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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

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**Canterbury Cricket Club  
St Lawrence Ground  
Old Dover Road  
Canterbury  
Kent**

**June 2016**

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## Summary

*Between April and June 2016, a programme of archaeological monitoring through a continuous scheme of an archaeological watching brief was maintained during construction work by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent. (NGR TR 615846 156652). These work were conducted in response to a condition imposed on a planning application for the erection of sixty retirement living apartments with associated services, car-parking, a new access drive and general landscaping (planning ref: CA/15/00870). This programme of works involved archaeological monitoring during the ground work phase of the development in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to, and approved by, the Canterbury City Council's Heritage officer in advance of groundwork commencement.*

*These works followed two separate phases of archaeological evaluation of the site, SWAT Archaeology in 2005 and again by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 2008 and 2013 where limited archaeological finds feature and deposits were encountered.*

*In line with the three previous evaluation schemes, only limited features of archaeological consequence were encountered during the archaeological watching brief. No significant finds were recovered from any of the new features.*

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at the St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. Commissioned by CgMs Consulting, in response to a proposed development, the proposed works comprised of the *'Erection of 60 retirement living apartments with associated facilities, improvements to the cricket ground including landscaping, re-organisation of the supermarket car park and formation of new vehicular access'*.
- 1.1.2 A planning application (ref: CA/15/00870, see also CA/16/00528) currently approved was submitted to Canterbury City Council as the Local Planning Authority, to which Canterbury City Council through their appointed Archaeological Heritage Officer have attached the following archaeological condition:

*Prior to the commencement of development, the implementation of a scheme for the archaeological monitoring and recording of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of identifying and recording any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same; the following components shall each be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority:*

- a) A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*
- b) A report summarising the results of the investigations to be submitted within 28 days of completion of the archaeological watching brief (unless otherwise agreed), to be produced in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*
- c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations.*
- d) Where relevant, a programme of post-excavation analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Field work, including further mitigation measures and post-excavation works shall be completed in accordance with approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

*REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality.*

- 1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was composed on behalf of CgMs Consulting by Canterbury Archaeological Trust and submitted to the local planning authority for approval in

March 2016. The WSI recommended a programme of archaeological monitoring to comprise a watching brief during groundworks located within the Proposed Development Area (PDA).

- 1.1.4 The recommended archaeological monitoring was undertaken by senior archaeologists Mr. P Mayne and Mr. M Charlwood, between April 26<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 under the project management of Mr. A Linklater all of Canterbury Archaeological Trust.
- 1.1.5 The works were further monitored by Ms. R. Cummings (Canterbury City Council Archaeological Heritage Officer) on behalf of Canterbury City Council and by Mr. D Hawkins of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.1.6 The Canterbury Archaeological Trust is a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.

## **1.2 Location and geology**

- 1.2.1 The St Lawrence Cricket Ground is located on the south-west side of Old Dover Road approximately 1.5 km to the south-east of the centre of Canterbury (Fig. 1). The proposed development area (PDA) is sited fronting Old Dover Road extending across the north-east part of the ground. It is bounded to the north-east by Old Dover Road, to the south-east by Nackington Road, to the south-west by the formal cricket pitch and the north-west by Kent County Cricket Club administration building. The main access to the KCCC grounds is via Old Dover Road. The site is largely flat and lies just off the ridge of land that defines the southern edge of the Stour Valley (at c. 36–30 m O.D.).
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) of Great Britain records the underlying bedrock geology on the site as Margate Chalk Member – Chalk, which is overlain by a drift geological sequence of Head – Clay and Silt (Geological Survey of Great Britain: England and Wales; 1:50 000; Sheet 289). This was confirmed during a watching brief on geotechnical investigations and previous evaluation of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) (Found 2006; Holman 2008; Holman and Atherden 2013).

