

**Archaeological Investigations at the  
Former Troy Town Brewery Site  
22/26 Victoria Street, Rochester**

**NGR 574440 168120**

**Project No. 3015  
Site Code: VSR 07**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was maintained at the site during 2007 and 2008 on a range of groundworks associated with the redevelopment of a former brewery. Part of the site also encompassed an area of historic walled garden known from cartographic sources. The exact date of the garden's construction is uncertain but it possibly dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and may be associated with either the gardens of Restoration House or Vines House, which lie to the west of the site. A small number of post-medieval features were recorded during the watching brief including remains of buildings, a well/cistern, and elements of the previous 19<sup>th</sup> century garden. The standing remains of a probable boundary wall of the garden were recorded, following the removal by the contractors of a c. 10m length of the masonry. The wall was spot-Listed Grade II by English Heritage in January 2008.*

*An evaluation of the garden area, carried out by Compass Archaeology in July 2008, found remains associated with c. 17<sup>th</sup> century brick production, which were shown to predate the Grade II listed wall, suggesting a post mid-17<sup>th</sup> century date for its construction. Further ragstone footings were uncovered lying roughly north south, at the previous gardens eastern extent. The most eastern of these two sets of footing are probably an extension of the north south eastern boundary wall of the garden of Restoration House and the most western, part of a raised terrace feature clearly shown in the 1864 OS map of the site. Other garden features relating to probable 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century bedding soils and 19<sup>th</sup> century paths were also recorded.*

*A further evaluation trench was excavated by ASE in early 2009 to ascertain the survival of the footings across the 20<sup>th</sup> century ramp constructed for access to the previous rear car park of the brewery. The footings were not encountered during the works and a single 19<sup>th</sup>-century pit was recorded.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Future Homes (UK) Management Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological work at 22/26 Victoria Street, Rochester, Kent (NGR 574440 168120) (Fig. 1). Vantis PLC commissioned further archaeological work at the site after Future Homes (UK) Management Ltd went into administration in late 2008.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is situated in the Troy Town area of Rochester to the south-east of the A2 Rochester Bridge. It is located within the historic core of the city, which occupies the raised land within a bend of the River Medway. The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 of the area (Sheet No. 272, *Chatham*), shows the underlying geology at the site consists of Head Deposits, overlying Upper Chalk.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Medway Council for the redevelopment of the site. Consent was given for the construction of new residential units and the conversion of standing buildings, which formed part of a brewery formally occupying the site (planning ref's: MC2004/2452 and MC2007/1529).

1.3.2 Following consultation between Medway Council and the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council's advisers on archaeological issues, a condition was attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological work, both before and during the redevelopment work. The initial study of the site consisted of the production of a Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2007a) and an Interpretive Historic Buildings Survey (ASE 2007b).

1.3.3 Subsequently, a Specification for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site was issued by KCC (KCC 2007). This document outlined the procedures to be followed during archaeological monitoring at the site.

1.3.4 Following the removal, by the groundwork contractors, of a part of the southern probable garden retaining wall in late 2007, a Specification was issued by KCC outlining a scheme for recording the remains of the feature (KCC 2008a). This recording was undertaken by ASE (ASE 2008a).

1.3.5 Following the recording of the probable garden retaining wall and the observation of potential garden features within Soak Away 1 (Fig. 3), KCC issued a specification for the evaluation of the northwestern corner of the site (KCC 2008b). KCC specified that an experienced garden archaeologist undertake the work. This work was carried out by Compass Archaeology in July 2008 (Compass Archaeology 2008).

1.3.6 Following the administration of Future Homes, consultation between

representatives of Vantis, ASE and KCC took place to decide what further work was required to clarify the extent and survival of the features uncovered by Compass Archaeology in 2008. A Specification for a further evaluation was issued by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2008b), and the work was undertaken in early 2009. The main objective of this was to determine whether the north-south aligned garden walls recorded by Compass Archaeology had been truncated during the construction of a ramp for the previous car park.

## **1.4 Objectives and Aims of the Fieldwork**

### **1.4.1 The principle objectives of the archaeological work laid out in the original Watching Brief Specification (KCC 2007) were:**

*'to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits. Remains of the brewery, waterworks and formal gardens would be considered of archaeological interest and should be recorded if encountered'.*

### **1.4.2 The subsequent Specification (KCC 2008b) for an evaluation to investigate the remains associated with the previous garden, carried out by Compass Archaeology, added to the original objective:**

*The objectives of the evaluation (in addition to those set out in part B of the specification) are to initially understand the terrace sequence in the former historic garden, its survival in the area which will be impacted by the remaining development groundworks, better understand the age, character and layout of the historic gardens and structures.*

*The specific aims of the first stage of this evaluation are to determine:*

- *the location and form of the historic terracing of the site, both that shown on the 1864 OS map and any earlier manifestation.*
- *the chronology of the establishment and development of the gardens in this area.*
- *the survival and extent of archaeological remains associated with the early garden, pre, post, or contemporary with the wall.*
- *whether any remnants of a north / south leg to the surviving wall survive.*
- *the survival and extent of archaeological remains associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century garden to Vines House.*
- *the layout and features of the historic gardens, notably bedding patterns, planting and pathways etc*
- *the condition, quality and significance of historic garden remains.*
- *the impact of the development on historic garden remains.*

### **1.4.3 The Specification (ASE 2008b) for the evaluation trench positioned on the previous ramp further enhanced the aims and objectives to include:**

*The Specific Aims of the Evaluation are to determine:*

- *The survival and extent of the probable rear garden wall footings associated with Restoration house, and retaining wall tier, observed during the initial phase of evaluation.*
- *The survival and extent of any original garden features, notably bedding patterns, paths etc*
- *The survival and extent of archaeological remains associated with the later modification of the gardens.*

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site carried out during 2007 and 2008, and of an evaluation (see 1.3.4 above) undertaken in early 2009. The monitoring work was undertaken by a team comprised of Clive Meaton and Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologists) and Michele Collings, Nick Garland, Teresa Hawtin and Deon Whittaker (Archaeologists). The 2009 evaluation work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and Rob Cole (Surveyor). The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

1.5.2 This report aims to summarise the works undertaken to date by ASE. The report also discusses the current situation regarding the status of the site and development programme and suggests a possible mitigation solution for the most pressing development concern, namely the provision of services to Block B. Subsequent archaeological work on the site will be reported upon within a separate document.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A full consideration of the archaeological and cartographic background to the site was given in the Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2007a), the study of the standing Brewery Buildings in the Historic Building Survey (ASE 2007b), the recording of the probable garden retaining wall in the Interpretive Historic Building Survey (ASE 2008a) and the results of the garden evaluation in the Archaeological Evaluation Report (Compass Archaeology 2008). These reports should be read in conjunction with this current report, but for reference are briefly summarised below.

### 2.2 The Desk Based Assessment

2.2.1 Based on the available evidence it was concluded that the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains at the site on a period-by-period basis was:

Palaeolithic – Bronze Age	<b>Low</b>
Iron Age	<b>Low</b>
Roman	<b>High</b>
Anglo-Saxon	<b>Moderate</b>
Medieval	<b>Moderate</b>
Post-Medieval	<b>High</b>

2.2.2 The High potential assigned to the Roman period was based on Rochester's status as a known Romano-British town. Archaeological deposits from domestic and funerary activity have been recorded within 250m of the site. The High potential for the discovery of buried post-medieval remains is based on cartographic evidence and on the presence of standing buildings at the site forming the remains of a brewery founded in 1750. A plan of area dating from 1772 also shows a waterworks somewhere in the vicinity of the site (ASE 2007b, 15).

2.2.3 The cartographic evidence suggests that by the second half of the nineteenth century, much of the south-eastern part of the site was given over to the brewery, but that much of the north-western part was occupied by a formal walled garden, with a walled terrace (Fig. 10). By 1898, there was a reservoir to the immediate south of the north-western edge of the site (ASE 2007b, Fig. 12). The reservoir was still marked on maps of the 1950s by which time the brewery covered nearly all of the south-eastern part of the site, but the garden area, although no longer formally organised, was still an open area (ASE 2007b, Fig. 15).

### 2.3 The Historic Building Survey (ASE 2007b)

2.3.1 The standing remains of the brewery complex dated to no earlier than the first half of the 19th century with subsequent development and additions throughout the 19th century. The corner block and the range fronting onto Victoria Street were re-built at the beginning of the Edwardian period, which included a significant programme of re-modelling to the interior of the buildings. The four-storey tower block was then added, constructed in the same style as the adjacent structures in order to present a unified façade to the complex. Development of the structures to the rear of the site took place



in the second half of the 19th century. The final modifications to the site occurred in the second half of the 20th century when the buildings were converted to a cash and carry retail outlet.

## **2.4 The Interpretive Historic Building Survey - Probable Garden Boundary Wall (ASE 2008a)**

2.4.1 The conclusions of the survey were made prior to the full exposure and cleaning of the section across the truncated wall and the resulting evidence recorded during the garden evaluation (Compass 2008).

2.4.2 The boundary wall remains are just over 26 metres in length by c. 3.10 m in height from the foundation course to the modern capping at the current top course of the wall. There are three main phases of construction to the wall, the first dating to the early to mid 16th century.

