

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton-Under-Blean, Kent

Site Code: VF-FAV-EV-17

NGR: NGR Site Centre: 602977 160258

Planning Application Number: CA/15/502738/FULL



Report for The Vinson Trust

23/10/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by The Vinson Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton-Under-Blean, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in April 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of sixteen trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological features were recorded, although residual prehistoric and Romano-British finds were present within the subsoil.

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NGR Site Centre: 602977 160258

Site Code: TIN-EV-17

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by The Vinson Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton-Under-Blean, Kent (**Figure 1**). A planning application (SW/15/502738/FULL 8) was approved by Swale Borough Council (SBC) for the relocation and winter storage of 44 seasonal workers caravans and 4 mobile communal facilities, on condition that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KKCHC), who provide an advisory service to SBC, requested that the programme of works comprising an archaeological evaluation followed by appropriate mitigation measures, if considered necessary. This recommendation was subsequently added as a Condition to the planning approval, which stated that;

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be separated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

(SW/15/502738/FULL, Condition 6, 20/08/2015)

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in April 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Simon Mason, the Principal Archaeological Officer, at KCCHC. A copy of the Specification is provided in **Appendix 2**.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 602977 160258, to the rear of Tinbridge Cottages on the northern side of the Canterbury Road (A2) (Figure 1). The site until recently was occupied by polytunnels screened by hedge planting. It is proposed that the site will have 44 workers caravans and four caravans with communal facilities. In addition, a landscape bund will be constructed on the southern boundary of the site. The site covers an area of approximately 1.2ha.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society (BGS), the site lies on Bedrock Geology of Thanet Formation- Sand, Silt and Clay. The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. Ground levels are approximately 28m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern of the site and c.29maOD at the south area of the site (SWAT Archaeology 2017: 3.2).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2017).
- 2.1.2 In consultation with KCC, the Principal Archaeological Officer stated that;

'the proposed development is located within an area that is archaeologically sensitive, close to the Roman Road from London to the Kent coast and in an area that is generally rich in prehistoric and Roman remains'

(Reference: Comments for Planning Application 15/502738/FULL, dated 04/08/15)

2.2 Overview (SWAT Archaeology 2017)

- 2.2.1 The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and there is a paucity of archaeological investigation within the locality of the proposed development site (PDA). The main Roman road- Watling Street- runs along the southern boundary of the PDA (TR 06 SW 126) but the only archaeological find within the assessment area is a Late Iron Age cremation found SW of the PDA at the eastern edge of Macknade Farm. Other sites within the assessment area are medieval or post-medieval farms and include Lady Dane Farm to the NNW (MKE 85899). Ewell Farm to the NNE (MKE 85922) and Homestall Farm to the East (MKE 85925).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (KCC 2017)

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (Appendix 2). These were to;

'establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for Roman activity and in particular the adjacent Roman road and also any other Prehistoric, Roman activity and Early Medieval activity.

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 Archaeology 2017: 6)

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2017) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2014).

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 A total of sixteen evaluation trenches were proposed within the extents of the Site (Figure 1).
- 4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and ClfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.
- 4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.
- 4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of sixteen evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

- 5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil which overlay the natural clay geology.
- 5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of light to mid orange brown silt clay. Natural geology comprised relatively soft light orange brown silty clay.
- 5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-2 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-4 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

- 5.3.1 No archaeological features or finds were recorded within any of the sixteen trenches. Minimal truncation of the surviving natural geological sequence was present within Trench 14 where an animal burrow [1407] and root bole [1409] truncated natural geology (1403) (Plate 2 and Plate 3).

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Despite the lack of archaeological features, pottery and flint was retrieved from the subsoil.
- 6.1.2 Context-based quantification and dating:

Primary quantification : 15 sherds (weight: 125gms)

Period codes employed :

LP = Later Prehistoric

EMIA = Early-Mid Iron Age

LIA-ER = Latest Iron Age-Early Roman (Conquest-period AD)

Context dating:

Context: Trench 1, (102) - 1 sherd (weight: 1gm)

1 EMIA flint-tempered ware (c.600-350 BC emphasis)

and : 2 fragments coal shale (weight: 8gms) - moderate sized fragments, unworn, CI5/16

AD-plus

Comment: Small fairly fresh bodysherd.

Likely commencement date : Nothing obviously earlier than c.600 BC

Likely end-date : Uncertain - LP sherd could be residual or shale could be intrusive

Context: Trench 4, base of Context (402) - 2 sherds (weight: 13gms)

2 EMIA flint-tempered ware (c.600-350 BC)

Comment: Small rather worn bodysherd, moderate-sized marginally less worn fineware bowl shoulder sherd.

