

Archaeological Monitoring on land at The Gables, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge, Kent

Site Code GABLES/WB/20

NGR Site Centre: TR 22000 39678

Planning Application Number: Y18/1322/FH



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1. Summary

Between 24th, 25th July 2020 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of The Gables, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the new development.

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by SWAT Archaeology and approved by Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation.

Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains, no features were recorded during the archaeological monitoring works.

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land at The Gables at the southern eastern end of the village of Hawkinge on the northern side of Coombe Wood Road. The PDA sits within a plot of circa $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and comprises of the main house with separate living accommodation to the rear. It is bordered to the east and west by residential houses. The village of Hawkinge is circa 3km north of Folkestone and circa 3.5km from the coastline. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR TR 22000 39678 (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (Y18/1322/FH) for the erection of a detached single-storey residential garage accommodating three parking bays and storage for gardening tools.

The following Condition (4) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall commence 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.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works from 24th to 25th July 2020.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

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.

(SWAT Archaeology 2020: Paragraph 6.1).

4.2 The objectives of the monitoring were therefore to:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

4.3 The specific archaeological requirements of the watching brief are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works;
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that additional archaeological remains are encountered;
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

4.2. Proposed Groundworks.

The ground works were to excavate the ground for the erection of a detached single storey residential garage accommodating three parking bays and storage for gardening tools (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 Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and geology revealed on site was brown sandy silt. The PDA is set at an average height of 157m (Plates 1-6).

5.2 The archaeological potential was highlighted by the Senior Archaeological Officer as part of the planning process:

'The site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with the past discovery of remains of archaeological interest in and around the village of Hawkinge. The village has seen considerable expansion in recent years. Archaeological investigations associated with the expansion have revealed evidence for past activity from a range of periods, from the Neolithic to the present day. This activity includes evidence for Bronze Age ring ditches and Iron Age and Romano British occupation. Of particular relevance to the site in question was the investigation of a multi-period archaeological site at Harvest Way to the north-west. Here a variety of Prehistoric and Romano-British features and finds were identified, including evidence for settlement, bronze and iron working as well as prehistoric funerary activity.'

5.3 The village of Hawkinge was known to exist in Anglo Saxon times with documents referring to the village as Havekyng, Hawkynger or Hawkyngge with the founder of the settlement called Hafoc, which translates as Hawk. Located on the North Downs, the early historic OS maps show it was predominately a small hamlet with the centre located to the north west of the PDA and referred to as Uphill. The PDA was agricultural land of pasture outside of the village associated with the nearby Uphill Farm. Coombe Wood Lane in the late 19th century was just a bridleway track heading from near Uphill Farm on White Horse Hill (now Canterbury Road) eastwards towards Hawkinge Hall. By the 1940s, there was a couple of properties located along Coombe Wood Lane and the PDA was still pasture at this point in time. The

village of Uphill has also grown slightly and further properties were along White Horse Hill to the west and south west of the PDA. No doubt driven by the nearby fighter station at Hawkinge airfield. By the 1960s, a small house had been built at the PDA, which has been greatly altered over the years. From the 1990's the village has significantly expanded and Uphill Farm demolished sometime after the 1960s.

5.4 The Kent HER provides a number of archaeological records in the vicinity of the PDA. The farmstead of Uphill Farm is recorded (MKE87848). To the north Medieval or later ditches relating to field systems were found (TR 23 NW 209; TR 23 NW 207) as well as a late Iron Age settlement (TR 23 NW 208), followed by Early Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Romano British features (TR 23 NW 272). Finds includes an industrial area with a furnace, bronze working site, cremation pits, other storage pits and heath. Extensive areas of further Iron Age and Roman features have also been found to the west and north-west of the PDA. Also to the north-west Neolithic flints have been found (TR 23 NW 690) and also to the south-west (TR 23 NW 167), and in the area of Killing Wood a Palaeolithic axe (TR 23 NW 239). To the south west is a Bronze Age cremation cemetery (TR 23 NW 262).

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 of land at The Gables, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge, 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. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (SWAT Archaeology 2018) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014).

6.3. Excavations within the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the 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: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out by building contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a toothed ditching bucket (Figure 2). All areas of excavation were either carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist or inspected and recorded by the archaeologist in attendance (See Table 1, below). Where possible the areas of excavation were hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section. 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.

6.9 Timetable

6.9.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring	24 th July 2020	Paul Wilkinson
	25 th July 2020	Paul Wilkinson

Table 1 Attendance Schedule

6.10 Recording

6.10.1 A complete drawn record comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. Where appropriate, the plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights and form part of the site archive.

6.10.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

6.10.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Table 1 below. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of any features is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes.

6.11 Stratigraphic Sequence

6.11.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological works remained relatively consistent across all areas of the site, comprising areas of topsoil overlaying subsoil and the natural geology. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context, with drawn representative sections provided on Figures 3 and Figure 4.

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Brown sandy silt	Topsoil (Plate 1)
002	Brown orange sandy silt	Subsoil (Plate 2)
003	Brown orange sandy silt	Natural (Plate 3)

Table 2 Stratigraphic Sequence and Register of Contexts

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

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

The Site Archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics including;

7.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

8.0 Discussion

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

9.0 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.

