

Sutton Archaeological Services

Watching Brief Report

on

Carew Manor School,

Church Road, Beddington, Surrey, SM6 7NH

CMV 07: (TQ 29595 65230)

for

The Governors of Carew Manor School

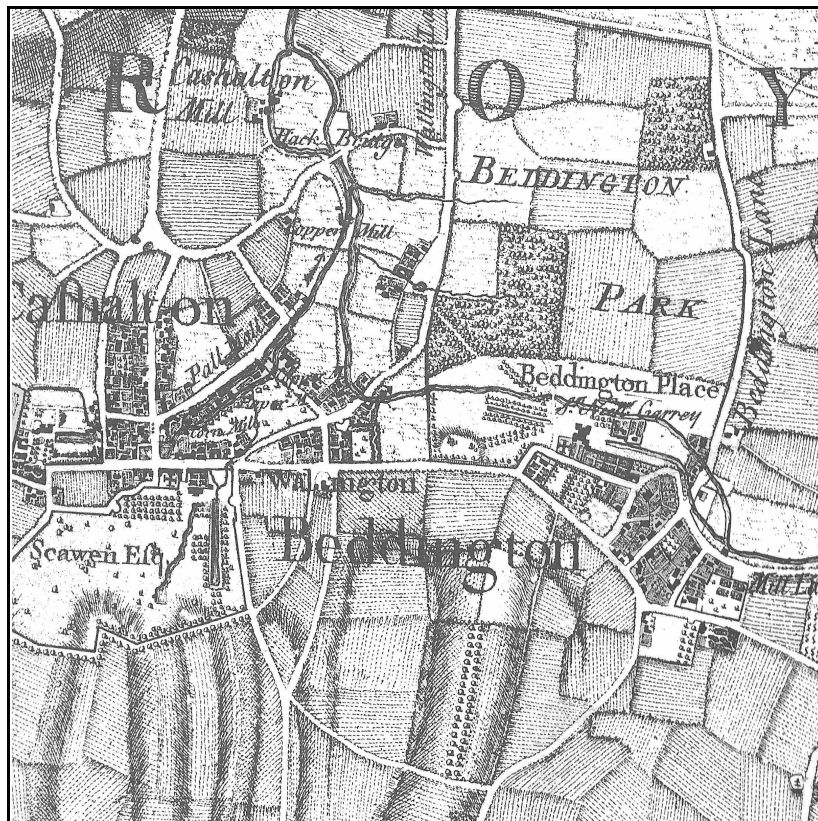


Fig. 1 John Rocque's map of Surrey (1746)

Watching Brief Report

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Carew Manor School,

Church Road, Beddington, Surrey, SM6 7NH

London borough of Sutton

CMV 07: (TQ 29595 65230)

by

J G PERRY: Sept 2007

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Carew Manor School, Church Road, Beddington, Surrey, SM6 7NH on 7th, and between 24th to 30th August, 2006.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Development Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the research design indicated that there was Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology and/or activity in the surrounding area.

2 trenches were excavated across the site revealing tarmac above made ground or turf and topsoil overlying several building deposits above Greensand.

No Medieval or Post-Medieval archaeology was found, but we did recover 19th century Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and a 19th century clay pipe stem.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage

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Introduction

This report relates to the proposed development at the rear of Carew Manor School, Church Road, Beddington, Surrey, SM6 7NH.

The Governors of Carew Manor School (the Developer) commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological watching brief and any subsequent archaeological work that may have been necessary.

