

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Land formerly occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road,
Polegate, East Sussex**

Planning Ref:WD/2008/0609/F

**NGR 558201 104622
TQ 58201 04622**

**Project No. 3840
Site Code: SJR 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009069
OASIS ID: archaeol6-58680**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land formerly occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate by their client Cross Construction. The evaluation was on the site of a single detached house and its gardens, where it is planned to build nine houses and associated car-parking and landscaping. The fieldwork was carried out from 20th to 21st April 2009.

Five 10m long trenches were opened within the impact footprint of the redevelopment; all the trenches were devoid of archaeology, and showed the same sequence of topsoil and alluvium overburden sealing natural deposits of clay.

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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 Cross Construction to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation on the former location of the property known as 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate, East Sussex; hereafter described as 'the site'. The site was situated at NGR 558201 104622 (Figure 1).
- 1.2** The fieldwork was undertaken during the 20th and 21st April 2009 in accordance to A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2009) which was prepared outlining the requirements of the evaluation and submitted and approved by Greg Chuter, Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC).
- 1.3** The fieldwork was conducted by Dylan Hopkinson with on site assistance from Robert Cole and project management by Neil Griffin.
- 1.4** Planning permission was granted by Wealden District Council on 20th May 2008 (Planning Reference WD/2008/0609/F) for the demolition of the existing building and construction of 9 dwellings, associated car parking and landscaping.
- 1.5** The ESCC's Archaeologist, advised Wealden District Council in a letter dated 31st March 2008 that the following archaeological condition be attached to any planning consent:

"No Development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the planning authority. The works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the District Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless agreed in writing with the District Planning Authority.

Reason: The development is likely to disturb items of archaeological interest and to accord with Policy S1 of the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Structure Plan 1991-2011."

Accordingly, this recommendation forms Condition 4 of the planning consent.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 319) the underlying geology at the site is Weald Clay Deposits.
- 2.2** A single demolished property previously occupied the site, however, the proposed development extends beyond the footprints of the demolished building into land which has not been disturbed by development in the past, and consequently there was potential for archaeological remains to be encountered.
- 2.3** The site lies within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA) designated by ESCC due to the proximity of artefact findspots of Roman Date.
- 2.4** A search of the ESCC Historic Environment Record (HER) was made within a 1km radius of the site centre. A summary of relevant information held on the ESCC HER is presented below in Table 1 with locations annotated on Figure 1.
- 2.5** No previous archaeological investigation of this site had been conducted.

Table 1: Selected sites of archaeological interest held on the ESCC HER

Figure 1 Reference	ESCC HER No.	Ordnance Survey co-ordinates	Description	Period
01	MES4534	TQ 59 04	10 th -11 th century lead casket found in 1847 during railway works	S-MED
02	MES4745	TQ 582 046	Roman pottery lamp found during drainage works in St John's Road	R
03	MES4746	TQ 5817 0407	Tower windmill built 1817, ceased use in 1940s	PM-M
04	MES4747	TQ 5808 0450	Roman pottery and coin and medieval pottery found during building works	R & M
05	MES 4749	TQ 57 05	Iron Age gold stater (coin) found in 1872/3 whilst ploughing	P
06	MES4752	TQ 58 05	3 rd century Roman coin hoard found in Cairn Cove	R
07	MES4753	TQ 5827 0516	Section of Selmeston-Pevensay-Glynde Roman road	R
08	MES5058	TQ 5932 0376	Section of Stone Cross-Jevington Roman road	R
09	MES5069	TQ 57 03	A perforated implement, possibly a macehead found in Filching	P
10	MES5084	TQ 58 03	Escutcheon from an Anglo-Saxon bowl	S
11	EES14002	TQ 5915 0525	Archaeological evaluation in advance of construction of Polegate Bypass. Medieval pottery, prehistoric flintwork found at various locations along the route. Evidence for a small medieval domestic site also located (Greatorex 1999)	P, MED & PM

P = prehistoric, R = Roman, S = Saxon, MED = medieval, PM = post-medieval, M = modern, U = undated

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The evaluation as described by the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2009) involved the excavation of five trial trenches measuring 1.80 metres by 10 metres.
- 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.
- 3.4** Revealed surfaces were scrutinised to identify any individual archaeological features, and a metal detector was used to investigate any potential features and to identify metallic finds within the excavated material. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy.
- 3.5** All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints and colour digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Photographs	5 black and white and 5 colour digital photographs

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 1 to 5 (Figure 2)

4.1.1 Five trenches were excavated by machine measuring 1.80 metres by 10 metres and all revealed the same stratigraphic sequence, no archaeology was encountered in any of the trenches.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 10 metres in length and was 1.80 metres in width with a maximum depth of 1.20 metres.

4.2.2 No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and the overburden was removed by machine to the surface of the natural strata at (13.70 mAOD). The natural stratum observed was firm light blue clay with common flint pebbles and common frequency of iron-pan deposition (1/003).

4.2.3 Overlying the natural was a 0.58 metre deep layer of mid orangey brown alluvial deposited clay with occasional flint pebbles (1/002), this was in turn sealed by a 0.42 metre deep layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (1/001).

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	mAOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m	14.70
1/002	Deposit	Alluvial clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.58m	14.28
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	13.70

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 10 metres in length and was 1.80 metres in width with a maximum depth of 1.20 metres.

