

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

on

26-28 Tate Road,
Cheam, Surrey, SM1 2TD
TTC 05: (TQ 252 639)

for

Alia Homes Ltd

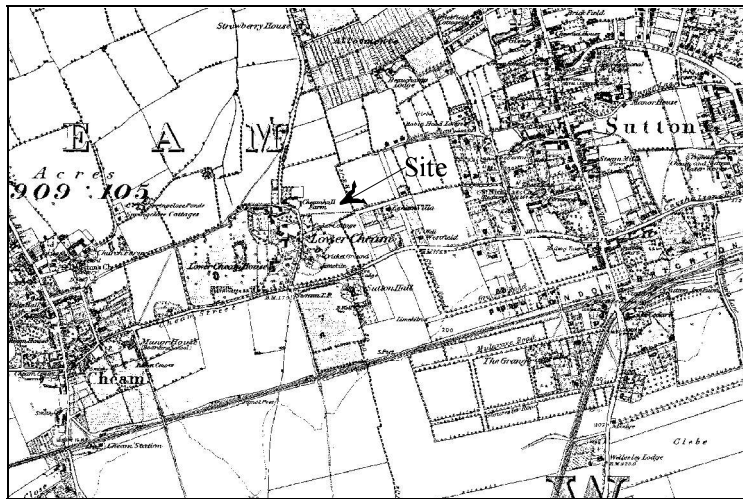


Fig. 1 Ordnance Survey Map (1871)

Evaluation Report

on

26-28 Tate Road,
Cheam, Surrey, SM1 2TD
London Borough of Sutton
TTC 05: (TQ 252 639)

by

J G PERRY: July 2005

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Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 26-28 Tate Road, Cheam, Surrey, SM1 2TD from 20th July, 2005.

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 Prehistoric archaeology and activity in the surrounding area.

One trench were excavated across the site revealing topsoil over the sub-soil and natural sands.

No Prehistoric archaeology or activity was found. We recovered ceramic building material (CBM) dating from the 20th century.

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

Origin and scope of report: This report relates to the proposed development on land at 26-28 Tate Road, Cheam, Surrey, SM1 2TD.

Alia Homes Limited (the Developer) commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that might be necessary.

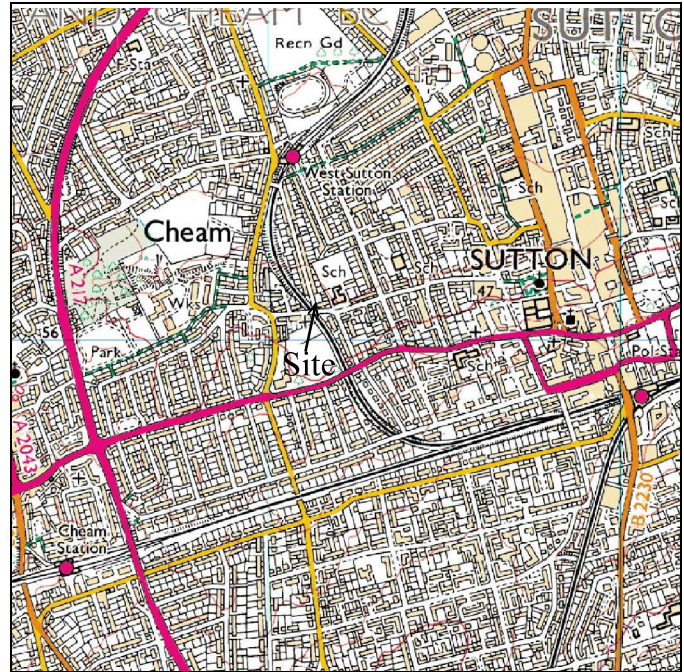


Fig. 2 Site Location © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Sutton, half way between Cheam and Sutton, on the north side of Tait Road. The Thameslink rail line from Wimbledon to Sutton runs just to the west of the site, with the A232, Cheam Road just to the south

Topography: The sites lie in a mainly residential area on the tail of the dip slope of the North Downs. The ground slopes northwards towards with the sites lying at a height of 45-46m aOD.

Geology: The site lies close to a band of Thanet Sand that runs from west to east across the county. To the north of the Thanet Sand lies London clay and to the south lies Chalk.

Planning background

The preposed development area was the site of two residential properties.

The Alia Homes has received planning permission to develop the site for five, 2 bedroomed and one, 1 bedroomed self contained flats, garden and car parking (fig. 4).



Fig. 3

Site Location Plan

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The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Plan (Appendix II of our research design).

