

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of
Land at
Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown,
Kent

NGR: TQ 1331 5810

Site Code: PM-EV-10

(Planning Application CA08/01020/HAR)

Report for
Equity Property Investments

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent

ME13 8UP

Tel; 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112

www.swatarchaeology.com

Contents

Figures.....	ii
Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description and Topography.....	1
Planning Background.....	2
Archaeological Background.....	2
Historical Background.....	4
Aims and Objectives.....	5
Methodology.....	5
Monitoring.....	6
Results.....	6
Finds.....	6
Discussion.....	7
Conclusion.....	7
Acknowledgements.....	7
References.....	8
Appendix 1.....	9

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site Location Plan

Figure 2 Trench Plan 1:50

List of Plates

Plate 1 Trench1, looking west-northwest, 1m scale

Plate 2 Trench 3 section looking north

Plate 3 Neo-Gothic gateway in southeast boundary wall

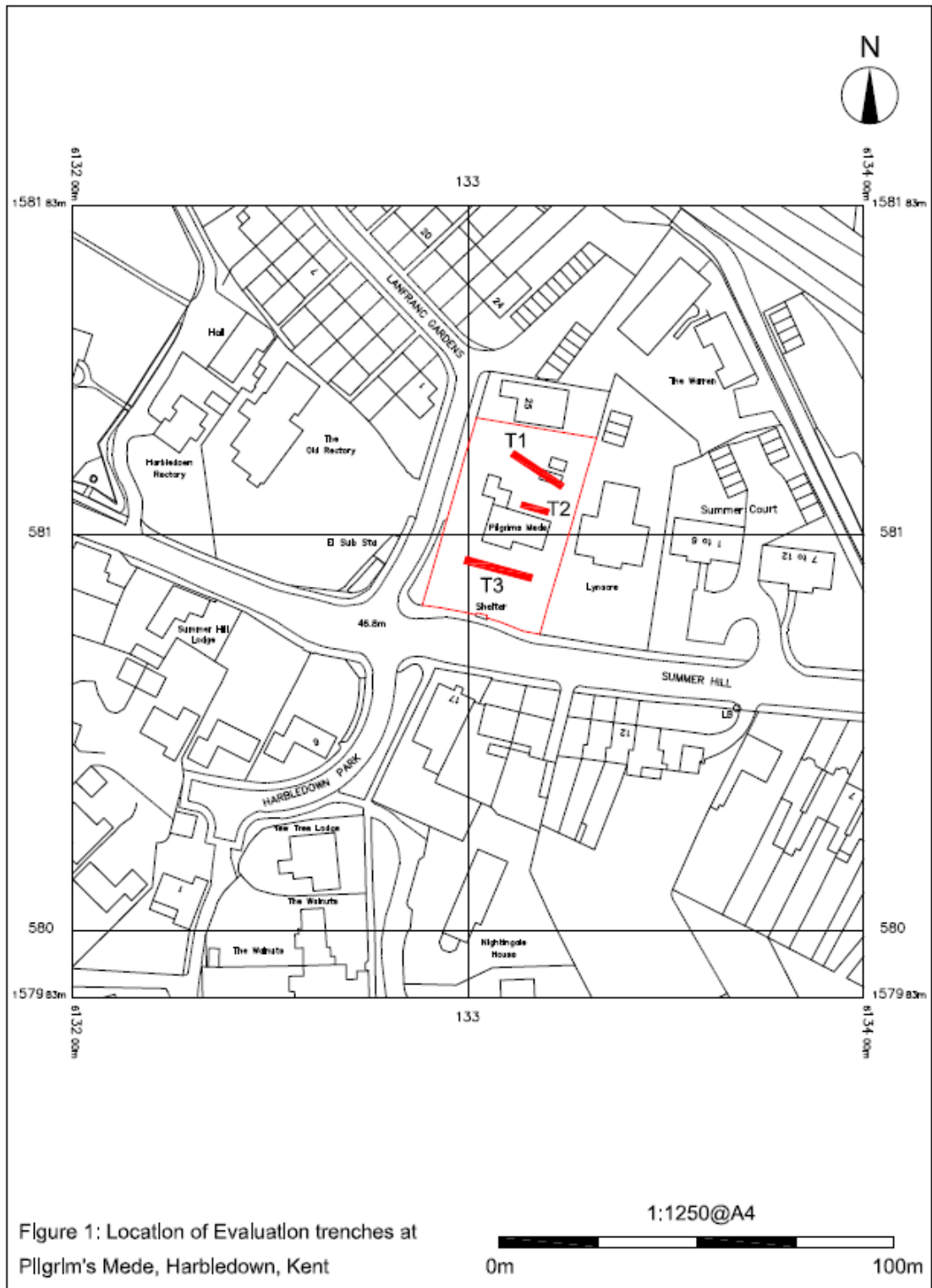


Figure 1: Location of Evaluation trenches at Pilgrim's Mede, Harbledown, Kent

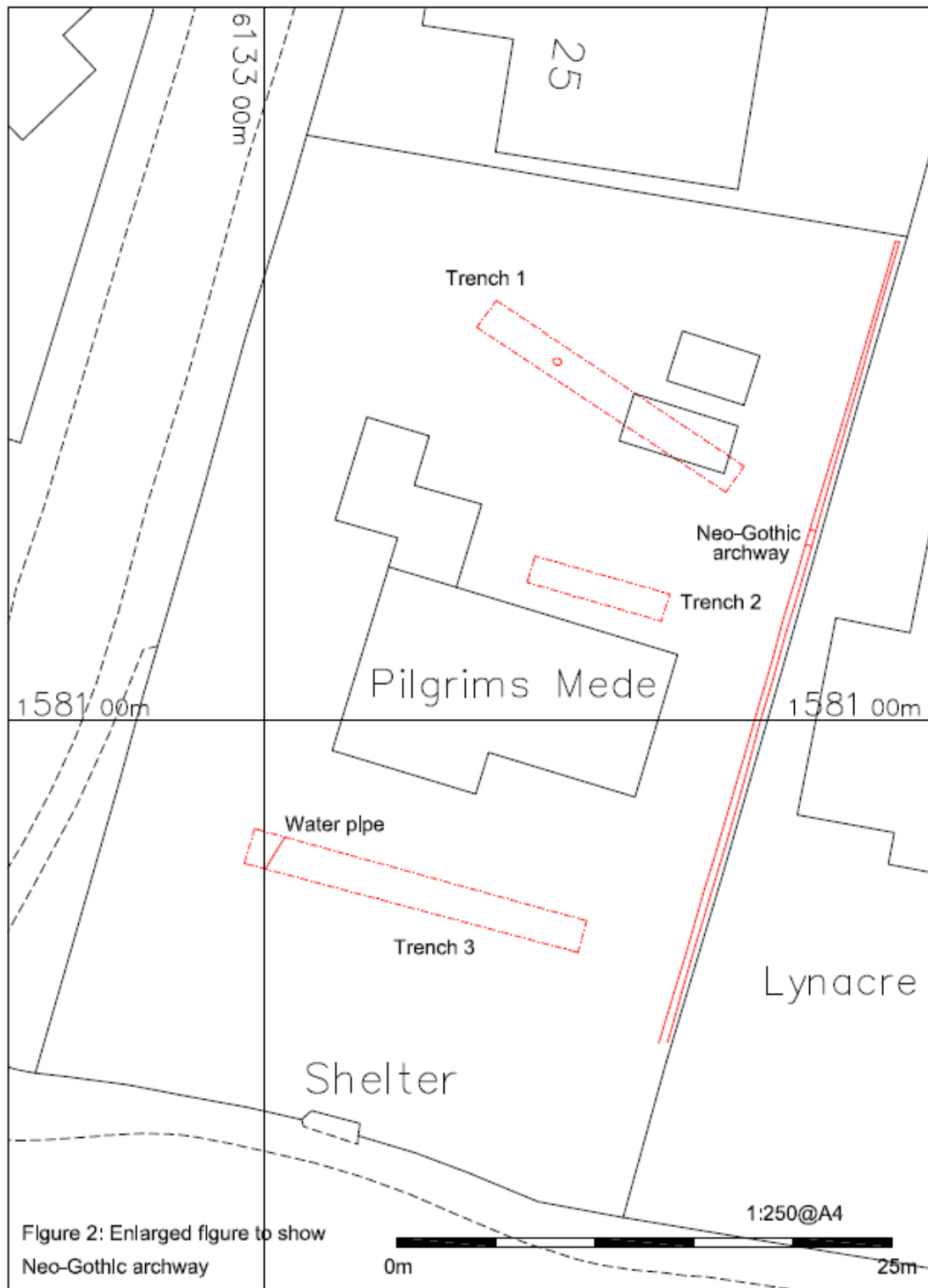


Figure 2: Enlarged figure to show Neo-Gothic archway



Plate 1 – Trench 1 looking west northwest



Plate 2 – Trench 3 section looking north

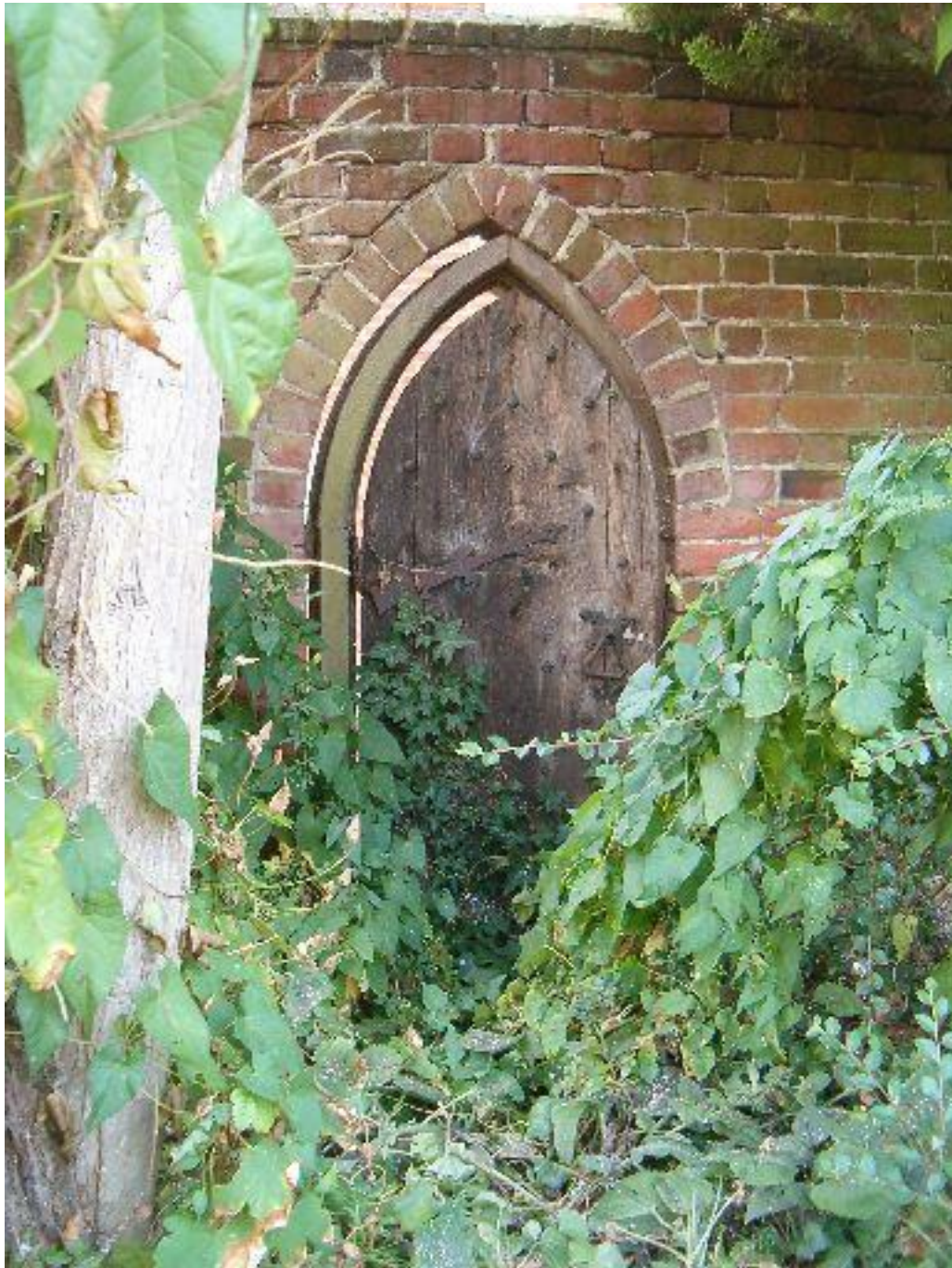


Plate 3 – Neo-Gothic gateway in boundary wall

**Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at
Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, Kent**

NGR: TR 1331 5810

Site Code: PM-EV-10

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land at Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, Kent. A planning application (CA08/01020/HAR) for the construction of five dwellings with associated access and parking was submitted to Canterbury City Council and subsequently granted consent on 5 May 2009 with an attached condition, Condition 5, whereby the Council requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment 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 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer for Canterbury City Council.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered no archaeological features. The archaeological evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Equity Property Investments to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 13th and 16th of August 2010.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development site lies within the historic village of Harbledown, approximately 1.6km west of Canterbury. The site sits on a corner plot at the junction of Summer Hill and Llanfranc Gardens, approximately 46.8m aOD and slopes gently to the east. According the British Geological Survey (BGS), the geology is predominantly River Gravel Terraces over Thanet Beds. The three trenches encountered the natural geology, mid-orange brown sands and gravels, at approximately 0.40m below the present ground surface. A post-Medieval brick

boundary wall running the length of the property marked the southeastern edge of the plot. A neo-Gothic gateway with surviving wooden door was built into this wall. (**Plate 4**)

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Planning consent (CA08/01020/HAR) for the erection of five dwellings with associated access and parking was approved by Canterbury City Council (CCC) on 5 May 2009. Canterbury City Council requested that an archaeological evaluation and assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority placed the following condition (5) on planning consent (CA08/01020/HAR):

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title has secured firstly, the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits, and to assess the importance of the same; and secondly, any mitigation measures including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation to safeguard the preservation of the archaeological remains. The archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.'

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 6% sample of the impact area with three trenches designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

HER Summary

Prehistoric

TR 15 NW 17 / NGR TR 13 58 (point)

Bronze Age Axe - A trunion celt, now in Rochester Museum

