

Archaeological Evaluation on Land adjacent to Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent

Site Code: BC-EV-17

NGR: NGR Site Centre: 553063 159709

Planning Application Number: SE/16/03956/FUL



Report for the Landowner

07/12/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent TN14 5RL

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Plate 1 View of the site and Trench 1

Plate 2 Trench 1, viewed from the north

Plate 3 Trench 1, section

Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the Landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at land adjacent to Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent.

The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of one trench, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological features were recorded.

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent

NGR Site Centre: 553063 159709
Site Code: BC-EV-17

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the Landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent (**Figure 1**). A planning application (SE/16/03956/FUL) was approved by Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) for the subdivision of the plot, demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a new 5 bedroom dwelling with a linked garage, new access drive and vehicle crossover on condition that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to SDC, requested that the programme of works comprising an archaeological evaluation followed by appropriate mitigation measures, if considered necessary. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

1.1.3 *No development shall be carried out on the land until the a or successors in title, has secured the implementation of: A) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council; and B) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the details approved. The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that it is fundamental to the development permitted to address this issue before development commences and that without this safeguard planning permission should not be granted.*

To investigate and record archaeological features as supported by Policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan. (SE/16/03956/FULL, Condition 3, 16/02/2017)

1.1.4 The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017), prior to commencement of works, and in

discussion with Wendy Rogers, the Senior Archaeological Officer, at KCCHC. A copy of the Specification is provided in **Appendix 2**.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 553063 159709 and situated in a rural area just north of the M26 and to the north east of the village of Otford. The Shoreham Road (A225) is the north east boundary of the PDA (proposed Development Area). The site is close to the Pilgrim's Way as it runs from Twitton to the west and Kemsing to the east. The site is bounded by the railway to the south west, the adjoining detached property- Briardene- to the north west and another detached property- Brambles- to the south east.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society (BGS), the site lies on Bedrock Geology of West Melbry Marly Chalk Formation. The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. Ground levels are about 85m aOD at the centre of the site.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2017). The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and there is an important Neolithic settlement and Bronze Age activity with the finding of an cinerary urn and in addition Roman finds (TQ 56 SW 27). To the east on Otford Mount is the remains of a Bronze Age barrow (TQ 55 NW 5) whilst to the south has been found a Prehistoric pit and a medieval field boundary (TQ 55NW 125).

2.2 Overview (SWAT Archaeology 2017)

The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and there is a paucity of archaeological investigation within the locality of the proposed development site (PDA). There is an important Neolithic settlement and Bronze Age activity with the finding of an cinerary urn and in addition Roman finds (TQ 56 SW 27). To the east on Otford Mount is the remains of a Bronze Age barrow (TQ 55 NW 5) whilst to the south has been found a Prehistoric pit and a medieval field boundary (TQ 55NW 125).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2017)

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (Appendix 2). These were to;

'The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for Prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity.

The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications'.

(SWAT Archaeology 2017)

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- 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;
- 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.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2017) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of one evaluation trench was proposed within the extent of the Site (Figure 1).

4.2.2 The trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, the trench, or specific areas of the trench, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of one evaluation trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil which overlay the natural clay geology.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of light to mid brown silt clay. Natural geology comprised relatively soft light brown silty clay.

5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figure 1 provides a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-3 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

5.3.1 No archaeological features or finds were recorded within the trench.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Due to the lack of archaeological features, no pottery and flint was retrieved from the subsoil.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Archaeological Narrative

7.1.1 Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains no archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

7.1.2 The presence of the subsoil would suggest that preservation levels are relatively high and that if archaeological remains were present then they would have suffered minimal disturbance.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are unlikely to impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with the Kent County Council and local planning authority.

7.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank The Landowner for commissioning the project.

9.1.2 Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA) supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. David Britchfield (MCIfA) produced the draft text for this report which was edited by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

10 REFERENCES

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

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English Heritage 2002. *Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

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SMA 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SWAT Archaeology 2017, *Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to Bramble Cottage*, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent TN14 5RL

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 15m x 1.6m Ground Level: 85.00m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
102	Light to mid grey brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.27
103	Light grey brown silty clay	Natural	0.27+

12 APPENDIX 2 – KCC HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: BC-EV-17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by The Landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent.

The fieldwork was carried out in November 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of one trench, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological features were recorded.

District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 553063 159709

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: November 2017

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

Geology: Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2017) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, 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: 07/12/2017



Plate 1. View of Site (looking SW)



Plate 2. View of trench (looking south west)



Plate 3. View of section



SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent TN14 5RL

1. Summary:

This specification covers an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Bramble Cottage, Shoreham Road, Otford in Kent. The land has planning permission (SE/16/03956/FUL) for the subdivision of the existing plot, demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a new 5 bedroom dwelling with a linked garage, new access drive and vehicle crossover.

A planning condition (3) requires an archaeological evaluation and as such this evaluation will clarify the presence/absence of archaeological remains and guide the need for detailed mitigation. Further mitigation will be carried out in accordance with a different specification agreed with the County Archaeologist and the fieldwork will need to be implemented prior to any construction work commencing on site. Post excavation and publication timescale and programme will also need to be agreed prior to commencement of construction work on site.

