

Archaeological Monitoring on land at High Meadow, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent

Planning Application Number: 23/0159/FH

Site Code: SALT/WB/24



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1. Summary

In August 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at High Meadows, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe in Kent. The works were commissioned by the landowner and carried out during the excavation of ground works associated with the erection of replacement dwelling (involving the demolition of the existing fire damaged property) and two additional dwellings to the rear of the site.

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

Despite the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains, no additional archaeological features were identified.

2.0 Introduction

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land south of Sandling Road west of Freshfield Lane and north east of Highfield Close in the village of Saltwood. The NGR to the centre of the site is 615428 135713 (Figures 1-2).

2.2 Planning Background

The Local Planning Authority's (Folkestone & Hythe District Council) planning reference for the proposal is 23/0159/FH for the proposed replacement dwelling (involving the demolition of the existing fire damage property) plus two additional dwellings to the rear of the site and associated external works.

The following Condition (19) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

(19) No development 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 Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has 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 and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: *To ensure appropriate assessment of the archaeological implications of any development proposals and the subsequent mitigation of adverse impacts through preservation in situ or by record.*

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA) and closely monitored the excavation works from the 13th August to 3rd September 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 (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 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1 The geology of the site according to the British Geological Survey is Sandgate Formation-Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. The Ordnance Datum for the centre of the site is about 69m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that to the 440m northeast of the Site is the location of the Church of St Peter and St Paul (TR 13 NE 125), a Grade II* listed building that was initially constructed on 1067, with subsequent additions throughout the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

The former Rectory, now Saltwood House (TR 13 NE 127) also has a Medieval core again with later additions.

Approximately 700m northeast of the Site is Saltwood Castle (TR 13 NE 133). The manor of Saltwood was granted to the see of Canterbury in 1026. Archbishop Lanfranc took Saltwood into his possession in 1086 with the building remaining mostly remaining the property of the Archbishop's for much of Medieval period. It is possible that a ringwork castle was constructed on the site of a manorial establishment at the time of Domesday, with the square stone towers of the inner ward later additions circa 1160AD (Smith and Saunders, 2001). In the 1300's Archbishop Courtney implemented a costly rebuilding scheme comprising of the outer bailey, state rooms and the keep, with the gate supposedly modelled of that at Westgate in Canterbury (Warshaw et al, 2006). Following the dissolution of the monasteries the property passed into private ownership.

Brockhull Manor (TR 13 NE 10), situated opposite the Site, also has Medieval origins with its chapel dating to 1310AD.

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).

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 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 (See Table 1, below).

6.8 Timetable

Archaeological monitoring was carried out from the following days;

<i>Task</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Archaeological monitoring	13 th August to 3 rd September 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

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
001	Topsoil	Overburden (Plates 1-3)
002	Yellow/orange sandy subsoil	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; 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 yellow/orange sandy 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 1.50m deep with topsoil about 20cm thick. OD height across the PDA was about 69m aOD (Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the footprint foundation footings of the proposed houses (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.

SWAT Archaeology. *Archaeological Evaluation of Land at High Meadow, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent.*

Appendix 1 KCCHER Summary Form

Site Name: Development of land at High Meadow, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent

SWAT Site Code: SALT/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: Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 615428 135713

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: September 2024

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

Geology: Bedrock geology of Sandgate Formation- Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at High Meadow, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4QJ

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 ground reduction (looking North)



Plate 2. Ground trenching (looking NE)



Plate 3. Ground reduction (looking NNE)



Plate 4. Foundation trenches (looking North)



Plate 5. Foundation ground reduction (looking NE)



Plate 6. Foundation trenches (looking East)



Figure 1. KCCHER map of site location at NGR 615428 135713 (red line)

