

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
FAIRWAYS, OSPRINGE, NEAR FAVERSHAM, KENT**

NGR 600379 160884

**POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND
PROJECT DESIGN FOR PUBLICATION**

**Project No. 3002
Report No. 2008046**

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April 2008

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OASIS FORM

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during works to install a pumping station and attendant pipe run on land at Fairways, Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent. The work comprised the archaeological monitoring of an open cut trench to accommodate the new services, as well as excavation of two pits for the new pumping station. Monitoring took place from the 11th to the 23rd of October 2007.

This investigation succeeded in identifying archaeological features comprising significant masonry remains associated with the medieval hospital of St Mary's Ospringe. These included the remnant of the masonry found by S.E Rigold in 1957, a similar east- west wall, a medieval culvert, the location of a hearth, a floor level and a stretch of wall probably relating to the hospital's Common Hall.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Report

1.1.1 This post-excavation assessment has been prepared broadly in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991). This document seeks to summarise the results of archaeological work at the site and the potential for future analysis, as well as determining requirements for publication and archiving of these results.

1.1.2 The aim of the report is to provide a framework for carrying the report through to publication, including the resources required for analysis, publication and archiving. This report outlines the results of the fieldwork (chapter 4) and the assessment of the finds and environmental samples (chapter 5). The significance of the results and the potential for further study is discussed in chapter 6. Chapter 7 outlines the revised research aims and chapter 8 describes the further work required. A publication synopsis and breakdown of resources is presented towards the back of the document with a publication synopsis (chapter 9).

1.2 Site Background

1.2.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by 4Delivery Limited on behalf of Southern Water Ltd to undertake a watching brief during works to install a pumping station and attendant pipe run on land at Fairways, off Ospringe Street in Ospringe near Faversham, Kent; it is hereafter referred to as the site (site centred NGR 600379 160884, Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site is situated in Ospringe west of Faversham and is bounded to the south by the A2 (Watling Street) and to the north, east and west by residential development (Fig. 2).

1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (1:50 000 map sheet no 273, Faversham), the site is situated on a narrow band of Alluvium overlying Upper Chalk, although Head Brickearth is recorded to the west and Thanet beds to the east.

1.2.4 The topography of the site itself is flattish being situated within a courtyard of the small residential development of Fairways. Within the footprint of the new pumping station and pipe run the modern ground surface comprised of block paving, tarmac and topsoil. The underlying geology was not reached through much of the investigations however a small area excavated for the pumping station and valve chamber reached depths at which 'natural' whitish grey sands were encountered (most probably a pocket of Thanet Beds). The area had received a great degree of relatively modern disturbance, being adjacent to a modern residential site, this was derived from construction deposits and service runs and in some cases the archaeological features were affected.

1.2.5 The modern ground surface remained fairly consistent ranging from 10.83mOD at the southern corner of the site to approximately 10.79mOD at the northern corner.

1.3 Project Background

- 1.3.1 Southern Water were advised by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (Swale Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues) as part of their normal consultation process that archaeological monitoring and possible mitigation of the work was necessary in view of the known archaeological potential in the area.
- 1.3.2 The Fairways estate was subject to partial excavation in 1987 by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit and the site to the north was also dug in 1977. These excavations succeeded in clarifying much of the form, construction and layout of the medieval Hospital complex of St Mary of Ospringe (Maison Dieu) however these excavations were focussed on the footprints of the new developments and did not extend into the areas on which this phase of work took place. In addition to these investigations a length of wall was encountered by S.E. Rigold adjacent to the site in 1957 during the excavation of a drainage trench (Rigold 1964).
- 1.3.3 The current phase of work forms part of a continuation of this programme of archaeological investigations at the Hospital of St Mary of Ospringe. This document relates to archaeological monitoring undertaken in 2007 within the courtyard of the Fairways estate.
- 1.3.4 A specification for this Watching Brief was produced by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (HCGKCC 2007). The document outlined a strategy for the archaeological monitoring of excavations at the site during the creation of a new pumping station and pipe run. The archaeological watching brief was implemented at intermittent periods from the 11th to the 23rd of October 2007 and monitored groundworks comprising the excavation of an open cut trench to accommodate the new services, as well as two pits for the new pumping station (Fig. 2).
- 1.3.6 The Watching Brief was undertaken by Greg Priestly-Bell (Senior Archaeologist), Andrew Margetts (Archaeologist) and Paul Derwent (Site Assistant). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains. Faversham is a well recognised historic centre being a medieval 'Cinque Port' and the site lies on the arterial route of the Roman road of Watling Street. Most importantly the site lies approximately 30m north of the scheduled monument of Maison Dieu a surviving element of the medieval St Mary's Hospital, dating to 1234 (Kent SMR no TR 06 SW15).
- 2.2 The following table contains the entries in the Kent County Council's Historic Environment Record which lie within a 500m radius of the site. The location of these sites is plotted on Figure 1.

