

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Coach House, 7 Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 617670 160058

Site Code: COACH/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/14/00032/FUL)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at The Coach House, Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury in Kent in December 2016. A Planning Application (CA/14/00032/FUL) to develop this site for the erection of terraced housing to Canterbury City Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of one evaluation trench revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trench (Figure 1). The natural geology of Clay and Silt was reached at an average depth of between 0.95m and 1.05m below ground level (BGL). The Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the land owners to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT & CCC 2016) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 7th December 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is likely to be adjacent to the Roman road from Canterbury to Thanet and is close to St Nicholas's Church. Historic OS mapping indicate that the development site was adjacent to village buildings in the 19th century and this is reflected in the KCCHER record where No's 5 & 6 Chapel Lane just to the north-east are listed (TR 16 SE 174).

The underlying geology is mapped as Bedrock Geology of Thanet Formation- Sand, Silt, and Clay. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 56 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Superficial Deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silty, Peaty, Sandy, Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council gave planning permission (CA/14/00032/FUL) for development of land at 7 Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

On the advice of Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

(Condition 10) No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer, or their successor(s) in title has secured, firstly, the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, secondly, implementation of any mitigation measures, including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation, to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains; and thirdly a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication of any matters of archaeological interest. All archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.

REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. There are no archaeological discoveries recorded in the vicinity of the development site but 200m to the east an undated metalised flint surface was found at the site of the former Fordwich Garage. To the east are historic mills and waterways which form part of the River Stour. The OD height of the proposed site is about 6m AOD and the site is considered to be in the River Stour flood plain (Plate 1 & Fig.1).

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that the:

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains

which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of one trench within the footprint of the proposed housing development. A 2.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the SWAT & CCC specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the one trench (Figure 1 & Plate 5).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 2-5). The trench lay on an E to W alignment and measured approximately 12m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**102**) was identified across the trench as dark grey sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 1.00m (m OD) below the present ground surface at 6.00m AOD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of alluvial silt (**101**) 0.25m thick, and above this topsoil (**100**).

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been used as a garden.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trench at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** sealing alluvial silt **(101)** which overlay the natural geology **(102)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Tim Allen. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

03/01/2017

14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 7 Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2016

Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at 7 Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

SWAT Site Code: COACH/EV/16

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for residential housing whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Archaeological Evaluation revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 617670 160058

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 7th December 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Alluvium and Clay and Silt

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Coach House, 7 Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

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

No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 03/01/2017

PLATES



Plate 1. Location of trench



Plate 2. The proposed development area



Plate 3. Excavated trench

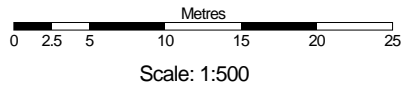


Plate 4. Section (looking east)



Plate 5. Excavated trench (looking NNW)

Figure 1
Location of evaluation
trench



7 Mill Road
Sturry
CT2 0AJ

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 28/11/2016
Serial number: 1767019

Plot centre co-ordinates: 617670,160058
Download file: swat.zip
Project name: mill