

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 2 Mill Road, Wingham Well, Kent

Site Code WING/WB/19



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NGR 623484 157155



AP 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site before development.

(Google Earth 2018: Eye altitude 257m).

1.0 Abstract

1.1. In May 2019 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 single storey rear extension, flue and soakaway (existing extension to be demolished) at 2 Mill Road, Wingham Well in Kent. (Figures 1 & 2 and Plates 1-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the developer.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the ground trench excavation of the site. (Plates 1-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Foundation trenches on 29th May 2019 (Plates 1-4).

Phase 2: The digging out of the soakaway to about 2.30-2.35m below present ground level of about 15.00m AOD (29th May 2019 & Plates 5-6).

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 included on the KCCHER data.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Dover District Council (19/00043).

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 a prominent plot in Wingham Green with its west boundary on Mill Road. The site itself is level at about 15m AOD (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

The site has planning permission for the demolition and build of a single storey rear extension. The Local Planning Authority's (Dover District Council) planning reference for the proposal is 19/00043.

The following Condition (4) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring 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 recorded. The Watching Brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. These details are required prior to the commencement of the development as they form an intrinsic part of the proposal, the approval of which cannot be disaggregated from the carrying out of the rest of the development.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 29th May 2019.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

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

“3.1 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.”

4.2. The ground works were to excavate the ground for the foundations of a rear extension and a rainwater soakaway (Plates 1-6).

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 Bedrock Geology of Margate Chalk Member- Chalk. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Head Clay and Silt. The geology revealed on site was clayey silt (Plates 1-6).

5.2. KCCHER entries for the site include a probable prehistoric barrow (TR 25 NW 490) and to the north east at about 300m cropmarks of an enclosure are shown (TR 25 NW 65).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology (2019) 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 29th May 2019.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the topsoil down to formation level (Plates 1-4).

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 brown yellow sandy clay 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 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 developer for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at 2 Mill Road, Wingham Well, Kent

SWAT Site Code: WING/WB/19

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 single storey 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: Dover District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 623484 157155

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: 29th May 2019

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Margate Chalk

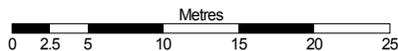
Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2019) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at 2 Mill Road, Wingham Well, Kent

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



Scale: 1:500

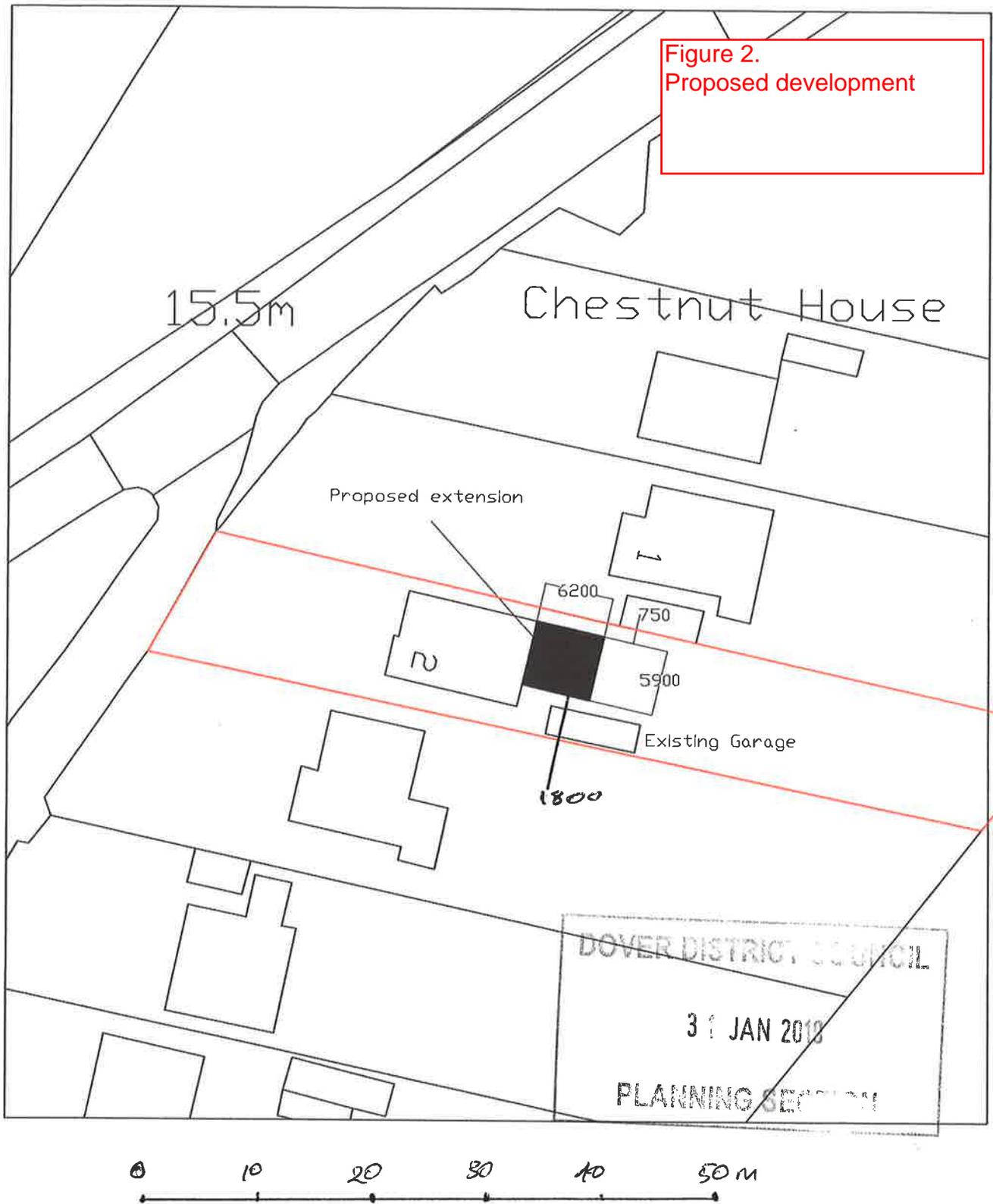


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100031961
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**2 Mill Road
Wingham
Canterbury
CT3 1NJ**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 623501,157151
Download file: swat_2millrd.zip
Project name: swat_2millrd



2 Mill Road
Wingham
Canterbury
Kent. CT3 1NJ

Proposed Block Plan
1:500 at A4



Plate 1. View of site (looking west)



Plate 2. View of trenches (looking NW)



Plate 3. View of south foundation trench



Plate 4. View of north foundation trench



Plate 5. View of soakaway (looking east)



Plate 6. View of soakaway