2. Site Location & Description:

The site is situated in a rural area just north of the M26 and to the north east of the village of Otford. The Shoreham Road (A225) is the north east boundary of the PDA (proposed Development Area). The site is close to the Pilgrim's Way as it runs from Twitton to the west and Kemsing to the east. The site is bounded by the railway to the south west, the adjoining detached property-

Briardene- to the north west and another detached property- Brambles- to the south east. The OS location is NGR 553063 159709.

3. Planning Background & Nature of Development:

The land has planning permission (16/03956/FUL) for the subdivision of the existing plot, demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of a new 5 bedroom dwelling with a linked garage, new access drive and vehicle crossover. On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Sevenoaks District Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. Condition 3 of the planning permission states:

No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of: A) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council; and B) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the details approved. The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that it is fundamental to the development permitted to address this issue before development commences and that without this safeguard planning permission should not be granted.

To investigate and record archaeological features as supported by Policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan.

The methodology of the evaluation phase of investigation is identified within this specification which is based on the KCC site specific specification A and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B. In addition options for preservation in situ of important archaeological remains can be achieved through engineering options which could include foundation design.

4. Geological & Topographical Background:

On the basis of current information from BGS, the site lies on Bedrock Geology of West Melbry Marly Chalk Formation. The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. Ground levels are about 85m aOD at the centre of the site.

5. Archaeological & Historical Background Potential

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 and there is an important Neolithic settlement and Bronze Age activity with the finding of an cinerary urn and in addition Roman finds (TQ 56 SW 27). To the east on Otford Mount is the remains of a Bronze Age barrow (TQ 55 NW 5) whilst to the south has been found a Prehistoric pit and a medieval field boundary (TQ 55NW 125).

6. Specific Aims of the Archaeological Work:

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for Prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity.

The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.

7. Methodology:

The initial evaluation will comprise 1 machine excavated trench (c.20m x 1.8m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist. A suggested plan is attached (Figure 1). The trench will be machine excavated down to natural or the archaeological horizon. In addition a RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) will be produced before the work starts on site and issued to all interested parties. There will also be an allowance of c.10m of contingency trenching which could be used if it would help address the aims set out above. Contingency trenching can be activated following

agreement with the County Archaeologist. Further requirements are set out in KCC Spec Manual for Trial Trenching part B.

Care will be taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation does not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there is to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme will be put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.

If required, cultural material will be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening that may take place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

8. Site Recording and Archiving:

8.1 A copy of the report will be sent to the Kent Archaeological Society and the local museum.

8.2 The report will be in accordance with the KCC part B generic requirements and will include a detailed analysis of the archaeological deposits on the site and how they may potentially be impacted by development as proposed. The significance of the archaeology should be fully assessed and set out with reference to national criteria for assessing significance of archaeological remains.

9. Site Reporting and Archiving:

9.1 The report will be in accordance with the KCC part B generic requirements but must include a detailed analysis of the archaeological deposits on the site and how they may potentially be impacted by development as proposed. The significance of the archaeology should be fully assessed and set out with reference to national criteria for assessing significance of archaeological remains.

10. Monitoring:

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, following the completion of fieldwork and when submitting the report the Archaeological Contractor will complete and submit the relevant portions of the Fieldwork Notification Form.

These proposed archaeological works will be inspected by the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 14. Monitoring and Liaison).

11. General:

Appropriate security will be agreed and provided, with particular attention given to the protection against loss of data by unauthorized excavation for archaeological artefacts. In the case of security problems arising, it will be ascertained whether a permanent presence on the excavation site may be necessary.

It is possible that poor weather conditions may halt archaeological excavation temporarily; this may necessitate the provision of protection and covering of exposed archaeological features and deposits. As a result of this consideration, it is suggested that time should be allowed for delays due to adverse weather.

A calendar detailing the time scheme and planned works for the archaeological evaluation will be organised between the archaeological contractor and the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer, specifying in particular the dates for both the commencement and completion of the archaeological investigation (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 18. General).

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 31/10/2017



Plate 1. The site highlighted with target (Google Earth 5/3/2008)

**Figure 1
Location of Evaluation
Trench**



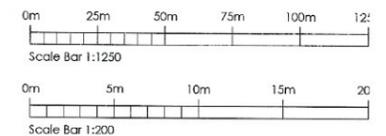
**Proposed Site Layout Plan
SCALE 1:200**



**Site location plan
SCALE 1:1250**

Landscape Key:

- GRASS/LAWN AREA
- PAVED HARDSTANDING
- DRIVEWAY
- EXISTING HEDGING
- EXISTING LEVELS
- EXISTING TREE
- DEMOLITIONS / LANDSCAPING TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED LANDSCAPING
- TREES TO BE REMOVED



Rev	Date	Comments
C	05.12.14	Amendments made following client feedback
B	28.11.14	Amendments made following client feedback
A	16.11.14	Amendments made following client feedback

PRELIMINARY

Client
Mr & Mrs Harris

Project
Bramble Cottage
Shoreham Road
Oxford
TN14 5RL

Title
Option A:
Site Location and Proposed Site
Layout Plans

Project No.	Date
5553	Sept 2016
Drawing No.	Revision
5553-SK-01	C
Scale	Drawn
AS SHOWN @A1	DA
	Check
	RR



**Proposed Street Scene
SCALE 1:200**

Nepical House, London Road
Wrotham Heath, TN16 7RS
phone: 01732 753333
fax: 01732 753334
info@offsetarchitects.co.uk
www.offsetarchitects.co.uk

