

Archaeological Monitoring of Development of Land at Butts Farm, School Lane, Lower Hardres, Canterbury, Kent

Site Code BUT/WB/15



Report for Mr and Mrs McCully
Date of report 23/11/2015

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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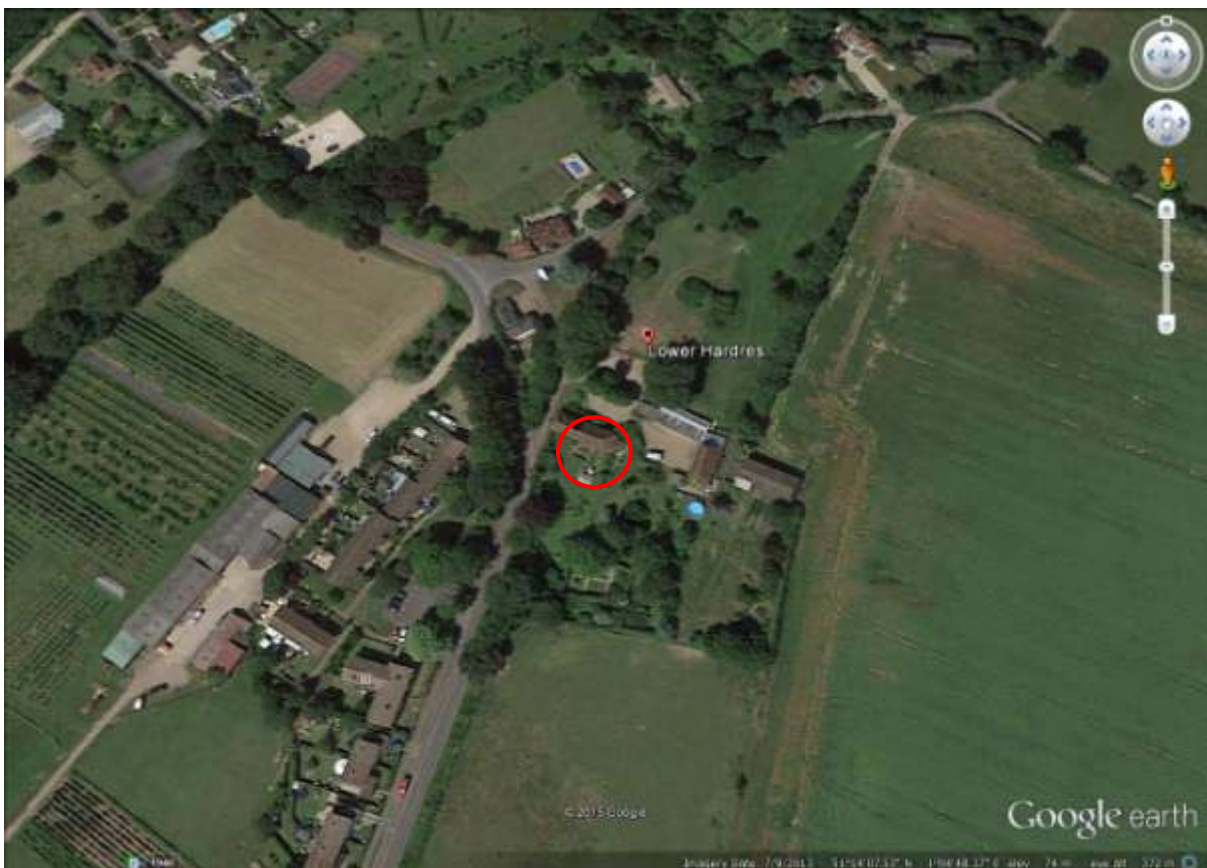


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 07/09/2013: Eye altitude 372m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 19th-23rd October 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 conservatory to the rear of Butts Farmhouse, School Lane, Lower Hardres in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-5).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of foundations (Plate 3). The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Area strip (Plate 3)

Phase 2: Foundation trenches (Plates 4-5)

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 associated medieval farmstead and nearby Roman road.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is CA/15/00876/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council (CCC), the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application CA/15/00876/FUL was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Canterbury City Council (CCC). The Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (3) was attached to the planning consent:

Prior to the commencement of development, the implementation of a scheme for the archaeological monitoring and recording of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of identifying and recording any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same; the following components shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:

- a) *A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*

- b) *A report summarising the results of the investigations to be submitted within 28 days of completion of the archaeological watching brief (unless otherwise agreed), to be produced in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*
- c) *Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations.*
- d) *Where relevant, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

Fieldwork, including further mitigation measures and post excavation works shall be completed in accordance with approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from the 19th to 23rd October 2015.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality.

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the building platform and foundations (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 underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Superficial Deposits of Silt and Gravel (BGS <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/>). The geology revealed on site was sandy silty clay topped by dark brown humic topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area set to the south of the present house. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 74m OD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with the nearby important Roman Stone Street. The Manor of Hardres is listed in Domesday and occupation of the area is known from at least the early medieval period.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by CCC and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: 2014).

