

Archaeological Evaluation of Land near Upper Horton Farm, Chartham, Kent



NGR: 12680 54391

Site Code: FOUR/EV/15

(Planning Application: CA/12/00393/FUL)

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Plate 4 – Trench 2 additional work

Plate 5 – 1940 Google Earth

Plate 6 – 1960 Google Earth

Plate 7 – 1990 Google Earth

Plate 8 – 2013 Google Earth

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NGR: 12680 54391

Site Code: UPP-EV-15

1. Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the south-east of Upper Horton Farm, Chartham in Kent. A Planning Application (CA/12/00393/FUL) to develop redundant farm buildings to five holiday cottages was submitted to Canterbury City Council, whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT Archaeology Specification, October 2015 and KCC Specification Manual Part B) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The results of the excavation of two evaluation trenches revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trenches. The natural Superficial Geology of Clay with Flints overlaying the Bedrock Geology of Seaford Chalk Formation was reached at an average depth of between 0.25m (Trench 1) and 0.40m (Trench 2) below the topsoil (Trench 1) and modern ground surface (Trench 2). The Archaeological Evaluation has therefore been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Archaeological Specification.

2. Introduction

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by the HICO Group, Highland Court Farm, Bridge, Kent to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out within an Archaeological Specification (SWAT 2015) and in discussion with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. The evaluation was carried out on the 13th October 2015.

3. Site Description and Topography

The proposed development site is situated 89.95m south-east of Upper Horton Farm in a group of brick-built redundant farm buildings. Situated on the North Downs the village of Chartham is about 1.20km due east of the Site and about 2 miles south south-east of Canterbury. The site is generally flat at about 92-93m aOD and surrounded by arable fields.

The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation. The Superficial Geology is recorded and found on site to be Clay with Flints (BGS 2015).

4. Planning Background

Canterbury City Council (CCC) gave planning permission (CA/12/00393/FUL) for development of barns near Upper Horton Farm, New House Lane, Chartham, CT4 7BN for the conversion of the redundant farm buildings into five holiday cottages.

On the advice of the Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Officer (CCC) a programme of archaeological works in the form of an initial archaeological evaluation was attached to the consent:

(Condition 9) No development shall take place until the applicant, or the developer, or their successor(s) in title, has secured, firstly, the implementation of archaeological evaluation of the site, to be undertaken for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of any buried archaeological features and deposits and to assess the importance of the same, and secondly, any mitigation measures, including further archaeological work that may be required as a result of the evaluation, to safeguard the preservation of archaeological remains. All archaeological works to be carried out in accordance with written programmes and schemes of work that have been submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority.

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

The results from this evaluation will be used to inform Canterbury City Council of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with the development proposals.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The application site lies within an area of known archaeology and potential archaeology with a series of trackways and enclosures visible on aerial photographs to the west of the site (Plates 5-8).

In addition historic mapping shows earlier buildings on the proposed development site.

6. Aims and Objectives

According to the SWAT Archaeological Specification, the aims and objectives for the archaeological work were to ensure that:

'Where archaeological remains are present the programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching will aim to interpret and characterise them. In addition the fieldwork will help inform upon the significance of the potential impacts of the development. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform the Local Planning Authority and allow an informed decision to be made upon the requirement

for any further archaeological work should significant archaeological deposits and features be revealed.' (SWAT 2015).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Heritage Assets clarifies a developers responsibilities in paragraphs 12.8 and 14.1.

Paragraph 12.8 states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Paragraph 14.1 states:

Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

The aims set out in the SWAT Specification (2015) for the site required a phased approach to the mitigation of the development site commencing with an evaluation, with the results influencing the possibility of further work on the site such as further mitigation in the form of a watching brief or excavation depending upon the amount and significance of any possible archaeological remains.

7. Methodology

The Archaeological Specification called for an evaluation by trial trenching comprising two trenches within the footprint of the proposed development. A 6.5 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the natural geology and/or the archaeological horizon. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the specification. A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, and context recording numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. These are used in the report and shown in **bold**. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with SWAT and IFA standards and guidance.

8. Monitoring

Curatorial monitoring was available during the course of the evaluation. After a site inspection the Archaeological Officer (CCC) requested the surface of Trench 2 be subject to additional cleaning and a further 12cm of subsoil was removed which showed more clearly the natural geology.

9. Results

The evaluation has identified no archaeological features within the two trenches (Figure 1).

Trench 1

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plate 1). The trench lay on a NNW to SSE alignment and measured approximately 20m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**102**) was identified across the trench as Clay with Flints with outcrops of Chalk, at a depth of approximately 0.20m (92.90mOD) below the present ground surface at 93.10m OD at the NW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a dark layer of topsoil (**101**) 0.20m thick, dark brown in colour and containing small stones and chalk fragments, but otherwise relatively clean. This probably represents a post-medieval to modern topsoil layer filled with a high organic content from agricultural use.

Trench 2

9.1 The plan is recorded in Figure 1 (see also Plates 2-4). The trench lay on a WNW to ESE alignment and measured approximately 17m by 1.80m.

Undisturbed natural geology (**202**) was identified across the trench as Clay with Flints with outcrops of Chalk at a depth of approximately 0.40m (92.45mOD) below the present ground surface at 92.85m OD at the WNW end of the trench.

The natural geology was sealed by a demolition layer of large concrete pieces, modern brick fragments and yellow builder's sand, gravel of about 0.40m thick.

No archaeology features or archaeological artefacts were recovered from any of the two trenches.

10. Discussion

It was expected that the evaluation may produce evidence of archaeological activity. But there was none. There are numerous crop marks in the vicinity of the proposed development site (Plates 5-8) but none were located in the two evaluation trenches.

11. Finds

No finds were found.

12. Conclusion

The evaluation trenches at the proposed development site revealed no archaeological features or artefacts.

The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Therefore, this evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the aims and objectives as set out in the Planning Condition and the Archaeological Specification.

13. Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the client, Gary Walters for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Rosanne Cummings Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council. Illustrations were produced by Jonny Madden for Digitise This. The fieldwork was undertaken and the project was managed and report written by Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD. FRSA. MCifA.

Paul Wilkinson

28/10/15

14. References

Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA), Rev (2008). *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

SWAT Archaeology (October 2015) *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

KCC Specification Manual Part B

KCC HER data 2015

PLATES



Plate 1 – Trench 1 under excavation (looking SSE)



Plate 2 – Trench 2 (looking WNW)



Plate 3 – Trench 2 with additional reduction (looking WNW) 1m scale.



Plate 4 – Trench 2 with additional reduction (looking ESE), 1m scale.



Plate 5 – 1940 Google Earth with double ditched track or road (red arrow) with PDA (green Arrow)

