

Historic Map Regression Analysis in advance of Development at Land to the north of Lewis Close, Faversham, Kent

NGR: 600100E 161500N



Report for
Town and Country Housing Group and Kier Homes Ltd

11/11/2013

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent

ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

1. SUMMARY

In November 2013 Swat Archaeology were commissioned by Town and Country Housing Group and Kier Homes Ltd to undertake a Historic Map Regression of land to the north of Lewis Close, Faversham, Kent. The development of the site involves the construction of 27 affordable homes plus access road, landscaping and parking. This study has been carried out in order to assess any likelihood of previous impacts on the site from either brick earth or gravel extraction, or historic development.

The map regression has given evidence that the area of the site west of the blue line (Plate 1) are likely to have been disturbed by known historic, brick earth or gravel extraction. The area to the east has not. The recommendation is that evaluation trenching only be implemented for the area of land west of the blue line. However, there may be Palaeolithic potential in underlying gravels located under the area which has been subjected to brick earth extraction.



Plate 1. Google Earth 7/9/2013. Eye altitude 302m. The site is shown with a red line.

2. METHODOLOGY

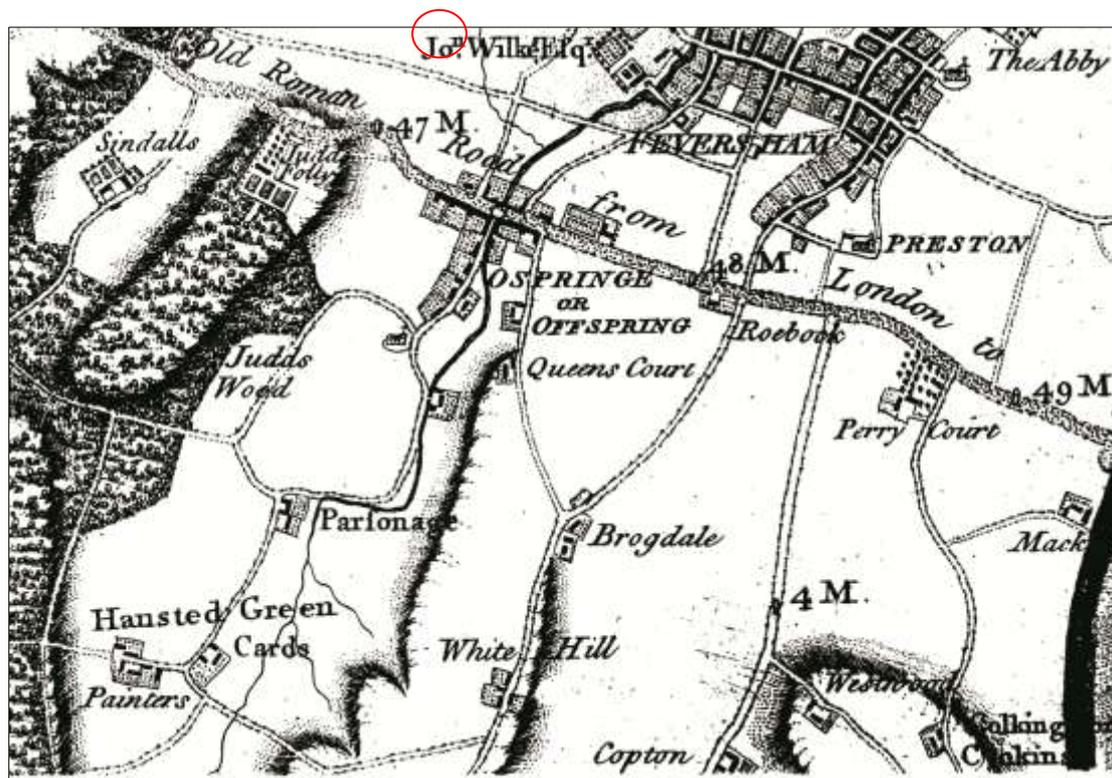
A Map Regression Analysis (MRA) will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the cartographic resource within a specified area. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, and other relevant By-Laws of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Our definition of a MRA is a programme of assessment of the known or potential cartographic resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic mapping in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

The purpose of MRA is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological or historic resource within a given area or site, (including its presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource) in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised

Figure 1. Andrews, Dury and Herbert map (1769)