Likely commencement date : Nothing obviously earlier than c.600 BC

Likely end-date : Condition suggests probably residual

Context: Trench 9, base of Context (902)

1 worked flint (weight: 8gms)

Comment /Small non-cortical flake, unpatinated flawed dark grey flint, broad end hooked and probably used as a crude end scraper and/or spokeshave. Possibly Later Prehistoric

Likely commencement date : Uncertain

Likely end-date : Probably residual

Context: Trench 11, top of Context (1102) - extreme south end - 2 sherds (weight: 53gms)

2 EMIA flint-tempered ware (c.600-350 BC)

Comment: Small worn bodysherds, one from a thick-walled coarseware jar.

Likely commencement date : Nothing obviously earlier than c.600 BC

Likely end-date : Condition suggests probably residual

Context: Trench 12 central - base of Context 2 - 2 sherds (weight: 1 Ogms)

2 L1A-ER fine sandy ware (c.25-50/75 AD emphasis probably; same vessel)

Comment: Moderate-sized conjoining elements forming complete profile shallow platter. Low-fired and heavily sooted internally. If not sooted post-loss may have been used as a crude lamp. Rather worn.

Likely commencement date : Nothing obviously pre-dating c.0/25 AD

Likely end-date : Discard possibly between c.50-100 AD

Context: Trench 13, west end, base of Context (1302) - 8 sherds (weight: 48gms)

8 EMIA flint-tempered ware (c.600-350 BC; 3 x same vessels)

Comment: Mostly small bodysherds but including one moderate sized. Latter, as two others, from coarse ware jars with deliberately rusticated finishes. All rather worn but largest element and several others are unifacially less worn.

Likely commencement date : Nothing obviously pre-dating c.600 BC

Likely end-date : Even if residual, condition implies derivation from an immediately underlying or adjacent EMIA horizon.

Analyst: N.Macpherson-Grant (5.2017)

1 - Apart from possible MBA>EIA type flint from Trench 9, nothing obviously predating c.600 BC

2 — Apart from C15/C16 AD-plus coal shale from Trench 1, nothing obviously postdating c. 175/200 AD

3 - Ceramically 2 periods represented -

3a - First is Early-Mid Iron Age, form of fineware bowl shoulder sherd indicating a date between c.550-400 BC - and this date almost certainly applies to all the flint-tempered material recovered from Trenches 1,4,11 and 13

3b - Second is Latest Iron Age-Early Roman, represented by a single platter profile from Trench 12. Low-fired fabric suggests an earlyish date

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Archaeological Narrative

7.1.1 Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains no archaeological features were recorded within any of the sixteen trenches.

7.1.2 The presence of the subsoil would suggest that preservation levels are relatively high and that if archaeological remains were present then they would have suffered minimal disturbance.

7.1.3 Despite the absence of archaeological features, finds were present in the subsoil layer, with 15 sherds of pottery and one worked flint positively dated Iron Age/Romano-British period and Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age respectively. The presence of these finds provides an indication that archaeological activity may be present within the surrounding area.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are unlikely to impact on archaeological remains. Further archaeological mitigation, should it be necessary, will need to be determined in consultation with the Kent County Council and local planning authority.

7.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Principal Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank The Vinsen Trust for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for his advice and assistance.
- 9.1.2 Tim Allen supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. David Britchfield (MCIfA) produced the draft text for this report which was edited by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

10 REFERENCES

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SWAT Archaeology 2017, *Archaeological Evaluation of Land Behind tinbridge Cottages*, London Road, Boughton under Blean, Kent

11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 30.14m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
102	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.27
103	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.27+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 29.10m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
202	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.26
203	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.26+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 30.24m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
301	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.22
302	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.22-0.50
303	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.50+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 29.90m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
401	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.19
402	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.19-0.48
403	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.48+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 30.04m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
501	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.14
502	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.14-0.38
503	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.38+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 29.75m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
601	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.18
602	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.18-0.44
603	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.44+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 28.97m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
701	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.15
702	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.15-0.39
703	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.39+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 28.65m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
01	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.32
02	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.32-0.55
03	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.55+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 28.52m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
901	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.31
902	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.31-0.48
903	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.48+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 28.42m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1001	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.33
1002	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.33-0.59
1003	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.59+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 27.69m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1101	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.27
1102	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.27-0.50
1103	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.50+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 27.72m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1201	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.29
1202	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.29-0.51
1203	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.51-0.59+

