

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 2 Woodland Way, Blean, Canterbury, Kent CT3 7LS



NGR: 613611 159699

Site Code: WOOD/EV/18

(Supporting Planning Application: CA/17/01743/FUL)

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Plate 1. Aerial photograph of site (9/4/2017) Google Earth

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Canterbury, Kent

NGR: 613611 159699

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land of land at 2 Woodland Way, Blean in Kent. This evaluation report is being submitted in support of Application No.17/01743/FUL prior to determination. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of three evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1). The natural superficial geology of River Terrace Deposits- Sand and Gravel was reached at an average depth of between 0.25m and 0.30m below the topsoil. The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Isere Properties Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2018) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 12th July 2018.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development area (PDA) is located to the north of Canterbury city close to the University of Kent at Canterbury campus site (NGR 613611 159699). To the west of the site is the university medical centre and to the north east a detached bungalow and another bungalow to the south (Figure 1). The site is about 70m aOD (Plate 1 & Figure 1).

4. Planning Background

4.1 SWAT Archaeology have been contracted to carry out an archaeological evaluation on the proposed development site in accordance with the suggested archaeological condition:

No development, other than demolition, shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has implemented a scheme of archaeological evaluation in accordance with the approved written specification (Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Woodland Way, Blean, Canterbury Kent CT3 7LS: SWAT Archaeology 2018), and following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has 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 in accordance with policies HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2017 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

4.2 The results from this evaluation will be used to inform CCC Archaeology and Heritage and Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. There are no archaeological discoveries recorded in the vicinity of the development site, however the KCCHER contains entries pertaining to a number of archaeological investigations. These are detailed below.

5.1 A watching brief in 2008 by Kent Archaeological Projects (EKE 10342) during groundworks associated with the construction of a pipeline route between St Thomas Tower and Blean Reservoir south west of the PDA. No features or artefacts were found (*Unpublished document: Kent Archaeological Projects. 2008. An Archaeological Watching Brief on the trunk main lay between St Thomas Tower and Blean Reservoir, Canterbury Kent*).

5.2 In 2009, a magnetometry survey (EKE 12454) was undertaken of land north of Beverley Farm south east of the PDA. Two areas of disturbance were identified, possibly relating to industrial activity on the site. Further investigation was proposed. (*Unpublished document: University of Kent. 2010. Report on a Preliminary Geophysical Survey of the Canterbury Campus, University of Kent, 2009*).

5.3 In 1996, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), undertook an evaluation ahead of an extension at the Student's Union, University of Kent (EKE 8220) east of the PDA. Nothing of archaeological interest found although evidence has been found in the area (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 1996. An Archaeological Evaluation at the University of Kent at Canterbury: The Students Union Building*).

5.4 In 1998, Archaeology South-east undertook a watching brief at St Edmunds School (EKE 5379) south west of the PDA. Majority of groundworks did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest. To the south, a broad, shallow pit of probable Late Bronze Age date produced a significant quantity of prehistoric pottery, together with work and fire-cracked flint. (*unpublished Document: Archaeology South-East. 1998. An Archaeological Watching Brief at St. Edmunds School, Canterbury, Kent*).

5.5 In 2014, CAT undertook an archaeological excavation ahead of the construction of Turing College (EKE 16449) south of the PDA. The site was machine excavated and mapped by GIS, following the recommendation of an earlier archaeological evaluation. The investigation revealed Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology, including a nationally and regionally rare Bronze Age water hole, some cremation burials, and evidence of an early Iron Age settlement with areas for textile production, pottery manufacture, and later farming in the Middle Bronze age. No evidence was found of activity between this and the construction of the Grade II listed Beverley Farmhouse in the 15th century (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2014. Turing College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, Archaeological Excavation Interim Report*).

5.6 A desk based assessment was carried out by CAT in 2014 relating to University of Kent Academic development at Parkwood Road, Canterbury (EKE 16432) north of the PDA. It was decided that the proposed site was within an area of moderate archaeological potential, especially regarding potential evidence from Palaeolithic to Iron Age activity, or medieval

woodland use. It was recommended that further archaeological evaluation be carried out (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2014. University of Kent Academic Development at Parkwood Road, Canterbury*).

5.7 A watching brief on foundation trenches was carried out at Parkwood Site "A" (Phase 6) at the University of Kent in 2004 by CAT (EKE 10341) north west of the PDA. No archaeological features or artefacts were found during the excavation (*Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2005. An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Parkwood site 'A', Phase 6, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent*).

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

The principle objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or otherwise of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development.

To 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.

To 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. The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the evaluation to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and topography.

Should archaeological remains be found, further archaeological excavation may be required. This work will be covered by a separate specification and not form part of the present evaluation.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of three trenches 20m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed housing development. An 8.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the three trenches (Figure 1).

Trench 1

9.1 Trench orientation: NNW/SSE. Depth: 0.25m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 20m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (101) was dark brown silty topsoil loosely compacted under turf and 15cm thick overlaying clayey subsoil (102) mottled light brown with small flint nodule inclusions (Figure 1 & Plate 3).

Trench 2

9.1 Trench orientation: about NW/SE. Depth: 0.28m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 20m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (201) was dark brown silty topsoil loosely compacted under turf and 15cm thick overlaying clayey subsoil (202) mottled light brown with small flint nodule inclusions (Figure 1 & Plate 2).

Trench 3

9.1 Trench orientation: about NNW/SSE. Depth: 0.28m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 20m. No archaeology was detected. Topsoil (301) was dark brown silty topsoil loosely compacted

under turf and 15cm thick overlaying clayey subsoil (302) mottled light brown with small flint nodule inclusions (Figure 1 & Plate 4).

10. Discussion

With a large number of archaeological sites known in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. The site has been used as a garden. All trenches showed a typical sequence of topsoil and subsoil.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(101)** sealing the subsoil **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the report edited by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and dated 13/07/2018 with an update on 18th July 2018.

14. References

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2018) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Land at 2 Woodland Way, Blean, Canterbury, Kent*

KCC and Historic England HER data 2018

Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at 2 Woodland Way, Blean, Canterbury, Kent

SWAT Site Code: WOOD/EV/18

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the proposed development site above. This report is being submitted in support of Application No. 17/01743/FUL prior to determination.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 613611 159699

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 12th July 2018

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Superficial Deposits of River bed deposits- Clay and flint

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 2 Woodland Way, Blean, Canterbury, 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

Date: 13/07/2018 and updated 18th July 2018



Plate 2. Trench 2 (looking NW)



Plate 3. Trench 1 (looking SSE)



Plate 4. Trench 3 (looking NNW)



Plate 5. Trench 1 (Section)