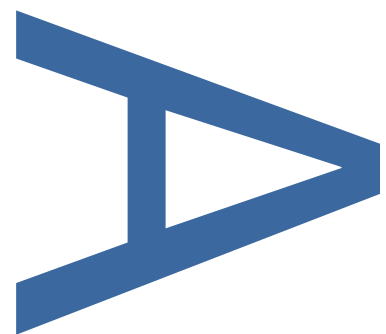
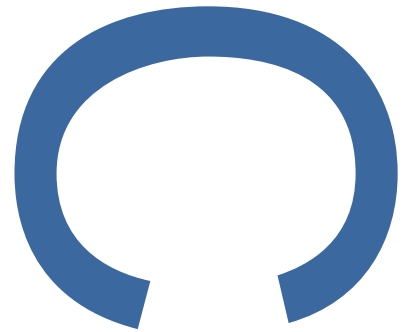


**10-12 HIGH STREET, COLLIER'S  
WOOD, LONDON BOROUGH OF  
MERTON SW19 2AE  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: HCD20**

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

**JANUARY 2020**



**10-12 HIGH STREET, COLLIER'S WOOD, LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON  
SW19 2AE  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Site Code:** HCD20

**Central NGR:** TQ 2704 7084

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

**Planning Reference:** 18/P1598

**Commissioning Client:** ARM Design and Building Limited

**Written/Researched by:** Tanya Jones  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

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**January 2020**

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2AE**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
Quality Control**

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited</b>	
Project Code	K5776
Report Number	R14010

	Name	Date
Text Prepared by:	T Jones	January 2020
Graphics Prepared by:	R Murphy	January 2020
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley	January 2020
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at the rear of 10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood SW19 2AE. The watching brief fieldwork was undertaken on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- 1.2 The watching brief monitored the excavation of the strip foundations for the new building.
- 1.3 Natural clay was encountered approximately 0.36m to 0.5m below ground level, rising from north to south, overlain by made ground and sealed by the modern surface.
- 1.4 There were no archaeological features seen during the works.
- 1.5 The completed archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive (LAA) under the site code HCD20.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at the rear of 10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood in the London Borough of Merton. The site was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2704 7084.
- 2.2 The watching brief fieldwork was undertaken on 12th January 2020.
- 2.3 The site consisted of two semi-detached late 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, that had been subdivided into flats. The proposed development will comprise a single storey building, divided into two residences, situated within the current unoccupied rear yard of these houses.
- 2.4 The archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Tanya Jones, and the project management of Helen Hawkins. This report was written by Tanya Jones. The archaeological work was commissioned by ARM Design and Build Limited. The archaeological project was monitored on behalf of the London Borough of Merton by Louise Davies, GLAAS. The work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018).
- 2.5 The site archive was identified using the unique site code HCD20, issued by the Museum of London. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with LAA under that code.

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted for the erection of 1 x 1 bed single storey detached dwelling with landscaping. An archaeological condition was attached to the planning permission:

*Reason Heritage assets of archaeological interest are expected to survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of appropriate archaeological investigation, including the publication of results, in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF*

*Condition No development shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. No development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

*Informative The written scheme of investigation will need to be prepared and implemented by a suitably qualified archaeological practice in accordance with English Heritage Greater London Archaeology guidelines. It must be approved by the planning authority before any on-site development related activity occurs.*

*It is recommended that the archaeological fieldwork should comprise of the following:  
Watching Brief*

- 3.2 The site does not contain any listed buildings or Scheduled Monuments. The site is situated in the Stane Street Roman road Archaeological Priority Area (APA) due to its proximity to the presumed line of the Roman road, which followed the A24 (High Street) to the east of the site.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The background below is taken from the Desk Based Assessment (Lanpro 2017).

### **4.1 Topography**

4.1.1 The development area within the site is situated to the rear of the houses and is accessed by stairways on either side of these buildings, reflecting a c.1.5m drop in the ground level in the site between the development area and the street level to the south-east. The rear of the houses consisted of an open concreted yard containing no structures.

