

**An Archaeological Excavation at
Carshalton War Memorial Hospital,
The Park, Carshalton, Sutton**

**NGR: 527934 163962
TQ 27934 63962**

**LAARC site code: CJW09
Project No. 4093
ASE Report No. 2009193
OASIS id: archaeol6-68947**



Kathryn Grant, MSc, AIFA

December 2009

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With contributions from
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Abstract

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, Sutton (NGR 527934, 163962), between the 23rd and 24th November 2009 and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client.

Natural brickearth head was encountered at 57.36m AOD at the north of the site and 57.43m AOD at the south, natural chalk / brickearth at 56.98m AOD (north) and 56.85m AOD (south). The head deposit was sealed beneath 1.2m of subsoil and modern overburden. Evidence of terracing of the natural slope was uncovered. A possible linear feature uncovered in the previous evaluation was found to have formed naturally through solifluction of the underlying substrate. No pleistocene artefacts and ecofacts were recovered from this feature. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were uncovered in the excavation.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological excavation at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, The park, Carshalton, Sutton (centred NGR 527934, 163962; Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The excavation was undertaken in a single phase of work in which an area measuring 4m by 6m was excavated to investigate a possible palaeochannel which had been recorded in the evaluation stage.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planning Permission has been granted for the construction of an assisted living block on land north of Carshalton War Memorial Hospital in the London Borough of Sutton. The reference for the planning application is (C2009/61580/FUL). A condition, (No.11), placed on the Planning Permission states that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.'

1.2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site (section 2.0), Diane Abrams, Archaeological Advisor for the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) agreed a mitigation strategy in the form of an archaeological evaluation. A *Specification* (CgMs 2009a) was prepared and approved by GLAAS, which outlined the aims and objectives for the fieldwork. The strategy required the excavation of seven trenches, totalling 29.42m in length. A report was produced by ASE which informed on the results of the evaluation.

1.2.3 As a result of the initial evaluation, further archaeological work prior to the development was requested by GLAAS. Following this request, CgMs set out a mitigation strategy within an addendum to the original evaluation document (CgMs 2009b) which required further archaeological investigation of a possible palaeochannel revealed in Trench 3.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The initial aims of the evaluation stage, as set out in the *Specification* (CgMS, 2009a) were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits

- To establish whether any late Iron Age or early Roman activity was present, as recorded and excavated at Ashcombe House
- To establish the relationship between any archaeological deposits/features on the War Memorial Hospital site with the late Iron Age and early Roman occupation and pitting found at Ashcombe House
- To establish the paleoenvironmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

1.3.2 The objective of the archaeological excavation was to identify, excavate, record and analyse any significant archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the proposed development. The physical archaeological remains would be replaced by a detailed record and a better understanding of the past activities that have taken place on the site, thereby contributing to an increased knowledge of Carshalton's past and providing a resource for future research and education.

1.3.3 In addition, the archaeological excavation and monitoring exercise (detailed in this report) sought to (CgMs 2009b):

- further define the nature, extent, character and chronology of the Iron Age and Roman occupation on the site.
- further determine the date, extent, nature and duration of habitation of the site.
- further determine the sites natural topography and whether the linear feature within Trench 3 is a palaeochannel. The probable prehistoric settlement evidence at the site can help to define regional settlement patterns, where possible a settlement plan should be identified (Research Framework for London Archaeology, Museum of London, 2002, p.25)
- ascertain whether specific agricultural, industrial or ritual activities can be determined from the observed evidence. The later prehistoric faunal assemblage may help to elucidate the balance between pastoral and arable economies and patterns of subsistence, and contribute to understanding and clarifying the mechanisms that prompted agricultural intensification (Research Framework for London Archaeology, Museum of London, 2002, p.25)
- further determine the presence of possible ritual deposits on the site as evidenced by the deposition of a whole sheep skull and horse bones at the base of a Middle Iron Age pit at Ashcombe House and human and horse bones east of the hospital building
- determine whether buried soils or occupation horizons are preserved on the site.
- ascertain if there is evidence for the continuity of settlement, occupation and land use from the Iron Age through to the early Roman period and to place the evidence from this site in its wider landscape context.

