

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

at

Holy Cross Preparatory School,

George Lane, Kingston, Surrey. KT2

HXP 08: (TQ 2016 7009)

for

Holy Cross Preparatory School



Ivy Conduit 2006

SAS

Dir. JEFFREY G. PERRY: BA(Hons), MIFA.

Evaluation Report

at

Holy Cross Preparatory School,

George Lane, Kingston, Surrey. KT2
London Borough of Kingston-on-Thames
HXP 08: (TQ 2016 7009)

by

J G PERRY: February 2008

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at The Holy Cross Preparatory School, George Road, Kingston-upon-Thames on 22nd February, 2008.

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

2 trenches were excavated across the site revealing turf and topsoil, above made ground which overlaid the natural sand and gravel.

No Prehistoric or Post-Medieval archaeology was found.

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	ii
Contents	ii
Illustrations and Plates	iii
Introduction	1
Planning background	1
Archaeological discussion	3
Archaeological proposals	4
Archaeological Methodology	6
Evaluation results	7
Trench 1	7
Trench 2	7
Trench 3	8
Assessment and Interpretation	8
Archaeological potential	9
Conclusions and recommendations	9
Publications and dissemination	10
Archive	10

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1	Site Location	1
Fig. 2	Site Location Plan	2
Fig. 3	Development and trench location plan	5

PLATES

Plate 1	Ivy conduit in 2006	cover
Plate 2	Trench 1: west section	11
Plate 3	Trench 2: looking west	11

Introduction

This report relates to the site of the proposed development work at The Holy Cross Preparatory School, George Road, Kingston-upon-Thames.

Holy Cross School (the Developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary.

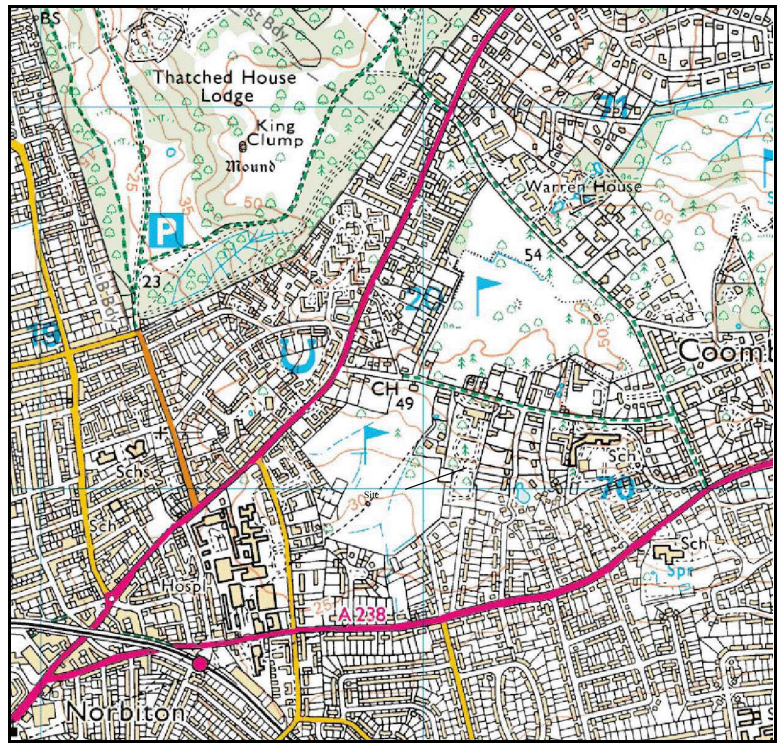


Fig. 1 Site location © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The Ivy or Bush Conduit is situated in the grounds of Holy Cross School, formerly the family home of the author John Galsworthy. It lies on Coombe Hill in the landscaped grounds of the school. Kingston-upon-Thames lies 2km to the south-west.

Topography: The school grounds slope gently from the north-east to the south-west, between 38-40m AOD.

Geology: The underlying geology is London Clay with an overlying deposit of Claygate Beds.

Planning background

The site is the grounds of Holy Cross Preparatory School, which were once the terraced gardens of John Galsworthy's home.

The present sports hall is a timber construction which is nearing its projected life. This building is to be demolished and replaced by landscaping, with a new sports hall being built just to the south, across the terraced garden.

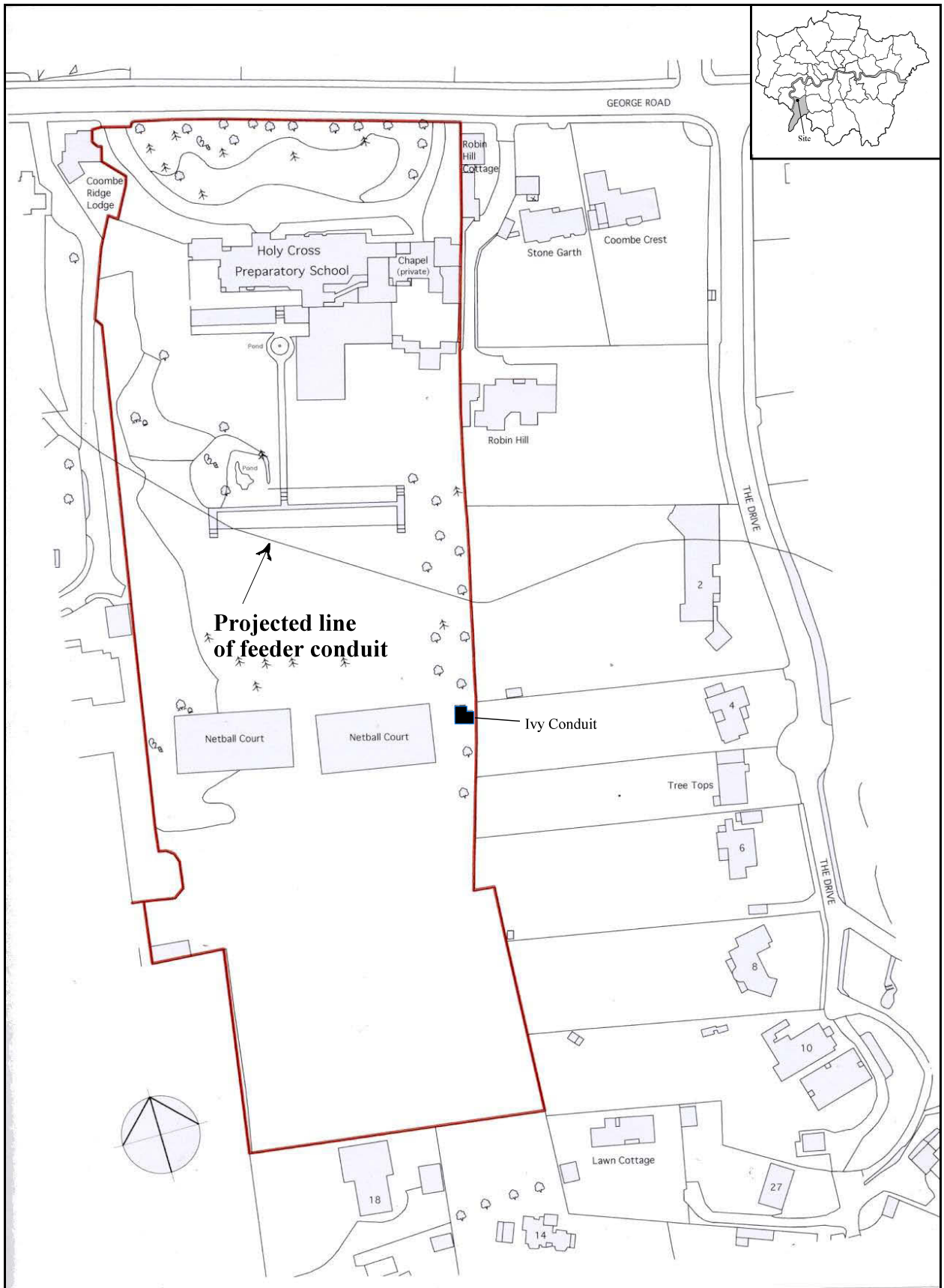


Fig. 2

Site location plan

© Crown Copyright MC/98/38

A planning application (07/14375/FUL) was made to the London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and, as the site lies in an Area of Archaeological Importance, and an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ has been included in the planning permission dated 16th July 2007:

