

Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Laslett's Yard, Marshborough Road, Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, Kent

Site Code WOOD/WB/15



Report for Murston Construction Ltd

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Plate 1. Aerial view of site showing the site prior to development. Note concrete hard standing and buildings on the south-east area of the PDA

(Google Earth 07/09/2013: Eye altitude 175m).

**Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Laslett's Yard, Marshborough Road,
Woodnesborough, Kent CT13 0PE
NGR Site Centre: 630633 156928
Site Code: Wood/WB/15**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) at Laslett's Yard, Marshborough Road, Woodnesborough, Kent (**Figure 1**). The works were undertaken in response to recommendations from Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council following an archaeological evaluation undertaken in March 2015 and a subsequent excavation carried out between May and July 2015 (**Figure 2**). Following this a watching brief was maintained during proposed groundworks, which involved the excavation of house foundations, between June 2015 and July 2015.
- 1.2 The site is approximately centred at NGR 630633 156928, and is located at the junction of Marshborough Road and Beacon Lane, on the outskirts of Woodnesborough, Kent (see **Figures 1 and 2**).
- 1.3 SWAT Archaeology was commissioned by Murston Construction Ltd to undertake the programme of archaeological investigation in advance and during the development of the site. Planning consent (DOV/14/00037) was granted for redevelopment of the site into twelve dwellings, with accompanying parking and access arrangements. Condition 11 required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (see Section 3 below).
- 1.4 The first phase of fieldwork, an archaeological evaluation, was completed in May 2015 (SWAT 2015), and comprised five trenches excavated in accordance with a specification prepared by Kent County Council (KCC April 2014). The evaluation trenches exposed a series of cut features including ditches, pits, post and stake holes which produced pottery dated to the later Anglo-Saxon period. Residual finds included Roman period pottery and struck flints dating broadly between the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Features were concentrated in the northeast of the site, in the area adjacent to Marshborough Road.
- 1.5 Following this, an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by Heritage Conservation, Kent County

Council (KCC 2015). Fieldwork commenced in May 2015 and was completed on 31st July 2015. An area measuring approximately 600m², centred on evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 (Plots 6-8 inclusive) was stripped of topsoil and subsoil, exposing archaeological features cutting into the natural geology at a depth of between 0.4m to 0.65 below the existing ground level (**Figure 2**). Recorded remains included a series of quarry pits, elements of a field system and associated agricultural pits of probable mid-late Anglo-Saxon date. Residual finds of prehistoric and Roman origin indicate activity of these periods in the wider area. An assessment report for the excavation works has been prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017) and submitted to the local planning authority and KCC.

2. Site Description and Topography

- 2.1 The site is centred on NGR 630633 156928, located on the outskirts of the village of Woodnesborough, c. 2miles southwest of Sandwich, at the junction of Marshborough Road and Beacon Road. The development site is broadly triangular in shape and is bounded to the northeast by Marshborough Road and to the south by Beacon Road. To the northwest the site is bounded by residential properties and their gardens fronting Marshborough Road. The southeast half of the development site was occupied by agricultural storage buildings and hard-surfacing, while the northwest half in which the excavation area was open field.
- 2.2 The site lies on roughly level ground at a height of 30m AOD. At the time of fieldwork, the site consisted of a grassed plot formerly used for growing vegetables.
- 2.3 The previously carried out excavation (SWAT Archaeology 2017) measured approximately 600m² in area, exposing natural geology at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.65m below the existing ground surface. The natural geology consisted of a compact yellow-brown sand with flint pebbles, identified by the British Geological Survey as Lambeth Sands. Although the British Geological Survey does not record superficial geology in this area, brick-earth deposits were observed overlying Lambeth Sands. Natural geological horizons were identified at a height of 29.18m to 29.71m AOD.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning Consent for redevelopment of the site was granted by Dover District Council on 10th December 2014. Consent was granted for residential development,

including the construction of thirteen dwellings and associated parking and access arrangements.

- 3.2 On the advice of the Principal Archaeological Officer, Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work was attached to consent:

Condition 11: (Condition 11) 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 scheme of investigation and timetable which has first 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.

- 3.3 In response to Condition 11, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written specification prepared by Kent County Council (Heritage Conservation) (April 2014). The evaluation commenced on 28th March 2015, and consisted of the excavation of five trenches which recorded evidence of mid-late Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of a series of cut pits and linear features concentrated in the northeast of site closest to Marshborough Road. In contrast, the southwest of the site, furthest from the road, was sparsely populated with the occasional undated cut ditch. Residual finds of Roman and prehistoric origin were also recovered. A report detailing the results of the evaluation was submitted to and approved by Kent County Council (Heritage Conservation) (SWAT Archaeology 2015).

