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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION ON LAND ADJOINING BARNWOOD SCHOOL, GUILDFORD

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION ON LAND ADJOINING BARNWOOD SCHOOL, GUILDFORD.

Introduction

Between 16th May and 10th June, 1994, staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit carried out a site evaluation near Park Barn, Guildford. The site is currently owned by Surrey County Council, and is situated on the eastern side of Broadstreet Common on land adjoining Barnwood school (fig 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of The Estate Strategy Section of the Resources Department, Surrey County Council in response to proposals for the eventual sale and redevelopment of the land for housing.

The central north-eastern part of the evaluation area was formerly occupied by Park Barn Farm which was first mapped in 1765 and was demolished earlier this century. This location in particular was believed to be of high archaeological potential because of the possibility that it may encompass or lie close to the site of a 13th century farm (with the possibility that there may have been some continuity of settlement from that time) which, it has been inferred, may have been associated with Alexander De Parco. In addition, the central portion of the north-western boundary to the evaluation area lies just 38m from the approximate position of the Broadstreet Roman villa as marked on the Ordnance Survey (fig 1). The boundary mentioned is now a ditch filled by a small brook or drainage channel and follows the course of an ancient boundary which once encircled Guildford Park, a substantial medieval estate with origins in the 13th century. It was thought possible that the medieval enclosure may have followed the line of a pre-existing boundary at this point and that this in turn may have been associated with Broadstreet villa. If so, it was thought unlikely that significant remains associated with the villa would be found within the evaluation area.

During the evaluation it became clear that an above ground investigation using geophysical surveying equipment might enhance the results of excavation. Magnetic and resistivity survey's were undertaken on 23rd June and between 28th-30th June, and a second resistivity survey (using more sophisticated equipment) will be carried out shortly; the results of these projects will be presented in due course.

Methodology

The land examined was predominantly open field which was in use as grazing for horses until immediately prior to the commencement of the evaluation. To the north-east the land was covered by dense vegetation and could not be investigated at this time. The topography of the site was mainly flat but sloped gently downwards to the east towards a watercourse known as Honey Brook (fig 2).

The evaluation was achieved using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket to open up 17 trial trenches. These provided good coverage of the accessible part of the threatened area and are located on fig 2 . Mechanical excavation was supported by manual work where it was found necessary to sample features and deposits of interest. Trenches 2,3,4,6,15,16 and 17 revealed no features of archaeological significance, though unstratified finds of Roman origin were recovered from trenches 2,4 and 6, and 'modern' remains associated with Park Barn Farm were discovered in trenches 15,16 and 17. These trenches were backfilled immediately and the remainder were backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

The trenches found to contain features and deposits of archaeological interest are summarized below and are best understood with reference to the original site drawings which are reproduced as figures 3 and 4 . The dates given below either cover a broad range or are those indicated by the latest material present in each context - where the latter is the case, finds of earlier date may also have been recovered.

Results

Trench 1 (fig 4): The machining of this trench revealed an area of densely packed flint and chalk rubble and two features cut into the natural orangey-yellow clay. The rubble lay directly beneath c0.15-0.20m of topsoil and occupied much of the central and north-eastern part of the trench, while the features were located towards the south-western end beneath c0.25m of topsoil and c0.25m of grey-brown subsoil.

Feature 170 was a large square post hole which contained sherds of pottery that indicate that it is of Roman date. Feature 172, apparently a large pit, lay only partially within the limits of the trench and was sampled by the excavation of a trench 0.75m wide. This revealed that the feature contained a number of distinct layers but these contained surprisingly few finds. The excavation of this feature

was abandoned at a depth of c0.70m below the surface of the natural upon the discovery of two large sherds of 18th-19th century pottery in layer 179 and a complete brick, probably of similar date, in layer 178; the bottom of the pit had not been reached at this depth.

The south-western end of the rubble spread was selected for detailed examination by the removal of remnant topsoil (103) from around the stones. This revealed an area of dark soil (181) running parallel to the remains of a wall made from densely packed fist-sized flints (187), a dark greeny-grey sandy soil layer (104), a localized spread of double fist-sized flint nodules (192), and an area of double fist-sized flint nodules and lumps of chalk with fragments of Roman brick and tile (191). 191 appeared to cover much of the remainder of the trench to the north-east. Numerous sherds of pottery and pieces of brick and tile were recovered from 103 and surface finds of similar type were collected from 104 and 181. 227 sherds of pottery were recovered from these three contexts, fairly evenly distributed between each, and examination of this material has shown each context to be of similar late 2nd to (early) 4th century A.D. date. In addition a copper alloy coin was recovered from 103 - this was well worn but is believed to belong to the 3rd century A.D.

During machining it had been observed that a flint or flint and stone wall (193) ran across the north-eastern part of this trench and that a stack of Roman tile lay on the north-eastern side of the wall. Unfortunately, this part of the trench filled with water after a period of heavy rain and could not be investigated further. Also during machining, the remains of a large wooden post set in mortar with fist-sized lumps of flint (194) was pulled from a position central to or just off central to the wall.

There seems little doubt that wall 187 is of Roman date but the origin of 193/194 is less clear. The initial impression of 193 was that it was probably constructed using larger stones than 187, and there was no indication that 187 contained posts. Also, the walls appear to be on different alignments (though 193 was planned as it appeared beneath 0.15m of water) so it is possible that they are not contemporary and that the rubble lying between them may be associated with more than one phase of building/demolition. The finds recovered during the detailed clearance work indicate that at least one of these postulated phases is of Roman date, but it may be relevant that several sherds of post medieval pottery and pieces of window glass were noted as being present in the topsoil at the north-eastern trench in the vicinity of 193. Walling of similar appearance to 187 was also

discovered in trenches 9 and 10.

Trench 5 (fig 3): The removal of c0.20-0.25m of topsoil and c0.10m of grey-brown clayey subsoil revealed a dense spread of fist to double fist-sized flint nodules roughly 4m wide (121), a possible feature (122), and two modern field drains one of which cut 121. 121 lay directly beneath the topsoil on the surface of the natural and contained a greater density of flints than is suggested by the plan, many having been dragged out during the machining. These stones were not disturbed further, though several pieces of Roman brick and tile were collected from above or between them. It seems most likely that 121 is part of a deliberately constructed surface, possibly a trackway, or else that it is part of a spread of demolition rubble. The origin of the feature is uncertain as the finds recovered could either be contemporary with it or present residually. There is, however, no cartographic evidence to suggest the presence of either a building or an access way in this vicinity so it is probable that 121 predates the farm complex mapped in 1765 and most likely that it is associated with the Roman remains discovered elsewhere.

Feature 122 was found to be no more than a shallow hollow 3cm deep. Its fill contained frequent small pieces of charcoal but yielded no finds. The significance of this feature is unknown.

Trench 7 (fig 3): The removal of c0.25-0.35m of topsoil from this trench revealed an extensive layer of black soil (186), patches of yellowy-grey-brown clayey subsoil (189), and a pit (171). A large quantity of finds consisting of sherds of Roman pottery and contemporary fragments of brick and tile (the latter including pieces of tegulae, imbrex and box flue tile) were recovered during the machining, most coming from close to the surface of 186. The 76 sherds of pottery recovered from 108 and 186 are of late 2nd-late 3rd century and mid 2nd-3rd century A.D. date respectively.

Pit 171 cut 186 and was found to be c0.80m deep with a patchy fill of yellowy-grey clay and dark soil. The finds recovered from this feature consisted mainly of brick and tile fragments but included several pottery sherds. All finds were of Roman origin and the thirteen pottery sherds recovered have been dated to the late 2nd-4th century A.D.

186 was sampled by the excavation of two test trenches, each c1m wide,

which showed it to be a layer up to 0.30m thick overlying the subsoil already identified as 189. 186 was found to contain quite frequent pieces of charcoal and also to be quite peaty, these two influences combining to give it its dark colouration. In each test trench 186 was found to conceal the cut of a ditch (182 and 185) which appeared to follow a course similar to that of the trial trench. The ditch appeared to cut 189, and the segments excavated were found to contain sherds of Roman pottery and frequent pieces of Roman brick and tile (including at least one nearly complete tegula and some other sizeable fragments). Examination of the pottery recovered indicated that the ditch may date to the mid 2nd-4th century AD.

Immediately prior to the backfilling of this trench the test trench containing 185 was extended by mechanical excavation. This showed the ditch to be approximately 1.60m wide and confirmed that it was c1m deep at this point. Another feature, possibly a small pit (188) was discovered on the eastern side of 185 and this yielded a single undiagnostic sherd of Roman pottery from the machine cut section. Also at this stage, a short trench was cut at roughly 90 degrees to the southern end of the trial trench. No features were discovered in this trench which indicates that the ditch may terminate just to the south of 185.

Trench 8: This trench revealed a similar stratigraphy to trial trench 7 with layer 186 being observed at a similar depth though it may not have been as thick at this point. Frequent finds of Roman brick and tile were recovered from this trench during machining, but it filled with water after heavy rain and could not be examined further.

Trench 9 (fig 3): The removal of 0.15-0.25m of topsoil from this trench revealed a layer of yellowy-brown soil and rubble debris (124), a wall (123), a layer of tile with some flint rubble (125) on the eastern side of 123, a ditch (126), a modern gravel filled field drain which cut 125 and 126, and natural clay. 124 was found to be several centimetres thick and overlay natural clay; a single sherd of Roman pottery and several fragments of Roman tile were found during the removal of the remnants of this layer. Wall 123 was cleaned for recording purposes but was not disturbed beyond this. The feature was constructed of densely packed fist-sized flint nodules in yellow mortar and was faced on its eastern side with larger flint nodules. 125 appeared to be a spread of demolition debris on the outside of the wall and consisted mainly of small fragments of Roman tile. Four sherds of pottery and some

loose tile fragments were collected from this layer but it was not removed; the pottery dates to the 3rd-4th century A.D. 126 was a shallow gully running parallel to 123 about 4.5m to the east of it. A small segment of this feature was excavated and thirteen sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of Roman tile were recovered from its fill; the pottery dates to the 1st-early 2nd century A.D.

Trench 10 (figs 3 and 4): The machining of 0.05-0.25m of topsoil from this trench revealed a spread of yellowy brown soil and rubble (154), a possible feature (158), a linear feature (162), an extensive spread of densely packed flint rubble (156), and natural clay. The removal of 154 produced finds of Roman date (including 32 sherds dating to the second half of the 2nd century A.D.) and revealed a gully (161), wall (160), rubble (163), a pit (166), and natural clay. (The orientation of stage 2 plan of TT10 shown on fig 4 is a 180 degrees reversal of the stage 1 plan, fig 3 ; the direction of the north arrow should be noted to avoid confusion).

A segment of 162 was removed and this was found to be a large ditch c1.20m wide by c0.90m deep. The feature contained various distinct layers of fill with those in the upper half being patchy and mixed which may indicate that its final infilling was deliberate (see sections 1 and 2, fig 4). Occasional finds of Roman pottery sherds and brick/tile fragments were recovered from certain of the layers excavated. The pottery includes material dating from the 1st-4th century A.D., but sherds recovered from the lower fill layers indicated that the feature belongs to the later part of this date range.

The rubble spread 156 was not examined as any worthwhile work here would have been extremely time consuming. The stones revealed on the western side of 162, numbered 163, may well be associated with 156 as these were flint nodules of similar size and density. If so, it would appear that 162 cuts the stoney layer. The significance of 156/163 could not be determined at this stage though it was thought likely that the rubble was either associated with a road or trackway, or is demolition material associated with a building.

Wall 160 was of similar width, construction and alignment as 123 in trial trench 9 and would appear to be another portion of the same feature. The stones were cleaned in the same way as 123 but otherwise this wall was not disturbed. 160 was found to be directly associated with the small gully, 161, which passed through it but appears to have been contemporary with it. This relationship is evidenced by the presence of large sandstone facing stones at the point where the

gully passes through the wall. Also, the section of gully adjacent to the wall was filled by fist-sized flint nodules of similar size to those which constituted the main fabric of the wall. Pit 166 was discovered on the western side of 160 but its relationship to 161 could not be established due to the fill similarities of both features. The southern side of 166 is a little uncertain and may have been overdug due to the occurrence of a variation in the natural at this point. 161 and 166 both contained finds of Roman origin; the 24 sherds of pottery recovered from 161 indicates that this feature (and 123) by association may belong to the 2nd century A.D., and the two sherds from 166 suggest that this is of similar date. The feature originally identified as 158 on the stage 1 plan (fig 3) had been found to be part of 161.

Trench 11 (fig 3): The machining of trial trench 11 revealed an area of densely packed flint rubble (133), a thin layer of yellow clay overlying this rubble (132), a number of probable and certain features (130,131,135,136,137,138,139, 140,141,143,144,145,146 and 147), a yellowy brown soil layer (129/134), and natural clay with flints. A copper alloy coin dating to A.D.117-138 was recovered during machining. 133 was discovered beneath c0.10-0.20m of topsoil while at the southern end of the trench 130 was found beneath c0.30m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil. The trench was trowelled from the southern end of the trench to the southern side of 133 but few of the features were sampled as there seemed little doubt that most, if not all, were of Roman date. 130 was sampled, and was found to be a wall robber trench containing loose mortary soil in its upper half and flint rubble towards the bottom. This rubble became very dense towards the base of the feature and was left in-situ so the depth of the trench is not known (though it was at least 0.50m deep). Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fill of this context. 143,144,145,146 and 147 were presumably post holes or post settings running at roughly 90 degrees to 130 - these features were not excavated.

129 was trowelled, but not removed, and produced 53 sherds of Roman pottery (2nd-early 3rd century A.D.), nails, fragments of brick/tile, and a heavily worn (undateable) copper alloy coin. This trowelling located a dense concentration of pottery sherds (128) which came almost exclusively from a single vessel of 1st-mid 2nd century A.D. origin. 129 was separated from 134 by a short width of natural clay, but the two contexts were doubtless originally continuous and were only separated as a result of uneven machining. 135 sherds of 2nd-early 3rd century

A.D. pottery were recovered from context 134. 131 was a linear feature containing frequent pieces of Roman brick/tile, occasional pottery sherds of similar date, and quite frequent lumps of flint and sandstone. The feature was not excavated and its function is not known; the nine sherds recovered from the surface of the fill are of Roman date but cannot be placed more precisely within this period.

135 was a possible post hole which contained sherds of Roman pottery and appeared to cut layer 137 of feature 138. Seven sherds of pottery dating to the second half of the 2nd century A.D. were recovered as surface finds from 138. 142 appeared to be part of a shallow gully which contained 53 sherds of similar date; the course of this feature was not traced beyond the rubble patch 136. The remaining features appeared to be pits with dark grey fills - these were not excavated but surface finds indicated that all were of Roman date.

Trench 11 was visited by metal detector users one evening, and these unwelcome visitors dug four large holes at various locations along the trench (marked by an 'x' on fig 3). They also pulled up the large stone slab which partially covered post hole 143. The holes were backfilled and now contain a garden label in a 'finds' bag to commemorate the intrusion; the stone slab was replaced. No other trenches were disturbed by treasure hunters.

Trench 12 (fig 3): The machining of this trench revealed a spread of densely packed flint nodules with fragments of Roman brick and tile (153), an area of very dark soil (195), two concentrations of flint nodules of uncertain significance at the western end of the trench, and natural clay with flints. 153 was sealed by 0.15m of topsoil and the eastern and western ends of the trench were covered by 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of brown subsoil, and 0.20m of topsoil respectively. Four sherds of pottery, three of 18th century date and one of Roman date, were recovered from the topsoil immediately above and around the stones of 153. Much of this trench was flooded after a period of heavy rain so no further work was done here.

Trench 13 (fig 4): The removal of 0.12-0.25m of topsoil from this trench revealed part of a wall built from blocks of Reigate stone (159), a surface of small densely packed flints (152), and a ditch (151) which appeared to cut both wall and surface. Numerous finds of Roman brick/tile and two sherds of 3rd-4th century A.D. pottery were recovered during the machining of this trench. Three segments of 151 were excavated (149, 150 and 157), but these yielded few finds and the dating of the

feature is unclear. Several fragments of post medieval window glass were recovered from close to the surface of 157, but similar glass was observed to have been present in the topsoil at this end of the trench so it may have been intrusive in 157. Similarly sherds of pottery and pieces of Roman brick and tile were recovered from certain segments but these may have been present residually.

The remainder of the trench was carefully cleaned but no further excavation was attempted. The majority of 152 consisted of small gravelly pieces of flint associated with some larger stones and pieces of Roman brick/tile. These stones appeared to be part of a deliberately laid surface rather than just loose rubble, though some loose rubble was observed at the western end of 159.

Trench 14 (fig 3): The machining of this trench revealed a linear feature containing slabs of sandstone, pieces of flint and fragments of Roman brick/tile (119/120), two post medieval features, a curious outcrop of ? natural stone, and natural clay. The stratigraphy of the overburden removed was variable and consisted of 0.25-0.30m of topsoil over natural clay (rising to zero coverage over the stone outcrop) at the eastern end of the trench, and 0.10m of topsoil, over a chalk lump surface of post medieval date which measured a maximum of 0.10m deep, over another soil layer c0.12m deep at the western end of the trench.

119/120 was sampled and found to be a large ditch (subsequently renumbered 165 on the stage 2 plan) which was cut by a pit of 18th-19th century date (164). The ditch was c2.75m wide and 0.66m deep and contained four distinct layers of fill. Each layer contained sherds of Roman pottery but these were especially abundant in third layer down, 165c, which yielded a total of 116 sherds. Despite the presence of post medieval features elsewhere in the trench, there is no doubt that this ditch is of Roman date, and the finds recovered indicate that it belongs to the late 2nd-4th century A.D.

Conclusion

The results of this evaluation are extremely interesting from an archaeological point of view and are, it is fair to say, somewhat surprising. Detailed examination of the trial trenches excavated has shown that the entire central portion of the proposed redevelopment area is potentially of great importance as it would appear to contain remains associated with the Roman villa on Broadstreet Common. Features and deposits of Roman date have been found across the width of the evaluation area,

between trench 1 to the west and trenches 7 and 8 to the east, and as far apart as trench 14 to the north-east and trench 9 (and probably) trench 5 to the south-west. These trenches define an area of interest the size of which is provisionally outlined on fig 2.

The villa on Broadstreet Common was first discovered in 1829 by labourers digging for road metalling and is recorded in *Archaeologia*, Vol XXIII (1830), pp. 398-403. Some follow-up work shortly after this led to the recovery of a simple ground plan of the villa at, or close to, the position marked on the Ordnance Survey, but this is believed to be just part of a greater overall complex (Bird 1987, 170 and 176) the eastern extent of which might now be more apparent. Close to the end of World War II, deep ploughing on Broadstreet Common in the vicinity of the villa brought to the surface a number of ironstone mosaic cubes, together with pieces of brick, tile and pottery. The pottery recovered was of 3rd and 4th century A.D. date and is recorded by Clark and Stuart (1946), who also note the presence of occasional Samian sherds of earlier date though are cautious as to the significance of the discovery of this fineware. The pottery assemblage recovered during the recent evaluation, although largely of 3rd and 4th century date, contains significant quantities of material from the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D. and includes coarsewares which indicate settlement of the site (presumably for domestic purposes) from at least this date. It is important to note that the stratigraphy overlying the natural geology was very shallow in the majority of trial trenches, but includes deposits and layers which may be vital to the understanding and dating of the remains present (eg pot scatter 128 on/within layer 129 which may represent *in-situ* primary deposition on an ancient ground surface). No evidence of deep ploughing was found within the evaluation area, so, in view of the damage possibly caused by this activity when undertaken on the Common, the deposits discovered here may be amongst the best preserved of the villa site as a whole.

It would not be profitable to attempt a detailed discussion of the site as a whole on the basis of the information provided by the evaluation as the trial trenches, by their nature, provide only a limited glimpse of the complete picture. Two observations which may be worthy of consideration, however, are firstly, that the majority of box flue tile fragments recovered came from trench 7 and this trench is situated close to Honey Brook - this might enable one to suggest very tentatively that this trench may lie close to the site of a bath house; and secondly, the fineware sherds recovered came mainly from the western side of the evaluation area and

were seldom found in the quantities one might expect on a villa site - this might indicate, as one might expect when the results of the 19th century excavation are considered, that the principal buildings of the villa complex lie beneath Broadstreet Common.

Similarly, it would not be worthwhile to pursue the interpretation of individual trenches as none of those containing features of interest were fully excavated and each is adequately described above; the information presented must, for the time being at least, be taken at face value. The remains discovered include soil layers, walls, ditches, post holes, probable pits (trench 11) and areas of rubble which indicate the site of buildings or lines of communication.

