

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

for

Kenley House,
Kenley Lane, Kenley,
Surrey, CR8 5ED.
KHK 08: (TQ 32900 58900)

for

Millgate Developments Ltd



Fig. 1 John Rocque: Map of Surrey (1768)

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Kenley House,
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London Borough of Croydon
KHK 08: (TQ 32900 58900)

by

J G PERRY: May 2008

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Kenley House, Kenley Lane, Kenley, Surrey, CR8 5ED between 10th and 24th April, 2008.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the research design indicated that there was Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology and/or activity in the surrounding area.

5 trenches were excavated across the site revealing turf and topsoil, concrete, paving slabs, made ground, sub-soil and the natural clay.

No Medieval or Post-Medieval archaeology was found, but we did recover the remains of a 19th century building along with 19th to 20th century CBM, iron and glass. The excavated building was the east to west part of an 'L'-shaped building shown on the 1879 25" and in more detail on the 1973 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map. The 1973 1:1250 map appears to indicate that the northern wall of the building was open. This building is undoubtedly part of the original 19th century complex attached to Kenley House, possibly the stables.

These buildings were demolished post 1973 when the site was converted into a food technology centre for Sodexo, incorporating part of the wall into a kitchen building..

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage

CONTENTS

Summary	i
Contents	ii
Illustrations and Plates	iii
Introduction	1
Planning background	1
Archaeological discussion	3
Research Objectives	4
Archaeological proposals	5
Archaeological Methodology	6
Evaluation results	8
Trench 1-2	7
Trench 3	8
Trench 4	9
Trench 5	11
Assessment and Interpretation	11
Archaeological potential	12
Conclusions and recommendations	12
Publications and dissemination	12
Archive	13

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1	John Rocque's map of Surrey (1768)	cover
Fig. 2	Site Location	1
Fig. 3	Site Location Plan	2
Fig. 4	Trench location plan	5
Fig. 5	Trench 4: north south section	11

PLATES

Plate 1	Trench 1: section	14
Plate 2	Trench 2: section	14
Plate 3	Trench 3: section	14
Plate 4	Trench 5: section	14
Plate 5	Kitchen building incorporating earlier wall	14
Plate 6	Trench 4: south wall	14
Plate 7	Trench 4: section	14

Introduction

This report relates to the proposed development at Kenley House, Kenley Lane, Kenley, Surrey, CR8 5ED.

Millgate Developments Ltd (the developers) commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary.

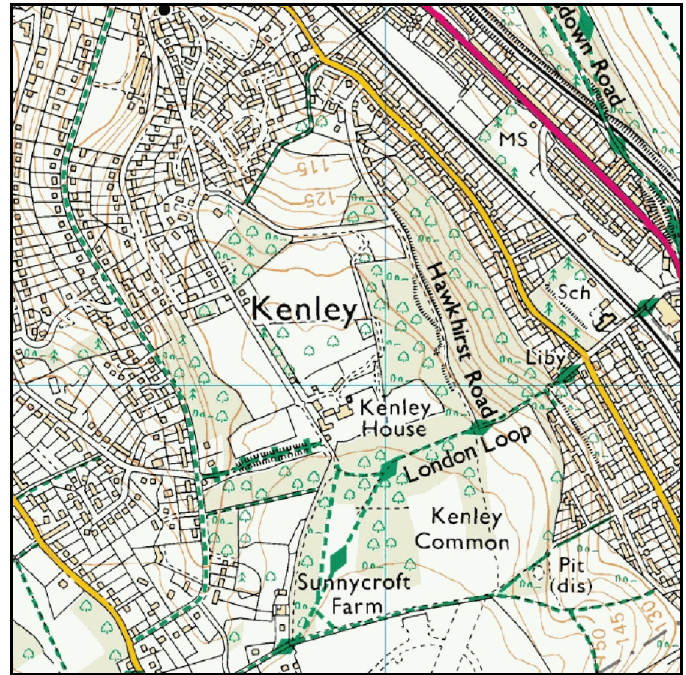


Fig. 2 Site Location Plan © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site is situated in the London Borough of Croydon, 8 km south-east of the town centre, on the dip slope of the North Downs at the end of Kenley Lane. It is in an open area to the west of the Godstone Road (A22), with Kenley Common and Kenley Aerodrome to the south and residential properties to the north and west.

