

# Archaeological Monitoring on land at Dislingbury Farmhouse, Half Moon Lane, Tudeley, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0PS

Planning Application Number: 24/00032

Site Code DIS/WB/24



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## **SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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## **1. Summary**

*In August 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land at Dislingbury Farmhouse, Half Moon Lane, Tudely, Tonbridge in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the new development for the erection of a detached garage and store.*

*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 Dislingbury Farmhouse, Half Moon Lane, Tudley, Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 562860 143793 (Figures 1, 2, 3).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The land has a planning permission (24/00032) from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the erection of a detached garage and store.

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

*Prior to commencement of development 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 MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works on the 4th to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

## **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The specific aims of the archaeological work were 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 the erection of a detached garage and store (Figure 2).

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 Wadhurst Clay Formation-Mudstone. Superficial Deposits are not recorded. The OD height of the PDA is about 76m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that farmhouse is listed:

*TQ 64 SW CAPEL HALF MOON LANE (off) 5/265 Dislingbury Farmhouse Farmhouse. Late C17, possibly earlier origins. Timber-framed on brick footings, clad with weatherboarding; brick*

*stack and chimney shaft; peg-tile roof. Plan: Farmhouse faces south west. It has a 3-room-and-through-passage plan. Unheated former service room at the right (south east) end. It is separated from the hall by the passage and parlour at the left end. Axial stack between hall and parlour serves back-to-back fireplaces. Stairs rise from parlour between stack and front wall. Despite its plan-form which suggests medieval origins what was seen on the ground floor suggests it is wholly C17. Maybe the roof would provide evidence of earlier origins. 2 storeys with attics in the roof space and lean-to outshots across the back. Exterior: Regular but not symmetrical 3-window front of C20 casements with glazing bars. Small fourth ground floor window lighting the stairs left of centre.*

*Front doorway is right of centre and contains a C20 door. Roof is half-hipped both ends.*

*Interior: Not available for inspection at the time of this survey but plain C17 carpentry detail was seen on the ground floor. Hall and parlour have plain chamfered axial beams and both fireplaces are brick with plain oak lintels. Listing NGR: TQ6313444020*

*English Heritage, List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (Map).*

*SKE16160.*

Historic OS mapping show that in 1907 and 1929 the site adjacent to the west was an Isolation Hospital (MAPS 1, 2).

In addition KCCHER lists the building a Grade II Listed Building c.1667-1699 (TQ 14 SW 91).

About 120m west is another KCCHER listing- Dislingbury Cottage (TQ 64 SW 61).

## **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 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 replacement Pool Store was carried out by building contractors using a 360° machine equipped with a bladed and toothed ditching bucket.

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;

<b><i>Task</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Staff</i></b>
Archaeological monitoring	4 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA

**Table 1 Attendance Schedule**

#### 6.9 Recording

6.9.1 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.

6.9.2 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.

#### 6.9.3 Stratigraphic Sequence

6.9.4 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological works remained relatively consistent across all areas of the site, comprising areas of deposited subsoil overlaying topsoil overlaying the natural geology. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

<b><i>Context Number</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Interpretation</i></b>
001	Deposited subsoil (Clay)	Deposited soil (Plate 1)
002	Topsoil	Natural topsoil(Plate 2)
003	Subsoil (Clay)	Natural subsoil (Clay)

*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 Wadhurst Clay. No archaeological features were revealed in the topsoil, subsoil or natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area



watched. The site strip was about 1.50m deep to the NE and about 1.40m to the SW with topsoil about 25cm thick. OD height across the PDA was about 76m aOD (Plates 1-5). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the detached garage and store, an area about 10m x 8m (Figure 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Dislingbury Farmhouse, Half Moon Lane, Tudely in Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** TUD/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:** Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

### **Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 562860 143793

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date of recording:** August 2024

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Wadhurst Clay Formation overlaid by Topsoil

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief at Dislingbury Farmhouse, Half Moon Lane, Tudeley, 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



Plate 1. Site as found (looking NNE)



Plate 2. Depth of foundation cut- 1.3m



Plate 3. Foundation trench (looking South)



Plate 4. Excavating foundations (looking North)





