

Archaeological Monitoring of Land to the rear of 37-43 High Street, Chatham, Kent

NGR: TR 575371 167993



Planning application MC/13/0007
Report for Chartway Group Ltd

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Monitoring of Land to the rear of 37-43 High Street, Chatham, Kent

Date of report: 08/04/14



Plate 1. Aerial view showing the site prior to development.

(GoogleEarth 7/9/2013, eye alt 117m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 10th December 2013 to 24th March 2014 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new building to provide 33 two bed and 7 one bed flats with parking to ground floor, river walkway access and other associated works at the site of 37-43 High Street, Chatham in Kent (Fig. 1 & Plate 4).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Chartway Group Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine piling and pile cap reduction (Plates 2-4).

The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1: CFA type piling (Plate 2).

Phase 2: Site reduction around pile caps (Plate 3).

Phase 3: Formation of a new sea wall with steel shuttering and backfill (Plate 6).

Phase 4: Services trenches that were to connect to the existing services of the adjacent road were also watched.

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

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is MC/13/0007.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was highlighted in the KCC Specification the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application MC/13/0007 was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Medway Council. KCC Conservation Group on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (12) was attached to the planning consent:

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 in writing 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 that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy BNE21 of the Medway Local Plan 2003.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

Dr Paul Wilkinson MifA monitored the excavation works from 10th December 2013 to 24th March 2014.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were 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 2013)

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

4.3. 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 site is located to the rear of 37-43 High Street, Chatham, Kent and is bounded by the river Medway to the north, Mid-Kent Wharf to the east and by Anchorage House to the west. The site itself comprises hard standing with an open-sided structure on the eastern side of the site used for car parking. The sea wall on the northern boundary is in a state of disrepair. Below lies the intertidal mudflats of the River Medway with boats including a barge are moored close to the site boundary. There is no evidence for timber hulks been used to stabilise the river bank.

5.2 Archaeological Sources (HER search 04/09/13)

There are a number of designated heritage assets in the near vicinity of the proposed development site including at least three listed buildings (TQ 76 NE 437, TQ 76 NE 1222, and TQ 76 NE 439, nearby is the site of Chatham Brewery (TQ 76 NE 366) which was operated by the Best family from 1666 and functioned to 1864 when it closed and subsequently demolished. To the east Chatham Sun Pier (TQ 76 NE 270) first built in 1765, improved in 1864 and subsequently destroyed in a gale in 1885 to be rebuilt in the 20th century. To the west an archaeological investigation (TQ 76 NE 399) revealed the road frontage wall and brick cellar of a probable 18th century building.

There are three listed buildings in the vicinity of the Site. These are an early 18th century building at 35 High Street (TQ 76 NE 437), a listed building No. 4 Hammond Hill dating from c.1600 (TQ 76 NE 1222) and the listed building Reliance House built in 1930 (TQ 76 NE 439).

In addition Sir John Hawkins Hospital dating to 1592, and the 11th century St Bartholomew's Chapel are located to the west of the site along the High Street.

5.3 The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock geology of chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (BSG website 1: 50,000). Site levels are in the region of 4.00mOD.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification, 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 any revealed subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in four phases according to the needs of the building contractors.

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

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

6.6. 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.

6.7. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and the methodology itemised in the Archaeological Watching Brief Specification produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, KCC (July 2013).

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered.

8.0 Finds

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

9.0 Discussion

The Watching Brief phase of works on the site preparation for development started with the piling operation followed by ground reduction around the pile caps. The reduction of the areas around the pile caps was through a demolition zone of hardcore with no subsoil or chalk bedrock revealed. The stabilisation of the river bank was by sheet piling followed by infill with hardcore capped by concrete.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring 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 Chartway Group for commissioning the works.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIfA

References

HER data (KCC 2013)

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

KCC (2013) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief Land to the rear of 37-43 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EN

APPENDIX 1

Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: Land to the rear of 37-43 High Street, Chatham, Kent	
Site Address: See above	
Summary: An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out from 10 th December 2013 to 24 th March 2014 on the above site. No archaeological remains were revealed.	
District/Unitary: Medway	Parish:
Period(s):	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 575371 167993	

