

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 36 St Mary's Grove, Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent



NGR: 608603 164985

Site Code: STM/EV/16

(Planning Application: CA/15/02285/FUL)

**SWAT Archaeology**

The Office, School Farm Oast

Graveney Road Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP

Email: [info@swatarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk)

Tel.: 01795 532548 and 07885 700112

## **Contents**

List of Figures.....	3
List of Plates.....	3
1. Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Site Description and Topography.....	4
4. Planning Background.....	5
5. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
6. Aims and Objectives.....	6
7. Methodology.....	6
8. Monitoring.....	7
9. Results.....	7
10. Discussion.....	8
11. Finds.....	8
12. Conclusion.....	8
13. Acknowledgements.....	8
14. References.....	8
15. CCC Summary Form.....	11

List of Figures:

Figure 1- Location of trenches

Figure 2- Location of site

List of Plates:

Plate 1 – Trench 1 under excavation

Plate 2 – Trench 2 under excavation

Plate 3 – Trench 1

Plate 4- Trench 2

Plate 5- Section Trench 1

Plate 6- Section Trench 2

# **Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 36 St Mary's Grove, Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent**

NGR: 608603 164985

Site Code: STM-EV-16

## **1. Summary**

*Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 36 St Mary's Grove, Whitstable in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/15/02285/FUL) for a residential dwelling 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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 two evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches.*

*The geology on site is Bedrock of London Clay Formation: Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was beach shingle layered with topsoil and below the shingle sandy silty clay.*

## **2. Introduction**

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Mr K. Sandhu 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 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **3. Site Description and Topography**

The proposed development site at 34 (formally 36) St Mary's Grove is adjacent to the main railway line from London to Ramsgate and is a plot of land rectangular in shape measuring 24x36m adjacent to 36 At Mary's Road in Seasalter. The sea is due north at 177m distance. The OD height of the development site is about 6m OD (Figure 1).

## **4. Planning Background**

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/15/02285/FUL) for development of a 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 2) 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.*

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

*b) 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.*

*c) 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.*

*d) If necessary a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.*

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) and SWAT Archives (SWAT 1999, - 2016) have provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The site according to OS historic mapping and Google Earth aerial photography has not previously been built on. The main impact on the site is the adjacent London to Ramsgate railway constructed c.1850.

To the west are salt working mounds (TR 06 SE 1037), to the east and adjacent to the beach church foundations were uncovered by a storm (TR 06 NE 1002). To the south quarry pits/salt mound remains and enclosures have been recorded (TR 06 SE 1026).

## **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 two evaluation trenches of 8m length. These trenches were located across the footprint of the proposed development and the adjacent plot (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 would be put 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 two trenches (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 N to S alignment and measured approximately 8m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(104)** was identified across the trench as Clay and Silt at a depth of approximately 0.65m (5.35mOD) below the present ground surface at 6.0m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of beach shingle **(103)** 0.05m thick, mid brown in colour and containing small to medium beach shingle in a yellow brown sandy matrix about 5cm thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty subsoil **(102)** overlaid by topsoil **(101)**. This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural use.

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

### Trench 2

**9.2** The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-6). The trench lay on NW to SE alignment and measured approximately 9m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(204)** was identified across the trench as Clay and Silt at a depth of approximately 0.65m (5.35mOD) below the present ground surface at 6.0m OD at the N end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a layer of beach shingle **(203)** 0.05m thick, mid brown in colour and containing small to medium beach shingle in a yellow brown sandy matrix about 5cm thick. Overlaying was a 15cm thick deposit of brown sandy silty subsoil **(202)** overlaid by topsoil **(201)**. This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural 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 trenches 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, Rural Associates for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for Digitise This. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD. FRSA. MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson

05/05/2016

## **14. References**

Institute for Field Archaeologists (CifA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (February 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 NE)



Plate 2 – Location of Trench 2 (looking SE)





Plate 3 – Trench 1 (looking south)





Plate 4- Trench 2 (looking south)





Plate 5- Trench 1 section



Plate 6- Trench 2 section

## HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Land adjacent to 36 St Marys Grove, Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** STM/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 for the construction of a residential building 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)** 608603 164985

**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 London Clay Formation, Silt, Clay

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Evaluation at 36 St Mary's Grove, Seasalter, Whitstable, 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

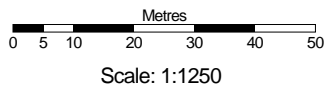
**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 05/05/2016

OS licence NMC 100039

Figure 1. Trench location





Land adj 36 St Mary's Grove

Seasalter  
Whitstable  
CT5 4AF

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 11/04/2016  
Serial number: 1659609

Plot centre co-ordinates: 608603,164985  
Download file: swat2.zip  
Project name: StMarys