

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Land at Baker's Lane
Chartham, Kent**

**NGR: 610669 154504
(TR 1066 5450)**

**ASE Project No: 6504
Site Code: CHB13**

**ASE Report No: 2014132
OASIS id: archaeol6-169867**



By Giles Dawkes

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April 2014

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Abstract

Following on from an archaeological evaluation Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with residential redevelopment at land at Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent (NGR 1066 5450) between the 25th and the 27th March 2014.

The works comprised the machine ground reduction of the entrance and site compound, and the digging of a soakaway. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), University College London (UCL), were commissioned by CGMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with residential redevelopment land at Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent; hereafter referred to as 'the site' (NGR 1066 5450: ; Figure 1). Supervision of the groundworks took place on 25th and 27th March 2014. The watching brief followed on from an earlier archaeological evaluation (ASE 2014).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock at the site consists of Seaford Chalk Formation; the overlying superficial deposits are not mapped (BGS 2014).

1.2.2 The site lies c. 0.5km south-west of the historic core of the village of Chartham, to the east of Bakers Lane. It is bounded by the rear gardens of residential properties fronting Bakers Lane to the north, agricultural fields to the north-east and east and the rear gardens of properties fronting Pomfret Road to the south. The site comprises a single, irregularly shaped field with an area of c. 0.87ha. The site lies at approximately 47.12m to 50.95m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application was submitted to Canterbury District Council for the erection of 26 residential properties with associated access, bin and cycle storage, landscaping and services (Application No. CA//13/01771).

1.3.2 Following the production of a Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2013) a 12 trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken in January 2014 (ASE 2014). The evaluation identified a sequence of colluvium and topsoil deposits overlying natural geology and a single, undated posthole in the centre of the site.

1.3.3 Based on the results of the evaluation and following discussions between CgMs and Canterbury District Council a limited watching brief was recommended on the initial groundworks associated with the redevelopment. Accordingly, following consultation between ASE and CgMs Consulting Limited, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared (ASE 2014a). The document was submitted to Canterbury District Council for approval, prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The document outlined the research aims and objectives of the current project and the methodology to be followed.

1.3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*) and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The broad aims of the watching brief are:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

1.4.2 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the draft South East Research Framework:

- To help clarify the nature of rural settlement pattern in the Roman period
- To study the relationship of villa and non-villa settlement sites in the Roman period
- To contribute to the study of agricultural buildings and practices in the post-medieval period

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at the site. The work was undertaken on 25th and 27th March 2014 by Giles Dawkes and Steve Price.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is paraphrased from the DBA (CgMs 2013) with due acknowledgement. The DBA document was based upon a consideration of archaeological finds and features within a 1km radius of the study site held on the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 An isolated hand axe of Palaeolithic date was found approximately 500m north of the study site on the banks of the Great Stour.

2.2.2 An archaeological evaluation at Milton Quarry approximately 750m north-east of the study site within the floodplain of the Great Stour recorded evidence of possible prehistoric occupation.

2.2.3 A cropmark of a possible ring ditch, identified from aerial photographs, lies approximately 750m north of the study site on the other side of the Great Stour.

2.2.4 A late Bronze Age spearhead was found at Chartham Paper Mill approximately 500m north of the study site within the floodplain of the Great Stour.

2.2.5 Isolated finds dating to the Iron Age found during metal detecting have been recovered approximately 500m north-west of the study site and 750m north-west of the study site.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 The projected route of the Roman road from Benenden to Canterbury (Margary 130) runs through Chartham approximately 200m south-east of the study site.

2.3.2 Archaeological investigations in advance of the first phase of residential development at the St Augustine's Hospital site approximately 400m south-east of the study site, revealed a Roman quarry dating from the first century AD to at least the mid-4th century. Within the various phases of quarry use, other Roman activity was evidenced, including a late first century cremation burial, and a fourth century inhumation burial. The quarry contained a large number of Roman finds spanning the 1st to 4th centuries. The most important of these was an assemblage of mid-fourth century pottery, coins, metalwork, quernstones, tile and animal bone. The tile is of particular interest as it derives from the demolition or reconstruction of an underfloor heating system suggesting the presence of a sophisticated Roman building somewhere within the vicinity.

2.3.3 The quarry appears to have had hollow ways or roadways leading into it from the north and north-east. These features, represented by soil discolouration on a low level air photograph may indicate that a Roman settlement, from

which the finds deposited in the quarry came, lay to the north of the St Augustine's Hospital site.

- 2.3.4 Traces of Roman occupation including tiles, pottery and coins have also been recorded approximately 1km north-east of the proposed development site.

