

2021

REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT TOWN FARM SHAMBLE, HIGH STREET, BRENCHLEY, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 7NH



DARNLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Town Farm Shambles, High Street,
Brenchley, Kent TN12 7NH

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report reference: # DAS 0018-21

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Planning Reference: 21/00706/FULL

NGR: TQ 6802 4177

DAS Site Code: TFB21-WB



Report prepared for Paul Germain (Client)

By Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd Company, No 12320658

Report Number DAS 0018-21





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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. An archaeological Watching Brief reporting on groundworks excavation carried out at Town Farm Shambles, High Street, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 7NH.
- 1.2. No significant archaeological features mentioned in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)¹ were identified during the archaeological work. However, the below-ground remains and artefacts associated with the use of the slaughterhouse known as Town Farm Shambles were observed, along with the subsequent Post-Medieval/Modern additions and associated with Town Farm Cottage and Town Farmhouse (TQ 64 SE 147) – two houses and a shop (butchers), originally one building.

2. INTRODUCTION

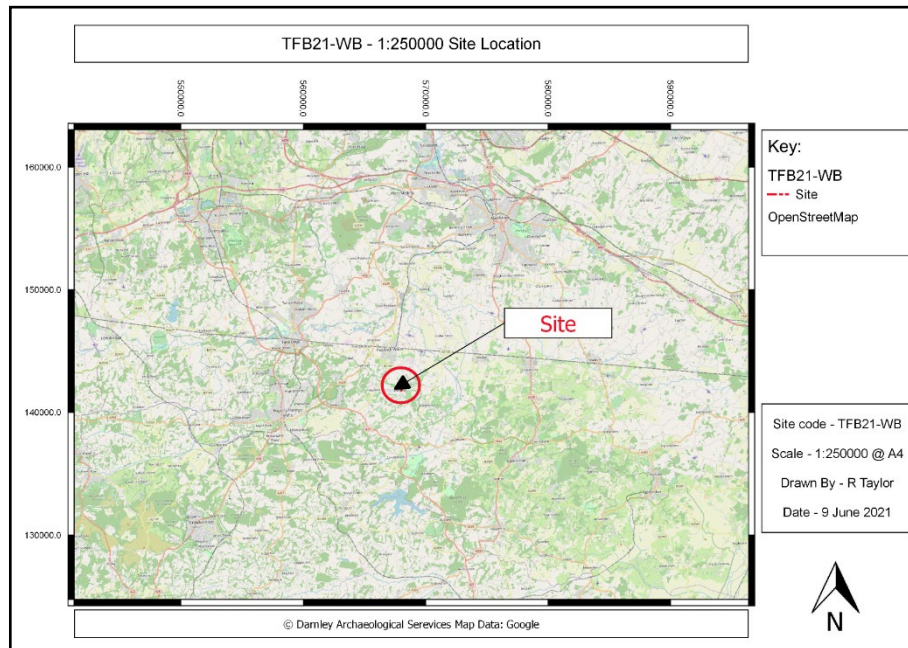
- 2.1. An archaeological Watching Brief has been carried out on behalf of Paul Germain (client) on land at Town Farm Shambles, High Street, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 7NH. The Watching Brief aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. The site has planning permission to convert a traditional building into a 2-bedroom dwelling and erection of a single-storey rear extension (see Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Application Reference 21/00706/FUL).
- 2.2. The site is approximately 110.0m² and is located on the grounds of the property, formerly known as The Butchers Shop, located on the High Street in Brenchley and the Tunbridge Wells District.
- 2.3. Although the WSI stated that no archaeology is considered at risk by the proposed development, the slaughterhouse building was assessed in a state of disrepair too far gone to retain. Therefore, the client had no alternative but to demolish the above-ground elements of the slaughterhouse building (see Appendix C for photographic evidence). The Medieval/Post Medieval archaeology associated with the slaughterhouse building's earliest incarnation has been recorded.
- 2.4. The Watching Brief consisted of a large rectangular trench measuring approximately 11.5m x 10.5m and to a depth of approximately 1.0m. The Watching Brief aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. This work followed the Kent County Council's methodologies and guidelines in Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16), Planning Policy Guidance on Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG 15). It was carried out following the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2014).

¹ Birkbeck, F. & Taylor, R., 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Town Farm Shambles, High Street, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 7NH* Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd)



3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The site is located within the Brenchley Conservation Area (Fig 4), 2.2km due east of the village of Matfield, approximately 3.2km south of Paddock Wood, 2.3 km northwest of the village of Horsmonden and 4.8 km due north of the Lamberhurst Airstrip (Figs 1 & 2).



(Fig 1 – 1:250000 TFB21-WB Site Location)



(Fig 2 – 1:25000 TFB21-WB Site Location)



- 3.2. The site is on top of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation - sandstone and siltstone, interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 139 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Swamps, estuaries, and deltas previously dominated the local environment. No superficial geology is recorded (British Geological Survey, 2021).²
- 3.3. The site is relatively level, with the site boundary at a consistent 88m (+/- 1.0m) aOD.
- 3.4. There are no known previous archaeological works/disturbances on the site.
- 3.5. The Town Farm cottage, farmhouse site, and associated farmstead are grade II listed buildings. They are a designated heritage asset under the NPPF. The property lies within the Brenchley Conservation Area, and there are several listed buildings within the study area. The Brenchley Conservation Area was designated in April 1990 as defined by the HER in Fig 4.
- 3.6. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Protected Military Remains such as Registered Battlefields in the site's immediate vicinity.
- 3.7. The name 'Brenchley' is historically derived from 'Branca's Leigh'. Brenchley parish church is dedicated to All Saints. The village earns some historical fame by being one of the closely involved villages in post-medieval iron making. The site of the furnace lies within the parish of Horsmonden now. A Market formerly held in the churchyard at Brenchley was granted in 1230 to Hamo de Crevecoeur to be held on his land. The day moved from Sunday to Wednesday. In 1233 this was readjusted to Saturday. By 1296 it belonged to Gilbert de Clare, who in 1312 claimed that his ancestors had held it 'from time out of mind'.
- 3.8. Town Farm Cottage and Town Farmhouse are listed on the HER: TQ 64 SE 147 Listed Building (II) 1249608: 2 houses and a shop, originally one building. Probably late C15/early C16 with 2 phases of construction. Close-studded framing, partly underbuilt in brick, partly tile-hung and partly weatherboarded. Peg-tile roof; brick stacks. This is a fascinating, framed building of high status, well-preserved internally and externally.³ In addition, a separate entry for Town Farm is as Follows: TQ 64 SE 269; a dispersed multi-yard plan farmstead.
- 3.9. A detailed study of the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) database was undertaken to assist the WSI. The following provides nearby entries on the HER with a brief description within a 500m radius assessment area:⁴

