



# Watching Brief Report

on

## **2-4 Kendra Hall Road**

South Croydon, CR2  
London Borough of Croydon  
KHL 05: (TQ 318 632)

by

J G PERRY: March 2006

## **Summary**

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological monitoring exercise (watching brief) at 2-4 Kendra Hall Road, South Croydon, CR2 between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

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

The watching brief only revealed topsoil and sub-soil overlying the natural chalk.

No Prehistoric archaeology was found, or finds of any period.

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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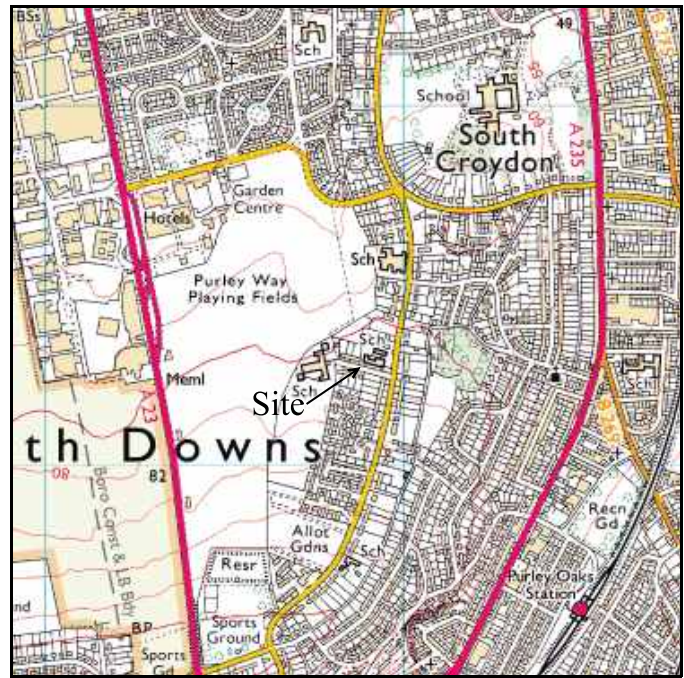
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## Introduction

**Origin and scope of report:** This report relates to the proposed development at 2-4 Kendra Hall Road, South Croydon, CR2.

Barratt Homes (the Developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an archaeological monitoring exercise and any subsequent 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, close to its western boundary with the London Borough of Sutton. The sites lie at the western end of Kendra Hall Road, which runs westwards from Pampisford Road. The Purley Way Playing Fields and a school lie to the west.

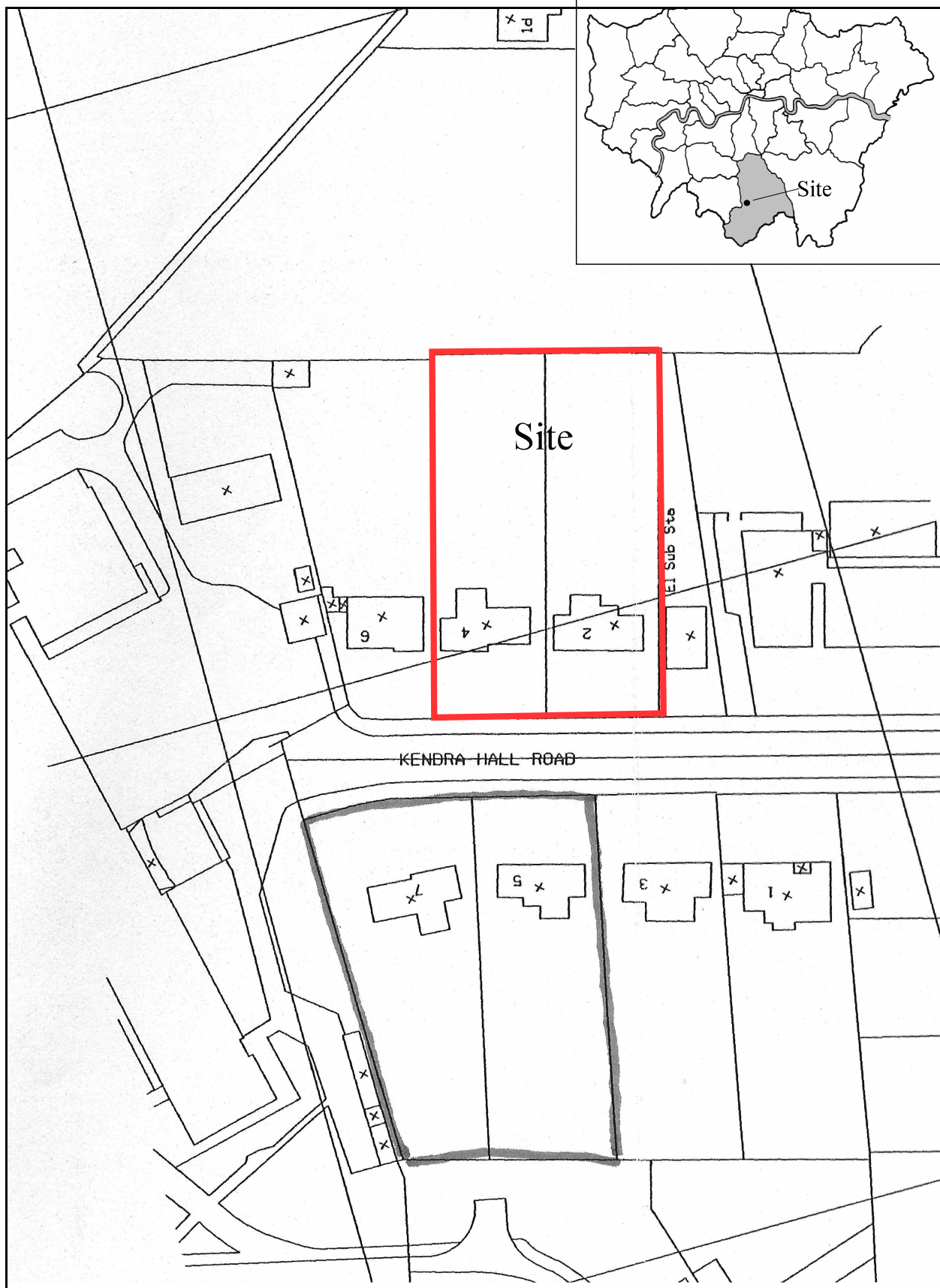
**Topography:** The sites lie in a residential area on the western slope of a valley running southwards from Croydon the North Downs. The ground slopes downwards to the east and south, with the site lying at a height of about 75m aOD.

