

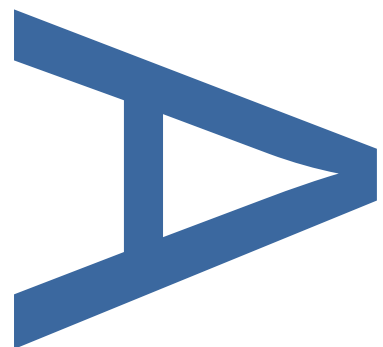
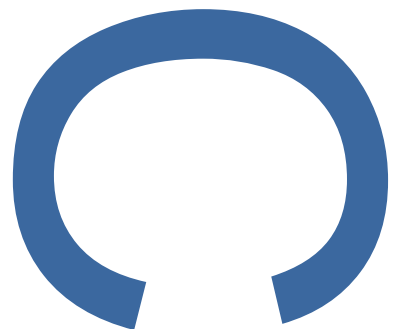
**8 WEST HILL,  
SANDERSTEAD, SOUTH CROYDON,  
SURREY CR2 0SA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

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

**SITE CODE: WSL17**

**JUNE 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

8 WEST HILL, SANDERSTEAD, SOUTH CROYDON,  
SURREY CR2 0SA

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### Quality Control

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Report No			R12929
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**8 WEST HILL, SANDERSTEAD, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY CR2 0SA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**SITE CODE:** WSL17

**SITE CENTRAL NGR:** TQ 33144 62449

**COMMISSIONING CLIENT:** MARY HELSON AND PAUL HELSON

**WRITTEN BY:** MICHAEL TUNNICLIFFE (PCIfA)

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**May 2017**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This document details the working methods and results of an archaeological evaluation conducted at 8 West Hill, Sanderstead in the London Borough of Croydon. The work was carried out between 5th and 9th June 2017 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 1.2 Anecdotal evidence from the 19<sup>th</sup> century records that the site is partially located upon a Saxon burial mound, discovered during the construction of the properties and the laying out of West Hill in 1884. PCA were commissioned to undertake a test-pit survey to ascertain whether graves were indeed present.
- 1.3 A series of five test pits were hand excavated within an area of the site referred to as the 'Top Lawn', at the northern side of the property. The test pits were excavated to the natural chalk strata, the level of which demonstrated the natural topography of the hill falling from north to south. Layers of topsoil and a subsoil were recorded. A layer of redeposited chalk directly beneath the topsoil in the southern area of the lawn was probably dumped to level the ground during the period of the construction of the house in the 1880's.
- 1.4 A linear feature aligned east – west and cut into the chalk was seen on the northern side of the evaluation area. This was most probably a grave cut dating to the Saxon period, though only one fragment of human bone was recovered from the fill of it. It is considered most likely that the linear feature was a grave cut which was subsequently excavated during the road-construction work which took place in the late 19th century. One sherd of early Saxon pottery was also found within the topsoil, evidence of activity relating to that period in the area.
- 1.5 No other archaeology was seen during the evaluation.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd had been commissioned by Mary Helson and Paul Helson to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land within an existing property located at 8 West Hill, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 0SA (Figure 1). The works were located within an area of the garden to the immediate north of the property, centred at National Grid Reference TQ 33144 62449. The site is located within the London Borough of Croydon.
- 2.2 The site comprises a rectangular plot fronting to West Hill and bordered to the north and south by 10 West Hill and 6A West Hill respectively, and to the east by properties fronting to East Hill. The site contains a dwelling in the southern half, constructed in the 1880s, with a detached garage and a terraced mature garden to the immediate rear. To the immediate north of the building the northern half of the site (referred to as the 'Top Lawn') sits at a significantly higher elevation than the house (Plate 1); retaining walls and planted banks contain the southern batter of the upper garden area. The evaluation was conducted upon the Top Lawn.
- 2.3 Anecdotal evidence from the 19<sup>th</sup> century has recorded that the site is partially located upon a Saxon burial mound, discovered during the construction of the properties and the laying out of West Hill in 1884; workers initially encountered 6 or 7 skeletons scattered over an area of 40 square feet and then furthermore found another five graves close by, along with possible grave goods. It is believed that these remains were found within the northern half of the site boundary, and that their discovery prevented development of the immediate area. This is thought to explain why 8 West Hill encompasses a larger garden area than neighbouring properties.
- 2.4 The client wishes to explore the potential of developing the site, and as such has undertaken consultation with the Archaeology Advisor to the local planning authority, Mark Stevenson of Historic England. Mr Stevenson has advised that the site be subject to a pre-determination site evaluation to ascertain whether any Saxon burials exist within the area under consideration, the northern half of the site.
- 2.5 The evaluation was conducted between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 by a small team of archaeologists employed by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), following a methodology which had been set out in an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2017). The work was monitored by Mark Stevenson.
- 2.6 The investigations therefore aimed to investigate whether burials existed at the site, and also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival. The following site specific questions were also posed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2017):
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity?
  - Are Anglo Saxon graves present? If so at what depth are they seen and are there grave goods present?

- Are associated contemporary archaeological features present?
- Can the reason for the flat, levelled top lawn be identified?

2.7 The project was initiated as a pre-determination evaluation in advance of any planning application, following detailed liaison with Historic England.

