

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Willows, Mock Lane, Great Chart, Kent TN23 3DS

Site Code: CHART -EV-17

NGR Site Centre: 597413 140885

Planning Application Number: 15/510186/FULL



Report for the Landowner

02/01/2018

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by the Landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at The Willows, Mock Lane, Great Chart, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in December 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 two 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.

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at The Willows, Mock Lane, Great Chart, Kent

NGR Site Centre: 597413 140885

Site Code: MOCK-EV-18

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by the Landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Mocks Lane, Great Chart, Kent (**Figure 1**). A planning application (17/00272/AS) was approved by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for the residential development of one dwelling together with associated access road, car parking and landscaping.

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 ABC, 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 (11) to the planning approval, which stated that;

Prior to the commencement of development hereby approved, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:

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

ii further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a 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.

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in December 2017 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2017), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, at KCCHC.

1.2 Site Description and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 597413 140885, on the north side of Mock Lane and just to the north of Chilmington Green.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Society (BGS), the site lies on Bedrock Geology of Weald Clay Formation- Silt, Clay, and Mudstone.

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).

2.2 Overview (SWAT Archaeology 2017)

The potential of this area has been assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains and the investigation by Wessex Archaeology in the land to the north and south of the current PDA reports that “nothing was found in the evaluation trenches immediately to the north of Mock Lane and in fact the evaluation to its south of is also fairly barren apart from the Trench 28/35/53 concentration” (CgMs Sept 2016).

Rectilinear geophysical anomalies are noted on the HER NNE of Mock Lane (TQ 94 SE 209). Linear geophysical anomalies SSE of Mock Lane (TQ 94 SE 210) and linear geophysical anomalies at New Street Farm NW of Mock Lane (TQ 94 SE 209) were also shown on the HER search.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2017)

- 3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification. 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 two 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 CifA 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 two 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 dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small rounded sandstones, topped with grass/leaves, overlying the subsoil which consisted of firmly compacted pale grey clayey silt with moderate sandstone flecks. Natural geology comprised relatively soft mid orange brown composition which varied from clay sandy silt to sandy clay.
- 5.2.3 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figure 1 provides 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 two trenches.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 With the lack of archaeological features, no pottery and flint was retrieved from the subsoil.

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 two 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.

7.2 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.

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 Senior 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 Landowner for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Scott Skinner supervised the archaeological fieldwork; illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Scott Skinner produced the draft text for this report which was edited by Dr. Paul Wilkinson (MCIfA).

10 REFERENCES

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11 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1 Dimensions: 11m x 1.6m Ground Level: 42.57m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
101	Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
102	Pale grey clayey silt with moderate sandstone flecks	Subsoil	0.25-0.50
103	Mid yellow brown clay sandy silt	Natural	0.50+

Trench 2 Dimensions: 11m x 1.6m Ground Level: 42.60m aOD			
Context	Description	Interpretation	Depth (m)
201	Dark grey loam, moderate roots and occasional small rounded stones	Topsoil	0.00-0.25
202	Pale grey clayey silt with moderate sandstone flecks	Subsoil	0.25-0.60
203	Mid yellow brown clay sandy silt	Natural	0.60+

12 APPENDIX 2 – KCC HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Evaluation on Land at The Willows, Mock Lane, Great Chart, Kent

SWAT Site Code: CHART-EV-17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) were commissioned by the Landowner to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at The Willows, Mock Lane, Great Chart, Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

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District/Unitary: Ashford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 597413 140885

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: December 2017

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

Geology: Weald Clay Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (2018) Archaeological Evaluation on Land at The Willows, Mock Lane, Great Chart, 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: 02/01/2018



Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking north)



Plate 2. Trench 2 (looking SE)

