

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 610964 158443

Site Code: HARB/EV/17

(Planning Application: 17/00923)

SWAT Archaeology

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	4
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	5
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	6
9. Results.....	6
10. Discussion.....	8
11. Finds.....	8
12. Conclusion.....	8
13. Acknowledgements.....	8
14. References.....	8
15. CCC Summary Form.....	9

List of Figures:

Figure 1 –Location of site

Figure 2. Evaluation trenches

List of Plates:

Plate 1 - Aerial view of site

Plate 2 – Trench 1 (looking NW)

Plate 3 – Trench 2 (looking NW)

Plate 4 – Trench 3 (looking SW)

Plate 5 – Trench 4 (looking NW)

Plate 6 – Trench 5 (looking SW)



Plate 1. Aerial photograph of site (9/4/2017) Google Earth

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road, Harbledown CT2 9AX

NGR: 610964 158443

Site Code: HARB-EV-17

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road, Harbledown in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/17/00923/FUL) to develop this site for 9 two-storey dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking 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 Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of five evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1). The natural geology of Lambeth Group- Sand Formation was reached at an average depth of between 0.15m and 0.20m below the modern ground surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (SE) 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 2017) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 21st September 2017.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is located on the north side of London Road and to the west of Canterbury (Figure 1). The site is generally flat at about 54m OD.

The underlying geology is mapped as Bedrock Geology of London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt. The Superficial Geology is recorded as Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was subsoil of sand. The site in 1960 was arable fields but by 1990 was a garden centre with the area of the proposed archaeological investigation a tarmac car park (SWAT WSI 2017).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council gave planning permission (CA/15/00549/FUL) for development of land off Thornden Wood Road, Herne Bay, Kent.

On the advice of Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent. The planning permission has the following Archaeological Condition (2):

Within three months of the date of this decision notice, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of:

(i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and

(ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a 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 in accordance with policy BE16 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2006, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and 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 Archaeological record, both in and around the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is diverse. The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries.

The KCC HER data shows that the Roman road (Watling Street) is adjacent to the site (TR 15 NW 927), the principal road connecting London and the Southeast. Although there are no Roman remains recorded in the immediate vicinity, there remains potential for remains associated with road-side activity and settlement.

To the northeast and southeast of the site are two large earthwork enclosure sites, dated broadly to the Iron Age with some medieval and later features probably associated within woodland management. The site to the southeast is the Scheduled Monument of Bigberry (Bigbury) Camp, traditionally interpreted as a hillfort with probable cattle enclosure to the north.

To the northeast is the recently identified Homestall Wood Earthworks; the large oval earthworks enclose an area of approximately 800m east-west by 550m north-south, identified during a comprehensive LiDAR survey as part of the The Blean Initiative. The identification of this second large prehistoric earthwork enclosure, directly north of Bigbury Camp, suggests the sites are part of a much larger network of prehistoric defensive structures.

An Iron bloomery site located approximately 1km west of the proposed development site, may be associated with this wider network of sites.

Although there are relatively few recorded sites or finds in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, this is a reflection of the absence of archaeological investigations locally, and does not negate the potential of the site.

The site is about 54m AOD (Plate 1 & Fig.1)

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or otherwise of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.

To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation.

To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

Should archaeological remains be found, further archaeological excavation may be required. This work will be covered by a separate specification and not form part of the present evaluation.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of five trenches 20m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 4.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed

ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the five trenches (Figure 2).

Trench 1

9.1 Trench orientation: SW-NE. Depth: 1.2m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 18m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (101) was dark grey brown silty topsoil loosely compacted and 15cm thick overlaying sandy subsoil (102) mottled light yellow with slight orange hue firm sand in some areas contaminated with petrochemicals (Figure 2 & Plate 2).

Trench 2

9.1 Trench orientation: W-E. Depth: 0.1.2m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 18m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (201) was dark grey brown silty topsoil loosely compacted and 15cm thick overlaying sandy subsoil (202) mottled light yellow with slight orange hue firm sand (Figure 2 & Plate 3).

Trench 3

9.1 Trench orientation: SsW-NE. Depth: 1.60m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 19m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (301) was light grey brown silty soil loosely compacted and 15cm thick overlaying sandy subsoil (302) mottled light yellow with slight orange hue firm sand (Figure 2 & Plate 4).

Trench 4

9.1 Trench orientation: W-E. Depth: 1.40m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 19m. No archaeology was detected. Sandy subsoil (401) mottled light yellow with slight orange hue firm sand (Figure 2 & Plate 5).