2.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing approximately 100 barrows was discovered in the 18th century approximately 300m south-east of the study site. The cemetery contained both cremation and inhumation burials. Twenty of the barrows were excavated in 1730 and 53 more in 1764 and 1771. The barrows were all levelled prior to 1856.

- 2.4.2 Two Anglo-Saxon glass squat jars recorded on the HER, and two Anglo-Saxon or early medieval brooches recorded during metal detecting approximately 400m south-east of the site, probably originated in this cemetery.

- 2.4.3 Both Chartham and Shalmsford Street were recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Chartham was recorded as having a church and five mills as well as meadowland and woodland. Shalmsford Street comprised of a small hamlet of seven households.

- 2.4.4 The site is located outside the medieval core of both Chartham and Shalmsford Street and most likely comprised agricultural land at this time.

- 2.4.5 A medieval cast copper-alloy sword was found during metal detecting approximately 175m south-east of the study site. Further finds discovered during metal detecting include a number of silver coins, from approximately 600m north of the site.

2.5 Post Medieval/Modern

- 2.5.1 During the post-medieval period the site remained agricultural land. A number of post-medieval isolated finds have been found during metal detecting within the vicinity of the site.

- 2.5.2 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1880) shows the site lying within a field to the east of Bakers Lane. There was no change to the site throughout the 20th century apart from the construction of an electricity pylon in the north-east of the site supporting overhead high voltage cables that now cross the site.

2.6 Previous Archaeological Investigation

- 2.6.1 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by ASE in January 2013, comprising 12 x 20m by 1.8m trenches. Undisturbed topsoil horizons were recorded in all 12 trenches and within the test pit. Undisturbed subsoil/colluvium deposits were recorded in 5 of the 12 trenches and within the test pit. 11 of the 12 trenches investigated, along with the test pit were devoid of archaeological features.

- 2.6.2 A single archaeological feature was identified close to the centre of the site area, comprising of an isolated undated posthole.
- 2.6.3 At least three phases of colluvial deposition were evident in the east half of the site, two of which contained small amounts of mid to late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery, and one of which contained a single fragment of fired clay likely to represent daub. The finds assemblage would suggest late Iron Age/ early Roman settlement activity to the south of the site, beyond the site boundary where the ground steeply rises before levelling out to form the Chartham and Milton Downs.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The machine ground reduction of the site entrance, a site compound and the digging of a soakaway were monitored by an archaeologist (see Figure 2).
- 3.2 All deposits were described on standard *pro-forma* recording sheets used by ASE, complimented by a digital photographic record comprising context shots and more general site images.
- 3.3 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Canterbury Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Photographs	16 (digital)

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 All three of the monitored areas had the same sequence of natural clay [003] overlain by subsoil/colluvium [002] and topsoil [001].
- 4.2 There were no finds and no archaeological features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.2m
002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium	-	-	0.8m
003	Layer	Natural clay	-	-	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No finds and no archaeological features were identified in the watching brief.
- 5.2 The same sequence identified in the evaluation was observed in the three monitored areas; this was natural clay overlain by colluvium and topsoil.
- 5.3 None of the research aims set out in section 1.4 can therefore be addressed and as a result no further assessment or analysis is required.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Richard Cross, Archaeological Officer of Canterbury District Council, for his guidance and monitoring. The author would like to thank Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	CHB13					
Identification Name and Address	Baker's Lane, Chartham, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Canterbury District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	610669 154504					
Geology	Seaford Chalk Formation with overlying deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6504					
Type of Fieldwork	WB					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	25 th - 27 th March 2014					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Paul Mason (fieldwork) Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation)					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Following on from an archaeological evaluation Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with residential redevelopment at land at Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent (NGR 1066 5450) between the 25th and the 27th March 2014.</i></p> <p><i>The works comprised the machine ground reduction of the entrance and site compound, and the digging of a soakaway. No archaeological features or finds were identified.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-169867

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief on land at Baker's Lane, Chartham, Kent
Short description of the project	Following on from an archaeological evaluation Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with residential redevelopment at land at Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent (NGR 1066 5450) between the 25th and the 27th March. The works comprised the machine ground reduction of the entrance and site compound, and the digging of a soakaway. No archaeological features or finds were identified.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2014 End: 27-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CHB13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CA//13/01771 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation and watching brief
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling","Targeted Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT CANTERBURY CHARTHAM Baker's Lane, Chartham
Postcode	CT4 7QD

Study area 0.90 Hectares

Site coordinates TR 1066 5450 51.2500868701 1.01900998156 51 15 00 N 001 01 08 E
Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 45.51m Max: 50.33m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Archaeology South-East

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Hayley Nicholls Giles Dawkes

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Canterbury Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Worked stone/lithics","other"

Digital Archive recipient Canterbury Museum

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Canterbury Museum

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Baker's Lane, Chartham, Kent

Author(s)/Editor(s) Nicholls, H.

