

Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjoining Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne, Kent



NGR: 621091 157770

Site Code: LIT/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/16/02367/OUT)

SWAT Archaeology

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

© SWAT Archaeology 2017 all rights reserved

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.....	6
11. Finds.....	6
12. Conclusion.....	7
13. Acknowledgements.....	7
14. References.....	7
15. CCC Summary Form.....	8

List of Figures:

Figure 1 – Location of site and plan of evaluation trench

List of Plates:

Plate 1 – Location of site (Goggle Earth)

Plate 2 – View of site

Plate 3 –Trench 1

Plate 4 – Section Trench 1

Plate 5 –Trench 1 & 2

Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjoining Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne, Kent

NGR: 621091 157770

Site Code: LIT-EV-16

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjoining Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne in Kent in December 2016. A Planning Application (CA/16/02367/OUT) to develop this site for a residential dwelling was proposed 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 two evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trench (Figure 1). The natural geology of Clay and Silt was reached at an average depth of between 0.45m and 0.50m below ground level (BGL). 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 the land owners 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 & CCC 2016) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 15th December 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is located adjacent to the dwelling called Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne, its near to the centre of the village and is a plot of land that has been subdivided. The OD height of the site is 12.10m AOD (Plate 1 & Figure 1).

The underlying geology is mapped as Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Formation- Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Superficial Deposits are Clay- Clay and Silt. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council gave planning permission (CA/16/02367/OUT) for development of land at 12 New Dover Road, Canterbury, 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:

(Condition) *No development, other than demolition, shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured 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.*

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. There are no archaeological discoveries recorded in the vicinity of the development site however the proposed development site is just south of the Grade 1 listed Church of St Vincent's (TR 25 NW 24). In addition there could be settlement remains from the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods as there are known archaeological remains from these periods in the Littlebourne area.

6. Aims and Objectives

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

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of one trench within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 2.5 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 SWAT & CCC specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. 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 one trench which was broken into two trenches because of services crossing the site (Figure 1 & Plates 3-5).

Trench 1 & 2

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 2-3). The trench lay on an NE to SW alignment and measured approximately 17m by 1.00m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**102**) was identified across the trench as dark brown sandy silty soil with rounded flint pebble inclusions at a depth of approximately 0.50m (m AOD) below the present ground surface at 11.60m AOD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of subsoil (**101**) 0.20m thick, and above this topsoil (**100**).

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites in the area of the development site 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 to the adjacent dwelling.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trench 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 **(100)** sealing subsoil **(101)** which overlay the natural geology **(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 for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

30/01/2017

14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for Land adjoining Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne, Kent*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2016

Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land adjoining Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne, Kent

SWAT Site Code: LIT/EV/16

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 a residential house whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Archaeological Evaluation revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 621091 157770

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 15th December 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Clay and Silt

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjoining Holmbury, Church Road, Littlebourne, Kent

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: 30/01/2017

PLATES



Plate 1. Location of site and trench (Google Earth 2013)



Plate 2. The development site (looking south)



Plate 3. Trench 1

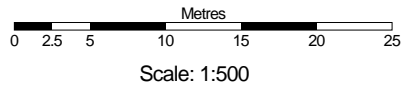
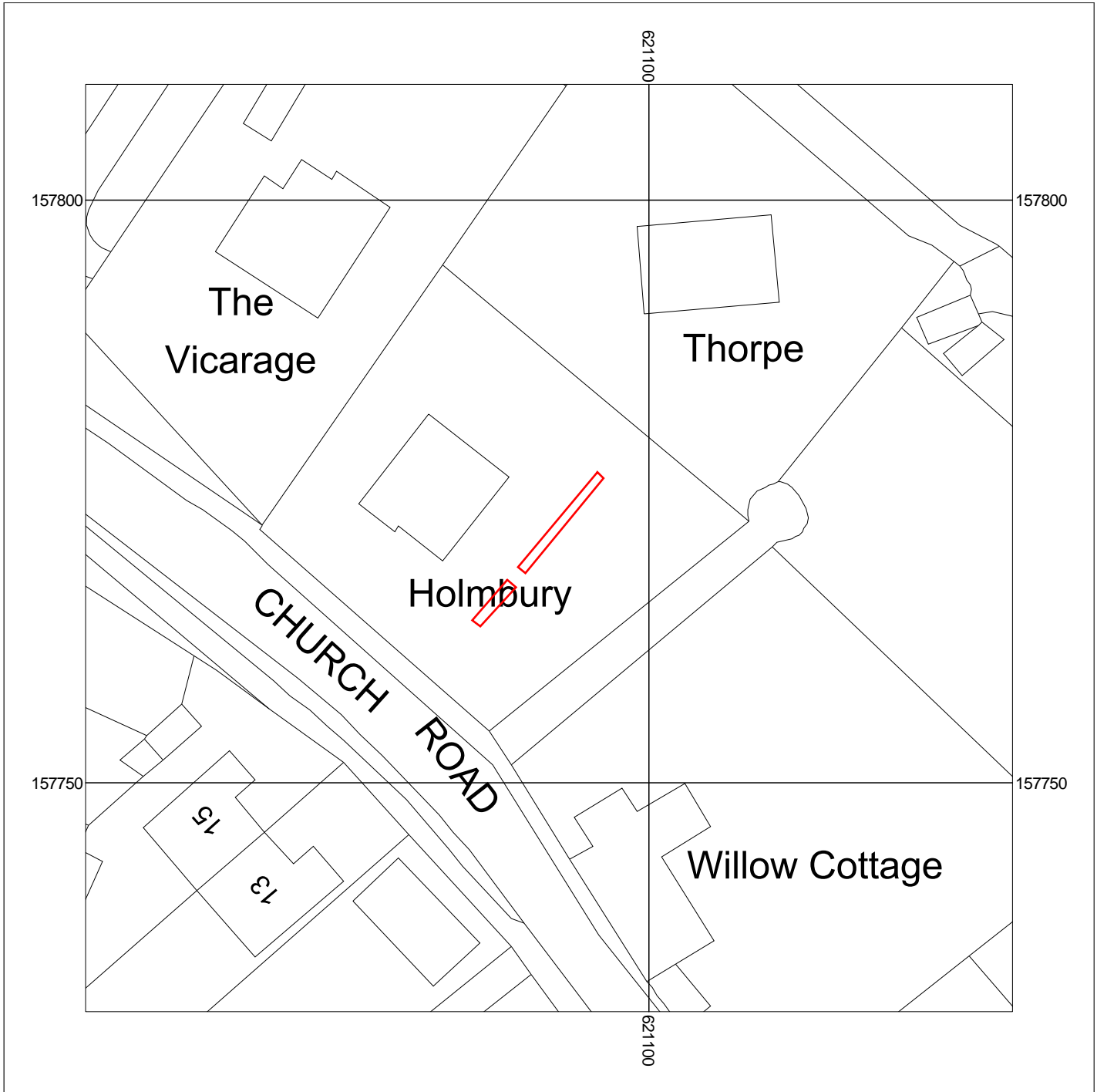


Plate 4. Trench 1 Section



Plate 5. Trench 1 & 2

Figure 1.
Trench location



Land adjoining Holmbury
Church Road
Littlebourne
Canterbury
CT3 1UA

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 30/01/2017
Serial number: 1791348

Plot centre co-ordinates: 621091,157770
Download file: swat_holmbury500.zip
Project name: swat_holmbury500