

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Atheldene Centre, 305 Garratt Lane
London Borough of Wandsworth**

NGR: 525977 173595

London Borough of Wandsworth Planning Ref: 2013/6324

**ASE Project No: 6795
Site Code: ATH14**

**ASE Report No: 2014248
OASIS id: archaeol6-184181**



By Steve Price

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July 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by Neilcott Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the site of the proposed Atheldene Primary School, 305 Garratt Lane, LB of Wandsworth. Two trenches were excavated.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were found within either of the two evaluation trenches. The clayey sand natural was encountered at between 6.9m AOD and 7.24m AOD. It is clear there has been a substantial degree of modern truncation due to the presence of the now demolished Atheldene Centre and any other construction/building works that have been carried out on site prior to this.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), was commissioned by Neilcott Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at the site of the proposed Atheldene Primary School, 305 Garrett Lane, LB of Wandsworth (NGR 525977 173595; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site was previously occupied by the now demolished Atheldene Centre, a one to three storey structure ranged around a central car park. The site is bounded to the north by residential properties and a church centre, to the south by Farlton Road, to the east by Garratt Lane and the west by Oakshaw Road (ASE 2014).

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the underlying geology of the site comprises Kempton Park gravel formation, sand and gravel (BGS 2014).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Initially, a desk-based assessment was prepared (ASE 2013). This concluded that the site has low potential for containing archaeological deposits of any period due to its location on the periphery of known historic settlement and its history of dense modern development, but suggested that a trial trench evaluation of the central (less disturbed) part of the site be undertaken to further inform any potential need for mitigation. GLAAS subsequently confirmed that a limited programme of trial trench evaluation was required together with the archaeological monitoring of any planned geotechnical works:

1.3.2 London Borough of Wandsworth has granted planning permission (ref: 2013/6324) for the erection of a primary school on the site. The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) recommended that the following archaeological condition should be attached to the planning consent (Condition 13):

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for 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.' In order that the archaeological remains that may exist on the site can be investigated, in accordance with Council policies DMS2(d).

1.3.2 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation and watching brief was compiled (ASE 2014) and approved by Mark Stevenson, English Heritage prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid.*), were to determine whether archaeological remains survive within the footprint of the proposed development, to assess their nature and significance and to determine the minimum depth below modern ground level.

1.4.2 The evaluation also aimed to address specific research priorities taken from the *Research Framework for London Archaeology* (2002):

- Establishing a sound chronology for the Palaeolithic in London
- Extending the analysis of different modes of flint-working
- Contributing to the creation of the London suburbs

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE between on the 9th July 2014 on the Atheldene Centre, 305 Garratt Lane, London Borough of Wandsworth. The work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2014), Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations IfA (2009) and *Archaeological Guidance Papers Nos. 3-5* (GLAAS 1998 ac).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following is taken from the desk-based assessment prepared by (ASE 2013) and the GLHER.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The site lies close to the River Wandle, in an area of gravel terraces of this tributary of the Thames. Such terraces were a favoured location for early human communities to settle and Palaeolithic flint work has been found on several sites within the Borough of Wandsworth including St Anne's Hill, Garratt Lane and Wandsworth Common. There are four such findspots within a 500m radius of the site (MLO10422, MLO10425, MLO10991, MLO12269).

2.2.2 Evidence for Neolithic activity in London is limited but there is one Neolithic Findspot from within 500m of the site, a broken flint axe (MLO13083).

2.2.3 There are no Bronze Age or Iron Age sites or findspots within 500m of the site.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 There are no Romano-British sites within 500m of the site.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

2.4.1 Wandsworth's origins as a settlement date to the Anglo-Saxon period, but the focus of activity is around the area where the Wandle joins the Thames and there are no known Anglo-Saxon sites within the vicinity of the site.

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 During this time settlement in the Wandsworth area remains focused around the confluence of the Wandle and the Thames. Two entries in the GLHER within the 500m of the site are attributed to the medieval period, Garratt Lane itself (MLO72179) and the historical manor of Dunsford (MLO72180), although these are both based on conjectural evidence rather than firmly dated material.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 The majority of GLHER entries from within the vicinity of the site area are from the post-medieval period. Prominent in Wandsworth at this time was the Wandsworth and Clapham Poor Law Union which was set up to administer relief for the urban poor but in fact functioned much like a form of early local government base around the parishes. The largest of its workhouses was demolished after WWII and is worthy of note because of its close proximity to the site, lying just to the east in the grounds of Goldsworth Cottage.

