



Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent 2010

SWAT. Archaeology

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent

ME13 8UP

Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112



Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent

NGR: 616404 135054

Site Code HYT/W/10

Report for Jenner Contractors Ltd

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel; 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112
www.swatarchaeology.com

Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	1
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	1
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	2
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	2
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	2
7.0 RESULTS.....	3
7.1 GENERAL.....	3
7.2 DEPOSIT MODEL.....	3
8.0 FINDS.....	3
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	3
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	3
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	3
REFERENCES.....	3
APPENDIX 1 - SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES (250m radius).....	4
APPENDIX 2 - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SMR SUMMARY FORM.....	8

List of Figures

- Figure 1. O. S. Location of site (in red outline) of proposed development (page 6).
Figure 2. Architects drawing of proposed development (page 7).

List of Plates

- Plate 1. Photograph of entrance to site (page ii)
Plate 2. Photograph of Water Works front porch (page 4).
Plate 3. Photograph of site excavation (page 5).

Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent

NGR: 616404 135054
Site Code HYT/W/10 Kent

1.0 Summary

In July and August 2010, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent. (Fig. 1).

The works were carried out on behalf of Jenner Contractors Ltd.

An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine stripping of topsoil and vegetation and deep cutting of the hillside (July 2010) in advance of the construction of a detached house. The cutting of trenches and other groundworks for services took place after piling and construction of the concrete foundation raft (August 2010). The Planning Application Number is: YO7/0847/SH.

The Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN:YO7/0847/SH) for the construction of a two storey detached dwelling with detached garage together with the creation of a new vehicular access (Fig. 2) was submitted to Shepway District Council.

Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Shepway District Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks.

The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

‘1.3 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure 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 archaeological interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification for the archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.’

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An Archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on the following dates:

15th, 16th, 20th July, 20th August 2010

4.0 Aims and Objectives

The reason for the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

‘In order to safeguard any archaeological interest on the site in accordance with policies BE7 of the Shepway District Local Plan Review and SPI and QL8 of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (KCC 2010: 1.3)

The groundworks involved a complete strip of the undergrowth and topsoil followed by excavation of the side of the hill to construct a level platform (Plate 3). Fresh water springs were erupting everywhere and access was restricted by the main contractor (Jenners) because of Health & Safety issues. However, no remains of the postulated waterworks were discovered apart from the still-standing ‘water house’ (Plate 2). Unfortunately the door was locked and there was not any opportunity to investigate the building. We understand from local knowledge that the small building protects a flight of steps that lead deep underground to the remains of a cistern which caps an underground spring. There were apparently fired clay ground water pipes leading from it to replenish the cistern and provide a water supply for part of Hythe.

4.1 Confidence Rating

No factors apart from Health & Safety issues implemented by the main contractor (Jenners) hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Atherfield Clay at an elevation of about 30m aOD. (KCC 2010: 1.6)

Topographically the site is situated in a zone of suburban houses and gardens to the east and west, and by mixed woodland to the north. According to the KCC Archaeological Specification (KCC 2010) the site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER.

6.0 Methodology

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Ifa: 2008). The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

The Watching Brief was carried out in several phases according to the needs of the building contractors between the 15th July and 20th August 2010. Excavation of the existing platform and the stripped area at the rear of the sitewere carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with the intention of removing the topsoil overburden to the building platform level in spits, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing features in plan and section. 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. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

The site, formerly rough ground, was stripped of its topsoil by machine and foundation trenches dug (Plates 1-3). The topsoil was about 20cm thick. The removal of the topsoil and further machining revealed the subsoil of Atherfield Clay.

7.2 Deposit Model

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m-0.20m	Topsoil.
0.20+m	Atherfield Clay

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were present and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, revealed that no buried archaeological features or artefacts were present.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Jenner Contractors Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA. 30th August 2010

References

IfA (1999 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Kent County Council (2010) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent.

Appendix 1. – Summary of Archaeological Sites within 250m of site

The proposed development site lies on the northern edge of the historic town of Hythe. It is thought North Road, adjacent to the development site, follows the line of a Roman road between Dover (*Portus Dubris*) and Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*) (KCC 2010). However, no evidence for the Roman road was found during the site investigations.

Archaeological sites within 250m are mainly listed buildings and garden walls and full details are available on the HER record kept at KCC and EH.

