



# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 'Alpha', Gore Road, Eastry, Kent July 2010

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 'Alpha', Gore Road, Eastry, Kent

NGR: 616404 135054  
Site Code GRE/W(Area A)/10

Planning Refs. DOV/06/00152 & DOCV/09/0362

Report for  
Mr Derek Chandler

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at ‘Alpha’, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent

NGR: 630874 154981  
Site Code GRE/W(Area A)/10

## 1.0 Summary

In July 2010, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at (Area A) ‘Alpha’, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent. (Fig. 1).

The works were carried out on behalf of Derek Chandler, ‘Alpha’, Gore Road, Eastry, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 0LT.

An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine stripping of vegetation and cutting of foundation trenches in advance of the construction of a detached house and garage.

The Planning Application Number is: DOV/06/00152 (outline permission), and DOV/09/0362.

Please note the original archaeological work was done under DOV/04/01517 (Area B) but subsequently the land benefited from an additional planning application for an additional detached house (Area A).

The Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

Planning applications ( DOV/04/01517 & DOV/08/1187 & DOV/06/00152 & DOV/09/00362) for the construction of two detached dwelling, a garage together with shared vehicular access (Fig. 2 A & B) were submitted to Dover District Council.

Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover 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:

‘1.3 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure 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 archaeological interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification for the archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.’

## 3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site (Area A) and monitored the excavation works on the following dates:

14th, 16th July 2010

## 4.0 Aims and Objectives

The reason for the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council were to:

‘...contribute to knowledge of 1. Belmont Terrace by ascertaining the extent, depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any further features’.

The groundworks involved a complete strip of the undergrowth followed by excavation of footings and associated groundworks.

### 4.1 Confidence Rating

Part of the Watching Brief agenda was to watch the excavation of the services trench from the site to Belmont Terrace. The reason for this that it would pass alongside Trench 1 where SWAT Archaeology in March 2009 had recovered in a secure context a single body sherd of organic-tempered pottery dating to C.6-7th centuries.

Unfortunately the trench for services had already been cut, pipes layed and partly backfilled by the contractors prior to the first archaeological site visit.

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

## 5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Upper Chalk and the drift geology of the site is Head Brickearth and colluvium (KCC 2009: 2.1.)

The application site is located to the north end of the old centre of Eastry which itself is situated on the end of a long ridge of the North Downs which stretches away to the south east. The site itself is approximately 21 metres above sea level and slopes down from south to north. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 630874 154981. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

The area surrounding Gore Road is rich in archaeological remains of all periods and listed buildings from the C13th onwards. Traces of prehistoric occupation in the form of pits and ditches have been found in the village dating back possibly as far as the Neolithic, (**TR 35 SW 211**) some 150m to the south east of the present site. Later Prehistoric activity was seen on the above site also in the form of pits and ditches, but also several residual worked flints and a single sherd of LBA-IA pot were found in later features 200m south of the present site, (**TR 35 SW 202**).

Very little of Roman date has been discovered in the area considering a Roman Road passes through the length of the village and within 50m of the site. A number of 3rd to 4th century coins were found near the church by metal detectorists, (**TR 35 SW 213**). Only 75m southeast of the present site a single Early Medieval burial was found, (**TR 35 SW 37**). This female burial was heavily adorned with jewellery and dated to around the end of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh centuries.

The town possibly enjoyed a period of prosperity at around this time possibly being an administrative centre for eastern Kent. Remains from this period include coins and brooches and linear features, (**TR 35 SW 200**) and (**TR 35 SW 212**). Standing buildings in the vicinity generally date back to the C.15th, with the church and Eastry Court being older and dating back to at least the C.13th century.

In March 2009 SWAT Archaeology carried out an Archaeological Evaluation on the site and in Trench 1 located within the northern extent of the site (Area A), and aligned approximately northeast-south-

west. This trench was positioned to identify and confirm the impact caused during development of the access road to the proposed development. It measured 17m in length and contained one possible ditch (104) [105], and modern features. Garden topsoil (100) measuring 0.25m in depth overlay two layers of hardcore, (101) which comprised medium to large flint nodules and (102) which was composed of crushed red brick. As this was seen for the full length of the trench it was assumed that this was the substrate and surface for a track, possibly of Victorian origin. These two layers sealed a layer, or perhaps many fine laminated layers, of colluvial origin some 0.55m in thickness, (103). This in turn overlay a possible ditch feature [105] which was a maximum of 0.40m in depth and had shallow sloping sides and in undulating base. This was filled by mid-dark grey-brown silt clay with inclusions of small – medium angular and rounded stone (104). This fill contained a single body sherd of organic-tempered pottery spot dated to C.6-C.7th which is possibly contemporary. This feature was cut into earlier colluvial layers.