Trench 5

9.1 Trench orientation: W-E. Depth: 0.50m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 18m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (501) was light grey brown silty sand loosely compacted with numerous brick and stone inclusions and 35cm thick overlaying sandy subsoil (502) mottled light yellow with slight orange hue firm sand (Figure 2 & Plate 6).

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been used as a garden centre and lorry park. All trenches showed a typical sequence of topsoil and subsoil.

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 Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil (**101**) sealing the subsoil (**102**). 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, Persimmon Homes SE 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 MCIfA and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson 12/10/2017

14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2017) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at the former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road CT2 9AX*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2017

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at the former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road, Harbledown CT2 9AX

SWAT Site Code: HARB/EV/17

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 residential housing whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation 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) 610964 158443

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 21st Sept 2017

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Lambeth Group- Sand

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road, Harbledown CT2 9AX

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

No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 12/10/2017



Plate 2. Trench 1 (looking north)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking SE)



Plate 4. Trench 3 (looking NE)



Plate 5. Trench 4 (looking SE)



Plate 6. Trench 5 (looking NW)

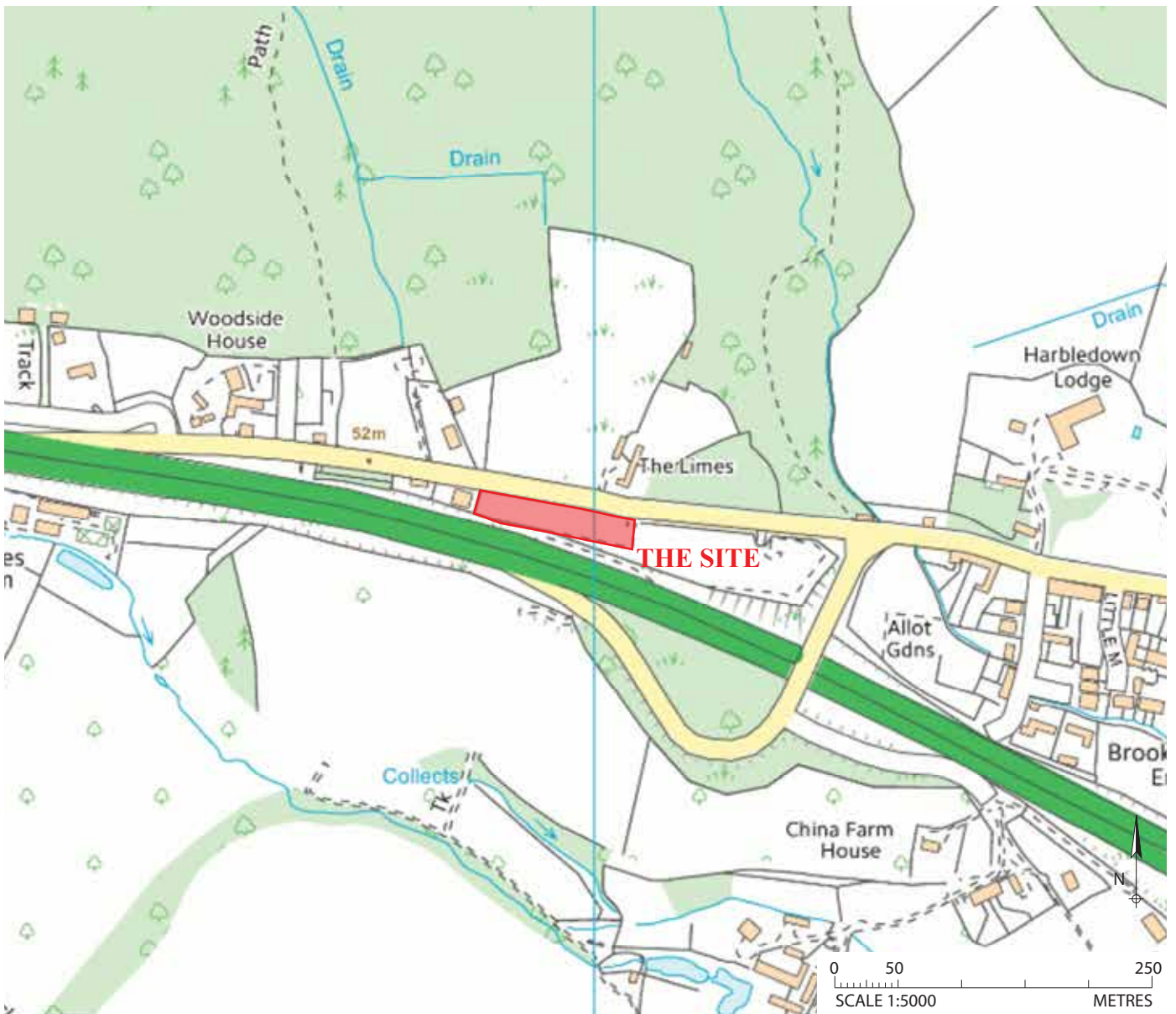
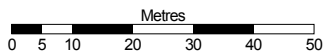
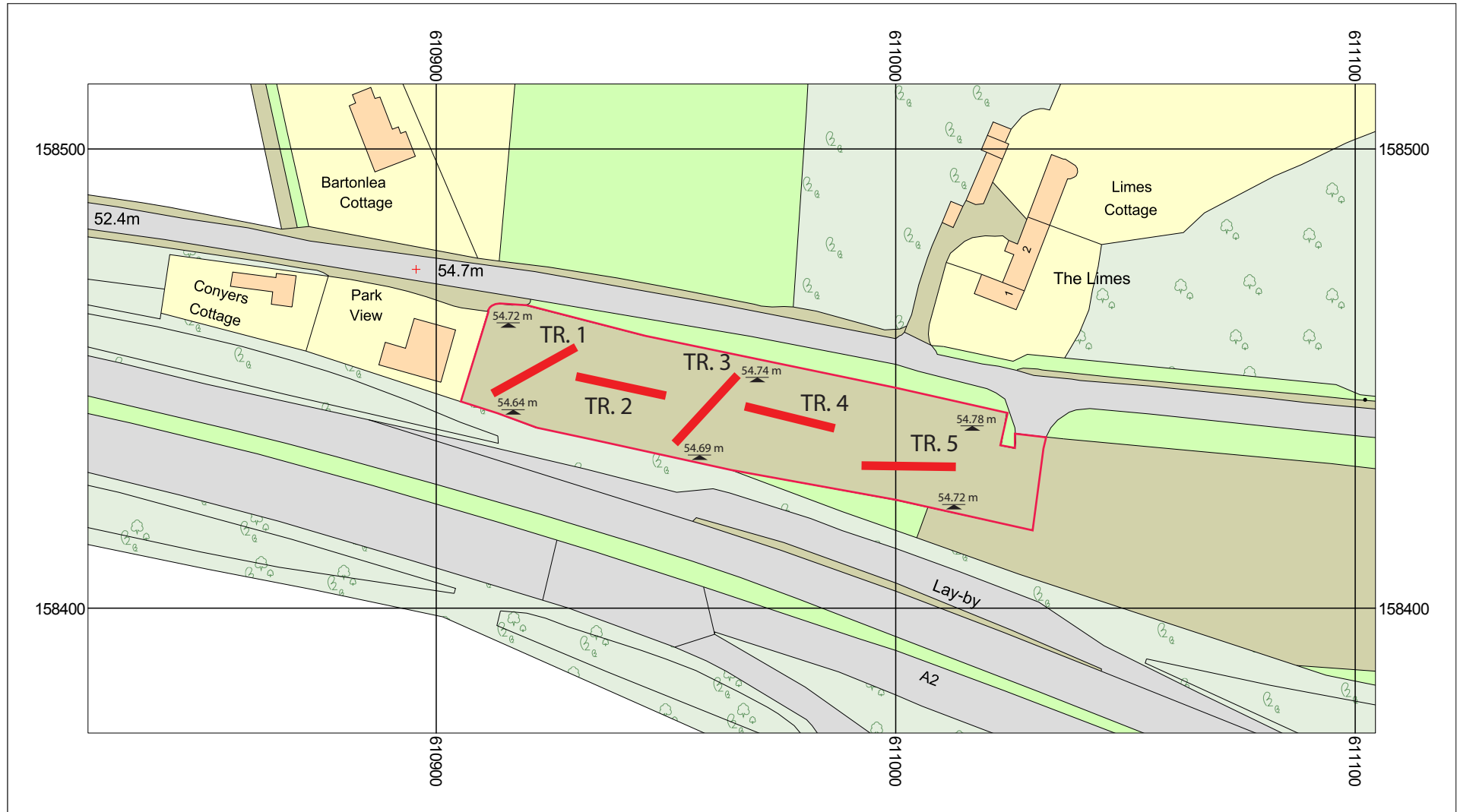


Figure 1: Site location map



Scale: 1:1250

Upper Harbledown



Supplied By: National Map Centre
 Licence number: 100031961
 Produced: 04/08/2017
 Serial number: 1870965

Plot centre co-ordinates: 610964.158443
 Download file: harbledown.zip
 Project name: swat2

Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches