

Archaeological Monitoring at 1 King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent

Post Code: ME1 1UA
Site Code EDW/WB/13



Application MC/12/2693
Report for Everest Ltd

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Site Code EDW/WB/13

Date of report: 12/09/13



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

(GoogleEarth 2013).

1.0 Summary

1.1. On 11th -12th June 2013 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new conservatory at the rear of 1 King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Shiraz Riaz of Everest Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of foundations (Plates 2-3). The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase. Phase 1: Excavation of footings and piling for a new conservatory.

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: MC/12/2693.

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.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application MC/12/2693 was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (4) in accordance with Policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003 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 archaeological work 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 experienced archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on 11th-12th June 2013.

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 foundations for a ring beam plus piling to allow the construct of a conservatory to the rear of the property (Plates 2-3).

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 Lewes Nodular Chalk Foundation-Chalk (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was topsoil overlaying subsoil- brown grey sandy silt.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of garden adjacent to King Edward and the Maidstone Road south of Rochester Castle and the bridge. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 28m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with Iron Age, Roman and Medieval occupation. Rochester Castle (TQ 76 NW 589) with its associated siege works, Roman Watling Street (TQ 86 SW 132) with its associated urban development and the Saxon development of Rochester (TQ 76 NW 10) are all close to the development site.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the generic Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC 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 one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 11th to the 12th June 2013.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the topsoil and clean up the building foundations. (Plates 2-3).

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 generic methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was sand overlaid by topsoil and demolition. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology (Plate. 3).

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 archaeological potential. The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

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 Shiraz Riaz of Everest Ltd for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIfA

References

HER data (KCC 2013)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at 1 King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent

SWAT Site Code: EDW/WB/13

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 a new conservatory 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 site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Medway Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 5743238 168032

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: June 2013

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Lewes Nodular Chalk Foundation- Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2013) Archaeological Monitoring at 1 King Edward Road, Rochester, 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: 12/09/2013

