

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 1 Vulcan Close, Whitstable, Kent



NGR: 610462 165474

Site Code: VULK/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/15/02600/FUL)

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NGR: 610462 165474

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 15 Albion Place, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/15/02600/FUL) for 5 residential dwelling was submitted to Canterbury City 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 (SWAT Archaeology Specification, 14/09/2016 and CCC Specification Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of 5 evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches.

The geology on site is listed as London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt. The soil exposed on site was made-up ground over clay.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Jenner (Contractors) 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 (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 11th November 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site at Vulcan Close is a pair of residential buildings which are to be demolished and replaced by 5 residential units. The site faces the large depot of the Kent Fire and Rescue. To the west is Joy Lane Primary School and beyond at 600m the foreshore of the Thames Estuary.

The OD height of the proposed site is about 14.20m AOD dropping down slope to the north to about 13.84m AOD, The Ordnance Survey location is 610462 165474 (Figure 1).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/15/02600/FUL) for development of 5 residential dwelling.

On the advice of the Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

Condition 7) Prior to the commencement of development, the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:

a) A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

b) A report summarising the results of the investigations, to be produced on the completion of fieldwork, in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.

c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

d) If necessary, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.

Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.

REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The site is raised slightly above the surrounding farmland that historically was marsh. Historic OS mapping indicate that the development site was a farm in the 19th century and this is reflected in the KCCHER record where Borstall hall Farm was located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development (MKE 86 125). There are also two large detached buildings on the site which may have impacted on any archaeological remains.

6. Aims and Objectives.

The aims set out in the SWAT Specification (2016) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains. The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which would have been achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains were not to be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of 5 evaluation trenches of 20m length. The trenches were located across the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 1).

The mechanical excavation removed the topsoil in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface (whichever is the first to appear during this process). Once this mechanical excavation was complete, all excavation hence forth was completed by hand, including the cleaning of the trench using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool.

Any archaeological features that may have been exposed would subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

Sampling of features would only take place to explicate the sequencing of the stratigraphy and in order to aid the securing of materials that can be dated to aid the later assessment. Any burials that

may have been encountered were not to be investigated at this evaluation stage, and full excavation of other archaeological features was not to take place.

Care was taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation did not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there was to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme would be put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.

If required, cultural material would be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening that may have taken place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation. However, as no archaeological features were exposed in the evaluation trench it was not necessary to visit.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trenches (Figure 1 and Plates 1-8).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 3-4). The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.

The natural **(104)** was identified across the trench as grey black silty clay at a depth of approximately 0.65m (13.55m AOD) below the present ground surface at 14.20m AOD at the E end of the trench. The natural was sealed by a layer of modern rubble **(103)** 0.35m thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty soil **(102)** overlaid by 0.15m of topsoil **(101)**. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 2

9.2 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.

The natural **(204)** was identified across the trench as grey black silty clay at a depth of approximately 0.65m (13.55m AOD) below the present ground surface at 14.20m AOD at the E end of the trench. The natural was sealed by a layer of modern rubble **(203)** 0.35m thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty soil **(202)** overlaid by 0.15m of topsoil **(201)**. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 3

9.3 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 6). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.

The natural **(304)** was identified across the trench as grey black silty clay at a depth of approximately 0.65m (13.75m AOD) below the present ground surface at 14.00m AOD at the S end of the trench. The natural was sealed by a layer of modern rubble **(303)** 0.35m thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty soil **(302)** overlaid by 0.15m of topsoil **(301)**. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 4

9.4 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 7). The trench lay on an N to S alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.

The natural **(404)** was identified across the trench as grey black silty clay at a depth of approximately 0.65m (13.75m AOD) below the present ground surface at 14.00m AOD at the E end of the trench. The natural was sealed by a layer of modern rubble **(403)** 0.35m thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty soil **(402)** overlaid by 0.15m of topsoil **(401)**. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Trench 5

9.5 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 8). The trench lay on a W to E alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.

The natural **(504)** was identified across the trench as grey black silty clay at a depth of approximately 0.65m (13.55m AOD) below the present ground surface at 14.20m AOD at the E end of the trench. The natural was sealed by a layer of modern rubble **(503)** 0.35m thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty soil **(502)** overlaid by 0.15m of

topsoil **(501)**. This probably represents a modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

10. Discussion

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. There are numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity but nothing of interest was exposed in the evaluation trenches.

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 Archaeological Specification. 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, Jenner (Contractors) Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA.

