



Archaeological Evaluation of Land at St Philip Howard School, 41 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent

NGR: 617050 168110

Site Code: STP /EV/17

(Planning Application: CA/15/02786)

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Road, Herne Bay, Kent**

NGR: 617050 168110

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1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at St Philip Howard School, 41 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent on 25th May 2017. A Planning Application (CA/15/02786) to develop this site for the retention of the listed building and remainder of the school to be demolished for residential development was sent to Canterbury City Council, whereby the Council requested that a Condition on the planning permission for an Archaeological Evaluation to be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Specification A and CCC Manual Part B) and in discussion with the City Archaeologist Rosanne Cummings. The results of the excavation of 5 evaluation trench revealed no archaeological features (Figure 2). The natural geology of silty sandy clay was reached at an average depth of between 0.35m and 0.40m below ground level (BGL). Thus the Archaeological Evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the land owners to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT & CCC 2017) and in discussion with Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer CCC. The evaluation was carried out on Thursday 25th May 2017.

3. Site Description and Topography

3.1 The proposed development site is located about 130m to the south of the sea and adjacent to Avenue Road, to the north of Oxenden Square and 139m to the south west of Herne Bay Pier.

3.2 On the basis of current information from BGS, the site the underlying geology on site is Bedrock Geology of London Clay Formation- Clay and Silt. Superficial Deposits are Clay- Clay and Silt. The average OD for the site is about 11m aOD. (www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon.cfm).

4. Planning Background

4.1 A planning application for the proposed development has been approved (Application No. CA/15/02786) and is for the retention of the listed building and reinstatement from school back to dwelling. The remainder of school to be demolished, and a residential development comprising of 17 apartments, 5 semi-detached units and 8 townhouses built. The planning permission has been obtained with the following Condition (25):

Prior to the commencement of development, the following components of a scheme for the archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, shall each be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:

- A written scheme of investigation, to be submitted a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.*
- A report summarising the results of the investigations, to be produced on the completion of fieldwork, in accordance with the requirements set out in the written scheme of investigation.*
- Any further mitigation measures considered necessary as a result of the archaeological investigations, to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation and recording in*

accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

□ If necessary, a programme of post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and conservation. Fieldwork, including further mitigation works and post-excavation work shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and programme timings unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local authority, and the local authority shall be notified in writing a minimum of fourteen days in advance of the commencement of any fieldwork.

REASON: *To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with policy BE16 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2006, policy HE11 of the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2014 and the National Planning Policy Framework.*

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 Rosanne Cummings CCC Archaeological Officer in responding to the planning application said that: 'Archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site are few, and consequently there are no remains of significance recorded in close proximity. However, this absence of recorded archaeology does not negate the potential for remains to survive on site; rather it reflects an absence of archaeological intervention. The large areas of residential properties to the south and west represent large scale post-war development in which archaeological investigation played a minimal, if any, role'.

5.2 . The Herne Bay Conservation Appraisal (2008) notes that 'in the coastal plain between Seasalter and Bishopstone, recent excavation has demonstrated the presence of a widespread pattern of intensive Neolithic, Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement with some sites continuing in occupation into the Roman period. Archaeological evidence for early settlements in the vicinity has been found on the hill slope within the eastern quarter of the conservation area. Here, within the former Beacon Field, now crossed by Dence Park, a sewer trench in the 1920s revealed pottery extending from the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age through to the Roman and Saxon periods. More recent excavation in Hillborough Road

and Beacon Hill Road has uncovered evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement. To the south, along Beacon Avenue, evidence of a Late Bronze Age/Early Roman settlement and cremation cemetery has been found. Roman coins have also been found along Beltinge Road. Beacon Field was the site of a late medieval beacon that remained in use through to the early 17th century. An earlier Roman beacon was possibly sited at or near Reculver.

A Saxon charter of 949 AD setting out the boundaries of the monastic estate of 'Raculf' mentions 'macan broc', a reference to the modern Plenty Brook which flows into the sea at the centre of the conservation area'.

5.3 The Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCCHER) has provided details of any previous investigations and discoveries. There are no archaeological discoveries recorded in the vicinity of the development site but to the NW there is an air-raid shelter at Lane End (TR 16 NE 1337), and another public air-raid shelter to the NE (TR 16 NE 1201).

6. Aims and Objectives

6.1 The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their depth below ground, extent, significance and character.

