Archaeological Monitoring on land at Maze House, Sea Street, Whitstable, Kent

Planning Application Number: CA/23/00999

Site Code: MAZE/WB/24

Date of report 07/06/2024

Updated 12/07/2024

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company

The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road

Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

Contents

1. Summary

In June 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Maze House, Sea Street, Whitstable in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the new development of a single storey side extension with roof terrace, solar panels on side roof slope, side dormer and erection of wall.

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

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

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land at Maze House, Whitstable in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 610627 166758 (Figures 1-2).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission for the erection of a single storey side extension. The Local Planning Authority's (Canterbury City Council) planning reference for the proposal is CA/23/00999.

The following Condition (5) requiring a programme of archaeological works was attached to the planning consent:

(05) No development other than demolition, shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of:
(i) Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable, which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority; and
(ii) following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, post-excavation assessment, analysis, publica on or conservation in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.
***REASON:** To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policies HE11 and HE12 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2017 and the National Planning Policy* Framework.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works on the 4th June 2024.

4.1 **Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work and 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.

4.2 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 concrete footings and drainage (Plates 1-6. Figures 1-3).

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 Geological and Archaeological Background

5.1 The geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey is London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt. The London Clay mainly comprises bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay. It commonly contains thin courses of carbonate concretions ('cement stone nodules') and disseminated pyrite. It also includes a few thin beds

of shells and fine sand partings or pockets of sand, which commonly increase towards the base and towards the top of the formation. At the base, and at some other levels, thin beds of black rounded flint gravel occur in places. Glauconite is present in some of the sands and in some clay beds, and white mica occurs at some levels.

London Clay was not apparent on site but is recorded on geology maps of the area. The geology revealed on site were deposits of well-rounded beach gravel known as 'shingle' characterised by grain sizes between 4 and 60mm. Many shingle structures are formed predominantly of clasts within this size range, but even the most distinctively sorted such as Dungeness and Chesil Beach contain clasts of many different sizes. Some beaches are characterized by clasts whose long axis exceeds —6 phi and are described as `cobbles'. The eastern part of Chesil Beach, and the majority of the materials at Budleigh Salterton and Westward Ho! exceed shingle size. Many shingle beaches are, in reality, of mixed clast sizes, with varying quantities of both finer- and coarser-grained materials. Although most shingle beaches in England and Wales are formed of flint or chert, many include clasts comprising relatively weak materials such as sandstone or chalk or other harder materials; a wide range of clasts formed from harder materials are characteristic of western and northern beaches and in the south Chesil Beach and Dungeness are two of the most scientifically well-known coastal shingle structures of international renown.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that about 15m west a Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation site was discovered at Browning Yard (TR 16 NW 102). About 20m to the west were found the remains of the sea wall and ditch (TR 16 NW 110) and about 45m SSE a Post-Medieval building and rubbish pits were found at the Horsebridge (TR 16 NW 111). The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 3m aOD.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Archaeological Investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification provided by SWAT Archaeology.

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 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) and the proposed build was to be a concrete raft.

6.4. Where possible some areas of excavation were subsequently closely examined 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 area for the concrete raft foundation footings was carried out by building contractors digging with a small machine (Plates 1-6). All areas of excavation were carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist and inspected and recorded by the archaeologist in attendance. A raft foundation is a reinforced concrete slab under the whole of a building or extension, 'floating' on the ground as a raft floats on water. This type of foundation spreads the load of the building over a larger area than other foundations, lowering the pressure on the ground.

6.8 Timetable: Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

Task	***Date***	***Staff***
Archaeological monitoring	4th June 2024	Paul Wilkinson SWAT

Table 1 Attendance Schedule

6.9 Recording

6.9.1 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.

6.9.2 Photographs were to be taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated footings 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 (Plates 1-6).

6.9.3 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 (001), whilst the cut of any features is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes.

6.9.4 Stratigraphic Sequence

6.9.5 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological works remained relatively consistent across all areas of the site, comprising areas of subsoil. The following table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context.

6.9.6

Context Number	***Description***	***Interpretation***
001	Concrete and Brick	Overburden (Plates 1-3)
002	Beach gravels	Natural (Plates 2-6)

Table 2 Stratigraphic Sequence and Register of Contexts

6.10. 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. 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 and CD for photo archive.

6.11 Results

6.11.1 No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The natural geology encountered across the site was sea beach pebbles subsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the subsoil or natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area watched (Figures 1-4). The trenching for footings was about 40-60cm deep with a proposed reinforced concrete slab about 40cm thick. OD height across the PDA was about 3m aOD (Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the footprint foundation footings of the proposed extension (Figures 1-3).

