

Archaeological Monitoring on land at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX

Planning Application Number: 20/501183

Site Code: OTT/WB/23



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1. Summary

In February 2023 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at the Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch in Kent. The works were commissioned by the developer and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the new development of 36 specialist residential mobile homes.

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation report 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 The Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay, Upchurch in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 583084 167181 (Figures 1-3).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (20/501183/FULL) from Swale Borough Council for the change of use of land for the siting of up to 36 number specialist residential mobile homes for occupation of persons of over 55 years with associated services, parking and turning area. The following Condition (7) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

(7) 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 groundworks are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation 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. This is a pre-commencement condition because its requirements need approval prior to any ground disturbance taking place.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT) and closely monitored the excavation works from 23rd to 28th February 2023.

4.1 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work and 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.

4.2 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 service pipe runs (Plates 1-6. Figures 1-3).

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 Thanet Formation-Sand, Silt, Clay. Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The OD height of the PDA is about 7m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER data highlights that the site has been identified by historical mapping as an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (TQ 86 NW 212) and the quay to the west has been identified on early OS maps (TQ 86 NW 1020). The 1865 OS map shows a Brickfield to the

north and buildings located to the east of Otterham Quay. The 1895 OS map shows large areas of brickearth removal and the addition of a Public House. The 1906 OS map shows large rectangular brickearth removal pits on the PDA and the public house is now named the “Anchor & Hope Inn”. The aerial photograph of 1940 shows large areas of brickearth removal on the PDA as does the aerial of 1960.

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 excavations were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Paul Wilkinson 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 area for the pipe runs were carried out by building contractors digging with a supervised machine (Plates 1-6). All areas of excavation were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist and 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	23 rd February 2023 to 28 th February 2023	Paul Wilkinson SWAT

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 footings 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 (Plates 1-6).
- 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 (001), 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 demolition rubble and orange burnt sandy subsoil. The following table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context.

6.9.6

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Topsoil, ash intermixed with hardcore	Overburden (Plates 1-3)
002	Orange sandy subsoil	Possible Natural (Plates 2-6)

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 orange sandy subsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the subsoil or natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area watched (Figures 1-4). The trenching for trenching was about 75cm deep. OD height across the PDA was about 7m aOD (Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the trenching for service runs (Figures 1-4).

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

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 KCCHER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent

SWAT Site Code: OTT/WB/23

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 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: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 583084 167181

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: February 2023

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

Geology: Bedrock geology Thanet Formation-Sand, Silt, Clay. Superficial Deposits are not recorded

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2023) Archaeological Watching Brief at The Caravan Storage Area, Otterham Quay Industrial Estate, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, Kent ME8 7UX

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



Plate 1. Trenches for pipe runs (looking North)



Plate 2. Service pipe run trenching (looking West)



Plate 3. Service trenching (looking NW)



Plate 4. Service trenching (looking South)



Plate 5. Service trenching (looking East)



Plate 6. Typical trench section (looking NE)

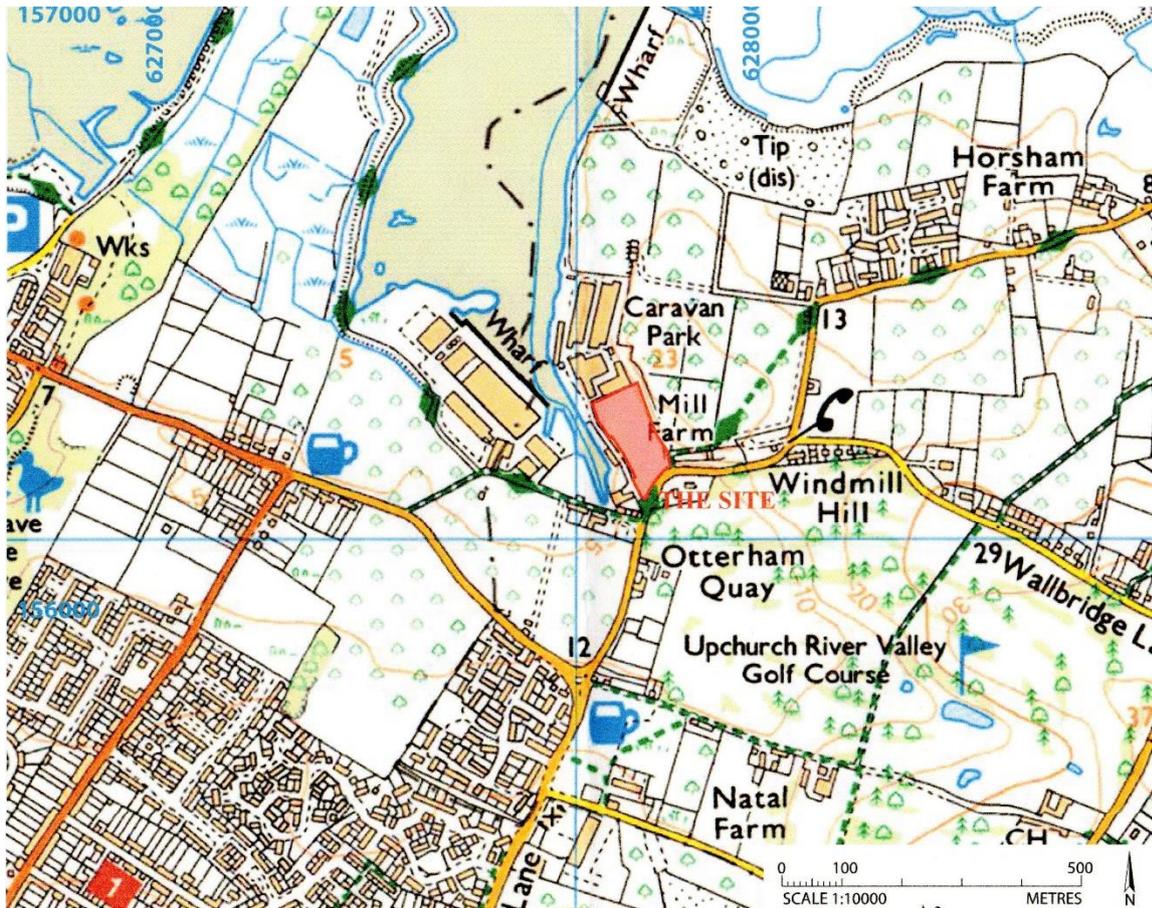


Figure 1. Site location (red line area)



Figure 3. Proposed area of development and area watched (within red line)



Figure 2. Area of Proposed Development