Topography: At present the site is in an area of undulating topography, with the land rising from the north-west (c. 133m aOD) to the south-east (c. 161m aOD).

Geology: The underlying geology consists of head deposits (clay with flints) over Chalk.

Planning background

The site was until recently used as a catering training centre by Sodexho. The majority of the buildings had been demolished, retaining Kenley House itself, a large 19th century house.

The development consists of the construction of a 2 two storey five bedroom detached houses and 1 two storey detached house; 2 quadruple, 1 triple and 1 double garages. It lies within an area of archaeological importance as defined in the London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development

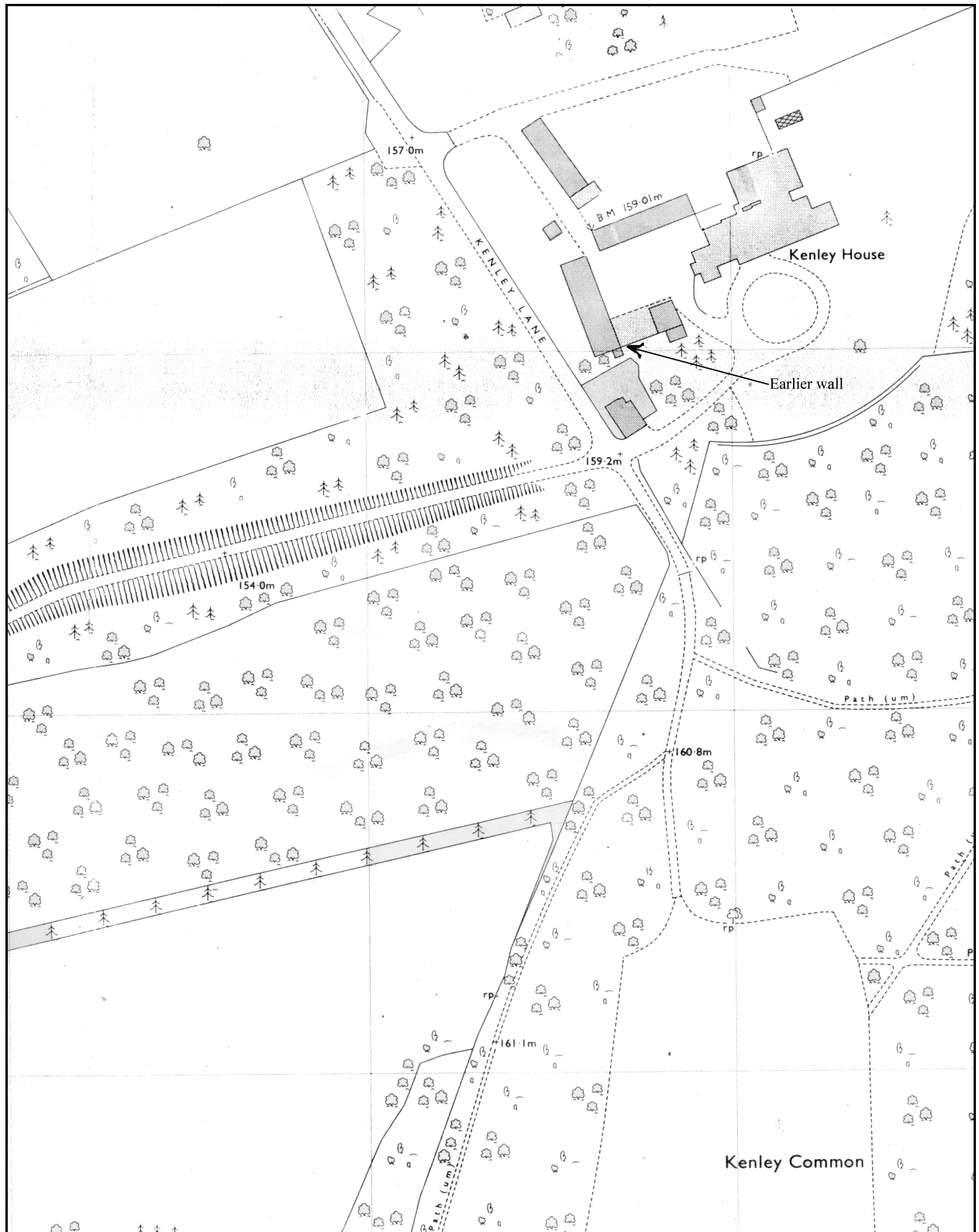


Fig. 3

Site location plan

© Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Plan and English Heritage will probably advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ should be included in any planning approval.

¹ Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

Planning permission was approved by the London Borough of Croydon, and an archaeological condition under PPG 16² was included in the planning decision 07/03120/P

- 6 *No development including excavations for drainage and foundation work shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with the agreed programme*

Archaeological discussion

It is evident from the archaeological, cartographic and historical record that the Croydon area has a wealth of archaeological material and features that show continuous human activity from the Prehistoric time to present. Croydon was at the intersection of a number of valleys, such as the ones leading from Coulsdon and Kenley, making it an ideal point for communication and settlement.

