The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent

Archaeological Evaluation

by Teresa Vieira

Site Code: NCA16/211

(TQ 9916 4327)
Summary

**Site name:** The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent

**Grid reference:** TQ 9916 4327

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 18th January 2017

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Teresa Vieira

**Site code:** NCA 16/211

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation at The New Chimneys successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the construction of a new commercial building. It appears that the site has been heavily disturbed in the past, as made ground deposits were generally encountered immediately above the natural clay. It also seems likely that the natural geology itself has been truncated to some degree, probably when the car park was constructed. Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Ashford Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 01.02.17

Steve Preston✓ 01.02.17
Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent (TQ 9916 4327) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Damien Byrne, Senior Development Manager with Assured Property Group, Unit 46 Innovation Centre, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6UW.

Planning permission (15/01032/AS) had been gained from Ashford Borough Council to construct a new commercial building on the site. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed housing development it is proposed to carry out a field evaluation as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012, para 128), and the Borough Council’s policies on archaeology, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help to formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. The evaluation was to be carried out in accordance with Kent County Council’s guidelines for trial trenching (KCC 2013), and a Written Scheme of Investigation which had been approved by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer (Ms Wendy Rogers), who advises the Borough Council on archaeological matters.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira and Virginia Fuentes-Mateos on the 18th January 2017, and the site code is NCA 16/211. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with Ashford Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the suburban area of Godington Park, east of Loudon Way, and approximately 3km north-west of the historic core of Ashford, Kent. The evaluation took place in an area currently occupied by the garden and car park of The New Chimneys public house. The site is relatively flat, and lies at a height of 50m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay (BGS 1982). This was confirmed during the evaluation, with mid yellow brown clay being revealed in all the trenches.
Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had previously been considered in a desk-based assessment (Garland 2015). In summary, recent archaeological work to the west and south of Ashford has recorded numerous features dating from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. As well as stray finds, evidence of Bronze Age field systems have been recorded to the north of the present site, along with a cremation burial. In addition, traces of occupation in the middle Iron Age, late Iron Age and Roman periods have been found, including the remains of buildings and numerous ditches, gullies and pits. Godington Park was probably a medieval deer park.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits within the area of proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period were present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period were present.

Three trenches were to be dug, each measuring 10m long and 1.60m wide. The trenches were to be positioned to target the footprint of the new building. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. The work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ. The work was to be carried out to comply with the Kent County Council guidelines for Trial Trenching (KCC 2013).

Results

The three trenches were dug close to their intended positions, although trench 2 could not be dug to its full length due to logistical reasons. Trenches 1 and 3 were 1.60m wide and trench 2 was 1.80m wide. The trenches measured between 7.80m and 11.90m in length, and between 0.67m and 1.10m in depth. All the trenches are described below and a complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.
**Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)**

Trench 1 was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 10.90m long and up to 0.67m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of brick paving and its associated bedding layer, and 0.45m of compact modern made ground. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

**Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Pl. 2)**

Trench 2 was 7.80m long and up to 1.10m deep, and was orientated approximately NW-SE. Much of the trench was excavated in the car park, where the natural geology was observed beneath 0.30m of brick paving and its associated bedding layer and 0.33m of modern made ground. The northern end of the trench was positioned in the garden of the public house, where the natural geology was revealed beneath 0.32m of topsoil and 0.15m of made ground. A test pit was dug at this end of the trench, to a depth of 1.10m, to confirm that there was no layer of re-deposited natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

**Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Pl. 3 and 4)**

Trench 3 was orientated approximately E-W, and was 10.80m long and up to 0.80m deep. Two buried services were encountered during the evaluation, and these were left on "plinths". Much of the trench was dug through the car park, and the natural geology was observed beneath 0.30m of brick paving and its associated bedding layer, and 0.15m of modern made ground. The western end of the trench was dug in the public house's garden, and the stratigraphy here consisted of 0.20m of topsoil directly above the natural clay geology. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

**Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation at The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the construction of a new commercial building. Modern made ground, containing fragments of slate and plastic, was encountered immediately above the natural geology in all the trenches. The complete absence of any buried soil horizons, even in the areas outside the existing car park, indicates that the site was truncated in the past, probably when the area was developed in the 1990s. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

**References**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trench</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Breadth (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.90</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0-0.05m brick paving; 0.05-0.20m bedding layer; 0.20-0.65m made ground; 0.65-0.70m+ natural geology (mid yellow brown clay) [Pl. 1].</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>SE end: 0-0.05m brick paving; 0.05-0.25m bedding layer; 0.25-0.58m made ground; 0.58-0.80m+ natural geology (mid yellow brown clay). NW end: 0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.47m made ground; 0.47-1.10m+ natural geology (mid yellow brown clay) [Pl. 2].</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.80</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>E end: 0-0.05m brick paving; 0.05-0.35m bedding layer; 0.35-0.50m made ground; 0.50-0.63+ natural geology (mid yellow brown clay). W end: 0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.47m+ natural geology (mid yellow brown clay) [Pl. 3 and 4].</td>
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</table>
Kent County Council HER summary form

**Site Name:** The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent  
**Site address:** The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent

**Summary:** The archaeological evaluation at The New Chimneys successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the construction of a new commercial building. It appears that the site has been heavily disturbed in the past, as made ground deposits were generally encountered immediately above the natural clay. It also seems likely that the natural geology itself has been truncated to some degree, probably when the car park was constructed. Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

**District/Unitary:** Ashford  
**Parish:** Ashford

**Periods:** Modern made ground only

**NGR:** TQ 9916 4327

**Type of archaeological work:** Evaluation

**Date of Recording:** 18th January 2017

**Unit undertaking recording:** TVAS South

**Geology:** Weald Clay

**Title and author of report:** The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent; An archaeological Evaluation by Teresa Vieira

**Summary of results by period** Wealden clay, modern made ground.

**Location of archive and finds:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR and will be deposited at Ashford Museum in due course.

**Contact at Unit:** Sean Wallis  
**Date:** 01-02-2017
The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, Kent, 2017
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Figure 1. Location of site within Ashford and Kent.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.
Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking South East,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 3. Trench 3, looking West,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 4. Trench 3 stratigraphy looking South,
Scales: 1m and 0.50m.
### TIME CHART

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