No	SMR No.	NGR	Description
1	TQ 96 SE 44 - MKE3577	TQ 9867 6131	Roman road: Watling Street. 43 AD to 409 AD
2	TR 06 SW 13 - MKE4140	TR 0015 6047	Queen court farmhouse.
3	TR 06 SW 14 - MKE4141	TR 0000 6104	Romano-British Cemetery near Ospringe
4	TR 06 SW 15 - MKE4142	TR 0035 6085	St. Mary's Hospital
5	TR 06 SW 38	TR 0045 6060	Possible site of a post-mill (cropmark)
6	TR 06 SW 233-MKE16124	TR 0025 6059	Water lane mill
7	TR 06 SW 247	TR 0047 6109	Ospringe Mills
8	TR 06 SW 1000	TR 00 61	Conjectured site of Roman Station

Table 1: HER data of a 500m search around the study area

- 2.3 The SMR confirms that the medieval hospital of St. Mary's is in close proximity to the site. The standing remains of the hospital comprise two outbuildings, now part of No. 15 and No. 17, Ospringe Street, Faversham. The main building of the hospital (the hall and chapel) is thought to have been immediately opposite on the north side of the road. Importantly, the medieval hospital complex extends on the site itself and further remains to those encountered in previous excavations are likely to survive in the area of the site. These were thought to include the remains of a drain that served the hospital (HCGKCC 2007).
- 2.4 Previous phases of archaeological field work associated with St Mary's include the excavations highlighted in section 1.3.4 above, as stated these helped to clarify the layout of the complex.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The stated general objective of the watching brief was:

‘to contribute to knowledge of the Swale area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of deposits’ (HCGKCC 2007).

3.2 The specific site aims or research questions of the watching brief were:

- a) to clarify the extent, date and character of the medieval buildings located nearby by earlier investigations.
- b) to establish the existing archaeological impact in the area from the construction of the Fairways estate.
- c) to understand the evidence of medieval activity on the site

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The groundworks monitored on the site comprised two components, the pipe trench and pumping station (Fig. 2).
- 4.1.2 The results from the watching brief are described below. A full context register for this phase of work can be found in Appendix 1. Cut numbers are shown in square brackets.

4.2 Quantification of Site Archive

Number of Contexts	19
Plans and Section Sheets	4 (1:10 and 1:20)
Bulk Samples	0
Bulk Finds	1 box mixed finds
Registered Finds	6
Level readings	30 readings taken with a surveyors level
Photographs	1 Black and White film, 2 Colour film, 21 Digital images

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive, Evaluation Phase

4.3 Site Phasing

- 4.3.1 A fairly restricted range of dates was obtained during post-excavation specialist assessment. This places the majority of activity on the site within the medieval (14th to early 16th centuries) and post-medieval periods (18th to 19th centuries). The majority of pottery and ceramic building material data was derived from, and served to date, layers; the remainder of the finds were stone from masonry and unstratified deposits. During the initial post-excavation analysis contexts have been organised into feature groups, established on the basis of the association of features in plan, the stratigraphic relationships established on site and specialist dating evidence. This facilitated consideration of site character and archaeological activity.
- 4.3.2 For the purpose of this post-excavation assessment each feature group has been assigned an alphabetical letter from A - D.

4.4 Watching Brief Results (Fig. 2)

- 4.4.1 The watching brief involved the monitoring of an open cut trench to a maximum depth of c.1.3m and width of c.3m and to a length of c.14m, as well as two pits for the new pumping station (2 x 2m in area and c.1.34m in depth and 2.6 x 2.6m in area and c.1.34m in depth) (Fig. 2). All of these works revealed archaeological features. These were mainly associated with the medieval hospital of St Mary of Ospringe.

4.5 Natural deposits and topography

- 4.5.1 The excavation area was situated on flattish ground in the courtyard of the Fairways housing estate. The modern ground surface remained fairly consistent ranging from 10.83mOD at the southern corner of the site to approximately 10.79mOD at the northern corner. The overburden was variable in depth, but generally reached a maximum of 1m. The

archaeological horizon was encountered at a depth of between 10.22mOD in the western corner of the site and 9.4mOD in the north-eastern corner.

