

Archaeological Monitoring on land at Field North-West of Pony Cart Lane, Stelling Minnis, Kent

Planning Application Number: 22/2043/FH

Site Code PCL/WB/22



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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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1. Summary

In March 2023 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at field north-west of Pony Cart Lane, Stelling Minnis in Kent. The works were commissioned by KCC and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the creation of two wild life ponds.

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation provided by SWAT Archaeology.

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

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land at field north-west of Pony Cart Lane, Stelling Minnis in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 614107 147933 (Figures 1, 2).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (22/2043/FH) from Folkestone & Hythe District Council for the proposed creation of two 200m² ponds specifically designed to be suitable for Great Crested Newts and other native wildlife.

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 specification and timetable which has been submitted to 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 MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works on March 7th 2023.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

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 build of two wildlife ponds (Figures 1-4).

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 geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey is Clay with Flints overlaying the Chalk Formation. The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 134m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that the adjacent Holly Tree Farm is just to the south of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) and Butts Farm 150m west (MKE 87630) and about 300m

west a possible windmill mound (TR 14 NW 5). In the same area but to the west is the line of the Roman road from Canterbury to Lympne.

Ivan D. Margary has called this Roman road 'Stone Street' and writes that it is a fine example of a Roman road laid on a single alignment, almost due south, from the high ground outside Canterbury (Durovernum) to the Roman fort at Lympne. This road is included in the Roman document *Iter 1V Antonine Itinerary* (Margary Arch Cant. 61, 126).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification provided by SWAT Archaeology.

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 (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 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 area for the proposed wild life ponds was carried out by building contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a bladed ditching bucket (Plates 1-6). 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).

6.8 Timetable

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring	7 th March 2023	Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA

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 overlaying the natural geology of Hythe Formation of Sandstone and Limestone interbedded. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Brown loam topsoil	Topsoil (Plates 1-4)
002	Clay with Flints Formation	Natural (Plates 4-6)

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 Clay with Flints Formation. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area watched (Figures 1-2). OD height across the PDA was about 134m aOD (Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the proposed wildlife ponds, an area about 20m x 15m each pond (Figures 1-3. Plates 1-6).

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 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

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.

Appendix 1 HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at field north-west of Pony Cart Lane, Stelling Minnis, Kent

SWAT Site Code: PCL/WB/23

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development area above. The site has planning permission for development of wild life ponds whereby the 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: Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 614107 147933

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: March 2023

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Chalk Formation overlaid by Clay with Flints Formation overlaid by Topsoil

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2023) Archaeological Watching Brief at Field North-West of Pony Cart Lane, Stelling Minnis, 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. Topsoil strip (looking NNW)



Plate 2. Topsoil strip (looking South)



Plate 3. Topsoil strip (looking North)



Plate 4. Typical section after topsoil and subsoil strip (looking NW)



Plate 5. Completed soil strip and reduction (looking North)



Plate 6. Completed reduction (looking East)

