

**An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Land to the rear of 94-100 Union Street
Maidstone, Kent**

**NGR 576327 155989
(TQ 76327 55989)**

Planning Ref: MA/08/1019

**Project No: 4801
Site Code: USM11**

**ASE Report No: 2011230
OASIS ID: archaeol6-110494**

**By Giles Dawkes BA MIFA
With contributions from Luke Barber
Sarah Porteus and Elke Raemen**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Appledore Developments to conduct an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 94-100 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent during groundworks. The work took place between the 5th and 4th August 2011.

The work identified the remains of three late-19th century masonry wall footings and associated areas of external hard-standing, possibly part of a Blacksmith's workshop. These buildings were apparently demolished in the early 20th century.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by Appledore Developments to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks at the redevelopment to the rear of 94-100 Union Street, Maidstone (NGR 576327 155989; Figure 1). The site is located on the south side of Union Street to the rear of 19th century terraced houses.

1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies on level ground.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 288, Maidstone) the natural solid geology of the site is Hythe Beds.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The redevelopment consists of the construction of a new residential dwelling and associated services.
- 1.3.2 Following the advice from the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council, the planning consent (Planning Ref: MA/08/1019) was subject to the following condition:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.3 A separate condition was also added for buildings recording work.
- 1.3.4 Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council produced a specification for the work (KCC 2011) and all work was carried out in accordance with this specification and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention was to be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 1.4.2 Specific aims of the work were to investigate and record evidence for the medieval and post-medieval development of Maidstone.

1.5 Scope of the report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during July and August 2011 by Sarah Porteus, Giles Dawkes and Greg Priestley-Bell. The historic building recording work is reported on separately (ASE 2011).
- 1.5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and historical potential

- 2.1.1 Prior to the watching brief, no archaeological remains were known to exist on the site. However, the site lies within 200m of the Saxon cemetery at Brewer Street and within 200m of Roman remains found on Wyke Manor Road. It is also close to the line of the Roman road from Maidstone to Rochester. A nineteenth century find of an Iron Age horse bit is recorded in Union Street itself (KCC 2011, 1).
- 2.1.2 According to local oral tradition, the site to was used as a forge until the 1980s and may have been in continuous operation at least since the nineteenth century when a blacksmith was registered as living there (*ibid.*).
- 2.1.3 In the building recording report a map regression of the site was undertaken and a summary of its findings are included below (ASE 2011).

2.2 Historic Map Regression

By 1883

- 2.2.1 The first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) shows a long broadly rectangular plot with a north boundary on Union Street and a canted southern boundary between the site and the school to the south. There are two main north – south aligned plots, a very narrow one against the eastern boundary and a larger one to the west. The larger plot is divided broadly into three sections, north, central and south.
- 2.2.2 The narrow eastern plot site is lined with rectangular units of varying size extending southwards from Union Street, with an access track against the western side of the buildings extending down to an open area at the south of the narrow plot of land.
- 2.2.3 To the west, within the wider plot, there is a pair of properties fronting onto Union Street, connected by a through passage. The back-plots of both principal buildings are combined, and the north section to the rear of the frontages, comprises a cluster of smaller abutting structures, again on a north – south alignment with an open area between them. A range of east – west aligned structures mark the southern boundary of this group, with an additional open (central) area (with trees indicated) to the south of these, and a pair of probable yards to the east.
- 2.2.4 The central open area has long ranges of north – south aligned buildings to the east and west with a further division separating this area from the southern part of the site. The south section has an east – west range abutting the boundary with the central section. The eastern and western ranges shown in the centre continue to the southern boundary of the site, with returns along the perimeter of the property. The south plot also includes a long central north – south aligned building.

By 1897

- 2.2.5 There are few alterations to the layout described above by the issue of the first revision Ordnance Survey map in 1897 (Figure 5). The same two plots are shown, with the narrower of the two to the east. The wider west plot still retains its broadly tripartite layout. Some minor additions have been made, new ranges introduced into the central section, and to the east within the yard, and an additional building is shown to the west of centre in the southern part of the site. The narrow east plot is shown as continuous, and has been truncated at the south end.

