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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE FORMER VETERINARY HOSPITAL, MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD, KENT

Planning Reference: 20/00425/AS

NGR: TR 0039 4320

DAS Site Code: VH20-WB

OASIS Reference Number: TBC



Report prepared for Waller Developments Ltd (Client)

By Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd Company, No 12320658

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. During November 2020, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Darnley Archaeological Services at the former veterinary hospital, Maidstone Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8RL (TR 0039 4320). The focus of the watching brief was to monitor groundworks associated with the building of new residential properties, following demolition of the former veterinary hospital. All features of archaeological interest were examined and recorded, under planning application 20/00425/AS.
- 1.2. The archaeological watching brief recorded several features and structures, including one possible outbuilding. One structure, the buried remains of a boundary wall associated with Barrowhill House (Listed Building II, 136 2859), visible on both 1871 and 1952 OS maps, but likely demolished or reduced shortly after or during the building of the veterinary hospital. Several rubbish deposits associated with the hospital were revealed during the groundworks and found to contain veterinary practice debris. A small ditch-like feature was revealed cutting north-south that contained a single sherd of stratified medieval pottery. Several drain structures and rubbish dumps/pits were revealed across the site demonstrating continuity of domestic (Barrowhill House) and commercial (veterinary hospital) evidence from the early eighteenth century to the twentieth century. No significant archaeological remains were discovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

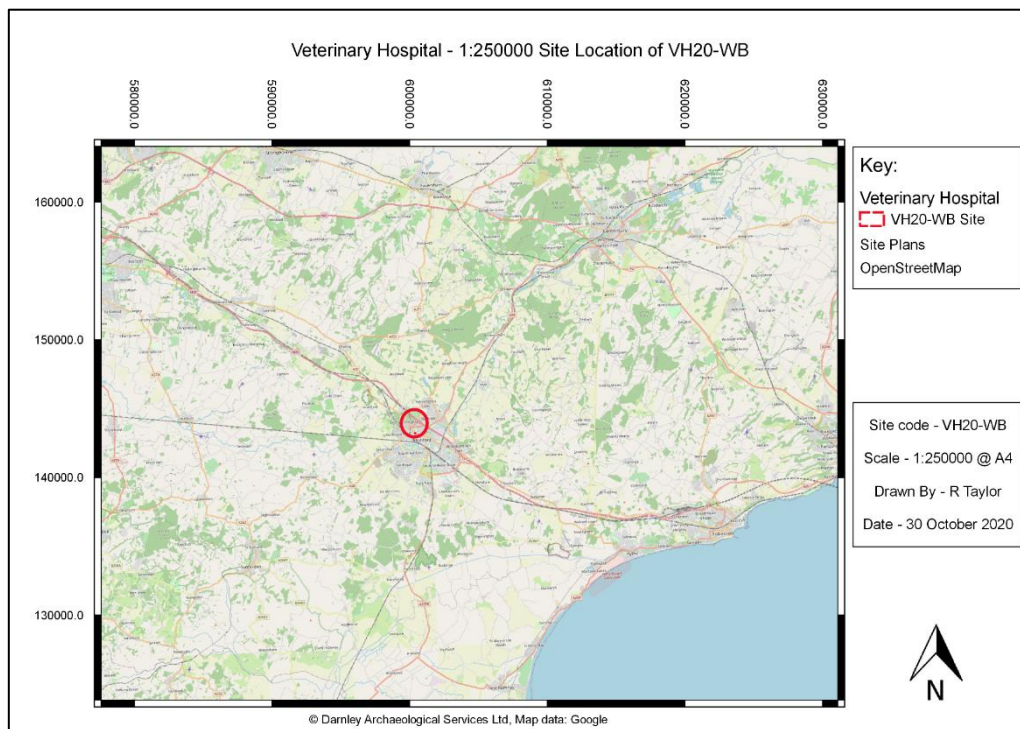
- 2.1. This report presents the results of the watching brief at the former veterinary hospital, Maidstone Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8RL.
- 2.2. The site is privately-owned land acquired for development in the parish of Ashford Central, within the Ashford district of Kent and lies on the south side of Maidstone Road (TR 0039 4320). The site has no HER number but is part of the former grounds of Barrowhill House (Listed Building II, 136 2859), HER No. TR 04 SW 236 (Figures 1, 2 & 3).
- 2.3. The demolition of the former veterinary hospital will be followed by the erection of three new residential dwellings, together with associated parking and landscape works. The dwellings require the excavation of foundation trenches up to 1.4m in depth.
- 2.4. The potential impact arising from the proposals to the surrounding heritage environment or archaeological remains are considered minimal. However, all groundworks will take all necessary watching brief precautions owing to the proximity of known heritage assets (Figure 4).
- 2.5. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was submitted to the client and approved by the LA before the watching brief was undertaken. All subsequent reports will be forwarded to LA, KCC and archived to the local archaeological society or another suitable custodian.



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3. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOGRAPHY

- 3.1. The site is located southeast of a junction between Chart Road and A292 Maidstone Road, in the Parish of Ashford Central and the District of Ashford. The site forms part of a triangle island surrounded by the A292. It is 1.3km north-west of Ashford International Railway Station, approximately 1.1km southwest of Bybrook Cemetery, about 400m southeast of Templer Way and 400m northeast of the Ashford High-Speed railway lines (Figures 1 & 2).
- 3.2. The site is on top of superficial geology of River Terrace Deposits, 4 - Sand and Gravel, superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Below this is bedrock geology of the Sandgate Formation - Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 113 to 126 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.¹
- 3.3. The site is relatively level at a consistent 60m (+/- 1m) aOD with the site boundary.
- 3.4. There are no known disturbances on the site.

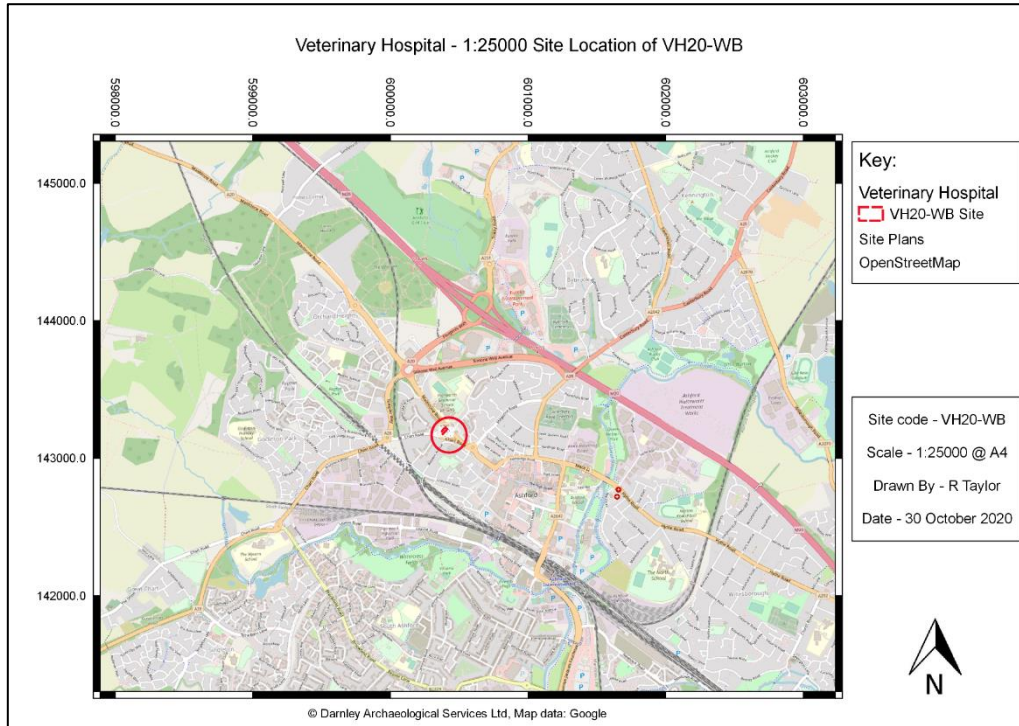


(Figure 1 – 1:250000 Site Location of VH20-WB)

