



# **Chris Butler MIFA Archaeological Services Ltd**



## **An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Kelsey House, Orpington**

Project No. CBAS0184

LAARC Site Code: KEH11

by  
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## ***Summary***

*The archaeological evaluation excavation has demonstrated that the upper deposits across the impact area to a depth of between 0.65m and 1m are probably late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, and have been placed there to level up the ground at some stage before its development in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These later deposits were laid down over a layer of chalk, which was presumably imported to level up and seal the underlying wet ground. Below the chalk was sealed a damp peaty/friable loam containing rounded flint pebbles, which may represent an in-situ remnant soil, predating the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. No in-situ dating material was located from this context or the underlying gravel and alluvium, however two pottery sherds of Late Iron Age or Roman date are thought to have derived from one of these layers.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Stonechart Developments Ltd (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new three-storey block of flats to the rear of Kelsey House, 2 Perry Hall Road, Orpington, Kent.
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority (Bromley Borough Council) put a condition on the planning consent for the development (10/01675), requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken, in order to ensure that archaeological examination and recording at the site could take place, and to accord with the Council's Unitary Development Plan (Policy BE16). The Condition states:
- “No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works as approved shall only be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority”.
- 1.3** The site is 0.15ha in size, and is situated lies at the northern end of Orpington town centre at the junction of High Street with Perry Hall Road. The site itself is roughly rectangular in plan, measuring 20m wide and up to 70m in length, oriented north-west/south-east along the northern side of Perry Hall Road, and is centred on TQ 4666 6687 (Fig. 1). The site is situated within an Archaeological Priority Zone.
- 1.4** The site, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 271, is directly underlain by superficial Quaternary Alluvial deposits, close to a geological boundary with the Taplow Gravels (also of Quaternary derivation), to the northwest. The British Geological Survey (BGS) describes the Alluvial deposits as comprising mainly silts, clayhead-waters with localised peat deposits, beneath which lie post-diversionary River Thames deposits of the Taplow Gravels (consisting of predominantly gravels, occurring sandy and clayey in part). Both superficial deposits are underlain by the solid geology of the Cretaceous Upper Chalk.
- 1.5** The appropriate programme of archaeological work, as requested by Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), comprises an archaeological trial trench evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the foundations and other groundworks of the new building on the potential below-ground archaeology.

## 2.0 Archaeological & Historical background

- 2.1 A desk based assessment of the site has recently been prepared<sup>1</sup> and covers the archaeological and historical background of the site and its immediate surroundings. A summary of the most relevant findings is included below.
- 2.2 A number of Palaeolithic artefacts have been found in the vicinity of the site, including a hand axe from Nursery Close, 750m west of the study area (MLO584), and two Levallois flakes; one in the Lower Road allotments area (MLO583 – see Lower Road allotments in the Mesolithic below); the other to the south of this in the Ramsden area, approximately 300m from the study area (MLO585). A collection of Acheulian hand axes was also recovered in the Ramsden area, during the construction of a road in the early 20th century (MLO16859). There are several other Palaeolithic find spots recorded in the vicinity of the All Saints Church (MLO14752 and MLO3159).
- 2.3 The distribution of Mesolithic flintwork highlights two concentrations of activity, including evidence for occupation of the more southerly cluster around the Priory Gardens, approximately 200m south of the site<sup>2</sup>. Both this, and the northerly cluster around Lower Road, St Mary Cray, are situated close to the springs and head-waters of the River Cray. The site lies roughly on an alignment between the two clusters and is also adjacent to the source of the River Cray.
- 2.4 A few isolated finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork have been found in the vicinity of the site. Within 1km of the site there are several isolated find spots dated to the late Iron Age, although some may date instead to the early Roman period. At Ramsden school playing fields, roughly 1km south-east of the study area, an excavation in 1956 revealed what was interpreted as a late Iron Age stockaded enclosure.
- 2.5 Approximately 600m north of the site, the remains of a Romano-British bathhouse were first identified at Ford Croft in 1972, and then excavated in 1988-89 and in the early 1990s (MLO59867). Walls measuring 0.9 metres thick and 0.4 metres high, as well as several hypocausts were excavated, and pottery and building material was recovered in large quantities. A Roman bathhouse and industrial site at Poverest Road and Bellefield Road dating predominantly to the late first - early third centuries has been excavated intermittently since the 1960's. There is a concentration of finds in the area around the latter bathhouse, while approximately 500m west of the site, it has been stated that Romano-British cremation urns were excavated, probably in the vicinity of Footbury Hill (MLO19733). Other cremation cemeteries are known from May Avenue, close to the SAM, and at Northfield Avenue, 200m east of the site, across the river Cray (MLO16454 & MLO19732).