By 1908

- 2.2.6 The 1908 edition map (Figure 6) shows significant changes to the central and southern sections of the west plot. The former ranges surrounding the open areas have been removed, with new structures built on the boundary between the central and southern parts of the site. Within the south section, the building shown abutting the west boundary is new and is shown as open-fronted on the east elevation.
- 2.2.7 Within the narrow east plot, the boundary between central and southern sections of the west plot has been extended across, and a new rectangular plan building built against it and the eastern boundary wall.

By 1936

- 2.2.8 The 1936 edition map (Figure 6) shows further demolition with the two structures that had been added to the south section of the site by 1908 now removed. The arrangement of structures against the central/south boundary has also been altered with only one rectangular structure retained, abutting the west perimeter wall. New boundaries have been added, or re-instated, separating the west and east plots within the south section of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. All revealed surfaces were cleaned and inspected. All archaeological structures or features were recorded in plan and section. The main contractor allowed the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake inspection and/or recording as required.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification (KCC 2011) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).
- 3.1.3 The excavation of new foundation trenches was monitored on 5th - 7th July, 11th - 13th July and 7th August. Excavations for a new soakaway were monitored on the 19th July, 29th July and the 4th August. A north-south service trench was located within an existing modern service trench and this area was therefore not monitored.

3.2 Site archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Maidstone Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts / Context Sheets	21
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Watching Brief Record Sheets	6
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	33

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

Figures 3 and 4

Natural deposits

- 4.1 Natural orangey-brown clay sand [002] was encountered at 1.1m below ground level in all of the foundation trenches and the soakaway trench. In the soakaway excavations down to 1.8m below ground level, ragstone (Hythe Beds Formation) bedrock [018] was encountered below the clay sand [002].
- 4.2 Overlying the clay sand [002] was orangey-brown sand silt buried topsoil [004] up to 0.7m thick. This [004] was recorded in all the watching brief areas and contained very occasional finds of a single mid-19th century pottery sherd, four sherds of early -20th century glass and a cork bottle stopper.

Walls

- 4.3 Cutting buried soil [004] the construction cuts for three stone wall footings [011], [017] and [019] were recorded.
- 4.4 Only the southern edge of construction cut [011] was seen and this measured 0.6m wide and 1.4m with a vertical side. Cut [011] was constructed for ragstone masonry wall [010] which was made of uncoursed, unworked blocks in a white lime mortar with occasional brick fragments. Wall [010] formed the south-west corner of a stone-built building.
- 4.5 Only the eastern side of north-south aligned construction cut [017] was seen and this measured at least 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. Cut [017] was constructed for wall [016] which was made of white lime mortar with occasional unworked ragstone blocks and was much less substantial than wall [010] and therefore is interpreted as part of a different, probably smaller, building.
- 4.6 Construction cut [019] was aligned east-west and measured 0.4m wide, 0.5m deep with vertical sides. Wall [020] within cut [019] was built of unworked, uncoursed ragstone blocks in a white lime mortar.

Surfaces

- 4.7 Above buried topsoil [004] a 0.2m thick levelling layers of black clinker [013] and yellow sand and mortar [009] seen in the south of the site.
- 4.8 Cutting into [009], the construction cut [015] for a path foundation [014], made of compacted mortar and ceramic building fragments, was recorded. Above [014] a cobbled surface [012] had been constructed to the south of wall [010]. This abutted walls [010] and [016] and was aligned from east to west.
- 4.9 Slightly overlying path [012] was black crushed clinker yard surface [003]. This was up to 0.18m thick and was recorded throughout the southern half of the watching brief area.

Upper Deposits

- 4.10 Overlying the yard surface [003] four small discrete demolition dumps were recorded. These were red roof tile dump [007], red brick rubble [008], yellow sandy lime mortar [005] and red brick rubble [006]. These dumps may relate to the demolition of the buildings associated with walls [010], [016] and [020].
- 4.11 Above the demolition dumps recent overburden [001] 0.3m thick was recorded across all watching brief areas.

