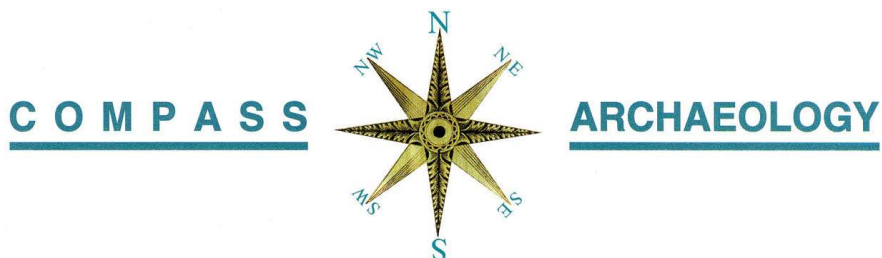


**LAND AT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH  
LANE, CHESSINGTON, KT9 2DH**

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**September 2008**



LAND AT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH LANE,  
CHESSINGTON, KT9 2DH

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: MYS08

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September 2008

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### ***Abstract***

*This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Church Lane, Chessington, KT9 2DH, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames between 26th and 30th of September 2008. The archaeological work formed the response to a planning condition prior to the redevelopment of part of the site of the School (RBK Planning Ref: 07/10204/FUL)*

*Three evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed redevelopment. All trenches exposed a severe degree of truncation due to previous ground reduction/soil stripping and subsequent makeup associated with the c.1975 construction of the school buildings. Trench 1 exposed a linear feature thought to represent the surviving remains of an earlier historic field boundary shown on cartographic sources from 1866 to 1932. Trenches 2 and 3 exposed natural features of silty sand deposits leaching into the surrounding clay and subsoil deposits. A further linear feature was exposed in Trench 3 but it remains unclear whether this represents a cut feature (possibly a faint scar from an earlier field boundary) or a natural deposit due to alluvial channelling or chemical leaching.*

*Overall, no significant archaeological finds or features were exposed during the course of the archaeological evaluation and it is consequently considered unlikely that the proposed redevelopment will have an impact on surviving archaeological deposits. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological measures should take place in relation to the planning condition.*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Church Lane, Chessington, KT9 2DH, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2008. The archaeological work formed the response to a planning condition prior to the redevelopment of part of the site of the School (RBK Planning Ref: 07/10204/FUL), based on the advice of English Heritage.
- 1.2 This report was commissioned by DHP Property Consultants on behalf of the Governors of St Mary's Primary School. The on-site work was carried out by Gill King and Geoff Potter of Compass Archaeology, overall management of the project was undertaken by Geoff Potter.
- 1.3 It is proposed to build a new block on the site, comprising additional school accommodation and assembly hall (School and Community use), plus alterations to car parking and a new refuse store (RBK planning ref: 07/10204/FUL). The existing portable/temporary classrooms were removed prior to the evaluation. Further to advice from English Heritage the planning permission includes a standard archaeological condition (No. 2).

The principal new build development will occupy an area some 43m by 21m in plan, with a linking structure *c* 10m by 11m at the southern corner leading into the existing school. The gross new build floor area will be just under 1,000 sq metres (DHP Property Consultants, Dwg No. 3599/35 Rev. A).

## **2. Site Location and Geology**

- 2.1 The site is located within Chessington village, between Church Lane to the east and Church Fields Recreation Ground to the west, and approximately centred at NGR TQ 18545 63660 (Figure 1). Local spot heights indicate a ground level of about 50m to 51m OD, the natural topography falling gently to the northeast. A small stream and tributary of the Hogsmill River (the Bonesgate Stream) passes some 400m to the southeast of the site, also flowing to the northeast.
- 2.2 Preliminary visual inspection and the existing topographical survey (DHP Property Consultants, Dwg No. 3599-A-G1-001) both indicated that the site had been terraced, with the redevelopment area more or less level with the main school before dropping sharply and by about 1 m to the school playing fields. This break of slope lies just inside the northeastern boundary of the new build.
- 2.3 The geological survey indicates that the site lies close to the junction between Claygate deposits (described as sand, fine-grained silt and clay) and the earlier London Clay (British Geological Survey 1998). This is borne out by a recent geotechnical investigation (Albury SI 2007), which shows up to 900mm of made ground (generally dark sandy clay) over sandy clay with some gravel. The latter is identified as downwash material, overlying undisturbed Claygate Beds.



**Figure 1:** Site location based on the Ordnance Survey 1: 1,250 map, showing existing and former buildings with the area of redevelopment highlighted.

*Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with permission of the HMSO. ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317.*

*Redevelopment outline based on Drawing No.3599/35 Rev. A, DHP Property Consultants*

### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The site was considered to have potential for prehistoric remains. The most immediate reference appears to be from finds that were made about 100m to the south of the present site during construction of the British Legion Hall in 1963. Seventeen body and rim sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from excavated deposits, although it was not possible to examine exposed surfaces and is uncertain whether these abraded sherds derived directly from occupation or from field scatter (Bishop 1967, 162).

Outside the immediate vicinity of the site there are several more substantial references to prehistoric activity. These include middle-late Iron Age occupation some 1 km to the west (Torrance & Durden 2003, 233-45), and also some 2.5kms further to the northeast (eg., Hawkins & Leaver 1999, 141-49).



