

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
College Farm, Boyton Court Road  
Sutton Valence, Kent**

**Planning Ref: MA/07/1544**

**NGR: 581988 148868**

**Project No. 3204  
Site Code: SUC08**

**ASE Report No. 2008157  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-48454**



**Dan Swift BA (Hons) MIFA  
Senior Archaeologist, ASE**

**November 2008**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Prime Folio, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at College Farmhouse, Boyton Court Road in Sutton Valence (centred NGR 581988 148868; Fig 1). The archaeological watching brief was required by Adam Single, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council as a condition for planning consent (planning reference MAI0711544).*

*Building works monitored during the watching brief comprised ground works relating to the foundations for single storey extensions to the east and west, and a first floor extension to the south of the existing property.*

*The watching brief took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2008.*

*No archaeological features were seen in the watching brief.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 1.1 Geology and Topography**
- 1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**
- 1.3 Planning Background**
- 1.4 Aims and Objectives**
- 1.5 Archaeological Methodology**
- 2.0 Results**
- 3.0 Discussion**
- 4.0 Conclusion**
- 5.0 Bibliography**

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Site Plan

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix I: SMR Summary Sheet

Appendix II: OASIS Form

## **1.0 Introduction**

The archaeological watching brief took place on land at College Farmhouse, Boyton Court Road in Sutton Valence (centred NGR 581988 148868; Fig 1) henceforth called 'the site'.

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Prime Folio to undertake the archaeological watching brief as a condition for planning consent (planning reference MA/07/1544) under the instruction of Adam Single, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council.

Building improvement works monitored during the watching brief consisted of ground works relating to the construction of new foundations for single storey extensions to the east and west, and a first floor extension to the south of the existing property. (Fig 2)

The watching brief took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 and was conducted by Clive Meaton.

## **1.1 Geology and Topography**

1.1.1 Sutton Valence is in the Low Weald, The Weald Clay group generally comprises fine sediments, a lowland area with occasional minor ridges of limestone and sandstone outcrop between low escarpments of Tunbridge Wells Sand to the south and Lower Greensand to the north. The site lies at between 90-95mOD.

## **1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

1.2.1 It is clear from a small amount of research that Sutton Valence dates back at least as far as the Roman period, and may have possible earlier roots dating to the Iron Age. The town is listed as Town Sutton in the Domesday Book of 1086 attesting at least to a later Saxon settlement, and its importance in Norman times is highlighted by the situation of the castle. In 1265, Henry III granted the manor to William de Valence, from whom the village takes its current name (Lawson & Killingray, 2004).

1.2.2 The property being improved appears on the second and third edition OS maps as Hospital House before appearing on the fourth edition as College Farm House.

1.2.3 The conjectured route of the Roman road from Maidstone to Lympne (Margary) runs through the site and an Iron Age brooch was recorded as found 300m to the north-west of the site.

1.2.4 The HER lists that several Iron Age and Roman coins have been found in the locale.

1.2.5 A Roman walled cemetery (NMR no. 417715) was found in 1827 in the north west corner of a field called Bohaws to the north of School Lane under the

present school site in Sutton Valence c. 850m north-west of the site. A stone walled D shaped enclosure was found with a smaller enclosure attached. A total of 100 cinerary urns were found along with evidence for funeral pyres and a rubbish filled well. Coins were present. Some of the finds are in Maidstone Museum.

1.2.6 The site lies c. 450m to the south-east of the Tower Keep at Sutton Valence, a Grade II scheduled ancient monument (NMR no. 27017). The monument includes a tower keep castle which survives as a ruin, Listed at Grade II, within an area of associated earthworks and buried remains, situated on the southernmost spur of the Chart Hills, on the eastern edge of the village of Sutton Valence. The castle enjoys panoramic views of the Weald of Kent and East Sussex to the south. Partial excavation has shown that the castle was built during the latter half of the 12th century, in order to control the road which led from Maidstone c.9km to the north to the channel ports of Rye and Old Winchelsea.

1.2.7 The site lies c. 1km to the south-west of the medieval moated site at East Sutton, a scheduled ancient monument (NMR no. 12730).

The moated site at East Sutton Park is situated on a hill slope 200m southeast of the subsequent Elizabethan buildings. It comprises a nearly square moat ditch measuring 65m along each arm and varying in width from 2-7m across, together with its interior island. Both the island and the moat have an earthwork bank around their edges, the outer bank being particularly evident on the south and west sides.

Most moats were constructed between 1250 and 1350, and it is from this period that the example at East Sutton Park is likely to date. The site is spring-fed and shows no evidence of having been supplied by a stream. The moat is waterlogged throughout the year although standing water accumulates only in the north and south arms of the moat. An apparent entrance at the north-east corner is probably not original, but mid-way along the northern arm of the moat on the outer side is a mound which is likely to represent one end of the bridge which formerly provided access to the island. The fencing around the site is excluded from the scheduling.