4.1.2 The site was bounded to the north-west by the walls of an adjacent warehouse, and to the north-west and south-east by the rear yards of the adjacent properties on the High Street, which also contained commercial premises.

### **4.2 Geology**

4.2.1 The recorded bedrock geology within the site comprises clay and silt of the London Clay Formation overlain with superficial deposits of clays, silts, sands and gravels (BGS 2017).



## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

5.1 The full archaeological and historical background is given in the Desk Based Assessment (Lanpro 2017) and summarised below.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

5.2.1 There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric activity in the site.

5.2.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity within the search area is limited primarily to chance finds discovered around the Tooting area and the Wandle Valley in the 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which are recorded as being held in the British Museum. The exact find locations of this material are not known, but all are recorded on the GLHER at least 135m to the north of the study site.

5.2.3 Palaeolithic finds include a handaxe (MLO11905) found in 1924, a flint implement apparently found on Wandle Bank and catalogued in the British Museum in 1931 (MLO11907), a core (MLO12236) and a flake, also recorded as being in the British Museum in 1931, but not traced more recently (MLO23278).

5.2.4 Neolithic material from the search area comprises a flint axe found in a garden over 135m to the north of the study site in 1871 (MLO11001) and a probable Neolithic flint implement found somewhere in the Tooting area (MLO13258). A fragment of a flint dagger was also found on Kenlor Road, about 140m to the north of the site (MLO13268).

5.2.5 The only prehistoric remains that have been recorded in the context of a modern archaeological excavation in the search area were identified during an evaluation in 1993 at the St George's Hospital site, Maybury Street, approximately 240m to the north of the study site (ELO04511; 10849; 10851; MLO60359; 60361). This revealed pits, a possible ditch and a plough mark of a possible Early Iron Age date, together with residual Iron Age pottery, and earlier worked flint.

### **5.3 Roman**

5.3.1 There is no recorded evidence for Roman activity in the study site, although the site is situated adjacent to the presumed line of Stane Street Roman road, which lead south-west from London towards Chichester (MLO10479; 71557).

5.3.2 In 2004 an archaeological evaluation at 1-11 High Street, about 55m to the south of the study site on the opposite side of the High Street, identified a Roman period ditch aligned north-east to south-west, following the orientation of Stane Street, from which a 4<sup>th</sup> century flagon was recovered (ELO6038; MLO78230). Successive layers of gravel and silt were identified during this work, which may represent the truncated surface of the Roman road (MOLAS 2004).

5.3.3 Roman remains were also discovered during the evaluation at St George's Hospital, about 240m to the north of the site in 1993, including a post-hole or small pit containing Roman pottery and a 4<sup>th</sup> century coin (ELO10849; MLO60362).

## **5.4 Saxon and Medieval**

- 5.4.1 There is no evidence for Saxon and medieval activity in the study site and given the site's location outside the focus of any known medieval settlement, it is likely to have remained in agricultural use throughout this period.
- 5.4.2 Evidence for medieval activity within the search area is limited to the discovery of a quarry pit dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries at the St George's Hospital site, 240m to the north of the study site (ELO10849; MLO60363; 60364). It is probable that Stane Street remained a major routeway through the medieval period (MLO71557).

## **5.5 Post-Medieval**

- 5.5.1 The earliest large-scale map covering the study site was published by John Rocque in 1746, and shows the site situated within a large arable field. The site remained in agricultural use through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the 2 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1804 and the more detailed 1847 Mitcham Tithe Map both showing the site forming part of a narrow rectangular field aligned along the main road. The tithe apportionment that accompanied the 1847 map names this field (no. 158) as 'Field in front of house' and records it as being used as a meadow at this time.
- 5.5.2 The 1866 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map is the first to depict the two existing large semi-detached houses, 10-12 High Street, within the study site, with gardens to their front and rear and with similar properties constructed in the adjacent plot to the north. The surrounding land remained undeveloped, although to the south-west it had been subdivided into smaller plots. To the north-east this map shows the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway under construction, with the road embankment already built to the south-east of the study site to raise the line of High Street over the planned track. This embankment appears to have created a steep scarp to the front of 10-12 High Street, down to the windows of the basement level, with raised entrance paths allowing access to the ground floor.
- 5.5.3 The Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1895 shows little change to the study site over the previous 30 years, with the rear of 10-12 High Street remaining open. The surrounding area had by this time taken on an urban character, with the laying out of new streets fronted with terrace housing along Waterfall Cottages to the north-west of the site and Waterfall Road to the site's south-west. This urban development continued through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century by which time the surrounding area comprised densely packed terrace housing and commercial premises, to both the east and west of High Street, as well as a tramway running along the main road. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a commercial or warehouse building, or buildings, had been constructed along the northern edge of the study site to the rear of no. 10, although the rear of no. 12 within the study site remained open ground. The scarp of the High Street road embankment also appears to have been infilled to the front of both properties by the early 20<sup>th</sup>

