

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
67, Ifield Road, Crawley,
West Sussex.**

**Planning Ref: CR/2005/0455/FUL
NGR TQ 526250 136750**

By

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Project No. 2340

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation comprising 5 trial trenches was carried out on 3rd, 6th and 7th February 2006, prior to redevelopment of a site at 67, Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex.

Archaeological features were recorded in trenches 3 and 4. Two features in trench 3 were sampled and found to contain a large amount of iron working slag, probably of a medieval date.

Natural ground was encountered at 69.86m OD in the south of the site, sloping to 69.29m OD in the north.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds by Charlotte Thompson**
- 6.0 Conclusions**
- 7.0 References**

SMR Summary Sheet

Appendix 1 – OASIS Data Collection Form

Figures

- Fig. 1:** Site Location showing SMR Entries
- Fig. 2:** Site Plan
- Fig. 3:** Sections

Tables

- Table 1:** SMR Entries
- Table 2:** Finds (count/weight in g)
- Table 3:** Environmental Samples
- Table 4:** Results of Flot Analysis
- Table 5:** Residue Analysis

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by Whelan Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 67, Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex (NGR TQ526250 136750) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Whelan Homes submitted an application for planning permission to Crawley Borough Council (Planning ref. CR/2005/0455/FUL) for the residential development of the site. Following the advice of the West Sussex County Council's Archaeologist (in the County Council's capacity as advisor to the Borough Council on archaeological planning matters), Crawley Borough Council asked the applicant to determine the impact of the proposals prior to the determination of the planning by means of a programme of intrusive archaeological investigation.
- 1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation, was prepared by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager) of Archaeology South-East (ASE), in response to a letter from West Sussex County Council (WSCC), outlining the programme of works, which comprised trial trenching (Stevenson 2006).
- 1.4 The British Geological Survey map Sheet 302 (Horsham) Solid and Drift Edition (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the site lies on Weald Clay, near to the borders of the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, to the west. The modern ground surface slopes from 70.43m OD in the south east to 69.58m OD in the north.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Samantha Worrall (Field Officer) and Deon Whittaker (Archaeological Assistant) on 3rd, 6th and 7th February 2006. The project was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located towards the centre of Crawley, in the Conservation Area of West Green, opposite St Peter's church (NGR TQ 526250 136750) (Fig. 1). The site is approximately 40m by 40m in area, and is bounded to the south by Ifield Road, the west by St Peter's Road, to the north by residential properties and to the east by the Crown Inn. The redevelopment would involve the demolition of the present house, dental surgery and garage and the construction of a two-storey residential block with associated parking.
- 2.2 The site is considered to have archaeological potential. West Green is a former common, and lies to the east of potential locations of medieval properties. The site is also located at a former crossroads that was potentially a focus for Late Saxon and early medieval settlement that predates the medieval Crawley High Street. There is also the possibility that the area was used for medieval iron

working.

2.3 The results of a search of the West Sussex Sites and Monuments Record (WSSMR) are summarised below in Table 1. The locations of these sites in relation to the development site are shown on Figure 1.

No. on Fig. 1	Site No.	NGR (TQ)	Description
1	4036 - WS686	2670036500	Four Palaeolithic axes
2	5304 - WS5473	2675037000	Ironstone workings 100m west of Crawley High street at Driftway
3	5305 - WS3990	2650036500	Ironstone workings In the gardens of two of the houses along Spencers rd
4	5617 - WS4356	2650036500	Crawley medieval town
5	5689 - WS5478	2673936460	Medieval Hall - 16 Crawley High street
6	5691 - WS4394	2663036600	Medieval Activity/Iron working - Crawley High St Relief road
7	5692 - WS4395	26723648	Medieval Activity - Crawley High St Relief Rd
8	5955 - WS5204	2675037000	Ironstone workings
9	6218 - WS4878	2660036800	Brickfield, W. Green. Marked on the map of 1895 and 1909
10	6219 - WS4879	2580036700	Brickfield on N. side of Railway. Marked on the map of 1895 and 1909
11	6862 - WS6897	2674137179	Medieval Fieldsystem/Iron works at Crawley Leisure Park
12	6871 - WS6906	2672536509	A pit containing 13th to 14th century pottery and ironworking slag at 26-36 High Street, Crawley
13	6875 - WS6910	2647836620	A recut post-medieval boundary ditch at Victoria Road, Crawley
14	7155-7 - WS7210-2	2652636455/60	An area of high medieval activity at ASDA site
15	7158 - WS7213	2661536501	Some LBA/EIA features found at ASDA site
16	7161 - WS7216	2658536532	Medieval activity at ASDA site, including post holes, ditches, and other. Also a complex feature thought to be a working platform was exposed
17	7544 - WS7619	26303630	Bloomery listed at Goffs Park on the Wealdon Iron Research Database

