# Land Adjacent to 62 St Peters Road, South Croydon London Borough of Croydon Archaeological Evaluation Report

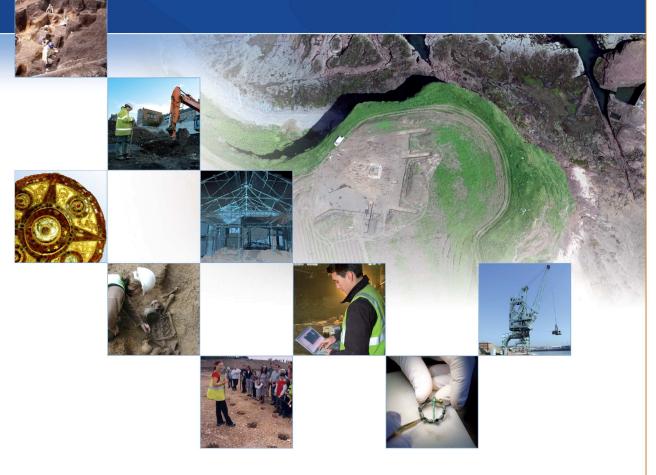
Planning Application Number: 11/03205/P

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 3266 6435

Site Code: SPE 11

AOC Project No: 32017

Date: December 2011





# Land Adjacent to 62 St Peters Road, South Croydon

# **London Borough of Croydon**

## **An Archaeological Evaluation Report**

On Behalf of: **Jones Lang Laslle** 

22 Hanover Square

London **W1S 1JA** 

National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 3266 6435

**AOC Project No:** 32017

Prepared by: **Catherine Edwards** 

Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

December 2011 **Date of Report:** 

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

**Author: Catherine Edwards** Date: December 2011 Approved by: Alan Ford Date: December 2011 **Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft** Date: December 2011

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at land adjacent to 62 St Peters Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon. The work was undertaken on behalf of Jones Lang Lasalle. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised three machine excavated test pits and a single trench. The test pits measured 4.00m x 4.00m, whilst the trench measured 12.00m x 1.80m. No significant archaeological remains were encountered on site. The natural horizon was established in all excavated areas on site. Two test pits and one trench contained modern intrusive features, which included a sub-circular pit and linear service trenches. Walls and brick foundations were recorded in two test pits, which related to the modern garages that had previously occupied the site. The site was covered by a thin deposit of made ground and concrete or paved modern surfaces and had the appearance of having been truncated by terracing of the hill slope.

Due to the lack of archaeological remains and the probable truncation of deposits on site, no further archaeological work is recommended.

Publication of the watching brief findings will be carried out through a short summary of the fieldwork submitted to the local fieldwork roundup. An OASIS form has also been completed and an electronic copy of the watching brief report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance and will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre.

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the proposed development on land adjacent to 62 St Peters Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (Figure 1). The investigation took place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and comprised of the excavation of three test pits and a single trench.
- 1.2 The proposed development is located on the western side of St Peter's Road, directly southwest of the church and churchyard of St Peter's Church. No 62 St Peter's Road and its garden lie to the southwest and several blocks of modern housing lie to the north, accessed from Heathfield Road. The site is situated towards the bottom of a west-facing hill with the natural topography dropping westwards to Selsdon Road (Figure 2).
- The site occupies an area of approximately 1000m<sup>2</sup> and is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) 1.3 TQ 32664 64357. The proposed development scheme comprises the construction of a roughly Cshaped building divided into 14 flats with associated parking and garden areas.

## 2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Croydon. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), English Heritage. A planning application for the development proposal has now been submitted (11/03205/P) and this document supports this application.
- 2.2 The site is located within Archaeological Priority Area No.22: Haling Park, designated by Croydon Council. There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks & Gardens within the limits of the proposed development. The site is not located within or immediately adjacent to any designated Conservation Areas and contains no Listed Buildings. Historical mapping indicates that the site was previously located within the grounds/ graveyard of St Peters Church.
- 2.3 The site is located within the St Peter's Road Local Area of Special Character. These areas are described as "older areas of the Borough that, although unlikely to meet the criteria for designation as Conservation Areas, possess sufficient architectural, townscape and environmental quality to make them of significant local value" (Croydon Council 2009).
- 2.4 The first stage of required archaeological works was the production of a Heritage Statement, which assessed the archaeological and built heritage potential of the site (AOC 2011). The statement recommended that a phase of archaeological evaluation be carried out on the site to qualify the presence/absence of a church boundary structure and/or burials. The evaluation works were carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011). The WSI was approved by Mark Stevenson prior to the commencement of works.
- 2.5 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.

