



**Archaeological Evaluation at the
Former Royal Marines North Barracks,
Canada Road, Deal, Kent
*May 2007***

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**Former Royal Marines North Barracks. Canada
Road, Deal,
Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: 637463 151570

Site Code: RMNB07

(Planning Application Number: DOV/98/0793)

**Report for
Jenner (Contractors) Ltd**

**By
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May 2007**

On behalf of;

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**Archaeological Excavations at Former Royal Marines North Barracks,
Canada Road, Deal,
Kent**

NGR: 637463 151570

Site Code: RMNB07

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Royal Marines North barracks in Canada Road, Deal, Kent, in March 2007. A planning application (PAN: DOV/98/0793) for the construction of a new doctors surgery, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The archaeological evaluation revealed groundwork associated with former buildings and the formation of present day surfaces that had most likely truncated the upper levels of the existing drift geology. Brick walls and foundations exposed in both trenches formed part of the 19th-20th century build, being associated with a large building (used as a NAFFI) as shown on 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. These building were recently demolished as part of the site clearance. The deposit model on site comprised natural brickearth directly underlying brick hardcore and modern surfaces, suggesting that upper levels of the natural geology were removed prior to the construction of existing surfaces. If any earlier archaeological deposits were present on site they would have been destroyed during this earlier phase of construction.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Jenner (Contractors) Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Initial phases of the evaluation were carried out in March 2007.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is centred at NGR 637463 151570 (KCCHC: 2007:1.4). The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Society consists of Head Brick Earth. This was confirmed by evaluation of other parts of the site in 1999. It is important to note that important to note that coastal windblown sand deposits lie in parts of the barracks site and is likely to extend to present site. The sand deposit contains and seals prehistoric deposits (KCCHC: 2007:1.5).

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: DOV/98/0793) for the construction of a new doctors surgery along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council, requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

AR1 *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area, with trenches designed to establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCCHC and DDC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The initial stage of evaluation at the North Barracks site, within the parade ground site was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Parfitt:1998, Keeley *et al*: 1999). This evaluation encountered significant archaeological deposits over much of the evaluated area. The earliest deposits were found sealed beneath a layer of windblown sand and included ditches, pits and post holes of an early Iron Age date. The activity suggested that several phases of development of early Iron Age field boundaries were present on the site, however the lack of domestic rubbish in the features indicates that settlement is not immediately adjacent. A significant quantity of apparently residual Bronze Age material suggests earlier activity in the area. The early Iron Age features were seen to truncate a number of earlier ponds or meres which are of palaeo-environmental interest (KCCHC: 2007:2.1).

The apparent windblown sand deposits, which, from the presence of late Saxon/early medieval pottery found in any of the underlying ditches, started to accumulate in the 10th/11th century AD contained a considerable quantity of prehistoric ,lithic material and pottery of Beaker, Bronze Age and Iron Age date. The interpretation of the excavator is that the material had probably been introduced through ploughing of the deposit. A second phase of evaluation in 199 (Parfitt 1999) identified the possible limits of the windblown sand (KCCHC: 2007:2.2).

Above the truncating sand, a number of post-medieval features were encountered. Evidence of the early parade ground thought to have been laid out in the 18th century was limited to some areas of pebble metalling. Other features relating to military occupation were two ditches and a large pit. A number of feature predated the military activity including evidence of probable 17th/18th century field boundaries and an area of burning possible reacting to the site of a early brick camp predating the parade ground (KCCHC:2007:2.3).

The above evidence therefore suggest that a multi-period archaeological site of considerable interest and significance lies in the area of the parade ground and possible in other areas of the North Barracks site. The sand deposit, which id of some archaeological interest itself, .8- to m1.0m beneath current surface extends to a depth of 0.8 to 1.0m beneath current surfaces and may serve to protect some of the more significant deposits from disturbance (KCCHC:2007:2.4).

Other areas of the North Barracks site may have been more heavily disturbed by previous and existing development than the parade ground. None the less, elsewhere a number of locations may remains relatively well preserved, including areas of open space, access roads etc. Where deposits may be preserved under existing surfaces, particularly given that the sand deposits encountered in the pared ground could equally be present in these areas. The 1999 evaluation identified a large quarry pit to the east of the proposed surgery building. Whether this extends into the present site is unclear (KCCHC: 2007:2.5).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out with the Archaeological Specification (2006) was to:

- i) establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site (2006:3.1)
- ii) establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits (2006:3.2)

Particular issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- the extent of the windblown sand deposit in the parade ground needs to be established (2007:3.3)
- whether there is further evidence of prehistoric activity on the North Barracks development site. On the evidence of previous work it would seem that the level natural brickearth rises gently up towards the west and it may well be that it is on the slightly higher ground that direct evidence for an ancient settlement may be located (2006:3.3)
- Is there any further evidence of the use of the site prior to its use as a military establishment? (2006:3.3)
- The evidence of the early military occupation of the North Barracks site (2006:3.3)

Additional aims were to:

- iv) gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them
- v) enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching commenced on the 12th and 13th March 2007, with the excavation of two trenches each measuring 2m in width and 20m in length (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT. Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)

MONITORING

No curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/reinforced concrete overburden **(101) (201)** overlying hardcore/brick rubble **(102) (202)**, beneath which the natural geology comprised brickearth **(103) (203)**. The topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark brown silt sand clay with frequent to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. A clear line of horizon gave way to natural brickearth where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.70-0.86m below the existing ground level. Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

Trench 1

(20 x 2m) Figs 3 and 4

Trench 1 was located within the western extent of the site (Pls. 2 & 3). Aligned approximately northeast-southwest, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the eastern most extent of the proposed surgery. Two 20th century brick walls **(105) (107)**, a concrete slab **(106)** and concrete foundation **(109)** and a gravel path **(104)** truncated the natural brickearth **(103)** that only survived in the far eastern extent of the trench.

No archaeological features or finds were present within this trench.

Trench 2

(20 x 2m) Figs 3 and 4

Trench 2 was located within the eastern extent of the site (Pls. 2 & 3). Aligned approximately northwest-southwest, this trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the western most extent of the proposed surgery. Two 20th century brick walls **(204) (205)** truncated the natural brickearth **(203)**.

No archaeological features or finds were present within this trench.

FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation carried out at the Royal Marines North Barracks revealed that groundwork associated with former buildings and the formation of present day surfaces had

truncated the upper levels of the existing drift geology. Brick walls and foundations exposed in both trenches formed part of the 19th-20th century build, being associated with a large building (used as a NAFFI) as shown on 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. These building were recently demolished as part of the site clearance. The exposed foundations and later surfaces had most likely removed any subsoil and windblown sand, and subsequently truncated the upper levels of the existing drift geology. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite natural brickearth surviving on site, no buried archaeological remains were present within the excavated trenches suggesting that the proposed development presents little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCCHC) of any further archaeological mitigations measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Jenner (Contractors) Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson and James Madden carried out archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by James Madden. This report was edited and collated by Paul Wilkinson.

David Britchfield
May 2007

REFERENCES

Parfitt (1998) *Deal North Barracks Parade Ground: An Assessment of the Archaeological Evaluation Trenching*. Canterbury Archaeological Trust

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (2005) *Kent Historical Town Survey; Archaeological Assessment Document: Deal*

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2006) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation in Advance of the Construction of a New Surgery Building on Land at the Former Royal Marines North Barracks, Canada Road, Walmer, Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

Unknown. *The Royal Marines Barracks Site at Deal, Kent. An Archaeological Implications Survey*.

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence:

Photographs: XXX colour prints, SWAT film nos. 06/xxx, including those used in this report

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: One A3 permatrace site drawing, comprising trench plans and associated sections.

