

Archaeological Monitoring at The Old Rectory, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent

Site Code PEN/WB/12



Report for
Cyma Architects Ltd

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Monitoring at The Old Rectory, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent

Site Code PEN/WB/12

Date of report: 05/10/12



Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(GoogleEarth 2003).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From July 12th to the 14th 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new cellar and extension to dwelling at land adjoining the existing domestic residence at The Old Rectory, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent (Fig. 2 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from the architects Cyma Architects Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the excavation of the site (Plate 2), and machine digging for new foundations (Plate 3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Excavation of ground for the new cellar and extension to dwelling.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: SE/09/02607/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was medium/high the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application SE/09/02607/FUL for the excavation of a new cellar and extension to the dwelling was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant(s), or their agents or successors in title, has secured 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 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 Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works from July 12th-14th 2012.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

“Contribute to knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works. Particular attention will be paid to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.”

4.2. The ground works were to excavate for a new cellar and to build a new extension (Fig. 2).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock Geology of Ashdown Formation-Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone and Superficial Deposits of Alluvium, Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was silty sandy gravel overlaying an outcrop of Sandstone.

5.2. The application consisted of the digging of a cellar adjacent to The Old Rectory just to the east of the Church of St John the Baptist. To the north-east lie the grounds of Penshurst Place.

5.3. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the HER. The area surrounding the development site has revealed archaeology dating back to the Stone Age. A Neolithic axe head was found in 1961 by a local farm worker hedging at Penshurst (TQ 54 SW7). Just south-west of Penshurst church an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2004 found two medieval pits and four undated features together with 13/14th century pottery (TQ 54 SW 95). The adjacent church of St John the Baptist is thought to date from the Norman period with the north aisle added in the early 13th century and widened in 1854 (TQ 54 SW3). Penshurst Place just to the north-east of the development site (Plate 1) is a 13th century manor house subsequently extended and altered to form a large country house (TQ 54 SW 136).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological 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: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in two phases according to the needs of the building contractors from August 10th to the 11th 2012.

6.4. Excavation of the overlying ground was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket.

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were to be subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. 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.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with Archaeological Officers, KCC (2012).

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was Sandstone overlaid by sandy gravel then topsoil with no archaeological features revealed.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

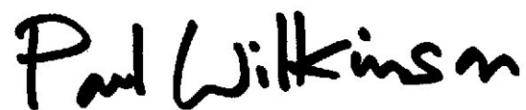
The development site is in an area of medium/high potential with copious evidence of important archaeology in the near vicinity, and the potential for medieval remains was high. The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC 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 Cyma Architects for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIFA.

References

HER data (KCC 2012)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Generic Archaeological Watching Brief (2012)

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site on land at The Old Rectory, Penshurst, Kent

SWAT Site Code: PEN/WB/12

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for an extension and cellar to the existing dwelling house whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of a number of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: SBC **Parish:** Penshurst

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 552650 143820

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: July 2012

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Ashdown Formation-Sandstone

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2012) Archaeological Monitoring at The Old Rectory, Penshurst, 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: 08/10/2012

Plates



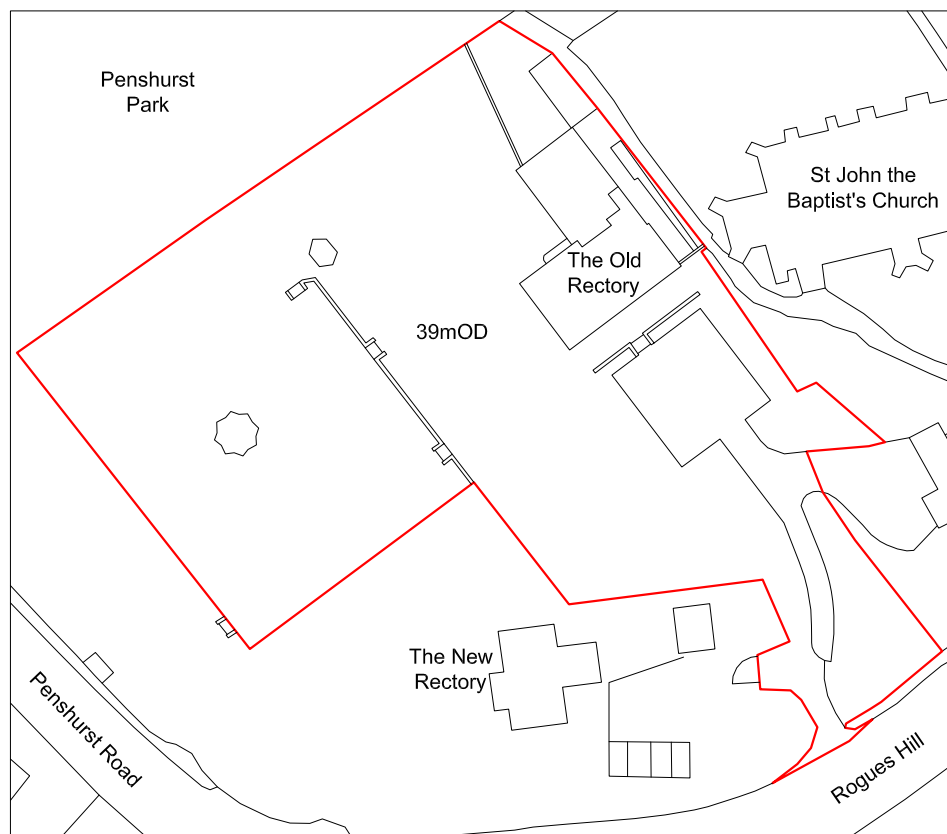
Plate 2. View of excavation for new cellar: facing north



