

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at
Rowan House Farm, Gravelly Bottom Road,
Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent

Site Code ROW/WB/18



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Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Rowan House Farm, Gravely Bottom Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent

Site Code ROW/WB/19
NGR 582757 151006



AP 1. View of proposed development area (2017)

1.0 Abstract

1.1. In August 2018 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of ground works involved of a new Atcost style storage building at Rowan House Farm in Ringwood, Maidstone in Kent (Figure 1 and Plates 1-6).

1.2. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the topsoil strip and foundation excavations of the site. (Plates 1-6).

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Topsoil strip and digging out of the foundations for the new extension on 17th August 2018 (Plates 1-6).

1.4. The Archaeological Investigations were to determine whether any significant archaeological remains had survived within the footprint of the proposed groundworks. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area included on the KCCHER data.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Maidstone Borough Council (18/501362/FULL).

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Investigation revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The site is within a working farm just to the north of Gravelly Bottom Road in the rural district of Maidstone in Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 582757 151006) and its location shown on Figures 1, 3 & Plate 1.

2.2 Planning Background

The following Condition (4) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring 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 excavations are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The Watching Brief shall be in accordance with a written

specification and timetable which has been submitted 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 (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works on 17th August 2018.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work were to:

(6.1) 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.

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the ground for the build of a new Atcost building (Plates 1-6).

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 Bedrock Geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The geology revealed on site was silt, sand and gravel (Plate 4).

5.2 The archaeological potential is contained within the SWAT Archaeological Specification and dated 06/05/2018.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology.

6.2. The works comprised the close monitoring of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the subsoil down to formation level (Plates 1-6).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCI(A)).

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 investigation work 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 silt, sand and gravel overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site.

7.2 The proposed build is for a new Atcost building. The area watched were surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 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 high archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Investigation 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 landowner for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Rpwon House Farm, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent

SWAT Site Code: ROW/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 Atcost building whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Works be undertaken to close monitor the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site attendance which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Maidstone Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 582757 151006

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Investigation

Date of recording: 17th August 2018

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Hythe Formation Sandstone

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Rowan House Farm, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, 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



Plate 2. View of the site (looking S)



Plate 3. View of foundation trench (looking S)



Plate 4. View of foundation pits

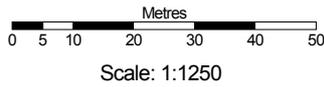


Plate 5. Foundation trench (looking S)



Plate 6. Foundation trench (looking S)

Figure 1
Location of area watched



**Rowan House Farm,
Gravelly Bottom Road
Kingswood
ME17 3NU**

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 06/06/2018
Serial number: 1992183

Plot centre co-ordinates: 582714,151009
Download file: rowan.zip
Project name: swat