

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on Land next to 18 Bourne Street, London Borough of
Croydon**

NGR: 531799 165549 (TQ 31799 65549)

**ASE Project No: 160617
Site Code: BSC 17**

**ASE Report No: 2017047
OASIS id: archaeol6-275108**

By Ian Hogg

February 2017

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By Ian Hogg

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Date of Issue:	February 2017		
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Southgold Ltd, on land next to 18 Bourne Street, London Borough of Croydon. The archaeological work comprised the monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches.

Natural Hackney Gravels were recorded between 0.75m and 1.20m below ground level. The natural deposits were cut by a series of service runs and pits, all of 20th century date. The modern features were overlain by made ground and topsoil.

No archaeology was recorded during the watching brief.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location
Figure 2: Watching Brief Location Plan
Figure 3: Photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Southgold Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land next to 18 Bourne Street, London Borough of Croydon (Figures 1, NGR: TQ 31799 65549).

1.1.2 The site is approximately rectangular in shape and is bound by neighbouring properties to the west, south-west, south-east and north-east and by Bourne Street to the north-west. It measures approximately 160m² in area.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017) as London Clay deposits, overlain by Hackney Gravels.

1.2.2 The site is relatively level at approximately 45m aOD, sloping slightly from north to south.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a three bedroom detached house (planning ref. 15/05050/P). Condition 10 of the planning permission states that:

- A) *No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological observation and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.*
- B) *Under Part A, the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall implement a programme of archaeological observation and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.*
- C) *The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post site work assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A), and the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.*

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

1.3.2 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area around central Croydon. Accordingly, an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared prior to the commencement of works (ASE 2017), this document set

out the methodology for the watching brief. All works were carried out in accordance with this document and with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a,b,c & d) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) Standards for Archaeological Work (Historic England 2015).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims of the watching brief were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
- To determine the state of preservation and nature of air raid shelters on the site

1.4.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish whether there is any evidence of Roman activity on site.
- To establish whether there is any evidence of Saxon or medieval activity on site.

1.4.3 Further specific research aims were compiled with reference to the Research Framework for London Archaeology (2002):

R3 Framework Objective

Elucidating the relationship of the central core to nucleated settlements and villas, or agricultural settlements; did people gradually drift into the roadside settlements and the city itself?

S2 Framework Objectives

Linking landscapes and chronologies to determine the influence of the pre-existing landscape on subsequent development.

S7 Framework Objectives

Studying the relationship between town and country, both in terms of how London was supplied with food and raw materials and how smaller settlements and suburban centres operated within this arrangement.

TD2 Framework Objectives

Examining the success with which small towns in the London region adapted to the capital's growth.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site on the 23rd January 2017 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2017). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 2.1 The site lies close to the River Wandle, a watercourse known to have been utilised during the prehistoric period. However, the prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site comprises only isolated findspots. A Palaeolithic handaxe was recorded at a railway cutting to the west of the site and a Bronze Age spearhead was found in Wandle Park to the west in 1900.

Roman

- 2.2 The London to Brighton Roman road is thought to run along the approximate alignment of the A235 London Road to the east of the site; a Roman settlement is likely to have lain in what is now central Croydon based on the quantity of Roman material retrieved. This includes 36 Roman coins recovered from Waddon New Road 100m south of the site. The settlement itself is likely to have lain to the east of the site close to the line of the London to Brighton road, possibly at the intersection with another east to west aligned Roman road thought to run along Lower Coombe Road.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3 Croydon continued to be a focal area for activity during the Anglo-Saxon period; a large cemetery has been recorded at Park Lane 800m east of the site. The settlement itself probably lay to the east of the site and was the location of a synod in 809. Croydon is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Croindene* by which time the manor was the property of the Archbishops of Canterbury; by 1273 they had a palace in Croydon which survived until the 18th century. A weekly market was established at Croydon by the late 13th century. Despite the amount of historical evidence, very little medieval activity has been noted in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.4 Croydon continued to flourish during the early post-medieval period with the Archbishops of Canterbury using their accommodation as a suitable stopping point on journeys to and from London. The palace was finally sold in the 1780's. John Rocque's map shows the site as open land just to the west of the settlement. What is now Wandle Park is shown as farmland and marsh.
- 2.5 By the mid-19th century the railways had led to rapid expansion in Croydon as with many other towns on the outskirts of London. The London to Brighton South Coast Railway lay 80m west of the site. The 1869 Ordnance Survey map shows the site itself lying on what was then named Wandle Street (later renamed Bourne Street); the current terraced housing is shown on either side of the road. What is now Wandle Park is shown as two water meadows separated by the river. By 1896 Bourne Street has been renamed and the road appears much as it does today; Wandle Park has been constructed with a new lake dug as well as a water fountain and bandstand.
- 2.6 Post-medieval activity in the vicinity includes gravel extraction pits found at Frith Road to the east and at 91-93 New Waddon Road.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The work comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new development (Figure 2). The north-eastern foundation is being construction on an existing wall while the north-western foundation lay within an area recently excavated for new services; neither of these trenches was monitored.
- 3.1.2 Spoil from the trenches was visually scanned for finds.
- 3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.1.4 A digital photographic record was maintained during the work.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork a site code was requested from the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). 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).

