

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Amery Court Farm, Chapel Lane, Blean, Kent

Site Code CHAP/WB/17



Report for Mr J Atkins  
Date of report 30/10/2017

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Amery Court Farm, Chapel Lane, Blean, Kent

Site Code CHAP/WB/17  
NGR 612646 161519

Date of report: 30/10/2017



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

(Google Earth 9/4/2017: Eye altitude 456m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July 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 farm building at Amery Court Farm, Chapel Lane, Blean in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-5).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the site reduction of topsoil and the digging of the post pad foundations for a 4 bay steel framed shed measuring 20 x 10metres (Figure 1).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: The digging out of the foundation pads to about 0.70-1.00m below present ground level of about 73.00m aOD. (Plates 2-6)

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 adjacent complex of historic farm buildings (TR 16 SW 116, TR 16 SW 10).

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/02908.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the CCC Archaeological Officer the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located within the complex of Amery Court Farm a farmstead situated along Chapel Lane in the village of Blean. The farm is within a Conservation Area with the significant Grade II\* listed church of St Comus & St Damian nearby. The site is flat and surrounded by mature trees with the adjoining fields given over to poly-tunnels to grow fruit. The site itself is level at about 73.00m aOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application 16/02908 was submitted to Canterbury City Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (5) was attached to the planning consent:

*Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, 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 are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, 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 and policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 11<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. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.” (SWAT 2017).*

4.2. The ground works were to strip the topsoil and excavate the foundations for concrete post pads for a 4 bay steel framed shed measuring 20 x 10metres (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 London Clay Formation- Clay & Silt.

The Superficial Deposits are Head- Clay & Silt.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. On the proposed development site (PDA) the HER notes that the main building is listed Grade II and dating from 1700AD to 1799AD (TR 16 SW 116). To the south-east there is a possible homestead moat (TR 16 SW 10). The HER also notes that the farm itself is designated as a Courtyard Farmstead of historic importance (MKE 86196).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA: 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 on 11<sup>th</sup> July 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 topsoil down to formation level and a toothless bucket to excavate the pits for the concrete post pads (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 ClfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 2017), and methodology as outlined in the WSI Watching Brief (Appendix 1).

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of silty clay overlaid by topsoil. 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 measures 20 x 10 metres. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 10cm-12m deep at about 73.00m 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 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 John Atkins for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (Historic England 2016)

ClfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

## **Appendix 1**

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

**Site Name:** Development of land at Amery Court Farm, Chapel Lane, Blean, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** CHAP/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 farm building whereby Canterbury City Council 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 a site attendance which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 612646 161519

**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 London Clay Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Amery Court Farm, Chapel Lane, Blean, 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:** 30/10/17



Plate 2. General view of site (looking SE)



Plate 3. View of ground reduction and post pits(looking E)



Plate 4. View of post pit (looking E)



Plates 5, 6. View of the post pits



## Appendix 1

# SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT AMERY COURT FARM, CHAPEL LANE, BLEAN CT2 9HF

## Introduction

- 1.1 This specification is concerned with an archaeological watching brief to be maintained at Amery Court Farm, Blean in Kent (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site has planning permission for a single storey outbuilding. The Local Planning Authority's (Canterbury City Council) planning reference for the proposal is 16/02908.
- 1.3 The following Condition (5) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

*Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, 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 are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, 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 and policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

- 1.4 In view of the groundworks involved in the development it has been decided that a watching brief is the most appropriate measure to satisfy the condition in the first

instance. If significant remains are revealed during the watching brief, further archaeological measures may be required to secure mitigation on the site.

1.5 The watching brief should be undertaken during the excavation of foundation and service trenches and any other below ground excavations. The archaeologist should attend throughout the excavation of such works. The archaeological contractor should complete record sheets for all areas of trenching observed noting ground conditions, soil deposits and archaeology and support these with a diary of site visits, observations and as minimum digital photographs of each area observed.

1.6 The archaeological contractor will have close liaison with the City Archaeologist and development contractor with regard to the frequency of visit and appropriate action to be taken.

