

# Archaeological Watching Brief of land at Twinney Wharf, Susans Lane, Upchurch, Kent.

Site code TW/WB/18



Report for Paul Holland

Date of Report: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Archaeological Watching Brief of land at Twinney Wharf, Susans Lane,  
Upchurch, Kent, ME9 7HA.

Site Code TW/WB/18  
NGR 585402 168172

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Plate 1: Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development (Google Earth 20/4/2015 : Eye altitude 219m).

## 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Rebecca Parr, PCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on interim ground works involved in the Erection of a barn for storage of animal feed, bedding and associated plant and machinery (Plates 2-3).
- 1.2 The works were carried out on behalf of the owner, Mr Paul Holland.
- 1.3 An archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the interim foundation for the barn. The interim archaeological work was undertaken in a single phase being the digging of foundations to approximately 1.6m below present ground level of about 3m AOD for the rear wall at the eastern end of the barn (Plates 2-7).
- 1.4 The archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity and ensure that any features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. Particularly given the proximity of known archaeological remains relating to Twinneys Wharf and Roman Pottery works in the vicinity.
- 1.5 The Planning Application number for the development is 14/505052/FULL.
- 1.6 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 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site located on land being an open field situated on the south shore of the River Medway and NNW of the village of Lower Halstow and to the east of the village of Upchurch. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is approached from the south by Susans Lane and is situated at a level 3m aOD (Figure 1).

### *Planning Background*

- 2.2 Planning application 14/505052/FULL was submitted to Swale Borough Council (SBC), the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Archaeological Officer for Swale Borough Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of a Archaeological Watching Brief. Condition 3 of the planning permission states:

*“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 SCHEDULE OF VISIT**

- 3.1 An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Rebecca Parr, SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the interim excavation work on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### **4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

“To ensure that any features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.”

- 4.2 The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches of the barn (Plates 2-7). The main barn area is 7m x 15m and the end of the barn being 5m x 5m. The rear 5m foundation trench was cut for the end barn area.

- 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey website is Bedrock geology of Lambeth Group- Sand, Silt, and Clay. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 48 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Superficial Deposits are Head-Clay and Silt.

- 5.2 The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains (Plate 1). Twinneys Wharf is shown on the 1st (1858-73) Ordnance Survey, the 2nd (1893-7) Ordnance Survey, the 3rd (1905-10) Ordnance Survey maps and identified during the 2002 survey by Wessex Archaeology (North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II (SWX 11840). Just to the north in the River Medway intertidal zone are Roman pottery works (Plate 1) dating from 43AD to 409AD, Rectangular clay kiln bars were seen by the Upchurch Archaeological Research Group in the early 1970s with probable Roman pottery kilns in the vicinity of the PDA (TQ 8588 6859).

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA: Dec 2014).
- 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 owners on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 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 2-7).
- 6.5 All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Rebecca Parr, PCIfA).
- 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 IfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **7 RESULTS**

- 7.1 **NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OR FINDS WERE REVEALED OR RECOVERED.**  
**THE SUBSOIL** encountered across the site was deposits of clay overlaid by sandy silt, which in turn was overlaid topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds were found.
- 7.2 The site is rectangular in shape. However, only an interim foundation trench for part of the rear wall of the barn was dug, being 5m by 0.6m.
- 7.3 The sub soil was sandy and was located at depths approximately between 0.7m to 1.2m. The sand contained large nodules of unworked flint. Below this sandy was clay approximately between depths of 1.2m and 1.6m. The foundation trench was about 1.6m deep at approximately 3.0m AOD, with the position of the foundation for the rear wall for the barn being located on ground slightly higher than that of the front wall foundation. The base of the trench is below the water table. The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

## **8 FINDS**

- 8.1 No finds were retrieved.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

- 9.1 The development site is in the vicinity of an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology and no graves were revealed on the development site.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the LPA Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the interim foundation trench.

## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Paul Hollands for commissioning the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD MCIfA.

SWAT Archaeology

February 2018

## REFERENCES

KCC HER Data

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

## APPENDIX 1

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Twinney Wharf, Susans Lane, Upchurch, Kent.