- 4.5.2 The topsoil on site was mid to dark grey brown sandy silt (Context **2**). This topsoil was c.240mm in depth, and contained frequent modern refuse. The topsoil sealed made ground deposits (Contexts **3** and **4**) which comprised mid to dark brown grey firm to loose sandy silt. Context **4** proved to be heavily disturbed by rooting. Below this the archaeological horizon was encountered and this sealed the natural deposits of Thanet Beds that were only revealed upon the removal of archaeology.

4.6 Archaeological activity

- 4.6.1 It was found during the project that the site had received some degree of disturbance of fairly modern origin. This included heavy impact on the site caused by services. This is unsurprising given the site location. The largest degree of modern disturbance was caused by a large modern culvert (Context **10**) this was installed to culvert the stream that once ran down Water Lane and is a direct descendant of its medieval forbear that served the hospital (see section 4.7.5 below). Additional disturbance occurred through root action and post-medieval to modern construction in the vicinity of the site.
- 4.6.2 Generally, the gathering of reliable dating material and examination of deposits was difficult during the investigation; in some cases the excavations were dangerous to enter. In addition the later post-medieval and modern disturbance of deposits and features served to affect the revealed remains. Impact by services on structures and intrusive finds entering stratified deposits served to affect the condition of the archaeology. Nonetheless most of the exposed archaeology was surprisingly intact given the sites street-side location (see Fig.2).

4.7 Pipe Trench (Fig. 3)

- 4.7.1 The deposits encountered during the excavation of the service trench comprised firstly a modern c.240mm thick deposit of mid greyish brown ceramic block paving and mid grey yellow type 1 bedding material (Context **1**). This stretched across the trench to the western kerb (see Fig 2). From the kerb edge to the eastern edge of the trench a mid to dark grey brown sandy silt was the overlying deposit (Context **2**). This firm, recent, topsoil contained moderate amounts of modern inclusions such as plastic, modern ceramic building materials (CBM <50mm) and glass. It was also heavily rooted. Directly beneath Contexts **1** and **2** was encountered Context **3**. This comprised a c.300mm thick deposit of dark brown grey firm sandy silt. This modern/19th century made ground contained frequent inclusions of sub rounded pebbles (<30mm) and charcoal flecks, moderate inclusions of modern CBM (<40mm) and occasional fragments of metal and large sandstone boulders (<1m). This made ground deposit was derived from multiple backfills of service trenches and a construction deposit relating to the existing buildings adjacent to the site. Beneath Context **3** were Contexts **8** and **10**. Context **8** was a firm light to mid yellow grey silty clay that was of variable thickness (<600mm) and contained frequent roof tiles as well as occasional fragments of floor tile and angular flint nodules (<60mm). Context **8** can probably be interpreted as a demolition layer with a substantial quantity of the material deriving from an episode of roof collapse. Context **10**

comprised a modern concrete culvert which cut and disturbed Beneath Context **8**, upstanding walls and footings as well as a medieval culvert were exposed.

4.7.2 **Wall A 6** (Figs. 3, 5.3, 5.4)

Orientated roughly east-west, and approximately 6m from Ospringe Street, a length of wall and associated footing was exposed, c.1.3m long, 800mm wide and up-to 1m deep (Plate 1). The north facing elevation of the wall was neatly faced with Upper Greensand ashlar blocks. These were built to courses and bonded by lime mortar. Evidence of an architectural feature was indicated in this face by the presence of chamfered greensand blocks. The southern face by comparison comprised roughly faced flint and Kentish rag; however the true face on this side may have been removed or robbed (Plate 2). The upstanding wall was built upon a roughly faced flint spread footing and was cut by Context [12]. This comprised a c.200mm wide, c.3.5m long and c.200mm deep sloping sided linear cut feature that served to remove a chamfered block towards the eastern baulk (see Fig. 5.4). Context [12] was filled by a compact mid yellow brown silt clay (13). Contexts [12] and (13) were interpreted as the cut and fill of a redundant and removed service.

4.7.3 **Wall B 7** (Figs. 3, 5.3)

Upon exposure of Wall **6** it was noticed that against the eastern baulk and in return from the line of **6** was a large piece of chalk ashlar and associated roughly faced flint wall (Wall **7** see Plate 2). This was interpreted as the remains of a roughly north-south orientated wall probably destroyed during the laying of a nearby BT service.

