



**Archaeological Watching Brief on
Land at Oak End, 1 High Street,
Sevenoaks, Kent
*July 2010***

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Land adjoining Oak End, 1 High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Archaeological Watching Brief

**NGR: 553107 154109
Site Code OAK/W/10**

**Report for
BHD Architects LLP**

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Pl. 2 Photograph of Topsoil stripping almost complete (facing north east).

**Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjoining Oak End, 1 High Street,
Sevenoaks, Kent**

NGR 553107 154109

Site Code: OES/WB/10

1.0 SUMMARY

In October 2009 and May 2010, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of a proposed development site at land adjoining Oak End, 1 High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HY. (Fig 1). The works were carried out on behalf of BHD Architects LLP during machine stripping of topsoil (October 2009) in advance of the construction of housing and the cutting of foundation trenches and other groundworks (May 2010). Planning Application Number: SE/09/00753).

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN:SE/09/00753) for the construction of a detached two storey four bed dwelling was submitted to Sevenoaks District Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Sevenoaks District 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:

9. 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.

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An Archaeologist attended the site and monitored excavation works on the following dates:

6th October 2009
7th October 2009
4th May 2010

2.3 Aims and Objectives

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

'contribute to the heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. (KCC 2009:3.1)

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The groundworks involved;

- A strip of the topsoil
- Excavation of any trenches for services and drainage
- Any other ancillary groundworks associated with the application

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

The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Folkestone Beds (KCC 2009:1.7). The topsoil sealing the Folkestone Beds had a maximum thickness of 24cm. Topographically the site is a suburban garden. According to the County HER the site lies within the medieval and post medieval settlement of Sevenoaks with several properties from these periods within the vicinity.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 General

The site, formerly gardens and lawn was stripped of its topsoil by machine (Plates 1-2). The topsoil was about 24cm. The removal of the topsoil revealed the subsoil of Folkestone Beds. Continued machining of the subsoil to a maximum depth of 30cm revealed no archaeological features and just the natural geology.

5.2 Deposit Model

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m-0.24m	Topsoil and grass.
0.24m-c.1.65+	Subsoil of Folkestone Beds.

No archaeological features were recorded.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features present and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Oak End revealed that no archaeological features were present.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank BHD Architects LLP for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA
June 2009

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (2009) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adjoining Oak End, 1 High Street, Sevenoaks Kent.*

APPENDIX 1

Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site Name: Oak End, 1 High Street Sevenoaks, Kent. Site Code: OES/WB/10	
Site Address: As above.	
Summary: In October 2009 and May 2010 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at the above address. The works were carried out on behalf of BHD Architects LLP in advance of the construction of an detached house (Planning Application Number: SE/09/00753). The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological.	
District/Unitary: Sevenoaks	Parish: Sevenoaks
Period(s): N/A.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): NGR 553107 154109 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: 6 th , 7 th October 2009, 4 th May 2010	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology: Folkestone Beds	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. (2010) Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjacent to Oak End, 1 High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent. (SWAT Archaeology)</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) As above. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Dr P. Wilkinson	Date: 25 th June 2010

Appendix 2 – Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Period	HER Reference	Type	National Grid Reference	Description
Iron Age	TQ 55 SW 5	Find spot	N/A	Iron Age Gold Stater of Tasciovanus found near Sevenoaks
Medieval	TQ 55 SW 78	Church	TQ 5311 5431	Church. Norman, 13/16th C. additions, restored 1866.
Post-Medieval	TQ 55 SW 21	Site	TQ 5316 154125	A possible 16 th century well found just outside the development site by Sevenoaks School
Medieval	TQ 55 SW 207	Buildings	TQ 5314654151	Almshouses dating back to the Medieval period
Post-Medieval	TQ 55 SW 212	Building	TQ 5316 5425	A post-Medieval listed building
Medieval	TQ 55 SW 170	Buildings	TQ 53135426	Chantry House and outbuildings
Medieval	TQ 55 SW 81	Buildings	TQ 5317 5430	Medieval Manor House
Medieval	TQ 55 SW 204	Buildings	TQ 5316 5421	Listed High Street buildings

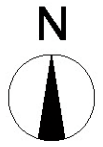
FIGURES

Fig. 1 Location of site of proposed development.

PLATES

Plate 1. Topsoil stripping of site in progress (facing north).

Plate 2. Topsoil stripping almost complete (facing east).



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Figure 1: Location of Site of Proposed Development (shown in red)



Plate 1. Topsoil stripping of site in progress by the pool (facing north).



Plate 2. Topsoil stripping complete (facing north east).