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<sup>1</sup> Dubber, J. 2010 *Kelsey House, Perry Hall Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 0JJ: Archaeological Desk-Top Assessment*, Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

- 2.6** No. 10-12 Kent Road, located approximately 600m north-east of the site (MLO561) is the site of an early Saxon *grubenhaus* which cut a Roman ditch and contained three postholes and a row of stake holes. The building probably dated to the fifth century AD and yielded a large quantity of Saxon pottery. Other finds, dated to the Roman period. A Saxon cremation and inhumation cemetery containing around 100 recorded burials, some with grave goods, is sited at Poverest Road and Bellefield Road. Early Saxon burials have been excavated from around the Roman building (MLO25014).
- 2.7** Medieval sites and associated finds are located to the south of the site, in the area around the Priory and All Saints Church, where medieval settlement was concentrated. The manor house known as Bark Hart house, built very close to the church, was constructed by Sir Percival Hart in the early 16th century, possibly on the site of an earlier house, although the Priory was also the residence of the Rector of Orpington from the 13th century. It was visited by Queen Elizabeth I in the 16th century and was finally demolished in 1955 during an extension of the church (MLO18911). Beneath the Tudor foundations of Bark Hart house, a small hut containing two furnaces and late 13th century pottery was discovered<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.8** The 1605 map of Kent by John Norden is largely based on an earlier map surveyed and drawn by Philip Symondson in 1596. It shows little activity to the north of medieval Orpington around the site. This map shows the main focus of medieval settlement long the High Street and around the Priory and All Saints Church. There is also a small settlement at Broomhill, to the west, adjacent to Broomhill Common and Perry Hall Farm.
- 2.9** The 1843 Tithe Map shows that there had been little settlement growth since Norden's 17th century map. Settlement is still focused on the medieval core around the church and along the High Street. The study area lies next to the High Street, in the meadow numbered 466 on the Tithe Map to the south of the mill ponds serving Colgate's Mill. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (1871) shows that Orpington had changed little since 1843 and that the area of the site remained undeveloped with the western parcel wooded.
- 2.10** The 2<sup>nd</sup> (1896) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1906) OS maps show the first stages of Orpington's late 19th and early 20th century expansion, most notably with the construction of Perry Hall Road and development of residential properties and the first development of an L-shaped building, most likely to be a working men's club, on the southeastern parcel of the site. By the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition OS map (1933), the site is occupied by the Palace cinema fronting High Street while the remainder of the site behind the cinema remains undeveloped. The cinema was closed in the 1950's and was subsequently replaced by the building that currently occupies the site.

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<sup>3</sup> Dubber, J. 2010 *Kelsey House, Perry Hall Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 0JJ: Archaeological Desk-Top Assessment*, Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd.

### **3.0 Archaeological Methodology**

- 3.1** Two evaluation trenches, each measuring 10m long by 1.5m wide, were excavated over the footprint of the new building on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (Fig. 2). This area was CAT scanned for services before excavation commenced. Excavation was carried out using a 13 tonne tracked 360° excavator with a toothless grab bucket, under archaeological supervision.
- 3.2** Due to the depth of made ground in Trench A the sides of the trench became very unstable. Excavation continued to a depth of 1.6m to determine the depth of the natural, but all recording had to be undertaken from ground level due to health and safety considerations. Excavation of Trench B continued to a depth of 1.2m, and after recording a deeper sondage was excavated at the east end to confirm the presence of the natural. The water table was encountered at a depth of 2m.
- 3.3** Subsequently a watching brief, as agreed with Mark Stevenson at GLAAS, was undertaken on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 during the reduction of the ground level over the footprint of the new building by 700mm. No further features or deposits were encountered. A 27 tonne 360° tracked excavator with a 1.4m wide toothed bucket was used for the excavations during the watching brief.
- 3.4** The spoil from the excavations was piled up on either side of the trenches and was visually inspected for artefacts, and a Garrett Ace 250 metal detector was also used to scan the spoil and excavated surfaces where possible.
- 3.5** A level was obtained from a spot height (51.3m OD) in Orpington High Street, and transferred to the site.
- 3.6** There were no archaeological features, but all deposits, and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.7** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is currently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd and will be deposited at the LAARC. A site reference of KEH 11 has been allocated.

## **4.0 Results (Fig. 3)**

### ***Trench A*** (Fig. 5)

- 4.1** Trench A had a thin layer of loose modern topsoil/overburden *c.*200mm thick comprising a yellow-brown sandy clay loam, containing pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) (5%), tarmac (5%) and sand (10%) (Context 1). Below this was a deposit of sterile firm mid brown silty clay made ground *c.*300-500mm thick (Context 2). A thin horizon of charcoal rich soil, *c.*20mm thick was noted within this Context.
- 4.2** Context 2 sealed a large deposit of loose dark grey-black silty clay loam up to 700mm deep (Context 3) which contained CBM (1%), charcoal (5%+) and flint nodules to 100mm (2%). Large quantities of pottery and glass of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. As the section dried out a number of separate tip deposits could be seen within this layer, such as Context 15, which was a firm mid brown silty clay, containing CBM (<1%), and rare flint pieces to 100mm (<1%).
- 4.3** Below Context 3 at the northern end of the trench was a thin deposit of chalky marl *c.*200mm thick comprising pieces of chalk up to 50mm in size (Context 6). This covered a layer of peaty/friable dark brown silty loam (Context 8) containing a large quantity of rounded flint nodules up to 100mm (30%). Context 8 was above a thin layer of gravel (Context 7), formed of irregular flint pieces *c.*100mm (75%) in a firm mid grey silty clay, which in turn was above the natural alluvium (Context 4); a dark blue-grey compact silty clay.
- 4.4** In the central part of the trench, and running diagonally across the trench from the north-west to south-east was a deposit of flint gravel (Context 5) comprising rounded flint nodules to 200mm (95%) in a mid brown loose silty clay, which sat on Context 7, and was below Contexts 3 and 6. No artefacts were recovered from Contexts 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, however two sherds of grog tempered pottery of Late Iron Age or Roman date were recovered from the spoil heap, and may have originated from Context 7.
- 4.5** The only feature was a U-shaped cut (Cut & Fill 14) 300mm wide and 350mm deep with straight sides and a dished base, which was filled with a firm mid grey-brown silty clay loam and flint pieces to 75mm (5%) and contained 20<sup>th</sup> century material, which was cut into the top of Context 2.