4.7.4 **Wall C 9** (Plate 3. Figs. 3, 5.1)

Wall **9** comprised an almost north-south orientated length of up-to 7m of roughly faced flint spread wall footing bonded by lime mortar. This was 800mm wide to the edge of excavation and c.800mm deep. A trace of upper greensand ashlar block work, probably once similar to that found in Wall **6**, was recognisable on the top of the footings however no complete courses or blocks remained. This wall footing was cut for some of its length by a modern service (Context [11]). This was filled by builders sand and the plastic service pipe itself (Context 14). Towards the northern most exposure of the wall footing the very edge of a near vertical sided and flat based feature was revealed (Context 17) this was located beneath Context **8** and was built into the footings. The true nature and extent of the feature was unclear as only the very edge was exposed the majority seeming to extend beneath the baulk. However a depth of c.650mm and a width of approximately 1m could be discernable. Context 17 was filled by a loose dark blackish brown sandy silt (Context 18) that contained moderate inclusions of charcoal (<20mm) as well as occasional roof tiles and a burnt clay or daub lining. The tile component of the fill comprised roof tiles laid on edge (see Fig. 5.2).

4.7.5 **Culvert D** (Plate 3. Figs. 3, 5.1)

Immediately adjacent and abutting Context **9** ran a considerable length of well made greensand, ashlar, culvert (Context 15). Comprised of one course of blocks c.300 x 200mm in size making up the side of the substructure and two courses of longer (c.450 x 100mm) blocks making up the ashlar base it sloped away noticeably to the north. Context 16 filled the interior of the culvert. This consisted of a firm but disturbed, dark blackish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional fragments of flint and CBM (<50mm). The western

edge of the culvert could not be seen as a modern culvert (Context **10**) either overlay or had truncated this feature.

4.8 Pumping Station (Fig. 4)

- 4.8.1 The deposits encountered during the excavation of the two pits for the new pumping station comprised firstly a recent topsoil deposit. This was the same as Context **2**. Directly beneath Context **2** was Context **4**, a mid brown grey layer of sandy silt that was c.940mm in thickness and firm to loose in consistency. Context **4** contained moderate frequencies of CBM and occasional sandstone (<900mm) and glass. This made ground deposit was much rooted and it was noticeable that towards the bottom of the layer it contained a disturbed band of medieval building material. Beneath Context **4** was a layer of compact silt sand (Context **5**) that contained frequent inclusions of flint cobbles (<100mm, 75%) and moderate amounts of shell (<35mm, 10%). Context **5** probably represented a compact floor surface or the bedding for one. Directly underneath Context **5** was encountered a mid whitish grey compact sandy natural sand deposit.

5. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL: ASSESSMENT

5.1 Bulk Finds Overview

5.1.1 All bulk finds were washed and dried by context. Materials were bagged by type and pottery 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 where applicable. Only selected bulk metalwork has been x-rayed where appropriate. The material is quantified in Appendix 2.

5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raeman

5.2.1 The earliest fragments are from two jugs, both from [8]. Twenty-two fragments from a medium fired sparse fine-sand tempered off-white ware with external green glaze were recovered. These are from a small handled jug, possibly Surrey ware, and date to the 15th to early 16th century. A further two pieces of the same date were recovered, both from a jug of a high fired sandy earthenware with deliberately reduced surfaces and spots of glaze.

5.2.2 All other pieces are of 19th century date and include two blue transfer printed pearlware base fragments from a water jug ([3]), fragments from a yellow ware bowl ([16]), glazed red earthenware sherds ([8], i.e. bowl) and a fragment of a brown washed salt-glazed English stoneware bottle (i.e. ink) from [16].

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 The ceramic building material (CBM) contained a relatively large number of floor tiles, all from [8]. The pieces are high fired and sparse to moderate fine to medium sand-tempered. Three pieces show traces of white slip under pale green glaze. These are of 13th to 14th century date. A further four decorated floor tiles dating to the 13th to 14th century could be recovered (RF <1> to <4>). The pieces are slip-printed under glaze and are medium to high fired with sparse to abundant fine to medium sand-tempering. Some show rare chalk inclusions to 2 mm or occasional iron oxide inclusions to 1 mm.

5.3.2 Two medium fired, moderate fine to medium sand-tempered pieces from the same context ([8]) show traces of green glaze and date to the 14th to 15th century. One of these measures 110 by 111 mm and is 19 to 21 mm thick. The other pieces from this context vary in thickness between 18 and 21 mm.