2.4.3 The phase 1 remains comprise a face or skin of knapped flint brought to courses with a diaper pattern picked out in red brick headers. This greatest area of survival of this phase of construction is at the southeastern end of the wall, where it is extant for a length of 5.50 m and stands to a visible height of 2.20 m above an earthen bank. The phase 1 fabric survives for a further 4.40 m to the northwest at a maximum height of 0.80 m at which point it is interrupted by a rebuild (phase 3) before rising up again to the full height of the wall at the northwestern end of the structure. The northwestern end of the phase 1 fabric consists almost entirely of flint with some remnants of the diaper pattern and some randomly placed 16<sup>th</sup> century bricks used to tie the face to the core of the wall.

2.4.4 The phase 2 construction is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and comprises the re-facing of a 4.40 m length of wall stitched into the phase 1 fabric. The 19<sup>th</sup> century rebuild is of flush faced flint laid in courses interrupted by brickwork in diaper pattern placed in an attempt to emulate the earlier fabric and create a continuous façade. Phase 2 also includes an earth bank that abuts the northeastern elevation of the wall, which was built as part of the design and layout of a formal garden associated with Restoration House.

2.4.5 The third phase of construction is a substantial modern rebuild some 9.00 m in length that was a response to a failure in the fabric. This includes several episodes of construction with modern brickwork, concrete and tile.

## **2.5 Archaeological Evaluation: Garden Archaeology (Compass Archaeology 2008)**

2.5.1 The archaeological evaluation carried out by Compass Archaeology revealed evidence of several phases of activity on the site. The Evaluation Report (Compass Archaeology 2008) should be referred to for a full account of the results, which are summarised with due acknowledgement below.

2.5.2 The earliest evidence of activity on the site comes from naturally accumulated deposits, recorded in Trench 1, from which pottery sherds dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries were recovered.

- 2.5.3 The earliest features recorded relate to a brick clamp (observed in section in Trench 5), probable quarrying pits associated with brick manufacture (Trench 1) and a burnt surface, also probably associated with brick making or another industrial activity (Trench 4). These have been dated to the mid- late 17<sup>th</sup> century and could relate to works carried out by Sir Francis Clarke on Restoration House.
- 2.5.3 During the excavation of Trench 5, and the full exposure of the truncated section of the probable garden boundary wall, it was shown that the footings of the wall truncated the above mentioned brick clamp and must therefore post-date the mid-late 17<sup>th</sup> century. A previous documentary survey undertaken by Elizabeth Hall (1994) on the garden of Restoration House suggests that the gardens were initially laid out in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.5.4 Two ragstone and chalk footings were also recorded in the east of the area, in Trenches 2 and 3. The most easterly footing probably relates to the extension of the north east - south west boundary wall to the Restoration House garden and the westerly to a terrace which supported a raised walkway around a central sunken garden. It is postulated that the most easterly footing would have supported a wall which would have joined the listed probable garden boundary wall to the south.
- 2.5.5 Compass archaeology postulated that the southern garden boundary wall is likely to be a much later rebuild of a previous wall. The evidence for this lies with the difference in form between the southern boundary wall and the two ragstone and chalk footings recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 (Compass Archaeology 2008, 42). Elizabeth Hall (1994) remarked in her previous survey that the ragstone and chalk footings in the Restoration House garden are stylistically similar to other local 17<sup>th</sup> century walls. However, the southern wall is of a much larger form, c. 1m thick to the ragstone and chalk footings c. 0.5m, and its purpose seems to have been as a heavy revetment to the raised land to the south. As there is no firm dating for the wall other than its relationship with the mid- late 17<sup>th</sup> century brick clamp it is still possible that the wall was constructed as part of the formal gardens in mid-late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Due to the paucity of evidence these relationships are currently uncertain.
- 2.5.6 Potential features relating to the later 18<sup>th</sup> century development of the garden were also recorded namely a possible path to the north of the southern garden wall, an east west brick terrace wall (Trench 1) and potential adjacent bedding trench.
- 2.5.7 A probably brick rubble path relating to the later 18<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the garden was recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. A small pit also dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century was recorded in Trench 1.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Groundworks at the site were monitored by personnel from ASE during visits to the site in 2007 and 2008, following the Watching Brief methodology outlined in the Specification for the work (KCC 2007). The subsequent evaluation carried out by ASE in 2009 was undertaken following the methods given in a further Specification, prepared by ASE and approved by KCC prior to the commencement of work at the site (ASE 2008b). These documents should be referred to for the detailed methodology employed during these two phases of work.
- 3.2 During the Watching Briefs, groundworks were undertaken by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth edged bucket and monitored by an appropriately qualified archaeologist until it became clear that no archaeological remains were present (i.e. once excavations reached the undisturbed natural subsoil). Some works were undertaken on the site without the knowledge of Archaeology South-East and these are referred to in the Results Section below.
- 3.3 Where significant remains were discovered the contractors stopped work and sufficient time was made available for the attending archaeologist to clean and record the exposed archaeological features.
- 3.4 The 2009 evaluation trench was mechanically excavated by an 8 tonne 360° tracked excavator under supervision of archaeologists from ASE. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.5 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using standardised context record sheets approved for use by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.6 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of interest.
- 3.7 A full photographic record (colour slide, black and white monochrome & digital) of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.
- 3.8 Levels were taken where appropriate and related to a known spot height supplied by the on site surveyor.

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The results are presented by area. The Quantification of the site archive for all areas, excluding the evaluation undertaken by Compass Archaeology is presented below:

Number of Contexts	90
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	5
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	c.25 black & white c.25 colour slides c.100 digital
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

**Table 1:** Quantification of site archive

### 4.2 The Watching Brief: Block B (Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 6)

#### 4.2.1 Introduction

4.2.2 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the mechanical excavation of strip foundation trenches for Block B, located towards the north-western end of the site. The Block was located within the part of the site occupied by the walled garden in the 1864 First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area.

4.2.3 A small number deposits were encountered and recorded during the watching brief. The results are summarised in Table 2:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Width	Max. Depth
01	Deposit	'Natural'	-	-
02	Fill	Fill of [32]	1.0m	800mm
03	Fill	Fill of [33]	-	350mm
04	Fill	Fill of [34]	1.0m	800mm
05	Wall	Red brick wall	400mm	450mm
06	Cut	Cut of large Pit	>3.70m	>800mm
07	Fill	Fill of [6]	3.70m	800mm
08	Deposit	Made Ground	-	350mm
32	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.0m	800mm
33	Cut	Cut of Pit	-	350mm
34	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.0m	800mm
35	Deposit	Made Ground	-	300mm
36	Cut	Cut of Pit	-	800mm
37	Fill	Fill of [36] Pit	-	800mm
38	Cut	Cut of Pit	800mm	1.0m
39	Fill	Fill of [38] Pit	800mm	1.0m

40	Fill	Fill of Pit [41]	-	500mm
41	Cut	Cut of Pit	-	300mm
42	Cut	Cut of Pit	550mm	200mm
43	Fill	Fill of Pit [42]	550mm	200mm
44	Cut	Footing Cut of Wall [5]		

**Table 2:** List Of Recorded Contexts: Block B

- 4.2.4 Block B Watching Brief Results by Michelle Collings (Figs. 4 and 6)
- 4.2.5 Much of this part of the site had been stripped of deposits overlying the 'natural' prior to the first monitoring visit. In some areas there was a survival of a 350mm thick layer of brown silty clay topsoil, Context [8]. In other areas the only overburden was a 300mm thick surface layer of brick rubble, resulting from recent demolition, Context [35]. The 'natural' was a yellow sandy silt with very frequent patches of angular flint, Context [01]. The surface of the 'natural' showed considerable localised truncation from recent demolition work at the site.
- 4.2.6 A small number of archaeological features cut into the surface of the 'natural' were encountered and recorded. Given the overlying deposits, these features were not visible in plan, except where they crossed the foundation trenches.
- 4.2.7 Wall [05] comprised six courses of bricks with a cement and mortar bonding. It ran along the southeastern edge of the Block, parallel to the outside wall of the new building, and was observed in four different footing trenches. It measuring 400mm wide and 450mm deep, and was more than 10m in length (Fig. 6, Section1).
- 4.2.8 Pit [06] was encountered close to Wall [05]. It was of uncertain shape in plan, and was not fully excavated, so was also of unknown depth (Fig. 6, Section 2). It had steeply sloping sides, the north-western edge sloping slightly more steeply than the south-eastern edge. The excavated portion contained one fill, Context [07]; this was a mid-orangey brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions, chalk fragments. It was more than 800mm in thickness. Brick recovered from the fill was of 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.
- 4.2.9 Pit [34] was had a concave south-western edge and convex northeastern edge, both sides sloping fairly steeply to a slightly rounded base. It was 1.0m in diameter/width and 800mm in depth (Fig. 6, Section3). There was a single fill, Context [04], a dark brown clayey silt with occasional flint nodules. No datable artefacts were recovered from the context.
- 4.2.10 Two intercutting features [38] and [36] were recorded close to Pit [34]. There was no discernible difference between the two fills and it was not possible to identify a clear stratigraphic relationship between the two features [38] and [36].
- 4.2.11 Pit [38] had near vertical sides and a flat base. It was 800mm in diameter/width and 1.0m in depth (Fig. 6, Section 4). The single fill was Context [39], a mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent chalk flecks and very frequent small fragments of flint. Pit [36] had a broadly elongated 'u' shaped profile. It was more than 1.0m in diameter/width and 800mm in depth (Fig. 6, Section 4). The single fill was Context [37], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt with frequent chalk flecks and very frequent small fragments of

flint. No datable artefacts were recovered from either of the features.

