

# Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land to the rear of Vine House, 62 High Street, Lydd, Kent



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NGR 604015 120817  
Site Code: VINE-EV-13  
(Planning Application Y13/0365/SH)

Report for  
David Sell

**SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY**

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## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	4
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	6
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	6
9. Results.....	6
10. Finds.....	7
11. Discussion.....	7
12. Impact Assessment.....	7
13.Acknowledgements.....	7
14.References.....	8
Appendix1. KCC HER Summary Form.....	16

### List of Plates

- Plate 1. Trench 2 looking WNN
- Plate 2. Trench 2 section
- Plate 3. Trench 1 looking NNE
- Plate 4. Trench 1 section

### List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Tithe map c.1838
- Fig. 2 Aerial view of site
- Fig. 3 Location plan and trench layout

# **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land to the rear of Vine House, 62 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN**

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Site Code: VINE-EV-13

## **1. SUMMARY**

1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land to the rear of Vine House at Lydd in Kent. A planning application (Y13/0365/SH) for planning permission for an erection of a single storey detached dwelling and detached garage was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) whereby the LPA requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council.

1.2 The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered no archaeological features. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by David Sell to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

## **3. SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

3.1 The proposed development site is located to the rear of Vine House which acquired its name from the extensive vineyard located to the rear of the property (Fig. 2) and is in the area of the proposed development. The proposed development site is rectangular in shape and is accessed off the High Street by a shared drive (Fig. 3). The plot lies to the north-west of Vine House and is bounded to the north-east, north-west and south-west by neighbouring residential properties and their gardens. According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, (1:50,000) the site is located on a bank of undifferentiated Storm Beach Gravel Deposits on the southern edge of Romney Marsh. The site averages from 4.22 - 4.89mOD.

#### **4. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Local Planning Authority (Shepway) placed the following condition (15) on the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme 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 in accordance with policy SD1 of the Shepway District Local Plan Review and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

4.2 Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with two trenches (Fig. 3) designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

#### **5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER and itemised in the KCC Evaluation Specification:

5.1 *'The proposed development site lies on the High Street in the historic town of Lydd. The settlement is understood to originate in the Anglo-Saxon times and by the medieval period had developed into a sufficiently important town and port to become a limb of the Cinque Port of New Romney. The settlement is located on a gravel spur that approximately follows the line of the High Street and it is here that archaeological remains relating to the early medieval and medieval development of the town would be expected. The Kent Historic Town Survey of Lydd identifies the site of Vine House as lying within a group of medieval building plots that front the High Street. Vine House itself is a Grade II Listed Building of seventeenth century date with late eighteenth or early nineteenth century additions'* (Ben Found KCC Heritage Officer).

5.2 Just to the north of the Site is a rectangular earthwork (TR 02 SW 13) of a possible moated site now built over. To the east of the Site a Medieval town house (TR 02 SW 18). Vine House itself (TR 03 SW 108) has a post 1960's cottage garden of specialist interest and was surveyed by the Kent Gardens Trust.

## **6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2013) was:

- Determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site

## **7.0 METHODOLOGY**

7.1 Trial trenching was carried out on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 with the excavation of two trenches. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. All trenches measured about 20m in length and 1.8m wide. The trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in bold. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance.

## **8.0 MONITORING**

Curatorial advice was available during the course of the evaluation.

## **9.0 RESULTS**

The archaeological evaluation consisted of two trenches, 20m in length and 1.8m in width. They were located to an agreed layout on the proposed development site (Fig. 3).

### **9.1 Trench One**

Trench One was located within the north-east corner of the development site and was aligned NNE-SSW. Machine removal of the topsoil (100) exposed gravel deposits at about 45cm below the topsoil. A 19<sup>th</sup> century salt-glazed drain run was exposed. No archaeological features were revealed (Plate 3).

### **9.2 Trench Two**

Trench Two was located in the south-west area of the development site and was aligned WNW-ESE. The trench was machined to a depth of 0.46m. The removal of the topsoil (200) revealed a 19<sup>th</sup> century salt-glazed drain run cutting into gravel deposits. No archaeological features were exposed (Plate 1).

## **10.0 FINDS**

No finds assemblage was recovered from this evaluation.

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## **11.0 DISCUSSION**

11.1 The results of the excavation of the two evaluation trenches revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

11.4 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No archaeological activity was found during the evaluation which will inform the Archaeological Officer of the archaeological potential of site. The evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development.

## **12.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The impact of the proposed development on archaeological features does not exist as no archaeological features were revealed.

## **13.00 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank David Sell for commissioning this project. Thanks also to Chris McMullon of Sevenscroft Ltd. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance.

