LAND AT 1 WANDLE ROAD AND 19 SCARBROOK ROAD, CROYDON CRO 1EX



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



PCA REPORT NO: R11490

SITE CODE: WAN13

AUGUST 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

1 WANDLE ROAD AND 19 SCARBROOK ROAD, CROYDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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LAND AT 1 WANDLE ROAD AND 19 SCARBROOK ROAD, CROYDON CRO 1EX AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Site Code: WAN13

Central NGR: TQ 3226 6530

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Croydon

Commissioning Client: Durkan

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 7th August and 16th August 2013. The work was commissioned by Durkan. The site comprised a cleared plot of land at the corner of 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road CR0 1EX. The northern half of the site that fronts Scarbrook Road had previously been subjected to development in the form of a tower block. This was demolished prior to any archaeological investigations taking place on site, although reinforced concrete footings remain subsurface. The site was centred on NGR TQ 3226 6530 (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The investigations revealed a surviving archaeological sequence across the site that comprised of naturally-occurring sandy-gravels (ranging in height from 43.92m OD to 44.15m OD) overlain by a colluvial or hill-wash deposit (44.41m OD to 44.86m OD), formed over the area as a result of the gravitational movement of soil downhill. One cut feature was observed made in to natural gravels, although this contained no dating material and could therefore have been naturally created. A trench positioned along the eastern side of the centre of the area recorded natural gravels to be overlain by a medieval horizon. This was followed by a colluvial layer with cut features made through it and containing residual medieval material within a post-medieval feature. These were in turn covered by thick post-medieval levelling or dumped horizons.
- 1.3 Cut in to the colluvial/hill-wash deposit in a trench towards the south-east of the site was a substantial late-medieval/early post-medieval chalk wall (at 44.65m OD), approximately parallel with the modern Whitgift Street to the south. This continued beyond the trench to the east and was cut by a modern service trench to the west. A robber trench removed the top courses of chalk from the medieval wall. A further robber trench at approximately right angles to the earlier wall was backfilled with chalk fragments and ceramic building material and is thought to relate to a contemporary phase of wall robbing. The sequence was completed by a levelling layer of late post-medieval dumped material.
- 1.4 A test-pit excavated towards the west of the site and over an area previously developed by a building to the south of the demolished tower block observed a comparable sequence. Natural sandy-gravels with a cut feature made through them, were sealed by a hill-wash layer that had a chalk wall above it at approximately 90° to Whitgift Street (at 44.54m OD). This survived as only a few courses of masonry and is thought to have been either robbed or truncated by the previous development over the area.
- 1.5 The area of the site previously covered by the demolished tower block structure was presumed to have been completely devoid of surviving archaeological stratigraphy. However, monitoring of engineering trenches intended to expose the reinforced concrete footings of this building observed brick and chalk walls surviving in the trench faces. This observation confirms an intact archaeological sequence dating from the post-medieval period (and therefore also potentially earlier) in the areas between the footings. However, parts of the site

- were seen to have suffered from this phase of development. In a test-pit dug towards the centre of the area, turned-over ground containing a range of dating materials and finds was recorded down to a height of approximately 3m below ground level.
- 1.6 The results of these works confirm the presence of an intact archaeological sequence across areas of the site previously undeveloped (south and east) with some survival around the footings of the previously developed areas (north and west). The chalk walls are thought to relate to buildings dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. Conjecture of the location of the walls suggests those observed may represent the southern and western sides of a building that fronted the present day Whitgift Street. The foundation trench in Trench 2 may be from the northern side of the building. The absence of any observed Roman archaeology was surprising: previous archaeological investigations to the immediate east of the site recorded pitting and ditch cutting across that area that was not seen to continue to the south-west.
- 1.7 The following table gives maximum heights in metres Ordnance Datum of the archaeological results observed during the works:

	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 2	Trench 1	Trench 2
Natural gravels	44.10	-	44.15	43.92
Colluvium	44.41	-	44.86	44.53
Chalk walls	44.54	-	44.65	-

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation on a vacant plot of land at 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road in the London Borough of Croydon (Figure 1) between the dates of 7th August and 16th August 2013. The work was prompted following consultation with Mark Stevenson, the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Croydon.
- 2.2 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone defined by the London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments located within the site.
- 2.3 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was prepared for the site in 2008¹. It concluded the archaeological potential as moderate for the prehistoric, Saxon and medieval periods and a moderate to high potential for the Roman period. No geotechnical reports or borehole data were available for the site although the archaeological works at 2-14 Whitgift Street elucidated as to the height and nature of natural occurring deposits.
- Several archaeological investigations at 2-14 Whitgift Street (immediately adjacent to the southeast of the site) uncovered multiple phases of occupation across the area. Those conducted in 1987-8 by the Croydon Natural History Society revealed prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval cut features and finds. Subsequent works by the Museum of London in 1995 observed prehistoric lithics, late Roman pits and a ditch as well as a large medieval pit. The finds suggested the area was cultivated from the medieval period to the 19th century when tenement housing was constructed across the site. Further work by the Museum of London in 2006 once again witnessed Roman pitting and a ditch cut as well as medieval, post-medieval pit cuts and an east to west aligned 17th century boundary wall. The Roman features are significant as they appeared as nucleated on the western side of 2-14 Whitgift Street and could credibly extend into the eastern side of the proposed redevelopment site.
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Durkan and the work was monitored by the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Croydon, Mark Stevenson of English Heritage. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited carried out the archaeological investigation under the on-site supervision of the author and the project management of Tim Bradley, who also produced the Written Scheme of Investigation² and edited this report.
- 2.6 Two stepped trenches, measuring between 4m to 11m long by 1.8m wide at their base, were excavated towards the east of the site (Figure 2). Although not targeted, these were positioned so as to be outside the area disturbed by the previous development and in an area where the continuation of archaeological features observed at 2-14 Whitgift Street might be

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Dicks, S. (2008) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Scarbrook Road, Croydon. CqMsConsulting, unpublished report

² Bradley, T. (2013) Land at 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road, Croydon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

observed. In addition to this, two test pits measuring between 4 to 6m long by 2m wide were excavated across the centre of the site to test the extent of disturbance caused by the previous development. Under archaeological supervision, these were machine excavated in spits of no more than 100mm to the archaeological horizons or naturally occurring deposits, whichever was noted first.

2.7 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code WAN13.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27th 2012, constituting guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.
- 3.1.2 Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:
 - 128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
 - Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Additionally:

- 141. Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.
- 3.1.3 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will now be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 Regional Policy is provided by policy 7.8 from The London Plan:

Historic environment and landscapes

Policy 7.8 Heritage assets and Archaeology

Strategic

A London's historic environment, including natural landscapes, conservation areas, heritage assets, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and memorials should be identified, preserved and restored.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present, the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

- C Development should preserve, refurbish and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
- D New development in the setting of heritage assets, and conservation areas should be sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.
- E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources and significant memorials. Where the artefact or memorial cannot be moved from the site without damaging its cultural value, the assets should where possible be made available to the public on-site.

LDF preparation

- F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and increase the contribution of built heritage to London's environmental quality and economy while allowing for London to accommodate change and regeneration.
- G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying and protecting heritage assets scheduled ancient monuments, archaeological assets, memorials and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 Local Policy: The London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development Plan

3.3.1 The London Borough of Croydon adopted policies concerning the preservation of archaeological remains into its Replacement Unitary Development Plan adopted 13th July 2006³. The plan states that:

The council will promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the Borough and its interpretation and presentation to the public.

5.9 Archaeological remains are the main surviving evidence of Croydon's past. They are important to local identity, are valuable for their role in education, recreation and tourism. Archaeological remains are a finite and fragile resource, easily destroyed by development. Once they are gone, part of the Borough's past is lost forever.

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³http://www.croydon.gov.uk/contents/departments/planningandregeneration/pdf/Chapter_5_Urban_conservatio1.pdf

3.3.2 The Unitary Development Plan contains policy and guidance for development and protection of the buried archaeological resource:

Development Proposals on Archaeological Sites

UC11 Development will only be permitted if all the following criteria are met:

- Proposals have been properly assessed and planned for archaeological implications, where development may affect the archaeological heritage of a site. This may involve preliminary archaeological site evaluations, commissioned by the applicants from a professionally qualified archaeological practice or archaeological consultant;
- ii. Early co-operation regarding the proposals between landowners, developers and archaeological practices, in accordance with the principles of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice, has been demonstrated.
 - The siting and design of the new development has regard to minimising the disturbance of archaeological remains, ensuring that those most important are permanently preserved in situ.
 - iv An appropriate level of archaeological investigation, excavation, recording, analysis and publication has been agreed with the Council, secured where appropriate by the use of planning conditions or agreements.
 - v The provision of access and facilities that interpret and explain archaeological sites to the public has been considered, secured where appropriate by the use of planning conditions or agreements.
 - 5.39 The archaeology of the Borough can best be protected if as much information as possible is available at the planning application stage. The evaluation, which may involve fieldwork, is needed so that the Council can assess the archaeological implications of proposals. Where appropriate the evaluation may show how developments can be designed so that they do not harm a site. When assessing the requirement for a site evaluation report the significance of any ground disturbance will be taken into account, and will depend on the factors such as the type, extent, quality and exact position of archaeological remains.
 - 5.40 Archaeological Priority Zones where archaeological remains are most likely to be found are listed below and are shown on the Proposals Map and on Map 3 at the end of this chapter. The Sites and Monuments Record for Greater London identifies the location of archaeological remains. It is held by English Heritage and is updated continually.
 - 5.41 Outside the Archaeological Priority Zones that reflect the present state of knowledge, there may be other areas of archaeological potential and the Council will

- seek advice from English Heritage on whether or not an evaluation is needed.
- 5.42 The Council will also seek the advice of English Heritage on the competency and expertise of the practices intending to undertake archaeological work.
- 5.43 Except for removable artefacts and other certain materials, the process of archaeological excavation destroys evidence. Archaeological techniques are continually improving and therefore more information is most likely to be extracted from sites in the future. For this reason, archaeological evidence should remain undisturbed where practicable.
- 5.44 Understanding Croydon's archaeological heritage is important, providing a sense of place for local residents and visitors. Both excavations and protected sites can be managed in a way that enhances their educational and recreational value. The Council will publish further information about archaeology in Croydon, including descriptions of the Archaeological Priority Zones.

Archaeological Priority Zones

1. Norwood Grove	19. Addington	36. Atwood School, Sanderstead	
2. Begin Farm	20. South End,	37. Hartley Farm	
	Croydon		
3. Norbury Manor	21. Addington Hills	38. Deepfield Way, Coulsdon	
4. Pollards Hill	22. Haling Park	39. Watendone Village	
5. London-Brighton Road	23. Ballards	40. Cane Hill Hospital	
6. Burtmore Farm	24. Castle Hill,	41. Kenley Manor	
	Addington		
7. Bensham Manor	25. Croham Hurst	42. Whyteleafe	
8 Sellis Place.	26. Pampisford Road	43. The Grange, Coulsdon	
9. Woodside	27. Boundary Road,	44. Elm Grove Farm	
	south of Rowdown		
	Wood.		
10. Wandle Gravels	28. Russell Hill	45. Starrock Road	
11. Broad Green	29. The Ridgeway,	48. Hooley Farm	
	Purley		
12. Ham Farm	30. Addington Golf	47. Tauntons	
	Course		
13. West Shirley	31. Selsdon	48. Tollers Farm	
14. Waddon / Beddington	32. Woodcote Village	49. Windmill Farm, Coulsdon	
15.Croydon (including Park	33. Sanderstead	50. Devilsden Wood	
Hill Farm)	Village		
16. Addiscombe	34. Riddlesdown	51. Kenley Aerodrome	
17. Spring Park	35. Kings Wood,	52. Kent Gateway	
	Sanderstead (including		
	linking road).		
18. Coombe Farm		53. Elmers End	

Preserving Nationally Important Remains

- UC12 There will be a presumption against development that would harm archaeological remains of national importance and their setting, whether scheduled or not.
- 5.45 The national importance of some remains may be such as to warrant their preservation in situ. Archaeological remains are often highly fragile and vulnerable to damage, and irreplaceable evidence may be lost as a result of development or even as a result of prior archaeological excavation. Preservation by record involves excavation of a site to record archaeological remains in advance of development.

Preserving Locally Important Remains

- UC13 Decisions on development proposals affecting local 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.
- 5.46 Other archaeological sites contain information that is potentially vital to an understanding of Croydon's past. This can only be retrieved through proper excavation, analysis and recording. The information cannot be used as a local educational and cultural resource unless finds are looked after and results published. The Council will encourage landowners, archaeologists and developers to co-operate in accordance with the Code of Practice agreed by the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group. In line with this Code, and in place of a Museum and Galleries Commission-approved local alternative, the appropriate museum for the donation or lodging of archaeological archives is currently the Museum of London. A copy of any resultant report will also need to be lodged with the appropriate local studies library.
- 3.3.3 The site is located within an Archaeology Priority Zone.
- 3.3.4 The site does not contain, nor is it close to, any Scheduled Ancient Monument.

3.4 Planning Permission

3.4.1 In accordance with the archaeological condition a written scheme of investigation was produced by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd⁴. Through the advice of the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Croydon, Mark Stevenson of English Heritage, a programme involving the excavation of three archaeological evaluation trenches was decided upon.

3.5 Research Design

- 3.5.1 The archaeological evaluation was designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 3.5.2 The evaluation aimed to address the following objectives:
 - To determine the natural topography of the site
 - To determine the geoarchaeological sequence at the site
 - To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, whether settled occupation or artefact scatters/residual finds as identified immediately to the east
 - To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity on the site. Does the evidence on the site further elucidate the nature of the Roman occupation previously recorded to the east?
 - To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity on the site. Is there a continuation of the pitting recorded to the east or associated activity?

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⁴ Bradley, T. (2013) Land at 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road, Croydon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

- . To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

- 4.1.1 Croydon is located on outcrops of solid rock (Upper Chalk) which form the hills of the North Downs and date to approximately 80 million years ago when a shallow sea covered the region⁵.
- 4.1.2 The site overlies geological recent river terrace gravel (Taplow Terrace⁶), deposited along the valley floor as periglacial outwash, one of a series of terraces in the Croydon area which reflect fluctuations in climate and sea level during the Pleistocene⁷.
- 4.1.3 Recent work at 2-14 Whitgift Street observed natural gravel at approximately 2m below ground level at a height of 46.95m OD on the south-eastern side, falling away in a northwesterly direction to 43.96m OD⁸.
- 4.1.4 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is not aware of any geotechnical investigations or borehole research having been carried out across the study site and has therefore not been possible to create a deposit model of the site prior to the present fieldwork.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is located on a west-facing slope, overlooking the lower (northern) end of a north-south dry valley. The valley was originally occupied by the River Wandle, as part of a more extensive tributary system of the Thames. Present day ground level lies at approximately 46.03m OD at the south-eastern corner of the site sloping down to approximately 45.02m OD at the south-western corner of the site.

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⁵ Bright (2013) 2-4 Fellmonger's yard, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RG: A Proactive Archaeological Observation and Recording Exercise. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report ⁶ British Geological Society Sheet 286

⁷ Peake, D. (1982) The Ground upon Which Croydon was Built- A Reappraisal of the Pleistocene History of The River Wandle and its Basin. *Procc CNHSS* 17(4) 89-116

⁸ MoLAS (2007) 2-14 Whitgift Street, Croydon, CR0: An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment. Museum of London, unpublished report

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The following is a brief outline of the historical and archaeological background of the area.

5.2 Prehistoric (450,000 BC - 43 AD)

- 5.2.1 Mesolithic and Neolithic finds are recorded in the Croydon area, and settlement activity dating from the Bronze Age period is known of as well. The Wandle valley, in which the site is located, is known to have been an attractive place to prehistoric populations with the higher and drier gravel terraces providing ideal locations for hunting and gathering, and (later on) a more settled agricultural lifestyle. There has been less recorded evidence of Iron Age activity but it is attested from findspots, such as late Iron Age pottery form 3-7 Park Street⁹.
- 5.2.2 The archaeological investigations to the immediate east of the study site at 2-14 Whitgift Street recorded considerable lithic finds (141 artefacts of Mesolithic and Neolithic date). This assemblage indicates substantial prehistoric activity with abundant knapping debris and crude end scrapers from some contexts of possible Bronze Age date plus earlier Mesolithic material perhaps washed from higher upslope and patinated from exposure to chalk. Several episodes of prehistoric activity are represented. Of the retouched/utilised pieces scrapers predominate indicating hide preparation¹⁰.
- 5.2.3 Thirty Mesolithic-Neolithic flint artefacts were recovered from post holes and other features during an archaeological evaluation in Tamworth Road to the north. Neolithic finds were also recovered during excavations in Mint Walk c. 200m to the northeast. The Surrey Street multistorey car park, c. 200m to the north of the site, revealed a natural channel orientated southeast-northwest which contained over 80 flint artefacts including flakes and blades¹¹.
- 5.2.4 Redeposited prehistoric flints and pottery were recovered from post-medieval features and gravel during an archaeological evaluation on Scarbrook Road in 1992¹². These suggest occupation dating to the prehistoric period in the immediate vicinity.

5.3 Roman (AD 43 – 410)

5.3.1 The Roman London to Portslade Way is known to have passed through the area of modern Croydon, and Roman archaeology has been excavated on the current Brighton Road (A235). It is generally considered that a well-established settlement existed in Croydon in the Roman period, and evidence has been found in the areas around George Street, Surrey Street, Park

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⁹ Bright (2013) 2-4 Fellmonger's yard, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RG: A Proactive Archaeological Observation and Recording Exercise. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

MoLAS (2007) 2-14 Whitgift Street, Croydon, CR0: An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment. Museum of London, unpublished report

¹¹ Dicks, S. (2008) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Scarbrook Road, Croydon. CgMs Consulting, unpublished report

Saxby, D. (1992) Archaeological Evaluation at Scarbrook Road, Croydon. MoLAS unpublished report

- Street and Whitgift Street¹³. Human remains dated to the Roman period were observed during works to the rear of 22 High Street 14.
- It is suggested that as Croydon lies approximately ten miles south of central London it may 5.3.2 have been used as the site of a posting station or Mutatio, for changing horses. Had there been a posting station at this point a settlement would have inevitably developed 15.
- Cut features and finds from the excavations at 2-14 Whitgift Street suggest that occupation on the site and in the area developed in the later part of the Roman period, though there is some residual evidence for early Roman and possibly late Iron Age activity¹⁶. Archaeological evaluation of land at the corner of Scarbrook Road and Charles Road also observed Roman pottery fragments¹⁷.
- A hoard of 3,800 Roman coins, dating to 337-361 AD, were found in two pots, either at 5.3.4 Waddon Road, Wandle Road or Whitgift Street, west and southwest of the study site respectively 18.

5.4 Saxon

- The name Croydon is supposed to have originated from the Saxon Crogdena, meaning 'valley 5.4.1 where the wild saffron (crocus) grows,19.
- 5.4.2 A 5th/6th century Saxon cemetery was discovered in the 1890's to the southeast of the study site at Edridge Road and additional evidence of Saxon occupation in Croydon is known from excavations at 82-86 Park Lane²⁰. It is thought that the late Saxon settlement may have been in the vicinity of the parish church which itself is thought to be built on the site of a Saxon predecessor²¹.
- The earliest documentary reference to Croydon dates to the 9th century when Archbishop 5.4.3 Aethered exchanged land in 'Crogedene' for land belonging to Aelfred at Chartham in Kent²². By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the Manor of Croydon, 'Croindene', belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

¹³ Askew, P. (2003) 23-31 Lower Coombe Street and Land adjacent to 11 Lower Coombe Street and 17 St Andrews Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Assessment. MoLAS unpublished report.

