

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 14 King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent

Site Code KIN/WB/16



Report for Dr and Mrs Shimmins  
Date of report 04/08/2016

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company  
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road  
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP  
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112  
[info@swatarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk) [www.swatarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk)

# Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	4
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	5
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	5
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
7.0 RESULTS.....	7
7.1 GENERAL.....	7
8.0 FINDS.....	7
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	7
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	7
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	7
REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX 1 - KCC HER Summary Form.....	8

Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2015)

Plate 2. General view of site

Plate 3. Foundation trenches

Plate 4. View of trenching

Plate 5. View of trenches

Plate 6. Cutting of foundation trenches

Plate 7. Foundation trenches

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site plan and location

Figure 2. Proposed development

## Conditions of Release

All rights including translation reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from SWAT Archaeology..

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 14 King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent

Site Code KIN/WB/16  
NGR 574113 168117

Date of report: 04/08/2016



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

(Google Earth 9/7/2013: Eye altitude 151m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a rear extension at 14 King Edward Road, Rochester in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-7).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the foundations for the new rear extension (Figure 2).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: The digging of the foundations to about 0.90-1.00m below present ground level of about 20.00m AOD. (Plates 2-7)

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 known archaeological sites in the area including the Anglo-Saxon burials found to the west on St Margaret's Street and Watts Avenue.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is MC/14/1562.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located within the city of Rochester and about 285m south-east of the River Medway, 750m south of Rochester Bridge and 350m west of the A2 the main road from London to Canterbury. The site itself is level at about 20.00m AOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application MC/14/1562 was submitted to Medway Council 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 (7) was attached to the planning consent:

*7) No development shall take place (except as may be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority) until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and time table which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved written specification.*

*Reason: To safeguard the archaeological interest in the site in accordance with Policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

### **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 groundworks (KCC 2016).*

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches of the residential extension (Plates 2-7).

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 website is Bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. No superficial Deposits are recorded.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the south an early medieval cemetery, indicated by a number of burials found in the

Saxonbury House area since 1892. Eleven Anglo-Saxon graves with grave goods were found at this time during excavations for the garden wall of Saxonbury House, Watt's Avenue, Rochester. Nineteen pagan Anglo-Saxon burials were found during excavations opposite St. Margaret's Churchyard in 1895-6. Four further burials were found on Roebuck Road in 1899-190 and three burials found in June 1979 on St. Margaret's Street are also thought to be part of the same cemetery (TQ 76 NW 37). To the west at Churchfields the park is underlain by WW2 tunnels (TQ 76 NW 859). To the east undated pits were found during archaeological work (TQ 76 NW 408).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC (2016) and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 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 according to the needs of the building contractors on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

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 down to formation level (Plates 2-7).

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, (CifA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior 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 deposits of silty clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 7m on the west side. The proposed extension is to be located to the rear of the existing house.

7.3 The subsoil was a silty clay. The foundation trenches were about 1m deep at about 19.00m AOD and some relict earthenware drainage pipes were encountered along with a concrete cess pit (Plate 4). The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

## **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 Dr and Mrs Shimmins for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

.

## **References**

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at 14 King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** KIN/WB/16

**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 extension to an existing house whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief 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:** Medway Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 574113 168117

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** July 2016

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is chalk

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 14 King Edward Road, Rochester, 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:** 04/08/16