Paul Wilkinson supervised the fieldwork, assisted in the field by Dan Quinlan. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for *Digitise This*. The project was managed by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA

02/08/2013 revised 12/08/2013

## 14.00 REFERENCES

### Bibliography

Kent County Council (Ben Found, KCC), (2013) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of Vine House, 62 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AN*

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2011) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

### Maps

Tithe map c.1838 based on an earlier survey by Netlam and Francis Giles of 1812-13 and drawn by Thomas Giles in 1817 (Information from Ben Found KCC)

### Websites

Google Earth

Kent Landscape Information System <http://extranet7.kent.gov.uk/klis/home.htm>





**Plate 1. Trench 2 looking WNW. 1m scale**



**Plate 2. Trench 2 section looking north-west. 10cm scale**



**Plate 3. Trench 1 looking NNE. 1m scale**



**Plate 4. Trench 1 section looking north-west. 10cm scale**

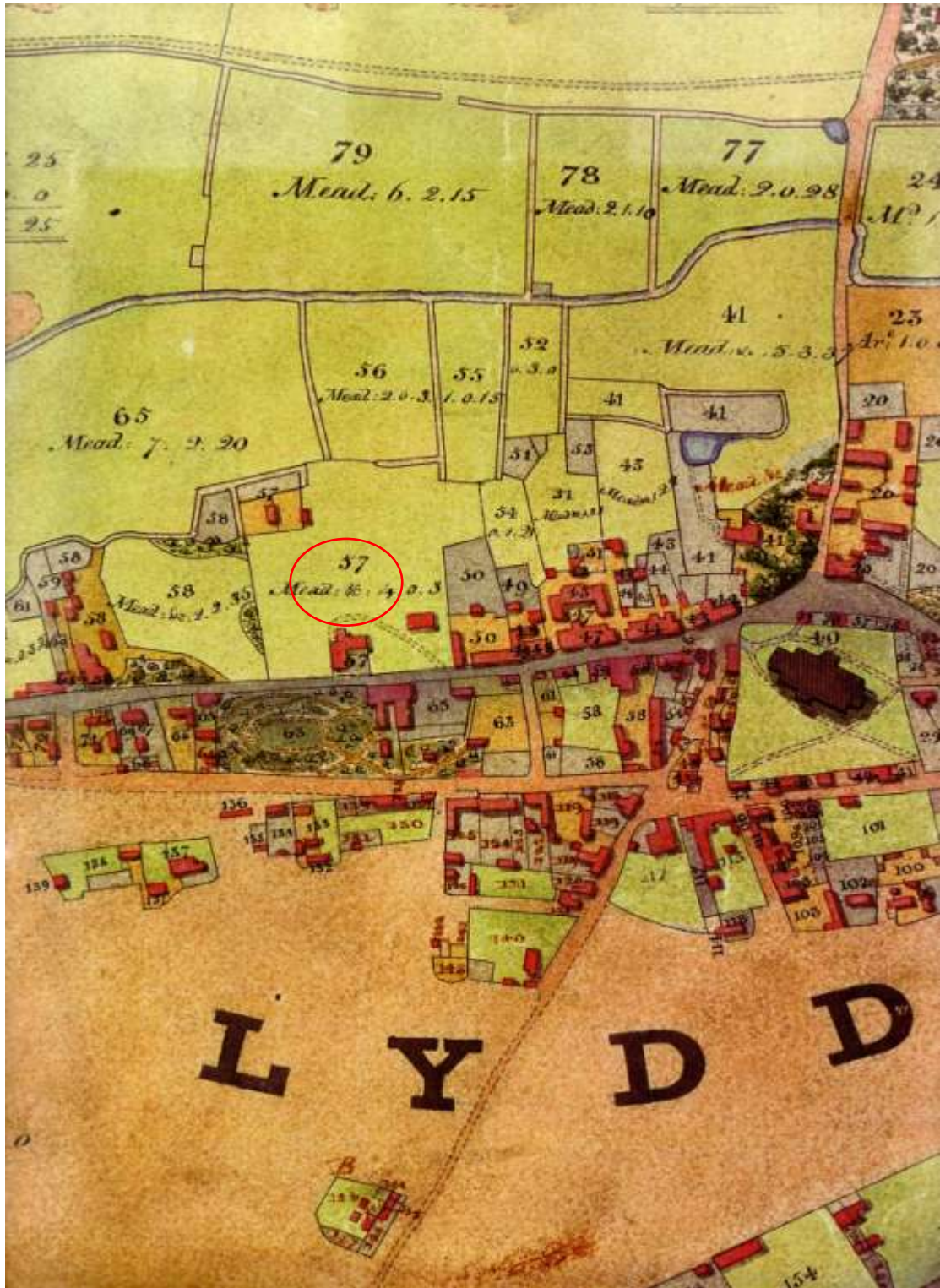
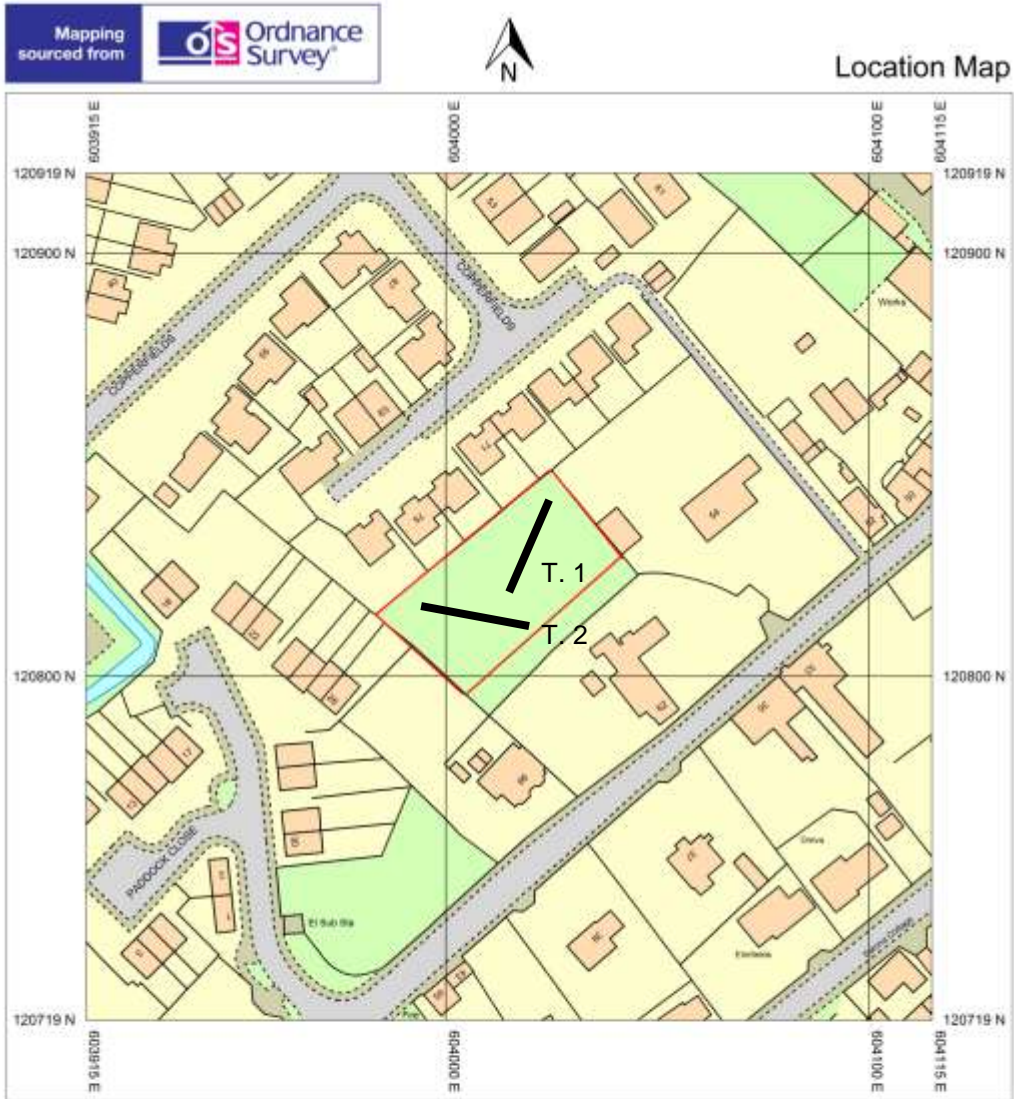


Fig. 1 Tithe map c.1838. Development site ringed in red



**Fig. 2 Aerial view of vineyard on proposed development site (c.1989)**



Vine House, Lydd

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Scale 1:1250

Supplied By: **National Map Centre Kent**

Serial number: 001113823

Plot Centre Coordinates: 604015, 120819

**Fig. 3 Trench location on proposed development site (OS License NMC 100039)**

**APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Land at the rear of Vine House, 62 High Street, Lydd, Kent</i>	
<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>VINE/EV/13</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>As above</i>	
<b>Summary:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of Vine House, 62 High Street, Lydd, Kent. A planning application (Y13/0365/SH) for the construction of dwelling was submitted to Shepway Council (SH) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of SH requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2013) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of two trenches which encountered no archaeological features.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Shepway</i>	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>NGR 604015 120817</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>July 2013</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Storm Beach Gravel Deposits</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the rear of Vine House, 62 High Street, Lydd,, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>02/08/2013</i>