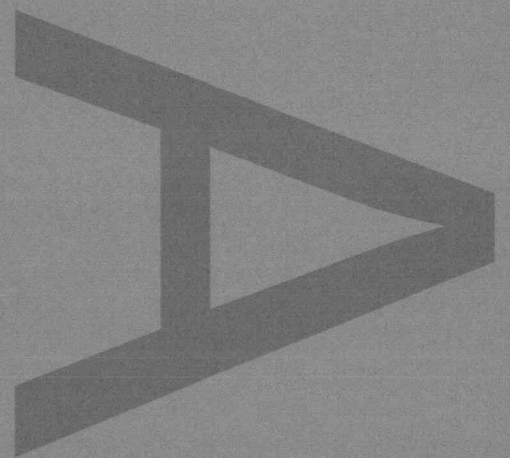
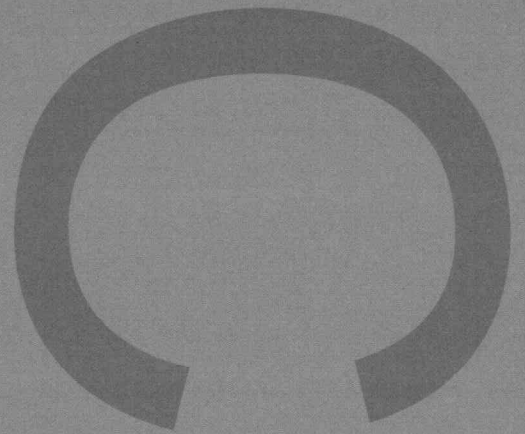
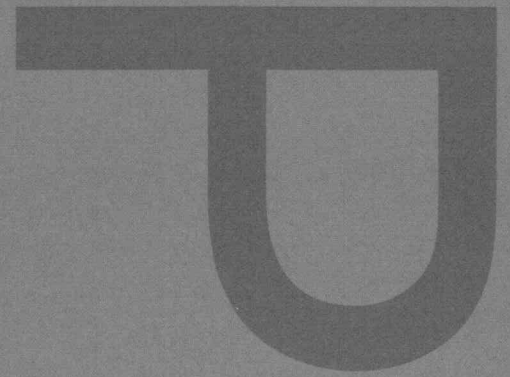


240 PAMPISFORD ROAD

SOUTH CROYDON

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



PFR 05

NOVEMBER 2005

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

240 PAMPISFORD ROAD

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

240 PAMPISFORD ROAD
SOUTH CROYDON
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

EVALUATION

Quality Control

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**240 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An
Archaeological Evaluation**

Site Code: PFR 05

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3207 6343

**Written and Researched by Stuart Holden
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2005**

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November 2005**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 240 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was implemented in advance the proposed development of a pair of semi-detached houses and a detached bungalow.
- 1.3 A single, continuous trench was excavated across the footprints of the proposed structures and revealed no evidence of archaeological features. However, prehistoric activity in the area was suggested by the presence of struck and burnt flint together with a sherd of possible late-prehistoric pottery found residually in the topsoil and subsoil with later material.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land to the rear of 238 and 240 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (Fig. 1), in advance of a proposed development.
- 2.2 The watching brief was conducted on the 10th and 11th November 2005 and commissioned by Elysian Homes.
- 2.3 The evaluation followed the methodology laid out in the archaeological method statement (Butler 2005). Excavation of a single trench using a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision was undertaken in the gardens to the rear of the properties (Fig. 2). Excavation continued to a depth at which the natural chalk was exposed.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 3207 6343.
- 2.5 The site was given the unique code PFR 05.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Holden and assisted by Richard Humphrey with the project managed by Jon Butler for Pre-Construct Archaeology.

