

**Land rear of 1-8 The Parade
Stafford Road, Wallington SM6 8ND
London Borough of Sutton
An Archaeological Evaluation**



September 2016



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Stafford Road, Wallington SM6 8ND
London Borough of Sutton

An Archaeological Evaluation

Site code: SFF16

Approximate site centre NGR: TQ 30850 64305

Planning application no: D2015/71751/FUL

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September 2016

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Abstract

On the 15th-16th August 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation (two trial trenches) on land to the rear of 1-8 The Parade, Stafford Road, Wallington. This was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for residential redevelopment of the site (LB Sutton Planning Ref: D2015/71751/FUL), and further to advice from Historic England.

The site itself is quite small (<400 sq metres overall) but lies within an Archaeological Priority Area (the Mere Bank, APA9). There have been a number of finds of prehistoric and later date in the area, notably about 250m to the east at 542-46 Purley Way. This latter produced substantial evidence for prehistoric activity, mainly in the form of struck and burnt flint scatters with a date range from later Mesolithic to early Iron Age.

The evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. The stratigraphic sequence was quite straightforward, with overall depth to natural from the present ground surface about 750mm to 850mm (c 50.90m OD). Recent made ground and truncated soil overlay up to about 400mm of light brown silty sand with occasional inclusions. This latter is interpreted as colluvium (river terrace material/loess redeposited by fluvial action in a periglacial or early post-glacial environment¹), but also weathered and reworked from the prehistoric to earlier post-medieval periods. Below this were undisturbed though geologically recent natural horizons – further probable colluvium overlying and infilling involution hollows within a decayed chalk solifluction deposit.

22 later prehistoric struck flints (& 9 possibly contemporary burnt flints) were found within mainly the reworked colluvium (contexts 104/ 203), and in a series of test pits in each trench that were hand-dug to the level of natural. This is a very small quantity, particularly in comparison with the remains at 542-46 Purley Way, and indicates (along with the lack of any other discernible features) that there was no significant prehistoric activity on the site.

A single undiagnostic sherd of coarseware pottery from this same horizon (context 104) provides the only evidence for Roman activity. No Saxon remains were found, although a fragment of ceramic peg tile from context (203) has been dated to 1150-1250. Both these finds (plus one piece of probable earlier post-medieval peg tile) may derive from low-level agricultural activity. There was no other evidence for land use prior to the 20th century.

It is considered that no further archaeological mitigation need be undertaken in relation to this planning consent, and that the associated condition can be discharged. Overall very few finds were recovered, all within a reworked soil horizon, and there were no associated features that might indicate other past activity on the site.

¹ Potter, G, 1995. 'A prehistoric site at 542-46 Purley Way, Croydon'. *Lond Archaeol*. Vol 7 no.12, p.307

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report forms the summary of the results of an archaeological field evaluation conducted on a proposed development site to the rear 1-8 The Parade, Stafford Road, London Borough of Sutton (figs.1 & 2). The evaluation took place between the 15th and 16th of August 2016, and entailed the excavation and recording of two trial trenches within the new build footprint.



Fig.1: *General location plan*

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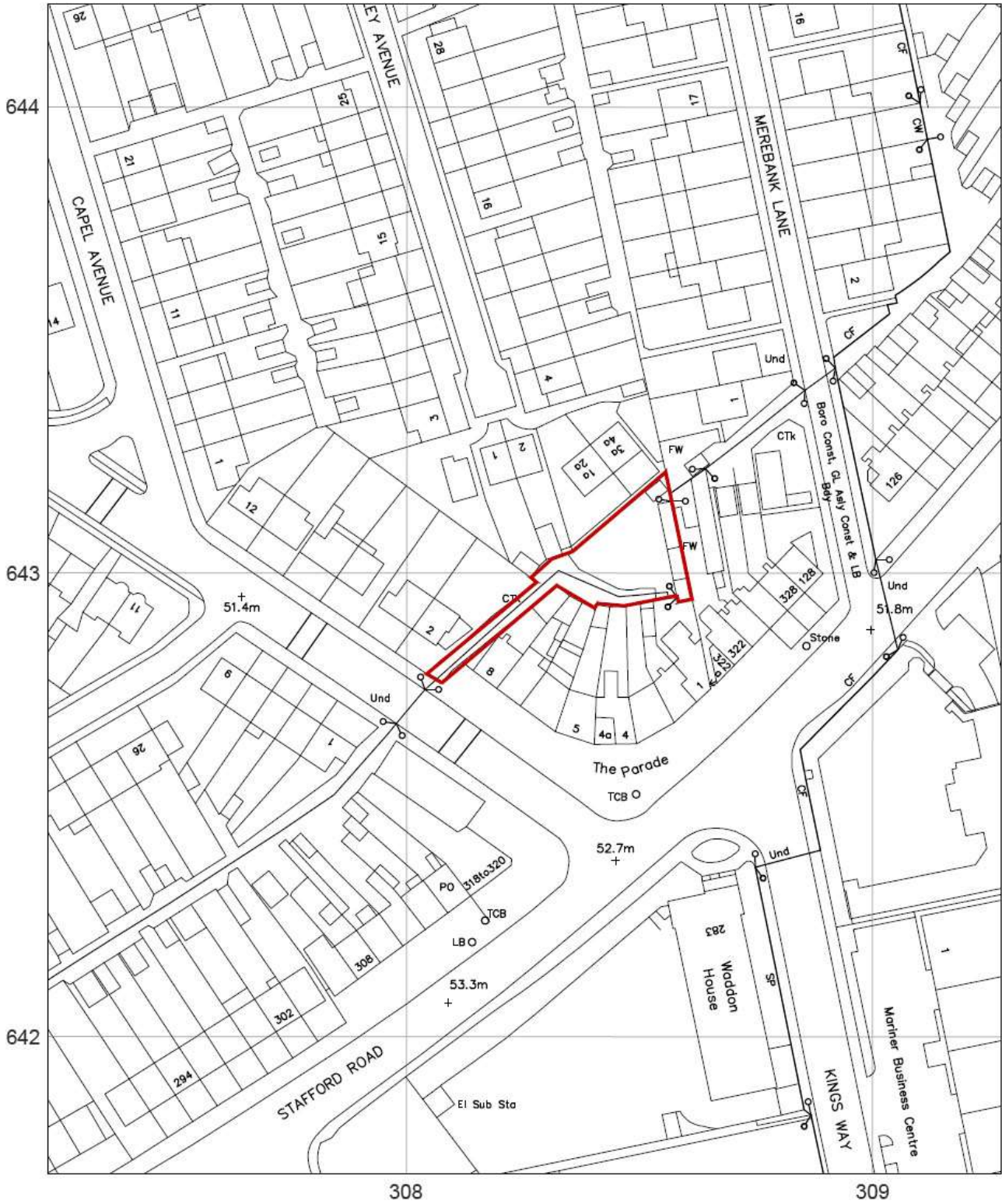


Fig.2: Site location plan

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1.2 An archaeological evaluation of the site prior to commencement of redevelopment was recommended by Historic England as part of the Local Authority planning process, and formed a condition of the planning consent.

1.3 The site has planning consent for development (Ref: D2015/71751/FUL): *Use of land for purposes falling within Class C3 (Dwellings) involving the erection of three 2 - bed roomed two storey terraced houses at ground and lower ground floor levels together with refuse facilities, soft and hard landscaping, three car parking spaces and vehicular access onto The Chase.* The permission includes a Condition (No.9) for an evaluation, in accordance with local planning policies and Section 12 of the NPPF:

(9) A) No development shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation in accordance with a written scheme which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to the local planning authority.

B) If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by the evaluation under Part A, then before development commences the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing.

C) No development or demolition shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (B).

D) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (B), and the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: Heritage assets of archaeological interest may survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of appropriate archaeological investigation, including the publication of results, in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF.²

² Executive Head of Economic Development Council of the London Borough of Sutton (*personal communication by letter. 24th June, 2015*)

1.4 Archaeology forms part of the London Borough of Sutton's *Local Development Framework* (adopted March 2012), and is covered by Core Policy BP12 (Good Urban Design and Heritage) and Policy DM4 (Historic Environment). The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area (the Mere Bank, APA9), which covers a strip of land on the eastern boundary of the borough (*cf.* Fig.4).