## 3. **Geology and Topography**

- 3.1 Croydon is located at the southern border of the Thames Basin, at the northern edge of the long dip slope of the North Downs, where the ground rises to the south (Gent 2002). Several tributaries of the River Wandle flow through Croydon (Gent 2002).
- 3.2 The 1:10,000 geology map (BGS 1994) covering the area of the site indicates that the superficial geology of the site is formed by the Hackney Gravel Member, comprising sand and gravel. This is underlain by chalk, formed by the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation.

#### 4. **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The information below has been extracted and summarised from the Heritage Statement produced by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2011).

#### 4.1 The Prehistoric Periods

(Palaeolithic c. 500,000 - 10000 BC; Mesolithic c. 10000 to 4000 BC; Neolithic c. 4000-2200 BC; Bronze Age c. 2200-700 BC and Iron Age c. 700 BC - AD 43)

- 4.1.1 The wider area of the Wandle Valley and North Downs have seen human activity from the prehistoric period onwards (Gent 1991).
- 4.1.2 The most significant evidence for prehistoric settlement within close proximity to the site was recorded during the excavation of a site at 15-17 Brighton Road, c. 130m to the south-west of the site. Nearly 300 struck flints including some tools were recovered, mostly from residual contexts along with a considerable amount of burnt flint. A number of features, thought to be of prehistoric date, were also recorded. One of these has been interpreted as a property boundary. A Late Bronze Age copper alloy razor was also found (MoLAS 1993).
- 4.1.3 Additional prehistoric material recorded includes: a lithic implement (possibly a pick), a polished axe and a scatter of flint flakes. Undated residual worked flint recorded at Whitgift school, c. 500m to the south-west of the proposed development site, may also be of prehistoric date.
- 4.1.4 Croham Road, c. 50m to the south-east of the proposed development site, is thought to follow the route of an ancient trackway probably dating to the Iron Age.

#### 4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.2.1 In addition to the Croham Road trackway, which probably continued to be used into the Roman period, it is thought that another Roman road passed near to the site. This road led from London to Portslade (Brighton) and probably followed the line of the High Street - South End - Brighton Road (Gent 1991), which runs north to south through Croydon, c.130m to the west of the site. Based on the presence of this road, it has been suggested that Croydon may have been the location of a posting station. Numerous coins and examples of Roman pottery have been found across the general South Croydon area.
- 4.2.2 The most significant Roman evidence within close proximity to the site was recovered from a site at 15-17 Brighton Road, c. 130m to the south-west of the site. A number of features were recorded, including two parallel ditches and a pit along with structural evidence. Pottery, building material and coins were also recovered (MoLAS 1993).

#### 4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 - AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 - AD 1538)

- 4.3.1 The name Croydon derives from a Saxon origin and was referred to as Cradeden, Croindene and Croiden, from Croie, meaning chalk, and dune, meaning hill, describing its location on the summit of a chalk basin (Lewis 1848). An alternative interpretation of the name is 'valley where the saffron grows' (Gent 1991).
- 4.3.2 It is thought that the early-medieval (Saxon) settlement would have been focussed around the parish church that has Saxon origins in the Old Town, approximately 1km to the north-west of the proposed development site (Gent 1991).
- 4.3.3 No entries relating to early-medieval (Saxon) activity are recorded within close proximity to the site.
- 4.3.4 During the medieval period, the area now covered by South Croydon belonged to Haling Manor, which is recorded in documentary sources from 1202. The medieval manor house was located in the area later known as Haling Park, c. 500m to the south-west of the proposed development site. The manor was the property of the Crown until the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Weinreb & Hibbert 1995) and is believed to have been predominantly agricultural land throughout the medieval period. .
- 4.3.5 Medieval plough soil was recorded c. 450m to the north of the proposed development site. In addition, Crome farm shown on Rocque's map of c. 1762, c.350m to the south-east of the proposed development site, may have its origins in the medieval period.
- 4.3.6 Based on current evidence, Croham manor house is thought to have been located within the Old Town, some 1km to the north-west of the site. An alternative location for the manor house has been suggested on the site of the later Blunt House, c. 550m to the north-west of the proposed development site.
- 4.3.7 Additional medieval evidence from the study area comprises pottery fragments and some ceramic building material although no structures were found.

