AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL HOLE EVALUATION AT 100-102 MORDEN ROAD, MITCHAM, LONDON CR4

SITE CODE: MOD17

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

AUGUST 2017

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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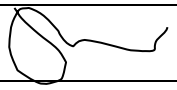
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		18.8.2017

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL HOLE EVALUATION AT 100-102 MORDEN ROAD, MITCHAM, LONDON CR4

Site Code: MOD17

Central NGR: TQ 2684 6829

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Merton

Planning Reference:

Commissioning Client: CGMS Consulting

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CONTENTS

1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the result of an archaeological trial hole evaluation on land at 100-102 Morden Road, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton, CR4. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and was commissioned by CGMS Consulting.

1.2 Six trial holes were excavated to assess if archaeological deposits relating to the nearby Saxon cemetery survived on the site, or whether the deposits had been quarried away in the 19th century, as shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps. The trial holes measured roughly 3m x 1.8 and were excavated vertically to the greatest depth possible given the site constraints.

1.3 Natural gravel was recorded at 15.16m OD-15.65m OD in Trenches 1 and 4. Alluvium was noted in five of the interventions, the top of which was between 16.05m OD and 17.00m OD. In three of the trenches (Trenches 2, 4 and 6) a relict soil, possibly a plough or agricultural soil was identified c. 0.30m to 1.0m below ground level. All of the trenches found deposits of made ground ranging from 0.30m to more than 2.10m thick.

1.4 Most of the trenches encountered ground water by c. 2.0m below ground level, and the extensive alluvial deposits also suggested that the site was located in the floodplain of the River Wandle, which runs close to the site.

1.5 The evaluation found that whilst extensive truncation had taken place in Trenches 1, 3 and 5, Trenches 2,4 and 6 suggested that some archaeological horizons might survive on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at 100-102 Morden Road, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton, CR4.

2.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Clarke 2017) and following Historic England guidelines (GLAAS 2014). The work was commissioned by Chris Clarke of CGMS Consulting.

2.3 The proposed development is subject to policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the London Plan and the London Borough of Merton's Core Strategy and Local Plan.

2.4 The archaeological evaluation was supervised by Tom Brook and was project managed by Helen Hawkins, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The work was monitored by Mark Stevenson of Historic England, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Merton.

2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

2.6 The site was allocated the unique site code MOD17.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Site Specific Constraints

3.1.1 There were no Scheduled Monuments or listed buildings within the development site.

3.1.2 The site is located within the Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery Archaeological Priority Area (DLO37690) as designated by the London Borough of Merton in their Local Plan.

3.2 The site is to be redeveloped for housing. The Archaeology Adviser to the London Borough of Merton, Mark Stevenson of Historic England, therefore advised that the planning consent should include an archaeological condition as follows:

> *A) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of site related archaeological observation and recording of geotechnical site survey work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.*
>
> *B) Under Part A, the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall implement a programme of archaeological observation and recording of geotechnical site survey work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.*
>
> *C) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of site related archaeological mitigation ()if required) in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that mitigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.*
>
> *D) Under Part C, the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall implement a programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.*
>
> *E) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and possible mitigation work has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Parts (A and C), and the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.*

3.2.1 In accordance with the archaeological planning condition for the site a written scheme of investigation was prepared for the client by CGMS (Clarke 2017) and approved by Mark Stevenson.

4 EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

4.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Clarke 2017) addressed the following primary objectives:

- To establish whether any archaeological evidence survives on the site.
- The primary aim of the evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- A subsidiary aim of the evaluation, if archaeological remains are encountered within the trial holes and as far as is reasonably possible, establish the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.

4.2 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:

- To establish the sequence of deposits across the site and facilitate the construction of a deposit model. Using the deposit model, determine if there is potential for archaeological horizons to be present within the site, with primary consideration given to the known remains relating to the Ravensbury Anglo-Saxon Cemetery.
- Establish the likely impact of past land use and development.

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The geological and topographical background cited below was obtained from the written scheme of investigation for the site (Clarke 2017).

5.1.1 The British Geological Survey (2017) indicates that the solid geology within the vicinity of the site consists of London Clay forming the London Basin, overlain by superficial Taplow Gravel Member deposits.

5.1.2 A programme of geotechnical investigation was undertaken on the site in October 2016, which identified a 2.5m thick deposit of made ground across the site.

5.1.3 Ground level within the study site is level at approximately 18m Ordnance Datum (OD).

5.1.4 The course of the River Wandle is located approximately 250m to the south of the study site.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The archaeological and historical background is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CGMS (Clarke 2017).

6.2 Prehistoric

6.2.1 The earliest evidence for human activity within the study area is the recovery a Palaeolithic flint implement at a former gravel quarry on Miles Road, located c500m to the north of the site. A second artefact of Palaeolithic date consisted of a 'very rolled, very stained' Palaeolithic flake recovered from the Mitcham area in general.

6.2.2 No finds of Mesolithic date have been identified within a 650m radius of the study site.

6.2.3 A possible Bronze Age barrow and associated Prehistoric cemetery was excavated in the late 19th century at Ravensbury Park, c200m southeast of the site.

6.2.4 Bronze Age findspots within a 650m radius of the study site include palstave axes from the general Mitcham area together with a polished stone axehead.

6.2.5 Two sherds of residual Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery were found during an evaluation on Wandle Road, c350m to the southwest of the site.

6.2.6 Iron Age findspots within a 650m radius of the study site include gold Iron Age coins from the general Mitcham area (possible a single entry which has been duplicated), and a bone shuttle from Mitcham Grove to the southeast.

6.2.7 Evaluations at Ravensbury Park within the immediate River Wandle floodplain, approximately 50m to the south of the study site, revealed a sequence of prehistoric alluvial and colluvial deposits, but no other archaeological features or artefacts.

6.2.8 Several flint knives, arrowheads, scrapers and cores, dated to the prehistoric period in general, were found in 1888 from Ravensbury Park, c450m southwest of the study site.

6.3 Roman

6.3.1 The line of Stane Street, linking London with Chichester, crosses Merton. The projected line crosses the Wandle at Colliers Wood c. 2km to the north-west of the site, and continued to the southwest through Morden Park, west of the study site.

6.3.2 Two archaeological evaluations in proximity to Benedict Road Primary School, c300m north of the study site, recorded a series of Roman boundary or drainage ditches.

6.3.3 One Roman pot sherd and one residual box flue tile fragment were found during an excavation at 54-56 Church Road, Mitcham, c500m northeast of the study site. Further Roman finds were identified during the excavation of the Saxon cemetery at Mitcham c250m to the southeast.

6.3.4 Individual findspots within the study area include a bronze sestertius of Vespasian (69-79 AD) near Belgrave Road, north of the study site, and roof tile and pottery fragments have been identified at Mitcham Grove to the southeast of the study site.

6.4 Anglo-Saxon

6.4.1 The first documentary references to Mitcham occur in charters of the abbey of St Peter at Chertsey dated to around AD 675-727. The place name ‘mic’ meaning ‘big’ and ‘ham’, is interpreted as "settlement". In King Edward's charter of AD 967, the estate of "Michamingemerke" was acknowledged. The Medieval village of Mitcham developed as a 'ribbon' settlement along the London-Sutton Road, with two foci: Upper Green (probably also known as Michelham) and Lower Green (also known as Wickford Green).

6.4.2 The site itself falls within the Tier 1 Ravensbury Saxon Cemetery Archaeological Priority Area (APA). The APA designation derives from the discovery and excavation of a Saxon cemetery dating to the 5th/6th century containing three main groups of burials in is recorded close to the River Wandle, at 39-83 Morden Road. The cemetery was excavated between 1888 and 1922 by the Bidder family. Around 230 graves were recorded with a number of brooches, buckles, beads, glass and pottery vessels, knives, swords, shield bosses, and spears. In

1885, a further 77 contemporary burial were found c150m east of the site during gravel extraction works. The full extent of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery is yet to be established, with the APA covering its hypothesised maximum extent, but it is acknowledged that widespread gravel extraction during the 19th century is likely to have removed extensive areas of the original cemetery. All recent archaeological investigations within the APA have yet to identify any surviving remains associated with cemetery.

6.4.3 The archaeological evaluation at Benedict Road Primary School, c300m to the north of the site, recorded two ditches, both of which contained a number of sherds of pottery dated to the late Saxon period. A butchered horse skeleton was found in the southern of the two ditches.

6.4.4 Archaeological evaluation at St Peter's Vicarage at 21 Church Road, located c350m to the northeast of the site, recorded intercutting ditches or gullies, rubbish pits and possible post holes containing material dating to the 9th and 12th centuries. An Anglo-Saxon quarry pit and residual pottery of a similar date have also been found in proximity to St Peter's Vicarage.

6.4.5 Further features dating to the Anglo-Saxon period, in the form of a pit, posthole, and several boundary ditches, have been found in two locations in proximity to Tramway Path c500m to the east of the site.

6.4.6 The isolated findspot of an Anglo-Saxon bowl of beaten bronze, found near Mitcham Church to the northeast of the study site.

6.5 Late Medieval

6.5.1 Mitcham appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Michelham*, amongst its assets were a mill, 3 ploughs and 56 acres (230,000 m^2) of meadow (Open Domesday 2017).

6.5.2 The Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, located c350m to the west of the site, has elements of the building structure which date to the Late Medieval period.

6.5.3 A Medieval pit or post-hole was recorded during an archaeological evaluation at land rear of 352-356 London Road, c600m south of the study site.

6.5.4 An archaeological evaluation conducted in 2007 at 7-13 Church Road, Mitcham, c400m to the northeast of the site, revealed a 12th - 13th century ditch and an undated, probably medieval ditch and post hole.

6.5.5 Three Medieval pits were found during an excavation at 80-82 Church Road, Mitcham, in 1996. One pit contained an undisturbed assemblage of early medieval coarseware cooking vessels typical of the 11th to mid-12th century.

6.5.6 Investigations in the vicinity of Benedict Gardens, c350m to the north of the site, recorded the presence of agricultural features dating to the Late Medieval period, consisting of multiple boundary ditches.

6.5.7 Excavations at Mitcham Grove, southeast of the study site, revealed the remains of a building dated to the thirteenth century, beneath a later building.

6.5.8 A Late Medieval fishpond has been identified at Morden Lodge, west of the study site.

6.5.9 The remains of Ravensbury Manor House, possibly with a moat fed from the Wandle, survive on the north side of the river approximately 200m south of the study site (Cherry & Pevsner 1999: 446; Nairn & Pevsner 1971:374).

6.5.10 Excavations in the ruins of Ravensbury Manor House, in Ravensbury Park to the south of the study site revealed Medieval pottery.

6.5.11 The site of a Medieval fishpond has been suggested c300m to the southwest of the study site. The evidence for this appears to have been derived from the presence of other fishponds in the area (see above), associated with the channels of the River Wandle, and no physical evidence appears to exist. Physical evidence of Medieval water management nearby has been identified in the form of riverside timber revetments.

6.5.12 During the Late Medieval period, the study site appears to have lain away from known activity and settlement centres in proximity to Lower Green to the north and the River Wandle to the

south. Consequently, a low archaeological potential can be identified for this period at the study site itself, although evidence of agricultural activity and land division could conceivably be present, where not impacted by later activity.

6.6 Post-Medieval & Modern

6.6.1 The earliest document to depict the area is Senex's map of 1729 which locates the site within open ground to the north of Morden Road. The character of the site remains unaltered between 1746 and 1804.

6.6.2 The Mitcham Tithe map of 1846 and associated Award record the site as occupying arable land.

6.6.3 The 1865 Ordnance Survey map still depicts the study site as open ground, but the site is now boarded by a lane to the eastern boundary.

6.6.4 By 1895 extensive gravel quarrying has taken place, occupying all but the northern corner of the site.

6.6.5 By 1913 the gravel quarry is no longer marked suggesting the quarry area has been reinstated. The study site is depicted as open ground. The layout of the site remains unaltered in 1932.

6.6.6 By 1976 the site has been developed and is occupied by a complex of industrial buildings. The layout of the site remains unaltered up to the present.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The purpose of the archaeological trial pit evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological deposits at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

7.2 The trial pit evaluation consisted of the excavation of six trial pits which were excavated to either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural ground, where possible. Excessive amounts of groundwater limited the depths to which some of the trial pits could be excavated. The trial pits measured 3m x 1.8m and were excavated vertically. Trial pits were not entered after a depth of c.1.2m below ground level. Much of the work was carried out in heavy rain.

7.3 The excavation of the evaluation trial pits was undertaken using a 360 mechanical excavator. After breaking and clearing the surface Tarmac, the mechanical excavator used a toothless ditching bucket to remove modern overburden under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil was mounded at a safe distance from the edges of the trenches.

7.4 Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until either significant archaeological strata were found or undisturbed natural ground exposed.

7.5 Trenches were CAT scanned after each spit was removed in order to check for buried services which were not marked on the service plan.

7.6 Trial pits were backfilled immediately upon completion.

7.7 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools, up to the 1.2m safe working depth.

7.8 The recording system adopted during the evaluation was fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS 1994) and with the PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown, 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.

7.9 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation consisting of a digital photographic archive that was maintained during the course of the archaeological investigation.

7.10 The complete archive produced during the evaluation and watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Museum of London site code MOD17.

7.11 Spot heights were given on the topographic survey adjacent to each trench and these were used to provide OD heights for the deposits.

7.12 All trenches were backfilled with the arisings.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE, BY TRENCH

8.1 Trench 1

Context Number	Description	Level	Depth B.G.L	Thickness
+	Modern Made Ground	18.96m OD	0 - 0.4m	0.20m
100	Redeposited Clay	18.76m OD	0.4 - 2.50m	2.10m
101	Alluvium	16.46m OD	2.50 – 3.80m	1.30m
102	Taplow Gravel	15.16m OD	3.80m+	-

8.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 3.80m below ground level, revealing a sequence of made ground, brownish/yellow clay, and alluvium, before finally revealing the natural geology, Taplow Gravel, at a depth of 3.80m. Clay deposit [100] comprised redeposited clay (with clear tip lines), formed at some point in the modern period, given that it was fairly loose and included some brick and other building rubble, and sealed alluvial deposit [101]. Alluvial layer [101] was very dark and smelled strongly of decomposing organic matter. It was likely to represent riverine action related to an earlier course of the River Wandle which runs just metres to the south of the site. The site itself is within the River Wandle floodplain. Alluvial horizon [101] indicated that this part of the site had not been fully truncated down to the natural geology.

Plate 1 Trench 1. Looking South-West. East-facing section of Trench 1 showing redeposited clay then alluvial deposits and natural geology at the base. Depth 3.80m

8.2 Trench 2

Context Number	Description	Level	Depth B.G.L.	Thickness
+	Modern Made Ground	18.62m OD	0 - 0.2m	0.2m
104	Redeposited Clay	18.42m OD	0.2 – 0.4m	0.2m
105	Loose silt	18.22m OD	0.4 – 0.55m	0.15m
107	Relict silt horizon	16.72m OD	0.55 – 2.70m	2.15m
109	Alluvium	15.92m OD	2.70 – 2.80m+	>0.10m

8.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 2.80m. Layer [104] was another layer of redeposited clay sealing a layer of loose sandy silt [105] probably a modern deposit (with clear tip lines). Layer [107] was a mid greyish brown sandy silt, mottled with small pockets (0.05m across) of yellow sand, which may have represented an in situ soil horizon. It sealed alluvial deposit [109] which appeared identical to [101] and was observed at a similar depth. Full excavation of this trench was not possible due to the trench rapidly becoming inundated with water from both the water table and from heavy rain.

Plate 2 Trench 2. Looking east. Section showing layer of silt [107] and large amounts of rain/floodwater which inundated the trench

8.3 Trench 3

Context Number	Description	Level	Depth B.G.L.	Thickness
+	Modern Made Ground	18.51m OD	8.3.1 0 – 2.30m	2.30m
110	Alluvium	16.21m OD	2.30 -2.55m+	>0.25m

8.3.1 The sequence in Trench 3 consisted of a heavy modern truncation consistent with the quarrying known to have taken place on the site. Alluvial deposit [110] was observed 2.30m below ground level to a depth of 2.55m, before the amount of water in the trench made excavation unworkable. There was no evidence for the relict soil noted in Trench 2.

Plate 3 showing tip lines in Trench 3 prior to flooding of trench

8.4 Trench 4

Context Number	Description	Level	Depth B.G.L.	Thickness
+	Modern Made Ground	18.05m OD	0 – 1.2m	1.2m
106	Relict silt horizon	16.85m OD	1.2 – 2.0m	0.80m
111	Alluvium	16.05m OD	2.0 – 2.60m	0.60m
102	Taplow Gravel	15.65m OD	2.60m – 2.80m+	>0.2m

8.4.1 Layer [106] comprised another silt horizon, similar to layer [107] in Trench 2, which may represent an in situ soil horizon. Layer [107] sealed alluvial layer [111], as it did in Trench 2, giving the same sequence in different parts of the site. It also suggested that truncation in this area is might not have removed all archaeological deposits. Alluvium continued to a depth of 2.60m, at which point the natural Taplow Gravel was reached.

Plate 4 Trench 4. Looking east. West-facing section of Trench 4 showing relict buried silts, alluvium, and natural Taplow Gravel.

8.5 Trench 5

Context Number	Description	Level	Depth B.G.L.	Thickness
+	Modern Made Ground	17.96m OD	0 – 2.10m	>2.10m

Plate 5 Trench 5. Looking West. Showing inundation of Trench 5.

8.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 2.10m before a large amount of water inundated the trench, probably from the water table, making further excavation impossible. Modern made ground (with clear tip lines)was identified in the trench to this depth.

8.6 Trench 6

Context Number	Description	Level	Depth B.G.L.	Thickness
+	Modern Made Ground	18.30m OD	0 – 0.35m	0.35m
108	Relict silt horizon	17.95m OD	0.35m – 1.30m	0.95m
111	Alluvium	17.00m OD	1.30m- 1.40m	0.10m
103	London Clay	16.90m OD	1.40m – 1.80m+	>0.40m

8.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a depth of 1.80m. A substantial layer (1.05m thick) [108] of silt, possibly a buried plough soil, was observed at just 0.35m. A thin layer (0.10m thick) of alluvium was present above the natural, whitish, clays [103].

Plate 6 Trench 6. Looking South. North-facing section showing relict soils [108], alluvium [111], and finally the natural clay [103].

8.7 Deposit Model (see Figure 3)

8.7.1 A deposit model was created from all known archaeological trenches, window samples and boreholes (see Figures 3). The records were not necessarily directly comparable and some assumptions had to be made in order to form a creditable model. These assumptions consisted of:

(1) That the borehole engineer recorded only the interface between Taplow Gravel/London Clay and any deposits above them, which were all named as “made ground”. Otherwise the boreholes alone would have to be taken to represent locations of significantly deeper truncation.

(2) That the window sample engineer’s silty descriptions could represent alluvium and these soils are marked as “Possible Alluvium” on Figure 3.

(3) That WS109 is an outlier and an anomaly to the pattern of the rest of the site.

8.7.2 By making these assumptions we can therefore see a deposit model comprising:

(1) An undulating horizon of interweaving Taplow Gravels and London Clay.

(2) That landscape infilled and covered by a very even surfaced alluvium (taking the both the “Alluvium” and “Possible Alluvium” to be the same).

(3) Areas of higher surviving in situ soils at very nearly 50m intervals.

(4) A higher sequence of deposits at the road edge of the site.

(5) A general depth of 2.5m of made ground across the site.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The archaeological trial hole evaluation identified natural gravel deposits, London Clay, in situ soil horizons and a considerable amount of made ground.

9.2 When these deposits were combined with the results of a borehole survey, and a window sample survey, taking into considerations the differences in approach and recording by the three surveys, a deposit mode of the site could be interpreted.

9.3 An undulating landscape of Taplow gravels and London Clay had been buried by alluvial deposition which then formed a relatively flat landscape across most of the site. Three areas of higher surviving in situ soil horizons were seen at the site boundary and at 50m intervals across the site, with deeper areas of between these survival areas striped of all soils down to the alluvial horizon. It may be interpreted that the higher deposits along the southwest boundary represent the rise to the River Wandle valley sides, that the areas where no in situ soil horizons survive represent quarrying or soil stripping, and that the areas with in situ soils surviving at regular intervals may represent boundaries or tracks between areas being stripped.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

10.1 Printed Sources:

Clarke C 2017a *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: 10-102 Morden Road, Mitcham, London CR4 CGMS* unpublished report

Clarke C 2017b *Written Scheme of investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation: 100-102 Morden Road, Mitcham, London CR4* CGMS unpublished client report

Taylor, J with Brown, G 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Chris Clarke of CGMS for commissioning the work.

11.2 The author would like to thank Richard Archer for the surveying, Ray Murphy for the illustrations and John Joyce for the logistics.

11.3 Finally, special thanks are given to Helen Hawkins for her project management and the editing this report.

APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-293321

Project details	
Project name	AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL HOLE EVALUATION AT 100-102 MORDEN ROAD, MITCHAM, LONDON CR4
Short description of the project	This report details the result of an archaeological trial hole evaluation on land at 100-102 Morden Road, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton, CR4. Six trial holes were excavated to assess if archaeological deposits relating to the nearby Saxon cemetery survived on the site, or whether the deposits had been quarried away in the 19th century, as shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps. The trial holes measured roughly 3m x 1.8 and were excavated vertically to the greatest depth possible given the site constraints. Natural gravel was recorded at 15.16m OD-15.65m OD in Trenches 1 and 4. Alluvium was noted in five of the interventions, the top of which was between 16.05m OD and 17.00m OD. In three of the trenches (Trenches 2, 4 and 6) a relict soil, possibly a plough or agricultural soil was identified c. 0.30m to 1.0m below ground level. All of the trenches found deposits of made ground ranging from 0.30m to more than 2.10m thick. Most of the trenches encountered ground water by c. 2.0m below ground level, and the extensive alluvial deposits also suggested that the site was located in the floodplain of the River Wandle, which runs close to the site. The evaluation found that whilst extensive truncation had taken place in Trenches 1, 3 and 5, Trenches 2,4 and 6 suggested that some archaeological horizons might survive on the site.
Project dates	Start: 09-08-2017 End: 10-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MOD17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON MITCHAM 100-102 Morden Road Mitcham
Postcode	CR4
Study area	4709 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2684 6829 51.398935422693 -0.176455651933 51 23 56 N 000 10 35 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.16m Max: 15.65m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting

OASIS ID: preconst1-293321

Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Tom Brook
Type of sponsor/funding body	House builder
Name of sponsor/funding body	Unknown
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	MOD17
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	MOD17
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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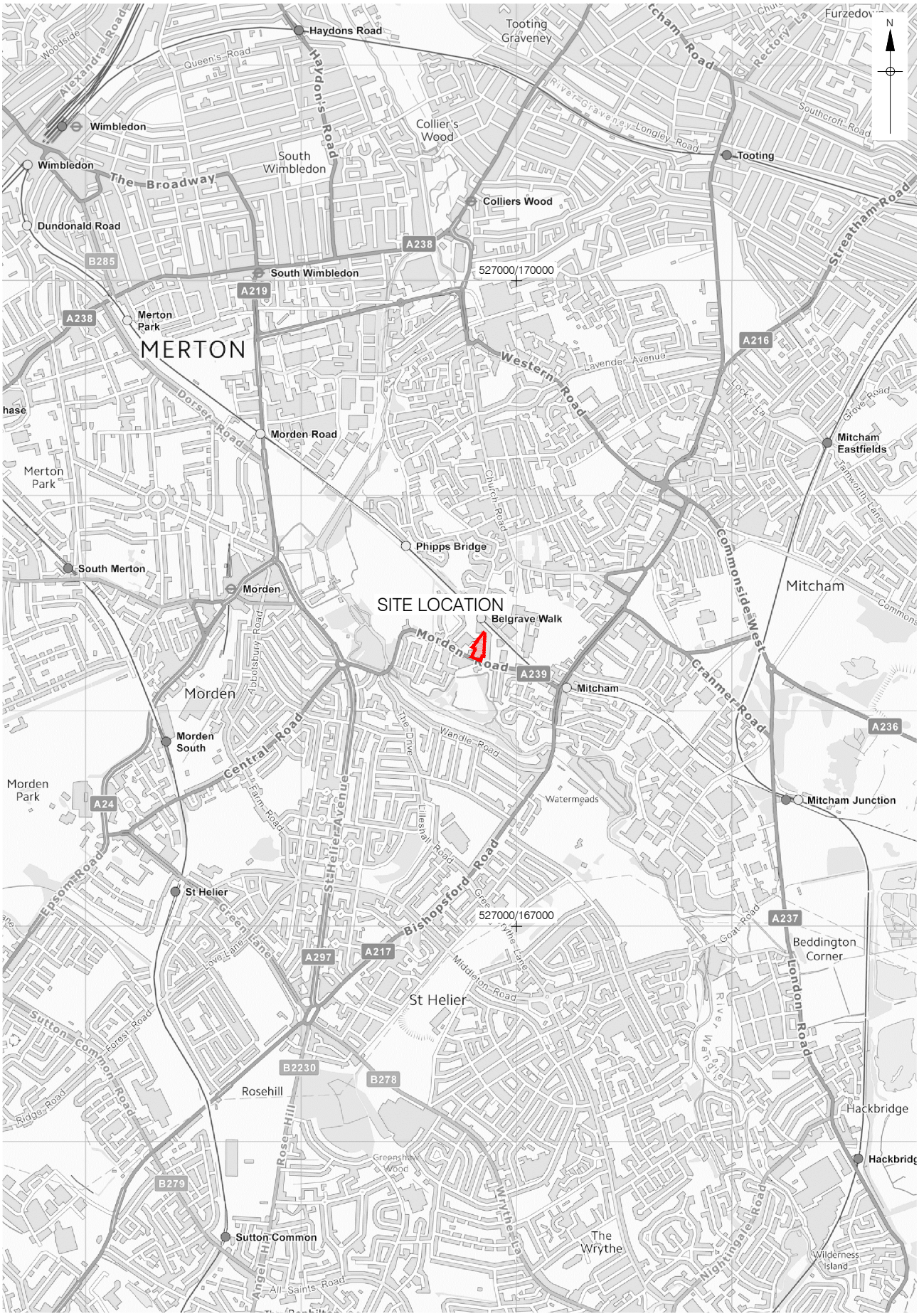

16/08/17 RM

Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4

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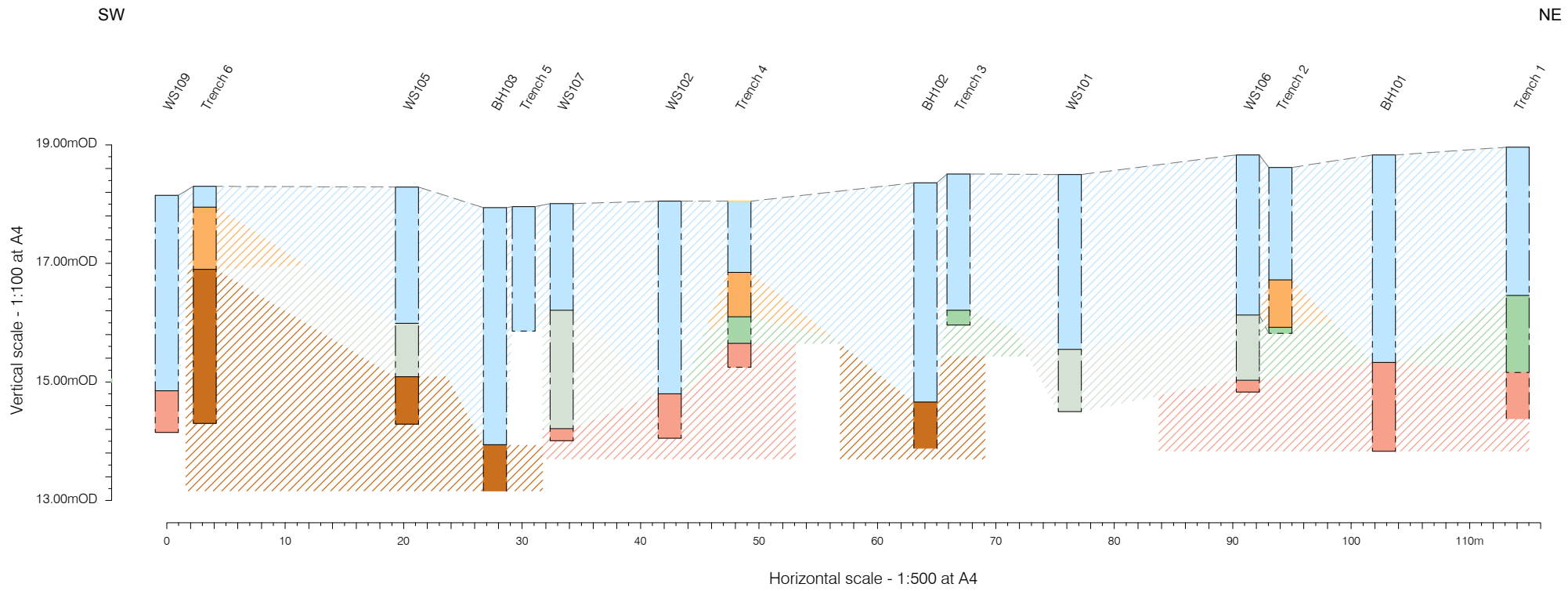
Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:625 at A4



Modern Made Ground
Relic Silt Horizon
Possible Alluvium
Alluvium
Taplow Gravel
London Clay

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Figure 3
Transect A (Southwest to Northeast)
(Scale as indicated)

P C A

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