

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to 57 Island Road, Upstreet, Canterbury, Kent



NGR: 622725 163023

Site Code: UPS/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/15/00857/FUL)

## **SWAT Archaeology**

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Site Code: UPS-EV-16

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 57 Island Road, Upstreet in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/15/00857/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, 16<sup>th</sup> April 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 trenches.*

*The geology on site is Bedrock of London Clay Formation: Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was silty clay.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Imperium Homes 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 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

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

The proposed development site at Island Road, Upstreet is located adjacent to Island Road, the A28, and 300m upslope from the River Stour and about 4 miles to the north-east of Canterbury. To the north is farmland and to the south-west and north-east are modern ribbon development sitting adjacent to the postulated route of the Roman road from Canterbury to the Isle of Thanet.

The OD height of the proposed site is about 22m OD dropping down slope to 6m OD adjacent to the River Stour. The Ordnance Survey location is 622725 163023 (Figure 1).

## **4. Planning Background**

Richard Jones Architect has designed a detached house with native hedge planting on land to the west of houses 55 A & B and to the east of house 57. Planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition:

*Condition 3) 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 be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

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

*b) A report summarising the results of the investigations to be produced on 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: To ensure a proper record of archaeological matters as there is a high probability of finding historic remains at the subject location.*

*These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.*

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 is adjacent to the known route of the Roman road

from Canterbury to the Isle of Thanet. To the north-west cropmarks of an enclosure (MWX 42104) can be seen on aerial photographs whilst to the west are more cropmarks (MWX 43105). Further west cropmarks of a post-Roman road running in the direction of the development site have been logged (MWX 43103) and to the south-west cropmarks near Port Farm (MWX 43090).

## **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 evaluation was undertaken by the machine excavation with a flat-bladed ditching bucket of one evaluation trench of 10m length. The trench was located across the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 1).

The mechanical excavation removed the topsoil 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 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 visit.

## 9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the trench (Figure 1 and Plates 1-5).

### Trench 1

**9.1** The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-3). The trench lay on N to S alignment and measured approximately 10m by 1.8m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**104**) was identified across the trench as Clay and Silt at a depth of approximately 0.70m (21.50m OD) below the present ground surface at 22.0m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (**103**) 0.50m 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 (**101**).

No archaeology features were revealed in the trench but four sherds (20gms) were recovered from the topsoil and were:

1 Late Iron Age-Early Roman Canterbury-type buff fine sandy ware shoulder sherd, c.25/50-75 AD emphasis

1 Early Roman Canterbury-type red fine sandy ware, base sherd, c.75-125/150 AD emphasis

2 Early Medieval-Medieval Canterbury sandy ware, bodysherds, same vessel, c.1150-1225 AD range

Roman elements are both fairly worn and residual.

Early Medieval elements have heavy unifacial wear and are probably residual too.

(Nigel MacPherson-Grant)

## **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 residual sherds recovered from the topsoil could suggest Roman and medieval activity in the near vicinity.

## **11. Finds**

Four sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

## **12. Conclusion**

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features. The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification. Therefore, this 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 client, Imperium Homes for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD. FRSA. MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson

01/07/2016

## **14. References**

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

SWAT Archaeology (April 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 NW)



Plate 2 –Trench 1. Mechanical excavation (looking S)



Plate 3 – Trench 1 (looking W)



Plate 4- Trench 1- section



Plate 5- Trench 1 (looking N)

## HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land adjacent to 57 Island Road, Upstreet, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** UPS/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 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 Evaluation which revealed no archaeological features.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 622725 163023

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date of recording:** April 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is London Clay Formation, Silt, Clay

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to 57 Island Wall, Upstreet, Kent

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

No archaeological features found but four sherds of Roman and medieval pottery retrieved from the topsoil.

