

Archaeological Monitoring at 96B High Street, Bridge, Kent

Site Code BR/WB/13



Planning application CA/11/00578

Report for Mervyn Gulvin Architect

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Date of report: 11/12/13

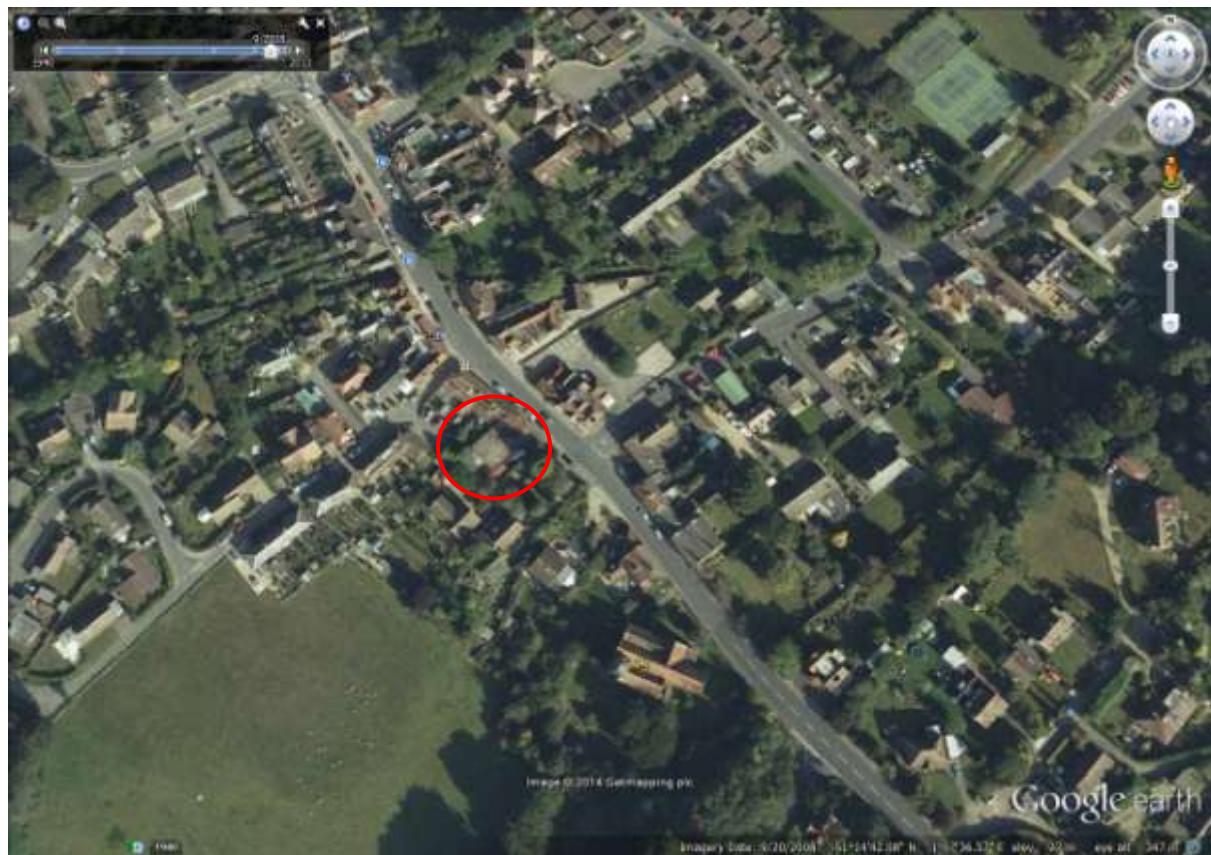


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(GoogleEarth 20/9/2008, eye alt 347m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From September 10th to 18th 2013 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the development work at 96b High Street, Bridge, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-5).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Mervyn Gulvin Architect.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging and levelling (Plates 2-5).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Topsoil strip and ring beam foundations dug.