The opening paragraph of this conclusion states that the results of the evaluation are somewhat surprising - this is basically on two counts. In the first place it was thought unlikely that remains associated with Broadstreet Villa would extend into the evaluation area, which they were found to do, and in the second place, it seemed likely that an early medieval farm might be discovered but no remains of that period were found. The former indicates that the boundary to Guildford Park (see above) may have been purposefully created at this point, or at least that it did not follow (as has been suggested) the course of a pre-existing major boundary associated with Broadstreet Villa as the Villa remains are now known to lie on either side of it. The latter remains surprising, though it is still possible that the 13th century farm may lie in the north-eastern part of the threatened area on land which could not be investigated due to the presence of dense vegetation.

The Future of the Site

The land covered by this report can be divided into three parts consisting of two areas of lower interest (Areas A and C) lying on either side of a sizeable expanse which is clearly of considerable archaeological importance (Area B). In addition, the north-eastern part of the threatened area (Area D) awaits to be examined and is not discussed here (fig 2). The following comments are written in advance of the completion of the geophysical analysis of the site, but, although it is hoped that this work will provide a clearer indication of the nature of the remains discovered, it is not expected that the results will change the shape of the area defined by the trial trenches or the recommendations made for it.

It is important that it is understood from the outset that due to the shallowness

(0.05-0.25m) of the topsoil cover which seals many of the archaeological remains, any disturbance of the present ground surface is likely to cause considerable damage to deposits which appear to be remarkably well preserved. Away from the locations of the new buildings proposed for the site (where it is assumed that topsoil will be removed prior to the commencement of building work) damage is likely to be caused by vehicle movements, road and driveway construction, landscaping, the inevitable network of service pipe trenches and other forces. Work likely to be undertaken by the new house owners should also be considered as additional small-scale building (for which planning permission may not necessarily be required), and even activities such as gardening, may be seriously detrimental.

The archaeological options in the context of development available for a site such as this, and the suitability of each, are as follows:

1) *Preservation in situ*: due to the shallowness of the overburden sealing the archaeological remains it is difficult to see how this option could be applied to the site as a whole as any ground disturbances associated with the redevelopment (before, during and after construction work) are likely to be extremely damaging. *Preservation in situ* should certainly be the primary objective for Area B (in line with County and National policy), but the loss of a small portion may be acceptable to enable development of the remaining areas. Untouched areas of B would need to be protected during development and the nature of subsequent land use should be consistent with minimum ground disturbance. The potential of the site is such that English Heritage may consider the remains within Area B and on Broadstreet Common to be best served by the protection offered to them as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2) *Excavate and record*: the opportunity and funding would need to be provided for a full archaeological investigation of all or any parts of Area B likely to be affected by ground disturbances associated with the redevelopment. This would involve the careful stripping of all overburden from such areas, either by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision or manually if believed necessary, and the detailed excavation and recording of all deposits and features discovered. The nature of the remains, particularly where areas of dense rubble are encountered, suggests that such work is likely to be labour intensive and time consuming.

Excavation and recording is not necessarily the preferred archaeological option, though it would be a necessity prior to any redevelopment of Area B. Such work would doubtless be interesting, but it is likely that the results would be difficult to interpret as the contexts would be divorced from contemporary remains lying on Broadstreet Common. It may be considered preferable to avoid excavation, if possible, to such a time as it is found necessary, or thought worthwhile, to undertake a more widespread investigation of the villa remains.

3) *A watching brief:* this may be considered appropriate for Areas A and C, but, due to the likelihood that remains (associated with the villa) may be present in areas which, at first glance, appear of little interest, would need to be more formally organized than is sometimes the case for such observations - 'controlled stripping' may be a more suitable title. This would apply to those parts of Areas A and C to be affected by the redevelopment, and would involve the archaeological supervision of any soil movements taking place during the redevelopment. Mechanical stripping would need to be accomplished by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, and ample provision would have to be made to allow the full excavation and recording of any remains so discovered. Areas containing no features or deposits of archaeological interest could be released immediately. Certain flexibility could be worked into this scheme, for example if the contractors would prefer to complete all necessary soil stripping in one operation or in several phases, but it should be remembered that it may prove beneficial to all if any archaeological remains are identified and dealt with as soon as possible.

Recommendations

The following are suggested recommendations for the short term only:

1) *Complete evaluation:* the north-eastern part of the threatened area (Area D) should be the subject of a formal archaeological evaluation as soon as reasonable access can be gained to it. This area is of moderate to high archaeological potential and recommendations for its disposal cannot be made prior to its evaluation.

2) *Update report:* a final version of this report should, and will, be produced as soon as the results of the geophysical surveys are made available.