- define the nature of the zooarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental context of the Iron Age and Roman activity, together with any earlier and/or later activity

1.4 Scope of the Report

- 1.4.1 An interim statement summarising the results of the excavation was submitted to CgMs in November 2009.
- 1.4.2 This document presents the results of the archaeological excavation carried out at Carshalton War Memorial, between 23rd and 24th November 2009.
- 1.4.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist) with the assistance of Chris Russel (Assistant Archaeologist) and the advice of Dr. Matt Pope (Geoarchaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin/Jon Sygrave (Fieldwork Managers) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site lies within the gardens and land surrounding the former Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, bounded by The Park to the east and residential properties elsewhere. The site centre is at NGR TQ 27934, 63962.
- 2.1.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (BGS 1996 - Sheet 270 for South London), the natural geology of the site comprises Upper Chalk. Although drift geology is not recorded on the BGS map, a natural brickearth head deposit was uncovered during the archaeological evaluation and excavation at the site.
- 2.1.3 During the evaluation stage, natural geology was recorded between the heights of 56.25m OD in the north of the site (Trench 7) and 58.81m OD in the south (Trench 1). The topography consisted of gardens, gently sloping from south to north.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 2.2.1 A background to the archaeology within the environs of the site can be seen in the preceding Desk Based Assessment (DBA) of the site which was carried out last year by CgMs (2008).
- 2.2.2 Of particular note, previous archaeological works to the south of the site at Ashcombe House revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation on the crest of the hill to the south-east of the main hospital (PCA 2008)
- 2.2.3 The archaeological evaluation carried out at the site by ASE in June 2009 revealed no archaeological features within Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the northernmost part of the site. Terracing of the natural slope was apparent to the north of the hospital building, and the subsoil became thicker as the surface of the chalk sloped down to the south. Middle Iron Age and early Roman activity, including a grain storage pit and two pits containing structured deposits of placed human long bones and an inverted horse skull, was encountered in Trenches 1 and 2 which were located to the southeast of the hospital building on the crest of the hill. Archaeological activity of these dates was also found at Ashcombe House to the south of the hospital building.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methods Employed

- 3.1.1 The excavation work comprised a single archaeological trench, excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical tracked excavator. The machine was initially fitted with a toothed bucket to break through the hard modern concrete and asphalt surface. Once practicable, the a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to complete the excavation.
- 3.1.2 The excavation area was positioned across the eastern end of Trench 3 (Figure 2) which had been excavated during the evaluation stage. The trench was located according to the original location of Trench 3 which could still be seen on the ground.
- 3.1.3 Prior to the commencement of excavation, the area surrounding the trench was secured with orange mesh fencing. The trench was stepped on the north and south sides for safety and was sloped on the western and eastern edges due to the direction of machine excavation. The position of a modern service in the southwest of the trench meant that this area also needed to be stepped.
- 3.1.4 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited in sequence during the backfilling process for optimum reinstatement. The concrete and asphalt surface was also kept separate from all underlying deposits.
- 3.1.5 The base of the trench was manually cleaned to identify individual archaeological features present. The sections of the trench were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.6 Each deposit uncovered during the archaeological excavation was assigned its own unique context number starting at [100] to distinguish them from contexts assigned during the evaluation (which started at [001] and were prefixed with the trench number). The revealed contexts were fully recorded on ASE context sheets and the trench was planned. Sections of the trench were drawn to illustrate the strata revealed during the excavation. These illustrations have been digitised and can be seen at the end of this report.
- 3.1.7 An extensive digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) SLR photographic record of all trenches and archaeological features.
- 3.1.8 A bulk sample of context [104] was collected for environmental processing.
- 3.1.9 Levels of the trench and revealed deposits were taken in relation to a temporary bench mark (TBM) with a value in metres AOD which had been created during the evaluation stage.

3.2 The Site and Project Archive

3.2.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (Table 1).

