

1 ABSTRACT

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between 25th and 28th November 2005 at 12-13 Commerce Way, Croydon on behalf of Canmoor Projects Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development of the site on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation consisted of five machine excavated trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m, and one measuring 10 x 1.8m. A single feature containing sherds of Iron Age pottery was discovered in Trench 2 but its extent was difficult to establish, elucidating little in the way of interpretation. Aside from this there were no features of archaeological significance, and it would appear that the site was left as open land until it was developed after World War II.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located in the London Borough of Croydon and lies approximately 1.5 km to the west of Croydon town centre. The area of proposed development centers on national grid reference (NGR) TQ 3085 6550 (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 The site comprises a rectangular parcel of land, fronting onto Commerce Way to the north and bounded to the east by a retail warehouse and associated car parking. A factory lies to the west, with further retail stores to the south. The proposed development totals an area of c. 0.47ha.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 Croydon lies within a major geological formation called the London Basin (also known as the Thames Basin) formed about 70 million years ago. The basin is a depression in the Cretaceous chalk and its rims are formed by the North Downs and the Chiltern Hills. About 60 million years ago, the chalk was covered by marine sands, gravels and clays (e.g. Thanet Sands and the Woolwich and Reading Beds) and some 5 million years ago the London Clay was formed above. About 3 million years ago, a forerunner of the Thames followed a course some distance to the north of its present course.
- 3.2 The site lies on Second Terrace (formerly Taplow Terrace) gravels of fluvial origin, deposited during the retreat of the last glacial period - the Devensian - c.12,000 BC. In this area the gravels were locally known as the 'Mitcham' terrace and are thought to have been laid down by a predecessor of the River Wandle flowing under periglacial conditions.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The proposed development of the site involves the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of two new buildings. These are to be part single/part two storey units, adjoining each other. The buildings will be multi-functional, with plans to utilise them for business, storage and distribution purposes. There is to be a large car park, providing 30 spaces, with a communal service yard in the centre of the site.
- 4.2 The site lies within an area designated as being of high archaeological potential, identified as Croydon Archaeological Priority Zone 10: Wandle Gravels.
- 4.3 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process, and government guidance stresses the important role that Local Planning Authorities have in safeguarding the archaeological heritage through the development control process. *Planning Policy guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)* sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains on land, and provides

- recommendations, many of which have been integrated into local development plans. The Croydon Unitary Development Plan (1997) states specifically that:
- 4.4 Policy SP6 - *The Council will protect and enhance Croydon's archaeological heritage.*
 - 4.5 Policy AR1 - *An archaeological site evaluation report will be required for development proposals which involve significant ground disturbance in the Archaeological Priority Zones defined on the Proposals Map. Elsewhere, an evaluation report will be required if the Council has good reason to believe that remains of archaeological importance would be affected. The reports should be prepared by professionally qualified and competent archaeologists.*
 - 4.6 Policy AR2 - *The siting and design of development should have regard to the desirability of minimising the disturbance of archaeological remains.*
 - 4.7 In addition the Second Deposit Draft Replacement Unitary Development Plan, (November 2003) states:
 - 4.8 Policy UC14 - *The Council will:*
 - a) *Require applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications where development proposals may affect the archaeological heritage of a site. This may involve preliminary archaeological site evaluations before proposals are determined;*
 - b) *Advise where planning applications should be accompanied by an evaluation within Archaeological Priority Zones as shown on the proposals map. This should be commissioned by the applicants from a professionally qualified archaeological practice or archaeological consultant;*
 - c) *Encourage early co-operation between landowners, developers and archaeological practices, in accordance with the principles of the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.*
 - 4.9 A condition has been imposed on Planning Application Number 05/02635/P (Condition 7) requiring an archaeological evaluation of the site prior to its redevelopment. Accordingly AOC Archaeology was commissioned by Canmoor Projects Ltd to carry out the evaluation.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 There has been no previous archaeological investigation or survey at 12/13 Commerce Way. The archaeological background of the site has been detailed within an Archaeological Assessment (AOC 2001), a summary of which is included below.

