

**An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief of land at Sylverdale
Road, London Borough of Croydon**

Site Code: SVD08

National Grid Reference: TQ 3175 6542

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CONTENTS

1	Non-Technical Summary	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Planning Background	7
4	Archaeological and Historical Background	9
5	Geology and Topography	12
6	Research Objectives	13
7	Archaeological Methodology	14
8	Archaeological Sequence	16
9	Conclusions	28
10	Acknowledgements	30
11	Bibliography	31

Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location	5
Figure 2	Trench Locations	6
Figure 3	Feature details	25
Figure 4	Sections	26
Figure 5	watching Brief locations	27

Appendices

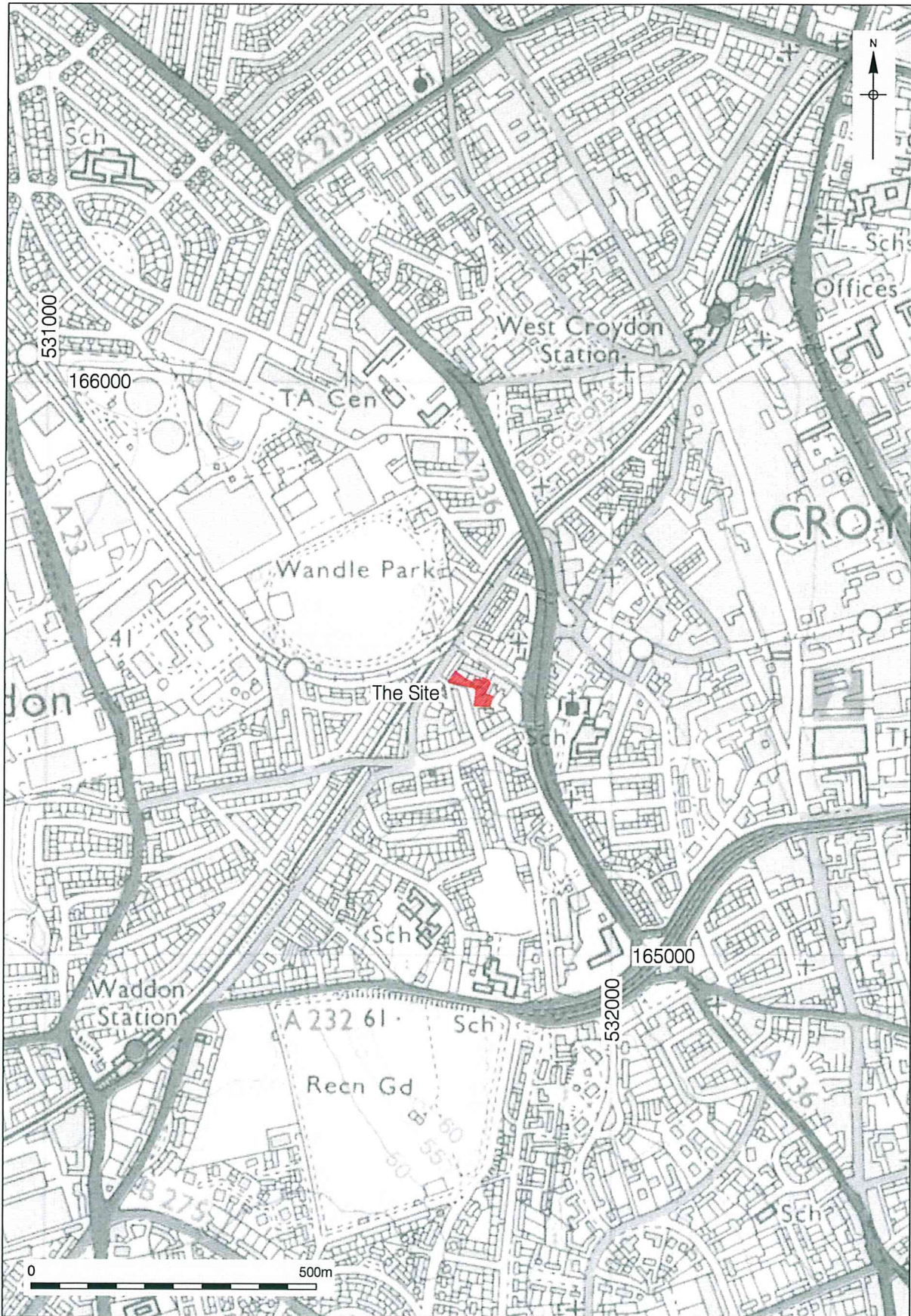
Appendix 1	Context Index	32
Appendix 2	Matrix	35
Appendix 3	OASIS Report	36

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of two phases of archaeological investigation of land at Sylverdale Road, London Borough of Croydon. The investigation consisted initially of an Archaeological Evaluation, followed later by an Archaeological Watching Brief. The work was commissioned by Hartcrest Properties, and was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology limited in advance of the redevelopment of the site for residential usage. The evaluation phase consisted of eight trial trenches excavated between 28th July and 5th August 2008, while the watching brief phase consisted of monitoring the ground reduction of the site on 21st August and 5th September 2008.
- 1.2 The investigation found evidence for natural sandy gravels overlain by a sequence of dump layers deposited during the later half of the post-medieval period and are presumed to be associated with various phase's of ground making and consolidation. Additionally the remains of 20th century building foundations, relating to the recently demolished industrial units that previously occupied this plot, were encountered.
- 1.3 In Trench 1, excavated during the evaluation phase, a shallow gully, aligned east- west, was observed cut into the natural sandy gravel. Similarly in trench 5, a north-south aligned shallow gully was observed cut into the natural sandy gravel. No dateable material was present in either of the gullies, and thus it is impossible to state with any confidence as to what, and of what date, these features are.
- 1.4 There was no indication for Roman or Saxon activity at the subject site, despite such material having been located in the vicinity in the past.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief were conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Sylverdale Road, London Borough of Croydon (fig 1). The archaeological investigation consisted of two phases of work; firstly the evaluation phase, which recorded the excavation of eight trial trenches, located across the site and secondly the monitoring of the ground reduction of the footprint of the proposed new development of eight residential properties to be constructed on the site (fig 2).
- 2.2 The Archaeological Evaluation was conducted between 28th July and the 5th August 2008 and the Watching Brief was conducted on 21st August and 5th September 2008 respectively. Hartcrest Properties Limited commissioned the work. The site was divided into three construction phases and PCA monitored phases 1 and 3 only.
- 2.3.1 The site is located at the end of Sylverdale Road (a cul-de-sac) and extends behind residential properties on Cranmer Hall and Dean Hall and is bounded to the north by the rear gardens of 17-35 Rectory Grove. The site was until recently occupied by industrial units, which have since been demolished, prior to groundwork's for the proposed development. The site covers approximately 0.2 hectares.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 3175 6542.
- 2.5 The site was allocated the unique site code SVD 08.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Watson and the watching brief was undertaken by Sandy and Pullen Denise Mulligan. Gary Brown managed the project for Pre-Construct Archaeology, and Mark Stevenson, GLAAS, monitored the project on behalf of the LB Croydon..



