

## 1 ABSTRACT

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between XX at Walworth Academy, Mina Road, London Borough of Southwark. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development of the site on any surviving archaeological remains.*

*The evaluation consisted of three machine excavated trenches;*

*The evaluation revealed....*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document is a report on an archaeological evaluation at Walworth Academy, Mina Road, London Borough of Southwark (Fig 1).

### Site Location

- 2.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 533525 178298, and is within land bounded by Mina Road to the north, the backs of properties fronting onto Old Kent Road to the east, Shorncliffe Road to the south and the existing school to the west.
- 2.3 The site is sub-rectangular in shape and has dimensions of 90m (N/S) x 45m (E/W) (Fig 2). The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 0.4 hectares (4,050 m<sup>2</sup>).
- 2.4 The site is currently occupied by a largely hard surfaced playground used by the school lying to the west. The school is still in use as an educational institution.

### Planning Background

- 2.5 The local planning authority is Southwark Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Christopher Constable, Senior Archaeological Officer, Southwark Council.
- 2.6 In accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of the Senior Archaeological Officer, Southwark Council, in line with the *Southwark Plan (UDP) July 2007 policy 3.19*, an archaeological investigation is to be carried out as a requirement before planning consent is granted.
- 2.7 The proposed scheme involves the redevelopment of the secondary school occupying the future Walworth Academy site as part of the Southwark Schools for the Future Programme. The area for the proposed new development may utilise the present school playground.
- 2.8 The site does not lie within an Archaeological Priority Zone but is located adjacent to the Old Kent Road Archaeology Priority Zone. No listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments lie within the development area.
- 2.9 The first stage in the Archaeological Investigation was the production of a Desk Based Assessment (Faber Maunsell 2006). The potential of the site was also discussed by MoLAS as part of their study of the Aylesbury Estate (MoLAS 2006).

- 2.10 The evaluation consisted of three trenches, with the overall aim of allowing the Archaeological Advisor to the LPA to make an informed decision on the requirement for any further mitigation works. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by AOC Archaeology and approved by the Archaeological Advisor, (AOC, 2007).

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey map (BGS Sheet 270) indicates that the site is situated upon River Terraces (1) which overly Woolwich and Reading Beds.
- 3.2 The area to be investigated is contained within the playground of the present school and is flat. An Ordnance Survey benchmark to the north of the site on Mina Road gives a spot height of 2.78m OD
- 3.3 No geotechnical investigations have been conducted within the proposed development area.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The following background information is drawn from the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (Constable 2007).
- 4.2 The future Walworth Academy is located on a site adjacent to the Old Kent Road Archaeology Priority Zone. The line of the modern Old Kent Road reflects the alignment of the Roman road between London and Kent. MoLAS have predicted that the line of this feature may run to the south of the line of the modern road crossing the development site of the Walworth Academy. The Greater London Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record indicate that archaeology dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods has been identified in the area around the school.
- 4.3 An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken immediately to the south of the site at 14-38 Albany Road in 1990 identified Roman and prehistoric archaeological deposits below c. 1.1-1.3m of post-medieval made ground. Trench three of this evaluation produced a quantity of Roman pottery and fragments of building materials. This material was deposited in a band approximately 600mm wide running west-east overlying a flood deposit and was associated with a man-made gully to the south. Possibly, this material represented a rudimentary path along the marsh. The fill of this trench contained well-preserved plant material suggestive of a marshy bog environment as the result of the marsh area having been flooded. It is only this trench that revealed Roman material; other trenches had suffered from considerable truncation due to post-medieval development. All four trenches revealed extensive marsh silts and clays overlying bands of peat sealing sands and natural gravels. Within trenches two, three and four a man-

made gully was identified cut into the sands and gravels. This was filled with dark silt and a mass of water carried twigs. The excavators interpreted this feature as possibly part of a complex of small dykes representing an early attempt to drain the marsh. This feature was blocked by woodland material causing floods and deposits of silts and clays.

