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**The Firs, Hilliers Lane,
Beddington: LB Sutton**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. MK078/17

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes
MK12 5LY

Tel: 01908 226124
Mob: 07741 313975
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Tamlin Barton MA ACIfA
Illustrator	Tamlin Barton MA ACIfA
Approver	Mark Roberts BA MLitt MCIfA
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**The Firs, Hilliers Lane,
Beddington: Archaeological Evaluation
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Fig. 5 - Photo of Trench 3 excavated to the natural sand showing modern feature 0305 in the background, looking SE

1. SUMMARY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Ivory Homes on the site of a housing development at The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington, Sutton in Great London (centred on TQ 29976 65030). The Site comprised an existing house with gardens to the front and rear. Two trenches were excavated in the front garden and one in the rear revealing several modern square cut features dating to the 19th century, but no significant archaeology.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. General

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between the 9th and 14th February at The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington, Sutton in Great London. The work was commissioned by Ivory Homes.

2.2. Planning Background

The work was carried out to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning application D2016/73547/FUL and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated January 2017, covering this programme of works produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd and approved by the Historic England planning archaeologist covering the London Borough of Sutton.

2.3. Archaeological Background

The Site lies in the Archaeological Priority Area of Beddington based on the presence of spring lines and Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries found nearby. A summary of cultural heritage found in the immediate area is outlined below.

Prehistoric and Roman

There are few prehistoric or Roman finds or monuments within the Site or study area. Stray flints have been found in several areas in the vicinity of the study area including Croydon Road (MLO58790, MLO71418 and MLO4142), Evelyn Way (MLO60113) and generally within Beddington (MLO9020). Sherds of Prehistoric and Roman pottery (MLO4434, MLO10744, MLO5770) and fragments of Roman Glass (MLO4431) suggest possible occupation in this area during the prehistoric and Roman periods but there is little substantial evidence to suggest where.

However, Cadell and Davies (1792) claim that the Roman road to Stane Street and Sussex, passed through the parish and the Victoria County History notes that there were remains of a Roman villa to the South of Hackbridge and a hoard of bronze was also discovered there.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

There is no direct evidence for Anglo Saxon occupation in the study area. However, the Victoria County History notes that the first mention of Beddington is in a charter of 675 AD. It also notes that Beddington Park, in the north of the parish, is the ancient seat of the Carews and the park itself was created as a hunting ground for the king. The Domesday Book records the name of the parish as 'Beddintone' and that the manor of Beddington formed part of the holdings of a Miles Crispin.

The Victoria County History also notes that Anglo-Saxon burials and a bronze hoard were found to the south of Hackbridge.

Post Medieval

Many of the buildings recorded in the GLSMR date to the Post-Medieval period. The Victoria County History states that "Many houses have been built in recent years and the village is beginning to become suburban". It also records that The National school was built in 1843 and enlarged in 1889, the infants' school was built in 1872 and rebuilt in 1895, the Beddington Corner girls' school was built in 1848 and the boys' and infants' school in 1906. At Russell Hill, overlooking Smitham Bottom, is the Warehousemen and Clerks' School, founded in 1854 for about 300 scholars. The parish hall was built in 1901.

In the late 18th century Camden House (Listed building no 1065700) was built to the north of the Site. The brick wall of Camden House garden (Listed building no 1065700) lies next to the northern boundary of the current property.

2.4. Geology

The bedrock in the area consists of Thanet Formation sand. There is no superficial deposit recorded for the site although it lies close to Hackney Gravel Member; sand and gravel which were formed from river deposits.

2.5. Objectives

The evaluation was undertaken in order to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their extent, nature, quality, date, and character. A further purpose of the evaluation was to enable the significance of the site's archaeological potential to be understood.

