

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Woodlands Close, Crawley Down
Crawley, West Sussex**

**NGR: 535140,137390
(TQ 35140 37390)**

Planning Ref: 12/00672/OUT

**ASE Project No: 6925
Site Code: WCD 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014306
OASIS id: archaeol6-189711**



By Dylan Hopkinson

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September 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the preparation of a site compound at Woodlands Close, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex.

No archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. The monitored area does not appear to have been subject to previous impacts although no subsoil horizon was identified.

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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), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the preparation of an area for a site compound at Woodlands Close, Crawley Down Crawley, West. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 535140,137390; Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014), the solid geology of the site consists of Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – formed of interbedded sandstone and siltstone. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded.

1.2.1 The site is located on a north facing slope to the east of Woodlands Close, Crawley Down and is bounded to the south and south-east by the gardens of residential properties fronting onto Burleigh Lane; to the east, north-east and south-west the site is bounded by fields of rough pasture and to the north by Burleigh Wood.

1.2.2 The area monitored measured 200m by 100m (Figure 2).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 An outline planning application (12/00672/OUT) was submitted to Mid-Sussex District Council for up to 46 dwellings, landscaping, up to 110 car parking spaces, and formation of new road junctions.

1.3.2 Archaeological desk based assessments (DBAs) for the site and the land to the west outlining the archaeological potential of the area were completed (CgMs 2012, 2013) and based on this document, John Mills, Senior Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), requested that a programme of archaeological investigation on the site be carried out. Following consultations between Mid-Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council (Mid-Sussex District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), an archaeological condition (no. 18) was attached to planning permission.

1.3.3 The initial investigation involved trial trenching across the land to the west which was conducted separately to this work and identified ditches and post-holes or pits across the area as well as a small group of artefacts from the topsoil including a small group of flints from the Mesolithic/early Neolithic periods, a small amount of medieval pottery, and post-medieval building materials (ASE 2014).

1.3.4 On the basis of the finds in the area to the west of the proposed compound the client proposed an archaeological observation and monitoring exercise on the stripping of the compound.

1.3.5 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for a watching brief on the compound (CgMs 2014) which details the methodology for undertaking an archaeological observation and recording to clarify the presence/absence, date, condition and character of any archaeological remains surviving at the site.

1.3.6 This was developed in accordance the Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Evaluations and Watching Briefs of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1994a, 1994b), and other codes and relevant documents of the IfA.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The principle objective of the archaeological monitoring was to establish the existence or absence of archaeological deposits. In addition, the WSI for the archaeological monitoring laid out the following objectives:

- To record any archaeological artefacts and ecofacts and their context.
- To determine if possible the date of the earliest human activity in this area and the subsequent sequence of occupation.
- To help further inform our understanding of past activity in the Crawley Down area.
- To record any significant archaeological deposits which may be exposed during construction work.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site carried out between the 4th and the 6th August 2014. The fieldwork work was undertaken by Pip Stephenson (Archaeologist) and Antonio Reis (Archaeologist).

1.5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Project Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.2 The DBAs (CgMs 2012, 2013) concluded that overall there was a low archaeological potential for remains from any archaeological potential (CgMs 2012, 2013) however the evaluation of the development area to the west identified ditches and post-holes or pits as well as a small group of artefacts from the topsoil which included flints from the Mesolithic/early Neolithic periods; a small amount of medieval pottery, and post-medieval building materials (ASE 2014).

2.3 The following period summaries are derived from the Desk Based Assessments (CgMs 2012, 2013).

2.4 Prehistoric

2.4.1 Mesolithic flint tools were recovered from a rock shelter at Ridge Hill, c. 3km south-east of the study site, the assemblage comprised 65 flints including one tranchet arrowhead, cores and calcined flints, all probably Mesolithic.

2.4.2 Mesolithic flints including 1 core, 1 scraper and some struck flakes were recovered during easement stripping on the Buchan Hill to Turners Hill road, c. 2.75km south-west of the study site.