### ***Trench B*** (Fig. 6)

- 4.6** Trench B had a similar layer of loose yellow-brown sandy clay loam modern topsoil/overburden up to 250mm thick (Context **9**), containing CBM (2%), flint nodules to 60mm (<1%) and sand (5%). Below this was the same deposit of sterile firm mid brown silty clay made ground *c.*400-500mm thick (Context **10**) as was found in Trench A. This was directly above a deposit of chalk marl containing chalk pieces to 70mm (Context **11**) which varied between 250mm and 350mm thick, and covered the entire trench.
- 4.7** Below the chalk was a layer of peaty/friable dark brown silty loam (Context **12**) 140-125mm thick containing rounded flint nodules to 120mm (30%). In this trench the underlying natural comprised an alluvial gravel (Context **13**) formed predominantly of irregular flint pieces to 110mm (75%) in a mid grey firm silty clay. The only artefacts from this trench were late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material from Context **10**.

### ***Watching Brief***

- 4.8** During the watching brief the ground was reduced by *c.*700mm revealing a loose dark to mid brown silty clay loam with patches of yellow-brown sandy loam (Context **16**), and contained CBM (1%), tarmac (<1%), chalk pieces to 40mm and flecks (1%) and flint nodules to 100mm (<1%). Artefacts from this layer dated from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 4.9** Below Context **16** was a chalky marl layer (Context **17**) containing chalk pieces to 70mm and occasional flint nodules to 120mm (<1%). This only extended over the north-east part of the site, and was the same as Context **11** found in Evaluation Trench B. This layer was interpreted as an area of made ground possibly intended as hardstanding.
- 4.10** On the western side of the site, below the overlying tarmac and above Context **16**, was a *c.*300mm thick layer of firm orange-brown silty clay (Context **18**). This only extended into the reduced area a short distance and appeared to be a layer of made ground. No archaeological features were noted during the watching brief.

## 5.0 Finds

**5.01** The archaeological work recovered a relatively large assemblage of artefacts from the site (Table 1). The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report. As the ceramics have been listed for archive they could be discarded.

**Table 1: Quantification of finds assemblage**  
Number and weight (gms.)

Context	Pottery	Ceramic Building Material	Glass	Other	Comment
2	2/38g	Wall tile 1/75g Drain 1/158g	-	-	c. 1800-1225+
3	133/7367g	Brick 2/188g Peg tile 3/256g Wall tile 1/10g	53/4,561g	Asbestos 1/6g Clay pipe 1/5g Stone 3/43g Shell 3/31g Bone 12/132g	c. 1890-1910
4	-	-	1/9g	-	-
7	2/42g	-	-	-	LIA - RB
10	7/176g	Ridge tile 3/241g Peg tile 1/74g	3/431g	Asbestos 1/21g Render 3/60g Shell 1/14g	c. 1880-1910+
14	-	Brick 1/291g	-		C19th – early 20th
16	67/4890g	Drain 5/404g	15/1,537g	Asbestos 3/36g Clay pipe 1/8g Plastic 2/8g Shell 1/10g Bone 4/53g Slate 1/1g	c. 1890-1920

### 5.1 *The Pottery* by Luke Barber

**5.1.1** Although there are small sherds present, the trend is toward larger sherds (> 70mm across) and there are a number of complete vessels in robust stoneware. As such the majority of the assemblage does not appear to have been subjected to continual reworking. The whole assemblage has been listed for archive on Museum of London pottery forms using the appropriate codes.

**5.1.2** By far the earliest pottery from the site was recovered from Context 7. This produced two sherds of oxidised grog-tempered ware of Late Iron Age or Roman date. The bodysherd shows signs of reasonable abrasion but the simple jar rim is only slightly abraded. As such it is likely these sherds have not travelled that far during reworking.

**5.1.3** The remaining pottery is all of post-medieval date, the vast majority of which can be placed at the very end of the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A single sherd of Staffordshire-type combed slipware dish was recovered from Context 3. This 18<sup>th</sup> century sherd may be residual but could be a very old vessel still in use in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**5.1.4** The few sherds of early 19<sup>th</sup> century pearlware could similarly represent old vessels still in use at the end of the century. Layers 3 and 16 produced the largest context groups both of which fit within an 1890 to 1910/20 date range. The similarity in their ceramic profile shows them to be of similar date, a fact confirmed by their stratigraphic position. These are of some interest as few assemblages of this very late period have been subjected to study. As such the two groups are characterised in Table 2.

