

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND ON THE SITE OF THE
BUILDERS YARD AT ANSELL AND SONS LTD, STANE STREET, OCKLEY**

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1. Introduction

On 18th September 2001 the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land on the site of the builders yard at Ansell and Sons Ltd, Stane Street, Ockley (fig 1). The work was undertaken on the site of a proposed new residential development and was recommended following a desktop assessment undertaken by SCAU. The report identified the site as having high archaeological potential in view of its position alongside Stane Street (the Roman Road from London to Chichester) and its location within a settlement with probable medieval origins (Shaikhley 2000, 7¹).

SCAU were commissioned to undertake the work by Ansell and Sons Ltd.

2. Methodology

Three trial trenches were excavated within the development area using a JCB excavator with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket (fig 2). The trenches were an average of 15m long and 1.6m wide. The trial trenches were located in such a way as to avoid any on site services and to provide a balanced sample of the development area. The machining was carefully watched for the occurrence of any features or artefacts of archaeological interest which might indicate the presence of ancient activity on site.

3. Results

The trenches were 40-55cm deep and revealed a stratigraphy of 20-40cm of soily building debris overlying the natural beige clay. The eastern end of trench 2 was slightly deeper showing evidence of probable former horticultural use resulting in a greater depth of soil (c30cm soil with debris, over 25cm of subsoil) overlying the natural clay. No features or finds were revealed within any of the trenches.

¹ Shaikhley, N, 2000 *A preliminary archaeological assessment of the proposed development on the site of Ansell and Sons Ltd builders yard, Stane Street, Ockley* (SCAU limited circulation report)

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The building debris revealed within the trenches results from the long term use of the site as a builders yard. Despite the high archaeological potential of the site, no features or finds of archaeological interest were revealed during the evaluation. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required in respect of this site.