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.jsf?titleId=626584

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷ http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record.jsf?titleId=351273

Dicks, S. (2008) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Scarbrook Road, Croydon. CgMs Consulting, unpublished report

Pooley, A. (2011) Land at 57-61 Sumner Road, London Borough of Croydon CR0 3LN: An Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

20 Askew, P. (2003) 23-31 Lower Coombe Street and Land adjacent to 11 Lower Coombe Street and

¹⁷ St Andrews Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Assessment. MoLAS unpublished report. ²¹ *Ibid*.

²² Ibid.

5.5 Medieval (1066 - 1539)

- 5.5.1 Croydon developed as a planned 11th -12th century medieval town, centred on the Archbishops Palace (Old Palace Road). The Lords of the Manor at that time, and long after, were the Archbishops of Canterbury. A weekly market and annual fair had been established by 1280 both of which were subsequently expanded in 1314 and 1343. The weekly market is most likely to have been held in Surrey Street. The town was relatively small and only began to expand the old town in the late medieval period²³.
- 5.5.2 Croydon continued to develop through the later medieval period and by the 16th century it had become a large market town at the centre of the nearby charcoal burning industry of the 'Great North Wood'.
- 5.5.3 Archaeological results from this period obtained during the excavations at 2-14 Whitgift Street note that medieval structural remains were limited to a handful of cut features and a flint and chalk wall though no associated artefacts and ecofacts were found associated with the latter. The medieval pottery found within the cut features was sparse and often found alongside Roman and post-medieval pottery. Charred cereal grains were found within one pit along with bones from rabbit, rat and fish in another²⁴.

5.6 Post-medieval and Modern (1539 – Present)

- 5.6.1 Although it is commonly thought that the area of the site was probably open ground until the mid 19th century²⁵, a pottery assemblage taken from the backfill of a well excavated during the 2-14 Whitgift Street works was dated to 1630-1650. This suggests that domestic occupation of the area immediately beyond and potentially within the study site began earlier and the area may have lain within the back gardens of houses fronting a precursor to Whitgift Street. In association with this an east to west aligned chalk was found with a brick built boundary wall and a gravel path²⁶.
- 5.6.2 The River Wandle rose from a spring to the south of Croydon and flowed northwards along Southbridge Road towards the Old Town. By the time it reached the town it was 20ft wide and began to divide into smaller channels. Documentary sources record several springs, ponds and streams on Scarbrook Hill. The 1800 Enclosure Map (not reproduced) shows the site occupying part of a pond which may suggest a spring on or near to the site²⁷. This has been filled in by the time of the 1869 OS map (not reproduced) with the site appearing as being

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²³ Dicks, S. (2008) *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Scarbrook Road, Croydon.* CgMs Consulting, unpublished report

MoLAS (2007) 2-14 Whitgift Street, Croydon, CR0: An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment. Museum of London, unpublished report
 Pooley, A. (2011) Land at 57-61 Sumner Road, London Borough of Croydon CR0 3LN: An

Pooley, A. (2011) Land at 57-61 Sumner Road, London Borough of Croydon CR0 3LN: An Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report 26 Ibid.

²⁷ Bradley, T. (2013) Land at 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road, Croydon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

characterised as a sparsely wooded open space28.

- With the coming of the railway in the early 19th century and canal links, Croydon became the 5.6.3 largest town in East Surrey. It became a London Borough in 1886²⁹. Terraced housing was built fronting Wandle and Scarbrook Roads and is visible on a 1913 OS map (not reproduced).30
- The town was severely damaged by bombing during the Second World War³¹. The previously 5.6.4 observed terraced housing has been demolished by the time of the 1970 OS map³². This made room for the recently demolished 7-storey high Quantum House, a tower block built on the site in the 1980s.

²⁸ Dicks, S. (2008) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Scarbrook Road, Croydon. CqMs Consulting, unpublished report ²⁹ Weinreb, B., & Hibbert, C., (eds.) (1983) *The London Encyclopaedia*. Macmillan, London.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation³³ it was intended that three trenches measuring 1.8m by 10m at their base should be excavated. Considering previous archaeological works at the adjacent 2-14 Whitgift Street that observed natural stratigraphy at approximately -2.00m below ground level, it was envisaged that stepping of the trenches may have been required.
- An on-site meeting with Graham Fisher of Durkan on 5th August 2013 identified several problems with the proposed location of the three trenches, as detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation³⁴. Trench 1 was positioned too close to an electricity substation so was to be moved for safety reasons. Trench 2 needed to be repositioned at least 2m away from the wall of the newly constructed tower block to the immediate east as well as away from vehicular access to the site. Trench 3 was placed over a previously developed area of the site. This trench was to be split into three test pits, two placed over the old footings to investigate the extent of their damage to underlying archaeological horizons and one immediately outside of the old footprint to also gauge the impact of previous development (Figure 2).
- 6.3 Further modification to the trench arrangement was made following clearing the site of rubbish and vegetation and the locating of existing service runs. Trench 2, in the southeast corner of the site, now became Trench 1 (Figure 2). This was shortened from the specified length owing to modern drainage to the north. The previous Trench 1 now became Trench 2 and was positioned on an approximate north to south alignment, extending from the southern side of the demolished tower block, abutting the electricity substation to the east and continuing towards the northern edge of the new Trench 1 (Figure 2). Trench 3, which was to become Test Pits 1, 2 and 3 was actually split into two test pits, with the third one, to the east of the supplementary 80s building incorporated into Trench 2 (Figure 2).
- 6.4 All trenches and test pits were CAT-scanned prior to the commencement of intrusive groundworks.
- 6.5 A 360 degree tracked excavator was provided and operated by sub-contractors of Durkan, Modebest. This was fitted with a flat-bladed, toothless, ditching bucket measuring 1.8m wide. Modern overburden was removed by the excavator under archaeological supervision until archaeological levels were reached. Material was removed in spits of no greater than 100mm.
- 6.6 Upon reaching a height of approximately -1.00m below ground level, Trenches 1 and 2 were 'stepped-in', so as to leave an approximate 1m horizontal step on each side of the trench. This was to prevent the trench sides collapsing with the envisaged depths that they were to be excavated to.
- 6.7 Upon reaching archaeologically strata trenches were cleaned using hand tools and relevant sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A plan was also produced at a scale of 1:20 of each

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³³ Bradley, T. (2013) Land at 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road, Croydon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report ³⁴ Ihid

trench and relevant deposits were recorded on proforma context sheets comparable to those used elsewhere in the Greater London Area using a standard single context recording system as detailed in PCA's Operations Manual 1³⁵. Trenches and relevant deposits were photographed using a high resolution digital camera.

- 6.8 In order to determine the height of the various deposits and features recorded in relation to the ordnance datum (OD) a temporary bench mark (TBM) was established on site. The height of the TBM was 46.38m OD.
- 6.9 The project archive was assigned the unique site code WAN13.

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³⁵ Taylor, J. & Brown, G. (2009) Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Test Pit 1

- 7.1.1 Test Pit 1 represented the western-most subdivision of the originally planned Trench 3 (Figure 2). It was positioned towards the western side of the site in an area previously developed by a smaller building made to the south of the 1980s built Quantum House tower block. The trench measured approximately 6m long by 1.8m wide. As anticipated, excavation of this test pit originally encountered some concrete obstructions, but the centre area of the investigation observed that truncation had not completely decimated the area.
- 7.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered was firm sandy-gravel, [30], that was identified as representing naturally-occurring levels. This was seen at a height of between 43.84m OD and 44.10m OD in an area of the trench measuring 1.8m wide by 1.5m long (Figures 3 and 6). This smaller area was as a result of concrete obstructions to the east and archaeological masonry to the west.
- 7.1.3 Cutting this gravel was an approximately north to south aligned cut, [33] (Figures 3 and 6). Where seen, this measured 0.40m long, was greater than 0.25m wide and approximately 0.20m deep. The feature extended beyond the side of the test pit to the south, beyond a concrete obstruction to the east and was truncated by machining towards the centre of the trench. The top of the cut was seen at a height of 44.08m OD. It was singularly filled by [32] a loose mid to dark red-brown sandy-gravel with no cultural material observed within it.
- 7.1.4 Colluvium (or hill-wash) [34] was recorded as overlying cut [33] and gravels [31]. It measured approximately 0.25m thick where seen and was composed of gravelly-silty-sand. It was seen across the area exposed in this test pit at heights of between 44.28m OD and 44.41m OD. Although no dating evidence was recovered, its position in the stratigraphic sequence as overlying natural gravels [31] suggests it to be similar to other colluvial deposits seen during these works (Figure 6).
- 7.1.5 Apparently constructed on layer [34], wall [36] was composed of medium sized angular flint nodules and medium-sized unhewn chalk lumps. It was positioned on an approximate north to south alignment, at an approximate right-angle to the modern day Whitgift Street to the south (Figures 3 and 6). It extended beyond the northern and southern side of the test pit (>1.85m), measured 0.86m wide and was roughly 0.12m thick. The highest point of the wall was recorded at a height of 44.54m OD. The wall had a disturbed appearance with no clean, straight faces. This could have been as a result of historical robbing of its chalk or by modern disturbance in the form of ground works associated with the recently demolished structure built above it. No bonding material was observed and a construction cut with an associated backfill containing potential dating material was also absent. Owing to the wall's position within the stratigraphic sequence and its style of construction, it is thought that this wall dated to the late-medieval or early post-medieval period. Conjecturing of this wall suggests it may represent the western side of a building (Figure 2).
- 7.1.6 Layers [35] and [40] were both observed as sealing masonry [36] and interpreted as post-

medieval ground-raising events (Figure 6). Deposit [35] was recorded to the east of the wall. It was composed of firm dark-grey silty-sand and measured 0.35m thick. The top of the layer was recorded at 44.63m OD. Within this layer, ceramic building material was recovered with a date of between 1630 and 1900³⁶. Layer [40] was not investigated in as great detail as [35] as it extended beyond the western limits of the trench. Dating material in the form of pan tile was dated to between 1630 and 1850³⁷.