Other bibliographic details 2014026

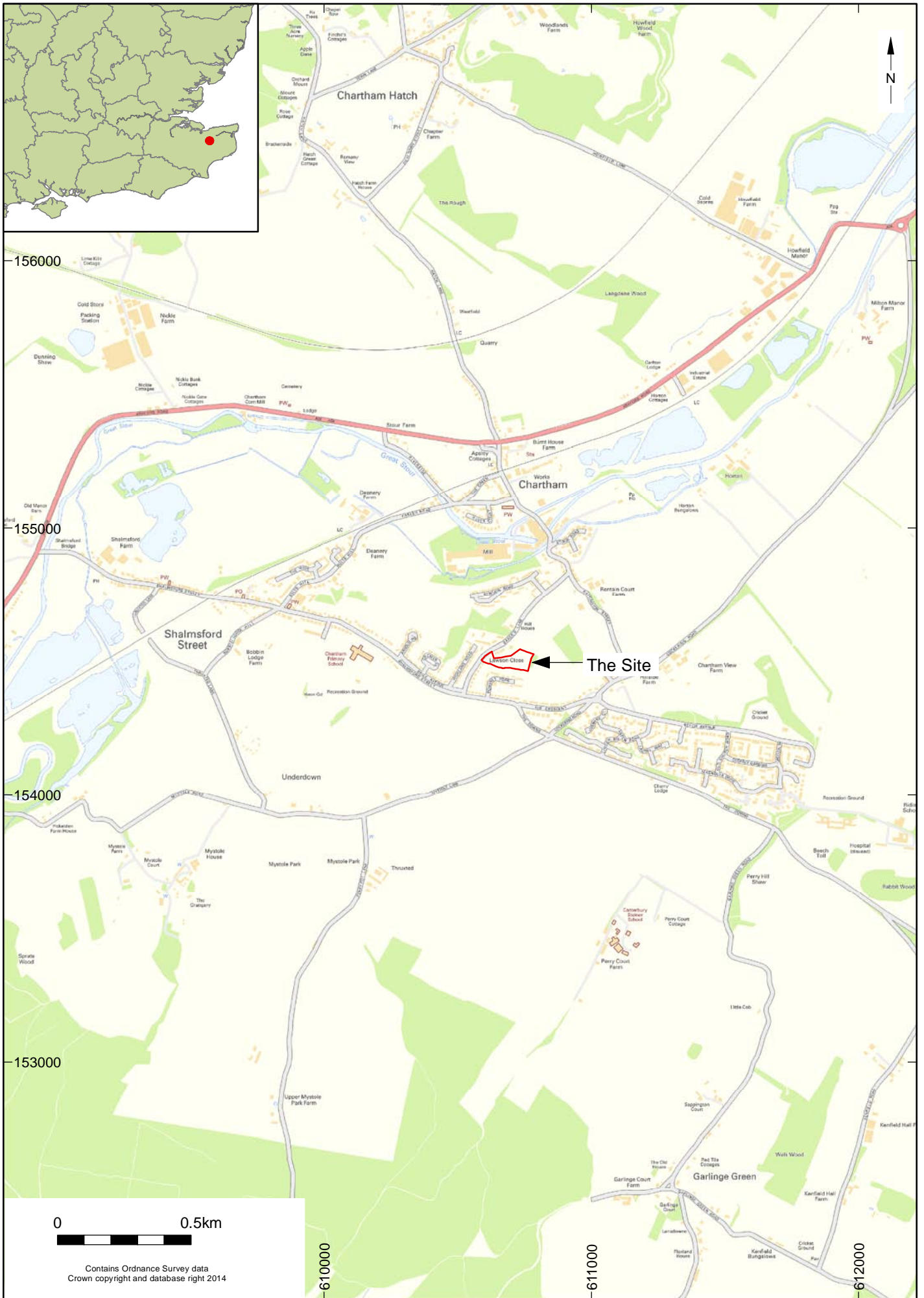
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Entered by Hayley Nicholls (h.nicholls@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 21 April 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Baker's Lane, Chartham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6504	April 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014132	Drawn by: RHC		



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© Archaeology South-East		Bakers Lane, Chartham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6504	April 2014	Initial watching brief area and proposed development	
Report Ref: 2014132	Drawn by: RHC		

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