



Archaeological Watching Brief at St Andrews Close, Whitstable, Kent May 2011

SWAT. Archaeology
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
www.swatarchaeology.co.uk



Plate 1.

Archaeological Watching Brief at St Andrews Close, Whitstable, Kent

NGR: TR 1115 6525
Site Code SAC/WB/11

Report for
Epps Construction Ltd

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP
Tel; 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112
www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	1
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	2
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	2
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	2
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	2
7.0 RESULTS.....	3
7.1 GENERAL.....	3
7.2 DEPOSIT MODEL.....	3
8.0 FINDS.....	3
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	3
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	3
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	3
REFERENCES.....	3

List of Plates

Cover: GoogleEarth St Andrews Close (2011)

Plate 1. Photograph of strip foundations marked in after removal of concrete (page ii)

Plate 2. Excavated strip foundations (facing east)

List of Figures

Figure 1. OS plan of development site

Archaeological Watching Brief at St Andrews Close, Whitstable, Kent

NGR: TR 1115 6525
Site Code SAC/WB/11

1.0 Summary

In March and April 2011 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at St Andrews Close, Whitstable, Kent.

The works were carried out on behalf of Epps Construction.

An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine digging of foundations of the new development housing. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact. The Planning Application Number is: CA/11/00729/SOD.

The Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application CA/11/00729/SOD for the construction of 5 domestic dwellings including access, services and parking facilities was submitted to Canterbury City Council who requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the groundworks.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on the following dates:
10th March and 16th, 18th April 2011.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

The groundworks involved cutting (1.60m deep) strip trenches for concrete foundations and additional drain runs.

4.1 Confidence Rating

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

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

The British Geological Society shows that the geology of Whitstable consists mainly of London Clay (which covers most of North Kent), though the western area of the town is built on the low-lying marshland resulting from The Swale outflow. The proposed development site however, is situated on the eastern slope of a hill known as Duncan Down and is 25m above sea level. There has been alteration to the local topography in the form of landscaping associated with local housing to the north and west of the site. The landscape to the south and east, remains farmland. The topography of the proposed development site (an area measuring over 0.08 hectares) has been scarped during the construction of the present car parking area. However, study of the site during a site visit (5 Oct 09) for the Desk-top Study suggests that the topographic disturbance would seem to be negligible.

The Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) for the Canterbury district, held by Heritage Gateway provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding environs of Whitstable. The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) and the local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council were also used. The search was carried out within a 1km radius of the proposed development site (25 Sept 2009). A full listing of the relevant UAD and HER data is included in the 'Archaeological Desk-top Study' (Oct 09). The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was to be used as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER. However, the PAS database was offline during the writing of this report.

6.0 Methodology

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology 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 March to April 2011.

Excavation of the overlying ground was 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).

7.0 Results

7.1 General

The site, formerly tarmac or concrete slabs, was excavated by machine to a depth of 1.60m for the foundation trenches. The soil encountered was dark brown-yellow sandy silt impacted on by the occasional drain with no archaeology revealed.

8.0 Finds

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

9.0 Discussion

The development is of such a small area that it was unlikely that archaeology would have been revealed.

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 Epps Construction Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross Archaeological Officer Canterbury City Council.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA. 10th June 2011

References

Archaeological Desk-top Assessment St Andrews Close, Whitstable, Kent. October 2009

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



Figure 1. Location of site (in red line).

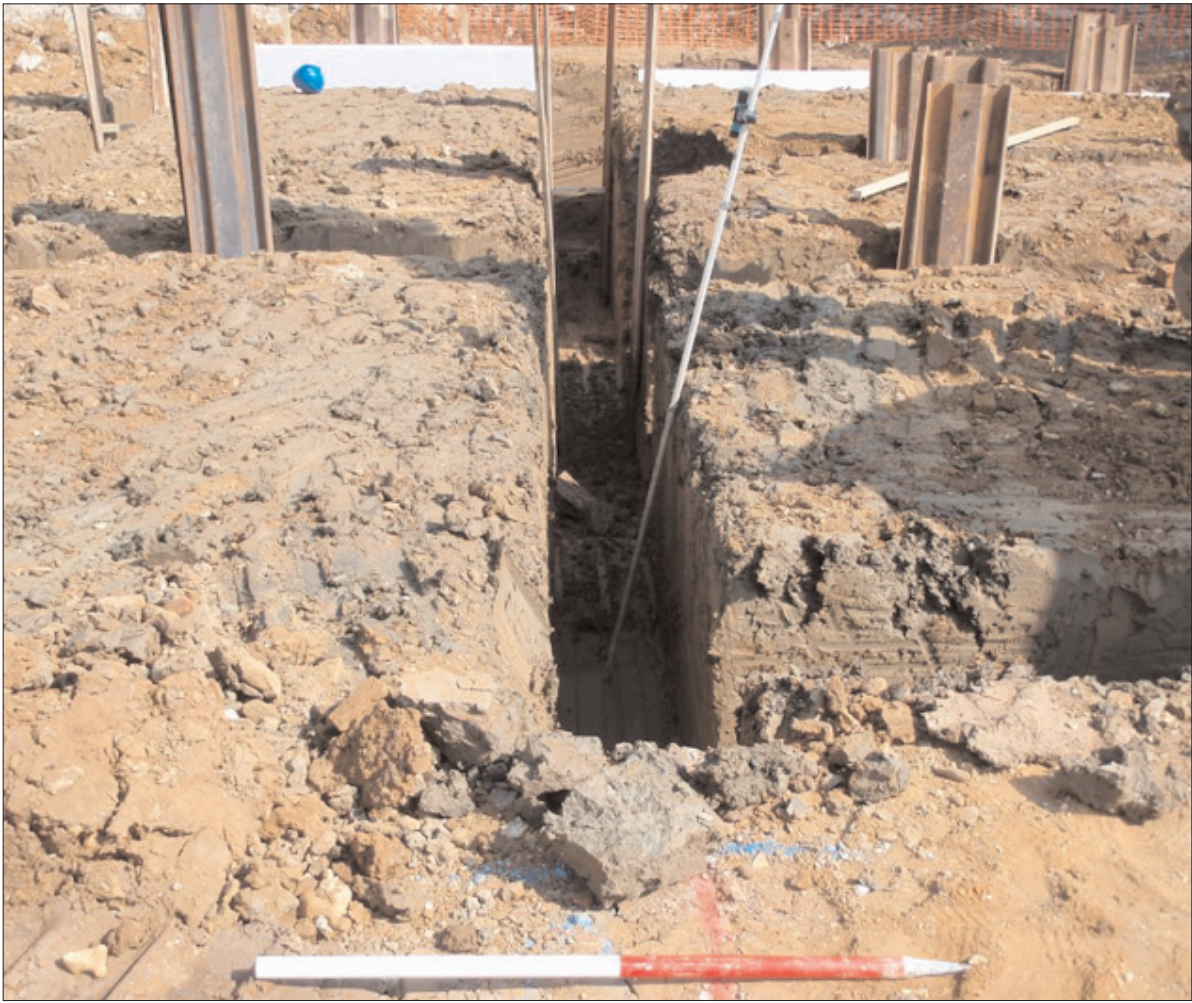


Plate 2. Digging of strip foundations.