**Table 2: Quantification of pottery groups from Contexts 3 and 16.**

Ware/Fabric	3		16	
	No/weight	Vessels	No/weight	Vessels
Staffordshire combed slipware (STSL)	1/13g	Dish x1	-	-
Pearlware (PEAR)	3/43g	Bowl x1; jugs x2	2/130g	Cup x1; chamber pot x1
Post-medieval redware (PMR)	14/817g	Bowls x5; flower pots x3	2/131g	Lid x1; ? x1
English stoneware (ENGs)	13/2445g	Bottles x4; jar x1; cream jugs x2; preserve jar x1; ink bottles x3	16/2156g	Bottle x1; ginger beer bottles x2; blacking bottle x1; ink bottle x1; jars x2; preserve jars 4; warming pan? x1
Rockingham-type (ROCK)	6/287g	Teapot x1; vase? X1, ? x1	3/573g	Jar x1
Yellow ware (YELL)	-	-	3/144g	Bowls x2; dish x1
Transfer-printed ware (blue) (TPW2)	22/1084g	Plates x5; jar? X1; mug x1	8/158g	Plates x5
Transfer-printed ware (black/brown) (TPW3)	4/101g	Bowl? x1; plates x3	4/184g	Plates x3; cup x1
Transfer-printed ware (green, red, purple etc) (TPW4)	3/43g	Bowl x1; plates x2	2/55g	Plates x2
Refined white earthenware (REFW)	46/1922g	Bowls x9; dish x1; plates x7; jar x1; preserve jars x3; jug x1; saucer x2; cups x2	18/908g	Bowls x4; cup x1; jar x1; jars? X2; preserve jars x2; ? x2; plates x4, toilet/basin x1
Coloured glaze refined white earthenware (REFWC)	8/114g	Vase x1	1/24g	Vase x1
English porcelain (ENPO)	13/498g	Tea cups x3; saucers x4; teapots x2; doorknob x1	8/427g	Bowl x1; plate x1; cups x4; saucer x1; jug? X1

- 5.1.5** Unsurprisingly by this time the coarse redwares are not common and when present are usually only represented by large vessels for kitchen/storage use. English stonewares with both salt and Bristol glazes are common, most notably bottles of one form or another. There are five complete examples from Context **3** with a further three complete examples from Context **16** – the robustness of these smaller stoneware vessels protects them from damage. Several still contained the remains of corks and in a few cases partial contents.
- 5.1.6** Makers' marks on the stonewares are occasionally present. A bottle from Context **3** is stamped DOULTON, LAMBETH below a '59' (in use up to 1891: Whittingham 2005, 45, Type 4<sup>4</sup>) while another (an ink) has THE POTTERY FULHAM in an oval stamp below 'PATENT' (dated to the 1890s and later: Green 1999, 160, Type p<sup>5</sup>). Context **3** also contains a 113mm tall necked ink bottle from Lovatt & Lovatt's Langley Mill works, Nottingham (this name dating to between 1896 and 1931: Askey 1998, 186<sup>6</sup>). A small quantity of Rockingham-type earthenwares is present including a heavy cylindrical jar with printed maker's initials SY on the base within a cupboard trade mark. The wording British made suggests a date after 1891.
- 5.1.7** A range of transfer-printed wares are present, most commonly plates. Most of these vessels have late-style transfer-printing but a number appear to be of an 1850 to 1890 date range. Patterns are typically floral or foliage types but some earlier Asiatic pheasant and willow pattern pieces are present (two of each in TPW2 from Context **16**). Maker's marks are quite common on these transfer-printed wares. A cylindrical jar from Context **3** with blue landscape is of Christopher T. Maling, Newcastle. Godden lists this mark as spanning 1875 to 1908 (Godden 1991, No. 2487<sup>7</sup>) but the current example has England added below suggesting a date after 1891.
- 5.1.8** A TPW3 plate with grey floral design (Primula), also from Context **3**, has the initials BM&T below a swan on the underside of its rim equating to Boulton, Machin & Tennant of the Swan Bank Pottery, Tunstall, Staffordshire. This works was functioning between 1889 and 1899<sup>8</sup>. Marks from Context **16** are rarer but include an example from a TPW2 floral designed plate (Irene) of Royal Semi Porcelain, Wedgewood & Co with lion on a crown emblem dated to between 1890 and 1900 (Godden 1991, No 4057<sup>9</sup>).

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<sup>4</sup> Whittingham, L. 2005. 'The products of the Doulton pothouse' in Tyler, K, Brown, J., Paul Smith, T. and Whittingham, L. *The Doulton stoneware pothouse in Lambeth: Excavations at 9 Albert Embankment, London*. MoLAS Archaeology Studies Series 15, 42-50.

<sup>5</sup> Green, C. 1999. *John Dwight's Fulham Pottery: Excavations 1971-79*. English Heritage Archaeology Report No. 6.

<sup>6</sup> Askey, D. 1998. *Stoneware Bottles 1500-1949*. BBR Publishing: Barnsley.

<sup>7</sup> Godden, G. 1964 (revised 1991). *Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks* Barrie & Jenkins Ltd. London.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

**5.1.9** A good proportion of the assemblage is composed of plain refined white earthenware, although within this group are a few vessels decorated with industrial slip (blue or pink banded with black or blue lined bowls from Context 3) and sponged decoration (green and brown sponged plates from Context 3). A number of the plain plates and cups do have single or multiple lines in red, green or blue around their rim edges. Included within the group are some preserve jars (eg for marmalade) from the Maling, Newcastle factory (Context 3 has two such vessels). There are also two different refined white earthenware moulded vases with thick coloured glazes. English porcelain is also common, particularly for teawares. Most of these vessels are fairly plain, occasionally having gold or pink lustre lines/zones around their rims. A pink/red coloured tea cup with a black transfer-print of Hastings Pier set within a gold gilt edges roundel is a souvenir piece and by far the most decorative (Context 3).

