



**Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at Goodnestone Cottages,
near Faversham, Kent
*October 2009***

SWAT. Archaeology
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
www.swatarchaeology.com

Goodnestone Cottages, Goodnestone, near Faversham, Kent.

Archaeological Watching Brief

**NGR: 604677 161650
Site Code GCG/WB/09**

**Report for
Mr & Mrs L Hudson**

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY
Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent
ME13 8UP
Tel; 01975 532548 or 07885 700 112

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Pl. 2 Photograph of Topsoil stripping almost complete (facing east).

Pl. 3 Photograph of Location of site in relation to St Bartholomew's Church in the distance (facing west).

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NGR: 604677 161650

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1.0 SUMMARY

In October 2009, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief of a proposed development site at Goodnestone Cottages, Goodnestone, near Faversham, Kent (Fig 1). The works were carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs L Hudson (Landowners) during machine stripping of topsoil in advance of the construction of an equestrian all-weather arena measuring 30m x 60m (Planning Application Number: SW/09/0413).

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features but there did exist a 'background noise' of a prehistoric site somewhere within the immediate area as numerous knapped and worked flint implements were recovered from the horizon between the topsoil and subsoil. This flint work has been given a probable late Neolithic to Bronze Age date range.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: SW/09/0413) for the construction of an all weather equestrian arena was submitted to Swale District Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCHC), on behalf of Swale District Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during associated groundworks. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

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.

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An Archaeologist attended the site and monitored excavation works on the following dates:

14th October 2009
15th October 2009
23rd October 2009

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was to:

'contribute to the knowledge of Goodnestone through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention will be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits' (KCC 2009:3.1)

2.4 Proposed Groundworks

The groundworks involved;

- A strip of the topsoil for the arena
- Excavation of any trenches for services and drainage
- Any other ancillary groundworks associated with the application

2.5 Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and geological deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Thanet Beds Bullhead Beds capped by Head Brickearth (KCC 2009: 2.1). The topsoil sealing the Head Brickearth had a maximum thickness of 3cm. Topographically the site sits on low-lying farmland with higher ground rising to the east. According to the County HER the site lies 75m east of finds of Iron Age (TR06SW1025) and Roman pottery centred on a possible spring (TR06SW1024). A rectangular depression of unknown date is also recorded 50m to the west of the site. In addition several medieval buildings and a large complex of cropmarks are recorded within a 500m radius.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the specification compiled by Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1999). The works comprised the observation of all groundworks, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 General

The site, formerly a paddock, was stripped of its topsoil by machine (Plates 1-3). The topsoil was extremely thin. The removal of the topsoil revealed subsoil of Head Brickearth. Continued machining of the subsoil to a maximum depth of 30cm revealed the remains of two parallel 19th century hedged field boundaries, running across the length of the site and aligned north-east / south-west. No features were revealed on inspection of drain runs.

5.2 Deposit Model

A common stratigraphy was revealed across the entire site:

0.00m-0.03m	Topsoil and grass.
0.03m-c.0.30+	Subsoil of Head Brickearth into which were 'tree bowls' and other features related to two former hedgerow field boundaries.

No archaeological features were recorded though a moderate scatter of burnt flint and worked flint artefacts were found throughout the site.

6.0 FINDS

Although there were no archaeological features present numerous knapped and worked flint artefacts were recovered from the interface between the topsoil and the underlying Head Brickearth subsoil. This moderate scatter, recorded across the site comprised of distinct artefact types including two cores, a scraper and a 'notched flake' (Fig. 2). This assemblage has been given a probable late Neolithic – Bronze Age date range.

Also noted within the same interface across the site was a moderate scatter of burnt flint. However, without the presence of associated features or contemporary pottery, a date for this burnt flint can not be given, though it could be tentatively suggested that they are related to the flint work and are thus of a prehistoric date as well.

The absence of archaeological features relating to this flint material on site suggests the presence of a prehistoric site somewhere within the locality of the proposed development and that this assemblage is residual.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Goodnestone Cottages, revealed that a very thin topsoil sealed a subsoil comprised of Head Brickearth and within the interface between these soils a scatter of prehistoric flint work was recorded. However no archaeological features were present, suggesting that this material is residual and that a prehistoric site is situated close by.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. No buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development programme although a site wide scatter of prehistoric flint material has been disturbed.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT would like to thank Mr & Mrs L Hudson (landowners) for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council), in particular Adam Single (Archaeological Officer) for his assistance and to Tania Wilson (Lithics Analyst) for analysing the flintwork.

Simon Holmes
October 2009

10.0 REFERENCES

IFA (1999) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Kent County Council (2009) *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Rear of Goodnestone Cottages, Goodnestone, near Faversham, Kent.*

APPENDIX 1 Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site Name: Goodnestone Cottages, Goodnestone, near Faversham, Kent. Site Code: GCG/WB/09	
Site Address: As above.	
Summary: In October 2009, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at the above address. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs L. Hudson (Landowners) in advance of the construction of an all weather equestrian arena (Planning Application Number: SW/09/0413). The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features though a moderate scatter of burnt flint and worked flint artefacts of late Neolithic to Bronze Age date were found across the site within the interface between the topsoil and subsoil. It is most likely therefore that this material is residual and that a prehistoric site is situated nearby.	
District/Unitary: Swale	Parish: Goodnestone with Graveney
Period(s): Late Neolithic to Bronze Age is the probable date range of the flintwork.	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): TR 604677 161650 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: 14 th , 15 th October 2009	
Unit undertaking recording: Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Co. (SWAT)	
Geology:	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Holmes S. P. (2009) Archaeological Watching Brief at Goodnestone Cottages, Goodnestone, near Faversham, Kent.</i> Swale & Thames Archaeological Survey Company	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) As above.	
(cont. on attached sheet)	
Location of archive/finds: SWAT Archaeology	
Contact at Unit: Dr P. Wilkinson	Date: 21 st October 2009

