

Archaeological Monitoring at  
Ham Farm,  
Ham Road, Faversham, Kent

NGR: 601750.0mE 162695.0mN  
Site Code HAM/WB/12



Report for A.J. Bray

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2003)

Plate 2. General view of site

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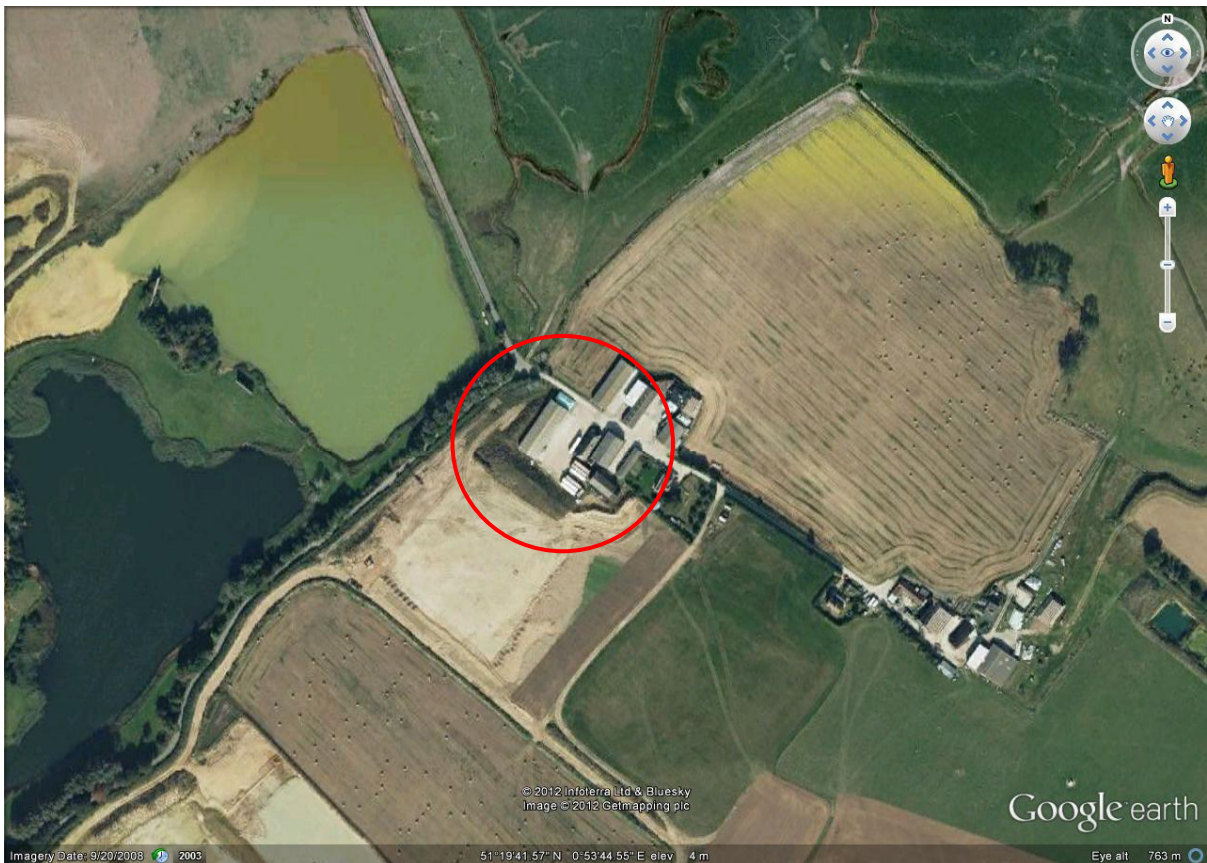
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Figure 1. Site plan

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Date of report: 29/11/12



**Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.**

**(GoogleEarth 2003).**

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. From November 12th to the 13th 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new agricultural building to house livestock at Ham Farm, Faversham, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Mr Bray.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the clearing of the site (Plate 2), machine digging for new foundations (Plate 3-4).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Clearing of the site.

