

**31-37 Heaton Road,
Canterbury, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Mr. Dennis Gill**

by Erlend Hindmarch
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRC 02/90

October 2002

Summary

Site name: Heaton Road, Canterbury

Grid reference: TR 1445 5685

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 9th October

Project manager: Erlend Hindmarch

Site supervisor: Erlend Hindmarch

Site code: HRE 02/90

Area of site: 2.44 ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were found

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR. It is anticipated that the complete archive will be deposited with Canterbury City Museum in due course.

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	Sian Anthony ✓ 16.10.02

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Report 02/90

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 31-37 Heaton Road, Canterbury, Kent (TR 1445 5685) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. David Jarmen, BSF Planning Consultants, 33 St. George's Place, Canterbury, Kent on behalf of Mr. Denis Gill, Bridge Knoll, Stuppington Lane, Canterbury, Kent.

A planning application (CA/01/0855/CAN) has gained consent for the construction of four new houses from Canterbury City Council. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by Mr. Richard Cross, Archaeological advisor to Canterbury City Council. It has been pointed out that a major Roman road may run across the site and that in the vicinity various sites and finds have been located. These include pottery kilns and a cremation burial of Roman date.

In order to provide a mitigation strategy to minimise the effects of the development on any archaeological deposits a field evaluation has been requested. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the City Council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. Richard Cross, Canterbury City Council Archaeological Advisor, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd.. The fieldwork was undertaken by Erlend Hindmarch and Pam Jenkins on the 9th October 2002. The site code is HRC 02/90. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Canterbury City Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Canterbury City centre and is currently occupied by redundant allotments with associated sheds. The site lies at a height of approximately 20m OD and slopes down gently towards the north-west. The underlying geology of the site comprised of Oldhaven, Blackheath, Woolwich and Reading and Thanet beds as shown on the geological map for the area (BGS 1979). Such deposits were observed during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

A Roman road followed a route from the Roman Worthgate towards the south-east, to Stuppington Hill Cottages. Excavations at 7 Gordon Road, Canterbury confirmed this alignment of the Roman road. Inhumation burials were also located during this excavation. From this an alignment projection would take the road to a point east on the eastern side of the junction between Heaton Road and Norfolk Road. Other discoveries close to the supposed route of the road include pottery kilns at Stuppington and a cremation burial at Wincheap allotments.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. More specific aims are to determine if the Roman road is present and also to determine if any Roman roadside settlement or burials are within the development area.

In order to satisfy the aims of the evaluation it was proposed that a single trench across the width of the site, from north to west could intercept the Roman road if present. In order to make allowances for the size of the mechanical digger that would be used to open the trench, it was decided after consultation with Mr. Richard Cross, to dig two trenches side by side. Each starting at opposite ends of the site and being dug in opposite directions to a point where they would overlap (Fig. 2). As stated the trenches were dug using a JCB-type mechanical digger fitted with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket. Mechanical digging was carried out under the direct archaeological supervision to remove overburden to a point where archaeological deposits or the natural geology were encountered, whichever came first. Any deposits or features of archaeological interest were cleaned, recorded and sampled by hand. Spoil was also monitored for stray finds.

A description of the trenches and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Both trenches revealed a total absence of any significant archaeological deposits (Plates 1 and 2). They both had similar profiles and showed a recent dark grey sandy topsoil (50) overlying a subsoil of orange-brown sand (51), which in turn overlaid a second subsoil (52) of brown-orange silty sand which overlay the natural.

The depths of the trenches was also similar with a depth of 1.0m at the south end increasing to 1.3m toward the north.

Finds

Modern finds of pottery and glass were seen in the topsoil (50) and the upper subsoil (51). These were not retained. No other finds were seen or recovered.

