



The Wickets,
Cherry Orchard Close, Orpington
London Borough of Bromley

Archaeological Evaluation





**THE WICKETS,
CHERRY ORCHARD CLOSE, ORPINGTON
LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

McAleeer Projects commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Wickets, Cherry Orchard Close, Orpington, in the London Borough of Bromley. The Site is located at National Grid Reference 547430 167900.

The evaluation was carried out as part of works requested by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent to develop the Site. These works sought to provide appropriate mitigation, by way of preservation by record, for the impact of the proposed scheme on identified archaeological deposits that will be affected by its construction.

The area to the south of the Site is known to contain archaeological remains of possible prehistoric and Romano-British date. The High Street to the west may have medieval tenements which were suggested to possibly stretch back from it into the Site.

The evaluation consisted of three trenches measuring c. 10 x 2m on the Site, which has an area available for evaluation equating to approximately 1000 sqm, which provided a 6% sample of the Site.

The results from the three trenches provided no archaeological evidence. The layers above the natural brickearth were well worked topsoil containing sparse amounts of modern brick.

No further mitigation is proposed due to the results from the evaluation providing no evidence for archaeological remains of the Site.

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Stephen Hetherington of McAleeer Projects. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank, for their help and advice, Dan Williams and Ian Kirby of North Star.

The Site investigation was undertaken by Hilary Valler. This report was compiled by Hilary Valler and the illustrations were prepared by Kitty Brandon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves.

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Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 McAleeer Projects (the Client) commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation at The Wickets, Cherry Orchard Close, Orpington, in the London Borough of Bromley (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site is located on the west side of the High Street, St Mary Cray. The Site is centred on NGR 547430 167900 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site evaluation was carried out as part of works requested by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) in order to satisfy a condition of planning consent to develop the Site. The works sought to provide appropriate mitigation, by way of preservation by record, for the impact of the proposed scheme on identified archaeological deposits that will be affected by its construction.

1.1.3 The area to the South of the Site is known to contain archaeological remains of possible prehistoric and Romano-British date. The High Street located to the west has the potential for medieval tenements stretching back from it into the Site.

1.2 Site location, description and topography

1.2.1 The Site is located to the east of Cherry Orchard Close, with the back fences of gardens providing the perimeter of the Site to the north, east and west. To the south is the continuation of the Site, to the garden of The Wickets (No. 10 Cherry Orchard Close).

1.2.2 The area of the Site is currently covered by rough grassland. The eastern portion of the Site has been terraced away with previous development and service runs in the southern part of the Site. In the north west corner of the Site there are mature trees which are to be retained.

1.2.3 The Site lies at a height of approximately 54m Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.4 The underlying geology within the Site has been identified as Cretaceous Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey, 1997).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope

2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on identified archaeological deposits that may be affected by its construction.

2.1.2 The evaluation consisted of three trenches measuring c. 10 x 2m, on the Site which has an area available for evaluation equating to approximately 1000 sqm, providing a 6% sample of the Site.

2.2 Aims

2.2.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- Identify the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving archaeological remains found within the trenches;
- Produce a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive.

2.3 Site Investigation

2.3.1 The following methodology was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of instruction (Wessex Archaeology 2007), which was agreed with GLAAS prior to commencement of field evaluation in order to meet the aims and objectives of the evaluation as shown above.

2.3.2 The Site evaluation was conducted by a fully qualified archaeologist at all times.

2.3.3 The Site evaluation was undertaken using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to excavate all three trenches.

2.3.4 The Site was photographed prior to the excavation of the trenches. Photographic and written records of the trenches were undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. A drawn record of a sample area of each trench was recorded in section.

2.3.5 The results of the evaluation were photographed and the results are presented in **Plates 1 to 3**. A sketch section was made and the deposits encountered allocated context numbers.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 No archaeological research, either desk based or intrusive has previously been undertaken for this Site, which Wessex Archaeology is aware of.

3.2 Archaeological Background

3.2.1 Following discussions with Mark Stevenson, monitor of the Site for English Heritage, archaeological sites are known from the vicinity but not within the Site.

3.2.2 Residual prehistoric material in the form of struck flint flakes dating to the Mesolithic have been found to the south of the Site.

- 3.2.3 Romano-British pottery and coins have been found in Rookery Gardens, also location to the south of the Site. Pottery of this period was also found at Mountfield Way, located to the north west of the Site.
- 3.2.4 The High Street, located to the west, contains significant medieval remains. It is possible that the rear plots of the tenements arranged along the eastern side of the road may extend back into the Site.
- 3.2.5 Re-deposited Romano-British and medieval pottery has been found at Sandwell Road to the north of the Site.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Site Evaluation

- 4.1.1 This section of the report contains the descriptive results of the Site evaluation. All trenches were 10 x 2m in size.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.20m and was located in the south west corner of the Site (**Figure 1** and **Plate 1**).
- 4.2.2 Layer 101 was a homogeneous layer of dark red silty clay sand material which had small rounded pebbles and fine roots from the rough grassland throughout the deposit. This was above a firm, mottled, mid orange sandy clay deposit (102) of natural brick earth.

