

# *Sutton Archaeological Services*

## Evaluation Report

on

27 Wallace Crescent  
Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3SU.  
WCZ 10: (TQ 274 643)

for

*St Johns Developments Ltd*



Fig. 1

John Rocque's map (1768)



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

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**27 Wallace Crescent**  
Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3SU.  
London Borough of Sutton  
WCZ 10: (TQ 274 643)

By

J G Perry August 2010

## Summary

This report relates to the proposed development at 27 Wallace Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3PS.

The site lies in an area of archaeological importance as defined in the London Borough of Sutton's Unitary Development Plan. English Heritage has advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPS 5 should be included in planning approvals C2007/58072 dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

The proposed development area is part of the side garden of 27 Wallace Crescent and consists of the erection of a 2-bedroomed two storey end of terrace house with car parking space at front.

One trench was excavated across the site revealing top and sub-soil and the natural sandy clay. No archaeology of any period was found other than 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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 potential .....        | 5   |
| Archaeological proposals .....        | 5   |
| Archaeological Methodology .....      | 6   |
| Evaluation results .....              | 7   |
| Trench 1 .....                        | 7   |
| Assessment and Interpretation .....   | 8   |
| Archaeological potential .....        | 8   |
| Conclusions and recommendations ..... | 9   |
| Publications and dissemination .....  | 9   |
| Archive .....                         | 9   |

## ILLUSTRATIONS

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| Fig. 1 | John Rocque's map (1768 ) .....                 | cover |
| Fig. 2 | Site Location .....                             | 1     |
| Fig. 3 | Site Location Plan .....                        | 2     |
| Fig. 4 | Development area and trench location plan ..... | 6     |

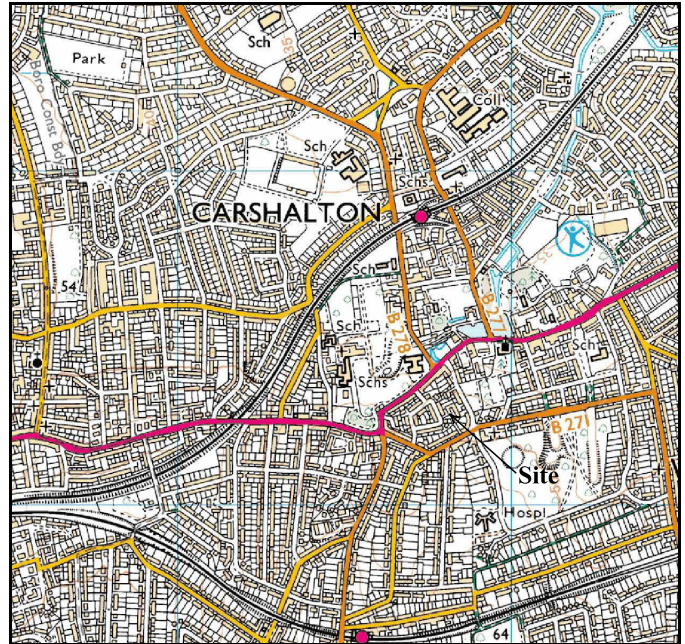
## Plates

|         |                              |    |
|---------|------------------------------|----|
| Plate 1 | General view of site .....   | 10 |
| Plate 2 | Trench 1: looking west ..... | 10 |
| Plate 3 | Trench 1: east section ..... | 10 |

## Introduction

This report concerns the proposed development at 43 Wallace Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3PS.

St Johns Developments Ltd (the Developers) commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may have been necessary. The archaeological works were carried out post determination under a planning consent with a condition.



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

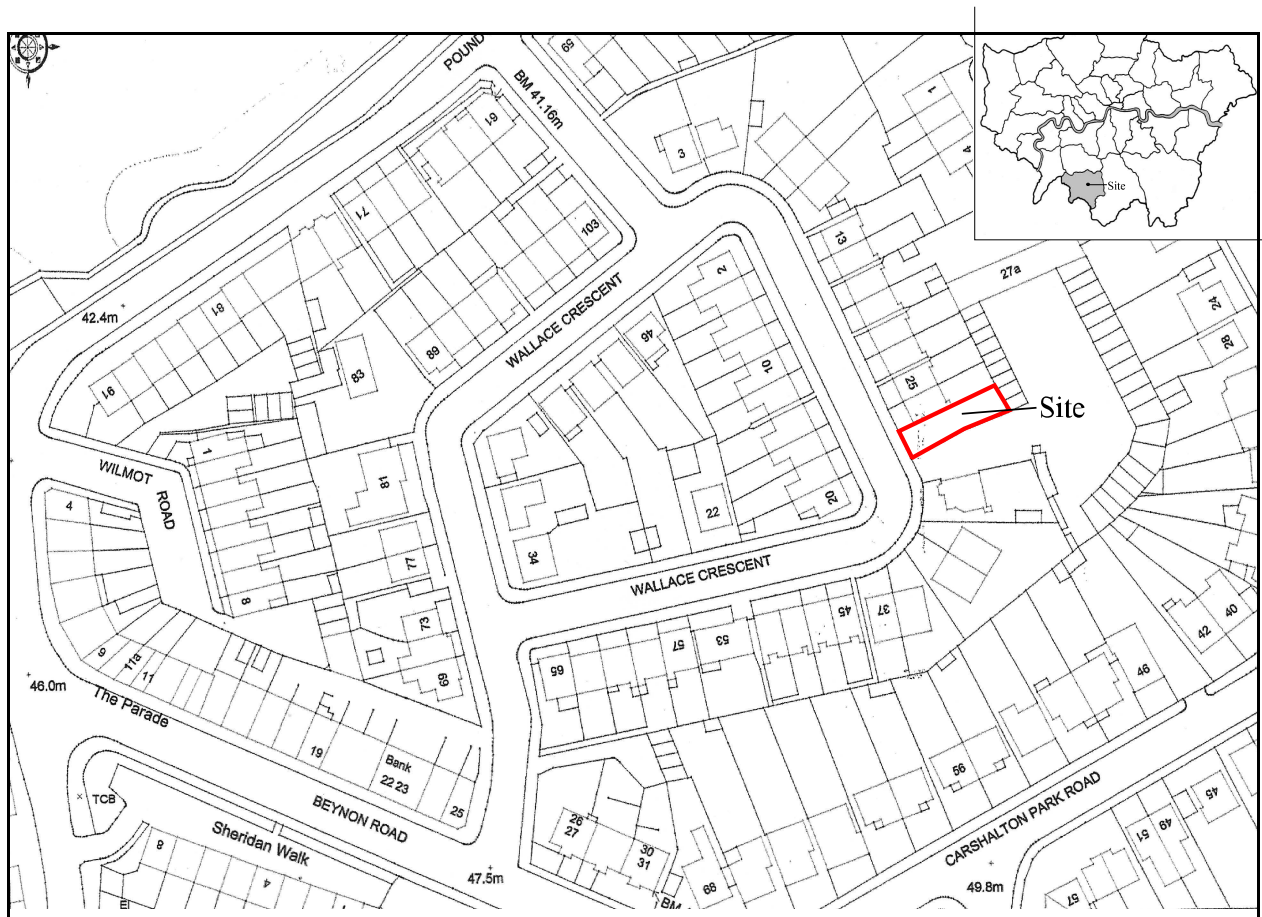
**Location:** The site lies in the London Borough of Sutton, just to the south-west of Carshalton, on the east side of Wallace Crescent. The Crescent leads off Pound Street and exits into Beynon Road. St. Philomena's Girls School lies to the north, while Sutton lies 2km to the west. Carshalton Park Road lies to the south.

