

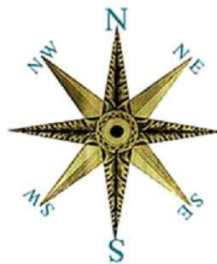
**293 STREATHAM HIGH ROAD
SW16 3NP**

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

March 2009

COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

293 STREATHAM HIGH ROAD
SW16 3NP

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: SRZ09
NGR SITE CENTRE: TQ 30350 70505

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET
LONDON SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660

Facsimile: 020 7403 9661

Email: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

March 2009

©Compass Archaeology Limited

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 293 Streatham High Street, SW16 3NP, London Borough of Lambeth on 17th March 2009. The work was carried out as part of the planning process for the redevelopment of the site as a primary care centre, following demolition of the previous GP practice suite.

A single evaluation trench was excavated within the western extent of the site as the remaining site area was established to be heavily truncated by previous concrete pad foundations. The trench exposed modern made-ground overlying reworked and natural London Clay. A further small contractors trench was examined and a similar sequence of made-ground over natural was observed, along with a live water main crossing the trench in line with the western property boundary. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological evaluation.

A preliminary Summary Statement has already been given to English Heritage, and it has been agreed that the site has no discernible remaining archaeological potential. It has also been recommended that development-related works may continue in advance of production of this report.

Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Site Location and Geology	2
3 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
4 Objectives	3
4.1 Archaeological Research Questions	3
4.2 The Archaeological Brief	3
5 The Archaeological Programme	4
5.1 Standards	4
5.2 Fieldwork	4
6 Post-Excavation Work	4
6.1 Finds and Samples	4
6.2 Report Procedure	5
7 The Site Archive	5
8 The Archaeological Evaluation	5
8.1 List of Recorded Contexts	5
8.1 Summary and Discussion	6
References	9
Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form	10
Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary	12

List of Figures

		Page
1	Site location in relation to the current Ordnance Survey map.	1
2	Plan of the site showing the location of the archaeological evaluation trench (A) and the adjacent contractors trench.	6
3	View of the western part of the site looking south, showing the contractors trench in the foreground and the evaluation trench behind.	7
4	View of the evaluation trench looking southwest, showing groundwater in the foreground (1m scale).	7
5	Southeast facing section showing made-ground overlying natural deposits with deeper modern intrusions to the north (right of the image) – 1m scale.	8
6	View southwest of the contractors trench showing the live water main (1m scale).	8

1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on 17th March 2009 at 293 Streatham High Road SW16. The work was undertaken following advice from English Heritage and in advance of redevelopment of the site as a new primary care centre (Planning Ref: 08/01138/FUL).
- 1.2** The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Davis Langdon LLP on behalf of Building Better Health Ltd. The on-site contractors were Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. The evaluation was monitored by Mark Stevenson, English Heritage GLAAS, on behalf of the LB of Lambeth.
- 1.3** The site is located on the junction of Streatham High Road and Baldry Gardens (see Figure 1 below). Initial inspection indicated that the majority of the site was heavily truncated by previous development; the existing foundation layout of the c.1970s building consisted of a series of closely spaced concrete columns and pads that effectively truncated the entire building footprint. As the new build closely followed the footprint of the former building, and following consultation with English Heritage, it was deemed unnecessary to further evaluate this area. However, a small section of potentially undisturbed ground beyond the old footprint but within the newly planned extent was identified in the far western part of the site. The area was evaluated with a single trench measuring 8m by 2.6m in plan.

