

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Unit 9 & 10, The Boulevard, Altira Business Park, Herne Bay, Kent

Site Code 10/WB/19



Date of report 18/12/2019

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Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	4
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	5
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	5
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
7.0 RESULTS.....	7
7.1 GENERAL.....	7
8.0 FINDS.....	7
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	7
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	7
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	7
REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX 1 - KCC HER Summary Form.....	8

Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2019)

Plate 2. General view of site reduction

Plate 3. Site reduction

Plate 4. View of site reduction

Plate 5. View of site reduction

Plate 6. View of foundation trenches

Plate 7. View of foundation trenches

Plate 8. View of foundation trenches

Plate 9. View of drainage trenches

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site plan and location of area watched

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Unit 9 & 10, The Boulevard, Altira Business Park, Herne Bay, Kent

Site Code 10/WB/19
NGR 612646 161519

Date of report: 18/12/2019

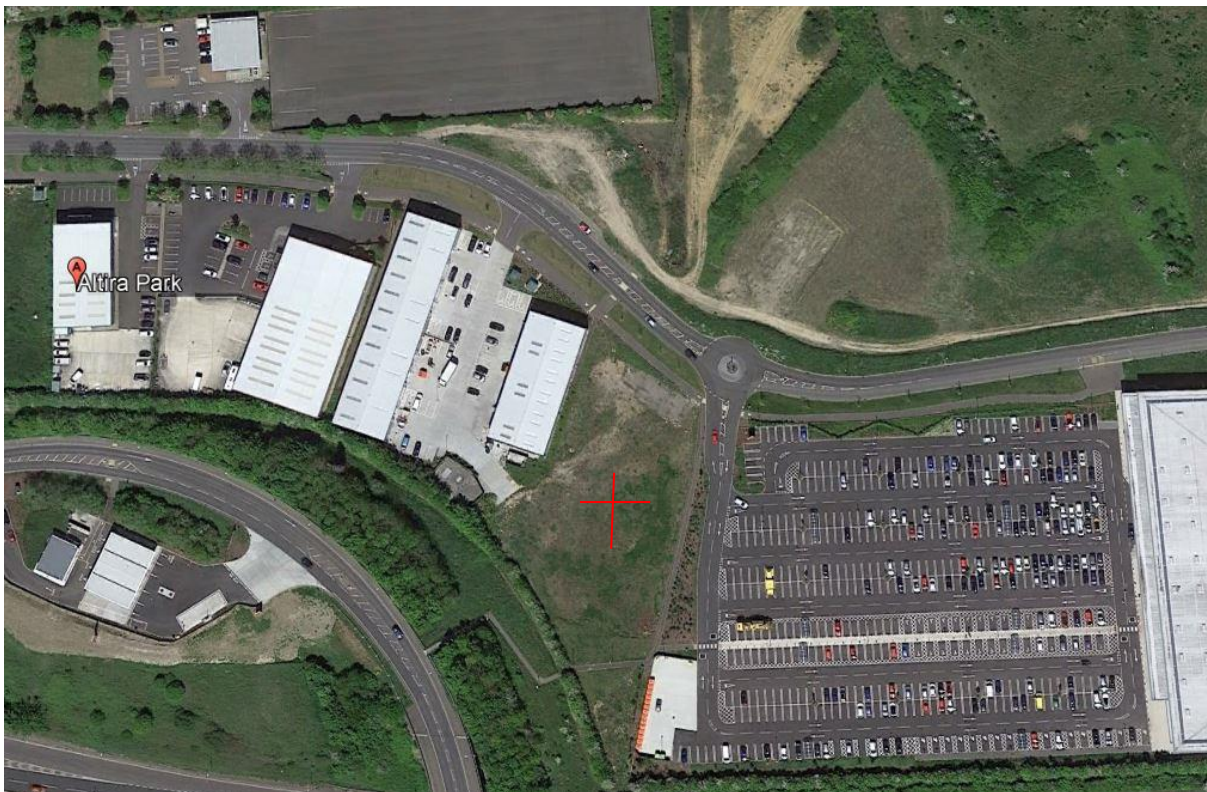


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 9/4/2019: Eye altitude 456m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. From the 15th October to 4th November 2019 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 two single storey commercial units at The Boulevard, Altira Business Park, Herne Bay in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-9).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the developer.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the site reduction of topsoil and the digging of the foundations for two single storey commercial units.

Phase 1. Topsoil and subsoil strip to form car parking areas from 15/10/19

Phase 2: The digging out of the foundation strips to about 0.70-1.00m below present ground level of about 36.00m aOD. (Plates 2-9)

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.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is CA/19/00991.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the CCC Archaeological Officer the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The site is located within the complex of the former site of Blacksole Farm, now the Altira Business Retail Park, on land lying north of the A299 (The Thanet Way), near Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent. Altira Business Park. The site on which the work took place lies on flat land comprising part of the coastal levels once known as the Bogshole Levels, which extend northward from the largely wooded uplands of the Blean to the now relatively densely populated coastal margins of north-east Kent. The site itself is level at about 36.00m aOD.

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application CA/19/00991 was submitted to Canterbury City Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (3) was attached to the planning consent:

Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure 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 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 2006 and policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2017 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from the 15/10/2019 to the 4/11/2019.

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 the 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 2019).

4.2. The ground works were to strip the topsoil and excavate the foundations for concrete foundations and service pipes and runs.

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 website is Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation- Clay & Silt.

The Superficial Deposits are Head- Clay & Silt.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains presently recorded in the KCC HER and summarised in an Archaeological Assessment Report written by SWAT Archaeology in October 2016 and summarised in the SWAT Archaeology WSI Specification dated 08/08/2019.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology dated 08/08/2019 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 15/10/2019 to 04/11/19.

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 topsoil down to formation level and a toothed bucket to excavate the foundation trenches (Plates 2-9).

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 as outlined in the SWAT Watching Brief Specification dated 08/08/2019.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of silty clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 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 Paul Spensley at Urban and Civic PLC for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CifA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Unit 9 & 10.The Boulevard, Altira Business Park, Herne Bay, Kent

SWAT Site Code: 15/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 new commercial units whereby Canterbury City Council 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 a site attendance which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 619414 167221

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: October-November 2019

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. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Unit 9 & 10.The Boulevard, Altira Business Park, Herne 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 2. General view of site with topsoil strip (looking SW)



Plate 3. View of ground reduction (looking S)



Plate 4. View of subsoil strip (looking NW)



Plate 5. View of completed strip



Plates 6. View of foundation trenches (looking NE)



Plate 7. View of foundation trenches (looking E)



Plate 8. Completed foundation trenches (looking SSE)



Plate 9. Service trenches

Figure 1. Areas -Unit 9, Unit 10 watched and car parking to the west of Units