Finds: 1 box (as per KCC guidance)

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (1), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (14)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Former Royal Marines North Barracks. Canada Road, Deal, Kent

Site Code: RMND07

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(101)	0.00-0.34m	Topsoil. Friable dark brown silty sand clay with moderate inclusions of sub-angular and rounded flints.
	(102)	0.34-0.70m	Brick Rubble
	(103)	0.70m+	Natural. Head Brick Earth
	(104)	-	Gravel Path
	(105)	-	Brick wall
	(106)	-	Concrete Slab.
	(107)	-	Brick wall.
	(108)	-	Rubble.
	(109)	-	Concrete foundation.
Trench 2	(201)	-	Reinforced Concrete Slab
	(202)	-	Brick Rubble.
	(203)	0.00-0.22m	Natural. Head Brick Earth
	(204)	0.22-0.64m	Brick foundations
	(205)	0.64m-0.86m+	Brick foundations

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Former Royal Marines North Barracks, Deal, Dover</i> SWAT Site Code: <i>RMNB07</i>	
Site Address: <i>Canada Street, Dover</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the Royal Marines North barracks in Canada Road, Deal, Kent, in March 2007. A planning application (PAN: DOV/98/0793) for the construction of a new doctors surgery, along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2007) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i>	
<i>The archaeological evaluation revealed groundwork associated with former buildings and the formation of present day surfaces that had most likely truncated the upper levels of the existing drift geology. Brick walls and foundations exposed in both trenches formed part of the 19th-20th century build, being associated with a large building (used as a NAFFI) as shown on 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. These building were recently demolished as part of the site clearance. The deposit model on site comprised natural brickearth directly underlying brick hardcore and modern surfaces, suggesting that upper levels of the natural geology were removed prior to the construction of existing surfaces. If any earlier archaeological deposits were present on site they would have been destroyed during this earlier phase of construction.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Deal</i>
Period(s): <i>Tentative: Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR 637463 151570</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>12th & 13th March 2007</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Head Brickearth</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Britchfield, D (2007) Former Royal Marines North Barracks, Canada Road, Deal, Dover Kent: Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i>	
(cont. on attached sheet)	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>25th May 2007</i>

