

# **An Archaeological Evaluation at 20-22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent**

**NGR 561053 157584**

**Project No. 3090  
(WBG07)  
Report No: 2007258**

**by  
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## Summary

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Turnbull, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of a new housing development at 20 – 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent. The work took place from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007.*

*Six trenches were excavated across the area according to a pattern agreed with the Heritage Conversation Group, Kent County Council. Head Brickearth was encountered at a maximum height of 95.53m A.O.D in the west of the site, falling away to 90.83m A.O.D to the east. A total of 2 features were recorded during the investigation, including an undated linear and a pit of probable post medieval date.*

*Modern disturbance has truncated much of the site which may account for the limited archaeological remains recovered. This lack of evidence may also point to the fact that the archaeological focus of the area may be further south, towards the nucleus of the village.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Turnbull, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of four two-bedroom flats, eight two-bedroom houses and eight three-bedroom houses plus altered pedestrian/vehicular access at 20 - 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent (Fig.1, NGR 561053 157584).
- 1.2 This document represents the Evaluation Report described in Section 6 of the *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by Kent County Council (KCC) prior to commencement of the work.
- 1.3 The site is located at 20 – 22 Wrotham Road, on the northern edge of the large village of Borough Green. The area of the proposed development is situated on a sloping plot of demolished buildings and their associated gardens. It is approximately 30m x 150m in size. According to the British Geological Survey (1:50 000 map sheet No. 287), the underlying geology at the site comprises Hythe Beds overlain by Head.
- 1.4 On the basis of present archaeological information the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation (Stage 1) to clarify its archaeological potential. Investigation by trial trench was deemed an appropriate approach. The results of this investigation, given in this report, will inform any further (Stage 2) mitigation measures.
- 1.5 The objective of the trial trenching was to establish whether there were any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed development. If significant remains were revealed by the evaluation appropriate mitigation measures could be agreed. The evaluation was thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, nature, date, importance and quality of any archaeological remains on the site.
- 1.6 The on-site archaeological work was carried out from the 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007 by Andrew Margetts (Archaeologist) and Dave Atkins (Site Assistant). The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and by Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation Manager).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Archaeology of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains.
- 2.2 The site in question lies c.35m north east of a Roman burial site (SMR No: TQ 65 NW 17) which was discovered during road widening in 1953. Quarrying opposite the site has produced Roman pottery since the nineteenth century.
- 2.3 Around 60m to the south is a post medieval tile kiln (SMR No: TQ 65 NW 66), discovered in 1940 during the erection of an air raid shelter.
- 2.4 The SMR data revealed thirty five pages of entries in the vicinity of the site. The most significant references are detailed in Table 1, and located on Figure 1.
- 2.5 The remaining SMR entries include 11 find spots of flintwork of Palaeolithic to Neolithic date, a Bronze Age round Barrow and an Iron Age coin. Also detailed are a number of Grade II listed buildings, including, four dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, two to the 17<sup>th</sup> century two to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and four dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

No.	SMR No.	N G R	Description
1	TQ 65 NW 17	TQ 6099 5756	<b>Romano-British cemetery.</b> A Roman cemetery at the great clay and sand pit just north of the Wrotham Station of the London, Chatham and Dover railway, part of the brickmaking works. Apparently groups of pottery have been found and destroyed by the workmen on removing the surface soil for some years.
2	TQ 65 NW 66	TQ 6102 5751	<b>Post Medieval Tile Kiln.</b> A tile kiln was discovered in July 1940 during an excavation made for a private air-raid shelter at Borough Green, in the garden of a bungalow called Glenfield situated on the east side of the Borough Green - Wrotham road.
3	TQ 65 NW 77	TQ 609 580	<b>Post Medieval Brickworks.</b> Two complete pottery wasters a three legged pipkin and a one-handed cup, were excavated from a trench.
4	TQ 65 NW 38	TQ 6053 5737	<b>Romano-British pottery and a building foundation.</b> Fragments of Roman pottery and Celtic ware and traces of the foundations of a building.
5	TQ 65 NW 34	TQ 6133 5726	<b>Palaeolithic finds.</b> Chellian and Acheulian implements