3. WORKING METHODS

3.1. General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

3.2. Trenching

A single trench measuring 10m x 2m (Trench 1) was excavated in the rear garden of the existing house targeting the footprint of a proposed new building which will be divided into three plots. Two trenches were excavated in the front garden (Trenches 2; 7m x 2m and Trench 3; 10m x 2m) to evaluate another proposed building divided into two plots. Trench 2 was shorter than originally intended as it was abandoned after breaking through an old live gas pipe.

3.3. Excavation and Recording Strategy

Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision until the natural geology was exposed below a thick 19th century soil deposit. The archaeological features encountered, which were all found to be recent in origin, were left unexcavated though context descriptions were made of their fills.

All trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and surveyed using a Trimble Geo7X GPS unit which has an accuracy of 8mm horizontally and 12mm vertically. The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratification were recorded on pro-forma sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and in accordance with the MoLAS site manual. A digital photographic record was made of all trenches as well as photos of the site in general.

3.4. Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at LAARC within an agreed timescale. Appropriate conservation of finds will be conducted before disposal. The archive will be ordered, indexed and conform to the requirements of LAARC and to all relevant professional guidance (Brown 2011).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1. General

The locations of all trenches and features are shown in Fig. 1 and a summary of deposits is contained in Appendix 1. Illustrations and photos referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report. An overview of the trenches is presented below, followed by individual descriptions of trenches.

4.2. Trench Descriptions

A similar sequence of deposits was revealed in all three trenches: Topsoil (0101-0301, 0.4m and 0.6m thick) lay above a brown loamy deposit (0102-0302, also 0.4m to 0.6m thick) containing 19th century pottery, tile and occasional brick fragments, a former garden soil. This lay directly above light beige natural sands with some iron discolouration at the top.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

Two modern features were revealed, 0105 and 0106, both cut from the level of the 19th century layer below the topsoil. Feature 0105 (0.9m x >0.3m) was only just exposed in the trench but was rectangular or square and contained 19th century pottery. Feature 0106 (1m x 1m) was square and contained 19th century pottery and brick fragments. Neither of these modern features were excavated.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

A single rectangular feature (0205) filled with a brown silt was exposed in the trench measuring 1.2m x >1.6m. As with the features in Trench 1, this was cut from the same level as the 19th century layer below the topsoil. The feature contained CBM and plaster with flecks of paint and was not excavated as it was clearly 19th century in origin. Two services were also exposed in the upper part of this trench within the topsoil, an electric cable at the NE end of the trench and a live gas pipe 7m to the SW. The latter was unfortunately broken during the excavation leading to abandonment of the trench.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

A single rectangular feature (1.1m x >1.2m) was exposed at the SE end of the trench cut into the natural sand from the level of the 19th century layer below the topsoil. This contained 19th century pottery and CBM and was not excavated.

5. FINDS

By Rebekah Pressler

5.1 Introduction

A total of ten finds were collected from five contexts, as shown both in the table below. The assemblage is characterised and assessed for potential for further analysis in the commentary below the table.

OP	Pottery		Glass		CBM		Other finds		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g			
0102	1	5.9							C18-20 th
0105					1	32			C18-20 th
0106					2	144.8			C16/17-early 19 th
0205					1	8.1	1	8.7	C20 th /21 st
0305			4	17.8					C19 th -20 th
Total	1	5.9	4	17.8	4	156.1	1	8.7	

5.2 Pottery

A single sherd of a cream-coloured vessel was recovered from the subsoil *0102*. The fragment is not closely dateable.

5.3 Ceramic building material

Four fragments of CBM were noted from three contexts comprising brick fragments from both *0106* and *0105* and tile fragments from *0105* and *106*. The fragments are not closely dateable, however the tile fragment from *0106* is handmade and thus a early post-medieval to 19th century date is applicable.

Glass

Four flat glass fragments – possibly either window glass or from a squared glass bottle - were retrieved from deposit 0305 probably dating to the late 19th to mid 20th century.

Other finds

A single piece of modern plasterboard was noted within feature 0205.

