

Archaeological Watching Brief during
Groundworks for Renovation of a Brick
outbuilding and erection of a Garden
Room/Studio at 120 East Street,
Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code 120/WB/16



Report for Mr Lowe
Date of report 22/05/2016

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Watching Brief during Groundworks for Renovation of a Brick outbuilding and erection of a Garden Room/Studio at 120 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

Site Code 120/WB/16
NGR 591420 163434

Date of report: 22/07/2016



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

(Google Earth 20/04/2015: Eye altitude 325m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 18th to the 20th April 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a garden room/studio behind 120 East Street, Sittingbourne in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-7).

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

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the reduction of the site, digging of the foundations for the garden room/studio and drainage (Figure 1).

The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1: the site reduction on 18th April 2016 (Figure 1 & Plate 0)

Phase 2: the digging of the drainage run and connection to the renovated building on 19th April 2016 (Figure 1 and Plates 00)

Phase 3: the digging of the foundation to about 1.20m below present ground level (before reduction) of about 13m AOD on 20th April 2016 (Figure 1 and Plates 4-7)

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

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is SW/15/509537.

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 SW/15/509537 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 (3) 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 programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable 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 and to ensure details are agreed before work commences.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA. SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 18th -20th April 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 development of the town of Sittingbourne; 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 reduce the ground level in the area of the proposed garden room/studio, drainage runs and foundation trenches for the proposed garden room/studio (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 Thanet Formation- Sand Silt and Clay. No superficial geology is recorded but the geology revealed on site was orange brown sandy silty clay overlaid by 21-23cm of topsoil. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 13m OD.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the north and adjacent to the site is a Roman road (Watling Street), and burials dating from the Bronze Age were found in 1883 to the south west of the site. In addition in 1879 ‘a number of skeletons were also unearthed’ (TQ 96 SW 36).

Simon Mason the Principal Archaeologist KCC wrote in the site WSI that ‘the outbuildings appear on historic maps to at least the mid 19th century and the property itself is part of the

early string development along the main road to the coast'. There is a Grade II listed building at 124 East Street (TQ 96 SW 1123).

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 one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 18th-20th April 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless and toothed 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, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Principal 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 orange brown sandy silty clay overlaid by topsoil.

No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil which was swept with 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 Lowe 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 120 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent

SWAT Site Code: 120/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 the renovation of a brick outbuilding and erection of a garden room/studio 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) 591420 163434

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: April 2016

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Thanet Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks for Renovation of a Brick Outbuilding and Erection of a Garden Room/Studio at 120 East Street, Sittingbourne, 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: 22/05/2016



Plate 2. General view of site showing the renovated outbuilding (looking north- west)



Plate 3. View of the renovated outbuilding (looking west)



Plate 4. View of Phase 1 laying drainage ditches (looking north)



Plate 5. Phase 2. Ground reduction (looking south-west)



Plate 6. View of reduced site and final drainage work (looking north-west)

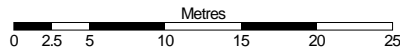
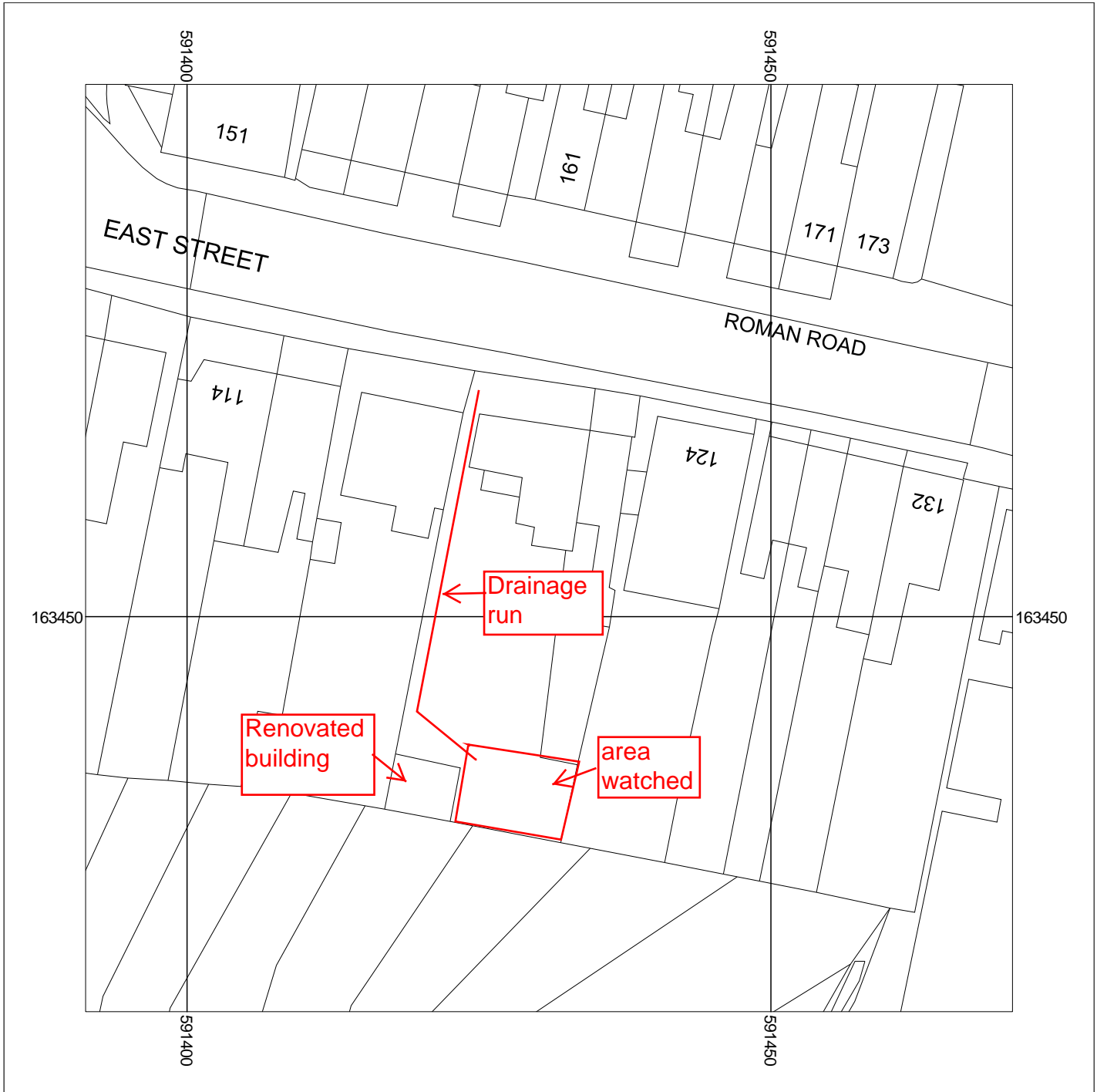


Plate 7. Cutting of foundation trenches –Phase 3 (looking north-east)



Plate 8. Cutting of foundation trenches

Figure 1



Scale: 1:500

120 East Street

Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4RX



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Plot centre co-ordinates: 591431,163456
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Project name: SWAT