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000

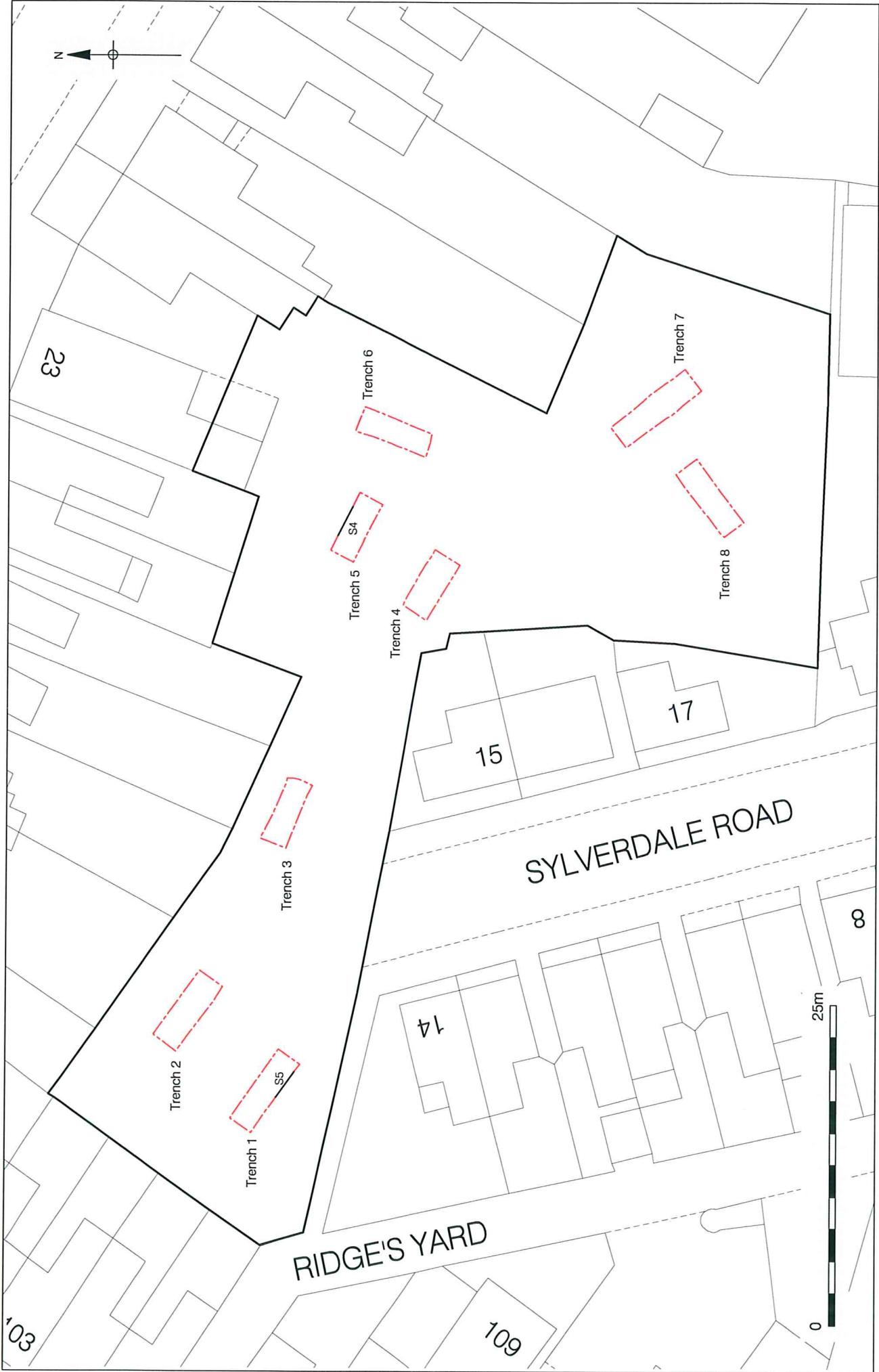


Figure 2
 Trench and Section Locations
 1:400 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The planning background to this site has been comprehensively detailed in the Desk Based Assessment¹ and outlined in the Method Statement² prepared for this site, and as such only a brief summary is included in this section.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Borough of Croydon's 'Croydon Replacement Unitary Development Plan' (UDP). The aims of the evaluation are to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Croydon, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are custodians and in consequence the development of the site is subject to a Planning Condition (planning application 07/01643/P), of which the relevant clause is quoted below:

No development shall take place 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 the applicant and approved by the local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed 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 safeguarding 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.*

- 3.4.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation⁴ was submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority, and the archaeological work undertaken, as detailed by this report, is in response to that planning condition.

¹ Rose-Deacon, A. 2006

² Brown, G. 2008

³ London Borough of Croydon 2006.

⁴ Brown, G. 2008.

- 3.4.2 The site lies in an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by Croydon Borough Council, and is also located within an area of archaeological significance with the Greater London Sites and Monuments record.
- 3.4.3 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings on or close to the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 Palaeolithic remains have been found in the vicinity of the site. A whole tusk of *Elephas Primigenius* was discovered to the south of the study area, on Waddon New Road, and an ovate axe was recovered from the nearby Wandle Park. Fragments of mammoth tusk and several hand-axes are also known to have been found at unspecified locations in and around Croydon.
- 4.2.2 Mesolithic flint tools, once belonging to nomadic hunter-gatherer groups seasonally exploiting the area near or along the banks of the River Wandle, have been found in the vicinity of the site at Friends Road. Several Neolithic axes and an arrowhead are recorded as being found in the Croydon area by antiquarians. Excavations at Tamworth Road, c. 0.5km to the northeast of the site, revealed cut features, pottery and flints which were probably of Mesolithic/Neolithic date.
- 4.2.3 Bronze Age pits and gulleys have been found c.0.9km to the east of the site at 82-86 Park Lane, and it has been suggested that scattered settlement existed at a number of locations along the line of the Wandle Valley with further evidence found at Purley Way and Brighton Road. A Bronze Age socketed ceremonial spearhead was discovered in Wandle Park at the turn of the last century, and four separate finds of Bronze Age axes in the Croydon area are known from antiquarian sources.
- 4.2.4 There is little evidence to suggest the presence of Iron Age activity within the vicinity of the site; the only known find of this period is a small assemblage of pottery found at an unspecified location in Sutton. Several surveys have posited the existence of Iron Age trackways to the south, but the proposed routes come no closer than 0.5km to the site
- 4.2.5 Several excavations in the vicinity of the site have recovered prehistoric worked flints, from both original and redeposited contexts.

4.3 Roman

- 4.3.1 Whilst it is generally considered that a well-established settlement existed in Croydon in the Roman period it has not to date been possible to establish the nature or extent

of this settlement, although evidence has been found in the areas around George Street, Surrey Street, Park Street and Whitgift Street.⁵

4.3.2 It has been suggested⁶ that the route of the Roman road from London to Brighton ran along London Road, a route that would bring it into close proximity with the site. However, there is no reliable evidence for the existence of the road in this location.

4.3.3 The SMR has shown that most evidence of Roman occupation has come from chance finds such as pottery, coins and jewellery in the vicinity. One such find occurred immediately to the northwest of the site in 1814, when a hoard of coins was discovered.

4.3.4 More recent evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the site comes from excavations at St. John's Road to the south, which produced Roman pottery, and excavations at 2 Rectory Grove, which uncovered Romano-British pottery and roof, floor and flue tiles. The presence of building materials suggested the presence nearby of a substantial Romano-British building.

4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 Place name evidence gives Croydon a Saxon origin. The earliest reference dates from AD 809, and it was known as *Crogedene* in 962 and *Croendene* in Domesday (1086). It is thought that the late Saxon settlement may have been in the vicinity of the parish church (which itself is thought to be built on the site of a Saxon predecessor).