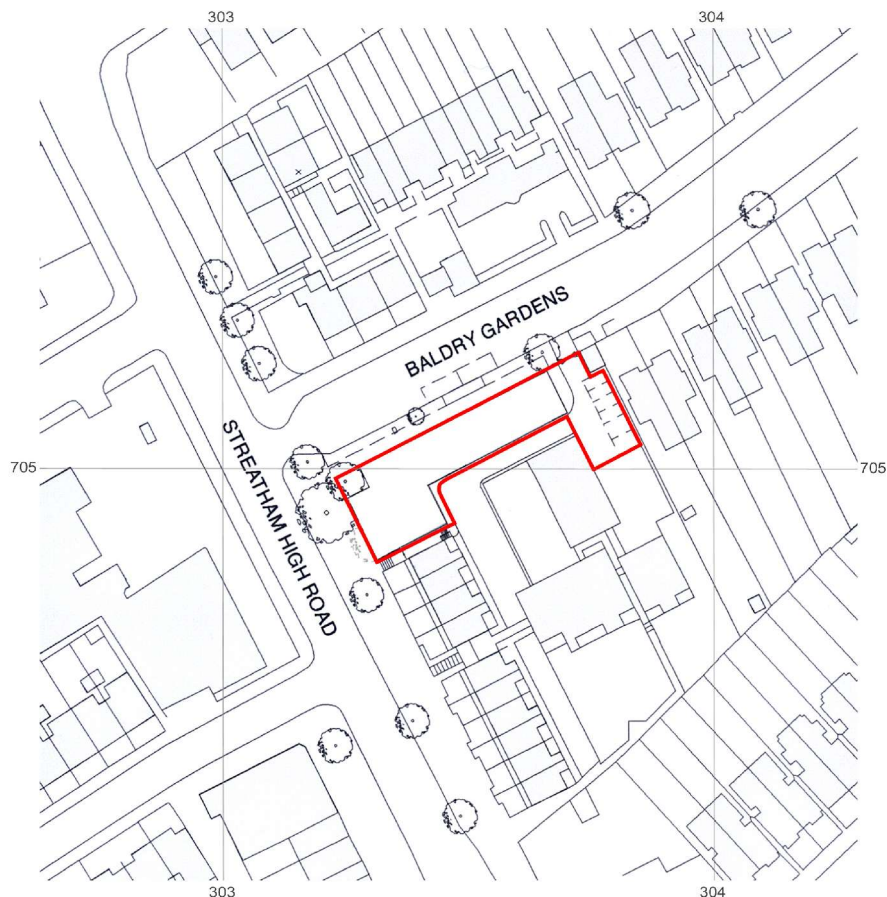


Figure 1: Site location in relation to the current Ordnance Survey map.

Reproduced from the digital map with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright (Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317)

2. Site Location and Geology

- 2.1** The site is located on the eastern side of Streatham High Road, on the south side of the junction with Baldry Gardens and approximately centred at NGR TQ 30350 70505 (Figure 1). The surrounding land appears quite level, with a spot height at the entrance to Baldry Gardens of 42.67m OD, although dropping away further to the south along Streatham High Road. The River Graveney passes about 900m to the southwest.
- 2.2** The geological map indicates that the site overlies part of an extensive area of London Clay, although immediately to the west of Streatham High Road this is replaced by more recent Head – defined as silt, sand and clay with variable gravel (British Geological Survey 1998. *South London. Sheet 270*).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1** The site lies partly within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the LB of Lambeth UDP. This is based on the alignment of Streatham High Road, which follows the projected line of the Roman road sometimes referred to as the London-Portslade road.
- 3.2** Parts of the Roman route are uncertain, for example where it formed a junction to the north with Stane Street. However, between Streatham and Broad Green it is suggested that the road more or less followed the line of the present-day Streatham High Road and London Road (Margary 1937, 125-28; Maggs & De'Athe 1987, 38-41). This conclusion is partly based on the alignment of the current roads, partly on 18th and 19th century documentary sources and partly on more recent accounts derived from roadworks.

There is also an archaeological record of the Roman road made at three separate locations in the vicinity of Hermitage Bridge, some 600m to the south of the present site (Humphries 1962). Investigation in one area revealed a cambered road surface nearly 10m wide, flanked on one side by kerbing and a shallow (c 400mm deep) ditch.