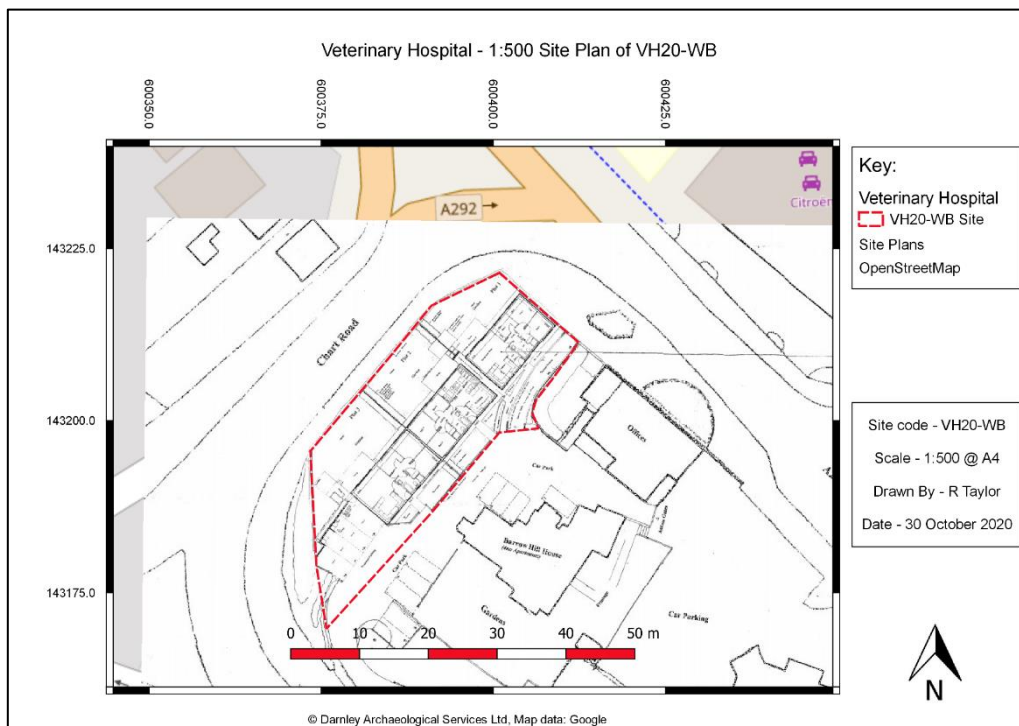
¹ www.bgs.ac.uk



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(Figure 2 – 1:25000 Site Location of VH20-WB)



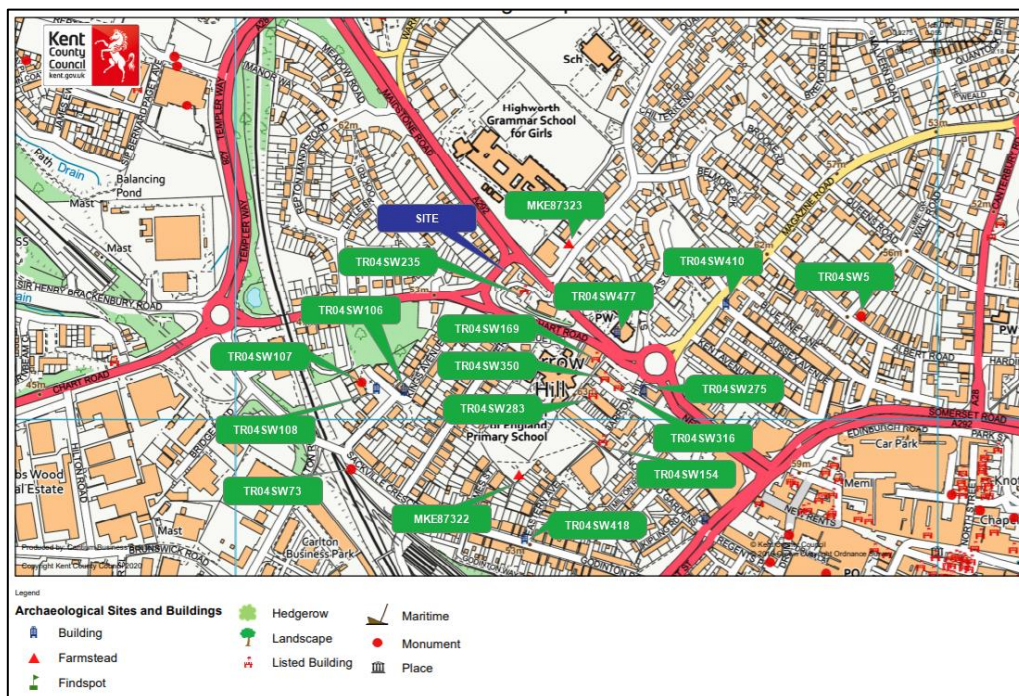
(Figure 3 – 1:500 Site Location & Georeferenced Proposed Groundworks)



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4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. The site does not fall within a Conservation Area. However, it does lie within the immediate vicinity of a Grade II listed building, Barrow Hill House. According to historical ordnance maps, the A292 Chart Road to the north-west of the site was constructed between 1975 and 1985, creating the triangle parcel of land visible today. A detailed study of the Kent Historic Environment Record database was undertaken to assist the written scheme of investigation (Figure 4). The following provides nearby entries on the HER with a brief description:²



(Figure 4 – 1:3500 List of Nearby Heritage Assets, courtesy of KCC)

Post-Medieval

| | |
|--------------|---|
| MKE87323 | Barrowhill Farm – c.1800 AD; regular courtyard multi yard – only farmhouse remains. |
| TR 04 SW 477 | St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Maidstone Road, Ashford – c.1860 AD; The original St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church on Maidstone Road is shown on the 1862-75, 1897-1900 and 1907-23 maps. A new church was built sometime on the same site, and this is shown on the current O/S map. |

² <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>



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- TR 04 SW 169 St Mary's School Listed Building (II) 1362861 - c.1841 AD; Formerly a National School Designed by Alexander Apsley in Italianate style. Dated 1841. Red brick. The centre portion is of 2 storeys with hipped slate roof and wooden bracket cornice. Rusticated quoins, 1st floor has 1 round-headed window. The ground floor has 2 windows and a central doorcase with stone architrave, cornice and brackets. This is flanked by 1 storey passages in matching style linking with 1 storey Pavilions with hipped slate roofs and bracket cornices. 2 sashes each to front elevation. 8 sashes to side elevation. Cast iron spear railings in front with fleur de lys pattern.
- TR 04 SW 350 6-8 Barrowhill Place Listed Building (II) 1071141 – c.1845 AD; These adjoin Nos 1-5 (consec) and are part of the same building though of much lower elevation and simpler details. 1845-50. 3 storeys red brick. 1 sash each. Simple doorcases with rectangular fanlights. The census returns for 1851 show a large number of occupants were employed by the railway company.
- TR 04 SW 316 1-5 Barrowhill Place Listed Building (II) 1071141 – c.1845 AD; Terrace of houses. Circa 1845-50, probably to house employees of the railway company. 3 storeys and basement red brick with a vertical strip painted between the houses from the 1st to 2nd floor to represent pilasters. Cornice and parapet. Painted stringcourse above the ground floor, 2 sashes to each with glazing bars intact. Round-headed windows on the ground floor. Round-headed doorways with semi-circular fanlights and doors of 5 fielded panels. No 1 faces east and has a stuccoed porch of solid type with twin Doric pilasters and similar doorway to the other houses, the rear elevation has a slate roof with a series of hips. The land was owned by a William Betts, probably a relative of Edward Betts one of the contractors for the building of the railway and the census returns for 1851 show a large number of the occupants of the houses to have been employed by the railway company. Nos 1-8 Barrowhill Place form a group.
- TR 04 SW 283 1-15 Barrowhill Terrace Listed Building (II) 1300251 – c.1800 AD; Nos 1 to 15 (consec) TR 04 SW 3/153 II GV 2. Early to mid C19. Probably also connected with Ashford Barracks. 3 storeys cement rendered, some colour-washed. Slate roofs, 1 sash each with glazing bars intact. Simple doorcases with rectangular fanlights.
- TR 04 SW 275 Prince of Orange Public House – c.1600 AD; Public house. C17 in origin. Initially at least two dwellings, one of which was a beerhouse by 1866. Consolidated as a single building by 1969 and known as The Prince of Orange. Merged with the adjoining pub, Prince Albert, in 1999-2002.
- TR 04 SW 154 1-19 Barrowhill Cottages Listed Building (II) 1362819 – c.1833 AD; Nos 1 to 19 (consec) TR 04 SW 3/I52 II GV 2. Mid C19 terrace. Probably also



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connected with Ashford Barracks. 2 storeys Kentish ragstone. Slate roof. 1 cambered window to each, some sashes with glazing bars intact. Doorcases in cambered arches. Carriage entrance between Nos 10 and 11, No 7 has been colour-washed.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| MKE87322 | Outfarm southwest of Barrowhill Row – c.1800 AD; farmstead demolished. |
| TR 04 SW 418 | George V Pillar Box – c.1933 AD. |
| TR 04 SW 73 | Dragon's Teeth Tank Traps – c.1940 AD; tank trap in the form of a double and treble line of dragon's teeth is located Sackville crescent near the hospital. These concrete blocks have angle iron set into the top of them which can hold barbed wire. The teeth run in lines and are situated in shrubbery alongside the railway cutting. |
| TR 04 SW 107 | Former Gas Decontamination Plant – c.1939 AD; gas decontamination plant built during the last war, later used as the physiotherapy dept. |
| TR 04 SW 108 | Underground Shelter, Ashford Hospital – c.1939 AD; air-raid shelter located close to a gas decontamination plant at Ashford Hospital. |
| TR 04 SW 106 | Ashford Hospital – c.1929 AD; General hospital with 90 beds built 1926-28 to a Neo-Georgian design by Edward A. Jackson. Two storey brick admin block connected by a long central corridor to similar ward blocks behind. There is also a nurse's home, boiler house, and a mortuary. During the last war, a brick-built gas decontamination plant and an underground shelter were added. |
| TR 04 SW 236 | Barrow Hill House Listed Building (II) 1362859 – c.1800 AD; of early C19 appearance, possibly concealing an earlier cove as the clustered chimney stack on the right-hand side seems to indicate. 2 parallel ranges. 3 storeys stuccoed. Tile-hung rear elevation. Tiled roof and parapet. 2 tripartite sashes with glazing bars missing. Doorcase with pilasters and pediment. |



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5. METHODOLOGY

5.1. An excavation strategy for the work was compiled by Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd, providing full details of the watching brief methodology.