Table 1: SMR entries from the vicinity of the site.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Six trenches, 20m long by 2m wide were excavated across the investigation area (see Fig. 2). These trenches were located according to a pattern agreed with the County Archaeologist and covered at least 5% of the development site.
- 3.2 Each trench was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. They were then excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 13-ton, 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 3.3 The trenches were left open for at least 48 hours and cleaned and inspected regularly for features following consultation with the County Archaeologist.
- 3.4 Spoil heaps and the trench base was scanned with a metal detector as was the spoil derived from excavated features.
- 3.5 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned by hand, planned and recorded. They were then excavated in accordance with the *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation*. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.
- 3.6 Archaeological structures, features and deposits exposed or excavated were planned in relation to the trench and the trench planned onto a copy of the Ordnance Survey map not smaller than 1:2500 scale.
- 3.7 Turnbull and the KCC Archaeological Officer were kept informed of progress on the site.
- 3.8 A full photographic record (black and white, colour slide and digital) of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. All archaeological features were photographed.
- 3.9 Archaeological deposits were leveled in relation to a known bench mark above ordnance datum.
- 3.10 Once recording had taken place the trenches were backfilled by machine, in appropriate sequence, spread evenly and compacted to ensure a surface flush or nearly flush with the ground surface. No reinstatement of the original surface (i.e. turf) was undertaken.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

4.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 20 metres and to depths of between c.310mm (95.51m A.O.D) at the western end and to c.430mm (94.87m A.O.D) at the eastern end, at which points the natural Brickearth was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The revealed contexts are listed stratigraphically (latest to earliest) in the table below.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
1/001	Layer	Made-ground, (demolition layer), variable Clay Silt, dark grey black. mod. Brick, concrete, plastic and tarmac	160mm thick
1/002	Layer	Made-ground, (const dep) firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occ. Chalk flecks, brick (<50mm) and sub-angular flints (<40mm)	170mm thick
1/003	Layer	Natural mid orange brown silty clay. Brickearth	-

The trench was truncated through heavy modern disturbance. This included intrusion from demolition and construction work and the presence of a mid 20<sup>th</sup> century earthing mat. No archaeological features were exposed or unstratified finds recovered.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

4.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 20 metres and to depths of between c.460mm (94.40m A.O.D) at the northern end and to c.754mm (93.81m A.O.D) at the southern end, at which points the natural Brickearth was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The revealed contexts are listed stratigraphically (latest to earliest) in the table below.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
2/001	Layer	Made-ground, (demo layer), variable Clay Silt, dark grey black. mod. Brick, concrete, plastic and tarmac	220mm thick
2/002	Layer	Made-ground, (const dep) firm mid grey brown sandy silt with occ. Chalk flecks, brick (<50mm) and sub-angular flints (<40mm)	170mm thick
2/005	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt, frq. modern brick and glass. (Fill of 2/004)	-
2/004	Cut	Swimming pool	-

2/003	Layer	Natural mid orange brown silty clay. Brickearth	-
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Trench 2 was much disturbed through heavy modern disturbance. This included intrusion from both demolition and construction work. The corner of a modern swimming pool [2/004] was located in the northern half of the trench. It had near vertical sides but its true dimensions are unknown as the feature extended under the baulk section. Context [2/004] was filled by context [2/005], this comprised a dark black brown sandy silt that contained frequent fragments of modern brick and glass this deposit represents the back fill of the disused pool.

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Fig.2 and Fig. 3)

4.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 20 metres and to depths of between c.350mm (93.020m A.O.D) at the eastern end and to c.820mm (92.76m A.O.D) at the western end, at which points the natural Brickearth was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The revealed contexts are listed stratigraphically as far as possible (latest to earliest) in the table below.

Context	Type	Description/Interpretation	Max dimensions
3/001	Layer	Made-ground, (demo layer), variable Clay Silt, dark grey black. mod. Brick, concrete, plastic and tarmac	200mm thick
3/002	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt, frq. modern brick, plastic, pool liner and glass	620mm thick
3/003	Cut	Swimming pool	-
3/004	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt. occ. charcoal flecks	150mm thick
3/005	Layer	Subsoil	200mm thick
3/007	Fill	Mid grey brown firm clay silt, occ. charcoal flecks	-
3/006	Cut	Linear	700mm width, 500mm length, 90mm depth
3/009	Fill	Mid grey brown firm clay silt, occ. charcoal flecks and CBM	-
3/008	Cut	Sub-circular	830mm diameter
3/010	Layer	Natural mid orange brown silty clay. Brickearth	

Located in the western half of the trench was the remains of a modern backfilled swimming pool (context [3/003]). This was the same feature which appeared in Trench 2 (context [2/004]). The remaining eastern half of the trench was relatively undisturbed.