## **2. The Archaeological Potential**

2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the KCC HER.

2.2 On the proposed development site (PDA) the HER note that the main building is listed Grade II and dating from 1700AD to 1799AD (TR 16 SW 116). To the south-east there is a possible homestead moat (TR 16 SW 10). The HER also notes that the farm itself is designated as a Courtyard Farmstead of historic importance (MKE 86196).

## **3. Objective**

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

#### **4. Proposed Groundworks**

- 4.1 The groundworks comprise the build of a single storey outbuilding. The foundations are likely to be of concrete post-pad construction (Figures 2, 3).
- 4.2 The archaeological contractor should clarify the extent of the works with the developer before work begins and ensure that they target their attendance in accordance with the development programme. **The archaeologist should keep a diary and description of all works observed as stated in para 1.5 and include such in their report.**

#### **5. Method**

- 5.1 The archaeological contractor will monitor the excavations for all groundworks. Excavation should be undertaken using a flat bladed bucket and preferably in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be recorded prior to disturbance from being driven over. **If possible archaeological remains are encountered, machine excavation will cease to allow the remains to be investigated further.**
- 5.2 The archaeologist will inspect the surfaces revealed. Any archaeological structures or features revealed will be recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to Section 6 below. **The main contractor will allow the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.**
- 5.3 Further limited excavation may be necessary to clarify the extent and nature of some archaeological deposits. In this case, the archaeological contractor will undertake the excavation by hand.
- 5.4 If significant remains are unexpectedly encountered the archaeological contractor will inform the City Archaeological Officer and the developer immediately and further mitigation measures will be agreed.

#### **6. Recording**

- 6.1 All structures, deposits and finds are to be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 6.2 All recording points used should be accurately tied into the National Grid, preferably by theodolite, and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.
- 6.3 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered are to be drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD. An overall site plan is to be maintained at a scale of 1:100.
- 6.4 All plans are to be accurately tied in to the site grid. All plans and sections are to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 6.5 All archaeological contexts are to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology is to be maintained as appropriate.
- 6.6 A digital photographic record of the work is to be kept. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive. The archaeological contractor is to provide the CCC Archaeological Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this site.
- 6.7 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines nos. 2 and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.8 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the Developer will arrange for the archive to be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

## 7. Reporting

7.1 On completion of the archaeological watching brief the archaeological contractor will agree with the CCC Archaeologist a programme for the reporting of the results of the work. The reporting of the watching brief will be commensurate with the results but as a minimum must stand as a sufficiently detailed report on the archaeological monitoring to serve both future research and inform future planning decisions taken on the site.

### *Report circulation*

7.3 Copies of all reports are to be provided to:

- the Developer
- the Kent Historic Environment Record
- the Local Planning Authority
- the project archive.

7.4 When submitting the report to the CCC Archaeologist the archaeological contractor should provide written confirmation that the report has been submitted to the above parties.

7.5 If the archaeological contractor is required, contractually, to only submit reports directly to the developer or their agent, the archaeological contractor must inform the CCC Archaeologist in writing that they have completed the report and to whom it has been forwarded to. The archaeological contractor must ensure that the developer is made aware of the need to circulate the report as in 7.3 above.

### *Reporting of watching briefs with limited remains*

7.6 If the watching brief has resulted in limited archaeological remains being recorded then the archaeological contractor will complete the necessary post excavation works and produce a **'Watching Brief Report'** within 4 weeks of the completion of the watching brief (**see sections 7.8 to 7.12 below**).

### ***Reporting of watching briefs with significant archaeological remains***

- 7.7 If significant archaeological remains are recorded then within 3 months of completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will undertake an assessment of the results and produce a MAP2 '**Post-excavation Assessment Report**'. This report will set out a programme of post excavation works through to completion of a '**Full Report**' and '**Publication**' of the findings (see sections 7.13 to 7.17 below).

