

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 15 Albion Place, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 615267 158112

Site Code: ALB/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/13/01727/FUL)

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# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 15 Albion Place,**

## **Canterbury, Kent**

NGR: 615267 158112

Site Code: ALB-EV-16

### **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 15 Albion Place, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/13/01727/FUL) for a residential dwelling was submitted to Canterbury City Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Archaeology Specification, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 and CCC Specification Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of one evaluation trench revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trench.*

*The geology on site is listed as Clay and Silt overlaying Thanet Formation of Sand, Silt, and Clay. The soil exposed on site was made-up ground*

### **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Architectural Planning to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development site at Albion Place is located to the west of Military Road and north of the city walls. The urban site with relict garden space is to be utilised as a residential dwelling.

The OD height of the proposed site is about 12m OD, The Ordnance Survey location is 615267 158112 (Figure 1).

### **4. Planning Background**

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/13/01727/FUL) for development of a residential dwelling.

On the advice of the Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

*Condition 3) The extension hereby permitted shall not be commenced until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has submitted details of the proposed foundation and drainage design which shall be designed to ensure the works do not impact on significant archaeological remains and any mitigation measures, including archaeological work, to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains and a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication of any matters of archaeological interest. The foundation design shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and all archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been first submitted to and approved by the local planning authority unless subsequently otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

*REASON: To ensure the works do not impact significantly on the Area of Archeological Importance and therefore comply with section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework; policy BE15 of the Canterbury District Local Plan (adopted 2006) and policy HE12 of the Emerging Canterbury District Local (Draft June 2014) and to ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The site is within the Canterbury Area of Archaeological Importance with the boundary of the Scheduled Monument of St Augustine's Abbey (NHN 1016844) to the east and the Scheduled Monuments of the Cathedral Precincts (NHN 1004195) to the south-west. Little archaeological investigation has taken part in this area of Canterbury but the location outside the walls of the Roman town may have been used as burial plots or suburban development both in the Roman and medieval periods.

## **6. Aims and Objectives.**

The aims set out in the SWAT Specification (2016) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains. The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which

would have been achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains were not to be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

## **7. Methodology**

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of one evaluation trench of 8m length. The trench was located across the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 1).

The mechanical excavation removed the topsoil in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface (whichever is the first to appear during this process). Once this mechanical excavation was complete, all excavation hence forth was completed by hand, including the cleaning of the trench using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool.

Any archaeological features that may have been exposed would subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

Sampling of features would only take place to explicate the sequencing of the stratigraphy and in order to aid the securing of materials that can be dated to aid the later assessment. Any burials that may have been encountered were not to be investigated at this evaluation stage, and full excavation of other archaeological features was not to take place.

Care was taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation did not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there was to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme would be put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.

If required, cultural material would be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening that may have taken place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation. However, as no archaeological features were exposed in the evaluation trench it was not necessary to visit.

## **9. Results**

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trench (Figure 1 and Plates 1-6).

### **Trench 1**

**9.1** The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-6). The trench lay on a SW to NE alignment and measured approximately 8m by 1.80m.

Made-up ground (**104**) was identified across the trench as a mix of clinker, shells and modern pottery at a depth of approximately 1.05m (10.95m OD) below the present ground surface at 12.00m OD at the NE end of the trench. This depth was the extent of the proposed ring beam foundations. The made-up ground was sealed by a layer of modern rubbish which included motorcycle parts, inner tubes and bottles (**103**) 0.70m thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty soil (**102**) overlaid by topsoil (**101**). This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

## **10. Discussion**

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. There are numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity but nothing of interest was exposed in the evaluation trench.

## **11. Finds**

No finds were found.

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trench at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Planning Condition and the Archaeological Specification.

## **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Architectural Planning for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD. FRSA. MCifA.

## 14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (May 2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2016

## PLATES



Plate 1 – Location of Trench 1 (looking SW)



Plate 2 – Trench 1 (looking NE)





Plate 3 – Trench 1 being excavated (looking NE)





Plate 4- Trench 1 being excavated (looking SW)





Plate 5- Trench 1 section (lookinh NE)



Plate 6- Trench 1.Made-up ground (104)

## HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land adjacent to 15 Albion Place, Canterbury, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** ALB/EV/16

**Site Address:** As above

### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the construction of a residential building whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 615267 158112

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** May 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Clay Formation, Silt, Clay

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation at land adjacent to 15 Albion Place, Canterbury, Kent

### **Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

No archaeology found

**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 24/06/2016

OS licence NMC 100039

Figure 1. Trench location

