

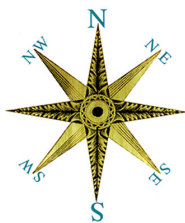
LAND ADJACENT TO 4a BRAMLEY CLOSE, SOUTH CROYDON, CR2

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

June 2008

C O M P A S S



ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND ADJACENT TO 4a BRAMLEY CLOSE, SOUTH CROYDON, CR2

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 3207 6440

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 06/04587/P

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL REFERENCE: A07/2037150/WF

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June 2008

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Abstract

An enhanced programme of archaeological observation and recording took place between 27th November 2007 and 19th June 2008 on land adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon, on the proposed site of a new five bedroom house. The work was carried out as part of the planning process (Planning Application Number: 06/04587/P and Planning Inspectorate Appeal Reference: A07/2037150/WF), and in response to recommendations by English Heritage.

The fieldwork followed a previous Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Compass Archaeology October 2007). Past evidence for both prehistoric and Roman activity has been uncovered within approximately 400m of the site. The site is also situated on the northern periphery of the estate grounds of Haling Manor, with records relating to this dating from the 13th century. No development has taken place on this site prior to the construction of 4a Bramley Close and outbuildings in the 20th century. Historically this area has been used as parkland, gardens and potentially agriculture for at least the past 600 years. The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone and Conservation Area - a designation on the local Unitary Development Plan.

The site was irregular in plan and measured approximately 34m long (east to west) and 27m wide (north to south) with a total area of approximately 918 square metres. The new building was planned to have a floor area of 209 square metres, occupying approximately 15% of the total site area. Groundworks constituted the excavation of foundation trenches along the footprint of the new development and excavation of a utilities trench leading from the house to the site entrance. A total trench length of just less than 65m was observed to a depth no greater than 1.2m.

The trenches exposed simple sequences of dump deposits, made ground, a burnt horizon and bio-turbated soil profiles. These overlaid predominantly clayey silts and gravel (to the east) natural deposits from approximately 300mm below the current ground level. In some of the trenches, between the topsoil and the subsoil there was a thin layer of mixed gravels and chalk. It is likely that this represents a stripping of the surface during construction work in the area, before the replacement of the topsoil. Evidence for 20th century outbuildings, garden structures and garages were visible in several sections but were of very low archaeological significance.

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the programme of observation and recording.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** An archaeological programme of enhanced observation and recording took place during groundworks on land adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon, CR2. The site is located at NGR TQ 3207 6440. The development consisted of a new five bedroom detached house and associated parking.

Compass Archaeology carried out the archaeological monitoring between the 27th November 2007 and the 19th June 2008. Prior to the development the site consisted of part of the garden of 4a Bramely Close, with various derelict sheds and outbuildings.

- 1.2** Archaeological monitoring of the site was required as a condition of planning consent granted by Croydon Council (planning application number: 06/04587/P and planning inspectorate appeal reference: A07/2037150/WF). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a written specification produced by Compass Archaeology (November 2007), and was also preceded by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Compass Archaeology October 2007).
- 1.3** It was considered that the site had potential for archaeological remains, specifically related to the medieval estate of Haling Manor, the site of which was situated just inside the northern boundary. Both prehistoric and Roman remains were uncovered within an approximate 500m radius of the site centre, but the potential for further remains in the site area was deemed to be low.

2. Acknowledgements

The archaeological fieldwork and report was commissioned by Mathias Franke of Fulcrum Building Design on behalf of the Monopoly Trading Group.

Mark Stevenson of English Heritage proposed archaeological measures on this site.

3. Site background

3.1 Size and location

- 3.1.1** The site was irregular in plan and measured approximately 34m long (east to west) and 27m wide (north to south), covering an area of approximately 918 square metres. The new building was planned to have a floor area of 209 square metres, occupying approximately 15% of the total site area; this can be seen in figure 1 below. The site centre is at NGR TQ 3207 6440.

