

1 ABSTRACT

On the 19th and 20th October 2006 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken to observe foundation trenching for a two storey house at 9 Ruskin Road, Carshalton, London Borough of Sutton, on behalf of Rebecca Hunt. Throughout the course of the works a substantial deposit of made ground was recorded directly overlying natural chalk. This deposit was a late 19th/early 20th century made ground associated with large scale residential development of the area. No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site Location

- 2.1 The site is located in Carshalton, in the London Borough of Sutton. The site is bounded to the south by Ruskin Road, to the northwest by Cator Road, and by residential properties to the east (Figure 1, 2 & 3). The site is roughly triangular in shape and centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 2800 6427.
- 2.2 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area (APA), as designated by the London Borough of Sutton in its Unitary Development Plan.

Development Proposals

- 2.2 Planning permission (Planning Application No.: C2004/53238/FUL) has been granted for the demolition of the existing garden centre buildings and the construction of a detached, two storey, four bedroom house with car parking spaces.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The 1:50000 Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) covering the area (Sheet 270 – ‘South London’) indicates the site to be located on Upper Chalk, with Thanet Beds and terrace gravel present to the north.
- 3.2 The development site is located approximately 200m south of a branch of the River Wandle on the southern slope of gently rising ground, with the highest point located to the southern boundary. The site slopes from 45.89m OD (Ordnance Datum) in the south, to 44.28m OD in the north.

Archaeological Background

- 3.3 The following information is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2006).

Prehistoric

- 3.4 The majority of the archaeological evidence proximal to the site, relates to the prehistoric period ranging from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. Two Mesolithic sites were partially excavated in the surrounding area. An excavation at Orchard Hill, to the north of the site, recovered tools including microliths, scrapers, borers and burins and a complete axe. To the north-east of the site was a Mesolithic/Neolithic occupation site, comprising ditches, pits and a small flint assemblage (Thames Valley Archaeological Services 2001).
- 3.4 Late Bronze Age archaeology has been recorded in the Sites and Monuments Register, mainly consisting of isolated finds. An excavation was undertaken at Queen Mary's hospital, during which archaeology thought to have been a 'mini fort' was recorded.
- 3.5 Little occupational archaeology has been excavated dating to the Iron Age. However, the occasional isolated find has been recorded.

Roman

- 3.6 Little Roman archaeology has been recorded in the local area except for the villa complex in the village of Beddington, to the east of Carshalton.

Saxon

- 3.7 No Saxon sites have been recorded in the local area. A small number of pottery sherds have been recovered in the Beddington area but these are residual in later features. A church is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 and it is thought that a Saxon church lies within close proximity to the current All Saints Church (TVAS 2001).

- 3.8 *Medieval*

The village itself has its origins in the medieval period, and there are occasional surviving structures in the village of Carshalton. Recorded archaeology from this period includes burials, pottery finds and occupational deposits.

- 3.9 *Post-Medieval*

The various listed buildings and cobbled surfaces spread throughout the village form the bulk of the post-medieval archaeological evidence. None of these are present on site.

4 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation were defined as being the following:

- Record the stratigraphic sequence as revealed during ground reduction.
- Collect artefacts and assemblages of finds to understand the nature of any dumped deposits or made ground encountered.
- Record any evidence for structures, occupation horizons and features that may exist upon the site, of medieval or post-medieval date.
- Record any remains of Roman date on the site.
- Record the presence of any prehistoric activity.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of modern buildings on the site.

The final aims were:

- to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.
- to enable an informed decision on the status of the archaeological works and any possible requirement for further work.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared (AOC 2006) detailing the methodologies utilized during the course of the archaeological investigations.
- 5.2 The fieldwork was managed Ron Humphrey for AOC Archaeology and supervised by the author. The site was monitored by the Mark Stevenson of GLAAS (Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton.
- 5.3 A unique site code **RKR06** was obtained from the Museum of London.
- 5.4 The focus of the watching brief concentrated on the visual examination and recording of the foundation trenches for the new residential property.
- 5.5 The footings were excavated with a 2 ton 360° excavator fitted with a 400mm wide toothless bucket. The depth of the footings varied from 1.5m to 1.9m, depending on the depth of deposits present.
- 5.6 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA October 1994).

6 RESULTS

Foundation Trenching (Figure 3)

- 6.1 The excavation of both internal and external footings was observed. After consultation with Mark Stevenson at GLAAS, it was decided that due to the uniform nature of the deposits observed, there was no further requirement for archaeological observations to be made on those excavations undertaken in the southwest corner.
- 6.2 The earliest deposit observed during the trenching was a hard, light grey chalk (003), at its highest 43.90mOD, identified as natural Upper Chalk. This was overlain by an up to 1.8m thick layer of firm, mid yellowish/brown sandy clay (002), containing frequent quantities of poorly sorted, moderate sized chalk lumps. Due to the substantial nature of the deposit and the frequency of chalk inclusions, layer (002) was interpreted as a made ground deposit. No finds were observed within this deposit. Sealing the sequence was a 0.1m thick layer of modern made ground material (001) containing a high proportion of fragmented ceramic building material.

7 FINDS

- 7.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 No archaeological remains or residual finds were identified during the watching brief. Given the potential for such remains being present, as suggested in the archaeological background (see above), and the presence of frequent chalk inclusions in made ground (002), it is likely that any significant archaeological remains were truncated during landscaping activity associated with the residential development in the 19th/20th century. The lack of any subsoil or other natural soil profile would also suggest that this truncation was quite extensive.
- 8.2 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological remains in the area occupied by the development at 9 Ruskin Road, Carshalton. It is therefore recommended that publication be limited to a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology (2006). *9 Ruskin Road, London Borough of Sutton- Written Scheme Of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief.*

British Geological Survey (1994) *1:50000 Series. Sheet 270: South London.*

English Heritage. (1998) *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork 3.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. (1994) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs.*

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (2001): *All Saints Church, Carshalton, London Borough of Sutton, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Detailed Site Location/Trench Location

APPENDIX A Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
001	Made Ground	Site	Site	0.10
002	Made Ground	Site	Site	1.80
003	Natural Chalk	Site	Site	0.10 (NFE)

APPENDIX B OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-19706

Project details

Project name	9 Ruskin Road, Carshalton
Short description of the project	On the 19th and 20th October 2006 an archaeological watching brief, on behalf of Rebecca Hunt, was undertaken to observe foundation trenching for a two storey house at 9 Ruskin Road. Throughout the course of the works a substantial deposit of made ground was recorded as directly overlying natural chalk. This deposit is interpreted as representing late 19th century or early 20th century re-landscaping prior to large scale residential development of the area. Of the deposits observed, none were deemed to possess any significant archaeological value.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2006 End: 20-10-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RKR06 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	7651 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON CARSHALTON 9 Ruskin Road, Carshalton
Postcode	SM5 3BS
Study area	450.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 28000 64273 51.3625693807 -0.161235593621 51 21 45 N 000 09 40 W Point
Height OD	Min: 42.87m Max: 43.90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Chris Clarke
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Rebecca Hunt

Project archives

Physical Archive	No
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Exists?

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London

Physical Archive ID RKR06

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID RKR06

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID RKR06

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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