

# Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation of Land at Palma, Beech Hill, Bridge, Kent



NGR: 618592 153943

Site Code: PALMA/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/16/00469/FUL)

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Site Code: PALMA-EV-16

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land to the rear of Palma, Beech Hill, Bridge in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/16/00469/FUL) for a residential dwelling was submitted to Canterbury City Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Archaeology Specification, 05/08/2016 and CCC Specification Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of one evaluation trench revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trench.*

*The geology on site is recorded as Bedrock of Seaford Chalk (BGS survey 1990). The geology revealed on site was topsoil of about 40cm under paving slabs and a dwarf brick wall overlaying Chalk (Plates 1-7).*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Drew to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2016) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development site at Palma, a detached bungalow in Beech Hill, Bridge is adjacent to the Roman road from Dover to Canterbury and is to the south-east of the historic village of Bridge. The OD height of the development site is about 51m OD (Plate 1 & Figure 1).

## **4. Planning Background**

The owners obtained planning permission from Canterbury City Council on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for a proposed extension to Palma, Beech Hill, Bridge. The planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition:

*Condition 4) Prior to the commencement of development, the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:*

*a) A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*

*b) A report summarising the results of the investigations, to be produced on the completion of fieldwork, in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*

*c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*d) If necessary, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

*REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality*

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

## **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The site according to OS historic mapping and Google Earth aerial photography has not previously been built on. The main impact on the site is the adjacent Roman burials found at Bridge Hill just metres away from the proposed development site (TR 15 SE 7). Further afield are additional Anglo-Saxon burials (TR 15 SE 2) and the adjacent Roman road called Watling Street (TQ 86 SW 132).

## **6. Aims and Objectives.**

The aims set out in the SWAT Specification (2016) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains. The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development.

Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which would have been achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains were not to be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

## **7. Methodology**

The archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken by the machine excavation with a toothed bucket of a brick dwarf wall and adjacent paving slabs with some removal of topsoil and the cutting of one evaluation trench of about 10m length under constant archaeological supervision. The trench was located where the proposed wall of the new extension was to be built (Fig. 1 and Plates 1-7).

The mechanical excavation removed the dwarf brick wall and adjacent paving slabs in order to expose either the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geological surface (whichever is the first to appear during this process). Once this mechanical excavation was complete, all excavation hence forth was to be completed by hand, including the cleaning of the trench using a trowel, hoe or other suitable tool.

Any archaeological features that may have been exposed would subsequently be mapped, photographed and recorded.

Sampling of features would only take place to explicate the sequencing of the stratigraphy and in order to aid the securing of materials that can be dated to aid the later assessment. Any burials that may have been encountered were not to be investigated at this evaluation stage, and full excavation of other archaeological features was not to take place.

Care was taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation did not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there was to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme would be put in place to facilitate palaeo-environmental analysis, bulk screening, and soil micromorphology in the case that suitable deposits are identified (within the limits of the objectives of this evaluation), from which data can be recovered.

If required, cultural material would be recovered and subjected to screening (wet or dry) through mesh with a width of 10mm mesh in control samples of between 100 and 200 litres. Any on site screening that may have taken place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

## **8. Monitoring**

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation. However, as no archaeological features were exposed in the evaluation trench it was not necessary to have a curator visit.

## **9. Results**

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trench (Figure 1 and Plates 1-7).

### **Trench 1**

**9.1** The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-3). The trench lay on NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 10m by 0.60m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(104)** was identified across the trench as Chalk at a depth of approximately 0.40m (50.60m OD) below the present ground surface at 51.0m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology of Chalk was sealed by a layer of subsoil **(103)** 0.20m thick, mid brown in colour and containing small to medium well rounded flints. Overlaying was a 10cm thick deposit of dark brown sandy silty topsoil **(102)** overlaid by concrete or bricks **(101)**.

No archaeology features were revealed in the trench.

## **10. Discussion**

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. The site is adjacent to an important Roman road and known Anglo-Saxon cemeteries. A watching brief was conducted during the demolition phase of the works and the trench dug under direct archaeological supervision.

## **11. Finds**

No finds were recovered.

## **12. Conclusion**

The watching brief and evaluation trench at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features. The archaeological work has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. Therefore, this watching brief and evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Planning Condition and the Archaeological Specification.

## **13. Acknowledgements**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the clients, Mr and Mrs Drew for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Wilkinson and Dan Latus and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD. FRSA. MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

06/09/2016

## **14. References**

Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (August 2016) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2016

PLATES



Plate 1 – Location of Trench 1- breaking out concrete (looking NE)



Plate 2. Trench 1. Watching Brief strip of dwarf wall and flagstones (looking NW)



Plate 3 – Trench 1 Watching Brief strip (looking E)



Plate 4- Trench 1- view of evaluation trench (looking NE)



Plate 5. Trench 1- View of evaluation trench (looking NW)



Plate 6. Trench 1- section (looking E)



Plate 7. Trench 1- section (looking W)

## HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land to the rear of Palma, Beech Hill, Bridge, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** PALMA/EV/16

**Site Address:** As above

### Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the construction of a rear extension to a residential building whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation which revealed no archaeological features.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 618592 153943

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation

**Date of recording:** August 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Chalk

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation on land to the rear of Palma, Beech Hill, Bridge, Kent

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

No archaeological features found

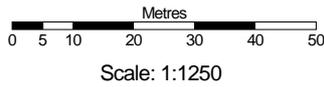
**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 06/09/2016

OS licence NMC 100039

Figure 1  
Location of  
area watched



**Palma**  
**Beech Hill**  
**Bridge**  
**CT4 5AU**

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 06/09/2016  
Serial number: 1731011

Plot centre co-ordinates: 618592,153943  
Download file: swat.zip  
Project name: palma

Figure 2  
Proposed  
development



Proposed Site Block Plan  
Scale: 1:500@A3

Rev.No:	Date:	Contents:	Project: Palma, Beech Hill, Bridge.	Drawing No: 198 / 02
			Drawing Description: Proposed Site Block Plan	
			Client: Mr & Mrs Drew	
			Scale: 1:500@A3	Date: January 2016