**Geology:** Clay with flints over chalk lies under the site.

## Planning background

The proposed development were formerly two residential houses.

Barratt Homes has received planning permission to develop the sites for flats, gardens, car parking and landscaped areas (fig. 4).



**Fig. 3**

**Site Location Plan**

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The site lies in an area of archaeological importance and English Heritage advised the London Borough of Croydon that an archaeological condition under PPG 16<sup>1</sup> should be included in any planning approval.

The borough included the following condition in its grant of planning consent 05/00226/P dated 23<sup>th</sup> March 2005:

- 9 *No development including excavations for drainage and foundation work shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with the agreed programme.*

### **Archaeological & historical background**

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the watching brief, the potential for Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation and activity was considered low. The potential for Prehistoric occupation and activity is considered medium.

**Prehistoric:** There have been many scattered finds of flint and stone artefacts of the Prehistoric period on the chalk of the North Downs dip slope. Several evaluations in the surrounding area have revealed scatters of struck flint flakes and burnt flints. Sits are known close by in Pampisford Road (PDD 96 7 PIS OO), at the Water Palace by Purley Way (WYC 98) and just to the north of the site in Columbine Avenue (RCS 94). There are however no known Prehistoric settlements in the vicinity of the site.

Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a **medium** potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site

**Roman:** The main Roman feature in the area is the supposed line of the Roman Road, running south from Croydon along the line where the present A235 Brighton Road runs. The exact alignment of the Roman Road is not certain.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.



Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a **low** potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

**Saxon:** There is no known Saxon settlement in the vicinity of the site, except to the west of the site, where the *Merebank*, part of the boundary between Sutton and Croydon appears to be Saxon in origin. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery is known in the Edgehill Road area to the south of the site.

Pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a **low** potential for Saxon archaeology on this site.

**Medieval to Modern:** There is no known Medieval to Modern settlement in the vicinity of the site, so the pre-watching brief evidence suggested there was a low potential for Medieval to Modern archaeology on this site.

### **Archaeological proposals**

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, a watching brief or evaluation is undertaken to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where necessary, to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

SAS proposed to carry out a watching brief on the ground works and ground reduction phases of the development.

### **Aims and Objectives**

In November 2005 Sutton 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 standard for a watching brief as follows.

“An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the *Code of conduct*, *Code*

