

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Canton, Downs Road, East Studdal, Kent

Site Code STU/WB/18



Date of report 28/11/2018

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Canton, Downs Road, East Studdal, Kent

Site Code STU/WB/18
NGR 632495 149803

Date of report: 28/11/2018

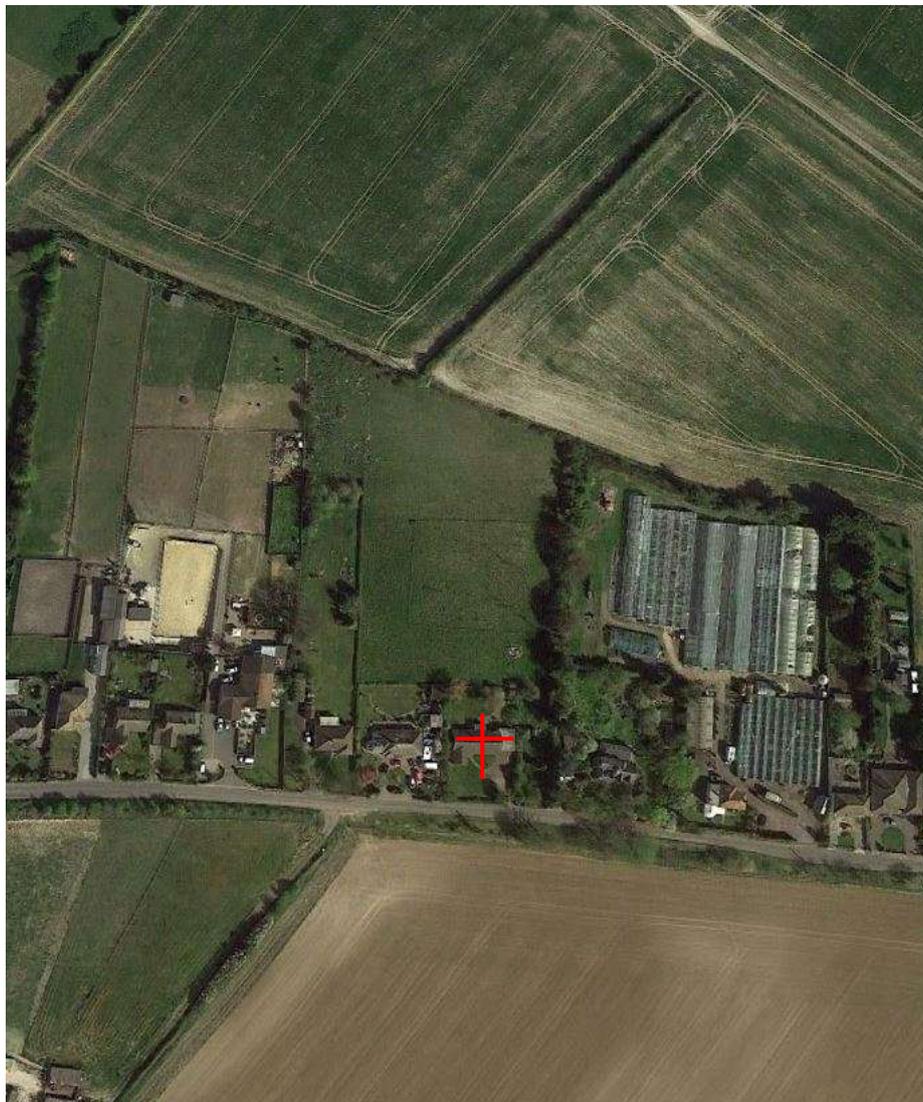


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 2017: Eye altitude 287m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 18th September and 7th November 2018 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCI(A) of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of two dwellings on land at Canton, Downs Road, East Studdal in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-6).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the excavation of the site and foundation trenches and drainage connection (Plates 2-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: The digging out of the foundation footprint of the two new buildings to about 0.40-0.1.10m below present ground level of about 61.94m AOD (18th September & Plates 2-4).

Phase 2: Foundation and drainage trenches (Plates 4-6).

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 extensive cropmarks and ring ditches.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Dover District Council (DOV/18/001157).

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 within the village of East Studdal and in the garden of a demolished building called 'Canton'. The site itself is level at about 62.00m aOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 15/506552/FULL was submitted to Dover District 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 (14) 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 in September and November 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 21/06/2018).

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation platforms and trenches and drain connection for the two new detached two storey dwelling (Plates 2-6).

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 Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk whilst the Superficial Deposits are not recorded but exposed on site as off white gritty stony sandy clay (Plates 2-6).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains.

Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer KCC has commented on the application:

'The application site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with extensive complexes of crop- and soil- marks surrounding the village of East Studdal. These crop- and soil- marks can be seen on aerial and satellite imagery and demonstrate the presence of buried archaeological sites, features and landscapes. Among the crop- and soil- marks there are numerous ring-ditches (probably representing ploughed-out Prehistoric burial mounds), enclosures, trackways and field-systems.'

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 in September and November 2018.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the chalk down to formation level (Plates 2-6).

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 ClfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 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 off white gritty stony sandy clay overlaid by thin topsoil. 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 builds are two adjacent footprints at the front of the site. The areas watched were surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.00m-1.20cm deep at about 61.94m 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 Canton, Downs Road, East Studdal, Kent

SWAT Site Code: STU/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 two new detached houses 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: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 632495 149803

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: September – November 2018

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Seaford Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Canton, Downs Road, East Studdal, 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: 28/11/18



Plate 2. General view of site showing footprint reduction (looking NNW)



Plate 3. View of site reduction Plot 1 (looking N)



Plate 4. View of site reduction Plot 2 (looking NE)

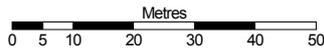


Plate 5. View of the trenches Plot 1 (looking N)



Plate 6. View of the trenches Plot 2 (looking NW)

Figure 1.
Location



Scale: 1:1250



Supplied by: National Map Centre
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 Serial number: 1998113

Canton
Downs Road
East Studdal
CT15 5DB

Plot centre co-ordinates: 632508,149790
 Download file: canton.zip
 Project name: swat