



81 Park Lane, London Borough of Croydon, Greater London

Archaeological Watching Brief and Strip, Map & Record Report





**81 PARK LANE,
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON,
GREATER LONDON**

**Archaeological Watching Brief and Strip, Map and Record
Report**

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	75230	ACCESSION CODE	PAI10	CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	10/01708/DT	NGR	532599, 165101		

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* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to carry out a programme of archaeological work at 81 Park Lane, Croydon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 532599, 165101. The archaeological work was required as a condition of planning consent which proposed the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a replacement 3 storey residence.

The Site is located in an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map which places it in a landscape of known archaeology dating from the Palaeolithic to the post-medieval period. The Site had moderate potential for both prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon remains due in part, to its proximity to a large cemetery dating from the 5th-7th centuries located across the road at 82-90 Park Lane. The work at 82-90 Park Lane identified what was considered to be the eastern limit to the cemetery, however, isolated Anglo-Saxon burials beyond the cemetery limits were a possibility.

Map regression for the site showed that from 1768 to 1897 the area was open farmland, and between 1897 and 1913 a large detached building was constructed, which has been recently demolished as part of this proposal.

The fieldwork comprised the archaeological monitoring during removal of the footings and basement of the former building under watching brief conditions and an archaeological strip, map and record investigation within the remainder of the proposed building footprint.

The watching brief has demonstrated that the construction of the former building in the late 19th or early 20th century had greatly impacted upon the underlying deposits and penetrated the natural geology by some 2m. No archaeological features were observed in the watching brief or the strip, map and record area and no finds were recovered during the fieldwork.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited and Wessex Archaeology is grateful for the help and support of Richard Meager of CgMs. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mark Stevenson, Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) Archaeologist who monitored the project on behalf of the Local Authority. The assistance on site of the Site Manager, Dustin Wingrove, Neville Homes UK Limited during the course of this project is also gratefully acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Thompson who also compiled this report. Report illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James.

This project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to carry out a programme of archaeological work in respect of development proposals at 81 Park Lane, Croydon, (centred on NGR 532599, 165101) hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The programme of archaeological work was required as a condition of planning consent (Planning Reference 10/01708/DT) which comprised the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a replacement 3-storey residence.

1.1.3 Following an archaeological Desk-based Assessment of the Site (CgMs Consulting LTD 2010a) the Archaeological Advisor for the GLAAS recommended that a programme of archaeological work comprising a watching brief and strip, map and record be undertaken.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined in the Borough's Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map at the junction of Park Lane and Woodstock Road at a height of approximately 59.1m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.2 The underlying natural geology is Palaeocene Thanet Sands, defined as 'silty, fine grained sand which tends to be clayey and more silty in the lower part' (BGS 1996: 97).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the Site has been described in detail in the Desk-based Assessment (CgMs Consulting 2010a) and is summarised below.

1.3.2 The Site was considered to have varying potential ranging from low to moderate for the recovery of archaeological deposits dating from the Prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon periods.

1.3.3 The 500m radial Study Area identified sites and find spots dating from the Palaeolithic (450,000-12,000BC) to the post-medieval (AD1486-1749) period.

- 1.3.4 To the west of the Site at 82-90 Park Lane, a 5th-7th century AD Anglo-Saxon cemetery comprising 250-300 burials was identified. The eastern limit of the cemetery was confirmed during the excavations and further burials to the east were deemed 'unlikely' (McKinley 2003, 104). The absence of further burials was supported by the lack of remains observed during works at 1 Woodstock Road, immediately east of the Site.
- 1.3.5 Analysis of the cartographic evidence indicates that the Site was open farmland until the construction of the building between 1897 and 1913 (recently demolished).

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

- 1.4.1 No previous archaeological works have taken place on the Site. A geotechnical investigation identified up to 1.80m of made ground sealing the natural geological deposits.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2010b) and provided details of the research aims and methods by which the programme of works would be achieved. A brief summary is provided below.
- 2.1.2 The objective of the work was to examine the archaeological resource on the Site within a framework of defined aims, to seek a better understanding of that resource, to analyse the findings/record and then to disseminate the results of the work.
- 2.1.3 The following issues were to be addressed:
- What is the natural topographic configuration of the Site?
 - Is there evidence for Prehistoric occupation on the Site?
 - Is there evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity at the Site?
 - What is the nature of the medieval and post-medieval activity on the Site?

