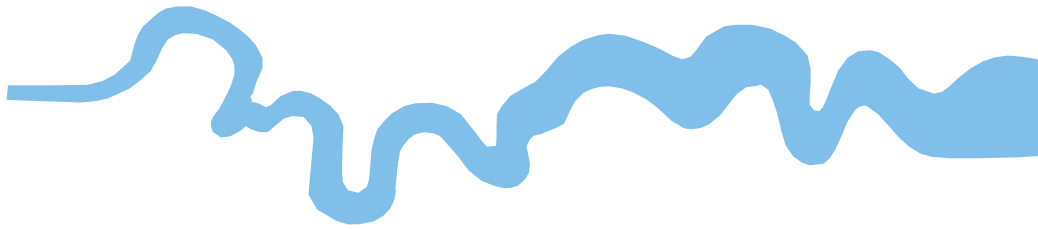


T V A S



SOUTH

**34 Union Street,
Maidstone, Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford and Beth Tucker

Site Code: USM21/163

(TQ 7618 5599)

**34 Union Street,
Maidstone, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Rongold Developments Limited**

by Steve Ford and Beth Tucker

TVAS South

Site Code USM 21/163

December 2022

Summary

Site name: 34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 7618 5599

Site activity: Archaeological evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th December 2022

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: USM 21/163

Area of site: c. 190 sq m

Summary of results: Despite constraints on site three trenches were successfully excavated revealing one 20th century pit. No other features or finds were observed during the course of the trenching, therefore, the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 15.12.22
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34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford and Beth Tucker

Report 21/163

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, TQ 7618 5599 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Raviv Goldman of Rongold Developments Limited, 10 Colindeep Gardens, Hendon, London, NW4 4RU.

Planning permission (app 20/504684/FULL) has been gained from Maidstone Borough Council for a change of use to residential: with the demolition of an out-building, an extension of an existing building and the erection of a new block of apartments on the site. The planning permission is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology which requires an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken with subsequent mitigation based on the results of this investigation. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and Maidstone District Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District and followed Kent County Council's guidelines for trial trenching (KCC 2013). The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and John Conley on 8th December 2022 and the site code is USM 21/163. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located close to the centre of the town of Maidstone, and 0.4km east of the River Medway (Fig. 1). The site currently comprises an existing building with a flat paved backyard and an out building. It occupies an area of c.260 sq m and lies on the south side of Union Street (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of c.22m above Ordnance Datum, and the natural geology is mapped as Hythe Formation (BGS 1993) which was observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been detailed in a brief prepared by Ms Wendy Rogers of Kent County Council. The town of Maidstone is considered to have late Saxon origins, although there is some evidence of Roman settlement and burials. The site lies on the edge of the Medieval core of Maidstone just to the east of urban zone 2 (KCC 2013). While no archaeological finds or features have been recorded at the site itself, to the west are Medieval tenements aligned on Week Street which was originally part of the Roman road that ran from Rochester to Hastings. Also directly to the west of the site is a former chapel dating to the 19th century and to the east lies an 18th century terrace.

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 development.

The specific aims of this 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 archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Saxon period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the medieval period are present.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in the *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017), or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary. The work was undertaken in accordance to the relevant guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020).

Two trenches were proposed to be dug, each measuring 5m in length and 1.4-1.6m in width using a JCB-type or 360 ° machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed in spits to expose archaeologically sensitive levels and to recover artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers. Spoilheaps were monitored throughout the trenching process. Where archaeological features were certainly or possibly present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using the appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any features

which would have warranted preservation *in-situ* or which may have been better investigated under the conditions pertaining to a full excavation.

Results

Three trenches were excavated during the course of the archaeological evaluation (Fig. 3). Originally it was intended for only two trenches to be excavated, however, due to the presence of large concrete slabs at the site one of the trenches had to be moved and was split into two separate trenches (trenches 1 and 2) in order to sample the site sufficiently to fulfil the aims of the brief. Trench 3 was dug as close as possible to its intended position but was also adjusted due to the constraints on site. The trenches ranged in length from 1.7m to 3.5m and in depth from 0.7m to 1.15m. All were 1.4m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned E - W and was 1.7m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of made ground and concrete and 0.48m of buried topsoil overlying the mid reddish-brown clayey-gravel with sandstone inclusions natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pls 3-5)

