

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
St. Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford,
London Borough of Bexley**

**NGR 551275 109865
(TQ 51275 09865)**

**Project No: 7953
Site Code: SCU 16**

**ASE Report No. 2016032
OASIS ID: archaeol6-240249**

By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

**With contributions by
Susan Chandler and Isa Benedetti-Whitton**

February 2016

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St. Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford,
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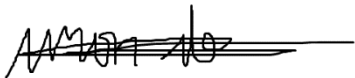

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|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
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| Reviewed and approved by: | Jim Stevenson | Project Manager |  |
| Date of Issue: | | | |
| Revision: | | | |

January 2016

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of test-pits at St Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley (NGR 551193 175121).

With the exception of part of the chalk-built footing for one of the buttresses of the church tower, no archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the manual excavation of three test-pits. The only deposits encountered consisted of typical graveyard soil, which contained a small quantity of disarticulated human bone (reinterred at the site) and a small assemblage of other artefacts.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of test-pits at St. Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley (NGR 551193 175121) (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The church is located in an elevated position overlooking the River Cray to the south. The now redundant churchyard is bounded to the north by the *Russell Stoneham Memorial Garden and Churchyard*, to the west by Manor Road, to the south by Church Hill and to the east by Perry Street (the A2000).
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consist of the sands, silts and clays of the Lambeth Group overlain by superficial deposits of Boyn Hill Gravel (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The current works fall outside of the usual planning framework. Therefore no *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work (in keeping with similar monitoring works undertaken by ASE) was to:

‘to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards and to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary.’

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of excavation of the test-pits was undertaken on 15th January 2016. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The parish church, which is a Grade II* listed building, has an unusual dedication to the Christian missionary and first Bishop of York, and later Rochester, who died in 644AD. The fabric has Norman origins, but suffered an extensive Victorian restoration (Heales 1889, 320). Unfortunately Hasted's (1797) pre-restoration description is far from detailed and describes the church as

'a handsome building, consisting of two isles and a chancel, with a square tower at the west end, in which are five bells.'

- 2.2 The 'two isles' (aisles) are a rare variation on the 'normal' parish church design (Rodwell 2005, 79). However the details held by English Heritage database on Listed Buildings (entry no.1359434) do not highlight this:

'Nave, west tower, north aisle as wide as nave and chancel with north and south chapels. North and west walls of aisle date from circa 1100 and have tufa blocks in north-west quoin. Frames of round-headed windows of circa 1200. Windows mainly of C14 (renewed). West tower built circa 1406 by John Wills, with angle buttresses, Perpendicular tracery in openings and embattled parapet. Arcade between nave and aisle is aligned with central axis of chancel. Roofs dated 1630. Pulpit circa 1630. Altar table by James Brooks, architect, 1895. Church was restored 1862 by Joseph Clarke, architect. Monument in north chapel to William and Mary Draper (died 1650 and 1652) possibly by Thomas Stanton. Several other good monuments.'

- 2.3 Reasons for expansion of churches, and the practical considerations for the actual alteration of the fabric have been thoroughly considered by Morris (1989, 291-5). In essence he suggests that the expansion of aisles offered 'comfort and practicality' for an expanding congregation, as well as offering locations for the siting of altars (*op. cit.*, 291).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Manual excavation of three test-pits was monitored by a qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to LAARC in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Context sheets | 4 |
| Section sheets | 0 |
| Plans sheets | 0 |
| Colour photographs | 0 |
| B&W photos | 0 |
| Digital photos | 20 images |
| Context register | 1 |
| Drawing register | 0 |
| Watching brief forms | 1 |
| Trench Record forms | 0 |

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

| | |
|--|---|
| Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box) | 0 |
| Registered finds (number of) | 0 |
| Flots and remains from bulk samples | 0 |
| Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides) | 0 |
| Waterlogged wood | 0 |
| Wet sieved remains from bulk samples | |

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2).

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained at the church on 15th January 2016. Three test-pits were manually excavated to investigate problems with drainage at the site.

