

**248-250 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon:
An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise**

**Site Code: PMI 08
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3205 6355**

**Written and Researched by Stuart Holden
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2008**

Project Manager: Chris Mayo

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

**Contractor:
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: cmayo@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
June 2008**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	8
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	10
5	METHODOLOGY	12
6	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	13
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	14
8	CONCLUSIONS	16
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	17
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	18

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.....	5
FIGURE 2: PHASE 1: AREA MONITORED DURING TOPOIL STRIPPING.....	6
FIGURE 3: PHASE 2: AREA MONITORED DURING GROUNDWORKS.....	7
FIGURE 4: SECTIONS	15

APPENDICES

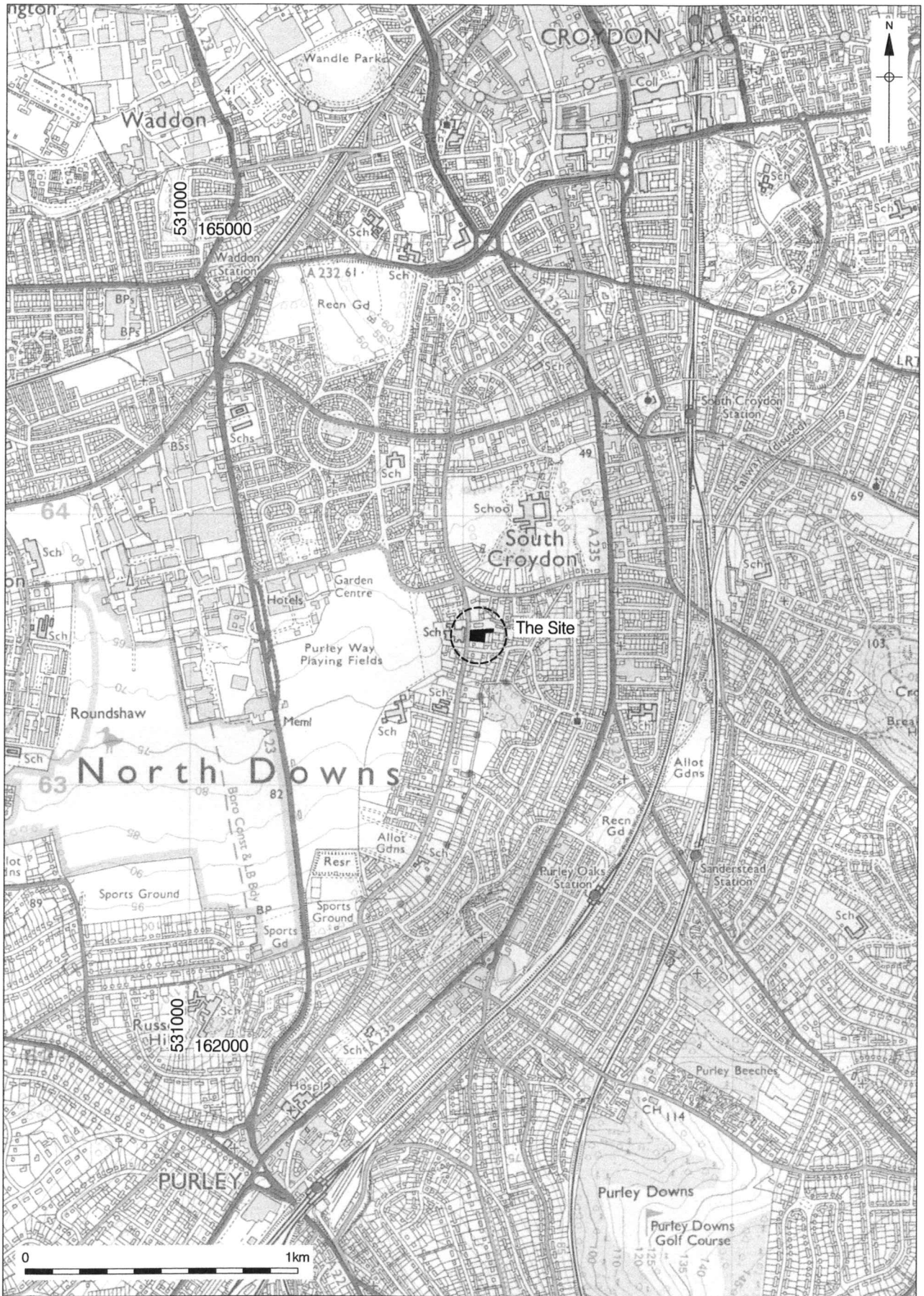
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	19
APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM.....	20

