

# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Covers, Lower Road, East Farleigh, Kent

Site Code FAR/WB/16



Report for Mr R Cater  
Date of report 04/12/2016

## **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 www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

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# Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Covers, Lower Road, East Farleigh, Kent

Site Code FAR/WB/16  
NGR 573075 153270

Date of report: 04/10/2016



Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red target) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 20/4/2015: Eye altitude 366m).

## **1.0 Abstract**

1.1. On the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA of Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a single storey extension at The Covers, Lower Road, East Farleigh in Kent. (Fig. 1 & Plates 1-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the land owner.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the site reduction (Figures 2- 3).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: The digging out of the footprint of the new extension to about 0.70-1.00m below present ground level of about 31.50m AOD. (Plates 3-7)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area including the adjacent complex of Roman buildings and adjacent possible Roman Cremation burials.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 15/509409/FULL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by KCC Heritage Conservation the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The site is located on land to the south of the River Medway and to the west of the nucleus of the village of East Farleigh. The property is semi-detached and situated adjacent to the Lower Road. The site itself is level at about 31.50m AOD (Figure 1).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Planning application 15/509409/FULL was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of the LPA requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (4) was attached to the planning consent:

*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.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

*“The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks (KCC 2016).*

4.2. The ground works were to reduce the level and build a reinforced concrete slab for the proposed extension (Plates 2-7).

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 underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey website is Bedrock geology of Hythe Formation- Sandstone and Limestone. The Superficial Deposits are not described.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of known important archaeological remains. To the north and almost adjacent a probable Roman cremation burial was found in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (TQ 75 SW 17). To the west at about 350m Roman buildings have been exposed by archaeologists from the Maidstone Group (TQ 75 SW 232) And 50m to the north are a complex of medieval and post-medieval farm buildings (TQ 75 SW 176 & MKE 84590).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by KCC and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CifA: Dec 2014).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out according to the needs of the building contractors from 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket necessary to remove the soil down to formation level (Plates 2-7).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCifA).

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. 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.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (CifA: 2014), and methodology discussed on a number of occasions with the Senior Archaeological Officer KCC.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was deposits of silty clay overlaid by topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil which was swept with a Fisher CZ 3D metal detector.

7.2 The site is rectangular in shape and about 5m on the west side, the proposed extension is to be located to the west and rear of the main house. The area was surveyed in and shown on Figure 1.

7.3 The site reduction was about 70cm-1m deep at about 30.10m AOD. The site produced no archaeological features or deposits or finds and no environmental potential was recognised on site.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. However, no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring 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.

## **11.0 Acknowledgments**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Robert Cater for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (Historic England 2016)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Archaeological Watching Brief (2016)

**Appendix 1**  
**Kent County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Development of land at The Covers, Lower Road, East Farleigh, Kent

**SWAT Site Code:** FAR/WB/16

**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 a new housing extension whereby Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC) requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Maidstone Borough Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 573075 153270

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

**Date of recording:** November 2016

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

**Geology:** Bedrock geology is Hythe Formation Beds

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2016) Archaeological Watching Brief on land at The Covers, Lower Road, East Farleigh, 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

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 04/12/16





Plate 2. General view of site (looking E)



Plate 3. View of ground reduction (looking E)



Plate 4. View of extent of site (looking N)



Plates 5, 6. View of the ground reduction

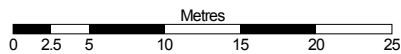
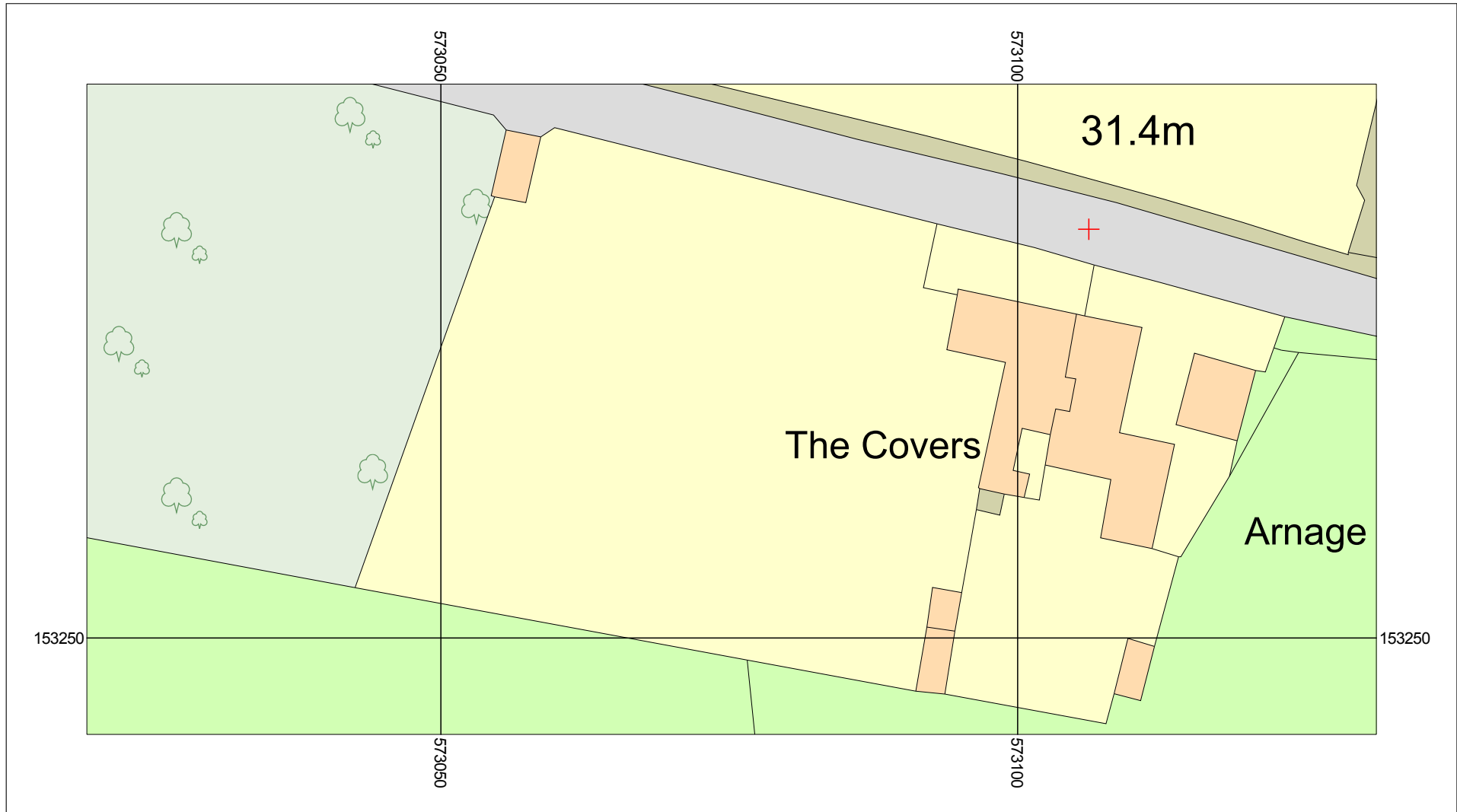




Plate 7. Completed ground reduction (looking north)



Plate 8. View of cleared adjacent rooms



Scale: 1:500

**The Covers**  
**Lower Road**  
**East Farleigh**  
**ME15 0JW**



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