

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at 22A Laud Street, Croydon.**

**NGR: 532185,165030  
NGR: TQ 32185 65030**

**Planning Reference: 14/05031/P  
Appeal Reference: APP/L5240/A/11/2145557  
(relating to previous application 10/0183/P)**



**ASE Project No: 7806  
Site Code: LAU 15**

**ASE Report No: 2015377  
OASIS id: archaeol6-226222**

**By Dylan Hopkinson**


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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at 22A Laud Street, Croydon, in October 2015.*

*The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the entire footprint of a proposed new development on the site. No archaeological finds or features were noted during the course of the works and modern made ground was observed to be directly overlying truncated natural gravels.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Waqar Yusuf to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 22A Laud Street, Croydon, Greater London (NGR 532185, 165030; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is currently an unused parking area adjoining 22A Laud Street, situated in the London Borough of Croydon. The site is bounded by Laud Street to the north and properties fronting Laud Street and Church Road on all other sides.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on an area of the Hackney Gravel Member (sand and gravel) overlying Lewes Nodular Chalk and Newhaven Chalk Formations (BGS 2015).
- 1.2.2 The site lies on the western side of a dry valley, the route of which is closely followed by the A235 and A236.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application for the site dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 was initially refused by Croydon Borough Council (reference 10/01843/P, dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010). This decision was overturned on appeal (reference APP/L5240/A/11/2145557, dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011).
- 1.3.2 This consent expired after a period of three years and a further application was submitted under reference 14/05031/P for the erection of one bedroom detached house with basement. Consent was duly granted on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2104 subject to compliance with 12 conditions.
- 1.3.3 Condition 6 of the planning consent states:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

*Reason: To safeguard the heritage of the Borough by providing an adequate opportunity to investigate and excavate archaeological remains on the site before development is carried out, in accordance with Policy UC11 of the Croydon Replacement Unitary Development Plan (The Croydon Plan 2006) Saved Policies 2013.*

- 1.3.3 The client has established direct with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) in their capacity as advisor to Croydon Borough Council that a Programme of Enhanced Archaeological Observation and

Recording will be undertaken within the development footprint prior to commencement of development ground works. A Written Scheme of Investigation which outlined the scope of the archaeological work was subsequently prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2015) and duly approved by GLAAS. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a, 2014b) and the GLAAS *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (Historic England 2015).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The specific aims of the watching brief were to define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- 1.4.2 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains.
- 1.4.3 To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- 1.4.4 To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report summarises a watching brief carried out by ASE during the preparations for groundworks relating to the construction of the basement and wall footings for the proposed property. The work took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The following information is drawn from the results of a 400m radius search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLSMR) provided on 18th September 2015 (HER request reference 11996; hereafter referred to as 'the study area').

2.1.2 The site lies within and in close proximity to two archaeological priority areas: Croydon (including Park Hill Farm) and South End. The Croydon demarcation defines a number of archaeological sites and findspots in addition to Listed Buildings. A total of eight Grade II and one Grade II\* Listed Buildings exist within the study area and date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. 53 Locally Listed Buildings are also recorded within the study area and are where dated are described as Victorian, Edwardian or constructed inter-war.

### **2.2 Period Summaries**

#### **Prehistoric**

2.2.1 The GLSMR records a number of flint scatters and findspots within the study area including an Upper Palaeolithic blade and Mesolithic handaxe from 2-14 Whitgift Street. Pits and gullies of Bronze Age date have been recorded at 82-86 Park Lane.

#### **Roman**

2.2.2 Significant evidence of Roman activity has been identified in recent developer funded investigations in the study area, principally at 2-14 Whitgift Steet, St Andrews Road, Eridge Road, Park Lane and Wandle Road. The postulated route of the Portslade (East Sussex) to Croydon Roman road passes immediately west of the site and a possible exposure of flint aggregate associated with this road was identified at Lower Combe Street. Chance recovery of single coins and one coin hoard have been recorded since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Anglo Saxon**

2.2.3 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified between Eridge Road and Park Lane and dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and likely to be an extension of the burial ground first identified during development in 1893-4. Overt evidence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement within the study area is not recorded.

#### **Medieval / Post-medieval / Modern**

2.2.4 The historic core of medieval Croydon lies to north of the site. Expansion of this settlement accelerated during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, particularly with the coming of the railway and Laud Street was certainly in existence by the 1860s.