### ***Contents of a 'Watching Brief Report'***

- 7.8 The archaeological contractor may determine the general style and format of the Watching Brief Report but it must be completed in accordance with this specification. The report must provide sufficient information and assessment to enable the City Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority to stand as a detailed report on the archaeological fieldwork for future research and to inform on any future planning decisions for the site.
- 7.9 Reports that do not provide sufficient information or that have not been compiled in accordance with the relevant sections of this specification will be returned to the archaeological contractor for revision and resubmission.
- 7.10 The report is to include as a minimum:

7.10.1 An **Abstract** summarising the scope and results of the archaeological watching brief.

7.10.2 An **Introduction** including:

- the location of the site including National Grid Reference;
- an account of the background and circumstances of the work;
- a description of the development proposals, planning history and planning reference together with the planning condition (where appropriate);
- the scope and date of the fieldwork, the personnel involved and who commissioned it;
- the nature of potential impacts arising from the proposals;

7.10.3 An account of the **Archaeological Background** of the development site including:

- geology, soils and topography;
- any known existing disturbances on the site;
- background archaeological potential of the site. This should include a summary of the known Sites and Monuments Record entries generally within a 500m radius of the boundaries of the site. The HER entries should be quoted with their full KSMR identifier (e.g TR36NW 12);
- summary of any previous phases of archaeological investigation at the development site;
- any constraints on the archaeological monitoring.

7.10.4 The **Methodology** employed during the watching brief must be detailed in the report. Simply referring to the methodology outlined in the specification is not acceptable. Any aims and objectives specified in the specification should be included as should any further objectives identified during the course of the watching brief. The frequency of monitoring visits, ground works observed and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring should be detailed. This should include a diary of dates of observation and what development works were observed on those dates.

7.10.5 The report should include a quantification of the archive contents, their state and future location.

7.10.6 A description of the **Results** of the archaeological monitoring. This description must include for each area observed:

- the dimensions of the area observed;
- the nature and depth of overburden soils encountered;
- description of all archaeological features and finds encountered in each area observed, their dimensions, states of preservation and interpretation;
- a description of the geological subsoil encountered across the site;
- heights related to Ordnance Datum should be provided for each feature and deposit.
- for complex remains a Harris Matrix diagram should be provided.

7.10.7 The **Finds** recovered during the course of the watching brief should be described, quantified and assessed by artefact type within the report. The report should also provide an indication of the potential of each category of artefact for further analysis and research. For each category of artefact the report should describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling, conservation and assessment undertaken. Where appropriate local reference collections will be referred to for descriptive and

analytical consistency. Any implications for future archive, conservation or discard of the artefacts should also be detailed.

7.10.8 The report should include a table showing the contexts, classes and quantity of artefacts recovered, together with their date and interpretation.

7.10.9 The report must include an assessment of the **Environmental** potential of the site. Details should be provided of any environmental sampling undertaken in connection with the fieldwork and the results of any processing and assessment of the samples. The report should describe the method of processing, any sub-sampling and assessment. Any potential for future analysis of the samples or environmental remains recovered from the evaluation should be described. Implications for future archive, conservation or discard of environmental samples or remains should be detailed.

7.10.10 The report should include, as appropriate, tables summarising environmental samples taken, together with the results of processing and assessment.

7.10.11 Any results from the watching brief involving the application of archaeological scientific techniques e.g. specialist dating should be included in the watching brief report.

7.10.12 An **Interpretation** of the archaeology of the site, including its location, extent, date, condition, significance and importance. This should include, even if no archaeology is identified as present on the site, description of areas of disturbance, non-archaeological deposits and changes in geological subsoil where appropriate.

7.10.13 A **Conclusion** with a summary of the archaeological results and how any archaeology observed relates to the development site. The effects of the development works on the archaeological remains should also be described. The report should highlight any areas of significant archaeological deposits that remain preserved within the development site. Particular note should be made of any variations in the depth of overburden covering any archaeological deposits revealed.

7.10.14 The report should include comments on the effectiveness of the methodology employed and the confidence of the results and interpretation.

