

**15 – 25 HIGH STREET, CHEAM, LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

CONTENTS

		Page
1	Non-Technical Summary	2
2	Introduction	3
3	Historical and Archaeological Background	4
4	Strategy	7
5	Results	8
6	Finds	9
7	Conclusion	10
8	Publication	10
9	Archive Deposition	10
10	Bibliography	11

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Detailed Site Location/Trench Location

APPENDIX A	Context Register
APPENDIX B	Trench Matrices
APPENDIX C	OASIS Form

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the 24th May 2007 at the site of 15 – 25 High Street, Cheam, on behalf of SB Architecture. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed redevelopment on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised two machine excavated trenches, measuring 10m by 2m. The two trenches revealed that an undisturbed soil sequence survived in the northern area of site, while the southern area of site had undergone a phase of modern horizontal truncation.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed during the course of the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

Site Location (Figures 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 24335 63653, and is within land bounded by Park Road to the east and residential buildings to the north, south and west. The site is irregular in shape and measures 1,350m².

Planning Background

- 2.2 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Sutton. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.3 Planning permission to undertake the development has been granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Ref No.:A2005/54306/FUL), subject to conditions. Condition 9 states that:

“No development shall take place until a scheme of archaeological investigation of the site, including a programme for implementation of the scheme and details of the investigating body, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme.”

This condition has been required in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and was recommended by the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Sutton.

- 2.4 The site lies within a Conservation Zone, as defined by the London Borough of Sutton’s Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.5 AOC Archaeology Group Ltd were commissioned by SB Architecture to carry out the field evaluation. Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced (AOC 2007). This document details how the evaluation, comprising of two trenches, would be undertaken.
- 2.6 Prior to commencing work a unique code for the project was obtained from the Museum of London (**HIC07**).
- 2.7 On site field work was undertaken on the 24th May 2007.

Geology and Topography

- 2.8 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270), indicates that the site is situated upon Upper Chalk.
- 2.9 The site is on a steeply sloping ground, to the east of Nonsuch Park, with the highest point on site at approximately 59.30m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 2.10 Geotechnical investigations were conducted on site by Albury S. I. Ltd (Albury, 2006). The results indicated that dense sand associated with Thanet Beds overlies the Upper Chalk at a depth of between 0.55m and 0.80m below ground level.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The following background information has been drawn from the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, relating to records found within a 1km radius of the site.

Prehistoric (before c.AD 43)

- 3.2 Several worked flints have been found in the Cheam area. To the southwest of the site, a Mesolithic implement was discovered (ML04284), and a Mesolithic flint arrowhead was recovered from the school playing fields at Church Hill Road to the north of the site (ML023070). Further Mesolithic flakes were retrieved from Nonsuch Park by the side of a ditch which formed the boundary of the park (ML023069).
- 3.3 One Neolithic implement, a core and a flake were discovered to the south of the site (ML04347). A late Neolithic or Bronze Age arrowhead was also discovered in Cheam Park to the west of the site (ML04380). Residual burnt and struck flint recovered from medieval and post-medieval features at 19 Park Road (ML08344) are suggestive of Neolithic activity and possible occupation near the site.
- 3.4 Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age pottery sherds were found in Manor Lane, to the southeast of the site in the early 20th century (ML010745).

Roman (c. AD 43-410)

- 3.5 Sherds of Roman pottery were also found at Manor Lane (ML010745). A Roman coin of Tetricus I was found during the excavation for a grave in 1949 (ML023086) at St Dunstan's Church.

Anglo-Saxon (c.451-1065)

- 3.6 During the Saxon period, parts of Cheam probably belonged to Chertsey Abbey. In 1018 it was granted to the Cathedral Priory of Christchurch, Canterbury and it was probably Canterbury that was responsible for the founding of St Dunstan's Church in Cheam, named as it is after a former archbishop.
- 3.7 Despite this, little archaeological evidence has been found in Cheam from the Saxon period within a 1km radius of the site. A spearhead was found at Sears Park, to the northeast of the site (ML04435). It is probably originally from a burial, disturbed during the excavation of the chalk pits to the north of the park.

