

Sutton Archaeological Services

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

on

Drapers School,
Fountain Drive, Carshalton,
Surrey, SM5 4NR.

DRS 12 (TQ2795 6230)

for

London Borough of Sutton

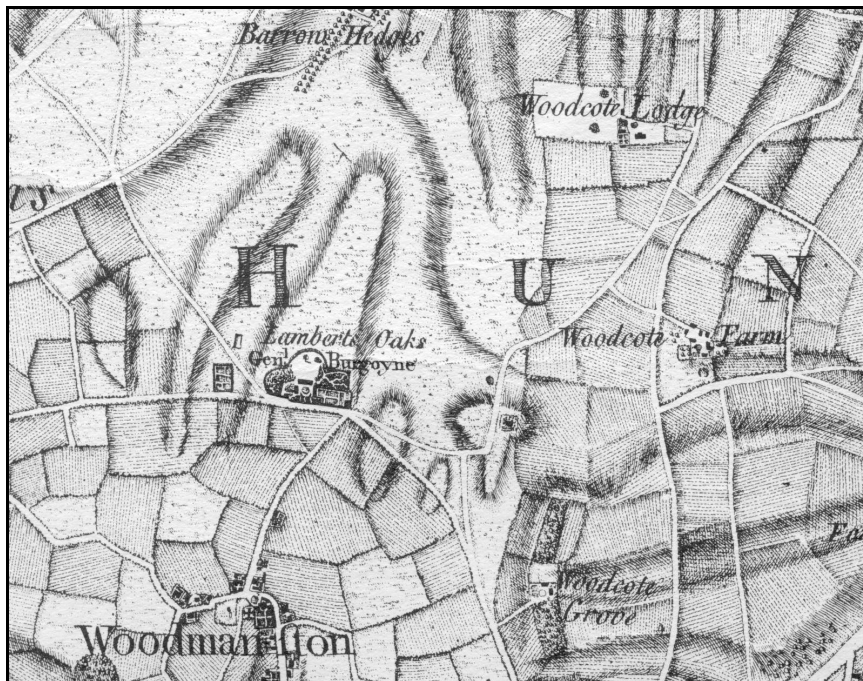


Fig. 1 John Rocque's Map of Surrey 1746

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DRS 12 (TQ 2795 6235)

by

J. G. PERRY: August 2012

Summary

This report relates to the proposed development at Drapers School, Fountain Drive, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4NR. Sutton Archaeological Services undertook a watching brief on the hand excavation of a electricity cable trench between 6th and 10th February. Subsequent surveying took place 16th July.

The development area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (L0163) under the provisions of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and an application for Scheduled Monument Consent was made to English Heritage on 13th December 2011 and granted on 4th January 2012, subject to various conditions (see appendix II).

The proposed development site consisted of a wooded area to the east of the school. The development involved replacing an electricity cable to the school, but leaving the old cable *in situ*.

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the watching brief, the potential for Prehistoric settlement and activity in the area of the site seems medium. The potential for Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement and activity in the area of the site seems low.

The watching brief only revealed topsoil, tarmac and made ground deposits. It is presumed these deposits covered the natural Greensand, which was only exposed in one section of the cable trench.

The finds were 20th century CBM, except for two small sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and a piece of burnt flint. Following the watching brief our revised view is that this site still has potential for archaeological remains of the Prehistoric and Roman period.

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological conditions in the Scheduled Monument Consent have been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological conditions, however, rests with the Ancient Monuments Inspector at English Heritage.

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Introduction

This report relates to the development at Drapers School, Fountain Drive, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4NR.

The development area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (L0163) under the provisions of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and an application for Scheduled Monument Consent was made to English Heritage on 13th December 2011 and granted on 4th January 2012, subject to various conditions (see appendix I).



Fig. 2 Location Plan © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

The London Borough of Sutton (the developer) commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the digging of the electricity trench.

The Site

Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Sutton, close to the boundary with the Borough Reigate and Banstead. Just to the north of the site is what was once Queen Mary's Hospital, now the new Stanley Park High School.

Topography: The site lies on the dip slope of the North Downs, with the ground sloping down from the north-east to the south-west. The site lies at around 100m aOD.

Geology: The geology of the site consists of Greensand overlying chalk.

