20 Haling Park Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon

An Archaeological Evaluation

for The Diocese of Southwark

by Sean Wallis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HNK 09

May 2009
Summary

Site name: 20 Haling Park Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon

Grid reference: TQ 3232 6376

Site activity: Field Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12th May 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: HNK 09

Area of site: c.800 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the evaluation.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course, with accession code HNK 09.

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Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 20 Haling Park Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (TQ 3232 6376) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Eric Greber, for the Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1HW.

Planning permission (07/01638/P) has been gained from the London Borough of Croydon for the construction of a new detached house on the site, with an attached garage. This development will also include the construction of new boundary walls, bin enclosure, forecourt area and associated access. The consent is subject to a condition (10) relating to archaeology, which requires that a field evaluation, by means of trial trenching, be carried out prior to groundworks commencing. This is in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site, so as to mitigate the effects of the development on any sub-surface remains which may be present.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment’s Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council’s policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Adviser with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, who act as archaeological advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Arkadiusz Gnas and Sean Wallis on 12th May 2009, and the site code is HNK09. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course, with accession code HNK 09.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Haling Park Road, on the edge of the North Downs, and approximately 1.5km south of the historic core of Croydon (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the north by Haling Park and the grounds of Whitgift School, to the east and west by residential properties, and to the south by Haling Park Road. The surrounding area is quite hilly, with the site itself sloping down towards the east. As a result of this slope, the height of the site varies from about 71m above Ordnance Datum in the west to approximately 69.5m in the east. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Upper Chalk and this was
confirmed in all four trenches (BGS 1981). The site is currently under grass with a number of surrounding trees, and forms part of the garden of 20 Haling Park Road.

**Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location to the south of the historic (medieval) core of Croydon, and the close proximity of the North Downs. A wide range of archaeological material has been found within the Borough, dating as far back as the Palaeolithic period. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity have all been recorded at Croham Hurst about 1.3km to the south-east, including a possible Bronze Age round barrow. It is thought that a Roman road passed through Croydon, possibly along the line of the current high street to the east, and a number of burials from this period have been found. Burials continued into the Saxon period, and an important early Saxon cemetery has been excavated in central Croydon, to the north (MoLAS 2000).

**Greater London Sites and Monuments Record**

A search was made of the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) in April 2009, for a radius of 500m around the development site. Although this revealed thirty-three entries of potential archaeological interest, many of these are duplicates, with seven entries relating to an evaluation at 61-61A Haling Park Road alone. Only one listed building was highlighted by the search, and this relates to Haling Cottage to the north of the site, which is currently the house of the headmaster of Whitgift School.

Archaeological fieldwork has previously been carried out at several addresses along Haling Park Road, including the site itself. Whilst no archaeological features were revealed during this 1990 excavation, immediately to the north of the current project, possible Mesolithic flint flakes were recovered, along with Saxon and post-medieval pottery. A post-medieval chalk quarry pit was noted during a watching brief to the west of the site, at 22 Haling Park Road, whilst further post-medieval features were recorded during an evaluation at 61-61A Haling Park Road, along with prehistoric flintwork and pottery dating from the Roman and medieval periods. No archaeology was recorded during fieldwork at 9 and 43 Haling Park Road.

There are a number of entries to the north of the site, in the area now dominated by Whitgift School and its grounds. It is thought that the medieval and post-medieval manor house of Haling Manor, which is first mentioned in 1202, may have stood in the area of Haling Park House. This house was demolished at some time between 1913 and 1933, and the present Whitgift School built on the site. Archaeological fieldwork within the
school grounds, and during building work at the school itself, has revealed a number of archaeological features including a medieval oven and garden features. Stray finds from the nearby area have included Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork and a Neolithic polished axe.

To the west of the site, a row of undated postholes, possibly representing a fence line, was recorded during an evaluation at Waddon Way, whilst prehistoric worked flint was recovered during an archaeological monitoring exercise at Purley Way Playing Fields.

Struck and burnt flint, and probable late Iron Age pottery were recovered during another evaluation to the south-west of the site, at Pampisford Road, but no features were identified. There are also entries relating to stray finds of a Neolithic flint axe, found on allotments in Pampisford Road, and a Bronze Age perforated hammer axe from St Ann’s Way. A broken prehistoric polished axe was found to the east of the site, whilst the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway ran along the line of the present Brighton Road. Although this railway closed in the 1830s, parts of its former route are clearly visible on maps dating from the 1840s and 1860s.

