



The results of Archaeological Monitoring & Reporting at 2-4 Victoria Road, Unity Place, Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent.

SWAT. Archaeology

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Aug 2007

**2-4 Victoria Road, Unity Place, Boundary Road,
Ramsgate,
Kent**

Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

**NGR: 638570 165437
Site Code: UPBR07**

**Report for
Charles James Developments and Clague Architects**

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**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at Unity Place, Boundary Road,
Ramsgate, Kent**

NGR: 638570 165437

Site Code: UPBR07

1.0 SUMMARY

In June 2007, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Unity Place, Boundary Road, Ramsgate. The works were carried out on behalf of Clague Architects during the demolition of existing building and construction of 23 flats with parking (Planning Application Number: F/TH/05/0647).

The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered. The deposit model on site comprised existing surfaces directly overlying made ground suggesting that former groundworks associated with localised quarrying had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: F/TH/05/0647) for the demolition of existing building and construction of 23 flats with parking was submitted to Thanet District Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Thanet District Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

AR4 *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 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.

(Thanet District Council. TOWN AND COUNTY PLANNING ACT 1990, TOWN AND COUNTY PLANNING ORDER 1995: Notification of Grant of Permission to Develop Land, Application F/TH/05/0647 **Condition 03**)

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An Archaeological Project Officer from SWAT Archaeology attended the site and monitored excavation works on the following dates:

14th June 2007
15th June 2007
18th June 2007
19th June 2007
20th June 2007

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

'contribute to knowledge of the Isle of Thanet through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks' (KCC 2007: 3.1)

In addition, objectives of the monitoring were:

- 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

The specific archaeological requirements of the project are summarised below;

- Monitoring of all ground works
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in the event that archaeological remains are encountered
- Post-excavation and publication, where required

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The groundworks involved;

- Excavation of foundations
- Excavation of services
- Landscaping

2.5 Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Thanet is generally rich in archaeological remains and there is known Roman activity in the vicinity of the application site. A Romano-British burial urn was found 300m south west of the site in the cemetery of St George's church in 1948 (Kent SMR No.: TR 36 NE 46). Around 350m to the east Roman burials and pottery were found in the nineteenth century on Thanet Road (SMR Ref No.: TR 36 NE 35) and Roman coins and pottery are recorded 320m to the southeast beneath the Granville Hotel site on Truro Road (SMR Ref No.: TR 36 NE 34) (KCC 2007:2.1).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The monitoring was conducted in accordance with standard operating procedure as adopted by Kent County Council and included within the specification (Appendix B) and also complied with the Institute of field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds. The examination of spoil and the recording of soils profiles were carried out following excavation.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (**100**). The cut of the feature is shown [**100**]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recoding purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**).

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 *General*

Truncation during the construction of the overlying concrete foundations had occurred to the natural geological deposits.

5.2 *Deposit Model*

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m – 0.20m (100)	Construction of overburden and surfaces comprising concrete slabs, tarmac surfaces and layers of stone hardcore. Modern construction layers and present surfaces
0.15m – c.2.20m+ (101)	Dark brown sand clay with moderate gravels, chalk and concrete/ brick lumps. Made ground

No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were present throughout the duration of the groundworks. Natural Upper Chalk was reached on occasion at depths between 2m and 3.4m suggesting that the majority, if not all of the site had been subjected to past quarrying activity. At no point throughout the duration of the project were upper surfaces of intact natural geological deposits recognised.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the monitoring exercise.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring and recording carried out at Unity Place, Boundary Road revealed that former groundworks associated with the quarrying had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.

8.0 CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological remains have been affected as a result of the development programme.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Clague Architects for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Adam Single (Archaeological Officer) for his assistance. This report was collated by Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA.

Paul Wilkinson
August 2007

10.0 REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council (2007) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 2-4 Victoria Road, adjoining Boundary Road in Ramsgate During the Construction of Three Blocks of 23 Flats*. Heritage & Conservation

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Unity Place, Boundary Road, Ramsgate</i>		SWAT Site
Code: <i>BCSR07</i>		
Site Address: <i>Unity Place, Boundary Road, Ramsgate</i>		
Summary: <i>In June 2007, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 2-4 Victoria Road, Unity Place, Boundary Road, Ramsgate. The works were carried out on behalf of Clague Architects Limited during the demolition of existing building and construction of 23 flats in three blocks with parking (Planning Application Number: F/TH/05/0647).</i>		
<i>The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered. The deposit model on site comprised existing surfaces directly overlying made ground suggesting that former groundworks associated with localised quarrying had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.</i>		
District/Unitary: <i>Thanet</i>	Parish: <i>Ramsgate</i>	
Period(s): Tentative: <i>Modern</i>		
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): <i>638570 165437</i> (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)		
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Date of Recording: <i>14th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th June 2007</i>		
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>		
Geology: <i>Upper Chalk</i>		
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson. P (2007) Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Unity Place, Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Kent. Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company</i>		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i>		
(cont. on attached sheet)		
Location of archive/finds:		
Contact at Unit: <i>Dr P Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>20th August 2007</i>	