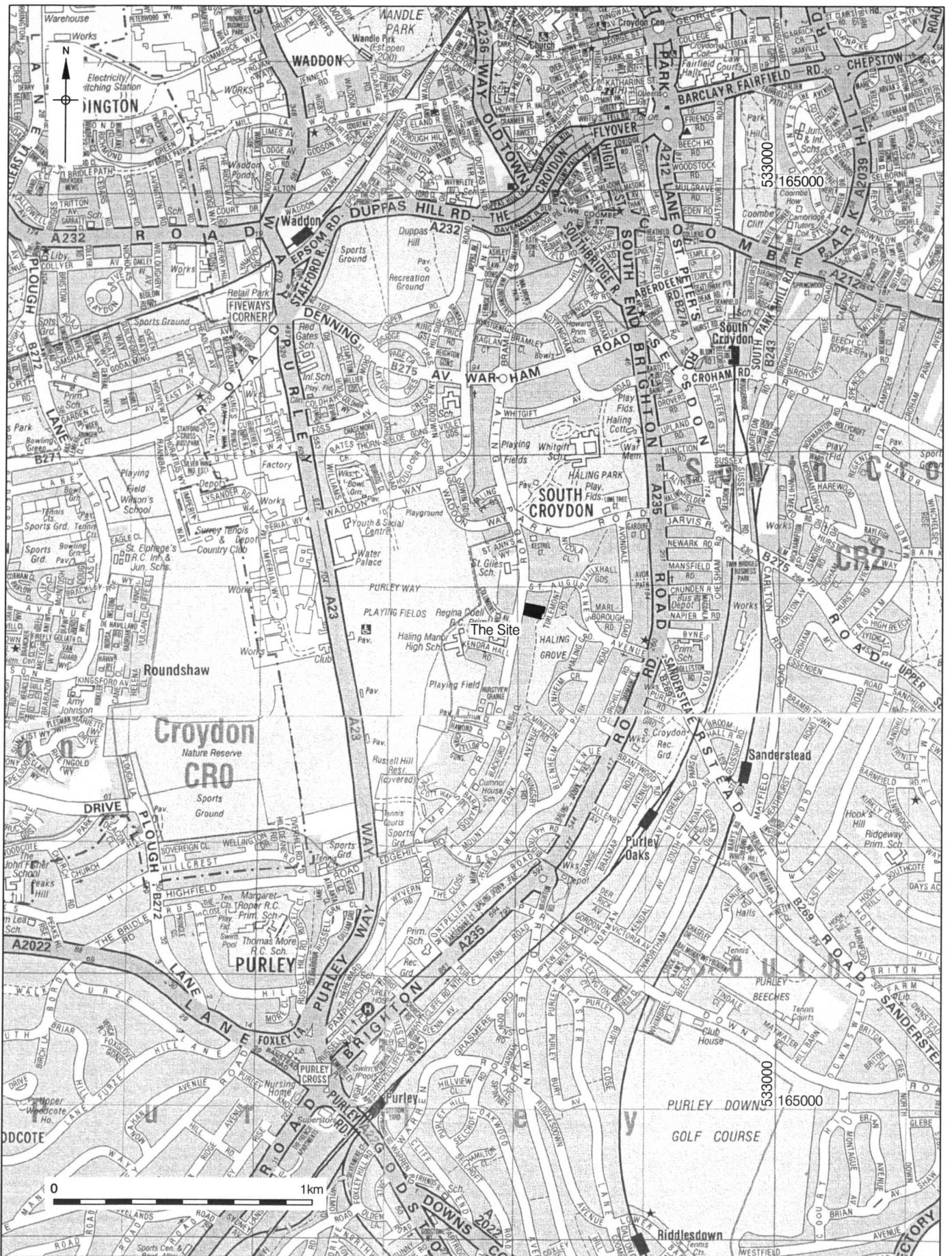


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20 000



Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEACH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Planning background

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Croydon, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The council's deposited draft 'Croydon Unitary Development Plan', adopted in 1997, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development is subject to the Archaeology and Urban Conservation policies:

SP6 The Council will protect and enhance Croydon's archaeological heritage.

Minimising Disturbance

AR2 The siting and design of development should have regard to the desirability of minimising the disturbance of archaeological remains.

