

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND  
RECORDING OF LAND ADJACENT TO 8A  
TWIGG CLOSE AND GARAGES REAR OF 145  
FRINSTEAD ROAD BEXLEYHEATH LONDON

Site Code TWIGG/WB/16



Date of Report: 05/07/2016

Application: 15/01446/FUL  
Report for Hystar Construction Ltd

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company  
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road  
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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# Archaeological Observation and Recording of Land adjacent to 8a Twigg Close and Garages rear of 145 Frinstead Road, Bexleyheath, London

Site Code TWIGG/WB/16

Date of report: 05/07/2016



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

(GoogleEarth 4/6/2015 eye alt 265m).

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From 15<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Observation and Recording on ground works involved in the build of a new housing development at land adjacent to 8a Twigg Close, Bexley Heath, London (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owners and instructions received from Hystar Construction Ltd.

1.3. The area for the building footprint was reduced with a machine using a bladed bucket under close archaeological supervision (Plates 2-7).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Reduction of Site to the north - Site A (Plates 2-4)

Phase 2: Reduction of Site to the south –Site B (Plates 5-7).

1.4. The Archaeological Observing was to watch for any signs of Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains, and any other archaeological remains.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: 15/01446/FUL

1.6. Although the site was in an Area of Archaeological Potential the Archaeological Observation revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

Planning application 15/01446/FUL was submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Mark Stevenson (EH GLASS), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested that an Archaeological Investigation and Assessment 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 applicant has secured the implementation of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.*

*Informative The development of this site is likely to damage archaeological remains. The applicant should therefore submit detailed proposals in the form of an*

*archaeological project design. The design should be in accordance with appropriate English Heritage guidelines.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) attended the site and controlled and supervised the excavation works on an intermittent basis from 15<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the Archaeological Observation and Recording, were to:

*“establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource across the area of the proposed development site “.*

4.2. The ground works were to strip the topsoil/subsoil and excavate a platform necessary for the foundations on Plots A & B (Plates 2-7).

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 Sheet 270 (South London 1998) shows the proposed development area (PDA) to lie within an area of Bedrock of Lambeth Group, Sand, Silt and Clay (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was silty sand (Plates 4-5).

5.2. The application site consists of an area of yard and garage blocks south-west of Twigg Close and north-east of Frinsted Road. The site is centred at TQ 314 667 within the London Borough of Bexleyheath.

5.3. The proposed development area (PDA) is in an Area of Archaeological Potential. In the vicinity of the development site there has been found numerous remains including in Bexley High Street a peat bed exposed in an archaeological evaluation trench (MLO 8427) which contained an Anglo-Saxon spearhead. During the rebuilding of a shop adjacent to the supermarket in Bexley High Street medieval pottery was found beneath the foundations (MLO 8444).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The archaeological observation was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 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 archaeological works were carried out in two phases according to the needs of the building contractors from the 15<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors under archaeological supervision using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the topsoil and reduce the site (Plates 2-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA an experienced archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology.

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 works were carried out in accordance with current ClfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology provided by the Archaeological Specification issued by SWAT Archaeology.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site sand, silty clay overlaid by demolition and made ground. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology.

## **8.0 Finds**

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. The archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## 10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring and Observation has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the 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 Hystar Construction Ltd for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIFA

## References

HER data (GLAAS 2016)

CIFA (1994 & 2014) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

SWAT Archaeology (2016) *Specification for a Programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording of Land adjacent to 8a Twigg Close and Garages rear of 145 Frinstead Road, Bexleyheath London*

Greater London HER Team Data

**Appendix 1**  
**Greater London HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development site of Land adjacent to 8a Twigg Close and Garages rear of 145 Fribstead Road, Bexleyheath, London

**SWAT Site Code:** TWIGG/WB/2016

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring and Observation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for new homes whereby a Archaeological Condition on the Planning Permission required that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of a constant site presence during groundworks which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** London Borough of Bexleyheath

**Period(s):**

**NGR** TQ 3142 6672

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring and Observation

**Date of recording:** Intermittent from 15<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Lambeth Group- Sand, Silt & Clay.