Andrews and Dury published their famous atlas some thirty years before the Ordnance Survey, immediately becoming the best large scale maps of the county. It is thought that Edward Hasted based his maps of the Hundreds of Kent on Andrews and Dury's work. The finely engraved hatching at once distinguishes these sheets from other maps of the period and the use of the large scale enables one to see individual houses and, particularly, the ground plans of the country seats, many of which are identified with their owners' names; even the houses of the lesser gentry are included. A circular of 1765 sought subscriptions for this project. Andrews appears to have been the principal engraver and possibly surveyor as well. Dury and Herbert were booksellers in London who backed the project. The Map was reprinted in 1775, 1779 and 1794, all the issues are rare and highly prized. The map was issued in this first edition as uncoloured sheets, and coloured in outline.

The map (above) shows the 'Old Roman Road' making a detour around Syndale Park. A medieval road that had the advantage of a lesser incline can be seen north of the

Roman road (Watling Street) leading into Faversham and passing south of the proposed development site. This area (ringed in red) is devoid of any buildings, tracks or streams.

Figure 2. OS Surveyors Drawings (1797)



Responsibility for the mapping of Britain fell to the Board of Ordnance, from which the Ordnance Survey takes its name. The Board had been established in Tudor times to manage the supply of stores and armaments for the army and maintain national defences. From its headquarters in the Tower of London, engineers and draftsmen set out to produce the first military maps by a system of triangulation.

The survey of Kent was first to go ahead. It began in 1795 under the direction of the Board's chief draftsman, William Gardner. Critical communication routes such as roads and rivers were to be shown clearly and accurately. Attention was paid to woods that could provide cover for ambush, and elaborate shading was used to depict the contours of terrain that might offer tactical advantage in battle.

Preliminary drawings were made at scales from six inches to the mile, for areas of particular military significance, down to two inches to the mile elsewhere. Back in the Drawing Room at the Tower of London, fair copies of the drawings were prepared at the reduced scale of one inch to the mile. From these, copper plates were engraved for printing.

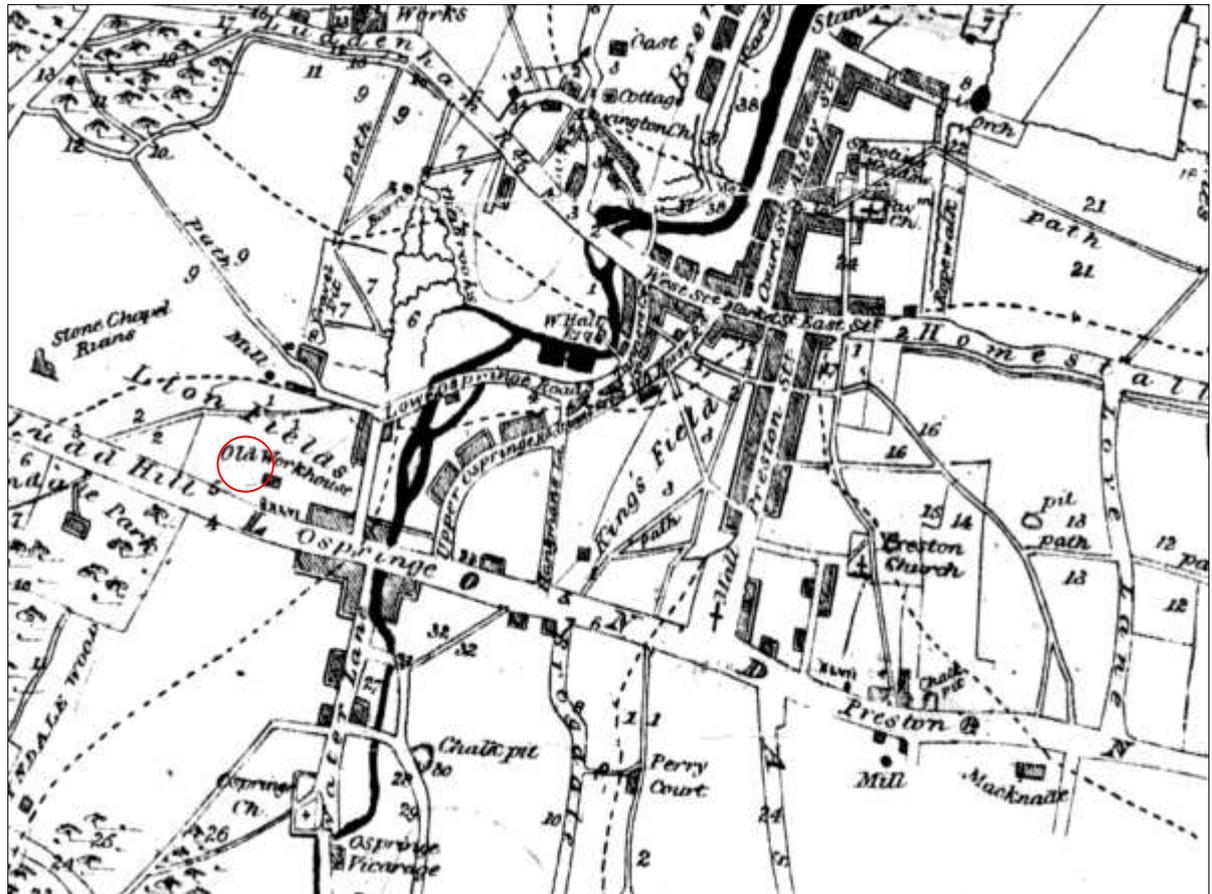
The map of Kent was published in 1801 at a scale of 1" to the mile whereas the Ordnance Survey Surveyors drawing were drawn at 6" to the mile. In consequence a tremendous amount of detail shown on the surveyor's drawings does not make it on to the smaller scale engraved maps.

