

Written Scheme of Investigation For Building Recording Survey

At:

Former St Johns Ambulance Site,
Armoury Drive,
Gravesend,
Kent DA12 1CT

For:

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Blakeney Road,
Beckenham,
Kent BR3 1HG

Private and Confidential

Ref:

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Armoury Drive, Gravesend: written scheme of investigations for building recording

Simon Pratt, March 2022
Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Summary

This document addresses the recording of, and reporting upon, standing structures at the former St John's Ambulance Brigade Head Quarters, Armoury Drive, Gravesend, Gravesham, Kent DA12 1NB (NGR 565110 173560; Planning Application 20200561). The site may also be referred to by its proposed new entrance, off Albert Murray Close. The structures involved all pertain to the former Milton Barracks (1860–1972) and consist of boundary walling, a storage(?) shed (largely already demolished) and a low water tower.

It is proposed that the recording and reporting by Canterbury Archaeological Trust should meet criteria for Historic England Level 2 (descriptive record) building recording, although a specialist military historian will be approached with a view to enhancing it to Level 3 or 4, or preparing a separate analytical report.

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1 General

1.1 Introduction

This document provides a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the recording and reporting of standing structures at the former St John's Ambulance Brigade Head Quarters, Armoury Drive, Gravesend, Gravesham, Kent DA12 1NB (NGR 565110 173560; Planning Application 20200561). The site may also be referred to by its proposed new entrance, off Albert Murray Close. Planning Permission (ref 20200561), with conditions, was granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Gravesham Borough Council, on 23 December 2020. Condition 17 called for a programme of building recording and Condition 18 for one of archaeological work (both to be the subject of separate WSIs). Given the risk of various forms of contamination on the site, a geotechnical/ geoenvironmental site investigation (SI) was first conducted and an archaeological watching brief (WB) upon it has been reported upon (Pratt 2022): this will inform the design of subsequent archaeological work (if any is required by the LPA). The archaeological work (including building recording) has been commissioned of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) by Sevenoaks Environmental Consultancy (SEC).

1.2 Heritage assets

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Wright 2020) and heritage statement (anon 2020) were prepared for the planning application. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps show that the site was formerly agricultural land and remained undeveloped until becoming part of the 1860s–1960s Gravesend (Milton) Barracks, a non-designated heritage asset entered on the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER on-line, TQ67SE211). The standing remains on the current site comprise a partially rebuilt enclosure wall and two small brick buildings, one perhaps a storeroom, the other with a (cast iron?) water tank above and a late twentieth-century extension in breeze blocks. It was suggested that there was the potential for other military remains to survive below ground, though the WB on SI found no evidence for such.

1.3 *Scope*

It is proposed that the recording and reporting should meet and, in some cases, exceed criteria for Historic England Level 2 (descriptive record) building recording (see Appendix 1), although a specialist military historian (Mr Victor Smith, who has independently visited and photographed the site) will be approached with a view to enhancing it (or preparing a separate report) to Level 3 (analytical record) or 4 (comprehensive analytical record).

1.4 *Current recording status*

Due to a mis-understanding, the storeroom(?) was largely demolished before CAT first visited the site (on 25 February 2022, for the WB on SI), but what remained of the interior was digitally photographed along with the inner faces of the boundary walling and the interior and accessible exteriors of the water tower. The SEC and the construction site manager have also supplied a few pre-demolition photographs of the storeroom(?) and the former will supply additional photography showing the publicly accessible western face of the western boundary wall and partially demolished storeroom(?). No other site work pertaining to the standing buildings is envisaged unless and until a WB is maintained upon further demolition work and the removal of their foundations etc. Depending upon the eventual timetable, the results of such a WB will be included with those of the building recording or form part of a separate report.

2 Reporting and archiving

2.1 *General*

A unique site code (ADG 22 BR) will be employed. The CAT report will include general text and illustrations as indicated, in relation to Historic England requirements (Lane 2016), in Appendix 1. More specific details are given in the following paragraphs. As noted above, a specialist military historian will also be invited to enhance the report to Level 3 or 4, or to produce a separate analytical report. This may include documentary research at, for example, the Royal Engineers Museum and Library at Chatham, the National Archives.

2.2 *Boundary walls*

In addition to the general matters addressed by the report, representative photographs of the various stretches of the inner faces of the western and southern stretches of walling, and of the publicly accessible outer face of the western wall, will be chosen and included with the report, along with written descriptions. The outer face of the southern stretch is accessible only through several private gardens and will not be included.

2.3 *Storeroom(?)*

Such as survives of the interior elevations will be photogrammetrically modelled, scaled by reference to check-measurements, and presented in the report as rectified, annotated photo-realistic elevations or drawings thereof. Representative photographs of details and some pre-demolition third-party shots will also be included. If third-party photographs prove sufficient to build a photogrammetric model, this will be done and used to prepare detailed a detailed plan and/or elevation(s).

2.4 *Water tower*

Already generated photogrammetric models of the interior of the original structure and of the southern and eastern exteriors (the others being too inaccessible) will be scaled by reference to check-measurements. These will be used to produce detailed scaled drawings of the two exterior and four interior elevations, the floor plan and a ceiling plan (the underside of the tank). Representative photographs of details, including a foundry inscription (which will also be transcribed) on the tank, and selected general photographs of the less accessible exteriors, will also be included. It is proposed that a WB be maintained upon the demolition of the structure and the removal of its foundations etc.