2.4.3 A Mesolithic flint working site is recorded from fieldwalking at Gullege Farm, c. 2km north-east of the study site. Flint implements of Mesolithic/early Neolithic age were collected, including scrapers, knives, microliths, and cores were recovered.

2.4.4 Two Neolithic polished stone axes were recorded from Stony Plats, c. 2.5m south-west of the study site. One partially polished Neolithic axe and a polished hammerstone were found at Stony Plats.

2.4.5 A late Neolithic barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from Furnace Wood, c. 2.75m north of the study site.

2.4.6 Two early Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowheads were found c. 3km south-west of the study site at Rowfant.

2.4.7 A multi-period occupation site is recorded at Imberhome Farm, and a concentration of prehistoric worked flint was recorded during fieldwalking, c. 2.5km north-east of the study site.

2.5 Iron Age and Roman

- 2.5.1 An Iron Age and Roman Bloomery (iron-working site) is recorded at Ridge Hill, c. 3km south-east of the study site, and a Roman Bloomery is recorded at Felbridge, c. 2.5m north-east of the study site. The combination of ironstone, abundant woodland (for fuel) and water sources made the High Weald an ideal location for the first iron industries. However, iron working sites are usually found alongside streams and therefore because of the topographical position of the site and the absence of ironstone it is unlikely to have been a focus of settlement or industrial activity in the Iron Age.
- 2.5.2 The main Roman road from London to Brighton is described by Margary and runs c. 500m to the east of the study site. A section from TQ29241275 to TQ29351325 survives as a hollow way with accompanying hollows, however trial excavation on the Ordnance Survey alignment of the road at TQ 3254 2492 recovered no trace of the road or ditches, nor did geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching at TQ 3415 3164 in 1992 on the Ordnance Survey alignment at Wakehurst Place.

2.6 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

- 2.6.1 Felbridge, Gullege, Imberhorne, to the north-east of the study site may all have originated as Anglo-Saxon estate centres or homesteads.
- 2.6.2 Crawley Down is first mentioned in 1274, although as a village Crawley Down did not exist until late in the 19th century. Prior to the 19th century the name referred to a rectangular stretch of uncultivated common land surrounded by fields and woods.
- 2.6.3 A medieval building is recorded at Imberhorne Farm/Gullege c. 2.75km north-east of the study site. The Manor of 'Hymberhorne' (possibly Imberhorne Farm) was first mentioned in the 12th century. The sites of three possible medieval buildings were identified; a quantity of pottery and various pieces of metalwork were found. The pottery consisted mainly of rims and body sherds from 13th century.
- 2.6.4 A possible medieval rectangular homestead moat containing water, is recorded on the south bank of Felbridge Water, c. 2.5km north-east of the study site, and designated as a Scheduled Monument (SAM No 20006). To the south of the moated enclosure is a N-S hollow way and several house platforms, interpreted as a possible Deserted Medieval Village (DMV).
- 2.6.5 During these periods the general area of the study site is believed to have been sparsely populated, the most common settlement form being dispersed farmsteads. Throughout these periods the study site probably comprised of woodland, to the south-east of an area of common land.