**3.2** There is little evidence for Roman or Saxon activity in the area, although occasional finds such as a single coin are recorded (Malden 1911, 263), and there is also evidence for Romano-British occupation at the first of the sites noted above (Torrance & Durden 2003).

**3.3** The medieval settlement of Chessington was evidently small, although there is a reference to the manor in 1086 (Malden 1911, 263). The first mention of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin – located about 180m to the south of the site – appears to be in the records of Merton Priory (c 1174-89), at which time the parish was a chapelry to Malden (Garhard 1967). The present fabric of the Church is dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with a number of later additions.

Investigation during construction of the British Legion Hall, situated between the site and the Church, produced eleven sherds of coarse sandy medieval pottery (Bishop 1967, 163).

Some 500m to the southeast of the site and close to the Bonesgate Stream are earthworks known as Castle Hill, which probably represent a medieval manorial or hunting lodge site (Field 1999, 195-99).

**3.4** There was clearly little development of the area until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rocque's *Topographical Map of Surrey* of 1768 shows the line of Church Lane and the north-south track to the west which are also seen on later OS plans. The site area is open and apparently agricultural land, although there are buildings to the south near the Church and others to the north on the eastern side of Church Lane.

The Chessington Tithe map of 1839 shows the principal development area straddling two plots of open land. To the northwest is part of No. 109, identified in the accompanying Apportionment as orchard (with cottage and garden closer to the road), and to the southeast is plot 110, described as arable land.

The Ordnance Survey 25-inch series (1866-1932) and the post-war 1:2500 map of 1955 all show the site located over the same two open plots, and with relatively little change in the immediate area. There were some boundary revisions, and about 1900 two buildings were developed just inside the southern boundary of the school. Church Lane itself is clearly seen in early photographs as a narrow country track (Davison 1999, 11).

St Mary's Church of England School was founded by subscription in the 1820s, was rebuilt in the mid 1860s and moved to its present site in 1975. It is assumed that the portable classrooms that have been on the redevelopment site represent a later addition, as a temporary response to increased pupil numbers.

There does not appear to have been any archaeological investigation (or at least any finds) when the present school was built. The slightly earlier investigation at the British Legion Hall recorded nine sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, plus some 19<sup>th</sup> century material (Bishop 1967, 163).

## 4. Archaeological Research Questions

The archaeological work presents an opportunity to address several research questions. These include:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* or residual?
- Is there any evidence for medieval activity, and what insight does this give into contemporary land use or settlement?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval land use or development, and can this be related to cartographic sources?
- In particular, is there evidence for the field boundary that is shown on the Tithe survey and later maps? What form does this take (*eg*, a ditch or fence), and can any earlier date be established than that provided by the map evidence?

## 5. The Archaeological Programme

### 5.1 Standards

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

### 5.2 Fieldwork

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the machine clearance of three trial trenches located within the area of redevelopment as shown in Figure 2 (below). Two of the trenches measured *c.* 14m by 1.8m, and the third 10m by 1.8m (a total of just under 70 square metres).

The on-site work was followed by a programme of off-site processing and assessment and by the compilation of this report.

### 5.3 Methodology

- 5.3.1 Initial clearance of the trenches was undertaken by a 360° mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. Deposits were removed in this way to the latest significant archaeological horizon, or in the absence of remains to a clean natural/ subsoil layer. In the case of Trench 3 one side was stepped in order to maintain safe access. As noted above this area has evidently been terraced to form a level surface, either in the mid 1970s or

subsequently, with a variable depth of made ground overlying the previous land surface.

Where services or other obstructions were encountered during the course of work they were left undisturbed.

**5.3.2** Following initial clearance archaeological deposits and features were selectively excavated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence.

**5.3.3** Archaeological contexts were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and where necessary drawn in plan and/or section, generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid.

The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by photography, including 35mm and digital formats.

**5.3.4** The objective of the evaluation was to define the character, extent and significance of potential remains, and to recover dating and environmental evidence, rather than to fully excavate.

## **6. Post-Excavation Work & Report Procedure**

**6.1** The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of this report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

