

Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Sandbanks Farm, Perry Wood, Kent

Site Code SAND-WB-12



Report for Mr J Clarke
Planning Reference No. SW/11/1497
Date of report 30th June 2012

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Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Sandbanks Farm, Perry Wood, Kent

Site Code: SAND-WB-12

1.0 SUMMARY

From 13th March to 17th March 2012, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site at Sandbanks Farm during the ground works associated with a new-build domestic dwelling and village hall.

The works were carried out on behalf of Mr J Clarke.

Planning Application Number: SW/11/1497.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN:SW/11/1497) for the construction of a new dwelling and village hall was submitted to Swale Borough Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

3. 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 programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Grounds: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in pursuance of policies E1 and E16 of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008.

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An experienced archaeologist attended the site and monitored site clearance and the excavation of ground to form a cellar for the new dwelling from the 13th March to 17th March 2012.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

'contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks' (KCC 2012:3.1)

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The ground works involved area strip of topsoil. Subsequently deep foundations for the cellar of the new build dwelling were watched plus drain and service runs (Plates 1-3). No archaeology was revealed.

2.5 Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Thanet Beds of Sand.

Topographically the site comprises 1.25 hectares in Perry Wood, a hamlet which makes up part of the village of Selling. Perry Wood is a linear hamlet based around the lane leading from Selling to Badlesmere and Shottenden. The site currently houses a series of workshops in poor shape . The site is adjacent to the Perry Wood Nature Reserve which is part of the Kent Downs, and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Close by is the site of a postulated Iron Age Fort on Shottenden Hill.

The principal archaeological sites previously published consisted of two sites within Perry Wood, and close to the development site where Mesolithic flintwork had been found in quantity and an earthwork enclosure located in the north-west area of the woods on Shottenden Hill (Windmill Hill).

The Mesolithic finds

Flintwork of Mesolithic type has been found around the area between Shottenden and Selling including two tranchet axes which are in the Ashmolean Museum collection.

In the autumn of 1964 limited excavations were carried out by the Kent Mesolithic Research Group on two sites within Perry Wood where Mesolithic material was found on the surface close to footpaths. Many characteristic tools that were found along with flintworking debris were published in *Archaeologia Cantiana* in 1976.

The Earthwork on Shottenden Hill

Edward Hasted's description in his *History of Kent* written earlier in the century (1798, 38-50) is the earliest record of earthworks located on the flat top of Shottenton (*Sic*) Hill, which he suggested had been artificially levelled. The ditches of the earthwork were plainly visible to Hasted and estimated to cover nearly two acres (0.8ha) of the top of the hill.

Although the earthworks varied 'according to the rounding of the hill' the north-east, north west, and south east angles were right angled, while the south western corner was rounded. Two entrances or 'ports' were present, the principal one on the southern side and another on the east.

Hasted suggested that the site was most likely to be the remains of a Roman summer camp or exploratory fort, possibly associated with the remains of a larger, more permanent fort which he had seen as earthworks at Sellingham Wood, two miles to the south-east.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 General

The topsoil strip of the site and subsequent deep excavation (Plates 1-3) failed to reveal any archaeological features.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at land at Sandbanks Farm revealed no archaeological features. The area watched is contained within the red boundary shown on Fig 1. It is understood the rest of the plot outlined in yellow is to be retained as pasture or gardens.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Mr James Clarke for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Paul Wilkinson
June 2012

REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council (2012) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Sandbanks Farm, Perry Wood, Kent*

Hasted (1798) *History of Kent*

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Land at Sandbanks Farm, Perry Wood, Kent	
Site Code: SAND-WB-12	
Site Address:	
As above.	
Summary:	
<p>From 13th March to 17th March 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at the above address. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr J Clarke in advance of the construction of a dwelling house and village hall. (Planning Application Number: SW/11/1497).</p> <p>The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.</p>	
District/Unitary: Faversham	Parish: Selling
Period(s): N/A.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: March 2012	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology: Thanet Beds	
Title and author of accompanying report:	
Wilkinson, P. (2012) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Sandbanks Farm, Perry Wood, Kent (SWAT Archaeology)</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)	
As above.	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Dr P. Wilkinson	Date: June 2012

