

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION AT  
161 – 163 PAMPISFORD ROAD,  
SOUTH CROYDON,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON**

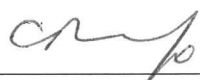

**APRIL 2006**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

161 – 163 PAMPISFORD ROAD,  
SOUTH CROYDON  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

EVALUATION

Quality Control

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**161-163 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon:  
An Archaeological Evaluation**

**Site Code: PPC 06**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3180 6320**

**Written and Researched by Stuart Holden  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, April 2006**

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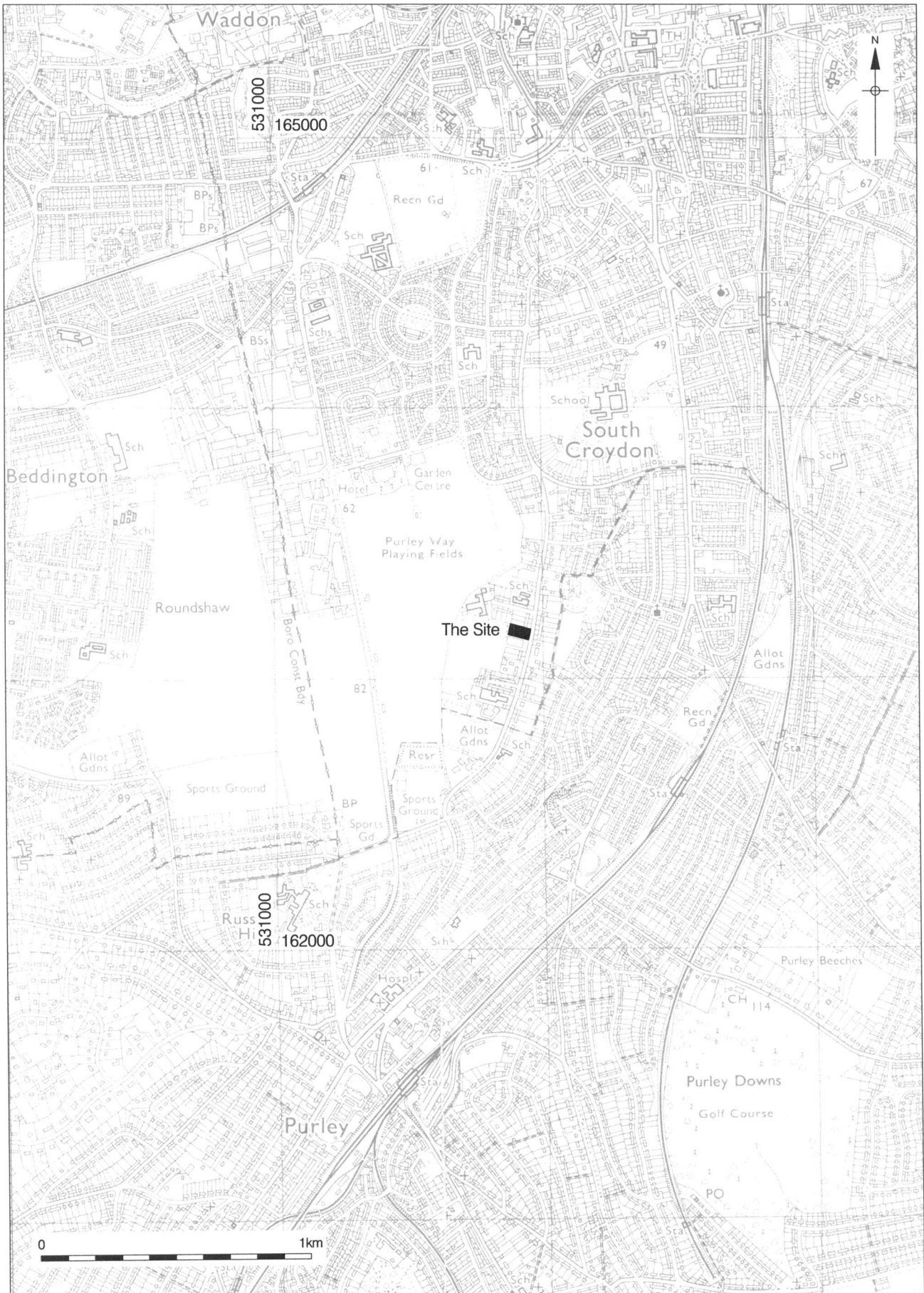
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# **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 161-163 Pampisford Road, London Borough of Croydon (figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was implemented in advance of the proposed development of three blocks of multi-storey residence.
- 1.3 Three trenches were excavated across the site and revealed evidence of prehistoric activity in the area with finds of struck and burnt flint together found residually in the topsoil and subsoil. Two natural features were also recorded.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at 161-163 Pampisford Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (figure 1), in advance of a proposed development.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and commissioned by RMP Developments.
- 2.3 Excavation of a three trenches using a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision was undertaken to the rear of the (now demolished) properties (figure 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 3180 6320.
- 2.5 The site was given the unique code PPC 06.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Holden and was project managed by Tim Bradley and Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.



