

Archaeological Investigation and Assessment of Land at Suffolk House, Park Road, Hackbridge, SM6 7ER

Site Code HACK/WB/15



Report for Skillcrown Homes Ltd

Date of report 14/10/2015

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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

(Google Earth 04/06/2015: Eye altitude 170m)

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 4th to 23rd June 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the demolition of the existing industrial building and redevelopment to provide a three storey building comprising twelve 1-bedroom flats together with amenity area, internal cycle/buggy store and recycling /refuse facilities (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-5).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Skillcrown Homes Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging and levelling (Plates 2-5). The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Foundations dug. Any services trenches were to connect to the existing services.

1.4. The Archaeological Monitoring Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the Prehistoric and Roman periods.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is D2014/68796/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by EH GLAAS the Archaeological Monitoring revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application D2014/68796/FUL was submitted to the London Borough of Sutton. EH GLAAS, on behalf of the LPA requested that an Archaeological Assessment and Investigation be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (24) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to 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 2nd to 23rd June 2015.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

“to ensure that there is an opportunity to properly investigate and record information on this site, which is considered to be of archaeological interest.”(D2014/68796/FUL).

4.2. The ground works were to pile 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 geotechnical investigations was made ground to 1.9m and Hackney Gravel from 1.9m to 2,6m and London Clay 2.6m+

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to the north edge of Park Road. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 30m aOD.

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

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 from 2nd June 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 and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of 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 EH GLAAS.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was sandy gravel overlaid by made ground. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the made ground (Plate 3).

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

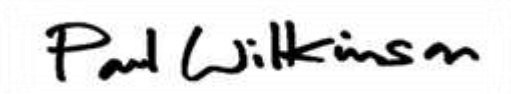
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. But no archaeology was revealed on the site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the SWAT 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 Skillcrown Homes 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), FRSA., MCIfA.

References

Watching Brief specification compiled by Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology
27/04/2015

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RSA Geotechnical Services, 2013: *Report on Subsoil Investigations at 1 Park Road, Hackbridge*

Appendix 1

EH GLAAS HER/OASIS Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Suffolk House, Park Road, Hackbridge SM6 7ER

SWAT Site Code: HACK/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 an existing building and a new build of flats whereby EH GLAAS 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: London Borough of Sutton

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) TQ 2851 6562

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: June 2015

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Hackney Gravels

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Investigation and Assessment of Land at Suffolk House, Park Road, Hackbridge SM6 7ER

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: 14/10/2015

Plates



Plate 2. Close-up of foundation trenches



Plate 3. Close-up of foundation trenches showing made-up ground



Plate 4. Foundation trenches completed



Plate 5. Completed foundation trenches (facing north)

