

**An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief
on Land to the Rear of 60 High Street, Crawley, West
Sussex**

Stage 1



by
Paul Riccoboni BA (Hons)

April 2008

**An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief
on Land to the Rear of 60 High Street, Crawley, West
Sussex**

Stage 1

NGR 526749 136642

Planning ref: CR/2006/0185/COU

Project No. 2851

(CRA 06)

Report Number: 2008032

by

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with a contribution by Trista Clifford and Elke Raeman

April 2008

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Summary

Archaeology South East were commissioned by Mr Paul Montaldo of Si Italian Restaurant to undertake a programme of archaeological work in advance of the proposed construction of a new extension to the rear of 60 High Street, Crawley (NGR 526749 136642) (Planning Reference: CR/2006/0185/COU).

Initially, two geo-technical test pits were monitored on 16th October 2006. No archaeological features were discovered during this exercise. Natural clay was encountered in Test Pit 2 c. 1.1m beneath the present ground surface. This clay was in good condition and had not been truncated by any modern intrusions.

As part of the planning consent John Mills (West Sussex County Council Archaeologist) stipulated that further archaeological works would be necessary in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. One trial trench was excavated to a length of 5 metres in April 2007. Three features were recorded at the base of this trench, beneath a series of post medieval made ground deposits (cut into natural clay). These features were likely dated to the post medieval period.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr Paul Montaldo to undertake an archaeological watching brief and evaluation on the site of a proposed new extension to the rear of 60 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex (Fig.1, NGR 526749 1366542).
- 1.2 According to the British Geological Survey (1:50 000 map sheet No. 302), the underlying geology at the site is Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, comprising sandstone and clay. Upon excavation the geology was discovered to be clay.
- 1.3 Planning permission has been granted by Crawley Borough Council for the construction of an extension to the existing restaurant on the site (ref. CR/2006/0185/COU). Owing to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, and after consultation with John Mills, the West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) Archaeologist (Crawley Borough Council's adviser on archaeological planning matters) a condition was attached to this consent requiring a programme of archaeological works to be implemented at the site prior to development.
- 1.4 Based on the results of the Watching Brief (Riccoboni, 2006), John Mills requested that the site be evaluated for archaeological remains by one mechanically excavated trial trench. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Diccon Hart of Archaeology South East (Hart 2006). The stated aims of the evaluation were to ascertain:
- 'the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of development upon them and to publish the results.'*
- 1.5 The on-site archaeological work was carried out by Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologist) in October 2006 and April 2007. The project was managed by Neil Griffin and Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and by Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation Manager).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An SMR search was conducted detailing a 0.5km radius of the site. Below is a table summarizing these results.

No	SMR Number	NGR	Details
1	5955-MWS5204	TQ 26750 37000	Bloomery slag and medieval pottery
2	5305-MWS3990	TQ 26500 36500	Bloomery slag and medieval pottery
3	4015-MWS676	TQ 26860 36540	Church- (St John the Baptist)- South wall of the nave probably 14 th Century
4	5689-MWS5478	TQ 26739 36460	Medieval Hall- 16 Crawley High Street. Building has four main construction phases starting in the 15 th Century
5	5307-MWS5475	TQ 26826 36780	Medieval House- five main phases of construction. Earliest phase is a four bay 'Wealden' style Hall house from the early 15 th Century
6	5306-MWS5474	TQ 26800 36500	Small concentration of forging slag was found along with medieval pottery sherds
7	5304-MWS5473	TQ 26750 37000	An uprooted tree revealed bloomery slag and several sherds of medieval pottery
8	4036-MWS686	TQ 26700 36500	Four Paleolithic axes
9	5957-MWS5205	TQ 26630 36540	Iron working slag and medieval pottery
10	6871-MWS6906	TQ 26725 36509	A pit containing medieval pottery and iron working slag
11	5954-MWS5203	TQ 26800 36500	Iron working slag and medieval pottery
12	6218-MWS4878	TQ 26600 36800	Brickfield at West Green
13	5692-MWS4395	TQ 26720 36480	Evaluation- Crawley High Street Relief Rd. Four gullies, two ditches and a shallow circular feature were excavated and all contained medieval pottery and later pits contained iron slag
14	5691-MWS4394	TQ 26630 36600	Evaluation- Crawley High Street Relief Rd. Six small pits contained medieval pottery and iron working slag
15	5690-MWS4393	TQ 26800 36950	Evaluation- Crawley High Street Relief Rd. Seven trenches were excavated three of which produced two gullies, five post holes and eight pits which mostly contained late medieval pottery and large quantities of iron slag
16	5617-MWS4356	TQ 26500 36500	Crawley medieval town. In 1202 King John granted Crawley license to hold a market every Wednesday.
17	5308-MWS3991	TQ 26930 36930	Excavation- Roman pottery found at Crawley Barn in 1973
18	6583-MWS5365	TQ 26680 36660	Two post medieval gullies found at Shaws Garage
19	7157-MWS7212	TQ 26724 36407	ASDA development Excavation. A complex of ditches and gullies found. Pits and post holes were also exposed. Medieval and post medieval pottery found. Intense areas of burning around a kiln
20	7859-MWS7952	TQ 2676 3698	Medieval anthropomorphic jug found after the 1987 storm.
21	7759- MWS7850	TQ 2685 3685	Medieval pottery

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60 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex.

22	7544-MWS7619	TQ 2630 3630	Bloomery- Goffs park
23	7348-MWS7416	TQ 26595 36569	Evaluation- medieval pottery found at the Hammerson-lfield site
24	7161-MWS7216	TQ 26585 36532	Excavation- ASDA development. Medieval activity- a complex feature found to be a working platform was exposed
25	4027-MWS680	TQ 26846 36832	Medieval House- Moat Hall, 103 High Street recorded to demolition and removal to Singleton Open Air Museum
26	7158-MWS7213	TQ 26615 36501	Excavation-ASDA Development site- LBA/EIA activity was encountered
27	7928-MWS8042	TQ 26742 36953	Excavation- Pegler Way, uncovered a medieval industrial site.
28	6881-MWS6918	TQ 26578 36454	A Baptist Chapel and graveyard. Gravestones recorded before development
29	5697-MWS6917	TQ 26791 36408	Excavation- Linear feature exposed filled with slag and a well was discovered (top courses 19 th Century)
30	5696-MWS6916	TQ 26763 36450	The Old Post Office- Sandstone foundations found and a large number of rubbish pits containing pottery and slag
31	6876-MWS6911	TQ 26437 36622	Post medieval architectural fragment found
32	6875-MWS6910	TQ 26478 36620	Evaluation- A re-cut post medieval boundary ditch filled with slag (probably used as a soak away)
33	Event ID EWS767	TQ 26409 36263	Desk Based Assessment at Denne Road/Newlands Rd

Table 1: SMR search results (0.5km radius)

- 2.2 The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Crawley. Cartographic sources consulted (Tithe Map 1839, OS 25" Sheet 111/12 1st edition 1874, 1910 edition, 1946 revision) show that a building has stood on the site since at least 1839. However, the rear of the property has been vacant from 1839 until at least 1946. Archaeological observations elsewhere in the vicinity of the High Street have provided ample evidence of medieval activity in close proximity to the site.
- 2.3 Work undertaken by Archaeology South-East at the Old Post Office to the south of the current site revealed 13th-14th century features, as well as the remains of a possible 16th century house (Stevens 1997).
- 2.4 To the north of the current site, excavations at Crawley Leisure Centre produced evidence of 14th-15th century iron working and the remains of a 16th-17th century building (Trust for Wessex Archaeology 1998). Excavations at the junction of Kilnmead and the High Street, also to the north of the present site, revealed further evidence of iron working in association with 13th-14th century pottery (Stevens 1998), and work carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services along the line of the Crawley High Street Relief Road to the west of the site also uncovered medieval features (Saunders 1998).
- 2.5 A watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East during the excavation of investigative trial pits on the subject site in 2006

(Riccoboni 2006) revealed a sequence of post-medieval made ground on the site but no medieval activity.