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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000



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Figure 2  
Proposed Trench Location  
1:625



### **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 (Mayo 2006), 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 Research of the archives held by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 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). An archaeological investigation was undertaken at 238 Pampisford Road but only undated postholes were found (Maloney and Gostick 1998). Residual burnt and struck flint, together with a fragment of possible late-prehistoric pottery were recovered during an evaluation at 240 Pampisford Road (Holden 2005(i)). 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 The name 'Croydon' is of Saxon origin, derived from 'crogdene', and 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.
- 4.5 There is a record of a minster at Croydon as early as AD 809 when King Coenwulf of Mercia held his witan 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.

4.6 Whitgift School, to the north of the subject site, is the site of 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 16<sup>th</sup> century when gardens and formal grounds were laid out. Haling House is located on Rocque's map of 1762 (from Holden 2005(ii)).

## 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 three trenches positioned to the rear of the former properties, each measuring 15m by 2m was agreed with Mark Stevenson, GLAAS monitor, on behalf of Croydon Borough Council. A contingency was agreed for a further two trenches of equal measurements, positioned across the former properties, dependant on the results of the first three.
- 5.3 Under archaeological supervision, a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used to excavate two test pits measuring 1m<sup>2</sup> per evaluation trench. The topsoils from these test-pits were sieved through a 15mm mesh in order to maximise the recovery of flint artefacts and debitage. Once this had been done the machine was then used to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon throughout the whole length of the evaluation trenches. 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 photographic record using 35mm colour transparencies and black and white negative, supplemented by digital format was made as appropriate.
- 5.5 A temporary benchmark (value 81.18m OD) was traversed to the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark located on No. 208A Pampisford Road (value 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 trenches were backfilled using the excavated material.

## 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, at numbers 212-214, an archaeological watching brief identified 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.80.75m OD near the top of a steep river terrace, which slopes away sharply to the east of site and rises gently to the south. The topography of the current land surface within the boundaries of the site is generally flat with a rise of c.0.5m from north to south and c.1.0m from the west to the road at the east.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE (figures 3 and 4)**

### **7.1 Summary**

7.1.1 A similar sequence was seen across the trenches and consisted of natural chalk overlain by a layer of naturally accumulated orangey brown sandy silt subsoil, and dark brown sandy silt topsoil.

### **7.2 Trench 1**

7.2.1 Trench 1 was located parallel and adjacent to the western boundary of the site. Excavation revealed chalk [3] at the southern end of the trench at a level of 80.37m OD and at the northern end of the trench at 79.24m OD. The northern end had been subjected to cut and fill practice and contained a right-angled section of piping proving a modern disturbance.

7.2.2 Above the chalk was moderately firm mid reddish brown silty sand subsoil [2], nominally 0.30m thick, and loose mid-greyish brown silty sand topsoil [1], 0.50m thick. Fragments of roughly struck flint were recovered from these layers.

### **7.3 Trench 2**

7.3.1 Trench 2 was located parallel and adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. It revealed chalk [8] at 80.46m OD at the western end of the trench and 80.49m OD at the eastern end.

7.3.2 Running through the chalk orientated southeast-northwest across the trench was a 2.20m wide channel [7] at a level of 80.45mOD. The hand-excavation of a sondage across the feature revealed no artefactual evidence. It was at least 0.25m deep and was filled with a sterile reddish brown sandy silt [06] which showed signs of leaching. The feature was interpreted as a naturally formed stream channel.

7.3.3 Sealing this was moderately firm mid reddish brown silty sand subsoil [2], nominally 0.30m thick, and loose mid greyish brown silty sand topsoil [1], 0.15m thick. Fragments of roughly struck flint and two pieces of burnt flint were recovered from these layers.

## **7.4 Trench 3**

- 7.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the north of Trench 2 and orientated southwest-northeast. The chalk [13] was recorded at 79.90m OD at the southwestern end of the trench and at 79.81m OD at the northeastern end of the trench.
- 7.4.2 In the centre of the trench, a feature [12] with uneven sides was revealed. A sondage was excavated across the feature which showed it to be at least 0.3m deep and filled with a sterile reddish brown sandy silt [11]. No artefacts were recovered from the fill. With a width of approximately 2.50m and surviving at a height of 79.86m OD, the feature was interpreted as natural, perhaps a stream channel similar to [7].
- 7.4.3 Feature [12] was sealed by moderately firm mid reddish brown silty sand subsoil [10], 0.18m thick, and loose mid greyish brown silty sand topsoil [9], 0.18m thick. No artefacts were recovered from these layers.



