



Archaeological Watching Brief on land at St Christopher Close, Margate, Kent October 2010

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land at St Christopher Close, Margate, Kent

NGR: 637625 169681
Site Code SCC/WB//10

Planning Refs. TH/09/0705 (outline) & F/TH/09/0126

Report for
Jenner (Contractors) Ltd

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1.0 Summary

In October 2010, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at a redundant garage site at St Christopher Close, Margate, Kent. (Fig. 1).

The works were carried out on behalf of Jenner (Contractors) Ltd.

An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine stripping of the concrete overburden and cutting of foundation trenches in advance of the construction of three houses.

The Planning Application Number is: TH/09/0705 (outline permission), and F/TH/09/0126.

The Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning applications (TH/09/0705 (outline permission), and F/TH/09/0126) for the construction of three dwelling were submitted to Thanet District Council.

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

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 in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the Thanet Local Plan policies HE11 and HE12 and PPS5: Planning and the Historic Environment.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on the following dates:
12th, 15th October 2010

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

'The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks' (KCC 3.1)

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

4.1 Confidence Rating

No 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 a narrow deposit of Head Brickearth which fills a dry valley running south west towards Dane Valley Road. The brick-earth overlies Upper Chalk. (KCC 2010: 1.7)

The application site is located to the east side of the Millmead Estate built during the 1970's. The site itself is approximately 41 metres above sea level (front cover) and slopes down from north to south.

The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 637625 169681. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

The area surrounding St Christopher Road is rich in archaeological remains of all periods. Traces of prehistoric occupation in the form of pits and ditches have been found in the vicinity dating back as far as the Iron Age.

Cropmarks are a feature of the area and include ring ditches, enclosures and trackways. Some were excavated (**TR 36 NE 132**) prior to the building of the Millmead Estate and were found to be Iron Age. A cropmark of a D-shaped enclosure (**TR 36 NE 142**) close to the site was identified from aerial photographs and 150m from the site cropmarks of enclosures were excavated in 1976 and found to be Late Iron Age (**TR 36 NE 197**).

Rectilinear field systems were identified in 2005 during a Watching Brief on a pipeline (**TR 36 NE 451**). Further information on the above is provided in the County Historic Environment Record held in the Heritage Conservation Group, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX (telephone 01622 221536)

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 12th-15th October 2010. Excavation of the concrete overburden 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 a garage compound, was stripped of its concrete overburden by machine and foundation trenches dug (Plates 1-2). A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site which comprised concrete/hardcore overburden, beneath which a thin layer of Brickearth which lay above the natural subsoil of Upper Chalk. The depth of the concrete overburden and hardcore was about 15cm and the truncated layer of Brickearth only about 10-15cm.

8.0 Finds

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

9.0 Discussion

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out 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 Jenner (Contractors) Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Adam Single, Archaeological Officer, Heritage and Conservation (KCC).

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIfA. 12th February 2011

References

IfA (1999 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

Kent County Council (2010) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief to be maintained at the garages site, St Christopher Close on the Millmead Estate in Margate, Kent.

Appendix 1. – Summary of Archaeological Sites within 150m of site

The proposed development site lies on the eastern edge of the historic town of Margate. 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 St Christopher Road is rich in archaeological remains of all periods. Traces of prehistoric occupation in the form of pits and ditches have been found in the vicinity dating back as far as the Iron Age.

Cropmarks are a feature of the area and include ring ditches, enclosures and trackways. Some were excavated (**TR 36 NE 132**) prior to the building of the Millmead Estate and were found to be Iron Age. A cropmark of a D-shaped enclosure (**TR 36 NE 142**) close to the site was identified from aerial photographs and 150m from the site cropmarks of enclosures were excavated in 1976 and found to be Late Iron Age (**TR 36 NE 197**).

Rectilinear field systems were identified in 2005 during a Watching Brief by Wessex Archaeology on a pipeline (**TR 36 NE 451**).



Plate 2. Foundation trench cut (Looking south-east).