Table 1: SMR Entries

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to ascertain:

- Whether archaeological remains extend across the development site
- The character, date and quality of ancient remains and deposits
- How they might be affected by the development of the site
- Whether particularly important remains should be preserved *in situ*
- What options should be considered for mitigation

- 3.2** Five trial trenches were excavated using a 3 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 measured 5m in length and were located in the front and side of the garden. Trenches 4 and 5 measured 10m in length, and were located to the rear of the property.
- 3.3** The locations of all the trenches were scanned with a CAT scanner prior to excavation to check for the presence of service cables. No live services were located. The excavation was taken down to the top of the 'natural' sediment as no archaeological deposits were encountered above. The surface of the 'natural' sediment was then manually cleaned in an attempt to identify archaeological features. A metal detector was used to scan topsoil removed from the excavation, exposed and removed subsoil, and exposed natural deposits. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. A visual inspection of spoil heaps was also carried out.
- 3.4** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using context record sheets modified for use by Archaeology South-East. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5** All trenches were levelled to a site datum, which was tied in to a nearby Ordnance Survey benchmark. A full photographic record of the work was kept (black and white and colour slide) and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling and will be offered to Crawley museum.
- 3.6** On completion of the work the trenches were backfilled and compacted.

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)

4.1 The stratigraphic sequence recorded across the site was as follows:

- Between 0.2m to 0.35m thick. Dark brownish black, humic loam, with rare sub-rounded flint gravels. Topsoil (Context **001**).
- Between 0.15m to 0.25m thick. Mid to dark orange greyish brown, silty clay with no coarse components. Subsoil (Context **002**).

Natural deposits: Mottled greyish brown, with patches of blue grey and light orange yellow, and red-orange brown 'streaking' of iron staining. No coarse components.

4.2 Trench 1

This trench was orientated east to west, and was located in the south-eastern corner of the development site. It had a maximum depth of 0.6m, with a subsoil disturbed by tree roots. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed. Natural ground was encountered at 69.85m OD in the west of the trench and 69.95m OD in the east of the trench.

4.3 ***Trench 2***

This trench was orientated roughly east to west, and was located in the south-western corner of the development site. It had a maximum depth of 0.5m. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed. Natural ground was encountered at 69.81m OD in the west of the trench and 69.86m OD in the east of the trench.

4.4 ***Trench 3***

This trench was orientated roughly east to west, and was located in the eastern area of the development site. It had a maximum depth of 0.45m. A modern service pipe was revealed across the centre of the trench, and two archaeological features were observed in the eastern extent of the trench. Natural ground was encountered at 69.66m OD in the west of the trench and 69.59m OD in the east of the trench.

4.4.1 Context **3/004** was a possible pit, which extended beyond the limits of the trench, and therefore its exact shape and dimensions were not established. Half the exposed feature was excavated, and this revealed a gently sloping western edge, with a base sloped slightly to the east, to a depth of c. 0.3m. This was filled by c.0.2m of slightly silty clay; mid brownish grey, mottled with dark grey and orange yellow patches (Context **3/005**). The dark grey patches represented fragments and smears of iron staining/manganese. Underlying this was c. 0.15m of stiff clay, mottled mid grey with orange yellow patches and no coarse components (Context **3/006**). A fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from Context **3/005**.