5.0 The Finds

5.1 A small collection of finds was recovered:

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	Glasses	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Render	Wt (g)	Cork	Wt (g)
003					3	52				
004	1	<2	5	312			1	34	1	<2
001	2	266								
Total	3	266	5	312	3	52	1	34	1	0

Table 2: Quantification of finds

5.2 CBM and Render by Sarah Porteus

5.2.1 A single fragment of cream, sandy lime rich render with a weight of 34g was recovered from context [004]. The render contained inclusions of charcoal and possible clinker and is likely to be of a post-medieval industrial date. A fragment of peg tile was recovered from context [005] in a pale yellow cream silt fabric with orange silt streaks, the fragment is of probable 18th or 19th century date. The fragments have been recorded on pro-forma recording sheet and discarded.

5.3 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A small assemblage of four glass fragments as well as one complete jar, was recovered from [004]. All pieces are of early 20th-century date. Included are two conjoining fragments of a near complete clear glass cylindrical jar, embossed "STICKFAST PASTE" along the shoulder. A small, complete clear glass cylindrical jar with iron screw cap still in place retains the embossing "Chesebrough New York" underneath the base and would have contained Vaseline. The remaining pieces include a clear glass panelled bottle fragment and an aqua cylindrical bottle base fragment, the latter probably from a mineral water bottle.

5.4 Cork by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A complete cork was recovered from [004]. It would have closed either a glass or ceramic jar and dates to the early 20th century.

5.5 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Three sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the site.

5.5.2 Context [001] produced a complete egg-shaped vessel (in two pieces) with horizontal central girth cordon in refined white earthenware. The piece, which measures 105mm long by 76mm diameter (maximum girth), has 7mm diameter holes at either end with a further 11mm diameter screw-threaded hole on its upper shoulder. Although the piece is clearly of the later 19th- to early 20th- century its precise function is uncertain though a light fitting is perhaps the most likely.

5.5.3 Context [004] produced a single small sherd (4g) from a transfer-printed ware plate with blue floral border decoration. A mid-19th century date is likely.

5.6 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Context [003] produced two pieces of black aerated clinker of probable 19th- to early 20th- century date. One piece has flakes of coal shale and fuel ash slag droplets incorporated. It is likely both pieces derive from burning coal though whether this was in a domestic, agricultural or industrial setting is impossible to ascertain.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified three masonry walls probably relating to three separate structures. These are most likely the remains of the structures illustrated on the late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps.
- 6.2 The wall foundations all cut buried topsoil layer [004] suggesting that they were constructed in an area of open land during the mid to late 19th century.
- 6.3 Wall [020] is likely to be the east-west boundary wall in the centre of the site shown on both the 1883 and 1897 Ordnance Survey maps. Wall [016] is probably part of the north-south aligned narrow building in the south of the site, again shown on both the 1883 and 1897 maps. The identification of wall [010] on the maps is not obvious but may be part of the north-south aligned narrow building in the south-east. The later map evidence shows that the buildings and these walls were demolished and the site redeveloped by 1908.
- 6.4 The function of the buildings and whether they were part of a blacksmith's shop is not clear. However the use of clinker in yard surface [003] suggests this waste product was abundant on the site and may well have originated from a foundry. The layers of demolition material suggest that the buildings were brick built with roofs of red tile.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2011 *Historic Building Survey of a group of buildings to the rear of 100 Union Street Maidstone*, Report No.2011048, unpublished report

IFA 2001: IFA 2001 Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.

Kent County Council 2011 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief on land at 100 Union Street Maidstone*, unpublished report

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Appledore Developments for commissioning the work and the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council for their guidance throughout the project. Illustrations were by Justin Russell.

Appendix 1: Context Register

Context	Type	Filled by	Fill of	Comments	Section
001	Deposit	-	-	Modern overburden	1; 2; 3; 4
002	Deposit	-	-	Natural	1; 2; 3; 4
003	Deposit	-	-	Clinker surface	1; 2; 3; 4
004	Deposit	-	-	Buried soil layer	1; 2; 3; 4
005	Deposit	-	-	Demolition dump	1
006	Deposit	-	-	Demolition dump	1
007	Deposit	-	-	Roof tile dump	3
008	Deposit	-	-	Demolition dump	2
009	Deposit	-	-	Levelling layer	3; 4
010	Masonry	-	11	Wall	4
011	Cut	10	-	Construction cut	4; 5
012	Masonry	-	15	Cobbled path	4
013	Deposit	-	-	Levelling layer	4
014	Fill	-	15	Path foundation	2; 4; 5
015	Cut	14, 12	-	Path construction cut	4; 5
016	Masonry	-	17	Wall	5
017	Cut	16	-	Construction cut	5
018	Deposit	-	-	Ragstone bedrock	-
019	Cut	20	-	Construction cut	-
020	Masonry	-	19	Wall	-

Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

Site Code	USM 11					
Identification Name and Address	Rear of 94-100 Union Street, Maidstone					
County, District &/or Borough	Maidstone, Kent					
OS Grid Reference.	576327 155989					
Geology	Hythe Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4801					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. July-Aug 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Appledore developments Ltd					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Appledore Developments to conduct an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 94-100 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent during groundworks. The work took place between the 5th and 4th August 2011.</p> <p>The work identified the remains of three late-19th century masonry wall footings and associated areas of external hard-standing, possibly part of a Blacksmith's workshop. These buildings were apparently demolished in the early 20th century.</p>						

