



Archaeological Investigation of land at 48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent

SWAT. Archaeology

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**48 Preston Grove, Faversham,
Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: 601460 160591

Site Code: PGF007

**Report for
Cook Associates**

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent

NGR: 601460 160591

Site Code: PGF007

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land at 48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent in 29 July-1 August 2007. A planning application (PAN: SW/06/1456) for a new residential development of 10 flats along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. On-site examination suggests that brick earth extraction had taken place along both sides of Preston Avenue removing any possible archaeological remains.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by William Cook Associates to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out during July/August 2007.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Faversham is located approximately midway between Sittingbourne and Canterbury, adjacent to the northern extent of Watling Street, a Roman Road connecting London to the southeast coast at Dover. The proposed development site is situated adjacent to the Roman road of Watling Street outside the historic core of Faversham. The site is relatively flat comprising a detached house, and gardens

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: SW/06/1456) for 10 flats, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council,

requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

- AR5 *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of*
- i archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
 - ii following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority*

Reason: To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation *in situ* or by record.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area, with trenches designed to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCCHC and SBC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site is situated on the route of Watling Street, the main London to Canterbury Roman road. This throughfare has been a focus of human activity from the Iron Age onwards, and numerous archaeological finds have been found along its route. Archaeological features closer to the development site include Roman cremation urns (SMR Ref: TR 06 SW 40), 120m north west and further Roman burials 350 east.

Early Ordnance Survey maps show that the site seems to have been part of formal gardens. However, the 1795 OS Surveyors Drawing shows no development on the site (front cover and Fig. 3). A tile and brickworks operated immediately to the north and is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (2007) was to:

- i) Establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site (2006:3.1)
- ii) Establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits (2006:3.2)
- iii) Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:
 - Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
 - Is there any evidence for prehistoric and/or medieval activity within the development area?
 - Is there any evidence for the post-medieval garden or brickworks on the site?
 - Has modern disturbance connected with the construction of the house reduced archaeological potential?
 - What impact will the development proposals have on any buried archaeology?

(KCC 3.3)

Additional aims were to:

- iv) Gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them
- v) Enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching commenced on the 29th July 2007, with the excavation of two trenches each measuring 1.50m in width and between 15-20m in length (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable geological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**).

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil overburden on the natural geology of Head Brickearth.

Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

Trench 1

(10 x 2m) Fig 2.

Trench 1, situated in the western area of the site and running north-east to south-west, and measured 15m by 2m. The level at the top of the north-east end of the evaluation trench was 23.18m OD. At the south-west end 23.17m OD. Topsoil was 0.39m deep and sealed the natural strata of Head Brickearth.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

Trench 2

(20 x 2m) Fig 2.

Located within the far southern extent of the site, and running east to west, and measured 20m by 2m. The level at the top of the east end of the evaluation trench was 23.18m OD. At the west end 23.19m OD. Topsoil was 0.38m deep and sealed the natural strata of Head Brickearth.

No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved throughout the extent of the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out at 48 Preston Grove, Faversham did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. On-site investigation of levels indicate the area around Preston Grove has been subject to brick-earth removal.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area, no buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches suggesting that the proposed development presents little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCCHC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank William Cook Associates for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson and James Madden carried out archaeological fieldwork. This report was edited and collated by Paul Wilkinson.

REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (2005) *Faversham Historical Town Survey: Archaeological Assessment Document*

Kent County Council (2007) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation in Advance of the erection of 10 flats at 48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent*. Kent Heritage & Conservation

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence:

Photographs: 8 colour slides & b/w prints, SWAT film nos. 06/436, including those used in this report

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: One A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.