Prehistoric: The quantity of Prehistoric material indicates that peoples roamed over the area, though there is at present no detailed evidence of any Prehistoric settlement in the area, other than Queens Mary's Hospital and War Coppice hillfort.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

Roman: It is almost certain that there is a Roman settlement in Croydon, situated around the George Street, High Street and Surrey Street area, with a cemetery around the Edridge Road and Park Lane area. The outlying finds and signs of occupation may represent farms or ribbon development along the suspected road system, of which the Brighton Road is one.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

Saxon: The site of the Saxon settlement is unknown, but it may well be in the same area as the preceding Roman one. The finding of Roman burials amongst Saxon ones also suggests that their cemeteries are in the same area. There are a few Roman and Saxon finds in the development area, such as the Saxon burials on Farthing Down, and based on the known distribution, it is unlikely that there will be any one site, though stray finds may be found.

² Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon archaeology on this site.

Medieval to Post-Medieval: The Medieval and Post-Medieval settlements are well away from the development site. During this time most of the development site is likely to have been in the Medieval field system, a fact born out by the early maps (Rocque and 25" OS maps). The records show, however, that there was a Medieval manor house on the site which was later known as Kenley Farm. The main development to affect the site is the building of the present buildings in the late 20th century. These building incorporated a section of early brickwork, which was thought to possibly be of 17th or 18th century date.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a medium potential for Medieval to modern occupation and activity on the site.

