

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Crown and Sceptre, The Street, Acol, Kent

Site Code CRO/WB/18



Date of report 07/02/2019

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Site Code CRO/WB/18  
NGR 630792 167392

Date of report: 07/02/2019



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

(Google Earth 2017: Eye altitude 287m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. In March 2017 and August/September 2018 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 semi-detached dwellings on land at Crown and Sceptre, The Street, Acol 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 18.40m AOD (March 2017& Plates 1-4).

Phase 2: Drainage trenches from August/September 2018 (Plates 4-8).

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 KCCHER data of extensive cropmarks and ring ditches.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Thanet District Council (F/TH/14/0767).

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 F/TH/14/9767 was submitted to Thanet 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 (15) 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.*

**GROUND:**

*To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Guidance.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works in March 2017 and August/September 2018.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

*“The watching brief should be maintained throughout the programme of all works; building alterations, ground excavation and landscaping. The archaeological contractor will confirm the extent of proposed works in advance with the site developer and inform the County Archaeological Officer that arrangements are in place for appropriate monitoring.*

*The frequency of archaeological monitoring visits, ground works observed and any constraints experienced while carrying out the monitoring should be detailed. In the watching brief report, the archaeological contractor will provide a schedule of visits, date and duration (KCC Watching Brief 2016)*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation trenches and drain connection for the two new detached two storey dwelling (Plates 2-7).

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 Margate Chalk Formation- Chalk whilst the Superficial Deposits are recorded as Head- Clay and Silt (Plates 2-6).

5.2. The application site consists of an area of known important archaeological remains. 100m to the east are ring ditch cropmarks (TR 36 NW 10) whilst 120m to the SSE is a early medieval settlement (TR 36 NW 76). To the north east on Lads Farm a linear cropmark has been identified from aerial photographs (TR 36 NW 159 and 300m to the north west is an enclosure cropmark (TR 36 NW 162).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC Archaeology (2016) 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 March 2017 and August/September 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 chalk 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 and to the north of the site (AP 1). The areas 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 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 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 landowners for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA.

## **Appendix 1**

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

**Site Name:** Development of land at Crown and Sceptre, The Street, Acol, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** CRO/WB/17

**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 semi-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:** Thanet District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 630792 167392

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** March 2017 and August/September 2018

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Margate Chalk Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Crown and Sceptre, The Street, Acol, Kent

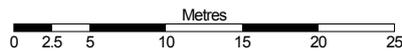
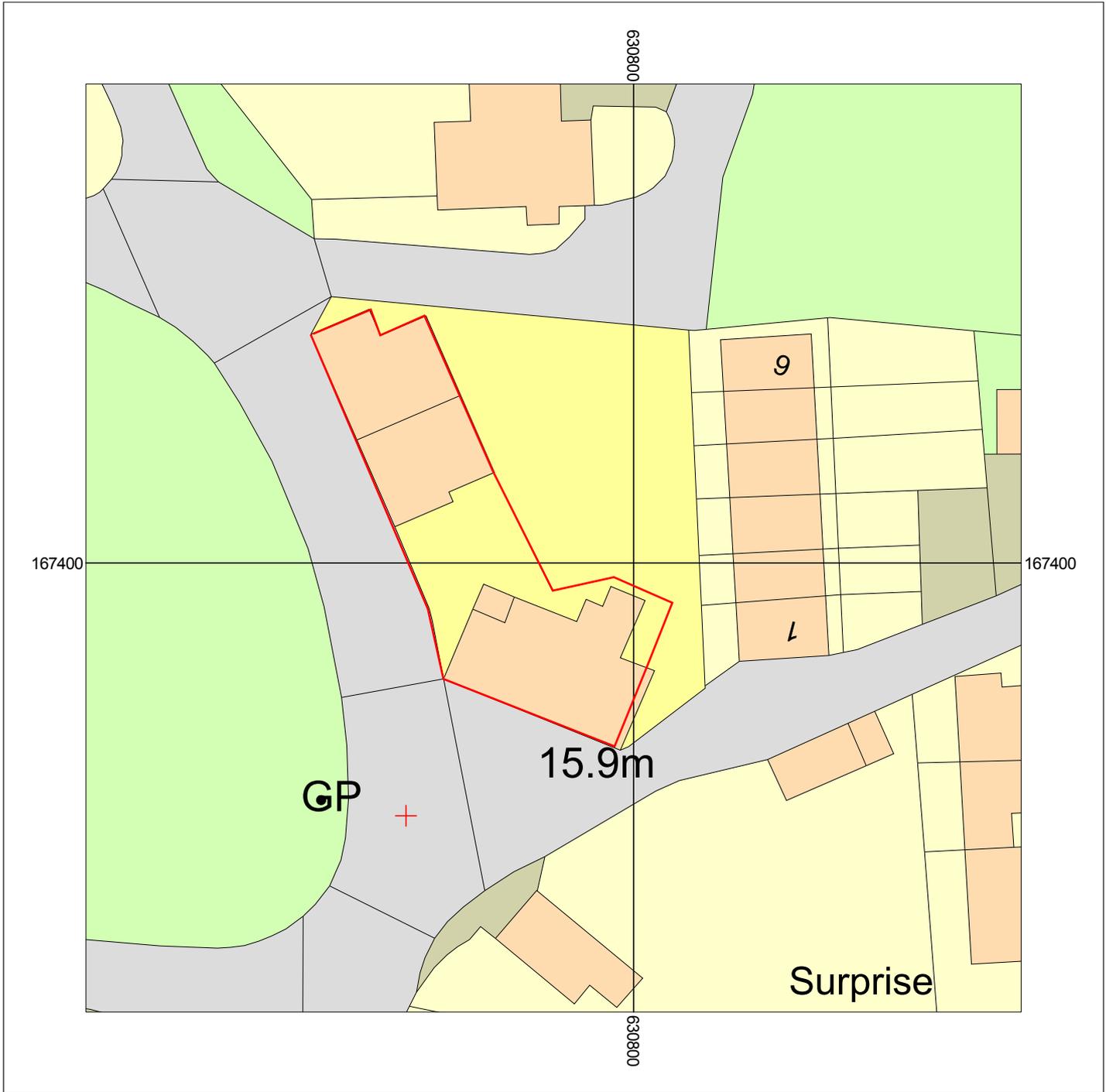
**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

See above

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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

Figure 1  
Area watched (inside  
red line)



Scale: 1:500

Acol



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 07/02/2019  
Serial number: 2078392

Plot centre co-ordinates: 630793,167401  
Download file: acol.zip  
Project name: swat2

Project: Crown & Sceptre, Acol, Kent  
Proposed Residential  
Development

Drawing: C&SA – 30 rev 00  
Title: Site Plan as Proposed – Ground Floor Level  
Scale: 1:200 @ A3  
Date: 2013. October.  
Status: Scheme Design

Client: Torran Construction



Figure 2  
Proposed development





Plate 1. View of Site



Plate 2. View of foundations



Plates 3 & 4 View of foundations and (below drainage)





Plate 5. View of drainage



Plate 6. View of drainage



Plate 7. View of drainage