- 2.6 The most recent important excavation was the ASDA development site (Stevens 2003 & 2007). This site contained many inter cutting ditches, gullies, pits and post holes ranging from the early to late medieval periods. A medieval well was also discovered.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 One trial trench was excavated to a length of 5 metres. The position of the trench was proposed by Archaeology South East and approved by John Mills (WSCC) prior to the commencement of work (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 Two c. 2m square test pits were excavated (Fig. 2). The position of these test pits was determined by the on site building contractor. Archaeological monitoring took place while these test pits were being excavated. A 1m wide toothless ditching bucket was used where possible.
- 3.3 The location of the evaluation trench was checked with a CAT scanner for the presence of buried services. The trench was then excavated by a 1.5 tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1 m wide toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East.
- 3.4 The excavation was taken down to the top of the 'natural' or archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. A metal detector was used to scan spoil for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.5 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system as modified for use by Archaeology South-East. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.6 The trench was leveled to a Temporary Bench Mark in the south west corner of the site. It was not possible to obtain a height from any drawings supplied by the client and no bench mark was accessible due to the enclosed nature of the site.
- 3.7 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive, including the finds, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Ditchling and will be offered to

Crawley Museum in due course. The fieldwork was carried out under sitecode CRA 07.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Trench T3 (Figs 2, 3 & 4)

4.1.1 Trench T3 was excavated to a length of 5 metres and to depths of between 1.02m at the north-western end and to 0.76m at the south-eastern end, at which point the 'natural' yellow clay silt was encountered and mechanical excavation ceased. The overburden consisted of five distinct layers. The following is a description of the overburden at the north-western end of the trench (latest to earliest).

Context No	Description	Thickness
100	Concrete (reinforced)	0.20m
101	Concrete	0.08m
102	Tarmac	0.05m
103	Buried topsoil	0.37m
104	Buried subsoil	0.28m

Table 2: Summary of Trench 3 stratigraphy (NW end of trench)

4.1.2 Context 100 was a c. 0.20m thick deposit of concrete (reinforced throughout). It directly overlay Context 101, a c. 0.08m thick deposit of concrete. Directly beneath 101 was Context 102. This was a 0.05m thick deposit of tarmac. 103 was a 0.37m thick deposit of a dark brownish black, silty clay. It contained chalk flecks (3-5%), crushed building material (2%), crushed pink mortar fragments (2%) and occasional slate fragments (2%). This deposit was interpreted as an old topsoil. Context 104 was a 0.28m thick dark brownish grey, slightly silty clay deposit with a sticky clay consistency. This deposit had been lightened in colour by mixing with the underlying 'natural'. It was interpreted as the old subsoil layer. The natural (Context 105) was a mid yellow clay, located directly beneath 104.

4.1.3 At the south-eastern end of the trench the following stratigraphic sequence was recorded (latest to earliest).

Context No	Description	Thickness
100	Concrete (reinforced)	0.20m
101	Brick rubble	0.08m
102	Tarmac	0.05m
103	Buried topsoil	0.37m
104	Buried subsoil	0.28m

Table 3: Summary of Trench 3 stratigraphy (SE end of Trench)

4.1.4 Context 100 was a c. 0.20m thick deposit of concrete (reinforced throughout). Directly beneath 100 was Context 112. This was a 0.05m thick deposit of hardcore, mainly composed of broken red bricks. At this end of the trench 103 was 0.14m thick and 104 was 0.25m thick (see

4.1.2 for description). The natural mid yellow clay (Context 105) was located directly beneath 104.

4.1.5 Cut 106 was 0.70m in width, 0.50m in length and 0.40m in depth (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 1). It had a sub-circular shape and gently sloping sides with a rounded base. This cut, interpreted as a possible pit was filled by 107, a mid brownish grey, mottled with patches of yellow clay throughout. It contained animal bones pieces weighing 92 grams.

