

Archaeological Investigation on land at The
Old Oak, 68 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent
ME10 4RT

Site Code OAK/WB/17



Date of report 30/05/2017

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

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Archaeological Investigation on land at the Old Oak, 68 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code OAK/WB/17
NGR 591196 163511

Date of report: 30/05/2017



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 164m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 10th, 11th February 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 a two flats at The Old Oak, 68 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent (Fig. 1 & 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 medieval and post-medieval buildings, evidence of which have been found at 66 East Street where a possible Medieval wall was located in a Watching Brief (TQ 96 SW 272). At 52-54 East Street the site of two 18th century buildings was examined (TQ 96 SW 299), whilst at 37 East Street post-medieval building deposits were identified during a Watching Brief (TQ 96 SW 211).

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/505794/FULL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by previous watching briefs reports by Canterbury Archaeological Trust and KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief on 68 East Street revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The application site lies within the historic core of Sittingbourne which may be of early medieval origins but certainly flourished in the medieval period with the establishment of coaching inn's, port facilities and later the brickworks and numerous other industries.

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 16/505794/FULL was 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 (6) 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 SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 10th, 11th February 2017:

10th Feb- work on site was the cutting of two trenches. Plates 2-5

11th Feb- work on site was completion of the foundation trenches (Plates 6-9 & Figure 1)

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 recording of the archaeological remains which may be disturbed as a result of the development.

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches for the proposed new build flats (Plates 2-7).

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 Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk

The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The soil revealed on site was yellow brown sandy silty clay (Brickearth) down to 1.20m BGL with a ground level of about 12m aOD (Plate 7).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification and timetable compiled by SWAT Archaeology 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 the 10th-11th February 2017.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by the contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed and ditching bucket necessary to trench 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 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 (Brickearth). No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the subsoil.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 13m x 6m, the proposed build is over most of the site and connection to the nearby drains was made by another utility contractor. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.00m-1.20m deep with a ground level about 12.00m 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 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 the landowner for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2017)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

CAT Archaeological Watching Briefs (2009-2014)

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land to the rear of the Old Oak, 68 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

SWAT Site Code: OAK/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 build of flats 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) 591196 163511

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 Seaford Chalk Formation-Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Old Oak, 68 East Street, Sittingbourne, 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



Plate 2. General view of site (looking SW)



Plate 3. Cutting of trenches



Plate 4. Cutting off foundation trenches (west side)



Plate 5. Cutting of foundation trenches (east side)

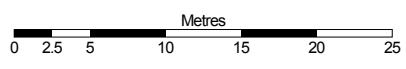


Plate 6. Cutting of the foundation trenches (south side)



Plate 7. Cutting of foundation trenches (north side)

Figure 1.
Extent of Watching
Brief within red
rectangle



68 East Street
Sittingbourne
ME10 4RT



Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 18/05/2017
Serial number: 1839692

Plot centre co-ordinates: 591196,163511
Download file: east.zip
Project name: swat2