

**RIDGES YARD, WADDON NEW ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

MAY 2008

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

RIDGES YARD, WADDON NEW ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, London Borough of Croydon

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3170 6540

Site Code: RGY 08

Written and Researched by Iain Bright

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, May 2008

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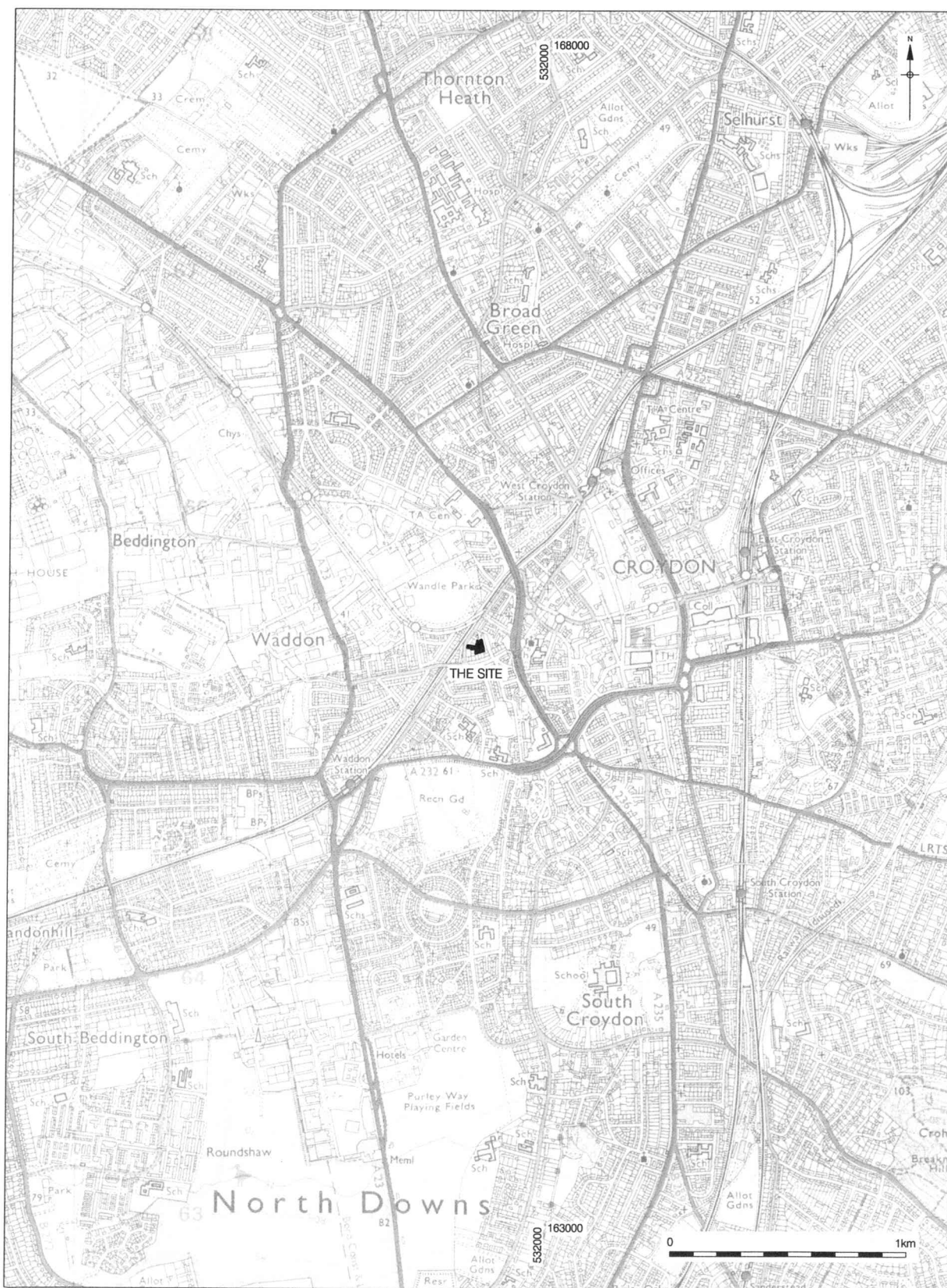
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, London Borough of Croydon. The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 3170 6540. The field evaluation was undertaken between 21st and the 25th April 2008, and the commissioning client was R.M.P. Developments Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of two trial trenches, designed to investigate the sites' archaeological potential and to mitigate for any potential loss of archaeology following the premature start of ground works on the site. A method statement prepared prior to the evaluation (Mayo 2008) noted the potential for archaeology dating to the Bronze Age.
- 1.3 The depth of the natural layers, along with the frequent inclusion of gravel in overlying layers, the cut feature located in Trench 1 and the results of the geotechnical surveys seem to indicate that this area has seen extensive gravel extraction activity, most likely carried out in the 19th-early 20th century; and concurring with other archaeological investigations undertaken locally.
- 1.4 It is likely that any archaeological deposits or structures that may have once existed at this location have been subsequently removed by this post-medieval gravel extraction activity.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological site evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 21st-25th April 2008, in response to development works being undertaken in the location of Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, London Borough of Croydon (Fig.1). The site itself, previously consisting of a warehouse and yard, is bounded on all sides by housing. Prior to the archaeological evaluation, the warehouse had been demolished and the site had been piled in preparation for the commencement of building works.
- 2.2 The commissioning client was R.M.P. Developments Ltd. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook a retrospective archaeological evaluation under the supervision of Iain Bright and the project management of Chris Mayo. The purpose of the evaluation was to mitigate for any potential loss of archaeology following the premature start of ground works on the site. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage monitored the evaluation on behalf of the London Borough of Croydon.
- 2.3 Geotechnical surveys were undertaken by Carina De Vito of Fastrack Geotechnical Services and Claire Brown of Scientific Analysis Laboratories Ltd prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation, and the results of these are incorporated into this report (De Vito 2007 & Brown 2007).
- 2.4 The evaluation followed an approved method statement (Mayo 2008), which had acknowledged the potential for Bronze Age and Roman deposits on the site. The proposal was for the excavation of two trenches measuring 12.0m by 1.8m. Both trenches had to be stepped due to the overall depth exceeding 1.20m from ground level. As such the overall width of each trench measured approximately 3.50m at top and 1.75m at base.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeology Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code RGY 08.



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Figure 1
Site location
1:25,000 at A4



Figure 2
Trench Location
and approximate location of boreholes
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.3 The current London Borough of Croydon Unitary Development Plan, adopted in 2006, has the following policies relating to archaeology (London Borough of Croydon 2006):

Development Proposals on Archaeological Sites UC11 Development will only be permitted if all the following criteria are met:

(i) Proposals have been properly assessed and planned for archaeological implications, where development may affect the archaeological heritage of a site. This may involve preliminary archaeological site evaluations, commissioned by the applicants from a professionally qualified archaeological practice or archaeological consultant;

(ii) Early co-operation regarding the proposals between landowners, developers and archaeological practices, in accordance with the principles of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice, has been demonstrated.

(iii) The siting and design of the new development has regard to minimising the disturbance of archaeological remains, ensuring that those most important are permanently preserved *in situ*.

(iv) An appropriate level of archaeological investigation, excavation, recording, analysis and publication has been

agreed with the Council, secured where appropriate by the use of planning conditions or agreements.

(v) The provision of access and facilities that interpret and explain archaeological sites to the public has been considered, secured where appropriate by the use of planning conditions or agreements.

5.39 The archaeology of the Borough can best be protected if as much information as possible is available at the planning application stage. The evaluation, which may involve fieldwork, is needed so that the Council Urban Conservation and Archaeology 48 Croydon Replacement Unitary Development Plan adopted 13th July 2006 can assess the archaeological implications of proposals. Where appropriate the evaluation may show how developments can be designed

so that they do not harm a site. When assessing the requirement for a site evaluation report the significance of any ground disturbance will be taken into account, and will depend on the factors such as the type, extent, quality and exact position of archaeological remains.