- 3.4 Following completion of the evaluation, a further phase of archaeological work was recommended by Kent County Council (Heritage Conservation) to mitigate the impact of development on surviving archaeological remains. A programme of open area, strip/map/sample excavation was recommended, and a specification prepared by Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council (Heritage Conservation) dated May 2015 (KCC 2015). The specification made provision for open-area excavation of an area adjacent to the site's northeast boundary, as detailed in a separate report (SWAT Archaeology 2017), and a watching brief on the remaining area (KCC 2015: 7.7). This report details the results of the watching brief.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Woodnesborough Village lies on the junction of three Roman roads; part of Margary's route 10, connecting Richborough Fort (*Rutupiae*) with Canterbury has been identified as a crop mark c. 860m northwest of the study site, to the north of Marshborough Village (HER TR 25 NE 13). This section is part of a south-easterly fork from the main route, diverging at Ash and continuing to Woodnesborough to meet another route roughly in the area of Woodnesborough Church. Margary places this section of road west of the development site, passing through Coombe and Beacon Hill. At the church, Margary's route 100 follows the alignment of Foxborough Hill heading south to the high ground above Dover. A further section of road, Margary's route 101, branches north-east towards Sandwich, surviving as footpaths to the south of The Street and Sandwich Road (Margary 1955: 32-33).
- 4.2 Woodnesborough village is established at the junction of these important routes, and evidence of Roman and later activity established in proximity to the roads is likely. The site of a probable early-Saxon burial mound is recorded just to the north of Woodnesborough Church (HER TR35NW38). The burial mound survived as an earthwork in the eighteenth century and was described by Hasted (1799: Vol.4). Fifth to sixth century pottery, glass vessels, and a brooch were purportedly recovered from the site, which may be the burial excavated by WW Boreham in 1845.
- 4.3 A watching brief undertaken by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit (KARU) in 2001-2 at Foxborough Close (c. 350 south of Laslett's Yard) recorded a probable Anglo-Saxon pit, from which fifth to seventh century pottery and fragments of quern stone were recovered (HER TR35NW246).
- 4.4 Evaluation at Church Farm in 1995 recorded a probable medieval field boundary. The medieval moated site of Grove Manor Farm lies c. 650m east of Laslett's Yard. This Scheduled site (NHLE Ref: 1013347; HER TR35NW42) consists of a square, water filled moat and the site of the medieval manor house which dates from the reign of Edward II (1284-1387). A second possible medieval moated site is located northeast of Laslett's Yard at Parsonage Farm (HER TR35NW877).
- 4.5 Approximately 1km west of Laslett's Yard in fields to the north of Ringlemere Farm, a number of sites and finds have been recorded. A series of undated ring-ditches (HER TR25NE237) were identified from satellite imagery. The Ringlemere Cup, a gold vessel recovered by a metal detectorist in 2001 and dated to the Bronze Age (1800-

1600BC) marked the site of a burial mound. Excavations by Canterbury Archaeological Trust since 2002 have recorded a multi-period site including a Neolithic henge-monument, Bronze Age barrow cemetery, early Roman field system, and fifth-seventh century Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints were also recovered, providing evidence for very early activity in the Ringlemere area (CAT 2008).

- 4.6 Taken together, the sites and finds recorded in the Woodnesborough area provide a rich evidence base for activity, funerary practices and settlement dating from the Palaeolithic period through to the medieval. Woodnesborough and Ringlemere occupy a topographically significant position on a promontory overlooking the straits of Dover, and it is therefore unsurprising that it acted as a focus for activity during the prehistoric and later periods.

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The specific aims and objectives of the archaeological work were set out in Section 6 of the KCC Specification (May 2015):

- Establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed following the stripping of the site;
- Provide a refined chronology of the archaeological phasing;
- Investigate the function of remains and the activities taking place within and close to the site.
- To clarify the character and extent of the archaeological remains identified during the earlier evaluation;
- To understand the character, form, function and date of any archaeological activities present on the site;
- To include analysis of the spatial organisation of such activities on the site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;
- To consider the site's geology and topography in terms of the activity encountered;
- To understand the nature of any Prehistoric occupation at the site;
- To understand the nature of any Romano-British occupation of the site and to relate this to other Romano-British occupation in the Woodnesborough area;
- To understand the nature of Anglo-Saxon activity and relate this to past findings in the area

- To place any remains exposed in their wider setting and contribute to our understanding of the history of Dover District;
- To contributing to the environmental and landscape history of the area; and
- To contribute to the objectives of the South East Regional Research Framework.

5.2 In addition to the above, the purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by KCC (2010) was 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.