10.0 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.

11.0 REFERENCES

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SMA 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists

SWAT Archaeology 2019 Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at The Gables, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge, Kent CT18 7BZ

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at The Gables, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge, Kent

SWAT Site Code: GABLES/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 residential 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: Shepway Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) TR 22000 39678

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: July 2020

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Chalk- Soil deposits encountered on site were Clay/silt

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Watching Brief of land at The Gables, Coombe Wood Lane, Hawkinge, 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

Plates



Plate 1. View of trenching in progress (looking N)



Plate 2. View of foundation trenching (looking NNW)



Plate 3. View of exposed services



Plate 4. Foundation trenches (looking E)

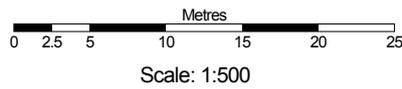
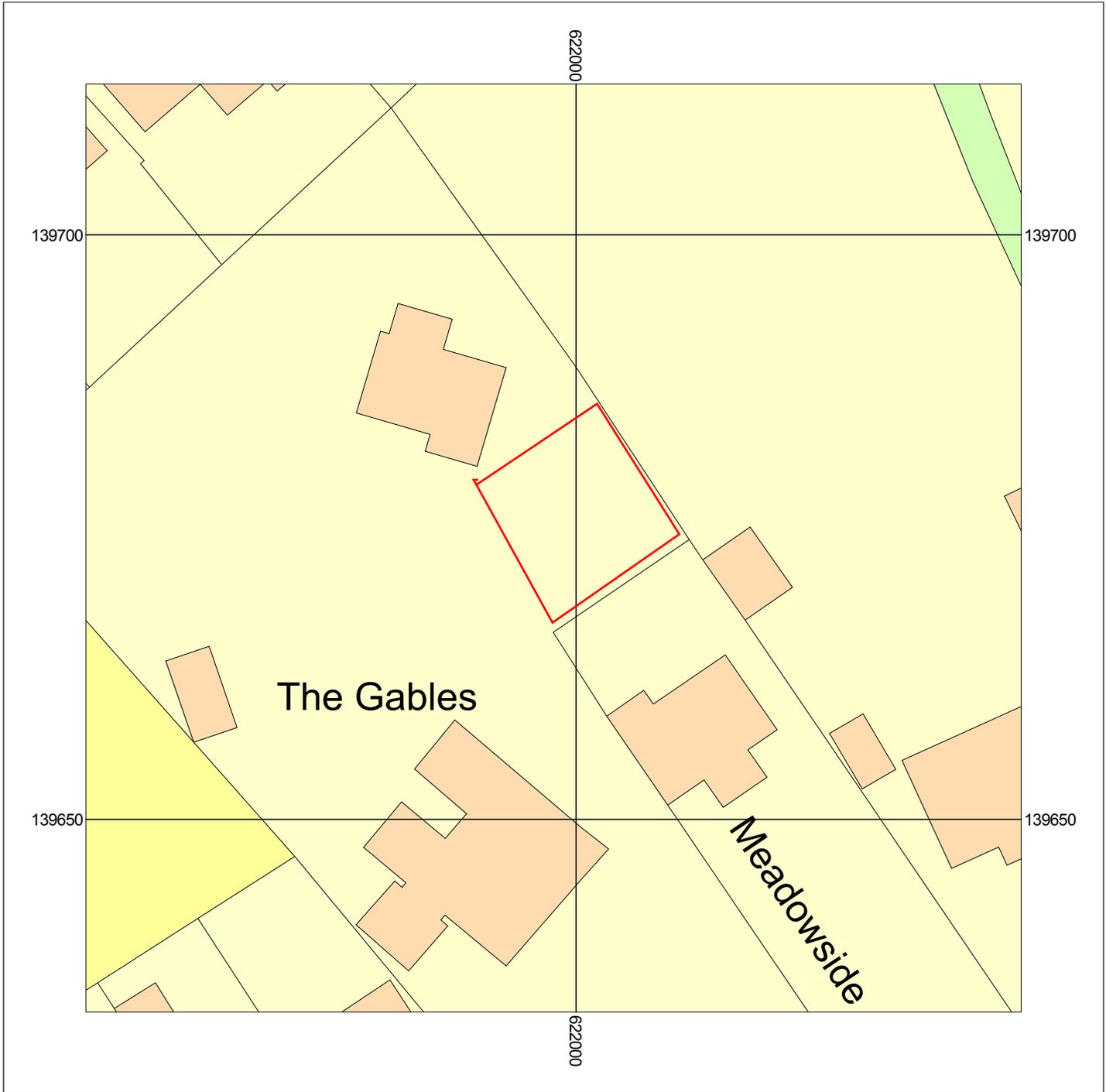


Plate 5. View of section (looking E)



Plate 6. View of trenching in progress

Figure 1. Area watched



Coombe Wood Lane
Hawkinge
Folkstone
CT18 7BZ

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 18/08/2020
Serial number: 2258011

Plot centre co-ordinates: 621998,139673
Download file: SWAT_CoombeWood.zi
Project name: SWAT_CoombeWood