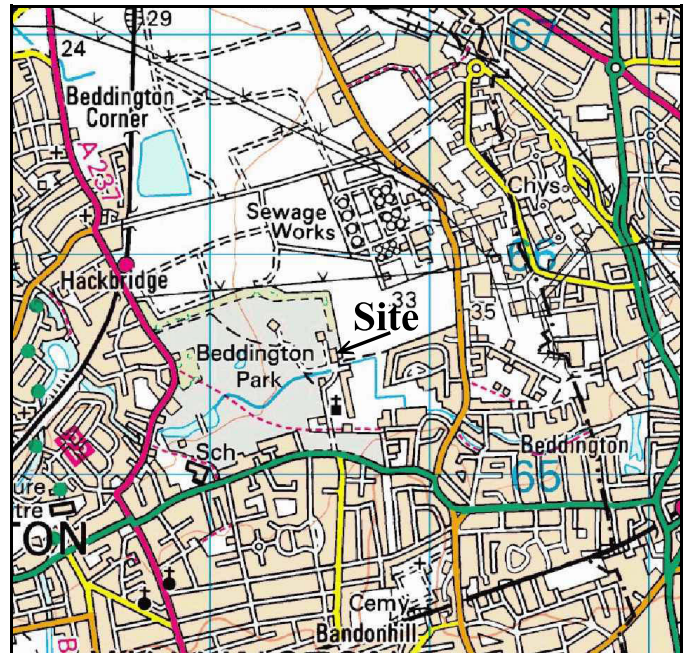


Fig. 2 Location Plan

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Location: The site is situated in the London Borough of Sutton, 2½ km east of Croydon and 3½ km west of Sutton, in an area of archeological importance. It is in a mostly residential area to the west of Beddington Park, south of Beddington Sewage Farm and close to the river Wandle. To the south is St Mary's Church and to the east is Beddington Lane.

Topography: The site lies on the southern side of the Wandle valley at the bottom of the dip slope of the North Downs. The surrounding land is fairly flat at c. 19.61m aOD

Geology: the underlying geology consists of sands and gravel, with Greensand in places.

Planning background

The site is currently a school and further education centre (SCOLA).

The proposed work at the school is in two parts. The first development area consists of the erection of a single storey extension to the inner courtyard to provide parents waiting room. The second development consists of the cutting of a electric service trench during the alterations to the SCOLA building

