

Archaeological Evaluation of Land between The Vineries and April Cottage, New Street, Ash, Sandwich, Kent



Site Code: Ash-EV-17

(Planning Application: DOV/16/01481)

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Archaeological Evaluation of Land between The Vineries and April Cottage, New Street, Ash, Sandwich, Kent CT3 2BW

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at New Street, Ash in Kent. A Planning Application (DOV/07/01081) for residential development and associated landscaping and other works was made to Dover District Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification A and KCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of two evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were not present within the trenches. The natural geology of Sand Deposits of the Lambeth Group were reached at an average depth of between 0.30m and 0.40m below the modern ground surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowner 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 (KCC 2018) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 9th to 19th August 2018.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development is to be located on land between The Vineries and April Cottage, New Street, Ash, Sandwich, Kent CT3 2BW (NGR 629738 157905 approximate site centre). The proposed development site, which extends to some 0.25 hectares is located on the south-western side of New Street. The site is bounded by neighbouring residential properties to the north-west (The Vineries) and south-east (April Cottage) and backs onto paddocks to the south-west. The site is currently undeveloped, save for a single timber clad

outbuilding (to be demolished) and appears on recent aerial photographs as overgrown with scrub and self-seeded samplings.

4. Planning Background

4.1 Outline planning permission for the “erection of 2 detached dwellings (demolition of existing building) (all matters reserved)” was granted by Dover District Council in their role as Local Planning Authority. The LPA’s planning application reference is DOV/16/01481.

4.2 The LPA has placed the following condition (6) on the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written 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. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

5.2 The site lies in an area of broad archaeological potential associated with past archaeological finds and discoveries in the general vicinity. Around 1km to the south is the important prehistoric site of Ringlemere, archaeologically known for the discovery in 2001 of an Early Bronze Age gold cup. Subsequent archaeological excavations by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust & British Museum demonstrated that the gold cup came from a complex prehistoric monument, which seemingly had its origins in the Late Neolithic as a henge or ‘hengiform’ type monument, that was subsequently reworked into a barrow in the Bronze Age. The Ringlemere monument forms one of a cluster of prehistoric monuments. The monuments at Ringlemere subsequently acted as a focus for later burials, with a number of Anglo-Saxon inhumations recorded. A further Anglo-Saxon burial is recorded

around 400m south of the site, accompanied by a number of grave goods and seemingly contained within a barrow mound. Chance finds from the area include coins and metalwork of Iron Age, Romano-British, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval date. The line of a Roman road heading towards a crossroads at Woodnesborough is projected to pass to the south-west of the site in question.

6. Aims and Objectives

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

The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include safeguarding measures, further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site only. Further measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

The evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

7. Methodology

The KCC Archaeological Specification itemises that the:

7.1 The general methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in Part B of this specification.

7.2 The archaeological evaluation will comprise the excavation of 2 archaeological trial trenches within the proposed development site. The archaeological contractor shall submit a trench layout plan for approval prior to the commencement of work. In formulating their trench layout plan the archaeological contractor should aim to include trenches measuring some 15 to 20m in length by 1.8m in width. The precise length and location of the trenches may vary dependent on any site constraints.

7.3 The Archaeological Contractor should confirm the nature and location of any constraints on-site prior to the commencement of excavation and if necessary amend the trench location

plan accordingly. Particular attention will be paid to avoiding any services and/or trees that are to be retained or to avoid damage to the roots thereof. Any amendments to the trench design must be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist and a revised trench plan submitted for approval.

7.4 Should significant remains be exposed it may be necessary to enlarge or extend the evaluation trenches to allow for further investigation of any significant features or deposits that may be encountered.

7.5 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor shall agree with the developer, or their agent, any fencing required during the works and requirements for reinstatement at completion. The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that arrangements are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations (KCC 2018).

Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 3). The trench lay on a SW-NE alignment, measured approximately 20m by 1.70m and had a maximum depth of 0.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.50m (27.50m aOD) below the present ground surface of 28.00m aOD at the SW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(201)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(200)**.

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on a NW-SE alignment, measured approximately 20m by 1.70m and had a maximum depth of 0.50m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.50m (27.50m aOD) below the present ground surface of 28.00m aOD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology were sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(101)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(100)**.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features.

10. Discussion

With numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity.

11. Finds

No archaeological finds were retrieved.

12. Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation produced no archaeological features within the two trenches. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** sealing the subsoil **(101)** which overlay the natural geology **(102)**.

Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the KCC Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA.

Paul Wilkinson

11/09/2018

14. References

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

KCC Specification *Specification for an archaeological evaluation of land between The Vineries and April Cottage, New Street, Ash, Sandwich, Kent CT3 2BW*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2017

15. Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land between The Vineries and April Cottage, New Street, Ash, Sandwich, Kent

SWAT Site Code: ASH/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 residential housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Evaluation 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: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 629738 157905

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: August 2019

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Sand of the Lambeth Group

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land between The Vineries and April Cottage, New Street, Sandwich, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

The archaeological evaluation on the site of proposed development revealed no archaeological features.

