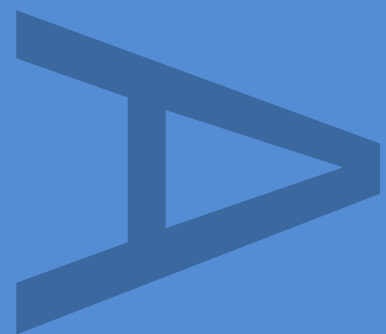


ST JAMES CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL,
GROTTO ROAD, WEYBRIDGE,
SURREY KT13 8PL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF

SITE CODE: SSJP10

JULY 2010



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**ST JAMES CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY
SCHOOL, GROTTA ROAD, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY
KT13 8PL**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at St James Church of England
Primary School, Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8PL**

Site Code: SSJP10

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 0807 6517

Written by Richard Humphrey

Project Manager: Chris Mayo

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2010

Commissioning Client: St James Church of England Primary School

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July 2010

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1 ABSTRACT

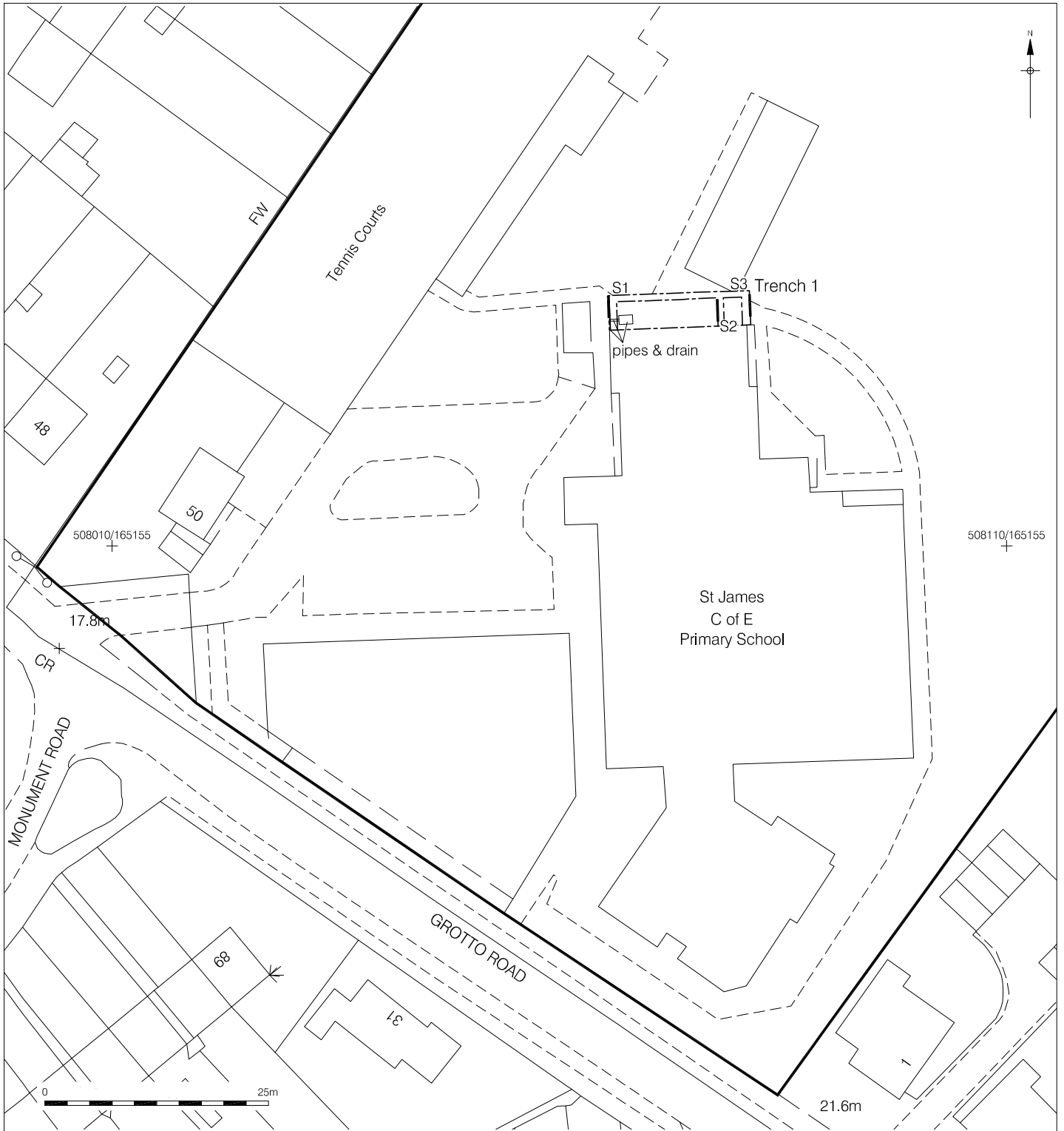
- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a property extension at St James Church of England Primary School, Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey. The watching brief, commissioned by St James Primary School, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on 9th July 2010. The work was required as a condition attached to the planning permission for the development.
- 1.2 The investigations observed naturally occurring stratigraphy at depths ranging from 0.32m to 0.65m below the ground surface. This was characterised as clean yellow-orange sand. Overlying this was a 0.17m to 0.37m thick layer of modern ground-raising composed of gravelly-sand containing modern demolition material and cut by multiple service trenches. This suggests the area was intensively landscaped prior to the construction of present day school buildings. The ground raising was in turn sealed by a crushed mortar and sand horizon which served as bedding and levelling for the modern tarmac surface.
- 1.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds pre-dating the modern period were encountered during the watching brief.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological watching brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during groundworks at St James Church of England Primary School, Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey, required by a planning condition.
- 2.2 The watching brief was undertaken on the 9th July 2010 during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the extension of the school canteen (Figure 2). The works were commissioned by St James Primary School, were supervised by Richard Humphrey and project-managed by Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Gary Jackson, Archaeology Officer for Surrey County Council monitored the works.
- 2.3 The site was bordered to the north by playing fields, to the east by properties fronting Marlborough Drive, to the south by Marlborough Drive and to the west by properties fronting Greenlands Road (Figure 1).
- 2.4 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 0807 6517.
- 2.5 The site was allocated the code SSJP10.



Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)

- 3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of Surrey County Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Surrey Plan mirrors advice contained in the Communities and Local Government document; “Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)”. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 The advice states ‘the desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled. Developers and local authorities should take into account archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process’ (paragraph 18).
- 3.1.3 It also states ‘where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation’ (paragraph 8).

3.2 The Surrey County Council Structure Plan (2004)

- 3.2.1 In accordance with the requirements of Surrey County Council Structure Plan (2004) (Policy SE5 ‘Protecting the Heritage’), Elmbridge Borough Council has adopted a number of policies within its Local Plan (2003) that recognise the need to conserve and enhance the local cultural heritage. These policies are detailed in paragraphs 11.33 to 11.46 of the Local Plan.
- 3.2.2 The development site is not situated in an Area of High Archaeological Potential as defined by Surrey County Council.
- 3.2.3 A search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Surrey reveals that the locality is archaeologically and historically dominated by the remains of ‘Oatlands’, a pre-1500 mansion of the Lord Mayor of London. The site is thought to be occupied by the Oatlands Park Hotel which is now a Scheduled Monument.

3.3 Planning Permission

- 3.3.1 The client has applied for planning permission for the proposed extension, and has consulted with the Archaeology Officer for Surrey Country Council, Gary Jackson, to ascertain what archaeological work may be required. Mr Jackson has stated that a programme of archaeological monitoring should be carried out as the development proceeds.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The site is located at the edge of Quaternary (drift) floodplain gravels and the Tertiary (solid) Bagshot clay beds, as shown in the Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 269 (1: 50 000).
- 4.2 The site is approximately flat with some raised landscape features presumably created as part of the school design. To the north is a flat playing field area and to the southwest is a car park that slopes gently downwards to the north. There is a steep rise of the ground to the east of the study area.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The site is located within land which formed part of the Oatlands Estate and is now protected as an English Heritage Registered Park of Special Historic Interest. This was a pre-1500 mansion of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Bartholomew Reed. The site of the main structure of the estate is thought to be in the position now occupied by Oatlands Park Hotel to the east of the site, now a Scheduled Monument. Oatlands was later adopted as the Hunting Lodge to the Royal Palace of Oatlands and was occupied by Henry VIII in the 1530s. Elements of the estate gates, walls and entrance lodges have been recorded on the Historic Environment Record to the west and south of the site. An entry on the HER records that the landscaped pleasure grounds of Oatlands included 'the remains of a park 500 hectares circa 1747, for the 9th Earl of Lincoln' and that the Broadwater to the north of the site was a primary feature.
- 5.2 Features have been found during investigations within the lands of the Palace; for example a 16th century culvert was found to the west of the site on Grotto Road. The HER also records the remains of a medieval moated manor house to the west of the site on Old Palace Road which was later incorporated into Oatlands Park.
- 5.3 Additionally, prehistoric finds have been recorded on the HER immediately on the north side of Broadwater (a stone axe hammer) and at the far-western tip of Broadwater (a Bronze Age stone hammer and a flint dagger), testifying to the potential presence of archaeology relating to this period.
- 5.4 The site of St James School contains the dilapidated remains of a 19th century grotto, which is located approximately 20m to the east of the area of the new development. It is believed that this was a Victorian folly which suffered extensive damage during World War II and has lain as rubble ever since.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd conducted a watching brief during groundworks which involved the machine excavation of linear strip foundation trenches for the new extension of the school canteen. Figure 2 shows the foundation trenches in relation to the existing building. They covered an area measuring approximately 3.90m north to south and was 15.80m east to west. A smaller foundation trench was excavated at the eastern end measuring 3.20m in length. All trenches were 0.90m wide.
- 6.2 Tarmac hard standing had been removed by contractors working for the client prior to the arrival of the monitoring archaeologist.
- 6.3 The removal of modern ground raising beneath the tarmac and later twentieth century layers was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued through undifferentiated deposits in spits of no greater than 100mm until natural stratigraphy was encountered.
- 6.4 Site records were compiled in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. All written data was entered on proforma sheets following standard 'single-context' recording methods, and a photographic record using digital format photography was made as appropriate.
- 6.5 Multiple modern service runs were seen extending across the area. These included water pipes, electricity cables, a gas main, telephone cables and a television cable. Stratigraphy surrounding these services was carefully hand excavated so as to not to damage them.
- 6.6 The work was undertaken following a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2010) which had been approved by Gary Jackson, Archaeology Officer for Surrey County Council.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 Natural sand [1] was observed across the trench at a height ranging from 0.32m to 0.65m below the top of the modern tarmac surface. This was characterised as clean, yellow orange sand with no inclusions. The foundation trench was dug to a depth of approximately 1.00m below the top of the modern tarmac with natural sand horizon [1] seen to continuing downwards with no variation.
- 7.1.2 The height at which [1] was encountered at the western end of the trench was noted as being at 0.65m below the top of the tarmac. At the eastern end of the trench, it was higher at 0.32m below the top of the tarmac. This suggests the ground naturally rising in height towards the east.
- 7.1.3 No cut features were observed made through this layer.

7.2 Phase 2: Modern Ground Raising

- 7.2.1 Significant landscaping of the site prior to the construction of the current school buildings was suggested by the observation of a ground raising horizon directly overlying natural stratigraphy [1]. This measured approximately 0.37m thick at the western end of the trench and became less towards the east, being approximately 0.17m thick here. This change in thickness is presumably as a result of creating a level construction layer on top of the sloping natural stratigraphy for the school buildings and the tarmac surface.
- 7.2.2 Within this layer were frequently occurring lumps of modern concrete and other assorted demolition rubble fragments combined within a mid to dark orange brown gravelly-sand matrix. The modern nature of these inclusions suggests that demolition of a structure on the site pre-dating the school had occurred, with the resultant material included within the ground raising horizon.

