Archaeological Evaluation of Land north-west of El Ashere, Wye Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent

Site Code: EAW-EV-18

(Planning Application: 17/00999/AS)

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Archaeological Evaluation of Land North-West of El Ashere, Wye Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north-west of El Ashere, Boughton Aluph in Kent. A Planning Application (17/00999/AS) for residential development and associated landscaping and other works was made to Ashford Borough 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 KCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of eight evaluation trenches revealed that archaeological features were not present within the trenches. The natural geology of West Melbury Marley Chalk was reached at an average depth of between 0.30m and 0.40m below the modern ground surface. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the landowner 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 (KCC 2018) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out from the 30th to 31st July 2018.

3. Site Description and Topography

3.1 The proposed development is situated in an enclosed former paddock on the south side of Wye Road. The area of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is 0.34 hectares (Figure 1).

3.2 This part of the Wye Road links Kempes Corner, a small hamlet on the crossroads of Wye and Canterbury roads both rural lanes with no footpaths. The PDA is located within the Boughton Lees Horticultural Valley Landscape Character Area. The OS location to centre of site is NGR 603042 146824.

4. Planning Background

4.1 The land has obtained planning permission (17/00999/AS) for three dwellings (Figure 2), new accesses along with associated parking and ancillary buildings (amended description and plans received by Ashford Borough Council 25.09.2017).

4.2 On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Ashford 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 2 of the planning permission states:

No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured and implemented:

a) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and

b) further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

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

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The archaeological potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains including the adjacent Pilgrims Way which runs along the southern boundary of the PDA.

5.2 The KCC Archaeological Officer was consulted: *"no objection and a condition is recommended, as the site lies within a general area of potential associated with Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity. Kempe's Corner is a junction of two major historic routeways: The Pilgrims Way and the main Roman road towards Canterbury. Associated medieval remains may extend up to the application site".*

5.3 The KCCHER has provided details of additional sites in the vicinity of the PDA and these include 250m to the NE a watercress bed which is shown on the 3rd edition 25" OS map (TR 04 NW 216) and 300m to the east the listed Kemp Hall (MKE 87365) whilst 400m to the SE the site of a brick kiln (TR 04 NW 214).

6. Aims and Objectives

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

6.1 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 medieval activity and in particular the adjacent medieval trackway and also any other Prehistoric, Roman and later archaeological activity.

6.2 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 SWAT Archaeological Specification itemises that the:

7.1 The general methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in Part B of this specification.

7.2 The archaeological evaluation will comprise the excavation of 8 archaeological trial trenches within the proposed development site. The archaeological contactor shall submit a trench layout plan for approval prior to the commencement of work. In formulating their trench layout plan the archaeological contractor should aim to include trenches measuring 25m in length by 1.5m in width.

7.3 The Archaeological Contractor should confirm the nature and location of any constraints on-site prior to the commencement of excavation and if necessary amend the trench location plan accordingly. Particular attention will be paid to avoiding any services and/or trees that are to be retained or to avoid damage to the roots thereof. Any amendments to the trench design must be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist and a revised trench plan submitted for approval.

7.4 Should significant remains be exposed it may be necessary to enlarge or extend the evaluation trenches to allow for further investigation of any significant features or deposits that may be encountered.

7.5 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork the Archaeological Contractor shall agree with the developer, or their agent, any fencing required during the works and requirements for reinstatement at completion. The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that arrangements are in place for appropriate reinstatement prior to the commencement of any excavations (SWAT 2018).

Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a NWW-SSE alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (58.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 59.00m aOD at the SSE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(101)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(100)**.

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on a NE-SW alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (58.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 59.00m aOD at the SW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(201)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(200)**.

Trench 3

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a NWW-SSE alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (58.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 59.00m aOD at the SSE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(301)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(300)**.

Trench 4

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (58.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 59.00m aOD at the SSW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(401)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(400)**.

Trench 5

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a NWW-SSE alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (58.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 59.00m aOD at the SSE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(501)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(500)**.

Trench 6

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on a NNE-SSW alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (57.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 58.00m aOD at the SW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(601)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(600)**.

Trench 7

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a NWW-SSE alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m. A land drain was identified in the central area of the trench.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (57.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 58.00m aOD at the SSE end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(701)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(700)**.

Trench 8

The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 2). The trench lay on a NE-SW alignment, measured approximately 25m by 1.50m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology was identified across the trench as silty sand at a depth of approximately 0.40m (57.60m aOD) below the present ground surface of 58.00m aOD at the SW end of the trench. The natural geology was sealed by mid-dark brown silty subsoil **(801)** which was sealed by dark grey-brown silty topsoil **(800)**.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features.

10. Discussion

With numerous archaeological sites in the vicinity of the PDA it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity but there was none.

11. Finds

No archaeological finds were retrieved.

12. Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation produced no archaeological features within the eight trenches. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil **(100)** sealing the subsoil **(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 SWAT and KCC Archaeological Specifications.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

20/08/2018

14. References

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2017). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

KCC Specification *Specification for an archaeological evaluation of land north-west of El Ashere, Wye Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2017

15. Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form
Site Name: Land north-west of El Ashere, Wye Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent
SWAT Site Code: EAW/EV/18
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 Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) 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: Ashford Borough Council
Period(s):
NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 603042 146824
Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation
Date of recording: July 2019
Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)
Geology: Underlying geology is West Melbury Chalk Formation
Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land north-west of El Ashere, Wye Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)
The archaeological evaluation on the site of proposed development revealed no archaeological features.

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson
Date: 20/08/2018

Plate 1: Looking NWW at Trench 1.

Plate 2. Looking SW at Trench 2.

Plate 3: Looking SEE at Trench 3.

Plate 4: Looking SSW at Trench 4.

Plate 5: Looking SEE at Trench 5.

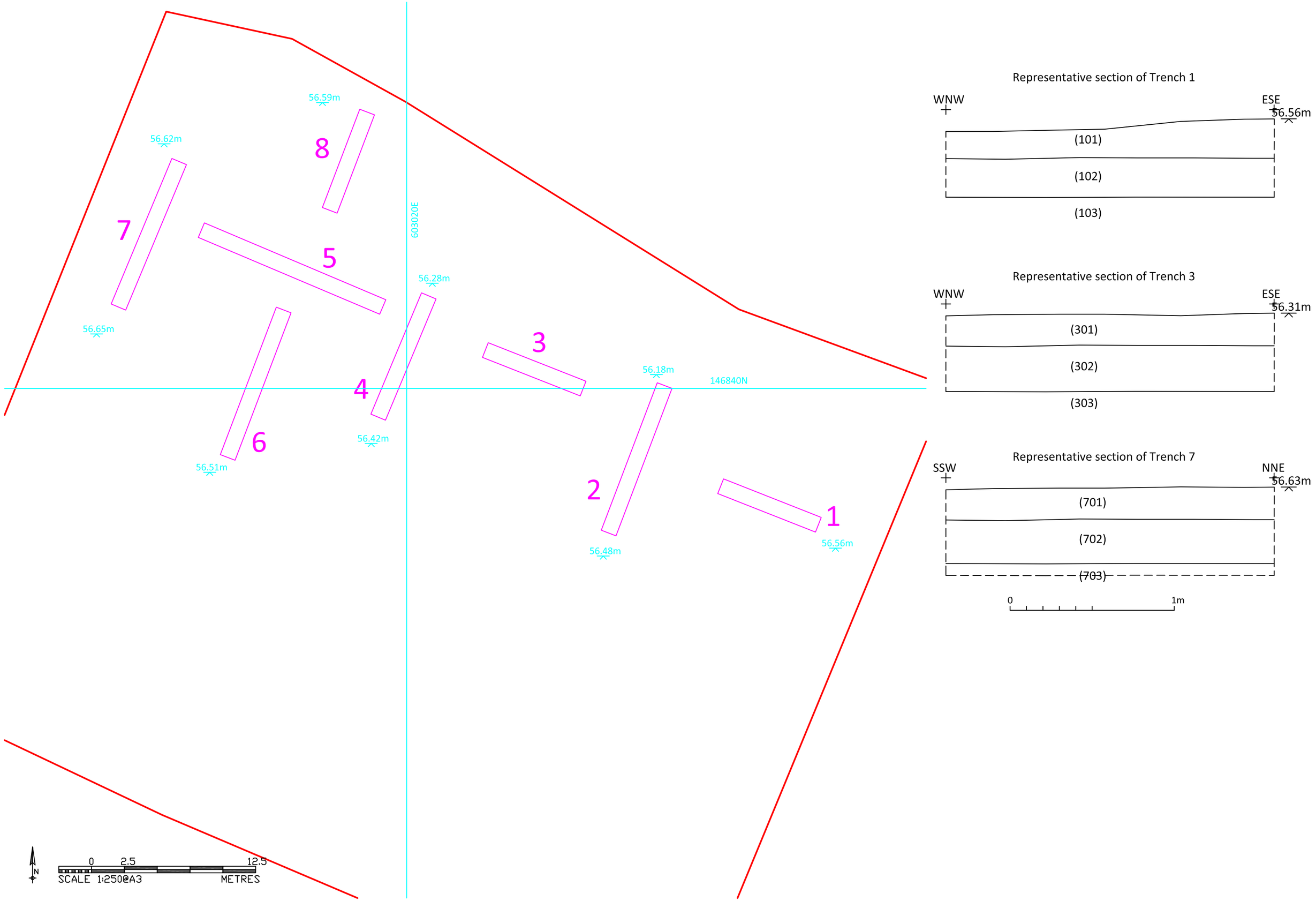
Plate 6: Looking NNE at Trench 6.

Plate 7: looking SSW at Trench 7.

Plate 8: looking SSW at Trench 8.

Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

Figure 2: Site location in relation to OS map



Representative section of Trench 1

Representative section of Trench 3

Representative section of Trench 7

Figure 3: Trench location and representative sections

Figure 4: Trench location in relation to development