

# Archaeological Monitoring of Development of Land at the Former Sea Scouts Site, Puckle Lane, Canterbury, Kent

Site Code PUCK/WB/16



Report for Pettman Homes  
Date of report 24/06/2016

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	4
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	5
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	5
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
7.0 RESULTS.....	7
7.1 GENERAL.....	7
8.0 FINDS.....	7
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	7
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	7
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	7
REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX 1 - CCC HER Summary Form.....	8

Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2013)

Plate 2. General view of site demolition

Plate 3. View of the site showing foundation removal

Plate 4. View of concrete slabs being broken up

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Site plan with areas watched

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

**(Google Earth 07/09/2013: Eye altitude 278m).**

## 1.0 Summary

1.1. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological monitoring on ground works demolition involved in the build of three detached dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping at land of the former Sea Scouts Site, Puckle Lane, Canterbury in Kent (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-4).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Pettman Homes.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the demolition and excavation of deep concrete foundations (Plates 2-4).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: Clearing of the site and removal of deep concrete foundations (Plates 2-4)

1.4. The Archaeological monitoring was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the associated medieval and Roman remains known to be just outside the city of Canterbury.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is CA/01251/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment prepared by SWAT Archaeology, the Archaeological Monitoring revealed no buried archaeological features, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Planning Background

Planning application CA/01251/FUL was submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Canterbury City Council (CCC). The Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief with follow on evaluation be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (4) was attached to the planning consent:

*Condition 4) Prior to the commencement of development the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

*a) A written scheme of investigation to be submitted s minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*

*b) A report summarising the results of the investigations to be produced on completion of fieldwork in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*

*c) Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*d) If necessary a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation.*

*Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the demolition excavation works from 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

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

*REASON: Pursuant to Articles 35 (1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015, the local planning authority is satisfied that the requirements of this condition (including the timing of compliance) are so fundamental to the development permitted that, if not imposed, it would have been necessary to refuse permission for the development. This is because, at the time of granting permission, full archaeological details were not yet available but this information is necessary to ensure the development complies with Canterbury District Local Plan 2006 Policy BE15 and Draft Canterbury District Local Plan 2014 Policy HE11 and otherwise to protect the environment of the site and its locality.*

4.2. The archaeological monitoring were to initially watch the demolition of the former Sea Scouts huts and removal of foundations followed by evaluation trenching but as the demolition unfolded it became apparent that the previous build included very large concrete foundations about 2.30m deep sitting on top of the made-up ground of a backfilled quarry which had been identified from historic mapping.

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 proposed development area (PDA) is located to the south of Canterbury city walls and to the west of the Roman Watling Street (TQ 85 SE 300). Just to the north is the route of the Chatham to Dover Railway constructed in c.1853. To the south-east is situated the important archaeological remains of St Lawrence's Hospital founded in c.1137.



Figure 1. OS map of 1873 (area of development highlighted in red)

Examination of cartographic sources shows that from the historic maps available for study the area of the PDA was scrub land from 1873. It seems the area had also been subject to quarrying with the addition of 'old brick kilns' (Figure 1).

The 'Old Brick Kilns' can be quite clearly seen on the 1873 map (above). In addition just to the west are the remains of a quarry.

5.2. A walk over of the site failed to identify either structure or feature but as there seems to have been no development in this area of the site it is likely these archaeological features have survived on site.

5.3. Monuments and finds in the near vicinity include Middle Bronze Age burials found in making the railway 200m north of the PDA (TR 15 NE 19), to the north-east Roman inhumation burials and cremations found from 1845 just 80m from the PDA and medieval burials found 150m to the north in 1901 (TQ 86 SW 132).

The known Roman road (Watling Street) is 100m to the east of the PDA and has cemeteries and burial monuments located on both sides of the Roman road (TR 15 NE 14).

5.4. In addition and of importance to the known archaeological activity on the PDA Roman clay quarries and pottery kilns (TR 15 NE 315) were found in 1861 whilst cutting a trench parallel to the Old Dover Road (Watling Street) some 100m north of the PDA.

Roman activity was also found at 24a Old Dover Road some 200m north of the PDA during an archaeological evaluation in 1996. Clay quarries were exposed dating from the Roman period and archaeological activity continued through the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries to the medieval period (TR 15 NE 426).

5.5. The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) has been consulted and shows that the proposed development site (PDA) is situated on bedrock geology of the Margate Chalk and/or Thanet Sand Formation, Sand, Silt and Clay. The Superficial Deposits are Clay and Silt ([www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm)).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The monitoring was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: 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 monitoring was carried out in one phase according to the needs of the demolition contractors from 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

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 concrete slabs and foundations (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 monitoring was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (ClfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer CCC.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was made-up ground of the extensive quarry infill. No archaeological features were revealed in the demolition trenches and no archaeological finds retrieved.

## **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. In discussions with Rosanne Cummings CCC Archaeological Officer it was agreed that the monitoring phase of archaeological works on the demolition had revealed massive impact on the area of the proposed development to such an extent that additional archaeological investigation was not required.

## **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 Pettman Homes for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

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

## References

HER data (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast>)

IFA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2016)

## Appendix 1

### Kent County Council HER Summary Form

**Site Name:** Development of land at the Former Sea Scouts Site, Puckle Lane, Canterbury, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** PUCK/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 three new detached dwellings whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site constant attendance on the demolition and removal of existing footings which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Canterbury City Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 615218 157093

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** April 2016

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

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Margate Chalk Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Monitoring at Land at the Former Sea Scouts Site, Puckle Lane, Canterbury, 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:** 24/06/2016

## Plates



Plate 2. View of site demolition and excavation- note reduction of site



Plate 3. View showing foundation removal



Plate 4. The site showing concrete slabs being broken up



Scale 1:1250



**Puckle Lane**

Supplied by: National Map Centre Kent  
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**Canterbury  
 Kent.  
 CT1 3LA**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 615218, 157093  
 Download file: Print52612\_1507874  
 Project name: SWAT