5.3.3 Context [8] and [11] contain medium to high fired roof tile fragments with abundant medium to coarse sand-tempering, including a piece with a round peg-hole. The pieces have lime-mortar adhering to them, which indicates reuse, and are probably of 14th to 15th century date. Context [8] also contained high fired pieces dating to the 15th to 16th century, with sparse fine sand-tempering, two of which are in a yellow firing clay. All pieces have a dull yellow mortar adhering to them. A further early post-medieval roof tile fragment was recovered from [18]. This piece is high fired with sparse fine sand-tempering and rare iron oxide inclusions to 1 mm. Again, this has some lime mortar adhering to it.

5.3.4 A high fired sparse fine sand-tempered roof tile fragment, with dull yellow mortar, dates to the 18th to 19th century and was recovered from [8].

- 5.3.5 Context [8] contained a medium to high fired possible mathematical tile fragment of 18th century date with sparse fine sand-tempering, rare slag inclusions to 2 mm and occasional chalk inclusions to 7 mm. A nibbed valley tile dating to the 18th to 19th century was also recovered from [8]. The piece is high fired with sparse fine sand-tempering, occasional slag inclusions to 2 mm and chalk inclusions to 3 mm.
- 5.3.6 In addition, [8] contained one fragment of a fine sand-tempered overfired brick, which is undiagnostic of date.
- 5.3.7 A 19th to 20th century drain pipe fragment was recovered from the same context.

5.4 The Stone by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The archaeological work recovered a large quantity of stone, most of which consisted of worked building material of medieval date. There is very little variation in stone types - context [8] produced an unabraded fragment of 19th-century Welsh slate, context [16] contained a piece of ?coal shale (probably post-medieval) and context [6] a chip of Kentish Ragstone. A massive roughly faced block of Kentish Ragstone (48.5kg) was also recovered from unstratified deposits. The remainder of the assemblage consists of complete or fragmentary building blocks in Upper Greensand. The source of this material is almost certainly Surrey and similar stone was noted at Faversham Abbey (Philp 1968). The largest group came from [6] where a number of complete/nearly complete unweathered ashlar blocks are present, usually with oblique or horizontal tooling on their surfaces. Complete measurements include 350 x 225+ x 170mm, 240 x 140 x 90mm, 180 x 130 x 70mm and 205 x 135 x 60mm. Only one architectural fragment is present, a chamfered corner block some 126mm+ high, with horizontal tooling on its exposed face and oblique tooling on what would have been its hidden faces. The piece is not diagnostic of date. A few pieces of roughly faced Upper Greensand building blocks are also present in this context. A number of the blocks/block fragments have traces of an off-white crushed shell (cockle) lime mortar adhering suggesting all are from a single building phase. Further smaller fragments from similar blocks were recovered from context [8].

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Three conjoining plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments with a circular sectioned heel were recovered from [3]. The pieces are of late 17th to mid 18th century date

5.6 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 Context [8] contained two conjoining pieces of a green wine bottle base with kick. The fragments date to the first half of the 18th century.

5.7 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.7.1 A rectangular-sectioned, tapering strip, possibly a tool (RF <6>) and a D-sectioned rectangular buckle frame (RF <5>), probably of medieval date, were recovered from the topsoil. A general purpose nail fragment ([8]) and a curving sheet fragment ([8]) were also recovered.

5.8 The Worked Flint by Lucy Allott

- 5.8.1 The worked flint assemblage was collected from context [8]. Context [8] contained two broken flakes. One of these is cortical with some small removals at the distal end of the flake. Context [8] also contained four flakes with no further retouch.

5.9 The Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 A cockle shell fragment and a whelk shell was recovered from [8]. All other pieces consist of oyster shell. Context [8] contained five lower valves and seventeen upper valves, eight of which are immature. A total of four lower valves, eight upper valve fragments, four of which are immature, and three undiagnostic pieces of oyster shell were recovered from [8]. The pieces show no signs of overcrowding, though some show traces of parasitic activity.

5.10 Animal Bone by Gemma Driver

- 5.10.1 The animal bone assemblage contained 16 fragments from 3 contexts. Context [8] contained eleven fragments including two complete right sheep metacarpals; the distal end of an unfused sheep metapodial, the distal end of a left sheep tibia, one cattle sized rib fragment, one fragment of cattle sized long bone, a fragment of pig maxillae, canine teeth fragments from a male and female pig and an upper left first molar from a sheep. Context [3] contained one fragment of cattle sized long bone. Context [4] contained 3 fragments from a right horse metatarsal.