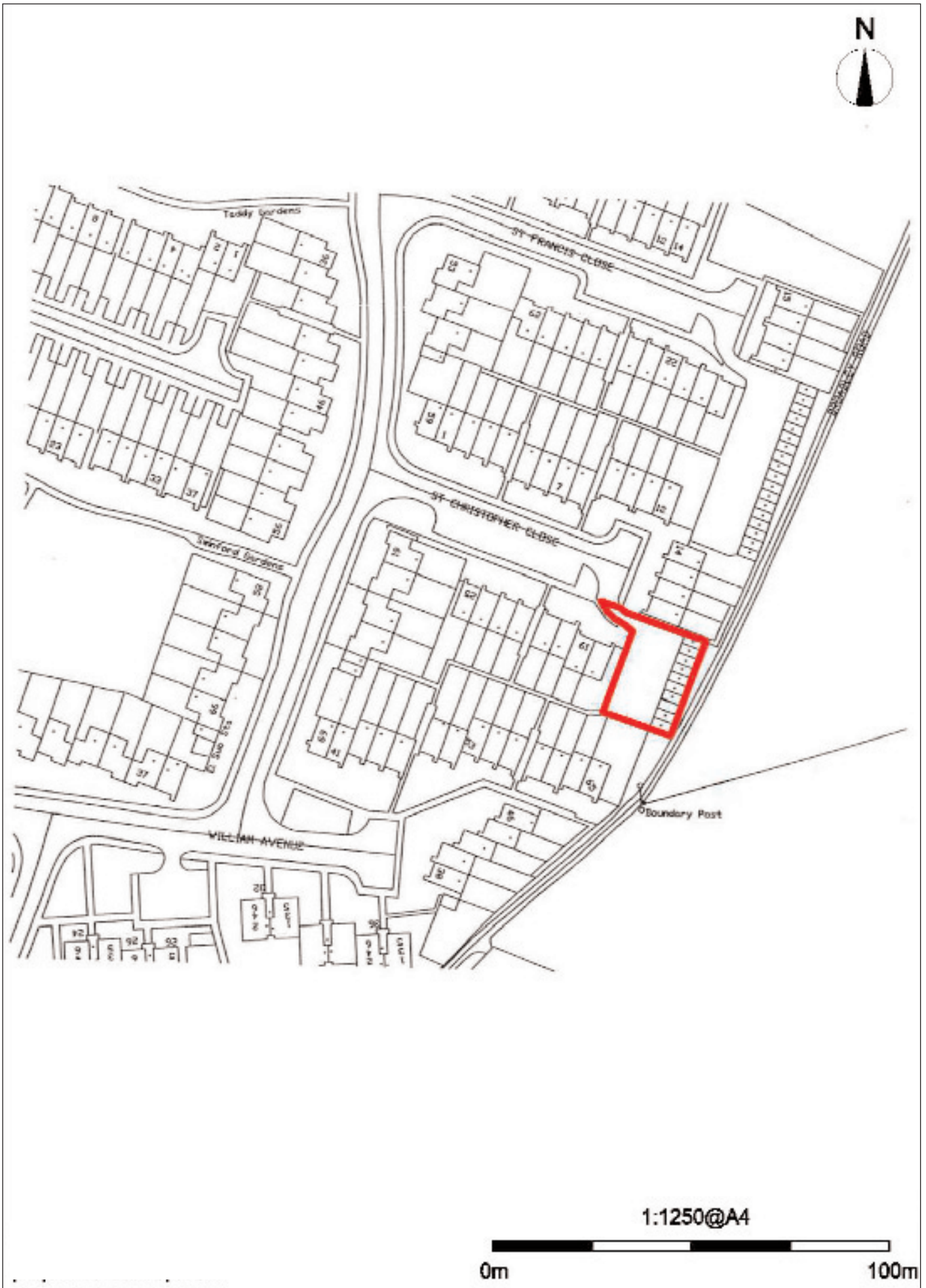


Figure 1. Location of Proposed Development Site at NGR 637625 169681(shown in red).

Appendix 2- Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at the Garages, St Christopher Close, Millmead Estate, Margate, Kent
SWAT Site Code: SCC/WB/10

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at land Sr Christopher Close, Margate, Kent. Planning applications (TH/09/0705 7 F/TH/09/0126) for the construction of three dwelling were submitted to Thanet 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.

District/Unitary: Thanet

Parish: Margate

Period(s):

Tentative: None

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 637625 169681

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: October 2010

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Upper Chalk with a thin truncated layer of Brickearth overburden

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2011) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at St Christopher Close, Margate, Kent

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

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 12th February 2011
