

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Barkaway Site, 20-22 Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent



NGR 600349 160884  
Site Code: BARK/EV/13  
Date of report: 10/10/2013

Report for  
Miss H A Barkaway

**SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY**

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company  
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road  
Faversham, Kent  
ME13 8UP  
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112  
[info@swatarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk)

## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Site Description and Topography.....	5
Planning Background.....	5
Archaeological and Historical Background.....	6
Aims and Objectives.....	6
Methodology.....	6
Monitoring.....	6
Results.....	7
Finds.....	10
Discussion.....	19
Conclusion.....	23
Publication.....	23
Acknowledgements.....	24
References.....	25
Plates.....	26
Appendix 1 KCC HER/OASIS Summary .....	31
Figures.....	32

List of Plates

- Plate 1. Google Earth aerial view of site
- Plate 2. Tyler Hill tile
- Plate 3. Window surround
- Plate 4. Painted plaster
- Plate 5. Smith's plan (detail) 1979
- Plate 6. Smith's plan 1979
- Plate 7. Tyler Hill tile
- Plate 8. Painted stone finial
- Plate 9. Stone fragment
- Plate 10. Smith's plan 1979
- Plate 11. Trench 1
- Plate 12. Location of Trench 1
- Plate 13. Trench 2
- Plate 14. Trench 2
- Plate 15. Trench 3
- Plate 16. Trench 4
- Plate 17. Trench 4
- Plate 18. Trench 5
- Plate 19. Trench 5

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench plans 1 & 4
- Figs. 3-5 Trench plans
- Figs. 6-7 Sections

Table 1 (page 9)



Plate 1. Google Earth aerial photograph of site (eye altitude 370m), date of aerial photograph is 7/9/2013

# **Archaeological Evaluation at The Barkaway Site, 20-22 Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent**

NGR 600349 160884  
Site Code: BARK/EV/13

## **1. SUMMARY**

*In September 2013 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at The Barkaway Site in Ospringe near Faversham in Kent. The archaeological evaluation was in response to a request for pre-determination from Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council to a planning application for residential development submitted to Swale Borough Council in 2012. This application was subsequently withdrawn and the present proposals (SW/13/0700 and SW/13/0701) are a resubmission.*

*Heritage Conservation at Kent County Council had concerns on the impact of the current proposed development on potentially nationally important remains associated with the medieval Maison Dieu hospital. This Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by SWAT Archaeology to a Archaeological Specification written by Heritage Conservation at Kent County Council and was designed to evaluate the importance of the site and what impact the development proposals would have in the submitted planning application.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation (Plate 1, Fig.1) was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 5 trenches which revealed that extensive medieval and post-medieval activity had taken place within the proposed development site. Extensive remains of the medieval hospital complex were located in Trenches Two, Four and Five. The medieval 'Pond' was located in Trenches One and Two. Further medieval activity was also observed in Trench 5.*

*The present archaeological investigation by SWAT Archaeology has shown that significant archaeological remains (Trenches 4, 5) are to be found in the area of the proposed Block 1 (four terraced houses) at a depth of 620-700mm below present ground level.*

*In the area of Block 2 (two semi-detached houses) the archaeology revealed (Trench 3) is at a depth of 780mm below present ground level.*

*It was not possible to evaluate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeology of Block 3.*

*Block 4 has been shown by the present archaeological investigation (Trench 2) to be situated in the footprint of the Pond and Common Hall with archaeological remains at a depth of 480mm below present ground level.*

*The buried archaeology is 600mm below present ground level in the area of proposed parking (Trench 1). The location and depth of services is unknown but could have an impact on the buried archaeology.*

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Miss Barkaway 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 2013) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 6<sup>th</sup> September to the 21<sup>st</sup> 2013.

## **3. SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains most of which are encapsulated in an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (SWAT Archaeology July 2012). The site lies about 30m north of the scheduled monument of Maison Dieu a surviving element of the medieval St Marys Hospital, dating to 1234 (HER TR 06 SW 15). The site is located to the north of Ospringe Street and bounded on the west by Grove Place, to the north by Grove Close and to the east by the relatively recent development of houses named 'The Fairways'. The area of the proposed development is a mix of grass, tarmac and gardens plus sheds, stables and including the butchers shop complex of 22 Ospringe Street.

According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on Alluvium overlaying Chalk. The geology revealed on site was a mix of sand and gravel (river gravels).

## **4. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

A planning application SW/13/0700 and SW/13/0701 (for listed building consent) has been made to Swale Borough Council. The proposed development comprises the demolition of outbuildings, the conversion of a stable and cold store and the construction of eight new dwellings (Steve Banister Plan Ref: 2510/4A). The plan shows the proposed development in four blocks.

Block 1 is for four terraced houses fronting Ospringe Street in the south-east area of the site.

Block 2 is a pair of semi-detached houses fronting onto Grove Place in the north-west area of the site.

Block 3 is the conversion of part of the former butcher's premises of Barkaway.

Block 4 is a studio over a garage where now stands a brick stable.

Included in the original application package to Swale Borough Council was a Desk-based Assessment (SWAT Archaeology 2011) whereas Heritage Conservation at Kent County Council requested additional information to include an assessment of impact. However, the Principal Archaeological Officer KCC was informed that that foundation details have not as yet been designed. The present Archaeological Specification written by Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer KCC was designed to evaluate the potential of the site based

on the submitted proposals plan and is targeted against each of the development blocks and parking area as shown.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 5% sample of the impact area with 5 trenches (Fig. 1) 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 KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

An extensive review of the archaeological and historical background is contained in the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment by SWAT Archaeology (2011). From the historical archaeological investigations, notably by Smith in 1977 who excavated a large portion of the hospital site to the north of Ospringe Street (Plate 10). Smith predicted that in the area of the present investigation could be found remains of the Common Hall and Pond.

## **6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2013) was to determine if any significant archaeological remains survived and to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site. In particular Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer KCC designed the evaluation specification to assess the potential impact of the development proposals upon the remains of the medieval hospital. The location of trenches was specifically located with regards to the conjectured plan of the proposed development and postulated locations of the main buildings of the medieval hospital.

## **7. METHODOLOGY**

Trial trenching was carried out from 6<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 with the excavation of 5 trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC 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. All trenches were of varying length and about 2m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand excavated, planned and photographed. 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

## **8. MONITORING**

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the site evaluation work.

## 9. RESULTS

The archaeological evaluation consisted of five trenches. They were located throughout the proposed development site and were situated in a paddock (Trenches 1, 2), a rear garden (3) and within a standing barn complex (Trenches 4 and 5).

### **Trench One** (Plates 11-12)

Trench one measured 4m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m in the NW corner. The trench was located within the centre of the development site and was aligned N-S. Machine removal of the topsoil (100) and the subsoil (101) exposed a series of features and deposits associated with the Pond. The trench revealed the southern edge and the possible NE return of the construction cut [110] for the edge of the Pond. This edge was vertical with a slight curve at the break of slope. Traces of what may have been the original Pond lining (109) survived in the angle of the NE return. The floor of the Pond was cut into the natural river gravels. The southern edge of the Pond had a slight raised surface (105) that may have been deposited to form a bank. Part of the southern edge of the Pond was slightly truncated by a later pit [108]. This pit cut through the main backfills of the Pond and it had a depth of 0.53m (9.72mOD). The fill of this pit comprised of tip-lines of contaminated soils (103), (106) and building materials (107). South of the edge of the Pond was a layer (102) of re-deposited brickearth, that may have acted as a floor surface. This was sealed by a deposit of clayey soil (104), which was observed 0.60m (9.82mOD) below the present surface. A 'Victorian' brick built drain formed the southern Limit of Excavation (LOE) and this was encountered 0.50m (9.92mOD) below the present surface.

### **Trench Two** (Plates 13-14)

Trench Two was located along the north boundary of the development site, 1.20m south of the main wall (brick). This trench was aligned E-W and measured 11.50m x 1.50m. The eastern half was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m (9.83mOD) whereas the western half was excavated to a depth of 0.75m (9.47mOD). The removal of the topsoil (200) and subsoil (201) revealed a layer of material (202) sealing a metallised surface (204). This metallised surface was located between the main, west wall (206) of the 'Common Hall' and the west 'revetment wall' (203) of the Pond. The wall of the 'Common Hall' was observed at the extreme east end of the trench and it continued beyond the LOE. This wall occurs 0.45m (9.84mOD) below the present surface. The 'revetment wall', which is 0.40m (9.89mOD) below the surface, sits on a dark silty material (208) that is thought to be part of the fill of the Pond. The Pond fill, west of the 'revetment wall' comprised of a series of re-deposited soils (210), (211) and building materials (207). Trace elements of the possible Pond lining (209) and (213) were exposed in a sondage, aligned N-S. This additional excavation encountered (209) and the natural river gravels at a depth of (8.82mOD) (1400mm) from the present surface. Pond lining (213) was truncated by a linear feature [212] that was observed during Smith's excavation in 1977. The natural river gravels were also observed at the extreme west end of

the trench, 0.70m (9.52mOD) below the present surface. A modern waste water pipeline is situated 1.40m from the western end.

### **Trench Three** (Plate 15)

Trench Three was located in the rear garden of No. 22. It measured 9.50m x 1.8m and was aligned NW–SE. The trench was machined to a depth of 0.75m (10.15mOD) at the NW end and 0.85m (9.98mOD) at the SE end. The removal of the topsoil (300) and the subsoil (301) exposed a metallated surface (303) that had been truncated by a modern waste water pipeline [309]. Underneath the metallating was a layer of very clean re-deposited chalk (310). This sealed a layer of gravel and peg tile (320). A second ‘modern’ waste water drain (308) truncated a series of features at the NW end of Trench Three. The drain was situated across the corner of a narrow walled building (307); constructed from flint nodules bonded with a yellow sandy mortar. This building occurred at a depth of 10.05mOD. Within this structure was a clay floor (313). To the east of this building lay a re-deposited chalk and soil mix (305). This layer respected the outer edge of structure (313) but sealed a possible second clay floor (306). A series of small, shallow pits [315], [317] and [319] truncated ‘floor’ (306) north of building (313).

### **Trench Four** (Plates 16-17)

Trench Four was located within the small barn situated on the street frontage of the A2 and opposite the Maison Dieu. The trench was aligned E–W, measured 3.80m x 1.90m and was machined to an average depth of 0.55m (550mm) below the present surface. The removal of the latest floor (400) of the barn and the ‘bedding’ layer (401) revealed a primary floor surface comprised of cobbles (403) with an integrated brick drainage gully (402). This floor surface sealed a layer of dark grey, clayey silt that also filled a linear feature [405], aligned N-S. This linear feature was a ‘robber’ cut that truncated a medieval wall (408). This wall, aligned N-S, had a dressed west outer face and is thought to belong to a previously unknown building within the hospital complex. The construction cut [410] for the wall was at least 0.70m deep and had cut through a thick layer of clean, re-deposited chalk (411), which in sealed a layer of re-deposited brickearth (412). Both of these layers may have acted as internal floor surfaces. The backfill of the construction cut (409) contained peg tile and pottery. Demolition of this building exposed the chalk ‘floor’, which was then used as a trackway before the construction of the present barn. Patches (406) and (407) of gravel and crushed ceramic building material (CBM) were deposited to ‘repair’ wheel ruts in the chalk.

### **Trench Five** (Plates 18-19)

Trench Five was located within the large barn and aligned E-W. It measured 9m x 1.50m. The removal of the present concrete surface (500) and the ‘bedding’ layer (501) exposed topsoil (502). Underneath the topsoil, at the west end of the trench, was a deposit of mixed soil and small chalk pieces (503). This context partially sealed the surviving subsoil (504) that was observed throughout the trench. The removal of this subsoil exposed the west wall (514) of



