

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 11a High Street, Eastchurch, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code EAST/WB/16



Report for Malro Homes Ltd
Date of report 12/01/2017

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 11a High Street, Eastchurch, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code EAST/WB/16
NGR 599135 171436

Date of report: 12/01/2017



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

(Google Earth 9/7/2013: Eye altitude 234m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 19th-20th 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 three terraced dwellings on land at 11a High Street, Eastchurch, Sheppey in Kent. (Fig. 2 & Plates 2-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the developer Malro Homes Ltd.

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

The archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 2: Watching the digging of the foundations to about 0.90-1.00m below present ground level of about 45.40m AOD. (Plates 3-8)

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 nearby Shurland House (TQ 97 SE 7) and the nearby important listed buildings of 22 and 24 High Street dating from 1700AD to 1732AD (TQ 97 SE 1061).

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 15/501523/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 The site is located on land to the north of the High Street, Eastchurch. The site itself is level at about 45.40m AOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 15/501523/FULL 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 (4) was attached to the planning consent:

Prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure 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 recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded, to ensure that such matters are dealt with before work is commenced.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA. SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 19th-20th 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 dwellings (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 mapping is Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation- Clay & Silt. The Superficial Deposits are not recorded.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. 200m to the east there are the extensive grounds and great house of Shurland House, an early 16th century building with associated remains (TQ 97 SE 7). To the south and about

20m away are the listed buildings of 22 and 24 High Street dating from 1700 to 1732 (TQ 97 SE 1061). There are no more reports of archaeological activity in the vicinity of the proposed development area (PDA).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and KCC Manual 'B' 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 19th-20th October 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 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, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Principal 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 sandy silty clay. 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 7m on the south side, the proposed terraced houses are to be located in the centre of the plot and the foundation trench area watched were surveyed in and shown on Figure 1. Drainage and services were in situ from the previous house.

7.3 The topsoil was about 25cm thick a grey brown humic mix overlaying the 20cm layer of grey blue black subsoil which overlaid the natural soil of London Clay Formation of orange brown sandy clay. The previous building had been demolished and the site had been stripped of vegetation prior to the archaeological watching brief. The foundation trenches were about 1m deep at about 44.40m 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 SWAT and 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 Malro Homes Ltd for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

References

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CifA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Generic Watching Brief Specifications (2016)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at 11a High Street, Eastchurch, Sheppey, Kent

SWAT Site Code: EAST/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: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 599135 171436

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: Oct 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. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 11a High Street, Eastchurch, Sheppey, 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: 12/01/17



Plate 2. General view of site (looking south)



Plate 3. View of the foundation trenches (looking east)



Plate 4. View of the drainage trench (looking north-east) and Plate 5 (below) looking west.





Plate 6. View of the foundation trenches on the north side



Plate 7. Cutting of the foundation trenches on the south side



Plate 8. View of foundation trenches on the east side