APPENDIX 3 – Figures



Figure 1: Location of site of proposed development; Scale 1:1500





374

375

516

516



374

375

0 20 40 60 80 100

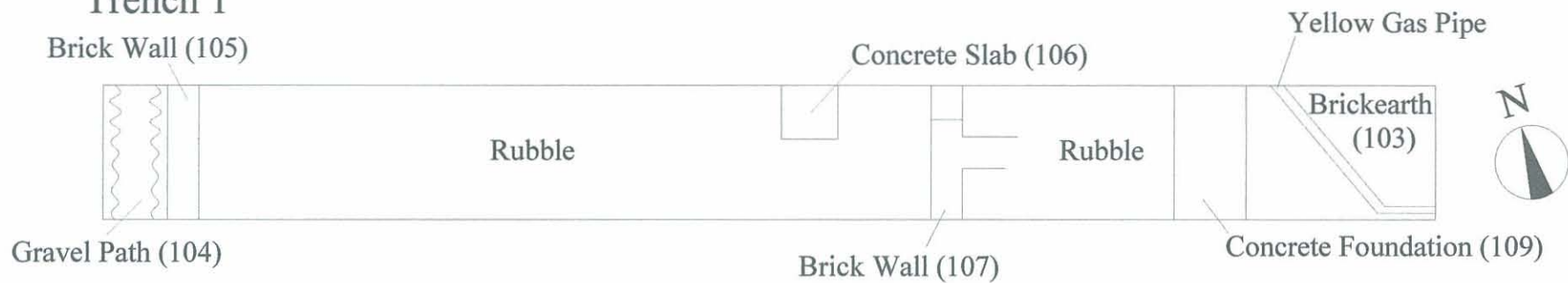


Metres

Figure 2: Location of test trenches; Scale 1:1000

Plans

Trench 1



Trench 2

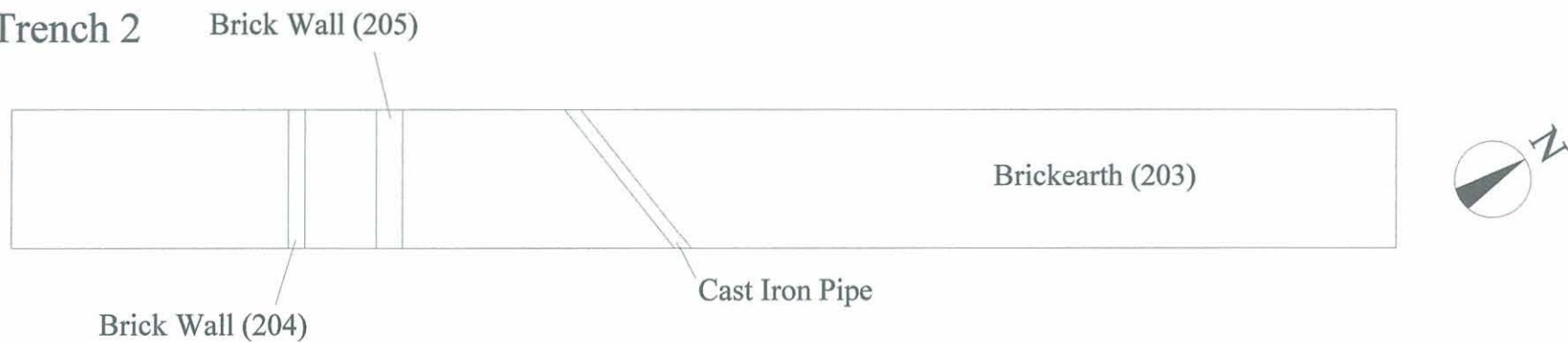
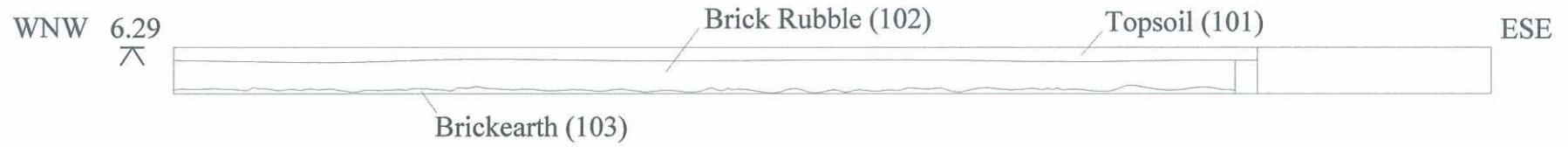


Figure 3: Trench Plans 1:10; Scale 1:100

Sections

Trench 1



Trench 2

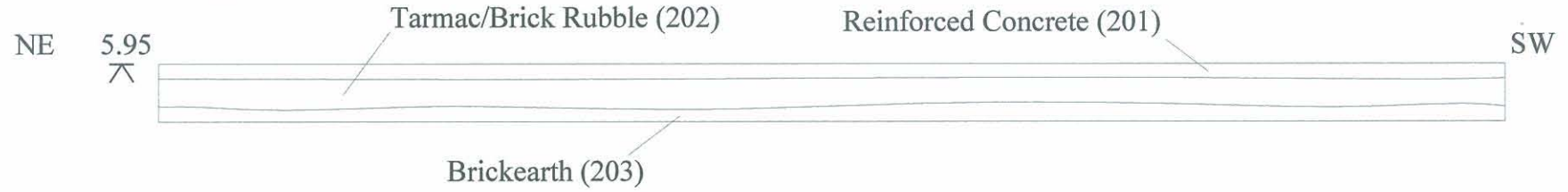


Figure 4: Sections 1:10; Scale 1:100