

# Archaeological Monitoring at Badlesmere Court Farm, Badlesmere, Faversham, Kent

NGR: 601500 155100

Site Code BAD/WB/12



Report for  
J. E. Scutt & Son

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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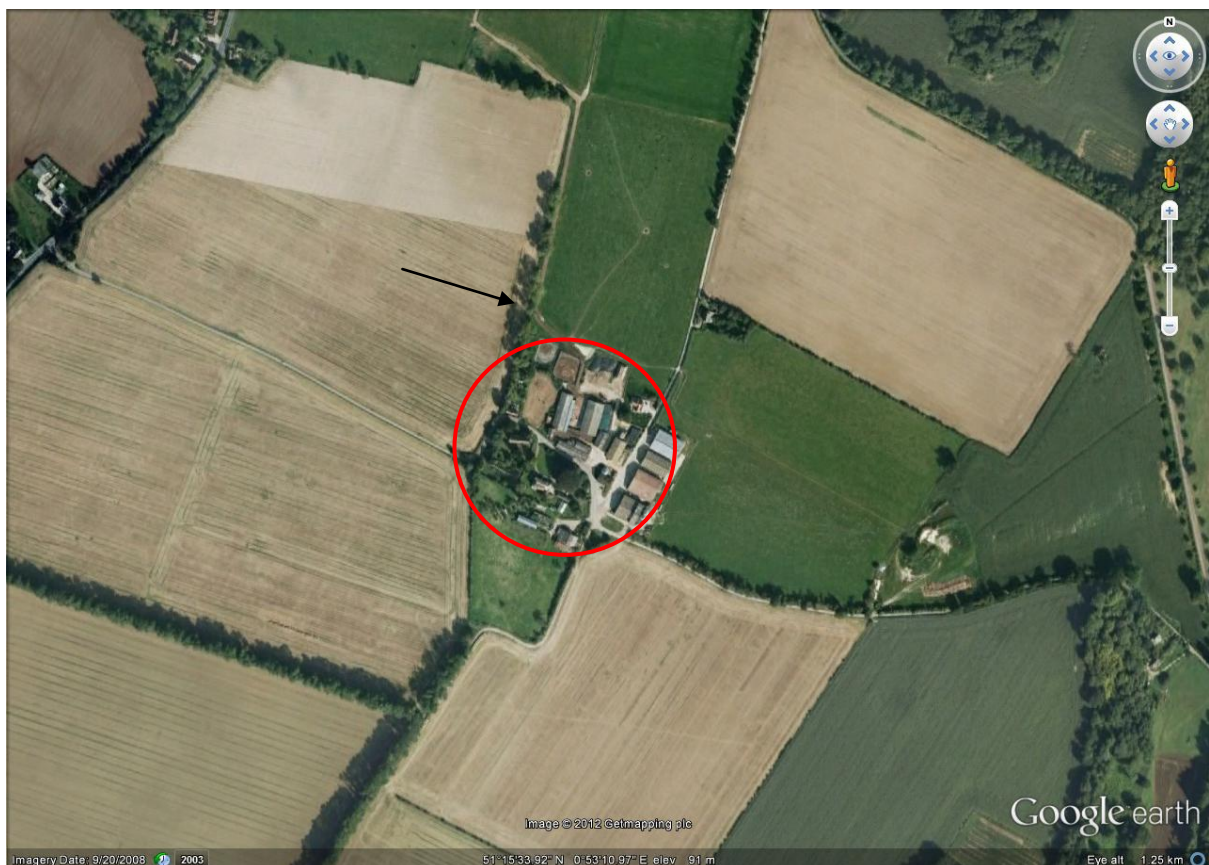
Figure 1. Site plan

# Archaeological Monitoring at Badlesmere Court Farm, Badlesmere, Faversham, Kent

NGR: 601500 155100

Site Code TY/WB/12

Date of report: 25/09/12



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

**Roman remains in the area of arrow (GoogleEarth 2008).**

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From July 18th to the 19th 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of an extension to an existing livestock building at Badlesmere Court Farm, Badlesmere, Faversham, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the clearing of the site (Plates 2-3), machine digging for new foundations (Plate 4-5).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Clearing of the site.

Phase 2: Excavation of footings for the new barn extension.

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/12/0553.

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. However, in the adjoining field to the west some Roman building material was examined but left in situ (Plate 1).

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

Planning application SW/12/0553 for the erection of a new extension to an existing livestock building 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 July 18th to 19<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 extension to the existing livestock building (Plates 4-5).

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 Clay-with Flints (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was clay with flints. No chalk deposits were revealed.

5.2. The application site (601500 155100) consisted of an area of farmyard adjacent to Badlesmere Court Farm south of Faversham and just east of the Ashford Road, the A251. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 92m 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 a number of archaeological sites, the earliest a ring ditch and linear feature located by aerial photography (TR 05 SW 13).

5.4 Close by the accidental discovery of a medieval chalk mine by a tractor causing a collapse in the field. On investigation a quern stone dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century was retrieved (TR 05 NW 29).

5.5 The church of St Leonard attached to Badlesmere Court Farm dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century with internal pews and other fittings provided by Sir Richard Badlesmere in 1415 (TR 05 NW 119).

5.6 From the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the nearby Stocking Wood an underground military headquarters dating from c.1940 is located.

## **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 July 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<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 concrete and hardcore overburden.

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 was clay with flints overlaid by concrete and hardcore with no archaeological features revealed in the clay with flints.

## **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 evidence of important archaeology in the near vicinity, and the potential for medieval remains close to the church and farm was high.

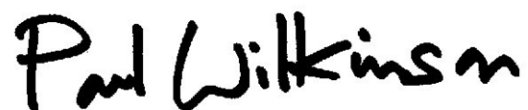
The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed on the development site but in the adjacent field to the west a certain amount of Roman building material was seen scattered on the edge of the field (Plate 1).

## **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 Roger Scutt 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



## **Appendix 1**

### **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development site at Badlesmere Court Farm, Badlesmere, Faversham, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BAD/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 an extension to an existing 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 two site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts. However, in the adjacent field Roman building material was found.

**District/Unitary:** SBC **Parish:** Badlesmere

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 601500 155100

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** July 2012

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Clay with Flints

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2012) Archaeological Monitoring at Badlesmere Court Farm, Badlesmere, 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:** 25/09/2012

## Plates



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





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





**Plate 4. Foundation pad facing north**





**Plate 5. Foundation pad facing south**