

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at 281-289 Brighton Road
Croydon, London**

NGR: TQ 32550 63230

Planning Ref: 15/01429/P

ASE Project No: 161045

Site Code: BIT 16

ASE Report No: 2016487

OASIS id: archaeol6-271156



By Paulo Clemente

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at 281-289 Brighton Road, Croydon, London, in December 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of the development of the site.

The work has shown that the site is heavily truncated and that no archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas. It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits, features or finds exist on the site. No further archaeological work is anticipated necessary.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 281-289 Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6EQ (NGR: TQ 32550 63230; Figure 1) in advance of residential development and associated parking.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey (1996) indicates that the solid geology within the vicinity of the site consists of Undifferentiated Chalk Formation, overlain by Hackney Gravel Member.

1.2.2 The site is approximately at a height of 56m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known to exist within immediate vicinity of the site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological investigation is being undertaken in line with condition 20 of the associated with planning reference 15/01429/P which states:

A) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to the local planning authority.

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

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

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

1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation was compiled and approved by GLAAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This document reports on the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out in December 2016.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information derives from the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2015).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The GLHER does not record the presence of any Palaeolithic findspots within the study area.

2.2.2 Several examples of Mesolithic flint work have been identified within the study area. Isolated examples of worked flint artefacts from this period have been recovered near Crunden Road (MLO24605, TQ 3260 6350) and Mansfield Road (020044/00/00, TQ 3270 6360) c300m north of the site, in addition to Hailing Park Road (021288, TQ 3232 6379) c600m to the northwest.

2.2.3 The discovery of a small assemblage of Mesolithic artefacts, including a flint axe and two scrapers, have been attributed to the general vicinity of the study area (020084/00/00, 02088/00/00, 020090/00/00, TQ 3300 6300).

2.2.4 Evidence for Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age occupation, consisting of an assemblage of 123 worked flints, was found during archaeological investigations on Pampisford Road c800m to the southwest of the site (MLO104595, TQ 31804 63065).

2.2.5 Three individual Neolithic flint axes or picks have been found at different locations across the study area (020132/00/00, TQ 3260 6390; 020134/00/00, TQ 3197 6356; 020537/00/00, TQ 3280 6310), the closest of which is located approximately 300m southeast of the site.

2.2.6 An Early Bronze Age Beaker was found in 1942 on allotments adjacent to Pampisford Road c700m to the southwest of the site (020604/00/00, TQ 3193 6294). Further to the north on Pampisford Road a Bronze Age flint scatter (MLO98556, TQ 31762 63681) and perforated hammer axe have also been discovered (020194/00/00, TQ 3210 6360).

2.2.7 The route of a postulated Iron Age trackway is believed to follow the route of the modern Sanderstead Road, the alignment of which lies immediately to the eastern boundary of the site (0230670/00/00, TQ 3375 6144). Multiple archaeological evaluations have taken place adjacent to Sanderstead Road (ELO12216, TQ 32596 63330; ELO7879, TQ 32566 63153; ELO13638, TQ 3277 6272; ELO6454, TQ 32804 62673) none of which have identified any archaeological evidence for the presence the Iron Age trackway.

2.2.8 Three possible Iron Age pottery sherds were found near Pampisford Road c650m to the southwest of the site (020527/00/00, TQ 3193 6294), while a baked clay spindle whorl associated with this period was discovered on Columbine Avenue (021557/00/00, TQ 3191 6336), c700m to the west.

2.2.9 There have been numerous finds of undiagnostic flint work recorded within 750m of the study site which are accorded a 'late prehistoric date' in the HER.

This includes finds found in proximity to Pampisford Road (MLO97938, TQ 32047 63424; MLO98530, TQ 32065 63556; MLO12423, TQ 3210 6330; 020508/00/00, TQ 3210 6330; 021556/00/00, TQ 3191 6336; 022327/00/00, TQ 3199 6323; 020605/00/00, TQ 3193 6294), and those recovered in the general vicinity of the study area (020503/00/00, 020504/00/00, TQ 3300 6300).

- 2.2.10 No evidence for prehistoric activity was identified during the archaeological evaluation undertaken at 12-40 Sanderstead Road immediately to the south of the site (ELO7879, TQ 32566 63153).

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The GLHER does not contain any records relating to Roman activity within the study area.
- 2.3.3 No evidence for Roman activity was identified during the archaeological evaluation undertaken at 12-40 Sanderstead Road immediately to the south of the site (ELO7879, TQ 32566 63153).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon & Medieval

- 2.4.1 Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from archaeological investigations at Haling Park Road c600m to the northwest of the site (021289/00/00, TQ 3232 6379).
- 2.4.2 The closet entry recorded in The Domesday Book of 1086 belongs to the settlement at Croydon located approximately 2km north of the site (Open Domesday 2016). This suggests that the site would have been located in the agricultural hinterland of the settlement for the majority of the medieval period.
- 2.4.3 Documentary evidence indicates that the 13th century manorial estate associated with Haling Manor was established approximately 650m to the north of the site (MLO98533, TQ 32179 64119).
- 2.4.4 No evidence for Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was identified during the archaeological evaluation undertaken at 12-40 Sanderstead Road immediately to the south of the site (ELO7879, TQ 32566 63153).

2.5 Post-Medieval & Modern

- 2.5.1 For the majority of the post-medieval period the area of the site is likely to have remained in the agricultural hinterland of the settlement at Croydon.
- 2.5.2 Rocque's map (1768) shows the study site immediately to the south of the junction of Brighton Road and Sanderstead Road, in the general vicinity of agricultural plots. A gallows is also marked within close proximity to the site. The general layout of the site remains unaltered up to 1823.
- 2.5.3 The 1844 Croydon Tithe map and associated Award record the site as lying within a plot under single ownership containing a house, stabling, sheds, yards, paddock and gardens. The layout of the site appears unaltered in 1867-8.

- 2.5.4 The Ordnance Survey map of 1898 indicates that the site has been redeveloped. All previously existing buildings have been cleared, replaced by terraced housing fronting onto Brighton Road and Sanderstead Road, with only the northern part of the site remaining as open ground. By 1913 buildings now occupy the northern part of the site as well. The layout of the site remains unaltered until 1975.
- 2.5.5 By 2003, with the exception of three terraced properties in the southwest corner of the site, all previously existing buildings have been demolished, replaced by a hardstanding yard and two small buildings associated with a vehicle serving centre. The layout of the site is now consistent with that as currently existing.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The evaluation aims and objectives were set out in the WSI (CgMs 2016).

The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.

The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

- 2.6.2 The evaluation presents an opportunity to address the following research aims:

To determine the presence of any prehistoric and Roman activity

To determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity

To determine the presence of any post-medieval activity related to the gallows marked on early cartographical sources. Is there evidence for associated burials?

Establish the likely impact of past land use and development

Provide sufficient information to, if appropriate, construct an archaeological mitigation strategy

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Three trenches, 10m x 1.8m, were excavated (Figure 2) outside the existing building footprint. A deeper sondage was dug at one end of Trench 1.
- 3.1.2 In order to avoid a recent truncation and in agreement with CgMs and GLAAS, Trench 2 was moved c. 4m to the south of the location shown in the WSI (CgMs 2016, Figure 2).

3.2 Evaluation Techniques

- 3.2.1 All trenches were scanned both visually and by CAT detector prior to excavation in order to identify any potential services.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were opened by mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless blade ditching bucket and reduced in spits of no more than 0.25m. All machine work was conducted under archaeological supervision.
- 3.2.3 All archaeological trenches were backfilled upon completion.

3.3 Recording Techniques

- 3.3.1 All excavated trenches were recorded according to current professional standards using standard ASE recording sheets.
- 3.3.2 A digital photographic record was maintained.
- 3.3.3 A Global Positioning System (GPS) was used to record the trenches.