*of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA:*

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard

A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

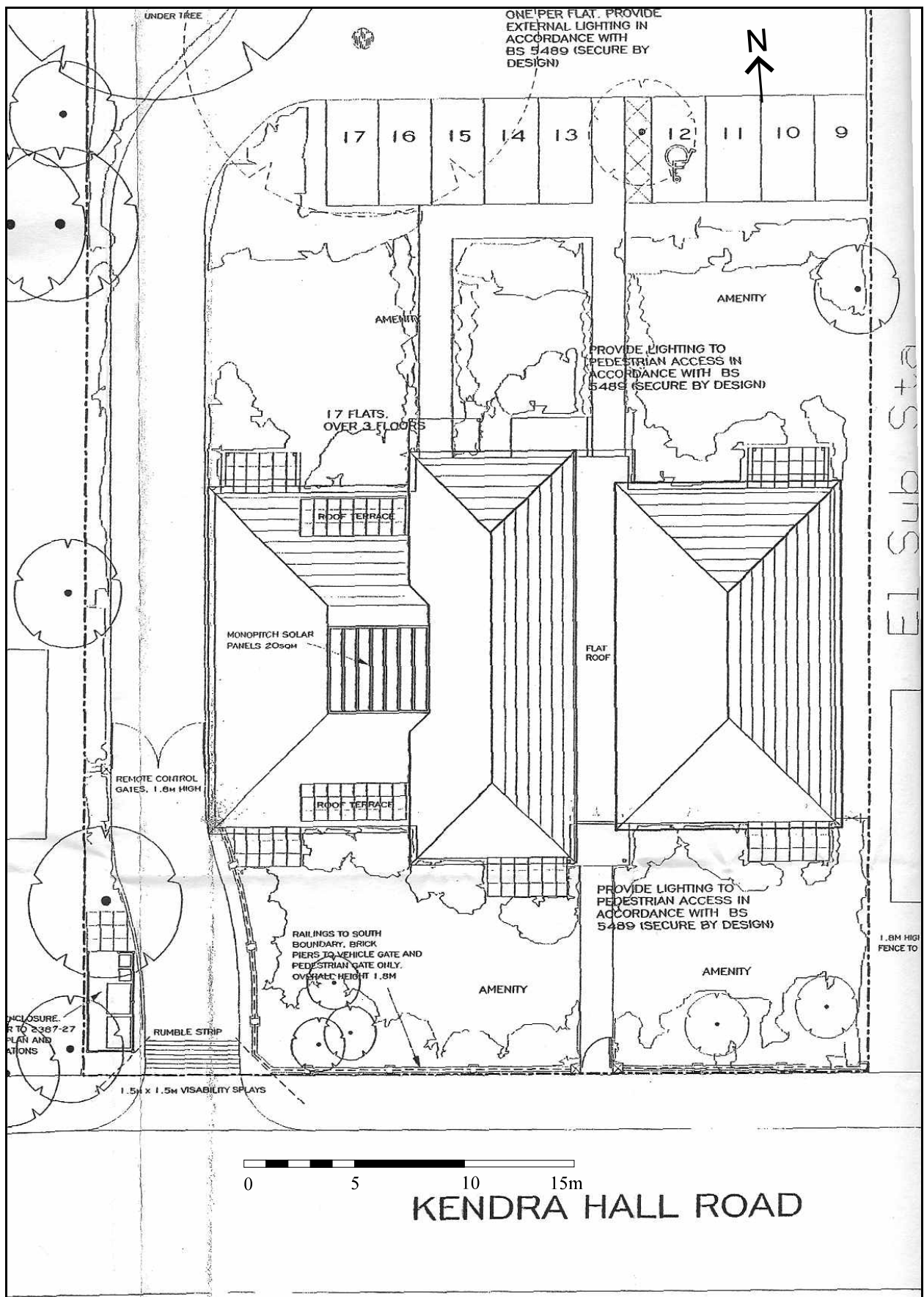
The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, IFA, September 2001*

## **Archaeological Methodology**

**Standards:** SAS carried out the archaeological watching brief in accordance with

1. our research design dated November 2005. (See below for the change we had to make in positioning the trench)
- 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 watching briefs
  - the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.



**Fig. 4** No.'s 2 - 4 development plan

- the planning condition inserted by the London Borough of Croydon's grant of planning permission 05/00226/P dated 23<sup>th</sup> March 2005

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

**Excavation:** The ground was excavated with a JCB 3CX Site Master, using a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket. A detailed watch was kept on the ground reduction for the access road and rear parking areas. An intermittent watch was kept on the new footings as these were in the area of the previous buildings.

**Non-archaeological deposits:** We removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the topsoil and subsoil. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits) or the required development depth, at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. In this way the groundworks were excavated without finding any significant archaeological deposits.

**Site records:** We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. In all, we recorded 3 contexts - numbered [001] to [003] - 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.

**Levels:** All levels were taken from the developer's site drawing 200/P3 dated September 2005.

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

## **Watching brief results**

Context [001] was the topsoil. This covered the site to a depth of 15-20cm.

Underlying [001] was the sub-soil, a friable to very soft, mid yellowish brown silty clay context containing a small amount of fine sand [002]. The deposit had an average depth of 30cm with a clear horizon to the next context, the natural geological deposit.

Context [003] was the natural chalk and extended across the whole of the trench.

There were no archaeological finds or features of any period.

## **Assessment and interpretation**

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Prehistoric archaeology in the surrounding area.

The watching brief only revealed topsoil and sub-soil overlying the natural chalk.

There was no evidence for archaeology or finds of any period.

## **Archaeological potential**

Following the watching brief 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 did not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

We recommend that no further archaeology is needed, though the decision to discharge the archaeological condition rests with the archaeological advisor at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

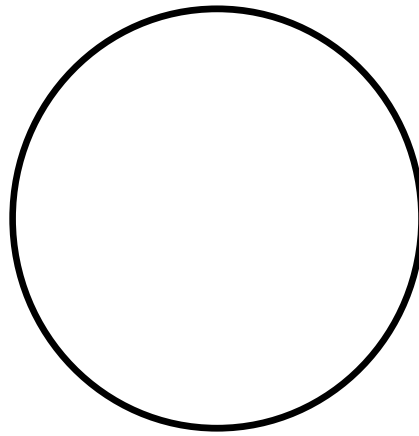
## **Publications and dissemination**

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the watching brief 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

*Archaeological Services*



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