

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at 29 Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent

Site Code ROY/WB/15



Report for Dr Maxted  
Date of report 06/10/2015

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company  
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road  
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk [www.swatarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk)

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# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at 29 Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent

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**Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.**

**(Google Earth 20/04/2015: Eye altitude 414m).**

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the demolition of existing conservatory and replacement by a new build extension at Thames House, 29 Royal Pier Road, Gravesend in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Dr A. Maxted.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging and levelling (Plates 3-6). The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Foundations dug and services trenches to connect to the existing services.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological remains. In particular, any evidence of archaeological remains associated with the riverside activity of the Thames at Gravesend.

1.5. The Planning Application Numbers for the development are 20120519, LBC20120520 and appeals APP/K2230/E/12/2182855 and APP/K2230/A/12/2182839.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features or burials, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

The planning applications were submitted to 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 was attached to the planning consent:

*(AR1) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded*

*(AR2) No development shall take place until details of foundations designs and any other proposals involving below ground excavation have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

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

*“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are 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 ground works””(SWAT 2015).*

4.2. The ground works were to strip the demolition rubble from the conservatory and excavate the foundation and service trenches (Plates 3-6).

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 map is Bedrock geology of Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation overlain by Tidal River Deposits- Clay & Silt. The geology revealed on site was Chalk overlain by Clay, Silt and Sand topped by demolition rubble.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of low cliff overlooking the Thames Estuary. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 9m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with the important Scheduled Monument of the Henry V111 Blockhouse and associated river and maritime activities.

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

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 in one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

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 demolition layer and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 3-6).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of Dr Paul Wilkinson, an experienced archaeologist of SWAT Archaeology.

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 IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with the 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 made up ground and river gravels. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology or made up ground and no archaeological finds retrieved.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

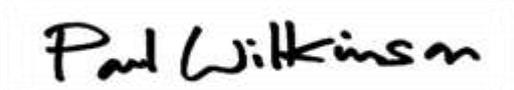
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential but no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring 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 Andy Maxted for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (KCC 2015)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2015)

## **Appendix 1**

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

**Site Name:** Development of land at 29 Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** ROY/WB/15

**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 existing conservatory and the build of a new extension whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Programme 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:** Gravesham Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 564922 174380

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** July 2015

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

**Geology:** Chalk and River Gravels

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at 29 Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, 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

**Date:** 06/10/2015

## Plates



Plate 2. Existing conservatory prior to demolition



Plate 3. Connecting services



Plate 4. Strata of site: Made up ground, Tidal River Deposits and Chalk

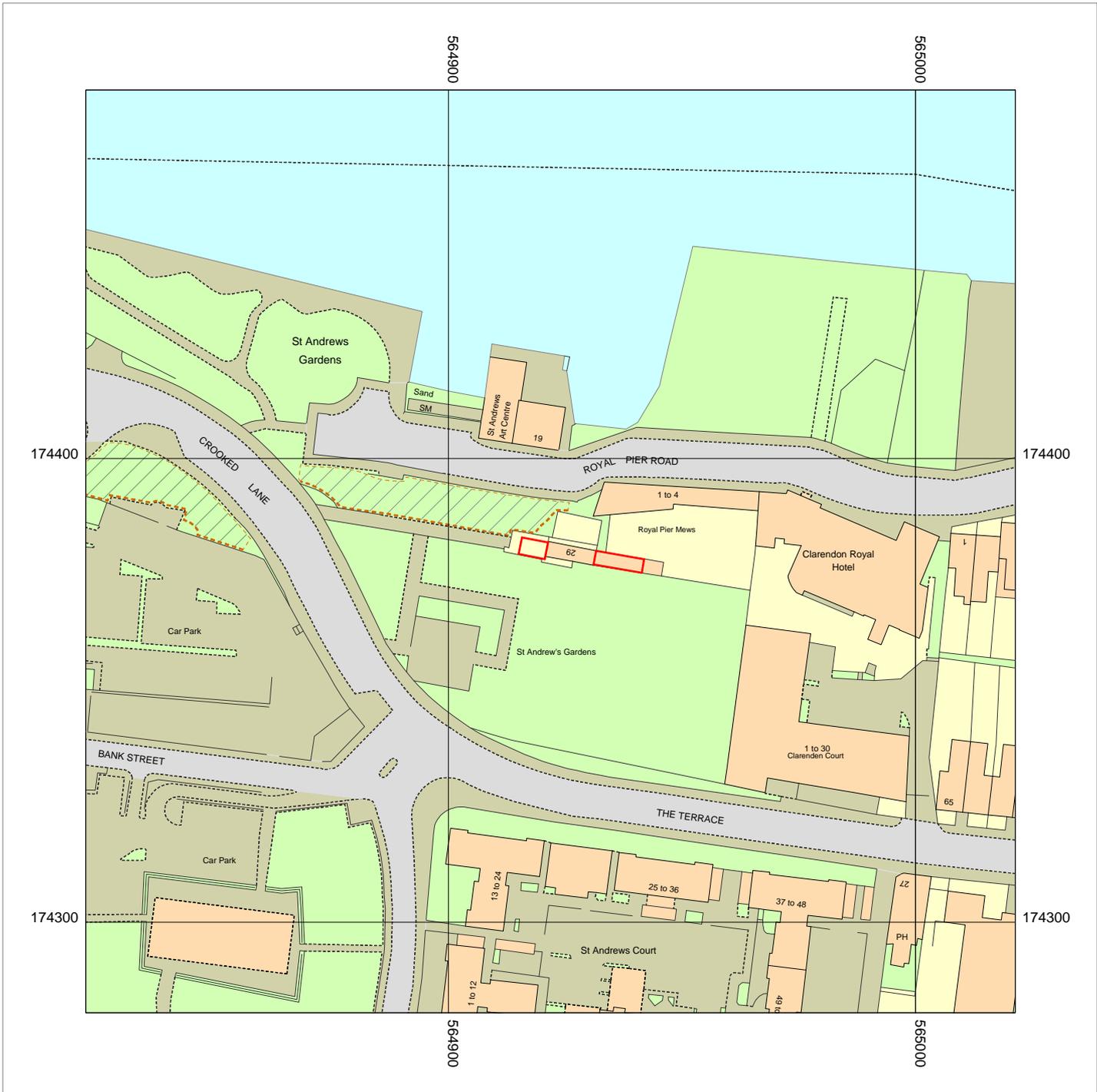


Plate 5. The site showing cutting of foundation trenches



Plate 5. Foundation trenches completed

Figure 1.  
Areas watched inside red  
rectangles



30 15 0 30 m

Scale 1:1250



**Thames House**

Supplied by: National Map Centre Kent  
Licence number: 100031961  
Produced: 20/03/15  
Serial number: 1487408

**29 Royal Pier Road  
Gravesend  
DA12 2BD:**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 564922, 174380  
Download file: Print52611\_1487408  
Project name: royal