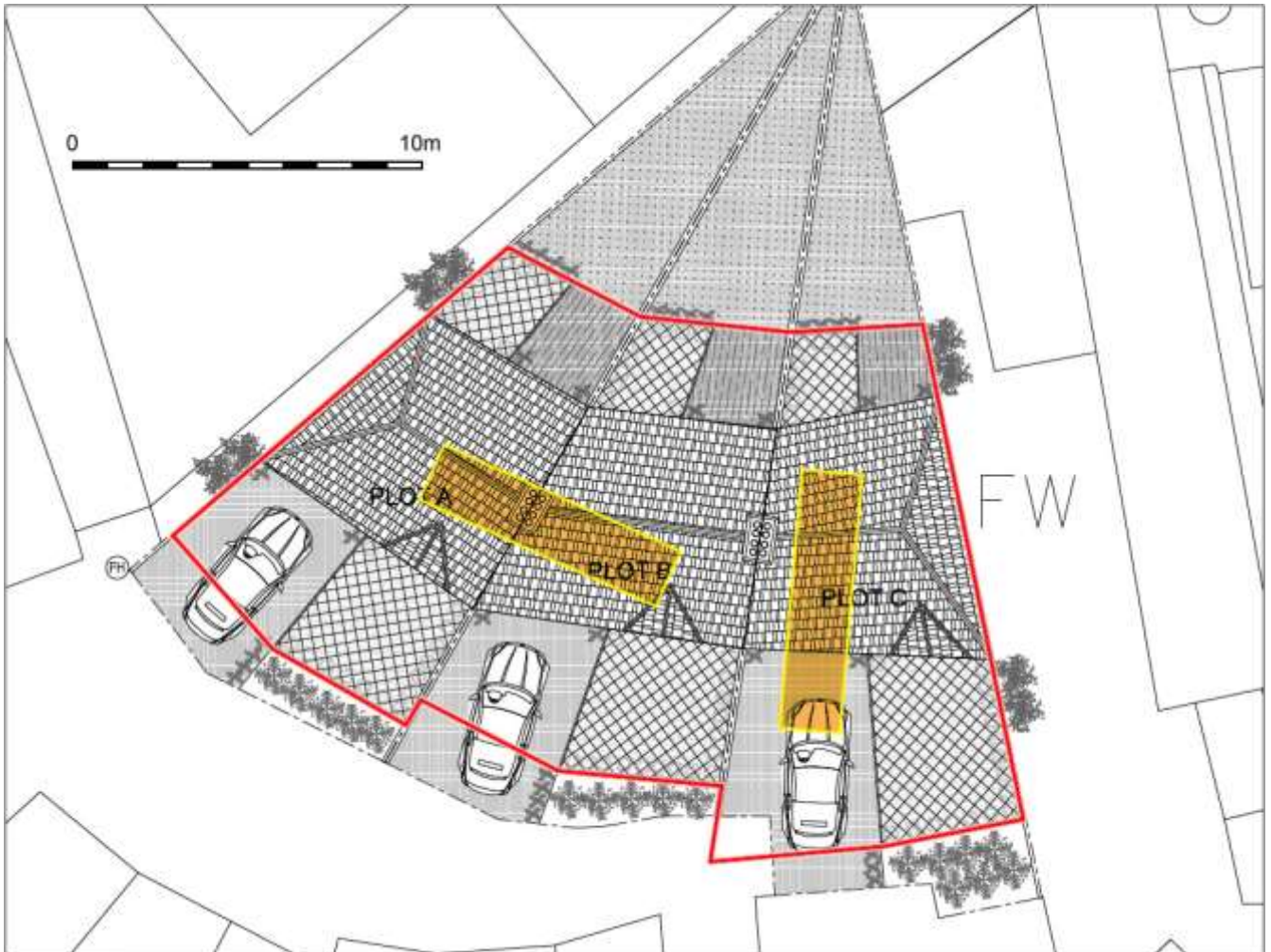


Fig. 3: Plan of the development (lower ground floor footprint red-lined) and proposed two evaluation trench locations within the Written Scheme

(Based on Proposed Site Layout Plan by Revive Renovations, drawing no.001)

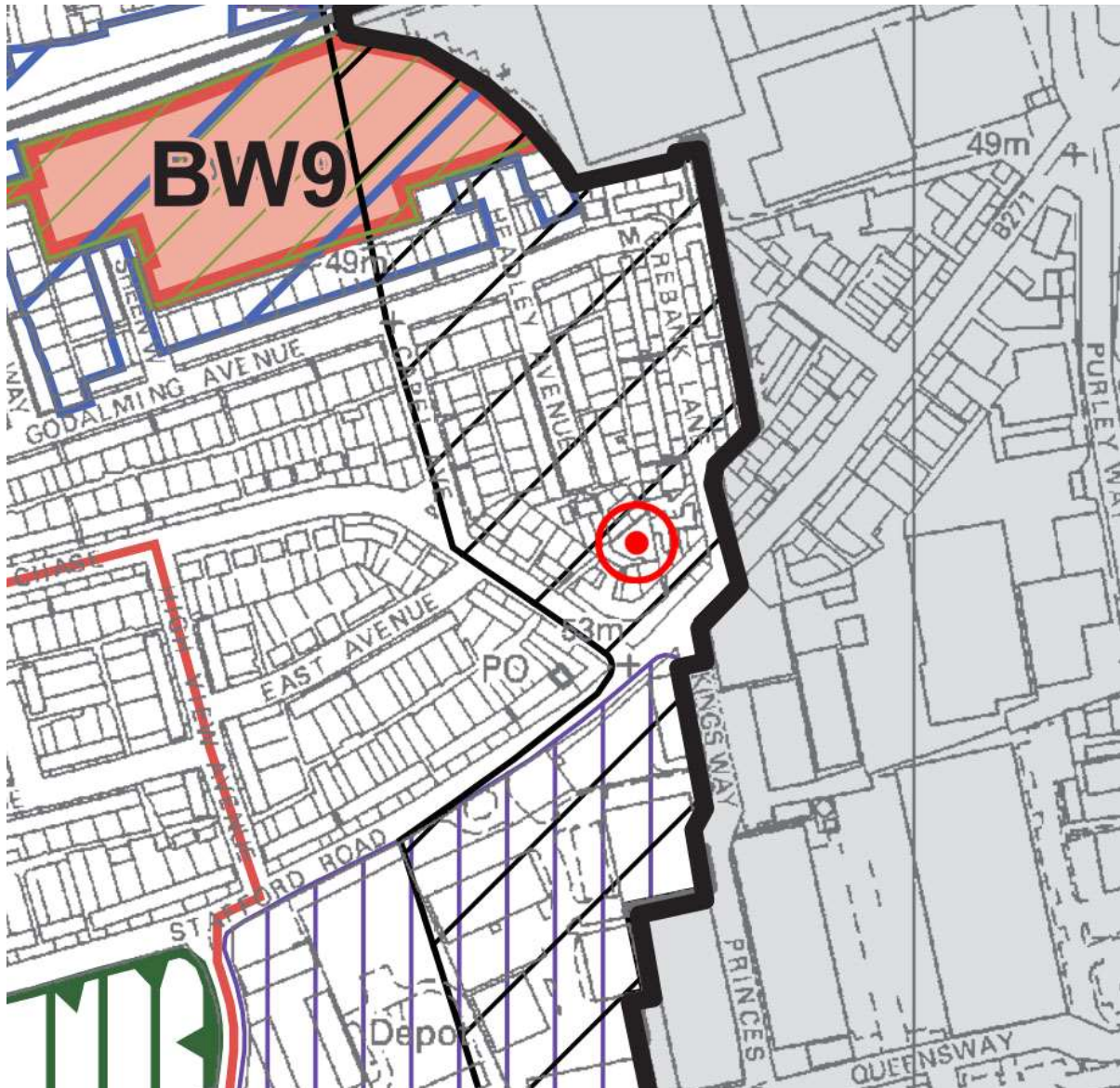


Fig.4: Site location in relation to the local Archaeological Priority Area (denoted by black cross-hatching)

(Extracted from the LB of Sutton LDF Proposals Map 2012)

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 The site is located on the eastern edge of the Borough of Sutton, about 1.5km to the southwest of Croydon town centre and in the southern part of Waddon. It is bounded by existing properties fronting onto the adjacent roads on all sides, and with access to the southwest onto The Chase. The application site is understood to cover an area of c. 387 sq. metres, and to have been previously for the storage of scrap cars. The proposed development is concentrated in a roughly triangular area with overall measurements of some 30m by 35m in plan (Fig.3).

2.2 The site is located near the foot of the North Downs, on ground rising gently to the south and at about 51.5m OD.

2.3 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 270) shows that the site overlies Upper Chalk bedrock, although with a spur of Thanet Sand just to the north and beyond this the River Terrace deposits across the lower ground of the Wandle Valley (Fig.5).

Previous investigation in the area has shown that the bedrock is extensively overlain by periglacial solifluction deposits (a mixture of fragmentary and decayed chalk with sandy silt and occasional flint), and above this geologically recent colluvium – a predominantly light brownish clayey to sandy silt, reworked at its upper level. The colluvium has also been observed to infill pockets (or involution hollows) within the solifluction material, giving a very uneven interface between the two deposits.