4.1.6 Feature 110 (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 1) was cut by feature 106. This was 0.12m in width, 0.85m in length and 0.35m in depth. It was lozenge shaped with steep concave sides forming a flat base. Its fill 111 was a light brownish grey clay silt of a firm consistency. This fill contained high quantities of re-deposited natural clay and a small number of animal bones. This feature was interpreted as a possible pit of unknown date, but likely to date to the post-medieval period.

4.1.7 Towards the south-eastern end of the trench was Feature 108 (Fig 3; Fig 4; Section 2). This feature was a rectangular shaped feature, 0.38m in width, 0.55m in length and 0.20m in depth. It had steep sloping sides and a flat base. This feature was filled by Context 109, a mid brownish grey fill of a silty clay texture and firm consistency. It contained a small number of finds, including crushed brick and china.

4.2 Test Pit 1 (Fig 2)

Context No.	Same as	Description	Thickness
[1/001]	100	Reinforced concrete	0.2 m
[1/002]		Dark brown grey clay silt	0.17m
[1/003]	103	Dark brown grey clay silt	0.3m
[1/004]	104	Mid yellowish grey clay silt	0.3m
		Concrete plinth	

Table 4: Stratigraphy of Test pit 1

4.2.1 Test Pit 1 revealed a series of post-medieval made ground deposits [1/002-004]. Most of these deposits can be matched with the deposits from the evaluation trench (T3) (see Table 4). The excavation did not reach the natural clay in this test pit due to the presence of a large concrete plinth/cap, possibly sealing an old soak away or cess pit.

4.3 Test Pit 2 (Fig 2)

Context No.	Same as	Description	Thickness
[2/001]	100	Reinforced concrete	0.3m
[2/002]		Hardcore	0.15m
[2/003]	101	Concrete	0.15m

[2/004]	103	Dark brownish black silty clay	0.6m
[2/005]	104	Mid brownish grey	0.1m
[2/006]	105	Natural yellow weald clay	

Table 5: Stratigraphy of Test Pit 2

4.2.2 Test Pit 2 revealed made ground deposits [2/004], with all layers securely dated to the post-medieval period (18th- 19th Century). Most of these deposits can be matched with the deposits from the evaluation trench (T3) (see Table 5). The natural clay was reached at a depth of 1.3m from the current ground surface. No archaeological features were observed cutting the underlying clay.

5. THE FINDS by *Trista Clifford & Elke Raeman*

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at 60 High Street, Crawley, summarised below (Table 6).

Context	Pottery	weight (g)	CBM	weight (g)	Bone	weight (g)
107			1	8	12	92
109	4	28	2	148		
111					3	30

Table 6: Quantification of finds

5.2 Context [109] produced three pot fragments dating to the 19th century: a base fragment from a medium-fine sand tempered, interior glazed earthenware vessel; a blue and white transfer printed earthenware sherd and a small fragment of yellow-ware. A late 16th-17th century fragment with interior green glaze was also recovered.

5.3 A single piece of late medieval to early post medieval tile was recovered from context [107]. The fabric is well fired, micaceous with fine sand temper. Context [109] also contained an early post medieval tile fragment, of a well fired, coarse sandy fabric. An 18-19th century, well fired red brick fragment with abundant coarse sand and occasional iron oxide inclusions, was also recovered from this context

5.4 Contexts [107] and [111] produced a small quantity of bone. With the exception of a fragment of cattle scapula and sheep/goat horn-core from [107] all bone is from a juvenile pig. Given their size and appearance, it seems likely probable that the bones from both contexts represent parts of the same animal. The pig has been aged at less than 6 months (Silver, 1969 p299).

5.5 Only five sherds of pottery were recovered from the Test Pits. Context [1/002] produced 3 glazed red earthenware sherds, all of which were glazed on the inside. Two of these (conjoining base sherds) are likely to be of late 16th to early 18th century date, while the third, better made example is likely to be of 18th to 19th century date. Context [2/004] produced one complete brown salt glazed stoneware ink bottle and an unglazed reduced stoneware sherd. Both stonewares date to the 19th century.