4.2 Test-Pit 1 (Figure 3)

| Context Number | Type | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness (m) |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1/001 | Layer | Overburden | 1.0 |
| 1/002 | Masonry | Buttress Footing | - |

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

- 4.2.1 Test-pit 1 was excavated adjacent to the south-west corner buttress of the church tower. It measured 600mm by 600mm by 1m deep. The overburden consisted of a mid-greyish brown to mid-orangey brown silty clay graveyard soil, context [1/001], which extended to the base of the test-pit.
- 4.2.2 The chalk footing of the adjacent buttress extended into the north-west corner of the test-pit, encountered 680mm below the current surface, [1/002]. It proved impossible to investigate the masonry in the confined space of the test-pit. A small assemblage of artefacts were recovered from the overburden and was retained for analysis. A small quantity of human bone was recovered and was reinterred when the test-pit was backfilled.

4.3 Test-Pit 2

| Context Number | Type | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness (m) |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2/001 | Layer | Overburden | 0.85 |

Table 4: Recorded Contexts

- 4.3.1 Test-pit 2 measured 700mm by 700mm by 850mm deep. The only deposit encountered was the graveyard soil previously seen in Test-pit 1, recorded as context [2/001]. The area had been disturbed by excavations for the laying of a concrete drain and an electrical cable.
- 4.3.2 Again a small assemblage of artefacts, including medieval pottery were recovered from the overburden and was retained for analysis. A small quantity of human bone was recovered and was reinterred when the test-pit was backfilled.

4.4 Test-Pit 3

| Context Number | Type | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness (m) |
|----------------|-------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 3/001 | Layer | Overburden | 1.0 |

Table 5: Recorded Contexts

- 4.4.1 Test-pit 3 measured 600mm by 600mm by 1m deep. The only deposit encountered was the graveyard soil previously seen in Test-pit 1, recorded as context [3/001]. The area had been disturbed by excavations for the laying of a concrete drain.
- 4.4.2 The only material recovered from the test-pit were fragments of ceramic building material. A small quantity of human bone was recovered and was reinterred when the test-pit was backfilled.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A modest range of artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring of the test-pit excavation.

| Context | Pot | Wt (g) | CBM | Wt (g) | CTP | Wt (g) | Lead | Wt (g) |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1/001 | | | 9 | 499 | 2 | 17 | | |
| 2/001 | 5 | 65 | 19 | 1275 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 11 |
| 3/001 | | | 2 | 223 | | | | |
| Total | 5 | 65 | 30 | 1997 | 3 | 21 | 1 | 11 |

Table 6: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Pottery by Susan Chandler

5.2.1 Five sherds of pottery were recovered from context [2/001]. These include a small sherd of blue and white decorated china, featuring part of a pagoda and foliage typical of willow-pattern pieces and four sherds of an earlier, broadly later medieval, 13th to 14th century date. Two of these late medieval sherds conjoin and are from an unglazed, sandy ware cooking vessel and one is from a green-glazed vessel, possibly a jug. The final sherd is also from a green-glazed ware and is finer than the jug sherd.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 A total of 28 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1932g were recovered during the monitoring. The assemblage included roof and floor tile, the former of which is difficult to date as roof tile forms changed very little between the 14th and 19th centuries, but the glazed floor tile collected from [2/001] and [3/001] is typical of a late medieval date c.14th-16th century. A smaller floor tile fragment – also from [2/001] – with a bevelled, knife cut edge and only slight traces of glaze is also likely to be medieval, and possibly dates even earlier than the other two fragments, although it is made from the same fabric as the thicker, late medieval floor tile piece from the same context (FT1).

5.3.2 There was little variation in form across the roof tile, although five different fabrics were identified, some of which were very distinctive, e.g. T2 (see Table 7). Peg-holes were present on fragments from contexts [1/001] and [2/001], and three different styles of peg-hole were identified. One roof tile piece each from [1/001] and [3/001] and the glazed tile fragment from [3/001] had lime mortar on a number of surfaces, suggesting these tile fragments were re-used as hard-core or similar. Overall the assemblage is suggestive of structural refuse and recycled material from a mid-late medieval building. Glazed floor tiles of the thicker type found here are often found in ecclesiastical structures.

| Fabric code | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| T1 | Fine orange matrix with abundant quartz up to 1mm giving 'gritty' texture. Fine speckle of black iron oxide. |
| T1A | Similar to T1 in terms of quartz and oxide speckle but with dark red and pale/cream deposits up to 2mm. |
| T2 | Fine, dense nearly sterile fabric with sparse dark red iron-rich patches up to 0.5mm. |
| T3 | Dense fabric with abundant quartz up to 1mm. Similar to T1 but without oxide speckle. |
| T4 | Dense red fabric with cream/grey silty streaking. Slight micaceous; common medium quartz; sparse dark red iron-rich inclusions up to 1mm. |
| FT1 | Dense orange fabric with abundant fine and medium quartz (up to 0.5mm) which gives 'gritty' texture. |
| FT2 | Dense, slightly pink fabric with common shell/calcareous/white particles up to 0.5mm and sparse hard red/iron-rich inclusions up to 1mm. |

