



**Archaeological Evaluation at Units 5, 6 & 7,
CT3, Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent
*June 2008***

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**Units 5, 6 & 7, Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent
(Phase IV)**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: 623029 151944

Site Code: CT3-EV-08

**Report for
Lee Evans Partnership**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON UNITS 5, 6 & 7, COOTING ROAD,
AYLESHAM, KENT
(PHASE IV)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NGR: 623029 151944 Site Code: CT3-EV-08

SUMMARY

Under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson, Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Units 5, 6 & 7 Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent, on 20th June 2008. The evaluation, comprising trial trenching was 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 (Kent County Council 2008) in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Thirteen evaluation trenches were originally requested, revealing the presence of modern hardcore rubble overlying reduced natural brickearth and chalk that had been truncated by modern drainage and service trenches. No archaeological finds or features were encountered throughout the duration of the evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Lee Evans Partnership 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 (KCC 2008) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Heritage & Conservation, Kent County Council. The evaluation was carried out on 20th June 2008.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (DOV/07/00290) for the erection of three office/industrial units along with associated access, car parking and services at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council, requested that an *Archaeological Evaluation* be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains and to provide a rapid assessment of existing buildings extant within the site. The following conditions were 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 programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Requirements for the archaeological evaluation comprised trial trenching (targeting a minimum of 5% of the impact area) designed to establish whether there were any

archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The results from this evaluation will be used to inform KCCHC and DBC of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed development site is located on the periphery of the village of Aylesham, within an established industrial estate. The site centre is taken to be at NGR 623029 151944. The site encompasses c 0.5 hectares and currently comprises former industrial space in an un-kept condition, at an approximate height of approximately 88m above ordnance datum (AOD). The site is within the historic parish of Aylesham and the administrative area of Dover District Council. The site is shown on the mapping of the British Geological Society as lying on Upper Chalk¹. The evaluation confirmed the presence of an overlying Brickearth across the entire site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The development site lies in an area of considerable archaeological potential relating to the presence of extensive cropmark evidence; indicating ancient landscapes to the north-west, south-west and south-east of the application site. The cropmarks show evidence for land division, enclosures, track-ways and ring ditches; many of which are, on morphological basis, likely to date from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods².

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation, as set out within the Archaeological Specifications was to:

- i) Establish whether there are any archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development. The excavation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- ii) Establish the extent to which previous development on the site has affected archaeological deposits.

Additional aims were to:

- iii) Gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact development will have upon them.

¹ Kent County Council (2008: 4.1)

² Kent County Council (2008: 5.1)

- iv) Enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of any planning application and/or during development.

METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching commenced on the 20th June 2008, with the excavation of 13 trenches each measuring 1.5m in width and between 10m and 40m in length (see Fig. 2). Trench locations were allocated by SWAT and agreed with KCC forming part of the specification. Following the removal of modern overburden, each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to more extensive mechanical excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were 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. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and IFA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site which included working shots during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

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 recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, **100+**, Trench 2, **200+** etc.)

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the evaluation by KCC at which time, methodologies and preliminary results were discussed.

RESULTS

General

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising hardcore rubble and reject stone directly overlying natural Brickearth and Upper Chalk. The upper surface of these natural deposits had evidently been reduced, most likely during the construction of open parking areas associated with the construction of periphery units. The reduced rubble overburden (**100**, **200**, **300** etc.) consisted of reject stone chippings along with occasional crushed brick and concrete. A clear line of horizon gave way to natural Brickearth and Upper Chalk (**101**, **201**, **301** etc.) where mechanical excavation ceased and careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. All potential features were examined but

proved to represent services and drainage trenches (as plotted on Fig. 2). Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches.

Deposit Model

A full stratigraphic deposit model for each trench is provided in Appendix 1. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were present throughout the duration of the evaluation. Given modern construction practices, it is likely that the site was stripped of any topsoil and buried soil during the construction of the existing surrounding development.

PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

No constraints were associated with this project.