## **1.3 Archaeological potential**

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located within an area of archaeological potential, with a known Roman road (A2 Watling Street, now Old Dover Road) lying immediately to the northeast of the site and the remains associated with the medieval hospital of St Lawrence to the north-west. However three individual phases of archaeological investigations were previously undertaken across the Proposed Development Area (PDA) in 2005, 2008 and 2013 to provide a detailed understanding of the archaeological potential, all of which indicated that remains within the Proposed Development Area (PDA) were limited. This was also demonstrated in 2011, when strip and map of the area immediately to the north-west of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) that included an area now occupied by Sainsbury's and the main access road, which extended to the boundary with Old Dover Road, revealed minimal archaeological activity.

### **1.3.2 Prehistoric**

During the prehistoric period the site appeared to have been occupied by open fields, as indicated by two ditches identified in 2013 (Holman and Atherden 2013, Fig. 13). These lay on an east–west alignment that is somewhat different to that of the north-west to south-east axis of the adjacent Roman road (Watling Street). It is probable that these fields were associated with settlement that lay to the west of the St Lawrence Ground, probably sited beneath what is now the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. The presence of such a settlement is suggested by work to the west of the hospital on the site of the former Ridland’s Farm (Jon Rady pers comm). An isolated cremation burial excavated within the Proposed Development Area (PDA) in 2008 (previously thought to be of Roman) is now considered to also have been of prehistoric date (Holman and Atherden 2013). Elsewhere two prehistoric features were identified on the Bat and Ball site, with further isolated features located within 500m of the Proposed Development Area (PDA).

### 1.3.3 Roman

While the site lies immediately adjacent to line of a principal Roman road (Watling Street) extending from Canterbury to Dover, only two features of Roman date were recorded previously during archaeological works undertaken between 2006 and 2011. Potential traces of the Roman road itself were identified in a service access chamber excavated within the Old Dover Road some 110m to the north-west of the Proposed Development Area (PDA). In addition, a ditch encountered immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development Area (PDA) aligned parallel to that of the Roman road is thought to be contemporary. A cremation burial was found within 50m of the Bat and Ball site at 8 St Lawrence Road in 1889, with another approximately 150m to the north-west in 1902. In addition, five inhumations were encountered along Ethelbert Road, some 200m to the north-west of the Proposed Development Area (PDA), in 1906. Such burial groups are, however, thought to be relatively isolated groups and do not form part of the extra-mural cemetery thought to exist in the vicinity of Roman Riding Gate, the gateway through which Watling Street entered Roman Canterbury. On present evidence it seems unlikely that further burials will be encountered across the Proposed Development Area (PDA).

### 1.3.4 Medieval

Medieval remains, relating to the Hospital of St Lawrence (for leprous monks and their families) were largely confined to the area of the Bat and Ball site. The hospital cemetery was, however, proved to extend slightly beyond the limits of this site with a number of burials excavated during work associated with the main entrance to the cricket club. This work clearly demonstrated that the hospital cemetery does not impinge on the area of the Proposed Development Area (PDA). No archaeology of this date was identified during either the 2005, 2008 or 2013 evaluations within the Proposed Development Area (PDA).

### 1.3.5 Post-medieval

Remains associated with the post-medieval period appear to be confined to the area of the Bat and Ball site. During this period a considerable amount of overburden would seem to have been deposited across the Proposed Development Area (PDA). This was presumably associated with the creation of a level surface, which is thought to have occurred during the formation of the cricket ground in the late nineteenth-century. Due to this, all the earlier archaeological features and deposits encountered during the previous evaluations schemes were noted as being sealed by a minimum of 1.25m depth of later overburden.

## **2 Project aims and methodology**

### **2.1 Aims**

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological finds, feature or deposit exposed as a result of groundwork excavations in connection with proposed development. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

### **2.2 Methodology**

2.2.1 The general methodology for the archaeological works was set out in the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The programme comprised of the monitoring and recording of the any archaeological finds, features or deposit encountered during the groundwork phase of the proposed development. During this process a full photographic record was to be compiled.

2.2.2 Once exposed, areas of potential interest were hand-cleaned to assess presence of archaeological finds, features or deposits. If any of these were encountered then limited localised excavation was undertaken to ascertain the character and retrieval of potential dating evidence. This was complimented with a full scheme of archaeological recording.