5.2. The aims of the watching brief are to:

- **Ensure that the planned excavations at the site are observed and that features of archaeological interest are correctly examined and recorded.**

5.3. The objectives of this development project are to:

- **View & record excavation of groundworks for the new building(s).**

5.4. All work will be undertaken following the methods set out within the WSI, according to best practice as set out by ClfA. Any significant variation on these methods will be agreed with the Client, Ashford Borough Council and KCC before excavation.

5.5. A Risk Assessment was drawn up for the duration of the watching brief and signed by those under the supervision of Darnley Archaeological Services.

Setting out the excavation areas

5.6. Excavation areas were set out according to Figure 5. Locations were recorded using GNSS.

Excavation

5.7. All groundworks were excavated using machine and hand tools, by single context excavation. A suitably qualified professional archaeologist supervised all excavation areas.

5.8. No constraints were experienced while carrying out the duties of the watching brief.

5.9. An excavation strategy for the work was compiled by Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd, providing full details of the watching brief methodology.

5.10. The aims of the watching brief are to:

- **Ensure that the planned excavations at the site are observed and that features of archaeological interest are correctly examined and recorded, as per point 10 of 20/00425/AS planning document.**

5.11. The objectives of this development project are to:

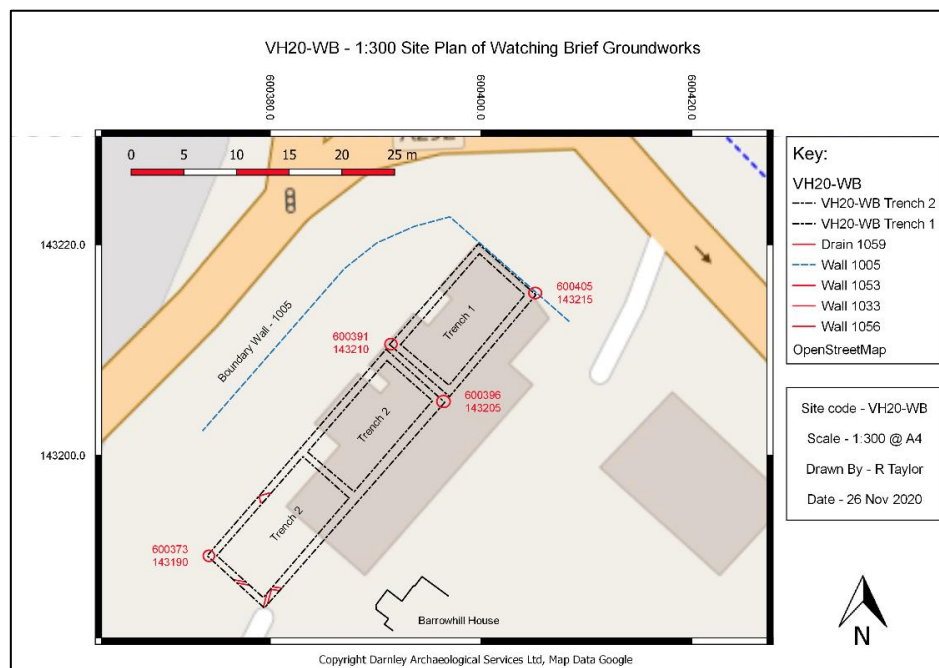
- **View & record excavation of groundworks for the new building(s).**

6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS



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- 6.1. The observation comprised a series of groundwork trenches for new building footings and drainage **(12.1)**. The excavation areas provided numerous artefacts, and stratigraphy compatible with the occupation and role(s) (i.e. domestic/agriculture/commercial) of the site and surrounding areas throughout the early nineteenth to twentieth centuries. Evidence of medieval occupation is also evident.
- 6.2. Several features and structures were recorded during the watching brief. The buried remains of a boundary wall associated with Barrowhill House (Listed Building II, 136 2859) were revealed, visible on both 1871 and 1952 OS maps, demolished shortly after or during the building of the old veterinary hospital. Adjacent to this boundary wall is evidence for an outbuilding. Rubbish deposits associated with the veterinary hospital were found to contain various veterinary practice debris. The earliest feature on site was a small ditch-like feature cutting north-south through Trench 1 that contained a single sherd of stratified medieval pottery. Several drain structures and rubbish dumps/pits were revealed across the site demonstrating continuity of domestic (Barrowhill House) and commercial (veterinary hospital) evidence from the early eighteenth century to the twentieth century.
- 6.3. A total of four phases associated with the site were established during the excavation:
- Phase 1 = Geological
Phase 2 = Medieval (c.1200 to 1400 AD)
Phase 3 = Post Medieval (c.1800 to 1961 AD) – associated with Barrowhill House
Phase 4 = Modern (after c.1961 AD) – associated with the veterinary hospital
- 6.4. No significant archaeological remains were discovered. The final plan of the completed groundworks is shown below:



(Figure 5 - VH20-WB 1:300 Final Site Plan)



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6.5. During the excavation, a total of sixty contexts over four phases were investigated and recorded (Table 1):

| Context List (VH20-WB) | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|---|-------|
| Context No. | Trench | Type | Description | Phase |
| 1001 | 1 & 2 | Layer | Topsoil | 4 |
| 1002 | 1 & 2 | Layer | Subsoil – up to 200mm of dirty brown sandy clay; numerous inclusions – brick, tile, glass. Below 1001 | 4 |
| 1003 | 1 | Layer | Colluvium – up to 750mm of light brown sandy clay. Below 1002 | 1 |
| 1004 | 1 | Layer | Brickearth – undetermined dept of coarse yellow/brown sandy clay; sparse inclusion – coarse pebbles. Below 1004 | 1 |
| 1005 | 1 | Structure | Property boundary wall – brick construction; likely multi-phase; Flemish bond & common bond. Above 1003 | 4 |
| 1006 | 1 | Cut | Drain cut. Cut into 1003 | 4 |
| 1007 | 1 | Structure | Drain. Sits in 1006 | 4 |
| 1008 | 1 | Fill | Drain fill – Black/grey sandy grit. Above 1007 | 4 |
| 1009 | 1 | Cut | Pit or ditch cut. Cut into 1003. | 2 |
| 1010 | 1 | Fill | Fill - up to 20mm of dark grey mottled silty clay | 2 |
| 1011 | 1 | Fill | Fill – up to 30mm of dark orange/brown friable sandy silt | 2 |
| 1012 | 1 | Fill | Fill – up to 50mm of yellow/brown mottled clayey silt | 2 |
| 1013 | 1 | Fill | Fill – up to 50mm of dark orange/brown friable sandy silt | 2 |
| 1014 | 1 | Layer | Yellow/grey silty clay | 3 |
| 1015 | 1 | Layer | Reddish/brown clayey silt | 3 |
| 1016 | 2 | Structure | Drain with cut 1017 | 4 |
| 1017 | 2 | Cut | Cut for drain | 4 |
| 1018 | 2 | Structure | Concrete foundation for drain 1017 | 4 |
| 1019 | 2 | Structure | Brick housing for drain 1017 | 4 |
| 1020 | 2 | Cut | Cut for drain | 4 |
| 1021 | 2 | Structure | Drain with cut 1020 | 4 |
| 1022 | 2 | Structure | Concrete surround for 1020 | 4 |
| 1023 | 2 | Layer | Yellow/brown silty clay; numerous inclusions – brick, tile, mortar – possibly intrusive? | 3 |
| 1024 | 2 | Layer | Brown/grey silty clay; numerous inclusions – brick, tile, mortar, charcoal | 3 |
| 1025 | 2 | Cut | Pit cut– truncates 1023 & 1024 | 3 |
| 1026 | 2 | Fill | Dark grey silty clay; frequent inclusions – mortar, charcoal, cbm. Covered by 1002 | 3 |
| 1027 | 2 | Layer | Dump layer of clinker & sand. Sits above 1023 & covered by 1024. | 3 |
| 1028 | 2 | Cut | Pit cut – Truncates 1025 | 3 |
| 1029 | 2 | Fill | Blue/grey silty clay – cuts into 1024 | 3 |
| 1030 | 2 | Layer | Yellow/brown silty clay; sits above 1029 | 4 |
| 1031 | 2 | Structure | Concrete hard standing; sits above 1030 | 4 |
| 1032 | 2 | Cut | Cut for wall 1033 | 3 |
| 1033 | 2 | Structure | Boundary wall returning to Barrowhill House | 3 |