Discussion

The finds provide dating for the primary contexts, however the finds are few and largely modern and thus there is no potential for further analysis at present. It is further recommended that the material has no potential further study and thus may be discarded.

6. DISCUSSION

The thick loamy soil deposit below the topsoil (0102, 0202, 0302) appears to be a garden soil that built up in the 19th century from the pottery and CBM evidence. This deposit was found in all three trenches showing that the whole plot appears to have been was a garden until the current house was built in the early 20th century. This correlates with the 1872 OS map which shows the current property boundary in an empty plot which is presumably a garden or enclosure for horticulture attached to the grounds of Camden House.

Layer (0102, 0202, 0302) lay directly on the natural sands which suggests that any older ground surfaces have either been removed when the plot was created or have been destroyed by the reworking of this soil.

The pottery, plaster and CMB found in the square and rectangular features show that these were dug in the 19th century when deposit (0102, 0202, 0302) accumulated. Their precise function is unclear and no features are shown across the plot on the 1st edition OS map of 1872, however, it is likely that they are rubbish pits for the dumping of unwanted waste from the grounds of Camden house.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The evaluation has revealed several square and rectangular features which date to the 19th century but no significant archaeology.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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MAPS

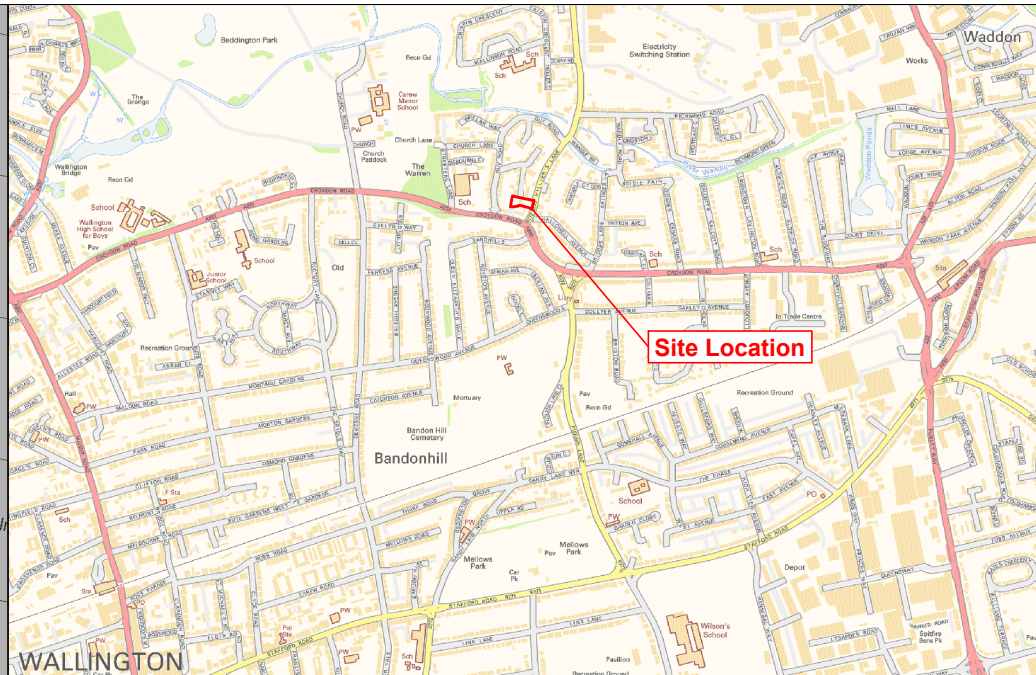
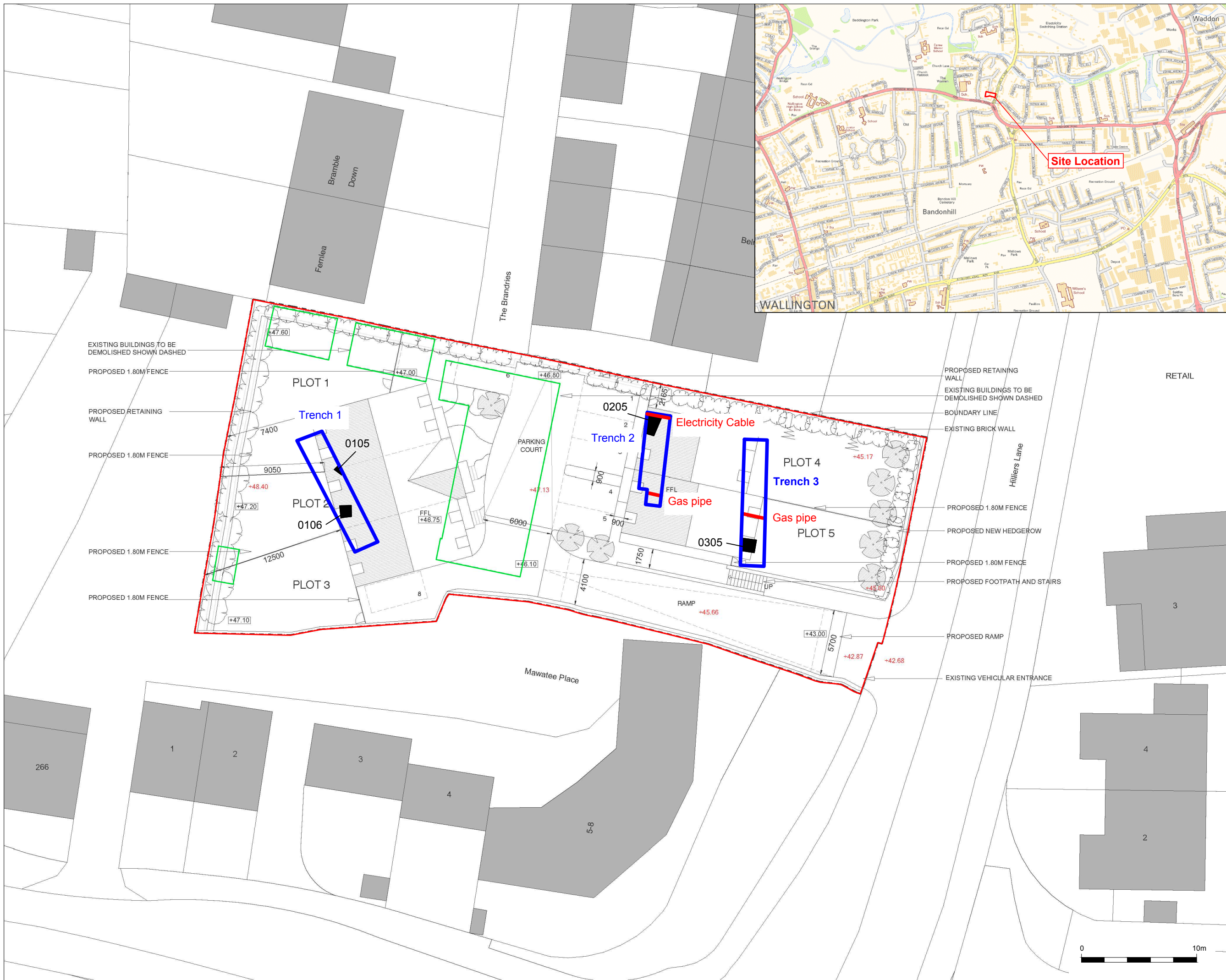
OS MAP Surrey XIV 6 inch, Surveyed 1867-68, published 1872

ONLINE SOURCES

British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer (www.bgs.ac.uk)

APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Trench 1		Trench Size 10 x 2m	
Trench depth 0.9-1.2m Topsoil depth 0.5-0.6m			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
0101	Dark brown sandy loam	Topsoil	Modern
0102	Medium dark brown sandy loam Containing pottery fragments, and CBM. 0.4-0.5m thick	19th century cultivation or garden soil	19th century / modern
0103	Natural beige sand	Natural geology	NA
0104	VOID	VOID	VOID
0105	Unexcavated rectangular feature 0.9m x >0.3m filled with a dark grey brown silty sand with coal fragments, pottery and CMB	19th century rubbish pit?	19th century / modern
0106	Unexcavated square feature 1m x 1m filled with a medium brown silty sand with occasional brick fragments	19th century rubbish pit?	19th century / modern
Trench 2		Trench Size 7m x 2m	
Trench depth 1-1.2m Topsoil depth 0.5-0.6m			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
0201	Dark brown sandy loam	Topsoil	Modern
0202	Medium dark brown sandy loam Containing pottery fragments, and CBM. 0.5-0.6m thick	19th century cultivation or garden soil	19th century / modern
0203	Natural beige sand	Natural geology	NA
0204	VOID	VOID	VOID
0205	Unexcavated rectangular feature >1.2m x 1.1m filled with a dark brown loamy silty sand, moderate to firm with occasional fragments of chalk. Contains CBM and plaster with flecks of paint	19th century rubbish pit?	19th century / modern
Trench 3		Trench Size 10m x 2m	
Trench depth 0.1.1-1.3m Topsoil depth 0.4-0.6m			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
0301	Dark brown sandy loam	Topsoil	Modern
0302	Medium dark brown sandy loam Containing pottery fragments, and CBM. 0.5- 0.6m thick	19th century cultivation or garden soil	19th century / modern
0303	Natural beige sand	Natural geology	NA
0304	VOID	VOID	VOID
0305	Unexcavated rectangular feature >1.6m x 1.2m filled with a brown silty sand, moderate to firm with occasional fragments of pottery and CBM	19th century rubbish pit?	19th century / modern



- Key:**
- Site Boundary
 - Service
 - Evaluation Trenches
 - Modern features
 - Existing Building



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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Town Hall
 Creed Street
 Wolverton
 Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
 T: 01908 226 124
 M: 07741 313975
 miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Proposed Trench locations

Project:
**The Firs, Hilliers Lane,
 Beddington LB Sutton:
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:
Ivory Homes

Scale at A3:
1:300

Drawn by: MP	Checked by: SW	Date: 15/02/2017
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Report No: MK078/17	Fig. No: 1
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Fig. 2 - General shot of Trench 1 in the rear garden, looking NW



Fig. 3 - Photo of Trench 1 excavated to the natural sand showing modern feature 0106 in the background, looking SE

Project:
The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington: Archaeological Evaluation



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:
Ivory Homes

Drawn by: TB	Checked: SW	Date: 15/02/17
Report No: MK078/17		Fig. No: 2-3



Fig. 4 - Photo of Trench 2 excavated to the natural sand with modern feature 0205 in the foreground and broken gas pipe in the background, looking SE



Fig. 5 - Photo of Trench 3 excavated to the natural sand showing modern feature 0305 in the background, looking SE

Project:
The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington: Archaeological Evaluation

CFA
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Project details

Project name	The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Ivory Homes on the site of a housing development at The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington, Sutton in Great London (centred on TQ 29976 65030). The Site comprised an existing house with gardens to the front and rear. Two trenches were excavated in the front garden and one in the rear revealing several modern square cut features dating to the 19th century, but no significant archaeology.
Project dates	Start: 09-02-2017 End: 14-02-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HLSL - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON WALLINGTON AND BEDDINGTON The Firs, Hilliers Lane, Beddington
Study area	1380 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 29976 65030 51.368923574008 -0.132588918827 51 22 08 N 000 07 57 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Borough Development Control Archaeologist
Project design originator	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Mark Roberts
Project supervisor	Tamlin Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	HLR17
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	HLR17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	HLR17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

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