



Archaeological Watching Brief at Wardwell Wood near Newington in Kent November 2010

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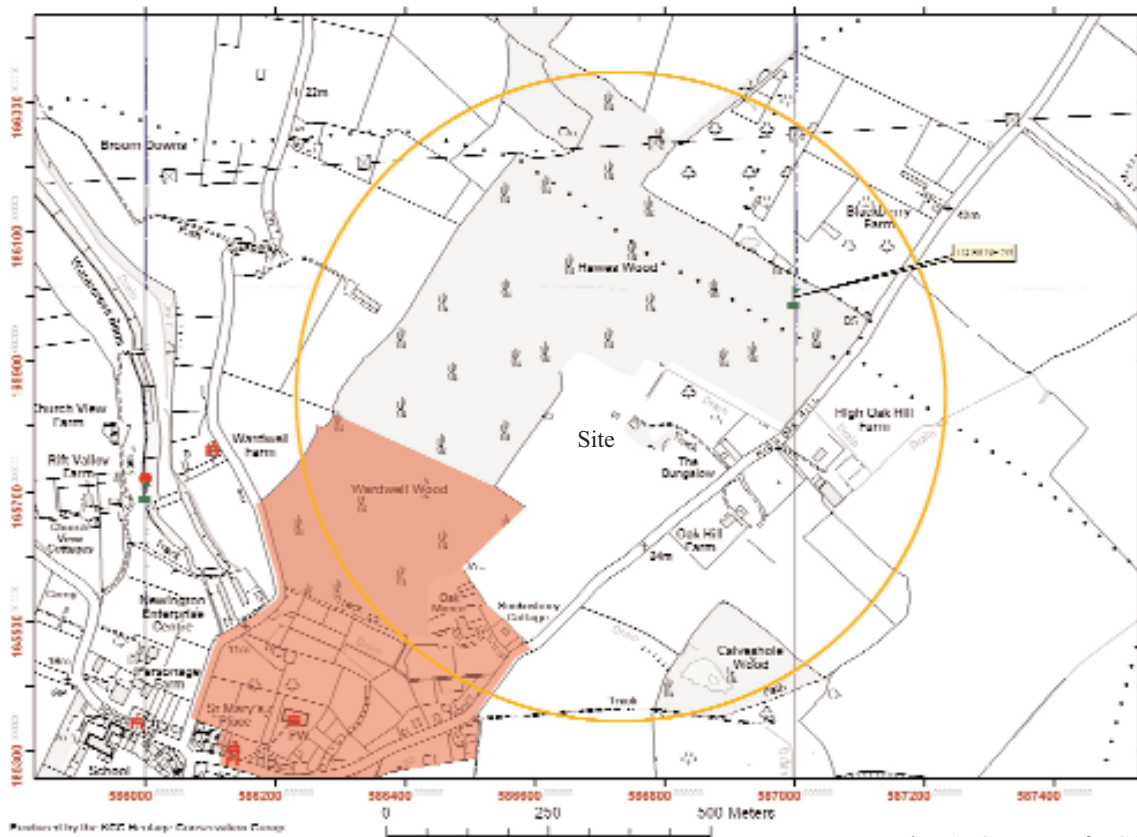


Plate 1: Courtesy of KCC

Archaeological Watching Brief at Wardwell Wood near Newington in Kent

NGR: 586732 165846
Site Code WWH/WB/10

Report for
Lisa Hammond

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NGR: 586732 165846
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1.0 Summary

In November 2010 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a proposed development at Wardwell Wood, High Oaks Hill, near Newington in Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Ms. Lisa Hammond.

An Archaeological Watch was kept during machine digging of foundations for a new poultry house and temporary improvement of existing access, provision of parking and turning areas with planting and the stationing of a mobile home.

The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact. The Planning Application Number is: SW/10/0631 EE.

The Archaeological Watching Brief failed to reveal any buried archaeological features.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application SW/10/0631 EE for the building of a poultry house and associated works were submitted to Swale Borough Council.

Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale Borough Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the 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, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the District Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written specification and timetable, which has been submitted to and approved by the District Planning Authority.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works on the following date:
4th November 2010.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

3.1. The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks

The groundworks comprise the excavation of foundations, access road and associated landscaping.

4.1 Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and 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 Gault Clay (KCC 2010: 1.7.)

The application site is located about 1.3km north east of Newington and north of Oak Hill Farm with the site centre at NGR: 586732 165846.

The application site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated with multi-period activity on the high ground. Although little is known from the immediate area the location of the site has potential for archaeological remains. Detail of which are itemised in Appendix 1.

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 according to the needs of the building contractors in November 2010.

Excavation of the overlying ground was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

All excavation were carried out 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.

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.

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 pasture, was excavated by machine to a slope having a maximum depth of 1.30m. The soil encountered was dark brown-yellow stiff sandy silt. No archaeology was revealed.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Watching Brief phase and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development over such a large area of topsoil strip allowed an opportunity to discover any prehistoric activity. The location on high ground overlooking the Newington Drain stream would it seem, to have been an ideal spot for prehistoric hunter-gatherers to utilise. Unfortunately and despite an intensive search for archaeology and lithic artefacts, none were found.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Lisa Hammond for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Adam Single, Heritage and Conservation (KCC).