Finds: 1 box (as per KCC guidance)

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (0) and Context Sheets (4)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent

Site Code: PGF007

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(101)	0.00-0.38m	Topsoil.
	(102)	0.38m	Head Brickearth
Trench 2	(201)	0.00 – 0.38m	Topsoil
	(202)	0.38m	Head Brickearth

APPENDIX 2 - Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent</i> SWAT Site Code: <i>PGF007</i>	
Site Address: <i>48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent</i>	
<p>Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land at 48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent in July 2007. A planning application (PAN: SW/06/1456) for a new residential development along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation did not encounter any archaeological remains, suggesting that none survive within the immediate vicinity of the site. On-site investigation suggests the area in the vicinity of Preston Grove has been subject to Brick-earth removal.</i></p>	
District/Unitary: <i>Swale</i>	Parish: <i>Faversham</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): <i>NGR: 601460 160591</i> (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>July/August 2007</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Head Brickearth</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>SWAT Archaeology, 48 Preston Grove, Faversham, Kent: Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Dr P Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>August 2007</i>

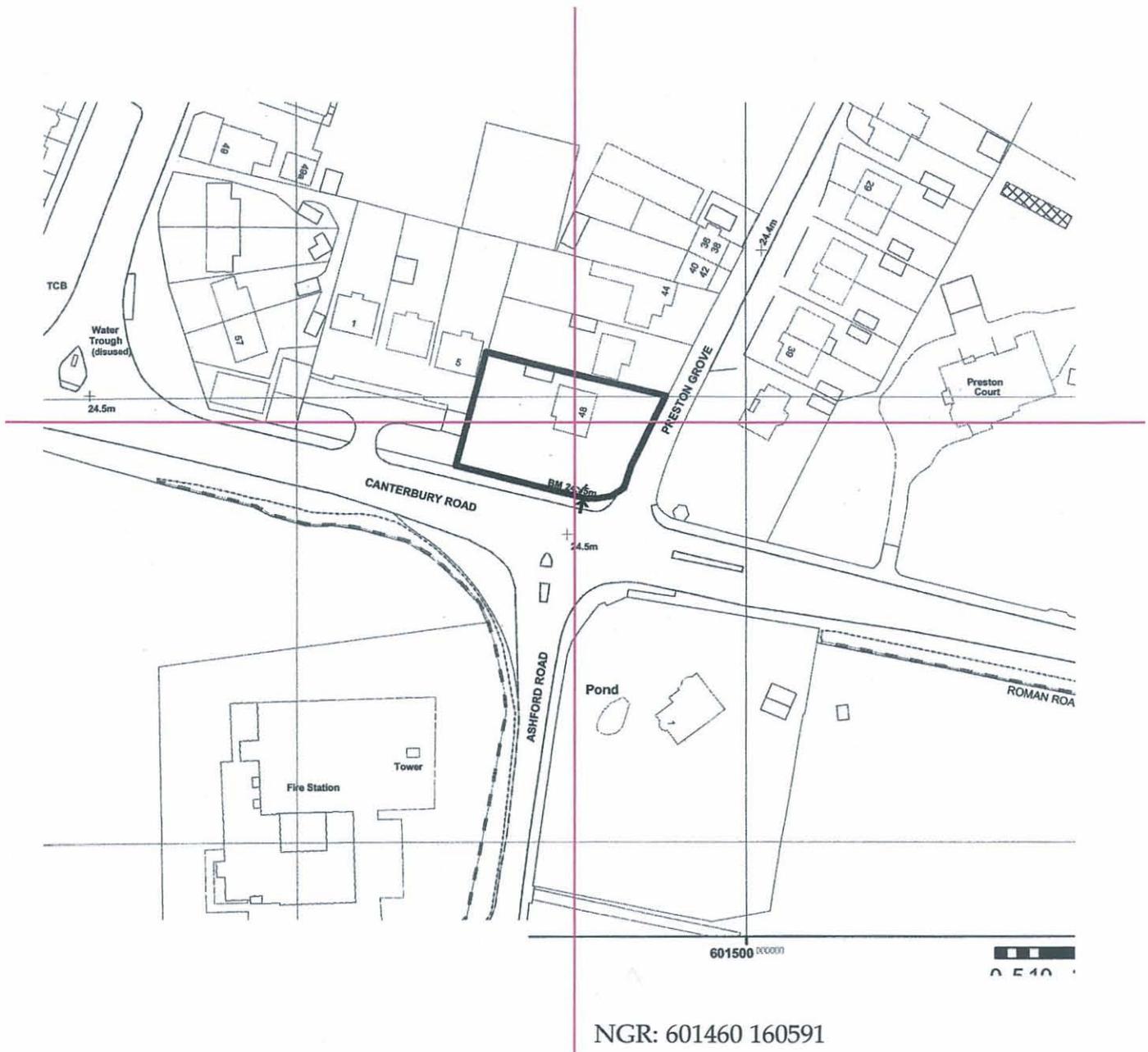


Fig. 1. Location of site of proposed development.
OS, squares are 500m.

