

Archaeological Watching Brief at 269 Princes Road, Dartford, Kent

Post Code DA1 2PY
Site Code DART-WB-12



Report for
Bodrud Ali, Land Estates Ltd.
Planning Reference No. DA/11/1495/FUL
Date of report 30th June 2012

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Plate 1. Photograph of site.

Plate 2. Photograph of site trenches

Plate 3. Photograph of site trenches

Archaeological Watching Brief at 269 Princes Road, Dartford, Kent

Site Code: DART-WB-12

1.0 SUMMARY

On May 22nd 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at 269 Princes Road, Dartford during the ground works associated with a new-build house extension. The works were carried out on behalf of Bodrudi Ali of Land Estates Ltd. The Planning Application Number is: DA/11/1495/FUL.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (DA/11/1495/FUL) for the construction of a new house extension was submitted to Dartford Borough Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dartford 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:

02 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 and monitored excavation works on May 22nd 2012.

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 2012)

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The ground works involved the digging of foundation trenches (Plates 1 & 2). No archaeology was 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 underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is of Seaford Chalk Formation with Superficial Deposits of Taplow Gravel Formation.

Topographically the site sits in an urban built up area.

The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains including the nearby Roman road called Watling Street and other sites recorded in the KCC HER. These include:

TQ 57 SW 285. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement in close proximity to the site.

TQ 57 SW 11. A possible Roman building found in c.1895 adjacent to Watling Street

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 construction work comprised of cutting foundation trenches for a small extension to a house (Plates 1, 2). No archaeological features were recorded.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at 269 Princes Road, Dartford found 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 Bodrud Ali for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Paul Wilkinson
June 2012

REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (2012) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 269 Princes Road, Dartford, Kent*

APPENDIX 1

Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: 269 Princes Road, Dartford, Kent	
Site Code: DART-WB-12	
Site Address:	
As above.	
Summary:	
<p>On May 22nd 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 Land Estates Ltd in advance of the construction of a house extension (Planning Application Number: DA/11/1495/FUL).</p> <p>The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.</p>	
District/Unitary: Rochester	Parish: Dartford
Period(s): N/A.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete)	
Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: May 2012	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology: Sand and Gravel on Chalk	
Title and author of accompanying report:	
Wilkinson, P. (2011) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief at 269 Princes Road, Dartford, 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: June 2012



Figure 1: Location of site (shown in red) 0m 15m 75m

Figure 1. Site Location



Plate 1. Showing topographic setting of site



Plate 2. Showing previous modern impacts



Plate 3. Showing the natural geology of Sand and Gravel Formation