

An Archaeological Evaluation at St Wilfrid's School, Crawley, West Sussex

Planning Ref: CR/2006/0450/OUT

NGR TQ 259 360 NGR 525900 136000

Project No. 3897 Site Code: CRW 09

ASE Report No. 2009183 OASIS ID: archaeol6-67623



Dylan Hopkinson MA

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at St Wilfrid's School, Crawley, West Sussex (NGR: 5259 1360). The work was carried out between the 2nd and 4th November by Archaeology South-East for CgMs on behalf of their client Bellway Homes Ltd. Eight trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 134 metres in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The site lies south of Goffs Park where Iron Age and Roman iron working was identified.

The site was significantly landscaped in the 1950s during the creation of the formal gardens associated with Oakwood House, this involved the creation of various areas of terracing which have truncated the stratigraphic sequence, either exposing the natural Weald Clay or rendering it very close to the ground surface sealed only by a relatively modern topsoil or recently formed demolition material.

The natural geology comprised silty clays indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 302 to be Weald Clay. This was encountered at a maximum height of 91.26m AOD in the west of the site and a minimum height of 87.80m AOD in the south of the site.

The sequence was cut by occasional land drains and a wastewater drainage service trench; however no archaeological features were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by CgMs, on behalf of their client Bellway Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land formerly occupied by buildings and gardens of the old St Wilfrid's School (NGR 5259 1360) (Fig.1).

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a new residential development.
- 1.2.2 Outline planning consent was obtained for the development of the land (Planning Ref: CR/2006/0450/OUT); permission was subject to an archaeological planning condition to ensure that features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded. This condition states that:

'An archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out at the expense of the developer in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority in writing (following the demolition of any buildings and) before the commencement of any building works.

Reason: The site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy BN17 of the Crawley Borough Local Plan 2100.'

- 1.2.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site (section 2.0) a Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter referred to as WSI) was prepared by Sally Dicks of CgMs (CgMs 2009) and approved by John Mills, Archaeologist West Sussex County Council. This specified the excavation of eight trenches, totalling 134 metres in combined length. Further, Stage 2, works may have been necessary dependant upon the results of this evaluation.
- 1.2.4 All work was carried out in accordance with this document.

1.3 Scope of the report

- 1.3.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation works on the site. The work was undertaken between 2nd and 4th November 2009 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), Rob Cole (Surveyor), and Ben Sharp (Assistant Archaeologist).
- 1.3.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

2.1.1 The British Geographical Survey Map (Sheet 302) for the area shows the underlying geology to comprise Weald Clay of the Lower Cretaceous.

2.2 Archaeological and historical potential

- 2.2.1 The archaeological background of the area was outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2009) and in a Desk Based Assessment by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA 2007a) for the immediately adjacent site. This background information is summarised here with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2.2 The site is situated on the northern side of Old Horsham Road on land formerly occupied by the buildings and gardens of the old St Wilfrid's School prior to it moving into new buildings on adjacent land (Figure 2). An archaeological desk-based assessment was compiled for the area by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2007 prior to the construction of the new school directly to the northeast of the site covered by this report. This assessment noted high potential for evidence of Iron Age activity on the new school site. Iron workings from this period were identified in Goffs Park immediately to the north of the school site, and it is known that Roman iron working also took place in the area of Goffs Park. Consequently moderate to high potential for Iron Age and Roman remains was identified.
- 2.2.3 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the drilling of five boreholes across the playing fields during the development of the new school, and two abraded unstratified sherds of pottery were recovered identified as of possible late prehistoric date.
- 2.2.4 Pre construct archaeology undertook an evaluation of the new school site comprising seventeen trenches (PCA 2007b). This evaluation identified evidence of ground levelling for the creation of school playing fields and a number of possible archaeological features. Some evidence of metalworking waste was recovered but no datable finds or features earlier than of post medieval date were identified.
- 2.2.5 The site of the residential development was previously occupied by the late 19th century Oakwood House. This was taken over by the school in the 1950s at which time further structures were added and the surrounding land landscaped into formal gardens.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (WSI CgMs 2009) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 3.1.2 The methodology comprised the mechanical excavation, under constant archaeological supervision, of eight evaluation trenches of varying length, totalling some 134m, as set out in Figure 2.
- 3.1.3 Trenches were excavated by a JCB JS130 machine using a flat-bladed bucket. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.15m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. The excavated surfaces were then cleaned and recorded and were left open for a day before being backfilled to ensure that further features did not become visible due to weathering. A representative sample of each of the features identified was excavated by hand.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection. Sections were drawn at appropriate scales on plastic drafting film.
- 3.1.5 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.6 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned using a metal detector and by eye, for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.7 All features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 on multi-context trench drawings and section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale.
- 3.1.8 After completion of all excavation and recording, the trenches were mechanically backfilled and compacted.