Number of Trenches	1 Excavation Trench
Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 plan sheet at 1:20 & 1 Section sheets @ 1:10
Bulk Samples	1 (4 Buckets)
Photographs	5 b&w film , 5 colour film & 40 digital photographs
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	Not kept

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The excavation area measured 4m east-west by 6m north south. A maximum depth of 1.72m below ground level was reached to fully uncover the linear feature/possible palaeochannel encountered in the evaluation. Due to its depth, the trench was stepped where practicable to ensure that the trench was safely accessible by ASE staff.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological finds were observed within the removed spoil and no archaeological features were uncovered within the trench. The trench contained only modern overburden deposits, buried subsoil and natural geology as described below.
- 4.1.3 On reaching the required depth of 1.72m, the trench was cleaned and the potential linear feature was further explored. A 1m wide investigatory slot was excavated through the deposit (Figure 3) and environmental samples were recovered for assessment.

4.2 Context Summary

- 4.2.1 Six contexts were recorded during the archaeological excavation, although no archaeological deposits were encountered. These contexts have been tabulated in 4.2.2 (Tab

Table 2) and summarised in 4.2.3.

4.2.2

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Heights m AOD
[100]	Deposit	Modern Overburden	c.0.5m	Ground level E 58.59 W 58.45 N 58.53 S 58.57
[101]	Deposit	Subsoil	0.1m-0.5m	N 57.89 S 57.63
[102]	Layer	Natural brickearth Head	0.5m	N 57.36 S 57.43
[103]	Layer	Natural brickearth / Chalk	-	N 56.98 S 56.85
[104]	Layer	Fill of Solifluction Channel	0.1m-0.25m	56.75
[105]	Cut	Cut of Solifluction Channel	-	56.75

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts in the Excavation Trench

- 4.2.3 Natural brickearth / chalk, [103], was encountered at a depth of approximately 1.72m below ground level (56.98m AOD in the north of the trench and 57.85m AOD in the south).

- 4.2.4 The excavation revealed the linear feature which had previously been identified in evaluation Trench 3. This feature was cut into the natural substrate and had a very irregular base and sides. It was filled with a fine grained brickearth head which appears undecalcified, [104]. The form of the feature suggests that it was natural, rather than archaeological in nature, almost certainly formed by solifluction of the underlying solid chalk geology. This has been confirmed by Dr. Matt Pope, (ASE Geoarchaeologist).
- 4.2.5 Overlying this was a natural head deposit comprising sandy brickearth [102] (0.45-0.50m thick) encountered at 57.36m AOD in the north and 57.43m AOD in the south which was overlain by an orangey-brown silty subsoil, [101] (0.50m thick). The subsoil was sealed by modern overburden, [100] (0.70m-0.80m thick), consisting of concrete and asphalt. The thinner subsoil deposit in the north of the trench suggests some truncation during modern surfacing/terracing.

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1** No archaeological finds were recovered from the contexts revealed during the archaeological excavation at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

- 6.1** A bulk sediment sample of 40 litres was taken during archaeological work to establish whether the deposit was of natural or anthropological origin. The sample was processed in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500 and 250µm meshes. No environmental or archaeological remains were present in either the flot or the residue, and the residue contained natural flint nodules only. It appears therefore that the interpretation of this feature as a solifuction deposit was accurate.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 7.1** The excavation at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital established that the linear feature uncovered within the evaluation stage was a natural solifluction channel. This feature was investigated and sampled as required (CgMs 2009b), but no pleistocene artefacts and ecofacts were recovered.
- 7.2** The excavation trench did not reveal any of the phases of activity (early prehistoric, middle Iron Age and early Roman) identified in the evaluation stage and no residual prehistoric flintwork was encountered. The thinner subsoil layer noted to the north of the excavation suggests terracing of the natural slope on this part of the site.
- 7.3** The excavation trench indicated that natural deposits are buried beneath at least 1.7m of overburden and colluvium to the north of the hospital building.
- 7.4** No archaeological features, finds or deposits were revealed within the excavation trench.

