



**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at the
former Stimson House,
1-19 Eastern Esplanade, Margate, Kent.
*September 2008***

SWAT. Archaeology
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

**The former Stimson House, 1-19 Eastern
Esplanade, Margate,
Kent**

Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

**NGR: 636364 171195
Site Code: SH/M/08**

**Report for
Jenner Contractors Limited**

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Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel; 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112

Contents

<u>List of Figures</u>	<i>i</i>
<u>1.0</u> <u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>2.0</u> <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
2.1 <u>PLANNING BACKGROUND</u>	1
2.2 <u>SCHEDULE OF VISITS</u>	2
2.3 <u>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</u>	2
2.4 <u>PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS</u>	2
2.5 <u>CONFIDENCE RATING</u>	2
<u>3.0</u> <u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</u>	3
<u>4.0</u> <u>METHODOLOGY</u>	3
<u>5.0</u> <u>RESULTS</u>	3
5.1 <u>GENERAL</u>	3
5.2 <u>DEPOSIT MODEL</u>	3
<u>6.0</u> <u>FINDS</u>	4
<u>7.0</u> <u>DISCUSSION</u>	4
<u>8.0</u> <u>CONCLUSION</u>	4
<u>9.0</u> <u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u>	4
<u>10.0</u> <u>REFERENCES</u>	4
<u>APPENDIX 1 – KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SMR SUMMARY FORM</u>	5

List of Figures

- Fig.1 Location of site of proposed development within Margate, Kent.
- Fig.2 Photograph of site facing east in the area of the rear gardens.
- Fig.3 Photograph of site facing north.
- Fig.4 Photograph of site facing north-west.

**Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at the site of the former Stimson House,
1-19 Eastern Esplanade, Margate, Kent**

NGR: 636364 171195

Site Code: SH/M/08

1.0 SUMMARY

In June-July 2008, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording the site of the former Stimson House, 1-19 Eastern esplanade, Margate, Kent. The works were carried out on behalf of Jenner (Contractors) Limited during the demolition of existing building and construction of 137 flats with associated parking (Planning Application Number: TH/05/0281).

The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered. The deposit model on site comprised existing surfaces directly overlying natural and made ground suggesting that former groundworks associated with 20th century development had most likely removed any topsoil/subsoil and truncated the upper levels of the existing geology over most of the site. As a result any archaeological features that may have been present have since been destroyed. The only area of survival was at the rear of the demolished buildings where topsoil survived. However no archaeology was revealed in this area.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: TH/05/0281) for the demolition of existing building and construction of 137 flats with associated 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:

- 7** *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 TH/05/0281 **Condition 07**)

2.2 Schedule of Visits

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

11th June 2008
12th June 2008
16th June 2008
7th July 2008

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 2005: 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 Iron Age and Roman activity in the vicinity of the application site. A Neolithic polished stone axe was found 250m south of the site, and a Roman plaque 500m to the east. Recent excavations at Trinity Square to the west have revealed significant Iron Age settlement remains which may extend to the development site.

Although many parts of the site have been developed in the last 150 years, examination of superseded Ordnance Survey maps shows that some parts do not appear to have been built on and that there may therefore be surviving archaeological remains present there.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The monitoring was conducted in accordance with standard operating procedure as adopted by Kent County Council and included within specifications (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.

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**).

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 General

Truncation during the construction of the 20th century development had occurred to the natural geological deposits. Investigation of the garden areas failed to reveal archaeology.

5.2 Deposit Model

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m – 0.15m (100)	Construction of overburden and surfaces comprising concrete slabs, tarmac surfaces, garden soil and layers of stone hardcore. Modern construction layers, garden soil and present surfaces.
0.15m – c.0.60m+ (101)	Dark brown clay with moderate gravels, garden soil, chalk and concrete lumps overlaying Head Chalk. Modern construction, garden soil and dumped layers overlaying Natural ground

No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were present throughout the duration of the groundworks. Truncated Natural Upper Chalk was reached on occasion at depths between 0.60m and 0.70m suggesting that the majority, if not all of the site, excluding the rear

strip of gardens had been subjected to past development.

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 1-19 Eastern Esplanade revealed that former groundworks associated with the 20th century development 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. No archaeology was revealed in the garden areas after removal of the topsoil revealing the Natural Upper Chalk.

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 Jenner (Contractors) Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Adam Single (Archaeological Officer) for his assistance.

Paul Wilkinson
Sept 2008

10.0 REFERENCES

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

Kent County Council (2005) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Stimson House, 1-19 Eastern Esplanade, Margate, Kent.* Heritage & Conservation

APPENDIX 1 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: 1-19 Eastern Esplanade, Margate, Kent SWAT Site Code: SH/M/08	
Site Address: As above	
Summary: <p>In June-July 2008, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of former Stimson House. The works were carried out on behalf of Jenner (Contractors) Limited during the demolition of existing building and construction of 137 flats with associated parking (Planning Application Number: TH/05/0281).</p> <p>The monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features and no finds were recovered. The deposit model on site comprised existing surfaces mostly (apart from a strip of gardens) directly overlying made ground suggesting that former 20th century development had most likely removed 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.</p>	
District/Unitary: Thanet	Parish: Margate
Period(s): Tentative: Modern	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): 636364 171195 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	
Date of Recording: 11 th , 12 th , 16 th June, 7 th July 2008	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)	
Geology: Upper Chalk	
Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2008) Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Stimson House 1-19 Eastern Esplanade, Margate, Kent. Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) As above <div style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</div>	
Location of archive/finds:	
Contact at Unit: Dr P Wilkinson	Date: 6 th September 2008

APPENDIX 1 – Figures



Figure 2. Facing east. Removing made up ground with a toothless bucket to reveal the truncated surface of the Upper Chalk. No archaeological remains were revealed on site.



Figure 3. Facing north. Removing piled demolition material from previous buildings on site. The Upper Chalk surface is truncated as can be seen by the demolition/building debris overlaying the Chalk surface.



Figure 4. Facing north-west. The remains of a deep cellar on the left and the layers of demolition / building material overlaying the truncated Chalk.