## **5.2 Glass by Chris Butler**

**5.2.1** A moderately large assemblage of glass was recovered during the fieldwork, predominantly from Contexts 3 and 16. Most of the glass was from bottles of various types and form, both complete and partly complete; but there was also a small quantity of window glass from Context 3, and fragments from moulded diamond raised-decoration glass vases or jars, and two small screw-top food paste jars..

**5.2.2** The bottles divide into a number of different types. Mineral water and lemonade bottles form the largest group, mostly separate fragments of bases, body or necks in a light or dark green glass. Most pieces have no embossing, but some of the complete bottles and fragments from Context 3 have maker's names and marks. A dark green bottle missing its neck has 'R.W. & S. L<sup>D</sup> WHITE' and '¼<sup>D</sup> DEPOSIT CHARGED ON THIS BOTTLE' embossed on opposite sides, with 'WHITE' embossed on the base. Two other fragments from similar bottles were also found. Another bottle in light green glass missing its upper part also has 'R.W. & S. L<sup>D</sup> WHITE' but no deposit embossing., whilst another fragment in light green displays the deposit wording. R White & Son Ltd were incorporated in 1894.

**5.2.3** A small light green bottle from Context 3 missing its lip is embossed 'R.WHITES / SYRUPS' predates the incorporation of R White & Son Ltd, so dates to the period 1891-4. A small aqua bottle from Context 3 is embossed 'FOSTER CLARKE & CO / MAIDSTONE' and 'EIFFEL TOWER / FRUIT JUICES'. Foster Clarke were manufacturing lemonade and fruit juices in Maidstone between 1891 and 1965. They became a limited company in 1910, so this bottle must predate 1910<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://fosterclark.info/Bottle%20Selection.htm>

- 5.2.4** A light green Codd bottle from Context **3**, missing its neck, is embossed 'THE CHISLEHURST MINERAL WATERWORKS' and 'CODDS BOTTLE MAKER / DAN RYLANDS / BARNSELEY'. The Chislehurst Mineral Waterworks operated between 1876 and 1886<sup>11</sup>, whilst Dan Rylands was manufacturing Codd bottles between 1884 and 1901<sup>12</sup>.
- 5.2.** Beer bottles include the body of a dark green bottle from Context **3** embossed with T. Phillips / WEST MALLING / ABBEY BREWERY within an oval on the side and P & R / B on the base. Abbey Brewery was operated by T. Phillips from 1888 and was registered as a limited company in 1898. It was in liquidation in 1908 and sold in 1912<sup>13</sup>. A small fragment from a light green beer bottle from Context **16** has '[BROM]LEY. KENT' and 'CAMDEN'. A brown machine made beer bottle embossed 'KEINE RUCKGABE' & 'KEINE PFANO' from Context **16** is probably a modern intrusion.
- 5.2.6** A few medicine bottles are also present, including an aqua bottle from Context **3**, with a short neck embossed 'OWBRIDGE'S / HULL / LUNG TONIC'. This medicine was invented in about 1874 as a cure for "all affections of the chest, throat and lungs", including asthma and tuberculosis<sup>14</sup>, the bottle probably dates from the 1890's. A light green rectangular medicine bottle from Context **3** embossed 'ARGONAUT REGD' on both edges is late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with another similar bottle coming from Context **10**.
- 5.2.7** Other bottles from Context **3** include a whisky coffin in a clear glass two-part mould with no embossing, a small light green rectangular ink bottle, a small clear glass perfume bottle, whilst from Context **16** the base of a large light green Kilner jar was found, embossed 'J. KILNER & SON / WAKEFIELD', probably dating to the period 1847 to 1857.
- 5.2.8** The vast majority of the glass recovered during the fieldwork can be dated to the period 1890 to 1910, with a small number of bottles with embossed names, being firmly dated to this timeframe. The manufacturing techniques in evidence on most of the glass bottles also suggests this timeframe. A handful of bottles may pre-date this period, but are most likely items that had been curated (e.g. the Kilner Jar).

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.chislehurst.co.uk/history/moses-line/>

<sup>12</sup> Toulouse, J. R. 1971 Bottle Makers and their Marks, The Blackburn Press, New Jersey, USA.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.breweryhistory.com/journal/archive/112/bh-112-016.html>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.hullwebs.co.uk/content/k-victorian/factories/owbridge/owbridge\\_court.htm](http://www.hullwebs.co.uk/content/k-victorian/factories/owbridge/owbridge_court.htm)

### **5.3      *Ceramic Building Material* by Luke Barber**

**5.3.1**    The site produced a relatively small assemblage of ceramic building material, all of which can be placed in the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The two pieces of brick from Context **3** are surprisingly low-fired/friable and tempered with abundant fine/medium sand with iron oxide and sandstone inclusions to 6mm. However, the example from Context **14** is better fired and tempered with sparse fine sand with rare clay and iron oxide inclusions to 5mm. Ridge tile was recovered from Context **10** with all pieces in the same fine sandy fabric. A later 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date is probable for these.

