

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 3-5 Waddon Way, Croydon, London  
Borough of Croydon, CR0 4HU**

**Site Code: WWC 05**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3181 6370**

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# 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at 3-5 Waddon Way, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon, CR0 4HU, between 31<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006. The watching brief consisted of the observation of ground reduction across the site and machine excavation of foundation trenches for the southern section of the proposed development. The work was commissioned by W. R. Newlands & Sons Ltd.
- 1.2 The site was situated within the confines of the original houses and gardens at 3 to 5 Waddon Way.
- 1.3 Approximately 200mm of overburden was removed from the entire site. The foundation trenches were then excavated to a maximum depth of 800mm. The southern portion of foundation trenches, in the vicinity of evaluation Trench 3, were machined under archaeological supervision as recommended by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.4 The watching brief revealed one undated cut feature, interpreted as a possible posthole. The feature was cut into natural chalk and was aligned with a series of possible postholes recorded in the previous archaeological evaluation.

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<sup>1</sup> Stevenson, 2006

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 3-5 Waddon Way, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon, between 31<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006. The work was commissioned by W.R. Newland & Sons Ltd, project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Tim Bradley and supervised by the author. The site was monitored by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service.
- 2.2 The work was preceded by an archaeological evaluation across the area of the proposed development which identified an alignment of possible postholes towards the south of the site in Trench 3.<sup>2</sup> Consequently an archaeological watching brief was recommended in the southern portion of the site in the footprint of the building within which Trench 3 was located. The principal purpose of the watching brief was to enable potential further features to be identified and sampled so that possible dating evidence might be obtained that has so far been lacking.
- 2.3 The site is bound to the east by residential houses fronting Waddon Way, to the north by Waddon Way, to the west by open parkland and to the south by residential buildings on St Ann's Way. Prior to the new development, two residential houses and gardens were situated on the site.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3181 6370.
- 2.5 The site was assigned the code WWC 05.

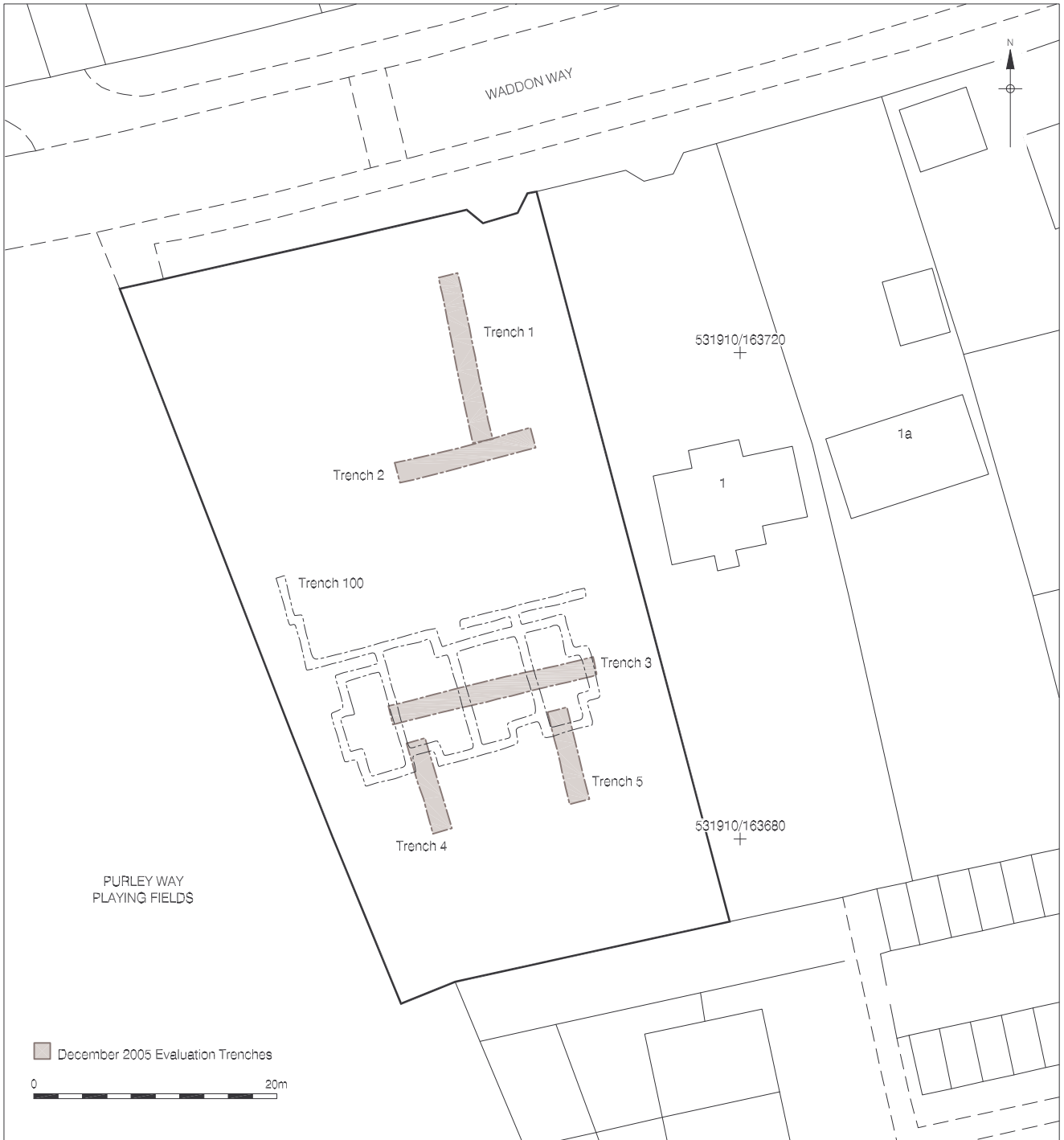
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<sup>2</sup> Hawkins 2005