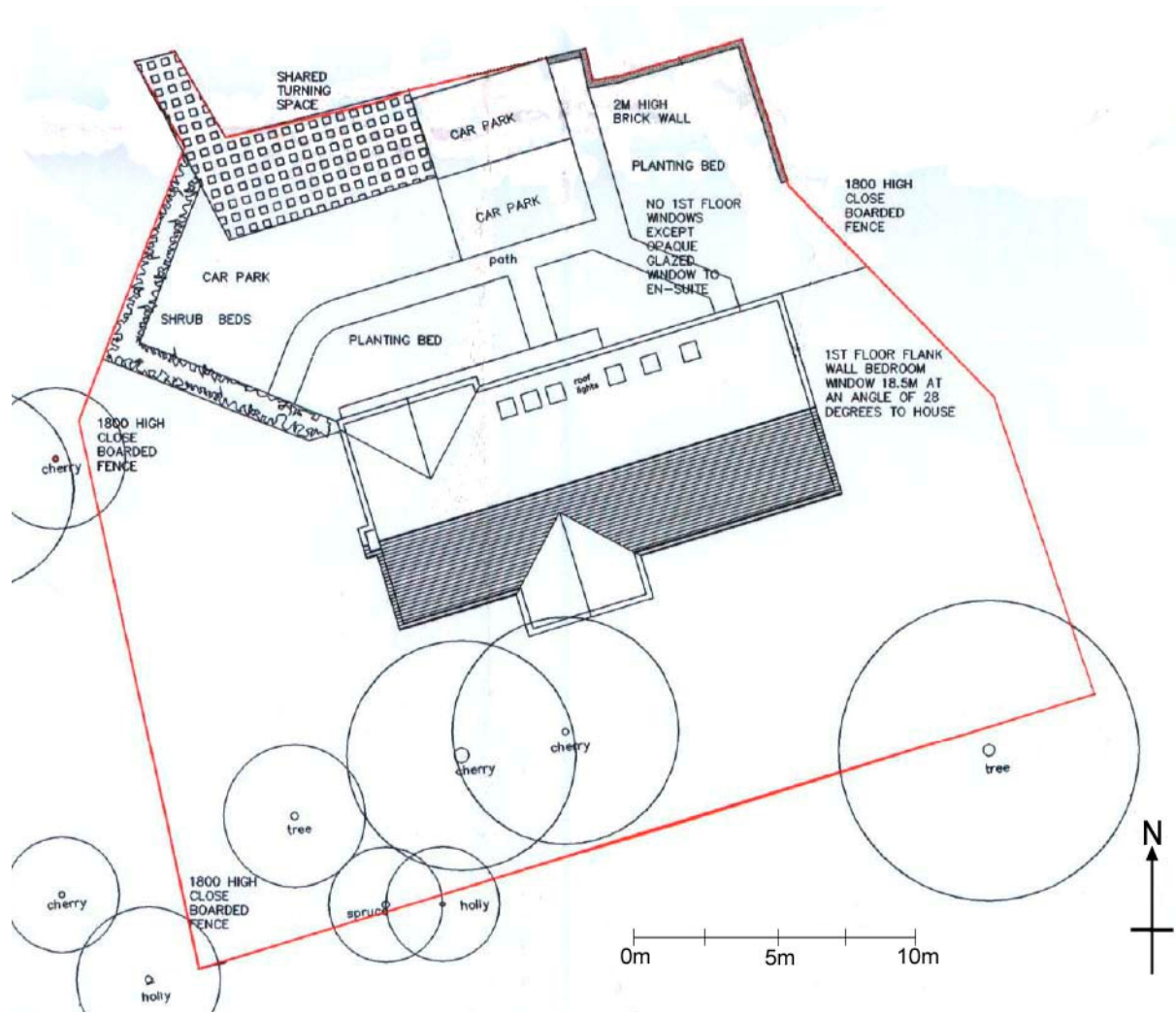


Fig. 1 Proposed site plan of the development with the new building in the approximate centre

Reproduced from Proposed Site Plan by Architects Surveyors & Planners (Southern) Ltd., drawing number: P – 03, date: 01:11:06

3.1.2 Quoting the Redevelopment Design Statement (page 2):

'The site is situated at the end of a private road on the outskirts of central Croydon. Bramley Close joins Bramley Hill, a main road which affords access to the A23 to the west and the A235 to the East. The road and local area are residential in nature comprising of large dwellings and flats. The area is a leafy suburb with the immediate house style dating from the early 1930s. However, the first two houses to be found on the left hand side of the road are early Victorian properties, one which has had a later extension to the side. The road itself is an unmade gravel surface with no pedestrian pavement, and is generally of a flat level. In the centre of the road is a wooded area.

There are 5 properties which are of the same 1930s style and one property which was constructed in the early 1970s which does not match the street scene at all.

