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Archaeological Observation

On behalf of

south east water

Concerning

**Tonbridge Road Sevenoaks
Offsite NARS 7995 (05-1079
69497)
Kent
TN13 1RD**

January 2020



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1 Non-Technical Summary

Border Archaeology (BA) attended site at the request of South East Water (SEW) to record a section of masonry wall exposed during engineering groundworks forming part of the Tonbridge Road Sevenoaks Offsite NARS 7995 (05-1079 69497) Kent TN13 1RD.

Engineering work was halted following initial discovery of a short c.1.5m length of wall in the pavement on the western side of Tonbridge Road and BA attended site on the 7th and 8th August 2019 to record this exposed section of masonry and monitor the remainder of the trenching excavations.

Approximately 13.5m of masonry was revealed in total comprising two walls, one of which, 001004, was aligned broadly north-south, with the remains of a second wall, 001009, at its northern extent branching off to the west.

Wall 001004 was constructed from local Kentish ragstone and is thought to define the former alignment of Tonbridge Road as this was established in 1709, when an earlier route, in existence since the medieval period, was turnpiked.

Its poorly finished western elevation suggests it is likely to have been a revetment or retaining wall, probably defining the eastern extent of a formal garden shown on historic maps of 1769 and 1799. This appears to have been laid out at some point in the late 17th/18th Century within the grounds of Park Grange, a 17th-18th Century house once belonging to the Lambard family, now a girls' boarding school.

Wall 001009 branching off to the west is though likely to be the remains of a formal approach to the gardens leading to an entrance, also shown on historic mapping.

The gardens were later swept away and the land turned over to arable cultivation, forming part of Field No 663 recorded in the Tithe Apportionment of 1839. Both walls appear to have been demolished when Tonbridge Road was widened in the mid-19th Century.

2 Introduction

This Report details the results of an additional programme of Archaeological Observation (AO) undertaken by Border Archaeology (BA) in response to an instruction from South East Water (SEW) following the discovery of a section of masonry wall during engineering groundworks forming part of the Tonbridge Road Sevenoaks Offsite NARS 7995 (05-1079 69497) Kent TN13 1RD (*fig. 1*).

The groundworks were located within the carriageway on the W side of Tonbridge Road.

BA attended site on Wednesday August 7th 2019 to record the 1.5m of wall remains exposed and the following day observed the remaining 12m of trenching excavations, the trench overall running N-S for a distance of roughly 13.5m. Two sections of wall were revealed, one of which reflected the alignment of the road whilst a second wall fragment was observed at the northern extent of the trench branching off the W. Both were subject to detailed recording.

This Report follows an Interim Report issued in September 2019.

