

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 212-214 Pampisford Road, Croydon.

Site Code: PMP 04

National Grid Reference: TQ 31950 63150

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at 212-214 Pampisford Road, Croydon, during the excavation of foundation trenches for new buildings and the removal of overburden in the area of the new driveway.
- 1.2 The areas of ground reduction were located within the confines of the original house and gardens at 212-214 Pampisford Road.
- 1.3 Overburden in the area of the new driveway (Trench 1) was stripped to a maximum depth of 400mm below ground level. Foundation trenches (Trenches 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 3c) were excavated to a maximum depth of 800mm below ground level.
- 1.4 The watching brief revealed 4 cut features, interpreted as 20th century garden features. One archaeologically significant cut was observed, which probably dates to the Post-Medieval period.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 212-214 Pampisford Road, Croydon on 8th October 2004, 18th October 2004 and 8th November 2004. The work was commissioned by W.R. Newland & Sons Ltd. The site was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by David Divers and Gary Brown. Trench 1 was supervised by John Brown and Trenches 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 3c were supervised by the author.
- 2.2 The site is bound to the west by Pampisford Road and to the east by a public footpath. To the north and south the site is bound by other residential properties.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 31950 63150.
- 2.4 The site was assigned the code PMP 04.
- 2.5 The ground reduction for the new driveway was excavated to a maximum depth of 400mm and the foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 800mm below existing ground level.