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 11/09/2018



Plate 1. View of the site (looking SW)



Plate 2. View of the site showing building to be demolished (looking south)

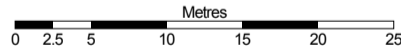
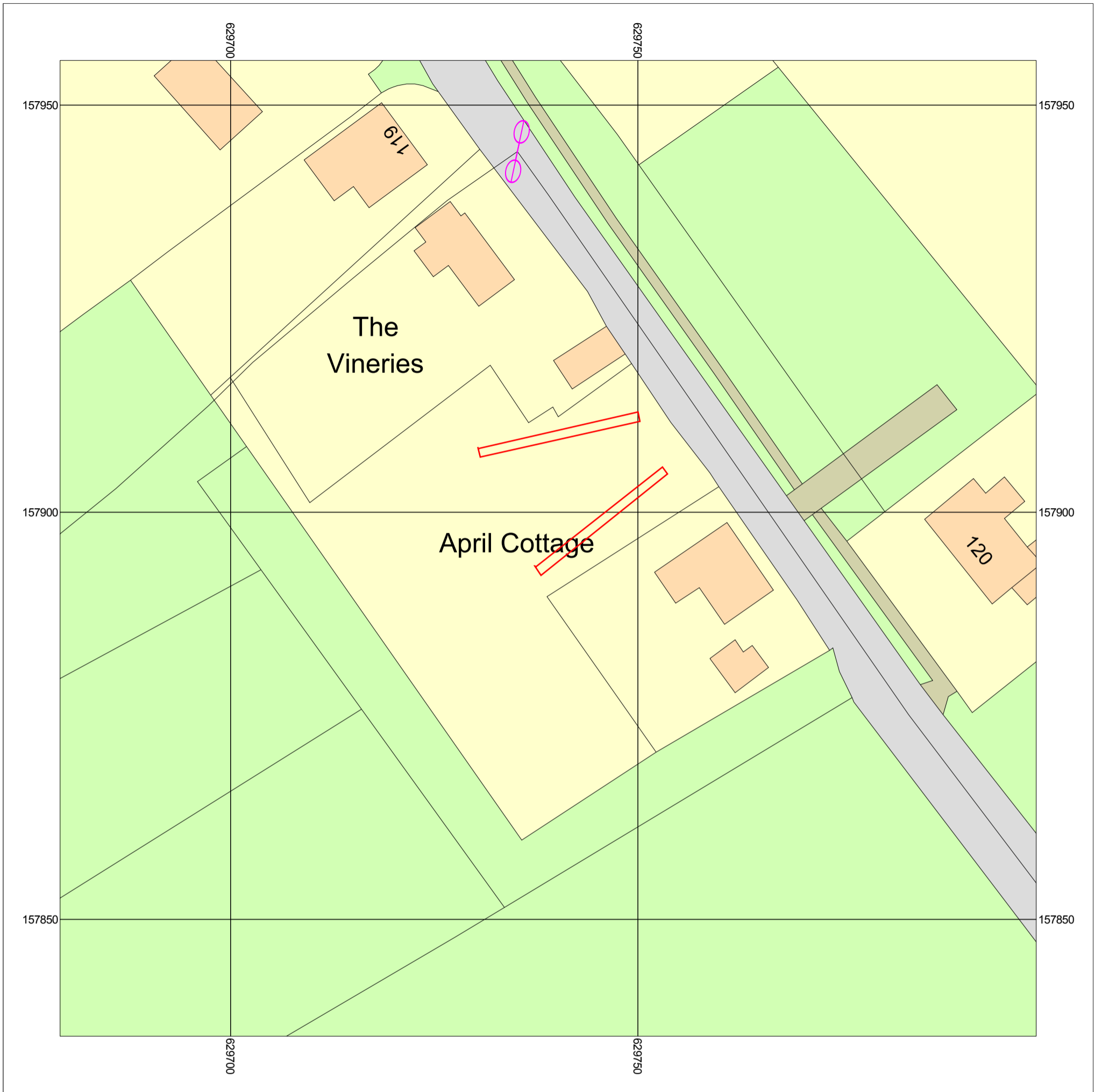


Plate 3. View of Trench 1 (looking SW)



Plate 4. View of Trench 2 (looking NW)

Figure 1
Location of trenches



Scale: 1:500



New Street
Ash
Canterbury
CT3 2BW

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 11/09/2018
Serial number: 2027184

Plot centre co-ordinates: 629739, 157896
Download file: swat_newstreet.zip
Project name: swat_newstreet