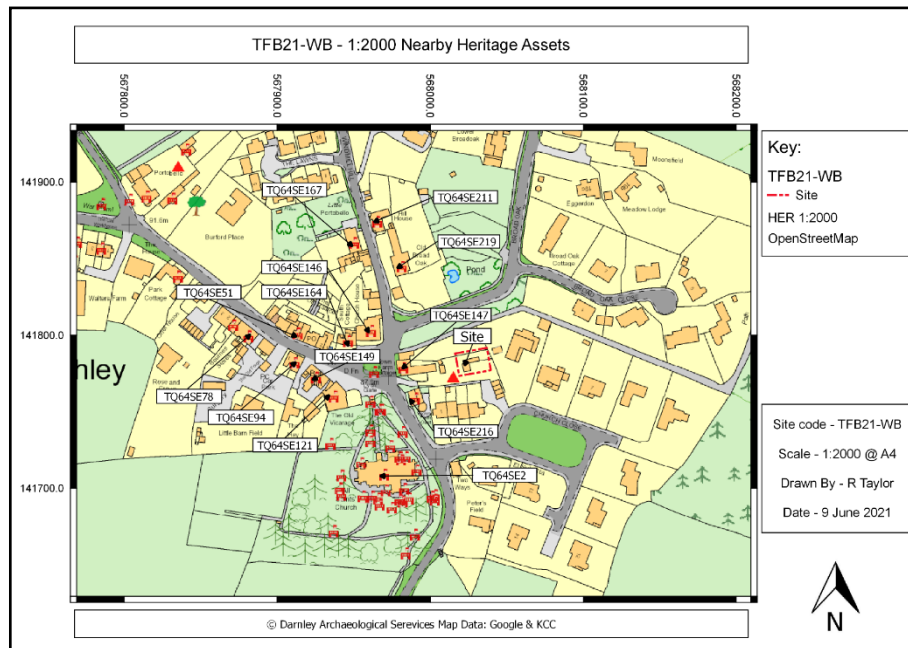
² www.bgs.ac.uk

³ <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>

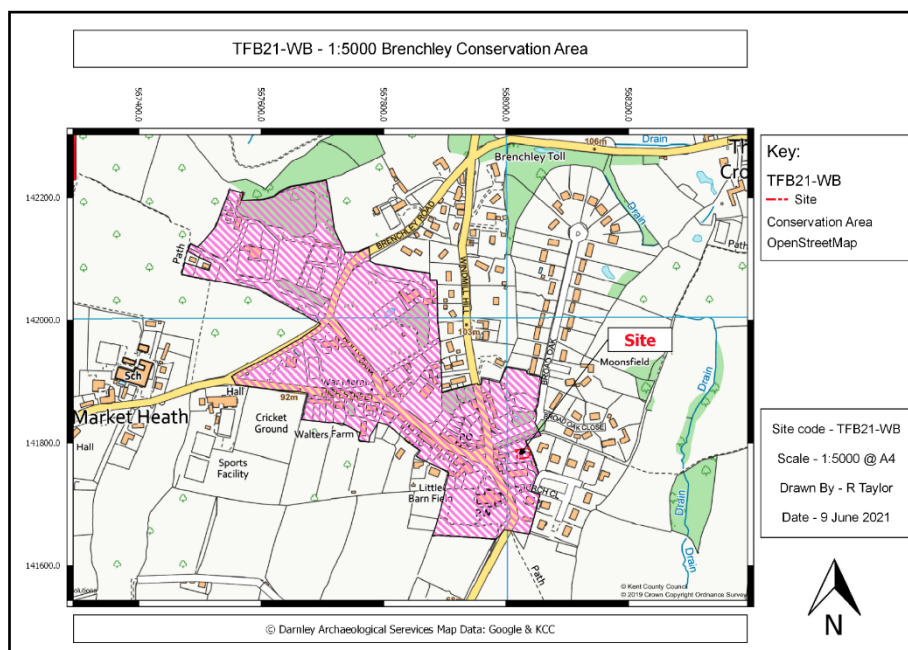
⁴ Ibid



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(Fig 3 – 1:2000 TFB21-WB Nearby Heritage Assets)



(Fig 4- 1:5000 Brenchley Conservation Area)



Post Medieval - the assessment area demonstrates several heritage assets associated with Brenchley's continued growth as a thriving village.

TQ 64 SE 219	<p>Listed Building (II) 1251139: LITTLE BROAD OAK INCLUDING RAILINGS AND GATE TO GARDEN TO THE WEST AND BRICK WALLS TO GARDEN TO THE EAST. TQ 67 41 BRENCHLEY WINDMILL HILL, BRENCHLEY (east side) 15/192 Little Broad Oak including railings and gate to garden 20.10.54 to the west and brick walls to garden to the east (formerly listed as Little Broad Oak with Coach House and Stable wing adjoining II</p> <p>House. Probably late C18 in origin, alterations of circa 1900 when the stable block was absorbed into the house. English bond brick to the house, Flemish bond to the stable block; hipped slate roofs; brick stacks.</p> <p>Plan: The house faces west, overlooking and slightly set back from Windmill Hill. Double-depth plan, three rooms wide with a left of the centre entrance into a wide cross-passage containing the stair, and a service stair to the basement, which originally included the kitchen and service rooms. The left-hand front room, probably the original dining room, heated from an axial stack on the rear wall. To the right of the entrance, there is a lobby to the front with a small service room behind; this is probably a secondary arrangement. The right end room, originally two rooms, now extends the full depth of the house and is heated by a right end stack. The former stable block, adjoining and set back at the left (north) end, now contains the kitchen with extra accommodation on the first floor. At right angles to the main block, a short rear left wing is C20 but in style sympathetic to the original.</p> <p>Exterior: 2 storeys. Asymmetrical 6:4 window front, the six windows to the former stable block, four windows to the house. Both blocks have hipped slate roofs with deep eaves carried on shaped brackets arranged in threes. The front elevation of the house is asymmetrical with regular bays. 5 stone steps up to the large porch, to left of centre, which has Doric columns and a moulded cornice to the entablature. C18 or early C19 6-panel front door flanked by 3-pane glazed panels and framed by reeded pilasters. Segmental-headed fanlight with delicate spiders' web glazing bars below a rubbed brick segmental arch. Round-headed recesses frame the ground floor windows and descend to frame the basement windows, the recesses linked by a brick platband. Early C19 12-pane sashes to the ground floor, basement windows 3 over 3-pane sashes; 4 first floor 3 over 6-pane sashes, all the windows with rubbed brick voussoirs. The left return has one bay of windows matching those on the front. The right return has 2 end stacks, 2 first floor 3 over 9-pane sashes and 2 ground floor C20 6-pane one-light casements. The rear elevation has a C19 back door to the entrance passage, a moulded doorcase, and a flat</p>
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	<p>porch hood with a modillion frieze on moulded brackets. 3 first floor three over 6-pane sashes and, to the left of centre a French window flanked by 16-pane sashes, one of the late C20. The rear wing has a hipped roof. The converted stable block and coach house to the left (north) has a 6-window front and retains a probably early C19 stable door approximately in the centre below a segmental arch, the door retaining ventilation louvres. Blocked doorway to right, converted to a window; C20 stable door to the left of centre. The four left-hand first-floor windows are 2-light casements with square leaded panes and arched heads. Other windows are 2-, 3-, 4- and 6-light, all C20 with square leaded panes.</p> <p>Interior: The house preserves circa late C18/early C19 joinery, including panelled doors with reeded doorcases, panelled shutters and deep skirting boards. Good late C18/early C19 stair with alternating turned and stick balusters, an open string and ramped, wreathed, mahogany handrail. C19 cornices survive in most of the principal rooms.</p> <p>The boundary of the garden west of the house consists of C19 iron railings with brick piers with ball finials flanking an iron gate with arrowhead finials above the dog rail and a wrought iron head. The garden to the rear (east) of the house is bounded by circa late C18/early C19 brick walls; the north wall has a brick plinth and brick coping and probably pre-dates the east wall. The railings, gates and walls are included in the listing.</p>
TQ 64 SE 211	<p>Listed Building (II) 1251140: HILL HOUSE. TQ 67 41 BRENCHLEY WINDMILL HILL, BRENCHLEY (east side) 15/193 Hill House GV II</p> <p>House. Mid/late C19. Ground floor Flemish bond brick, first-floor tile-hung with scalloped tiles; peg-tile roof; brick stacks.</p> <p>Plan: The house faces west, directly onto Windmill Hill. Double-depth plan, two rooms wide with a central entrance. Principal rooms to the front, heated by end stacks, service rooms to the rear.</p> <p>Exterior: 2 storeys. Symmetrical 3-bay front with 2-storey projecting rectangular bays with hipped roofs to left and right of the entrance. Gable-ended roof, a band of brick cogging at first-floor level. Central C19 panelled front door, the top panels glazed, with a rectangular overlight and a horizontal porch hood with a moulded cornice. Late C19 plate glass horned sashes throughout 4-pane sash over the front door; bays glazed with tripartite sashes, 4-pane in the centre, 2-pane in the outer lights with 2-pane sashes to the bay returns.</p> <p>Interior: Not inspected.</p>
TQ 64 SE 167	<p>Listed Building (II) 1251142: LITTLE PORTOBELLO INCLUDING GARDEN RAILINGS TO THE WEST. TQ 67 41 BRENCHLEY</p>



	<p>WINDMILL HILL, BRENCHLEY (west side) 15/196 Little Portobello including garden railings to the west 20.10.54 GV II</p> <p>House. Early C18, probably a remodelling and extension of an earlier building. Additions of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Flemish bond brick, the first-floor tile-hung; peg-tile roof; brick stacks.</p> <p>Plan: The house faces east, fronting Windmill Hill. Double-depth plan with two principal rooms to the front heated by end stacks with a central entrance into a passage containing the stair. 2 narrow heated rear service rooms are contained within a narrow block roofed on the same axis. There was formerly a separate rear centre service stair to the first floor, the attic flight of which still survives. Cellar below the north end of the house. 2 small 1960s and 1970s wings have been added at the north end, and there is a 1980s southwest library wing. The C18 plan is largely intact, although the partition between the south end principal and service room has been removed.</p> <p>Exterior: 2 storeys and attic. Gable-ended roof; stacks with corbelled brick cornices. Symmetrical 3-bay east front with a moulded brick cornice at first floor level below the tile-hanging and a moulded cornice below the eaves. Steps up to a C18 front door with six fielded panels and a horizontal porch hood. One-light windows flanking the front door have square leaded panes and may also be C18. The other windows are C18 casements with flat-faced mullions, preserving their original glazing of square leaded panes and window furniture, including quadrant, catches. The outer bay windows are a 3-light, 2-light window above the front door. Three attic dormers with hipped roofs and 2-light casements with quadrant catches and diamond leaded panes. The rear elevation has end stacks to the service block and a central C18 or C19 half-glazed door. Garden railings on a low brick wall, probably C19, and a contemporary gate is included in the history.</p> <p>Interior: C18 dog-leg stair with a closed string and turned balusters some exposed carpentry.</p> <p>Roof: The roof of the main block is not accessible on the survey. C18 or C19 standard rafter roof with a ridge board to the rear block.</p>
TQ 64 SE 216	<p>Listed Building (II) 1249095: TOWN FARM OAST. Oast house converted to a house. Oast house probably mid/late C19. Stowage framed construction, partly weatherboarded, partly tile-hung to the first floor; brick kiln; peg-tile roofs.</p> <p>Plan: On a very prominent site at the east end of Brenchley village and opposite the parish church. The stowage is roofed at right angles to the road, on a north-south axis; oast at the south end.</p> <p>Exterior: Stowage with two-span roof, half-hipped at the north end, hipped at the south end; kiln round on plan with a conical roof and a cowl. C20 entrance at the north end with a recessed porch and garage door alongside to the right. The west elevation</p>



