



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT 17 CHESTNUT
CLOSE, CARSHALTON, SM5 2AQ**

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Front cover: 2020 aerial photograph of the site (google Earth)

Figure 1. HER Map

Figure 2. Archaeological Priority Area

MAP 1. Fairburn 1800

MAP 2. Ordnance Surveyors Drawing 1804

MAP 3. Carshalton Tithe Map 1847

MAPS 4, 5 & 6. Historic OS mapping 1872, 1910-13 & 1933-1935

Plates 1-2. Aerial Photographs (Google Earth)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In May 2021 Rebecca Parr of SWAT Archaeology carried out a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at 17 Chestnut Close, Carshalton, SM5 2AQ located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 27662 66070 (Fig.1; cover). The proposed development seeks to provide an extension to the rear of the current property.

Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the Greater London HER records were studied and shows that the PDA lies within an Archaeological Priority Area (APA), and that archaeological activity has been recorded within 500m of the proposed development area (PDA).

The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA together with an analysis and interpretation of the site's origins and historic development.

A review of Historic OS mapping has been made as was the consultation of the National Heritage Register for England.

This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial photographs and annotated plans and maps.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL MAPPING

2.1 Location

Chestnut Close is a cul-de-sac located in a residential area north of the centre of Carshalton. The A237 is to the west, with Limes Green is to the east, where a small river runs through to Carshalton Pond. Situated at the eastern end of the close, the PDA is a semi-detached house in broadly a triangular shaped plot, which the southern part backs onto the rear gardens of Limes Close to the south and to the east Durand Close.

2.2 Geology

The River Wandle is approximately 170m east of the Site. The Site sits on London Clay with superficial deposits of Hackney Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel with the alluvium further to the east. The gravels in this area are relatively recent, being largely a formation of the late glacial period. Severe flooding and the transport of coarse sands and gravels probably continued until the Bronze Age in this area. Within the gravels, organic deposits of the late glacial period onwards may survive. The gravels have been found to contain important Palaeoenvironmental evidence. Gravels have been known to be between 0.2m and 1.20m below ground levels. Circa 180m to the south London clay was observed at a depth of circa 3.5m (BGS: TQ26NE192). The Durand Excavation immediately east of the Application Site found natural geology was observed at a height of 27.674 and 28.348m OD.

2.3 Historic mapping

A rapid map assessment of OS historic mapping shows that in the Fairburn map of 1800 (MAP 1), the Site can be seen north of the Carshalton settlement area and to the west of the River Wandle and outside of the Beddington Park boundaries but west of the mill with its water diversion seen. The Ordnance surveyors Drawing of 1804 (MAP 2) shows more detail and the Site is clearly seen as part of a field. Green Wrythe Lane is identified to the west. MAP 3 being the tithe map of 1847 shows greater detail of the water channels with the Site part of field designated 154 with a track immediately east along the field boundary and the land described as arable.

The OS maps between 1871 and 1933/1935 (MAPS 4-6), shows little change to the Site and the field. To the east of the Application Site is a house called 'The Limes', which was demolished in the 20th century. However, the area around shows increasing urbanisation with new housing estates and immediately east of the Site is a large nursery complex with greenhouses. It is only when the 1940s aerial photograph is viewed that we can see that the site has been built on, which is that of the current house, road and estate of which there has been little change since.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The HER for the 500m assessment area shows little by way of archaeological records (FIG.1). This may be due to the area built for residential housing prior to modern archaeological excavation opportunities rather than a potential lack of archaeology. However, there is a findspot of national importance being that of the Pleistocene animal remains (30390) found on land off Culvers Way to the south the Site. Part of an elephant's tusk, bones of rhinoceros, mammoth and remains of two or three horses were discovered in a drift deposit during excavation of a sludge tank during the 1890s. This was identified in gravel associated with the River Wandle and accounts for the Archaeological Priority Area.

Also, within the assessment area a Neolithic axe was discovered (30237), also to the south, south east of the Site. Circa 250m south of the Site Prehistoric flint flakes were identified. The opportunity of a modern archaeological investigation of a larger area to the north east of the Site at New Road found further flint or blade-like flakes and are considered to be possibly from between the Mesolithic or Bronze Age periods (22021). In addition, several Roman pottery sherds were found in modern topsoil (22022) and two sherds of Post Medieval pottery also from modern topsoil (22023).