2.2.5 According to cartographic sources the site was undeveloped in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century but a structure (possibly a glasshouse) was present on the street frontage by 1890 and replaced by a terrace of five small structures at the rear (possibly garaging) by the 1930s. These structures lie partially within the adjacent plot (No 22a Laud Street) which was developed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> / early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **2.3 Recent Archaeological Investigation**

2.3.1 There has been no previous archaeological investigation on this site.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 A site code (LAU 15) was obtained from the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) and was used as the unique site identifier for all records and photographs.
- 3.1.2 The groundworks for the site involved excavations for a basement, which was to be excavated to a depth in excess of two metres, and the footings for the foundations which were to be excavated to a depth of 1.20m. The monitored excavations were carried out using a suitable mini-excavator fitted with a 1.10m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket
- 3.1.3 Modern made ground was machine excavated under direct archaeological supervision in spits of no more than 0.25m, until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached, whichever was higher. Care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

- 3.2.1 The small size of the site was the only constraint on fieldwork. The lack of space necessitated machine excavation of the site in several stages, with spoil from later stages of excavation deposited in areas already monitored.

### 3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and were issued with a unique Site Code for the project (LAU 15). The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Digital photos	15
Permatrace sheets	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The lowest deposit encountered was firm pale yellow brown gravels and sand which represented the underlying natural Hackney Gravels [004].
- 4.2 These natural gravels were overlain by a layer of made ground comprising firm dark brown silty sand with common gravel inclusions [003], measuring between 0.60m to 0.80m in thickness.
- 4.3 This was sealed by a further layer of made ground comprising dark brown silty sand with common gravel inclusions that differed slightly in colour and included some areas of clean orangey brown stiff clay 0.30m thick [002].
- 4.4 The final deposit at the top of the sequence was a 0.12m thick layer of pale yellow fine sand [001]. This formed the bedding layer for the single layer of brick pavements that previously formed the parking surface and which had been removed prior to attendance on site.
- 4.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the monitoring.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
001	Layer	Made ground	Site	Site	0.12
002	Layer	Made ground	Site	Site	0.30
003	Layer	Made ground	Site	Site	0.80
004	Layer	Natural geology	Site	Site	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 No archaeological artefacts or features were identified during the course of the work, which comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the entirety of the footprint of the proposed development. The only deposits observed consisted of modern made ground overlying truncated natural gravels.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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ClfA 2014b. *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation*

Historic England 2015 *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Mr Waqar Yusef for commissioning the work and for his assistance throughout the project, and Mark Stevenson Archaeological Advisor to the National Planning Group: London for his guidance and monitoring. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dylan Hopkinson. The author would like to thank Neil Griffin and Darryl Palmer who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

## HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	11996					
Site code	LAU 15					
Project code	7806					
Planning reference	14/05031/P - Appeal Reference: APP/L5240/A/11/2145557 relating to previous application 10/0183/P					
Site address	22A Laud Street, Croydon					
District/Borough	London borough of Croydon					
NGR (12 figures)	532185,165030					
Geology	Hackney Gravel Member (sand and gravel) overlying Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	<b>WB</b>	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	7th to 10th October 2015.					
Sponsor/client	Mr Waqar Yusuf					
Project manager	Neil Griffin and Darryl Palmer					
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	<b>Other</b>	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at 22A Laud Street, Croydon, in October 2015.</i></p> <p><i>The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the entire footprint of a proposed new development on the site. No archaeological finds or features were noted during the course of the works and modern made ground was observed to be directly overlying truncated natural gravels.</i></p>					
Museum/Accession No.	LAU 15					

## Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
NO FINDS			
NO SOIL SAMPLES			

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-226222

#### Project details

Project name 22A Laud Street, Croydon, Greater London

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at 22A Laud Street, Croydon, in October 2015.

Short description of the project The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the entire footprint of a proposed new development on the site. No archaeological finds or features were noted during the course of the works and modern made ground was observed to be directly overlying truncated natural gravels.

Project dates Start: 07-10-2015 End: 09-10-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes LAU 15 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 14/05031/P - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes APP/L5240/A/11/2145557 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes 10/0183/P - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status (other) Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs)

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Visual Inspection"

