

Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Herne Community Centre, St Martin's View, School Lane, Herne, Kent



NGR: 618364 165893

Site Code: HERN/EV/17

(Planning Application: CA/14/00688/FUL)

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the Herne Community Centre, School Lane, Herne, Kent. A Planning Application (CA/4/00688/FUL) to develop this site for the demolition of existing Parish Hall and the new build of a Herne Community Centre was made to Canterbury City 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 A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of two evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches (Figure 1). The natural geology of Clay and Silt was reached at an average depth of between 0.25m and 0.30m below ground level (BGL). The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the Parish Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT & CCC 2017) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 17th May 2017.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site the site is located just off School Lane and to the east of St Martin's Church and to the west of Herne Church of England Primary School. It is situated within the parish of Herne and Broomfield, itself within Canterbury District, between the villages of Sturry (5 km to the south), and Herne Bay (2km to the north). The city of Canterbury is located 9 km to the south south-west.

According to the British Geological Survey the underlying surface is anticipated to be London Clay Formation, Clay and Silt. However, the proposed development site is located on the geological boundary with the Harwich Formation, Sand and Gravel (BGS 1:50,000 digital). The site averages 23-26maOD. (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council gave planning permission (CA/14/00688/FUL) for development of land at the Herne Community Centre, School Lane, Herne, Kent.

On the advice of Rosanne Cummings, Archaeological Heritage Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

(Condition 15) No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer, or their successor(s) in title has secured, firstly, the implementation of an archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, secondly, implementation of any mitigation measures, including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation, to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains; and thirdly a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication of any matters of archaeological interest. All archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.

REASON: *To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.*

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) and the Desk-Based Assessment (SWAT 2014) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. Anglo-Saxon remains are focused on the church of St Martin's but may impact on the PDA. In addition the PDA is in the centre of the medieval village and the potential for finding remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval period are considered moderate (SWAT DBA 2014).

6. Aims and Objectives

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

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. Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains will not be excavated (see also CCC Evaluation Specification Part B: 4. Objectives).

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising a first phase of two trenches within the footprint of the proposed community centre development. A 2.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the SWAT & CCC specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with CCC, SWAT and ClfA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the two trenches (Figure 1 & Plates 2-3).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-3). The trench lay on an NNW to SSE alignment and measured approximately 18m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**102**) was identified across the trench as dark brown sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (23.70m AOD) below the present ground surface at 24.00m aOD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of subsoil (**101**) 0.15m thick, and above this topsoil (**100**).

Trench 2

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 1-3). The trench lay on an NNE to SSW alignment and measured approximately 12m by 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**202**) was identified across the trench as dark brown sandy silty clay, at a depth of approximately 0.30m (23.70m AOD) below the present ground surface at 24.00m AOD at mid-trench. The natural geology was sealed by a clean layer of subsoil (**201**) 0.15m thick, and above this topsoil (**200**).

10. Discussion

With some archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site it was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. Most of the site has been used previously as a garden but now wasteland.

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 topsoil **(100)** sealing subsoil **(101)** which overlay the natural geology **(102)**. 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 for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer, Canterbury City Council. Site survey and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen MCIfA and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson

24/07/2017

14. References

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

SWAT Archaeology (18.3.17) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Herne Community Centre, St Martin's View, Herne, Kent*

CCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2016

Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at The Herne Community Centre, St Martin's View, Herne, Kent

SWAT Site Code: HERN/EV/17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new Herne Community Centre whereby Canterbury City Council 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: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 618364 165893

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: 17th May 2017

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Clay and Silt

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at the Herne Community Centre, St Martin's View, Herne, 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: 24/07/2017

