

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

on

Holy Trinity CE Junior School

Bute Road,

Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8BZ

HOJ 10: (TQ 290 648)

for

Bryen & Langley Limited



Fig. 1 John Rocque's Map of Surrey (1768)



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

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London Borough of Sutton
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by

J G PERRY: June 2010

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Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Holy Trinity CE Junior School, Bute Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8BZ between July 2009 and 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.

One trench was excavated and a watching brief was maintained on other parts of the site. The archaeological work only revealed made ground or tarmac, over sub-soil and the natural chalk.

There was no evidence for archaeology and the only finds were fragments of modern CBM and other modern items.

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 relates to the proposed development at Holy Trinity CE Junior School, Bute Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8BZ.

Bryen & Langley Limited (the developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out a watching brief and 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.

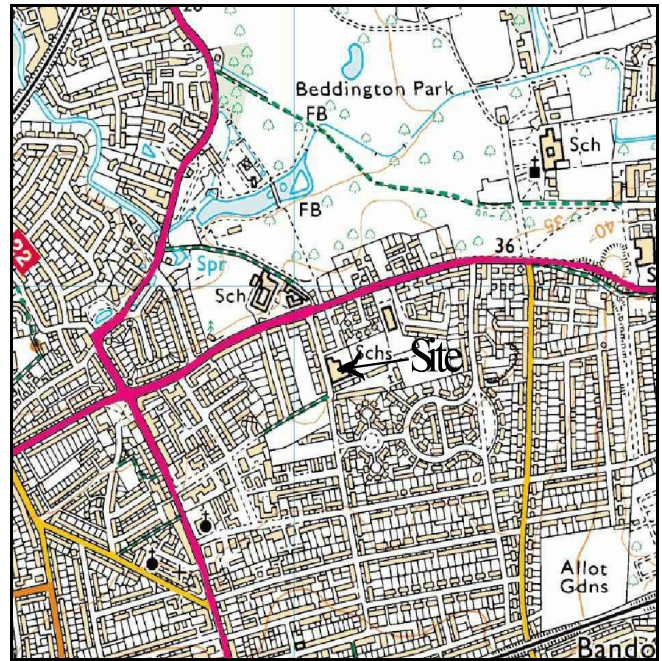


Fig. 2 Location Plan © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Sutton, 3 km east of Croydon and 3 km west of Sutton. It is in a mostly residential area to the south of Croydon Road and on the west side of Bute Road, close to its junction with Croydon Road. Wallington County Grammar School, Beddington Park and the river Wandle lie to the north is London Road and to the east are houses, flats and Carew Manor and St Mary's Church. Croydon Road lies to the south.

Topography: The site lies on the southern side of the Wandle valley at the bottom of the dip slope of the North Downs. The land is fairly flat c. 36 - 38m aOD.

Geology: The underlying geology consists of upper chalk.

Planning background

The proposed development is part of the grounds of Holy Trinity C.E. School. The development consists of the construction of two side extensions, a rear extension and provision of a glazed pyramid roof to provide kitchen and classroom facilities following removal of existing dilapidated buildings.

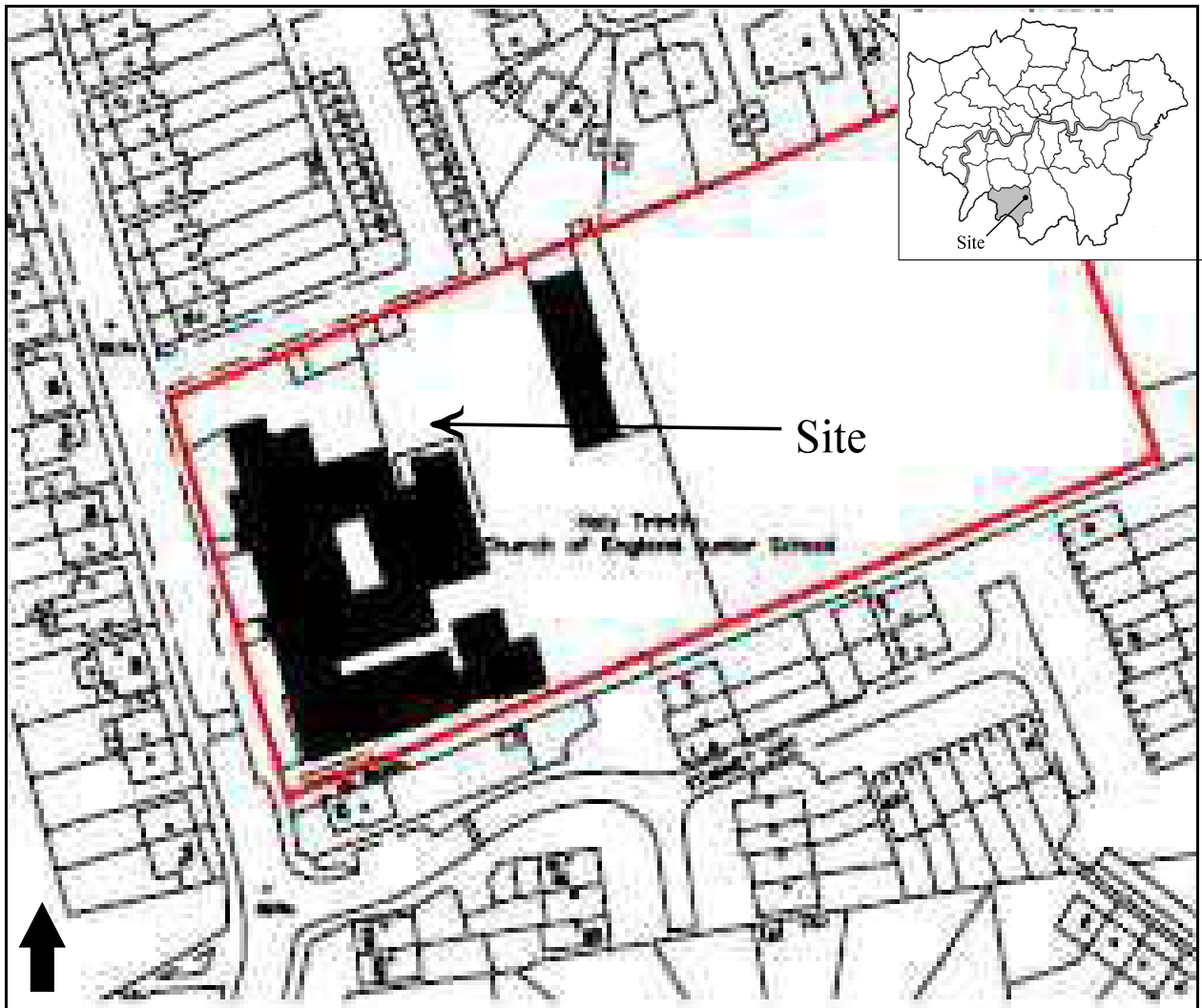


Fig. 3 Site Location Plan © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Planning permission has been given by the London Borough of Sutton, and, as the site lies within an area of high archaeological importance, an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ was included in planning approval D2009/61187/3FR dated 17th July 2009:

- 3 *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.*

¹ Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990. Now replaced by the Department for Communities and Local Government: *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, TSO, 2010.

Archaeological discussion

The surrounding area is very rich in the archaeology of all periods, although there is very little detailed knowledge of any early settlements except the Beddington Prehistoric and Roman Villa site.

Prehistoric: There have been many scattered finds of flint and stone artefacts as well as faunal remains of the Palaeolithic (pre-10,000 BC) and Mesolithic (c. 10,000-4,500 BC) in the Beddington and Wallington area. Most of these have come from the Wandle valley sands and gravels, particularly on the Thames Water land at the Beddington Sewage Farm, as well as a few from the chalk of the North Downs dip slope². Several areas of Mesolithic flint scatters have been found in the area, with a ditch contained Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age flints in a ditch at Strawberry Lodge. Traces of Bronze Age occupation and artefacts have been found to the north-west and north on the Beddington sewage farm³, the London Carriers site in Beddington Lane⁴, and at Beddington Infants School⁵. Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered in Aldwick Road and a fragment of a Bronze-Age axe was found in Beddington Park⁶. There have also been several finds of Bronze Age metal hoards along the Wandle, with the nearest in Beddington Park. Traces of field systems tentatively dated to this period have also been found over a wide area, but mainly on the Beddington sewage farm. A large area of Bronze Age occupation was found at the Westcroft site, possibly of ritual significance.

The remains of an Early Iron Age to Late Iron Age settlement, enclosing ditch, and possible field boundaries, were discovered beneath the Beddington Roman Villa⁷. Early Iron Age pottery was found at Aldwick Road to the east and an enclosure near Wallington High School for Boys⁸. An Iron

² Adkins, L. 1980 Settlement patterns in the area around Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington: an outline of the evidence, in *THE PAST - OUR FUTURE*, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeol Soc, **4**, 8-12

³ Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J G 1986 'Excavations at Prehistoric and Roman Beddington, 1984-85', *London Archaeol*, **5**, no.6 (1986), 152-7.

Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J. G. 1987 'Excavations at Beddington 1984-87: the Final Interim', *London Archaeol*, **5**, 13 (1987), 349-52.

⁴ Bird, D. G., Crocker, G, & McCracken J. S. 1992 Archaeology in Surrey 1990, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **81**, 166.

⁵ *pers. comm.* Simon Mason, MOLAS.

⁶ Adkins, L. 1985 A Bronze Age Axe from Beddington Park, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **73**, 143.

⁷ Adkins, L, Adkins, R, & Perry, J G *op. cit.*

⁸ Laws A & Wooldridge, M. 1980 Excavations at Wallington High School for Boys, in *THE PAST - OUR FUTURE*, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. **4**, 18-22.

Age hut circle was found in Burleigh Avenue and in West Street, Carshalton Iron Age occupation preceded a later Roman Villa. A watching brief along the line of a new cycle track in Beddington Park finished close to the proposed development site, but no Prehistoric features or finds were made.

Pre-evaluation and watching brief evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

Roman: A Roman site is known at Beddington Roman Villa, where traces of occupation from the 1st to 4th century is known. Another villa, similar to Beddington, is known in West Street, Carshalton where occupation is also recorded from the 1st to 4th century. During an evaluation stage at Wallington County Grammar School a small north to south ditch was found.

Pre-evaluation and watching brief evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

Saxon: A Saxon cemetery was discovered in 1871 just north of the Wandle, below what is now Crispen Crescent and Mallinson Road. A further three burials came to light in 1875 at Park Farm near to Carew Manor⁹. A Saxon brooch was found in Beddington Park¹⁰ and Saxon pottery has been identified close to Carew Manor itself¹¹. St Mary's Church is thought to be of Saxon origin and Beddington is mentioned in a number of early Saxon documents. It is known that the Bishop of Winchester died in Beddington in the late 9th century.

Pre-evaluation and watching brief evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon occupation and activity on this site.

Medieval to Post-Medieval: The evidence for Medieval settlement in and around Beddington is focussed on the village centre in the area of Guy Road and Church Path, to the east. Quantities of Medieval pottery have been found in Hilliers Lane. By the 13th century the Carew family had secured property in Beddington, which formed the basis of an estate of more than 3000 acres when it was finally dispersed in 1859. Although their first recorded ownership of the land comes in 1820 when the parish was enclosed, it is likely that Carew ownership extended back at least into the later

⁹ Perry, J. 1980 Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Beddington, in *THE PAST - OUR FUTURE*, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. **4**, 23-8.

¹⁰ Adkins, L & Adkins, R. 1985 A Saxon Brooch from Beddington Park, *Surrey Archaeol Coll*, **76**, 144.

¹¹ *Pers. comm.* John Phillips.