2.2.3 Identified contexts were recorded using *pro forma* record sheets. A full photographic record of all archaeological works was maintained. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20. All sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

2.2.4 On-site health and safety followed a written method statement and risk assessment in accordance with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's *Health and Safety Policy* (2010).

### **2.3 Archive methodology**

2.3.1 Following completion of the fieldwork, a project archive was prepared in accordance with Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991, 30–31). The project archive conforms to the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990), *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992) and the *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (The Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993).

2.3.2 Limited archaeological finds were recovered.

2.3.3 No environmental samples were taken.

2.3.4 The project archive is presently held in the offices of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU).

## 2.4 Assessment methodology

- 2.4.1 Post-excavation assessment was carried out immediately following documentation of the site archive.
- 2.4.2 The assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's *Guide to post-excavation methodology* (2010) and follows national guidelines in accordance with the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MORPHE Project Managers' Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

## 3 Fieldwork results

### 3.1 Drainage Works

- 3.1.1 Initial groundworks concentrated on the excavation of new service drainage associated with a new access road extending northwest by southeast along the northern limit of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) (Fig. 2). This commenced with the excavation of a 48m long trench running on a northwest to southeast alignment parallel with Old Dover Road, approximately 10m from a line of mature trees. A service access chamber was excavated at either end of this trench alignment with shorter, shallower trenches running perpendicular to this trench taking ground water from proposed surface drains (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.2 Two potential linear features were identified within this main trench alignment. Ditch 'A' crossed the trench at an oblique angle on a roughly east-west alignment and appeared to lie within a previous evaluation trench (15). As part of that evaluation it had previously been excavated and interpreted as a linear gully of probable Bronze Age date (Holman 2013).
- 3.1.3 A second linear feature perpendicular to Ditch 'A', and seemingly cut by it, was also located. The top of this feature was exposed at approximately 1.28m below the present ground level. This second, suggestively earlier ditch, was aligned roughly north – south and measured 440mm wide and 70mm deep. No finds were recovered from this intervention, but its relationship with Ditch 'A' would suggest a possible Bronze Age date.

### 3.2 Attenuation Tank

- 3.2.1 In the area destined to become a large parking court, a large rectangular pit was excavated north-west of the building footprint. Measuring approximately 30m in length and 10m wide, this pit was aligned approximately northeast by southwest excavated to a depth in excess of 3m below the present ground level. At its north-eastern end of this pit, a secondary chamber pit was further excavated 1m through the base of the initial pit to a depth in excess of 4m below the present ground surface.
- 3.2.2 The initial excavation of the attenuation tank pit was monitored whilst the overburden was removed to expose the upper surface of the underlying natural Brickearth across its footprint. Throughout this process, no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.



### **3.3 Crane Base**

- 3.3.1 To the south-west of the main building footprint, approximately halfway along the buildings length, a large pit measuring approximately 8m square and in excess of 2m deep was excavated. Extending into the upper surface of the natural Chalk bedrock, the pit was to form a concrete base for a tower crane to be used in construction of the adjoining apartment building. Following its construction, which included steelwork and 200 tons of concrete, this base will remain insitu and landscaped over.
- 3.3.2 Across the crane pit's western corner, an approximate 2m length of a linear feature was exposed cutting into the upper surface of the underlying Brickearth geology. Continuing beyond two edges of the crane pit, the exposed portion of this feature was excavated and found to be roughly 420mm wide and only 120mm deep. Filled with a single deposit of firm – soft mid – dark greyish-brown silty clay it possessed occasional small pieces of burnt clay daub and charcoal flecking. Several small – medium flint waste flakes and occasional small crumbled flint tempered pot were also present, representing a typical deposit within a feature of probable Pre-Roman date?
- 3.3.3 The alignment of this feature ties in well with the continuation of the long narrow linear exposed in the main building footprint located to the north-east. It is possible this represents a continuation of this feature towards the southwest suggestively extending beyond a break in its alignment?
- 3.3.4 This section of linear alignment consisted of the only archaeological feature encountered whilst excavating the crane base pit.