4.2.12 Three intercutting features, Pits [32], [33] and [42] were encountered at the northern end of the Block. Pit [32] truncated the centre of Pit [33] which was also truncated on the north-eastern edge by Pit [41] (Fig. 5, S5).

4.2.13 The earliest of the three intercutting features, Pit [33] survived to a depth of 350mm and was of uncertain extent. The single fill, Context [03] was a dark greyish brown silt. Pit [32] had vertical sides and a flat base. It was 1.0m wide and 800mm deep. The single fill was Context [02], a mid-greyish brown clayey silt with frequent chalk flecks and very frequent small fragments of flint. Pit [41] had an irregular profile, to a maximum depth of 500mm. The single fill was Context [40], a dark greyish brown silt. No datable artefacts were recovered from the features.

4.2.14 A further feature, Pit [42] was observed to the immediate north-east of Pit [41]. It had vertical sides and a flat base, and was 550mm in diameter/depth and 200mm in depth. The single fill was Context [43], a dark greyish brown silt. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill.

### 4.3 The Watching Brief: Block C and Trenches A and B (Figs. 5, 6 and 7)

#### 4.3.1 Introduction

4.3.2 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the mechanical excavation of a pad foundation for Block C, located towards the centre of the site. This part of the site lay outside of the walled garden.

4.3.3 A small number deposits were encountered and recorded during the watching brief. The results are summarised in Table 3:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Width	Max. Depth
200	Deposit	'Natural'	-	-
201	Deposit	'Natural'	-	-
202	Deposit	Made Ground	-	1.20m
203	Cut	Cut of Pit	800mm	500mm
204	Fill	Fill of [203]	800mm	500mm
205	Wall	Red brick	700mm	-
206	Cut	Cut of Pit	1.80m	1.23m
207	Fill	Fill of [206]	1.05m	-
208	Fill	Fill of [206]	200mm	-
209	Fill	Fill of [206]	680mm	-
210	Wall	Red Brick	700mm	-
211	Wall	Well	4.0m	>3.0m
212	Wall	Well	4.0m	>3.0m
213	Cut	Cut for Well	4.0m	>3.0m
214	Fill	Fill of Well	4.0m	>3.0m
215	Wall	Foundation	240mm	-
216	Wall	Foundation	240mm	-
217	Wall	Foundation	240mm	-
218	Deposit	Made Ground	3.10m	-
219	Cut	Cut for Service	420mm	-
220	Fill	Service Trench	420mm	-
241	Deposit	Made Ground	-	>60mm
251	Deposit	Made Ground	-	300mm



252	Deposit	Made Ground	-	260mm
253	Deposit	Made Ground	-	220mm
254	Deposit	Made Ground	-	30mm
255	Deposit	Brick & Cobble Floor	-	-

**Table 3:** List of Recorded Contexts - Block C

- 4.3.4 Block C and Trenches A and B Watching Brief Results (Fig. 5, 6 and 7)
- 4.3.5 The overburden in this part of the site consisted of a layer of brick rubble, Context [202], presumably resulting from recent demolition work at the site. This was 1.2m in thicknesses in places. This directly overlies the 'natural', which had two distinct variants in the area, Context [200], an orangey-brown sandy silt, and Context [201], a dark orange brown clayey silt.
- 4.3.6 A small number of archaeological features were observed during the monitoring of the groundworks. Owing to the depth of overburden and the subsequent instability of the sides of the excavation, detailed section drawings were not possible on the grounds of Health and Safety. None of the features were visible in plan except in the foundation excavation itself.
- 4.3.7 Cut [203] was 800mm in width and was 500mm in depth, with steeply sloping concave sides and a flat base. It contained brickwork bonded with cement, Context [205], forming the 700mm wide foundation of a wall, which apparently ran from south-west to north-east across the site. Following the construction of the masonry, the foundation trench had been backfilled with Context [204], a yellowish brown clayey silt with abundant flint.
- 4.3.8 Pit [206] had steeply sloping concave sides and a flat base. It was 1.8m in diameter/width and 1.23m in depth. There were three discernable fills. The primary fill was Context [207], a 1.05m thick dark greyish brown silty clay. This was overlain by Context [209], a 680mm thick deposit of mid-brown clayey silt. The upper fill was Context [208], a 200mm thick layer of crumbly chalk. Two pieces of 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were recovered from Context [207].
- 4.3.9 Wall [210] was 700mm in width and made up of bricks bonded with cement, and apparently formed a foundation to a wall that ran from south-west to north-east across the site. No foundation cut was visible in section, although manual cleaning of the deep section was not possible on grounds of Health and Safety.
- 4.3.10 The other feature encountered in the south-western part of Block C was a sub-circular Well/Cistern, which was 4.0m in diameter and at least 3.0m in depth (Figs 5 and 7). The structure consisted of two apparently separate brick builds (Contexts [211], which was overlain by Context [212]) laid within circular Cut [213]. The feature had been backfilled with Context [214], a deposit of ash and other burnt material.
- 4.3.11 These observations were made during the mechanical excavation of the foundations, hence detailed recording was impossible. The excavation ceased at 3m, but the feature appeared to be deeper than this. Maggie Henderson, Senior Archaeologist: Historic Buildings, ASE observed the features and was of the opinion that the brickwork appeared no older than the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Maggie Henderson, *pers. comm.*).

- 4.3.12 A number of linear features were observed and recorded in the open area excavation for the pad foundation. Wall [215] was a 240mm wide brick bonded with cement foundation, which ran across the area for 8.4m from south-east to north-west, before turning at a right-angle. Wall [216] appeared to be a continuation of this foundation separated by local truncation. It was of identical width and construction technique and ran for 1.25m from east to west.
- 4.3.13 Wall [217] was butted up against Wall [215], and was again of similar width and construction technique. It ran for 3.1m from south-west to north-east. A possible levelling deposit had been laid over the foundations, presumably after the demolition of the associated building; Context [218] was a whitish grey sandy clay of unknown depth. This deposit had been truncated by a 420mm wide service trench, Cut [219], which also partially truncated Wall [217]. The single fill, Context [220], a light greyish brown gravel contained a disused water pipe.
- 4.3.14 Two trenches were mechanically excavated on the south-western edge of Block C, as the initial groundworks for the construction of a stairwell. (Trenches A and B). Both were c.2m long and 500mm wide. A similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded in both of the trenches (Fig 6, Section 7). The earliest encountered deposit was Context [241], a brownish orange sandy silt, of which only 60mm was exposed at the base of the excavation of Trench B. It formed the base/levelling for a mortar-bonded brick and flint cobble floor/surface, Context [255]. This deposit formed the bottom of Trench A, but was found to be only one course thick in Trench B.
- 4.3.15 In both trenches, it was intermittently overlain by a layer of burnt material, Context [254], which had a maximum thickness of 30mm. This was overlain by Context [253], a 220mm thick deposit of orangey yellowish brown clay. This was in turn overlain by Context [252], a 260mm thick layer of brick and chalk rubble. The uppermost deposit was Context [251], a 300mm thick layer of brick rubble, probably resulting from recent demolition work at the site.

#### 4.4 The Watching Brief: Soakaway Pit 1 (Figs. 2 and 8)

##### 4.4.1 Introduction

4.4.1 A c.3m<sup>2</sup> soakaway pit was mechanically excavated located towards the north-western end of the site during May 2008. It lay within the area of the former walled garden (see Paragraph 2.3 above). Following a misunderstanding on the part of the on-site contractors, this work was undertaken without an archaeologist in attendance. Following consultation with Simon Mason of the KCC, it was agreed that the all of the sections of the pit would be fully recorded.

