



**Archaeological Evaluation on land at
Nicholl Farm, Deerton Street,
Teynham, Kent
*February 2009***

SWAT. Archaeology
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

Archaeological Evaluation on land at Nicholl Farm,
Deerton Street, Teynham, Kent

NGR: 597095 162896

Site Code: DST/EV/09

(Planning Application Number: SW/08/1278)

Report for
Rural Partners Ltd

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School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent

ME13 8UP

Tel: 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112

www.swatarchaeology.com

Contents

List of Figures.....	ii
Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Site Description and Topography.....	1
Planning Background.....	2
Archaeological Background.....	2
Aims and Objectives.....	3
Methodology.....	3
Monitoring.....	4
Results.....	4
Discussion.....	5
Conclusion.....	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
Appendix 1...Context Summary.....	7
Appendix 2...KCC SMR Summary Form.....	9

List of Figures

Fig. 1: Site Plan

Fig. 2: trench layout

Fig. 3, 4; Trench sections

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Nicholl Farm in Deerton Street, Teynham. A planning application (PAN: SW/08/1278) for the construction of a controlled atmosphere fruit store for organic fruit at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough 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 Jul 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Evaluation encountered no archaeological features in any of the three trenches, the only finds being a residual piece of Ceramic Building Material from a modern mole drain and two possible flint flakes from the topsoil, this suggests that there are no archaeological remains surviving within the site.

The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Rural Partnerships 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 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Trenching and Investigation was carried out between the 2nd and 18th February 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR: 597095 162896. This application site is located just under 2km to the north-east of the centre of Teynham village which lies on the A2, the old Roman Road of Watling Street. The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Society, is Head Brickearth over Thanet Beds. The site is on low undulating ground at around 9m OD on the edge of the Luddenham Marshes.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: SW/08/1278) for the construction of a controlled atmosphere fruit store for organic fruit at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough 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:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.” (KCCHC 2008)

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting 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 SBC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding Deerton Street is rich in cropmarks and proven archaeological sites showing the presence of archaeological remains mainly of prehistoric and/or Roman date, but also continuing through to the post-medieval period. Within 50m of the site lies the possible remains of the Old Nicholl Farm Iron Age site (TQ96 SE77) and slightly further away, but still within 200m, lie Deerton Street Iron Age site, (TQ96 SE78) 180m east, and 180m northeast lies the remains of a Roman building (TQ96 SE1055). This is only a fragment of the full archaeological potential of the immediate area which, within a 500m radius also includes two more Roman buildings, one with probable Saxon re-occupation and many spot finds and a great number of listed buildings.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out in the Archaeological Specification (2008) 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.
- ii) establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.” (KCCHC 2008)

Specific issues that should be addressed by the evaluation include:

- “Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the development area?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric and/or medieval activity within the development area?
- Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity on the site including remains of the farm?
- Has modern disturbance connected with construction or farming reduced archaeological potential?
- What impact will the development proposals have on any buried archaeology?” (*ibid*)

Additional aims were to:

- i) Contribute to the environmental and landscape history of the area.
- ii) To fit any findings into the regional framework.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on 1st February 2009 with two trenches 20m long by 1.2m wide. A third trench was opened, to increase the area covered, on the 16th February 2009. The trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation between KCCHC and SWAT and the location of the third trench was agreed during the curatorial visit on the 9th February 2009. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the natural subsoil, in the absence of a recognisable archaeological horizon; this was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The 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 and IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation. (IfA 2008).

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (+++). The cut of the feature is shown [+++]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil/turf overburden (***00**), beneath which was a subsoil layer of possible colluvial nature (***01**) beneath this the natural geology comprised Brickearth (***02**). Topsoil/overburden consisted of friable dark grey brown clay silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints. The subsoil was of a very similar make-up but was comprised of a mid grey brown clay silt. A clear line of horizon gave way to natural subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy clay silt (Brickearth) where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying topsoil layer varied very little across the three trenches, with the depth of the natural brickearth being located c.0.35-0.38m below the existing ground level.

Trench 1

(20m x 1.2m)

Trench 1 was located nearest to the present buildings of the western part of Nicholl Farm and ran roughly NE - SW. This was sited to assess the impact of the eastern half of the new fruit store. The topsoil in this trench, (100) was an even 0.25m in thickness and may be this depth as the result of earlier ploughing episodes. Beneath this was a thin layer of probable colluvial material (101), which appeared as an interface layer between the topsoil and the natural. This was between 0.10 and 0.13m in depth and lay above undisturbed brickearth, (102). Many features were noted in this trench, but all could be ascribed to the very recent presence of apple trees and their root systems, only one appeared to be purely artificial and this was [104] which took the form of a modern mole drain running roughly NW - SE. A fragment of CBM was retrieved from the fill of this cut, being the only material retrieved from a cut context on this site, the only other finds being two flint flakes of possible archaeological origin one being retrieved from the topsoil of this trench and one from the topsoil of Trench 3.

