

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to Southease, Derringstone Hill, Barham, Kent



NGR: TR 20675 49156

Site Code: BAR/EV/18

(Planning Application: CA/17/02393/FUL)

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

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## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land of land adjacent to Southease, Derrinhstone Hill, Barham in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/17/02393/FUL) to develop this site for a detached two-storey dwelling with garage to Canterbury City 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 CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of two evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1). The natural geology of Clay with Flints was reached at an average depth of between 0.20m and 0.25m 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 the landowners 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 7th February 2018.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development area (PDA) is located in the south east of England, in the centre of the county of Kent and the village and civil parish of Barham. The PDA (NGR: TR 20675 49156) is located within the hamlet of Derringstone on the east side of Derringstone Hill. The site comprises of a rectangular plot of c.990 sqm adjacent east of the property of

Southeast. It is bounded north by neighbouring gardens of the ribbon development on Derringstone Hill, east by farmland, south by Mill Lane and west by the property of Southeast and Derringstone Hill Road.

**3.1** The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (chalk); sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 86 to 94 million years ago in the cretaceous period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. They form distinctive beds of chalk.

**3.2.** Superficial deposits are recorded as Head (clay and silt), formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period in a local environment dominated by subaerial slopes. They comprise of coarse to fine grained materials, forming sloped and fanned layers.

**3.3.** The PDA sits at an average height of 70m AOD. It is located within the hamlet of Derringstone (NGR: TR 20675 49156) on the east of Derringstone Hill and forms part of the ribbon development that spread south from the centre of the hamlet. The village is in a rural setting, on a road that passes through several villages, on its way from Hythe (15km southwest) to Canterbury (9km northwest). It lies at the centre of Kingston 2km north - north west, Marley 2km northwest, Womenswold 2km northeast and Breach 1.5km southwest and the Dover Road (A2) passes 1.5km to the east (Fig.1-2).

#### **4. Planning Background**

Canterbury City Council gave planning permission (CA/17/02393/FUL) for development of land adjacent to Southeast, Derringstone Hill, Barham in Kent.

On the advice of Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent. The planning permission has the following Archaeological Condition (3):

*No development shall take place until, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of:*

*(i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*

*(ii) 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 Publication 2017 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

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 Archaeological record, both in and around the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is diverse. The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) and the SWAT Archaeology DBA has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries.

**5.1** The site is located in an area characterised as parliamentary type enclosure of medium, regular fields with straight boundaries. The village of Barham and the adjacent hamlet of Derringstone Hill is post 1810 settlement. Post 1800 scattered settlement with paddocks are to the northeast and to the southeast are pre 1810 assarted woodland and later medium, irregular assarts and copses with wavy boundaries.

**5.2** Conservation areas are found to the southwest incorporating much of the village of Barham and to the Derringstone Downs to the southeast. A designated Scheduled Ancient Monument area is to the south encompassing the historic site of a windmill, chalk pits and limekiln and several Tumuli, ancient burial mounds or barrows. Designated Historic Parks and Gardens are found to the east.

**5.3** The PDA falls within the Stour Palaeolithic Character Area 25 where slope wash or fluvial deposits of head, brickearth and gravel are found downslope of a plateau of clay with flints. These deposits date to the Devensian (25000 – 15000) and are in areas where flint raw material would have been accessible, and probably often exploited. While there are two surface finds of hand axes, Palaeolithic potential is mostly low in this area and although it is higher where fluvial terrace deposits are mapped, the remains found are likely to be reworked and of low importance. PCA16 begins on the west boundary of the PDA and is an area of dry valleys of very low potential. (MKE4013, FWS\_M\_040, Evans 1897: 612)

**5.4** A circular cropmark of a possible ring ditch (TR24NW15) was visible on the 2007 Google Earth Image, c.100m south of the PDA in the Tumuli area and a sub circular cropmark of a ploughed out barrow (TR24NW16/TR24NW29) was noted on the 1940's aerial photo, c.300m southwest of the PDA and c.50m west of the Tumuli area. Linear patterns are recorded on the Derringstone Downs c.350m southeast and several areas of peppering are recorded c.350m to c.700 m east in fields between Gravel Castle Road and Rabbit Hole road.

**5.5** A narrow, roughly north-south aligned spur of the Kent Downs at a height of 275ft OD, on a gentle north-facing slope of Breach Downs, south of Mill Lane is the site of an Anglo-Saxon barrow field. The area covers an area of around 0.45ha and comprises of at least 19 *hlaews*, or burial mounds, the largest and most prominent of which, probably the 'king' barrow, occupies the highest point to the southeast and is known locally as Mount Sinai. Sir Thomas Mitchell partially excavated several *hlaews* in 1809; Lord Albert Conyngham opened 66 in 1841 and another 8 in 1844 and a further 8 were opened for the C.B.A.A. in the same year. Over 100 visible barrows were recorded. They all enclosed east-west facing, rectangular graves cut into the chalk bedrock. The graves contained extended human burials, many accompanied by grave goods, or artifacts. Most of the burials date to

the 6th and some to the 7th and early 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, although some earlier, Romano-British objects were included.

Mount Sinai is a bowl-shaped mound measuring some 15m in diameter and 1.3m in height. Surrounding the mound is a ditch of some 2m wide, from which material used to construct the hlaew was excavated. A central hollow and further disturbance on the southern side of the mound suggests it has been the subject of partial excavation and the ditch has become infilled over time.

