

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at the Former Cheswyck School
Guildford Road, Frimley Green
Surrey**

**NGR: 489748, 156386
(SU 89748 56386)**

**ASE Project No: 200392
Site Code: FGC 20
ASE Report No: 2020191
OASIS id: archaeol6-404002**



By Chris Russel

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by RPS Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former Cheswyck School, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Surrey GU16 6PA, between the 7th and the 9th of September 2020. Five 30m trenches and four trenches measuring between 8m and 11m were excavated.

Natural sand was found to be sealed beneath an intact subsoil horizon in all trenches. Above the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, in the north of the site, a thin levelling deposit of redeposited natural sands was recorded. Other than this, the site appears to have been subject to little past landscaping. Eight of the trenches were found to contain no archaeological features or deposits and no finds (artefacts) were recorded. Only one, undated linear feature was recorded in Trench 5 in the east of the site. The full extent of the feature to the south-west is unknown, but it was not found in Trench 4 to the north-east. This feature appears to correspond with the northern boundary of Plot 527 shown on the 1841 tithe map however, it does appear to correspond well with the boundary shown on the 1871 Ordnance survey map which appears to show that the boundary had moved slightly to the south by this time and was perhaps therefore no longer defined by a ditch.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by RPS Consulting to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former Cheswycks School site, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Surrey (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Camberley Sand Formation – Sand (BGS 2020) with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits, 8 - sand and gravel recorded immediately to the west. No superficial deposits are recorded for the site itself.

1.2.2 The west of the site is situated on high ground that slopes down steeply to the east. The eastern part of the site is relatively flat. The site is bounded by woodland to the north and Guildford Road to the south.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The recommendations for the mitigation strategy were set out in the desk-based assessment of the proposed development site (SCAU 2017). This recommended that further archaeological work was required in the form of an archaeological trial trench evaluation, focusing on the area of land that was once cottages and gardens in the east of the site, and where the new development will be primarily constructed, as well as the northern block of new woodland. The Surrey County Council, Historic Environment Planning Team Archaeological Officer, who advises the Local Planning Authority agreed that a trial trench evaluation was an appropriate way forward, and that all areas of the development including landscaping and car parking should be subject to the programme of archaeological work.

1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Escalation (SCAU 2020) was compiled and approved prior to fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The scope of this report is to detail the findings of the trial trench evaluation which was undertaken by Archaeology South-East between the 7th and the 9th of September 2020.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The full archaeological background and potential for the site is set out in the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) for the site (SCAU 2017) and is summarised in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced for the trial trenching (SCAU 2020).
- 2.1.2 The DBA concluded that the archaeological evidence from the area surrounding the site was scant but that 'A number of potential new Heritage Assets were identified as part of this assessment, that is a series of five early cottages and gardens as shown on the Tithe map. These seem to be relatively rare examples of short-lived residential encroachments on the heathland' (SCAU 2017).

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The general aim of the fieldwork as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (SCAU 2020) is:

'The evaluation should aim to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened archaeological deposits lying within the development area, in order to allow definition of an appropriate mitigation strategy'.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

(Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 Access to the site was limited meaning that the trial trenches could only be excavated using a JCB wheeled excavator which had limited capabilities in relation to the tracked excavators usually used for this type of work. Trenches, or parts of trenches, that the JCB could not excavate were omitted with the agreement of the County Archaeologist. In addition, there were several other on site constrictions which meant that some trenches could only be dug in part.
- 3.1.2 Although all the buildings of the former school have been demolished, there were still several on site impediments. Of the ten trenches proposed for the evaluation (SCAU 2020) only Trenches 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 could be fully excavated. Of the remainder the following could only be partially excavated; Trench 2 was interrupted by a chain link fence and hard standing area in the east, Trenches 3 and 8 were interrupted by steep banks, services and hard standing and Trench 10 was interrupted in its mid-section by a dry pond. Trench 9 was situated entirely on the concrete base of one of the old school buildings and therefore none of it could be excavated.
- 3.1.3 All mechanical excavations were carried out under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket to the level of the geological substrate.
- 3.1.4 All trenches were recorded using ASE pro-forma trench record sheets and revealed deposits and features were described on standard ASE context sheets.
- 3.1.5 Hand dug sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 on plastic draughting film.
- 3.1.6 A photographic record of the work was made.
- 3.1.7 Trench locations, Deposits and features were recorded in relation to Ordnance Survey data using GPS digital survey equipment.

3.2 Archive

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

Context sheets	7
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	106
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	10

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Archaeologically Negative Trenches

(Figures 6 and 7)

- 4.1.1 Trenches, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 were archaeologically negative, containing no archaeological finds, deposits or features.
- 4.1.2 The geological horizon within these trenches was encountered at between 94.12m AOD in the west of the site and 86.72m in the east.
- 4.1.3 The geology in the west (Trenches 1, 2 and 10) consisted of a loose grey yellow brown sand [2/003] which was overlain by friable dark brown grey subsoil [2/002] with loose dark grey topsoil [2/001] capping the sequence.
- 4.1.4 To the east (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) revealed a geological deposit consisting of a more compact mid orange brown or mid yellow brown sand [5/003] with very common sandstone inclusions. This was overlain by mid-brown grey friable silty sand subsoil [5/002] and capped by loose grey brown silty topsoil [5/001].
- 4.1.5 Trenches 3 and 4 exhibited thin layers of re-deposited natural sand which had been used as a levelling deposit above the subsoil.
- 4.1.6 The geological horizon in all trenches was subject to root disturbance and mineralisation.
- 4.1.7 The deposits recorded in these trenches are tabulated in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.

4.2 Trench 5

(Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
5001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.15-0.20	88.01-88.31
5002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.25-0.35	87.86-88.16
5003	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		87.61-87.81
5004	Cut	Linear	2	0.7	0.2	87.41-87.61
5005	Fill	Fill, single	2	0.7	0.2	87.41-87.61

Table 3: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 At the western of Trench 5, beneath topsoil and apparently undisturbed subsoil, a single shallow linear feature [5/004] was recorded cutting into the natural sand. The feature was orientated south-west - north-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat to pointed base and was filled by a single fill, a loose mid grey silty sand [5/005]. No finds were recovered from the feature despite full excavation of the exposed feature.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 The geological horizon fell from 94.12m AOD in the west of the site to 86.72m AOD in the east. A thin levelling deposit was noted in Trenches 3 & 4, probably associated with landscaping relating to the school. One undated linear feature was recorded in Trench 5 in the east.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 All trenches revealed an intact subsoil horizon that was between 0.25m and 0.70m thick overlying natural sands. A single feature was recorded in the flat area to the east of the site suggesting that impacts from landscaping are minimal.

5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

5.3.1 The single recorded linear feature, did not yield any dating evidence but appears to correspond strongly to the northern boundary of plot 527 shown on the 1841 tithe map (Figure 4), however, it does appear to correspond well with the boundary shown on the 1871 Ordnance survey map. It appears possible that the boundary had moved slightly to the south by this time and was no longer defined by a ditch.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

5.4.1 The site appears to have been subject to little past landscaping as an intact subsoil horizon between 0.25 and 0.70m thick was recorded in all trenches. One undated linear feature was the only feature exposed in the evaluation; in Trench 5, in the eastern part of the site. The feature was found beneath the subsoil horizon, which in this location was c.0.30m thick. This ditch is probably that shown on the 1841 tithe map (Figure 4), however, it does appear to correspond well with the boundary shown on the 1871 Ordnance survey map (Figure 5) which appears to show that the boundary had moved slightly to the south by this time and was perhaps therefore no longer defined by a ditch.

5.5 Conclusions

5.5.1 Nine trenches of varying lengths were excavated. Natural sand was found to be sealed beneath an intact subsoil horizon in all trenches. Above the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, in the north of the site, a thin levelling deposit of redeposited natural sands was recorded. Other than this, the site appears to have been subject to little past landscaping. Eight of the trenches were found to contain no archaeological features or deposits and no finds (artefacts) were recorded. Only one, undated linear feature was recorded in Trench 5 in the east of the site. The full extent of the feature to the south-west is unknown, but it was not found in Trench 4 to the north-east. This feature appears to correspond with the northern boundary of Plot 527 shown on the 1841 tithe map however, it does appear to correspond well with the boundary shown on the 1871 Ordnance survey map which appears to show that the boundary had

moved slightly to the south by this time and was perhaps therefore no longer defined by a ditch.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU), 2017 *Desk Based Archaeological Assessment of The Former Cheswyck School, Guildford Road, Surrey*. Unpublished document

The Surrey County Archaeological Unit, 2020 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Trial Trench Evaluation on Land at the Former Cheswyck School, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Surrey*. Unpublished SCAU document

Online Resources

BGS, 20202 British Geological Survey Map Viewer
<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 18/09/2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank RPS Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and the County Archaeologist, Surrey County Council for guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was undertaken by Chris Russel. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	FGC 20				
Project code	200392				
Planning reference	Unknown				
Site address	The former Cheswyck School, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Surrey GU16 6PA				
District/Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	489748, 156386				
Geology	Camberley Sand Formation - Sand				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	07/09/2020-09/09/2020				
Sponsor/client	RPS Consulting				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Chris Russel				
Period summary					
Project summary	<p>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by RPS Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former Cheswyck School, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Surrey GU16 6PA, between the 7th and the 9th of September 2020. Five 30m trenches and four trenches measuring between 8m and 11m were excavated.</p> <p>Natural sand was found to be sealed beneath an intact subsoil horizon in all trenches. Above the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, in the north of the site, a thin levelling deposit of redeposited natural sands was recorded. Other than this, the site appears to have been subject to little past landscaping. Eight of the trenches were found to contain no archaeological features or deposits and no finds (artefacts) were recorded. Only one, undated linear feature was recorded in Trench 5 in the east of the site. The full extent of the feature to the south-west is unknown, but it was not found in Trench 4 to the north-east. This feature appears to correspond with the northern boundary of Plot 527 shown on the 1841 tithe map however, it does appear to correspond well with the boundary shown on the 1871 Ordnance survey map which appears to show that the boundary had moved slightly to the south by this time and was perhaps therefore no longer defined by a ditch.</p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-404002

Project details

Project name an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Cheswyck School, Guild ford Road, frimley Green, Surrey.

Short description of the project Five 30m trenches and four trenches measuring between 8m and 11m were excavated. Natural sand was found to be sealed beneath an intact subsoil horizon in all trenches. Above the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, in the north of the site, a thin levelling deposit of redeposited natural sands was recorded. Other than this, the site appears to have been subject to little past landscaping. Eight of the trenches were found to contain no archaeological features or deposits and no finds (artefacts) were recorded. Only one, undated linear feature was recorded in Trench 5 in the east of the site. The full extent of the feature to the south-west is unknown, but it was not found in Trench 4 to the north-east. This feature appears to correspond with the northern boundary of Plot 527 shown on the 1841 tithe map however, it does appear to correspond well with the boundary shown on the 1871 Ordnance survey map which appears to show that the boundary had moved slightly to the south by this time and was perhaps therefore no longer defined by a ditch.

Project dates Start: 07-09-2020 End: 09-09-2020

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes FGC 20 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 200392 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques ""Sample Trenches""

Development type Housing estate

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

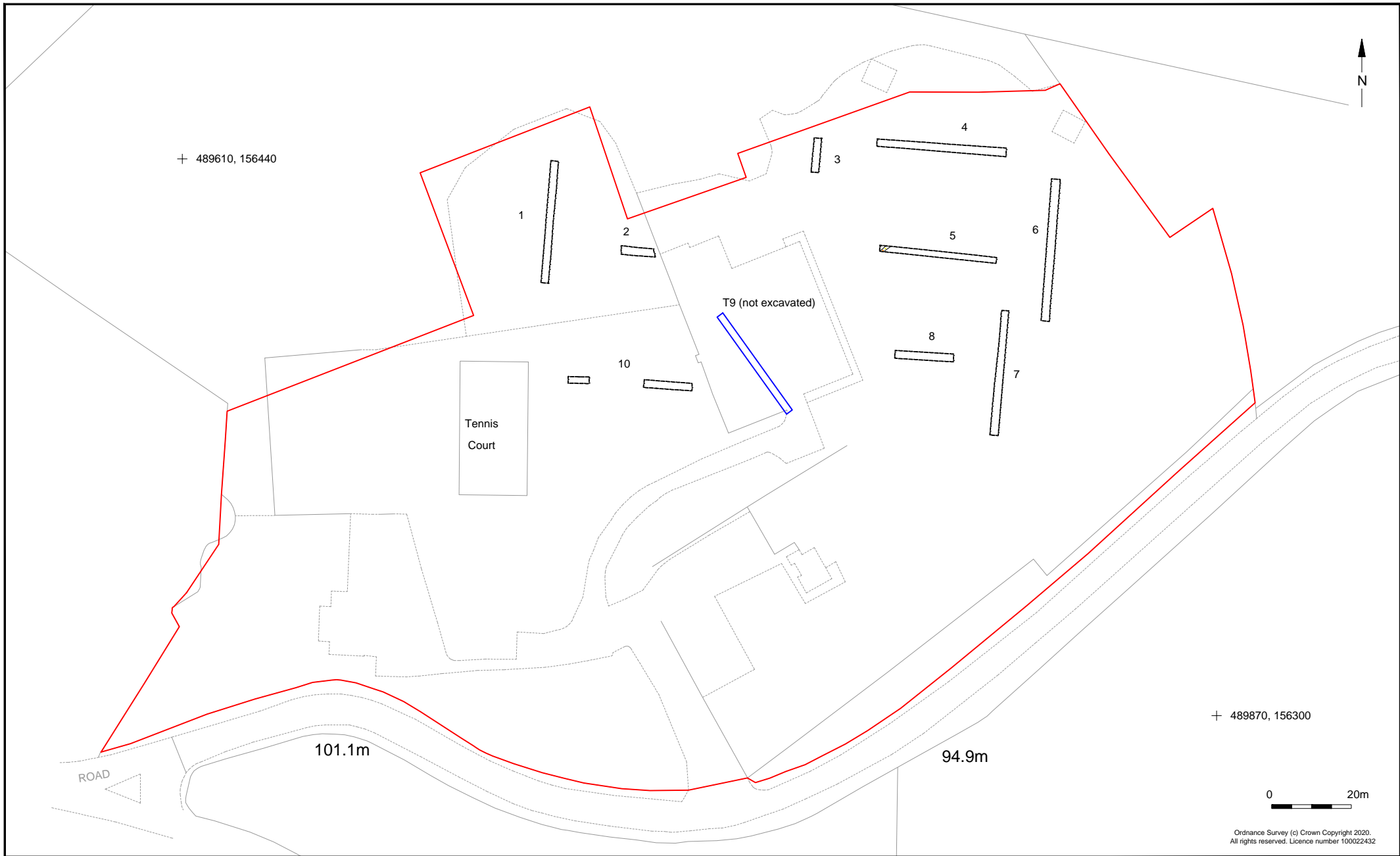
Country England

Site location	SURREY SURREY HEATH CAMBERLEY The Former Cheswyck School
Postcode	GU16 6PA
Study area	5 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 489748 156386 50.937561090094 -1.30291572047 50 56 15 N 001 18 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 86.72m Max: 94.12m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Client
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on at Land at the Former Cheswycks School, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Surrey.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel,C
Other bibliographic details	Report No:2020191
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Entered on 14 October 2020