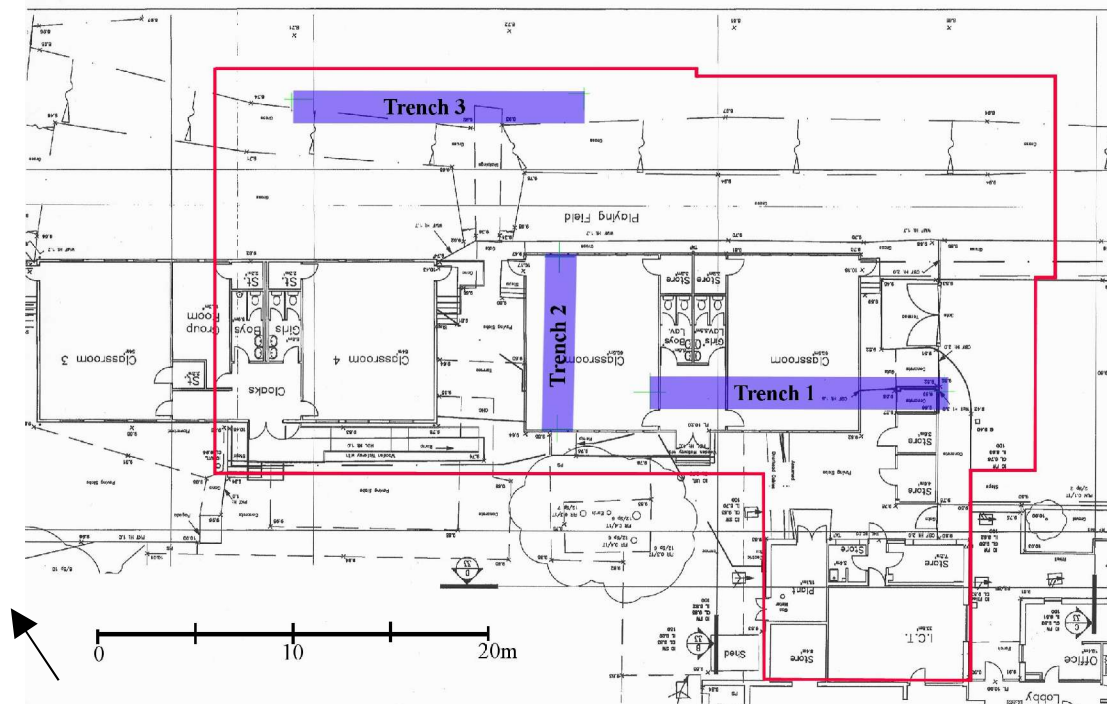
Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, the local planning authority and the local studies library.

## **7. The Site Archive**

**7.1** The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be placed in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive as part of the ongoing programme of archive deposition. There were no retained finds from the evaluation.

## **8. The Archaeological Evaluation**

The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trial trenches within the area of the proposed redevelopment (see Figure 2 below). Initial excavation was carried out with a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. All trenches were excavated down to the level of natural sandy clay or subsoil, and natural was recorded between 49.60m and 50.19m OD. The results of the archaeological evaluation are described in detail below.



**Figure 2:** Trench locations in relation to the existing site survey, with the outline of the new build footprint shown in red.

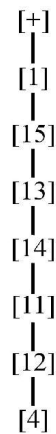
*NB: plan reorientated approximately to northeast: based on original drawing by DHP Property Consultants, No. 3599-A-G1-001.*

## 8.1 Trench 1

### 8.1.1 List of Recorded Contexts

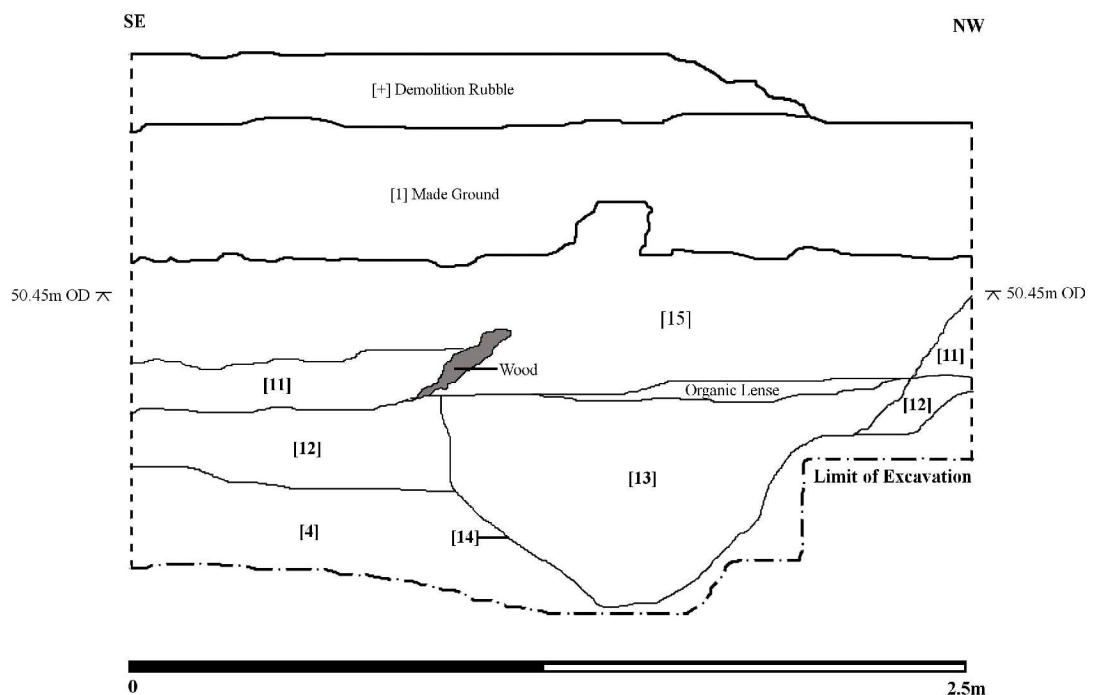
Context	Description	Interpretation
+		Modern demolition rubble.
1	Compact, crushed demolition rubble – brick, metal, sand, chemical and organic staining.	Made-ground c.1975
4	Firm, light orange silty, sandy clay with occasional gravel.	Natural (top of Claygate Beds)
11	Fine, brown-green silt and clay.	Buried soil/sub-soil horizon.
12	Fine green silt and clay, similar to [11].	Weathered/re-worked subsoil.
13	Very fine, brown-black organic silt, very sterile.	Fill of Ditch
14	Linear, initially steep-sided cut becoming more gradual towards narrow, flat base.	Cut of Ditch
15	Black-brown dumped organic silt.	Dumped/made-ground, c.1975

### 8.1.2 Stratigraphic Matrix

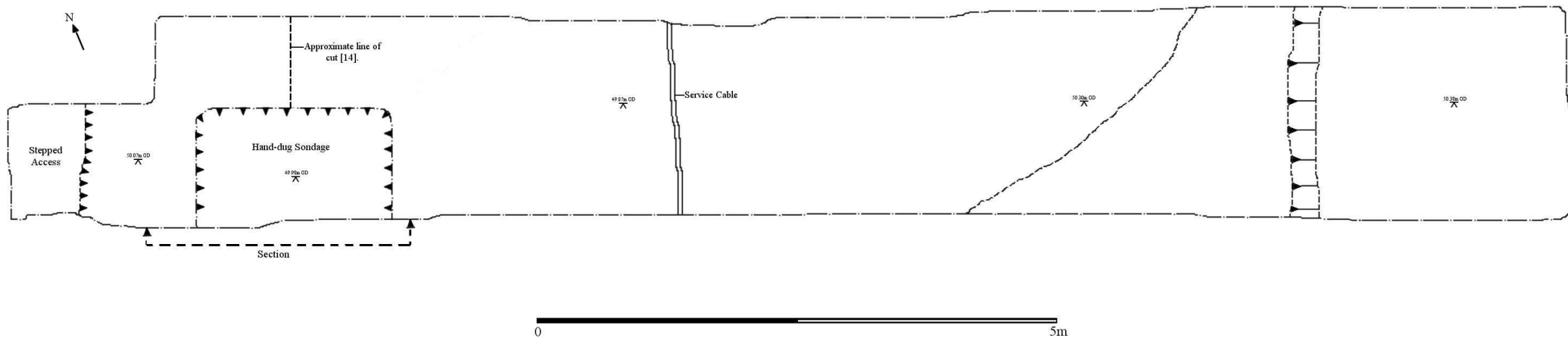


### 8.1.3 Summary and Discussion

Trench 1 showed a heavy degree of truncation across the excavation area due to soil stripping/ground reduction and subsequent dumping of *c.*0.8m of made-ground, represented by building rubble [1] and dark-organic material [15]. These deposits were overlain by modern demolition rubble [1], the material accumulated from the recent building works. Contexts [1] and [15] are thought to represent the construction works relating to the present school building *c.*1975 and truncated the underlying deposits down to the level of natural subsoil [11]. This deposit consisted of fine silt and clay very similar in consistency and composition to the underlying deposit [12], both of which represent the naturally accumulated subsoil deposit truncated by the overlying made-ground. The majority of the trench exposed these deposits overlying the natural sandy clay [4] at a level of 50.00m to 50.19m OD.



**Figure 3:** Southwest section of Trench 1 (see also Fig 5).



**Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1.**

At the west end of Trench 1 a linear feature [14] was exposed running approximately northeast to southwest as shown in Figure 4 above. The feature was relatively unclear in plan, but showed up in section as a steep sided ditch feature filled with a very fine dark brown organic silt [13], approximately 1.3m in width at the maximum measurement and 0.65m in depth, although presumably truncated by the overlying made-ground deposits. A hand-excavated sondage was dug to establish the nature of this feature as shown in Figures 3 and 4. Unfortunately, no dating material was recovered from the fill of this feature and the deposit was generally very sterile with few inclusions. However, when located on earlier historic maps the linear feature appears to align with a field boundary shown on the 25inch Ordnance Survey map of 1866, which retains its position on the maps until 1932. This feature is also shown, albeit less accurately, on the Chessington Tithe map of 1839.



