

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Rusholme, Hatch Road,
Crockham Hill, Kent**



ASE Project No: 170646

John Hirst

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Rusholme, Hatch
Road, Crockham Hill, Kent**

NGR: 544128 151037

Planning Application: SE/17/00661/HOUSE

ASE Project No: 170646

Site Code: CRK17

ASE Report No: 2017379

OASIS id: archaeol6-295120

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The Heritage Advisory Ltd. on behalf of their client Mrs. V. Emburey. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works prior to the erection of a garage and rear extension at Rusholme, Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previous groundworks in the monitored area.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The Heritage Advisory Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works prior to the erection of a garage and rear extension at Rusholme, Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent (centred on NGR 544128 151037; Figure 1.)

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located at Crockham Hill in the administrative district of Sevenoaks, 5km southeast of Oxted. The site is presently occupied by Rusholme a residential dwelling dating from the late 19th century.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey of the area (BGS 2017) the site lies on the Hythe Formation - interbedded sandstone and limestone.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 ASE was commissioned to undertake the watching brief during groundworks that consisted of the demolition of existing structures, and the erection of side/rear extension, garage and swimming pool with associated works.
- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was supplied by The Heritage Advisory Ltd (2017), in response to the Archaeological Brief supplied by Kent County Council (2007).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aims of the archaeological work were to:
- monitor ground disturbance during the course of development (likely to be strip foundations).
 - to ensure the recording of the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features and ecofacts where they may not be left in-situ.
 - to further our understanding of the origins and development of Crockham Hill.
 - to further our understanding of the historical development of the site.
 - to report on the results of the fieldwork and place them within their Local, Regional or National context.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The monitoring was undertaken by John Hirst (Archaeologist) on the 28th August 2017. The project was managed by was by Paul Mason (fieldwork), Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is reproduced from The Heritage Advisory Ltd. WSI (2017) with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The earliest archaeological remains recorded close to the site are the finds of two 13th century wasters indicative of medieval pottery production 300m to the east of the site. It is considered that the site is the continuation of the Vicars Haw-Scearn Bank complex which was an area of intensive pottery production centred on Limpsfield.
- 2.3 The area has been subject to a survey of historic farmstead remains. These have been identified through a programme called the Kent Farmsteads and Landscape Project (Forum Heritage Services 2012). There are six within a 300m radius of the site and date from the 19th centuries.
- 2.4 Rusholme dates from the 19th century. As part of the planning application a Design and Access Statement and Heritage Statement was prepared by The Heritage Advisory Ltd. (2017), which discuss the property in more detail.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a garage and rear extension at Rusholme, Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent, was undertaken in August 2017.
- 3.1.2 All excavations (figure 2) were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was visually scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using ASE standard record sheets. A full photographic record of the area was kept and forms part of the site archive.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 The mechanical excavation of two foundation pads to the rear of the main building encountered loose, modern, demolition rubble to depths in excess of 3m. Due to health and safety concerns it was decided not to dig further beyond that point.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The project archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will be offered to Sevenoaks Museum. The contents of the project archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	65 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief was undertaken during a single day in August 2017. Initial conditions were favourable for the identification of archaeological features and the recovery of artefacts.
- 4.2 During the early part of the 20th Century, Rusholme had an extension, with a deep basement, built to the rear of the main building, subsequently demolished in the 1950s. The foundation pads to the rear of the building were excavated within the footprint of this former extension.
- 4.3 Four foundation pads were mechanically excavated on the site, two were located to the front of the main building in the new garage area, measuring c.2m x 2m x 2m and two to the rear of the building measuring c.2m x 3m x 3m.
- 4.4 The stratigraphy of the two foundation pads within the new garage area to the front of the building was observed to be modern made ground [001], containing various items of domestic detritus throughout, overlaying disturbed natural geology.
- 4.5 The stratigraphy of the two foundation pads to the rear of the building was observed to be loose, modern, demolition rubble [002]; consisting of an abundant amount of frogged red bricks and large concrete pieces. The rubble had been backfilled into the basement of the former extension. The ground was unstable and therefore not bottomed to natural geology, excavation was halted at 3m below ground level.
- 4.6 No archaeological deposits, finds or features were identified.

Context	Context Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
001	Layer	Made Ground	Tr	Tr	2.0
002	Layer	Demolition/backfill	Tr	Tr	3.0+
003	Layer	Natural	Tr	Tr	n/a

Table 2 List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief was successful in enabling the recording of deposits on site, although no archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified.
- 5.2 There was evidence of considerable disturbance from previous ground works in the monitored area, which included the construction, demolition and subsequent backfilling of a 20th century basement to the rear of the property.
- 5.3 Due to the degree of disturbance and the lack of archaeological remains identified, none of the research aims set out in section 1.4 could be addressed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2017. *British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer*.
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 29th August 2017.

Kent County Council 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief/evaluation/excavation*.

The Heritage Advisory Ltd. (2017). *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation: on land at Rusholme, Kent Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent TN8 6SU*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mrs V. Emburey and The Heritage Advisory Ltd. for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and KCC for their guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

Site code	CRK 17					
Project code	170646					
Planning reference	SE/17/00661/HOUSE					
Site address	Rusholme, Kent Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent TN8 6SU					
District/Borough	Sevenoaks, Kent					
NGR (12 figures)	544128 151037					
Geology	Hythe Formation - interbedded Sandstone and Limestone.					
Fieldwork type			WB			
Date of fieldwork	28 th August 2017					
Sponsor/client	The Heritage Advisory Ltd on behalf of Mrs. V. Emburey					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	John Hirst					
Period summary						
						Other: Modern
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The Heritage Advisory Ltd. on behalf of their client Mrs. V. Emburey, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works prior to the erection of a garage and rear extension at Rusholme, Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previous groundworks in the monitored area.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-295120

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Rusholme, Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The Heritage Advisory Ltd. on behalf of their client Mrs. V. Emburey. To undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive works prior to the erection of a garage and rear extension at Rusholme, Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previous groundworks in the monitored area.
Project dates	Start: 28-08-2017 End: 28-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BUILDING Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS CROCKENHILL Rusholme, Kent Hatch Road, Crockham Hill, Kent TN8 6SU
Postcode	TN8 6SU
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 44127 51147 51.240735132788 0.064979310651 51 14 26 N 000 03 53 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	The Heritage Advisory Ltd
Project design originator	The Heritage Advisory Ltd
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	John Hirst

Project archives

Physical Archive	No
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Exists?

Digital Media
available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Media
available

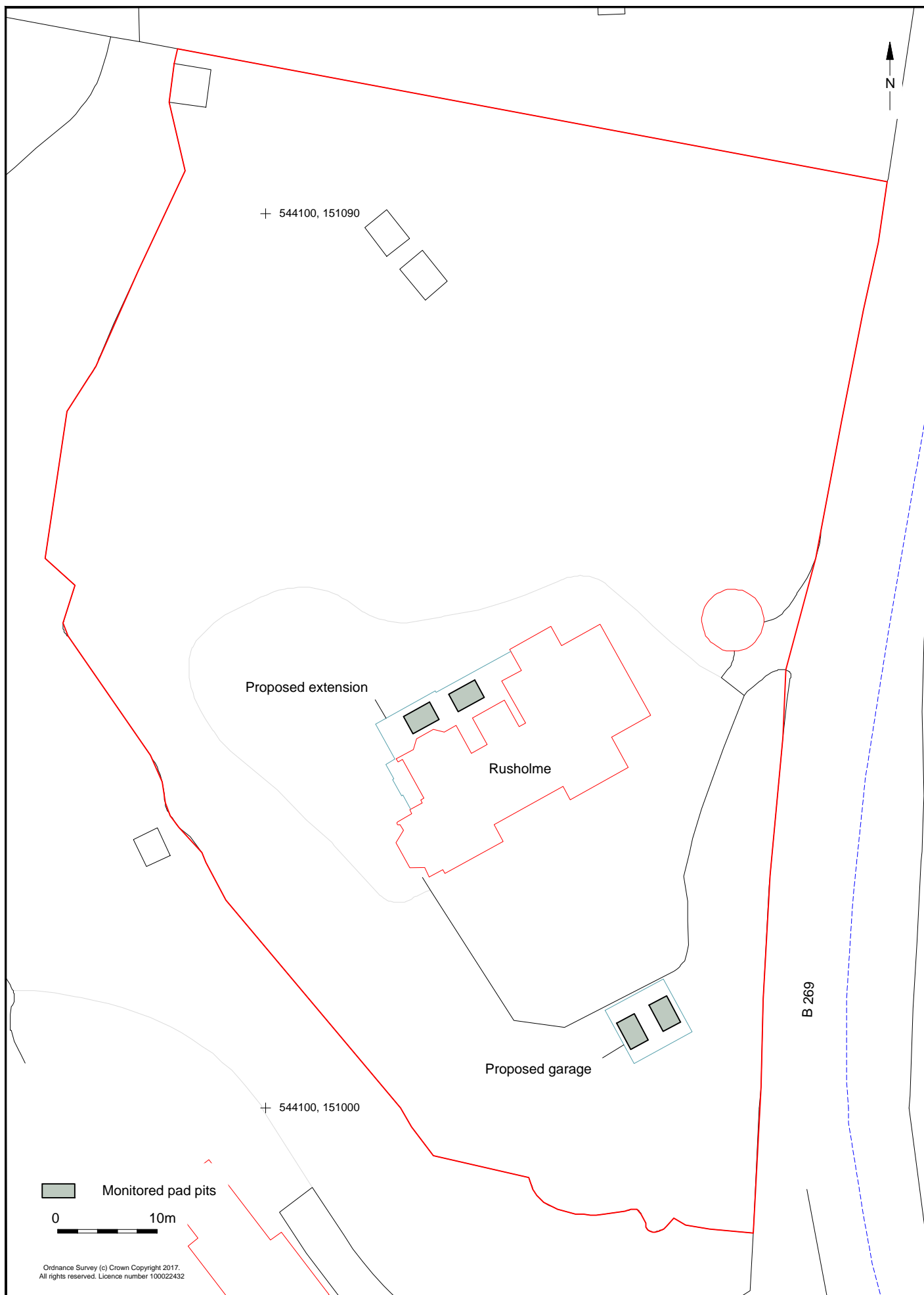
"Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

Entered by

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© Archaeology South-East		Rusholme, Crockham Hill	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170646	Oct 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 170379	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Rusholme, Crockham Hill	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170646	Oct 2017	Site plan showing monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2017379	Drawn by: JLR		

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