

T V A S



SOUTH

**St Bartholomew's Hospital,
Rochester, Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: BHR20/04

(TQ 7520 6785)

St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Intro Developments Ltd**

Planning reference : MC/19/2709

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BHR 20/04

February 2020

Summary

Site name: St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 7520 6785

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning reference: MC/19/2709

Date and duration of project: 4th - 5th February 2020

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: BHR 20/04

Area of site: c. c. 1.00 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, successfully investigated those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the construction of the hospital complex in the 19th and 20th centuries. Three trenches were excavated in car park areas. A number of post-medieval features were recorded in the north-east corner of the site (trenches 1 and 2), which was not surprising given the fact that buildings are shown in this area on historic maps dating from the 19th century. The deposits recorded in the south-east corner of the site (trench 3) suggest that this area was deliberately raised with inert material, probably as a result of terracing. No finds or features from the medieval period were recorded during the evaluation, and there was no trace of the Roman road which is projected to run through the southern part of the site.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 20.02.20 |
| | Steve Preston ✓ 20.02.20 |

St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 20/04

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent (TQ 7520 6785) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Intro developments Ltd, 3rd Floor, Building Two, Universal Square, Devonshire Street North, Manchester, M12 6JL as advised by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Avalon Heritage, 1 Dairyhouse Lane, Dilhorne, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST10 2PW,

Planning permission (MC/19/2709) has been sought from Medway Council to develop the former hospital complex for residential purposes. This would comprise the demolition of some of the existing structures on the site, and the construction of new residential buildings.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation in order to better inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard and Sean Wallis between 4th and 5th February 2020, and the site code is BHR 20/04. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located between the High Street and New Road (the A2), to the south-east of the historic core of Rochester, Kenton, and is centred on NGR TQ7520 6785 (Figs 1 and 2). The hospital complex was built on the side of quite a steep hill which overlooks the River Medway to the north and, as a result, the site has been significantly terraced and landscaped in the past. Consequently, the height above Ordnance Datum varies dramatically from about 21m to the south of the site on New Road, to about 6m to the north on the High Street.

According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Lower Chalk (BGS 1977), and this was confirmed in the evaluation trenches where a degraded chalk, commonly known as Brash, was observed.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a desk-based assessment (Martin-Bacon 2019). In summary, the site lies within an area rich in archaeology, with Bronze Age finds from the River Medway to the north, two Saxon cemeteries to the north of the A2, and numerous Roman finds relating to Watling Street, the major Roman road which is projected to run through the southern part of the present site. The original medieval hospital is thought to have been located further to the east but, as these were sometimes large complexes, it is possible that there may be associated remains, or traces of other medieval plots, within the site itself, particularly the north-east corner. The tithe map from 1844 depicts a number of houses in the north-east part of the site, along with their associated gardens. The new St Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in 1861.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if the Roman road known as Watling Street crosses the site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the medieval or early post-medieval periods are present.

Four trenches were to be dug, each measuring 15m in length and 1.60-2.00m in width. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the construction of the hospital complex in the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition, the two trenches in the southern part of the site were positioned to see whether there was any trace of the Roman road which is projected through this area. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Prior to the commencement of the project, it became apparent that the proposed trench in the south-west part of the site could not be excavated, as there was no way for the machine to access that area. It was therefore agreed with the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Ben Found) that this trench did not have to be dug as part of this project, but may be required in due course, depending on the results elsewhere on the site. The remaining three trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3). All the trenches were 1.60m wide, and measured between 13.30m and 15.60m in length, and between 1.25m and 1.42m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized, with dating evidence, in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 1, 2 and 3)

This trench was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 13.30m long and up to 1.25m deep. Following the removal of the Tarmac car park surface (50) and its associated bedding layers (51 and 52), the natural chalk geology was revealed beneath about 0.56m of mid brownish grey silty clay made ground (53) and a much thinner layer of chalk made ground (54). However, at the northern end of the trench the made ground deposits had been truncated by the cut (1) for a drain or culvert. Following the removal of two overlying deposits (59 and 60), two parallel lines of brickwork (55 and 57) were recorded, and brick samples from them suggest a 19th century date. The culvert appears to have silted up, presumably after it went out of use, and the pottery and clay pipe recovered from this fill (56) also appear to date from the 19th century. In the northern corner of the trench a probable brick surface (58) was partially exposed. This surface appeared to run alongside the culvert, and it is likely that all these features are contemporary with one another. The brick sample taken from surface 58 certainly supports this theory. As the features in this trench were all clearly late post-medieval in date, no further excavation work was required by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer.

Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 4 and 5)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 15.60m long and up to 1.42m deep. Following the removal of the Tarmac car park surface (50) and its associated bedding layers (51 and 52), the natural chalk geology was revealed beneath about 0.58m of mid brownish grey silty clay made ground (53) and a layer of mid greyish brown silty clay (62), which was interpreted as a buried soil horizon. Some small fragments of tile and clay pipe were recovered from deposit 62, which suggest a late post-medieval date. At the northern end of the trench the concrete footings of a wall (61) were recorded, along with a probable sub-rectangular pit (3). Although it was not excavated, fragments of pottery and tile recovered from the surface of pit 3 (deposit 64) indicate that it dates from the late post-medieval period. The upper fill of this pit (65) consisted of a compact

chalky clay, which produced no finds. Another pit (2) was partially exposed at the southern end of the trench. This pit was filled with a deposit of mid brownish grey clayey silt (63), and some pottery recovered from the surface of this deposit suggest a 18th-century date for the feature. Once again, no further excavation work was required by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer, as the features in the trench were all clearly post-medieval in date.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 5; Pl. 6)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 14.00m long and up to 1.35m deep. Following the removal of the Tarmac car park surface (50) and its associated bedding layers (51 and 52), the natural geology was revealed beneath about 0.34m of mid brownish grey silty clay (53) and 0.78m of mid brownish grey silty clay with chalk inclusions (66). No archaeological features were recorded in the trench, and the sterile nature (no finds) of the soil deposits (53 and 66) above the natural geology suggest that these were imported to the site.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered just seven sherds of pottery, weighing 262g, from three contexts (Appendix 3). Overall the pottery is in varied condition but the overall trend is towards medium/large relatively fresh sherds. As such the material does not appear to have been subjected to any significant reworking.

The earliest pottery consists of a number of sherds of local glazed redwares. These are notoriously difficult to date closely but the current examples are suspected of being of 18th-century date, perhaps spanning *c.* 1725-1800. All of these sherds are quite fresh but only those from context 63 are of any size. The remaining sherds are all of mid-19th- to early 20th-century date and it is these that show a higher degree of abrasion. The assemblage is too small to draw conclusions from.

Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

A small sample assemblage of brick and tile was recovered, in mixed condition, with the earlier types being slightly abraded and the later ones quite fresh (the latter include several brick samples). Due to the mixed open nature of the deposits and late date of most of the ceramic building material the assemblage has been recorded by form and date rather than by fabric though notes on the latter were made (Appendix 4).

Potentially the earliest fragment from the site is the small piece of peg tile from buried soil 62 which has abundant quartz tempering. This could easily be of the High Medieval period based on fabric alone, however, the

tile is quite well finished and, considering the late use of sandy fabrics in the bricks, it could be of post-medieval date. A much larger sample of tile would be needed to ascertain a secure chronology for the fabrics. The same deposit produced a more typical early post-medieval type and context 64 a typical late post-medieval type.

The bricks, despite their sandy tempering, are all of late post-medieval date judging by their formation and dimensions.

Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

Three small pieces of clay pipe from the site are listed in Appendix 5. The earliest piece is the residual, but quite fresh, 17th-century stem fragment from context 62. The remaining pieces are probably of the very late 18th to 19th centuries. The marked bowl fragment has a number of possible Kent makers of whom the most likely is Joseph Anderson of Rochester, known to be working c. 1846 (Boyden 2015).

Glass by Luke Barber

The only glass collected consists of a relatively uncorroded shard from a cylindrical mid green bottle (8g) from context 63. The piece can be placed generally in an early/mid 18th to mid 19th century date range.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, successfully investigated those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the construction of the hospital complex in the 19th and 20th centuries. All the trenches were excavated in car park areas. A number of post-medieval features were recorded in the north-east corner of the site (trenches 1 and 2), which was not surprising given the fact that buildings are shown in this area on historic maps dating from the 19th century. The deposits recorded in the south-east corner of the site (trench 3) suggest that this area was deliberately raised with inert material, probably as a result of terracing. No finds or features from the medieval period were recorded during the evaluation, and there was no trace of the Roman road which is projected to run through the southern part of the site.

