GREEN HOLLOW, COOMBE HILL
ROAD
ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTONUPON-THAMES



ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING



PCA REPORT NO: R11341

SITE CODE: GNH12

DECEMBER 2012



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

GREEN HOLLOW, COOMBE HILL ROAD ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

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GREEN HOLLOW, COOMBE HILL ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

Site Code: GNH12

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2123 7033

Local Planning Authority: Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

Planning Application Number: 12/14152/FUL

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, December 2012

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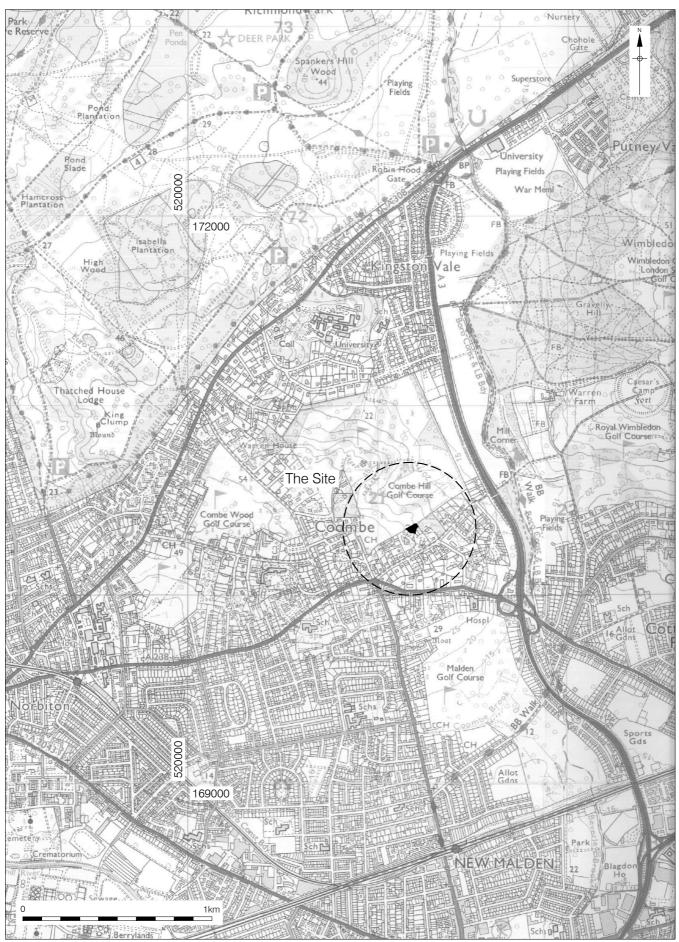
1 Abstract

- 1.1.1 Archaeological observation and recording was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land within the north-western part of the grounds of an extant house; Green Hollow, Coombe Hill Road, Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, KT2 7DU. The archaeological investigation was conducted in advance of the proposed development of the site.
- 1.1.2 The work was commissioned by Q Developments Limited and was in response to an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission (ref; 12/14152/FUL) granted for the residential development of the site.
- 1.1.3 The investigation was undertaken over four days between the 20th and 23rd November 2012 and monitored the removal of overburden down to the top of natural deposits, levelling the ground in preparation for the laying of a piling mat. This covered an area of c.450m² and represents the total footprint of the proposed development, which includes a deep basement.
- 1.1.4 Untruncated natural deposits of sandy gravels were encountered in the south-eastern and north-western parts of the site, while disturbed and/or re-deposited natural sandy gravel was present in the central part of the site.
- 1.1.5 No archaeological finds or features from any period were encountered during this investigation.

2 Introduction

- 2.1.1 An archaeological investigation was conducted between the 20th and the 23rd November 2012 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on a parcel of land within the grounds of an extant house; Green Hollow, Coombe Hill Road, Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, KT2 7DU (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2123 7033.
- 2.1.3 The investigation was commissioned by Q Developments Limited and was monitored for the Local Planning Authority by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage. The field investigation was supervised by Stuart Watson and project managed by Tim Bradley, both of PCA. All work was undertaken following the appropriate English Heritage (GLAAS) (2009) and IFA (2001/2008) guidelines.
- 2.1.4 The investigation was undertaken in response to an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission granted for the residential development of the site by the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames (ref: 12/14152/FUL). The archaeological investigation, the subject of this report, constitutes the mitigation of the impact of this development.
- 2.1.5 The investigation was confined to the area of the footprint of the proposed development; a single detached 7-bedroom dwelling to include an extensive basement to extend across the majority of the building footprint. The development site is an inverted 'Y' shape, but predominantly rectangular and measured circa 30m north-west/south-east by 15m north-east /south-west, giving an approximate area of 450m² (Figure 2).
- 2.1.6 The site is situated within the residential area of Kingston Hill, part of the London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, and lies off Coombe Hill Road to the south and adjacent to Coombe Hill Golf Course to the north-west.
- 2.1.7 The archaeological investigation followed the methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared for the site by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (Bradley 2012) and was intended to discover the quantity and quality of archaeological remains, as dictated by current best practice. The investigation was specifically aimed to:
 - Locate, define, record and date any surviving archaeological deposits, features or finds on the site.
- 2.1.8 In addition the investigation sought to answer the following research questions:
 - What evidence can be revealed of the natural strata and its' topography at the site?
 - Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains in the area of development?
 - Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site?
 - Is there any evidence for medieval activity in the area of development?
 - Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity in the area of the site?
 - What evidence is there for truncation of the stratigraphic sequence through the 20th century development of the site?







