Archaeological Monitoring on land at Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, Kent

Site Code GLASS/WB/21

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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1. Summary

Between 14th-15th January 2021 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land at Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the proposed development.

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with an archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by SWAT Archaeology.

Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains, no features were recorded during the archaeological monitoring works.

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land at Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is NGR 574932 136604 (Figure 1).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (19/01846/FULL) for the alterations and conversion of the existing building into a residential dwelling and the erection of a detached garage/storage building.

The following Condition (5) 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.

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 (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works from 14th-15th December 2020.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work 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 significanceof the deposits. (SWAT Archaeology 3.1).

4.2 The objectives of the monitoring were therefore to:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

4.3 The specific archaeological requirements of the watching brief are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works;
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that additional archaeological remains are encountered;
- Post-excavation and publication, where required.

4.2. Proposed Groundworks.

The ground works were to excavate the ground for the erection of single storey side extension and detached garage/storage (Plates 1-8).

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 Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation- Sandstone and Siltstone interbedded. Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The geology revealed on site was topsoil sitting on sandy, silty clay (Plates 2, 3). The PDA is set at an average height of 112m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development Area (PDA) is located on the west side of Glassenbury Road (B2085) at NGR 574932 136604 and at an OD height of about 112m AOD. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1870, 1874, 1909 and 1938 show the PDA as a 'Smithy' (Figure 1). The PDA is situated to the west of Cranbrook, the east of Goudhurst and south of the A262. The High Weald Landscape Trail runs from east to west just south of the PDA. Just to the west is the site of Glassenbury Park, moat and house. The house is listed Grade II* and the building phase is from 1467 to about 1879 (TQ 73 NW 89).
To the east of the PDA and just across the road is Glassenbury Farmhouse a Grade II listed building (TQ 73 NW 101). Glassenbury Forge the subject of the proposed building recording is not listed.

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 Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, 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. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (KCC Archaeology 2020) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2017).

6.3. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA).

6.4. Where possible some areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section but no features were revealed.

6.5. 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.

6.6 Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out by building contractors using a 360˚ machine equipped with a toothed ditching bucket (Figure 2). All areas of excavation were either carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist and inspected and recorded by the archaeologist in attendance (See Table 1, below).

7.00 Timetable

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

Task	***Date***	***Staff***
Archaeological monitoring	14th December 2020 15th December 2020	Paul Wilkinson Paul Wilkinson

Table 1 Attendance Schedule

6.9 Recording

6.9.1.1 A complete drawn record comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. Where appropriate, the plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights and form part of the site archive.

6.9.1.2 Photographs were to be taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits but no features or archaeological deposits were revealed. The record also includes images of the site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

6.9.1.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Table 2 below. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of any features is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes.

6.9.1.4 Stratigraphic Sequence

6.9.1.5 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological works remained relatively consistent across all areas of the site, comprising areas of topsoil mixed with hardcore in places overlaying the natural geology. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

Context Number	***Description***	***Interpretation***
001	Dark brown loam mixed with hardcore in some areas 25cm thick	Topsoil (Plate 1)
002	Orange silty sand 50cm thick	Natural (Plate 2)
003	Yellow silty sand 45cm thick	Natural (Plate 3)

Table 2 Stratigraphic Sequence **and Register of Contexts**

6.9.1.6 The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

The Site Archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2017; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics including;

6.11 Results

6.11.1 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The natural geology encountered across the site was Sandy Silty Clay. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the site. The foundation trenches were about 1.20m deep and about 80cm wide with topsoil mix about 25cm thick. OD height across the PDA was 112m aOD (Figure 1, Plate 3). Overall areas watched were – west area 12m x 5m and garage area 12m x 4m (Figure 1).

7.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

8.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of high archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

9.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Investigation has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

10.0 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.

11.0 REFERENCES

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SMA 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections,* Society of Museum Archaeologists.

SMA 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive.* Society of Museum Archaeologists.

