

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT SITE OFF BAKERS LANE/STATION ROAD, LINGFIELD,
SURREY (TQ 392 438)**

1. Introduction

Between 25th and 26th June 1997, staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Bakers Lane/Station Road, Lingfield. The work was undertaken on the site of a proposed residential development (fig 1). The evaluation was recommended following a desktop assessment undertaken by SCAU which identified the site as a relatively large area with an uncertain archaeological potential that has lain undeveloped.

SCAU were commissioned to undertake the work by Sunley Estates PLC.

2. Methodology

A total of eleven trial trenches were excavated across the proposed development site using a JCB excavator with a 150cm wide toothless ditching bucket (fig 2). The trenches were c1.55m wide and between 19.5m and 21m in length, except for trench 10 which was 8.5m long. The trial trenches were located in such a way as to provide a balanced sample of the site. Trench 10 was excavated in order to test an apparent linear dip crossing one of the fields. Upon excavation nothing was revealed below the topsoil to account for its presence. 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 stratigraphy revealed during the trial trenching varied little across the site and was observed to be 20-30cm topsoil overlying the natural beige clayey silt. No features of archaeological interest were revealed within any of the trenches, although a number of stray finds were recovered. A couple of sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from within each of trenches 3, 4 and 7, and several sherds of 17th/18th century pottery were recovered from trenches 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7. Fragments of claypipe of 17th/18th century date were recovered from trenches 3, 4, 7 and occasional tile fragments of probable post-medieval date were recovered from trenches 3-9.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

No features of archaeological interest were revealed within any of the trial trenches within the proposed development site. A few stray finds of late medieval and 17th/18th century date were recovered from five of the trenches in addition to occasional tile fragments. The finds indicate activity dated to the late medieval and post-medieval periods, and are probably the result of manuring the fields. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required in respect of this site.

Fig 1 An extract from the 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the proposed development site off Baker Lane/Station Road, Lingfield and the Sites and Monuments Records within a 1km radius.

Fig 2 Location plan of the trial trenches at the proposed development site off Bakers Lane/Station Road, Lingfield