Preserving Important Remains

AR3 There will be a presumption against development which would harm archaeological remains of national importance. Decisions on development proposals affecting other remains will take account of the archaeological importance of those remains, the need for the development, the likely extent of any harm, and the prospects of the proposals successfully preserving by record the archaeological interest of the site.

Recording Other Remains

AR4 On sites where archaeological remains do not need to be preserved in situ, the Council will make sure that there is investigation, excavation, recording, analysis and publication to a specification agreed by the Council, secured where appropriate by the use of agreements.

3.1.3 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined within the UDP. There are no Listed Buildings on the site.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The Method Statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Butler, 2005), under guidance and approved by English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, proposed that consideration should be given to all periods but highlights the likelihood of encountering prehistoric remains.

3.2.2 The following research aims were addressed during the course of the archaeological evaluation:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric exploitation of the area for flints as evidenced by flint debitage? If so, can this industry be dated to one period of the prehistoric age or is there more than one phase of such activity?
- Is there any evidence of prehistoric settlement or occupation of the area?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Saxon activity on the site? More particularly is there any evidence of settlement, which may be associated with the Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site in Park Lane to the north and near the southern end of Pampisford Road?
- Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?
- Are there any post medieval remains on the site?

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Limited research of the archives held by Pre-Construct Archaeology was undertaken to form the method statement. This information, together with other research of the area is outlined below.
- 4.2 A number of archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken in Pampisford Road itself. The area has provided evidence from most prehistoric periods from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. However, much of this evidence has been in the form of flint artefacts, which have been found residually. Early Saxon cemeteries are known to both the north of the site in the Park Lane and Eldridge Road areas of Croydon and to the south in the area of Pampisford Road / Edgehill Road area (Cowie and Harding, 2000)
- 4.3 No archaeological deposits were found during investigations at Nos. 5-13 (Maloney and Holroyd, 2000), 98-102, 151-153, 167-169 (Maloney and Holroyd, 2004) and 234 Pampisford Road (Maloney and Holroyd, 2000). A post-medieval pit was found at 212-214 Pampisford Road (Lythe, 2004). Residual struck flints were found at Hayling Manor School, Pampisford Road (Maloney and Holroyd, 2001) and 218-222 Pampisford Road (Maloney and Gostick, 1998), where thirty-nine struck flints and six burnt flints were interpreted as originating from repeated low-density exploitation of flint nodules from the general area. To the west of Pampisford Road an evaluation at Regina Coeli School, Columbine Avenue, revealed struck and burnt flint and a baked clay object, possibly an Iron Age or Roman spindle whorl, within the subsoil (Greenwood and Maloney, 1995).
- 4.4 An archaeological investigation was previously undertaken at 238 Pampisford Road but only undated postholes were found (Maloney and Gostick, 1998)
- 4.5 The name, Croydon, is of Saxon origin derived from 'crogdene', is thought to mean either 'crooked valley' or 'saffron valley'. In the fifth to sixth centuries, it was the site of an important pagan Saxon cemetery.
- 4.6 There is a record of a minster at Croydon as early as 809AD when King Coenwulf of Mercia held his witan (council) there in the time of Archbishop Wulfred. Following the Norman invasion of 1066 it lay at the heart of a huge estate belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

4.7 Whitgift School, to the north of the subject site, is the site of medieval Haling Manor and recent building works turned up find of early-medieval shell-tempered pottery. An oven was exposed, constructed of chalk and clay, and may have a possible documentary association for a Ralph Dede Halinge, 1202. The land around the manor is likely to have been agricultural up until the 16th century when gardens and formal grounds were laid out. Haling House is located on Rocque's map of 1762 (from Holden, 2005).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 5.2 The excavation of two trenches, each measuring 20m by 3m was agreed with Mark Stevenson, GLAAS monitor, on behalf of the London Borough of Croydon. Due to constraints of the mobility of the mechanical excavator, a single trench was excavated, totalling 45m in length and 3m in width. The trench was positioned across the footprints of all the proposed structures, as laid out on the drawing provided by the developer (MHK Architects Drawing Number 2094-10).
- 5.3 Under archaeological supervision, a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon. The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence.
- 5.4 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and in section using standard recording methods. A digital photographic record was also made as appropriate.
- 5.5 A temporary benchmark (value 74.38m OD) was traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmarks, located on Regina Coeli Primary School, and No. 208A Pampisford Road (values 78.75m OD and 83.14m OD).
- 5.6 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines (English Heritage 1998).
- 5.7 Following the completion of the archaeological investigation, the trench was backfilled using the excavated material.
- 5.8 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code PFR 05.