the 'Ospringle Church' at the extreme east end of the trench and a complex sequence of masonry constructs related to the 'Common Hall'. The main east wall (508) was located 1.00m from the east end of the trench, 0.70m (700mm) below the present surface (9.92mOD). This comprised of flint nodules bonded with a shelly mortar. The main west wall (514), located 0.90m from the west end of the trench, was constructed from the same material as (508). It was only 0.60m (600mm) below the present surface (10.02mOD). The east wall had a thickness of 0.80m; the west wall had a thickness of 0.60m. The west wall was situated in a construction cut [516] filled with re-deposited gravel (515). Partially running along the south edge of Trench Five was a series of walls aligned east-west. The earliest of these (513) was at least 1.00m thick and was constructed from flint nodules bonded with a yellow-cream coloured mortar (very similar to wall (408) in Trench Four). This wall was partially sealed by a mortar floor (512) which was set against the inner face of the main east wall (508). Slightly overlapping the mortar floor and wall (513) was a second east-west aligned wall (510). This later wall was also constructed from flint nodules, however the bonding agent comprised of clay. A third wall (509) extended east from the main west wall (514) of the 'Common Hall' for a distance of 2.50m where it met wall (510). This survived to a height of 0.30m. Situated along the length of (509) was a sequence of floors. The earliest (520) was a mortar floor. This was contemporary with the earliest east-west wall (513) and was recorded at a depth of 1.16m (9.46mOD). This mortar floor was sealed by a clay floor (519). This had a thickness of +0.20m. Overlying this floor was a narrow strip of mortar (518), 0.60m wide, situated along the inner face of the main west wall (514) of the 'Common Hall'. This mortar strip may have been the surviving bonding agent for the floor tiles recovered from the overlying deposits. Bonded to this mortar and located within the inner corner of walls (509) and (514) was a mortar step (517). This step was 0.08m high and had a finely polished upper surface. Demolition of the 'Common Hall' produced a thick layer of debris (511). This layer sealed most of the internal elements of the 'Common Hall'. A quarry pit [506] was cut through this debris layer to extract building material and damaged contexts (512), (513), (519) and (520). The cut had a maximum depth of 0.90m (9.72mOD).

### Overview

The results of the excavation of the five evaluation trenches revealed that extensive medieval and post-medieval activity had taken place within the proposed development. Extensive remains of the medieval hospital complex were located in Trenches Two, Four and Five. The medieval 'Pond' was located in Trenches One and Two. Further medieval activity was also observed in Trench Five. The depth of revealed archaeology in Trenches 1-5 is itemised in millimetres in the table below.

Trench 1	10.42m-9.82m	600mm
Trench 2	10.29m-9.81m	480mm
Trench 3	10.83m-10.05m	780mm
Trench 4	10.75m-10.13m	620mm
Trench 5	10.62m-9.92m	700mm

Table 1.

## 10. FINDS

### **Bulk Finds Overview**

All bulk finds were washed and dried by context. Materials were bagged by type and marked with site code and context. The bulk assemblage is quantified by count and weight, and each material type recorded on pro forma archive forms.

### **The Pottery** by Nigel Macpherson-Grant

An interesting moderate sized assemblage consisting of pottery, decorated and plain floor-tiles and roofing tile. The pottery element is comprised of 106 sherds weighing 1473gms) with, technically, a range spanning the Early Roman to Late Post-Medieval periods. Excluding the Roman element, the main bulk of the recovered assemblage represents apparently continuous occupation from the Medieval period, apparently commencing in the early thirteenth century and continuing all the way through until the late nineteenth century. Within this frame, c.1200-1900 AD, and although all intervening periods are represented ceramically, the main recovered phase of activity is of predominantly of Late Medieval date – with a slightly smaller Post-Medieval element. With the exception of the rather battered eighteenth-nineteenth century material from *Trench 3 Context 304* most of the context-assemblages contain only moderately worn material that could well come from contemporary occupation or discard deposits. However, absolute certainty is lacking for most sherd groups – and only one Late Medieval (*Trench 4 Context409*) and one Post-Medieval context (*Trench 3 Context 314*) can, on basis of sherd size or single-vessel quantity, be considered definitely represent undisturbed contemporary discard deposits.

### ***Period-based summary***

#### *Early Roman – c.75-150 AD*

A single small fairly heavily worn rim sherd from a Canterbury grey sandy ware reed-rimmed (lid-seated) bowl was recovered, residual in the earlier sixteenth century *Context 205*. Although it is possible that this single element arrived on-site as a bi-product of ‘mining’ former Roman buildings for suitable building material – it is equally possible that is derived from underlying occupation of late first, more certainly first half of second century date. No other ceramic material of Mid or Late Roman, of later Saxon or pre-1200 AD Early Medieval date, was recovered during the evaluation.

#### *Medieval – c.1200-1375 AD*

A total of 11 sherds represent this period and all, except *possibly* the 3 from *Context 104*, are definitely residual in later contexts (*105, 107, 204, 206*). The bulk of these are of thirteenth century date – with only 2-3 that can be allocated to the fourteenth century. This distinctly **thirteenth century** emphasis also appears to apply to be reflected in both the floor-tiles and roof-tiles recovered – some residual in *Contexts 320* and *409*, the remainder surface collected. For the pottery, Canterbury Tyler Hill sandy ware marginally dominate over ware

types from other Kentish sources. The latter include a few North or West Kent fine sandy grey ware sherds containing sparse fossil shell, one probable Medway-zone sandy ware. Although most of the vessels represented are kitchenware crockery, fragments from one fine tableware jug, from London and decorated in the North French style datable too between c.1200-1250 AD, was also recovered.

The relative sense of wealth during the earlier thirteenth century, represented by the latter vessel, may also be reflected amongst the floor tile. These include 2 thick-bodied square plain green-glazed tiles in rather dark fairly low-fired fabrics – both finely sanded with coarser inclusions and one definitely containing a high proportion of fine marl. They are distinctly different from the later, Late Medieval, floor-tiles and, on the basis of their very variable marl content, are tentatively sourced to the Wealden area. In addition, a few roof-tile fragments from various sources but particularly *Context 409*. Most are from Canterbury but the latter context includes two markedly thinner fragments. Both are in sandy fabrics and both in the drab brown-red colours fairly typical of earlier thirteenth century firing trends for both pottery and tile at Canterbury - and, to varying degrees, throughout the central-eastern part of the region. However, their thin bodies are atypical of most Canterbury tiles so that, either these are from a one-off poorly-made batch or, despite their superficially similar fabric, are from a different source.

#### *Late Medieval – c.1375-1525 AD*

Ignoring the evidence of the later fourteenth-earlier fifteenth century roof-tiles, which can only be broadly dated, there appears to be – on the basis of the recovered material – a marked lack of activity between c.1350-1450 AD. Almost all of the Late Medieval pottery is noticeably of later fifteenth-earlier sixteenth century date.

