

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Blossoms, Stickfast Lane, Bobbing, Kent

Site Code STIC/WB/17



Report for Mr D. Philips
Date of report 04/04/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Blossoms, Stickfast Lane, Bobbing, Kent

Site Code STIC/WB/17
NGR 589223 165760

Date of report: 04/04/2017



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 217m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. From the 15th Feb to 6th March 2017 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 a single storey building at land adjacent to Blossoms, Stickfast Lane, Bobbing in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-7).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the site reduction (Plates 3-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Ground reduction to create an entrance way and removal of the concrete slab of the former building on the site (15th Feb & Plates 3-6).

Phase 2: The digging out of the footprint of the new building to about 0.40-0.60m below present ground level of about 29.50m aOD. The building foundations were to be piled once the overburden had been removed (16, 17 18th Feb. 6th March & Plates 3-6).

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 nearby findings of Prehistoric remains at the Bobbing Crematorium site.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is SW/15/509675.

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 west of the detached house 'Blossoms' and situated just off the A 249 Sittingbourne to Sheppey road. The village of Iwade is to the north and the hamlet of Bobbing to the south. The site itself is level at about 29.50m aOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application SW/15/509675 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 (14) 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.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 15th February to 16th March 2017.

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 archaeological landscapes of Bobbing area; to record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks” (KCC 2017).

4.2. The ground works were to reduce the level for access, to reduce the level of the footprint of the new build (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 subsoil investigations by R. Carr Geotechnical Services was overburden of about 0.3m to 0.4 of topsoil, gravel, brick fragments over London Clay.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. In response to the planning application for the new dwelling the county archaeologist advised that the site lies near to the previous findings of prehistoric remains at the Bobbing

Crematorium site where Late Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches and gullies were found (TQ 86 NE 135). In addition work in advance of the construction of the crematorium found post-medieval activity including sheep burials (TQ 86 NE 137).

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 2017).

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 15th Feb-6th March 2017.

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 2-6).

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: 2017), 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 clay overlaid by topsoil mixed with demolition material. No

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

7.2 The proposed extension is to be located to the west and of the main house. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 40cm-60cm deep at about 29.50m 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 D. Philips for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2017)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2017)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at the Blossoms, Stickfast Lane, Bobbing, Kent

SWAT Site Code: STIC/WB/17

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 detached 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 visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 589223 16560

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: Feb/March 2017

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is London Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Blossoms, Stickfast Lane, Bobbing, 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: 04/04/17



Plate 2. General view of site (looking NE)



Plate 3. View of ground reduction at entrance (looking NW)



Plate 4. View of ground reduction of site (looking NE)

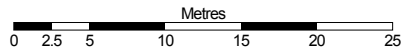
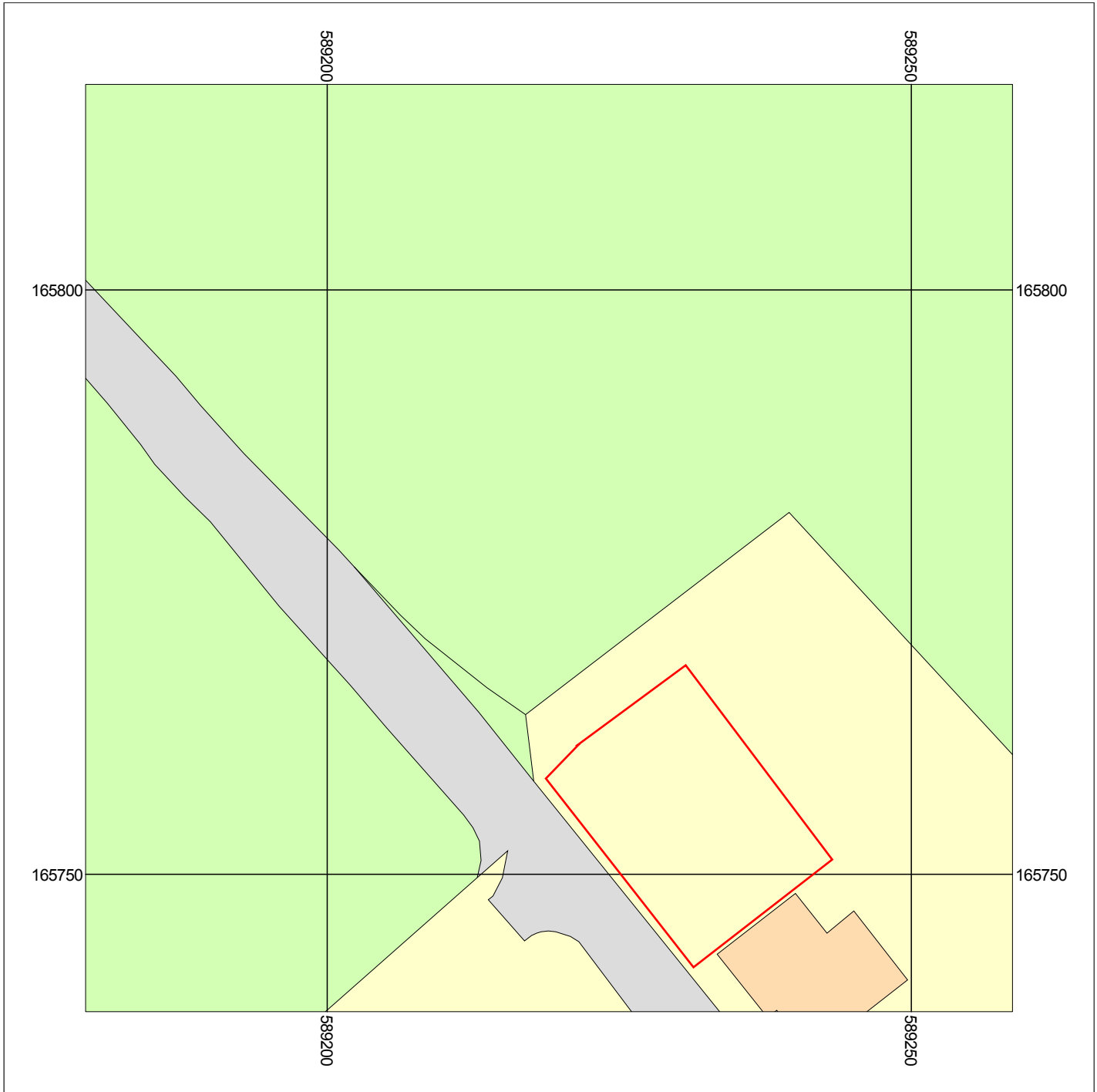


Plate 5. View of the ground reduction (looking NW)



Plate 6. View of the ground reduction (looking NW)

Figure 1.
Areas watched (inside red
outline box)



Scale: 1:500

Stickfast Lane

Bobbing



Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 02/11/2017
Serial number: 1907147

Plot centre co-ordinates: 589219,165778
Download file: stickfast.zip
Project name: swat1