

Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Sheriffs Court Farm, Minster, Kent

Site Code SHERIF-WB-12



Report for Mr D Fuller
Date of report 25th July 2012

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Contents

1.0	SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION	1
	2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
	2.2 SCHEDULE OF VISITS	1
	2.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
	2.4 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS	2
	2.5 CONFIDENCE RATING	2
3.0	ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.0	METHODOLOGY	2
5.0	RESULTS	3
	5.1 GENERAL	3
6.0	FINDS	
7.0	DISCUSSION	3
8.0	CONCLUSION	3
9.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
10.0	REFERENCES	3
	APPENDIX 1 - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HER SUMMARY FORM	4

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List of Figures

Figure. 1 Location of site

Plate 1. Photograph of site excavation

Plate 2. Photograph of site excavation

Plate 3. Photograph of site aerial photo

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1.0 SUMMARY

In February 2012, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site at Sheriffs Court Farm during the ground works associated with a new-build solar array. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr D. Fuller. The work was carried out under permitted development.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application under permitted development for the construction of a new solar array and associated cable runs was submitted to Thanet District Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District 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:

3. 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.

Grounds: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An experienced archaeologist attended the site and monitored site clearance and the excavation of cable runs from the 27th to 29th February 2012 during works associated with the build of the new solar array.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was 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 groundworks' (KCC 2012:3.1)

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The ground works involved digging of various cable runs to facilitate the operation of the new-build solar array (Plates 1-3). 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 1:50,000 is Thanet Sand Formation-Sand, Silt and Clay whilst the Superficial deposits recorded on site were Clay and Silt.

Topographically the site is located on the northern edge of the river flats of the Stour Channel.

Archaeology abounds in the area with a Romano-British cemetery close by (TR 36 NW 187), an Early Medieval burial ground (TR 36 NW 186). There are numerous crop marks in the vicinity including ring ditches and enclosures one of which is a Neolithic and Bronze Age ditched enclosure (TR 36 NW 177).

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 digging of the trenches for cabling (Plates 1-2) failed to reveal any archaeological features.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at land at Sheriffs Court Farm revealed no archaeological features.

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 Mr D Fuller 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 on land at Sheriffs Court Farm, Minster, Kent*

Hasted (1798) *History of Kent*

HER Data, KCC

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Land at Sheriffs Court Farm, Minster, Kent CT12 4JD	
Site Code: SHERIF-WB-12	
Site Address:	
As above.	
Summary:	
<p>In February 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 D Fuller in advance of the construction of a solar array. (Permitted Development).</p> <p>The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.</p>	
District/Unitary: Thanet	Parish: Minster
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: Feb 2012	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology: Bedrock Chalk and Sand and Silt	
Title and author of accompanying report:	
Wilkinson, P. (2012) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Sheriffs Court Farm, Minster, 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. Site Location



Plate 1. Showing excavation for cabling (facing north)



Plate 2. Showing excavation for cabling (facing north-west)

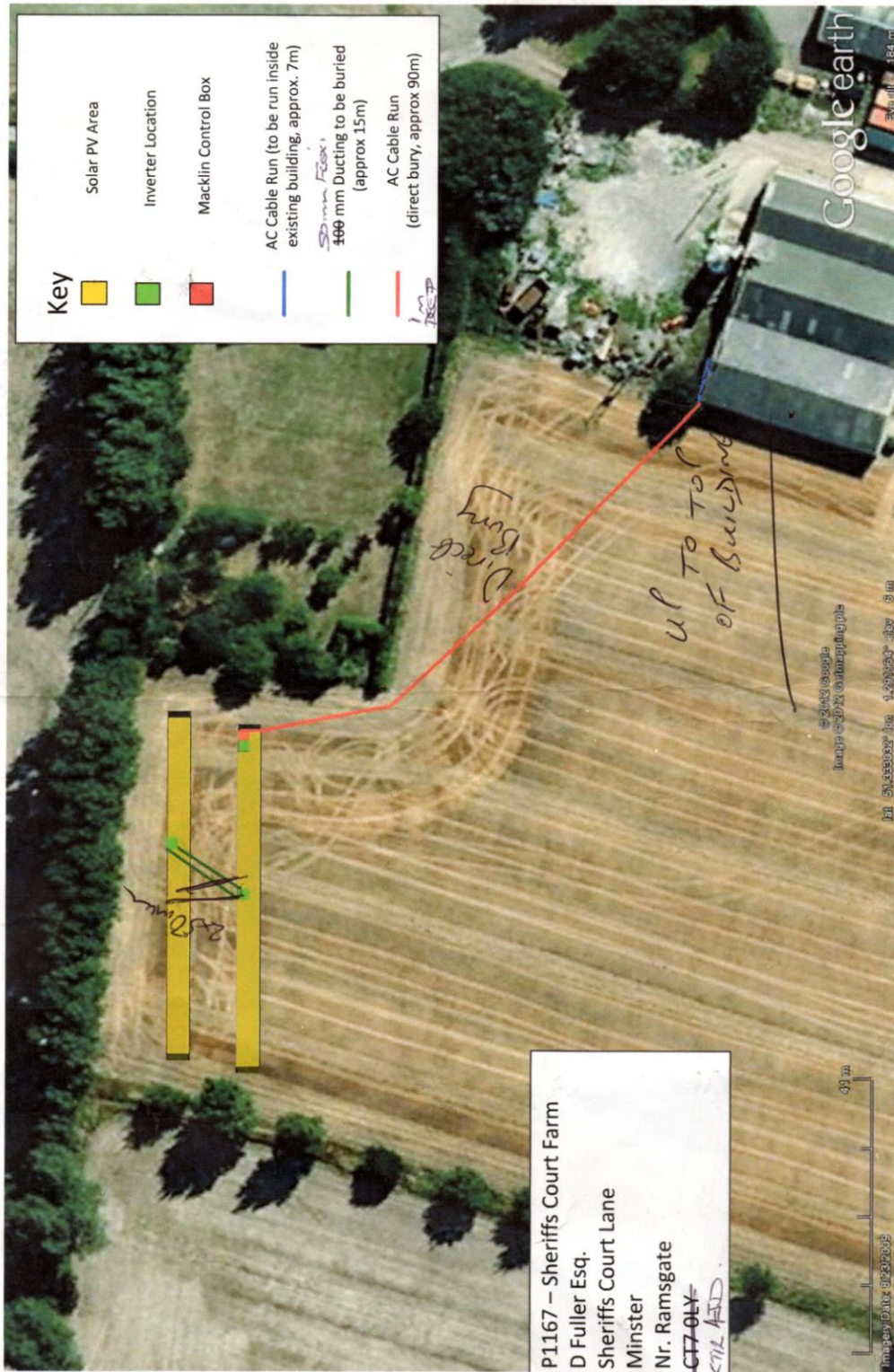


Plate 3. Showing aerial photo of site with proposed installation