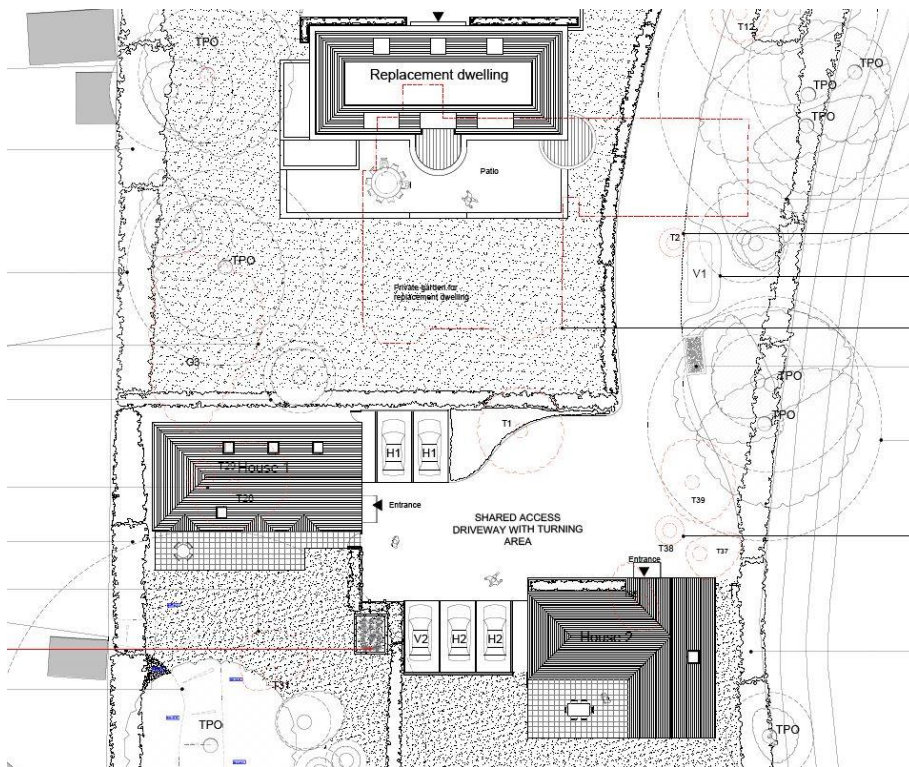


Figure 2. Proposed development detail

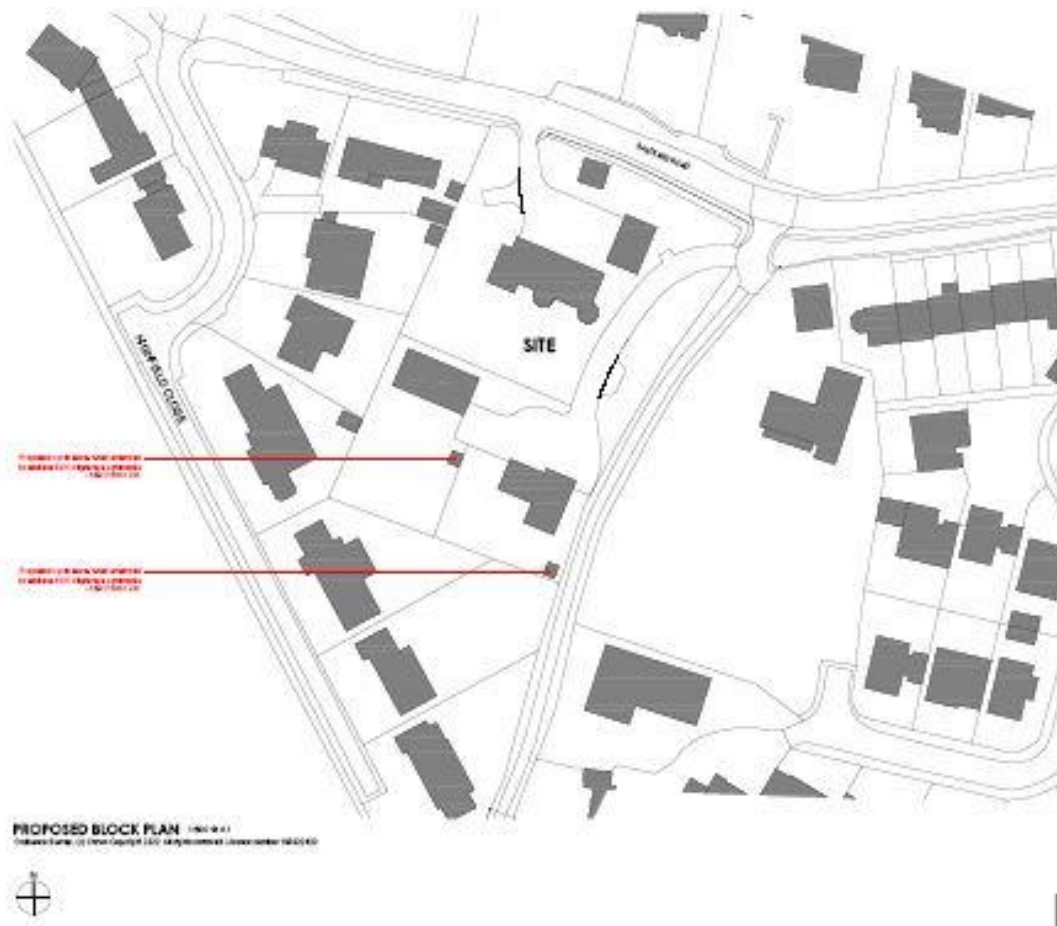


Figure 3. Plan of proposed area of development (red lines)



AP 1. Area as was (Google Earth 2008)