

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

on

Land adjacent to 15 Tamworth Place,

Croydon, CR0 1RL.

MLZ 11: (TQ 320 656)

for

Oakwhite Limited



Fig. 1 John Rocque: Map of Surrey (1746)



Dir. **JEFFREY G. PERRY: BA(Hons), MIFA.**

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London Borough of Croydon

MLZ 11: (TQ 320 656)

by

J G PERRY: February 2011

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological an evaluation at land adj to 15 Tamworth Place, Croydon, CR0 1RL on 9th May 2011.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in the London Borough of Croydon's Unitary Development Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the research design indicated that there was Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

One trench was excavated across the site revealing tarmac, made ground, sub-soil and the natural sand and gravel. No archaeology of any period was found other than 19th to 20th century.

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development did not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage.

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Introduction

This report concerns the proposed development at Land Adjacent to 15 Tamworth Place, Croydon, CR0 1RL.

Oakwhite Limited (the developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological evaluation and any resulting archaeological work that may be necessary.

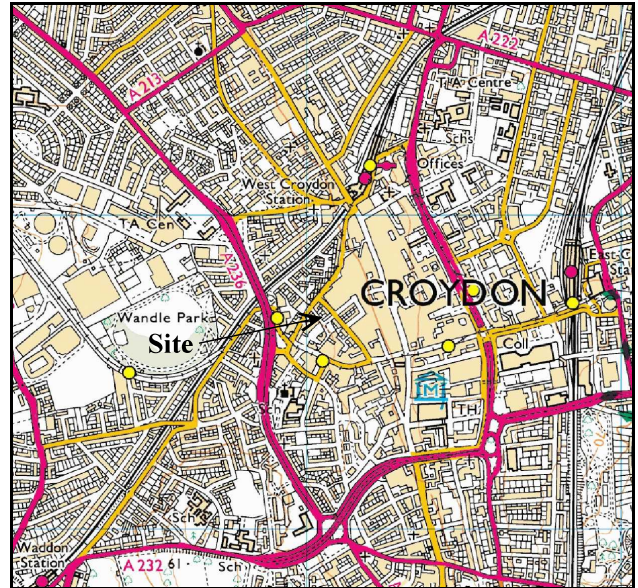


Fig. 2 Site Location © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Croydon, to the south-west of the Central Shopping Centre. Tamworth Road lies to the west with Church Street to the south and east. The site lies on the north side of Tamworth Place close to its' junction with Drummond Road.

Topography: The site lies in a mixed area of Residential and commercial properties, with the ground sloping from the north-east to the south-west. The site lies at a height of about *c.* 44m aOD.

Geology: The basic geology of the area consists of gravel overlying clay.

Planning background

The site is a vacant piece of land adjacent to 15 Tamworth Place. Planning permission has been received to two, 2 bedroomed semi-detached building.

The London Borough of Croydon approved planning permission for the proposed development and included an archaeological condition under PPS 5¹ in planning approval 10/02807/P dated 29th October 2010:

- 1. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation*

¹ Department for Communities and Local Government: *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, TSO, 2010.

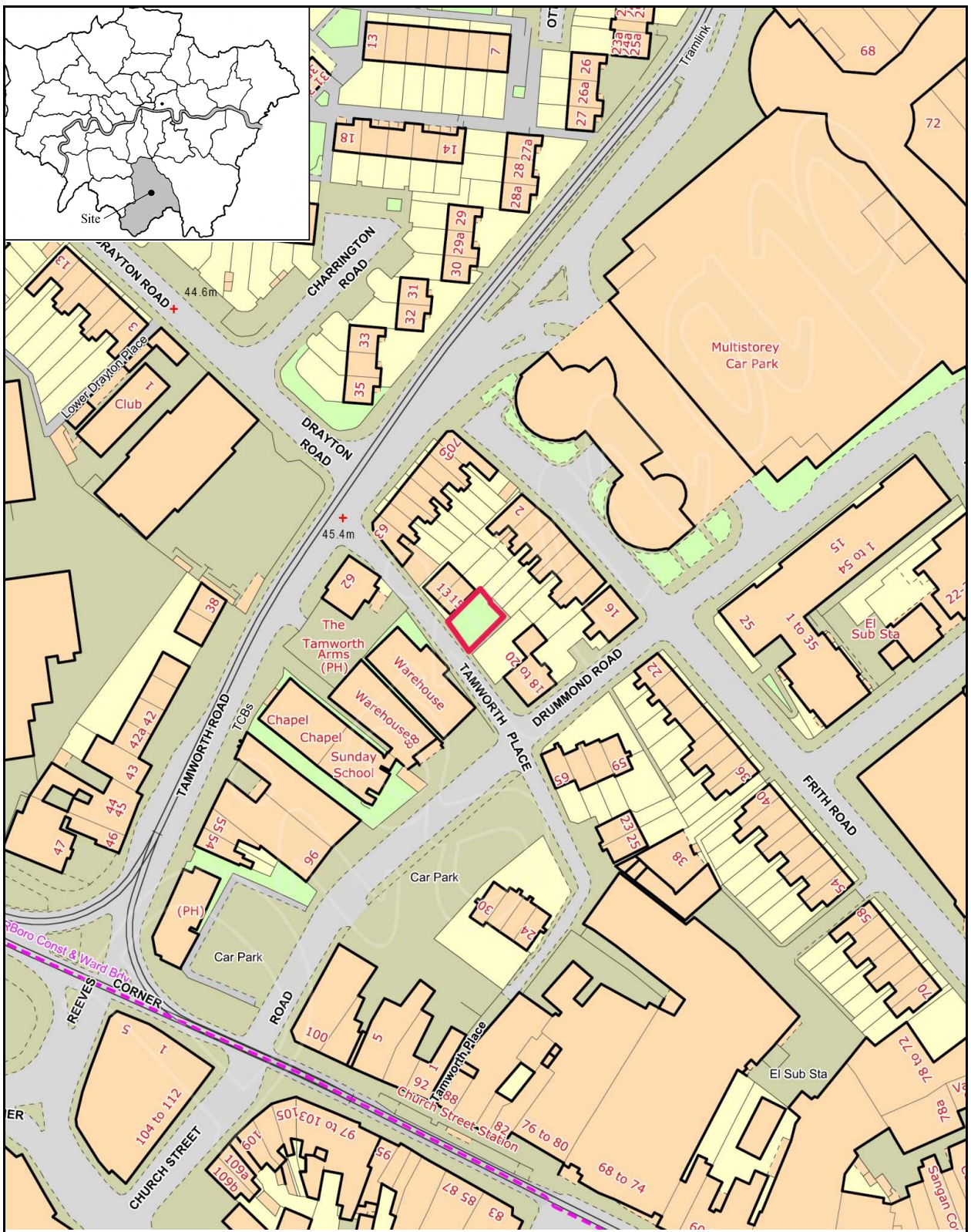


Fig. 3

Site location plan

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which shall be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be in the form of an archaeological project design, in accordance with appropriate English Heritage guidelines. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitable qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Archaeological discussion

There was no detailed evidence for Prehistoric settlement in the Croydon area, though numerous finds of flints, metal work and pottery had been made over a wide area. A Roman settlement is known in Croydon as well a 5th-6th century Saxon cemetery and numerous Saxon finds, but there is no evidence as yet for the location of a Saxon settlement. Croydon is known from the Domesday survey and it prospered through the Medieval period, particularly with the founding of a Bishops Palace in the 14th century. In the Post-Medieval period Croydon continued to prosper and in the 17th and 18th centuries it was an important centre for the corn trade.

Prehistoric: There are a few finds from the Palaeolithic period (pre-10,000 years BC), but it is in the Mesolithic (10,000 - c. 4,500 BC) and Neolithic (c. 4,500 - c. 2000 BC) that more numerous finds suggest the possibility of more activity and even of settlement. These finds consist of flint artefacts, blades, scrapers and flakes. An evaluation at the Mayday hospital found fragments of pottery and struck flint²

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Prehistoric archaeology and activity on-site.

