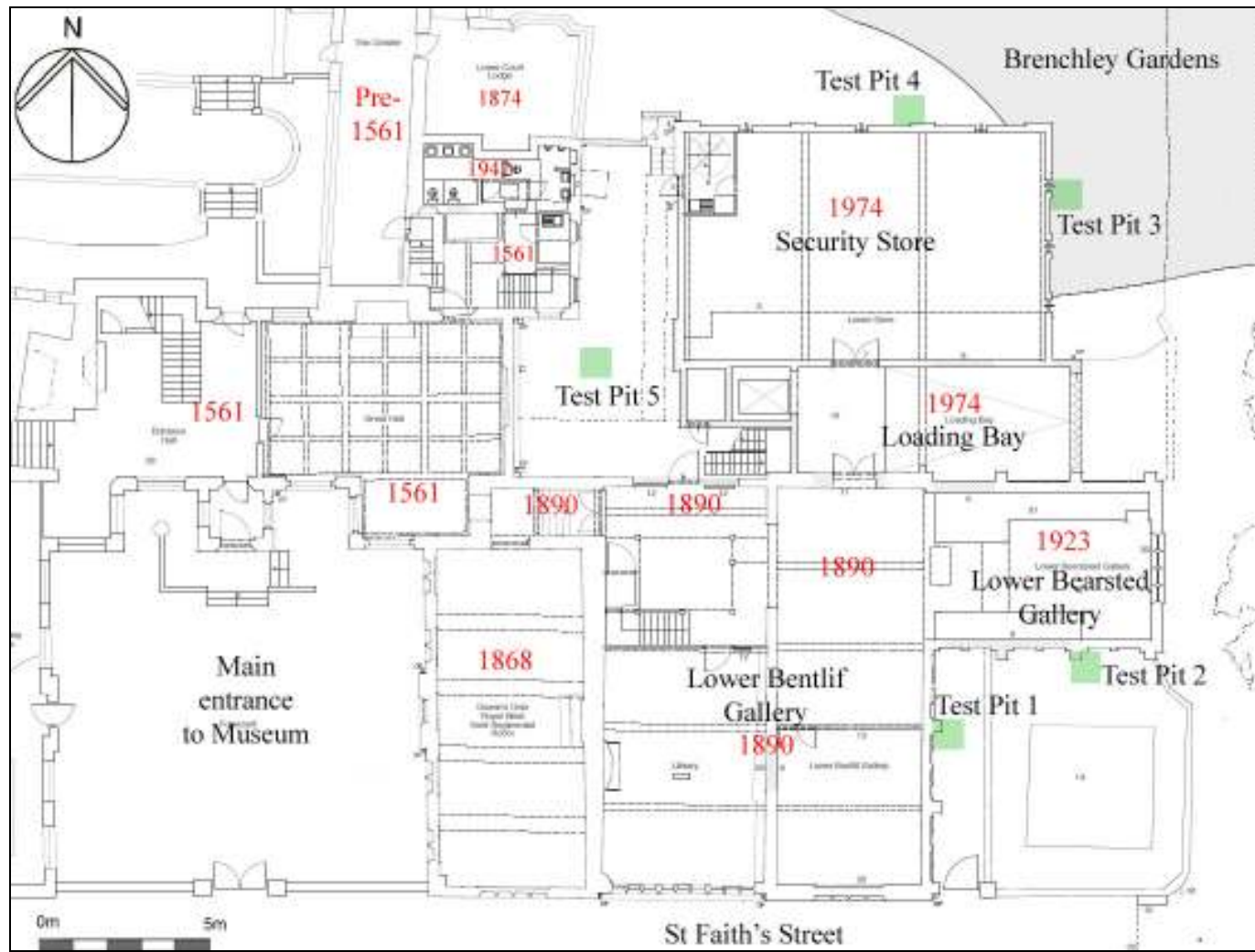


Figure 2 Site location plan showing the locations of the geotechnical test pits 1 to 5 (green) in relation to the historical elements of the buildings (dating phases shown in red). TPs 3 and 4 were enlarged by machine on the 7th and 8th April 2008, as it was necessary to dig to a greater depth to confirm the depth of the foundations of the 1974 Security Store building.

4. The Archaeological Background

4.1 Geology and topography

The Museum site lies on gently sloping land that falls to the south from the higher ground at St Faith's Church. The line of St Faith's Street also follows a gentle slope down to the west towards the River Medway. According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, the site lies on Atherfield Clay. It was considered that the site had potential for archaeological remains, particularly those of Roman date for which there are a number of local references. In later periods the area appears to have lain within open arable land, and certainly appears as such on 19th century maps. Areas of the site were also occupied by Victorian tenements, prior to the foundation of Brenchley Gardens (*c.f.* Figure 3).

4.2 Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER).

Roman remains are recorded around the museum and may relate to the series of villa estates overlooking the Medway in this area, along with cemeteries serving them where the town currently stands. Roman burials were found some 125m to the south-west during the Fremlins Walk re-development (Kent HER number TQ 75 NE 32). A number of Roman urns were recorded from works during the early and mid nineteenth centuries on St Faith's Street (TQ 75 NE 31) and also nearby on Week Street which follows the route of a Roman road. Roman pottery has been found in Brenchley Gardens to the north (TQ 75 NE 64).

Brenchley Gardens date from 1871 and were formerly the gardens of Chillington Manor or Chillington House (see below). Slum cottages in Bone Alley (off Week Street) and other properties in St Faith's Street were cleared away to form the gardens (*c.f.* Figure 3). St Faith's Church was built in 1871-81 and occupies the site of a medieval church first recorded in 1268, but probably in existence prior to 1200. The church would probably have marked the northern limit of the 13th century town of Maidstone.

The central core of the current Museum buildings consists of Chillington Manor, an Elizabethan manor house built by Nicholas Barham in 1562 and prior to this it is believed that earlier buildings occupied the site. The Great Hall and the Withdrawing Room date from sometime around 1562 but the Cloisters and Long Gallery (restored around 1870) are survivals from an earlier Tudor building. Between 1698 and 1743 a substantial wing was added to the rear of the Elizabethan building. This was the building that was bequeathed to the town by Thomas Charles, a surgeon and antiquarian, in 1855. Three years later Maidstone Museum and Library was opened, its first curator being Charles' close friend, Edward Pretty. The building was extensively restored in 1875¹.

¹ This information and the following two paragraphs are extracted from text provided by Maidstone Museum and repeated in the Museum's Conservation Management Plan.