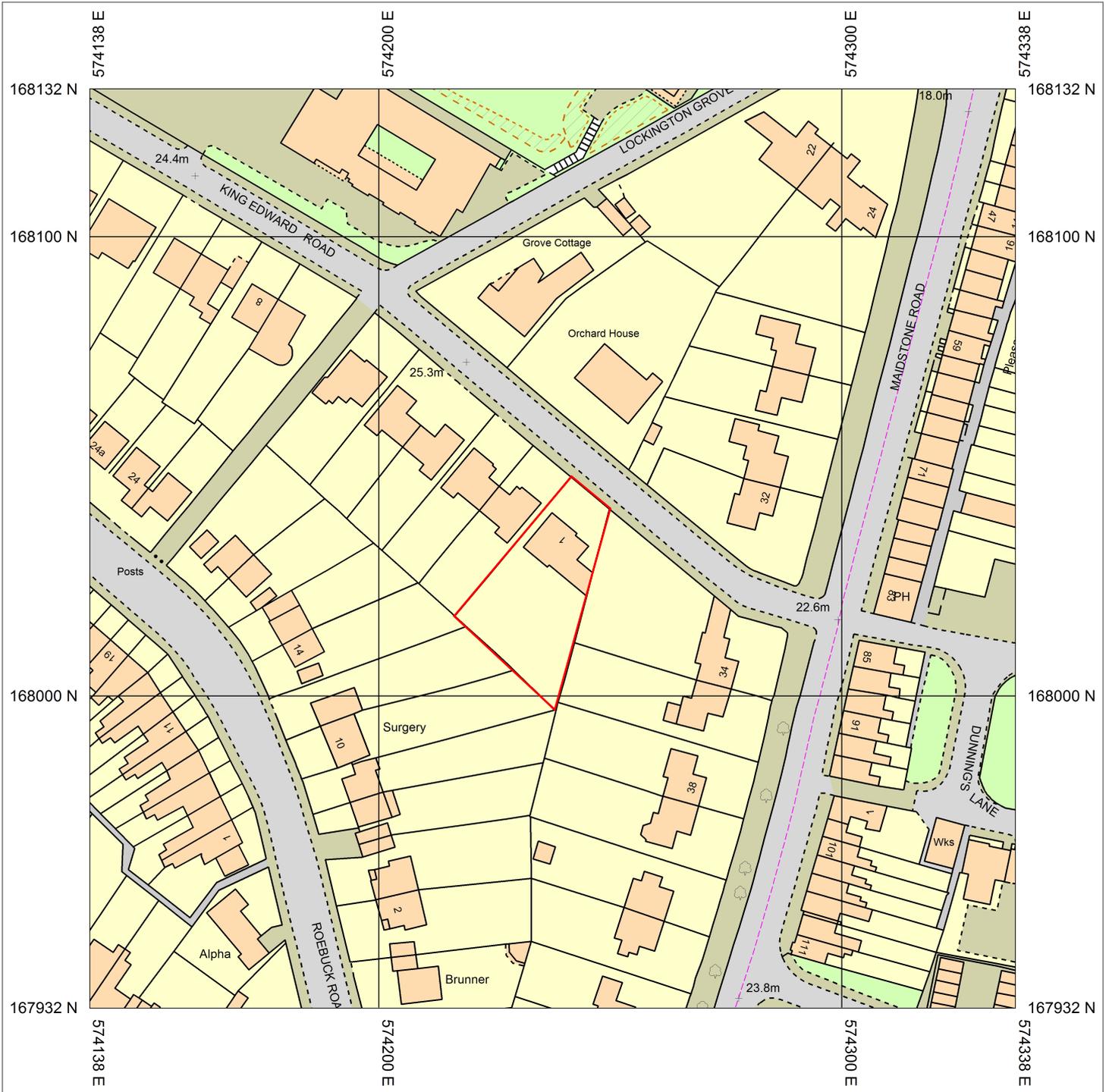
Plates



Plate 2. General view of site, facing north-east



Plate 3. The site (facing north-west)



1 King Edward Road

Rochester ME1 1UA

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The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



