

# Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Arnolds Business Park, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

Site Code: SPEEDY -EV-18

NGR Site Centre 567495 148485

Planning Application Number: TM/18/00514/FL



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](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk)

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## **Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Arnolds Business Park, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.*

*The fieldwork was carried out in November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2018) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 9 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising demolition material and subsoil overlying natural geology with no archaeology being revealed.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Branbridges Road, Tonbridge in Kent (Figure 1). The land has planning permission (TM/18/00514/FL) for the build of nine new units for Class B8 use with car parking and landscaping.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, requested that the programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KKCHC.

#### **1.1 4 Site Description and Topography**

The site is situated in the village and Parish of East Peckham, just to the west of the A228 and just south of Hale Street. To the north is the River Medway which runs close to the proposed development area (PDA) and the PDA is north of the village of Beltring. The Southern Rail line to London is located to the east with a station stop at Beltring. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 567495 148485 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Bedrock geology of Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone. Superficial deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. The PDA is set at an average height of 13.60m AOD.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 Further 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 Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2018).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2018)**

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) were to:

3.1.2 *'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. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier history of the site and also any other Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval archaeological activity.'*

3.1.3 *The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with a geophysical survey and evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements'.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2018: 6)

#### **3.2 General Aims**

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

## **4.2 Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 A total of nine evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3).
- 4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and ClfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

## **4.3 Recording**

- 4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights. These are retained in the site project archive.
- 4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.
- 4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 A total of nine evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

## **5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence**

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a mix of demolition material sealing an intact subsoil of yellow orange sandy clayey silt overlaying the natural alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

5.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-10 include selected site photographs.

## **5.3 Overview**

5.3.1 The nine trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains. Some trenches were re-aligned on site because of live services picked up by the CAT Scanner survey.

## **6 FINDS**

6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation

## **7 Discussion**

### **7.1 Archaeological Narrative**

7.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded in any of the trenches.

### **7.2 Conclusions**

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.

7.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

### **8.1 General**

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics



## 9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Paul Wilkinson MCIfA supervised the archaeological evaluation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

## 10 REFERENCES

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Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 06/12/2018

## Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Depth: 0.75m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNW-end Ground Level: 13.60m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Demolition material	Top layer	0.00-0.65
102	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.65-75
103	Yellow brown sandy gravel	Natural	0.75-

Trench 2	Dimensions: 16m x 1.6m Depth: 1.10m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 13.70m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Demolition material	Top layer	0.00-0.65
202	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.65-1.10
203	Yellow brown sand	Natural	1.10-

Trench 3	Dimensions: 20m x 1.6m Depth: 0.55m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 13.57m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Demolition material	Top layer	0.00-0.45
302	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.45-55
303	Yellow brown sandy gravel	Natural	0.55-

Trench 4	Dimensions: 20m x 1.6m Depth: 0.65m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE-end Ground Level: 13.60m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Demolition material	Top layer	0.00-0.55
402	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.55-65
403	Yellow brown sandy gravel	Natural	0.65-

Trench 5	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Depth: 0.70m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE-end Ground Level: 13.60m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
501	Demolition material	Top layer	0.00-0.65
502	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.65-70
503	Yellow brown sand	Natural	0.70-

Trench 6	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Depth: 0.65m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 13.75m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
601	Demolition material	Top layer	0.00-0.45
602	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.45-65
603	Yellow brown sandy gravel cut by modern drain	Natural	0.65-

Trench 7	Dimensions: 22m x 1.6m Depth: 0.75m Trench alignment: NNW-SSE NNW-end Ground Level: 13.69m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
701	Demolition material	Tops layer	0.00-0.55
702	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.55-75
703	Yellow brown sandy gravel	Natural	0.75-

Trench 8	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Depth: 0.67m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNW-end Ground Level: 13.71m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
801	Demolition material	Toplayer	0.00-0.45
802	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.45-67
803	Yellow brown sand	Natural	0.67-

Trench 9	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Depth: 0.70m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNW-end Ground Level: 13.71m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil	Top layer	0.00-0.55
902	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Subsoil	0.55-70
903	Yellow brown sand	Natural	0.70-

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at the former Arnolds Business Park, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BRAN/EV/18

**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 nine new units Class B8 use and car parking whereby Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council requested that Archaeological works 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 archaeology.

