

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Chantry Club, Lower Chantry Lane  
Canterbury, Kent**

**NGR: 615432 157487  
(TR 154574)**

**ASE Project No: 6868  
Site Code: CCC14**

**ASE Report No: 2014244  
OASIS id: archaeol6-184210**

**By John Hirst**

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**July 2014**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orbit Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations to establish the potential for archaeological remains at the Chantry Social Club, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, Kent. The site is currently occupied by the social club building, car parking, a grassed area and an electricity sub-station.*

*The work comprised the monitoring of two test pits, two window samples and one bore hole, all of which were devoid of archaeological finds and features.*

*Natural deposits of a light brown, very silty, fine sandy clay were recorded in both test pits, both window samples and the borehole at depths of between 0.50m and 1.00m below the existing ground level. All of the site investigations passed through made ground before reaching intact natural geology.*

*No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Orbit Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations to establish the potential for archaeological remains at the Chantry Social Club, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury. The site is currently occupied by the social club building, a car park, a grassed area and an electricity sub-station (NGR 615432 157487; Figures 1 and 2).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is situated at NGR 615435 157485, on the south side of Lower Chantry Lane in the suburban outskirts of Canterbury. Maps and aerial photographs show the site occupied by the Chantry Social Club building; a single story brick building c. 35m long and 16m wide, on a north-west to south-east orientation, with a shallow pitched roof. There is an electricity substation to the south of the building, close to the road frontage. A parking area is shown to the south of the building and there is a grassed area to the north.

1.2.2 The site is situated at c.18-19mOD; the ground surface at 1-7 Dover Road being recorded at c.19mOD.

1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock at the site consists of the Margate Chalk Formation, with superficial geological layers of head brickearth deposits made up of clay and silt (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer).

1.2.4 Given the location of the site within a built-up area there was some made-ground; consisting of a dark greyish brown, very silty, fine sandy clay with scattered coarse sand to fine gravel sized charcoal and brick across the entire site underlying tarmac in the car park area.

### **1.3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **1.3.1 Town and Country Planning Legislation and Procedures**

1.3.2 As of March 2012, Government policies relating to planning are given in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Section 12 (paragraphs 126 – 141) of the Framework (*Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*) outlines policies relating to the historic environment and the key role it plays in the Government's definition of sustainable development, the principle which underpins the document.

1.3.3 The Framework requires that local planning authorities '*should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment*', recognising that '*heritage assets are an irreplaceable*

resource' and should be conserved '*in a manner appropriate to their significance*'.

1.3.4 The Framework requires that planning applicants should '*describe the significance of any heritage assets affected*' by their application, '*including any contribution made by their setting*'.

1.3.5 Although the NPPF replaces Planning Policy Statement 5, which dealt with the historic environment within the planning process, the Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (issued March 2010) which accompanied that document, remains in force for the time being to assist in the interpretation of NPPF policies relating to the historic environment.

### **1.3.6 Canterbury City Council**

1.3.7 Canterbury City Council recognises that the city is particularly rich in both designated and non-designated heritage assets. A supplementary planning document on Heritage Archaeology and Conservation was issued by Canterbury City Council in October 2007. This document expands on the implications of the policies in the Local Plan (below) and considers the practical application of the policies to development (CCC 2007).

1.3.8 The current Canterbury District Local Plan was adopted in 2006 and the relevant policies have been extended until such time as they are withdrawn or replaced by policies in the Local Development Framework. These include policy HE1 relating to the importance of the historic environment, HE2 to the World Heritage site, HE4 and 5 to Listed Buildings, HE 5-10 to the Conservation areas, HE12 to the World Heritage site and HE 13 to Historic Parks and Gardens.. Policy HE11 concerns below ground archaeological remains, their evaluation, excavation and mitigation strategies.