**SWAT Site Code:** TW/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 a new barn whereby Swale Borough Council 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:** Swale Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures):** 585402 168172

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

**Date of recording:** February 2018



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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Lambeth Group- Sand, Silt, and Clay. Superficial Deposits are Head-Clay and Silt.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief of land at Twinney Wharf, Susans Lane, Upchurch, 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:** 15/02/18

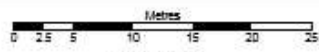
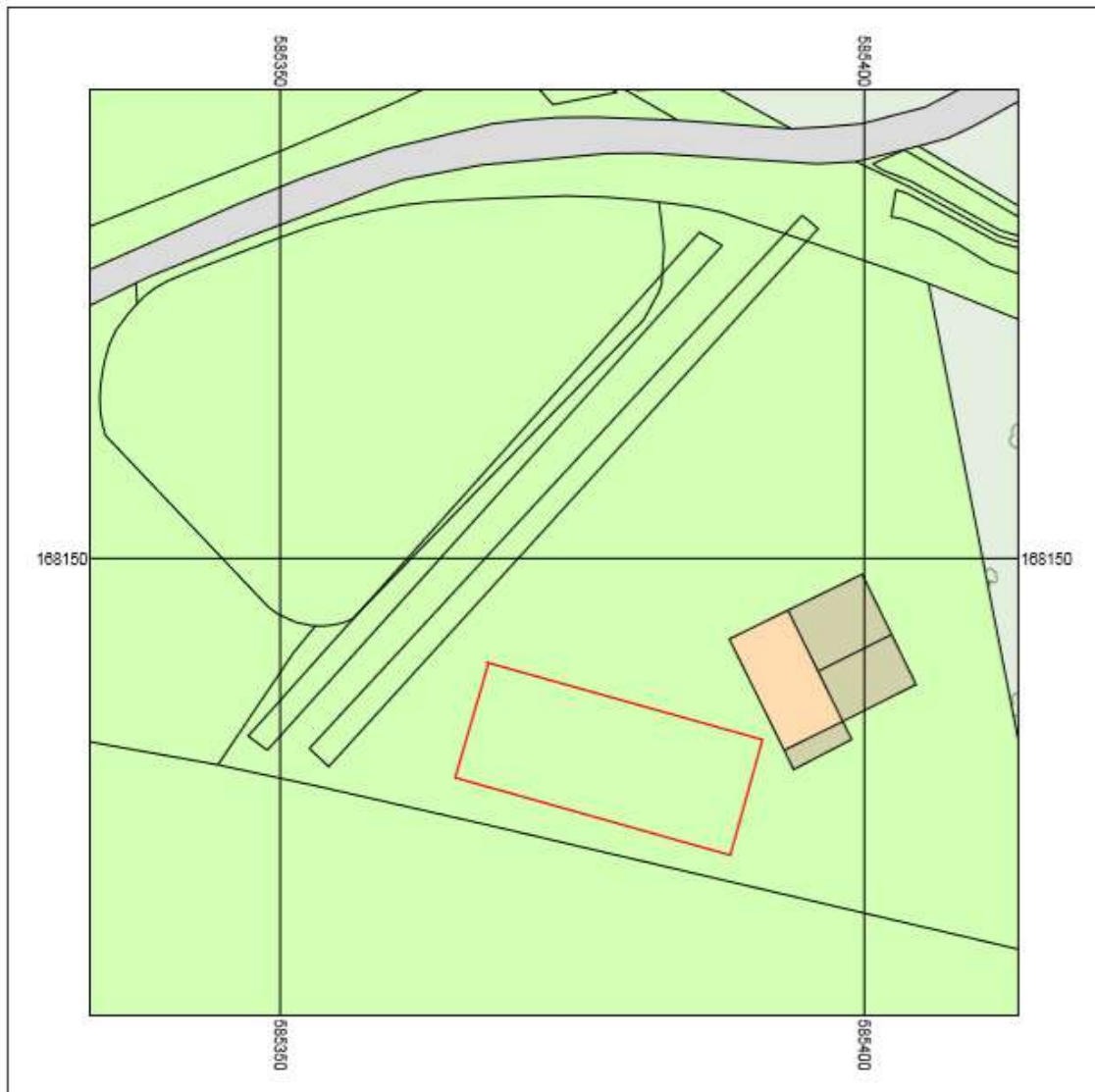


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5,000.