Linear cut, [3/006] was c.700mm in width, c.500mm in length and c.90mm deep. It had gradually sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by context [3/007], a mid grey brown firm clay silt that contained occasional charcoal inclusions. This fill probably derived from the natural silting of the feature and some possible backfilling. This feature represents a northeast-southwest aligned gully.

Cut [3/008] was c.830mm in diameter and c.50mm in depth. It had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. This feature was filled by , [3/009], a mid grey brown firm clay silt that contained occasional charcoal flecks as well as tile of a probable post medieval date. This fill may have derived from the deliberate backfilling of the feature. This feature appears to be a small pit or possibly a ditch terminal.

#### 4.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

4.4.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 20 metres and to depths of between c.370mm (92.71m A.O.D) at the northern end and to c.420mm (92.79m A.O.D) at the southern end, at which points the natural Brickearth was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The revealed contexts are listed stratigraphically (latest to earliest) in the table below.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
4/001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt. occ. charcoal flecks	200mm thick
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	200mm thick
4/003	Layer	Natural mid orange brown silty clay. Brickearth	-

Trench 4 was fairly undisturbed however there was some light rooting of the natural. No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

#### 4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a length of 20 metres and to depths of between c.420mm (92.31m A.O.D) at the western end and to c.480mm (91.59m A.O.D) at the eastern end, at which points the natural Brickearth was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The revealed contexts are listed stratigraphically (latest to earliest) in the table below.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
5/001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt. occ. charcoal flecks	200mm thick
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	200mm thick
5/003	Layer	Natural mid orange brown silty clay. Brickearth	-

Trench 4 was heavily disturbed through rooting. No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

#### 4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 20 metres and to depths of between c.520mm (90.83m A.O.D) at the northeastern end and to c.480mm (90.98m A.O.D) at the southwestern end, at which points the natural Brickearth was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

Context	Type	Description	Max dimensions
6/001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt. occ. charcoal flecks	200mm thick
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	200mm thick
6/003	Layer	Natural mid orange brown silty clay. Brickearth	-

No archaeological features were encountered within the trench however a land drain was present.

### 5. THE FINDS

by Trista Clifford and Lucy Allott with a contribution by Gemma Driver

The evaluation recovered a small collection of finds. These are quantified in Table 2 below.

<b>WBG07</b>		<b>Borough Green</b>		<b>3090</b>				
Context	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Flint	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)
3/002			20	78				
3/007					1	<2	1	156
3/009	5	32						
5/002	1	30						

Table 2. Quantification of the finds from the evaluation at 20 – 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green.

#### 5.1 Ceramic Building Material

5.1.1 Ceramic building material was collected from two contexts: [3/009] and [5/002]. Context [3/009] contained five small, abraded fragments. Four probably derive from tiles. The fabric is micaceous fine to medium sand, with some marbling. The remaining fragment probably originates from a brick. The fabric is micaceous medium sand with sparse calcined flint inclusions up to 5mm.

5.1.2 Context [5/002] contained an abraded peg tile fragment with the remains of a circular nail hole. The fabric is frequent medium coarse sand. It is not possible to date the assemblage closely due to the

diminutive nature of the fragments, although a post medieval date is most likely.

## **5.2 Stone**

- 5.2.1 A single, abraded piece of unworked granite, coated in an unknown black substance was recovered from [3/007].

## **5.3 Animal Bone** by Gemma Driver

- 5.3.1 A small animal bone assemblage from just one context was recovered from this site. Context [3/002] produced 18 fragments of which seven are identifiable. The assemblage includes the proximal end of a left, unfused pig femur. Several faint knife marks can be identified on the shaft of the bone. The assemblage also contains a proximal fragment from a right, unfused pig tibia which has been sawn off mid-shaft. The assemblage contains two cattle sized vertebra fragments including a lumber vertebra which has been sliced in a half. Two cattle sized rib fragments were also identified. The context also contained the distal end of a left bird (*Gallus*) tibia. The remaining fragments are very small and unidentifiable. The assemblage has no potential for further analysis.