**5.3.2**    The peg tile fragments include sparse fine sand tempered types of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century types as well as two coarse sandy pink cement types from Context **3** which are likely to be of late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Wall tile fragments were recovered from Context **2** (a plain white example) and Context **3** (a plain green example). A number of later 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century salt-glazed drain fragments were recovered together with pieces of corrugated asbestos sheeting and some white painted grey sandy cement render (Table 1).

### **5.4      *Bone and Shell* by Chris Butler**

**5.4.1**    A small quantity of animal bone was recovered during the work (Table 1). Most of the identified fragments are sheep, and include a number of ribs, two leg bones and a chopped clavical fragment. Cattle bones include a chopped rib and clavical fragment. Three chicken bones were also found.

**5.4.2**    A bone knife handle weighing 11g was recovered from Context **16**. It is 78mm long tapering from 15mm wide to 12mm wide at the blade end. A hole 4.5mm in diameter for the blade shaft is present in the narrow end.

**5.4.3**    Four oyster shell fragments were recovered from three contexts (Table 1).

### **5.5      *Other Material* by Luke Barber & Chris Butler**

**5.5.1**    A fragment from the base of the bowl of a later 19<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe with a floral design was recovered from Context **3**. A residual plain 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe stem fragment was recovered from Context **16**.

**5.5.2** The only stone recovered from the site consists of two fragments of Welsh roofing slate and a slate pencil from Context **3**, and a slate pencil fragment from Context **16**.

**5.5.3** Context **16** also produced intrusive fragments from a grey plastic drainpipe and red felt-tip pen.



## **6. Discussion**

- 6.1** The archaeological evaluation excavation has demonstrated that the upper deposits across the impact area to a depth of between 0.65m and 1m are probably late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, and have been placed there to level up the ground at some stage before its development in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery and glass artefacts recovered from Contexts **3** and **16** suggest that these deposits were probably placed there in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.2** The map evidence shows that the site was a field until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and according to later maps the area in which the evaluation trenches were located has never been built upon, having most recently been used as a car park. The south-eastern half has been continuously occupied by buildings since the late 19th century, firstly by a working men's institute, then a roller-skating rink, followed by a cinema until the 1950s (Fig. 4). It seems that the area to the north of the working men's institute was infilled during the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.3** The archaeological evidence shows these later deposits have been laid down over a layer of chalk, which was presumably imported to level up and seal the underlying wet ground. The only variation to this was in the central and southern part of Trench A where the chalk was absent, although here it appeared to have been cut away by the later deposits.
- 6.4** Below the chalk was sealed a damp peaty/friable loam containing rounded flint pebbles, which may represent an in-situ remnant soil, predating the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. No in-situ dating material was located from this context or the underlying gravel and alluvium, however two pottery sherds of Late Iron Age or Roman date recovered from the spoil heap are thought to have derived from one of these layers.
- 6.5** The watching brief did not encounter any further deposits or features. The chalk deposit was encountered on the north and eastern part of the site, but the depth of excavation meant that it was not encountered across much of the rest of the site.

## **7.0 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1** We would like to thank Richard Monaghan of Stonechart Developments Ltd for appointing CBAS to undertake the archaeological work at Kelsey House. We would also like to thank their ground workers for their co-operation throughout the project.
- 7.2** Keith Butler assisted during the evaluation excavation and undertook the watching brief. The project was managed by Chris Butler for CBAS Ltd, and monitored for GLAAS by Mark Stevenson.

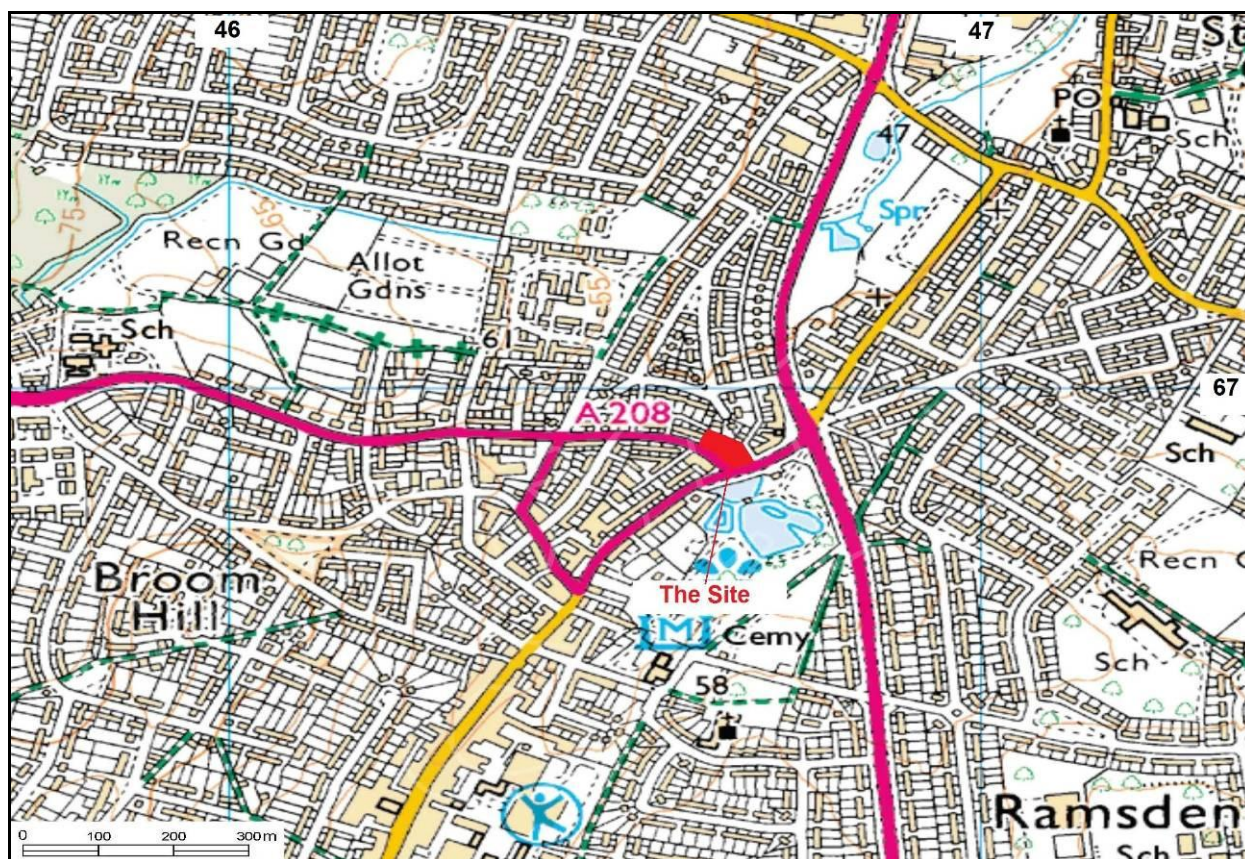
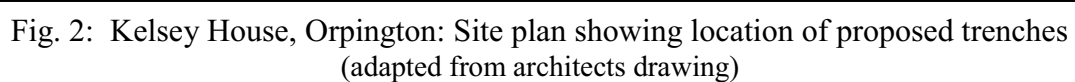


