



**Archaeological Watching Brief on land at  
White Hill Grain Store, White Hill,  
Boughton Aluph**

January 2018

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at White Hill Grain Store, White Hill, Boughton Aluph, Kent

Site Code WHIT/WB/17



Report for T. Denne & Sons

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at White Hill Grain Store, White Hill, Boughton Aluph, Kent

Site Code STIC/WB/17  
NGR 603709 148784

Date of report: 24/01/2018



Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 2014: Eye altitude 555m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. From the 21<sup>st</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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 new portal frame building for grain handling and storage at White Hill Grain Store, White Hill, Boughton Aluph in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-9).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the land owner.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the site demolition of the Romney Shed and the excavation of the foundations for the replacement building (Plates 2-9).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Recording of the Romney building during demolition (21<sup>st</sup> March & Plates 1-6 Appendix).

Phase 2: The digging out of the foundations of the new building to about 1.20m below present ground level of about 88.50m aOD (18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> April & Plates 2-9).

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 Anglo-Saxon Burials.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 15/01018/AS.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological and the Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved the opportunity was taken to record the Romney building before it was demolished (Appendix ).

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located on land to the west of White Hill and north of the A28 Canterbury Road. To the west is the hamlet of Boughton Aluph and just beyond the village of Boughton Lees. The site itself is within a quarry level at about 29.50m aOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application 15/01018/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 (3) 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 been submitted to and approved 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 from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### **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 knowledge of the archaeological landscapes of Bobbing area; to record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks” (SWAT 2017).*

4.2. The ground works were to demolish the Romney Building and excavate for ten 2m x 2m foundations of the new building (Plates 2-6).

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 as revealed in the excavations of the ten 2m x 2m foundations was modern clay/chalk infill and chalk and the base of the relict quarry.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. In response to the planning application for the new dwelling the county archaeologist advised that:

*'The site of the proposed development is set within a quarry and industrial complex identifiable on the 1<sup>st</sup> Ed OS map. There are lime kilns noted and earthworks, some of which may still survive. The complex is therefore of post medieval industrial archaeological interest. There is also recorded the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon burial found between 1902 and 1904 at "Tarbutt's chalk quarry" and although the application site is within the quarry itself, associated Early Medieval remains may be encountered. There may be some interest in the Nissan Hut itself. These tended to be corrugated iron buildings of a certain period and reflect industrial and agricultural building techniques of the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century'* (Wendy Rogers 2/09/15).

Additional research has shown that a lime kiln can be identified on the 1842 OS map (front cover) and in 1902/1904 an Anglo Saxon inhumation with Roman coins was found buried at the Lime Kiln Works (TR 04 NW 4). In addition to the west linear features and cropmarks have been identified near Soakham Farm (TR 04 NW 32). The site itself is identified on the KCC HER as the site of a Lime Kiln and quarry (TR 04 NW 53).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC 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 from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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 chalk down to formation level (Plates 2-9).

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 CifA Standards and Guidance, (CifA: 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 chalk mixed with clay. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site.

7.2 The area which was watched and surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.20m deep below ground level at about 86.50m 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. A Level One Building recording was carried out on the Romney Shed and is the Appendix.

## **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 Christopher Denne for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## References

HER data (Historic England 2017)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief (2017)

### Appendix 1

#### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Development of land at the White Hill Grain Store, Boughton Aluph, Kent

**Site Code:** WHIT/WB/17

**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 grain store 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 visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Ashford Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 589223 16560

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

**Date of recording:** March/April 2017

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Chalk

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the White Hill Grain Store, White Hill, Boughton Aluph, 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:** 24/01/18



Plate 2. View of site (looking N)



Plate 3. General view of the site (looking NNE)



Plate 4. View of ground excavation for concrete pads (looking SW)



Plate 5. View of post pad excavation (looking NW)





Plate 6. View of the ground reduction post pads (looking NW)