	<p>of the stowage has one first floor and two ground floor windows: 2 large C20 windows in the right (south) return. The kiln also has relatively large inserted C20 openings, including a French window at the south end. Brick cogging below the eaves.</p> <p>Interior: Not inspected.</p>
TQ 64 SE 94	<p>Listed Building (II) 1250163: THE WHITE HOUSE. House incorporating doctors' surgery. Probably early C18, thoroughly renovated in 1970 by the District Council, architects Beauchamp and Addey (plaque). Ground floor white painted brick, first-floor tile-hung; peg-tile roof; brick stack.</p> <p>Plan: The house faces north, directly onto High Street. Probably originally a 3-room lobby entrance plan, the interior was re-arranged as two cottages later and re-planned in 1970. The main range has rear left and right outshuts.</p> <p>Exterior: 2 storeys. Roof half-hipped at ends with deep eaves on modillion brackets grouped in threes. Moulded fascia at first-floor level. Asymmetrical 3-window front with 2 C20 panelled front doors to the right of centre below a flat porch hood with a moulded cornice. There are three ground floor and two first floor C20 3-light iron-framed casements with square leaded panes; large plaque of 1970 on the first floor. The left and right returns have C20 windows and C20 doors.</p>
TQ 64 SE 78	<p>Listed Building (II) 1250069: BOURNES SHOP AND HOUSE ADJOINING AT THE WEST. TQ 67 41 BRENCHLEY HIGH STREET, BRENCHLEY (south side) 15/134 Bournes shop and house adjoining at the west (formerly 20.10.54 listed as Central Stores) GV II Shop and adjoining house, forming one range with the Rose and Crown Public house (q.v.). Probably C17 in origin, altered in the C19. Framed construction, the front elevation painted white, brick on the ground floor, the first-floor tile-hung; peg-tile roof; brick stacks.</p> <p>Plan: The house faces north, directly onto High Street. The present arrangement consists of a shop at the left (east) end and a house to the right. The entrance to the house is into a cross passage, with one room beyond the passage to the right (west) with a right end stack shared with the Rose and Crown. Various rear additions of different dates. The early core is a single depth framed building, a narrow bay at the left end suggesting a smoke bay. Variations in the floor level and a substantial framed cross wall immediately Variations of the cross passage indicate that this may mark the end of the original house. The cross walls have all been altered in the C19. One in the shop has been removed, and the left hand (east) wall of the passage is C19.</p> <p>Exterior: 2 storeys and attic. Roof gabled at the left end stack— asymmetrical 4-window front. Circa mid C19 shop front at the left with projecting left and right bays glazed with 8-pane fixed windows with two panes to the outer and inner returns. Fascia</p>



	<p>board and moulded cornice above the shop windows. C19 half-glazed shop door with a rectangular overhead light. The front door to the house, approximately in the centre, is C19, the upper panels fielded with a rectangular overhead light and a flat porch hood on moulded brackets. Early C19 canted bay window to ground floor right with a flat roof, 16-pane sash to the centre, 8-pane sashes to the returns. The first-floor windows are well-preserved C18 2- and 3-light iron-framed casements, glazed with square leaded panes, retaining beautiful window furniture with handmade internal scrolled catches including one external quadrant catch. 2 attic dormers with hipped roofs, glazed with 2-light casements with square leaded panes.</p> <p>Interior: Irregular floor levels to the rear where the ground drops away to the south. Carpentry on the ground floor is partly boxed in but includes chamfered crossbeams. The shop ceiling is supported on a C19 column where an earlier cross wall has been removed. The wall-framing of the main range preserves jowled wall posts. Other interior features are largely C19, including doors, an iron grate on the first floor. Late C19/early C20 stick baluster stair.</p> <p>Roof: Clapped purlin construction, probably C18 or later. No access to the apex at the survey (1989) but sooted rafters may survive in the putative smoke bay at the left end.</p> <p>In a crucial position in the High Street in Brenchley with a beautiful exterior and an excellent C19 shop front.</p>
TQ 64 SE 149	<p>Listed Building (II) 1250068: THE BULL PUBLIC HOUSE. Public House. The 1880s, built on the site of the 'Old Bull' which burnt down. Yellow brick with red brick dressings; peg-tile roofs; brick stacks with rendered shafts. Eclectic High Victorian.</p> <p>Plan: Facing north, directly onto the High Street. Asymmetrical plan, formerly three rooms wide plus a one-room plan block at the right (west) end.</p> <p>Exterior: The lively and very intact Victorian brick exterior is an important foil to the pre 1700 tile-hung and framed buildings in the centre of the village. 2 storeys and attic. The front elevation has red brick quoins and red brick segmental arches to the recessed ground floor windows and doors, the arches continued across the front as bands of brick moulded in a guilloche ornament with a nail-head moulding below. Moulded red brick corbel table below the eaves above a frieze decorated with roundels. The front gable has a red brick toothed banding to the verges. Terra-cotta finials to the gables. Original windows throughout with moulded timber mullions, high transoms and segmental-headed mullioned lights above the transom. Asymmetrical 3-window front, plus one window to the single-storey block at the far-right end. One-window block at the left end, gabled to the front, the 2-window block, slightly set back at the right had a large half-hipped attic</p>



	<p>dormer. 2 original half-glazed doors into the right-hand block of the main range, flanking a 3-light window. Similar 3-light window to ground floor left and 2 to the single-storey block at the far-right end. Similar 2- and 3-light windows to the first floor and the attic gable and dormer. The single-storey block has a large ventilator on the ridge. The right (west) return of the main range is also very complete.</p> <p>Interior: The cross walls between the 3 rooms have been partly removed. Carved chimneypiece to the left end stack. Original joinery survives including a stair and doors.</p>
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Medieval – the assessment area demonstrates Brenchley's growth as a village, primarily around the church to the east of the river and both Church Street and the High Street to the west.