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country England

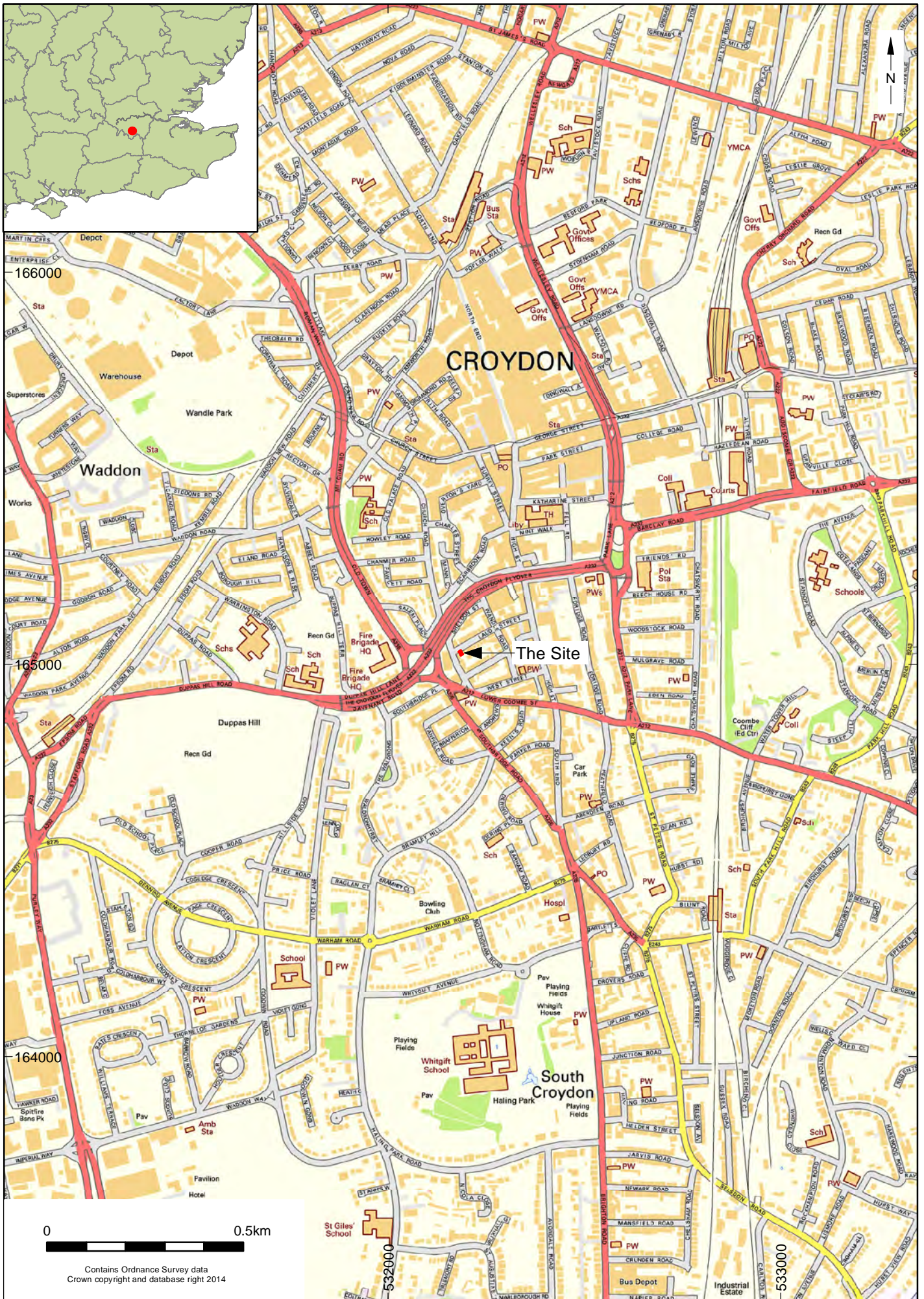
Site location GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 22A Laud Street, Croydon, Greater London

Postcode CR0 1SU

Study area	57 Square metres
Site coordinates	532185 165030 532185 00 00 N 165030 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin / Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Waqar Yusuf
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 22A Laud Street, Croydon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hopkinson, D
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No: 2015377
Date	2015