Trench 2 was aligned roughly N - S and was 3.5m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of made ground and concrete and 0.55m of buried topsoil overlying the mid reddish-brown clayey-gravel with sandstone inclusions natural geology. At 2m from the south end of the trench, pit 1 was recorded which was 1.5m long, at least 0.5m wide and 0.58m deep and filled with a single fill of a dark reddish-brown sandy clay (53). The full length and width of the pit were unknown due as the feature extended outside the trench. The finds recovered from this pit include mass produced transfer printed whiteware ('china') pottery, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe stems which suggests that the pit likely dates from the later 19th or early 20th centuries (Pl. 5). No other finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned NE - SW and was 2.8m long and 1.15m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of made ground and concrete and 0.55m of buried topsoil overlying the mid reddish-brown clayish-gravel with sandstone inclusions natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Finds

Pottery

During the archaeological evaluation pottery was only recovered from pit 1 in trench 2. The pottery recovered from this feature included modern china and so the feature is considered to likely have been later 19th or 20th century in date.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at 34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent was successfully undertaken, although the locations of the trenches had to be adjusted and one of the trenches had to be split into two. The trial trenching revealed only one pit dating to the later 19th or 20th century in on the site. As no other finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered or recorded, it is considered that the archaeological potential of the site is very low.

References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **288**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CIFA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- KCC, 2013, *Kent County Council Manual of Specifications Part B: Evaluation- Trial Trenching Requirements*. Maidstone.
- NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

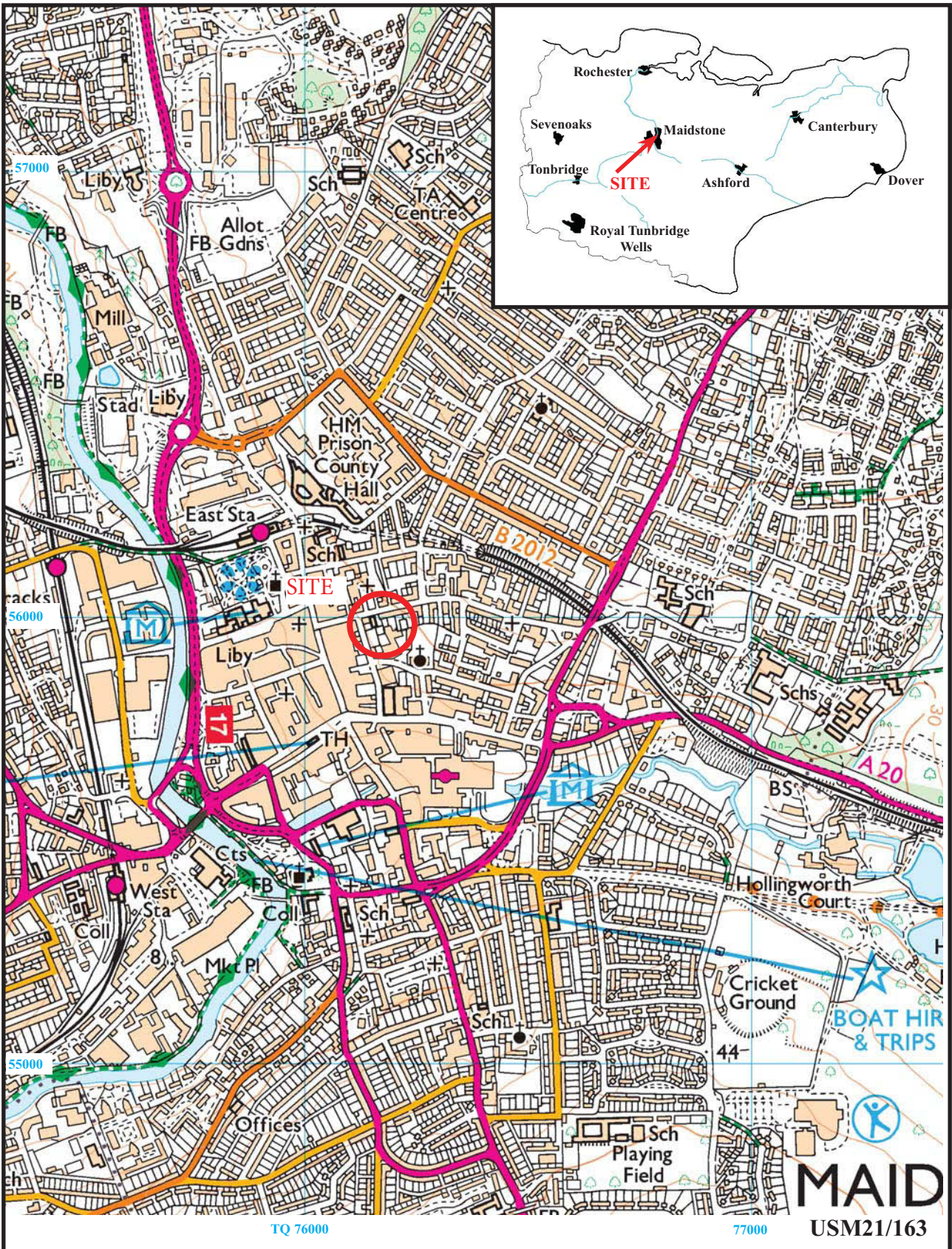
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SW, W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	1.7	1.3	0.72	0–0.22m made ground and concrete, 0.22-0.7m buried topsoil, 0.7m+ mid reddish-brown clayey-gravel with sandstone inclusions natural geology. No archaeological features present. [PI. 1]
2	3.5	1.3	0.7	0–0.1m made ground and concrete, 0.1-0.65m buried topsoil, 0.65m+ mid reddish-brown clayey-gravel with sandstone inclusions natural geology. Pit 1. [PIs 3 and 4]
3	2.8	1.3	1.15	0–0.1m made ground and concrete, 0.1-0.65m buried topsoil, 0.65m+ mid reddish-brown clayey-gravel with sandstone inclusions natural geology. No archaeological features present. [PI. 2]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	53	Pit	20th century	China, clay pipe stems.