14. References

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

SWAT Archaeology (May 2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2016

PLATES



Plate 1 – View of Site (looking North)



Plate 2 – View of site (looking SE)



Plate 3 – View of Trench 1 (looking E)



Plate 4 – View of Trench 1 (looking W)



Plate 5 – View of Trench 2 (looking W)



Plate 6 – View of Trench 3 (looking N)



Plate 7 – View of Trench 4 (looking N)



Plate 8 – View of Trench 5 (looking W)

HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at 1 Vulcan Close, Whitstable, Kent

SWAT Site Code: VULK/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 the construction of residential buildings whereby Canterbury City Council 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: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 610462 165474

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: November 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Clay Formation, Silt, Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation of land at 1 Vulcan Close, Whitstable, Kent

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

No archaeology found

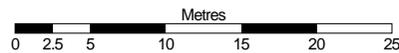
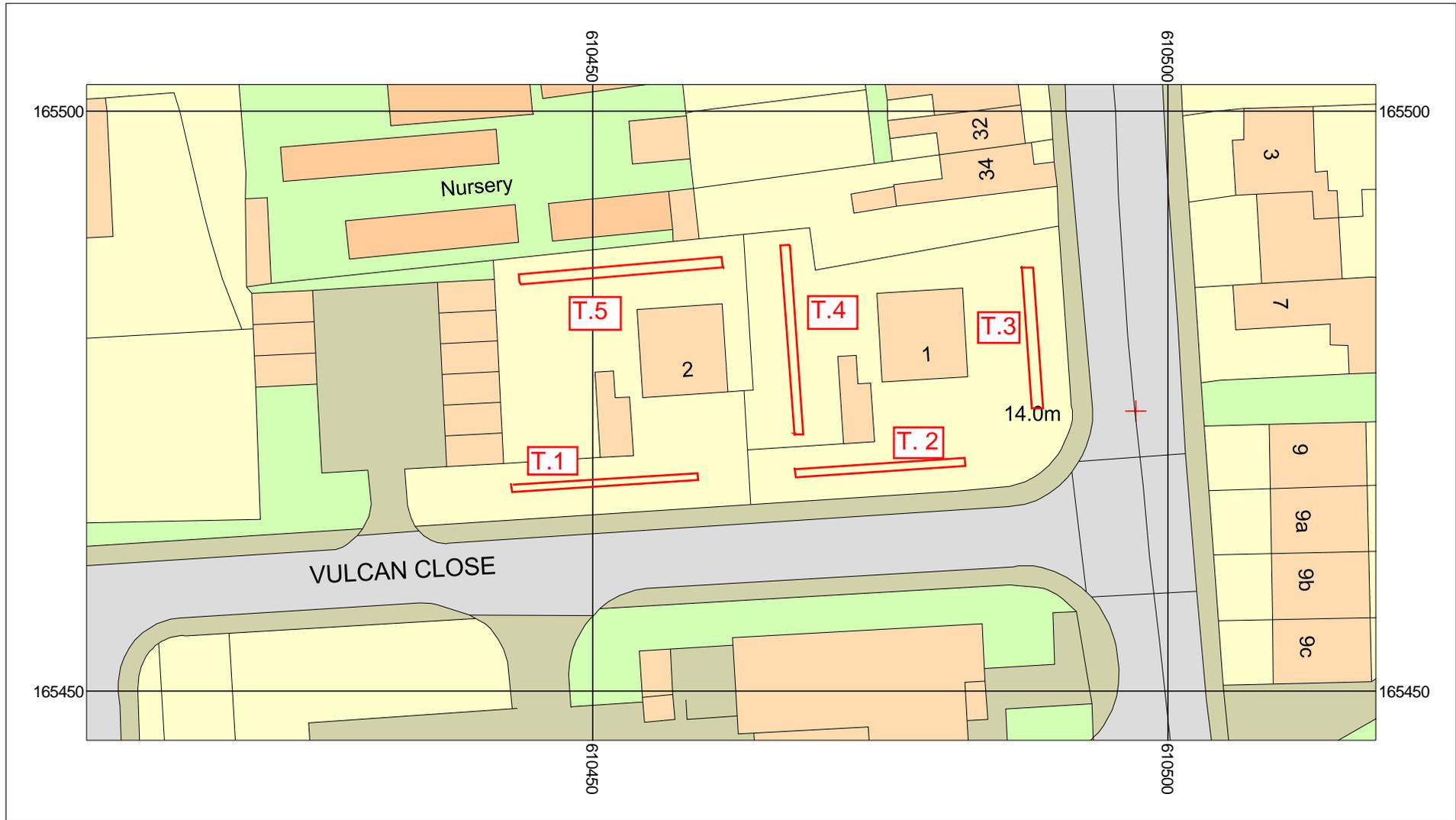
Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. School Farm Oast, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 14/012/2016

OS licence NMC 100039

Figure 1



Scale: 1:500

Vulcan Close
Whitstable



Supplied By: National Map Centre
Licence number: 100031961
Produced: 14/09/2016
Serial number: 1734287

Plot centre co-ordinates: 610462.165474
Download file: swat.zip
Project name: vulcan