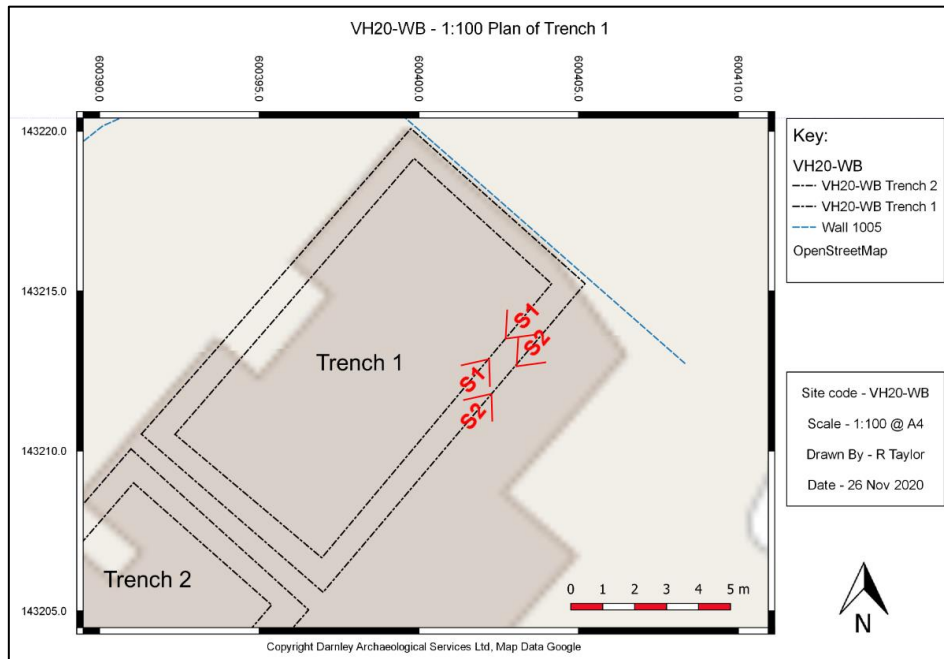
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| | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|--|---|
| 1034 | 2 | Layer | Grey/brown sandy silt; numerous inclusions – charcoal, cbm, mortar; sits above 1024 | 3 |
| 1035 | 2 | Layer | Yellow sand; sits above 1034 | 4 |
| 1036 | 2 | Layer | Clinker; sits above 1035 | 4 |
| 1037 | 2 | Layer | Green/brown silty sand; sits above 1036 | 4 |
| 1038 | 2 | Layer | Yellow sand & crushed brick; sits above 1037 | 4 |
| 1039 | 2 | Layer | Green/brown silty sand; pottery and cbm inclusions; sits above 1038 | 4 |
| 1040 | 2 | Layer | Clinker; sits above 1039 | 4 |
| 1041 | 2 | Layer | Brown sand – bedding for hard-standing 1042 | 4 |
| 1042 | 2 | Structure | Hard standing of red brick & yellow mortar | 4 |
| 1043 | 2 | Layer | Brown sand & pebble mix – bedding for hard-standing 1044 | 4 |
| 1044 | 2 | Structure | Asphalt hard standing | 4 |
| 1045 | 2 | Structure | Hard-standing constructed of concrete and ballast, west of 1033; sits above 1023 | 3 |
| 1046 | 2 | Layer | Dump material of various veterinary debris (glass bottles, etc.) in a matrix of black sandy loam and charcoal; sits above 1045 | 4 |
| 1047 | 2 | Layer | Clinker; sits above 1046 | 4 |
| 1048 | 2 | Layer | Yellow/brown clayey silt; sits above 1047 | 4 |
| 1049 | 2 | Layer | Clinker; sits above 1048 | 4 |
| 1050 | 2 | Layer | Yellow/brown clayey silt; charcoal inclusions; sits above 1049 and below 1036 | 4 |
| 1051 | 1 | Layer | Fill – above 1013 and below 1012 | 2 |
| 1052 | 2 | Cut | Cut for wall 1053 – cut into 1023 | 3 |
| 1053 | 2 | Structure | Wall at a right angle to 1033; thought to postdate 1033 and creates an internal structure to the north-west | 3 |
| 1054 | 2 | Structure | A concrete surface that abuts 1053 to the north-west of the wall. Smooth, level surface suggests an internal floor | 3 |
| 1055 | 2 | Cut | Cut for wall 1056 – cut into 1023 | 3 |
| 1056 | 2 | Structure | Boundary wall returning to Barrowhill House; same as 1033. | 3 |
| 1057 | 2 | Layer | Dump material contemporary with and same matrix as 1046 – below 1050 | 4 |
| 1058 | 2 | Layer | Dirty brown silty clay with numerous inclusions (mortar, pottery, brick pieces and animal bone) – under 1050 and above 1054 | 3 |
| 1059 | 2 | Structure | Concrete-lined drain | 4 |
| 1060 | 2 | Structure | Possible Out-Building formed of walls 1056 & 1053 | 3 |

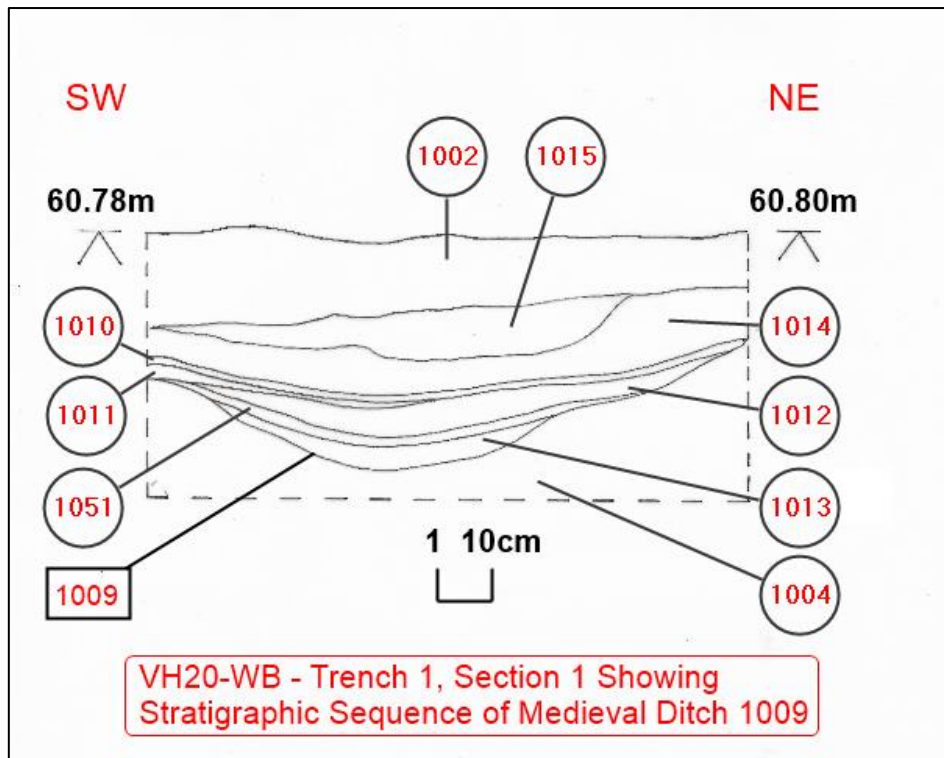


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- 6.6. **Trench 1** – a rectangular series of groundworks measuring approximately 12.5m x 7.5m. Trench 1 revealed sixteen contexts in total. The earliest archaeological feature on site is a small ditch-like feature cutting north-south through the southern aspect of the groundworks. The ditch contained a single sherd of medieval pottery from a secure ditch-fill context, dating the feature to c.1200 to 1400 AD (See Figures 7 & 8).