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The WSI set out a programme of archaeological works comprising two separate approaches;
- an archaeological watching brief and recording exercise to be carried out during the ground reduction within the footprint of the existing building, once it had been demolished.
 - an archaeological strip, map and record exercise for the area where the proposed development extended beyond the existing house footprint.
- 3.1.2 All machine excavation was under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains or at natural geology, whichever was encountered first. When machine excavation had

ceased the areas were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. The areas monitored were surveyed using a Leica GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.1.4 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 3.1.5 At the completion of the work, all areas were reinstated using the excavated material.
- 3.1.6 The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.2 Copyright

- 3.2.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of the excavated sequence are retained in the archive. The descriptions of the individual contexts can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Watching Brief

- 4.2.1 The construction of the former building had clearly had a substantial negative impact on the underlying deposits. Removal of the footings and basement of the former building footprint under watching brief conditions revealed the natural geology at a depth of 0.70m in section below the present ground surface (approximately 58.30m aOD), however, excavation for the basement continued to a depth of approximately 2m.
- 4.2.2 Due to the unsafe depth of the basement footings and unstable trench edges this area was not entered for further investigation; however no archaeological remains or features were noted in section cutting the natural geology.

- 4.2.3 The area of the previous building was backfilled and made safe before the area of strip, map and record investigation was excavated.

4.3 Strip, Map and Record

Methodology

- 4.3.1 Due to the constraints of a small site and other non-intrusive site works (such as the erection of fences, cleaning of brick work for re-use etc.), the strip, map and record investigation was completed in four separate stages, to allow adequate provision for spoil storage on the Site.
- 4.3.2 Machine excavation was undertaken along each of the four sides of the former building in individual strips under constant archaeological supervision. Following the investigation and recording of each strip, the area was backfilled prior to the excavation of the next area.
- 4.3.3 An additional area was stripped to the south of the footprint of the proposed building to investigate the location where the service trenches will enter the Site.
- 4.3.4 An area totalling approximately 175m² was machine excavated around the now demolished building.

Results

- 4.3.5 The first machine excavated strip was positioned along the eastern side the building and revealed a 0.70m layer of modern made ground, containing brick and tile, concrete and plastic recorded as **(101)**. This lay directly over the natural geology; a mid orange brown compact sandy silt with common sub-rounded and rounded flints, with patches of light yellow sand recorded as **(102)**. A sondage was machine excavated to a depth of 1.20m through this deposit which was sterile with no finds and was confirmed as the natural basal geology. The geology was encountered at 58.60m aOD.
- 4.3.6 The remaining three strips and the additional area for the line of the service trenches all revealed the natural geology at between 0.70m and 0.80m below the current ground surface at between 58.35m aOD and 58.65m aOD.
- 4.3.7 The southernmost strip revealed a layer of modern made ground **(101)**, 0.40m thick overlying a dark yellow brown silty loam layer **(103)**, which was markedly different to the overlying material and underlying geology **(102)**. Layer **(103)** was interpreted as the original ground surface present prior to the construction of the recently demolished building, when the Site was open farmland.
- 4.3.8 No archaeological features or deposits were observed on Site.
- 4.3.9 Only finds of clearly modern date were recovered during this programme of works and were not retained.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 The archaeological investigation at 81 Park Lane Croydon has confirmed that no archaeological remains are present within the footprint of the proposed building. The construction of the former building between 1897

and 1913 has clearly had a detrimental effect on any archaeological remains present, however, the absence of any finds within the disturbed soils suggests the Site was not positioned within an area of intensive occupied.

- 5.1.2 Given no features were recorded during the strip, map and record element of this project, which did identify a probable buried land surface in one area of the Site, one can infer that it is unlikely the previous development on the Site will have disturbed significant archaeological deposits and that little or no archaeology is present within the area of the proposed development.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in MORPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment) 2006 and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). The archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 75230. In due course the archive will be relocated to London Museum under accession no PA110.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1996, London and the Thames Valley 4th Edition

CgMs Consulting Limited, 2010a Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, 81 Park Lane Croydon CR0 1JG.