4.4.2 The Recorded Sections by Paul Riccoboni and Diccon Hart (Fig. 8, Section 8)

4.4.3 The encountered contexts are summarised in Table 4 below:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
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221	Surface	Previous yard surface	-	200mm
222	Deposit	Topsoil	-	400mm
223	Deposit	Made ground	-	300mm
224	Deposit	Natural	-	
225	Fill	Made ground/levelling & Fill of [227]	-	380mm
226	Deposit	Made ground	-	500mm
227	Cut	Garden feature-Pit	2.5m	400mm
228	Deposit	Made ground/levelling deposit	-	300mm
229	Deposit	Thin brick dump	100mm	50mm
230	Cut	Garden feature-Pit	800mm	200mm
231	Cut	Garden feature-Pit	700mm	400mm
232	Fill	Fill of [231]	700mm	400mm
233	Deposit	Cement layer	-	100mm
234	Cut	Garden feature-Pit	800mm	400mm
235	Fill	Fill of [234]	800mm	400mm
236	Fill	Fill of [230]	800mm	200mm

**Table 4:** List of Recorded Contexts within Soakaway Pit 1

- 4.4.4 The earliest recorded Context comprised the natural geology of the site (a Head deposit) [224] which contained chalk fragments throughout (solid chalk was noted at a depth of c. 8.45mAOD).
- 4.4.5 Directly above [224] was Context [226], a mid-orangey brown silty sand which contained occasional chalk flecks. This deposit was 500mm in thickness and may have comprised a previous subsoil horizon. Cutting through the top of [226], was a possible pit [227], which had a steep northern side and more gradually sloping eastern facing side. It was 2.5m in diameter/width and a maximum of 400mm in depth. This feature was filled by [225], a light cream coloured silty sand which was also seen spread across the area. This deposit was likely derived from re-deposited natural and is considered to represent an episode of levelling.
- 4.4.6 A further sequence of potential levelling deposits sealed layer [225]. These included Deposit [228], a 300mm thick, light-mid brownish orange loose gritty sand, a 50mm thick dump of brick rubble, Context [229], and a 300mm thick mid-greyish brown silty clay [223], which contained frequent chalk flecking throughout. Two fragments of tile were recovered from this deposit. These layers are considered to represent an attempt to level or otherwise landscape the site.
- 4.4.7 Three shallow features were cut into the top of the sequence of levelling layers described above. These included Cut [231], which was 700mm in diameter/width and 400mm in depth. The fill was Context [232], a mid brownish grey silty clay which contained CBM flecks, chalk flecking, occasional flint nodules and an oyster shell fragment, Cut [234], 800mm wide and 400mm deep, filled by Context [235], a heterogeneous deposit of grey and brown colour which contained a very high frequency of red bricks and chalk nodules, and Cut [230], 800mm wide and 200mm deep and filled by [236], a grey brown coloured deposit which contained very frequent brick inclusions and occasional chalk nodules. Fragments of brick were recovered from Context [235], were dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 4.4.8 Sealing all of the above deposits and features was Context [222], a dark

brownish black, silty clay of a firm consistency. This deposit was a maximum of 400mm in thickness and was thought to have been a previous topsoil or garden soil. It had frequent chalk flecking throughout.

4.4.9 Cutting through this deposit was [221], a layer of red and yellow bricks which had a maximum of two courses. The bricks were c.100mm in thickness and c.250mm in length and were factory made. They are thought to have formed a yard surface, perhaps associated with the old brewery site or even the recently in-use car park, as geo-textile membrane was still visible beneath them. One brick was collected, which confirmed a modern date. Deposit [233], was a thin layer on cement/mortar mix seen above parts of the brick floor surface.

4.4.10 A deposit of modern brick rubble and crushed concrete covered this entire area of the site and was the latest recorded deposit.

#### 4.5 The Watching Brief: Soakaway Pit 2 (Figs. 2 and 6)

##### 4.5.1 Introduction

4.5.2 Another c.3m<sup>2</sup> pit for a soakaway was mechanically excavated at the site later in May 2008. The excavation was archaeologically monitored and recorded as far as possible. Detailed sections drawings could not be produced as, owing to the instability of the sides, the on-site contractors began work on constructing the soakaway chamber before this could be completed. However, a 'sketch' section was completed (Fig 6, Section 6).

4.5.3 The recorded contexts are summarised in Table 5 below:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
200	Deposit	'Natural'	-	-
242	Deposit	Concrete	-	200mm
243	Deposit	Made Ground	-	400mm
244	Deposit	Made Ground	-	550mm
245	Deposit	Made Ground	-	750mm
246	Deposit	Made Ground	-	250mm
247	Wall	?Cellar	-	1.16m
248	Wall	?Cellar	-	700mm
249	Wall	?Cellar	-	1.20m
250	Deposit	Brick Rubble	-	450mm

**Table 5:** List of recorded contexts within Soakaway Pit 2

##### 4.5.4 The Deposits

4.5.5 The 'natural', Context [200] was encountered at a depth of 2.15m below the ground surface as at May 2008. It was overlain by Context [246], a 250mm thick layer of brick rubble mixed with orangey, yellowish brown silty clay. This was overlain in turn by Context [245], a 750mm thick layer of brick rubble, this time mixed with a greyish brown clay. A sherd of late 18<sup>th</sup>- to mid 19<sup>th</sup>- century

pottery was recovered from this deposit.

- 4.5.6 Context [245] was overlain by Context [244], a 550mm thick deposit of silty clays varying in colour between dark brown and orangey greyish brown. This was overlain by Context [243], a 400mm thick mixture of greyish brown gravel and silty clay, forming the base for the uppermost deposit, Context [242], a 200mm thick layer of concrete.
- 4.5.7 Evidence for a ?cellar was encountered in the sections of the trench, but full recording was impossible (see 6.1.1 above). A stretch of wall consisting of 13-16 courses of mortar-bonded yellow bricks, Wall [247] (not shown on section drawing) was encountered along the north-western section of the excavation. It lay directly below Context [243] and extended to a depth of 1.16m below the surface. It was laid on a foundation of four courses of mortar-bonded red bricks and concrete, Wall [248] (not shown on section drawing), which was 700mm in thickness.
- 4.5.8 Evidence of another wall was encountered in the south-western face of the trench. Wall [249] (not shown on section drawing) consisted of five courses of mortar-bonded red bricks and concrete, which extended to 1.20m below the surface. It extended 1.0m into the excavation and was overlain by Context [250], a localised 450mm thick deposit of yellow and red brick rubble, presumably the result of demolition of the part of the structure surviving as Wall [249]. This was overlain by Context [243].

#### 4.6 **The Boundary Wall and Garden** (Figs. 2, 3 and 10)

##### 4.6.1 Introduction

4.6.2 In November 2007, clearance of a substantial mound of material in the north-eastern part of the site revealed part of the continuation of the southern probable boundary wall of the site, which was acting as a retaining wall for the mound. Given the limited working area available for the monitoring archaeologist, a detailed record of the wall could not be made at this time, on grounds of Health and Safety. A photographic record was maintained, and the visible part of the structure was recorded as Wall [09].

##### 4.6.3 The Boundary Wall

4.6.4 During subsequent visits to the site in November 2007, it was noted that no further work had been undertaken in the vicinity of the wall and mound. However by early January 2008 the wall and much of the mound had been mechanically removed without ASE being informed or full archaeological recording. Following a site meeting between representatives KCC, ASE and Medway Council's Conservation Officer on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008, it was decided that full recording of the surviving element of the wall should be undertaken. A Specification for the work was duly produced by Simon Mason of KCC (KCC 2008a).

4.6.5 The upstanding part of the wall was recorded by Maggie Henderson, Senior Archaeologist: Historic Buildings, ASE and a report was produced, suggesting that the wall contained elements dating from the early to mid-16<sup>th</sup> century (ASE 2008a). The wall was Spot Listed Grade II by English Heritage in January 2008.

4.7 The 2009 Evaluation Trench (Figs. 2 and 9)

4.7.1 Results (Fig. 9)

4.7.2 The contexts encountered and recorded during the excavation of the evaluation trench are summarised in Table 6 below.

4.7.3 The stratigraphic sequence revealed in the trench was not complex. At the south-eastern end of the trench, the brownish yellow silty sand 'natural', Context [1008] was overlain by Context [1003], a 90mm to 120mm thick layer of brick rubble, forming the base of an overlaying layer of 90mm to 100mm thick tarmac, Context [1002]. This was overlain by part of the recently constructed mound occupying that part of the site, Context [1001]. This consisted of brick rubble, timber and other construction debris.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
1001	Deposit	Modern Ramp	-	>1.2m
1002	Deposit	Tarmac	-	100mm
1003	Deposit	Made Ground	-	120mm
1004	Cut	Pit	1.7m	1.1m
1005	Fill	Pit Fill	-	800mm
1006	Cut	Cut for Wall	>3m	-
1007	Wall	Brick Wall	>3m	1.2m
1008	Deposit	'Natural'	-	-
1009	Fill	Pit Fill	-	60mm
1010	Fill	Pit Fill	-	200mm
1011	Fill	Pit Fill	-	50mm
1012	Fill	Pit Fill	-	230mm
1013	Fill	Pit Fill	-	60mm
1014	Wall	Concrete	>3m	130mm
1015	Wall	Concrete	>5m	230mm
1016	Wall	Brick Wall	>5m	2.10m
1017	Cut	Cut for Wall	>5m	-

**Table 6:** List of Recorded Contexts within Additional Evaluation Trench

4.7.4 Further to the north-west, two areas of masonry were encountered and recorded in the trench sections. Wall [1007] lay on the north-western side of the trench (Fig. 8, Section 9). It formed much of the trench side, and survived to a height of 1.2m, with a slight curve. The bricks measured 220mm high by 60mm high, mortar-bonded in a Flemish Bond pattern. The brickwork was laid in an undetected construction Cut [1006], onto a 130mm thick concrete footing, Context [1014], which lay directly on the 'natural' Context [1008].

4.7.5 In the opposite section another similar structure was detected, although it had been heavily truncated. A handful of bricks of a similar size and bond, Context [1016], were laid in an undetectable construction Cut [1017], onto a concrete footing, Context [1015], which had a maximum thickness of 210mm. This was laid directly onto the 'natural', [1008], and also partially overlay the brick rubble base of the tarmac, Context [1003].