Prehistoric (before c. AD 60)

- 5.2 Croydon and its environs, especially in the vicinity of the site, is an area of well-documented prehistoric activity. The earliest indications of extensive prehistoric activity in the area are finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic date (c. 8000 - 2500 BC). It should be noted however, that occasional Palaeolithic finds have been unearthed in the area.
- 5.3 Actual occupation and settlement appears to begin much later according to current evidence; firm evidence suggests such activity commenced in the Late Bronze or Iron Age (c. 900 BC - 43 AD). Archaeological research suggests that while settlement took place at a number of locations, it was most concentrated along the River Wandle Valley; possibly due to the terrace gravels providing conditions well-suited for agricultural activity.
- 5.4 The Valley Park Development Site is the closest excavated site to 12/13 Commerce Way. It is located approximately 500m to the north of the property. Site-work took place in 1989 and was carried out by the Department of Greater London Archaeology of the Museum of London (DGLA). Evidence was found suggesting prehistoric activity dating from the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. More significantly was the presence of linear features apparently connected with pastoral and arable agricultural activity, thought to date from the Late Bronze Age.

Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

- 5.5 Croydon lay on the line of a Roman road, known sometimes as the London-Portslade Way. It has been suggested that it might have followed the line of the present day Brighton and Southbridge Road. Two other routes have also been postulated: one that runs to the west of Haling Park while the other supposes that the road line was much nearer to Purley Way.
- 5.6 Additionally, there are two other areas of evidence for Roman activity in Croydon and its surrounds. The first is the villa complex at Beddington. This is a Scheduled Ancient monument, with evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity. Agricultural activities here are thought to date from the Late Bronze Age. The villa seems to have been built during the mid to late 2nd Century AD, with ancillary structures being added later. Other features on the site, such as various pits and ditches, date to the mid 1st or early 2nd century. It is thought that the villa was linked to both the London-Portslade Roman road and also to the Roman settlement at Croydon.

Saxon & Medieval (c. 450 - 1066 and c. 1066 - 1485 respectively)

- 5.7 Place name and documentary evidence firmly gives Croydon a Saxon origin - the earliest reference is in 809 AD. Additionally there have been a number of notable finds in the area. At the end of the 19th century, a major Saxon cemetery was discovered near Edridge Road, southeast of the Old Town. In 1992 the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) recorded a number of cremations and inhumations at 81-86 Park Lane, Croydon. Despite all this, there is no definite evidence of an actual settlement. It is thought that any settlement activity would have been centred on the Old Town and occasional finds have been made in this area.
- 5.8 By the time of the Norman invasion and subsequent conquest, the town was firmly established. The Domesday book states that, in 1086, the Manor of Croydon was held by Archbishop Lanfranc. A residence for the Archbishop of Canterbury was constructed in the town and is thought to date from the late eleventh or early twelfth century. As a result of the residence of the Archbishop, Croydon became quite well documented. By 1280 AD a weekly market and an annual fair had both been established and were expanded twice in 1314 and 1343. The settlement remained relatively small, only expanding beyond the Old Town by the later medieval period.

Post Medieval (c. 1485 - modern)

- 5.9 Croydon was a well-established market town by the end of the sixteenth century. Its proximity to London and involvement in the charcoal burning and corn trades increased its importance throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Despite this, the town expanded only gradually until halfway through the eighteenth century. Then expansion in trade, coupled with Croydon's position between London and the south coast, prompted more rapid growth, especially after the construction of the London-Brighton road and the railways. For the most part it was only after these events that the areas surrounding the town began to be developed.

Twentieth Century

- 5.10 The Ordnance Survey maps of 1894-6 and 1933 show that the site remained undeveloped in to the twentieth century. In fact the site was not built upon until after World War II. The Ordnance Survey map of 1955 reveals the first construction upon the site in the form of two buildings adjoined to each other, covering most of the site. The building on the west of the site was called Ford House and is detailed as being utilised for confectionary. The building on the eastern side of the site was a ribbon factory. There are small areas of hard standing around these buildings within the confines of the proposed development site. The same buildings remain upon the site, as can be seen on the Croydon Planning Department map of 1975 and their purposes remain the same.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 The general aims of the investigation are:

- The primary aim of the evaluation is to make a detailed record of the archaeological and environmental potential within the site.
- The evaluation will seek to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological remains by characterising the date, nature and significance of such archaeological structures, features and deposits as may be found, and the artefacts and ecofacts which may be contained within or associated with them, along with the impact which development will have upon them
- The evaluation will enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

6.2 The specific objectives of the work are to:

- Establish whether any evidence of prehistoric agricultural activity survives on the site.
- Establish whether there is evidence of the Roman road or associated settlement on the site.
- Establish whether any evidence of the establishment of Saxon Croydon exists on the site.
- Establish whether any evidence of the expansion of Croydon in the Medieval and post-medieval periods exists on the site.