16 No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Historical discussion

Prehistoric: There is plenty of evidence for Prehistoric finds and activity within the Kingston area, dating from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. These consist of struck flint and flint axes and Neolithic pottery. Due to the amount of Bronze Age finds, the Coombe Hill area of Kingston was probably extensively settled during this period with finds of pottery, burnt flint and a possible burial mound. Iron Age pottery has also been found.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested a medium potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

Roman: There have been few Roman finds from the Coombe Hill area, with the main evidence for this period being found in Kingston.

As no Roman finds have been made on site or in the immediate vicinity, the pre-evaluation evidence suggested a low potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

Saxon: There are no Saxon finds in the area of the site, pre-evaluation evidence suggested a low potential for Saxon archaeology on this site.

Medieval: Even though Coombe was mentioned in Domesday, there are no Medieval finds in the area of the site, so pre-evaluation evidence suggested a low potential for Medieval archaeology on this site.

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

Post-Medieval: A fresh water supply was built for Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII for the palace at Hampton Court. It consisted of a series of conduit houses and tamkins joined by a lead pipe system. One of the conduits, Ivy Conduit, is located in the grounds of the school and several of the lead feeder pipes are known to run across the school grounds.

Ivy Conduit is essentially of two major phases. The first phase began in the first half of the 16th century. The second phase involved remodelling in the later Post-Medieval period, at some time between the late 17th and 18th centuries. Further alteration were made in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested a high potential for Post-Medieval archaeology and activity on the site.

Archaeological proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an evaluation is undertaken to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where necessary, to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

SAS proposes to excavate two, 10m x 2m evaluation trenches across the area of the proposed new sports hall. A third trench 50cm wide will be excavated along the line of the proposed access road. There will also be a provision for two contingency trenches.

The first contingency trench will be 10m x 2m and used to clarify the extent, character, quality and date any archaeology found in the area of the proposed new sports hall. The second contingency trench will be 5m x 3m and used to clarify the extent, character, quality and date any archaeology found in the area of the proposed access road.

The trenches were designed to answer the following research objectives:

1. Was there is any evidence for Prehistoric, in particular Bronze Age and Neolithic, archaeology and/or activity on site.
2. To locate a feeder conduit pipe than runs across the school grounds and determine the construction, depth and alignment of the pipe.