TQ 64 SE 147	<p>Listed Building (II*) 1249608: TERRY'S AND TOWN FARM COTTAGE AND TOWN FARMHOUSE. 2 houses and a shop, originally one building. Probably late C15/early C16 with 2 phases of construction. Close-studded framing, partly underbuilt in brick, partly tile-hung and partly weatherboarded. Peg-tile roof; brick stacks.</p> <p>Plan: The plan form suggests a semi-public or non-domestic function of some kind. The 5-bay main range faces west, at the east end of the High Street. The building is evidently of high status but has no obvious evidence of an original stack or smoke bay. There is an inserted axial stack to left of centre with a high quality C16 fireplace heating the main room, which has been re-partitioned to accommodate a shop in the centre and a cross passage entrance to Town Farmhouse, but which may have been one large room originally although the evidence is not clear. Smaller heated room to the left, perhaps originally unheated. The axial stack has 2 high quality first floor fireplaces. Doorway to right of centre into a later cross passage, doorway possibly re-sited when the shop front was put in. The rear right (southeast) wing, which is secondary but no later than the mid C16, is 4 bays and was probably one long room originally, the fourth bay is a smoke bay although it is not clear whether it served the long room or another room to the rear (east) where there is now an outshut. An axial stack with back-to-back fireplaces was inserted into the wing which is now 2 rooms on plan with a stair rising against the wall at the junction with the main range. It is possible that the main range was heated by a rear lateral stack which no longer exists, although no evidence of this was found on survey (1989). There are some similarities between this building and the Old Vicarage (q.v.) close by, which is also L-plan with no evidence of an original stack.</p>
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	<p>Exterior: 2 storeys. Town Farm Cottage to the left, shop front in the centre, Town Farmhouse to the right. Asymmetrical 4-window west front, the roof hipped at ends, the axial stack with staggered shafts with a corbelled brick cornice. The first floor is jettied with deep eaves supported on chamfered brackets. The close-studded framing is well-preserved and includes evidence of original blocked windows in the frame on the first and ground floor. To the right of centre a fine circa early C16 Tudor arched moulded doorframe to Town Farmhouse with a C19 door, the top panels glazed. Circa late C19 shop window and door alongside to the left. C19 panelled door to Town Farm Cottage at the extreme left. 2 3-light casements on the ground floor alongside and right of the 2 front doors, 4 first floor casement windows. These are a mixture of dates, with leaded panes. First floor window left retains C17 or C18 old glass and a sprung catch. The right return of the main block is tile hung to the footings. Beyond it, the wing is weatherboarded on the ground floor, tile-hung above. The axial stack has staggered shafts. C20 casement windows. The left return is brick to the ground floor, tile-hung above. The rear elevation of the main block preserves most of its wall-framing intact. C18 door with fielded panels to the shop. The first floor has 2 blocked original windows. Outshut at north end of the rear. The inner (north) return of the wing (Town Farmhouse) is 4 windows, and retains its original framing including original blocked windows on the first floor and an C18 mullioned ground floor window with bead-moulded mullions and diamond leaded panes.</p> <p>Interior: Rich in carpentry and other features. Town Farmhouse is very unspoiled. The main block preserves a very fine early C16 fireplace on the south side of the axial stack (in Town Farm Cottage). This has a moulded oak lintel and moulded stone jambs with a modern partition about 1.5 metres in front of it. The small room to the left (north) has a rebuilt fireplace, a chamfered step-stopped crossbeam with short, curved braces and chamfered step-stopped joists. The ceiling carpentry in the shop is concealed behind a later ceiling. The right end of the main block (Town Farmhouse) has a chamfered step-stopped axial beam and closely spaced joists of large scantling with evidence of a former stair at the right end. On the first floor the axial stack has a good, moulded fireplace above the one on the ground floor (Town Farm Cottage). The first-floor room to the left of the range (Town Farm Cottage) also has a good fireplace with a hollow-chamfered lintel and moulded stone jambs, but this is sited on the return (west) face of the stack and has probably been re-sited there. It may originally have been back-to-back with the other first floor fireplace. The first floor of Town Farm Cottage has been re-</p>
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	<p>partitioned, but the original arrangement of rooms is still evident. The tie beams have short, curved braces (some missing). A blocked rear window preserves sockets for diagonally set mullions and a shutter groove. The rear wing (Town Farmhouse) has a ceiling of intersecting step-stopped beams, with exposed joists interrupted by the inserted stack, which has a good open fireplace with brick jambs and an oak lintel in the western of the 2 principal rooms. C16 doors survive, both into the cross passage and an external door on the south side. The joists in the eastern of the two main rooms are plastered over and there is a small fireplace, possibly concealing earlier jambs and a lintel. The smoke bay at the east end of the main block is accessible from the lean-to at the end of the wing. A stair has been built inside it and it preserves heavily sooted walls from the bottom of the bay up to the apex of the roof. There is evidence of an early partition on the west side of the bay and the beam on the east side is chamfered and step-stopped: it must either be a re-used timber, or the bay was originally used from the lean-to side. The first floor above the eastern of the 2 rooms is used for storage and is open to the apex of the roof. The other first floor rooms in Town Farmhouse (which include the first floor of the main range over the shop) retain exposed ceiling beams, old wall plaster and joinery. The internal wall-framing is well-preserved with flared jowls to the wall posts throughout the building and some internal tension braces.</p> <p>Roof: Both the main range and the wing have crown post roofs, with no evidence of smoke blackening. The main range roof has plain posts with ogival down-braces to the ties and up-braces to the collar purlin, the post to right of centre chamfered with step-stops. The axial stack has interrupted the collars of the rafter couples and is clearly an insertion. The wing crown posts are all plain with 2 braces to the tie beams and 2 to the collar purlin, which has been truncated to accommodate the inserted stack. A piece of machinery, hopper of unknown function, is fixed to the southern crown post of the main range.</p> <p>This is an extremely interesting, framed building of high status, well- preserved internally and externally.</p>
TQ 64 SE 146	<p>Listed Building (II) 1249607: CHURCH HOUSE. TQ 67 41 BRENCHLEY HIGH STREET, BRENCHLEY (north side) 15/95 Church House 20.10.54 (previously listed as Church House and Church Cottage) GV II</p> <p>House, incorporating a cottage which was formerly a separate property. Circa early/mid C17 origins, re-fronted in the early C18 with some C20 internal alterations. Main block framed construction, the front elevation clad in weatherboarding, chamfered and grooved in imitation of rusticated stone, the right</p>





	<p>return tile-hung. The adjoining cottage is brick on the ground floor, first floor tile-hung over framing. Peg-tile roofs; stacks with brick shafts.</p> <p>Plan: The main block faces south, directly on to the road, the cottage forms a rear right (northeast) wing, fronting Windmill Hill giving an overall L- plan. The main block is 3-rooms wide, the 2 left hand rooms heated from back- to-back fireplaces in an axial stack, the right end room unheated. It probably originally had a lobby entrance facing the stack. The C18 re- fronting involved moving the front door to right of centre, directly into the right-hand heated room. A C20 stair rises from the rear of this room, within the rear right cottage wing. Flat-roofed single-storey C20 addition to the rear left (northwest) of the main block. The cottage is probably C18 or earlier in origin with 2 axial stacks, it may have functioned as the service wing to the C18 house.</p> <p>Exterior: 2 storeys and attic. Handsome asymmetrical 4-bay front with a parapet on paired brackets. C18 front door with 4 fielded panels in the first bay from the right (east) with a fanlight with spoke glazing bars and a gabled porch hood on moulded brackets. Disused panelled door at the extreme left end. 3 ground floor tripartite horned sashes in C18 openings, 6 panes over one in the centre, 2 over one in the outer lights. 3 first floor 16-pane horned sashes with a 12-pane horned sash above the front door. All the windows have moulded architraves. The roof is half-hipped, the axial stack has a moulded cornice. The right return of the main block, overlooking Windmill Hill, has one attic window, a probably C18 3-light casement with square leaded panes and a first floor 12-pane sash. Beyond the main block the cottage wing has 2 ground floor windows, one 3-light C20 casement and one probably C18 3-light casement with square leaded panes and a large first floor circa early C20 gabled dormer with a 3-tier window.</p> <p>Interior: Exposed carpentry with evidence of repair and re-use of timbers. The left-hand heated room has a C17 fireplace with jambs of large sandstone blocks and a chamfered lintel. Exposed carpentry in most of the first-floor rooms of the main block. Circa early C19 stick baluster stair to the attic.</p> <p>Roof: Timbers concealed by plaster.</p> <p>Church House occupies a crucial position in an outstanding village, sited opposite the church and on a prominent corner site.</p>
TQ 64 SE 2	<p>Listed Building (I) 1249609: PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS. (TQ 67964170) All Saint's Church (NAT). The Church of All Saints, Brenchley, is cruciform in plan with north and south aisles and west tower. The nave arcades are 13th century. There is a plain large archway on the south side of the western tower. It has no Norman features, and its position agrees with that of the Saxon example at Barton-on-Humber (see TA 02 SW 15). In normal use. All Saints', Brenchley is not mentioned in catalogue of Anglo-Saxon</p>





	<p>fabric surviving in English churches. 14/1 Church of All Saints, Brenchley. Grade B. Parish Church. Strongly buttressed Western tower. The nave arcades are 13th century, the clerestory Perpendicular. The window shafts of the transeptal chapels are Early English. Over the place of the former rood is a "celura" of blue painted panels with floriated crosses and coloured bosses. Of the old chancel screen only the lowest stage remains. There is an Italian Renaissance frieze and linen-fold work with elaborate ornament above. Circular rood interior staircase. 14th century porch. Interesting brasses. The Church yard is approached through modern lych gate and the path leading to the porch is lined by double row of ancient, clipped yews. All Saints, a sandstone church, the tower contains Perpendicular windows but a 14th century doorway. Chancel rebuilt in the restorations of 1814 by John Montier and 1849 by Clarke. The nave and aisles date from the 13th century. Additional bibliography - not consulted. (8-9) Parish Church of All Saints. Some evidence of pre C13 masonry; nave, aisles and probably tower all C13; C14 and porch and nave roof; C15 alterations. Chancel rebuilt by John Montier of Tunbridge Wells in 1814; thorough restoration of 1849 to the designs of Joseph Clarke. Grade I.</p>
TQ 64 SE 121	<p>Listed Building (II*) 1250138: THE OLD VICARAGE. House, formerly vicarage, C16 origins with various phases of extension and refurbishment including a fine late C17 parlour. The house incorporates a former C19 shop (previously listed separately) and a probably early C20 store associated with the shop. The early parts of the house are of framed construction, the east elevation plastered on the ground floor, weatherboarded on the first floor, the south elevation tile-hung with bands of scalloped tiles, all painted white. Some exposed close-studding to the west elevation. peg-tile roof; brick stacks. The former shop is brick, the first floor of the front elevation weatherboarded; slate roof. Plan: Complex evolution. The house is basically L-plan. The east facing entrance block is 2-cell with an entrance to right of the centre into a passage that now extends to the far west end of the house. The right hand (north) room, probably originally unheated, is heated from a rear lateral stack. The larger left-hand room is heated from an axial stack in the extended rear left (southwest) wing with the late C17 parlour beyond it heated from a back-to-back fireplace in the same stack. The angle of the L has been filled in, probably piecemeal, by two other wings, one on a north-south axis parallel to the entrance block, another at right angles, parallel to the rear left wing. The shop, facing northeast, encloses the complex on the High Street side. At the west end of the complex, sited behind the Bull Public House, there is a single-storey kitchen and, beyond it at the extreme west end of the site, a substantial early C20 store. It is difficult to sort out the precise sequence of</p>