The site is presently used as part of the very large garden of 4a Bramley Close. There are redundant and derelict sheds and out buildings, which are now used as storage for the main property. The property itself is a large bungalow with a separate garage. The bungalow has a double interlocking clay tiled pitched roof with a gable to the front. The proposed site is the side garden section to the East of the house.

The site plan shows all the trees and main shrubs on the site with many to the rear end of the site towards the southern boundary. The site is flat with all the surrounding properties sharing this feature. Trees at the rear end of the site include cherry, ash, with quite a number of saplings. All these trees will be retained in the redevelopment. New planting will also be provided.'

A plan of the site location in relation to the immediate area is shown in figure 2 below.



Fig. 2 The outline of the site and trenching in relation to the immediate area of Bramley Close

Based on a plan supplied by Fulcrum Building Design and derived from the 1:1250 plan. Reproduced with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Compass Archaeology Ltd., licence no. AL 100031317

3.1.3 The site is located on a spur of higher ground above the valleys of Brighton Road and Purley Way that rises in the south towards the North Downs. The estimated ground level of the site is approximately 62.0m OD and is described

in the design statement as generally flat. The general area slopes down to the east, west and north of the site following the topographical alignment of the spur.

- 3.1.4** The geological survey (The British Geological Survey Sheet 270, 1998) indicates that the eastern part of the site overlies localised Thanet Sand, described as clay with beds of sand (LMB). The western part of the site and site environs geology consists of chalk of the North Downs.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

As noted above, a previous Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been undertaken (Compass Archaeology October 2007). Prehistoric archaeology has been found less than 200m from the site at a number of locations. This consisted primarily of flint tools and debris from the Mesolithic (starting at *c* 10000 BC) through to the Bronze Age (ending *c* 701 BC). A rare Bronze Age razor and evidence for a Prehistoric track way were also uncovered within 500m of the site.

A variety of Roman settlement evidence was recovered in the area approximately 400m east and northeast of the site. This included roadways, gravel extraction evidence, building material, pottery, waste disposal and several significant coin hoards.

The site is situated on the northern periphery of the estate grounds of Haling Manor, with written records and archaeology dating to the early 13th century. The SMR data suggests the Haling estate lands were in agricultural use until perhaps the 16th century when gardens and formal grounds were laid out.

These gardens gave way to parkland in the 18th century. The site remained clear of buildings (with the exception of an earlier greenhouse) until the mid 20th century when the present No. 4a Bramley Close and outbuildings were constructed.

It was considered that the site has some potential for archaeological features and finds, possibly of Prehistoric and Roman date. More specifically the archaeological potential of the site was related to the medieval and post-medieval park of Haling Manor, with the possibility of surviving features marking the northern boundary of the historic estate.

4. Objectives and Archaeological Research Questions

- 4.1** In summary, the basic objective of the observation and recording was to contribute to knowledge of the area, and to inform future responses. More specifically the research questions to be addressed were:
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* or residual? How does this relate to other Mesolithic to Iron Age material that has been found in the area?

- Is there any evidence for development or any other activity on the site, from Roman to earlier post-medieval date?
- What evidence is there for more recent land use/development, and how does this relate to the historic map record? In particular, is there any evidence for the historic northern boundary of Haling Manor Park, and if so what form does this take?

5. The Archaeological Programme

5.1 Standards

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*¹). Works also conformed to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*²). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

5.2 Fieldwork

5.2.1 Attendance

All fieldwork followed the project design as set out in the previously approved Written Scheme of Investigation³. An archaeologist was on site supervising groundworks at all times for the new build and associated service trenching.

English Heritage were advised of the on-site start date. Both the client and English Heritage were kept informed of the progression of works, and nature of deposits encountered during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

5.2.2 Methodology

The trenches were machine dug using a 360° JCB 2.5 tonne excavator, the exposed deposits were examined by hand for finds and/or buried features. Overall ground reduction was limited, largely to removal of the previous turf or other surfacing. Once fully excavated, representative sketch sections were drawn and photographed. Individual deposits were described on the drawings and on the trench record sheets used, but did not produce any significant finds and were therefore not recorded separately by context.

All recording was carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the Museum of London *Archaeological Field Manual*. Deposits were recorded in section and plan and by written description on *pro forma* recording and drawing sheets, which are designed to be directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. A photographic record was maintained of deposits, sections and working shots.

