

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Ferry House Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Leysdown, Sheerness, Kent

Site Code HART /WB/18



Date of report 18/10/2018

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Archaeological Watching Brief of land at the Ferry House Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Leysdown, Sheerness, Kent

Site Code HART/WB/18
NGR 601513 165959

Date of report: 18/10/2018



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

(Google Earth 2018: Eye altitude 287m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 3rd to 5th September 2018 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 ancillary accommodation block and other works on land behind the Harty Ferry Inn, Leysdown in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-5).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the site clearance (3rd September 2018) and ground reduction (5th September- Plates 2-5).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Site clearance (3rd September & Plates 2-3).

Phase 2: Ground reduction (5th September & Plates 4-5).

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 Roman coins, building material and possible villa.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Swale Borough Council 15/510681/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.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The site is located on land to the rear of The Ferry Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Leysdown in Kent. The site itself is level at about 13.00m aOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 15/510681/FULL was submitted to Swale 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 (13) 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 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.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 3rd-5th September 2018.

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 heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits (SWAT Archaeology 11/05/2018).

4.2. The ground works were to reduce the site to a level to enable building works to take place (Plates 2-5).

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 according to the British Geological Survey is that the Bedrock Geology is London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt whilst the Superficial Deposits are not recorded but exposed on site as medium dark brown clay (Plates 2-5).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains and are itemised in the SWAT Archaeology WSI Specification dated August 2018.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology 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 on 3rd -5th September 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 2-5).

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 clay silt overlaid by topsoil mixed with demolition material. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The proposed build area is to be located to the rear of the main public house. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.00m-2.20cm deep at about 13.00m 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.

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 the landowners for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (KCC and Historic England 2018)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at the Ferry House Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Leysdown, Sheerness, Kent

SWAT Site Code: HART/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 the demolition of existing buildings and build of an ancillary accommodation block with a parking barn 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: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 601513 165959

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: September 2018

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is London Clay Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the Ferry House Inn, Harty Ferry Road, Leysdown, Sheerness, 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: 18/10/18



Plate 2. General view of site (looking NNW)



Plate 3. View of the site (looking SW)

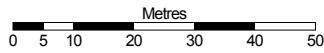


Plate 4. View of site reduction (looking N)



Plate 5. View of site reduction (looking E)

Figure 1 with area
watched within red lines



Scale: 1:1250

Ferry House Inn
Harty Ferry Road
Leysdown on Sea
ME12 4BQ



Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 18/10/2018
Serial number: 2040829

Plot centre co-ordinates: 601528,165936
Download file: harty.zip
Project name: swat