

Archaeological Investigation on land at Upontop, 76 The Droveaway, St Margaret's Bay, Kent

Site Code DROV/WB/19



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Site Code DROV/WB/19
NGR 636795 144907



AP 1. View of proposed development area (2019)

1.0 Abstract

1.1. In June 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Investigation of ground works involved in the build of a two storey extension, single storey extension, front porch and garage conversion at Upontop, 76 The Droveaway, St Margarets Bay, near Dover in Kent (Figure 1, AP 1 and Plates 1-6).

1.2. An Archaeological controlled and supervised presence was kept during the foundation and service excavations across the site. (Plates 1-6).

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Digging out of the foundations for the new build extensions took place on 25th- 27th June 2019 (Plates 1-6).

1.4. The Archaeological Investigations were to determine whether any significant archaeological remains had survived within the footprint of the proposed groundworks. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area included on the KCCHER data and highlighted in the KCC Specification.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Dover District Council (18/00969).

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation Archaeological Specification the Archaeological Investigation revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The site is located at Upontop, 76 The Droveaway, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, Kent CT15 6DE. The property in question lies on the southern side of The Droveaway, opposite the junction with The Rise. Neighbouring residential properties adjoin the site to the south-west and north-east, whilst to the south-east the property backs onto the gardens of dwellings

along Salisbury Road. The site is located on the North Downs dip-slope. In this part of Kent the dip-slope is dissected by a number of small dry valleys, which have led to the creation of the familiar rolling chalk downland, comprising south-west to north east trending ridges of higher ground, dissected by a series of parallel dry valleys.

The Droveaway, would appear to follow the line of a very old trackway that runs out on to the downs along the crest of one such ridgetop. As its name suggests, Upontop is located on the top of the ridge, at an elevation of some 86m aOD, with the land falling away to the north-west into a substantial dry-valley, whilst to the south-east the site falls away towards the cliffs of the Straight of Dover, with the present-day cliff-edge lying around 275m away (AP 1).

2.2 Planning Background

The following Condition (6) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring 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 programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved 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 (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works on 25th-27th June 2019.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work were to:

(3.1) The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the investigation and recording of all archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection for the proposed development.

4.2. Proposed Groundworks.

The ground works were to excavate the ground for the build of a single and two storey extensions (Plates 1-6).

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 Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. Superficial deposits are not recorded but shown on site to be brown silty loam overlaying the chalk (Plate 4).

5.2 The archaeological potential is contained within the KCC Archaeological Specification dated 9th March 2019 and says:

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

2.2 The Drove way would appear to follow the line of an old trackway leading onto the Downs and following a prominent ridgeline. Antiquarian and archaeological evidence suggests that a number of burial mounds (Barrows) of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date once extended along this ridgeline. An Early Bronze Age burial was, for example, found during the formation of a patio about 50m south of the site in question. A possible barrow is recorded to the south-west in the area of No 36 The Drove way and another archaeologically investigated at the south-western end of The Drove way.

2.3 It is now well recognised that Anglo-Saxon burials were frequently focussed on earlier Prehistoric barrow sites, with the Anglo-Saxons seemingly making use of existing visible monuments in the landscape as a focal point for their burials. This is demonstrated at the

Bronze Age barrow at the south-western end of The Droveaway, where at least eighteen burials of sixth to seventh century date have been recorded. A significant number of Anglo-Saxon other burials have now been recorded along The Droveaway, as well as Salisbury Road, indicating the presence of clusters of burials dispersed along this chalkland ridge. This is consistent with Antiquarian descriptions of this part of St Margaret's, such as William Stukeley, writing in 1776, who describes "*a great number of little tumuli [burial mounds] of unequal bulk, close by one another*" and James Douglas in his *Nenia Britannica* of 1793, who noted about thirty barrows, covering nearly 1.5 acres of ground.

2.4 The ridge's prominent position led to it being used as the site of a beacon in the sixteenth century, part of a network of some 52 beacons in Kent, erected as means of transmitting warnings of danger. The beacon system fell out of use after 1640, with the beacon at St Margaret's believed to have been located close to the present site.

2.3 Further information on the above can be found in the Kent Historic Environment Record which is held at the Heritage Conservation Group, Environment, Planning & Enforcement, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX".

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by Ben Found Senior Archaeological Officer Heritage Conservation Group, KCC.

6.2. The works comprised the close monitoring and supervision of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the subsoil and chalk down to formation level (Plates 1-6).

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 investigation work 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 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of chalk overlaid by brown silty soil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site.

7.2 The proposed build is for one and two storey extensions to the existing property. The area watched were surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 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 high archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Investigation has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC 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 landowner for commissioning the project.

Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Report by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA and dated 15th November 2019.