A spring is marked on the site on early Ordnance Survey maps and the following data on this spring is provided by the County Historic Environment Record (HER) held in the Planning Dept., Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

TR 13 NE 118 MKe 32489

‘Description from record (TR 13 NE 79):

Folkestone Waterworks Company est 1848, latterly the Folkestone and Dover Water Services Co., purchased an old tan pit at the junction of North Road with Church Road (Tanners Hill) Hythe and apparently converted it to a reservoir c1868 supplied by several springs nearby. The reservoir chamber still stands with a small building over it. This is constructed of ragstone with red brick margins and has a pedimented porch section (with an 1868 date stone and the initials 'HBM', HB Mackeson, the Hythe brewer who contributed funds to the scheme) fronting a longer barrel vaulted building covering the reservoir’.

The long barrelled building behind the entrance (Plate 2, below) no longer exists and on site investigation of the area immediately behind the surviving structure showed that the building had been demolished and the site had been truncated by previous modern development activity.





Plate 3. Site Conditions with gushing groundwater and slipping slopes.

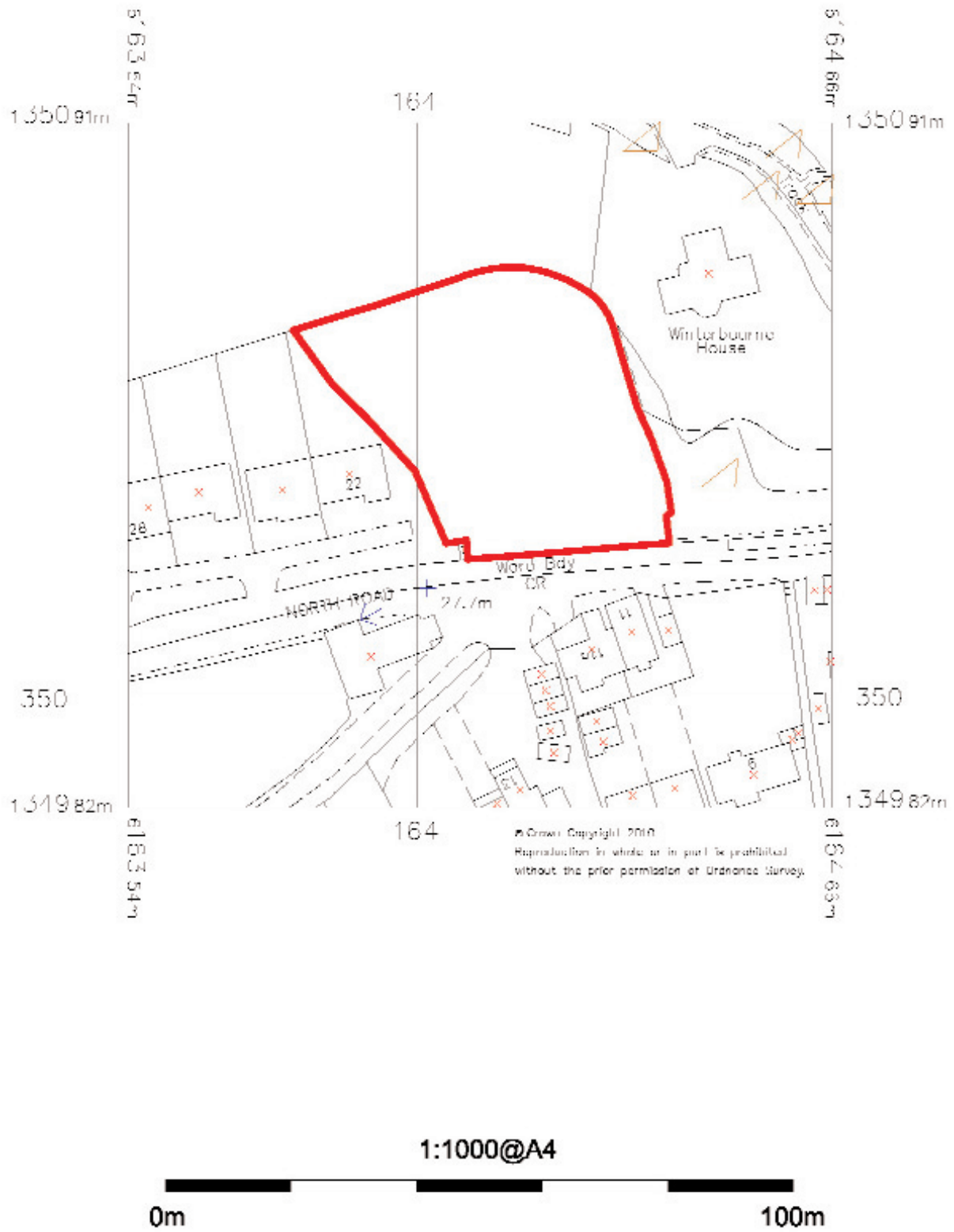


Figure 1. Location of Proposed Development Site (shown in red).