3.2 Excavation aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aims and objectives of the excavation were outlined in the WSI (WSI CgMs 2009).
- 3.2.2 The overall aim of the excavation was to establish the extent to which there are surviving archaeological deposits on the site that may be affected by the proposed development. Ascertaining the extent depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of such remains and estimating the possible impact of the development on them.

3.3 Status of site archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated

below (Table 1).

3.3.2 Table 1. Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts / Context Sheets	4
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Levels Record Sheets	1
Trial Trench Record Sheets	8
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	16

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

- 4.1.1 The natural geology across the site comprised firm light orangey brown clay known as Weald Clay. This was encountered at a maximum height of 91.26m AOD in the west of the site (Trench 4) and a minimum height of 87.80m AOD in the south of the site (Trench 7).
- 4.1.2 Only one trench revealed a subsoil deposit. This was Trench 6 where a layer of mid yellowy brown silty clay that was 0.30m thick.
- 4.1.3 The overburden observed in most trenches consisted of a layer of friable mid brownish grey silty clay topsoil directly overlying the natural clay. This generally measured between 0.06m and 0.35m in depth. Small amounts of late post medieval / modern ceramic building materials were identified from the topsoil but were not retained due to their evident late date.
- 4.1.4 In some instances, where the landscape had been significantly modified by terracing or truncated during the demolition of the old school buildings, the natural clay was either directly exposed at ground level or had been recently covered by a thin layer of building rubble from the demolition of the old school buildings.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Length: 20.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.20m

Orientation: East - West

4.2.2 Table 2. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 1

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
1/001	Deposit	Demolition	Tr.	Tr.	0.05m
1/002	Deposit Natural		Tr.	Tr.	0.15m

4.2.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [1/002] was encountered between 90.60m and 90.35m AOD. This was overlain by a thin layer of recently formed demolition material [1/001].

No archaeological features were recorded and a single land drain was observed cutting the sequence aligned north to south.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 Length: 10.70m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: North - South

4.3.2 Table 3. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 2

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
2/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/003	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.80m

4.3.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [2/002] was encountered between 89.51m and 89.36m AOD. This was overlain by a layer of made ground [2/003].

The made ground was not formed during the demolition of the school buildings but was associated with levelling an area where the natural clay had been previously truncated to a lower level.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

4.4.1 Length: 14.50m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.25m

Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

4.4.2 Table 4. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 3

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
3/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m

4.4.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [3/002] was encountered between 90.33m and 90.11m AOD. This was overlain by the topsoil of the site in a layer up to 0.20m thick.

A single modern service trench was observed cutting the sequence at the northwest end of the trench which was aligned north to south, this trench which had vertical machine excavated sides and a width of 0.70m was also identified continuing into Trench 6.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

4.5.1 Length: 19.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.20m

Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

4.5.2 Table 5. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 4

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
4/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
4/003	Deposit	Demolition	Tr.	Tr.	0.05m

4.5.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [4/002] was encountered between 91.26m and 91.18m AOD. The natural was overlain by a thin layer of recently formed demolition material [4/003].

There were no archaeological features present.

4.6 Trench 5 (Figure 7)

4.6.1 Length: 15.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.40m

Orientation: East - West

4.6.2 Table 6. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 5

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
5/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m

4.6.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [5/002] was encountered between 90.21m and 90.01m AOD. The natural was overlain by a 0.24m thick layer of topsoil [5/001].

Two land drains were identified cutting the sequence at the southwest end of the trench.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.7 Trench 6 (Figure 8)

4.7.1 Length: 24.80m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.38m

Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

4.7.2 Table 7. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 6

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.06m
6/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
6/004	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m

4.7.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [6/002] was encountered between 89.35m and 88.71m AOD. The natural was overlain by a 0.30m thick layer of subsoil [6/004], and was in turn covered by a thin partial topsoil layer comprising turf and shallow rooting only 0.06m thick.

A single modern service trench was observed cutting the sequence towards the northeast end of the trench which was aligned north to south. An investigative slot was made into this to confirm its modern origin and it was found to have vertical machine excavated sides and a width of 0.70m, a similar investigative slot was made in a feature on the same alignment in Trench 3.

4.8 Trench 7 (Figure 9)

4.8.1 Length: 20.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.30m

Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

4.8.2 Table 8. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 7

Number	Туре	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
7/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m

4.8.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [7/002] was encountered between 88.82m and 87.80m AOD.

The natural was overlain by the topsoil of the site and no archaeology was observed.

4.9 Trench 8 (Figure 10)

4.9.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.30m

Orientation: East - West

4.9.2 Table 9. List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 8

Number	Number Type Description		Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
8/002	Void	Void	Tr.	Tr.	-

4.9.3 Summary

The natural Weald Clay [8/002] was encountered between 88.90m and 88.82m AOD.

The natural was overlain by the topsoil of the site and no archaeology was observed.

Two land drains were observed cutting the stratigraphic sequence, the first was aligned northeast to southwest, the second northwest to southeast and ended in a soakaway.

5.0 DISCUSSION

- No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation and no ancient artefacts recovered. The grounds had been significantly landscaped during the creation of the formal gardens in the 1950s and this resulted truncation of the stratigraphic sequence. In most trenches the natural clay lay very close to the ground surface, and in some cases was directly exposed or covered only by a thin layer of recently formed demolition rubble.
- The evaluation strategy was successful in characterising the nature of the archaeological preservation across the site.
- Any archaeological remains that may have been within the site have not survived the landscaping of the grounds in the 1950's.

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Pre-Construct Archaeology 2007b An Archaeological Evaluation at : St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic School, Crawley, West Sussex. Unpublished report

WSI CgMs 2009. : Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation: St Wilfrid's School, Crawley, West Sussex. Sally Dicks, CgMs June 2009

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CRW 09			_		
Identification Name	St Wilfrid's S	School, Old H	orsham Road,	Crawley, Wes	st Sussex	
and Address						
County, District &/or	Crawley					
Borough						
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 5259 1	1360				
Geology	Weald Clay	of the Lower	Cretaceous			
Arch. South-East	3897					
Project Number				_		_
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching	Standing	Survey	Other
			Brief	Structure		
Type of Site	Green	Shallow	Deep	Other	•	
*	Field	Urban √	Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	₩ B.	Other		
	02-11-09					
	to					
	04-11-09					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Mode	ern√	•

100 Word Summary.

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at St Wilfrid's School, Crawley, West Sussex (NGR: 5259 1360). The work was carried out between the 2nd and 4th November by Archaeology South-East for CgMs on behalf of their client Bellway Homes Ltd. Eight trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 134 metres in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The site lies south of Goffs Park where Iron Age and Roman iron working was identified.

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The sequence was cut by occasional land drains and a wastewater drainage service trench; however no archaeological features were identified.