Plates



Plate 2. Phase 1, piling



Plate 3. Phase 2. Ground reduction around pile caps (through made-up ground)



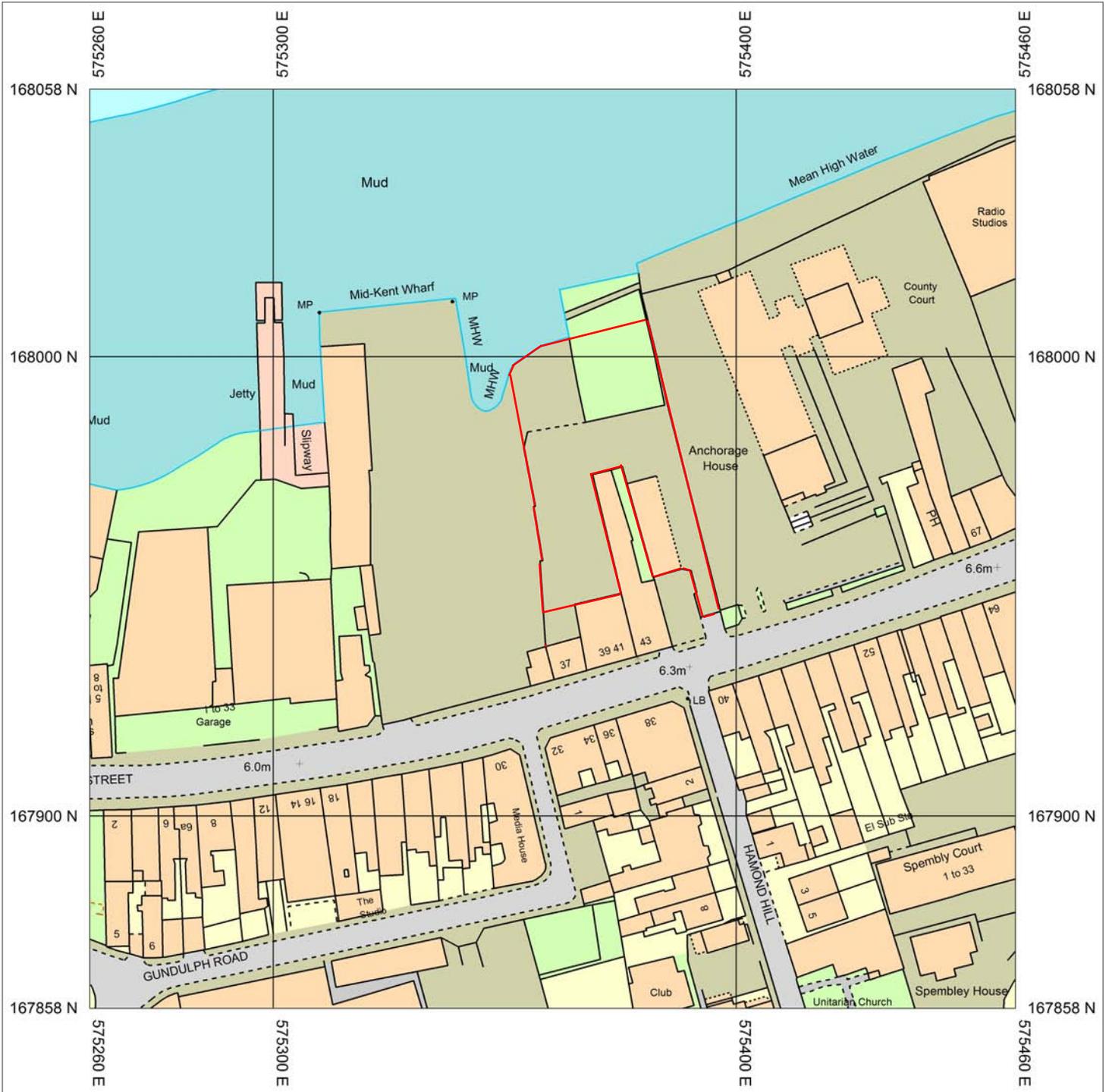
Plate 4. View of site (looking north)