REFERENCES

- CgMs, 2008, Desk Based Assessment on land at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank all those involved with the project with particular thanks to Lorraine Darton of CgMs and The Primary Care Trust for their cooperation and assistance throughout the archaeological watching brief. Many thanks also to Diane Abrams (GLAAS) and Dr. Matt Pope (ASE) for their advice and guidance.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CJW 09					
Identification Name and Address	Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, The Park, Carshalton					
County, District &/or Borough	Sutton					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: (NGR 527934, 163962)					
Geology	Upper Chalk and Head					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4093					
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. 23-11-09 – 24-11-09	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting of behalf of the PCT					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Modern NONE		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An Archaeological Excavation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, Sutton (NGR 527934, 163962), between the 23rd and 24th November 2009 and was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client.</i></p> <p><i>Natural brickearth head was encountered at 57.36m AOD in the north and 57.43m AOD in the south overlying natural chalk / brickearth at 56.98m AOD in the north and 56.85m AOD in the south. The head deposit was sealed beneath 1.2m of subsoil and modern overburden. Evidence of terracing of the natural slope was uncovered. The possible linear feature uncovered in the evaluation had formed naturally through solifluction of the underlying substrate. No pleistocene artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from this feature. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were uncovered within the excavation trench.</i></p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-68947****Project details**

Project name	Carshalton War Memorial Hospital
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Excavation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) at Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, Sutton, between the 23rd and 24th November 2009 and was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client. Natural brickearth head was encountered at 57.36m AOD in the north and 57.43m AOD in the south overlying solid natural chalk at 56.98m AOD in the north and 56.85m AOD in the south. The head deposit was sealed beneath 1.2m of subsoil and modern overburden. Further evidence of terracing of the natural slope was uncovered. The possible linear feature uncovered in the evaluation had formed naturally through solifluction of the underlying chalk. No pleistocene artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from this feature. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were uncovered within the excavation trench.
Project dates	Start: 23-11-2009 End: 24-11-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CJW 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods techniques	& 'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON CARSHALTON Carshalton War Memorial Hospital, The Park
Postcode	SM5 3
Study area	24.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 27934 63962 51.3597889886 -0.162295086802 51 21 35 N 000 09 44 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 56.98m Max: 57.43m

Project creators

Name of Archaeology South East
Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning
originator Authority/advisory body

Project design CgMs Consulting
originator

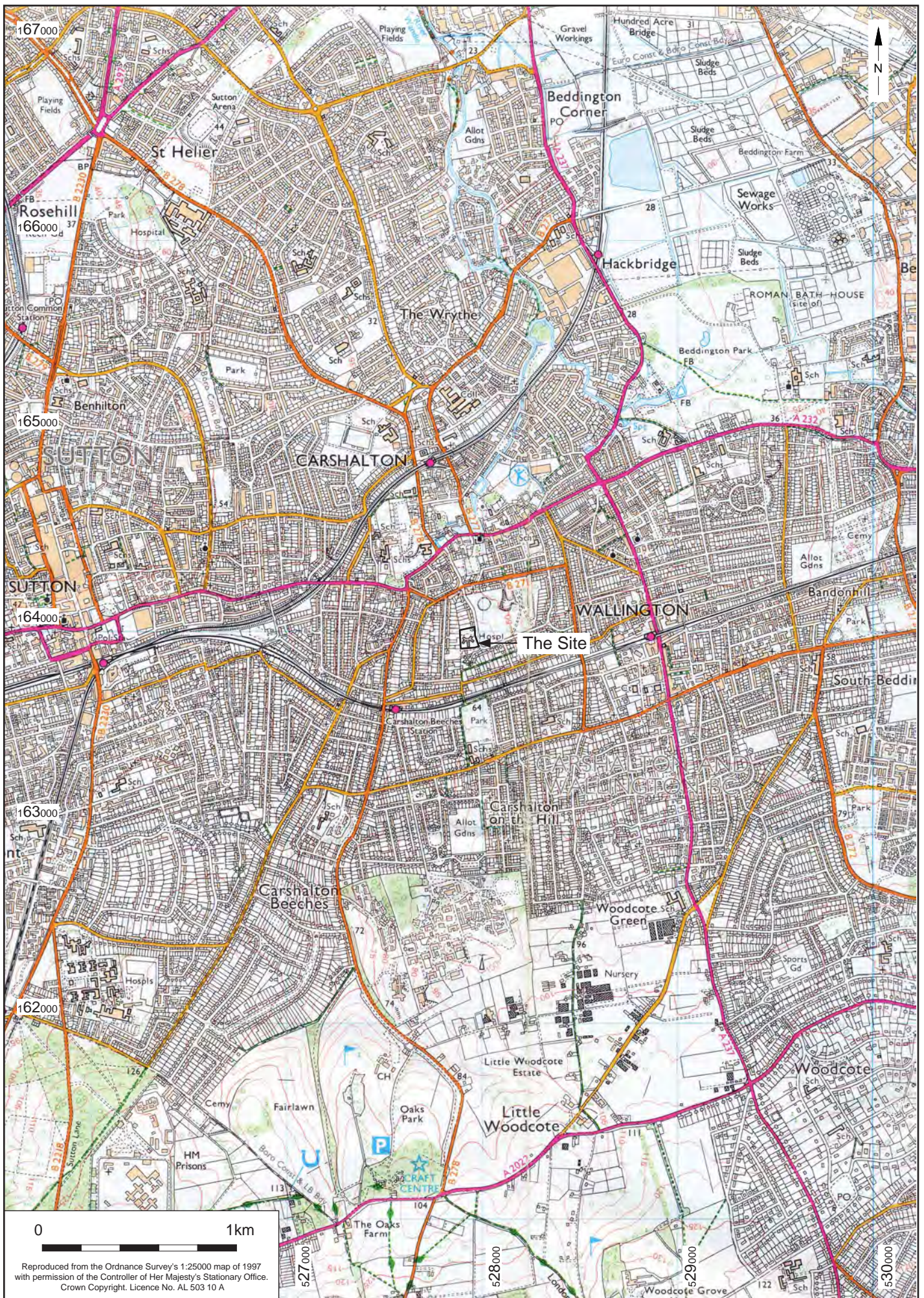
Project Jon Sygrave
director/manager

Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

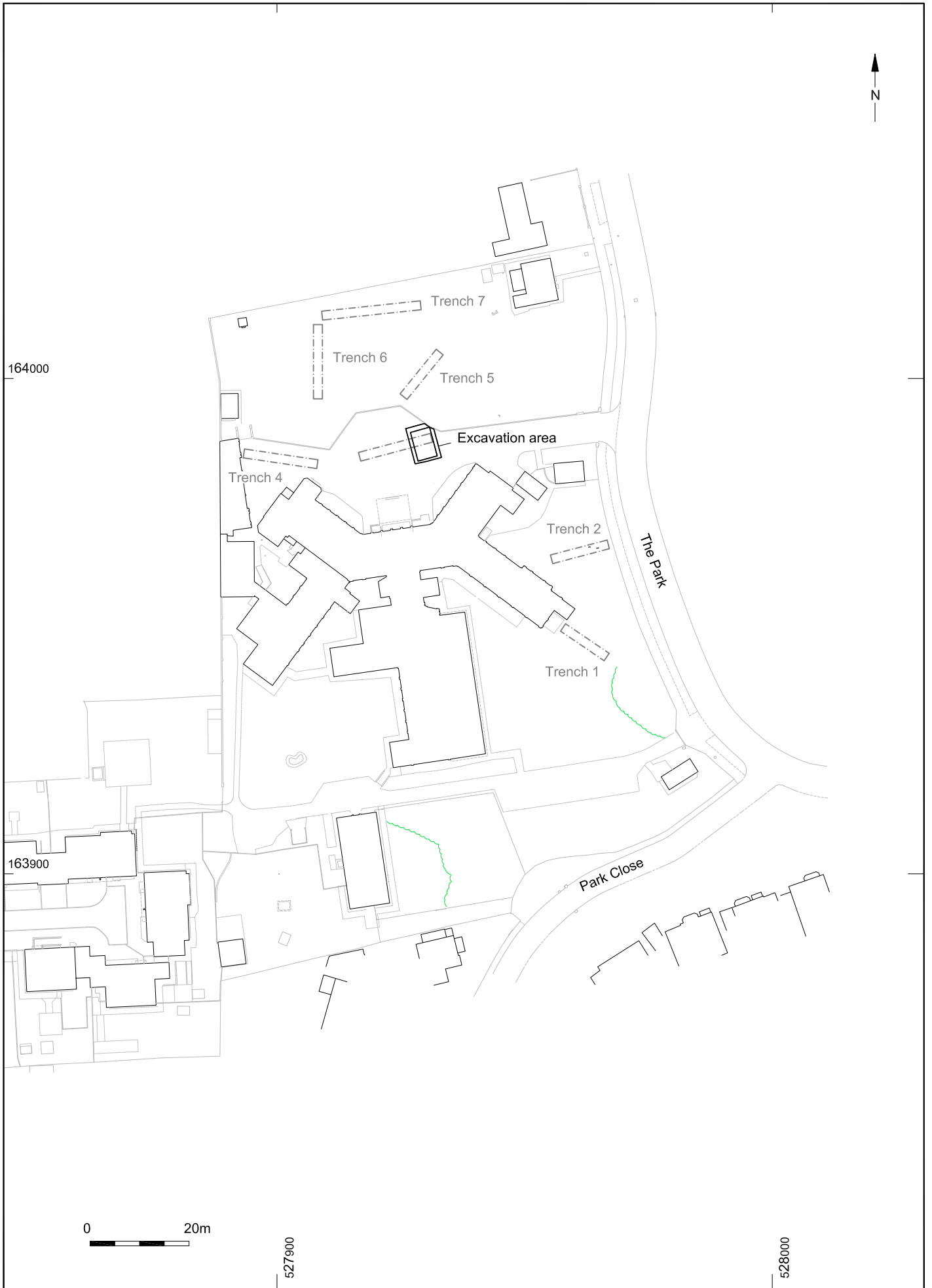
Type of Client
sponsor/funding
body

Entered by Kathryn Grant (kathryn.grant@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 7 December 2009



© Archaeology South-East		Carshalton War Memorial Hospital		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4093	Nov 2009	Site location		
Report Ref: 2009193	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Carshalton War Memorial Hospital	