

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Rogers Garage, 36 High Street, Bridge, Kent



NGR: TR 618142 154361

Site Code: GAR/EV/19

(Planning Application: CA/18/00860)

**SWAT Archaeology**

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## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	4
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	5
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	6
9. Results.....	6
10. Discussion.....	8
11. Finds.....	8
12. Conclusion.....	8
13. Acknowledgements.....	8
14. References.....	8
15. CCC Summary Form.....	9

List of Figures:

Figures 1-3 –Location of site and evaluation trenches

List of Plates:

Plate 1 - Aerial view of site (Google Earth)

Plate 2 – Trench 2 (looking NE)

Plate 3 – Trench 2 (looking NE)

Plate 4 – Trench 1 (looking NE)



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

## **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Rogers Garage, 36 High Street, Bridge, Kent**

NGR: 618142 154361

Site Code: GAR-EV-19

### **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Rogers Garage, 36 High Street, Bridge in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/18/00860) to develop this site for the erection of 3 two storey dwellings with associated car parking and access following the demolition of the existing buildings was submitted 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 (Plates 2-5). The natural geology of Clay, Silt and gravel was reached at an average depth of between 0.40m and 0.60m below the garage yard's top layer of topsoil mixed with demolition material. 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 31st January 2019.

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

The proposed development area (PDA) sits at an average height of circa 27m. The site is located off the High Street in Bridge, gently sloping upwards from the front to the rear of

the site. The PDA is bounded by private housing either side to the north west and south east with communal garage and parking area south west, to the rear. The OS location is NGR 618142 154361.

**3.3.** The PDA is located in an area of known archaeological activity. The Archaeological Desk-based Assessment has been written by SWAT Archaeology (SWAT 2018) and a summary of this work shows that the desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site but this potential can only be tested by fieldwork. Research has shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these were summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **Low**
- Iron Age: **Low**
- Roman: **High**
- Anglo-Saxon: **Low**
- Medieval: **High**
- Post-Medieval: **High**
- Modern: **Low**

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

Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (4):

*No development, other than demolition shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successor(s) in title has secured, firstly, 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.*

*(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 that 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 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 KCCHER data indicated that this area is dominated by the listed buildings that line the Roman Road to the north-west and south west of the PDA. Of the 14 listed building, four have medieval origins with the remainder relating to the Post Medieval period. Two of the medieval buildings show timber framing. Immediately in front of the PDA site is the Roman Road of Watling Street (TQ 86 SW 132). Aside from the listed buildings and the Roman Road, there are some monuments located in the assessment area. Three relate to Bridge Farm, the barn and cow house (TR 15 SE 177 / TR 15 SE 178 / TR 15 SE 179), 80m south east of the PDA that was a farmstead (MKE 86389). Only the farmhouse remains (TR 15 SE 238). There are no findspots located within the assessment area.

## **6. Aims and Objectives**

According 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 15m long and 1.8m wide within the footprint of the proposed development. An 8.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the demolition material 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 (Figures 1-3 and Plates 2-5).

### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was NNE-WSW aligned and located alongside south-eastern boundary of the site at a height of 27.01m O.D. It measured 15m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.6m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay, Sand and Gravel (101) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.4m thick subsoil mixed with demolition material (101).

## **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was NNE-WSW aligned and located alongside north-western boundary of the site at a height of 27.08m O.D. It measured 15m by 1.8m and was excavated to the depth of 0.6m.

At the bottom of the trench natural deposit of Clay, Sand and Gravel (202) was exposed successively overlaid by 0.4m thick subsoil mixed with demolition material (201).

Three modern features (204, 206, 208) were exposed cutting into (202) and comprised garage demolition deposits.

## **10. Discussion**

With a 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 garage and yard. Both trenches showed a typical sequence of top cover and subsoil with Trench 2 exposing modern garage demolition features.

## **11. Finds**

No finds were retrieved as all pottery exposed was modern.

