

Archaeological Watching Brief at The Retreat, Old Roman Road, Martin Mill, Dover, Kent

Site Code ORR/WB/16



Report for RT Developments
Date of report 04/11/2016

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Watching Brief at The Retreat, Old Roman Road, Martin Mill, Dover, Kent

Site Code ORR/WB/16
NGR 634164 146333

Date of report: 04/11/2016



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

(Google Earth 9/7/2013: Eye altitude 207m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 20th July 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 1 detached dwellings on land at The Retreat, Old Roman Road, Martin Mill, Dover in Kent. (Fig. 2 & Plates 1-6).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the foundations for the house (Figure 1).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: The digging of the foundations to about 0.90-1.00m below present ground level of about 68.00m AOD. (Plates 2-6)

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 postulated Roman road.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is DOV/16/00328.

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 to the south-east of Martin Mill, Dover in Kent at OS grid reference NGR 634164 146333. The site is located on the west side of the Old Roman Road. The site itself is level at about 68.00m AOD (Figures 1, 2).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application DOV/16/00328 was submitted to Dover 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 (11) 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. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be deaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 20th July 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, drainage was already in situ from the previous residential building now demolished (Plates 2-6).

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 is Bedrock geology of Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. Just south of the proposed development site (PDA) were found Roman pottery (TR 34 NW 5). To the south-east a cropmark (TR 34 NW 169), and more cropmarks to the west (TR 34 NW 168). It is thought the Roman road borders the south edge of the PDA.

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 on 20th July 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the chalk down to formation level (Plates 2-6).

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, (CIfA: 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 chalk 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 rectangular in shape and about 62m on the south side, and the frontage about 18m. The area watched was the footprint of the new house which sat more or less on the footprint of the previous demolished dwelling. The area watched was about 12m by 10m (120 sq m).

7.3 The topsoil was a sandy silty humic soil sitting on top of the chalk. Foundation trenches were about 1m deep at about 67m AOD. 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 Keith Owen and Julie Hinkins for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson 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: Development of land at The Retreat, Old Roman Road, Martin Mill, Dover, Kent

SWAT Site Code: ORR/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 house 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 attendance which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 634164 146333

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: July 2016

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Seaford Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Retreat, Old Roman Road, Martin Mill, Dover, 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: 04/11/16



Plate 2. General view of the site (looking south)



Plate 3. Cutting the first foundation trench (looking north)



Plate 4. north foundation trenches



Plate 5. west foundation trenches



Plate 6. East foundation trenches

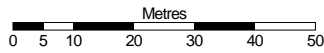
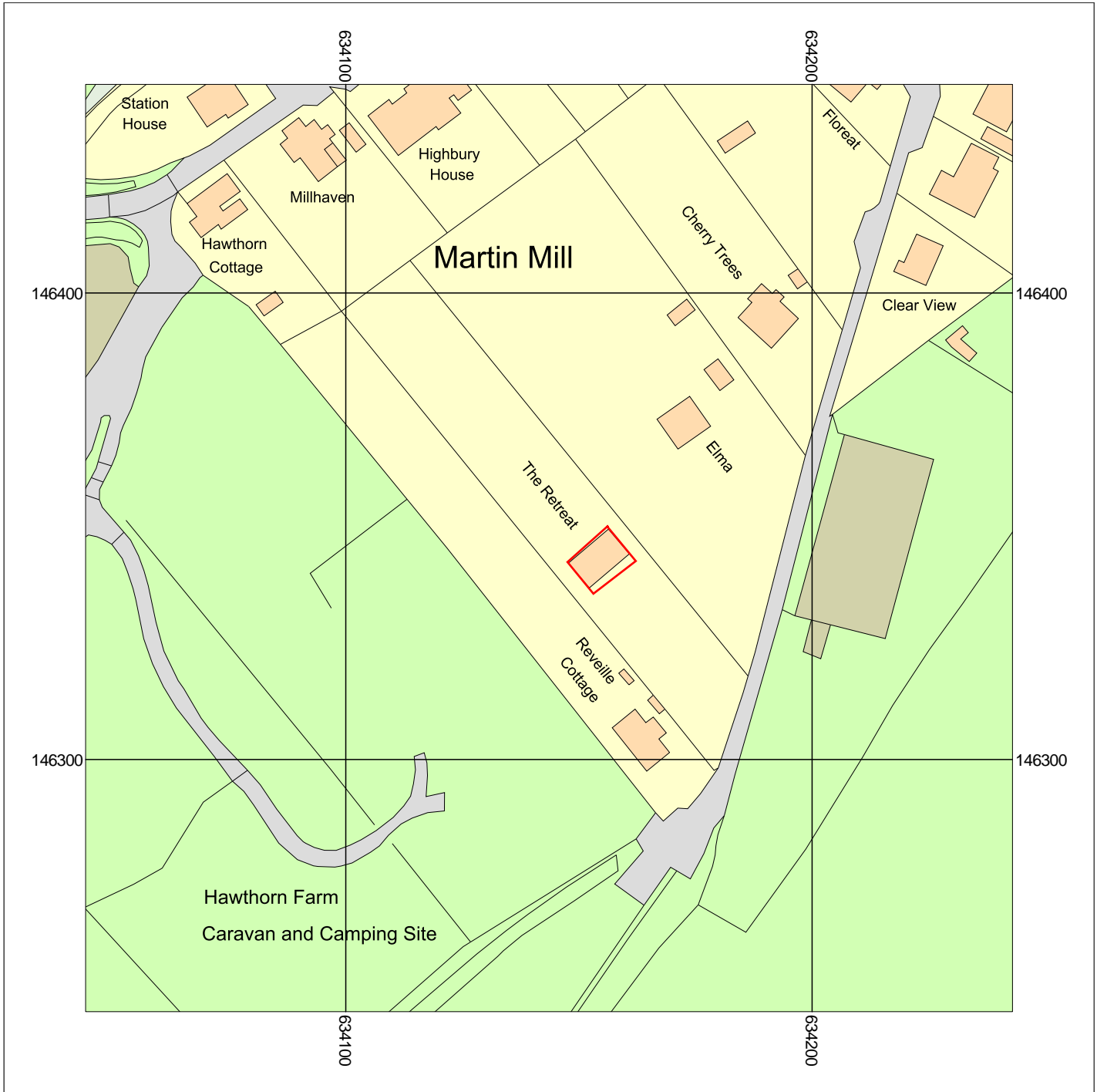