This map (above) shows in some detail the medieval road shown on the Andrews, Dury and Herbert map passing by the 'Ruins of an Old Chapel' itself likely to be built on the remains of a Romano-Celtic temple. The field the chapel sits in is measured out in Roman 'actus', as are indeed the fields to the east and west- all three using the Roman road as their southern boundary. The proposed development site is located in the north-east area of the Roman field to the east.

A Roman road-side settlement, possibly called *Durolevum* sits either side of the Roman road and on the plateau at 'Judds Folly Hill' is located a Late Iron Age fortified settlement which continues to the north of the Roman road and close to the proposed development site.

Archaeological investigation by Canterbury Archaeological Trust identified an impressive 'hollow way' leading from this Late Iron Age settlement north, and this track may pass close to the proposed development site, if only because brick earth extraction to the west of the proposed development site has failed to locate this feature.

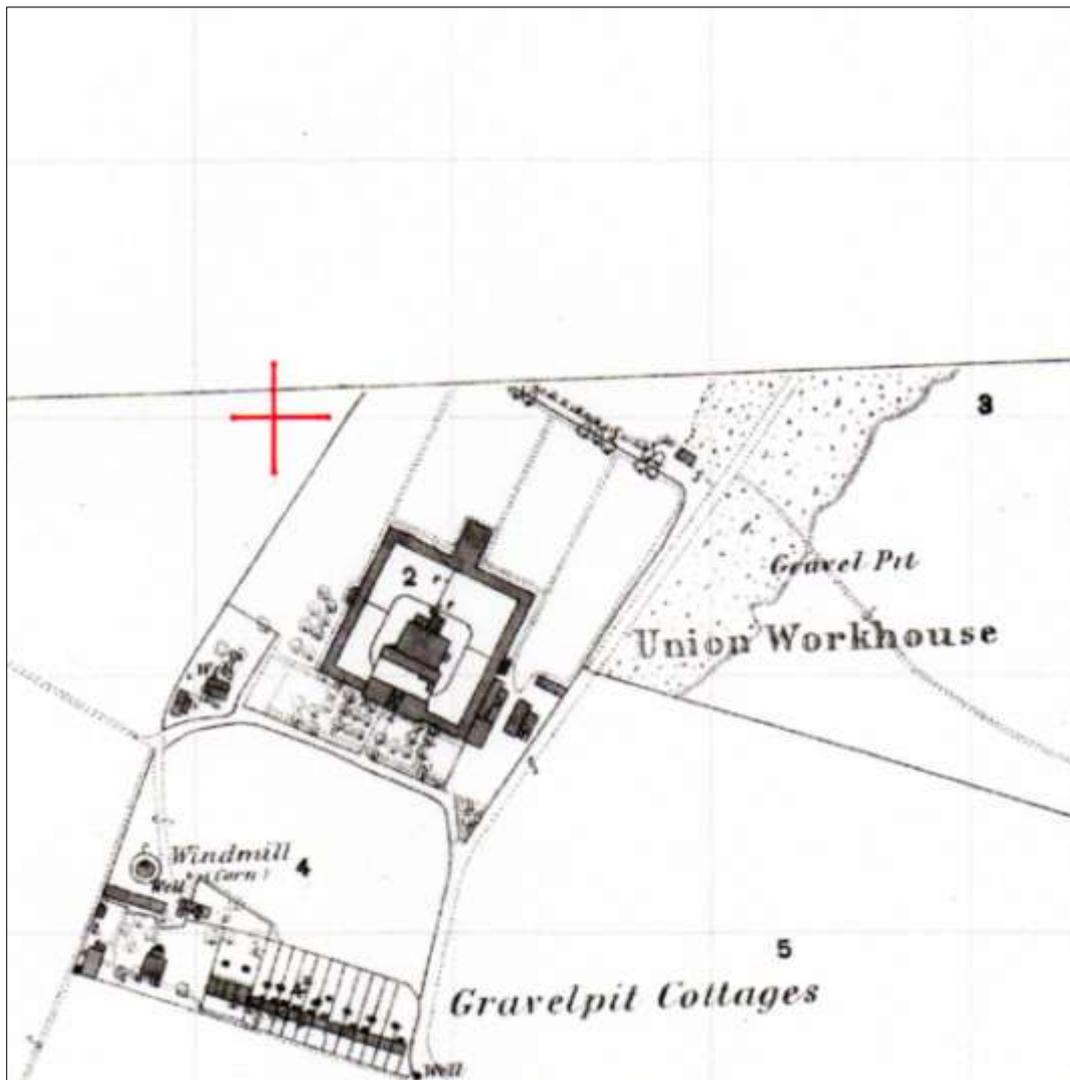
Figure 3. Flora and Fauna Drawings (1838)