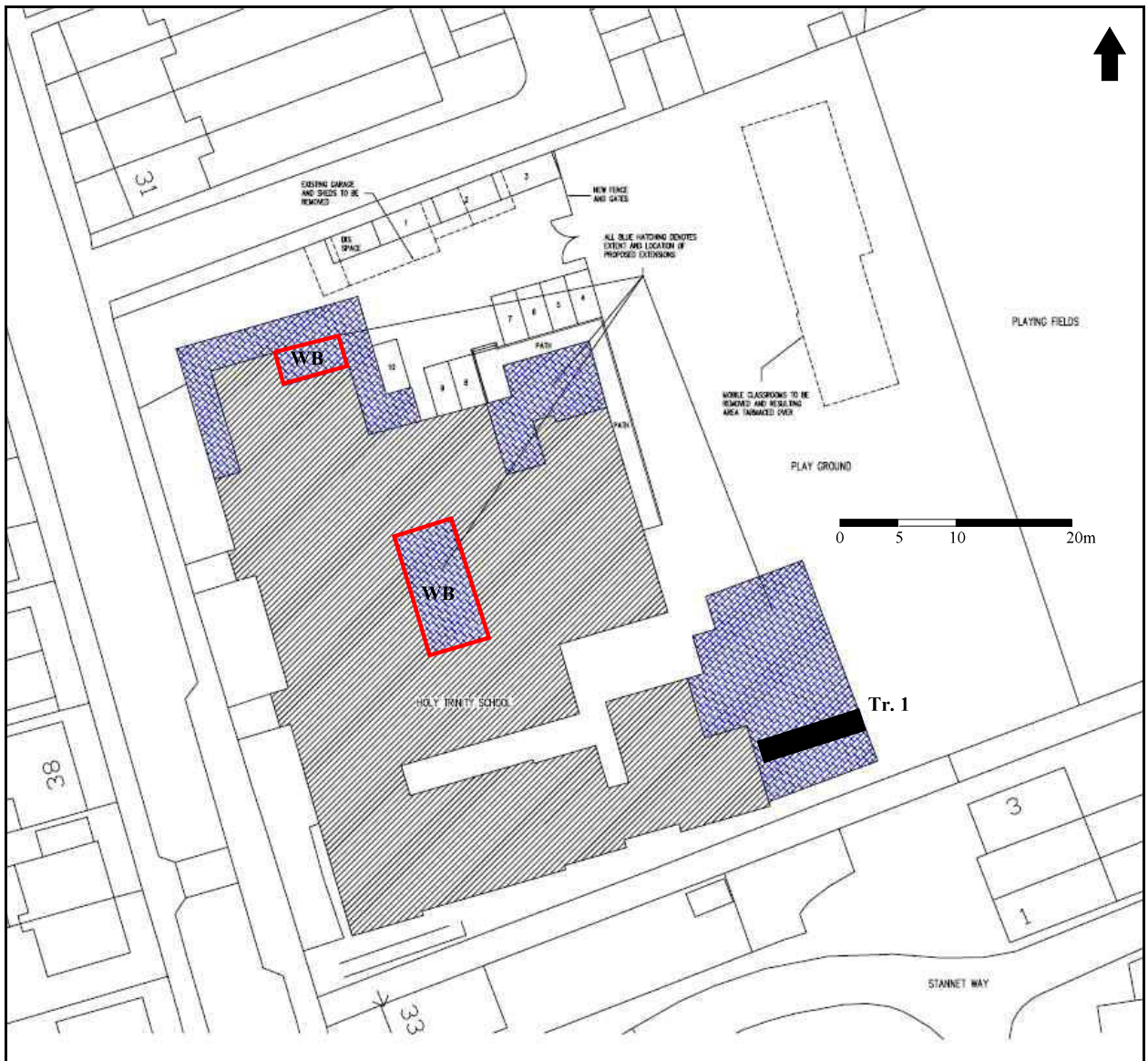


Fig. 4 Development plan, proposed trench location and watching brief areas

Medieval period. There was a Medieval moat site at Carew Manor that later became an important Tudor mansion of the Carew family.

Pre-evaluation and watching brief evidence suggested there was a low potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation on the site.

Archaeological Potential

Taken as a whole, before the evaluation and watching brief, the evidence suggested that there was a low to medium potential for Prehistoric and Roman archaeology and activity on the site. There was

also a low potential for and a low potential for Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation and activity on the site.

In the Bronze and Iron Ages there was a whole sequence of sites and activity along the Wandle valley, many on the sands, gravels and chalk spring line. Settlements are known to have existed, or are suspected, at Carshalton House, Wandle Meadows in Hackbridge, Wallington County Grammar School, Bunkers Field, Aldwick Road and Beddington Sewage Farm. Holy Trinity lies on this line of settlement and there is a possibility of Prehistoric settlement and/or activity. Evidence from these type of site can provide information on the development of settlements and agricultural during the later Bronze Age. Pottery can also help refine and develop the local ceramic sequence¹².

A Roman drainage or field boundary was discovered about 300m to the north of the site at Wallington County Grammar School and Roman material has also been found in Beddington Park. Traces of field systems and other Roman activity may be present on site. Evidence of this type of use can provide information on the land use and food production¹³.

Research objectives

In October 2008 Sutton Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Prehistoric and Saxon occupation and activity on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute for Archaeology 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

¹² Greater London Archaeology Research Framework (2002), p. 23-5.

¹³ *idem*, p.40-1

- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001

Archaeological Proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an archaeological investigation 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. If significant remains had been encountered then further investigation may have been needed to mitigate the impact of development, and the scope of that work would be detailed in another Research Design.

The development work was small scale, with small additions to existing classrooms and facilities. One large addition (10m x 18m) was to be made to the southern part of the school. SAS proposed, as a proportional response to the proposed development, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the ground works for the small additions and to excavated a 1 x 10m x 1.8m evaluation trench in the area of the large addition.

Archaeological methodology

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

- our research design dated January 2010.
- 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.
- Planning Decision D2009/61187/3FR dated 17th July 2009

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

Trenches: We dug 1 trench as shown on fig. 4.

We broke open the trenches with a 360° tracked machine for trench using a wide-bladed, smooth-edged bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket.

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

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

Archaeological results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the eastern part of the school building in what was part of the children's playground. The trench was 10m long and oriented east to west. Context [001] was the tarmac surface of the playground and its' make up deposit (west: 37.52m aOD to east: 37.31m aOD). This covered the site to a depth of 23cm.

Underlying context 001 was the subsoil [002] a silty sand context (west: 37.13m aOD to east: 37.07m aOD). The deposit covered the trench to a depth of 32-38cm.

Context [003] (west: 36.80m aOD to east: 36.77m aOD) was the natural chalk, which extended across the whole of the trench.

There were no archaeological features and the only finds were fragments of modern CBM from context 001 and modern items from context 002.

Watching Brief

Two areas were subject to the watching brief. One was a light well within the school and the other a small addition on the northern part of the school.

The light well was started and completed about 7 months before the main works began. The concrete flagstones (37.31m aOD) were removed before the monitoring began and the work consisted of removing about 70cm of overburden. This was followed by the insertion of concrete floor beams, which were laid on the reinforced foundations of the existing walls. The depth of excavations did not go through the overburden.

The foundations for the northern building cut through the tarmac surface [001] (36.77m aOD) and the underlying brick rubble made up to a depth of 71cm. The next context was the subsoil [002] a silty sand context (36.06m aOD), covering the foundation trench to a depth of around 73cm.

The final context [003] (35.70m aOD) was the fractured remains of the upper chalk, which extended across the whole of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of between 37cm to 41cm. The only finds were fragments of modern CBM and other modern items from context 001.

Assessment and interpretation

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

One trench was excavated and a watching brief was maintained on other parts of the site. The archaeological work only revealed made ground or tarmac, over sub-soil and the natural chalk.

There was no evidence for archaeology and the only finds were fragments of modern CBM and other modern items.

Revised archaeological potential

Following the evaluation and watching brief 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 looking west



Plate 2 Trench 1 west section



Plate 3 North foundations



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