#### *Post-Medieval – c.1525-1750 AD*

Apart from the residual Post-Medieval material in *Context 304* (below), only 6 other contexts produced pottery or tile of Post-Medieval date – *Contexts 107, 205-6, 302, 314* and *504*. Of these, *Contexts 107* and *206* may be purely sixteenth century, since both had a single later seventeenth-century dated element which could, on the basis of their size and condition, be intrusive. In a different way, this point of single-sherd intrusiveness could also apply to *Context 314*. This produced a number of conjoining near-fresh fragments from a mid-later seventeenth century North-Central Kentish red fine sandy ware jug with a rich brown streaky iron glaze. However, this once handsome vessel may have been a 'cared-for' item, to some degree – and its discard may have been contemporary with the single near-fresh earlier eighteenth century Kentish redware sherd also recorded from this context.

The most notable purely sixteenth century item recovered were fragments from a fine, again North-Central Kentish redware, drinking-jug from *Context 206*. Its basic form and extremely

well-moulded nine-point 'star- base loosely copies imported German Raeren stoneware drinking mugs – with their markedly protruding boldly moulded bases. For the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, apart from a scatter of local redware, Surrey-Hampshire Border Ware and German Frechen stoneware – the only really quality ware acquisition is represented by, unfortunately, a single small but unworn sherd from a decorated German Westerwald stoneware jug with fine cobalt and manganese painting.

*Late Post-Medieval (including Modern) – c.1750 AD-plus*

This period is only represented by material from *Context 304*. The range of material, although fairly slimly present, is typical of many later eighteenth and nineteenth regional assemblages – late English tin-glazed earthenware, Kentish red earthenwares, Later Creamwares, Staffordshire white blue transfer-printed tablewares and Staffordshire or Derby Yellow kitchenware. The only really notable aspect of this period's overall assemblage is the relatively high proportion of Midlands-South Yorkshire redware sherds with white internal slip. Notable in the sense that at least one of these is highly worn, compared with the obviously later and near-fresh examples present, and both useful confirmation of the ware's production earliness – from c.1775 AD – and also slight differences in fabric. In addition, this source also provided a fragment of flat wall-tile and, out of a large quantity of Late Post-Medieval assemblages examined - not previously recorded by the present analyst.

**Recommendations**

This site excavated by SWAT Archaeology has produced a reasonable assemblage of Late Medieval-early Post-Medieval pottery. The pottery underlines how much more research, despite the initial excellent work done by John Cotter whilst still with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, and work is still needed to adequately source Medieval-early Post Medieval Kentish pottery – particularly from north-central Kent, the Wealden zone and, to some degree, west and north-west Kent too. The present assemblage provides a small window into this problem – and it is hoped that any further work on this site will produce a more significant and useful assemblage to work with during pre-publication work or to reserve for future analysis.

---

**The Ceramic Building Material** by Paul Wilkinson

The ceramic building material (CBM) contained a number of floor tiles from Trenches 3, 4 & 5. A combined total of 11 fragments (1.120kg) of floor tile were recovered. In general the assemblage is very fragmentary and in some cases very abraded (post-use). Some pieces may have been re-used as building rubble. Most pieces comprise edge or corner fragments. In only one instance did a tile survive with two corners allowing the original length of the tile to be measured. Floor tiles fall into the following groups based on physical characteristics.



Plate 2. Group 3, plain Tyler Hill tile

Group 1. Decorated Tyler Hill products (5 fragments). Minimum 5 tiles. Hard, red sandy fabric with bevelled edges and sanded undersides. Decorated with stamped designs inlaid with white slip. Clear glazed. Made at Tyler Hill near Canterbury during the period c.1285-1325. References given here are to Mark Horton's tile report from St. Augustines Abbey, Canterbury (Horton 1988). The majority are 16-17mm thick and are thus likely to belong to the late stage of production during the early 14C (Horton's Group B2). Only one tile is 21mm thick and thus corresponds with the earlier (B1) products. Identifiable designs are of the commoner Tyler Hill types including at least two with simple chevron designs (Horton 1988, fig. 46.45), one with fleur-de-lys designs and one with a possible daisy design (ibid., Plate. 3). One other tile chip may bear a different design, possibly foliage. One of the fleur-de-lys tiles has been cut diametrically to form two triangular tiles. This is a common feature of Tyler Hill tiles, the tiles being snapped along a cut made prior to firing. Triangular tiles were used as fillers in larger decorative tile schemes, or along the edges of tile pavements.

Group 2. Plain Tyler Hill tiles with white slip and green glaze (1 fragment). The upper surface is covered with a white slip under a green copper-stained glaze. 20mm thick. Probably late 13C/early 14C.

Group 3. Plain Tyler Hill tiles with dark brown glaze (5 fragments). Most of these are between 16-18mm thick suggesting an early 14C or later date. Some have an overfired late medieval-looking fabric and one has split horizontally in the kiln (Plate 7) and is probably a 'second'.

The side length of one tile is measurable at 118mm. Two examples have been cut diametrically to form triangles.

### **Peg tiles**

A combined total of 40 fragments (2.634kg) were recovered from the site.

Type 1. Medieval pegtiles (30 fragments). These form the majority of pegtiles recovered and probably date from the 13C through to the 16C. They have a red sandy fabric, though some have been overfired/reduced a dark grey colour. Some are partially clear (brown) glazed on one side only and one example has a green copper-flecked glaze. Peg-holes are round. The collection is too fragmentary to recover original tile dimensions but in one case the whole end of a tile survives giving a width of 140mm. The tiles vary in thickness from 10-14mm with 13mm being average. One unusual thicker tile in a finer sandy unglazed fabric was 17mm thick. Superficially the majority of tiles are very similar in appearance to Tyler Hill peg tiles, but could just as easily have been made locally from similar-firing London clay sources. It is known, for example, that a large tile-making industry existed in the Faversham area during the 16C.

Type 2. Post-medieval pegtiles (3 fragments). Distinguished by the presence of square peg-holes and finer sandy unglazed fabrics, either red or pink-buff.

Type 3. ?Late medieval white pegtiles (7 fragments). From a minimum of 3 tiles). These have a fine sandy, rather pasty, cream or pale pink-buff fabric with cream-coloured surfaces. They have round peg-holes and are 13-15mm thick. Their association in the same context with Tudor pottery (mainly c. 1475/1500– 550) suggests they date to this period. Given their rarity, it is possible the tiles were used for decorative purposes - perhaps to create patterns when set amidst the more usual red roofing of the period. White peg tiles are generally quite rare in Kent. They are slightly commoner in the 18/19C, perhaps coming from the Aylesford area where pale-firing clays were exploited during the 19C for chimney pots etc. However, medieval examples are known from a moated site at Parsonage Farm, near Ashford, and some late medieval pottery types of suspected Ashford origin are also quite pale firing – possibly made from locally occurring Wealden clays.