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 SWAT 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

ADS 2013. Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, updated 1st October 2020 *Standard and guidance: for watching Brief.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, updated 1st October 2020. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

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

Appendix 1 KCCHER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at Maze House, Sea Street, Whitstable, Kent

SWAT Site Code: MAZE/WB/24

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 development whereby the KCC Archaeological Officer 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: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 610627 166758

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: June 2024

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

Geology: Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation overlaid by shingle

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Maze House, Whitstable, 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

Plates

Plate 1. Setting out and starting trenching (looking East)

Plate 2. Trenching and ground reduction (looking South)

Plate 3. Ground reduction (looking SSW)

Plate 4. Foundation trenches and slab reduction (looking West)

Plate 5. Foundation trenches

Plate 6. Foundation trenches (looking West)

Figure 1. KCCHER map of site location at NGR 583164 144161 (red line)

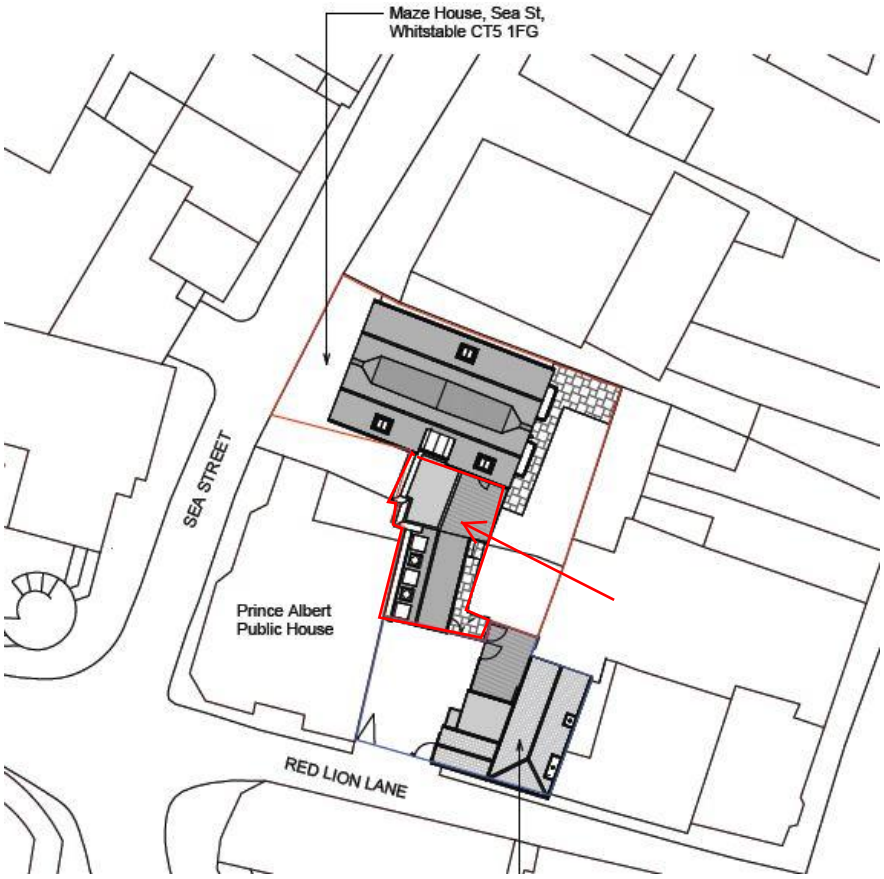

Figure 2. OS plan of proposed area of development and area watched (red line))