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 248-250 Pampisford Road, London Borough of Croydon.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was implemented in advance of proposed redevelopment of two houses with a single block of flats.
- 1.3 The investigation constituted two phases of work: firstly monitoring topsoil stripping to provide material for landscaping at a later stage in the development and secondly monitoring of the groundworks in constructing the roadway and car parking areas.
- 1.4 Several pieces of burnt and struck flint and a single fragment of abraded fired clay were recovered from the topsoil and represent the only evidence for archaeologically sensitive material recorded during the investigations.

2 INTRODUCTION

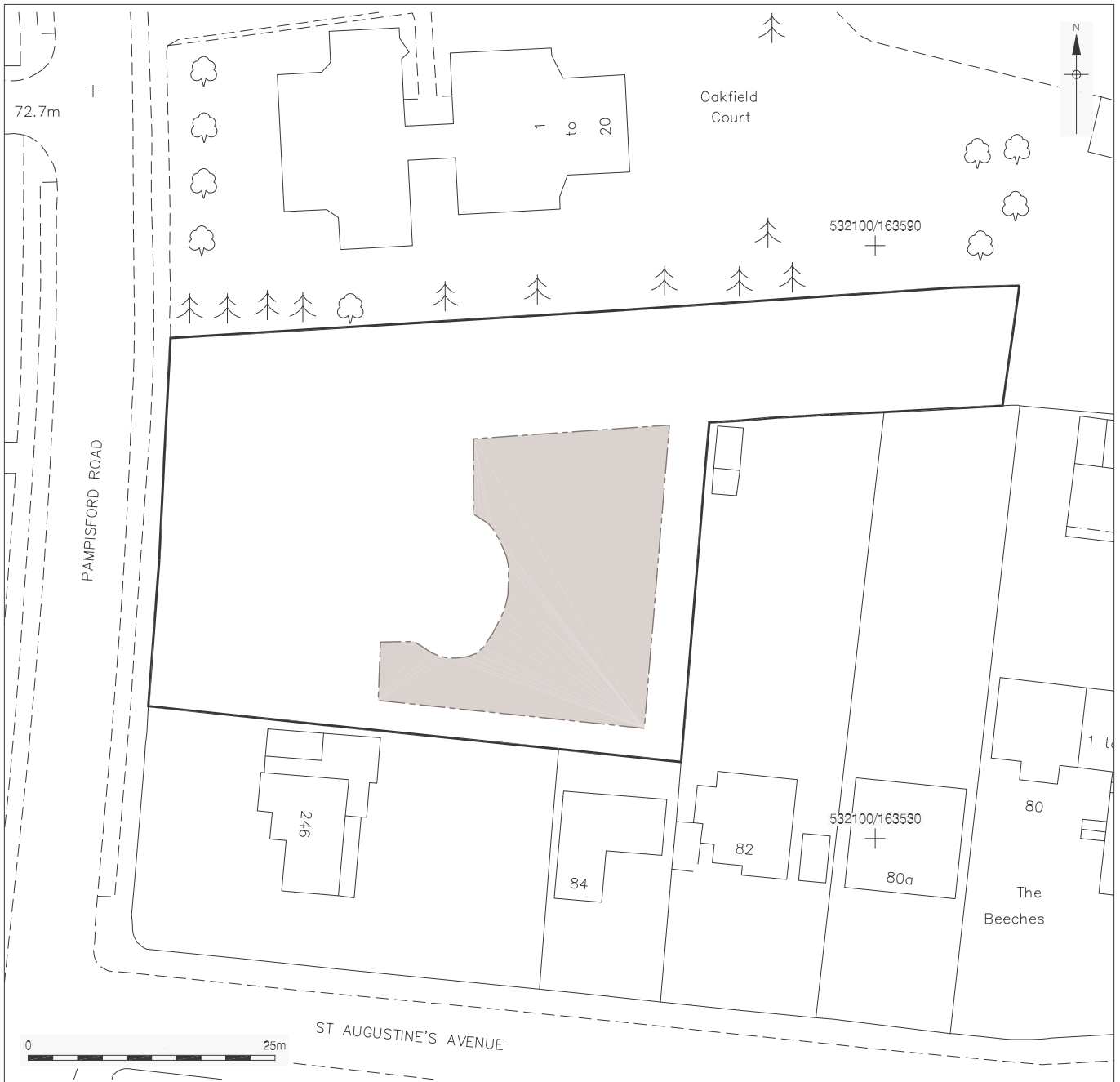
- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land to the rear of 248 and 250 Pampisford Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (Figure 1), in advance of a proposed development.
- 2.2 The watching brief was conducted on the 21st to 22nd April and 9th to 10th June 2008, and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.
- 2.3 The investigation constituted two phases of work: firstly monitoring topsoil stripping to provide material for landscaping at a later stage in the development (Figure 2) and secondly monitoring of the groundworks in constructing the roadway and car parking areas (Figure 3). Scant evidence for prehistoric activity was found in the form of burnt and struck flint and an abraded scrap of fired clay recovered from the topsoil.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 3205 6355.
- 2.5 The site was given the unique code PMI 08.
- 2.6 The monitoring was undertaken by Stuart Holden with the project managed by Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 2007.