SWAT Archaeology. *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, Kent*

Appendix 1

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, Kent

SWAT Site Code: GLASS/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 residential 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: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 574932 136604

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: December 2020

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation overlaid by Topsoil

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2021) Archaeological Watching Brief of land at Glassenbury Forge, Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook, 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

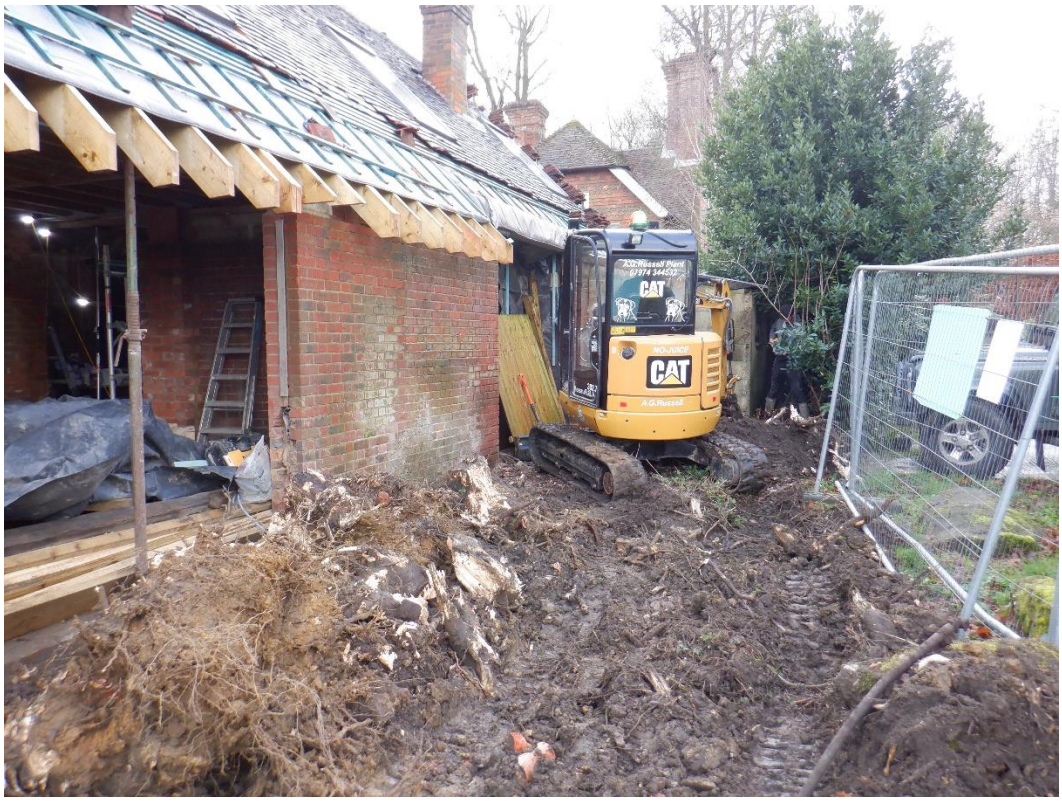

Plate 1. View of the Site (looking NW)