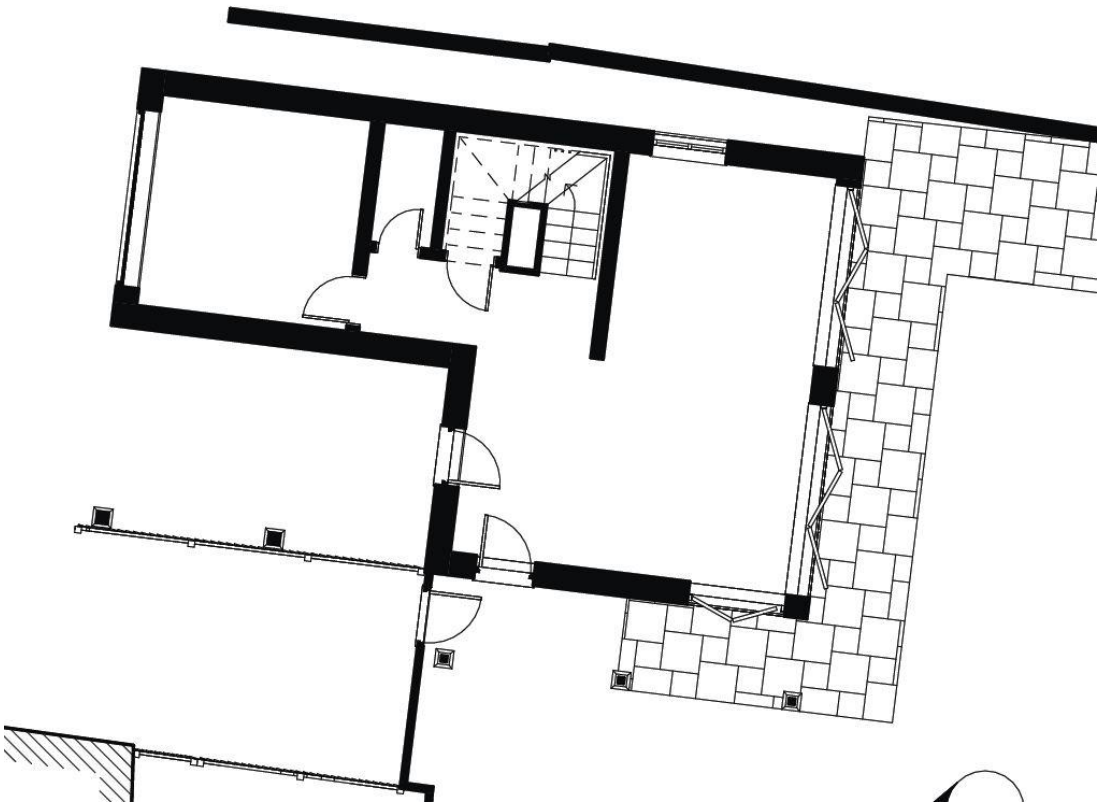

Figure 3. Existing

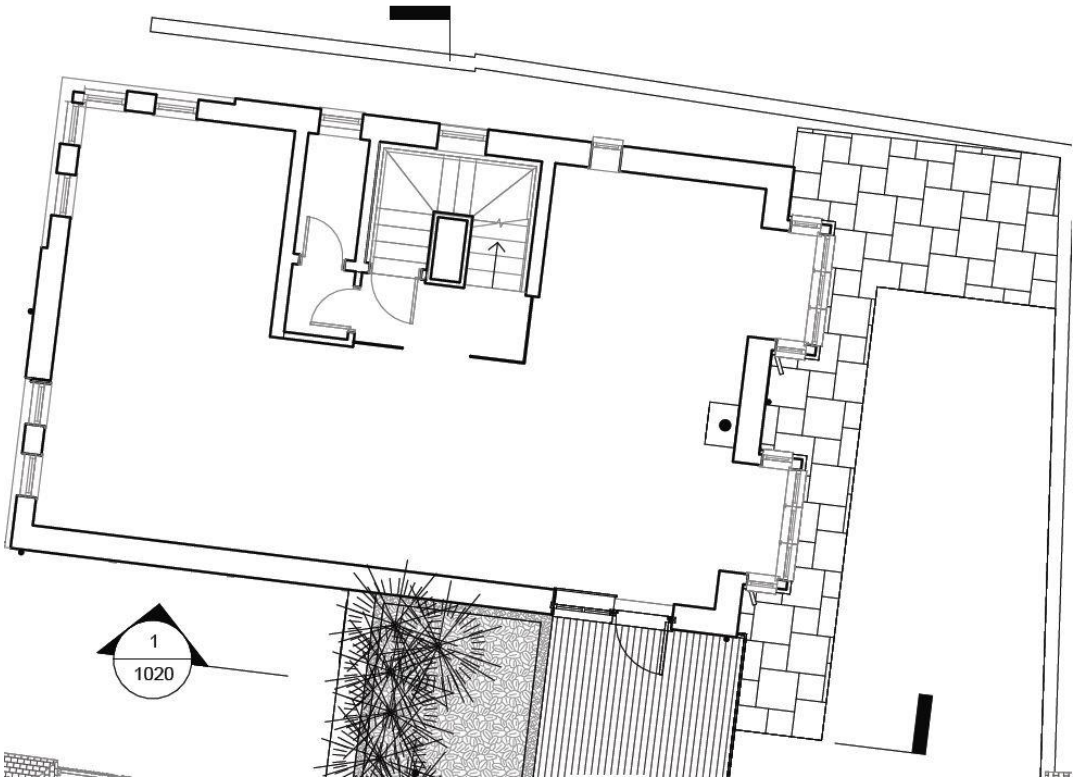

Figure 4. Proposed