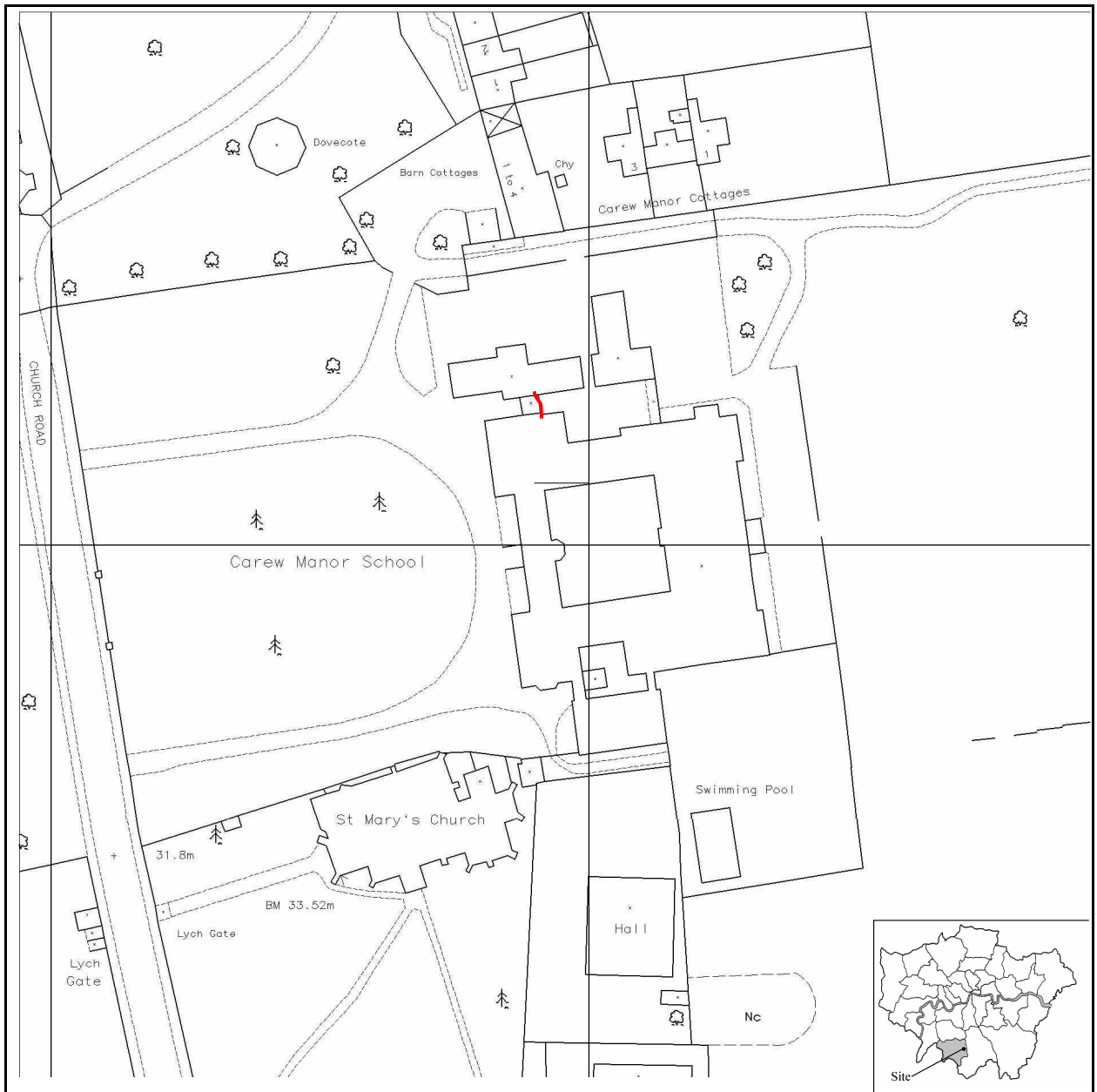


Fig. 3 Site Location Plan © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Planning permission is being sought from London Borough of Sutton, and English Heritage has advised that an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ should be included in any planning decision (applications 07/57351/LBC and D2007/57900/F)

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

¹ Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

Archaeological Proposals and Background

The surrounding area is very rich in the archaeology of all periods, although there is very little detailed knowledge of any early settlements except the Beddington Prehistoric and Roman Villa site.

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the watching brief, there was a low potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon archaeological and activity on site. There was, however, a medium potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeological and activity on site.

Prehistoric: There have been many scattered finds of flint and stone artefacts as well as faunal remains of the Palaeolithic (pre-10,000 BC) and Mesolithic (c. 10,000-4,500 BC). These are mainly on the south of the Wandle, on valley sands and gravels as well as the chalk of the North Downs dip slope², particularly on the Thames Water land at the Beddington Sewage Farm. Several sites are suspected, one just north of Hackbridge railway station and the other to the east of Beddington Lane, just north of the old power station. New signs of habitation have been found close to Mile Lane. A few finds have also been made to the north of the Wandle. Traces of Bronze Age occupation and artefacts have been found to the north-west and north on the Beddington sewage farm³, the London Carriers site in Beddington Lane⁴, and at Beddington Infants School⁵. Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered in Aldwick Road to the east and a fragment of a Bronze-Age axe was found in Beddington park⁶ to the west. There have also been several finds of Bronze Age metal hoards along the Wandle, with the nearest in Beddington Park. Traces of field systems tentatively dated to this period have also been found over a wide area, but mainly on the Beddington sewage farm.

² Adkins, L. 1980 Settlement patterns in the area around Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington: an outline of the evidence, in *THE PAST - OUR FUTURE*, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeol Soc, **4**, 8-12

³ Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J G 1986 'Excavations at Prehistoric and Roman Beddington, 1984-85', *London Archaeol*, **5**, no.6 (1986), 152-7.

Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J. G. 1987 'Excavations at Beddington 1984-87: the Final Interim', *London Archaeol*, **5**, 13 (1987), 349-52.

⁴ Bird, D. G., Crocker, G, & McCracken J. S. 1992 Archaeology in Surrey 1990, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **81**, 166.