Trench 2

(20m x 1.2m)

Trench 2 ran at roughly 90° to trench 1, roughly NE – SW, and was designed to assess the impact of the western half of the fruit store. The stratigraphy was identical to that in Trench 1 with a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil, (200) overlaying the subsoil which was almost uniformly

0.10m in thickness, (201) which in turn overlay the natural brickearth, (202). No features were seen in this trench with the exception of more areas of tree root disturbance.

Trench 3

(20m x 1.2m)

Trench 3 ran along one of the access tracks between the lines of the trees and this was so placed to observe the periphery of the new store and the area of its northern wall, hopefully, in an area devoid of tree root disturbance. The same common stratigraphy was also evident here with a topsoil of 0.25m in thickness, (300), a subsoil of between 0.10 and 0.12m in thickness leading to the natural brickearth, (302). The area was, as hoped, largely devoid of tree roots, however, it was also largely devoid of archaeological features with the exception of a single mole drain trench, [304]. On lining this up with trench 1, it is highly likely that this is part of the same drain seen in this trench, [104].

FINDS

Few archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation, see above.

DISCUSSION

This evaluation carried out on land at Nicholls Farm in Deerton Street, Teynham did not encounter archaeological remains, the fragment of CBM is likely to have been imported in manuring or washed down the hill from another area as it was heavily abraded. There is always the possibility that during the conversion of this land to its use as an orchard some landscaping or ploughing has taken place with the resulting loss of any shallow archaeological features that may have originally been present.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Despite the extreme archaeological potential of the surrounding area, no secure buried archaeological remains, apart from a single residual piece of CBM, 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 Rural Partners Ltd. for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Paul Wilkinson, Geoff Morley and Julie Martin carried out the archaeological fieldwork, illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden of Digitise This. This report was edited and collated by Dr Paul Wilkinson.

Geoff Morley MSc (Oxon) FSA Scot. PIfA
March 2009

REFERENCES

IfA (2008) *Standard and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2008) '*Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Nicholl Farm, Deerton Street in Teynham in advance of construction of a fruit store*', Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence

Photographs: Digital photographs 10: SWAT Film nos. 01-11. 35mm slides 05.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

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

Finds: CBM fragment. Two possible flint flakes.

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Trench Recording Sheets (3) and Context Sheets (13)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site Land at Nicholl Farm, Deerton Street in Teynham