The book was compiled by M H Cowell, described as a corresponding member of the Botanical Society of London. The book was printed and published in 1839 by W Ratcliffe, of Court Street, Faversham. It was published by prior subscription, and among the subscribers is an E Cowell in Canterbury, so perhaps that's where the author came from. Cowell must have walked all the routes he describes and it is a fascinating diary and description of what could be seen around the proposed development site just off Lower Road (red circle).

Of particular interest is the 'Old Workhouse' situated in Lion Field, itself adjacent to 'King's Field' itself the site of one of the most important Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Kent. Cowell was of course unaware of what was under his feet as the railway was not to come to Faversham for another 15 years.

Figure 4. OS Mapping (1868 Edition 1:2500 County Series)



From the 1840s the Ordnance Survey concentrated on the Great Britain 'County Series', modelled on the earlier Ireland survey. A start was made on mapping the whole country, county by county, at six inches to the mile (1:10,560). From 1854, to meet requirements for greater detail, including land-parcel numbers in rural areas and accompanying information, cultivated and inhabited areas were mapped at 1:2500 (25.344 inches to the mile), at first parish by parish, with blank space beyond the parish boundary, and later continuously. Early copies of the 1:2500s were available hand-coloured. Up to 1879, the 1:2500s were accompanied by Books of Reference or "area books" that gave acreages and land-use information for land-parcel numbers. After 1879, land-use information was dropped from these area books; after the mid-1880s, the books themselves were dropped and acreages were printed instead on the maps. After 1854, the six-inch maps

and their revisions were based on the "twenty-five inch" maps and theirs. The six-inch sheets covered an area of six by four miles on the ground; the "twenty-five inch" sheets an area of one by one and a half. One square inch on the "twenty-five inch" maps was roughly equal to an acre on the ground. In later editions the six-inch sheets were published in "quarters" (NW,NE,SW,SE), each covering an area of three by two miles on the ground. The first edition of the two scales was completed by the 1890s. A second edition (or "first revision") was begun in 1891 and completed just before the First World War. From 1907 till the early 1940s, a third edition (or "second revision") was begun but never completed: only areas with significant changes on the ground were revised, many two or three times.

