

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA

Site Code: PMR-EV-23

NGR Site Centre: 632808 166811

Planning Application Number: TH/22/0338



Report date: 30 August 2023

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Abstract

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 1 trench measuring 25m in length.

Archaeological evaluation has confirmed the absence of archaeological remains on this site.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA (Figures).

1.1.2 A planning application was granted by Thanet District Council for the erection of 1 no. dwelling including access and all other matters reserved.

1.1.3 A Condition of archaeological works in the Schedule of Conditions were attached to the Planning Decision Notice (TH/22/0338) and were:

(6). No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

GROUND:

To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policy HE01 of the Thanet Local Plan and the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework. On the basis of the present archaeological information. KCCHC advising Swale Borough Council recommended that the proposed development should be subject to a programme of archaeological works in order to clarify the archaeological elements within the site.

1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2023), prior to the commencement of works.

1.1.5 The evaluation is the first stage of the programme of archaeological works and addresses part i) of the planning condition only. Its main aim is to clarify the presence/absence of archaeology

and its significance. On the basis of the results of the evaluation, further archaeological works may be needed and could include excavation and/or watching brief and post excavation and publication.

1.2 Timetable

1.2.1 A timetable for the archaeological programme of works, to date, is provided below;

Task	Dates	Personnel/Company
Archaeological Evaluation: Fieldwork	July 2023	SWAT Archaeology
Archaeological Evaluation Report	This document/ August 2023	SWAT Archaeology

Table 1 *Timetable for the archaeological programme of works*

1.3 Site Description, Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The application site is located on the north side of Manston Airfield, south of Woodchurch, to the east of Cheeseman Farm and at NGR 632808 166811. (Figures).

1.3.2 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000 1980, sheet 274 Ramsgate, Solid and Drift edition) shows the solid geology as being Cretaceous Upper Chalk bedrock; specifically the Margate Chalk Member. No drift deposits are mapped as being present on the site. However, a slight dry valley, immediately to the north-east, is recorded as being infilled with (Pleistocene or later) Head Brickearth deposits of undifferentiated clay and silts, the mapped limits of which are c. 85m to the north-east of the PDA.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report has been produced to provide initial information regarding the results of the archaeological evaluation. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located close to a number of archaeological sites which are identified on the KCCHER database.

2.1.2 About 70m south a pillbox has been recorded and possibly part of the RAF Manston WWII defences. (TR 36 NW 1071). About 120m to the NNW a field boundary of probable Bronze Age date has been recorded (TR 36 NW 435). About 300m SW Iron Age pits have been recorded (TR 36 NW 368) and about 320m SSE a Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement has been identified

(TR 36 NW 226). Aerial photographs (Google Earth) show in 1970, 1990, 2021 a dark circular feature with ring ditches is located about 125m NNW of the PDA (AP 1, 2).

2.2 Previous work in immediate areas

2.2.1 Between 16 and 17 February 2021 Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Pouces, Manston Road, Minister-in-Thamet, Kent. The work was commissioned by ALF Group and Davil Properties Limited, as part of preparations for the proposed development of five residential properties at the site.

2.2.2 A total of five evaluation trenches were excavated, with archaeological remains identified in all but one of these trenches. However those remains that were identified are not thought to be significant comprising cultivated/developed agricultural soils and a series of linear features, thought to form part of a field system, suggest the PDA falls within a wider agricultural landscape (on the periphery of the hamlet of Woodchurch) from the latter part of the medieval through the post-medieval periods onwards.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWAT Archaeology 2023) as stated below;

- *6.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the earlier prehistoric period and also any Roman, medieval and later archaeological activity.*
- *6.2 The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so, what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2023: Section 6)

3.2 General Objectives

3.2.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts, or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2023) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 1 evaluation trench was excavated (Figures). Trench was initially scanned by a metal detector for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.2 Where appropriate, trench was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations, and during back filling.

4.2.3 On completion, the trench was made safe and left open in order to provide the opportunity for a curatorial monitoring visit. Backfilling was carried out once all recording, surveying, and monitoring had been completed.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and OD heights.
- 4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate; providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. 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.
- 4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Trench was positioned to cover the entire proposed development area.
- 5.1.2 The site, as shown on Figure 1, provides the trench layout while further Figures illustrates the results for each individual archaeological evaluation trench along with representative soil sequence sections. Plates consist of photographs of features and selected trenches that have been provided to supplement the text.
- 5.1.3 Trench results are discussed below.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil and subsoil, which overlay the natural geological deposits. The topsoil generally consisted of dark organic brown clay sand silt with frequent roots and occasional building material (bricks, tiles, etc), overlying the subsoil/ colluvium which consisted of light to mid brown-orange clay sand silt with moderate small rounded stones and occasional chalk flecks. Natural geology comprised bedrock geology of Chalk sealed by superficial clay and silts. In most of the areas the natural geology (xx03) was sealed-off by subsoil/ colluvium (xx02).

5.3 Archaeological Narrative

Trench 1 (Figures)

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 was placed in central part of the site in NE-SW alignment and measured 25metres in length by 1.8metres in width and 0.47metres in depth. It exposed natural geology context (103) comprising firmly compacted yellow-grey to orange-grey sand-silt with infrequent chalk flecks and very occasional small outcrops of chalk bedrock. No archaeological cuts, artefacts or deposits were revealed in this trench.

6 FINDS

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 No finds were retrieved during the course of archaeological evaluation

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 No bulk soil samples were acquired during the course of evaluation.

8 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation on Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA, has investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 1 trench measuring 25m in length.

8.1.2 The investigation has confirmed the absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 Archaeological evaluation has confirmed the absence of archaeological features, finds and deposits despite archaeological features being identified on adjacent plot to the northwest.

8.3 Conclusion

8.3.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8.4 Recommendation

8.4.1 No further work is proposed to take place on this site in relation to the proposed development.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 General

9.1.1 The Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CifA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

- 9.1.2 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 and A4 graphics. The Site Archive will be retained at SWAT Archaeology offices until such time it can be transferred to a Kent Museum.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 10.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the Client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 10.1.2 Peter Cichy from SWAT Archaeology carried out the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The report was written by Peter Cichy. On behalf of the client project was directed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, FRSA of SWAT Archaeology.

11 REFERENCES

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SWAT Archaeology 2023 Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA

12 APPENDIX 1 – HER FORM

Site Name: Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA

SWAT Site Code: PMR-EV-23

Site Address: As above

Summary. *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA. The archaeological programme was monitored by the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.*

The archaeological works have investigated the extents of the proposed development area using 1 tranche measuring 25m in length.

Archaeological evaluation has confirmed the absence of archaeological remains on this site.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Senior Archaeological Officer of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

No further work is recommended

District/Unitary: THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Period(s): modern

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 632808 166811

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: July 2023

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

Geology: solid geology as being Cretaceous Upper Chalk bedrock; specifically the Margate Chalk Member. No drift deposits are mapped as being present on the site. However, a slight dry valley, immediately to the north-east, is recorded as being infilled with (Pleistocene or later) Head Brickearth deposits of undifferentiated clay and silts

Title and author of accompanying report: Peter Cichy (2023) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Pouces, Manston Road, Minster, Kent CT12 5DA

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 30/08/2023

Plates



Plate 1: The site and evaluation trench viewed from the south with one- and two-metre scales.

Figures



Figure 1: Site location in relation to OS map.