Plate 4. Typical section across site with deposited subsoil (Clay) overlaying topsoil (looking SSW)

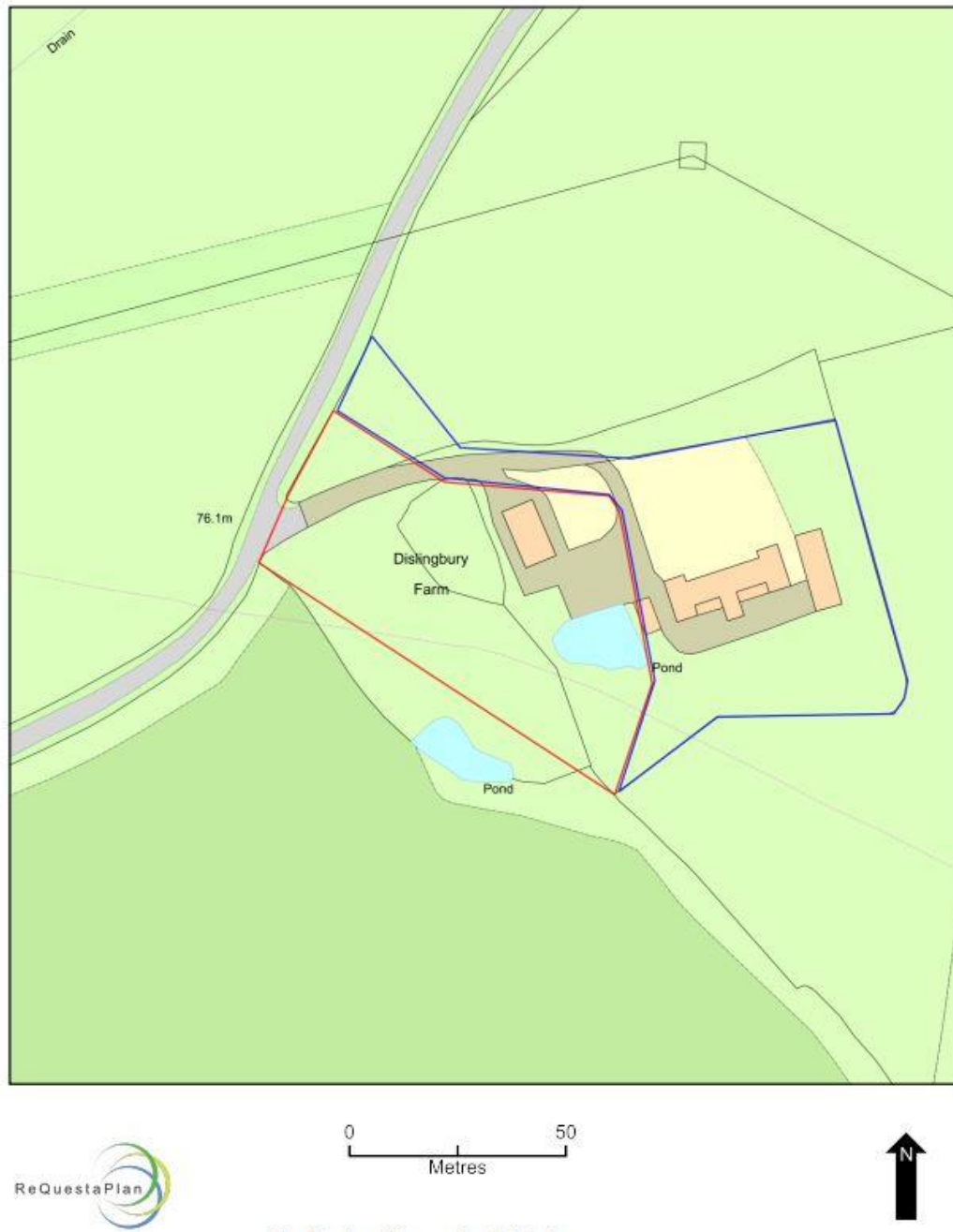


Figure 1. Site location at NGR 562860 143793



Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief (red arrow)



Figure 3. Proposed development and area watched