

# Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Elms Farm, Canterbury Rd, Sarre, Kent

Site Code ELMS-WB-12



Report for Mr N Baxter  
Planning Reference No. F/TH/0844  
Date of report 25<sup>th</sup> 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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# Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Elms Farm, Canterbury Road, Sarre, Kent

Site Code: ELMS-WB-12

## 1.0 SUMMARY

*In February 2012, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site at Elms Farm during the ground works associated with a new-build solar array. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr N Baxter.*

*Planning Application Number: F/TH/0844.*

*The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.*

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: F/TH/0844) 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 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Margate Chalk Member-Chalk whilst the Superficial deposits recorded on site were Tidal Flat Deposits- Clay and Silt.

Topographically the site is located south of the Sarre crossroads and on the northern edge of the tidal flats of the Wantsum Channel.

Archaeology abounds in the area with an Iron Age settlement (TR 26 NE 132) located to the north-east of the development site. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery (TR 26 NE 11) again to the north-east and numerous crop marks in the vicinity including ring ditches and enclosures (TR 26 NE 29).

## **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 Elms 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 Nicholas Baxter 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 Elms Farm, Sarre, Kent*

Hasted (1798) *History of Kent*

HER Data, KCC

**APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council HER summary form**

<b>Site Name:</b> Land at Elms Farm, Sarre, Kent	
<b>Site Code:</b> ELMS-WB-12	
<b>Site Address:</b>	
As above.	
<b>Summary:</b>	
<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 N Baxter in advance of the construction of a solar array. (Planning Application Number: F/TH/0844).</p> <p>The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.</p>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Thanet	<b>Parish:</b> Sarre
<b>Period(s):</b> N/A.	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Watching Brief	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> Feb 2012	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
<b>Geology:</b> Bedrock Chalk and Sand and Silt	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b>	
Wilkinson, P. (2012) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Elms Farm, Sarre, Kent (SWAT Archaeology)</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>	
As above.	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> Dr P. Wilkinson	<b>Date:</b> July 2012