The proposed development site consists of a partly wooded area to the east of Drapers school.

The development involves replacing an electricity cable to the school. To avoid cutting off the power, the original cable trench was to be dug out by hand and the existing cable left *in situ*. The new cable was to be laid on top of the old cable.

Prehistoric

The area is of some archaeological importance in the Prehistoric period with an extensive surface find of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flints about 800m to the south-east¹.

The LBA defended enclosure at Queen Mary's Hospital showed signs of habitation with a pottery assemblage, clay slabs and spindle whorls the precise stratification of which are unknown, except that they came from the ditches of the enclosure. How far the occupation spreads beyond the site remains to be seen, but further work by the Museum of London in 1993 revealed more LBA ditches outside and just to the south of the enclosure. The outside area may have been used for metalworking, burials, chalk quarrying, for cultivating wheat and barley, and for the keeping of sheep and cattle². A small fragment of a bronze sword was found close to Queen Mary's Hospital³.

Recent work in advance of the new Stanley Park High School, built on the site of the old Queen Mary's Hospital, revealed more than a hundred animal sacrifices, including sheep, a pig, a horse, a goat and dogs, indicating the site was likely to have been a key spiritual site in the Iron Age. The excavation also found Iron Age features including a possible droveway, shallow gullies and a possible spearhead, with pottery in pits and ditches. The findings provide evidence of early Iron Age settlement possibly from a small farming community, with typical earth and timber roundhouses with thatched roofs.

Before the archaeological work the potential for Prehistoric archaeology and activity on site was considered medium.

Roman

The Woodcote area is famous in antiquarian studies as being the supposed site of a major Roman settlement known as *Novoganvs*, recorded by Camden in the 17th century, but no archaeological evidence for this site has been found. The recent work at Stanley Park High School has revealed 15 child skeletons and animals dating to the Roman period, showing that there was some Roman occupation in the area.

¹ Adkins, L. and Adkins, R. A. 1986 Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age Flint Artifacts from Little Woodcote, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **77**, 187-196.

² Adkins, L. and Needham, S. 1985 New Research on a Bronze Age enclosure at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **76**, 11-50.

³ Adkins, L. and Adkins, R. A. 1986 *op. cit.*

Before the archaeological work there was insufficient information, so the potential for Roman activity in the area was considered low.

Saxon

Little is know of the Saxon Period so before the archaeological work there was insufficient information, so the potential for Saxon activity in the area was considered low.

Medieval - Post-Medieval

The nearest Medieval site is probably the remains of the Woodcote village, the location of which is now lost. There were 15 taxpayers there in 1332, but by 1586 the village was in ruins. The area was once part of the Carew lands in Great Woodcote. A new lodge was built in the early 16th century and is shown as a *Gentlemans House* in Speed's map in 1590, but in 1594 Norden's map only shows it as a place name. Until fairly recently, the land was part of Little Woodcote Estate.

Before the archaeological work the potential for Medieval and Post Medieval archaeology and activity on this site was therefore considered low.

Archaeological Potential

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the watching brief, the potential for Prehistoric settlement and activity in the area of the site seems medium. The potential for Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement and activity in the area of the site seems low.

Archaeological Proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an archaeological intervention is undertaken in the form of an evaluation or watching brief to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where necessary, to develop a suitable mitigation strategy or design measures to protect the archaeology. If significant remains are encountered then further investigation may have been needed to mitigate the impact of development, and the scope of that work will be detailed in another Research Design.

SAS proposed to undertake a watching brief on the digging of the cable trench (fig. 4).