Horton, M.C., 1979 'The Floor-Tiles', in G.H. Smith 'The Excavation of the Hospital of St. Mary of Ospringe, commonly called the Maison Dieu'. *Archaeologia Cantiana* XCV, 117-126.

Horton, M.C., 1988 'Medieval Floor-Tiles 1972-78 and earlier', in D. Sherlock and H. Woods *St. Augustine's Abbey: Report on Excavations, 1960-78*, KAS Monograph Series IV (Maidstone), 144-176

## Worked Building Stone by Paul Wilkinson



Plate 3. Part of the assemblage from Trench 5. Part of a window surround in 'Reigate-type stone'

The archaeological evaluation retrieved a number of interesting carved architectural pieces in 'Reigate' type stone which will be the subject of additional specialist input (Plates 3, 8, 9). The remainder of the assemblage consisted of building blocks in Upper Greensand. Similar stone was recovered by Philp from the site of Faversham Abbey and by Margetts at Fairways, a site adjacent to the present investigation. The source of this material is probably the King's quarries at Mersham and Reigate.

The stone is a light grey, rather than green grey in colour, relatively light in weight and easily worked. Most of the stone came from Trench 5 and two are chamfered on one edge with tooling of close, parallel, vertical marks from a chisel held obliquely. Smith notes this stone is also found at Eynsford Castle (13<sup>th</sup> century alterations); Temple Manor, Strood; Stone by Dartford; Henry III's work at Westminster; and indeed, throughout the whole lower Thames where there was royal patronage (Smith 1979: 108).

## Painted Wall Plaster by Paul Wilkinson



Plate 4.. Painted plaster retrieved from Trench 5 (511)

The eight fragments of plaster retrieved from the demolition rubble of Trench 5 (511) are either plain white or is non-figurative with red ochre linear decoration to simulate ashlar-joints on the plaster wall rendering of the vertical rubble walls of the Common Hall. This is the most common type of plaster decoration found in the interior rooms of domestic houses throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Smith notes 'it becomes much rarer early in the next century'. Smith cites parallels to Ospringe at Luddesdown Court, Temple Manor, Strood, the Old Deanery, Salisbury and Bushmead Priory, Beds (Smith 1979: 113).

### Small Finds by Simon Holmes

A total of 40 small finds were recovered from the evaluation excavation. These objects comprised of a variety of materials, reflecting the history of activity on the site, from the Roman to Post-Medieval. The majority of the iron objects are nails, which is to be expected on a site with a long history of building, demolition and re-building. Notable small finds include a 15<sup>th</sup> century Jetton (SF:4), a 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century lead *ampulla*, for containing Holy Water (SF:17) and a bone hair pin, possibly Roman (SF:6).

### Catalogue

#### Coins

George III. Halfpenny SF:8 (U/S)

Victoria. 1895 Farthing SF:2 (104)



George VI. 1947 Halfpenny SF:1 (104)

### **Jetton**

French. 15<sup>th</sup> Century SF:4 (207)

### **Objects of Copper Alloy**

Pin. Incomplete. L: 23mm. W: 1.4mm. SF:7 (304)

Sheet Fragment. Lozenge-shaped. L: 53mm. W: 37mm. T: 1.8mm. SF:5 (102)

Wire Ringlet. D: 16mm. T: 1.4mm. SF:3 (104)

Wire Ring. Horse Harness Furniture? D: 39.5mm. T: 3.2mm. SF:9 (314)

Vessel. Rim Fragment of a bell. L: 72.5mm. W: 41mm. T: 2.8mm. SF:10 (U/S)

Wire Ring. Horse Harness Furniture? D: 28.8mm. T: 1.8mm. SF:11 (U/S)

Button. 'VR Royal Engineers'. D: 24mm. T: 12mm. SF:12 (U/S)

Thimble. L: 28mm. D: 17mm. SF:13 (U/S)

Decorative Mount. Depicting a Crown. Tang (missing) on reverse. L: 32mm. W: 14mm. T: 3mm. SF:14 (U/S)

Miscellaneous Object. SF:15

Miscellaneous Object. SF:16

### **Objects of Lead**

Vessel. *Ampulla*. c.1300-1500 AD. Incomplete. L: 50mm. W: 41mm. T: 2.8mm. SF:17 (U/S)

Window Lead. L:74mm. W: 10mm. T: 3.5mm. SF:18 (U/S)

Miscellaneous Object. L: 63mm. D: 26mm. SF:19 (U/S)

Miscellaneous Object. L: 34mm. W: 37mm. T: 9mm. SF:20 (U/S)

### **Objects of Iron**

Knife Blade. L: 63.5mm. W: 16mm. T: 4mm. SF:21 (104)

Spearhead? Incomplete. Socket and lower element of blade. L: 98mm. W: 26mm. D: 19.5mm. SF:22 (104)

Nails x2. L: 83mm. W: 9mm. D: (head) 23mm. SF:23 (104)

Nail. L: 51mm. W: 7.5mm. D: (head) 21mm. SF:24 (304)

Nail. L: 118mm. W: 20mm. T: 14mm. SF:25 (304)

Horseshoe. Incomplete. L: 99.5mm. W: 35mm. T: 5mm. SF:26 (304)

Bracket. Rectangular. L: 130mm. W: 40mm. T: 5mm. SF:27 (304)

Miscellaneous Object. L: 48mm. W: 12mm. SF:28 (304)

Buckle. D-Shaped. Horse Harness Furniture. L: 72.5mm. W: 49mm. T: 8mm. SF:29 (U/S)

Nail. L: 38.9mm. W: 4mm. SF:30 (204)

Nail. L: 64mm. W: 6.5mm. D: (head) 17mm. SF:31 (204)

Nails x4. L: 60mm. W: 6mm. D: (head) 14mm. SF:32 (206)

Nails x6. L: 64mm. W: 7mm. D: (head) 18mm. SF:33 (206)

Nails x3. L: 41mm. W: 6mm. D: (head) 20mm. SF:34 (206)

Nails x2. L: 44mm. W: 4mm. D: (head) 12mm. SF:35 (206)

Nails x3. L: 31mm. W: 3.5mm. D: (head) 11mm. SF:36 (206)

Nail. L: 78mm. W: 10mm. D: (head) 24mm. SF:37 (206)

Nail. L: 88mm. W: 7mm. D: (head) 17mm. SF:38 (206)

Hook. L: 122mm. W: 3.9mm. SF:39 (206)

Barrel Lock. Incomplete. Circular disc housing three iron strips. L: 110mm. D: 34mm. SF:40 (206)

### **Objects of Bone**

Hair Pin. Incomplete. Decorated head - 'tear drop and hour-glass'. Roman? L: 60mm. D: 5mm. SF:6 (404)

### Summary

This assemblage of 40 small finds represents the archaeological phases of the medieval and post-medieval periods. One exception may be the bone pin (SF:6). This could be Roman in origin, though its re-deposition in a post-medieval 'robber cut' implies that it could have originated from a later period.

### References

- Bishop, M. C., 1996 Finds from Roman Aldborough; a catalogue of small finds from the Romano-British town of *Isurium Brigantum*. Oxbow Monograph 65
- Blockley K, Blockley M, Blockley P, Frere SS and Stow S., Excavations in the Marlowe Car Park and Surrounding Areas: Part II. The Archaeology of Canterbury Vol V.
- Frere, S.S., Stow S. and Bennett B., 1982: Excavations on the Roman and Medieval Defences of Canterbury. The Archaeology of Canterbury Vol II.
- Frere, S.S and Stow S., Excavations in the St. Georges Street and Burgate Street Areas. The Archaeology of Canterbury Vol VII.
- Philp, B., 1981 The excavations of the Roman forts of the Classis Britannica at Dover 1970-1977. CIB.
- Wilson, P. R., 2002 *Cataractonium*. Roman Catterick and its hinterland. Vol II. CBA Research Report 129

### **The Shell** by Julia Cussans

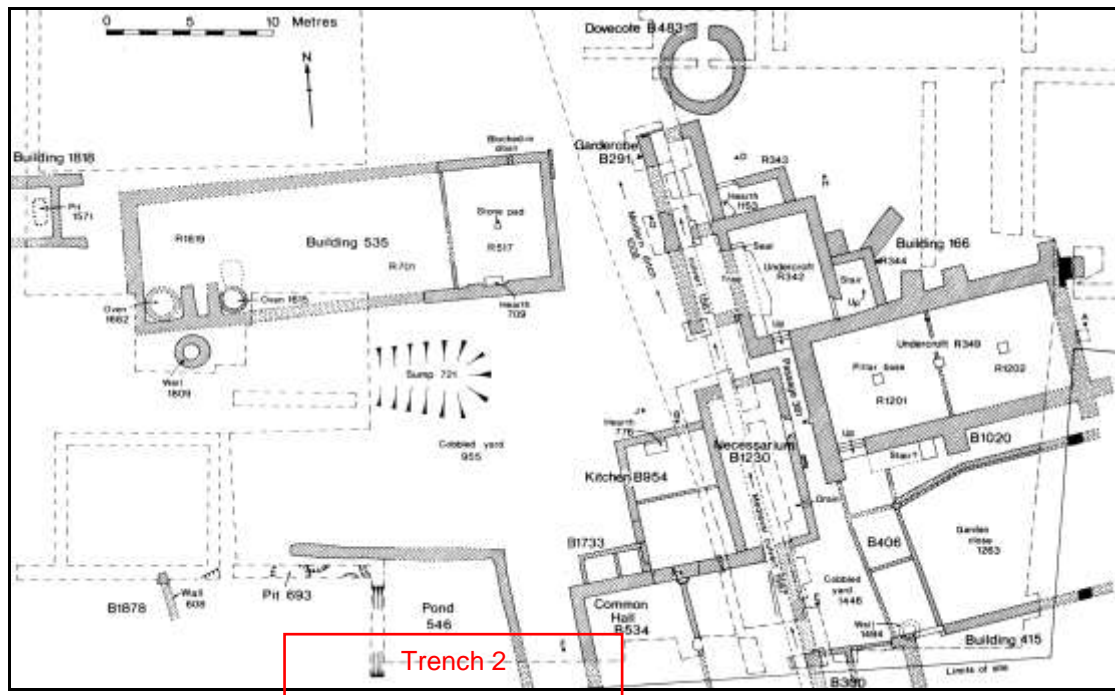
A whelk shell, three cockle shells and oyster shell were recovered from Trench 2. Context (202). 15 lower valves and 21 upper valves were retrieved, 15 of which were immature and five showed traces of parasitic activity.

### **Animal Bone** by Julia Cussans

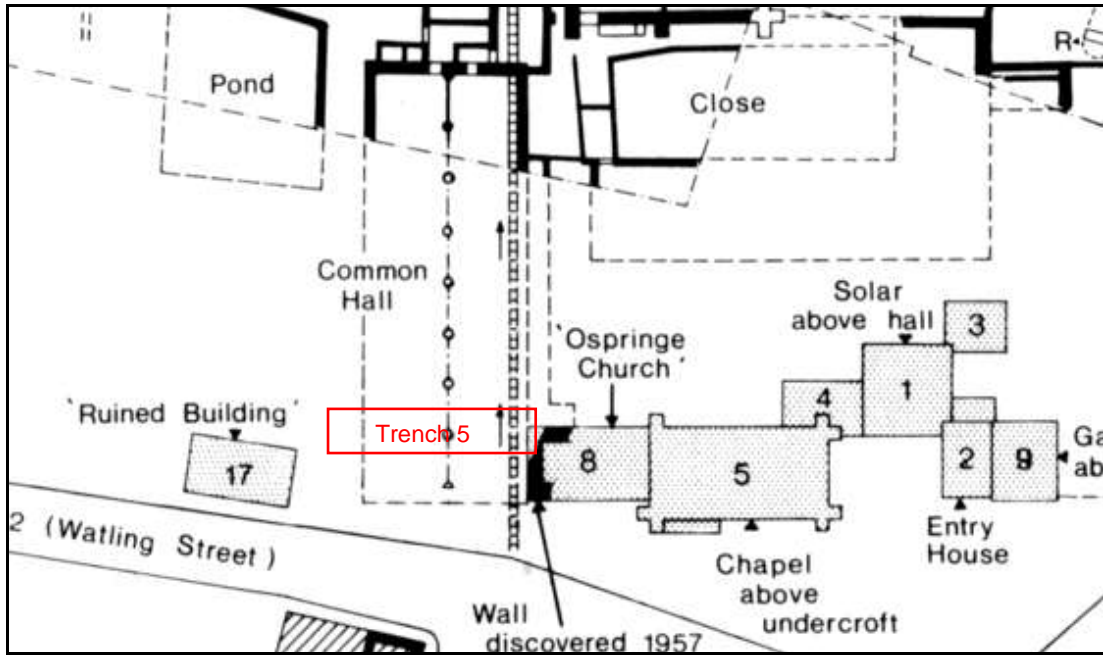
The animal bone assemblage contained nine fragments of bone from contexts (106), (202), (305). Context (106) contained one complete right sheep metacarpals, one bovine rib fragment, and canine teeth from a pig. Context (202) contained the distal end of an unfused sheep metapodial, two fragments of bovine long bone and a fragment of pig maxillae. Context (305) contained two molars from a sheep.

