

Archaeological Investigation on land at 17 Police Station Road, West Malling, Kent

Site Code PSR/WB/17



Report for Alex Boyd
Date of report 18/05/2017

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Investigation on land at 17 Police Station Road, West Malling, Kent

Site Code PSR/WB/17
NGR 568171 157868

Date of report: 18/05/2017



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 294m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 11th, 12th April 2017 Tim Allen MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a two storey extension to the rear of the property (Figs. 1, 2 & Plates 1-7).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the land owner.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the cutting of foundation and drainage trenches.

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase (Plates 2-7).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological remains associated with the medieval core of West Malling.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is TM/16/01886/FL.

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

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The application site lies within the historic core of West Malling which may be of early medieval origins but certainly flourished in the medieval period with the establishment of the Abbey. West Malling is one of the medieval market towns covered by the Historic Towns Survey for Kent (KCC/English Heritage) and understanding its historic development is a key issue.

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application TM/16/01886/FL was submitted to Tonbridge and 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 (6) was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved

by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to 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 (Tim Allen SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 11th-12th April 2017:

11th April- work on site was the cutting of one trench. Plates 1,2

12th April- work on site was completion of the foundation trenches and drainage run (Plates 4-9 & Figure 1)

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through recording of the archaeological remains which may be disturbed as a result of the development (March 2017).

4.2. The ground works were for some ground reduction and to cut the foundation trenches for the proposed extension (Plates 2-9).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey website is Bedrock geology of Sandgate Formation- Sandstone & Mudstone.

The Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The soil revealed on site was made up ground of brick crush, tarmac pieces and crushed shell about 10-12cm thick overlaying sandy silty clay at about 95cm to 1.20m BGL.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains, in particular the listed buildings situated in Police Station Road at numbers 5-7 (TQ 65 NE 237).

Further south at Mill Yard Medieval and Post-Medieval features, pottery and human remains were recovered by SWAT Archaeology (TQ 65 NE 42).

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 (CifA: Dec 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out according to the needs of the building contractors from 11th, 12th April 2017.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by the contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed and ditching bucket necessary to trench the soil down to formation level (Plates 2-9).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Tim Allen MCifA).

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be 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.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief 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 clay overlaid by made up ground. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the subsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 5m x 7m, the proposed extension is to be located to the rear of the main house. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 90cm-1.20m deep with a ground level about 44.10m 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 on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological Specification. 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 Alex Boyd for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Allen and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

References

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at 17 Police Station Road, West Malling, Kent

SWAT Site Code: PSR/WB/17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new extension 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 Monitoring consisted of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 568171 157868

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: April 2017

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Sandgate Formation

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 17 Police Station Road, 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: 18/05/2017



Plate 2. General view of site (looking SE)



Plate 3. The proposed development area



Plate 4. Clearing the site



Plate 5. View of trenching



Plate 6. Close up of trenching



Plate 7. View of drain run

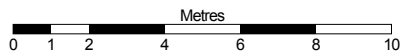
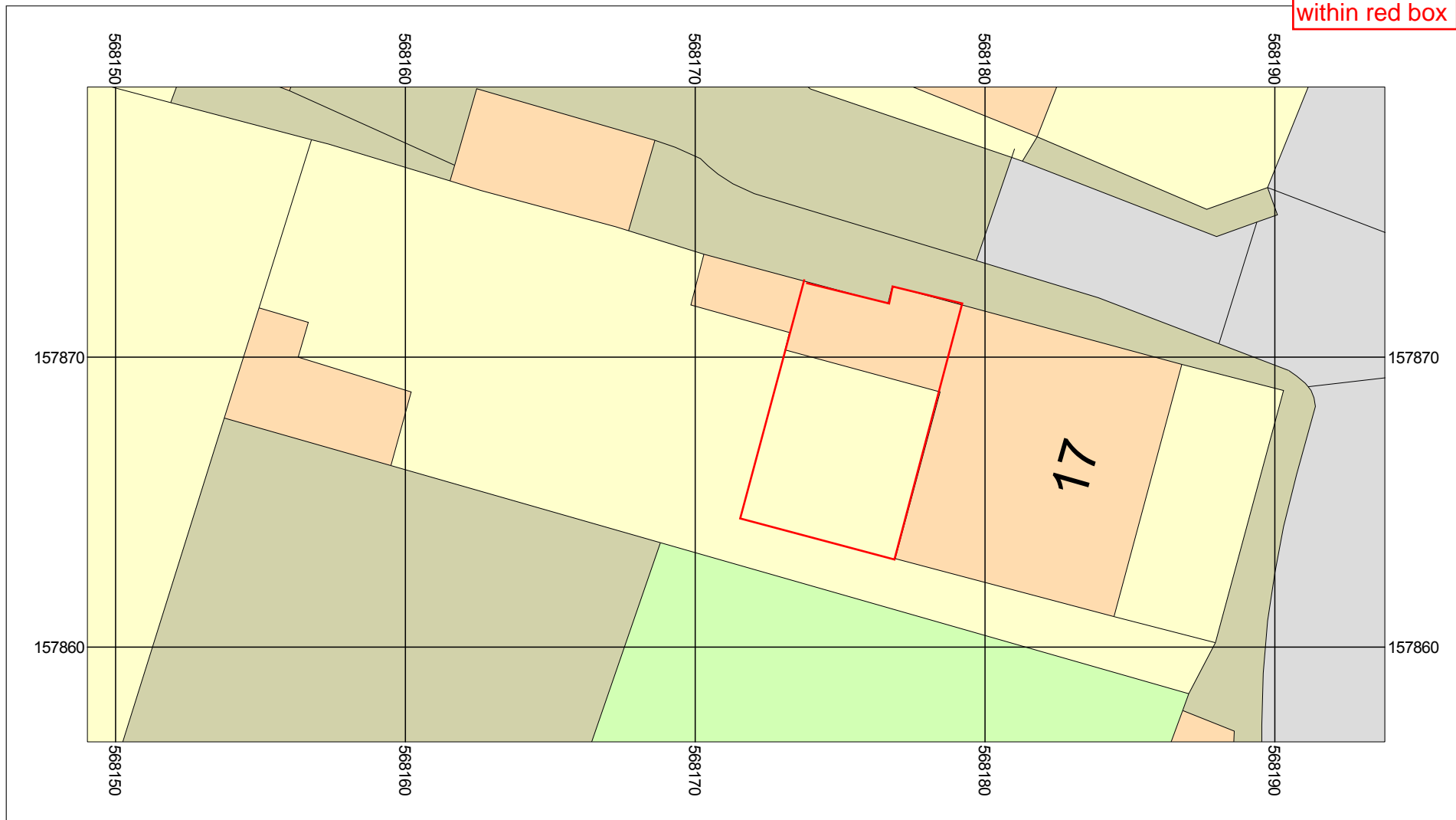


Plate 8. Completed trenching



Plate 9. Section of foundation trench

Figure 1.
Area watched
within red box



Scale: 1:200

17 Police Station Road
West Malling
ME19 6LL



Supplied By:
Licence number
Produced:
Serial number:

National Map Centre
100031961
18/05/2017
1839686

Plot centre co-ordinates: 568171.157868
Download file: police.zip
Project name: swat1