

**Archaeological Evaluation of
Land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road,
Caterham, Surrey**

NGR 532650 155650

Tandridge District Council Planning Reference TA/2011/1117

**Project No: 5666
Site Code: OHC12**

**ASE Report No: 2012175
OASIS ID: archaeol6-132707**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

With a contribution from

Karine Le Hégarat

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey. Five evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated at the site in August 2012.

No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A single flint flake was recovered from the overburden of one of the trenches.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey (NGR 532650 155650, Figure 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site lies in an elevated position on the southwest edge of Caterham, at heights varying between 167mAOD and 190mAOD, sloping from east to west. It is occupied by a number of disused buildings which were formerly part of the Oaklands Hospital complex, occupied bungalows, associated accesses and parking, and areas of open grass. It is bound by Green Lane and a golf club to the west, by Chaldon Road (the B2031) to the south, by a recently constructed housing estate to the north and by Coulsdon Road to the east.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock across the entire site is Lewes Nodular Chalk. The superficial geology is recorded as clay-with-flints (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the demolition of the existing buildings on the site and the construction of 161 dwellings and replacement health facility building, along with associated amenities was granted by Tandridge District Council in 2011 (Reference: TA/2011/1117). In accordance with the recommendations of Gary Jackson, (Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer), Condition 14 of the consent states that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the District Planning Authority”

1.3.2 Following consultation between CgMs Consulting Limited and Surrey County Council, it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenches should be undertaken, as a step to fulfilling the planning condition.

1.3.3 Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced ASE outlining the techniques to be used in the field, and in the production of a report and an archive (ASE 2012). This document was duly approved by Surrey County Council before the commencement of archaeological work at the site

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological work given in the Specification (ASE 2012) were:

‘to ascertain:

GENERAL

- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.*
- *The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.*
- *How they might be affected by the development of the site*
- *To enable CgMs and the Surrey County Council Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development.*

SPECIFIC

- *Identify and characterise the remains of any prehistoric activity on the site*
- *Identify and characterise any remains associated with any early phases of the post-medieval hospital.*

The final aim is to make public the results of the archaeological evaluation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.’

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological work at the site carried out in August 2012 by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and Rob Cole (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background material is taken from a Desk-Based Assessment of the site produced in April 2011 which pinpointed all recorded archaeological sites and findspots within a 1.5km radius of the site (CgMs 2011). The data is reproduced here with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A search of the Historic Environment Record held at Surrey County Council identified one Palaeolithic handaxe, a collection of fifty Mesolithic flint tools, a small assemblage of Neolithic flints and several Bronze Age findspots, including a middle Bronze Age urn and an assemblage of pottery.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Pottery and a coin of Constantine have been recorded on the HER, c.750m to the east of the site. However, the area of the site at the time was probably used for agricultural land or woodland so it is anticipated that there may be some evidence of such activity or land division.

2.4 Anglo Saxon

2.4.1 There is no evidence for any Saxon activity in the area of the site.

2.5 Medieval to Modern

2.5.1 Until 1870 the site was part of Caterham Common; an area of open grassland. *Caterham Metropolitan District Asylum (For Imbeciles)*, later renamed St Lawrence's Hospital and then Oaklands Hospital was opened on the site in 1870. A cemetery is marked on the 1893 estate map in the southwest corner.