¹ English Heritage 1998

² IFA 1999

³ Compass Archaeology Ltd. March 2008

The groundworks monitored consisted primarily of machine excavation for the foundations of the new developments and the excavation of a trench to supply the new building with necessary services. The trenches were located on the OS map as a 'best fit' using taped measurements to buildings and boundaries; this can be seen in figure 2 on page three. A more enlarged version of the site can be seen in figure 3 below, this also shows how the trenches were positioned in relation to the site boundary.

5.2.3 Post-excavation work

The site archive is currently held by Compass Archaeology. The field records included site location plans, representative sketch sections, photographs and trench record sheets. No finds were recovered. The site records will be prepared and placed within the Museum of London Archive as part of the ongoing programme of archive deposition.

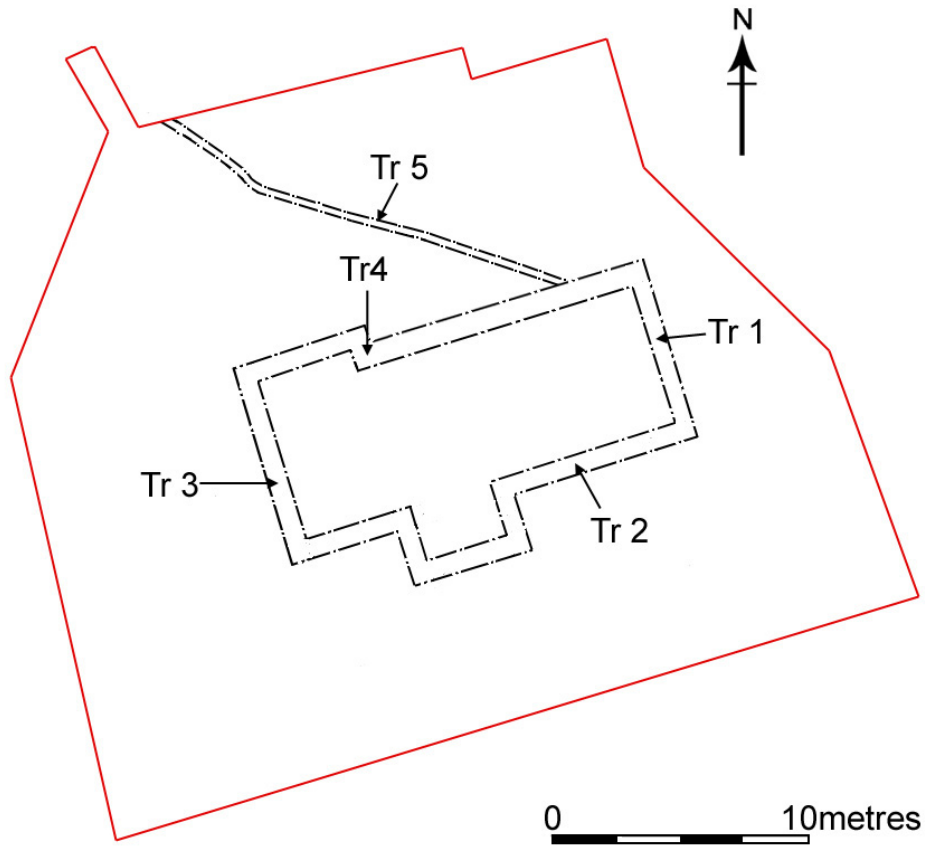


Fig. 3 The site plan, showing the position of trenches 1 to 5

6. The archaeological observation and recording

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 ran approximately south for 7m, from the northeast corner of proposed new building footprint. On its western side, at the northern end, it connected to trench 4. At its southern end it connected to the east end of Trench 2.

The trench measured approximately 7.3m in total (north to south) with a width of between 0.7m and 0.8m and a maximum depth 1.2m. The upper 230mm thick deposit comprised soft mid-light brown silty fine sand, with moderate to frequent small-medium pebbles, moderate ceramic building material (CBM) fragments (all less than 60mm in length) with occasional flecks of charcoal. This deposit was interpreted as made ground, formerly supporting the small structures that previously existed in this eastern part of the site (the building and concrete base removed prior to the archaeological fieldwork programme). Below this was 150mm of mid purple-brown burnt material, which first appeared 2m along the trench from the northern end, and thinned out to the south. This had various inclusions: moderate charcoal; frequent CBM; frequent small pebbles and gravels with occasional flowerpot fragments. This deposit was assumed to be the dumped remains of small scale burning of garden waste. The truncated subsoil below was 300mm thick. The light brown fine silty sand blended with the fine silty light orange natural below, distinct mainly due to its gravel lenses at a depth of about 800mm from the present ground surface.