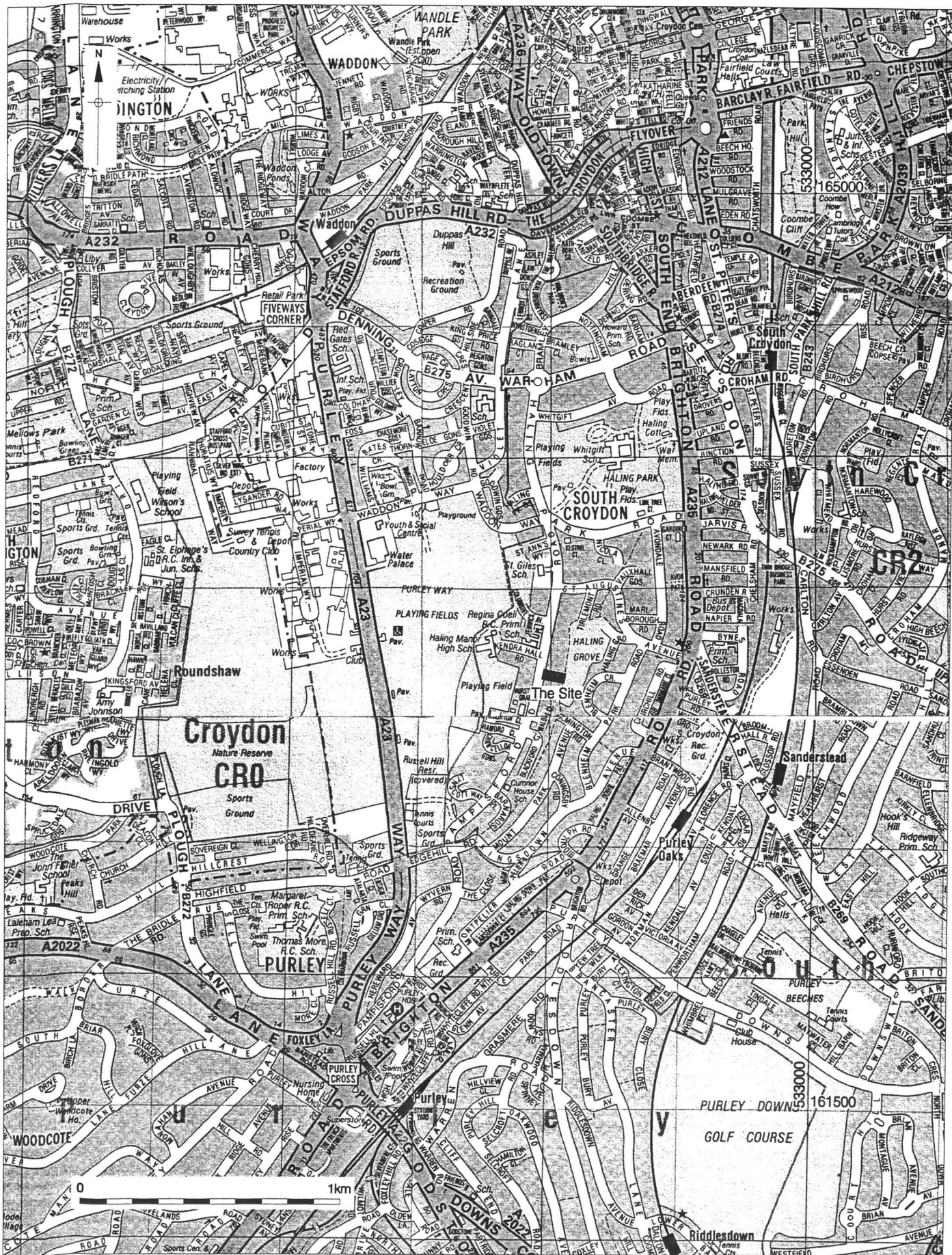


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000



Figure 2
Area of watching brief
1:500

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 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 W.R. Newland & Sons Ltd obtained planning consent for the ground reduction works, which required archaeological attention to fulfill the requirements of Condition 3:

No development or site preparation prior to operations which has any effect on disturbing or altering the level of composition of the land, shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigations to be submitted by applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

- 3.4 W.R Newland & Sons Ltd. appointed Pre-Construct Archaeology as advisors on the project. An archaeological written scheme of investigations was submitted to and approved by the London Borough of Croydon prior to commencement of the watching brief.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 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 (Hawkins 1997). It is therefore highly likely that the sandy-silt identified at PMP 04 is also glacial in origin.
- 4.2 The site is situated near the top of a steep river terrace, which slopes away sharply to the east of site. The topography of the current land surface within the boundaries of the site is generally flat, sloping away slightly to the east.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 PREHISTORIC

- 5.1.1 The site lies within an area designated as an Archaeological Priority Zone on the London Borough of Croydon's UDP (Divers 2004).
- 5.1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment for an adjacent site PDD 96 to the east suggested, on the available evidence, that the area has good potential for Mesolithic, Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology (Hawkins 1997).
- 5.1.3 During the subsequent evaluation, a number of redeposited flint flakes were recovered from modern contexts. It was hypothesised that, due to the presence of high-quality flint outcrops in the area, quarrying and processing may have occurred locally, from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age (Hawkins 1997).
- 5.1.4 A variety of flint artefacts, including scrapers and axe heads, have been recovered from the surrounding area. A Mesolithic axe head was discovered on Pampisford Road (Lask, 2003).
- 5.1.4 A Mesolithic occupation site has also been identified in Sanderstead (Lask, 2003).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The areas to be reduced were laid out by the groundwork contractors in accordance with the proposed development plan. The ground-reduction for the new driveway (Trench 1) and the foundation trenches for the new buildings (Trenches 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 3c) were all machine excavated by the contractors.

- 6.2 The attendant archaeologist monitored all ground-reduction so that any archaeological deposits could be excavated and recorded stratigraphically.

- 6.3 Trenches 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 3c were located in the positions shown on a W.R. Newland & Sons Ltd. prepared plan. No levels were available for the site. Deposits of archaeological interest were recorded using pro-forma record sheets. All trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections were recorded at 1:10.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 PHASE 1- NATURAL