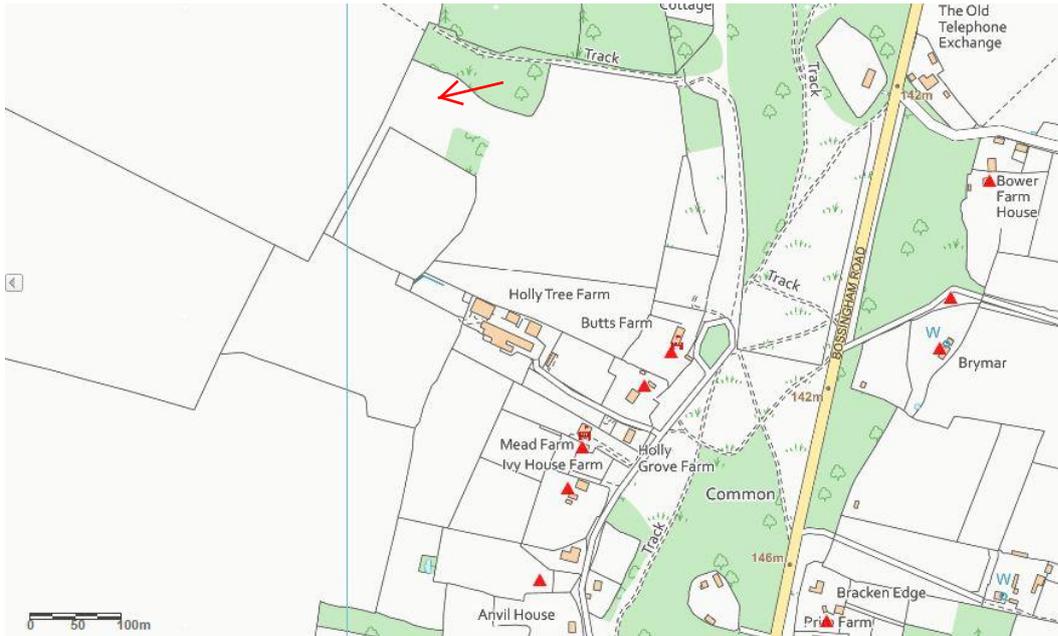


Figure 1. Site location (red arrow)