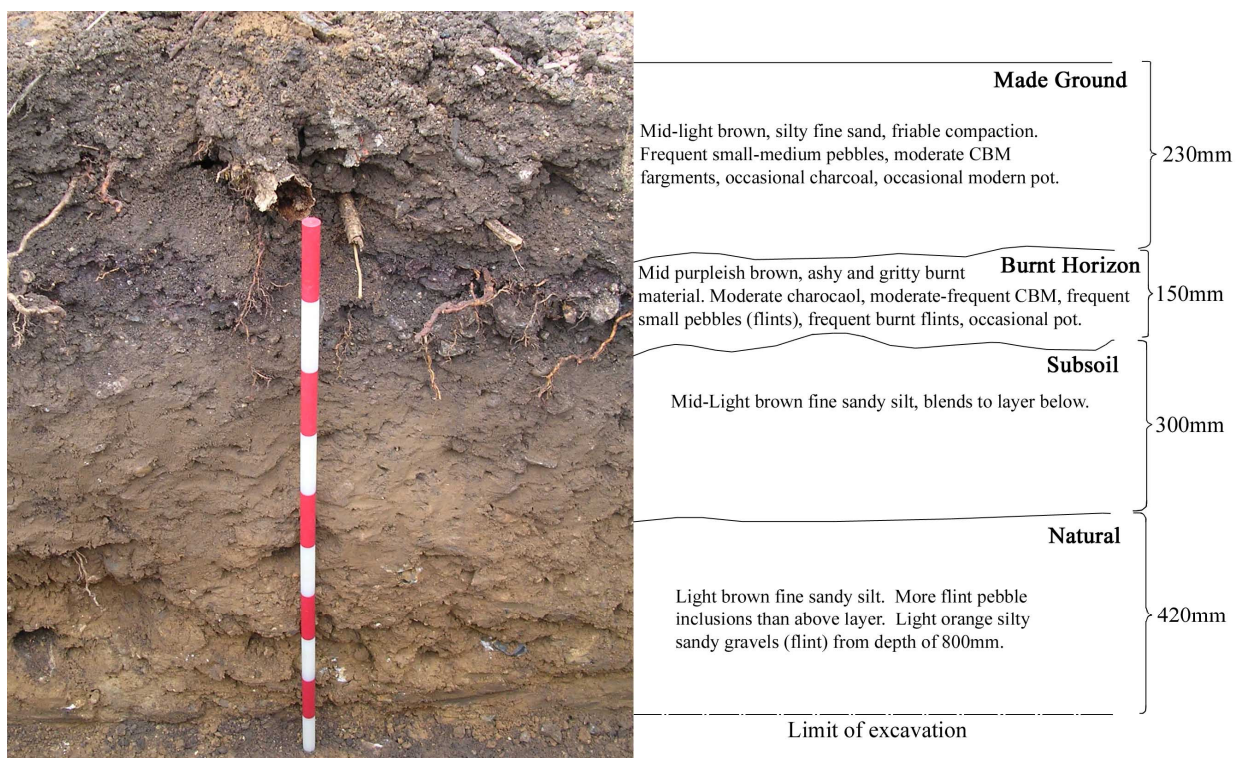


Fig. 4 Trench 1, the west facing annotated sketch section

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was the most southerly located trench, connecting to trench 1 at its eastern end, and trench 3 in the west. From its junction with trench 1, trench 2 initially ran west for a length of 7.4m, before it stepped 1.5m to the south, it then continued for 4.7m in an east-west direction. It then stepped up to the north for 2.1m metres, turning to the west again for a further 4.6m, this last east-west stretch was in-line with the first east west section. In all parts, the trench width was approximately 800mm wide, and the depth did not exceed 1.2m.

The topsoil, stripped of turf, was described as being a friable-gritty, dark greyish brown clayey silty sand with a large amount of decaying organic matter. There were also inclusions of small stones; concrete fragments; charcoal fragments; coal; flints and pottery. The topsoil measured between 150-200mm thick and appeared to be imported from elsewhere following earlier truncation of the site.

