

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Bourne Park House, Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne, Kent

NGR: TR 1815 5320



Planning application MA/13/0941  
Report for Strutt & Parker LLP

## **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  
info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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Figure 1. Site plan and site of proposed Ha-ha's

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Bourne Park House, Bishopsbourne, Kent

Date of report: 21/04/15



**Plate 1. Aerial view showing the sites prior to development.**

**(GoogleEarth 7/9/2013, eye alt 417m).**

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. From 12<sup>th</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of two Ha-ha's. Ha-ha 'A' was situated on the south west side of the main house and Ha-ha 'B' located on the north east side of Bourne House (Fig. 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Strutt & Parker LLP.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of the ditches (Plate 2).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Topsoil strip (Plate 1).

Phase 2: Ditch digging and profiling (Plates 3-6).

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 CA/14/01726/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was highlighted in the SWAT Archaeology 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 CA/14/01726/FUL was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Canterbury City Council who requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (4) was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has made arrangements for the implementation of an archaeological watching and recording brief, to be carried out during construction, in accordance with a written programme and scheme of work has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: to ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.*

## **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA from SWAT Archaeology monitored the excavation works on 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## 4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

**2.3** The principle objective of the archaeological watching brief is to establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site.

**2.4** To determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource if present.

**2.5** The opportunity will also be taken during the course of the watching brief to place and assess any archaeology revealed within the context of other recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area and within the setting of the local landscape and **topography** (SWAT WSI 2015)

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 An archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd prior to the planning application and the development site is located in an area of known archaeological potential.

The Roman road connecting Canterbury and Dover to London passes to the east of the house.

Between the road and the house there is a scheduled Anglo-Saxon cemetery and further down slope and nearer the house a unique hexagonal feature was excavated by Dr Paul Wilkinson in 2006 and shown to be Roman but which also became the focus of rich Anglo-Saxon burials of which nine out of 108 were excavated (Wilkinson 2008: [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk) reports). Closer to the main house recent geophysical survey and analysis by Cambridge University has indicated a potentially important archaeological landscape that includes

Roman buildings and this report can be accessed at:

[www.arch.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/canterburyhinterland/chp-images/bpk 12-report-jan-2013 -smaller.pdf](http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/canterburyhinterland/chp-images/bpk%2012-report-jan-2013-smaller.pdf)

5.2 The British Geological Survey (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home>) shows the site as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation with Superficial Deposits of Head Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. The geology revealed on site (Plates 2-6) was a medium to dark brown sandy silty clay.

### 5.3 Archaeological Data

Several barrows have been found in the surrounding area dating to the prehistoric period. There are two adjacent ring ditches within the park, alongside other earthworks and linear features. An Iron Age silver coin (TR 15 SE 331) was found on the site. Four other Iron Age coins have been found in the surrounding area.

Several cremation burials of Romano-British date were discovered in 1846, during the excavation of the artificial pond north east of the cricket pitch. A variety of Roman artefacts were recovered from the surrounding area by metal detecting, and full details of these and the large number features including buildings and enclosures dating to this period found in a geophysics survey are described fully in (Wallace *et. al.*2012).

An early Medieval barrow cemetery was found in 1771 on Hanging Hill within the Park near to the Roman road. Three mounds were excavated in the mid-19th century.

Another probable Saxon barrow is located on the eastern side of the A2 and nine Saxon barrows containing ten chalk-cut graves were excavated in 1771 on the western side of the Canterbury-Dover road. Another Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated c. 1973–4 lies to the south, east of Bishopsbourne village. A full list of the artefacts of this date recovered can be found in (Wallace *et. al.*2012).