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3 Planning Background

- 3.1.1 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaces national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment).
- 3.1.2 Section 12 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 12 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

Delivery of sustainable development.

Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment.

Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and recognition of the contribution that heritage assets make to our understanding of the past.

- 3.1.3 Section 12 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 128 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 3.1.4 Heritage Assets are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 3.1.5 Annex 2 also defines Archaeological Interest as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- 3.1.6 A *Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 3.1.7 Significance is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
- 3.1.8 In short, government policy provides a framework which:

Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage

Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas).

Protects the settings of such designations.

In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field investigation where necessary) to enable informed decisions.

Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit in-situ preservation.

- 3.1.9 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.1.10 The Localism Act, which came into being 15 November 2011, contains provisions which will result in the abolition of regional strategies. However, their abolition will require secondary legislation and until such time as this is introduced they will remain part of the development plan.
- 3.1.11 On 6 May 2009 the Secretary of State published the final approved Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East (The South East Plan). The RSS replaces the Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9), together with the relevant County Structure Plans. The South-East Plan holds the following policy with regard to the historic environment:

Policy BE6: Management of the Historic Environment.

When developing and implementing plans and strategies, local authorities and other bodies will adopt policies and support proposals which protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment and the contribution it makes to local and regional distinctiveness and sense of place. The region's internationally and nationally designated historic assets should receive the highest level of protection. Proposals that make sensitive use of historic assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-used buildings and areas into appropriate use should be encouraged.

Archaeology in the Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames and the UDP

3.1.12 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Royal Borough's *Unitary Development Plan* (UDP), First Alteration 2005, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource. The Development of the site, is subject to the following policies;

Areas of Archaeological Significance

BE19

- (A) where development proposals affect known areas of archaeological significance, as identified on the proposals map, the council will expect provision to be made for a site evaluation, where required, by an archaeological organisation approved by the local planning authority prior to the determination of planning applications;
- (b) where evaluation proves the existence of archaeological remains, the following appropriate action will apply:
- (i) for remains of major archaeological importance, the council will expect provision to be made for preservation in situ and will consider the need for statutory protection of monuments of national importance;
- (ii) for other remains of archaeological importance, a full archaeological excavation will be required prior to any development.
 - Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that archaeological Remains may exist in other areas, the provisions made under (a) and will be applied.
- 3.1.13 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2012) was submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority, and the archaeological work undertaken, as detailed by this report, is in response to that planning condition.

Site Constraints

- 3.1.14 The site lies within an Area of High Archaeological Potential, as defined by the local authority.
 The main focus in this part of the borough is on prehistoric and Roman remains.
- 3.1.15 There are no listed buildings located within the vicinity of the study site and there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the immediate area of the study site.

The proposed development

3.1.16 The proposed development comprises a single detached 7-bedroom house. The development is to take place in the north-western sector of the grounds of an extant house known as Green Hollow. The development area is located on the former site of a late 20th century house (also called Green Hollow) that was demolished in about 2007/08. The development includes an extensive basement that occupies almost the entire footprint of the new building. The remainder of the plot will be given over to gardens.

4 Geology and Topography

Geology

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey does not record any superficial deposits at this location. It records the underlying geology as comprising Eocene Thames Group (London Clay) deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (internet source 1).
- 4.1.2 During the investigation small localised areas of untruncated natural deposits of sandy gravel were encountered at 0.50m below current ground level at 36.96m OD. In the undisturbed areas this was overlain by natural deposits of sand-rich silt at 0.25m below current ground level at 37.26mOD.