(Figure 6 – 1:100 Plan of Trench 1)

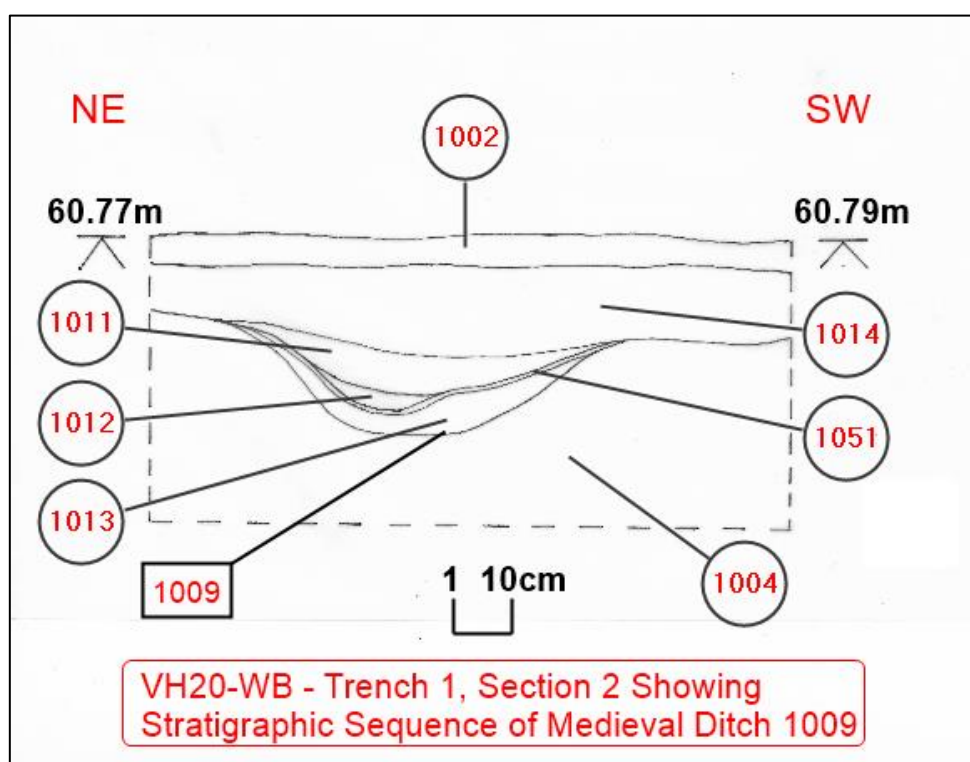


(Figure 7 – 1:10 Section 1, Trench 1)



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- 6.7. Section 1 (**12.2**) illustrates 0.1m to 0.2m of 1002, a dirty brown sandy clay subsoils containing numerous inclusions – brick, tile, glass, sits above 0.1m of 1015, a reddish-brown silty clay. Below 1015 is 0.1m to 0.2m of 1014, a yellow-grey silty clay. 014 sits above a thin band of 1010, 20mm of dark grey mottled silty clay. Below 1010 is 1011, up to 30mm of dark orange/brown friable sandy silt. 1011 sits above 1012, up to 50mm of yellow/brown mottled clayey silt. Below 1012 is 1051, up to 20mm of dark grey mottled silty clay. 1051 sits above 1013, 0.05m of dark orange/brown friable sandy silt from which a single sherd of Kentish sandy ware (c.1200 to 1400 AD) was recovered (**13.1**). 1013 is the primary fill of ditch cut 1009 which, in turn, is cut into the top of 1004, a coarse yellow/brown sandy clay brickearth; sparse inclusion – coarse pebbles. 1009 is a drainage ditch sloping gradually from south to north for which contexts 1010 to 1013 are likely medieval layers.



(Figure 8 – 1:10 Section 2, Trench 1)

- 6.8. Section 2 (**12.3**) illustrates 0.05m of 1002, a dirty brown sandy clay subsoil containing numerous inclusions – brick, tile, glass, sits above 0.2m of 1014, a yellow-grey silty clay. 014 sits above 0.1m of 1011; a dark grey mottled silty clay. 1011 sits above 1012, up to 50mm of yellow/brown mottled clayey silt. Below 1012 is 1051, up to 20mm of dark grey mottled silty clay. 1051 sits above 1013, 0.1m of dark orange/brown friable sandy silt. 1013 is the primary fill of ditch cut 1009 which, in turn, is cut into the top of 1004, coarse yellow/brown sandy clay brickearth; sparse inclusion – coarse pebbles.
- 6.9. Toward the northeast of Trench 1 is a brick boundary wall, 1005, a portion of the base of is likely to have formed part of the original grounds of Barrowhill House, then adapted (higher) following the construction of the veterinary hospital in the 1960s.

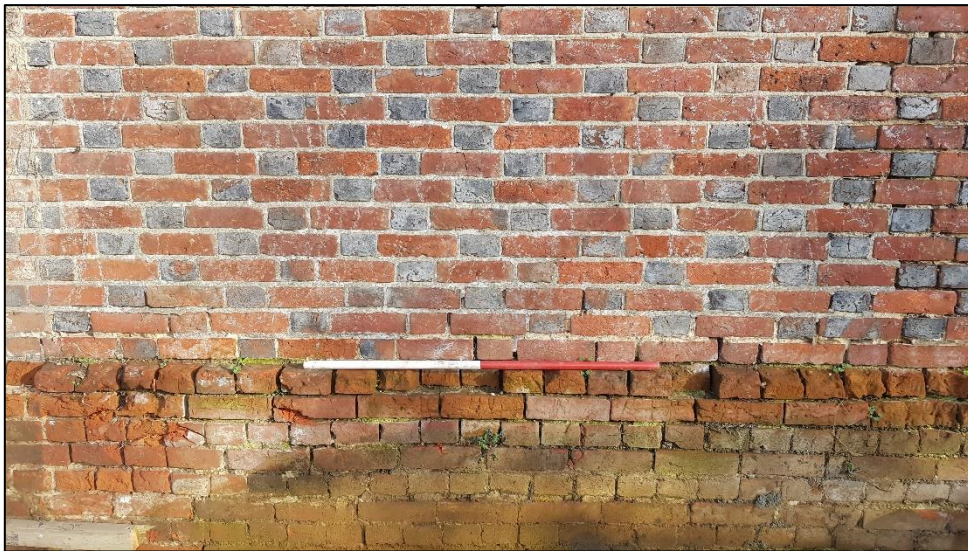


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(Figure 9 – Looking northeast at wall 1005)

- 6.10. The later, upper portion of boundary wall 1005 displays sections of Flemish bond brickwork (c.1961 AD), whereas the lower, earlier portion display a typical English Bond, indicating phased adaptations or repairs to the wall from c.1800 to 1961 AD.



(Figure 10 – Looking northeast at wall 1005 with Flemish bond [Phase 4] above and English bond [Phase 3] below)

- 6.11. The older, lower portion of boundary wall 1005 characterised by the English bond, sits on top of 1003 (Figure 11), up to 0.75m of light brown sandy clay, probably colluvium **(12.4)**. 1003 sits on top of 1004, a coarse yellow/brown sandy clay brickearth; sparse inclusion – coarse pebbles. 1003 and 1004 constitute the geological layers encountered on site **(12.5)**.



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(Figure 11 – Wall 1005 sat on 1003, with 1004 brickearth visible underneath)

- 6.12. Toward the northeast corner of Trench 1, a modern drain 1007, sits in cut 006 which, at the time of installation (probably c.1961 AD when the veterinary hospital was built), undercut the older, lower portion of wall 1005. Figure 12 demonstrates that wall 1005 was damaged and repaired during the installation, and drain 1007 was bedded into 1008, a black/grey sandy grit.