century, providing a level area of ground as it exists today, with the basement window lights situated below this level.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The methodology of the archaeological work was detailed in the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018) which was approved by GLAAS.
- 6.2 The watching brief monitored groundwork for the excavation of the new foundations, which formed a rough rectangle around the centre of the site which did not require excavation (Figure 2). The excavation was carried out by a 360° excavator with flat bladed ditching bucket, operating under archaeological supervision. The watching brief was discontinued upon reaching the natural ground or project formation level.
- 6.3 Where safe, the archaeologist entered the excavation to record all features exposed. Where there were health and safety factors, which inhibited access and could not be overcome, recording was made from the existing ground surface.
- 6.4 All recording systems adopted during the investigation were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London; that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented in PCA's Operations Manual 1 (Taylor, 2009). Individual descriptions of all archaeological and geological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film. The plans were at scale 1:20 and the sections at 1:10 as applicable. A digital photographic record was made during the works.
- 6.5 The completed archive produced during the watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive (LAA) under the allocated site code HCD20.

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was the natural clay [2] which was encountered across the entire site at approximately 0.50m at the south to 0.60m below ground level at the north.



*Figure 1: Clay [2] in base of trench*

### 7.2 Phase 2: Modern

- 7.2.1 The natural clay was overlain in the north by a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay [3] approximately 0.20m thick which appeared to be redeposited and used as a levelling layer. In the south of the site was a mid-greyish brown silty clay [1] approximately 0.20m thick which appeared to have been used as a levelling layer. This was possibly from the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century properties currently on site.



*Figure 2: Section 1, north east facing*

- 7.2.2 The entire area was overlain with a made ground layer [+] which was overlain with concrete [+] measuring between 0.30m and 0.50m thick, making up the modern surface.

## **8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Primary Objectives**

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

- To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
- To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity, related to the Roman road nearby
- To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site.
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

8.1.2 The watching brief found no evidence of Roman or medieval activity and the only post-medieval activity related to a levelling layer probably related to the current properties on the site. No archaeological finds or features were identified. The natural ground had no sub-soil in place over it suggesting truncation of the top of the layer in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so it no longer reflected the natural topography of the site.

### **8.2 Conclusions**

8.2.1 The watching brief has shown the presence of made ground deposits which are likely from the 19<sup>th</sup> century construction work that was carried out for the properties in the east of the site. These were sealing the natural clay deposits which were encountered on site, no archaeological features were encountered although this could be as the result of truncation due to the area being approximately 1.5m lower than the main road.

8.2.2 Upon approval of this report and with confirmation that the work is complete, the archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive under the unique site code HCD20.