6.3 The final aim will be to make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The evaluation consisted of 5 n^o evaluation trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m at base and 1 n^o trench measuring 10m x 1.8m at base (Figure 2). This figure represents 5% of the proposed development area. A contingency for excavation of an additional trench has been allowed and will only be implemented through consultation with the local authority's archaeological advisor. The evaluation trenches were located, as far as possible, within the footprint of the new building and associated services in order to assess the impact of the proposed development.

7.2 Trenches 2, 5 and 6 were relocated for varying reasons. Trench 6 was moved 16.50m further east because of the positioning of a sizeable mound of crushed brick hardcore which was being prepared as a piling mat. Trench 5 was displaced

- 14.50m to the west of its original position partly to avoid the stockpile of crush, and equally to avoid an area of extensive deep truncations. Trench 2 was repositioned perpendicular to its preferred alignment and shifted 18.50m south to prevent problems with site access.
- 7.3 Trench positions were accurately surveyed and related to the National Grid.
 - 7.4 All overburden was removed down to the top of the first recognizable archaeological horizon, using a tracked excavator, with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.
 - 7.5 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist.
 - 7.6 Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
 - 7.7 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of all trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Areas where definite or possible archaeological features were observed were hand cleaned.
 - 7.8 All investigation of archaeological horizons was by hand, with cleaning, inspection, and recording in plan.
 - 7.9 A minimum number of features, within each significant archaeological horizon, required to meet the aims were hand excavated.
 - 7.10 No deposits were entirely removed. As the objective was to define remains it was not necessary for all trenches to be fully excavated to natural stratigraphy. However the full depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site was assessed. Even in the case where no remains were located the stratigraphy of all evaluation trenches was recorded.
 - 7.11 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*.
 - 7.12 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
 - 7.13 Two TBM's were provided by an on-site surveyor and had values of 39.38mOD and 38.72mOD respectively.
 - 7.14 The evaluation work was undertaken by the author under the overall project management of Mark Beasley for AOC Archaeology.

8 RESULTS

Summary

The following section briefly outlines each of the trenches excavated and the deposits recorded. In most of the trenches it was found that the phases of deposition were generally similar; natural terrace gravels overlain by a reddish mid brown slightly clayey sand, which was interpreted as a subsoil. The upper levels of stratigraphy were dominated by intrusions resulting from construction and demolition activities in the 20th Century.

8.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2 & 3)

Sample section: 0.00m = 38.82mOD

0.00-0.20m	(1/001). Modern dumped layer including loose tarmac and crushed brick.
0.20-0.60m	(1/002). Soft, reddish mid-brown, slightly clayey sand with moderate pebble inclusions. Subsoil.
0.60-0.90m NFE	(1/003). Loose yellow sandy gravel. Frequent large nodules of flint and occasional lenses of 'shingle'. Natural.

8.2 Trench 1 was located in the northwestern corner of the site on an east-west orientation.

8.3 Natural gravels (1/003) were recorded at a maximum height of 37.92mOD at the eastern end of the trench. They were sealed by a layer of reddish mid-brown clayey sand subsoil (1/002) which had an average thickness of 0.40m, and was found only at the easternmost extremity of the trench. These contexts illustrate the naturally deposited stratigraphy within Trench 1.

8.4 Sealing (1/002) was a layer of recently deposited made ground (1/001) consisting of crushed brick and concrete, pieces of metal and asphalt. This was on average 0.20m thick.

8.5 No *in situ* archaeological remains were observed in this trench.

8.6 Trench 2 (Fig. 2 & 3)

Sample section: 0.00m = 39.46mOD

0.00-0.40m	(2/001). Crushed brick hardcore.
0.40-0.55m	(2/002). Dark grey sandy silty clay. Buried soil.
0.55-0.69m	(2/004). Soft, reddish mid-brown, slightly clayey sand with moderate pebble inclusions. Subsoil.

0.69-1.06m NFE (2/005). Loose yellow sandy gravel. Frequent large nodules of flint and occasional lenses of 'shingle'. Natural.

8.7 Trench 2 was located in the middle of the site on an east-west orientation.

8.8 The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 2 were natural gravels (2/005), recorded at a maximum height of 38.77mOD at the western end of the trench. At the western end of the trench was a small lens of dark greyish brown soil (2/006) (Fig. 3) which was very similar in consistency to the subsoil, but not quite as sandy. Concealed within the deposit were some large sherds of late prehistoric pottery in very good condition, indicating that the soil is unlikely to have been disturbed by ploughing. The presence of them in close proximity to each other in such a small area – approximately 2m x 0.20m deep - also suggests something other than accidental accumulation. A sondage was excavated through the deposit to find an edge, but it proved impossible to locate. It is therefore possible that (2/006) is decomposed plant matter and/or has simply accrued within a natural hollow.

