

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT PAMPA HOUSE, STATION ROAD, RAINHAM, GILLINGHAM, MEDWAY, KENT



Map 1. OS 1864 mapping

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Front cover: 1864 OS map of the location of proposed development at Station Road,
Rainham in Kent

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2020 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at Pampa House, Station Road, Rainham in Kent. The site has development proposals and this DBA will inform interested parties on the archaeological potential of this site.

1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and archaeological activity has been recorded within 400m of the proposed development site.

1.3 The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) together with an analysis and interpretation of the sites origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, East and East Kent 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial photographs and annotated plans.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located to the east of Gillingham and west of Lower Halstow and to the east of the Berengrave Nature Reserve and adjacent on the west of Station Road. The NGR to the centre of the PDA is NGR 582396 167010 (Figure 1).

2.5 Historic Background

The PDA is in an area of extensive 19th and early 20th century industrial activity with brickearth, chalk and sand pits, brickworks, tramways, quays and railways. In addition the area is famed for its fruit production with apple and cherry orchards with associated farms

dotting the landscape and all this on a road system dating back to the Roman period with its associated Roman Villa Estates and settlements.

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1864 (Map 1) the area of the PDA was orchard with Mackland Cottage to the south, Frances Place to the west and Brickfields to the east.

By 1897 (MAP 2) the orchard had disappeared and the area of the PDA was an enclosed field with orchards to the north and south, a TRAMWAY leads from a Sand Pit to the south and Mackland Cottage has expanded and is now Macklands.

The OS map of 1938 (MAP 3) shows the orchard reinstated but with wider spaced trees, the sandpit now backfilled and the tramway redirected to a Chalk Pit to the east of the PDA.

Aerial photography of the site shows that by 1960 the PDA was now developed with a suburban garden with a lawn, shrubs and trees (AP 1) and by 2003 (AP 2) the site was about the same as the detail aerial photograph (AP 3) dated 10th February 2020.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The HER records show very little archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the PDA and in fact most of which is itemised in the HER records can be found in greater detail on the Ordnance Survey Historic Mapping.

200m to the NNE is the site of quarry pits (TQ 86 NW 1042) and 300m to the NW are the Berengrave Chalk Quarries (TQ 86 NW 211). 300m north of the PDA is the site of Brickworks (TQ 86 NW 182).

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 A review of the available data shows that very few archaeological sites are known within the 250m radius of the PDA and that additional investigative work may be required on site to an Archaeological Specification approved by Kent County Council.

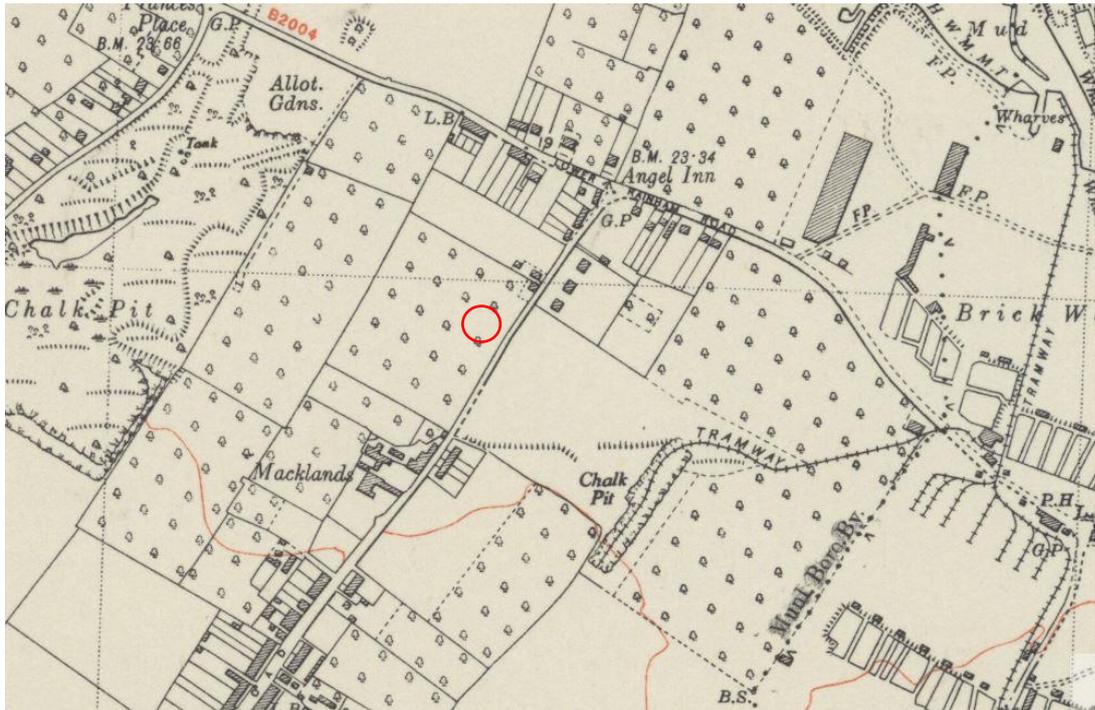
5.0 PARAMETERS

5.1 The archaeological rapid desk based assessment was conducted using on-line data from Historic England and other agencies (KCC HER).

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCI(A), FRSA. Dated 2nd October 2020



MAP 2. 1897 OS mapping



MAP 3. 1938 OS mapping



AP1. Google Earth 1960



AP2. Google Earth 2003



AP3. Google Earth 2020.

Figure 1. OS site plan (below)

SITE LOCATION PLAN
AREA 2 HA
SCALE: 1:1250 on A4
CENTRE COORDINATES: 582396 , 167010