4.4.2 Immediately to the west of Feature **3/004** was a second pit. This was located against the northern baulk of the trench, and measured c. 1.4m in length, 0.52m in width, and c. 0.15m in depth, with a regular concave profile (Context **3/007**). It was filled by slightly silty clay, mixed mid grey with mottled mid to light orange brown, with frequent large fragments of slag (Context **3/008**).

4.5 ***Trench 4***

This trench was orientated roughly east to west, and was located in the north-western corner of the development site, to the rear of the existing house. It had a maximum depth of 0.45m. Natural ground was encountered at 69.22m OD in the west of the trench and 69.37m OD in the east of the trench.

4.5.1 The trench revealed one archaeological feature, a gully, located at the far western extent of the trench orientated N/S (Context **4/004**). This measured

c. 0.7m in width and c. 0.07m in depth and had moderately sloping sides, with a broad, flat base. It was filled by mixed mid to dark, reddish grey-brown slightly silty clay, with very rare sub-rounded flints and iron staining (Context **4/005**). A small assemblage of pottery, pieces of ceramic building material and a broken round mirror were recovered from the topsoil above this feature.

4.6 *Trench 5*

This trench was orientated roughly north to south, and was located in the northern area of the development site, to the rear of the existing house. It had a maximum depth of 0.45m, and revealed a modern service pipe, located towards the southern extent of the trench. Two modern cat skeletons were recovered from within the subsoil deposit (Context **5/002**), and also a quantity of 19th century china, but no archaeological features were observed. Natural ground was encountered at 69.29m OD in the north of the trench and 69.25m OD in the south of the trench.

5.0 THE FINDS by Charlotte Thompson

Context	Pottery	CBM	Bone	Shell	Fe	Glass	Other
[2/002]			24/30				
[3/002]	7/136						
[3/005]		1/20					Mirror
[4/001]	16/108	1/34					1/14
[5/001]	56/804		2/130	1/<2		6/204	Pot/Fe 1/4
[5/002] below cat burial	2/12						
[5/002] cat burial			59/50				
[5/002] cat burial 2	5/84	2/20	135/108				
[5/002]	42/522		23/96	1/8	2/90	1/20	Graphite 2/6

Table 2. Finds (count/weight in g)

5.1 A total of 127 pieces of pottery were recovered from the site, all from the topsoil or subsoil of the five trenches. There are a large number of transfer wares in the assemblage, indicative of the 19th century, and a handful of stonewares, also likely to date to the same period. There are two rims from large redware bowls with glazed interiors from context [5/002] (cat burial 2) as well as several pieces of ceramic building material (cbm), all likely to be of 19th century date. A single fragment of cbm was recovered from context [3/005], which is likely to be peg tile, and dated to the medieval to post-medieval period. The assemblage has a strong domestic character as it contains a piece of flowerpot, a number of transfer ware plates, small plain china storage pots as well as a semi-complete transfer ware teacup. A single

small, oxidised sand tempered body sherd was recovered from sample <2>, probably of a medieval date.

- 5.2** Non-ceramic finds include a smashed round mirror with a plastic rind from the [4/001], two graphic cylinders from [5/002], heavily corroded iron pieces from the same context, a corroded piece of iron nail that has fused to a piece of pottery in context [5/001], and pieces of glass which were found in association with the largest groups of 19th century pottery in contexts [5/001] and [5/002].
- 5.3** A total of 243 bone fragments were recovered from the topsoil or subsoil of trenches 2 (2/002) and 5 (5/001, 5/002). The identified fragments recovered from Trench 2 (2/002) included domestic fowl and cattle longbone and rib fragments. In two cases the rib fragments had been chopped through. Context 5/001 produced one unidentifiable fragment as well as a mid-shaft fragment of cattle tibia. The shaft had been sawn completely through at both ends.
- 5.4** The majority of the assemblage (217 fragments) represents at least two cat burials (5/002), one immature and one mature, displaying evidence of arthritis in several joints.
- 5.5** The finds have little potential other than for the dating of the features. No further work is required on the finds assemblage.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allot

6.1 Introduction

Three environmental samples were taken from three pit contexts (see Table 1). It was hoped that these samples would yield environmental remains as well as evidence for industrial activities at the site.

6.2 Methods

Samples were processed using bucket flotation. Residues (heavy fraction) and flots (light fraction) were retained on 500micron and 250micron meshes respectively. Samples were dried and passed through 4mm and 2mm sieves. Sample contents are documented in Tables 4 and 5.

Sample No	Context No	Sample Size (Litres)	Sub-sample Size (Litres)
1	4/005	24	12
2	3/005	48	24
3	3/008	48	24

Table 3: Environmental Samples

6.3 Results

Limited archaeobotanical and environmental remains were recovered in the flots and residues from these samples. Several uncharred seeds, many of

which are *Sambucus nigra* (elder), were present in the flots of samples 1 and 2. Some charcoal was present in the residue of sample 2. These fragments are relatively heavy and may be partially mineralised.

Samples 2 and 3 produced large quantities of iron working slag, some ceramics, small flecks of green glass and two small fragments of tile. Sample 1 produced only small quantities of industrial debris.

Sample No.	Context No.	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal >4mm frags	Charcoal <4mm %	Seeds Charred	Seeds Uncharred	Industrial Debris	Glass
1	4/005	30	60	0	0	0	2	Y	Y
2	3/005	80	10	0	0	0	12	Y	
3	3/008	70	20	1/<2g	0	0	6/<2g	Y/<2g	

Table 4: Results of Flot Analysis

Sample No.	Context No.	Ceramics	Slag	Industrial debris	Charcoal	Tile	Glass	Ferrous Slag in g
1	4/005			Y small fragments				
2	3/005	6g	Y		12g	2/<2g	1/<2g	964g
3	3/008		Y					5476g

Table 5: Residue Contents

6.4 Discussion

The environmental remains from these samples do not hold potential for further analysis although that is not to exclude the potential for recovery of archaeobotanical and environmental remains during subsequent work at the site. The industrial activities at the site, highlighted by the large quantities of slag, are of interest and this material should be assessed by a specialist.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The majority of the trenches on the site produced no archaeological features/deposits and finds recovered from the top and sub soils indicate a late post-medieval date. However, environmental samples taken from two features in Trench 3 produced a large amount of iron working slag. A single small sherd of pottery was recovered from within one of the fills, which may indicate a medieval date of deposition. However, this find should be viewed with some caution given its small size, (and the potential for intrusive or residual deposition), and does not give a conclusive date for this feature. Medieval iron working is, however, known to have occurred in the locality.

8.0 REFERENCES

Stevenson, J. 2006. *67, Ifield Road, Crawley, West Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) Written Scheme of Investigation.* ASE grey report unpub.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	IRC 06					
Identification Name and Address	67, Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Crawley Borough Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 526250 136750					
Geology	Weald Clay and Upper Tonbridge Sands					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2340					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓ 3 rd , 6 th & 7 th February 2006	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Whelan Homes Ltd.					
Project Manager	Jim Stevenson and Louise Rayner					
Project Supervisor	Samantha Worrall					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED ✓	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation comprising 5 trial trenches was carried out on 3rd, 6th and 7th February 2006, prior to redevelopment of a site at 67, Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex.</p> <p>Archaeological features were recorded in trenches 3 and 4. Two features in trench 3 were sampled and found to contain a large amount of iron working slag, probably of a medieval date.</p> <p>Natural ground was encountered at 69.86m OD in the south of the site, sloping to 69.29m OD in the north.</p>						