4.4.2 Excavations at 2, Rectory Grove between 1968 and 1970 uncovered Saxon pottery, rubbish pits and a dog burial. The evidence appeared to suggest that the Saxon settlement of Croydon was centred on the site of the parish church, extending within the area defined by Howley Street, Old Palace Road, Church Street and a point around a quarter of the way down Rectory Grove.⁷

4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 Few finds dating to the medieval period have been found in the vicinity of the site.

4.5.2 Excavations at 2, Rectory Grove revealed that from the late Saxon period until around 1450 the area was arable fields, drained by man-made gullies. After this point, occupation reappeared and was continuous until the late post-medieval period.

⁵ Askew, 2003

⁶ Margary, 1937

⁷ Drewett 1969.

4.5.3 Recent trenching at The Old Palace School, which occupies some of the extant 14th-16th century buildings of the former manor of the archbishops of Canterbury and is situated c. 0.5k to the east of the site, revealed remains of the manor's late 14th century stable block and medieval kitchen buildings. There was evidence for a manor and agricultural buildings on the site from the late eleventh century.⁸

4.3 Post-medieval/ Modern

4.3.1 Croydon continued to develop through the later medieval period, and by the 16th century it had become a large market town at the centre of a the nearby charcoal burning industry of the 'Great North Wood'.

4.3.2 On the 1800 Croydon Enclosure map, the site is situated on open ground in an area of sparse occupation. The 1838 Tithe map shows that by that date settlements had grown up to the south and northeast, and a tithe barn had been constructed in the area currently lying to the immediate south of St. John's Road. By the 1868 OS map (fig. 6), the area around the site was built up; the site itself was occupied by domestic gardens to the southeast and four small outbuildings to the northwest, and was entirely enclosed by St. John's Road, Waddon Road, Waddon New Road and St. John's Grove (later to become Rectory Grove). Sylverdale Road appears for the first time on the 1894-98 OS map, occupying an area of formerly open ground. By the 1932 map the northwest end of the site is built up; the southeast follows by 1955, when the structures are marked as a 'Motor Body Works' and 'Light Engineering Works'.

4.3.3 Several excavations at sites in the vicinity of Sylverdale Road have revealed early post-medieval remains. Trenching at 2, Rectory Grove uncovered a continuous sequence of occupation from the Middle Ages throughout the post-medieval period, and excavations at Latimer Road discovered the walls of a seventeenth-century house. At St. John's Road, the remains of the tithe barn, which appears on the 1838 Tithe map, were excavated.⁹

⁸ Chadwick and Phillpotts, 2002.

⁹ Savage, 1981

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London 1:50 000) identifies the underlying drift geology of the site as Hackney Gravels, defined as a post-diversionary Thames River Terrace Deposits: gravel, sandy and clayey in part.
- 5.2 The site has until recently been occupied by modern industrial units. These have since been demolished and the site can be typified as generally level.
- 5.3 The current ground level of the site in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches is at between 43.15m OD in the north-west and 43.68m OD in the north-east.

6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The general aims and objectives of the archaeological investigation at the site were as follows:

- Do archaeological deposits survive on the site?
- If deposits do survive, what is their nature, depth and survival?

The specific research objectives of the evaluation phase at the site were:

- Is there any occupation or settlement evidence for Saxon remains at the site, as at nearby 2 rectory Grove?
- Is there any occupation or settlement evidence for Saxon remains at the site, as at nearby 2 rectory Grove, in particular for a large structure thought to exist nearby?
- Is there any occupation or settlement evidence for Prehistoric remains at the site, particular for the earlier part of that era?

The specific research objectives of the watching brief phase at the site were:

- Can any more information be obtained on the date and nature of the two shallow gullies observed in the base of trenches 1 and 5, that were encountered during the evaluation phase of the investigation?

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The initial phase of archaeological fieldwork, the Evaluation, was designed to define and record the character, date and extent of any archaeological remains, which may have been exposed during the excavation of trial trenches prior to the residential development of the site. In addition a later phase of archaeological work, the Watching Brief, was designed to monitor and record any surviving archaeological remains during the ground reduction of the site prior to the commencement of construction.

7.2 The initial phase of the archaeological investigation comprised of eight evaluation trenches, the dimensions of which are listed below:

- Trench 1 measured 2.00m north-south by 6.55m east-west.
- Trench 2 measured 2.00m north-south by 6.00m east-west.
- Trench 3 measured 2.00m north-south by 5.30m east-west.
- Trench 4 measured 2.00m north-south by 4.80m east-west.
- Trench 5 measured 2.00m north-south by 5.10m east-west.
- Trench 6 measured 6.00m north-south by 2.00m east-west.
- Trench 7 measured 2.00m north-south by 7.40m east-west.
- Trench 8 measured 6.20m north-south by 2.00m east-west.

7.3 The second phase of the investigation (watching Brief) comprised two trenches, 'Phase 1 trench' and 'Phase 3 trench', the dimensions of which are listed below:

- Phase 1 trench measured approximately 17.0m north-east / south-west by 8.0m north-west / south-east
- Phase 3 trench measured approximately 16.0m north-east / south-west by 8.0m north-west / south-east.

7.4 All trenches were machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued through low grade deposits in spits no greater than 200mm until the natural horizon was attained.

7.5 The evaluation trenches (1 to 8) were surveyed in via Total Station, and all planning was conducted off baselines established for each trench also located via total station.

7.6 The Watching brief trenches (Phase 1 and 3) were planned and located on developer's plans.

- 7.7 The Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:20 and representative sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. A photographic record using 35mm colour slide and black and white print film as well as digital format was made.
- 7.8 All levels for the evaluation phase were calculated from a temporary benchmark (value 44.18m OD) established on the northern boundary of the site which was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark located on the corner of Waddon Road and Harrison's Rise (Value: 45.19m OD). Levels for the Watching Brief phase are given as meters below current ground level.
- 7.9 The site was given the code SVD 08.
- 7.10 The work was undertaken using the single context recording system following English Heritage (GLAAS)¹⁰, and Institute of Field Archaeologists¹¹, guidelines.

¹⁰ English Heritage GLAAS 1998.

¹¹ IFA 1993

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position in the phased stratigraphic matrix. The two phases of the archaeological sequence are dealt with in separate sections. Further information regarding the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

8.2 The Evaluation phase, trenches 1 to 8.

8.3 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 8.3.1 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.08mOD, approximately 1.40m below ground level.
- 8.3.2 The earliest deposit recorded during the excavation of Trench 1 was a naturally deposited mid orange brown sandy gravel [62], interpreted as Hackney Gravel and encountered at 42.12mOD.
- 8.3.3 Cut into the natural in the western half of the trench was a shallow east- west aligned gully [57]. The gully measured 1.40m east-west by c.0.50m north-south by 0.14m deep. The western end of this feature continued beyond the trench limit of excavation, while the eastern end had been truncated away by a modern drainage pipe. The fill of the gully [56] was a compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent medium sized flint nodules as inclusion. No dateable material was present in the fill at the time of excavation, and a 20-litre bulk sample taken of the fill for later analysis similarly produced no dateable material, so the date, and indeed the function, of the gully remain unknown. The base of the cut was recorded at 41.95mOD while the top was recorded at 42.11mOD
- 7.3.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.50m thick, moderately compacted firm dark greyish brown, silty clayey gravel ground make up layer [60] encountered at 44.69m OD. The layer contained fragments of red stock brick suggesting it was deposited during the later part of the post-medieval period, e.g. c.19th century.
- 7.3.3 This in turn was sealed by a 0.27m thick, firmly compacted mid brownish grey sandy silt layer [59] encountered at 42.97m OD. The presence of frequent amounts of red

brick fragments and fragments of cement mortar suggest a modern demolition deposit.