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	13
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

4.1 Foundation trenches monitored on 23/01/2017

- 4.1.1 Natural mid brown orange clay gravel [004] was recorded in the eastern and central foundation trenches between 0.75m and 1.20m below ground level. The natural deposits were cut by a series of modern truncations. These included three services running from north-west to south-east comprising a large water pipe, a large drain and a brick culvert, all of which were of 20th century date. Further modern truncations included 20th century rubbish pits and a large possible pit [005] in the south-western foundation trench. This feature was so large the entire trench lay within in and it was at least 1.20m deep. The backfill of this possible feature [003] comprised mixed brown and grey rubbly silt with inclusions of ceramic building material, concrete and plastic.
- 4.1.2 Elsewhere, the natural deposits were sealed by dark grey brown rubbly silt modern made ground [002], between 0.45m and 0.90m thick. The made ground was overlain by between 0.28m and 0.35m of brown-grey clay silt topsoil [001].

Context	Type	Interpretation	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28-0.35
002	Layer	Made ground	0.45-0.90
003	Fill?	Possible fill of modern feature	1.20
004	Layer	Natural	-
005	Cut	Possible large pit	

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 Natural Hackney Gravels were recorded in the centre and the east of site between 0.75m and 1.20m below ground level. The natural deposits were overlain by modern made ground and topsoil. Modern truncations cut the natural across much of the site including three service runs as well as pits and a possible large feature in the south-east.

5.1.2 No archaeology was recorded on the site.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 Much of the site showed signs of heavy truncation during the 20th century. Natural deposits were recorded in the centre and the east of the site but these areas also showed signs of truncation.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 The watching brief confirmed the absence of archaeological remains within the development area with truncation evident across much of the site.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 The watching brief found that much of the site had been disturbed during the 20th century with pitting as well as service runs present. The natural deposits were directly overlain by modern made ground and no archaeological remains were recorded.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Southgold Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Mark Stevenson, Archaeological Advisor for GLAAS for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.									
Site code	BSC17								
Project code	160617								
Planning reference	15/05050/P								
Site address	Land Next to 18 Bourne Street, Croydon								
District/Borough	London Borough of Croydon								
NGR (12 figures)	531799 165549								
Geology	Hackney Gravels								
Fieldwork type	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">WB</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr></table>			WB					
		WB							
Date of fieldwork	23 rd January 2017								
Sponsor/client	Southgold Ltd								
Project manager	Andy Leonard								
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg								
Period summary	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: right;">Other Modern</td></tr></table>								Other Modern
			Other Modern						
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>The archaeological work comprised the monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches.</i></p> <p><i>Natural Hackney Gravels were recorded between 0.75m and 1.20m below ground level. The natural deposits were cut by a series of service runs and pits, all of 20th century date. The modern features were overlain by made ground and topsoil.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeology was recorded during the watching brief.</i></p>								
Museum/Accession No.	BSC17								

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-275108

Project details

Project name	Land Next to 18 Bourne Street, Croydon
Short description of the project	The archaeological work comprised the monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches. Natural Hackney Gravels were recorded between 0.75m and 1.20m below ground level. The natural deposits were cut by a series of service runs and pits, all of 20th century date. The modern features were overlain by made ground and topsoil. No archaeology was recorded during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2017 End: 23-01-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BSC17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	160617 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PITS Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Land Next to 18 Bourne Street
Postcode	CR0 4RA
Study area	160 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31799 65549 51.373167157019 -0.106219983802 51 22 23 N 000 06 22 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	GLAAS

Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southgold Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan"
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	2 February 2017

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

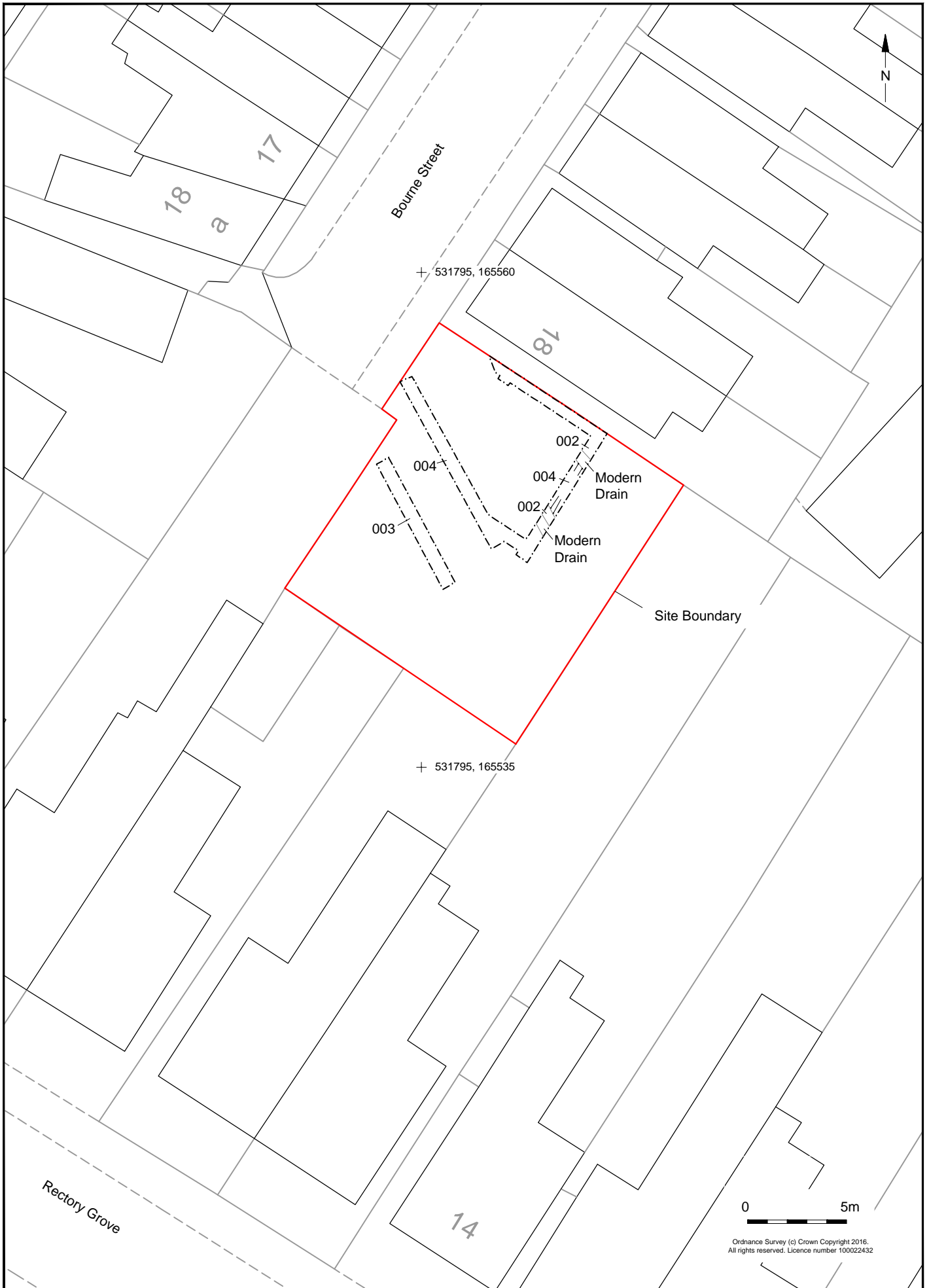
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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page



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© Archaeology South-East		18 Bourne Street	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160617	Feb 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017047	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		18 Bourne Street	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160617	Feb 2017	Watching brief location plan	
Report Ref: 2017047	Drawn by: AR		



Central trench looking NW with rubbish pit



East trench with two services and natural between looking NE



Overall shot, looking NW



South trench still in modern made ground, looking NW

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