### **3.4 New Access Drive**

- 3.4.1 A new access drive with associated parking and turning head was laid in tarmac adjacent the north-east frontage of the proposed building's footprint. This is to provide access from St. Lawrence Drive to the building entrance, along with parking in addition to the main parking court to the north-west of the building.
- 3.4.2 Prior to associated drainage works, the footprint of the access drive was stripped under monitoring conditions to a level approximately 600mm below the existing ground level. As these excavation remained within the scope of the made ground, following completion of the drainage works, no further monitoring of the access drive area was required.

### **3.5 Building Footprint**

- 3.5.1 The building footprint represented the largest scale of works associated with the monitoring process with the entire footprint of the proposed new building reduced to a formation level with deeper foundation excavations where appropriate. Prior to commencement of the new building's formation reduction, a moderate sized earth embankment, which had previously been utilised as cricket spectator seating, had to be removed.
- 3.5.2 Due to rising ground level across towards the southeast, the proposed new buildings footprint required the present ground level to be reduced. However, due to this topographical change in height this only required an approximate depth of 200mm of the overburden to be removed from the sites north-western end. This was in contrast across its south-eastern end that was reduced by more than 1m. All of these works were undertaken utilising machinery.

Owing to the rise in the present ground levels, which mirrored the underlying upper surface of the natural Brickearth geology, excavation of the final 20m – 30m of the building's north-western end failed to expose the underlying geology, instead a depth of the overburden remained insitu. This was unlike the south-eastern end, where the formation level required the overburden to be removed and the upper surface of the natural geology reduced by up to 1m.

- 3.5.3 Extending out from the limit of excavation and cutting through lower levels of subsoil, at the far north-west end of the buildings footprint, was a large rectangular refuse pit. Aligned roughly northwest by southeast, it measured approximately 10m long by 5m wide and extended to a depth of roughly 2m deep. Mainly infilled with a single fill of uniformly dark brown silty loam material with common rubbish, it also possessed numerous complete and broken stoneware and glass bottles. Dating from the early twentieth-century, many possessed the embossed or transfer applied names of local Canterbury retailers. Due to this feature falling across the line of a proposed new foundation trench its content were largely excavated during the machine process.
- 3.5.4 Further to the south-east, a small rectangular patch of sand and gravel was exposed, filling a cut in the subsoil. Aligned roughly north – south, measuring approximately 2.9m long by 600mm wide, the height of the feature's upper extent, and the fact that it had clearly been excavated by mechanical means, lead to the assumption this may have been a geotechnical test pit, possibly associated with pre-development inspection.
- 3.5.5 Nearby to the east, the northeast by southwest aligned scar to the base of a previous evaluation trench was identified and possibly related to Trench 23 from the previous scheme of evaluation prospecting? South-east of this evaluation trench base (poss. Trench 23), a narrow linear feature was exposed extending south-west, under the existing gravel road, for approximately 8.5m before terminating. Two separate interventions were excavated in this feature; both measuring approximately 1m long with the first situated close to excavation limit and the other across its terminus. Across both excavated portions the linear feature was roughly 500mm at its widest and gradually diminished to only 350mm wide close to its terminus. Surviving to a maximum depth of 230mm, the form and character of the feature suggests a correlation to those gully type features encountered in the previous evaluation of the site? As with those a small collection of waste flint flakes and several small flint tempered pottery crumbs, suggestive of a pre-Roman date were noted within its fill. Examination of its alignment in relation to that encountered in the crane base pit, located to the southwest, suggests this may represent a north-eastward continuation of the same feature alignment. However, it is possible the portion of its continuation between the two encountered portions may represent a break within the alignment or due to its ephemeral survival may have been ploughed away at a later stage of cultivation?
- 3.5.6 Further to the southeast, another possible geotechnical test pit was encountered cut into the underlying upper surface of the natural Brickearth geology. As previously observed, this was of similar dimensions and had also been machine cut, though it was infilled with soft – firm dark-brown silty-loam. However, the inclusion of numerous modern red brick fragments clearly indicate its late date.
- 3.5.7 Nearby, another recent feature, consisting of a medium – large posthole was identified cutting into the natural Brickearth geology to the north. Evidently of modern date it still possessed the remnants of its decayed wooden post partly intact.