- 8.3.4 The remainder of the trench was comprised of a 0.12m thick loose dump layer of modern made ground [58] that was encountered at 43.03mOD, topped by a concrete slab, the top of which formed the current ground level at c.43.20mOD.
- 8.3.5 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.4 Trench 2

- 8.4.1 Trench 2 was located to the west of the site, approximately 7.50m north-east of trench 1, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.38mOD, approximately 1.20m below ground level.
- 8.4.2 The lowest feature observed was layer [66], a mid grey sandy silt with frequent mortar fragments, encountered at 41.76mOD and continuing beyond the base limit of excavation and interpreted as a post-medieval demolition layer.
- 8.4.3 This in turn was sealed by [65] a dark greyish brown coarse gravel layer, 0.60m thick, with very frequent medium flint nodules. This highest level of this layer was at 42.45mOD and the lowest at 42.38mOD and is interpreted as a post-medieval levelling layer. This deposit was also observed in the lower levels of the other seven evaluation trenches, and therefore appears to be site wide.
- 8.4.4 The above layers were overlain by a 0.95m thick modern dump layer apparently associated with a phase of ground making and consolidation up to the current ground level at 43.15mOD.
- 8.4.5 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.5 Trench 3

- 8.5.1 Trench 3 was located in the central portion of the site, to the south of the northern boundary of the site, approximately 16.0m east of trenches 1 and 2, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 41.63mOD, approximately 1.60m below ground level.

- 8.5.2 The lowest feature observed was [64] a 0.70m thick layer of coarse flinty gravel with the highest level at 42.33mOD and the lowest at 41.63mOD. This deposit was observed in the lower levels of other trenches (i.e. [65] in trench 2 and [20] in trench 8) and is interpreted as a site wide post-medieval levelling layer. There were no archaeological finds or features from any period observed in this layer.
- 8.5.3 This in turn was overlain by a 0.90m thick modern dump layer apparently associated with a 20th century phase of ground making and consolidation up to the current ground level at 43.20mOD.
- 8.5.4 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.6 Trench 4

- 8.6.1 Trench 4 was located in the central portion of the site, to the north of the southern boundary of the site, approximately 10m east of trench 3, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.36mOD, approximately 1.35m below ground level.
- 8.6.2 The lowest feature observed was [63] a natural layer of sandy gravels encountered at a height of 42.36m OD.
- 8.6.3 This in turn was sealed by [35] a 0.35m thick layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent ceramic building material, animal bone and flint nodules. The highest level was 42.48mOD and the lowest 42.26mOD and is interpreted as a post medieval ground make up layer.
- 8.6.4 The rest of the trench consisted of a sequence of low-grade deposits [35], [34], [33], [32], [38] of post-medieval and modern dump layers associated with a phase of ground making and consolidation. Cut into layer [38] were two modern pits [29] and [31] containing similar fills, [28] and [30] respectively, and both containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material.
- 8.6.5 The top of the sequence was layer [27] a 0.35m thick layer of modern made ground, the top of which formed the current ground level at 43.50mOD.
- 8.6.6 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.7 Trench 5 (Figure 3)

- 8.7.1 Trench 5 was located in the eastern portion of the site, to the south of the northern boundary of the site, approximately 8.0m north-east of trench 4, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.29mOD, approximately 1.40m below ground level.
- 8.7.2 The lowest deposit encountered was [52] a layer of natural sandy gravels, the same as [21] in trench 8 and [13] trench 7, and encountered at 42.29mOD.
- 8.7.3 Cut into the natural was a shallow north-south aligned gully [37]. The dimensions of the exposed cut of the gully were; 2.00m north-south (with both the northern and southern ends continuing beyond the trenches limits of excavation) by c.0.50m east-west by 0.20m deep. While broadly similar in dimensions to gully [57] in Trench 1, the fill of the gully [36] was different, namely a compact dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sized flint nodules as inclusion. No dateable material was observed at the time of excavation and a 20-litre bulk sample analysed later, again produced no dateable material. As in the case of the gully in trench 1, the date and function of the gully remain unknown. The base of the cut was recorded at 42.09mOD while the top was recorded at 42.25mOD.
- 8.7.4 Sealing both the natural [52] and the gully [37] was a 0.25m thick layer of coarse flinty gravel [51]. The top of this layer was recorded at 42.52mOD and the base at 42.18mOD. This deposit was observed in the base of other trenches ([20] in trench 8 for example) and is interpreted as a post-medieval ground consolidation layer.
- 8.7.5 The remainder of the trench was comprised of a sequence of dump layers deposited during the later half of the post-medieval period associated with a phase of ground making and consolidation; [43] overlain by [42] and [55] overlain by [45] and in turn by [48]. All of these preceding layers of made ground were cut by [47], the construction cut for a late 19th/ early 20th century small cellar [41]. The cellar walls were built from yellow stock and pinkish red brick and consisted of two vertical walls, seen in section, separated by a single course of horizontal yellow stock brick as a floor. Below the cellar were various dump layers acting as foundation levelling layers contained within the construction cut; layer [53], a re-deposited dump of garden soil, overlain by both [49], a dump layer of cement and [50], a dump layer of sand. The base of this structure was at 43.52mOD while the top was at ground level at 42.84mOD. It is presumed that this was part of the post-medieval/modern buildings recently demolished on site. Layer [45] formed the backfill contained within the cellar walls and is a modern dump layer of made ground, with all of the above layers and features sealed by a layer of modern demolition debris 'crush', the top of which formed the current ground level at c.43.50mOD.

8.7.6 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.8 Trench 6

8.8.1 Trench 6 was located in the eastern portion of the site, approximately 4m east of trench 5, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.43mOD, approximately 1.20m below ground level.

8.8.2 The lowest deposit encountered was [67] a layer of natural sandy gravel, the top of which was at 42.40mOD and is the same as observed in the base of other trenches, [52] in trench 5 and [21] in trench 8 for example.

8.8.3 A post-medieval drain [25] and associated soak-away [2] was observed cut into the natural at the base of the trench. The highest level was recorded at 42.72mOD and the lowest at 42.28mOD. The soak away had been later backfilled with a yellowish brown clay, [1], presumably to seal-off the soak-away after it had gone out of use. The fill contained very occasional pottery shards of Transfer Printed Ware English Porcelain dated to between 1780 to 1900. The associated drain, which ran into the soak-away was filled with [26] a dark brown silt, probably a cess deposit. The construction cut for the soak-away [24] had been cut down through post-medieval levelling layers, [40] and [39] which also sealed the natural gravel.

8.8.4 The remainder of the trench was comprised of a sequence of dump layers, part of an extensive phase of ground making and consolidation in the late post-medieval period. A layer of modern made ground, the top of which formed the current ground level at c.43.68mOD, sealed all of the above deposits.

8.8.5 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.9 Trench 7

8.9.1 Trench 7 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.51mOD, approximately 1.20m below ground level.

8.9.2 The lowest deposit encountered was [13] the top of the natural sandy gravel at 42.55mOD, the same natural deposit observed in other trenches.

- 8.9.3 This was in turn sealed by [12], a 0.06m thick natural 'dirty' gravel layer interfaced with the natural layer below, the top of which was at 42.58mOD and the base at 42.52mOD.
- 8.9.4 The above layer was overlain by [11], a 0.07m thick firm sandy silt layer with frequent inclusions of medium chalk fragments forming a very compact layer, the top of which was at 42.63mOD and the base at 42.59mOD and is interpreted as post-medieval dump layer.
- 8.9.5 The remainder of the Stratigraphic sequence of the trench consisted of layers [10], [9], [8], [7], [6], [5] and [4] all of which formed part of an extensive phase of ground making and consolidation in the late post-medieval period, with the top of layer [4] forming the current ground level at 43.65mOD.
- 8.9.6 No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

8.10 Trench 8

- 8.10.1 Trench 8 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site, approximately 10m south-west of trench 7, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 42.44mOD, approximately 1.20m below ground level.
- 8.10.2 The lowest feature attained was [21] a layer of natural sandy gravel encountered at 42.44mOD, the same layer as observed in other trenches.
- 8.10.3 This was sealed by [20], a 0.45m thick layer of coarse flinty gravel, also seen in the base of other trenches and interpreted as a late post-medieval ground consolidation layer. The top of this deposit was recorded at 42.95mOD and the base at 42.45mOD.
- 8.10.4 Cut into [20] was a small pit [19], seen in section only, and filled with a mid orange brown clayey silt [18] with frequent medium sub-angular pebbles as inclusion, along with very occasional small fragments of ceramic building material and is presumed to be late post-medieval in date, but its function remains unknown. The base of the cut was at 42.95mOD and the top at 42.72mOD.
- 8.10.5 Sealing the above feature was [17], a 0.25m thick layer of very compact clean sand the top of which was at 42.92mOD and the base at 43.22. No dateable material was present, but is presumed to a post-medieval levelling layer.
- 8.10.6 This was overlain by [16] a 0.30m layer of sandy silty gravel with occasional fragments of ceramic building material as inclusion. The top of this layer was at

43.37mOD and the base at 43.07mOD and is interpreted as a layer of post-medieval made ground.

8.10.7 Cut into the above layer was a small pit [15], seen in section only, with a dark greyish brown silty sand fill [14] with occasional pottery, very occasional modern ceramic building material and shell fragments as inclusions. One shard of pottery was recovered which has a spot date of 1270-1500 and is a small fragment of Surrey-Hampshire Coarse Border Ware. Some fragments of Delftware decorative tile were also recovered and is spot dated to between 1660 and 1800. Given such a broad date range of the pottery and tile fragments, and the fact that the rest of the context is post-medieval (post-med. brick fragments came from the same fill) they can be assumed to be residual. The top of this cut was at 43.50mOD while the base was at 43.12mOD.

8.10.8 The above layers and features were overlain by a layer of modern made ground, the top of which formed the current ground level at c.43.60mOD.

8.10.9 With the exception of residual late medieval pottery and early post-medieval tile, no significant archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

8.11 The Watching Brief phase, trenches for construction Phase 1 and Phase 3. (PCA were not notified of Phase 2) Figure 5

8.12 Phase 1 trench.

8.12.1 The Phase 1 trench was located in the eastern part of the site trenching, approximately in the position of evaluation trenches 7 and 8. The trench followed the line of the footings for the foundations of the new development in what was effectively an 'E'-shape. Measuring 18.80m along the north-east/south-west axis and 7.50m along the north-west/ south-east axis. The trench was divided up into three 5.0m wide bays, separated by 0.70m bulks and the bays were excavated to a depth of 1.50m. Much of the trench had been heavily disturbed by the excavation of the evaluation trenches 7 and 8 and therefore only a small area of the complete stratigraphic section survived. Due to site safety constraints only a very basic recording could be undertaken from the top of the trenches

8.12.2 The lowest feature observed was a natural sandy gravel layer [73] observed at the base of the trench at c.1.50m below ground level.

- 8.12.3 This in turn was sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of grey sandy sub-soil [74], the top of which was 0.90m below ground level and the base at 1.15m below ground level.
- 8.12.4 The above layer was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of post-medieval made ground [75], the top of which was at 0.70m below ground level and the base at 0.90m below ground level.
- 8.12.5 This was sealed by [76] a 0.30m layer of post-medieval garden/plough soil, the top was at 0.40m below ground level and the base at 0.70m below ground level.
- 8.12.6 This was overlain by [77] a 0.20m thick layer of clean sand whose top was at 0.20m below ground level and the base at 0.40m below ground level.
- 8.12.7 A 0.20m thick layer of modern made ground, the top of which formed the current ground level, sealed all of the above layers.
- 8.12.8 No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the above layers.

8.13 Phase3 trench.

- 8.13.1 The Phase 3 trench was located in the western part of the site in the approximate location of evaluation trenches 1 and 2.
- 8.13.2 The earliest deposit recorded during the excavation of Phase 3 trench was a naturally deposited mid orange brown sandy gravel [70], interpreted as Hackney Gravel and encountered at approximately 1.20m below ground level. This deposit is the same as [13], [21], [52], [63] and [67] observed in the evaluation trenches listed above.
- 8.13.3 This in turn was overlain by [69] a 0.50m thick layer of loose mid brown sandy silt, which was encountered at 1.20m below ground level. This layer represents a re-deposited mixed natural layer with occasional fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and clay tobacco pipe stems.
- 8.13.4 The above layer was sealed by [72], a 0.20m thick firm yellowish brown clay layer with occasional inclusions of medium flint and sub-angular pebbles, the highest level being 0.90m below ground level, and the lowest at 1.10m below ground level. This deposit is interpreted as a modern/post-medieval dump layer.
- 8.13.5 Layer [72] was partially overlain by layer [71], a firm greyish blue clay layer, 0.17m thick encountered at its highest at 0.90m below ground level and at its lowest at

1.00m below ground level and is probably the backfill of a modern/post-medieval service trench and is likely to be the same deposit as described in trench 1 as fill [56] and its associated cut [57].

8.13.6 All of the above layers were overlain by a 0.80m thick layer of mid greyish brown silty sand containing frequent inclusions of modern brick and tile fragments, as well as mortar, ash and plastic, and represents a layer of modern made ground from 19th and / or 20th century ground levelling episodes. The top of this layer formed the current ground level.

8.13.7 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were observed in any of the above layers.

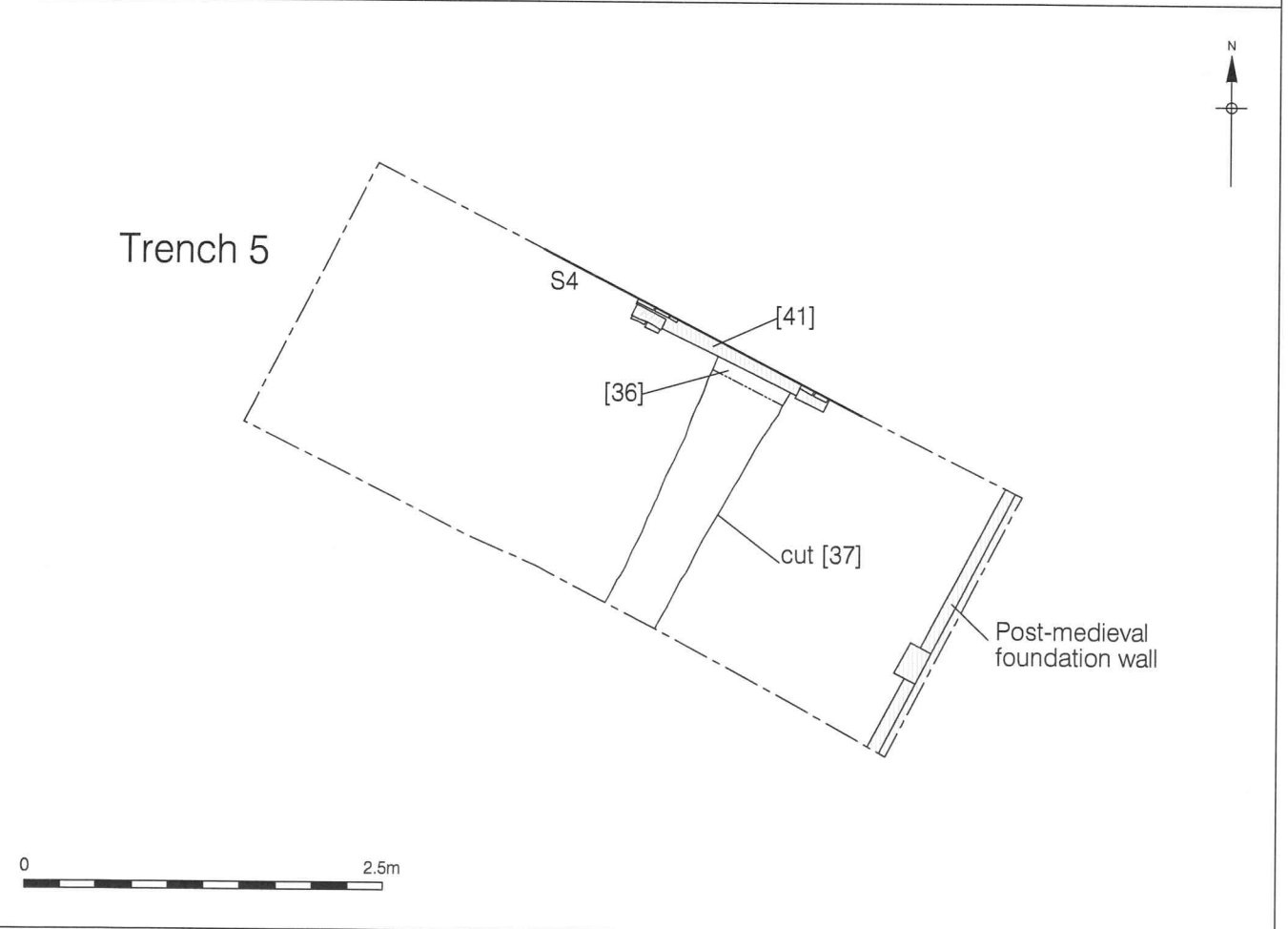
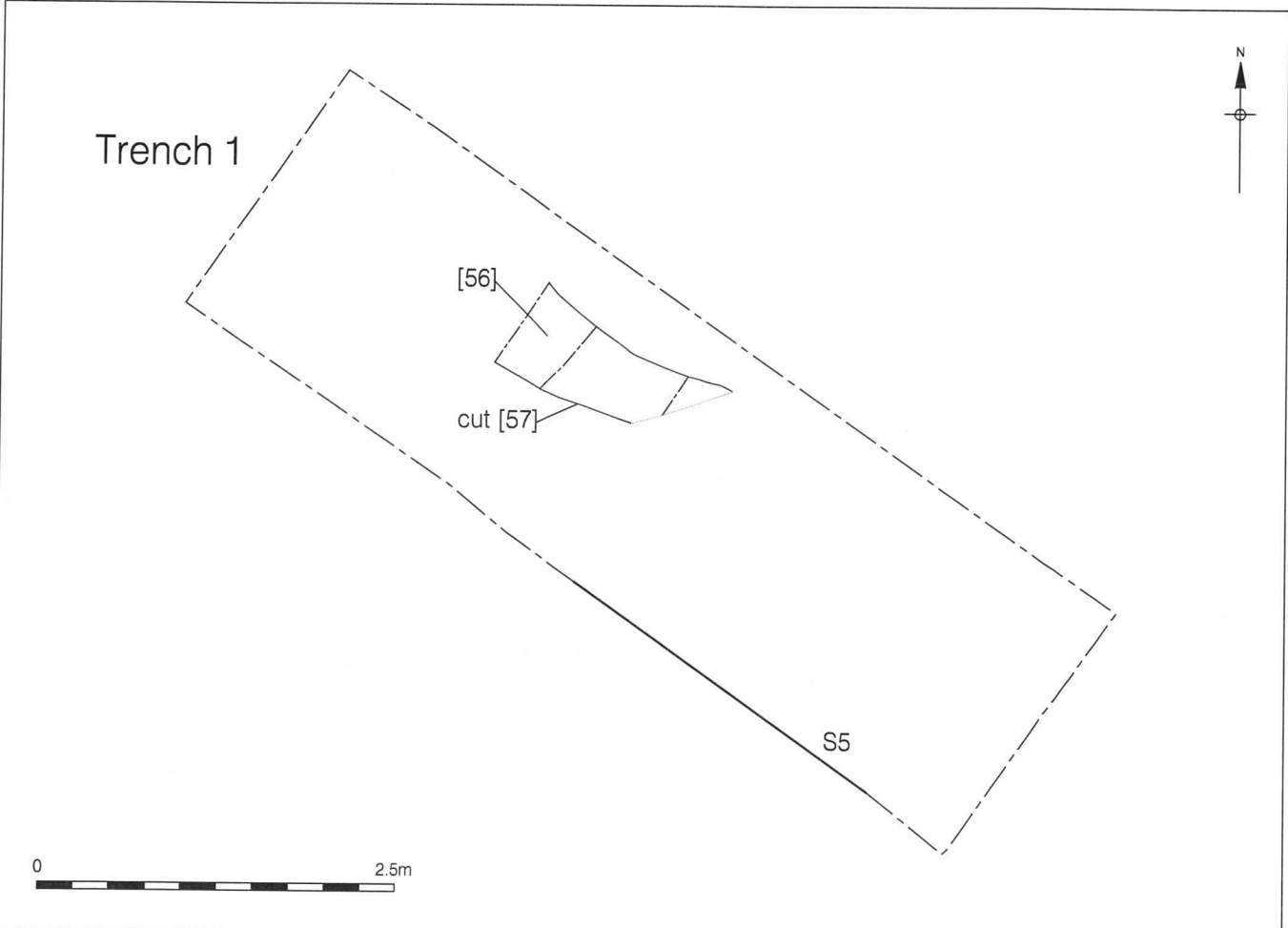


Figure 3
 Detail of Features in Trenches 1 and 5
 1:50at A4

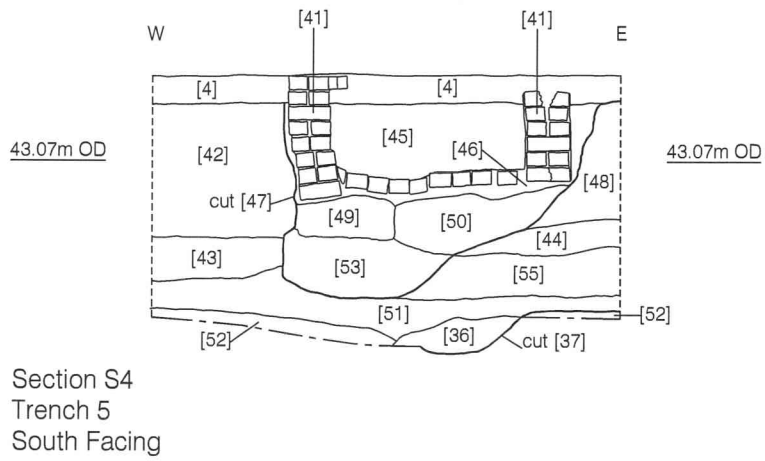
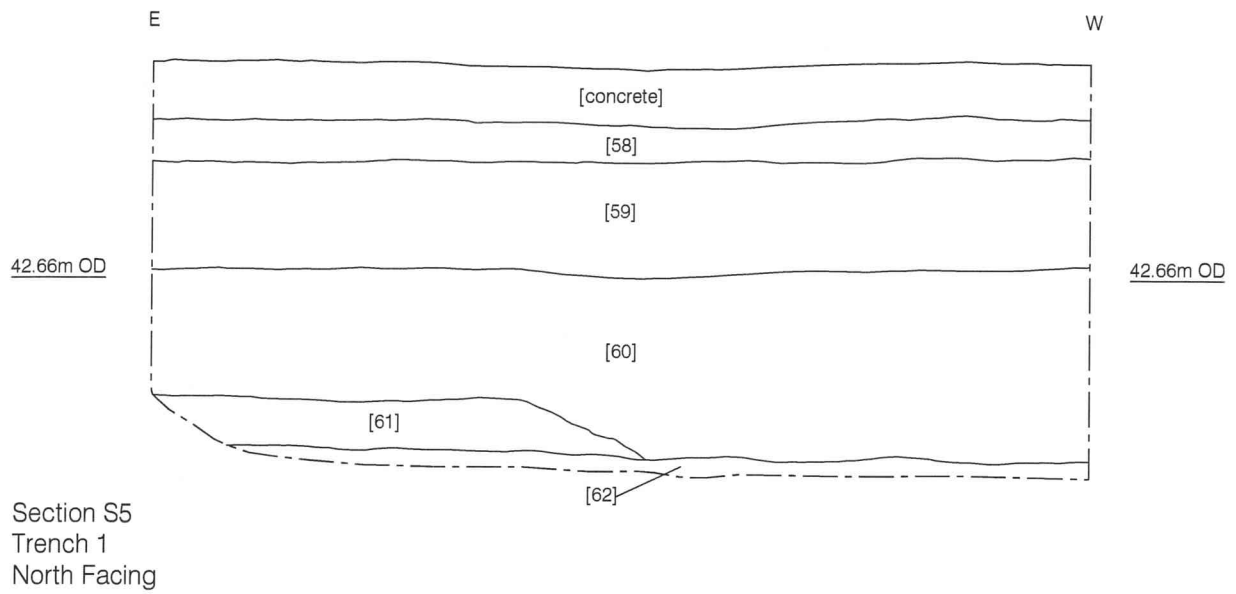


Figure 4
Sections in Trenches 1 and 5
1:40 at A4



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Figure 5
 Locations of Watching Brief Trenches
 1:400 at A4

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Original research objectives.

The original research objectives of the investigation are listed below with a summary of the archaeological evidence recovered to formulate interpretations and conclusions.

9.1.1 Do archaeological deposits survive on the site? If deposits do survive, what is their nature, depth and survival?

9.1.2 As is evident from the above archaeological sequence, much of the site has been heavily disturbed during the late post-medieval/early modern periods, with the laying down of dump layers to make up and level the ground, resulting in an approximate 1.00m to 1.30m thick layer of overburden sealing the natural sandy gravel. As such, only features dating to the late post-medieval period were encountered on the site at Sylverdale Road.

9.1.3 The two shallow gullies observed in trenches 1 and 5 may be earlier archaeological features, but no dateable material was discovered during the excavation phase and no dating evidence was discovered from the later off site analysis of bulk samples taken from the fills. Therefore it is impossible to determine the date and function of these features.

9.1.4 Is there any occupation or settlement evidence for Saxon remains at the site, as at nearby 2 Rectory Grove, in particular for a large structure thought to exist nearby?

9.1.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed relating to the Saxon period and no evidence for a large Saxon structure. Therefore this site cannot add to the knowledge of the Saxon settlement of the area.

9.1.6 Is there any occupation or settlement evidence for Prehistoric remains at the site, particular for the earlier part of that era?

9.1.7 No archaeological finds or features were observed relating to the any era of the Prehistoric period.

9.1.8 Additional research objectives.

9.1.9 Can any more information be obtained on the date and nature of the two shallow gullies observed in the base of trenches 1 and 5, that were encountered during the evaluation phase of the investigation?

9.1.10 The Watching brief phase of investigation at Silverdale Road had the potential to provide more information on the two shallow gullies observed in trenches 1 and 5, as well as any other archaeological features that may survive from any period. However, the watching brief merely served to confirm the distribution and depth of post-medieval and modern layers of made ground overlying the natural sandy gravels that characterises the underlying stratigraphy of the site, and no new information on the date and nature of the shallow gullies was obtained.

9.1.11 The bulk samples of each gully were floated and their residues examined. No dateable material was recovered and neither were any bone or archaeobotanical materials.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Hartcrest Properties for commissioning the work, and in particular Mr Scott Hart. Thanks also to the site contractors for the provision of plant and welfare. The author would also like to thank Paul Morrison and Jim Heathcote for their assistance on site; Lisa Lonsdale for organising the logistics; Jeremy Rodgers for surveying. Chris Jarrett and Kevin Heywood undertook spot dating of finds; Josephine Brown prepared the illustrations and Gary Brown project managed and edited the report.