Topography

- 4.1.3 The site currently lies within the grounds of 'Green Hollow', an extant large detached house built in approximately 2009 and located 20m to the south-east of this development area. The grounds are mostly laid to lawn with dense shrubbery around the perimeter. There are three large mature trees on site, but it is unknown if they are subject to Tree Protection Orders (TPO). The grounds are to be partitioned along a NE-SW axis to contain the new development.
- 4.1.4 The site has a moderate slope down from west to east with the centre of the site lying at an average elevation of c.37.50m OD.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has previously been detailed in a Desk Based Assessment (Fell 2007). The following represents a summary of the findings from that report:

Prehistoric

5.1.2 The area has considerable potential for the prehistoric periods but lack of modern large scale excavation has limited the understanding of these periods. Many of the references included in the Historic Environment Record (HER) comprise stray finds of isolated artefacts and are frequently poorly referenced. The HER refers to a number of Prehistoric, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements from Coombe. A better provenanced site has been recorded west of Warren Road c.1km west of the site, where a lithic working has been identified within a number of hollows or tree boles. A Neolithic greenstone axe was also found nearby. The potential importance of the higher land west of the site is illustrated by the discovery of a Late Bronze Age defended settlement at Coombe Warren c.300m west of the site.

Roman

- 5.1.3 During the Roman period, the area was away from the main overland communication routes. The principal route through the area was a major road now known as Stane Street, linking Londinium (London) with Noviomagus (Chichester).
- 5.1.4 As with earlier periods, understanding of the Roman period has been limited by the lack of opportunity for detailed excavation and the fact that many of the references in the HER are to antiquarian finds from the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 5.1.5 Ordnance Survey maps of the area note the presence of Roman coins and other remains, the most significant of which was a hoard of late Roman coins found in an urn c.200m west of the site.
- 5.1.6 It is likely that a Roman building existed on Kingston Hill, and the discovery of a fragment of Roman mosaic from Warren Road c.0.8km northwest of the site, indicates the potential of this area to reveal evidence of Roman period buildings.

Saxon and Medieval

- 5.1.7 Little is known of the extent or nature of any Saxon occupation around the site, but the higher ground to the west of the site on Kingston Hill may potentially have contained Saxon settlement.
- 5.1.8 Evidence for the period is limited to the discovery of a Saxon or early medieval spouted pot, found c.700m west of the site, along Warren Park.
 - The site lies within an area referred to generally as Coombe. The place name *Cumbe* or *Combe* has been in use since the 11th century and developed as a separate manor from

Kingston-upon-Thames. The manor house was situated on Fitzgeorge Avenue c.0.5km west of the site, but burnt down in 1368-9. It was replaced and developed into the building later known Combe House. A moated site on the east side of Trapps Lane c.0.5km south of the site may also have had manorial associations and a medieval pond and leat were situated south of Warren Farm c.1km northeast of the site.

Post-Medieval

- 5.1.9 The earliest available map consulted for the area of the site is the first edition one inch Ordnance Survey map, which was compiled *c*.1810. The small scale of this map does not allow the site to be shown in detail, but the site is part of a larger land parcel, between Coombe Lane and Coombe Wood.
- 5.1.10 The later mapping of the area illustrates that the site remained as open land during the late19th and early 20th centuries.
- 5.1.11 By 1933 a tennis court had been constructed on the eastern side of the site with small buildings also evident. This layout remained until the construction of the original *Green Hollow* (demolished 2007/8) in the area of the site in the late 1950s or early 1960s, with the tennis court remaining and a swimming pool evident to the south of the main building. This later phase of construction and associated landscaping is likely to have had some impact on the underlying stratigraphy of the site.

6 Archaeological Methodology

- 6.1.1 The investigation was conducted according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (Bradley 2012) and approved by English Heritage acting on behalf of the Local Authority prior to the commencement of works. The fieldwork was designed to locate, define, record and date any surviving archaeological deposits, features or finds on the site.
- 6.1.2 The WSI for this archaeological investigation stipulated that the ground reduction in the area of the footprint of the proposed development be monitored during the stripping off of the overburden to level the ground prior to the installation of a piling mat. The groundworkers agreed to slightly deepen the excavation to insure that the upper layer of the natural horizon was reached.
- 6.1.3 A 13 ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove the overburden down to the top of the natural gravel. Any features, deposits and finds identified within the trench were then to be cleaned and investigated by hand.
- 6.1.4 Archaeological and geological data was recorded onto pro-forma sheets and recorded in plan and section as appropriate.
- 6.1.5 A comprehensive photographic record was made of each trench using high-resolution (12.5MP) digital photography.
- 6.1.6 All levels are calculated from topographic data annotated on a developers site setting-out plan (Ascot Design; Architecture, drawing number 11-T220-500, dated November 2012).
- 6.1.7 Only one trench, TR1, was excavated, which was located on the footprint of the proposed development. The trench, an inverted 'Y' shape, measured circa 30m north-west/south east by 15m north-east /south-west and was excavated between 0.10m deep in the SE of the trench to 1.0m deep in the SW. The ground slopes up from east to west, hence the variation in depths, the trench being excavated to a constant height of 36.46mOD to provide a level platform for a piling rig.