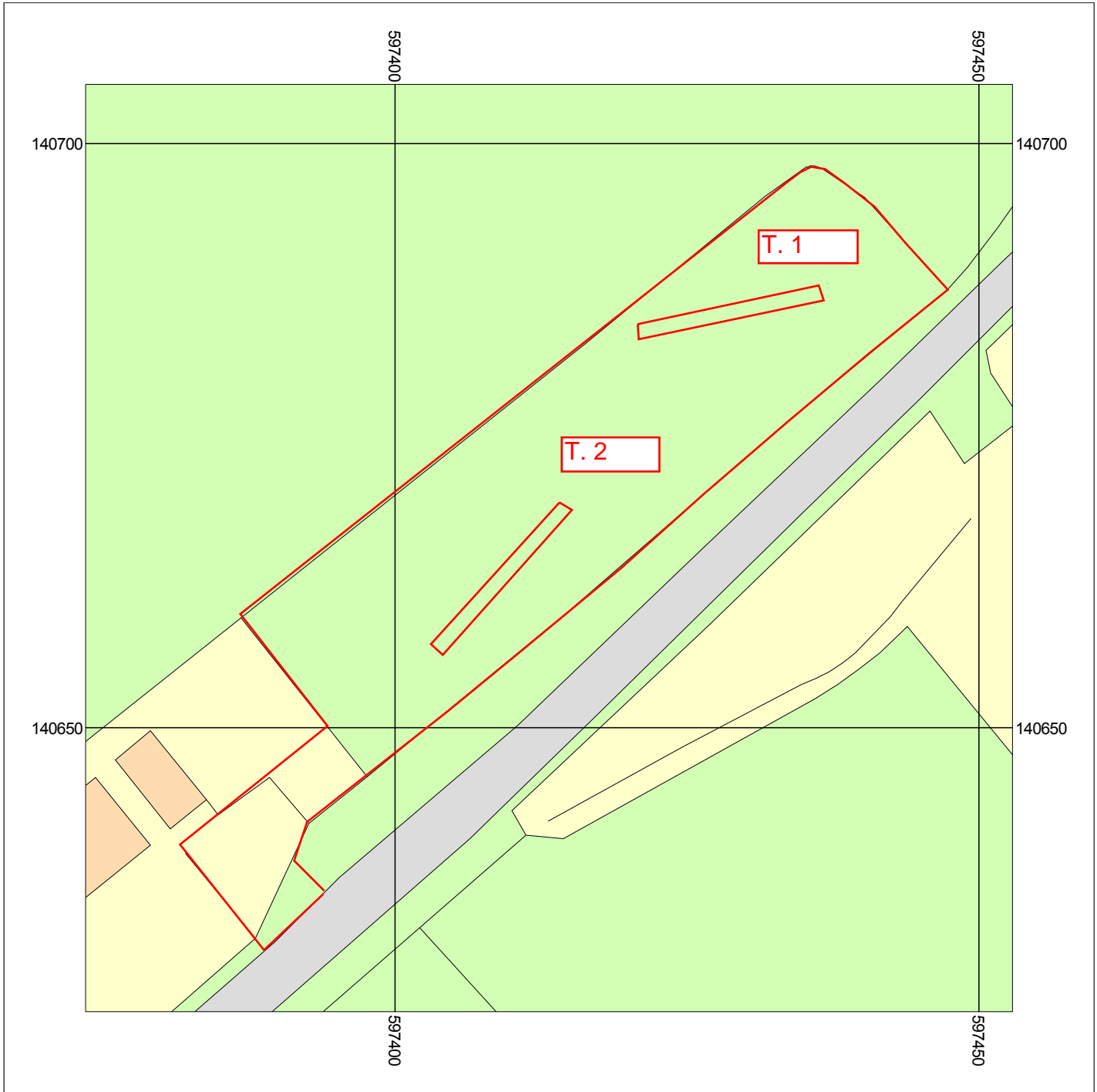


Plate 3. Trench 2 (section)



Plate 4. Trench 1 (section)

Figure 1.
Evaluation trenches



Metres
0 2.5 5 10 15 20 25
Scale: 1:500



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The Willows
Mock Lane
Great Chart
Ashford
TN23 3DS

Plot centre co-ordinates: 597413,140665
Download file: swat_willows.zip
Project name: swat_willows