Site Code: DST/EV/09

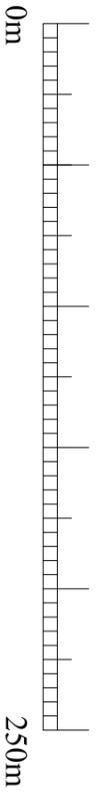
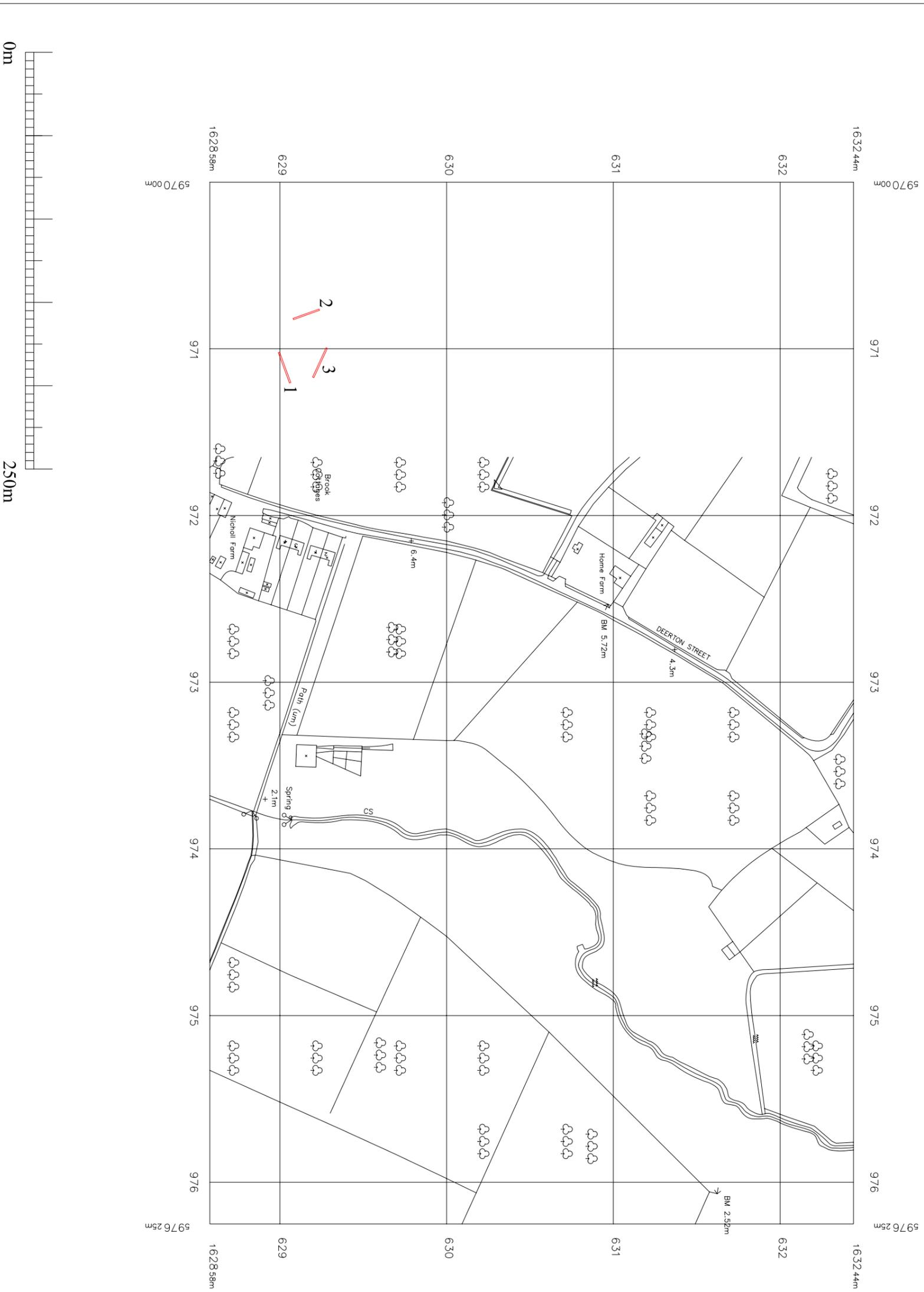
	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 1	(100)	0.00-0.25m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown clay silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(101)	0.26-0.39m	Subsoil. subsoil comprising mid grey brown clay silt
	(102)	0.40m+	Natural. Head Brickearth
	(103)	Fill of [104]	Fill of Mole Drain.
	[104]	0.10m depth	Cut of Mole Drain.

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 2	(100)	0.00-0.25m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown clay silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(101)	0.26-0.38m	Subsoil. subsoil comprising mid grey brown clay silt
	(102)	0.39m+	Natural. Head Brickearth

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
Trench 3	(300)	0.00-0.25m	Turf/topsoil. Friable dark grey brown clay silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded – angular flints.
	(301)	0.26-0.38m	Subsoil. subsoil comprising mid grey brown clay silt
	(302)	0.39m+	Natural. Head Brickearth
	(303)	Fill of [104]	Fill of Mole Drain.
	[304]	0.10m depth	Cut of Mole Drain.

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Site on land at Nicholl Farm, Deerton Street, Teynham</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>DST/EV/09</i>	
Site Address: <i>Deerton Street, Teynham, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Nicholls Farm in Deerton Street, Teynham. A planning application (PAN: SW/08/1278) for the construction of a controlled atmosphere fruit store for organic fruit at the above site was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough 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 Jul 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation encountered no archaeological features in any of the three trenches, apart from a residual piece of Ceramic Building Material from a modern mole drain, this suggests that there are no archaeological remains surviving within the site.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Swale Borough</i>	Parish: <i>Teynham</i>
Period(s): Tentative: <i>NA</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR: 597095 162896</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>February 2009</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Upper Chalk (Solid) Head Brickearth (Drift)</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>G. Morley (2009) Archaeological Evaluation on land at Nicholl Farm, Deerton Street, Teynham, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>08th March 2009</i>