However, other investigations in the 1970s – including work just to the north and southwest of the current site at Nos. 285, 512-22 and 542 Streatham High Road – have failed to produce any evidence for the Roman road or associated features (LAARC database).

- 3.3** Historic plans show that the area was predominantly agricultural well into the 19th century. There were some buildings along the line of the road, with the small settlement of Streatham to the north, but the site itself is shown as open land – either cultivated or simply pasture. The Streatham Tithe map of 1839 also shows the site area as part of one large field – *Plot 261*, described as meadow. The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map (c 1870; *Surrey Sheet VIII.13*) gives a similar though more detailed picture: comparison with later maps shows a slightly narrower road, subsequently widened to the east. The only feature of interest is a slightly curved earthwork – apparently an embankment – that lies about 100m to the east of the present site, crossing the open field on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment

- 3.4** The first recorded development appears on the Ordnance Survey plan of mid 1890s. Baldry Road has been established and within the present site there are two semi-detached houses. From the plan it is evident that these were basemented, with the ground floor raised slightly above the surrounding surface and accessed to front and rear by steps over a light well.
- 3.5** The same general layout is shown on Ordnance Survey plans from 1919 through to 1952, and no impact is recorded on the post 2nd World War bomb damage maps. However, by the mid 1960s the site and a large area of land to the south appears as vacant, and it was presumably soon after this that the previous GP practice suite was constructed.

4. Objectives

4.1 Archaeological Research Questions

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

- Any evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* features or residual material.
- Potential evidence for Roman activity, in particular the line of the London-Portslade road. This could include metallated surfaces as well as associated features such as roadside ditches.
- Evidence for medieval and later activity, and also the nature of this – for example, agriculture or settlement.
- Any evidence for the development of the site prior to that recorded in the late 19th century.
- Surviving evidence for the later Victorian development, and the impact that this has had on the site.

4.2 The Archaeological Brief

The accepted brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment (English Heritage, *Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*).

Thus the objective was to answer as many of the research questions as possible, whilst primarily responding to the brief which is to provide information on which a decision can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action (*e.g.*, preservation *in situ* or archaeological rescue excavation).

5. The Archaeological Programme

5.1 Standards

The field evaluation 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 and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. 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 will be directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

5.2 Fieldwork

The field evaluation consisted of a single trial trench located as shown on Figure 2 below, and measuring 8m by 2.6m in plan, plus observations of smaller adjacent contractors' trench.

5.2.1 Initial clearance of the evaluation trench was undertaken by a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. Deposits were removed in this way to the latest potential archaeological horizon, and in the absence of remains to a clean natural/ subsoil layer

5.2.2 Following initial clearance deposits were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence. Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan and/or section scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The trench positions 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.

5.2.3 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations, and safe working conditions were assessed during the course of the evaluation. Spoil was mounded a safe distance from the trench edges.

6. Post-Excavation Work

On the completion of the field evaluation a programme of off-site assessment was undertaken.

6.1 Finds and samples

No finds or samples were collected during the course of the archaeological evaluation.

6.2 Report procedure

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

A short summary of the fieldwork is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

7. The Site Archive

An ordered, indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, although this does not include any archaeological finds.

8. The Archaeological Evaluation

Site inspection following demolition and clearance indicated that the majority of the site was heavily truncated by previous development; the existing foundation layout of the c.1970s building consisted of a series of closely spaced concrete columns and pads that effectively truncated the entire building footprint to a depth of about 3m. As the new build closely followed the footprint of the former building it was deemed unnecessary to further evaluate this area: the Written Scheme of Investigation was accordingly revised, following consultation with English Heritage. A small section of potentially undisturbed ground beyond the old footprint (but within the newly planned extent) was identified in the western part of the site. This area was evaluated with a single trench measuring 8m by 2.6m in plan and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m below the existing ground level (see Figures 2 & 4 below). A further small trench was excavated by the on-site contractors and subsequently inspected by the archaeologists to ensure no significant remains were encountered (Figure 4).