Project creators

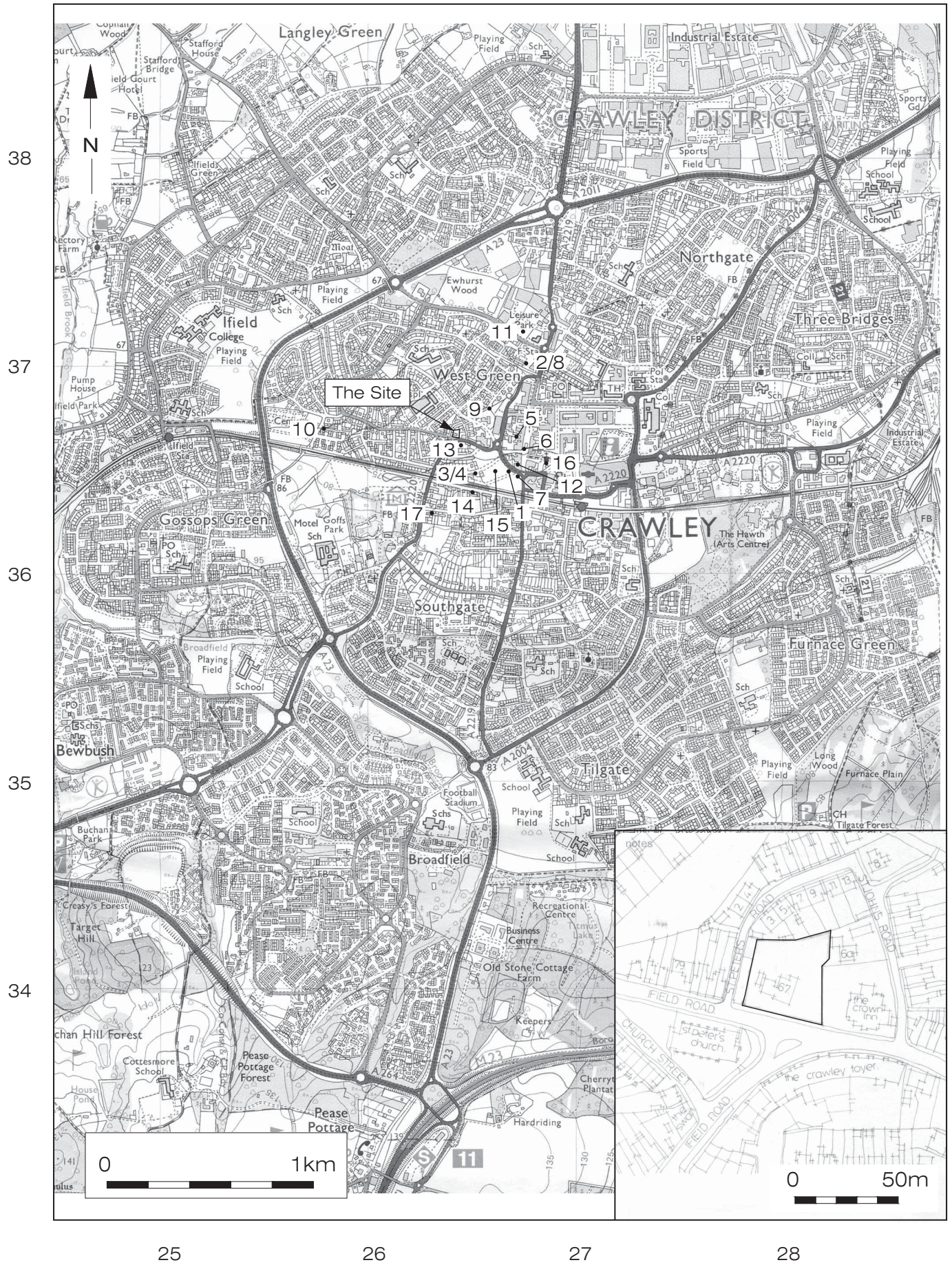
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	SAM WORRALL
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Whelan Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','other'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