**Figure 5:** Southwest section of Trench 1 showing probable historic field boundary (1m scale).

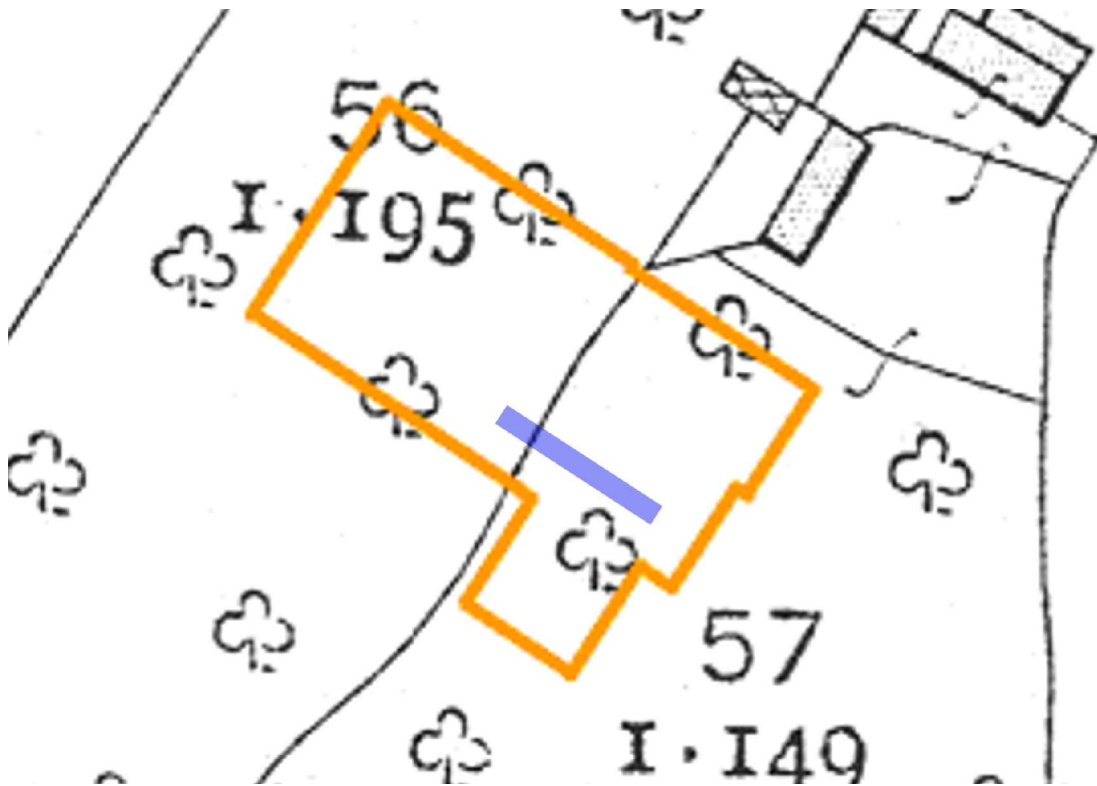
Figures 6 – 7 below show the outline of Trench 1 superimposed on the historic maps between 1866 and 1913. Figure 8 shows the later Ordnance Survey map of 1954 on which the boundary appears to have moved to the southeast, no evidence for which was exposed during excavation of Trench 1. The alignment of the field boundary appears to closely match that of the linear feature part-excavated in Trench 1 and it is thus quite possible that the two represent the same boundary.

As mentioned above no dating evidence was recovered during excavation, and it is consequently impossible to securely date the feature. However, the shift in the position of the boundary by 1954 indicates that the ditch was backfilled by this date, whilst its straighter line may indicate a fence.





**Figure 6:** Extract from the 1st Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey of 1866 (*Surrey Sheet XII.16: published 1884*), showing the outline of the proposed redevelopment in orange and Trench 1 in blue.



**Figure 7:** Extract from the 25-inch Ordnance Survey Edition of 1913 (*revised 1911*) showing the outline of the proposed redevelopment in orange and Trench 1 in blue.





**Figure 8:** Extract from the 1:25 000 revision of 1954 (*Plan TQ 1863 NE*) showing the outline of the proposed redevelopment in orange and the location of Trench 1 in blue. The field boundary has moved significantly to the southeast.



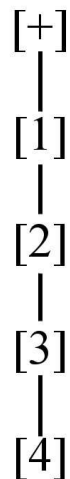
**Figure 9:** Trench 1 view northwest (1m scale).

## 8.2 Trench 2

### 8.2.1 List of Recorded Contexts

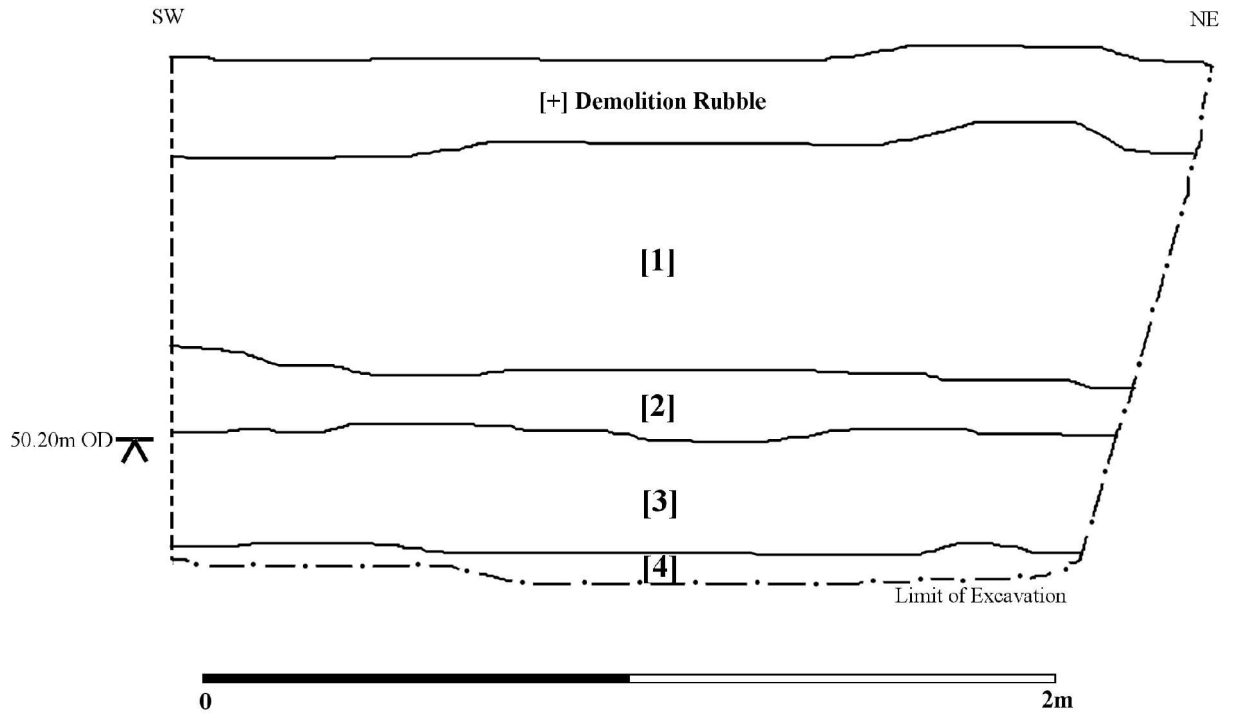
Context	Description	Interpretation
+		Modern demolition rubble.
1	Compact, crushed demolition rubble – brick, metal, sand, chemical and organic staining.	Made-ground <i>c.</i> 1975.
2	Compact, mid-brown humic sandy clay – appearance of typical topsoil, probably earlier buried soil horizon.	Buried soil horizon.
3	Mid-greyish brown, slightly sandy silt becoming firmer and lighter with depth.	Weathered sub-soil.
4	Firm, light orange silty, sandy clay.	Natural (top of Claygate Beds).