(2010: 3.1).

5.3 The objectives of the monitoring were therefore to:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

5.4 The specific archaeological requirements of the watching brief are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works;
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that additional archaeological remains are encountered;
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

6. Methodology

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

6.2 The archaeological work and the preparation of this report were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (KCC 2015), with a generic Part B Specification for Watching Brief (KCC 2010) and in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).

- 6.3 Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the soil and cut the foundation trenches (**Plates 2-12**).
- 6.4 All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (See **Table 1**, below).
- 6.5 Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section. 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.

7. Timetable

- 7.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 1 and Plot 2	29/06/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 3, Plot 4 and Plot 5	30/06/2015 02/07/2015 03/07/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 6 and Plot 7	01/07/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 8	08/07/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 9	07/07/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 10	09/07/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA
Archaeological monitoring during excavation of foundation trenches for Plot 11 and Plot 12	10/07/2015 14/07/2015	Dr Paul Wilkinson ClfA

Table 1 Schedule of Attendance

- 7.2 Due to last minute changes within the timetable the access road was not monitored.

8. Results

- 8.1 The foundation design comprised deep concrete filled strip foundations excavated to a depth of approximately 1m below the existing ground level, with a width of 0.75m. a selection of photographs illustrating the excavated trenches and the conditions on site are provided on **Plates 2-12**.
- 8.2 The monitoring and recording revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil overlying silty subsoil and geological natural across the site, confirming what had

been recoded within previous phases of archaeological fieldwork. Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches the topsoil, which measured between 0.26m and 0.31m in depth was removed from the plot footprint (**Plates 1–3**)

- 8.3 Within the western extent of the site the subsoil measured approximately 0.25m in depth (**Plate 6** and **Plate 7**) while in the eastern extent the subsoil measured up to 0.35m in depth (**Plates 9 & 10**, Plot 5 and **Plate 11**, Plot 2). No archaeological features were present. Variations to this occurred within Plot 6, Plot 7 and Plot 8 (**Plates 4 & 5**) where previously recorded archaeological features (SWAT Archaeology 2017) had been investigated and recorded.
- 8.4 No archaeological finds or features were present within the remaining plots.

9. Discussion

- 9.1 A common stratigraphic sequence was confirmed across the site with topsoil directly overlying subsoil and natural sands. However, despite the potential for archaeological remains the watching brief identified no additional deposits within the western and southern extents of the proposed development.
- 9.2 The presence of potential features within the western area of the site, thought to be modern, was not confirmed during this stage of works. Of note is that the features identified in the archaeological evaluation phase are missed by the house foundations which the exception of the south-east area of **Trench 4** where a metal water pipe overlaid a possible linear [404] which was not excavated. Attention was directed to this area during the cutting of foundations but no metal pipe was exposed during the watching brief phase of work in this area. It is possible that it was removed during the initial stripping of the topsoil, although on the whole subsoil remained intact within the majority footprint of each individual plot and only exposing a full soils profile within the actual foundation trenches themselves.
- 9.3 **Trench 3** contained the continuation of the water pipe recorded in **Trench 4**, also cutting a potential archaeological feature. However, the absence of this feature within the foundation trenches would suggest that it is more isolated rather than linear (i.e. a pit rather than a ditch) or that the underlying feature recorded during the evaluation was either truncation caused during the laying of the waterpipe or the effect of leaching within a backfilled service trench. The smaller window associated with evaluation trenches provides the 'potential' for features as well as defining actual archaeological features. In this case, however, it is felt that shallow modern features recorded cutting into the subsoil and natural geology are more likely to represent modern intrusions, i.e. waterpipes, along with natural undulations rather than defined archaeological features. This is also likely to be the case within **Trench 5** where at its deepest the potential feature measured 0.2m – this area of the site was not monitored and not within an area of deep foundation trenches.
- 9.4 Archaeological monitoring during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with Plot 6, Plot 7 and Plot 8 (**Plates 2-4**) produced no additional archaeological remains. Archaeological features within this area are detailed within a separate report (SWAT Archaeology 2017).

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No additional buried archaeological remains have been recorded during this phase of the works.

11. Acknowledgments

- 11.1 SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Murston Construction Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological work. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason at Kent County Council. The project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, SWAT Archaeology.

12. Archive

- 12.1 The project archive which includes plans, photographs and written records are currently held at SWAT offices under the Site code WOOD/WB/15.
- 12.2 The physical archive for this phase of works comprises the following;
- 1 file/document case of paper records and A4 graphics.
 - 12 digital images.
 - 1 CD containing digital archive.
 - Correspondence.
 - Finds: 0 box (as per KCC guidance).
 - Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register (x) and Context Sheets (3)

13. References

Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 2008. *Canterbury's Archaeology 2007-2008*. Excavations at Ringlemere, Woodnesborough (pp 25-7).