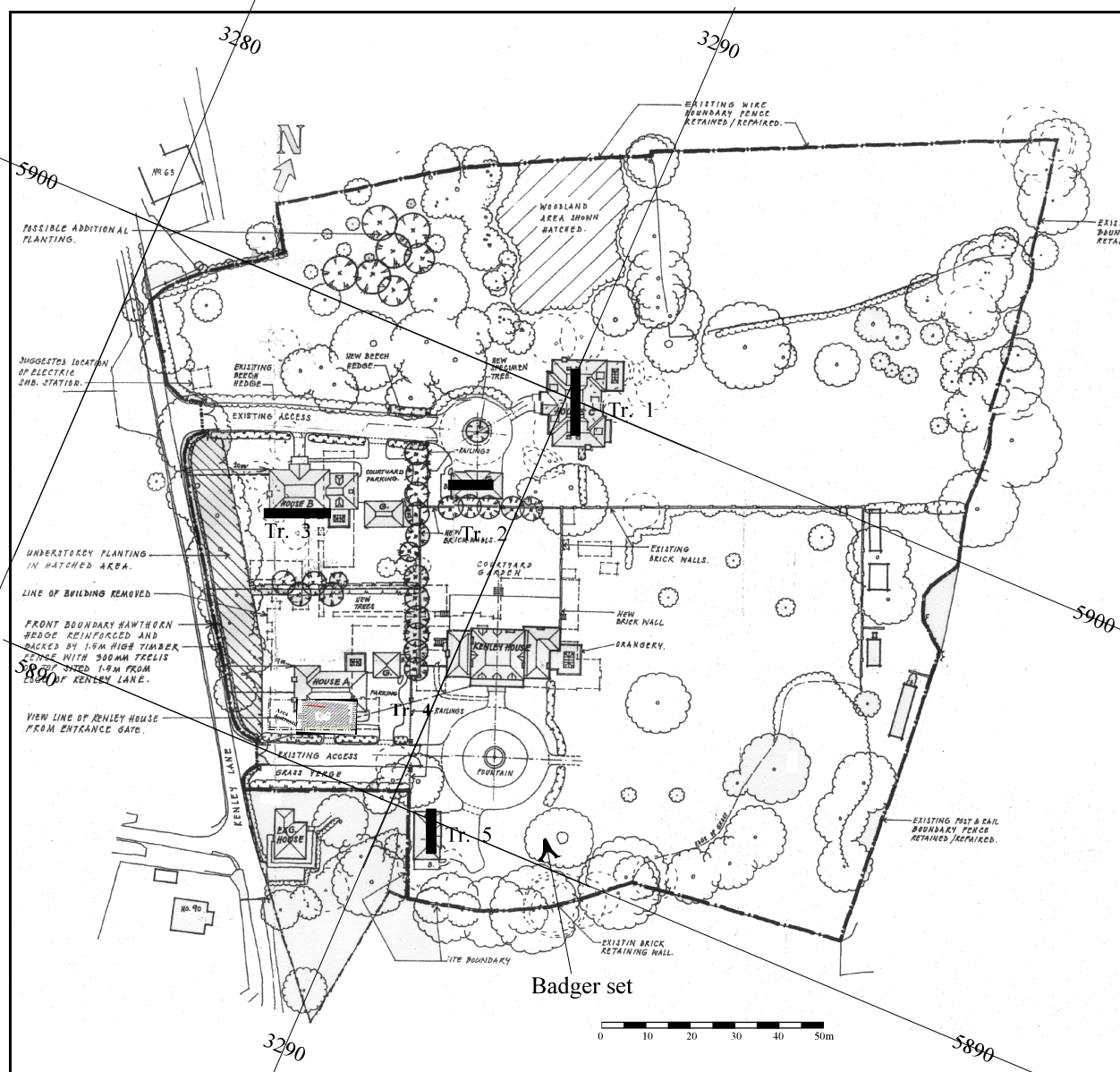
Research objectives

In September 2007 Sutton Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Medieval and later occupation and activity on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

- “The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:
- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource
the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001



Archaeological methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our research design dated September 2007. See below for alterations to Trench 3
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.

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

Trenches: We dug 5 trenches as shown on fig 4. Trench 3 was moved several metres to the south to avoid concrete foundations.

We broke open the trenches with a mini digger, using a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket, with the concrete being broken up by a pneumatic drill.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the Turf and topsoil, concrete, made ground and subsoil deposits. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits), at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. (We excavated up to 30cm into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material.) In this way we excavated the trench without finding any archaeological deposits other than 19th century.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. In all, we recorded 20 contexts - numbered [001] to [020] - 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 developers site survey KH/CS/01 dated 02/07/2007.

Backfilling: After excavating and recording we backfilled the trenches and roughly levelled the ground, leaving surplus spoil on site.

Evaluation results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the northern part of the site and oriented north (158.97m aOD) to south (159.03m aOD). Context **001** was the turf and topsoil, which covered the whole trench and was 10cm thick.

Below **001** was a made ground deposit, a friable, medium to dark brown sandy clay **[002]** (north: 158.87m aOD to south: 158.90m aOD), containing 10-15% flint pebbles, as well as fragments of glass, metal and CBM. The deposit extended across most of the trench to a depth of between 57cm, gradually thinning out to the south. By the middle of the trench it was only 19cm thick.

The subsoil lay below **002**, a very soft, medium brown silty clay silt **[003]** (north: 158.30m aOD to south: 158.99m aOD), containing occasional small to large flint pebbles. The northern part of the context had been truncated by context **002**.

The natural head deposits **[004]** (north: 158.24m aOD to south: 158.38m aOD) lay below **003**, a soft orangish brown silty clay containing frequent small to cobblestone sized flint pebbles. It extended across the whole of the trench..

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- fragments of 19th century CBM
- 19th to 20th century glass and metal

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the site, just to the north of Kenley House itself. It was oriented west (159.21m aOD) to east (159.19m aOD). Context **011** was a layer of concrete slabs set in a bedding deposit, which covered the whole trench to a thickness of 30-36cm.

Below **011** was a made ground deposit, a friable, orangish to dark brown silty clay **[012]**(west: 158.89m aOD to east: 158.87m aOD), frequent small to large flint pebbles, as well as fragments of chalk and CBM. The deposit extended across the whole trench to a depth of between 60-64cm.

The natural head deposits **[013]** (west: 158.27m aOD to east: 158.28m aOD) lay below **012**, a soft orangish brown silty clay containing frequent small to cobblestone sized flint pebbles. It extended across the whole of the trench..

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- fragments of modern CBM

Trench 3

The original position of trench 3 was two metres to the north of its excavated position, beneath a line of paving slabs. When the paving slabs were removed there was over 1m of concrete. The concrete had removed any archaeology that may have been there, besides making the trench extremely difficult to excavated. The trench was abandoned and moved two metres to the south.

Trench 3 was located in the western part of the site and oriented west (158.15m aOD) to east (159.31m aOD). Context **005** was the turf and topsoil, which covered the whole trench and was 25-28cm thick. Several concrete encased drains ran through the centre of the trench. They were left *in situ* and the trench excavated either side of the obstruction.

Below **005** was a made ground deposit, consisting of a layer of old tarmac and make up deposit **[006]** (west: 157.90m aOD to east: 158.03m aOD), containing frequent small to large flint pebbles, as well as fragments of glass, metal, chalk and CBM. The deposit extended across the whole trench to a depth of between 33-36cm.

The natural head deposits **[007]** (west: 157.57m aOD to east: 157.67m aOD) lay below **003**, a soft orangish brown silty clay containing frequent small to cobblestone sized flint pebbles. It extended across the whole of the trench..

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- fragments of 19th century CBM
- 19th to 20th century glass and metal

Trench 4

Trench 4 was oriented east (158.46m aOD) to west (159.62m aOD) across one of the modern kitchen buildings to Kenley House. When the kitchen was built, it had incorporated part of a brick and flint wall from an earlier building into its southern wall.

The modern building was demolished down to the concrete slab level and the slab removed under archaeological control. Excavations at the west end of the trench revealed that the earlier building had been completely removed in this area, when a 2m deep 'T' shaped concrete foundation was inserted. To the east of the concrete foundation were the remains of the earlier building, consisting of three walls, a crushed chalk floor and part of a possible drain. The remains extended for 10 metres to the east where they were cut through by another deep concrete foundation. To the north the remains were cut through and destroyed by other concrete foundations and to the south by an access road. This left an area of 10m by 6m where the remains could be cleaned and examined.

The southern wall of the building comprised a brick and cobble wall [014] (west: 158.73m aOD to east: 158.68m aOD), very similar to the extant walls around the garden. All that remained after demolition of the modern kitchen, was a line of mortar on which the wall had been built, though some fragments of brick and some cobbles still remained. The sparse remains of a crushed chalk floor [015] abutted the wall and extended to the north, east and west. Very little of the floor remained. In some areas it was just a scatter of chalk fragments over the underlying natural, while in others it was up to 7cm deep. In the centre of the floor area there was no chalk at all. The height near the centre of the floor was 158.59m aOD, but along the northern edge the height was between 158.65m aOD (west) and 158.63m aOD (east). The northern edge also dipped towards the north. At one point a deposit of rounded flint pebbles [016] overlayed the chalk (158.56m aOD) and was possibly the actual floor surface, with the chalk as a foundation.

Abutting the eastern end of the southern wall and the chalk floor was a stone and brick wall [017] (south: 158.68m aOD to north: 158.66m aOD) that formed the eastern side of the building. The wall could be traced for a length of 3.80m. There was a gap between the stone and brick elements, but the mortar bedding still continued, indicating that the wall was continuous. Near the northern edge of the chalk floor was the remains of another brick wall [018] (158.64m aOD). It comprised one course of stretchers set in a mortar base and could be traced for a length of just over 4m. The mortar bedding continued for a short distance, but soon disappeared. The alignment of walls 014 and 017 was not parallel, suggesting that 017 was an internal partition rather than the end wall.

The remains of a brick drain [019] (158.60m aOD) were visible in the centre on a north-east to south-west alignment. It could only be traced for a distance of 48cm, but undoubtedly continue to the north-east.

Fragments of bricks from walls 014, 017, 018 and 019 were compared to brick fabrics from the garden wall and Kenley House itself, where they were exposed by the demolition process. In all cases, brick fabrics from the excavation could be found amongst brick fabrics from the 19th century Kenley House and garden wall.

The natural head deposits [020] (158.45m aOD) lay below 015, a soft orangish brown silty clay containing frequent small to cobblestone sized flint pebbles. It extended across the whole of the excavation area.

