

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of  
Land at  
Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road, Swingfield,  
Dover, Kent

NGR: TQ 6307 1545

Site Code: MB-EV-10

(Planning Consent Y10/0311/SH)

Report for  
Thorndene Ltd.

**SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY**

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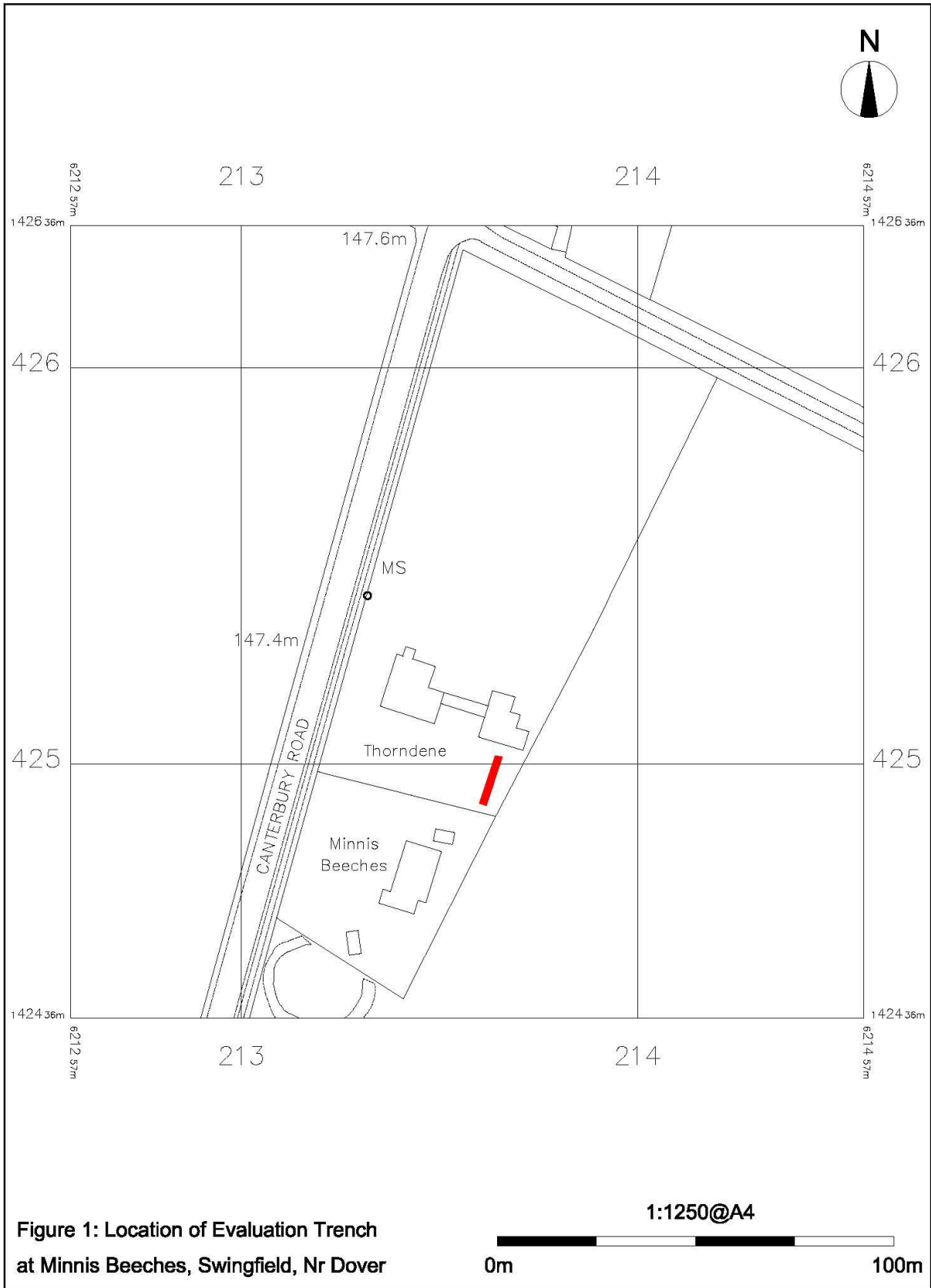
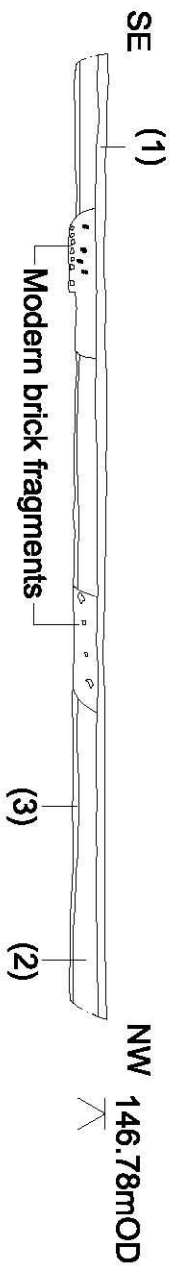
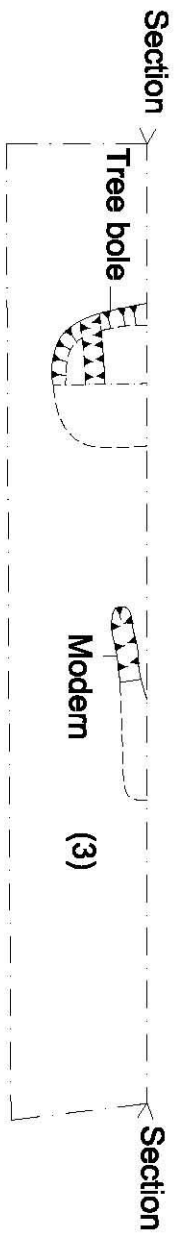