Below the topsoil was a thin (less than 120mm thick) layer of light orange chalk and gravels, in a slightly sandy silt matrix, with occasional CBM fragments. This deposit most likely represents a former construction surface over the truncated subsoil from previous site development. The subsoil was a very soft mid brown slightly sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and slag fragments and was 300mm thick. This blended with the sandy gravels natural below; only 400mm of the natural was exposed.



Fig. 5 Monitoring groundworks in trench 2, looking west (approximately)

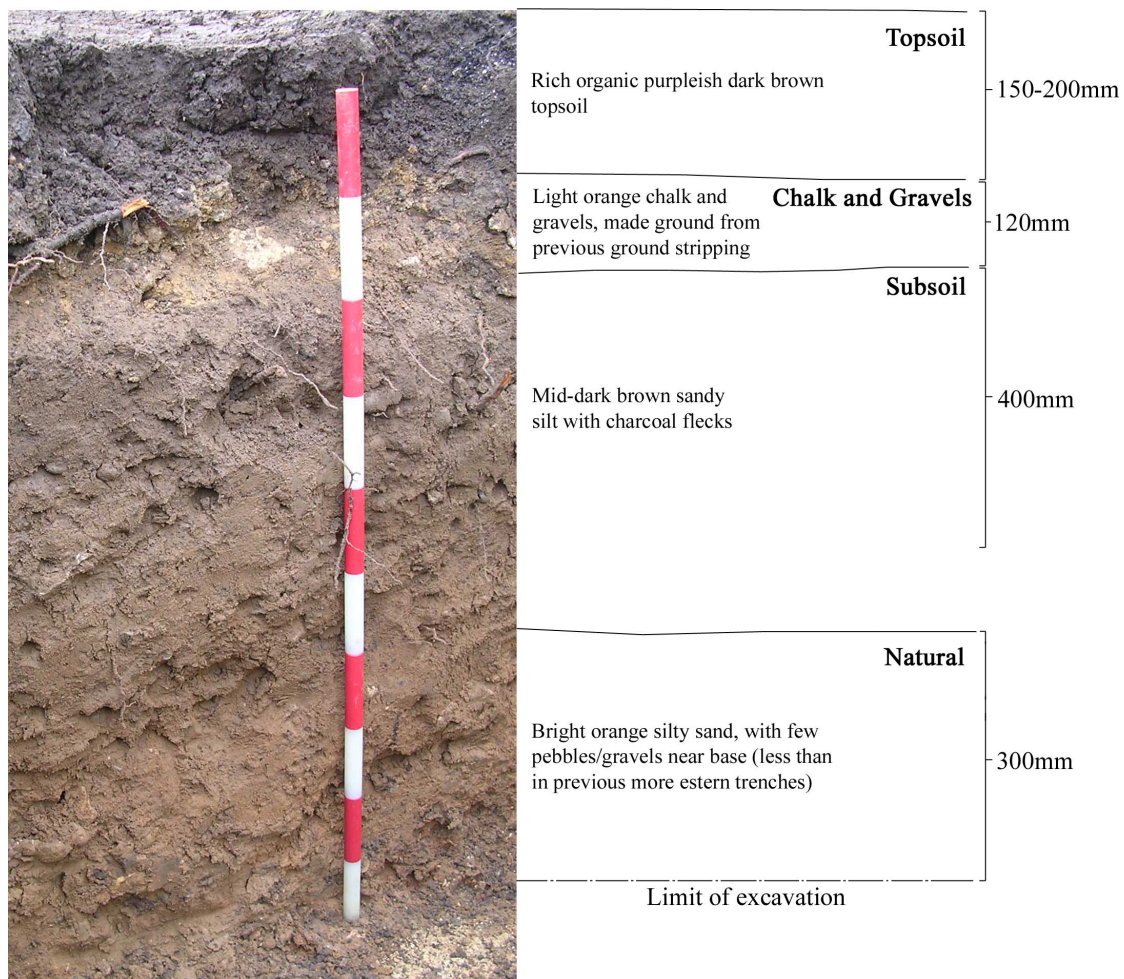


Fig. 6 Trench 3: the west facing section, with sketched annotations

6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3, located in the western part of the site, ran approximately north from where it connected to the west end of trench 2 before connecting with the west end of trench 4. It measured approximately 7.6m (north to south) by 0.7m wide. A maximum depth of 1.1m was recorded.