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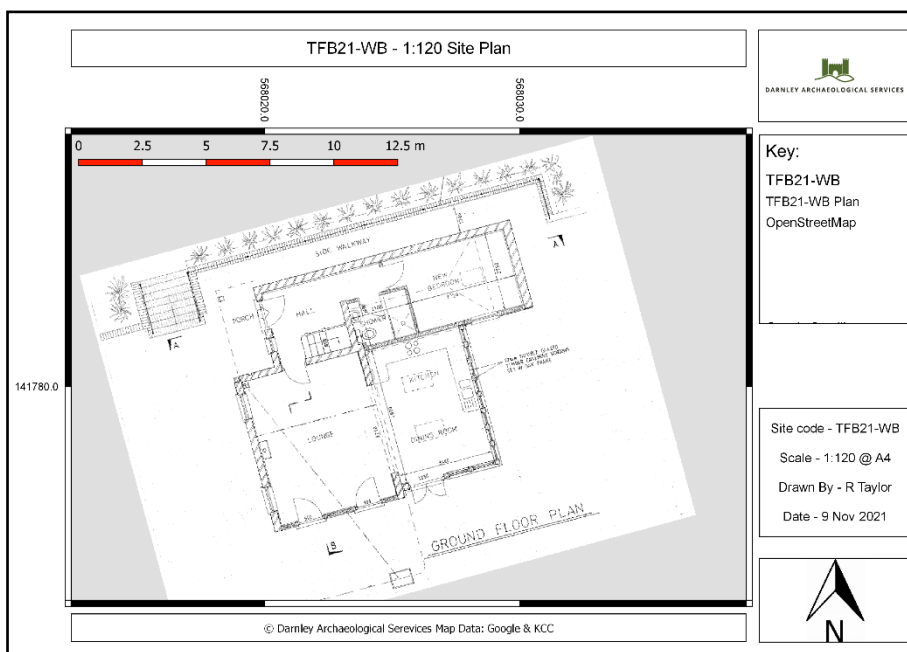
	<p>the early parts of this multi-phase building. Both the entrance block and the rear left wing have plain un-sooted crown post roofs of an early C16 character, the axial stack in the wing being an insertion. The entrance block was longer than it is at present. The C19 shop truncates the 3-bay roof. The whole complex is sited partly within the churchyard, in its northwestern corner. The location of the building and the absence of a stack or smoke-bay to the wing suggests that it may have functioned as a church or guild house.</p>
TQ 64 SE 51	<p>Listed Building (II*) 1263658: THE OLD PALACE. TQ 67914180) The Old Palace. (NAT). (2) The Old Palace, Grade II (now several tenements) was once the mansion of the Roberts family and probably dates from the late 15th century. It reproduces the typical features of the Kentish Yeoman's house. (3) The Old Palace, a long-range, half-timbered above the overhang. A nearer view reveals that barely a timber is old. The gables added c.1890. Inside Mr A Baker reports, a very large Wealden house with a moulded post-and-plank high-end screen remains. (4) The descendants of George Roberts long resided in one of the old timber buildings in Brenchley High Street. Although now cut up into several cottage tenements, the house is still interesting as one of few remaining timber buildings of the Elizabethan era. (5) Additional bibliography not consulted. (6) The Old Palace, house, divided into council houses circa mid C15 origins, C17 additions, restoration of circa 1880. Grade II. (7)</p>



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. All work was undertaken following the methods set out within the WSI⁵, according to best practice as set out by ClfA.
- 4.2. The archaeological Watching Brief work consisted of a large rectangular trench measuring approximately 11.5m x 10.5m and to a depth of approximately 1.0m as part of the groundworks for the conversion of a traditional building into a 2-bedroom dwelling and erection of a single-storey rear extension, which was observed to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains.
- 4.3. Given the site's location *within a recognised area of Medieval and Post-Medieval activity in and around the Brenchley village core, the probability of locating buried archaeology or associated artefacts was considered **medium** in the WSI.*
- 4.4. The Watching Brief aimed to:
 - **Ensure that the planned excavations at the site are observed and that features of archaeological interest are correctly examined and recorded, as per planning application 21/00706/FULL**
- 4.5. The objectives of this development project are to:
 - **View & record excavation of groundworks for the new building(s) & drains and assess any building demolition results.**
- 4.6. Excavation areas were set out according to the plans (Fig 5). Locations were recorded using GNSS.

⁵ Birkbeck, F. & Taylor, R., 2021, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Town Farm Shambles, High Street, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 7NH* (Darnley Archaeological Services Ltd)



(Fig 5 – 1:1200 TFB21-WB Proposed Site Plan)

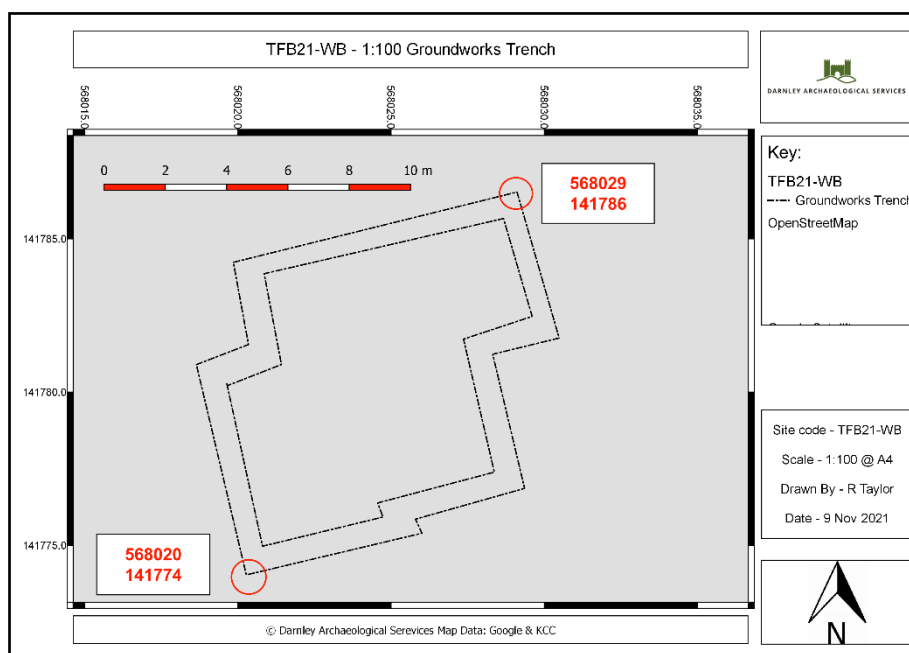
Excavation

- 4.7. All groundworks were excavated using a machine and bucket. However, any contexts or features of archaeological interest were further excavated by hand by the archaeologist present.



5. RESULTS

- 5.1. The observations comprised a series of groundwork trenches. The archaeological Watching Brief work consisted of a large rectangular trench measuring approximately 11.5m x 10.5m, to a depth of approximately 1.0m and covering an area of approximately 110.0m² as part of the groundworks for the conversion of a traditional building into a 2-bedroom dwelling and erection of a single-storey rear extension.



(Fig 6 – 1:100 TFB21-WB Groundworks Trench Plan)

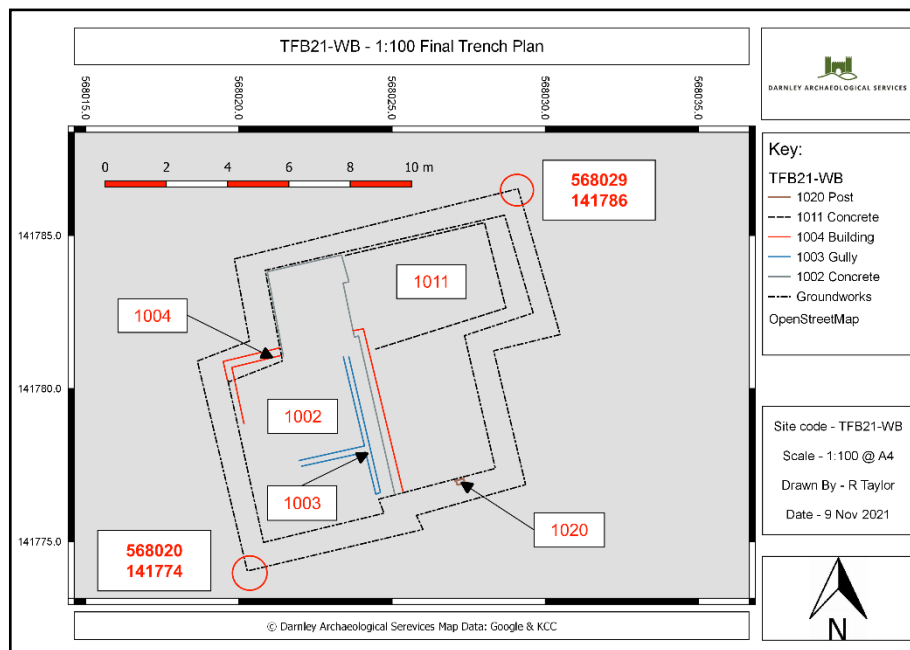
- 5.2. The archaeological features encountered were the original foundation structure of the rectangular building/slaughterhouse, subsequent additions attached to the rectangular structure, and artefacts associated with its use, primarily as a slaughterhouse for the nearby butcher's shop.
- 5.3. A total of three phases associated with the site were established during the excavation:
- Phase 1 = Geological
 - Phase 2 = Post-Medieval (c.1750 AD to c.1945 AD)
 - Phase 3 = Modern (After c.1945 AD)
- 5.4. No significant archaeological remains were discovered, though the original foundation structure of the rectangular building/slaughterhouse, subsequent additions attached to the rectangular structure is shown in Fig 7.
- 5.5. During the excavation, a total of twenty-one contexts over three phases were investigated and recorded (Table 1):



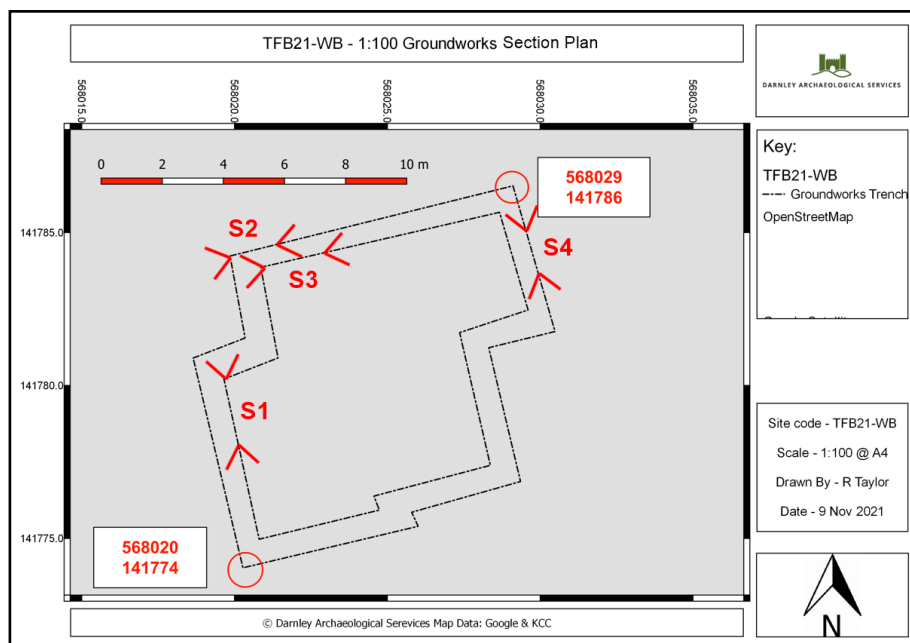
Context List (MPAL21-WB)				
Context No.	Trench	Type	Description	Phase
1001	All	Layer	Topsoil – Loose mid-brown sandy clay (recent deposit?)	3
1002	All	Structure	Concrete floor surface	3
1003	All	Structure	Gully molded into 1002	3
1004	All	Structure	Brick built wall structure of slaughterhouse	2
1005	All	Structure	Brick floor surface under 1002	2
1006	All	Layer	Dirty brown sandy clayey subsoil	2
1007	All	Layer	Dirty orange/brown re-deposited natural	2
1008	All	Layer	Orange mottled grey silty sand (natural)	1
1009	All	Structure	Concrete path/area surrounding 1002	3
1010	All	Layer	Light brown sandy clay bedding for 1005	2
1011	All	Structure	Concrete surface for lean-to extension	2
1012	All	Layer	Redeposited natural combined with crushed roof tile as foundation bedding for 1013	2
1013	All	Structure	Brick floor under 1002	2
1014	All	Structure	Foundation footings in the southeast corner of the building	2
1015	All	Layer	Light brown sandy clay bedding for 1014	2
1016	All	Structure	Foundation cut for 1014	2
1017	All	Fill	Fill of 1016	2
1018	All	Cut	Cut for building post 1020	2
1019	All	Fill	Fill of Posthole 1018	2
1020	All	Structure	Building post	2
1021	All	Cut	Cut for 1004	2

(Table 1 – TFB21-WB Context List)

5.6. The groundworks comprised a series of rectangular groundworks measuring approximately 11.5m x 10.5m, to a depth of approximately 1.0m, where superficial geology was encountered. Sections 1-4 demonstrate the stratigraphic sequences observed on site and are mapped in Fig 8.



(Fig 7 – 1:100 TFB21-WB Final Trench Plan)



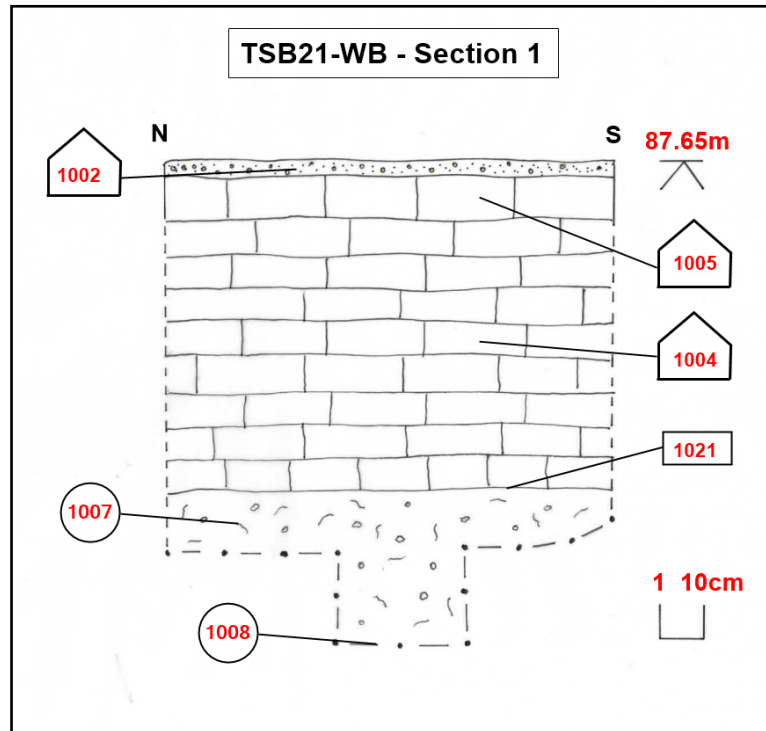
(Fig 8 – 1:100 TFB21-WB Final Section Plan)

5.7. Section 1 illustrates (Figs 9 & 10) a minimal spread (up to 0.05m) of 1001, 0.1m of 1001, a loose mid-brown sandy clay in patches around the site; likely a recent deposit because of the landscaping/demolition that has taken place in preparation for the development work. 1001 sits above 1002, 0.05m of a concrete floor surface, likely in use after c.1945 AD. 1002 sits above 1005, an earlier brick floor surface, probably associated with the Georgian/Victorian period(s) of use as a slaughterhouse. 1005 sits atop of 1004; the



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underlying brick Flemish bonded walls of the original structure. 1004's foundation cut, 1021, would've been cut into the superficial geology (1008), an orange mottled grey silty clay, though the cut is difficult to see in the groundworks. The initial foundation of 1004 is a poorly bonded course of header bricks. Surrounding the lower six to eight courses of brick is 1007, a dirty orange/brown sandy clay, which has the appearance of redeposited superficial geology filling the foundation cut and surrounding the lower courses of 1004. At the base of the sondage seen in Figs 7 & 8, the superficial geology 1008, an orange/brown mottled grey silty sand, can be seen.



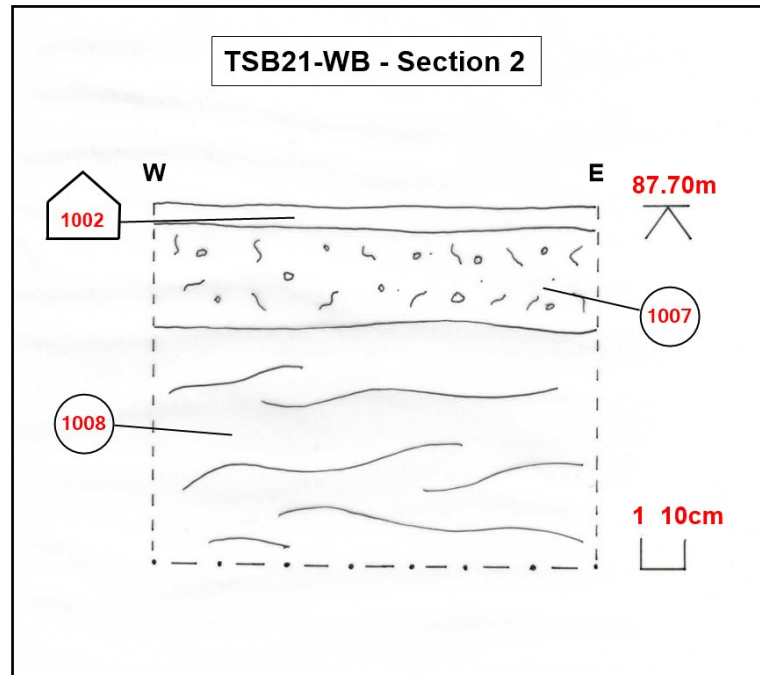
(Fig 9 – Section 1 looking east)



(Fig 10 – Looking east at Section 1)



5.8. Section 2 illustrates (Figs 11 & 12) 0.05-0.08m of 1002 sits above c.0.2m of 1007, a dirty orange/brown sandy clay, which appears redeposited superficial geology filling the foundation cut surrounding the lower courses of 1004. Crucially, there is no evidence for 1004 or 1005 extending north. Therefore, although the modern concrete surface 1002 appears as an interior surface, it also surrounds the original building/slaughterhouse footprint. 1007 sits above an undetermined depth of 1008, an orange/brown mottled grey silty sand, believed to be superficial geology.



