

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Luckley Field Site, Wye, Kent

Site Code LUCK /WB/18



Date of report 10/10/2018

## **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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Site Code LUCK/WB/18  
NGR 060510 146440

Date of report: 10/10/2018



Plate 1. General view of access road excavation (looking east)

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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 and access road at Luckley Field site, south of 128 Little Chequers, Wye in Kent (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-7).

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 access road construction (Plates 1-7).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: The digging out of the foundation footprint of a new domestic building to about 0.40-0.1.10m below present ground level of about 37.20m AOD (2<sup>nd</sup> October & Plates 6-7).

Phase 2: The digging out of the foundation footprint of the new access road (2<sup>nd</sup> October & Plate 1-5).

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 buildings (KAFS 2018) and possible prehistoric activity (ASE 2013).

1.5. 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 an open field bounded by residential properties to the north and open fields to the south and east. To the west is located the River Stour and beyond the railway line from Ashford to Canterbury. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 060510 146440) and its location shown on Figure 1.

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application 14/00195/AS was submitted to Ashford 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 (34) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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 04/10/2017).*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation trenches for a domestic dwelling and access road (Plates 1-7).

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 River Terrace Gravels underlain by Thanet Beds which comprise fine grained grey and brown sands, The subsoil exposed on site was orange brown gravelly sandy silt (Plates 2-6) .

5.2. In advance of the proposals to develop this site for residential use, the Archaeological Officer for Ashford Borough Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site.

5.3 An Archaeological Desk-Based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by CgMs (2010), and subsequent *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation* was produced by Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council (HCGKCC 2012).

5.4 Further to this document, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation was produced by Archaeology South-East (2013), which was approved by CgMs and HCGKCC. The follow on watching brief specification was produced by SWAT Archaeology 04.10. 2017.

## 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 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 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 1-7).

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 were deposits of orange brown gravelly sandy silt 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 area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.00m-1.20cm deep at about 37.00m 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 Luckley Field, Wye, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** LUCK/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 25 dwellings with a vehicle access off Little Chequers, Wye 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 visit which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Ashford Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 060510 146440

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

**Date of recording:** October 2018

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is River Terrace Gravels

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Luckley Field, Wye, 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:** 12/10/18





Plate 2. General view of access road (looking E)



Plate 3. View of ground reduction access road (looking E)



Plate 4. Completed reduction access road (looking E)



Plate 5. View of the foundation trenches (looking N)





Plate 6. View of the foundation trenches (looking W)



Plate 7. View of the foundation trenches (looking E)

Figure 1



Metres  
0 5 10 20 30 40 50  
Scale: 1:1250

Wye



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 04/10/2017  
Serial number: 1893271

Plot centre co-ordinates: 605078,146439  
Download file: wye.zip  
Project name: swat1