⁵ *pers. comm.* Simon Mason, MOLAS.

⁶ Adkins, L. 1985 A Bronze Age Axe from Beddington Park, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **73**, 143.

The remains of an EIA (Early Iron Age) to LIA (Late Iron Age) settlement, enclosing ditch, and possible field boundaries, were discovered beneath the Beddington Roman Villa⁷. EIA pottery was found at Aldwick Road to the east and at Wallington High School for Boys 1 km to the west⁸.

Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

Roman: A Roman site is known at Beddington Roman Villa, where traces of occupation from the 1st to 4th centuries is known. The villa lies about 300m to the north, across the River Wandle.

Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a low potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

Saxon: A Saxon cemetery was discovered in 1871 just south of the Wandle, below what is now Crispin Crescent and Mallinson Road. A further three burials came to light in 1875 at Park Farm near to Carew Manor⁹. A Saxon brooch was found in Beddington Park¹⁰ and Saxon pottery has been identified close to Carew Manor itself¹¹. St Mary's Church is thought to be of Saxon origin and Beddington is mentioned in a number of early Saxon documents. It is known that the Bishop of Winchester died in Beddington in the late 9th century.

Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon occupation on the site.

Medieval to Post-Medieval: The evidence for Medieval settlement in and around Beddington is focussed on the village centre in the area of Guy Road and Church Path, to the east. Quantities of Medieval pottery have been found in Hilliers Lane. By the 13th century the Carew family had secured property in Beddington, which formed the basis of an estate of more than 3000 acres when it was finally dispersed in 1859. Although their first recorded ownership of the land comes in 1820 when the parish was enclosed, it is likely that Carew ownership extended back at least into the later Medieval period.

⁷ Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J G *op. cit.*

⁸ Laws A & Wooldridge, M. 1980 Excavations at Wallington High School for Boys, in *THE PAST - OUR FUTURE*, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. 4, 18-22.

⁹ Perry, J. 1980 Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Beddington, in *THE PAST - OUR FUTURE*, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. 4, 23-8.

¹⁰ Adkins, L & Adkins, R. 1985 A Saxon Brooch from Beddington Park, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, 76, 144.

¹¹ *Pers. comm.* John Phillips.

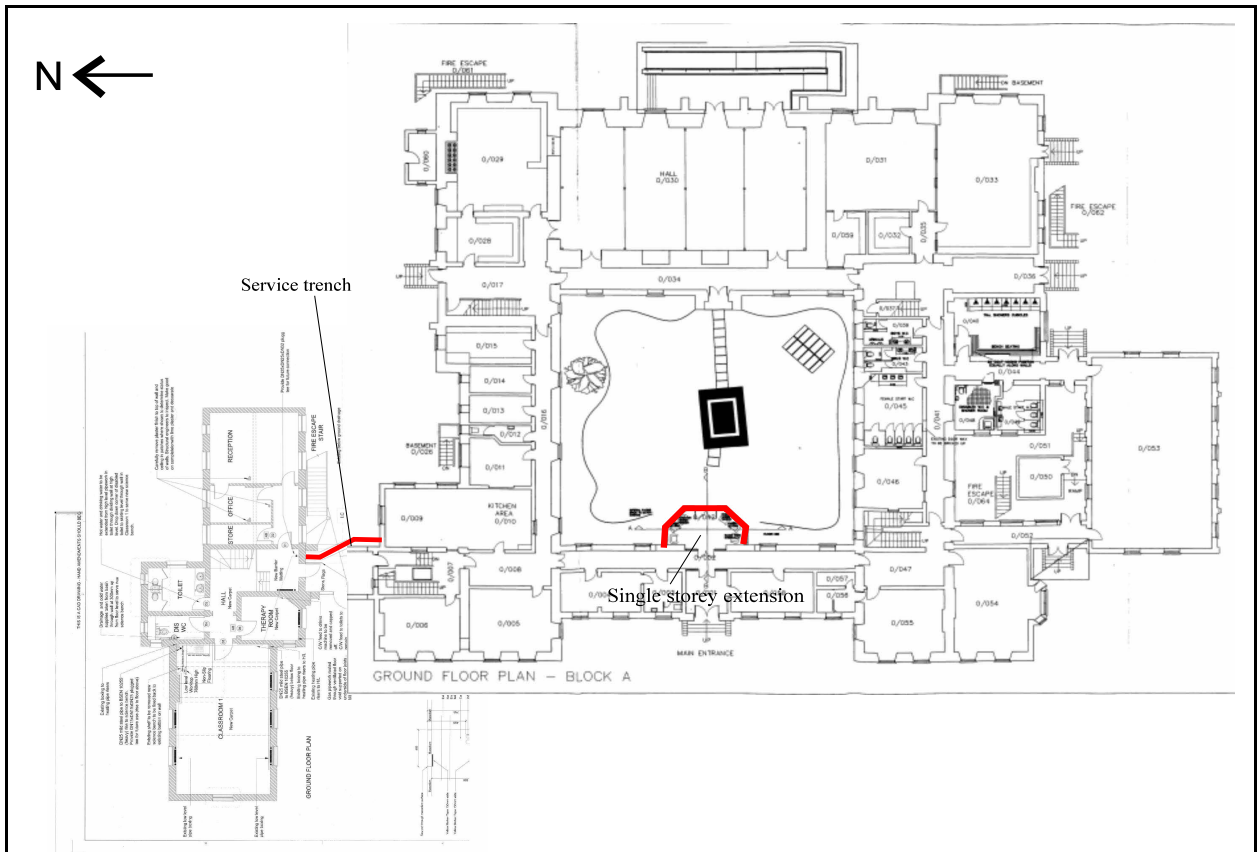


Fig. 4 Overall development plan

The was a Medieval moat site at Carew Manor, the manor later became an important Tudor mansion of the Carew family. The house is built around a courtyard. The core of the east wing is the grade I listed great hall with a hammer beam roof of *c.*1500. The rest of the building is grade II listed. The north and south wings incorporate some Tudor fabric. The north wing was gutted by fire in the 18th century and south wing and kitchen block suffered a similar fate in May 1865.

Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation on the site.

Research objectives

In July 2007 Sutton Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation and activity on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the standard for a watching brief as follows.

“An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the *Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA:

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works

- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard

A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, IFA, September 2001

Archaeological Proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an archaeological investigation is undertaken to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where necessary, to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

SAS proposed to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the new electric service trench and single storey extension.

Archaeological methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological watching brief in accordance with

- our research design dated July 2007.
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for watching briefs