7 The Archaeological Sequence

7.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position within the phased stratigraphic matrix, as encountered during the archaeological investigation. More details of the archaeological sequence can be found in appendix 1.

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered on site was a natural deposit of mid yellow brown sandy gravel given the context number [1]. This survived in untruncated form in the south-east and the north-west parts of TR1 (Figures 2, 3, Plates 1, 2, 4, 5). The top of this natural deposit was encountered at 0.50m below ground level at 36.96m OD.
- 7.1.3 Overlying [1] was natural deposit of a firm mid reddish brown sandy silt [2]. This had a high sand content, at least 70%, and included moderate amounts of small well rounded pebbles. This deposit, 0.30m thick, appeared to be localised to the SSE part of TR1 and was not encountered anywhere else on site. The top was at 0.25m below ground level at 37.26m OD (Figure 3, Section 1, Plate 1).

Phase 2: modern

- 7.1.4 In the central part of TR1 truncation cut [4] was recorded, filled by [3]. Truncation [4] was a linear cut aligned NE/SW across the central part of TR1 and measured 12.50m NE/SW by 11m NW/SE (Figure 2, 3, Section 5, Plate 4). The fill [3] was a 0.40m thick layer of mid yellow brown sandy gravel with frequent inclusions of CBM fragments, concrete, metal pipes, plastic debris and glass bottles. This fill material was interpreted as disturbed/ or re-deposited natural; essentially a modern made ground deposit. The top of this deposit was at 0.40m below ground level at 36.86m OD (Figure 3, Section 2, Plate 3). Both cut [4] and fill [3] are believed to relate to the demolition of a late 20th century house that stood on the site.
- 7.1.5 In the NW part of the site a 0.45m thick layer of poorly consolidated modern concrete was present overlaying the natural [1] (Figure 3, Section 2, Plate 2). This is likely to be the substrata to a concrete accesses road to the former house.
- 7.1.6 All of the above deposits were sealed over by a thin (0.10m) layer of modern topsoil, topped by grass. This topsoil is likely to have been laid down after the construction of the present Green Hollow house in *c*. 2009 as part of the landscaping of the grounds.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1.1 The investigation conducted at Green Hollow, Coombe Hill Road, Royal Borough of Kingstonupon-Thames, KT2 7DU revealed the presence of natural deposits of sandy gravel and sandy silt within the excavated trench.
- 8.1.2 The natural horizon survived untruncated, but only in localised areas to the south-east and north-west of TR1. The central area, however, displayed evidence that the natural had been horizontally truncated. In the base of the TR1 a distinct liner cut [4] was noted, truncating the natural [1]. The cut was filled by [3], a re-deposited layer of natural sandy gravel mixed with demolition debris. This disturbed area is presumed to lie in the same location formally occupied by the original incarnation of Green Hollow, built sometime in the 1960s and believed to have been demolished in 2007 or 2008. A small sondage was machine excavated in the middle of TR1 to cut through this re-deposited layer to reveal undisturbed natural [1] below at c.36.21m OD (Figures 2, 3 Section 4, Plate 5). The debris from the demolition appeared to have been worked into natural deposits creating a layer of made ground c.0.70m thick. The lack of any foundations within cut [4] and the inclusion of a high proportion of building debris, leads to the conclusion that this feature was formed to dispose of demolition material, rather than as a construction cut for the original house.
- 8.1.3 The various developments that have taken place on this site during the late 20th and early 21st centuries are likely to have impacted on most of the study area. However, small pockets of untruncated natural have been demonstrated to survive, with the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. However, in this particular location, no evidence for any activity from any period pre-dating the modern era was encountered during the watching brief and this report concludes negative results for the location of the present development.

9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Q Developments Limited for commissioning this project.
- 9.1.2 The author would like to thank the groundworkers for their help and assistance during the investigation.
- 9.1.3 The author would also like to thank PCA CAD department for the illustrations and Tim Bradley who edited this report.

