

**RECORDING OF
WWII SNIPER POSITION
AT 20-22 OSPRINGE STREET,
FAVERSHAM, KENT**

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....PAGE 3
2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....PAGE 3
3.0 DISCUSSION.....PAGE 5
4.0 PARAMETERS.....PAGE 5
5.0 REFERENCES.....PAGE 6

Front cover: 1940 photograph of the site

Figures 1. Site plan

Figure 2. Site plan

Appendix 1. location description

Appendix 2. Digital photography list

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2011 Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology carried out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Barkaway site at 20-22 Ospringe Street, Faversham in Kent.

1.2 Subsequently in 2015 SWAT Archaeology carried out an Archaeological Investigation of the site and as part of this work inspected the standing structures and identified a WWII sniper position cut into the east flanking wall and the external facing of corrugated tin sheeting now painted green (Plates 1-8).

The recording was carried out on 10th February 2017 in accordance with a Level 1 survey as detailed in the English Heritage publication '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2016). *The Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014) and the *KCC Historic Building Recording Requirements Part C*.

This is essentially a visual record. Historic England guidelines suggest that written information should be the minimum to identify the location, age, type, materials, use and when and whom compiled the report. General photographs should be taken.

1.3 In summary the work consists of a basic descriptive report accompanied by digital photographs.

1.4 The principal elements of the survey involved the creation of a record and description of the location with an analysis and interpretation.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the National Heritage Register for England was consulted.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The premises of A.J. Barkaway (butchers), the adjacent car park, stable and gardens, along with 21 and 22 Ospringe Street comprise the site (Figures 1 and 2). Situated on a corner plot to the north of the Roman Watling Street and bounded by Grove Place to the west and the Ship Inn to the east (TQ 600362 160875). The site sits in the centre of the village of Ospringe adjacent to the fresh water stream called the Westbrook itself emitting from springs upslope and south to Queens Court Farm and the parish church of St Peter and Paul. The rounded hills on either side of the valley are chalk, and the valley floored with alluvium. Deposits of recent brick earth and gravels also are found in the area. The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 on-line data indicates the bedrock of Seaford Chalk Formation with the superficial deposits of Alluvial Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravels.

2.2 Setting

The WWII sniper position is located just by the east entrance to the Barkaway premises and is cut through on the exterior face of green painted corrugated iron sheeting. The square hole is roughly cut out with tin shears and measures about 15 x 15cm and is located about 35cm above the present ground surface (Plates 1-9).

The internal aperture has been cut through two courses of bricks and is now blocked up. It measures about 15 x 15cm and is located about 60cm above the present ground surface (Plate 6).

2.3 Statutory Designation

Scheduled monuments or listed buildings are recorded within the confines of the proposed development site include: St. Mary's Hospital (Remains of). No. 17, Ospringe Street, Faversham, is the surviving portion of the Maison Dieu Hospital (St. Mary B.V.), founded before 1234, and dissolved 1516. Now a museum. Scheduled (TR 0035 6085). The remains of St. Mary's Hospital comprise two outbuildings, now part of No. 15 and No. 17, Ospringe Street, Faversham. No. 15 is a private residence; No. 17 known as "Maison Dieu", has been restored by the Ministry of Works and is open to the public.

Of particular interest is the setting of a designated pillbox:

TR 06 SW 1177 Pillbox

The Ship public house located at the junction of Ospringe Road (B2040) with the A2 road. Pillbox (brick-skinned) built on side of the public house. It now appears to be used as a cellar to the adjacent public house.

2.4 Significance of the site

The significance of the site is that it contributes to our understanding of the Defence of Britain c.1940.

2.5 Historic Background

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping and aerial photographs shows that in 1940 there was a large tree on the opposite corner to the pill box and that plus the camouflage brick veneer would have hidden the pill box from the advancing German forces (front cover).

3.0 DISCUSSION

3.1 The pill box backed up by the surviving sniper position would have made the approach from Canterbury to London along the A2 difficult. The long incline down into Ospringe village with houses on one side and a high brick wall on the other would have funnelled and contained the advancing German army into a killing ground. The pillbox hiding behind a large tree would have had a short range area of fire but the sniper position set further to the east has a field of fire to the top of the rise of the A2 to the east (Plates 7-8).

4.0 PARAMETERS

4.1 The photographic survey was conducted using digital photography, no drone coverage of the location was undertaken. However, the use of drones

for capturing important buildings and sites is now an acknowledged part of historic building recording. For drone footage of other building and archaeological sites recorded by SWAT Archaeology access here: www.swatarchaeology.co.uk and go to 'NEWS'.

4.2 This work did not include any investigation of below ground archaeology. Such work is administered separately by SWAT Archaeology to a WSI prepared for the Local Planning Authority.

4.3 The site survey took place on 10th February 2017 and photographs can be seen in the following Plates.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA

21/04/2017

5. References

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*

The National Heritage List for England (accessed 21st April 2017)

Institute of Field Archaeologists, *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008).



Plate 1. View of sniper position (red arrow) and pillbox (green arrow) looking NW



Plate 2. View of sniper position (red arrow) looking W



Plate 3. Close-up of sniper position (looking W)



Plate 4. View of brick structure of sniper position (looking N)



Plate 5. Close-up view of sniper aperture



Plate 7. Internal cut of sniper aperture



Plate 8. View from sniper aperture (looking E along the A2)



Plate 9. View towards sniper position (looking W)



Plate 10. View of pillbox TR 06 SW 1177 (looking NNW)



Plate 11. Close-up of pillbox



Plate 12. Rear entrance to pillbox



Plate 13. View from aperture of pillbox (looking E)



Plate 14. 2013 aerial view of site

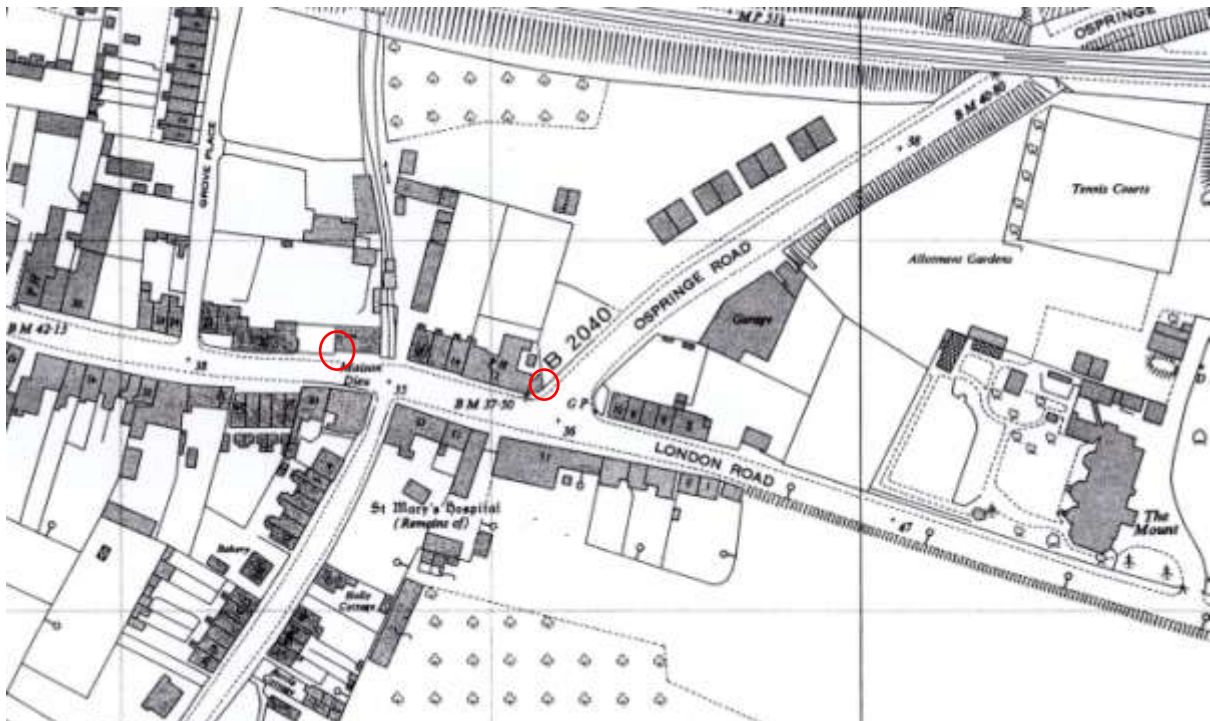


Figure 1. Location of sites (see also Figure 2)

Appendix 1

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY: Summary Sheet

Property Name 20-22 Ospringe Street	Address Faversham, Kent	Building Name n/a
Property/ Building Reference	OS Grid Reference NGR 600326 160875	Surveyor/Date of Survey Paul Wilkinson 10 th Feb 2017
Category WWII	Original Use Military	Current Use Residential
Date(s) of Construction The structure represents defensive positions against an expected invasion in 1940 by the German army	Statutory Designation (s) n/a	HER Reference n/a
Walling Materials Wall construction is of brick faced with corrugated tin	Roofing Materials n/a	Flooring Materials n/a
Description: The structure is a sniper position dated from WWII ,		
Architectural/Historic Significance: The structure is significant as part of the Defense of the Realm		Landscape Significance: n/a
Notes/Qualifications Regarding Survey: The survey was undertaken whilst the site was about to be developed.		
Additional Information Sources for this Building (s):		

Appendix 2

Shot No.	Camera Facing	Description
1	NW	General view of sniper position
2	W	General view of sniper position
3	W	General close-up view
4	N	View of structure
5		Sniper aperture
6		Internal aperture
7	E	View from aperture
8	E	General view
9	W	General view of pillbox
10	NNW	Detail of the pillbox
11		Detail of the pillbox
12		Rear entrance
13	E	View of the aperture
14		Aerial view 2013

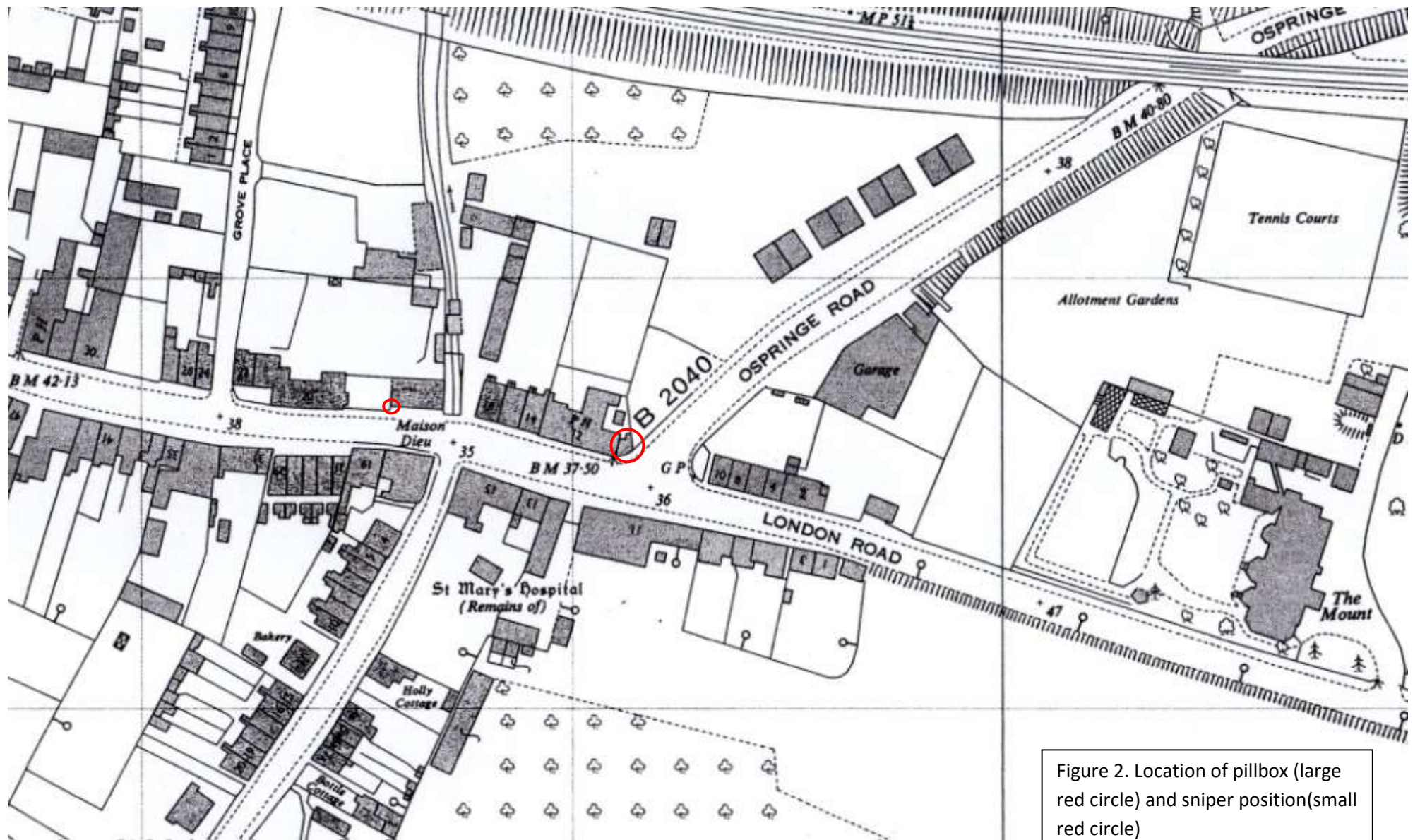


Figure 2. Location of pillbox (large red circle) and sniper position (small red circle)