PLATES



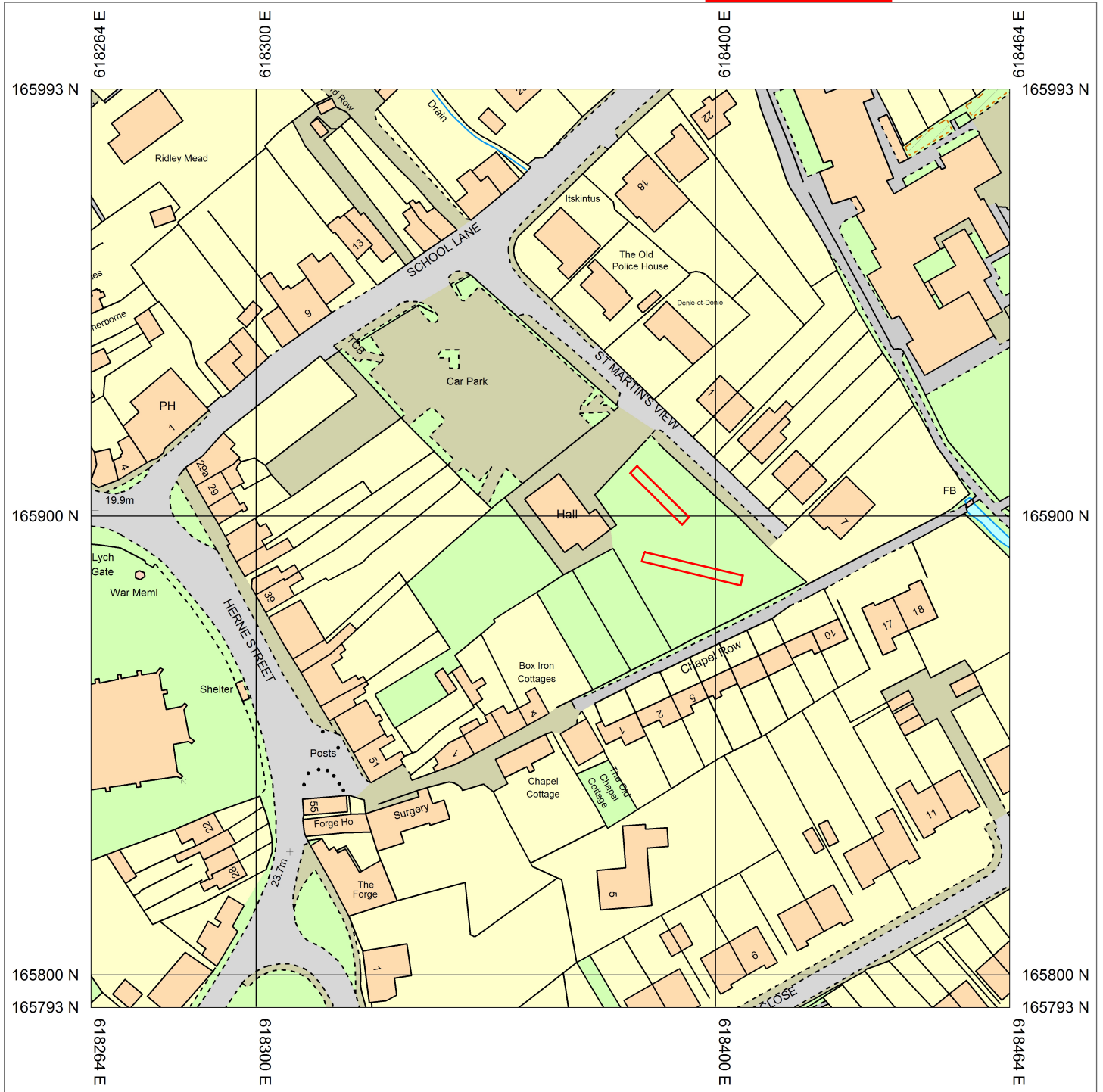
Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking W)



Plate 2. Trench 2 (looking S)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking N)



Herne near Herne Bay

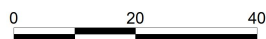
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Scale 1:1250

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Serial number: 001134871

Plot Centre Coordinates: 618364, 165893