During monitoring of the general ground reduction from across the footprint of the main building, a series of block sections were maintained to illustrate any variations in the exposed soil sequence. One such section illustrated the sequence, which largely consisted of the upper surface of the underlying natural Brickearth geology as being roughly 300mm above the base of the formation level (Fig. 4). This was sealed by a roughly 500mm depth of soft yellow – brown silty clay that was sealed by a 300mm depth of loose grey silty clay.

- 3.5.8 In the south-east area of the building footprint a roughly 5m square feature filled with a mixed loose dark brown silty clay with recent refuse and abundant organic remains may represent evidence of a former hedge line?
- 3.5.9 A third probable geotechnical test pit was located close to the south-east end of the building footprint. Aligned roughly northeast by southwest, it possessed similar proportions and infill material to the other two identified.
- 3.5.10 Just to the south-east of this was a regular circular cut measuring approximately 300mm in diameter and backfilled with loose crushed fine chalk rubble. This is assumed to have been a borehole forming part of the sites previous geotechnical investigations?

## **4 Conclusion**

### **4.1 Interpretation**

- 4.1.1 It is clear that given the large areas exposed by the various groundworks operations, and the lack of features encountered, that this area of the town, to the south of the medieval St. Lawrence Hospital and the south-west of the Roman Old Dover Road, was very sparsely populated. Probably consisted of agricultural land from as early as the pre-historic period, this appears to have been the case until the creation of the cricket ground in the late nineteenth-century. It is certainly recorded that the land was utilised as such on the first edition Ordnance Survey of c.1871. Situated immediately east of Canterbury South railway station, located on the former Elham Valley Line, this largely vacant plot of land, also situated on the main junction with Hackington Road and Old Dover Road made a perfect location for the amalgamated the two Kent Cricket Clubs (Canterbury and Maidstone) forming the origins of the Kent County Cricket Club. Though it is recorded that the new county team utilised the St Lawrence Ground as early as c.1847, it was not until after c.1870 that the grounds were formally occupied.

### **4.2 Potential**

- 4.2.1 Further potential for discovery of significant archaeological remains in the close vicinity are probably low, although isolated cremations cannot be discounted given the proximity of the Roman road.