**District/Unitary:** Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 567495 148485

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** November 2018

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Weald Clay Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Arnolds Business Park, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, 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. Trench 2 being excavated (looking SSE)



Plate 2. Trench 1 (looking NNE)





Plate 3. Trench 5 (looking NNE)



Plate 4. Section Trench 2





Plate 5. Trench 4 (looking NNE)



Plate 6. Trench 6 (looking NNW)





Plate 7. Trench 7 (looking NNW)



Plate 8. Section Trench 1





Plate 9



Plate 10

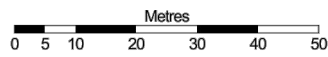








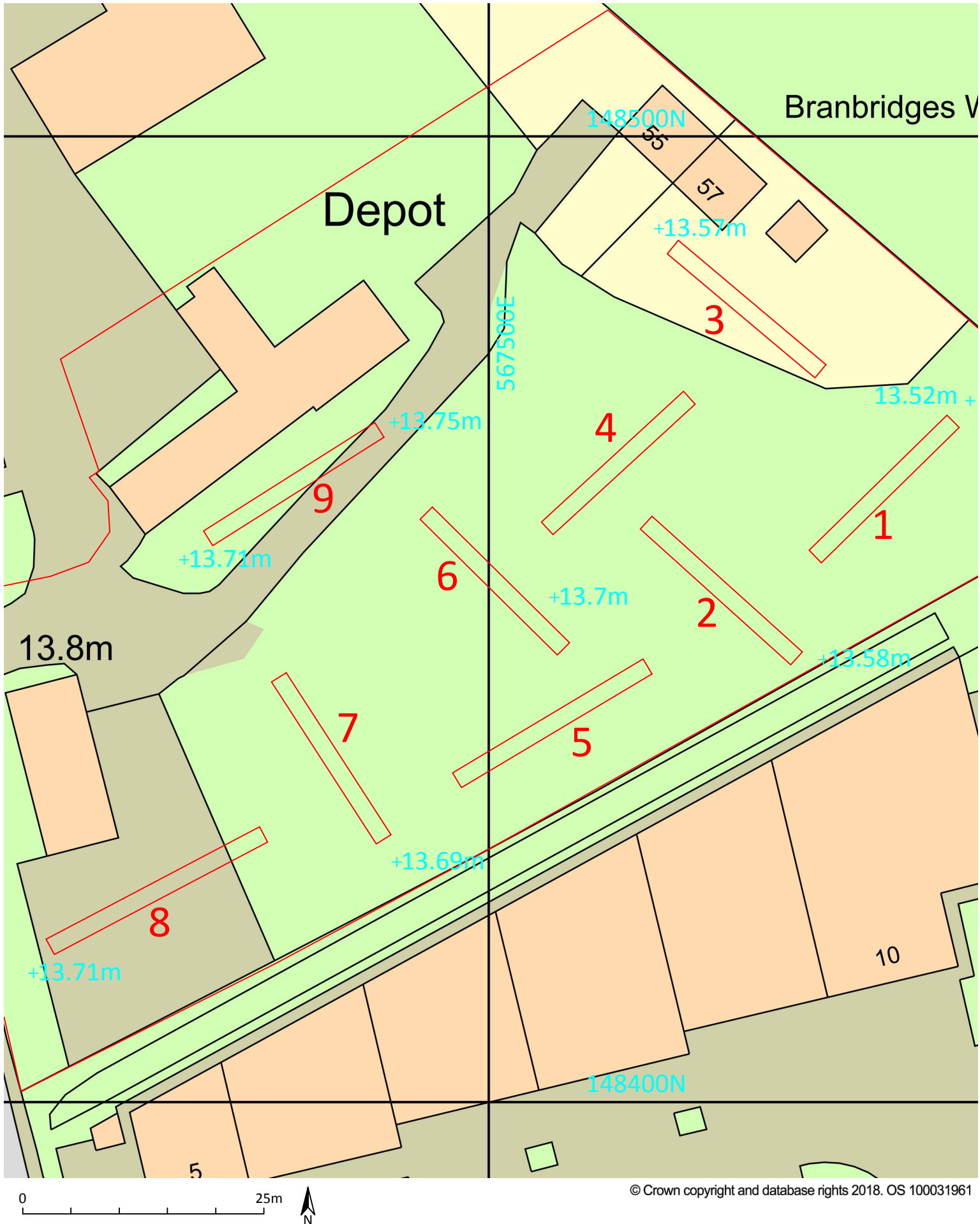
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Scale: 1:1250

**Branbridges Road**  
**East Peckham**

*Figure 2: Trench location*



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Figure 3: Trench plan, scale 1:500