

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of Sandoaks, Edenbridge, Kent (Planning Ref. SE/04/01108) on 29th September 2005. The development proposals consisted of the erection of a new dwelling and garage with associated landscaping on land to the rear of 1 Westwood, Main Road, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Kent. The watching brief was maintained during the excavation ground works associated with the new build.
- 1.2 The watching brief exposed made ground and the geological sequence of the area. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.
- 1.3 The purpose of this document is to provide an archive report of the results of the watching brief carried out during ground works.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site Location (Fig 1)

- 2.1.1 The site of Sandoaks is located west of Main Road and north of Oakfield Road at NGR 543846 148091. The British Geological Survey maps (BGS Sheet 270) indicated that the site was situated upon Wealden Clay.
- 2.1.2 The property was bounded by Westwood to the north with the the main road (B2026) to the east. The south side of the property backed onto residential landuse whilst to the west the property was bordered by agricultural land.
- 2.1.3 The investigation area comprised a service trench that ran from the northern limit of the new property to the southern limit of Westwood to the north.

2.2 Planning Background

- 2.2.1 An application was submitted to Sevenoaks District Council for construction works to the rear of 1 Westwood, Main Road, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Kent (Planning Ref. SE/04/01108). Development proposals comprised the erection of a new dwelling and garage with associated landscaping
- 2.2.2 In response to the application submitted by the client, Heritage Conservation Group, on behalf of Sevenoaks District Council, imposed the following condition for a programme of archaeological work to be implemented on the 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.

- 2.2.3 It was decided that because a significant proportion of the development had already been completed the condition could best be met through an archaeological watching brief on the remaining groundworks; this comprised the excavation of a service trench at the northern end of the plot.

2.3 Archaeological Background

- 2.3.1 Although no archaeological deposits or finds have been attributed to the development area itself, several discoveries have been made in the surrounding landscape.
- 2.3.2 The site lay in an area of known archaeological potential relating to Roman and post-medieval features nearby, situated c.60m to the west of the Roman road from London into the Weald. It also appeared to border on a former historic park boundary, possibly connected with Eden Bridge House.

3 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to knowledge of Edenbridge through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. The specific aims of the investigation were as follows.
- 3.2 To determine the presence/absence and character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological features and finds within the development area.
- 3.3 To record and sample excavate any such archaeologically important material.
- 3.4 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to establish the depositional sequence.
- 3.5 To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Prior to the monitoring of the proposed works, it was agreed that the planning reference number would be used for archive referencing.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of a machine and hand dug service trench which ran south - north from the north of the property.
- 4.3 The project was carried out initially by one experienced archaeologist under the overall direction of Les Capon, Project Officer.
- 4.4 A toothless ditching bucket was used during the groundwork as far as was practical. Where necessary, for the removal of modern made ground, concrete and modern intrusions a toothed bucket was used.

- 4.5 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998).
- 4.6 A full written and drawn record was completed during the watching brief. Context numbers were allocated to relevant deposits starting from 001.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 No archaeology was observed in any of the areas subject to development. The service trench, which was 0.65m in width, increased in depth from 0.50m at the northern limit of the development area to 1.40m at its southern limit, the north facing wall of the property.
- 5.2 Made ground was observed along the length of the trench that was composed of brick fragments, and hardcore mixed with soil remnants. The natural clay was observed at a depth of approximately 0.40m to the north of the development area. The ground level rose fairly dramatically southwards in the direction of the new property. It was observed that this was not a natural slope, the geological clay remained at a similar level to that observed in the northern end of the trench, but the result of the increasing thickness of the made ground in this portion of the site. Overlying the made ground a layer of top soil was recorded that contained a high frequency of roots.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief revealed no archaeological features surviving within the boundaries of the service trench. It can also be concluded from the observations made during the watching brief that the depth of the man made deposits will have protected any surviving archaeological deposits within the boundaries of the development from any disturbance caused by the construction of the new property.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (2004) *Specification for an archaeological watching brief during the erection of a new dwelling and garage and associated land to the rear of 1 Westwood, Main Road, Edenbridge Near Sevenoaks, Kent.*

English Heritage London Region (1998) *Archaeological Field Guidance Papers 2, 3 and 5.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1001	Topsoil. Dark Grey Brown Silty clay with frequent root action and occasional small stones.	Trench	Trench	Upto 0.20m
1002	Made ground comprised of brick rubble and hardcore with soil inclusions	Trench	Trench	0.40m-1.30m
1003	Natural Weald Clay	Trench	Trench	0.10m – 0.30m

APPENDIX B – OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: AOCARCHAI-10697

Project details

Project name	Sandoaks, Edenbridge
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the site of Sandoaks, Edenbridge, Kent. The development proposals consisted of the erection of a new dwelling and garage with associated landscaping on land to the rear of 1 Westwood, Main Road, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Kent. The watching brief was maintained during the excavation ground works associated with the new build. The watching brief exposed made ground and the geological sequence of the area. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.
Project dates	Start: 29-09-2005 End: 29-09-2005
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SE/04/01108 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS EDENBRIDGE Sandoaks, Edenbridge
Postcode	TN8 6XX
Study area	0.10 Hectares
National grid reference	TQ 43846 48091 Point
Height OD	Min: 61.00m Max: 63.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Les Capon AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Les Capon

Project supervisor Chris Thatcher

Sponsor or funding body Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient AOC Archaeology

Digital Archive recipient AOC Archaeology

Digital Media available 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient AOC Archaeology

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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