## **5 References**

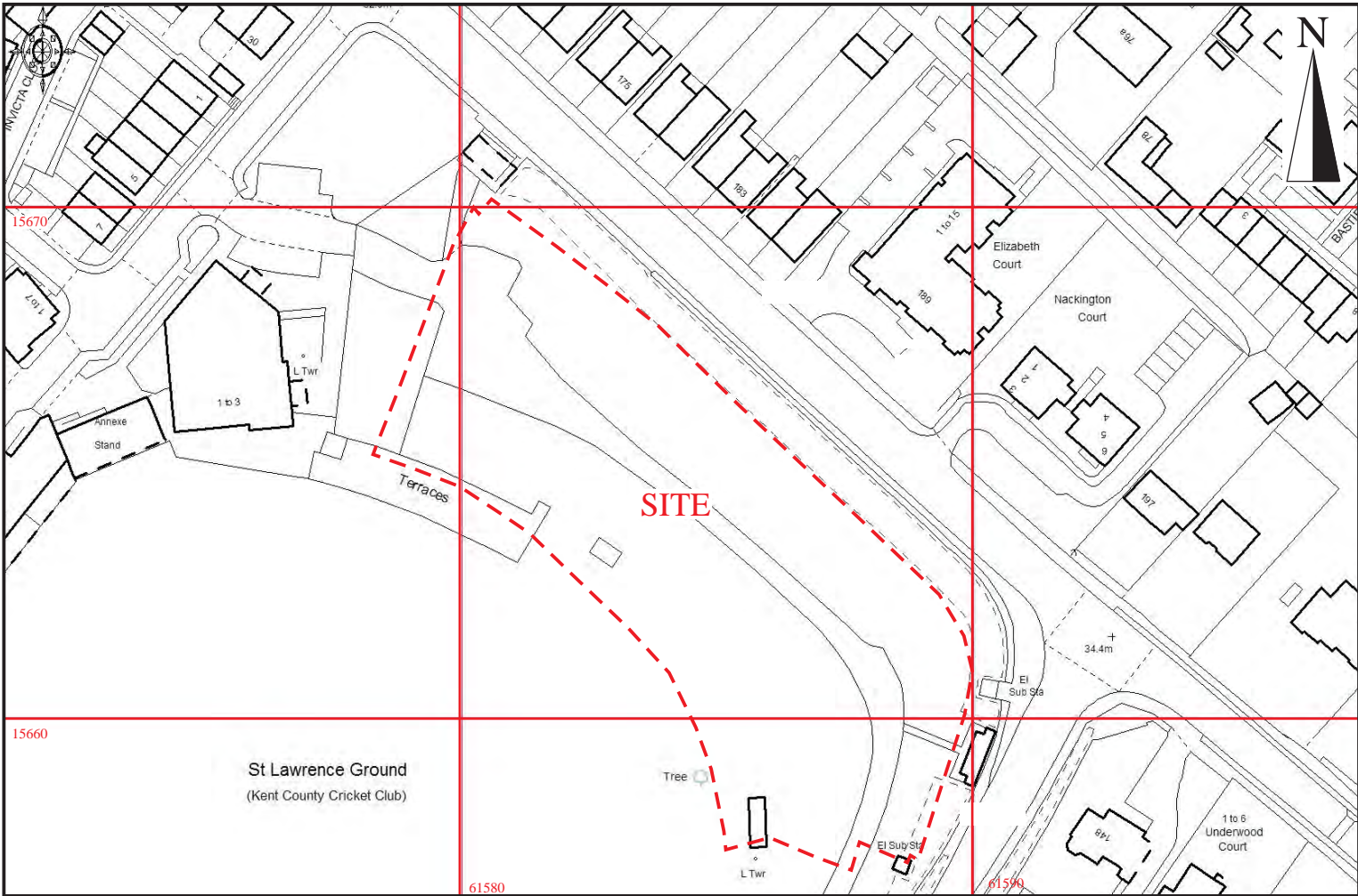
Found, B 2006 *An Archaeological watching brief on geotechnical investigations at St Lawrence Cricket Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Unpublished Client Report

Holman, J 2008 *An archaeological evaluation of the Old Dover Road frontage, St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury*, unpublished CAT client report

Holman, J and Atherden, H 2013 *Evaluation of the Old Dover Road frontage, Kent County Cricket Club, St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury*, unpublished CAT client report

***Prepared by Canterbury Archaeological Trust on behalf of CgMs Consulting, June 2016***

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		DATE	LAST REVISION
	01/07/16		
	COMMENTS	CHECKED	
92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk		REF/DRG NO.	



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Figure 1. Extract from the modern Ordnance Survey showing the position of the site in relation to the surrounding landscape.





	PROJECT	St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Canterbury	DRAWN BY	MC	SCALE(S)	1:250
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Proposed new buildingfootprint

Encountered archaeological feature

Projected line of encountered archaeological feature



Figure 3. Plan of the proposed development areas of monitored ground works and encountered archaeological features.