TR 15 NW 32 / MKE 4843 / NGR TR 1332 5801

Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Finds – Neolithic and Bronze Age flint flakes, potboilers, barbed flint arrowheads, scrapers and cores found in the garden of The Cottage, Summer Hill, Harbledown on a spread of gravel 0.30m-0.46m below the ground surface. Also found were Belgic sherds, Roman coins and pottery.

Roman

TQ 79 NW 145 / MKE 2453 / NGR TQ 9457 6313

Watling Street Roman Road-Rochester to Canterbury section

TR 15 NW 32 – As above

Medieval

TR 15 NW 20 / MKE 4831 / NGR TR 1318 5814

St. Michael and All Angels Church, Harbledown – Grade II Listed building. Main construction periods 1066-1899.

TR 15 NW 31 / MKE 4842 / NGR TR 1302 5815

The Hospital of St. Nicholas, Harbledown – Listed buildings – Grade I Listed Hospital - founded c.1084 for lepers then in 15th c. for the poor, aged and sick. Grade I Listed Church - Medieval. Almshouses – 18th c.

TR 15 NW 1400 / MKE 24222 / NGR TR1304 5815

The Old Leper Church of St. Nicholas – Grade I Listed church. Main construction periods 1064-1840.

TR 15 NW 1449 / MKE 25166 / NGR TR 1303 5816

Piece of the wall of the original St. Nicholas's Hospital – Grade I Listed Building. Medieval rubble and red brick wall, the sole remaining part of Llanfranc's Hospital of Lepers of 1085.

TR 15 NW 1450 / MKE 25167 / NGR TR 1295 5816

Retaining walls to Black Prince's Well – Grade II Listed Medieval to post-Medieval well with post-Medieval revetments.

Post-Medieval

There are a number of post-Medieval listed buildings in Harbledown. Those in the close vicinity of Pilgrims Mede include:

TR 15 NW 936 / MKE 18442 / NGR TR 13094 58147

The Mint No. 1-12 – Two parallel ranges of early 19th c. buildings. The land on which the Mint was built was originally a piece of ground given to the chantry priest of St Nicholas Church in 1371.

TR 15 NW 1260 / MKE 23715 / NGR 1324 5812

The Rectory – Grade II Listed early 19th c. building.

TR 15 NW 1369 / MKE 23717 / NGR TR 1329 5805

Harbledown Court – Grade II Listed early 19th c. building.

TR 15 NW 1362 / MKE 24230 / NGR TR 1331 5805

Chestnut Cottage – Grade II Listed 18th c. building.

TR 15 NW 1383 / MKE 25397 / NGR TR 1333 5804

Harbledown Place – Grade II Listed early 19th c. building.

TR 15 NW 1366 / MKE 24229 / NGR TR 1337 5804

Grove Cottage – Grade II Listed early 19th c. building.

Modern

TR 15 NW 968 / MKE 42863 / NGR TR 1368 5806

WWII roadblock at junction of Summer Hill and Mill Lane – Sited at what is now the Rheims Way roundabout, comprised of long anti-tank ditches and possibly a pillbox.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

“Woot ye nat wher ther stant a litel toun
Which that y-cleped is Bobbe-up-and-down,
Under the Blee in Canterbury way?”

Chaucer

There are a number of theories as to the naming of Harbledown, including Becket's 'Bobbe-up-and-down', a reference to the poorly maintained pilgrimage route of Watling Street. In Glover's 'The Place Names of Kent' Harbledown came from the Old English Herebeald's Hill (Herebealding Dun → Herebolddune 1175AD → Herebaldon 1196AD → Herbeldon 1229AD → Harbledoune 1610AD). William Lambarde, in his 1570 book 'Perambulation of Kent', records the village name as Harbaldowne, the Saxon term for "hill where army was betrayed", but he gives no reference as to what army or where they were betrayed. Perhaps it is a reference to the neighbouring Bigbury hillfort and the native Cantiaci's battle with Caesar on his second expedition to Britain. A common theory is the derivation 'Herbal Down, referring to the growing of herbs widely used in the treatment of diseases including leprosy, for which mint was used at St. Nicholas Hospital. Harbledown was not included in the Domesday Book, and the earliest accounts of the village include the founding of the Hospital of St. Nicholas for Lepers and its chapel in 1084 by Archbishop Llanfranc. During the 11th century leprosy was rife in Canterbury, but a policy of isolation, by removing the afflicted to the leper hospital of St. Nicholas, successfully rid the area of the disease by 1201. At that time the area surrounding the hospital would most likely have been uninhabited due to the fear of leprosy. Henry II gave an annual grant of 20 marks to the lepers of Harbledown in reparation for his part in the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170, and after the canonisation of Becket, the village became the last resting place for pilgrims on their journey to Canterbury from London. A portion of a leather shoe purported to be a relic of Becket's was donated to the lepers, who would leave the shoe for passing pilgrims to revere. Donations aided the upkeep of the hospital. Edward VI refounded the hospital for the poor turning it into almshouses which were rebuilt in 1840. The original chapel was incorporated into the chancel of the much-enlarged church of St. Nicholas in 1294.

At the eastern end of the village lies the parish church of St. Michael and All Angels, built in around 1160, enlarged in the 13th century and rebuilt in 1881. The north aisle was the original Medieval church, comprising a simple nave and chancel. A north transept was built and subsequently destroyed by the architect St. Aubyn who built a new chancel and nave, the

north porch, along the side of the original chancel and nave in 1880-1881.

The road through Harbledown, Roman Watling Street, was a main artery to Canterbury from the coast and London. Over the centuries Harbledown prospered from the passing trade, and during the 19th and 20th centuries a ribbon development of fine brick-built homes soon filled in the space along the ancient route between the two Medieval churches of St. Nicholas and St. Michael.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2010) was:

- 'To establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site.
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.
- To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.'

In addition:

'The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.'