4.3.2 No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and the overburden was removed by machine to the surface of the natural strata at (14.27 mAOD). The natural stratum observed was firm light blue clay with common flint pebbles and common frequency of iron-pan deposition (2/003).

4.3.3 Overlying the natural was a 0.65 metre deep layer of mid orangey brown alluvial deposited clay with occasional flint pebbles (2/002), which was in turn sealed by a 0.29 metre deep layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (2/001).

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	mAOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m	15.18
2/002	Deposit	Alluvial clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.65m	14.92
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	14.27

4.4 Trench 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 2 measured 10 metres in length and was 1.80 metres in width with a maximum depth of 1.20 metres.
- 4.4.2 No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and the overburden was removed by machine to the surface of the natural strata at (14.53 mAOD). The natural stratum observed was firm light blue clay with common flint pebbles and common frequency of iron-pan deposition (3/003).
- 4.4.3 Overlying the natural was a 0.74 metre deep layer of mid orangey brown alluvial deposited clay with occasional flint pebbles (3/002), which was in turn sealed by a 0.35 metre deep layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (3/001).

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	mAOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	15.62
3/002	Deposit	Alluvial clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.74m	15.27
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	14.53

4.5 Trench 4

- 4.5.1 Trench 2 measured 10 metres in length and was 1.80 metres in width with a maximum depth of 1.20 metres.
- 4.5.2 No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and the overburden was removed by machine to the surface of the natural strata at (14.30 mAOD). The natural stratum observed was firm light blue clay with common flint pebbles and common frequency of iron-pan deposition (4/003).
- 4.5.3 Overlying the natural was a 0.68 metre deep layer of mid orangey brown alluvial deposited clay with occasional flint pebbles (4/002), which was in turn sealed by a 0.35 metre deep layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (4/001).

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	mAOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	15.39
4/002	Deposit	Alluvial clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.74m	15.04
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	14.30

4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 Trench 2 measured 10 metres in length and was 1.80 metres in width with a maximum depth of 1.20 metres.

4.6.2 No archaeological features were encountered in this trench and the overburden was removed by machine to the surface of the natural strata at (14.91 mAOD). The natural stratum observed was firm light blue clay with common flint pebbles and common frequency of iron-pan deposition (5/003).

4.6.3 Overlying the natural was a 0.55 metre deep layer of mid orangey brown alluvial deposited clay with occasional flint pebbles (5/002), which was in turn sealed by a 0.36 metre deep layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (5/001).

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	mAOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	16.00
5/002	Deposit	Alluvial clay	Tr.	Tr.	0.74m	15.65
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	14.91

5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1** The results of the archaeological evaluation revealed no archaeological remains. Alluvial deposited clay deposits are encountered at between 14.27 mAOD and 14.91 mAOD and are overlain by a sequence of alluvium and topsoil up to 1.20 metres thick.
- 5.2** No areas of disturbance were encountered although the foundations of the previous property would have had a slight impact on these deposits. Thin lenses of what may have been demolition material were observed within the topsoil in Trench 3.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** In all, 5 trenches were opened across the study area by mechanical excavator, and were subsequently cleaned, investigated and recorded by hand, and scanned using a metal detector. No archaeological features deposits or finds were observed.
- 6.2** It is considered unlikely that any archaeological features exist unidentified on the site.
- 6.3** The methodology of trial trench evaluation has proved successful in characterising the site and identifying potential areas of archaeological preservation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East 2009, Land Formerly Occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate, East Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1). Written Scheme of Investigation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Cross Construction for commissioning the work and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council for his guidance and assistance.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SJR 09					
Identification Name and Address	Land Formerly Occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate, East Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 558201 104622					
Geology	Wealden Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3840					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Oth
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20/04/09 – 21/04/09		Excav.	WB.	Other	
Sponsor/Client	Cross Construction					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other -Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land formerly occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate by their client Cross Construction. The evaluation was on the site of a single detached house and its gardens, where it is planned to build nine houses and associated car-parking and landscaping. The fieldwork was carried out from 20th to 21st April 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Five 10 metre trenches were opened within the impact footprint of the redevelopment; all the trenches were devoid of archaeology, and showed the same sequence of topsoil and alluvium overburden sealing natural deposits of clay.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-58680	
Project details	
Project name	Land formerly occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land formerly occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate by their client Cross Construction. The evaluation was on the site of a single detached house and its gardens, where it is planned to build nine houses and associated car-parking and landscaping. The fieldwork was carried out from 20th to 21st April 2009. Five 10 metre trenches were opened within the impact footprint of the redevelopment; all the trenches were devoid of archaeology, and showed the same sequence of topsoil and alluvium overburden sealing natural deposits of clay.
Project dates	Start: 20-04-2009 End: 21-04-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WD/2008/0609/F - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SJR 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA) designated by ESCC
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN POLEGATE 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate
Postcode	BN26
Study area	1800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 58201 04622 50.8189117188 0.246154337640 50 49 08 N 000 14 46 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	WGS 84 Datum
Lat/Long Datum (other)	15.47
Height OD / Depth	Min: 13.70m Max: 15.08m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cross Construction

Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land formerly occupied by 'Redcroft', St Johns Road, Polegate, East Sussex
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Other bibliographic details	-
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