**Topography:** The sites lie in a mainly residential area on the tail of the dip slope of the North Downs. The ground slopes downwards to the north towards the river Wandle and from the east towards the west. The sites lie at a height of about 50m aOD.

**Geology:** A mixture of Thanet Sands and River Terrace Gravels and Clay lies under the surrounding area.

## Planning background

The site was once part of the garden to 27 Wallace Crescent. Planning permission has been received to build a detached house with parking for two cars.



**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 advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPS 5<sup>1</sup> should be included in planning approval C2007/58072 dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007:

*(10) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a 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. Reason: To ensure that there is an opportunity to properly investigate and record information on this site, which is considered to be of high archaeological interest.*

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

## Archaeological Discussion

There is plenty of evidence for human activity in the area around the site, with a major Bronze Age site and Saxon occupation to the north at St. Philomena's and Roman and Medieval occupation to the north and north-east of the site in Carshalton.

**Prehistoric:** Mesolithic flint flakes were found to the east of the site at Orchard Hill and Church Hill in residual contexts. Excavations at St Philomena's School, to the north of the site, has suggested the presence of Early Bronze Age activity in the form of a collared urn, possibly from a dispersed cremation deposit. The evidence for Late Bronze Age occupation has also been found at St Philomena's in the form of a ditch terminal or a pit. A 'V' shaped cut ditch, running approximately south-west to north-east, cuts into the natural chalk by the gym. Pottery fragments recovered from the silts of the ditch point to a date in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (approximately 1100 to 600 BC). In 1998 further evidence for a Late Bronze settlement has been found, together with a midden deposit and a possible burial cairn. The remains of Iron Age occupation have recently been discovered at the rear of a property in West Street, adjacent to the school grounds to the north of the site.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a medium potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this development.

**Roman:** A truncated circular feature containing Roman pottery has also been found at St Philomena's School along with a sizeable collection of weathered Roman and Saxon pottery sherds from residual deposits. The remains of a Roman building have also been discovered on the West Street. The building may be part of a Roman *villa*, in which case there may be other buildings in the surrounding area, as well as an associated field system.

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

**Saxon:** Carshalton is first mentioned in 675 AD when it was called *Aeuultone*. In 880 AD the name had changed to *Aweltun* and by Domesday to *Aultone*. 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 Manderville<sup>2</sup>. The focus for the Anglo-Saxon settlement appears to be in the area of All Saints Church<sup>3</sup> to the east. 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 excavations in the dining hall area of the school revealed several features including a pit.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon archaeology and activity 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 Street area, with some development into the High Street. Investigation in the walled garden in Grove Park has revealed the stone foundations of an 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> 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. Medieval occupation and human remains with associated Medieval pottery are known from St. Philomena's<sup>4</sup>.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Medieval to Modern archaeological settlement and activity on this development.

## Research objectives

In July 2010 Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Prehistoric occupation and activity on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

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<sup>2</sup> Jones, A. E., 1970 *From medieval manor to London suburb: an obituary of Carshalton*. Private publication  
Morris, J. 1975 *History from the sources, Domesday Book, Surrey.*, Phillimore, Chichester.

<sup>3</sup> Orton, C., 1989 *Recent Archaeological work in Carshalton, a dip-slope spring-line settlement*. Surrey Archaeol Coll, **79**, p.171

<sup>4</sup> Bird, D. G. 1977 Carshalton, human remains in the grounds of St Philomena's School, Carshalton House, *SyAC*, **71**, 272-3.

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 Potential**

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the evaluation, the potential for Prehistoric settlement in the area of the development seemed medium. There was a low potential for Roman, Saxon, Medieval to Modern occupation or activity in the area of the site.

The main potential for archaeology was for the Prehistoric period. There were possibilities of finding a continuation of the occupation either from the Bronze Age at St. Philomena’s or the Mesolithic activity from Orchard Hill and Church Hill. Any similar evidence from this site could have provided further information on the development of the Mesolithic activity and hopefully find *in situ* activity rather than in residual contexts. Further information on settlements and agricultural during the Bronze Age could also have been found. Any pottery from these periods could also have helped refine and develop the local ceramic sequence<sup>5</sup>.

