

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 22 Albert Street, Maidstone, Kent

Site Code MAID /WB/18



Date of report 21/09/2018

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Site Code MAID/WB/18  
NGR 575780 156724

Date of report: 21/09/2018



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

(Google Earth 2018: Eye altitude 287m).

## 1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 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 dwelling on land at 22 Albert Street, Maidstone in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-6).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the excavation of foundation trenches and drainage connection (Plates 2-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: The digging out of the foundation footprint of the new building to about 0.40-0.1.10m below present ground level of about 26.70m AOD (6<sup>th</sup> September & 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 nearby findings of Roman coins and possible road.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Maidstone Borough Council 15/506552/FULL and the Appeal Decision Reference is APP/U2235/W/16/3160423.

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 within Maidstone and in the back garden of 22 Albert Street. The site itself is level at about 26.70m aOD (Figure 1).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 15/506552/FULL was submitted to Maidstone 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 (10) 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 previously 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.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

### **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 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 (SWAT Archaeology 11/05/2018).*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation trenches and drain connection for the new detached two storey dwelling (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 is that the Bedrock Geology is Hythe Formation- Sandstone and (subequal/subordinate) Limestone

whilst the Superficial Deposits are not recorded but exposed on site as off white gritty stony sandy clay (Plates 2-6) .

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains.

Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer KCC has commented on the application:

*'The site of the application lies close to the discovery of a Roman coin and is adjacent to the possible route of a Roman road. Remains associated with Roman activity may be encountered' (2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015)*

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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 soil down to formation level (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 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 deposits of off white gritty stony sandy clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The proposed build is to be located to the rear of the main house. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.00m-1.20cm deep at about 27.60m 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 the landowners for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (KCC and Historic England 2018)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at 22 Albert Street, Maidstone, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** MAID/WB/18

**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 detached house 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:** Maidstone Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 575780 156724

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

**Date of recording:** September 2018

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Hythe Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 22 Albert Street, Maidstone, 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:** 21/09/18





Plate 2. General view of site (looking NW)



Plate 3. View of trenching (looking NE)



Plate 4. View of foundation trenching (looking SE)

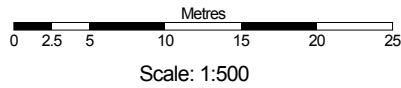


Plate 5. View of the trenches (looking NW)



Plate 6. View of the trenches (looking NW)

Figure 1  
Site plan



**22 Albert Street**  
**Maidstone**  
**ME14 2RN**

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 11/05/2018  
Serial number: 1982587

Plot centre co-ordinates: 575794,156727  
Download file: swat\_22albert.zip  
Project name: swat\_22albert