

**60 PARK HILL ROAD, CROYDON,  
SURREY CR0 5ND**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

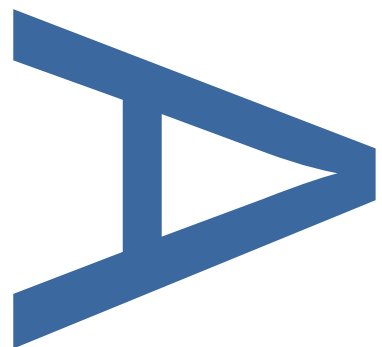
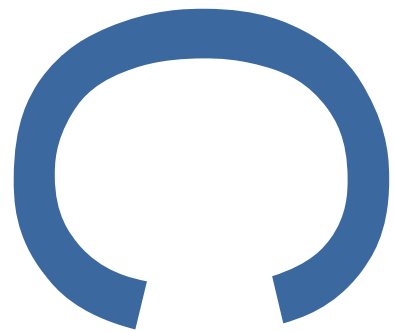
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:  
12/01160/P**

**PCA REPORT NO: 12119**

**SITE CODE: PHR15**

**JUNE 2015**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

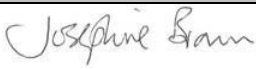

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

60 PARK HILL ROAD, CROYDON, SURREY CR0 5ND

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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Report Number	R12119

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**60 PARK HILL ROAD, CROYDON, SURREY CR0 5ND**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Site Code:** PHR15

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Croydon

**Planning Reference Number:** 12/01160/P

**Central National Grid Reference:** TQ 33259 64887

**Written by:** Wayne Perkins

**Project Manager:** Chris Mayo

**Commissioning Client:** Turnbull

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**June 2015**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Turnbull to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks required to construct new dwellings at 60 Park Hill Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5ND. The works were required by an archaeological condition attached to the planning consent for the development by the London Borough of Croydon.
- 1.2 Groundworks required by the development entailed terracing of the site to create three plateaus from which the new dwellings would be built. The terracing was undertaken by machine operating under continuous archaeological supervision, and entailed the removal of topsoil and subsoil until a natural surface was exposed.
- 1.3 No archaeological features were observed or finds of any archaeological period observed. Around a third of the site had been heavily truncated by the imprint of the earlier dwelling that had been demolished prior to the commencement of works. Numerous pits and depressions were observed containing 20<sup>th</sup> century back fill of fragmentary building material and modern debris.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Turnbull to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks required to construct new dwellings at 60 Park Hill Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5ND (Figure 1). The works were required by an archaeological condition attached to the planning consent for the development by the London Borough of Croydon.
- 2.2 The site comprises a rectangular strip of land, orientated northwest-southeast at the northern corner of Park Hill and Stanhope Rd. The site is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference TQ 33259 64887, and is situated on the lower slopes of Water Tower Hill. The site rises from the southern limit on Park Hill Road at 67.36m OD to 69.49m OD at the northern boundary.
- 2.3 The site lies in the Croydon Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the London Borough of Croydon's Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2006.
- 2.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for the site in 2015 by PCA (Buczak 2015). Review of that document by the Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Croydon, Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), Historic England, led to a recommendation that the site's archaeological potential be further investigated and impact upon it mitigated by means of a proactive observation and recording exercise during development groundworks. In line with this recommendation PCA was appointed by the client to undertake the necessary works, and prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation which was approved by GLAAS (Jorgensen 2015).
- 2.5 Groundworks required by the development entailed terracing of the site to create three plateaus from which the new dwellings would be built. The terracing was undertaken by machine operating under continuous archaeological supervision, and entailed the removal of topsoil and subsoil until a natural surface was exposed.
- 2.6 The site was assigned the code PHR15. Upon conclusion of all stages of the work the completed archive will be submitted for deposition with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

3.1 The full planning background to the site is presented within the desk-based assessment (Buczak 2015).

3.2 An application to develop the site of 60 Park Hill Road (Ref. 14/01160/P) was submitted to the London Borough of Croydon and was granted on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 subject to the fulfilment of stipulated conditions. Stipulated condition 6 required that:

*No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition.*

*Reason: to preserve archaeological remains in accordance with Policy 7.8 of the London Plan 2011 and Policy UC11 of the Croydon Replacement Unitary Development Plan (The Croydon Plan) 2006 (Saved Policies 2013).*

