Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Walters Hall Farm, Monkton Street, Kent

Site Code WALT-WB-12

Report for Mr N Baxter
Planning Reference No. F/TH/11/0845
Date of report 25th July 2012

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY
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List of Figures

Figure. 1  Location of site
Plate 1. Photograph of site excavation
Plate 2. Photograph of site excavation
Plate 3. Photograph of site aerial
Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Walters Hall Farm, Monkton Street, Kent

Site Code: WALT-WB-12

1.0 SUMMARY

In February 2012, Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site at Walters Hall Farm during the ground works associated with a new-build solar array. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr N Baxter. Planning Application Number: F/TH/11/0845.

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (PAN: F/TH/11/0845) for the construction of a new solar array and associated cable runs was submitted to Thanet District Council. Kent County Council Heritage and Conservation (KCCCH), on behalf of Thanet 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:

3. 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.

Grounds: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

2.2 Schedule of Visits

An experienced archaeologist attended the site and monitored site clearance and the excavation of cable runs from the 27th to 29th February 2012 during works associated with the build of the new solar array.
2.3 **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the monitoring and recording, as specified by Kent County Council was 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 groundworks’ (KCC 2012:3.1)

2.4 **Proposed Groundworks**

The ground works involved digging of various cable runs to facilitate the operation of the new-build solar array (Plates 1-3). No archaeology was revealed.

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 1:50,000 is Thanet Sand Formation-Sand, Silt and Clay whilst the Superficial deposits recorded on site were Clay and Silt.

Topographically the site is located south of the A 253 and on the northern edge of the river flats of the Stour Channel.

Archaeology abounds in the area with the adjacent farm house- Walters Hall dating from 1633AD. There are numerous crop marks in the vicinity including ring ditches and enclosures.

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 digging of the trenches for cabling (Plates 1-2) failed to reveal any archaeological features.

6.0 FINDS

No archaeological features were found and no finds were retrieved.

7.0 DISCUSSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief carried out at land at Walters Hall Farm revealed no archaeological features.

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.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Mr Nicholas Baxter for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Heritage and Conservation (Kent County Council).

Paul Wilkinson
July 2012

REFERENCES


Kent County Council (2012) Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Walters Hall Farm, Monkton Street, Kent

Hasted (1798) History of Kent

HER Data, KCC
In February 2012 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at the above address. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr N Baxter in advance of the construction of a solar array. (Planning Application Number: F/TH/11/0845).

The Watching Brief revealed no archaeological features.

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<th>District/Unitary: Thanet</th>
<th>Parish: Monkton</th>
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<th>NGR (centre of site : 8 figures):</th>
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| Date of Recording: Feb 2012         |

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Figure 1. Site Location
Plate 1. Showing excavation for cabling (facing south)
Plate 2. Showing excavation for cabling (facing north)
Plate 3. Showing aerial photo of site with proposed installation