The remaining 18 *hlaews* lie to the northwest and are roughly circular measuring between 4m-6m in diameter. Most have evidence of partial excavation and survive to a height of between 0.3m-0.8m; they are surrounded by buried quarry ditches, measuring 1m-2m wide.

Only 38 mounds survive, the remainder having been ploughed out, built upon or otherwise destroyed. Modern tracks that cross the area have disturbed seven hlaews, and the dumping of modern construction and garden waste has obscured the profiles of several others. The group is in poor condition and the mounds nearest the houses are in imminent danger of destruction; the barrows within the gardens have recorded no finds.

The modern surfaces of all tracks and paths, which cross the monument, are excluded from the scheduling, as are the modern electricity poles situated within the monument, although the ground beneath these features is included.

Barrow fields are usually groups of between five and 300 closely-spaced circular mounds, constructed of earth and rubble, some of which are surrounded by an encircling ditch, covering one or more west-east aligned, rectangular, graves cut into the underlying bedrock and containing inhumation or cremation burials in pottery urns, dating to the early medieval period. Many of the burials were furnished with accompanying grave goods, including jewelry and weapons, and, at two sites, wooden ships were discovered within large mounds.

Approximately 40 examples are known nationally and they are largely concentrated within the south east of England, particularly in prominent locations on the Kent and Sussex Downs. They were in use during the pagan Anglo-Saxon period between the sixth and

seventh centuries AD, although some date to the fifth and eight centuries AD (SWAT DBA 2017).

#### **5.6 0-100m Radius:**

In 2001, Canterbury Archaeological Trust carried out an evaluation (EKE5620) at 19 Mill Lane, Derringstone Downs, c.50m southeast of the PDA. The single trench produced no finds or features. (Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2001. Archaeological Evaluation Report at 19 Mill Lane, Derringstone Downs, Barham).

#### **5.7 100-200m Radius:**

In 1909, A. Meaney of the British Natural History Museum, carried out an excavation (EKE4088/TR24NW1) on an early Anglo-Saxon burial at Breach Downs, c.100m south of the PDA (TR205485).

In 1944, J P Bartlett carried out an excavation (EKE4089) on an early Anglo Saxon barrow cemetery at Breach Downs, c.100m south of the PDA with the British Natural History Museum (TR24NW1).

In 1941- 44, Lord Conyngham carried out an excavation (EKE4732) on an early Anglo Saxon barrow cemetery at Breach Downs, c.100m south of the PDA, for the British Natural History Museum (TR24NW1)

In 1975, Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit carried out an excavation (EKE8483) on six possible early medieval graves at Breach Down, c.100m southeast of the PDA, found during the laying of a new pipeline (Article in serial: Willson, J. 1984. Further Saxon Burials From Breach Down, Barham. No.76 125 – 130).

In 2012, CAT cut an evaluation trench (12650) of 5.45m at 11 Derringstone Down, c.150m south of the PDA. A possible grave was located but could not be investigated due to the presence of live services. Red bricks were observed within the fill suggesting it may have been previously excavated or disturbed (Unpublished document: Canterbury Archaeological

Trust. 2012. Archaeological evaluation at 11 Derringstone Down, Breach, Barham)  
(TR24NW1).

**5.8 200-300m Radius:**

There are no events recorded within the assessment area.

**5.9 300-400m Radius:**

There are no events recorded within the assessment area.

**5.10 400-500m Radius:**

There are no events recorded within the assessment area.

**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 two trenches 20m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed housing development. However, due to site restrictions Trench 1 was 22m long and Trench 2 was 12m long (Figure 1). A 4.5 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 two trenches (Figure 1).

### **Trench 1**

**9.1** Trench orientation: NNE/SSW. Depth: 0.25m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 22m. 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 flint nodule inclusions. OD heights are 71.50m a OD at the NNE end of trench and 70.10m aOD at the SSW end of trench (Figure 1 & Plates 2, 4).

### **Trench 2**

**9.1** Trench orientation: about N/S. Depth: 0.28m. Width: 1.8m. Length: 12m. 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 flint nodule inclusions. OD heights are 71.52m a OD at the NNE end of trench and 70.80m aOD at the SSW end of trench (Figure 1 & Plates 3, 5).

## **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 with no archaeological features showing.

## **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 Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Dr Paul Wilkinson 28/03/2018

## **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 adjacent to Southease, Derrington Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD*

KCC and Historic England HER data 2018

## **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Land adjacent to Southease, Derringstone Hill, Barham CT4 6QD.

**SWAT Site Code:** BAR/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 a residential detached house and garage whereby Canterbury City Council Heritage and Conservation 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:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** TR 20675 49156

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Nodular Chalk Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to Southease, Derringstone Hill, Barham CT4 6QD

### **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:** 28/03/2018



Plate 2. Trench 1 (looking NNE)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking N)

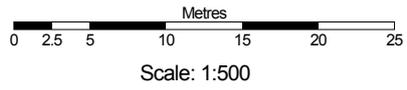


Plate 4. Trench 1 (Section)



Plate 5. Trench 2 (Section)

Figure 1.  
Location of trenches



**Southease**  
**Derringstone Hill**  
**Barham**  
**CT4 6QD**

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 20/09/2017  
Serial number: 1887863

Plot centre co-ordinates: 620668,149150  
Download file: southease.zip  
Project name: swat5