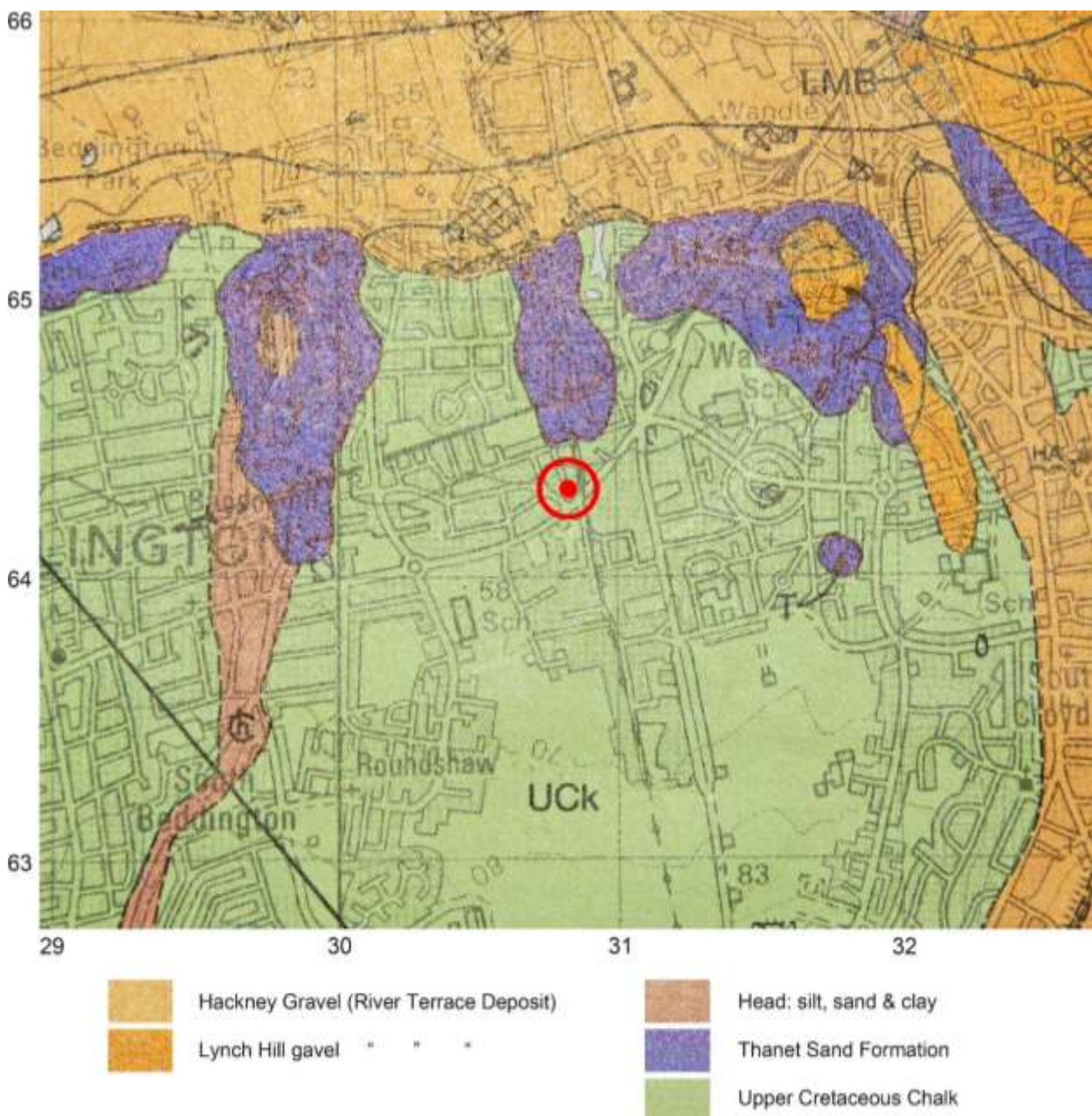


Fig.5: Site location in relation to the British Geological Survey. South London Sheet 270. Solid & Drift Geology

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3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistory

The most significant finds in relation to the present site are those made in the 1990s at 542-46 Purley Way, approximately 250m to the east (Potter 1995). Archaeological investigation here produced substantial evidence for prehistoric activity, mainly in the form of struck and burnt flint scatters. The probable date range was from later Mesolithic to early Iron Age, with particular emphasis on the Bronze Age (*c* 2,500 to 700 BC). A total of 1,321 pieces of struck flint were recovered, mostly waste material or debitage from flint working (over 96%), with 41 items identified as tools – blades, retouched flakes, scrapers, *etc.* The considerable quantity (*c* 18.2 kg) of burnt flint that was collected may relate to prehistoric domestic activity, and there were also a small number of potsherds, of Late Bronze to early Iron Age date. The vast majority of these finds came from a reworked subsoil/ colluvial horizon up to about 180mm thick that covered the site below modern deposits and truncation. There were two probable prehistoric pits, one of which contained charcoal fragment carbon-dated to the Bronze Age, 1,730 to 1,360 BC.

Numerous prehistoric finds have been recorded in the general area, covering a wide span of time from the Mesolithic to Iron Age – and particularly to the north, on the lower and more fertile ground of the Wandle Valley. In the more immediate vicinity significant finds were made on the former Paynes Poppets factory site, some 500m to the north: these included mid-late Bronze Age cut features, as well as potsherds and struck flint (Fallon 2008). Investigation of the Waddon Factory Estate site, some 250-300m to the southeast, produced finds broadly similar to those from the nearby 542-46 Purley Way, primarily struck flints of probable Bronze Age date from within the colluvial horizon (Francis 2000).

3.2 Roman

Conclusive evidence of Roman activity in the site vicinity is relatively limited, and most likely a reflection of agricultural activity. The upper level of the reworked subsoil work at 542-46 Purley Way produced a small potsherd assemblage, mostly abraded, lacking diagnostic features and only identifiable within broad categories such as sand or grog –tempered ware. Some similar material was also recovered from the adjacent Waddon Factory Estate site (*ibid*).

It is clear that a Roman road (sometimes referred to as the London-Portslade Way) passed through Croydon, most likely close to the line of the present High Street and Brighton Road (Margary 1965). However, several other secondary routes have been postulated, including one following or on the Mere Bank – the historic boundary between Sutton and Croydon, and in part preserved as Merebank Lane, some 40m to the east of the present site.

Several sections of the Mere Bank have been recorded or noted (Gower 2004). To the south of the site a length was exposed in 1925 within Croydon Aerodrome, and although already truncated revealed a layer of rammed chalk on a bed of flints 150mm

to 200mm thick and 4.3m wide. The Bank appears to have been a raised earthwork or dyke, though most of it has been covered or removed by later developments and its origin and purpose remain unknown. Indeed, even if a Roman route did follow this line it could be that of an extant prehistoric feature.

3.3 Saxon and medieval

There is little indication of Saxon activity in the immediate area: the nearest significant find – of at least five probable Saxon inhumations – is located on the former Paynes Poppets factory site, some 500m to the north. A few abraded sherds of late Saxon pottery (10th century+) were recovered at 542-46 Purley Way, c 250m to the east, but it seems likely that at most the area was open agricultural land. Nevertheless, the Mere Bank (even if of earlier date) is likely to have been an important landmark in this period: it may also explain the presence of the burials, as elsewhere located close to a boundary feature.

Investigation at 542-46 Purley Way produced slightly more 11th to 13th century pottery, plus one possibly contemporary shallow trench and a few later medieval sherds. However, overall quantities of finds were still small and individual pieces mainly small and fairly undiagnostic. Other sites in the vicinity have produced few if any finds of this period, and it seems probable that the area remained essentially open.

3.4 Post-medieval

There is little evidence of earlier post-medieval activity in the vicinity, with the exception of the brick and tile manufacture recorded at 414 Purley Way (some 500m to the north; MoLAS 1999). Otherwise the best indication of land use is provided by early maps, in the 1760s and at the beginning of the 19th century: these show the site within an extensive area of large open fields.

The modern development of the area began with the building of the Croydon to Epsom railway line in the mid-1840s (amalgamated by completion into the new London, Brighton & South Coast Railway). This was followed by construction of Stafford Road in the later century, although the surrounding area remained almost entirely open and agricultural until after the Great War. Thereafter the area underwent rapid development, predominantly residential to the north of Stafford Road and industrial to the south.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The site presented an opportunity to address several research questions, including the following:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what period or periods does this cover? Also, does this give any indication of what was happening, for example the opportunist flint knapping seen at 542-46 Purley Way?

- Is there any evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity, and in what form? Does this indicate primarily low-level agricultural activity, as elsewhere?
- Is there any evidence for any post-medieval activity on the site, prior to the earlier 20th century development? Does the nature of any such evidence bear out the recorded agricultural land use?
- What is the nature/ depth of the natural geology here, including the potential presence of geologically recent colluvium, and also (if exposed) the top of the underlying chalk/solifluction deposit?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Standards

- 5.1.1** The field and post-excavation work were carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Planning Notes 3: Archaeological Excavation, 2015*), and to regional frameworks, (Gurney, D. ‘*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England,*’ 2003). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.
- 5.1.2** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team have valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and are equipped with hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, gloves, *etc.*, as required.