NATIONAL  
MAP CENTRE

OS Plan Colour

Figure 1.  
Area to be watched



Scale: 1:500

Twinney's Wharf  
Susan's Lane  
Upchurch



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 11/12/2017  
Serial number: 1924273

Plot centre co-ordinates: 585373, 188150  
Download file: twinneys.zip  
Project name: swat1

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Figure 2: Site Location map, scale 1:500



*Plate 2: General view of site of interim trench (looking north west)*





*Plate 3: General view of site of interim trench (looking south, south west)*



*Plate 4: View of interim trench (looking north west)*



*Plate 5: View of trench (looking south east)*



*Plate 6: Side view of trench (looking south west)*





*Plate 7: Side view of trench (looking north, north east)*

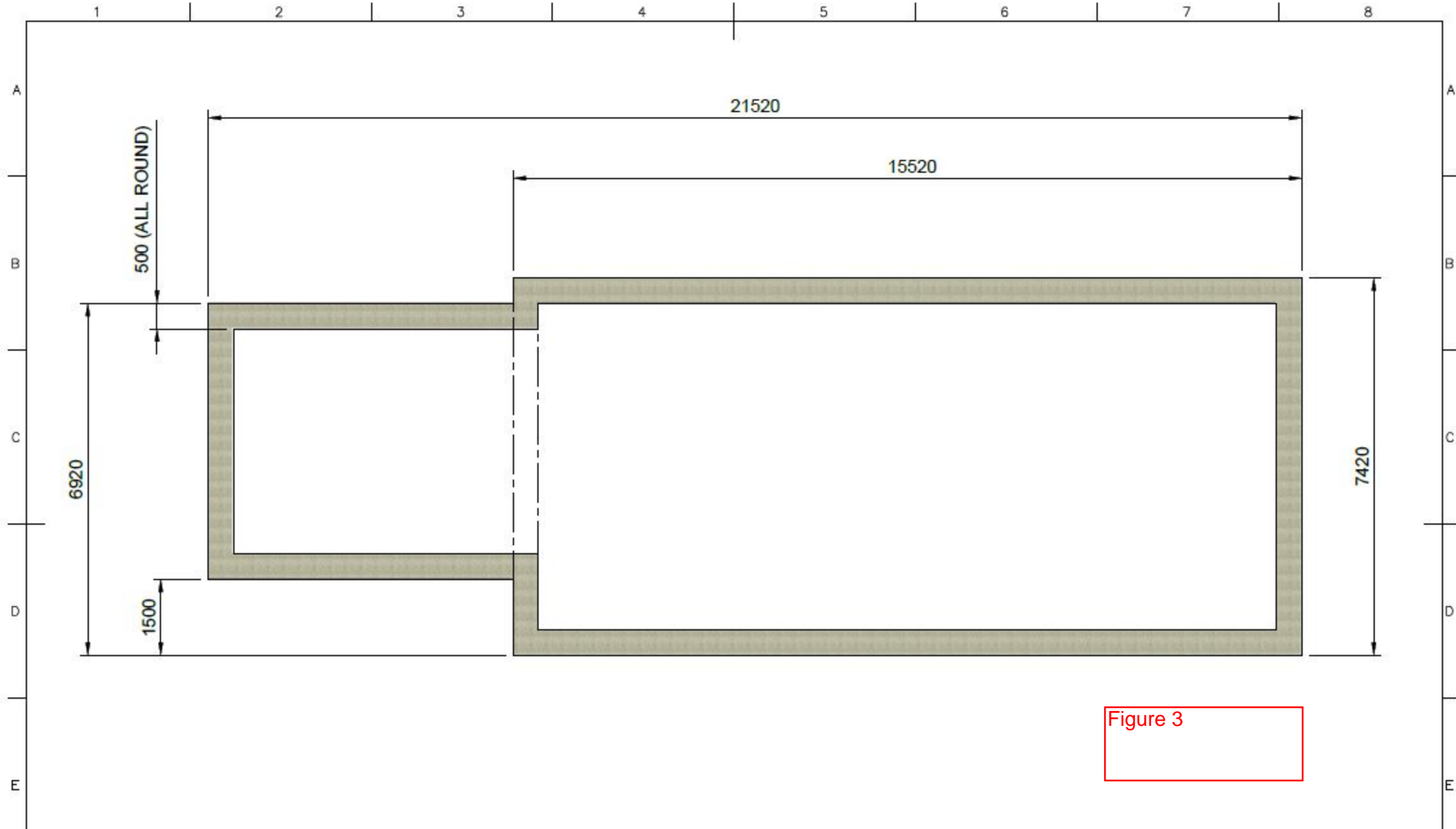


Figure 3