Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment In advance of Development of Land at St Georges Place, St Margarets at Cliffe, Kent

NGR: 635800 144560



Report for St George's Partnership Development Ltd

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company School Farm Oast, Graveney Road Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112 www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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1 SUMMARY

SWAT Archaeology have been commissioned by St George's Partnership Development Ltd to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at St Georges Place, St Margarets at Cliffe in Kent. The assessment is in support of a planning application.

This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Kent County Council and other sources. This data is reviewed and it is recommended in this case that an Archaeological Watching Brief will be required.

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated in a wider landscape which is rich in known archaeology. However, in the vicinity of the PDA very little archaeology has been revealed. Indeed in adjacent recently built properties no archaeological remains have been found.

Examination of cartographic sources shows that from the 19th century the proposed development area (PDA) has been steadily encroached by residential development, none of which has revealed any archaeological remains.

The site (Fig. 7) is located on the south-west outskirts of St Margarets at Cliffe and is bounded by residential development and King George's Playing Field to the north and Reach Road to the south. To the east the site boundary is with St Georges Place and residential development focused on the rebuilt Vicarage and to the west by residential development around Glebe Close. The proposed development is a mix of new build houses, flats, community field, woodland and ponds.

1.1 History of the site

The Ordnance Surveyors' Drawings (OSDs), compiled between 1789 and c.1840, represent the first continuous topographic mapping of England and Wales and are the most detailed record of the landscape preceding full-scale industrialisation in the mid-19th century. These original manuscript maps, drawn primarily at scales of ca. 1:21,120 and 1:31,680, with the Kent series being the first maps produced.

Responsibility for the mapping of Britain fell to the Board of Ordnance, from which the Ordnance Survey takes its name. The Board had been established in Tudor times to manage the supply of stores and armaments for the army and maintain national defences. From its headquarters in the Tower of London, engineers and draftsmen set out to produce the first military maps by a system of triangulation.

The survey of Kent was first to go ahead. It began in 1795 under the direction of the Board's chief draftsman, William Gardner. Critical communication routes such as roads and rivers were to be shown clearly and accurately. Attention was paid to woods that could provide cover for ambush, and elaborate shading was used to depict the contours of terrain that might offer tactical advantage in battle.

Preliminary drawings were made at scales from six inches to the mile, for areas of particular military significance, down to two inches to the mile elsewhere. Back in the Drawing Room at the Tower of London, fair copies of the drawings were prepared at the reduced scale of one inch to the mile. From these, copper plates were engraved for printing.

The engraved map of Kent was published in 1801 at a scale of 1" to the mile whereas the Ordnance Survey Surveyors drawing where drawn at 6" to the mile. In consequence a tremendous amount of detail shown on the surveyor's drawings does not make it on to the smaller scale engraved maps.

The OSS 1798 map shows 'St Margarets' with some clarity. The area of the proposed development is shown as open fields (Fig. 1).

From the 1840s the Ordnance Survey concentrated on the Great Britain 'County Series', modelled on the earlier Ireland survey. A start was made on mapping the whole country, county by county, at six inches to the mile (1:10,560). From 1854, to meet requirements for greater detail, including land-parcel numbers in rural areas and accompanying information, cultivated and inhabited areas were mapped at 1:2500 (25.344 inches to the mile), at first parish by parish, with blank space beyond the parish boundary, and later continuously. Early copies of the 1:2500s were available hand-coloured. Up to 1879, the 1:2500s were accompanied by Books of Reference or "area books" that gave acreages and land-use information for landparcel numbers. After 1879, land-use information was dropped from these area books; after the mid-1880s, the books themselves were dropped and acreages were printed instead on the maps. After 1854, the six-inch maps and their revisions were based on the "twenty-five inch" maps and theirs. The six-inch sheets covered an area of six by four miles on the ground; the "twenty-five inch" sheets an area of one by one and a half. One square inch on the "twenty-five inch" maps was roughly equal to an acre on the ground. In later editions the six-inch sheets were published in "quarters" (NW,NE,SW,SE), each covering an area of three by two miles on the ground. The first edition of the two scales was completed by the 1890s. A second

edition (or "first revision") was begun in 1891 and completed just before the First World War. From 1907 till the early 1940s, a third edition (or "second revision") was begun but never completed: only areas with significant changes on the ground were revised, many two or three times.

On the 1868 OS map 'St Margaret's Church' is shown with 'Well Lane' to the east. Beyond that to the east the area of the PDA is shown as open ground (Fig. 2).

