

Archaeological Monitoring on land at Scarletts Coach House, Furnace Lane, Cowden, Sevenoaks, Kent

Planning Application Number: 20/00826



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1. Summary

In October 2021 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Scarletts Coach House, Furnace Lane, Cowden, Sevenoaks in Kent. The works were commissioned by the developer 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 for Sevenoaks District Council by SWAT Archaeology. Areas of redeposited slag were recorded during the archaeological monitoring works.

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land to the west of Cowden. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 544298 140081 (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (17/02250) from Sevenoaks District Council for the conversion of former coach house to dwelling (Class C3).

The following Condition (10) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

Prior to occupation, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation and completion of a programme of archaeological post excavation and publication work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.

To ensure that the results of the archaeological investigation are properly assessed and disseminated in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

Archaeologist's suitably experienced attended the site (Bartek Cichy & Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works in 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 (SWAT 3.1).

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 the conversion of former coach house to dwelling (Class C3), involving replacement of Atcost barn with new extension, creation of below ground ancillary basement & garage, internal & external alterations to curtilage listed building and associated works.

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 Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Wadhurst Clay Formation- Mudstone. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The

geology revealed on site as fine Orange Brown Sandy Clay. The PDA is located on terraced ground sloping from north to south at an OD height of about 78.50m AOD to 70.50m AOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential.

Details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area can be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by Wessex Archaeology (December 2017).

The Site lies to the west of Cowden, a small village and civil parish in the Sevenoaks District of Kent, located on the northern slopes of the Weald, southwest of Tonbridge.

5.3 This area formed part in the past of the Wealden iron industry mainly located in an area known The Site lies to the west of Cowden, a small village and civil parish in the Sevenoaks District of Kent, located on the northern slopes of the Weald, southwest of Tonbridge. This area formed part in the past of the Wealden iron industry mainly located in an area known as the Weald. It was formerly an important industry, producing a large proportion of the iron bar made in England in the 16th century and most British cannon until about 1770.

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 Scarletts Coach House, Furnace Lane, Cowden, Sevenoaks, 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 2021) 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 (Bartek Cichy, Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA).

6.4. Where possible some areas of excavation were subsequently closely examined with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section areas of slag 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>Task</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring	15 th -27 th October 2021	Paul Wilkinson
“	“	Bartek 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 overlaying the natural geology. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Brown loam topsoil	Topsoil (Plates 1-3)
003	Wadhurst Clay	Natural (Plates 1, 2, 3, 5, 7.8)
004	Areas of slag	Redeposited slag (Plates 10, 11, 12, 13)

Table 2 Stratigraphic Sequence and Register of Contexts

6.10.3 The site produced deposits of slag but 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 The natural geology encountered across the site was Silty Sand. Furnace slag were revealed above the natural geology (Figure 3). OD height across the PDA was about 78.50-70.50m aOD (Figures 1-3 Plates 1-15). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the

proposed dwelling and underpinning the Coach House, an area about 25m x 20m (Figures 2, 3)

7.0 Finds

Areas of redeposited slag were revealed and recorded in Areas 1, 5, 7 (Figure 3).

8.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of high archaeological potential. Areas of redeposited slag were revealed and recorded in Areas 1, 5, 7. In Area 1 the slag had been used to stabilise the original foundations of the coach house (photo's 1, 2, 3, 4). In Area 5 slag had been mixed with the topsoil to stabilise the ground (photo 11). In Area 7 archaeological watching brief identified and recorded layers of slag used to build up and stabilise the ground (photo's 12, 13. Figure 3).

9.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Investigation has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

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

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 1st 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.

SWAT Archaeology. *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at Scarletts Coach House, Furnace Lane, Cowden, Sevenoaks, Kent*

Appendix 1 HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Scarletts Coach House, Furnace Lane, Cowden, Sevenoaks, Kent

SWAT Site Code: SCAR/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 residential 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 areas of redeposited furnace slag.

District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 544298 140081

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: October 2021

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Wadhurst Clay Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2022) Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Scarletts Coach House, Furnace Lane, Cowden, 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

