

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjoining 15 Woodstock Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent

Site Code WOOD/WB/16



Report for Roadhouse BCE Ltd  
Date of report 28/06/2016

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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

(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 490m).

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the demolition of a single storey side element to existing dwelling and construction of a detached dwelling (Figures 1, 2 & Plates 2-7).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Roadhouse BCE Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the excavation of the foundations (Plates 2-8).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of possible Roman, early medieval and medieval remains.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is MC/15/1528.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC, 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/15/1528 was submitted to Medway Council 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 (4) 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 archaeological work 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 archaeological work shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: Required before commencement of development to avoid any irreversible detrimental impact on potential archaeological interest and to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly recorded.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

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

*“(3.1) The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to the heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works “(KCC 2016).*

The KCC WSI goes on to mention that the ‘*project will specifically aim to examine and record any remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century slipway and boatyard that may be exposed as well as examining any earlier remains that may be affected by the proposed development groundworks*’. A thorough search was undertaken to identify the slipway and boatyard but no remains were found and the puzzled on-site SWAT team concluded that as the site is now some 645m from the River Medway and at an OD height of 28m it is unlikely to the location of a boatyard.

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundations of a new detached house and connect to the existing services (Plates 2-7).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place. The potential impact of the development on the potential archaeological resource was the excavation of trenches for the foundations of the proposed dwelling. The impact on any buried archaeological remains would be severe and a close watch by an experienced archaeologist was required to ensure no archaeological remains were damaged by the mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches.

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 website is Bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation. The superficial Deposits are Head-Clay & Silt Deposits formed 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Formed by material accumulated by downslope movement including landslide, debris flow, soil creep and hill wash. The geology revealed on

site was chalk capped by clay about 70cm thick and overlaid with topsoil about 50cm thick (Plate 0). (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.location=ME22DL>).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to 15 Woodstock Road on the eastern side of Woodstock Road and bounded to the north and south by residential properties. The average OD of the site is 28m and is upslope from the River Medway which is about 645m distance (Plate 1). The site has been truncated by earlier garden activity and the demolished outbuilding did not impact on the subsoil of the site having a three course foundation only,

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with possible Roman and early medieval and medieval remains. Two Jutish graves have been found in the vicinity of the development site, one on Strood Hill and another found in Woodstock Road in 1919. To the south ritual pits and associated finds were found (TQ 76 NW 116) and a Bronze Age socketed axe (TQ 76 NW 4). To the south-east in Church Road, a Romano-British cremation cemetery and early medieval burials (TQ 76 NW 30). To the east Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Temple Estate and to the north-east Romano-British pits (TQ 76 NW 24) and Romano-British burials (TQ 76 NW 23). To the north-west lime kilns and quarry (TQ 76 NW 289). There have been no previous phases of archaeological investigation on site and no constraints on the archaeological monitoring.

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC (2016) and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground investigation 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 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The area watched was about 19m by 15m and the geology revealed on site was chalk capped by clay about 70cm thick and overlaid with topsoil about 50cm thick with a ground level height of 28m OD.

6.4. Excavations were carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a bucket necessary to remove the soil for the site investigations (Plates 4-7).

6.5. All excavations were 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, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology contained within the KCC WSI.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was chalk overlaid by clay topped by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the deposits and no archaeological finds retrieved. The site archive comprising correspondence, WSI and report, site drawings and digital photographs will be retained on file at SWAT Archaeology.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site and no archaeology was damaged by the current development.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological Specification (2016). 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 Roadhouse BCE Ltd 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.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

## References

HER data (KCC 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

## Appendix 1

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Development of land adjoining 15 Woodstock Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** WOOD/WB/16

**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 detached dwelling 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 or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Medway Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 605922 124809

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** May 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Chalk capped by Clay

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjoining 15 Woodstock Road, Strood, Rochester, 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:** 26/06/2016



## Plates



Plate 2. General view of site (looking north-west)



Plate 3. Marking out trench locations (looking north-east)



Plate 4. Excavation of foundation trenches (looking south)



Plate 5. Excavation of foundation trenches (looking north)



Plate 6. Excavation of foundation trenches (looking west)



Plate 7. Excavation of foundation trenches (looking north-east)

