



Land to the rear of Lydith, High Street, Eynsford, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 18/03138/FUL
Ref: 217640.02
March 2019



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Plate 2 Representative section of the northern part of Trench 1, viewed from the north east

Plate 3 Trench 1, viewed from the north west

Plate 4 Modern retaining wall, viewed from the north west



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Josef Tunbridge ('the client') to undertake a single trench archaeological evaluation of land located to the rear of Lydith, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, Kent. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 554152 165531 (**Figure 1**)

The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a planning condition placed on an application submitted to Sevenoaks District Council for the construction of a single detached house. The evaluation was required to establish as far as possible, the presence/absence, extent and character of detectable archaeological remains within the site.

The result of the evaluation revealed several layers of made ground up to a depth of 0.86m below ground level (BGL) overlying a 0.38m to 0.70m thick buried topsoil which in turn sealed natural geology. A modern brick structure measured 0.85m in thickness which formed a previous retaining garden wall for a car park was encountered to the north of the trench. No other archaeological features or finds were identified during the course of the investigation.

The evaluation area comprised a raised flat and level surface at the rear end of a garden which had been landscaped in the past. The adjoining properties had been constructed into terraces also. It is clear that the present site has been constructed over a previous retaining wall and parking area. The wall recorded in the trench is the earlier phase retaining wall to the terrace. Beneath the made ground a topsoil deposit overlying the natural geology was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were present.

It is likely that any past activity of significance is located either on the top of the hill the site is cut into or at the base of the hill along the High Street. No unstratified artefacts were observed during the evaluation reinforcing the suggestion that any activity is not within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Josef Tunbridge, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Wendy Rogers, the County Archaeologist for Kent County Council (KCC), who monitored the project for Sevenoaks District Council, and to Dave Tunbridge for his support on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Emilia Seredynska, with the assistance of Albert Smith. This report was written by Emilia Seredynska and edited by Rob De'Athe. The project was managed by Rob De'Athe on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



Land to the rear of Lydith Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Josef Tunbridge ('the client') to undertake a single trench archaeological evaluation of land located to the rear of Lydith, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, Kent. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 554152 165531 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a single two bedroom detached dwelling at the rear of the existing house.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (18/03138/FUL) submitted to Sevenoaks District Council, was granted 21st January 2019, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 7 No development shall be carried out, including any demolition, until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured and implemented:

- i) archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- ii) further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policy EN4 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan and the NPPF.

- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019). Wendy Rogers, the County Archaeologist for Kent County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 1 trial trench was undertaken on 12th March 2019.
- 1.1.6 This evaluation was the first stage of a phased programme of archaeological works. Further phases of work may be required, subject to the result of this evaluation. Further phases could include preservation, excavation, watching brief and post excavation work. These further phases will be subject to different specifications and will need to be agreed with the Kent County Council (KCC) County Archaeologist and implemented prior to construction work commencing.



1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The proposed evaluation area is located in the village of Eynsford, Kent, 1.30km southwest of Farningham and 6km north of Otford. The site is currently occupied by a residential property in the north western half of the site, while the proposed development area consists of the rear of the properties garden and a raised paved area. The site is surrounded by residential development and is bounded to the northwest by Eynsford High Street/Station Road and to the south by Pollyhaugh.
- 1.3.2 The underlying geology is mapped as undifferentiated Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, chalk. The majority of the site is covered by superficial Head deposits, clay, silt, sand and gravel, with the proposed development area at the interface between superficial Head deposits and a lack of superficial deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer 2019).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a brief study of the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER), looking at records within an 250m radius of the site. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the (KHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.2.1 The site lies within the Eynsford Conservation Area, which covers approximately 12ha and contains 36 listed buildings and two scheduled monuments. It was designated in 1973 and covers the historic core of the village.
- 2.2.2 To the south of Eynsford, on an area of high ground are the remains of a proposed Iron Age Hillfort. Other evidence for prehistoric activity within the area around the site is limited to at least 2 Mesolithic picks (TQ 56 NW 76), an Acheulian scraper (TQ 56 NW 6) and an undated Sarsen stone (TQ 56 NW 64), although the stone was found on its side in the local churchyard and may represent a far later addition to the landscape.
- 2.2.3 Lullingstone Roman villa is located approximately 1.20km west of the site, however within 250m of the site area a Romano-British burial approximately 100m to the south (TQ 56 NW 32), a possible Romano-British mill and tile approximately 180m to the northwest (TQ 56 NW 47, TQ 56 NW 37) and a Romano-British coin approximately 80m to the east, either depicting Antoninus Pius or one of his adopted sons Marcus Aurelius or Lucius Varo, dating to between AD 138 and AD 180 (TQ 56 NW 65).



- 2.2.4 The village lies on a ford of the River Darent, and its name likely derives from a Anglo-Saxon name *Aegensford* (the ford of Aegen), modernised to Eynsford. A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery consisting of an estimated 50 burials is located approximately 250m to the north east of the site (TQ 56 NW 33).
- 2.2.5 The Scheduled Monument of Eynsford Castle (List Entry: 1007462) to the northeast of the site is one of the earliest known Norman stonework defences in the country, with the earliest sections dating to 1088, although the site itself dates to the Anglo-Saxon period. The castle was derelict by the early 1300s and remains so, with a brief stint as kennels for hunting dogs in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.
- 2.2.6 The Church of St Martin dates to the 11th century with 13th century additions and later restorations. The scheduled bridge over the Darent (List Entry: 1005170) dates to at least the 17th century and possibly as early as the 12th century when stone bridges replaced earlier timber constructions (Historic England online).
- 2.2.7 The area around the site was farmed from at least the post-medieval period, with four farmsteads recorded on the KHER within 250m of the site (MKE83805, MKE83807, MKE83806, MKE83808).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:
- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
 - To inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
 - To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
 - To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
 - To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.



4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench location was set out using GPS, in the approximate position as proposed in the WSI, though the trench had to be slightly shortened because of on-site constraints such as detected services. (**Figure 1**).

4.2.2 A single trial trench, measuring 4.50m m in length and 1.20m m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits identified was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.5 The trench completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Senior Archaeological Officer for KCC was backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.



4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Wendy Rogers, County Archaeologist for KCC, on behalf of the Sevenoaks District Council, monitored the archaeological evaluation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the County Archaeologist.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological mitigation. Details of individually excavated contexts and features are retained in the site archive and a detailed tabulated version of these is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.

5.1.2 **Figure 1** presents the site location with the trench layout and archaeological results. Selected photographs are provided in **Plates 1-4**.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The archaeological investigation revealed several layers of made ground (**Plate 1 & 2**) comprising pavement slabs overlying bedding material of yellow sand and mid greenish grey sandy gravel. A 0.08m thick layer of tarmac was observed within the southern half of the trench.

5.2.2 These in turn sealed a deposit of modern demolition debris such bricks and roof tiles measuring approximately 0.35-0.50m in thickness.

5.2.3 A buried soil consisted of dark greyish brown sandy silt with rare stones / pebbles and common tree roots varying in thickness from 0.38m to 0.70m was identified below the made ground.

5.2.4 Natural geology comprised light yellowish brown sandy clay including very common flint inclusions was reached at a depth of 1.24m BGL in the southern half of the trench and at 1.36m BGL within the northern half.

5.3 Archaeological results

5.3.1 The trench (**Plate 3**), measured c.6m in length and 1.20m in width, was located to the south of the site on north west to south east alignment and within the proposed development footprint. Two live electric cables were present at either end of the trench which required it to be shortened slightly, however the trench remained within the proposed house footprint.

5.3.2 The trench revealed a modern brick wall (**Plate 4**) with a concrete foundation measuring 0.85m in thickness. The wall was built in an English bond using red bricks joined with yellow



mortar and formed a previous retaining wall for the car parking area which had been raised and expanded into the site as it is today.

5.3.3 The evaluation area comprised a raised flat and level surface at the rear end of a garden which had been landscaped in the past. The adjoining properties had been constructed into terraces also. It is clear that the present site has been constructed over a previous retaining wall and parking area it the wall recorded in the trench is the earlier phase retaining wall to the terrace. Beneath the made ground a topsoil deposit overlying the natural geology was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were present.

5.3.4 It is likely that any past activity is located either on the top of the hill the site is cut into or at the base of the hill along the High Street. No unstratified artefacts were observed during the evaluation reinforcing the suggestion that any activity is not within the immediate vicinity of the site.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No finds were recovered from the evaluation. No unstratified material which may suggest a background scatter of activity was observed during the evaluation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental assessment were identified during the course of the evaluation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary and discussion

8.1.1 The evaluation has been successful in meeting its aims and objectives and tested the archaeological potential of the site. The result of the evaluation revealed several layers of made ground up to a depth of 0.86m BGL overlying a 0.38m to 0.70m thick buried soil which in turn sealed natural geology.

