

Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Seabrook Gardens, Hythe, Kent CT21 5RD

Site Code SBGH/WB/21



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Figure 1. Site plan and location of archaeological investigation area

AP 1. View of site 2019 (Google Earth)

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NGR TR 18518 34942



View 1. View of site of the area for foundations of the proposed house

1.0 Abstract

1.1. On the 3rd -5th August 2021 Rebecca Parr of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of ground works involved in foundations for the erection of a three storey detached dwelling with second floor in roof space with associated car parking in the garden of 9 Seabrook Gardens, Hythe in Kent (Figure 1, AP 1, View 1 and Plates 1-6).

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

1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases. It was agreed with the KCC Archaeology, that monitoring of the drainage works was not required (email: 9th August 2021).

Phase 1: Watching the removal of the topsoil to the west of 9 Seabrook Gardens (3rd August 2021)

Phase 2: Excavation of the foundations (4-5th August 2021)

Phase 3: Monitoring of drainage works and septic tank (not required)

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 12/05/2021.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is Folkestone and Hythe District Council (Y18/0321/SH).

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 in the garden of 9 Seabrook Gardens to the west of the existing house and the NGR to the centre of the site is NGR TR 18518 34942.

2.2 Planning Background

The groundworks involve the excavation of foundations of 9m x 12m x 0.4m following the removal of the topsoil for the erection of a three storey detached dwelling with second floor in roof space with associated car parking in the back garden of 9 Seabrook Gardens.

The following Condition (8) 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 programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Rebecca Parr, SWAT Archaeology) and closely monitored the excavation works on the 3rd-5th August 2021.

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 placing of foundations for the construction of a new dwelling (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 Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Storm Beach Deposits- Gravel. The OD height of the PDA is about 4m aOD (AP 1. Figure 1). (Plates 1-6).

5.2 The archaeological potential was accessed from the (KCCHER) which has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. The records show that the proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the PDA show that there are no records for the Prehistoric period. There is one Kent HER record from the medieval period within the assessment area. A silver coin of William the Conqueror (1066-1087AD) was found c.450m east of the PDA (MKE67711). Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period in the PDA is considered low.

2.2 There are thirteen records held at the Kent HER from this period within the assessment area. The listed building of Mill House (TR13NE100) and a farmstead (MKE88484) are mentioned in other sections. The Gas works visible on the OS map of 1877 was sited c.50m

east of the PDA (MWX44026), the Royal Military Canal is a defensive canal built during the Napoleonic war between 1804-1809, c.50m southwest (TQ92NW18), a horse drawn Tramway, c.100m south, operated between 1891-1921 to assist the development of the Seabrook estate to the north (TR13SE233, a building that was a school on the 1897 -1900 OS map and later became a Mission Hall on the 1907 – 1923 OS map is located c.100m northwest (TR13NE286), the Sandgate railway branch line, c.150m north, opened in 1874 and closed in 1931 and ran for 3.5 miles from Sandling Junction to Sandgate railway station, c.300m east, via Hythe (TR13NE229/TR23NW164), Shorncliffe Garrison Military Camp, c.250m northeast, has numerous features dating from its C19th use as a Military Hospital Training Camp through to the C20th (TR13NE243); a quarry, that may pre-date 1870, is also recorded here (TR13NE245), Shorncliffe Battery wall, C.300m east, was a Napoleonic sea defence with four Martello towers (TR13SE23), Station house, c.300m southeast, was built as a guardhouse for crossings over the Royal Military Canal (TR13SE242), a Hardstanding that was a possible military Road, a base for a Battery embankment or a pre C19th boat landing is located c.350m east (TR13SE229). Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered high. For the Modern period there are seventeen records in the Kent HER within the assessment area. Pillboxes identified on German defence maps and aerial photographs that have since been destroyed are recorded at distances of between 200 -500m (TR13SE166/181/191/192/193/ 194/MWX51304/51402/3/4/5/6). A WWII barbed wire obstruction, c.250m south (MWX51522) and a WWII beach defence, c.175m south (MWX51462) are visible on aerial photographs. The WWII defended locality of Princess Parade is located c.450m southwest (MWX51343) and the Protected Military Remains of a crashed Hawker Hurricane is found c.450m east (TR13NE260). A George VI pillar-box type 35/1 dating from 1938-1950 is located c.450m north (TR13NE256). Source: DBA SWAT Archaeology dated October 2017.

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 and Buildings at 9 Seabrook Gardens, Hythe, Kent CT21 5RD.'

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 for the foundations and drainage.

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

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist from SWAT Archaeology.

