

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Riverside House, Island Road, Upstreet, Kent



NGR: 625150 164325

Site Code: RIV/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/16/00192/FUL)

SWAT Archaeology

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: info@swatarchaeology.co.uk

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Riverside House, Upstreet in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/16/00192/FUL) for a residential extension 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, 10th 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 trench.

The geology on site is Bedrock of Thanet Formation: Sand, Silt and Clay. The geology revealed on site was silty clay and topsoil.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by MP. AS Architectural Services 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 14th April 2016.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site at Riverside House is an isolated spot located to the south of the medieval Sarre Wall (now the A28) and just to the north of the River Stour. The locality has been historically marshland with the Monkton Marshes to the east and to the south-east the Sarre Marshes. Medieval saltworks are located to the south, west and east. The OD height of the proposed site is about 2m OD dropping downslope to 1.2m OD to the adjacent farmland

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/16/00192/FUL) for development of an extension to a existing residential dwelling.

On the advice of the Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

Condition 4) 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.

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

2) 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.

3) 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.

4) 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 raised slightly above the surrounding farmland

that historically was marsh. Historic OS mapping indicate that the development site was a farm in the 19th century and this is reflected in the KCCHER record where a 'out farm east of Island Road' is recorded for the development site (MKE 86633). In the surrounding landscape there are WW11 defences which include a pillbox (TR 25 SE 132) located to the north-west of the development site. To the north there is a medieval salt mound (TR 26 SE 27) and to the east boundary earthworks located south of Sarre Wall (MKE 43165).

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 12m 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 was 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 1-6).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-3). The trench lay on east to west alignment and measured approximately 12m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**103**) was identified across the trench as light brown sandy silt at a depth of approximately 0.45m (1.55mOD) below the present ground surface at 2.0m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of subsoil (**102**) 0.25m thick, mid brown in colour overlaid by topsoil (**101**). This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural and garden use.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the trench.

10. Discussion

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. There are numerous crop marks and salt processing mounds in the vicinity of the proposed development site but none were located in the evaluation trenches.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trench at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts. 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, MP.AS Architectural Services 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

30/06/2016

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 (looking NW)



Plate 2 – Section of Trench 1 (looking NW)



Plate 3 – Trench 1 (looking west)



Plate 4- Trench 1 (looking east)

HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land adjacent to Riverside House, Cut End, Island Road, Upstreet, Kent

SWAT Site Code: RIV/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 (CA/16/00192/FUL) for the construction of a residential extension 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 archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 625150 164325

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 Thanet Formation, Sand, Silt and Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation at Riverside House, Upstreet, Kent

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

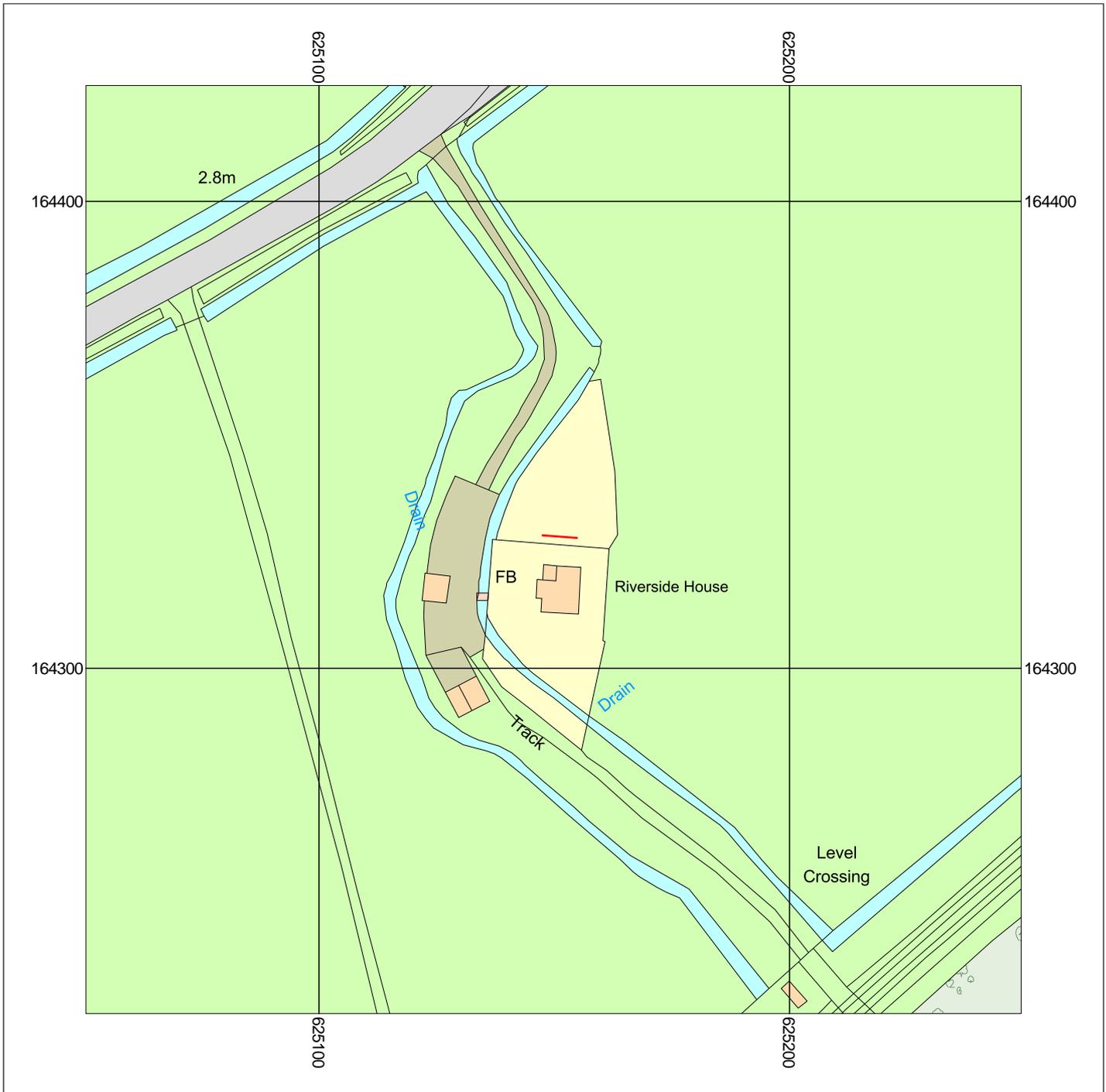
No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 30/06/2016

OS licence NMC 100039



Metres
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Scale: 1:1250



Riverside House

**Island Road
Sarre
Canterbury
CT7 0JX**

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 11/04/2016
Serial number: 1659606

Plot centre co-ordinates: 625150,164325
Download file: swat.zip
Project name: riverside