



**Archaeological Watching Brief at CJ's
Dance and Fitness Studio, Dieu Stone
Lane, Dover, Kent
*August 2011***

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**CJ's Dance and Fitness Studio, Dieu Stone Lane,
Dover, Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TR 631895 141580

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**Report for
S. C. Green Ltd**

September 2011

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Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>List of Figures</i> | <i>ii</i> |
| <i>List of Plates</i> | <i>ii</i> |
| 1 SUMMARY | 3 |
| 2 INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 2.1 Planning Background..... | 3 |
| 2.2 The Proposed Development..... | 3 |
| 2.3 Projects Constraints | 3 |
| 2.4 Geology and Topography | 3 |
| 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES | 3 |
| 4 METHODOLOGY | 4 |
| 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT | 4 |
| 5.1 Introduction..... | 4 |
| 5.2 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas | 5 |
| 5.3 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age..... | 5 |
| 5.4 Iron Age | 5 |
| 5.5 Romano-British..... | 6 |
| 5.6 Anglo-Saxon..... | 9 |
| 5.7 Medieval | 6 |
| 5.8 Post-Medieval | 7 |
| 5.9 Modern..... | 7 |
| 5.10 Undated..... | 7 |
| 5.11 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression | 7 |
| 5.12 Aerial Photographs..... | 7 |
| 6 RESULTS | 8 |
| 8.0 Discussion..... | 9 |
| 9.0 Conclusion..... | 9 |
| 10 REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY | 9 |
| <i>Appendix 1 – Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Figures</i> | |
| <i>Plates</i> | <i>14</i> |

List of Figures

Fig.1 Location plan of Proposed Development

List of Plates

Plate. 1 View of foundation trenches (looking North West).

Plate. 2 View of Development Site (looking North West).

Archaeological Watching Brief at CJ's Dance and Fitness Studio, Dieu Stone, Lane, Dover, Kent

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1 SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) have been commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief of a proposed development adjacent to Pencester Gardens. (Figure 1). The site is within an area of moderate-high archaeological potential associated with the Romano-British, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods, which is to be expected from such an old urban centre.

Despite the archaeological potential no archaeological features were revealed during the investigation.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

The site has planning permission for the erection of a single storey front extension incorporating a balcony (Figure 2). The Local Planning Authorities planning reference is DOV/11/00199.

2.2 The Proposed Development

The proposed development will comprise the demolition of part of the structure and the construction of a new single storey front extension incorporating a balcony. The proposed groundworks comprise the digging of foundation trenches for the new extension.

2.3 Project Constraints

There were no known constraints associated with this project.

2.4 Geology and Topography

According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology of the site consists of Alluvial Deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel. (BGS 1:50 000 scale-maps.bgs.ac.uk).

There has been considerable alteration to the local topography of the river valley within the last 140 years in the form of landscaping associated with housing and industry. In its present form the topography of the proposed development site consists of a car park with adjacent gardens. Study of the site during a site visit (August 10th 2011) suggests that the topographic disturbance of the upper land surfaces would seem to be considerable, though the area surrounding the site (once a municipal garden and now a car park) may be better preserved.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to:

“contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks” (KCC 2011: 3.1).

4 METHODOLOGY

An experienced archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology monitored the excavations for all groundworks, and where possible a flat bladed bucket was used with excavation proceeding in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be identified and recorded prior to disturbance.

Excavation was carried out using a 4 ton mechanical excavator fitted, where possible, 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. If archaeology had been revealed foundation trenches would have been subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features would have been 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 KCC Archaeological Specification (2011).

Geotechnical information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

The Archaeological record, both in and around Dover is diverse and comprises of stone tools dating from the earliest human activities in Britain (the Lower Palaeolithic) through to the post-medieval and industrial periods. Dover is situated at the mouth of the River Dour, straddling both sides of the valley. The proposed development site is situated in the former Church Hall just off Dieu Stone Lane in Dover. The site is adjacent to Pencester Gardens, which in turn, is situated on the west bank of the river. Its' geographic and topographic location is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic. The potential presence of archaeology within the development area is the direct result of this and it would not be surprising therefore to discover additional archaeology within the confines of the proposed development site.

This section of the report will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity.

5.2 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

No scheduled monuments or listed buildings are recorded within the confines of the proposed development site.

5.3 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The prehistoric period around Dover is comparable with traditional patterns observed elsewhere in eastern Kent, such as along the Stour valley and the Isle of Thanet.

To the north and east of Dover, situated on the North Downs are numerous find spots of Palaeolithic tools within upper clay-gravel deposits on the chalk (Wymer 1995). The majority of these within the Dover area are located on the upper edge of the valley formed by the River Dour. The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age, and although there is no record of Palaeolithic material being found within the proposed development area, the site does lie on north east bank of the River Dour. There is therefore, a possibility that Palaeolithic archaeology albeit re-deposited from further upstream, may exist.

