

Archaeological Watching Brief on a house extension at 'Little Cluny', The Street, Ightham, Kent

**NGR: 559580 156645
Site Code CLU-WB-12**



**Report for Mr Nigel Peck
Planning Reference No. TM/12/00317/FL
Date of report 11th July 2012**

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

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Plate 2. Photograph of foundations

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Archaeological Watching Brief at Little Cluny, The Street, Ightham, Kent

NGR 559580 156645

Site Code: CLU-WB-12

1.0 SUMMARY

On 18th June 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site at 'Little Cluny' Ightham, Kent, during the ground works associated with the build of a house extension. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr Nigel Peck. Planning Application Number: TM/12/00317/FL.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: TM/12/00317/FL) for the construction of a house extension was submitted to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Tonbridge and Malling 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:

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.

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An experienced archaeologist attended the site on 18th June 2012 during works associated with the site clearance and cutting of foundation and service trenches

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

3.1 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 ground works.

2.4 Groundworks

The ground works involved cutting foundation trenches for the new-build house extension (Plates 1 & 2).

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed.

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 site (Fig. 1) is situated on rising ground above the centre of the village of Ightham. The village itself is dominated by Ightham Mote, a Grade 1 listed 14th century moated manor house (TQ 55 SE 95). To the west of the development site is situated Oldbury Camp (TQ 55 NE 21) which dates from the Late Iron Age. It is thought the camp was originally built about 100BC. Close by are the famous Palaeolithic rock shelters excavated by Harrison in 1965 (TQ 55 NE 26).

The Bedrock Geology according to the 1:50,000 British Geological Survey is Folkestone Formation- Sandstone. The Superficial Deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel which were encountered on site (Plate 3).

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

The site strip and cutting of foundations revealed no archaeological features.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out on land at 'Little Cluny' 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 the Nigel Peck for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Paul Wilkinson
July 2012

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (2012) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 'Little Cluny, The Street, Ightham, Kent*

APPENDIX 1

Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Land at 'Little Cluny', The Street, Ightham, Kent	
Site Code: CLU-WB-12	
Site Address:	
As above.	
Summary:	
<p>On 18th June 2012 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 Mr Nigel Peck in advance of the construction of a house extension. (Planning Application Numbers: TM/12/00317/FL).</p> <p>The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.</p>	
District/Unitary: Tonbridge & Malling	Parish: Ightham
Period(s): N/A.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): NGR 559580 156645 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete)	
Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: June 2012	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology: Hythe Beds	
Title and author of accompanying report:	
Wilkinson, P. (2012) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at 'Little Cluny' The Street, Ightham, Kent (SWAT Archaeology)</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)	
As above.	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Dr P. Wilkinson	Date: July 2012

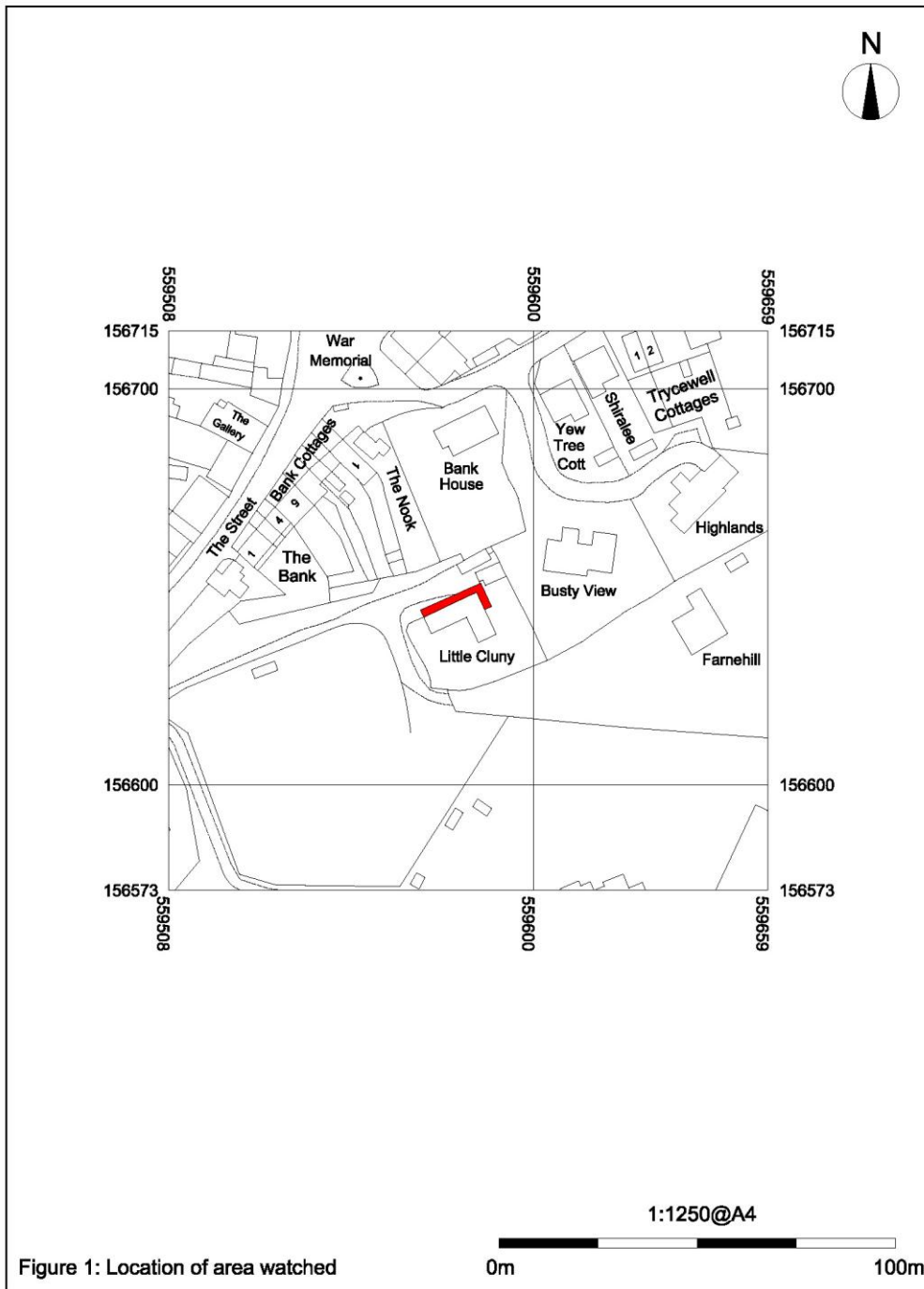


Figure 1: Location of area watched

Figure 1. Site Location



Plate 1. Showing foundation trenches (facing south-east)



Plate 2. Foundation trenches along the frontage of the building (facing south-west)



Plate 3. Detail of the natural geology of the site – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel