

# Archaeological Monitoring on land at Trosley Court, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, West Malling ME19 5EE

Planning Application Number: 24/00543

Site Code TROT/WB/24



Date of report 28.06.2024

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## **1. Summary**

*In June 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land at Trosley Court, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, West Malling 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 replacement Pool 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 Trosley Court, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, West Malling, Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 564598 160587 (Figures 1, 2, 3).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The land has a planning permission (24/00543) from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council for the erection of a replacement Pool Store.

The following Condition (4) 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 phased programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development will proceed in accordance with the approved details.*

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024. However, it was noted on the first visit that the development area in the past had two large trees which had been taken down and extensive roots removed leaving a very large hole where the replacement Pool Store was to be built.

## **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 build of a replacement Pool 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 Glauconite Marl Member- Mudstone. Superficial deposits are not recorded. The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 81m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that just to the south is 'Court Lodge' a Grade II Listed

Building and the medieval Bishop's Palace (TQ 66 SW 90) that was rebuilt in 1185 and 1319. Adjacent to the east is the Church of St Peter and St Paul (TQ 66 SW 90). To the south a regular courtyard farm has been identified (MKE 84244).

About 320m to the west at NGR 564264 160540 a Roman villa has been identified by aerial photographs (AP 1) with fieldwalking having retrieved Roman roof tiles, box flue tiles, painted plaster fragments and Roman coins. Google Earth aerial photographs of 2007 show the outline of the Roman villa and the 2024 aerial photograph a ploughed out Roman villa building with its debris field.

## **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	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> June 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 topsoil

overlaying the natural geology. The following Table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Brown loam topsoil	Topsoil (Plate 1)
002	Marl 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 Marl Member-Mudstone. No archaeological features were revealed in the 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 81m aOD (Plates 1-5). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the replacement Pool 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 Trosley Court, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, West Malling in Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** TROT/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 Borough Council

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

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 564598 160587

**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 is Glauconite Marl Member overlaid by Topsoil

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief at Trosley Court, Church Lane, Trottiscliffe, West Malling, 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. Topsoil and subsoil strip (looking NNE)





Plate 2. Setting out (looking North)





Plate 3. Excavating foundations (looking North)





Plate 4. Completed foundations after topsoil and subsoil strip (looking SSW)





Plate 5. Completed soil strip and reduction (looking NNE)

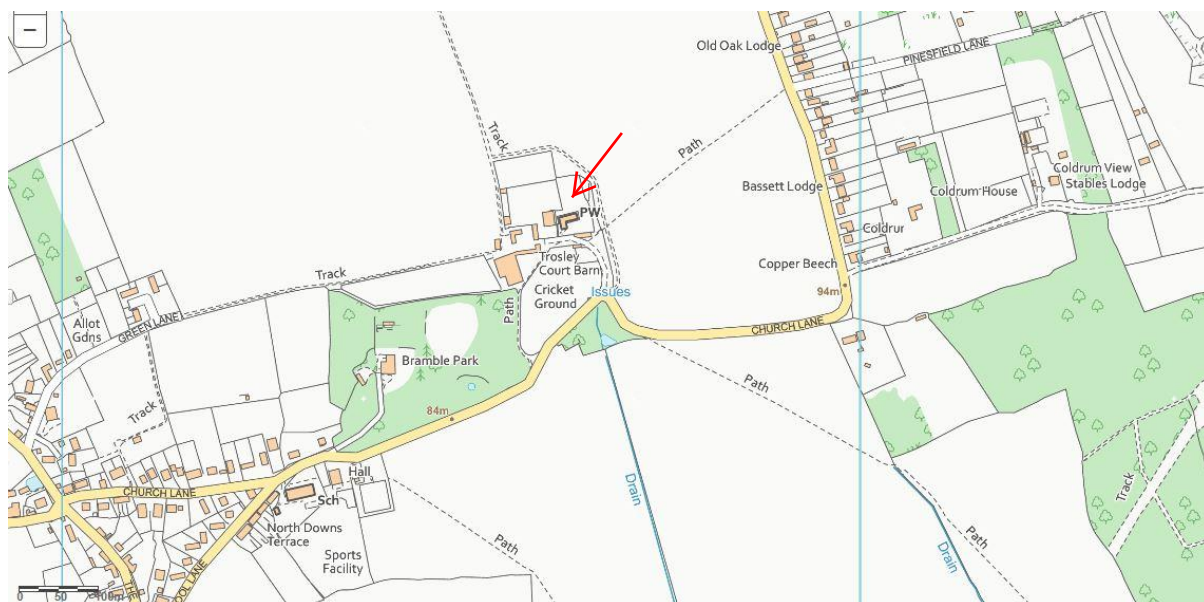


Figure 1. Site location at 564598 160587 (red arrow)