References

- BGS, 1977, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **272**, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Boyden, B, 2015, 'Structure and Agency in small-scale production: an historical archaeology of the clay tobacco pipemakers of Kent', unpubl PhD thesis, University of Liverpool
- Martin-Bacon, H, 2019, 'St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, Kent - an archaeological assessment', Avalon Heritage unpubl rep **AA/starts/AH259/05/08/19V2**, Stoke-on-Trent
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | 13.30 | 1.60 | 1.25 | 0-0.08m Tarmac (50); 0.08-0.15m gravel bedding layer (51); 0.15-0.27m brick and concrete rubble bedding layer (52); 0.27-0.82m mid brownish grey silty clay made ground (53); 0.82-0.92m chalky made ground (54); 0.92-1.25m+ natural geology (degraded chalk). Culvert 1 with brick walls 55 and 57, brick surface 58. [PIs 1–3] |
| 2 | 15.60 | 1.60 | 1.42 | 0-0.10m Tarmac (50); 0.10-0.20m gravel bedding layer (51); 0.20-0.34m brick and concrete rubble bedding layer (52); 0.34-0.92m mid brownish grey silty clay made ground (53); 0.92-1.32m mid greyish brown silty clay (62); 1.32-1.42m+ natural geology (degraded chalk). Concrete footings 61, pits 2 and 3. [PIs 4–5] |
| 3 | 14.00 | 1.60 | 1.35 | 0-0.10m Tarmac (50); 0.10-0.16m gravel bedding layer (51); 0.16-0.28m brick and concrete rubble bedding layer (52); 0.28-0.62m mid brownish grey silty clay made ground (53); 0.62-1.20m mid brownish grey silty clay made ground (66); 1.20-1.35m+ natural geology (degraded chalk). [PI. 6] |

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| All | | 50 | Tarmac | Modern | |
| All | | 51 | Gravel bedding | Modern | |
| All | | 52 | Rubble bedding | Modern | |
| All | | 53 | Silty clay made ground | Modern | |
| 1 | | 54 | Chalky made ground | Modern | |
| 1 | 1 | 55, 56, 57, 59, 60 | Culvert | 19th century | Pottery and CBM. |
| 1 | | 58 | Surface | 19th century | CBM. |
| 2 | | 61 | Wall footing | 19th - 20th century | Concrete. |
| 2 | | 62 | Buried soil | Late 18th to 19th century | Clay pipe |
| 2 | 2 | 63 | Pit | 18th - 19th century | Pottery and CBM. |
| 2 | 3 | 64, 65 | Pit | 19th century | CBM. |