Fig. 1: Kelsey House, Orpington: Site Location Map  
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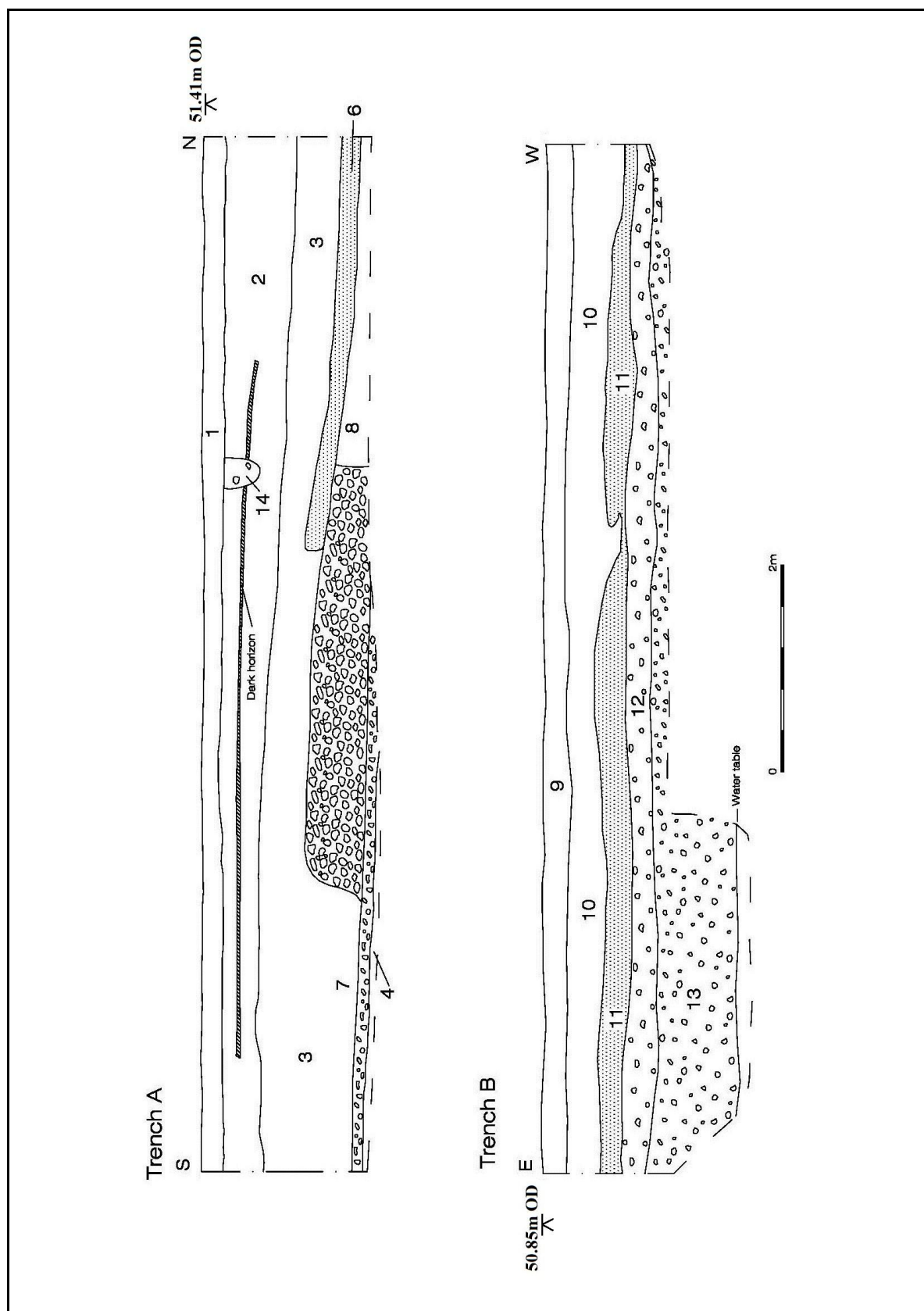
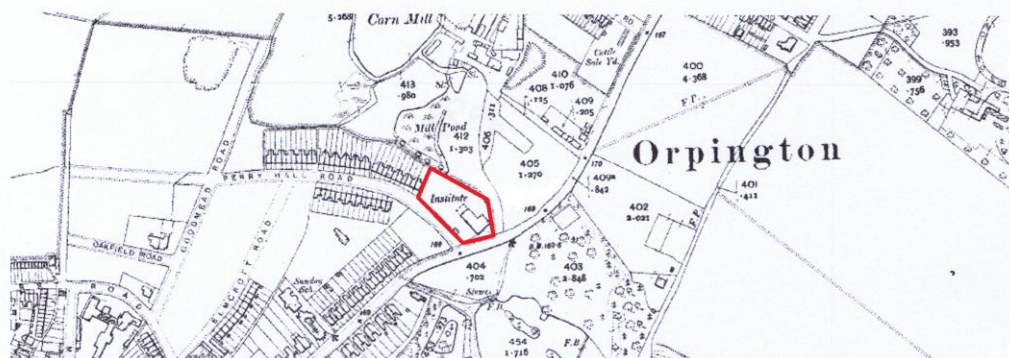