Despite difficulties establishing the actual extent of (2/006), the trench section indicates that it is sealed by subsoil (2/004) 0.14m thick. This in turn is overlain by (2/002), a dark grey sandy loam 0.15m thick and interpreted as buried topsoil. From the top of the buried soil a large feature [2/003] was cut through which contained modern demolition rubble likely to have been dumped after a grubbing-out exercise. The trench was sealed by a layer of crushed brick hardcore 0.40m thick.

8.9 **Trench 3** (Fig. 2 & 3)

Sample section: 0.00m = 39.41mOD

0.00-0.20m	(3/001). Crushed brick hardcore.
0.20-0.45m	(3/004). Modern dumped layer including loose tarmac and crushed brick.
0.45-0.73m	(3/005). Soft, reddish mid-brown, slightly clayey sand with moderate pebble inclusions. Subsoil.
0.73-1.17m NFE	(3/006). Loose yellow sandy gravel. Frequent large nodules of flint and occasional lenses of 'shingle'. Natural.

8.10 Trench 3 was located in the northeastern corner of the site on an east-west orientation.

8.11 The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 3 were natural gravels (3/006), recorded at a maximum height of 38.68mOD at the eastern end of the trench. Sealing the natural gravels was a layer of reddish mid-brown clayey sand subsoil

(3/005) which had an average thickness of 0.28m, and was found only towards the western end of the trench. These contexts illustrate the naturally deposited stratigraphy within Trench 1.

- 8.12 Halfway along the trench the subsoil was cut a large linear modern feature [3/002] which was filled with loose dark silt and modern bricks. It thought that this may be the remains of a drain destroyed during recent leveling of the site. The subsoil is also cut at the eastern end of the trench by a very recent feature [3/003] which contains frequent modern inclusions including bricks, concrete and plastic.
- 8.13 A layer of made ground (3/004) similar to that found in Trench 1 overlay the subsoil, sealing the modern features. It is 0.25m thick. Sealing that was a 0.20m thick hardcore of crushed brick and concrete (3/001) which had been laid down as a piling mat.

- 8.14 No *in situ* archaeological remains were observed in this trench.

8.15 **Trench 4** (Fig 2)

Sample section: 0.00m = 38.89mOD

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 0.00-1.10m | (4/002). Modern dumped layer including loose tarmac and crushed brick. |
| 1.10-1.14m NFE | (4/004). Loose yellow sandy gravel. Frequent large nodules of flint and occasional lenses of 'shingle'. Natural. |

- 8.16 Trench 4 was located in the southeastern corner of the site adjacent to Trench 5 on an east-west orientation.
- 8.17 Natural gravels (4/004) were recorded at a maximum height of 37.79mOD at the eastern end of the trench.
- 8.18 Two modern features truncated the natural deposits in this trench. [4/003] was a linear feature with a return and was filled with crushed concrete and aggregate. It is thought to represent part of the foundations of a recent building. [4/001] is a large pit 4.70m by 1.10m which extends into Trench 5. It's fill is a mix of modern demolition rubble and re-deposited subsoil. Both these features are likely to have been created during the demolition and grubbing-out of buildings which previously occupied the site.
- 8.19 Sealing the trench was a layer of recently deposited made ground (4/002) similar in composition to (1/001) and around 1.10m thick.
- 8.20 Neither subsoil, nor *in situ* archaeological remains were observed in this trench.

8.21 **Trench 5** (Fig. 2)

Sample section: 0.00m = 38.90mOD

0.00-0.25m	(5/001). Crushed brick hardcore.
0.25-0.40m	(5/002). Modern deposit including loose tarmac and crushed brick.
0.40-0.70m	(5/003). Soft, reddish mid-brown, slightly clayey sand with moderate pebble inclusions. Subsoil.
0.70-1.07m NFE	(5/005). Loose yellow sandy gravel. Frequent large nodules of flint and occasional lenses of 'shingle'. Natural.

8.22 Trench 5 was located in the southwestern corner of the site adjacent to Trench 4 on a north-south orientation.

8.23 The earliest deposits encountered in Trench 5 were natural gravels (5/005), recorded at a maximum height of 38.20mOD at the northern end of the trench. Sealing the natural gravels was a layer of reddish mid-brown clayey sand subsoil (5/003) which had an average thickness of 0.30m. (5/003) was visible only over a 2m area, 9.50m from the southern limit of excavation. This was probably due to horizontal truncation as a result of groundworks.