Phase 2: Excavation of footings for the new building.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: SW/12/0809.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was low to medium the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

Planning application SW/12/0809 for the erection of a new agricultural building to house livestock was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (2) was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant(s), 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 specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works from November 12th to 13<sup>th</sup> 2012.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

*“Contribute to knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works. Particular attention will be paid to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.”*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate footings (post pads) for the new agricultural building (Plates 3-4).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

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

### **5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background**

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock geology of Thanet Sand Formation-Sand, Silt & Clay and Superficial deposits of Head Clay & Silt (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site sand, silt & gravel.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of farmyard adjacent to Ham Farm west of Faversham and just south of Faversham Creek  
The site itself is generally level at a height of about 4m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. Ham Farmhouse is a listed building (TR 06 SW 1188), originally built in the early eighteenth century. It was extended in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a two-storey building of painted brick with plain tiled roofs and 20th century casement windows. Painted brick walls, about four feet high, run about 30m from the main, northern elevation of the house to meet the wall of a partly demolished farm building. Ham Farm is in the detached marsh pasture of Copton Manor in Preston, which lies several miles to the south.

5.4 The barn at Ham Farm is a listed building (TR 06 SW 1265), built in the 17th century or possibly earlier. It is timber framed and clad with weatherboarding. It has some painted bricks and breeze blocks in its end walls and it has a corrugated asbestos roof. There are cart doors in one of the end walls.

5.5 Alan Everitt suggests the place name *ham*, *hamm*, are probably of medieval or pre-conquest origin (Everitt 1986: 20) However, Margaret Gelling pushes the origin of the name (in Kent) back to the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Gelling wrote: 'study of place-names containing *hamm* suggests that there was a sense-development from meanings associated with water and marsh, in addition the word *hamm* "bend of the knee", and so have seemed especially appropriate to sites where the land jutted out like a bent leg into the curve of a river, or into the sea, or into a marsh (Gelling 1984: 43). On a personal visit with Margaret Gelling to Ham Farm in 2001 Margaret concurred that the site, given its location could have been one of the early uses of the word as a place-name and dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological 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: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

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

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in two phases according to the needs of the building contractors from November 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2012.

6.4. Excavation of the post pads was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the natural silty clay with gravel.

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. 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.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC (2012).

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site sand, silt and gravel overlaid by tarmac scrapings with no archaeological features revealed in the natural geology.

## **8.0 Finds**

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of low to medium potential and the potential for medieval remains close to the farm was high.

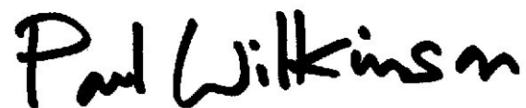
The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring 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 Mr Bray for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIfA.

## References

HER data (KCC 2012)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Generic Archaeological Watching Brief 2012

Everitt, A. 1986 *Continuity and Colonization*

Gelling, M. 1984 *Place-Names in the Landscape*



**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development site at Ham Farm, Ham Road, Faversham, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** HAM/WB/12

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new build livestock building whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** SBC **Parish:** Faversham

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 601750.0mE 162695.0m N

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** November 2012

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is sand, silt and gravel.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2012) Archaeological Monitoring at Ham Farm, Ham Road, Faversham, Kent