7.3 Phase 3: Modern

- 7.3.1 Several service trenches were seen made through the Phase 2 ground raising horizon. These included a gas main, water pipes and electricity pipes. In several instances, the construction cuts for these services were seen to extend as deep as the natural sand horizon [1]. Stratigraphy was carefully excavated around these features so as to minimise any potential disruption.
- 7.3.2 A modern sand horizon was seen to seal the modern ground raising layer of Phase 2. This served as a bedding layer prior to the laying of the modern tarmac surface. A crushed masonry horizon was also seen in the east of the trench.

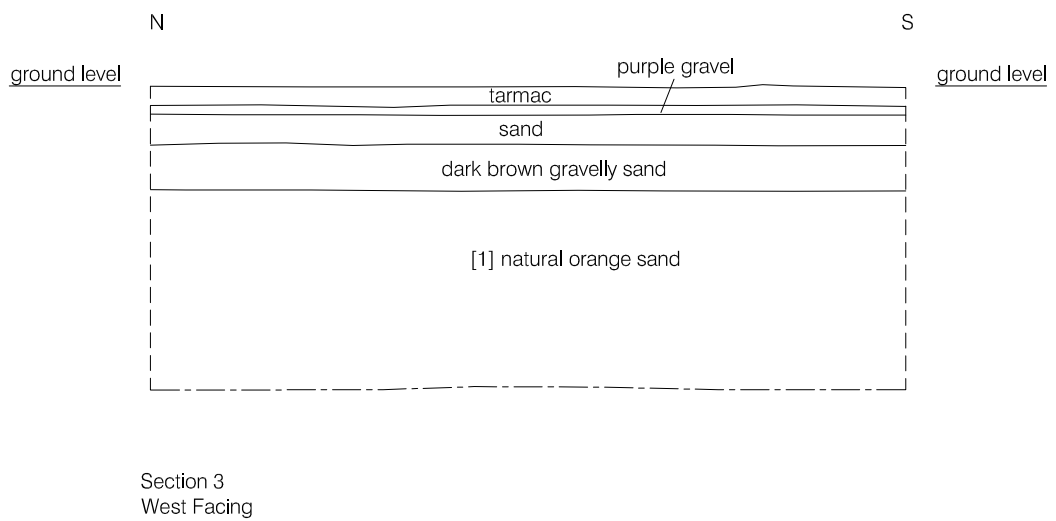
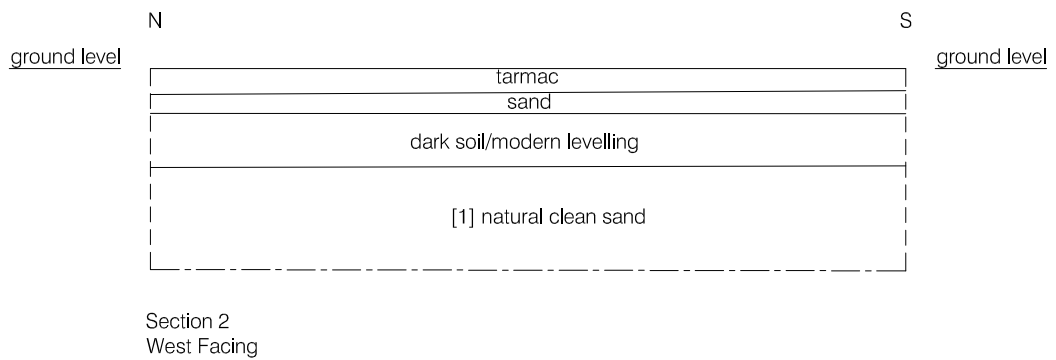
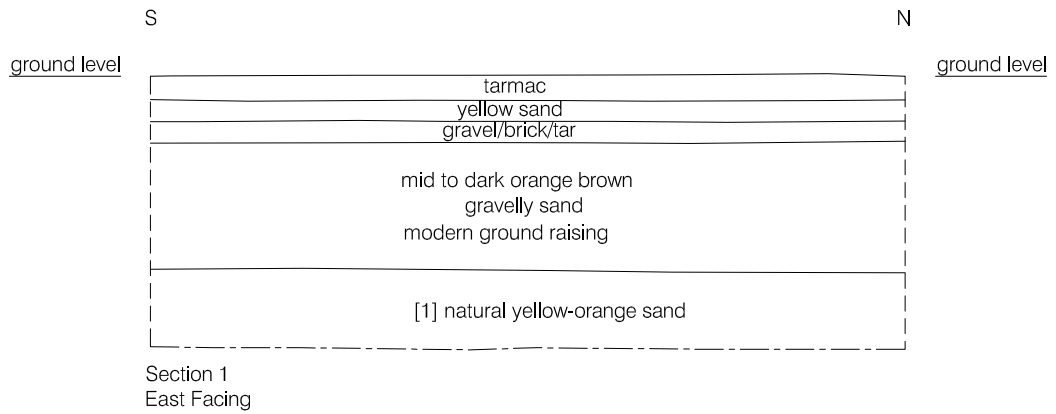


