

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Brickfield House, Seasalter Road, Graveney, Kent

Site Code: SEA -EV-19

NGR Site Centre 605414 162835

Planning Application Number: 18/503142/FULL



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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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	5
1.1	Project Background	5
1.2	Site Description and Topography	5
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
2.1	Introduction	5
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
3.1	Specific Aims (SWAT 2018)	6
3.2	General Aims	6
4	METHODOLOGY.....	6
4.1	Introduction	6
4.2	Fieldwork.....	7
4.3	Recording	7
5	RESULTS	7
5.1	Introduction	7
5.2	Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence	8
5.3	Overview	8
6	FINDS	8
6.1	Introduction	8
7	DISCUSSION.....	8
7.1	Archaeological Narrative.....	8
7.2	Conclusions	8
8	ARCHIVE.....	8
8.1	General.....	8

9 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** 9

10 **REFERENCES** 9

11 **APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES** 10

Figures

- Figure 1 Trench location map
- Figure 2 Trenches overlaid on proposed development

- Plates 1- 2 Trenches and section

Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Brickfield House, Seasalter Road, Graveney in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in April 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology January 2019) 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 with one feature of low archaeological potential.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Brickfield House, Seasalter Road, Graveney in Kent (**Figure 1**).

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 Swale Borough Council, requested that a programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to satisfy the planning condition 2 of the planning permission 18/503142/FUL.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in April 2019 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (17/01/2019), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1 4 Site Description and Topography

The application site is to the north east of the parish church of Graveney and adjacent to Seasalter Road and fronted on its north boundary by Monkshill Road.

The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 605414 162835 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Haewich Formation- Sand and Gravel. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site as fine Orange Brown Sandy Clay (Brickearth). The PDA is set at an average height of 10.55m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

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 (January 2019) and these include listed buildings in the vicinity of the development site and 30m to the west there has been identified a dispersed multiyard plan farmstead (MKE 85971) whilst just to the east extensive brickearth extraction including kilns have been identified (TR 06 SE 20). To the north are numerous salt working mounds

(TR 06 SE 1073) and the Swale Survey (Wilkinson 2000) identified in the intertidal zone just to the north of the find spot of the Graveney Boat:

Seasalter. The Swale NGR: 0767 6522 Date of Visit: 1998 Type of Cultivation/Crop:

Inter-tidal Site Type: Concentrated finds Find spots: - Period: Iron-Age and Roman

Source: FW Aspect of Slope: - 94 Altitude of Field (metres): - Finds Categories: -

Numerous (21) non-abraded Iron-Age pottery sherds were collected from an Intertidal eroding mussel bank. All date from 200 to 100 BC. Also retrieved by Mr John Cope was a gold Gallo-Belgic stator which was taken into Canterbury Archaeological Trust for recording. It is also noted that a large number of fragments of Roman building ceramics lay scattered across the inter-tidal flats.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.2 Specific Aims (SWAT 2019)

2.2.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019) were to:

2.2.2 *6.1 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 archaeological activity and in particular the earlier history of the PDA and also any other Prehistoric and Roman and later archaeological activity.*

2.3 General Aims

2.3.1 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.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2019 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards

outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of one evaluation trench was excavated across the Site (Figures 1, 2).

3.2.2 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 natural or archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

3.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, 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.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 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. These are retained in the site project archive.

3.3.2 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 site project archive.

3.3.3 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.).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

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

4.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 4.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of orange sandy clayey silt overlaying the natural yellow brown silty clay.
- 4.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-2 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-2 include selected site photographs.

4.3 Overview

- 4.3.1 The trench was located across the footprint of the proposed building to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

5 FINDS

- 6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation.

6 Discussion

6.1 Archaeological Narrative

- 6.1.1 The archaeological investigation failed to exposed any meaningful archaeology but a modern deposit was identified in the trench (104).

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.
- 6.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.1.2 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 and will be retained by SWAT Archaeology until a Kent museum archive procedure is in place.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 8.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 8.1.2 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA supervised the archaeological evaluation and survey and illustrations were produced by Digitise This. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

9 REFERENCES

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

Dated 23rd July 2019.

