

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 115 High Street, Aylesford, Kent

Site Code AYLES/WB/20



Date of report 13/10/2020

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Contents

1.0 ABSTRACT.....	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	5
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	5
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.2 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.4 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	6
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
7.0 RESULTS.....	7
7.1 GENERAL.....	7
8.0 FINDS.....	8
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	8
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	8
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	8
APPENDIX 1 - KCC HER Summary Form.....	9

Plates 1-6. General views of site reduction and foundation trenches

List of Figures

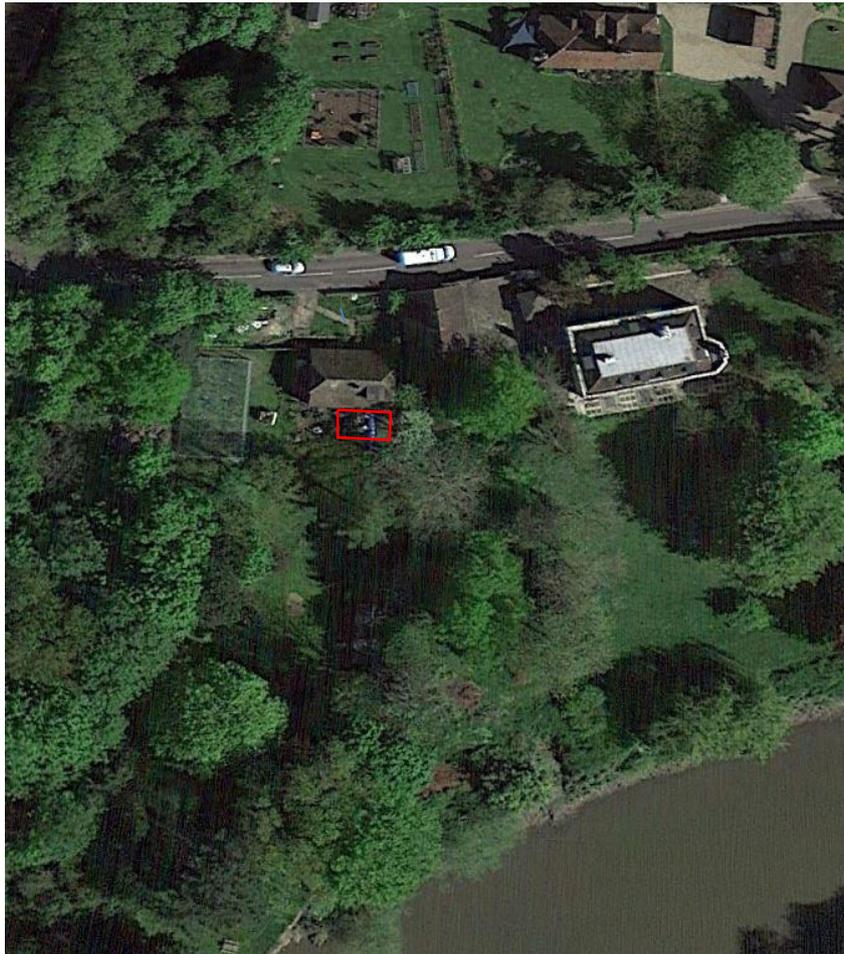
Figure 1. Site plan and location of archaeological investigation area

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Archaeological Investigation on Land at 115 High Street, Aylesford, Kent

NGR 572760 158986



AP 1. View of proposed development site

1.0 Abstract

1.1. From 2nd to 11th September 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 an extension with balcony to the rear of 115 High Street in Aylesford in Kent (Figure 1, AP 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 (2nd -11th September 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 12/08/2020.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TM/19/02624/FL).

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 Aylesford, south of the High Street and north of the River Medway. The development site is situated to the rear of 115 High Street on a steep slope leading down to the River Medway (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

The site has planning permission for the erection of a proposed extension, balcony, patio and dormer windows.

The following Condition (3) 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 in accordance with the NPPF.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) closely monitored the excavation works from 2nd to 11th September 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 a rear extension (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 Folkestone Formation- Sandstone. Superficial deposits are recorded as Alluvium-Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was clay sandy silt (Plates 1-8).

5.2 The archaeological potential was accessed from the (KCCHER) which has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The records show that 50m to the west a historic tunnel under Bull Lane has been recorded (TQ 75 NW 128). 100m to the west a Romano-British burial was discovered (TQ 75 NW 28). 50m to the east a listed building 'The Cedars and Wall to the north' have been listed (TQ 75 NW 28) and 75m to the NNE a Gold Torc was found in 1772 (TR 34 SW 38).

Historic mapping shows that in 1865 there had been no development on the site but shows 'The Cedars' with formal gardens and boat house. The 1907 OS map shows no development but records archaeological items not currently on the KCCHER and include a Gold Armrilla found in 1861 on the river bank and to the NNE 'Two Stone Cists containing human remains found in A D 1886. The 1938 OS map shows on the west boundary of the development site a tramway from Sand Pits to a wharf on the north bank of the River Medway. In addition a 'Late Celtic Urn field excavated A D 1886 is noted and additional Bronze Age burials found A D 1886, 1889, & 1898. The aerial photograph of 2018 shows the site as now (AP 1).

