

Archaeological Watching Brief at Land Adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Woodnesborough, Kent

INVICTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL



S E R V I C E S L T D

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings with associated parking on Land adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Woodnesborough, Kent. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

PROJECT LOCATION: Land adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Sandwich Road, Woodnesborough, Kent, CT13 0NY

PROJECT DATE: 19th and 21st October 2022

NGR: TR 31731 57324

PLANNING REFERENCE: DOV/22/00581

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief in October 2022 at land adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Woodnesborough, Kent on behalf of the landowner.

1.2 Dover District Council has granted permission for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings with associated parking (DOV/22/00581).

1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with Archaeological Specification compiled by Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd (2022), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014).

SITE BACKGROUND

1.4 The watching brief took place at land adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Woodnesborough and hereafter called 'the site'. The site is located between Sandwich and Woodnesborough, on the approach into Poulders Gardens. The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference (NGR) TR 31731 57324. The site lies at 8.348m OD, two properties down from the site to the south-west. The site code is ACTS-WB-22.

LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

1.5 The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the specification which formed the project design for the archaeological investigation (IAS 2022).

- 1.6 Due to the property being situated on the proposed route of the Roman road from Sandwich to Woodnesborough and within an area of archaeological importance, an archaeological watching brief was warranted to ensure that archaeological features and deposits are properly examined and recorded, and for any appropriate mitigation strategy to be designed and implemented.
- 1.7 The proposed development area (PDA) consisted of two sets of foundations for the dwellings. The maximum depth of the trenches cut was c.1.25m, the natural geology being encountered at an average depth of 0.45-0.60m.

ORIGIN AND SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.8 This report was commissioned by the landowner and produced by Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd (IAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CifA 2014).
- 1.9 The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the watching brief against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A brief summary of the archaeological and historical background to the site was detailed in the WSI (2020) and is presented in brief below, having consulted the Heritage Gateway which records data held at the NMR Excavation Index and Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE).
- 2.1 The site lies on the Sandwich Road, which is a recorded Roman Road (HER: TR 35 NW 802; Margery Route 101) from Woodnesborough to Sandwich. A Roman ditch is also recorded c.200m east of the site (HER: TR 35 NW 234), which runs parallel with a modern footpath which is believed to be part of a short section of a Roman road, running north-eastwards from Woodnesborough to the old shoreline of the Wantsum at Sandwich.
- 2.2 Evidence of Roman occupation in the same area to the east is evident with a Roman building recorded during work on the bypass in 1979 (HER: TR 35 NW 91). The building is a small, winged corridor villa, just the foundation trenches remained.

2.3 The KHER records the site of the Roman Road Halt directly opposite the site (HER: TR 35 NW 172). This halt was part of the East Kent Light Railway, built in 1925 and closed in 1950. The station was originally called ‘Woodnesborough’ but the name was changed to Roman Road to avoid confusion with Woodnesborough. The halt consisted of a single 50’ long timber faced platform with no shelter on the upside of the line (disused-stations.org). The line of the railway can be seen clearly on Google Earth imagery, just passing the south eastern boundary of the site, slightly off a north to south alignment.

3 GEOLOGICAL/TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The mapping of the British Geological Survey (BGS 2022) shows the solid geology of the site is Thanet Formation - Sand, silt and clay. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 59.2 and 56 million years ago during the Palaeogene period. There are no recorded superficial deposits.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The general aim of the watching brief, as set out in the specification, was to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains in order to provide an assessment of the likely archaeological impact of the scheme.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Elissia Burrows (BA Hons, MSc) and Emily Brown (BA Hons) attended site October 19th and 21st 2022.

5.2 The fieldwork followed the methodology outline in the specification (WSI) by Invicta Archaeology Services Ltd. A competent archaeologist observed and controlled all intrusive groundworks. The foundations were excavated with an 8-tonne machine with a 0.60m flat bladed bucket. Entrance within the trenches was not undertaken due to their substantial depths and wet ground.

5.3 Where archaeological deposits were encountered, machine excavation ceased and the deposits were hand excavated by the archaeologist. A written, photographic and graphic record was completed on IAS pro forma recording sheets, in accordance with CifA (2014) guidance. Spoil from the excavations was inspected by the attending archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.

5.4 The archive is currently being held at the IAS offices. A summary of the project information will be entered into the Heritage Environment Record (HER) database. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Table 1 Quantification of the site archive

Number of contexts	3
Number of paper records	3
Digital photographs	15
Plan and section drawings	0
Environmental samples	0
Finds	0

6 RESULTS

6.1 The groundworks for the dwelling were of varying lengths and cut to an average depth of 1.20m.

6.2 A common stratigraphy was found across the site consisting of subsoil (101), mid grey silty clay with occasional modern debris and frequent natural flint nodules, which overlay the grassed topsoil (100). The subsoil capped the natural (103) which consisted of medium brown/orange silty clay with occasional natural flint nodules.

