

Archaeological Watching Brief on land
adjoining 264 Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, Kent,
TN23 6LU

Site Code KING/WB/18



Date of report 20/09/2018

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Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjoining 264 Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, Kent

Site Code KING/WB/18
NGR 600237 140468

Date of report: 20/09/2018



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

(Google Earth 20/4/2017: Eye altitude 217m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. From the 25th July to 1st August 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 a dwelling at land adjoining 264 Kingsnorth Road, Ashford 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, drainage ditches and soakaway (Plates 2-7).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: The digging out of the foundation footprint of the new building to about 0.90-1.00m below present ground level of about 44.00m AOD (25th-26th March & Plates 2-3).

Phase 2: The digging out of the drainage runs and large soakaway (1st August & Plates 4-7)

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 nearby findings of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pits, ditches and burials.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 17/01128/AS.

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 located on land that was formally a garden within the curtilage of No. 264 Kingsnorth Road and partly in the garden of 266a Kingsnorth Road. The site itself is level at about 44.00m aOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

Planning application 17/01128/AS was submitted to Ashford 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 (4) 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 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.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works from 25th July to 1st August 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 18/04/2018).

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the foundation trenches for the new dwelling, drainage and soakaway (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 were not known but site work has identified the subsoil as sandy silty clay.

5.2. The application site lies within c.250m of Westhawk Farm. Westhawk Farm was of particular interest as it lay close to the junction of two Roman roads (Margary Routes 130 and 131); one which linked London and Lympne and a second which ran through the Sussex and Kent Weald, through Canterbury to Richborough.

The excavations revealed what appears to have been a Roman small town or Roadside Settlement. A northeast to south-west road was marked by ditches. To the north of the road regular plots were laid out perpendicular to the road, with rectangular buildings and areas of metal working being identified.

Circular structures were also present. South of the road was a large open area which included a Roman temple. There was also evidence of intense metal working south of the road, at the eastern edge of excavations.

A cemetery was located to the north of the town centre. Geophysical survey failed to clarify the northern extent of the town which could extend towards the proposed development site.

5.3 In addition archaeological works along Kingsnorth Road have confirmed that an Iron Age settlement was in existence prior to the Roman small town and Iron Age remains may extend into the development site.

5.4 At Waterbrook Farm, Sevington extensive archaeological trenching revealed a probable farmstead of Late Iron Age to Early Iron Age, and at Blind Lane in Sevington archaeological investigation revealed ditches and a possible trackway of Middle to Late Bronze Age date. Of particular interest is the recent work by Archaeology South East at Brisley Farm some 600m west north west of Area B at Westhawk Farm. Here was an extensive settlement of Late Iron Age date associated with two high status 'warrior' inhumation burials (Johnson 2002).

5.5 To the south-west at the Millbank Reception Area Late Iron Age/Early Roman pits, ditches were excavated (TR 04 SW 380), and 6+ Late Iron Age/Early Roman graves were also found (TR 04 SW 381) whilst at the Limes almost opposite and not as yet on the HER were excavated.

5.6 The Archaeological Evaluation at the Limes consisted of six trenches which revealed a number of archaeological features present within the trenches, with some pits and linears containing large quantities of Late Iron Age pottery (c. 50BC to 25AD). The natural geology of Wealden Clay was reached at an average depth of between 0.40m and 0.55m below the modern ground surface with archaeological features cutting into the natural geology.

The excavation which started in November 2014 was then delayed to May 2015 because of continuous flooding of the site over the winter months.

5.7 The site was reduced starting at the west edge of the site by a 360' machine stripping back the site in 10cm layers with a bladed bucket and the archaeological horizon and natural geology was exposed at the depth of 0.28m, The strip was subsequently carried forward eastwards where underlying Weald Clay was exposed at the approximate depth of one metre.

5.8 Several linear features were identified within the stripped area, and their plan established and recorded but it became apparent that additional archaeological features were also there but obscured from view by a colluvial cap of silty clay which required hand trowelling to enable the complete archaeological area to be exposed and recorded.

5.9 Some 50% of the archaeological features- mainly ditches were investigated and excavated in one metre wide intervention-slots. Calcined human remains were exposed at the deeper levels and the deposits were 100% sampled. Fieldwork was completed on Monday 11th May 2015 (*SWAT Archaeology 2016*).

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 from 25th July to 1st August 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 ClfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 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 Wealden Clay overlaid by silty sandy clay and overlaid by topsoil. 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 proposed detached dwelling is between the two adjacent houses. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 90cm-100cm deep at about 44.00m 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 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)

ClfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Appendix 1
Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land adjoining 264 Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: KING/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 a new detached house 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: Ashford Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 600237 140468

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: July August 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 adjoining 264 Kingsnorth Road, Ashford, 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: 20/09/18



Plate 2. General view of site (looking NW)



Plate 3. View of foundation trenching at entrance (looking W)



Plate 4. View of ground reduction of soakaway (looking E)



Plate 5. View of the ground reduction of soakaway (looking W)



Plate 6. View of the section of soakaway (looking NW)



Plate 7. Drainage and service trench (looking E)

Figure 1
Location of
foundation
trenches and
soakaway



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



Land adjacent to
264 Kingnorth Road
Ashford
TN23 6LU

Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 20/09/2018
Serial number: 2030976

Plot centre co-ordinates: 600244,140475
Download file: swat_264kingnorth.zip
Project name: swat_264kingnorth