## 6.0 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 (Ifa: 2008).

The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

The Watching Brief was carried out in several phases according to the needs of the building contractors between the 14th-16th July 2010. Excavation of the vegetation were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All excavation were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section. If found archaeological features under threat were to be 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. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC.

## 7.0 Results

### 7.1 General

The site, formerly rough ground, was stripped of its vegetation by machine and foundation trenches dug (Plates 1-2). A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site (Area A) which was situated in woodland. A different stratigraphic sequence was seen in the approach road (Trench 1 area) which was in the garden area of 1 Belmont Terrace. This area comprised topsoil/turf overburden, beneath which were two layers of hardcore which lay above the natural subsoils, Colluvium and Brickearth overlaying Upper Chalk.

In the woodland (Areas A&B) topsoil/overburden, gave way to colluvial subsoils comprising mid brown grey silty clay overlying natural Brickearth. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located between C.0.40m and 1.2m below the existing ground level.

## 8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features located in the Watching Brief phase and no finds were retrieved.

## 9.0 Discussion

An opportunity was lost by the late callout to the site which meant that the service trench alongside Trench 1. could not be watched. However, the Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at land at 1. Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry revealed that no buried archaeological features or artefacts were present.

## 10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

## 11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Derek Chandler for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found Archaeological Officer, Heritage and Conservation (KCC).

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA. 15th October 2010

## References

IFA (1999 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs  
Kent County Council (2010) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at land at 1. Belmont Terrace, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent.

## Appendix 1. – Summary of Archaeological Sites within 250m of site

The proposed development site lies on the northern edge of the historic town of Eastry. The area is rich in archaeological remains and full details are available on the HER record provided by the County Historic Environment Record (HER) held in the Planning Dept., Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent. The area surrounding Gore Road is rich in archaeological remains of all periods and listed buildings from the C13th onwards. Traces of prehistoric occupation in the form of pits and ditches have been found in the village dating back possibly as far as the Neolithic, **(TR 35 SW 211)** some 150m to the south east of the present site. Later Prehistoric activity was seen on the above site also in the form of pits and ditches, but also several residual worked flints and a single sherd of LBA-IA pot were found in later features 200m south of the present site, **(TR 35 SW 202)**. Very little of Roman date has been discovered in the area considering a Roman Road passes through the length of the village and within 50m of the site. A number of 3rd to 4th century coins were found near the church by metal detectorists, **(TR 35 SW 213)**. Only 75m southeast of the present site a single Early Medieval burial was found, **(TR 35 SW 37)**. This female burial was heavily adorned with jewellery and dated to around the end of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh centuries. The town possibly enjoyed a period of prosperity at around this time possibly being an administrative centre for eastern Kent. Remains from this period include coins and brooches and linear features, **(TR 35 SW 200)** and **(TR 35 SW 212)** Standing buildings in general date back to the C.15th. With the church and Eastry Court being older and dating back to at least the C.13th century.

