

Archaeological Monitoring at
The site of Laxey, Gravelly Bottom Road,
Kingswood, Kent

NGR: 5833420 150847
Site Code LAX/WB/13



Application MA/12/2154
Report for Mr Paul Milton

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Date of report: 16/09/13



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

(GoogleEarth 2013).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From August 12th-15th 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 dwelling house at the site of 'Laxey', Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Kent Design Partnership Architect.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging and levelling (Plates 2-4). The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Topsoil strip and foundations dug. Any services trenches were to connect to the existing services of the adjacent house (to be demolished)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity. In addition any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: MA/12/2154.

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 MA/12/2154 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 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 archaeologist suitably experienced in Mesolithic and Neolithic archaeology attended the site and monitored the excavation works from 12th-15th August 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, and to watch for any sign of Prehistoric knapping activity”.

4.2. The ground works were to strip the topsoil and excavate foundation trenches (Plates 2-4).

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 Hythe Beds overlain by Head Deposits (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site silt & sand with inclusions of stone and occasional (unworked) flint.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of back garden adjacent to Gravelly Bottom Road and to the south of Leeds Castle. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 131m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important and rare Mesolithic and Neolithic activity (HER No. TQ 85 SW 17). Mesolithic flints and a Neolithic axe were also found close to the development site at Rowan Farm (TQ 85 SW 293) and a Palaeolithic axe nearby (TQ 85 SW 34).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the 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 12th-15th August 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 cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-4).

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 sand, silt overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features revealed in the natural geology (Fig. 4).

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 Paul Milton 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 the site of Laxey, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Broomfield, Kent

SWAT Site Code: LAX/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 home 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: MDC **Parish:** Broomfield

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 583420 150847

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: August 2013

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Hythe Beds overlain by Head Deposits.

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2013) Archaeological Monitoring at At the site of Laxey, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, 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: 16/09/2013

Plates



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



Plate 3. The site showing cutting of foundation trenches (facing north)



Plate 4. Foundation trenches (facing west)



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Scale 1:1250

Supplied By: National Map Centre Kent

Serial number: 001119561

Plot Centre Coordinates: 583420, 150873

Laxey

Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood'
nr Maidstone
NGR 583420 150847