Figure 3
Sections 1 - 4
1:25 at A4

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The foundation trench of the planned canteen extension was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.00m below the top of the modern tarmac surface. This revealed natural sandy gravels at heights of 0.32m to 0.65m below the tarmac. It was noted that natural stratigraphy raised in height towards the east of the area. No archaeological features were seen cut into this horizon and there is a possibility that it was subjected to modern landscaping.
- 8.2 Directly overlying natural stratigraphy was a layer of made ground. This ranged in thickness being deeper at the western end and shallower at the eastern end, so as to produce a flat surface. Modern demolition material was seen within this horizon, presumably from the demolition of structures pre-dating the present day school.
- 8.3 Modern services were seen cut through this made ground layer that in turn was sealed by bedding sand for the tarmac surface.
- 8.4 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed from either the Oatlands Mansion or grounds, or the 19th century grotto feature. If these features were to have once existed here, they would probably have been removed by late twentieth century landscaping of the site.

9 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank St James Church of England Primary School for commissioning the work.
- 9.2 We also thank Gary Jackson, Archaeology Officer for Surrey County Council, for monitoring the project.
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management and Mark Roughley for the illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mayo, C. 2010. 'Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief at St James Church of England Primary School, Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey'. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-80622

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St James Church of England Primary School, Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8PL
Short description of the project	This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a property extension at St James Church of England Primary School, Weybridge, Surrey. The watching brief, commissioned by St James Primary School, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on 9th July 2010. The work was required by a condition attached to the planning permission for the development. The investigations observed naturally occurring stratigraphy at depths ranging from 0.32m to 0.65m below the ground surface. This was characterised as clean, yellow-orange sand. Overlying this was a 0.17m to 0.37m thick layer of modern ground raising composed of gravelly-sand containing modern demolition material and cut by multiple service trenches. This suggests the area was intensively landscaped prior to the construction of present day school buildings. The ground raising was in turn sealed by a crushed mortar and sand horizon which served as bedding and leveling for the modern tarmac surface. No archaeological deposits or features pre-dating the modern period were encountered during the watching brief. In particular, there was no sign of the 19th century grotto or any features cut into natural stratigraphy.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2010 End: 09-07-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SSJP10 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Investigation type	'Field observation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY ELMBRIDGE WEYBRIDGE St James Church of England Primary School
Postcode	KT13 8PL
Study area	64.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 0807 6517 51.3747822409 -0.447140970562 51 22 29 N 000 26 49 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo

Project supervisor Richard Humphrey
Type of Developer
sponsor/funding body
Name of St James Church of England Primary School
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?
Digital Archive LAARC
recipient
Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief at St James
Church of England Primary School, Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s) Mayo, C
Date 2010
Description Written Scheme of Investigation

Entered by Richard Humphrey (rhumphrey@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 4 August 2010

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