	PROJECT	St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Canterbury	DRAWN BY	MC	SCALE(S)	1:10
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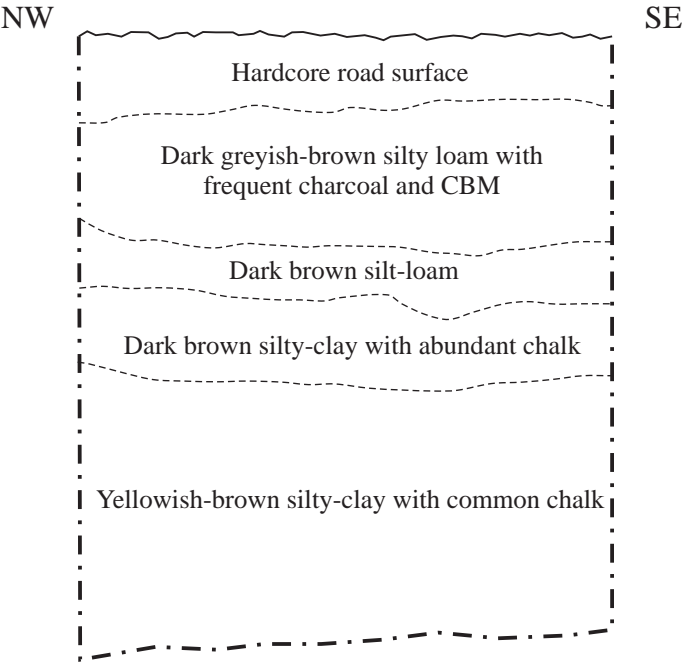


Figure 4. Representative block section through soil deposits recorded in the edge of the proposed new building footprint.



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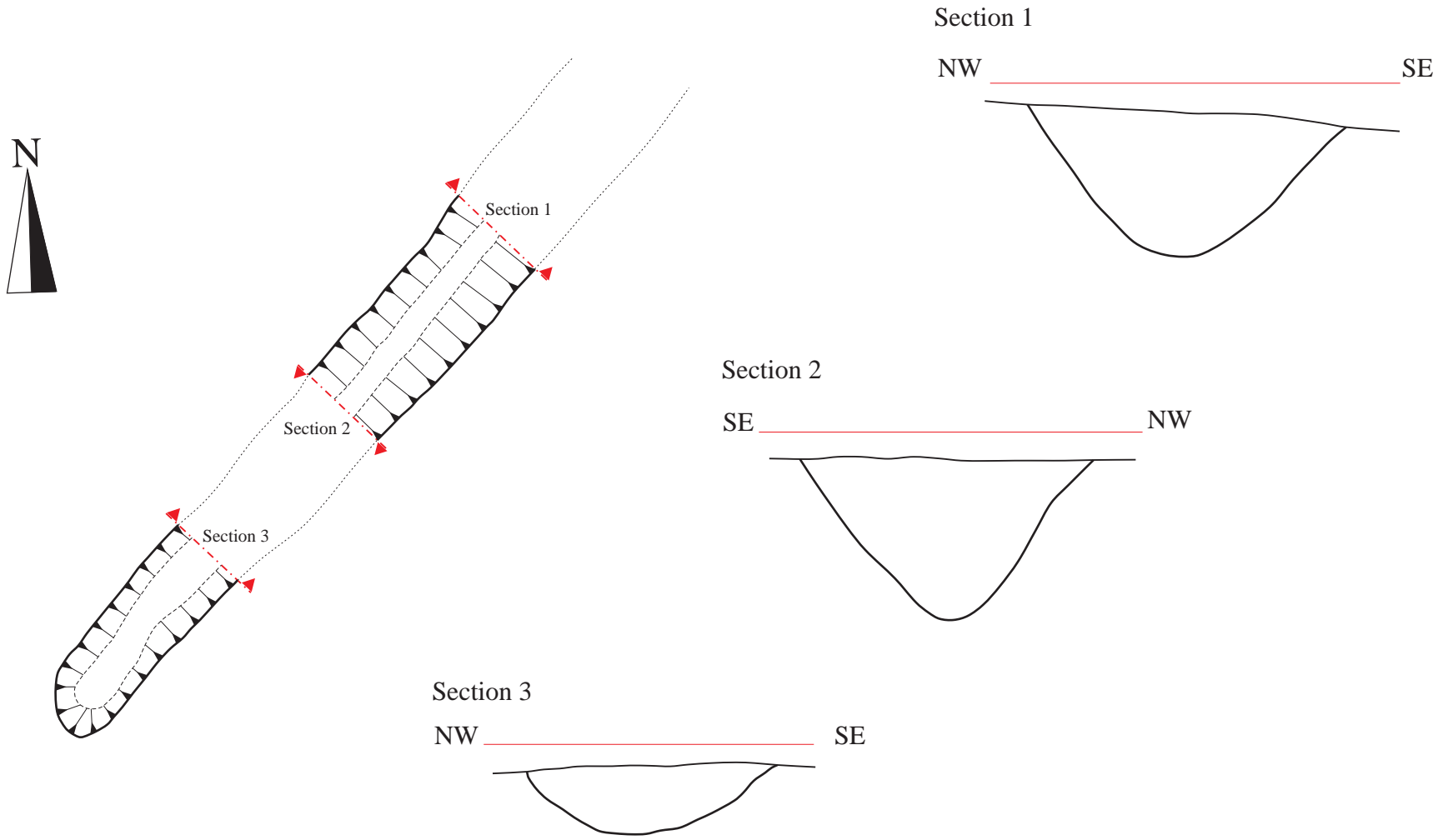
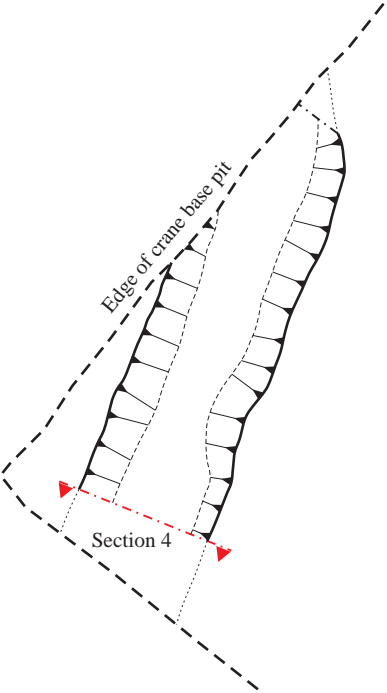