#### 4.4 The Post-Medieval (AD 1538 – AD 1900) and Modern Periods (AD 1900 to present)

- By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the medieval Haling manor house was replaced by Haling Park, which had associated formal gardens and parkland. A watching brief revealed a ditch and path relating to the post-medieval grounds. Haling Cottage was built in the grounds in the 17th century and in 1867 the estate was sold off for redevelopment. The house of Haling Park is now Whitgift School and Haling cottage is the headmaster's house.
- 4.4.2 The area of South Croydon continued to be predominantly rural into the post-medieval period. Crome farm is shown on Rocque's map of c. 1762, c.350m to the south-east of the proposed development site and evidence of a 19th century nursery was recorded c. 550m to the north-west of the proposed development site.
- 4.4.3 As the area developed, residential properties spread along the main routes, with additional residential streets being laid out in between. A number of Listed Buildings exist within close proximity of the site dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- 4.4.4 In the mid-nineteenth century, the Church of St Peter was constructed adjacent to the northern boundary of the proposed development site. It was designed by G Gilbert Scott and was built between 1849 -51 (Heritage Gateway 2011). The church was set in an area of grounds, comprising a flint walled graveyard with several species of tree represented. The first edition ordnance survey map (1868) shows the proposed development site lies within this area of graveyard, with no boundary dividing the site from the graveyard until the following map of 1896.

## 5. Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:
  - To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
  - To enable Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Croydon, to make an informed decision on any possible requirement for further work.
  - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:
  - Are any burials present within the development?
  - If present what is the density of burials?
  - If present, what is the extent of the cemetery?
  - Is there a boundary wall or structure present?
- 5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

## 6. Methodology

- 6.1 The evaluation consisted of archaeological trial trenching (archaeological evaluation). The evaluation involved the machine excavation of three test pits and a single trench, all excavated under archaeological supervision (Figure 3).
- 6.2 The trenches were moved slightly the proposed positions given in the WSI (AOC 2011) as the walls of the former garages was still standing on site and covered the area designated for test pits 2 and 3. Trench 1 was also located partially out side the area of the garages and was moved slightly from its planned location so as not to block the only access to the site.
- All machining was carried out using a JCB 3CX type excavator with a smooth bladed ditching bucket 6.3 and under the constant supervision of the archaeological Project Officer.
- 6.4 The accession code SPE 11 was obtained from the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) for the project, and was used for all fieldwork.
- 6.5 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid using a differential GPS unit which also calculated OD heights for the site.
- 6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's Archaeological Field Manual (MoL 3rd edition 1994).
- 6.7 All of the work was carried out in line with:
  - English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)
  - Archaeological Guidance Papers (AGP): 2-4, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage 2009)
  - If A Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (If A 2008).

- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For each trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. ( ), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. [ ].
- 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

#### 7. Results

#### 7.1 Test Pit 1 (Figure 3 & 4)

## Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.14m	53.63m – 53.49m	Concrete and Paving Slabs. Modern Surface.
104	0.17m	53.63m –	Grey brown silty clay. Topsoil.
104		53.46m	Grey brown silty day. Topsoll.
101	0.48m	53.49m –	Brick rubble, gravel and tarmac. Previous surface
101		53.01m	and make up.
105	0.46m	53.46m –	Gravel, brick rubble and tarmac. Made ground.
100		53.00m	Oravei, blick lubble and tarmac. Made ground.
102	0.20m	53.00m –	Brown sandy clay. Subsoil.
102		52.80m	Drown Sandy Clay. Subsoll.
106	0.40m	52.80m –	Vollow grange gravel Natural
100	+	52.40m	Yellow orange gravel. Natural.