- 7.1.1 A layer of sandy silt, the top of which occurred approximately 200-300mm below ground level, was observed in Trenches 1, 2a, 3a, 3b and 3c. In Trench 2b, this deposit had been truncated away by the construction cut for the foundations of the 20th century house. The deposit was approximately 200-400mm thick, becoming thickest in trench 3c, situated in the southeastern section of site. The sandy silt layer sealed a deposit of soliflucted chalk.
- 7.1.2 Soliflucted chalk occurred in all trenches. The top of the deposit was observed to be at a minimum depth of 200mm below ground level in Trench 2a, 450mm in Trenches 2b and 3a, 400mm in Trench 3b and was observed to dip away in an easterly direction in Trench 3c, from a minimum depth of 400mm to 700mm below ground level. This layer was not observed in Trench 1 due to its shallow depth of 400mm.
- 7.1.3 It is therefore hypothesised that the topography of the site once sloped towards the east to a greater degree than it does today. A combination of colluvial action and anthropic leveling through deposition of garden soil has since decreased this incline.

7.2 PHASE 2- POST-MEDIEVAL CUT FEATURES

- 7.2.1 One small circular cut [18], with a loose, dark grey-brown, humic-rich fill [17] was excavated in Trench 3b. The dimensions of the feature are 650mm north-south, 700mm east-west and 400mm deep. It was sealed by a layer of sub-soil [12] and truncated a layer of sandy-silt [13]. The presence of highly fragmented red and yellow fabric CBM within the fill suggests the feature is post-medieval in date. The function of the feature is unknown.

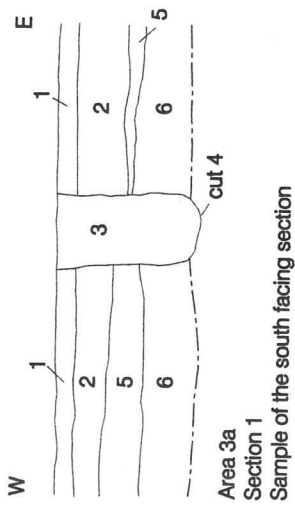
7.3 PHASE 1- 20TH CENTURY

- 7.3.1 Between 100-150mm of topsoil and 200-150mm of sub-soil were recorded in Trenches 1, 2a, 2b and 3c. In Trenches 2a and 2b garden soil was absent.
- 7.3.2 In Trench 3a, three postholes, [4], [8] and [10] were observed running parallel to the northern boundary of the site, truncating garden topsoil [1]. These were interpreted as

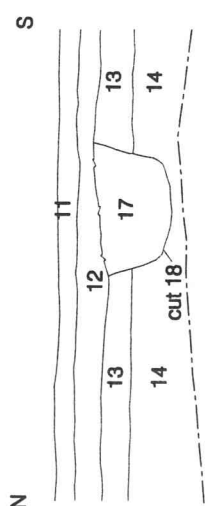
the remains of the modern fence line.

7.3.3 A circular pit 650mm north south, 400mm east west and 560mm deep, recorded within Trench 3a, contained the remains of a domestic dog. As the feature clearly truncated the modern garden soil [1], it was interpreted as 20th century.

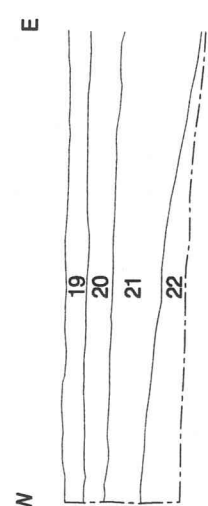
7.3.4 In Trench 2a, the construction cut for the original 20th century house truncates the natural silt [25] and partially truncates the underlying soliflucted chalk [26] in the north and east of the trench. In Trench 2b, all deposits are truncated away by the foundations of the original 20th century house, down to the soliflucted chalk layer [28].



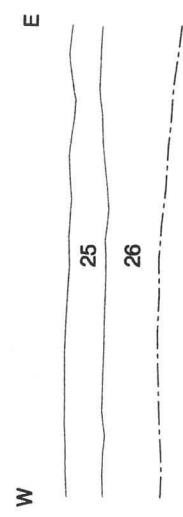
Area 3a
Section 1
Sample of the south facing section



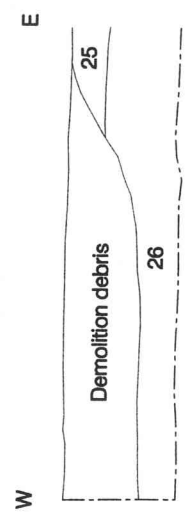
Area 3b
Section 2
Sample of the west facing section



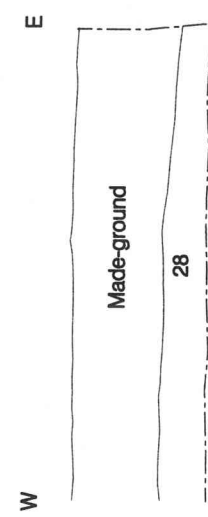
Area 3c
Section 3
Sample of the south facing section



Area 2a
Section 4
Sample of the south facing section



Area 2a
Section 5
Sample of the south facing section



Area 2b
Section 6
Sample of the south facing section



8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief was intended to identify and record archaeological material exposed by the removal of overburden during construction of the new driveway and excavation of foundation trenches for the new buildings. One of the principal objectives was to determine the presence or otherwise of any prehistoric occupation or land use.
- 8.2 A layer of soliflucted chalk natural [6], [14], [22], [26] and [29] was recorded in trenches 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, and 3c respectively.
- 8.3 Sealing the soliflucted chalk was a layer of glacial sandy-silty natural [31], [5], [13], [21], [25] and [28] in Trenches 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b and 3c respectively.
- 8.4 One possible post-medieval pit [18] of unknown function was excavated and recorded in Trench 3b.
- 8.5 A layer of subsoil, [30], [2], [12] and [20] and a layer of topsoil [29], [1], [11] and [19] were recorded in Trenches 1, 3a, 3b and 3c respectively.
- 8.6 Three postholes [8], [4] and [10], and one pit [16] truncated the topsoil in Trench 3a. These are all thought to be 20th century in date.
- 8.8 The foundations of the original 20th-century house truncate deposits down to the soliflucted chalk layer [29] in Trench 2b and down to the soliflucted chalk layer [26] in the north and east of Trench 2a.
- 8.9 In conclusion, it is clear from this watching brief that, with the exception of one Post-Medieval pit, no features of archaeological significance were present within the excavated areas. The watching brief does indicate, however, that outside the confines of the foundations of the original 20th century house, 19th and 20th century disturbances appear limited. There is therefore still potential for the preservation of archaeological remains within the rest of the garden area, as well as within the adjacent gardens to the north and south.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 The author would like to thank Jon Brown for conducting the watching brief in Trench 1. The author would also like to thank David Divers and Gary Brown for their project management and editing.