2.6.2 Five GLHER entries refer to archaeological evaluations carried out within the 500m of the site (MLO637118 MLO67312, MLO100462, MLO99057, MLO13820). These identified made ground deposits dating to the post-medieval period but did not uncover any significant remains or material.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 2 archaeological trial trenches in a predetermined pattern within the footprint of the proposed development. Trench 1 measured 10m x 1.8m and trench 2 measured 5 x 1.8m (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The trenches were initially located by measuring off known fixed points using a 1:500 scale plan and once excavated were then accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.1.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.
- 3.1.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. The excavation area was covered by tarmac, which was removed with a breaker. The trenches were then excavated through modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until the top of the underlying natural sediments were reached.
- 3.1.5 Trenches were recorded according to current professional standards using the ASE recording sheets. All trenches were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum. There were no archaeological deposits or features present within the trenches.
- 3.1.6 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by Neilcott Construction on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.
- 3.1.7 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in due course.

Number of Contexts	8
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	10

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1.1 No archaeological features were encountered in either trench 1 (10 x 1.8m) or trench 2 (5 x 1.8m). All contexts encountered are summarised in Table 2 below.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	001	Layer	Tarmac	0.07m	7.88-8.04
1	002	Layer	Made Ground	0.38-0.54m	
1	003	Layer	Contaminated clay	0.21-0.25m	
1	004	Layer	Natural	-	7.15-7.24
2	001	Layer	Tarmac	0.10-0.13m	7.95-8.16
2	002	Layer	Made Ground	0.35-0.49m	
2	003	Layer	Contaminated clay	0.23- >0.73m	
2	004	Layer	Natural	-	6.9-7.18

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in Trenches 1 and 2

- 4.1.2 The stratigraphic make up was the same in both trenches. The natural geology [001] comprised mid reddish-brown clayey sand, with frequent angular flint inclusions c. 20-70mm, and moderate small rounded and sub-rounded stones c.10-20mm.
- 4.1.3 The natural geology [001] was overlain by a modern dark greyish-green softly compacted silty clay layer [003] which appeared to be very contaminated. Inclusions in this layer were occasional sub-angular stones c. 30-70mm, occasional rounded stones c.10-20mm, moderate small chunks of tarmac c. 30-60mm and occasional brick rubble/CBM.
- 4.1.4 In Trench 2, this layer [003] became much thicker near the north end of the trench.
- 4.1.5 Overlying the contaminated silty clay was modern made ground [002], consisting of crushed CBM, light yellow-brown sand, large angular pieces of concrete, frequent angular, sub-angular and rounded stones c.10-50mm, brick/brick rubble and large fragments of drain pipe. It was overlain by tarmac [001].

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were found within either of the two evaluation trenches.
- 5.1.2 The clayey sand natural was encountered at between 6.9m AOD and 7.24m AOD.
- 5.1.2 It is clear there has been a substantial degree of modern truncation due to the presence of the now demolished Atheldene Centre and any other construction/building works that have been carried out on site prior to this.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Neilcott Construction Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and Mark Stevenson, advisor for the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Steve Price. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report, Andy Leonard project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	ATH14					
Identification Name and Address	Atheldene Centre, 305 Garratt Lane, London Borough of Wandsworth					
County, District &/or Borough	Wandsworth					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 525977 173595					
Geology	Kempton Park gravel formation, sand and gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number						
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	09/07/14					
Sponsor/Client	Neilcott Construction Ltd					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Steve Price					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South East was commissioned by Neilcott Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the site of the proposed Atheldene Primary School, 305 Garratt Lane, LB of Wandsworth. Two trenches were excavated</p> <p>No archaeological deposits, features or finds were found within either of the two evaluation trenches. The clayey sand natural was encountered at between 6.9m AOD and 7.24m AOD. It is clear there has been a substantial degree of modern truncation due to the presence of the now demolished Atheldene Centre and any other construction/building works that have been carried out on site prior to this.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-184181

Project details

Project name Atheldene Centre, 305 Garratt Lane, London Borough of Wandsworth

Short description of the project Archaeology South East was commissioned by Neilcott Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the site of the proposed Atheldene Primary School, 305 Garratt Lane, LB of Wandsworth. Two trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were found within either of the two evaluation trenches. The clayey sand natural was encountered at between 6.9m AOD and 7.24m AOD. It is clear there has been a substantial degree of modern truncation due to the presence of the now demolished Atheldene Centre and any other construction/building works that have been carried out on site prior to this.

