

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 'Tamsui'
Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent**

**Planning Reference TM/08/01908
NGR: 558463 155898
(TQ 58463 55898)**



**Project No. 3989
Site Code: TAM 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009159
OASIS id: archaeol6-65816**

By Dan Swift

October 2009

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South East at 'Tamsui', Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent, on the 9th and the 13th October 2009 for Alvin Jones.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out during mechanical ground reduction (9/10/09) and excavation for wall foundations (13/10/09) for a proposed private dwelling.

No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

The natural geology comprising Folkstone Beds was encountered at c. 138m OD, capped by a fine sandy clay Head deposit, subsoil and topsoil.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by Alvin Jones to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a proposed development site at 'Tamsui', Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent (NGR: 558463 155898; Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken during excavations for ground reduction and wall foundation trenches (Figure 2). No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring of these works. At this point Wendy Rogers of the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCGKCC) was informed and decided that no further archaeological watching brief was required during any further groundworks such as drainage etc at the site.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The site has planning permission for a new single dwelling and new access with associated services (Planning Reference TM/08/01908). The Local Planning Authority has placed the following condition on the planning consent:

AR1 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable 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.

1.2.2 In view of the nature of the groundworks, this programme of works was to involve archaeological monitoring of the groundworks connected with the development with provision for detailed excavation and recording of any archaeology revealed, by an archaeological contractor. If significant archaeology was observed, machining was to cease whilst more detailed archaeological work was undertaken.

1.2.3 Additionally, the archaeological monitoring was to be maintained throughout the programme of ground excavation. The archaeological contractor was to confirm the extent of proposed ground excavations in advance with the site developer and inform the County Archaeological Officer that arrangements were in place for appropriate monitoring. If significant archaeology was observed, the archaeological contractor was to inform the County Archaeologist and a revised strategy would be discussed on site.

1.2.4 A specification for the archaeological watching brief was supplied by Wendy Rogers (HCGKCC 2009). The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with this specification and with reference to the Institute for Field

Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance documents (IFA 2001).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The objectives of the archaeological monitoring were:

- To observe the nature of the natural and assess the potential for palaeolithic remains, if necessary put forward justification for palaeolithic sampling strategy with sieving. If a palaeolithic potential is identified, further assessment work would need to be agreed;
- To observe and record any Iron Age or Roman archaeology which may be associated with activity in the area, especially associated with the Iron Age hill-fort;
- 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

1.4 Scope of the Report

1.4.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out at 'Tamsui' Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent on the 9th and 13th October 2009.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist) and Dan Swift (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, the site lies on Folkestone Beds with Head deposits to the north.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development site lies on undisturbed gently sloping land which falls from c. 139.5m OD in the north to c. 138.5m OD in the south.

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential is based on the proximity of archaeological remains presently recorded in the SMR (HCGKCC 2009).
- 2.2.2 The site of development lies c. 100 m. to the south-east of the Scheduled Monument of Oldbury Camp, a multivallate Iron Age Hillfort (HER No: TQ 55 NE 21). The SAM boundary lies just c.95m to the north. Associated Iron Age remains may extend towards the development site.
- 2.2.3 The Oldbury Palaeolithic rock shelters are 225 m. north (HER no: TQ 55 NE 32) and numerous flint tool finds have been made within a 500m radius of the site. Recent specialist research work has identified Igtham and Borough Green areas as having potential for Palaeolithic remains, in the form of flint objects.

2.3 Archaeological Potential

- 2.3.1 In light of the known archaeological background of the area, specific care was taken during the watching brief to look out for any worked flint artefacts, possible debitage and fire-cracked flints which may pertain to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and later prehistoric occupation of the area, and for any possible Iron Age artefacts or features such as pits, postholes and ditches. None of the above were recorded in the watching brief.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methods Employed

- 3.1.1 All works were monitored and recorded in accordance with the specification document (HCGKCC 20090).
- 3.1.2 During the watching brief archaeologists monitored of an area of general ground reduction c. 1m beyond the footprint of the proposed building and excavations for wall foundations (Figure 2). The ground reduction of an area 22m x 14m was undertaken using a c. 4 tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The wall foundations were excavated using a c. 4 tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 0.45m (for smaller internal wall foundations) or a 0.60m toothless ditching bucket (for larger external wall foundations).
- 3.1.3 A risk assessment for the fieldwork was produced prior to any work on site.
- 3.1.4 No existing services were encountered during the watching brief.
- 3.1.5 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief.
- 3.1.6 Each deposit uncovered during the watching brief was recorded and assigned its own unique context number.
- 3.1.7 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring of these works and it was proposed by Wendy Rogers (HCGKCC) that no further archaeological watching brief was required during any further groundworks such as drainage etc at the site.

3.2 The Project Archive

- 3.2.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (Table 1).

3.2.2

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Number of Contexts | 5 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 file |
| Photographs | 17 digital |
| Bulk finds | none |
| Registered finds | none |

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the watching brief and therefore no environmental samples were taken.

4.2 Ground reduction (Figure 2) over an area c. 1m beyond the footprint of the proposed building levelled the site to c. 138.50m OD and resulted in the exposure and removal of the following deposits:

- Topsoil [001] a mid grey-brown silt with very occasional finds of 19th century to modern flower pot, modern glass and modern CBM and a maximum thickness of c 0.35m
- Subsoil [002] a light orange-brown fine clayey-silt with very occasional finds of 19th century to modern flower pot and a maximum thickness of c 0.30m
- Deposit [004] up to c 0.60m thick; a modern light yellowish-brown fine silty-sand containing modern window glass; only observed in the northernmost part of the reduced area below topsoil [001]

and the exposure of:

- Head deposit [003] a light to mid mottled orange fine sandy clay

across the site with the exception of the southernmost part of the site where subsoil [002] still remained.