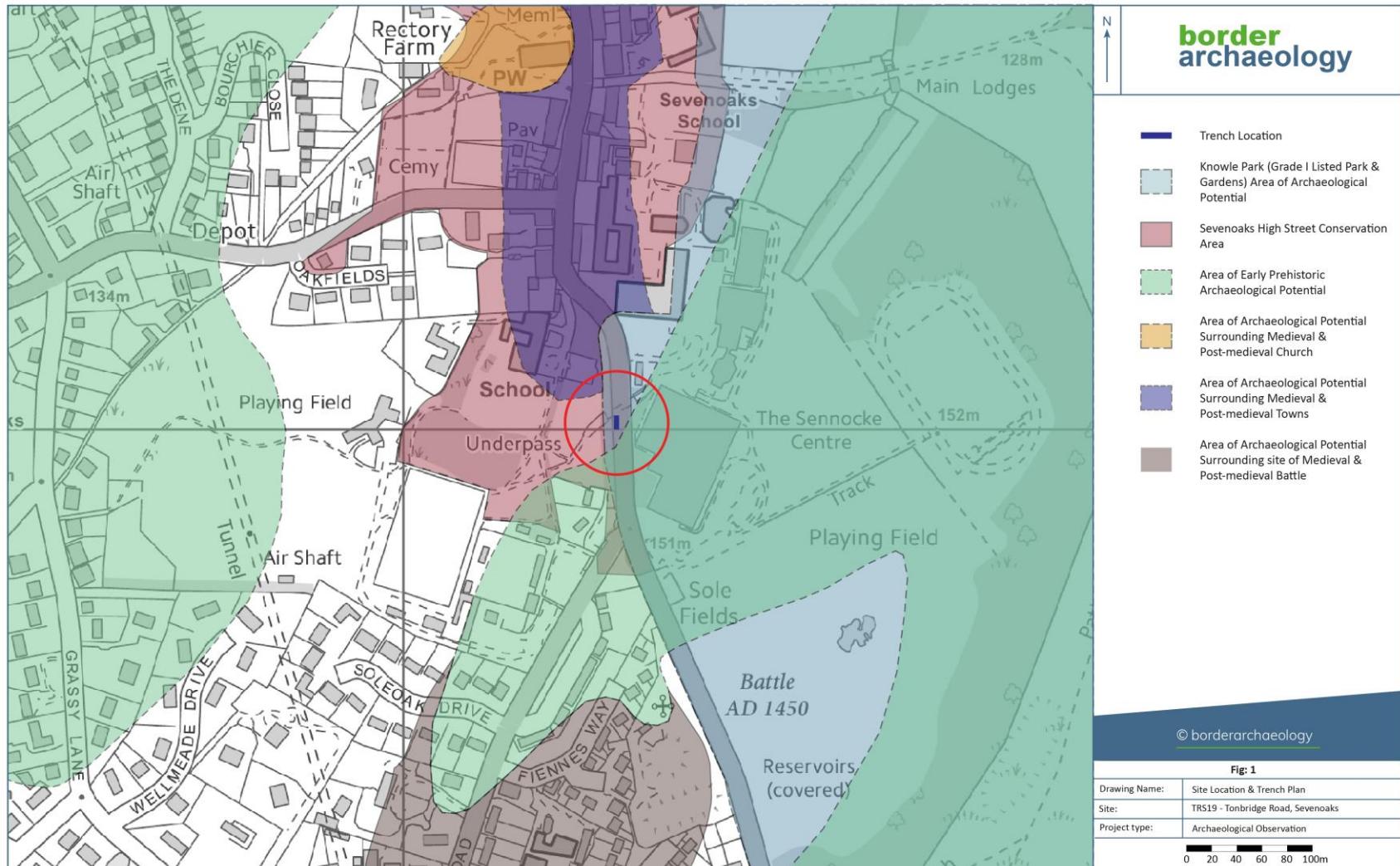
3 Site description

The section of masonry wall as revealed was located in the pavement at a height of 151.5m AOD on the W side of Tonbridge Road, which now forms part of the modern A225 but which broadly represents the alignment of an earlier route that had been in existence since the medieval period (BA 2017b, 15). The road was turnpiked in 1709 and widened at some point between the publication of the Sevenoaks tithe map in 1839 and the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-inch map of 1871.

The location lies to the N of the site of the Battle of Solefields (1450) and adjacent to the historic Knole Park.

Directly to the N of the site is Park Grange Lodge and Gates and Gate Piers, both Grade II listed buildings. The Lodge was constructed during 1849 and 1889 and the boundary wall to the N of the Lodge is dated c.1869 (BA 2017b).

During the archaeological observation, the natural substratum was not encountered along the route. No superficial deposits are recorded in this area (British Geological Survey 2019).



4 Aims

The aim was to record the sections of masonry wall revealed during the course of the engineering works and any associated features or deposits in addition to finds recovery and to assess its character, extent, quality and local, regional and national importance.

5 Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - CfA 2014b) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CfA 2014c). BA adheres to the CfA *Code of conduct* (2014a). No Written Scheme of Investigation has been issued in connection with this programme of work.

CfA states (2014b, 4) that the purpose of a watching brief (Archaeological Observation) is:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

5.1 Open-cut trenching

A single N-S aligned trench (001) of c.13.5m (length) × c.1.4m (width) was opened by machine under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Recording

This programme of works was recorded under the site code TRS19.

A full and complete written, graphic and photographic record was made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2017).

