

# Archaeological Watching Brief at the former Builder's Yard rear of 67 High Street, Wingham, Kent

Site Code WING/WB/15



Report for Torran Construction Ltd

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## **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](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk)

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# Archaeological Watching Brief of at the former Builder's Yard rear of 67 High Street, Wingham, Kent

Site Code WING/WB/16

Updated 27/03/2017



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

(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 201m).

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. From the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of dwellings at the former builders yard to the rear of 67 High Street, Wingham in Kent. (Figure 1 & Plates 2-11).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Torran Construction Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watching Brief was kept during the overall reduction of Areas 1, 2 & 3 (Phase 1), and additional reduction (Phase 2) prior to build up with Type 2 crushed brick and concrete to enable a reinforced concrete slab construction to sit on the stabilised ground surface of the footprint of the new buildings.

The reduction of the site in the Phase 2 area was down into the natural which was about 0.35-0.68m (BGL) across the site (Figure 1).

Drainage and services were to connect to existing drain and service runs from previous buildings on the site. No drain connecting works were observed as no excavation was required.

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Site reduction ranging to 35-68cm below ground level (Plates 3-11)

Phase 2: Site reduction on the footprint of the planned buildings ranging to 1.10m below ground level (Figure 1. Plates 3-11).

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.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is DOV/14/00320.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the KCC Heritage Conservation WSI the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features or burials, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

Planning application DOV/14/00320 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 (4) was attached to the planning consent:

*With the exception of the temporary access hereby approved no development shall take place until the applicant(s), or their agents or successors in title, has or have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work 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 (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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 the heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works “(KCC 2015).*

4.2. The ground works were to reduce the demolition overburden and natural soil (Phases 1 & 2) to enable a Type 2 platform to be laid to receive a reinforced concrete slab construction for the proposed new housing (Figure 1).

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 map is Bedrock geology of White Chalk of the Margate Chalk Member overlaid by superficial deposits of undifferential Clay and Silt Head Deposits. The geology revealed on site was mid

brown sandy silty clay at about 0.65m below ground level topped by dark brown humic topsoil and/or demolition material (Plate 11 for representative block section).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of a former builder's yard to the rear of 67 High Street, Wingham near Canterbury in Kent. Access to the site is by a driveway adjacent to 67 High Street. The site had been cleared of building before the first site visit and the overall area stripped is about 0.14 hectares. The individual areas comprise:

Area 1- 200sqm

Area 2- 160sqm

Area 3 105sqm (Figure 1)

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important Neolithic, Roman and Medieval activity.

To the north-west a Neolithic occupation site has been identified (TR 25 NW 22). To the north-east an Iron-Age settlement site (TR 25 NW 52). To the east a possible rectilinear earthwork (TR 25 NW 461). To the south-west medieval pits (TR 25 NW 157) and a Roman villa with important early Saxon or Friesen pottery was found to the south (TR 25 NW 14). Not recorded on the HER is a large Roman occupation site found through field walking by the Kent Archaeological Field School in an area to the north of the village adjacent to the postulated Roman road route to Richborough on high ground south of Petts Lane and overlooking the Wingham River or Lesser Stour. In three days of investigation over 300 sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved (pers corres P Wilkinson).

The Domesday Book tells us that Wingham during the Saxon period was in the possession of the Archbishop of Canterbury and in 1286 Archbishop Peckham founded a college located to the south of the development site. The village houses date for the most part from the medieval period and are mostly Grade II listed including the house fronting the development site and include 69 High Street, The Central Stores and 72-80 High Street (TR 25 NW 184), It is to be expected that medieval activity may spill over into the development site in the shape of stables, pig sty's, chicken runs and the ubiquitous medieval rubbish pits.

## **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 in phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 7<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016.

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 2-11).

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 outlined in the KCC specification.

## **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, Silt & Sand overlaid by topsoil and/or demolition rubble. No archaeological features were revealed in the topsoil or natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil/subsoil.

Overall the total area of the site was stripped of foliage, rubble mounds from demolished buildings and topsoil. This work took place prior to the archaeological brief being in place.

#### **Area 1 (Figure 1)**

Site reduction for Phase 1 removed topsoil and brick rubble to a depth of 0.35m to 0.40m BGL (Plate 3).

Site reduction for Phase 2 removed topsoil and subsoil to a depth of 0.55m to 0.60m BGL (Plate 4).

#### **Area 2 (Figure 1)**

Site reduction for Phase 1 removed topsoil and brick rubble to a depth of 0.32m to 0.35m BGL (Plate 6).

Site reduction for Phase 2 removed topsoil and subsoil to a depth of 0.55m to 0.58m BGL (Plate 4).

#### **Area 3 (Figure 1)**

Site reduction for Phase 1 removed topsoil and brick rubble to a depth of 0.32m to 0.47m BGL (Plate 9).

Site reduction for Phase 2 removed topsoil and subsoil to a depth of 0.65m to 0.68m BGL (Plates 10 & 11).