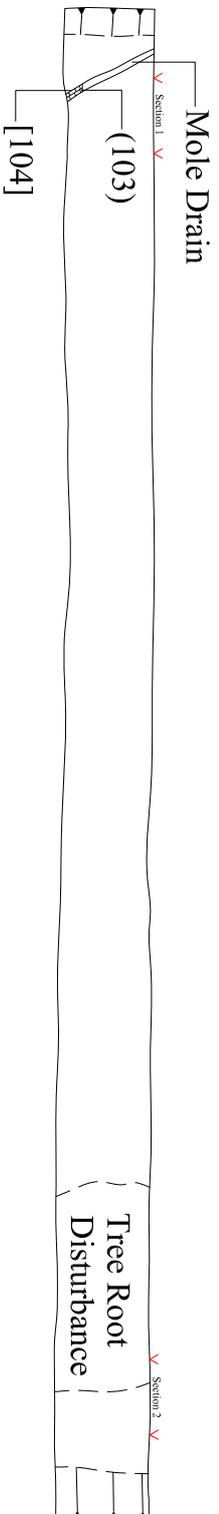
TITLE:
**Deerton Street
Teynham
Kent**

RECORD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

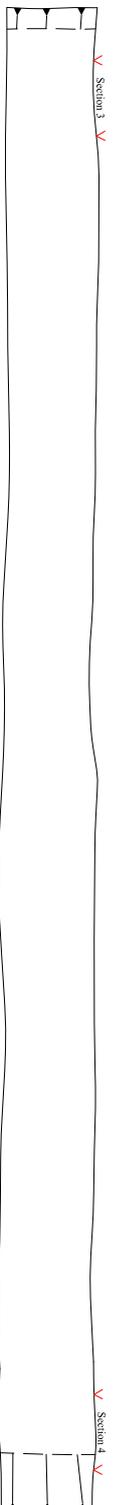
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MARCH 2009	MARCH 2009	1:2500
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT:		SURVEYED BY:
Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology School Farm Oast Graveney Road Faversham ME13 8UP Tel: 07885700112		DIGITISE THIS JE MADDEN JG MADDEN GRINSHILL 1 BORNSTAL HILL WHITSTABLE KENT CT15 4LX

**Figure 1 - Location of
trenches within site of
proposed development**

Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

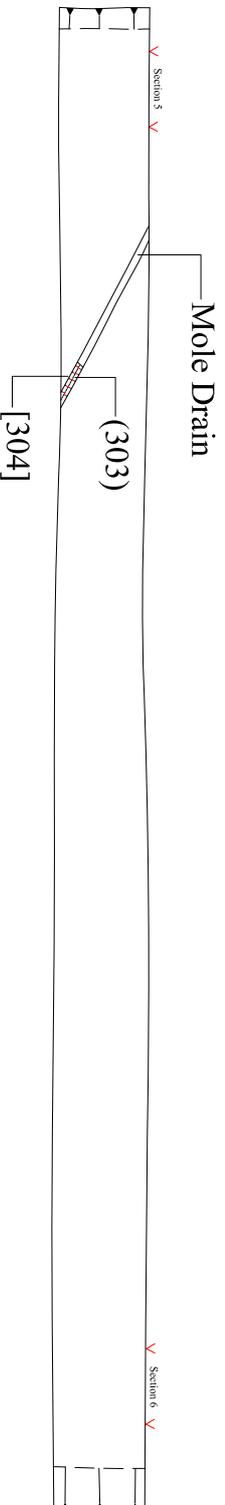
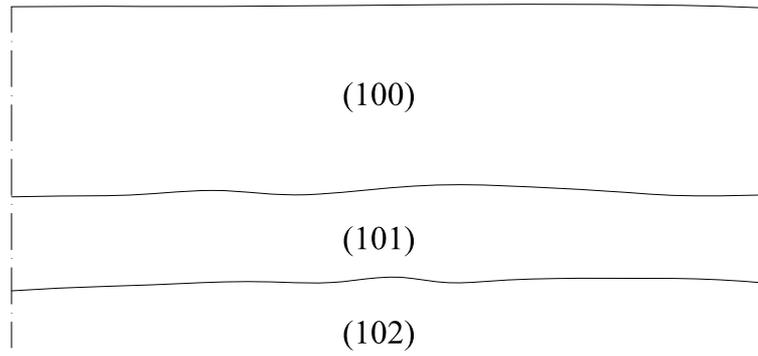


Figure 3: Trench Plans 1:100

Trench 1

South East Facing Sections

Section 1



Section 2

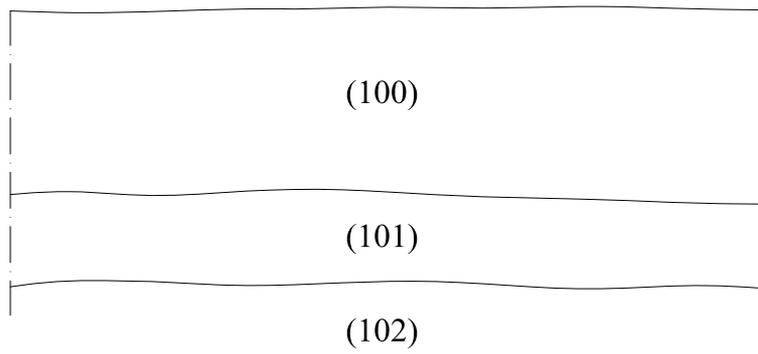
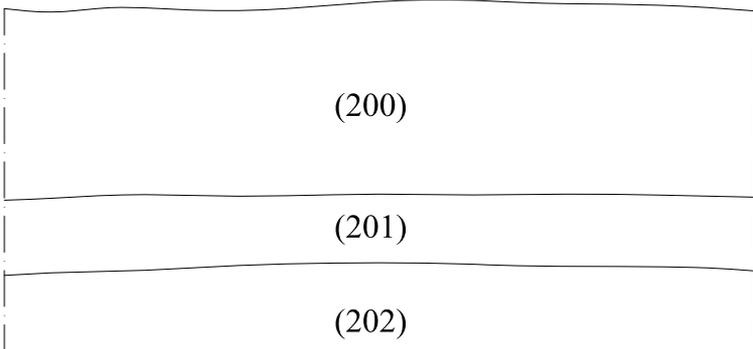


Figure 4: Sections 1:10

Trench 2

North East Facing Sections

Section 3



Section 4

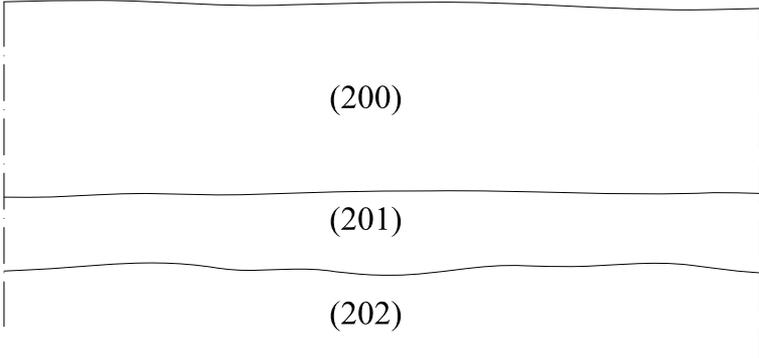
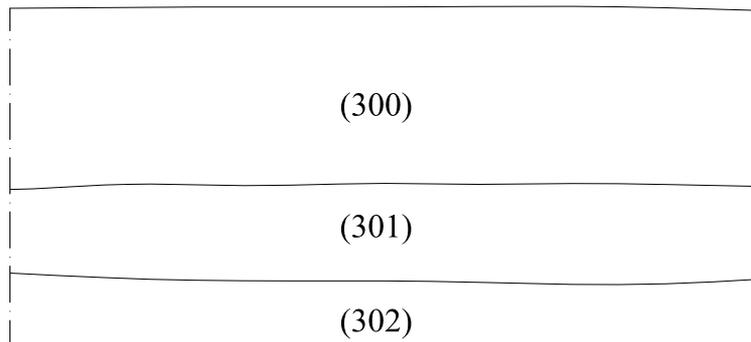


Figure 5: Sections 1:10

Trench 3

South Facing Sections

Section 5



Section 6

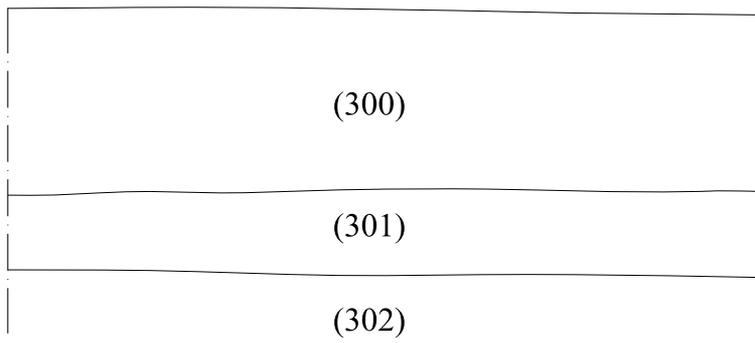


Figure 6: Sections 1:10