

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
at Clevelands, Eynsford, Kent**

**NGR: 554729 166309
(TQ 54729 66309)**

Planning Ref: SE/14/01599

**ASE Project No: 7025
Site Code: EYC14**

**ASE Report No: 2014319
OASIS id: archaeol6-190778**



By Kristina Krawiec

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**By Kristina Krawiec
With contributions by Luke Barber
and Trista Clifford**

October 2014

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Abstract

In September 2014 Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an evaluation at Clevelands, Eynsford, Kent. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of a proposed pool house.

The trench recorded no archaeological remains and the area had been substantially levelled-up using a mixed flinty silt clay deposit. This was probably material removed as part of the terracing of the site during the construction of the house, Clevelands, during the early 20th century.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by the householder, Bjorn Ramell, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Clevelands, Eynsford, Kent (Figure 1, NGR: 554729 166309). A single trench was excavated in the footprint of a proposed pool house located to the north of an existing swimming pool.

1.1.2 The site was highlighted as having archaeological potential due to a report of a burial that was uncovered in the early 20th century (HER No TQ 56 NW 83). The burial did not have grave goods but is thought to be possibly early medieval in date, although no grave goods were recovered.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the east of the house within an area of open gardens containing a swimming pool. This area is substantially higher in elevation than the house suggesting that when it was built a certain amount of landscape modification in the form of terracing had taken place. The area was under turf at the time of excavations.

1.2.2 The geology is mapped as Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) with head deposits located to the east. The site also lies on the high ground of the Darent Valley.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The planning application is to undertake groundworks to form a basement for a pool-house with associated facilities. Further details are set out in planning application SE/14/01599. On the basis of present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Sevenoaks District Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. The results can then guide appropriate mitigation measures for the future development.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report covers the results of the evaluation that was carried out on 22nd September 2014 by Kristina Krawiec. The project was managed by Paul Mason in the field and Dan Swift in post-excavation.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

2.1.1 The site has one recorded entry in the HER, (HER No TQ 56 NW 83) that of a burial without grave goods uncovered during a 'cutting in the bank of Eynsford Road, South of Oliver's Crescent at Clevelands in 1901'. This is assumed to be of early medieval date.

2.1.2 The site is within the parish of Eynsford which contains the significant remains of Lullingstone Roman Villa (HER no. TQ56 NW7) and Eynsford Castle (HERno. TQ 56 NW11). These areas, and the main core of the village, lie 500m to the south of the site suggesting that it lies on the periphery of Roman and medieval occupation.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims of the project were;

- To clarify the presence/absence of burial features/human remains
- To clarify the extent of remains associated with prehistoric or later activity.
- This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A single trench measuring 5m by 1.80m was excavated roughly east west across the footprint of the proposed building. The presence of a service (water pipe) along the southern edge of the trench was recorded and left *in situ*.
- 3.1.2 The trench was accurately located by means of a Leica RTK GPS. The trench location was scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel. The trench was mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued until natural deposits were reached in lieu of any archaeological deposits. The base of the trench was hand cleaned prior to recording to check for any archaeological material.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East. Plans and sections were drawn at the scale of 1:20 on plastic film. A full black & white, and digital photographic record was kept of the work.
- 3.1.4 All finds were collected, processed and identified in line with professional standards (IfA 2008).

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum or repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	9
Bulk finds	1 bag CBM

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Whole trench	Whole trench	0.40m	51.76m OD
1/002	Layer	Levelling layer	Whole trench	Whole trench	0.80m	51.36m OD
1/003	Natural	Chalk	Whole trench	Whole trench		50.57m OD
1/004	Wall	Remains of wall, brick and cement	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	51.23m OD
1/005	Layer	Buried topsoil	Whole trench	Whole trench	0.20m	50.57m OD

