

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Knoll House, Crayburne, Southfleet, Kent



NGR: 560735 171485

Site Code: KNOLL /EV/16

(Planning Application: DA/16/01310/FUL)

## **SWAT Archaeology**

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NGR: 560735 171485

Site Code: KNOLL-EV-16

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Spring Gardens, Holmsdale Road, South Darenth, Kent on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. A Planning Application (DA/16/01310/FUL) to develop this site for the erection of a residential house with associated car parking was sent to Dartford Borough Council, whereby the Council requested that a Condition on the planning permission for an Archaeological Evaluation to 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 KCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of 3 evaluation trenches revealed no archaeological features (Figure 2). The natural geology of Sand was reached at an average depth of between 0.35m and 0.46m below ground level (BGL). Thus 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 2016) and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer KCC. The evaluation was carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

3.1 The proposed development site lies to the west of the main railway line from Darenth to Southfleet and to the north of Mates Farm. The village of Betsham is located just to the north of the proposed development itself to the south-east of Joyce Hall. The OS location is 560735 171485 (Figure 1).

3.2 The underlying geology is mapped as Bedrock Geology of Thanet Formation – Sand with no Superficial Deposits recorded. The geology revealed on site was sand. Ground levels are 38.50m aOD on the front lawn and 36.60m aOD on the rear lawn.

#### **4. Planning Background**

4.1 Development proposals for this site comprise the build of demolition and a replacement residential house and associated car parking, garage and playroom. On the basis of present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Dartford Borough Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. Condition 3 of the planning permission states:

*03 No development shall take place until the applicant, their agents or successors in title has secured implementation of i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written time table which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority; and ii, following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and time table which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.*

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

5.1 The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The potential of this area has been gauged in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains. In the vicinity was found in February 1922 an inhumation burial with rich grave goods and dating to about 600AD. This Early Medieval burial was found in the digging of a garden pond 'to the rear of Joyce Hall' which is the adjacent property to the north-west (TQ 67 SW 2). Two pieces of Palaeolithic flint debitage were also found in the vicinity (TQ 67 SW 442). In addition a quern stone of possible Romano-British date has been recorded from Crayburne which could suggest Roman activity in the area.

#### **6. Aims and Objectives**

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

*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. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for Iron Age and Roman activity and in addition Early Medieval burials and Prehistoric Flint debitage.*

The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an

archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.

## **7. Methodology**

The evaluation comprised 3 machine excavated trenches (15m x 1.8m) in a layout agreed with the Senior Archaeologist KCC. The trench was machine excavated down to the top of any significant archaeological horizon/level or to the top of 'natural' subsoil where no archaeological deposits have been found at a higher level.

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

## **9. Results**

The evaluation trenches which were located in the footprint of the development site failed to expose any features of potential archaeological significance, and contained no cultural materials, or, indeed, anything indicative of associated and/or nearby human activity, such as charcoal or scorched daub flecking.

### **Trench 1**

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plates 1-6). The trench lay on an NNE alignment just south of the footprint of the demolished house and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**103**) was identified across the trench as yellow brown silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.46m (36.34m aOD) below the present ground surface at 36.80m OD at the centre of the trench.

The natural geology (**103**) was sealed by a layer of topsoil mixed with building demolition material.

### **Trench 2**

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plates 1-6). The trench lay on an NNE alignment just north of the footprint of the demolished house and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**203**) was identified across the trench as yellow brown silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.46m (38.04m aOD) below the present ground surface at 38.50m OD at the centre of the trench.

The natural geology **(203)** was sealed by a layer of topsoil mixed with building demolition material.

### **Trench 3**

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plates 1-6). The trench lay on an NE alignment on the footprint of the demolished house and measured approximately 15m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(303)** was identified across the trench as yellow brown silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.35m (37.55m aOD) below the present ground surface at 37.90m OD at the centre of the trench.

The natural geology **(303)** was sealed by a layer of building demolition material.

## **10. Discussion**

No archaeological features were exposed in the trenches. The proposed development can therefore be judged to pose no threat to any significant archaeological remains.

## **11. Finds**

No finds were recovered.