On the 1898 OS map there are changes. To the east of Well Lane a large Vicarage has been built with extensive gardens which do encroach into the PDA (Fig. 3).

By 1907 the OS map shows that an area of brickearth extraction has been established to the north-west of the Vicarage. It does not encroach on the PDA (Fig. 4).

By 1950 the OS map shows that brickearth extraction has been completed in the area to the north-west of the PDA and the land has been returned to fields (Fig. 5).

By 1971 the open fields have been laid out as Playing Fields called King George's Field with a pavilion. To the west of the PDA residential development has taken place and a new estate road-Glebe Close- built (Fig. 6).

By 1993 a new road adjacent to the PDA has been built, St Georges Place, and leading to a housing development fronting on to the PDA. It is of note that two parish boundary stones can still be identified on this map (Fig. 7).

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Guidance (27th March 2012)

The National Planning Policy Guidance sets out a series of core planning principles designed to underpin plan-making and decision-taking within the planning system. In terms of development proposals affecting known heritage assets, the following principle states that planning should:

12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

126. Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage

assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

• the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

• the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;

• the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and

• opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

12.7. When considering the designation of conservation areas, local planning authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.
12.8. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed

using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

2.2. Local Policy Framework

Local planning policy is set out in the Dover District Council Local Plan, which is gradually being replaced by Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents (DPD). There are no saved policies in the local plan relevant to the historic environment and no relevant DPDs. The reader is referred to national policy. Guidance to help practitioners implement the NPPF, including the legislative requirements that underpin it, is provided in *Planning for the Historic Environment Practice Guide* (2010).

Heritage assets include extant structures and features, sites, places and landscapes. The European Landscape Convention definition of a historic landscape describes: 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and

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interaction of natural and/or human factors' (Council of Europe 2000: which came into force in the UK in March 2007; see research frameworks, below). Furthermore the historic landscape encompasses visible, buried or submerged remains, which includes the buried archaeological resource. Policy 126 states that:

Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning Authorities should take into account:

i) The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

ii) The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;

iii) The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and

iv) Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of the place.

When determining planning applications, the following policies are especially pertinent:

Local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of the heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation.

The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification.

Substantial harm to or loss of a Grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional.

Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and I I * listed buildings, grade I and I I * registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

The existence of the latter within a proposed development area can be partially investigated and to an extent predicted via desk-based assessment, but field evaluation and/or archaeological monitoring of groundworks are likely to be a planning requirement and should be expected.

More recently English Heritage has issued detailed guidance on the *Setting of Heritage Assets* (2011). This guidance is based on principles and guidance already issued by English Heritage in the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (2010), and *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008). It provides a framework for assessing impacts based on the identification of individual asset's cultural significance and the relationship between that and its surroundings followed by assessment of the degree to which change in the surroundings affects significance.

This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

2.3 The Proposed Development

The proposed development will comprise of a planning application for residential development to include a community field, woods and ponds (Fig. 8).

2.4 Project Constraints

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

2.5 Geology and Topography

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that proposed development site (PDA) is situated on Chalk. It is thought that on the PDA the underlying natural chalk will be sealed by residual Brickearth deposits. The distribution of Brickearth deposits is known to have been affected by brick production near the site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Peter Halsall of St George's Partnership Development Ltd in order to supplement a planning application for the development of land at St Georges Place, St Margarets at Cliffe, Kent.

3.2 Desktop Study – Institute For Archaeologists (revised 2011)

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologist (revised 2011). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

"a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate". (2011)

The purpose of a desk-based assessment is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate as required:

1. an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the area of study

2. an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, in England, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests

3. strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined 4. an assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings

5. strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings

6. design strategies to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping

7. proposals for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research, whether undertaken in response to a threat or not.

IFA (2011)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Desk-Based Assessment

4.1.1 Archaeological databases

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding environs of St Georges Place. The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) and was also used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius of the proposed development site (01/08/14). The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database was also used as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

4.1.2 Historical documents

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc were not relevant to this specific study.

4.1.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents

A full map regression exercise was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 1-7).

4.1.4 Aerial photographs

The study of the collection of aerial photographs by Google Earth was consulted (Plates 1-5).