- 7.1.1 Test Pit 1 measured 4.00m x 4.00m and was located within the western half of the site (Figure 3).
- 7.1.2 The earliest deposit in Test Pit 1 was (106), a natural yellow orange gravel recorded at an upper height of 52.80mOD.
- 7.1.3 Directly overlying (106) was (102), a 0.20m thick layer of a brown sandy clay interpreted as undisturbed subsoil. Overlying (102) were two layers of made ground and make up deposits recorded as (105) and (101). Deposit (105) was located within the southwest half of the test pit, whilst (101) was located within the northeastern half of the test pit. The deposits were very similar and were composed of brick rubble, gravel and occasional flint. The deposits have been interpreted as made ground and make up deposits. Deposits (105) and (101) were separated by a yellow stock brick wall recorded as [103]. The wall, which functioned as a border for the path, measured 0.50m high and 0.24m wide. The wall ran northwest-southeast across the test pit.
- 7.1.4 Either side of the wall were modern surface layers. On the southwestern side was layer (104), a 0.17m thick layer of grey brown silty clay interpreted as topsoil, whilst on the northeastern side was (100), a 0.14m thick layer of modern concrete and paving slabs.
- 7.1.5 No archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 1.

#### 7.2 Test Pit 2 (Figure 3 & 4)

## Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation		
200	0.12m	54.19m – 54.07m	Modern concrete surface.		
201	0.40m	54.07m – 53.67m	Brick rubble, stone and gravel. Made ground.		
203	0.10m+	53.67m – 53.57m	Sand and dense yellow orange gravel. Natural.		

- 7.2.1 Test Pit 2 measured 4.00m x 4.00m and was located towards the north of the site (Figure 3).
- The earliest deposit recorded in Test Pit 2 was (203) a natural mixed layer of clean yellow and 7.2.2 orange sand with dense gravel. Overlying the natural was (201), a 0.40m thick layer of brick rubble, stone and gravel interpreted as made ground.
- 7.2.3 Cutting into the made ground was red brick wall [202]. The wall was part of the garage footings and measured 0.60m high and 0.44m wide x 1.50m long. Overlying the test pit and abutting the wall was layer (200), a 0.12m thick layer of modern concrete which formed the floors for the garages.
- 7.2.4 No significant archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 2.

#### 7.3 Test Pit 3 (Figure 3 & 4)

## Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation		
300			Modern concrete surface.		
301			Brick rubble, stone and gravel. Made ground.		
304	0.50m	54.36m	Dense yellow orange gravel. Natural.		

- 7.3.1 Test Pit 3 measured 4.00m x 4.00m and was located towards the northeastern corner of the site (Figure 3).
- The earliest deposit recorded in Test Pit 3 was (304) a natural yellow and orange dense gravel. Cutting into the natural was [303] a sub circular pit measuring 1.50m x 1.80m x 0.40m+. The pit contained (302) a grey brown sandy clay with inclusions of corrugated iron, glass bottles and concrete. This has been interpreted as a modern rubbish pit.
- 7.3.3 Overlying the pit was (301), a 0.18m thick layer of brick rubble, stone and gravel interpreted as made ground which in turn was overlaid by (300), a 0.20m thick layer of modern concrete which formed the floors for the garages.
- 7.3.4 No significant archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 3.

#### 7.4 Trench 1 (Figure 3 & 4)

## Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation		
400	0.15m	54.53m – 54.38m	Modern concrete surface.		
401	0.24m 54.38m – 54.14m Dark brown grey silt with brick and gravel. Made ground.		Dark brown grey silt with brick rubble, stone and gravel. Made ground.		
404	0.60m+	54.14m – 53.24m+	Dense yellow orange gravel. Natural.		