Plate 7. View of the ground reduction post pads (looking NW)





Plate 8. View of the ground reduction post pads (looking NW)



Plate 9. View of the ground reduction post pads (looking NW)



**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AT  
WHITE HILL GRAIN STORE,  
BOUGHTON ALUPH, KENT**

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Front cover: 20th century photograph of the site (looking north)

Appendix 1. Building description

Appendix 2. Digital photography list

Figure 1. Site location

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2017 Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology carried out a historic building recording of a Romney Shed at White Hill Grain Store, White Hill, Boughton Aluph in Kent (Figure 1). The building is presently unoccupied and is about to be demolished.

1.2 The building recording was carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in accordance with a Level 1 survey as detailed in the English Heritage publication 'Understanding Historic Buildings: *A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2016). *The Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2017) and the *KCC Historic Building Recording Requirements Part C*.

This is essentially a visual record. Historic England guidelines suggest that written information should be the minimum to identify the building's location, age, type, materials, use and when and whom compiled the report.

General photographs of the exterior as well as any specific architectural or historic features (both internal and external) should be taken.

**1.3 In summary the work consists of a basic descriptive report accompanied by digital photographs.**

1.4 The principal elements of the survey involved the creation of a record and description of the historic fabric of the building together with an analysis and interpretation of the buildings origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, North East and East 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by digital photographs and annotated plans.

## **2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 Location



The site is located on land to the west of White Hill and north of the A28 Canterbury Road. To the west is the hamlet of Boughton Aluph and just beyond the village of Boughton Lees. The site itself is within a quarry with a level at about 29.50m aOD (Figure 1). The underlying geology at the site as revealed in the excavations of the ten 2m x 2m foundations was modern clay/chalk infill and chalk and the base of the relict quarry.

2.2. The application site is within an area of known important archaeological remains. In response to the planning application for the new agricultural building the county archaeologist advised that:

*'The site of the proposed development is set within a quarry and industrial complex identifiable on the 1<sup>st</sup> Ed OS map. There are lime kilns noted and earthworks, some of which may still survive. The complex is therefore of post medieval industrial archaeological interest. There is also recorded the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon burial found between 1902 and 1904 at "Tarbutt's chalk quarry" and although the application site is within the quarry itself, associated Early Medieval remains may be encountered. There may be some interest in the Nissan Hut itself. These tended to be corrugated iron buildings of a certain period and reflect industrial and agricultural building techniques of the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century' (Wendy Rogers 2/09/15).*

Additional research has shown that a lime kiln can be identified on the 1842 OS map (front cover) and in 1902/1904 an Anglo Saxon inhumation with Roman coins was found buried at the Lime Kiln Works (TR 04 NW 4). In addition to the west linear features and cropmarks have been identified near Soakham Farm (TR 04 NW 32). The site itself is identified on the KCC HER as the site of a Lime Kiln and quarry (TR 04 NW 53).

The OS location is NGR 603709 148784 (Figure 11).

## 2.2 Setting

The Romney Shed (not Nissan Hut) is located in the central area of the agricultural buildings which are for the most part used as grain storage. The Romney Shed was erected in 1946 and the concrete floors laid in 1985 (pers corre C. Denne).

### 2.3 Statutory Designation

The Romney Shed is not listed.

### 2.4 Significance of the Building

The significance of the building lies in its contribution to the rural scene and of interest as a type of storage building now rapidly disappearing.

### 2.5 Historic Background

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1842 the quarry was host to a number of lime kilns and by 1940 historic aerial photography shows the site was still lime kilns but by 1946 a large Romney Shed can be seen on the west side of the site and a large agricultural building on the east side.

By 1989 both buildings had been joined by numerous agricultural buildings (Figures 6 & 7).