Plate 2. General view of site



Plate 3. View of the south side foundations



Plate 4. View of the east side foundations

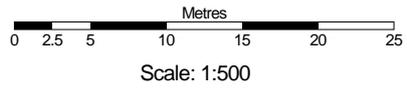


Plate 5. View of the east side foundations



Plate 6. Cutting of the foundation trenches on south side

Figure 1  
Area watched



**14 King Edward Road  
Rochester  
ME1 1UB**

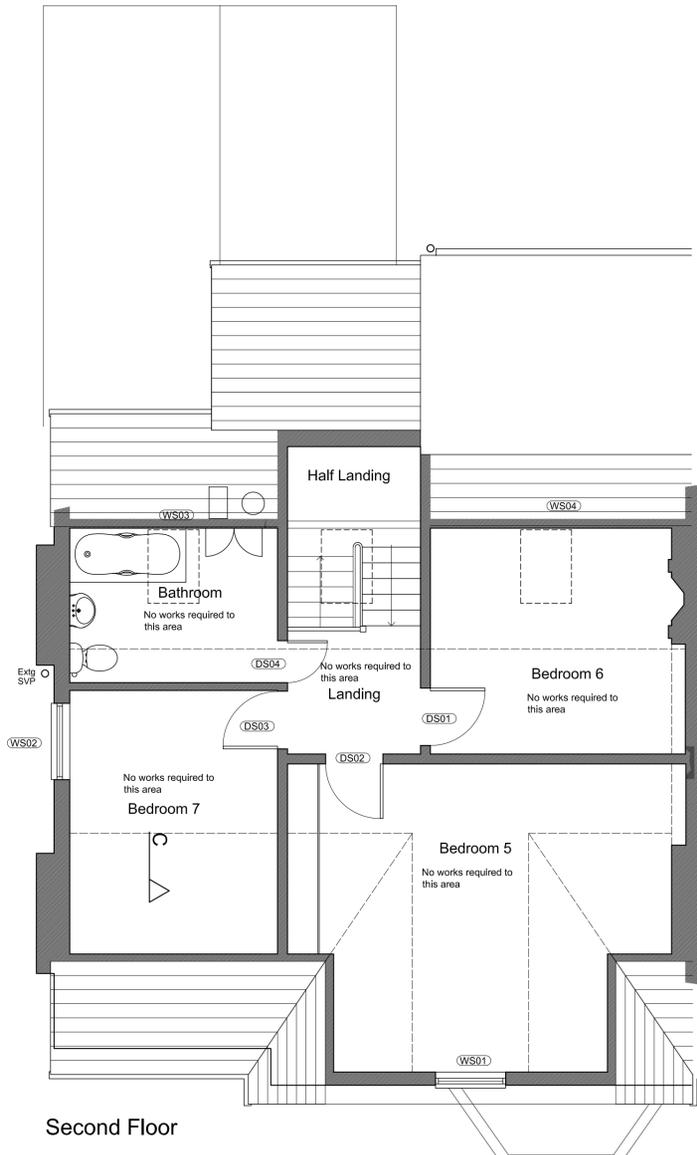
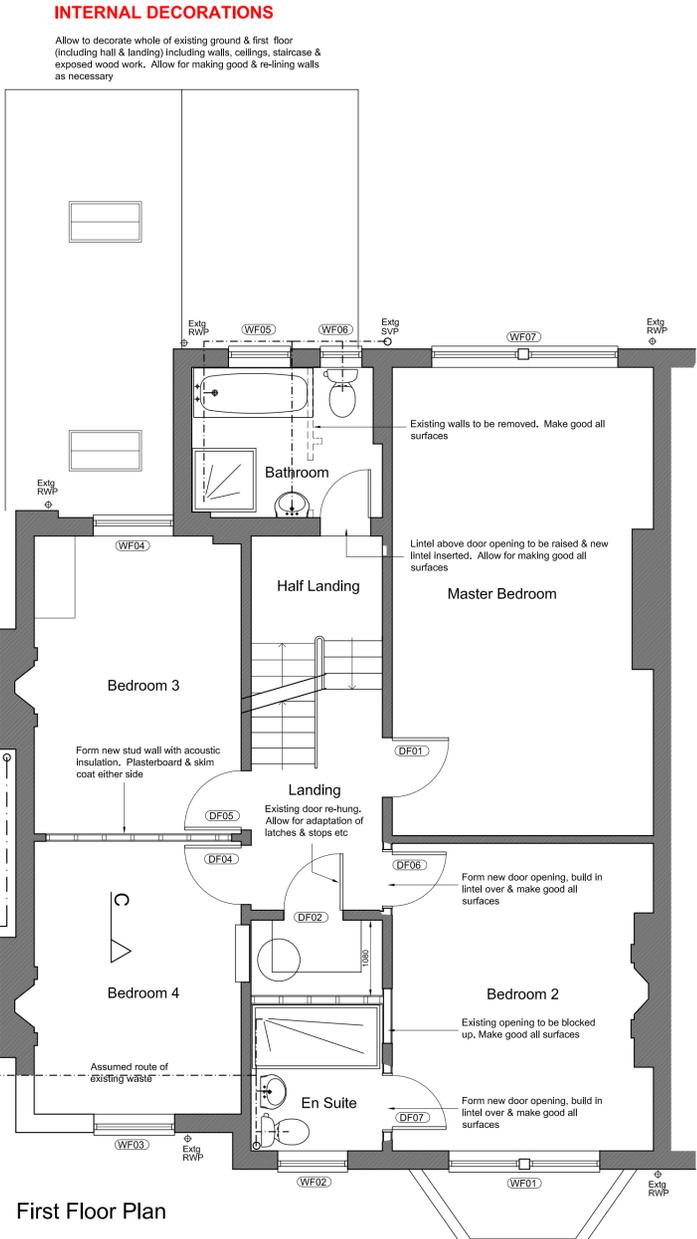
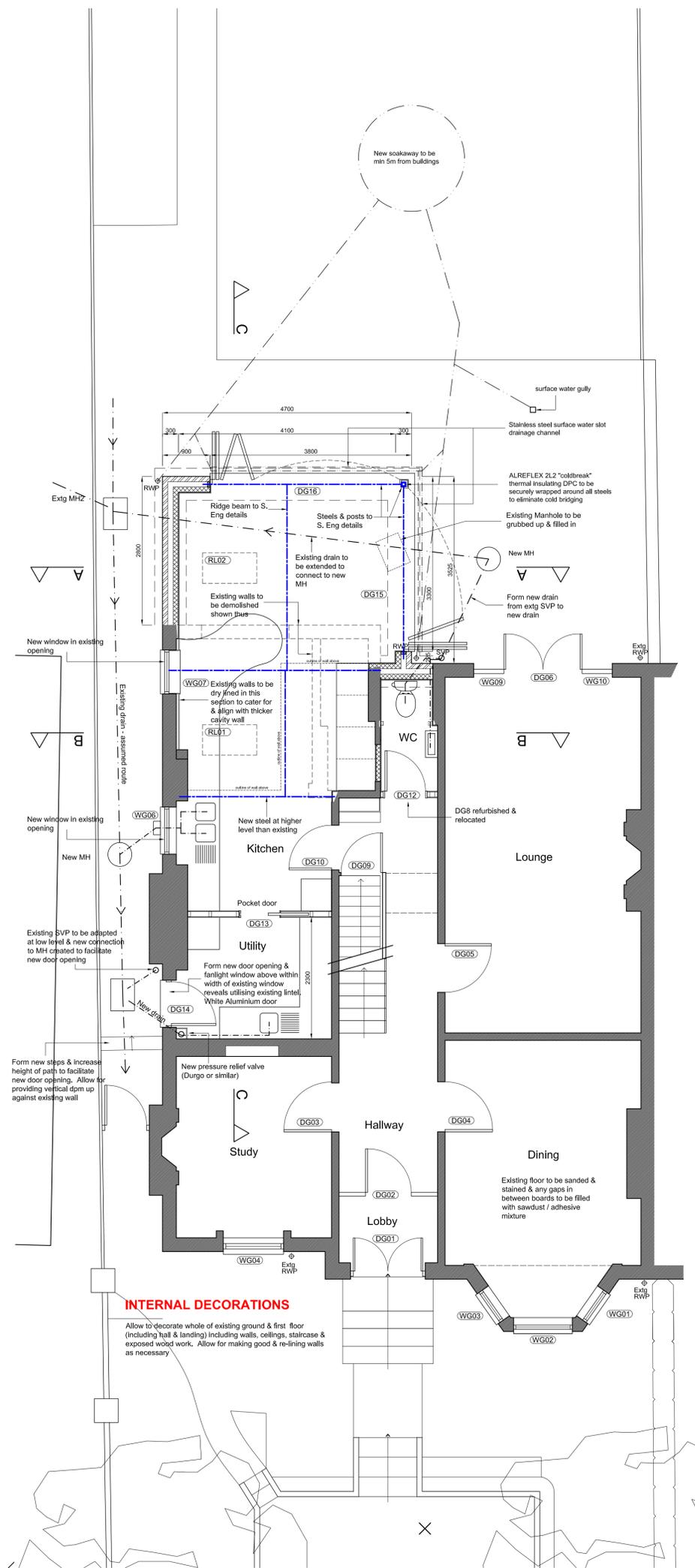
Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 17/02/2017  
Serial number: 1800082