2.6 Recent Archaeological Work in the Vicinity

2.6.1 An archaeological evaluation of land to the north of the hospital buildings in 1996 did not encounter any archaeological remains.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches was produced by CgMs. This plan was approved by Surrey County Council before the commencement of work on site.
- 3.2 The location of each trench was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were then excavated by an 8 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of staff from ASE.
- 3.3 The mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of 'natural' geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East *pro forma* recording sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is currently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be offered to East Surrey Museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	13
Trench Record Sheets	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	7
Bulk finds	1 bag
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trial trenching was undertaken on 21st and 22nd August 2012. Weather conditions were excellent with strong diffuse sunlight offering good visibility for the identification of potential archaeological features.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	390mm
1/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located in open grass close to the northern perimeter wall of the site. It was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 390mm (186.85mAOD) at the south-western end and to 330mm (187.60mAOD) at the eastern end, at which point the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.2.2 The overburden consisted of a layer of mid-brown humic topsoil, context [1/001]. It directly overlay the brownish orange gravelly silty clay 'natural', context [1/002]. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	460mm
2/002	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 1. It was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 440mm (187.68mAOD) at the northern end and to 460mm (also 187.68mAOD) at the southern end, at which point the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.3.2 The topsoil and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	280mm
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	220mm
3/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the west of Trench 3 and was shortened from its planned length owing to the presence of buried services. It was excavated to a depth of 400mm (188.55mAOD) at the western and to 470mm (188.45mAOD) at the eastern end, at which point the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased.

4.4.2 The layers of topsoil and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1, but there was a discernible layer of orangey brown silty clay subsoil, context [3/002] between them. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered but a single struck flint flake was recovered from the topsoil.

4.5 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	220mm
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	180mm
4/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.5.1 Trench 4 was located close to a line of trees, to the west of Trench 4. It was excavated to a depth of 370mm (188.82mAOD) at the north-western end and to 290mm (189.44mAOD) at the south-eastern end, at which point the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The trench was split into two lengths to avoid a detected buried service.

4.5.2 The two layers of overburden and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 4. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.6 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	260mm
5/002	Deposit	Made Ground	390mm
5/003	Deposit	'Natural'	-

4.6.1 Trench 5 was located adjacent to one of the existing buildings at the site. It was excavated to a length of 30m and to a depth of 630mm (189.82mAOD) at the northern end and also to 590mm (189.53mAOD) at the southern end, at which the 'natural' was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The topsoil and underlying 'natural' were similar in character to those found in the other trenches at the site, but there was a layer of made ground between them consisting of a mixture of topsoil, building sand and brick rubble, context [002], presumably resulting from the construction of the nearby building.

4.6.2 The area of the trench had been heavily disturbed during the laying of services in the recent past. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.1.1 A single struck flint weighing 6g was hand collected from topsoil context [3/001] during the evaluation work at the site. The artefact consists of a blade-like flake made on a honey coloured flint with a thin buff cortex. It displays evidence of post depositional edge damage resulting probably from redeposition, ploughing or soil movement. The piece of flint débitage is not diagnostic of a particular period.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered and the presence of a single struck flint is not in itself indicative of anything other than very low level prehistoric activity. It appears that the areas adjacent to the surviving buildings have been subjected to considerable earthmoving in the relatively recent past, and other parts of the site have suffered significant truncation from the laying of services.
- 6.2 The virtual absence of archaeological artefacts from the overburden strongly suggests that no buried archaeological features survive in the vicinity of the trenches. Therefore there seems little possibility, based on available evidence that any significant archaeological remains survive at the site as a whole.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for commissioning the fieldwork, and for his input throughout. Thanks are also due to Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer, Surrey County Council for his contribution at all stages of the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	OHC12					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham					
County, District &/or Borough	Tandridge District, Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	532650 155650					
Geology						
Arch. South-East Project Number	5666					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 21.08.2012 – 22-08-2012	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo. ?✓	BA ?✓	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey. Five evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated at the site in August 2012.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A single flint flake was recovered from the overburden of one of the trenches.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-132707

Project details

Project name	Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey. Five evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated at the site in August 2012. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A single flint flake was recovered from the overburden of one of the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2012 End: 22-08-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	5666 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	OHC12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	TA/2011/1117 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY TANDRIDGE CATERHAM Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road

Postcode	CR3 5YA
Study area	150.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32650 55650 51 0 51 17 02 N 000 05 51 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 167.00m Max: 190.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Unpublished Text","Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report"