APPENDIX 1 – Figures

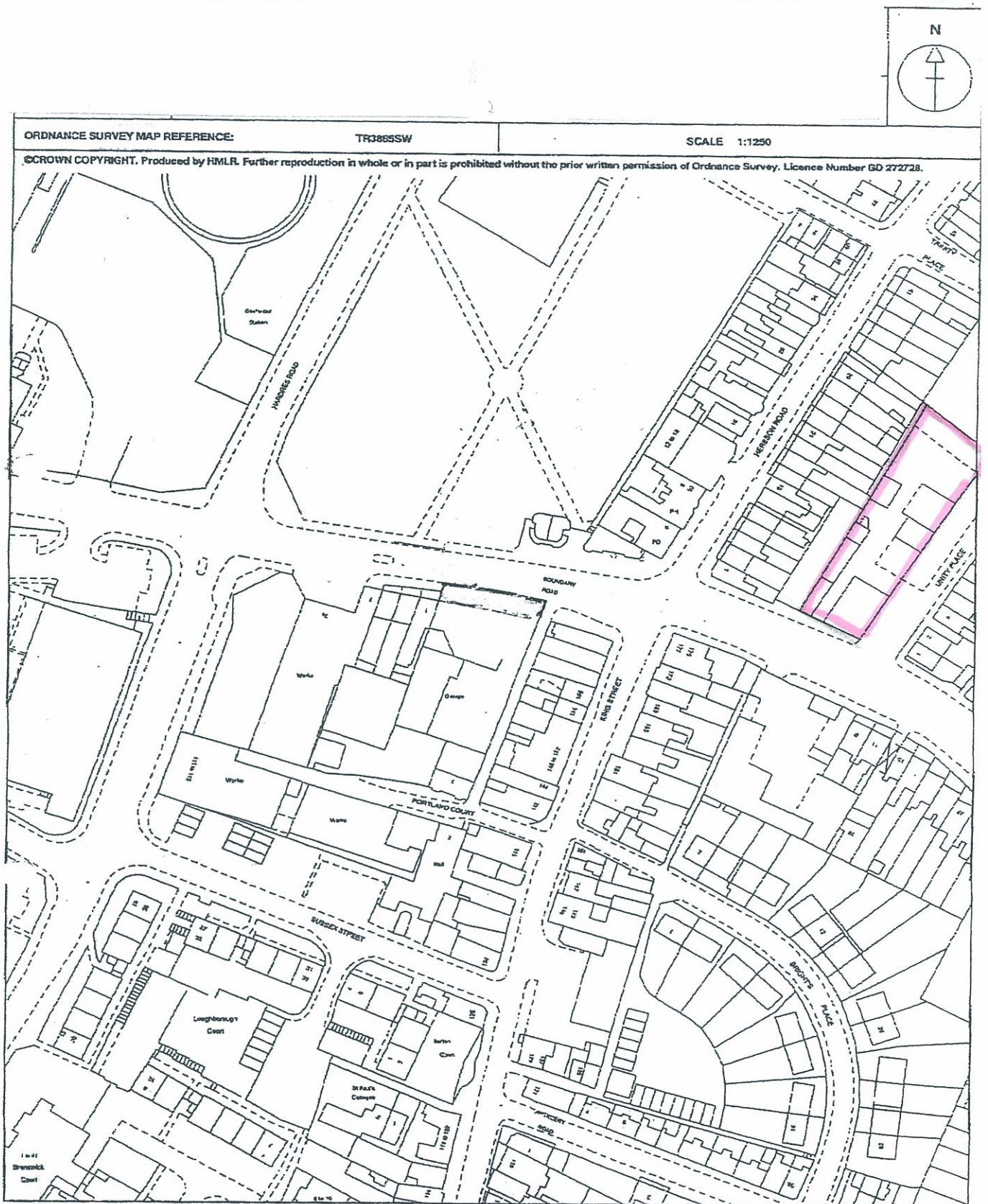


Fig.1 Location of site of proposed development within Ramsgate, Kent (NGR: 638570 165437)