7.10.15 Figures / illustrations – The report should include sufficient illustrations to support descriptions and interpretations within the report text. Figures are to be fully cross-referenced within the document text. As a minimum the report should include the following figures:

- a site location plan tied into the Ordnance Survey at 1:1250 or in the case of larger sites at 1:2500. The plan should also include at least two National Grid points and show the site boundary;
- a plan at 1:100 or 1:200 showing the layout of the development groundworks clearly indicating the areas observed. The plan should show significant archaeological features, coloured by phases or period as related to the development site. Where possible, projection of archaeological features outside of the areas observed should be included on the plan. This plan should also include two National grid points;
- plans of the features revealed in each of the excavation areas at a larger scale e.g. 1:20 or 1:50; such plans are to also illustrate areas of disturbance, change in subsoil and location of sections; The location of significant finds and samples taken should also be indicated;
- relevant section drawings and soil trench profiles as appropriate;
- illustrations and/or photographs of significant finds should be included where appropriate.

7.10.16 All report illustrations must be fully captioned and scale drawings must include a bar scale. Standard archaeological drawing conventions must be used. Plan and section illustrations must include the numbers of all contexts illustrated. North must be included on all plans and should be consistent. Sections must indicate the orientation of the section and the Ordnance Datum height of the section datum.

7.10.17 Black & White or Colour digital photographs should be included where appropriate to illustrate the archaeology of the site, the development operations or the range of soil profiles encountered. All photographs should be appropriately captioned.

7.11 The report will be submitted to the City Archaeologist in a bound hard-copy and in digital format. The digital copy will be supplied for preference in .pdf A format or on a PC CD-ROM (CD-R format only). Whichever software is used the digital files must be supplied in a PC readable format.

***Contents of a 'Watching Brief Assessment Report'***

- 7.13 The 'Archaeological Watching Brief Assessment Report' will follow the format and requirements detailed in 7.8 to 7.12 above.
- 7.14 In addition the report will include an assessment of the results of the archaeological monitoring and their potential to address both the original research aims and objectives of the project and any further research objectives identified during the course of the on-site and post excavation works.
- 7.15 The report will detail any further analysis necessary on the project records, artefact and environmental assemblages to achieve the research potential identified in the assessment. A justification should be included for each analysis proposed.
- 7.16 The report will set out a timetable for completion of analysis and reporting, detailing all individual tasks to be completed, resources required and the key personnel involved. The proposal should set out arrangements for monitoring of the post excavation process.
- 7.17 The report should include a synopsis of the proposed '**Full report**' and '**Publication**' and identify the likely destination of the publication.

