



Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on land off St. Richards Road, Deal, Kent *March 2009*

SWAT. Archaeology

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Archaeological Strip, Map, Sample and Excavation on land off St. Richard's Road, Deal, Kent

NGR: 635819 151243 Site Code: ST.RI/EX/09 (Planning Application Number: DOV/06/00879)

Report for Jenner Contractors

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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on Land off St. Richard's Road, Deal, Kent NGR: 635819 151243 Site Code: ST. RI/EX/09

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on land just to the south of St. Richard's Road in Deal. A planning application (PAN: DOV/06/00879) for the construction of a new Doctor's surgery and pharmacy, along with associated access, car parking and landscaping works, including bunding at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (TDC). After an appeal, Reference APP/X2220/A/07/2035791, planning consent was granted, whereby 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. This work was carried out in November 2008 and as a result of the findings the present work was commissioned. This Strip, Map and Sample Excavation commenced in March 2009 and was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

The Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation encountered many irregularly shaped features, some of which contained pottery sherds and lithic flakes, suggesting that the area was subject to flint or chalk mining during the medieval period and had been utilised as early as the prehistoric period.

The Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

INTRODUCTION

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Jenner Contractors to carry out an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council. The work was carried out between the 25th March and the 9th April 2009.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The application site is located to the south-west of the old centre of Deal and to the northwest of Walmer and is situated on a chalk ridge just to the north of Mill Hill at a height of around 27m O.D. The National Grid Reference for the new development is NGR 635819 151243. The underlying geology of the site, according to the British Geological Society and confirmed by the archaeological Evaluation, is Upper Chalk.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application (PAN: DOV/06/00879) for the "erection of a Doctor's Surgery and pharmacy, formation of a car park and bunding, along with associated landscape works, formation of access road and alterations to existing access", (KCCHC, 2009), was submitted to Dover District Council (DDC). Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Dover District Council, requested that an *Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation* be undertaken following an archaeological evaluation, (Morley, 2009) in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The following condition was attached to the planning consent (Appeal Decision) as the result of appeal APP/X2220/A/07/2035791:

Condition 9

No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a scheme of investigation submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Requirements for the archaeological strip, map and sample excavation were to remove the topsoil within the footprint of the development then to plan the archaeology revealed below and then to undertake targeted excavation designed to establish the veracity, date and phasing of any archaeological remains at the site that may be affected by the proposed development.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area surrounding the site and the Mill Hill area is very rich in archaeological finds from the Palaeolithic to the Early Medieval.

Neolithic

The earliest feature found in the area was a hearth which was dated to the Neolithic; this was located around 325m to the north (TR 35 SE 368). Neolithic flints have been found at two other sites in the area, the first was 325m to the south-east, which also revealed contemporary pottery (TR 35 SE 58) and the second was 430m to the north-east at Redsull Avenue, which was found as the result of an archaeological evaluation (TR 35 SE 408).

Bronze Age

Bronze Age flints were found alongside Neolithic implements at the site on Redsull Avenue (TR 35 SE 408). Bronze Age ring ditches and inhumations were seen in advance of development on St. Richard's Road 335m to the north-west (TR 35 SE 80). More ring-ditches have been identified from aerial photographs some 115m to the north-west (TR 35 SE 112).

Iron Age

The present site has a number of Iron Age occupation and cemetery sites in the vicinity, the nearest being an occupation area consisting of pits and other features some 430m to the south-east (TR 35 SE 99).

<u>Roman</u>

The area around the present site continued to be used into the Roman period as an occupation area. Cremations have been found between 350 and 450m to the north-west (TR 35 SE 70 and TR 35 SE 7). First century AD pottery has been recovered approximately 350m to the east (TR 35 SE 22) and a feature dated to the second century was found 480m to the south east (TR 35 SE 52). Nearby this feature, a head of the god Hercules was discovered.

Early Medieval

The only evidence from this period is from burials, with no contemporary occupation being found. Parts of an inhumation cemetery were discovered in 1898 and again in 1933 c. 200m south-east of the present site (TR 35 SE 19). This appeared to be quite rich with a spearhead, a brooch, a belt buckle, a knife blade and a necklace amongst the discovered grave goods. Another burial also believed to be of Early Medieval date, although with no grave goods, was found 430m to the north-west.

