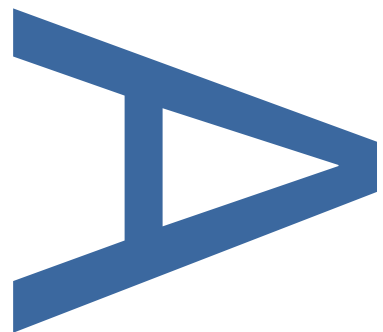
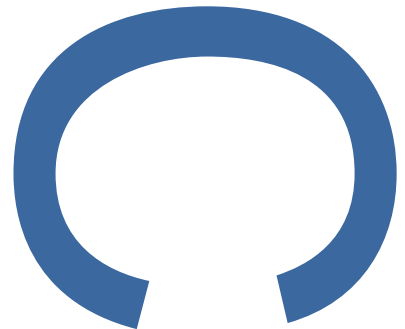


**CAMBRIDGE GARDENS,
324 CROYDON ROAD,
WALLINGTON,
LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON,
SM6 7LQ**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

SITE CODE: CDO19

AUGUST 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Cambridge Gardens, 324 Croydon Road, Wallington,
London Borough of Sutton

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**CAMBRIDGE GARDENS, 324 CROYDON ROAD, WALLINGTON,
LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON, SM6 7LQ:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SITE CODE: CDO19

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

PLANING APPLICATION NUMBER: DM2018/01586

SITE CENTRAL NGR: TQ 29193 65022

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: NFC HOMES LIMITED

PROJECT MANAGER: ZBIGNIEW POZORSKI, PCA

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VERSION: 1.0

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August 2019

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the site of Cambridge Gardens, 324 Croydon Road, Wallington, London, SM6 7LQ. The site is located in the London Borough of Sutton and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 29193 65022.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken during the groundworks related to the construction of a new residential block of flats which replaced the earlier buildings on the site.
- 1.3 Following a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Heritage (2018), the archaeological investigation was conducted between 1st May and 7th June 2019 and comprised the monitoring and recording of ground reduction within the site, excavation of foundation trenches for the new block and excavation of two trenches for new attenuation tanks.
- 1.4 Small quantity of struck flint was recovered from the site in a residual context. The flints were dated as belonging to the Late Palaeolithic, Mesolithic/Neolithic and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods.
- 1.5 No archaeological features were revealed within the monitored area.
- 1.6 Natural geology, comprising clay over chalk, was overlain by modern made ground deposit and topsoil.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the site of Cambridge Gardens, 324 Croydon Road, Wallington, London, SM6 7LQ (Figure 1). The site is located in the London Borough of Sutton and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 29193 65022.
- 2.2 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of a new residential block of flats (London Borough of Sutton Planning Ref. DM2018/01586).
- 2.3 The site is located within two Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs) as designated by LB Sutton: The North Downs Fringe and Springline APA containing numerous prehistoric sites and the Beddington APA (No 11), encompassing the historic early medieval settlement.
- 2.4 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Heritage (2018) which defined a proactive programme of observation and recording during the groundworks, approved by the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.5 The monitoring was undertaken between 1st May and 7th June 2019. The investigation has taken place within the site until recently occupied by (now demolished) two residential buildings (Figure 2).
- 2.6 The investigation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Pat Cavanagh, and the project management of Zbigniew Pozorski. The archaeological work was commissioned by NFC Homes Limited.
- 2.7 The site was allocated the unique site code CDO19. The complete archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 2.8 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Watching Brief: 324 Croydon Road, Wallington* (CgMs Heritage 2018)
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015)
 - *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service HE GLAAS 2015)
 - *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014).
 - *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual* (PCA; Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018)

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of a three storey building comprising nine 2-bedroom self-contained flats with associated access, parking and landscaping (London Borough of Sutton Planning Ref. DM2018/01586).

3.2 The planning condition (28) attached to the decision issued on 12th December 2018 reads as follows:

28) No demolition or development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

A. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works

B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. this part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

Reason; To safeguard the archaeological heritage of the Borough in accordance with Policy 30 of the Sutton Local Plan 2018. This condition is required to be pre-commencement as any ground works without the required investigation could result in harm to the archaeological heritage of the Borough.

3.3 The requirement for the archaeological work, namely a watching brief, was confirmed by Louise Davies of Historic England GLAAS, archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Sutton Council.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

4.1 Geology

4.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) superficial geology of the site consists of undifferentiated sands and gravel forming part of the river terrace deposit which in turn seal bedrock geological deposits of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and very likely also of the Thanet Sand Formation in the northern part of the site.

4.3 Geotechnical site investigation carried out on the site (Ground Engineering 2018) revealed chalk present between 1.90m and 3.90m BGL, overlain by Head Deposit of clay and then by clayey probable made ground or subsoil. Above those was a made ground and it was present till between 1.20m and 2.00m BGL.

4.4 Topography

4.5 The site stand on ground that falls gently from 36m OD at the centre line of Croydon Road, to the south of the site to about 35m OD in the central part of the site and at about 34m OD in the north part of the site. The course of the Carshalton arm of the River Wandle flows from south-west to north-east c. 220m to the north-west of the site. The River Wandle rises near Croydon and is fed by springs at Carshalton before flowing through Beddington and Merton until its confluence with the River Graveney at Tooting, finally joining the Thames at Wandsworth.

4.6 The site is located on the northern side of Croydon Road, opposite its junction with The Holt (Figure 1). It is bounded by properties off Berkeley Court to the west, Bampfylde Close to the east and garden of No 322a to the north. Until recently the site was occupied by two three-storey residential blocks.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The site lies within two Archaeological Priority Areas as defined by the Local Planning Authority; one covering the settlement of Beddington, thought to have early medieval origins, and the other covering the North Downs fringe and spring line which has well preserved prehistoric sites.
- 5.2 Three trenches were excavated at 326-8 Croydon Road to the immediate west of the site, where prehistoric flintwork, Roman pottery sherds and Medieval roof-tile fragments were found. At 312 Croydon Road to the east of the site, two trenches were excavated, and fifteen flint artefacts were recovered, along with a fragment of Late Bronze Age pottery and a sherd of probable Medieval pottery were found.
- 5.3 On the basis of the above, it is considered that there is a low to medium chance of encountering prehistoric finds or remains. Roman material in the area is sparse, however there are frequent references to Saxon remains and finds in the area, notably the discovery in antiquity of at least 7 skeletons found in Alcester Road to the south-west of the site. Medieval activity is concentrated to the west of the site, east of Carshalton.
- 5.4 There are many records of post-medieval finds and features in the area, undoubtedly resulting from the increased urbanization which occurred throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The First Edition OS Map of 1867-71 shows the site largely as a rectangular plot occupied by a single L-shaped dwelling and a large garden. Later a glasshouse was added but this has gone by the 1930s. The two residential blocks (now demolished) were erected between 1938 and 1941.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The proposed methodology of the archaeological work was detailed in the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2019) and comprised the archaeological monitoring of excavation foundation trenches and any other associated groundworks.
- 6.2 The initial groundworks comprised removal of existing hardstanding and levelling work (0.20m – 0.50m) with both elements monitored by PCA. A set of foundation trenches and two trenches for the new attenuation tanks were then excavated (Figure 2). Rectangular south-west to north-east orientated Trench 1 was located in the north part of the site and measured 7.55m by 3.70m and 3m maximum below ground level (BGL); to the south the north-west to south-east orientated rectangular Trench 2 measured 6.60m by 3.70m and was 3.35m BGL deep.
- 6.3 In the central part of the site the watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the foundation trenches for the proposed building (Footing Trench) which followed a north-west to south-east orientation. The foundation trenches varied in width between width of 0.36m and 0.60m within an area 21m long and 18m wide. The average depth reached in the Footing Trench was 1.75m BGL.
- 6.4 All groundworks were carried out under PCA's archaeological supervision. Any potential archaeological features or deposits encountered within the excavations were cleaned and investigated by hand and recorded by the attending archaeologist.
- 6.5 All recording systems adopted during the investigation were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in the London Borough of Sutton; presented in PCAs Operations Manual 1 (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). A representative section of each foundation trench was drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10 in order to illustrate the observed stratigraphy, modern disturbance and current ground level. In addition to a series of digital photographs recording the encountered deposits a written record of each deposit was also produced. Location of the section drawing was located by offsetting from the property boundary and plotted onto OS mapping data by CAD.
- 6.6 A photographic record of the archaeological works was made using only digital format.
- 6.7 All levels were calculated from ground level to the top of the archaeological deposits. The site lies at c. 35-36m OD.
- 6.8 Following the completion of all phases of fieldwork and reporting the project archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) with the unique site code CDO19.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was the chalk bedrock recorded as [5] in Trench 1, [10] in Trench 2 and [13] in the Footing Trench. The chalk was present at between 1.05m and 2.30m BGL and was seen across the entire site.
- 7.1.2 The chalk was overlain in the central and south part of the site by a natural chalk rubble mixed with yellow friable and firm clay [9]/[12] and it was 0.25-0.70m thick (Plate 2).
- 7.1.3 The chalk from the northern part of the site (Trench 1) and the chalk rubble and clay from the southern area (Trench 2) of site were sealed by a mid-yellowish brown clayey sandy subsoil [6]/[8] with a maximum thickness of 1m. It was recorded at 0.30m-0.40m BGL.

7.2 Phase 2: Modern 20th century

- 7.2.1 The majority of the site was overlain by a dark brownish grey silty topsoil [1]/[7], approximately 0.25m-0.70m thick. There were inclusions of some pottery fragments, ceramic building material fragments and chalk fragments.
- 7.2.2 Three fragments of worked flints were recovered from the topsoil. The residual finds were dated to Palaeolithic, Mesolithic/Neolithic and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (Appendix 2). Late 19th/early 20th century CBM and glass fragments as well as the 19th/20th century pottery were also recovered from this deposit.
- 7.2.3 The initial ground reduction and levelling works related to the demolition of the existing building also revealed only topsoil [1] and modern made ground [11] within area of the demolished structure. The made ground in places was deposited over topsoil [7]. Concrete slab was also present within area of Trench 1 sealing the topsoil and was removed prior to the excavation.
- 7.2.4 Modern pit, presumably a geotechnical test pit was also recorded within Trench 1.

8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Primary Objectives

8.1.1 The archaeological investigation was designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving deposits and features at the site which may be impacted by the development and, if present, to investigate and record them. The investigation also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival.

8.1.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2018), highlighted a set of specific objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

- Are there Prehistoric remains present on the site and can those be related to the findings from the wider River Wandle area?
- Are there Roman remains present on the site, and do they relate to the known Roman road and possible villa nearby?
- Is there any evidence of Saxon/Medieval activity on the site?
- Are there remains of 19th century buildings on the site?

8.1.3 No evidence for surviving any archaeological features was found during the watching brief. The depositional sequence was relatively simple, comprising natural chalk beneath chalk rubble and Head clay sealed by subsoil beneath topsoil/made ground. The presence of intact subsoil in the north and south areas, beyond the central area of modern development, means that archaeology could have been expected survive if it had been present. However, the absence of subsoil in the centre indicates that this area of the site has suffered previous truncation. The thickness of the natural deposits recorded in the central area of the site suggests some form of natural depression within the chalk on a south-north slope of the area.

8.2 Conclusions

8.2.1 The watching brief has shown the presence of intact subsoil atop natural in the majority of the site, but no archaeological features. In the central area of the site the chalk and chalk rubble with clay was overlain by made ground, implying that truncation had occurred in this area – most likely from the late 19th and 20th century development of the site.

8.2.2 The only dateable evidence recovered came from topsoil [1] and consisted of worked flints and pottery, dated to prehistoric periods and 19th to 20th century, respectively.

8.2.3 Upon approval of this report and with confirmation that the work is complete, the archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre in the unique site code of CDO19.

8.2.4 The results of the site investigation will be published by PCA as a summary in the annual London Archaeologist Round-Up.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank NFC Homes Ltd for commissioning the work. We also thank Louise Davies of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for her input and advice to the project.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for his project management and editing this report, and Diana Valk for the illustrations.

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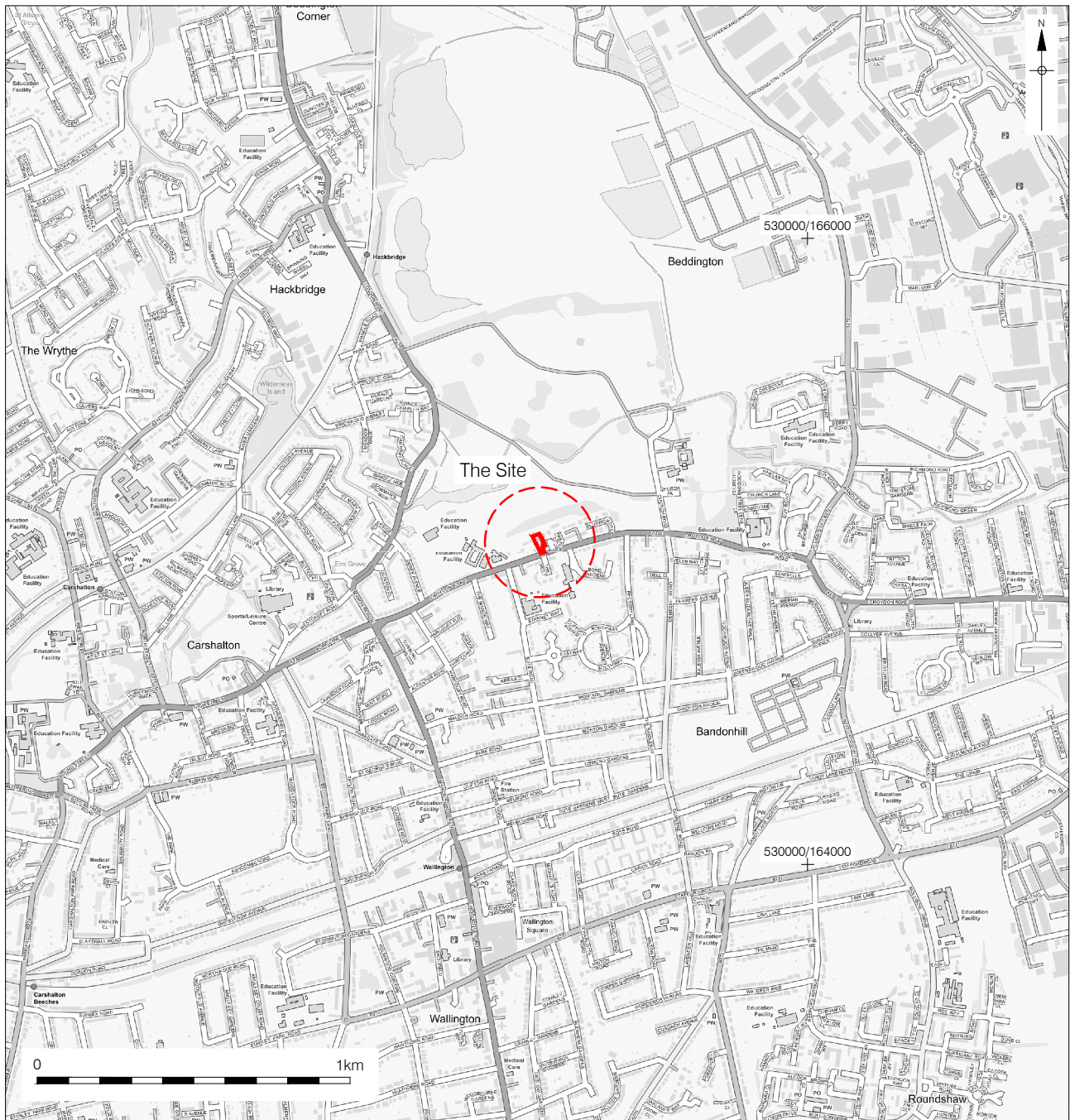
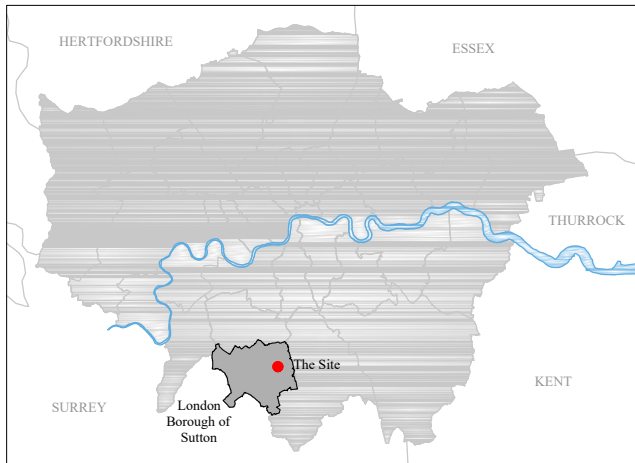
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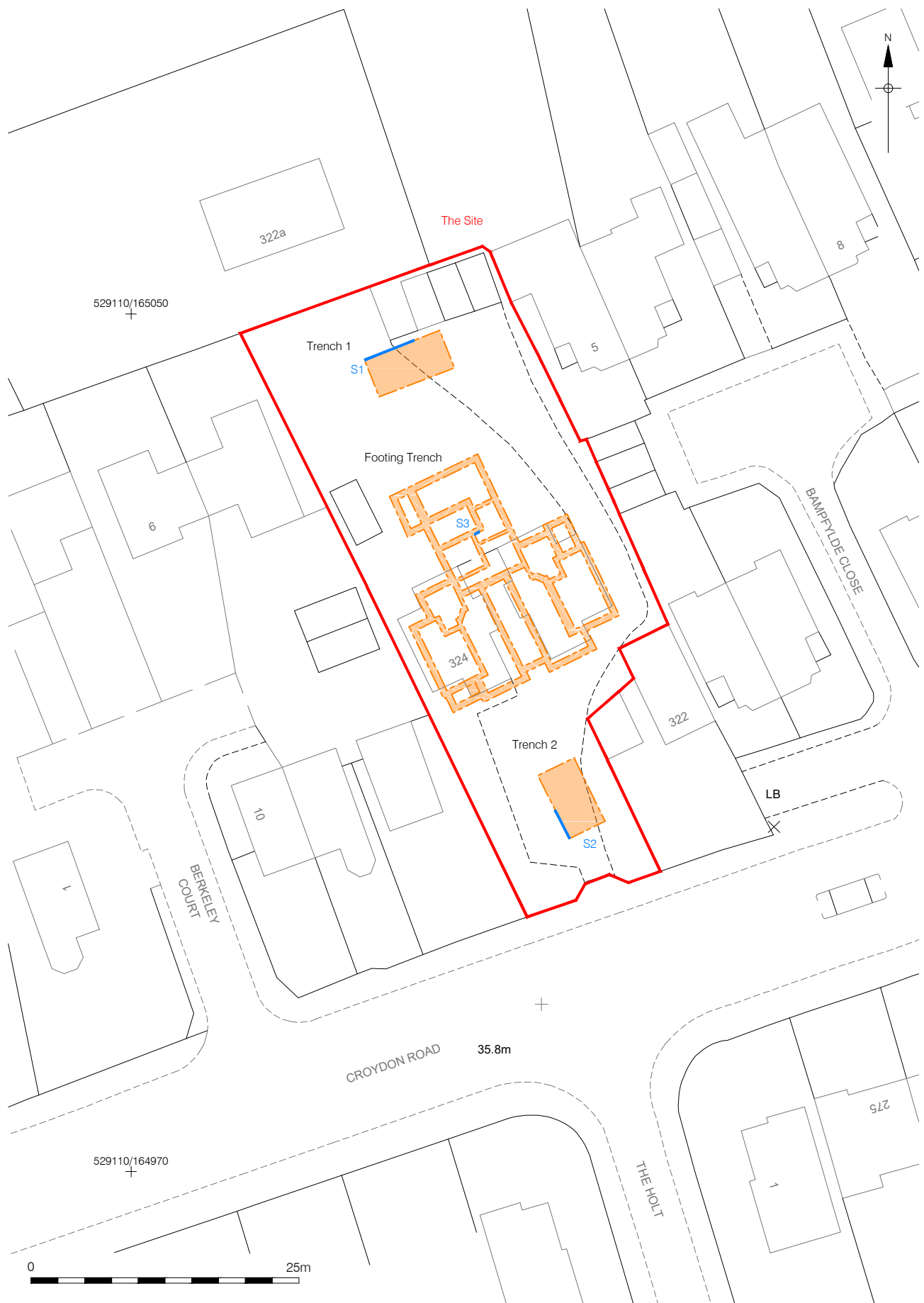
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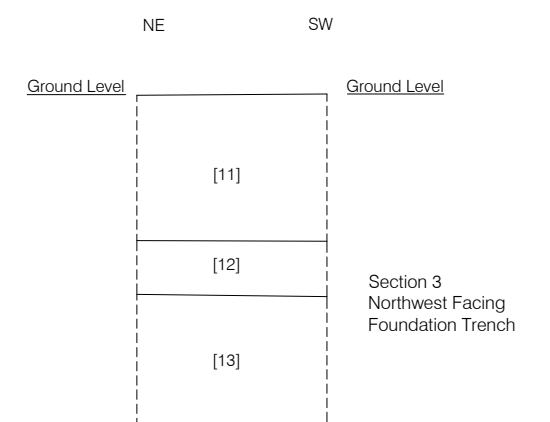
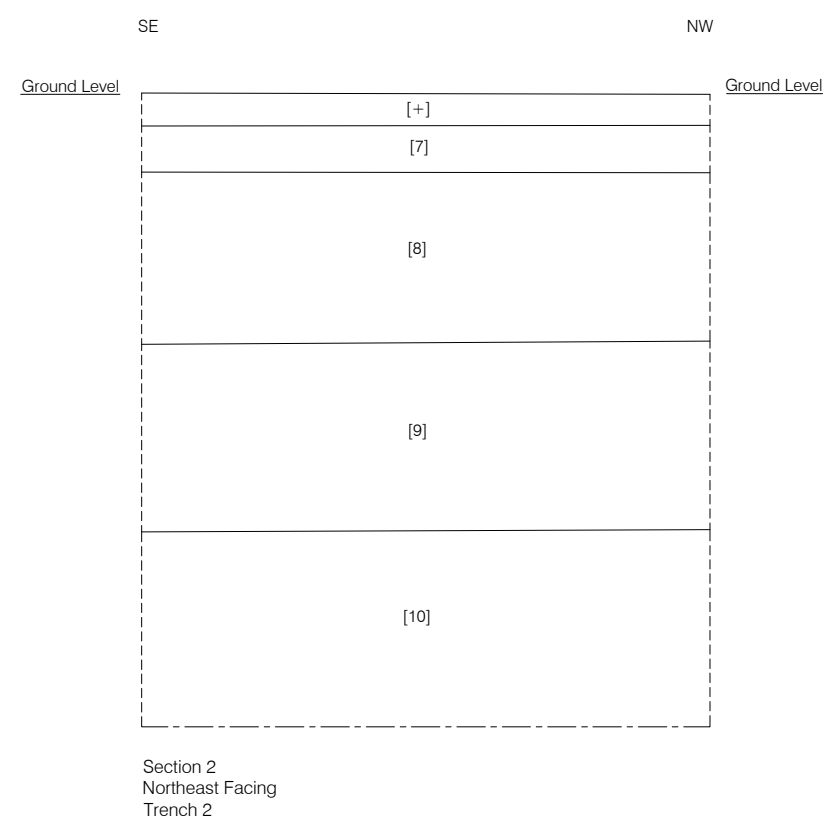
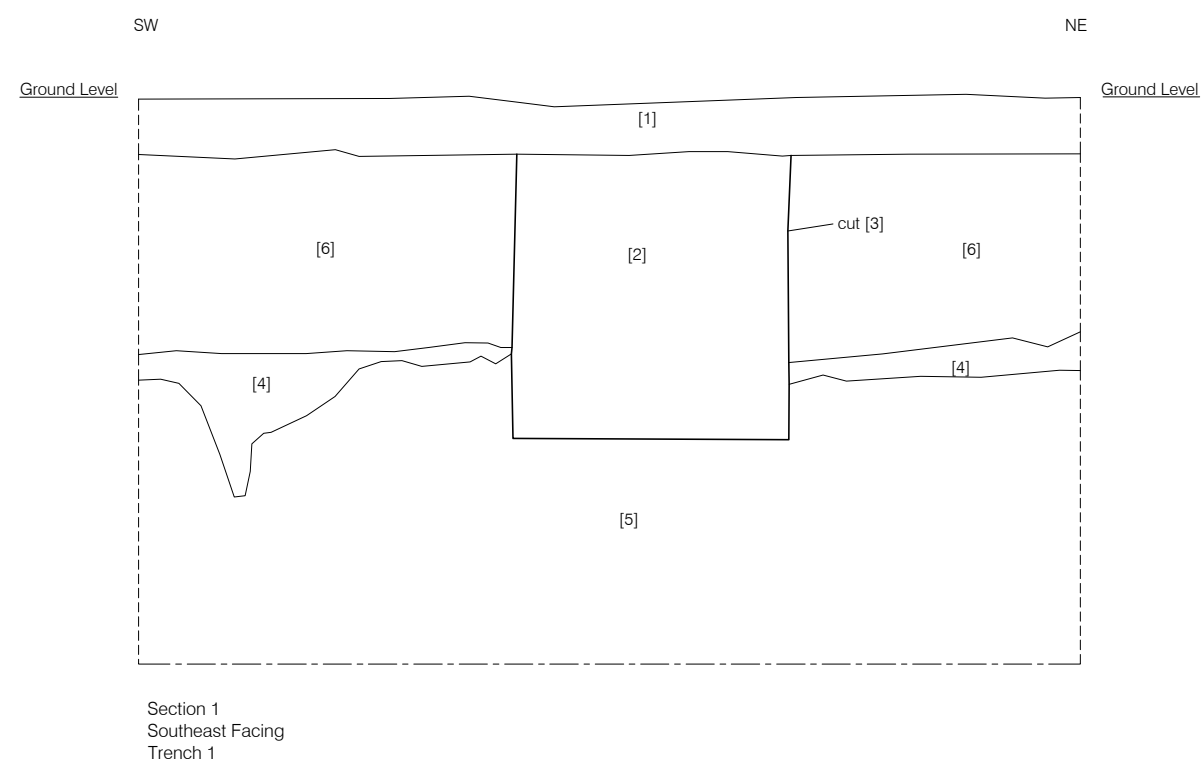
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www.bgs.ac.uk







0 2m

PLATES



Plate 1: Excavation of Trench 1 following the ground reduction within the site. Looking south-east.



Plate 2: Trench 2: Section 2, looking west.



Plate 3: General view for the excavation of Footing Trench. Looking north.



Plate 4: Foundation (Footing) Trench, looking south-east



Plate 5: Footing Trench: Section 3, looking south-east

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	Trench	Interpretation	CTX_Category	Length	Width	Depth	Meters BGL	Section
1	Layer	1	Topsoil	Surface(External)	8	4	0.3		1
2	Fill	1		Backfill					1
3	Cut	1	Modern test pit	Pit	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.3	1
4	Natural	1	Natural sandy and silty clay	Natural	8	4	0.74	1.3	1
5	Layer	1	Natural chalk	Natural	8	4	1.6	1.5	1
6	Layer	1	Subsoil	Other	8	4	1	0.3	1
7	Layer	2	Topsoil	Garden Soil	8	4	0.22	0.16	2
8	Layer	2	Subsoil	Other	7	4	0.9	0.4	2
9	Natural	2	Natural deposit: mixture of chalk and Head clay	Natural	7	4	1	1.3	2
10	Natural	2	Natural chalk	Natural	7	4	1.02	2.3	2
11	Layer	Footing	Made Ground/Topsoil	Made ground	9	9	0.77		3
12	Layer	Footing	Natural deposit: mixture of chalk and head clay	Natural	1	1	0.27	0.77	3
13	Natural	Footing	Natural chalk	Natural	1	1	0.7	1.05	3

APPENDIX 2: SPECIALIST REPORT

Lithic Assessment

By Ella Egberts

Introduction/methodology

Archaeological investigations at the above mentioned site resulted in the recovery of a small quantity of struck flint and unworked burnt stone. The assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details of the material (Catalogue L01). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses have been conducted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here.

Distribution

Description	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Suggested date range
Proximal part of blade	Grey	NA	Chipped	Meso/Neo
bifacially worked	(light) grey	Weathered nodular and ancient recortiated surface	Chipped	?Palaeolithic
Thermal flake with secondary flake removals	Dark translucent grey	Thin nodular	Chipped	LBA/EIA

Table L01: Quantification of struck flint from 324 Croydon Road. All material was obtained from context [1].

A total of three worked flints were obtained from the above-mentioned site. All of the material was found in the topsoil, context [1].

The assemblage

Raw material

The struck flints from this site were made from fine-grained, grey, light grey and dark grey translucent flint. The dark grey translucent flint retains a thin and weathered cortex, suggesting that this flint was obtained

from a derived source, such as Pleistocene river terrace deposits. The same can be suggested for the light grey flint, which retains a weathered nodular and an ancient thermally (frost) fractured and recorticated surface. Such raw material may have been gathered from the Pleistocene Head or river terrace deposits (Hackney Gravel Member) present in the vicinity of the site (BGS 2019).

Condition

All the worked flint is in a chipped condition, indicating that it was not *in-situ* but had moved after original discard. This is in agreement with the recovery of the material from the topsoil.

Description

The small assemblage of worked flint from the site is technologically and typologically heterogeneous. The assemblage includes a small weathered flint nodule that has been shaped by the bifacial removal of a few crude flakes and incorporating thermally fractured surfaces and the natural shape of the nodule, forms a scraper-like tool. It resembles certain Palaeolithic tool forms although it cannot be excluded with certainty that the piece is not a later prehistoric core-tool. The latter dating would fit with the thermally fractured, cortical flake with secondary flake removals (also a possible core or core-tool) which is most characteristic of the opportunistic flintworking of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The third worked flint is the proximal part of a large blade with three parallel negative blade scars on the dorsal face and a faceted striking platform. The technological and typological characteristics of this blade are most typical for Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintworking.

Significance

The worked flint assemblage from this site is clearly residual and chronologically mixed. However, it does demonstrate that this location has seen human activity during the prehistoric period. Most significant is the potential Palaeolithic implement. The Pleistocene river terraces of the Thames have been the source of large quantities of Palaeolithic implements, and the recovery of a potential Palaeolithic implement from the site fits well with this general body of evidence of hominin presence in the area (Wymer 1999). Interestingly however, the site is not located on one of the Pleistocene river terrace deposits but is situated on Chalk bedrock (Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (BGS 2019)). The implement may therefore have been derived from other Pleistocene sediments, such as Head deposits or brickearth, small patches of which may be preserved covering the chalk bedrock. Such deposits may preserve contextualised Palaeolithic material, which has the potential to considerably contribute to our understanding of hominin presence and landscape use in the region (cf Harp 2006).

Potential

The struck flint assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued, and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it does demonstrate prehistoric activity at the site which further fieldwork could potentially elucidate. From the point of view of the lithic material, any further fieldwork should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to

understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted. Should further work be considered, the assemblage reported here should be re-documented in conjunction with any additional flintwork following the completion of the archaeological programmes.

From a geoarchaeological perspective, it is recommended that any development that impacts on potentially Pleistocene deposits is assessed and, if appropriate, monitored by a geoarchaeologist and a Palaeolithic specialist.

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APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-362465

Project details

Project name	Cambridge Gardens, 324 Croydon Road, Wallington
Short description of the project	Watching brief undertaken during construction of new block of flats. Small quantity of struck flint was recovered from the site in a residual context. The flints were dated as belonging to the Late Palaeolithic, Mesolithic/Neolithic and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods. Natural geology, comprising clay over chalk, was overlain by modern made ground deposit and topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2019 End: 07-06-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CDO19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON WALLINGTON AND BEDDINGTON Cambridge Gardens, 324 Croydon Road, Wallington
Postcode	SM6 7LQ
Study area	900 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 21923 65022 51.3706413842 -0.248232014568 51 22 14 N 000 14 53 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34m Max: 36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
Project design originator	CGMS HERITAGE
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Patrick Cavanagh
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	NFC Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Cambridge Gardens, 324 Croydon Road, Wallington, London, SM6 7LQ: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	I Grosso

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