

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Amberfield House, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent

Site Code AMB/WB/16



Report for Mr John Slipper  
Date of report 22/07/2016

## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at Amberfield House, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent

Site Code AMB/WB/16  
NGR 578988 150228

Date of report: 22/07/2016



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

(Google Earth 20/04/2015: Eye altitude 363m).

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a double garage, greenhouse and garden wall at Amberfield House, Chart Sutton in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-7).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owner Mr John Slipper.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the digging of the foundations for the double garage and garden wall (Figure 3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: the digging of the foundation to about 1.90-2.00m below present ground level of about 106m OD. (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 Loose Iron Age Oppidum with an associated Iron Age ditch running east to west the other side of Amber Lane. The development site itself is listed as a multiyard farmstead (MKE 87131).

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 16/501908/FULL.

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 Planning Background

Planning application 16/501908/FULL was submitted to Maidstone 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 been submitted to 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 SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 25th-27<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **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 the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks (KCC 2016).*

4.2. The ground works were to cut the foundation trenches of the garden wall and double garage (Plates 3-8).

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 map is Bedrock geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone and Limestone. In the Weald, the formation comprises mainly fine- to medium-grained, sparsely glauconitic sands, sandstones and silts, locally pebbly, with calcareous or siliceous cement in beds or lenses in some areas. Some clay interbeds, including Fuller's Earth. In Kent and eastern Sussex the formation comprises, alternating sandy limestones ("Ragstone") and glauconitic sandy mudstones (Hassock).

The Superficial Deposits are Head- Clay Silt, Sand and Gravel. Polymict deposit: comprises gravel, sand and clay depending on upslope source and distance from source. Poorly sorted and poorly stratified deposits formed mostly by solifluction and/or hillwash and soil creep. Essentially comprises sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat and organic material. Soliflucted deposits have variable sand/clay content. The geology revealed on site

was orange brown sand and gravel overlaid by 28-30cm of topsoil. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 72m OD.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the north and on the opposite side of Amber Lane has been found evidence of a large, deep ditch associated with the Loose Iron Age Oppidum. To the west evidence was found for the Iron Age ditch by Canterbury Archaeological Trust at Amber Green Cottage (TQ 75 SE 154). To the east evidence of the ditch was also found (TQ 75 SE 125).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2014).

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 in one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

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 2-4).

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 IfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2014), 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 Sand & Gravel overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

### **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

### **9.0 Discussion**

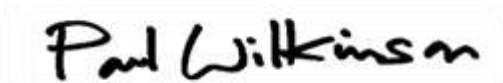
The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

### **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the KCC 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 Mr John Slipper for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

### **References**

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at Amberfield House, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** AMB/WB/16

**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 garage and garden wall whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring 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:** Swale Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 578988 150228

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** May 2016

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Hythe Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at Amberfield House, Amber Lane, Chart Sutton, 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:** 22/07/2016





Plate 2. General view of site showing demolished garage and new foundation trenches (looking south- west)



Plate 3. View of the new garage and garden wall foundation trenches





Plate 4. View of the garage foundation trenches (looking west)



Plate 5. View of the garden wall foundations (looking east)



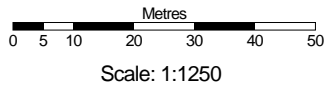


Plate 6. Cutting of garage foundation trenches on south side (looking west)



Plate 7. View of garden wall foundation trenches (looking west)