3.4 Archive

- 3.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	7
No. of files/paper record	3
Plan and sections sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	16
Permatrace sheets	0
Trench Record Forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Archaeologically Negative Trenches 1, 2 and 3

- 4.1.1 The recorded sequence consisted of between 0.89m and 1.71m of modern made ground directly overlying natural orangey brown gravel. No archaeological finds, deposits, or features were recorded.
- 4.1.2 Ground levels were recorded at between 54.09m OD in the north of the site to 54.75m OD in the south.
- 4.1.3 Made ground recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 consisted of lenses of chalk and grey-brown silty sand with patches of brown sand. Frequent stones (mostly flint) and moderate quantities of modern CBM (ceramic pipe, brick) and slate, glass, metal wire fragments and other 20th century items were observed throughout. The made ground layer recorded in Trench 2 was slightly different and consisted of mixed grey/brown gravel in silty sand, but also contained frequent modern CBM and metal items.
- 4.1.4 A list of recorded contexts is tabulated in Appendix 1.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 The sequence consisted of 0.89-1.71m of modern made ground directly overlying natural geology.

5.1.2 This made ground horizon suggests that, in the evaluated areas, the site has been heavily truncated in the modern period.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 The lack of any surviving topsoil or subsoil horizons support the suggestion that the site is heavily truncated into the underlying natural gravel geology.

5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

5.3.1 It is considered that any potential archaeological deposits will have been removed and there is therefore no potential for impact upon archaeological remains.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

5.4.1 The evaluation has established an absence of archaeological deposits, features and finds in the investigated areas. The site is heavily disturbed by construction/demolition activity which has resulted in horizontal truncation into the natural geology and the creation of a c. 1m to c. 2m thick horizon of modern made ground. It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits, features or finds exist.

5.4.2 None of the research aims can be addressed any further than the above statement. No further archaeological work is anticipated necessary.

5.5 Conclusions

5.5.1 The work has shown that the site is heavily truncated and that no archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas. It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits, features or finds exist on the site. No further archaeological work is anticipated necessary.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and Mark Stevenson, GLAAS Archaeologist, for his guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Paulo Clemente. Andrew Lewsey who produced the figures for this report; Sarah Ritchie managed the excavations and Mark Atkinson, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	BIT 16					
Project code	161045					
Planning reference	15/01429/P					
Site address	281-289 Brighton Road					
District/Borough	L. B. of Croydon, London.					
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 32550 63230					
Geology	Chalk Formation, overlain by Hackney Gravel Member					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	12/12/2016					
Sponsor/client	CgMs					
Project manager	Sarah Ritchie					
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente					
Period summary						
						Other
Project summary	The work has shown that the site is heavily truncated and that no archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas. It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits, features or finds exist on the site. No further archaeological work is anticipated necessary.					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-271156

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at 281-289 Brighton Road, Croydon, London.
Short description of the project	The work has shown that the site is heavily truncated and that no archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas. It is considered highly unlikely that any archaeological deposits, features or finds exist on the site. No further archaeological work is anticipated necessary.
Project dates	Start: 12-12-2016 End: 12-12-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BIT 16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	161045 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 281-289 Brighton Road
Postcode	CR2 6EQ
Study area	180 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32550 63230 51.352149401639 -0.096300058994 51 21 07 N 000 05 46 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52.4m Max: 53.63m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Sarah Ritchie
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente
Type of sponsor/funding	CgMs Consulting

body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient n/a

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient ASE

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient ASE

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at 281-289 Brighton Road, Croydon, London.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clemente, P.