- 7.1.7 Possible robber-cut, [44], was recorded above the eastern side of wall [36], made thorough deposit [35] (Figure 6). The top of the cut was recorded at 44.54m OD. It was filled with [37]. This was 70mm thick and composed of silty-sand. Although only seen briefly in section, it is thought that this cut and fill represents the base of a robber trench that was made to take chalk blocks from wall [36].
- 7.1.8 Yellow-green hued crushed mortar and gravel, [38], was observed sealing backfill [37] and part of wall [36]. It measured 0.17m thick and extended approximately 1m across the north-facing side of the test pit (Figure 6). The top of the layer was at an approximately level height, recorded at 44.65m OD across. This might be interpreted as representing a post-medieval path or occupation surface built above dumped layers and the robber trench [44]. Layer [38] was overlain by a 0.19m thick deposit of mid-brown silty-sand, [39]. The top of this deposit was recorded at a height of 44.84m OD (Figure 6). Although lacking in dating evidence, this layer did contain flecks of chalk, mortar and crushed ceramic building material. The source of these demolished materials may have been from the robbing of chalk wall [36].
- 7.1.9 Constructed on post-medieval ground-raising horizon [40] to the west of wall [36] was a red brick wall [41] (Figure 6). This was built on a foundation of peg tiles and where seen consisted of 3 courses of bricks, the top of which was recorded at 44.80m OD. Although only seen in section, the angles of the bricks suggested that the wall was extending on a southeast to northwest alignment. Therefore, it seems unlikely that the brick wall made use of chalk wall [36] as a foundation and its position overlying it is coincidental rather than intentional. Dates taken from the wall give a date range of between 1700 and 1900³⁸.
- 7.1.10 Dumped material [42] appeared as being deposited directly up against the eastern face of wall [41] (Figure 6). It also appeared to be covering chalk wall [36]. It consisted of crushed mortar and chalk, the source of which may have been wall [36]. Only recorded in section, it measured 0.32m thick and measured 0.86m across. It is thought to represent a dump of post-medieval material intended to bring the height of the ground up around the foundation of wall [41].
- 7.1.11 Sealing wall [41] and dumped layer [42], layer [43] was composed of silty-sand containing brick and tile fragments, chalk flecks, gravel and charcoal flecks. It was 0.28m thick at a maximum height of 44.88m OD. This appeared as having been thrown up against the western face of wall [41] as it partially sealed it too, is assumed to date to post-demolition of the wall.

38 Ibid.

³⁶ Sudds, pers. comm

³⁷ Ibid.

- 7.1.12 To the east of the trench two modern concrete obstructions prevented further excavation in these areas. They were left in situ.
- 7.1.13 The archaeological sequence in Test Pit 1 was completed by three modern dumped layers, the lowest of which appeared as yellow builder's sand and demolition material followed by a piling mat then a layer of vegetation and modern debris. The ground level was seen at 45.32m OD.

7.2 Test Pit 2

- 7.2.1 Test Pit 2 was positioned to the immediate east of Test Pit 1, also within the footprint of the 1980s demolished building (Figure 2). It measured 4m east to west and was 1.8m wide.
- 7.2.2 Layer [4] was a homogenous deposit that measured approximately 2.20m thick and was observed throughout the test pit (Figure 6). It was dark-brown in colour and composed of sandy-silt with inclusions of ceramic building material, chalk lumps, gravel and occasional stone fragments. A worked sandstone slab and a thick post-medieval floor tile dating from 1600-1900 were retrieved³⁹. The top of this layer was seen at a height of 44.44m OD. It is thought that this layer represents the product of modern disturbance over the area- it was a combination of disturbed and recombined archaeological and modern layers. Excavation of layer [4] continued downwards to a depth of approximately -3.00m below ground level. At this height there was a suggestion that the layer was coming to an end via the increased percentage of gravel. However, the machine bucket clipped what was thought to be a disused water pipe or a perched water table. As a result, the test pit was temporarily inundated with water. This prevented further excavation and recording of the trench. Comparison with the known heights of surviving archaeological strata in Test Pit 1 suggest that at the depths Test Pit 2 was excavated to, it is unlikely that any archaeological finds, features or deposits would have survived.
- 7.2.3 Sealing layer [4] were two modern deposits. The lower of the two was characterised as being composed of demolition material with larger concrete lumps measuring approximately 0.40m thick, whilst the upper layer was a similar thickness piling mat. The ground surface level at this test pit was 45.24m OD.

7.3 Trench 1

- 7.3.1 This trench was positioned in the area of the site previously marked as the location of Trench 2 in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Figure 2). The tarmac surface of the area was cut out to expose a trench that measured approximately 6m long by 4m wide on the surface. This was a variation in the originally planned size of the trench- it had to be shortened owing to the presence of live services at its northern end. It extended from the southeast corner of the site approximately towards the northwest.
- 7.3.2 Naturally occurring sandy-gravels composed of large stones and coarse sand represent the

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³⁹ Ibid.

earliest layer of stratigraphy seen within the base of the trench (Figures 4 and 6). This was recorded at a height of between 43.87m OD and 44.15m OD and measured some 4.00m long by 2.00m wide where seen. The range in heights is reflective of the natural topography of the Wandle valley. This layer was cleaned thoroughly in order to try to identify any cut features. None were observed although a slight discolouration has been interpreted as a naturally occurring phenomenon.

- 7.3.3 The next layer recorded throughout the trench was layer [7]. This was a 0.20m to 0.50m thick layer of colluvial material that sealed natural gravels [6] (Figure 6). This was recorded at heights of between 44.74m OD and 44.86m OD. It was composed of dark grey-brown silty-sand with frequent gravel inclusions as well charcoal flecks, pottery and ceramic building material. Blue and white glazed pottery has been dated to the late 17th to early 18th century⁴⁰. This post-medieval date to the layer may be misleading, however, as material from upslope to the east may have entered this horizon through later ploughing and gravitational movement.
- 7.3.4 Cut in to colluvial layer [7] were two walls. In the southwest corner of the trench were the partial remains of masonry [1] (Figures 4 and 6). This was composed of chalk blocks built upon a layer of ceramic building material fragments and including pottery sherds. These have been dated to between 1580 and 1900⁴¹. The masonry extended beyond the southern limit of excavation of the trench although where seen measured 0.60m by 0.40m and was 0.10m thick. The top of the masonry was recorded at 44.65m OD. It is thought that this represents the remains of a wall that would later be robbed.
- 7.3.5 To the north end of the trench, wall [5] was built within construction cut [8] (Figures 4 and 6). The cut was not fully exposed and the masonry is assumed to have been 'trench-built'- with the masonry tight up against the construction cut. It extended on an approximately parallel course to the modern day Whitgift Street to the south. This was much more substantial than wall [1], measuring approximately 3.40m long by 0.65m wide and approximately 300mm thick (although the upper courses had been removed by later robbing of the wall). The top of the wall was recorded at heights between 44.53m OD and 44.64m OD. The eastern end of the wall extended beyond the trench whilst the western end was truncated by a modern service cut. Ceramic building material associated with the wall was recovered and dated to the medieval to post-medieval period, namely from between 1480-1900⁴². The size of this wall suggests it relates to a structure of some significance. Conjecture of this wall suggests it may have formed the southern wall of a structure fronting a predecessor to Whitgift Street, of which wall [36] in Test Pit formed the western wall.
- 7.3.6 The upper courses of stone from wall [5] were robbed as clearly visible in section (Figure 6). Cut [9] was made directly on top of wall [5] and backfilled with fills [54] and [10]. Upper fill [10] was composed of silty-clay and measured 0.30m to 0.45m thick, the top of which was recorded at 45.23m OD. The lower fill immediately butting the chalk of wall [5] was more

⁴⁰ Jarrett, pers. comm.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Sudds, pers. comm.

- similar in appearance to colluvium [7] and may represent collapse of the robber trench sides rather than an intentional backfill.
- 7.3.7 Cut [2] was seen in plan as being made through colluvium [7]. At the southern end of the trench, this cut appeared to be in line with masonry [1]. It appeared as though [2] followed the proposed northerly course of this wall and the backfill, [3], represents the disturbed remains of this wall. A date taken from clay tobacco pipe in the backfill is between 1580 and 1900⁴³. The robber cut measured some 4.10m in length, its width was in excess of 1.40m and it was 0.52m thick. The top of the feature was seen at 44.60m OD and the base was at 44.08m OD. Although the edges of the cut became uncertain close to masonry [5] it appeared as though the robber cut (and therefore potentially the original wall) was related to wall [5].
- 7.3.8 Sealing the backfilled robber trenches [2] and [9] was an up to 0.70m thick layer of late post-medieval ground raising, [11] (Figure 6). This was composed of silty-sand and contained inclusions of modern machined brick, giving the horizon date of between 1850 and 1900⁴⁴. This deposit represents a phase of dumping material in an attempt to raise the height of the ground as a pre-cursor to building the terraced houses that are known to have occupied the area. Heights of between 45.16m OD and 45.46m OD reflect the sloping topography of the site.
- 7.3.9 The archaeological sequence was completed in Trench 2 by two modern layers- firstly a 0.25m thick layer of loose stone chippings that acted as a levelling deposit for an overlying 0.07m thick tarmac surface.