5.40 Archaeological Priority Zones where archaeological remains are most likely to be found are listed below and are shown on the Proposals Map and on Map 3 at the end of this chapter. The Sites and Monuments Record for Greater London identifies the location of archaeological remains. It is held by English Heritage and is updated continually.

5.41 Outside the Archaeological Priority Zones that reflect the present state of knowledge, there may be other areas of archaeological potential and the Council will seek advice from English Heritage on whether or not an evaluation is needed.

5.42 The Council will also seek the advice of English Heritage on the competency and expertise of the practices intending to undertake archaeological work.

3.4 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined in the London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development Plan. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments and no Listed Buildings on the site.

3.5 The development had been granted full planning permission (reference 07/00440/P) which included the following condition:

6. No development including excavations for drainage and foundation work shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with the agreed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard the heritage of the Borough by providing an adequate opportunity to investigate and excavate archaeological remains on the site before development is carried out, in accordance with Policy UC11 of the Croydon Replacement Unitary Development Plan (The Croydon Plan)

3.6 Preliminary discussions between Mark Stevenson of English Heritage, Archaeology Advisor to the LB Croydon, and Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd resulted in requirement for a rapid desk-based assessment in order to inform of the sites' potential. However, the client proceeded with groundworks before this was undertaken, and therefore Mr Stevenson required a retrospective archaeological evaluation in order to mitigate against any potential loss of archaeology at the site.

4 GEOLOGICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey Map for the area indicates that the site is underlain by Hackney Gravel over Thanet Sand Beds (Clough 2003).
- 4.2 Two geotechnical surveys were undertaken at Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, the results of which indicate gravels occurring 2.40-2.80m below ground level. For the most part the depth of the gravels and the nature of the overlying deposits/made ground suggest that they have been substantially truncated at some point.
- 4.3 The local area is quite flat, rising slightly towards West Croydon Station.
- 4.4 The site is situated within an area of archaeological significance with the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record showing there to be evidence for Bronze Age activity in addition to certain Roman finds within this particular part of Croydon.
- 4.5 An evaluation undertaken in 2003 at 91-93 New Waddon Road revealed evidence for a north-south aligned gravel extraction pit of 19th/20th century date, indicating such activity was occurring in this area at this time.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The excavation of two trenches measuring 12.0m by 1.8m at base, located in areas external to the footprints of the new builds, was outlined in the method statement for an archaeological evaluation (Mayo 2008). The general aim of the evaluation was to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains. Both trenches had to be extended in width to accommodate stepping that was necessary due to the depth. As such both trenches subsequently measured 12.0m by 3.50m at top and 12.0m by 1.75m at base approximately (Fig 2).
- 5.2 All trenches were broken out and then excavated with a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless flat-bladed ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Excavation progressed through modern material until the top of the natural geology was discernable. Trench 1 was aligned N-S on the eastern edge of the site, situated in the area previously occupied by the warehouse yard. Trench 2 was aligned E-W and positioned where the warehouse previously stood.
- 5.3 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and the sections at a scale of 1:10. The trenches were surveyed using a total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in colour and monochrome slide and digital formats.
- 5.4 A temporary benchmark was set up on the site at a height of 45.52m OD, which was transferred from a benchmark located on the northern corner of 115 Waddon New Road which had a value of 44.97m OD.
- 5.5 The two aforementioned geotechnical surveys, that were undertaken by Scientific Analysis Laboratories Ltd and Fastrack Geotechnical Services respectively, resulted in a series of exploratory boreholes being carried out across the site. BH1a, BH2a & BH3a relate to the Scientific Analysis Laboratories survey and BH1b, BH2b, BH3b & BH4b relate to Fastrack Geotechnical Services' work (Fig 2.).

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Phase 1 - Natural

- 6.1.1 Natural gravel was identified in Trench 1 at a level of 42.56m OD and at the slightly lower depth of 42.19m OD in Trench 2. The consistency of the gravel varied marginally between a moderately compacted mid yellowish brown sandy gravel [1] and a loose light reddish brown sandy gravel [16]. The gravel contained frequent small to large angular to rounded pebbles and flint nodules. There was some evidence for bioturbation in Trench 2. Elsewhere on site geotechnical boreholes (BH2a, BH3a, BH1b) indicate gravel occurring at approximately 41.73m OD to the south of the site and at 42.86m OD to the north.