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery

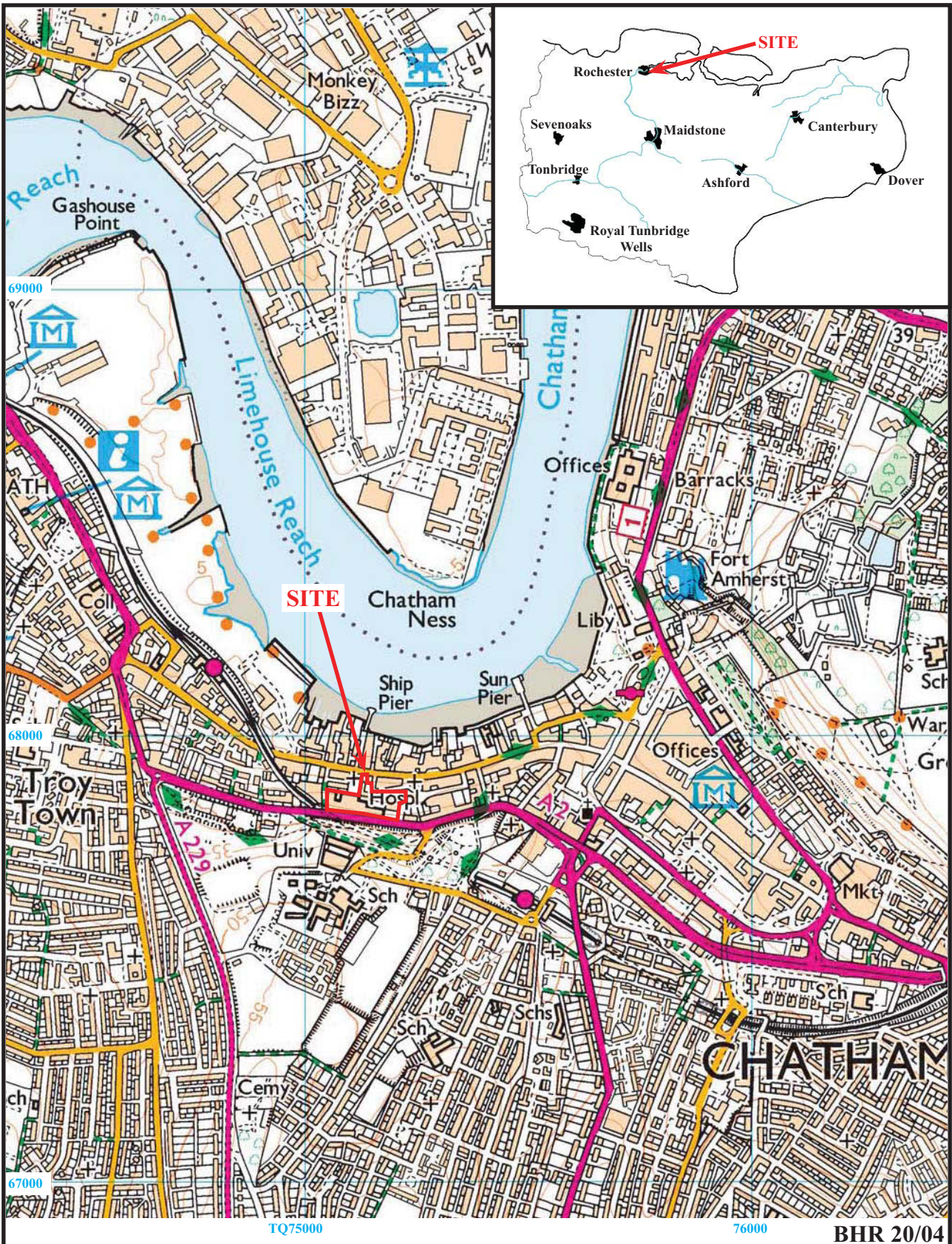
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Fabric</i> | <i>Period</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> | <i>Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form)</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| 56 | Blue transfer-printed whiteware | LPM | 2 | 28 | Plate x1 (willow pattern); tureen x1 (sheet pattern) |
| 56 | Bone china (porcelain) | LPM | 1 | 6 | Lid x1 (knob handle) |
| 63 | Glazed red earthenware (sandy) | EPM/LPM | 3 | 226 | Dishes x2 (clear glaze internally, both with rounded club rims); jar x1 (clear glaze internally, rounded club rim) |
| 64 | Glazed red earthenware (fine) | EPM/LPM | 1 | 2 | Pipkin x1 (clear glaze internally, lid-seated collared rim) |

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of ceramic building material

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Form</i> | <i>Period</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> | <i>Dimensions (mm)</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| 55 | Brick | LPM | Mid C19th - early 20th | 1 | 2600 | 245x100x65 | 100% complete. Abundant fine quartz, quite crude with stacking marks and a weak frog. Set in a light grey sandy cement with common chalk and coal to 3mm |
| 57 | Brick | LPM | C18th - 19th | 1 | 2868 | 230x110x65 | 90% complete. Moderate very fine sugary quartz. Well formed, medium fired. Set in a mid grey sandy mortar with sparse coal flecks |
| 58 | Brick | LPM | C18th - 19th | 1 | 2692 | 220x103x58-60 | 100% complete. Abundant fine quartz. Quite crudely formed. Set in a light grey sandy mortar with moderate chalk and coal to 1mm |
| 62 | Peg tile | ?M/EPM | ?C13th-17th | 1 | 12 | 11 thick | Abundant quartz tempered but neatly formed |
| 62 | Peg tile | EPM/LPM | C17th-18th | 1 | 34 | 11 thick | Quite well formed, medium fired. 'Marl'-rich fabric |
| 64 | Peg tile | LPM | C18th - 19th | 1 | 20 | - | Very fine fabric. Well formed and fired |

