

## **Archaeological Monitoring & Recording of a site at Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent.**

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**Site at Wellesley Road/Park Street, Ashford  
Kent**

**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording**

**NGR: 601221 142857  
Site Code: WRA/EW/08**

**Report for  
Jenner Contractors Limited**

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Fig.1 Location of site of proposed development within Ashford, Kent (NGR: 601221142857)



## Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent

NGR: 601221142857

Site Code: WRA/EW/08

### 1.0 SUMMARY

*In January 2008, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Wellesley Road, Ashford. The works were carried out on behalf of Jenner (Contractors) Limited during the demolition of existing building and construction of 23 flats and two retail units with associated parking and access. (Planning Application Number: AS/05/00796).*

*The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered. The deposit model on site comprised existing surfaces directly overlying made ground suggesting that former groundworks associated with previous development had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.*

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: AS/05/00796) for the demolition of existing building and construction of 23 flats with two retail units and associated parking was submitted to Ashford Borough Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Ashford Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

**AR4** *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

**Reason:** **To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.**

## **2.2 Schedule of Visits**

An Archaeological Project Officer from SWAT Archaeology attended the site and monitored excavation works on the following dates:

19<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2008  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## **2.3 Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

In addition, objectives of the monitoring were:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive

The specific archaeological requirements of the project are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that archaeological remains are encountered
- Post-excavation and publication, where required

## **2.4 Proposed Groundworks**

The groundworks involved;

- Excavation of piling foundations
- Excavation of services

## **2.5 Confidence Rating**

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Ashford district is generally rich in archaeological remains and there is known Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the application site. An Anglo-Saxon burial was found 350m south west of the site in about 1866 (Kent SMR No.: TR 04 SW 13). The site lies on the predicted alignment of a Roman road linking Canterbury and the Weald.

### 4.0 METHODOLOGY

The monitoring was conducted in accordance with standard operating procedure as adopted by Kent County Council and included within the specification (Appendix B) and also complied with the Institute of field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds. The examination of spoil and the recording of soils profiles were carried out following excavation.

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 recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**).

### 5.0 RESULTS

#### 5.1 *General*

Truncation during the construction of the overlying earlier developments had occurred to the natural geological deposits.

#### 5.2 *Deposit Model*

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m – 0.15m	<b>(100)</b>	Construction of overburden and surfaces comprising concrete slabs, tarmac surfaces and layers of stone hardcore. <b>Modern construction layers and present surfaces</b>
0.15m – c.2.30m+	<b>(101)</b>	Dark brown sand clay with moderate gravels, chalk and concrete lumps. <b>Made ground</b>

No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were present throughout the duration of the groundworks. At no point throughout the duration of the project were upper surfaces of intact natural geological deposits recognised.

### 6.0 FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the monitoring exercise.

### 7.0 DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring and recording carried out at Wellesley Road, Ashford revealed



that former groundworks associated with the earlier developments had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology of Sandgate Beds. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological remains have been affected as a result of the development programme.

## **9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank Jenner (Contractors) Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Wendy Rogers (Senior Archaeological Officer) for her assistance. This report was written and collated by Dr Paul Wilkinson.

May 2008

## **10.0 REFERENCES**

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council (2006) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at the site of Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent.*

**APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form**

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Wellesley Road, Ashford</i> <b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>WRA/EW/087</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>As above</i>	
<b>Summary:</b> <i>In January 2008, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at a site at Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Jenner (Contractors) Limited during the demolition of existing building and construction of 23 flats and two retail units (Planning Application Number: AS/05/00796).</i>  <i>The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered. The deposit model on site comprised existing surfaces directly overlying made ground suggesting that former groundworks associated with previous development had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology of Sandgate Beds. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Kent</i>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Ashford</i>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b> <i>Modern</i>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <i>601221142857</i> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>19 January 2008, 20 January 2008, 21 January 2008, 29 January 2008.</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Sandgate Beds</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> <i>Wilkinson P. (2008) Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent. Swale &amp; Thames Archaeological Survey Company</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Dr P Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>10<sup>th</sup> May 2008</i>



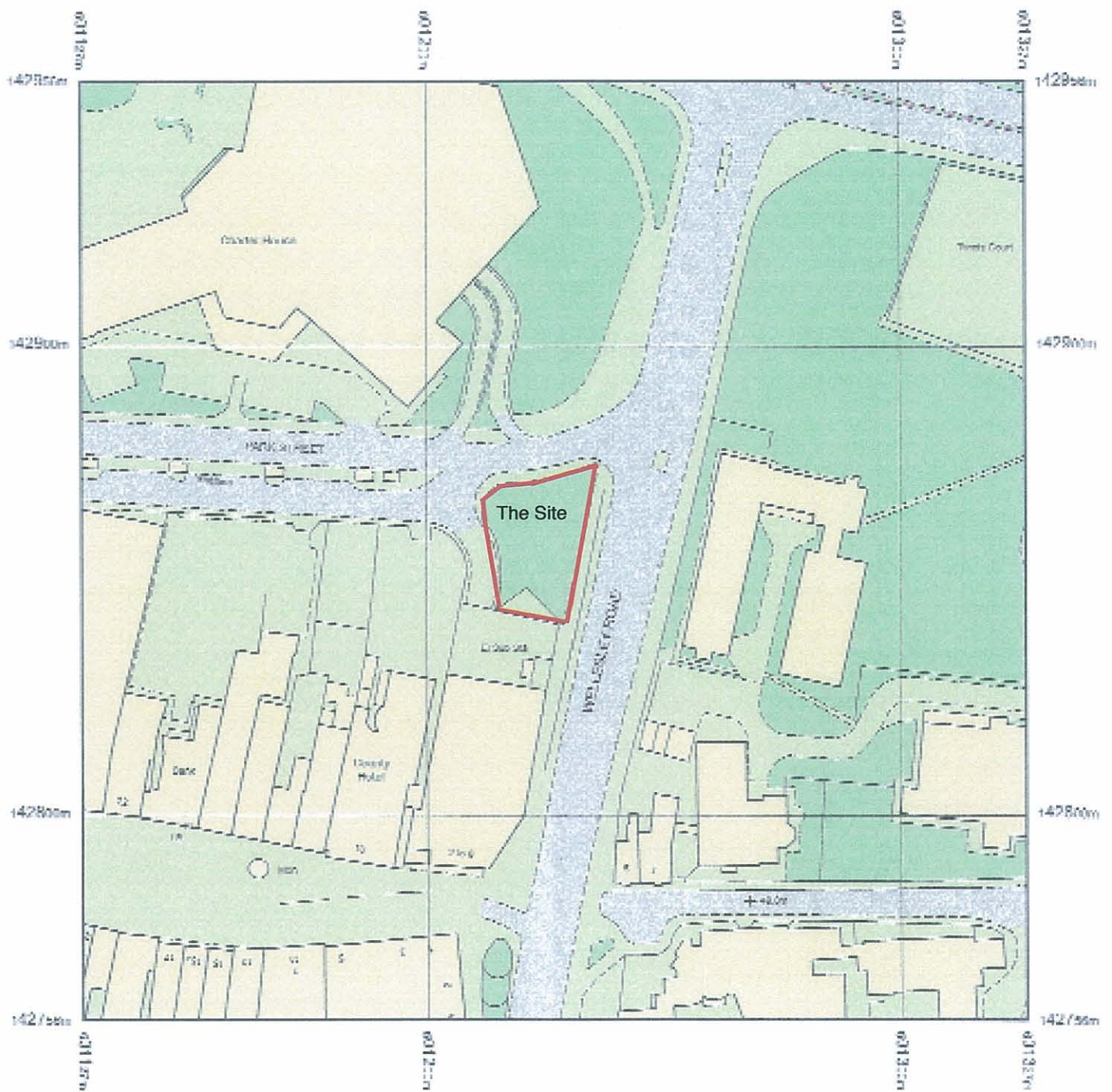


Figure 1. Location of site of proposed development at Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent. (NGR 601221 142857).