

# *Sutton Archaeological Services*

## **Evaluation Report**

on

**Sutton Grammar School For Boys,**  
Manor Lane, Sutton, SM1 4AS.  
MLZ 10: (TQ 2611 6441)

for

*Sutton Grammar School For Boys*



**Fig. 1** John Rocque's Map of Surrey 1741-5

# **Evaluation Report**

on

## **Sutton Grammar School For Boys,**

Manor Lane, Sutton, SM1 4AS.

London Borough of Sutton

MLZ 10: (TQ 261 644)

by

J G PERRY: November 2010

## Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Sutton Grammar School For Boys, Manor Lane, Sutton, SM1 4A on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010.

The site lay 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 should be included in planning approval B2010/62771 dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

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 Tarmac, top and sub-soil and the natural sand and gravel.

Except for one late Neolithic to Bronze Age blade, the only archaeology found was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. The blade is consistent with other struck flints found on a previous archaeological evaluation at the school. No sign of settlement was found in either evaluation, so the struck flints represent stray finds, possibly washed down the dip slope.

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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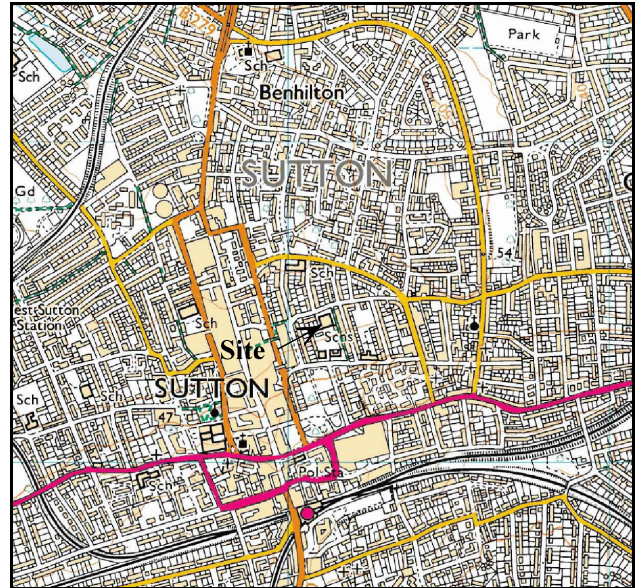
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## Introduction

This report concerns the proposed development at Sutton Grammar School For Boys, Manor Lane, Sutton, SM1 4AS.

Sutton Grammar School For Boys (the developer) commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation and any resulting archaeological work that may be necessary.



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

**Location:** The site lies in the London Borough of Sutton, between Sutton to the west and Carshalton to the east. The site lies on the south side of Manor, between Lenham Road to the west, Warwick Road to the east and Greyhound Road to the south.

**Topography:** The site lies on the tail of the dip-slope of the North Downs, with the ground sloping northwards towards the river Wandle. The ground slope from the south-east *c.* 49m aOD to the north-west *c.* 43m aOD.

**Geology:** The basic geology of the area is a with a mixture of Thanet Sands and River Terrace Gravels.

## Planning background

The site is a grammar school for boys, with a series of school buildings around a central tarmacked playground.

Planning permission has been received to erect a detached two storey building comprising six additional classrooms with office and storage accommodation.



**Fig. 3**

Site location plan

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The London Borough of Sutton approved planning permission for the proposed development and included an archaeological condition under PPS 5<sup>1</sup> in planning approval B2010/62771 dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010:

*18 No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, and any mitigation necessary to protect archaeological remains, in accordance with a scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the approved detailed scheme pursuant to this condition and any proposed mitigation to protect archaeological remains revealed by this investigation in accordance with an agreed methodology. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that*

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

*there is an opportunity to properly investigate and record information on this site, which is considered to be of high archaeological interest.*

## **Archaeological discussion**

There was little Prehistoric settlement evidence, except for stray finds, though middle to late Bronze Age material has come from the northern end of St Nicholas's Way. The available archaeological, historical and cartographical evidence, before the evaluation, suggested that there was a settlement at Sutton, probably from the late Saxon period and into the Medieval. Sutton expanded rapidly in the late Victorian period.

### *Prehistoric:*

The site occupied a prime occupation site close to a gravel ridgeway, running from Farnham in the west to Croydon in the east. Certainly in the Bronze and Iron Ages, if not before, there was a whole sequence of sites either side of the ridgeway, many on the sands, gravels and chalk spring line. Settlements were known in the Carshalton area, though few are known in the Sutton area. The site lies near to this line of settlement and there must be a possibility of prehistoric settlement, particularly field boundaries or flint scatters.

