

Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Green Acres, Beechin Wood Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent

Site Code GREEN/WB/15



Report for Mr C Fosker
Date of report 07/10/2015

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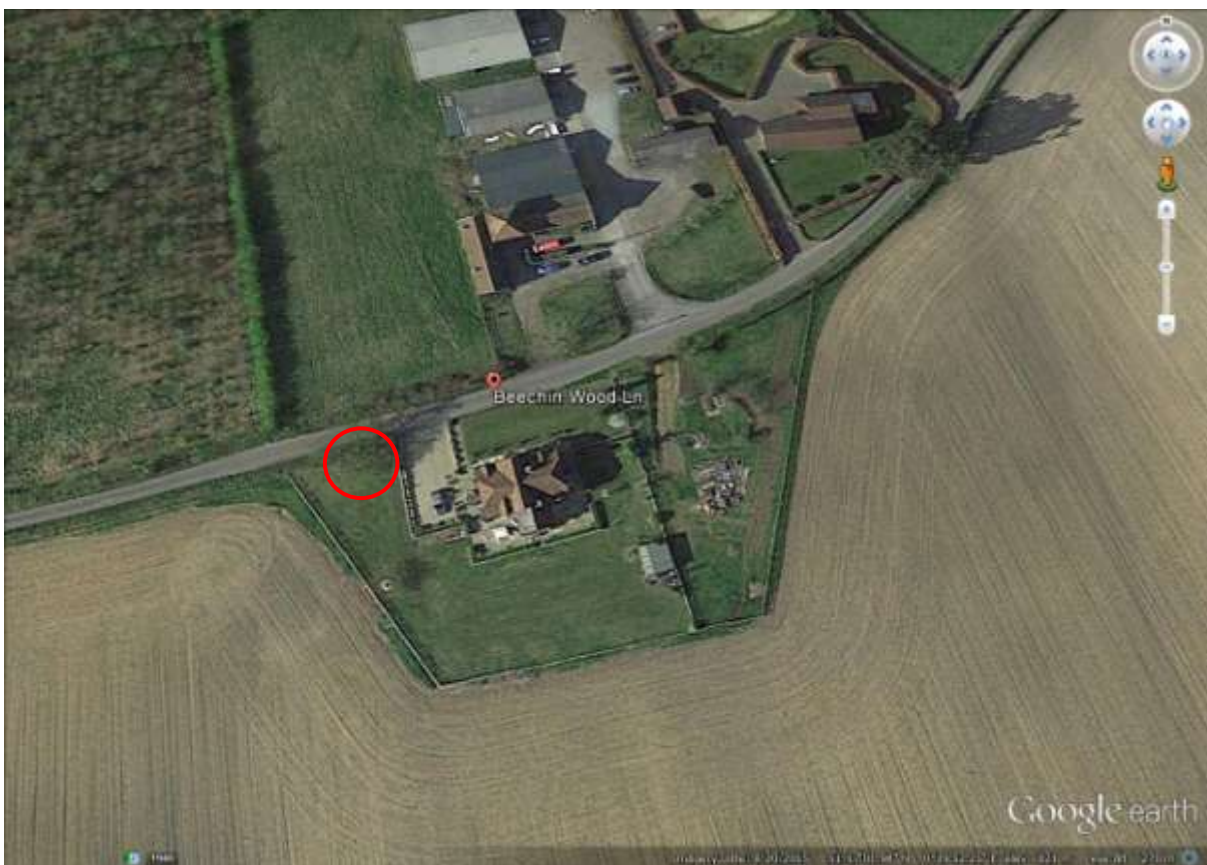


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 20/04/2015: Eye altitude 270m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. On 19th August 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 garage at Green Acres, Beechin Wood Lane, Platt in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-4).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Lambert & Foster.

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: Topsoil strip.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular any evidence of Roman and Medieval archaeology.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is TM/15/00868/FL.

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 TM/15/00868/FL 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:

*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 County 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 submitted to and approved by the County 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 on 19th 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 topsoil to prepare for a concrete base and timber built garage (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 Hythe Formation- Sandstone and Limestone. No geology was revealed on site as it was just a topsoil strip.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to Green Acres residential dwelling. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 120m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important Roman and Medieval activity. In particular the discovery in 1928 of some Roman pottery and Medieval cooking utensils (HER No. TQ 65 NW 10).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Generic 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 the topsoil 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 19th August 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 topsoil (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of Paul Wilkinson an experienced archaeologist from 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 was not revealed across the site. No archaeological features were revealed 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. However, 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 Lambert & Foster 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 (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 Green Acres, Beechin Wood Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent
SWAT Site Code: GREEN/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 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 a site visit which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) TQ 562654 156432

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: August 2015

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

Geology: not known

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at Green Acres, Beechin Wood Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks, 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: 07/10/2015

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site (looking east)



Plate 3. The site showing removal of topsoil (looking west)



Plate 4. Section on east side



30 15 0 30 m
Scale 1:1250

Green Acres

**Beechin Wood Lane
Platt
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN15 8QN**

Figure 1.
**Area watched inside red
rectangle**

Supplied by: National Map Centre Kent
Licence number: 100031961
Produced: 07/10/15
Serial number: 1575624

Plot centre co-ordinates: 562654, 156432
Download file: Print52613_1575624
Project name: SWAT