Conclusion

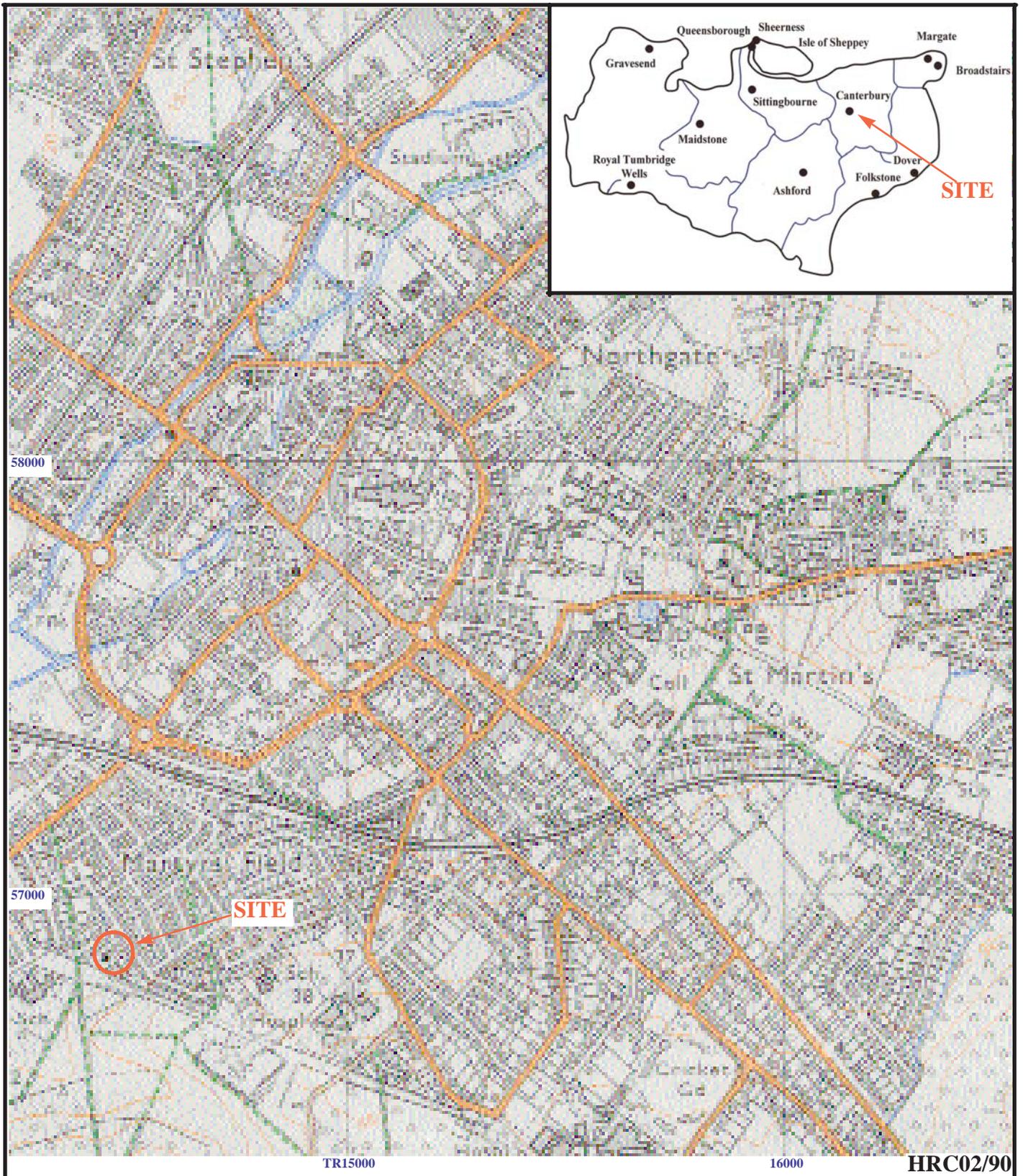
The two trenches across the site showed no presence of any archaeological deposits of Roman origin, such as the anticipated Roman road, or deposits or finds from any other period. The site therefore does not appear to have any archaeological potential