6 Results

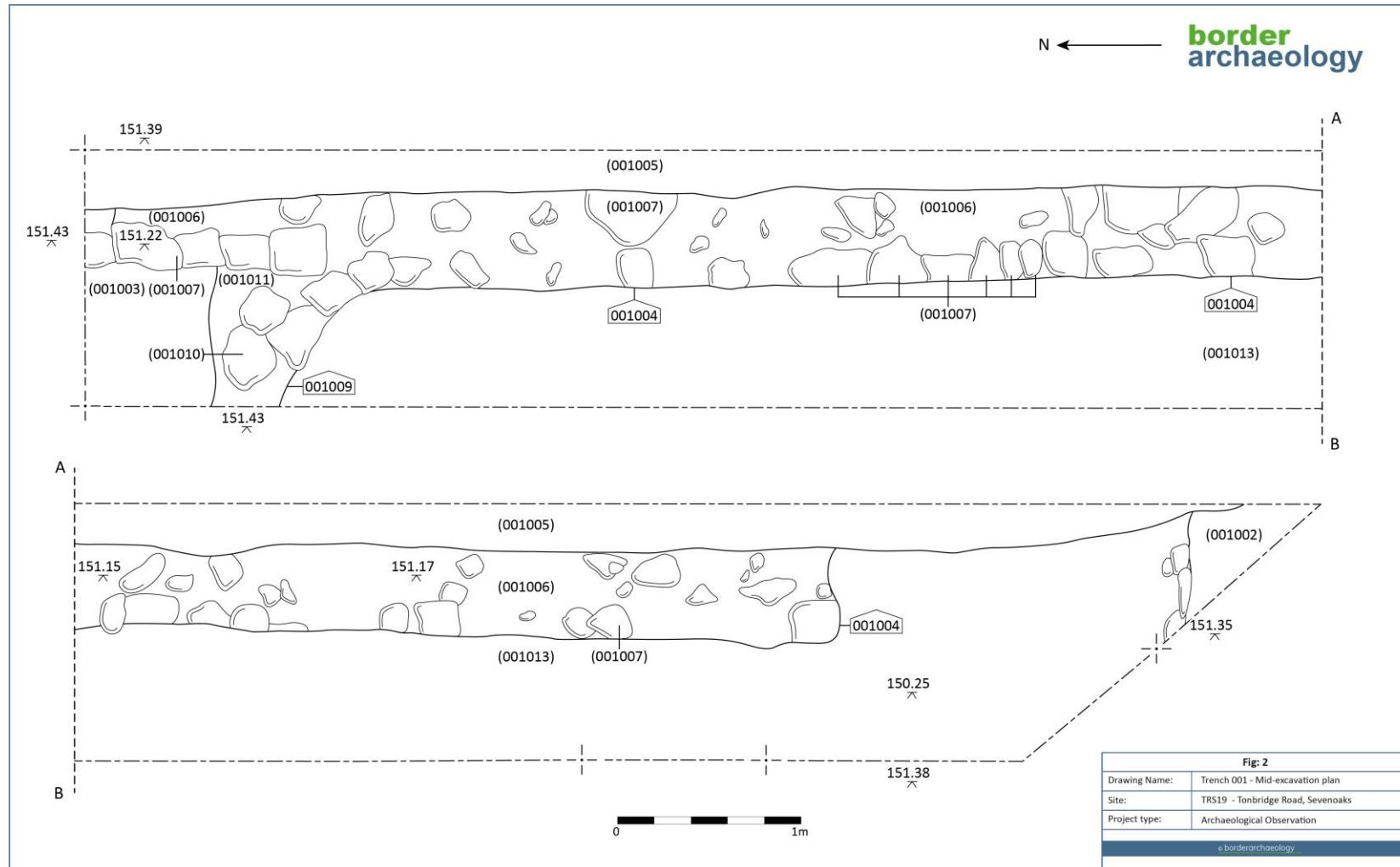
6.1 Trench 001

The modern road surface consisted of four deposits. The tarmac (001001) was c.0.07m thick and overlay a c.0.26m-thick sub-base (001002) of firm mid-grey-brown silty clay containing a moderate amount of pebbles. Contemporary with this was a hard light yellow-white cement deposit (001005).

Below the road surface were two walls (*Plates 1-3; figs. 2 & 3*). The first, 001004, was aligned N-S along the entire length of the trench and was c.0.5m wide. The wall was two courses thick and was excavated to a depth of c.0.98m (five courses). It was constructed of irregularly coursed rough-hewn ragstone blocks (001007) c.0.2 × c.0.2m in size bonded with a limestone mortar (001006). Bone, ceramic building material (CBM), tile and an iron (Fe) nail were recovered from within the mortar. The finds appear all to be post-medieval in date. To the E of and against this wall, a deposit of firm mid-grey brown silty clay (001008) was revealed. This deposit had occasional brick and pebble inclusions and was excavated to c.0.15m wide and c.0.95m thick.

A second wall, 001009, was encountered towards the northern extent of the trench and appeared to run parallel to 001004 only slightly before curving off to the W. The masonry construction (001010) and mortar (001011) were similar those of wall 001004.

Built up along the eastern edge of the wall were a series of sand deposits that appeared to have been deliberately placed to create built up ground. (001003) was the uppermost of these consisting of loose mid-orange-brown sand c.0.85m thick, from which finds of tile were recovered. Below this was a loose mid-orange-yellow sand (001012) with no inclusions that was only 0.17m thick. Below the sand was a mid-grey-brown sandy clay (001013) with occasional pebbles, which was excavated to the base of the trench and was c.0.25m thick.



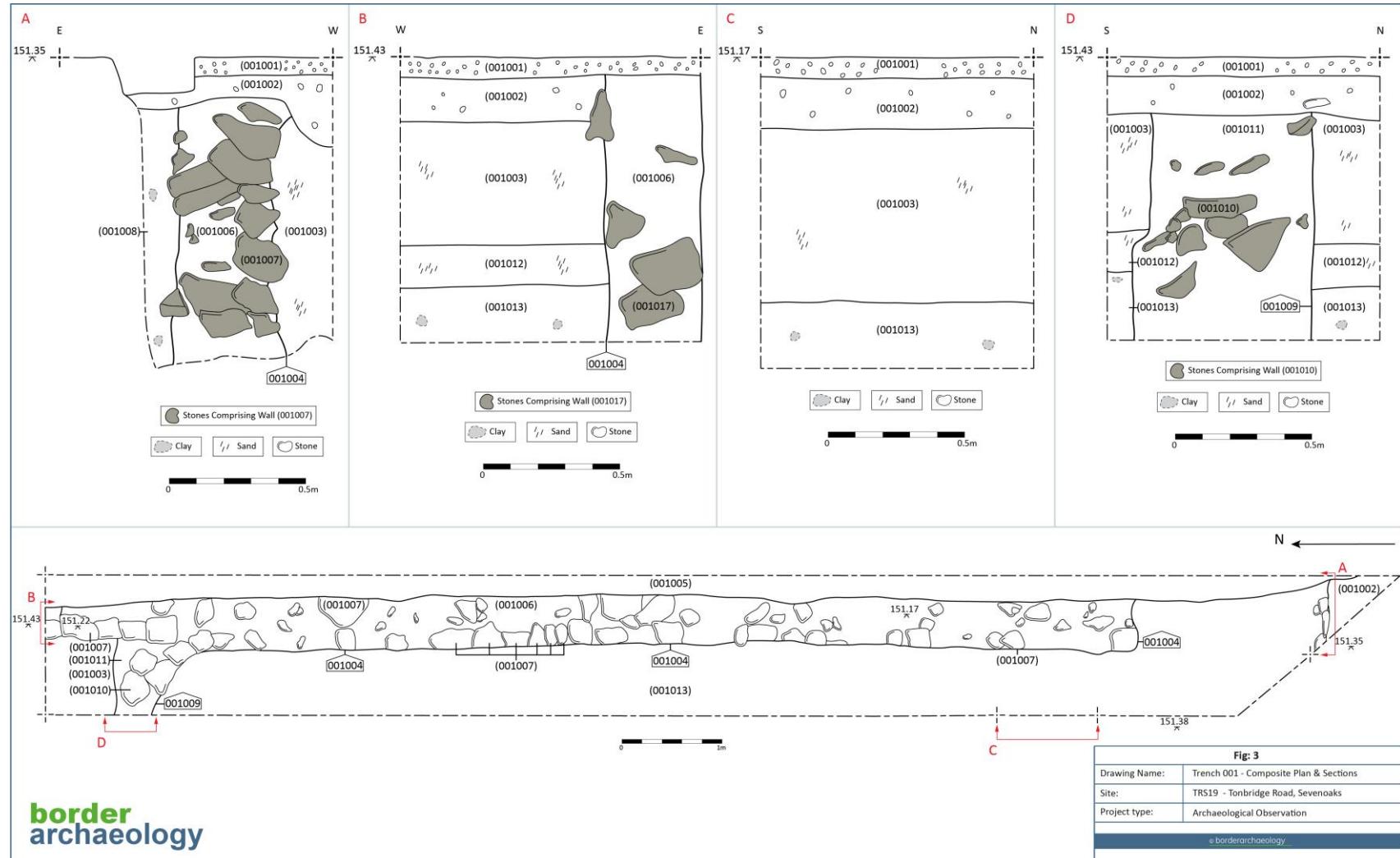




Plate 1: View S showing masonry walls 001004 and 001009



Plate 2: View S showing construction of wall 001004



Plate 3: View W of 001009

7 Discussion of Results

Wall 001004 is thought to define the historic alignment of Tonbridge Road established in 1709, when an earlier route of some antiquity came under the management of the Sevenoaks to Tunbridge Wells Turnpike Trust.

The rather poorly finished western face of the wall suggests this is likely to have been a revetment or retaining wall, probably associated with a formal garden attached to Park Grange, a mansion of 17th Century origin which was acquired by the Lambard family in about 1660. It is likely that the Lambards were responsible for laying out the formal gardens to the S of the house which are shown on Andrews and Dury's Map of Kent dated 1769 (*fig. 4*) and (partially) on the 1799 Ordnance Survey drawing of Knole Park and Whitcliff Wood (BA 2017b) (*fig. 5*).

Wall 001009 branching off to the W is thought likely to be associated with an approach leading to the formal gardens S of Park Grange from the Tonbridge Road, with a possible gateway structure depicted in this location on the 1799 Ordnance Survey map.

The formal gardens shown on the 18th Century maps were swept away by the late 1830s and the land turned over to arable cultivation, forming part of Field No 663 as recorded in the Tithe Apportionment of 1839 (*fig.*

6). Both walls appear to have been demolished when Tonbridge Road was widened in the mid-19th Century. Park Grange remains in existence as part of a girls' boarding school.



Fig. 4: Extract from Andrews and Dury's Map of Kent (1769) with location of walls 001004 and 001009 indicated in red
(Reproduced by courtesy of Kent Archives)



Fig. 5: Ordnance Survey drawing of Knole Park and Whitcliff Wood (1799) with location of walls 001004 and 001009 circled in red

(Reproduced by courtesy of Kent Archives)



Fig. 6: Extract from the Sevenoaks tithe map (1839) showing location of walls 001004 and 001009
(Reproduced by courtesy of Kent Archives)

8 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring undertaken on approximately 13.5m of engineering groundworks along Tonbridge Road Sevenoaks Kent has yielded evidence of two post-medieval walls most likely associated with a formal garden, now no longer in existence, and which represent the alignment of the 18th Century turnpike road, now part of Tonbridge Road. All associated features, finds and deposits have been subject to comprehensive, detailed recording.

The results have some relevance to regional research priorities as defined in the *South East Regional Research Framework* (SERF) with respect to developing knowledge and understanding of the turnpike road systems in Kent.

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10 Bibliography

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10.1 Cartography

1769 - Andrews & Dury's Map of Kent.

1799 - Ordnance Survey drawing of Knole Park and Whitcliff Wood.

1839 - Sevenoaks Tithe Map.