#### **Policy HE11**

*The archaeological and historic integrity of designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Development which would adversely affect them will not be permitted. Where important or potentially significant heritage assets may exist, developers will be required to arrange for field evaluation to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications. The evaluation should define:*

- *The character, importance and condition of any archaeological deposits or structures within the application site;*
- *The likely impact of the proposed development on these features (including the limits to the depth to which groundworks can go on the site);*
- *The means of mitigating the effect of the proposed development including: a statement setting out the impact of the development. Where the case for development affecting a heritage asset of archaeological interest is accepted,*

*the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ. Where preservation in situ is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative. In such cases archaeological recording works must be undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by the City Council's Archaeological Officer or a competent archaeological organisation that has been agreed by the City Council in advance.*

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The main objective of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological deposits, finds and features encountered during the course of the geotechnical works, and determine the character, quality and date of each feature or deposit encountered.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief which was undertaken by John Hirst (Assistant Archaeologist) on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager, fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Project Managers, post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The following information is paraphrased from the DBA (ASE 2013).

#### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 There are no references to archaeological sites of prehistoric date within the proposed development site. To the north, at the British Red Cross Centre (ASE29), prehistoric remains were limited to a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and some worked and burnt flint, all of which was thought to be residual in later contexts (Gollop 2012). Similarly archaeological investigations at 1-7 Dover Road (ASE30) only identified a background scatter of flintwork from later deposits (Stevens 2013).

#### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 There are no references to Roman remains being found within the proposed development site. At the British Red Cross site (ASE29) Roman pottery was recovered from 20 contexts, ranging from 1st to 3rd century date. A 3rd to 4th century coin was also recovered. This material is thought to be residual. In addition pieces of Roman brick and tile were recovered, reused in later contexts (Gollop 2012). Similarly the works at 1-7 New Dover Road (ASE30) recovered residual Roman material in later contexts but in this instance two shallow sinuous features were also identified which have been provisionally dated to this period (Stevens 2013). These features were located to the south of the site, aligned parallel with the southern boundary and their projected lines do not cross the proposed development area.

#### **2.4 Saxon & Medieval**

2.4.1 There are no Anglo-Saxon remains recorded within the proposed development site but features of this date have been identified during excavation at the British Red Cross site (ASE29); these comprised some 17 pits and 2 linear features. Two complexes of intercutting pits were identified and one was utilized for both domestic and industrial refuse and the other for cess. Finds included an 8th-10th century strap end, a loom weight and 10th or 11th century pottery (Gollop 2012). At 1-7 New Dover Road (ASE30) archaeological remains of this date were limited to small quantities of pottery, suggesting that the activity at ASE 30 did not extend this far.

2.4.2 There are no references to known remains of medieval date within the proposed development site. However medieval remains were recovered from both the adjacent excavations.

2.4.3 At the British Red Cross site (ASE29; Gollop 2012) two phases of medieval activity were identified on the site. The first, dating to c.1050-1250, was dominated by pits used for refuse and cess disposal. Post holes, stake holes and a beam slot were also identified, although no structural plan could be discerned. Other features included what may be an oven, a buried soil and



linear features. Artefacts included pottery, tile, animal bone, hammerscale, slag, furnace/hearth linings and vitrified ceramics. The second phase, c. 1250-1400, saw activity on the site reduce then cease at some stage in the 14th century reverting to agricultural use. Features relating to this period comprised pits, post holes, a midden layer, ploughsoil and linear features. The agricultural use of the site continued through to the 18th and 19th centuries.

- 2.4.4 At 1-7 New Dover Road (ASE30; Stevens 2013) two phases of activity have also been identified, the earliest being characterised by pits containing domestic refuse and the second by sub-circular pits, elongated pits, a cess pit and gullies. The pits usually contained sizeable assemblages of pottery and other domestic refuse. Evidence of iron smithing was also recorded although the lack of hammerscale suggests that this was occurring away from the site itself. The bone assemblage hinted at butchery and fish processing activities occurring nearby. The 14th to 16th centuries saw the excavation of three large clay quarry pits which contained multiple layers of domestic refuse; presumably the pits were being used as a convenient dump for rubbish from the surrounding area.
- 2.4.5 Medieval remains are well represented on the UAD, the closest site is that of Doge's Chantry (ASE18: KHER TR13 NE 55) which was founded in 1264 by Hamon Doge in New Street, later renamed Chantry Lane. The building was converted to a cottage and no remains are extant at the present day. At 3-4 Oaten Hill pits and ditches were identified which may be associated with the (demolished) St Sepulchre's Nunnery (ASE16; UAD1429). The nunnery was probably founded in the 11th century on land belonging to St. Augustinian's Abbey. It was dissolved in 1536. At Ivy Lane medieval clay quarrying was identified along with rubbish and cess pits (ASE4; UAD 70) Cess pits and quarry pits were also identified at 41 St George's Place (ASE12; UAD 1845). Other medieval sites include a horse burial and two pits (ASE13; UAD1155), a possible ironworking site ASE14; UAD199), quarry pits and clay floors (ASE15; UAD40).
- 2.4.6 Overall the archaeological evidence would suggest that the general area lay in the suburbs outside the town and that there was some settlement. The presence of evidence for ironworking and quarry pits would suggest that it was a semi-industrial area.