On the eastern side a new wing was added in 1869 and extended in 1889 to accommodate the Bentlif Art Gallery. This was funded by Samuel Bentlif in honour of his brother George (he also donated over 200 hundred paintings), and was enlarged again in 1924. On the western side a new wing, made possible by donations from Julius Brenchley, was built 1873. The Victoria Gallery, housing the town's library, was built between 1897 and 1899 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1977 a fire damaged much of the upper floors in the West Wing and 18th century extension.

Post-medieval remains connected with the Elizabethan house that now contains the museum (TQ 75 NE 39) or the nearby St Faith's church also had the potential to be present on the site. Recent utilities work 70m north-east uncovered human remains just below the modern ground surface².

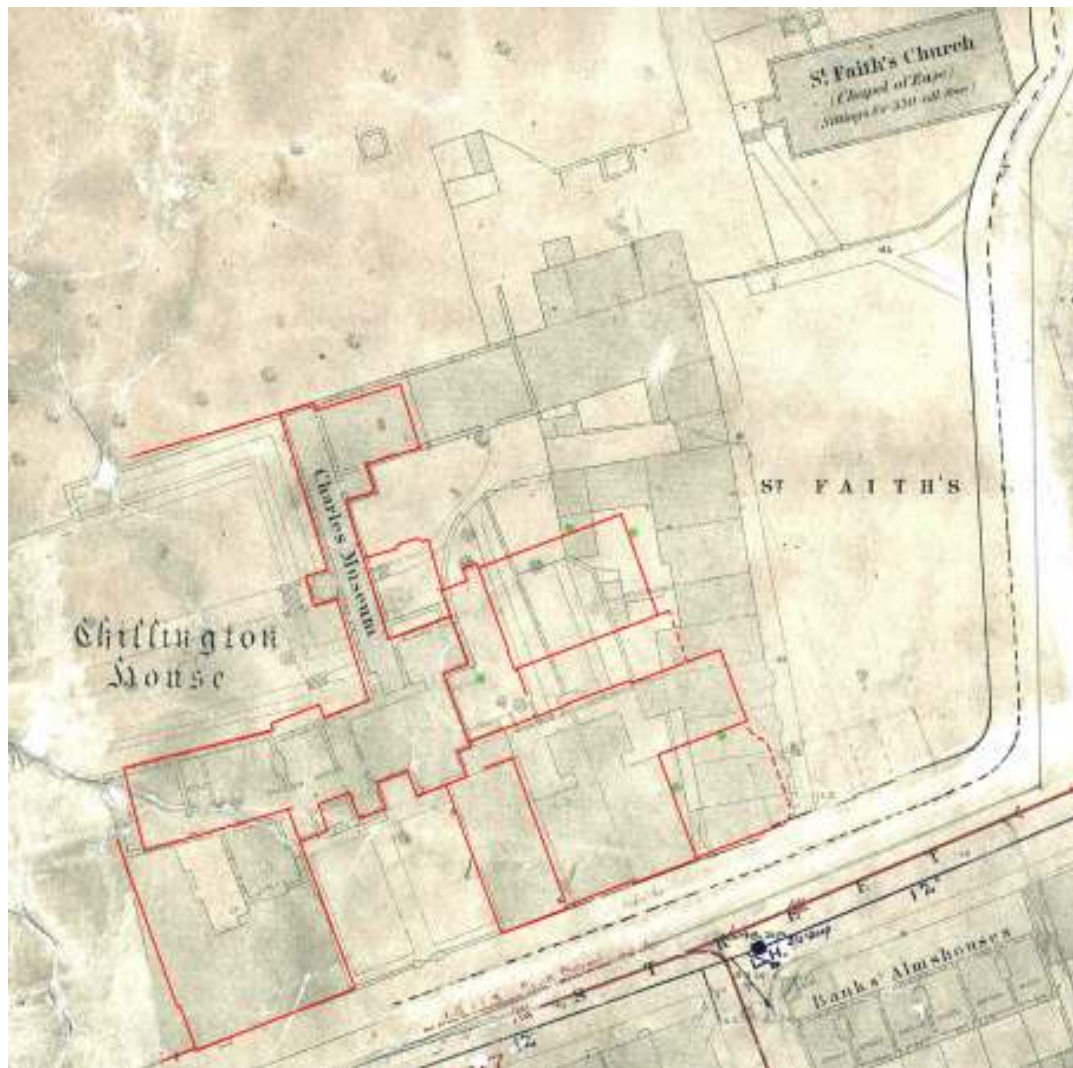


Fig 3 Extract from the 1867 Ordnance Survey series. The red lines show the current layout of the modern buildings and the green dots are the Test Pit locations overlain onto the Victorian tenements. These fronted onto St Faith's Green to the east and St Faith's Street to the south and extending west to the 1868 Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental Room, completed 1868³.

² Further information on the above is provided in the Kent Historic Environment Record held in the Planning Department, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX

³ Compass is grateful to Anthony Tomlin for providing a copy of this 19th century map.

4.3 Constraints on the archaeological monitoring

Test Pits 1 and 2

The general area of TP 1 had obviously been significantly truncated by 19th century levelling works for the construction of the Lower Bentlif Gallery (1890). The St Faith's Street frontage is noticeably lower than the majority of the other test pits with TP 1 encountering natural clay at +14.57m OD, compared to TP 3 where natural was encountered at 16.49m OD and TP 4 at 16.30m OD (natural clay was not reached in TP 2). A similar height for natural was encountered in TP 5 inside the Godiva Courtyard at 14.55m OD. These levels indicate that in the general area of the museum complex of buildings the natural hillside and slope down to the river has been truncated to the east and north to form a level construction surface at around 14.5m OD, which appears to be the approximate height of the 16th century ground surface.

It was anticipated that the areas of Test Pits 1 and 2 would have been severely disturbed by WWII bombing, as it was known that the 1870s Gatehouse (Figure 4) was badly damaged during the war and had to be demolished. The evidence from TP 2 does suggest that the area had been completely remodelled since the construction of the Lower Bearsted Gallery in 1923 and the levelling of the area after the demolition of the Gatehouse. In TP 2 masonry blocks, most probably originating from the Gatehouse, were discovered lining the northern edge of the test pit at a depth of c 200mm below the current ground surface (+15.35m OD, *c.f.* Figures 5, 12 and 13).