Roman: It is almost certain that there is a Roman settlement in Croydon, situated around the George Street, High Street and Surrey Street area, with a cemetery around the Edridge Road and Park Lane area. No definable structures have been found, though quantities of brick and tile suggest timber buildings, if not stone ones. These sites are all to the east of the site. Croydon lies on the line of one and several suspected Roman Roads and there is a wide scatter of finds, including pottery, coins and several burials in the Croydon area suggesting a sizeable settlement. A 5th-6th century Saxon cemetery is known in the Edridge Road area, which included several Roman burials, suggesting that there may have been some continuity into the post Roman period.

It has also been suggested that Croydon may have originally been a Roman (*Mutatio*) or posting station. *Mutatio*'s were constructed at 10 mile intervals along Imperial Roads and Croydon is 10 miles south of London. It is also known that Croydon is on the line of an important Roman Road sometimes known as the London-Portslade Way, the London to Brighton Road represented today by the A23 and A235. The route of the Roman road through Norbury and Thornton Heath to Broad

² Tucker, S. 1994 *Archaeological Evaluation Report, Mayday Hospital, Thornton Heath*. Unpl report MoLAS.

Green is pretty much established although south of Broad Green the route is less certain and in dispute. There have been several service trenches dug along the route by former GPO engineers which are believed to have reported metallised surfaces beneath the road and would thus confirm its presence³.

To the north of Croydon the route is more or less established however to the south of Croydon and as far as Godstone Hill the route is uncertain. It is postulated that its course may follow the alignment of the present day Southbridge and Brighton Roads or alternatively the route may be on higher ground to the west of Haling Park⁴.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Roman archaeology and activity on this development.

Saxon: The site of the Saxon settlement is unknown, but it may well be in the same area as the preceding Roman one. The finding of Roman burials amongst Saxon ones also suggests that their cemeteries are in the same area. There are a few Roman and Saxon finds in the development area, such as the Saxon burials on Farthing Down, and based on the known distribution, it is unlikely that there will be any one site, though stray finds may be found.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon archaeology and activity on this development.

Medieval: There is little evidence for Medieval period in and around Croydon which appears to have remained a minor settlement throughout the Medieval period. A chapel is known near to the Royal Russell School, well to the east, and a Medieval Bishops Palace near to Old Palace Road. The Bishops Palace was first documented in 1273 AD, but architectural evidence suggests that it was at least a hundred years older. From the late 13th century the town of Croydon was well documented. In 1273 Archbishop Kilwardby obtained a royal grant for the establishment of a weekly market and an annual fair. This reflected Croydon's enhanced position with the Bishops Palace and as a centre for local trade.

³ Maggs, K. & De'athe, P. 1987 *The Roman Roads of East Surrey and the Kent Border*. p. 39-41.

⁴ *Idem*

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low to medium potential for Medieval archaeological settlement and activity on this development.

Post-Medieval to modern: By the later 16th century Croydon was a well established market town. This role was enhanced by its proximity to London and notably as a centre for the local charcoal burning industry, which formed a major source of fuel until the large scale advent of coal in the 18th century. In the 17th and 18th centuries Croydon was also an important centre for the corn trade and in the 19th century for cattle. Croydon became a market town of some importance but it was not until 1883 before there was an Act of Incorporation, which also granted power for the establishment of markets. There was a failed attempt for incorporation in the 1690's⁵.

