

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land adjoining Driftwood, Imperial Drive, Warden Bay, Sheppey, Kent

Site Code DRIF/WB/16



Report for Malro Homes Ltd  
Date of report 16/09/2016  
Revised 20/01/2017

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Date of report: 16/09/2016



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

**(Google Earth 09/07/2013: Eye altitude 271m).**

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of new housing at land adjacent to Driftwood, Wardens Bay, Sheppey in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-5).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Malro Homes Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the reduction of parts of the site.

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Site reduction ranging from about 70cm to 1.30m of the access road (Plates 3-5).

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 possible deserted medieval village site and later beacon. However part of the site had already been reduced and the three vertical faces were inspected for archaeological features of which there were none.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is APP/V2255/W/15/3139546.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the Archaeological Watching Brief specification 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 appeal APP/V2255/W/15/3139546 was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and one of the conditions 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 within the area edged in red on the approved location plan until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation 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 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 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 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 “(SWAT 2016).*

4.2. The ground works were to reduce the demolition overburden and natural soil to the levels required by the two building platforms and access road to the adjoining roadway, all services would connect through the watched access road (Plates 3-6).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology just before the on-site monitoring took place. Please note there was a delay in the submission of the required documentation and two building platforms had been constructed before the watching brief was requested. However, the sides of the cut were examined and no archaeological remains were shown in the sections (Plate 2).

4.4. Confidence Rating

Initial reduction of the site 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 (NGR 602262 171788) according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was mid orange brown sticky clay topped by dark brown humic topsoil and rubble.

5.2. The site lies within an area of known archaeological interest. Some 250m north of the proposed development area (PDA) an alleged Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) is noted on the HER data (TR 07 SW 10). In addition and at the same spot early mapping indicates the site of a 16th Century beacon (TR 07 SW 5). 60m to the north but pre-1882 when archaeological records were not so carefully kept a small Roman vase is supposed to have been found (TR 07 SW 2). To the east on the shoreline brickworks dating from c.1870 to 1930 are noted (TR 07 SW 1012). There are no HER records to the south or west or in close

vicinity to the PDA. The site itself is generally sloping down to the south at a height of about 14-12.50m OD.

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the generic KCC Heritage Watching Briefs and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of part of the 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 13th-14th September 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 in Area 2 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).

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was the Bedrock deposits of London Clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

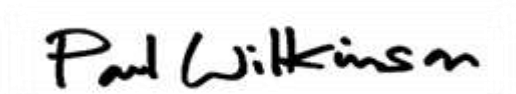
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the SWAT 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 Malro Homes Ltd 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 and HE 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land adjacent to Driftwood, Imperial Drive, Warden Bay, Sheerness, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** DRIF/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 new housing 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 attendance which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Swale Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 602262 171788

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** September 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Bedrock geology of London Clay

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land adjacent to Driftwood, Imperial Drive, Warden Bay, 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:** 16/09/2016 updated 19/01/2017



## Plates



Plate 2. General view of site showing section through London Clay (looking north)



Plate 3. The site showing reduction of access road (looking north)



Plate 4. Reduction of site (looking north-east)



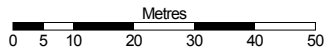
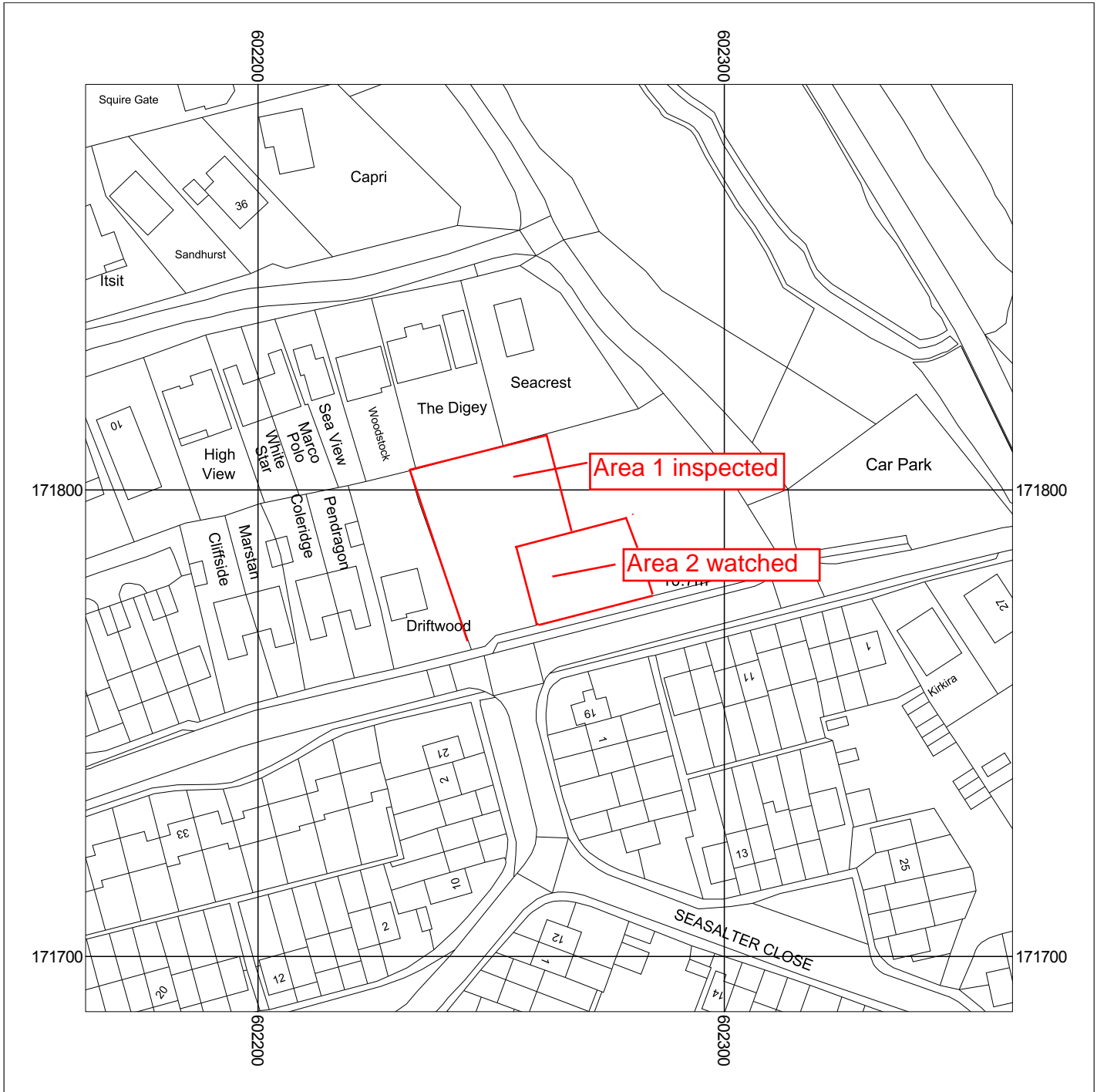
Plate 5. Reduction of site completed (looking north-east)



Plate 6. Inspection of vertical faces in Area 1



Plate 7. Inspection of vertical faces in Area 2.



Scale: 1:1250

**Imperial Drive**  
**Warden Bay**  
**ME12 4SE**



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 16/09/2016  
Serial number: 1735270

Plot centre co-ordinates: 602262,171788  
Download file: swat2.zip  
Project name: imperial