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- fragments of 19th CBM

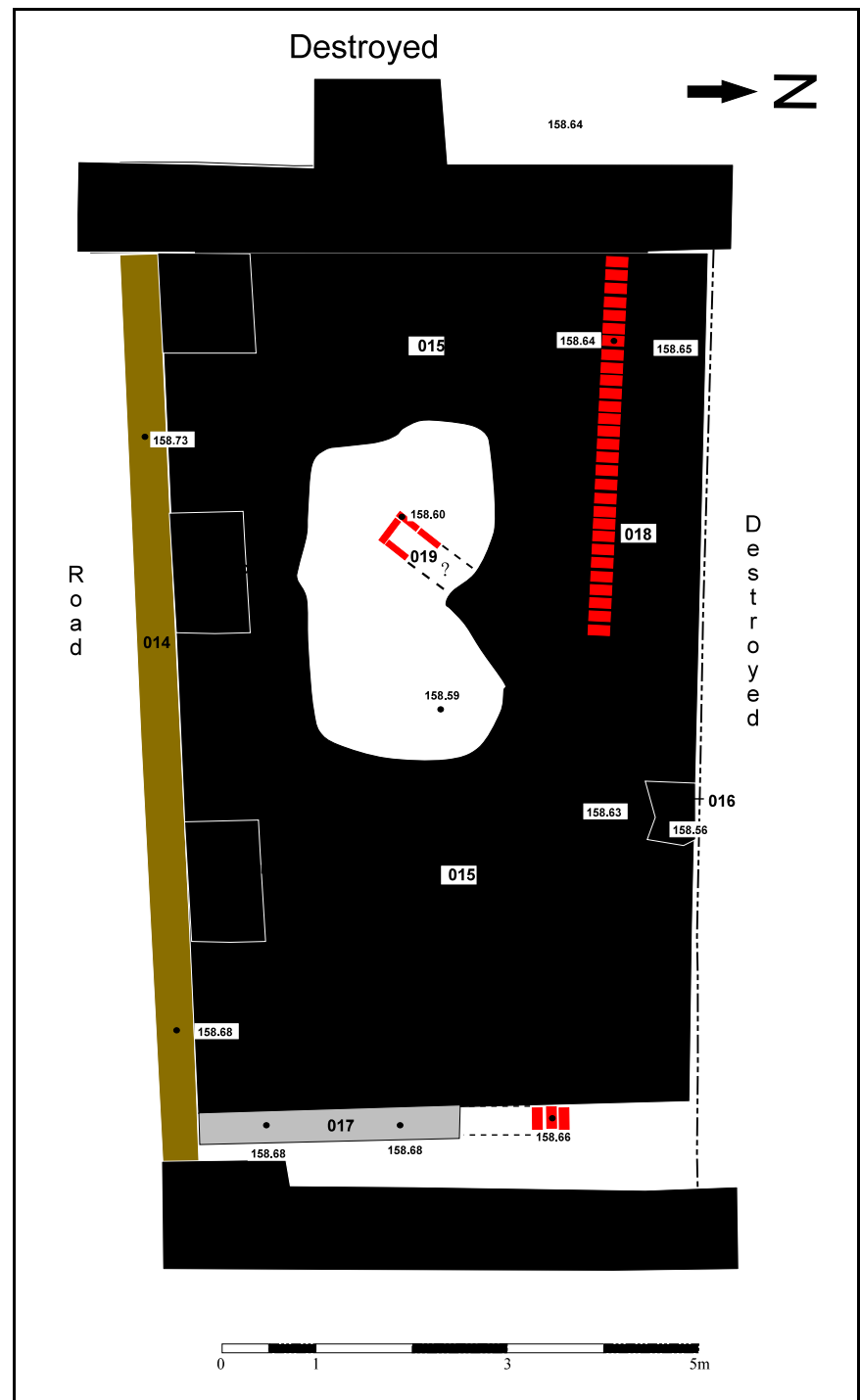


Fig. 5 Trench 4: floor plan

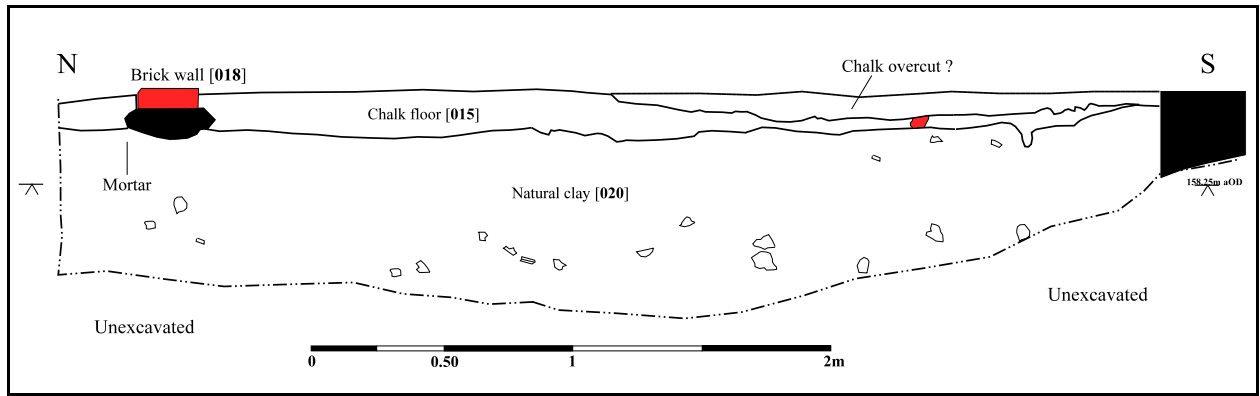


Fig. 6 Trench 4: north - south section

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the southern part of the site and oriented north (158.46m aOD) to south (159.62m aOD). Context **008** was the turf and topsoil, which covered the whole trench and was 12cm thick.

