

Archaeological Monitoring on land at 39 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent

Planning Application Number: TM/24/01082/PA

Site Code SHIP/WB/24



Date of report 18/11/2024

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

1.0 SUMMARY.....	3
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	4
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	4
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4.2 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.4 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	6
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
7.0 FINDS.....	8
8.0 DISCUSSION.....	8
9.0 CONCLUSION.....	9
10.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	9
11.00 REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX 1 - KCC HER Summary Form.....	10

Plates 1-5. General views of the site and site trenching

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location plan

Figure 2, Proposed development

Figure 3. Areas watched

Conditions of Release

All rights including translation reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from SWAT Archaeology.

1. Summary

In October/November 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land at 39 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge in Kent. The works were commissioned by the developer and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the proposed change of use of existing offices Class E to residential C3 to create 3x3 bedroom dwellings with associated works to include extensions and roof alterations.

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 features or finds were recorded during the archaeological monitoring works.

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land at 39 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 559216 147292 (Figures 1, 2, 3).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (TM/24/01082/PA) from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the:

Proposed change of use of existing offices Class E to residential C3 to create 3x3 bedroom dwellings with associated works to include extensions and roof alterations.

The following Condition (7) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

Prior to commencement of any below ground works, 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 specification and timetable 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 MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works from the 30th October to the 1st November 2024.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work were 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.*

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.

4.2. Proposed Groundworks.

The groundworks comprise the change of use of existing offices to residential to create three 3 bedroom dwellings and rear extensions (Figures 2, 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 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1 The geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation- Sandstone and Siltstone interbedded. Superficial deposits are recorded as River Terrace Deposits 3- Sand and Gravel. The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 38m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that in 1871 The PDA (Proposed Development Area) was adjacent to a Pug Mill and Pottery with orchard to the west and open ground to the east.

By 1897 the land to the west had been developed with a road called Grove Road (now Manor Grove) and terraced housing to the north and south with the PDA also developed with

terraced housing and a Sunday School. The map of 1907 (SWAT WSI) shows more development along Grove Road to the west and no change to the Sunday School. The OS map of 1929 shows the housing around the Sunday School has been demolished. The KCCHER entry notes that the former St Saviours Mission Room and Chapel of Ease were built in 1886 with the Sunday School extension built in 1883 and used by the Red Cross from 1900 to 1980 but now a residential dwelling (TQ 54 NE 371). There are no below ground archaeological entries in the vicinity of the PDA.

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 (SWAT Archaeology) 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 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 build of 3 x 3 bedroom dwellings with associated works was carried out by building contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a bladed and toothed ditching bucket (Plates 1-4). All areas of excavation were either carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist and/or inspected and recorded by the archaeologist in attendance (See Table 1, below).

6.8 Timetable

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring	30 th October to 1 st November 2024	Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA

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 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.
- 6.9.3 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.

6.9.4 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 topsoil overlaying the natural geology of Hythe Formation of Sandstone and Limestone interbedded. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Concrete and brick surface	Backyard surface (Plate 1)
002	Sand formation	Natural (Plate 2)

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; ClfA 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 Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area watched (Figures 1, 2, 3). The site foundation trenches were about 1.20cm deep (Plates 1-6).

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

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 HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at 39 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3DS

SWAT Site Code: SHIP/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: Tonbridge & Malling District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 559216 147292

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: September/October 2024

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

Geology: Bedrock geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation overlaid by concrete and brick paths.

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief at 39 Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, 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. Initial foundation trenching (looking South)



Plate 2. Trenching (looking North 1m scale)



Plate 3. Foundation trenching (looking North)



Plate 4. Site reduction (looking South)



Plate 5. Trenching and section (looking NW)

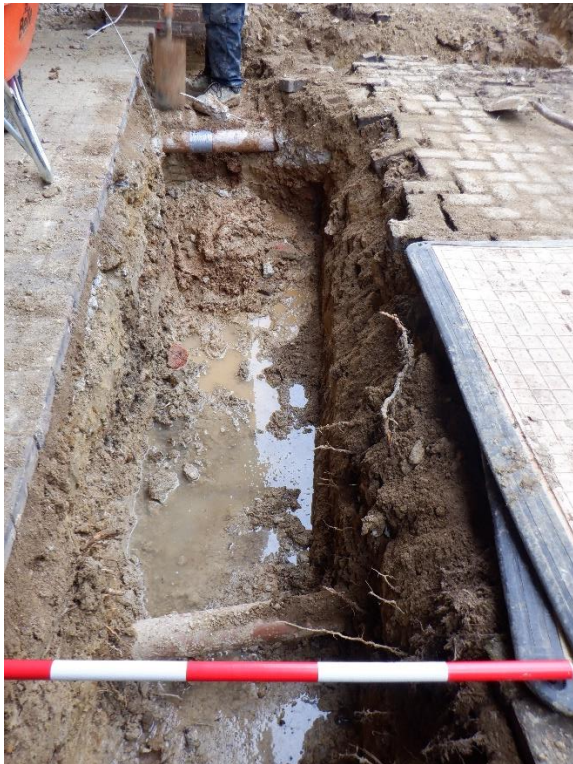


Plate 6. Trenching (looking North)



Figure 1. Site location (blue line)

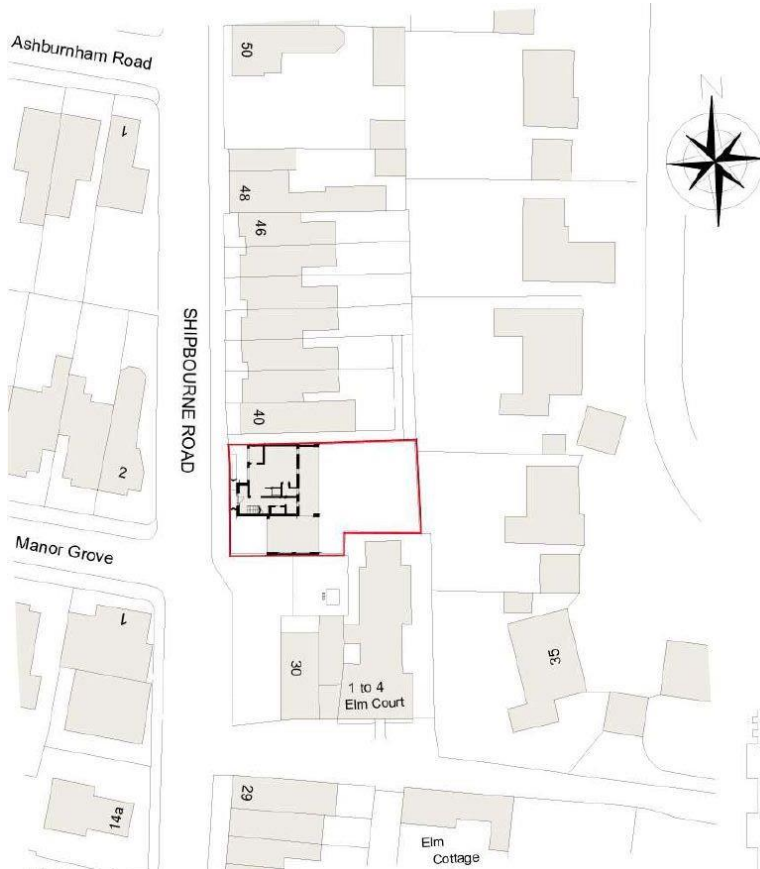


Figure 2. Proposed area of development at NGR 559216 147292 (red line)

Areas Green highlighted are the excavational works, other than for drainage.

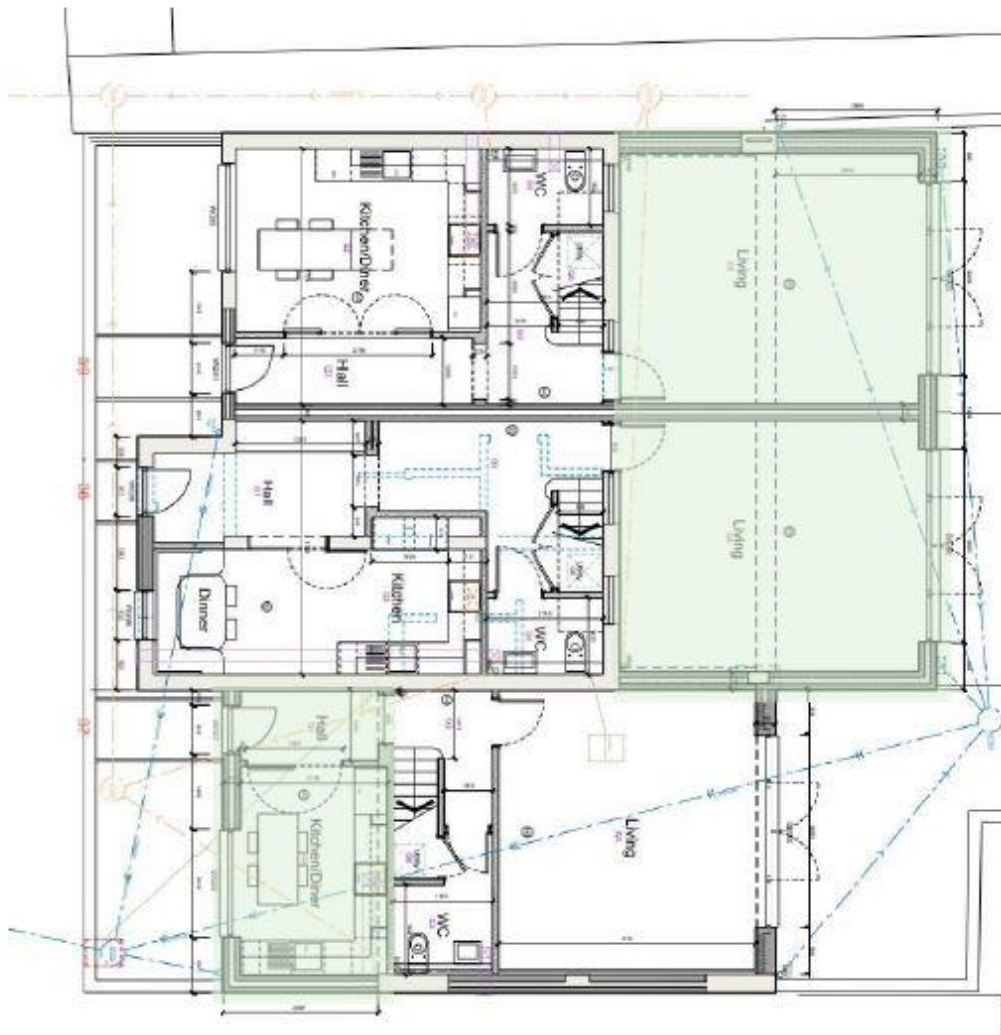


Figure 3. Areas of Watching Brief of development (green tint)