

Archaeological Watching Brief on land
adjacent to The Plough Inn, Dymchurch Road,
New Romney, Kent

Site Code DYM/WB/16



Report for RT Developments
Date of report 04/01/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to The Plough Inn, Dymchurch Road, New Romney, Kent

Site Code DYM/WB/16
NGR 606987 125454

Date of report: 04/01/2017



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 27th, 28th, 29th September and the 3rd and 4th October 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 2 no. semi-detached dwellings on land to the rear of The Plough Inn, New Romney in Kent. (Fig. 2 & Plates 2-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the developer RT Developments.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the foundations for the houses and drainage works (Figure 3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Digging of drain run and connecting to sewer (Plates 00).

Phase 2: The digging of the foundations to about 0.90-1.00m below present ground level of about 4.40m AOD. (Plates 6-8)

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 archaeological sites in the area including the adjacent Plough Inn and the nearby important medieval town of New Romney.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Y16/0071/SH.

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 on land adjacent to The Plough Inn, Dymchurch Road, New Romney in Kent at OS grid reference NGR 606987 125454. The site is located on the west side of Dymchurch Road and to the rear of The Plough Inn. The site itself is level at about 4.37m AOD (Figures 2, 3).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application Y16/0071/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 (17) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief 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 watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with saved policy SD1 of the Shepway District Local Plan Review and the National Planning Policy Framework.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 27th, 28th, 29th September and the 3rd and 4th October 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 dwelling and drainage (Plates 3-8).

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 website (below) is Bedrock geology of Hasting Beds (subgroup)- Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 146 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

The Superficial Deposits are described as Storm Beach Deposits- Gravel formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=ME13%207TS>

However, 50m to the south the Superficial Deposits are described as Tidal Flat Deposits- Clay and Silt which is the geology revealed on site.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the north-east a probable beacon mound c.1570 is known (TR 02 NE 7). To the south at 400m medieval remains were found at Southlands School (TR 02 NE 64). 150m to the west a WW2 road block (TR 02 NE 145). To the south-west at about 400m medieval pits, a kiln and road were found (TR 02 NE 67). To the SSW at 459m probable medieval dump deposits (TR 02 NE 123), and a medieval feature identified in Rolfe Lane (TR 02 NE 144). On the site itself The Plough Inn was known as a coaching inn and there may be remains of outbuildings including stables which could be important.

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 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 from 27th Sept-Oct 4th 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 2-8).

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, (ClfA: 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 mixed with gravel 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 triangular in shape and about 37m on the south side, the proposed house is to be located in the centre of the plot and the foundation trenches watched were surveyed in and shown on Figure 3. Shown in a red line is the route of the Phase 1 drainage and services trench.

7.3 The subsoil was a silty clay mixed with occasional beach pebbles and the site had been stripped of vegetation prior to the archaeological watching brief. The foundation trenches were about 1m deep at about 3.37m AOD and some relict earthenware drainage pipes were encountered (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 Alistair Scott for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MClfA.

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 adjacent to The Plough Inn, Dymchurch Road, New Romney, Kent

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

District/Unitary: Shepway District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 606987 125454

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: Sept/Oct 2016

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Hasting Beds

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to The Plough Inn, Dymchurch 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: 04/01/17



Plate 2. General view of site (looking north-west)



Plate 3. View of the drain being connected (looking north-east)



Plate 4. View of the drainage trench (looking east)



Plate 5. View of the drainage connection to proposed houses (looking north-west)



Plate 6. Cutting of the foundation trenches on north-west side (looking north)



Plate 7. View of south-east trenches (looking north)



Plate 8. View of north trenches (looking west)



Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5000.

OS Plan Colour



Figure 2: Site location map, scale 1:500.

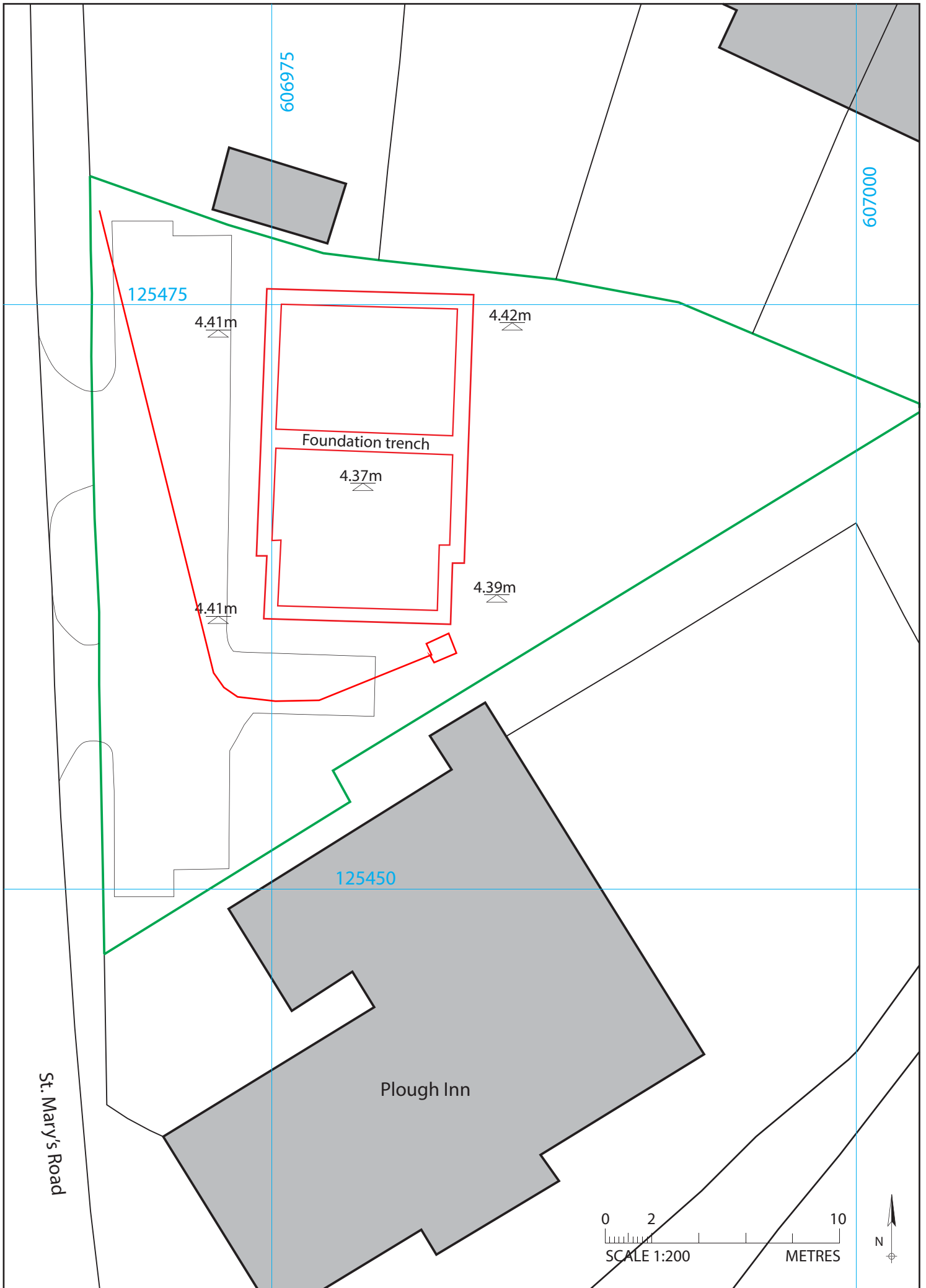


Figure 3: Site plan, scale 1:200.