

# Archaeological Watching and Recording of Land at Corner Cottage, The Moor, Westfield. East Sussex

Site Code CORN/WB/15



Report for Mr and Mrs S. Priest  
Date of report 15/10/2015

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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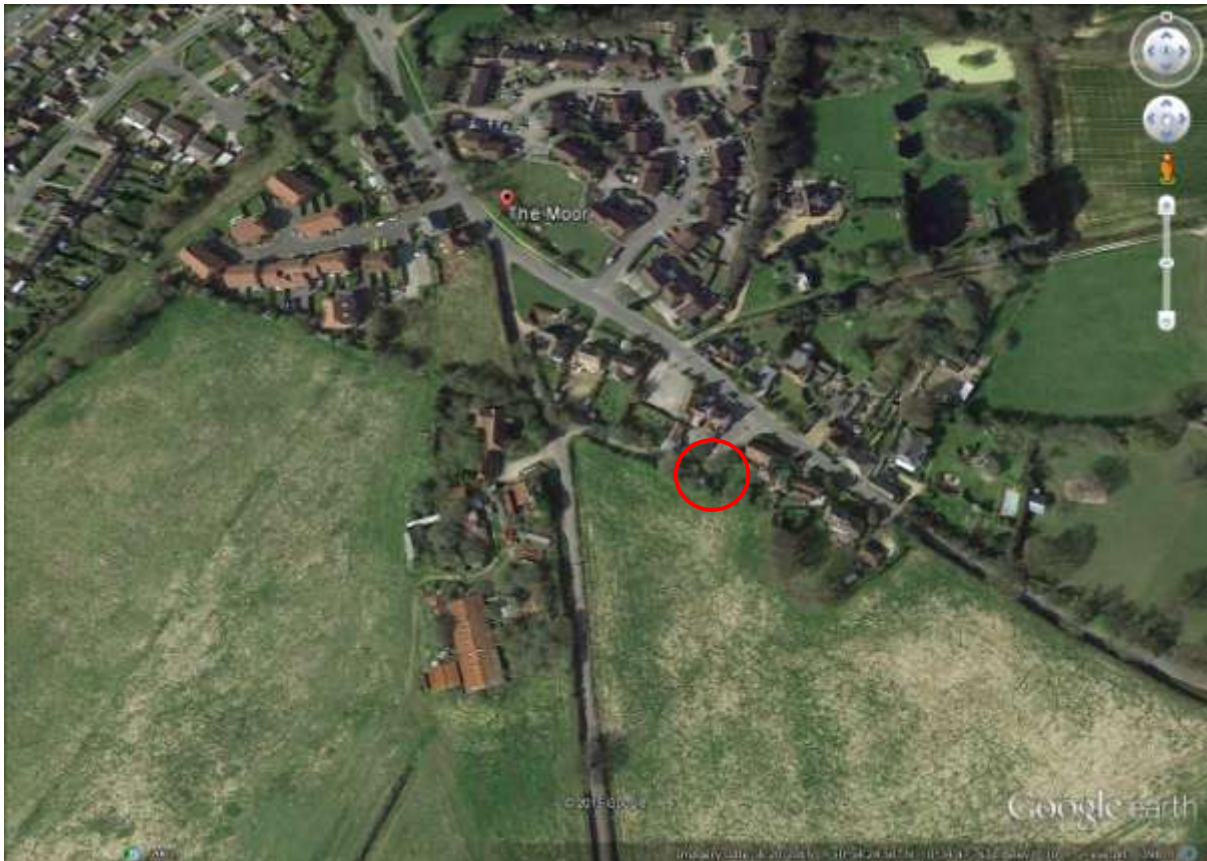
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**Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.**

**(Google Earth 04/20/2015: Eye altitude 499m).**

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. On 14<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 new detached garage at Corner Cottage, The Moor, Westfield in East Sussex. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-3).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners Mr and Mrs S. Priest.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of foundations for the concrete raft of the proposed timber building (Plates 2-3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Foundation area dug (Plates 2-3)

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 adjacent Roman road and a demolished building on the site of the PDA dating from about 1540-1900AD.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is RR/2014/2363/P.