5.2 Fieldwork

- 5.2.1** The archaeological evaluation has taken place prior to the start of groundworks for the proposed redevelopment as described above. The fieldwork involved the excavation of two trial trenches located within the currently undeveloped area and proposed new build footprint (see figs.3 & 6).

Trench 1 was approximately 7.8m long, orientated WNW-ESE, by 1.90m NNE-SSW at its greatest extent. Trench 2 measured approximately 7.22m long N-S by 1.92m E-W at its greatest extent. Trench 2 was slightly shorter in length and aligned more N-S than originally planned due to the standing remains of a workshop building located along the eastern boundary of the site.

- 5.2.2** Initial bulk excavation of the trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Deposits were generally removed in this way in shallow spits to the latest significant archaeological horizon, here represented by a reworked/ weathered subsoil layer.

- 5.2.3** Following initial cleaning and recording a gridded sample excavation of deposits at the level of reworked subsoil/colluvium was made, to recover and plot the potential distribution of any prehistoric material. In total five test pits were hand-dug in each trench, at slightly varying dimensions but each no larger than 1m² in plan. Depth was between c 100mm to 300mm, to expose the undisturbed natural deposits (see below for further details).
- 5.2.4** Following excavation of the test pits a base plan of the site was produced, and an on-site assessment made as to the extent and possible significance of any archaeological finds. It was considered that sufficient work had been undertaken to establish the potential nature of deposits and relationships, with adequate recovery of finds dating and other evidence.
- 5.2.5** Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan and section, at scales of 1:10 or 1:20.
- 5.2.6** The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid.
- 5.2.7** Levels were taken on the present ground surface and on the top and bottom of any archaeological features or deposits, transferred from an OS Benchmark located on the SE front corner of No.22 The Chase SM6 8LY (value 49.93mOD).
- 5.2.8** The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography in .jpeg and RAW formats.
- 5.2.9** The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual, (*MoLAS, Archaeological Site Manual, Third Edition - 1994*). By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used was directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

5.3 Post-excavation

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment, including processing and examination of finds, and by compilation of a report and checking/ ordering of the site archive.

5.3.1 Finds and samples

Assessment of finds was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff. Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including CIfA's '*Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*' (2014).

- 5.3.2** All identified finds and artefacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record. Retained artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the Standards as stated above.

5.4 Report procedure

- 5.4.1** The report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations are included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has been appended using a copy of the on-line OASIS Data Collection Form.
- 5.4.2** Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, Historic England and the local planning authority.

5.5 The site archive

Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

6 THE RESULTS

6.1 What follows is a written description of records made during the course of the fieldwork, augmented by drawings and illustrative photographs. The description should be read in conjunction with fig.6 for trench locations/ orientations and figs. 19-22 for plans and sample section drawings of the trenches (see appendix II).

The site record includes discrete contexts prefixed with the number of the corresponding trench, *eg.* contexts 101-110 are in trench 1. Fills and layers are shown in (rounded brackets), whilst cuts and structures are shown in [square brackets]. A context list for individual trenches has also been appended to the report (see Appendix I). The ten hand-dug test pits have each been assigned a letter to identify them within the overall context, hence (108) A & (104) B-E in trench 1 and (203) F-J in trench 2.

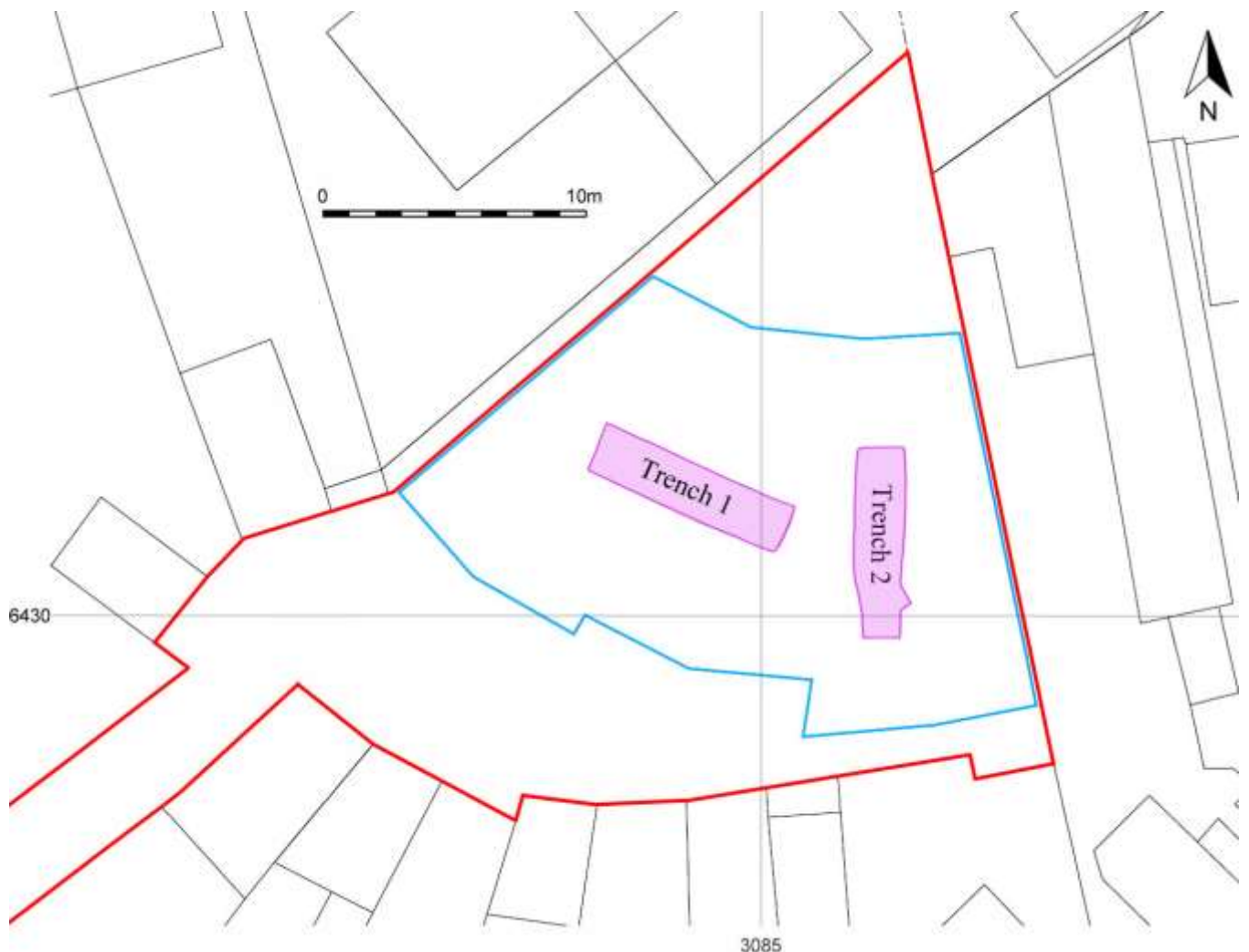


Fig.6: Plan showing the final location of the archaeological trial trenches; the red line denotes the application area; the blue line the lower ground floor outline of the proposed buildings (see also Fig.3)

(Based on Proposed Site Layout Plan by Revive Renovations, drawing no.001)

6.2 Trench 1



Fig.7: *View of trench 1, facing ESE. 1m scale. The slightly darker deposit (108) in foreground*



Fig.8: *Oblique view of trench 1, facing N. 1m scale*

6.2.1 Trench 1 was located over the footprint of the proposed residential plots A and B (see fig.3), measuring 7.8m WNW-ESE x 1.90m NNE-SSW at its greatest extent. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 750mm (50.89mOD) at its WNW end and 730mm (50.95mOD) at its ESE end. The natural light orange silty-sand colluvium was first encountered c.490mm below ground level in the NNE section of the trench (50.98mOD).

6.2.2 The trench was dug down to the level of reworked colluvium (104) and then a gridded sample excavation of five hand-dug test pits was undertaken. Across the trench a modern layer of compact clinker and debris (101) was seen overlying a compacted grey silty sand (102), which itself sealed a dark brown silty-sand (103) and then the darker orange silty sand (104) that was found below this.

Four test pits (B-E) were cut into context (104), which was interpreted as a weathered/reworked colluvium, and one (A) into a possible later fill at the western end of the trench (108) [see fig.19]. All but one of the test pits, B, produced some limited prehistoric flint finds, plus two pieces of burnt flint in test pit D; see Appendices III & IV for further detail. A single small and undiagnostic piece of Roman coarseware was found in test pit E, also in the reworked deposit (104); *cf.* Appendix V. Two sample sections were taken in test pits C and D, on opposite sides of the trench: the stratigraphic record of these will be discussed in more detail below, as well as test pit A which was dug to target the area of slightly darker material (& potential cut feature) across the western end of the trench.