Trench 13	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 27.16m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1301	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.31
1302	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.31-0.48
1303	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.48+

Trench 14	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 27.54m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1401	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.21
1402	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.21-0.48
1403	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.48-0.56+
1404	Void		-
1405	Void		-
1406	Dark grey silt clay	Fill of animal burrow	-
1407	Animal burrow filled by 1406	Animal burrow	-
1408	Light orange brown silt clay	Fill of root bole	-
1409	Root bole filled by 1408	Root bole	-

Trench 15	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 26.84m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1501	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.27
1502	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.27-0.55
1503	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.55+

Trench 16	Dimensions: 25m x 1.6m Ground Level: 28.80m aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1601	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.19
1602	Light to mid orange brown silt clay with rare rounded stones	Subsoil	0.19-0.30
1603	Light orange brown silty clay	Natural	0.30+

12 APPENDIX 2 – KCC HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton-Under-Blean, Kent

SWAT Site Code: VF-FAV-EV-17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by The Vinson Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton-Under-Blean, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Principal Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in April 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2017) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of sixteen trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology. Despite the potential for archaeological remains and relatively good preservation conditions, no archaeological features were recorded, although residual prehistoric and Romano-British finds were present within the subsoil.

District/Unitary: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR 602977 160258

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: April 2017

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

Geology: Brickearth

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2017) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton-Under-Blean, 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: 23/10/2017

SITE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton under Blean, Kent

1. Summary:

This specification covers an archaeological evaluation of land behind Tinbridge Cottages, London Road, Boughton under Blean in Kent. The land has planning permission (15/502738/FULL) for the relocation and winter storage of 44 seasonal workers caravans and 4 mobile communal facilities (Figure 2) and there is potential for archaeology to survive on site. As such this evaluation will clarify the presence/absence of archaeological remains and guide the need for detailed mitigation. Further mitigation will be carried out in accordance with a different specification agreed with the County Archaeologist and the fieldwork will need to be implemented prior to any construction work commencing on site. Post excavation and publication timescale and programme will also need to be agreed prior to commencement of construction work on site.

2. Site Location & Description:

The site is situated in open agricultural land located to the rear of Tinbridge Cottages on the northern side of the Canterbury Road (A2). The site until recently was occupied by polytunnels screened by hedge planting. It is proposed that the site will have 44 workers caravans and four caravans with communal facilities. In addition, a landscape bund will be constructed on the southern boundary of the site. The site covers an area of 12140 sq metres. The OS location is NGR 602977 160258 (Fig. 3).

3. Planning Background & Nature of Development:

The land has planning permission (15/502738/FULL) for the relocation and winter storage of 44 seasonal workers caravans and 4 mobile communal facilities. On the basis of present archaeological

information, the Archaeological Officer for Swale Borough 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 6 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 archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded, to ensure that the details are approved prior to commencement of development.

The methodology of the evaluation phase of investigation is identified within this specification which is based on the KCC site specific specification A and in the KCC Evaluation Manual Part B. In addition, options for preservation in situ of important archaeological remains can be achieved through engineering options which could include foundation design.

4. Geological & Topographical Background:

On the basis of current information from BGS, the site lies on Bedrock Geology of Thanet Formation- Sand, Silt and Clay. The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. Ground levels are about 28maOD at the north of the site and about 29maOD at the south area of the site.

5. Archaeological & Historical Background Potential

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and there is a paucity of archaeological investigation within the locality of the proposed development site (PDA). The main Roman road- Watling Street- runs along the southern boundary of the PDA (TR 06 SW 126) but the only archaeological find within the assessment area is a Late Iron Age cremation found SW of the PDA at the eastern edge of Macknade Farm. Other sites within the assessment area are medieval or post-medieval farms and include Lady Dane Farm to the NNW (MKE 85899). Ewell Farm to the NNE (MKE 85922) and Homestall Farm to the E (MKE 85925).

6. Specific Aims of the Archaeological Work:

The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for Roman activity and in particular the adjacent Roman road and also in any other Prehistoric and Roman activity.

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.

This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site and any further archaeological work, such as detailed excavation work or a watching brief, would need to be subject to further specifications.