4.1.5 Geotechnical information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, landscape studies; dissertations, research frameworks and Websites are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	<i>c</i> . 500,000 BC – <i>c</i> .10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	<i>c</i> .10,000 BC – <i>c</i> . 4,300 BC
	Neolithic	<i>c</i> . 4.300 BC – <i>c</i> . 2,300 BC
	Bronze Age	<i>c</i> . 2,300 BC – <i>c</i> . 600 BC
	Iron Age	<i>c</i> . 600 BC – <i>c</i> . AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – <i>c</i> . AD 410
Anglo-Saxon		AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval		AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern		AD 1901 – present day

Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods

The Archaeological record within the area around St Georges Place is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain (the Neolithic) through to the post-medieval period. The PDA is situated to the south-east of known cropmarks. The geographic and topographic location of St Georges Place is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic.

This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape.

Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on the previous page in **Table 1**.

5.2 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

There are no listed buildings, Historic Parks or Conservation Areas in the proposed development area. However, to the east is located St Margaret's Church (TR 34 SE 360), a Grade 1 Listed Building.

5.3 Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age)

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. Palaeolithic dated material occurs in north and east Kent, especially along the Medway and Stour Valleys. The Palaeolithic presence within the assessment area has not been found.

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no record of archaeological evidence from this period within the assessment area.

The Neolithic period, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry is not represented within the assessment area.

The Bronze Age, a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level is represented in the assessment area by a probable Bronze Age barrow (TR 34 SE 6).

5.4 Iron Age

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or *civitas* of the Cantiaci, the tribe occupying the area that is now Kent, was Canterbury). The Kent HER has no entries within the assessment area.

5.5 Romano-British

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years. The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres: the towns to military posts and rural settlements (villas, farmsteads and temples) increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Canterbury or *Durovernum Cantiacorum* was a major town of the Roman province of Britannia and the regional capital. The assessment area has no records from this period.

5.6 Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon period is represented within the proposed development area by a find spot just to the east of the assessment area of an iron knife and three Anglo-Saxon shield bosses (TR 34 SE 11).

5.7 Medieval

The medieval period is not represented within the assessment area.

5.8 Post-Medieval

The Post Medieval period within the assessment area is represented by the listed building of Curfew Cottage a Grade II listed building (TR 34 SE 340)..

5.9 Modern

Modern archaeology within the assessment area has been limited to remains from the Second World War and include the former site of a pillbox (TR 34 SE 530).

5.10 Undated

There is no Kent HER undated records that fall within the assessment area.

5.11 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

A map regression exercise (Figs. 1-7) carried out on the proposed development area has shown that the site was undeveloped up until the early 19th century. Seven detailed maps of the area dating from 1798 up to 1993 show the area to be subject to residential development.

5.12 Aerial Photographs

The National Monuments Records were consulted during the writing of this report. Google Earth provided vertical images dated from 1940-2013 (Figs. 1-5).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The potential for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed development is therefore considered **low**.

6.2 Iron Age

The potential for finding remains dating to the Iron Age within the confines of the development site is also considered **low**.

6.3 Romano-British

The potential for Romano-British archaeology is considered to be **low**.

6.4 Anglo-Saxon

The potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period on the development site is considered as **low**.

6.5 Medieval

The potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is considered as **low**.

6.6 Post-Medieval

Evidence for post-medieval occupation in the area is abundant with a number of industrial activities in the vicinity. The potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval period is therefore considered as **low**.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Existing Impacts

The search area is for the most part, subject to farming activity and the potential impact on buried archaeological deposits will have been due to these activities. The existing impact is considered as **low**.

7.2 Proposed Impacts

At the time of preparing this archaeological assessment, the extent of the proposed development was for the build of a residential development. Extensive impact is to be expected within the development area once construction begins. The excavation of footings and the installation of services will be the main cause of this impact and it is therefore considered as **high**.

8 MITIGATION

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that maybe impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of low archaeological potential.

9 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 Archive

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this deskbased assessment will be submitted to Kent County Council (Heritage) within 6 months of completion.

9.2 Reliability/limitations of sources

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

9.3 Copyright

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to St George's Partnership Development Ltd (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Paul Wilkinson PhD., MifA., FRSA. 1st August 2014

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Figures



Figure 1. OSSD map of 1798 (red cross denotes centre of PDA)



Figure 2. The site at St Georges Place (OS 1868).



Figure 3. OS map of 1898



Figure 4. OS 1907 map



Figure 5. OS map of 1950



Figure 6. OS 1971



Figure 7. OS 1993 (red cross in centre of site)

Plates



Plate 1. Google Earth dated 1940



Plate 2. Google Earth dated 1960



Plate 3. Google Earth dated 1990



Plate 4. Google Earth dated 2002



Plate 5. Google Earth dated 2013 (red cross marks centre of site)