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 mid-Brown/grey sandy silty soil with 5% inclusions of beach deposits, below which was the superficial geology of Storm Beach Deposits- Gravel at a depth below ground level of 0.45m. 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.

7.3 Given the negative results in the south of the site and the relatively minimal impact from the drain and septic tank the WB was not continued for Phase 3.

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 by Rebecca Parr and report written by Rebecca Parr and reviewed by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at 9 Seabrook Gardens, Hythe, Kent

SWAT Site Code: SBGH/WB/21

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 dwelling 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: Folkestone and Hythe District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) TR 18518 34942

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: 3-5th August 2021

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Weald Clay Formation- Mudstone. Superficial Deposits are recorded as Storm Beach Deposits - Gravel. The superficial deposits were encountered on the site.

Title and author of accompanying report: Parr R. (2021) Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Seabrook Gardens, Hythe, Kent CT21 5RD

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



Figure 1: Location Plan and area of watching brief of foundations (blue rectangle). Service trench and septic tank nor the north)



AP 1. View of site 2019 (Google Earth)



Plate 1. View of the site after Phase 1, clearance of the topsoil (looking ENE)



Plate 2. View of the site (looking NNW)

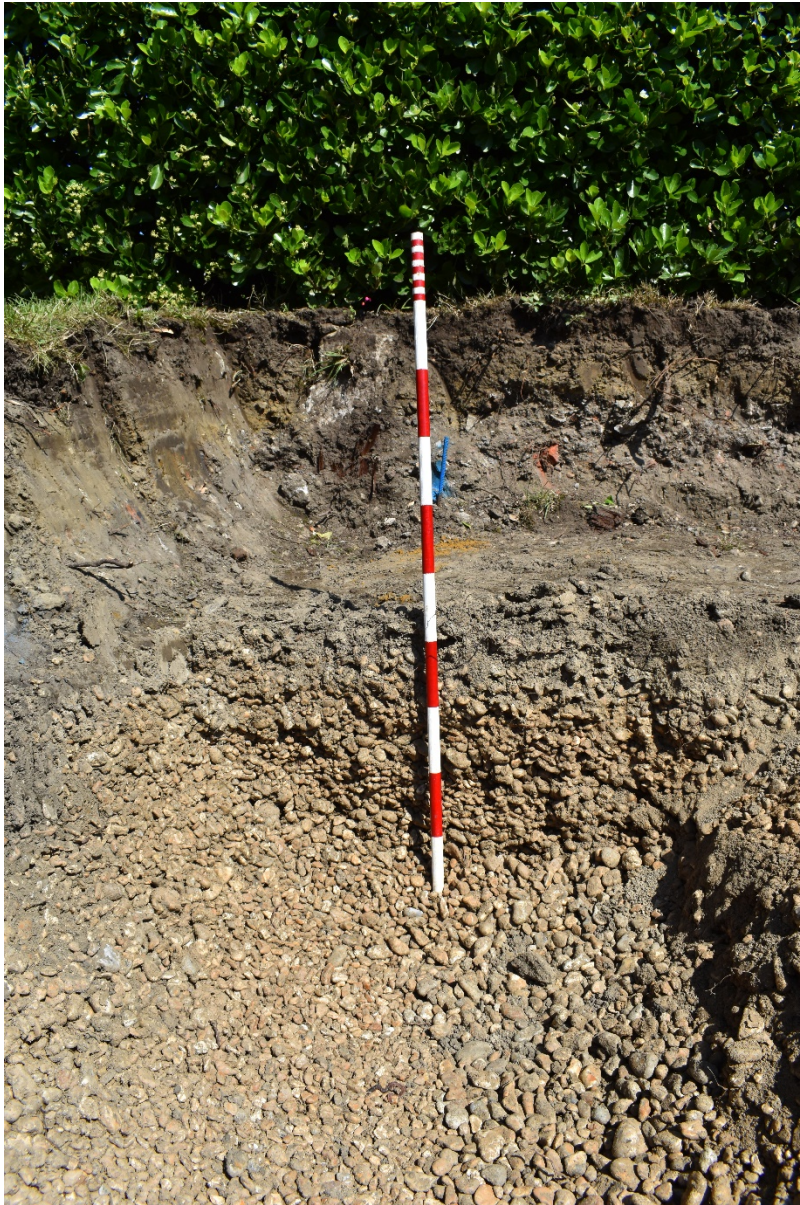


Plate 3. View of SE facing section (looking ENE)



Plate 4. View of NE facing section (looking SSE)



Plate 5. View of western section (facing WSW)



Plate 6. Foundation trenches completed (looking SW)