Figure 1: Location of Evaluation Trench at Minnis Beeches, Swingfield, Nr Dover



1:100@A4



Figure 2: Trench Plan and Section



**Plate 1-General Trench shot, looking NNW, scale 1m**



**Plate 2 Treebowl, looking WSW, scale 1m**

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**SUMMARY**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and assessment of land at Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road, Swingfield, Kent. Planning permission (Y08/0827/SH) for the construction of a detached two-storey house to provide accommodation for three residents with special needs/learning disabilities (Class C2) with overnight staff bedroom was submitted to Shepway District Council whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer for Kent County Council.*

*The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of one trench which encountered no archaeological features. The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Thorndene Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation and assessment at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2010.

**SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The development site lies in an area of lawn and garden features including a duck pond between two dwellings, Minnis Beeches and Thorndene Coach house within the grounds of 19<sup>th</sup> century Thorndene House. According the British Geological Survey (BGS), the site sits approximately 145-150m aOD and is located on Clay with Flints geology comprising undifferentiated clay, silt, sand and gravel. The trench encountered the natural geology, a pale to mid-yellow brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and rounded flints, at approximately 0.30m below the present ground surface.

**PLANNING BACKGROUND**

Planning consent (Y10/0311/SH) for the erection of a two-storey detached building to provide accommodation for three residents with special needs/learning disabilities (Class C2) with



overnight staff bedroom (amended scheme to that approved under planning permission Y08/0827/SH) at the above site was submitted to Shepway District Council (SDC). Kent County Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Local Planning Authority placed the following condition (9) on planning consent (Y10/0311/SH):

*“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.*

*Reason: In order to safeguard any remaining archaeological interest on the site in accordance with policies BE7 of the Shepway District Local Plan Review and QL7 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan,”*

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching targeting a representative 4% sample of the impact area with one trench designed to establish whether there were any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### ***SMR/NMR Summary***

#### ***Prehistoric***

**TR 24 SW 3 / MKE 5895 / NGR TR 2128 4239** Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Bronze Age bowl barrows (2350BC-701BC) lie on either side of the Canterbury Road on level ground at Swingfield Minnis. Barrow 'A' [TR 2132 4245] lies some 35m to the south of the development site in the corner of a field under grass, and is partly truncated by the private garden of Minnis Beeches. It has been much reduced by ploughing and measures approximately 28m in diameter and 0.9m in height. It has no visible ditch. Barrow 'B' [TR 2124 4233] lies 185m to the southwest of the development site on the opposite side of the road in a ploughed field and measures 23m in diameter and 1m in height. It also has no visible ditch.

#### ***Post Medieval***

**.TR 24 SW 10 / MKE 8565 / NGR TR 2170 4263** The possible post-Medieval abandoned settlement of Great Foxholt consisting of a large linear scarp and mound and linear depression identified during a 1991 field survey.