The town gradually increased in size until the mid-18th century and after which the increase in trade gave Croydon an increasingly prominent position on the route from London to the south coast, particularly with the coming of the railway. The establishment of the London to Brighton Road, stimulated ribbon development to the north along London Road and to the south of the town. This was followed by the opening of the Surrey Iron Railway (1803 - 1805) and the Croydon canal (1809). The enclosure of common land at the end of the 18th century was also to have considerable influence on the later expansion of the town. However, rapid growth only took place from the 1840's, prompted largely by railway development and the appearance of a commuting labour force. The rapid expansion in housing is clearly illustrated by maps of the area, which show the areas on either side of the London Road, as almost empty in period from the 1760's to the 1860's, but largely built up by the early years of the 20th century. Croydon's population increased more than tenfold between 1851 and 1931⁶.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Post-Medieval archaeological settlement and activity on this development.

⁵ *Idem*

⁶ Archaeological Evaluation. Columbine Avenue, Croydon. (1994).

Research objectives

In February 2011 Archaeological Services produced its research design. Based on our brief assessment of the evidence, we formed the objectives to look for signs of Prehistoric occupation and activity on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

- “The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:
- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource
the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001

Archaeological Potential

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the evaluation, the potential for Prehistoric, Saxon, Roman and Post-Medieval settlement in the area of the development seemed low. There was a low to medium potential for Medieval occupation in the area of the site.

For the Prehistoric period we hoped to find evidence of Medieval settlement and activity. Evidence from this type of site could provide information on the Medieval development of Croydon. Medieval Pottery can also help refine and develop the local ceramic sequence⁷.

Archaeological Proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, an evaluation is undertaken to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where

⁷ Greater London Archaeology Research Framework (2002), p. 23-5.

necessary, to develop a suitable mitigation strategy or design measures to protect the archaeology. If significant remains are encountered then further investigation will be needed to mitigate the impact of development, and the scope of that work will be detailed in another Research Design.

SAS proposed to excavate 1 trench (7.5m x 1.8m) across the site (fig. 4).

Archaeological methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our research design dated February 2011. The trench was moved just over 2m to the south-east to avoid a water main that ran through the site.
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.

Control: All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologist on site.

Trenches: We dug 1 trench as shown on fig. 4.

We broke open the trench with a 360° mini digger, using a smooth-edged bucket and a toothed bucket where necessary.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the tarmac, made ground and subsoil deposits. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits), at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. (We excavated up to 30cm into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material.) In this way we excavated the trench without finding any archaeological deposits other than 19th to 20th century.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. In all, we recorded 4 contexts - numbered [001] to [004] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in our research design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