6.2.3 A modern gravel filled soak away [109]/(110), with a cut for a ceramic pipe rising to the east was discovered at a level of 50.94mOD, c.1.5m away from the ESE end of the trench. The dimensions of the soak away itself were 850mm N-S x 820mm E-W; the feature was recorded in plan but not further excavated.

6.2.4 The dimensions and depths of the test pits into context (104) are as follows:

Test pit A: 940mm NNE-SSW x 720mm WNW-ESE, down to a level of 50.69mOD.

Test pit B: 920mm NNE-SSW x 900mm WNW-ESE, down to a level of 50.69mOD.

Test pit C: 950mm NNE-SSW x 910mm WNW-ESE, down to a level of 50.81mOD.

Test pit D: 900mm NNE-SSW x 1m WNW-ESE, down to a level of 50.67mOD.

Test pit E: 920mm NNE-SSW x 920mm WNW-ESE, down to a level of 50.76mOD.



Fig.9: View of trench 1 and excavated test pits A-E, facing ESE. 1m scale

6.2.5 Test pit A

Test pit A, located at the WNW end of the trench (in the right foreground of Fig.9), was dug in order to target what was thought to be a potential linear feature crossing the end of the trench; this is why the pit has an irregular shape in plan with the ESE side following the edge of the supposed feature. This contained the fill (108), a slightly darker brownish-orange silty sand. Though three pieces of prehistoric flint were found within this context, there were no other indications that it was the result of human activity, and it was also relatively shallow. The pit was dug to a depth of 50.69mOD (200mm), at which point the natural colluvium (105) was reached. It is most likely that this derives from a tree-throw or similar feature.



Fig.10: Section of test pit C, facing SSW. 0.4m scale

6.2.6 Test pit C

Test pit C was located *c* 3.8m away from the WNW end of the trench and was one of the test pits from which a sample section was taken (see figs. 10 and 21). The compact layer of clinker and debris, (101) was 50-120mm thick in section, with the compacted grey silty sand (102) below approximately 80-120mm thick. Below this was the dark brown silty sand layer (103) which ranged from 10-70mm, becoming less distinct and thinner in section towards the WNW end. The mid orange-brown reworked colluvium layer (104) was found below this, ranging between 180-230mm thick and extending down *c.* 50-150mm below the level of the top of the test pit.

At this point the stratigraphy in test pit C diverges from that in D. As can be seen from fig.10 above, the clean light orange-brown silty sand colluvial layer (107) infilled an involution hollow within a periglacial solifluction deposit of decayed chalk (106). This deposition is very similar to that seen at 542-46 Purley Way, thus it also “appears to have formed in a periglacial or early post-glacial environment through the fluvial redeposition of loess and river terrace material, although the exact mechanism is uncertain.”³

³ Potter, G, 1995. ‘A prehistoric site at 542-46 Purley Way, Croydon’. *Lond Archaeol.* Vol 7 no.12, p.307

The periglacial deposit itself first appeared at a level of 50.94mOD in section and extended out approximately 280mm from the ESE end of the section and 320mm out from the WNW end of the section. (107) measured 80-120mm thick in section.

The test pit was dug to a depth of 10-130mm (50.87mOD-50.79mOD).



Fig.11: Section of test pit D, facing NNE. 0.6m scale

6.2.7 Test pit D

Test pit D was located c.2.6m away from the WNW end of the trench, and this was second of the two test pits from which a sample section was taken (see figs. 11 and 21). The compact layer of clinker and debris (101) was 50-80mm thick in section. Below this the layer of compacted grey silty sand (102) which was 80-120mm in section. This overlay a dark brown silty sand (103) 70-110mm thick. The horizon between layers (102) and (103) was particularly undulated. The mid orange silty sand reworked colluvium (104), into which the test pit itself was cut, was 230-280mm thick and extended roughly 30-40mm below the level of the top of the test pit. It was in this layer that some flint remains, including two pieces of burnt flint and one piece of struck flint, were recovered. Below this was the natural lighter orange sandy silt colluvium (105) which was first encountered at a level of 50.98mOD in section, with the test pit itself dug to a depth of 150mm -200mm (50.85mOD-50.81mOD); the level of the top of the test pit was c 10mm lower on its' eastern side.



Fig.12: *View of trench 1 and test pits A-E, facing WNW. The modern gravel-filled (110) soakaway is below the 1m scale, with part of a ceramic pipe visible in the foreground*

6.3 Trench 2



Fig.13: View of trench 2, facing N. 1m scale

- 6.3.1** Trench 2 was located over the footprint of the proposed residential plot C (see fig.3), measuring 7.22m N-S x 1.92m E-W at its greatest extent. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 620mm (51.09mOD) at its southern end and 640mm (50.79mOD) at its northern end. The natural light orange silty-sand colluvium (205) was first encountered c.520mm below ground level in the eastern section of the trench (50.88mOD).
- 6.3.2** The south end of the trench is of an irregular shape due to the fact that the overlying concrete was broken out and cleared in such a way that it led to the an area being dug out to the SE (see fig.20). Appropriately, this was recorded in plan. The overlying concrete was only present in section on the western side of the trench, thus it is recorded in the section of test pit F.
- 6.3.3** The trench was dug down to the level of reworked colluvium (203) and then a gridded sample excavation of five test pits was undertaken. Across the trench, a modern layer of compact clinker and debris (201) was seen overlying a compacted mottled mid-

grey-brown silty sand (202), which itself sealed the light brown-orange silty sand (203). This was the layer into which the test pits were cut. All but one of the test pits, J, produced some prehistoric struck flint, and all of this material was found within the reworked colluvium (203). Two struck flints and four burnt pieces of flint were also found at the upper level of this layer during hand cleaning of the trench, prior to excavation of the test pits (see Appendices III & IV for more details). Two sample sections were taken in test pits F and I, and the stratigraphic record of these will be discussed in more detail below.

6.3.4 The dimensions and depths of the test pits are as follows:

Test pit F: 700mm E-W x 780mm N-S, down to a level of 50.95mOD.

Test pit G: 740mm E-W x 820mm N-S, down to a level of 50.87mOD.

Test pit H: 800mm E-W x 880mm N-S, down to a level of 50.83mOD.

Test pit I: 780mm E-W x 970m N-S, down to a level of 50.79mOD.

Test pit J: 900mm E-W x 700mm N-S, down to a level of 50.90mOD.



Fig.14: *Oblique view of trench 2, facing SE. 1m scale*



Fig.15: Section of test pit F, facing W. 0.6m scale

6.3.5 Test pit F

Test pit F was located on the western side of the trench c.280mm from the southern end, and was one of two test pits from which a sample section was taken (see figs. 15 and 22). A layer of concrete approximately 150mm thick originally overlay the trench and can be seen in this section. Below this was the modern mixed gritty soil with clinker inclusions (201) which was 125-190mm in section. The firm mottled mid-grey-brown sandy silt layer (202) underneath (201) measured 85mm-160mm, whilst the lower orange-brown silty sand with flint inclusions (203), likely a form of reworked colluvium, was c.250-360mm thick in section and produced two pieces of struck flint.

The layer (203) extended down to the bottom of the section at its southern end, overlaying the cleaner and apparently undisturbed fill (205) within an involution hollow associated with the decayed chalk periglacial solifluction deposit (204). This latter was first encountered at a level of 51.04mOD but sloped downwards to the south, disappearing below (205) some 90mm from the southern end of the pit.

The pit was dug to a depth of c.110-150mm (51.0-50.95mOD).



Fig.16: View of trench 2 and test pits F-J, facing N. 1m scale



Fig.17: View of trench 2 with test pits F-J, facing S. 1m scale



Fig.18: Section of test pit I, facing E. 0.6m scale

6.3.6 Test pit I

Test pit I was located 1.9m from the northern end of the trench on the eastern side and was the second test pit from which a sample section was taken (see figs. 18 and 22). Unlike test pit F, no concrete was preserved in section. The highest and latest context was thus (201) a modern mixed gritty soil with clinker which was 55-130mm thick. Below this was a mottled mid-grey brown silty sand (202) which was 170-210mm thick. The orange brown silty sand context (203) was below this and consistently measured 330mm in thickness. Two burnt and one piece of struck flint were found in this context. Underlying this apparently reworked horizon was the undisturbed natural lighter orange silty sand colluvium (205), which was first encountered at a level of 50.87mOD.

The pit was dug to a depth of 200-240mm (50.87mOD-50.83mOD).

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The evaluation exercise has proved successful in several ways; indicating the levels of natural ground across the site; the levels at which archaeological horizons survive; and the nature and potential of those deposits. The research questions set out in the original Written Scheme will now be addressed based upon the findings.

7.2 Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what period or periods does this cover? Also, does this give any indication of what was happening, for example the opportunist flint knapping seen at 542-46 Purley Way?