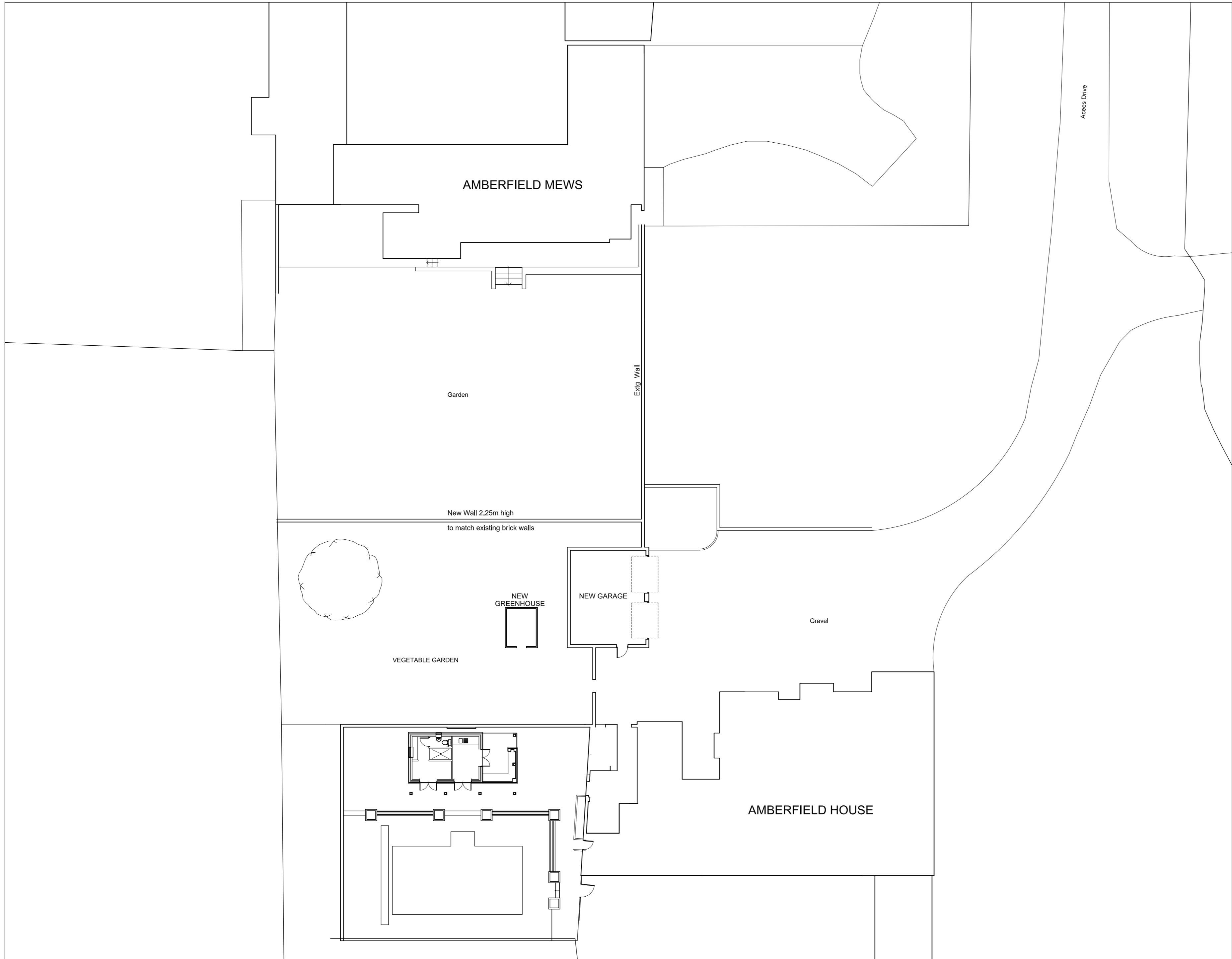
Figure 1  
Area watched



**Amberfield House**  
Chart Sutton

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Produced: 22/07/2016  
Serial number: 1710269

Plot centre co-ordinates: 578988,150228  
Download file: swat.zip  
Project name: amberfield

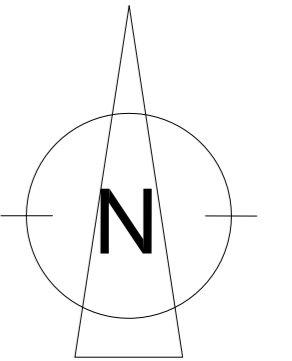
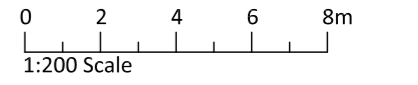


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A 21.3.16 New garden wall increased in height by 225mm to 2.25m

REV DATE DESCRIPTION

TITLE  
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

PROJECT  
REPLACEMENT GARAGE  
AMBERFIELD HOUSE, CHART  
SUTTON

CLIENT  
MR J. SLIPPER



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