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 19th to 23rd October 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 the soil and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-5).

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, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer CCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was the sandy silty clay 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 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 CCC 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 McCully for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

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

References

HER data (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast>)

IfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

CCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

<http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/>

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Butts Farm, School Lane, Lower Hardres, Kent

SWAT Site Code: BUTT/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 conservatory 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: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 615099 152982

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: October 2015

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at Butts Farm, School Lane, Lower Hardres, 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: 23/11/2015

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site



Plate 3. View showing reduction of site

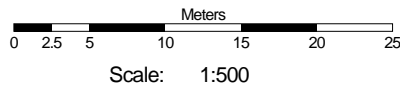
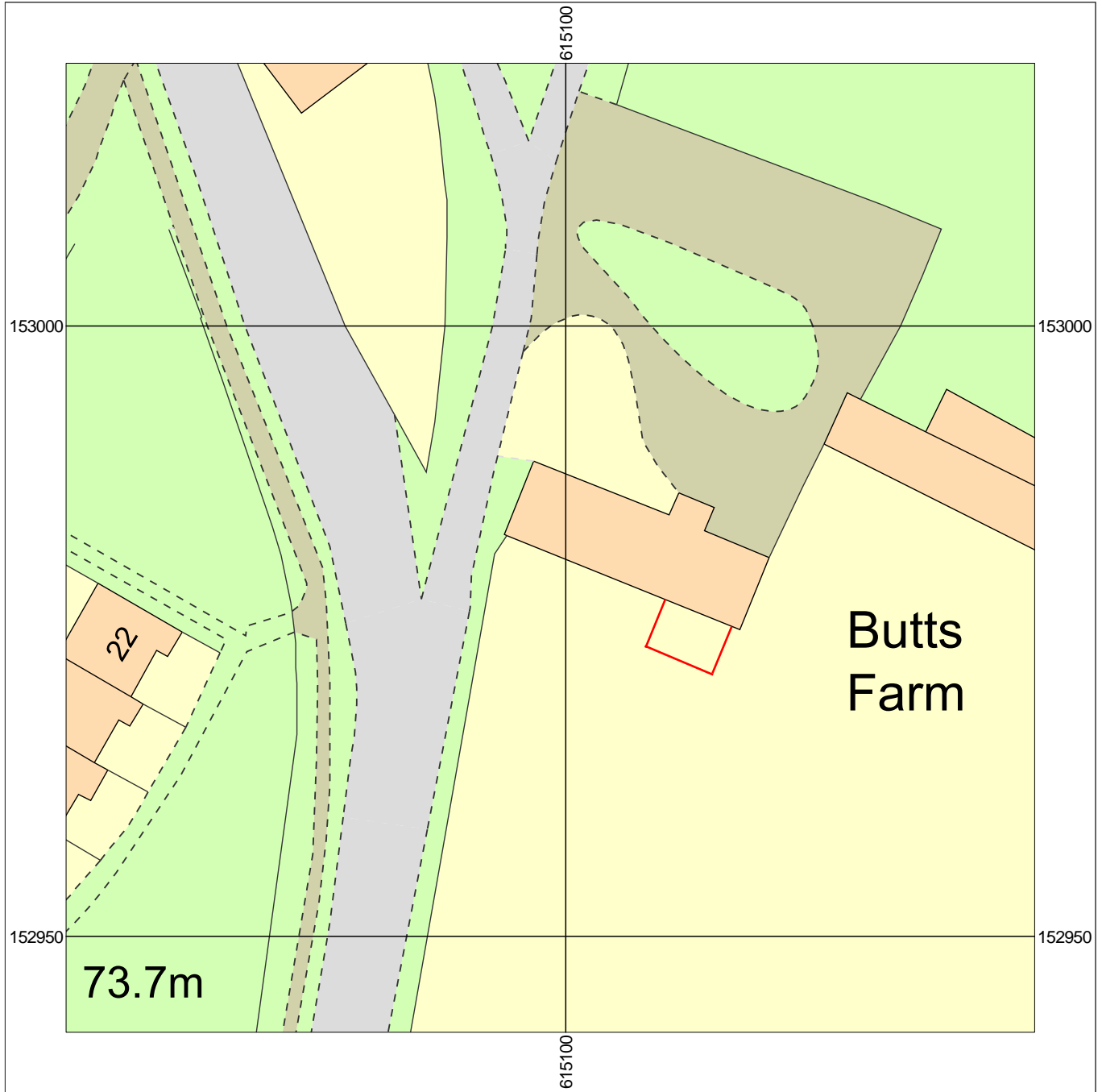


Plate 4. The site showing cutting of foundation trenches



Plate 5. The site showing all foundations cut

Figure 1.



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 Serial number: 1585754

Butts Farm
 Lower Hardees
 Canterbury
 CT4 5NS

Plot centre co-ordinates: 615099,152982
 Download file: swat.zip
 Project name: butts