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

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

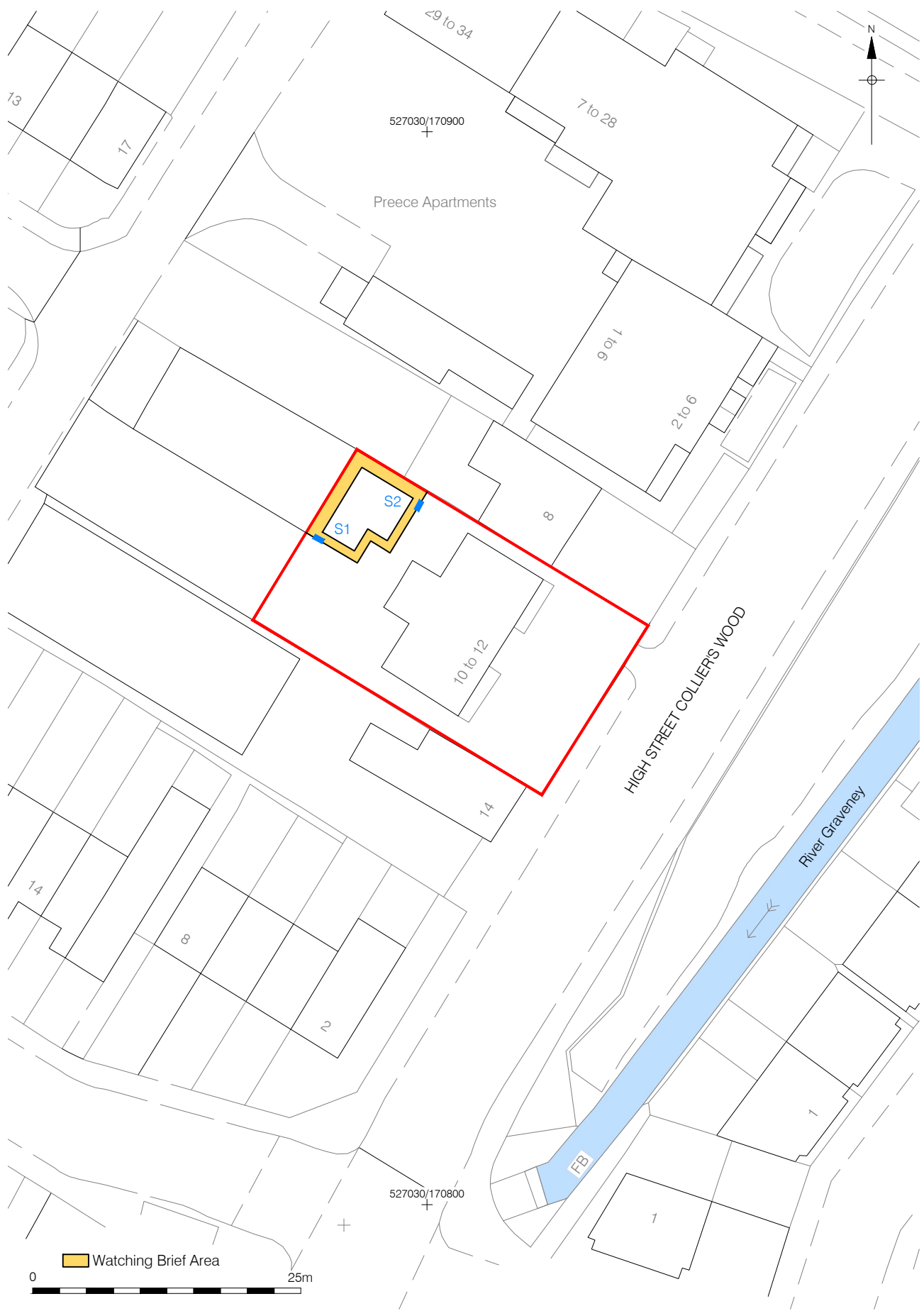
- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank ARM Design and Build Limited for commissioning the work, and Louise Davies of Historic England for monitoring the site on behalf of the London Borough of Merton.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for her project managing and editing and Ray Murphy for the illustrations.