10 Bibliography

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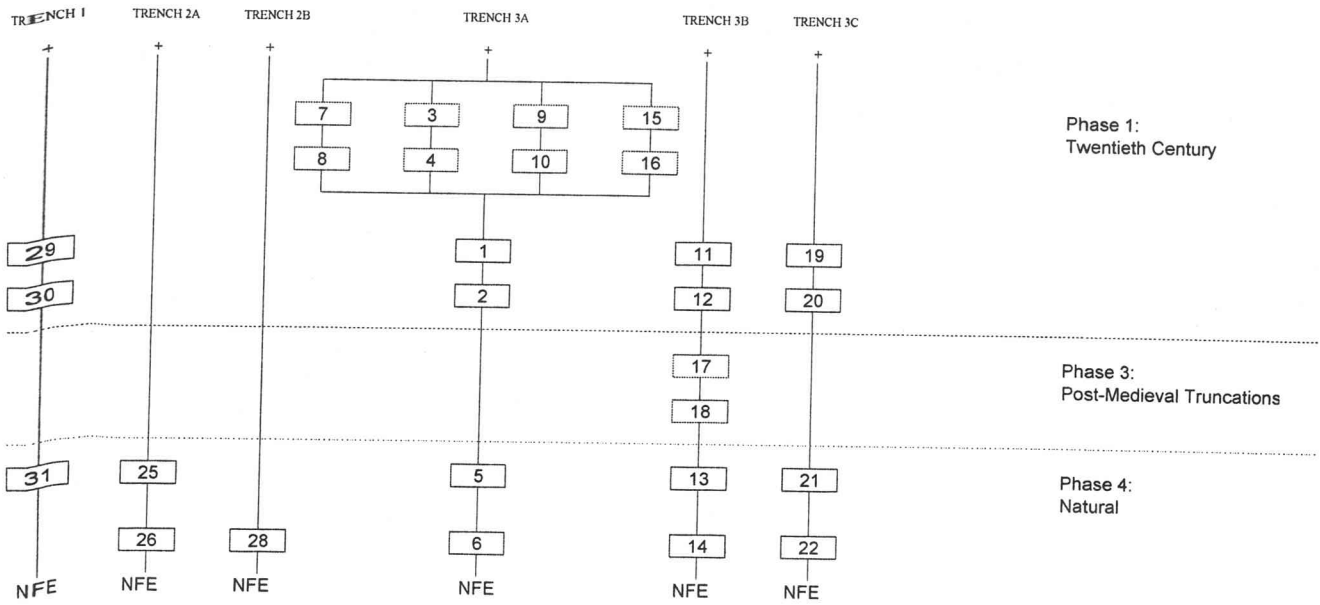
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Appendix 1: Site Register

Context	Plan	Section	Phase	Trench	Type	Description
Number	Number	Number				
1		1	1	3a	Layer	Topsoil
2		1	1	3a	Layer	Subsoil
3		1	1	3a	Fill	Fill of posthole [4]
4	Tr. 3a	1	1	3a	Cut	Posthole
5		1	3	3a	Layer	Sandy silty natural
6	Tr. 3a	1	3	3a	Layer	Soliflucted chalk natural
7			1	3a	Fill	Fill of posthole [8]
8	Tr. 3a		1	3a	Cut	Posthole
9			1	3a	Fill	Fill of posthole [10]
10	Tr. 3a		1	3a	Cut	Posthole
11		2	1	3b	Layer	Topsoil
12		2	1	3b	Layer	Subsoil
13		2	3	3b	Layer	Sandy silty natural
14	Tr. 3b	2	3	3b	Layer	Soliflucted chalk natural
15			1	3a	Fill	Fill of pit [16]
16	Tr.3a		1	3a	Cut	Modern pit
17		2	2	3b	Fill	Fill of pit [18]
18	Tr. 3b	2	2	3b	Cut	Cut of post-medieval pit
19		3	1	3c	Layer	Topsoil
20		3	1	3c	Layer	Subsoil
21		3	3	3c	Layer	Sandy silty natural
22	Tr. 3c	3	3	3c	Layer	Soliflucted chalk natural
23						VOID
24						VOID
25		4, 5	3	2a	Layer	Sandy silty natural
26	Tr. 2a	4, 5	3	2a	Layer	Soliflucted chalk natural
27						VOID
28	Tr. 2b	6	3	2b	Layer	Soliflucted chalk natural
29			1	1	Layer	Topsoil
30			1	1	Layer	Subsoil
31	Tr. 1		3	1	Layer	Sandy silty natural

Appendix 2: Matrix



Appendix 3: Oasis Form

Project details

Project name	212-214 Pampisford Road Croydon
Short description of the project	In October / November 2004, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd conducted an archaeological watching brief at 212-214 Pampisford Road on ground reduction work for a new driveway and foundation trenches for new buildings.
Project dates	Start: 08-10-2004 End: 08-11-2004
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PDD 96 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	PAP03 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'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 SELSDON AND SANDERSTEAD 212-214 Pampisford Road
Postcode	CR2
Study area	756 Square metres

National grid reference TQ 31950 63150 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator David Divers

Project director/manager Gary Brown

Project supervisor Rebecca Lythe

Sponsor or funding body W. R. Newland and Sons

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'

Digital Archive Exists? Yes

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive Exists? Yes

Project bibliography 1

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