

Land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Bride Hall Estates**

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BCF 04/27

April 2006

Summary

Site name: Land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent

Grid reference: TR2270 3600

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th–29th March 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: BCF 04/27

Summary of results: The area of possible archaeological remains was observed to be devoid of any finds or features other than relatively recent truncation and contamination.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 3.04.06
	Steve Preston ✓ 03.04.06

Land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Simon Cass

Report 04/27c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent (TR 2270 3600) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Tomkins of Altonwood Project Services, 2 Hobbs House, Harrovian Business Village, Bessborough Road, Harrow, London, HA1 3EX on behalf of Bride Hall Developments, 49 Hay's Mews, Mayfair, London W1J 5QQ.

Planning consent (Y04/0416/SH) has been granted by Shepway District Council for the development of a large retail unit close to the modern centre of Folkestone. The consent is subject to a condition (25) relating to archaeology. Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Unit has requested a watching brief to take place during the groundworks to investigate an area within the site that may still contain archaeologically relevant layers and/or features.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The watching brief was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Adam Single, Archaeological Officer of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Unit, advising the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass on the 28th March 2006. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

A desk-based assessment concluded that the potential of the site to contain archaeological deposits was low with uncertainty as to the extent of damage caused by modern development and the known presence of basements (Lowe 2004). The assessment did not dismiss the potential of the site completely and suggested further work in the form of a watching brief. A field evaluation carried out in October 2005 found that most of the site appeared to have been truncated by terraced housing but that two possible areas of undisturbed ground remained. The largest, in the northern car-park, would not be disturbed by the current building works but the smaller area, in the southern car-park, was deemed to require further watching brief, represented by this report.

Location, topography and geology

The site is a roughly rectangular parcel of land within the modern core of Folkestone. The site is bordered to the north-east by Gloucester Place, to the north-west by Middleburg Square and to the south-west by Folkestone Bus Station. The area is divided in two by Alexandra Gardens and covers roughly 1.6ha (Fig. 2). The land slopes down from the south-east to the north-west by approximately 6.5m and is currently used as two car parks, upper and lower. The site is at an average of 35m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Cretaceous Clay (BGS 1990). This was confirmed on site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a desk-based assessment (Lowe 2004) which was incorporated into an environmental impact assessment submitted as a part of the planning application for the site. This concluded that, due to the presence of basements and previous development of the site, the potential of archaeological deposits being located was moderate to low. This view was confirmed by an evaluation which, nonetheless, identified two possible areas that retained the possibility of containing archaeologically relevant features and/or layers (Oram 2005).

A settlement is thought to have developed at Folkestone around a nunnery and castle constructed by King Eadwald (AD616–40). The nunnery was built for his daughter Eanswythe and is thought to have been the first in England (Bishop 1973). The town is recorded as *Folcanstan* as early as *c.* AD697. The placename's most likely meaning is a 'stone (marking a hundred meeting place), of a man called *folca*' (Mills 1998). The town expanded into the medieval period and by AD1215 it had been granted a weekly market, with a second market being granted in 1349. The town's main form of income was fishing but other industries included quarrying and the wool trade (Bishop 1973). It was not until the mid 19th century that the town began to expand into a popular seaside resort following the building of the South Eastern Railway in 1843 (Lowe 2004). The site lies outside the core of the medieval town, in an area developed by architect Sydney Smirke in 1849 following this expansion (Bishop 1973).

Objectives and methodology

Two moderately small areas of untruncated natural geology were identified by the evaluation carried out in October 2005. The purpose of this watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits within these areas that would be affected by the new construction work. The larger area, located in the northern car-

park, would not be disturbed by the building works as this side of the development was being raised to level the site (Fig. 2). The smaller area, in the southern car park, would be subject to further truncation and as such, required archaeological monitoring. This area (approximately 600 sq m) was observed during machine removal of overburden to the required depth for the construction works.

Results

The subject area of this report, in the southern car park was approximately 8m wide by 75m long and eventually up to 1.25m deep. In the north-western half of the area the stratigraphy observed was 0.15m of hoggin over a mottled grey clay layer, with occasional small subangular and angular stones, of approximately 0.3m thickness. This layer in turn overlay a grey sandy clay deposit with red streaking and a moderate amount of small subangular and angular stones, of approximately 0.4m thickness which sealed 0.6–0.7m of blue/grey natural clay layer which was directly above clean yellow/orange sand.

The stratigraphy in the south-eastern section consisted of approximately 0.8m of disturbed ground/overburden (primarily sandy clays and demolition rubble) above 0.3m of natural red/brown silty clay which appeared to be contaminated in places.

No deposits of archaeological interest were found within this watching brief. Some modern truncations and events were seen in this area, notably a brick manhole and what appeared to be an area of chemical contamination.

Finds

There were no finds of archaeological significance.

Conclusion

The observed groundworks did not encounter any archaeological deposits or finds of archaeological interest.