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no record of archaeology from this period.

The Neolithic, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry, is represented within the Dover area by a mix of scattered finds and occasional archaeological features. Evaluation excavation undertaken by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the Royal Victoria Hospital produced struck flints and prehistoric pottery (Parfitt 1995). A Watching-Brief also carried out by CAT at Archcliffe Fort in 1996 also located a late Neolithic – Bronze Age (c. 2500-1000 BC) flint assemblage, pottery and ephemeral evidence of settlement (Parfitt 1999). However, despite the scattered presence of Neolithic archaeology within the environs of Dover, there is no evidence for Neolithic activity within the development area.

The Bronze Age (BA), a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level is also represented in the Dover area by sporadic features and artefacts, such as those mentioned above. In addition Dover is now famous for the discovery of a Bronze Age boat in 1992 (Parfitt 1993) on Town Wall Street (c. 260m south east of the proposed development site). Again, despite the scattered presence of Bronze Age archaeology within the environs of Dover, there is no evidence for BA activity within the confines of the development area.

5.4 Iron Age

The Kent HER does not show records of Iron Age archaeology within the assessment area although Iron Age material has been found at Archcliffe Fort (Parfitt 1999). Though sparse, archaeology from this period could still be discovered within the proposed development area as very early imported Roman pottery found on archaeological sites usually indicates that there was a Late, Pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) presence. One such site in Dover, is that of the Royal Victoria Hospital (Parfitt 1993). Consequently the presence of archaeology from the Iron Age on the proposed development site should not be ruled out.

5.5 Romano-British

The Romano-British period (R-B) is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43.

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres, towns and military posts, increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Dover was one of a series of port-towns along the south coast, (the most notable being Richborough) and it was at Dover that the British Fleet (Classis Britannica) was based. Consequently a large fort was situated within the area of the town around modern day York Street and Queen Street, with a lighthouse on each cliff (one survives next to St Mary-in-Castro church within Dover Castle). A second, later fort (known as a Saxon Shore Fort) was constructed over the north east corner in the late 3rd century. This second fort was also built over the 'Painted House' – a very well preserved structure (120m south-west of the development site) that had either a domestic or municipal function (and is now on public display).

It should not be surprising therefore that R-B archaeology has been recorded within the assessment area. The Kent HER records the presence of a R-B rubbish dump (middens) some 375m to the north-west of the proposed development site (HER ref: TR 34 SW 451) on the present site of the Fire Station. A second area of refuse dumping was also recorded, c.200m to the west, by CAT during evaluation trenching at the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1992 (Parfitt 1993). On the eastern side of the High Street (opposite the Town Hall) and c.300m north-west of the proposed development area is a second record (HER ref: TR 34 SW 103) for the presence of R-B building materials.

"The main Roman (military) settlement ...appears to have started during the first half of the second century AD (Philp 1989). Nevertheless, the discovery of a considerable number of cremation burials on the outskirts of the modern town...strongly suggests that the main Dover valley and its side valleys were occupied...reinforced by the early Roman material recovered from the Victoria Hospital site, which provides fairly clear evidence for occupation, well beyond the area of the main Roman settlement" (Parfitt 1993).

5.6 Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon period within Dover seems to have been on the western side of the valley in the region of the present day Market Square. However, archaeological monitoring at the Royal Victoria Hospital by CAT in 1994 recovered early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Ranging from the fifth to seventh centuries this material indicates that there was contemporary occupation nearby (Parfitt 1995). The extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Priory Hill, located north-west of the development site is believed to have served the community within this area. However, the Kent HER has no record for Anglo-Saxon archaeology within the proposed development area.

5.7 Medieval

The modern town of Dover retains a lot of its medieval character through the presence of numerous extant streets, churches and, most significantly, the castle. The medieval town itself was confined within a defensive wall and it extended as far north along the valley as Biggin Gate. Numerous archaeological investigations in the town, such as during the A20 Dover Sewers Project between 1991 and 1992, which centred on Town Wall Street, revealed a mass of medieval archaeology (Parfitt 1992). However, between Biggin Gate and the

Maison Dieu was a considerable area of land, probably used for farming and industry. The proposed route of a water pipeline (Stewart and Corke 1999), which would have run adjacent to the proposed development site was regarded to be within an area of Dover to have low archaeological potential however, discoveries at the Royal Victoria Hospital and at the Maison Dieu (Parfitt 1993) suggest that this riverside 'extramural' area has a greater presence of medieval (and earlier) archaeology than previously thought.

The Kent HER has several records within the assessment area. Records TR 34 SW 241, 443, 451 and 462 all indicate, through archaeological investigation, that this area was occupied during the medieval period. There are also several records for standing buildings (or parts of) that date from this period; primarily: the Maison Dieu (HER refs:TR 34 SW 35, TR 34 SW 80, and TR 34 SW 855).