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Observation and Recording of Land adjacent to 8a Twigg Close and Garages rear of 145 Fribstead Road, Bexleyheath, London

**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:** 05/07/2016

## Plates



Plate 2. Site reduction in Site A



Plate 3. Site reduction in Site A



Plate 4. Site reduction in Site A



Plate 5. Site reduction in Site B

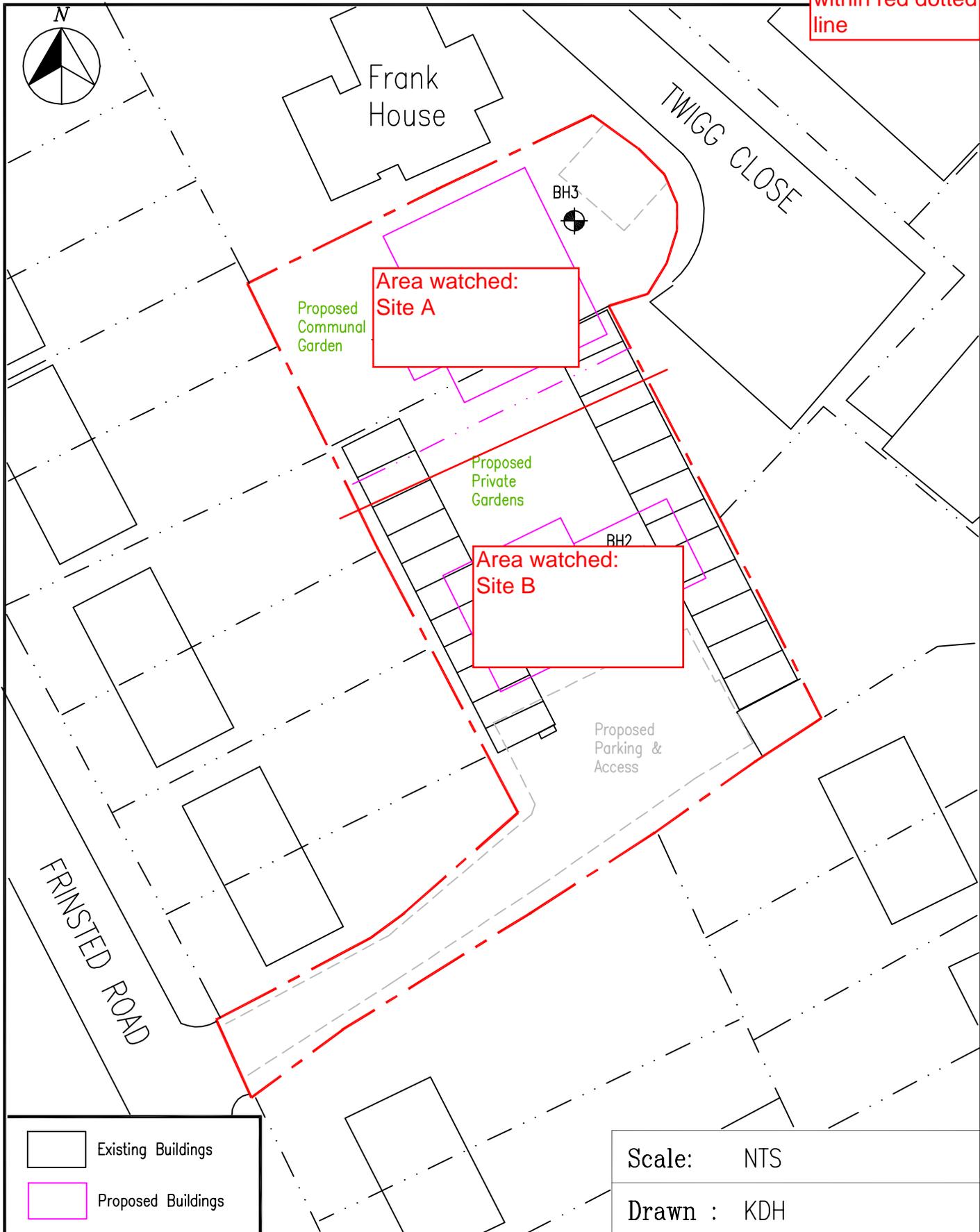


Plate 6. Site reduction in Site B



Plate 7. Site reduction in Site B

Figure 1.  
Areas observed  
within red dotted  
line



	Existing Buildings
	Proposed Buildings

Location : Twigg Close, Erith, Kent DA8 3LD

Title : Existing and Proposed

Scale:	NTS
Drawn :	KDH
Report:	06216/20
Fig. No.:	1