11 Appendix 1: Context Tabulation

11.1 Trench 001

Context	Slot	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
(001001)	-	Deposit	-	-	Tarmac; c.0.07m thick; tarmac. Overlies (001002) (001005).	Modern road surface.	-	-	Modern
(001002)	-	Deposit	-	-	Firm mid-grey-brown silty clay; moderate pebbles; c.0.25m thick. Underlies (001001). Overlies (001003) (001008) 001004 001009.	Sub-base.	-	-	Modern
(001003)	-	Deposit	-	-	Loose mid-orange-brown sand; occasional tile; c.0.85m thick. Underlies (001002). Overlies (001012) (001013).	Made ground.	✓	-	Modern
001004	-	Structure	-	-	N-S alignment; rough-hewn rectangular ragstone; 2 courses, exc. to 5 courses deep; 13.5m x 0.5m x 0.98m. Underlies (001002) (001005).	Wall.	-		Post-medieval
(001005)	-	Deposit	-	-	Hard light yellow-white cement (not exc.); frequent pebbles. Underlies (001001). Overlies 001004.	Cement.	-	-	Modern
(001006)	-	Deposit	-	-	Hard light brown-yellow lime mortar; occasional bone, nails, CBM & pebbles.	Mortar for 001004.	✓	-	Post-medieval

Context	Slot	Type	F/B	F/O	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Sample No	Provisional Date
(001007)	-	Deposit	-	-	Kentish ragstone; rough-hewn to an average of c.0.2m × c.0.2m × c.0.1m thick. Underlies (001002) (001005).	Masonry forming wall 001004.	-	-	Post-medieval
(001008)	-	Deposit	-	-	Firm mid-grey-brown silty clay; occasional brick & pebbles; c.0.15m wide & excavated to c.0.95m thick. Underlies (001002). Contemporary with (001003).	Clay deposit	-	-	Unknown
001009	-	Structure	-	-	E-W alignment; rough-hewn ragstone & lime mortar, randomly coursed; c.0.75m × c.0.65m × c.0.8m; excavated to 5 courses deep, 2 courses wide. Underlies (001002) (001005).	Wall	-	-	Post-medieval
(001010)	-	Deposit	-	-	Kentish ragstone; rough-hewn to average of c.0.2m × c.0.2m × c.0.1m. Underlies (001002).	Masonry forming wall 001009.	-	-	Post-medieval
(001011)	-	Deposit	-	-	Firm light yellow-brown lime mortar; occasional pebbles.	Mortar for 001009.	-	-	Post-medieval
(001012)	-	Deposit	-	-	Loose light orange-yellow sand; no inclusions; 0.17m thick. Underlies (001003). Overlies (001013).	Made ground.	-	-	Unknown
(001013)	-	Deposit	-	-	Loose mid-grey-brown sandy clay; occasional pebbles; exc. to c.0.25m thick. Underlies (001012).	Possible made ground.	-	-	Unknown

12 Appendix 2: The Ceramic Building Material

K. H. Crooks BA (Hons)
Border Archaeology

A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 1818g were recovered from Trench 1, context (001006).

The material was all of post-medieval date. Seven of the fragments presented were of brick, with a single example of rooftile. No complete examples were found, with the most complete fragment measuring 110mm wide and 60mm thick.

The presence of lime mortar on broken surfaces suggests that most of the examples were reused, possibly as consolidation during the construction of later structures on the site or in surfaces.

The most complete fragment appeared to be hand-made while none of the bricks appeared to be frogged, probably suggesting a date before the middle part of the 19th Century. The width, equivalent to about 2.5 inches, may imply a date in the 18th Century, although a fragment of what appears to be blue engineering brick from the same context is of 19th Century date.

The single fragment of rooftile had no surface treatment and was oxidized throughout. A date in the 18th Century or later for this material also seems likely.

12.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

All CBM was very fragmentary. Although it may derive from a demolished structure in the immediate vicinity, it may as easily have been imported into the area for use as levelling or foundation material.

As a result of its late date and fragmentary nature, no further work on this material is considered necessary and it is not thought necessary that it be retained as part of the site archive.

13 Appendix 3: The Finds

*Chris Faine BA MA MSc ACIfA
Border Archaeology*

13.1 Animal Bone

Seven fragments of bone were recovered from context (001006) with a total weight of 123g. All formed part of a single, highly fragmentary cattle tibia mortared into wall (001004). No further work is recommended.

