

Archaeological Monitoring of Land to the rear of 22 The Street, Appledore, Kent



Report for Trevor May Contractors Ltd
Date of report 30/09/2015

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Monitoring of Land to the rear of 22 The Street, Appledore, Kent

Site Code APPLE/WB/14

Date of report: 30/09/2015



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 618m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 22nd July to 24th July 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new tennis court on land to the rear of 22 The Street, Appledore in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Trevor May Contractors Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging and levelling (Plates 2-4). The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.
Phase 1: Topsoil strip.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence from the important medieval market town of Appledore.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 14/00793/AS.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was apparent the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features, however sherds of pottery dating from c.75AD and 1350/1600AD were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application 14/00793/AS was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the LPA 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:

AR1 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 22nd to 24th July 2015.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

“The objectives of the archaeological investigation are to observe, excavate and record archaeological remains revealed by the ground works, to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area and ensure suitable specialist observation close to sensitive archaeological site” (KCC 2015).

4.2. The ground works were to strip and landscape the topsoil, and build a tennis court with changing rooms (Plates 2-4).

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 Superficial Geology of Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was silty sand topped by dark brown humic topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to The Street, the main road through Appledore. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 13m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important Neolithic, Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval activity. A late Neolithic hand axe (TQ 93 SW 13), a Roman coin (TQ 92 NE 3), an Anglo Saxon coin hoard (TQ 93 SE 17) and Medieval pottery finds (TQ 93 SE 17) have all been found in the vicinity of the site.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC 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 one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 22nd to 24th July 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the topsoil and some of the subsoil (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA).

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation 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 watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and the 2015 KCC WSI.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was sandy silt overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil are pottery from c75AD (See Appendix 2).

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase but pottery finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

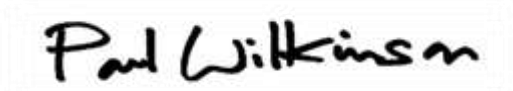
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. The archaeologist on site noted no archaeological features but numerous sherds in the topsoil of pottery dating from c.75AD.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological 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 Trevor May for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

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.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), FRSA., MIfA.

References

British Archaeological Site Data

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

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

Google Earth 2015

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land to the rear of 22 The Street, Appledore, Kent

SWAT Site Code: APPLE/WB/15

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 a new tennis court 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 site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features but Roman and Medieval pottery was retrieved.

District/Unitary: Ashford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures)

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: July 2015

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Land to the rear of 22 The Street, Appledore, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

Roman pottery sherds c.75AD, Medieval pottery sherds 1350-1600AD

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 30/9/2015

Appendix 2

Pottery Assessment

A total of 13 pottery sherds and one fragment of roof-tile, weighing 183gms, were recovered during this watching-brief. The sherds are fairly small r, mostly moderate-sized. The earliest, Roman, elements are heavily abraded and bifacially worn, the Medieval material variably fairly to only moderately worn, the Late Medieval elements slightly worn or near-fresh. Nothing earlier than approximately **c.75 AD** was recovered and, apart from

the worn C17 AD Post-Medieval tile fragment, nothing later than **c.1550/1600 AD**. Apart from the Roman elements and a single earlier C13 AD Medieval sherd, virtually all the recovered material is of Late Medieval to early Post-Medieval date, beginning no earlier than **c.1350/1375 AD**. There is nothing particularly remarkable about this cluster of sherds – the Roman and Medieval elements are from domestic kitchen coarse ware vessels, the later material a mixed assortment of kitchen and glazed tableware fragments. The range of wares appears to be predominantly from the general eastern Wealden area – a still under-studied zone - with a few allocated to more specific sources. There is one heavily worn base sherd from a grey ware vessel that *may* be of late Early Medieval North French-Flemish origin but it would need direct comparison to be given confident allocation.

List of wares identified

- 2** Early Roman grog-tempered sandy native coarseware, broadly LC1-MC2 AD
- 1 ??** Early Medieval North French/Flemish grey reduced fine sandy ware (brown core)
- 1** Medieval Ashford Potters Corner-type sandy ware c.1200-1250 AD
- 1** Late Medieval Wealden-type orange-buff sandy ware c.1350-1450 AD
- 1 ?** Rye reduced sandy ware c.1350-1450 AD
- 1** Late Medieval Wealden-type buff sandy ware with iron oxide inclusions, c.1350-1450 AD *probably*
- 1** Late Medieval buff sandy ware c.1450-1500 AD
- 1** Late Medieval Wealden-type buff-range sandy ware with iron oxide, c.1450-1550 AD *probably*
- 2** Late Medieval Wealden-type buff partially sandy c.1475-1550 AD
- 1** Late Medieval Wealden-type hard-fired orange-buff sandy ware with reduced 'streaking', cf. Spilstead, c.1475-1550 AD