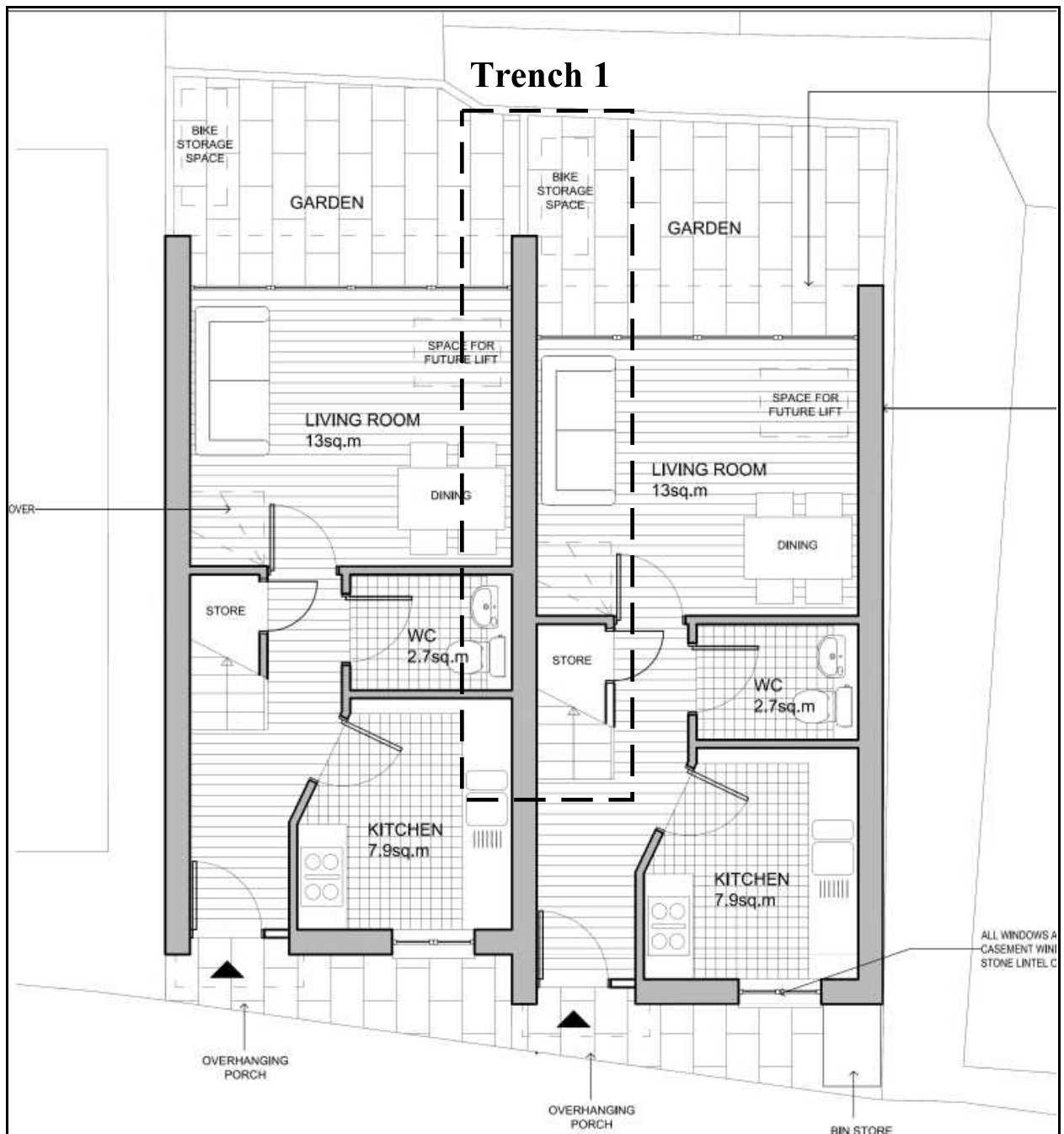


Fig. 4 Development and trench location plan

Levels: All levels were taken from an Ordnance Survey spot height, value 45.40m aOD at the junction of Tamworth Road and Tamworth Place.

Backfilling: After excavating and recording we backfilled the trench and roughly levelled the ground, leaving surplus spoil on site.

Evaluation results

Trench 1

The first context was a layer of tarmac [001] (north: 45.30m aOD to south: 45.05m aOD) over a pebble base. It covered the trench to a depth of *c.* 10cm.

The next context was a deposit of made ground [002] (north: 45.19m aOD to south: 44.95m aOD), comprising a friable, medium brown silty sand, containing 20-30% small to large flint pebbles, 10% large CBM and very occasional medium to large fragments of chalk. The deposit covered the trench to a depth of about 50cm.

The next context was the sub-soil, a friable greyish to medium brown silty sand [003] (north: 44.64m aOD to south: 44.52m aOD), containing 10-15% small to large flint pebbles and occasional cobble sized pebbles. The context covered the trench to a depth of 40cm. The context was slightly darker near its' upper margins, getting darker with depth.

The final context was the natural sand and gravel, a light olive to orangish brown fine sand [004] (north: 44.23m aOD to south: 44.11m aOD), containing 30-35% small to large flint pebbles. The upper margins of the context was mainly sand, with large concentrations of pebbles lower down.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Medieval archaeology and/or activity in the surrounding area

One trench was excavated across the site revealing Tarmac, made ground, sub-soil and the natural sand and gravel. No archaeology of any period was found other than 19th to 20th century.

Archaeological Potential

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development does not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the local planning authority on the advice of the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed.



Plate 1 East section



Plate 2 Trench looking south



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