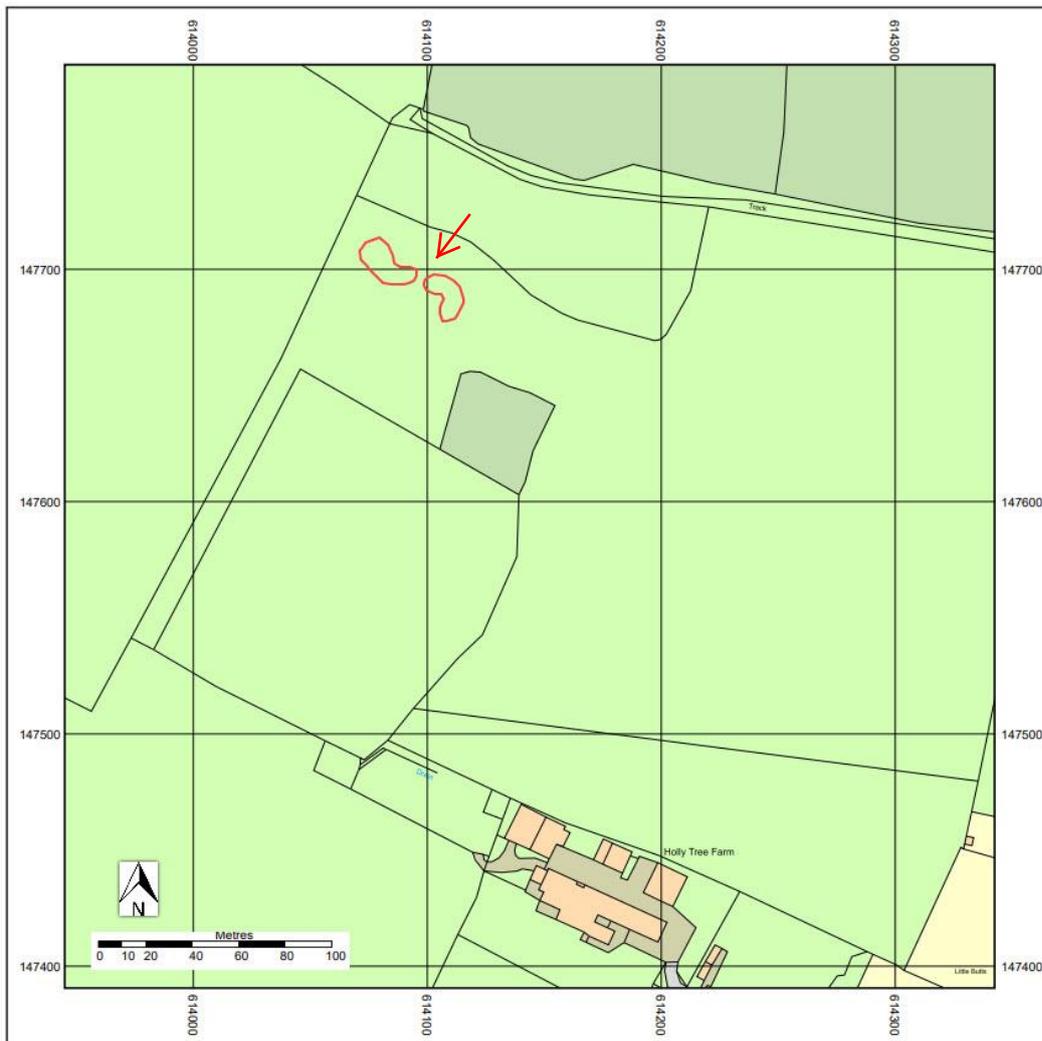


Figure 2. Proposed development of two ponds at NGR 614107 147933 (red arrow)



Figure 3. Proposed ponds

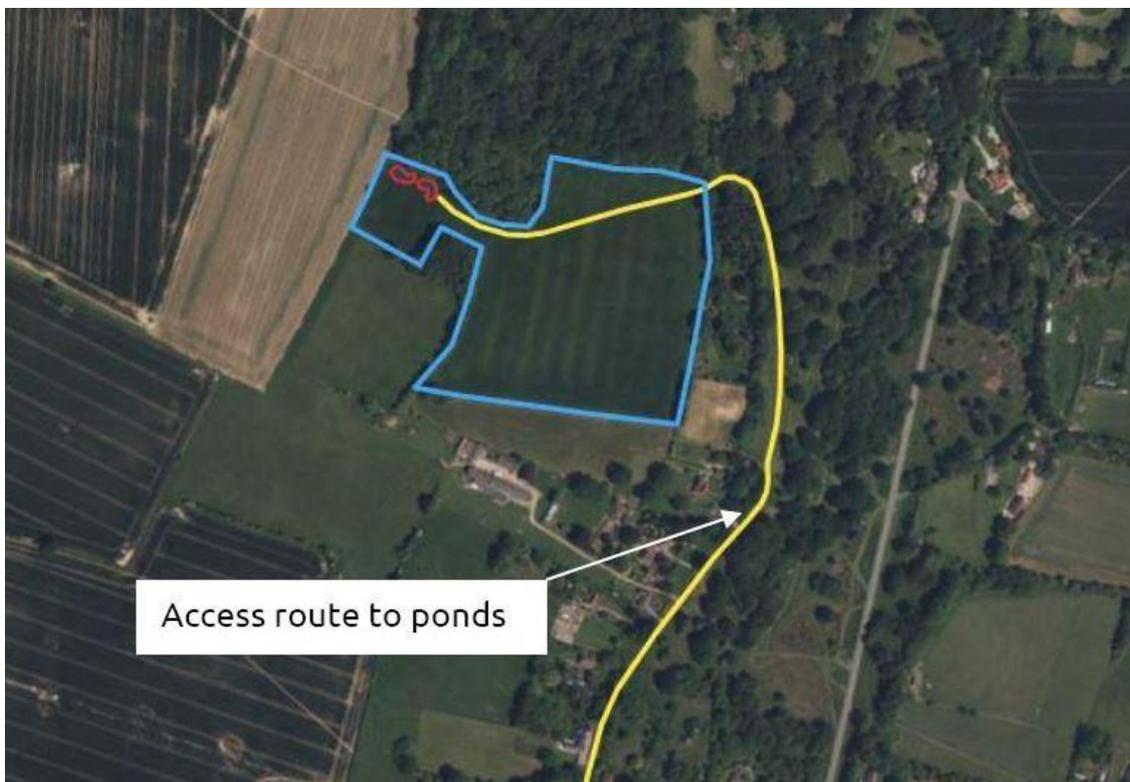


Figure 4. Proposed development and access to site