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 at 115 High Street, Aylesford, Kent.

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 ClfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 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 at 115 High Street, Aylesford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: AYLES/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: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 572760 158986

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: 2nd-11th Sept 2020

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Folkestone Formation. Soil deposits encountered on site were clay sandy silt

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Watching Brief of land at 115 High Street, Aylesford, 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 E)



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



Plate 3. View of site reduction (looking SE)



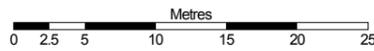
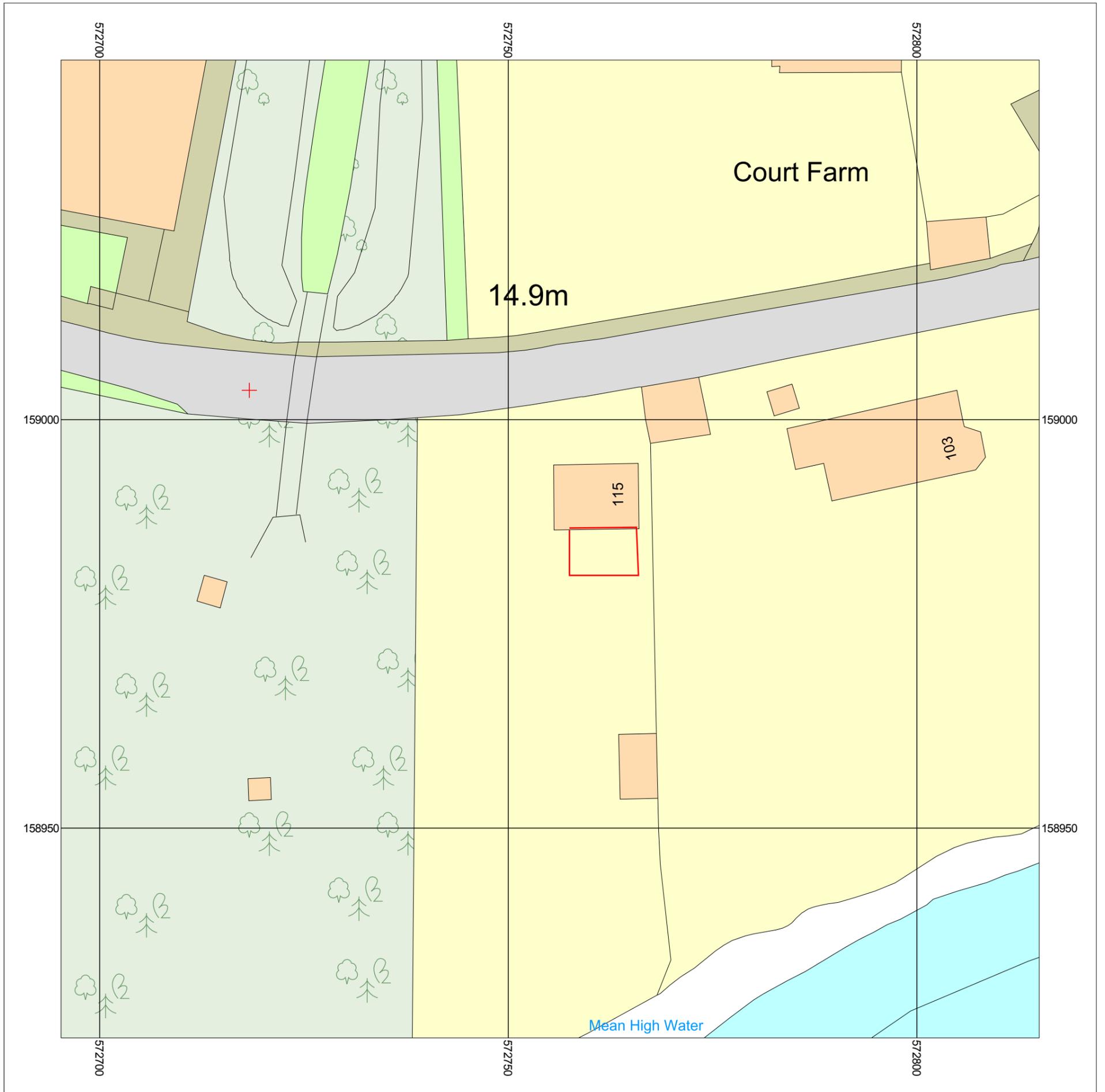
Plate 4. View of site reduction (looking S)



Plate 5. View of excavated site (looking NNW)



Plate 6. Site reduction completed (looking N)



Scale: 1:500



115 High Street
Aylesford
ME20 7AZ

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 13/08/2020
Serial number: 2256502

Plot centre co-ordinates: 572755,158984
Download file: swat_115highst.zip
Project name: swat_115highst