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4093	Nov 2009	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2009193	Drawn by: RC/JR		



Brickearth
 Solifluction channel (104)

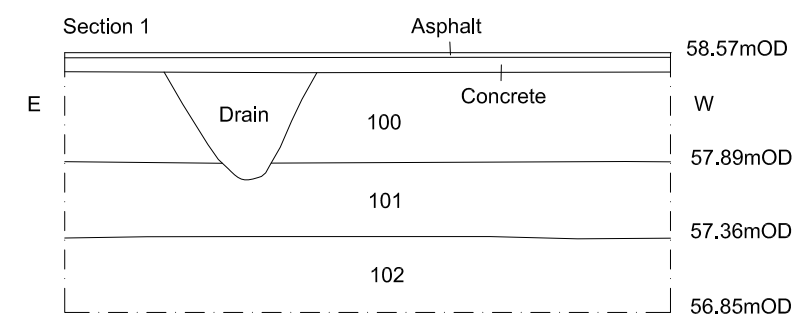
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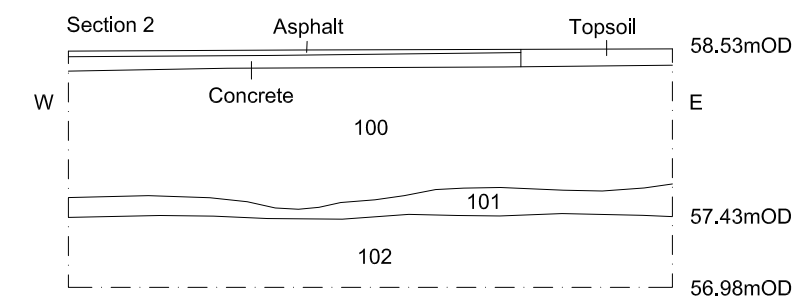
104 looking north-east



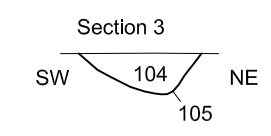
Trench, looking south



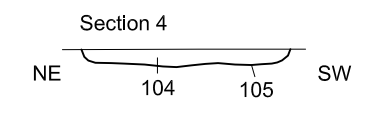
Section 1, looking south



Section 2, looking north



Section 3, looking north-west



Section 4, looking south-west

0 1m

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