## 11. DISCUSSION

The evaluation produced archaeology which can be tied in with G H Smiths published account in *Archaeologia Cantiana* (Vol XCV 1979). In Trench 2 the present evaluation exposed part of the Pond and the west wall of the Common Hall (below)



The plan (Plate 5 above) by Smith (1979) shows the Pond (546), and Common Hall (B534). Overlaid in red is the location of Trench 2 from the present evaluation which picked up Smiths Pond (546) and a pond feature [212] which was not discussed by Smith. However, Smiths description of the yard in having “a well-laid surface of flint cobbling over a chalk rubble foundation” fits in well with what was revealed in the present investigation. The east wall to the pond is not numbered in the Smith report and is (203) in the present investigation. Smith says “It [the pond] was surrounded by a shallowly-founded flint wall of different mortar to the rest of the 13<sup>th</sup> century buildings and built after the laying of the cobbles of yard”. Smith also notes that “The pond was waterlogged in its lower levels, which produced a shallow wooden bowl and pottery of 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Unfortunately the lower levels of the pond have now dried out. The Common Hall west wall was picked up in the present investigations (206) and this is the Common Hall partly excavated by Smith (B534). Smith describes the building as the main functional building of the hospital with external walls built of flint 0.85m in width and with ashlar detailing (Smith 1979: 92-94).



In Trench 5 (Plate 6 above) the present excavation exposed both the west and east walls of the Common Hall, and perhaps the west wall of 'Ospringe Church or chapel, a theory reinforced by the finding of the rim of a large copper alloy bell. On the south side of the evaluation trench a number of east-west stone walls were exposed including one of about a metre width. Numerous floor tiles dating from the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Plate 7, below) of a pattern not found in Smiths excavations were retrieved from the demolition layers in Trench 5 (511).



Plate 7

Also retrieved were unweathered, painted 'Reigate' stone fragments from a chancel screen or shrine dating from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century (Plate 8, below).



*Plate 8. Part of a painted finial with leaf decoration from either a chancel screen or shrine*

Ten 'Reigate-type' stone fragments of unweathered, painted stone were retrieved from the demolition layers in Trench 5. These include fragments from an internal painted structure or screen *cancellata* (below) which could be part of a mullion with hollow-chamfered cusps.



*Plate 9. An internal painted architectural fragment from the demolition layers in Trench 5*

Trench 4 revealed an unknown building to the south of the Common Hall. Unfortunately it is not the 'Ruined Building' referred to in Smith's report, itself referring to the 'Survey of Kentish Estates 1571 (Item 17)'. Also exposed were cart wheel ruts over the demolished building.

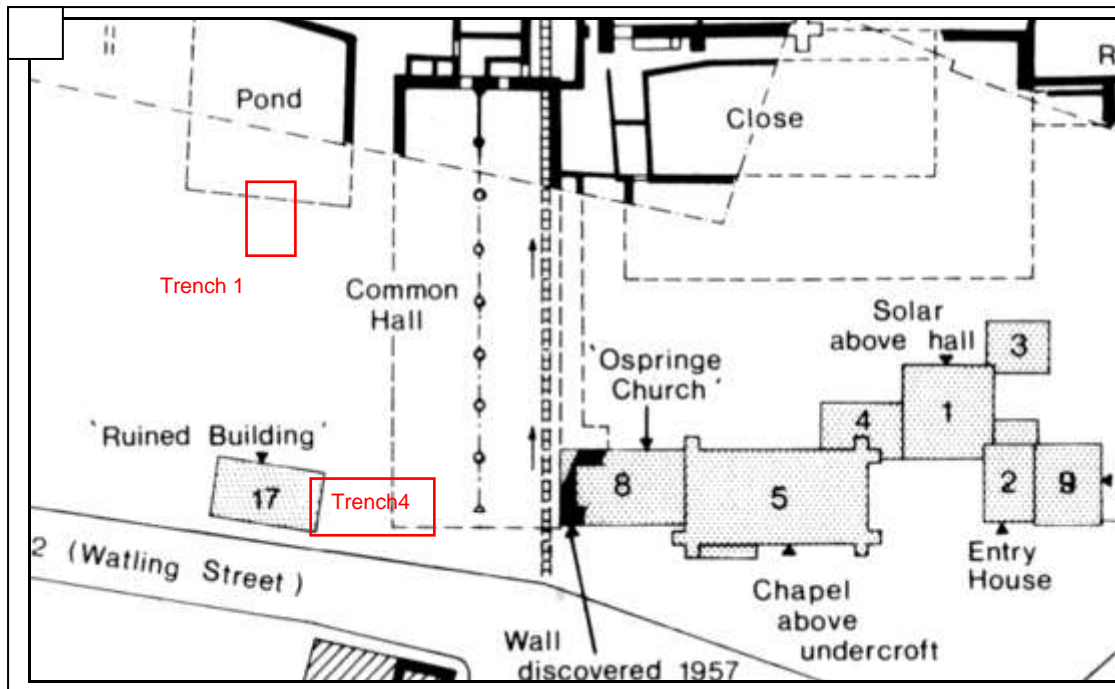


Plate 10. Trench 4 revealed an unknown building just to the south-west of the Common Hall, but not the 'Ruined Building'.

Trench 1 was located in the centre of the proposed development in an area designated as car-parking. On excavation it revealed the southern edge and possible north-east return of the 'Pond'.