- 7.4.1 Trench 1 measured 12.00m x 1.80m and was located towards the southeastern corner of the site (Figure 3).
- 7.4.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 1 was (404), a natural yellow and orange dense gravel. Cutting into the natural was [403] a linear feature, which ran east-west across the trench and measured 5.70m x 1.20m. The feature was filled by (402), a grey sandy gravel with inclusions of tarmac, broken ceramic pipe and concrete. The feature was interpreted as a service trench.
- 7.2.3 Overlying the linear feature was (401), a 0.24m thick layer of dark brown grey silt brick rubble, stone and gravel interpreted as made ground. This was in turn overlaid by (400), a 0.15m thick layer of modern concrete which formed the modern surface.
- No significant archaeological remains were recorded in Trench 1.

#### 8 **Finds**

8.1 No finds were recovered during the excavations on site.

#### 9 **Discussion**

- 9.1 The archaeological evaluation accomplished its aim of establishing the presence/absence of archaeological remains and establishing if burials are likely to be present within the site boundary. No significant archaeological remains or evidence for burials were recorded on site.
- 9.2 The natural horizon was identified in the base of the all of the excavated test pits and trench. The natural was established as yellow orange dense gravel with one test pit indicating the presence of clean sand. Only one test pit (TP1) contained a deposit interpreted as subsoil. None of the other excavated areas contained subsoil which suggests that the site has previously horizontally truncated or terraced.
- 9.3 A modern pit was recorded in Test Pit 3 and was identified due to the presence of modern bottles and tarmac within the fill.
- 9.4 Overlying the area was a layer of made ground which was in turn overlaid by a thick concrete surface.

#### 10 **Publication**

10.1 Due to the nature of the project, initial publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the London Archaeologist Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

## 11 **Archive deposition**

11.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre.

#### 12 Recommendations

12.1 Due to the lack of archaeological remains and the probable horizontal truncation of the site no further work is recommended.

## 13 **Bibliography**

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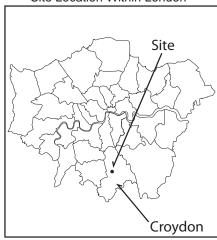
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## Site Location Within London