6.3 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered. No finds were retrieved from the subsoil.

8 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

8.1 Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic research into the development of Kent.

8.2 The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the specification (IAS 2020) within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

9 PROJECT TEAM AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Elissia Burrows (BA Hons, MSc, PhD Researcher) and Emily Brown (BA Hons). The report was written by Elissia Burrows and edited by Emily Brown. Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Bent for allowing us access to the site.

REFERENCES

British Geological Society Survey Map 2022 (BGS)

Historic Environment Record (HER).

CifA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

CifA (2014) Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation.

CifA (2014) Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

CifA (2019) Code of Conduct.

Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd (November 2022) specification for a watching brief at land adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Woodnesborough, Kent.

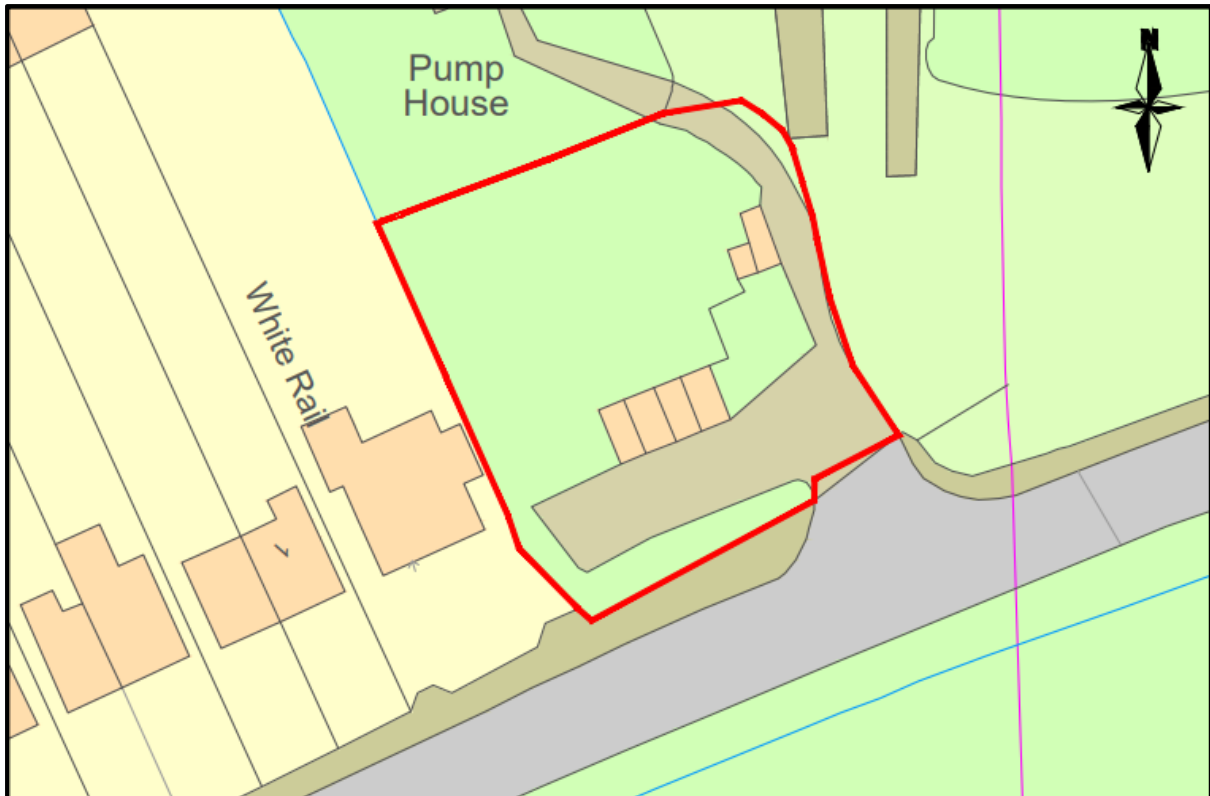


Figure 2 Existing site block plan 1:500 (EZ Plans)



Figure 1 Proposed development plan (EZ Plans)



Plate 1 General view of area facing north east



Plate 2 Representative section



Plate 3 General view of trenches facing west



Plate 4 General view of trenches facing north east

Appendix 1 – HER Summary sheet

Fieldwork type.	Watching Brief
Site type.	N/A
Date of fieldwork.	19 th and 21 st October 2022
Sponsor/client.	Andy Bateman (EZ Plans)
Project manager.	Elissia Burrows
Project supervisor.	Emily Brown
Period summary	N/A
Project summary. (100-word max)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Invicta Archaeological Services Ltd to monitor groundworks associated with the erection of two semi-detached dwellings on land adjacent to Claremont Terrace, Woodnesborough, Kent. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits.