

Sutton Archaeological Services

Draft Evaluation Report

on

**40 Coleridge Avenue,
Carshalton, Surrey, SM1 3RQ .
CVE 10: (TQ 274 643)**

for

Whiteoak Homes Ltd



Fig. 1

John Rocque's map (1768)



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

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40 Coleridge Avenue,
Carshalton, Surrey, SM1 3RQ.
London Borough of Sutton
CVE 10: (TQ 274 643)

By

J G Perry May 2010

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Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 40 Coleridge Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM1 3RQ between 18th and 20th May 2010.

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

The evaluation only revealed turf and topsoil, with the sub-soil overlying the natural Thanet sand.

No Prehistoric or Roman archaeology was found and the finds relate to the 20th century. The consist of Ceramic Building Materials (CBM), glass, metal and wood. A single residual fragment of burnt flint was found in trench 1.

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.

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Introduction

This report concerns the proposed development at 40 Coleridge Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM1 3RQ.

Whiteoak Homes Ltd (the developers) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary. The archaeological works are to be carried out post determination under the above planning consent and condition.

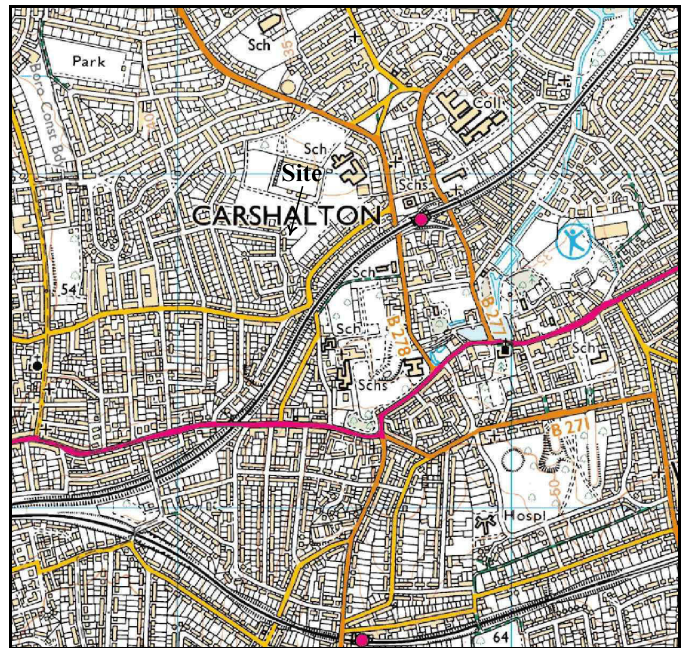


Fig. 2 Site Location © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site is situated in the London Borough of Sutton, with Colston Avenue and to the east and St Philomena's High School for Girls to the south-east. An allotment, Carshalton High School for Girls and Wrythe Green lie to the north. Westmead Road, the railway line between Sutton and Carshalton and Carshalton Road lie to the south. Browning Avenue lies immediately to the west, with Sutton being about 1½km further to the west.

Topography: The site lies on the tail of the dip-slope of the North Downs, with the ground sloping northwards towards the river Wandle. Ground levels around the site are about *c.* 38m OD.

Geology: The basic geology splits the surrounding area in two, with a mixture of Thanet Sands and River Terrace Gravels and Upper Chalk. However, within this basic division, the sequence of geological deposits is very complex. The interface of these two deposits within the Croydon/Carshalton/Sutton/Ewell area has produced a spring-line which, amongst others, feeds the River Wandle.

Planning background

The development consists of the demolition of the current dwelling and the erection of four detached 3-bedroomed houses in what was the rear garden. Each new house will have an integral garage and parking facilities together with hardstanding to accommodate refuse facilities and new access.



Fig. 3

Site location Plan

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The site lies in an area of archaeological importance as defined in the London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Development Plan. English Heritage's Archaeological Officer has advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPS 5¹ should be included in planning approval C2009/61796/FUL dated 19th November 2009.

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 of 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.

¹ Department for Communities and Local Government: *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, TSO, 2010.

Archaeological Discussion

The Prehistoric finds from excavations from St. Philomena's are of more than local importance. The Early Bronze Age is little represented in Surrey's archaeological record. The Collared urn from St. Philomena's adds an important find to a sparse collection although there are some other Early Bronze Age finds locally. Evidence for Later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement is better represented. Certainly in these periods, if not before, there was a whole sequence of sites along the Wandle valley, many on the sands, gravels and chalk spring line. Settlements are known to have existed, or are suspected, at St. Philomena's, Wandle Meadows in Hackbridge, Wallington County Grammar School for Boys, Beddington Sewage Farm, Aldwick Road and Bunkers Field, Wallington. There is also evidence for Roman, Saxon and Medieval evidence in the surrounding area, while St. Philomena's itself is also a major Post-Medieval estate.

Prehistoric: Excavations at St. Philomena's confirmed the presence of a significant LBA settlement and a possible burial cairn, with evidence of Early Bronze Age activity.

The Early Bronze Age: Only one find of significance is known from this period, the substantial remains of an Early Bronze Age Collared Urn was found at St. Philomena's about 500m to the south-east. Three small fragments of burnt bone recovered during excavation may suggest the presence of a dispersed cremation deposit.

The Later Bronze Age: The evidence for Late Bronze age occupation at St. Philomena's consists of a series of three small parallel ditches on a north-east to south-west alignment. The majority of the LBA pottery came from an organic secondary fill of the northernmost ditch, where a small charred grain deposit of barley and possible wheat grains together with a number of weed seeds was retrieved by sieving. A small quantity of animal bone was also located from this feature² including a thigh bone from a house mouse. The middle ditch also produced occasional charred grains of barley (*Hordeum*) and wheat (*Triticum*), and occasional desiccated seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*)³.

The southern ditch had a 'V' shaped cut and a small number of pottery fragments were recovered from the silts of the ditch which point to a date in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (approximately 1100 to 600 BC). A piece of Roman tile was located in the uppermost fill of the

² Sidell, J. 1993. *The animal bone deposits from Carshalton House* (CHO 92). Unpublished draft report.

³ Vaughan-Williams, A. 2010. *Assessment of the Archaeobotanical Remains from St. Philomena's* (PNF 10)

ditch. This ditch was further recorded in the observation of foundation trenches to the north-east and almost certainly to the south-west, where the Gym fore-building was being constructed. Overall this recorded length of the ditch appears to be at 16m long.

Further evidence for late Bronze Age activity has been found in both features and finds from a midden deposit and cairn. The combination of this evidence strongly suggests either a dispersed settlement, intensive settlement, or a chronologically migrating settlement in this one area.

Iron Age: The remains of Iron Age occupation have recently been discovered at the rear of a property in West Street, adjacent to the school grounds. Recent work at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital found Middle Iron Age features, including a number of pits, postholes and a ditch⁴. This is over 1km to the south-east of the site.

The Prehistoric evidence is some distance from the proposed development site so the pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was there is a low to medium potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this development.

Roman: St. Philomena's also produced a truncated circular feature containing Roman pottery and a sizeable collection of weathered Roman pottery sherds from unstratified deposits. The remains of a Roman building has also been discovered in West Street, bordering on the edge of St. Philomena's grounds. The building probably is part of a Roman *villa*, in which case there may be other building in the surrounding area, as well as an associated field system. There is some evidence to support the spread of the Roman establishment across the norther part of St. Philomena's, towards the site.

At Carshalton High School for Girls, about 300m to the north-east, a ditch had within its fill small sherds of pottery loosely dated to the Roman and possibly Medieval period, as well as some struck flint. The Senior archaeologist noted that the limited finds from this ditch could not give more than a provisional date for it, although he did not rule out a late Prehistoric date⁵.

The present evidence suggests that the Roman activity comes mainly from the West Street area and the northern part of the St. Philomena's grounds. Many of the finds and features are well away from

⁴ Site code ASW 08

⁵ Tucker, S. L. 1990 *Carshalton High School for Girls, London Borough of Sutton, Preliminary Report of Archaeological Investigations.*

the site, but there is a suggestion of Roman remains coming towards the site. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Roman archaeology on this development.

Saxon: Carshalton was first mentioned in 675 AD when it was called *Aeuultone*. In 880 AD the name had changed to *Aweltun* and by Domesday to *Aultone*⁶. The Domesday survey records that five freemen held a total of 26 hides. There were originally five manors which were amalgamated in to one and held from the King by Geoffrey de Manderville⁷. The focus for the Anglo-Saxon settlement appears to be in the area of All Saints Church⁸. Saxon pottery has been identified at Orchard Hill, Ruskin Road, Colston Avenue and three sherds of grass tempered pottery from Pound Street. St Philomena's School has also produced early Saxon pottery and loom weights and several features including a pit.

The majority of the Saxon finds are well to the south so the pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a medium potential for Saxon archaeology on this development.

Medieval and Post-Medieval: The evidence for Medieval settlement in Carshalton is, like the Saxon settlement, focussed on the village centre in the area of All Saints Church, in the Pound Street/West Lane Street area, with some development into the High Street. Historical records of the manors of Carshalton are known from c. 1300AD and the Carshalton House estate is recognised as the *caput* of one of these manors, known as *Kynnersley, or the Old Farm*⁹. Recent investigation in the walled garden in Grove Park has revealed the stone foundations of an 12th/13th building, probably the Stone Court manor house, and excavation at Queens Ann Boleyn's Well revealed traces of Medieval occupation. Carshalton Manor probably covered a large area and would have changed ownership many times. In the late Post-Medieval period there were three large emparked estates: Carshalton House, Carshalton Park House and Stone Court.

There are some traces of Medieval to late Medieval structures at St. Philomena's where a large sherd of 12th-13th century pottery and stray finds of shelly ware and glazed wares were found. Medieval deposits were located beneath the Walled Garden. A notable find was human remains to the east of

⁶ Jones, A. E., 1970 *From medieval manor to London suburb: an obituary of Carshalton*. Private publication

⁷ Morris, J. 1975 *History from the sources, Domesday Book, Surrey.*, Phillimore, Chichester.

⁸ Orton, C., 1989 *Recent Archaeological work in Carshalton, a dip-slope spring-line settlement*. Surrey Archaeol Coll, **79**, p.171

⁹ Jones, A.E. 1980 *The story of Carshalton House, now St Philomena's*, pp 1-3.

the Kitchen Gardens along the drive associated with Medieval pottery¹⁰. In the Post-Medieval period (16th/17th century) the important chalk and brick structures within the bed of the present lake to the east of the proposed development appear to have been built, as part of a landscape shown on a map dated *c.* 1632¹¹. The mansion itself, although externally appearing as late 17th/early 18th century, has masonry in the cellars and first floor which can be dated to roughly the same period as the lake foundations. Apart from these finds and boundaries, little is known of the layout of the estate in the Mediaeval period.

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

Archaeological Potential

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the evaluation, the potential for Prehistoric and Roman settlement and activity in the area of the development seems low to medium. There is a low potential for Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation and activity in the area of the site.

The Prehistoric evidence from St. Philomena's indicated that the suspected settlement lay on the slightly higher ground above the Wandle flood plain at *c.* 41m aOD. The Prehistoric levels on the midden at St. Philomena's and the Roman and Iron Age at finds from West Street, both on the flood plain, were *c.* 38m aOD. The three ditches at St. Philomena's were all roughly on the same alignment and the northern ditch ran across the area of Saxon activity. These ditches may be part of a field system related to a nearby settlement. If evidence of this type of site was present on site it could have provide information on the development of settlements and agricultural during the later Bronze Age. Pottery could also help refine and develop the local ceramic sequence.

With a nearby Roman settlement the occupation may give some evidence on the transition between late Iron Age and Roman settlements.

In May 20105 Sutton Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the above evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Prehistoric and

¹⁰ Bird, D. G. 1977 Carshalton, human remains in the grounds of St Philomena's School, Carshalton House, *SyAC*, 71, 272-3.

¹¹ The *Arundel Map*, in the archives of Arundel Castle. Copy in Sutton Local Studies Library.

Roman 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, 200

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 a suitable mitigation strategy or design measures to protect the archaeology. If significant remains were encountered then further investigation would be needed to mitigate the impact of development. The scope of that work would be detailed in another Research Design.

Because of the potential for archaeology in the development area, SAS proposed to excavate 4, 15m x 2m trenches (fig. 4).

Archaeological methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with:

- our research design dated May 2010. (See below for the change we had to make in positioning the trench.)
- 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



Fig. 4 Development and trench location Plan

- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- Planning approval C2009/61796/FUL dated 19th November 2009

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

Trenches: We dug 4 trenches as shown on fig 4. The alignment of trench 3 was moved slightly to avoid a tree stump. This did not interfere with our aims to spread the trenches evenly across the site.

We broke open the trench with a mini digger, using a smooth-edged ditching bucket.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the top and subsoil deposits. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first underlying natural deposits (Thanet sand). (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 trenches 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 3 contexts - numbered [001] to [003] - 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 manhole cover at 38 Coleridge Avenue (value 38.10m aOD) on the survey plan by Robert Clark Associates no. 1295/2.2.

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

Evaluation results

The stratigraphy was the same in all four evaluation trenches, consisting of the turf and topsoil, a very soft, dark brown silty sand [001] containing occasional small to medium flint pebbles. The next context was the sub-soil, a friable to very soft, light to medium greyish brown silty sand [002] containing frequent small to medium flint pebbles. The final context was the natural Thanet Sand. It consisting of friable, light olive to orangish brown fine sand [003] containing 10-15% small to medium flint pebbles and moderate cobble sized flint pebbles. The cobble sized flints tended to be concentrated near to the upper margins of the context. This was most noticeable in trench 1. Within the sand were patches of a light grey silty sand.

Trench 1 (plan 4)

Trench 1 was oriented east to west with the turf and topsoil [001] (east: 36.46m aOD to west: 36.50m) being 22cm to 24cm deep. Finds from this context included modern glass, CBM and wood.

The sub-soil [002] (east: 36.24m aOD to west: 36.26m) was between 21cm to 27cm deep and contained a very small fragment of burnt flint and fragments of corroded metal.

Context [003] was at east: 36.03m aOD to west: 35.99m.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was oriented east to west with the turf and topsoil [001] (east: 36.46m aOD to west: 36.50m) being 22cm to 24cm deep. Finds from this context included modern glass, CBM and wood.

The sub-soil [002] (east: 36.24m aOD to west: 36.26m) was between 21cm to 27cm deep and contained a very small fragment of burnt flint and fragments of corroded metal.

Context [003] was at east: 36.03m aOD to west: 35.99m.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was oriented north to south with the turf and topsoil [001] (north: 36.63m aOD to south: 36.66m) being about 35cm deep. A tree stump was encountered by the trench, which was dug around. Finds from this context included modern CBM.

The sub-soil [002] (north: 36.29m aOD to south: 36.31m) was between 27cm to 30cm deep. No finds were found from this context.

Context [003] was at north: 35.95m aOD to south: 36.04m.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was oriented north to south with the turf and topsoil [001] (north: 36.74m aOD to south: 36.67m) being between 30cm to 33cm deep. Finds from this context included modern CBM.

The sub-soil [002] (north: 36.41m aOD to south: 36.37m) was between 30cm to 34cm deep and contained a small fragment of corroded metal modern CBM.

Context [003] was at north: 36.11m aOD to west: 36.03m.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Prehistoric and Roman archaeology in the surrounding area.

The evaluation only revealed turf and topsoil, with the sub-soil overlying the natural Thanet sand.

There were no archaeological features or finds other than modern, except for a single residual fragment of burnt flint from trench 1.

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 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.

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 Excavation area



Plate 2 Trench 1: east section



Plate 3 Trench 1: looking east



Plate 4 Trench 2: looking East

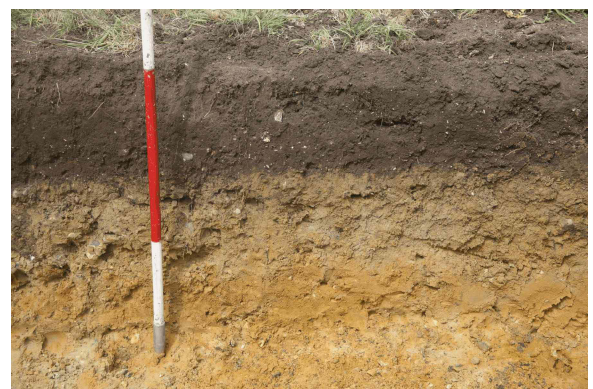


Plate 5 Trench 2: north section



Plate 6 Trench 3: east section



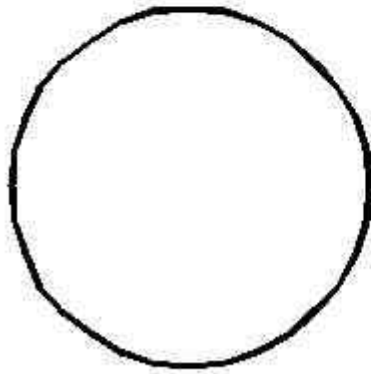
Plate 8 Trench 4: east section



Plate 7 Trench 3: looking north



Plate 9 Trench 4: looking north



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