### 2.6 History of the Romney Shed

At the outbreak of World War II, the British military developed a series of prefabricated huts to supplement the World-War-I-era Nissen hut. The Iris hut was one of these, a medium-scale hut of 35 feet (11 m) span and from 60 feet (18 m) to 96 feet (29 m) in length, with bays of 4 feet (1.2 m) sectional length able to be added as required. However, the Iris hut had a major design flaw; it was unable to resist the weight of snow lying on the roof and had a tendency to collapse after snowfalls. For this reason, it was superseded by the Romney hut by 1941.

Both the Iris hut and the Romney hut were constructed of a clamped tubular steel frame with a central entrance. The hut was used to accommodate facilities for which abnormal roof spans were required. On some airfields, two or more Romney or Iris huts would be erected to accommodate large stores and workshops; or occasionally used as aircraft hangars.

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING**

#### **3.1 Exterior**

The building is 30 feet wide (9.14m) and 89feet long (24.38m)

### **4. INTERIOR**

4.1 The interior of the building has eight bays of about 10 feet length. The ribs are cold bent mild steel tubing with a welded connection flange drilled for four connecting bolts.

### **5.0 DISCUSSION**

5.1 The Romney building is a good example of its type which can still be found on numerous farms in the UK, a simple modular building which can be erected with a non specialist work force.

### **6.0 PARAMETERS**

5.1 The photographic survey was conducted using digital photography and as the exterior of the building was available no drone coverage of the exterior of the building was undertaken. However, the use of drones for capturing important buildings is now an acknowledged part of historic building recording. For drone footage of other building and archaeological sites recorded by SWAT Archaeology access here: [www.swatarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk) and go to 'NEWS'.

5.2 This work did not include any investigation of below ground archaeology. Such work is administered separately by SWAT Archaeology to a WSI prepared for the Local Planning Authority.

5.3 The site survey took place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and photographs can be seen in the following Plates.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCifA., FRSA

25/01/2018

## 6. References

English Heritage, 2017 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*

The National Heritage List for England (accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017)

Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008).



Archive photograph of typical build sequence



Plate 1. View of front elevation (looking NNW)



Plate 2. Side view of front elevation (looking NNE)





Plate 3. Front view(looking NNW)



Plate 4. Rear view of building (NNE)



Plate 5. View of roof



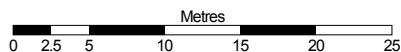
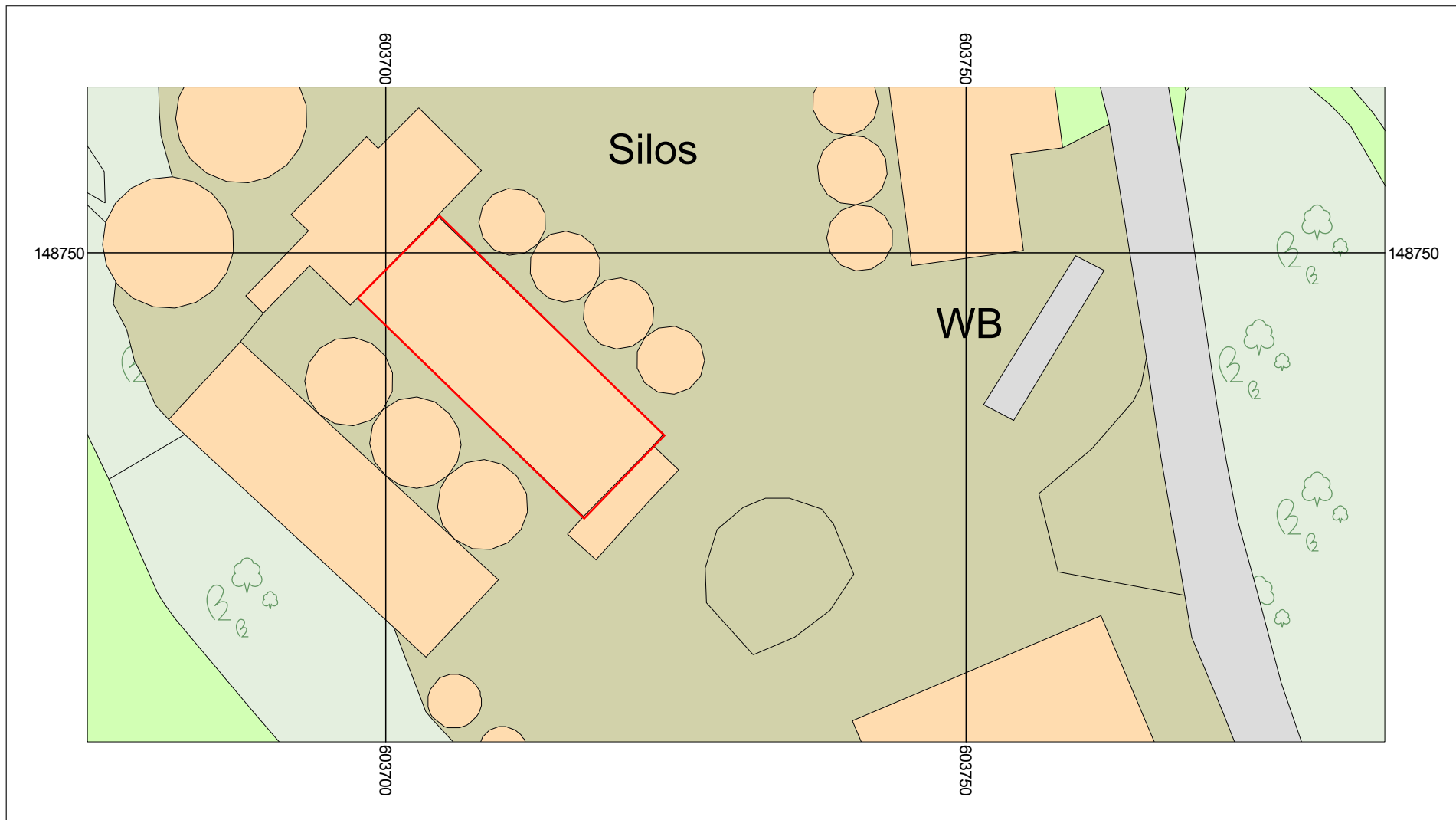
Plate 6. View of struts

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY:  
Summary Sheet**

<b>Property Name</b> White Hill Grain Store, White Hill, Boughton Aluph	<b>Address</b> White Hill, Boughton Aluph, Kent	<b>Building Name</b> Romney Hut
<b>Property/ Building Reference</b>	<b>OS Grid Reference</b> NGR 603709 148784	<b>Surveyor/Date of Survey</b> Paul Wilkinson 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017
<b>Category</b> Agricultural	<b>Original Use</b> Grain Store	<b>Current Use</b> Grain Store
<b>Date(s) of Construction</b> The building represents t a good example of a Romney Hut	<b>Statutory Designation (s)</b> n / a	<b>HER Reference</b> n/a
<b>Walling Materials</b> Wall construction is of corrugated iron	<b>Roofing Materials</b> Corrugated iron	<b>Flooring Materials</b> Concrete
<b>Description:</b> The building is an eight bay modular building designed originally for military use but utilised for farm buildings in the post- war period		
<b>Architectural/Historic Significance:</b> The building is significant as part of a fast disappearing group of WWII buildings		<b>Landscape Significance:</b> There is no significance
<b>Notes/Qualifications Regarding Survey:</b> The survey was undertaken whilst the building was empty and prior to development which enabled access to most parts of the building.		
<b>Additional Information Sources for this Building (s):</b>		







Scale: 1:500

White Hill Quarry



Supplied By:  
Licence number  
Produced:  
Serial number:

National Map Centre  
100031961  
24/01/2018  
1938707

Plot centre co-ordinates: 603730.148736  
Download file: quarry.zip  
Project name: swat1