6. OVERVIEW & SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

6.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence by Andrew Margetts

6.1.1 This investigation succeeded in identifying archaeological features on the site. For the most part, these comprised significant upstanding walls and footing remains associated with the medieval hospital of St Mary's Ospringe. These were on different orientations through the excavations for the new services and were associated with a culvert, floor level and possible hearth. In many cases it may be possible to determine or allude to which part of the hospital complex the structures belong and spatial relationships with past work near the site could be investigated with the results presented here. The establishment of site phasing has been complicated through difficulties of a restricted range of dates from finds as well as the discussed disturbance to the site. However several phases of construction and demolition may be represented.

6.1.2 It was possible during the course of the watching brief to locate what was probably the remnant of the masonry found by S.E Rigold in 1957 (Wall B see section 4.7.3 above) (Rigold, 1964). As discussed this had been significantly impacted upon by a modern service since it was first recorded. Rigold was unable during the work that he undertook to see the western face of this masonry and it proved the same during this attempt due to truncation.

6.1.3 A similar masonry structure to that described by Rigold was found during this phase of work (Wall A see section 4.7.2). This substantial and well made masonry returned east- west off the north south orientated Rigold find and was constructed similarly however the exterior face looked to the north where as Rigolds faced east. Rigold interpreted his masonry as a bridge abutment for it was obviously intended for a 'massive substructure' and he assumed that the stream ran adjacent to it, however this phase of excavation shows that the stream ran further to the west and was culverted through the hospital complex. It seems more likely that these two walls represent the base of the Bell Tower mentioned in the 1571 'Survey of Kentish Estates' (transcription within Smith, 1979):

'There was once a Bell Tower called The Belfrey, but no walls remain,'

It is in the correct location west of the church and chapel and is possibly of the correct construction.

6.1.4 The third structural remain exposed by the groundworks was probably the most substantial and comprises a length of up-to 7m of roughly faced flint spread footing (see section 4.7.4). This was orientated approximately north-south and seems almost certainly to be the remains of the eastern wall of the hospital Common Hall. G.H Smith excavated the northernmost bay of this building during 1977 and suggested from his findings that St Mary's hall was orientated north-south (Smith, 1979). He found this impossible to prove but it seems very likely that this work confirms his theory that the hospitals ground plan was similar to St Johns Canterbury and St Marys Strood and unlike the usual east-west orientation found at most other sites.

6.1.5 Immediately adjacent to the Common Halls' wall footing (Wall C) ran a considerable length of intact medieval culvert. Well made of greensand ashlar this culvert was well preserved and is a stretch of the largely fragmentary one

found by Smith within the Common Hall during his excavations to the north (Smith, 1979).

- 6.1.6 Built into the wall of the Common Hall was a feature that seemed to be largely constructed of tile (see section 4.7.4 above). This feature was only very partially revealed during the groundworks the vast majority of it extending beneath the baulk. It seems probable however that this represents the location of a hearth that served the Common Hall. Without proper exposure it is difficult to say exactly what form this hearth took but it seems likely that it was similar to those found by Smith in the 1970's (Smith 1979).
- 6.1.7 In addition to walls, culvert and hearth the watching brief succeeded in identifying the location of a probable floor level. Context **5** seems to be in the right location for the Common Halls' interior however Smith noted that the northern bay he excavated had a compacted clay floor as opposed to compacted flint. Context **5** could be a bedding material for a removed floor or alternatively the Common hall may not have extended this far and this surface is that of a yard. The latter is unlikely however due to the proximity of Wall C.
- 6.1.8 The results of this watching brief contribute towards a growing body of knowledge of the Hospital of St Mary of Ospringe. The results are therefore of **regional significance**.

6.2 The Finds

6.2.1 The Pottery by Elke Raeman

This small assemblage is of limited potential beyond the basic dating information provided. None of the pieces are worthy of illustration and no separate report is proposed. The whiteware jug will be examined in relation to other examples from Surrey to ascertain whether this source is likely and if successful to refine the dating.

6.2.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

The assemblage is of limited potential due to the depositional context of the material and mixed dating within context [8]. The decorated floor tiles will be compared to known types and parallels sought and up to four pieces will be selected for illustration. Further research on the possible mathematical tile will also be undertaken and a note prepared for publication.

6.2.3 The Stone by Luke Barber

The stone assemblage is of interest as it clearly demonstrates the importation of non-local material specifically for the finer masonry work. This has been noted in some other medieval religious foundations in the area and the current discovery adds to the growing number of sites in the region using Surrey Upper Greensand. It is unfortunate that no chronologically datable mouldings were present to help refine dating as this stone has a long period of use. The remaining stone is not considered to be of particular interest.