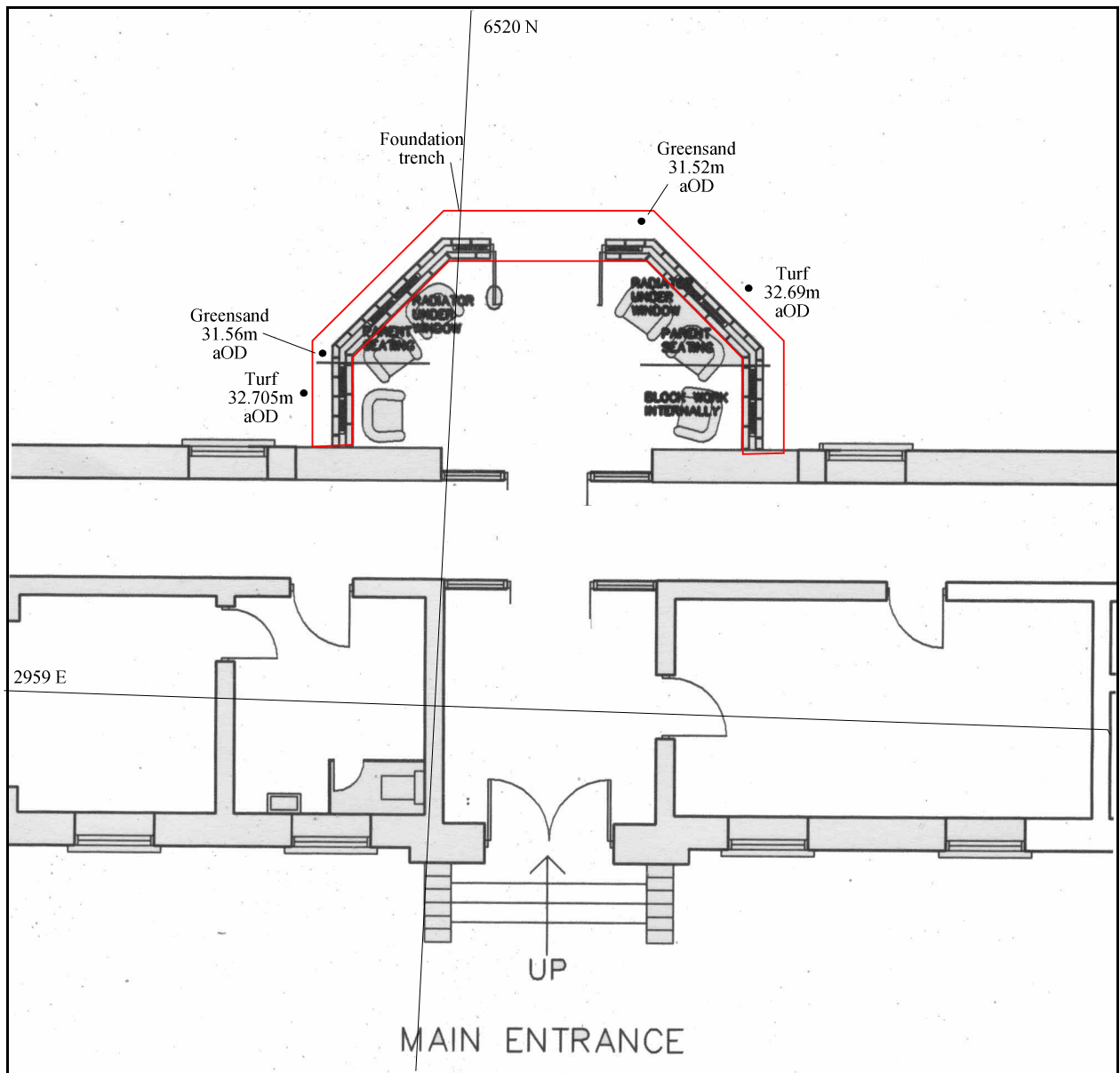


Fig. 5 Extension evaluation trenches

- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.

Control: All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

Trenches: All trenches were hand excavated.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench the contractors removed by hand, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the tarmac, concrete, top and subsoil deposits. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits), at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. In this way the trench were excavated without revealing any archaeological deposits.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. In all, we recorded 27 contexts - numbered [001] to [027] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in our research design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

Levels: All levels were taken from the site level used by the Carshalton, Wallington and Beddington Archaeological Society valued at 32.180m aOD which was related to the OSBM on St. Mary's Church.

Watching brief results

Scola building

The new service trench was located in the northern part of the site and oriented roughly north to south. Context **001** was the tarmac/paving slab surface (32.085m aOD), which covered the trench to a depth of about 25cm.

Below **001** was a made ground deposit, a friable light brown coarse sand [**002**] (31.835m aOD), containing 10-20% small to large flint pebbles and moderate fragments of modern CBM. The deposit extended across the whole trench and was excavated to a maximum depth of 32cm. The trench exposed the footing of the 19th century buildings.

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- Post-Medieval CBM

Evaluation results

Single storey extension

The single storey extension was located on the western side of the central quadrangle. It was dug in 5 sections with the stratigraphy being very similar in each section. The northern section was the more complex and it is this section that is described in detail below.

