

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent

Site Code VILL/WB/17



Date of report 20/08/2017

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent

Site Code VILL/WB/17  
NGR 605006 146803

Date of report: 20/08/2017



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 569m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 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 an extension on the north side of the Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye in Kent (Figs. 1, 2 & Plates 1-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the Parish Council.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the cutting of foundation trenches. The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase (Plates 2-6).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological remains associated with the known Roman remains thought to be in the near vicinity.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/01839/AS.

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 immediately behind Wye Village Hall just off Bridge Street in the centre of the village of Wye. To the west is the Greater Stour River and beyond the railway line from Canterbury to Ashford. The site is level at about 38.00m AOD (Plate 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application 16/01839/AS was submitted to Ashford 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 (3) 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 MCIfA. SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 28<sup>th</sup> July 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 heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks (SWAT July 2017).*

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches for the proposed extension (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 Gault Formation-Mudstone.

The Superficial Deposits are described as Head- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel.

The soil revealed on site was sandy silty clay subsoil (Plates 2-6).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. Within the curtilage of the PDA is the site of a windmill (TR 04 NE 273). 100m to the NW late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and ditch were found (TR 04 NW 42) whilst 150m to the E medieval and post medieval features and associated finds were found at the site of Taylors Garage (TR 04 NE 269).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT 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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

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 2-7).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (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 CIfA 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 silty clay. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and the proposed extension is located to the west and rear of the Wye Village Hall. The area watched was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 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 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 Peter Thorpe for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Wilkinson and report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (Historic England 2017)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief (2017)

## **Appendix 1**

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

**Site Name:** Development of land at Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** VILL/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 extension 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:** Ashford Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 605006 146803

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

**Date of recording:** July 2017

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Gault Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Wye Village Hall, Wye, 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:** 20/08/2017





Plate 2. General view of site (looking SE)



Plate 3. Foundation trench on the north side- note repaired water pipe



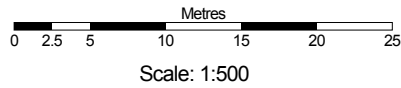
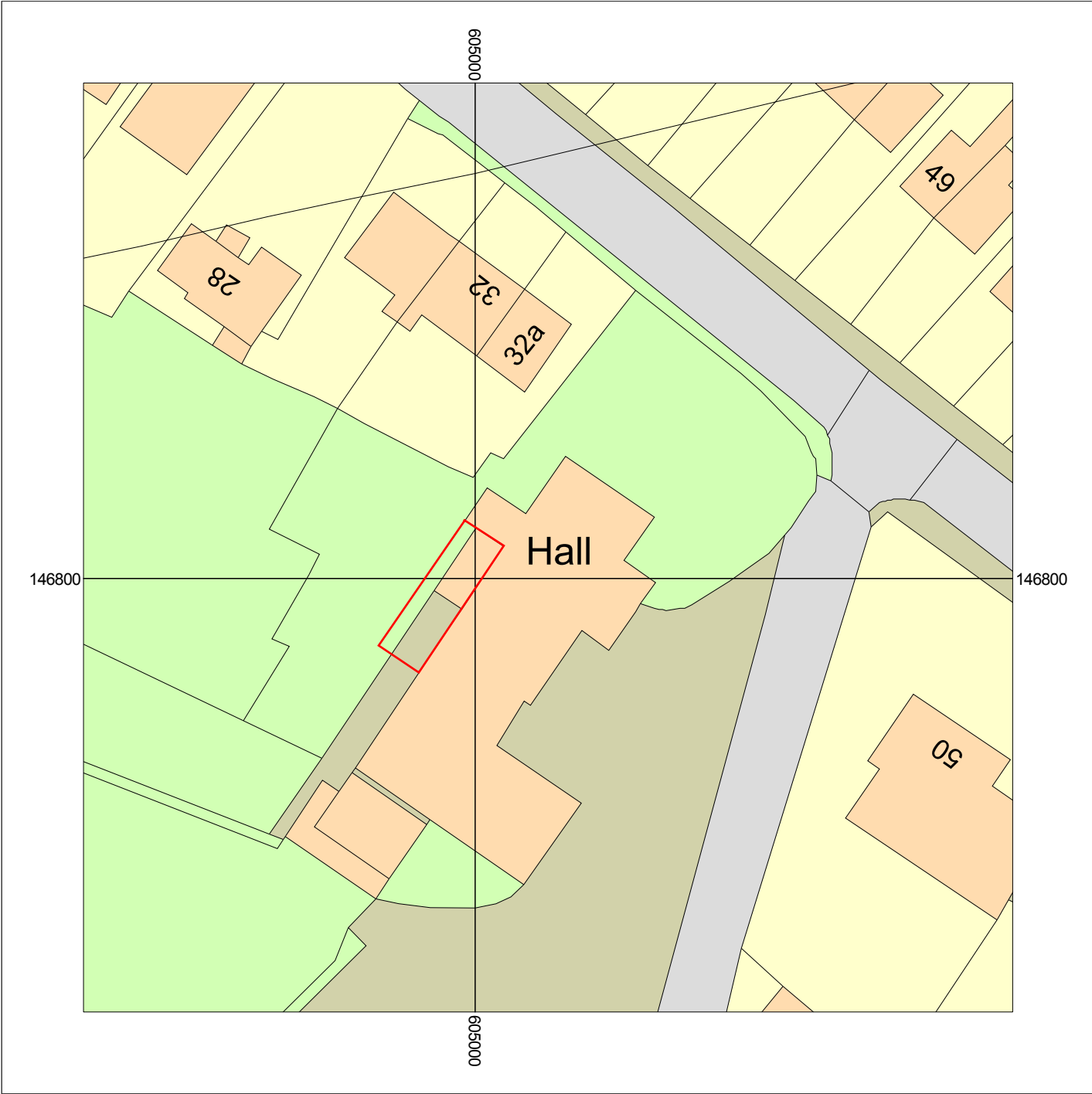
Plates 4, 5. View of foundation trenches (looking east)





Plate 6. View of foundation trenches (looking N)

Figure 1  
Area watched



Wye Village Hall



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 23/08/2017  
Serial number: 1877805

Plot centre co-ordinates: 605006,146803  
Download file: wye.zip  
Project name: swat