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-110494

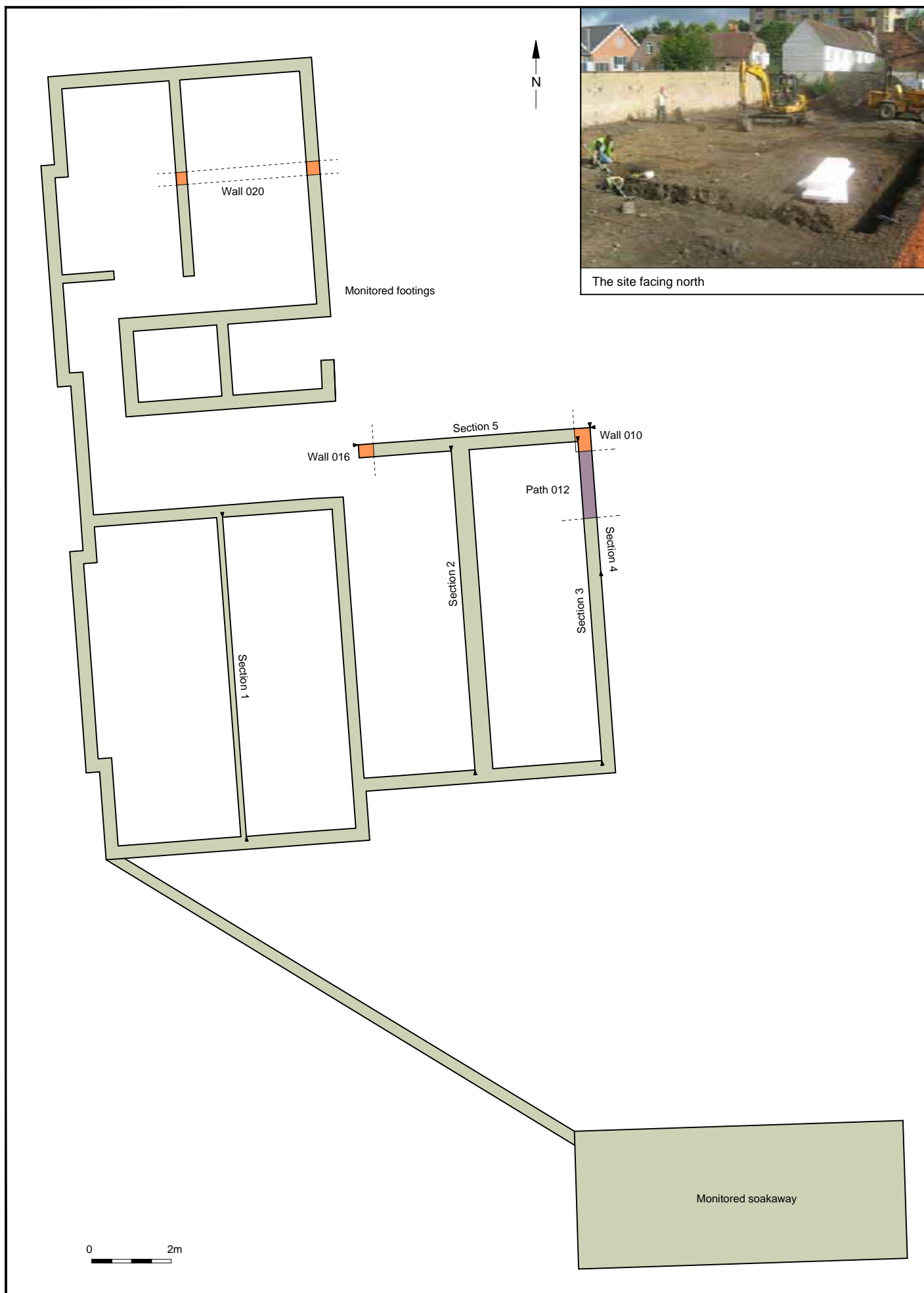
Project details

Project name	Union Street Maidstone
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Appledore Developments to conduct an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 94-100 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent during groundworks. The work took place between the 5th and 4th August 2011. The work identified the remains of three late-19th century masonry wall footings and associated areas of external hard-standing, possibly part of a Blacksmith's workshop. These buildings were apparently demolished in the early 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 05-07-2011 End: 04-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	4801 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	USM11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	SURFACE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE 94-100 Union Street, Maidstone
Postcode	ME14 1EH
Study area	0.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 576327 155989 50.9177118147 0.242823036462 50 55 03 N 000 14 34 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council