## **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 Watching Brief 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 Torran Construction Ltd for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (KCC & HE 2015)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2015)



## **Appendix 1**

### **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at the rear of 67 High Street, Wingham in Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** WING/WB/16

**Site Address:** As above

#### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that 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:** Dover District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 624437 157686

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** January 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Clay and Silt deposits overlaying Chalk

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief at the former Builders's Yard, rear of 67 High Street, Wingham, Canterbury, 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:** 27/03/2017



Plate 2. General view of site (looking north-east)



Plate 3. The site showing Phase 1 reduction of site of Area 1(looking east)



Plate 4. General view of site showing Phase 2 reduction of Area 1(looking north-east)



Plate 5. Reduction of Area 1 (Phase 2) completed and Type 2 rolled in ready for building slabs (looking west)



Plate 6. Phase 1 site reduction Area 2 (looking SW)



Plate 7. Phase 2 site reduction Area 2 (looking SW)



Plate 8. Phase 1 site reduction Area 2 close-up (looking SW)



Plate 9. Phase 1 site reduction Area 3 (looking north)



Plate 10. Phase 2 site reduction Area 3 (looking east)



Plate 11. Phases 1 & 2 site reduction Area 3 (looking north)

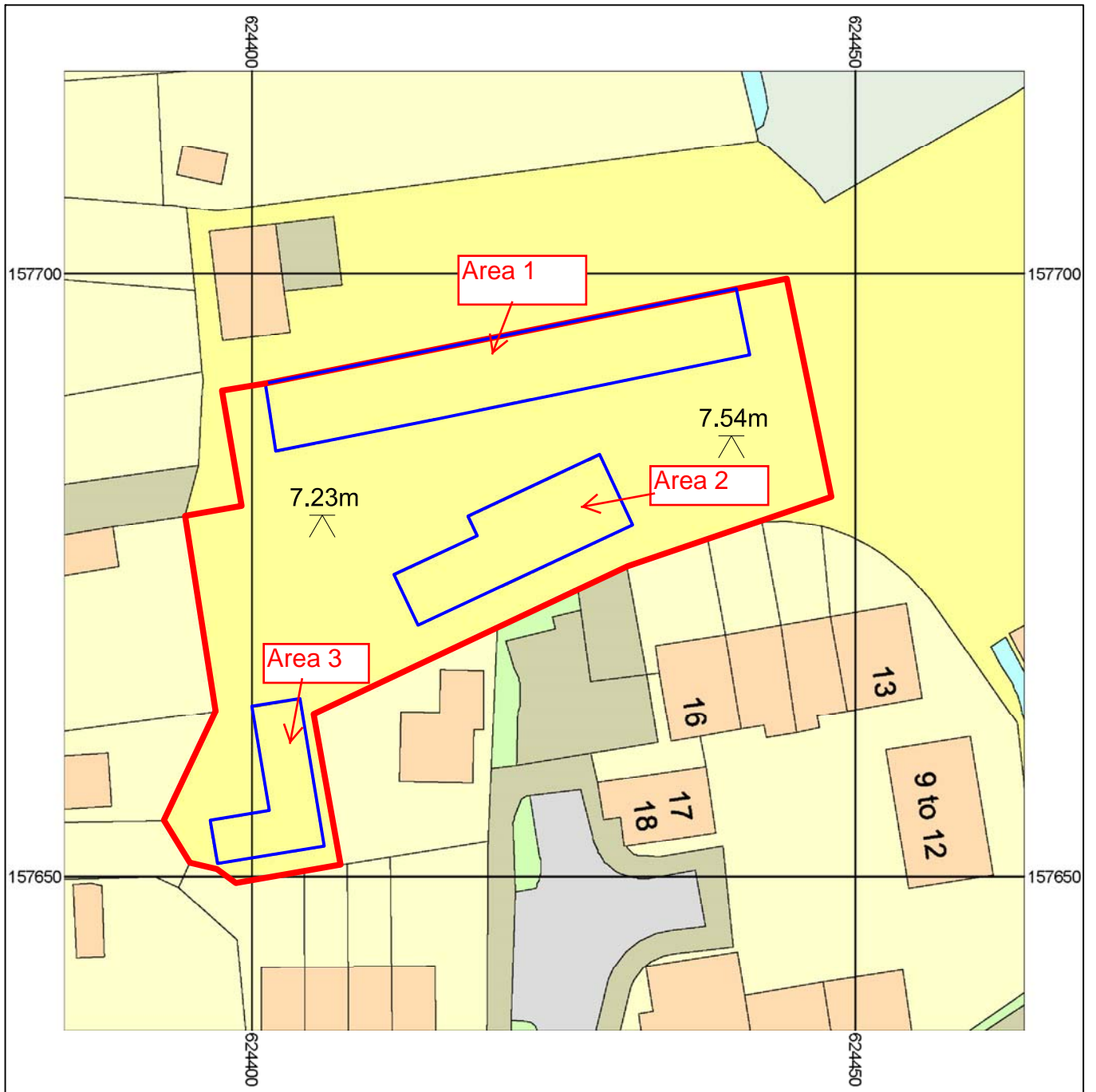
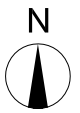


Figure 1,  
Areas watched

1:500@A4