### 8.2.2 Stratigraphic Matrix



### 8.2.3 Summary and Discussion

Trench 2 lay in the centre of the site and was excavated down to the level of truncated natural clay between 49.81m and 50.03m OD. The trench exposed a heavy degree of truncation due to previous soil stripping/ground reduction and subsequent dumping of made-ground layers [+] and [1]. Towards the northern end a probable buried soil horizon [2] was exposed in section some 0.7m below the existing ground surface. This deposit in turn overlay weathered natural subsoil [3] and natural sandy clay [4]. No archaeological finds or features were recovered during the excavation of Trench 2. Figures 10 – 12 show the recorded section and photographic record of Trench 2.



**Figure 10:** Section of Trench 2.



**Figure 11:** Northwest section of Trench 2, showing the area drawn in Fig 10 (1m scale).





**Figure 12:** Trench 2 view northeast (1m scale).

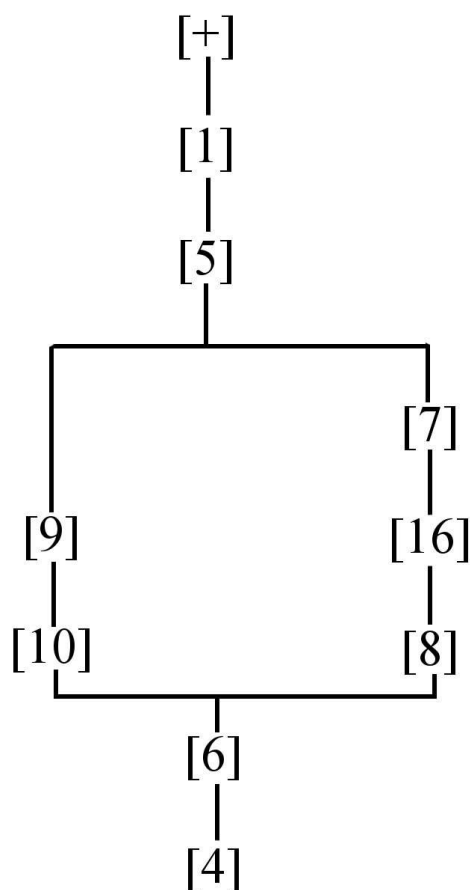
### 8.3 Trench 3

#### 8.3.1 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
+		Grass and imported topsoil.
1	Compact, crushed demolition rubble – brick, metal, sand, chemical and organic staining.	Made-ground <i>c.</i> 1975.
4	Firm, light orange silty, sandy clay.	Natural (top of Claygate Beds).
5	Dark-grey sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions.	Buried soil horizon.
6	Firm, dark-grey/brown sandy silt becoming lighter with depth.	Weathered/reworked natural subsoil.
7	Fine blue/grey silt with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions and angular gravel fragments.	Upper fill of [8]
8	Cut assigned to limits of steep-sided natural silt deposit within natural clay [4].	Cut of natural deposit. Filled by [16] and [7].