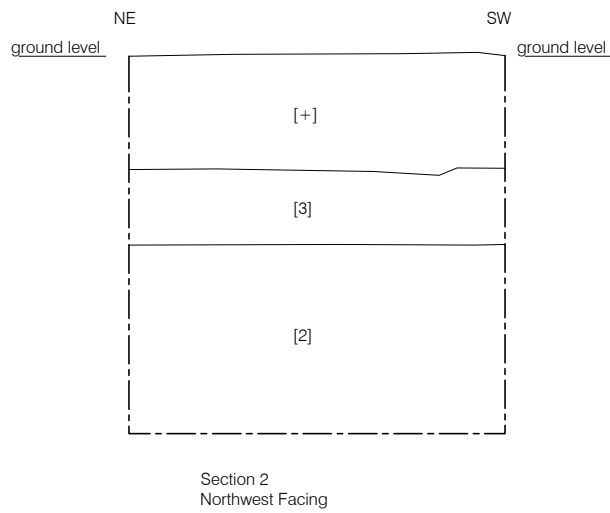
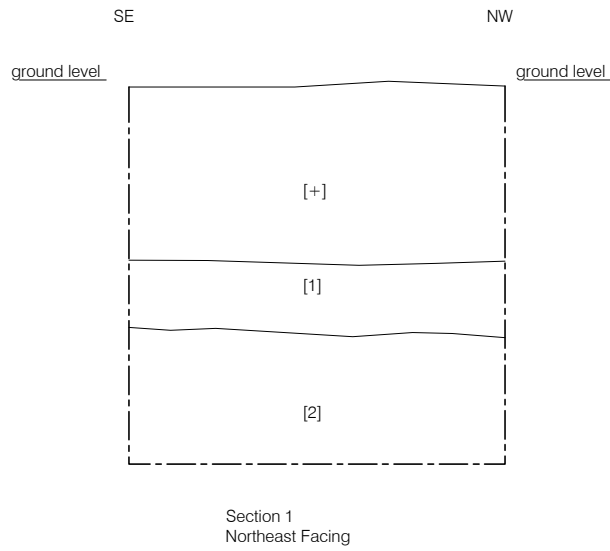
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- Hawkins, H. 2018 *10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2AE: WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief* unpublished report for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
- Lanpro 2017 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: 10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood, London Borough of Merton* unpublished client report
- Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited





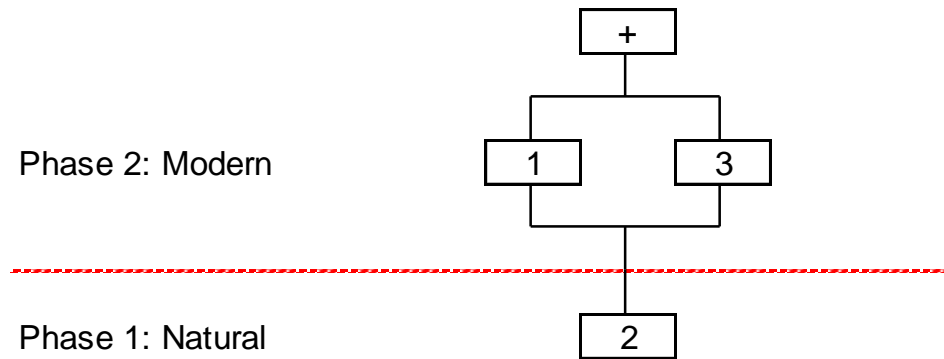




## 11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site_Code	Context	CTX_Type	Trench	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	Phase
HCD20	1	Layer	1	Made ground	Make-up	9	8.5	0.19	HCD20-PH2
HCD20	2	Natural	1	Natural	Natural	9	8.5	0.5	HCD20-PH1
HCD20	3	Layer	1	Possible redeposited natural	Make-up	4.5		0.2	HCD20-PH2

## 12 APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



## 13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: preconst1-382507

#### Project details

Project name	10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood, London Borough of Merton SW19 2AE
Short description of the project	The watching brief monitored the excavation of the strip foundations for the new building. Natural clay was encountered approximately 0.36m to 0.5m below the ground level rising from north to south, overlain by made ground and sealed by the modern surface. There were no archaeological features seen during the works.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2020 End: 12-01-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HCD20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON MERTON WIMBLEDON AND MERTON 10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood
Postcode	SW19 2AE
Study area	240 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2704 7084 51.421810121385 -0.172668163411 51 25 18 N 000 10 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Tanya Jones

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	ARM Design and Building Limited

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAA
Physical Archive ID	HCD20
Digital Archive recipient	LAA
Digital Archive ID	HCD20
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAA
Paper Archive ID	HCD20
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Section"

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### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	10-12 High Street, Collier's Wood, London Borough of Merton, SW19 2AE: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, T
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
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