**Cartographic evidence**

The earliest available map to show the study area in any detail is the Croydon Enclosure Map of 1800 (Fig. 3). At this time the development site was at the north end of large field known as “Rangers”. No major changes are visible on the 1844 Tithe Map or First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1868 (not illustrated), except that a footpath is shown running across the site, which is lined with trees on the latter. Haling Park Road was laid out at some between 1868 and 1894, and is first shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 4). Although a number of new houses appear on either side of the road, the current site does not appear to have been developed. The 1913 Ordnance Survey (not illustrated) shows a few new houses on Haling Park Road but, once again, the development site is unchanged.

The Ordnance Survey of 1933 (Fig. 5) shows that the area to the north of Haling Park Road changed quite dramatically after 1913. Haling Park was bought by Whitgift School, and the new school buildings were built on the site of the old house. Parts of the southern end of Haling Park also appear to have been sold off, with these areas forming the rear gardens of a number of new houses which were built on the north side of Haling Park Road. The proposed site itself was part of this re-development, which saw the construction of 20 Haling Park Road and the setting out of its garden. Although there appear to have been some alterations to the house, with the addition of outbuildings, in the ensuing years, the boundaries of the property have not changed since 1933.
Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if any late Saxon or medieval deposits are present.

It was proposed to dig 4 trenches, each 6m long and 1.6m wide, positioned in those parts of the site which will be most affected by the development. The trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

Results

Four trenches were excavated, in the positions shown in Figure 6. Due to logistical problems and the presence of large shrubs, Trench 4 was moved slightly west of its originally intended position. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)
Trench 1 was aligned approximately N-S, and was 6.4m long. The stratigraphy observed within the trench (Fig. 7) consisted of 0.2m of turf and topsoil which lay above a deposit of made ground. This layer was about 0.43m thick, and consisted of various bands of chalk and soil, which contained fragments of concrete, modern brick and glass (not retained). A possible buried soil layer, about 0.15m thick, was recorded immediately beneath the made ground, and this lay directly above the natural chalk. The buried soil also contained small fragments of modern brick (not retained), and the complete absence of any subsoil layer above the natural chalk suggests that the area had previously been truncated. Apart from the modern brick and glass, no finds or features were noted in the trench.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)
This trench was 6.3m long, and aligned approximately E-W. Up to 0.35m of turf and topsoil was removed to reveal a layer of light brown clayey silt subsoil. The subsoil was about 0.2m thick, and lay directly above the natural chalk (Fig. 7). The deposits were slightly shallower at the west end of the trench, due to the natural slope of the ground. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.
**Trench 3**
This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW, and was 6.4m long. The stratigraphy mirrored that recorded in Trench 2, consisting of 0.3m of turf and topsoil over 0.1m of light brown clayey silt subsoil, which lay directly above the natural chalk. The trench contained no archaeological finds or features.

**Trench 4**
Trench 4 was 6.7m long, and aligned approximately WSW–ENE. Due to the presence of large shrubs, the trench was shifted slightly west of its original intended position. Up to 0.2m of turf and topsoil was removed to reveal a layer of light brown clayey silt subsoil, which was approximately 0.14m thick. This lay directly above the natural chalk. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

**Finds**
No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

**Conclusion**
No archaeological deposits were recorded during the evaluation, which provided a good coverage of the area which will be most affected by the proposed development. Although the western part of the site appears to have been partially landscaped in the recent past, the presence of subsoil across much of the site suggests that the area has not been significantly affected by any previous developments, and this is supported by the cartographic evidence. Nevertheless, no archaeological deposits were revealed.

**References**
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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<th>Trench</th>
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Project details

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Current Land use: Other 5 - Garden
Monument type: NONE None
Significant Finds: NONE None
Methods & techniques: ‘Sample Trenches’
Development type: Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process: After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location
Country: England
Site location: GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 20 Haling Park Road
Study area: 800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates: TQ 3232 6376 51.3569666401 -0.09940423167470 51 21 25 N 000 05 57 W Point
Height OD / Depth: Min: 68.76m Max: 70.38m

Project creators
Name of Organisation: Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator: English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator: Steve Ford
Project director/manager: Steve Ford
Project supervisor: Sean Wallis
Type of sponsor/funding body: Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body: Diocese of Southwark
**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient HNK09

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic', 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Manuscript', 'Microfilm', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey'

Paper Archive notes temporarily with TVAS in Reading pending deposition

**Project bibliography 1**

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Figure 1. Location of site within South Croydon and Greater London.

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Figure 2. Location of site off Haling Park Road.
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Figure 4. Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1894-6.
Figure 5. Ordnance Survey, 1933.
Figure 6. Location of trenches.
Figure 7. Representative sections of Trench 1 and Trench 2.
Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south; scales, horizontal 1m and 2m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west; scales, horizontal, 1m and 2m, vertical 0.5m.