

# Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham, Kent

Site Code WIN/WB/20



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# Archaeological Investigation on Land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham, Kent

NGR 624317 157240



OS 1872. Proposed development Area (PDA)

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. From 29<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of ground works involved in the construction of a detached dwelling, creation of parking, construction of boundary wall and landscaping with existing garage to be demolished at land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham in Kent (Figure 1 and Plates 1-6).

1.2. An Archaeological watching brief presence was kept during the excavations of ground and footings (Plates 1-6).

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken one phase.

Phase 1: Watching excavation of ground to the rear (29<sup>th</sup> September to October 9<sup>th</sup> 2020).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief were to determine whether any significant archaeological remains had survived within the footprint of the proposed groundworks. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area included on the KCCHER data and highlighted in the SWAT Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation Specification dated 08/06/2020.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Dover District Council (DOV/17/00628).

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the SWAT Archaeology WSI Specification the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located within the village of Wingham and situated on the west side of Vicarage Gardens and east of Canon Green and Wingham Village Hall (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The site has planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling, creation of parking, construction of boundary wall and landscaping with existing garage to be demolished at land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham in Kent.

The following Condition (7) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a Watching Brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds recorded. The Watching Brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.*

## **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) closely monitored the excavation works from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work were to:

*(3.1) The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.*

#### 4.2. Proposed Groundworks.

The ground works were to excavate the ground for the erection of detached dwelling (Plates 1-6).

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 is Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Head- Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was sandy silty clay (Plates 1-6).

5.2 The archaeological potential was highlighted in the Heritage Report by Anthony Swaine which accompanied the planning application highlights the historical background of the site and contains some important maps which show the site from 1805 (OSSD Figure 6). Hasted map of 1800 (Figure 5), and OS maps of 1871 and 1929 (Page 4). Both the 1871 and 1929 OS maps show no development on the site. The KCC HER data was accessed and just to the south is Wingham Lodge, a Grade II listed building (TR 25 NW 176). A Watching Brief at Canon House about 90m NNW of the site found features and pits dating from the late 13th century (TR 25 NW 158) and about 70m NW is recorded a World War II pillbox (TR 25 NW 240). The cropmark of a rectangular shape which could be a buried building was identified 120m SW of the site (TR 25 NW 460).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology 'Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham CT3 1AZ.

6.2. The works comprised the close monitoring and supervision of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. Excavations within the area was carried out by the developer using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the demolition material and subsoil down to formation level (Plates 1-6).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA).

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 investigation work was carried out in accordance with current CfA Standards and Guidance, (CfA: 2017), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **7.0 Results**

7.1 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of clay silty soil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site.

7.2 The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

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

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Investigation 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 the landowner/developer for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## Appendix 1

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

**Site Name:** Development of land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** WIN/WB/20

**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 housing development whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to closely monitor the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site attendance and supervision which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Dover District Council

#### **Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 624317 157240**

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** 29<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Margate Chalk Member- Chalk . Soil deposits encountered on site were clay sandy silt

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Watching Brief of land adjacent to 13 High Street, Wingham, 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



Plate 1. View of the site (looking NW)



Plate 2. View of site reduction in progress (looking N)



Plate 3. View of site reduction (looking S)



Plate 4. View of site reduction (looking W)



Plate 5. View of excavated site (looking NNW)



Plate 6. Site reduction completed (looking S)



1:1250@A4



Figure 1: Area watched