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1988.

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:500

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY IN CROYDON AND THE UDP**

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 less than 200m west of an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Croydon.

## 3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The Evaluation Method Statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology<sup>3</sup>, under guidance and approved by English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, proposed that consideration should be given to all periods during the evaluation. This also applied to the watching brief.

3.2.2 The following research aims, which were addressed during the course of the archaeological evaluation, were also addressed during the watching brief. These aims were:

- 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?

3.2.3 An undated row of postholes was also observed in Trench 3 during the evaluation. As proposed by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Advisory Service<sup>4</sup>, the watching brief aimed to identify any other features that could be associated with the postholes in order to sample them and obtain dating evidence.

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<sup>3</sup> Bradley, 2006

<sup>4</sup> Stevenson, 2006



## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 The site is located on solid geology of Upper Chalk as illustrated on the British Geographical Survey Map<sup>5</sup>.
- 4.2 The site slopes downwards from the south, 68.26m OD to the north, 67.89m OD towards Waddon Way<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> British Geological Survey, 1994

<sup>6</sup> Hawkins, 2005

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

5.1.1 Prior to the commencement of development, an archaeological evaluation was conducted on the study site. This revealed a series of undated, possible postholes<sup>7</sup>.

5.1.2 A number of other archaeological investigations have also been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the site, most notably along Pampisford Road, which adjoins Waddon Way to the east. Although no Archaeological deposits were found during investigations at Nos. 5-13<sup>8</sup>, 98-102<sup>9</sup>, 151-153<sup>10</sup>, 167-169<sup>11</sup> and 234 Pampisford Road<sup>12</sup>, another series of undated postholes were recorded at 238 Pampisford Road<sup>13</sup>. Some dateable, archaeologically significant remains were also encountered during several other investigations carried out in the area, as outlined below.

### **5.2 PREHISTORIC**

5.2.1 Evidence from most prehistoric periods from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age has been found in the area. However, much of this evidence has been in the form of residual flint artefacts.

5.2.2 Residual struck flints were found at both Haling Manor School, Pampisford Road<sup>14</sup> and 218-222 Pampisford Road<sup>15</sup>, where 39 struck flints and six burnt flints were interpreted as originating from repeated low density exploitation of flint nodules from the general area.