8.1 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Description	Interpretation
+	Black silty deposit with heavy rooting, gravel inclusions.	Made-ground deposit.
1	Heavily mixed deposits of redeposited natural clay, ceramic building material, chalk and mortar flecking.	Demolition material relating to previous building, possibly within backfilled cut of earlier basement/cellar.
2	Mid-orange/brown clay with very occasional brick inclusions.	Reworked/weathered natural clay.
3	Mid-orange/brown clay.	Natural clay.

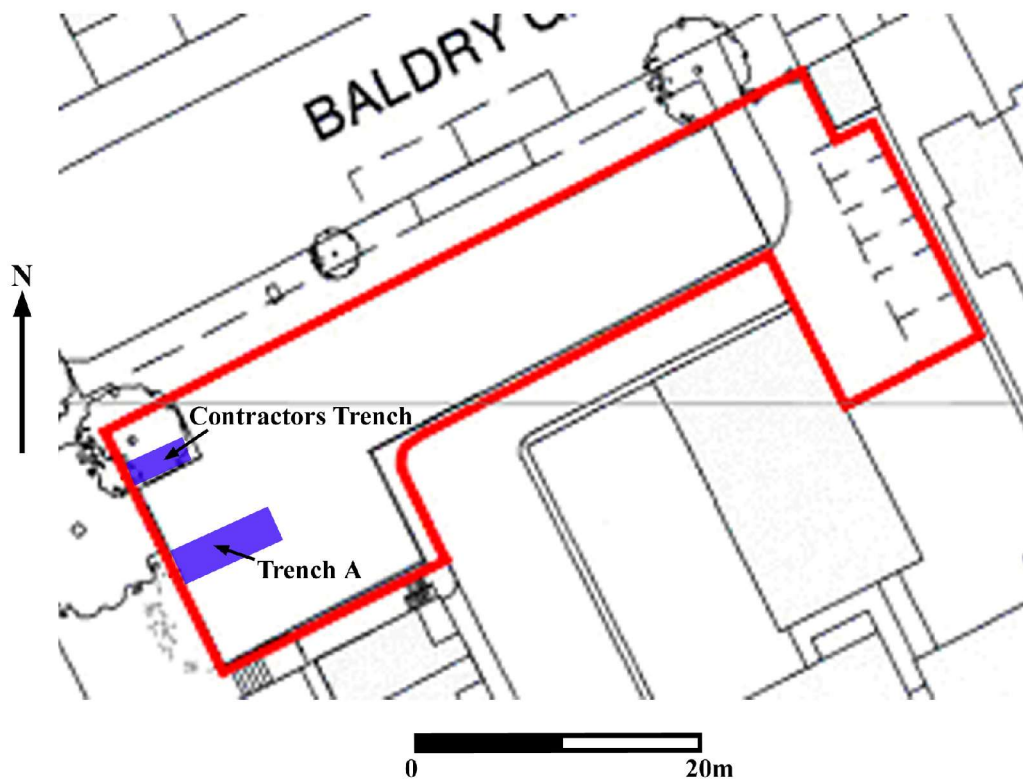


Figure 2: Plan of the site showing the location of the archaeological evaluation trench (A) and the adjacent contractors trench.

8.2 Summary and Discussion

The evaluation trench exposed a relatively simple sequence of modern deposits overlying reworked and natural London clay (Figure 5). The south western end of the trench exposed shallow natural clay [3] at approximately 42.79m OD. This was overlain by a shallow layer of reworked natural clay [2] exposed in section at a thickness of 400mm (maximum) and containing occasional small brick inclusions. The remaining deposits consisted of mixed, black silty made-ground with rooting and gravel inclusions [+]. The northeastern end of the trench showed truncation of these deposits by a sequence of very mixed demolition rubble including plastic and concrete fragments [1]. It is likely that this deposit represents demolition of the previous building and backfilling of contemporary excavations. This deposit subsequently overlaid natural clay at a level of *c.* 41.48m OD.

