

Archaeological Monitoring of  
Land at 'Mombassa', Whitstable Road,  
Faversham, Kent

Site Code MOM/WB/15



Report for Lee Wiggins  
Date of report 06/10/2015

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Mombasa, Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent

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Date of report: 06/10/2015



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

**(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 458m).**

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a terrace of three new dwelling on land at 'Mombassa', Whitstable Road, Faversham in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Lee Wiggins.

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

Phase 1: Topsoil strip.

Phase 2: Foundations dug. Any services trenches were to connect to the existing services.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the finding of prehistoric artefacts during archaeological investigations to the west of the present site in 2005.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 14/505307.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features or burials, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

Planning application 14/505307 was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the 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:

*(12) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing 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 attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

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

*“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief and programme of work are to contribute to knowledge of the history and archaeology of the Faversham area and record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the development site clearance and construction”(KCC 2015).*

4.2. The ground works were to strip the topsoil, and excavate the 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 Seaford Chalk. The geology revealed on site was Head Clay & Silt topped by dark brown humic topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to Whitstable Road which had been previously developed with a bungalow named ‘Mombassa’. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 7m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo Saxon activity.

## **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 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed 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- Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA of SWAT Archaeology.

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 Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was Clay & Silt overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

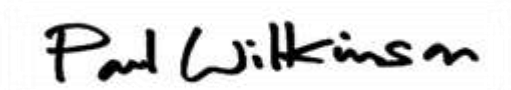
The development site is in an area of known archaeological potential, but no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological 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 Lee Wiggins for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a white rectangular box.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCifA.

## **References**

HER data (KCC 2013)

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

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2015)

## **Appendix 1**

### **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at 'Mombassa', Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** MOM/WB/15

**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 three terraced houses 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:** Swale Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 601983 161231

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** September 2015

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Seaford Chalk Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at 'Mombassa' Whitstable Road, Faversham, 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:** 06/10/2015



## Plates



Plate 2. General view of site with setting out of trenches



Plate 3. The site showing cutting of foundation trenches on the west side



Plate 4. Foundation trenches on the east side



Plate 5. Section of foundation trenches (facing west)



Plate 6. View of foundation trenches on the east side of the site

Figure 1.  
Area watched within red box



30 15 0 30 m

Scale 1:1250



**Mombasa Bungalow**

Supplied by: National Map Centre Kent  
Licence number: 100031961  
Produced: 06/10/15  
Serial number: 1574768

**Whitstable Road  
Faversham**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 601982, 161245  
Download file: Print52611\_1574768  
Project name: mombasa