6.2 Also to find out the depths of features below the surface, how much overburden and the extent of the depth of deposits themselves. In addition the dates and quality of any archaeological remains which will be achieved through a limited sample excavation of features. Human remains are not anticipated, but if encountered appropriate methodology is in place in the CCC Evaluation Specification Part B.

7. Methodology

The evaluation comprised 5 machine excavated trenches (19-26m x 1.8m) in a layout agreed with the City Archaeologist. The sixth evaluation trench could not be done as the contractor's site offices were located in this area. However, the other five trenches were

lengthened to compensate. The trenches were machine excavated down to the top of any significant archaeological horizon/level or to the top of 'natural' subsoil where no archaeological deposits have been found at a higher level.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was not available during the course of the evaluation.

9. Results

The evaluation trenches located across the development site failed to expose any features of potential archaeological significance, and contained no cultural materials, or, indeed, anything indicative of associated and/or nearby archaeological activity.

Trench 1

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 4). The trench lay on an EW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(103)** was identified across the trench as light orange brown sandy silt, at a depth of approximately 0.40m (10.20mOD) below the present ground surface at 10.60m OD at the E end of the trench.

The natural geology **(103)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to orange silty sandy clay with occasional flint subsoil about 0.15m thick **(102)** topped by tarmac overlaying topsoil **(103)** 0.25m thick.

The east end of the trench exposed a modern tarmac surface outlined by red bricks on edge (Plate 0).

Trench 2

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 5). The trench lay on an EW alignment and measured approximately 25m by 1.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(203)** was identified across the trench as light orange brown sandy silt, at a depth of approximately 0.38m (10.64mOD) below the present ground surface at 11.02m OD at the W end of the trench.

Mid-trench there were some areas of modern burning and dumping (Plate 0).

The natural geology **(203)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to orange silty sandy clay with occasional flint subsoil about 0.24m thick **(202)** topped by topsoil overlaid by tarmac **(203)** 0.16m thick.

Trench 3

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 6). The trench lay on an NNE alignment and measured approximately 26m by 1.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(303)** was identified across the trench as light orange brown sandy silt, at a depth of approximately 0.40m (10.38mOD) below the present ground surface at 10.78m OD at the SSW end of the trench.

At the NNE end of the trench there was an area of modern dumping that had impacted on the subsoil (Plate 0).

The natural geology **(303)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to orange silty sandy clay with occasional flint subsoil about 0.25m thick **(302)** topped by topsoil **(303)** 0.15m thick.

Trench 4

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plates 8, 9). The trench lay on an NW alignment and measured approximately 28m by 1.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(103)** was identified across the trench as light orange brown sandy silt, at a depth of approximately 0.40m (10.52mOD) below the present ground surface at 10.92m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology **(103)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to orange silty sandy clay with occasional flint subsoil about 0.23m thick **(102)** topped by topsoil **(103)** 0.15m thick. The NW end of the trench exposed modern dumping of building materials (Plate 0).

Trench 5

The plan is recorded in Figure 2 (see also Plate 7). The trench lay on an EW alignment and measured approximately 26m by 1.40m.

Undisturbed natural geology **(403)** was identified across the trench as light orange brown sandy silt, at a depth of approximately 0.42m (10.61mOD) below the present ground surface at 10.99m OD at the W end of the trench.

The natural geology **(403)** was sealed by a layer of mid brown to orange silty sandy clay with occasional flint subsoil about 0.28m thick **(402)** topped by topsoil **(403)** 0.14m thick. A large dump of concrete pieces had been cut into the subsoil.

10. Discussion

No archaeological features were exposed in the trenches. The proposed development can therefore be judged to pose no threat to any significant archaeological remains.

11. Finds

No finds were recovered.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no significant archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprised of topsoil or tarmac **(100)** sealing subsoil **(102)** which overlay the natural geology of silty clay **(103)**. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the planning condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings CCC Archaeological Officer. Site survey and

illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Wilkinson and the project was managed and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

Paul Wilkinson 27/06/2017

14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2014). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC and Historic England HER data 2017

SWAT Archaeology (2017) *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at St Philip Howard School, 41 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent*

CCC HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at St Philip Howard School, 41 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent

SWAT Site Code: STP/EV/17

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for residential development and parking whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Evaluation revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 617050 168110

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: May 2017

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

Geology: Underlying geology is Sandy Silty Clay

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2017) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at St Philip Howard School, 41 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