References

- BGS, 1990, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 305/306, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bishop, C H, 1973, *Folkestone: The Story of a Town*, Kent
- Lowe, J, 2004, 'Land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent, an Archaeological contribution to an Environmental Impact Assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Report 04/27, Reading.
- Mills, A D, 1998, *Dictionary of Historic Place-Names*, Oxford
- Oram, R, 2005, 'Land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Report 04/27b, Reading.
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site address: land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent

Summary: Nothing of archaeological interest was found; the site has been extensively truncated.

District/Unitary: Shepway

Parish: Folkestone

Periods: n/a

NGR: TR 2270 3600

Type of archaeological work: Watching Brief

Date of Recording: 28th March 2006

Unit undertaking recording: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Geology: Cretaceous Clay

Title and author: Land at Bouverie Place, Folkestone, Kent, An Archaeological Watching Brief, by Simon Cass

Summary of results by period (*from bottom up*): Clay geology, made ground.

Location of archive/finds: Temporarily with TVAS 47-49 de Beauvoir Road Reading pending deposition at an approved local museum.

Contact at Unit: Steve Ford

Date: 03/04/2006

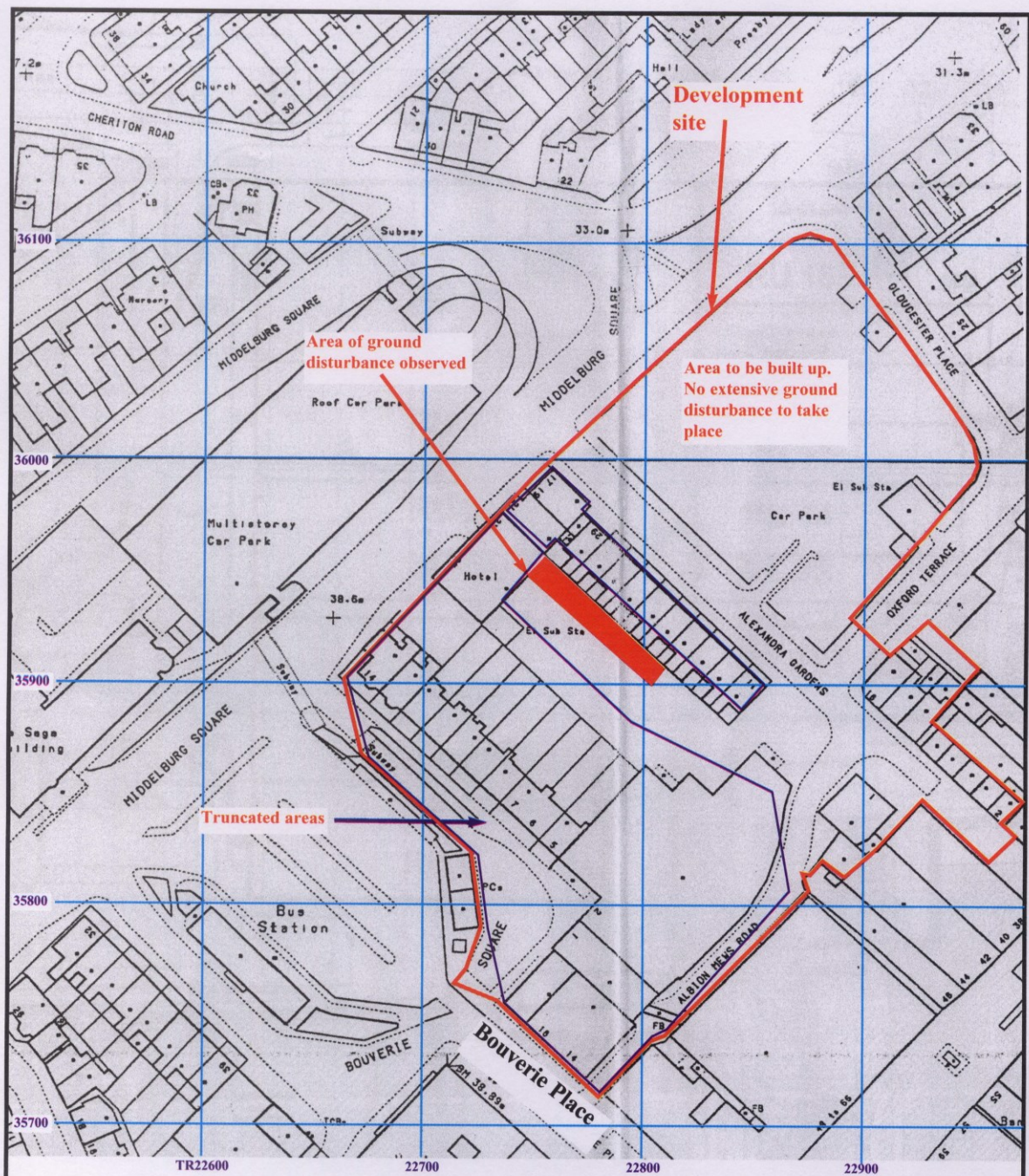


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Figure 1. Location of site within Folkestone and Kent.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of areas of watching brief.
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Scale: 1:2500

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