

Archaeological Monitoring at  
Land at the rear of 22-28 Bexley High Street  
Bexley, Kent

Site Code OXF/WB/13



Report for Skill Crown Homes Ltd

Date of Report 10/07/2013

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	4
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	4
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	5
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	5
7.0 RESULTS.....	6
7.1 GENERAL.....	6
8.0 FINDS.....	6
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	6
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	6
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	7
REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX 1 – EH GLAAS HER Summary Form.....	8

Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2013)

Plate 2. General view of site

Plate 3. View of the site showing ground works

Plate 4. View of the geology

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site plan

Figure 2. Proposed development

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

**(GoogleEarth 2013).**

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of six terraced houses and three apartments, bin and cycle stores, new access and associated parking at land to the rear of 22-28 Bexley High Street, Bexley, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Skill Crown Homes Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging for new foundations (Plates 2-4). The archaeological work was undertaken in a number of phases.  
Phase 1: Excavation of footings for the new buildings. Phase 2: Service trenches

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: 11/00202/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was 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 11/00202/FUL for the build of six terraced houses and three apartments, bin and cycle stores, new access and associated parking at land to the rear of 22-28 Bexley High Street, Bexley, Kent was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Mark Stevenson English Heritage Archaeological Advisor (EH GLAAS) 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 (17) was attached to the planning consent:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.'*

## 3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 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 footings for the two blocks of terraced homes and drain and service runs (Plates 3-4).

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 Harwich Formation, Sand and Gravel (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was sand, silt & gravel.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of yard to the south of Bexley High Street The site itself is generally level at a height of about 16m aOD.

5.3. The development site is in an Area of Archaeological Potential, details of which have been sourced by the Greater London HER team at [gher@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:gher@english-heritage.org.uk) In the vicinity of the development site there has been found numerous remains including in Bexley High Street a peat bed exposed in an archaeological evaluation trench (MLO 8427) which contained a Anglo-Saxon spearhead. During the rebuilding of a shop adjacent to the supermarket in Bexley High Street medieval pottery was found beneath foundations (MLO 8444).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology 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 a number of phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

6.4. Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the natural sand and gravel (Figs 3-4).

6.5. All excavations were 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 methodology discussed with the EH GLAAS Archaeological Officer.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site sand, silt and gravel was overlaid by made-up ground with inclusions of tarmac scrapings and crushed concrete pieces with 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 medium potential and 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 Skill Crown Homes Ltd for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is enclosed within a thin, double-lined rectangular border.

Paul Wilkinson, PhD., FRSA., MifA.

## References

HER data (EH GLAAS 2013)

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

Swat Archaeology. Archaeological Watching Brief (2013)

**Appendix 1**  
**EH GLAAS HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development site atland to the rear of 22-28 Bexley High Street, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** OXF/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 the building of six terraced houses (11/00202/FUL) whereby EH GLAAS 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:** London Borough of Bexley

**Period(s):**

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** May 2013

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is sand and gravel.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2013) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at the rear of 22-28 Bexley High Street, Bexley, 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:** 10/07/2013

## Plates



**Plate 2. General view of site with foundation trenches excavated, facing north-east**



**Plate 3. The site showing ground works (foundation trenches) facing east**



**Plate 4. Foundation trench showing geology (facing north)**

549282.471mE  
173578.734mN



549390.908mE  
173484.339mN

1:600@A4

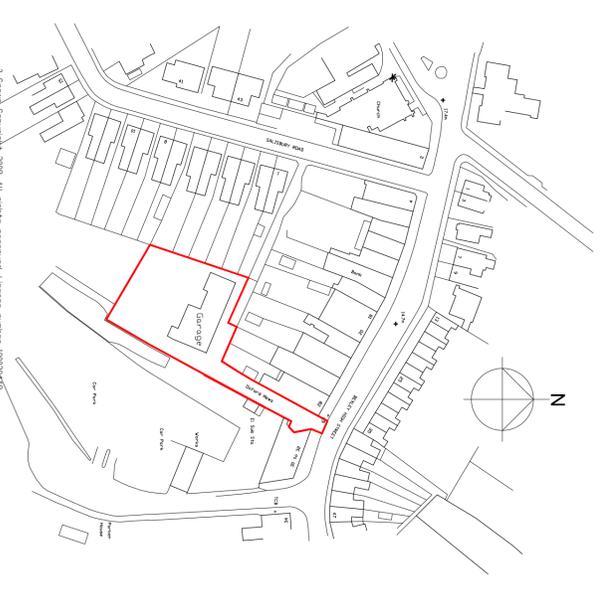


0m

50m

Figure 1: Location of Site

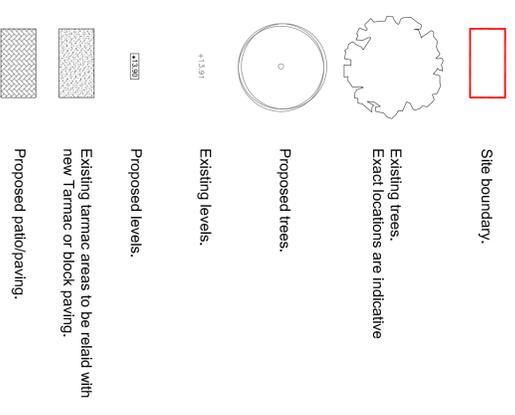
Notes:  
Do Not Scale. Use only figured dimensions.  
All dimensions to be checked on site prior to construction.  
Any discrepancies to be referred to the architect.  
All Copyright Reserved to bhd



LOCATION PLAN Scale 1:1250



PROPOSED SITE PLAN Scale 1:200



Rev	Date	Comments
D	10.01.11	BOUNDARY AND BIN STORE DOOR REVISED
C	09.12.08	RED LINE REVISED
B	09.12.08	PLANNING ISSUE
A	24.11.08	REVISED SITE PLAN

Client  
**MR J. CUFLEY**

Project  
**OXFORD MEWS  
HIGH STREET  
BEXLEY  
DA5 1DA**

Title  
**PROPOSED SITE PLAN  
& LOCATION PLAN**

Project No.	Date
<b>3341</b>	OCT 08
Drawing No.	Revision
<b>3341-PD-01</b>	D
Scale	Drawn
<b>1:200 @ A1 1:1250 @ A1</b>	MN
Check	JH

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