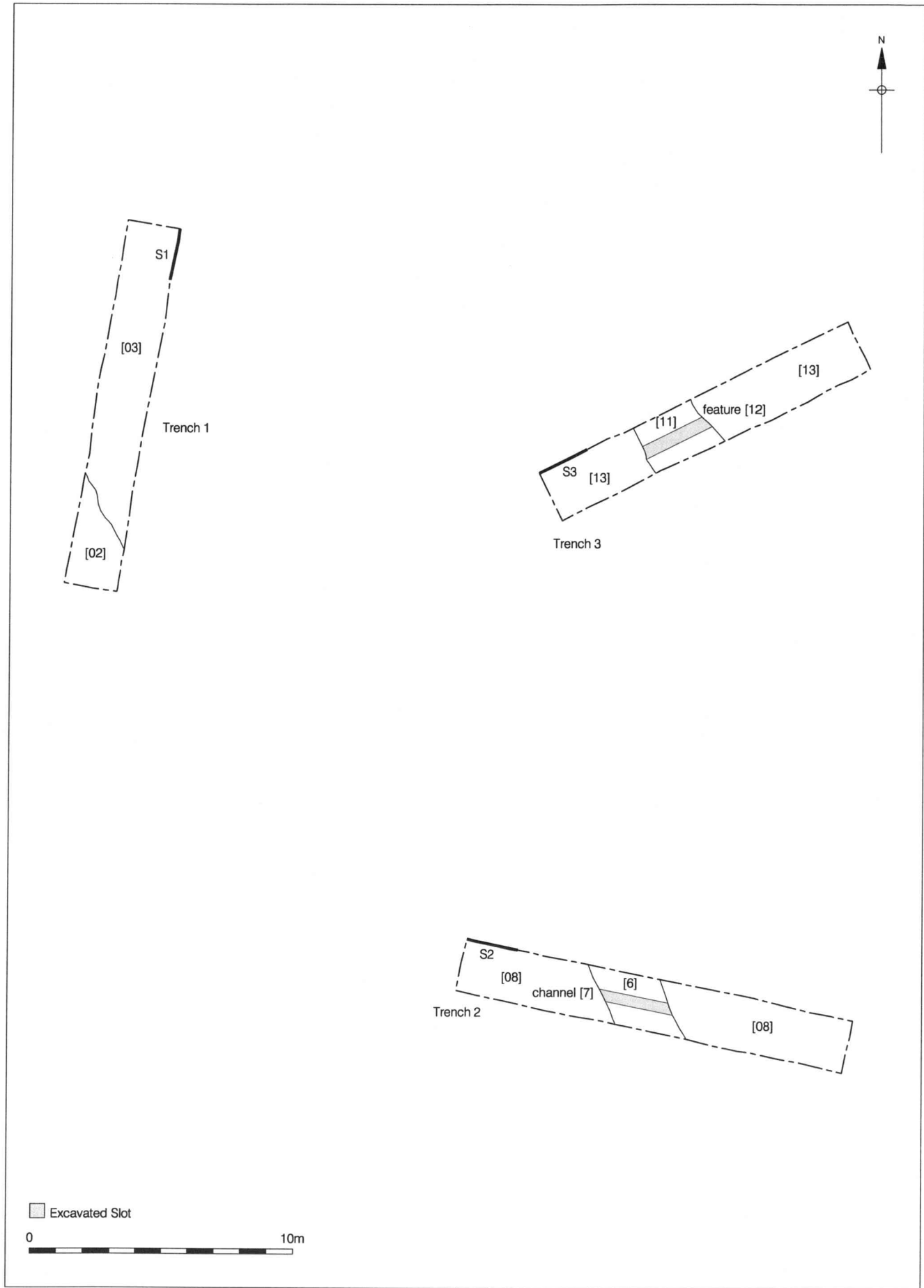
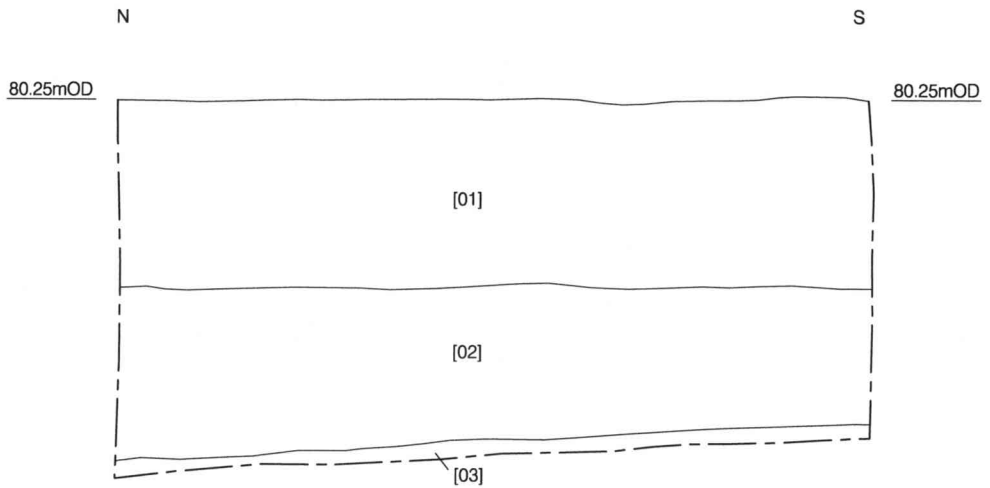
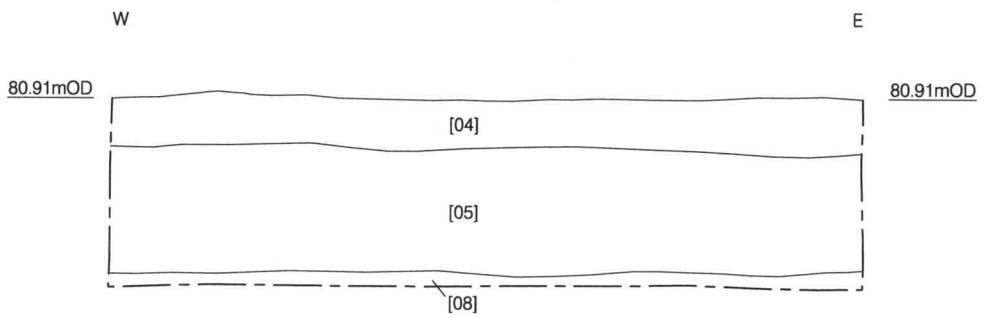