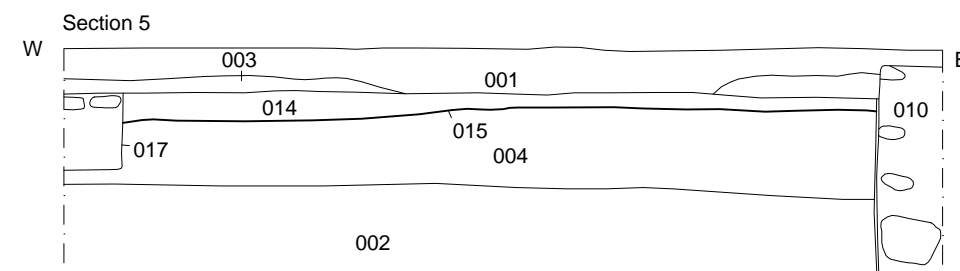
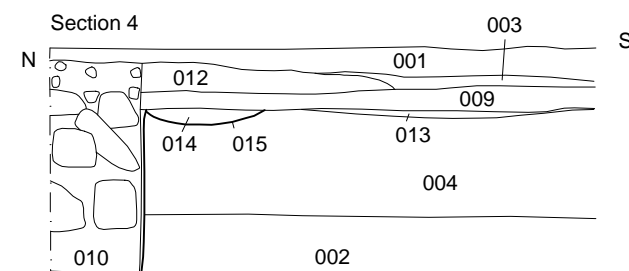
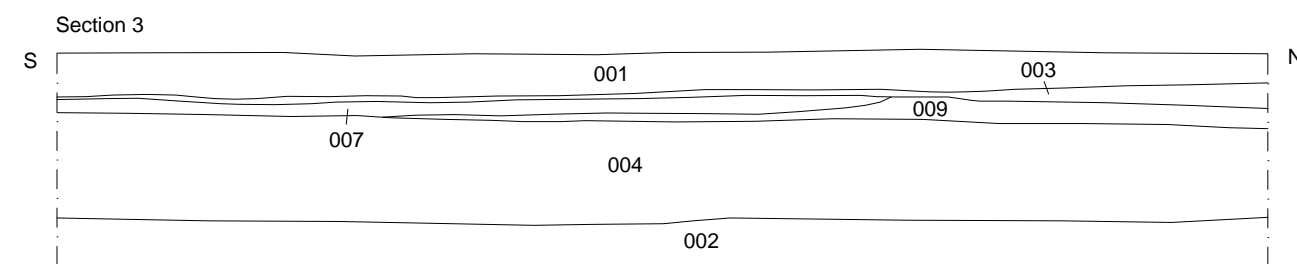
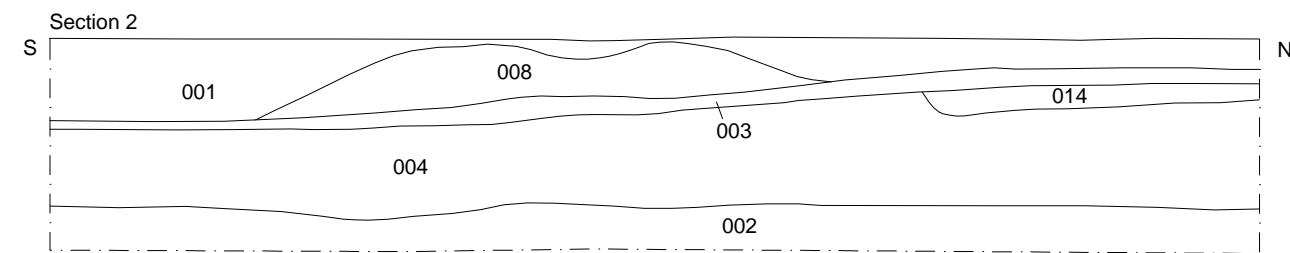
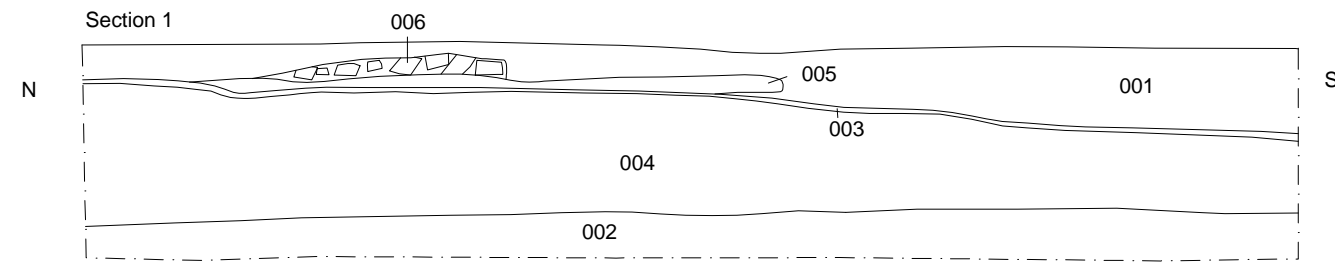
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Industrial','Wood'
Digital Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation','Research','General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at the rear of 94-100 Union Street Maidstone Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Giles Dawkes
Other bibliographic details	2011230
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	p
Description	Grey report
Entered by	Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	22 September 2011



↑ Archaeology South-East		94-100 Union Street, Maidstone	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4801	Sept 2011	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2011230	Drawn by: JLR		