5.2.3 To the south of the site, an evaluation at Regina Coeli School, Columbine Avenue revealed struck and burnt flint<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Hawkins, 2005 pg 13

<sup>8</sup> Maloney & Holroyd, 2000, pg 43

<sup>9</sup> Maloney & Holroyd, 2004, pg 69

<sup>10</sup> *ibid*

<sup>11</sup> *ibid*

<sup>12</sup> Maloney & Holroyd, 2000, pg 43

<sup>13</sup> Maloney & Gostick, 1998, pg 83

<sup>14</sup> Maloney & Holroyd, 2001, pg 73

<sup>15</sup> Maloney & Gostick, 1998, pg 83

<sup>16</sup> Greenwood & Maloney, 1995, pg 339

### **5.3 ROMAN**

- 5.3.1 A baked clay object, possibly an Iron Age or Roman Spindle whorl, was also recovered from the evaluation at Regina Coeli School<sup>17</sup>.

### **5.4 MEDIEVAL**

- 5.4.1 Early Saxon cemeteries have been found to the north of the site in the Park Lane and Eldridge Road areas and to the south in the Pampisford Road / Edgehill Road area<sup>18</sup>.

- 5.4.2 The name, Croydon, is derived from the Saxon word 'crogdene', which 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<sup>19</sup>.

- 5.4.2 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<sup>20</sup>.

- 5.4.4 Whitgift School, to the east of the subject site, is the site of medieval Haling Manor and recent building works turned up finds of early-medieval shell-tempered pottery. An oven was exposed, constructed of chalk and clay, and may have a possible documentary association with a Ralph Dede Halinge, 1202<sup>21</sup>.

### **5.5 POST-MEDIEVAL**

- 5.5.1 A post-medieval pit was found during an archaeological watching brief at 212-214 Pampisford Road<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Greenwood & Maloney, 1995, pg 339

<sup>18</sup> Cowie & Harding, 2000, pg 182 & 202

<sup>19</sup> Holden, 2005, pg 9

<sup>20</sup> ibid

<sup>21</sup> ibid

<sup>22</sup> Lythe, 2004

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The entire area within the site boundary was reduced by approximately 200mm. The foundation trenches for the new buildings were then machine excavated with a 360 degree type machine fitted with a ditching bucket, to a maximum depth of 800mm.
- 6.2 The attendant archaeologist monitored all ground-reduction so that any archaeological deposits could be excavated and recorded stratigraphically. Additionally, the excavation of foundation trenches for the building situated in the area of Trench 3 was archaeologically monitored.
- 6.3 The trenches were located in the positions shown on a plan prepared by W.R. Newland & Sons Ltd. Deposits of archaeological interest were recorded using pro-forma record sheets. All trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections were recorded at 1:10.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 PHASE 1- NATURAL**

- 7.1.1 A layer of compact, light yellowish-grey chalk gravel with occasional "stripes" of firm, mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, layer [104], was observed in the base of all the foundation trenches, the top of the deposit being at a depth of 600mm below ground level. The dimensions of the deposit were 19m north-south, 24m east-west and of unknown thickness. It was interpreted as natural chalk gravel with characteristic "tiger-striping" indicative of solifluction.
- 7.1.2 A layer of firm, mid brownish-yellow sandy silt, layer [103], the top of which occurred approximately 400mm below ground level, was observed sealing [104] in section in the foundation trenches. The dimensions of the deposit were 19m north-south, 24m east-west and 200mm thick. It was interpreted as an interface between the underlying, soliflucted chalk gravel and the subsoil.

### **7.2 PHASE 2- UNDATED POSSIBLE POSTHOLES**

- 7.2.1 In the base of foundation Trench 100, an ovoid cut [102] was observed (see figure 3). The dimensions of the cut were 320mm north south, 250mm east-west and 150mm deep. It contained fill [103], a firm, mid yellowish-brown sandy silt. The cut was interpreted as a possible posthole. The posthole was observed in the centre of the trench, truncating the chalk. As a consequence it was not possible to ascertain the depth and position in the stratigraphic sequence from which it was originally cut and no dateable material was found within the fill. It was therefore not possible to allocate a date to the posthole.
- 7.2.2 During the evaluation, which took place prior to the watching brief, a series of seven undated postholes, grouped together as [32], were found within Trench 3. These postholes ran through the trench approximately east-west and then appeared to turn to the north-west, as shown in Figure 3. As all the postholes were shallow and relatively small, it seems likely that they would have formed a lightweight structure, such as a fence line<sup>23</sup>.
- 7.2.3 Posthole [102], found during the watching brief, appears to be further to the north on the same alignment as the north-west run of postholes recorded in Trench 3 during the evaluation. This suggests that the possible fence line extends further to the north.