8.24 The southernmost 5 metres of the trench had been heavily truncated by modern activity as a consequence of recent demolition and grubbing-out. This was illustrated by a series of inter-cutting pits filled with rubble, and has been collectively recorded as [5/004].

8.25 A 0.15m thick layer of modern made ground overlay the subsoil and this in turn was sealed by 0.25m of crushed brick hardcore.

8.26 No *in situ* archaeological remains were observed in this trench.

8.27 **Trench 6** (Fig 2)

Sample section: 0.00m = 39.38mOD

0.00-0.35m	(6/001). Crushed brick hardcore.
0.35-0.65m	(6/002). Modern deposit including loose tarmac and crushed brick.
0.65-0.85m NFE	(6/003). Loose yellow sandy gravel. Frequent large nodules of flint and occasional lenses of 'shingle'. Natural.

- 8.28 Trench 6 was located in the southeastern corner of the site on a north-south orientation.
- 8.29 Natural gravels (6/003) were recorded at a maximum height of 38.74mOD at the northern end of the trench. These deposits were truncated by modern drains [6/004] and [6/005].
- 8.30 Sealing the drains and the natural was a layer of recently deposited made ground (6/002) which was a well-compacted greeny brown loam with frequent modern inclusions.
- 8.31 Neither subsoil, nor *in situ* archaeological remains were observed in this trench.

9 FINDS

- 9.1 A number of sherds of late prehistoric pottery were retained from deposit (2/006) in Trench 2. These are currently being analysed and are thought to be of Iron Age or Romano-British origin.

10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Trench 2 revealed a deposit (2/006) containing a significant amount of pottery which is likely to date to the Iron Age. The true nature of the feature, and therefore interpretation, was difficult to determine, partly due to the feature itself and partly due to evaluation methodology allowing for only limited excavation.
- 10.2 Other than deposit (2/006), no archaeology dating to before the 20th century was recorded on the site. The general lack of archaeological features or stratigraphy in the evaluation trenches suggests that the site was open marshland until the post-war period. The marshy nature of this part of Croydon in the past may also account for the lack of any archaeological activity.
- 10.3 The map regression in the Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2001) supports these observations. The site is shown as undeveloped until the appearance of two buildings - one on the east of the site and one on the west - on the 1955 Ordnance Survey map.
- 10.4 The impact on the archaeology of the proposed development will be limited to each end of the site and not the middle, where only service trenches will run. Due to the dearth of archaeological evidence in the trenches around the periphery, and the limited nature of the proposed work, further archaeological mitigation is only recommended within the vicinity of Trenches 1, 2 and 3 where the subsoil (Fig. 3), and therefore possible archaeological evidence, may be present.
- 10.5 The final decision regarding any further work will rest with the London Planning Authority archaeological advisor Mark Stevenson.
- 10.6 Publication of the results will be through ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary submitted to the London Archaeologist fieldwork round-up. No further analysis or reporting is considered necessary.