2.7 Late Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 2.7.1 Many of the existing farms and homesteads within the study area will have originated within this period as the Wealden Forest began to be cleared and brought into cultivation (assarting). During the 1600's some small parcels of land began to be enclosed around the edge of Crawley Down.
- 2.7.2 Iron working is recorded at Warren Furnace dating to the medieval to the post-medieval periods, c. 2.5km north of the study site. The remains are designated as a Scheduled Monument (SAM No 471). A post-medieval hammer and furnace and pond bay have been recorded and there are minepits in the wood below with a large mass of slag.
- 2.7.3 The historic parkscape of the The Grange is recorded on the HER c.500m west of the study site, and is shown as 'The Grange' on Ordnance Survey maps in 1813 and 1872-4.
- 2.7.4 The map of 1795 shows the study site located on an area of high ground occupying fields to the north-east of Turners Hill. The Worth Tithe map and Apportionment of 1842 records the study site as occupied by an arable field.
- 2.7.5 Several brickworks are recorded on the HER in the Crawley Down area; one was located c. 400m north-west of the study site to the south of the former railway and is shown on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map, a further brickworks is recorded c. 500m north-west of the study site, and a clay pit and brickworks are recorded c. 350m north-west of the study site.
- 2.7.6 The 1874 Ordnance Survey map shows the study site occupied by a field south of woodland, named 'Burleigh Wood'.
- 2.7.7 The 1895 Ordnance Survey map shows a 'brickfield' to the south-west of the study site. By 1909 a Brick Works was established to the west of the study site.

2.8 Recent Archaeological Investigation

- 2.8.1 The evaluation of the development area to the west identified four undated ditches and eight post-holes or pits; radiocarbon dating on material from one of the pits dated it to the mid to late Iron Age.
- 2.8.2 A group of artefacts from the topsoil was also recovered and included a small group of flints from the Mesolithic/early Neolithic periods, a small amount of medieval pottery, and post-medieval building materials (ASE 2014).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork entailed a watching brief during the topsoil stripping of the compound area as shown on Figure 2 which was taken down to the natural geology.
- 3.1.2 The area was excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket 1.8m wide.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard context sheets and test pit record sheets used by ASE.
- 3.1.4 A photographic record of the watching brief was made.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Crawley museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	13

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The stratigraphic sequence observed across the whole site was very simple; the natural pale orangey brown moderately firm sand clay with manganese inclusions [01] was overlain directly by pale yellowy-brown sandy silt topsoil [02] up to 0.30m thick. No subsoil horizon was detected.
- 4.2 No archaeological finds, deposits or features were encountered.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness
01	Layer	Topsoil	All site	All site	0.25-0.30m
02	Layer	Natural	All site	All site	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. A similar simple stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site with up to 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology.
- 5.2 The monitored area does not appear to have been subject to previous impacts although no subsoil horizon was identified.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and John Mills County Archaeologist West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was undertaken by Pip Stephenson and Antonio Reis. Rob Cole produced the figures for this report; Diccon Hart project-managed the excavations and Jim Stephenson and Dan Swift project-managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	WCD 14				
Identification Name and Address	Woodlands Close, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex				
County, District &/or Borough	Crawley				
OS Grid Refs.	535140,137390				
Geology	Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand				
Arch. South-East Project Number	6925				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief.		
Type of Site	Green Field.				
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 04-08-2014 to 06-08-2014		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs				
Project Manager	Diccon Hart				
Project Supervisor	Pip Stephenson and Antonio Reis				
Period Summary					
				None	
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the preparation of a site compound at Woodlands Close, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. The monitored area does not appear to have been subject to previous impacts although no subsoil horizon was identified.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-189711

Project details

Project name	Woodlands Close, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the preparation of a site compound at Woodlands Close, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex. No archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were recorded at the site during the watching brief. The monitored area does not appear to have been subject to previous impacts although no subsoil horizon was identified.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2014 End: 06-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WCD 14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	12/00672/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Housing estate
Development type	Site Compound
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CRAWLEY CRAWLEY Woodlands Close, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex
Postcode	RH10
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	535140 137390 535140 00 00 N 137390 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: -0.30m Max: -0.25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Diccon Hart
Project supervisor	Antonio Reis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

available

Paper Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

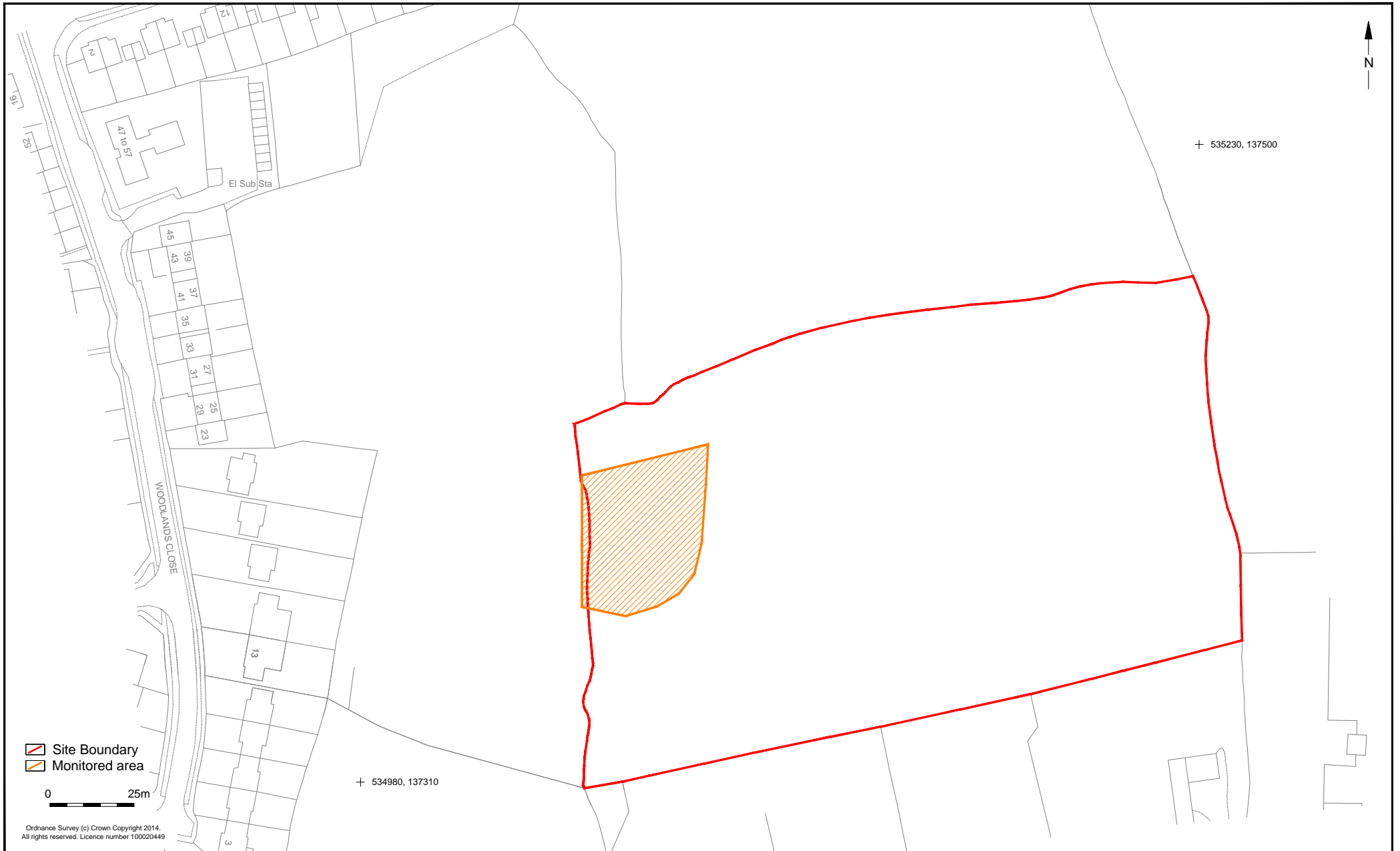
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© Archaeology South-East		Woodlands Close, Crawley Down	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6925	September 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014306	Drawn by: RHC		



i Archaeology South-East		Woodlands Close, Crawley Down	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6925	September 2014	Location of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2014306	Drawn by: RHC		

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