

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Park  
Cottage, 2 Windmill Lane East, West Malling,  
Kent ME20 7QX

Site Code WLE/WB/17



Report for D C Hudson & Partner LLP  
Date of report 11/09/2017

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Park Cottage, 2 Windmill Lane East, West Malling, Kent

Planning Application TM/16/02910

Site Code WLE/WB/17  
NGR 568187 156941

Date of report: 11/09/2017



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2017: Eye altitude 335m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) attended to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of an extension and other alterations of a two bed bungalow to form a three bedroom bungalow dwelling on land at Park Cottage, 2 Windmill Lane East, West Malling in Kent. (Fig. 2 & Plates 2-6).

1.2. The works had been carried out on behalf of the developer Mrs S Donovan.

1.3. The foundations had already been dug and so a close inspection was undertaken on the vertical sides of the trenches and the horizontal base of the trenches.  
The archaeological inspection revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

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 including the nearby Romano-British cremation burial.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is TM/16/02910/FL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief inspection revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located on land at Park Cottage, West Malling in Kent at OS grid reference NGR 568187 156941. The site is located on the west side of Windmill Lane. The site itself is level at about 62.00m AOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application TM/16/02910/FL was submitted to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), 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 (4) was attached to the planning consent:

*No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (including a timetable for such investigation) which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: In the interests of archaeological research.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and inspected the excavation works on the 2nd May 2017.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

*“The objectives of the archaeological investigation are to observe, excavate and record archaeological remains revealed by alterations to buildings or groundworks, to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area and ensure suitable specialist observation close to sensitive archaeological site (KCC 2017).*

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches of the extension to the residential dwelling (Plates 2-6).

### **5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background**

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey website (below) is Bedrock geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone & Limestone Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 146 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. No Superficial Deposits are recorded.

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=ME13%207TS>

Clay and Silt was the geology revealed on site.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. 60m to the south west a Romano-British cremation burial was found (TQ 65 NE 4). Medieval ditches and small finds were found in 2005 120m to the south east (TQ 65 NE 123) and 500m to the north east two features containing Late Iron Age pottery was found in an archaeological evaluation in 2005 (TQ 65 NE 124).

### **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC 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 inspection of all the ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

6.4. Excavation of the area had been carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the soil down to formation level (Plates 2-6).

6.5. The archaeological watching brief inspection was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior 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 deposits of silty sandy clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 12m on the west side and the foundation trenches inspected were surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The foundation trenches were about 1m deep at about 62.00m AOD. The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed by the inspection on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

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 D C Hudson & Partner LLP for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (Historic England 2017)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Generic Watching Brief (2017)

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at Park Cottage, 2 Windmill Lane East, West Malling, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** WLE/WB/17

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Inspection on the development site above. The site has planning permission for development whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Inspection consisted of a site visit which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 568187 156941

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Hythe Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Park Cottage, 2 Windmill Lane East, West Malling, Kent

**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:** 11/09/17





Plate 2. General view of site (looking north-east)



Plate 3. View of the site (looking south-east)



Plate 4. View of the foundation trench (looking south-east)

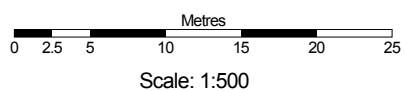
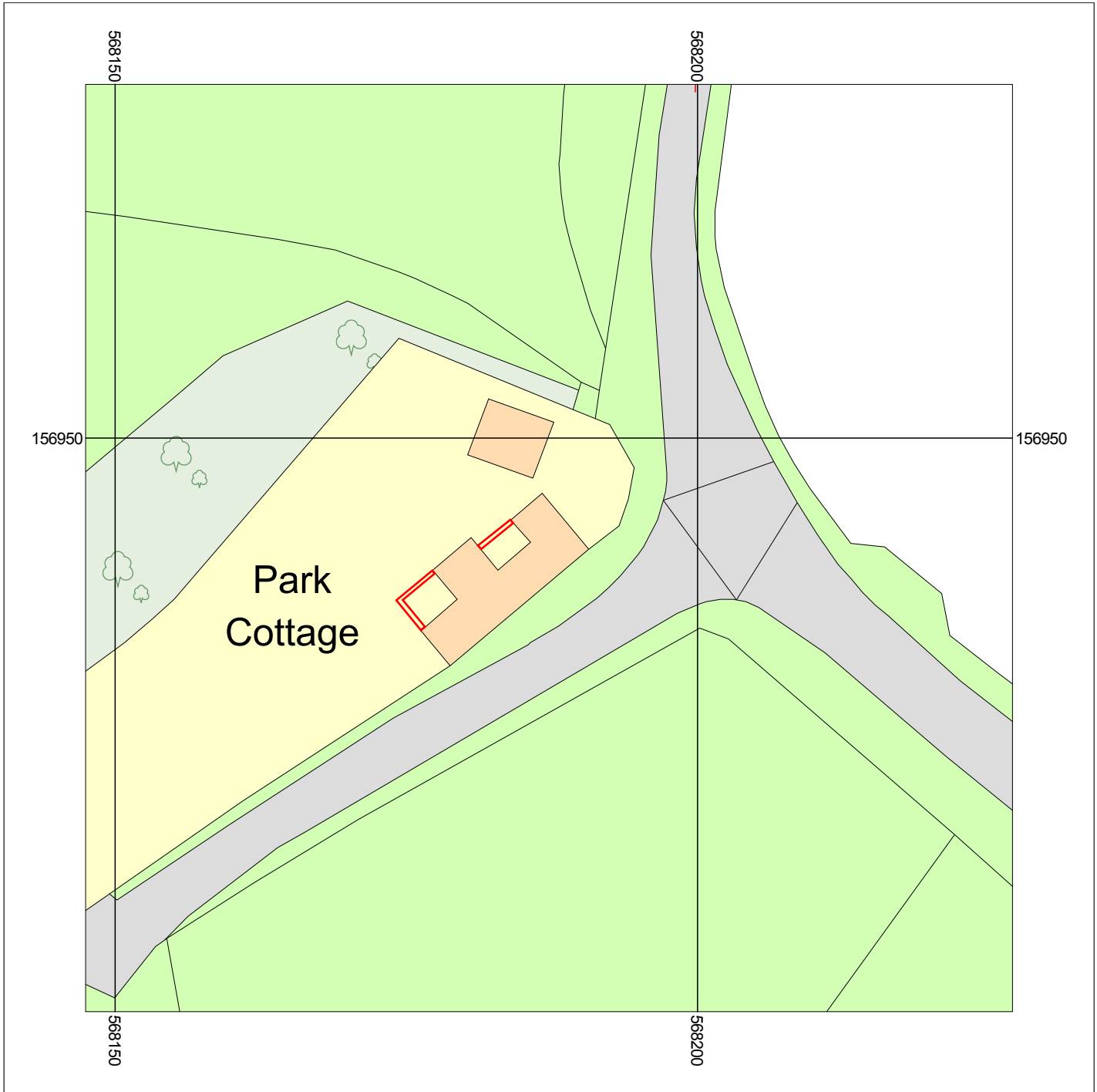


Plate 5. View of the foundation trench (looking north-east)



Plate 6. View of the foundation trench (looking north-east)

Figure 1.  
Areas inspected (red  
line)



**Park Cottage**  
**2 Windmill Lane East**  
**West Malling**  
**ME19 6HS**

Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 04/08/2017  
Serial number: 1870914

Plot centre co-ordinates: 568187,156941  
Download file: park.zip  
Project name: swat