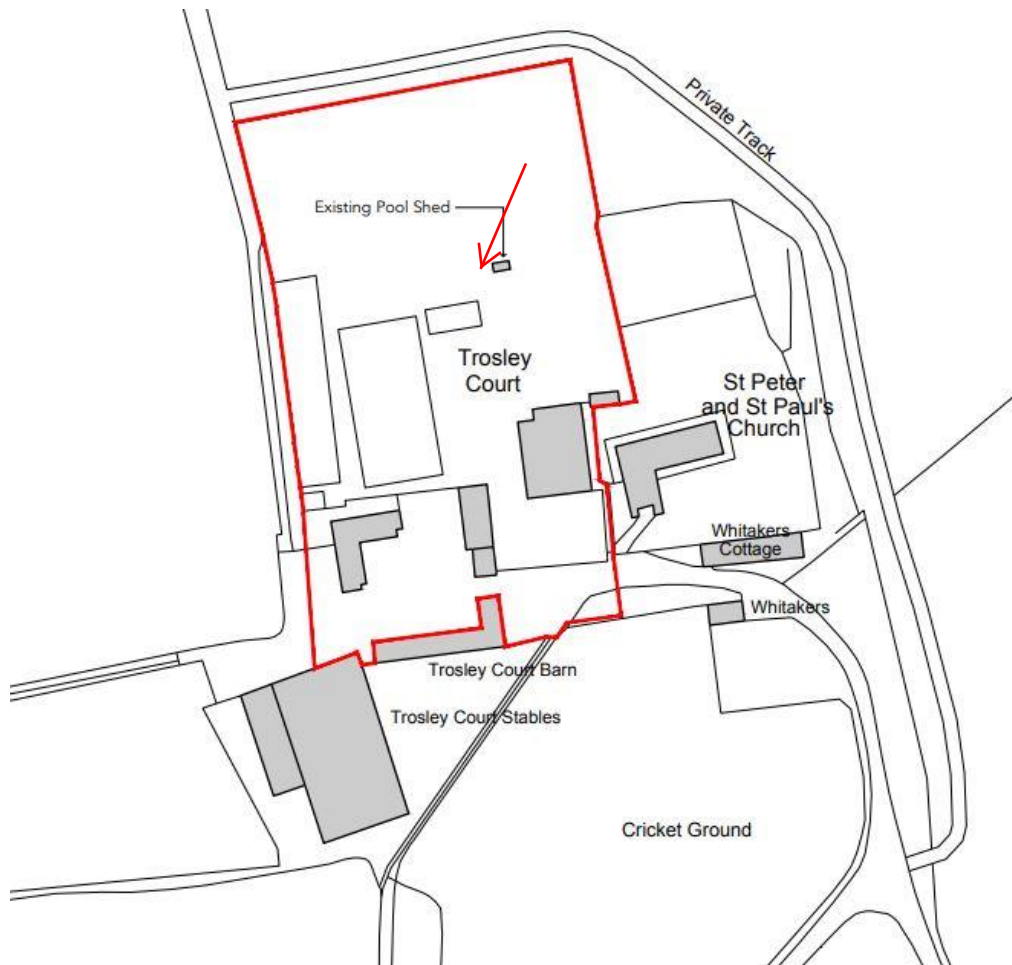


Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief (red arrow)

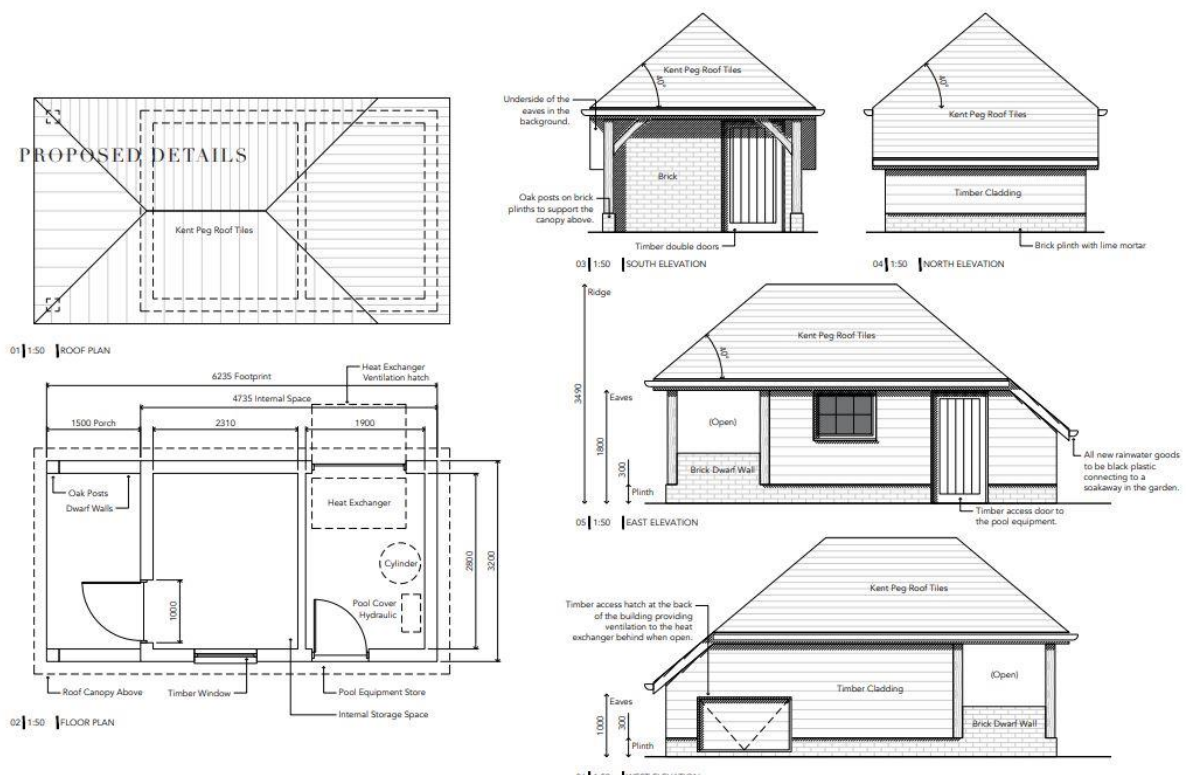


Figure 3. Proposed development