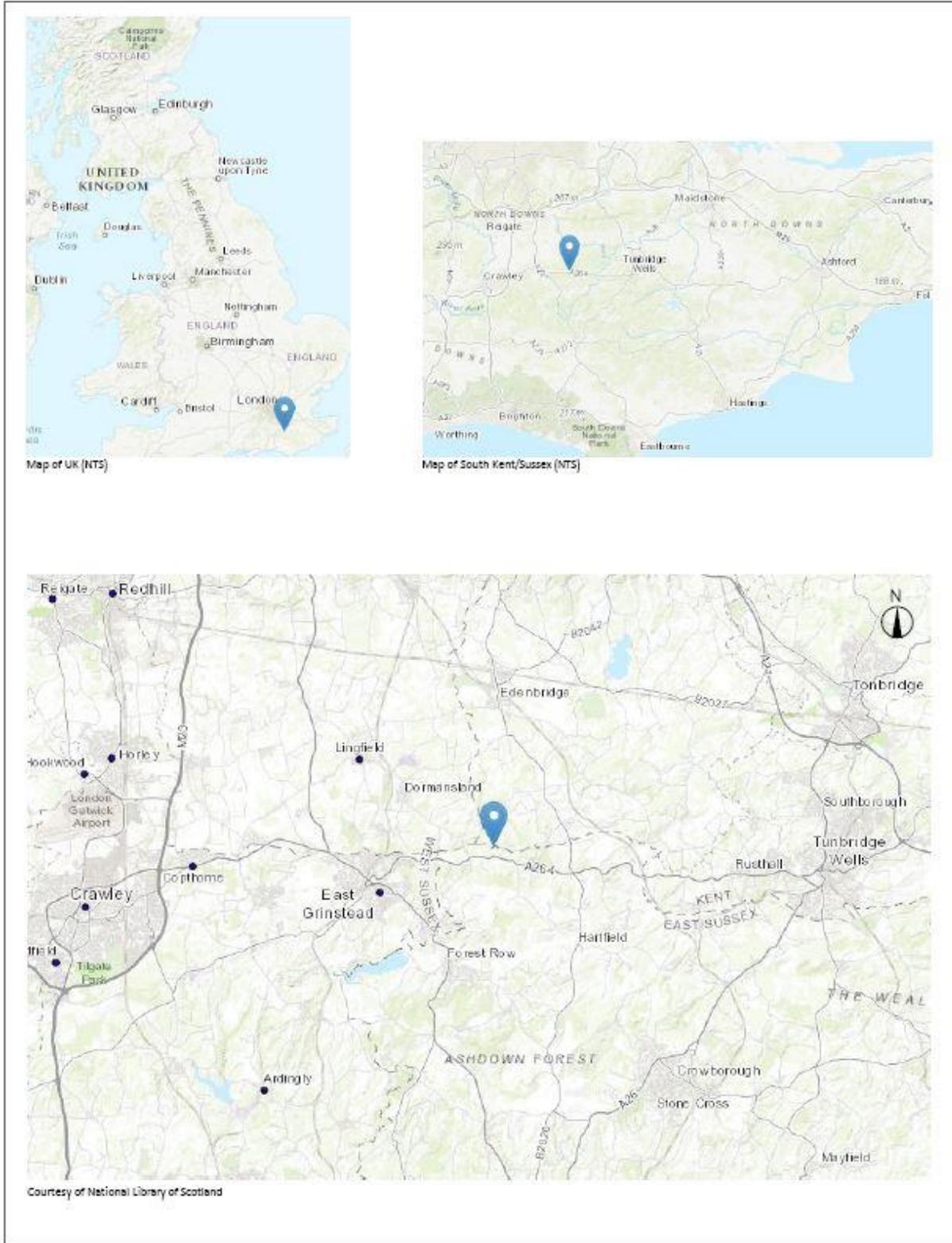


Figure 1 Site Location Plan



KEY
— Site Boundary
— Development Area (Area 1 and Area 7)

0m 50m

Figure 2 Site Plan (Ordnance Survey)