CgMs Consulting Limited, 2010b Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Observation and Recording at 81 Park Lane Croydon CR0 1JG.

McKinley et al 2003, *The Early Saxon cemetery at Park Lane Croydon* in Surrey Archaeological Collections Volume 90

8 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

bgl = below ground level

CBM= ceramic building material

Strip, Map and Record		Dimensions: 19.2m x 17.1 (Area = 175m ²)	Max Depth: 1.20m	Ground Surface: 59.30m aOD
Context	Description			Depth (bgl)
101	Modern overburden	Very mixed and mottled deposit of mid grey brown sandy loam and light yellow sandy silt with common fragments of CBM, concrete and plastic. Modern overburden. Mix of material associated with the occupation and life of the building at 81 Park Lane and material from its recent demolition.		0-0.70m
102	Natural	Compact sandy silt with common sub rounded and rounded flints, indicating water borne deposition of material, interspersed with lens of light yellow stone free sand. Natural basal geology.		0.70m+
103	Layer	Possible buried ground surface or old subsoil layer, dark yellow brown silty loam, only revealed towards the southern limit of the Site. Outside the footprint of the demolished building this material survived from the original construction of the later 19 th – early 20th century to be sealed by layers during the lifetime of the building.		0.40-0.70m

9 APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

9.1 OASIS ID: wessexar1-80327

Project details

Project name 81 Park Lane, London Borough of Croydon, Greater London

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited to carry out a programme of archaeological work at 81 Park Lane, Croydon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 532599, 165101. The archaeological work was required as a condition of planning consent which proposed the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a replacement 3 storey residence. The fieldwork comprised the archaeological monitoring during removal of the footings and basement of the former building under watching brief conditions and an archaeological strip, map and record investigation within the remainder of the proposed building footprint. The watching brief has demonstrated that the construction of the former building in the late 19th or early 20th century had greatly impacted upon the underlying deposits and penetrated the natural geology by some 2m. No archaeological features were observed in the watching brief or the strip, map and record area and no finds were recovered during the fieldwork.

Project dates Start: 15-07-2010 End: 30-07-2010

Previous/future work No / No

Any project codes associated reference 75230 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference PAI10 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 81 Park Lane

Postcode CR0 1JG

Study area 520.83 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 326 651 51.3689447698 -0.09488500841150 51 22 08 N 000 05 41 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 58.30m Max: 59.10m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Consultant
originator

Project design CgMs
originator

Project Sue Farr
director/manager

Project supervisor S Thompson

Type of Consultant
sponsor/funding
body

Name of CGMS Consulting Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Museum of London
recipient

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media 'Database','Survey','Text'
available

Paper Archive Museum of London
recipient

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media 'Context
available sheet','Drawing','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey',

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 81 Park Lane, London Borough of Croydon, Greater London

Author(s)/Editor(s) Thompson, S

Other bibliographic details 75230.03

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher or Wessex Archaeology


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Description Grey literature client report

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Site location

Figure 1



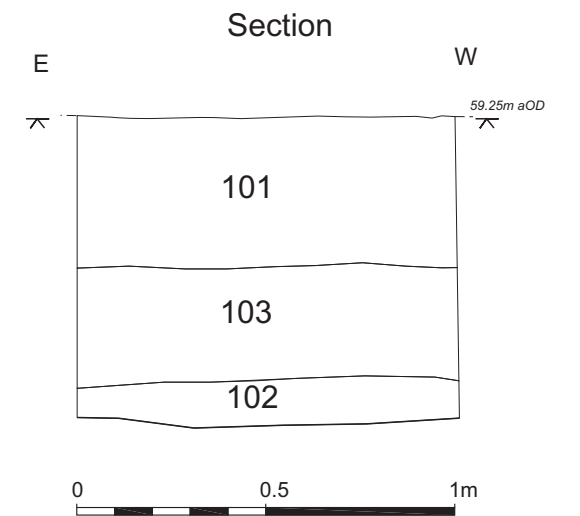
Plate 1: Area stripped for services, viewed from the south



Plate 2: Southern strip, viewed from the east



Plate 3: Southern strip section, viewed from the north



- Site outline
- Watching Brief area
- Strip, Map & Record area
- Sondage

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Scale:	1:500 & section@1:20	Illustrator:	SEJ
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