

Court Lodge, Church Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

**NGR: 607503 136284
Site Code CLF-WB-10**

**Report for
G.L. Boulden & Sons**

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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1.0 SUMMARY

On 10 June 2010, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site of an extension of a grain store on land at Court Lodge Farm, Church Lane, Aldington, Kent, TN25 7EG. The works were carried out on behalf of G.L. Boulden & Sons and consisted of the excavation of nine pits dug for the concrete foundation pads. Planning Application Number: 10/00324/AS).

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN:10/00324/AS) for the construction of a grain store extension 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:

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.

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2.2 Schedule of Visits

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

10 June 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 2010:1.3)

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The groundworks involved:

- The excavation of nine pits to a depth of between 1.40m (Pit 3) and 0.85m (Pits 7 and 9) to be filled with concrete for the construction of concrete foundation pads.

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 Lower Greensand of the Hythe Formation. (KCC 2010:1.7). Modern levelling deposits consisting of mid to dark brown silty clays were encountered in all pits, with the deepest deposit in Pit 3, measuring at least 1.40m deep. Topographically the site slopes dramatically downhill towards the northeast, and an abundance of this silty clay levelling deposit, along with ragstone rubble from a neighbouring quarry, was imported in the second half of the 20th century to create a level farmyard. The depths in which the ragstone geology was encountered in the pits varies, with no ragstone geology (only crushed ragstone from the quarry) in the three northeastern pits 1-3. In the three south westerly pits (Pits 7-9), natural ragstone, in a degraded state, was seen at 0.20m below the present ground surface in Pit 7.

According to the County HER, the site lies c. 60m north of the remains of the 14th century Archbishop of Canterbury's Palace at Court Lodge Farmhouse, now a Grade II* building (TR 03 NE 166). The site is also c. 80m north of the Grade I listed 12th century St. Martin's Church (TR 03 NE 130). A number of listed structures on the farm include 19th century barns and cartsheds (TR 03 NE 184) c. 50m southwest of the farmhouse, early 19th century stockyards and sheds (TR 03 NE 143) c. 75m west of the farmhouse, 18th century stable/barn (TR 03 NE 86) c. 50m west of the farmhouse, and a lychgate and quadrant walls, constructed in 1904 attached to the churchyard of St Martin's (TR 03 NE 104).

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

Nine pits measuring approximately 1.20m-1.65m x 1m-1.85m with depths of 0.85m-1.40m were cut to accommodate concrete for the construction of footings/pads for a grain store extension. None of the pits exposed any archaeological features or cultural material. Pit 3, located in the northern corner of the site, contained a partially buried car which the client remembered backfilling when the ground level was significantly raised. All pits contained a mixture of imported mid brown silty clay, and many also had ragstone rubble that was imported from a neighbouring quarry. Solid geology of degraded ragstone was encountered in Pits 5-9 with depths between 0.18m below the present ground surface in Pit 9 to 0.69m in Pit 8.

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 Court Lodge Farm, Aldington 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 G.L. Boulden & Sons for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Julie Martin
July 2010

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (2010) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Court Lodge, Church Lane, Aldington, Kent, TN25 7EG.*

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site Name: Court Lodge, Church Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7EG. Site Code: CLF-WB-10	
Site Address: As above.	
Summary: On 10 June 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 G.L. Boulden & Sons in advance of the construction of a grain store extension(Planning Application Number: 10/00324/AS). The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.	
District/Unitary: Ashford	Parish: Aldington
Period(s): N/A.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): NGR 607503 136284 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: 10 th June 2010	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	

Geology: Lower Greensand of the Hythe Formation

Title and author of accompanying report:

Martin, J. (2010) *Archaeological Watching Brief at Court Lodge, Church Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7EG. (SWAT Archaeology)*

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

As above.

(cont. on attached sheet)

Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology

Contact at Unit: Dr P. Wilkinson

Date: 2 July 2010

Appendix 2 – Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Period	HER Reference	Type	National Grid Reference	Description
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 142	House	TR 0717 3601	Ruffyn's Hill Farmhouse Grade II* timber-framed farmhouse
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 133	House	TR 0738 3613	Parsonage Farmhouse Grade II 15 th c timber-framed farmhouse
Early Medieval- Modern	TR 03 NE 130	Church	TR 0749 3618	Grade I Church of St Martin including Saxo-Norman evidence in nave and chancel
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 128	House	TR 0750 3647	Hogben House Grade II timber-framed farmhouse
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 127	House	TR 0749 3633	Street Farmhouse Grade II 18 th c timber-framed house
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 182	House	TR 0756 3631	Tickner Cottage Grade II 16 th c timber-framed house
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 153	House	TR 0753 3641	Church Hill Cottage Grade II 18 th c house
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 87	House	TR 0751 3635	St. Martin's Cottage Grade II 18 th c house

Period	HER Reference	Type	National Grid Reference	Description
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 184	Farm Buildings	TR 0745 3619	Barn and Cart Sheds Grade II 17 th c ragstone farm buildings at Court Lodge Farm
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 143	Farm Buildings/structures	TR 0745 3627	Stockyard and Sheds Grade II 19 th c ragstone stock yard and sheds
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 194	Find Spot	TR 07 36	Iron Age bronze coin Cantii/DUBNOK
Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 113	House	TR 0754 3632	Church Farmhouse Grade II 15 th c– 16 th c timber-framed Wealden house
Medieval-Post Medieval	TR 03 NE 166	House	TR 0752 3620	Court Lodge Farmhouse Grade II* farmhouse incorporating remains of Archbishopal hunting lodge (3 – 4 Gothic windows)

