

# Archaeological Monitoring on land at the Barn, Ightham Court, Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent

Planning Application Number: TM/22/01213/FL

Site Code: IGHT/WB/24



Date of report 25/04/2024

## **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](mailto:info@swatarchaeology.co.uk) [www.swatarchaeology.co.uk](http://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 1-6. General views of the site and site slab foundation trenching

### List of Figures

Figure 1. KCCHER map

Figure 2. Site location plan

Figure 3. Proposed site plan

Figure 4. Proposed

### 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 March 2024 SWAT Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at The Barn, Ightham Court, Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks 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 new small side utility room.*

*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 archaeological features or finds were recorded during the archaeological monitoring works.*

## **2.0 Introduction**

The proposed development area (PDA) is situated on land at The Barn, Ightham Court, Fen Pond Road, Ightham in Kent. The NGR to the centre of the site is 559527 157490 (Figures 1-4).

## **2.2 Planning Background**

The land has a planning permission for the addition of a small side utility room. The Local Planning Authority's (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council) planning reference for the proposal is TM/22/01213/FL

The following Condition (4) requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring was attached to the planning consent:

*(4) 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 groundworks are observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation 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 (Peter Cichy SWAT) and closely monitored the excavation works on 28<sup>th</sup> March 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 a concrete slab foundation (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 Gault Formation-Mudstone. The Ordnance Datum for the site is about 102m aOD.

5.2 The proposed development area (PDA) is within an Area of Archaeological Potential and a search of the KCCHER highlights that Ightham Court (listed Grade II\*) is a small country house built of red brick with stone dressings under a slate roof.

5.3 It represents one recess of the original mid C16 H-plan house, filled in by a projecting four-storey classical frontispiece in 1575. Apart from the c 1800 alterations which included

the addition of Tudor-Gothic mullion windows and a porch on the west front, the main building has been little altered since its construction by the Willoughby family in the mid C16. On the south side of the Court stands a single-storey stable courtyard, open on the west side, into which the main drive leads. The house is set in lawns which, to the east and north of the house, retain grass terraces and have walls surviving from the late C17/early C18 formal gardens, as shown on the engraving by J Kip (1728).

5.4 To the south-east of the house, at a lower level, are walled gardens which also formed part of this scheme. The walled gardens are laid to lawn and planted with shrubs and perennials, while the grass terrace on the north side of the walled garden contains a circular garden area with a central fountain basin. Beyond the garden to the north is a piece of woodland known as the Wilderness, which retains some early plantings. It was divided by a lime avenue aligned on the north facade of the house until the avenue was severely damaged in the storm of October 1987. Within the Wilderness is a complex of fishponds and two substantial moated mounds. The larger of these earthworks is circular and has the remains of an icehouse at its centre. The smaller is D-shaped and carries the footings of a summerhouse on its summit. The ponds and mounds may predate the gardens but were incorporated into the late C17/early C18 layout as garden features.

5.5 Just to the North [TQ 5960 57] Two large shallow dome-shaped mounds stand within the grounds, and to the N.E. of Ightham Court. "A", at TQ 59545767, is sub-circular in plan, has a maximum height of 2.0 metres, and is enclosed by a ditch, formerly waterfilled but now dry, which is crossed by causeways on the N. and S.W. sides. There is a wide berm except on the S. side. On top of the mound are the remains of a probably 18th century ice house. "B", at TQ 5960 5777, is D-shaped in plan and 1.5 metres in height; it is encircled by a wide berm and a water-filled ditch; on its top is an 18th century summerhouse. Harrison (a) supposed the features to be the site of the earlier house, the present one dating from 1575 (HER Number TQ 55 NE 11).

5.6 About 250m West a Romano-British cremation has been found (TQ 55 NE 6) and about 120m NW Neolithic flint implements have been discovered (TQ 55 NE 12). At 150m SE cropmarks of ring ditches have been identified (TQ 55 NE 213).

5.7 Just to the east surface finds of two Palaeolithic hand axes and one possible flake (TQ 55 NE 289). Just to the north a post-medieval farmstead dating from about 1540AD (TQ 59 49 5749).

## **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 (Peter Cichy SWAT).

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 raft foundation and 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 on the following days;

<i><b>Task</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Staff</b></i>
Archaeological monitoring	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Peter Cichy 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 made up ground.

6.9.6 The following table provides detailed description of each stratigraphic context.



<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	Made up ground	Overburden (Plates 1-4)

*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. No natural geology was encountered across the site as the concrete raft was sited in made up ground. No archaeological features were revealed in the exposed or natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the area watched (Plates 1-4). The trenching for footings was about 80cm deep. OD height across the PDA was about 102m aOD (Plates 1-6). Overall areas watched were the footprint of the slab foundation footings of the proposed extension (Figures 1-3. 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 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 by Peter Cichy SWAT 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 KCCHER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at The Barn, Ightham Court, Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** IGHT/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)** 559527 157490

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

**Date of recording:** March 2024

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology of Gault Formation- Mudstone

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2024) Archaeological Watching Brief at The Barn, Ightham Court, Fen Pond Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, 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. Setting out and starting ground reduction (looking NW)



Plate 2. Ground reduction (looking west)





Plate 3. Ground reduction (looking west)



Plate 4. Foundation raft ground reduction (looking NW)





Plate 5. Slab foundation trenches (looking west)