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no significant 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 demolition material or topsoil **(100)** sealing the natural geology of Sand **(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 Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer KCC. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson 12/03/2017

## 14. References

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

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2016

SWAT Archaeology (2017) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Knoll House, Crayburne, Southfleet, Kent*

### KCC HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land at Knoll House, Crayburne, Southfleet, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** KNOLL/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 development and parking whereby Dartford Borough 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:** Dartford Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 560735 171485

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** December 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Sand

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2017) *Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Knoll House, Crayburne, Southfleet, Kent*

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

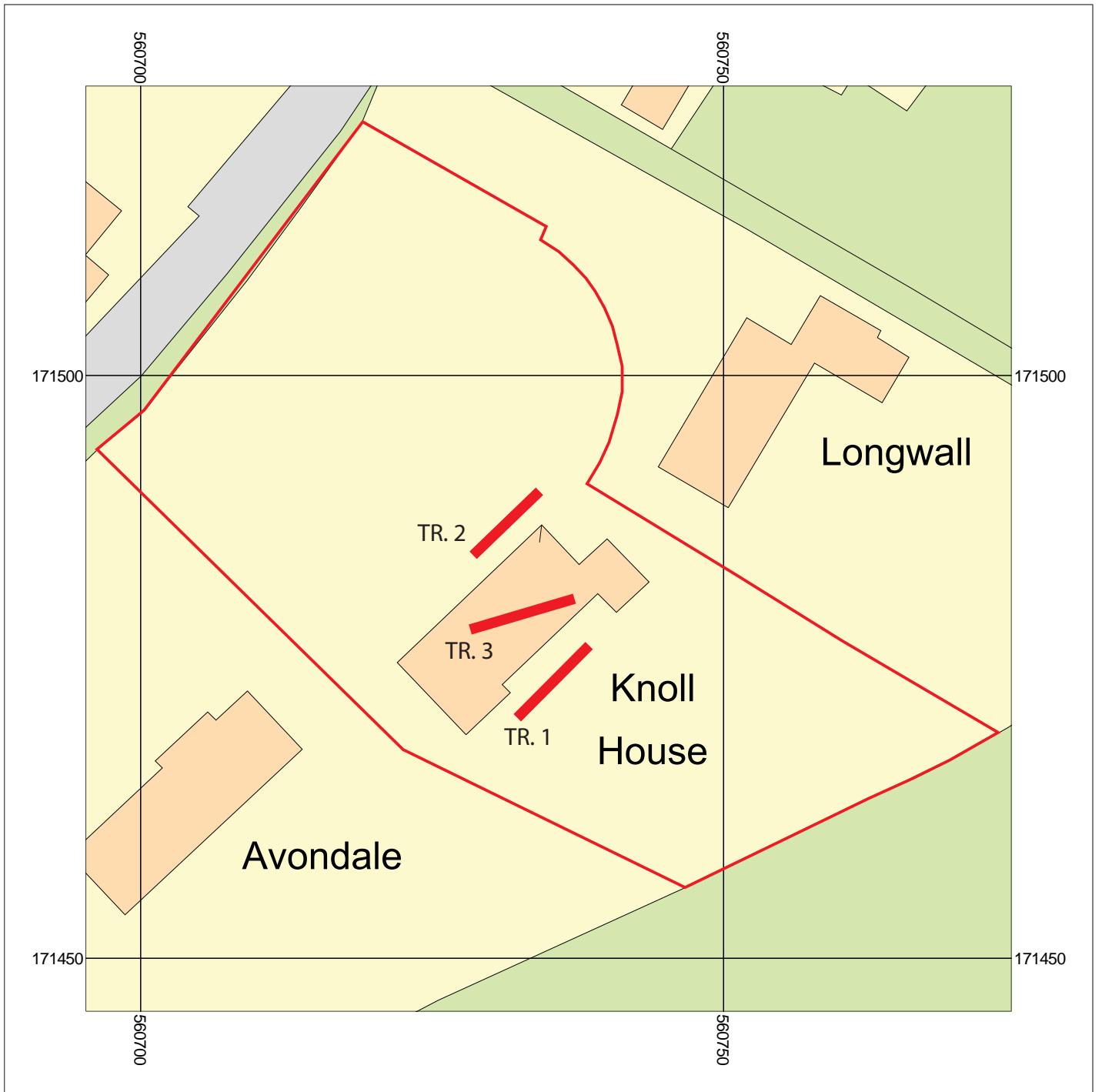
No archaeological features or finds were revealed

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

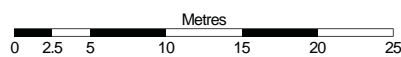
**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 12/03/2017





