

Archaeological Watching Brief on land west of
Lullingstone Park Farmhouse,
Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, Kent DA4 0JA

Site Code LULL/WB/20



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Archaeological Investigation on Land west of Lullingstone Park Farmhouse, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, Kent

Site Code LULL/WB/20
NGR 552906 164704



AP 1. View of proposed development site (Google 2019)

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On 14th & 16th April 2020 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of ground works involved in the construction of a single storey extension and erection of a detached garage at land west of Lullingstone Park Farmhouse, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford in Kent (Figure 1, AP 1 and Plates 1-6).

1.2. An Archaeological watching brief presence was kept during the excavations (Plates 1-6).

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Watching excavation of foundations for the single storey extension (14th April 2020).

Phase 2: Watching excavation of ground and foundation trenches for detached garage (16th April 2020).

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief were to determine whether any significant archaeological remains had survived within the footprint of the proposed groundworks. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area included on the KCCHER data and highlighted in the SWAT Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation Specification dated 20/02/2020.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Sevenoaks District Council (19/03366/HOUSE).

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the SWAT Archaeology WSI Specification 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 to the west of Lullingstone Park Farmhouse (AP 1 & Figure 1) and the NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 552906 164704.

2.2 Planning Background

The groundworks involve the construction of a single storey extension and garage.

The following Condition (1) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

No development shall commence 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.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works on 14th, 16th April 2020.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work 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. Proposed Groundworks.

The ground works were to excavate the ground for the erection of a single storey extension and detached garage (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 Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial deposits are recorded as Alluvium- Clay, Silt, Sand and geology revealed on site was brown gravelly sandy clay (Plates 1-6).

5.2 The archaeological potential was accessed from the (KCCHER) which has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries and that circa 80m north east of the site an undated linear cut feature had been found during a 2009 watching brief along with two undatable struck flints (TQ 56 SW 206).

In the early 20th century a Roman roof tile fragment was found just north of the Site and thought to be from the nearby Roman villa (TQ 56 SW 25).

Lullingstone Roman Villa is circa 350m north, north East of the Site (TQ 56 NW 7). The villa site scheduled and is a complex with well-preserved foundations and mosaics. Its survival is considered to be of national importance and also contains a later Saxon church (TQ 56 NW 8).

Lullingstone Park is to the west of the Site (TQ 56 SW 111) and is a deer park, thought to be created in 1279. It is believed to have gone out of use in the 17th century but revived by the Dyke Family in the 18th century. The park was also used in the Second World War and used as a dummy site for Biggin Hill airport and then later a practice area for a field ambulance

unit. Part of the park is now for public use and in the 1960s a golf course was created on part of the area.

Lullingstone Castle to the south of the Site was started in 1497 (TQ 56 SW 155) and is Grade II* listed as well as having a grade I listed gatehouse (TQ 56 SW 150), a grade II listed stables (TQ 56 SW 154) and a Grade II listed possible Dower House (TQ 56 SW 131).

In Lullingstone Park, west of the Site, is located an Iron Age settlement located on a spur on the edge of a small wooded area along with a surrounding field system (TQ 56 SW 15).

In addition, in the area, a number of Mesolithic axes (TQ 56 SW 9) and axes (TQ 56 SW 59) and flint implements have been found (TQ 56 SW 50; TQ 56 SW 45).

There are also a number of undated linear features in the area of the Park (TQ 56 SW 78; TQ 56 SW 79).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology 'Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at land west of Lullingstone Park Farmhouse, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, Kent'.

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

6.3. Excavations within the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the compacted subsoil down to formation level (Plates 1-6).

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 investigation work 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 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of brown silty gravelly soil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site.

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 high archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Investigation 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 landowner/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 to the west of Lullingstone Park Farmhouse, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, Kent

SWAT Site Code: LULL/WB/20

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 housing development whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to closely monitor the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site attendance and supervision which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 552906 164704

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: 14th, 16th April 2020

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Chalk- Soil deposits encountered on site were Clay/Gravelly Silt

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2020) Archaeological Watching Brief of land west of Lullingstone Park Farmhouse, Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, 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



Plate 1. View of the site – single storey extension foundations (looking SW)



Plate 2. View of single storey extension foundations (looking N)



Plate 3. View of completed single storey extension foundations (looking NNE)



