

Archaeological Monitoring of Land at 10 Norwood Street, Ashford, Kent

Site Code NOR/WB/15



Report for Chris Cole
Date of report 05/10/2015

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Monitoring of Land at 10 Norwood Street, Ashford, Kent

Site Code NOR/WB/14



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

(Google Earth 07/09/2013: Eye altitude 459m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 6th to 8th August 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the demolition of existing buildings and replacement by four town houses with associated car parking at 10 Norwood Street, Ashford in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-6).

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

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

Phase 1: Foundations dug and services trenches 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 market town of Ashford.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 12/00456/AS.

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 12/00456/AS 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:

(10) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been previously submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 4th-8th August 2015.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works””(KCC 2015).

4.2. The ground works were to strip the demolition rubble, and excavate the foundation and service trenches (Plates 2-6).

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 Weald Clay Formation. The geology revealed on site was Alluvium- Clay, Silt and Sand topped by demolition rubble.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of historic urban development in Ashford, Kent. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 50m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important 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 4th to 8th August 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 demolition layer and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-6).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of Dr Paul Wilkinson, 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 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 Alluvium. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved.

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. The archaeologist on site was somewhat disappointed that 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 Chris Cole 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 enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

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

References

HER data (KCC 2015)

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

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at 10 Norwood Street, Ashford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: NOR/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 demolition of existing buildings and the build of four town 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: Ashford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 006009 142628

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: August 2015

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

Geology: Alluvium

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at 10 Norwood Street, Ashford, 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: 05/10/2015

Plates



Plates 2, 3 General view of site with layer of demolition rubble





Plate 4. The site showing cutting of foundation trenches



Plate 5. Foundation trenches completed



Plate 6. Cutting service trenches (facing east)

Figure 1.
Area watched inside
red square



30 15 0 30 m

Scale 1:1250



10 Norwood Street

Supplied by: National Map Centre Kent
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Ashford
TN23 1TQ

Plot centre co-ordinates: 600876, 142622
Download file: Print52611_1574544
Project name: norwood