ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT THE ROYAL MAIL PUBLIC HOUSE, PARK STREET, LYDD, KENT TN29 9AY

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Front cover: 2017 aerial photograph of the site (looking north)

Figure 1. Site plan

Figure 2. Proposed development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2018 Dr Paul Wilkinson of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at the Royal Mail Public House site, 8 Park Street, Lydd in Kent. The Planning Application Number is Y18/0054/SH/.

1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and no meaningful archaeological activity has been recorded within 500m of the proposed development site.

1.3 The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA together with an analysis and interpretation of the sites origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, East and East Kent 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial photographs and annotated plans.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located on a prominent corner plot within the town of Lydd fronted by Park Street and the proposed development area (PDA) to the rear accessed from Bleak Road. To the north east is situated the important Grade 1 listed church of All Saints.

It is thought that Lydd developed as a Romano-British settlement on a shingle island adjacent to the English Channel. All Saints church is listed to date from the Saxon period, however given the large amount of Roman building material used in its construction it is likely there will be Roman remains in the vicinity of

the church. The church itself has a number of unusual features which can suggest a Roman building and possibly a Roman basilica was the original building.

The town's most prosperous period was during the 13th century when it was a corporate member of the Cinque Ports as a 'limb' of Romney.

Lydd gave its name to Lyddite a type of high explosive developed at Lydd and used in WWI.

The PDA is within the Conservation Area and an Area of Archaeological Importance

OS plot centre coordinates are NGR 604170 120744

2.5 Historic Background

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in 1842 the area of the PDA to the rear of the Royal Mail (PH) was open space (Kent LXXXIV OS Six inch Survey 1842).

By 1871 the PDA was still clear of buildings but by 1897 an L-shaped building to the SE of the PDA had been built.

In 1907 an additional building along the projected frontage of the PDA had been built but by 1929 that building had been demolished.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The HER records show that known archaeology is sparse in the vicinity of the PDA.

To the north east is All Saints Church (TR 02 SW 92). All Saints is the longest parish church in Kent at 199 feet (61 m), and also has one of the tallest towers in the county at 132 feet (40 m).

The church is thought to incorporate a small Romano-British basilica possibly built in the 5th century, though most of the current fabric is medieval. It was

associated with local fraternities or guilds in the 15th century and could seat 1,000 people at a time.

Severely damaged by World War II bombing, the church was subsequently restored and is now a Grade I listed building.

The church was long thought to be Saxon in origin, but recent studies have dated the oldest section to the latter half of the 5th century, making it Romano-British.

It appears to incorporate a very small basilica which had an apse, an arcade on the north side of three bays, and an elaborate porch on the west side.

This is considerably different from Anglo-Saxon churches, leading to a Romano-British attribution.

To the north east at 4 & 5 Park Street is a listed building (TR 02 SW 121).

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 A review of the available data shows that no major archaeological sites are known within the 500m radius apart from All Saints Church.

5.0 PARAMETERS

5.1 The archaeological survey was conducted using on-line data from Historic England and other agencies.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA. Dated 12th Feb 2018

NATIONAL MAP CENTRE

OS Plan Colour

Figure 1
Site location

Metres
0 2.5 5 10 15 20 25
Scale: 1:500

Map data

Supplied by: National Map Centre
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Plot centre co-ordinates: 604170,120744
Download file: swat_bleakroad.zip
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revisions

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project	Land to rear of Royal Mail Bleak Road Lydd
client	Mont Calm Asset Management Ltd
title	Proposed Block Plan
scale @A1 1:100	date Jan 2018 / drawn TSP / chk'd

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