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Figure 1 – Site Location

Figure 2 – Trench Locations

Figure 3 – Location of Subsoil

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
[1/001]	Very recent made ground	Trench	Trench	0.20m
[1/002]	Dark slightly reddish brown sandy loam w/ occasional pebbles. Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30m
[1/003]	Loose yellow sandy gravel with frequent large nodules of flint	Trench	Trench	NFE
[2/001]	Crushed brick hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.40m
[2/002]	Dark grey sandy silty clay. Buried soil	Trench	Trench	0.15m
[2/003]	Backfilled modern trench	Trench	Trench	NFE
[2/004]	Dark slightly reddish brown sandy loam w/ occasional pebbles. Subsoil	2.20m	Trench	NFE
[2/005]	Loose yellow sandy gravel with frequent large nodules of flint	Trench	Trench	NFE
[2/006]	Dark greyish brown silt w/ gravel, flint and pottery	2m	Trench	0.20m
[3/001]	Crushed brick hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.20m
[3/002]	Feature filled w/ dark loose silt and modern bricks	2m	Trench	0.60m
[3/003]	Feature filled w/ plasticky dark silt and frequent modern inclusions:	4.20m	Trench	0.80m
[3/004]	Well compacted greeny brown loam w/ modern inclusions	Trench	Trench	0.25m
[3/005]	Dark slightly reddish brown sandy loam w/ occasional pebbles	Trench	Trench	0.28m
[3/006]	Loose yellow sandy gravel with frequent large nodules of flint	Trench	Trench	NFE
[4/001]	Mixed grey brown silt w/ orange and yellow gravel. Concrete and brick. Pit	4.70m	Trench	1.10m
[4/002]	Very recent made ground	Trench	Trench	1.10m
[4/003]	Yellowish grey crushed concrete and aggregate. Foundation trench	Trench	Trench	NFE
[4/004]	Loose yellow sandy gravel with frequent large nodules of flint	Trench	Trench	NFE
[5/001]	Crushed brick hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.25m
[5/002]	Very recent made ground	2m	Trench	0.15m
[5/003]	Dark slightly reddish brown sandy loam w/ occasional pebbles	12m	Trench	0.30m
[5/004]	Modern truncations	6m	Trench	0.80m
[5/005]	Loose yellow sandy gravel with freq large nodules of flint	Trench	Trench	NFE
[6/001]	Crushed brick hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.35m
[6/002]	Well compacted greeny brown loam w/ modern inclusions	Trench	Trench	0.30m
[6/003]	Loose yellow sandy gravel with frequent large nodules of flint	Trench	Trench	NFE
[6/004]	Modern drain	4m	Trench	NFE
[6/005]	Modern drain	0.80m	Trench	NFE

APPENDIX C - THE STRUCK FLINT FROM 12-13 COMMERCE WAY, CROYDON

Tony Grey

Introduction

Thirteen pieces of struck and worked flint were recovered from the fill of a truncated linear feature representing a possible boundary ditch (Context 7/011) and from a truncated sub-rectangular feature (Context 7/013) cut into the natural gravels. This material was analysed and identified using standard methods in use by MoLSS and the results are tabulated in Table 1 below.

Quantification and identification

Table 1: Quantification of flint by type and context

Context	Flakes	Blades	Cores	Retouched	Total	Comments
7/011A	1			1	2	Chip; notched flake
7/011B	1	1		1	3	Blade poss. utilised as end scraper; double-sided/nosed end scraper on core tablet; flake
7/011C	3			2	5	Poss. nosed end scraper; side/end scraper/knife; 3 flakes
7/013			1	2	3	Flake core; knife on blade-like flake; retouched broken flake
Total	5	1	1	6	13	

The debitage included five flakes, one blade and one flake core that had been fully utilised with one platform extant. The worked pieces included a notched piece (by retouch) from Context 7/011A, a small broken flake with some crude retouch possibly intended as a thumbnail scraper from Context 7/013, a small and corticated slightly retouched flake possibly serving as a nosed end scraper from Context 7/011C and a curved keeled blade that was probably utilised as an end scraper from Context 7/011B. A core tablet flake with truncated blade scars was modified by retouch (some inverse) to produce a double-sided and nosed end scraper from Context 7/011A, a corticated flake from Context 7/011C was retouched to produce a shouldered side and nosed end scraper/knife and a blade-like flake with cortex from Context 7/013 was retouched down one side to form a backed knife (the backing provided by a single removal down the opposing side).

Discussion

The flint is of variable colour and quality ranging from black to mottled grey. Three items have a flat corticated side with a thin brown cortex suggesting derivation from pieces of tabular flint. The raw material included river gravel.

The material is probably residual within the later fill of the truncated features mentioned above that may be Iron Age in date on the basis of Iron Age pottery sherds recovered during the initial evaluation.

The worked/retouched pieces suggest cutting and scraping for food preparation or the treatment of hides though no heavy-duty scrapers are present.

The technology is variable with some being fairly crude and of an *ad hoc* nature. For this small assemblage a Bronze Age date is suggested with the material perhaps representing more than one episode of production and use.

Addendum

A small number of burnt flint pieces and flint flakes were retrieved from the residues of bulk samples floated for environmental material.

Three pieces of burnt flint weighing 48g were retrieved from a 20 litre sample of Context (7/011)A. Three pieces of burnt flint weighing 85g were retrieved from a 20 litre sample of Context (7/011)B.

Five flint flakes were retrieved from a 20 litre sample of Context (7/011)B: one scraper measuring 45mm x 33mm x 12mm, one piece from a blade measuring 24mm x 10mm x 3mm, and three undiagnostic pieces.

Bibliography

AOC Archaeology 2005 *An Archaeological Evaluation at 12-13 Commerce Way, Croydon, Interim Report*.

Inizan, M, Roche, H and Tixier, J 1992 *Technology of Knapped Stone*, CREP Meudon, France