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<sup>23</sup> Hawkins, 2005 pg 13

### **7.3 PHASE 3- POST-MEDIEVAL**

- 7.3.1 Sealing the sandy silt natural was a layer of firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silty subsoil [100], which contained occasional angular fragments of red fabric brick, occasional fragments of yellow fabric brick and frequent angular fragments of natural chalk. The layer was observed across the entire site after the removal of the modern topsoil had taken place. The sections created through the machining of the foundation trenches showed the deposit to be 200mm thick. It was interpreted as post- medieval subsoil.

### **7.4 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

- 7.4.1 A layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century topsoil, 250mm thick, was removed from the entire site prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches.

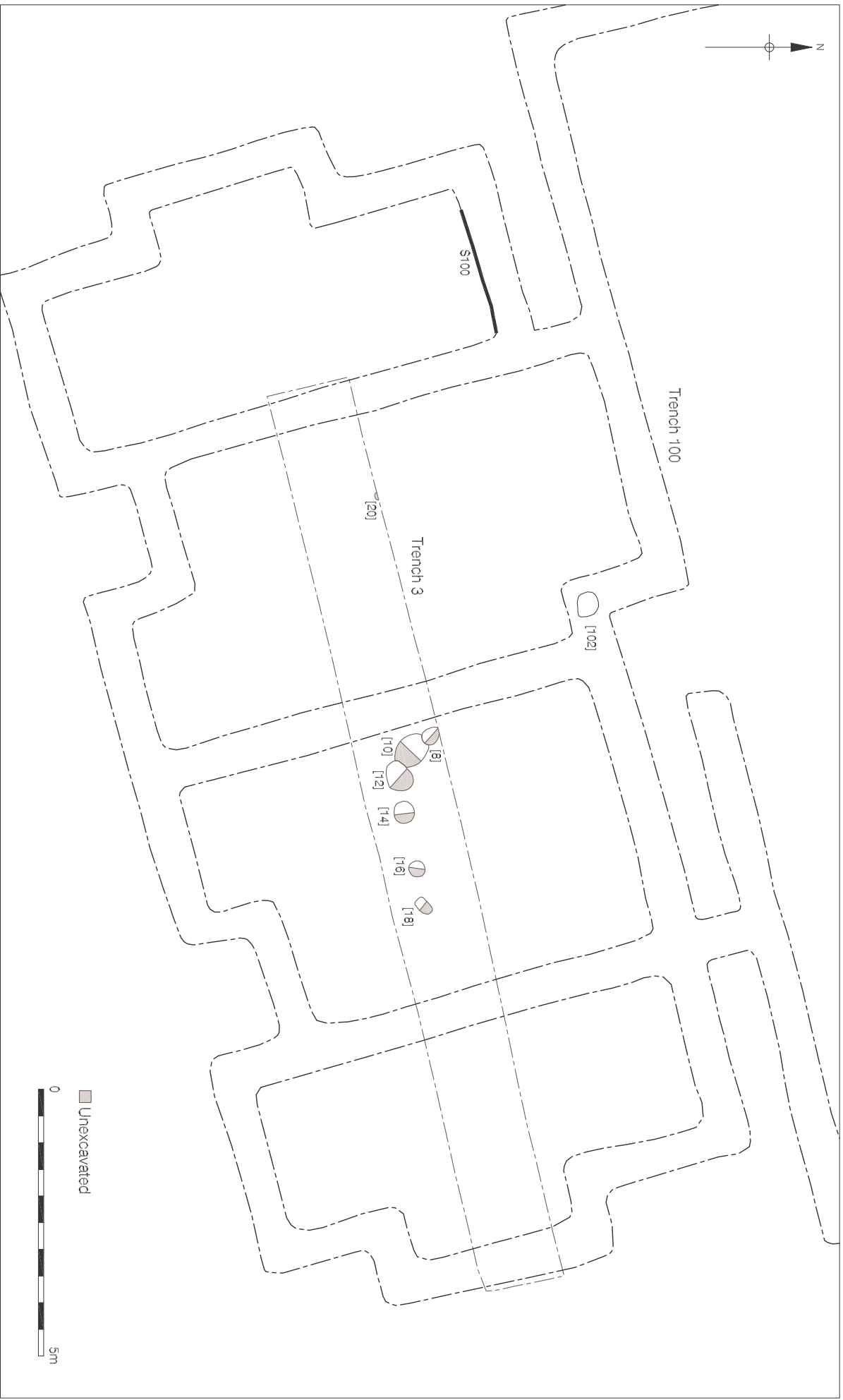


Figure 3  
 Posthole in Trench 100  
 in relation to those found in Evaluation Trench 3  
 1:100