The upper 200mm of deposits comprised organic dark brown topsoil, with inclusions occasional modern pottery; CBM; charcoal and small stones. This overlaid 500mm of subsoil; light brown fine sandy silt with CBM, charcoal flecks, and pot. This subsoil became increasingly lighter orange in colour with an increased proportion of gravels towards the base. The lowest 300mm of deposits comprised light orange coarse sand over firm clay with gravels and chalk fragment inclusions.

At approximately 3.2m from the southern end of trench 3, the topsoil and subsoil were cut by modern concrete filled postholes, presumably originating from an earlier garden structure. The second posthole was located some 1.7m further north than the first one, and was also observed in the east facing section only. The first concrete filled post hole was 230mm wide and 500mm deep, with the remains of a wooden post measuring 95mm wide, by 240mm

deep; the thickness could not be determined due to truncation by the machine. The second posthole was smaller being just 420mm deep, by 230mm and no wooden post set in the concrete was visible, as the concrete had not been truncated in the same way as with the first posthole. These modern postholes were deemed to be of no archaeological significance.



Fig 7. Oblique view of trench 3, with the modern postholes visible in the east facing section. Looking southwest.

6.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 had a total length of 16m, running from its junction with trench 3, east to its junction with trench 1. It initially ran for 5.2m before it stepped 1.3m to the south, before continuing in an easterly direction up to the connection with trench 1. As with the other trenches it was approximately 0.7m wide, with a depth varying between 1.0 to 1.10m. A simple sequence of deposits were exposed; 250mm of dark greyish brown topsoil, over 450mm of light brown sandy silt subsoil containing small CBM fragments and small stones, overlying 300mm of exposed natural silty clays. A rich organic tree throw was visible in the south facing section towards the eastern end of the trench, but this contained no finds and was clearly a natural feature.

6.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was excavated some 6 months after trenches 1-4, as this trench was to supply the necessary utilities to the new property on the site (trenches 1-4 being the trench footings for the new foundations). This trench ran up to the northwest corner of the site from near the northeastern corner of the new property.

Due to its intended function as a services trench, the trench was very narrow compared to trenches 1-4, with a width of just 350mm, narrowing to 250mm in some parts. Trench 5 was the longest of all the trenches, being 19m long. The maximum depth reached was 600mm. The upper deposits were composed of rubble from the present construction work, or in the case of the more northerly part of the site, brick paving and sand bedding. Below this was mid-dark brown sandy clay-silt with frequent CBM, slate, pottery (modern or flower pot ceramics) rusted metal items, and frequent flint gravel inclusions. This subsoil was presumably disturbed by the previous site developments in this area (garages and outbuildings were shown to occupy this area in the sites 20th century development). At quite a shallow depth (around 200mm in some parts) natural sandy silts were observed with gravel lenses.

In the middle part of the trench, two sections of *in situ* brick were observed crossing the trench approximately east to west. The bricks measured 240mm in length and the southerly structure had a wall return (corner) visible in plan at the base of the trench. The northerly structure was on the same alignment as the other brickwork (to the south), and as the still standing garages to the north of the site boundary. A concrete base filled the area between the two walls. The complete structure measured 3.4m in length (along the trench alignment). The bricks were all deeply frogged machine made yellow stock bricks and were covered in a thin cement type mortar. This evidence suggests the structure remains are of quite recent date and are not of any archaeological significance. It is quite likely that they represent former base and wall foundations for a garage or small garden structure.



Fig. 8 Left: Monitoring the excavation of the utilities trench (trench 5) in the north part of the site, looking northwest. Right upper: the west facing section at the northern end of the trench. Right lower: the west facing section at the southern end of the trench.



Fig. 9 The brickwork in trench 5.

7. Summary and conclusions

7.1 Responses to archaeological research questions

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either in situ or residual? How does this relate to other Mesolithic to Iron Age material that has been found in the area?*

There was no evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* or residual.

- *Is there any evidence for development or any other activity on the site, from Roman to earlier post-medieval date?*

There was no evidence, either *in situ* or residual for development in the site from the Roman through to earlier post-medieval periods.