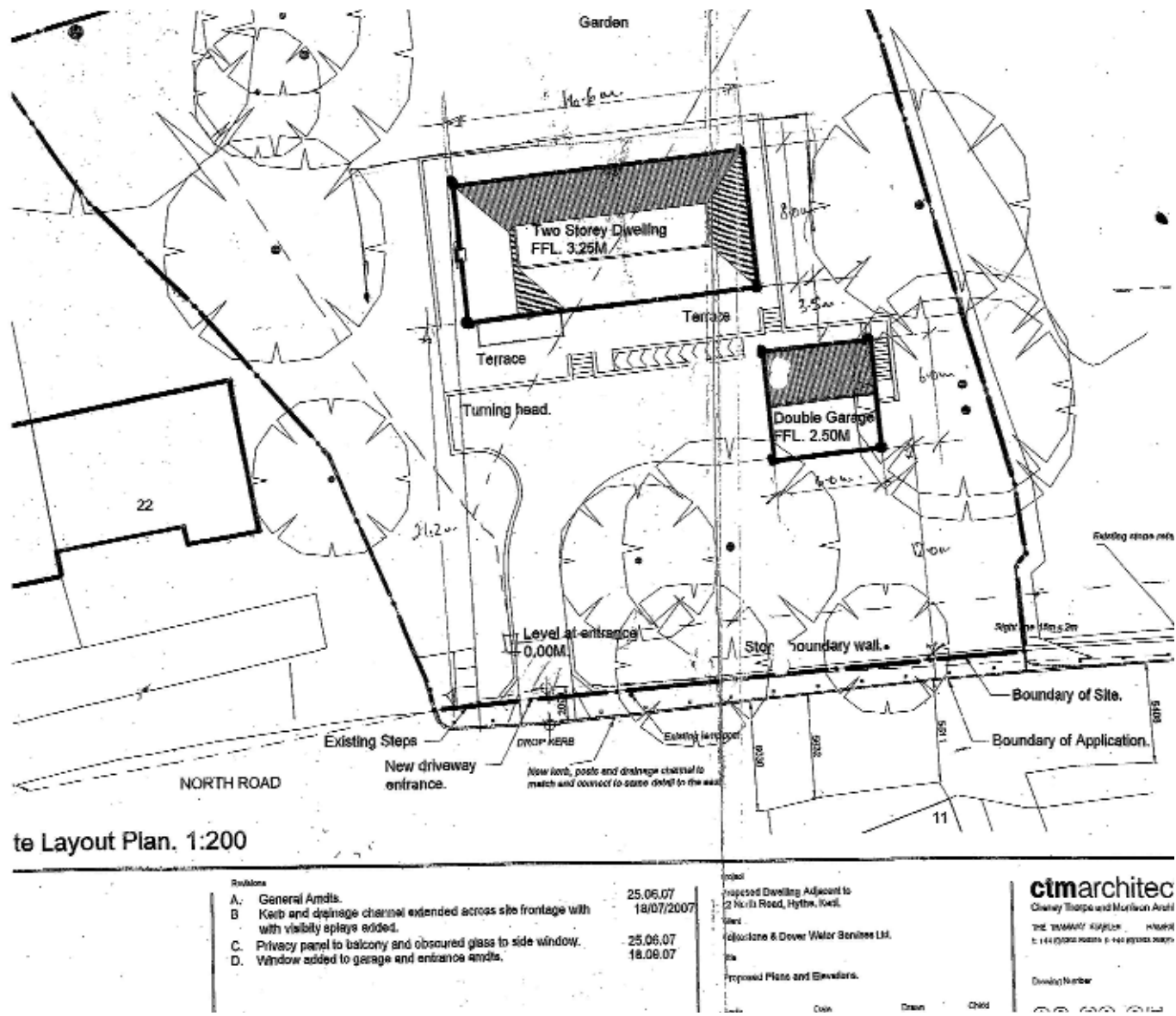


Figure 2. Architects drawing of Proposed Development.

Appendix 2- Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent

SWAT Site Code: HYT/W/10

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Kent. Planning Consent YO7/0847/SH for the construction of a detached house with detached garage and new vehicular access whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological watching Brief be undertaken 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.

The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of four site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Shepway

Parish: Hythe

Period(s):

Tentative: None

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 616404 135054

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: July, August 2010

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

Geology: Atherfield Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2010) Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to 22 North Road, Hythe, Shepway, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

As above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 28th September 2010