Figure 3 Location and angles of Photographic Plates plus Extent of Slag

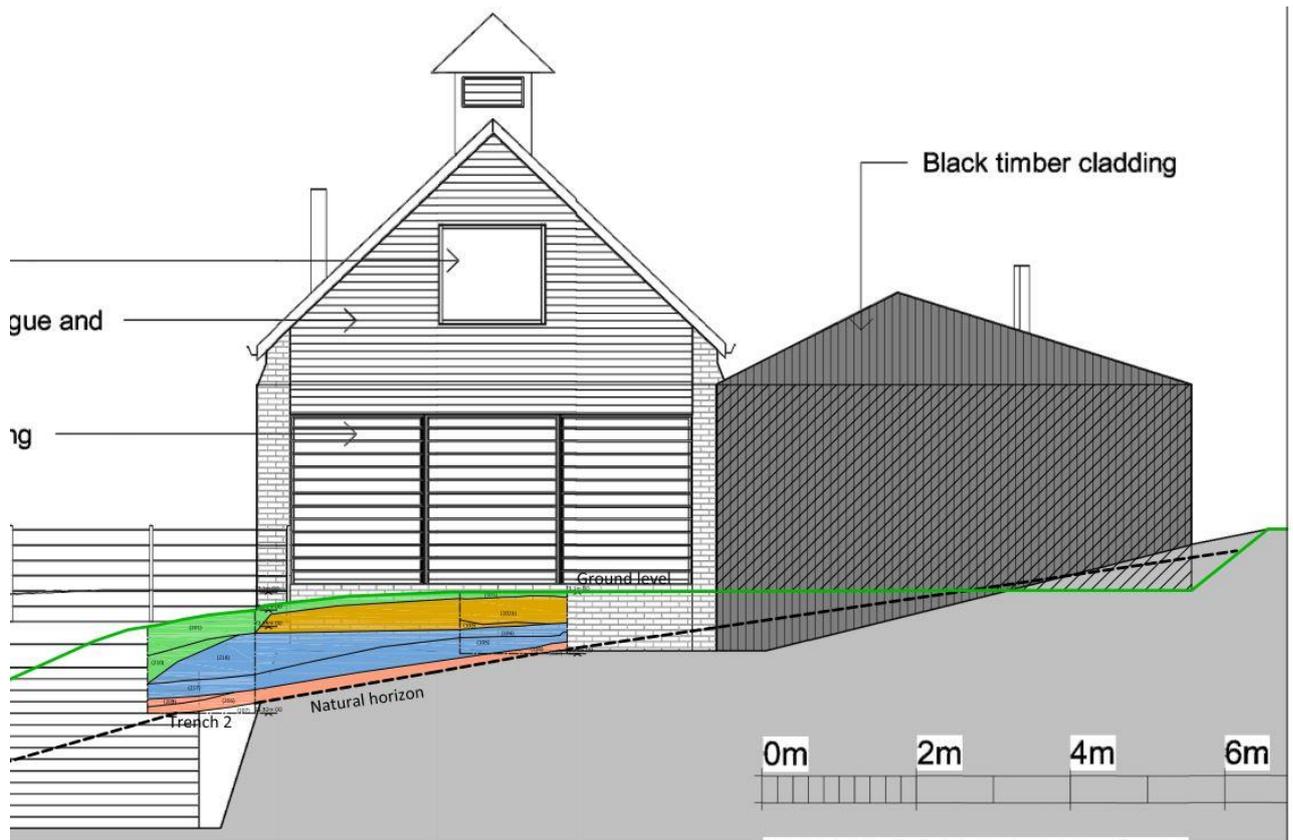


Figure 4, 5 (below). Archaeological evaluation recorded areas of slag

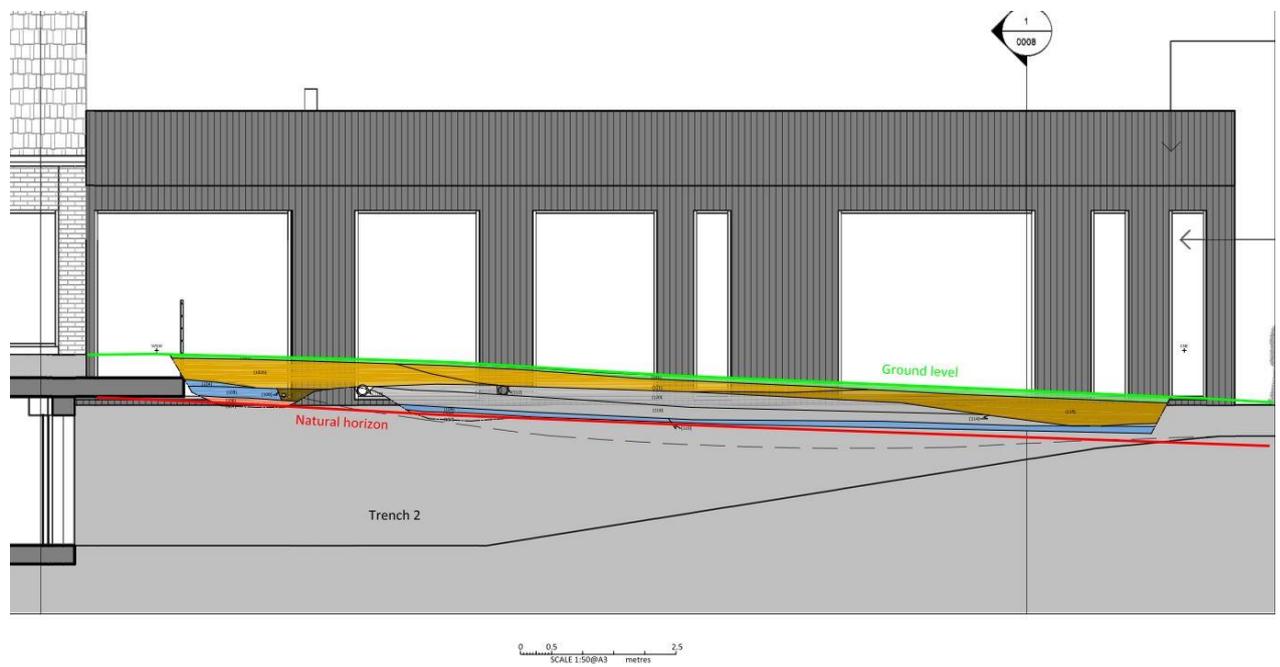




Photo 1. Area 1 looking south



Photo 2. Area 1 looking north



Photo 3. Area 1 looking north



Photo 4. Area 1 looking north



Photo 5. Area 2 looking NE



Photo 6. Area 2. Underpinning rear of Coach House



Photo 7. Area 3. Building extension (looking NNW)



Photo 8. Area 3. Looking NW)



Photo 9. Area 4. Slag foundation base



Photo 10. Slag foundation base (red arrow)



Photo 11. Area 5. Slag mixed with topsoil over natural (looking west)



Photo 12. Area 7 slag areas (looking south)



Photo 13. Area 7 slag layers (looking north)



Photo 14. Work progressing on Area 7 (looking west)



Photo 15, 16. Work progressing on Area 7 (looking NW and below east)