7.4 Trench 2

- 7.4.1 In an attempt to make up for the reduced size of Trench 1, Trench 2 was repositioned so as to extend its length in plan (Figure 2). It commenced at its northern end at the southern edge of the demolished tower block structure and continued south almost parallel with the eastern boundary of the site, a safe distance from the electricity substation. Its southern end went as far as the live service runs that had prevented Trench 1 from extending any further to the north. Trench 2 also incorporated the proposed Test Pit 3 as there was not space to dig the trench and the test pit in the corridor of presumed undisturbed ground between the tower block and the additional modern structure to its south. In plan, Trench 2 measured some 13.70m long and was up to 5.00m wide. Two large unexpected concrete footings were uncovered throughout the trench. These had a destructive on archaeological horizons and were left in the ground.
- 7.4.2 The earliest archaeologically significant horizon recorded was natural gravel layer [13]. This was seen throughout the base of the trench at heights ranging from 43.72m OD to 43.92m OD. It was a light yellow-grey colour and composed of small gravel stones and coarse sand. At the base of the trench it measured 9.70m north to south by up to 2.65m wide. There were no cut features recorded as being made through this horizon.

⁴³ Jarrett, pers. comm.

⁴⁴ Sudds, pers. comm.

- 7.4.3 Sealing gravel [13] was layer [29] (Figures 5 and 6). This was composed of firm mid-grey sandy-silty-gravel: the stones of the gravel were noted as being large and rounded. Where seen, it measure 4.80 north to south by up 2.70m wide and was approximately 0.10m thick. Recorded heights showed the top of the surface to be level at between 43.95m OD and 43.97m OD. A slot was dug through this layer so as to test its depth and retrieve dating evidence. What was at first thought to be Roman pottery was actually a local greyware and spot dated to late 12th to early 14th century⁴⁵.
- 7.4.4 Overlying the cobble-dense layer [29] were several colluvial deposits. Towards the centre and north of the trench, layer [30] measured 1.54m north to south by 1.62m wide and was between 0.12m and 0.17m thick (Figure 6). It was seen at a height of between 44.18m OD and 44.26m OD. The composition was noted as being sandy-silt with frequent gravel and chalk fragment inclusions. Pottery retrieved was dated to the 13th century and ceramic building material to 1480-1900⁴⁶. The source of these materials may have been from the underlying occupation surface or from ploughing of occupation levels upslope to the east. Layer [49] (Figure 6) was only recorded in section but stratigraphically also overlay layer [29]. It had a similar composition to [30] so has also been interpreted as a colluvial deposit. It measured approximately 0.30m thick at heights of between 44.33m OD and 44.47m OD. Similarly to [49] but seen towards the northern end of the trench and only in section, layer [47] represents a hill-wash or colluvial deposit. It was seen at a maximum of 44.53m OD and was 0.34m thick. Layer [51] was observed in section at the southern end of the trench and is also a colluvial accumulation. It was of a similar thickness to [47] and [49] at 0.35m, the top of which was seen at 45.52m OD. Similar to the above, chalk fragments and large-stoned gravels were frequent inclusions within a sandy-silty matrix.
- 7.4.5 Cut [27] was made through colluvial layer [30] (Figures 5 and 6). Interpreted as possible construction cut for a wall, it measured 2.00m north to south by .096m wide and was 0.25m thick, where seen. The level at the base of the cut was 43.96m OD whilst at the top was a maximum of 44.21m OD. The primary fill of [27] was [55] a thin mortar layer between 20mm and 30mm thick seen throughout the base of [27] at a maximum height of 44.16m OD. No dating evidence was retrieved. The secondary fill was recorded as [28] a firm brown sandy-silt with occasional chalk and flint pebbles. This might represent the trampling of material at the base of the wall cut or the remnants of possible construction debris. It was 0.10m thick at a height of 44.15m OD. The tertiary and upper fill [26] measured 0.15m thick at 44.24m OD. It was composed of a light yellow-brown sandy-silt with abundant chalk/calcareous inclusions and represents mortar bedding for a wall. Conjecture of this cut suggests it may have related to the northern side of a large building of which wall [5] in Trench 1 was the southern side and wall [36] in Test Pit 1 the western side.
- 7.4.6 Towards the eastern side of the trench and cut into fill [26] was a semi-circular cut [25] that

⁴⁵ Jarrett, pers. comm.

⁴⁶ Jarrett, pers. comm.; Sudds, pers. comm.

- continued beyond the trench step (Figures 5 and 6). It measured some 0.80m north to south and at least 0.30m wide. It was 0.36m thick, the top of the cut being seen at 44.35m OD and the base at 43.99m OD.
- 7.4.7 Multiple fills were recorded within cut [25]. The primary fill was [24] a 0.24m thick deposit of dark grey-brown silty-sand at a maximum height of 44.18m OD (Figure 6). Dating from post-medieval peg tile suggests a date from 1480⁴⁷. This fill has been interpreted as being between the sides of the pit cut and a wooden pail or shuttering positioned in the centre of the cut. Although the timber of the pail had completely decayed, the impression of the timber was visible in the mortar-rich deposit that is thought to have filled it, [23]. This measured some 0.66m by 0.22m and was 0.14m thick at 44.18m OD. Spot dating of the mortar suggested a date of pre 1850.
- 7.4.8 Overlying the mortar-rich fill [23] were two more deposits that completed the backfilling of feature [25]. Fill [48] was recorded in section only (Figure 6) whilst [16] was excavated from the cut. Fill [16] is recorded as being seen at a maximum height of 44.27m OD whilst [48] was seen at 44.45m OD. Both were composed of sandy-gravelly-silt with inclusions of ceramic building material and mortar. Three cattle bone fragments were recovered from [16], one of which, a large femur, suggests a 19th century date⁴⁸. At a height of 44.55m OD, dumped horizon [52] overlay fill [48]. This was 0.15m thick and composed of sandy –silt with charcoal flecks and mid-sized pebbles.
- 7.4.9 The northern side of cut [27] and backfill [26] were partially truncated by the southern end of feature [19] (Figures 5 and 6). This was a shallow gulley or linear cut feature that measured some 0.90m north to south by 0.50m wide and 0.14m thick. The height at the top of the cut was recorded at 44.22m OD whilst at the base were 44.08m OD. It was filled by deposit [18], from which no dating evidence was retrieved. A modern cut for the concrete footing of the recently demolished tower block truncated the northern end of this feature. It is presumed to date to the post-medieval period and relates to a similar construction phase of cut [27]
- 7.4.10 Truncating the western side of cut [27] and fill [26] was cut [15] (Figures 5 and 6). In plan this appeared as being a triangular shape although it continued beyond the western limit of excavation, was truncated at the north and south and could have represent the eastern side of a ditch or pit cut. It measured 1.26m long by 0.48m wide and was 0.25m thick. A height of 43.96m OD was seen at its base and 44.22m OD at the top of the cut. Filling this was [14] a firm, dark-brown sandy-gravelly-silt deposit that contained frequent ceramic building material fragments, pottery and bone. This was the single fill of [15] and as such measured the same dimensions of the cut. A Surrey-Hampshire border redware bowl was spot dated to 1550-1900 whilst peg tile dates to between 1450 and 1600⁴⁹. Of particular note was a worn Flemish floor tile of late medieval to early post-medieval date also retrieved from fill [14]. Of the cattle and sheep/goat bones retrieved from [14], it was noted that all the metapodials were equal

⁴⁷ Sudds, pers. comm.

⁴⁸ Reilly, pers. comm.

⁴⁹ Jarrett, pers. comm.; Sudds, pers. comm.

- sizes, suggestive of craft/industrial waste⁵⁰. A clay tobacco pipe post-dating 1730 was also recovered⁵¹.
- 7.4.11 Seen towards the north of Trench 2, cut [21] was also recorded as being made through a colluvial deposit (Figure 5). This was a small east to west aligned ditch or gulley and measured some 0.50m north to south by 0.60m wide and was 0.18m deep. It was truncated on its eastern and northern sides and continued beyond the western side of the trench. The base of the feature was at 44.04m OD and the top of the cut as seen on the southern side was at 44.18m OD. It was singularly filled by [20] a composition of dark grey and pale grey-brown silty-clay and sand. Unfrogged brick and peg tile from [20] were dated to between 1480 and 1700⁵².
- 7.4.12 Layer [46] was seen in the west-facing section towards the north of the trench. This overlay colluvial deposit [47] and was composed of sandy-silt with inclusions of small pebbles, charcoal and fragments of ceramic building material. It was 0.22m thick and the height on the top ranged from 44.38m OD to 44.50m OD. The layer is thought to represent a post-medieval deposit that has been dumped with the intention of raising the ground height, potentially as a precursor to occupation.
- 7.4.13 Sealing both layer [46] and dump layer [52] the silty-sandy layer [45] was recorded at between 44.53m OD and 44.57m OD. This was 0.19m thick and contained frequent chalk and charcoal flecks as well as post-medieval peg tile. This layer represents post-medieval ground-raising or dumping of material over the area.
- 7.4.14 The west-facing section in the south of the trench recorded two more post-medieval dumped horizons that sealed colluvial layers. Deposit [50] overlay [49] and [51] and measured approximately 0.70m thick (Figure 6). It was composed of friable sandy-silt with building material fragments, chalk flecks and small pebbles. The top of this layer ranged in height from 44.78m OD to 44.96m OD and appeared to be part truncated by modern landscaping towards the centre of the trench. Like layer [50], a lense of material recorded as [53] was seen to overlie colluvium [49]. This too was comprised of sandy-silt with charcoal, pebble and fragments of peg tile inclusions. It measured roughly 0.15m thick and its maximum height was 44.42m OD. This is most likely the same deposit as [50] but is separated from it by modern truncation.
- 7.4.15 The archaeological sequence was completed in this trench by a large deposit of stone chippings (up to 0.75m thick) that were sealed by a plastic sheet membrane prior to an approximate 0.30m layer of crushed stone piling mat being deposited over the area. The surface level towards the centre of the trench was at approximately 45.41m OD.