Appendix 1: Trench Tables

Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
Trench 1	Dimensions: 15m x 1.6m Depth: 0.65m Trench alignment: NNE-SSW NNE-end Ground Level: 10.60m aOD		
100	Topsoil	Topsoil layer	0.00-0.55
101	Mid orange brown, clayey sandy silt with well rounded flint pebble inclusions	Subsoil	0.55-65
103	Brown clay (London Clay)	Natural	0.65-
104	Modern soil/material dump		0.65-

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Brickfield House, Seasalter Road, Graveney, Kent

SWAT Site Code: SEA/EV/19

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has a planning application for the erection of a replacement dwelling whereby Swale Borough Council requested that Archaeological works 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 meaningful archaeology.

District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 605414 162835

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: April 2019

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Harwich Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Brickfield House, Seasalter Road, Graveney, Faversham, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

No meaningful archaeology found

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

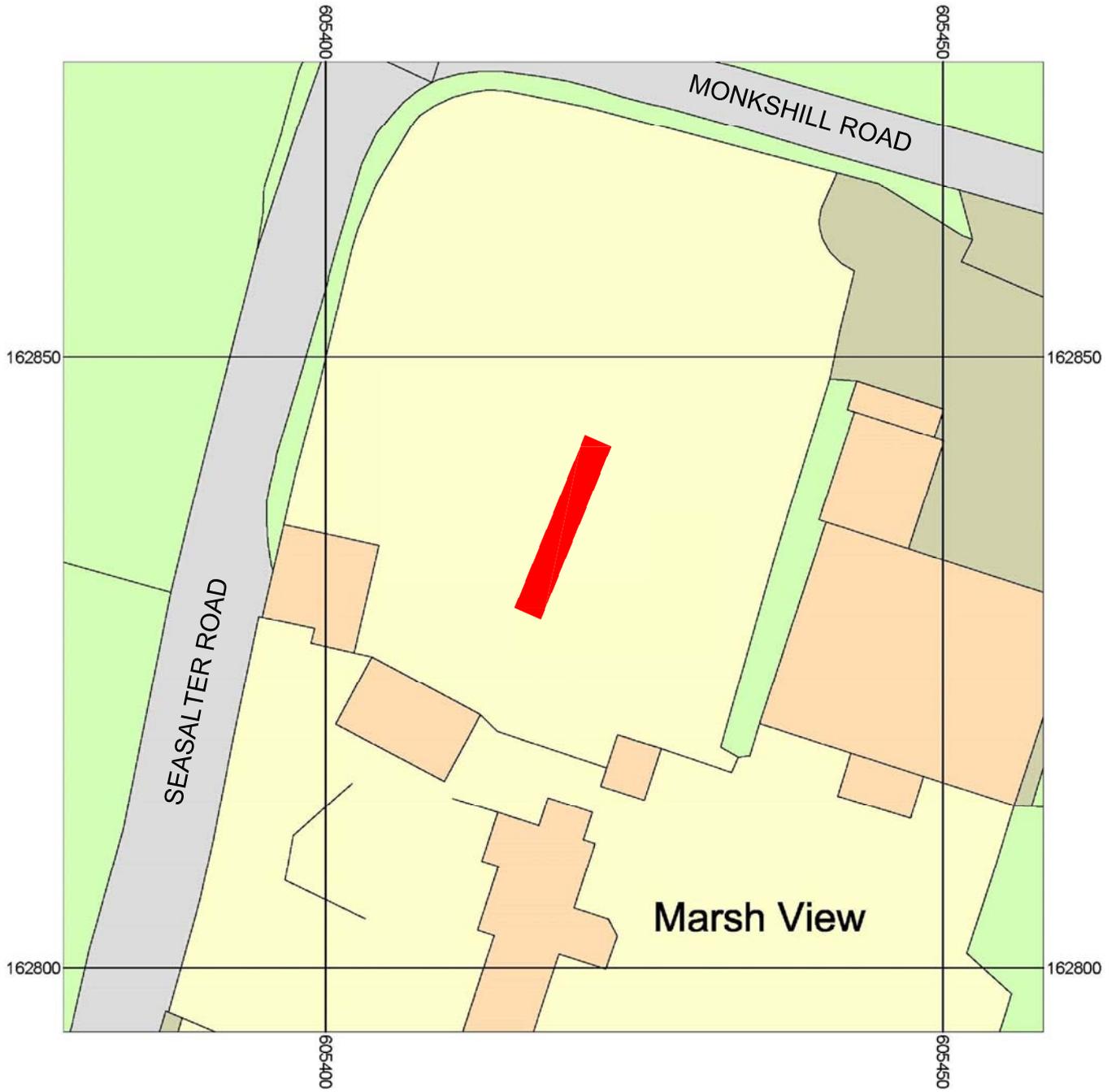
Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson



Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking south)



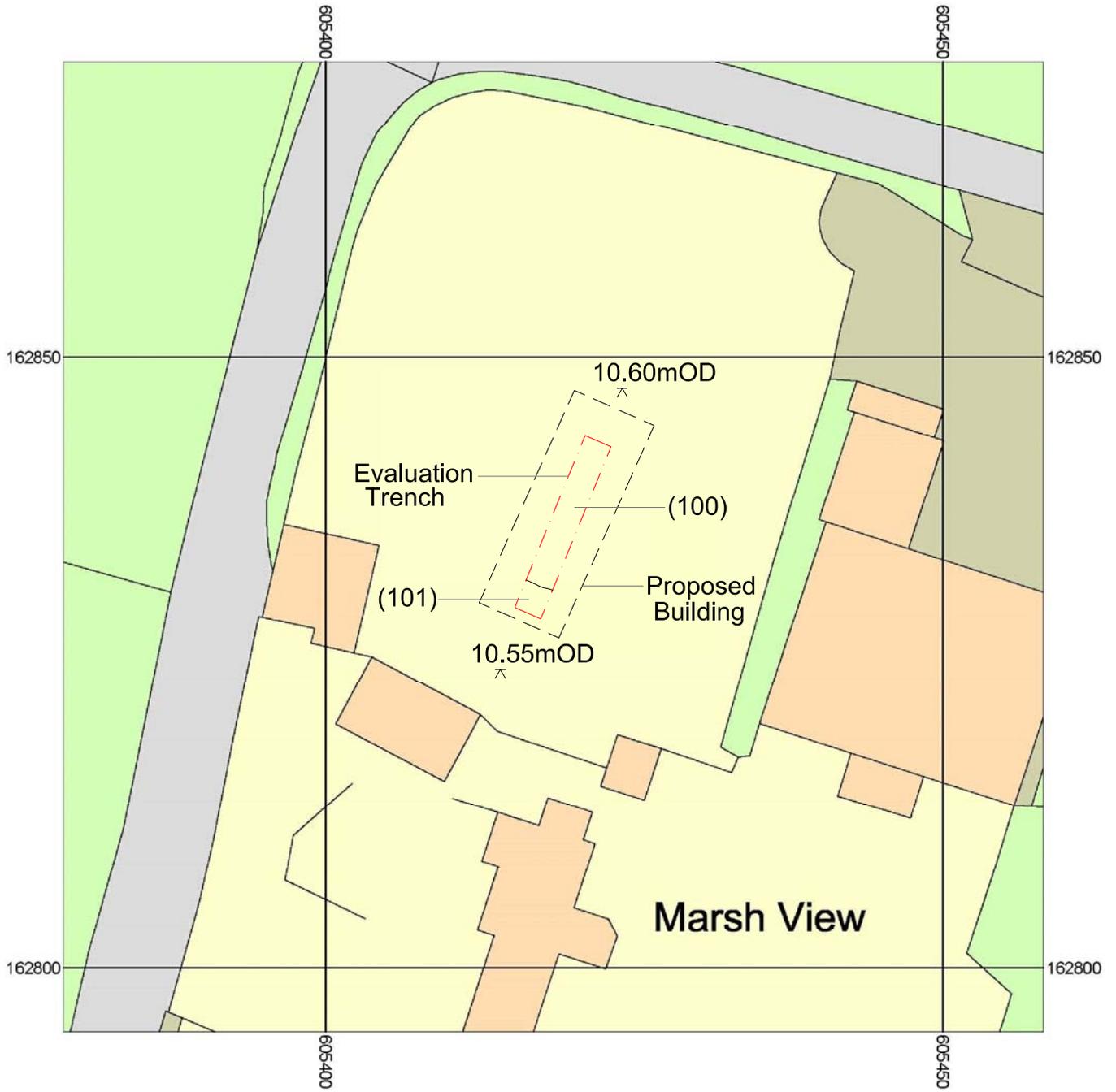
Plate 2. Section of Trench 1 (looking west)



1:500@A4



Figure 1: Location of evaluation trench 0m 50m



1:500@A4

Figure 2: Location of evaluation trench shown overlain on development plan