1.6. The Historical Environment Record (HER) data maintained by ESCC has been consulted (HER Ref. 105/15) and the Proposed Development Area (PDA) of Corner Cottage is within an Archaeological Notification Area and a Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) which indicates the PDA is located in a hamlet with its historic core dating from 1066 to 1499AD (HES 40477). Research by Greg Chuter shows that documentary evidence from the Tithe Award and the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map show a demolished building that may be stables of the main house and dating from c. 1540-1900AD (MES 20136) on the PDA. In addition there is evidence that the Roman road from Hastings to Rochester is close by (DES 9298). Corner Cottage is a Grade II listed 18<sup>th</sup> century building with other listed buildings in the vicinity.

Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the ESCC HER data the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features or Roman roads, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

Planning application RR/2014/2363/P was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation, 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 (5) was attached to the planning consent:

*[5] No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of archaeological investigation and scheme of work that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The building hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.*

*REASON: There is potential for the ground works to disturb below ground archaeological remains, which need to be examined and recorded, having regard to Policy EN2 (vi) of the Rother Local Plan-Core Strategy (2014).*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 14th September 2015.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

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

*'The principle objective of the archaeological watching brief is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artifacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the proposed development site' (SWAT 2015).*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation of the proposed timber garage (Plates 2-3).

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 Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. The geology revealed on site was dark brown humic topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area set to the west of the present house together with the creation of access and parking. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 31m aOD. The only impact on the soil was to be the shallow excavation for the reinforced concrete base of the timber detached garage. Services were to be by overhead cable and access by gravel laid on mesh.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with the nearby Roman road and a building known to have been on the site or vicinity of the PDA and dating from c.1540-1900.

## **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 one phase according to the needs of the building contractors on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove and grade the soil (Plates 2-3).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA).

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 ESCC.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil. Part of the strip revealed a modern sewer trench.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

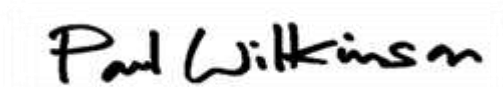
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KSWAT 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 Mr and Mrs S. Price 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, slightly slanted style.

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

## **References**

HER data (ESCC 2015)

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

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2015)

## **Appendix 1**

### **East Sussex County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at Corner Cottage, The Moor, Westfield, East Sussex

**SWAT Site Code:** CORN/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 new garage whereby East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of a site presence which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Rother District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** TQ 8141 1517

**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 Mudstone

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at Corner Cottage, The Moor, Westfield, East Sussex

**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:** 15/10/2015



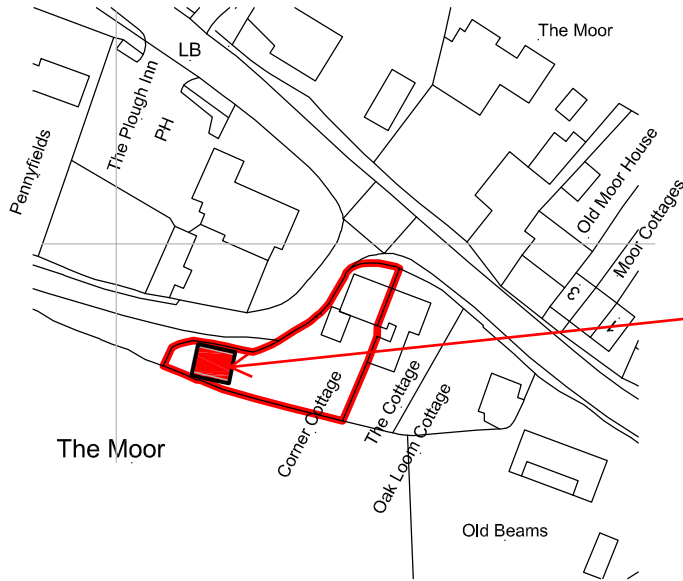
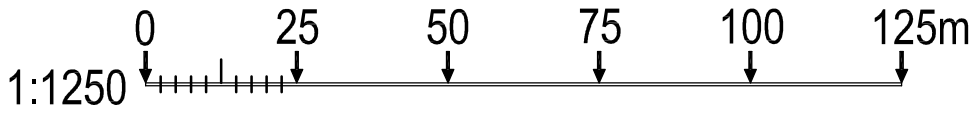
## Plates



Plate 2. View of site



Plate 3. General view of site (yellow area modern sewer)



**GENERAL NOTES**

DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING.

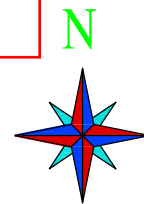
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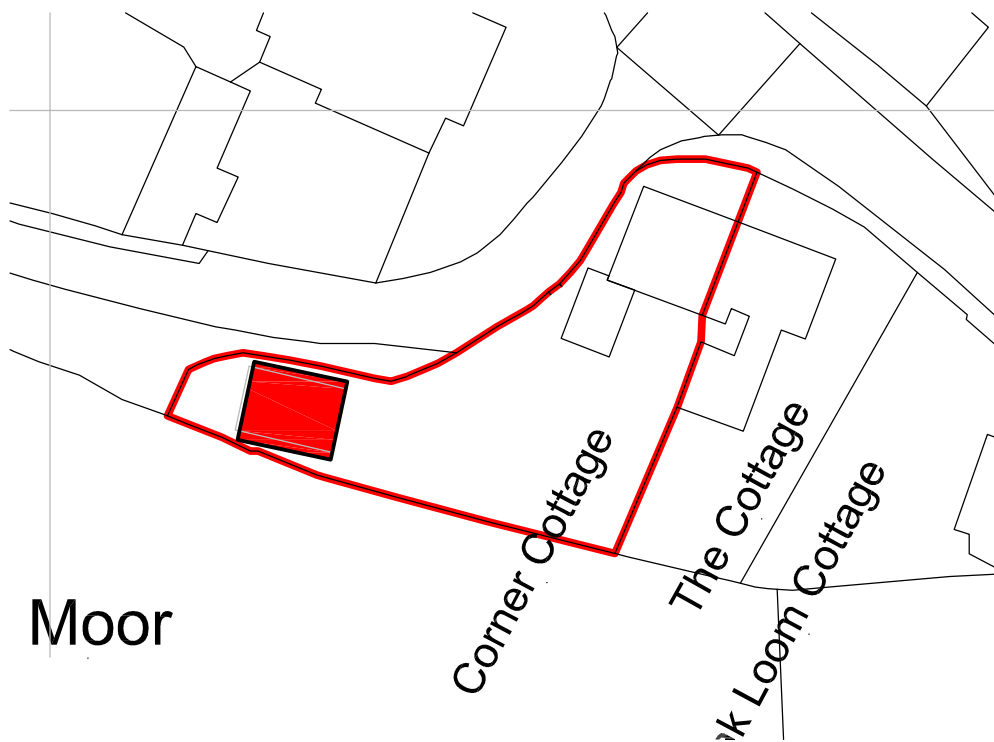
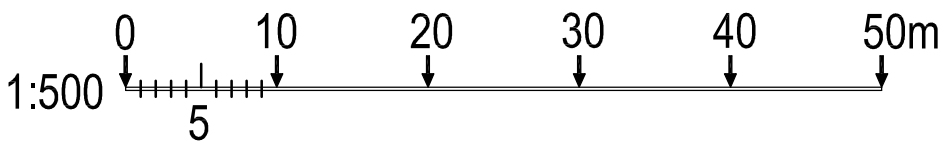
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Area  
watched

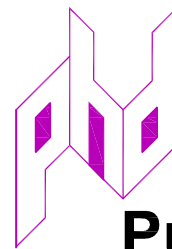


**LOCATION PLAN 1:1250**



**Moor**

**BLOCK PLAN 1:500**



**PumpHouse**  
DESIGNS

**Architectural Consultants**

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F			
E			
D			
C			
B			
A			

**CORNER COTTAGE  
THE MOOR  
WESTFIELD  
for Mr & Mrs S Priest**

LOCATION / BLOCK PLAN - GARAGE

DRAWN BY - MATTHEW GERKEN  
DATE - SEPTEMBER 2014  
SCALE - 1:500 & 1:1250 @ A4

DRAWING No. 3968 / 14 / LBP