

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at to the rear of 34-44 St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code SITT/WB/19



Date of report 19/11/2019

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# Archaeological Investigation on Land to the rear of 34-44 St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code DROV/WB/18  
NGR 590197 164441



AP 1. View of proposed development area (2018)

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. In May 2018 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Investigation of ground works involved in the demolition of existing workshop and construction of proposed bungalow, St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne in Kent (Figure 1, AP 1 and Plates 1-4).

1.2. An Archaeological watching brief presence was kept during the foundation and service excavations across the site. (Plates 1-4).

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Digging out of the foundations for the new build extensions took place on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (Plates 1-4).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief 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 and highlighted in the KCC correspondence from Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Swale Borough Council (14/504033).

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage 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 to the rear of 34-44 St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne in Kent. The property in question lies on the southern side of Crown Road with St Pauls Street to the west (AP 1 & Figure 1).

## 2.2 Planning Background

The following Condition (15) 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 excavation is 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 to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

## 3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## 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 investigation and recording of all archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection for the proposed development.*

4.2. Proposed Groundworks.

The ground works were to excavate the ground for the build of an bungalow (Plates 1-4).

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 Seaford Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head-Clay and Silt and shown on site to be brown silty loam overlaying the chalk (Plates 1-4).

5.2 The archaeological potential is contained within the KCC Heritage response from Simon Mason Principal Archaeological Officer:

“given the proximity to historic Milton Regis and the finding of Roman remains on Crown Road I would recommend that provision is made for an archaeological watching brief”.

5.3 Further information on the above can be found in the Kent Historic Environment Record which is held at the Heritage Conservation Group, Environment, Planning & Enforcement, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

## **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 and supervision 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 subsoil and chalk down to formation level (Plates 1-4).

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 CfA Standards and Guidance, (CfA: 2017), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Principal Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **7.0 Results**

7.1 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of chalk overlaid by brown silty soil. 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 bungalow. The area 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 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 Archaeology 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 to the rear of 34-44 St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne, Kent  
Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** SITT/WB/18

**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 a bungalow whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to closely monitor the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

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

**District/Unitary:** Swale Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 590197 164441

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

**Date of recording:** 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**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 of land to the rear of 34-44 St Pauls Street, Sittingbourne, 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 1. View of the foundation trenches (looking SW)



Plate 2. View of foundation trenches (looking NE)

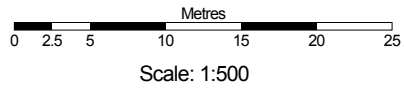


Plate 3. Foundation trench (looking NE)



Plate 4. Foundation trench (looking NW)

Figure 1.  
Area watched



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
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Serial number: 2178022

**St Pauls Street  
Sittingbourne  
ME10 2LA**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 590196,164444  
Download file: swat\_stpauls.zip  
Project name: swat\_stpauls