Plot centre co-ordinates: 574111,168107  
Download file: swat\_14kingedward.zip  
Project name: swat\_14kingedward

Produced from the Ordnance Survey National Geographic Database and incorporating survey revisions available at this date. © Crown copyright 2016. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without prior permission of the Ordnance Survey. Ordnance Survey and the OS symbol are trade marks. The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as line is no evidence of a property boundary.

©  
 THIS DRAWING IS THE COPYRIGHT OF ALPHA DESIGN STUDIO LTD  
 MUST NOT BE REPRODUCED IN PART OR WHOLE WITHOUT CONSENT  
 ALL DIMENSIONS MUST BE CHECKED ON SITE / WORKSHOP  
 WHERE APPLICABLE PRIOR TO COMMENCING THE WORKS.  
 THIS DRAWING MUST NOT BE SCALED.  
 THIS DRAWING HAS BEEN PRODUCED FOR THE CLIENT NAMED  
 BELOW FOR THE PROJECT NAMED BELOW & IS SUBMITTED AS  
 PART OF A PLANNING APPLICATION & IS NOT INTENDED FOR  
 USE BY ANY OTHER PERSON OR FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE

0 1 2m  
 1:50 Scale



REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION

TITLE  
**PROPOSED PLANS**

PROJECT  
**ADAPTATIONS 14 KING EDWARD RD ROCHESTER**

CLIENT  
**DR & MRS SHIMMINS**



ALPHA Design Studio Ltd  
 45 PARK ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE, WEST MIDDLESEX  
 E: architect@alpha-ds.co.uk T: 01753 42646