Appendix 1: Table of recorded contexts for archaeologically negative trenches

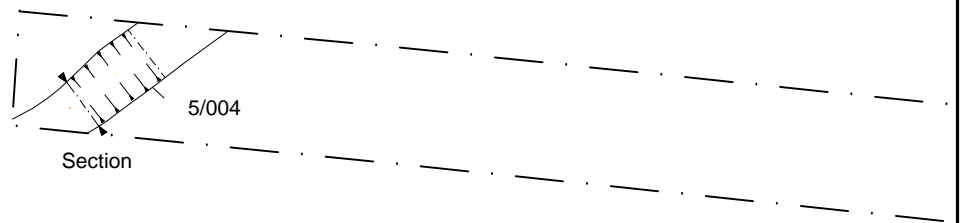
Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Height AOD
1001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.15-0.20	91.15-93.98
1002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.35-0.46	90.95-93.83
1003	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		90.60-93.48
2001	Layer	Topsoil	8	1.5	0.15-0.20	90.61-90.66
2002	Layer	Subsoil	8	1.5	0.45-0.50	90.45-90.61
2003	Layer	Natural sand	8	1.5		90.11-90.26
3001	Layer	Topsoil	7.5	1.5	0.10-0.20	87.71-90.79
3002	Layer	Redeposited natural sand	7.5	1.5	0.05-0.10	87.61-90.59
3003	Layer	Subsoil	7.5	1.5	0.39-0.45	87.51-89.49
3004	Layer	Natural sand	7.5	1.5		87.71-90.79
4001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.20-0.40	87.33-87.62
4002	Layer	Redeposited natural sand	30	1.5	0.10-0.15	86.90-86.97
4003	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.35-0.70	86.97-87.42
4004	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		86.47-86.72
6001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.20-0.25	87.51-87.58
6002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.30-0.50	87.26-87.38
6003	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		86.90-87.98
7001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.15	88.41-89.72
7002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.35-0.55	88.26-89.57
7003	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		87.01-89.02
6001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.20-0.25	87.51-87.58
6002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.30-0.50	87.26-87.38
6003	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		86.90-87.98
7001	Layer	Topsoil	30	1.5	0.15	88.41-89.72
7002	Layer	Subsoil	30	1.5	0.35-0.55	88.26-89.57
7003	Layer	Natural sand	30	1.5		87.01-89.02
8001	Layer	Topsoil	11	1.5	0.15	89.05-90.80
8002	Layer	Subsoil	11	1.5	0.29-0.35	88.90-90.70
8003	Layer	Natural sand	11	1.5		88.59-90.80
10001	Layer	Topsoil	11	1.5	0.15	91.83-94.73
10002	Layer	Subsoil	11	1.5	0.46-0.70	91.68-4.58
10003	Layer	Natural sand	112	1.5		91.03-94.12



© Archaeology South-East		Cheswyck School, Frimley Green	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 200392	Sept 2020	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2020191	Drawn by: JR		



+ 489791, 156421



+ 489791, 156412



5/004 looking south-west



Trench 5 looking east

Section

SE

NW

87.79mOD

5/005

5/004

0 0.5m



0 2m





© Archaeology South-East		Cheswyck School, Frimley Green	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 200392	Sept 2020	1841 Tithe map	
Report Ref: 2020191	Drawn by: JR		



© Archaeology South-East		Cheswyck School, Frimley Green	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 200392	Sept 2020	1871 OS	
Report Ref: 2020191	Drawn by: JR		



Trench 1 looking south



Trench 2 looking east



Trench 3 looking south



Trench 4 looking east



Trench 6 looking south



Trench 7 looking north

© Archaeology South-East		Cheswyck School, Frimley Green	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 200392	Sept 2020	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2020191	Drawn by: JR		



Trench 8 looking east



Trench 10 (east) looking west



Trench 10 (west) looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Cheswyck School, Frimley Green	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 200392	Sept 2020	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2020191	Drawn by: JR		

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