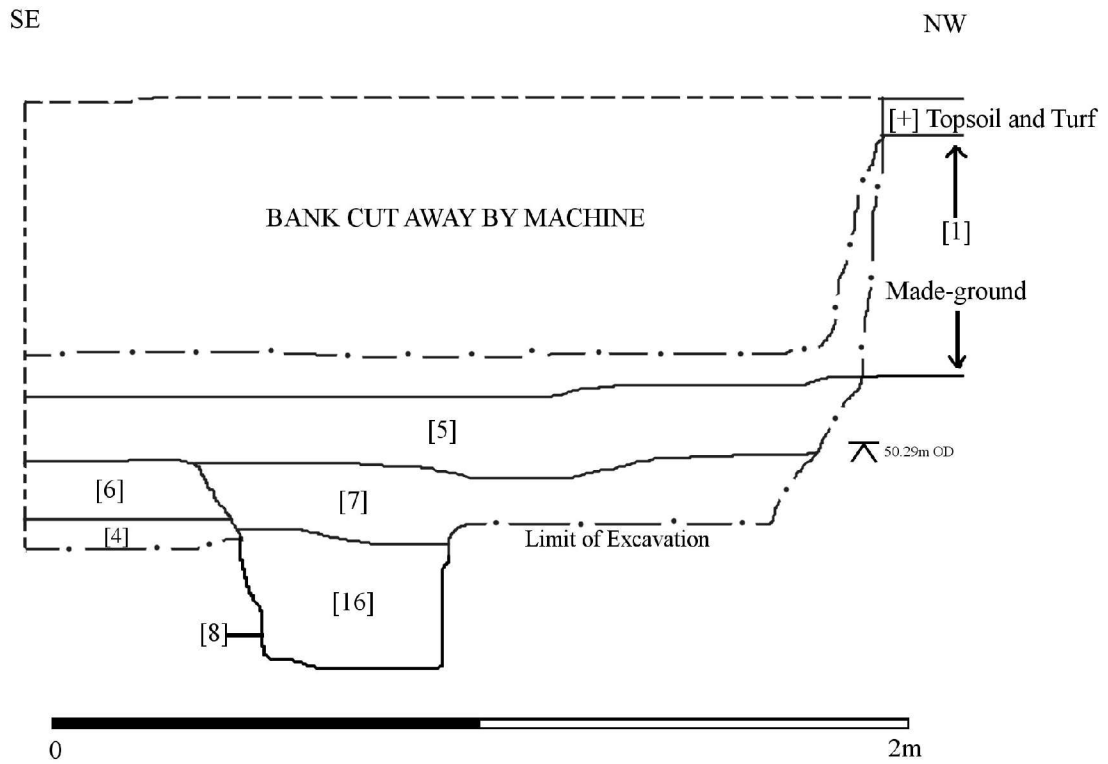
9	Fine blue-grey sandy silt deposit with occasional small rounded pebbles and angular thermally shattered gravel.	Fill of [10].
10	Irregularly shaped linear cut orientated approximately east-west, exposed in plan for 3.9m, 0.8m in width and 0.13m in depth. Truncated by overlying deposits.	Cut of possible linear historic field-boundary, possibly natural feature.
16	Mid-greenish/brown silt and sand with very occasional CBM flecks and small pebble inclusions.	Lower fill of cut [8].

### 8.3.2 Stratigraphic Matrix



### 8.3.3 Summary and Discussion

Trench 1 exposed modern topsoil and turf [+] overlying a mixed made-ground deposit [1] of *c.*1975 to a depth of some 0.7m below the existing ground surface. These deposits represent dumping subsequent to ground reduction, and appear to have truncated the underlying deposits down to the level of and into a buried soil horizon [5]. This deposit in turn sealed the weathered subsoil [6] overlying natural clay [4] between 49.60m and 49.67m OD.



**Figure 13:** Section of Trench 3.



**Figure 14:** Southwest section of Trench 3, showing the area drawn in Fig 13 (0.2m scale).

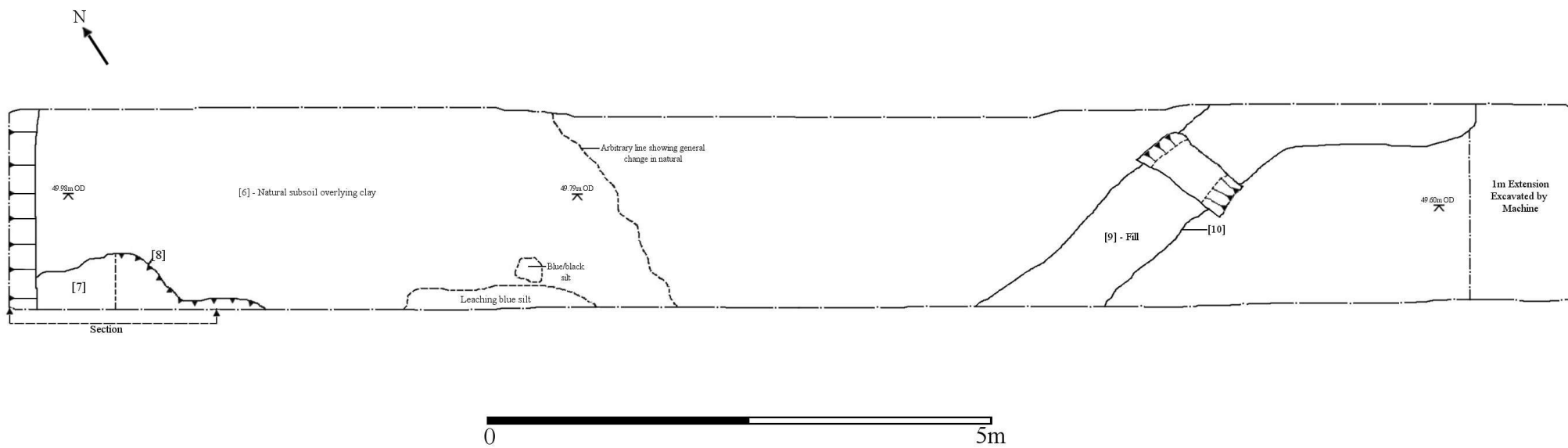


Cutting the natural subsoil [6] was a small feature some 0.45m deep assigned cut [8] and similar silt and sand fill deposits [16] and [7] – the lower of these including very occasional ceramic flecks. A slot was excavated into this deposit to establish its nature suggested a natural deposition of silt within the subsoil deposit, the feature perhaps originating as a tree-throw.