OASIS ID: archaeol6-67623

Project details

Project name

An Archaeological Evaluation at St Wilfrid's School, Crawley, West

Sussex

Short description of the project

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Project dates Start: 02-11-2009 End: 04-11-2009

Previous/future work

Yes / No

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type DRAIN Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques

'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX CRAWLEY CRAWLEY St Wilfrid's School, Old

Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex

Postcode RH11 8PG

Study area 2.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 259 360 51.1089094958 -0.201326401351 51 06 32 N 000 12 04

W Point

Lat/Long Datum Position derived from charts

Lat/Long Datum

(other)

Ordnance Datum mAOD

Height OD / Depth Min: 87.80m Max: 91.26m

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator

CgMs Consulting

Project design originator

CgMs Consulting

Project

Neil Griffin

director/manager

Project supervisor Dylan Hopkinson

Type of

sponsor/funding

Developer

body

Name of sponsor/funding body

Bellway Homes Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Physical Archive recipient

n/a

Digital Archive recipient

local museum

Digital Contents

'Survey'

Digital Media available

'Images raster / digital photography', 'Survey', 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient

local museum

Paper Contents

'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available

'Context sheet', 'Unspecified Archive'

Paper Archive notes

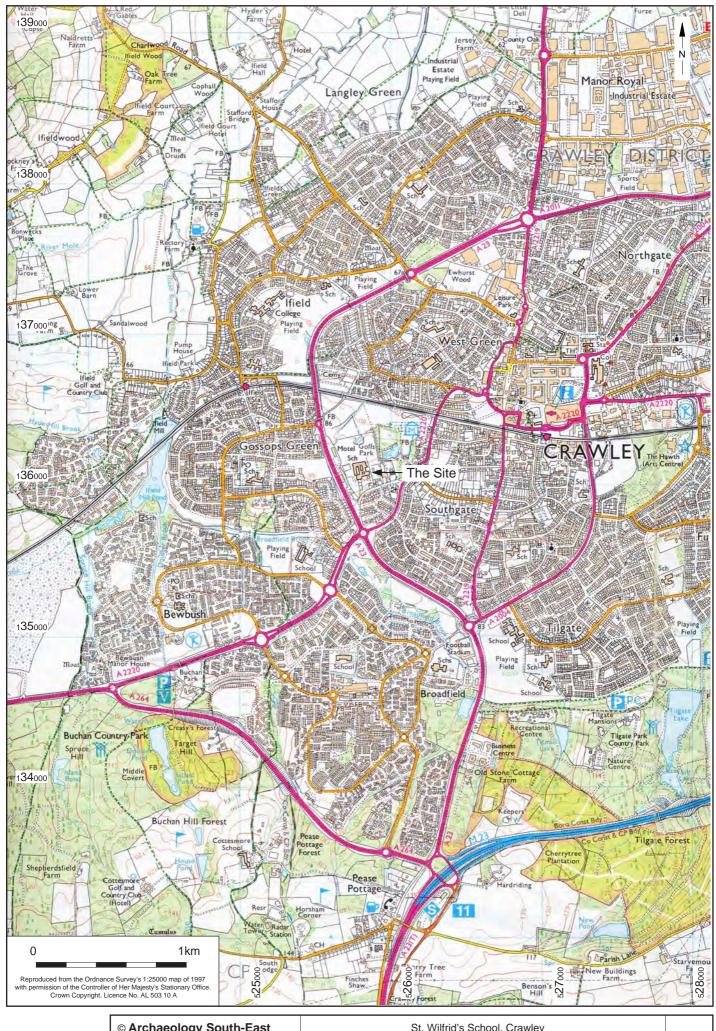
General Recording Pro formas

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Entered on

18 November 2009



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Report Ref: 2009183	Drawn by: JLR	Site location	





Fig. 3: Trench 1 viewed looking west



Fig. 4: Trench 2 viewed looking north

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Fig. 5: Trench 3 viewed looking south-east



Fig. 6: Trench 4 viewed looking north-west

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Fig. 7: Trench 5 viewed looking north-east



Fig. 8: Trench 6 viewed looking north-east

ſ	© Archaeology South-East		St. Wilfrid's School, Crawley	Figs.
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Г	Report Ref: 2009183	Drawn by: JLR		



Fig. 9: Trench 7 viewed looking south-east



Fig. 10: Trench 8 viewed looking west

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