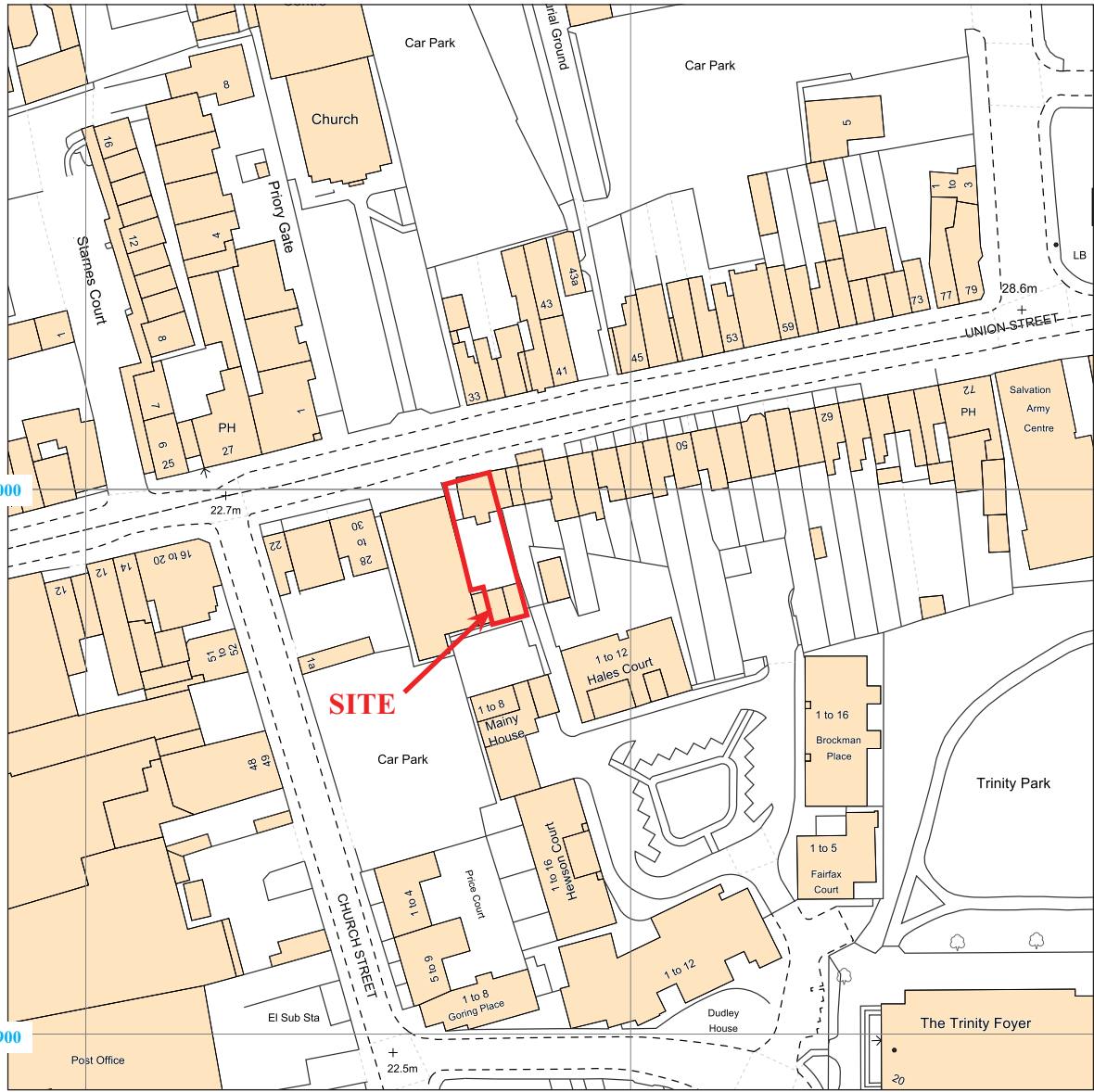


**34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, 2022
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Maidstone and Kent.

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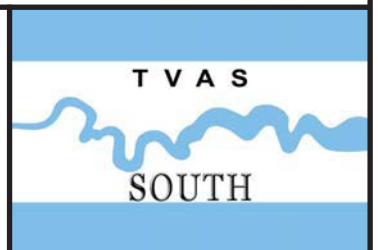
