

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Eusemere, Princes View, Dartford, Kent

Site Code: EUS -EV-18

NGR Site Centre 554992 173378

Planning Application Number: DA/17/00798/FUL



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Eusemere, Princes View, Dartford 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 2 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. The two trenches revealed no archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Eusmere, Princes View, Dartford in Kent (**Figure 1**). The land has planning permission (DA/17/00798/FULL) for the erection of a detached 4 bedroom dwelling and detached double car port and parking spaces for new and existing property (**Figure 2**).

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 Dartford Borough Council (DBC), requested that the programme of works comprising initially 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 just north of Princes Road (A225) and to the north of Dartford Football ground and Sports Centre. To the west is located the River Darent and Brooklands Lake whilst to the east Hesketh Park. The NGR to the centre of the site is 554992 173378 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial deposits are not recorded but the geology on site was gravelly sandy clay. The PDA is set at an average height of 38.00m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 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 adjacent Roman remains and later 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 two evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figure 1).
- 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.
- 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 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 two 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 topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of gravelly sandy clay.
- 5.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figure 1 provides a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-3 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

- 5.3.1 The two trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

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 supervised the archaeological evaluation and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the draft text for this report.

10 REFERENCES

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*.

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

Date: 29/11/2018

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Trench 1			
Dimensions: 6.5m x 2.6m Depth: 0.20m Trench alignment: NW-SE NW-end Ground Level: 38.05m aOD, SE-end Ground Level: 38.07m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
102	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.20+

Trench 2			
Dimensions: 8.5m x 1.6m Depth: 0.26m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 38.16m aOD, S-end Ground Level: 38.17m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil	Topsoil	0.00-0.20
202	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt	Natural	0.26+

Appendix 2: Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Eusemere, Princes View, Dartford Kent

SWAT Site Code: EUS/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 the erection of residential house and detached garage whereby Dartford 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: Dartford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 554992 173378

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 Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Eusemere, Princes View, Dartford, 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



Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking E)

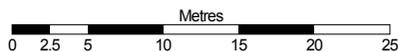


Plate 2. Trench 1 Section



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking N)

Figure 1
Location of
evaluation
trenches



Scale: 1:500

Prince's View
Dartford
DA1 1



Supplied By: National Map Centre
Licence number: 100031961
Produced: 26/10/2018
Serial number: 2044022

Plot centre co-ordinates: 554991.173385
Download file: princes.zip
Project name: swat

Figure 2
Proposed development



project title Urban Enhance New House Land at Eusemere, Princes View Dartford		drawing title Proposed Site Plan	
scale 1:200 @ A3	drawing number 2912 - 02	revision C	
date April 2017			