⁵⁰ Reilly, pers. comm.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Sudds, pers. comm.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Original Research Objectives

To determine the natural topography of the site

8.1.1 Naturally-occurring, untruncated gravels were seen at a height of 44.15m OD in the south-east of the study area, gently dropping off towards the north in Trench 2 at 43.92m OD and towards the west at 44.10m OD in Test Pit 1. The present day surface of the site records a drop off approximately 1.00m from east to west across the site. The downward slope from east to west is unsurprising- the Wandle Valley is to the west and the slope represents the valley of the river system. Perhaps what is more surprising is the dropping off in height towards the north. Is it possible that another tributary joined the Wandle to the north and the downward slope in this direction is representative of the cutting effect of the channel. A similar channel aligned on a south-east to north-west orientation was seen during works at Surrey Street car park (c. 200m east of the site)⁵³.

To determine the geoarchaeological sequence at the site

8.1.2 The natural gravel horizon that was exposed in the works showed a degree of variability across the site. Towards the south-east, large cobbles and coarse sand were recorded. This was tested to be a natural deposit by digging into the horizon to see if it was redeposited. A band of discoloured gravel was seen to run through this layer that has been interpreted as a periglacial (natural) phenomenon rather than reflective of an anthropogenic feature. In Trench 2, to the north, the large-cobble stoned gravel was seen to be redeposited and covered a horizon of yellow-brown small to medium sized gravel within a coarse sand matrix. A similar horizon was seen in Test Pit 2 to the west. This variation is likely as a result of both differential flow rates and energy levels of the River Wandle to the west and its associated deposition of materials as well as the downhill gravitational movement of materials upslope to the east. Sealing the natural gravel sequence was a colluvial horizon, similar to that seen during the previous archaeological investigations to the east. This is the product of the downhill movement of material on a slope via gravitational movement and human activity such as ploughing. In Trench 2, this colluvial layer was seen to cover and contain medieval archaeological finds. Although finds commonly accumulate in such horizons from transportation upslope, it would appear that a medieval occupation surface had been covered with a colluvial spread in this instance. Post-medieval dumped levelling layers completed the geoarchaeological sequence across the area.

To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, whether settled occupation or

Dicks, S. (2008) Archaeological Desk Based Assessment; Scarbrook Road, Croydon. CgMs Consulting, unpublished report

artefact scatters/residual finds as identified immediately to the east

8.1.3 Prehistoric finds, features and deposits were not identified during the works detailed in this report. A linear cut made into natural gravels in Test Pit 1 continued beyond the trench edges and beneath modern concrete so was not fully investigated. The position of this feature within the archaeological sequence suggests it might potentially represent a prehistoric feature although it could equally be of Roman date- no dating evidence was retrieved from its fill. Other residual prehistoric finds, similar to those recorded in the works to the east, were not recovered from the colluvial sequence that overlay the natural gravel horizons.

To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity on the site. Does the evidence on the site further elucidate the nature of the Roman occupation previously recorded to the east?

8.1.4 There was no evidence for activity on the site during the Roman period. This was somewhat surprising considering the results of the archaeological investigations immediately to the east. The absence of residual Roman materials in the colluvial sequence was also surprising. As above, a partially exposed linear feature seen in Test Pit 1 sits within the position of the archaeological sequence where Roman occupational evidence might expect to be seen although the absence of cultural material cannot prove if it is anything other than a natural feature. It is possible that Roman archaeological remains do exist over the site but in areas not covered by the test trenches.

To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity on the site. Is there a continuation of the pitting recorded to the east or associated activity?

8.1.5 Medieval activity on the site was seen in the form of finds, cut features and masonry. In Trench 2, a large cut-feature that extended beyond the limits of the trench was seen to contain late 12th to early 14th century pottery with post-medieval peg tile. The same feature contained medieval to post-medieval ceramic building material as well as a worn Flemish floor tile of similar date. This is suggested to have originated from a building of some significance⁵⁴. Thirteenth century pottery was also recovered from a colluvial layer. Unabraded pottery sherds seen within a layer in the same trench were also dated to the late 12th to early 14th century. This evidence proves *in situ* occupation from the medieval period in this area of the site. Chalk and flint walls seen in Test Pit 1, Trench 1 and during observation of site

⁵⁴ Sudds, pers. comm.

engineering investigations are likely to date to the late medieval to early post-medieval period. They were found to contain peg tile fragments from within their fabric dated to the late 15th century onwards. The presence of these walls, like the floor tile, suggests a building (or buildings) of some significance once occupied the area and survive to at least foundation level. Conjecture of the walls observed suggests that the robber ditch in Trench 2 may be in the location of a northern wall, whilst the wall in Test Pit 1 formed the western wall and wall [5] in Trench 1 was the southern wall.

To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site

8.1.6 Chalk and flint walls seen in Test Pit 1, Trench 1 and observed during site engineering investigations date to the late medieval to early post-medieval period: peg tile fragments associated with these walls date to the late 15th century onwards. These are likely to be the remaining foundation levels of walls that formed one or more considerable structures across the site. Their relation to the current-day Whitgift Street to the south suggests that a precursor to modern roadway existed and the walls uncovered during these works may have been built in relation to it. A large pit cut that extended beyond the trench sides was seen in Trench 2 as well as a series of other smaller cut features that may have been related to wall construction. What was apparent across the site was that during the later post-medieval period the resource of the stone blocks was exploited as seen by the digging of robber cuts over the earlier walls. A robber cut in Trench 1 appeared to have removed a chalk wall almost in its entirety, with only fragments of chalk in the backfill suggesting what once existed there. Also recorded from this period was the continued formation of a colluvial sequence over the site. The gravitational movement of material down slope may have been aided by ploughing of the land. Other dumped deposits were seen in Trenches 1 and 2 and Test Pit 1 that represent attempts at raising the ground height, perhaps as a pre-cursor to building. A red brick wall was seen in section in Test Pit 1 that dates to the 18th century at the earliest. Similar walls were seen during the site engineering works.

To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site

8.1.7 With an untruncated and sealed natural gravel horizon, and with comparison to the results of archaeological works to the immediate east, it must be assumed that, although not observed in these works, there still remains the potential to uncover in situ archaeological occupation dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods. Medieval occupation was characterised by residual finds of early pottery and building material within later cut features as well as in situ finds. The later medieval period to early post-medieval period saw several large chalk walls built across the area which relate to the significant building works. In the later post-medieval period, robber trenches removed this chalk to varying degrees. Other cut features from this time were observed as well as later dumped horizons and a red brick wall.

To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource

The apparent reduction in thickness of the colluvial sequence in Trench 2 and the subsequent 8.1.8 post-medieval ground raising horizons recorded above it may be suggestive of historic ground reduction over this part of the site that may have removed underlying archaeological strata. However, the first significant impact on the archaeological resource is seen as the robbing of chalk from late medieval to early post-medieval walls. This was carried out in the later postmedieval period and the stone reused elsewhere, perhaps in features like the brick and chalk well uncovered in the works to the east. Occupational surfaces associated with the chalk walls are likely to have been at a much higher level than seen here, with the results observed only showing the foundation levels. These, along with subsequent post-medieval occupational activity are likely to have been lost during landscaping of the site prior to the building of terraced properties over the area in the late 19th to early 20th century. The construction of the now demolished Quantum House and the smaller building on its southern side has been shown to have had a localised destructive effect on the underlying archaeological resource. The foundation design of this building appears to have consisted of square shafts dug to a required depth, shored with metal sheet piles then backfilled with a steel frame and concrete. Therefore, the areas surrounding these footings have a broadly intact archaeological sequence. Seen in association with this phase of development were several service runs constructed using concrete that will have also had an effect on upper archaeological horizons. Two square concrete footings were seen during the excavation of Trench 2- it is unknown to which structure these belong.

8.2 General Conclusions and Recommendations

8.2.1 The following table gives maximum heights in metres Ordnance Datum of the archaeological results observed during the works:

	Test Pit 1	Test Pit 2	Trench 1	Trench 2
Natural gravels	44.10	-	44.15	43.92
Colluvium	44.41	-	44.86	44.53
Chalk walls	44.54	-	44.65	-

8.2.2 The results of these works confirm the presence of a partially intact archaeological sequence across areas of the site previously developed and good survival in those areas where previous development has been minimal. The earliest archaeologically relevant layers are untruncated naturally occurring gravels that are known from works to the east to contain the potential to generate occupational evidence from the prehistoric to Roman periods. Medieval

occupation was represented as redeposited pottery and tile within later cut features as well as *in situ* layers and finds in colluvial deposits. Late medieval to early post-medieval chalk walls were made through hill-wash deposits. Conjecture of the walls observed suggests that the robber ditch in Trench 2 may be in the location of a northern wall, whilst the wall in Test Pit 1 formed the western wall and wall [5] in Trench 1 was the southern wall. These would be robbed in the later post-medieval period.

- 8.2.3 The chalk walls are thought to relate to substantial buildings dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. These may have belonged to a significant building. The archaeological sequence was broadly completed by late post-medieval dumped horizons. These in turn would be subjected to landscaping works prior to the building of late 19th to early 20th century terraced housing across the site.
- 8.2.4 The impact of previous development of the site has not been as severe as first thought with some intact archaeological sequences observed to survive in areas of the site between the footings of the 1980s development.
- 8.2.5 There is likely to be a requirement for further work across the site, dependent upon the location and impact heights of the proposed development. Whilst impact levels for the proposed development are not currently available, Figure 7 shows the proposed scheme overlain with the findings of the archaeological evaluation. This demonstrates that areas such as the proposed Plant Room, Electricity Sub Station, and more general building construction along the south and west of the site are likely to impact on archaeological levels, especially where they impact deeper than 44.65m OD (see above table). Along the north of the site where the main body of the proposed development will occur, archaeological impact will be restricted to the areas outside the pervious tower block pad footings.
- 8.2.6 The site investigation will be published as a summary within the *London Archaeologist* Fieldwork Round-Up.
- 8.2.7 Subject to the approval of this report by the Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Croydon, the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code WAN13.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Durkan for commissioning this archaeological evaluation, Colm Kennedy of Modebest for on-site assistance and Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Croydon.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for project managing the site and editing this report, Stuart Watson, Rebecca Haslam, Ireneo Grosso, Jim Heathcoate, Douglas Killock and Aiden Turner for their work on site, Chris Cooper for logistical support and Jennifer Simonson for producing the illustrations.