5.6 Context [2/004] produced a plain clay pipe stem fragment, dating to the late 18th to 19th century.

5.7 The assemblage holds minimal potential for further analysis, however should be retained and studied in conjunction with any further finds from the site.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 An archaeological evaluation by mechanically excavated trenches was successful in proving that archaeological remains exist within the development area of the site.
- 6.2 The archaeological features encountered within Trench 3 date to the post medieval period. The two intercutting pits contained pottery and tile dating to the post medieval period. In addition, well preserved bone was recovered, which would further suggest a post medieval date of deposition, as bone does not usually survive in earlier medieval contexts from this part of Crawley. The posthole feature was securely dated to the 19th Century.
- 6.3 The discovery of post-medieval features on the site is to be expected as the cartographic evidence indicates occupation of the site since at least 1839.
- 6.4 The methodology employed was effective and a confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The involvement and support of Paul Montaldo throughout this project is gratefully acknowledged.

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-26298

? Project details

Project name	60 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South East were commissioned by Mr Paul Montaldo of Si Italian Restaurant to undertake a programme of archaeological work in advance of the proposed construction of a new extension to the rear of the restaurant (Planning Reference: CR/2006/0185/COU). Initially, two geo-technical test pits were monitored on 16th October 2006. No archaeological features were discovered during this exercise. Natural clay was encountered in Test Pit 2 c. 1.1m beneath the present ground surface. This clay was in good condition and had not been truncated by any modern intrusions.</p> <p>One trial trench was excavated to a length of 5 metres in April 2007. Three features were recorded at the base of this trench, beneath a series of post medieval made ground deposits (cut into natural clay). These features were likely dated to the Post medieval period.</p>
Project dates	Start: 16-10-2006 End: 13-04-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CR/2006/0185/COU - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CRA 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	POST HOLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Status	Complete

? Project location

Archaeology South-East
60 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex.

Site location	WEST SUSSEX CRAWLEY CRAWLEY 60 High Street, Crawley
Postcode	RH11 7
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 526749 136642 LL - 50.9016616133 0.171528146703 (decimal) LL - 50 54 05 N 000 10 17 E (degrees) Point

Status	Complete
---------------	-----------------

? 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
Project supervisor	Paul Riccoboni
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Paul Montaldo