## **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 demolition/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 and the report written by Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Dr Paul Wilkinson 20/02/2019

### 14. References

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2019) *Site Specific Requirements: Land at the former Rogers Garage, 36 High Street, Bridge, Kent*

SWAT Archaeology (2018) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment in Advance of the Planning Application The Old Garage, High Street, Bridge, Kent

KCC and Historic England HER data 2018

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

**Site Name:** Land at the former Rogers Garage, 36 High Street, Bridge, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** GAR/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 planning permission for a residential housing 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)** 618142 154361

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Clay, Sand and Gravel

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the former Rogers Garage, 36 High Street, Bridge, Kent

**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



Plate 2. Trench 2 detail (looking NE)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking NE)

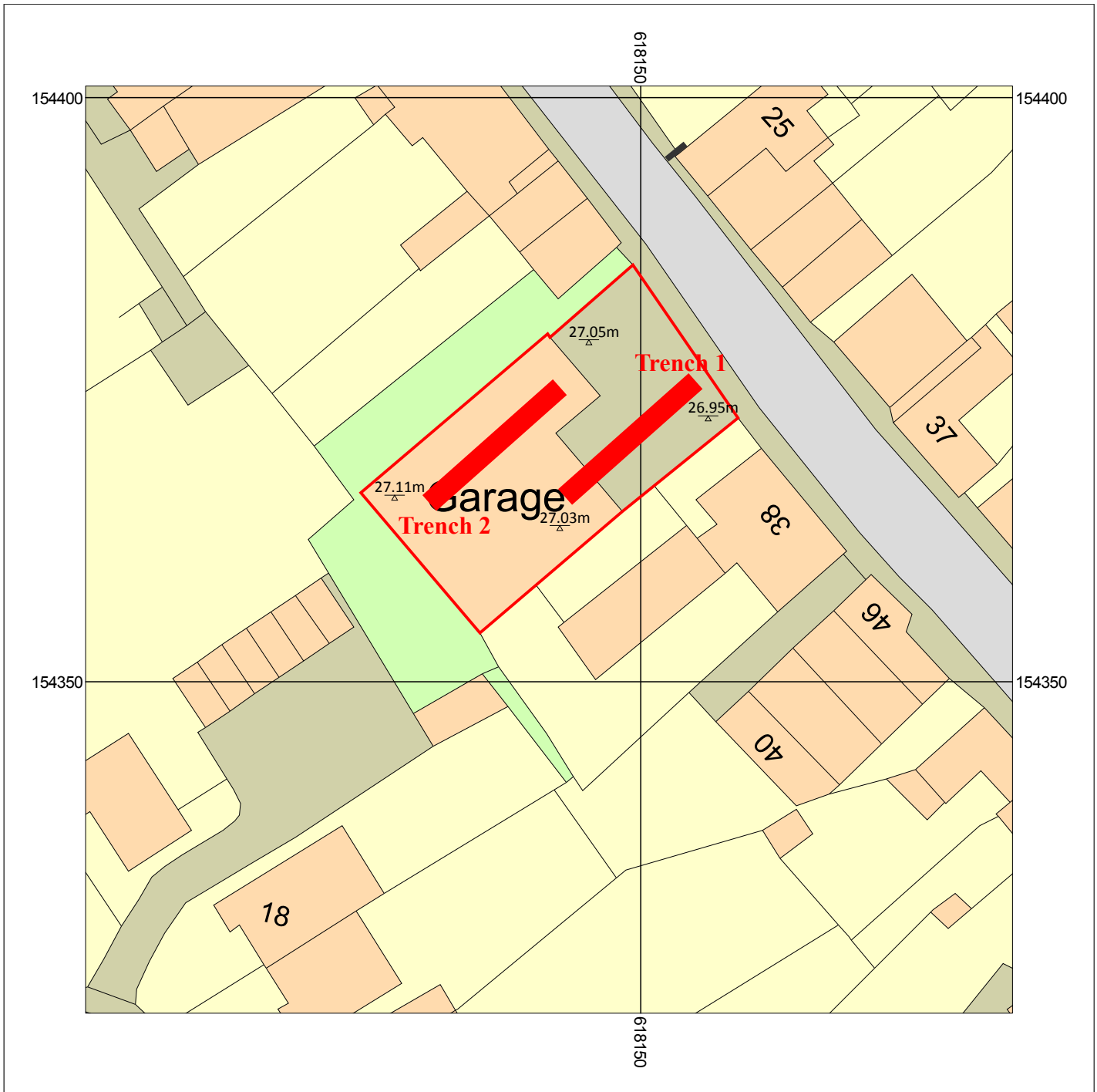


Plate 4. Trench 1 (looking NE)

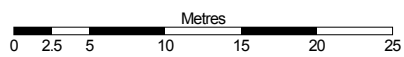


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:5000.