- 1** Post-Medieval ? Wealden/Hareplain partially reduced hard-fired sandy ware, c.1525-1550/1600 AD probable emphasis
- 1** roof-tile fragment – broadly LC16-C17 AD

Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site, facing south-west



Plate 3. General view of site strip, facing east

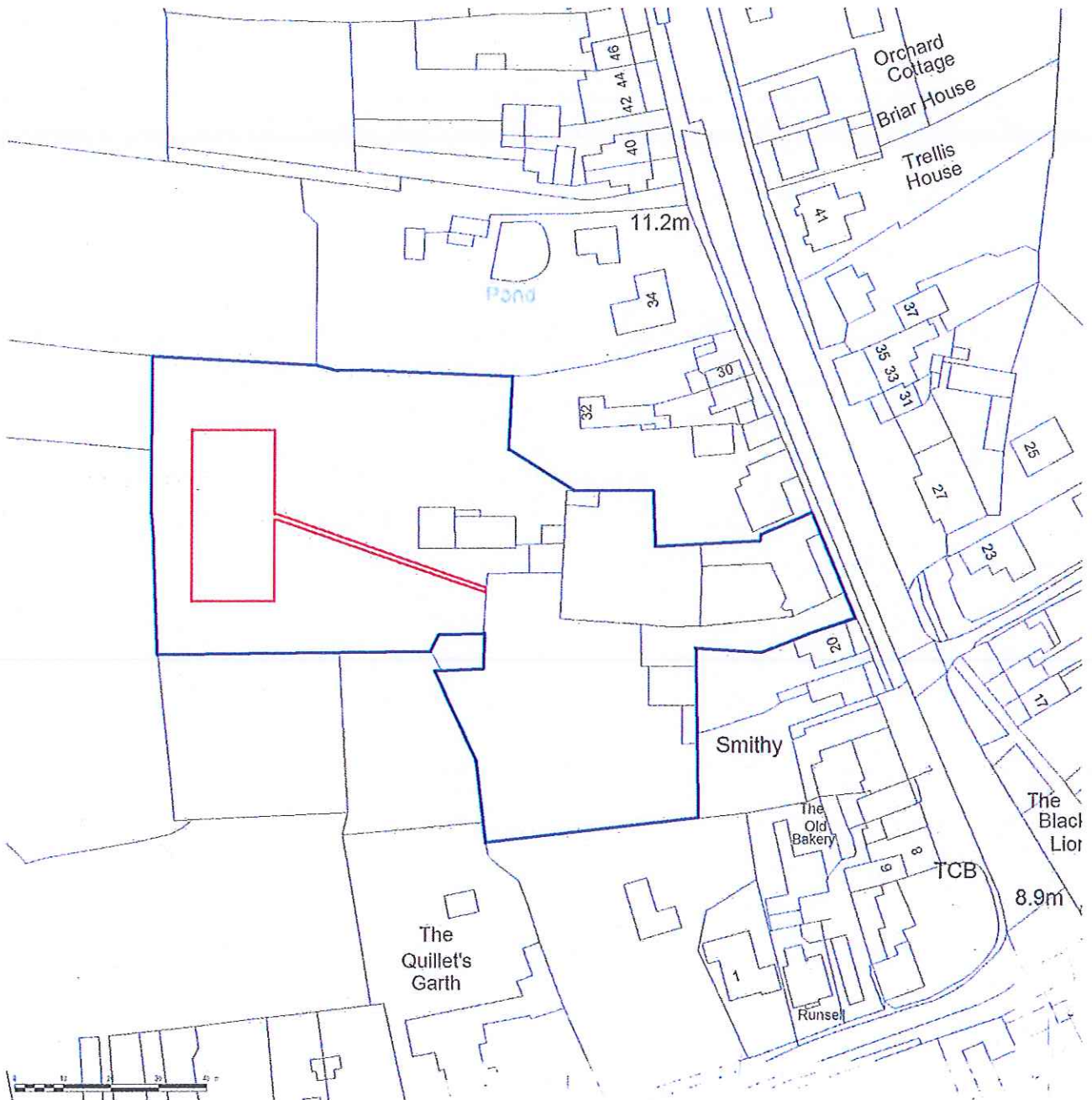


Plate 4. General view of site strip, facing south-east



Plate 5. Completed site strip, facing south-east

The Forstal – Tennis Court Site Location



Area in red is the extent of the development and the area of Archaeological Watching Brief

SCALE 1:1250

