

An Archaeological Evaluation at Trinity School, Leatherhead, Surrey

NGR TQ 166 570

**By
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**Project No. 2859
Site Code: TRL 07**

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Trinity School, Leatherhead, Surrey. The work was carried out between 28th May and 1st June 2007 on behalf of Surrey County Council. Initially, the excavation of thirteen trenches was planned as detailed in the method statement (ASE 2007) but two of these had to be excluded due to both practical and Health and Safety reasons. Eleven trenches were therefore excavated; no archaeological remains were revealed.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Surrey County Council to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation at Trinity School, Leatherhead, Surrey; hereafter described as 'the site' (see Figure 1). The site was situated at NGR TQ 16638 57013.
- 1.2 The site incorporated school buildings, access roads, games courts and playing fields and is bounded on all sides by residential accommodation.
- 1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the evaluation was prepared by ASE (2007) which was submitted and duly approved by Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer Surrey County Council (SCC).
- 1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Collie from 28th May to 1st June 2007. On site assistance was provided by Dave Atkins and Dave Yates. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer.
- 1.5 The trenches were located with a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) before excavation.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An Environmental Statement was produced for the site in 2007 (Millard 2007) and subsequently updated in a Desk Based Assessment (Thorne 2007). It is not within the scope of this report to detail the evidence here, but based upon current evidence the appraisal site was considered to have low potential for containing archaeological deposits. No finds or features were recorded within the appraisal site itself, and only a Roman coin, an undated flint blade and a post - medieval cobbled surface were recorded from within the study area. The majority of entries returned from the SMR search relate to post-medieval or modern Listed Buildings situated to the south of the site towards the historic core of Leatherhead.
- 2.2 Any potential archaeological deposits were likely to have been disturbed and truncated during the construction of the school and landscaping of the school grounds particularly in the western half of the site. The potential for recovery of archaeological remains in the south-eastern part of the school, in the area of the playing fields was greater, as these fields appeared to have suffered from little modern disturbance. However the available evidence suggested a low potential for archaeological features other than those relating to field

boundaries, and possibly post-medieval agricultural structures and gravel pits.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The original plan included in the Method Statement (ASE 2007) was to excavate 13 trenches across the site. However, Trench 1 was abandoned since its excavation was likely to contravene Health and Safety standards. Additionally trench 8 was not excavated since it was situated in a densely wooded copse and therefore was completely inaccessible by machine. In total therefore 11 trenches were excavated across the site measuring 1.8m by 30m (see Figure 2). These trenches were accurately laid out in relation to known 1:1250 Ordnance Survey points. Some modification to the suggested trench positions was necessary due to on site obstructions. This was particularly true in the case of trench 2, which was moved 15m to the south since excavation in the planned northern end yielded high quantities of asbestos and also trench 6, which was moved 10m to the north due to obstructions from services associated with a nearby sub-station.
- 3.2 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision with a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditching, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

4.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

Trench 1 was abandoned. Its position on site would have caused serious problems in terms of Health and Safety Standards. It would have caused obstruction to school children and vehicles attempting to gain access to the school itself and was thought to contain quantities of asbestos and hydrocarbon-contaminated soil that would have had serious consequences to the health of school children and members of the public alike. Additionally, the trench itself would have cut through trees and also main sewer and drainage services. As trenches 3-10 were completely devoid of all archaeological remains and trench 1 was one of the last to be excavated, it was deemed sensible to abandon it.

Trench 2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr	0.34m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr	0.24m
2/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (2/003), a mid orange compact clay with patches of mid yellow brown compact sandy clay containing abundant medium/large sub-angular flints, was encountered at a maximum height of 43.59m OD at the south-eastern end of the trench, falling to 42.3m OD to the north-west.

Originally, the excavation of trench 2 began at the planned north-western end. However, at 0.30m below ground level, large quantities of asbestos were encountered. Since this trench was so close to the play area of the school, it was deemed necessary to backfill this immediately and move the trench 15m to the south.

The trench yielded no archaeological features.

Trench 3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
3/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (3/003), a mid orange compact clay, was encountered at a maximum height of 41.89m OD at the north-eastern end of the trench, falling to 41.57m OD to the south-west.

No archaeological features were discovered.

Trench 4

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
4/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (4/003), comprising a compact yellow orange clay with patches of mid yellow brown compact sandy clay containing abundant medium/large sub-angular flints, was encountered at a maximum height of 43.65m OD at the southern end, falling to 42.50m OD to the north.

No archaeological features were discovered.

Trench 5

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.17m
5/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (5/003), comprising a compact yellow orange clay with patches of mid yellow brown compact sandy clay containing abundant medium/large sub-angular flints was encountered at a maximum height of 45.61m OD at the south-eastern end of the trench, falling away to 43.61m OD to the northwest.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 6

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m

6/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
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Summary

Natural geology (6/003) consisting of a compact yellow orange clay with patches of mid yellow brown compact sandy clay containing abundant medium/large sub-angular flints was encountered at a maximum height of 48.78m OD at the south-eastern end falling to 47.14m OD to the north-west.