Phase 2: Services trenches

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: CA/11/00578

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was high the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved because the redesign of the foundations to a shallow ring beam construction meant there was no impact on the known archaeology located at 0.75-0.80m below ground level (SWAT 24/01/12).

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application CA/11/00578 was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Richard Cross, Archaeological Advisor on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Evaluation (SWAT 24/01/12) followed by an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition had been attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has secured firstly, the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation of the site , to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits, and to assess the importance of the same; and secondly, any mitigation measures including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation to

safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains. All archaeological works are to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological

3.0 Schedule of Visits

Archaeologists James Madden and Paul Hart from SWAT Archaeology, and who are suitably experienced in urban archaeology attended the site and monitored the ground works from 10th to 18th October 2013.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

- Assess the likely archaeological impact of the proposed development including drainage, access and service trenches.
- Assess the impact of past development on the site's archaeological potential.
- Establishing the degree of archaeological activity on the site.
- Establishing the degree of earlier archaeological on the site given its topographic position upslope from the Littlebourne stream (Nailbourne).
- Establishing the degree of Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity on the site.
- Contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area.

4.2. The ground works were to strip the topsoil and excavate ring beam foundation, drainage and service trenches (Plates 2-5).

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 location of the proposed development area lies within Bridge, an historic village straddling the A2, formally the Roman road (Watling Street) from Richborough and Dover to London and beyond. Archaeological remains have been found in Bridge in recent archaeological investigations by SWAT Archaeology at 67 and 96 High Street where Roman remains were recorded. It is thought the name ‘Bridge’ – as in Bruges- may suggest a Roman bridge straddling the river crossing of the Nailbourne stream. This possible Roman bridge and road may be located in the vicinity of 94/96 High Street, the proposed development site.

According to the British Geological Survey the underlying surface was anticipated to be sand and fine clay with occasional bands of gravel whilst BGS mapping indicates terrace gravels are exposed at the surfaces on the western margin of the site. (BGS 1:50,000 digital).

The site averages 27.50aOD.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification, 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 two phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 10th-18th October 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 ring beam, drainage and service trenches (Plates 2-5).

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 Richard Cross Archaeological Officer, CCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site sand, gravel and silt overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology.

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 at land at 96b High Street has been previously evaluated by SWAT Archaeology (24/01/12) and found to contain ditches and gully's dating from the Roman to medieval periods but at a depth below the present ground works.

The Watching Brief phase of works on the site preparation for development started ground reduction by a machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The reduction of the topsoil was up to 250mm to the west of the site and 150mm to the east (Plate 2). Trenches for the ring beam were only 500-550mm (Plates 2-3). The cut trenches were closely watched

in the trench reduction stage and close inspection of the trenches failed to find any archaeological features or finds.

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 Mervyn Gulvin for commissioning the works, and Richard Cross for his invaluable help. Paul Hart and James Madden undertook the fieldwork.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIfA

References

HER data (KCC 2013)

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

SWAT Archaeology 2012. *Results of a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 94-96 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5LB*

Appendix 1

CCC & KCC HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at 96b High Street, Bridge, Kent
SWAT Site Code: BRI/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 development whereby Canterbury City Council 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: CCC

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: October 2013

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

Geology: Underlying geology is sand, gravel and fine clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2013) Archaeological Monitoring at 96 High Street, Bridge, 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

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site showing ring beam trench, facing north-west