4.7.6 The concrete also partially overlay/truncated a C19th-century feature, Pit

[1004]. It was square in plan, measuring 1.7m by 1.7m and was 1.1m deep, with near vertical sides and a sloping base (Fig 9, Section 10). The primary fill was a 230mm thick deposit of a mid-brown clayey silt with abundant angular flint, Context [1012]. It was overlain by Context [1011], a 50mm thick lens of yellowish brown silty sand. Context [1009] overlay both Contexts [1012] and [1011]. It was 60mm thick lens of greyish brown clayey silt.

4.7.7 Context [1009] also partially overlay Context [1010], a 200mm thick layer of ash, which in turn overlaid Context [1011]. The upper fill was Context [1005], an 800mm thick mid-greyish brown silty clay. Context [1013] appeared to represent a slump of the soft brownish yellow 'natural' silty sand into the pit, but might equally be the true edge of the feature 'squashed' into the feature. Early 19<sup>th</sup>-century material was recovered from Contexts [1005] and [1012].

4.7.8 There was no evidence of the course of any masonry associated with the historic garden. Both of the walls encountered in the sections were erected as part of the car-park ramp and are of no archaeological significance.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations. A summary can be found in Table 7:

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CB M	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Shel l	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	Glas s	wt (g)	CTP	wt (g)	Slag	wt (g)
u/s													3	146				
7			4	434														
207	2	22					1	44			1	50						
209			1	98	2	124												
215			3	3354														
217													3	217				
221			1	1400														
223			2	150														
226			1	28														
232							1	20										
235			1	496														
236			1	504														
238			2	316														
245	1	190																
1005	59	1904	5	1148	21	634	4	200	2	154	1	74	3	440	5	18	1	<2
1010															3	16		
1012	2	372	1	88											1	4		

**Table 7:** Finds Quantification

### 5.2 The Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered 64 sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 2,490g, from four individually numbered contexts. All of the material is of the late post-medieval period, spanning the late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The sherds tend toward being large (often over 50mm across) and all are fresh suggesting the material has not been subjected to reworking to any notable extent.

5.2.2 Context [207] produced two sherds of unbraded creamware, one from a side plate and one from a hollow form such as a bowl. Although there are too few sherds to be certain, the lack of later wares, such as pearlware, suggest a date in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Context [245] produced a single sherd (187g) from a tapering bottle in English salt-glazed stoneware. The finish of this vessel would be in keeping with a late 18<sup>th</sup>- to mid 19<sup>th</sup>- century date range. Context [1012] produced pottery of a probably similar date range. This deposit contained unbraded sherds from an unglazed earthenware flower pot and glazed red earthenware storage jar. The latter has an all over glaze with two close-set rouletted horizontal lines on its exterior.

5.2.3 Context [1005] yielded a relatively large assemblage of domestic wares dating to c. 1810/20 – 1830. The material is in fresh condition and several conjoining sherds are present from the same vessels. In total 59 sherds, weighing 1,906g, and representing 26 different vessels were recovered.



Coarsewares include two sherds from a London stoneware jug with upright horizontally ribbed neck (124g), a bodysherd from a glazed red earthenware jar (20g) and 11 (476g) sherds from unglazed earthenware vessels. The latter include pieces from a small dish/saucer, a larger dish, a shallow bowl and at least three flower pots. Although 11 sherds of creamware are present (290g) only three vessels appear to be represented: a hemispherical bowl with simple rim, a shouldered bowl with out-turned rim and the foot-ring base of a large tureen-like vessel.

5.2.4 Pearlware dominates the group (27/734g) and accounts for ten different vessels. With the exception of a hand-painted cup with blue floral decoration all of the material is decorated with blue transfer-printing. There is a complete lid from a jar and parts from two jugs with Chinese landscapes (one made by I White & Co). In addition there are parts of five willow-pattern plates and a jug with English rural scene. At least three English porcelain tea cups are also present. Two, both with overglaze painted purple floral design are matching, while the third cup has a different overglaze floral design painted in orange/red and green. The latest vessel in the group consists of parts of a transfer-printed 'china' blue willow-pattern plate which is not likely to be before c. 1830.

### 5.3 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A small assemblage of ten clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragments was recovered from three different contexts, all within Pit [1004]. The earliest fragment was recovered from [1010] and consists of a plain stem fragment dating to the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. The piece is likely to be residual. Other stem fragments, including five pieces from [1010] and a fragment from [1012] are of late 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date.

5.3.2 Two bowls were recovered as well. The earliest piece consists of a plain fragment from [1010], dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A complete bowl (RF <1>; wt 6g) with spur and leaf decoration on the seams exhibits the moulded image of a bird on both sides. The piece was recovered from [1005] and dates to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.4.1 A total of 23 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 10,200g was recovered from 12 contexts. The CBM is all of post-medieval date and comprises a mixture of brick and pegtile with a single fragment of possible fine terracotta pot or tile.

5.4.2 Brick

5.4.3 Five brick fabrics were identified (Table 8), B1, B2 and B4 are probably local in origin, Museum of London fabric MoL3032 was identified which is known to occur across London and the surrounding area. Fabric B3 is similar to MoL3032 and may be a local version of the fabric. Most of the bricks are incomplete and from non structural contexts. Mortar impressions on brick from Contexts [236] and [100] suggest two different bonding patterns were used on the site. Made ground [236] contained a fragment of heavily mortared brick in fabric B3. Impressions in the mortar suggest it was once part of a stretcher bonded wall. A single brick in a fabric near MoL3032 from

Context [100] measured 235mm by 105mm by 66mm in dimension with mortar adhering. Impressions left in the mortar appear to show that the brick was most likely used in a wall constructed in English bond.

5.4.4 Bricks were recovered from two structural Contexts, [215] and [221]. Wall foundation [215] is constructed of unfrogged bricks fabrics B2 and B3 measuring 220 by 105 by 63mm with slightly indented margins. The yard surface [221] is made of frogged brick in Museum of London (MoL) fabric 3032, yellow bricks observed in the field are likely to be MoL 3035 fabric.

Fabric	Description	Context	Date
B1	pale orange, coarse sand tempered fabric with abundant sand and quartz with sparse red silt and fine white shell inclusions. Frogged.	[238]	mid C19 <sup>th</sup> -C20 <sup>th</sup>
B2	Finer, less sandy version of B1, softer fabric. Unfrogged. Some indented margins.	[215], [235], [238], [1005], [1012]	C18 <sup>th</sup> -C19 <sup>th</sup>
B3	Purplish red moderate medium to coarse black iron rich inclusions, sparse to moderate fine calcareous speckling. Sparse-moderate quartz, sandy fabric.	[215], [236]	Mid C19 <sup>th</sup> -early C20 <sup>th</sup>
B4	Brownish red poorly mixed sandy fabric abundant calcareous coarse inclusions, moderate voids up to 3mm, abundant cream sandy silt inclusions. Sparse coarse black iron rich inclusions. Unfrogged, indented margins.	[7], [1005]	C17 <sup>th</sup> -C18 <sup>th</sup>
MoL 3032	Dark reddish purple, discoloured surface with fine yellow speckling. Abundant black ash and moderate flint inclusions, moderate quartz inclusions. Shallow rectangular frog.	[221]	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> to mid 20 <sup>th</sup>

**Table 8:** Brick Fabrics with Date and Context.

#### 5.4.5 Tile

5.4.6 Roof tile was recovered from four contexts and consisted of pegtile of 12-13mm thickness made of two fabrics (Table 9). Tile fabric T2 is thought to be the earlier of the two types dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century; T3 is thought to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. Square peg holes were identified in one fragment from [209] in fabric T2, and one fragment from [226] in fabric T3. A fragment of vitrified pegtile of unknown fabric from [1005] was broken and mortared on all sides having been used in construction probably due to being unsuitable for roofing. Context [1005] also contained a fine fragment of terracotta in fabric T1 of 3.5mm thickness, this is possibly a fragment of the base of a fine machine made pot or tile, probably of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

Fabric	Description	Context	Date
T1	Browish orange terracotta, with sparse red iron rich inclusions.	[1005]	C20 <sup>th</sup>
T2	Orange. Abundant poorly sorted fine-medium quartz, sparse large up to 5mm pale orange silt inclusions and sparse red iron rich inclusions.	[209]	C18 <sup>th</sup> – C19 <sup>th</sup>
T3	Pale orange fine fabric with pale cream silt streaking, sparse long voids sparse fine calcareous inclusions and sparse coarse iron rich balls.	[223], [226]	C19 <sup>th</sup> – C20 <sup>th</sup>

**Table 9:** Tile Fabrics with Context and Date.

## 5.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen



5.5.1 The glass assemblage consists of only nine sherds from three different contexts. Included are two wine bottle fragments from [1005], dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, and three unstratified conjoining beer bottle fragments. The latter contain the embossing “W. & Co Ltd Brewers Rochester” and are probably of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. Other pieces are a clear faceted wine glass fragment from [1005] and three clear glass window fragments from [217]. All date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.6 The Metalwork** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A heavy duty nail fragment was recovered from [1005]. Context [207] contained an amorphous iron lump, probably representing an iron concretion.

## **5.7 The Slag** by Luke Barber

5.7.1 A single piece of clinker (2g) was recovered from 19<sup>th</sup>- century context [1005].

## **5.8 The Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Context [1005] was the only deposit from which stone was recovered. The material consisted of a single piece of Welsh roofing slate(136g) and a piece of coal-shale (19g). Both would be in keeping with a 19<sup>th</sup>- century date.