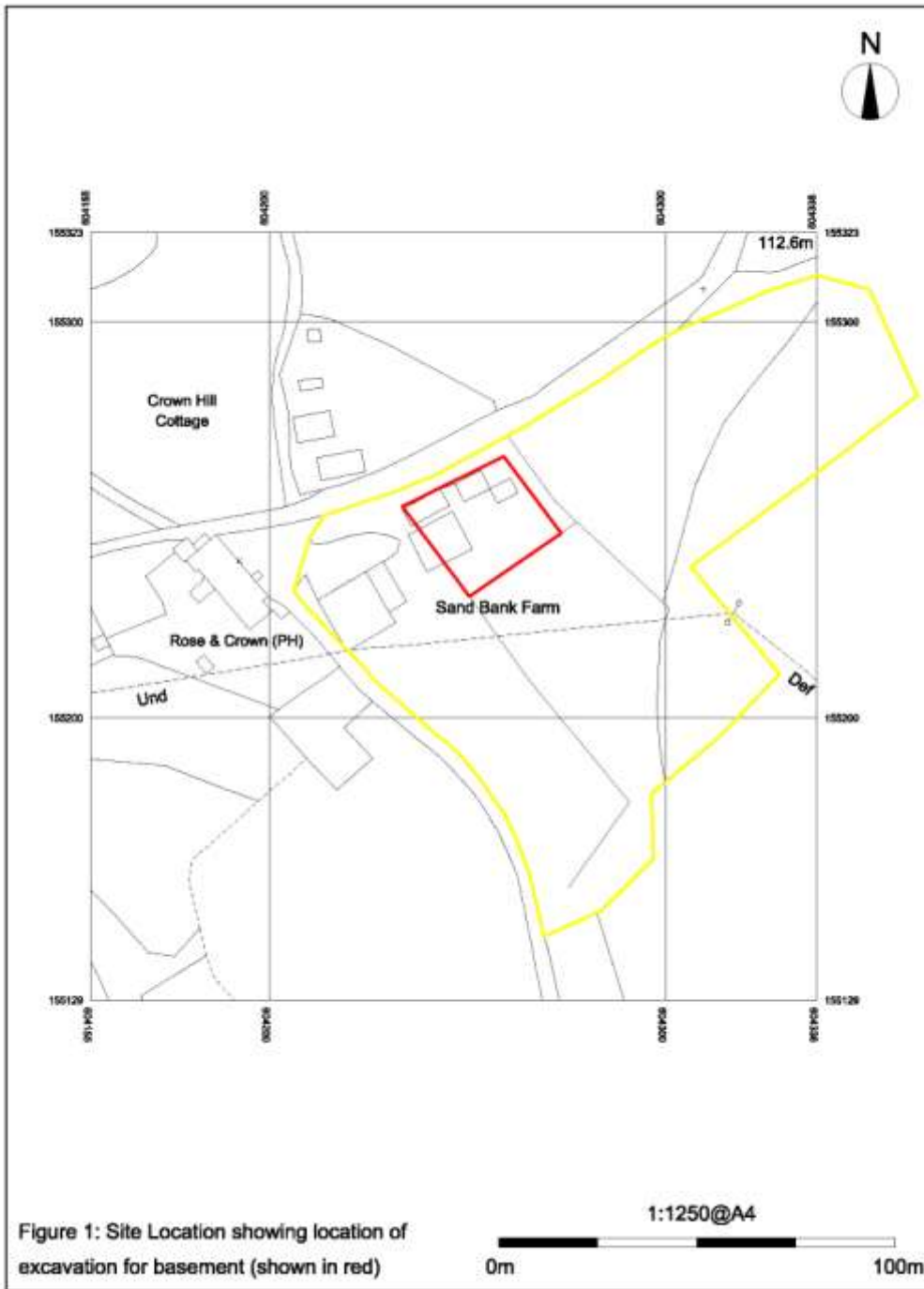


Figure 1. Site Location at TQ 7102 7084



Plate 1. Showing excavation for cellar of new building



Plate 2. Showing deep excavation after topsoil strip for cellar of new building



Plate 3. Showing area excavated and watched (facing south-west)