In the Domesday Book, Bishopsbourne is listed as 'Burnes', a manor held directly (in demense) by the Archbishop of Canterbury Christ Church. It had 64 villeins and 53 bordars with 30.5 ploughs as well as a church and two mills. The manor rendered L20 in geld (tax) in 1066 and L30 in 1086. The royal estate at Faversham was of comparable size and Eastry (for which Bishopsbourne was exchanged in 811) was actually smaller in 1086. Only Dartford,

Aylesford, and Milton Regis (held directly by William the Conqueror) were significantly larger in 1086. Bishopsbourne was, therefore, one of the most important non-royal rural estates of the early Medieval period in Kent. The 13th-century church of St. Mary the Virgin lies c. 500 m southeast of the 'villa' buildings and an earlier building (i.e. one standing in 1086) is that mentioned in the Domesday Book. The village has long been dominated by the manor of Bourne Park.

Bourne Park House is a Grade I listed building, originally called Bourne Place. The present building was built by Sir Anthony and Dame Elizabeth Aucher in 1701 on the site of an older building of which the original owners were the Bourne family. The entrance front has 13 windows and six dormers. The central portion of five windows projects slightly with a pediment over containing Venetian attic window. Windows with stone keystones and hung sashes with glazing bars. Stone stringcourse and rusticated quoins to each of the three sections. The wings have three dormers each with pediments, the centre of each group of three having a segmental pediment, the outer ones triangular.

Central doorway with fluted Ionic pilasters, curved pediment containing a cartouche and door of eight fielded panels at the head of eight steps edged by a stone wall which is continued in brick in front of the basement forecourt interspersed with stone piers.

The west or garden front is similar without the basement forecourt or the central doorway and has only five dormers, all with triangular pediments. The north and south fronts have four windows each, the north front having a small porch. The interior was altered in 1848, but contains a good C18 staircase, panelling and ceilings.

Bourne House can be seen on the first edition 1875 OS map, as can Bridge. Both Bourne House and Bridge can be seen on the 1908 edition OS map, and Bishopsbourne is also visible by this time. Continued growth can be seen in Bridge by the 1975 edition OS map, However Bourne Park remains largely unchanged (Butler & Klemenic 2014).

## **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 two phases according to the needs of the building contractors.

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

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 SWAT Archaeology (2015).

## **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 included watching the strip of the turf and topsoil then the digging of the Ha-ha ditches and profiling (Plates 2-6).



## **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 Strutt & Parker LLP for commissioning the works.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, MCIfA

## **References**

Butler C. (2014) A Geophysical Survey of Bourne Park, Bridge, Kent

HER data (KCC 2014)

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

SWAT (2015) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief

## APPENDIX 1

## Canterbury City Council HER summary form

<b>Site Name:</b> Land at Bourne Park House, Bishopsbourne, Kent	
<b>Site Address:</b> See above	
<b>Summary:</b> An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out in March 2015 on the above site. No archaeological remains were revealed.	
<b>District/Unitary:</b> Canterbury	<b>Parish:</b> Bishopsbourne
<b>Period(s):</b>	
<b>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</b> TR 1815 5320 <b>(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)</b>	
<b>Type of archaeological work (delete)</b> Watching Brief	
<b>Date of Recording:</b> 24/03/14- 19/05/14	
<b>Unit undertaking recording:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Geology:</b> Sandy silty soil	
<b>Title and author of accompanying report:</b> Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Bourne Park House, Bishopsbourne, Kent. P. Wilkinson	
<b>Location of archive/finds:</b> SWAT Archaeology	
<b>Contact at Unit:</b> P Wilkinson	<b>Date:</b> 21/04/2015

## Plates



Plate 2. Phase 1, view of the site during topsoil strip and (Plate 3) subsoil strip