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PLATES

Plate 1: Wall [5] in Trench 1 with 1m + 0.5m scale, facing east



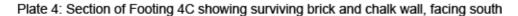
Plate 2: Overview of Trench 2 with 1m scale, facing north



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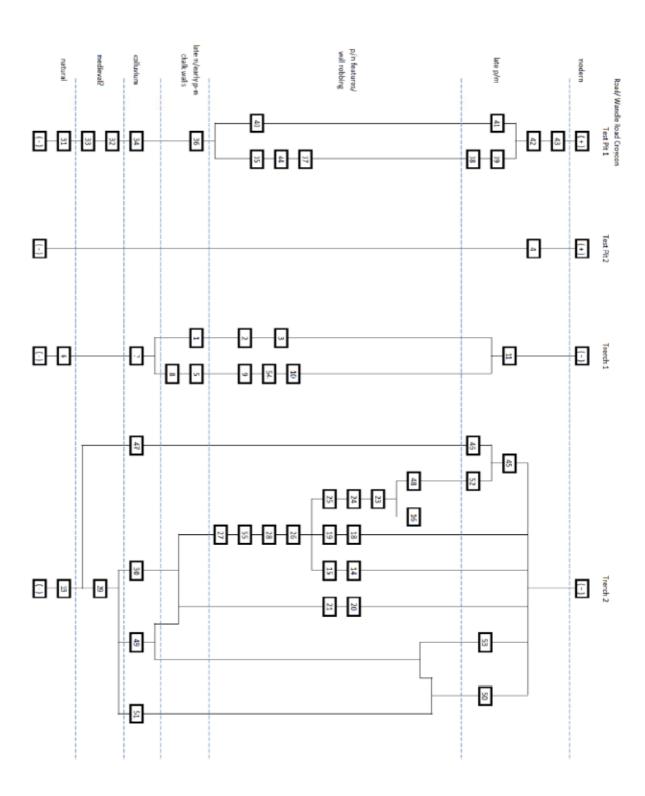


Plate 3: Overview of Test Pit 1 showing wall [36] with 2 x 0.5m scales, facing south





Appendix 1: Site Matrix



Appendix 2: Context Index

Context No.	Туре	Trench	Description
1	Masonry	Trench 1	Remnants of chalk wall in [2]
2	Cut	Trench 2	Post-med robber cut
3	Fill	Trench 3	Backfill of [2]
4	Layer	Test Pit 2	Ground raising
5	Masonry	Trench 5	E-W medieval chalk wall
6		Trench 6	Natural gravels
7	Layer		
8	Layer	Trench 7 Trench 8	Colluvial deposit Construction cut for wall [5]
9	Cut Cut	Trench 9	
10	Fill	Trench 10	Robber cut for wall [5] Backfill of [9]
11 12	Layer	Trench 11 Trench 2	Post-medieval made ground VOID
	VOID		
13	Layer	Trench 2	Natural gravels
14	Fill	Trench 2	Post-med fill of [15]
15	Cut	Trench 2	Filled by [14]
16	Fill	Trench 2	Fill of cut [25]
17	VOID	Trench 2	VOID
18	Fill	Trench 2	Fill of cut [19]
19	Cut	Trench 2	Linear cut feature
20	Fill	Trench 2	Fill of linear
21	Cut	Trench 2	Linear cut feature
22	VOID	Trench 2	VOID
23	Fill	Trench 2	Fill of wooden pail
24	Fill	Trench 2	Backfill of [25]
25	Cut	Trench 2	Pit cut
26	Fill	Trench 2	Mortar-rich fill of [27]
27	Cut	Trench 2	Linear cut- poss. Construction cut for wall
28	Fill	Trench 2	Tertiary fill of [27]
29	Layer	Trench 2	Gravel rich layer
30	Layer	Trench 2	Colluvial deposit
31	Layer	Test Pit 1	Natural gravels
32	Fill	Test Pit 1	Fill of [33]
33	Cut	Test Pit 1	Linear cut made in to [31]
34	Layer	Test Pit 1	Colluvial deposit
35	Layer	Test Pit 1	Post-medieval made ground
36	Masonry	Test Pit 1	Chalk and flint wall
37	Layer	Test Pit 1	Backfill of robber cut
38	Layer	Test Pit 1	Possible surface
39	Layer	Test Pit 1	Post-medieval made ground
40	Layer	Test Pit 1	Same as [35] - post-medieval made ground
41	Masonry	Test Pit 1	Red brick wall
42	Layer	Test Pit 1	Dumped over wall [41]
43	Layer	Test Pit 1	Dumped over wall [41]
44	Cut	Test Pit 1	Possible robber cut
45	Layer	Trench 2	Dump/levelling layer
46	Layer	Trench 2	Dump/levelling layer
	Layer	Trench 2	Dump/levelling layer
47			Fill of barrel cut [25]
47 48	Layer	Trench 2	Thi or barrer cut [25]
	Layer Layer	Trench 2	Chalky-dump sealing gravel
48			
48 49	Layer	Trench 2	Chalky-dump sealing gravel
48 49 50	Layer Layer	Trench 2 Trench 2	Chalky-dump sealing gravel Homogenous soil horizon
48 49 50 51	Layer Layer Layer	Trench 2 Trench 2 Trench 2	Chalky-dump sealing gravel Homogenous soil horizon Chalk+gravel dump or hill-wash

55	Fill	Trench 2	Primary fill of [27]

Appendix 3: OASIS Archaeological Report Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-157512

Project details

Project name LAND AT 1 WANDLE ROAD AND 19 SCARBROOK ROAD, CROYDON CRO 1EX

Short description of the project The work had been commissioned by Durkan. The site comprised an empty plot of land at the corner of 1 Wandle Road and 19 Scarbrook Road CR0 1EX. The northern half of the site that fronts Scarbrook Road had previously been subjected to development in the form of a tower block. This was demolished prior to any archaeological investigations taking place on site, although reinforced concrete footings remain subsurface. The results of these works confirm the presence of an intact archaeological sequence across areas of the site previously undeveloped and those that were developed. The chalk walls are thought to relate to substantial buildings dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. The absence of any observed Roman archaeology was surprising: previous archaeological investigations to the immediate east of the site recorded pitting and ditch cutting across that area that was not seen to continue to the south-west.

Project dates Start: 07-08-2013 End: 16-08-2013

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any associated project reference codes WAN13 - Site code

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches", 'Test Pits"

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CROYDON 1 Wandle Road/19 Scarbrook Road

Postcode CR0 1EX

Study area 500.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3226 6530 51 0 51 22 14 N 000 05 58 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 43.92m Max: 44.15m

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA

Project brief originator

PCA

Project design originator

Tim Bradley

Project director/manager Tim Bradley

Project supervisor

Richard Humphrey

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Durkan

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

LAARC

Digital Archive recipient

LAARC

Paper Archive recipient

LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title LAND AT 1 WANDLE ROAD AND 19 SCARBROOK ROAD, CROYDON CRO 1EX

Author(s)/Editor(s) Humphrey, R.

2013 Date

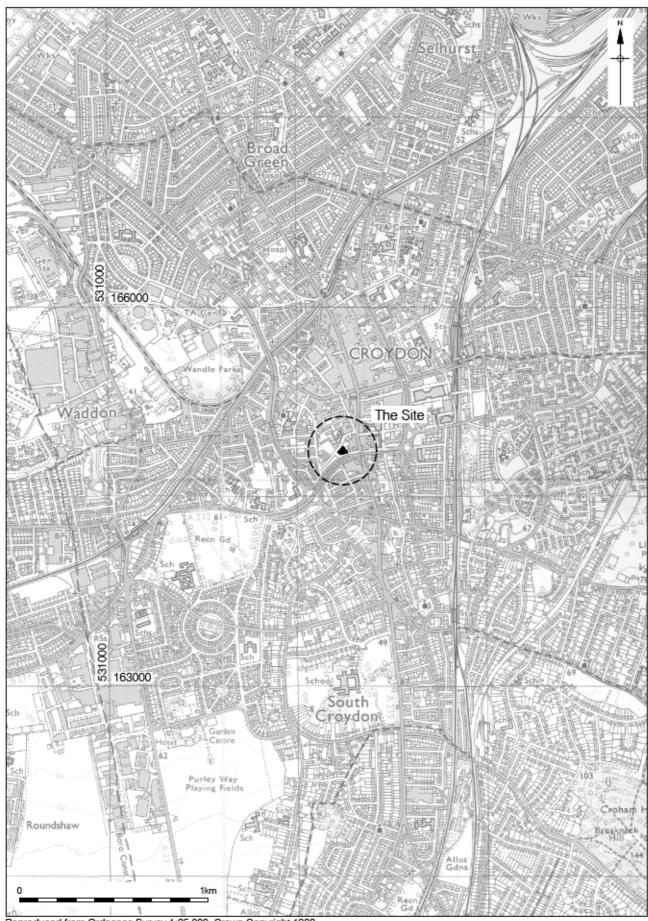
Entered by Richard Humphrey (richardhumphrey1980@hotmail.com)

Entered on 22 August 2013

OASIS: 11

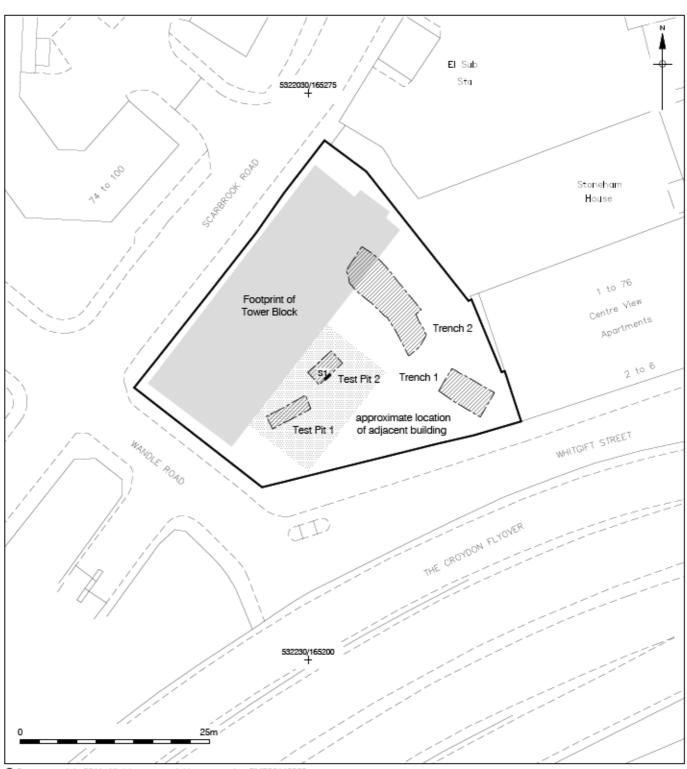
Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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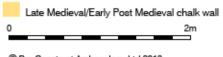
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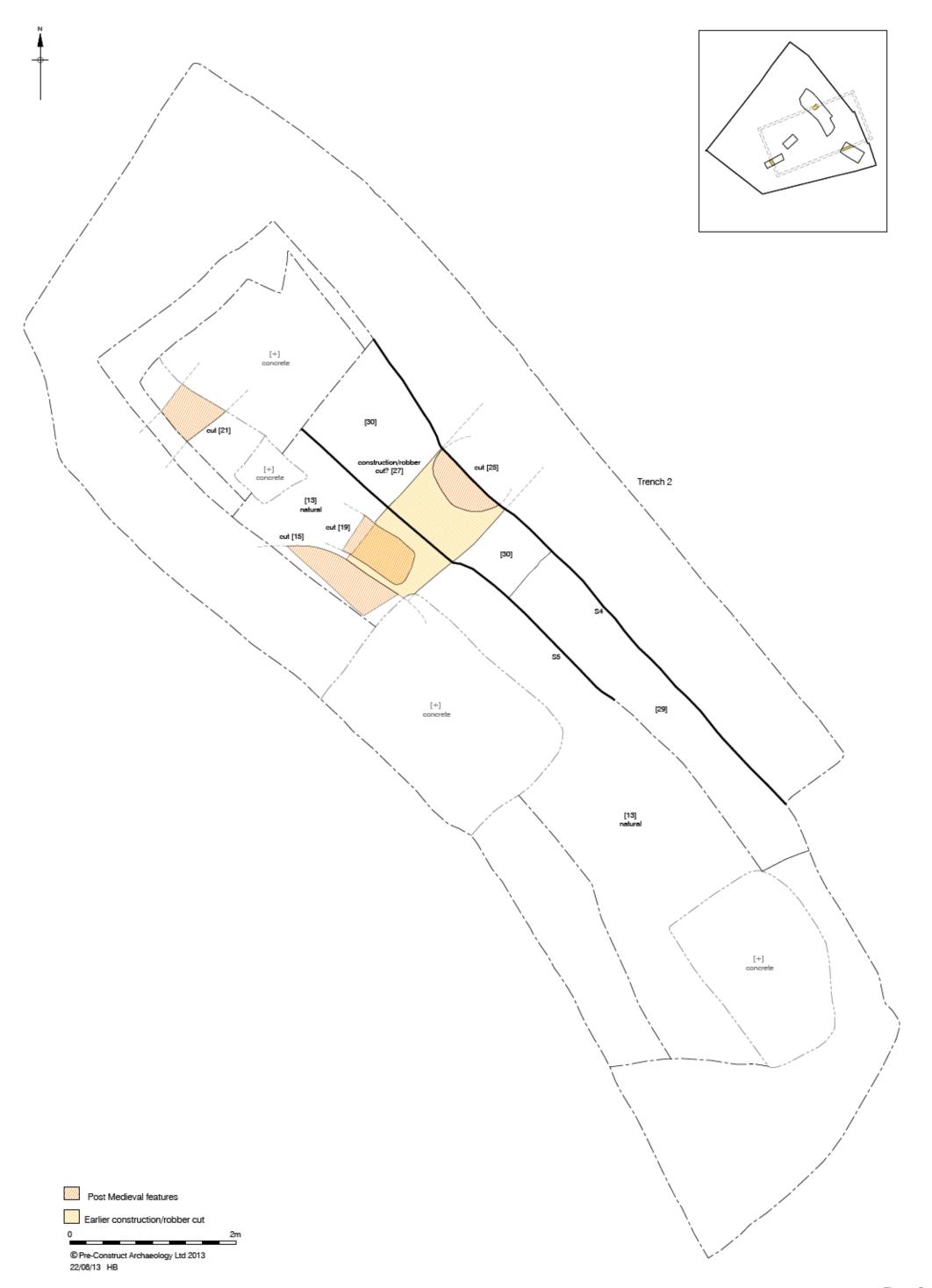
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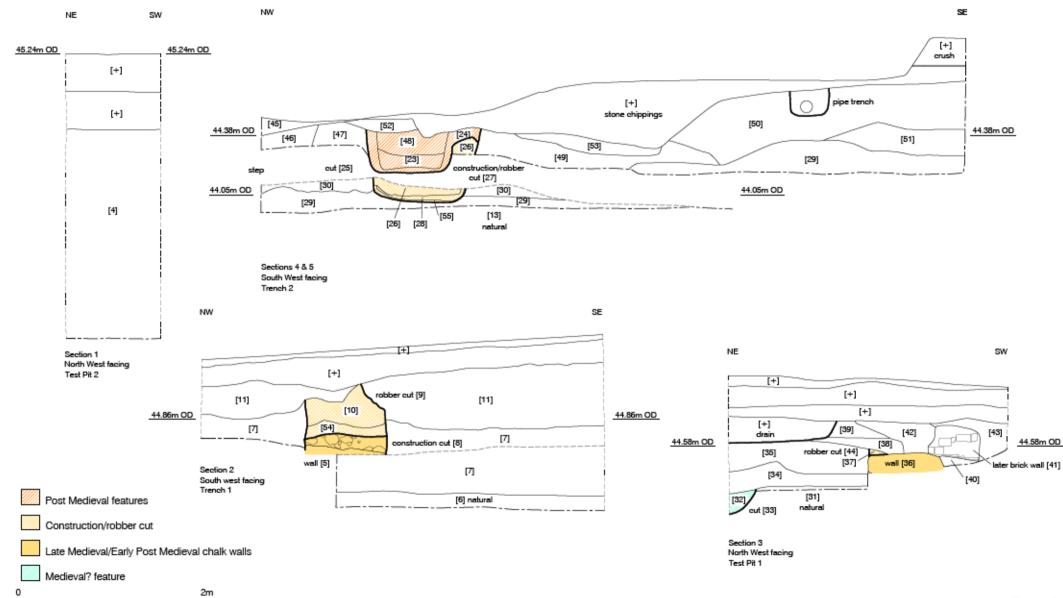


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Figure 4 Plan of Trench 1 1:40 at A4





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Figure 6 Sections 1 - 5 1:40 at A4

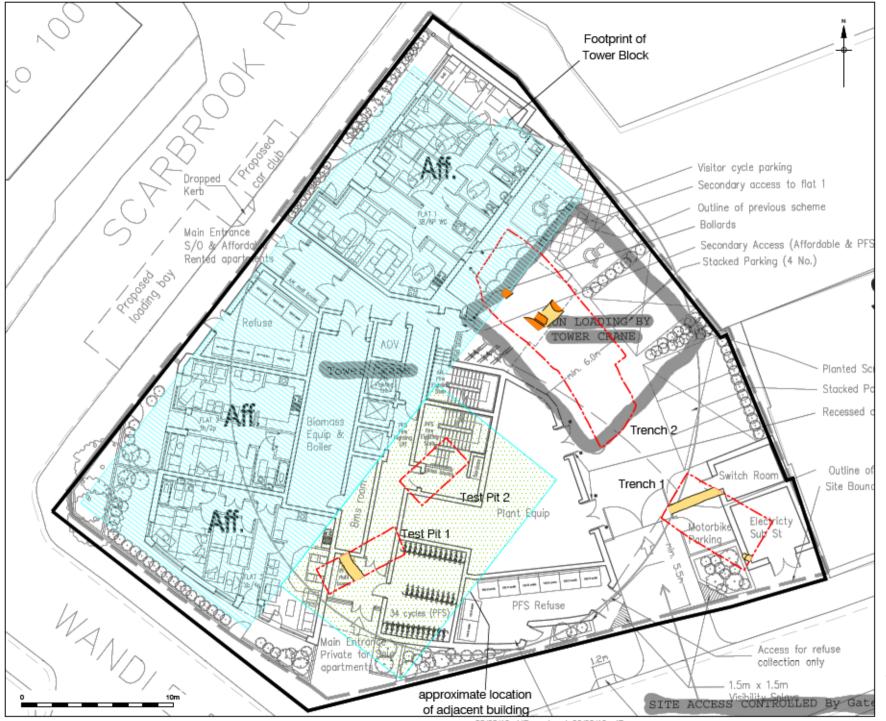


Figure 7 Archaeological features overlain on proposed development 1:250 at A4

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