Medieval (c.1066 - 1485)

- 3.8 The Domesday book of 1086 records a church to the north of the site on what is now Church Road. This was replaced by a medieval church (built no later than 1230) slightly to the north of the original church. The chancel of the Anglo-Saxon church was preserved as a sepulchral chapel (ML018380).
- 3.9 Two ditches dating to the 11th/12th centuries were discovered during an archaeological evaluation at 19 Park Road (ML017701). Both were aligned east-west and contained burnt flint and sherds of Guy's Ware and Cheam Ware pottery.
- 3.10 To the south of the site the medieval seal of William of Haxby was found dating to c. 1300 (ML010762).
- 3.11 Directly to the north of the site a stone coffin was discovered at St Dunstan's Church (ML0 38379). It contained a skeleton, pewter chalice and paten. A second skeleton was next to it.
- 3.12 In the 14th century there were two villages in Cheam; West Cheam was little more than a hamlet around the church belonging to the Prior of Canterbury, while East Cheam was considerably larger and stood in Gander Green Lane to the north of Cheam Road and belonged to the Archbishop himself.
- 3.13 In the later Middle Ages, Cheam became known for its potteries, predominantly for the production of jugs. During works undertaken at No. 19 High Street a medieval kiln (ML010758) was discovered in 1936 below a 16th century house (ML04472). A second kiln was excavated at No. 23, High Street in 1969, measuring 3m long by 2.6m wide (ML04482). It was constructed of Greensand blocks and brick. Finds included pottery sherds of Cheam White Ware and Red Ware. A third kiln excavated in 1923 is believed to have been located at Cheam House on Parkside, to the southeast of the site (ML010759). Immediately to the southwest of the site two medieval pits were discovered during an excavation (ML028350) at 1 Malden Road. They both contained waste material from the

nearby kiln site, including waste sherds, kiln structural material, charcoal, ash and nodules of unfired clay. The majority of the potteries' output went to London until the industry fell into decline in the early 16th century. However, the potteries continued in use locally for another century and a half.

Post-medieval (1485 – modern)

- 3.14 In 1538 East Cheam passed to Henry VIII, at which point Henry started work on Nonsuch Palace. The inner court was elaborately decorated with high relief stucco panels and gilded slate. West Cheam fell into the King's hands when the Cathedral Priory at Canterbury was dissolved and Henry confiscated its property.
- 3.15 At the end of the 16th century Cheam was the seat of Bishop Anthony Watson. In 1596 he became Bishop of Chichester but continued to live in Cheam until he died in 1605.
- 3.16 Excavations at Church Cottage to the north of the site revealed a small wall comprising chalk blocks and tiles. It was surrounded by a layer of domestic waste containing large quantities of Cheam Ware pottery. The waste layer and wall were sealed by a rammed chalk floor with associated postholes, beam slots and footings dating to the late 17th century (ML025499).
- 3.17 Evidence for sand and brickearth quarrying was found at 19 Park Road in the form of several large pit cuts dating to between 1600 and 1950 (ML017747). Two shallow cuts from the site also contained large quantities of 18th century material including glass bottles, pottery, bone and the head of a statue.
- 3.18 To the southeast of the site an excavation at Century House, Kingsway Road revealed a 17th century chalk wall, a 17th/18th century pit and a boundary fence dating to the 18th/19th century. Various other undated features, including a ditch, three small cuts and a pit, were also found (ML04579).
- 3.19 Until 1810 much of Cheam was still open fields. However, in 1810 the parish was enclosed and the open fields were divided up into hedged fields, the only substantial industry being a brewery close to what is now Broadway.
- 3.20 There are numerous Listed Buildings within the 1km radius of the site predominantly dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. The majority of these are residential buildings with a smattering of shops. The Church of St Dunstan dates to the 19th century and the spire is an important landmark in the old village centre of Cheam.
- 3.21 After the First World War the village of Cheam saw a major overhaul, the buildings along the southern end of Malden Road were cleared and the road widened, while the fields around the village were redeveloped into a more urban landscape.

4 STRATEGY

Aims of the Investigation

- 4.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable GLAAS to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 4.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Determine the presence of any remains of Prehistoric date.
 - Determine the presence of any remains of medieval date on the site, particularly with reference to the pottery kilns known to exist in the immediate vicinity of the site.
 - Assess the potential of the site to inform on the post-medieval development and chronology of Cheam.
 - Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the phases of late post-medieval and modern buildings on the site.
- 4.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

Research Design

- 4.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by AOC Archaeology and agreed with GLAAS. This involved the excavation of two evaluation trenches (Figure 2).

- 4.5 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2007). All practices were carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (English Heritage 1998 & IFA 1994). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

Methodology

- 4.6 During the fieldwork the orientation of each trench was altered slightly due to the presence of a modern soakaway located in the central area of the proposed development. The location and size (10m by 2m) of the two trenches remained unaltered.
- 4.7 Levels for each context were established relative to Ordnance Datum, taken from a survey station located adjacent to the rear gates of the site, established at a value of 59.36m AOD.
- 4.8 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Ron Humphrey. The site was monitored by Mark Stevenson of GLAAS, on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton.

5 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 5.1 Surface of Trench = 57.38m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
57.38-57.28m	0.00m	(1/001)	Made ground. Loose, grey, silty sand.
57.28-57.08	0.10m	(1/002)	Topsoil. Soft, mid brownish grey, silty sand.
57.08-56.92m	0.30m	(1/003)	Subsoil. Soft, light brownish grey, silty sand.
56.92-56.87m (NFE)	0.46m	(1/004)	Natural. Soft, light yellowish brown, sandy silt.

- 5.2 Trench 1 was located adjacent to the north boundary of site, orientated east-west. The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, light yellowish brown, sandy silt (1/004). This was interpreted as natural, and at its highest was observed at 56.92m AOD at the western end of the trench. Due to the gradient on the site, the level of the natural decreased to 56.23m AOD at the eastern end of the trench, which meant

the depth of the trench was greater there. The natural sandy silt was overlain by a 0.16m thick layer of light brownish grey, silty sand subsoil (1/003). The subsoil was sealed by a 0.20m thick layer of silty sand topsoil (1/002), which contained 20th century pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. The sequence was completed by a 0.10m thick layer of 20th century made ground.

- 5.3 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 1.

Trench 2

- 5.4 Surface of Trench = 56.80m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
56.80-56.48m	0.00m	(2/001)	Made Ground. Made ground. Loose, grey, silty sand.
56.48-56.43m (NFE)	0.32m	(2/002)	Natural. Soft, light yellowish brown, sandy silt.

- 5.5 Trench 2 was located in the south area of site, orientated roughly east-west. The earliest recorded deposit was a soft, light yellowish brown, sandy silt (2/002). This was interpreted as natural, and at its highest was observed at 56.48m AOD.
- 5.6 Sitting over the natural (2/002) was a layer of modern made ground 0.30m thick, indicating a phase of horizontal truncation had previously occurred.
- 5.7 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 2.

6 FINDS

- 6.1 Finds were observed in a single context (1/002), comprising of 20th century pottery and CBM fragments. These finds were not retained.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and archaeological potential of the site. Natural sandy silt deposits were observed in both trenches, between a height of 56.92m and 56.48m AOD.

- 7.2 The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 1 demonstrated the presence of an undisturbed soil profile sealed by modern construction activity. In contrast, the sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 2 indicated a phase of horizontal truncation had occurred, probably associated with the construction of the current car park.
- 7.3 No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed in either of the two trenches.
- 7.4 The sequence of deposits across the site indicates the least disturbed deposits occur in the northern area of site, with modern truncation occurring in the southern area.
- 7.5 Following consultation with GLAAS, no further fieldwork is to be undertaken.

8 PUBLICATION

- 8.1 It is recommended that publication of the results is achieved by a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 9.1 The archive, consisting of paper records, finds, and digital photographs, will be deposited with LAARC.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology (2007). *15 – 25 High Street, Cheam, London Borough of Sutton: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

British Geological Survey (1:50,000 series). *South London, Sheet 270.*

English Heritage (1998). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork. (English heritage London Region).*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.*

Figure 1

Figure 2

APPENDIX A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1/001	Made ground	10m	2m	0.23m
1/002	Topsoil	10m	2m	0.37m
1/003	Subsoil	10m	2m	0.30m
1/004	Natural	10m	2m	N.F.E
2/001	Made ground	10m	2m	0.79m
2/002	Natural	10m	2m	N.F.E

APPENDIX B- Trench Matrices

Trench 1

1/001

1/002

1/003

1/004

Trench 2

2/001

2/002

APPENDIX C – OASIS Form

2.11 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-27500

Project details

Project name	15 - 25 High Street, Cheam
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the 24th May 2007 at the site of 15 to 25 High Street, Cheam, on behalf of SB Architecture. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed redevelopment on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised two machine excavated trenches, measuring 10m by 2m. The two trenches revealed that an undisturbed soil sequence survived in the northern area of site, while the southern area of site had undergone a phase of modern horizontal truncation. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed during the course of the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 24-05-2007 End: 24-05-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	7822 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HIC07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON SUTTON AND CHEAM 15 - 25 High Street, Cheam
Postcode	SM3 8PZ
Study area	1350.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 24335 63653 51.3578123448 -0.214073542213 51 21 28 N 000 12 50 W Point
Height OD	Min: 56.48m Max: 56.92m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Tim Carew
Project supervisor	Chris Clarke
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	SB Architecture

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	HIC07
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Digital Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	HIC07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Paper Archive notes	To be held at AOC until ready to archive

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	15 – 25 HIGH STREET, CHEAM, LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication London

Description A4 text and illustrations

Entered by Chris Clarke (chrisclarke@aocarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 8 June 2007