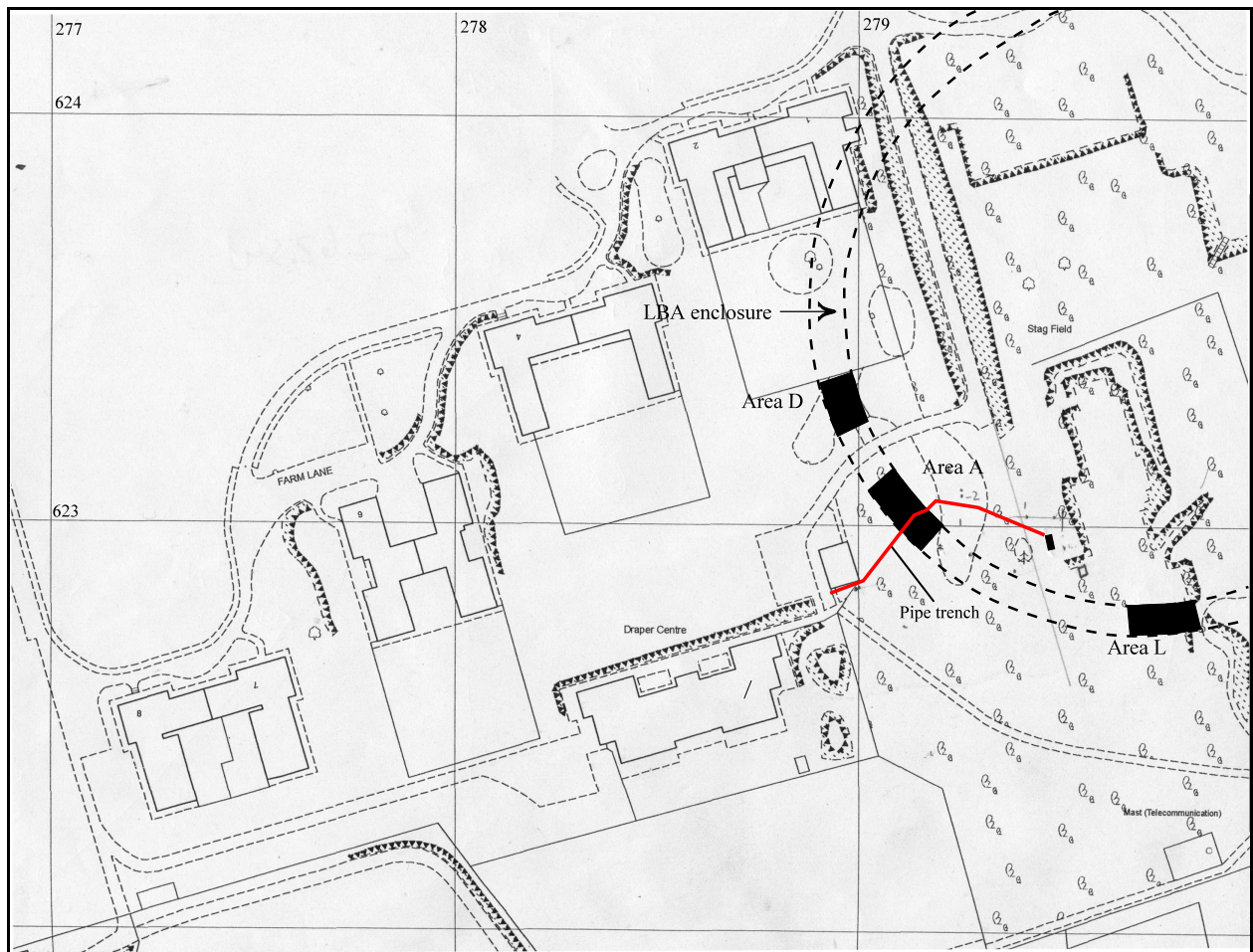


Fig. 4 Cable location trench in relation to LBA enclosure (after Adkins & Needham 1985)

Archaeological method

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological watching brief in accordance with:

- our research design dated January 2012.
- the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology.
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- English Heritage's Guidance papers for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects
- Scheduled Monument Consent 4th January 2012

Control: All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

Non-archaeological deposits: deposits were removed by hand, in level spits of no more than 10-15cm. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological

layer or the limit of excavation, at which point all work ceased. In this way the trench was excavated without finding any archaeological deposits.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. In all, we recorded 6 contexts - numbered [001] to [006] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in our research design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

Levels: All levels were taken from the Bellway Homes's site TBM in Damson Way, Carshalton, value 90.724m aOD.

Watching brief report

The original aim was to excavated the current cable trench, but leaving the existing cable *in situ*, with the new cable being laid on top of the old cable. This proved difficult to do as no plan of the current cable trench existed. An attempt to located the old trench caused too much disturbance within the scheduled monument area and it was decided, with the agreement of English Heritage, to excavated a new trench. It was estimated that this method would cause the minimum of damage to the monument area. Part of the cable trench from the main building to an auxiliary building had already been dug before the archaeological work began.

