

216 PAMPISFORD ROAD,

SOUTH CROYDON,

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SEPTEMBER 2008

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 216 Pampisford Road, South Croydon,
London Borough of Croydon, CR2**

Central National Grid reference: TQ 3195 6310

Written by Alistair Douglas

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Project Manager: Tim Bradley

Commissioning Client: Croft Homes Ltd

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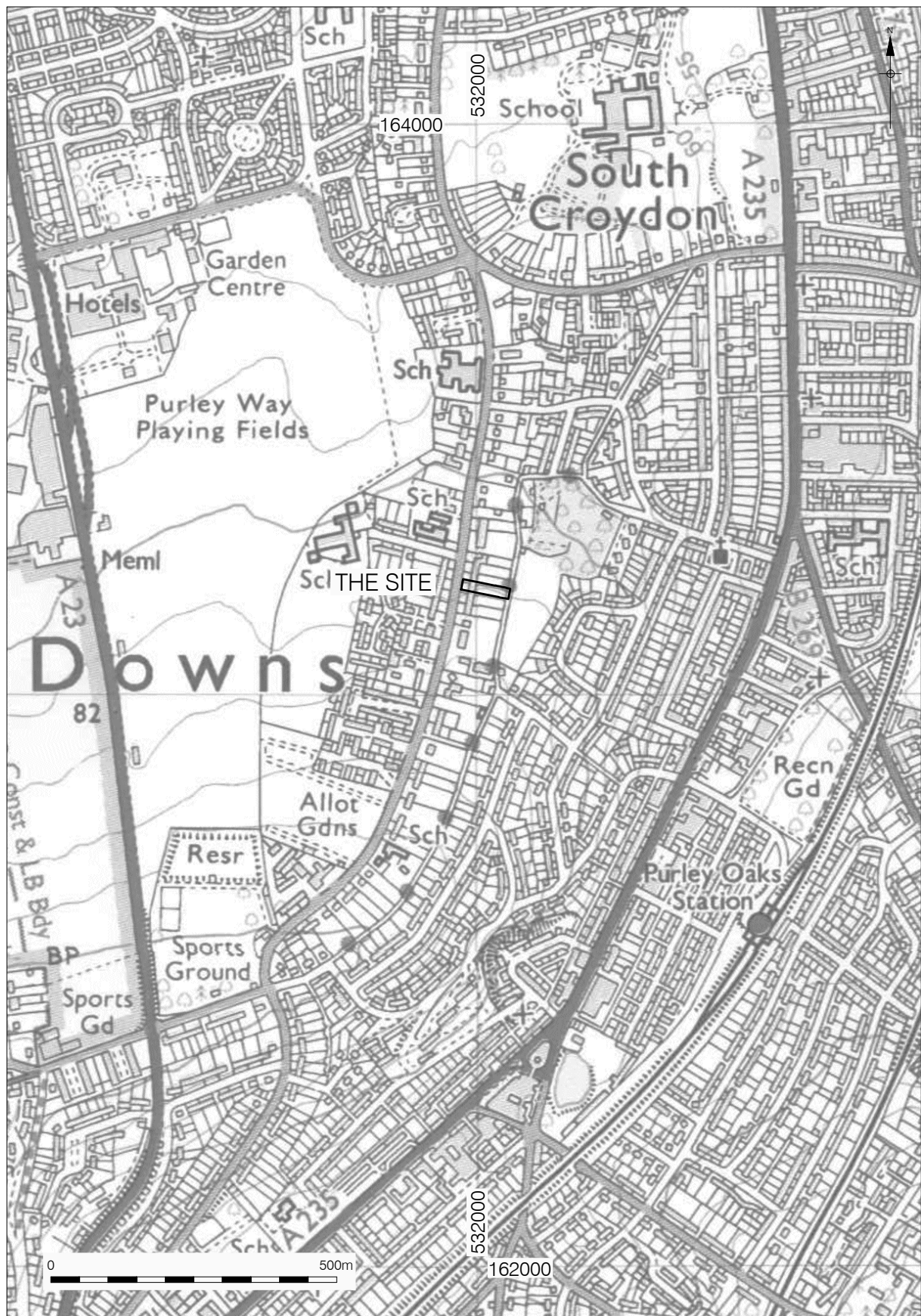
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and methodology of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at 216 Pampisford Road, London Borough of Croydon, CR2. The archaeological works were in advance of the redevelopment of the site for residential housing. The evaluation took place between the 15th and 19th September 2008 and the work was commissioned and funded by Croft Homes Limited.
- 1.2 Natural weathered chalk was encountered across the site overlain by a naturally formed sub-soil of orange brown sandy and clayey silt. Covering the sub-soil was a topsoil that formed the modern garden landscape.
- 1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the evaluation and no archaeological finds were unearthed. There is no recommendation for further archaeological work.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at 216 Pampisford Road. South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon, CR2 (Fig 1).
- 2.2 The excavation was undertaken between 15th September and the 19th September 2008 and the work was commissioned by Croft Homes Ltd. The work was conducted following English Heritage guidelines¹ and in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards.
- 2.3 The programme of archaeological investigation was recommended by Mr Mark Stevenson of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (English Heritage) acting as the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Croydon. The work was supervised by Alistair Douglas and project managed by Tim Bradley.
- 2.4 The site central grid reference is TQ 3195 6310.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC).
- 2.6 The site was allocated the unique site code PAO 08.