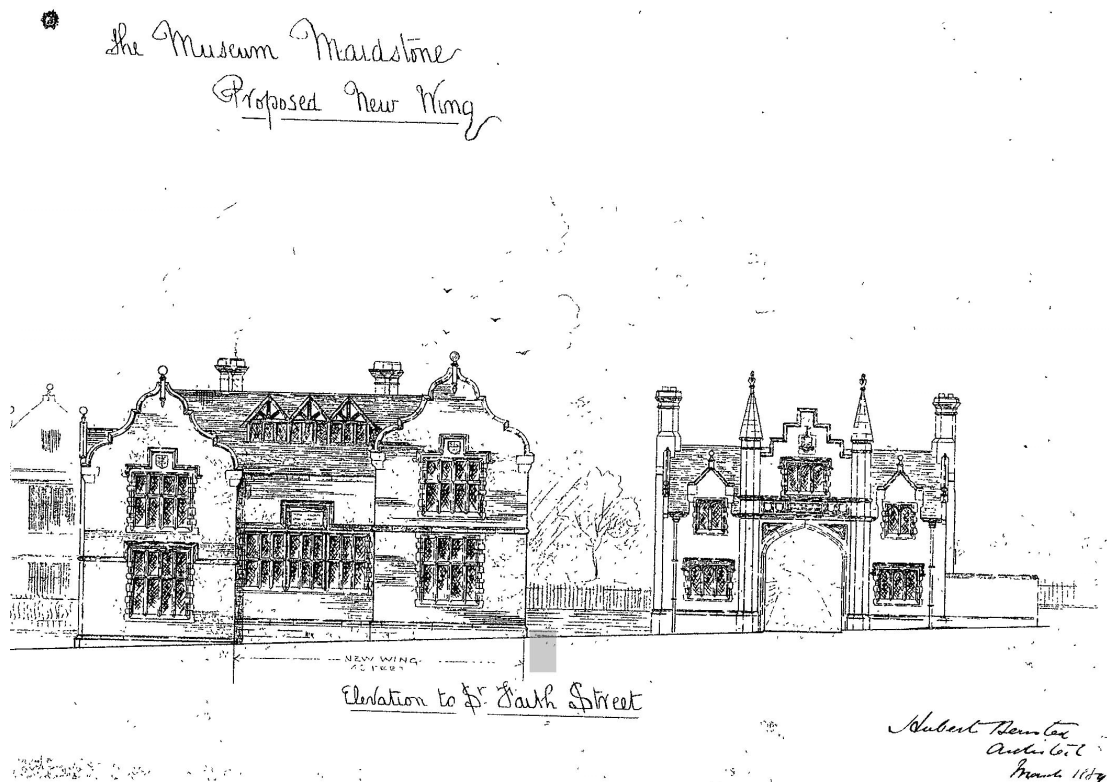


Fig 4 Illustration dated 1889 showing the relationship of the 1890 Lower Bentlif Gallery (annotated New Wing) and the now demolished 1870's Gatehouse (right), the small rectangle marked in grey shows the approximate location of TP 1 (obviously set back 6m from the street frontage). © Maidstone Museum.

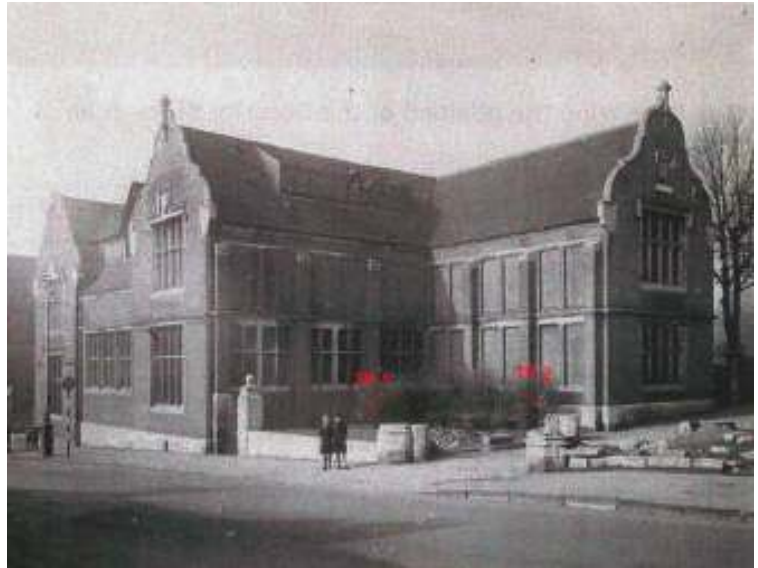


Fig 5 Left: Museum archive photograph of the Gatehouse after bombing in 1940-41, and, Right: after demolition (later 1940s) with the locations of TPs 1 and 2 marked; masonry blocks similar to those discovered in TP 2 can be seen lying to the right of the image. © Maidstone Museum.

Test Pits 3 and 4

The general areas of TP 3 and 4 have obviously also been truncated by levelling works for the construction of the 1974 Security Store and loading dock building. This is evident from archive photographs of the store area prior to the 1974 construction (*c.f* Figures 7 and 8) in comparison with photographs after the store is in place (Figure 6). The store building was the first significant extension to the Museum to be built in the 'Modern Style'. It uses complimentary materials of ragstone and red brick, although this extension uses an English Garden Wall bond and the Victorian buildings are all in a Flemish bond. The store was designed by the local architect, Dennis Darbison, and although a modern extension it does balance with the earlier buildings, but also unfortunately blocks views of the most historic parts of the building (dating from 1561) that are evident behind the store in the Godiva Courtyard.



Fig 6 (left and right) Views of the 1974 Security Store and the locations of TP 3 and 4 (*c.f*. Fig 2). Left: pre-excavation of TP 3 and 4 and Right: post-excavation of TP 3 and 4 (under orange covers). The image on the right shows how the ground slopes down to the store and the natural line of the slope has been truncated (*c.f* Figs 7 and 8 below).



Fig 7 Image of the Security Store area pre-1974, showing the original (but apparently somewhat artificially mounded) topography of the area in contrast to the truncation following the construction of the store (*c.f.* Fig 6 above). However, the line of the roadway still remains roughly the same. © Maidstone Museum.



Fig 8 Additional images of the areas of TP 3 and 4 pre-1974, showing how the natural slope has been truncated. © Maidstone Museum.

Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 promised the most potential for the preservation of archaeological remains and potentially those associated with the evolution of the historic buildings on the site. Unfortunately, TP 5 did not produce any archaeological features or finds and had been slightly truncated to the east by the cut and fills of a modern drain.



Fig 9 View of TP 5 looking south towards the north wall of the 1890 Lower Bentlif Gallery (where it extends west behind the 1868 gable end of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental Room). Natural clay can be seen surviving below the gravel covering of the Godiva Courtyard at +14.75m OD.