Table 7: Fabric descriptions for the ceramic building material

5.4 The Clay Pipe by Susan Chandler

- 5.4.1 A total of three clay pipe fragments were recovered from the excavations. Context [1/001] returned two fragments; part of a stem and an almost complete undecorated bowl with some stem. This bowl is fairly large and upright, with a short, flattened heel. This form was in production generally from 1700 to 1770 (Atkinson & Oswald, 1969). A single stem sherd was recovered in [2/001].

5.5 The Lead by Susan Chandler

- 5.5.1 A single fragment of lead window caming was recovered in context [2/001]. It includes two fragments of degraded window glass still held in the lead. The caming is flat, with two soldered joints. Though the caming is twisted out of shape, it is possible to see that it would have originally formed a diamond or lozenge shape, most likely as part of a decorative scheme. Due to the degraded nature of the glass fragments it is not possible to tell if they were coloured or clear.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No *in situ* human bones were encountered during the excavation of the test-pits. The locations of the test-pits had been heavily disturbed both by the drainage system, and by the usual process of grave digging leading to the presence of 'accumulated "grave soil" above the natural subsoil (Rodwell, 2005, 166).
- 6.2 The presence of disarticulated human bone was to be expected given that '*grave diggers have never been respecters of past internments*' (*op. cit.*). The bones were all reinterred in the test-pits from which they had come.
- 6.3 The accidental inclusion of detritus and building debris in this grave soil over time explains the presence of the small assemblage of recovered artefacts. Both material dropped by grave diggers or visitors, or material simply dumped in the vicinity, and elements of the fabric of the church deposited after rebuilding/alterations were encountered and recorded.
- 6.4 The chalk foundation of one of the church tower buttresses was encountered in Test-pit 1, but given the narrow confines of the test-pit little can be said of this feature – even the depth and extent remain uncertain.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Thomas Ford & Partners for commissioning the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to the groundworkers and officers of the church for their co-operation and hospitality.

HER Summary

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------------|---------------|--|--|
| Site Code | SCU 16 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | St. Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | London Borough of Bexley | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | 551275 109865 | | | | | |
| Geology | Boyn Hill Gravel over Lambeth Group | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 7953 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | | | Watching Brief | | | |
| Type of Site | | | | Parish Church | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | | | 15.01.2015 | | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Thomas Ford & Partners | | | | | |
| Project Managers | Paul Mason | | | | | |
| Project Supervisors | Simon Stevens | | | | | |
| Period Summary | | | | | | |
| | | | Medieval | Post-Medieval | | |
| <p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Thomas Ford & Partners to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of test-pits at St Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley (NGR 551193 175121).</i></p> <p><i>With the exception of part of the chalk-built footing for one of the buttresses of the church tower, no archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the manual excavation of three test-pits. The only deposits encountered consisted of typical graveyard soil, which contained a small quantity of disarticulated human bone (reinterred at the site) and a small assemblage of other artefacts.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-240249

Project details

Project name Archaeological Watching Brief Report - St. Paulinus Church, Crayford,
London Borough of Bexley

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Thomas Ford and Partners to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of test-pits at St Paulinus Church, Perry Street, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley (NGR 551193 175121). With the exception of part of the chalk-built footing for one of the buttresses of the church tower, no archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring of the manual excavation of three test-pits. The only deposits encountered consisted of typical graveyard soil, which contained a small quantity of disarticulated human bone (reinterred at the site) and a small assemblage of other artefacts.

Project dates Start: 15-01-2016 End: 15-01-2016

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes 7953 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes SCU 16 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type BUTTRESS FOOTING Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds CLAY PIPE Post Medieval

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

Prompt Conservation/ restoration

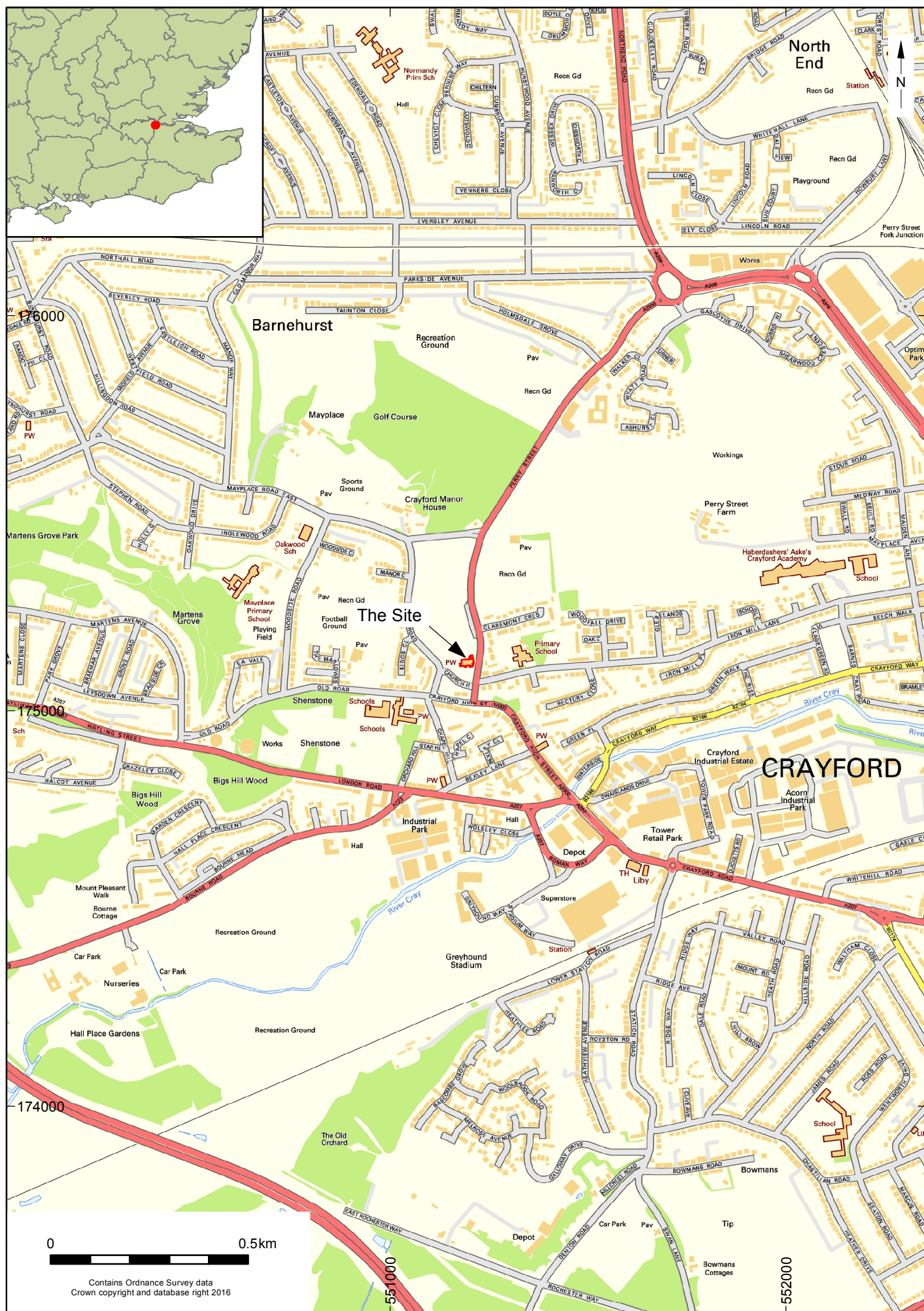
Project location

Country England

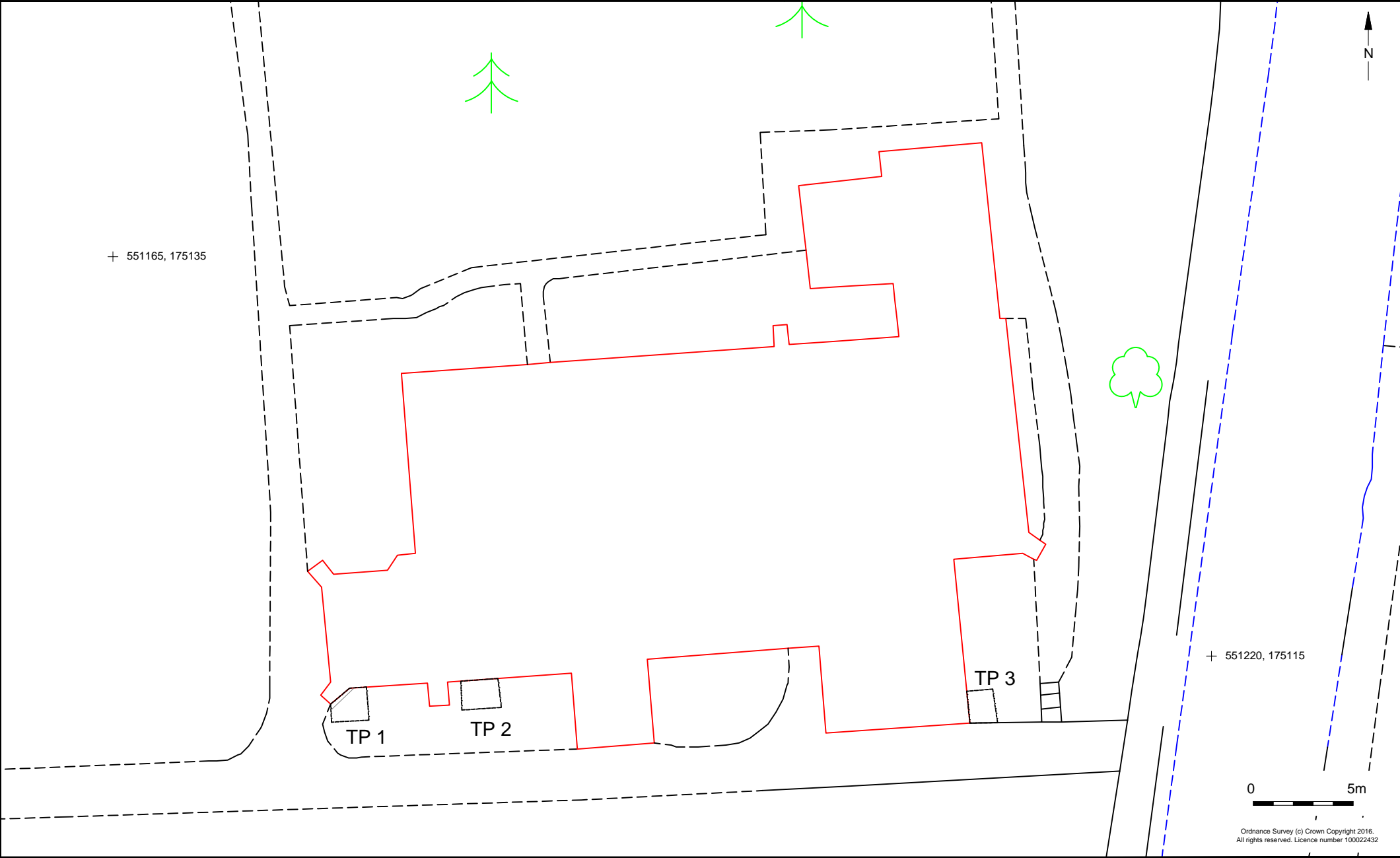
Site location GREATER LONDON BEXLEY CRAYFORD St. Paulinus Church

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Postcode | DA1 4RL |
| Study area | 3 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 51193 75121 51.454337910891 0.17632732335 51 27 15 N 000 10 34 E Point |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South-East |
| Project brief originator | Thomas Ford and Partners |
| Project design originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project director/manager | Paul Mason |
| Project supervisor | Simon Stevens |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Client |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Thomas Ford & Partners |
| Project bibliography | |
| 1 | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological Watching Brief Report - St. Paulinus Church, Crayford, London Borough of Bexley |
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Entered on 5 February 2016



| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | St Paulinus Church, Crayford | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 7953 | 02 - 2016 | Site location | |
| Report Ref: 2016032 | Drawn by: NG | | |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | St Paulinus Church | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 7953 | 02 - 2016 | Test Pit Location | |
| Report Ref: 2016032 | Drawn by: NG | | |



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Project Ref: 7953

02 - 2016

Report Ref: 2016032

Drawn by: NG

St Paulinus Church

Test Pit 1 : Plan, section and photograph

Fig. 3



Test pit 2, looking north west



Test Pit 3 , looking north

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