At the northeast end of Trench 3 a linear feature [10] feature was exposed orientated approximately east-west. The feature was filled with a fine silty sand deposit [9] and measured some 3.0m+ in length by 0.8m in width, and was excavated to a depth of some 0.13m. The fill was quite sterile, producing occasional gravel fragments but no finds. It is possible that the feature represents a natural anomaly in the surface of the natural clay, with the accumulation of leached alluvial material or chemical staining. However, while context [10] is not so much a defined cut but a limit of the deposit [9] the feature may represent a faint scar cutting the natural from an earlier historic field boundary. There is no evidence for such a boundary on the available cartographic sources from the Chessington Parish Tithe map of 1839 onwards but there may have existed such a feature prior to this date. Unfortunately, the lack of dating evidence and degree of truncation from overlying deposits make it difficult to determine the nature of the feature whether natural or man-made.



**Figure 15:** Trench 3 looking west, and showing a section through the partly excavated feature [10] (0.2m scale)



**Figure 16:** Plan of Trench 3.



## 9. Summary and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation showed a heavy degree of truncation across the entire site, probably due to previous soil stripping/ground reduction and subsequent ground makeup c.1975 during the construction of the earlier school buildings. Trench 2 exposed no archaeological finds or features, with natural subsoil and sandy clay deposits overlain by truncated buried soil horizons. Trench 3 exposed two features assigned archaeological contexts: however, there is little evidence to suggest that either is of any archaeological significance, and are most likely to represent natural disturbance and silting/leaching into the underlying natural clay deposits.

Trench 1 exposed a linear cut feature that aligns with an historic field boundary shown on maps from 1866 to 1932. It is likely that the feature exposed here represents the surviving extent of this boundary which has been subsequently severely truncated by groundworks. From the 1950's onward the cartographic evidence shows a repositioning of this feature to the east, possibly a fence line and for which no evidence was exposed during the excavation of Trench 1.

Overall, no archaeological finds or features of significance were recovered during the course of the archaeological evidence, and it is consequently considered unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact on any surviving archaeological deposits. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological measures should take place in relation to the planning condition.

## 10. Bibliography

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## Appendix I: Oasis Data Collection Form

**OASIS ID: compassa1-49684**

### Project details

Project name	Land at St Mary's Primary School, Church Lane, Chessington KT9 2DH, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of the excavation of three trial trenches within the footprint of the proposed redevelopment. A possible historic field boundary was exposed in Trench 1 (seen on 19 <sup>th</sup> & earlier 20 <sup>th</sup> century maps), while Trenches 2 and 3 exposed natural features and deposits. A heavy degree of truncation was observed across the entire site due to earlier soil stripping/ground reduction, overlain by makeup probably relating to the c.1975 construction of the school buildings. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 26-09-2008 End: 30-09-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MYS08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	FIELD BOUNDARY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES CHESSINGTON Land at St Mary's Primary School, Church Lane, Chessington, KT9 2DH.
Postcode	KT9 2DH
Study area	70.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 18545 63660 51.3591153245 -0.297197399233 51 21 32 N 000 17 49 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49.60m Max: 50.19m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor / funding body	St Mary's Church of England Primary School

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at St Mary's Primary School, Church Lane, Chessington KT9 2DH, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark St, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	27 page bound report describing the results of the archaeological evaluation.
Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@comassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	13 October 2008

## **Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary**

Site Address: St Mary's C of E Primary School, Church Lane, Chessington, KT9 2DH, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Project type: Archaeological Evaluation

Dates of Fieldwork: 26th – 30th September 2008

Site Code: MYS08

Supervisor: Geoff Potter

NGR: TQ 18545 63660

Funding Body: Governor's of St Mary's Primary School

Three trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed redevelopment. All trenches exposed a severe degree of truncation due to previous soil stripping and subsequent makeup associated with the c.1975 construction of the school buildings. Trench 1 exposed a linear feature thought to represent the remains of an historic field boundary, shown on cartographic sources from 1866 to 1932. Trenches 2 and 3 exposed natural features of silty sand deposits leaching into the surrounding clay and subsoil deposits. A further linear feature was exposed in Trench 3 but it is unclear whether this represents a cut feature (possibly a faint scar from an earlier field boundary) or a natural deposit due to alluvial channelling or chemical leaching. The natural consisted of mixed sandy clay with occasional gravel (top of Claygate Beds). Overall, no significant archaeological finds or features were exposed during the course of the evaluation.