6.2 Phase 2 – Post Medieval

- 6.2.1 Trench 1 partially revealed a large feature [13] that had been cut into the gravel. The overall shape of the feature could not be discerned, as only half of it was located within the limit of excavation. The sides were concave and sloped down gradually onto a flat base over the course of nearly 6.00m. The southern edge of the cut had been truncated by the construction cut for a modern manhole [8]. A depth of at least 1.60m could be observed from the section. A level of 41.94m OD was taken at the base of the cut. A thin layer of moderate dark greyish brown silty sand and clay with frequent rounded to sub-angular pebbles and flint nodules overlay the base of the cut and possibly represents a general ground build up [12]. This layer contained post-medieval ceramic building material. A small slot was dug into this layer at the base of the cut which revealed the natural gravel at a height of 41.85m OD. It is likely that this feature forms a post-medieval gravel extraction pit.
- 6.2.2 Located in the southern end of Trench 1 were two layers of re-deposited gravel, lying over the natural gravel and cut by a modern drainage feature relating to the manhole [7]. The lowest layer which may represent an interface with the natural gravel consisted of a moderately compacted mid-dark grey brown sandy silty gravel, located at its highest point at 42.95m OD with a thickness of approximately 0.22m [5]. Above this a separate layer of redeposited gravel [4] was observed which consisted of loose light-dark greyish brown gravel and silty sand with small white flint nodules. This was located at a height of 43.12m with a maximum thickness of 0.55m. These layers

appear to have been observed in both the northern and southern areas of the site within two geotechnical boreholes (BH3a and BH4b) at an approximate average height of 42.73m OD.

6.2.3 Trench 2 contained a thin layer of moderately compacted dark greyish brown silty sandy clay [2] with frequent angular – sub angular pebbles very similar in nature to the ground build up found in Trench 1 [12]. This overlay the natural gravel and was only visible in the southern section. It was recorded at a height of 42.41m OD.

6.2.4 Overlying this was a substantial layer of made ground consisting of a moderately compacted mid greyish brown silty clay. The layer contained frequent bands of angular and sub-angular gravels and frequent sandy lenses with occasional yellow clay patches. The layer was observed at a height of 43.94m OD with an average thickness of 1.50m. The deposit contained post-medieval orange fabric brick and a clay tobacco pipe shaft. This layer was noted in BH1a, BH2a, BH2b and BH3b of the geotechnical survey, with the thickness ranging between 2.65-3.40m. It is likely this layer consists of post-medieval – early modern made ground/levelling prior to building construction on site.

6.3 Phase 3 – Early Modern - Modern

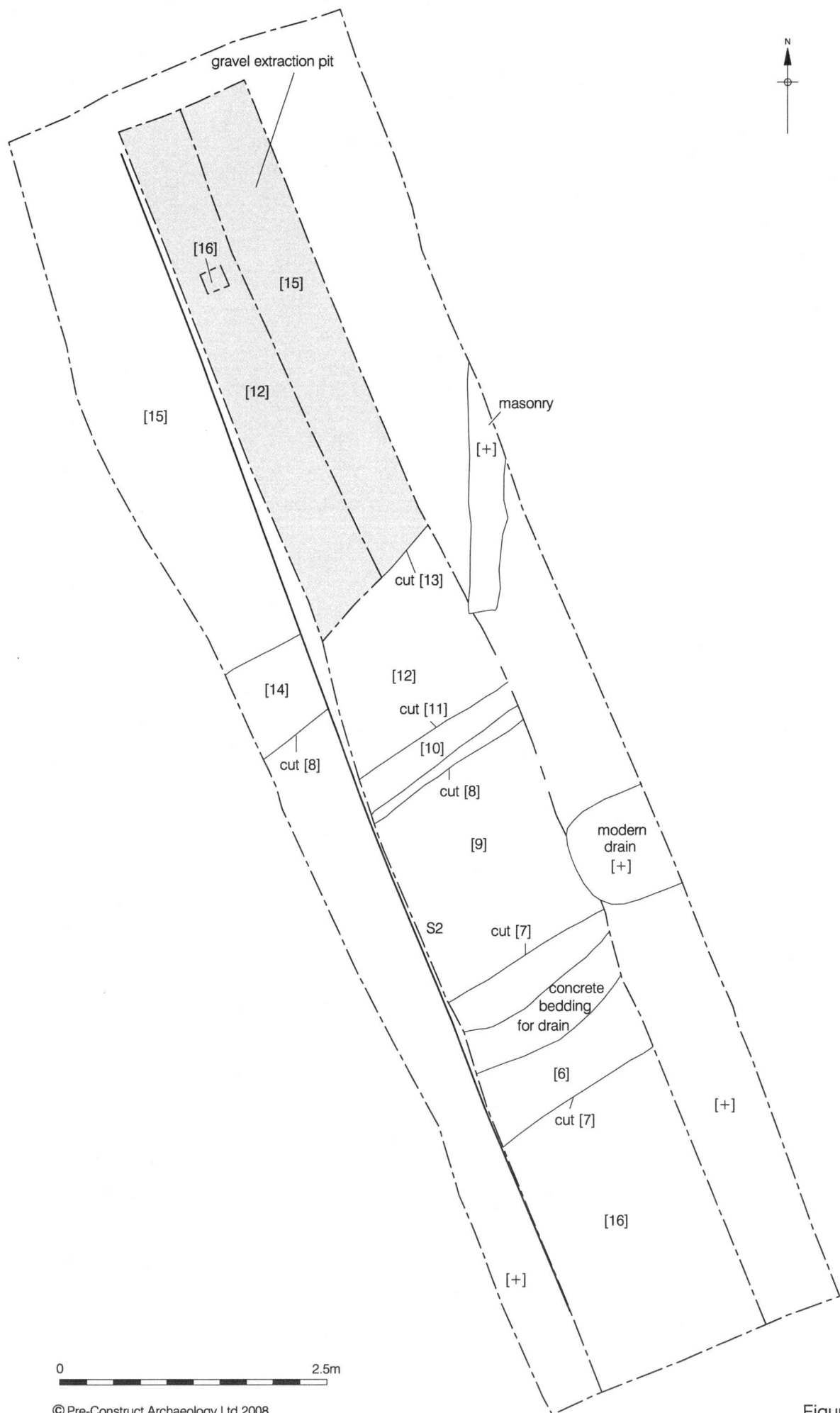
6.3.1 In Trench 1 a series of early modern services are cut into the gravel [16] and overlying ground build up [12]. A linear cut was observed towards the north of the trench, orientated NE-SW towards a disused drain culvert which is believed to lie beyond the eastern limit of excavation that runs into a manhole which is located 4.00m north of the southern end of the trench within the eastern L.O.E. The width of the cut measured 0.30m and the fill consists of a moderate mid greyish brown sandy silt.

6.3.2 Overlying this were the primary and secondary fills of the possible gravel extraction pit [8]. The primary fill [14] appears to slump in from the southern side, thinning out completely at the base. It consists of a moderate mid-light green sandy silt and clay with moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular pebbles and flint nodules. The deposit measured a thickness ranging from 0.20-1.70m and was observed at a height of 42.97m OD. It was fairly sterile and appears to be a redeposited natural material. On top of this a similar fill [15] was observed consisting of a moderate light green mottled

reddish brown clayey sandy silt with a moderate amount of pebbles and flint nodules. 1.60m thick at the centre of the cut, the deposit first occurs at a height of 43.49m OD. Once again the deposit was devoid of any cultural material however it is likely to form early modern ground levelling of the site.

6.3.3 Truncating the fills was a construction cut [8] for a manhole that was connected to an defunct drain culvert. The cut measured 5.10m (N-S) and was filled by loose dark greyish brown gravel with sandy clay lenses [9]. The top of the cut was located at 44.07m OD and measured a depth of 0.90-1.00m. Also contained within was a secondary cut [7] a drainage pipe that ran NE-SW from the manhole. This cut contained a loose mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and small CBM inclusions [6]. This cut measured 2.70m (N-S) and the top was located at a height of 44.07m OD.

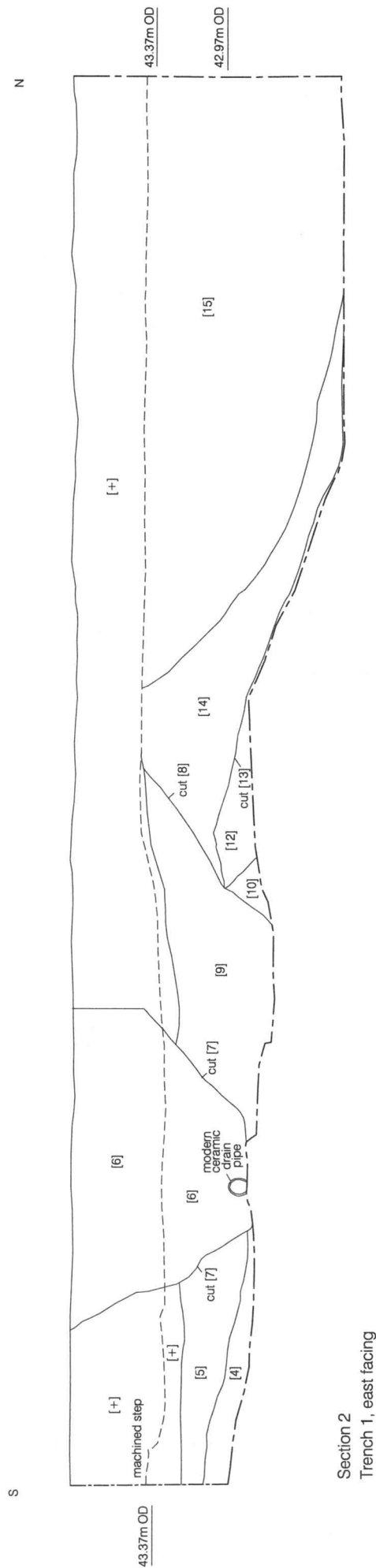
6.3.4 Both trenches were overlain with a layer of mixed demolition rubble and modern made ground (+) consisting of a moderately compacted dark brown grey silty clay containing occasional angular and sub angular gravels with charcoal and frequent CBM inclusions. Over much of this lay a modern concrete ground surface.



0 2.5m

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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:50 at A4



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Figure 4
Section 2, Trench 1
1:50 at A4

7 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Interpretation

7.1.1 All the trenches revealed natural deposits that were consistent with the underlying geology of this area, albeit at a level lower than expected.

7.1.2 The height of the natural layers, along with the frequent inclusion of gravel in overlying layers and the large cut feature [13] located in Trench 1 seem to indicate that this area has seen gravel extraction activity, most likely carried out in the 19th-early 20th century. This dating can be verified with ceramic building material recovered from the immediately overlying deposit [12] and concurs with the finds of an archaeological evaluation that took place at nearby 91-93 Waddon New Road in 2003 (Clough 2003) and the geotechnical investigations undertaken prior to the evaluation which indicates that the natural gravel occurs at variable depths (Brown 2007 & De Vito 2007).

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 It has been shown by the evaluation that only archaeological deposits from the post-medieval and early modern periods are still extant on the site.

7.2.2 It appears that any potential archaeological deposits that may have once existed at this location have been subsequently removed by post-medieval gravel extraction activity.