English Heritage advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ should be included in any planning approval. The borough included the following condition in its grant of planning consent B2005/53629/FUL date 18th January 2005:

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

- 6 *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a scheme of 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.*

Archaeological discussion

The pre-evaluation potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon and Post-Medieval settlement in the area of the site therefore seemed low, though stray finds from these periods might turn up. There was, however, a low to medium potential for Medieval activity in the area of the site, possibly in the form of a pottery industry.

Prehistoric: Several worked Mesolithic flints have been found in the Cheam area, though their exact find spots are unknown. Many Neolithic implements, flakes and chips are also recorded in the area, while two Neolithic arrowheads were found close to West Sutton station, 500m to the north.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

Roman: The main Roman occupation in the area is recorded at Ewell, though a coin of Tetricus I was found while digging a grave in St Dunstons Church in 1949.

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

Saxon: Cheam is first mentioned in a charter of 721AD when one Frithwald confirmed to Chertsey Abbey 20 hides of land in Cheam. The first grant of this land was said to be in 675. On 15th December 933, king Athelstan confirmed the lands held by Chertsey, including Cheam as did King Edgar in 967. In 1018 Cheam and Merstham were granted to the Cathedral Priory of Christchurch Canterbury.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon archaeology on this site.

Medieval to Modern: Domesday records a manor in at Cheam assessed at 20 Hides and was held by the Archbishop of Canterbury. In the later Middle ages Cheam was known for its potteries. Three kilns have been discovered, one in Parkside dating from 14th century, and the others at 15-23 High Street dating from around 1500. The industry declined in the early 16th century but it survived serving the local market for at least another century and a half. In 1538 Henry started work on Nonsuch Palace which stood in the Parish of Cuddington to the west of Cheam.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Medieval archaeology on this site.

Aims and Objectives

Sutton Archaeological Services carried out the evaluation following our research design dated July 2005. After a brief assessment of the evidence, our objectives were to look for signs of Medieval occupation on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

“The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001

Archaeological proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an archaeological monitoring exercise or evaluation 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.