5. Objectives of the watching brief

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the test-pits⁴.

The groundworks comprised the excavation of five test-pits for geotechnical purposes around the outside of the present museum buildings in order to expose their foundation depths. The location and extent of the test-pits is shown on Figure 2.

⁴ Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council 'Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Maidstone Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ' October 2007.

5.1. Watching Brief methodology

The *Written Scheme of Investigation* was produced and agreed prior to the fieldwork. The Watching Brief was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (including *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*, 1998) and those of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Field Watching Briefs*).

Compass Archaeology monitored all the five excavations for the geotechnical groundworks. Excavation was undertaken by hand with the groundworks contractors' Steadline Ltd working under close archaeological supervision. All soil horizons were inspected and recorded prior to disturbance.

No archaeological structures or features were revealed in any of the test pits, but all the TPs were recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to requirements of the Kent specification. The contractors allowed full access and reasonable time and resources to undertake the inspection and recording required. All groundworks were monitored and Compass Archaeology was in attendance for the duration of the excavations.

Although no significant remains were encountered Compass Archaeology informed the County Archaeological Officer of the work taking place on site and all the test pits were inspected by Adam Single on Friday 18th April 2008.

The watching Brief comprised five trial test pits located within the area of the proposed development. Each test pit measured approximately 1m x 1m in plan. TPs 3 and 4 were extended to measure 2m x 2m in plan by machine excavation on the 7th and 8th May 2008 as the foundations for the Security Store extended too deep for hand excavation techniques. A small rubber tracked machine was used for these further works. No archaeological finds or features were revealed.

6. Recording

All structures, deposits and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards. All recording points used were accurately tied into the National Grid and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area (see Fig 1).

The deposits exposed in the watching brief were primarily recorded on scaled plans, supplemented by photography.

Levels taken during the watching brief were derived from an OSBM on the south face of the Lower Bentlif Gallery, value +15.47m OD. Several TBMs were established for the watching brief: for TPs 1 and 2 on the stonework windows at +16.97m OD; for TPs 3 and 4 on the window ledges of the security store value +16.69m OD and for TP 5 on the top of the brick wall in the Godiva Courtyard value +18.24m OD.

The watching brief test pit positions were located onto the existing site plan by taped measurement. These were in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey grid derived from the 1:1250 plan.

The OS coordinates to nearest metre for the local Watching Brief test pit grid (Fig 3) are as follows:

Test pit 1 - centre point NGR 575920 156002
Test pit 2 - centre point NGR 575914 156009
Test pit 3 - centre point NGR 575924 156022
Test pit 4 - centre point NGR 595914 156018
Test pit 5 - centre point NGR 575910 156012

The records from the Watching Brief have been allocated the site code: MMM 08 by Compass Archaeology. An ordered and indexed site archive will be compiled in line with the requirements of the brief and will be deposited in an appropriate archive repository.

Plans indicating the location of all test pits encountered were drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD. An overall site plan was maintained at a scale of 1:100. All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

No archaeological contexts were recorded individually, but each trial pit was recorded on an individual trench sheet and each trial pit was drawn in section at a scale of 1:10.

A full photographic record of the work was kept. The photographic record is regarded as part of the site archive. A selection of photographic images that reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this site will be provided to the County Archaeological Officer.

No artefacts were recovered during the excavations on the site.

7. The Geotechnical Test Pits

7.1 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 measured 1m x 1m and was located adjacent to the eastern wall of the Lower Bentlyf Gallery and directly below the third brickwork pillar north from the St Faith's Street frontage at NGR 575920 156002. The test pit was located 6m along the wall from St Faith's Street and was excavated by hand by Steadline Ltd under close supervision by Compass Archaeology. The test pit was dug to a depth of 1.4m below the path to a depth of +13.37m OD.

The stratigraphic profile was of the concrete path on a rubble base, overlying levelling layers to a depth of 0.2m, overlying a 0.35m wide construction trench for the Lower Bentlyf Gallery foundation construction trench. The construction cut was filled with made ground and rubble. The stonework base for the gallery rested on a single footer course of red brick, projecting half a brick out from the base of the footing at 14.07m OD. This brick course rested on a rubble base (see Figure 10). The construction trench for the gallery cut natural sterile clay across the rest of the trench at a maximum survival height of +14.57m OD. The natural clay became darker and banded at depth, changing from a mid brown/orange to a grey clay and containing organic staining below the level of water ingress at the base of the brick and rubble base footing at 14.07m OD.



Figure 10 Left: Test Pit 1 looking south, the half brick footer course can be seen in the right side of the image projecting in front of the stone faced pillar. Right: Detail of natural clay geology in TP 1.