Plate 3. View of existing foundations exposed by excavation for cellar



552760.0mE
143900.0mN



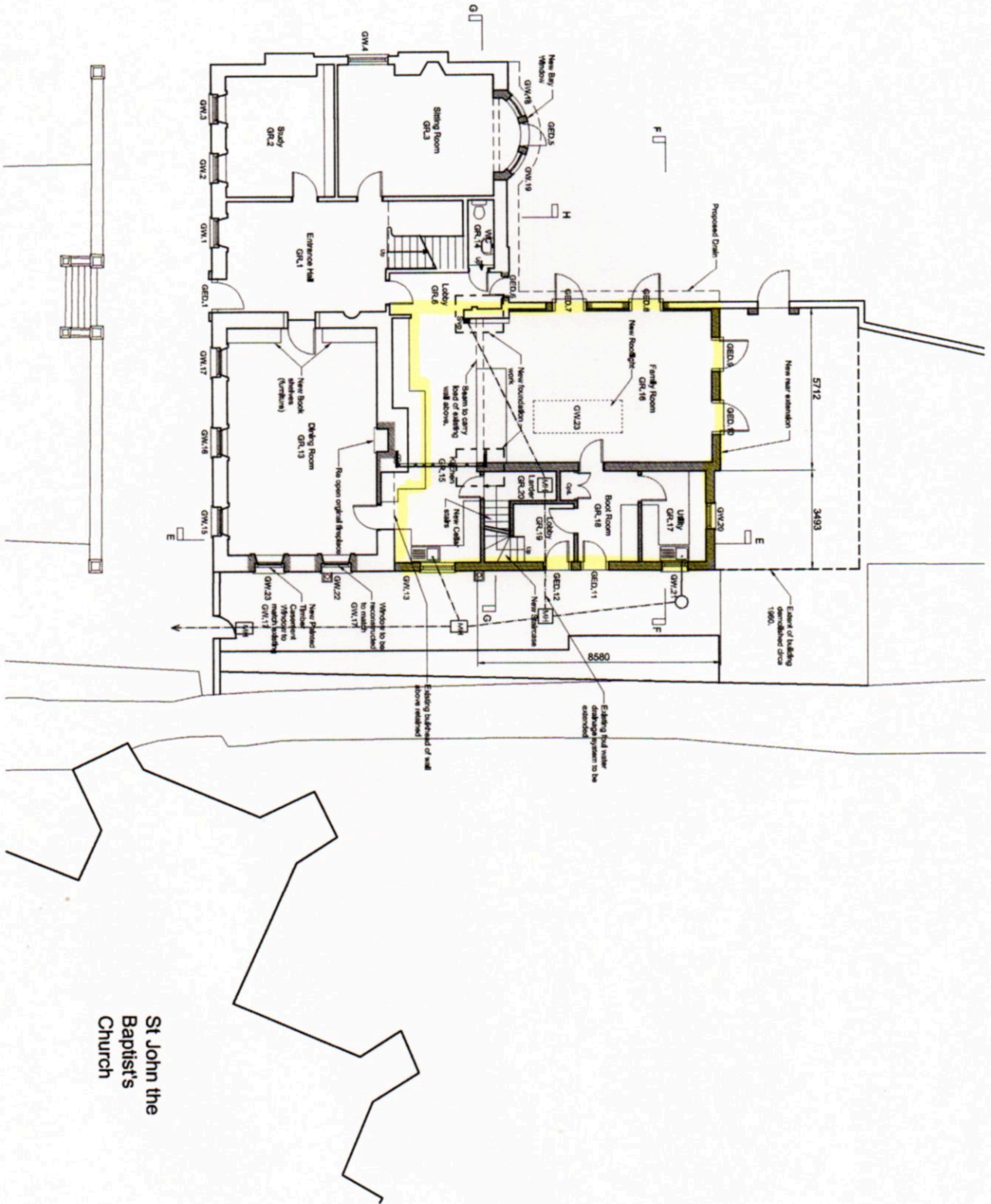
552580.0mE
143760.0mN

1:1000@A4



Figure 1: Location of Site

Ground Floor Plan as proposed
Scale 1:100



St John the Baptist's Church

NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 4. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 5. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 6. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 7. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 8. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 9. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK. 10. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE CHECKED ON SITE AND RECORDED IN THE DRAWING BOOK.

KEY:

▨ New walls to be constructed



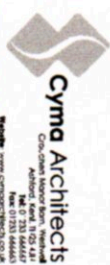
DRAWING TYPE
PLANNING

PROJECT TITLE
The Old Rectory
Parsonage
St John the Baptist's Church

CLIENT
Mr & Mrs Wooley

DRAWING TITLE
Ground Floor Plan
As Proposed

DATE	SCALE	SHEET	BY
12/02/09	1:100	A2	MT
DRAWING NO.	DRAWING NO.	PROJ. NO.	NO.
11-R-001-08	AL10111	A	A



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