

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
on Land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT  
London Borough of Croydon**

**NGR: TQ 33606 64881**

**ASE Project No: 170210  
Site Code: BWW17**

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**April 2017**

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**ASE Report No: 2017148  
OASIS id: archaeol6-280297**

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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT, London Borough of Croydon, in March 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Sandy Lane Projects, and was undertaken as a condition prior to the redevelopment of the site.*

*A single 15 x 1.80m trench was excavated within the footprint of the projected building. The evaluation did not uncover archaeological remains but revealed a sequence of four layers covering the natural sands.*

*The recorded layers comprised colluvium covered by subsoil, which was truncated in the east. This was covered by made-ground, possibly related to the railway located east of the site. The trench was sealed by garden topsoil.*

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## **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 Sandy Lane Projects to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT London Borough of Croydon (Figure 1, NGR TQ 33606 64881).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is a rectangular shaped parcel of land measuring c 1,140 square metres. It is bound to the east by a rail line, to the north and south by residential properties, and to the west by Brownlow Road.

1.2.2 The site is situated along the geological interface between underlying Lambeth Group Clays and Thanet Sand. No drift geology is recorded in this area.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by London Borough of Croydon (Ref. No.:16/04872/FUL) for the construction of a single storey, four bedroom, property.

1.3.2 Having considered the development proposals the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) has recommended that a programme of archaeological fieldwork be undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the site. Consequently Condition 15 states:

*No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:*

*A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*

*B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI'*

*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 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared accordingly by ASE (2017) and approved by GLAAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 The scope of this report is to describe and discuss the results of the archaeological investigation carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT, London Borough of Croydon in March 2017. The excavation was directed by Paulo Clemente. The project was managed by Sarah Ritchie (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following information derives from the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (ASE 2017). This is drawn from a 750m radius search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) supplied on 6th March 2017.

### **2.2 Prehistory**

2.2.1 The study area around the site has produced evidence for prehistoric activity from several areas, including the immediate vicinity of the site (MLO690, MLO627, MLO224,). This evidence is mainly artefactual and suggests agricultural activity in the area, although some elements suggestive of settlement were found to the west at Park Hill. The possibility therefore exists for the survival of further prehistoric deposits within the site.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 Roman pottery has been recovered from several areas in the vicinity of the Site (MLO690, MLO224, MLO734, MLO734, MLO123, MLO107, MLO195, MLO108, MLO78097), along with Roman coins at MLO108 and MLO224. While this material is evidence of agricultural activity rather than settlement, the existence of occupation deposits in the vicinity are also noted, in particular excavations carried out in Lloyd Park where several ditches associated with Roman settlement and a cremation burial (MLO104012) were uncovered.

### **2.4 Anglo-Saxon**

2.4.1 No Anglo-Saxon sites are known within the site locale.

### **2.5 Medieval**

2.5.1 Limited medieval evidence has been found within the vicinity of site (MLO224, MLO251, MLO130, MLO19587), which is known to have been entirely rural in nature, comprising a deer park and agricultural land.

### **2.6 Post-Medieval**

2.6.1 The post-medieval history of the site is mainly rural, consisting of fields until the later 19th century. Archaeological work in the vicinity has produced evidence of post-medieval farming activity, including hop growing.

### **2.7 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.7.1 The general aims of the evaluation 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.

2.7.2 The site specific aims of the evaluation were:

- Is there any evidence for Mesolithic activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence for Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement on the site?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity on site?
- Is there any 'background noise' from the Saxon or medieval periods on site?

2.7.3 Specific relevant research aims highlighted by the research framework for London Archaeology (Museum of London, 2002) were:

- P4, Para 1 'Elucidating the nature of the Mesolithic to Neolithic transition'.
- P5, Para 4 'Clarifying the mechanisms that prompted agricultural intensification. Is there a link between such intensification and the production and consumption of prestige goods? Establishing more, better dated evidence for the subsistence economy. The balance between pastoral and arable economies and patterns of subsistence are areas for further study, but these require improved data sets, particularly the retrieval of good faunal assemblages'.
- P5, Para 6 'Preparing settlement plans: It may be hard to define complete settlement plans for open settlements, where scattered roundhouses and unenclosed feature extend over several hectares. Nonetheless, it is imperative that large enough areas of such sites are examined to determine where settlement ends and other activities, such as stock pens and fields, begin'.
- P6, Para 'Examining the evidence for a phase of renewed agricultural intensification in the London region at this time'.
- R12, Para 2 'Investigating the relationship between town and country in the production and supply of food'.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 A trial trenching plan was prepared following discussions with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) within the footprint of the projected building.
- 3.1.2 A Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) was prepared prior to commencement of the work and a site code (BWW 17) was obtained from the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC), which was used as the unique site identifier for all records.
- 3.1.3 The work involved the mechanical excavation of one 15m x 1.8m archaeological trench (Fig. 2). The trench was 0.61m – 0.91m in depth.
- 3.1.4 The trench was scanned before the excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.
- 3.1.5 The excavation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. The trench was excavated in spits of no more than 0.25m until the top of the underlying natural sediments was reached. Care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.
- 3.1.6 The trench was then cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the work. All photographs, except working shots, included a board that detailed: the site code, date and context number, a scale and a north arrow.
- 3.1.7 The evaluation trench was levelled to Ordnance Datum using an OS bench mark and was recorded using the standard context record sheets used by the ASE. Soil colours were recorded using visual inspection.
- 3.1.8 All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a, b and c) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) Standards for Archaeological Work (Historic England 2015).
- 3.1.9 When the trench was completed to the satisfaction of the GLAAS Advisor, it was backfilled using the excavated material. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### 3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Archaeology South East and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	2
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	10
Bulk finds	1
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The results of the evaluation trench are presented below. The single trench is described in section 4.1 and the recorded contexts summarised in the table (Table 3).