Dr Paul Wilkinson MIfA. 20th March 2011

References

HER data (KCC 2010)

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

Kent County Council (2010) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Wardwell Wood near Newington in Kent.

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

The proposed development site lies on high ground between the two higher prominences of Oak Hill and Callum Hill, north of the nearby Keycol Hill and Mill Hill. The Newington Drain runs between the two pairs of hills (KCC 2010:1.7).

The general area has few archaeological remains but this may be a case of lack of investigation.

Full details are available on the HER record provided by the County Historic Environment Record (HER) held in the Planning Dept, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent.

The only entry on the HER is-

TQ 86 NE 29

A flint axehead found on Great Norwood Farm to the north of the Development Site.

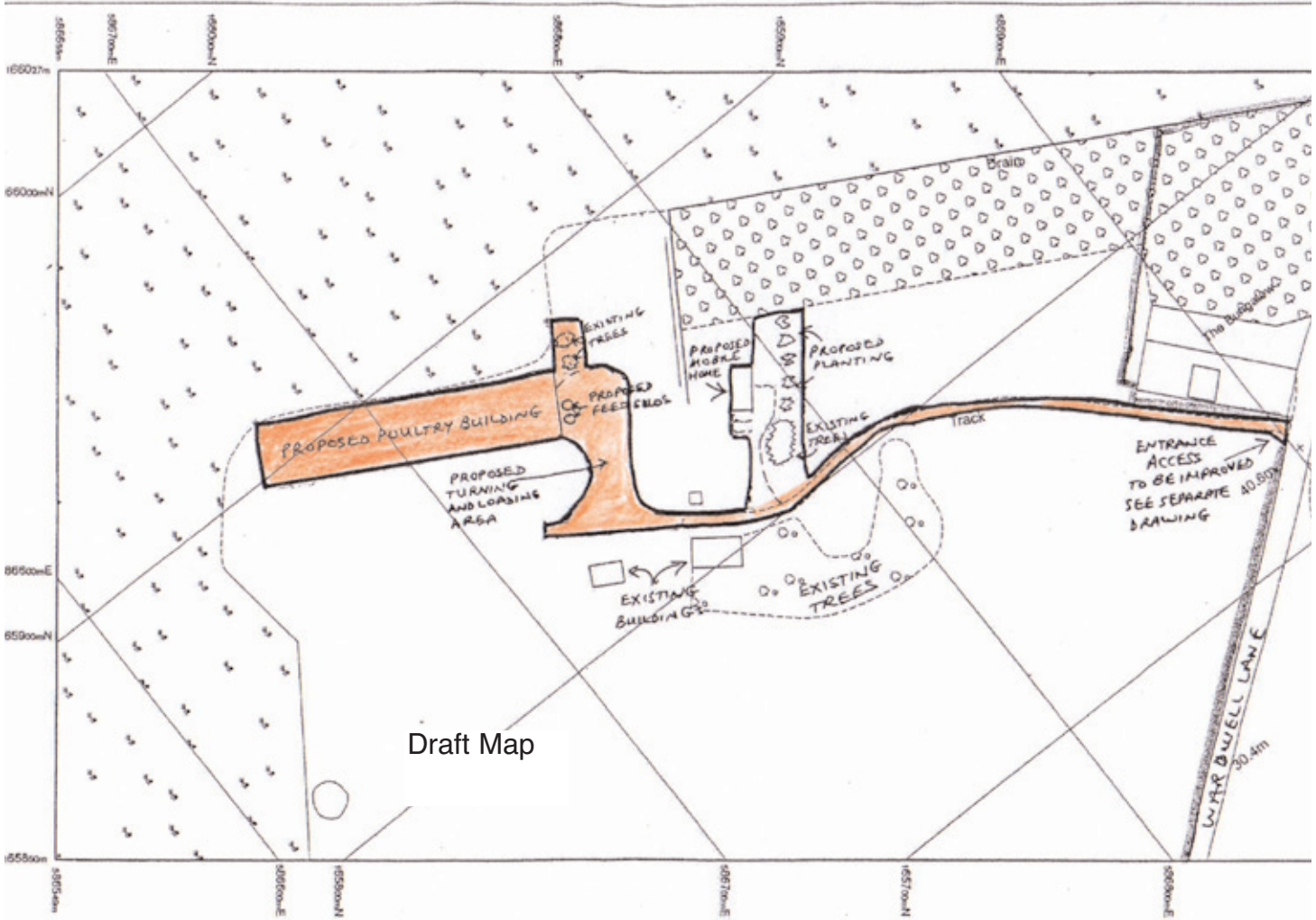


Figure 2. Development site.

Appendix 2- Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at Wardwell Wood, High Oak Hill, Newington, Kent
SWAT Site Code: WWH/WB/10

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on a development at Wardwell Wood, High Oak Hill. Planning Consent was requested (SW/10/0631) for a Poultry House and improving access with provision of parking 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 a site visit which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Swale

Parish: Bobbing

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 586732 165846

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: November 2010

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Gault Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2010) Archaeological Watching Brief at Wardwell Wood near Newington in 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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 20th March 2011



Plate 2. Showing excavated area for foundations for proposed Poultry House (facing west)