Plate 6. Drain trenches



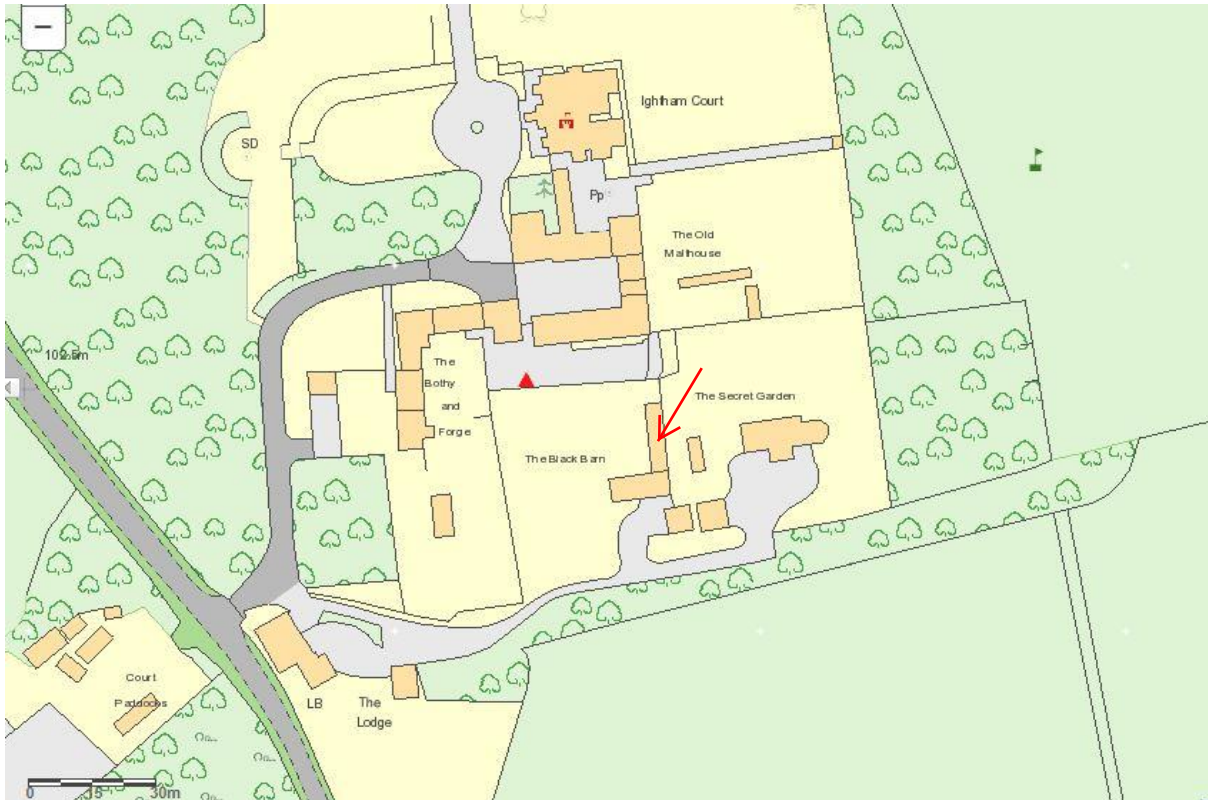


Figure 1. KCCHER map of site location at NGR 559527 157490 (red arrow)

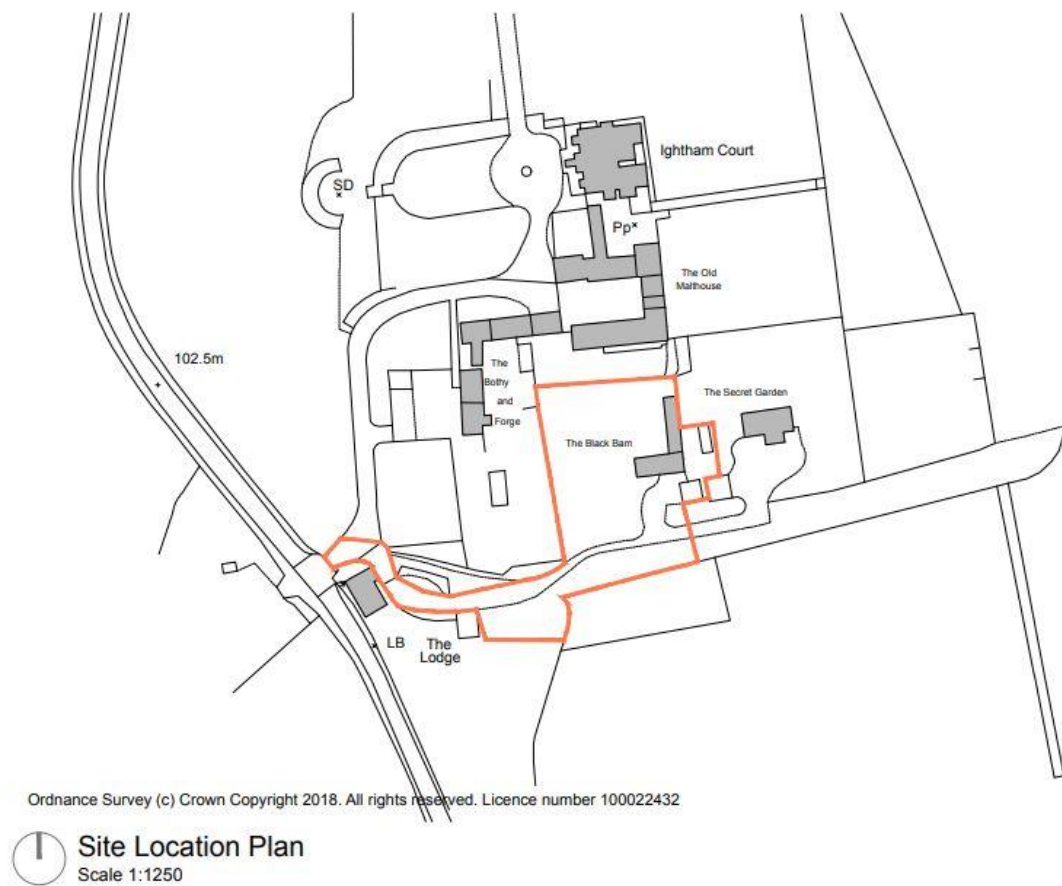


Figure 2. Site location plan of proposed area of development (red line)



Figure 3. Proposed redevelopment- red line



Figure 4. Proposed