

Archaeological Monitoring on land at 57 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4BQ

Planning Application Number: 23/503776/FULL

Site Code ES/WB/24



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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 1-6. General views of the site and site reduction

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location plan

Figure 2. Site plan with area watched

Figure 3. Site as was

Figure 4. Site with proposed build

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1. Summary

In September/October 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land at 57 East Street, Sittingbourne 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 rear extension.

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 to the rear of 57 East Street, Sittingbourne in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 591153 163560 (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4).

2.2 Planning Background

The land has a planning permission (23/503776/FULL) from Swale Borough Council for the: *Erection of a single storey rear extension.*

The following Condition (3) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring 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 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 19th September to 2nd October 2024.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work were to:

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 a single storey rear extension (Figures 3, 4).

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 Seafood Chalk Formation- Chalk. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 10.50m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and KCC Archaeology commented that: *The property is situated within close proximity to the probable alignment of Watling Street, the main London to Canterbury Roman road, and*

slightly to the east of the Medieval town centre. Bronze Age burials (SMR NO: TQ 96 SW 36) were found within 250 meters of the site, with further remains of Roman and Iron Age date having been found in the general vicinity. Although the groundworks that are proposed are limited it is quite possible that further presently unknown archaeological remains survive at the application site that could be affected by proposed groundworks.

A search of the KCCHER database shows that about 60m to the south-east a medieval flint wall has been found (TQ 96 SW 272) and about 10m to the west is the site of 18th century buildings (TQ 96 SW 299).

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 proposed single storey rear extension was carried out by building contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a bladed and toothed ditching bucket (Figure 2). 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	19 th September -2 nd October 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 surface	Backyard surface (Plate 1)
002	Clay/brickearth	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 Clay/Brickearth 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 strip was about 65cm deep to the NE and about 40cm to the SW (Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the proposed rear single storey extension, an area about 2.5m x 7m (Figures 3-4).

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 57 East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4BQ

SWAT Site Code: ES/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 Principal 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: Swale Borough Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 591153 163560

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 Clay/Brickearth overlaid by concrete

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief at 57 East Street, Sittingbourne, 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. Initial investigation for services (looking South)



Plate 2. Area of proposed build (looking North)



Plate 3. Initial trenching (looking North)



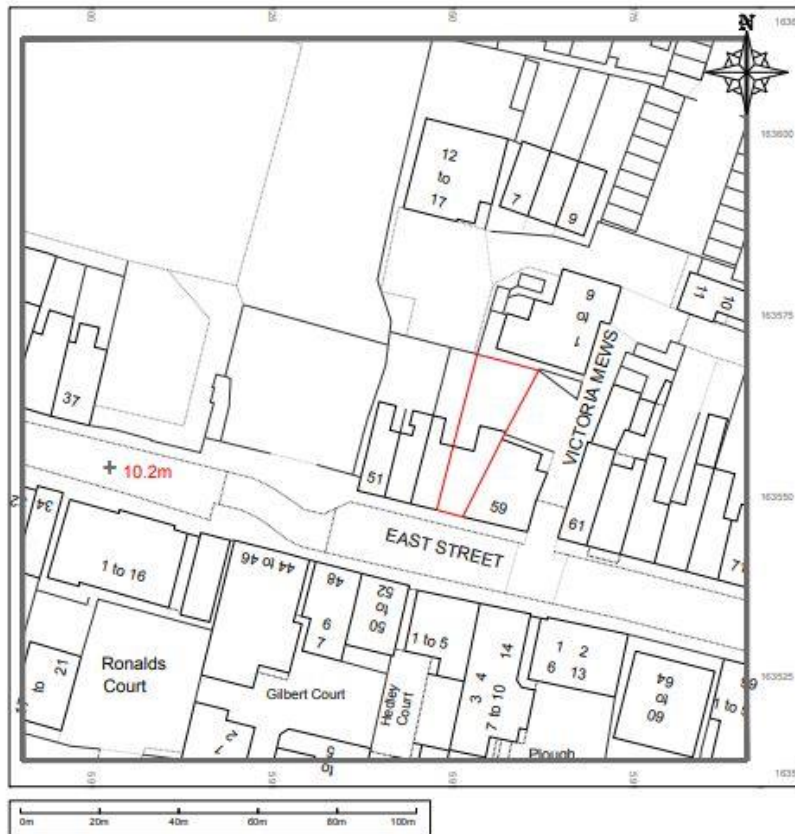
Plate 4. Site reduction (looking South)



Plate 5. Trenching and section (looking NW)



Plate 6. Trenching (looking North)

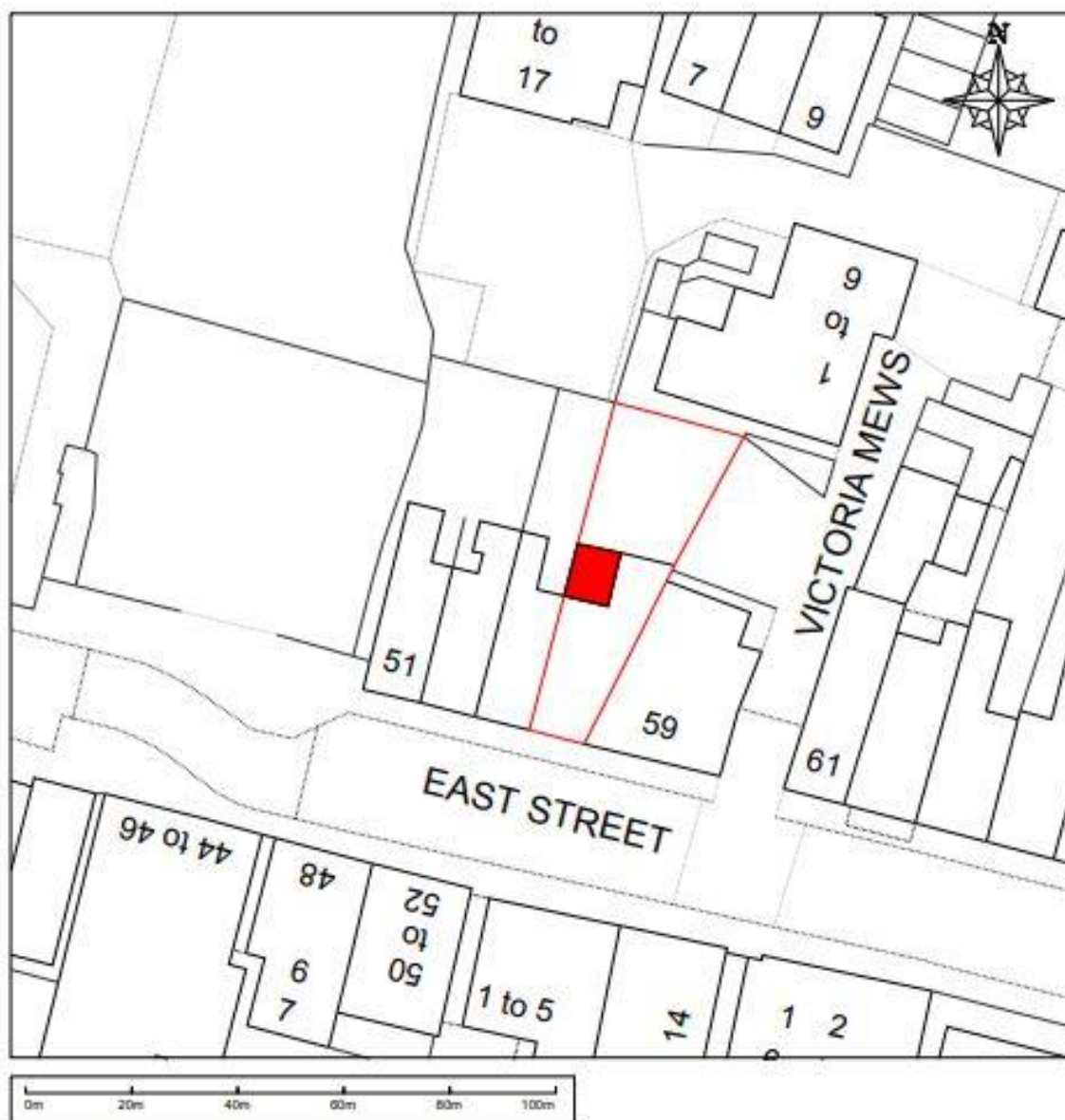


EXISTING Location plan 1:1250

Figure 1. Site location (red line)



Figure 2. Proposed area of development at NGR 591153 163560 (red line)



PROPOSED Location plan 1:1250

Figure 3. Location of proposed development (red box)

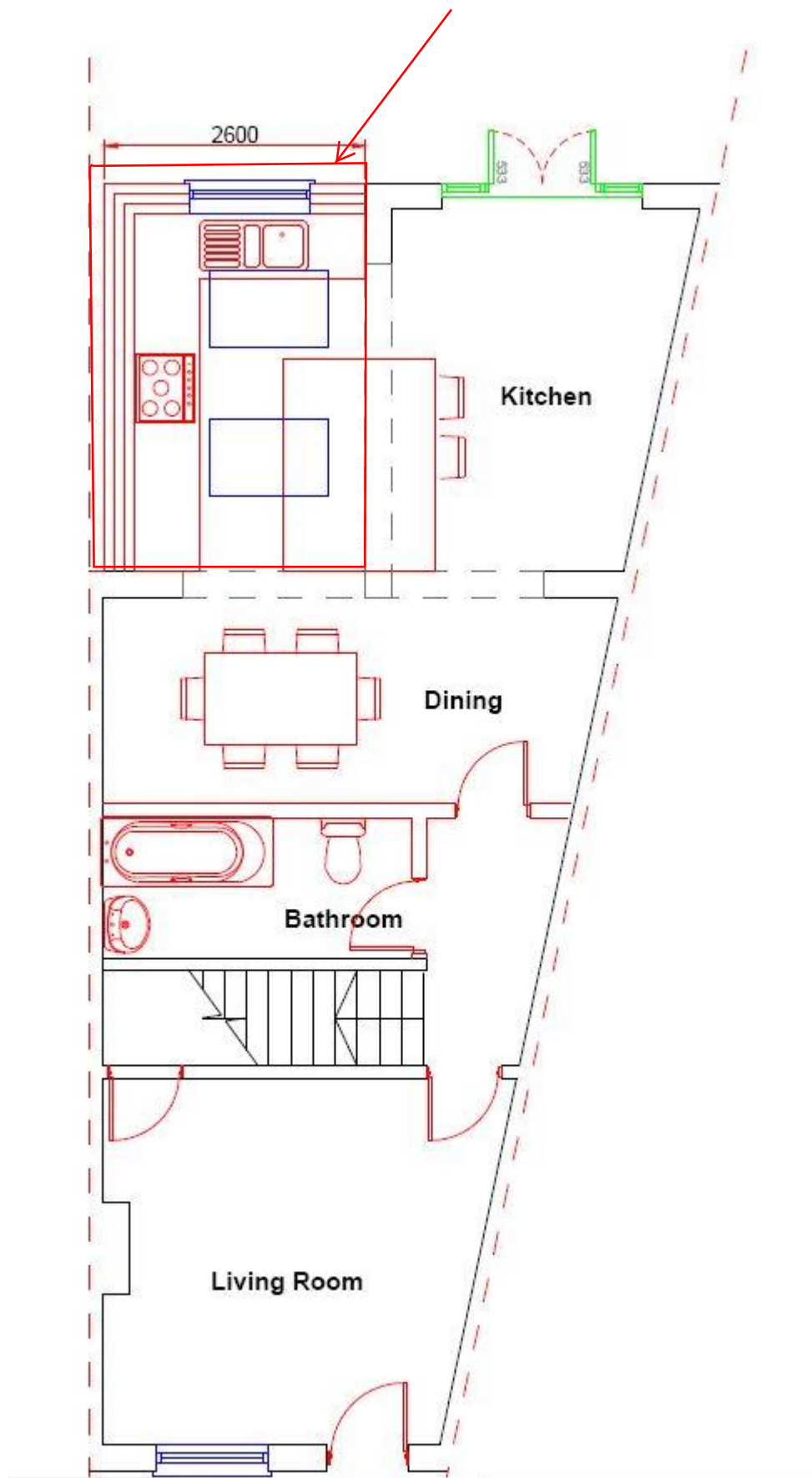


Figure 4. Proposed development and area watched (red line and arrow)