

Splashworld, 43, Crook Log,
Bexleyheath. Kent.

Archaeological Evaluation

Site code: CLZ 07

NGR: TQ 477 754

ASE Project no. 3080

August 2007

By
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Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Crook Log Bexleyheath, The work was carried out between 29th and 30th August 2007 in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site.

Three trenches were excavated toward the northern portion of the site in areas deemed least likely to be truncated. No feature or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in these trenches which were extensively truncated by modern services.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former Splashworld site, 43, Crook Log, Bexleyheath, Kent, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (Figure 1), (centred on NGR TQ 477 754). The fieldwork was carried out between 29th and 30th August 2007 in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site.

The proposed development is bounded to the north by Crook Log road, to the west by residential development, to the south by Crook Log County Primary School and to the east by the Crook Log public house. The site is roughly level at around 45m AOD and is currently occupied by the derelict remains of the swimming baths and associated car parking.

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Jamieson (Senior Archaeologist), and Rachel Bilson (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Louise Rayner.

1.1 Planning Background

The proposed redevelopment of the site comprises the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of 79 dwellings. Due to the location of the site within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined in the London Borough of Bexley's Unitary Development Plan, a programme of archaeological trenching was required in order to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site and inform on any future mitigation strategy.

A *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* was subsequently prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd and submitted to Mr Mark Stevenson (Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) Officer for the London Borough of Bexley) and Mr Martyn Nicholls (Area Improvement & Development Manager, Bexley Council) for approval. A Written Scheme of Investigation was subsequently prepared by ASE in response to the *Specification* and submitted to CgMs Consulting Ltd for onward submission to the London Borough of Bexley for approval. All work was carried out in accordance with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) *Archaeological Guidance Paper No.3 (AGP3)* unless otherwise stated below. Any variations were via CgMs Consulting Ltd, with the London Borough of Bexley and GLAAS, in their capacity as advisors to the Borough on archaeological planning matters.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the evaluation were set out in the *Specification* issued by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2007) and are herewith summarised below with due acknowledgement.

The general aim of the archaeological evaluation is to assess the location, form, extent, date, character, condition significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the development.

The evaluation should also seek to ascertain the nature and extent of existing disturbance and truncation and thus the degree of archaeological survival on the site.

Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, those factors affecting the present state of preservation and the effects of the proposed development should also be considered.

In addition to these general aims, this investigation should seek to address the following site specific objectives.

- To establish the presence or otherwise of Roman activity and any earlier or later activity and to define the date and nature of such activity.
- To establish the environmental context of any Roman activity, together with any earlier and/or later activity.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

For a full discussion of the site's archaeological background please refer to the preceding Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2006).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

The trench layout was agreed prior to the evaluation between CgMs Consulting Ltd and the London Borough of Bexley, and was designed to provide a representative sample of the redevelopment area not truncated by previous activity (see Figure 2). The evaluation consisted of three trenches, each 25m x 1.8m. The precise location of the trench was agreed in advance with CgMs Consulting Ltd (Richard Meager).

The trenches were excavated using a 13T tracked machine. The machine was fitted with a smooth grading bucket and the trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern (19th/20th century) made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until archaeological deposits or the top of the underlying natural sediments was reached. Care was taken so that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.

All recording was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards according to the UCLFAU Fieldwork Manual (draft) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2007).

The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

A photographic record of the trenches was kept in both Black and White and Colour Slide film, as well as digitally.

The trenches were measured to known points and reproduced on a site plan in relation to the Ordnance Survey (see Fig 2).

A Trench record sheet was filled out for each trench and measured sketch sections were produced. Standard UCLFAU context record sheets were filled in for each archaeological deposit encountered.

An online OASIS form was filled out for the site, a copy of which is reproduced as an appendix to this document.

The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South East office in Portslade and will be offered to the Bexley Museum in due course. All finds are the property of the landowner, but will be donated to a suitable museum.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Archaeological Stratigraphy

Trench 1

Natural geology comprising orange brickearth was encountered at approximately 45.40m AOD across the entire trench. This was cut by 6 live service trenches (probably electric) and 3 modern features. These were overlain by 0.20m of made ground.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 2

Natural geology comprising orange brickearth was encountered at approximately 45.50m AOD in the north eastern corner of the trench. The rest of the trench was truncated at least to the depth of c. 45.00m OD by what appeared to be a large service trench containing live electrics. This was overlain by 0.30m of made ground.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 3

Natural geology comprising orange brick earth and gravel was encountered at approximately 45.30m OD. This was completely truncated to the southeast portion by services and partially truncated elsewhere by sewer and electric services. A square pit containing modern fletton brick was located toward the western portion of the trench. These were overlain by 0.40m of made ground.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench.

5 DISCUSSION

No archaeological remains of any significance were encountered in any of the three trenches. Whether this is due to truncation or the fact that none have ever existed at the site is unclear. However given the high levels of truncation that exist on the site, it is unlikely that any archaeological remain survive on the remainder of the site within the footprint of the proposed development.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd (Richard Meager) for commissioning the work.

7 REFERENCES

Archaeology South East 2007 *Splashworld, 43, Crook Log, Bexleyheath, Kent. A Written Scheme of Investigation* unpublished ASE Report

CgMs 2007: *Splashworld, 43, Crook Log, Bexleyheath, Kent. Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpub. CgMs Report.

CgMs 2006: *Splashworld, Crook Log, Bexleyheath. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Unpub. CgMs Report

APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

Project details

Project name	Splashworld, Bexleyheath
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Crook Log Bexleyheath, The work was carried out between 29th and 30th August 2007 in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site. Three trenches were excavated toward the northern portion of the site in areas deemed least likely to be truncated. No feature or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in these trenches which were extensively truncated by modern services.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2007 End: 30-08-2007
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	CLZ 07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	3080 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Archaeology South-East
Land at Crook Lodge formerly Splashworld, Bexleyheath Archaeological
Evaluation

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BEXLEY BEXLEYHEATH Former Splashworld Site
Study area	0.80 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 477 754 51.4577696624 0.126201953201 51 27 27 N 000 07 34 E Point
Height OD	Min: 45.30m Max: 45.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Diccon Hart
Project supervisor	Dave Jamieson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive	No

Exists? _____

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Media available 'Images vector', 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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