

Archaeological Monitoring at 23 Key Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code KST/WB/12



Report for
Manor House Developments

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Monitoring at 23 Key Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME 10 1YX

Site Code KST/WB/12

Date of report: 04/10/12



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

(GoogleEarth 2003).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From August 10th to the 11th 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 dwelling at land adjoining the existing domestic residence at 23 Key Street, Sittingbourne, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the clearing of the site (Plate 2), machine digging for new foundations (Plate 3-5), and drainage runs.

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Excavation of footings for the new dwelling.

Phase 2: Excavation of drainage.

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/11/0947 Case No. 23258.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was medium/high 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/11/0947 for the erection of a new dwelling was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition 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 August 10th-11th 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 for the house, drainage and other service runs (Plates 3-5).

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 Seaford Chalk Formation and Superficial Deposits of Head Gravel, Sand and Silt (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was silty sandy gravel clay. No chalk deposits were revealed.

5.2. The application site consisted of a small plot of land adjacent to an existing domestic dwelling at 23 Key Street. The site is bounded on the south by the A2- the Roman road to London. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 26m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. The area surrounding the development site has revealed archaeology dating back to the Stone Age. At Rhode House east of the development site (TQ 86 SE 92) a Palaeolithic hand axe was found. Whilst to the north of the development site at Bobbing Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age field systems were uncovered (TQ 86 NE 135), and Mid Bronze Age pottery sherds retrieved from freshly dug graves in St Bartholomew’s Church at Bobbing (Swale Survey 2000). The development site is adjacent to the main Roman road in Britain-Watling Street, and numerous Roman finds have been retrieved at Key Street just to the west of the development site (Swale Survey 2000).

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 August 10th to the 11th 2012.

6.4. Excavation of the overlying ground was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket.

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

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were to be 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 was silty sandy clay with numerous flints (Clay with Flints) overlaid by topsoil or tarmac with no archaeological features revealed.

8.0 Finds

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

9.0 Discussion

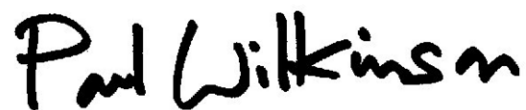
The development site is in an area of medium/high potential with copious evidence of important archaeology in the near vicinity, and the potential for Roman remains is high. The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed.

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 Richard Partridge for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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)

Wilkinson P. Swale Archaeological Survey (2000)

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at land at 23 Key Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

SWAT Site Code: KST/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 dwelling house 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 a number of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: SBC **Parish:** Sittingbourne

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures)

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: August 2012

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

Geology: Underlying geology is sandy, silty clay with gravel

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2012) Archaeological Monitoring at 23 Key Street, Sittingbourne, 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: 04/10/2012

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site prior to ground works facing north



Plate 3. The site showing overburden of topsoil mixed with demolition material



Plate 4. Typical section through foundation trenches



Plate 5. Service trench facing south

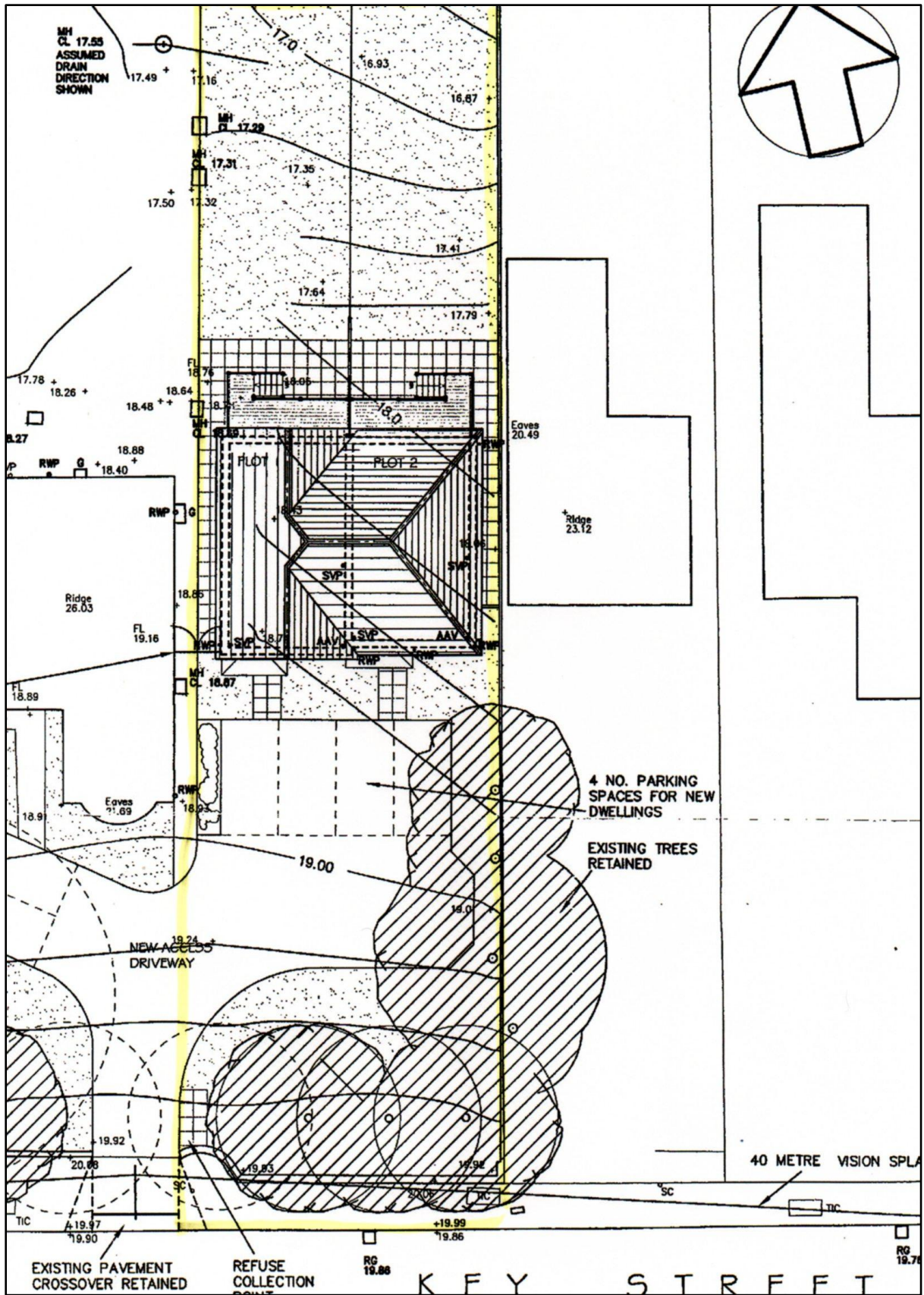
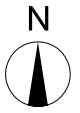


Figure 1. Proposed development



1:750@A4

Figure 1: Location of Site

0m

75m