The small contractors trench (approximately 5m by 1.8m in plan; Figure 6) was excavated some 4m to the north of the archaeological evaluation trench. The same sequence of modern made-ground deposits overlying reworked and natural clay was exposed, although a modern high-pressure water main was exposed crossing the trench on an approximate northwest-southeast axis parallel with the front of the site.



Figure 3: View of the western part of the site looking south, showing the contractors trench in the foreground and the evaluation trench behind.



Figure 4: View of the evaluation trench looking southwest, showing groundwater in the foreground (1m scale).



Figure 5: Southeast facing section showing made-ground overlying reworked natural deposits with deeper modern intrusions to the north (right of the image) – 1m scale.



Figure 6: View southwest of the contractors trench showing the live water main to the rear (1m scale).

No significant archaeological finds or features were recorded during the course of the archaeological evaluation. With regard to the Archaeological Research Questions (section 4.1 above) there was no evidence for any prehistoric, Roman, medieval or earlier post-medieval activity. Nor were there any obvious remains from the later Victorian development of the site that is shown on historic maps: this building, including a substantial basement, had apparently been wholly removed by the subsequent (c 1970s) practice suite development.

The results of the evaluation have been discussed with English Heritage (together with a preliminary Summary Statement), and it has been agreed that the site has no discernible remaining archaeological potential. It has been further recommended that development-related works may commence in advance of production of this report.

References

Compass Archaeology. Oct. 2008. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at 293 Streatham High Road, SW16 3NP, London Borough of Lambeth.*

Humphries P H, 1962 London to Portslade Roman Road, in *Surrey Archaeol Col* **59**, 88-89

LAARC London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre, online database

Maggs K & De'Athe P, 1987 *The Roman Roads of East Surrey and the Kent Border*

Margary I D, 1937 The London-Croydon-Portslade Roman Road, in *Surrey Archaeol Col* **45**, 116-39

APPENDIX I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-57567

Project details

Project name	293 Streatham High Road, London Borough of Lambeth: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 293 Streatham High Road, SW16 3NP, in advance of redevelopment works for the construction of a new primary care centre and adjacent to the projected line of the Roman London-Portslade road. The majority of the site was heavily truncated by earlier foundations and consequently only a small area in the western part of the site was considered appropriate for archaeological evaluation. A single evaluation trench was excavated and a further contractors trench monitored - no archaeological finds or features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 17-03-2009 End: 17-03-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SRZ09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A 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	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH STREATHAM 293 Streatham High Road, London Borough of Lambeth
Postcode	SW16 3NP
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30350 70505 51.4180461097 -0.125207673135 51 25 04 N 000 07 30 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41.48m Max: 42.79m

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	Jonathan Henckert
Type of sponsor / funding body	Public Private Partnership
Name of sponsor /funding body	Building Better Health Ltd

Project archives

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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	293 Streatham High Road, SW16 3NP London Borough of Lambeth: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	17-page spiral bound report detailing the results of the archaeological evaluation

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	31 March 2009

APPENDIX II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address: 293 Streatham High Street, SW16 3NP, London Borough of Lambeth.

Project type: Archaeological Evaluation

Dates of Fieldwork: 17th March 2009

Site Code: SRZ09

Supervisor: Jonathan Henckert

NGR: TQ 30350 70505

Funding Body: Building Better Health Ltd.

A single archaeological evaluation trench was excavated at 293 Streatham High Street, SW16 3NP, in advance of redevelopment of the site and adjacent to the projected line of the Roman London-Portslade road. Modern made-ground deposits were observed overlying reworked and natural London clay deposits. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed.

Natural London Clay was observed between 42.79m and 41.48m OD.