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of clay tobacco pipe

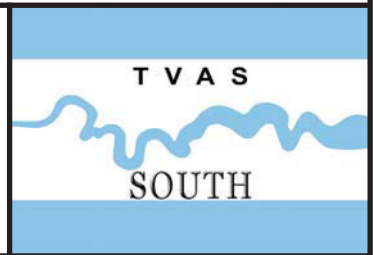
| <i>Context</i> | <i>Element</i> | <i>likely date</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> | <i>Bore diameter (mm)</i> | <i>Combined stem length (mm)</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 56 | Bowl frag | 1750-1900 | 1 | 4 | 1.5 | 49 | Fluted bowl (fresh) with J/?A on spur |
| 62 | Stem | 1650-1700 | 1 | 4 | 2.9 | 58 | Quite fresh |
| 62 | Stem | 1750-1900 | 1 | 2 | 1.6 | 31 | Quite fresh |

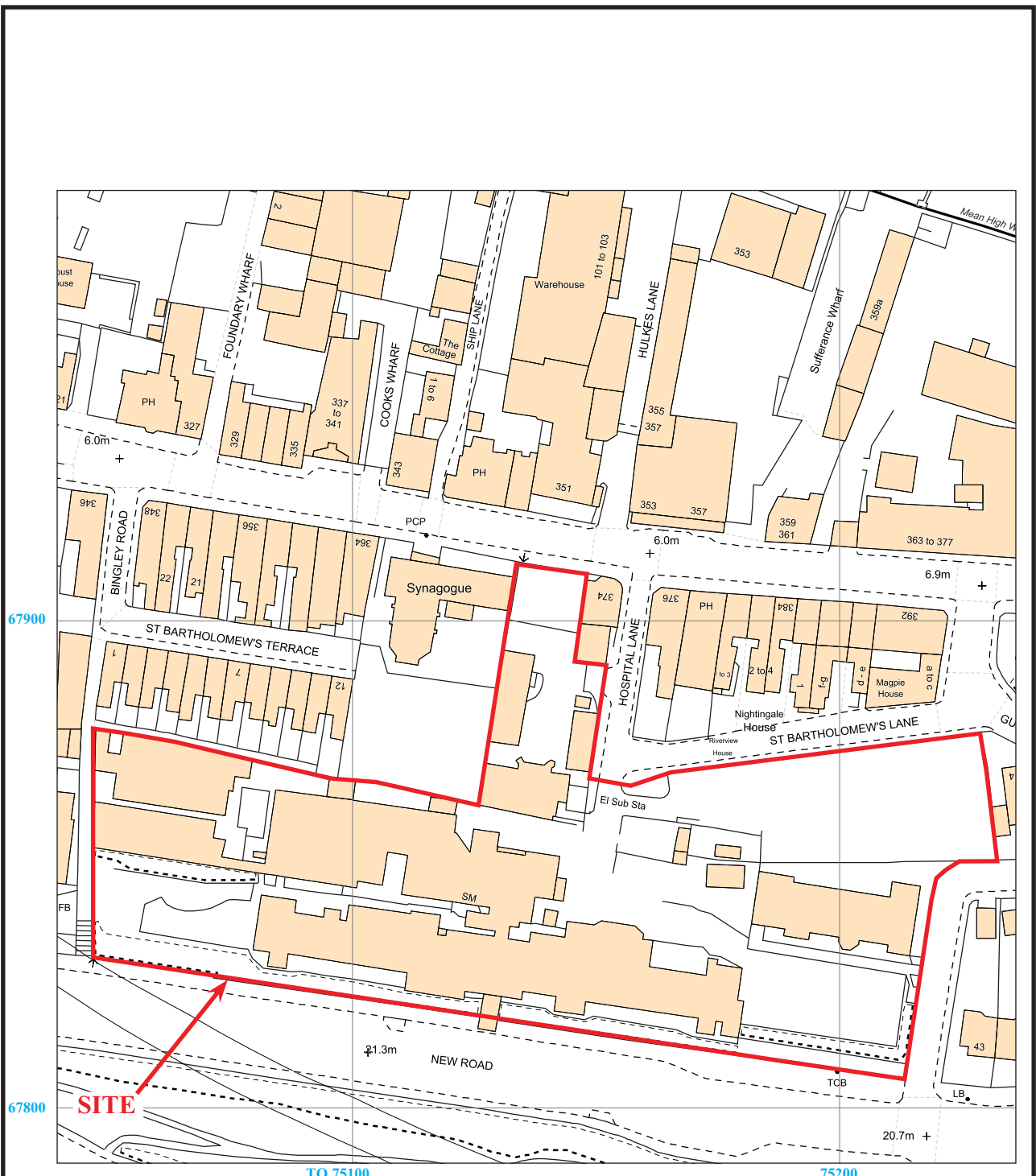


**St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester,
Kent, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Rochester and Kent.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved





BHR 20/04

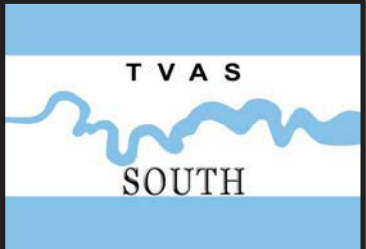


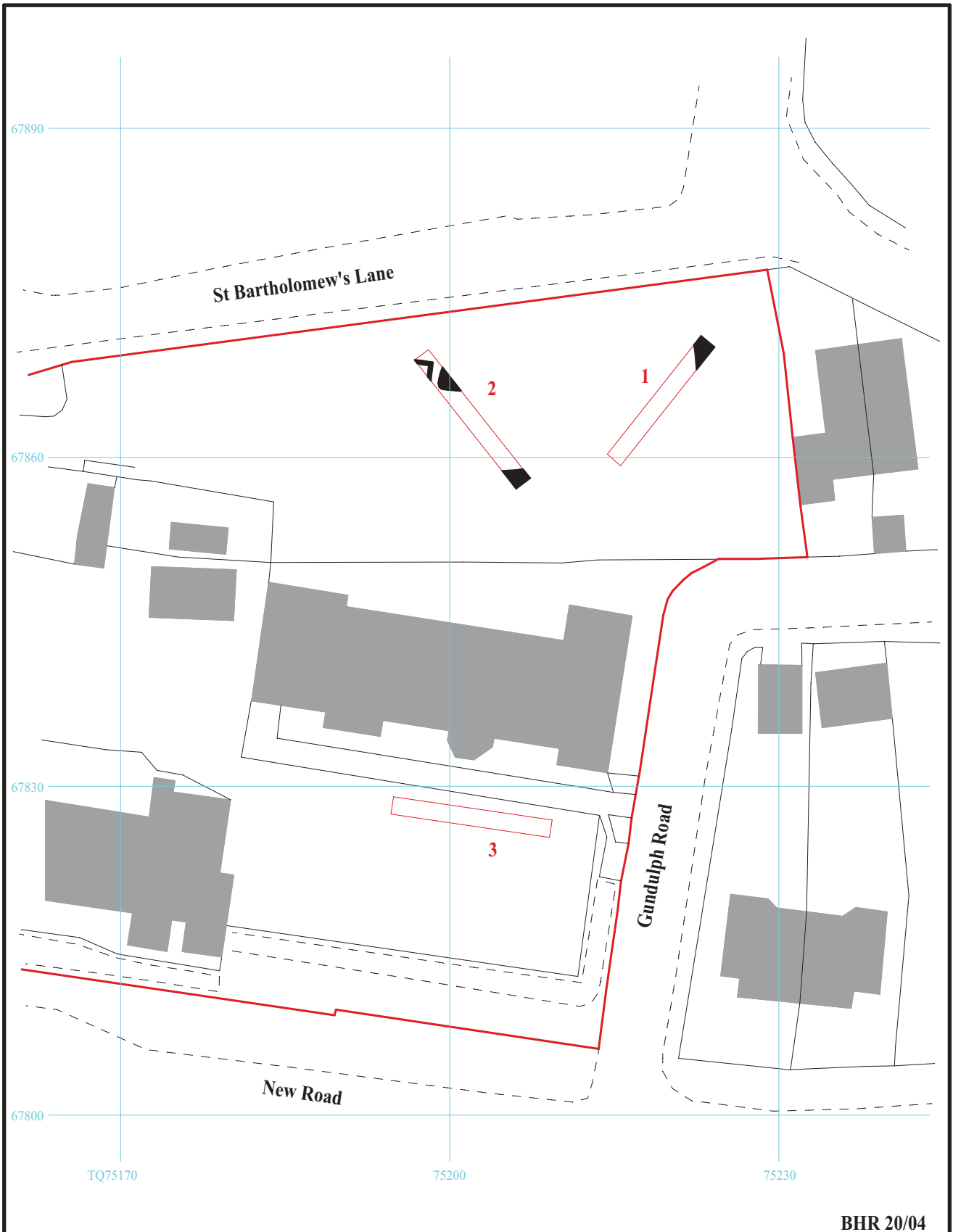
**St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester,
Kent, 2020**

Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed site location.

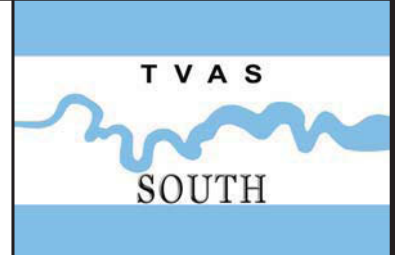
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:2500



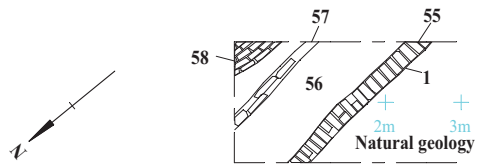


**St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester,
Kent, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

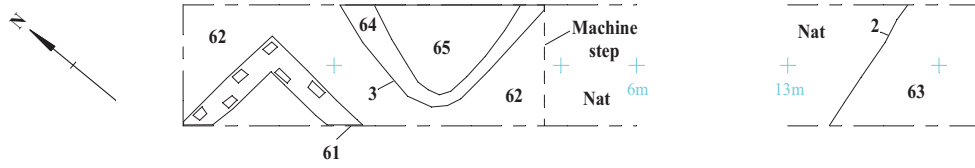
Figure 3. Site plan showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features.



Trench 1



Trench 2



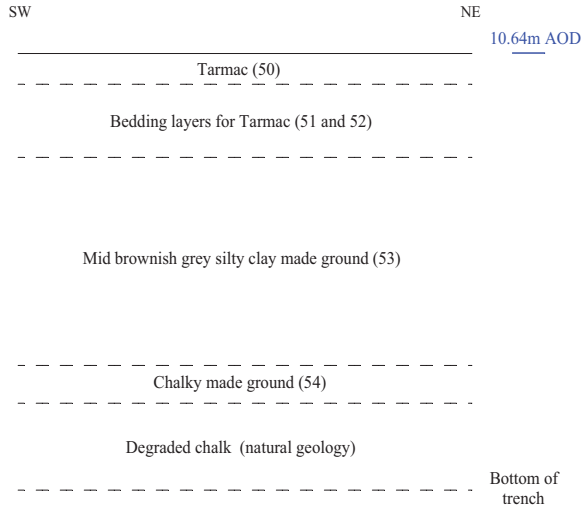
BHR 20/04

**St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester,
Kent, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

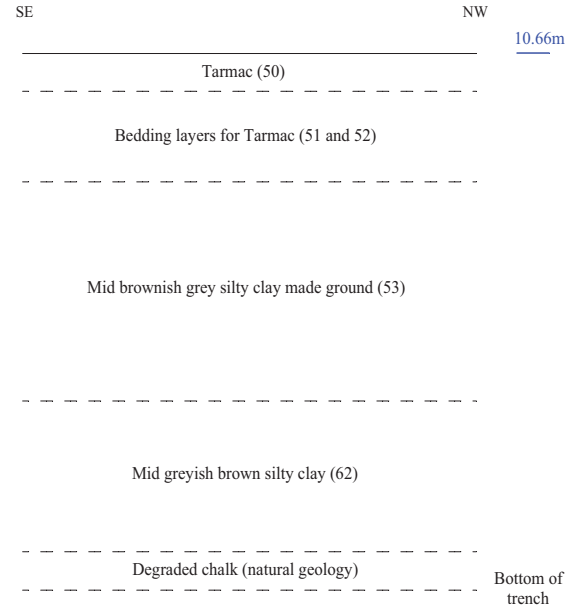
Figure 4. Plan of trenches 1 and 2.



