

## 1 ABSTRACT

*On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007 archaeological monitoring was carried out on the top soil stripping of the new multi-sport ball court located to the north-east of the Culvers House School block, Mitcham.*

*No archaeological features or artefacts, even in residual form, were recorded.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### Site Location

- 2.1 The site is centered on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 2818 6638, and is within land bounded by Orchard Avenue to the north, London Road to the east, Medland Close to the south and Eindhoven Close to the west.

### 2.2 Planning Background

The local planning authority is the London Borough of Sutton. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).

Planning permission to undertake the development has been granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Ref No.: 06/57030), subject to conditions. The condition states that:

*“No demolition or development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This condition will only be considered to be discharged when the planning authority have received and approved archaeological reports of all the required works.”*

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.

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared as a requirement of the Conditional Planning Permission.

The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area, as defined by the Unitary Development Plan for the Borough.

The proposed scheme involves the construction of a new multi-sport ball court. The construction of the court will involve the stripping of the overlying topsoil within the development area.

In accordance with PPG 16, it has been imposed as a condition on planning consent by the LPA archaeology advisor that an archaeological Watching Brief be carried out, in order to record any archaeological deposits and features exposed during the development.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The author monitored the topsoil reduction of a rectangular area 13.30m north-South x 22.60m east-west. The depth of reduction was c. 0.15 m by toothless bucket mini-digger.

### **4 RESULTS**

- 4.1 The current topsoil was a dry, moderately compact mid yellowish brown sand clay silt with moderate inclusions of stone, nails, plastics, glass, tile fragments, modern pottery and metal pieces. On the western side of the excavated area was a concentrated dump of kerb edging pieces and loose tarmac. In one area investigation below a piece of dumped kerbstone revealed a rich, dark brown humic soil 0.25 m below the surface.

### **5 FINDS**

- 5.1 No finds were collected during the course of the watching brief.

### **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The current topsoil is almost certainly made ground from the dumping and levelling of surplus brickearth soil from the construction of the Culvers House School itself. Indeed the plot of land seemed slightly higher than the gardens either side.
- 6.2 The made ground sealed the previous ground surface, below which the impact of construction of the new ball court is negligible.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

AOC Archaeology Group (2007). *Culvers House School, Mitcham. Archaeological watching brief – Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Figure 1 Site Location



APPENDIX A

CONTEXT REGISTER

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
1/001	Tarmac/modern made ground	22.6m	13.3m	0.17>0.25m
1/002	Dark brown humic soil	22.6m	13.3m	UX

## APPENDIX B

### OASIS DATA COLLECTION

#### **OASIS ID: aocarcha1-31537**

##### Project details

Project name	Culvers House School Watching Brief
Short description of the project	A watching brief was conducted on the topsoil stripping for a new multi sport ball court to the North East of the school grounds. The area observed was 13.30m x 22.60m. no archaeological evidence was observed.
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2007 End: 17-09-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	CVU 07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	7750 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON SUTTON AND CHEAM Culvers House School, Mitcham
Postcode	CR4 4JH
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2818 6638 51.3814665067 -0.157891194120 51 22 53 N 000 09 28 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology Group
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	AOC Archaeology Group
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	P.Fitz
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	CVU 07
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Digital Archive notes	report text and figures, LAARC metadata tables where applicable
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	CVU 07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Microfilm','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	report pending, site note sheets x 2 . will microfilm in near future

## Project bibliography

### 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Culvers House School, Mitcham; An Archaeological watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	P.Fitz
Date	2007

Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology London
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology London
Description	A4 sized brief text and site location figures