Figure 5. Plan of pre-Roman gully terminal with profile sections revealed within the proposed new building footprint.

	PROJECT	St. Lawrence Cricket Ground, Canterbury	DRAWN BY	MC	SCALE(S) Plan: 1:20 Sec.: 1:10
			DATE	30/06/16	
	COMMENTS		CHECKED		
92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU Tel 01227 462062 Fax 01227 784724 Email admin@canterburytrust.co.uk			REF/DRG NO.		

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Section 4



Figure 6. Plan and profile section of pre-Roman gully continuation within the footprint of the crane base pit.



Plate 1. General site view prior to excavation work. Looking SE.



Plate 2. Removal of spectator viewing embankment prior to strip of building footprint. Looking SE.





Plate 3. Reduction of building footprint to formation level. Looking SE.



Plate 4. Geo-technical test pit (left) and base of evaluation trench 23 (centre). Looking NE.





Plate 5. Pre-Roman gully exposed. Looking NE.



Plate 6. Pre-Roman gully excavated. Looking NE.





Plate 7. Completed excavation of pit for manhole installation. Looking SW.



Plate 8. Section beneath existing gravel road, at NE edge of building footprint. Looking NE.





Plate 9. Completion of strip for building footprint. Looking SE.



Plate 10. Completed excavation of pit for attenuation tank. Looking SSW.





Plate 11. Excavation of drainage trenches. Looking NW.



Plate 12. Excavation of drainage trenches. Looking SE.





Plate 13. Excavation of large pit for crane base. Looking SE.



Plate 14. Completed excavation of large pit for crane base. Looking SE.





Plate 15. Pre-Roman gully in crane base pit exposed. Looking SW.



Plate 16. Pre-Roman gully in crane base pit excavated. Looking SW.





Plate 17. Section view into side of crane base pit, showing natural deposits. Looking SE.



Plate 18. Completed footings in west section of building footprint. Looking E.

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