Trench 5 was machined to a depth of 0.75m (750mm) at the north-west and 0.85m (850mm) at the south-east end. The removal of the topsoil (300) and the subsoil (301) exposed a metallised surface (303) that had been truncated by a modern waste water pipeline [309]. Underneath the metallising was a layer of very clean re-deposited chalk (310). This sealed a layer of gravel and peg tile. The peg tile has been dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## 12. ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIRED ON FINDS

### **The Pottery** Nigel Macpherson-Grant

The assemblage, given its small size is of a limited potential beyond the dating information provided. It is will be necessary to draw some of the pot but no separate report is proposed.

### **The Ceramic Building Material** Paul Wilkinson

The assemblage is of little potential due to the mixed dating within the contexts. The decorated floor tiles are of interest and will be compared to known types and some selected for illustration in the final published report.

### **The Stone** Paul Wilkinson

The stone assemblage is of particular interest and specialist reports will be required and will form part of the final published report.

**The Painted Plaster** Paul Wilkinson

The small assemblage is of little value but the decorated fragments will be drawn and will form part of the published report.

**Small Finds** Simon Holmes

More research is required on some of the objects found and some items from the assemblage will be x-rayed and other drawn for the published report.

**The Animal Bone** Julia Cussons

The animal bone has no further potential.

### 13. CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Archaeological activity was found during the evaluation, and this will help inform the Principal Archaeological Officer of the archaeological potential of site. The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.

It is also possible to assess the value of the heritage asset based on the findings of the current archaeological investigation. Current national guidelines for the assessment of the significance of heritage assets can be found in the English Heritage document *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008)*. The overall significance of heritage assets and their settings can be decided in line with criteria itemised in Table 2. There has been ample opportunity for English Heritage to schedule the area of archaeological investigation based on the plethora of archaeological investigations from 1960 onwards. English Heritage has chosen not to do so. Based on these criteria the site can only be viewed of national importance because it is an asset that will contribute to national research agendas.

**Table 2:**

<b>Significance</b>	<b>Factors for Determining Significance</b>
International	World Heritage Sites Assets of recognised international importance Assets that contribute to international research objectives
National	Scheduled Ancient Monuments Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings Grade I and Grade II* Registered Parks and Gardens Undesignated assets of the quality and importance to be designated Assets that contribute to national research agendas
Regional	Grade II Listed Buildings Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens Conservation Areas Assets that contribute to regional research objectives
Local	Locally listed buildings Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor contextual associations Assets with importance to local interest groups Assets that contribute to local research objectives
Negligible	Assets with little or no archaeological/historical interest

### 14. PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING PROPOSALS

On completion of the project the landowner may consider as to where any artefacts may be suitably deposited. There is no receiving body for the long-term curation of archaeological archives generated by archaeological investigations within Kent, However, it may the case that English Heritage would consider deposition of the Site



Archive including artefacts at the Maison Dieu museum in Ospringe. Further details, including information on the appropriate storage media and the procedures for the transfer of ownership of artefacts is contained in: *Brown, D., (2011) Safeguarding Archaeological Information: Procedures for minimising risk to undeposited archaeological archives. English Heritage* On completion of the project, arrangements will be made for the transfer, subject to the landowners consent, of the documentary, photographic and material archive to the Maison Dieu Museum and ensure that the appropriate level of resources for cataloguing, boxing and long term storage are available.

## **15. PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS**

It is proposed that the findings of the archaeological evaluation are worthy of publication as an article in the county archaeological journal, *Archaeologia Cantiana*. The article will present the results of this archaeological work in relation to other investigations undertaken in the area. Reference will be made to other Medieval Hospitals in the area and beyond, in an attempt to put the results into a regional and national context.

Given the limited potential of the finds, it is not proposed to have stand-alone finds reports but to integrate the information derived from the finds with the site narrative. This will enable the material to be considered in context with the archaeological remains. The article will include appropriate maps, plans and illustrations. It is proposed the article will follow the publication synopsis to be agreed with the KCC Archaeological Officer, resulting in an article of c.4500 words. Upon completion a copy of the article will be sent to KCC for comment prior to submission for publication.

## **16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank Miss H Barkaway for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance. Simon Holmes, Peter Cichy, Robert Bylett, Dan Quintain and Paul Wilkinson undertook the fieldwork. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson.



Dr Paul Wilkinson FRSA, MifA

18/10/2013

## 17. REFERENCES

### Bibliography

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

Hasted, E. 1798. *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent, Volume 4*.

KCC 2013. *Specification for an archaeological evaluation at The Barkaway Site, 20-22 Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent*

Margetts, Andrew 2008. *Archaeological Investigation at Fairways, Ospringe* Archaeology South-East.

Philp, B. 1968. *Excavations at Faversham 1965*. Kent Archaeological Research Group's Council.

Prescott, E. 1992. *The English Medieval Hospital 1050 – 1640*. Seaby

Rigold, S.E. 1964. 'Two Kentish Hospitals re-examined, St Mary, Ospringe and SS.Stephen and Thomas, New Romney.' *Arch. Cant.*, 1xxix, 31-69.

Smith, G.H. 1979. 'The Excavation of the Hospital of St. Mary of Ospringe commonly called Maison Dieu.' *Arch Cant.* 95: 81-184

### Maps

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1871-1890)

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1897-1900)

Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (1907-1923)

Ordnance Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (1929-1952)

### Websites

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

Exploring Kent's Past <http://www.extranet7.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast/>



**Plate 11. Trench 1 (looking south)**



**Plate 12. Location of Trench 1**





Plate 13. Trench 2 (looking north-east)



Plate 14. View of Trench 2 (looking east)



**Plate 15. View of Trench 3 (looking north-west)**





**Plate 16. Trench 4 west end (50cm scale)**



**Plate 17. South end of wall (1m scale)**



**Plate 18. Trench 5, clay floor (519), and wall (509) and step (517)- looking west**



**Plate 19. Trench 5 contexts (514) and (517)**



**APPENDIX 1 – KCC HER Summary Form & OASIS Summary**

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>The Barkaway Site Kent</i>	
<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>BARK/EV/13</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>The Barkaway Site, 20-22 Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 20-22 Ospringe Street, An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out to inform the client of the implication and extent of archaeology on the proposed development site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2013) and in discussion with the Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i>  <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of five evaluation trenches that revealed the remains of the medieval Maison Dieu hospital.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Faversham</i>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Ospringe</i>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b> <i>Medieval and post-Medieval</i>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>NGR 600349 160884</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>September 2013</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>River gravels</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> <i>Wilkinson, P. An Archaeological Evaluation at The Barkaway Site, 20-22 Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>18/10/2013</i>