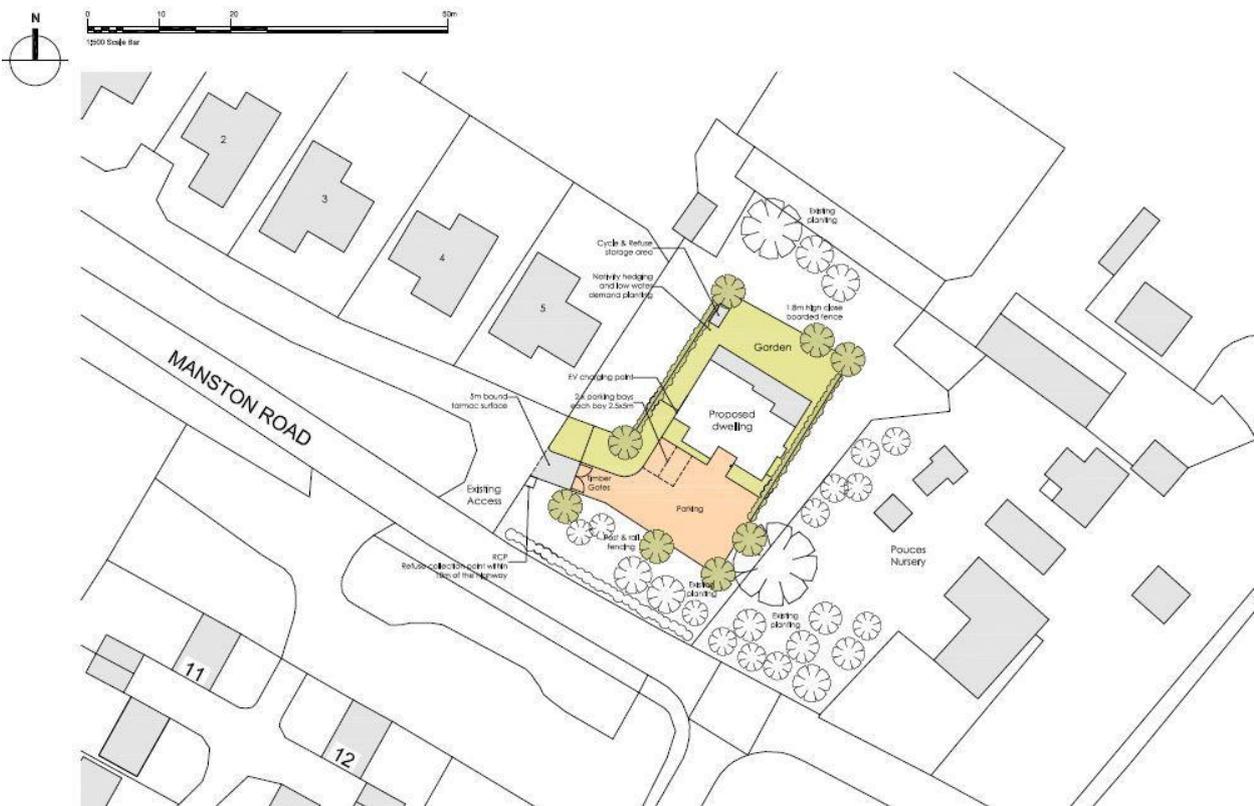


Figure 2: Proposed development.

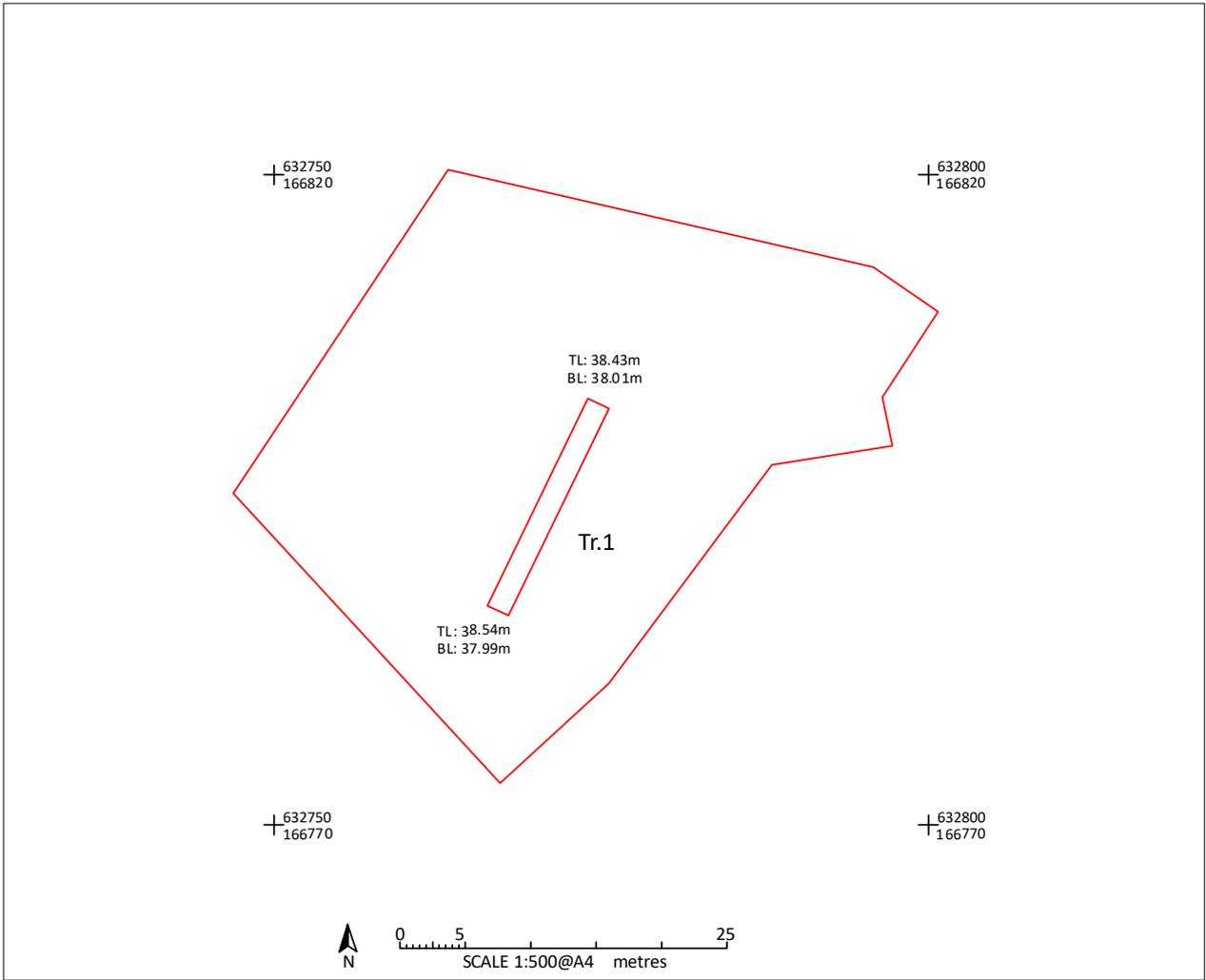


Figure 3: Trench plan