7. Methodology:

The initial evaluation will comprise 15 machine excavated trenches (c.25m x 1.8m) in a layout agreed with the County Archaeologist. A suggested plan is attached (Figure 1). Each trench will be machine excavated down to 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.30m 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. Site Recording and Archiving:

8.1 A copy of the report will be sent to the Historical Research Group of Faversham.

8.2 The report will be in accordance with the KCC part B generic requirements and will include a detailed analysis of the archaeological deposits on the site and how they may potentially be impacted by development as proposed. The significance of the archaeology should be fully assessed and set out with reference to national criteria for assessing significance of archaeological remains.

9. Site Reporting and Archiving:

The results of the evaluation will be communicated at the earliest possible opportunity to the client as well as the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer via either a brief written statement or an interim report. However, it will not include recommendations as to whether further archaeological investigation will or will not be required.

The site archive will be collated and will comprise two elements; the documentary (written, drawn, photographic and electronic) record, and the material remains recovered. All drawings will be digitised, and finds cross-referenced and ordered within an internally consistent permanent record. Moreover, a full, archival, indexed catalogue of the documentary site archive will also be prepared.

The site archive will include all records created, artefacts recovered, and soil samples taken during the course of the fieldwork and will be appropriately marked as such so as to distinguish these from any records created during the post-excavation analysis phase. All parts of the documentary site archive will be kept, and will also be distinguished from other records created during project management.

All soil samples and each class of artefact will be clearly marked and suitably boxed. A full catalogue of the material archive will be prepared to indicate where these samples and finds have been recovered from.

On completion of the site archive being ordered and catalogued, this will be assessed in accordance with the parameters indicated in *The Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)* (English Heritage, 2nd Edition, 1991), and a strategy to implement the post-excavation analysis will be established and agreed between SWAT Archaeology, the archaeological contractor and the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer.

On completion of the ordering and cataloguing of the site archive, a field report on the evaluation will be compiled, which itself will form a part of the assessment process. It will comprise a brief, concise narrative with relevant illustrations to present an overview of the results of the work undertaken, categorised by area and period. It will be submitted to the client and the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer within 6 weeks of the conclusion of the evaluation, and a separate summary report will be compiled detailing any significant artefacts that may have been recovered during the course of the evaluation or wherever the archaeology is complex. A copy of the resulting report shall be offered to the Dover Archaeological Group.

As outlined previously, the report will not include any recommendations for further archaeological works; it will, however, assess the archaeological importance of any features or artefacts revealed during the evaluation process.

In addition to the field report a short summary report (generally no more than 500 words with selected drawn and photographic illustrations) will be compiled for subsequent publication in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the journal of the Kent Archaeological Society. This summary report will be produced within 3 months of the completion of the evaluation and copies submitted to the client and the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer.

Should no further archaeological works be required in the aftermath of the evaluation and the subsequent post-excavation analysis, a sufficient programme to bring the results of the evaluation to publication will be identified, defined and agreed in writing between SWAT Archaeology, the archaeological contractor and the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer.

This will primarily be comprised of an assessment report that will contain as a minimum the following, as well as such further work as is subsequently justified. The post-excavation assessment will be completed within 3 months of the cessation of the evaluation, and a report submitted to the client and the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer;

The methodologies to be utilised in the preparation of interim field, summary and assessment reports will be determined by the results of the evaluation and the importance of any archaeology revealed during this process. In the case of the evaluation revealing little of archaeological significance, the assessment and reporting detailed above will not be required; in this circumstance, only a brief summary report should be prepared.

In the case of further archaeological investigation being necessary following the completion of the evaluation, then the post-excavation examination and assessment of the results of the evaluation will be incorporated into subsequent programmes and phases of archaeological excavations and analysis (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 12. Reporting).

10. Monitoring:

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, following the completion and fieldwork and when submitting the report the Archaeological Contractor will complete and submit the relevant portions of the Fieldwork Notification Form (attached).

These proposed archaeological works will be inspected by the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 14. Monitoring and Liaison).

11. General:

Appropriate security will be agreed and provided, with particular attention given to the protection against loss of data by unauthorized excavation for archaeological artefacts. In the case of security problems arising, it will be ascertained whether a permanent presence on the excavation site may be necessary.

It is possible that poor weather conditions may halt archaeological excavation temporarily; this may necessitate the provision of protection and covering of exposed archaeological features and deposits. As a result of this consideration, it is suggested that time should be allowed for delays due to adverse weather.

A calendar detailing the time scheme and planned works for the archaeological evaluation will be organised between the archaeological contractor and the KCC Principal Archaeological Officer, specifying in particular the dates for both the commencement and completion of the archaeological investigation (see also KCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 18. General).

