

Archaeological Monitoring on land at Trevean, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, Kent

Planning Application Number: 22/505555/FULL

Site Code: TREV/WB/22



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1. Summary

In February 2023 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Trevean, Keycol Hill, Bobbing in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the new development of a single storey extension.

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 Trevean, Keycol Hill, Bobbing in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 587163 116444 (Figures 1-4).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (22/505555/FULL) from Swale Borough Council for the erection of a single storey rear extension.

The following Condition (3) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

(3) 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 (Peter Cichy SWAT) and closely monitored the excavation works on 8th 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 reinforced concrete footings (Plates 1-5 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 set on bedrock of Lewes Nodular Formation. Superficial deposits are not recorded but exposed on site as brown sandy soil. The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 52m aOD.

5.2 The site is located just to the west of Keycol Hill and adjoining the road (A2) which started life as a Roman road. To the west is the site of Keycol Farm (MKE 85211) and to the north west another farmstead site (MKE 85210). The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that 150m NW the KCCHER shows that a watching brief and trenching report (1) by SWAT Archaeology records predominantly Roman remains at this site (TQ 86 SE 80). Pottery

typologies suggest a date in the second half of the 1st Century AD to the late 2nd or 3rd Century AD. The volume of pottery finds suggests that there may be a Roman settlement or buildings in the near vicinity.

Many Roman building ceramics were also found. Finds also included Roman pot and bronze artefacts. Features included a ditch, possible road or platform and a possible human cremation burial (dated between the 1st Century BC and the 1st Century AD). The site may be associated with cropmarks to the west of Keycol Hill. An evaluation (2) carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 2007 on land immediately west located further features dating to the Roman period. A clay layer possibly represents a floor of a timber framed building located beside the road. A ditch could therefore be a roadside ditch. The presence of large amounts of pottery together with smaller quantities of charred plant remains, hammerscale and slag suggests domestic activity with perhaps small-scale metal working also taking place on or near the evaluation site. The majority of the pottery appears to date from the early second to fourth centuries suggesting that the site was most intensively occupied during the middle of the Roman period.

<1> Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company, 1997, *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on Removal of Foundations From the Former Telephone Exchange at Keycol Hill, Newington* (Unpublished document). SWX7061.

<2> Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 2007, *An archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Newington Court, Keycol Hill, Newington, Sittingbourne, Kent* (Unpublished document). SKE18287.

About 180m to the NW of the PDA KCC HER also records that:

[Name TQ 8690 6477] Crock Field (Roman urns found) [NAT] (1) [TQ 8690 6503: sited from map.] This field is the site of a Roman cemetery and derived the name of "Crockfield" from the immense number of urns found there. (2) The single tree standing on the summit of the hill south of the CalvesHole railway cutting, and known locally as "Tom All Alone", is the site of the "Crockfield" Cemetery: it is some hundreds of yards away from any earthwork. [Kent 20 SE 18] which may have been on Keycol Hill. (3) About 0.25 miles from Newington, not much above a stone's cast from the highway on the right hand as you come from Sittingbourne, there is a field out of which, in a very little compass of ground, have been dug up within these few years Roman pots and urns. Some thousands are said to have been found and many hundreds have certainly been found. The vessels are usually arranged in groups, a large urn

with several smaller vessels. Nothing has been found in the urns except bones and ashes. One vessel given to me by the vicar has an inscription cut on the neck: SEVERA NVS . PATER . D OZA . 1 OW . V FF <<l/\ (4) Casaubon (authority 4) figures a 2nd century indented Castor urn, a Samian dish stamped COCCILLI.M, and an urn inscribed apparently in graffiti "Severianus pater d(at) ala(m)l ... filia (e)", a Samian cup of form 33, and mentions the stamps PRISCIAN, FVL.LINVS. (5) On Keycol Hill is a field called Crockfield which is littered with Roman pottery turned up by the plough. Many antiquarians have dug here and the vessels they have dug up have been dispersed throughout the country. (6) Additional references. (7-10) The Keycol Hill/Crockfield area is a long-established orchard. A perambulation and local enquiries failed to produce evidence of the exact site or extent of the cemetery. (11) [TQ 8686 6476] ROMAN BURIAL GROUND [R] (12)

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 (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 area for the concrete foundation footings was carried out by building contractors digging with a small machine (Plates 1-5). 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	8 th February 2023	Peter Cichy 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 1-5).

