

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 85 Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 18373 60881

Site Code: STU/EV/19

(Planning Application: CA/18/00478)

**SWAT Archaeology**

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## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	4
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	5
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	6
9. Results.....	6
10. Discussion.....	8
11. Finds.....	8
12. Conclusion.....	8
13. Acknowledgements.....	8
14. References.....	8
15. CCC Summary Form.....	9

List of Figures:

Figure 1–Location of site and evaluation trench and test pits

List of Plates:

Plates 1-4. View of test pits and single trench

# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 85 Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent**

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the side of 85 Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/18/00478) to develop this site for a two-storey detached dwelling with balcony to the front elevation was submitted to Canterbury City Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of one evaluation trench revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trench or the two adjacent test pits.*

*The natural geology of River Terrace Deposits overlaying Thanet Formation of Sand, Silt and Clay was reached at an average depth of between 0.20m and 0.25m below the top layer of topsoil (Plates 1-4).*

*The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowner to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2019) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated to the east of the village of Sturry and lies above the Stour River Valley fronting on to Island Road. The plot is bounded to the north by the back gardens of properties on Cedar Road (Figure 1).

#### **4. Planning Background**

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (3):

*No development other than demolition shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:*

*(i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*(ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has 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 in accordance with policy HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury Local Plan 2017, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Archaeological Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2019).

#### **6. Aims and Objectives**

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

*6.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.*

*6.2 Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).*

## **7. Methodology**

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of one trench within the footprint of the proposed development. A 4.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and CIfA standards and guidance.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

## **9. Results**

The single evaluation trench and two test pits exposed a deposit sequence consisting of topsoil overlaying River Gravels and subsoil of orange brown silty sandy clay.

## **10. Discussion**

With a number of archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity but none was found.

## **11. Finds**

No finds were retrieved

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trench and two test pits at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological feature. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

## **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

## **14. References**

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2017) *Site Specific Requirements: Building Plot at 85 Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0EF*

## HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Building Plot at 85 Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** STU/EV/19

**Site Address:** As above

### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a two-storey detached dwelling whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeological features.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 18373 60881

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** July 2019

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is superficial deposits of River Gravels

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 85 Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

No archaeology found

**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

PLATES



Plate 1. View of Trench 1 (looking N)



Plate 2. View of Trench 1 section. 1m scale (looking W)

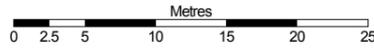


Plate 3. View of test pit 1



Plate 4. Test Pit 2

Figure 1. Location of Trench 1 and two test pits



Scale: 1:500



85 Island Road  
Sturry  
Canterbury  
CT2 0EF

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 20/05/2019  
Serial number: 2116047

Plot centre co-ordinates: 618367,160876  
Download file: swat\_85islandrd.zip  
Project name: swat\_85islandrd