Work started from the north-west corner of the sub-station for a distance of about 17.20m at which point the trench alignment changed. The trench was excavated for about a further 10.90m when it changed alignment again. It continued for another 2.40m and again changed alignment, continuing for a further 16.75m. The final change of alignment was just before one of the school's ancillary buildings when the trench turned and ran into the school's grounds.

The first context was a turf and topsoil deposit [001] consisting of a friable, medium brown fine silty sand, with frequent large fragments of concrete slabs and occasional small to medium flint pebbles and large fragments of modern CBM. This covered the first 11m section to a depth of between 39cms to 43cms. A small sherd of LBA pottery and a fragment of burnt flint were recovered from this context.

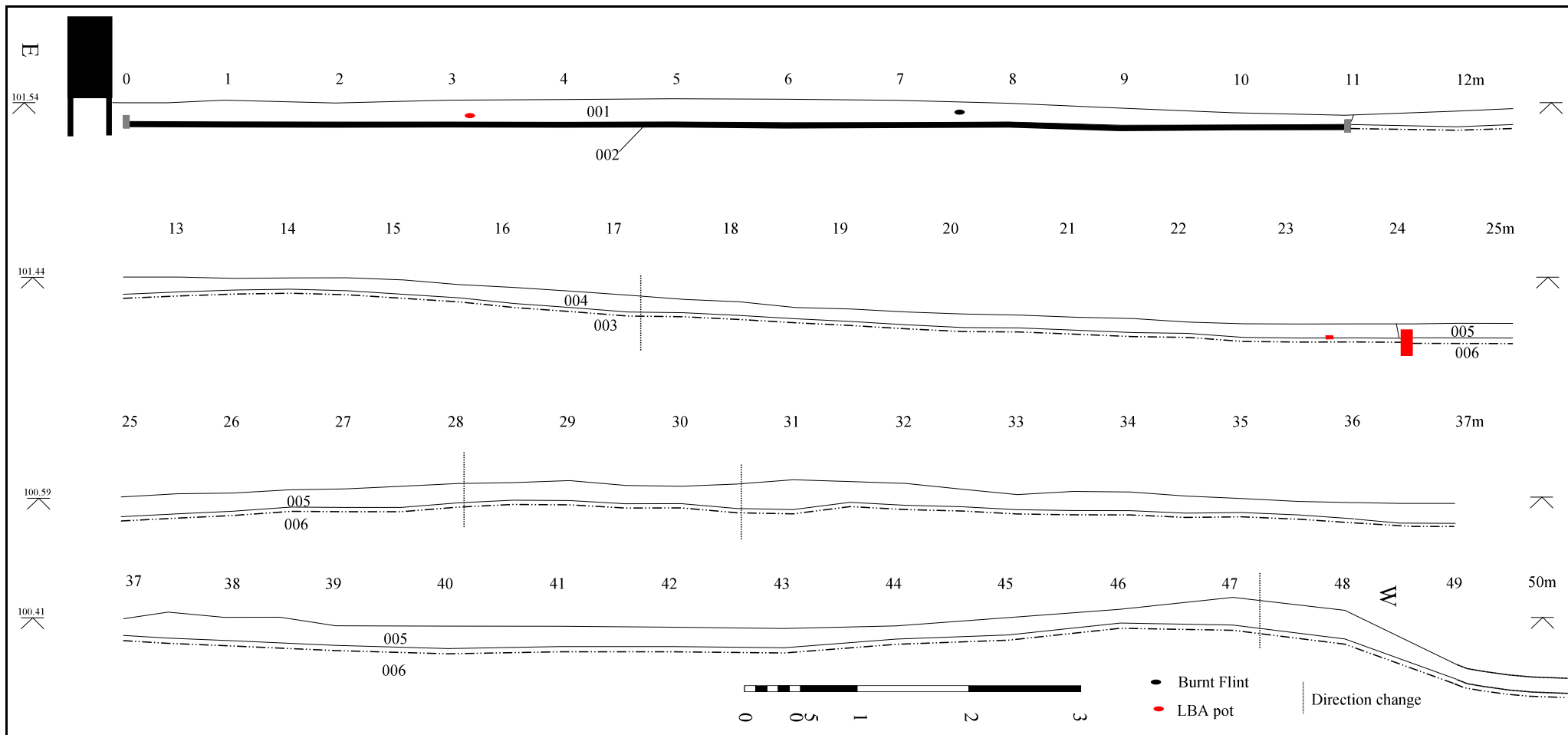


Fig. 5

Trench section

Below context **001** was the tarmac surface [**002**] of an old road. A kerbstone was found near to the sub-station and also at about 11m. Both of contexts **001** and **002** had cut into existing contexts to the west of the road. Because the excavation was by hand, no attempt was made by the contractors to cut into the tarmac. The cable was laid directly on the tarmac surface.

Beyond the road the contexts changed with the upper context being very similar to **001**, but with less turf and darker soil. It consisted of a friable, dark brown fine silty sand [**004**], with occasional small to medium flint pebbles. This covered the next 13m section to a depth of between 23cms to 43cms. Below context **003** was the natural Greensand, a friable, medium olive brown fine slightly silty sand [**003**], with occasional small to large flint pebbles. A small sherd of LBA pottery was found on the surface of this context. Context **004** continued until it abutted a 20th century brick wall, which cut into the Greensand **003**.

Here the topsoil [**005**] to the west was similar to **004**, but lacked the turf and contained fragments of chalk within its matrix. Below **005** was a made ground/demolition deposit [**006**] of very soft, medium brown clayey sand, containing frequent fragments of concrete, modern CBM and chalk, as well as occasional small to large flint pebbles. Both of this contexts continued until the end of the monitored trench.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Prehistoric settlement and/or activity in the surrounding area, in particular the ditches of a late Bronze Age enclosure.

The watching brief only revealed topsoil, tarmac and made ground deposits. It is presumed these deposits covered the natural Greensand, which was only exposed in one section of the cable trench.

It would appear from the watching brief that at some time in the early 20th century, the original deposits had been removed down to the natural by the construction of a previous Hospital building and its subsequent demolition. The road surface was once a continuation of a road called The Drive. This road continued into the forecourt of the 'H' shaped hospital building, where it terminated in a traffic island. A large pine tree occupied the island and this tree is still present today. Following the demolition of the 'H' shaped hospital building, the norther part of The Drive was covered by turf and topsoil.

Even though the cable trench crossed the presumed alignment of the ditches of a late Bronze Age enclosure, there was no evidence for any Prehistoric archaeology and the finds were 20th century CBM, except for two small sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and a piece of burnt flint.

Archaeological Potential

Following the watching brief our revised view is that this site still has potential for archaeological remains of the Prehistoric and Roman period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological conditions in the Scheduled Monument Consent have been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological conditions, however, rests with the Ancient Monuments Inspector at English Heritage.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication, but a note will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up.

Archive

The resulting archive will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.

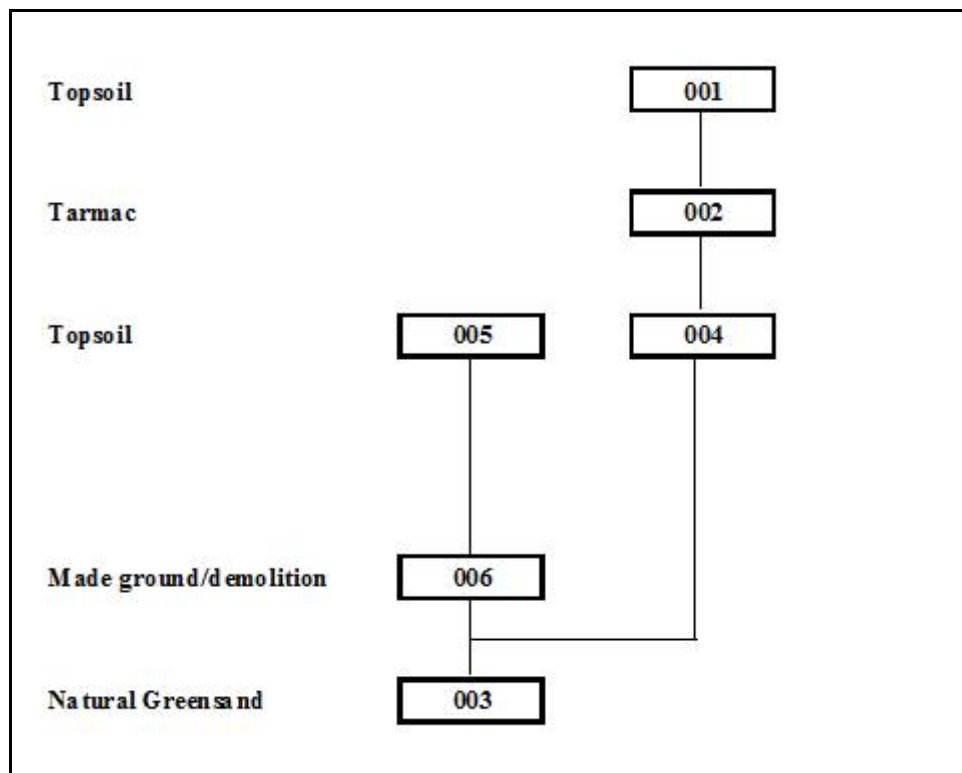


Fig. 6 Context matrix



Plate 1 Trench looking west



Plate 2 Contexts 003 and 004



Plate 3 Contexts 005 and 006



Plate 4 Trench looking east

LONDON REGION

Mr Stephen Pink
London Borough of Sutton
Environment and Leisure
24 Denmark Road
Carshalton
Surrey
SM5 2JG

Direct Dial: 020 7973 3738
Direct Fax: 020 7973 3792

4 January 2012

Dear Mr Pink

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2
control of works
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**LATE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT, QUEEN MARY PARK, CARSHALTON, SM5
Scheduled Monument No: SM LO 163, HA 1003313
Our ref: S00027450
Application on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent dated 13 December 2011 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning the replacment of a faulty existing electrical supply cable from a feeder pillar to the Drapers School. The works were described in the following documentation submitted by you:

Site plan
Aerial photograph

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by English Heritage and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. English Heritage considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be minor ground works which



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English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to a Freedom of Information request, unless one of the exemptions in the Act applies.

English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent.

- Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration, where applicable.

LONDON REGION

would alter the present condition and appearance of the monument but where restriction of levels by condition can avoid damage to its buried archaeological deposits.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. At least 1 weeks' notice in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Jane Sidell, English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-42 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST, jane.sidell@english-heritage.org.uk in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) The trench shall be hand dug, and care shall be taken to ensure minimal excavation occurs
- (c) The trench shall be dug in the presence of a suitably qualified archaeologist who will make suitable records should any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts be present in the trench sections.
- (d) A short report shall be submitted to English Heritage within 3 months of completion.
- (e) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment,



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bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

Jane Sidell

Ancient Monuments Inspector

E-mail: jane.sidell@english-heritage.org.uk

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

cc Mrs Elizabeth Whitbourn, Mr Mark Stevenson



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- Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration, where applicable.

OASIS ID: suttonar1-131839

Project details

Project name Drapers School, Fountain Drive, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4NR

Short description of the project The development area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (L0163) under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and consisted of a wooded area to the east of the school. The development involved replacing an electricity cable to the school, but leaving the old cable in situ. The watching brief only revealed topsoil, tarmac and made ground deposits. It is presumed these deposits covered the natural Greensand, which was only exposed in one section of the cable trench. The finds were 20th century CBM, except for two small sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and a piece of burnt flint.

Project dates Start: 06-02-2012 End: 10-02-2012

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes DRS 12 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)

Current Land use Woodland 3 - Mixed

Monument type ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Scheduled Monument Consent

Prompt S00027450

Project location

Country England

Site location Greater London, Sutton, Carshalton, Drapers School

Postcode SM5 4NR

Study area 50.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 2795 6230 51 0 51 20 41 N 000 09 45 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 100.33m Max: 101.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Sutton Archaeological Services

Project brief originator Sutton Archaeological Services

Project design originator J G Perry

Project director/manager J G Perry

Project supervisor J G Perry

Type of sponsor/funding body District Council

Name of sponsor/funding body London Borough of Sutton

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London

Physical Archive ID DRS 12

Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	DRS 12
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	DRS 12
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Matrices", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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