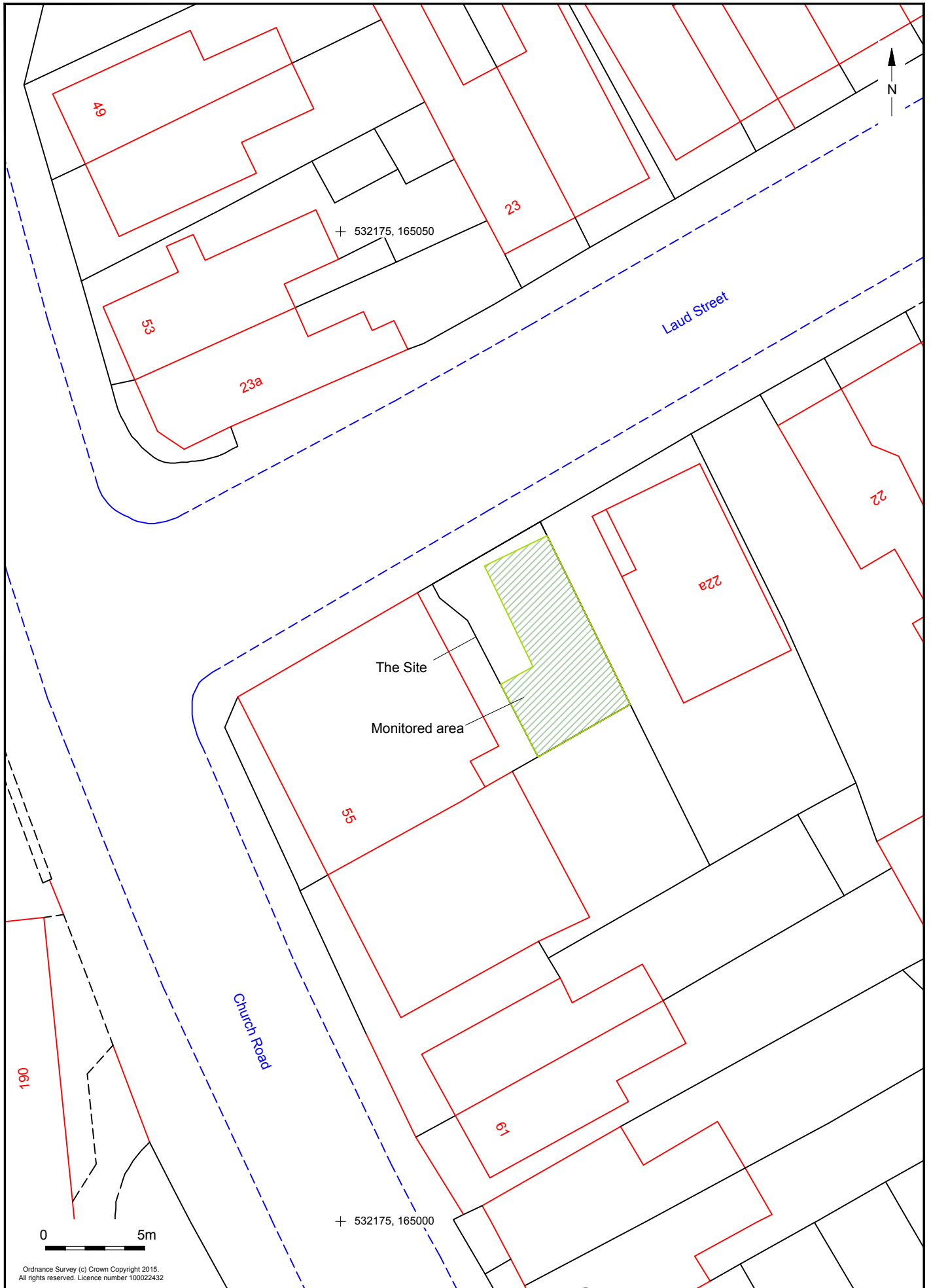


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© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to 22A Laud Street, Croydon		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7806	October 2015	Site location		
Report Ref: 2015377	Drawn by: DJH			

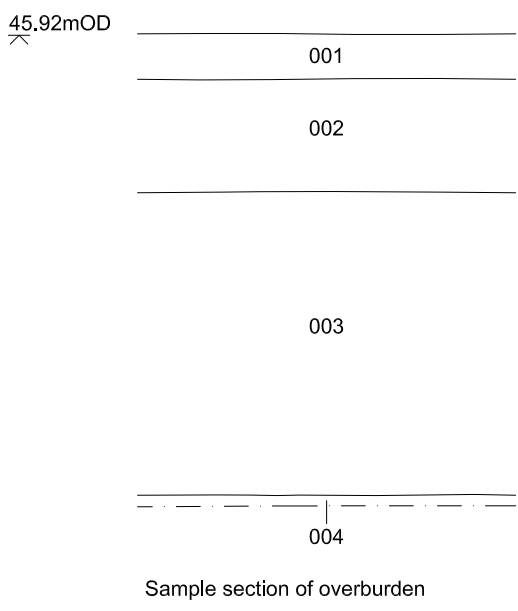


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© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to 22A Laud Street, Croydon		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7806	October 2015	Site plan showing monitored area		
Report Ref: 2015377	Drawn by: DJH			



General view of monitored area looking north



Sample section of overburden

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