

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the former Rose and Crown, Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

Site Code BRAN /WB/18



Date of report 17/10/2018

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

NGR Site Centre 567335 148672



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

(Google Earth 2007: Eye altitude 287m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 27-28th September 2018 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of terraced dwelling on land at 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham in Kent. (Fig. 1 & 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 excavation of foundation trenches and drainage connection (Plates 2-7).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: The digging out of the foundation footprint of the new buildings to about 0.40-0.1.10m below present ground level of about 14.00m AOD (27<sup>th</sup> September & Plates 2-7).

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 former Public House, the Rose and Crown and any earlier buildings.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council TM/18/00273/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 site is situated in the village and Parish of East Peckham, just to the west of the A228 and just south of Hale Street. To the south is the River Medway which runs close to the proposed development area (PDA) and the PDA is north of the village of Beltring. The Southern Rail line to London is located to the east with a station stop at Beltring. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 567335 148672 (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone. Superficial deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. The PDA is set at an average height of 14.00m AOD.

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application TM/18/00273/FL was submitted to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and the following condition (10) was attached to the planning consent:

*The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority and shall allow him/her to observe the excavation and record items of interest and finds The developer will inform the Local Planning Authority of the start date of construction works on site not less than two weeks before the commencement of such works.*

*Reason: In the interests of archaeological research. In reaching this decision, the Local Planning Authority has had appropriate regard to the provisions of paragraphs 186 - 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28th September 2018.

### **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 the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits (SWAT Archaeology 30/07/2018).*

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation trenches and drain connection for the new terraced dwellings (Plates 2-7).

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 is that the Bedrock Geology is Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone whilst the Superficial Deposits are Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand, and Gravel (Plates 2-7).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2017).

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 on 27<sup>th</sup>- 28th September 2018.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the soil down to formation level (Plates 2-7).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson 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 CIfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2017), 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 clay silty sand overlaid by topsoil mixed with demolition material. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The area watched was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 1.00m-1.50cm deep at about 14.20m AOD. The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site. No remains were encountered of previous buildings 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 SWAT 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 the landowners for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (KCC and Historic England 2018)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

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

**Site Name:** Development of land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** BRAN/WB/18

**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 new terraced housing 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 & Malling Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 567335 148672

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

**Date of recording:** September 2018

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Weald Clay Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at the former Rose and Crown, 2 Branbridges Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, 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:** 17/10/18





Plate 2. General view of site (looking S)



Plate 3. View of trenching (looking N)



Plate 4. View of foundation trenching (looking N)



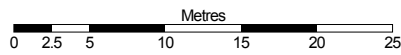
Plate 5. View of the trenches (looking N)



Plate 6. View of the trenches (looking N)



Plate 7. View of the trenches (looking N)



Scale: 1:500

**Branbridges Road**

**East Peckham  
TN12 5HD**



Supplied by: National Map Centre  
License number: 100031961  
Produced: 26/07/2018  
Serial number: 2010711

Plot centre co-ordinates: 567341,148650  
Download file: branbridges.zip  
Project name: swat1