## **5.9 The Shell** by Elke Raemen

5.9.1 A total of six oyster valves was recovered from three different contexts. Upper valves were located in [207] and [1005]. Almost all lower valves exhibit extensive parasitic activity. An example was recovered from [232], with a further three lower valves located in [1005].

## **5.10 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Driver

5.10.1 Two contexts produced 23 fragments of bone. The assemblage is dominated by cattle but also includes sheep, pig, domestic goose and fish. The cattle assemblage contains a mixture of meat bearing and non-meat bearing elements as well as adult and juvenile bones. A number of cattle sized ribs displayed saw marks at either end indicating butchery.

5.10.2 Sheep is represented by long bones and ribs and pig by the proximal end of an unfused humerus. Domestic Goose is represented by one humerus fragment and the fish assemblage contains two vertebrae fragments. The assemblage is not thought significant enough to have the fish bone analysed in detail.

## **5.11 Significance and Potential**

5.11.1 Although the pottery assemblage is considered too small for detailed further analysis/publication the material should be retained for long-term curation as an example of a small early 19<sup>th</sup>- century domestic group from the town.

5.11.2 Other assemblages are again too small for further analysis or publication and it is recommended that they be to be discarded. No further finds analysis

work is deemed required.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION** (incorporating comments by Paul Riccoboni and Diccon Hart)

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 The maintenance of a watching brief followed by two phases of evaluation at the site resulted in the identification and recording of a small number of archaeological features. Although none of those encountered during work by ASE can be proven to pre-date the 17<sup>th</sup> century, nonetheless significant archaeological deposits were uncovered.

### **6.2 The Brewery: Block C and Soakaway Pit 2** (Figs 2, 5 and 6)

6.2.1 Both Block C and Soakaway Pit 2 lay outside of the area of the formal garden known from the cartographic sources (see Paragraph 2.3 above).

6.2.2 Evidence from the monitoring was limited. Although the monitored areas did lay outside of the boundary of the garden, arguably the nature of much of the buried archaeological remains was little different. However, there was clear proof for the former presence of buildings and for a well or cistern, presumably relating to the functioning of the brewery at the site.

6.2.3 Unfortunately issues of Health and Safety limited the opportunity to investigate the features in this area. Samples of the bricks from the encountered foundations suggest an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date, so it is likely that the buildings predated the detailed maps of the site. It does not seem unreasonable to suggest that the buildings (and other features) formed part of the brewery complex.

### **6.3 The Garden: Block B, Soakaway Pit 1** (Figs 2, 4 and 8)

6.3.1 A limited range of features were encountered during archaeological monitoring of groundworks within the footprint of Block B. Although the Block was located entirely within the boundaries of the historic garden(s) none of the features could be unequivocally linked to gardening activity, especially given the absence of dating evidence.

6.3.2 Clearly the inability to see any of the encountered features in an open area plan was a major drawback in any meaningful interpretation of this part of the site and was also true in the recording of the sections of the soakaway pit, which had been excavated without archaeological supervision.

6.3.3 However, the detailed recording of the soakaway pit's section was productive. The potential levelling layers [223], [225] and [228] may represent attempts to landscape the site and that fact that these are capped by a probable soil horizon, Context [222] hints at the creation of a garden in the area. However, the available dating is insufficient to provide anything other than a post-medieval date for this activity. The shallow features [230], [231] and [234] were interpreted by the excavator as potential garden features. However, as their form remains undetermined, such an interpretation must be treated with caution.

### **6.4 The Garden: The Evaluation Trenches** (Figs. 2 and 9)

- 6.4.1 The results of the Compass Archaeology trenches are given elsewhere (Compass Archaeology *op. cit.*). They clearly show that a range of features relating to the utilisation of part of the site as a garden survive at the site, including evidence of the outer wall and landscaping, in the form of a walled garden terrace. The report also included some discussion into the origin and ownership of the garden through time drawing on a previous study of the garden by Elizabeth Hall (1994). The division of the garden, and the ownership over time of the portion within the limits of the site, are still a matter of debate.
- 6.4.2 The 2009 evaluation trench undertaken by ASE showed that some areas of site had suffered truncation in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century when the rear of the site was utilised as a car park. The greatest impact of the car park recorded so far seems to be the removal of the ragstone and chalk footings, observed in Trenches 2 and 3, in the area of the car park ramp. The only feature recorded in this area was a pit with a limited assemblage of 19<sup>th</sup>-century finds.
- 6.4.3 The 2009 trench suggests that there are areas of the former garden which have suffered greater truncation than others.

## 7.0 SITE STATUS AND MITIGATION PROPOSAL

- 7.1 As mentioned in Section 1.1.1 above the previous developer, Future Homes (UK) Management Ltd, is now in administration and the company's assets have been put under the control of Vantis PLC. To date, the development is partially constructed and Vantis are looking to sell the site to a developer who would most likely finish the project to the original planning application. The intrusive ground works associated with the works in the central and south eastern areas of the site are largely complete, although a watching brief still needs to be maintained during the cutting of service trenches and any other intrusive works. The most problematic area of the site for the potential developer is the north western corner, in the area of greatest archaeological potential, adjacent to the proposed Blocks B and D. Block B has been partially constructed but is yet to be connected to services and the construction of Block D has yet to be started. Vantis is aware that this area contains listed and potentially listed or protected archaeological deposits, namely the garden boundary wall and the ragstone and chalk footings, and is looking for an agreed programme of mitigation which could provide for the excavation of a service trench to Block B from the east of the site. The issues surrounding the development of Block D would be left for the potential buyer to resolve, although ASE have commented to Vantis that the now listed garden boundary wall may require conservation work in the short term to stabilise its condition. This work would need to be undertaken by a specialist contractor and could not be undertaken by ASE.
- 7.2 The 2009 evaluation trench has shown that the ragstone and chalk footings observed in Compass Archaeology's Trenches 2 and 3 do not continue into the area of the former ramp due to probable truncation during its construction. Evidence from Compass Archaeology's Trench 1 and the position of wall lines on the 1864 OS map, (Fig. 10), of the site suggest that the service trench could be brought to Block B without the need to truncate further, either the footings of the former garden boundary wall or the internal revetment walls. This provides an avenue from the south east of the site up onto the north western corner in which to bring services to Block B (Fig. 11).
- 7.3 ASE understands that the dimensions of the service trench required would be c. 1m wide by c. 1m deep and that this would carry all necessary services. The trench should be the subject of an archaeological watching brief and the contractors would need to be able to amend, within reason, the route of the trench should remains of significance be encountered. However, as discussed above the potential for such remains is viewed as low due to the evidence provided by the previous archaeological evaluations.
- 7.4 The only other impact on this area of the site would come from the surface water run-off drainage, required when a new driveway is laid up to Block B. ASE understands that the impact of surface water drains would be up to 600mm from the surface of the new driveway, but that this driveway could be 'made up' so that there would be no impact upon the underlying archaeology.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hall, E 1994, *Restoration House Gardens: Some Historical Notes*, unpub report

KCC 2007. *Specification For An Archaeological Watching Brief During Residential Development At Century Buildings, 22 – 26 Victoria Street, Rochester, Medway.* Unpublished Document.

KCC 2008a. *Specification For The Recording And Assessment Of Boundary Wall Uncovered During Site Clearance At Century Buildings, 22/26 Victoria Street, Rochester, Kent.* Unpublished Document.

KCC 2008b. *Specification For An Archaeological Evaluation During Residential Development At Century Buildings, 22 – 26 Victoria Street, Rochester, Medway.* Unpublished Document.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of Simon Mason of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council at all stages of the archaeological work at the site is gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	VSR 07					
Identification Name and Address	22/26 Victoria Street, Rochester					
County, District &/or Borough	Medway, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	574440 168120					
Geology	Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3015					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Feb. 2008	Excav.	WB. 2007 – 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Future Homes (UK) Management Ltd./Vantis PLC					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker/Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained at the site during 2007 and 2008 on a range of groundworks associated with the redevelopment of a former brewery. Part of the site also encompassed an area of an historic walled garden known from cartographic sources. A small number of post-medieval features were encountered and recorded including remains of buildings, a well/cistern, and ?garden features. The standing remains of a former boundary wall of the garden were recorded, following the destruction of a length of the masonry. The wall was subsequently spot-Listed Grade II.</i></p> <p><i>A subsequent evaluation of part of the garden area in early 2009 revealed heavy truncation. A single 19<sup>th</sup>-century pit was encountered and recorded.</i></p>						

## Oasis Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-56511

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Investigations at the Former Troy Town Brewery Site, 22/26 Victoria Street, Rochester
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained at the site during 2007 and 2008 on a range of groundworks associated with the redevelopment of a former brewery. Part of the site also encompassed an area of an historic walled garden known from cartographic sources. A small number of post-medieval features were encountered and recorded including remains of buildings, a well/cistern, and garden features. The standing remains of a former boundary wall of the garden were recorded, following the destruction of a length of the masonry. The wall was spot-Listed Grade II in January 2008. A subsequent evaluation of part of the garden area in early 2009 revealed heavy truncation. A single 19th-century pit was encountered and recorded.
Project dates	Start: 30-10-2007 End: 12-02-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	3015 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	VSR 07 – Site Code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	Wall Post Medieval
Significant Finds	Pottery Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

**Status** Complete

### Project location

Site location	KENT MEDWAY ROCHESTER 22/26 Victoria Street
Postcode	ME1 1XJ
Study area	1 Kilometres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 574440 168120 LL - 50.9286649844 0.240664214652 (decimal) LL - 50 55 43 N 000 14 26 E (degrees) Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.5m Max: 12m



<b>Status</b>	<b>Complete</b>
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 **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Project supervisor (other)	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Future Housing (UK) Management Ltd.


