

Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to 1 Orchard Place, Sundridge, Kent

Site Code SUN/WB/17



Date of report 04/04/2018

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NGR 589223 165760

Date of report: 04/04/2018



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2007: Eye altitude 317m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. From the 3rd -5th April 2017 Tim Allen 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 storey terraced building at land adjacent to 1 Orchard Place, Sundridge in Kent. (Figures 1, 2 & Plates 1-4).

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

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: The digging out of the footprint of the new building to about 0.80m below present ground level of about 85.50m aOD.

Phase 2: Excavating a service trench to connect to existing services (5th April and Plate 4).

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 post-medieval activity from the nearby Oast Hill Farm.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/03970.

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 to the south of Main Road (A25). The site is bounded by the built development of Sundridge to the north, west, east and south with extensive, open, former parkland areas to the north and west across the main roads. The site itself is level at about 85.50m aOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 16/03970 was submitted to Sevenoaks District 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 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' This shall be undertaken by an archaeologist approved in writing by the Council 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 Council. The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that it is fundamental to the development permitted to address this issue before development commences and that without this safeguard planning permission should not be granted.

Reason: To investigate and record archaeological features as supported by Policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Tim Allen CMIfA) and monitored the foundation excavation works from 3rd-5th April 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 knowledge of the archaeological landscapes of Sundridge area; to record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks” (KCC 2017).

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation trenches and to connect services (Plates 2-3).

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 BGS is bedrock geology of Sandgate Formation- Sandstone and Mudstone and the Superficial Deposits are River Terrace Deposits of Sand and Gravel.

5.2. The application site is within an area of known important archaeological remains. However, very little archaeology has been found in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area (PDA).

There are some Grade II listed buildings to the north of the PDA and fronting Main Road (A25). A report by Nigel MacPherson-Grant itemises 25 pottery sherds dating from 12th-14th century found alongside the Main Road (TQ 45 NE 39). To the SSE at about 450 metres is the site of Oast Hill Farm (MKE 88788) and to the SSW at about 475 metres is a medieval wayside cross (TQ 45 SE 4).

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 (CIfA: 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 from 3rd-5th April 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 soil down to formation level (Plates 2-3).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Tim Allen 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: 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 clay overlaid by topsoil mixed with demolition material. 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 new build is to be located to the north and joins the existing terraced houses. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The trench reduction was about 80 cm deep at about 84.70m 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 client for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2017)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2017)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at land adjacent to No 1 Orchard Place, Sundridge, Kent

SWAT Site Code: SUN/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 terraced 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: Sevenoaks District Council planning reference 16/03970

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 548134 155285

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: April 2017

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is London Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to No 1 Orchard Place, Sundridge, 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: 25/03/18



Plate 2. General view of foundation trenches (looking E)

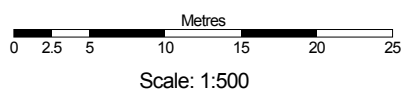


Plate 3. View of foundations (looking S)



Plate 4. View of drainage run (looking S)

Figure 1.
Location of area
watched (red line)



1 Orchard Place
Sundridge
TN14 6EN

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 29/03/2018
Serial number: 1967556

Plot centre co-ordinates: 547987,155279
Download file: orchard.zip
Project name: swat

Figure 2
Site Location



1:1250 Site Location Plan

A 25



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