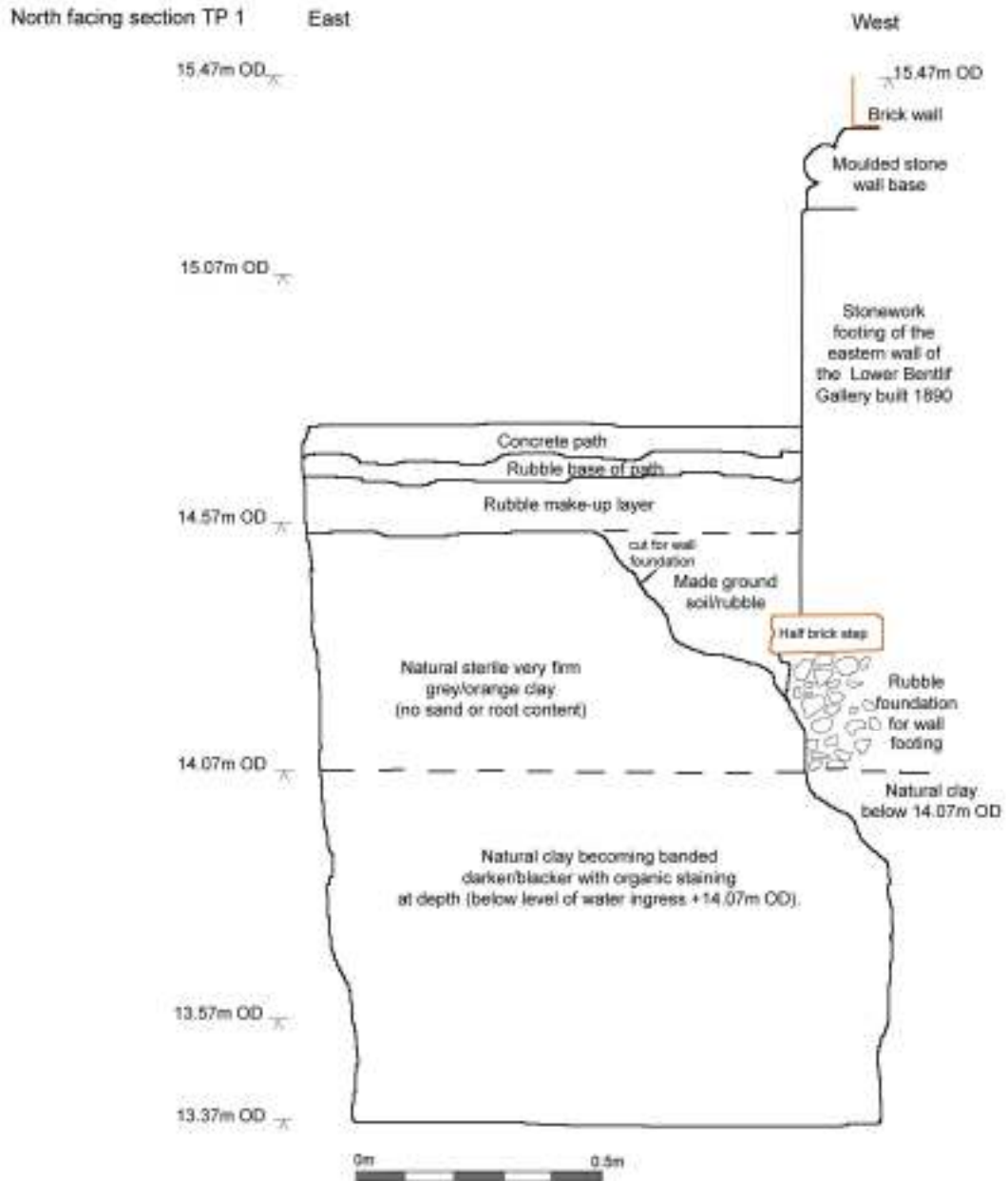


Fig 11 Section through Test Pit 1 showing the south elevation (north facing section)

7.2 Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 measured 1.2m (N-S) x 1m (E-W) and was located adjacent to the southern wall of the Lower Bearstead Gallery (1923) and directly below the second brickwork pillar 2.8m west of the southeast corner of the Bearstead Gallery at NGR 575924 156009. The test pit was excavated by hand under close archaeological supervision. The test pit was dug to a maximum depth of 2.4m (+14.13m OD).

The stratigraphic profile of TP 2 was different to all the other TPs and natural clay was not encountered. The whole trench was composed of recent made ground deposits relating to two east-west running service pipes (see section drawing Figure 14 for details of the made ground deposits). The Lower Bearstead Gallery foundation construction

trench was also exposed and a half brick footer course similar to TP 1 (but obviously of a later date) was recorded at +14.59m OD, approximately 0.5m higher than the Lower Bentlif Gallery and reflecting the upward slope of St Faith's Street to the east and St Faith's Church to the north.

In the upper made ground layers at *c* 15.35m OD two large masonry blocks were uncovered. These were made of Kentish ragstone and were very similar in design to elements of the 1870's Gatehouse decorative masonry (*c.f.* Figure 5). It is probable that masonry salvaged from the demolition of the Gatehouse was stacked against the south wall of the Lower Bearstead Gallery and had gradually become covered over, especially when the raised flowerbed was constructed.



Fig 12 Oblique view of Test Pit 2 looking northeast and showing the large masonry blocks uncovered in the watching brief.



Fig 13 Detail of Test Pit 2 looking down from the raised flowerbed (approximately north). The service pipes can be seen crossing the TP at depth.

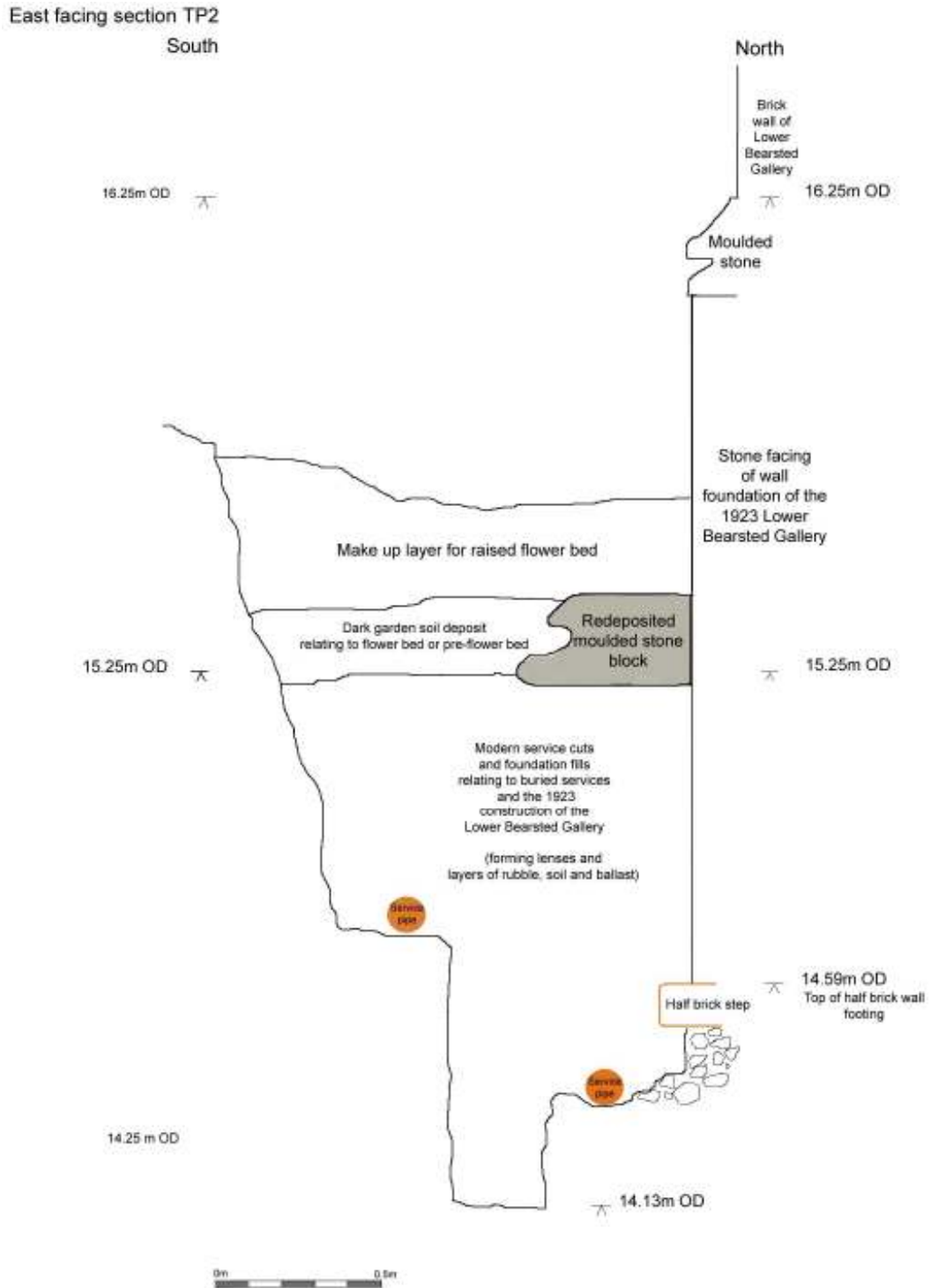


Fig 14 Section through Test Pit 2, showing the western elevation (east facing section).