License number 100031961



Scale: 1:500

Figure 1: Evaluation trenches in relation to Ordnance Survey 1:500 map

# OS Plan Colour

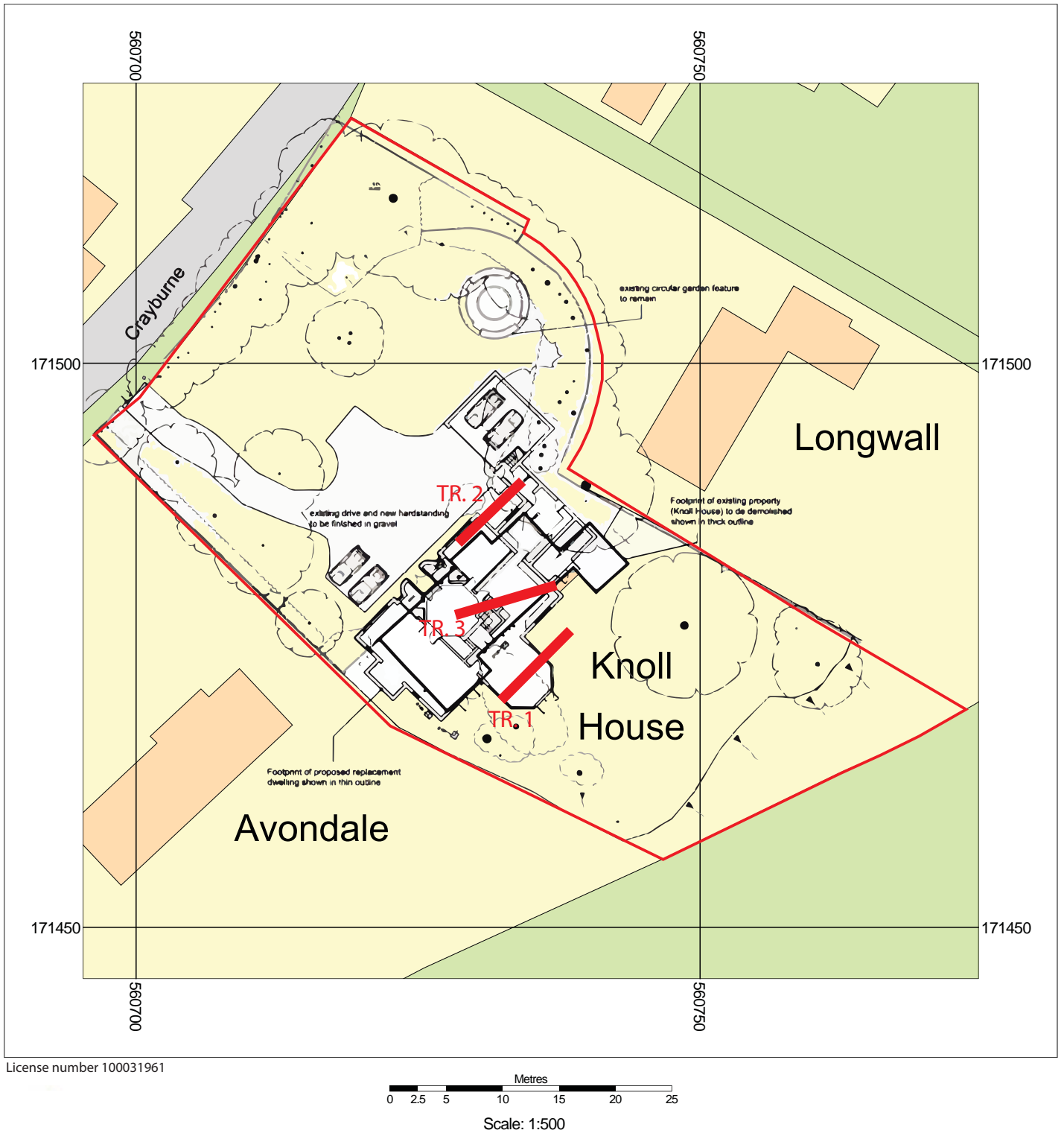


Figure 2: Evaluation trenches and proposed development in relation to Ordnance Survey 1:500 map



Plate 2. View of site (looking north)



Plate 3. Trench 1 (looking NE)



Plate 4. Trench 2 (looking NE)



Plate 5. Trench 3 (looking NE)