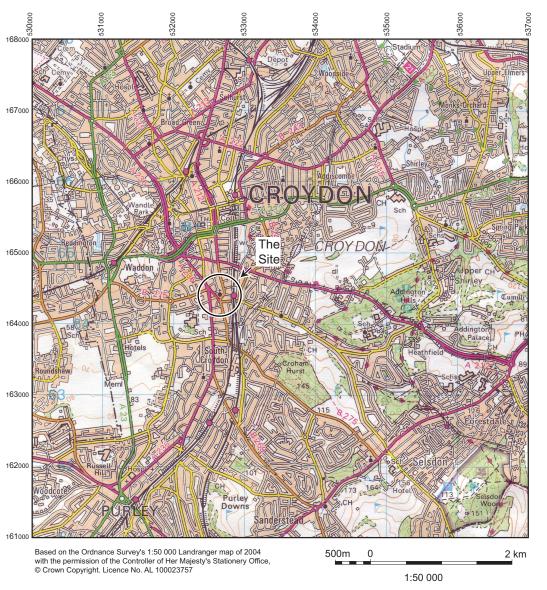


Figure 1: Site Location



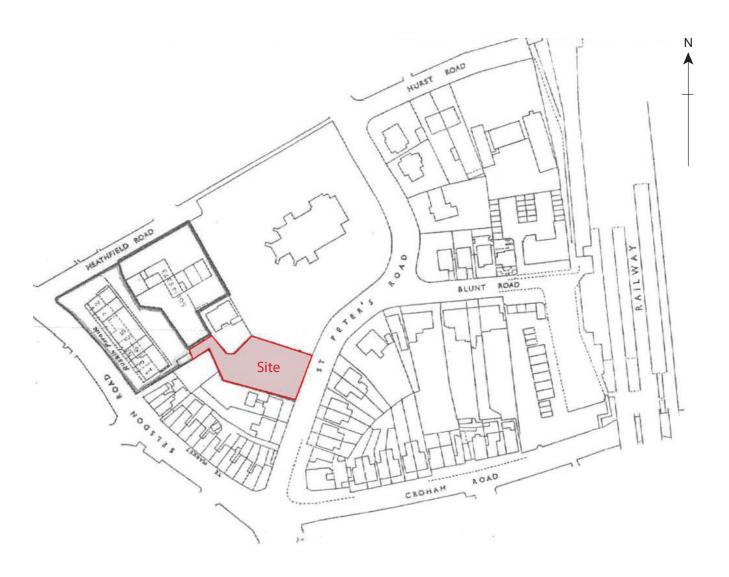
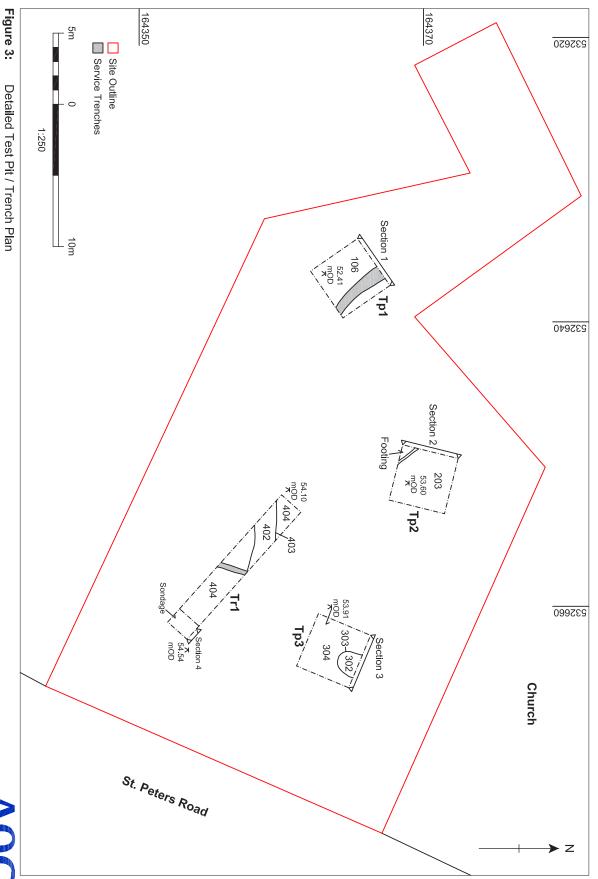


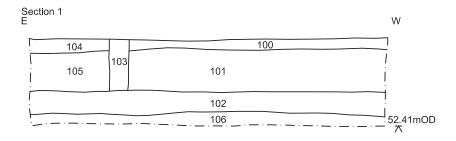
Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

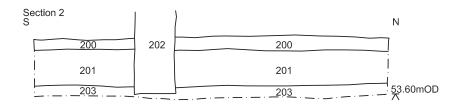


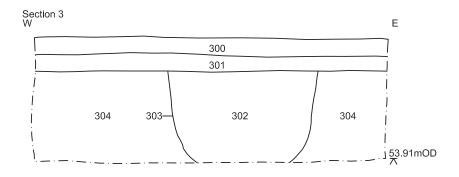


Detailed Test Pit / Trench Plan

Archaeology Group







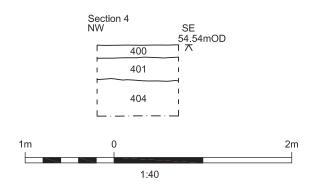


Figure 4: Sections



# **Appendices**



# Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description/Index code	Length	Width	Depth
100	100 Paved surface		4.00m	0.14m
101	Made ground	4.00m	4.00m	0.48m
102	Subsoil	4.00m	4.00m	0.20m
103	Wall	0.24m	1.50m	0.50m
104	Topsoil	4.00m	4.00m	0.17m
105	Made ground	4.00m	4.00m	0.46m
106	Natural	4.00m	4.00m	NFE
200	Concrete	4.00m	4.00m	0.12m
201	Made ground	4.00m	4.00m	0.40m
202	Wall	0.44m	1.50m	0.60m
203	Natural	4.00m	4.00m	0.10m
300	Concrete	4.00m	4.00m	0.20m
301	Made ground	4.00m	4.00m	0.18m
302	Modern pit fill	1.50m	1.80m	0.40m
303	Modern pit fill	1.50m	1.80m	0.40m
304	304 Natural		4.00m	0.50m
400	Concrete	4.00m	4.00m	0.15m
401	Made ground	4.00m	4.00m	0.24m
402	Modern service trench	5.70m	1.20m	NFE
403	Modern service trench cut	5.70m	1.20m	NFE
404	Natural	4.00m	4.00m	0.60m