Fig. 3: Kelsey House, Orpington: Trench Sections

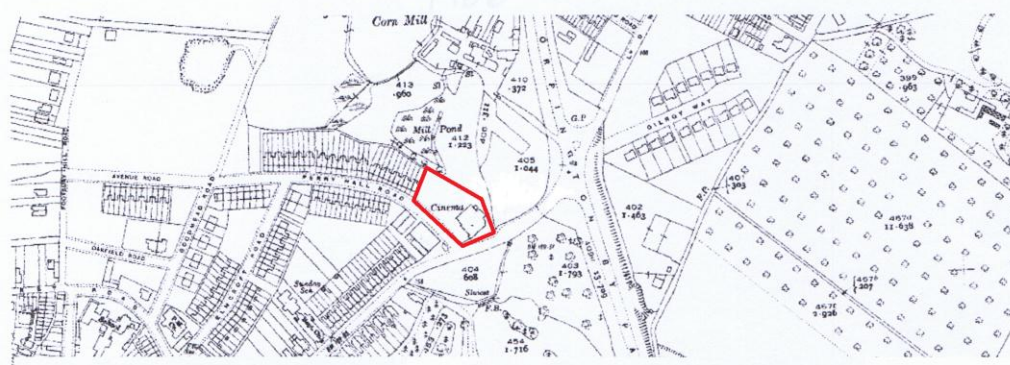




**1896 2nd Edition OS map**



**1906 3rd Edition OS map**



**1933 4th Edition OS map**

**Fig. 4: Kelsey House, Orpington: OS Maps**





Fig. 5: Kelsey House, Orpington: Trench A Section



Fig. 6: Kelsey House, Orpington: Trench B Section

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OASIS ID: chrisbut1-98674

### Project details

Project name	Kelsey House, Orpington
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation excavation and watching brief has demonstrated that the upper deposits across the impact area to a depth of between 0.65m and 1m are probably late 19th or early 20th century in date, and have been placed there to level up the ground at some stage before its development in the early 20th century. These deposits have been laid down over a layer of chalk, which was presumably imported to level up and seal the underlying wet ground. Below the chalk was sealed a damp peaty/friable loam containing rounded flint pebbles, which may represent an in-situ remnant soil, predating the later 19th century. No in-situ dating material was located from this context or the underlying gravel and alluvium, however two sherds of probable Late Iron Age or Roman pottery recovered from the spoil heap are thought to have derived from one of these layers.
Project dates	Start: 24-03-2011 End: 29-03-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	KEH11 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CBAS0184 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



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**Project location**

Country England  
Site location GREATER LONDON BROMLEY ORPINGTON Kelsey House, 2 Perry Hall Road  
Postcode BR6 0JJ  
Study area 120.00 Square metres  
Site coordinates TQ 46666 66879 51.3814651911 0.107801326653 51 22 53 N 000 06 28 E Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 49.65m Max: 49.92m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd  
Project director/manager Chris Butler  
Project supervisor Chris Butler  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
Name of sponsor/funding body Stonechart Developments Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient LAARC  
Physical Archive ID KEH11  
Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass'  
Digital Archive recipient LAARC  
Digital Archive ID KEH11  
Digital Contents 'none'  
Digital Media available 'Text'  
Paper Archive recipient LAARC  
Paper Archive ID KEH11  
Paper Contents 'none'  
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation','Research','General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Kelsey House, Orpington (Interim Statement)
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Butler, C.
Other bibliographic details	CBAS0184
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Berwick
Description	A4 11 page report bound in spiral binder with clear plastic covers
Entered by	Chris Butler (chris@reltub.fsbusiness.co.uk)
Entered on	7 April 2011

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