References

BGS, 1979, *British Geological Survey*, 1:625 000, South Sheet, Solid Edition, Keyworth
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at south end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	13.5	1.6	North 1.30 South 0.96	(50)Topsoil; dark grey brown sand. Occasional small chalk lumps and gravel. 0.4m-0.3m deep (north to south) (51) Subsoil: Mid grey brown fine sand. Moderately infrequent small chalk lumps and gravel. 0.4m-0.6m deep. (52) Subsoil: Brown orange silty sand. No inclusions. 0.4m-0.21m deep. Natural: Yellow orange brown silty sandy clay with frequent subangular gravel, Occasional lumps of chalk.
2	14.7	1.6	North 1.34 South 1.00	(50) As trench 1.0.3m-0.4m deep(north to south) (51) As trench 1. 0.5m-0.3m deep (52) As trench 1. 0.39m-0.3m deep



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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Canterbury and Kent.

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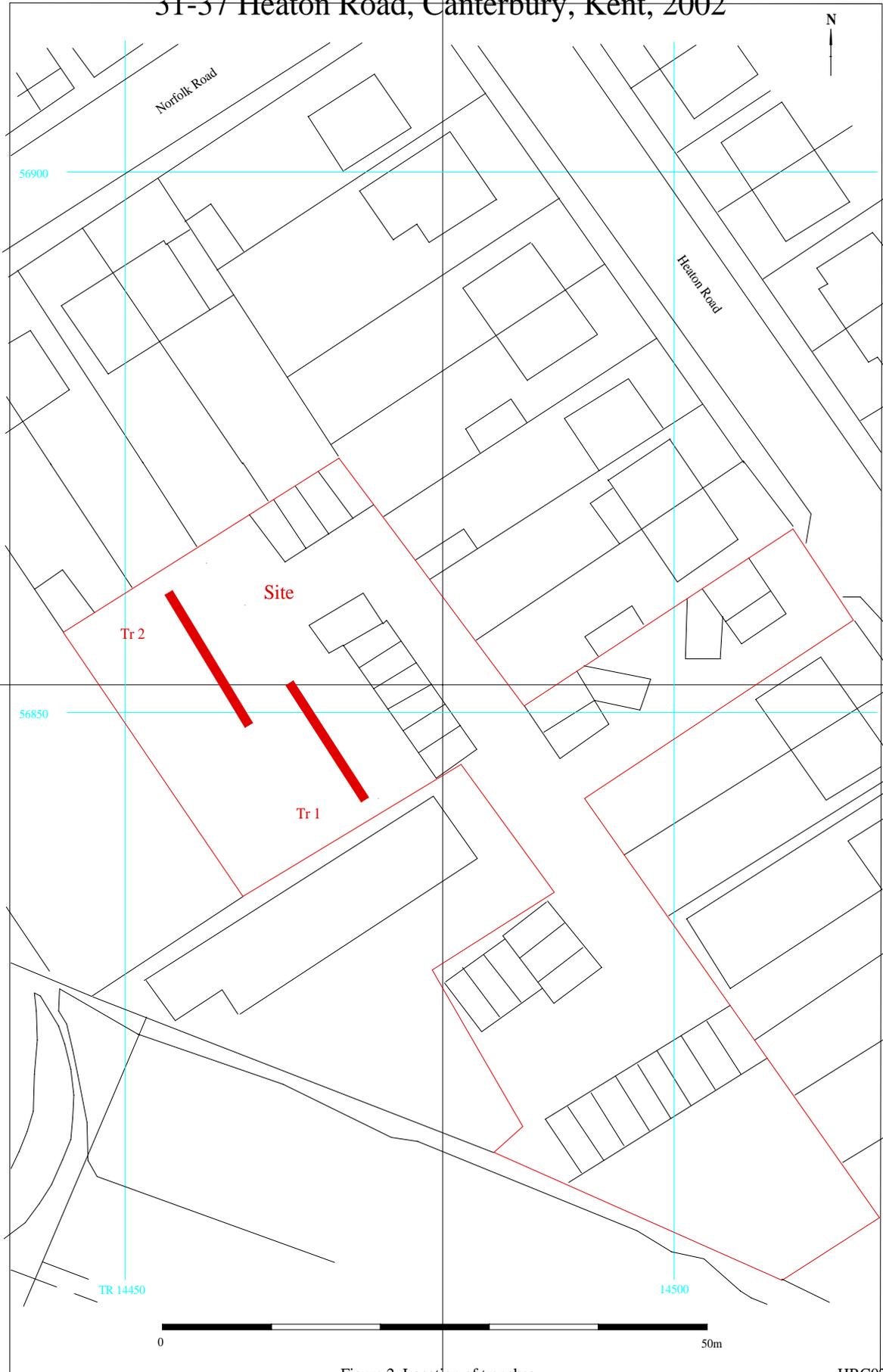