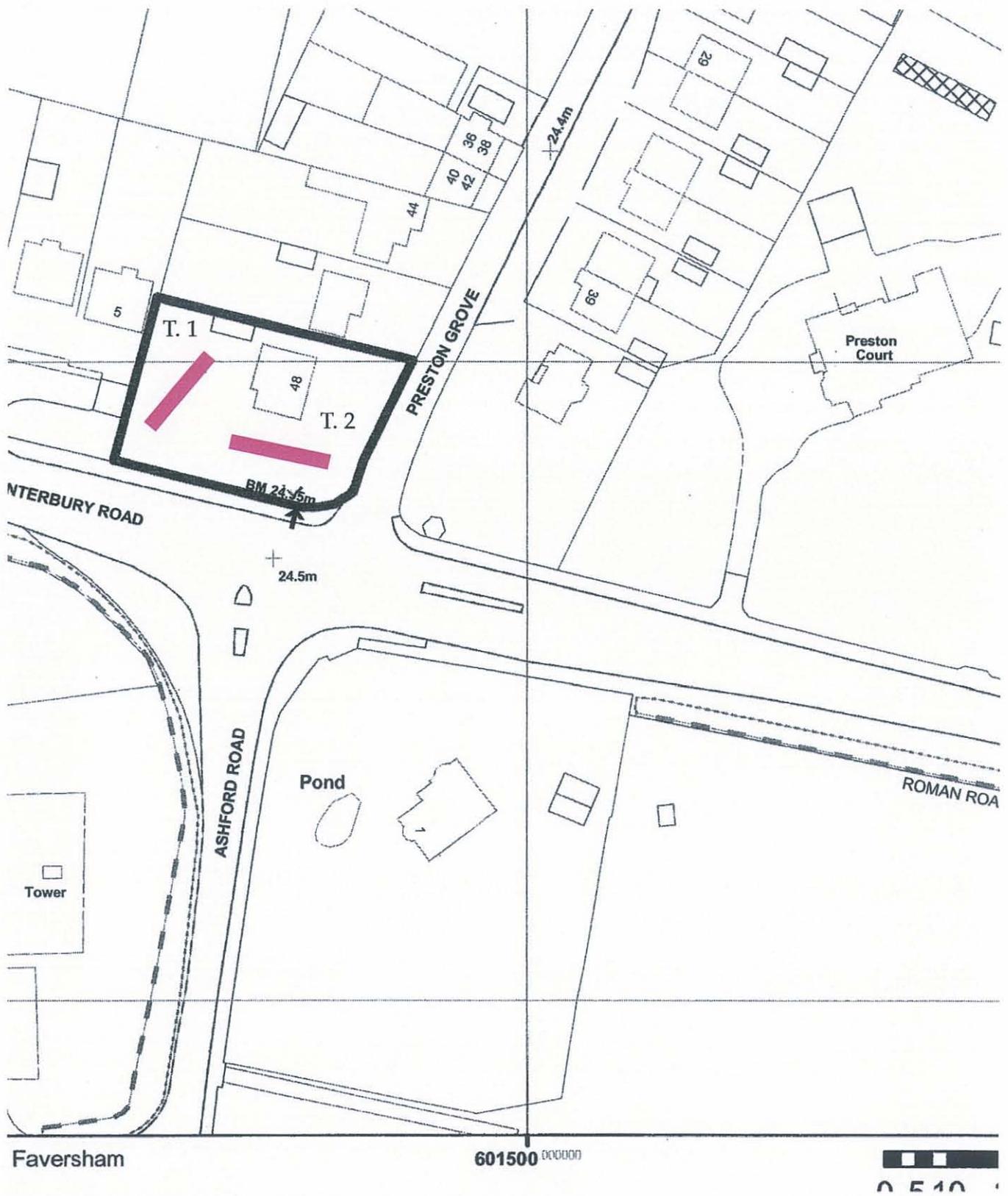


Fig. 2. Trench location within site of proposed development
 OS. squares are 500m.