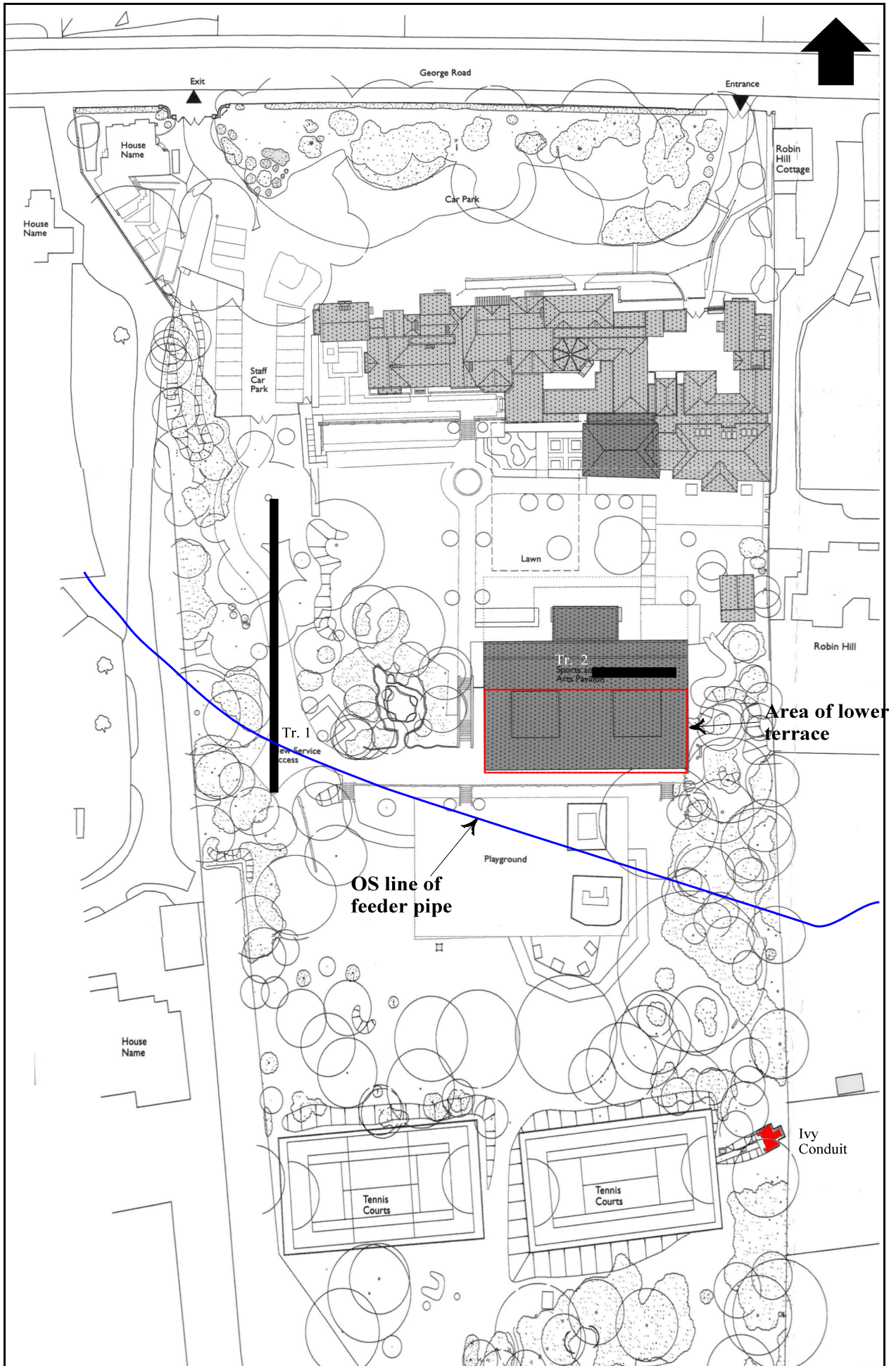


Fig. 3 Development and trench location plan

Archaeological methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our research design dated January 2008. See below for changes we made to the location of trenches 2.
- 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 2 trenches as shown on fig 4. The original position of trench 2 was located in what was the lower terrace of the garden. As this area was almost two metres below the main part of the garden and any archaeological remains that may have been in this area would have been removed during the terracing in the late 19th century. With the position of English Heritage, Trench two was moved to the upper garden, where there was fewer chances of 19th century disturbances.

We broke open the trenches with a JCB, using a smooth-edged bucket.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the turf and topsoil, made ground and natural 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 50cm 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.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records and photographs. In all, we recorded 5 contexts - numbered [001] to [005] - 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 a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM), value 39.488m aOD, located on the left hand (northern) brick pier at the front (west) wall of the conduit.

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 western part of the site and oriented roughly north (45.26m aOD) to south (43.43m aOD). Context **001** was the turf and topsoil, which covered the whole trench to a depth of between 31cm and 18cm at the southern end.

The natural sand [**002**] lay below **001** (north: 44.95m aOD to south 43.29m aOD). It was a friable, orangish brown medium sand, containing 40-50% small to cobble sized flint pebbles. It also contained lenses of sand and clayey sand. The deposit extended across the whole trench to a depth of between 1.57m to 1.00m. This context was extremely unstable and all records were made from the surface.

There were no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2

Due to the instability of the sections, particularly context **004**, the sides of the trench kept collapsing. No attempt was made to enter the trench and all records were made from the surface. As fast as the collapsed material was removed, more material fell into the trench making it extremely difficult to continue. The trench was excavated for a length of 12m.

Trench 1 was located in the eastern part of the site and oriented roughly west (45.91m aOD) to east (45.91m aOD). Context **003** was the turf and topsoil, which covered the whole trench to a depth of between 24cm thick and 18cm.

Below **003** was a made ground deposit [**004**] (west: 45.67m aOD to east: 45.73m aOD). The context was a more friable, dark brown sandy clay matrix at its eastern end gradually turning to a loose, orangish brown medium sand towards the west. The sandy clay matrix contained only moderate small to medium flint pebbles, while the medium sand contained 40-50% small to cobble sized flint pebbles. The deposit extended across the whole trench to a depth of between 89cm to 84cm. This

context was extremely unstable.

The natural sand [005] lay below 004. It was a very soft light olive brown medium sand (west: 44.78m aOD to east: 44.89m aOD) containing 20-30% small to large flint pebbles. The context extended across the whole of the trench.

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were:

- 19th to 20th century bricks [004]

Trench 3

Due to the instability of the ground trench 3 was not dug.

Assessment and interpretation

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

2 trenches were excavated across the site revealing turf and topsoil, above made ground which overlaid the natural sand and gravel.

The object of trench 1 was to locate the feeder pipe from the northern Gallows Conduit that is presumed to exit from the eastern side of the conduit house. On the Ordnance Survey 25" and 1:1250 maps² this is shown as crossing the rear garden to the school on its way to Coombe Conduit. Lindus Forge in his assessment of the conduit system³ also shows the feeder crossing the grounds of the school, but further north than the line shown by the Ordnance Survey.

If the projected line of the feeder is correct it, would take water from Gallows, 250m to the south-east to Coombe. From Coombe the water would then go about 700m westwards to join the feeder from

² Panizzo, P. & Lown, S. 2006 *The Conduit Houses of Coombe - the ancient water supply to Hampton Court Palace*, private publication, Fig. IV, p.10.

See also fig. 3 above

³ Lindus Forge, J.W. 1959 'Coombe Hill Conduit Houses and the Water Supply System of Hampton Court Palace', *Surrey Archaeol Coll.*

Gallows Conduit. This circuitous route of the feeder from the northern Gallows Conduit to Coombe Conduit does not make sense, when there is already a route from the two Gallows Conduits to the junction with the feeder from Coombe. It would be much easier and cheaper to find another closer source of water to supply Coombe.

With the line crossing the school's gardens being disproved it is probable that the survey map by Thomas Ffort dated to 1742 is correct. His survey of the conduit system does not show any connection between Gallows and Coombe.

The two remaining trenches were designed to look for signs of any Prehistoric activity in the area of the proposed sports hall. Approximate 60% of the footprint of sports hall has already been destroyed in the late 19th century when Coombe Ridge house was built. Although the full 20m of trenches could not be excavated, over 12m of trench was examine and no evidence of Prehistoric activity was found. The trench did reveal, however, an considerable amount of made ground, presumably from the excavation of the lower terrace.

Archaeological Potential

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period other than 19th century and later.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development does 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.



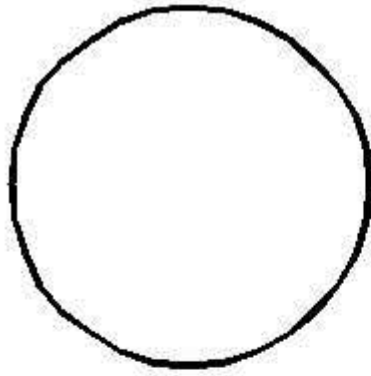
Plate 2

Trench 1: west section



Plate 3

Trench 2: looking west



© *Sutton Archaeological Services 2008*