### **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.

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<sup>5</sup> Greater London Archaeology Research Framework (2002), p. 23-5.



**Fig. 4** Development area and trench location plan (trench in black)

If significant remains are encountered then further investigation will be needed to mitigate the impact of development, and the scope of that work will be detailed in another Research Design.

Because of the potential for archaeology in the development area, SAS proposes to excavate 1, 10m x 1.8m trench.

### Archaeological methodology

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

- our research design dated July 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.

**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 JCB site Master, 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**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 an Ordnance Survey spot height, value 47.5m aOD, at the junction of Wallace Crescent and Beynon Road.

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

## **Evaluation results**

### ***Trench 1***

The first context was the turf and topsoil [001] (west: 50.77m aOD to east: 50.76m aOD), a friable to very soft, dark brown clayey silt containing frequent small to medium flint pebbles and very occasional fragments of chalk. At the eastern end of the trench there were the remains of a brick path.

The depth of this context was between 37-41cm. The only find was a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> pot and some modern CBM.

Below this was a very soft, medium brown clayey silt [002] (west: 50.40m aOD to east: 50.33m aOD), containing occasional small to large flint pebbles and very occasional small to medium fragments of chalk. This context was 13 to 25cm deep. No finds were made in context 002.

The final context was the natural, a sandy clay [002] (west: 50.27m aOD to east: 50.08m aOD), containing frequent small to large fragments of chalk and occasional flint pebbles. The consistency of the context varied, with areas of almost pure clay, others where the sand was more dominant and some with concentrated areas of pebbles. The chalk fragments tended to be concentrated in bands within the clay matrix. We cut up to 50cm into the clay to see if there were any traces of natural chalk, but none was found.

### **Assessment and interpretation**

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

One trench was excavated across the site revealing top and sub-soil and the natural sandy clay.

No archaeology of any period was found other than 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century was found.

### **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 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**

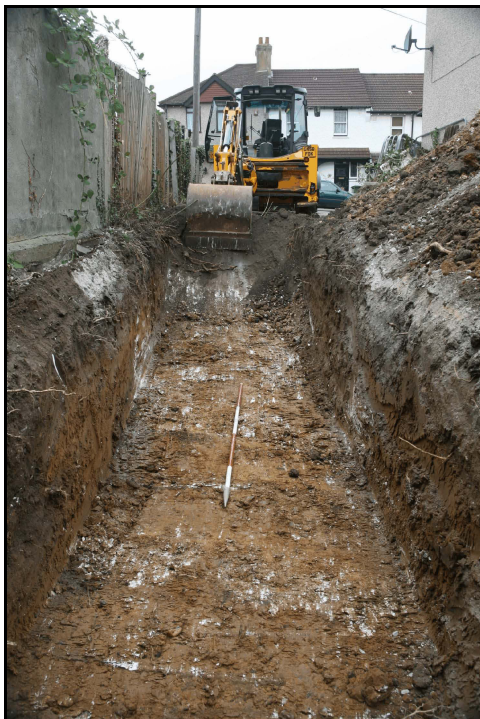
The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.



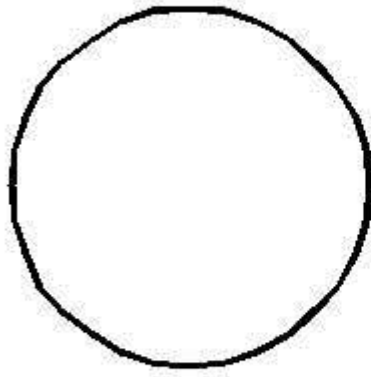
**Plate 1** General view of site



**Plate 2** East section



**Plate** Tr. 1 looking west



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