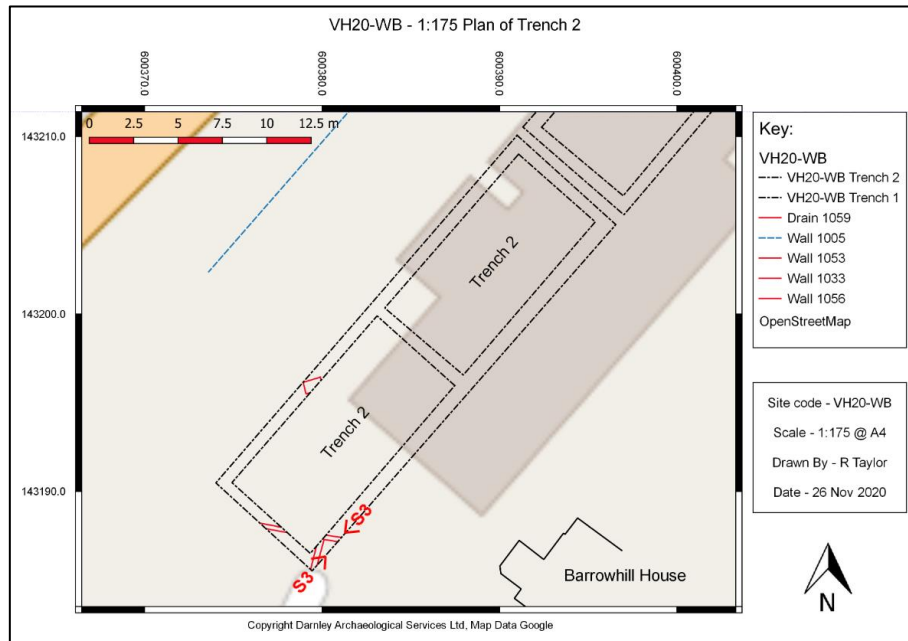


(Figure 12 – Modern drain 1007 undercutting boundary wall 1005)

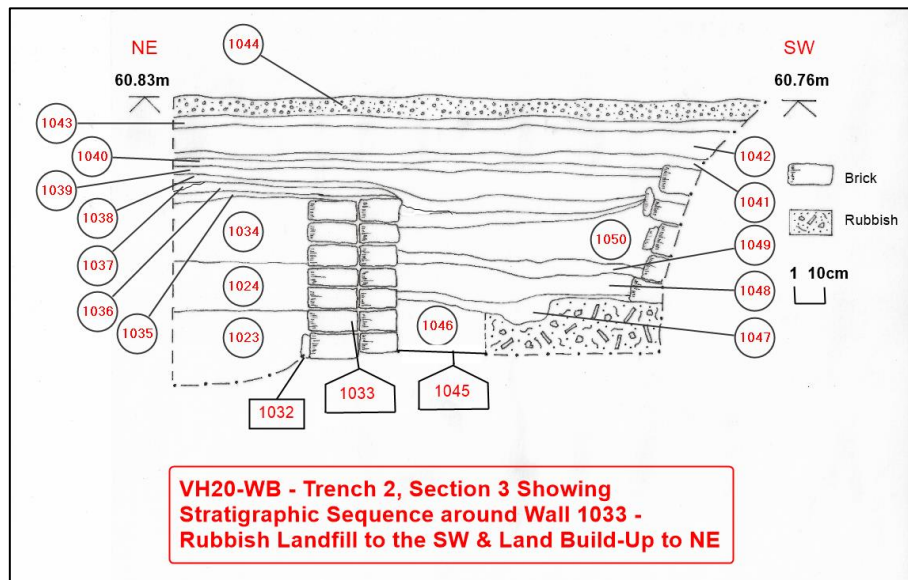


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- 6.13. **Trench 2** - a twin rectangular series of groundworks measuring approximately 25m x 7.5m. Trench 2 revealed forty-four contexts in total. The earliest archaeological features are a series of brick walls, some running east-west, dividing the gardens/orchard of Barrowhill House from the adjacent yard area, whilst they also combine to form an outbuilding. Section 3 reveals phases of the site, from residential gardens to the veterinary hospital, including one of these walls.



(Fig 13 – 1:175 Plan of Trench 2)



(Fig 14 – 1:10 Section 3, Trench 2)

- 6.14. Section 3 (**12.6**) illustrates a complex stratigraphy of Barrowhill House's past, as an early Victorian residential property with gardens/orchard and outbuildings, to the same land converted for use by the veterinary hospital, sometime in the 1960s. Key to



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understanding the following stratigraphic analysis is brick wall 1033, which divides the grounds of Barrowhill House from c.1800 to 1961 AD.

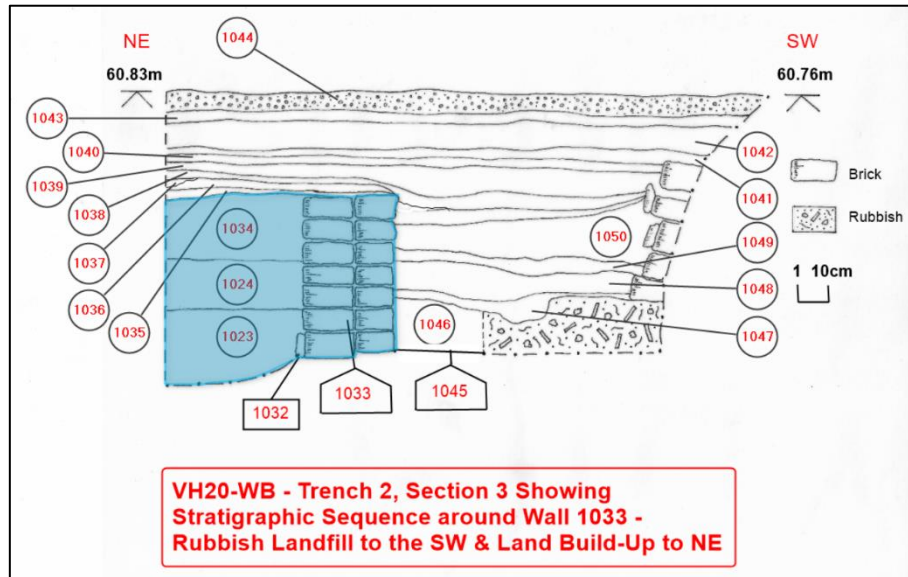


(Fig 15 – Section 3, Trench 2)

- 6.15. The following details the Phase 4 stratigraphy across Section 3 that is not curtailed by brick wall 1033: 1044, 0.1m of asphalt hard standing sits on 0.05m of 1043, a brown sand and pebble matrix, used as bedding for 1044. Below 1043 is 1042, an earlier hard standing made up of brick and yellow mortar. 1042 sits above 1041, brown sand used as bedding for 1042. Below 1041 is 1040, a thin layer of clinker, which sits above 1039, 0.1 to 0.15m of green/brown silty sand containing crushed brick. Under 1039 is 1038, up to 0.1m of yellow sand and crushed brick. 1038 sits above 1037, a thin lens of green/brown silty sand. Below 1037 is 1036, up to 0.1m of clinker. 1036 sits above 1035, a thin layer of yellow sand.
- 6.16. The following details the continuation of the Phase 4 stratigraphy to the west of brick wall 1033: 1036 sits above up to 0.2m of 1050, a yellow/brown clayey silt containing charcoal. Below 1050 is 1049, a thin layer of clinker. 1049 sits above 0.1m of 1048, a yellow/brown clayey silt which, in turn, sits above 1047 a further layer of clinker. 1047 sits above 1046, up to 0.3m of dump material containing various veterinary debris (glass bottles, etc., pottery, charcoal, and metal) in a matrix of black sandy loam. 1046 sits on top of 1045, a hard standing constructed of concrete and ballast, abutting 1033 to the east and sitting above 1023.
- 6.17. To the east of brick wall 1033, under 1035 is the start of the Phase 3 stratigraphy: below 1035 is up to 0.2m of 1034, a grey/brown sandy silt containing numerous inclusions (charcoal, brick pieces mortar). 1034 sits above 0.2m of 1024, a brown/grey silty clay containing frequent inclusions (brick pieces, mortar, roof tile and charcoal). Below 1034 is 1023, 0.3 to 0.5m of yellow/brown silty clay with occasional inclusions (mortar, charcoal, brick pieces). 1023 likely sits above 1003 or 1004, though this was not confirmed due to limited depth of trenches. It is thought that 1024 and 1023 are probably garden soils/build-up and 1034 marks the interface between Phase 3 & 4. Both may exhibit a matrix of garden soils mixed with demolition/construction material associated with partial demolition of outbuildings and the construction of the veterinary hospital.

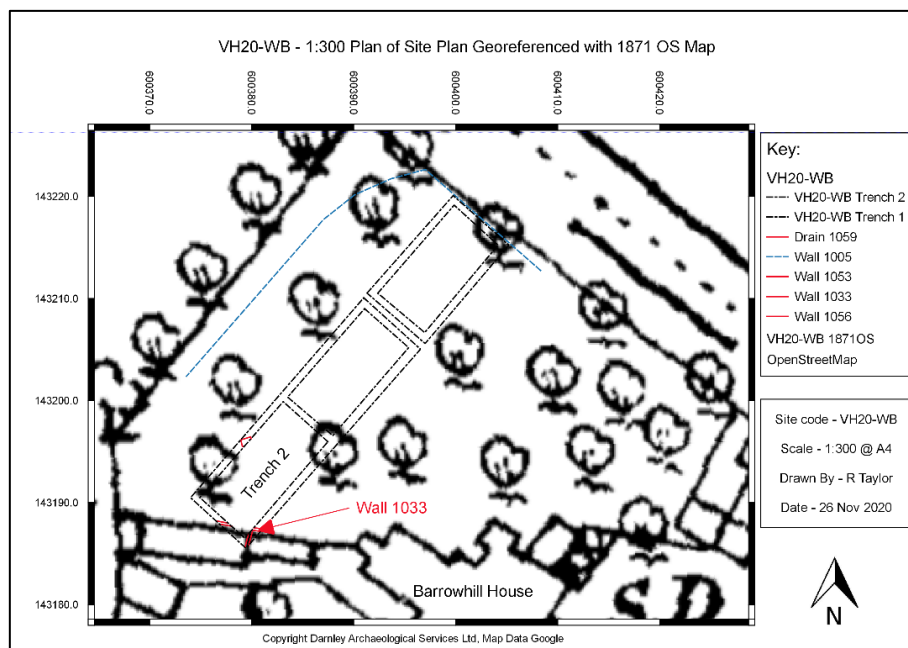


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(Fig 16 – Phased 1:10 Section 3, Trench 2 – Phase 3 shown in blue, Phase 4 left uncoloured)

- 6.18. Key to understanding the above stratigraphic sequence is the discovery of wall 1033. Analysis of historic maps clearly shows 1033 on the 1871 OS map, which is still in evident on the 1929 OS map.



