

**Rydens Enterprise School  
and Sixth Form College  
Hersham, Walton on Thames  
Surrey**  
*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College

CA Project: 770424  
CA Report: 17720

December 2017



Rydens Enterprise School  
and Sixth Form College  
Hersham, Walton on Thames  
Surrey

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Figure 2	Trench location plan showing archaeological features overlaid on geophysical survey results



## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College  
**Location:** Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey  
**NGR:** 511433 164958  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Planning Reference:** 2013/5035  
**Location of Archive:** Surrey County Council Museums & Archives Service

An archaeological watching brief was due to be undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in a small area of groundwork associated with the development of new school buildings and associated facilities at Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey . The watching brief had been intended to target groundwork in and around the location of archaeological evaluation Trenches 11 and 15 from the 2015 evaluation. However the area around Trench 15 was only used for top soil storage and following removal of the topsoil, the area was dressed for grass seed so no excavation works were subsequently required and therefore no monitoring was necessary.

Trench 11 was located in an area which was to be used for the over flow car park. This required little removal of material (turf only): one brief/abortive visit was made and then no further visits thereafter.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) had been commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief for Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College at Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Hersham, Surrey (centred at NGR: 511433 164958; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the development of new school buildings and associated facilities (Planning ref: 2013/5035; Condition 26).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016a) and approved by Elmbridge Borough Council acting on the advice of the Archaeological Officer (AO) for Surrey County Council (SCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 5.7ha, and comprises an irregular parcel of land, divided by a hedge line and drainage ditch. The site lies at approximately 13m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site was originally in use as playing fields.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as the Claygate Member of the Palaeogene Period. The superficial deposits are mapped as Kempton Park Gravel Formation of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2016).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed description of the archaeology within the immediate environs of the Site can be found within a previously produced Desk Based Assessment (CA 2014), a short summary of which is presented below.
- 2.2 Prehistoric activity, represented mainly by stray finds, is recorded on the gravel terraces within the surroundings of the Site and therefore there is the potential for the presence of remains related to prehistoric activity within the Site. There is also

limited evidence for Romano British activity within the surroundings of the Site, resulting in a relatively low potential for Roman period remains being encountered.

- 2.3 From the medieval period onwards the Site is thought to have been located within the rural hinterland of known settlements and farmsteads and therefore is likely to have comprised agricultural fields. As such, it is likely that buried remains associated with farming of medieval or later date, such as field boundaries or stock enclosures, may be present across the Site.

#### *Previous archaeological investigation*

- 2.4 In March-April 2016, an archaeological evaluation was conducted on the site (CA 2016a). Twenty nine trenches were excavated, with archaeological features recorded in five. Trenches 11 & 15 produced pits, from which Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered together with a moderate worked flint assemblage. The archaeological watching brief was to be focussed on groundwork in the vicinity of these pits.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork was to have followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016a).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Surrey County Council Museums & Archives Service. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix A will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **5. DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 The watching brief had been intended to target groundwork in and around the location of archaeological evaluation Trenches 11 and 15 from the 2015 evaluation. However the area around Trench 15 was only used for top soil storage and following removal of the topsoil, the area was dressed for grass seed so no excavation works were subsequently required and therefore no monitoring was necessary.
- 5.2 Trench 11 was located in an area which was to be used for the over flow car park. This required little removal of material (turf only): one brief/abortive visit was made and then no further visits thereafter.

## **6. CA PROJECT TEAM**

The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.



## 7. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 5 December 2017
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College:  
Heritage Desk-Based Assessment CA Report 14055
- CA, 2016a, Rydens Enterprise School & Sixth Form College, Walton on Thames, Surrey:  
Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report
- CA, 2016b, Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Hersham, Walton-on-  
Thames, Surrey: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief
- PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2016 Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Rydens  
Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey.





**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College Hersham, Walton on Thames Surrey	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was due to be undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in a small area of groundwork associated with the development of new school buildings and associated facilities at Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey . The watching brief had been intended to target groundwork in and around the location of archaeological evaluation Trenches 11 and 15 from the 2015 evaluation. However the area around Trench 15 was only used for top soil storage and following removal of the topsoil, the area was dressed for grass seed so no excavation works were subsequently required and therefore no monitoring was necessary.</p> <p>Trench 11 was located in an area which was to be used for the over flow car park. This required little removal of material (turf only): one brief/abortive visit was made and then no further visits thereafter.</p>	
Project dates	N/A	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment CA Report 14055</p> <p>CA, 2016a, Rydens Enterprise School &amp; Sixth Form College, Walton on Thames, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report</p> <p>PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2016 Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey.</p>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College Hersham, Walton on Thames Surrey	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	N/A	
Site co-ordinates	511433 164958	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	N/A	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Surrey County Council Museums & Archives Service	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		

CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2017, *Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College Hersham, Walton on Thames Surrey: Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **17720**





0 1km

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#### PROJECT TITLE

**Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College, Herisham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey**

#### FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY LJH  
CHECKED BY LM  
APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 770424  
DATE 05/12/17  
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**





- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- field drain
- treethrow
- section location

**Geophysical Survey results**  
(Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd 2016)

- >predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/plts). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kilns, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).
- <predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- potential pit or ditch
- recent (historic O.S) or likely recent land drain
- service
- goal post supports

0 50m  
1:1500

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College  
Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing  
archaeological features overlaid on  
geophysical survey results

**DRAWN BY** LJH **PROJECT NO.** 770184 **FIGURE NO.** 2  
**CHECKED BY** LM **DATE** 27/04/2016  
**APPROVED BY** REG **SCALE@A3** 1:1500, 1:400 & 1:250

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