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

See above

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 29/11/2012

## Plates



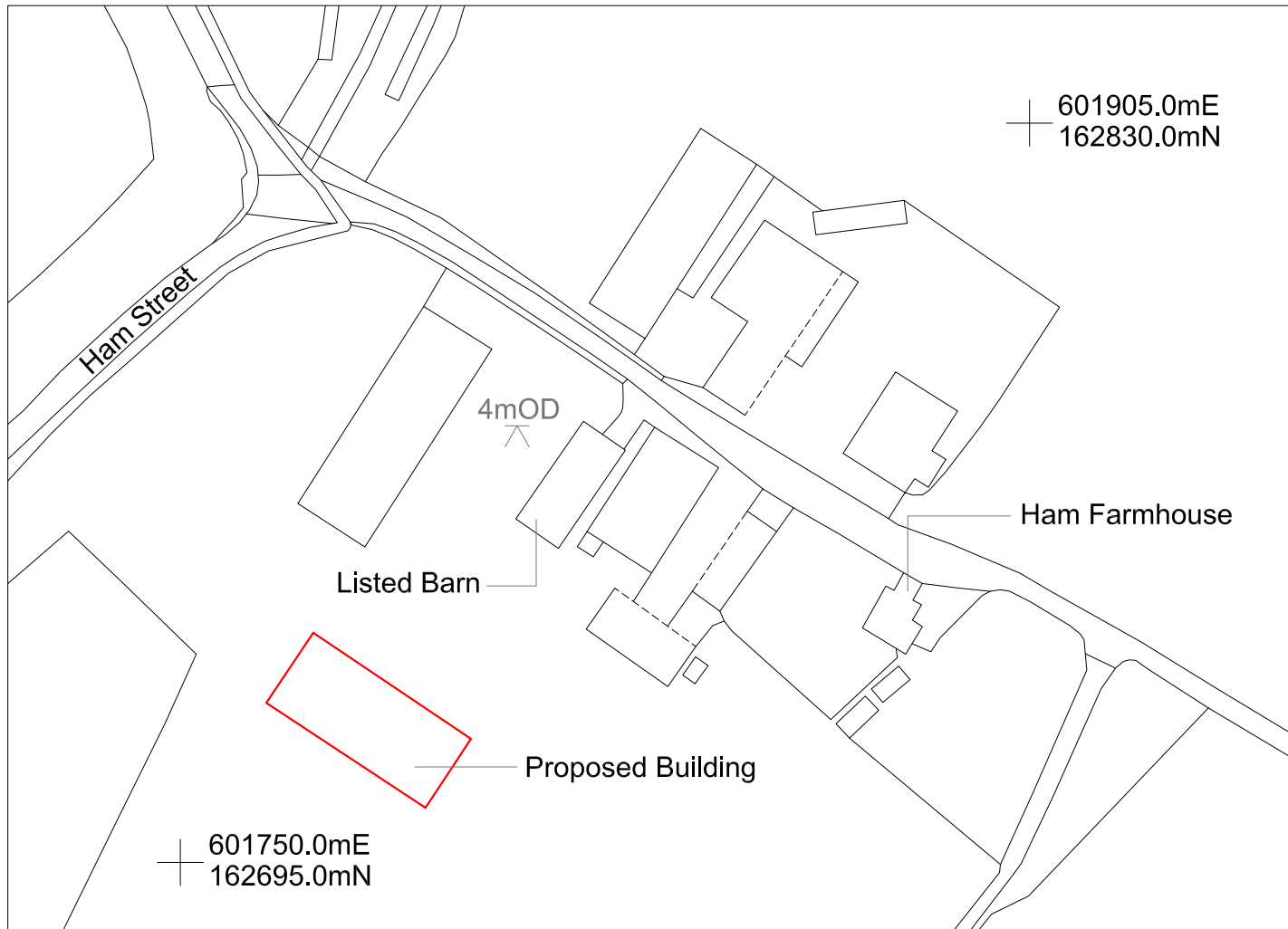
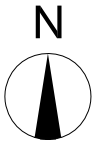
**Plate 2. General view of site with post pads excavated, facing north-east**



**Plate 3. The site showing ground works (post pads) facing north**



**Plate 4. Foundation pad facing north**



1:1250@A4

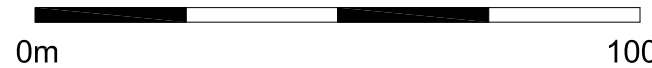


Figure 1: Location of proposed building at Ham Farm, Faversham