The evidence for prehistoric activity at the site is in the form of a small and undistinguished assemblage of later prehistoric struck flint (22 pieces in total), which were found within the reworked colluvium (104)/(203), plus 3 pieces in the possible later fill (108), and in all of the test pits except B and J. In addition there were a few pieces of burnt flint (9 in total), which may also have been produced by prehistoric activity.

These are very small quantities in comparison with the flint remains found at 542-46 Purley Way, and indicate, along with the lack of any discernible prehistoric features, that there was no sustained prehistoric activity on the site.

7.3 Is there any evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity, and in what form? Does this indicate primarily low-level agricultural activity, as elsewhere?

A single undiagnostic sherd of Roman coarseware from test pit E provides the only evidence of Roman activity on the area. No Saxon remains were found, although a single fragment of ceramic peg tile from the reworked colluvium in trench 2 has been dated to c 1150-1250. These finds may well derive from periodic agricultural activity, rather than any settlement in the near-vicinity.

7.4 Is there any evidence for any post-medieval activity on the site, prior to the earlier 20th century development? Does the nature of any such evidence bear out the recorded agricultural land use?

Apart from one further small fragment of ceramic peg tile there is no evidence for post-medieval activity on the site prior to the 20th century. There is, however, evidence of the modern utilisation of the site in the form of the deposits of compact clinker and debris – contexts (101) in trench 1 and (201) in trench 2 – seen across the site.

7.5 What is the nature/ depth of the natural geology here, including the potential presence of geologically recent colluvium, and also (if exposed) the top of the underlying chalk/solifluction deposit?

The most recent natural geology on the site is characterised as a light orange silty silty sand – probable colluvium – (105) in trench 1 and (205) in trench 2. This was first encountered at a depth of c.490mm below ground level (50.98mOD) in the NNE section of trench 1 and c.520mm below ground level in the eastern section of the

trench (50.88mOD). A limited extent of the underlying chalk solifluction deposit was exposed in pits C and F, first encountered at a level of 50.94mOD and 51.04mOD respectively. In both these pits natural colluvium infilled associated involution hollows (this was (107) in the case of pit C and (203) in pit F). As the stratigraphy is very similar to that seen during the investigations at 542-46 Purley Way, it can be theorised that this sequence was formed by the same process of “fluvial redeposition of loess and river terrace material,”⁴ in a periglacial or early post-glacial environment.

- 7.6** It is considered that no further archaeological mitigation need be undertaken in relation to this planning consent, and that the associated condition can therefore be discharged. Only a small number of poorly stratified prehistoric struck flints were discovered, whilst the lack of prehistoric features also indicates there was no significant activity on the site. With regards to remains from other periods, a single small Roman potsherd and a fragment of medieval roof tile were recovered, but overall no significant archaeological remains were found during the course of the evaluation.

⁴ Potter, G, 1995. ‘A prehistoric site at 542-46 Purley Way, Croydon’. *Lond Archaeol.* Vol 7 no.12, p.307

8 SOURCES & REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I Context list

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
(101)	1	Modern compact clinker and debris
(102)	1	Compacted grey silty sand
(103)	1	Dark brown silty sand
(104)	1	Orange-brown silty sand (reworked colluvium)
(105)	1	Light orange silty sand (natural colluvium)
(106)	1	Decayed chalk (periglacial solifluction deposit)
(107)	1	Light very silty orange silty sand (colluvium within involution hollow)
(108)	1	Dark brown-orange silty sand fill of possible cut feature (test pit A)
[109]	1	Cut for ceramic pipe /soakaway
(110)	1	Gravel-filled soakaway
(201)	2	Modern mixed gritty soil with clinker
(202)	2	Firm mottled mid-grey brown silty sand
(203)	2	Orange-brown silty sand with flint inclusions (reworked colluvium)
(204)	2	Decayed chalk (periglacial solifluction deposit)
(205)	2	Light orange silty sand (natural colluvium)

Table 1: *Summary of context numbers allocated for trenches 1 & 2*

APPENDIX II Trench plans, levels and sections

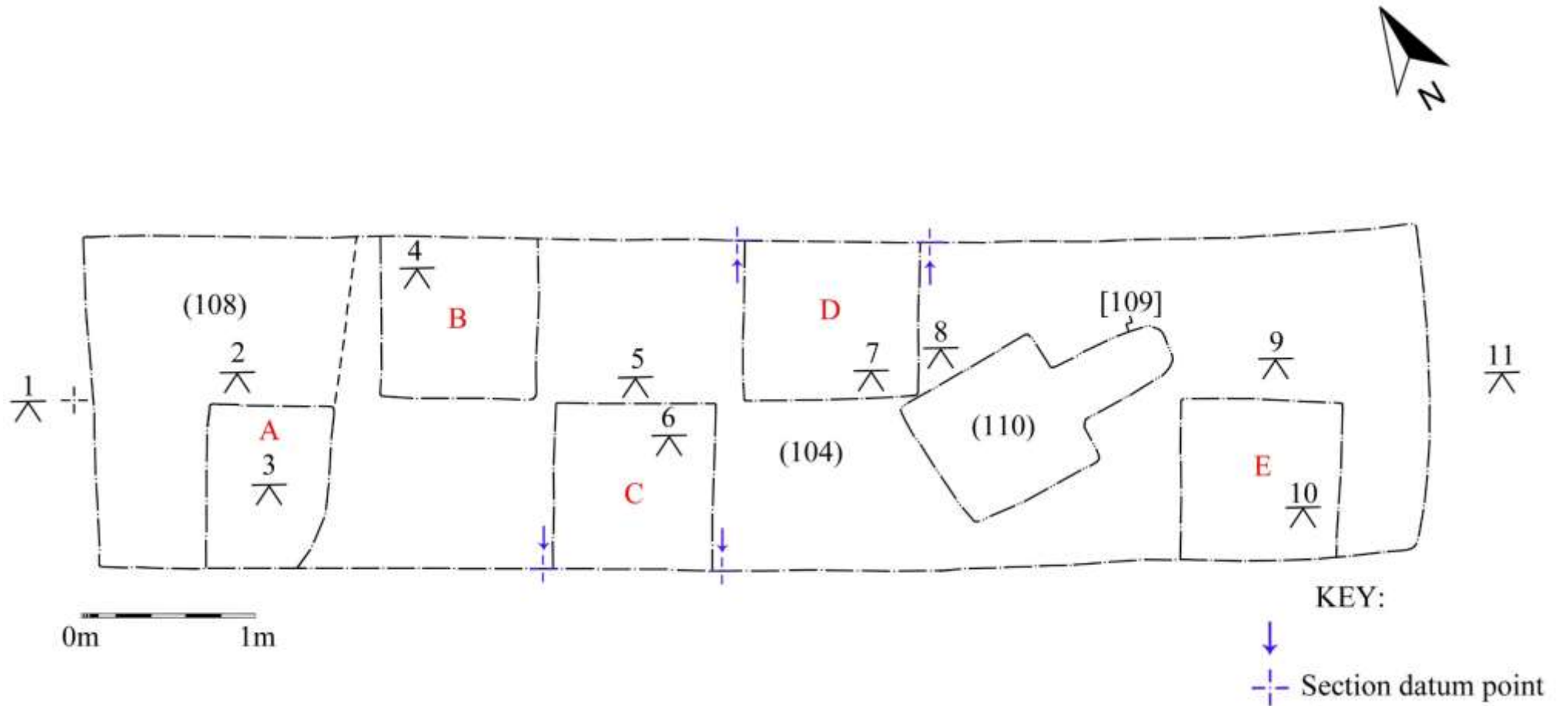


Fig.19: Plan of trench 1 (original drawn at 1:20)