7.2.3 This retrospective evaluation concludes that no further archaeological investigation is required at Ridges Yard.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Chris Harvey of R.M.P. Developments Ltd for commissioning this archaeological evaluation, and Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing the site and editing this report, Jem Rogers for surveying, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support, and Neralie Johnston, Paul Morrison and Jim Heathcote for their work on site.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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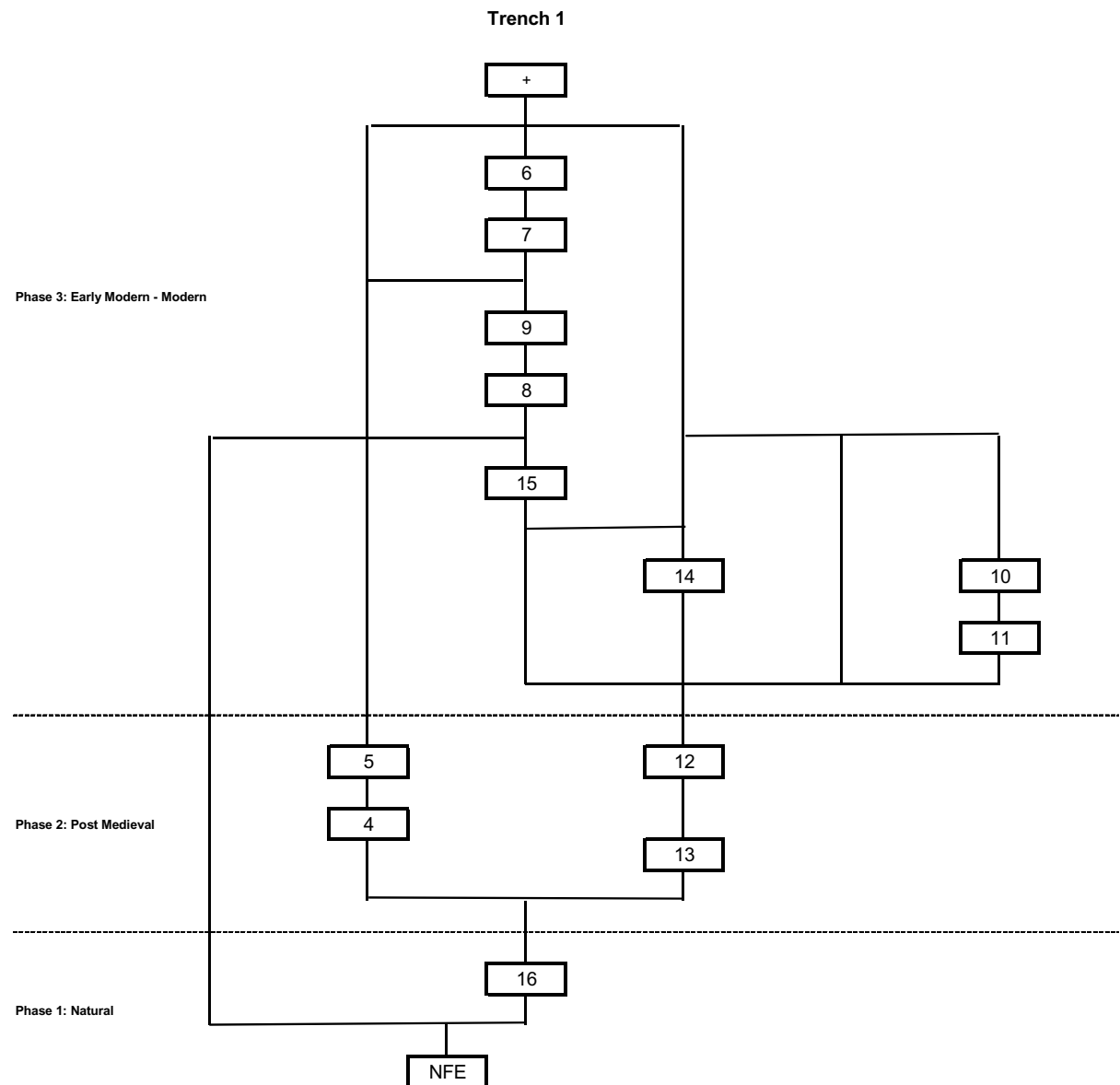
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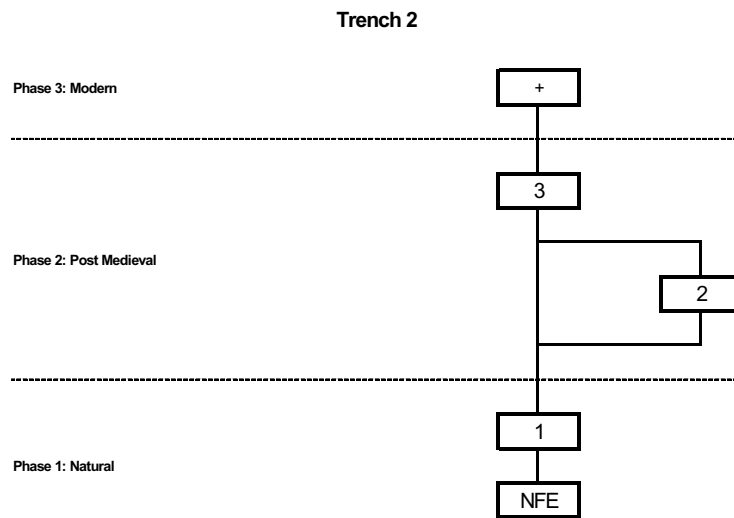
Mayo, C. 2008 'Method Statement for An Archaeological Evaluation at Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, London Borough of Croydon.', PCA Unpublished Report.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date
RGY08	(+)	N/A	S1 & S2	Layer	Demo rubble and ground levelling	Modern
RGY08	1	Post-Ex Tr2	S1	Natural	Natural gravel	N/A
RGY08	2	N/A	S1	Layer	Dirty gravel/ground build up	Post-Medieval
RGY08	3	Post-Ex Tr2	S1	Layer	Post-med made ground/dump	Post-Medieval
RGY08	4	N/A	S2	Layer	Redeposited gravel/natural gravel interface	Post-Medieval
RGY08	5	N/A	S2	Layer	Redeposited gravel	Post-Medieval
RGY08	6	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Fill	Fill of modern drain cut [7]	Early Modern
RGY08	7	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Cut	Cut for modern drain pipe	Early Modern
RGY08	8	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Cut	Cut for modern manhole	Early Modern
RGY08	9	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Fill	Fill of modern manhole cut [8]	Early Modern
RGY08	10	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Fill	Fill of modern pipe cut [11]	Early Modern
RGY08	11	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Cut	Cut for modern service pipe	Early Modern
RGY08	12	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Layer	Dirty gravel/ground build up	Post-Medieval
RGY08	13	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Cut	Cut of possible gravel extraction pit	Post-Medieval
RGY08	14	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Fill	Primary fill/dump within cut [13]	Early Modern
RGY08	15	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Fill	Fill of cut [13]	Early Modern
RGY08	16	Post-Ex Tr1	S2	Natural	Natural gravel	N/A

