

# Archaeological Monitoring on land at St Peter's Church, Ridley, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent

Planning Application Numbers: 19/03412

Site Code RIDLEY/WB/21



Date of report 01/04/2022

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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## **1. Summary**

*In September, October 2021 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land at St Peters Church, Ridley, near Sevenoaks in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the new extension development.*

*The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for Sevenoaks Council Planning by SWAT Archaeology.*

*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 St Peter's Church, Ridley in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 561611 163904 (Figure 3).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The land has a planning permission (19/03412) from Sevenoaks District Council for a proposed new tea station and external WC enclosure with associated new drainage and septic tank in Churchyard.

A programme of archaeological monitoring was requested:

*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 are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved in writing 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 (Peter Cichy SWAT) and closely monitored the excavation works in September, October 2021.

## **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.*

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 for a proposed new tea station and external WC enclosure with associated new drainage and septic tank in Churchyard.

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 proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that St Peter's Church is a Grade II\* listed building dating from 1066-1899 with a Norman nave and a 13<sup>th</sup> century chancel. The bellcote was constructed

c.1797 and the church is built of flint set in lime mortar with a timber weatherboarded bellcote. The KCC HER number is TQ 16 SW 52. There are no additional heritage assets listed within a 500m radius of the church.

5.2 The geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The OD height of the PDA is about 154m aOD.

## **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'.

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 and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2017).

6.3. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Peter Cichy SWAT).

6.4. Where possible some areas of excavation were subsequently closely examined with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section but no features were revealed.

6.5. 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.

6.6 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 and/or inspected and recorded by the archaeologist in attendance (See Table 1, below).

## 7.00 Timetable

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i><b>Task</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Staff</b></i>
Archaeological monitoring	September/October 2021	Peter Cichy

**Table 1 Attendance Schedule**

## 6.9 Recording

- 6.9.1 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.
- 6.9.2 Photographs were to be taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits but no features or archaeological deposits were revealed. 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.
- 6.9.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Table 2 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.

#### 6.9.4 Stratigraphic Sequence

6.9.5 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological works remained relatively consistent across all areas of the site, comprising areas of topsoil mixed with hardcore in places overlaying the natural geology. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Brown loam topsoil	Topsoil (Plate 1)
002	Silty Brown soil	Natural (Plate 2)

*Table 2 Stratigraphic Sequence and Register of Contexts*

6.10 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 2017). 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 and CD for photo archive.

#### **6.11 Results**

6.11.1 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The natural geology encountered across the site was Silty Sand. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area watched (Figures 1 & 2). The foundation trenches were about 1.20m deep and about 80cm wide with topsoil about 40cm thick. OD height across the PDA was about 44m aOD (Figure 1. Plates 1-4). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the proposed dwelling, an area about 25m x 20m (Fig. 1)

#### **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 KCC 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 by Peter Cichy SWAT and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA.

## **11.0 REFERENCES**

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, updated 1st October 2020 *Standard and guidance: for watching Brief.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, updated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

SMA 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*, Society of Museum Archaeologists.

**Appendix 1 HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at St Peters Church, Ridley, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** RIDLEY/WB/21

**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 development whereby KCC Archaeological Officer 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:** Sevenoaks District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 561611 163904

