

Archaeological Strip, Map and Record at Land at the rear of 28 Kent Road, Orpington, Kent

Site Code KEN/WB/13
NGR 547047 167404



Report for John Ralph

Date of Report 16/09/2013

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development, eye height 214m.

(GoogleEarth 2010).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 6th-10th June 2013 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Strip, Map and Record on ground works involved in the build of single storey office (class B1) building at land to the rear of 28 Kent Road, Orpington, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from John Ralph of JDR Lift Services Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Strip, Map and Record of the topsoil and subsoil removal under the control of an experienced archaeologist. The area stripped was the footprint of the proposed new building (Plate 2). This part of the archaeological work on site was negative. Subsequently an Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging for new foundations in case of any deeper prehistoric remains (Plates 3-4).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Clearance of site and ground reduction for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Record

Phase 2: Monitoring the excavation of footings for the new building.

1.4. The principle objective of the archaeological Strip, Map and Record following demolition of the buildings down to floor slab was to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site, and to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation. Also to determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if found to be present.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: DC/12/02583/FULL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was there the Archaeological Strip, Map, and Record, and the subsequent Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

Roman remains were expected as there are indications of a Roman building in the vicinity, in addition Mesolithic flakes have been found in the area.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application DC/12/02583/FUL L1 for the demolition of existing workshop and the build of a single storey office (B1) building, at land to the rear of 28 Kent Road, Orpington, Kent was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Mark Stevenson English Heritage Archaeological Advisor (EH GLAAS) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Strip, Map and Record be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (10) was attached to the planning consent:

'No part of the development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority. Access shall be permitted to the at all reasonable times for the carrying out of the investigations, including making necessary records of items of interest and finds'.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

Two archaeologists attended the site and undertook the Archaeological Strip, Map and Record and also monitored the excavation works from 6th-10th June 2013.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the archaeological works was to:

"The principle objective of the archaeological Strip, Map and Record following demolition of the buildings down to floor slab is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site. To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation".

4.2. The proposed ground works were to excavate footings for the build of the new office block, drain and service runs (Plates 3-4).

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 Seaford and/or Newhaven Chalk Formation and Superficial Deposits of Alluvium Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was sand, silt & gravel overlain and mixed with dark sandy, silty subsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of flat ground to the rear of 28 Kent Road, Orpington. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 52m aOD.

5.3. The development site is in an Area of Archaeological Potential, details of which have been sourced by the Greater London HER team at gher@english-heritage.org.uk In the vicinity of the development site at 17 and 23 Lower Road (GLHER ML 0818) Mesolithic flakes, Roman

pottery and building ceramics were retrieved whilst Cray Avenue (GLHER ML 077762) several fragments of Roman tile were retrieved from the modern overburden. At 10 Chelsfield Road (GLHER ML0133) Roman pottery, tile and plaster suggest a Roman building in the vicinity. Five trenches dug at 10-20 Kent Road revealed a substantial Roman ditch and Saxon *Grubenhäuser*.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Archaeological Strip, Map and Record was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, and subsequently the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Archaeological Strip, Map, and Record plus the Watching Brief was carried out in a number of phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 6th-10th June 2013.

6.4. The strip was carried out by the contractor's machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and the subsequent excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavations were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of strip were 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 Strip, Map and Record was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology discussed with the EH GLAAS Archaeological Officer.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site sand, silt and gravel intermixed by a thick band of dark soil with inclusions of

brick fragments and crushed concrete pieces with no archaeological features revealed in the natural geology.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Strip, Map and Record phase, or indeed the subsequent Watching Brief and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of medium potential and the archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Works 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 John Ralph for commissioning the project and Mark Stevenson EH Archaeological Advisor for his advice. Field work was conducted by Peter and Bartek Cichy .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. It is enclosed within a thin, light-colored rectangular border.

Paul Wilkinson, PhD., FRSA., MIFA.

References

HER data (EH GLAAS 2013)

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

Swat Archaeology. Archaeological Watching Brief (2013)

Appendix 1

EH GLAAS HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at land to the rear of 28 Kent Road, Orpington, Kent

SWAT Site Code: KEN/WB/13

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Strip, Map and Record on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the building of a single storey office block (DC/12/02583/FULL1) whereby EH GLAAS requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

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

District/Unitary: London Borough of Bromley

Period(s):

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: June 2013

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

Geology: Underlying geology is sand and gravel.

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2013) Archaeological Strip, Map and Record at Land at the rear of 28 Kent Road, Orpington, 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: 16/09/2013

Plates



Plate 1. General view of site with the Archaeological Strip, Map and Record ongoing (facing north-east)



Plate 2. The site showing ground works (foundation trenches) with natural geology intermixed with subsoil (facing north-west)



Plate 3. Foundation trench section (facing west)



Plate 4. Completed foundation trenches (facing south-west)



28 Kent Road

Orpington BR5 4AD

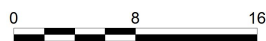
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