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 subsoil. The following table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context.

6.9.6

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Tarmac covering made up ground of crushed concrete and chalk pieces	Overburden (Plates 1-4)
002	Brown silty subsoil	Natural (Plate 5)

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 grey brown sandy silty 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 square trenching for footings was about 1.20cm deep with subsoil overlaid by tarmac/concrete/earth. OD height across the PDA was about 52m aOD

(Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the footprint foundation footings of the proposed single storey extension (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 Peter Cichy and 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 Trevean, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, Kent ME8 8NA

SWAT Site Code: TREV/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) 587163 116444

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 is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2023) Archaeological Watching Brief at Trevean, Keycol Hill, Bobbing, 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. The site- red arrow (looking North)



Plate 2. Foundation footings cut and stabilising tarmac surface(looking NW)



Plate 3. View of site (looking North)



Plate 4. Foundation footing



Plate 5. Foundation section



Plate 6. Foundation section



Figure 2. Proposed area of development at NGR 587163 116444 (red line and infill)

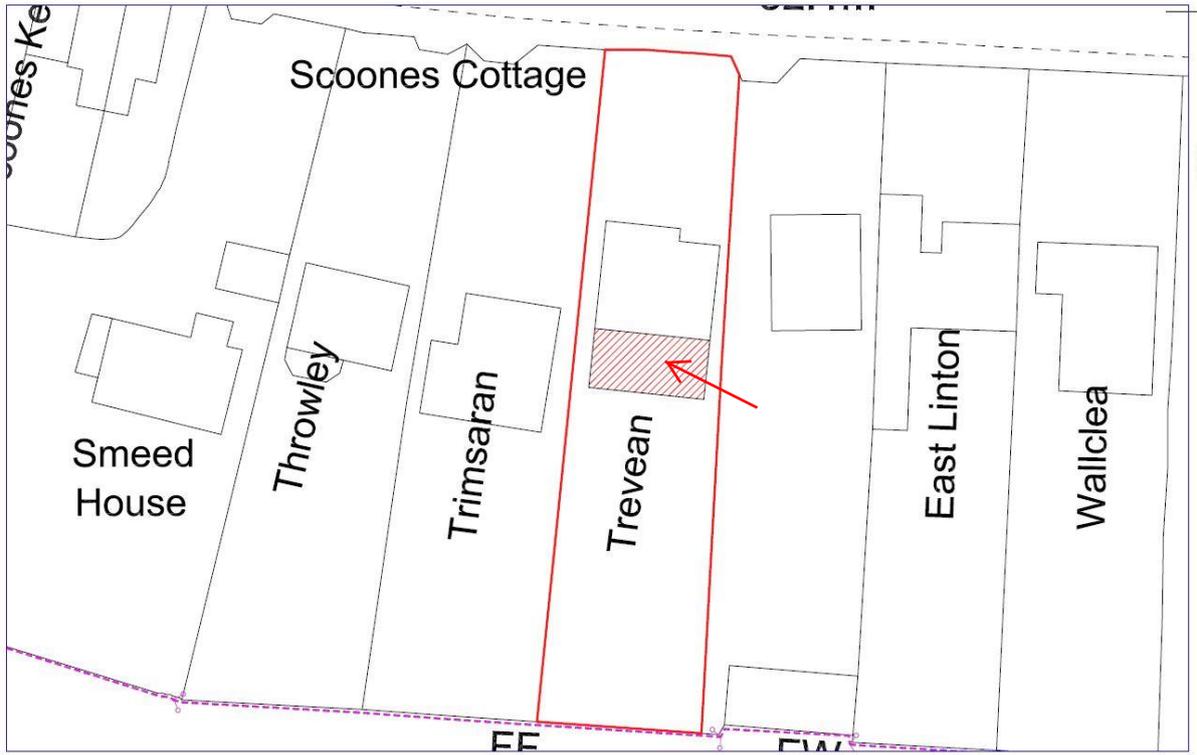


Figure 3. Proposed development area and area watched (red infill and red arrow)