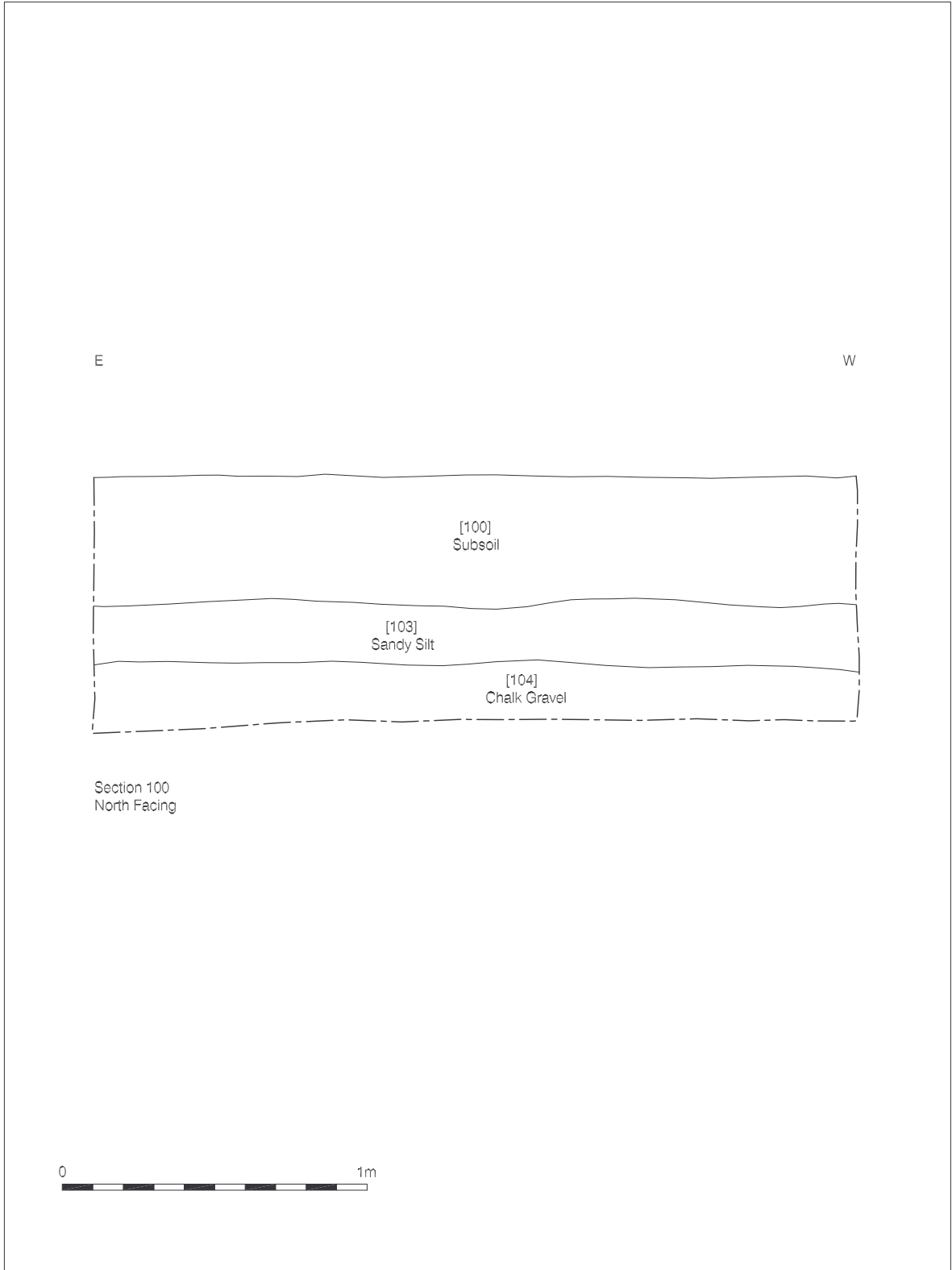


Figure 4  
Section 100  
1:20



## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief revealed natural chalk deposits in all the foundation trenches, which were consistent with the predictions of the British Geological Survey<sup>24</sup>.
- 8.2 A possible posthole [102] was encountered within the foundation Trench 100. This posthole was aligned with a group of possible postholes found during the earlier evaluation, grouped together as [32]. These features ran from east to west, before turning at a right angle and running from south to north. Posthole [102], recorded during the watching brief, was situated directly to the north of this north-south return. As all the postholes were shallow and relatively small, it seems likely that they would have formed a lightweight structure, such as a fence. No dating evidence was found in any of the postholes.
- 8.3 These undated features fit with the results of other archaeological investigations that have taken place within the vicinity of the site, especially on Pampisford Road, where evidence for occupation, such as residual flints, appears to have been scant. This suggests a lack of large-scale occupation in the area, suggesting localised habitation and resource exploitation.

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<sup>24</sup> British Geological Survey, (1994)

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Steve Newland of W.R. Newland & Sons Ltd. for commissioning the project.
  
- 9.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
  
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

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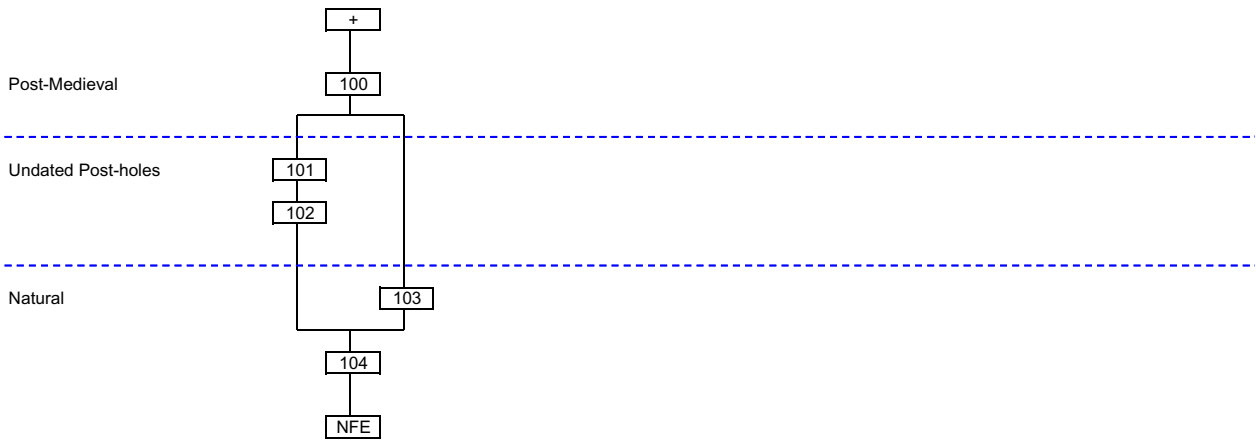
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Appendix 1- Site Matrix



## Appendix 2- Context Index

Context	Plan No.	Section No.	Sample No.	Photo	Phase	Trench No.	Type	Description
100	*	100	*	N	3	100	Layer	Subsoil
101	*	*	*	N	2	100	Fill	Fill of [102]
102	100	*	*	N	2	100	Cut	Possible posthole
103	*	100	*	N	1	100	Layer	Natural silty sand
104	100	100	*	N	1	100	Layer	Natural chalk gravel and sandy silt

## APPENDIX 3- OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

[List of Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Log out](#)

### 1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-12729

#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 3-5 Waddon Way, Croydon
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief to assess the presence or absence of any archaeologically significant deposits. A single undated posthole was recorded, thought to form part of an alignment previously recorded during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 31-01-2006 End: 03-02-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON 3-5 Waddon Way
Postcode	CR0 4HU
Study area	1500.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3181 6370 Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project originator design	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Rebecca Lythe

Sponsor or funding body W. R. Newland and Sons Ltd

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at 3-5 Waddon Way, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon  
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Place of issue or publication Brockley, London  
Description Unpublished report

Entered by Rebecca Lythe (rlythe@pre-construct.com)  
Entered on 3 February 2006

## 2 OASIS:

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