Plate 5. View of river frontage (looking up river to the west)



Plate 6. View of piling along river frontage (looking down river to the east)



37 High Street

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Chatham ME4 4EN



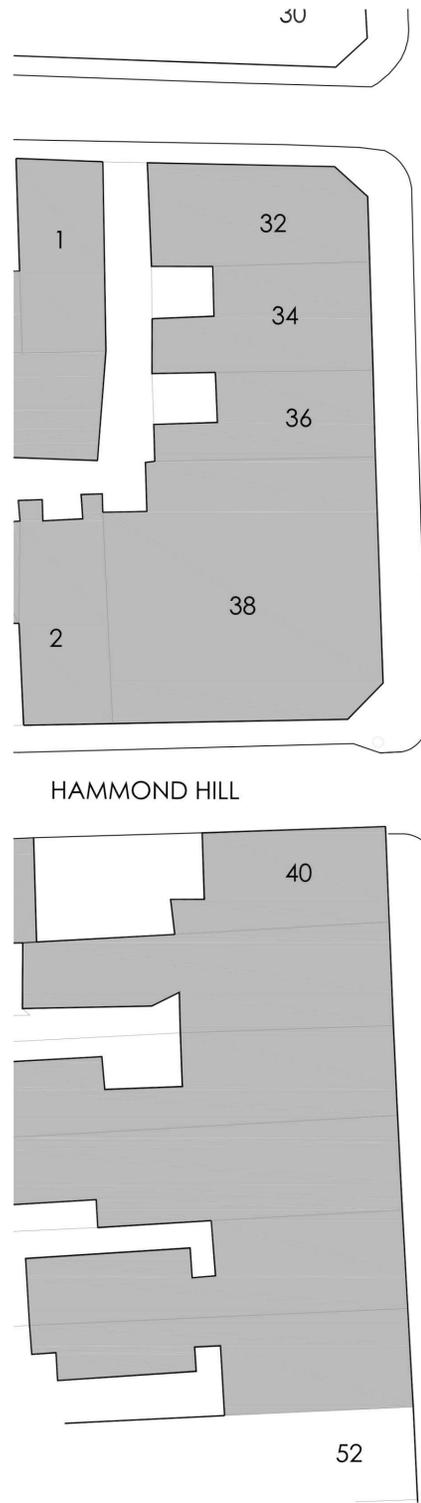
Scale 1:1250

Supplied By: National Map Centre Kent

Serial number: 001154290

Plot Centre Coordinates: 575360, 167958

Figure 1
 OS Licence 100039



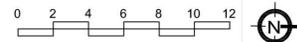
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Trees & Shrubs
- Surface parking spaces (2.4m x 4.8m)
- refuse & recycling bins
- building entrances

Schedule of Accommodation

- 7 no. 1 bed flats @ approx. 50sqm
- 18 no. 2 bed/3 person flats @ 61sqm
- 15 no. 2 bed/4 person flats @ 70sqm

40no. units Total
48 parking spaces total



go planning

Scale : 1:200 @ A1
Date : Dec 2012
Status : Planning
Dwg No : 2012-249-002

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Client : Golding Homes

Project : Proposed Residential Development on Land to Rear of 37-41 High St, Chatham

Drawing : Site Plan

Rev C
Rev B
Rev A

13.02.2013
28.01.2013
09.01.2013

13
C

Rev C Lift over run shown
Rev B Bins Store position amended
Rev A Dry means of escape omitted

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Z:\Projects\2012-249- Chatham Riverside\Planning\DWG\Site Types\Floor Plan A1



	Scale : Not to Scale
	Date : Jan 2013
Go Planning Unit 4, Bolding Hatch Business Centre Bishops Stortford Road Roxwell Chelmsford Essex CM1 4LF T: 01245 230712 E: Planning@goholdings.co.uk	Status :
	Dwg No : 2012-249-050
Client : Golding Homes	
Project : Proposed Residential Development on Land to rear of 37-41 High St, Chatham	
Drawing : Model View - High Street	
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