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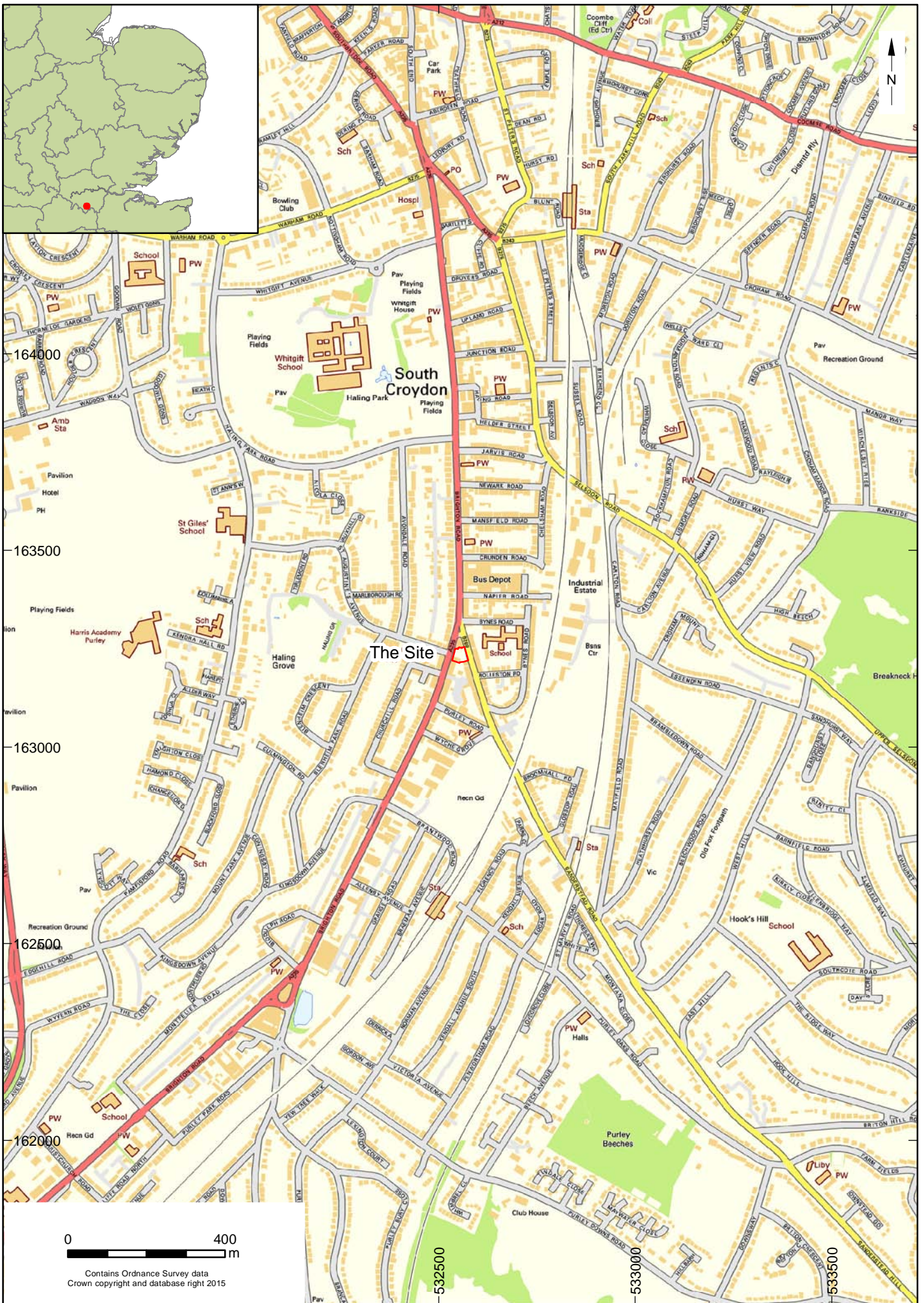
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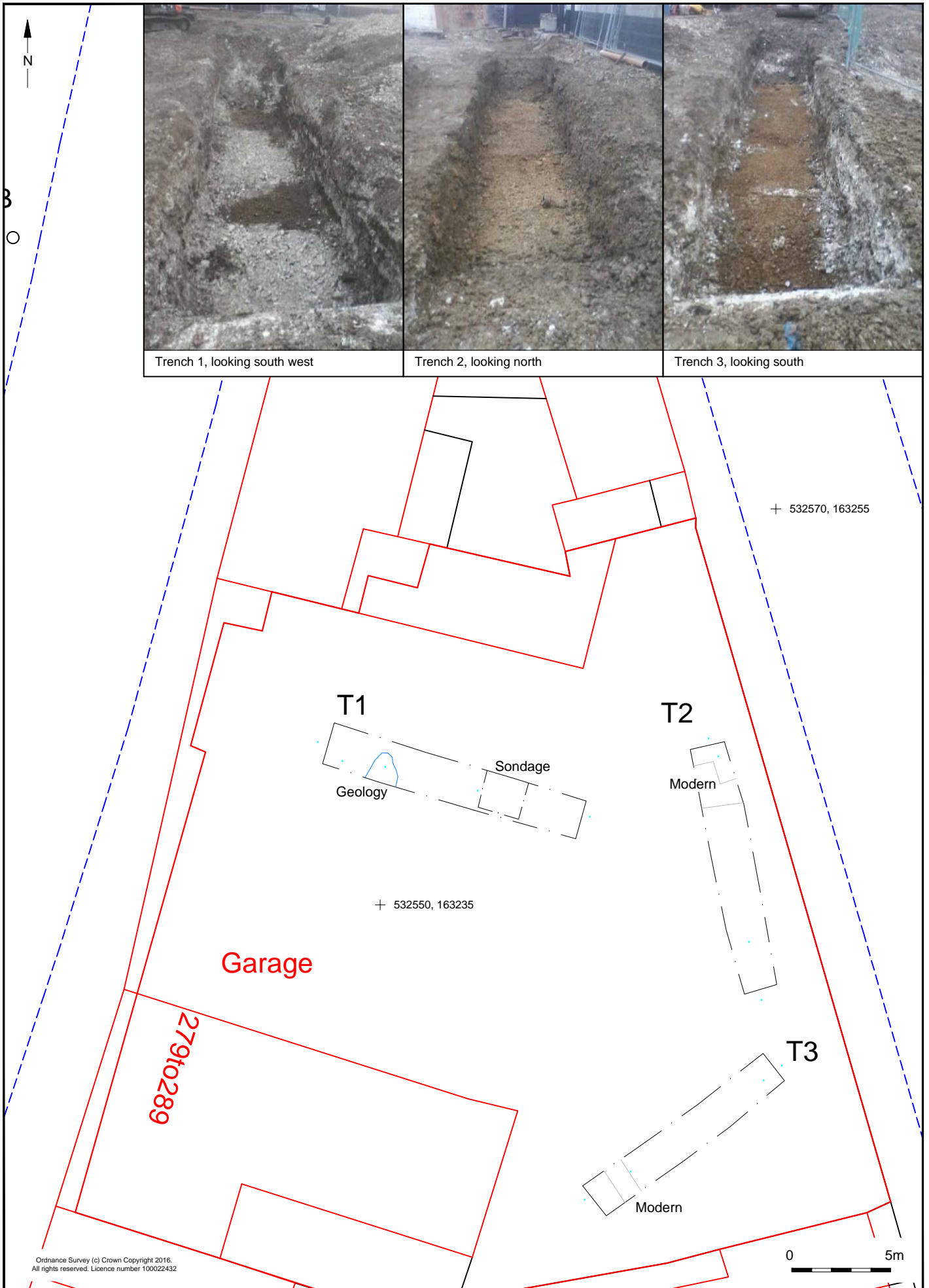
Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Made ground	1.14-+1.48	54.11-54.20
1	1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.57	
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	N/A	
2	2/001	Layer	Made ground	1.02-1.32	54.09-54.49
2	2/002	Layer	Natural	N/A	53.14-53.43
3	3/001	Layer	Made ground	0.89-1.14	54.54-54.75
3	3/002	Layer	Natural	N/A	53.51-53.63



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© Archaeology South-East		Croydon, 281-289 Brighton Road		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 161045	12 - 2016	Site location		
Report No: 2016487	Drawn by: NG			



© Archaeology South-East		Croydon, 281-289 Brighton Road	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 161045	12- 2016	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2016487	Drawn by: NG		

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