

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 29 & 30 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 611448 155736

Site Code: OAT/EV/19

(Planning Application: CA/19/00609)

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# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 29 and 30 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, Kent**

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Site Code: OAT-EV-19

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of 29 and 30 Oaten Hill, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/19/00609) to develop this site for a proposed 2-storey dwelling with balcony to front was submitted to Canterbury City Council, whereby the 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 (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of one evaluation trench revealed that just one archaeological feature was present within the trench and dated by pottery in Context 04 which produced a large fresh complete-profile of a redware flower-pot made by Sankey and Son of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. The commencement-date for this firm's activity is c.1855 AD onwards and, in this example, neither the fabric type nor name-stamp font style do not look Modern, ie c.1900 AD-plus – so that this element is almost certainly a later nineteenth century product. The natural geology of Clay was reached at an average depth of between 0.38m and 0.55m below the top layer of topsoil mixed with demolition rubble. Thus the Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowners 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 (SWAT 2017) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated to the south east of the city of Canterbury, a district of the county of Kent, in the South East of England. It lies north east of Old Dover Road. The plot forms approximately 218sqm of ground which faces on to Oaten Hill Place (Figure 1).

### **4. Planning Background**

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition:

*No development other than demolition 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 first been submitted to and approved in writing 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, post excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy BE16 of the Canterbury Local Plan 2006, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Archaeological Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2017).

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

*6.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.*

*6.2 Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).*

## **7. Methodology**

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of one trench within the footprint of the proposed development. An 8.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the demolition rubble and subsoil to expose the natural geology. 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

## 9. Results

The single evaluation trench exposed a deposit sequence consisting of topsoil mixed with demolition rubble overlaying yellow brown silty sandy clay.

The only archaeological feature exposed during the evaluation was an approximately NNW-SSE aligned rectangular feature [04], in which an exploratory slot was cut at the NNW end. The feature was 0.80m wide, 0.40m deep and had a flattened profile. It contained one fill, a 0.40m thick mid-dark brown clay silt (05) dated by a flower pot base and side to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Plates 1-3).

## 10. Discussion

With a number of archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity but the only archaeological feature revealed was dated by pot found at the base of the feature to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 11. Finds

A single base and side of a large fresh complete-profile of a redware flower-pot made by Sankey and Son of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. The commencement-date for this firm's activity is c.1855 AD onwards and, in this example, neither the fabric type nor name-stamp font style do not look Modern, ie c.1900 AD-plus – so that this element is almost certainly a later nineteenth century product.

## 12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed one archaeological feature. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

### 13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Holmes and Paul Wilkinson MClfA and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MClfA and dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### 14. References

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (ClfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2017) *Site Specific Requirements: Rear of 29 and 30 Oaten Hill (fronting Oaten Hill Place), Canterbury, Kent*

#### HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land to the rear of 29 & 30 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** OAT/EV/19

**Site Address:** As above

#### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for new student accommodation whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed a c.19<sup>th</sup> century rectangular feature.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 615246 157352

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** July 2019

**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

**Geology:** Underlying geology is superficial deposits of Clay and Silt

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of 29 and 30 Oaten Hill, Canterbury, Kent

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

One rectangular feature dated to c, 19<sup>th</sup> century found

**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

PLATES



Plate 1. View of trench with unexcavated feature (looking SSE)



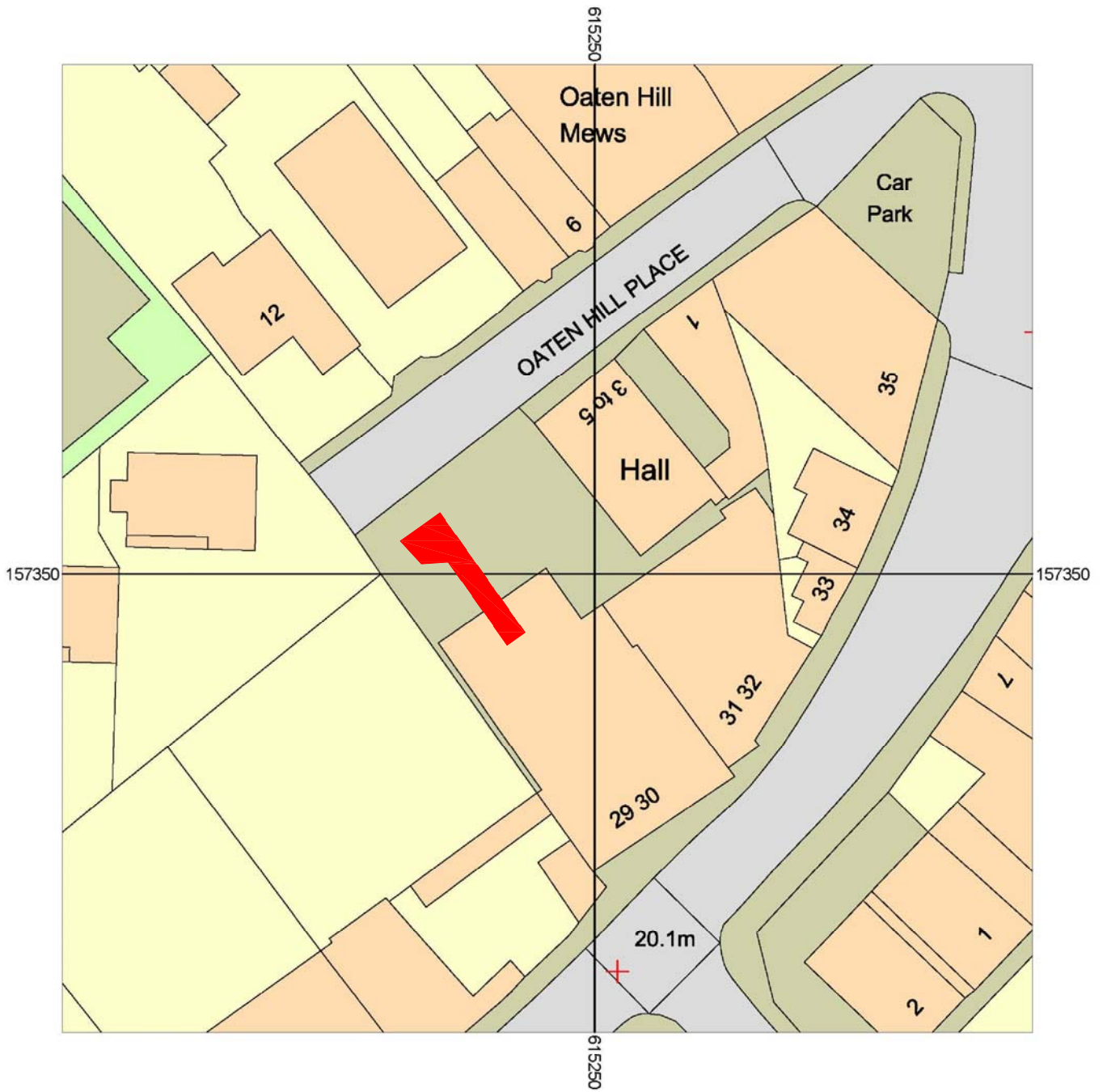


Plate 2. View of feature [04] excavated. 1m scale (looking SSE)



Plate 3. View of excavated feature 1m scale (looking SW)



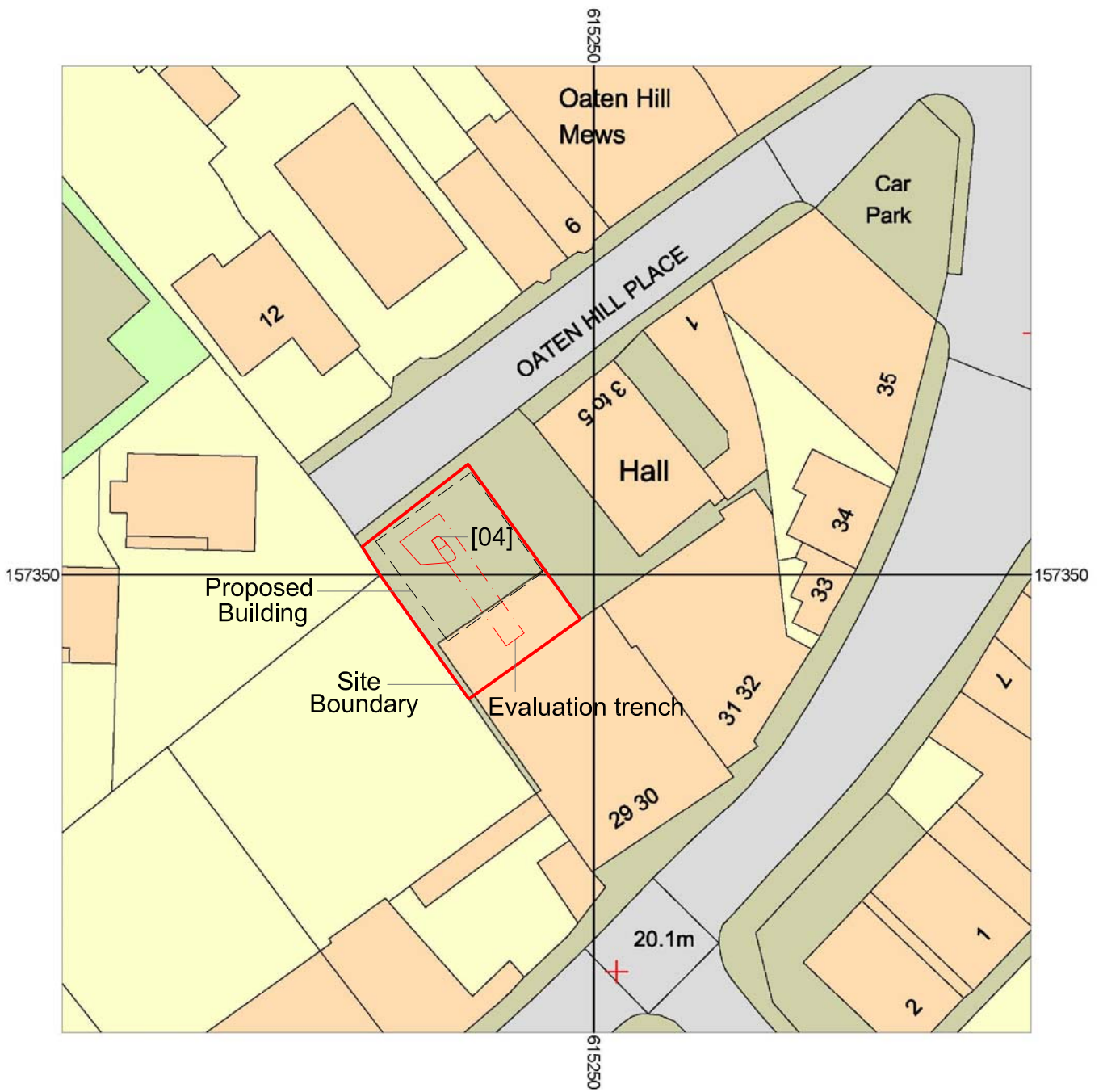
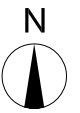


1:500@A4



Figure 1: Location of evaluation trench 0m

50m



1:500@A4

Figure 2: Location of evaluation trench shown overlain on development plan