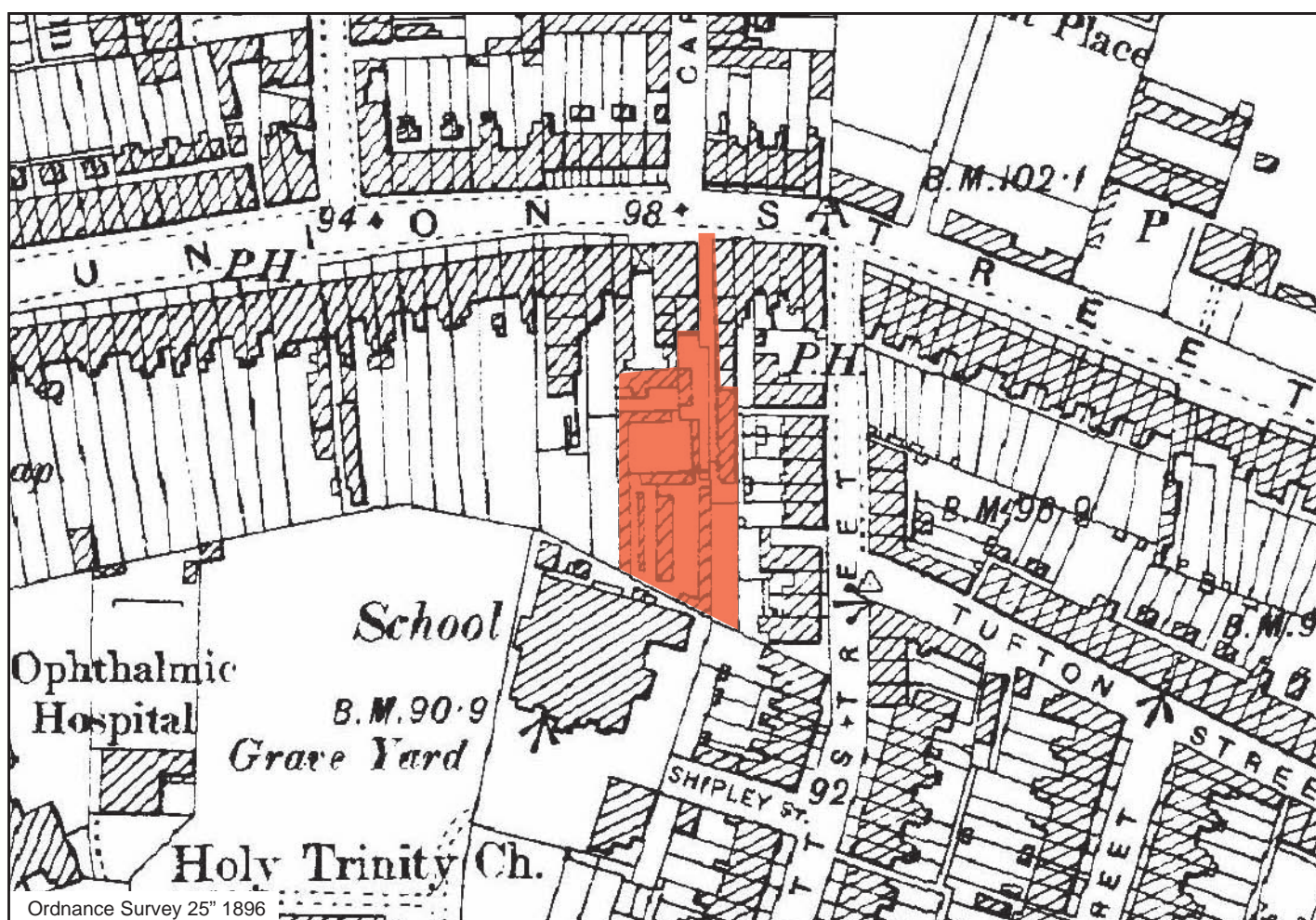
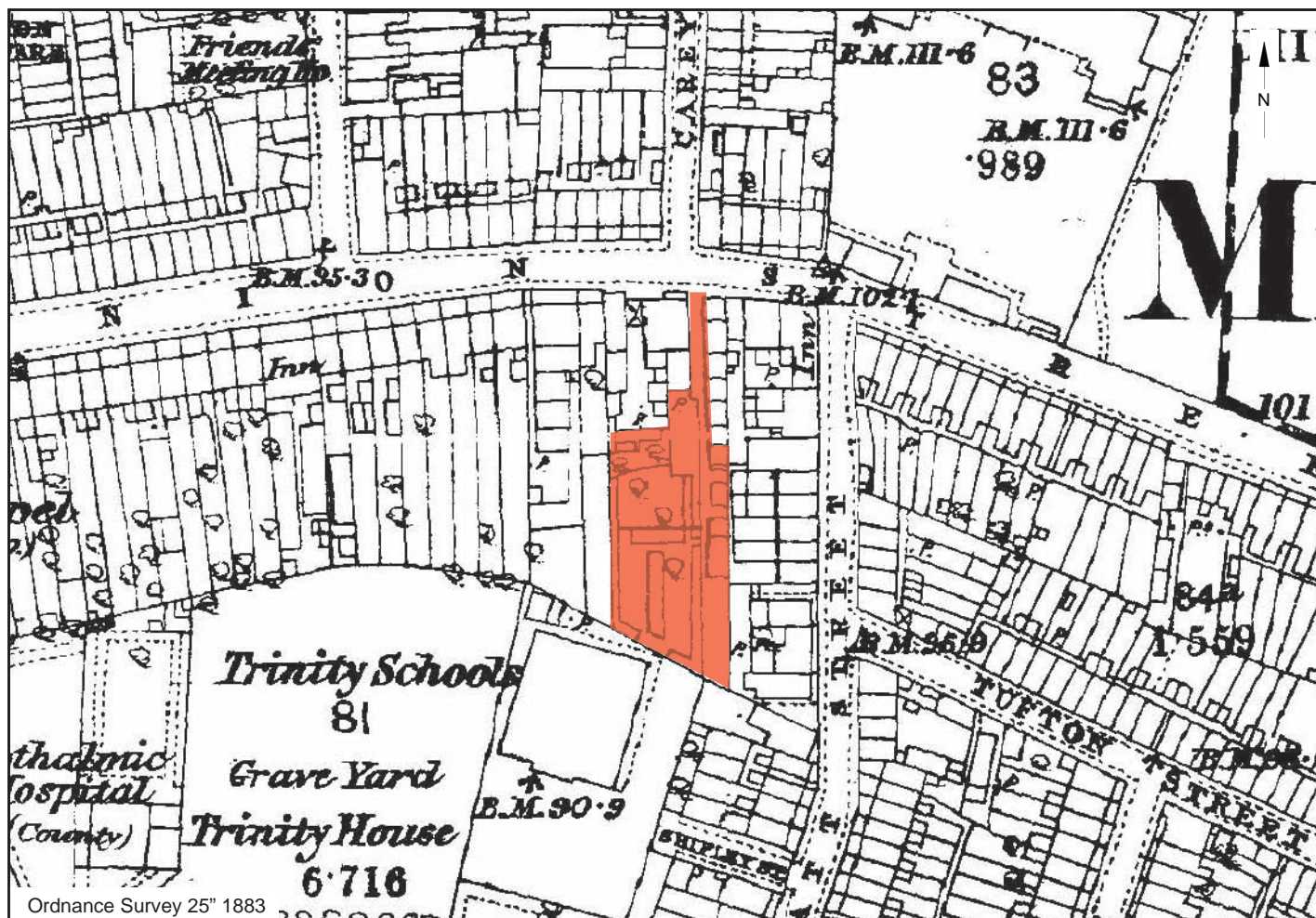
↑ Archaeology South-East		94-100 Union Street, Maidstone	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4801	Sept 2011	Monitored footings	
Report Ref: 2011230	Drawn by: JLR		



0 1m



Wall 010 and cobbled path 013 facing east





© Archaeology South-East		96-100 Union Street, Maidstone	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 4801	Sept 2011	OS maps 1883 and 1896	
Report Ref: 2011230	Drawn by: JLR		

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