

Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Norwood Cottage, Eastchurch Road, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code NOR/WB/16



Report for Mr E Selcuk
Date of report 22/07/2016

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Norwood Cottage, Eastchurch Road, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code NOR/WB/16
NGR 597252 172101

Date of report: 22/07/2016



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

(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 342m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 28th to 29th June 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new two storey extension to the rear of Norwood Cottage, Eastchurch Road, Sheppey in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owner Mr E Selcuk.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the foundations. Services were in place from the previous building (Figure 3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: the digging of the foundation from about 1.30-2.00m below present ground level of about 72m OD. (Plates 4-8)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area including to the south-west at Shrubsoles Hill where there are Middle to Late Bronze Age field systems (TQ 97 SE 44), to the north Anglo-Saxon ditches (TQ 97 SE 96). To the north-east Roman field systems (TQ 97 SE 95), to the east medieval field systems (TQ 97 SE 83) and to the south of the development site Norwood Manor with its important buildings and light railway (TQ 97 SE 1071).

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/501545/FULL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application 16/501545/FULL was submitted to Swale Borough 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 a watching brief 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 watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 28th-29th June 2016.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to knowledge of the history of the Isle of Sheppey and in particular understanding of the rich ancient landscapes known to exist around the area of Kingsborough Manor; To understand the early history of the present property that appears on early mapping; to record and investigate remains of archaeological significance that may be exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks (KCC 2016).

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches of the two storey extension. Services were already connected to the main house (Plates 3-8).

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 Bedrock geology of Bagshot Formation- Sand. Most of the Bagshot Formation is composed of pale yellow-brown to pale grey or white, locally orange or crimson, fine- to coarse-grained sand that is frequently micaceous and locally clayey, with sparse glauconite and sparse seams of gravel. The sands are commonly cross-bedded but some are laminated. Thin beds and lenses of laminated pale grey to white sandy or silty clay or clay ('pipe-clay') occur sporadically, becoming thicker towards the top of the formation. In places, there is a basal bed of gravelly coarse-grained sand. There is a sparse fossil fauna of mostly

indeterminate marine molluscs, with some indistinct plant remains (Curry, 1958; Hawkins, 1954), but most organic material has been destroyed by oxidation or dissolution. The geology revealed on site was mid orange sandy silt topped by dark brown humic topsoil. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 72m OD.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the south-west at Shrubsoles Hill are Middle to Late Bronze Age field systems (TQ 97 SE 44), to the north Anglo-Saxon ditches (TQ 97 SE 96). To the north-east Roman field systems (TQ 97 SE 95), to the east medieval field systems (TQ 97 SE 83) and to the south of the development site Norwood Manor with its important buildings and light railway (TQ 97 SE 1071).

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 (ClfA: Dec 2014).

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 28th-29th June 2016.

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 soil down to formation level (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, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of Silt & Sand overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil which was swept with both a cat scanner and a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

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.

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 Mr E Selcuk 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 (Historic England 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 at Norwood Cottage, Eastchurch Road, Eastchurch, Sheppey, Kent

SWAT Site Code: NOR/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 two storey extension 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: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 597252 172101

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: June 2016

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Bagshot Formation-Sand

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at Norwood Cottage, Eastchurch Road, Eastchurch, Sheppey, 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: 22/07/2016



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



Plate 3. View of existing services



Plate 4. View of stepped foundation trench on the west side (looking north)



Plate 5. Cutting of foundation trenches on south side (looking east)



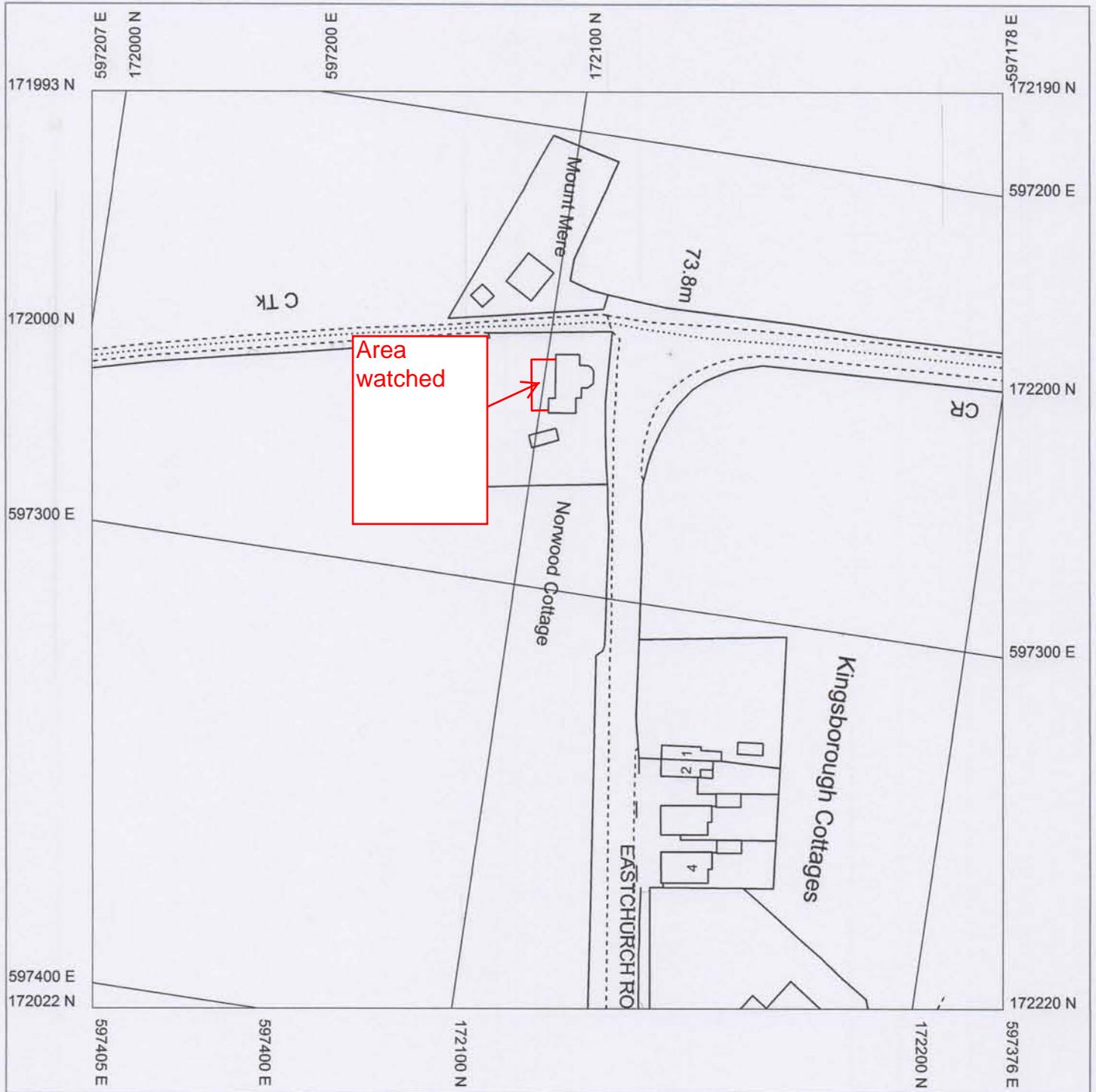
Plate 6. Close up of cut foundation trenches



Plate 7. View of completed foundation trenches (looking north-west)



Plate 8. View of section



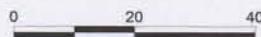
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