Particular aims of the WB on demolition will be to:

- establish the nature and depth of the foundations;
- examine the interior and exterior of the tank and record how it fits into the structure below;
- record the inflow and outflow of water arrangements and any buried pipework;
- analysis of the use of the spaces below the tank;
- comment on the structure, brickwork, alterations etc;
- detailed recording of significant features, including the foundry inscription.

2.5 *Archiving*

A full colour digital photographic record of the WB on SI evaluation was produced and the bulk of the photographs used for building recording were taken, by CAT, at the same time. These and additional photographs, whether by CAT or others, comprise part of the site archive. A unified catalogue of all digital photographs from the site will be prepared and also form part of the overall archive, as will scaled elevations and plans from the photogrammetric modelling. The site archive will be prepared according to CIfA (2020) guidelines, with the archive name 'Armoury Drive, Gravesend, 2022', site code ADG 22 and archive number 4782. The archive will, at least initially, be held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU).

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9 March 2022

References

Anon 2020, 'Heritage Statement – Site: land at Albert Murray Close, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1NB', unpublished [Gravesham Borough Council?] report (https://docs.gravesham.gov.uk/PublicAccess_LIVE/Document/ViewDocument?id=6A20B770B15311EA9D2FE226BB3BE258).

Lane, R 2016, *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, (2nd ed) Historic England (<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/understanding-historic-buildings/heag099-understanding-historic-buildings/>).

Pratt, S, 2022, 'Former St John's Ambulance Brigade HQ, Armoury Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1NB: watching brief on geotechnical site investigation', unpublished Canterbury Archaeological Trust Client Report 2022/39.

Wright 2020, 'Land at Albert Murray Close, Gravesend, Kent: archaeological desk-based assessment', unpublished AOC Archaeology Group Client Report 25283 (https://docs.gravesham.gov.uk/PublicAccess_LIVE/Document/ViewDocument?id=4790ED47C0F711EAAEEBF06E0BC61EBA).

KHER on-line, *Kent Historic Environment Record*, Kent County Council (<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>).

Levels: 1 = basic visual record, 2 = descriptive record, 3 = analytical record, 4 = comprehensive analytical record

Drawings

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Photo survey	
	n/a				1 Sketched plan, section, elevation or detail drawings (when no more thorough drawn record is not made). Sketches may be roughly dimensioned.
	1 OR 2				2 Measured plans (to scale or fully dimensioned) as existing. These may extend to all floors, or may be limited to one or a selection. The latter option may be appropriate, for example, in a town-centre building where an upper floor has been little altered. Buildings with a repetitive structure may also be planned on one floor, but a note or sketch plan should indicate the arrangement of other floors. Plans should show the form and location of any structural features of historic significance, such as blocked doors, windows and fireplaces, masonry joints, ceiling beams and other changes in floor and ceiling levels, and any evidence for fixtures of significance.
	n/a				3 Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant structural detail (for example timber or metal framing).
					4 Measured cross-sections or long-sections illustrating the vertical relationships within a building (for example floor and ceiling heights, the form of roof trusses).
	n/a				5 Measured drawings to show the form of any architectural decoration (for example the moulding profiles of door surrounds, beams, mullions and cornices) or small-scale functional detail not easily captured by photography. A measured detail drawing is particularly valuable when the feature in question is an aid to dating.
					6 Measured elevations, where these are necessary to an understanding of the building's design, development or function.
					7 A site plan relating the building to other structures and to any related topographical and landscape features.
					8 A plan or plans identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs [omitted from HE guidelines for photographic survey].
					9 Copies of earlier drawings throwing light on the building's history.
					10 Three-dimensional projections when these are of value in understanding the building. If these are to be considered components of the record they must always be supported by measured plans, sections and elevational details.
					11 Reconstruction drawings and phased drawings, when these are of value. In phased drawings successive phases of a building's development may be shown by graded tone (dark to light, with the darker being the earlier) or by colour, by sequential diagrams or by annotation. Whenever phased drawings are included in a record, they must be accompanied by the unmarked drawings on which they are based. The evidence supporting the reconstruction and/or phasing must be provided.
					12 Diagrams interpreting the movement of materials (process flow) or people (circulation), or the segregation of people or activities (for example permeability diagrams), where these are warranted by the complexity of the subject. The evidence supporting the interpretations must be provided.

Typically always include

Typically sometimes include

Photography

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Photo survey
				
				
				
				
				
				
				
				
				

- 1 A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape, if item 2 is also to be adopted).
- 2 The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape. Where individual elevations embody complex historical information it may also be appropriate to take views at right-angles to the plane of the elevation.
- 3 Further views may be desirable to indicate the original design intentions of the builder or architect, where these are known from documentary sources or can be inferred from the building or its setting.
- 4 The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas. The approach will be similar to that outlined in item 2.
- 5 Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development or use, with scale where appropriate.
- 6 Any machinery or other plant, or evidence for its former existence.
- 7 Any dates or other inscriptions, any signage, makers' plates or graffiti which contribute to an understanding of the building. A transcription should be made wherever characters are difficult to interpret.
- 8 Any building contents or ephemera which have a significant bearing on the building's history (for example, a cheese press or a malt shovel).
- 9 Copies of maps, drawings, views and photographs, present in the building and illustrating its development or that of its site. The owner's consent may be required where copies are to be deposited in an archive .



Typically always include



Typically sometimes include

