

Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at the White Horse Surgery, Vale Road, Northfleet, Kent

NGR: 562900 173375
Site Code WHI-WB-12



Report for Farnrise Construction Ltd
Planning Reference No. 20090661 & 20090979
Date of report 3rd July 2012

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

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Archaeological Watching Brief at Vale Road, Northfleet, Kent

NGR 562900 173375

Site Code: WHI-WB-12

1.0 SUMMARY

From 24th August 2011 to 1st June 2012, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site at Vale Road, Northfleet, Kent, during the ground works associated with two new build medical centres.

The works were carried out on behalf of Farnrise Construction Ltd.

Planning Application Numbers: 20090661 & 20090979.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: 20090661 & 20090979) for the construction of two adjoining new build medical centres was submitted to Gravesham Borough Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Gravesham Borough 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:

Condition 16. *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 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 programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An experienced archaeologist attended the site and monitored site clearance from 24th August 2011 to 1st June 2012 during works associated with the site clearance and cutting of foundation and service trenches

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

3.1 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 ground works.

2.4 Groundworks

The ground works involved an area strip of dumped overburden of rubbish on what seems to be a relict landfill site capped by a 1.2m strata of re-deposited chalk sitting on the natural strata of sand and gravels (Plate 2), and the cutting of foundation and service trenches (Plate 2)

No archaeology was revealed.

2.5 Confidence Rating

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

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site (Fig. 1) is bounded on the south by the Thames Way and to the east by Vale Road. The site has been extensively remodelled in the past with extensive extraction of sand and gravel capped by re-deposited chalk. The only known archaeological site in the vicinity is (TQ 67 SW 1228) which was a Cold War Civil Defence Training Centre which is no longer in existence and seems to have been demolished in the first phase of development some years ago.

The geology according to the 1:50,000 British Geological Survey is Bedrock Geology of Seaford and Newhaven Chalk with Superficial Deposits of Sand and Gravel. The geology encountered on site was a cap of re-deposited chalk overlaying truncated Sand and Gravel formations.

4.0 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* (1999). The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 General

The site strip and cutting of foundations revealed no archaeological features.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out on land at Vale Road, Northfleet revealed that no archaeological features were present.

8.0 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.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Paul Wilkinson
July 2012

REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council (2012) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Vale Road, Northfleet, Kent*

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Land at Vale Road, Northfleet, Kent	
Site Code: WHI-WB-12	
Site Address:	
As above.	
Summary:	
<p>From 20th August to 1st June 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at the above address. The works were carried out on behalf of Farnrise Construction Ltd in advance of the construction of two adjoining medical centres (Planning Application Numbers: 20090661, 20090979).</p> <p>The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.</p>	
District/Unitary: Dartford	Parish:
Period(s): N/A.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): NGR 562900 173375 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete)	
Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: April/June 2012	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology: Hythe Beds	
Title and author of accompanying report:	
Wilkinson, P. (2012) <i>Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Vale Road, Northfleet, Kent (SWAT Archaeology)</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)	
As above.	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Dr P. Wilkinson	Date: July 2012

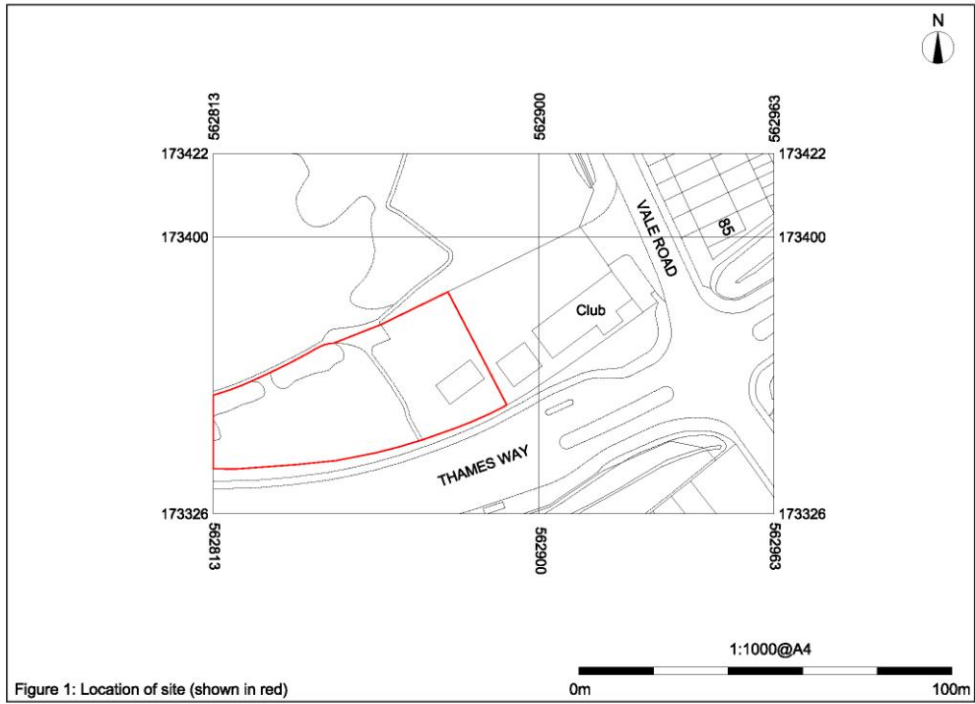


Figure 1. Site Location



Plate 1. Showing site clearance and looking towards Thames Way (facing south)



Plate 2. Cutting of foundation trenches through re-deposited chalk. The natural strata of sand and gravel can be seen below the chalk



Plate 3. Aspect of the site facing north-east with Thames Way on the right