

Archaeological Evaluation of Landeast of 40 Canterbury Road, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, Kent



NGR: 634501 165072

Site Code: CANT/EV/17

Planning Application: F/TH/15/0865

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of 20 Canterbury Road, Cliffsend in Kent. A Planning Application (F/TH/15/0865) to develop this site with the erection of two detached houses with associated gardens and parking went to Thanet District 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 Specification and KCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The results of the excavation of 2 evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1 and Plates 1-4).

The Archaeological Investigations have therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by AGI Architecture on behalf of the client to carry out an archaeological and evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2017) and in discussion with the Senior Archaeological Heritage Officer, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 19th June 2017.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site lies 300m south of Manston airport runway and to the east of the A299. To the north is the village of Manston and to the south the village of Cliffsend. The shoreline is 1200m to the south of the site. The site is sub-rectangular in shape and measures about 45m x 25m. The OS location is 99794 40369.

On the basis of current information from BGS, the site lies on Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. The Superficial Deposits are Head Clay and Silt. Ground levels are 39.00m aOD at the centre of the site.

4. Planning Background

The land has planning permission (F/TH/15/0865) for the erection of two residential houses with associated gardens and parking. On the basis of the present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Thanet District Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. Condition 3 of the planning permission states:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:

i Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and

ii following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures 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 and approved by the Local Planning Authority

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

A search of the Historic Environment Records as well as a list of reports of archaeological investigations not yet included in the HER was commissioned for the project and a search made of aerial photography on Google Earth with informative results. The landscape to the west and north of the proposed development site is festooned with enclosures, round barrows, trackways and individual burials (Plates 1 & 2 WSI). The HER notes an undated pit to the north of the site (TR 36 NW 550). A ring ditch to the north of the site (TR 36 NW 180), a barrow north of the site (TR 36 NE 181), cropmarks to the east of the site (TR 36 SW 241) and again to the east of the site curving cropmarks which are probably an ovate ditched enclosure (TR 36 NE 323).

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeology Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

“The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements” (SWAT 2017).

7. Methodology

According to the specification the initial evaluation will comprise 2 machine excavated trenches (c.25m x 1.2m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist. Each trench will be machine excavated down to the archaeological horizon or the natural.

In addition a RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) will be produced before the work starts on site and issued to all interested parties.

There will also be an allowance of c.10m of contingency trenching which could be used if it would help address the aims set out above. Contingency trenching can be activated following agreement with the County Archaeologist. Further requirements are set out in KCC Spec Manual for Trial Trenching part B.

Care will be taken to ensure that unnecessary additional excavation does not take place where archaeological deposits or structures are exposed; in particular, there is to be no reduction of the underlying soils to further enhance archaeological features.

A soil sampling programme will 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 will 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 take place will not impede the removal of further bulk soil samples for screening at a separate wash facility off-site (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 6. Machine and Hand Excavation).

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

Two evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated on the site (Figure 1). Trench 1, which measured 25m by 1.2m, was cut on a south-west/north-east alignment and were located in the central area of the site. Trench 2 measured 25m by 1.2m and was cut on the same alignment.

Trench 1

Here, the original surface of bedrock of sandy silty clay (CRN 03) at an average depth of 0.75m below the present ground surface of 39.00m aOD. In the places where it survived intact (in the central and south-eastern part of the trench) it was covered by a 0.18m-thick layer of mid-light brown colluvial brickearth-like soil (CRN 02) with frequent granular chalk inclusions. This was interpreted as an example of the original subsoil, a view supported by the overlying presence of a band of dark brown humic soil of variable thickness (average 0.12m-thick), also containing granular chalk and which almost certainly represented a remnant of the original topsoil (CRN 01). A modern service trench was exposed along the length of Trench 1 and partly excavated (Plate 2).

Trench 2

The original surface of bedrock of sandy silty clay (CRN 23) at an average depth of 0.75m below the present ground surface of 39.00m aOD. It was covered by a 0.19m-thick layer of mid-light brown colluvial brickearth-like soil (CRN 22) with frequent granular chalk inclusions. This was interpreted as an example of the original subsoil, a view again supported by the overlying presence of a band of dark brown humic soil of variable

thickness (average 0.12m-thick), also containing granular chalk and which almost certainly represented the original topsoil (CRN 21).

10. Discussion

The only feature of interest was an unknown service pipe and trench revealed in Trench I.

A common stratification of natural geology (CRN 03), topped by subsoil (CRN 02) and covered by topsoil (CRN 01) was revealed in both 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 Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of natural geology, subsoil and topsoil.

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, AGI Architecture for commissioning the project. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCifA and the project was managed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson

20/06/2017

14. References

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

SWAT Archaeology (17/05/17) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

HER data 2017



Plate 1. The site (looking NW)



Plate 2. Trench 1 (looking NE)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking NE)



Plate 4. Trench 1. Section

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site at land to the east of 40 Canterbury Road, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, Kent. The site has planning permission for residential housing whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Archaeological Evaluation revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Thanet Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 634501 165072

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: June 2017

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Head Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the east of 40 Canterbury Road, Cliffsend, Ramsgate, Kent

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

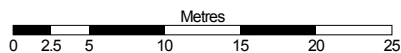
No archaeology found

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 20/06/2017

Figure 1.
Location of trenches



Scale: 1:500

Land east of 40 Canterbury Road
Cliffsend
Ramsgate



Supplied By:
Licence number
Produced:
Serial number:

National Map Centre
100031961
30/06/2017
1857499

Plot centre co-ordinates: 634501.165072
Download file: canterbury.zip
Project name: swat