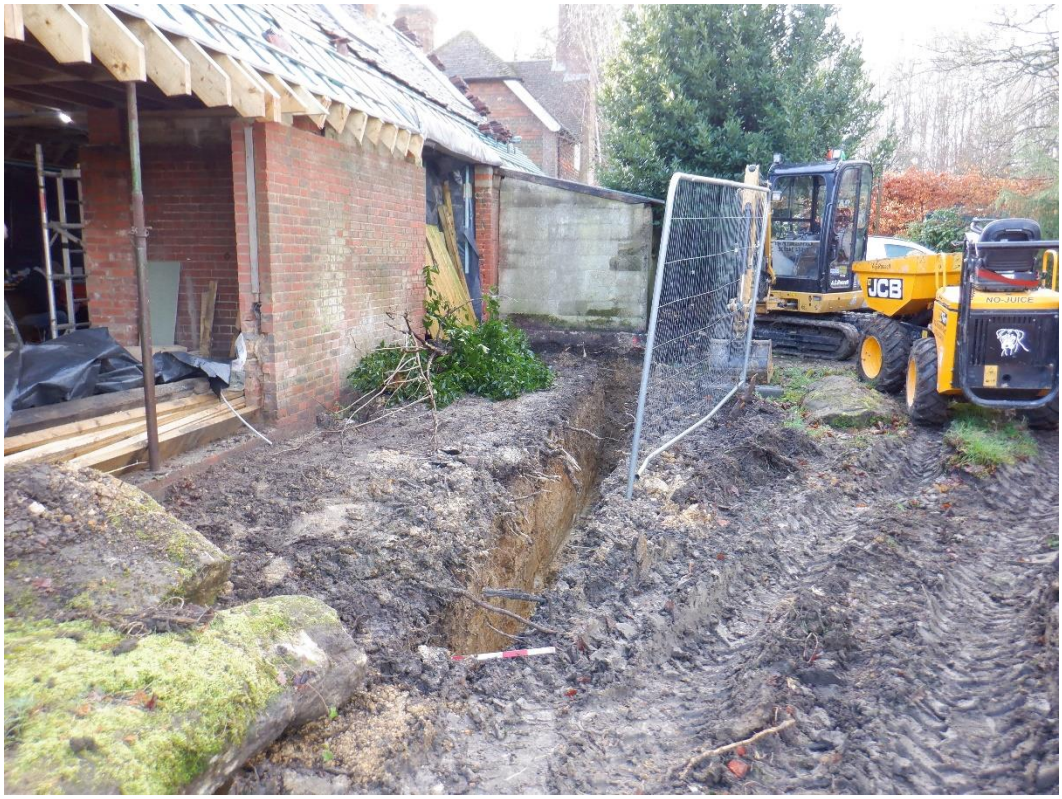

Plate 2. View of foundation trenches (looking NNW)

Plate 3. View of foundation trenching (looking W)

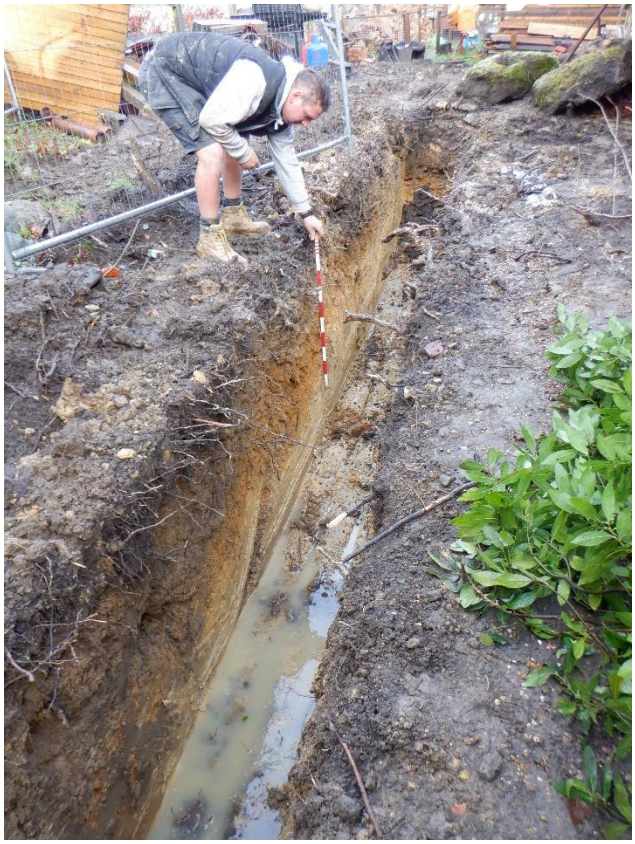

Plate 4. View of trenches (looking NNW)

Plate 5. Foundation trenches (looking S)

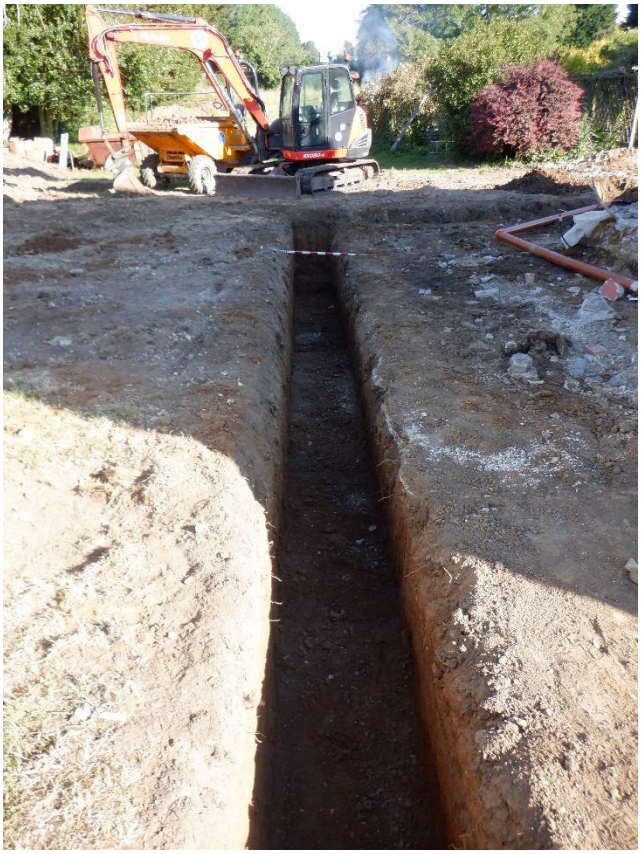

Plate 6. Foundation trenches (looking NW)