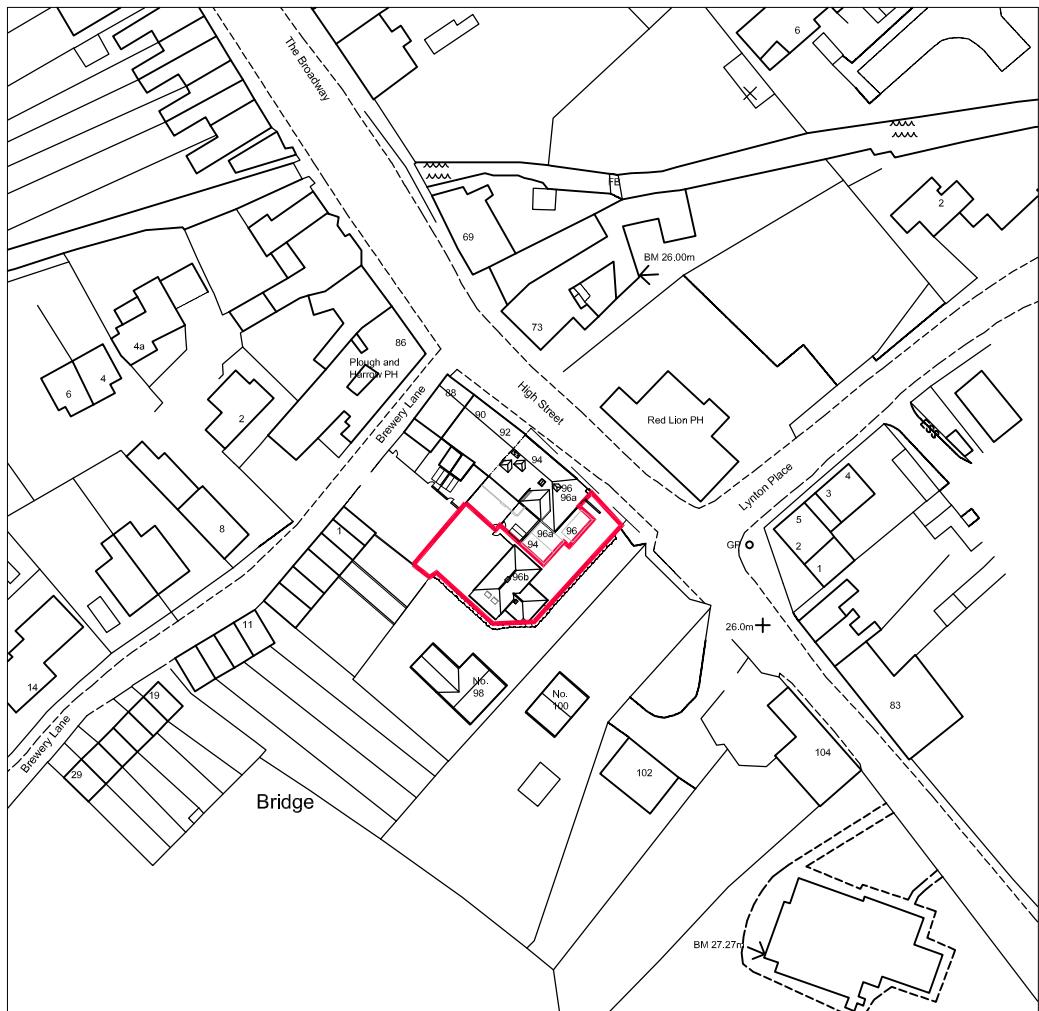
Plate 3. The site showing the made-up ground in foundation trenches for ring beam (facing west)



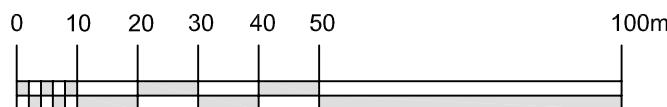
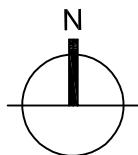
Plate 4. Drainage trench in made-up ground (facing south-east)



Plate 5. Utility trenching in made-up ground



Site Location Plan



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architect

Client:
G&G Developments Ltd

Drawing Title:
Ownership Boundary Plan
96b

Scale: 1:1250
Date: Nov 2012
Drawn: HN

Project:
Redevelopment, 94-96 High Street, Bridge,
Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5LB

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