The subsoil lay below **008**, a very soft, medium brown silty clay silt **[009]** (north: 158.34m aOD to south: 159.50m aOD), containing 10-15% small to cobblestone sized flint pebbles and frequent small to large chalk fragments.

The natural head deposits **[010]** (north: 158.485m aOD to south: 159.20m aOD) lay below **009**, a soft orangish brown silty clay containing frequent small to cobblestone sized flint pebbles. It extended across the whole of the trench.

There were no archaeological features or finds.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Medieval and later archaeology and/or activity in the surrounding area

5 trenches were excavated across the site revealing turf and topsoil, concrete, paving slabs, made ground, sub-soil and the natural clay.

No Medieval or Post-Medieval archaeology was found, but we did recover the remains of a 19th century building along with 19th to 20th century CBM, iron and glass. The excavated building was

the east to west part of an 'L'-shaped building shown on the 1879 25" and in more detail on the 1973 1:1250 Ordnance Survey maps. The 1973 1:1250 map appears to indicate that the northern wall of the building was open. This building is undoubtedly part of the original 19th century complex attached to Kenley House, possibly a stable block.

These buildings were demolished post 1973 when the site was converted into a food technology centre for Sodexho, incorporating part of the wall into a kitchen building.

Archaeological Potential

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not threaten to 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 condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

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



Plate 1 Trench 1: section

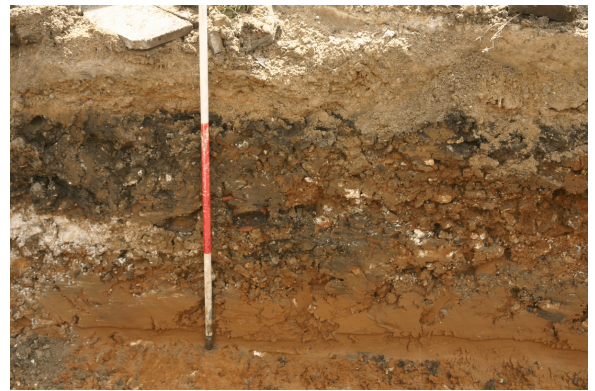


Plate 2 Trench 2:

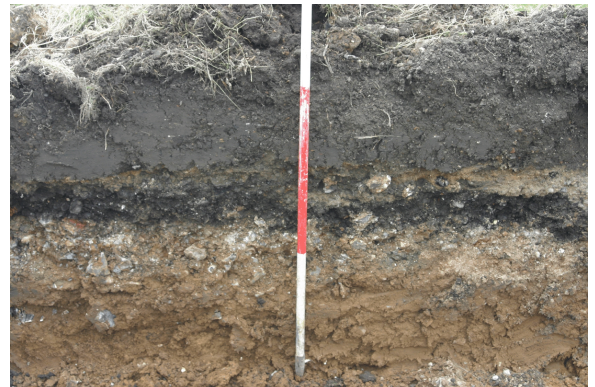


Plate 3 Trench 3 section



Plate 4 Trench 5: section



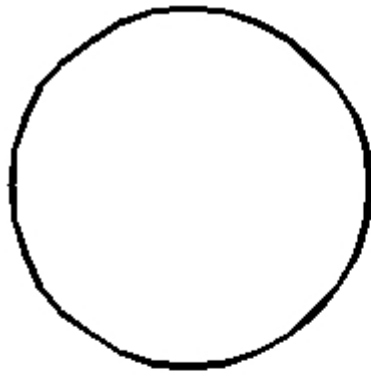
Plate 5 Kitchen building & earlier wall



Plate 6 Trench 4: south wall



Late 7 Trench 4: section



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