

Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks at Queen Phillipa Hotel, High Street, Queenborough, Kent

Site Code QUEEN/WB/16



Report for Mr Adam Ervin
Date of report 25/07/2016

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Site Code QUEEN/WB/16
NGR 578988 150228

Date of report: 25/07/2016



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

(Google Earth 20/04/2015: Eye altitude 217m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 8th to 13th June 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of an extension to the existing hotel to form a new B&B at the Queen Phillipa Hotel in the High Street, Queenborough in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-7).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owner Mr Adam Ervin

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the foundations for the new extension (Figures 2-7).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: the digging of the foundation to about 1.00m below present ground level of about 6.5m OD. (Plates 4-7)

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 adjacent former Queenborough Castle (TQ 97 SW1).

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is SW/14/500537/FULL.

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 Planning Background

Planning application SW/14/500537 was submitted to Swale Borough 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 (5) was attached to the planning consent:

The watching brief should be undertaken during the excavation of foundation and service trenches and any other below ground excavations. The archaeologist should attend throughout the excavation of such works. The archaeological contractor should complete record sheets for all areas of trenching observed noting ground conditions, soil deposits and archaeology and support these with a diary of site visits, observations and as minimum digital photographs of each area observed.

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

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Tim Allen SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 8th and 13th June 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 knowledge of the development of the town of Queenborough; to record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be 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 proposed B&B extension (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 London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt.

The geology revealed on site was grey sandy silt overlaid by 28-30cm of hardcore and tarmac. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 6.5m OD.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the north-east the HER highlights field systems dating from the 9th-18th centuries (TQ 97 SW 87). To the south industrial archaeology is noted with the site of Halls Tar Works (TQ 97 SW 47) and the Queenborough Works (TQ 97 SW 52). Adjacent to the Queen Phillipa Hotel are Grade II Listed buildings including 167 High Street (TQ 97 SW 1167) and 161, 163 High Street (TQ 97 SW 1141).

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 in one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 8th-13th June 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed and toothless bucket necessary to remove the soil down to formation level (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Tim Allen 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 Principal Archaeological Officer KCC. The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of the foundation trenches. The archaeologist attended throughout the excavation of such works. The archaeologist completed record sheets for all areas of trenching observed noting ground conditions, soil deposits and noted these with a diary of site visits, observations and digital photographs of each area observed.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of sandy silt overlaid by hardcore and tarmac. No archaeological

features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the excavations which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

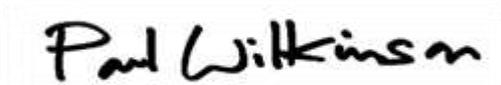
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

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 Mr Adam Ervin for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken Tim Allen 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.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., 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: Queen Phillipa Hotel, High Street, Queenborough, Kent

SWAT Site Code: QUEEN/WB/16

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Watching Brief on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new B&B extension 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 Watching Brief consisted of site visits and attendance which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 591127 172175

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: June 2016

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is London Clay Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief at Queen Phillipa Hotel, Queenborough, Kent

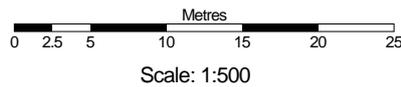
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 25/07/2016



Queen Phillipa Hotel
High Street
Queenborough
ME11 5AQ

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 22/07/2016
Serial number: 1710316

Plot centre co-ordinates: 591133,172173
Download file: swat2207.3.zip
Project name: phillipa2



Plate 2. Depth of foundation trench



Plate 3. Trenching on the west side



Plate 4. View of site (looking south-west)



Plate 5. Depth of foundation trench



Plate 6. Depth of foundation trench



Plate 7. Depth of foundation trench



Plate 8. Foundation trench