3) *Arrange a meeting.* it seems appropriate that a meeting should be arranged between the Principal Archaeologist, Dr D.G.Bird, and representatives of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and The Estate Strategy Section of the Resources Department, Surrey County Council, to review the options and possibilities available.

References

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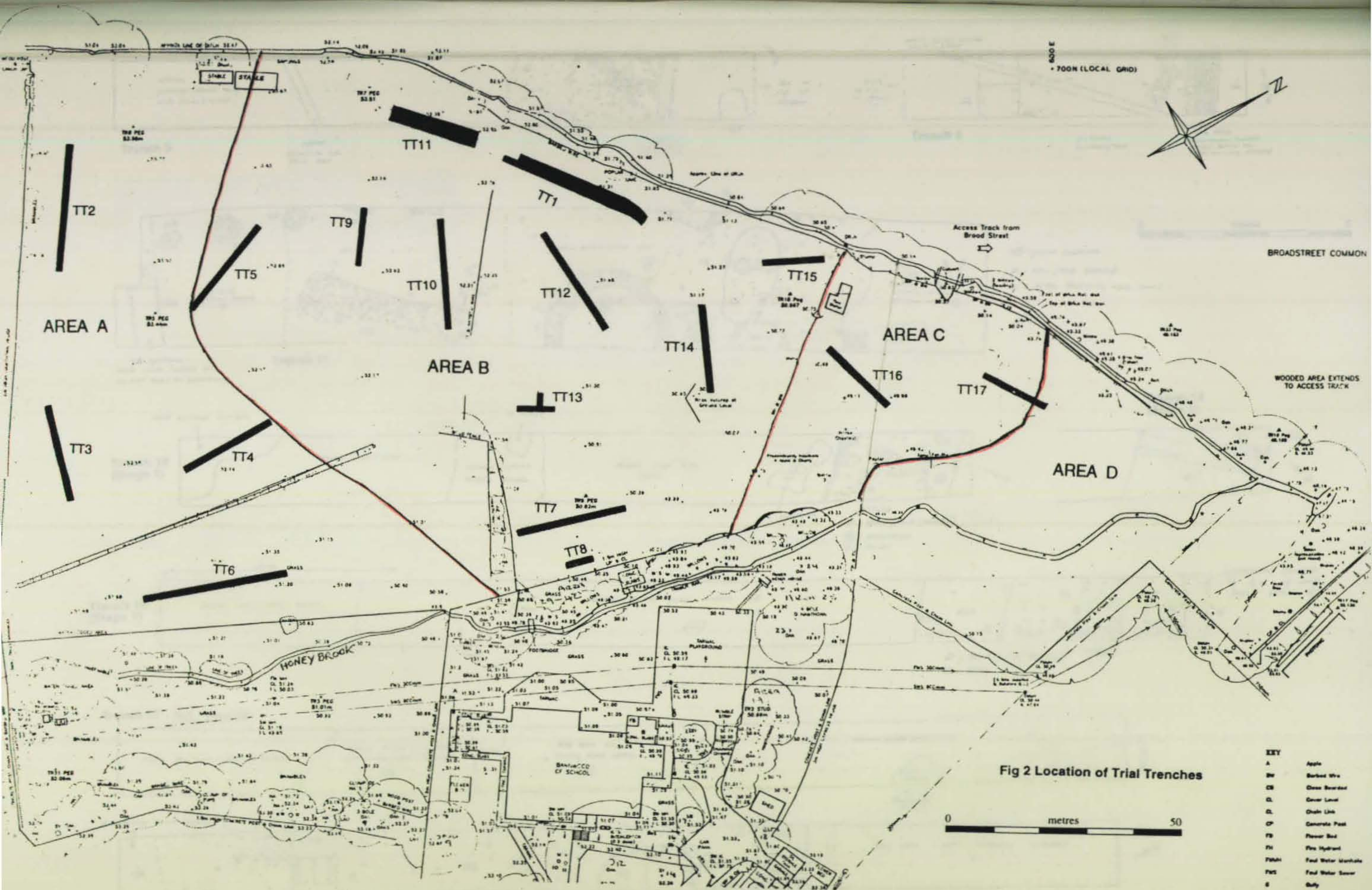


Fig 2 Location of Trial Trenches and areas of archaeological interest.