4.3 Deeper excavations for the proposed wall foundations (Figure 2) were excavated to a depth of c 0.80m below the level of ground reduction i.e: to a depth of c. 137.70m OD. In the northern part of the site these revealed that the Head deposit [003] was c. 0.50m thick and overlay:

- Folkstone Beds [005] a mid yellow medium sand with very occasional inclusions of tiny c. 0.5cm² angular stones

whilst in the southern part of the site only Head deposits [003] were recorded in the foundation trenches.

| Number | Type | Description | Deposit Thickness (m) | Top of deposit in m OD |
|--------|---------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 001 | Deposit | Topsoil | 0.35 max. | 139.50 max. |
| 002 | Deposit | Subsoil | 0.30 max. | 139.15 max. |
| 003 | Deposit | Head Deposit | 0.50 min. | 138.65 max |
| 004 | Deposit | Modern deposit | 0.60 max. | 139.15 max. |
| 005 | Deposit | Folkstone Beds | - | 138.15 max. |

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 A reminder of the specific research objectives of the project as outlined in the specification document (HCGKCC 2009) is set out below:
- To observe the nature of the natural and assess the potential for Palaeolithic remains, if necessary put forward justification for Palaeolithic sampling strategy with sieving. If a Palaeolithic potential is identified, further assessment work will need to be agreed;
 - To observe and record any Iron Age or Roman archaeology which may be associated with activity in the area, especially associated with the Iron Age hill-fort;
 - 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.
- 5.2 The employed methodology was suitable for the watching brief and there is a high degree of confidence in the results and interpretation.
- 5.3 No Palaeolithic finds were recovered and the site is therefore thought to have no potential for Palaeolithic findings.
- 5.4 No Iron Age or Roman finds or features were recovered or recorded and the site is therefore thought to have no potential for Iron Age or Roman findings.
- 5.5 No medieval or early post-medieval finds or features were recovered or recorded and the site is therefore thought to have no potential for medieval or early post-medieval findings.
- 5.6 The finds that were retrieved within [001] topsoil and [002] subsoil are at the oldest 19th century if not 20th century and have no archaeological potential. The deposit [004] contained a fair quantity of modern window glass and may well represent the remains of a greenhouse.
- 5.7 Given the complete absence of any archaeological activity it is reasonable to conclude that the site was not occupied in the past and that any further proposed groundworks in proximity to the area of ground reduction (Figure 2) such as drainage are highly unlikely to impact upon any archaeological deposits.

Bibliography

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCGKCC) 2009. *Specification for an archaeological investigation at the site of Tamsui, Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent.*

IFA 2001. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* documents.

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Alvin Jones for commissioning the work and Wendy Rogers of KCC of ESCC for her guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | TAM09 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | 'Tamsui', Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Kent | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | NGR: 558463 155898 | | | | | |
| Geology | Folkstone Beds | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 3989 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | Watching Brief | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Other | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | WB. 9 -13/10/09 | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Alvin Jones | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Neil Griffin | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Kathryn Grant | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. | Neo. | BA | IA | RB |
| | AS | Med | PM | Modern | | |
| 100 Word Summary. | | | | | | |
| <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South East at 'Tamsui', Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent (NGR: 558463 155898) on the 9th and the 13th October 2009 for Alvin Jones. The archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground reduction (9/10/09) and excavations for wall foundations (13/10/09) for a proposed private dwelling. No archaeological finds or features were encountered. The natural geology comprising Folkstone Beds was encountered at c. 138m OD, capped by a fine sandy clay Head deposit, subsoil and topsoil.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-65816

Project details

Project name 'Tamsui'

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South East at 'Tamsui', Sevenoaks Road, Igtham, Kent (NGR: 558463 155898) on the 9th and the 13th October 2009 for Alvin Jones. The archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground reduction (9/10/09) and excavations for wall foundations (13/10/09) for a proposed private dwelling. No archaeological finds or features were encountered. The natural geology comprising Folkstone Beds was encountered at c. 138m OD this was capped by a fine sandy clay Head deposit, subsoil and topsoil.

Project dates Start: 09-10-2009 End: 13-10-2009

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes TAM09 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type NONE None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Visual Inspection'

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT SEVENOAKS SEVENOAKS WEALD Tamsui

Postcode TN15 9
Study area 400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 558463 155898 50.9181166526 0.217422409562 50 55 05
N 000 13 02 E Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 138.00m Max: 138.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator Private Client
Project design originator KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
Project director/manager Neil Griffin
Project supervisor Dan Swift
Project supervisor Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body private client
Name of sponsor/funding body private client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient local museum
Digital Archive ID TAM09
Digital Contents 'none'
Digital Media available 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient Local Museum
Paper Archive ID TAM09

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) swift, d

Other bibliographic details ASE report no: 2009159

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Entered on 15 October 2009



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Tamsui, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent | |
| Project Ref: 3989 | Oct 2009 | Site location | |
| Report Ref: 2009159 | Drawn by: HLF | | |

Fig. 1



| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Tamsui, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent | | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 3989 | Oct 2009 | Proposed development plan showing areas watched in the watching brief | | |
| Report Ref: 2009159 | Drawn by: HLF | | | |

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