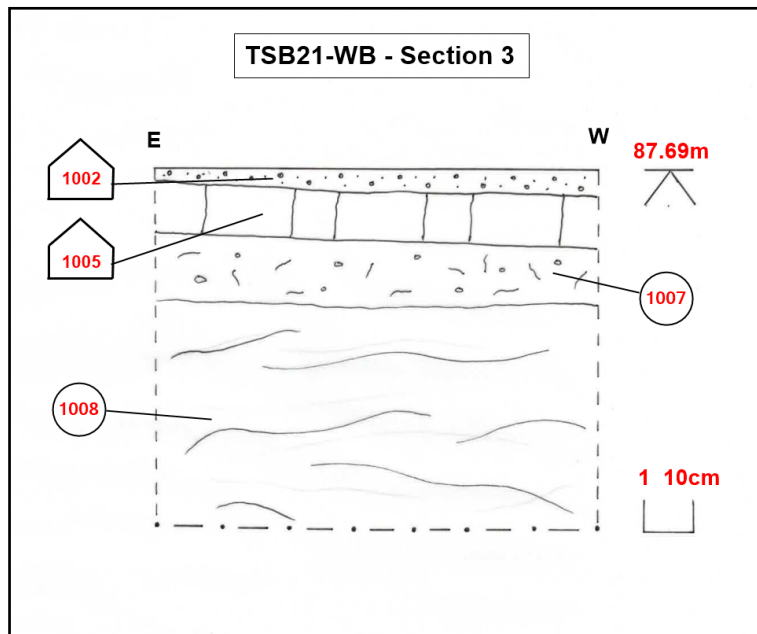
(Fig 11 – Section 2 looking north)



(Fig 12 – Looking north at Section 2)



5.9. Section 3 illustrated (Figs 13 & 14) 0.05-0.08m of 1002 sits above 1005, an earlier brick floor surface, probably associated with the Georgian/Victorian period(s) of use as a slaughterhouse. Interestingly, there is no evidence of 1004 in Section 3, which implies that 1005 also skirted the outer perimeter of the building. Below 1005 is c.0.15m of 1007, a dirty orange/brown sandy clay, which appears redeposited superficial geology filling the foundation cut and surrounding the lower courses of 1004. 1007 sits above an undetermined depth of 1008, an orange/brown mottled grey silty sand, believed to be superficial geology.



(Fig 13 – Section 3 looking south)

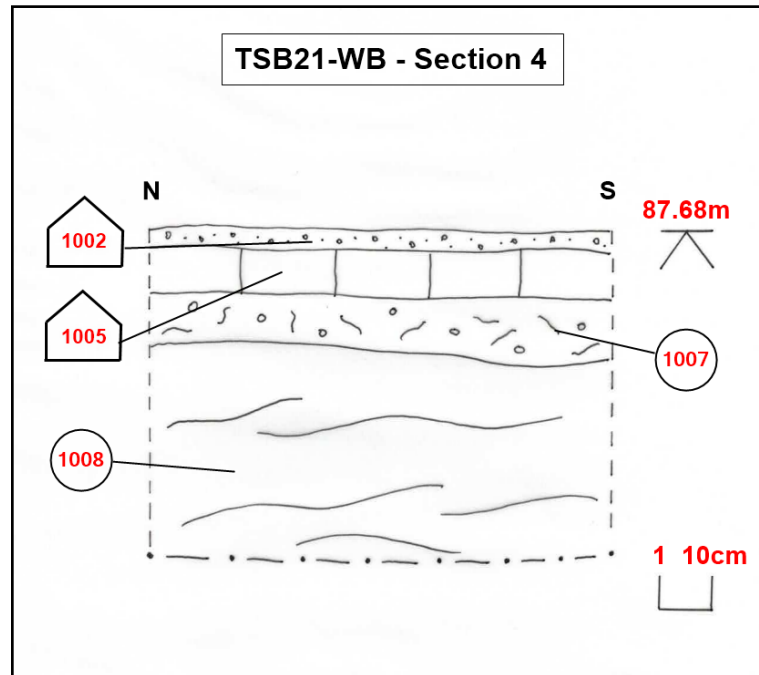


(Fig 14 – Looking south at Section 3)

5.10. Section 4 illustrates (Figs 15 & 16) a continuity of stratigraphy on the site's east side. 0.05-0.08m of 1002 sits above 1005, an earlier brick floor surface, and indicates that



1005 extended east, perhaps to provide a floor surface for a lean-to, or similar timber structure, attached to the original building. No evidence of 1004 in Section 4. Below 1005 is c.0.2m of 1007, a dirty orange/brown sandy clay, which appears redeposited superficial geology filling the foundation cut and surrounding the lower courses of 1004. 1007 sits above an undetermined depth of 1008, an orange/brown mottled grey silty sand, believed to be superficial geology.

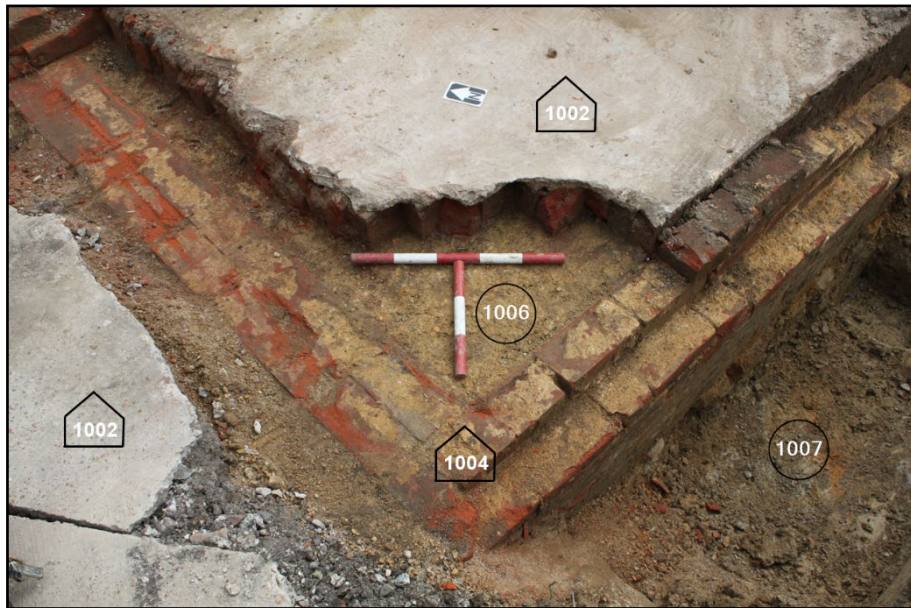


(Fig 15 – Section 4 looking east)



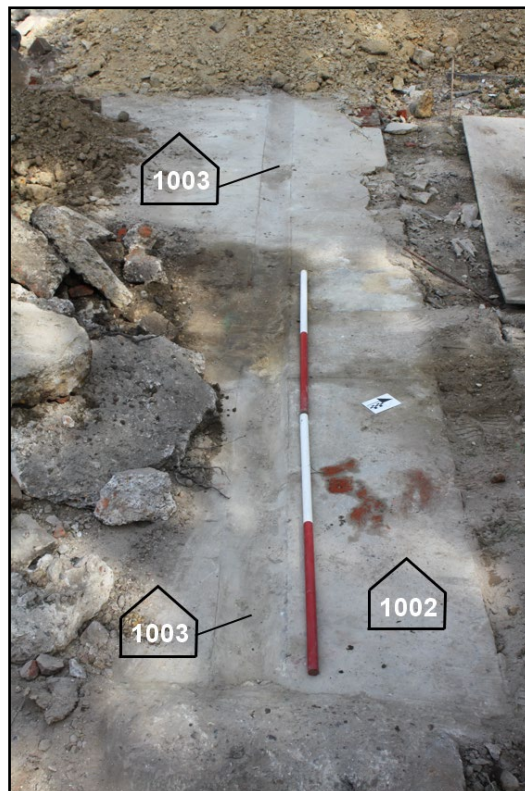
(Fig 16 – Looking east at Section 4)

5.11. Fig 17 illustrates the various construction sequences for 1004 in plan. 1004 is a rectangular structure built of brick using a Flemish bond. The bricks are c.60mm thickness implying a construction date of c.1700 - 1800 AD. 1005 appears to be an earlier brick floor surface; the floor is one brick in depth and loosely bonded to 1006, a dirty brown clayey subsoil, which may be contemporary with 1007. It was hypothesized that 1006 might have been used as a floor surface as it is more compacted than 1007. However, without corroborating evidence, this hypothesis will have to remain as a possibility only.