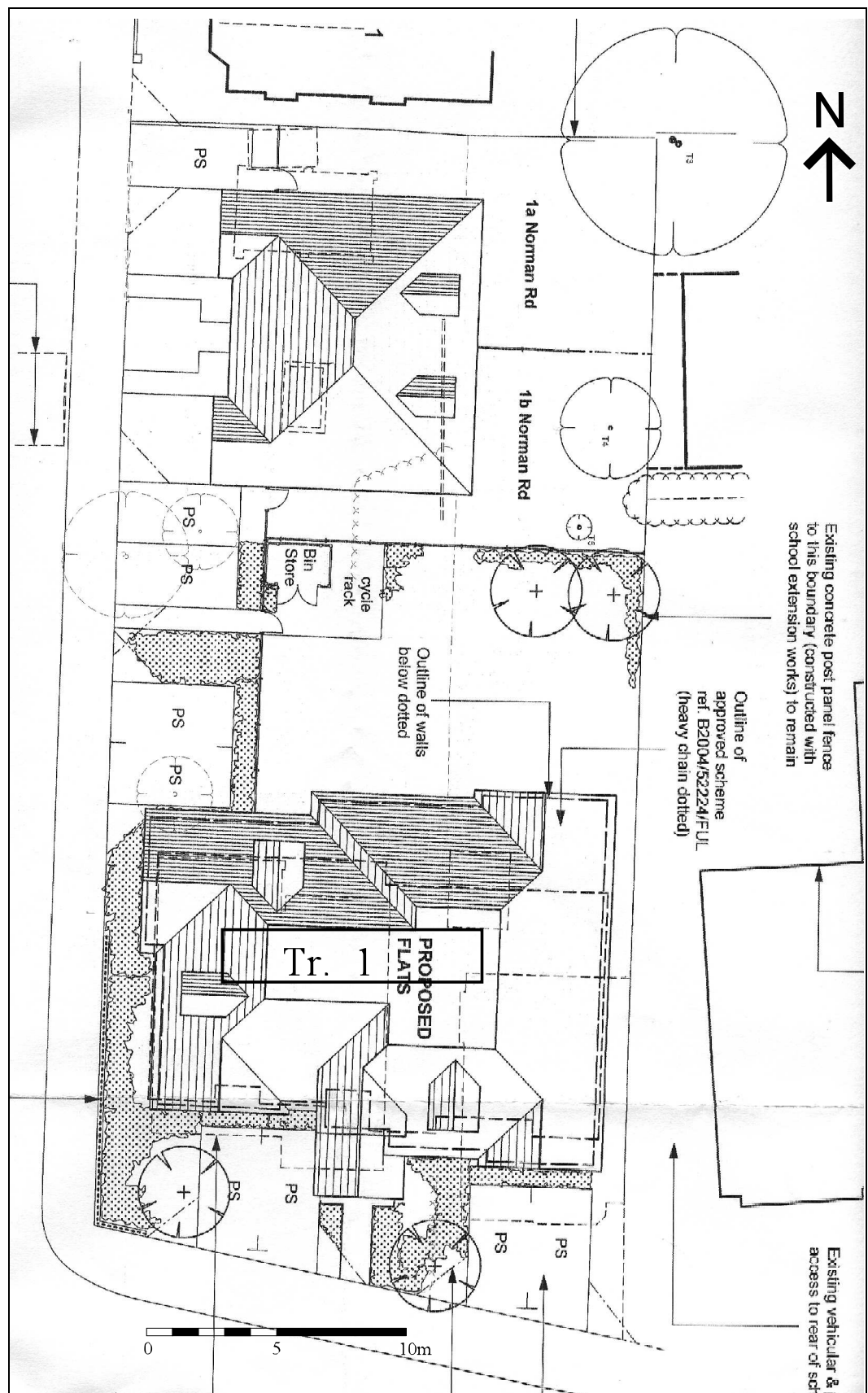


Fig. 4 Development & trench location plan

SAS proposes to cut 1 archaeological trench (10m x 2m) aligned east to west. The trench was positioned in the area where maximum destruction would occur.

Archaeological Methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our research design dated July 2005. (See below for the change we had to make in positioning Trench 2.)
- 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 Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- the planning condition inserted by the London Borough of Sutton's grant of planning consent B2005/53629/FUL date 18th January 2005

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

Trenches: We dug 1 trenches as shown on fig 4. As the current buildings were still extant and were in the way the position of trench 1, the trench was moved approximately 4m north of its intended location. This did not interfere with our aims to spread the trenches evenly across the site, and to position trenches in the area of maximum proposed destruction.

We broke open each trench with a JCB 3CX Site Master, a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket.

Non-archaeological deposits: In the trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits from the 19th century or later. 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. (We excavated up to 10-20cm into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material.) In this way we excavated trench 1 without finding any archaeological deposits.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, sections and photographs. A Munsell soil colour chart was used to determine soil colour and all readings were taken with moist soil. In all, we recorded 3 contexts - numbered [001] to [003] - 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 developers site survey 837/111 dated Jan 2005.

Backfilling: After excavating and recording we backfilled the trenches and roughly levelled the ground, leaving surplus spoil on site.

Evaluation results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the northern part of the site, the rear gardens of number 26 & 28 Tate Road, and oriented east to west. Context **[001]** was the turf and topsoil, a friable, dark brown silty sand (west: 46.28m aOD to 45.779m aOD), containing occasional fine to small flint pebbles and chalk fragments. The rear garden of number 26 Tate Road was higher than 28 Tate Road. Although there was a slight downwards slope in the ground from west to east, the difference in height was caused by dumped soil at 26 Tate Road. The depth of the context **001** was approximately 30-44cm.

Underlying **[001]** was the sub-soil, a friable, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) silty sand deposit **[002]** (west: 45.84m aOD to 45.505m aOD). Contained within the deposit were occasional small to medium flint pebbles and chalk flecks. The deposit had a depth of 45-57cm.

Context **[003]** was the natural silty sand and extended across the whole of the trench. It was a friable, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) fine sand **[003]** (west: 45.38m aOD to 44.98m aOD), containing occasional small to large flint pebbles. Within the matrix of the context were patches of a reddish clay.

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were some fragment of 20th century CBM from context **001**.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

One trench was excavated across the site revealing topsoil over the sub-soil and natural sands.

No Prehistoric archaeology or activity was found. We recovered ceramic building material (CBM) dating from the 20th century

Archaeological Potential

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development does 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 evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

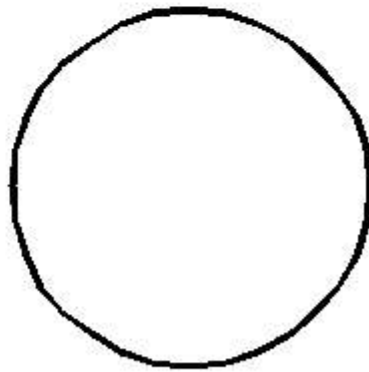
The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.



Plate 1 Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2 South facing section



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