5.8 Post-Medieval

The Post Medieval period within the assessment area is also represented by several Kent HER records. The Royal Victoria Hospital (TR 34 SW 599 and 760) and elements of the Maison Dieu (TR34 SW 35 and 855) can be dated to this period, as can records TR 34 SW 827 (a house dated 1665) and TR 34 SW 709 (a building incorporating a shop, dated 1833). Archaeological investigation at 4-6 Pencester Street (TR 34 SW 241) also produced evidence of occupation from this period.

5.9 Modern

Modern development within the assessment area has been limited to domestic housing, a Health Centre, Police Station, Fire Station, a college and various car parking areas and include all services etc. The Maison Dieu car park has replaced the municipal garden and the Health Centre has replaced the semi-detached housing. During World War II the assessment area was devastated during the blitz (at least two bombs and two shells fell within the proposed development area) and this would account for the 'redevelopment' of the area after the War.

5.10 Undated

The Kent HER does not have undated records for the assessment area.

5.11 Cartographic Sources and Map Regression

A rapid map regression exercise carried out on the proposed development area has shown that the site was developed, for housing, during the Victorian era (probably as a direct result of the arrival of the railway). This land use continued more or less without change up until the Second World War, when Dover was severely damaged by bombing and shelling. Post War, the area was redeveloped and has changed little since then.

5.12 Aerial Photographs

A Pre War aerial photograph mirrors the 'urban' appearance of the assessment area as seen in the Ordnance Survey maps up to World War II.

6.00 RESULTS

6.1 General

Site visits were made by an experienced archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology on 10th, 11th, 12th August 2011. The removal of the concrete, and digging of foundations were all watched. The removal of the concrete apron and re-deposited building gravel revealed a subsoil of silty sandy clay with inclusions of gravel and flecks of chalk in the upper strata's. Continued machining of the subsoil to a maximum depth of about 1.75m revealed no archaeological features

6.2 Deposit Model

Site Datum is 6.12m. aOD. A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site: The concrete overburden was about 9-10cm thick and overlay a strata of crushed brick and gravel of about 20-25cm. The exposed subsoil was of a silty sandy clay with inclusions of gravel and flecks of chalk in the upper strata's. No archaeological features were recorded.

7.0 FINDS

There were no archaeological features present and no finds were retrieved.

8.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at C.J's Dance and Fitness Studio revealed that no archaeological features were present.

9.0 CONCLUSION

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

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Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA September 2011

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Appendix 1 – Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

| Period | HER Reference | Type | National Grid Reference | Description |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Medieval & Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 35 | Building | TR 3163 4175 | Medieval Hospital, Post-Medieval Hospital and Town Hall |
| Medieval | TR 34 SW 80 | Building | TR 3164 4172 | Elements of Maison Dieu (House and Wall) |
| Romano-British | TR 34 SW 103 | Findspot | TR 3158 4173 | Romano-British artefacts: primarily building materials. |
| Medieval & Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 241 | Findspot | TR 3190 4175 | Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery at 4-6 Pencester Street. |
| Medieval | TR 34 SW 443 | Findspot | TR 316 417 | Medieval walls in Ladywell Car Park |

| Period | HER Reference | Type | National Grid Reference | Description |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Romano-British & Medieval | TR 34 SW 451 | Findspot | TR 316 418 | A Romano-British 'Midden' and Medieval site with possible riverside revetment. |
| Medieval | TR 34 SW462 | Findspot | TR 3172 4167 | Medieval occupation site dating from the 13 th century at 11-16 Biggin Street. |
| Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 599 | Building | TR 3153 4182 | The Royal Victoria Hospital c. 1828 |
| Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 709 | Building | TR 3160 4170 | Grade II listed building and shop c. 1833 |
| Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 749 | Building | TR 3165 4177 | South Kent College: Ladywell Annexe c. 1894 |
| Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 760 | Building | TR 3155 4180 | The Royal Victoria Hospital c. 1828 |
| Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 827 | Building | TR 3165 4172 | House c. 1665 |

| Period | HER Reference | Type | National Grid Reference | Description |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|-------------------------|---|
| Medieval & Post-Medieval | TR 34 SW 855 | Building | TR 3162 4173 | Town Hall and Maison Dieu. Grade II* listed. Comprises of: Aisled Hall House c. 1203. Site c. 1183. Hospital c. 1325. Chapel c. 1325. Tower c. 1325. Prison c. 1800-1899. Building c. 1838-1866. Building c. 1840-1880. Building c. 1849 to present. Town Hall c. 1881. |



Plate 1. (above) View of the foundation trenches.

Plate 2. (right) View of development site.





Figure 1: Site Location

0m 100m