3.3 In line with the above PCA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Jorgensen 2015) which was approved by GLAAS. This followed the preparation of a desk-based assessment (Buczak 2015) which was requested by GLAAS in advanced to inform upon the archaeological potential of the site.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 According to the 1:50,000 British Geological Survey, the bedrock geology underlying the study site is (Lewis Nodular, Seaford and Newhaven) chalk formation (BGS n.d. (a)).
- 4.2 Natural chalk was encountered at 64.35m – 63.35m OD during an evaluation in 1997 at 163 Coombe Road, 125m south-east of the study site.
- 4.3 The site lies on land that slopes naturally down from west to east, and, less steeply, from north to south. Spot heights on pavement bordering the site, shown on survey drawings of the existing development at 60 Park Hill Road, indicate the surface elevation across the site dropping by c. 2.28m from west to east and 0.46m from north to south. The modern surface level immediately to the north-west of the site is 69.85m OD whilst that to south-east of the site is 67.11m OD.
- 4.4 There are no natural watercourses apparent within the study site nor in the near vicinity, but the east-west slope apparent on site represents the beginning of a slope which continues to rise up to the top of Water Tower Hill lying within Park Hill Recreation Ground to the west.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The archaeological and historical background to the study site has been studied in detail in the desk-based assessment for the project (Buczak 2015). The study concluded that there is some activity in the surrounding vicinity during the Prehistoric and Roman periods, albeit probably fairly minimal. The general area also certainly witnessed medieval activity, and apparently of a generally more substantial and longer-lasting nature. The medieval evidence is however confined to fewer locations, probably because much of the local area would have lain within private parkland at the time and thus been unavailable for any significant development. Activity in the general area clearly increased during the post-medieval period, particularly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, though the study site itself appears to have remained essentially undeveloped. It lay within agricultural land from at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century and possibly into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, before it was reverted back into an area of open public space. The study site saw no further development until it was developed for the construction of the existing buildings, sometime during the early 1960s. Wartime bombing does not seem to have had any direct impact on the site.



## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The aims and objectives of the watching brief as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:
- To record comprehensively any archaeological remains that may be impacted by any ground works in connection with the construction of new roof structure;
  - To survey the location of any archaeological features recorded within these areas;
  - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present in the areas and to establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features;
  - To provide information that may be used in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 6.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 6.3 All invasive construction groundworks at the site which threatened potential archaeological deposits were monitored by an archaeologist under archaeological watching brief conditions (discontinuously) between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Initially a localised area of foundation trenches at the new house plot nearest to Park Hill Road was monitored; shortly afterwards the groundworks programme was revised so that the necessary terracing across the site was implemented before the foundations trenches. The terracing in fact exposed natural horizons over a wide area of the site, thereby affording greater opportunity for the discovery of archaeological remains if they were to be found. Having completed the supervision of the terracing and found no archaeological survival, Mark Stevenson of GLAAS agreed that no further watching brief was warranted.
- 6.4 All layers encountered were inspected and recorded in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London, that is, those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor 2009). The site archive was organized so as to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the London area.
- 6.5 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.
- 6.6 All levels were taken from a topographic survey (Hook Survey Partnership, drawing no: 6355-P01, February 2014).
- 6.7 The complete archive produced during the watching brief, comprising written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with LAARC identified by site code PHR15.
-

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural Geological Deposits

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was naturally formed slightly sandy clayey silt [2], firm in compaction and mid to light brown in colour. The deposit, commonly referred to as 'brickearth', had occasional pebbles and gravel at its surface but was otherwise sterile, except for occasional rooting. It was seen to measure at least 0.8m in thickness at the southeastern end of the site, and was observed across the site in plan.
- 7.1.2 The top of the brickearth was recorded at 68.94m OD at the northwestern, higher end of the site, dropping to 66.96m OD at the southeastern, lower end of the site.

### 7.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval (1540 – 1900)

- 7.2.1 The brickearth was seen in localized areas to be sealed by a subsoil deposit [4] formed of friable light-brown sandy silt with inclusions of chalk, charcoal, pebbles and fragmentary ceramic building material (CBM). It was 0.41m thick and recorded at an upper height of 69.27m OD. The CBM inclusions imply a post-medieval date for the layer.

### 7.3 Phase 3: 20th Century

- 7.3.1 The subsoil was sealed by both topsoil [1] and made ground material [3] relating to the development of the residential property constructed in the 1960s and recently demolished.



*Plate 1: Section 1 (south-east facing) illustrating topsoil (1), subsoil (3) and brickearth natural (2)*



*Plate 2: Section 2 (north-west facing) topsoil (1) & natural (2)*

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief recorded natural brickearth sealed by localised subsoil and topsoil across the site. No finds were obtained during the watching brief.
- 8.2 It is suggested that the negative result is explained by the fact that the plot of land was originally part of a park in the medieval period and subsequently only subject to light agricultural activity in the 19th century. Thus the land was situated on the fringes of the main areas of settlement and agricultural processing. This is in some part supported by the relatively good survival of the brick earth natural discovered almost directly below the made ground and landscaping layers. However, the erection of the original house in the 1960's with the subsequent imprint consisting of pipe and service runs, drains and inspection pits has obscured about a third of the ground surface where modern building debris was revealed during excavation.
- 8.3 No further work is recommended for the current development.
- 8.4 Once the project is deemed complete, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will eventually be deposited by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited with LAARC (London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre) under site code PHR15. Until then the archive will be stored at PCA's offices in Brockley, London.
- 8.5 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.

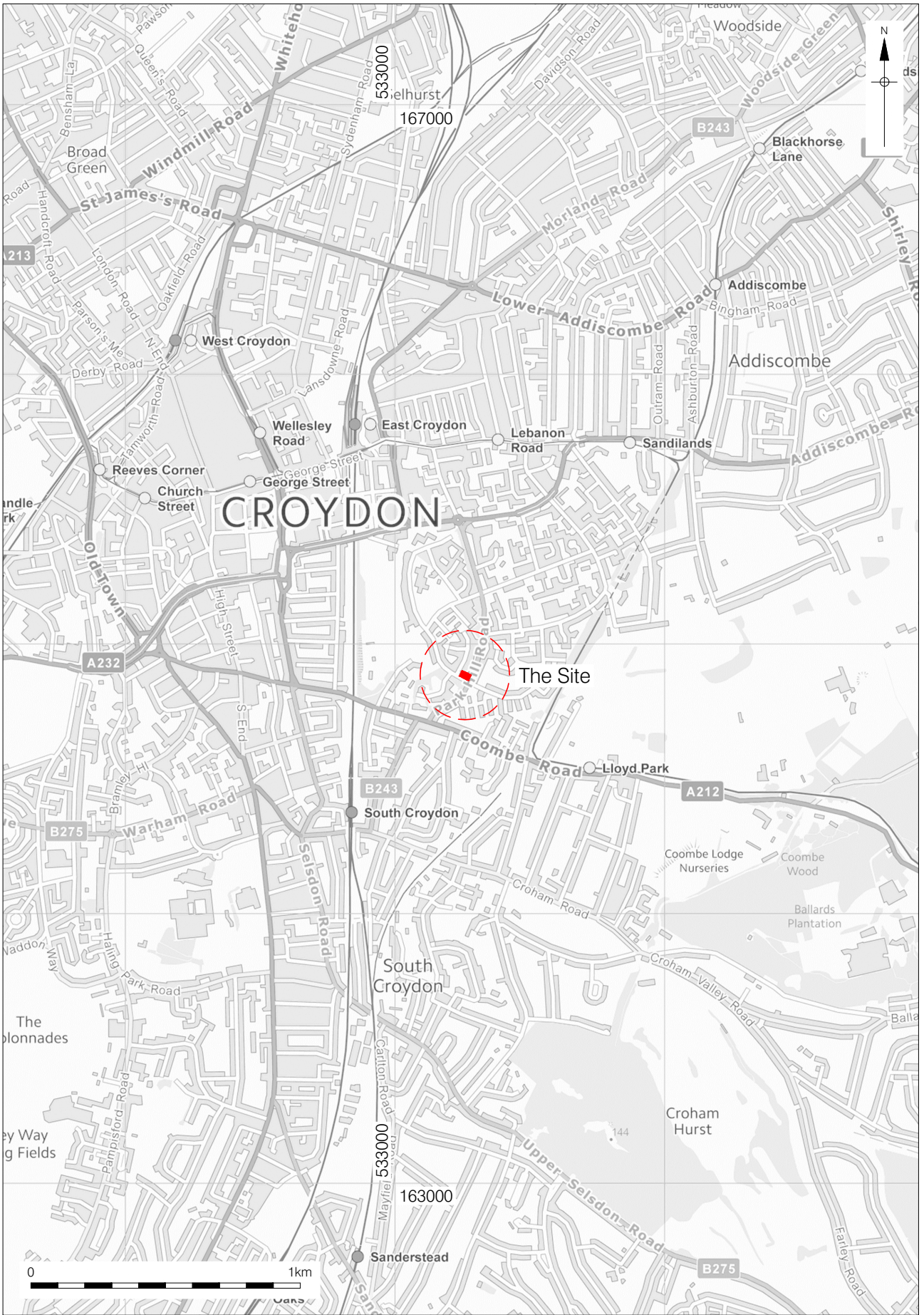
## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Turnbull for commissioning the work, particularly Phil Ray and Matt Thompson. We also thank Mark Stevenson of GLAAS for monitoring the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Chris Mayo. The archaeological watching brief was carried out by Christina Reade and Wayne Perkins. This report was written by Wayne Perkins and the illustrations were prepared by Jennifer Simonson.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Buczak, M. 2015 '60 Park Hill Road, Croydon, London, CR0 5ND: An Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment', unpublished report for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
- Jorgensen, P. 2015 '60 Park Hill Road, Croydon: WSI for Archaeological Observation and Recording', unpublished report for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
- Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.



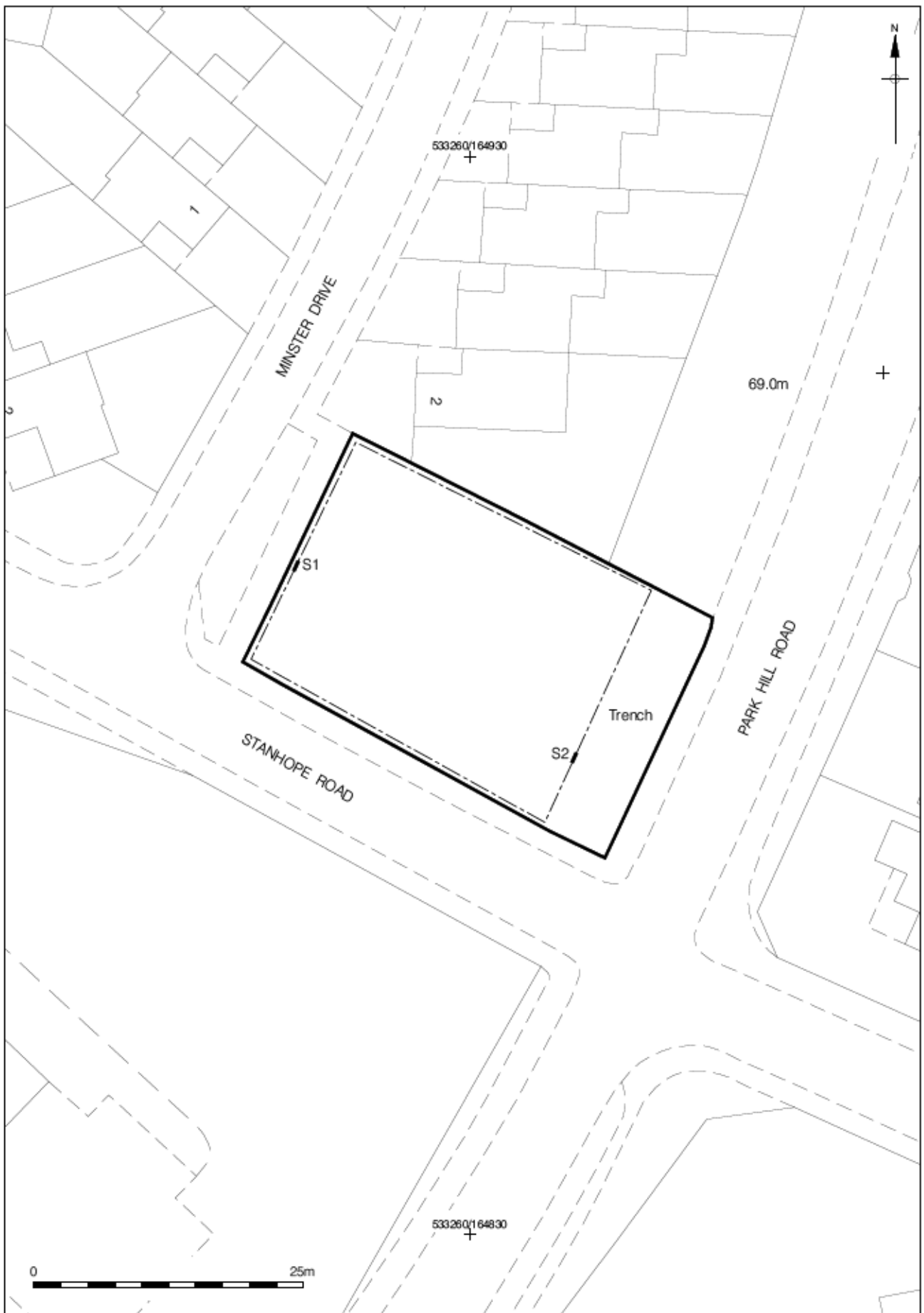


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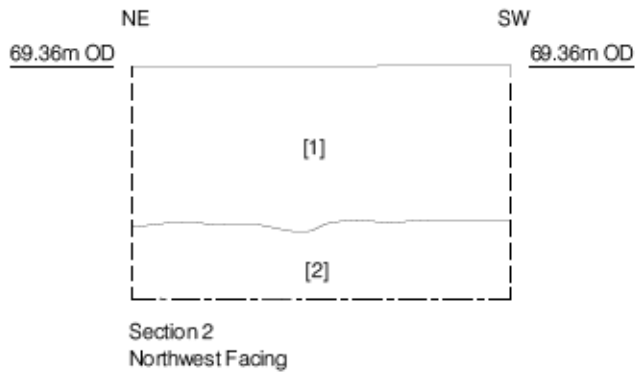
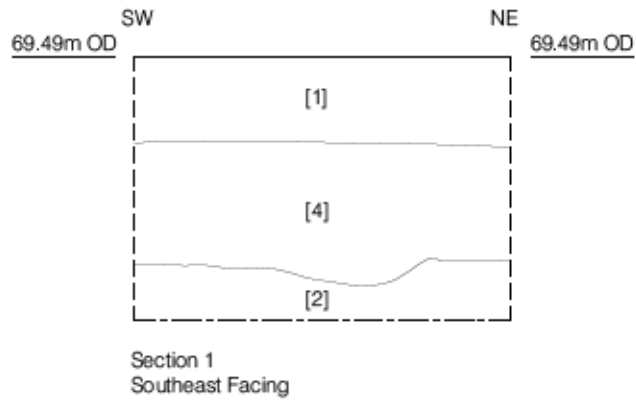
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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:500 at A4



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Figure 3  
Sections 1 & 2  
1:20 at A4

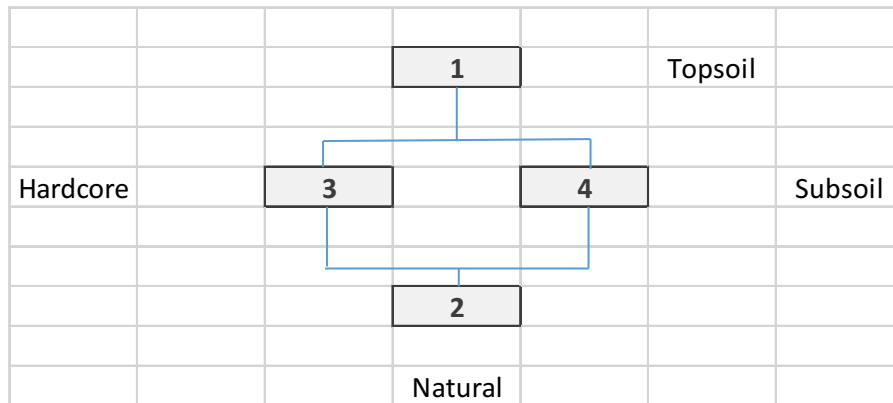
## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX AND SITE MATRIX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Phase
PHR15	1	1	1	Layer	Top Soil	3
PHR15	2	1	2	Layer	Natural	1
PHR15	3	1	*	Layer	Made ground (hard-core)	3
PHR15	4	1	2	Layer	Subsoil	2

Phase1: Natural Geology

Phase2: PostMedieval (1540 – 1900)

Phase3: Modern Mid-20<sup>th</sup> (1901- present)





## APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-212401

### Project details

Project name	60 Park Hill Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5ND
Short description of the project	Groundworks required by the development entailed terracing of the site to create three plateaus from which the new dwellings would be built. The terracing was undertaken by machine operating under continuous archaeological supervision, and entailed the removal of topsoil and subsoil until a natural surface was exposed. No archaeological features were observed or finds of any archaeological period observed. Around a third of the site had been heavily truncated by the imprint of the earlier dwelling that had been demolished prior to the commencement of works. Numerous pits and depressions were observed containing 20th century back fill of fragmentary building material and modern debris.
Project dates	Start: 20-05-2015 End: 27-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	PHR15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 60 Park Hill Road, Croydon
Postcode	CR0 5ND
Study area	775.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 33259 64887 51.3668757975 -0.0855024223001 51 22 00 N 000 05 07 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.96m Max: 68.94m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Wayne Perkins
Project supervisor	Christina Reade
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Turnbull

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	PHR15
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	PHR15
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	60 Park Hill Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5ND: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Perkins, W.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R12119
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Pre Construct Archaeology Limited
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Description	A4 grey literature client report with PCA covers

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Entered on	4 June 2015

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