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation carried out at Units 5, 6 & 7 Cooting Road, Aylesham revealed that former groundworks associated with the construction of a hardstanding area and peripheral industrial units had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing drift and solid geology. As a result it is considered highly likely that any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed.

CONCLUSION

Archaeological evaluation 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.

This evaluation has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCC) of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Lee Evans Partnership for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Kent County Council for their advice and assistance, in particular Ben Found (Archaeological Officer). All surveying and illustrations were produced by *Digitise This*. This report was edited and collated by Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT).

David Britchfield, September 2008

SUMMARY OF SITE ARCHIVE

Quantity of Archaeological Records

Photographs: 29 digital images, 10 Colour Slides

Drawings: Two A3 permatrace site drawings, comprising feature plans (and associated sections.

Finds: See Appendix B

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1), Levels Sheets (x), Environmental Samples Register (x), Environmental Sheets (x) and Context Sheets (24)

REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations*

Kent County Council (2008) *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at Phase 4 Units 5, 6 & 7 Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent*

Museum of London Archaeological Services (1994) *Archaeological Site Manual*. 3rd ed

APPENDIX 1 – Context summary

CT3, Aylesham, Kent

Site Code: CT3-EV-08

Context Number	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Description	Extents	Level (AOD)	Section No	Plan No	Comments (Alignment/soil type/Group Number etc)	Assigned Period
100	1	L	Existing surface	Dark grey black silty sand with frequent rounded stone hardcore, fragments of concrete and reject tarmac chippings	0.00-0.31m	88.50m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
101	1	L	Natural geology	Light orange brown silty clay (Brickearth) with occasional rounded stone and sand lenses	0.31m+	88.19m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
200	2	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.47m	77.76m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
201	2	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.47m+	77.29m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
300	3	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.45m	88.52m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
301	3	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.45m+	88.07m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
400	4	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.37m	88.60m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
401	4	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.37m+	88.23m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
500	5	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.27m	88.78m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
501	5	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.27m+	88.51m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
600	6	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.52m	88.47m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
601	6	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.52m+	87.95m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
700	7	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.52m	88.60m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
701	7	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.52m+	88.08m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
800	8	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.21m	88.40m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
801	8	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.21m+	88.19m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
900	9	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.24m	88.27m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
901	9	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.24m+	88.03m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
1000	10	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.70m	88.25m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
1001	10	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.70m+	87.55m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
1100	11	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.30m	88.17m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern

Context Number	Trench	Type	Interpretation	Description	Extents	Level (AOD)	Section No	Plan No	Comments (Alignment/soil type/Group Number etc)	Assigned Period
1101	11	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.30m+	87.87m	x	Fig. 1	x	x
1200	12	L	Existing surface	As 100 above	0.00-0.23m	88.00m	x	Fig. 1	x	Modern
1201	12	L	Natural geology	As 101 above	0.23m+	87.77m	x	Fig. 1	x	x

APPENDIX 2 - KCC Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Units 5, 6 & 7 (Phase IV)</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>CT3-08-EV</i>	
Site Address: <i>Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent</i>	
Summary: <i>Under the direction of Dr Paul Wilkinson, Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Units 5, 6 & 7 Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent, on 20th June 2008. The evaluation, comprising trial trenching was 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 (Kent County Council 2008) in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. Thirteen evaluation trenches were originally requested, revealing the presence of modern hardcore rubble overlying reduced natural brickearth and chalk that had been truncated by modern drainage and service trenches. No archaeological finds or features were encountered throughout the duration of the evaluation.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Dover</i>	Parish: <i>Aylesham</i>
Period(s):	
Tentative: <i>Modern</i>	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): <i>NGR: 623029 151944</i> (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Evaluation</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>20th June 2008</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Head Brickearth over Upper Chalk</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Britchfield, D (2008) Units 5, 6 & 7 Cooting Road, Aylesham, Kent (Phase IV): Archaeological Evaluation</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: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>29th September 2008</i>

APPENDIX 3 – Figures



Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches (modern features shown)