Figure 2. Location of trenches.

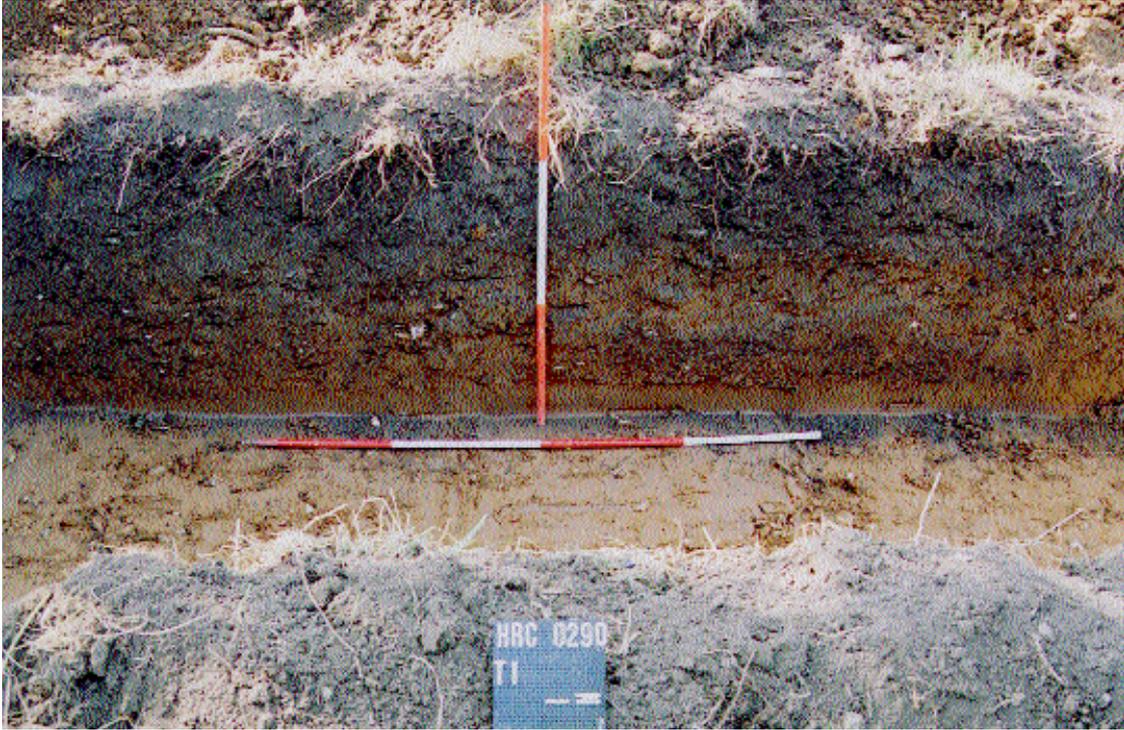


Plate 1. Trench 1 looking west. Scales: 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 1 looking southeast.