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

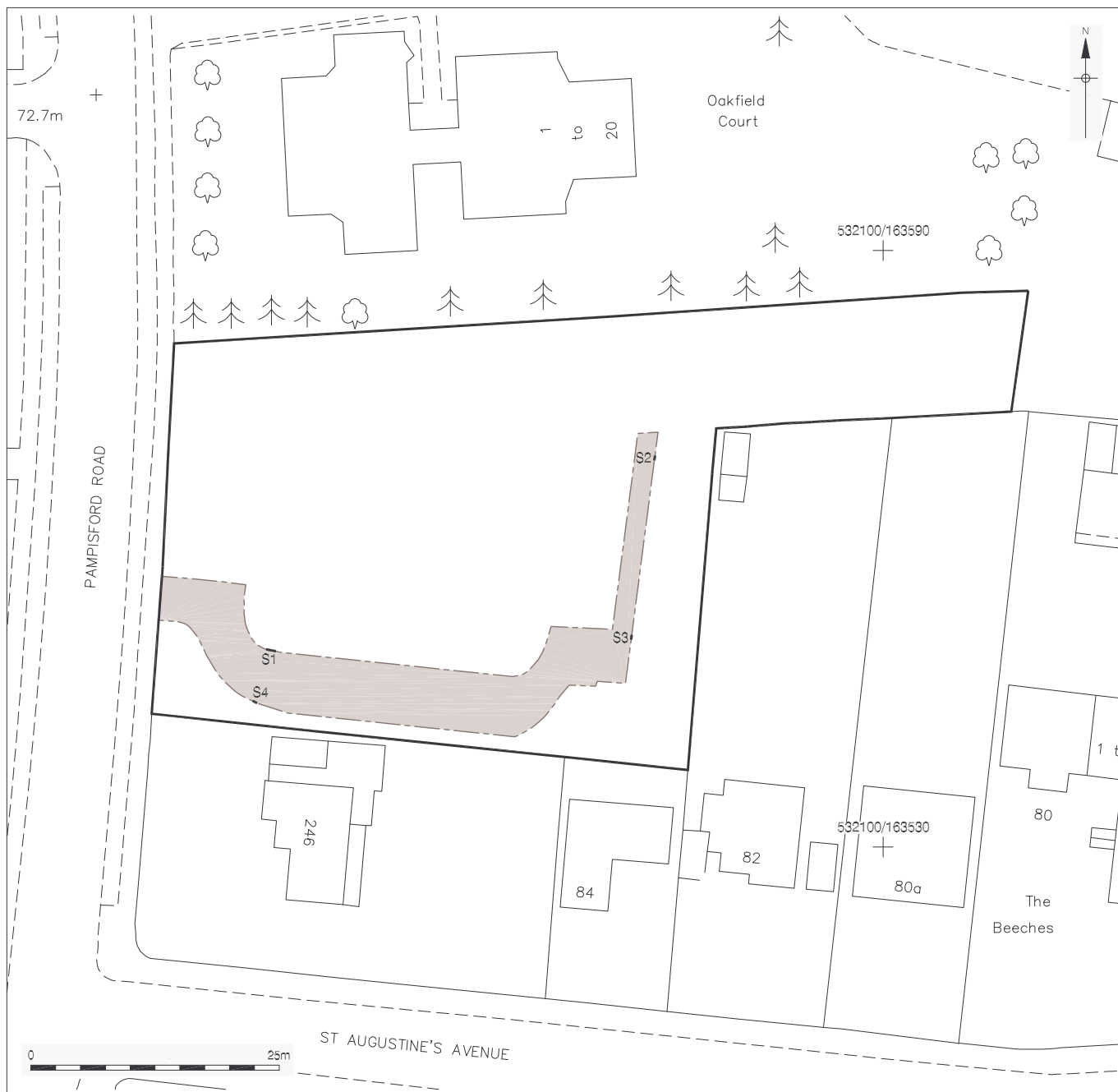
Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



© Crown copyright 2008. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

Figure 2
 Area monitored during topsoil stripping
 1:625 at A4



© Crown copyright 2008. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

Figure 3
Area monitored during groundworks
1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEACH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Planning Background

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Croydon, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The council's deposited draft 'Croydon Unitary Development Plan', adopted in 1997, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development is subject to the Archaeology and Urban Conservation policies:

SP6 The Council will protect and enhance Croydon's archaeological heritage.

Minimising Disturbance

AR2 The siting and design of development should have regard to the desirability of minimising the disturbance of archaeological remains.

Preserving Important Remains

AR3 There will be a presumption against development which would harm archaeological remains of national importance. Decisions on development proposals affecting other remains will take account of the archaeological importance of those remains, the need for the development, the likely extent of any harm, and the prospects of the proposals successfully preserving by record the archaeological interest of the site.

Recording Other Remains

AR4 On sites where archaeological remains do not need to be preserved in situ, the Council will make sure that there is investigation, excavation, recording, analysis and publication to a specification agreed by the Council, secured where appropriate by the use of agreements.

3.1.3 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined within the UDP. There are no Listed Buildings on the site.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The Specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (Meager, 2008), under guidance and approved by English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, proposed that consideration should be given to all periods but highlights the likelihood of encountering prehistoric remains.

3.2.2 The following research aims were addressed during the course of the archaeological investigation:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of prehistoric exploitation of the area for flints as evidenced by flint debitage? If so, can this industry be dated to one period of the prehistoric age or is there more than one phase of such activity?
- Is there any evidence of prehistoric settlement or occupation of the area?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Saxon activity on the site? More particularly is there any evidence of settlement, which may be associated with the Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site in Park Lane to the north and near the southern end of Pampisford Road?
- Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?
- Are there any post-medieval remains on the site?

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared by CgMs Consulting prior to the commencement of the fieldwork (Meager, 2007). This information, together with limited research of the archives held by Pre-Construct Archaeology of the area is outlined below.
- 4.2 A number of archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken in Pampisford Road. The area has provided evidence from most prehistoric periods from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. However, much of this evidence has been in the form of flint artefacts, which have been found residually. Early Saxon cemeteries are known to both the north of the site in the Park Lane and Eldridge Road areas of Croydon and to the south in the area of Pampisford Road / Edgehill Road area (Cowie and Harding, date)
- 4.3 No archaeological deposits were found during investigations at Nos. 5-13 (Maloney and Holroyd, 2000), 98-102, 151-153, 167-169 (Maloney and Holroyd, 2004) and 234 Pampisford Road Maloney and Holroyd, 2000). A post-medieval pit was found at 212-214 Pampisford Road (Lythe, 2004). Residual struck flints were found at Hayling Manor School, Pampisford Road (Maloney and Holroyd, 2001) and 218-222 Pampisford Road (Maloney and Gostick, 1998), where thirty-nine struck flints and six burnt flints were interpreted as originating from repeated low-density exploitation of flint nodules from the general area. To the west of Pampisford Road an evaluation at Regina Coeli School, Columbine Avenue revealed struck and burnt flint and a baked clay object, possibly an Iron Age or Roman spindle whorl, within the subsoil (Greenwood and Maloney, 1995).
- 4.4 An archaeological investigation was undertaken at 238 Pampisford Road but only undated postholes were found (Maloney and Gostick, 1998). An evaluation of land at 240 Pampisford Road, to the south of the study site, revealed evidence of prehistoric activity in the area with finds of struck and burnt flint together with possible late-prehistoric pottery found residually in the topsoil and subsoil with later material (PFR 05 Holden, 2005b). An evaluation at 161-163 Pampisford Road revealed further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area with finds of struck and burnt flint together found residually in the topsoil and subsoil. A natural channel was also recorded (PPC 06 Holden, 2006).

- 4.5 The name, Croydon, is of Saxon origin derived from 'crogdene', is thought to mean either 'crooked valley' or 'saffron valley'. In the fifth to sixth centuries, it was the site of an important pagan Saxon cemetery.
- 4.6 There is a record of a minster at Croydon as early as 809AD when King Coenwulf of Mercia held his witan there in the time of Archbishop Wulfred. Following the Norman invasion of 1066 it lay at the heart of a huge estate belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 4.7 Whitgift School, to the north of the subject site, is the site of Haling Manor and recent building works turned up find of early-medieval shell-tempered pottery. An oven was exposed, constructed of chalk and clay, and may have a possible documentary association for a Ralph Dede Halinge, 1202. The land around the manor is likely to have been agricultural up until the 16th century when gardens and formal grounds were laid out. Haling House is located on Rocque's map of 1762 (from Holden, 2005a).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 5.2 A program of archaeological monitoring was implemented in areas where historical structures would not have impacted upon potentially sensitive archaeological deposits. Phase 1 took place during topsoil stripping to the rear of 248 Pampisford Road prior to demolition and Phase 2 during groundworks for the layout of the new access road and car parking areas.
- 5.3 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was employed to undertake the excavation work with an archaeologist in attendance. Features identified within the trenches were cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence.
- 5.4 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and in section as necessary using standard recording methods. A photographic record was also taken as appropriate.
- 5.5 Drawings produced by the client provided levels related to a site reference located on the manhole cover in the centre of Pampisford Road adjacent to the site entrance. This value was orientated to Ordnance Datum using spot heights on Pampisford Road shown on Ordnance Survey map data and the client drawings. All levels referenced in this report are therefore approximated.
- 5.6 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines (English Heritage 1998).

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 270 (South London) indicates that the site is likely to be underlain by Cretaceous Upper Chalk.
- 6.2 To the south, at numbers 212-214, an archaeological watching brief identified that: *The natural geology of the site consists of approximately 400mm of firm, red brown sandy-silt sealing soliflucted chalk. The sandy-silt deposit is similar in texture and colour to that identified on an adjacent site, PDD 96, which was identified as a glacial deposit. It is therefore highly likely that the sandy-silt identified at PMP 04 is also glacial in origin (Lythe 2004).* A similar sequence was exposed on the subject site.
- 6.3 The site is located at c.73mOD near the top of a steep river terrace, which slopes away sharply to the east of site and rises gently to the south. The topography of the current land surface within the boundaries of the site is generally flat with a gentle rise from west to east.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The same sequence was seen across the site and consisted of natural soliflucted chalk [03] overlain by a layer of naturally accumulated mid red brown silty sand subsoil [02], 0.10-0.25m thick and mid brown grey sandy silt topsoil [01] 0.20-0.40m thick.

7.2 Phase 1

7.2.1 The chalk was present at the western end of the site at a level of 72.80mOD, towards the northeastern corner of the site at 73.05mOD and the southeastern corner at 73.40mOD. This slope follows the general topography of the surrounding area.

7.3 Phase 2

7.3.1 Features within the chalk were observed that were created naturally and filled with accumulated sterile material similar to the subsoil that sealed them. An example of such feature [6] was recorded in Section 1 (Figure 4). The features and deposits above are likely to have been created by glacial action (See 6.2 above).

7.4 Phase 3

7.4.1 The topsoil produced residually three pieces of burnt flint, two pieces of roughly struck flint and a single, abraded scrap of fired clay possibly prehistoric pottery but more likely to be daub.

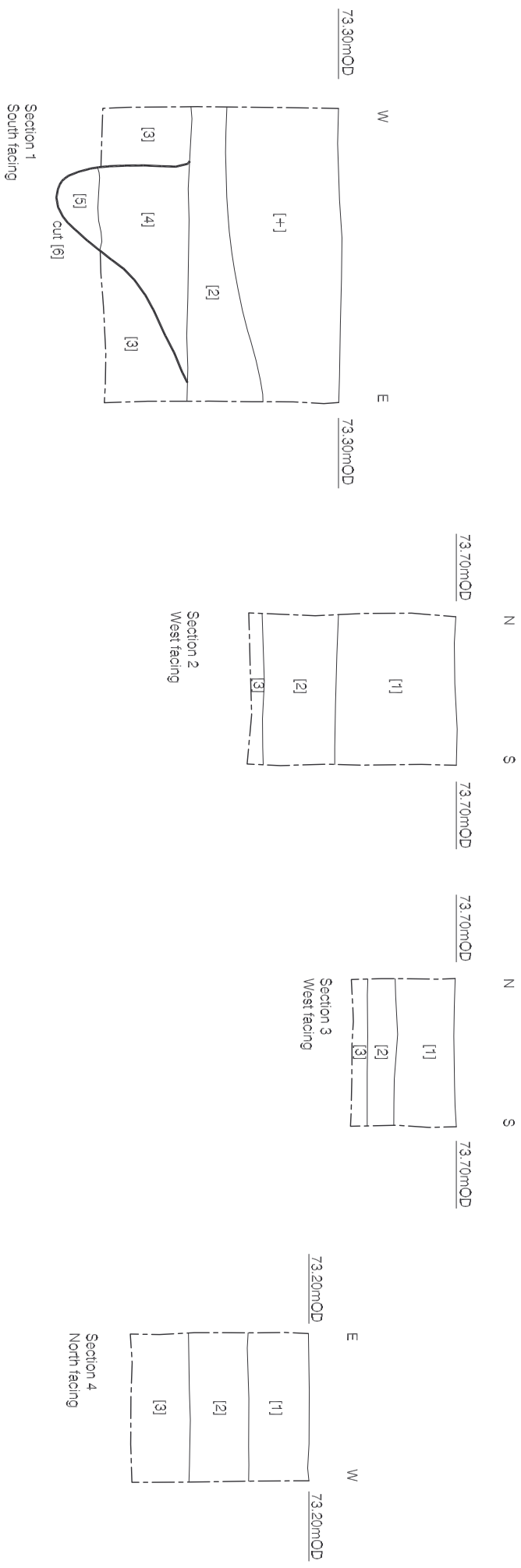


Figure 4
Sections 1 - 4
1:20 at A4

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief revealed a consistent stratigraphy of natural chalk overlain by subsoil and topsoil. Within the chalk a number of naturally formed features were recorded.
- 8.2 The findings of this watching brief are consistent with others located in the near vicinity, although at this site the number of residual finds was less than may have been expected. These finds suggest prehistoric activity in the area, although with no fixed provenance.
- 8.2 No evidence for Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval material was recorded on the site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work, and Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for monitoring it on behalf of the LPA.

- 9.2 The author would like to thank Paul Church of Direct Build Services for his cooperation on site, Hayley Baxter for the drawings and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cowie, R with Harding, C, date Saxon Settlement and Economy from the Dark Ages to Domesday, in *The Archaeology of Greater London MoLAS*, p182 & 202.

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations.*

Greenwood, P & Maloney, C, 1995 *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 1994, London Archaeologist Vol.7 no.13*, p339

Holden, S 2005a *Gilbran and Waylands Sites, 489 Purley Way, Croydon: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report

Holden, S 2005b *240 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Evaluation* Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report

Holden, S 2007 *161-163 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Evaluation* Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report

Lythe, R 2004 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 212-214 Pampisford Road, Croydon.* Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report

Maloney, C & Gostick, TJ, 1998 *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 1997, London Archaeologist Vol.8 supplement 3*, p83

Maloney, C & Holroyd, I, 2000 *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 1999, London Archaeologist Vol.9 supplement 2*, p43