Evidence of Bronze Age domestic occupation and activity in the form of struck flint artefacts have been found at the northern end of St Nicholas's Way, under Halfords<sup>2</sup>. This site also produced evidence from the Early - Middle Iron Age. Struck and burnt flints were recovered from above the natural sand and subsoil at a previous evaluation at Sutton Grammar School for Boys<sup>3</sup>.

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

*Roman:* The main focus of Roman occupation is at the Carshalton Roman Villa in West Street<sup>4</sup>, where occupation is evidenced from the 1st to the 4th centuries.

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<sup>2</sup> SNI00: St Nicholas Way (land off), Sutton, Surrey.

<sup>3</sup> MNN98: Sutton Grammar School for Boys

<sup>4</sup> WEC 02: Davis Yard, Rear of 19 West Street, Carshalton, Surrey. SM5



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

*Saxon:* In 1086 the Domesday Book states that the Abbot of Chertsey held the Manor of Sudtone (Sutton), being assessed at 30 hides in the time of King Edward; now at 8½ hides. There were 2 carucates in the demesne, and 29 villains and 4 cottars with 13 carucates. There were 2 churches, and 2 bondmen, and 2 acres of meadow. The wood yields 10 swine. In the time of King Edward it was valued at 20 pounds, now at 15 pounds.

There is no evidence to suggest where the Saxon settlement was located, but it may well have been around the area of the present church. This is based on the assumption that the Saxon church was in the area of the present church. Excavations in Throwley Way in 1989 revealed two phases of activity of Late Saxon to early Medieval date represented by plough marks and domestic occupation. A trench behind the east side of the High Street revealed several pits containing 11th-12th-century material<sup>5</sup>.

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

*Medieval:* Sutton was something of a back water through most of the Medieval period, being away from the main highways between London and the surrounding towns. Evidence for Medieval Sutton has come from a number of sites. In the High Street two postholes containing timbers were found at 200-202 above the natural sand on the eastern side of the site. In the west of the site, a Medieval or later cut feature - either a pit or possibly a robbed-out wall - and a possible chalk surface were recorded<sup>6</sup>. At 101-103 High Street excavations revealed a wall 11.5m long and standing 2.5m high, constructed of alternating blocks of chalk and flint to produce a chequered effect, dated to the late Medieval period<sup>7</sup>. At the Halfords site two Medieval ditches, probably property boundaries, were recorded and are dated to at least the 13th century. The corner of a Medieval structure, represented by two beam slots, was found along with the remains of a chalk wall foundation and a gully. An evaluation at 123-211 High Street revealed Medieval features including two boundary ditches, a pond and a wooden structure, all at the rear of the property where local Cheam and possibly Kingston

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<sup>5</sup> TRO89 1-3 Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1

<sup>6</sup> HTU02: 200-202 High Street, Sutton, Surrey, SM1.

<sup>7</sup> SHH89 101-103 High Street, Sutton, Surrey, SM1. GLHER ref. 021198.

wares of the 12th-13th c were recovered. On the frontage a chalk floor, hearth and cellar were recorded<sup>8</sup>.

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

*Post-Medieval to modern:* Although Sutton was something of a back water, the settlement grew from the Medieval period until it was a reasonable sized settlement in the Post Medieval period. In 1755, a turnpike road from London to Brighton was constructed, intersecting with a turnpike road from Carshalton to Ewell which was constructed at the same time. From the Victorian period, Sutton became a popular village for commuters away from, but close to, London, particularly with the coming of the railways in 1847 and Sutton's population more than doubled between 1851 and 1861.

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

## **Research objectives**

In October 2010 Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objective to look for signs of Prehistoric 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*

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<sup>8</sup> SUT89: Greenford Road National Car Park, St Nicholas Way, 123-211 High Street, Sutton, Surrey, SM1



**Fig. 4** Development plan

**Archaeological Potential**

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

The main potential for archaeology was for the Prehistoric period. For the Prehistoric period we hoped to find evidence of Bronze Age settlement and activity.

## **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 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.

SAS proposed to excavate 2 trenches (7.5m x 1.8m) across the site (fig. 5). A third, contingency trench, up to an area of 13.5m<sup>2</sup> was kept in reserve to be used to clarify any archaeology that was found in the first two trenches.

