

**REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT 1-11 HIGH STREET  
COLLIERS WOOD  
LONDON**

**DUNCAN HAWKINS BA MIFA**

**NOVEMBER 2005**

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WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT 1-11 HIGH STREET  
COLLIERS WOOD  
LONDON**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON**

**SITE CODE: HCX05**

**SITE CENTRED AT:  
TQ 27030 70736**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during October 2005 on a site at 1-11 High Street, Colliers Wood in the London Borough of Merton. The site was centered at TQ 27030 70736. An archaeological evaluation of the site during 2004 had revealed a Roman Roadside ditch and possibly part of the truncated gravel surface of Stane Street along the western edge of the site. On the north west of the site deposits associated with the River Graveney were identified.
- 1.2 Subsequent to the 2004 evaluation but prior to the purchase of the site by the current developer (Laing Homes South West Thames) the whole site is understood to have been remediated at the behest of its former owners (pers comm. Stuart Hoad).
- 1.3 The October 2005 watching brief confirmed that this remediation had occurred and that any archaeological remains surviving on the site had been removed.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Between 29<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site.
- 2.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken within seven evaluation trenches, of which, five measured 15m x 2m and two measured 2.50m by 1.10m. These trenches were excavated to reveal any evidence of Roman activity associated with the Roman Road 'Stane Street' the route of which is located to the west of the site along the High Street. The original course of the River Graveney was also investigated.
- 2.3 The results of the evaluation revealed the natural sand and gravel overlying clay. Much of the natural had been truncated by previous land use. The top was recorded between 12.87m (trench 1) and 13.89m OD (trench 2).
- 2.4 Within trench 3, located within the western part of the site, was a Roman ditch aligned north-east-south-west and following the line of the route of 'Stane Street'. The ditch measured 2m in length (to the limits of excavation) by 800mm wide by 500mm deep. It had shallow sloping sides leading to a concave rounded base and was filled with blue clay and gravel. Recovered from the fill were a number of pottery sherds from a single 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>-century decorated Roman flask. The ditch was also recorded in two additional trenches (trench 6 and 7) excavated to the north and south of trench 3 in order to confirm the presence and alignment of the ditch.
- 2.5 To the west of the ditch, within trench 3, were successive layers of gravel and silt which may represent the truncated surface of the Roman Road lying a little further to the west.
- 2.6 Within the north-western part of the site as the possible location of the River Graveney. This is noted by a shallow drop in the natural clay of some 700mm which is filled with a slightly organic brown silt. This silt contained a sherd of Roman Mortarium, but also 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century brick. To the east was a coarse yellow sand containing very small snail shells which may represent a flood deposit associated with the river.
- 2.7 A 20<sup>th</sup> century brick soakaway was recorded within the eastern end of trench 2. The remaining trenches were truncated to the top of the natural subsoil with no further evidence of archaeological features.

### 3.0 **RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF**

- 3.1 Observation was made of excavations for piling and services along the western boundary and within the northern quarter of the site. This revealed that natural across the site had been truncated to between 1.00m and 1.20m below existing ground level and was uniformly capped by a modern fill. No evidence for the Roman Road or ditch or for deposits associated with the River Graveney were identified.

#### 4.0 **CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The watching brief confirmed that the reported remediation of the site by its previous owners had removed all archaeological remains, and eliminated the sites archaeological potential.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

MoLAS Summary Evaluation Report, HCW04, December 2004

1-11 High Street, Colliers Wood, London, SW19: Archaeological Assessment, October 2004

Remedial Validation Report, 1-11 High Street, Colliers Wood, London



Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise  
Land at former Lancing Bagnall Industrial Premises, Albion Way, Edenbridge, Kent



Figure 1  
Site location map