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 The trench was orientated south-east – north-west across the footprint of the proposed building. The natural geology, a soft yellow white chalky silt clay, was reached at 50.57m OD which was beginning to rise up in the eastern end of the trench to 50.66m OD. This was overlain by a buried topsoil deposit (1/005) which was a flinty silty sandy clay which was very compact. This was overlain by a thick deposit (1/002) of similar material which was slightly lighter in colour and contained fragments of brick and asbestos sheet. This represents a levelling layer and was also very compact with frequent flint. This layer turn was overlain by the modern topsoil (1/001).
- 4.1.2 Towards the top of the levelling layer (1/002) in the south facing section of the trench, the remains of a brick and cement wall were recorded. The bricks were damaged and only the header end was visible making recording accurate measurement of the original brick size impossible. However the wall was at the top of the levelling layer and bonded with concrete and is not of any great age.
- 4.1.3 No features were recorded truncating the natural, a stripe of orange flinty clay was noted in the western end of the trench and was tested but was found to geological in origin.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1 The only post-Roman pottery recovered from the site consists of a 30g fresh sherd from context [1/002]. This consists of the bodysherd from an oxidised hard-fired earthenware vessel with occasional calcareous inclusions. A 16th- to mid-17th- century date is likely for the piece

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

- 5.2.1 Ceramic building material weighing 152g was recovered from levelling layer [1/002]. The assemblage includes a fragment of Roman tegula with flange removed in a sandy fabric with moderate to common medium to coarse quartz inclusions (wt 110g). A fragment of undiagnostic abraded brick (31g) and three undiagnostic flakes (11g) were also recovered. The same context also produced a fragment of post-medieval pottery.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1. The evaluation did not record any archaeological features or deposits and encountered the natural chalk deposits at 50.57m OD. The ground level was beginning to rise up to the east end of the trench representing the original slope of the ground. This was overlain by the original topsoil and a levelling deposit to raise the ground. No features were recorded within the trench and the levelling material contained 20th century CBM material, including asbestos. The Roman CBM can therefore only be interpreted as residual material within a secondary context.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The construction of Clevelands would have resulted in significant terracing to level out the considerable slope that existed at the site. This landscaping resulted in the ground level at the back of the house being raised, perhaps using the material that was removed during the construction in the early 1900's.

6.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 6.3.1 The site does not show any truncation and if anything the natural deposits have been preserved below the levelling layer. No archaeological features were recorded in the evaluation trench but the area still has potential to preserve archaeological remains due to the lack of truncation.

6.4 Conclusions

- 6.4.1 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the depth of overburden sealing the natural deposits and no archaeological features were recorded.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kent County Council 2014. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

MoLAS 1994. *Site Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*

Watkinson, D E & Neal V, 2001, *First Aid for Finds*, RESCUE/UKIC Archaeology Section

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Bjorn Ramell for commissioning the work and for his assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Kristina Krawiec. Rob Cole who produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason who project managed the excavations and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	EYC14					
Identification Name and Address	Clevelands, Eynsford, Kent, DA4					
County, District &/or Borough	Eynsford					
OS Grid Refs.	554729 166309					
Geology	Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7025					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 2014					
Sponsor/Client	Bjorn Rammel					
Project Manager	Paul mason					
Project Supervisor	Kristina Krawiec					
Period Summary						
						Modern
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>In September 2014 Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an evaluation at Clevelands, Eynsford, Kent. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of a proposed pool house.</i></p> <p><i>The trench recorded no archaeological remains and the area had been substantially levelled-up using a mixed flinty silt clay deposit. This was probably material removed as part of the terracing of the site during the construction of the house, Clevelands, during the early 20th century.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-190778

Project details

Project name	evaluation at Clevelands, Eynsford
Short description of the project	In September 2014 Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an evaluation at Clevelands, Eynsford, Kent. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of a proposed pool house. The trench recorded no archaeological remains and the area had been substantially levelled-up using a mixed flinty silt clay deposit. This was probably material removed as part of the terracing of the site during the construction of the house, Clevelands, during the early 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2014 End: 23-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	7025 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS EYNSFORD Clevelands, Eynsford
Postcode	DA4
Site coordinates	TQ 554729 166309 50.9275736731 0.21255774125 50 55 39 N 000 12 45 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
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Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Kristina Krawiec
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bjorn Rammel

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological evaluation at Clevelands, Eynsford, kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Krawiec, K
Other bibliographic details	2014319
Date	2014

Entered by	kristina krawiec (k.krawiec@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	23 September 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Clevedons, Eynsford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7025	October 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014319	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Cleveland's, Eynsford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7025	October 2014	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2014319	Drawn by: RHC		

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