Immediately to the east of the Application Site, an excavation of the Durand Estate (ELO12522) was undertaken in 2012. The site was previously occupied by four blocks of flats and was undergoing development to replace them with new housing. However, little was found due to disturbance from extensive levelling and the demolition of the earlier buildings.

4.0 DISCUSSION

Aside from the finds seen in the HER, in the wider Carshalton area evidence for Bronze Age and Iron Age periods have been found at numerous sites. In the wider area, Roman evidence is reflected by the Roman villa estate and it is likely the area around would have formed part of the agricultural field system. Beddington Roman Villa circa 2km to the south east of the PDA is scheduled and provides archaeological evidence of the Iron Age and into the Roman period. This area is within the Wandle Gravels APA. Extensive and regular field boundaries have been encountered across the gravel terraces filling the Wandle Valley, which are occasionally associated with small unenclosed domestic sites. These field systems reveal prehistoric land division and provide an insight into contemporary social and territorial organisation. Carshalton is first mentioned in 675 AD, referred to as Aeuultone. A Saxon cemetery is in the Mallinson Road area to the east of the site and a small number of further burials were found at Park Farm in 1875. No evidence has yet been discovered relating to any settlement in this period. During the Medieval period the main settlement area would have been Carshalton to the south around the village centre, with this Site on the northern outskirts still agricultural, used for arable farming, which continues through the Post Medieval period and into the 20th century until the Site is built on with a residential housing estate in the 1940s.

A review of the available data shows that only a small number of archaeological sites are known in the vicinity of the Application Site, although its location on the Wandle Gravels as an APA means that there is the potential for archaeology relating to Prehistory. Should any potential archaeology relate to the Palaeolithic then this could be of national significance. Any archaeology potential relating to agricultural use, which could be in the form of field systems and would be of low significance. The proposed development is for an extension at the rear of the existing property, which will require foundations. The building of the present house may have already disturbed the area. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities. Should archaeological works be required, given the relatively small area concerned, it is recommended that a watching brief during development would be appropriate.

5.0 PARAMETERS

The archaeological survey was conducted using on-line data from Historic England and other agencies.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE. 2012. Archaeological Evaluation Report Durand Close Estate, Carshalton, London Borough of Sutton.

SCAU. 2015. Durand Estate, Carshalton, Greater London.

Pre-Construct Archaeology. 2011. An Archaeological Watching Brief at Muschamp Primary School, Carshalton, London Borough of Sutton.