### **3 SITE BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Geology and Topography**

- 3.1.1 The British Geological Survey (2006) Sheet 270 (South London) indicates that the site sits upon an area of chalk with no superficial deposits. The general area slopes steeply from southwest to northwest from approximately 90m OD at the lower end of the West Hill to approximately 120m OD about 100m up from the site where it levels out at the top of the hill.
- 3.1.2 The site comprises of a rectangular plot fronting West Hill measuring approximately 46m from front to back and 37m side to side. The house at 8 West Hill dates from the 1880's. The area that was evaluated is situated to the north of the house at a significantly higher elevation.

#### **3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The following background draws heavily from a desk-based assessment (Smith Nicholls 2015) which was produced for a nearby property, and which included 8 West Hill within its study area. Correspondence between PCA's client and Historic England is also referenced.

- 3.2.1 Numerous isolated prehistoric findspots have been recorded in the area on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER), reflective of activity from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods on the local chalk downs. In the immediate vicinity of the site, potential settlement activity is suggested from a Neolithic flint working site recorded on West Hill in 1884, a small assemblage of Bronze Age flints found at 2 The Ridgeway (to the northeast of the site) and an Iron Age settlement in the area of Beechwood Road (to the north of the site) vaguely mentioned in a local journal. The desk-based assessment considered there to be "a medium chance of encountering prehistoric remains" in the area (Smith Nicholls 2015, 38).
- 3.2.2 Roman activity is only sparsely recorded on the GLHER in the near area, with a pit and a ditch found at 185 Upper Selsdon Road (800m northeast of the site) in 1947. A more substantial site containing an enclosure, huts and even multiple interments was recorded some distance to the south east of the site, however the date of these remains (1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century) matches those found at Upper Selsdon Road, and therefore there was clearly activity in the area at this time. The desk-based assessment considered there to be a low chance of Roman remains in the area (Smith Nicholls 2015, 38).
- 3.2.3 The Saxon potential for the site at 8 West Hill is high, on the basis of the remains which were recorded in the 1880s when West Hill was being laid out. The location of the graves which were found is unfortunately not precise, reflective of the antiquity of the discovery. The desk-based assessment (Smith Nicholls 2015, 11-12) described the finds from the 19<sup>th</sup> century as follows:

*...Malden's The Victoria History of the County of Surrey provides an early source for the original excavation of the site in 1884. Initially 6 or 7 skeletons were found within 40 square feet but in a scattered formation; a week later five more graves were discovered*



during the construction of the line of a new road. The graves were cut into the solid chalk of a hill slope and were only covered by nine inches of soil, and of the finds recovered one course pottery vase was found at the head of a grave and two small iron knives were also found in separate graves. Despite the scattered distribution of the bodies, they were all facing east.

...Malden's account is only compiled from notes that an excavator provided. However, the excavator R. Galloway Rice did write to *The Croydon Advertiser* in March 1885 about his discoveries, and confirms the details that Malden provides as well as referring to other prehistoric finds in the area such as a "spear head and some beads in a barrow" at Cane Hill Asylum and "a very fine boss of a Saxon shield" from Farthing Down. Both of these sites lie ... in the Coulsdon area roughly 4 miles away from the site location. This provides evidence for further potential Saxon archaeology in the wider area. Galloway Rice also makes reference to remains that Alfred Carpenter discusses in *Recent Observations Made in the New Road at Purley: Archaeological and Ethnographical*, in which he discusses multiple graves found on the hill parallel with Brighton Road, west of the site location. He specifically refers to burials found at the end of Whitecliffe Road, eight of which he uncovered. Carpenter believes the burials are early-Christian in date on the basis of the lack of grave goods, coffins and their east-west alignment, however this is a point that Galloway Rice himself contests on the basis that the graves may have simply been aligned towards the rising sun, therefore there is no definite date put forward for these skeletal remains.

In addition, Galloway Rice refers to a series of pits which he found further down the hill... [thought to be during groundworks on the West Hill water main in 1884]. Galloway Rice's description however, of small 'caves' joined by 'tunnels' containing flint flakes amongst the "loose chalk fill" several of which were "partly encrusted with a thin coating of stalagmite," could suggest that later taphonomic processes may have affected the site.

- 3.2.4 In providing advice to the client about the potential presence of Saxon remains at 8 West Hill, Mark Stevenson of Historic England stated that:

...Little recording was made at that time other than to note that they [the Saxon burials] were scattered over some 40 square feet. A week later five more burials were exposed this time in the area of the new road.

The result of this information is that we do not know the exact position of the graves from the land next to number 8 West Hill. The suggestion was, correctly so or otherwise, that they were not in formal rows.