The moated site at East Sutton Park is of particular importance because the earthworks survive to a great extent intact, the site exhibiting a diversity of components rarely found on moated sites in the South East. Furthermore, since a) the island within the moat is undisturbed by later buildings, b) the earthwork banks protect the old ground surface on which the site was constructed and c) the moat remains waterlogged so that normally perishable artefacts such as wood and leather may survive, the archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as high.

1.2.8 The Church of St Mary's in Sutton Valence retains certain 14<sup>th</sup> century elements (NMR no. 417733).

1.2.9 An archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Sutton Valence School was carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1999 recorded modern activity only.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council advised that the development could have archaeological impact and advised the imposition of a condition on planning reference MA/07/1544, determined by Maidstone Borough Council. The following condition was advised on the final consent:

*AR4 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.*

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works.

### **1.5 Archaeological Methodology**

- 1.5.1 The archaeologist monitored the excavations for the ground works which were undertaken using a flat bladed bucket.
- 1.5.2 The archaeologist inspected the surfaces and sections revealed.
- 1.5.3 Any structures, deposits and finds uncovered were to be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 1.5.4 All recording points used were to be accurately tied into the National Grid, preferably by theodolite, and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.
- 1.5.5 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered were to be drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD. An overall site plan was to be maintained at a scale of 1:100.
- 1.5.6 All plans were to be accurately tied in to the site grid. All plans and sections were to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.
- 1.5.7 All archaeological contexts were to be recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology was to be maintained as appropriate.

- 1.5.8 A full black and white and colour (35mm transparency) photographic record of the work was kept. The photographic record is regarded as part of the site archive. The archaeological contractor will provide the County Archaeological Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on the site.
- 1.5.9 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site were the property of the Landowner. They were to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines nos. 2 and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the landowner will arrange for them to be deposited in a museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeological Officer and the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.5.10 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*. On completion of the project the Applicant will arrange for the archive to be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository to be agreed with the County Archaeological Officer and the Local Planning Authority.

## 2.0 RESULTS

- 2.1 Figure 2 shows the location of the monitored strip footings. These excavations were between 400-500mm wide and up to a maximum of 1500mm deep.
- 2.2 Generally topsoil overlay natural substrate, however there were areas where modern made ground overlay the natural substrate.
- 2.3 No archaeological structures or features were revealed during the watching brief.
- 2.4 Topsoil (004), modern made ground (001), and (002), natural deposits (005) - a light greyish yellow clayey silt with occasional sand and sandstone, and two modern sumps consisting of frogged brick (003) and (006) were recorded by context.

	<b>Context sheets</b>	<b>Site plans</b>	<b>Watching brief record sheets</b>
<b>Number</b>	6	1	2

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

- 2.5 No finds or environmental material were recovered during the watching brief.



### **3.0 DISCUSSION**

3.1 It was the feeling of the archaeologist on site that the natural hillside had been terraced extensively in the modern period to produce a level building platform for the existing structure, road and adjacent orchards. This process had removed up to 10m of natural deposits and any possible archaeology with it.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The site had no archaeological potential. The employed methodology was sufficient for the watching brief to produce reliable results.

### **5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

‘Specification for an archaeological watching brief at College Farm House, Boyton Court Road in Sutton Valence’, Kent County Council, 2008

‘An Historical Atlas of Kent’, edited by T Lawson and D Killingray, 2004

#### **DIGITAL REFERENCES**

[www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)

[www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutton\\_Valence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutton_Valence)

**Appendix I: SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SUC08					
Identification Name and Address	College Farm, Boyton Court Road, Sutton Valence, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Maidstone, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	581988 148868					
Geology	Weald Clay Group					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2008157					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <b>X</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <b>X</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. Feb, 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Prime Folio					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	Clive Meaton					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern <b>X</b>		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Prime Folio, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at College Farmhouse, Boyton Court Road in Sutton Valence (centred NGR 581988 148868; Fig 1). The archaeological watching brief was required by Adam Single, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council as a condition for planning consent (planning reference MA/07/1544). Building works monitored during the watching brief comprised ground works relating to the foundations for single storey extensions to the east and west, and a first floor extension to the south of the existing property. The watching brief took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2008. No archaeological features were seen in the watching brief.</i></p>						

## Appendix II: Oasis Form

### OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-48454**

#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at College Farm, Boyton Court Road, Sutton Valence, Kent
Short description of the project	<i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Prime Folio, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at College Farmhouse, Boyton Court Road in Sutton Valence (centred NGR 581988 148868; Fig 1). The archaeological watching brief was required by Adam Single, Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council as a condition for planning consent (planning reference MA/07/1544). Building works monitored during the watching brief comprised ground works relating to the foundations for single storey extensions to the east and west, and a first floor extension to the south of the existing property. The watching brief took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2008. No archaeological features were seen in the watching brief.</i>
Project dates	Start: 04-02-2008 End: 05-02-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SUC08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	3204 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None

Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE SUTTON VALENCE College Farm, Boyton Court Road, Kent
Postcode	ME17 3BX
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 581988 148868 50.9111572073 0.250562155981 50 54 40 N 000 15 02 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 90.00m Max: 95.00m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Private Client
Project design originator	kENT COUNTY COUNCIL
Project director/manager	Diccon Hart

Project supervisor      Clive Meaton

Type of sponsor/funding body      Landowner

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive recipient      MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Digital Contents      'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media available      'Text'

Paper Archive recipient      MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Paper Contents      'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available      'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      An Archaeological Watching Brief at College Farm, Boyton Court Road, Sutton Valence, Kent

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Swift, D

Other bibliographic details      2008157

Date      2008

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Entered on             17 September 2008

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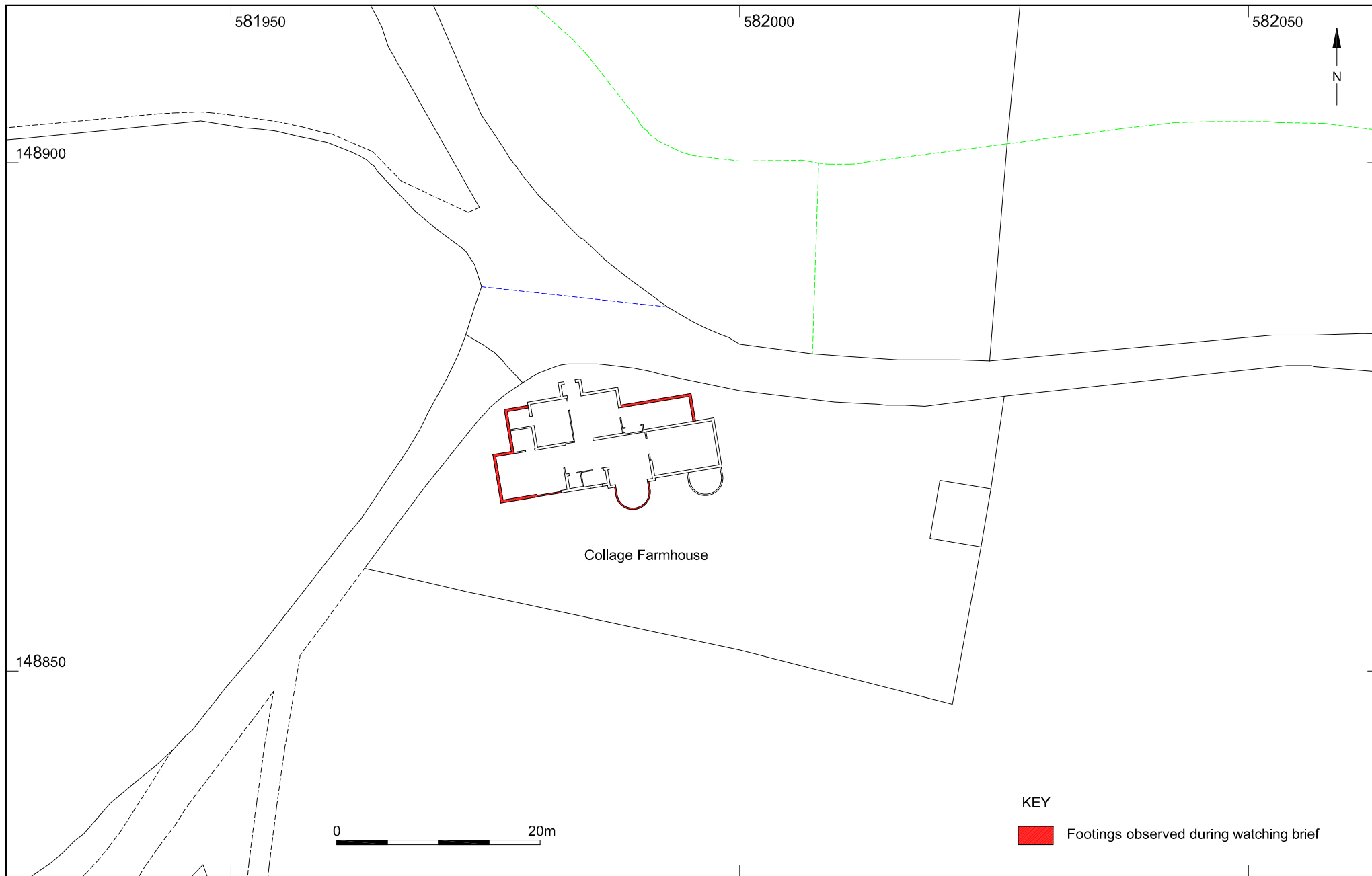




© Archaeology South-East		College Farm, Sutton Valence, Kent	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3204	Nov 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008157	Drawn by: DJH		

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© Archaeology South-East		College Farm Sutton Valence, Kent	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3204	Nov 2008	Site Plan	
Report Ref: 2008157	Drawn by: DJH		



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