- 4.4 Within the wider area around the site archaeological research related to development has focused to the north side of the Old Kent Road. The archaeological work undertaken to the north side of the road has not identified any likely sections of the Roman Road, however material and activities likely to occur in roadside contexts has been identified. To the north of the road line archaeological work has revealed burials at 279 Old Kent Road (MLO11513) and Roman sculptural finds at St. Thomas' Watering Place (MLO11472).
- 4.5 Immediately to the opposite side of the Old Kent Road excavations prior to the construction of the Tesco store evidence for Roman and prehistoric activity was recovered. The prehistoric material from this site was mostly found in secondary contexts, redeposited in Roman features. There was a sufficient volume of material for the excavators to conclude a prehistoric presence on site. Roman activity on this site consisted of a number of ditches, in the first phase of activity associated with agricultural activities, together with evidence for a structure, presumably a field entrance. Later activity can be characterised as land management above the areas of low-lying marsh to the east. Environmental analysis shows that these later ditches were subject to occasional flooding. The ditches also appear to be too late to be connected with the layout of Watling Street. The Roman ditches encountered at this site survived at 1m OD, approximately 1.5m below the ground surface at the time of the excavation.
- 4.6 Extensive excavations undertaken in the area of Humphrey Street, again to the north of the line the Old Kent Road, revealed further evidence for prehistoric activity in the area around the modern Old Kent Road. This activity was presumably linked to the possibility of exploiting the river and lakes in this area. Roman activity was confined to ditches likely to be linked to land management and drainage. The presence of the channel running under Humphrey Street, and the lower lands to the east of this channel is taken to indicate that the line of the Roman road is likely to have been under the modern road or further to the south-west.
- 4.7 Sections of the Roman road have been identified at a number of sites within the wider area around the school site. These have lead MoLAS to propose a route for the line of the Roman Old Kent Road, Watling Street, which potentially crosses the playground of the present Walworth Upper School. The most significant sites where the road has been encountered are at the B&Q Depot and roadside ditches have been identified at 82-96 Old Kent Road.
- 4.8 The proposed line of the Old Kent Road has been estimated from finds of the road surface at the B&Q Depot, Bowles Road where a '...substantial stretch of Watling

Street (Roman Road I) was excavated, parallel to and 20m distant from ditches to either side. A section through the road showed it to consist of several layers, including two distinct upper levels of gravel metalling.’ The road was found in association with evidence for prehistoric activity (Site BAQ90 Archaeology in Greater London 1965-1990).

- 4.9 Trenching over the area of 82-96 Old Kent Road revealed linear features interpreted as roadside ditches which would run parallel to the predicted line of the Old Kent Road. Trenching at this site also revealed a Roman structure of 6.4m by 5m constructed from Kentish Ragstone. A number of pits cut into natural deposits at the site were found. One contained the base of an amphora possibly with the remains of a cremation within it. A timber-lined pit was also identified. Other pits were interpreted as being lined with clay. Over the rest of the site natural deposits were sealed by an agricultural soil that contained fragmentary Roman pottery. The tops of the roadside ditches were identified at approximately 1m OD.
- 4.10 The archaeological assessment of the Aylesbury Estate produced by MoLAS shows that the development of the Walworth Academy area dates from after 1807 and to before 1824-6, by which time Albany Road has been laid out. There is evidence for earlier buildings on the Old Kent Road frontage, but their extent and development appears generally to be confined to the street frontage. Rocque’s Map of London (1746) shows occasional buildings fronting onto the street with associated gardens, orchards and plots.

## **5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined in the WSI (AOC 2007) 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 assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To enable the Senior Archaeological Officer, Southwark Council to make an informed decision on the status of the planning application, and any possible conditions for further work required if the application is approved.
  - To make available to other parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.
- 5.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:
- Determine the evidence for prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval use of the site