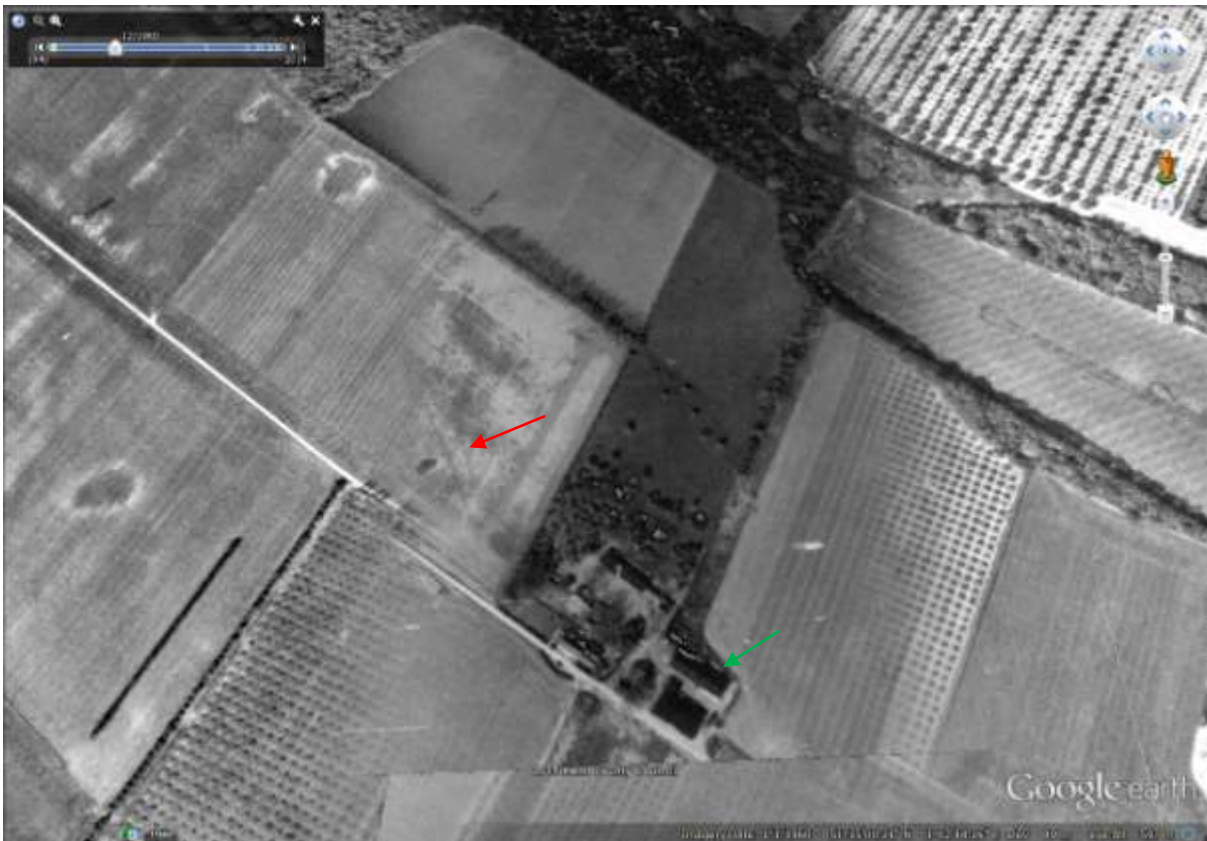


Plate 6. 1960 Google Earth with double ditched track or road (red arrow) with PDA (green Arrow)



Plate 7. 1990 Google Earth with double ditched track or road (red arrow) with PDA (green Arrow)

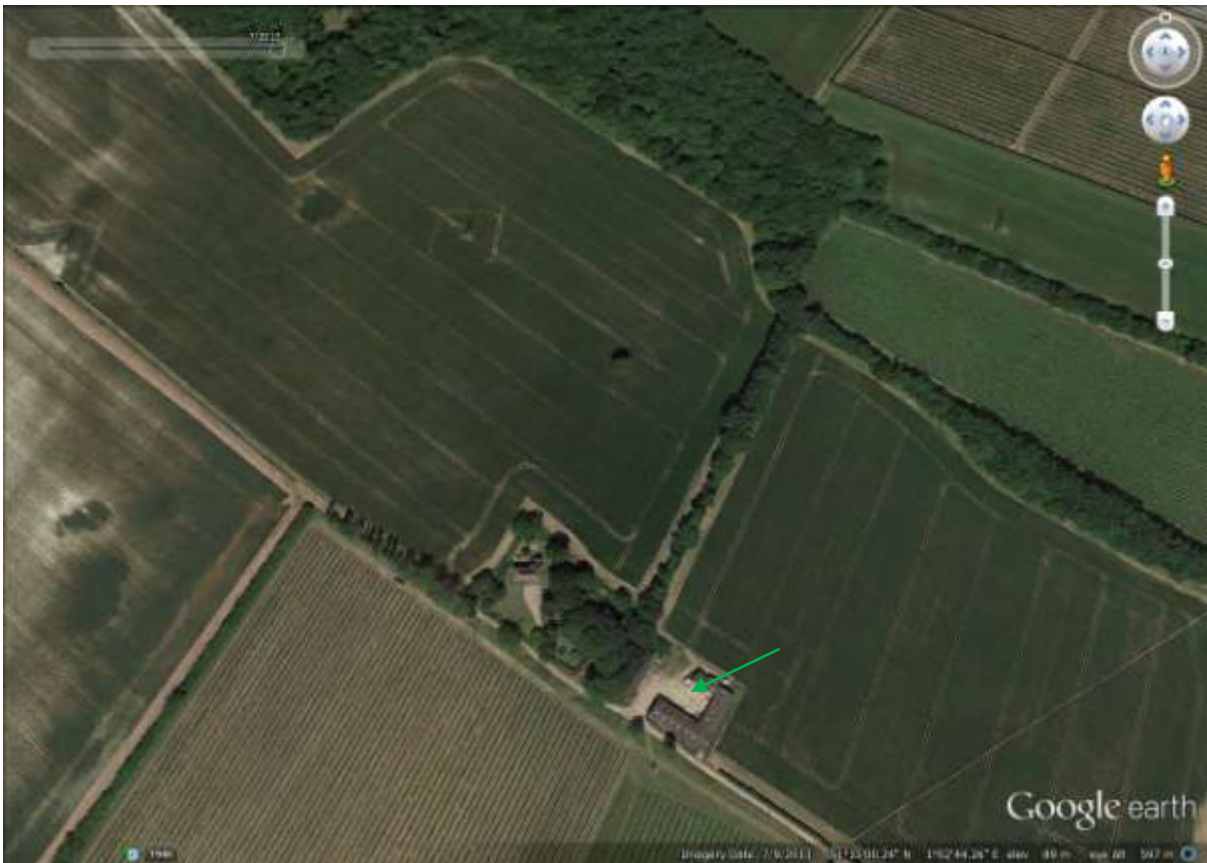


Plate 8. 2013 Google Earth with PDA (green Arrow)



HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land near Upper Horton Farm, Chartham, Kent

SWAT Site Code: FOUR/EV/15

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for conversion of redundant farm buildings whereby Canterbury City Council requested that Archaeological Evaluation be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Canterbury City Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 12680 54391

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: October 2015

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Seaford Chalk Formation capped by Clay with Flints

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Evaluation at Land near Upper Horton Farm, Chartham, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

No archaeology found

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 28/10/2015

OS licence NMC 100039

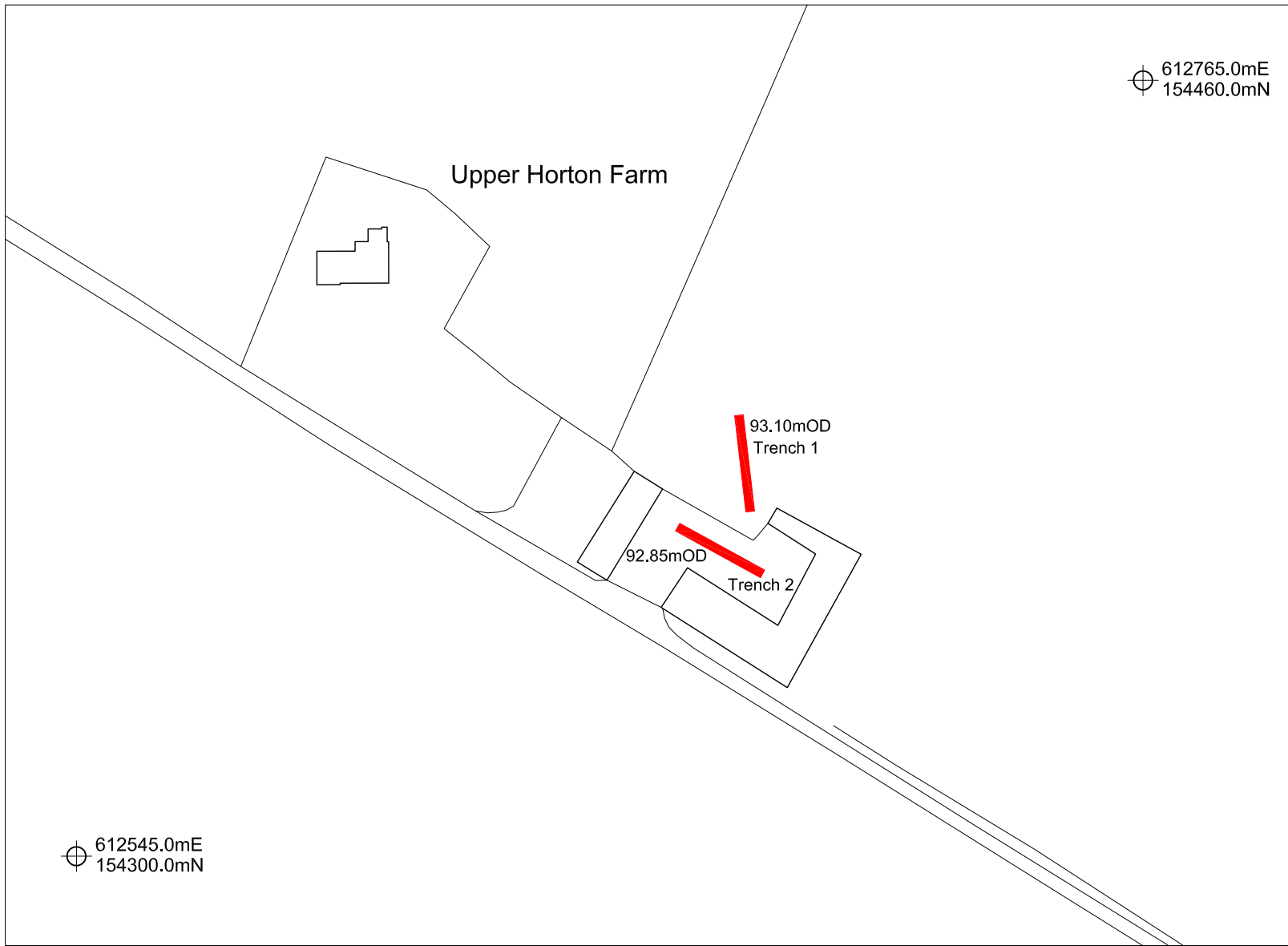


Figure 1: Location of Evaluation Trenches