13.2 Metalwork

A single iron nail shank of uncertain date was recovered from (001006). No further work is recommended.

13.3 Stone

Sixty-eight kilograms of stone was recovered, as samples of extant wall (001004). This consisted of thirteen pieces of local Kentish ragstone. Some traces of mortar remain, with a number of fragments of animal bone included as a coarse component (see above). The majority appear to be unfaced, aside from single large piece from (001006). No further work is recommended.

14 Appendix 4: The Ironstone

Dr Gerry McDonnell
Archaeometals

Four fragments of Wealden ironstone were recovered from deposit (001003). Because of its unusual morphology and potentially iron-rich composition, the stone was subject to HH-XRF analysis (*fig. 1*) and, based on its morphology, texture and XRF data it was considered to be of natural origin, although atypical. No further work on the material is recommended and it is not thought necessary to retain it.

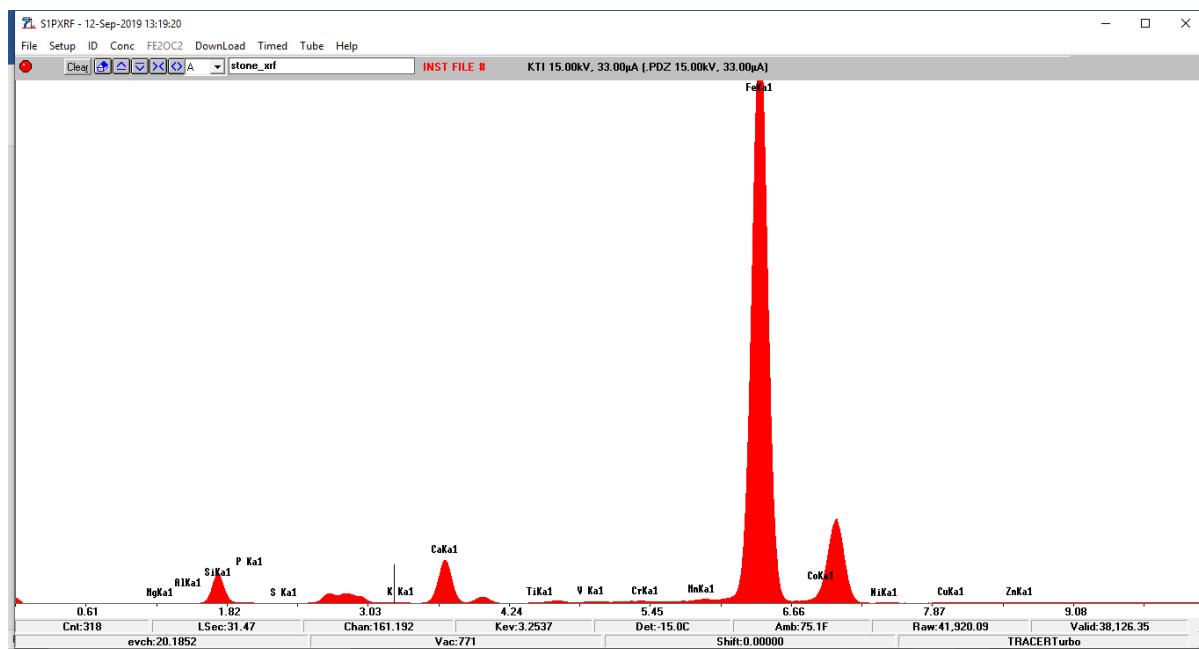


Fig. 1: HH-XRF spectrum derived from the sample from context 1003.

MgO	0.0
Al₂O₃	0.4
SiO₂	77.8
P₂O₅	0.4
S	0.0
K₂O	0.1
CaO	3.4
TiO₂	0.1
V₂O₅	0.0
Cr₂O₃	0.0
MnO	0.0
Fe₂O₃	17.7
CoO	0.0
NiO	0.0
CuO	0.0
ZnO	0.0

Table 1 Semi-quantitative data derived from the spectrum (weight %)

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