7.3 Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 measured 0.9m (E-W) x 1m (N-S) and was located adjacent to the eastern wall of the 1974 Security Store building at NGR 575924 156022. The test pit was located 2.1m along the wall south of the northeast corner of the Store and was excavated by hand under close archaeological supervision on 16th April 2008 and extended by machine to 2m x 2m on 7th May 2008. The test pit was dug in two stages because a large modern service pipe was located in the base of the trench and the base of the store foundations could not be proven. On 7th May 2008 the trench was extended by machine to a depth of 2.1m at +14.59m OD and the depth of the foundations were ascertained.

The stratigraphic profile was redeposited top soil over a layer of builders sand 0.15m thick over a large construction cut running alongside the the wall and extending up to 0.55m south of the wall. The cut was backfilled with recent made ground and 1970's construction debris including large (up to 300mm in length) fragments of polystyrene. At the base of the TP was a 1970s service pipe in a silty soil matrix overlying a ledge of concrete *c* 0.06m thick.

To the east of the construction cut the surface of the natural clay was exposed at +16.5m OD and the natural in this TP was again a sterile mottled grey/orange clay, but in this TP having some fine sand content and having frequent roots throughout the deposit. A small lense of mottled chalky clay was recorded in the south facing section (*c.f.* Figure 16) at a depth of 0.9m (+15.79m OD) but this was also sterile and most probably represents a natural formation in the clay or may be a result of tree root action. When the TP was extended the clay geology changed becoming much sandier below 2m.



Fig 15 Test Pit 3, looking north. Right: the initial hand excavation TP and left the second phase after machine excavation. The same large fragment of polystyrene can be seen to the left of both images in the construction cut for the service pipe/construction of the Store building.

South facing section TP 3

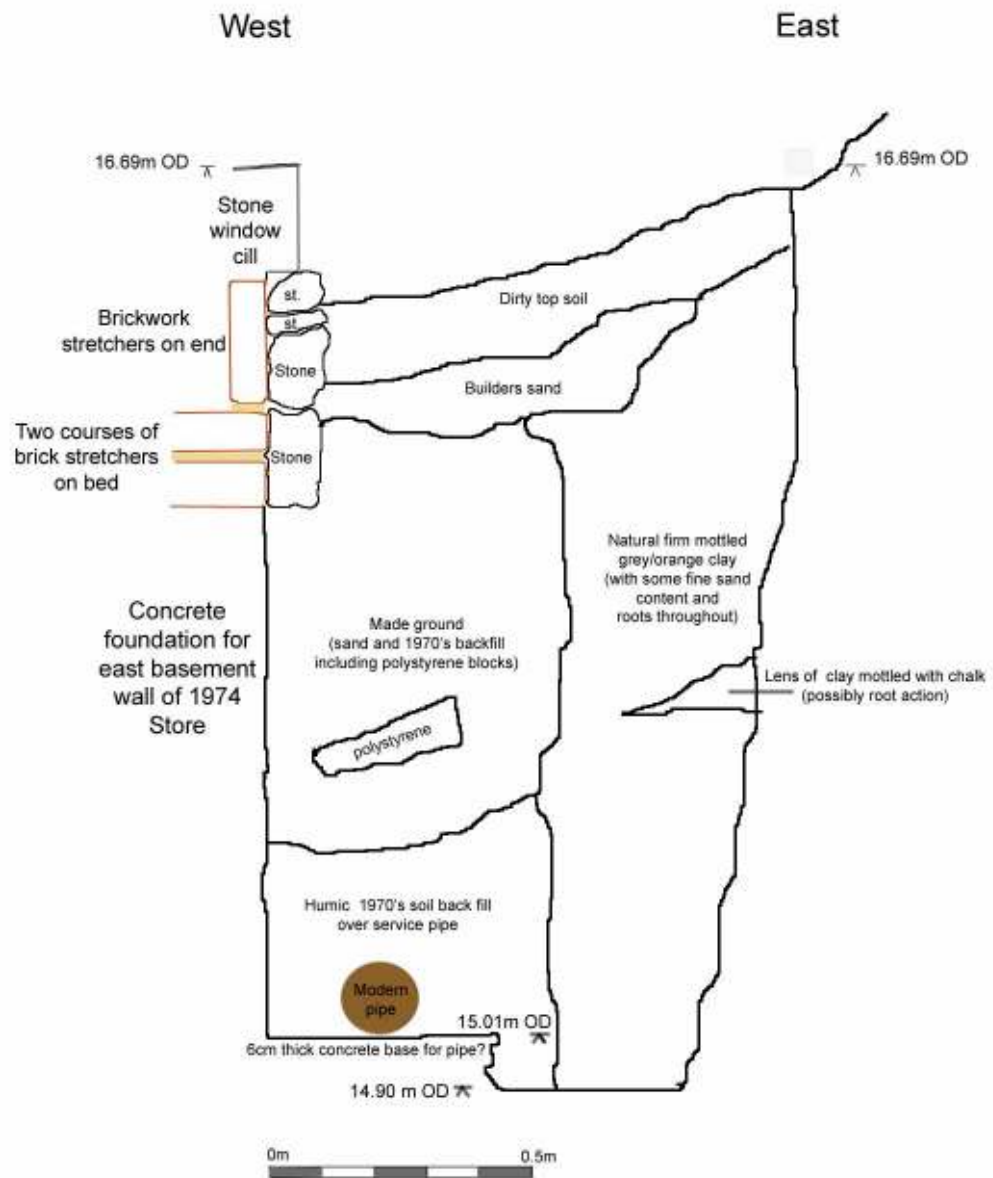


Fig 16 The South facing section (northern elevation) of Test Pit 3

7.4 Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 measured 1.2m (N-S) x 1.4m (E-W) and was located adjacent to the northern wall of the 1974 Security Store building at NGR 575914 156018. The test pit was located 5.08m along the wall west of the northeast corner of the Store and was excavated by hand under close archaeological supervision on 17th April 2008 and extended by machine to 2m x 2m on 8th May 2008. The test pit was dug in two stages because the base of the store foundations continued beyond a depth that could be safely excavated by hand excavation techniques. On 8th May 2008 the trench was extended by machine to a depth of 2.5m at +14.10m OD and the depth of the foundations were ascertained.