Maloney, C & Holroyd, I, 2001 *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2000, London Archaeologist Vol.9 supplement 3*, p73

Maloney, C & Holroyd, I, 2004 *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2003, London Archaeologist Vol.10 supplement 3*, p69

Meager, R 2007 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: 248-250 Pampisford Road, Croydon, CR2 6DD.* CgMs Consulting unpublished report

Meager, R 2008 *Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise: 250 Pampisford Road, Croydon.* CgMs Consulting unpublished report

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Trench	Plan	Section	Phase	Type	Description
1	WB1+2	WB 1	S.2-4	3	Layer	Topsoil
2	WB 2	-	S.1-4	2	Layer	Subsoil
3	WB 2	WB 2	S.1-4	1	Layer	Natural chalk
4	WB 2	-	S.1	2	Fill	Upper fill of [6]
5	WB 2	-	S.1	2	Fill	Lower fill of [6]
6	WB 2	WB 2	S.1	2	Cut	Example of natural depression

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-43788	
Project details	
Project name	248-250 Pampisford Road, Croydon
Short description of the project	An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at 248-250 Pampisford Road, Croydon as a part of redevelopment of the site. This revealed scant evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of burnt and struck flint and a single abraded fragment of fired clay recovered from the topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 21-03-2008 End: 11-06-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PMI 08 - Sitecode
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FIRE CLAY Late Prehistoric
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 248-250 Pampisford Road, Croydon
Postcode	CR2
Study area	3000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3205 6355 51.3551421641 -0.103358099545 51 21 18 N 000 06 12 W Point
Height OD	Min: 72.80m Max: 73.40m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Direct Build Services

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	248-250 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Monitoring Exercise
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Holden, S
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	Unpublished client report
Entered by	Stuart Holden (sholden@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	12 June 2008