Despite the importance of the stone assemblage there is little further work to be undertaken beyond that already done during the assessment. The material still needs to be recorded on pro forma for archive and some limited further

work is proposed to try to narrow the chronological range as far as possible by comparison with other sites. A brief summary, drawing heavily from the assessment text, will be produced for the final publication.

6.2.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

This small assemblage has no further potential.

6.2.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen

This small assemblage has no further potential.

6.2.6 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

There is limited potential for further analysis but reference will be made to the medieval metalwork in the publication text.

6.2.7 The Worked Flint by Lucy Allott

The assemblage is not diagnostic of period and displays no potential for further analysis.

6.2.8 Animal Bone by Gemma Driver

The small assemblage is of no further potential.

7. REVISED RESEARCH AIMS

7.1 Revised Research Aims

7.1.1 The aims identified for the watching brief were largely addressed by the evidence recovered, and in the light of the assessments above a number of further research aims were identified. These are listed below.

- To investigate this site within the context of other archaeological work carried out at the hospital. This has already been partially achieved in relation to work undertaken by Smith and Rigold however this needs to be looked at in more detail and in conjunction with the following:

Philp, B. 1990. *14-18, The Street, Ospringe, near Faversham*. Kent Minor Sites Series No. 2

Parfitt, K. 1990. Archaeological Excavation and Recording at Nos. 14-18 The Street, Ospringe, 1990. *Kent Arch Review* No.100, 228-229

Report no: 2002 197. *Evaluation at Lower Road, Faversham*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Unpublished Report.

Report no: 2003 5. *Evaluation on Land to the rear of The Anchor, Ospringe*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Unpublished Report.

Geophysical survey undertaken by the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group

- Subsequent to the above, the findings of this watching brief may be set in the national and regional context of the medieval hospital as an archaeological entity.
- The finds in particular the pottery and masonry retrieved from the site must be set in context and looked at in more detail. This will allow more informed decisions on phasing, function, construction and demolition.

8.0 METHODOLOGY FOR FURTHER WORK

8.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence by Andrew Margetts

8.1.1 A final report will be prepared following the format outlined below. The article for publication will simply include this watching brief phase of work on the site. Information supplied by the various specialists will be included within the publication, and appropriate plans and maps will illustrate the text.

8.2 The Finds

8.2.1 Given the limited potential of the finds assemblage, only the worked stone and ceramic building material will undergo further analysis. This will attempt to refine their identifications, dates and understand them from a functional and depositional basis.

9.0 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING PROPOSALS

9.1 Publication Synopsis

9.1.1 It is proposed that the findings are worthy of publication as an article in the county archaeological journal, *Archaeologia Cantiana*. The article will present the results of this single phase of archaeological work in relation to other investigations undertaken at the wider site. 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.

9.1.2 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.

9.1.2 The article will include appropriate maps, plans and illustrations.

9.1.3 It is proposed the article will follow the publication synopsis outlined below, resulting in an article of c.4500 words. Upon completion a copy of the report will be sent to KCC for comment prior to submission for publication.

Working Title

Archaeological Investigations at Fairways, Ospringe, Near Faversham,
Kent – *Archaeologia Cantiana*

Introduction

Planning Background	(50)
Site location, Geology and Topography	(100)
Archaeological Background	(500)

Excavation Results	(1500)
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Discussion: Suggested Topics	(2000)
-------------------------------------	--------

The findings in relation to the wider site	
Comparable medieval hospitals	

Acknowledgements	(40)
Bibliography	(100)

Figures

- Site Location
- Site Plan
- Selected sections & finds illustrations

9.2 Artefacts and Archive Deposition

- 9.2.1 Following completion of the post-excavation work the artefacts recovered during the archaeological work will be offered to a suitable repository to be agreed with the landowner and the County Archaeologist.

10.0 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

10.1 Staffing

10.1.1 The project team will be composed as follows:

Team Member (TBC)	Initials	Tasks
Andrew Margetts	AM	Site Analysis; Report production; archive collation
Luke Barber	LB	Finds specialist; Stone
Sue Pringle	SP	CBM specialist
Louise Rayner	LR	Post-Excavation Project Manager; editing
Justin Russell	JR	Publication Figures

Table 3: Project Team

10.2 Resources

10.2.1 The resources allocated to each task are indicated below. This will enable a publication text as described above to be produced and the site archive deposited.

