

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Stanholm Residential Care Home, Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent**

**NGR 544552 145557
NGR TQ 44552 45557**

**ASE Project No. 3903
ASE Report No: 2009131
Site Code: EDS 09**

Oasis No: archaeol6-63378

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief by Joyce and Partners on behalf of their clients Stanholm Residential Care Home Edenbridge. The watching brief was in the gardens of the care home and included the site of a demolished extension building associated with the main building, henceforth referred to as 'The site'. The work was carried out from 18th June to 30th July 2009.

Work involved the excavation of three test pits to assess the nature of the buildings foundations, and the reduction of the ground level from the original ground surface to create a surface from which to build. A total of 163m² of ground reduction was monitored. The interventions were devoid of archaeology and presented a sequence of natural clay overlain by subsoil into which surviving 19th and 20th century masonry and drains were cut, the sequence was sealed by garden topsoil.

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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 Joyce and Partners to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief at Stanholm Residential Care Home, Mill Hill, Edenbridge TN8 5DB (Figure 1).
- 1.2 Intrusive groundworks were undertaken associated with the construction of a new single storey rear extension on the site of the demolished side-buildings and gardens of the care home (Figure 2).
- 1.3 Three small test pits were excavated around the eastern extent of the care home to investigate the nature of its foundations in preparation for the planned addition of a second storey.
- 1.4 An area 163m² was stripped of its topsoil and subsoil to a maximum depth of 900 millimetres in order to reach the construction level prior to the excavation of foundations.
- 1.5 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 278) the underlying geology at the site is Weald Clay.
- 1.6 The site has planning permission for development under the Local Planning Authority's planning reference SE/08/01973.
- 1.7 The Local Planning Authority placed the following condition on the planning consent for an archaeological watching brief to be conducted to ensure that any features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded prior to destruction.

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.”

- 1.8 A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief outlining the requirements of the watching brief was prepared by Adam Single of the Kent County Council – Heritage Conservation Group (KCC 2009).
- 1.9 The fieldwork was conducted by Maggie Henderson, Dylan Hopkinson, Nick Garland, and Kathryn Grant from 18th June to 30th July 2009 with project management by Neil Griffin.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief (KCC 2009) assessed the nature of the existing known archaeological remains and historic buildings related to the site. The assessment is drawn from the records of archaeological remains presently held in the Kent HER. These findings are laid out below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The site of the watching brief lies next to the route of the 'Roman Road' from London to Lewes. The level of Roman occupation in the area is undefined; however the recovery of Roman pottery from a nearby church indicates the possibility of further finds being recovered in the area.
- 2.3 A medieval hall house and several significant post-medieval structures are recorded in the immediate environment of the care home, and the Stanholm building is itself a Grade II Listed building dating back to 1820.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The specifications document required that the excavation of all ground intrusions associated with the development should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and inspected for archaeological features and artefacts.
- 3.2 Once any potential archaeological remains were identified digging work on the trench stopped while investigation by hand excavation and recording took place.
- 3.3 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 specifications 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, and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

3.6 Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

Number of Contexts	16
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet (1: 100)
Photographs	113 Digital

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The earliest deposit identified was compact mid orangey brown silty clay (16) which was recorded at a height of 46.59m AOD. The deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.50 metres and continued beyond the limit of excavation. This was interpreted as the naturally deposited Weald Clay.
- 4.2 Overlying this deposit was a layer of compacted mid orangey brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded small to medium stones (15). This layer was 0.20 metres thick and was interpreted as the subsoil layer.
- 4.3 The subsoil was intercut by foundations and land-drains dating to the 19th and 20th centuries (contexts 02 to 14) the most significant of which was a large domed cistern (07) (Figure 3).
- 4.4 This cistern had a diameter of 2.70 metres and a depth of 4.00 metres. The top 1.50 metres formed a dome through which an irregular aperture had been punched and over which a manhole had been constructed (06). The bricks measured 0.225 metres by 0.12 metres by 0.067 metres and were datable to the 19th century.
- 4.5 The remaining late post-medieval foundations and drainage all appeared to be associated with the care home although direct relationships were not established and the features have not been described in detail here.
- 4.6 Overlying these 19th to 20th century features was a deposit of mid brown silty clay 0.20 metres in depth, with occasional inclusions of small sub angular stones and ceramic building material. This deposit was interpreted as garden topsoil.

