

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Maycroft, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent

Site Code MAY/WB/19



Date of report 11/10/2019

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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.....	6
7.1 GENERAL.....	6
8.0 FINDS.....	7
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	7
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	7
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	7
REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX 1 - KCC HER Summary Form.....	8

Plates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. General views of site and foundation trenches

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Site plan and location of archaeological watching brief

Figure 2. Proposed development

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Maycroft, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent

Site Code MAY/WB/19  
NGR 552790 169175



Plate 1. View of proposed development area (2019)

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. In January to June 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of ground works involved in the build of a replacement detached dwelling with associated landscaping (Figures 1, 2 and Plates 1-9).

1.2. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the topsoil strip and various foundation excavations of the site. (Plates 1-9).

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Topsoil strip and digging out of the foundations for the new swimming pool on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (Plates 1-3).

Phase 2: Digging out of the foundations for the new building on 3<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Plates 3-9).

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.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Sevenoaks District Council (SE/17/02001/FULL).

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

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located to the west of the Shoreham Road just outside the village of Otford in Kent. The site itself is level at about 95.7m AOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The following Condition (7) 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 watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the local planning authority so that the excavations are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The Watching Brief shall be in accordance with a written*

*specification and timetable which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Council. The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that it is fundamental to the development permitted to address this issue before development commences and that without this safeguard planning permission should not be granted.*

*REASON: To investigate and record archaeological features as supported by Policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 recording of any 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.*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the ground for the build of a swimming pool and replacement detached house (Plates 1-9).

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 Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The geology revealed on site was chalk topped by topsoil (Plate 4).

5.2 The archaeological potential is contained within the SWAT Archaeological Specification and dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology.

6.2. The works comprised the close monitoring 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 chalk subsoil down to formation level (Plates 1-9).

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 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 Principal Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The geology encountered across the site was chalk overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site.

7.2 The proposed build is for a swimming pool, replacement dwelling and garage. The area watched was 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 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 the landowner 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 Maycroft, Shoreham Road, Otford, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** MAY/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 demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a replacement detached dwelling with associated landscaping whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Works be undertaken to close monitor the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

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

**District/Unitary:** Sevenoaks District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 552790 169175

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

**Date of recording:** Feb –June 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 Watching Brief on land at Maycroft, Shoreham Road, Otford, 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. View of the site (looking SE)



Plate 3. View of ground reduction (looking NE)



Plate 4. Foundation trenches (looking North)



Plate 5. Foundation trenches (looking East)



Plate 6. Ground reduction (looking SSE)



Plate 7. Ground reduction (looking North)

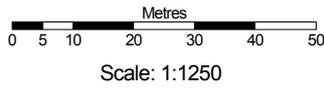


Plate 8. Foundation trenches (looking West)



Plate 9. Foundation trenches (looking West)

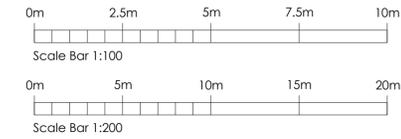
Figure 1  
Area Watched



**Maycroft**  
**Shoreham Road**  
**Otford**  
**Sevenoaks**  
**TN14 5RP**

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 10/10/2019  
Serial number: 2165347

Plot centre co-ordinates: 552773,160171  
Download file: swat\_maycroft.zip  
Project name: swat\_maycroft



Landscape Key:

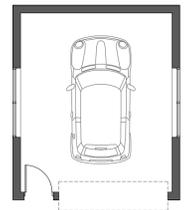
	GRASS/LAWN AREA
	PAVED HARDSTANDING
	PERMEABLE DRIVEWAY
	SUBTERRANEAN LANDSCAPING
	EXISTING HEDGING
	EXISTING TREES
	PROPOSED NEW TREE
	TREES TO BE REMOVED
	PROPOSED LANDSCAPING
-173.98	EXISTING LEVELS
174.18	PROPOSED LEVELS



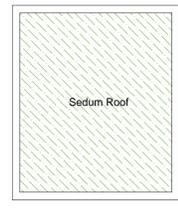
PROPOSED STREET SCENE  
1:200



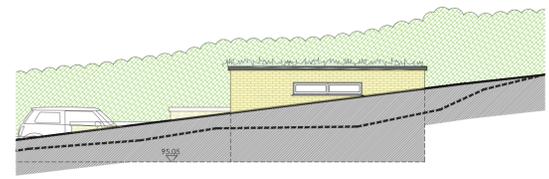
PROPOSED SITE SECTION  
1:200



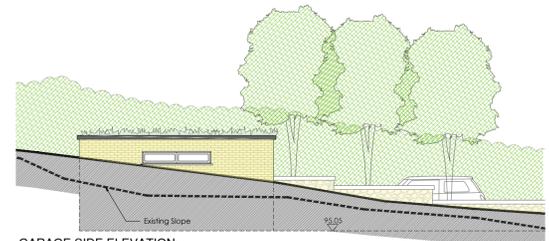
GARAGE GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
GF Floor Area 25.9 sqm      1:100



GARAGE ROOF PLAN  
Sedum Roof



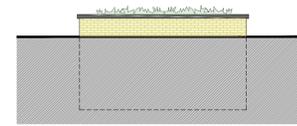
GARAGE SIDE ELEVATION



GARAGE SIDE ELEVATION



GARAGE FRONT ELEVATION



GARAGE REAR ELEVATION

A	25.05.17	New proposed scheme
Rev	Date	Comments

# PLANNING

Client  
MR & MRS ROBERTS

Project  
PROPOSED ALTERATIONS  
MAYCROFT  
SHOREHAM ROAD  
OTFORD, KENT  
TN14 5RP

Title  
PROPOSED SITE PLAN, SECTION &  
PROPOSED STREET ELEVATION  
REPLACEMENT GARAGE PLANS & ELEVATION

Project No.	Date
<b>5546</b>	MAY 2017
Drawing No.	Revision
5546-PD-03	A
Scale	Drawn
AS SHOWN @ A1	CI
	Check
	RR

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