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 270 (South London) indicates that the site is likely to be underlain by Cretaceous Upper Chalk.
- 6.2 To the south of the present site, at numbers 212-214 Pampisford Road, the report of the archaeological watching brief stated that: *The natural geology of the site consists of approximately 400mm of firm, red brown sandy-silt sealing soliflucted chalk. The sandy-silt deposit is similar in texture and colour to that identified on an adjacent site, PDD 96, which was identified as a glacial deposit. It is therefore highly likely that the sandy-silt identified at PMP 04 is also glacial in origin* (Lythe 2004). A similar sequence was exposed on the subject site.
- 6.3 The site is located at c.75m OD near the top of a steep river terrace, which slopes away sharply to the east of site. The topography of the current land surface within the boundaries of the site is generally flat.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 The same sequence was seen across the entire length of the trench. It consisted of natural chalk [03] overlain by a layer of naturally accumulated orangey brown sandy silt subsoil [02], 0.20-0.30m thick and dark brown sandy silt topsoil [01] up to 0.50m thick.
- 7.2 The chalk was present at the southern end of the trench at a level of 73.53m OD and at the northern end of the trench at 73.20m OD. This slope follows the general topography of the surrounding area.
- 7.3 The artefacts recovered from the topsoil [01] consisted of: ceramic building material, (eight fragments of roof tile and one fragment of vitrified brick or floor tile weighing 256g in total); a single sherd of glazed pottery of post-medieval date and a single scrap of prehistoric pottery; nine pieces of burnt flint weighing 428g and numerous pieces of very roughly struck flint weighing 1250g.
- 7.4 From the subsoil [02], a single sherd of prehistoric pottery, probably dating to the late-Iron Age was recovered. This had a sandy fabric with inclusions of crushed flint up to 5mm in diameter. Two pieces of burnt flint weighing 132g and four pieces of roughly struck flint were also recovered.