4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 Aligned north to south on the northern side of the Site, Trench 2 (**Figure 2** and **Plate 2**) was excavated to a depth of 0.80m. This produced the same results as Trench 1 with two deposits of the same type (see 4.2.1 for details).

4.4 Trench 3

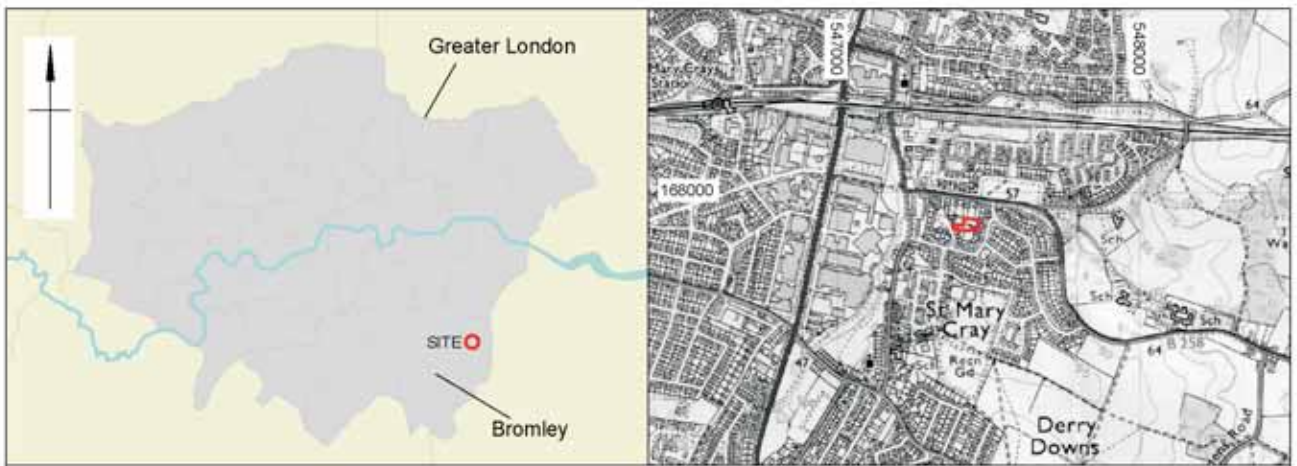
- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was on the eastern side of the Site, three deposits were recorded to a depth of 1.00m (**Figure 3** and **Plate 3**).
- 4.4.2 Deposit (301) was a mid yellow brown silty sand with fine to medium root inclusions and contained occasional small rounded pebbles. Below this deposit was a mid orange brown silty sand with inclusions of fine roots and pebbles (302). The natural pale yellow brown sandy clay (303) contained bright orange patchy mottling on the boundary between (302) and (303).

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The evaluation showed that across the north, west and southern sides of the Site there was evidence of a homogeneous deposit which contained no evidence of archaeological features or deposition.
- 5.1.2 On the eastern side of the Site, where Trench 3 was located there is evidence of terracing which has been levelled with natural deposits.
- 5.1.3 The potential for archaeological remains over the Site was **very low**.
- 5.1.4 No further mitigation is proposed due to the results from the evaluation providing evidence of the lack of archaeological remains of the Site.

6 REFERENCES

Wessex Archaeology 2007, *The Wickets, Cherry Orchard Close, Orpington, BR5 4BN. London Borough of Bromley. Written Scheme of Investigation Report Reference 66260.01*



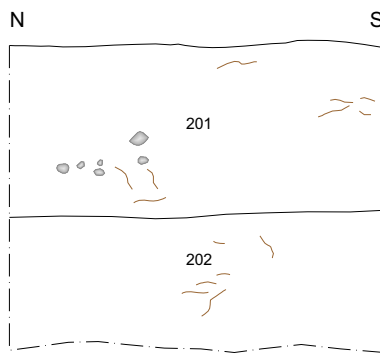
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Site location and evaluation trenches

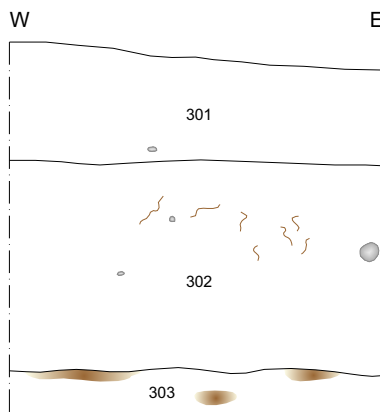
Figure 1



A. Trench 1 south facing section



B. Trench 2 west facing section



C. Trench 3 south facing section



-  Roots
-  Stones
-  Mottled

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Plate 1. Trench 1 south facing section



Plate 2. Trench 2 west facing section



Plate 3. Trench 3 south facing section

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