# OS Plan Colour



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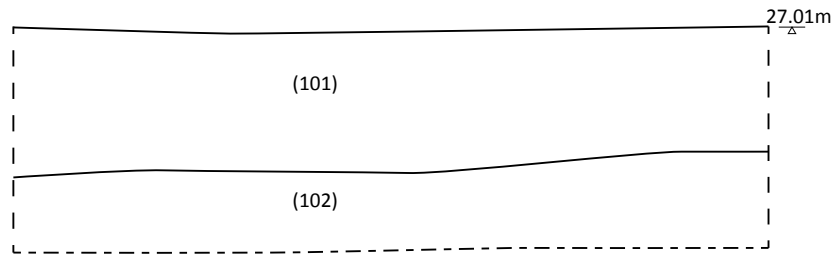
Scale: 1:500

- Garage site
- High Street
- Bridge
- CT4 5JZ

*Figure 2: Trench location*

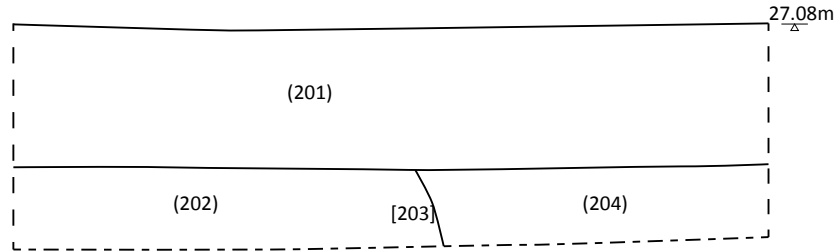
### Section 1

South east facing section of Trench 1, scale 1:20



### Section 2

South east facing section of Trench 2, scale 1:20



### Plan of Trench 2, scale 1:100

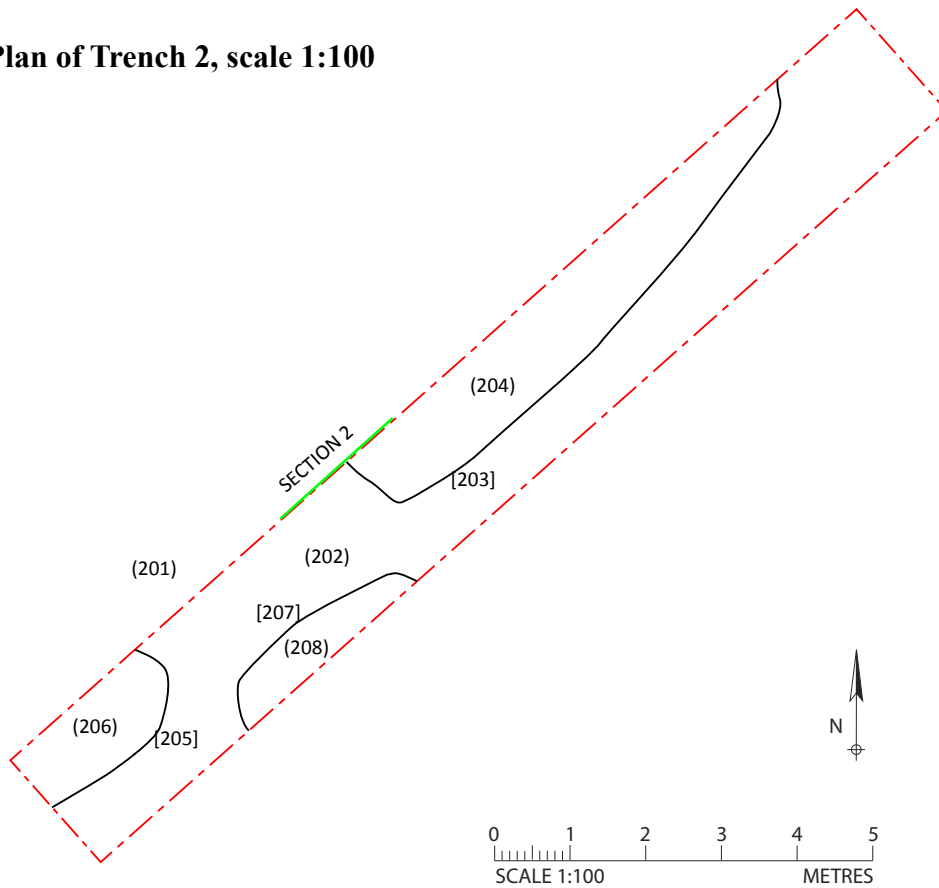


Figure 2: Trench plan and sections