

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Kingshill Farm, Emley Nature Reserve, Minster, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code KING/WB/17



Report for Gareth Fulton
Date of report 17/05/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Kingshill Farm, Emley Nature Reserve, Minster, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code KING/WB/17
NGR 593848 167978

Date of report: 17/05/2017



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 22nd, 23rd, 24th February 2017 Tim Allen MCIfA and 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 western side of the existing barn of a kitchen, lobby and WC. (Figs. 1, 2 & Plates 1-7).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the cutting of foundation trenches. The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase (Plates 2-7).

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 former farm buildings and in particular the relict western range identified on OS historic mapping.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/507307/FULL & 16/507508/LBC.

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 at Kingshill Farm, Elmley Nature Reserve situated on the Isle of Elmley and within the Elmley National Nature Reserve which covers 3,259 acres (13.2 skm) and is one of the largest bird reserves in England. The barn itself is of late 18th century date and listed Grade II and included on the Kent Historic Farmsteads List. The site is level at about 8.00m AOD (Plate 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning applications 16/507307/FULL & 16/507508/LBC were submitted to Swale 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 (9) 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, Tim Allen SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 22nd, 23rd, 24th February 2017: 22nd Feb- work on site was on marking out the extension and waiting for the delivery of machinery (Paul Wilkinson).

23rd Feb- work on site was the cutting of one trench which cut the existing water supply, Plates 1,2 (Paul Wilkinson)

24th Feb- work on site was completion of the foundation trenches, Plates 3, 4, 5, 6 (Tim Allen)

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 development of the historic farmstead and Sheppey history; to record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. (KCC Feb 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 London Clay Formation-Clay and Silt.

The Superficial Deposits are described as Alluvium- Clay, Silty, Peaty, Sandy. The soil revealed on site was made up ground of brick crush, tarmac pieces and crushed shell about 20-30cm thick overlaying sandy silty clay with the water table reached at about 95cm BGL.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the north-west is a possible Bronze Age Bowl Barrow (TQ 96 NW 17). Again to the north-west a possible deserted medieval village (DMV) whilst the farmhouse at Kings Hill Farm is listed and dates from 1757-1897 (TQ 96 NW 1163) the farmstead is dated from c.1700AD (MKE 85455).

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 according to the needs of the building contractors from 22nd, 23rd, 24th February 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 (Tim Allen and 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 discussed on a number of occasions with the Principal 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 deposits of silty clay overlaid by made up ground. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the subsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 5m on the west side, the proposed extension is to be located to the west and front of the barn. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 90cm-1m deep at about 7.10m 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 KCC Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development. However, the run of sewer pipe to the existing cess pit was not watched even though arrangements were made to contact the author when work was about to start and so this area of the site has not been archaeologically assessed.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Gareth Fulton for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen and Paul Wilkinson and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Kingshill Farm, Elmley, Kent

SWAT Site Code: KING/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: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 593848 167978

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: February 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 Kingshill Farm, Elmley, 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: 17/05/2017



Plate 2. General view of site (looking SE)