This trench was moved 15m to the north-west due to the fact that services from the sub-station in the south-east corner of site were discovered at its south-eastern end. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 7

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
7/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (7/003) consisting of a compact yellow orange clay with patches of mid yellow brown compact sandy clay containing abundant medium/large sub-angular flints was encountered at a maximum height of 46.55m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 44.43m OD to the west.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was abandoned. This trench was left to be excavated towards the end of the evaluation since its position was situated in a densely wooded grove of trees. Since trenches 2-7 and 9-13 were devoid of all archaeology and since this trench was positioned in an area where excavation would prove immensely difficult, the excavation of trench 8 was not completed.

Trench 9

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.50m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
9/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
9/004	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (9/003), consisting of a mid orange brown sandy clay with patches of abundant medium/large flint, was encountered at a maximum height of 45.95m OD at the eastern end, falling to 44.22m OD at the western end. At the time of excavation, patches of blue clay were seen to be evident along with the (9/003). Three sondages were excavated in the middle and at both the eastern and western ends of this trench to determine the nature of this clay. It was discovered that this was part of the natural geology in this area of site and was also seen in trenches 10, 11, 12 and 13. It lay at 0.98m below ground level.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 10

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.58m
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
10/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
10/004	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (10/003), consisting of an orange brown clay with patches of abundant medium/large sub-angular flint was encountered at a maximum height of 46.61m OD at the southern end falling to 46.40m OD to the north. This trench was similar to trench 9 with patches of blue clay present on the surface of (10/003); three sondages were excavated in the middle and at both the northern and southern ends. Compact blue grey clay was discovered 0.94m below ground level.

No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 11

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
11/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
11/004	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (11/003), consisting of an orange brown clay with patches of abundant medium/large sub-angular flint, was encountered at a maximum height of 48.44m OD at the south-eastern end, falling to 46.70m OD to the north-west. Two sondages were excavated in the middle and at the south-eastern end to gauge the level of the next layer of natural geology underlying (11/003). The compact blue grey clay (11/004) seen in trenches 9, 10 and 11 was present 0.61m below ground level.

No archaeological features were revealed.

Trench 12

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
12/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (12/003), consisting of an orange brown clay with patches of abundant medium/large sub-angular flint, was encountered at a maximum height of 49.08m OD at the north-eastern end, falling to 48.39m OD to the south-west.

A sondage was excavated in the north-eastern end of this trench but failed to reveal the underlying blue clay found in trenches 9,10 and 11. Excavation ceased at 1.20m due to Health and Safety.

A modern pit containing asbestos, brick and a modern 'Pepsi' bottle was revealed at the far south-western end of this trench. Due to the harmful substances there, it was covered over immediately. All finds were discarded on site.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 13

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
13/003	Deposit	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (13/003), consisting of a mid orange brown clay with patches of abundant medium/large sub-angular flint, was encountered at a maximum

height of 48.47m OD at the southern end and 47.51m OD to the north. Since patches of blue clay were not evident in (13/003) no sondages were cut into the base of this trench.

No archaeological features observed.

5.0 DISCUSSION

This programme of trenching has clearly demonstrated the absence of archaeological remains across the study area. The evaluation has demonstrated that natural geology was highest at the south-eastern end of the site at 49.08m OD, falling to 41.57m OD in the north-west and 44.22m OD in the south-west. The results do show that the common natural geology, the sandy clay with abundant sub-angular flint, is thinner in depth in the south-west of site and as a result, the underlying blue clay can be seen in the appropriate trenches.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council is gratefully acknowledged.

REFERENCES

Archaeology South-East 2007, *A Method Statement for An Archaeological Evaluation at Trinity School, Leatherhead, Surrey*, Unpublished ASE document

Millard Consulting Engineers 2007, *Window Sample Site Investigation on Leatherhead Trinity School*

Thorne, A 2007, *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment at Trinity School, Leatherhead, Surrey*, Unpublished ASE report

Oasis Summary Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-27359

Project details

Project name	Trinity School, Leatherhead
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Trinity School, Leatherhead, Surrey. The work was undertaken between 28th May and 1st June 2007 on behalf of Surrey County Council. Initially, the excavation of thirteen trenches was planned as detailed in the method statement (see ASE 2007). However, Trench 1 was abandoned since its excavation was likely to contravene Health and Safety standards. Additionally trench 8 was not excavated since it was situated in a densely wooded copse and therefore was completely inaccessible by machine. Eleven trenches were therefore excavated and no archaeological remains of any kind were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 29-05-2007 End: 01-06-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MO/2006/1854 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY MOLE VALLEY LEATHERHEAD Trinity School,
Leatherhead

Postcode KT22 7BP

Study area 2.60 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 1110 5750 51.30524888 -0.406014545458 51 18 18 N 000 24
21 W Polygon

Height OD Min: 30.00m Max: 36.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Surry County Council

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Tom Collie

Type of sponsor/funding body District Council

Name of sponsor/funding body Surrey County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive ID TLR 07 Trinity School, Leatherhead (2859)

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Digital Archive notes Includes digital images and word documents

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID TLR 07 Trinity School, Leatherhead (2859)

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report'

Paper Archive notes Includes site recording sheets, photographs and slides, printed reports

Project bibliography 1

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