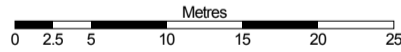
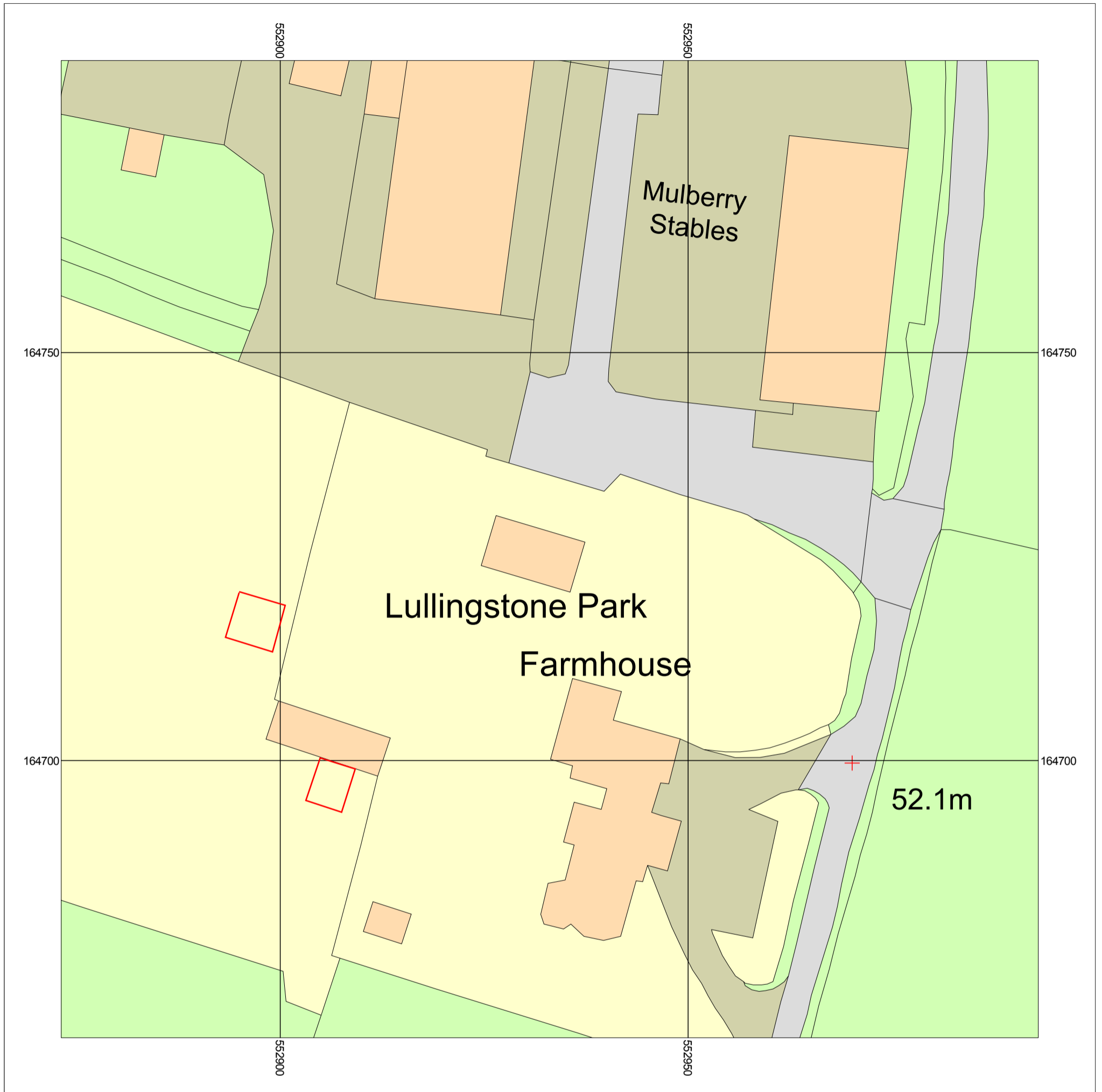
Plate 4. View of garage foundation trenches (looking NNE)



Plate 5. Garage foundation trenches (looking N)



Plate 6. Completed garage foundation trenches (looking E)



Scale: 1:500



Supplied by: National Map Centre
License number: 100031961
Produced: 16/04/2020
Serial number: 2223505

Plot centre co-ordinates: 552933,164726
Download file: swat_lullingstone.zip
Project name: swat_lullingstone