Scale 1:1250

Supplied By: National Map Centre Kent

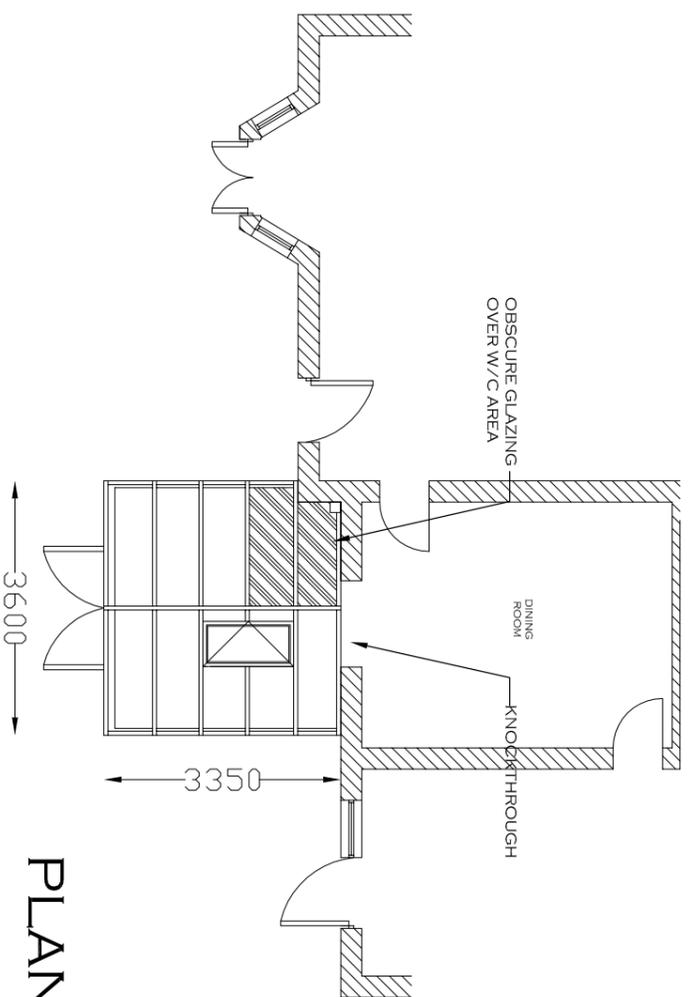
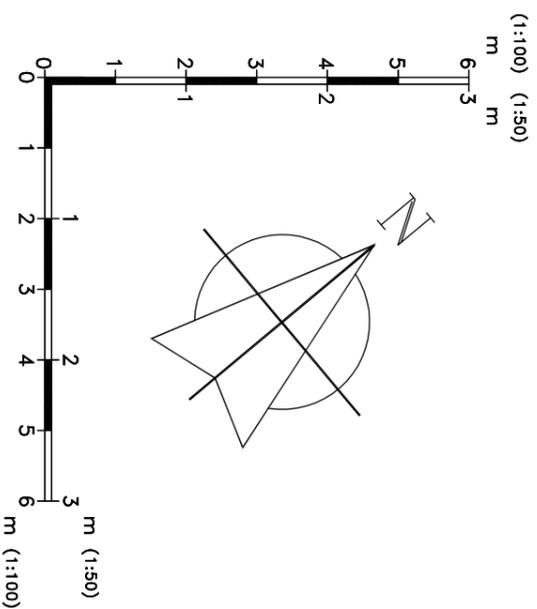
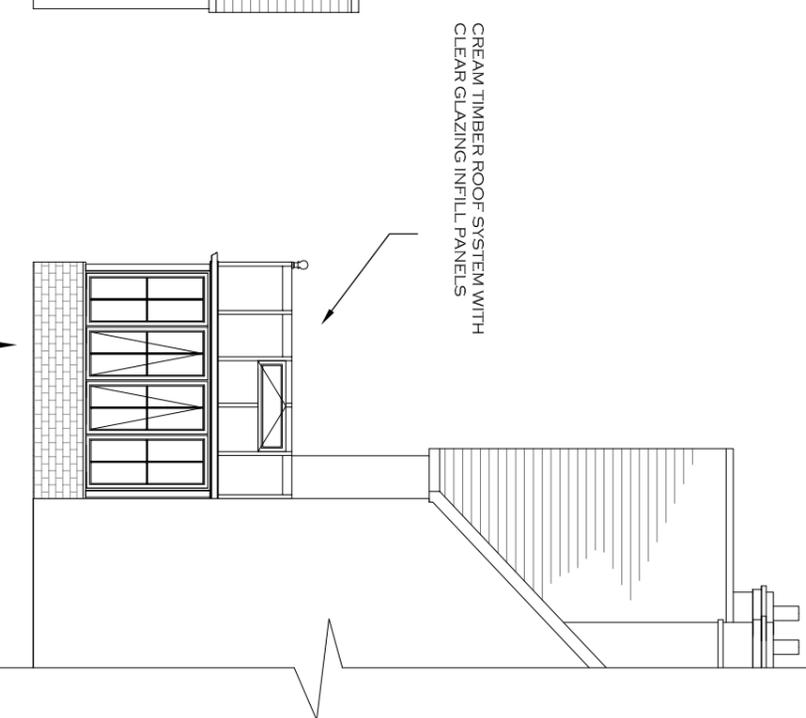
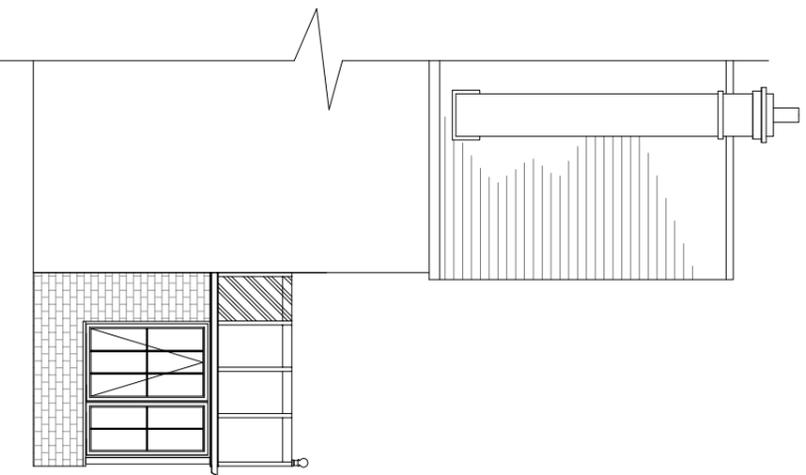
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Plot Centre Coordinates: 574238, 168032

SIDE ELEVATION 1:100

REAR ELEVATION 1:100

SIDE ELEVATION 1:100



PLAN VIEW 1:100

NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES(MM) & LEVELS IN METERS(M) UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
2. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT SPECIFICATIONS.
3. ALL WORK TO COMPLY WITH THE RELEVANT BRITISH STANDARDS, GGF CODES OF PRACTICE AND BUILDING REGULATIONS IF NON EXEMPT

PROJECT NUMBER
AM0026AQ

CLIENT
MR J PALMER
1 KING EDWARD ROAD
ROCHESTER
KENT
ME1 1UA

TITLE		SCALE	
PROPOSED ELEVATIONS		AS SHOWN @ A3	
ABURGESS	SR	16-11-12	REVISION
DRG. NO. 5399/01			

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