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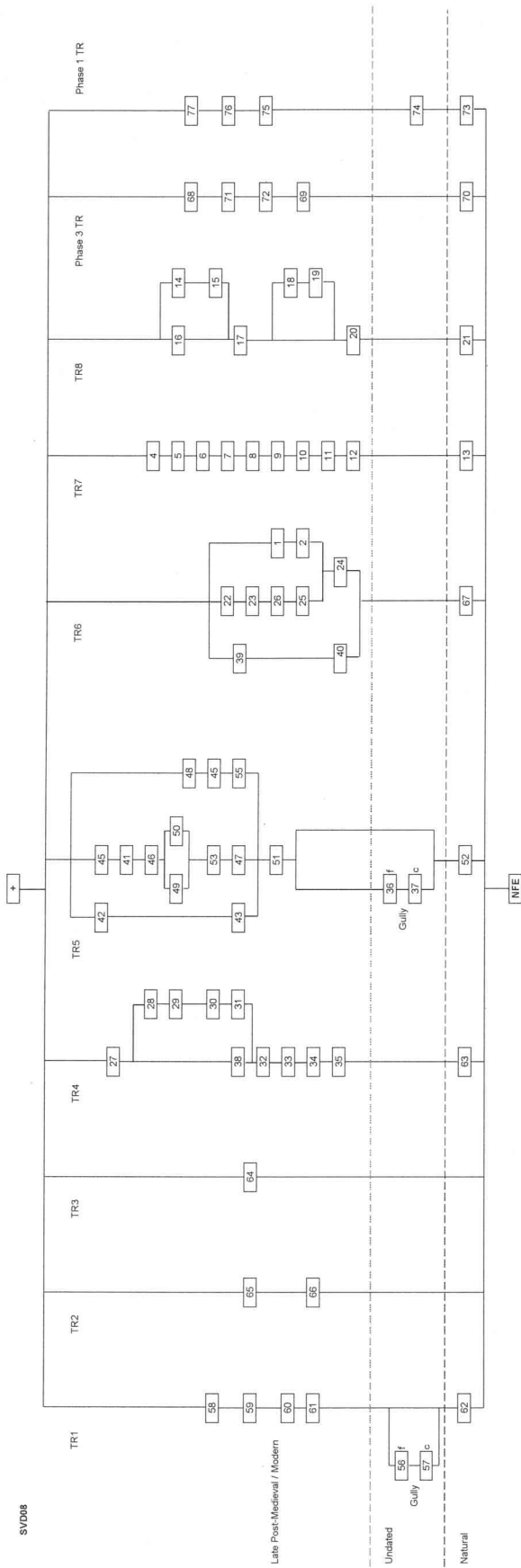
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan No	Section No.	Type	Description	Date
SVD08	1	TR 6	9	Fill	Backfill of [2]	Post-med
SVD08	2	TR 6	9	Masonry	Brick lining of soak-away	Post-med
SVD08	3	TR 6	9	Cut	Cut for soak-away	Post-med
SVD08	4	TR7	1	Layer	Mod made ground	Mod
SVD08	5	TR7	1	Layer	Mod. Made ground	Mod
SVD08	6	TR7	1	Layer	Made ground	Mod
SVD08	7	TR7	1	Layer	Made ground	Mod
SVD08	8	TR7	1	Layer	Demo layer	Mod
SVD08	9	TR7	1	Layer	Sandy layer	Post med
SVD08	10	TR7	1	Layer	Dump layer	Post med
SVD08	11	TR7	1	Layer	Chalk layer	Post-med
SVD08	12	TR7	1	Layer	'Dirty gravels'	Nat
SVD08	13	TR7	1	Natural	Sandy gravels	Nat
SVD08	14	TR8	2	Fill	Fill of [15]	Post-med
SVD08	15	TR8	2	Cut	Cut of pit	Post-med
SVD08	16	TR8	2	Layer	Made ground	Post-med
SVD08	17	TR8	2	Layer	Levelling layer	Post-med
SVD08	18	TR8	2	Fill	Fill of [19]	Post-med
SVD08	19	TR8	2	Cut	Cut of pit	Post-med
SVD08	20	TR8	2	Layer	Flinty gravel	Post-med
SVD08	21	TR8	2	Natural	Sandy gravel	Nat
SVD08	22	TR6	8	Fill	Fill to drain cut [24]	Post-med
SVD08	23	TR6	8	Fill	Fill to drain [25]	Post-med
SVD08	24	TR6	9	Cut	Cut of drain [25]	Post-med
SVD08	25	TR6	8	Masonry	Brick drain gully	Post-med
SVD08	26	TR6	8	Fill	Primary fill of drain [25]	Post-med
SVD08	27	TR4	3	Layer	Made ground	Post-med
SVD08	28	TR4	3	Fill	Fill of pit [29]	Post-med
SVD08	29	TR4	3	Cut	Cut of pit	Post-med
SVD08	30	TR4	3	Fill	Fill of pit {31}	Post -med
SVD08	31	TR4	3	Cut	Cut of pit	Post-med

Site Code	Context No.	Plan No.	Section No.	Type	Description	Date	
SVD08	32	TR4	3	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	33	TR4	3	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	34	TR4	3	Layer	CBM layer	Post-med	
SVD08	35	TR4	3	Layer	Natural	Nat	
SVD08	36	TR5	4	Fill	Fill of gully [37]	Undated	
SVD08	37	TR5	4	Cut	Gully	Undated	
SVD08	38	TR4	3	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	39	TR6	8, 9	Fill	Backfill of [24]	Post-med	
SVD08	40	TR6	8, 9	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	41	TR5	4	Masonry	Wall foundations	19 th /20 th c	
SVD08	42	TR5	4	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	43	TR5	4	Layer	Layer of sandy silt	Post-med	
SVD08	44	TR5	4	Layer	Sand levelling layer	Post-med	
SVD08	45	TR5	4	Fill	Backfill within walls [41]	Post-med	
SVD08	46	TR5	4	Fill	Backfill for C/cut [47]	Post-med	
SVD08	47	TR5	4	C/Cut	Cut for wall [41]	Post-med	
SVD08	48	TR5	4	Layer	Made Ground	Post-med	
SVD08	49	TR5	4	Fill	Backfill of [47]	Post-med	
SVD08	50	TR5	4	Fill	Backfill of [47]	Post-med	
SVD08	51	TR5	4	Layer	Flinty gravel levelling	Post-med	
SVD08	52	TR5	4	Natural	Sandy Gravel	Nat	
SVD08	53	TR5	4	Fill	Backfill of [47]	Post-med	
SVD08	54	VOID					
SVD08	55	TR5	4	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	56	TR1	5	Fill	Fill of gully [57]	Undated	
SVD08	57	TR1	5	Cut	Cut of Gully	Undated	
SVD08	58	TR1	5	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	59	TR1	5	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	60	TR1	5	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	61	TR1	5	Layer	Made ground	Post-med	
SVD08	62	TR1	5	Natural	Sandy gravel	Nat	
SVD08	63	TR4	3	Natural	Sandy gravel	Nat	

Site code	Context No.	Plan No.	Section No.	Type	Description	Date
SVD08	64	TR3	6	Layer	Flinty gravel levelling	Post-med
SVD08	65	TR2	7	Layer	Made ground	Post-med
SVD08	66	TR2	7	Layer	Made ground	Post-med
SVD08	67	TR6	8, 9	Natural	Sandy gravel	Nat
SVD08	68	P 3	10,11,12,13	Layer	Made ground	Post-med
SVD08	69	P3	10,11,12,13	Layer	Interface layer [70]-[67]	Nat/mix
SVD08	70	P3	11	Natural	Sandy gravel	Nat
SVD08	71	P3	12	Layer	Clay dump layer	Post-med
SVD08	72	P3	12	Layer	Clay dump layer	Post-med
SVD08	73	P1	14	Natural	Sandy gravel	Nat
SVD08	74	P1	14	Layer	Sandy sub-soil	Undated
SVD08	75	P1	14	Layer	Made ground	Post-med
SVD08	76	P1	14	Layer	Garden/plough soil	Post-med
SVD08	77	P1	14	Layer	Sand	Post-med

APPENDIX 2- MATRIX



SVD008

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief of Land at Sylverdale Road, London Borough of Croydon
Short description of the project	An evaluation of the archaeological potential at land at Sylverdale Road ,Croydon involved opening up 8 trenches. The natural Sandy Gravel was encountered approximately 1.10m below ground level sealed by c.1.00m to 1.30m layer of overburden made up of a sequence of dump and make up layers deposited during the later half of the post-medieval period associated with a phase of ground making and consolidation. A later watching brief confirmed this sequence in 2 further excavations for footings. 2 shallow gullies were observed cut into the natural in the base of trench 1 and 5, which may be early features, but lack of finds makes date and function unknown.
Project dates	Start: 28-07-2008 End: 05-09-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SVD08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	MADE GROUND Post Medieval

Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Documentary Search','Sample Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Sylverdale Road, Croydon
Study area	97.70 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3175 6542 51.3720191307 -0.106971469715 51 22 19 N 000 06 25 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41.76m Max: 42.38m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Hartcrest Properties

Project design originator English Heritage

Project director/manager Gary Brown

Project supervisor Stuart Watson

Type of sponsor/funding body Hartcrest Properties

Name of sponsor/funding body Hartcrest Properties

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass'

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass', 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief of land at Sylverdale Road, London Borough of Croydon

Author(s)/Editor(s) Watson, S.

Date 2008

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