

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Quaives Farm, Grove Road, Wickhambreux, Kent



NGR: 622150 159250

Site Code: QUAIV/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/15/02347/FUL)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the north-east of Quaives Farm, Grove Road, Wickhambreux in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/15/02347/FUL) for a concrete span building was submitted 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 Archaeology Specification, 22nd February 2016 and CCC Specification 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.

The geology on site is Bedrock of Thanet Formation: Sand, Silt & Clay whilst the Superficial Deposits are Head- Clay & Silt dating to the Quaternary Period (Q) which is a polymict deposit comprising gravel, sand and clay depending on upslope source and distance from source. Poorly sorted and poorly stratified deposits formed mostly by solifluction and/or hillwash and soil creep (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

The geology revealed on site was the Thanet Formation: Sand, Silt and Clay.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Rural Associates 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 the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 29th February 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site at Quaives Farm, Grove Road, Wickhambreux, near Canterbury, Kent and is located upslope from the village of Wickhambreux, itself situated on the Little Stour stream. The site is within a farm complex which includes agricultural buildings and caravan parks for farm workers. The farm production is soft fruits grown in plastic polytunnels in the surrounding fields.

The OD height of the proposed site is about 15m OD dropping down slope to 7m OD in the village of Wickhambreux and 5m OD on the banks of the Little Stour stream (Figure 1).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/15/02347/FUL) for development of a modern concrete span building to contain fruit packaging containers.

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

Condition 2) Prior to the commencement of development the following components of a scheme for the 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 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

a) A written scheme of investigation to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

b) A report summarising the results of the investigations to be produced on completion of fieldwork in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.

c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

d) If necessary a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.

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

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) and SWAT Archives (SWAT 1999,- 2016) have provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. Fieldwork by the Kent Archaeological Field School on the unknown route of the Roman road from Canterbury to

Richborough identified the route passing through Wickhambreux and the water meadow to the east and KAFS excavated a section through the road which gave a construction date of 60-75AD. Field walking to the west of the village identified scatters of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery suggesting settlement in the landscape around Quavies Farm. In addition a study of aerial photographs identified numerous double ring ditches (TR 25 NW 139) just upslope from the Roman road and west of the village and development site. On the site itself there is a HER record of a post-1960 formal/informal garden of specialist interest (TR 25 NW 457).

6. Aims and Objectives.

The aims set out in the SWAT Specification (2016) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains. 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 evaluation will be undertaken by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of one evaluation trench of 230m length. This trench will be located across the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 1).

The mechanical excavation will remove the topsoil in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface (whichever is the first to appear during this process). Once this mechanical excavation is complete, all excavation hence forth will be completed by hand, including the cleaning of the trench using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool.

Any archaeological features that may be exposed will subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

Sampling of features will only take place to explicate the sequencing of the stratigraphy and in order to aid the securing of materials that can be dated to aid the later assessment. Any burials that may be encountered will not be investigated at this evaluation stage, and full excavation of other archaeological features will not take place.

Care will be taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation does not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there is to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme will be put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.

If required, cultural material will be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening that may take place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation. However, as no archaeological features were exposed in the evaluation trench it was not necessary to visit.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trench and drainage connection (Figure 1 and Plate1-3).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-3). The trench lay on a NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 30m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**102**) was identified across the trench as Sand, Silt and Clay at a depth of approximately 0.20m (14.81mOD) below the present ground surface at 15.01m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a dark layer of topsoil (**101**) 0.20m thick, mid brown in colour and containing small stones and chalk fragments, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

10. Discussion

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. There are numerous crop marks in the vicinity of the proposed development site but none were located in the evaluation trench.