Plate 7. West foundation trenches



Plate 8. South foundation trenches

Figure 1.
Location of site
and area watched



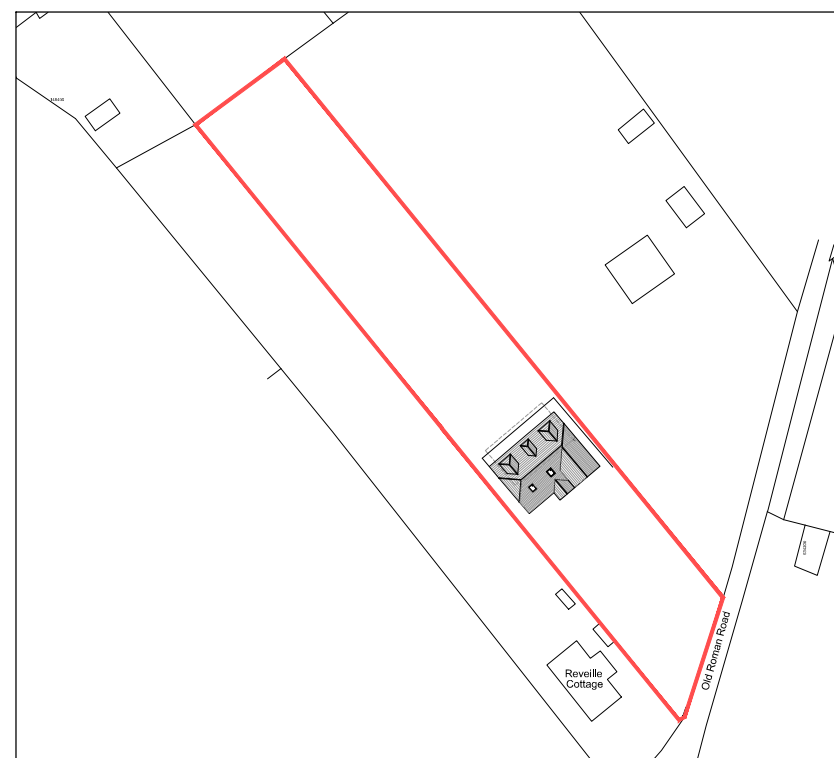
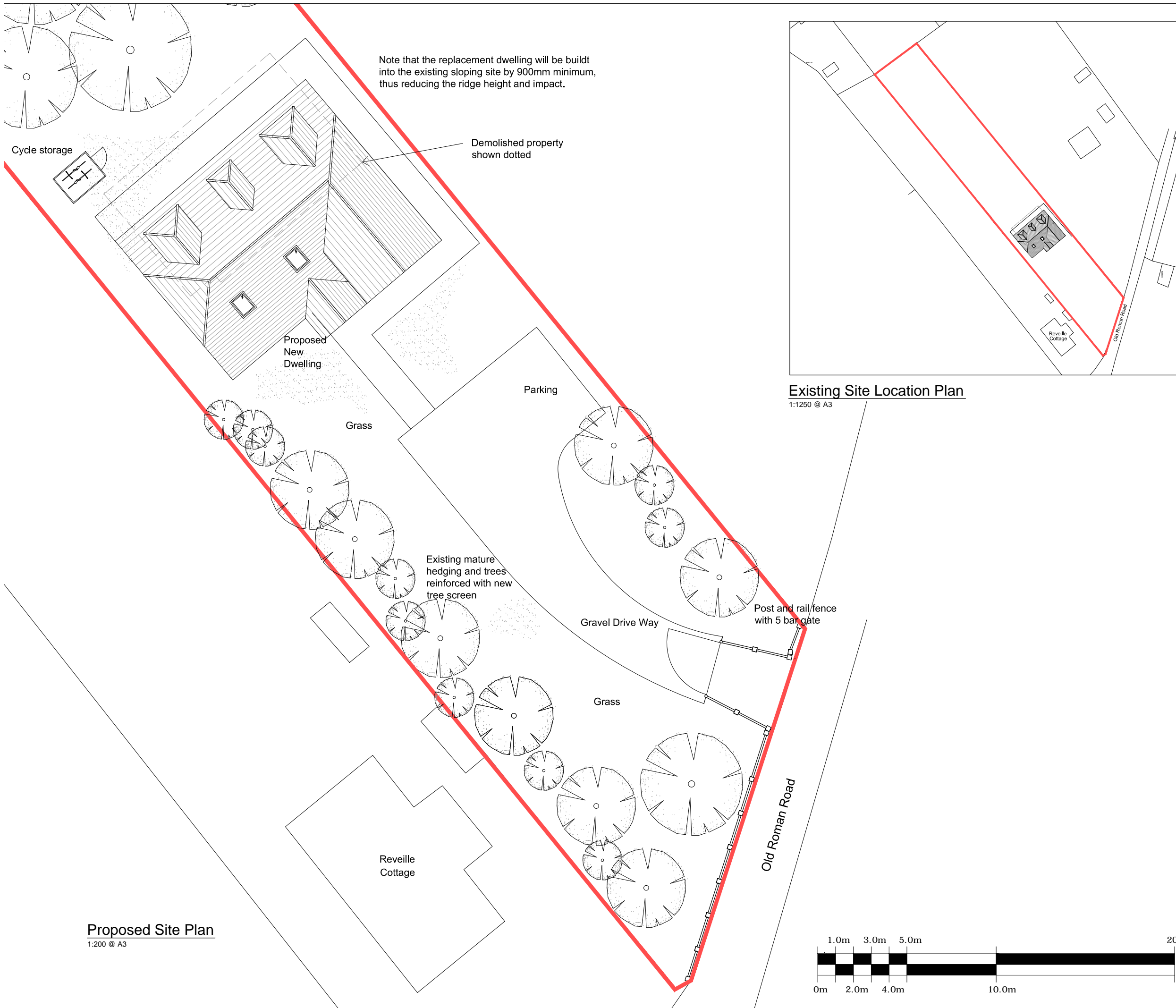
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The Retreat
Old Roman Road
Martin Mill
Dover
CT15 5JY



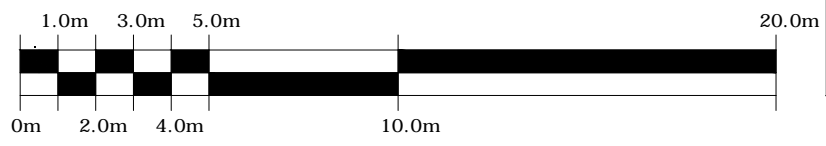
Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 20/01/2017
Serial number: 1786936

Plot centre co-ordinates: 634144,146345
Download file: retreat.zip
Project name: roman



Existing Site Location Plan
1:1250 @ A3

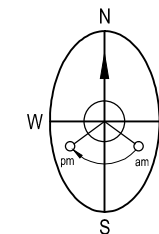
Proposed Site Plan
1:200 @ A3



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A	18.03.16	Planning Submission
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Rev.	Date.	Description.
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Wyseplan Building, Occupation Road,
Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EN
01233 812148
www.osgarchitecture.com



Project Title. Julie Hinkins Old Roman Road Martin Mill Dover CT15 5JY

Drawing Description. Proposed Site Plan & Location Plan

Scale. 1:200/1250 @ A3	Date. March '16
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Drawn By. BG	Checked By. SG
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Purpose. PLANNING

Drawing No. 15/0343-03	Revision. A
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