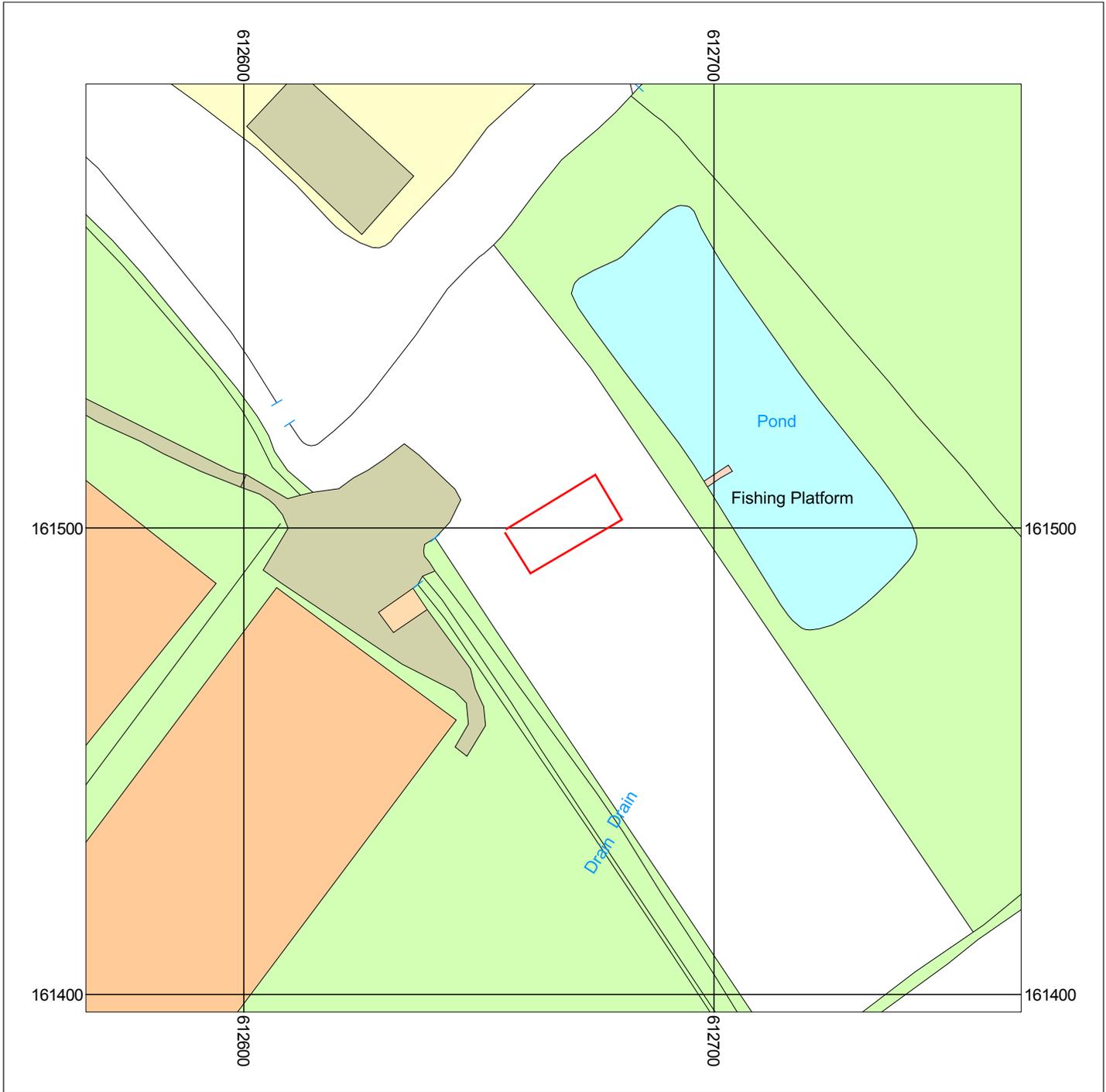
## **8. General**

- 8.1 The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the watching brief, by the developer, or any designated representative of the Local Planning Authority.
- 8.2 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by :
- all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work *etc.* Act 1974;
  - the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct*;
  - the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- 8.3 On completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will prepare a consideration of the methodology used, including a confidence rating.

- 8.4 The archaeological contractor is to provide the City Archaeological Officer with a representative selection of digital images illustrating the archaeology of the site and the operations of the investigation. These will be deposited with the County HER and will be used for presentations on aspects of the archaeology of Kent.
- 8.5 It is to be understood that photographs and notes taken by CCC Archaeological Officers in connection with the work that do not identify individuals or site locations may be used by CCC for outreach and publicity purposes, including on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter etc. The Archaeological Contractor should, **preferably in advance** of the works, raise with the CCC Archaeological Officer any concerns that they or their client may have over the use and dissemination of images or information for outreach purposes. In such cases the Archaeological Contractor and their client will agree a protocol with the CCC Archaeological Officer for the appropriate dissemination and use of images and information which balances the concerns of the contractor and/or client with the objective of ensuring that the people of Kent are kept informed of the archaeological discoveries in the county.'

***SWAT Archaeology (Based on the Canterbury City Council Heritage Conservation Team pro-forma).***

Figure 1.  
Area watched  
(red line box)



Metres  
0 5 10 20 30 40 50  
Scale: 1:1250



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 30/10/2017  
Serial number: 1904838

**Amery Court Farm**  
**Chapel Lane**  
**Blean**  
**CT2 9HF**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 612666,161496  
Download file: swat\_ameryct.zip  
Project name: swat\_ameryct