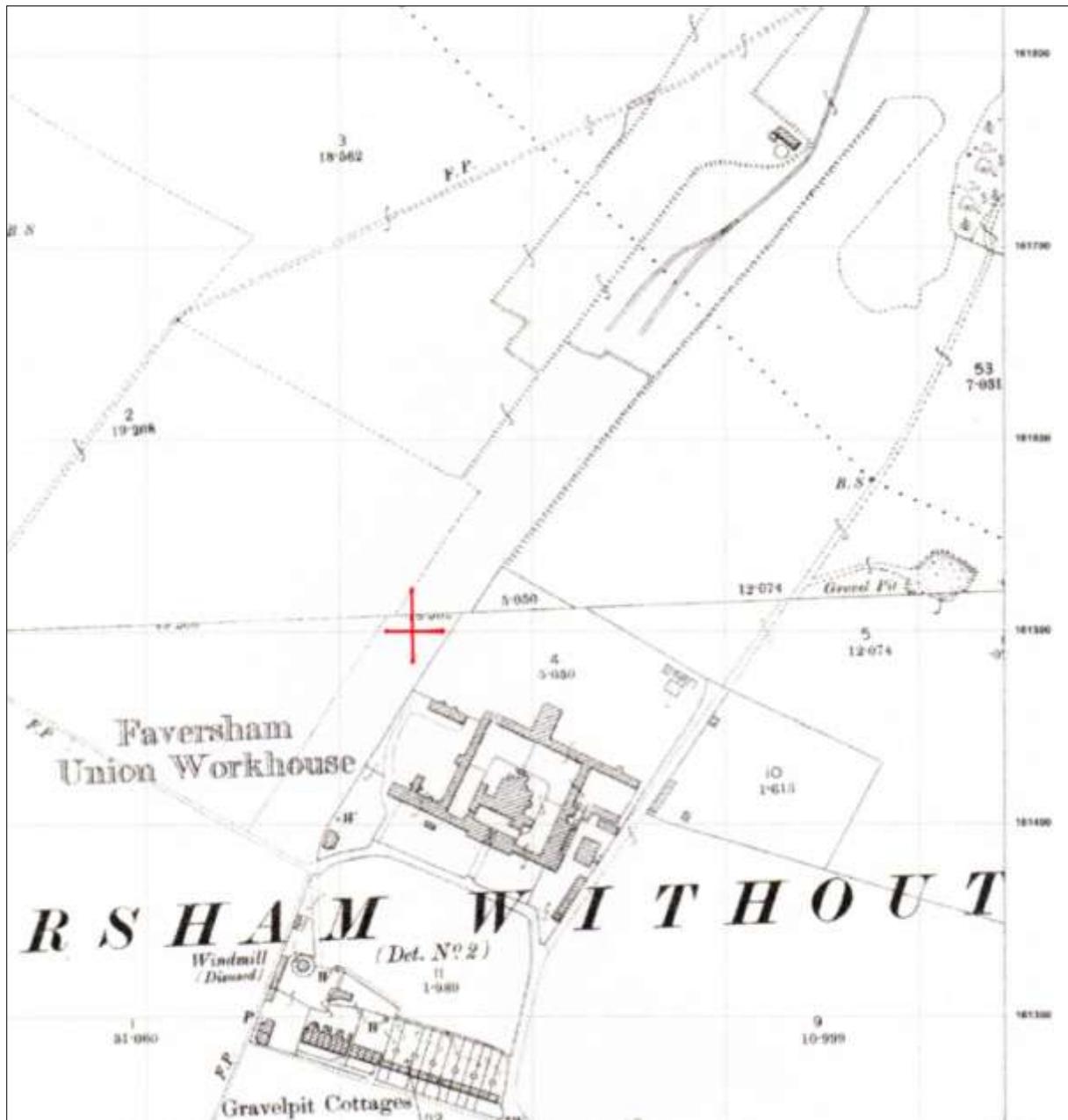
The 1868 map (Figure 4) shows with some clarity the 'Faversham Union Workhouse' which was also shown on the 1838 Flora and Fauna map and annotated as 'Old Workhouse'. The site of the proposed development is shown with a red cross immediately north-east of the workhouse.

Gravel pit Cottages are situated south of the workhouse, and they give their name to the activity prevalent in the area- gravel extraction. To the east of the proposed development site is located a gravel pit.

Changes from 1838

1. Faversham Union Workhouse is in greater detail than shown on the Flora and Fauna map by Cowell.
2. Gravel working is shown in greater detail.
3. The development of terraced housing south of the workhouse.
4. The field name 'Lion Field' is no longer used.