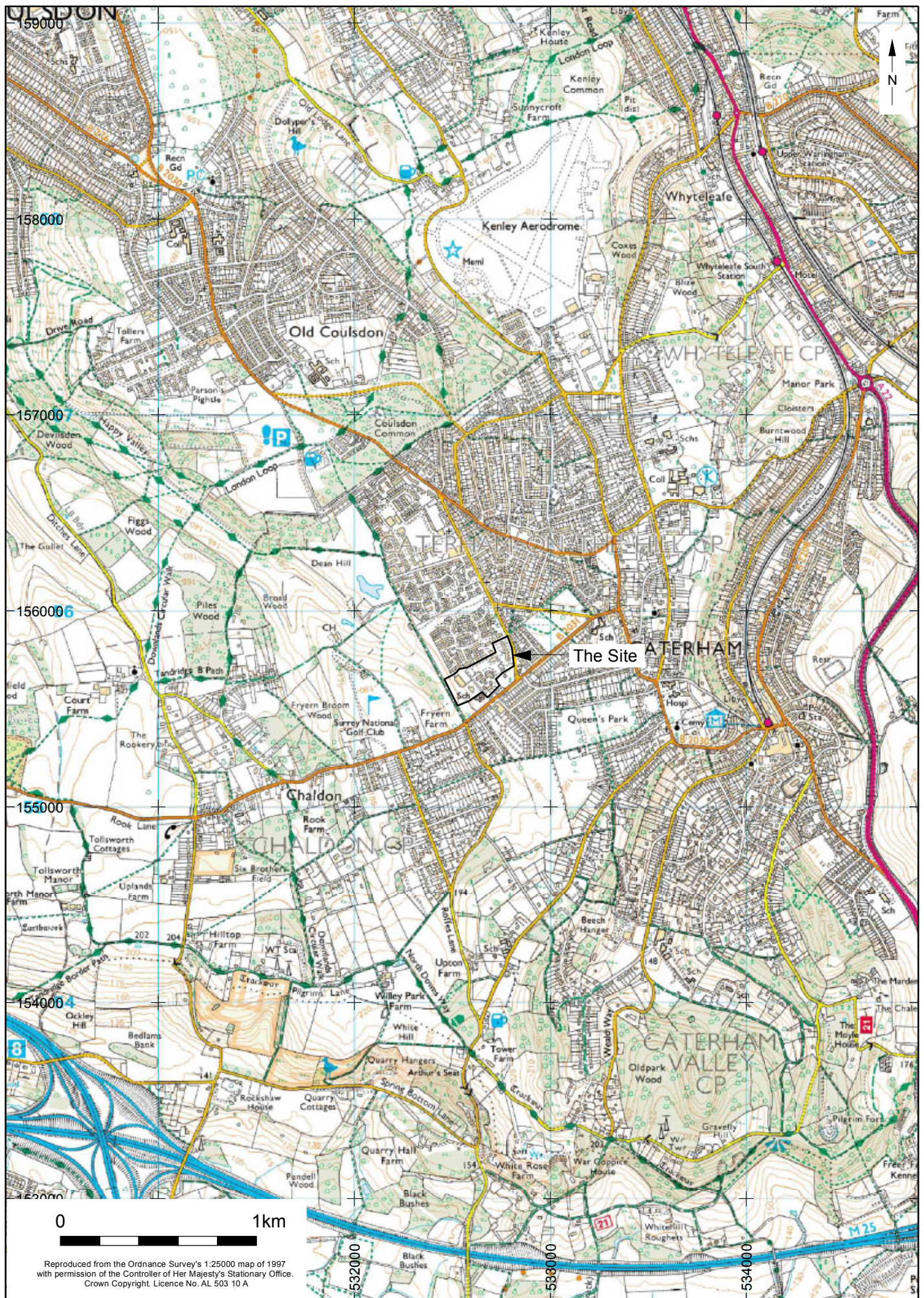
Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report Land at Oaklands Hospital, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2012175
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos.

Entered by Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 24 August 2012



© Archaeology South-East		Oaklands Hospital, Caterham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5666	Aug 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012175	Drawn by: JLR		



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Fig. 3.1: Trench 1 looking east



Fig. 3.2: Trench 2 looking north



Fig. 3.3: Trench 3 looking west

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Fig. 4.1: Trench 4 north looking north-west



Fig. 4.2: Trench 4 south looking north-west



Fig. 4.3: Trench 5 looking north

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