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 Archaeological Specification. 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, Rural Associates for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for Digitise This. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD. FRSA. MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson

18/03/2016

14. References

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

SWAT Archaeology (February 2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2015

PLATES



Plate 1 – Trench 1 under excavation (looking SE)



Plate 2 – Drainage connection (looking NW)



Plate 3 – Trench 1 (looking NW)

HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Quaives Farm, Wickhambreux, Kent

SWAT Site Code: QUAV/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 the construction of a fruit store building whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 622150 159250

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: Feb 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Thanet Formation, Sand, Silt, Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation at Quaives Farm, Grove Road, Wickhambreux, Kent

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

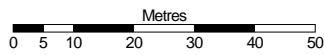
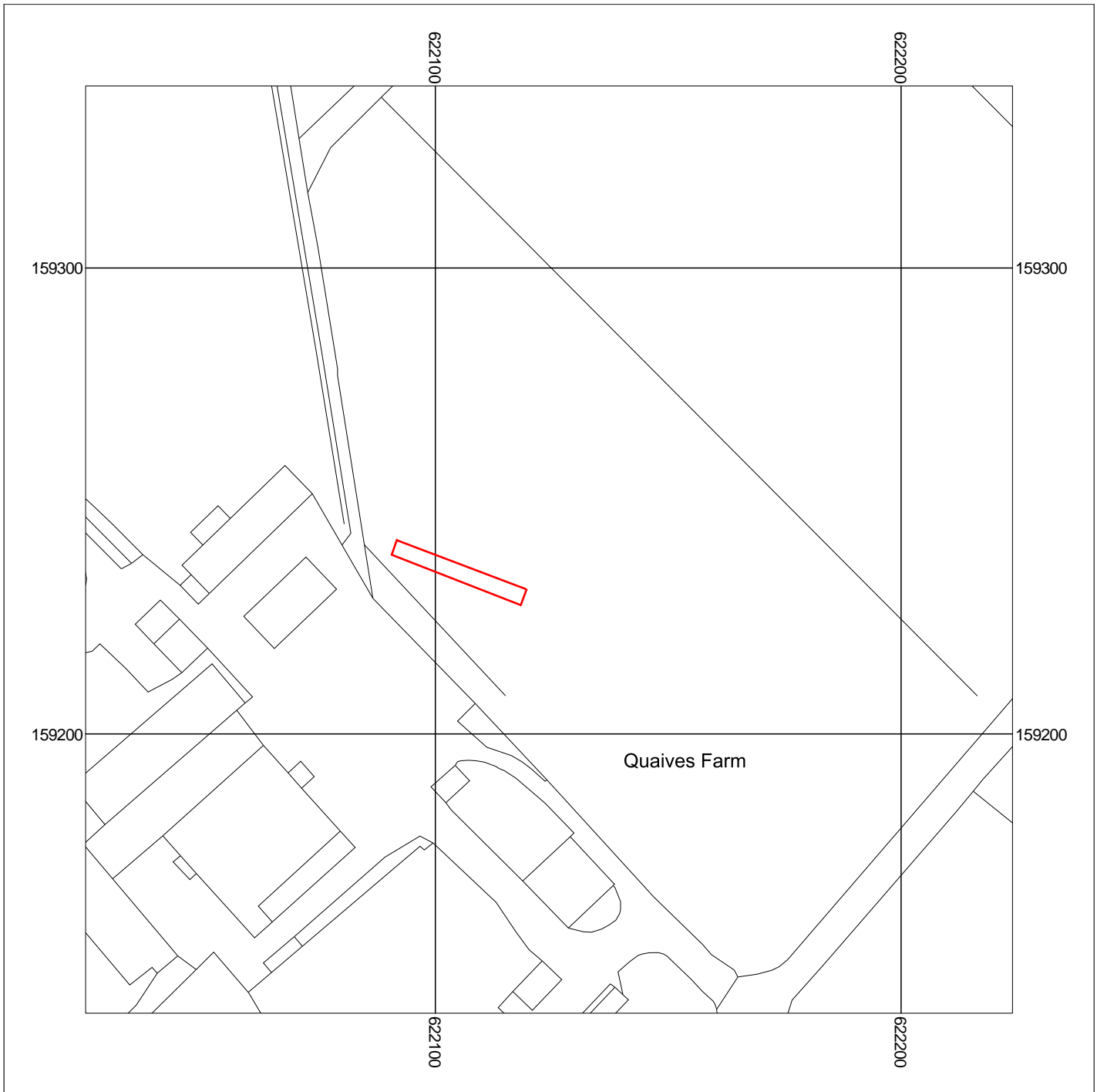
No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 18/03/2016

OS licence NMC 100039



Scale: 1:1250

Kelsey Farm
Wickhanbreux
CT3 1RY



Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 22/02/2016
Serial number: 1636680

Plot centre co-ordinates: 622124,159240
Download file: swat.zip
Project name: kelsey