¹ English Heritage, Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Scheme of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations", revised June 1998.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000

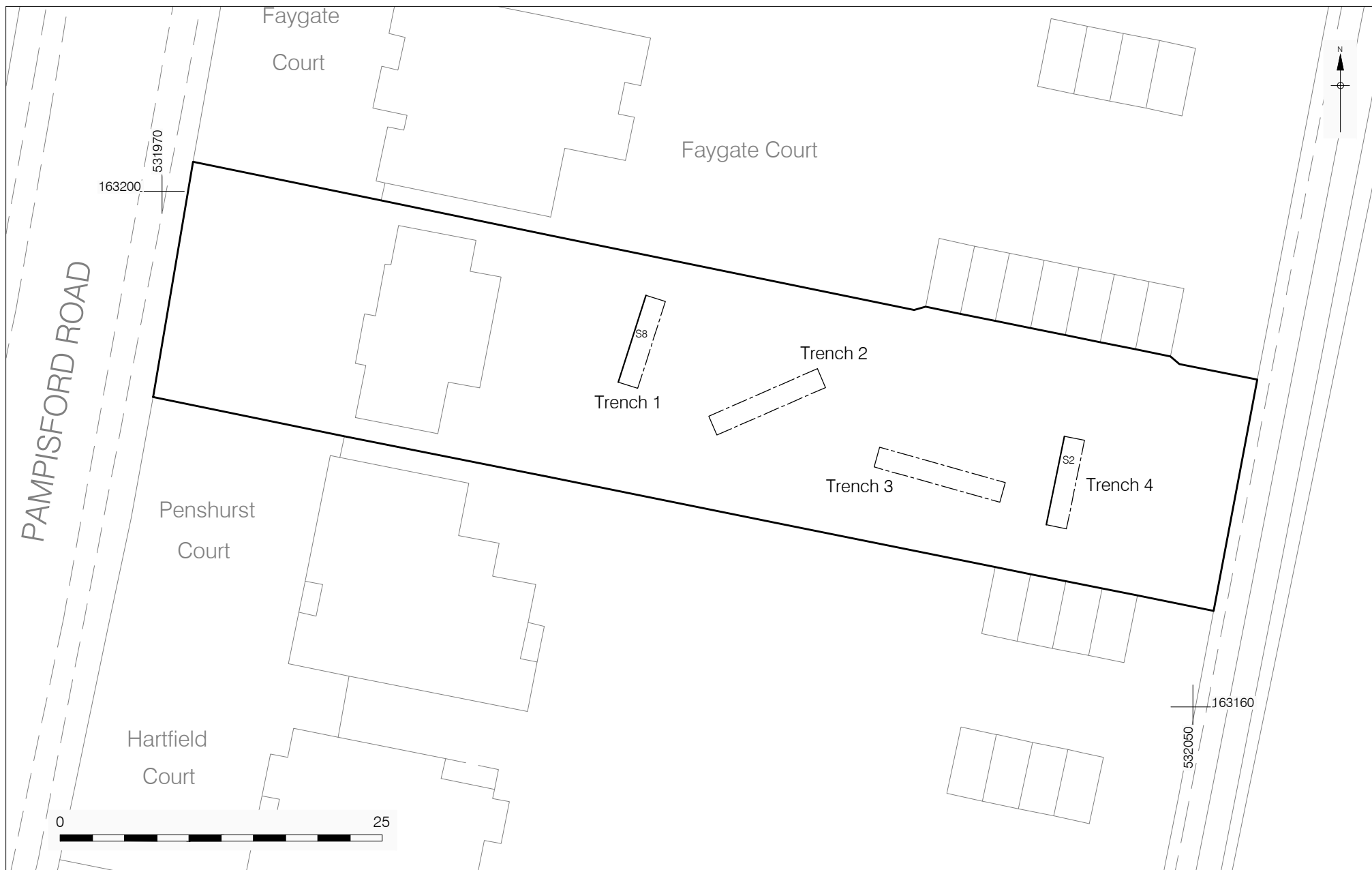


Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:400 at A4

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation was part of a scheme of works, designed to meet the archaeological condition on the planning permission set by Mr Mark Stevenson (GLAAS) English Heritage. The archaeological works were in advance of a redevelopment of the site, which includes the building of 1 three-storey residential building, 1 two-storey residential building with integral garages and the formation of vehicular access and provision of associated parking.
- 3.2 The research objectives were to establish the character and extent of:
- Any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site
 - 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?
 - Any evidence of prehistoric settlement or occupation of the area?
 - Any evidence of Roman activity on the site?
 - Is there any evidence of Saxon activity on the site?
 - Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?
 - Are there any post medieval remains on the site?

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

- 4.1.1 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.
- 4.1.2 Residual struck flints were found at Hayling Manor School, Pampisford Road² and 218-222 Pampisford Road³, 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 subsoil⁴.
- 4.1.3 An evaluation of land at 240 Pampisford Road, (PFR 05) 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 material⁵. An evaluation at 161-163 Pampisford Road (PPC 06) 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 recorded⁶.
