

1-6 Manwood's Hospital, St Stephens Green, Hackington, Canterbury

Archaeological Watching Brief Summary Report

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NGR: 614695 159155
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Summary

In June 2015 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in gardens to the rear of 1-6 Manwood's Hospital, St Stephens Green, Hackington, Canterbury (NGR 614695 159155), in advance of the proposed development of four new almshouses and associated infrastructure (planning references CA/13/02201/FUL and CA/15/00991/VAR). The site area forms part of the hospital complex, founded by Sir Roger Manwood, and probably erected around 1570. The monitoring was subsequent to an evaluation conducted in April 2014 (Mayne 2014).

No significant archaeological features apart from a few post-medieval and modern pits were observed and only a few finds were recovered.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SUMMARY REPORT

COUNTY: Kent	TOWN/PARISH: Canterbury	DATE: 18/06/2015
RECORDING BODY: Canterbury Archaeological Trust		Individual(s) Phil Mayne
SITE NAME: 1-6 Manwood's Hospital, St Stephens Green, Hackington, Canterbury CAT REF. CODE: SRMA WB 15		Archive Number: 3403 CAT Ref: 2016/23 Plan. Refs: CA//13/02201 (condition 15) and CA/15/00991/VAR (condition 11)
NGR: 614695 159155		ELEVATION: Approximately 16.5m O.D.
TOPOGRAPHY: The site area is situated within gardens to the rear (north-west) of the Manwood Hospital almshouses. The development was mostly within the rear garden. The ground in the area of development sloped slightly down to the south-east.		NATURAL GEOLOGY: (According to the BGS): Bedrock geology: Thanet Formation Superficial geology: Head clay and silt (Brickearth), although Second Terrace River Gravel outcrops just to the north of the site (British Archaeological Survey Map of Britain)
FORMER LAND-USE: Domestic gardens	FUTURE LAND-USE: Four proposed new almshouses, parking and access	
LAND-OWNER: Sir Rodger Manwood Hospital Trust	TENANT: N/A	
TYPE OF EXCAVATION: The ground works consisted of trench excavation for the new almshouses, and reduction of the level of the ground to the north-east for an extended parking area (see Fig. 1). This was carried out by mechanical excavator using a 0.60m wide ditching bucket within the proposed development area (PDA). Two separate areas were monitored during this process. Around the footprint of the proposed new almshouses the excavation of foundation trenches was observed. Due to the slope of the garden, these were shallower to the south-east. The trench was 1.05m deep along the north western side, only 0.46m deep along the south eastern side forming a level base to the footing. Only the trench along the north western edge of the PDA could have impacted on the potential archaeological horizon (recorded in the earlier evaluation at about 0.8m depth; Mayne 2014). The area of ground to the north east of this footprint, which formed the proposed site of a new parking area, was reduced by 0.60m along the north-eastern side and 0.95m along the south-eastern edge of the area.		

EXTENT OF EXCAVATION (Sizes):

The footprint of the proposed new alms houses measured approximately 10metres wide north-west to south-east and 28.20m long south-west to north-east. The area of the extended parking measured approximately 5.45m wide north-west to south- east and 2.8m south west - north east.

NATURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION:

Groundworks monitoring through a scheme of an Archaeological Watching Brief was intermittently maintained during the period of excavation.

GENERAL SOIL SEQUENCE:

Within the footprint of the proposed new alms houses natural subsoil consisting of orange brown sandy gravel was observed intermittently only along the north-western edge of the PDA. The natural formed an undulating profile before sloping gradually away to the north-east. At its shallowest point it was observed at a elevation of approximately 16.48m OD (comparable with the earlier evaluation (Mayne 2014). It was overlaid along the entire length of the PDA by a horizontal layer of pale grayish clayey silt and gravel (308) with a minimum thickness of 0.34m [recorded as pale greyish brown sandy silty clay up to 0.40m thick in the evaluation]. The observations were compatible with those made during the evaluation, that this deposit was an accumulation of soil, probably formed by protracted agricultural activity such as ploughing (or perhaps from gardening activity relating to the almshouses). A small number of residual pottery sherds consisting of fragments of Tyler Hill ware with a date range of AD 1350-1450 and a fragment of glazed Woolwich red ware dated AD 1650-1700 were retrieved from the layer, probably displaced from earlier activity in the area by agricultural activity.

A cluster of rubbish pits [301], [303], [305] and [307] cut layer (308) and were located along only the north western edge of the development area. Pottery from the fills of [300], [302] and [304] suggested a nineteenth century date for these features. A large modern brick rubble filled feature [310], perhaps a soak-away, also cut layer (308) towards the northern corner of the PDA.

A horizontal layer of pale grey brown silty clay loam forming the original top soil overlaid (309) and sealed the cut features. The layer was observed the entire length of the north western edge of the PDA. It was up to 0.22m thick and overlaid by the present ground level which consisted of turf.

Within the area of ground to the north east forming the site of the proposed extended parking area, the natural subsoil was not encountered. The earliest level consisted of a horizontal leveling deposit composed of light brown silty clay and gravel flecked with yellow sandy clay with inclusions of brick fragments and peg tile fragments. It had a minimum thickness of 0.42m, its full thickness was not known. The deposit was observed across the entire area reduced and may have formed the fill of an old quarry (Mayne 2014). This was overlaid by the present ground surface composed of dark brown top soil.