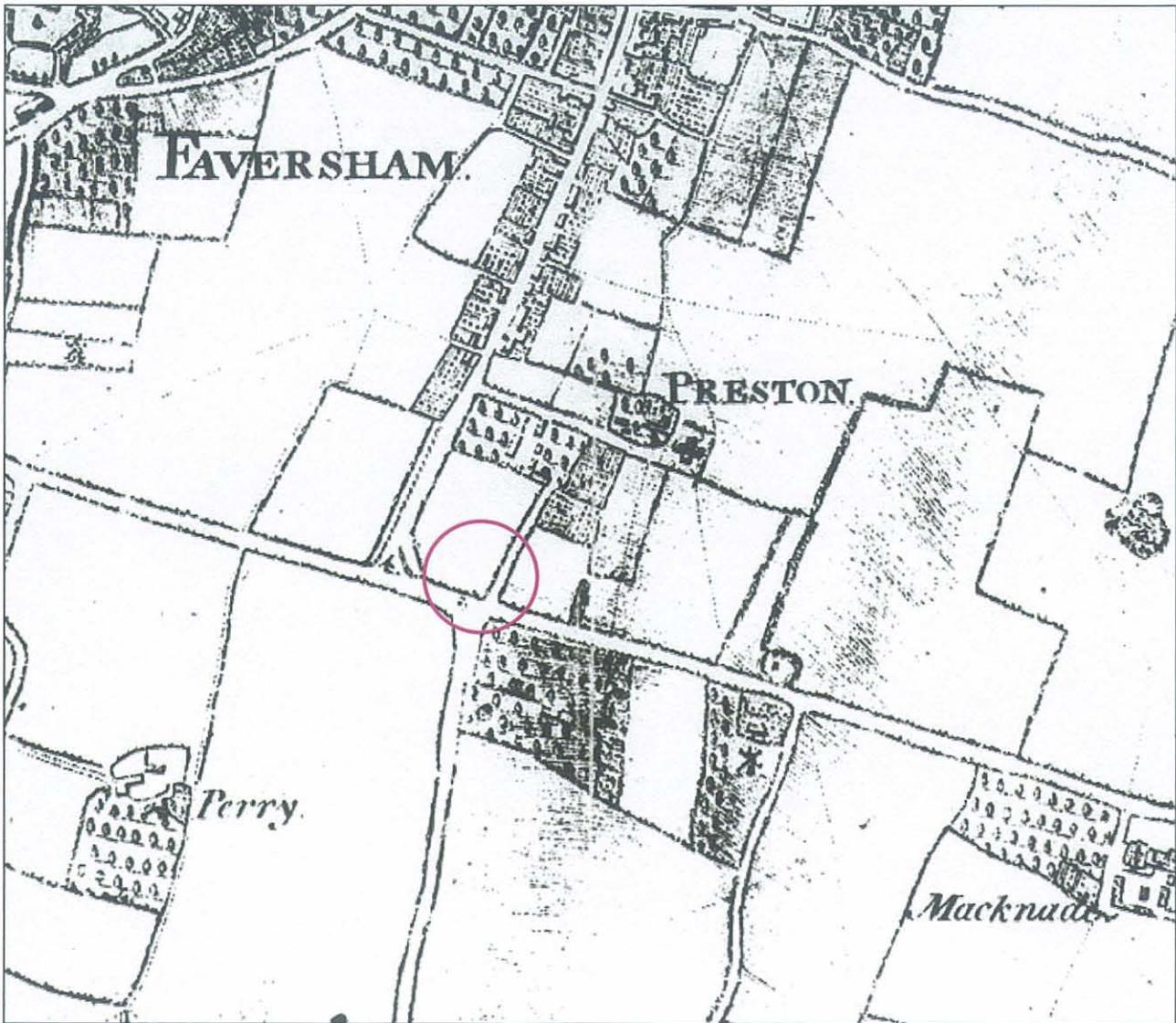


Fig. 3. Ordnance Survey c.1795 of Preston Grove



Plate Two. Trench 2 facing east



Plate Three. Trench One facing north east