Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea, Kent

NGR: 576190 151300

Site Code: HUB/EV/16

(Planning Application: 16/500014/OUT/MA)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea in Kent. A Planning Application (16/500014/OUT/MA) to develop this site for 11 dwellings and associated landscaping and other works to Maidstone Borough 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 (KCC Specification A and Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of 11 evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 2). The natural geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone was reached at an average depth of between 0.35m and 0.40m below the modern ground surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Esquire Developments Ltd 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 (KCC 2016) and in discussion with the Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 24th August & 2nd September 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is located at the junction of Hubbards Lane and Haste Hill Road, Boughton Monchelsea in Kent. The site is bounded by mature hedging along the northern and western boundaries. To the east the boundary is hedging of varying height. Access is off a gate in Hubbards Lane. The site is generally flat at about 95m OD.

The underlying geology is mapped as Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone and subequal/subordinate Limestone interbedded. The Superficial Geology is not recorded (BGS 2016).

4. Planning Background

Maidstone Borought Council gave planning permission (16/500014/OUT/MA) for development of land off Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea, Kent.
On the advice of the Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

(Condition) *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC Heritage and Maidstone Borough Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The application site lies within an area with little known archaeology. However to the north-east is located the Scheduled Monument of Boughton Camp, a Late Iron Age oppidum (small village) excavated between 1963 and 1967 by the Kent Archaeological Society (TQ 75 SE 4). In addition to the south (of Heath Road) ditches, a hearth and pit dated by Late Iron Age pottery were found (TQ 75 SE 149). To the south east was the site of a Royal Observer Corps Underground Monitoring Post (TQ 75 SE 134) and a Iron Age silver coin found in the field to the east of the site.

6. Aims and Objectives

According the KCC Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

> "The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, historic buildings recording and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications" (KCC 2016: 6).

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of 11 trenches within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 4.5 ton 360◦ tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, SWAT and CIfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the 11 trenches (Figure 2).

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Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 22m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(103)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(102)** 0.14m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(101)** 0.16m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 2

9.2 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on a NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 24m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(203)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(202)** 0.15m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(201)** 0.15m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This

probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 3

9.3 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 3). The trench lay on a NE to SW alignment and measured approximately 22m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(303)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(302)** 0.12m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(301)** 0.18m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 4

9.4 The plan is recorded in Figure 2. The trench lay on a ESE to WNW alignment and measured approximately 21m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(403)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(402)** 0.14m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(401)** 0.16m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 5

9.5 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on a ESE to WNW alignment and measured approximately 23m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(503)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(502)** 0.15m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(501)** 0.15m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 6

9.6 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on a NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 21m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(603)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(602)** 0.18m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(601)** 0.12m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 7

9.7 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 6). The trench lay on a ESE to WNW alignment and measured approximately 11m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(703)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(702)** 0.15m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(701)** 0.15m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 8

9.8 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 7). The trench lay on a ESE to WNW alignment and measured approximately 11m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(803)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(802)** 0.14m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(801)** 0.16m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 9

9.9 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 8). The trench lay on a NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 21m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(903)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(902)** 0.14m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(901)** 0.16m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 10

9.10 The plan is recorded in Figure 2. The trench lay on a ESE to WNW alignment and measured approximately 24m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1003)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(1002)** 0.15m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(1001)** 0.15m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

Trench 11

9.11 The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 9). The trench lay on a NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 9m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(1103)** was identified across the trench as stoney sand, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (94.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 94.80m OD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of light grey to brown subsoil **(1102)** 0.16m thick. Above this was a dark layer of topsoil **(1101)** 0.14m thick, mid to dark brown in colour and containing small stones and humic material, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from pasture use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from any of the 11 trenches.

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been used as pasture or arable. All trenches showed a typical sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural geology.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches 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 Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)** which overlay the natural geology **(103)**. 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, Esquire Developments Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Tim Allen MCIfA and Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

29/09/2016

14. References

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

KCC Heritage (2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea, Kent*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2016

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land off Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea, Kent
SWAT Site Code: HUB/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 residential housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) 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: Maidstone Borough Council
Period(s):
NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 576190 151300
Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation
Date of recording: August/Septembe 2016
Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)
Geology: Underlying geology is Hythe Formation- Sandstone

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Hubbards Lane, Boughton Monchelsea, 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: 29/09/2016

Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

OS Plan Colour

Figure 2: Trench location map, scale 1:1250.

Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east (one-metre scale)

Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north (one-metre scale)

Plate 3. Trench 3 looking south (one-metre scale)

Plate 4. Trench 5 looking west (one-metre scale)

Plate 5. Trench 6 looking south (one-metre scale)

Plate 6. Trench 7 looking south east (one-metre scale)

Plate 7. Trench 8 looking east (one-metre scale)

Plate 8. Trench 9 looking north (one-metre scale)

Plate 9. Trench 11 looking south (one-metre scale)