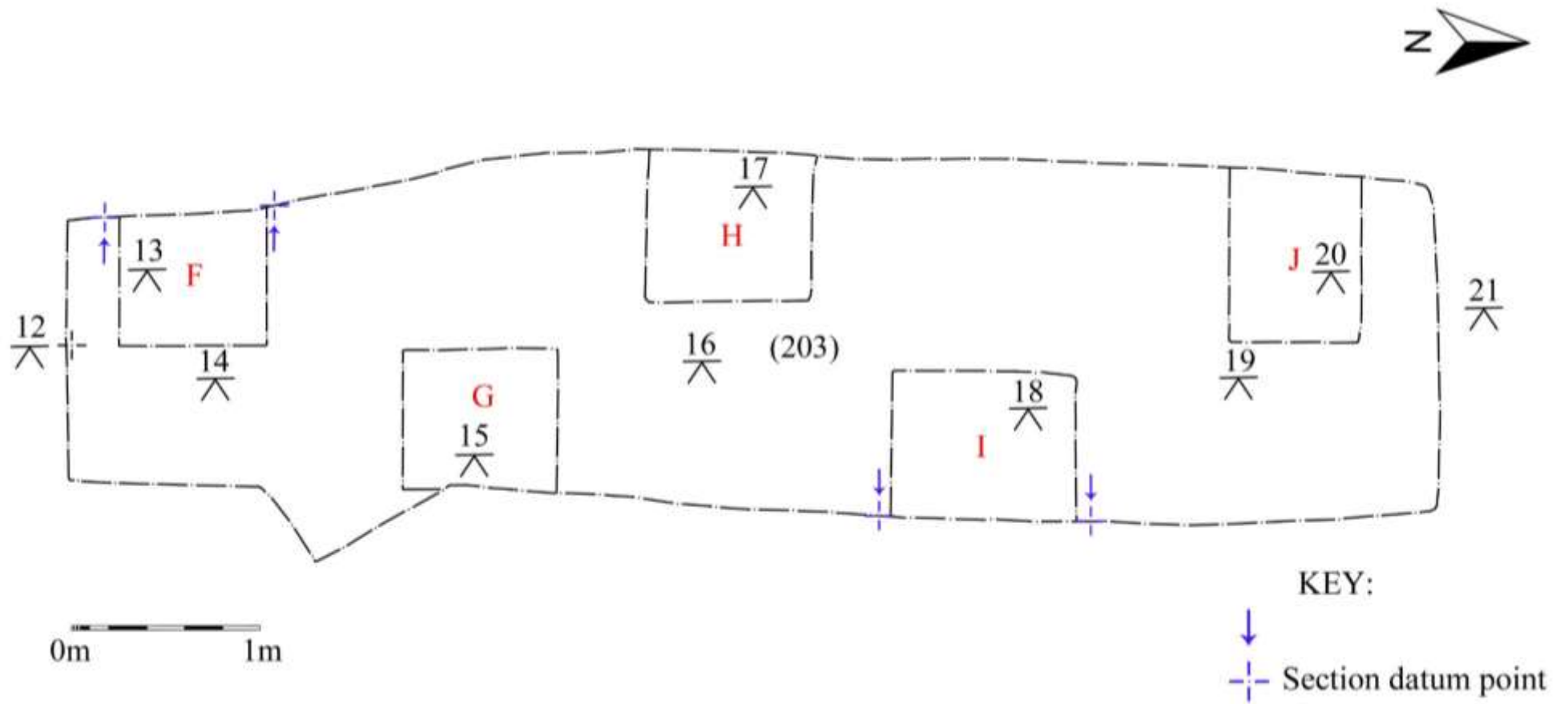


Fig.20: Plan of trench 2 (original drawn at 1:20)

Table 2: Site levels by trench. All values given in metres above ordnance datum, (m AOD):

<i>Trench 1</i>		<i>Trench 2</i>	
No.	m AOD	No.	m AOD
1	51.64	12	51.71
2	50.89	13	50.95
3	50.69	14	51.09
4	50.69	15	50.87
5	50.94	16	51.10
6	50.81	17	50.83
7	50.67	18	50.79
8	50.94	19	51.09
9	50.95	20	50.90
10	50.76	21	51.73
11	51.68		

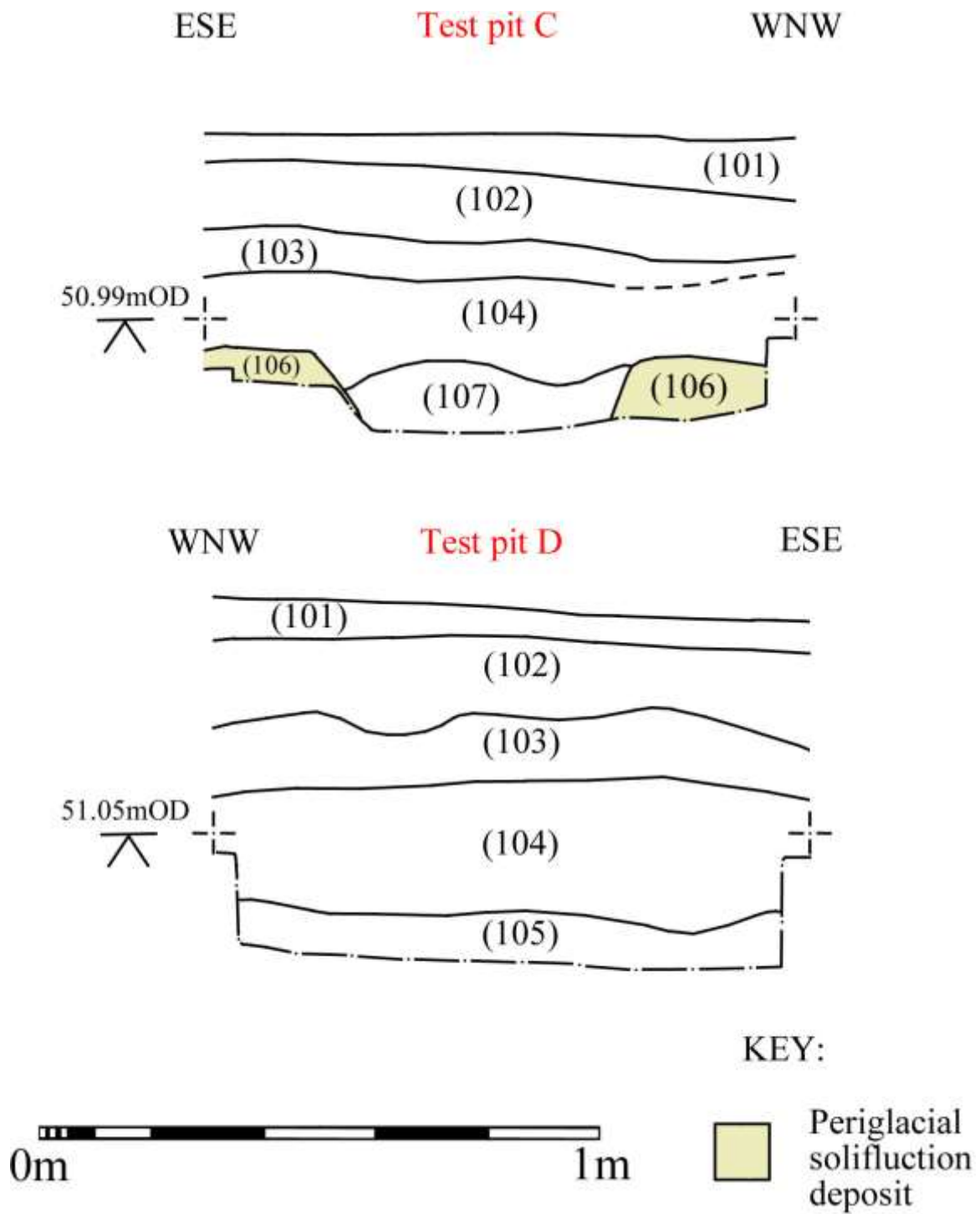


Fig.21: Sections through test pits C and D in trench 1 (originally drawn at 1:10)

