

Archaeological Monitoring of Land at The Royal Standard, East Beach Street, Hastings TN34 3DW

Site Code ROY/WB/15



Report for Shepherd Neame Ltd
Date of report 02/02/2016

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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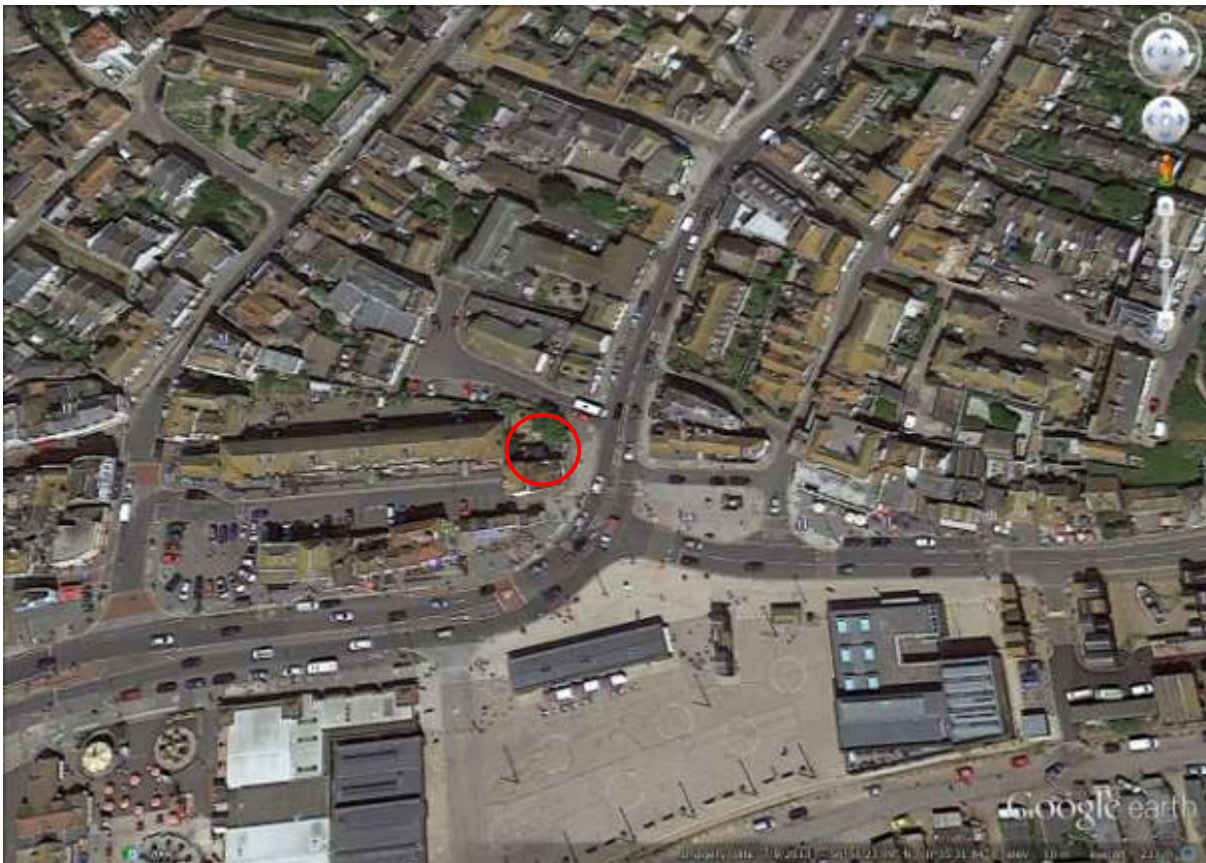


Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 20/04/2015: Eye altitude 312m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 11th-12th January 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new extension to the Royal Standard Public House in Hastings, East Sussex (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Shepherd Neame Ltd.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of a foundation slab excavation (Plates 2-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1. Demolition of existing toilet block and paths(Plate 2-3)

Phase 2: Foundation slab excavation dug (Plates 4-6)

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 HS/FA/14/01010.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the SWAT Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features or pits, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application HS/FA/14/01010 was submitted to Hastings Borough Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA). East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation 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 (9) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 11th to 12th January 2016.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording are:

“The site is located in a Archaeological Notification Area (ANA), a Conservation Area and there are 376 listed buildings in the area, three Scheduled Monuments and both an Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and a Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) have been carried out.

Archaeological investigations (events) in the near vicinity include an archaeological excavation in 1988 at the Phoenix Brewery site (EES9516), an investigation in 1974 at Winding Street when medieval pits were found (EES9331), in 1975 in Winding Street at the Old Baths site where four medieval pits, and two post holes were investigated (EES9332). In 2007 at 4 Winding Street an Archaeological Watching Brief revealed the Hastings Town Wall (EES14124). Examination of cartographic sources shows that from the 19th century the proposed development area (PDA) has been outside the Town Walls and in an area used by the fishing community of Hastings and in an area previously built on” (SWAT 2015).

4.2. The ground works were to excavate an area 600mm deep to enable the construction of the reinforced concrete foundation slab. Any new services would connect to existing pipe runs (Plates 2-6).

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 Storm Beach Gravels. The geology revealed on site was gravel mixed with topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of a small area situated adjacent and to the north of the present Public House. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 1.8m OD.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important medieval activity and with the potential of remains from the Hastings fishing industry.

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 Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA: 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 11th-12th January 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the overburden and reduce the area for the construction of a reinforced concrete building slab (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, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the 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 Storm Beach Deposits overlaid by granite pavoirs and concrete slabs. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds

retrieved from the 400mm reduction layers. The work was somewhat messy as the contractors revealed an unknown electric cable and a lead water pipe which burst and hindered the excavation.

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 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 Shepherd Neame 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 (ESCC 2015)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

Appendix 1
ESCC HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at the Royal Standard, East Beach Street, Hastings

SWAT Site Code: ROY/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 a new extension whereby ESCC Archaeologist 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: Hastings Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 582520 109514

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: January 2016

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Storm Beach Deposits

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at the Royal Standard Public House, East Street, Hastings East Sussex

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: 02/02/2016

Plates



Plate 2. General view of site looking west



Plate 3. General view of site looking south-west



Plate 4. The site showing removing of overburden



Plate 5. The site showing site reduction



Plate 5. Final levels

Figure 1.
Area watched (red)



30 15 0 30 m

Scale 1:1250



The Royal Standard

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**The Bourne
Hastings
TN34 3AY**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 582520, 109514
Download file: Print52611_1452579
Project name: royal

Sussex HER summary sheet

HER enquiry number	009/15				
Site code	ROY/WB/15				
Project code	n/a				
Planning reference	HS/FA/14/01010				
Site address	The Royal Standard, East Beach Street, Hastings East Sussex TN34 3DW				
District/Borough	Hastings Borough Council				
NGR (12 figures)	582520 109514				
Geology	Storm Beach Gravels				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	11 th -12 th January 2016				
Sponsor/client	Shepherd Neame				
Project manager	n/a				
Project supervisor	Paul Wilkinson				
Period summary n/a	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was the Storm Beach Deposits overlaid by granite pavoids and concrete slabs.</p> <p>No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the 400mm reduction layers.</p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

*WB – Watching brief; HBR – historic building recording

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
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