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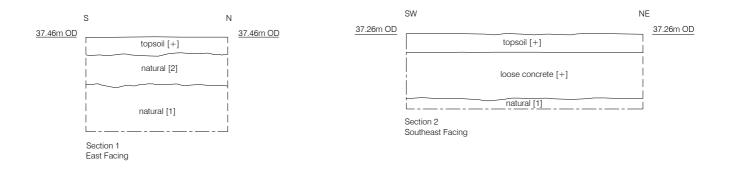
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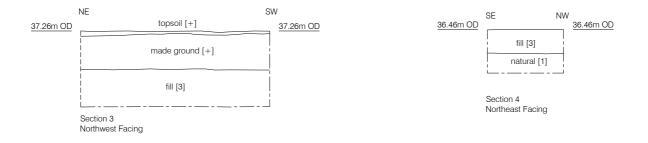
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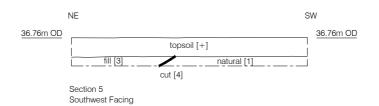
Internet:

Internet source 1: British Geological Survey;

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 27/11/12.









Plates 1-5.



Plate 1: D1.5 taken 22/11/12. TR 1.Section 1, red brown natural [2] over sandy gravel natural [1]. Scale1m looking W.



Plate 2: D1.7 taken 22/11/12. TR1. Section 2. Showing layer of modern concrete over natural [1]. Presumed to be an access road. Scales 1m looking NW.



Plate 3: D1.12 taken 22/11/12. TR1, section 3 showing [3] below topsoil. Scale1m looking SE.



Plate 4: D1.16 taken 23/11/12. TR1. Mid trench, showing natural [1] to the left of scale, cut by re-deposited natural [3] to right; cut [4] is parallel with scale. Scale 1m looking NE.



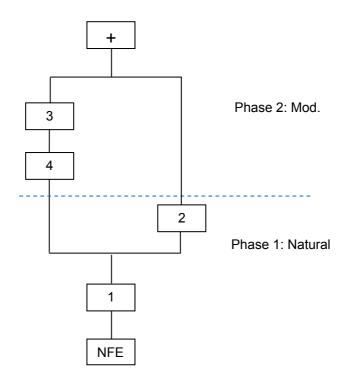
Plate 5: D1.17 taken 23/11/12. TR1. Slot in base of trench showing re-deposited natural [3] over undisturbed natural [1; layer below green-grey clay and CBM. Scale 0.5m looking W.

Appendix 1: Context Index

Context Number	Туре	Trench No	Section No	Description	Date	Phase
1	Natural	TR1	1,2,4,5	Nat. Sandy gravel	Natural	1
2	Natural	TR1	1	Nat. Sandy silt	Natural	1
3	Fill	TR1	3, 4, 5	of [4]. Re-deposited Sandy gravel with freq. CBM, conc., etc	Modern	2
4	Cut	TR1	5	Cut filled by demo debris [3]	Modern	2

Appendix 2: Site Matrix

GNH12



Appendix 3: OASIS form

Project details

Project name Green Hollow, Coombe Hill Road, Royal Borough of Kingston

Upon Thames. An Archaeological Investigation

Short

description of the project

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Green Hollow, Coombe Hill Road, Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames, KT2 7DU. The archaeological investigation was conducted in advance of the proposed development of the site. The investigation monitored the removal of overburden down to the top of natural deposits, levelling the ground in preparation for the laying of a piling mat. Untruncated natural deposits of sandy gravels were encountered in the south-eastern and north-western parts of the site, while disturbed and/or re-deposited natural sandy gravel was present in the central part of the site. No archaeological finds or features from any period were encountered during this investigation.

investigation.

Project dates Start: 20-11-2012 End: 23-11-2012

Previous/future

work

Yes / Not known

Any associated

project

reference codes

GNH12 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land

use

Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant NONE None

Finds

Methods & "Visual Inspection"

techniques

Development Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

type

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the

planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project

location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES KINGSTON

UPON THAMES Green Hollow, Coombe Hill Road, Kingston

upon Thames

Postcode KT2 7DU

Study area 450.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 2123 7033 51 0 51 25 06 N 000 15 22 W Point

Height OD / Min: 36.96m Max: 37.26m

Depth

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Organisation

Project brief Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

originator

Project design

Tim Bradley

Tim Bradley

originator

Project

director/manage

Project Stuart Watson

supervisor

Туре of Developer

sponsor/funding

body

Name of Q Developments Itd

sponsor/funding

body

Project

archives

Physical No

Archive Exists?

Digital Archive

Media

recipient

Digital Contents "none"

Digital "Images raster / digital photography"

available

Paper Archive

recipient

LAARC

LAARC

"none" **Paper Contents**

"Context Paper Media

available sheet","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpu

blished Text"

Project

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Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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