Status	Complete
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? Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Status	Complete
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**? Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1
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Title	60 High Street, Crawley
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Paul Riccoboni
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Other bibliographic details	2851
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Date	2007
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Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
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Place of issue or publication	Ditchling
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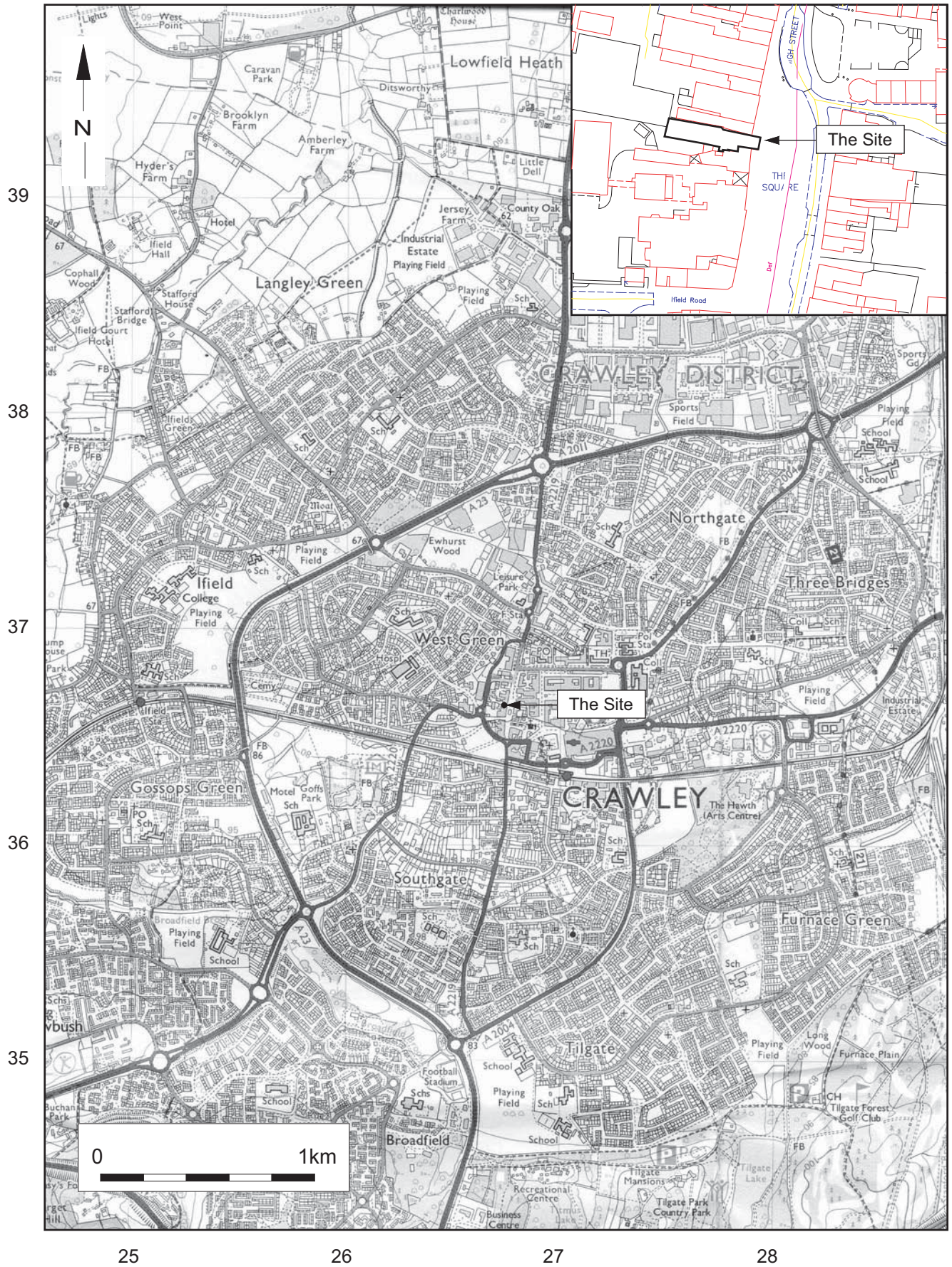
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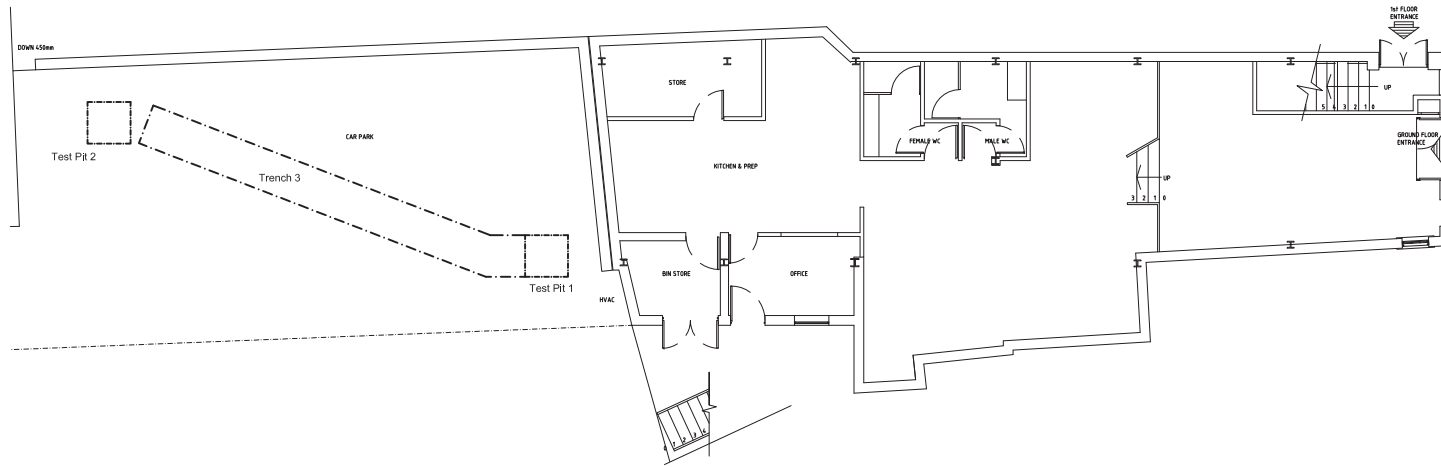
Archaeology South-East
60 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex.

SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	CRA 07					
Identification Name and Address	Land to the rear of 60 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Crawley Borough					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	NGR 526749 136642					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	2851					
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. 13/04/07	Excav.	WB. 16/10/06	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Paul Montaldo (Si Italian Restaurant).					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin and Louise Rayner.					
Project Supervisor	Paul Riccoboni					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South East were commissioned by Mr Paul Montaldo of Si Italian Restaurant to undertake a programme of archaeological work in advance of the proposed construction of a new extension to the rear of 60 High Street, Crawley (NGR 526749 136642) (Planning Reference: CR/2006/0185/COU).</i></p> <p><i>Initially, two geo-technical test pits were monitored on 16th October 2006. No archaeological features were discovered during this exercise. Natural clay was encountered in Test Pit 2 c. 1.1m beneath the present ground surface. This clay was in good condition and had not been truncated by any modern intrusions.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the planning consent John Mills (West Sussex County Council Archaeologist) stipulated that further archaeological works would be necessary in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. One trial trench was excavated to a length of 5 metres in April 2007. Three features were recorded at the base of this trench, beneath a series of post medieval made ground deposits (cut into natural clay). These features were likely dated to the post medieval period.</i></p>						

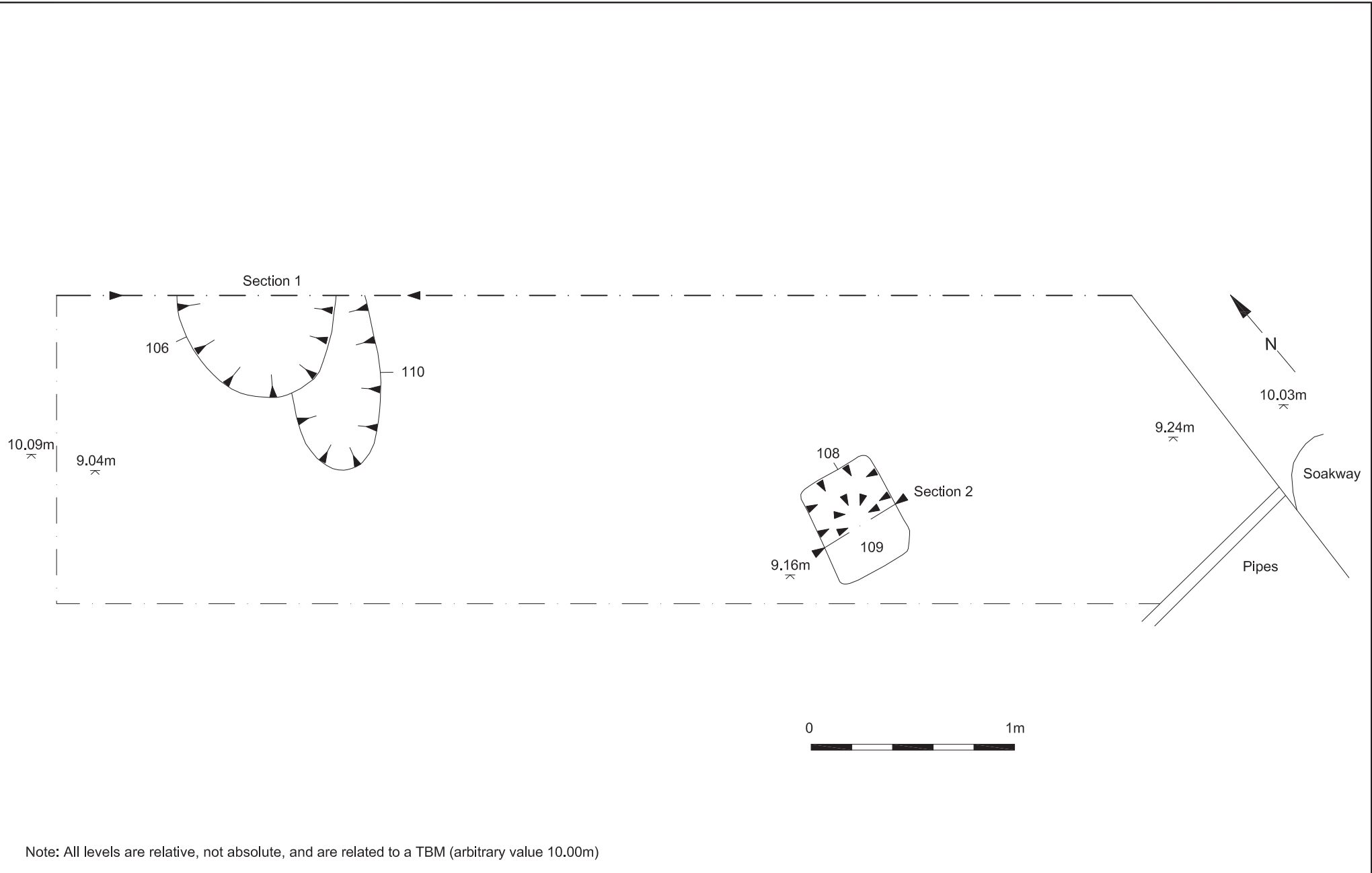


© Archaeology South-East		60 High Street, Crawley	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2851	April 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2007173	Drawn by: JLR		



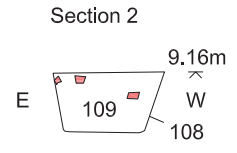
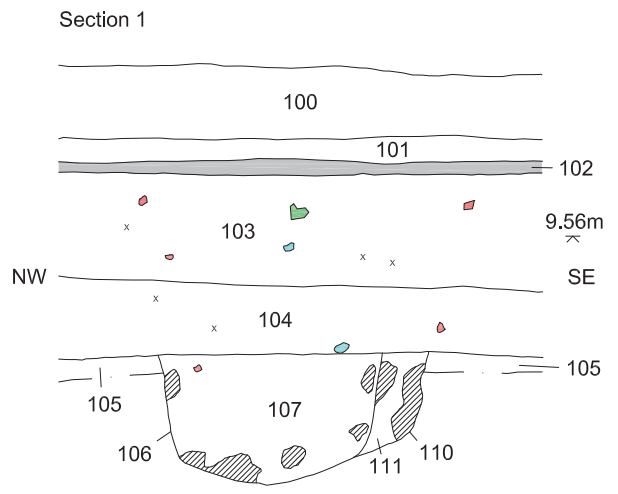
Not to scale

© Archaeology South-East		60 High Street, Crawley	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 2851	April 2008	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2007173	Drawn by: JLR		



Note: All levels are relative, not absolute, and are related to a TBM (arbitrary value 10.00m)

© Archaeology South-East		60 High Street, Crawley	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 2851	April 2008	Trench Plan	
Report Ref: 2007173	Drawn by: JNC		



- Tarmac
- China
- x Plaster Fleck
- Brick Fragment
- Redeposited Material
- Slate



Note: All levels are relative, not absolute, and are related to a TBM (arbitrary value 10.00m)

© Archaeology South-East		60 High Street, Crawley	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 2851	April 2008	Sections	
Report Ref: 2007173	Drawn by: JNC		