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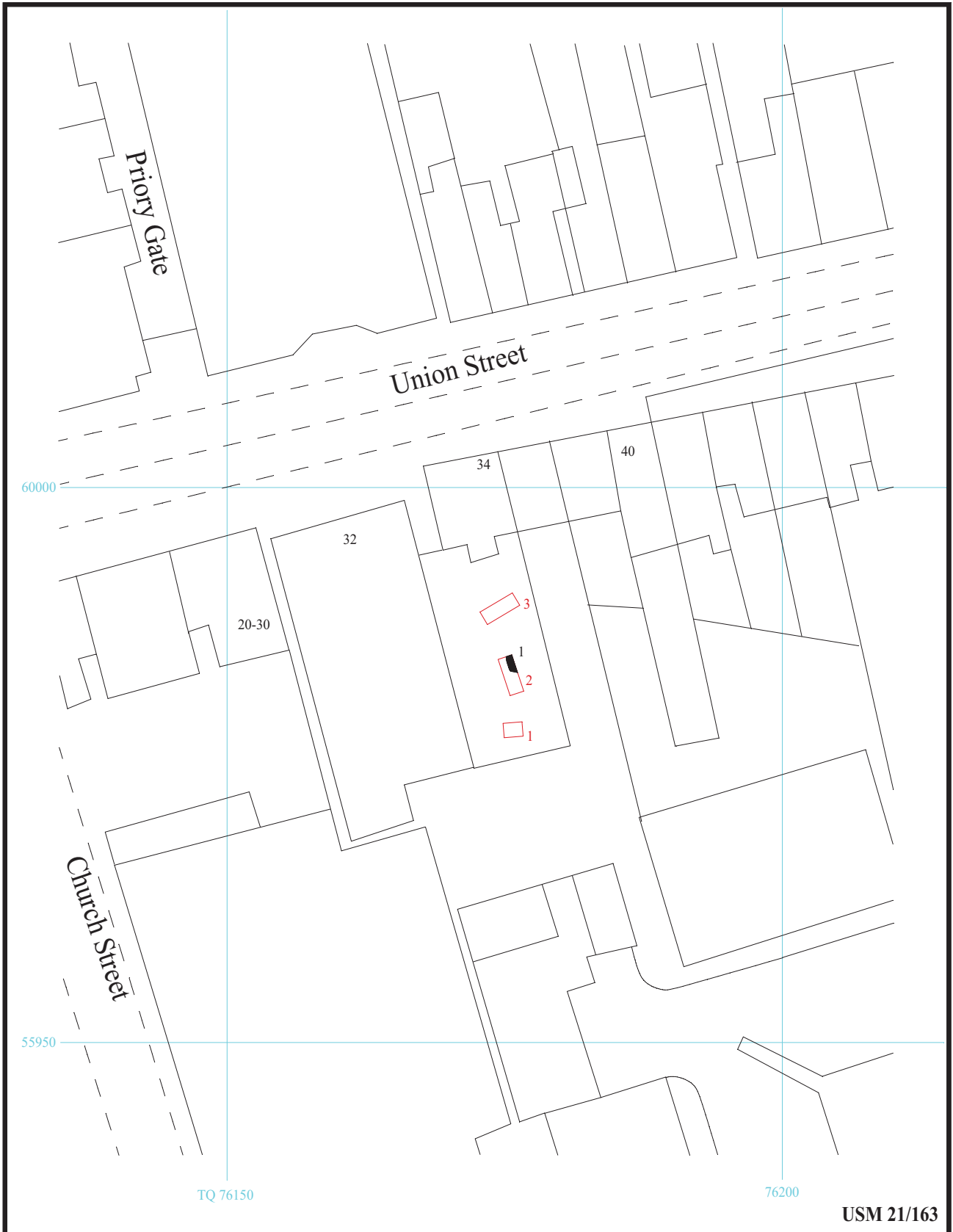


**34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, 2022
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Union Street.