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Margary, I. 1955. *Roman Roads in Britain*. London.

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SWAT Archaeology. 2017. *Post-Excavation Assessment Report on the Archaeological Excavation at Laslett's Yard, Marshborough Road, Woodnesborough, Kent CT13 OPE*

Appendix 1 Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Lasletts Yard, Marshborough Road, Woodenborough, Kent

SWAT Site Code: WOOD/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 new dwellings 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: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 630633 156928

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: June to September 2015

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Lambeth Group Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015 update 2017)

Archaeological Monitoring of

Land at Lasletts Yard, Marshborough Road, Woodnesborough, 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: 28/06/2017

Plates



Plate 2. Cutting foundations Plot 7



Plate 3. Marking out Plot 8



Plate 4. Cutting foundations Plot 8



Plate 5. Cutting foundations Plot 6

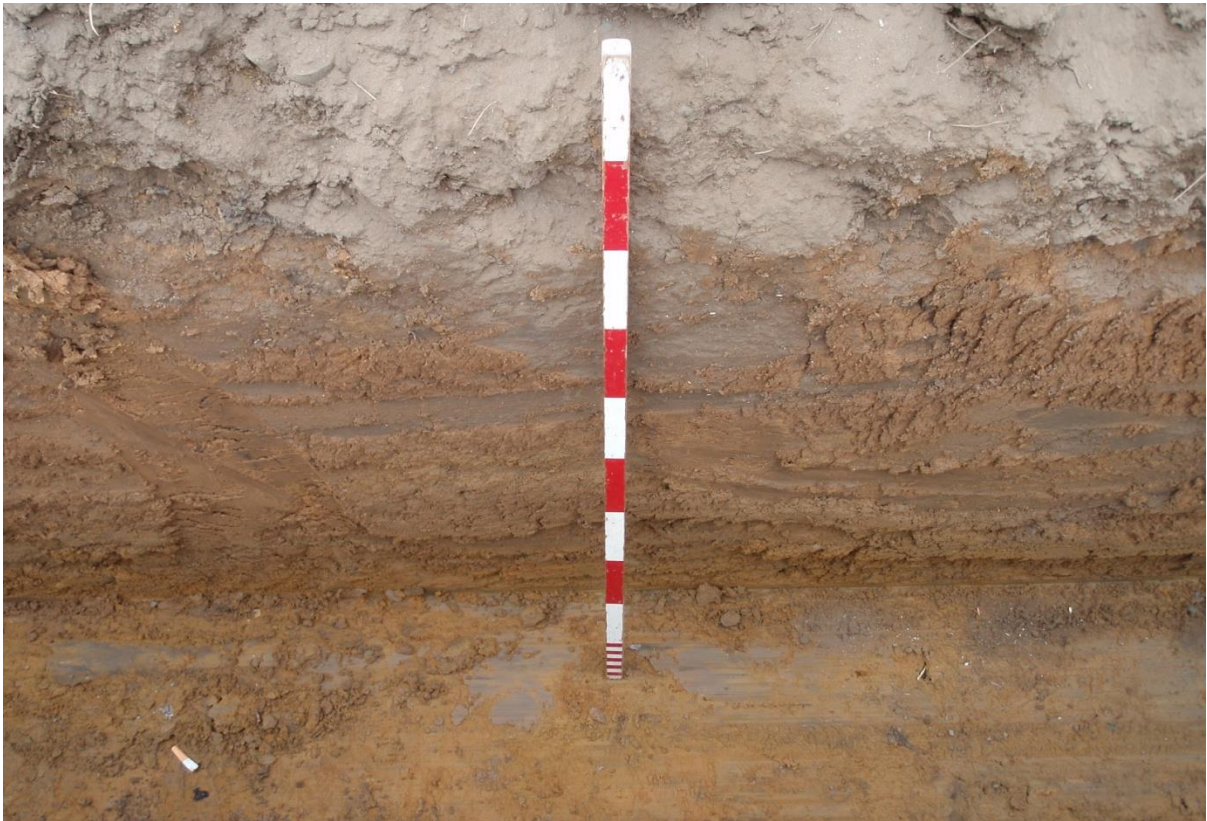


Plate 6. Trench section Plot 9



Plate 7. Cutting foundations Plot 10



Plate 8. Cutting foundations Plot 11



Plate 9. Cutting foundations Plot 5



Plate 10. Cutting foundations Plot 5



Plate 11. Cutting foundations Plot 2



Plate 12. Trenches for drainage runs

Figures