<u>Medieval</u>

A single rubbish pit is all that has been discovered from this period, this was found to the north-east during an archaeological evaluation and was dated to the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

Post-Medieval

Once again no traces of direct occupation have been recovered from the immediate area, the only dated feature from this period being a lime-kiln discovered approximately 380m southeast of the present site.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- "4.1 The objective of the archaeological mitigation is to identify, excavate, record and analyse any significant archaeological remains that will be disturbed by the proposed development. The physical archaeological remains will be replaced by a detailed record and a better understanding of the past activities that have taken place on the site, thereby contributing to an increased knowledge of Kent's past and providing a resource for future research and education.
- 4.2 The objective of the Strip, Map and Sample approach is to understand the broad pattern of settlement dynamics and how key elements of the archaeological landscape (sites, activities, deposits and finds) relate to each other spatially, functionally and chronologically.
- 4.3 Strip, map and sample excavation will seek to;
 - Establish a broad phased plan of the archaeology revealed following the stripping of the site;
 - Provide a refined chronology of the archaeological phasing;
 - Investigate the function of structural remains and the activities taking place within and close to the site.
- 4.4 The archaeological investigation will seek to understand the context of the findings in relationship to the wider settlement pattern, landscape, economy and environment." (KCCHC, 2009, Part B)

The particular aims to be addressed by the evaluation, as set out in Part A of the Archaeological Specification (2009) were:

- "to clarify the character and extent of the archaeological remains identified during the earlier evaluation;
- to understand the character, form, function and date of any archaeological activities present on the site;
- to include analysis of the spatial organisation of such activities on the site through examination of the distribution of artefactual and environmental assemblages;
- to place any findings into the wider prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval downland landscape and relate this to existing archaeological understanding of the St. Richard's Road/Mill Hill area; and
- to contribute to an understanding of the environmental history of Deal." (KCCHC, 2009)

METHODOLOGY

The initial site strip was started on 25th March 2009 using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. This removed the topsoil/overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, which was natural in this case, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The area machined equated to the footprint of the proposed development. The area was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and planned by GPS to fulfil the mapping element of the work. Carefully selected sections and quadrants through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded. A phase plan of the archaeological features excavated was maintained at all times. Observed features were numbered at the point of excavation. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification and IfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological excavation and for archaeological field evaluation, (IfA, 2008:1 and 2).

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

MONITORING

Curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the excavation.

RESULTS

There was very little possible in the way of phasing on this site as the large majority of the archaeological features were discrete. Only four relationships were found and one of these involved modern plough scars, [1066] cutting an earlier pit feature, [1006]. The remaining relationships involve smaller pits cutting larger ones, possibly showing later attempted flint extraction ones the earlier features had naturally filled and were invisible. The dearth of pottery also was not helpful, with only two sherds of dateable pottery recovered from the entire site. All the recorded archaeological features are of a similar style, so it is possible hazard a guess that all the features may be roughly contemporary.

Very little variance was observed across the site with regards to the background geology and soils. The topsoil **(1000)** was seen to be a continuous 0.25m- 0.30m in depth across the site and this lay on top of a layer of colluvial based subsoil approximately 0.15m in depth, **(1001)**. Across site this lay immediately above the natural bedrock which was Upper Chalk, **(1002)**.

Cut into this bedrock and sealed, and in most cases filled with subsoil (1001) were the archaeological features on this site, being filled with the colluvial subsoil showed that after cutting they were abandoned.

The overwhelming majority of the archaeological features which were investigated were all of a similar type being between 0.90m and 4.00m minimum dimension and varying between roughly circular to ovoid in shape, being twice the length to width. All were irregular at the base. As a result of these features all being of a limited type an exhaustive description of features is not provided here, but see Appendix 1 for a full list.

FINDS

Only two sherds of dateable pottery were recovered during the course of the excavation. These dated from two different periods, but were both medieval in date. The first period was shown by a piece of M1 Tyler Hill Sandy Ware 1225-1350 and the second by a fragment of LM1 Tyler Hill Sandy Ware 1375-1525. These equate with the dates of the pottery fragments recovered from the evaluation context (206) which equates to present contexts (1016), (1017) and [1018]. In the absence of any other dating evidence and the similarity of the features it would suppose that these all date from these periods. It is possible that these flints show two distinct phases of work in the area, but it may also just represent a single extended period of use. A small number of waste flint flakes were also recovered, but these proved to be undiagnostic.

DISCUSSION

The evidence from this strip, map and sample excavation revealed features which almost certainly have suffered truncation by the continuous ploughing which only stopped in 2007. These features were thought, from their form, to be possible flint or chalk marl extraction pits. It is imagined that these would have been a common feature type of this period and would probably have been linked to local construction works.

Scraps of burnt and worked flints do indicate habitation or use in the area possibly in the prehistoric periods, as does the flint 'blade' recovered from the evaluation, however this is also already better attested from evidence from the sites surroundings.

The fact that it appears that the pits were left to self fill and not used as rubbish pits would suggest that the area in which they were cut, was at the time, beyond the bounds of the directly inhabited zone.

CONCLUSION

This work has therefore assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. The findings show an area utilised but not directly inhabited possibly during all periods up to and including the high medieval, after which the area probably became ploughland. The features found are of local importance only.

The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Archaeological Officer (KCCHC) of any measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Jenner Contractors for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council) for their advice and assistance. Pavel Cicny, Piotr Cicny, Paul Hart, James Madden and Natasha Ransom carried out the archaeological fieldwork; digital illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden at "Digitise This" and the pottery finds were assessed by Paul Blinkhorn. This report was written by Geoff Morley and edited and collated by Dr Paul Wilkinson.

Geoff Morley MSc (Oxon) FSA Scot PlfA 29th April 2009

REFERENCES

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2008:1) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2008:2) Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.

Kent County Council (KCCHC) (2009) Specification for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation ahead of the construction of a new doctor's surgery on Land off St. Richard's Road, Deal, Kent.

Morley, G. (2009) Archaeological Evaluation on Land off St. Richard's Road, Deal, Kent. Grey Lit Client Report. Swale and Thames Archaeology

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence including Site Specification and Kent Archaeological Fieldwork Notification Form.

Photographs: Digital and 35mm photographs 67. SWAT Film nos. 0/36 colour prints, SWAT film nos. 0/27 black and white.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: Five A3 permatrace sheets containing site drawings, comprising feature plans and associated sections.

Finds: Medieval pot sherds, Lithic flakes, Modern pot sherds.

Site Register including: Context Register (5), Drawings Register (3), Sample Register (1), Photographic Register (1) and Context Sheets (47)

APPENDIX 1 - Context Summary

Site off St. Richard's Road, Deal, Kent. Site Code: ST. RI/EX/09

Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
(1000)	0.00-0.30m Max	Turf/topsoil . Friable mid grey brown silty clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of smal to medium sub-rounded – angular flints.
(1001)	0.30-0.45m+	Subsoil . subsoil comprising mid yellow brown clay silt. Occasional inclusions of small – medium angular flint and small Chalk fragment
(1002)	0.45m+	Natural. Upper Chalk
(1003)	Fill of [1004].	Fill
[1004]	0.22m depth	Cut of pit
(1005)	Fill of [1006]	Fill
[1006]	0.20m depth	Cut of pit
(1007)	0.45m+	Natural, patch of marled chalk.
[1008]	0.17m depth	Cut of pit

(1009) 0.22m depth	Natural Silting.
Context	No. Stratigraphic Ext	tents Description
(1010) Fill of [1011]	Fill
[1011]] 0.23m depth	Cut of pit
(1012) Fill of [1013]	Fill
[1013]] 0.16m depth	Cut of pit
(1014) Fill of [1015]	Fill
[1015]	0.30m depth	Cut of pit
(1016) Fill of [1018]	Fill
(1017) Fill of [1018]	Fill
[1018]	0.25m depth	Cut of pit
(1019) Fill of [1020]	Fill

Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
[1020]	0.35m depth	Cut of pit
(1021)	Fill of [1022]	Fill
[1022]	0.30m depth	Cut of pit
(1023)	Fill of [1024]	Fill
[1024]	0.23m depth	Cut of pit
(1025)	Fill of [1026]	Fill
[1026]	0.38m depth	Cut of pit
(1027)	Fill of [1028]	Fill
[1028]	0.20m depth	Cut of pit
(1029)	Fill of [1030]	Fill

Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
[1030]	0.25m depth	Cut of pit
(1031)	Fill of [1032]	Fill
[1032]	0.55m depth	Cut of pit
(1033)	Fill of [1034]	Fill
[1034]	0.25m depth	Cut of pit
(1035)	Fill of [1036]	Fill
[1036]	0.12m depth	Cut of pit
[1037]	0.46m depth	Cut of pit
(1038)	Fill of [1037]	Fill
[1039]	0.29m depth	Cut of pit

Context N	o. Stratigraphic Extents	Description
(1040)	Fill of [1039]	Fill
[1041]	0.45m depth	Cut of pit
(1042)	Fill of [1041]	Fill
[1043]	0.20m depth	Cut of pit
(1044)	Fill of [1043]	Fill
[1045]	0.12m depth	Cut of pit
(1046)	Fill of [1045]	Fill
[1047]	0.35m depth	Cut of pit
(1048)	Fill of [1047]	Fill
[1049]	0.25m depth	Cut of pit

Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
(1050)	Fill of [1047]	Fill
(1051)	0.59m+ depth	Fill. Natural crack in Upper Chalk
[1052]	0.35m depth	Cut of pit
(1053)	Fill of [1052]	Fill
[1054]	0.23m depth	Cut of pit
(1055)	Fill of [1054]	Fill
(1056)	Fill of [1052]	Fill
[1057]	0.30m depth	Cut of pit
(1058)	Fill of [1008]	Fill
[1059]	0.35m depth	Cut of pit

Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
(1060)	Fill of [1059]	Fill
[1061]	0.57m depth	Cut of pit
(1062)	Fill of [1061]	Fill
[1063]	0.12m depth	Cut of pit
(1064)	Fill of [1063]	Fill
(1065)	Fill of [1066]	Fill of modern plough furrow
[1066]	0.15m depth	Cut of furrow
(1067)	Fill of [1068]	Fill
[1068]	0.13m depth	Cut of pit
(1069)	Fill of [1070]	Fill

Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
[1070]	0.22m depth	Cut of pit
[1071]	0.18m depth	Cut of pit
(1072)	Fill of [1071]	Fill
[1073]	0.28m depth	Cut of pit
(1074)	Fill of [1073]	Fill
(1075)	Natural	Fill of Natural Crack in Chalk
[1076]	0.22m depth	Cut of pit
(1077)	Fill of [1076]	Fill
[1078]	0.31m depth	Cut of pit
(1079)	Fill of [1078]	Fill

	Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description
1 9b	(1080)	Fill of [1081]	Fill
	[1081]	0.31m depth	Cut of pit
Trench 9b	[1090]	0.20m depth	Cut of pit
	(1091)	Fill of [1090]	Fill

APPENDIX 2 – Kent County Council SMR Summary Form

Site Name: Site off St Richard's Road, Deal, Kent SWAT Site Code: ST.RI-EX-09 Site Address:

St. Richard's Road, Deal, Kent

Summary:

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on land just to the south of St. Richard's Road in Deal. A planning application (PAN: DOV/06/00879) for the construction of a new Doctor's surgery and pharmacy, along with associated access, car parking and landscaping works, including bunding at the above site was submitted to Dover District Council (TDC). After an appeal, Reference APP/X2220/A/07/2035791, planning consent was granted, whereby 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. This work was carried out in November 2008 and as a result of the findings the present work was commissioned. This Strip, Map and Sample Excavation commenced in March 2009 and was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (KCC 2009) and in discussion with the Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council.

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The Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification.

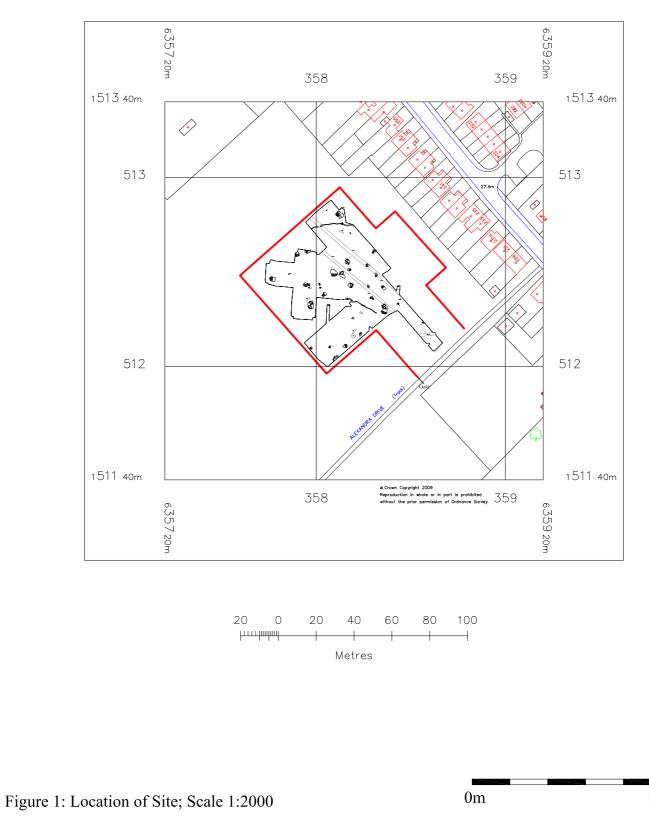
District/Unitary: Dover	Parish: Deal	
Period(s):		
Tentative: Neolithic, Medieval		
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):		
(NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs	s): NGR 635819 151243	
Type of archaeological work (delete)		
Strip, Map and Sample Excavation		
Date of Recording: April 2009		
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames	s Survey Company (SWAT)	
Geology: Upper Chalk		
Title and author of accompanying report: Morley, G. (2009) Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation on land off St. Richard's		
Road, Deal, Kent		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin wit appropriate)	h earliest period first, add NGRs where	
Many features were seen but on excavation the chalk or flint quarries dated by pottery to be included undiagnostic lithics and a few sherds of	pe probably High Medieval. Finds recovered	

Location of archive/finds: SWAT	
Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson	Date: 29 th April 2009

APPENDIX 3 – Figures

APPENDIX 4 – Photos

N



100m