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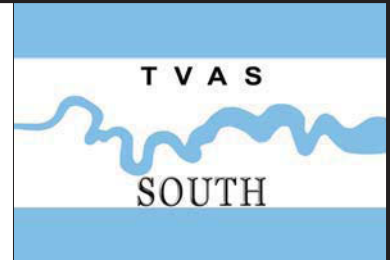


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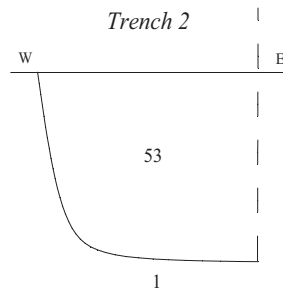
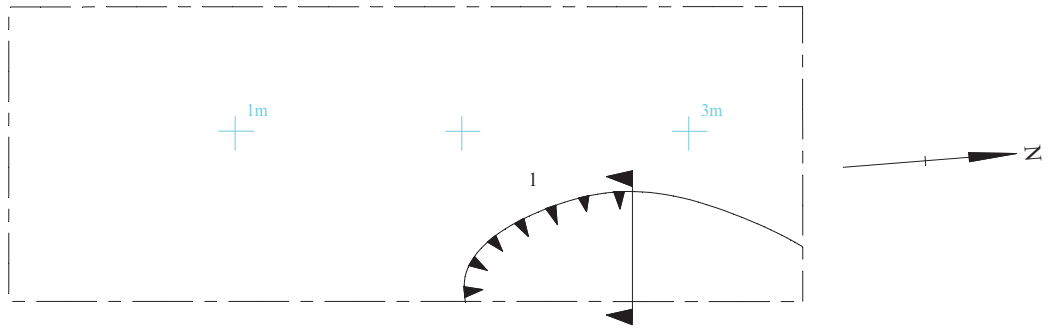


**34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, 2022
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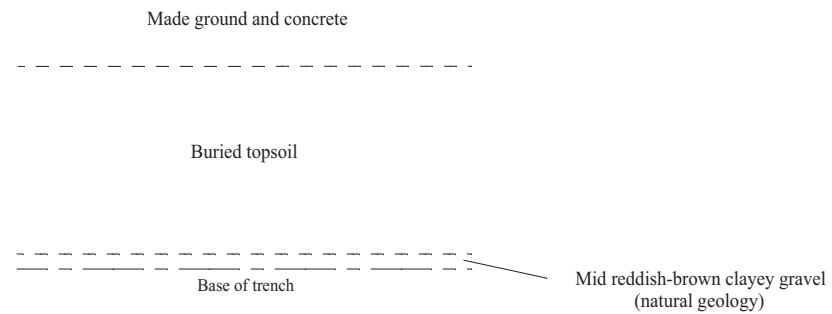
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



Trench 2



Trench 1



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**34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, 2022
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Base of trench y) clayey gravel , 2022 an of trench 2.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent.
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Plates 1 and 2.





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



Plate 4. Trench 2, pit 1, looking north east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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**34 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent.
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Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Trench 2, Artefacts from Pit 1. Scale: 100mm

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Archaeological Evaluation

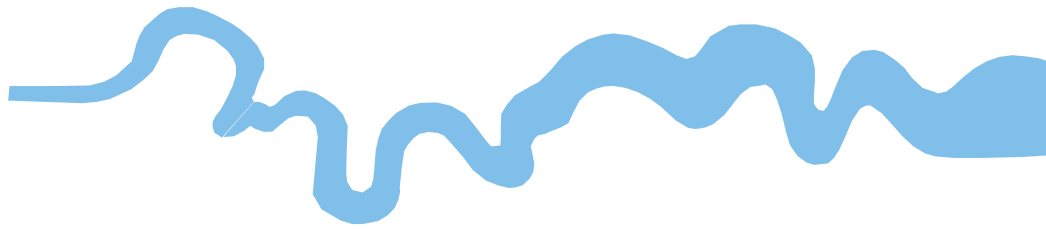
Plate 5. Artefacts from Pit 1



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





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