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Upontop, 76 The Droveaway, St Margaret's Bay, Kent

SWAT Site Code: DROV/WB/19

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 one and two storey extensions whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Works be undertaken to closely monitor the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site attendance and supervision which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 636795 144907

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Investigation

Date of recording: 25th-27th 2019

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Investigation on land at Upontop, 76 The Droveaway, St Margaret's Bay, 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



Plate 1. View of the foundation trenches (looking SW)



Plate 2. View of foundation trenches (looking NE)



Plate 3. Foundation trench (looking NE) and Plate 4 looking NNW (below)



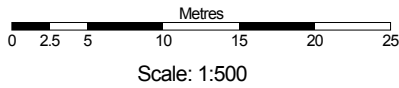
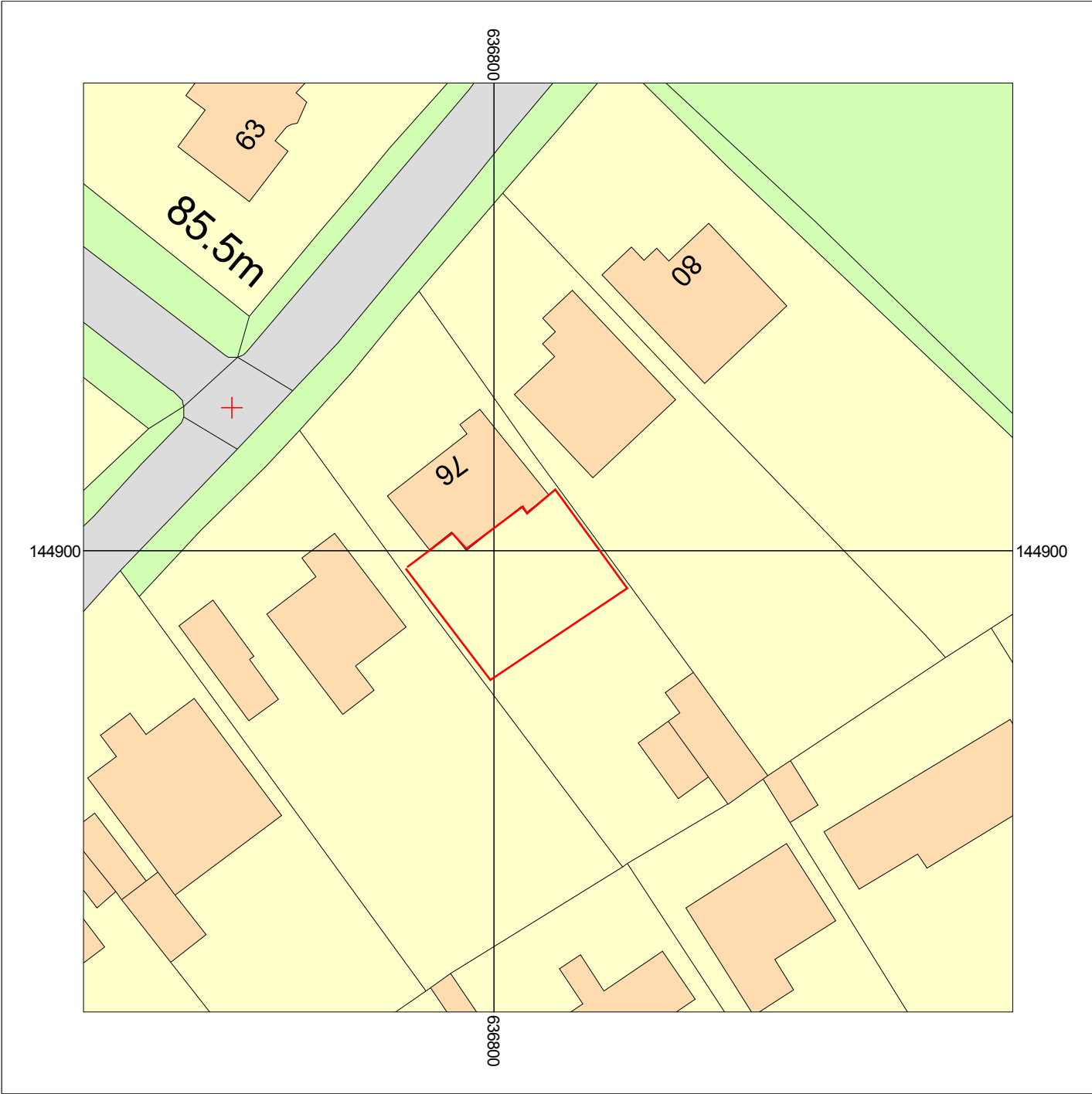


Plate 5. Foundation trench (section)



Plate 6. Foundation trench (looking NW)

Figure 1
Area supervised and
watched



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**76 The Droeway
St Margarets Bay
Dover
CT15 6DE**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 636805,144900
Download file: swat_76droeway.zip
Project name: swat_76droeway