

Archaeological Monitoring of
Land adjoining 1 Westview Cottages, Lydd
Road, New Romney,
Kent

Site Code ROM/WB/16



Report for Oceanview Developments Ltd
Date of report 24/03/2016

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 www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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

(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 490m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 27th-29th January 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of 15 three-storey houses with associated parking and access road at Lydd Road, New Romney in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Oceanview Developments Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the soil investigation of the site, stabilising the stream banks and the build up of the site with about a metre of Type 2 crushed concrete (Plates 2-8).

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 WW2 and medieval archaeological sites in the area.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Y09/0763/SH.

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

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application Y09/0763/SH was submitted to Shepway District 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 (18) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant(s), or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological work to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The archaeological work shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The site is in an area of high archaeological potential and it is necessary to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Government guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 27th-29th January 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 the 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 stabilize the banks of the stream, undertake soil investigation and to build up the site with about 1 metre of Type 2 crushed concrete (Plates 2-8).

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 Hastings Beds-Sandstone, Siltstone, & Mudstone. The geology revealed on site was Tidal Flats deposits of sand overlaid with topsoil (Plate 3).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to 1 Westview Cottages, Lydd Road. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 4m OD (Plate 1).

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important WW” and medieval activity. To the west is located a WW2 Pillbox (TR 02 SE 137). To the east medieval ditches have been found (TR 02 SE 137) and to the south the site of a Shepherds Hut (TR 02 SE 150).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC 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 investigation 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 27th-29th January 2016

6.4. Excavations were carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a bucket necessary to remove the soil for the site investigations (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavations were 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 with the 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 marshy silty sand overlaid by humic mid brown topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the deposits and no archaeological finds retrieved.

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

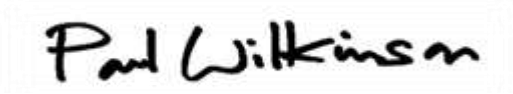
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological Generic 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 Oceanview Developments Ltd 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. It is enclosed within a thin, light-colored rectangular border.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

References

HER data (KCC 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Generic Watching Brief (2015)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land adjoining 1 Westview Cottages, Lydd Road, New Romney, Kent

SWAT Site Code: ROM/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 housing development 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 site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Shepway District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 605922 124809

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: January 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Hastings Beds

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjoining 1 Westview Cottages, Lydd Road, New Romney, 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: 24/03/2016

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site looking north-east



Plate 3. Soil Investigation



Plate 4. The site showing soil investigation



Plate 5. Laying Type 2 hardcore



Plate 6. Laying Type 2 hardcore

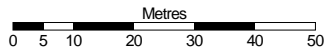
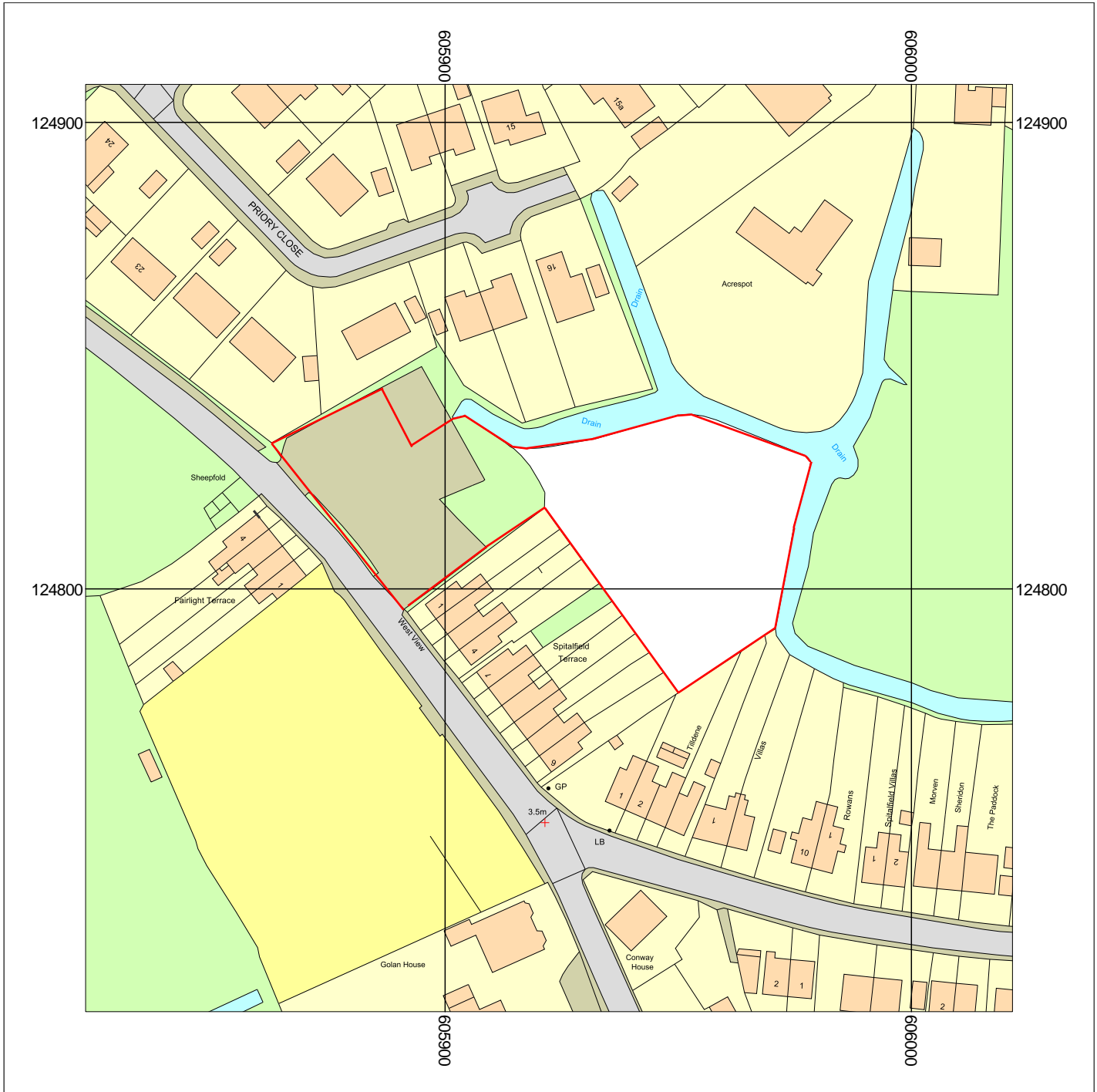


Plate 7. Building up stream bank (looking north-east)



Plate 8. Building up stream bank (looking east)

Figure 1.
Areas watched



Scale: 1:1250

New Romney



Supplied by: National Map Centre
 License number: 100031961
 Produced: 18/03/2016
 Serial number: 1650080

Plot centre co-ordinates: 605922,124809
 Download file: swat.zip
 Project name: new romney