<b>Status</b>	<b>Complete</b>
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 **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Notebook - Excavation, Research, General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

<b>Status</b>	<b>Complete</b>
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 **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1	
Title	Archaeological Investigations at the Former Troy Town Brewery Site, 22/26 Victoria Street, Rochester	

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report No. 2009038
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE Client Report : A4-sized with cover logos
Status	Complete



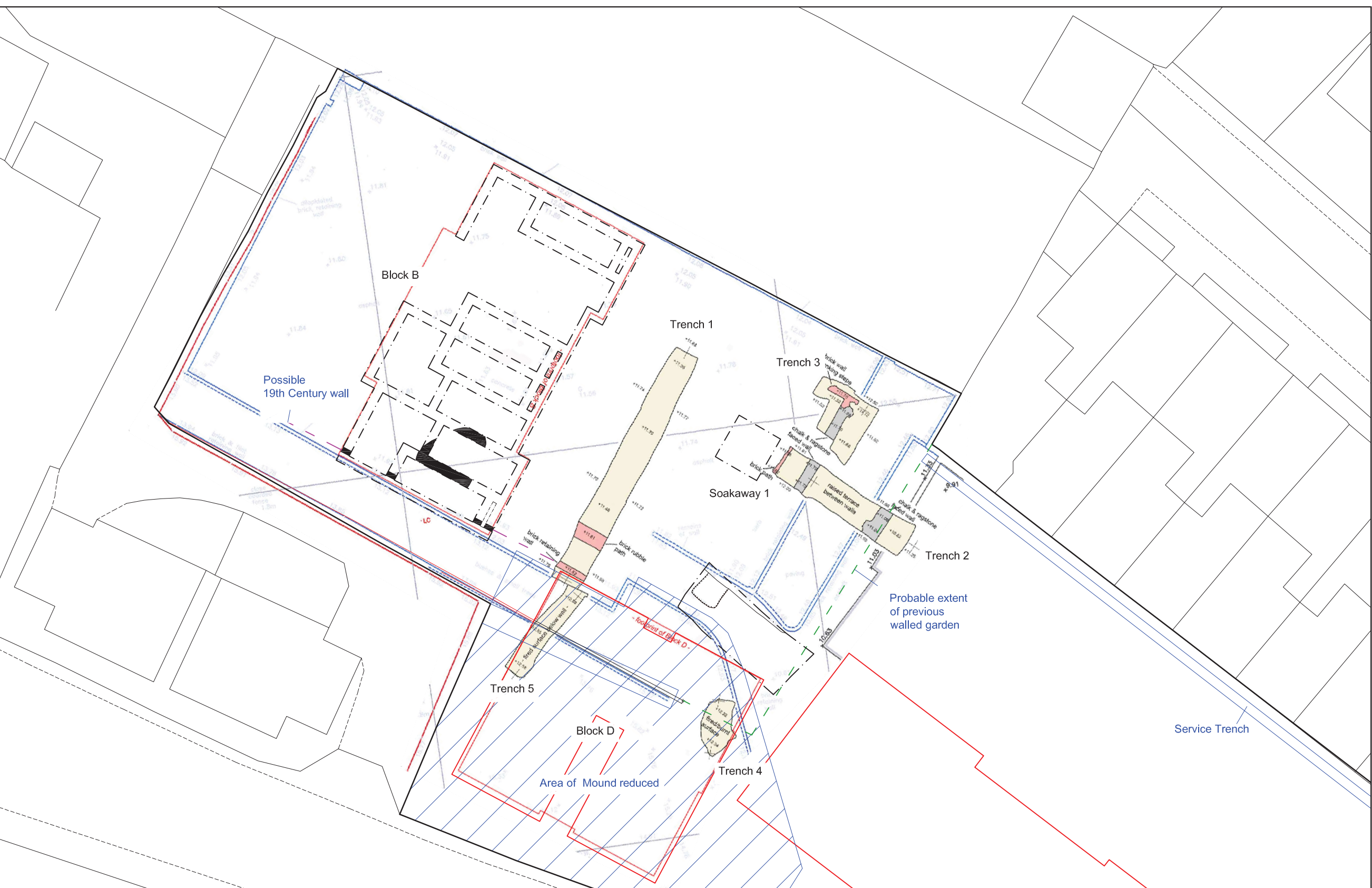


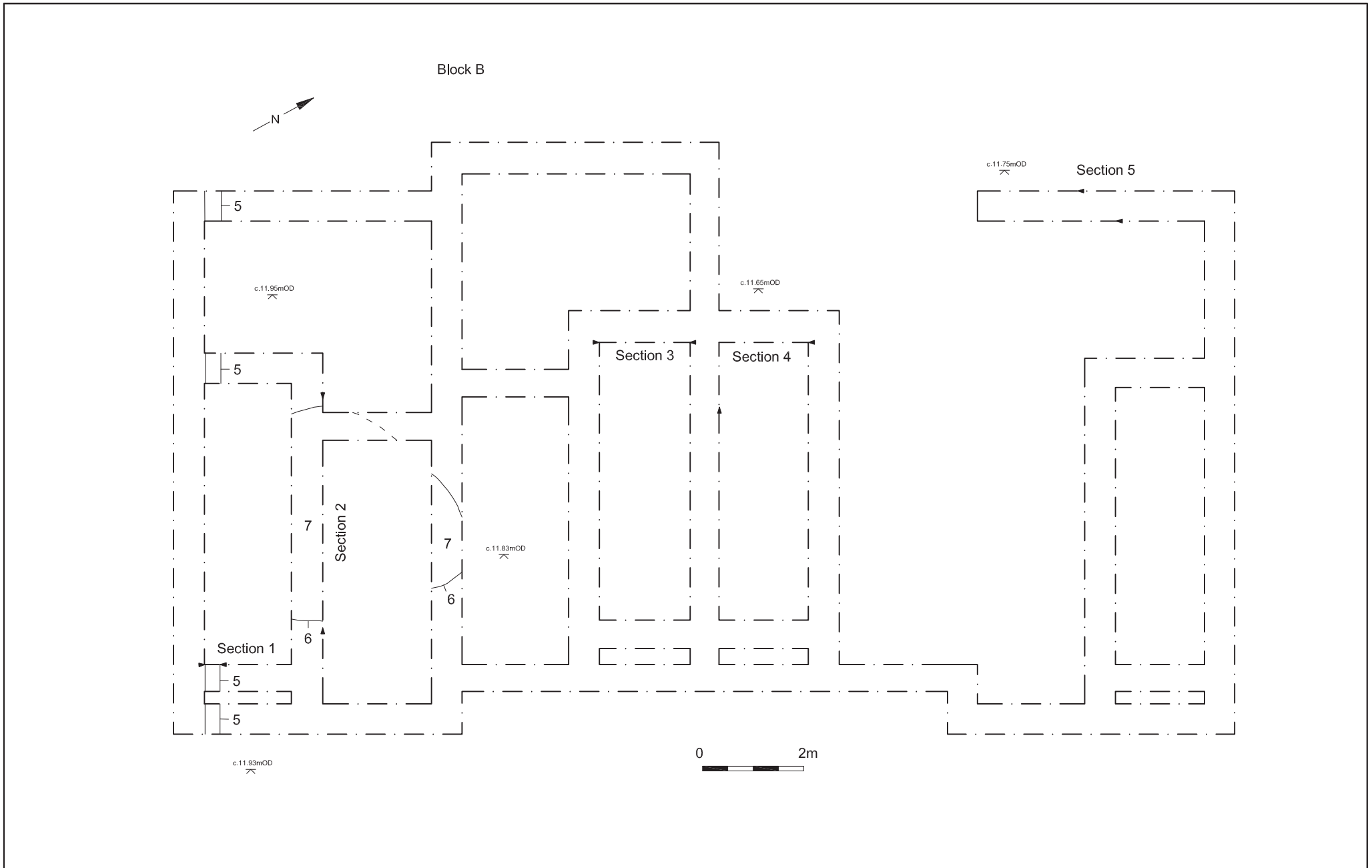
© Archaeology South-East		22/29 Victoria Street, Rochester	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3015	March 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2009038	Drawn by: JLR		