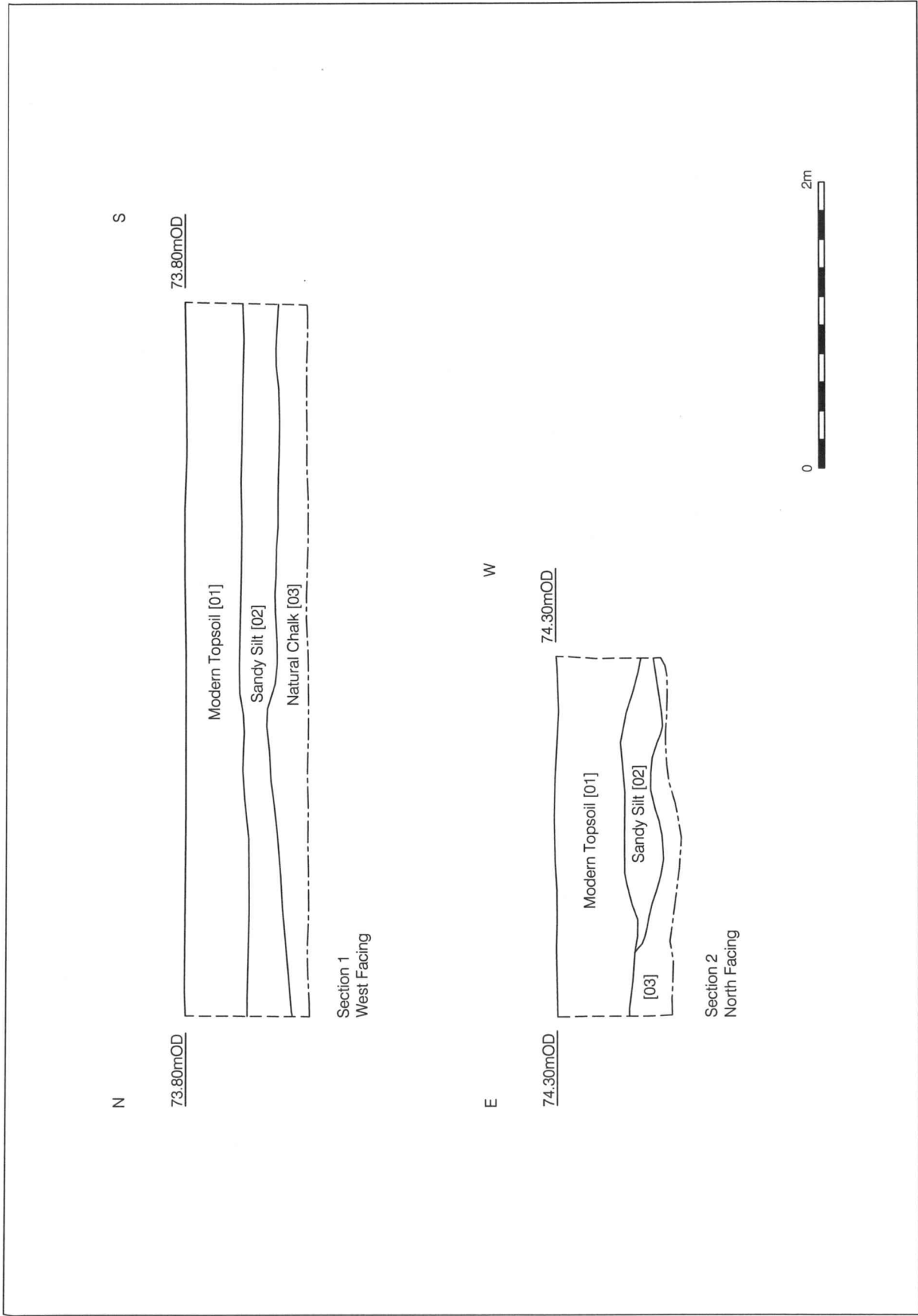


Figure 3
 Sections 1 and 2
 1:40

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The archaeological findings from the evaluation are consistent with other archaeological investigations in the area and fortify the hypothesis that the underlying chalk was exploited for the extraction of flint nodules that were roughly prepared and the resultant material removed elsewhere for further refining.
- 8.2 The sherd of probable late-Iron Age pottery is indicative of activity in the area during this period, although no further evidence was recorded during the course of this investigation. This tentative evidence of Iron Age activity in the area can be added to the Iron Age or Roman spindle whorl from Columbine Avenue.
- 8.3 No evidence for Saxon or medieval material was recorded on the site. The post-medieval material recovered is likely to have been worked into the soils during ploughing of the land over a prolonged period up until the development of the area for residential use.
- 8.4 As there were no archaeological features or in situ archaeological deposits revealed during the evaluation it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required on the site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Elysian Homes for commissioning and funding the work and Peter Mills of the Mills Whipp Partnership . The author would like to thank Paul Scott of Elysian Homes for his cooperation on site, Adrian Nash for the drawings and Jon Butler for his project management and editing.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Topsoil
2	Layer	Subsoil
3	Layer	Natural chalk

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-11225

Project details

Project name	240 Pampisford Road, Croydon Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of 1 trench measuring 45m by 3m was excavated. No features were present, however, pieces of struck and burnt flint, and probable late-Iron Age pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoils with later material.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2005 End: 10-11-2005
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	LITHIC Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 240 Pampisford Road
Postcode	CR2
Study area	1700.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3207 6343 Point
Height OD	Min: 73.34m Max: 73.22m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Jon Butler
Project director/manager	Jon Butler
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Sponsor or funding	Elysian Homes

body

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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