

**THE PLANNED CRANMERE SCHOOL SITE, ARRAN WAY, ESHER, SURREY
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the planned Cranmere School Site, Arran Way, Esher, north of the strip, map and sample excavation conducted by SCAU in 2014. The purpose of the watching brief was to observe the removal of a number of trees to accommodate the northern aspect of the main school building. Clearly a number of trees had been removed without observation, however seven of the trees were observed during their removal. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

Surrey County Archaeological Unit
Surrey History Centre,
130 Goldsworth Road, Woking,
Surrey, GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 518777 Fax: 01483 518780
email: archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk

website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/archaeology

Project Manager	Nowal Shaikhley
Author	Wayne Weller
Site Supervisor	Nick Marples
Date of report	November 2015
Client	Surrey County Council
NGR	TQ 1398 6609
Postcode	KT10 8DJ
Site code	CSE15



The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and is not for publication to third parties, without the prior written consent of Surrey County Council, otherwise than in pursuance of the specific purpose for which it was prepared

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION..... 2
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY..... 2
3 METHODOLOGY..... 2
4 RESULTS..... 2
7 CONCLUSIONS..... 3
8 RECOMMENDATIONS..... 3
REFERENCES 3

List of Figures

1. Cranmere School, Esher: General site location
2. Cranmere School, Esher: Plan showing watching brief area

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between the 18th November 2013 and 13th January 2014, the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) conducted an archaeological, strip, map and sample excavation at the site of the proposed Cranmere School, Arran Way, Esher. The work was commissioned by Surrey County Council who were seeking planning permission for the development of a new school with associated sports facilities, parking and landscaping (figs 1 and 2).

1.2 In compliance with the Elmbridge Local Plan, Chapter 8, an archaeological assessment (Randall, 2013) and evaluation (Munnery, 2013) were conducted at the proposed development site. The results of the evaluation determined the need for further archaeological investigation in the form of strip, map and sample excavations across the south of the site, where potential archaeological deposits were considered to be at risk from the ground impact of the development.

1.3 In accordance with the recommendations of the strip, map and sample excavation report (Randall 2014), the north portion of the building is located over an area of relatively dense woodland and removal of the trees was necessary. It was advised that the tree removal and associated groundworks be observed as part of an archaeological watching brief and the scheme of works was presented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Randall 2014).

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 270, covering the South London area, at scale 1:50,000 shows the area of the excavations to be located within unclassified River Terrace deposits (sand and gravel), with alluvial deposits associated with the river Mole lying close to the west boundary of the site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Figure 2 shows the area observed during tree removal within the northern aspect of the development site.

3.2 The trees were felled without the need for observation and a mechanical excavator equipped with a bucket was used to remove the stump and root bole.

3.3 Observations were conducted during all ground level reductions associated to the works above.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Seven trees within the specified watching brief area (fig 2) were monitored, with only modern debris and topsoil being noted as visible. It should be noted that a number of trees had been removed without notification, or observation. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Archaeological observations were conducted on all the areas subject to development. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 In view of the above information, it is recommended no further fieldwork is required in respect of this particular programme of work.

6.2 The statements and recommendations in this report are the considered views of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, based on the evidence presented. It must be emphasised, however, that whether further archaeological work is required, what form it should take and when it might be scheduled are decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority (generally acting under the advice of Surrey County Council's Heritage Conservation Team), and any further action in response to this report should await their opinion.

REFERENCES

Randall, N, 2014, *An Archaeological Excavation at the Planned Cranmere School Site, Arran Way, Esher*. SCAU unpublished report

Munnery, T, 2013, *Development of Cranmere School Esher, An Archaeological Evaluation of Land Off Arran Way, Esher, Surrey*. SCAU unpublished report

Randall, N, 2014, Cranmere School, Esher, Surrey. *A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Trial Trench Evaluation on the Site of the Residents Car Park and Contractors Compound, and Archaeological Watching Brief Across the Areas of Tree Removal*. SCAU unpublished report