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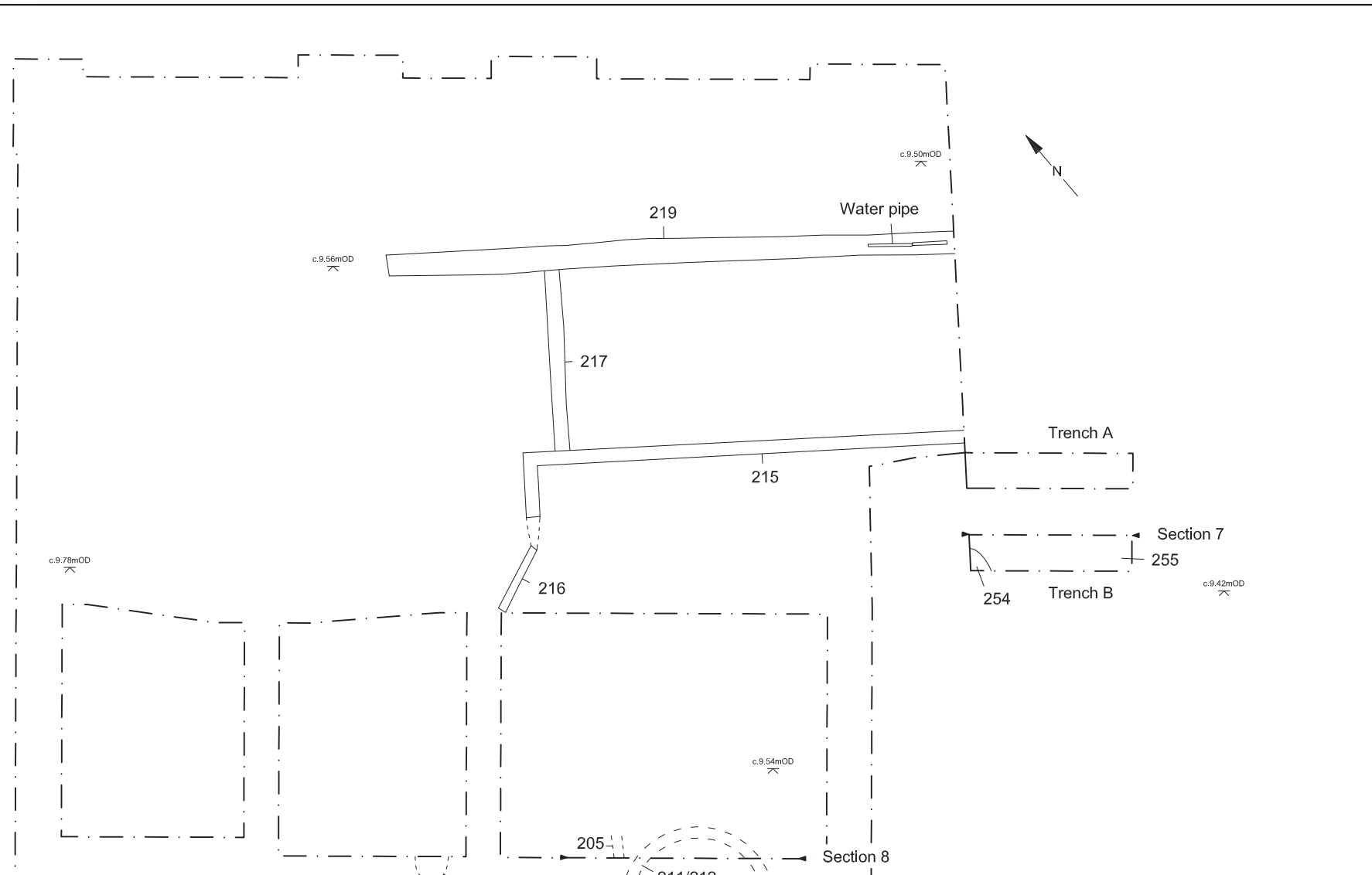


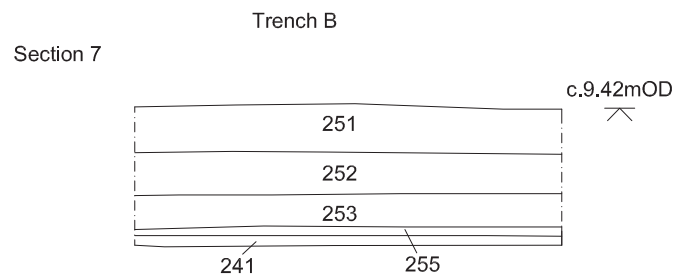
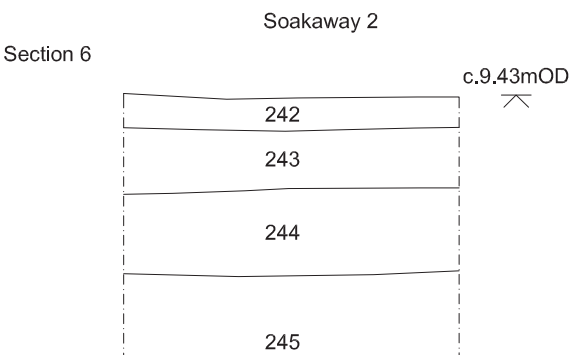
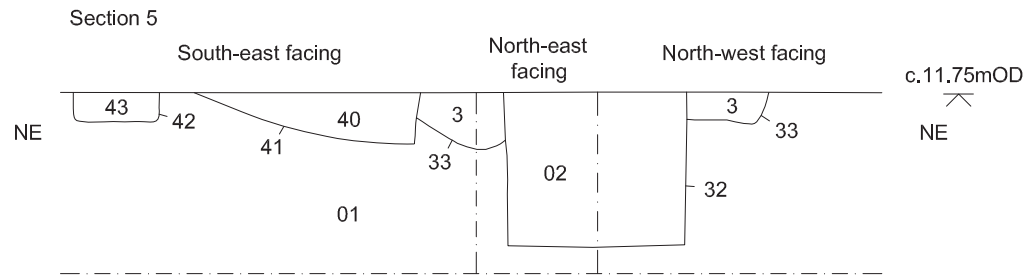
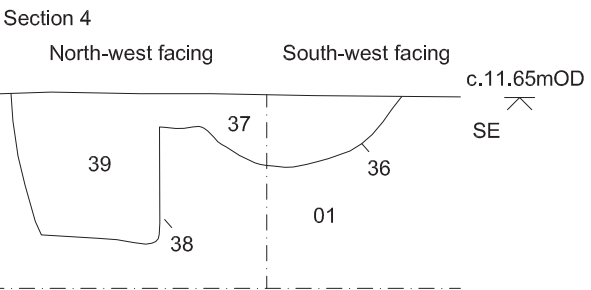
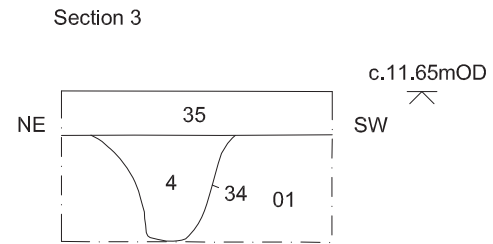
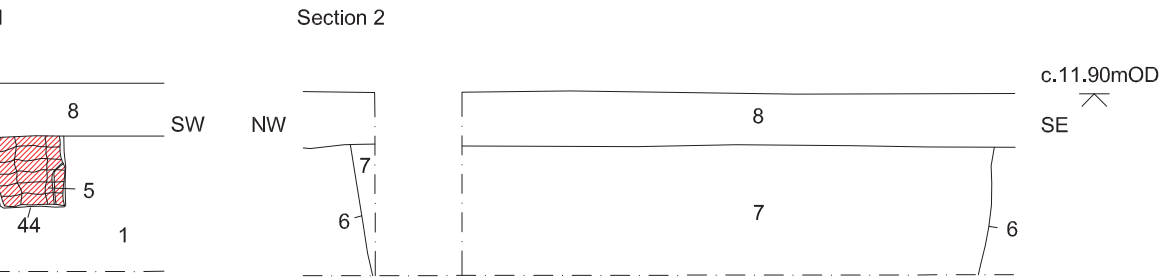






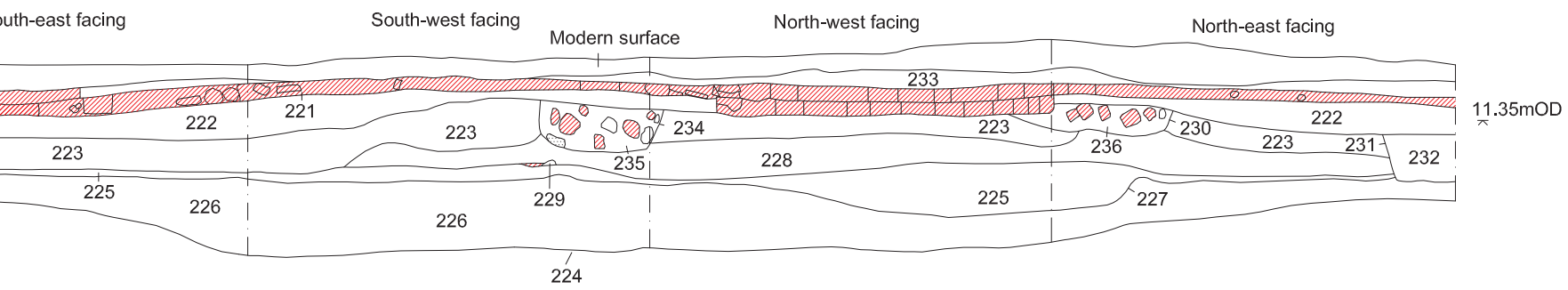
© Archaeology South-East		22/29 Victoria Street, Rochester	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 3015	March 2009	Plan: Block B	
Report Ref: 2009038	Drawn by: JLR		














-  Brick
-  Chalk
-  Mortar