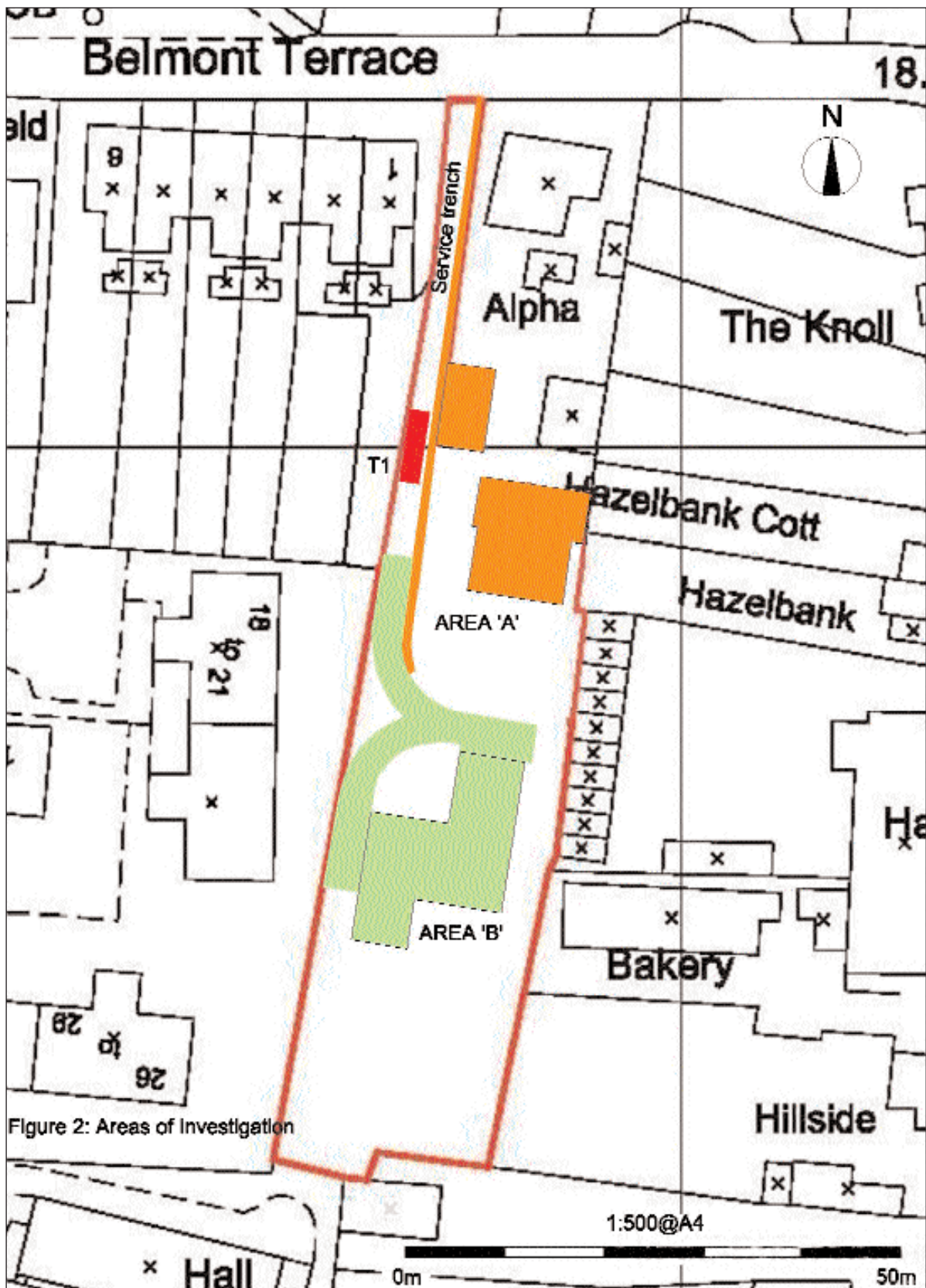


**Plate 2.** Site (Area A) looking south towards Area B(above) and foundation trench cut (Area A) looking west.





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



**Figure 2.** Plan of Proposed Development, showing areas watched in Area A (orange) and Area B (green). Service trench is in orange and runs north-south to Belmont Terrace. Trench 1, from the initial excavation is coloured red.

## Appendix 2- Kent County Council HER Summary Form

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**Site Name:** Land at Alpha, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** GRE/W(Area A)/10

**Site Address:** As above

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### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at land at Alpha, Gore Road, Eastry. Planning applications ( DOV/04/01517 & DOV/08/1187 & DOV/06/00152 & DOV/09/00362) for the construction of two detached dwelling, a garage together with shared vehicular access (Fig. 2 A & B) were submitted to Dover District Council. whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological watching Brief be undertaken 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 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of two site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

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**District/Unitary:** Dover

**Parish:** Eastry

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**Period(s):**

**Tentative:** None

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**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** NGR 630874 154981

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**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

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**Date of recording:** July 2010

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**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT)

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**Geology:** Underlying geology is Upper Chalk

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**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2010) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Alpha, Gore Road, Eastry, Kent

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**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

As above

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**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

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**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 15th October 2010

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