

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land to the rear of 88 The Street, Kennington, Ashford, Kent

Site Code KEN/WB/15



Report for Richard Piper  
Date of report 03/03/2016

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Date of report: 03/03/2016



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

(Google Earth 9/07/2013: Eye altitude 268m).

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. From the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015 to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of three new houses to the rear of 88 The Street, Kennington, Ashford in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-10).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owner Richard Piper.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of foundations and service trenches (Plates 2-10).

The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1: Foundations and service trenches dug (Plates 2-9)

Phase 2: Excavation for a sunken surface water holding tank (Plates 6-7)

Phase 3: Utility service runs (Plate 10)

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.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 15/01169/AS.

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

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

Planning application 15/01169/AS was submitted to Ashford 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 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.*

### 3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on:

8 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	Ground clearance
10 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	Excavation of foundations
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Excavation of the surface water holding tank
26 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Excavation of foundations
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015	Excavation of foundations
5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Excavation of utility trenches

### 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 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 2015).*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation, surface water holding tank and service trenches (Plates 2-10).

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 Gault Clay overlain by Head Deposits and possibly 4<sup>th</sup> River Terrace Gravels. The geology revealed on site was mid brown sandy, silty clay topped by a band of demolition debris mixed with topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area set to the north of the present house and cafe. The development consists of three detached houses together with the creation of access and parking. The timber framed building on site is not part of the present development. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 59m OD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with the historic core of Kennington, the adjacent 15<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's (TR 04 NW 182). The site itself is part of a farm complex associated with the Grade II listed Temple House (TR 04 NW 121) and Roman activity is known from Roman glass found in the vicinity of the development site (TR 04 NW 2).

## **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 (CIfA: 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 three phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015 to the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016.

6.4. Excavations were carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a smooth and toothed bucket necessary to remove the soil and cut the foundation trenches (Plates 2-10).

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, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed 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 the sandy silty clay. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the subsoil or topsoil.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. 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 Richard Piper 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 2015)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

## **Appendix 1**

### **Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land to the rear of 88 The Street, Kennington, Ashford, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** KEN/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 three 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:** Ashford Borough Council

#### **Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 602283 145107

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** August 2015 to Feb 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Gault Clay

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land to the rear of 88 The Street, Kennington, Ashford, 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:** 03/03/2016



## Plates



Plate 2. General view of site looking north-east (August 2015)



Plate 3. General view of site strip looking north (August 2015)



Plate 4. Excavation of foundations looking south, note disturbed modern foundations (August 2015)



Plate 5. Excavation of foundations, note made up ground above natural (August 2015)



Plate 6. Excavation of surface water holding tank looking north (September 2015)



Plate 7. View of site(September 2015)



Plate 8. Excavation of foundations looking north (October 2015)



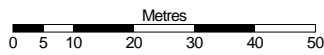
Plate 9. Excavation of foundations looking east (November 2015)



Plate 10. Excavation of utility trenches looking north (February 2016)

Figure 1.  
Area watched is inside the red lines, Plots 1-3 and service trenches.  
Area of surface water holding tank (1)  
Area of services (2)





Scale: 1:1250

**88 The Street**

**Kennington**



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
 License number: 100031961  
 Produced: 03/03/2016  
 Serial number: 1642223

Plot centre co-ordinates: 602267,145095  
 Download file: swat.zip  
 Project name: thestreet