(Fig 17 - looking east at the northwest corner of building 1004)

5.12. Fig 18 illustrates the modern concrete surface 1002, presumably constructed for the slaughterhouse's continued operation. The gully 1003 is seen built into 1002, likely to channel the flow of animal blood.

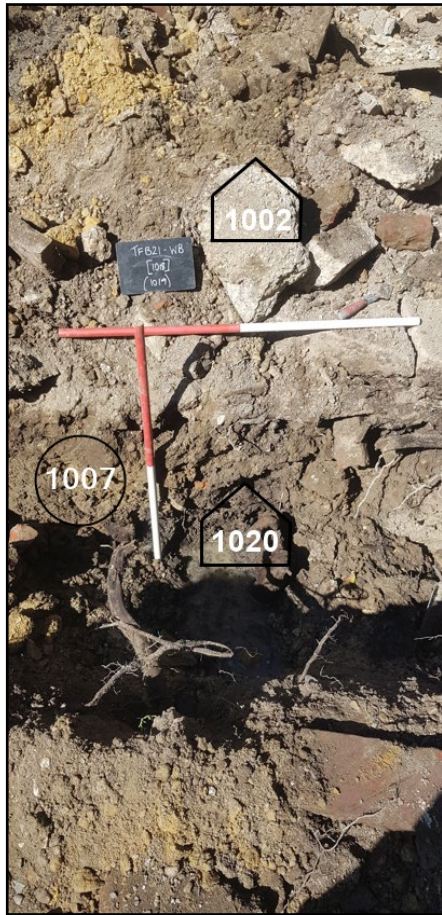


(Fig 18 – looking northwest at gully 1003)





- 5.13. Figs 19 & 20 illustrate 1020, a large wooden post sunken upright into 1008 to the east of 1004 and likely formed a structural part of a lean-to, attached to the original building. 1020 appears to have been snapped off at below ground level, but not recently.



(Fig 19 – looking north at 1020 in-situ)



(Fig 20 – Building post 1020)



6. FINDS

6.1. A small number of finds were recovered during the watching brief with a probable date range of c.1750 to 1970 AD, all of which are characteristic of the site's use as a slaughterhouse serving the butcher's shop.

6.2. An assemblage of pottery comprising four pieces was recovered from 2 contexts on the site.

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1007	8	c.1750-1850 D to 1900 AD	Kentish red earthenware bowl rim with iron-streaked red glaze (12.1) & sherd German stoneware (12.2)
1010	1	c.1750 to 1850 AD	Kentish red earthenware bowl handle with iron-streaked red/brown glaze (12.3)
1015	1	c.1800-1900 AD	Victorian Porcelain
1017	2	c.1800-1900 AD	Victorian Porcelain

6.3. Two fragments of roof single piece of CBM were recovered from context 1001.

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1007	2	c.1750 – 1800 AD	Fragments of Kentish peg roof tile – one possibly hip tile fragment.

6.4. A single shard of window glass was recovered from context 1007.

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1007	1	Before c.1750 to 1850 AD	Thin window glass with a blue hue (12.5).

6.5. A single sauce bottle was recovered from the upper portion of context 1007

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1007	1	c.1875 to 1900 AD	Typical Goodall & Backhouse Yorkshire Relish bottle (12.4).

6.6. Two iron nails were recovered from 2 contexts on site

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
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1007	1	??	3-inch nail
1017	1	??	5-inch nail

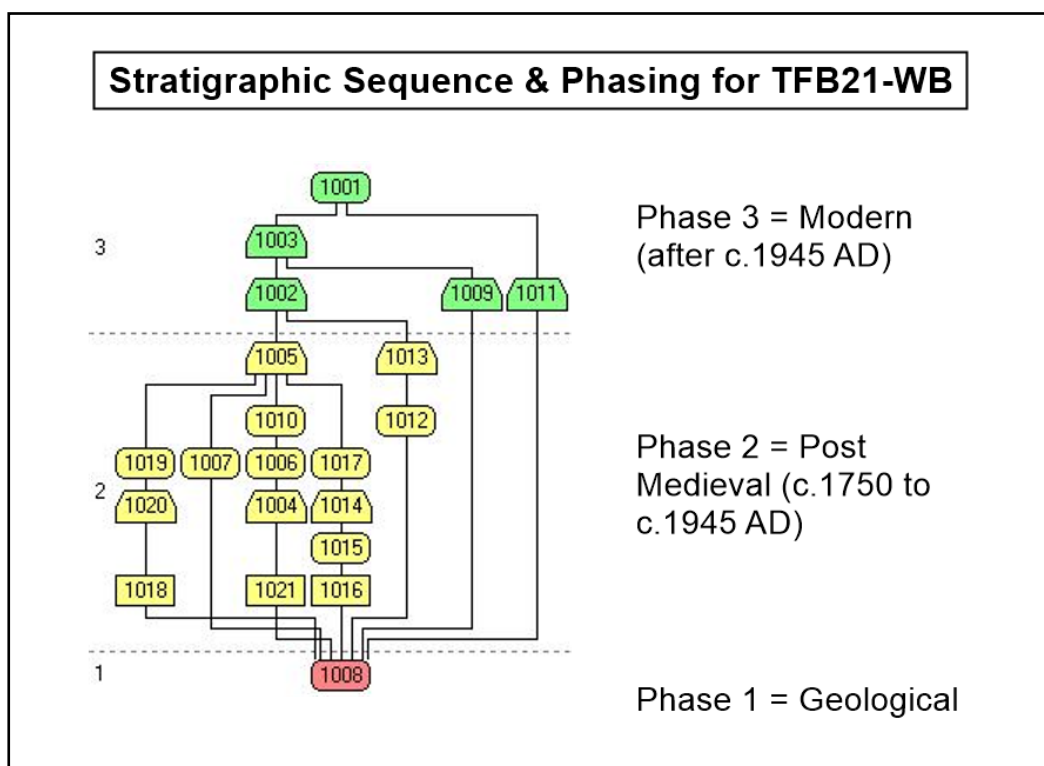
6.7. Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from context 1007

Context	No of pieces	Date range	Description
1007	2	??	Animal bone – probably joint bones (12.6).



7. INTERPRETATION

- 7.1. The results of the watching brief revealed phasing and a stratigraphic sequence for the site's past from c.1750 AD to the present day, confirming use as a slaughterhouse to service the nearby butcher's shop
- 7.2. The groundworks provided an understanding of the below-ground stratigraphy; important particularly as the building/structure was deemed unsafe and demolished.
- 7.3. The below-ground stratigraphic sequence, structural and artefact evidence observed during the Watching Brief suggests the building has likely been on site from c.1750 AD, perhaps even earlier. However, no evidence was observed to support this. Perhaps pre- or post-Second World War, evidence for modernisation is evident as a new, concrete surface was established. Ad-hoc lean-to structures have been added over time. However, the original annexe or lean-to, characterized by the presence of 1020 sunken into the superficial natural, had likely been demolished before the modernization phase characterized by 1002.
- 7.4. The following stratigraphic sequence summarises the phasing of the site:



(Fig 21 – TFB21-WB Stratigraphic Sequence)



8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1. The Watching Brief has fulfilled the KCC Watching Brief Specification aims and objectives and the Written Scheme of Investigation. The groundworks demonstrated a stratigraphic sequence (Fig 21), confirming the site as a building that served as a slaughterhouse to the nearby butcher's shop on the High Street. The original structure required demolition as it was considered unsafe. However, the client preserved a photographic record of the structure before demolition. These images can be found in Appendix C. No significant archaeological features were observed, and the site's archaeological significance is considered low/medium and recorded accordingly.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1. Sincere thanks are extended to the client and groundworks crew for permission to access the site and their patience during the archaeological process.

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www.bgs.ac.uk

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



11. APPENDIX A – SITE IMAGES

Image	Description
	<p>11.1</p> <p>Looking west through the northern aspect of groundworks.</p>
	<p>11.2</p> <p>Looking northwest across the site whilst groundworks are being excavated.</p>
	<p>11.3</p> <p>Looking South at the emerging of 1004 and 1007 on the west part of the site, 1002 in the foreground.</p>



12. APPENDIX B - FINDS IMAGES







Image	Description
	12.1 Kentish red earthenware with the iron-streaked red glaze (c.1750-1850 AD) from 1007.
	12.2 German stoneware c.1800 AD from 1007.
	12.3 Kentish red earthenware bowl handle with iron-streaked red/brown glaze (c.1750 – 1900 AD) from 1010.



Image	Description
	12.4 Goodall & Backhouse Yorkshire Relish bottle (c.1850 – 1900 AD) from 1007
	12.5 Thin window glass (c.1700 – 1800 AD) from 1007.
	12.6 Animal bone from 1007.





13. APPENDIX C – STRUCTURE IMAGES

TOWN FARM SHAMBLES

(1)



OVERALL LOOK OF BUILDING
DECEMBER 2020!



TOWN FARM SHAMBLES.

A



ROTTEN TIMBER
SPOKE WOOD AND
CHIPPING.



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