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 13 August 2010 with the excavation of two trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between CCC and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trench 1 measured 15m long and 1.70m wide, and Trench 3 measured 17.6m long and 1.7m wide. Due to the location of a live gas main, Trench 2 was moved from its original site at the western end of the site to the new location south of Trench 1 and immediately north of the still-standing Pilgrims Mede bungalow. The machining of Trench 2 commenced on 16 August 2010. Because of the new narrow location and its proximity to the existing bungalow, the trench measured 7m long and 1.7m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal modern features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

The trenches were covered in topsoil **(001)** measuring up to 0.35m thick over a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil **(002)** that measured up to 0.20m thick, with occasional small to medium sub-angular and rounded flints, post-Medieval brick fragments, rare modern glass and post-Medieval pottery. These modern deposits overlay the natural River Gravel Terraces comprised of mid-orange brown sands and gravels **(003)**. Thanet Beds, as described in the British Geological Survey, were not encountered in any of the trenches.

Trench1 (Plate1)

Trench 1 measured 15m long, 1.7m wide, up to 0.45m deep and was aligned NW/SE. The topsoil **(001)** measured up to 0.25m thick, and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.15m thick. Two post Medieval features included one rounded posthole/pit with modern roof tile and glass with a diameter of 0.70m, and a large shallow rounded feature containing no cultural material which was found to be a tree bowl, most likely associated with landscaping.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

Trench 2 was moved to an area directly northeast of Pilgrims Mede bungalow. Due to lack of space, the trench measured 7m long, 1.7m wide and up to 0.50m deep. Topsoil **(001)** was 0.20m thick and subsoil **(002)** also 0.20m thick. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 3 (Plate 3)

Trench 3 was located in the front garden, southwest of the bungalow. The trench measured 17.60m long, 1.70m wide and up to 0.55m deep. The topsoil **(001)**, with extensive root action, measured 0.35m thick and the subsoil **(002)** measured up to 0.15m thick. No archaeological features were found in this trench.

FINDS

No cultural material dating from before the post-Medieval period was observed during the evaluation, and it should be noted that no residual stone tools or waste flakes were found. Five worked architectural stone blocks found in a dismantled rockery were retained, but the lack of chisel marks or any other type of hand-worked marks indicate the stonework was machine tooled and most likely post-Medieval/Victorian.

DISCUSSION

This evaluation found no archaeological features or cultural material of any antiquity in the evaluation trenches, even with the proximity to Roman Watling Street. It is possible that the main archaeological activity is concentrated uphill in the vicinity of The Rectory, which is sited on a plateau, and not on the down slope in the area of Pilgrims Mede. The neo-Gothic archway with its wooden door set into the eastern perimeter wall is an interesting find, and the client will be retaining it as a garden feature.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. **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 of Kent County Council any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Equity Property Investments for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council for his advice and assistance. Julie Martin supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by James and Jonny Madden at Digitise This. This report was edited and collated by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

Julie Martin

20/08/10

REFERENCES

Cann, John and Lambert, Roger (1987) *Heritage Walking Trails-East Kent-Book 3*. Compass, Whitstable.

Canterbury City Council (2010) *Specification for a programme of archaeological evaluation and assessment at Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, Kent*. Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation.

Canterbury City Council (2007) *Harbledown Conservation Area Appraisal-Draft*. Canterbury City Council Conservation, Regeneration and Economic Development.

Glover, Judith. (1976) *The Place Names of Kent*. Batsford, London

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Rev (2008) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Lambarde, William. (1970) *Perambulation of Kent* Adams and Dart, Bath

Websites

<http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm> Kent Landscape Information System

APPENDIX 1 – Canterbury City Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, Kent</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>PM--EV-10</i>	
Site Address: <i>Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown in Kent. Planning consent (CA08/01020/HAR) for the construction of five dwellings with associated access and parking was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation (CCCHC) 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 (CCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of three trenches which encountered no archaeological features or cultural material of great antiquity.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Canterbury</i>	Parish: <i>Harbledown and Rough Common</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>None</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR TR 1331 5810</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>August 2010</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Thanet Beds overlain with River Gravel Terraces</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Martin, J. (2010) Evaluation and Assessment of Land at Pilgrims Mede, Summer Hill, Harbledown, Kent .</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>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>26 August 2010</i>