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



Plate 3. Completed foundation trench on the north side



Plate 4. Excavation starting on the remainder of the foundation trenches



Plate 5. Cutting through made up ground



Plate 6. Completed foundation trenches



Plate 7. Completed foundation trenches

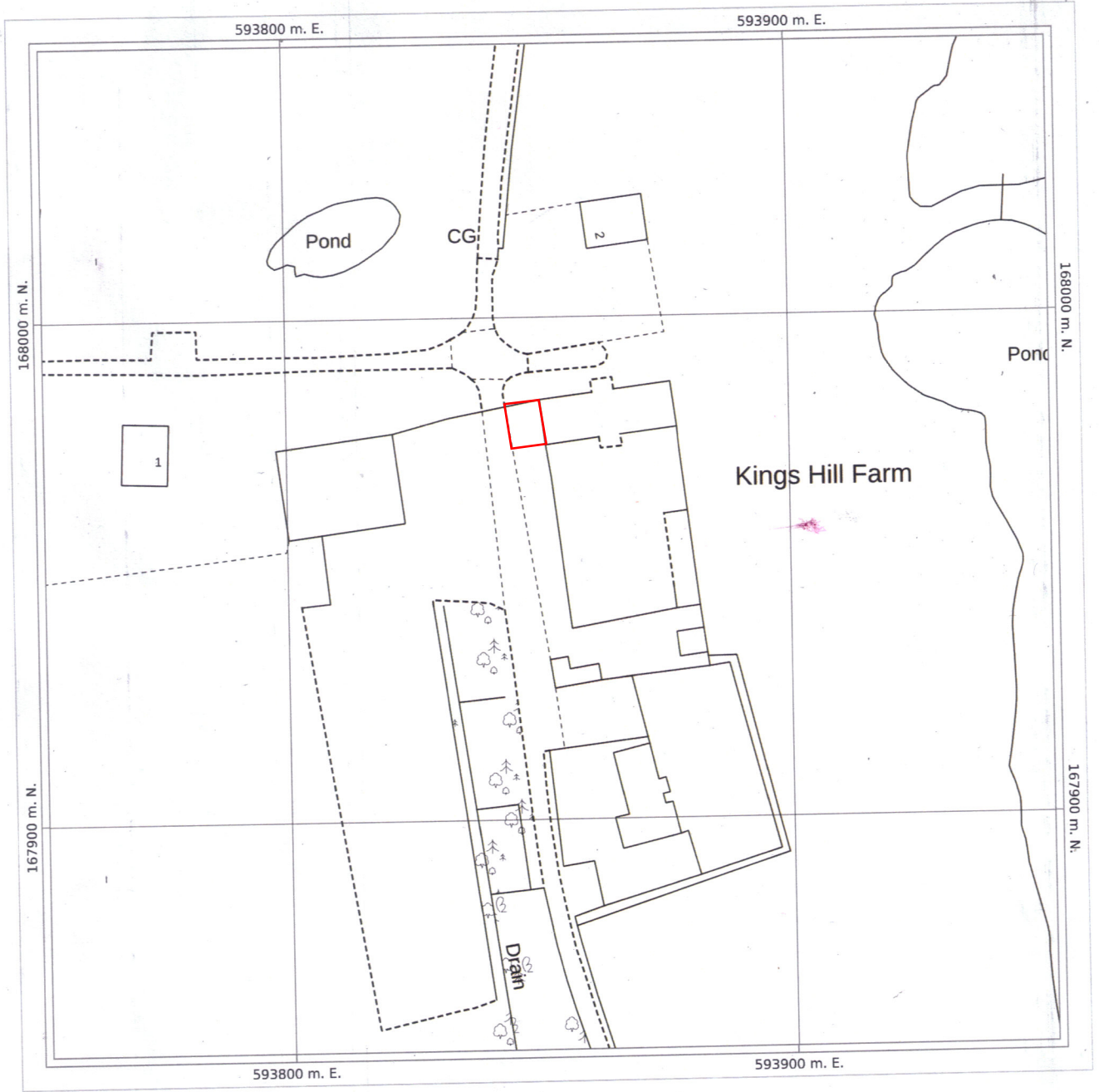


Figure 1.
Site plan

Date of Production: September 26th, 2016

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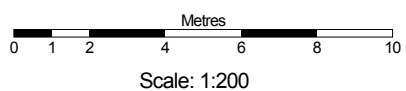
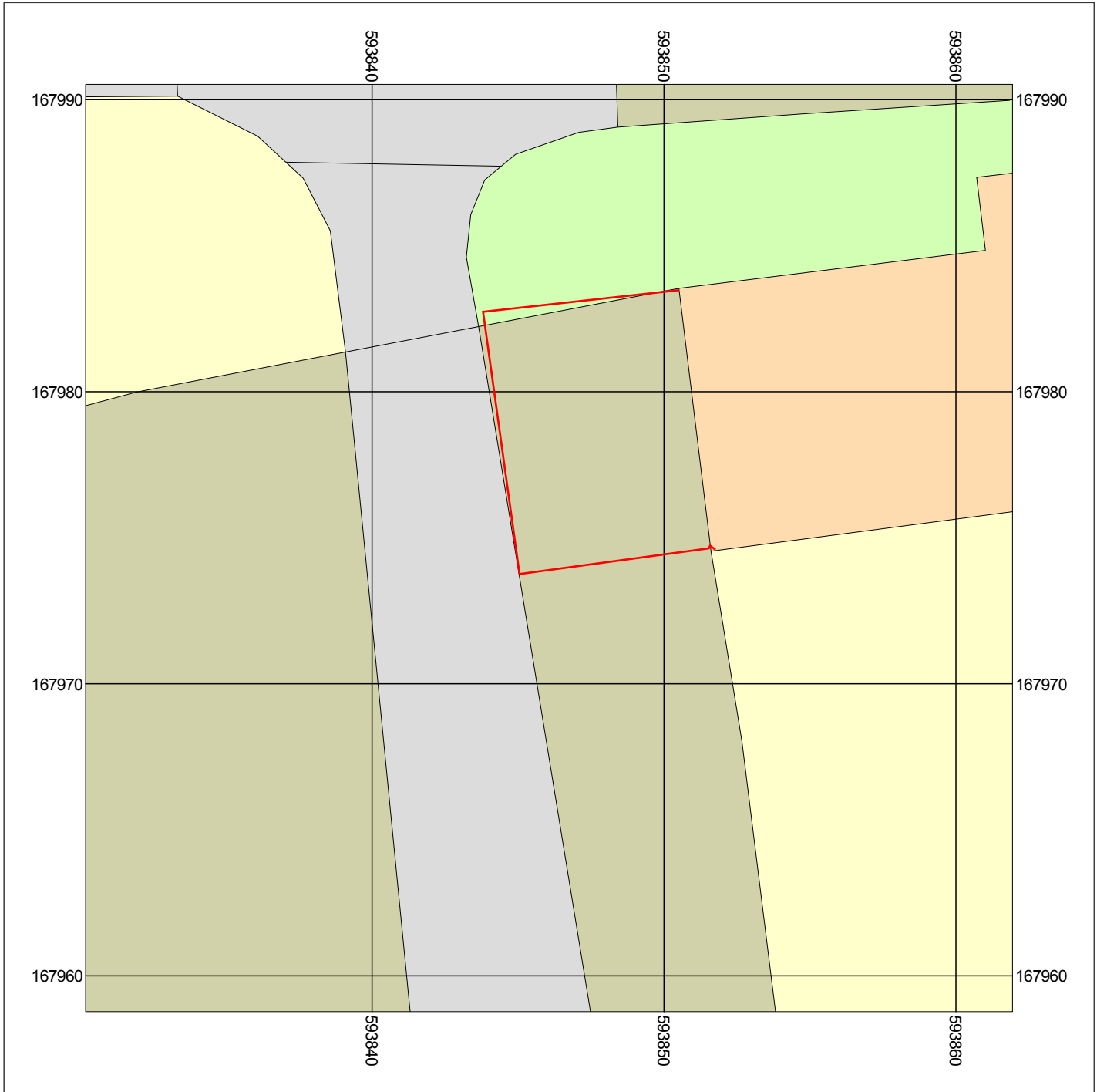
The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way.
 The representation of features a lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



Ground Scale: 1:1250
 Bottom Left: 593752 167854 Top Right: 593952 168055
 Center: 593852 167954
 Area: 200m x 200m

1 KINGS HILL COTTAGES
ELMLEY, SHEERNESS
ME12 3RW

Figure 2.
Area watched
(red box)



1 Kings Hill Cottages
Elmley
Sheerness
ME12 3RW

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 17/05/2017
Serial number: 1838953

Plot centre co-ordinates: 593846,167975
Download file: kings.zip
Project name: swat