No archaeological features or finds were revealed

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 27/07/2017



Plate 1. Trench 1 (looking W)



Plate 2. Section Trench 1



Plate 3. Trench 2 (looking NW)



Plate 4. Trench 2 section



Plate 5. Trench 3 (looking W)



Plate 6. Trench 3 section



Plate 7. Trench 4 (looking NW)



Plate 8. Trench 4 section



Plate 9. Trench 5 (looking W)



Plate 10. Trench 5 section



Figure 1: Site location map

OS Plan Colour

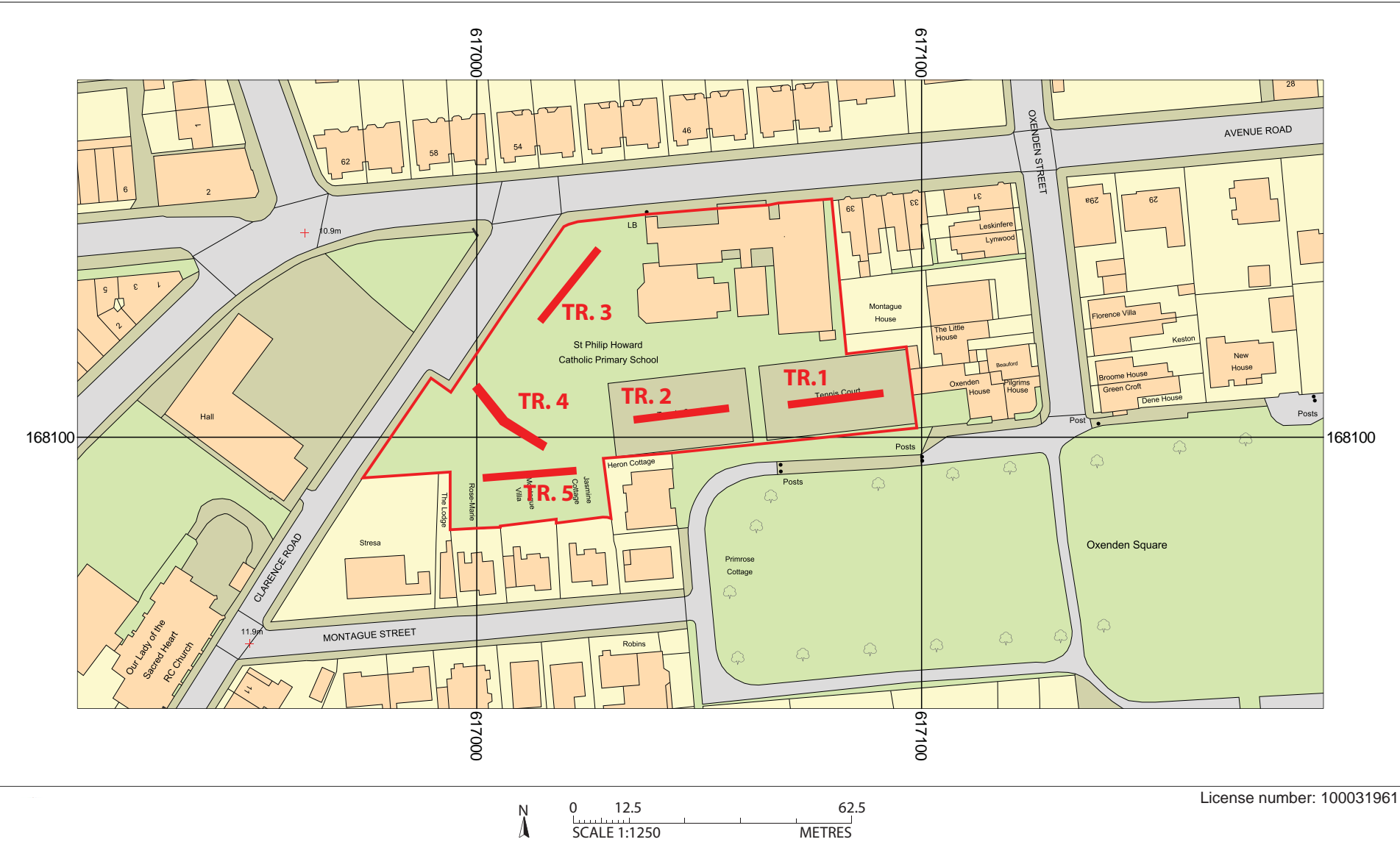


Figure 2: Trench location plan, scale 1:1250