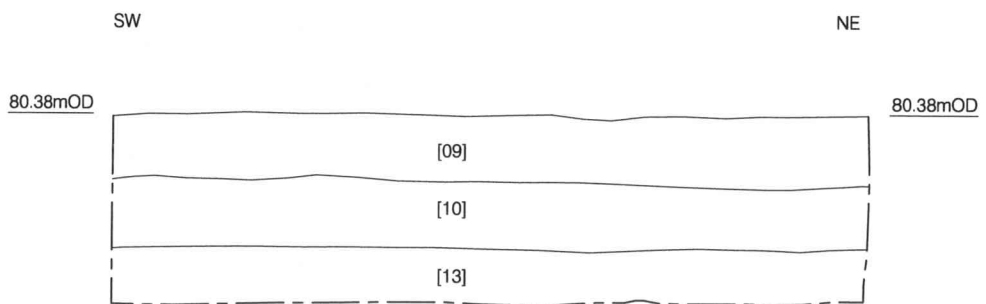
Figure 3  
Trenches 1, 2 & 3  
1:500



Section 1  
Trench 1  
West Facing



Section 2  
Trench 2  
South Facing



Section 3  
Trench 3  
South East Facing



Figure 4  
Sections 1, 2 & 3  
1:20

## **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 No evidence for Saxon or medieval material was recorded on the site.
- 8.3 Taking into account the results of the archaeological trenches, it was considered that additional trenching would not further the archaeological resource.

## **9****ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1    Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank RMP Developments for commissioning the work. The author would like to thank Michael Armstrong of RMP Developments for his cooperation on site, Chris Reece for his help with the evaluation, Hayley Baxter for the drawings and Tim Bradley / Chris Mayo for 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
4	Layer	Topsoil
5	Layer	Subsoil
6	Fill	Fill of [7]
7	Cut	Cut of natural feature
8	Layer	Natural chalk
9	Layer	Topsoil
10	Layer	Subsoil
11	Fill	Fill of [12]
12	Cut	Cut of natural feature
13	Layer	Natural chalk

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-13727**

### Project details

Project name 161-163 Pampisford Road, Croydon

Short description of the project An evaluation of three trenches was conducted on the site. Although a few struck flints and pieces of burnt flint were present in the sub and topsoils, no conclusive evidence of prehistoric settlement was recorded. No other periods were represented. A natural channel was recorded through the chalk.

Project dates Start: 28-03-2006 End: 29-03-2006

Previous/future work No / Not known

Associated project reference codes PPC 06 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Significant Finds STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric

### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CROYDON 161-163 Pampisford Road, South Croydon

Postcode CRO

Study area 2000.00 Square metres

NGR TQ 3180 6320 Point

Height OD Min: 79.24m Max: 80.49m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Sponsor or funding body	RMP Developments

**Project bibliography**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Holden, S
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Entered on	30 March 2006