Task	Team Member	Person Day
Stratigraphic		
Prepare publication text & integrate specialist information	AM	4
Finds & Environmental		
Ceramic Building Material analysis & text	SP	1
Stone analysis & text	LB	1
Illustration and preparation of report text		
Prepare plans and sections for publication	JR	1
Project management	LR	0.5
Report Edit	LR	1
Preparation & Deposition of archive	NB	1
Publication Grant		Fee

Table 4: Resources required for analysis and publication

Acknowledgements

Archaeology South-East would like to thank 4Delivery Limited who commissioned the work on behalf of Southern Water Ltd. Thanks also due to the Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council for their guidance throughout the project.

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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

Appendix 1: Context Register

Area	Context	Context Type	Feature Type	Context Comments	Feature Group	Filled by	Fill of	Spot date
Pipe Trench	1	Layer		Block Paving + Bedding				Modern
Pumping Station/ Pipe Trench	2	Deposit		Topsoil				Modern
Pipe Trench	3	Layer		Made Ground				19 th Century
Pumping Station	4	Layer		Made Ground				
Pumping Station	5	Layer		Cobbled Floor/Bedding				
Pipe Trench	6	Masonry	Wall	E-W Wall	A			
Pipe Trench	7	Masonry	Wall	N-S Wall (return)	B			
Pipe Trench	8	Deposit		Demolition Layer/Roof Collapse				14 th to 16 th Centuries
Pipe Trench	9	Masonry	Wall	N-S Wall (footing)	C			
Pipe Trench	10	Masonry		Modern (60's) Culvert				Modern
Pipe Trench	11	Cut		Service Cut		14		Modern
Pipe Trench	12	Cut		Service Cut		13		Modern
Pipe Trench	13	Fill		Service Fill			11	Modern
Pipe Trench	14	Fill		Service Fill			12	Modern
Pipe Trench	15	Masonry	Culvert	Medieval Culvert	D	16		
Pipe Trench	16	Fill		Fill of Culvert			15	19 th Century
Pipe Trench	17	Cut		Possible Cut of Hearth		18		

Area	Context	Context Type	Feature Type	Context Comments	Feature Group	Filled by	Fill of	Spot date
Pipe Trench	18	Fill		Fill of Hearth			17	Early Post Medieval
Pipe Trench	19	Deposit		Natural (Thanet Beds?)				

Appendix 2: Finds Quantification

Cxt	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Shell	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)	CTP	wt (g)
+											148	48500						
3	3	276															3	8
4					4	298												
6											12	31500						
8	29	352	34	3882	12	174	39	646	6	90	7	576	2	34	2	138		
16	6	244			1	26					1	18						
18			3	628														

Appendix 3: Registered finds by context, type and material

Context	SF No	Object	Material	Period
3	1	TILE	CERA	MED
3	2	TILE	CERA	MED
3	3	TILE	CERA	MED
3	4	TILE	CERA	MED
+	5	BUCK	IRON	
+	6	TOOL	IRON	

OASIS ID: archaeol6-41629

Project details

Project name Faiways, Ospringe, Kent

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during works to install a pumping station and attendant pipe run on land at Fairways, Ospringe Street, Ospringe, Kent. The work comprised the archaeological monitoring of an open cut trench to accommodate the new services, as well as excavation of two pits for the new pumping station. Monitoring took place from the 11th to the 23rd of October 2007. This investigation succeeded in identifying archaeological features comprising significant masonry remains associated with the medieval hospital of St Mary's Ospringe. These included the remnant of the masonry found by S.E Rigold in 1957, a similar east- west wall, a medieval culvert, the location of a hearth, a floor level and a stretch of wall probably relating to the hospital's Common Hall. The underlying geology encountered during the course of the groundworks comprised deposits of Thanet Beds.

Project dates Start: 11-10-2007 End: 23-10-2007

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes FOS07 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type	MEDIEVAL HOSPITAL Medieval
Significant Finds	MASONRY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	IRONWORK Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE OSPRINGE Fairways
Postcode	ME13 OXX
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 0037 6088 51.3111148052 0.875324085167 51 18 40 N 000 52 31 E Point
Height OD	Min: 9.00m Max: 9.14m

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT FAIRWAYS, OSPRINGE, NEAR FAVERSHAM, KENT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Margetts, A

Other bibliographic details Project No: 3002

Other bibliographic details Report No: 2008046

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South East

Place of issue or publication Portslade

Description Post Excavation Report

Entered by Andrew Margetts (andrew_margetts@tiscali.co.uk)

Entered on 1 May 2008