- 4.1.4 Recent archaeological investigations at 248-250 Pampisford Road⁷ revealed several pieces of burnt and struck flint and a single fragment of abraded fired clay recovered from the topsoil.

4.2 Saxon

- 4.2.1 The name Croydon is of Saxon origin, derived from 'crogdene' and 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.

² Maloney, C & Holroyd, I, 2001, London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2000, London Archaeologist, Vol. 9 supplement 3, p69.

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

⁴ Greenwood, P, & Maloney, C, 1995, London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 1994, London Archaeologist, Vol 7, no. 13, p339.

⁵ Holden, S, 2005, 240 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon. PCA unpublished report.

⁶ Holden, S, 2006, 161-163 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Evaluation. PCA unpublished report.

⁷ Holden, S, 2008, 248-250 Pampisford Road, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological monitoring Exercise. PCA unpublished report.

4.2.2 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 area⁸

4.2.3 There is a record of a minster at Croydon as early as AD 809 when 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 Canterbury⁹.

4.2.4 An archaeological investigation was undertaken at 238 Pampisford Road but only undated postholes were found¹⁰.

4.3 Post-Medieval

4.3.1 Map regression shows that between 1729 – 1823 the site lay within Haling Wood (John Senex Survey 1729, Rocque's map of 1768, Lindley and Crossley plan of 1793, the 1800 Croydon Enclosure Map, the Ordnance Survey One Inch map dated 1811, and Charles and John Greenwood's Survey of 1823)¹¹.

4.3.2 However by the mid 19th century Tythe Map of 1847 shows that the site lay within open fields.

4.3.3 The OS map of 1898 shows Pampisford Road for the first time but the site was still undeveloped.

4.3.4 It is probable that the site was not developed until the late 1930's. The OS map of 1942 shows that a detached house now occupied the site with a large garden to the rear and a smaller front garden adjacent to the road.

4.3.5 A post-medieval pit was found at 212-214 Pampisford Road¹².

⁸ Cowie, R, with Harding, C, 2000, Saxon Settlement and Economy From The Dark Ages To Doomsday, in the Archaeology of Greater London. MoLAS.

⁹ Holden, S, 2006, 161-163 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Evaluation. PCA unpublished report.

¹⁰ Maloney, C, & Gostick, T, J, 1998, London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 1997, London Archaeologist, Vol 8, supplement 3, p83.

¹¹ Meager, R, and Hawkins, D, 2006, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, 208 Pampisford Road, Croydon. CgMs unpublished report.

¹² Lythe, R, 2004, An Archaeological Watching Brief At 212-214 Pampisford Road Croydon. PCA unpublished report.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation was undertaken according to a method statement prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology¹³.
- 5.2 The evaluation comprised of four trenches located within the former back garden, outside the footprint of previous development (now demolished) but within the area of the proposed new development (Fig 2). Trench 1 measured 7m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.59m. Trench 2 measured 10m x 2m and was 0.78m deep. Trench 3 measured 10m x 2m and had a maximum depth of 0.89m. Trench 4 measured 8m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.79m.
- 5.3 A 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket removed the modern overburden in 100mm spits under archaeological supervision until natural drift geology was encountered.
- 5.4 The trenches were cleaned by hand, recorded and photographed. Recording of the deposits was accomplished using the Single Context Recording Method on pro forma context and planning sheets. Contexts were numbered and are shown in this report within squared brackets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 5.5 A Temporary Bench Mark was established on the site:
TBM 1 = 80.46m OD
- 5.6 The site received a unique site code PAO 08 and the completed archive will be deposited with the The London Archaeological and Archive Resource Centre (LAARC).

¹³ Bradley, T, A Method Statement For An Archaeological Evaluation At 216 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon. Unpublished PCA report. July 2008.

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The natural geology of the site consists of approximately 0.40m – 0.50m of orange brown sandy silts and clays sealing soliflucted chalk. The sandy silt deposit is similar to that identified at 212–214 Pampisford Road where it was thought to be of glacial origin¹⁴.
- 6.2 The British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 Series Sheet 270 (South London) also identifies the area of the site as being underlain by Cretaceous Upper Chalk.
- 6.3 The topography of the site is generally flat with ground level between 80.62 and 80.40m OD. The site is situated on a ridge overlooking a steep sided valley to the east.

¹⁴ Lythe, R, 2004, An Archaeological Watching Brief At 212-214 Pampisford Road Croydon. PCA unpublished report

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Trench 1

- 7.1.1 In Trench 1 natural weathered chalk [14] was encountered at approximately 0.80m below current ground level at between 79.83m and 79.67m OD.
- 7.1.2 Partially overlying the chalk was an orange brown silty sandy clay [13] with occasional fragments of chalk circa 0.25m thick.
- 7.1.3 Sealing the clay was a light orange brown sandy clayey silt [12] up to 0.40m thick. This naturally formed sub-soil contained inclusions of occasional chalk fragments and sub-angular and angular flint stones.
- 7.1.4 A dark grey brown topsoil [11] composed of equal proportions of clay, sand and silt covered the sub-soil described above. This topsoil was characterised by occasional inclusions of chalk fragments and flint stones, as well as occasional lenses of denser concentrations of fragments of chalk, angular flint pebbles, fragments of coal and ceramic building material. The layer was up to 0.44m thick.

7.2 Trench 2

- 7.2.1 In Trench 2 the underlying chalk [10] was encountered between 80.20m OD and 79.60m OD.
- 7.2.2 Partially overlying the chalk was a light orange brown clayey silt [9] with occasional fragments of chalk and angular flint stones up to 0.35m thick.
- 7.2.3 The clayey silt was sealed by a mid orange brown sandy silt [8] with occasional fragments of chalk and small angular flint stones up to 0.34m thick.
- 7.2.4 Covering the clayey silt sub-soil was a topsoil composed of dark grey brown sand clay and silt [7] circa 0.33m thick.

7.3 Trench 3

- 7.3.1 In Trench 3 a degraded chalk [6] horizon was encountered at between 8.33m OD and 79.84m OD.

7.3.2 The chalk was sealed by a sub-soil composed of orange brown clayey sand silt [5] varying in thickness from 0.20m to 0.47m in thickness.

7.3.3 The sub-soil was covered by a topsoil of dark grey brown sand silt clay [4] with occasional flecks and fragments of chalk and angular flint stones, up to 0.30m thick.

7.4 Trench 4

7.4.1 In Trench 4 the chalk was found between 80.26m OD and 80.03m OD.

7.4.2 The chalk was covered by orange brown sandy silt [2] sub-soil with a maximum thickness of 0.40m.

7.4.3 Overlying the sub-soil was a dark grey brown sand silt clay with occasional small angular flint stones and flecks of chalk up to 0.38m thick.

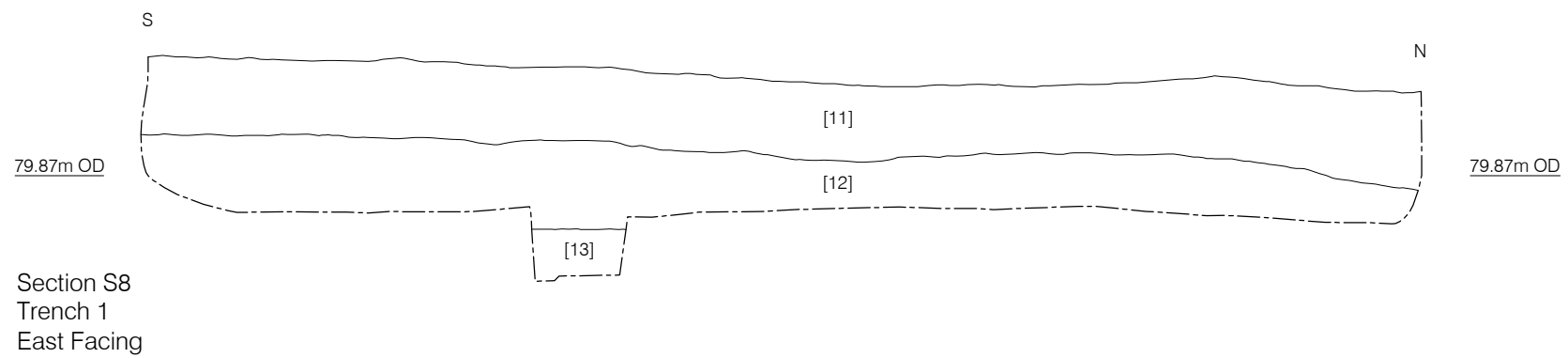
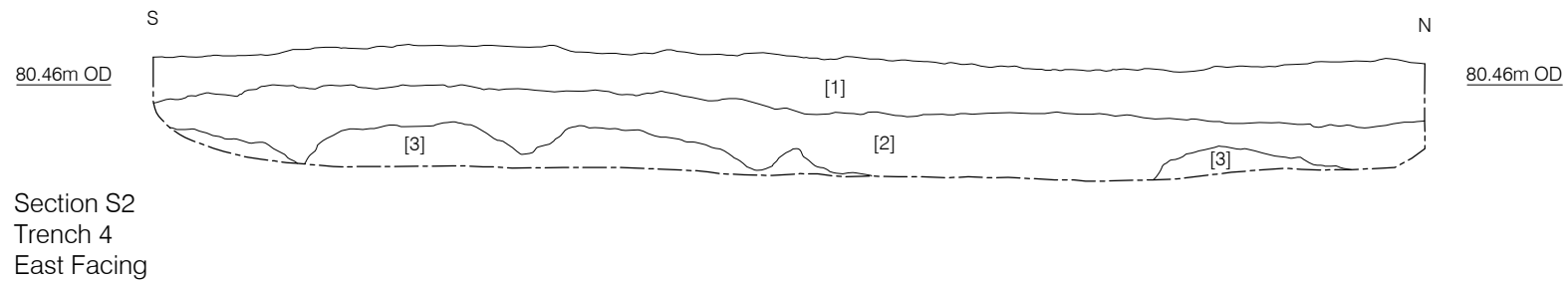


Figure 3
Sections 2 (Tr.4) and 8 (Tr.1)
1:40 at A4

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Natural weathered and degraded chalk was revealed in all of the four evaluation trenches varying in depth below ground level from 2.36m in Trench 3 to 0.85m in Trench 2 with the highest level on the chalk at 80.33m OD and the lowest at 79.67m OD.
- 8.2 In all four trenches the chalk was covered by a naturally formed sub-soil that varied from orange brown sandy silt to a sandy clayey silt up to circa 0.50m thick.
- 8.3 Across the site the sub-soil was covered by a garden / topsoil that varied from circa 0.25m to 0.40m in thickness.
- 8.4 No archaeological deposits were encountered and there was no evidence for any activity taking place on the site earlier than the 20th century.
- 8.5 In the light of these findings it is recommended that no further archaeological work is undertaken.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Croft Homes Ltd for their funding of this evaluation, and Mark Stevenson, English Heritage GLAAS, for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Croydon.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and editing of this report, Nathalie Barrett for her surveying and to Hayley Baxter for the illustrations. Thanks are also extended to Dave Hodson and Imogen Smythson of their work on site.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley, T, A Method Statement For An Archaeological Evaluation At 216 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon. Unpublished PCA report. July 2008.

Cowie, R, with Harding, C, 2000, Saxon Settlement and Economy From The Dark Ages To Doomsday, in the Archaeology of Greater London. MoLAS.

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APPENDIX 1

CONTEXT INDEX

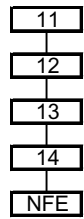
Context No	Trench	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Highest Level	Lowest Level
1	4		1, 2	Layer	Top spoil/garden soil	80.62	80.57
2	4		1, 2	Layer	Sub-soil	80.46	80.27
3	4	Trench plan	1, 2	Layer	Natural chalk	80.26	80.03
4	3		3, 4	Layer	Top spoil/garden soil	80.59	80.56
5	3		3, 4	Layer	Sub-soil	80.33	80.3
6	3	Trench plan	3, 4	Layer	Natural chalk	80.33	79.84
7	2		5, 6	Layer	Top spoil/garden soil	80.51	80.45
8	2		5, 6	Layer	Sub-soil	80.3	80.16
9	2		6	Layer	Silty, clayey sand	80.06	79.86
10	2	Trench plan	5, 6	Layer	Natural chalk	80.2	79.6
11	1		7, 8	Layer	Top spoil/garden soil	80.4	80.36
12	1		7, 8	Layer	Sub-soil	80.1	79.81
13	1		8	Layer	Silty, sandy clay	79.57	
14	1	Trench plan	7	Layer	Natural chalk	79.83	79.67

APPENDIX 2

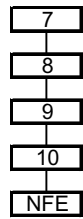
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

Site Matrix PAO 08

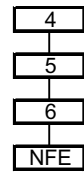
Trench 1



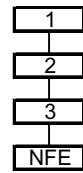
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



APPENDIX 3

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-48871

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at 216 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at 216 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon. Natural weathered chalk was encountered across the site overlain by a naturally formed sub-soil of orange brown sandy and clayey silt. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the evaluation and no archaeological finds were unearthed.
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2008 End: 19-09-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PAO08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 216 Pampisford Road
Postcode	CR2
Study area	1553.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3195 6310 51.3511209401 -0.104960484890 51 21 04 N 000 06 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 79.67m Max: 79.83m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Alistair Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Croft Homes Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Croft Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets', 'Survey', 'Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 216 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Douglas, A.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	PCA
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Description	Unpublished client report
Entered by	Alistair Douglas (adouglas@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	25 September 2008

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