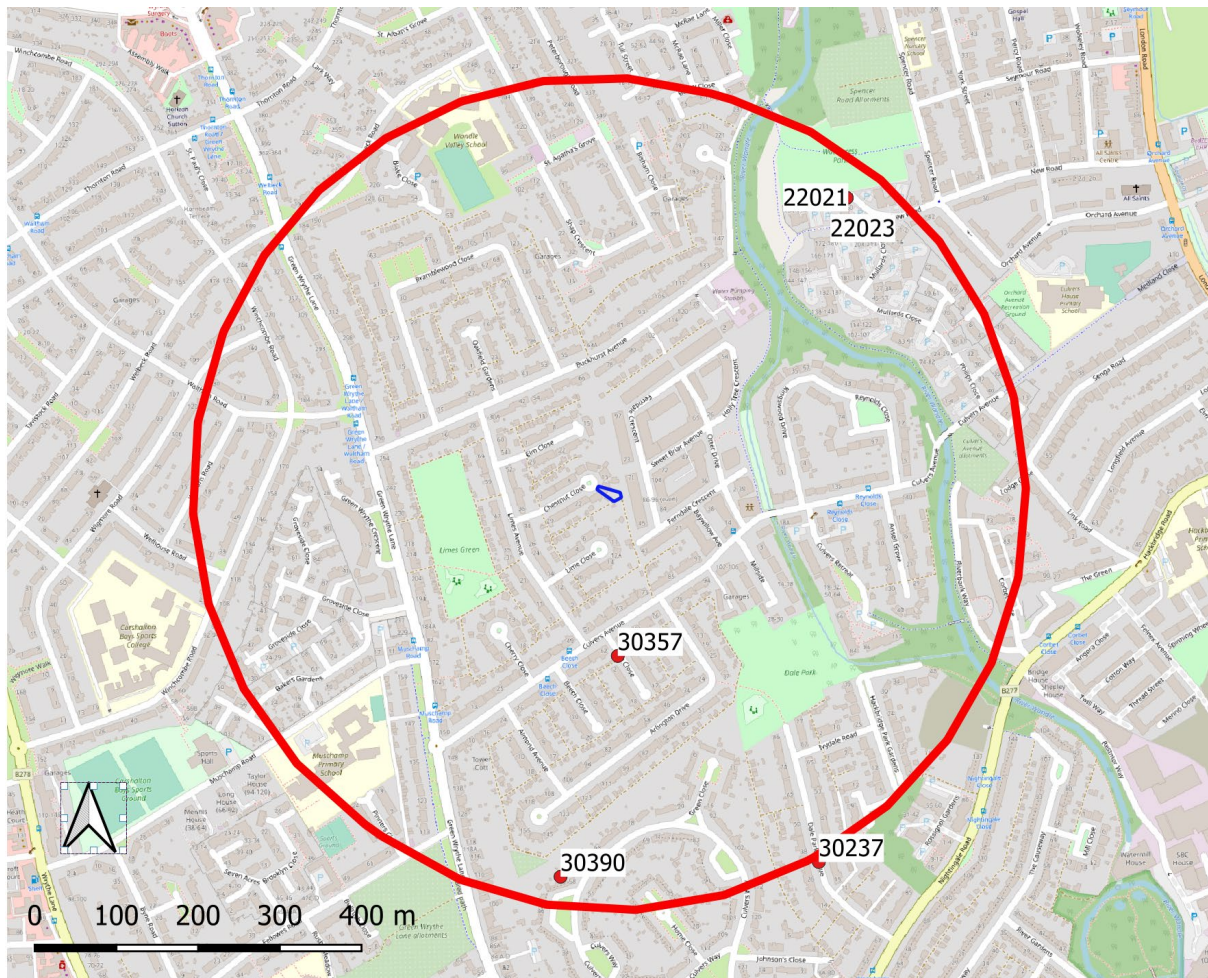


Figure 1. HER mapping 500m assessment area (site outlined in blue)

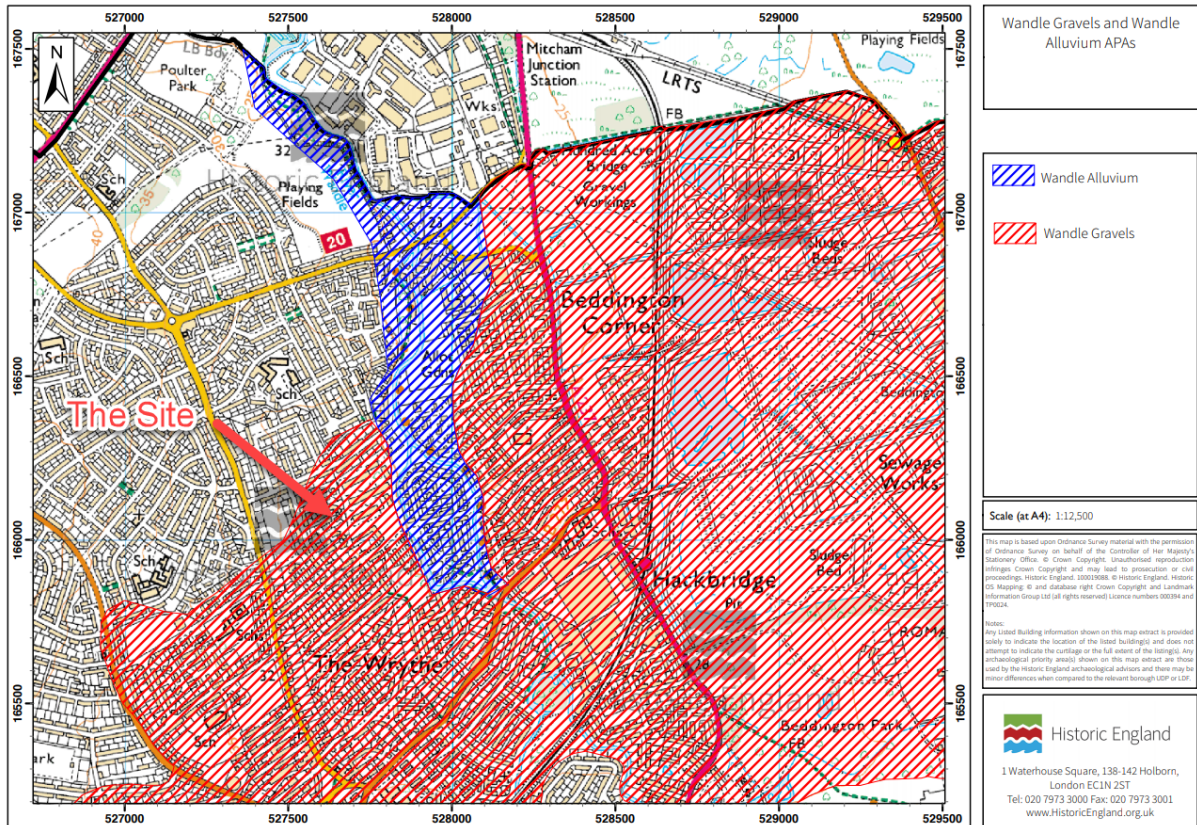


Figure 2: Archaeological Priority Area



MAP 1. Fairburn's Map of 1800



MAP 2. Ordnance Surveyors Drawing 1804



MAP 3. 1847 Carshalton Tithe Map



MAP 4. OS map of 1871 showing site not developed.



MAP 5. OS map of 1910-1913 showing site still not developed.



MAP 6. OS map of 1933-1935 showing site still not developed.

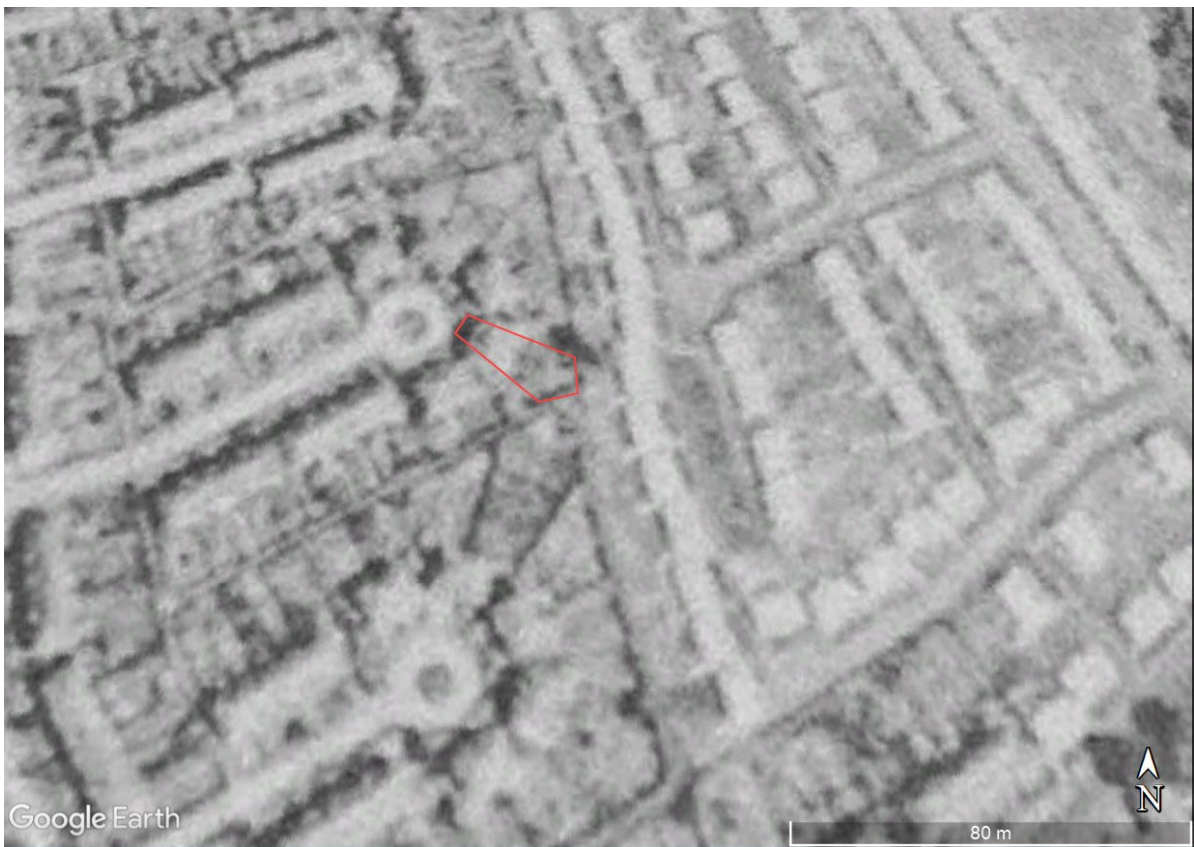


Plate 1: Aerial of the site in the 1940s (Google Earth)



Plate 2: Aerial of the site in 2003 (Google Earth)