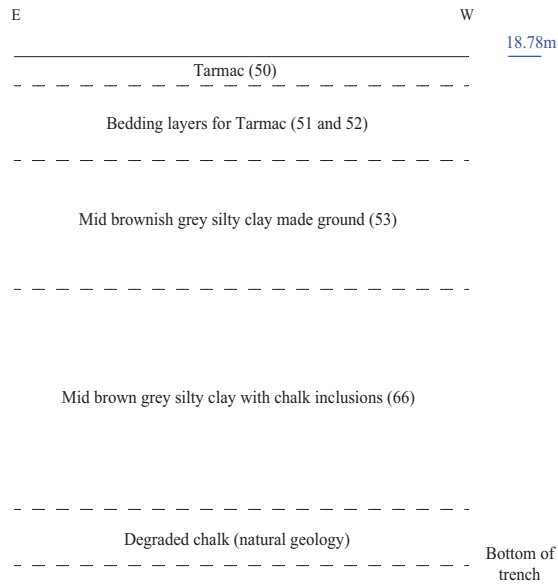
Trench 1 (South-west end)



Trench 2 (Central part of trench)



Trench 3



BHR 20/04

**St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester,
Kent, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Representative sections.

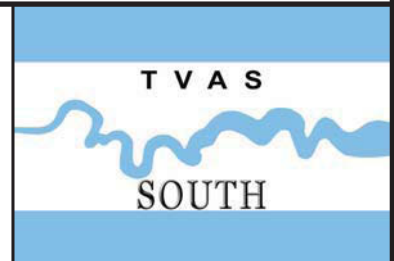




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking North-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Trench 1, culvert 1 and surface 55, looking South-east. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking South-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m



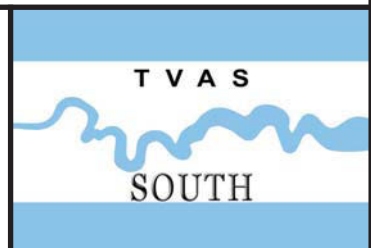
Plate 5. Trench 2, looking North-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 3, looking West.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

BHR 20/04

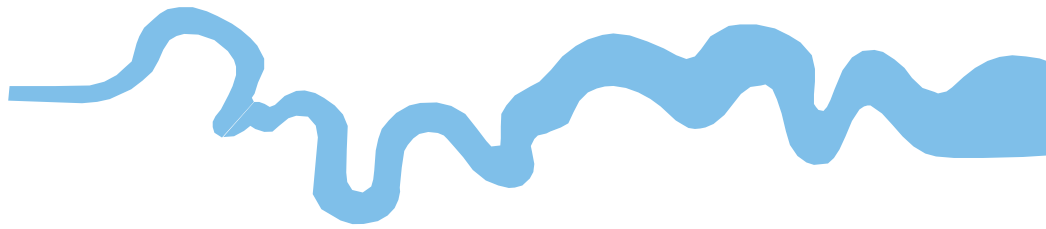
**St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester,
Kent, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 6.**



TIME CHART

| | Calendar Years |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Modern _____ | AD 1901 |
| Victorian _____ | AD 1837 |
| Post Medieval _____ | AD 1500 |
| Medieval _____ | AD 1066 |
| Saxon _____ | AD 410 |
| Roman _____ | AD 43 AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____ | 750 BC |
| | |
| Bronze Age: Late _____ | 1300 BC |
| Bronze Age: Middle _____ | 1700 BC |
| Bronze Age: Early _____ | 2100 BC |
| | |
| Neolithic: Late | 3300 BC |
| Neolithic: Early | 4300 BC |
| | |
| Mesolithic: Late | 6000 BC |
| Mesolithic: Early | 10000 BC |
| | |
| Palaeolithic: Upper | 30000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Middle | 70000 BC |
| Palaeolithic: Lower | 2,000,000 BC |





**TVAS (South),
77a Hollingdean Terrace
Brighton, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198
Email: south@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/south**

***Offices in:
Reading, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wellingborough
and Ennis (Ireland)***