## **2.5 Post-Medieval**

- 2.5.1 By the post medieval period the site lay within an agricultural area/orchard and the development of the site can be traced by reference to historic mapping. Archaeological remains relating to these later periods on the adjacent sites comprise pits, some post holes (ASE29 only), service trenches and garden features (ASE29 and 30). There are also numerous references to post-medieval and modern remains in the UAD which illustrate the gradual expansion of Canterbury through the post medieval and modern periods.
- 2.5.2 World War II sites in the vicinity include Telephone House (now Becket House), built in 1939, was used as a military and civilian communication facility (ASE31, not illustrated; KHER TR15 NE 838), 25 New Dover Road as

the headquarters for 43 Division Royal Engineers in 1943 (ASE32, not illustrated; KHER TR15 NE 921), and Lancing House was fortified and became the headquarters of the 57 Anti-Tank Regiment of the Royal Artillery (ASE33 not illustrated; KHER TR15 NE 771). At 3 New Dover Road a steel Nissen hut, was in place by January 1942 (ASE34 not illustrated; KHER TR15 NE 838).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The site was excavated and recorded in line with the professional guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).
- 3.1.2 All test pits were dug by hand under constant archaeological monitoring. All spoil was scanned for finds.
- 3.1.3 All window samples and the borehole were excavated in two parts. The uppermost c. 1m was dug by hand under constant archaeological monitoring. The lower c. 1m was dug by window sampler. The sleeves were opened on site to allow investigation of the deposits. All spoil was scanned for finds.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

- 3.2.1 No fieldwork constraints were encountered.

#### **3.3 The Site Archive**

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	23
No. of files/paper record	1 file

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Test Pit 1

4.1.1 The test pit was located towards the north-west end of the grassed area to the north of the building, and measured 0.45m from north to south and 0.80m from east to west. At its maximum depth the pit measured 1.00m.

4.1.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
101	Layer	Turf	Test Pit	-	0.15
102	Layer	Made Ground (sandy gravel with fine gravel sized charcoal and brick)	Test Pit	-	0.80
103	Layer	Natural Clay	Test Pit	-	>0.05

Table 2: Test Pit 1, list of recorded contexts

### 4.2 Test Pit 2

4.2.1 The test pit was located on the concrete pavement in front of the north-west end of the building facing Lower Chantry Lane and measured 0.60m from north to south and 0.35m from east to west. At its maximum depth the pit measured 1.00m.

4.2.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
201	Layer	Concrete pavement	Test Pit	-	0.05
202	Layer	Made Ground (sandy gravel with coarse sized limestone, brick, flint)	Test Pit	-	0.10
203	Layer	Made Ground (silty, sandy clay with gravel sized brick, flint rubble)	Test Pit	-	0.30
204	Layer	Natural Clay	Test Pit	-	>0.55

Table 3: Test Pit 2, list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Window Sample 1

4.3.1 The window sample was located towards the south-east end of the grassed area to the north of the building.

4.3.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
301	Layer	Turf	WS	-	0.20
302	Layer	Made Ground (sandy clay with fine gravel sized charcoal and brick)	WS	-	0.60
303	Layer	Natural Clay	WS	-	3.20
304	Layer	Natural sandy, gravelly, chalky clay	WS	-	1.70
305	Layer	Natural Chalk (silty gravel)	WS	-	0.30 (end of borehole at 6.00m)