4.1.1 The evaluation trench was positioned in order to investigate the footprint for the construction of a single storey, four bedroom property. The investigated area was on a hill slope in the back garden of 34 Brownlow Road.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2).

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	[1/001]	Layer	Topsoil	0.24-0.48	76.37 - 76.58
1	[1/002]	Layer	Madeground	0.28-0.29	
1	[1/003]	Layer	Subsoil	0.13-0.24	
1	[1/004]	Layer	Colluvium	0.12-0.14	
1	[1/005]	Layer	Natural	N/A	75.65 - 75.94

Table 2: Trench 1: list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Natural yellowish brown loose sand [1/005] was recorded at the base of the trench. A colluvial layer [1/004] overlay the natural soil at the centre and east of the trench. This was 0.12-0.14m thick and comprised fine-sand of light greyish brown colour and loose consistency.

4.2.2 Subsoil [1/003] was unearthed in the west and centre of the trench but not at the eastern end, where it may have been truncated. The subsoil was up to 0.24m thick and comprised mid grey/brownish grey soft clayed silt containing occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles and chalk flecks.

4.2.3 A 0.28m thick layer of possible made-ground [1/002] covered the subsoil in the centre of the trench and extended towards the east. This was brown, loose medium-sand containing occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles. The lower boundary of the deposit appeared moderately diffuse in contact with the colluvium and the general appearance of the layer suggests little human action.

4.2.4 The trench was sealed by topsoil [1/001], which comprised dark grey soft loamy silt containing occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles, mostly evident towards the base. The thickness of the layer was between 0.24m and 0.48m, being thickest at both ends. It also contained thin lenses of darker or yellowish soil, indicative of recent garden activity.

4.2.5 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were uncovered during these works.

## **5.0 CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

5.1.1 The natural geology was uncovered between 75.94m OD at the northwest end and 75.65m OD at the southeast end, showing a gentle slope towards the east. However, the overlying terrain was a hill sloping downwards from north to south.

5.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of natural overlain by a thin colluvial or hill-washed deposit. The subsoil appeared to cover most of it but was not recorded at the eastern end of the trench, suggesting a previous truncation. A possible made-ground layer covered the subsoil in the centre of the trench. The characteristics of the made-ground suggest that this may have been re-deposited natural soil derived from the railway works, which is beyond the east site boundary, used to level the field. These deposits were sealed by garden topsoil.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

5.2.1 The deposits appear to be largely undisturbed, with the exception of an area of at the eastern end of the trench where a localised absence of subsoil suggests possible truncation.

### **5.3 Consideration of research aims**

5.3.1 Due to the lack of archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation the research aims could not be addressed.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

5.4.1 The archaeological work has successfully evaluated the presence and survival of archaeological remains within the site. The deposits revealed were largely undisturbed but no archaeological remains were present.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Sandy Lane Projects for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Joanna Taylor, Assistant Archaeology Advisor (South London) of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for her guidance and monitoring

### HER Summary Form

Site Code	BWW 17					
Identification Name and Address	Land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Croydon					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 33606 64881					
Geology	Thanet Sand Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	170210					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 22/03/17	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Sandy Lane Projects					
Project Manager	Sarah Ritchie					
Project Supervisor	Paulo Clemente					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>The evaluation has demonstrated the absence of any archaeological remains. The natural geology was uncovered between 75.94m OD at the northwest end and 75.65m OD at the southeast end showing a slope downwards from north to south.</i></p> <p><i>The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a thin colluvial deposit on top of the natural soil covered by subsoil, which was truncated at the east and later covered itself by made-ground, modern in date. All sealed by garden topsoil.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-280297

#### Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT London Borough of Croydon

Short description of the project The evaluation has demonstrated the absence of any archaeological remains. The natural geology was uncovered between 75.94m OD at the northwest end and 75.65m OD at the southeast end showing a slope downwards from north to south.

The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a thin colluvial deposit on top of the natural soil covered by subsoil, which was truncated at the east and later covered itself by made-ground, modern in date. All sealed by garden topsoil.

Project dates Start: 22-03-2017 End: 22-03-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes BWW 17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 170210 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Significant Finds TILE Uncertain

Methods & techniques "Targeted 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 Land at 34 Brownlow Road

Postcode CR0 5JT

Study area 27 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 33606 64881 51.366740163629 -0.080522416333 51 22 00 N 000 04 49 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 75.65m Max: 75.94m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Sarah Ritchie
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Sandy Lane Projects
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Survey ","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	A forthcoming report
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at 34 Brownlow Road, CR0 5JT London Borough of Croydon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clemente, P.
Date	2017
Entered by	Paulo Clemente (p.clemente@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	23 March 2017





© Archaeology South-East		34 Brownlow Road, Croydon		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170210	Mar 2017	Site location		
Report No: 2017148	Drawn by: APL			



© Archaeology South-East		34 Brownlow Road, Croydon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170210	Mar 2017	Trench 1 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017148	Drawn by: APL		

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