8.1.2 A modern brick structure measured 0.85m in thickness and formed a previous retaining garden wall for the car park was encountered to the north of the trench.

8.1.3 No other archaeological features and no evidence for any other period were identified during the course of the investigation. The evaluation confirmed that there is negligible potential for archaeological remains within the site.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone. In the absence of any museum in the area actively collecting archaeological archives, no final repository for the project archive has yet been identified. The archive will continue to be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology until such time as the situation is resolved. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.



9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by appropriate, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **217640**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;

9.3 Selection policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.



10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

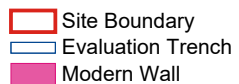
Trench No 1		Length 6m	Width 1.20m	Depth 1.45m
Easting 554163.50		Northing 165517.09		MaOD 45.42
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101	-	Made ground	Pavement brick slabs.	0.00-0.06
102	-	Made ground	Light yellowish orange. Sand. Abundant very small flints crushing.	0.06-0.12
103	-	Made ground	Mid greenish grey. Sandy gravel. Small rounded course gravel.	0.12-0.24
104	-	Made ground	Tarmac. Southern part only.	0.24-0.32
105	-	Made ground	Light yellowish grey. Sand. Northern part only.	0.24-0.30
106	-	Made ground	Roof tiles rubble. Northern part only.	0.30-0.66
107	-	Made ground	Light yellowish grey. Sand. Abundant bricks rubble. Southern part only.	0.32-0.86
108	-	Buried topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Sandy silt. Rare small sub-angular stones, rounded pebbles. Common tree roots.	0.66/0.86 - 1.36/1.24
109	-	Natural	Light yellowish brown. Sandy clay. Very common medium to large sized sub-angular flints, common small chalk inclusions.	1.36/1.24+
110	111	Structure	Retaining wall with footing. Brick wall: 0.74m thick, concrete footing: 0.11m thick. Built in an English bond, red bricks joined with yellow mortar.	0.24-1.09
111	110	Cut	Cut for retaining wall.	0.66-1.09



Appendix 2 Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land to the rear of Lydith, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, Kent	
Site Address: Lydith, High Street, Eynsford, Kent, DA4 0AB	
Summary of discoveries: The archaeological investigation revealed several layers of made ground comprising pavement brick slabs overlying bedding material of sand and sandy gravel. A layer of tarmac was observed within the southern part of the trench. These sealed a deposit of modern demolition debris such bricks and roof tiles. A buried soil varying in thickness from 0.38m to 0.70m was identified below the made ground. Natural geology was reached at a depth of 1.24m BGL to the south of the trench and at 1.36m BGL within the northern part. The trench revealed a modern brick structure with a concrete foundation measured 0.85m in thickness. The wall appeared to be built in an English bond using red bricks joined with yellow mortar and formed a previous retaining wall of the car parking area.	
District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council	Parish: Eynsford
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 554152 165531 (TQ 54152 65531) (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Archaeological Evaluation	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) 12/03/2019	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Wessex Archaeology	
Geology: Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation covered by superficial Head deposits, clay, silt, sand and gravel	
Title and author of accompanying report: Title: Land to the rear of Lydith, Pollyhaugh, Eynsford, Kent. Archaeological Evaluation Report Authors: Emilia Seredynska	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) The evaluation has been successful in meeting its aims and objectives and tested the archaeological potential of the site. The result of the evaluation revealed several layers of made ground up to a depth of 0.86m BGL overlying a 0.38m to 0.70m thick buried soil which in turn sealed natural geology. A modern brick structure measured 0.85m in thickness and formed a previous retaining garden wall for the car park was encountered to the north of the trench. No other archaeological features and no evidence for any other period were identified during the course of the investigation.	
Location of archive/finds: Wessex Archaeology Maidstone Office	
Contact at Unit: Rob De'Athe	Date: 15/03/2019



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	Date:	12/02/2019	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:500 at A4	Illustrator:	ALS
	Path:	R:\PROJECTS\217640\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2019_03_15\217640_Eval.dwg		

Site location and archaeological results

Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of the southern part of Trench 1, viewed from the north east



Plate 2: Representative section of the northern part of Trench 1, viewed from the north east



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Plate 3: Trench 1, viewed from the north west



Plate 4: Modern retaining wall, viewed from the north west

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