Figure 5. OS Mapping (1897 Edition 1:2500 County Series)



This revised edition of 1897 shows numerous changes to the layout of the Faversham Union Workhouse. There is an additional north-east wing, and another wing added to the south – west. More buildings are grouped around the well in the south-west area of the workhouse and the main building has additional wings added to the west.

The corn windmill to the south of the workhouse is now disused, and there has been rebuilding among the Gravel pit Cottages. To the east the huge area of gravel workings

shown on the first edition 1868 map are now fields, but on the 1868 revised map a gravel pit to the north-east of the proposed development site is shown as are tramway tracks and hachured rectangular features which may be areas of brick earth extraction.

Changes from the 1868 first edition

1. Changes to the layout of the Faversham Union Workhouse
2. Windmill now disused
3. Gravel workings to the east of the proposed development site have ceased
4. Changes and additions to Gravel pit Cottages

Figure 6. OS Mapping (1898 1:2500 County Series)

There are no apparent changes from the 1897 map to the 1898 map.

Figure 7. OS Mapping (1907 Edition 1:2500 County Series)



The 1907 edition shows more changes to the Faversham Union Workhouse. In the surrounding area substantial changes to the landscape have taken place. It seems large areas of brick earth extraction have taken place- shown for instance by the hachure's around the boundary of the workhouse curtilage. Subsequently, large scale gravel quarrying took place. The west area (west of blue line-Plate 1) of the proposed development site is within this area of brick earth and gravel extraction.

Changes from 1897-8

1. Large scale brick extraction and gravel quarrying which will have impacted on the proposed development site

Figure 8. OS Mapping (1957 Edition 1:2500 National Grid)



By 1957 tremendous changes have taken place to the topography around the proposed development site (Red Cross). Gravel extraction has ceased but two large factories have

been built, one to the north, the other to the south of the proposed development site. The Faversham Union Workhouse is now the Bensted House hospital. The workhouse erected in 1836 to a design by John Day, was an adaptation of the courtyard plan devised by Assistant Poor Law Commissioner Sir Francis Head. This type of layout, in which an outer perimeter of buildings enclosed a large inner courtyard, was employed by a number of Kent Unions.

In 1835, the Poor Law Commissioners authorised an expenditure of £6,360 on construction of the building which was to accommodate 500 inmates. By 1957 the concept of workhouses was changing and its role, for most part taken over by the National Health Service. Under the NHS the workhouse was expanded with a new block to the north-east, and a new wing to the north-west. In the vicinity terraced housing was erected to the south-east of the proposed development site and detached housing to the south-west.

Changes from 1907

1. Faversham Union Workhouse is transformed into a NHS hospital
2. Terraced housing erected south-east of the Proposed development site
3. Detached housing erected to the south-west
4. Two factories erected in the vicinity

Figure 9. OS Mapping (1975 Edition 1:2500 National Grid)



By 1975 two changes in the near vicinity of the proposed development site had happened. To the east a large block of flats-Ordnance Court- had been built, and directly to the north Bysing Wood County Primary School had been built. Bensted House Hospital was still in situ and still using the old buildings of the Faversham Union Workhouse.

Changes from 1957

1. The development of blocks of flats (Ordnance Court) to the east

2. The build of the Bysing Wood County Primary School
3. The continuing use of the workhouse buildings by the NHS

Figure 10. OS Mapping (1993 Edition 1:2500 National Grid)



By 1993 the Bensted House Hospital had been demolished and replaced in the north area of the site by blocks of flats. The proposed development site for the last two hundred years has not been developed but mapping from 1907 indicate the western area of the site has been brick earthed which means up to two metres of subsoil has been removed from that part of the proposed development site.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MifA.

11/11/2013

Key

Affordable House Types
 A2BA 2B4P House
 A3BA 3B5P House
 A4BA 4B6P House

V Visitor Parking Space
 UA Unallocated Parking Space



0 5 10 15 20 25 50 metres

Scale 1:500



Rev.A	Footpath east of road removed.	ELC	15/10/13
Rev.B	Two houses removed and Plots 1-2 relocated.	ELC	17/10/13

Lower Road, Faversham

title Site Layout Plan

drawn ELC/BB

checked IBB

scale 1:500@A1

date Oct 2013

drawing no AA2606-1100B