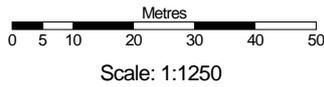
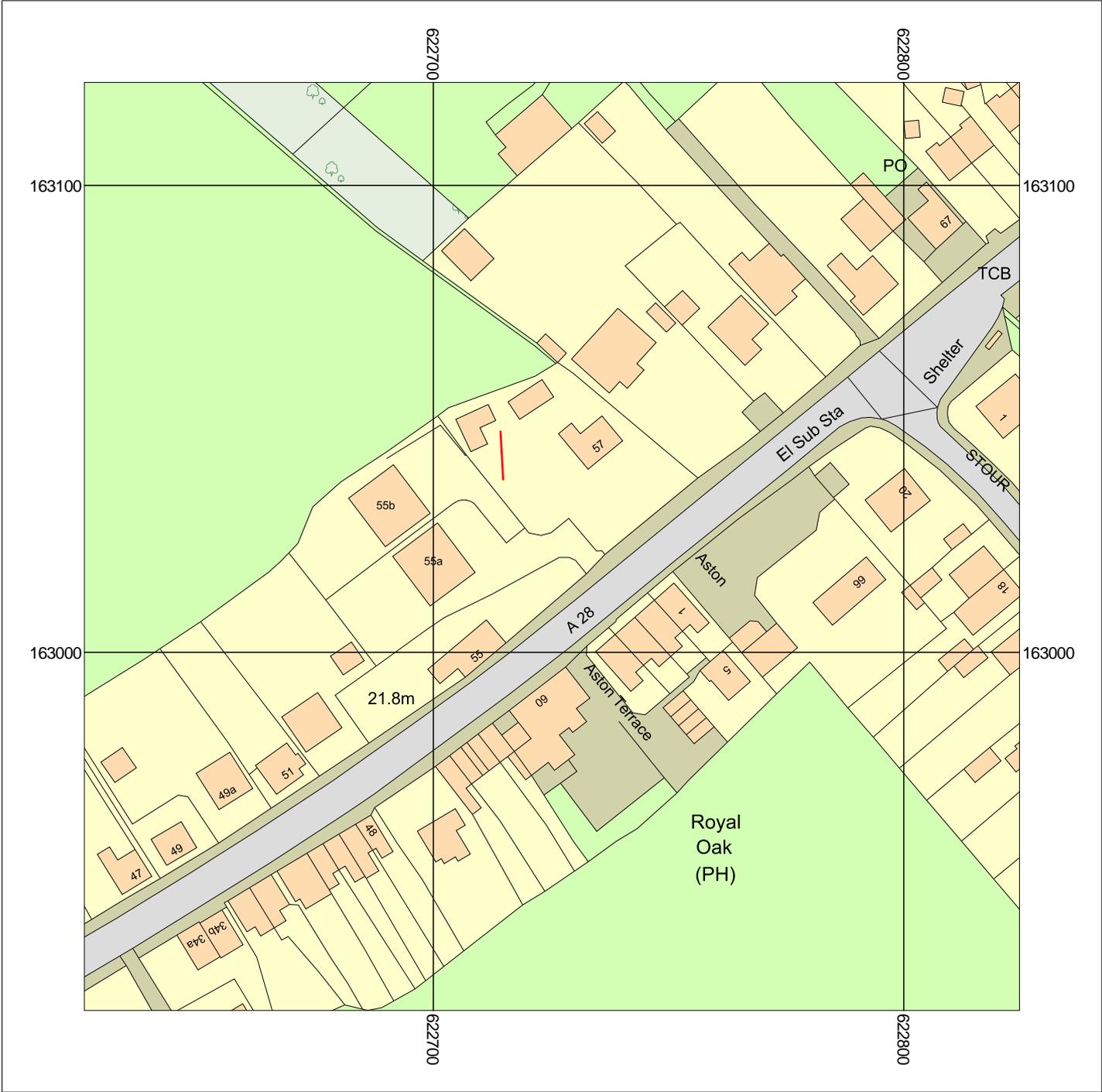
**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 01/07/2016

OS licence NMC 100039

Figure 1



**Land adj 57 Island Road**

**Upstreet  
Canterbury  
CT3 4BZ**

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 11/04/2016  
Serial number: 1659616

Plot centre co-ordinates: 622725,163023  
Download file: swat3.zip  
Project name: islandupstreet