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 20/03/2017



Plate 1. The site (Google Earth 9/7/2013). Eye altitude 509m)

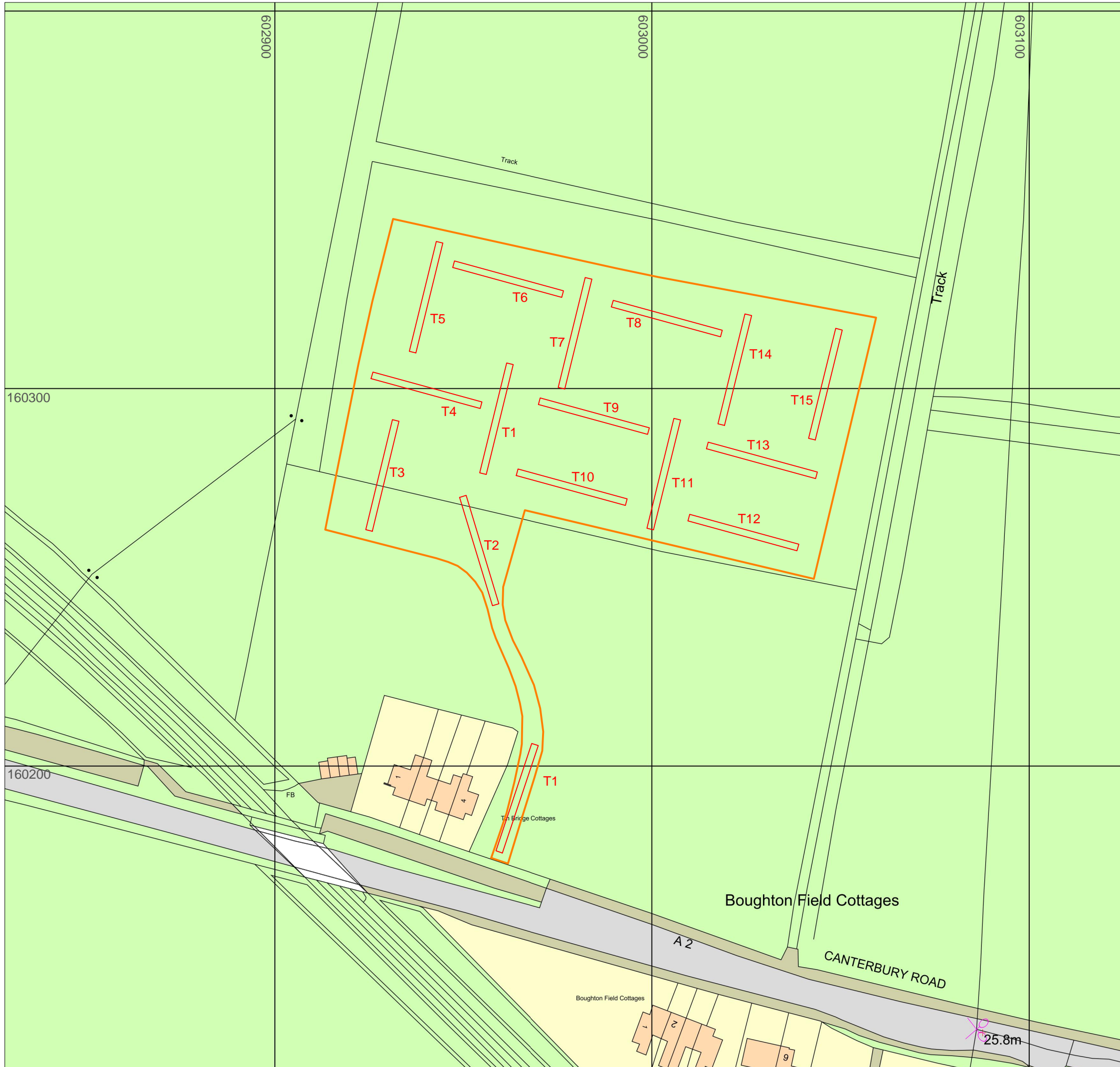


Figure 1: Trench location in OS map, scale 1:1250

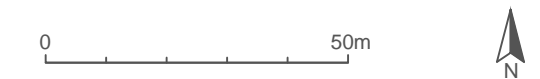


Figure 2: Trench location in Proposed development plan, scale 1:1250



Plate 1 Trench 1, viewed from the south



Plate 2 Trench 14, viewed from the north



Plate 3 Trench 14, animal burrow [1407], viewed from the north



Plate 4 Trench 15, viewed from the north