FINDS AND NOTES:

Only a relatively small assemblage of pottery was recovered (see above).

FUTURE POTENTIAL OF AREA:

The only area impacted on significantly by the development was the narrow foundation trench on the north-western side of the PDA where a small number of nineteenth and early twentieth century rubbish pits and other features were identified. Elsewhere in the development area the archaeological horizon was not affected. In view of the evidence of known archaeological finds within the PDA found during the archaeological evaluation, there is still some potential for more significant archaeological features to be present within the curtilage of the property.

References

Mayne, P., 2014, *1-6 Manwood's Hospital, St Stephen's Green. Hackington. Canterbury, Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished CAT Report 2014/61

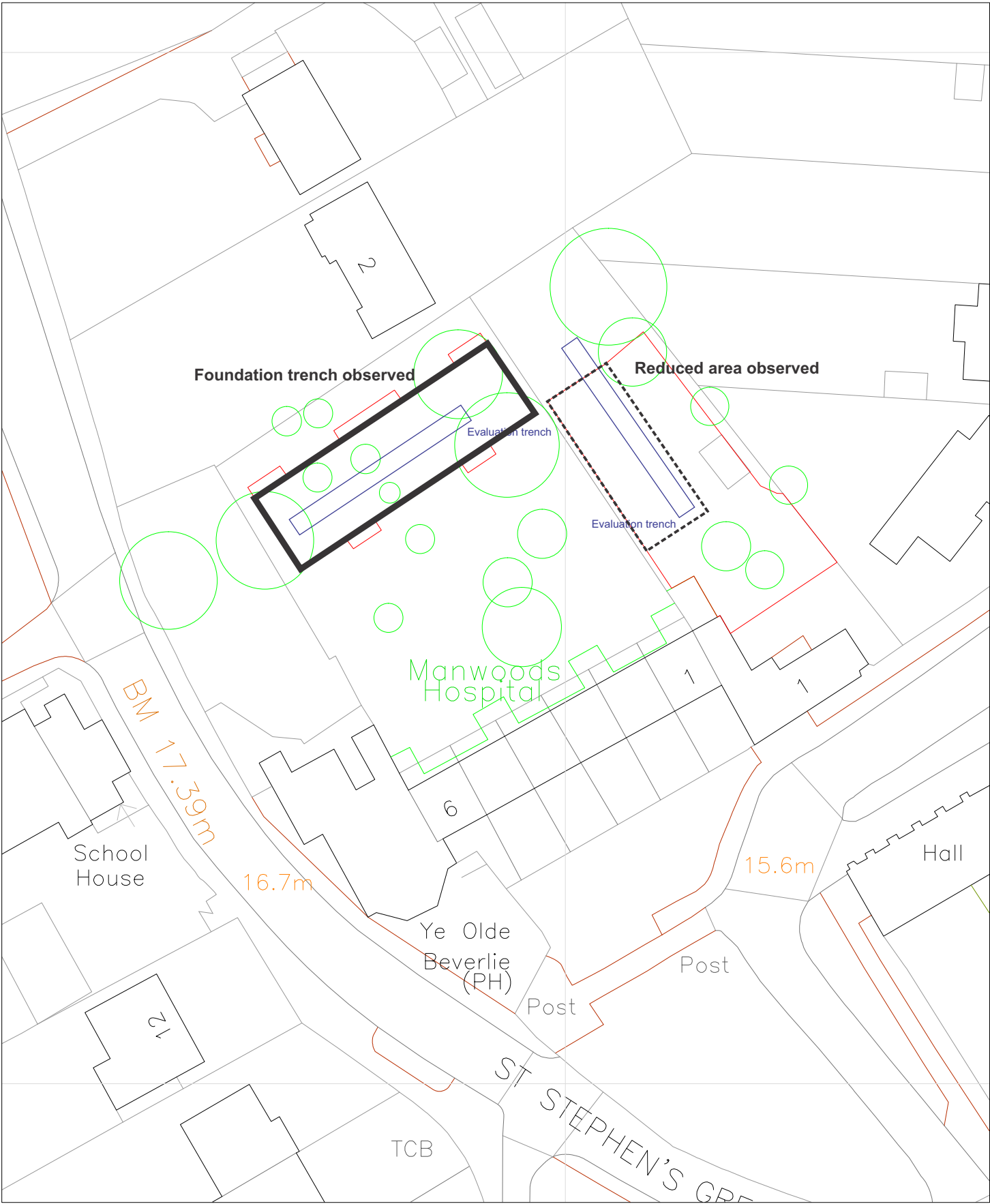


Figure 1: Watching brief observation locations

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	SITE ADDRESS Sir roger MANwoods's Hospital St Stephen's Green Hackington Canterbury	CHECKED ---	
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Plate 1: The site, looking north-east



Plate 2: The foundation trench, looking north-east. Scale 1m



Plate 3: The extended car-park area looking north



Plate 4: The extended car-park area stripped, looking north