The stratigraphic profile was of recent made ground (including deep lenses of imported rounded and angular pebbles) extending to *c* 2.5m in depth. Natural clay was visible in the northern face of the TP and was exposed at a height of 16.30m OD. However, the general area of the TP showed a considerable depth of recent made ground indicating that the southern area of the Security Store site had been extensively truncated during construction of the Store in 1974.



Fig 17 Above: Test Pit 4 looking west and showing made ground deposits.



Fig 18 Left: similar view of TP4, but looking approximately south.



Fig 19 Test Pit 4 looking west and showing made ground deposits after machine extension.

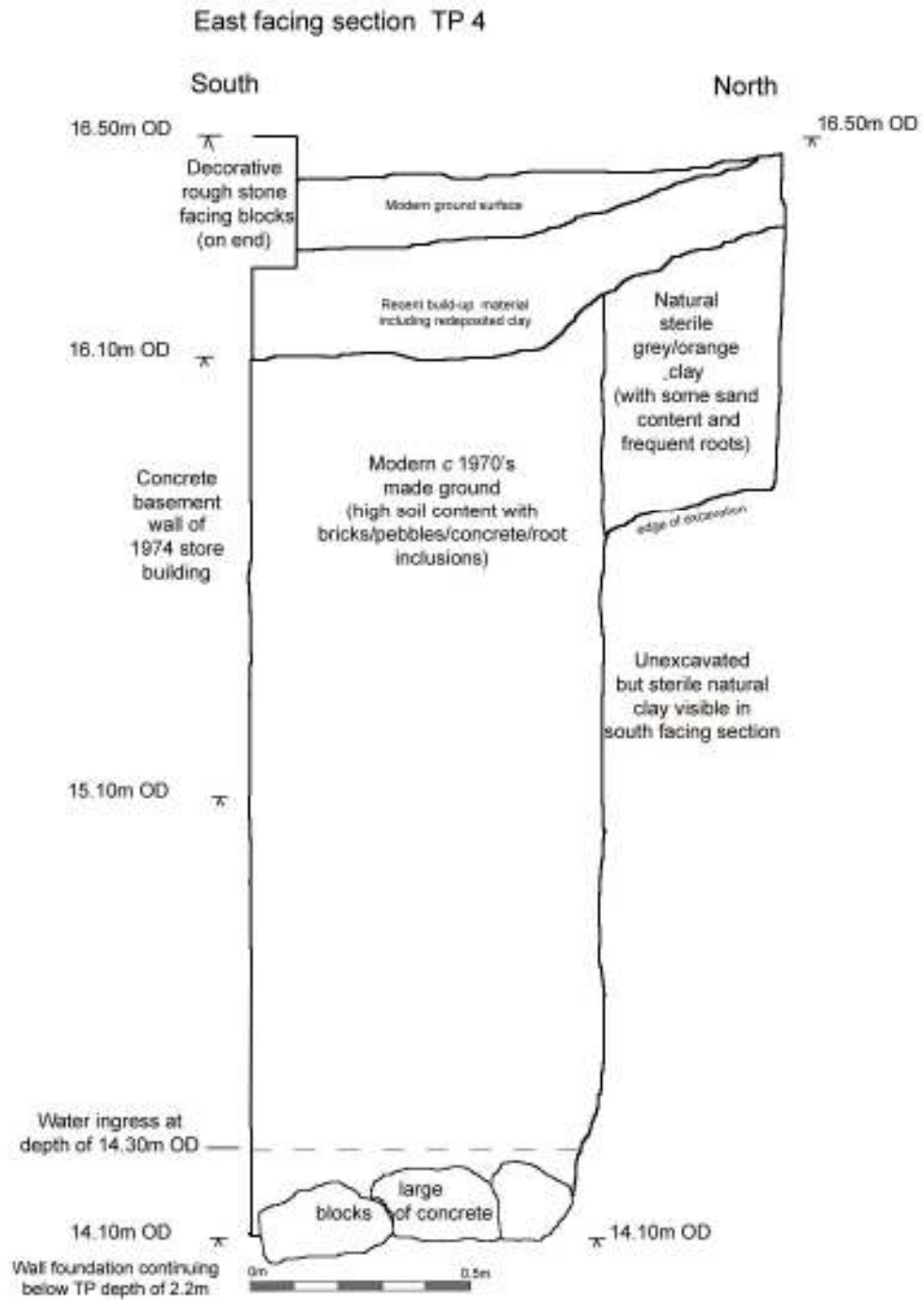


Fig 20 Section through Test Pit 4

7.5 Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 measured 1.1m (E-W) x 0.9m (N-S) and was located in the centre of the Godiva Courtyard, to the east of the east wall of the Great Hall (dating from 1561) at NGR 575910 156012. The test pit was located just west of a north-south running drain. This drain is shown on the 1:200 architects Ground Floor Plan (Drawing no 1452/F18hlf). The line of a historic drain also appears to be on this same alignment as shown on a deed plan dating from *c* 1857 prior to the purchase of the Charles Wing site⁵.

The stratigraphic profile was of the Courtyard pebble surfacing overlying the construction cut for the modern drain (*c.f.* Figure 21 and 22). The cut was filled with modern made ground including a large piece of machine made glazed ceramic sewer pipe at the base of the TP 5. The natural sterile clay was encountered at 300mm depth below the courtyard ground surface at +14.55m OD.



Fig 21 Overhead view showing the location of TP5, looking northwest.

⁵ Maidstone Museum and Bentrif Art Gallery Conservation Management Plan, Maidstone Architects Consultancy, March 2007 Appendix D.



Fig 22 View of TP5 looking east and showing the fill of the modern drain in the west facing section. The large piece of ragstone in the TP (left of scale) has been redeposited in the modern drain cut.



Fig 23 View of TP5 looking south with the fill of the modern drain visible to the left of the scale (see drawn section Fig 23).