- *What evidence is there for more recent land use/development, and how does this relate to the historic map record? In particular, is there any evidence for the historic northern boundary of Haling Manor Park, and if so what form does this take?*

There was no evidence for the historic northern boundary of the Haling Manor Park. The only evidence for the site development all related to recent 20th century garden structures and outbuildings that were deemed of very low archaeological significance due to their recent origin.

7.2 Conclusions

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the programme of observation and recording. The trenches exposed simple sequences of dumped deposits, made ground, a burnt horizon and bio-turbated soil profiles. These overlaid predominantly clayey silts and gravel- all natural deposits from approximately 300mm below the current ground level. In some of the trenches, between the topsoil and the subsoil there was a thin layer of mixed gravels and chalk. It is likely that this represents a stripping of the surface during construction work in the area, before the replacement of the topsoil. Evidence for 20th century outbuildings, garden structures and garages were visible in several sections but were of very low archaeological significance.

8. Bibliography

ASP (Architects, Surveyors & Planners) 2006 *Design Statement for the Redevelopment of Land Adjacent to 4A Bramley Close, Croydon, Surrey. Maidstone.*

Compass Archaeology Ltd. October 2007 *Land adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon CR2.... An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

Compass Archaeology Ltd. November 2007 *Specification for a programme of archaeological observation and recording: land adjacent to 4a Bramley close, South Croydon CR2, London Borough of Croydon Planning Appeal Reference: APP/L5240/A/07/2037150; Application No. 06/04587/P*

Department of the Environment, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance No. 16: Archaeology and Planning*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1996 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Ordnance Survey maps

Appendix I OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compassa1-44877

Project details

Project name	Land Adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon, CR2 London Borough of Croydon, Archaeological Observation and Recording
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring took place between 27th November 2007 and 19th June 2008 on land adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon on the proposed site of a new five bedroom house. Both prehistoric and Roman activity has previously been uncovered within approximately 400m from the site. The site is situated on the northern periphery of the estate grounds of Haling Manor, with records relating to this dating from the 13th century. No development has taken place on this site prior to the construction of 4a Bramley Close and outbuildings in the 20th century. Historically this area has been used as parkland, gardens and potentially agriculture for at least the past 600 years. The site was irregular in plan and measured approximately 34m long (east to west) and 27m wide (north to south) with a total area of approximately 918 square metres. Groundworks constituted the excavation of foundation trenches along the footprint of the new development and excavation of a utilities trench leading from the house to the site entrance. A total trench length of just less than 65m was observed to a depth no greater than 1.2m. The trenches exposed simple sequences of dump deposits, made ground, a burnt horizon and bio-turbated soil profiles. These overlaid predominantly clayey silts and gravel (to the east) natural deposits from approximately 300mm below the current ground level. In some of the trenches, between the topsoil and the subsoil there was a thin layer of mixed gravels and chalk. It is likely that this represents a stripping of the surface during construction work in the area, before the replacement of the topsoil. Evidence for 20th century outbuildings, garden structures and garages were visible in several sections but were of very low archaeological significance. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the programme of observation and recording.
Project dates	Start: 27-11-2007 End: 19-06-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BLX07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	0 None
Monument type	0 None
Significant Finds	0 None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Land Adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon
Postcode	CR2
Study area	918.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3207 6440 51.3627771141 -0.102755316431 51 21 46 N 000 06 09 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter

Project supervisor	Katie Johnson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Monopoly Trading Group

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon, Archaeological Observation and Recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Johnson, K
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology Ltd. 5-7 Southwark St. London, SE1 1RQ
Description	Spiral bound grey literature report.
Entered by	Katie Johnson (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	1 July 2008

Appendix II. London Archaeologist summary

Land adjacent to 4a Bramley Close, South Croydon, CR2. TQ 3207 6440 CA (Katie Johnson). Watching Brief. November 2007 - June 2008. Monopoly Trading Group BLX 07

Summary

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the programme of observation and recording.

The trenches exposed simple sequences of dump deposits, made ground, a burnt horizon and bio-turbated soil profiles. These overlaid predominantly clayey silts and gravel (to the east) natural deposits from approximately 300mm below the current ground level. In some of the trenches, between the topsoil and the subsoil there was a thin layer of mixed gravels and chalk. It is likely that this represents a stripping of the surface during construction work in the area, before the replacement of the topsoil. Evidence for 20th century outbuildings, garden structures and garages were visible in several sections but were of very low archaeological significance.