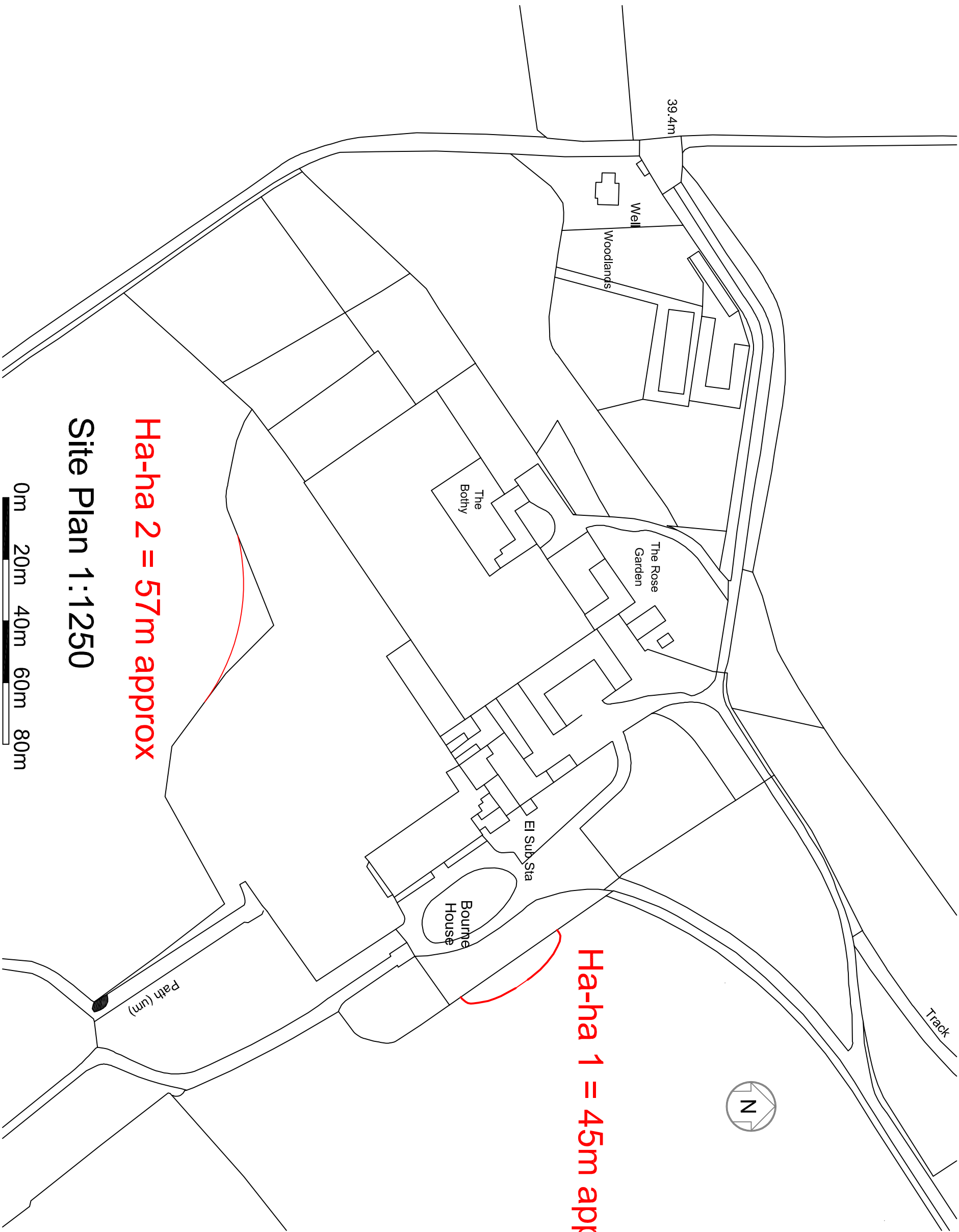
**Plate 4. Phase 2, Digging Ha-ha 2 before profiling (Looking west )**



**Plate 5. View of site showing reduced levels (Ha-ha 2)**



**Plate 6. Reduction of Ha-ha 2 (looking south west)**



**Ha-ha 2 = 57m approx**

**Site Plan 1:1250**

0m 20m 40m 60m 80m



Proposed Ha-ha,s  
 Bourne Park  
 Bridge  
 Canterbury  
 CT4 5BJ  
 Kent

DWG No. 2004 P01  
 REV A 25.07.14