## **6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The underlying geology encountered during the course of the evaluation comprised Head Brickearth.
- 6.2 It was found during the project that the site had received some degree of disturbance of modern origin. This included demolition and construction layers of which a backfilled swimming pool was part. Additional disturbance occurred through root action.
- 6.3 This investigation succeeded in identifying limited archaeological features on the site. These appear to comprise the base of an undated ditch and a probable post medieval pit. No securely dated medieval, Roman or prehistoric finds or features were revealed during the work.
- 6.4 The lack of archaeological evidence is probably due to a number of factors. The site as outlined above had received a great deal of disturbance and in some cases (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) the natural horizon had been truncated to some depth. This would have served to destroy any but the most substantial archaeological evidence.
- 6.5 A very small assemblage of tile was collected from the site and pit [3/008]. Although this could not be closely dated it is possible that this material may be associated with the nearby post medieval tile kiln 60m to the south (SMR No: TQ 65 NW 66).

- 6.6 In conclusion, this investigation has only provided evidence for very limited post medieval activity at the site. It seems certain that modern activity has affected the archaeological potential of the site. The lack of evidence may also point to the fact that the archaeological focus of the area may be further south towards the nucleus of the village. This may be especially true for the Roman period as the proximity of the cemetery (SMR No: TQ 65 NW 17) but lack of finds of this date found during the evaluation may indicate the site is away from any settlement. The ditch found during the work may also tentatively suggest this, in that historically the site was on the periphery of the settlement possibly in the vicinity of outlying fields.

## **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Turnbull who commissioned the work. Thanks are also due to Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council for her guidance throughout the project.

## **REFERENCES**

KCC 2007: Specification for an archaeological evaluation at 20 – 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green. *KCC unpub Report*

**SMR Summary Sheet**

Site Code	WBG07					
Identification Name and Address	20 – 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green					
County, District &/or Borough	Tonbridge and Malling					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	NGR 561053 157584					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	3090					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other ✓ Rural Garden		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 29.10.07- 31.10.07	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Turnbull					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM✓	Other		
<p><i>Summary</i> Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Turnbull, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of a new housing development at 20 – 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent. The work took place from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007.</p> <p>Six trenches were excavated across the area according to a pattern agreed with the Heritage Conversation Group, Kent County Council. Head Brickearth was encountered at a maximum height of 95.53m A.O.D in the west of the site, falling away to 90.83m A.O.D to the east. A total of 2 features were recorded during the investigation, including an undated linear and a pit of probable post medieval date.</p> <p>Modern disturbance has truncated much of the site which may account for the limited archaeological remains recovered. This lack of evidence may also point to the fact that the archaeological focus of the area may be further south, towards the nucleus of the village.</p>						

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**OASIS ID: archaeol6-34513**

#### Project details

Project name	20 22 Wrotham Rd, Borough Green
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology were commissioned by Turnbull, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of a new housing development at 20 22 Wrotham Road, Borough Green, Kent. The work took place from the 29th to the 31st October 2007. Six trenches were excavated across the area according to a pattern agreed with the County Archaeologist. Head Brickearth was encountered at a maximum height of 95.53m A.O.D in the west of the site, falling away to 90.83m A.O.D to the east. A total of 2 features were recorded during the investigation, including an undated linear and a pit of probable post medieval date. It seems certain that modern activity has seriously affected the archaeological potential of the site. The lack of evidence may also point to the fact that the archaeological focus of the area may be further south towards the nucleus of the village.
Project dates	Start: 29-10-2007 End: 31-10-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WBG07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Methods &	'Targeted Trenches'

techniques

Development type    Housing estate

Prompt                    Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the  
planning process        After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

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### Project location

Country                    England

Site location              KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH GREEN 20 - 22  
Wrotham Rd, Borough Green

Postcode                  TN15 8XX

Study area                4500.00 Square metres

Site coordinates         TQ 610 575 51.2932956085 0.309388919656 51 17 35 N 000 18 33  
E Point

Height OD                Min: 90.83m Max: 95.53m

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### Project creators

Name of  
Organisation              Archaeology South East

Project brief  
originator                 Kent County Council

Project design  
originator                 The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council

Project  
director/manager         JON SYGRAVE

Project supervisor        Andrew Margetts

Type of  
sponsor/funding  
body                         Developer



Name of sponsor/funding body      Turnbull

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive Exists?      No

Paper Archive Exists?      No

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Entered by      andrew margetts (andrew\_margetts@tiscali.co.uk)

Entered on      22 November 2007

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© Archaeology South-East		20-22 Wrotham Road, Sevenoaks		Fig. 2
Ref: 3090	Dec 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Trench Location Plan	