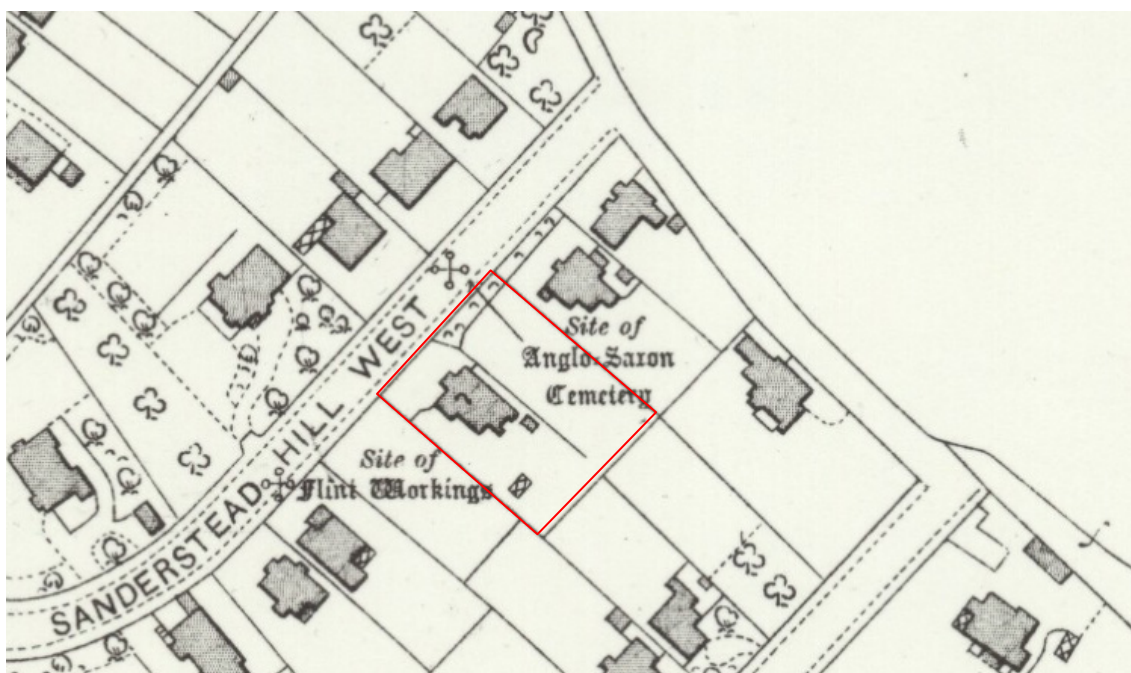
When the estate was first formed the plot next door was marked as a separate property. It would appear that prior to WWII the land was attached to your ... property.

It may be that the plot was not developed as part of the estate because of the burials.

- 3.2.5 The client has also advised that some interest was expressed in developing the northern half of the site in the 1990s, and that an independent archaeologist was commissioned by the interested party to investigate the site. The client recalls that:

*...the builders expressed an interest in the land 15 years ago and commissioned an independent archeologist (I think) to make some exploratory excavations. This seemed to consist of 3 small pot-holes. The result was that he reported ... that something was indeed there, in effect. [The builders] did not pursue it possibly due to the unknown costs of the fieldwork necessary.*

- 3.2.6 Mr Stevenson has made enquiries to the Croydon Museum Service but has been informed that no information on the work believed to have been undertaken at the site was received.
- 3.2.7 No medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the site, and as such the potential for this period was considered to be low.
- 3.2.8 Similarly for the post-medieval period, only one find is recorded within a 19<sup>th</sup> century quarry pit at Sanderstead Road Car Park. Historic maps of the area up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century indicate that the area comprised field systems, and as such agricultural activity was to be expected but no significant archaeological remains.



*Ordnance Survey Map published 1912, site outline shown in red (image taken from <http://maps.nls.uk>)*

- 3.2.9 West Hill was laid out in 1884, during which process the Saxon burials and Neolithic flintworking site shortly to the southwest was recorded. These discoveries are marked on the third edition Ordnance Survey Map, published in 1912 (see above).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 In order to address whether Saxon burials or indeed any archaeological remains of other periods survived on the site a trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the Top Lawn area. An arrangement of three trenches was agreed with Mark Stevenson of Historic England and designed within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2017).
- 4.2 During the course of the fieldwork this arrangement was changed to reflect site conditions; five trenches were excavated as follows:

Trench	Dimensions at GL	Max depth
TP1	2m by 1m	0.93m
TP2	2m by 1m	0.82m
TP3	2m by 1m	0.90m
TP4	1m by 1m	1.02m
TP5	2m by 1m	1.01m

- 4.3 The trenches were arranged so as to provide good coverage of the top lawn whilst also targeting the north-eastern side of the site close to West Hill, where the remains were reported in 1884. Figure 2 shows the location of the five test pits and Plate 1 shows the area prior to the evaluation.



*Plate 1: General view of area looking NE.*

- 4.4 All excavation was completed by hand. Once the lawn turf had been carefully removed a geotextile membrane was then placed at the side of each trench for the arisings. A metal detector was used to scan this spoil for artifacts.
- 4.5 Once the trenches had been opened, cleaned and fully investigated, they were then recorded using systems which were derived from the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor and Brown 2009). Single context

planning was used to record layers and features. Sections of each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and trenches were planned at a scale of 1:20.

- 4.6 The location of each trench was surveyed in using Leica GPS equipment, a TBM was also established by the same means which allowed the OD height of all strata and features to be calculated. A photographic record of all the evaluation work was maintained using high quality digital photographs.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Phase 1: Natural strata

- 5.1.1 At the base of the sequence in each test pit was the natural chalk bedrock. This varied in height from 116.07m OD (Trench 1) in the south, to 116.71m OD in the north (Trench 5), demonstrating the rise of the hill from south to north over a relatively short distance.

### 5.2 Phase 2: Saxon (?) grave



*Plate 2: Cut feature [16] viewing SE. Scale 1m.*

- 5.2.1 An archaeological feature was seen and recorded in Trench 5. This feature consisted of a linear cut [16], which was aligned east - west and had been excavated directly into the chalk. It had carefully cut vertical sides, a flat base and measured at least 1.80m in length, 0.70m in depth and 0.70m in width (Figure 3). The full length of the cut could not be determined as both ends of it were beyond the limit of the trench. Its' top was recorded at 116.71m OD, approximately 0.35m beneath the surface of the lawn. This feature is shown in Plates 2 and 3.
- 5.2.2 The cut was backfilled with a loose chalk rubble deposit [15]. One fragment of human vertebrae was found in this fill together with another small fragment of unidentified bone (*pers comm* J. Langthorne, PCA).
- 5.2.3 It would seem most probable that cut feature [16] was a grave cut, dating to the same Saxon period as the graves uncovered in the 1880's. The absence of a skeleton is a mystery; it has clearly been removed at some point in the past with only the one vertebrae fragment remaining.





*Plate 3: Cut feature [16] viewing NE. Scale 1m.*

### **5.3 Phase 3: Subsoil**

- 5.3.1 Observed in all of the test pits and sealing the grave cut in Test Pit 5 was a subsoil layer [3] which comprised of reddish brown silt / sand and contained large amounts of small rounded stones / flints. This layer was typically 0.40m in thickness, though this decreased towards the northwest of the area as the hill rises. It was recorded at a height of 116.33m OD in the south of the area (Trench 4) rising to 116.94m OD in the north (Trench 5), following the contour of the underlying chalk. There were no finds recovered from it.

### **5.4 Phase 4: Deposits post-dating the construction of the house**

- 5.4.1 Directly beneath the topsoil was a layer of redeposited chalk [2]. This consisted of sub-angular chalk fragments, degraded chalk and flint nodules. It was recorded at a fairly consistent height of 116.70m OD in Test Pits 1, 2, 3 and 4. The thickness of this layer increased considerably towards the south of the site where it was recorded at 0.45m in depth, in Trench 4, and decreased in thickness towards the centre of the area (Figure 4). It was completely absent in Trench 5 in north of the site. This layer can clearly be seen in the sections of Trench 1 (Plate 4), Trench 2 (Plate 5) and Trench 3 (Plate 6) together with the topsoil and subsoil layers.
- 5.4.2 Clearly this layer was deposited on the original hillside surface to level the ground prior to the construction of the lawn. This layer probably originated from chalk excavated during construction of the West Hill road or the house foundations and on this basis it is considered to date from the construction of the road and houses in the 1880's.



*Plate 4: Trench 1, viewing SW. Scale 1m.*



*Plate 5: Trench 2, viewing SW. Scale 1m.*

- 5.4.3 Excavation of the test pits revealed that the entire evaluation area was covered with a layer of topsoil [1], which was the most recent deposit encountered. This layer consisted of a sand / organic material mixture which was soft, dark brown in colour and contained large quantities of small rounded stones together with occasional inclusions of charcoal and ceramic building materials. This layer was typically 0.30m in thickness across the whole area and was recorded at a height of 117.0m OD. Finds from this layer consisted of pot sherds, ceramic building material and animal bone. One of the pot sherds was of early Saxon date, the rest were post-medieval (Appendix 3).



*Plate 6: Trench 3, viewing SW. Scale 1m*



## 6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation recorded a broad sequence of natural chalk overlain by a naturally derived subsoil, most likely a colluvial deposit. This material was locally sealed by a levelling horizon of chalk arisings beneath the topsoil which forms the current ground surface to the Top Lawn. Unfortunately no finds could be observed within either the subsoil or chalk levelling; however the latter is considered to be derived from the construction of the roadway in the 1880s or the house itself.
- 6.2 Levels taken at the top of the natural chalk demonstrated the original slope of the hill prior to landscaping in the nineteenth century.
- 6.3 The wider area has potential for prehistoric activity, and indeed Neolithic finds have been recovered a short distance to the south of the site and Bronze Age finds not far to the north. However no artifacts or features dating to this period were seen during the evaluation.
- 6.4 A cut feature [16] seen in Trench 5 in the north west of the site is likely to have been a grave cut of the Saxon period and was approximately 0.35m beneath the modern ground surface. The fill of this cut [15] was composed of loose chalk rubble and contained two bone fragments, one of which has been identified as being part of a human vertebra. The orientation of this feature is significant as it was aligned east – west and it was also located close to the West Hill road where the graves were reported to have been uncovered in the 1880's. There were no grave goods. A sherd of early Saxon pot found in the topsoil layer [1] was also evidence for activity of that period in the area.
- 6.5 The absence of a burial within this assumed grave cut is enigmatic. Four possibilities are considered, as follows:
- a) That the feature was intended to be a grave cut upon excavation but was not used. However, this is considered highly unlikely given the effort required to excavate such a feature through chalk bedrock, along with the absence of any cultural material and the absence of any apparent weathering within the faces of the cut.
  - b) That the feature was not a grave cut but rather was a linear garden feature of unknown purpose. However, this is also considered unlikely as the alignment of the feature is at odds with anything else within the gardens to 8 West Hill, the only property known to have occupied the site; additionally, there was no cultural material within the grave to support a later date for the feature.
  - c) That the cut had been historically robbed prior to the 1880s; however there was no sign of an obvious robbing cut to support this.
  - d) That the feature was a grave cut which was subsequently excavated during the road-construction work which took place in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This explanation is most plausible however it is odd that the feature, upon excavation by PCA, displayed no evidence of a robbing event in terms of either a robbing cut or modern detritus, as visible from Plate 2. This may be explained if the 19<sup>th</sup> century 'archaeologists' were believed to

have been meticulous in their excavation and backfilling.

- 6.6 Of the above possibilities, the most likely is considered to have been the last. The account given in *The Victoria History of the County of Surrey* states that in the 1880s:

*Initially 6 or 7 skeletons were found within 40 square feet but in a scattered formation; a week later five more graves were discovered during the construction of the line of a new road. The graves were cut into the solid chalk of a hill slope and were only covered by nine inches of soil, and of the finds recovered one course pottery vase was found at the head of a grave and two small iron knives were also found in separate graves. Despite the scattered distribution of the bodies, they were all facing east.*

- 6.7 This implies that the initial discovery of the graves was located separate to the line of the new road, which fits with the location of Test Pit 5 at a distance of nearly 11m from West Hill. The description of “nine inches of soil” sealing the graves is also comparable to the depth at which the feature in Test Pit 5 was found, 0.35m
- 6.8 No other archaeological features of any period were found during the site investigation.
- 6.9 The redeposited chalk [3] directly under the topsoil was probably dumped on the side of the hill in order to create a level surface for the lawn and thus dates to the period of the house construction in the 1880's. It seems likely that this chalk originated from the excavation of the house foundations or the West Hill road. This explanation fits with the presence of graves: that their discovery prevented the construction of a house within the vacant plot, and thus the area was made level so as to provide a usable lawn to accompany 8 West Hill.
- 6.10 The evaluation work has therefore provided circumstantial evidence to support the 19<sup>th</sup> century accounts of graves being present close to the site: a feature of the correct alignment, shape and dimensions to be a grave containing a fragment of human vertebra and with a single piece of Saxon pottery recovered from the overlying topsoil. The implication therefore has to be that graves were indeed present at the site at a depth of around 0.35m below ground level; however the work has not proven whether they were all excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, nor whether any further graves may be found within the area of the Top Lawn. This could only be conclusively shown by stripping the entire area under archaeological control.
- 6.11 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 under site code WSL17. Until then the archive will be stored at our headquarters in Brockley, London.
- 6.12 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

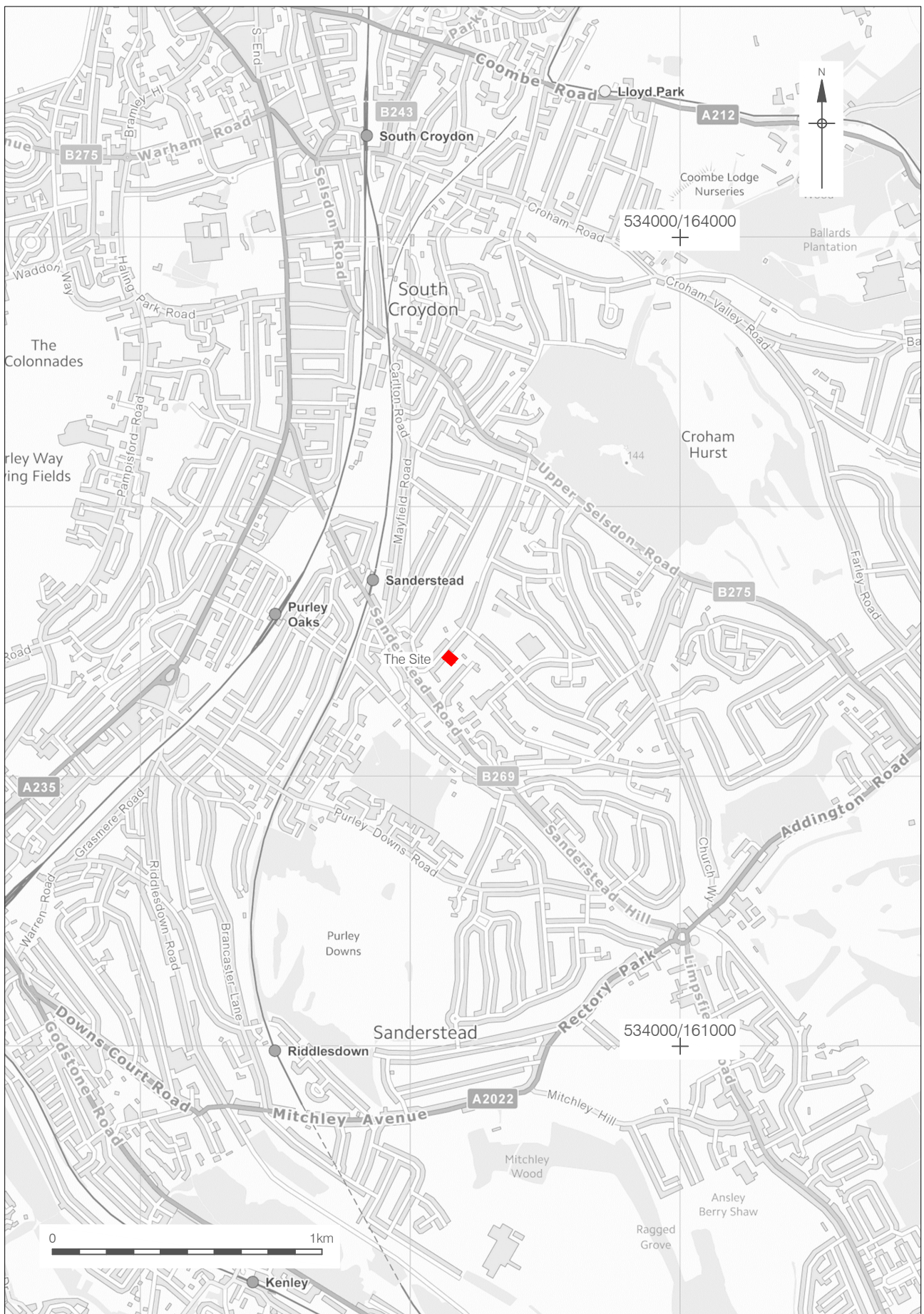
- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Mary and Peter Helson for commissioning the work, and David Helson for his early assistance. We also thank Mark Stevenson of GLAAS, Historic England, for his advice and for monitoring the project.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank Ben Bazely, Tanya Jones and Guy Seddon for their help on site. I would also like to thank Chris Jarrett for the pottery identification and Chris Mayo for editing this report / project management.

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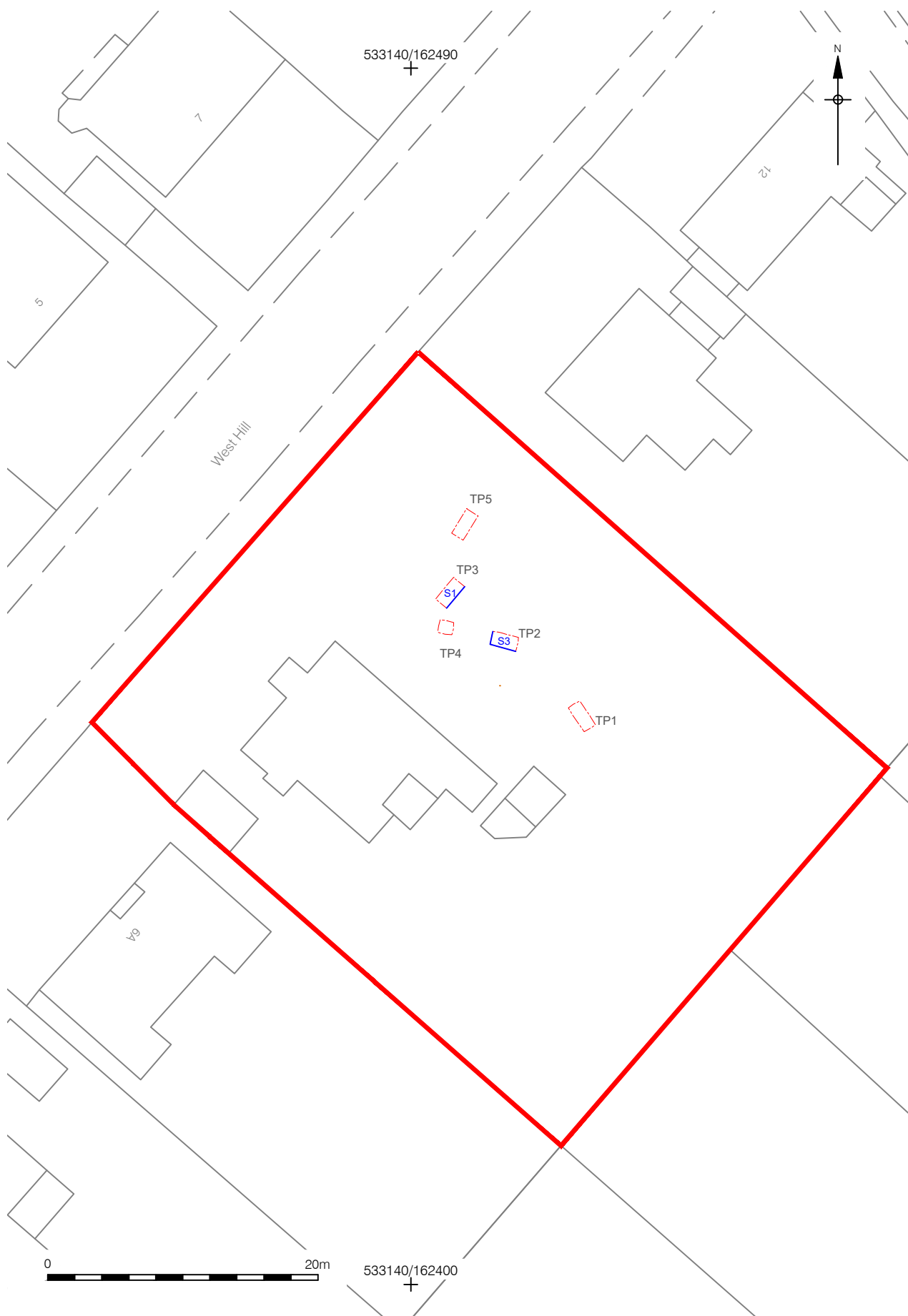


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



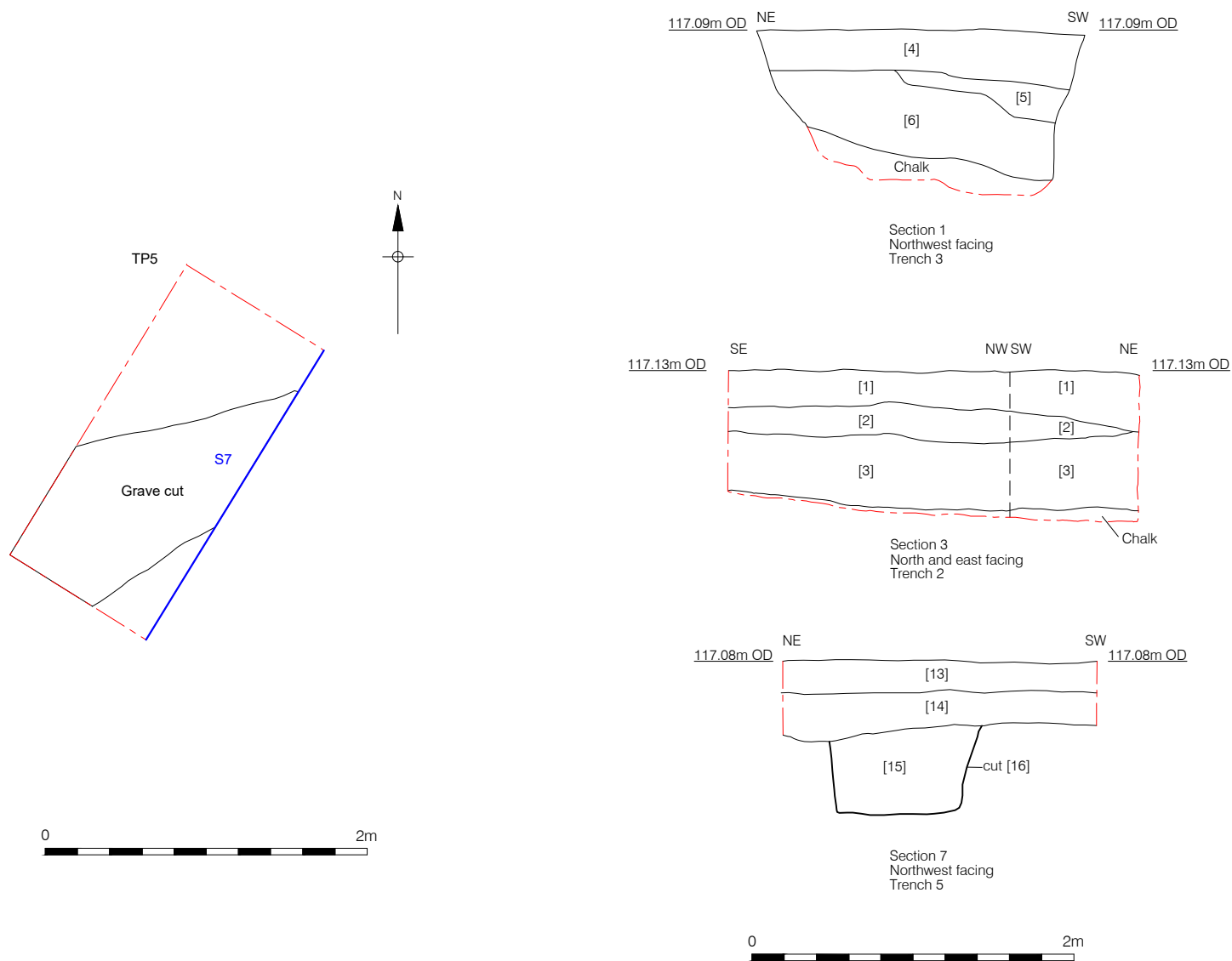


Figure 3  
Plan of Trench 5 and selected sections  
1:40 at A4

## 9 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	COMMENTS	PHASE
1	Layer	2	Topsoil	4
2	Layer	2	Redeposited chalk layer	4
3	Layer	2	Silt / gravel subsoil	3
4	Layer	3	Topsoil	4
5	Layer	3	Redeposited chalk layer	4
6	Layer	3	Silt / gravel subsoil	4
7	Layer	1	Topsoil	4
8	Layer	1	Redeposited chalk layer	4
9	Layer	1	Silt / gravel subsoil	4
10	Layer	4	Topsoil	4
11	Layer	4	Redeposited chalk layer	4
12	Layer	4	Silt / gravel subsoil	
13	Layer	5	Topsoil	4
14	Layer	5	Silt / gravel subsoil	
15	Fill	5	Fill of [16]	
16	Cut	5	Linear cut feature	
17	Layer	1-5	Natural chalk	1

## 10 APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX

	TP1	TP2	TP3		TP4	TP5
				+		
<b>Phase 4: Post 1880s</b>						
topsoil	1	4	7		10	13
chalk levelling	2	5	8		11	
<b>Phase 3: Subsoil</b>	3	6	9		12	14
<b>Phase 2: Saxon grave</b>						
					Fill	15
					Cut	16
<b>Phase 1: Natural chalk</b>				17		
				NFE		



## **11 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY DATING INDEX**

*By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2017*

### **11.1 Introduction**

11.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the excavation (twelve sherds/4 estimated number of vessels (ENV)/136g), of which none was unstratified. The pottery dates to the early Saxon and post-medieval periods. The assemblage is in a good condition, although it is recorded as mostly sherd material and none of the vessels have a complete profile. Nearly all of the pottery could be assigned to a form. Only one of the sherds was deemed to be residual and therefore the assemblage was mostly deposited fairly rapidly after breakage or on its discard and under secondary deposition conditions. The material was found in two contexts as small sized groups (under 30 sherds). The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology (2014). The assemblage is discussed as a spot dating index.

11.1.2 The pottery can be quantified as belonging to the following periods:

- Early Saxon: 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 20g
- Post-medieval: 11 sherds, 3 ENV, 116g

### **11.2 Spot dating Index**

- Context [1], spot date: 19th century

11.2.1 Greensand quartz-type inclusions, with sparse organics (ESGSO), AD 400–650, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 20g, jar: shoulder with a cordon or the start of the rim. External horizontal wiping marks. Reduced very dark grey

11.2.2 Miscellaneous (red earthenware) (MISC), 6 sherds, 1 ENV, 44g, flower pot: rim sherd, base sherd and body sherds, one of which has part of a probable place name '... BANKS' rouletted horizontally. 19th century

- Context [4], spot date: late 19th century

11.2.3 Miscellaneous (red earthenware) (MISC), 4 sherds, 1 ENV, 64g, flower pot: base sherd and body sherds. 19th century

11.2.4 Miscellaneous slipware (MISC), 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 8g, unidentified form: body sherd. A high-fired, dark brown earthenware with an external white slip horizontal wide line above a blue horizontal glaze band and a clear internal and external glaze. Possibly from an Irish source, although a rare product of The Potteries or elsewhere in Britain should not be discounted. 19th century

### **11.3 Significance, potential and recommendations for further work**

- 11.3.1 The assemblage is only of significance for containing a sherd of early Saxon pottery and despite being residual, the item is a good indication for activity of this period on or close to the site. The post-medieval pottery is of little interest and consists of fine red earthenware fabrics probably from a local source, besides a sherd of a high-fired red earthenware with industrial slip decoration, which is an atypical find for London and south East England.
- 11.3.2 The main potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was recovered from and to indicate Early Saxon activity in the vicinity. Indication of other activity from this period is represented by the excavation of approximately 104 pottery urns, dating to the 5th–7th century and recovered from the Early Saxon cemetery at Park Lane, Croydon (McKinley 2003).
- 11.3.3 There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery at this stage, although should further archaeological investigations occur on the study area, then the importance of the ceramics should be reviewed if new material is recovered.

#### **11.4 References**

McKinley, J. 2003 'The early Saxon cemetery at Park Lane, Croydon', *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 90, 1–116.

Museum of London Archaeology, 2014. Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes.  
<http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>.

## 12 APPENDIX 4: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-288754

### Project details

Project name	8 West Hill, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 0SA: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 8 West Hill, Sanderstead in the London Borough of Croydon. Anecdotal evidence from the 19th century records that the site is partially located upon a Saxon burial mound, discovered during the construction of the properties and the laying out of West Hill in 1884. PCA were commissioned to undertake a test-pit survey to ascertain whether graves were indeed present. A series of five test pits were hand excavated within an area of the site referred to as the 'Top Lawn', at the northern side of the property. The test pits were excavated to the natural chalk strata, the level of which demonstrated the natural topography of the hill falling from north to south. Layers of topsoil and a subsoil were recorded. A layer of redeposited chalk directly beneath the topsoil in the southern area of the lawn was probably dumped to level the ground during the period of the construction of the house in the 1880's. A linear feature aligned east - west and cut into the chalk was seen on the northern side of the evaluation area. This was most probably a grave cut dating to the Saxon period, though only one fragment of human bone was recovered from the fill of it. It is considered most likely that the linear feature was a grave cut which was subsequently excavated during the road-construction work which took place in the late 19th century. One sherd of early Saxon pottery was also found within the topsoil, evidence of activity relating to that period in the area. No other archaeology was seen during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 05-06-2017 End: 09-06-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSL17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	GRAVE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Research
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON SELSDON AND SANDERSTEAD 8 West Hill, Sanderstead, South Croydon,

Postcode	Surrey CR2 0SA
Study area	350 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 33144 62449 51.344990818554 -0.088066288107 51 20 41 N 000 05 17 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 116.07m Max: 116.71m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Mike Tunnicliffe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mary Helson and Paul Helson
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	WSL17
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Human Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	WSL17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	WSL17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section", "Survey "
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	8 West Hill, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 0SA: An Archaeological Evaluation
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Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	28-Jun-17

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