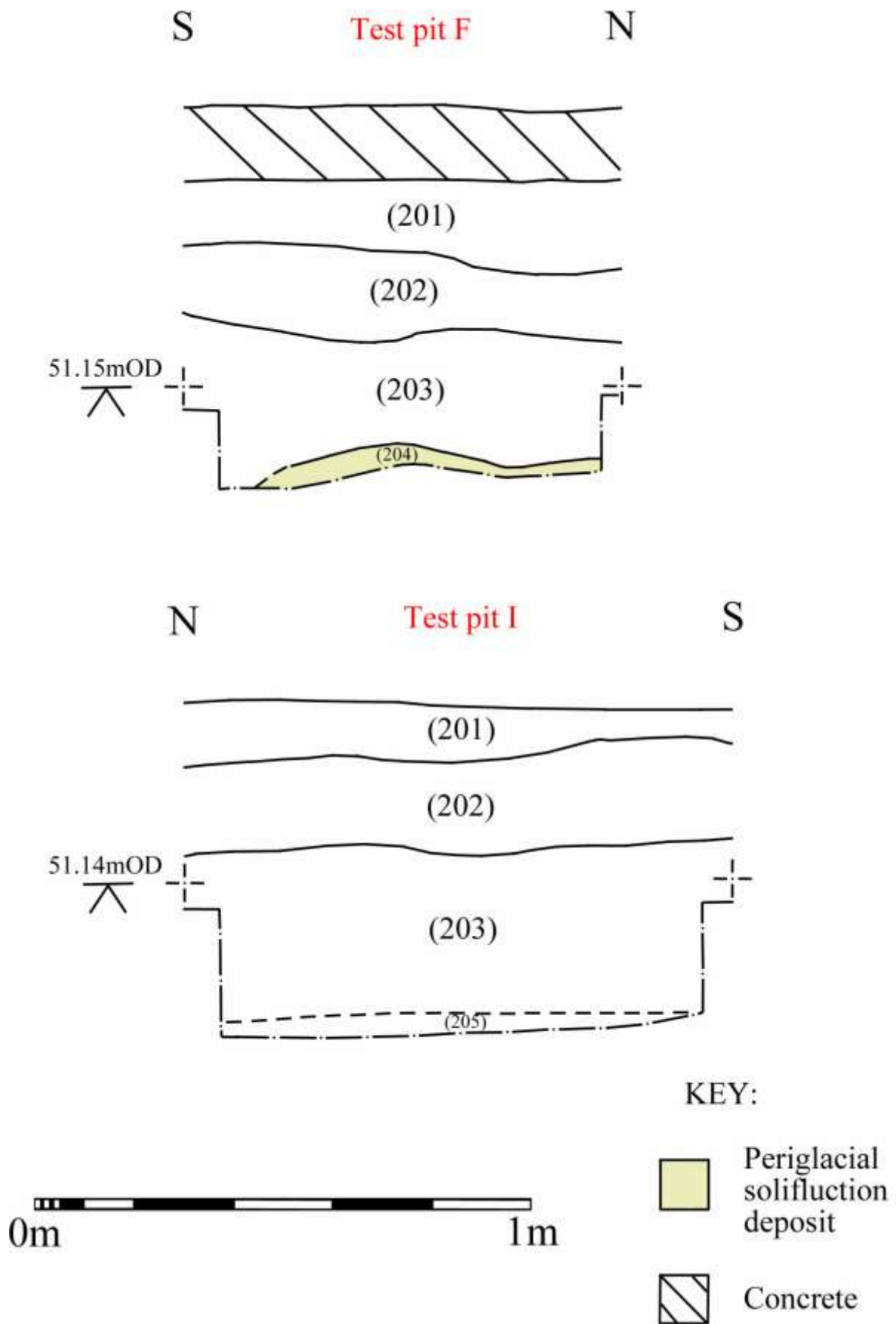


Fig.22: Sections through test pits F and I in trench 2 (originally drawn at 1:10)

APPENDIX III Flint assessment

Jon Cotton

Introduction

A total of 22 struck flints were presented for assessment. These were derived from test pits dug within two trenches employed to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site.

Six flints were recovered from four test pits (context 108 A and 104 C–E) in Trench 1; two flints were recovered during the surface cleaning of context (203) in Trench 2, while a further fourteen flints were recovered from four test pits (context 203 F–I) dug within it.

In addition to the struck flint a handful of burnt unworked pieces were recovered: two from Trench 1 and seven from Trench 2, weighing c 365g (*cf.* Appendix IV).

All of the struck and burnt flint appears to have been recovered from deposits interpreted as re-worked colluvium ('hill-wash'). Similar deposits, also containing struck flint, have been recorded on sites along the Purley Way further to the east (*eg.* Potter 1995; Tucker 1996; Cotton 2016).

Table 2: *All flints from all contexts in Trenches 1 (104) & (108) and 2 (203)*

Context no.	Flake	Irregular waste	Core (frag)	Retouch	Total
108 A	1*	2			3
104 C		1			1
104 D		1			1
104 E			1 PWC		1
203	1*	1			2
203 F		2			2
203 G		1	1 (1) PWC		3
203 H	1	4	2 PWC	1	8
203 I		1			1
Total	3	13	5	1	22

The struck flint

The raw material comprises rolled and thermally altered flint cobbles derived from the local Beddington/Mitcham gravels of the Wandle valley. The presence of a few pieces of Bullhead Bed flint – the latter derived from the local Thanet Sands and Reading Beds – is a

characteristic component of lithic assemblages in the district and may have been preferentially selected. The worn and iron-stained condition of the Stafford Road flints is typical of a surface/plough-soil assemblage.

Dating such a small assemblage is difficult, though the high numbers of irregularly worked and shattered pieces is suggestive of a late prehistoric approach to nodule reduction. True cores are absent, though flakes have been haphazardly detached from a handful of pebbles-worked-as-cores (PWC in Table 1). Several of the flakes (marked * in Table 1) display improvised marginal retouch, and there is a single end/side scraper (203 H) worked on a robust secondary flake.

Conclusion

The Stafford Road struck flint is entirely typical of the generally undistinguished late prehistoric flint assemblages already recorded from the area. In view of its restricted and unstratified nature the potential for further work on the material is low, although it provides a useful addition to the local Historic Environment Record.



Fig.23: Flake from Trench 1, context (108) test pit A. 50mm scale



Fig.24: *Flake from trench 2, surface of context (203) [showing both sides]. 100mm scale*



Fig.25: *Waste from trench 2, surface of context (203)*



Fig.26: *Waste from Trench 2. context (203) test pit F*



Fig.27: *Waste material from context (203) test pit H*

References

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APPENDIX IV Burnt flint

A total of nine pieces of burnt flint were recovered during the evaluation, with a total weight of 365g. Two pieces came from Trench 1 and the remainder from Trench 2, with size of individual pieces ranging from 8 to 86 gm.

The flints were distributed as follows:

Context	No. of pieces	Overall weight
104 (pit D)	2	52
203 (surface)	4	125
203 (pit G)	1	62
203 (" l)	2	126

Table 4: *Quantification of burnt flint*



Fig.28: *Burnt flint from trench 2, surface of context (203). 100mm scale*



Fig.29: *Burnt flint from test pit I, (203)*

APPENDIX V Pottery

Only one small sherd of pottery was recovered, from the apparently weathered/reworked colluvial horizon (104) within test pit E, trench 1.

The sherd has been identified as Roman coarseware pottery and is from the junction of the base/side wall, but otherwise is lacking diagnostic features. The sherd weighed *c* 7 gm and is illustrated below:



Fig. 30: *Fragment of Roman pot (100mm scale)*

APPENDIX VI Ceramic building material

Sue Pringle

Two fragments of ceramic roof tile were recovered from the uppermost level of the probable reworked colluvium [context (203)] in Trench 2, during hand cleaning of the surface prior to the deeper test pit excavation.

The two pieces are described in detail in the table overleaf. One was only very broadly datable and probably earlier post-medieval, but the other (illustrated below) was much more closely assigned to c 1150-1250.



Fig.31: *Fragment of mid 12th- mid 13th century ceramic roof tile from context (203). 100mm scale. The greyish-coloured reduced core is exposed at bottom right where the thin outer layer has been abraded*

Context	Date of CBM / Context	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)	L	B	T	Comments	Fabric notes	earliest date for type	latest date for type
203	1480-1900	PM	2276	peg	1	11	0	0	12	–	–	1480	1900
203	1480-1900	PM	2586 near 2273	peg	1	46	0	0	13	Reduced core.	Fairly fine fabric with moderate poorly-sorted quartz < c. 1.3 mm; sparse coarse to very coarse clay pellets.	1150	1250

Table 5: *Quantification of ceramic building material (peg tile)*

All measurements given in millimetres; T = Thickness; length & breadth (L/B) not specified as incomplete

APPENDIX VII Oasis data collection form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-261202](#)

Project details

Project name	Land rear of 1-8 The Parade, Stafford Road: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	In mid August 2016 Compass Archaeology excavated two evaluation trenches as a condition of planning consent for the redevelopment of the site (LB Sutton Planning Ref: D2015/71751/FUL). There was very limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of 22 worked and 9 burnt flints, found in a series of sample pits dug into a probable reworked/weathered colluvial horizon. A single undiagnostic sherd of Roman coarseware from one pit provides the only evidence of Roman activity in the area. No Saxon remains were recovered, and only one fragment of medieval peg tile (c 1150-1250). There was evidence for modern (1920s+) utilisation of the site in the form of deposits of compact clinker and debris in both trenches. The natural geology on the site was a light orange silty sand colluvium, encountered at a depth of about 800mm below ground level (c 50.9m to 51.0m OD). This overlay and infilled involution hollows within the underlying decayed/fragmented chalk solifluction deposit, which was exposed in several of the test pits at a level of c 50.94m to 51.04m OD.
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2016 End: 16-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SFF16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	D2015/71751/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	DEBITAGE Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POT Roman (43 to 410)
Significant Finds	PEG TILE Medieval (1066 to 1540)

Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON WALLINGTON AND BEDDINGTON Land rear of 1-8 The Parade, Stafford Road
Postcode	SM6 8ND
Study area	28.68 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 530850 164305 50.926413137144 0.178517465168 50 55 35 N 000 10 42 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 50.85m Max: 51.0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Florence Smith Nicholls
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Archive ID	SFF16
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	SFF16
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	SFF16
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land rear of 1-8 The Parade, Stafford Road, Wallington SM6 8ND, LB Sutton. : An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Smith Nicholls, F.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, London, SW11 3SJ
Description	A summary of the evaluation detailing site background, known history, research objectives, methodology, and description of archaeological deposits & features recorded supplemented by illustrations and photographs. Conclusions and recommendations f given.