Project dates Start: 09-07-2014 End: 09-07-2014

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON WANDSWORTH WANDSWORTH
Atheldene Centre, 305 Garratt Lane, London Borough of Wandsworth

Postcode SW18 4EQ

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 525977 173595 50.9348914222 0.171977121242 50 56 05
N 000 10 19 E Point

Project creators

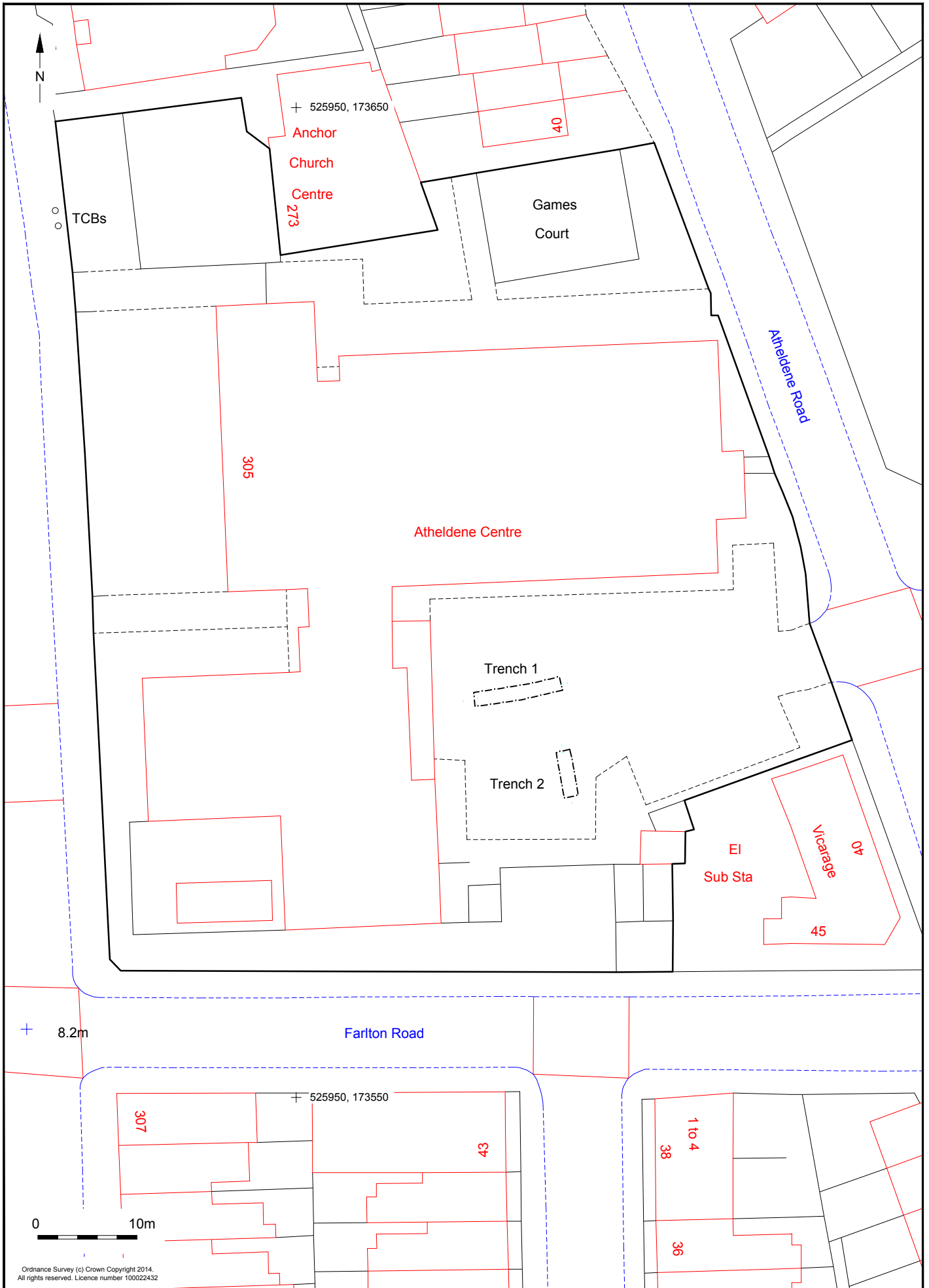
Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Steve Price
Type of sponsor/funding body	Neilcott Special Works
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Plan", "Report"
Entered by	Steve Price (steven.price@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	11 July 2014



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© Archaeology South-East		Atheldene Centre, 305 Garratt Lane, Wandsworth		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6795	July 2014	Site location		
Report Ref: 2014248	Drawn by: JR			



© Archaeology South-East		Atheldene Centre. 305 Garratt Lane, Wandsworth	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6795	July 2014	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2014248	Drawn by: JLR		

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