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length (mm)	Max. Width (mm)	Max. Depth (mm)	mAOD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Throughout Site	Throughout Site	200	46.80
02	Deposit	Levelling	2750	1100	100	47.06
03	Deposit	Levelling	3000	1000	*	*
04	Cut	Services	3500	1250	*	*
05	Fill	Fill	3500	1250	*	*
06	Masonry	Manhole	530	580	500	47.00
07	Masonry	Cistern	2700 diameter	2700 diameter	c. 4000	*
08	Cut	Drain	3500	250	*	*
09	Fill	Fill	3500	250	*	46.96
10	Cut	Pit	400	400	150	*
11	Fill	Fill	400	400	150	*
12	Cut	Wall cut	9500	500	*	*
13	Fill	Fill	9500	500	*	*
14	Masonry	Wall	9500	230	*	47.06

15	Deposit	Subsoil	Throughout Site	Throughout Site	200	47.06
16	Deposit	Natural	Throughout Site	Throughout Site	*	46.59

* Modern features - not excavated

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological deposits or features were recorded during the archaeological watching brief at Stanholm Care Home, Edenbridge, Kent.
- 6.2 The area monitored contained a sequence of topsoil overlying 19th and 20th century construction features including walls, drainage, and a cistern. All of these features were observed cutting into the subsoil which in turn overlay the natural clay.
- 6.4 The observed natural geology was mid orange silty clay and was recorded at a height of c 46.59AOD.
- 6.5 The methodology employed to assess the site was successful in assessing the preservation and nature of any archaeological deposits on the site, and revealed no significant remains.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

KCC 2009, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Stanholm Residential Care Home, Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent* KCC – Heritage Conservation Group.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	EDS 09					
Identification Name and Address	Stanholm Care Home, Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 544552 145557					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3903					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 18-06-2009 – 30-07-2009	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Joyce and Partners					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisors	Maggie Henderson, Dylan Hopkinson, Nick Garland, and Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief by Joyce and Partners on behalf of their clients Stanholm Residential Care Home Edenbridge. The watching brief was in the gardens of the care home and included the site of a demolished extension building associated with the main building, henceforth referred to as 'The site'. The work was carried out from 18th June to 30th July 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Work involved the excavation of three test pits to assess the nature of the buildings foundations, and the reduction of the ground level from the original ground surface to create a surface from which to build. A total of 163m² of ground reduction was monitored. The interventions were devoid of archaeology and presented a sequence of natural clay overlain by subsoil into which surviving 19th and 20th century masonry and drains were cut, the sequence was sealed by garden topsoil.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-63378

Project details

Project name Stanholm Care Home, Edenbridge, Kent

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief by Joyce and Partners on behalf of their clients Stanholm Residential Care Home Edenbridge. The watching brief was in the gardens of the care home and included the site of a demolished extension building associated with the main building, henceforth referred to as 'The site'. The work was carried out from 18th June to 30th July 2009. Work involved the excavation of three test pits to assess the nature of the buildings foundations, and the reduction of the ground level from the original ground surface to create a surface from which to build. A total of 163m² of ground reduction was monitored. The interventions were devoid of archaeology and presented a sequence of natural clay overlain by subsoil into which surviving 19th and 20th century masonry and drains were cut, the sequence was sealed by garden topsoil.

Project dates Start: 18-06-2009 End: 30-07-2009

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes EDS 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Measured Survey','Photographic Survey','Test Pits'

Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS EDENBRIDGE Stanholm Care Home, Edenbridge
Postcode	TN8 5DB
Study area	163.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 44552 45557 51.1903897222 0.06881059625110 51 11 25 N 000 04 07 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 46.59m Max: 46.59m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent 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 Joyce and Partners

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient local museum

Digital Archive recipient local museum

Digital Contents 'none'

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

Paper Archive recipient local museum

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Other bibliographic details ASE Report Number 2009131

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