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

**Date of recording:** September/October 2021

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

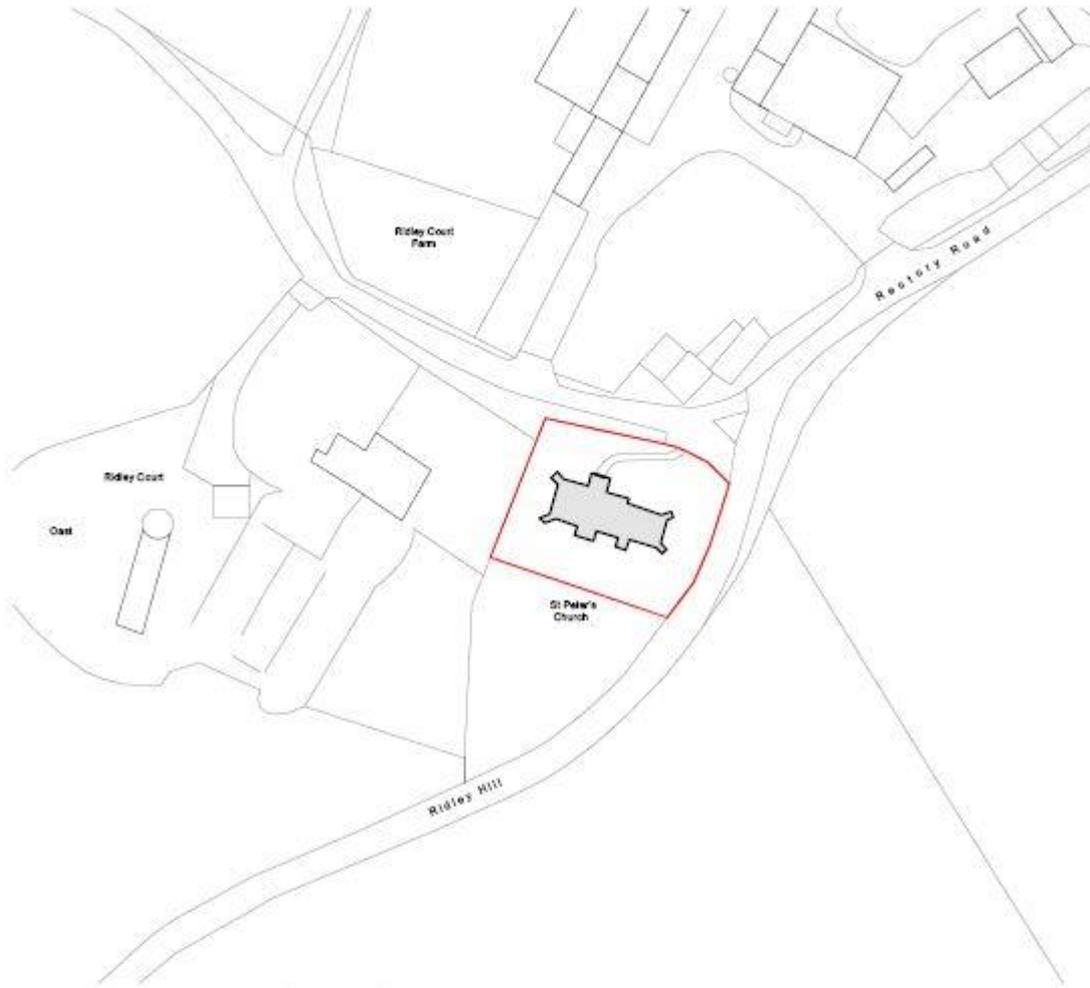
**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2022) Archaeological Watching Brief at St Peters Church, Ridley, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

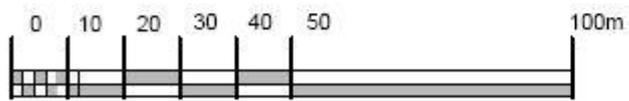
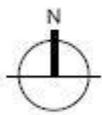
See above

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



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### **Site Location Plan**



Scale 1:1250 @ A4

Figure 1. Site location of PDA (Proposed Development Area)

