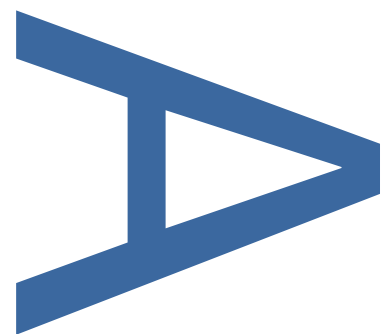
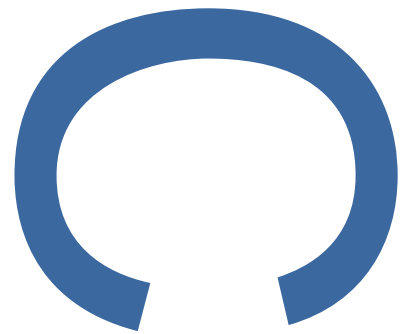


**MERCEDES-BENZ CROYDON,
76 PURLEY WAY,
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON
CRO 3JP**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

OCTOBER 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Mercedes-Benz Croydon, 76 Purley Way, London Borough of Croydon
CR0 3JP

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5247
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**MERCEDES-BENZ CROYDON, 76 PURLEY WAY, LONDON BOROUGH OF
CROYDON CR0 3JP**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Site Code: PUY17
Central NGR: TQ 30815 66385
Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Croydon
Planning Reference: 14/04036/P

Commissioning Client: ARJ Construction on behalf of Mercedes-Benz Retail UK Ltd

Written/Researched by: Guy Seddon

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October 2017**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at site of Mercedes-Benz Croydon dealership, 76 Purley Way, London Borough of Croydon CR0 3JP. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 30815 66385.
- 1.2 Following the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Brown 2015), an archaeological evaluation was carried out between 9th and 12th October 2017 and was completed in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists and guidelines issued by Historic England.
- 1.3 Five trenches were excavated. Natural alluvial deposits were located between 38.71m OD in Trench 2 to the east of the site and 38.27m OD in Trench 1 to the west.
- 1.4 The natural deposits were directly sealed by 20th century made ground and demolition layers associated with the brewery that was constructed in AD 1913.
- 1.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation, commissioned by ARJ Construction, on behalf of Mercedes-Benz Retail UK Ltd, was undertaken on land at 76 Purley Way, London Borough of Croydon between 9th and 12th October 2017. It was undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to the construction of a single level car parking deck (LB Croydon Planning Ref 14/04036/P).
- 2.2 The site comprised roughly triangular plot of land to the rear of the existing Mercedes Benz showroom, at 76 Purley Way. It is bounded by the showroom to the east, a tram way to the west and commercial properties to the north and south. The site is centred at TQ 30815 66385.
- 2.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA; Brown 2015), detailed the methodology by which the evaluation was to be undertaken. The WSI followed the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS 2014) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (CIFA 2014). The evaluation was supervised by Guy Seddon and the project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski of the PCA. The project was monitored by Mark Stevenson of the HE GLAAS.
- 2.4 The site was given a unique site-code PUY17. The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ) as defined by the London Borough of Croydon UDP.

3.2 The proposals are for a total number of 25 pad foundations at 5m centres with single 16m spans between with foundations for each pad measuring approx. 2m x 2m x 1m. These are very localized 'windows' with a limited opportunity to fully appreciate the archaeological horizon present at this site. The site has undoubtedly experienced historic sequences of disturbance for the Brewery Works/Depot facility, but equally the clearance and necessary landscaping required for the present site works also resulted in disturbance.

3.3 Recommendations

3.3.1 The planning authority has recommended an archaeological planning condition whereby an archaeological strategy or programme of works (Written Scheme of Investigation, WSI) be produced and endorsed by their advisors at the Historic England Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

3.3.2 It was deemed necessary to monitor proposed pad foundations to understand and characterise the archaeological potential at this site and it was proposed that an archaeological contractor with extensive experience in this London Borough be commissioned to produce the necessary WSI to satisfy the condition that states that a 20% sample of the 25 pad foundation pits be monitored by an archaeologist. Subsequently, 5 trenches were to be excavated as a part of the evaluation.

3.3.3 Planning policy - Croydon Council's development plan is the London Plan (2011) and also Croydon's Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006) along with Saved Policies 2013 and the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies (2013).

3.3.4 Planning history – The dealership and site layout as existing is the result of works undertaken under a new build project with a later rear extension. The original project secured planning approval on 16th September 2003, application No. 02/02701/P and was opened to the public in 2004. The rear extension obtaining approval on 5th January 2011, application No. 10/03496/P and was completed in Autumn 2011. The current application No. 14/04036/P has been given approval on 27th November 2014.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.2 The site is located on the boundary of the Lambeth Group clay, silt, sand and gravel, and the Thames Group clay, silt, sand and gravel, and is overlain by Lynch Hill Gravels (British Geological Survey 2006, Sheet 270: South London).

4.3 Topography

4.4 The site comprised roughly triangular plot of land to the rear of the existing Mercedes Benz showroom, at 76 Purley Way. It is bounded by the showroom to the east, a tram way to the west and commercial properties to the north and south.

4.5 The site is centred at TQ 30815 66385.

4.6 The site is predominantly flat at between 39.89m OD at Trench 2, to the north-east of the site and 39.09m OD at Trench 5 to the south.

4.7 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known to occur within the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The following represents a summary of the archaeological potential, as presented in the written scheme of investigation:

5.2 There are no archaeological sites or findspots on or in the immediate vicinity of the study site. The bulk of the recorded archaeological finds within the study area search radius are of prehistoric date.

5.3 Prehistoric

5.3.1 Some prehistoric flint flakes considered chance findspots are recorded to the north off Canterbury Road with Bronze and Iron Age finds revealed through excavations to the west as part of the Valley Park works. The majority of the archaeological interest has been found c.1.5km west as part of investigations for the Beddington Farm sewage treatment works where archaeological material spans the early Mesolithic period through to the Iron Age.

5.4 Roman

5.4.1 Beddington Roman Villa, a scheduled monument is also recorded at this western location.

5.5 Post-Medieval

5.5.1 The site lies between the Wimbledon Branch of the South Coast Railway line on its western boundary and Waddonmarsh Lane on the east and is an open field with no structures present

5.5.2 There is no change to the site until 1913 when 'Brewery Stores' building complex is shown comprising an L-shaped range along the western boundary, a central courtyard, a smaller standalone building to the south and a rectangular building along the Waddon March Lane frontage

5.5.3 The 1933-35 OS map shows the same arrangement of Brewery Works buildings albeit with another square building within the northern part of the courtyard

5.5.4 The 1949-61 OS map shows an extension to the southern portion of the building along the western site boundary

5.5.5 The 1954 OS names the site as 'Warehouse' and also shows the southern extension to the building along the western boundary

5.5.6 On the 1967-74 OS the buildings are named as a 'Depot'.

5.5.7 The site is likely to have been the storage facility for the Nalder & Collyer's Brewery of Croydon, situated to the south east of Wandle Park close to Overton's Yard. The site was considered for its advantageous transportation links. The site appears to have comprised a possible stabling yard for the dray horses along with the very long western warehouse

building. The change of name/annotation to Warehouse and then Depot is not clearly defined but may be associated with the Stainless Steel Engineering Works sited immediately to the north at that time.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine the presence or absence of surviving features 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.
- 6.2 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Brown 2015), the evaluation aimed to address the following issues:
- Assess the interface of the deposits with the natural drift geology for archaeological features.
 - Assess the numbers and type of worked flints from the evaluation.
 - Assess the cut features within the natural gravels.
 - Assess deposits and features which might indicate domestic or settlement activity.
 - Assess the site for prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeology.
- 6.3 The site was subject to five evaluation trenches. Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 measured 2m x 2m, whilst Trench 5 measured 3m x 3m. The depth of the excavation did not exceed 1.00m which was in line with construction design.
- 6.4 All excavation of the low-grade overlying deposits was undertaken using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 6.5 Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until the natural ground was exposed.
- 6.6 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 6.7 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Features were evaluated so as to characterise their form, function and date.
- 6.8 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS 1994) and with PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown, 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the London Borough of Croydon.

- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The complete archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with LAARC with site code PUY17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 The earliest deposit observed during the archaeological evaluation consisted of sandy silt of natural alluvium recorded in Trenches 1 and 3, which was numbered as [1], [6], [7] and [8].
- 7.2 The alluvium comprised firmly compacted, light yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and was over 0.62m thick. It fell from a height of 38.71m OD in Trench 3, located to the north-east of the site, to 38.27m OD in Trench 1, located to the north-west of the site.
- 7.3 Overlying this was a layer of firmly compacted, dark grey sandy silt that had occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, which was observed in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 and recorded as [2], [3], [4] and [5]. It fell from a height of 38.78m OD in Trench 2, located to the north-east of the site, to 38.57m OD in Trench 3, located towards the centre of the site. This deposit was also of the alluvial character.
- 7.4 The natural deposits were directly sealed by the 20th century made ground and demolition deposits, which brought the ground up to the current day level of between 39.33m OD in area of Trench 2, located to the north-east of the site, to 39.09m OD in area of Trench 5, located to the south of the site.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

8.2 The earliest deposit comprised alluvium and fell from a height of 38.71m OD in Trench 3, located to the north-east of the site, to 38.27m OD in Trench 1, located to the north-west of the site.

8.3 It was sealed by another layer of alluvial material, which fell from a height of 38.84m OD in Trench 2, to 38.57m OD in Trench 3, located towards the centre of the site.

8.4 Phase 2: Modern (20th century)

8.5 The alluvium was directly overlain by 20th century made ground and demolition deposits associated with the construction and demolition of the brewery which occupied the study site from AD 1913. Those were sealed by contemporary concrete car park surface.

8.6 Remains of building associated with the brewery were present in Trench 3 in form of foundation wall parallel to the west site boundary. Brick-constructed wall was 0.48m wide and was partially demolished and sealed by late 20th century made ground.

9 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

9.1 Primary Objectives

9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Brown 2015) prepared prior to the commencement of archaeological work at 76 Purley Way, Croydon and highlighted a set of specific objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

9.2 Assess the interface of the deposits with the natural drift geology for archaeological features.

9.2.1 There were no archaeological features to interface with the natural drift geology.

9.3 Assess the numbers and type of worked flints from the evaluation.

9.3.1 No worked flints were observed during the evaluation.

9.4 Assess the cut features within the natural gravels.

9.4.1 Neither cut features or natural gravels were observed during the evaluation.

9.5 Assess deposits and features which might indicate domestic or settlement activity.

9.5.1 No deposits or features indicating domestic or settlement activity were observed during the evaluation.

9.6 Assess the site for prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeology.

9.6.1 No prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval archaeology was encountered during the course of the evaluation.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 The evaluation shows that the study site has been subject to heavy truncation during previous developments. The construction and demolition of the brewery removed the upper archaeological horizon to a depth of more than 1m below the current ground level, (the formation level of the current development).
- 10.2 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 showed 20th century made ground directly sealing natural alluvial deposits, strongly suggesting horizontal truncation across the site, whilst Trenches 4 and 5 were still in the made ground at the formation level.
- 10.3 From the results of the evaluation, it seems probable that any archaeological finds, features or deposits that may have been present, were removed during the construction and later demolition of the brewery at least to a depth beyond the formation level of the current development.
- 10.4 It is possible that archaeology is present on the study site, (i.e. cutting into the natural gravels), but at a greater depth than was required for this exercise and for construction purposes. Therefore, the impact of proposed works on potential archaeological remains within the site is limited.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank ARJ Construction for commissioning the archaeological work and behalf of their clients Mercedes Benz Retail UK Ltd, who also facilitated the opening up of the trenches.
- 11.2 Thanks also to Mark Stevenson of the Historic England Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for monitoring the site.
- 11.3 The author would also like to thank: Zbigniew Pozorski for project managing and editing this report; Ray Murphy for the illustrations and Richard Archer for the survey.

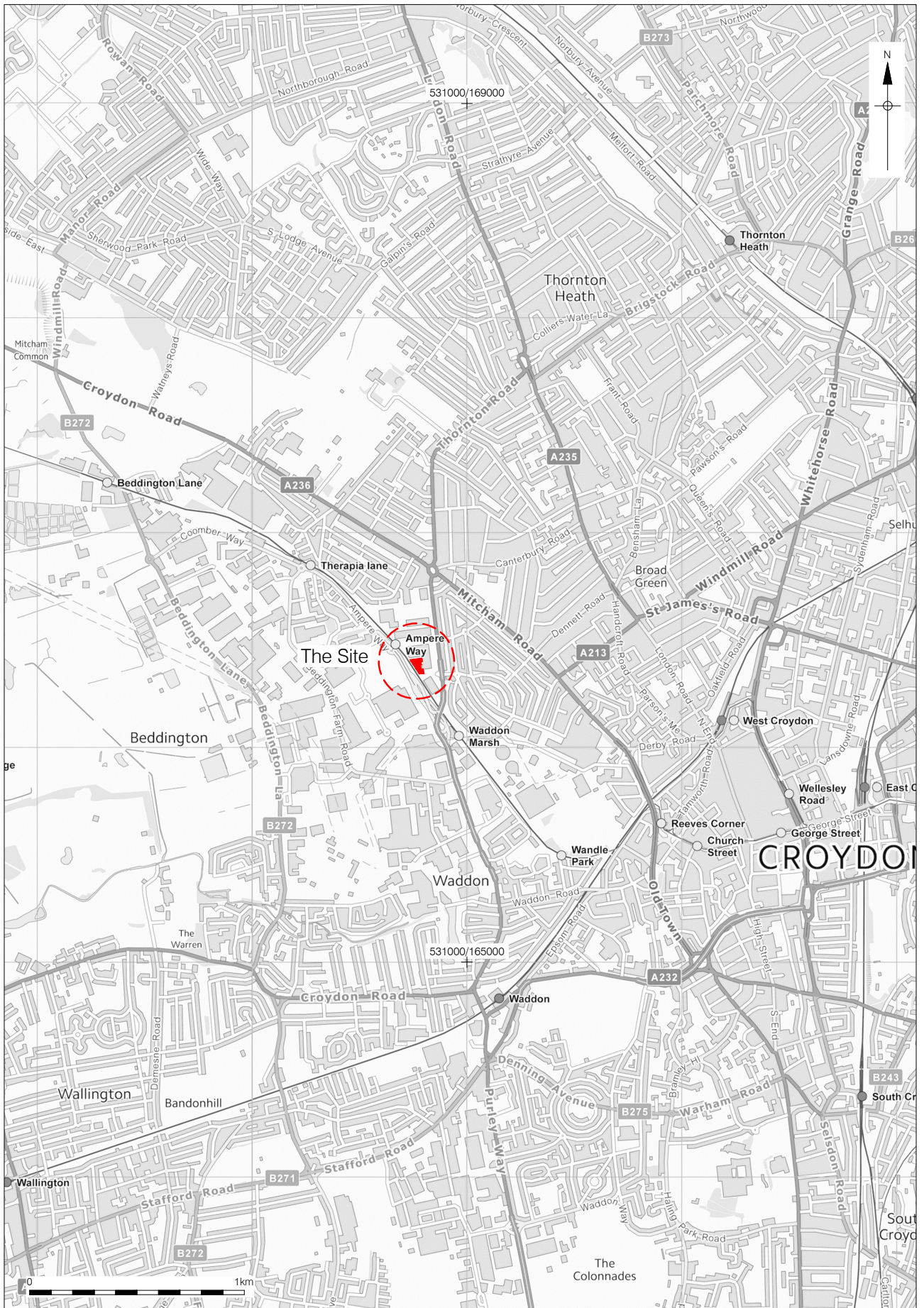
12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

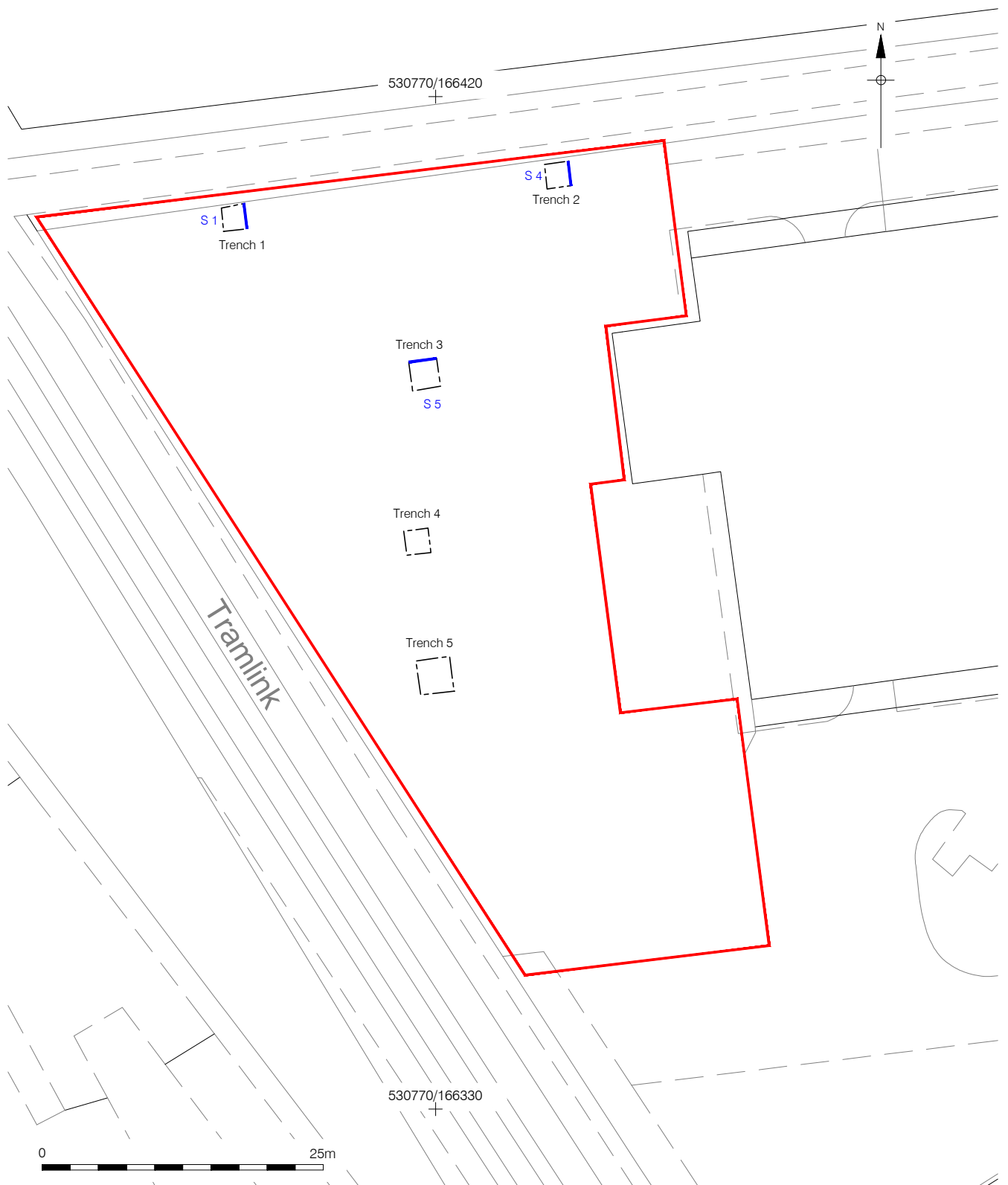
British Geological Survey 2006, Sheet 270: South London

Brown, G. 2015 *Mercedes-Benz, 76 Purley Way, London Borough of Croydon*, Written Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation. PCA unpublished report.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

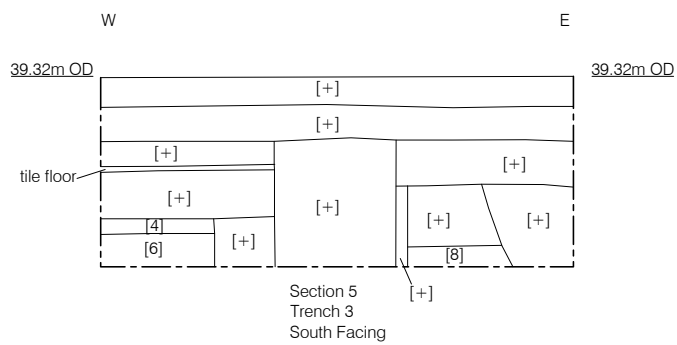
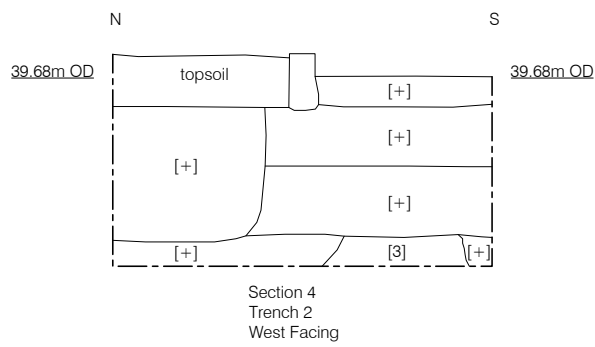
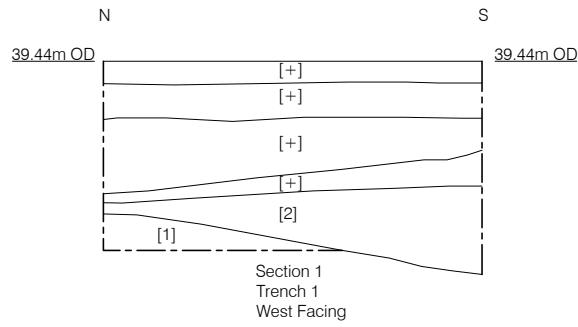
Taylor, J. and Brown, G. 2009 *PCA Fieldwork induction manual, (Operations Manual I)*, London: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.





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Figure 2
 Trench Location Plan
 1:500 at A4



PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking North.



Plate 2: Section 1, Trench 1, Looking East



Plate 3: Trench 2, Looking North.



Plate 4: Section 4, Trench 2, Looking East.



Plate 5: Trench 3, Looking North.



Plate 6: Section 5, Trench 3, Looking North.



Plate 7: Trench 4, Looking North.



Plate 8: Section 2, Trench 4, Looking South.



Plate 9: Trench 5, Looking North.

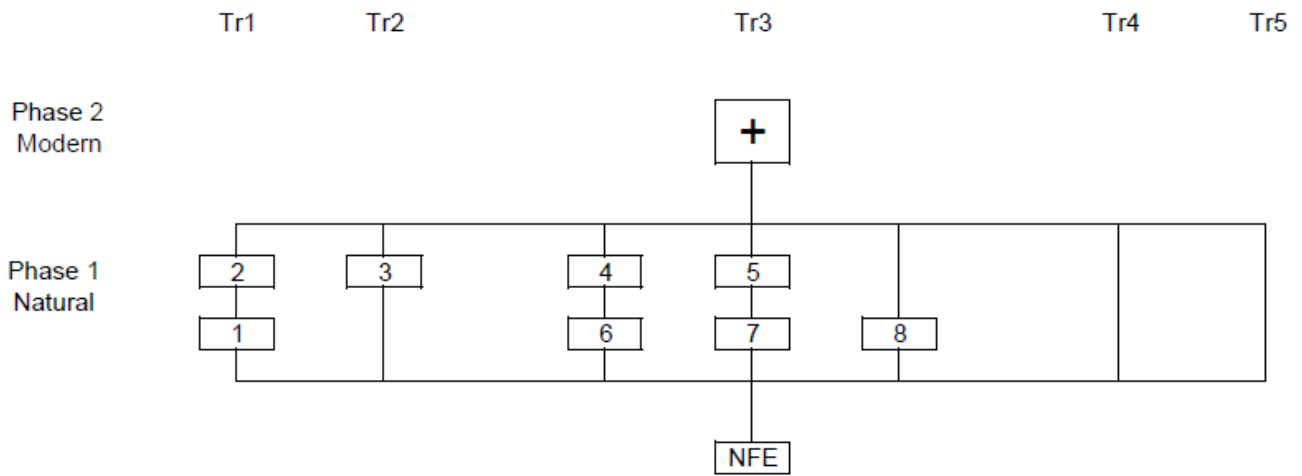


Plate 10: Section 3, Trench 5, Looking North.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	Trench	Level AOD	Description
PUY17	1	TR 1	38.27m	Light brown alluvium
PUY17	2	TR 1	38.78m	Dark grey alluvium
PUY17	3	TR 2	38.84m	Dark grey alluvium
PUY17	4	TR 3	38.71m	Dark grey alluvium
PUY17	5	TR 3	38.57m	Dark grey alluvium
PUY17	6	TR 3	38.53m	Light brown alluvium
PUY17	7	TR 3	38.50m	Light brown alluvium
PUY17	8	TR 3	38.41m	Light brown alluvium

APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-298872

Project details

Project name	76 Purley Way, London Borough of Croydon, London, CR0 3JP, An Archaeological Evaluation.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out between 9th and 12th October 2017 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on Land at 76 Purley Way, Croydon. Natural alluvial deposits were located between 38.71m OD in Trench 2 to the east of the site and 38.27m OD in Trench 1 to the west. The natural deposits were directly sealed by 20th Century made ground and demolition layers associated with the brewery that was constructed in AD 1913. No Archaeological finds or features were observed during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 09-10-2017 End: 12-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PUY17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 76 Purley Way
Postcode	CR0 3JP
Study area	2500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30815 66385 51.380909039081 -0.120042723828 51 22 51 N 000 07 12 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.27m Max: 38.71m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Mark Stevenson
Project design originator	Gary Brown
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	ARJ Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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