**TR24 SW 17 / MKE 15881 / NGR TR 2170 4239** A series of linear scarps, banks and ditches with one depression against Foxholt Lane. These features were identified during survey

procedures in advance of road development and were interpreted as earthwork remains of brickwork extraction referred to by the British Geological Survey.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specification (2010) (Manual of Specifications, Part B) was to:

- a) ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
- b) establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site; and
- c) establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.”

Specific aims of the archaeological work were set out in the Archaeological Specification (2009) (Manual of Specifications, Part A).

“The aim of this initial phase of evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation ahead of development; and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on site. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.”

## **METHODOLOGY**

Trial trenching was carried out on 11 August 2010, with the excavation of one trench measuring up to 12.80m in length and 1.80m in width. Trench location was agreed prior to the excavation between KCC and SWAT. Excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The trench was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal modern 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 the specification.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report and shown in bold.

## MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation.

## RESULTS

The trench was covered in turf/topsoil **(001)** measuring up to 0.14m thick over a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil **(002)** that measured up to 0.14m thick, with occasional small to medium sub-angular and rounded flints, post-Medieval brick fragments, rare modern glass, post-Medieval glazed pottery, ceramic pipe stem fragments, and ceramic flower pot fragments. These modern deposits overlay a pale to mid-yellow brown silty clay colluvium/brickearth-like natural drift geology **(003)** with occasional small to medium angular and rounded flints. The Clay with Flints as described in the British Geological Survey was not encountered in this trench.

One sub-rounded feature with modern brick, pottery, and carbon was investigated and was found to be a tree bowl, most likely associated with one of the many episodes of landscaping that has occurred within the grounds of Thorndene.

## FINDS

No cultural material dating from before the post-Medieval period was observed during the evaluation, and it should be noted that no residual stone tools or waste flakes were found.

## DISCUSSION

This evaluation found no archaeological features or cultural material of any antiquity in the evaluation trench even though the development site was only 35m from a Scheduled Ancient Monument, a Bronze Age bowl barrow. Due to overhead live electricity cables and the close proximity of Thorndene Coach House, the trench had to be limited to 12.80m in length. The development area not covered by the evaluation trench and southwest of the trench has been heavily landscaped since Victorian times and includes a duck pond. It is likely that any archaeological features within that area would have been truncated by these modern features.

## CONCLUSION

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

SWAT would like to thank Thorndene Ltd. for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Ben Found, Heritage Officer, Kent County Council for his advice and assistance. Julie Martin supervised the archaeological fieldwork. Illustrations were produced by James and Jonny Madden at Digitise This. This report was edited and collated by Dr. Paul Wilkinson.

Julie Martin

27/08/10

## **REFERENCES**

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Rev (2008) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Kent County Council (KCC) (2010) *Manual of Specifications Part A – Site Specific Requirements. Specification for an archaeological evaluation at Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road, Swingfield, Dover, Kent*. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation

Kent County Council (KCC) (2010) *Manual of Specifications Part B, Evaluation – Trial Trenching Requirements*. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation

## APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road, Swingfield, Dover, Kent</i>	
<b>SWAT Site Code:</b> <i>MB-EV-10</i>	
<b>Site Address:</b> <i>Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road, Swingfield, Dover, Kent</i>	
<b>Summary:</b>  <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road, Swingfield, Dover in Kent. Planning consent (Y10/0311/SH) for the construction of a two-storey detached building to provide accommodation for three residents with special needs/learning disabilities (Class C2) with overnight staff bedroom was submitted to Shepway District Council (SDC) whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.</i>  <i>The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of one trench which encountered no archaeological features or cultural material of great antiquity.</i>	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> <i>Shepway</i>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Swingfield Minnis</i>
<b>Period(s):</b> <b>Tentative:</b> <i>None</i>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs):</b> <i>NGR 6307 1545</i>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> <i>Evaluation</i>	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> <i>August 2010</i>	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> <i>Swale &amp; Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
<b>Geology:</b> <i>Clay with Flints comprising undifferentiated clay, silt, sand and gravel.</i>	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> <i>Martin, J. (2010) Evaluation and Assessment of Land at Minnis Beeches, Canterbury Road Swingfield, Dover, Kent .</i>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)</b>  <i>As above</i>  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(cont. on attached sheet)</b></p>	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> <i>SWAT</i>	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>27 August 2010</i>