North facing section TP 5

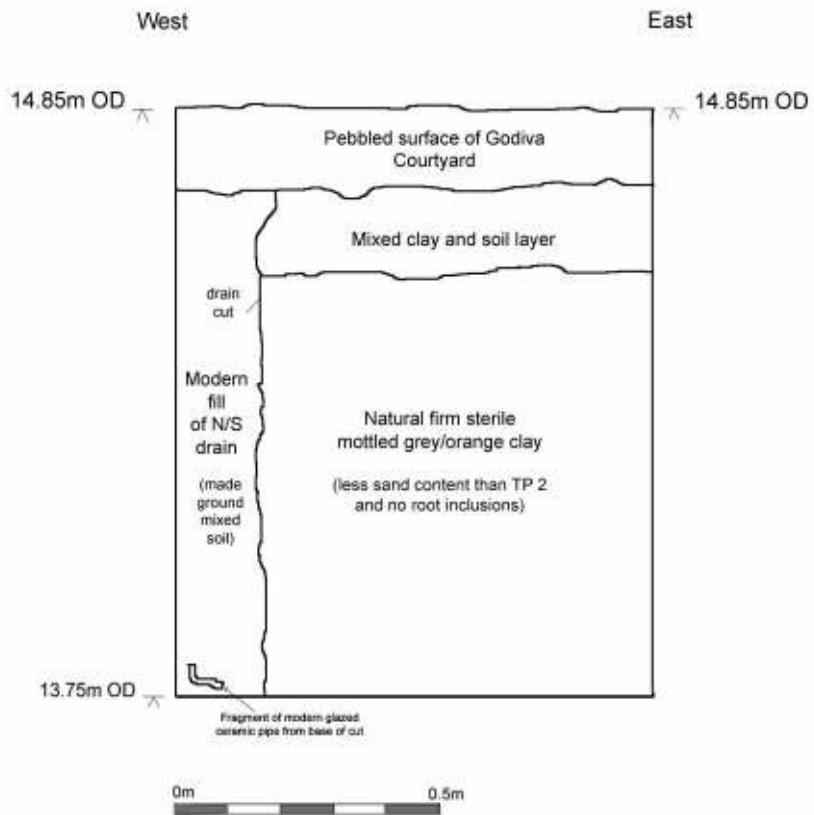


Fig 24 North facing Section (south elevation) of TP5.

7.6 Interpretation of the archaeology of the site

No archaeology was identified as present in the areas of the five test pits. The area of TP1 had been truncated by levelling works for the construction of the Lower Bentlif Gallery. The area of TP2 had been disturbed by the construction of the 1920's Lower Bearstead Gallery and by the construction of two east-west running service pipes. The areas of TP3 and TP4 have been truncated by the construction of the 1970s Security Store. TP 5 also appears to have been truncated, but this reduction in the ground surface probably occurred as early as the development of the medieval manor on the site.

8 Conclusions

The five watching brief test pits did not reveal any significant remains. The revealed sequence was quite straightforward and more or less uniform across the site. There was little variation in the thickness of the respective deposits and in the clarity of interfaces.

The methodology employed in the watching brief was very effective and the results and interpretation of the stratigraphy concise and clear.

There was no evidence for any prehistoric activity on the site, nor were any isolated artefacts recovered. There was no evidence of any Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval activity or land use.

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Maidstone Museum & Bentrif Art Gallery,	
Site Address: East Wing Development, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH	
Summary: An archaeological watching brief took place on the site of the proposed East Wing development of Maidstone Museum and Bentrif Art Gallery on 16 th to 18th April 2008 and 7 th to 8 th May 2008. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on geotechnical groundworks in the form of five small test pits – located across the redevelopment area. The watching brief was carried out as part of the planning process prior to a proposed redevelopment of the site for the new East Wing development. The site lies within an area of known archaeological importance and has the potential to contain archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period. It is also possible that previously unrecorded finds and features relating to the medieval manor house of Chillingdon Manor, which has stood on the site since the fourteenth century, may still survive in the redevelopment area. All exposed deposits and strata were recorded and photographed, but no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in the small areas monitored. It remains possible that archaeological deposits and finds may survive across the rest of the redevelopment area.	
District/Unitary: Maidstone	Parish: Maidstone
Period(s): No archaeological finds or features were discovered.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 575926 156012 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: 16 th to 18th April 2008 and 7 th to 8 th May 2008	
Unit undertaking recording: Compass Archaeology Ltd.	
Geology: Clay	
Title and author of accompanying report: 'Maidstone Museum & Bentrif Art Gallery, East Wing Development, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH. An archaeological watching brief'. Gillian King	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) Five geotechnical test pits were monitored but no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered. It remains possible that archaeological deposits and finds may survive across the rest of the redevelopment area.	
Location of archive/finds: Compass Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Gillian King	Date: 15 th May 2008

Appendix 2 OASIS Report Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-42349

Project details

Project name	Maidstone Museum and Bentrif Art Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH
Short description of the project	Compass Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on the site of the proposed East Wing development of Maidstone Museum and Bentrif Art Gallery on 16th to 18th April 2008 and 7th to 9th May 2008. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on geotechnical groundworks in the form of five small test pits - located across the redevelopment area. The watching brief was carried out as part of the planning process prior to a proposed redevelopment of the site for the new East Wing development. The site lies within an area of known archaeological importance and has the potential to contain archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period. It is also possible that previously unrecorded finds and features relating to the medieval manor house of Chillingdon Manor that has stood on the site since the fourteenth century, may survive in the redevelopment area. All exposed deposits and strata were recorded, but no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in the small areas monitored. It remains possible that archaeological deposits and finds may survive across the rest of the redevelopment area.
Project dates	Start: 16-04-2008 End: 09-05-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MMM08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	MA/07/1365 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery, East Wing Development, St Faith's Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH, Kent.
Postcode	ME14 1LH
Study area	8.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 75926 56012 51.2754969558 0.522541921167 51 16 31 N 000 31 21 E Point
Height OD	Min: 14.55m Max: 16.49m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Kent Heritage Conservation group
Project supervisor	Gill King
Type of sponsor/funding body	District Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Maidstone Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Maidstone Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text','Unspecified Archive'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery, East Wing
Author(s)/Editor(s) King, G.
Date 2008
Issuer or publisher Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Compass Archaeology
Description A4 comb bound Compass Archaeology in-house developer report
35 pages

**Project
bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Maidstone Museum and Bently Art Gallery, Maidstone Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s) King, G.
Date 2008
Issuer or publisher Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Compass Archaeology
Description A4 comb bound in house developer report, 35 pages
Entered by Gillian King (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on 15 May 2008