## Appendix B – Oasis Form

## OASIS ID: aocarcha1-115803

## **Project details**

Project name Land Adjacent to 62 St Peters Road

of the project

Short description The archaeological investigation involved the machine excavation of three test pits and a single trench. The test pits measured 4.00m x 4.00m whilst the trench measured 12m x 1.80m. The excavation revealed modern concrete overlying madeground overlying the natural gravel and sand horizon. In one test pit the natural was cut by a modern pit which contained modern glass bottles and tarmac. Service trenches and the walled footings of the previous garages were also recorded on site. No signficant archaeological remains were recorded on site.

Project dates Start: 19-12-2011 End: 20-12-2011

Previous/future

Yes / Not known

work

Any associated 32017 - Contracting Unit No.

project reference

codes

associated SPE11 - Sitecode Any

project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites) Current Land use

Monument type PIT Modern

Methods

& 'Sample Trenches', 'Test Pits'

techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Position in the In support of planning application 11/03205/P planning process

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Land Adjacent to 62 St Peters Road

1000.00 Square metres Study area

Site coordinates TQ 32664 64357 51.3622519144 -0.09424333918660 51 21 44 N 000 05 39 W

Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 52.41m Max: 54.13m

## **Project creators**

of AOC Archaeology Group Name

Organisation

Project brief AOC Archaeology Group

originator

Project design AOC Archaeology Group

originator

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of Developer Type

sponsor/funding

body

Name of Jones Lang LaSalle

sponsor/funding

body

## **Project archives**

Physical Archive LAARC

recipient

Digital Archive LAARC

recipient

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'

available

Paper Archive LAARC

recipient

Paper Media 'Context

available sheet', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

## **Project** bibliography 1

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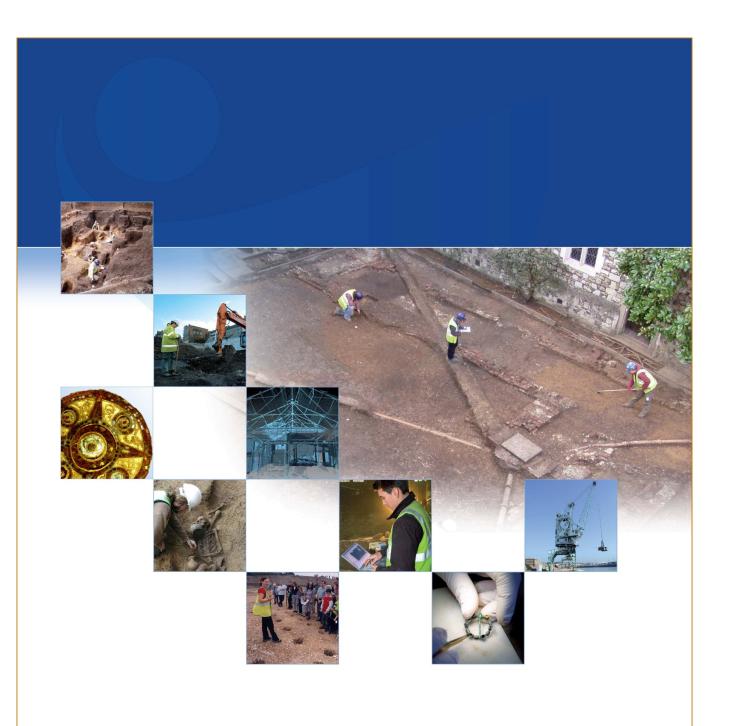
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