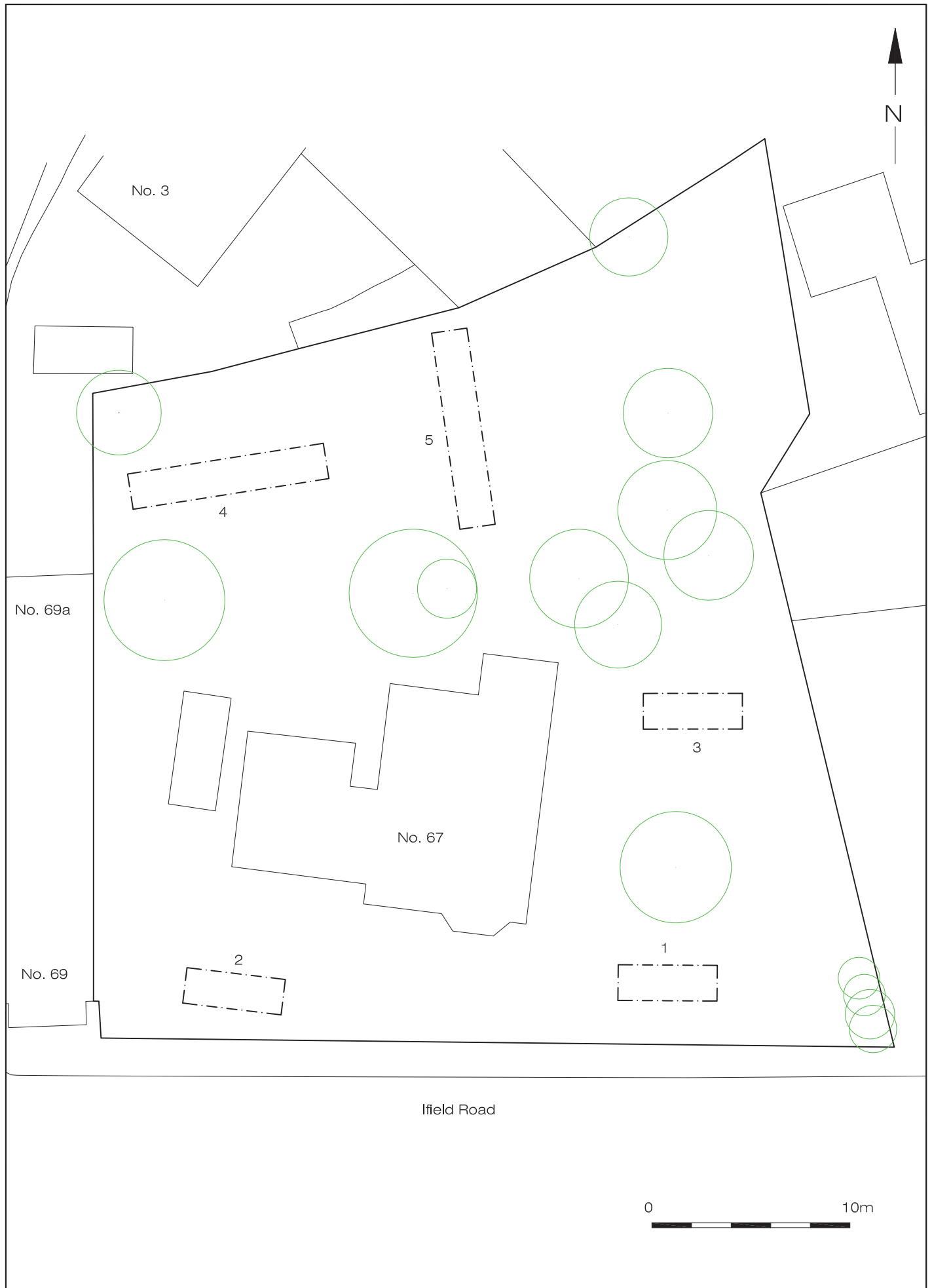
Project bibliography 1

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© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			67 Ifield Road, Crawley	Fig. 1
Ref: 2340	Feb 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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