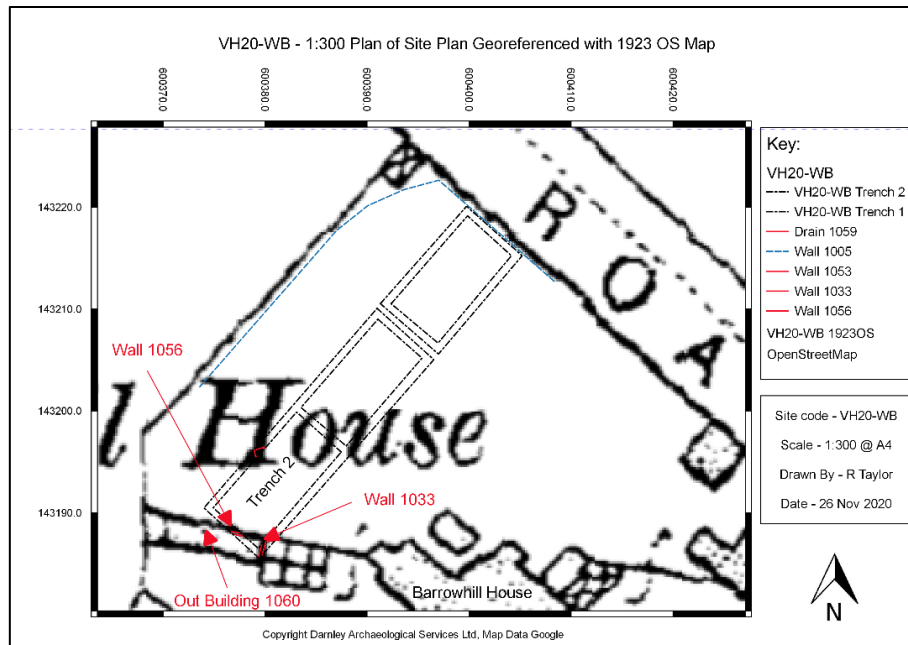
(Fig 17 – 1:300 Site Plan Georeferenced with 1871 OS Map, courtesy of Kent County Council)

- 6.19. Toward the southwest of Trench 2, 1002 sits above 1036, which appears to continue west through the north-facing section. Under 1036 is 0.2m of 1050. New context material is evident under 1050, where 0.2m of 1057, a dump material with of numerous inclusions in a black sandy loam matrix, probably contemporary with 1046. Under 1057 is 0.5m of 1058, a dirty brown silty clay with numerous mortar, pottery, brick pieces and animal bone inclusion. Below 1058 appears to be similar to 1023, but cut into 1023 is wall 1056, a



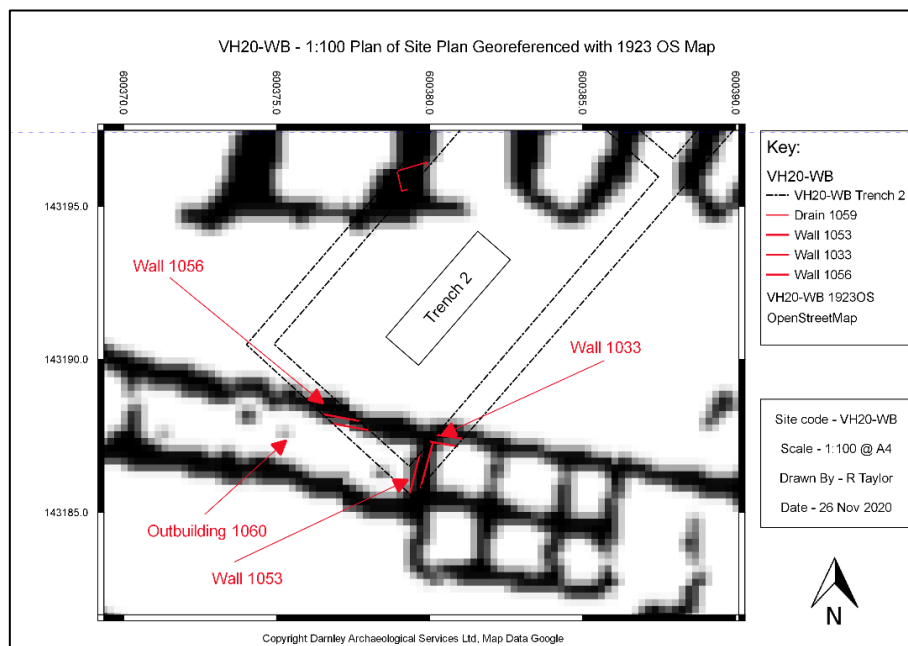
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continuation of 1033. Abutting the south face of 1056 is 1054, a smooth concrete hard standing. Further examination of the 1920s OS map suggests 1056 and 1054 are wall and an internal surface of an outbuilding, given context 1060.



(Fig 18 – 1:300 Site Plan Georeferenced with 1923 OS Map, courtesy of Kent County Council)

6.20. A return wall heading south off wall 1033 was evident – same brick and mortar construction as walls 1033 and 1056. This provided further evidence for the footprint of outbuilding 1060 (Fig 18).



(Fig 19 – 1:100 Site Plan Georeferenced with 1923 OS Map, detailing wall components of outbuilding structure 1060, courtesy of Kent County Council)



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(Figure 20 left, looking southwest at wall 1053 returning off wall 1033; Figure 21 right, looking west at wall 1033 in foreground and walls 1053 and 1056 surrounding 1054, forming outbuilding 1060).

- 6.21. Along the west length of Trench 2 are a series of features visible in section. Approximately 5.0m from the northeast corner of Trench 2 visible in the west-facing section face is cut 1017, filled with 1018, 0.2m of a concrete foundation. Above 1018 is five-course of brick housing drain 1019. 1019 likely served as drainage for the veterinary hospital **(12.7)**.
- 6.22. Approximately 10.0m from the northeast corner of Trench 2 visible in the east-facing section face is cut 1020 for drain 1022 which is surrounded by concrete fill 1021. 1022 likely served as drainage for the veterinary hospital **(12.8)**.



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- 6.23. Approximately 15.0m from the north-west corner of Trench 2, visible in the west-facing section 0.2m of 1002 sits above 0.3m to 0.4m of 1026, a dark grey silty clay containing mortar fragments, charcoal and brick pieces. 1026 sits in cut 1025 which, in turn, is cut into 1023. 1025 is approximately 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep and appears as a pit feature, with the colour of 1025 markedly different to surrounding 1023. The Stratigraphic sequence places 1026 in Phase 3 (c.1800 to 1961 AD) and likely associated with Barrowhill House gardens/orchard **(12.9)**.
- 6.24. At the southwest corner of Trench 2, visible in the southeast facing section **(12.10)**, 1002 sits above 0.1 to 0.2m of 1036, a dump material consisting of clinker deposits. Below 1036 is 0.1 to 0.2 of 1050 which, in turn, sits above 0.6m to 0.75m of 1058, a dirty brown silty clay with numerous inclusion (brick pieces, mortar, modern pottery). 1058 sits above 1023.
- 6.25. Approximately 7.0m from the southwest corner of Trench 2, heading northeast is 1059, a concrete-lined drain, approximately 1.0m x 0.75m, probably part of the drainage system for the veterinary hospital and cut into 1023 and/or 1003. **(12.11)**