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX





APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-41501

Project details

Project name	Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, CR0, London Borough of Croydon
Short description of the project	A retrospective archaeological evaluation took place at Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, London Borough of Croydon between 21st-25th April 2008. The evaluation consisted of two trial trenches, designed to investigate the sites' archaeological potential and to mitigate for any potential loss of archaeology following the premature start of ground works on the site. The depth of the natural layers, along with the frequent inclusion of gravel in overlying layers, the cut feature located in Trench 1 and the results of the geotechnical survey seem to indicate that this area has seen extensive gravel extraction activity, most likely carried out in the 19th-early 20th century; concurring with other archaeological investigations undertaken locally. It is likely that any archaeological deposits or structures that may have once existed at this location have been subsequently removed by this post-medieval gravel extraction activity.
Project dates	Start: 21-04-2008 End: 25-04-2008
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road
Postcode	CR0 4JE
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3171 6538 51.3716666667 -0.1075 51 22 18 N 000 06 27 W Point
Height OD	Min: 41.33m Max: 42.19m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Iain Bright
Type of sponsor/funding body	RMP Developments

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context Sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Ridges Yard, Waddon New Road, London Borough of Croydon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bright, I
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
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Description	Unpublished developer report

Entered by Iain Bright (ipbright1979@aol.com)

Entered on 29 April 2008