Context **003** (32.705m aOD) was the turf and topsoil (including part of the tarmac path), which covered the trench to a depth of between 23-33cm.

A brick rubble deposit lay below **003**, a mid-yellowish brown silty sand [**004**] (32.480m aOD), containing 50% 19th century CBM, fragments of crushed mortar, slate, chalk and Reigate stone. The deposit extended across the whole trench to a depth of between 42-78cm.

Below **004**, a pipe trench [**005**] (32.015m aOD) which ran across part of the construction trench, under the present structure, cutting through a silty to a coarse sand [**006**] (32.005m aOD), 22-53cm thick and containing about 60% 'graded' flint pebbles. A cable trench ran through the eastern part of the construction trench [**007**] (32.105m aOD), running below **005** and also cutting into **006**.

Underneath the above was a dark brown silty sand containing [**008**] (31.85m aOD) containing about 5% small flint pebbles and occasional oyster shells, brick fragments and charcoal flecks and lumps. It occupied the eastern part of the northern section.

Context **008** cut into a dump of building materials [**009**] (31.90m aOD). It contained about 40% crushed mortar, about 40% small fragments of crushed brick and tile with occasional fragments of Reigate and other stone, giving it a pinkish hue. The context extended across the western section of the trench.

Also cutting into **009** and below **008** was a dark brown silty sand [**010**] (31.60m aOD). It contained about 30% fine to small flint pebbles, occasional small brick fragments.

The final context was a deposit of Greensand [**011**] (31.56m aOD). The upper surfaces of the Greensand contained small fragment of brick, probably derived from context **008** above. After several hard trowels the brick disappeared, leaving a clean sandy surface. The trench was not excavated any deeper than the Greensand.

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- clay pip stem
- 18th to 19th CBM.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology and/or activity in the surrounding area.

The watching brief only revealed tarmac above made ground or turf and topsoil overlying various building deposits above Greensand.

There was no evidence for archaeology, other than modern, in any of the trenches.

Archaeological Potential

Following the watching brief our revised view is that these areas of the site had no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the watching brief will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.



Plate 1 Scola trench



Plate 2 General view of extension

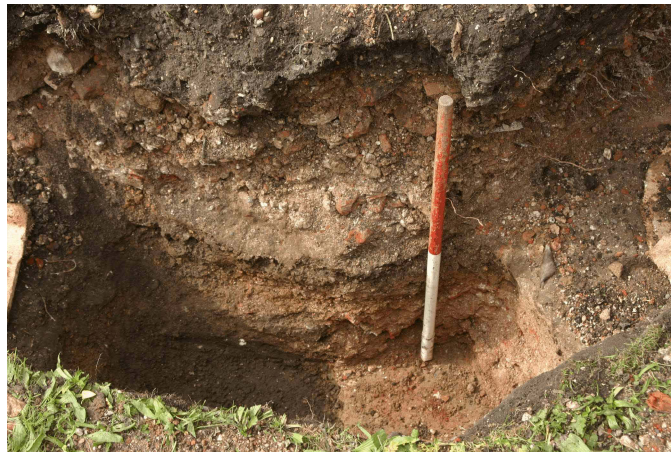
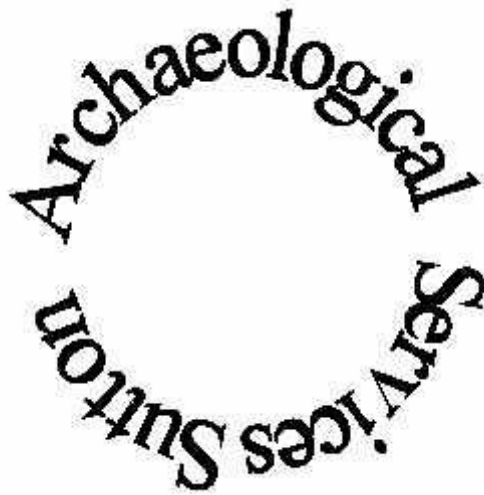


Plate 3 Extension trench: north section



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