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7. FINDS

- 7.1. Several finds were recovered during the watching brief, with a date range of c.1200 AD to 1961 AD, all of which are characteristic of domestic occupation and consistent with the site's occupation as a home a veterinary hospital.
- 7.2. Pottery, glass and animal bone provide accurate diagnostic dating evidence and is subject to additional photographic analysis in Appendix B.
- 7.3. All finds were washed, bagged, recorded and photographed according to ClfA guidelines. Table 2 below details the type, quantity and location of finds according to Trench number and Context number:

| Find Type | Quantity | Trench No. | Context No. |
|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Pottery | 1 | 1 | 1011 |
| Pottery | 1 | 2 | 1039 |
| Pottery | 5 | 2 | 1027 |
| Glass | 1 | 2 | 1027 |
| Bone | 1 | 1 | 1002 |
| Glass | 2 | 2 | 1046 |
| Glass | 2 | 2 | 1057 |
| Bone | 2 | 2 | 1058 |
| Pottery | 4 | 2 | 1058 |
| Shell | 1 | 2 | 1058 |
| Metal | 1 | 2 | 1058 |

(Table 2 – Finds according to type, quantity, Trench No & Context No)



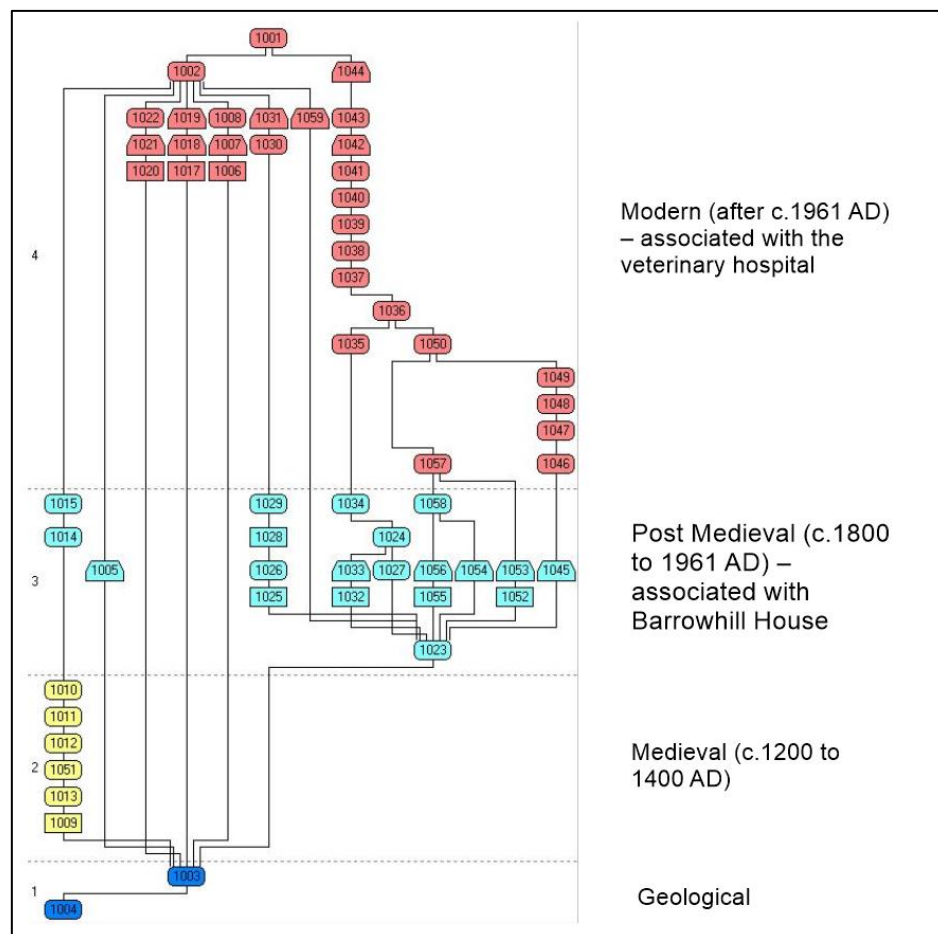
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8. INTERPRETATION

8.1. The results of the watching brief revealed phasing and a stratigraphic sequence confirming the site's past from c.1200 AD to Present Day. One stratified sherd of pottery (Kentish sandy ware c.1200-1400 AD from 1051) provides secure evidence of the site's medieval past. Of course, this medieval past pre-dates the construction of Barrowhill House (c.1800 to 1830 AD), for which evidence of the surrounding gardens/orchard is apparent. Furthermore, evidence for wall structures and outbuildings attached to Barrowhill House were revealed and confirmed by historical OS maps.

8.2. Lastly, although the upstanding veterinary hospital was demolished before the commencing of the groundworks, below-ground features, structures and finds associated with the working life of the hospital help to date and affirm stratigraphic sequences across the site. No other features of archaeological interest were viewed.

8.3. The following matrix diagram illustrates the stratigraphic sequences and phasing:



(Fig 22 – Stratigraphic matrix for VH20-WB)



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9. CONCLUSION

9.1. The watching brief has fulfilled the aims and objectives of the KCC Watching Brief Specification and the Written Scheme of Investigation. The groundworks demonstrated the stratigraphy associated with the site's use as grounds for a domestic dwelling and later business premises. Still, beyond this, no other archaeological features were viewed. The archaeological significance of the site is low and recorded accordingly.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1. Sincere thanks are extended to the client for permissions to access the site and their patience while the archaeological process took place.

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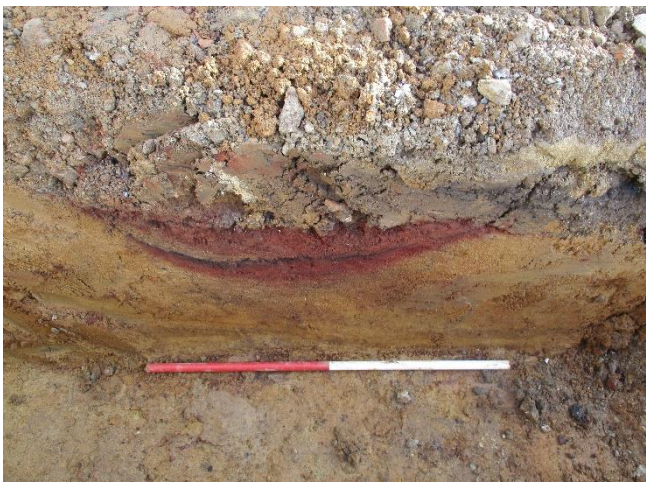
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<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>






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12. APPENDIX A – SITE IMAGES

| Image | Number & Description |
|---|---|
|  | <p>12.1</p> <p>Site looking northwest following demolition of the veterinary hospital and before Trench 1 & 2 excavations.</p> |
|  | <p>12.2</p> <p>Trench 1, Section 1 looking northeast at a medieval ditch.</p> |
|  | <p>12.3</p> <p>Trench 1, Section 2 looking southwest at a medieval ditch</p> |






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| Image | Number & Description |
|---|--|
|  | <p>12.4</p> <p>Trench 1 looking northwest at multi-phase brickwork of boundary wall 1005.</p> |
|  | <p>12.5</p> <p>Trench 1 looking northwest onto 1004 at the base of the trench, and boundary wall 1005 to the right.</p> |
|  | <p>12.6</p> <p>Trench 2, looking east at Section 3.</p> |





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| Image | Number & Description |
|---|--|
|  | <p>12.7</p> <p>Trench 2, looking southeast at drain structure 1019.</p> |
|  | <p>12.8</p> <p>Trench 2, looking northwest at drain 1022.</p> |
|  | <p>12.9</p> <p>Trench 2, looking southeast at ditch feature 1025.</p> |



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| Image | Number & Description |
|--|--|
|  | <p>12.10</p> <p>Trench 2, looking north-west at stratigraphy in the southwest corner.</p> |
|  | <p>12.11</p> <p>Trench 2, looking northeast at drain structure 1059.</p> |



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13. APPENDIX B - FINDS IMAGES

| Image | Number & Description |
|---|---|
|  | <p>13.1</p> <p>1051 – Kentish sandy ware c.1250 - 1450 AD.</p> |
|  | <p>13.2</p> <p>1039 – Late-Victorian / Early Edwardian transfer print plate c.1880 - 1910 AD</p> |
|  | <p>13.3</p> <p>1027 – Glazed earthenware storage vessel base c.1900 AD</p> |



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| Image | Number & Description |
|---|--|
|  | <p>13.4</p> <p>1001 – Bird & flower Chinese patterned plate c.1850 AD to 1920 AD.</p> |
|  | <p>13.5</p> <p>1027 – Stoneware ginger jar c.1900 AD.</p> |
|  | <p>13.6</p> <p>1046 – Kentish red earthenware with iron glaze c.1900 AD.</p> |



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| Image | Number & Description |
|---|--|
|  | <p>13.7</p> <p>1046 – Medicine bottle c.1920 – 1965 AD.</p> |
|  | <p>13.8</p> <p>1057 – Medicine bottle c.1965 – 1980 AD</p> |
|  | <p>13.9</p> <p>1057 – Medicine bottle c.1965 – 1980 AD</p> |