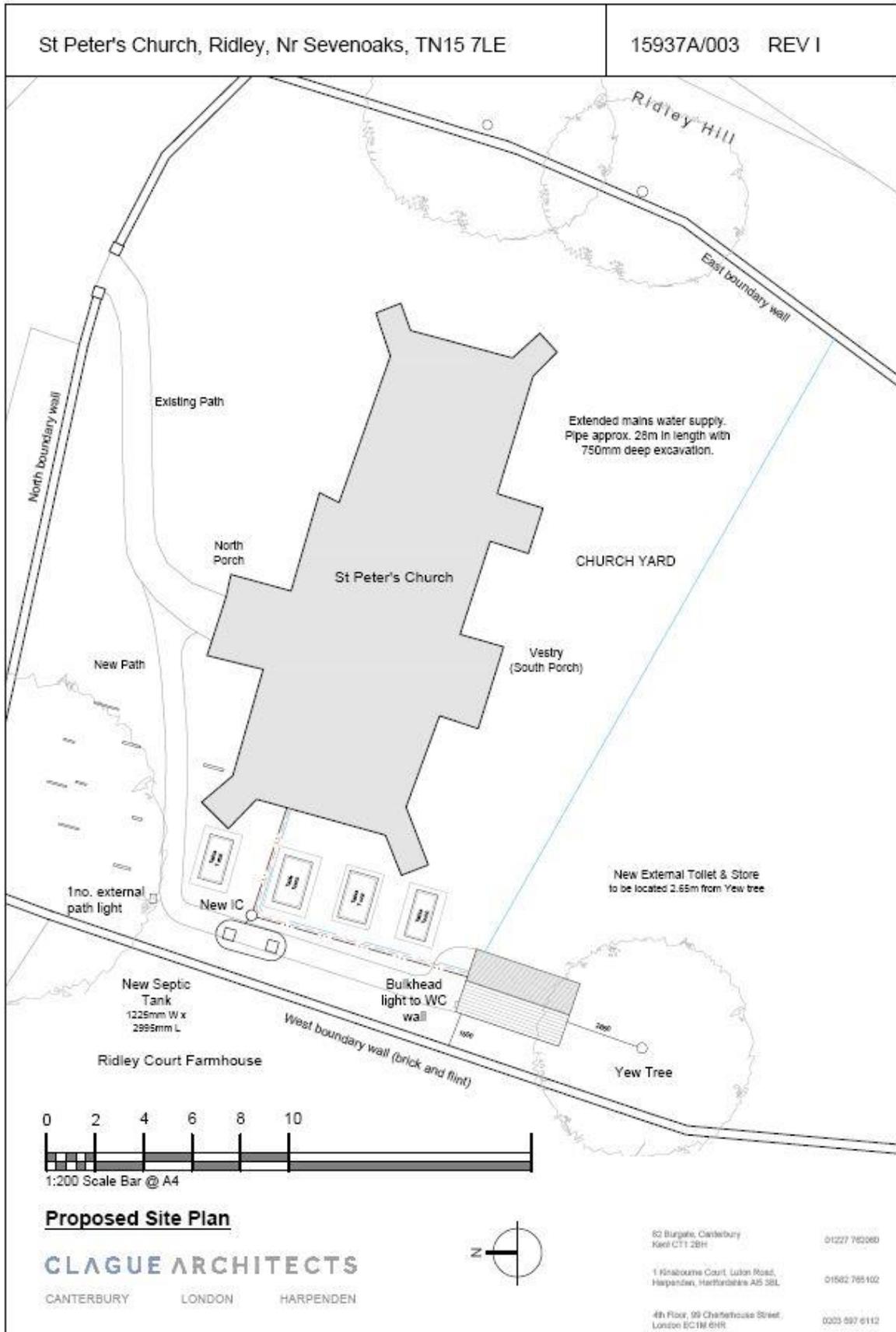


Figure 2. Proposed works

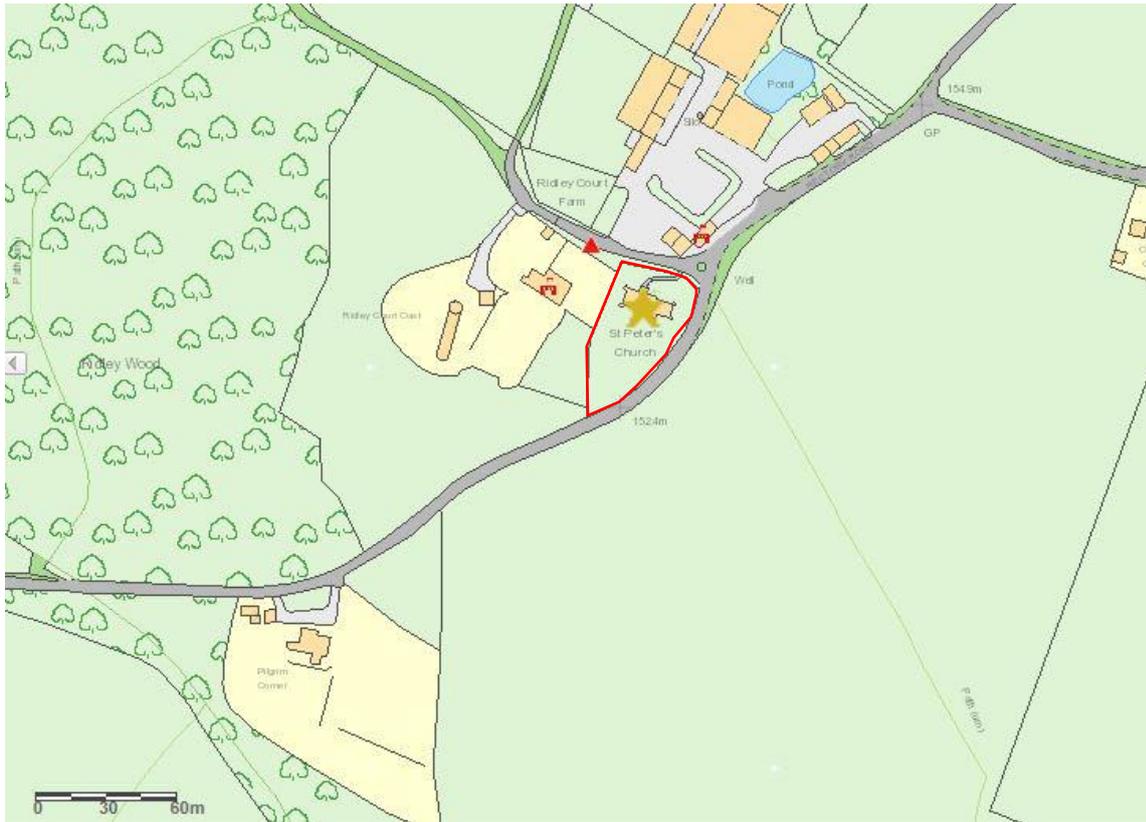


Figure 3. KCCHER location of Site (red line)



Plate 1. View of site and water service trench (looking north)



Plate 2. Excavation for new path (looking north)



Plate 3. Excavation for new path (looking south)



Plate 4. Excavation for new path



Plate 5. Excavation for new toilet and store



Plate 6. Service trench



Plate 7. Service trench



Plate 8. Service trench



Plate 9. Excavation for new septic tank



Plate 10. Excavation for new septic tank (looking north)