Table 4: Window Sample 1, list of recorded contexts

### 4.4 Window Sample 2

4.4.1 The window sample was located to the south-east of the sub-station on the south side of the building.

4.4.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
401	Layer	Tarmac	WS	-	0.05
402	Layer	Made Ground (asphalt sub-base)	WS	-	0.05
403	Layer	Made Ground (gravel and cobble sized crushed brick)	WS	-	0.25
404	Layer	Made Ground (silty, sandy clay with gravel sized brick, flint, shell, modern pottery rubble.	WS	-	0.40
405	Layer	Natural Clay	WS	-	3.05
406	Layer	Natural clayey gravel	WS	-	0.10 (end of borehole at 3.90m)

Table 5: Window Sample 2, list of recorded contexts

## 4.5 Borehole 1

4.5.1 The borehole was located in the car park area close to the southern corner of the building.

4.5.2 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
501	Layer	Tarmac	Borehole	-	0.15
502	Layer	Made Ground (sandy clay with gravel sized charcoal and brick)	Borehole	-	0.35
503	Layer	Natural Clay	Borehole	-	3.60
504	Layer	Natural gravelly, chalky clay	Borehole	-	2.20
505	Layer	Natural Chalk (silty gravel)	Borehole	-	9.20 (end of borehole at 15.50m)

Table 6: Borehole 1, list of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Geology and stratigraphic sequence**

5.1.1 Natural deposits of light brown, very silty, slightly fine sandy clay were recorded in all five geological investigations at depths of between 0.50m and 1.00m below existing ground level.

5.1.2 The natural deposits were overlain by made ground in all instances.

### **5.2 Archaeological features and consideration of research aims**

5.2.1 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.

5.2.2 The basic aims of the watching brief were achieved in that the character and quality of all deposits was analysed and recorded. The made ground was modern in composition.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## HER Summary

Site Code	CCC14				
Identification Name and Address	Chantry Club, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury				
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Canterbury				
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 615432 157487				
Geology	Clay				
Arch. South-East Project Number	6868				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			WB 26/6/14		
Sponsor/Client	Orbit Homes Ltd				
Project Manager	Diccon hart				
Project Supervisor	John Hirst				
Period Summary					
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orbit Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations to establish the potential for archaeological remains at the Chantry Social Club, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, Kent. The site is currently occupied by the social club building, car parking, a grassed area and an electricity sub-station.</i></p> <p><i>The work comprised the monitoring of two test pits, two window samples and one bore hole, all of which were devoid of archaeological finds and features.</i></p> <p><i>Natural deposits of a light brown, very silty, fine sandy clay were recorded in both test pits, both window samples and the borehole at depths of between 0.50m and 1.00m below the existing ground level. All of the site investigations passed through modern made ground before reaching intact natural geology.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.</i></p>					

## OASIS Form

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### OASIS ID: archaeol6-184210

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#### Project details

Project name	Chantry Club, Canterbury
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orbit Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations to establish the potential for archaeological remains at the Chantry Social Club, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, Kent. The site is currently occupied by the social club building, car parking, a grassed area and an electricity sub-station. The work comprised the monitoring of two test pits, two window samples and one bore hole, all of which were devoid of archaeological finds and features. Natural deposits of a light brown, very silty, fine sandy clay were recorded in both test pits, both window samples and the borehole at depths of between 0.50m and 1.00m below the existing ground level. All of the site investigations passed through made ground before reaching intact natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the geotechnical investigations.
Project dates	Start: 26-06-2014 End: 26-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	World Heritage Site
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	0 None
Significant Finds	0 None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT CANTERBURY CANTERBURY Chantry Social Club, Lower Chantry Lane
Postcode	CT1 1UF
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TR 15432 57487 51.2751173939 1.08909235685 51 16 30 N 001 05 20 E Point

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Orbit Homes Ltd

Project design originator ASE

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor John Hirst

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Paper Media available "Correspondence", "Report", "Unspecified Archive"