## **Archaeological methodology**

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

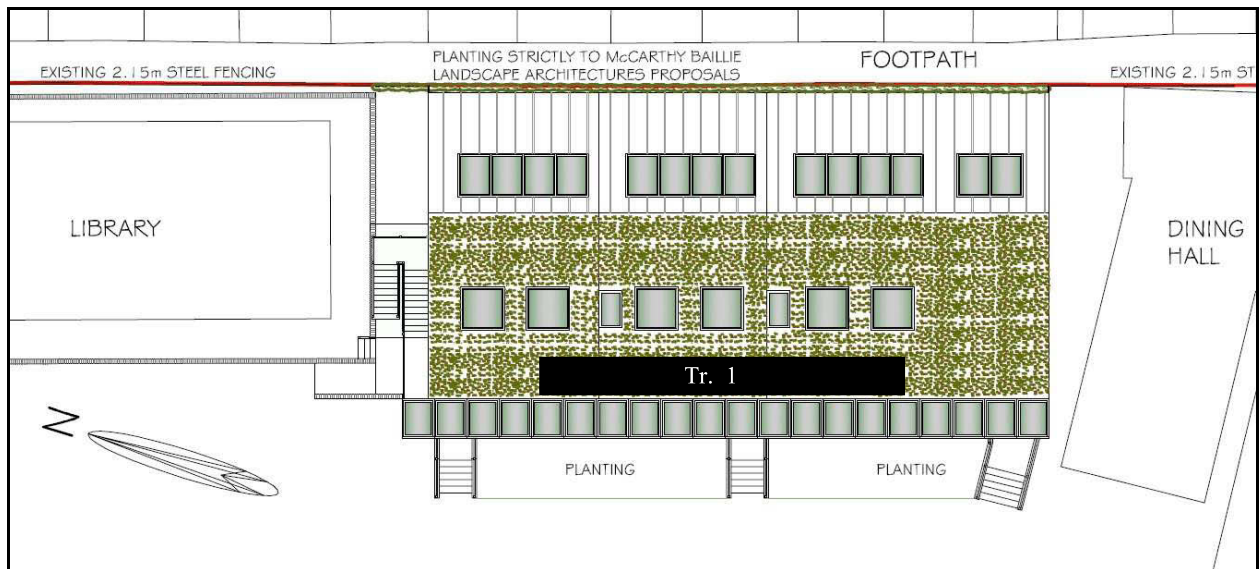
- our research design dated October 2010: see below for the change in trench locations
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological 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. Due to a suspected water pipe, it was not possible to excavate two separate trenches. With the agreement of English Heritage, 1 long trench was excavated.

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 tarmac, top 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.



**Fig. 5** Trench location plan

**Site records:** We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. In all, we recorded 4 contexts - numbered [001] to [004] - 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 47.60m aOD, at the junction of Greyhound Road and Manor Park 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 tarmac and brick rubble base [001] (south: 45.47m aOD to north: 44.95m aOD), a friable, dark brown silty sand up to 15cm deep, containing frequent medium to large CBM and very occasional fragments of chalk. The only finds were the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> CBM.

Below this was a friable to very soft, dark brown clayey sand [002] (south: 45.32m aOD to north: 44.80m aOD), containing occasional small to large flint pebbles and very occasional small fragments of chalk. This context was 15 to 20cm deep. The finds were clay pipe stems and fragments of Post-Medieval peg tile.

The next context was a medium, slightly reddish brown clayey sand [003](south: 45.15m aOD to north: 44.65m aOD), containing occasional small to large flint pebbles and very occasional small fragments of chalk. This context was 45 to 50cm deep. The finds were clay pipe stems, fragments of Post-Medieval peg tile and a late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint blade.

The final context was the natural fine Greensand [004](south: 44.65m aOD to north: 44.10m aOD), containing very occasional small to large flint pebbles. Within the context was what at first appeared to be some form of channel containing orangish coarse sand, with 30-40% small to large flint pebbles, possibly. On excavation, this was found to be a band of sand and gravel, that dipped below the Greensand, sloping to the north-west. A further deposit of Greensand lay below the orangish coarse sand.

### **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 Tarmac, top and sub-soil and the natural sand and gravel.

Except for one late Neolithic to Bronze Age blade, the only archaeology found was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century. The blade is consistent with other struck flints found on a previous archaeological evaluation at the school. No sign of settlement was found in either evaluation, so the struck flints represent stray finds, possibly washed down the dip slope.

### **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.

## **Acknowledgements**

SAS would like to thank the architects, Alan and Anne Dale, the school staff and Mark Stevenson at English Heritage for the help and assistance in completing the evaluation.



**Plate 1** General view, looking north



**Plate 2** West section



**Plate 3** Looking south





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