- Determine to what extent has the post-medieval development of the Old Kent Road area truncated or removed archaeological remains
  - Determine if remains of Watling Street survive on the site.
  - Determine if remains of the Earls Sluice survive on the site
  - Evaluate and assess the geoarchaeology of the site.
- 5.3 The final aim was to make the results of the investigation available to interested parties subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of three 20m x 2m trenches (at base), representing a 3% sample of the site area.
- 6.2 All machining was carried out using an appropriate excavator, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. A toothless ditching bucket was used. Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the natural geology, as significant archaeological horizons were not encountered above this.
- 6.3 The site code **WCY 07** was obtained for the project, and used for all fieldwork.
- 6.4 All trenches were accurately located to the National Grid. A temporary benchmark with a value of **XX**mAOD was established on the site.
- 6.5 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the *Archaeological Field Manual 3rd edition* (MoL 1994).
- 6.6 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. The following registers were kept on standardised forms: contexts; sections; plans; and photographs.
- 6.7 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

## 7 RESULTS

### Trench 1

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description

7.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological finds or features.

### Trench 2

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description

7.2 Trench 2 contained no archaeological finds or features.

### Trench 3

OD Height	Thickness	Context	Description

7.3 Trench 3 contained no archaeological finds or features.

## 8 FINDS

8.1

## 9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey map (*BGS Sheet 270*)

Constable, C (2007). *Brief for an archaeological Evaluation at Walworth Academy, Mina Road, London Borough of Southwark*

Council for British Archaeology (1987). *First Aid For Finds (Second Edition)*.

Department of the Environment (1990). *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)*.

Museum of London 1994. *Archaeological Field Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*



*Figure 1: Site location*

*Figure 2: Trench location*

*Figure 3: Trench 3 plan and section*

*Figure 4: Trench 1 & 4 sample sections*

## **APPENDIX A – Context Register**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>

NFE = No Further Excavation

## **APPENDIX B**

## Appendix C – Oasis Form

### 6 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

#### 6.2.1 Printable version

6.3 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-27220

##### Project details

Project name	BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL, RUISLIP, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 8th and 15th May 2007 at Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development of the site on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation consisted of three machine excavated trenches; one measuring 2.00m wide and 20.00m long and two measuring 2.00m wide and 41.00m long. A fourth trench (Trench 2) could not be excavated due to existing buildings on the site. Natural silt and clay was recorded in Trenches 3 and 4. A ditch, containing several sherds of pottery, cut the natural silt in Trench 3. The natural clay in Trench 1 was contaminated with hydrocarbons and was sealed by a 20th century made ground layer of rubble, over 1.00m thick. No significant archaeological remains were identified other than the ditch in Trench 3.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2007 End: 15-05-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRX 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Significant Finds	POTTERY Uncertain
Methods &	'Sample Trenches'

techniques

Development type    Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts  
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 HILLINGDON RUISLIP Bishop Ramsey School,  
Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon

Postcode                    HA4 8EE

Study area                  3.58 Hectares

Site coordinates          TQ 1033 8787 51.5783988843 -0.407589079178 51 34 42 N 000 24 27  
W Point

Height OD                  Min: 47.96m Max: 53.54m

### **Project creators**

Name of  
Organisation                AOC Archaeology

Project brief  
originator                    AOC Archaeology

Project design  
originator                    AOC Archaeology

Project  
director/manager            Andy Leonard

Project supervisor        Dan Eddisford

Project supervisor        Andy Leonard



*WAIWORTH ACADEMY, MINA ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK: AN INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT*

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	GHM Rock Townsend

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Archive ID	BRX07
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Physical Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with Museum of London
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	BRX07
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with Museum of London
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	BRX07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media	'Context'

available sheet', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes Archive to be retained at AOC until ready for deposition with Museum of London

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Bishop Ramsay School, Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon. Unpublished Report.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Brooks, S.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology Group

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology Group

Description A4 bound document

### **Project bibliography 2**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Bishop Ramsay School, Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Leonard, A.

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology

Description A4 bound document

### **Project bibliography 3**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL, RUISLIP, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: AN INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Eddisford, D.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology
Description	A4 bound document

Entered by	Andy Leonard (andyleonard@aocarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	29 May 2007

### **Project bibliography 4**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	BISHOP RAMSEY SCHOOL, RUISLIP, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pole, C; Guarino, P
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology
Description	A4 bound document

Entered by Chris Pole (Chris.Pole@aocarchaeology.co.uk)  
Entered on 31/01/2008

## **7 OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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