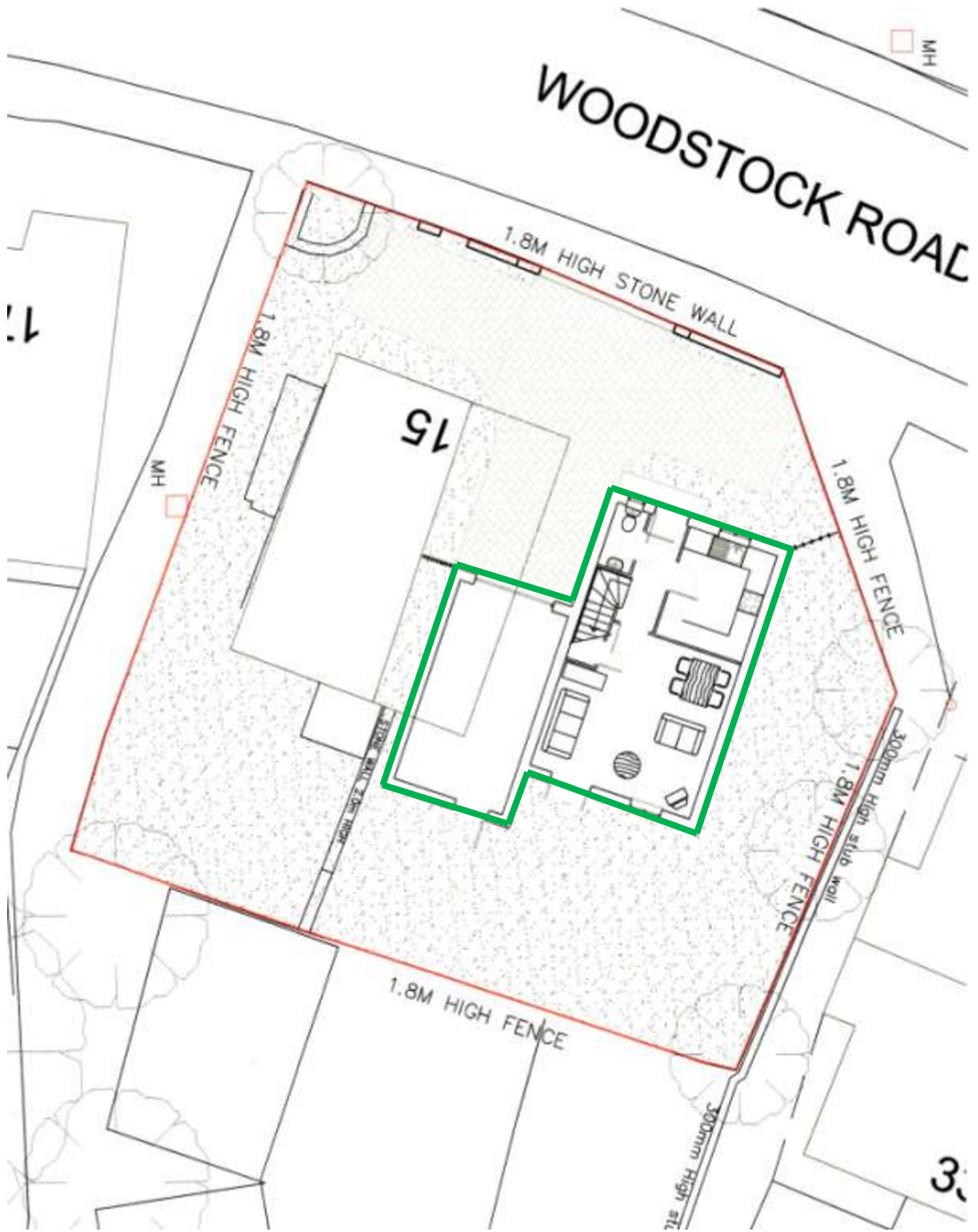
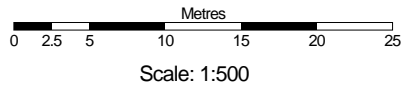


Figure 1. Proposed development and area watched (green area)

Figure 2.  
Site location



15 Woodstock Road

Strood  
ME2 2DL

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 27/06/2016  
Serial number: 1697827

Plot centre co-ordinates: 573023,169173  
Download file: swat2.zip  
Project name: woodstock