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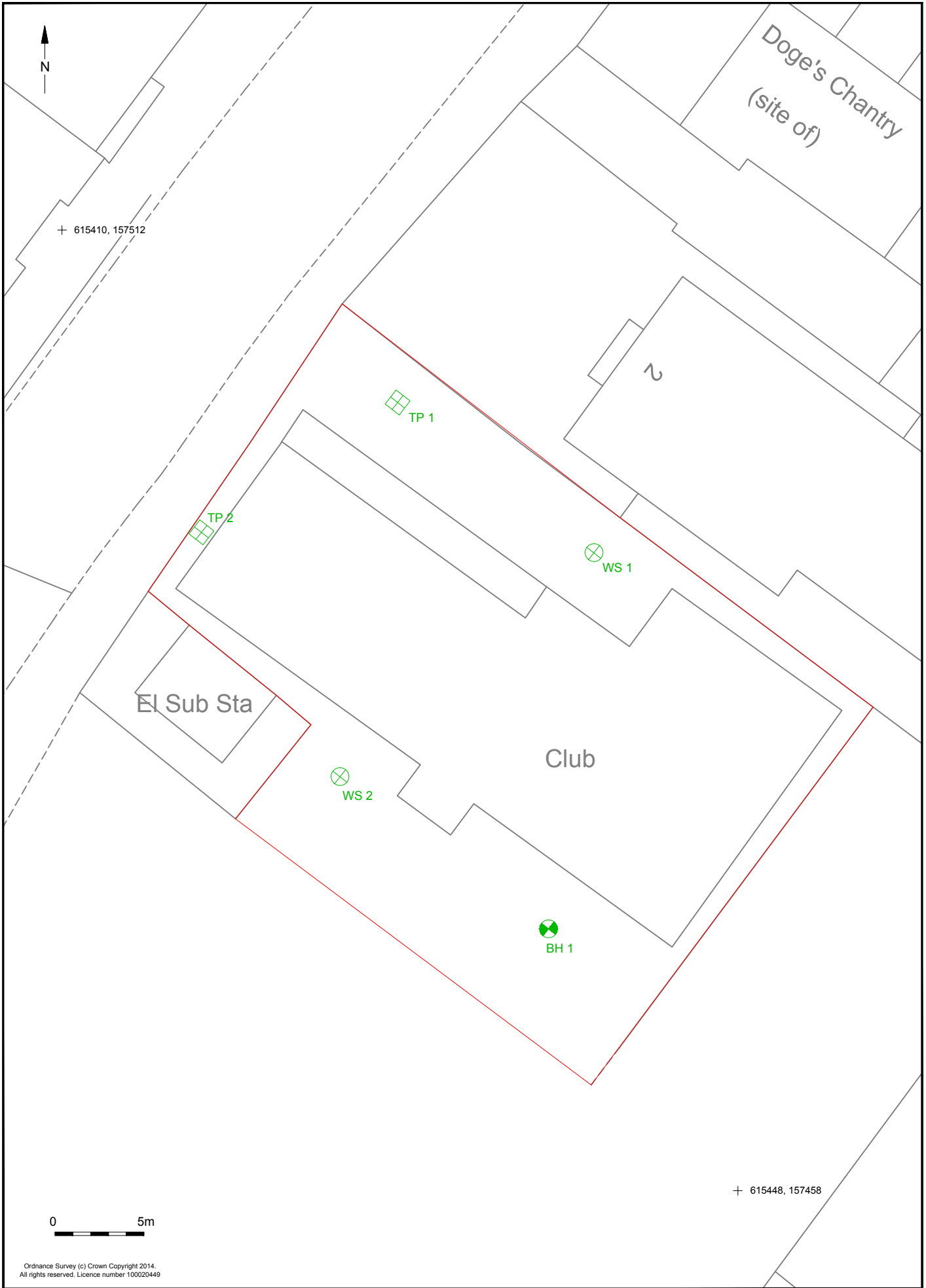
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© Archaeology South-East		Chantry Club, Canterbury	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6868	July 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014244	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Chantry Club, Canterbury	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6868	July 2014	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2014244	Drawn by: RHC		

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