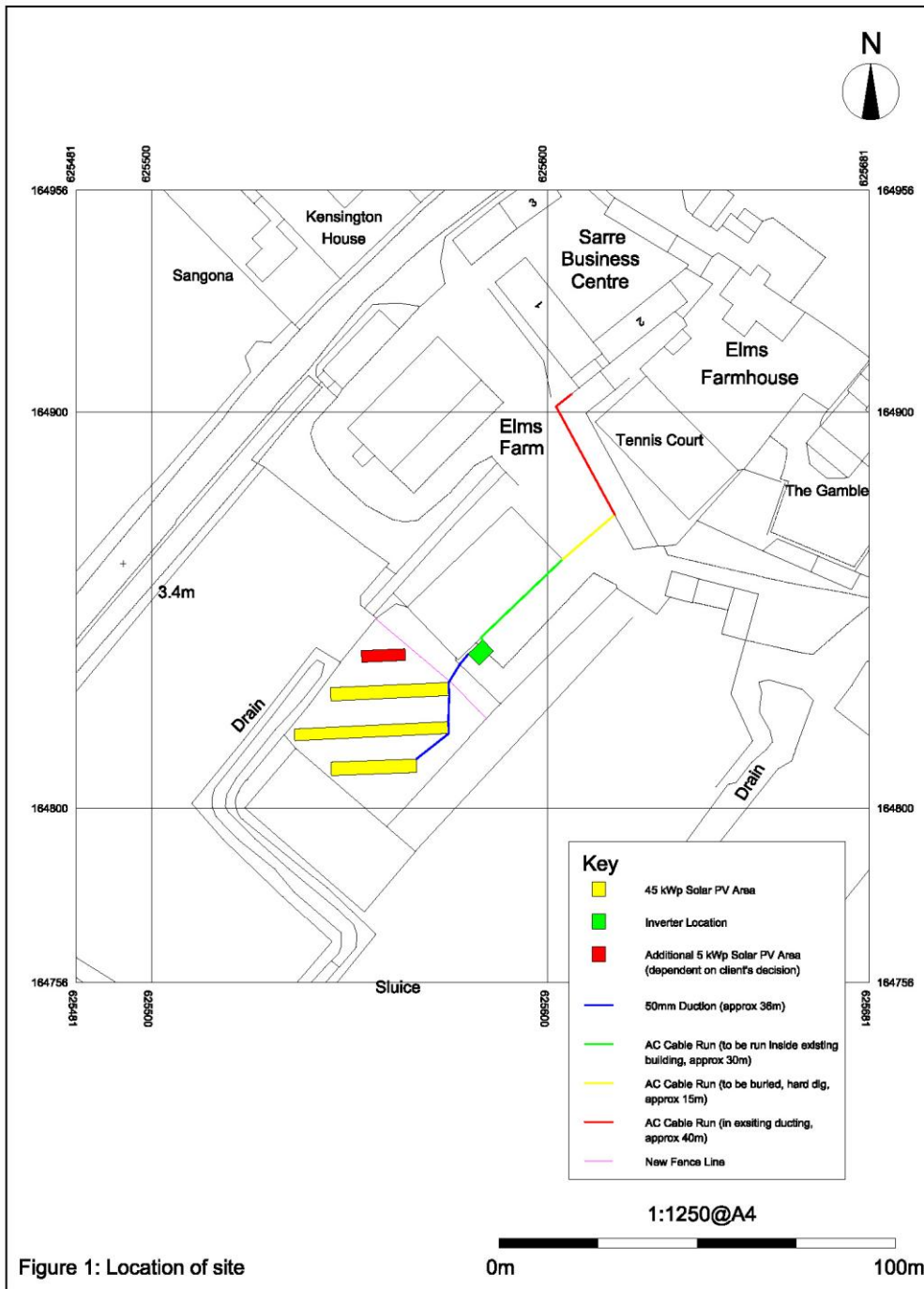


Figure 1: Location of site

Figure 1. Site Location





Plate 1. Showing excavation for cabling (facing north)



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

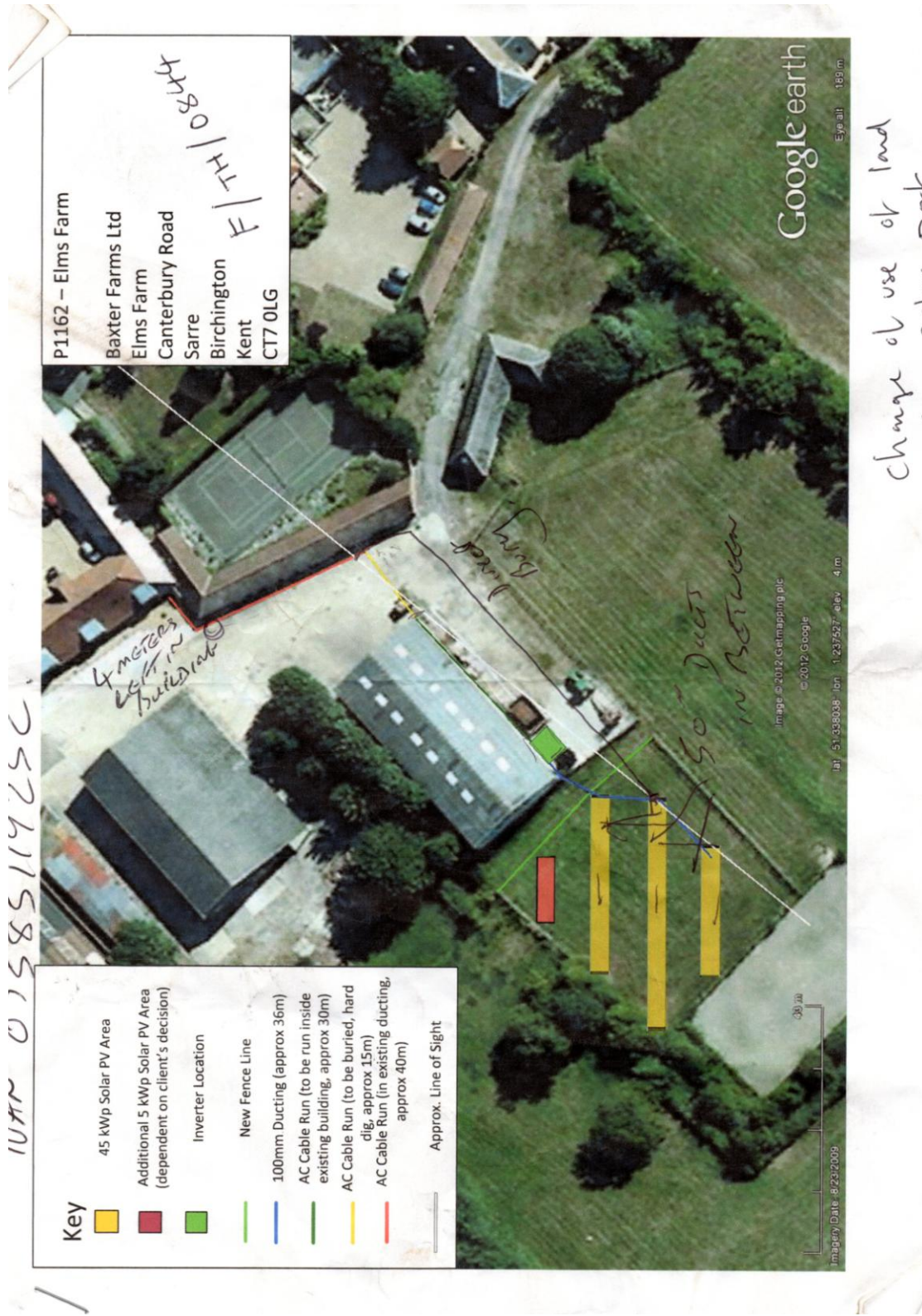


Plate 3. Showing aerial photo of site with proposed installation