Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at 15, 16 and 21 Progress Way
London Borough of Croydon, CR0 4XD

NGR 530787 165792 (TQ 30787 65792)

Planning Ref: 16/04349/FUL
ASE Project No: 170076
Site Code: PGS17

ASE Report No: 2017240
OASIS id: archaeol6-285900

By Ian Hogg

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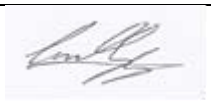
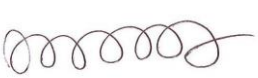
Prepared by:	**Ian Hogg**	**Senior Archaeologist**	
Reviewed and approved by:	**Dan Swift**	**Project Manager**	
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at 15, 16 and 21 Progress Way, Croydon between the 2nd and 5th May 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.

The evaluation comprised three trenches and revealed natural Hackney Gravels between 35.29m and 37.49m aOD; *the gravels were overlain by subsoil and buried topsoil deposits demonstrating the general good deposit survival seen on site. Modern made ground and concrete floor slabs overlay the buried soils.*

A probable palaeochannel lay in the north of the site; this feature is likely to be of natural origin and it was likely to have infilled naturally. The feature could not be securely date but the primary fill contained a single flint blade of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The fills appeared to be alluvial and fluvial in nature and indicate that the site lay within a varying yet damp environment, perhaps not particularly conducive to human occupation. The site lies relatively close to the River Wandle and previous excavation to the east has characterized the area as a marshy environment during much of prehistory.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological field evaluation at land at 15, 16 and 21 Progress Way, London Borough of Croydon, CR0 4XD hereafter 'the site'. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR 530787 165792; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site currently comprises industrial units and warehouses, and the plot is bounded to the north by Beddington Farm Road, to the east by Progress Way, and to the south and west by other industrial units. The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Croydon.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is level at c. 38m OD and measures approx. 6,700m². The British Geological Survey (2016) indicates the solid geology on the site to be Lambeth Group (clay, silt and sand). Overlying this are superficial deposits of Hackney Gravel Member (sand and gravel).

1.2.2 A ground investigation survey was recently undertaken on the site (Ramboll Environ 2016). Made ground was recorded at all locations extending to depths of between 0.2m BGL (BH4 – hard surfacing only) in the south of the study site and 2.1m BGL (BH3) in the north of the site. Made ground deposits were 1.5m thick in the south-western corner of the site (WS5 and WS4); c.1.4m thick in the north-east of the site (WS4 & BH2) and c.0.5m thick in WS6 and BH1.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application has been granted (Ref. No.: 16/04349/FUL) for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of three buildings comprising a car showroom, vehicle workshop, MOT and valet facility, associated car parking and landscaping. Condition 15 states:

No above ground demolition works or any other above ground development works 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 below ground level 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 below ground level/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.

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was compiled in support of the planning application (CgMs 2016). This document highlighted the moderate potential for both early and later prehistoric remains and medieval remains, and the high potential for late post-medieval remains.

1.3.4 An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) was prepared to address parts A and B of the condition which encompass Stage 1 of the works: archaeological evaluation. The WSI was prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork, this document set out the methodology for the evaluation. All works were carried out in accordance with this document and with the CIfA standards and guidance (CIfA 2017) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) Standards for Archaeological Work (Historic England 2015).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 2nd and the 5th May 2017. It has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Senior Archaeologist), Vasilis Tsamis (Geomatics) and Jasmine Vieri (Assistant Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Sarah Ritchie, the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is a summary drawn from the archaeological Desk-Based Assessment prepared for the site (CgMs 2016) and the WSI for the evaluation (ASE 2017). For further detail please refer to these documents.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The Hackney Gravels underlying the site have proved to be one of the richest sources of Palaeolithic material in the country (Wymer 1999: 63). However, finds of significant flint assemblages, floral and faunal remains are only known from the areas of Stoke Newington and Clapton, over 5km to the north of the site. Such finds are usually associated with overlying brickearth deposits. Wymer describes the Palaeolithic potential for the Croydon area as comprising 'a very thin scatter of stray finds' (ibid: 167) and brickearth deposits are not known from the area of the site.

2.2.2 Possible residual Upper Palaeolithic flintwork was identified during archaeological works at 226 Purley Way immediately east of the site.

2.2.3 Mesolithic evidence is known from the former Philips Factory Site c.140m to the west of the site. An archaeological evaluation found a possible stream channel which contained, in its upper fills, a number of flint flakes dating to the Mesolithic period. The GLHER records two further finds of Mesolithic material from the general area of Waddon Marsh c. 250m north-east from the site.

2.2.4 Evidence of the Neolithic period is known from Progress Way, c.80m to the east of the site. Here two possible cooking pits were discovered and yielded a C14 date calibrated to 2565 - 2140BC. Within a second area of the Progress Way site five possible post-holes were recorded. One of the post-holes was found to contain late Neolithic pottery.

2.2.5 Neolithic findspots comprising five scrapers were recovered c.250m north-east of the site. An archaeological evaluation and excavation at 7-8 Commerce Way, c.150m south of the site, revealed several widely-spaced pits and postholes and a banjo shaped feature, containing struck and burnt flint dated to the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

2.2.6 Bronze Age remains have been identified at 226 Purley Way, c.30m east of the site. Evaluation trenching revealed a large ditch, possibly an enclosure, a large shallow pit and another pit containing articulated human remains, carbon dated to the late Bronze Age. Artefactual remains included struck and burnt flint, together with degraded pottery.

2.2.7 Excavations at Beddington Farm Road c.130m west of the site revealed Bronze Age pottery, animal bone and flintwork. A number of features probably dated to the Bronze Age were also recorded c.200m west, c.100m south-west and c. 400m south-west from the site.

2.2.8 Various features dated to the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods were revealed c.220m south of the site and Iron Age findspots c. 270m to the north-east and c.400m to the east of the site.

2.2.9 Archaeological fieldwork at 12-13 Commerce Way, c.200m south of the site, revealed a single feature containing sherds of Iron Age pottery, and two features containing struck flint, cut into the gravels. The remains were interpreted as Bronze Age/Iron Age activity (AOC 2006).

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 A Roman road from London to Brighton is suggested c.140m east and c.240m west of the site.

2.3.2 Typical archaeological features associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, roadside ditches and associated land division, together with quarry pits, burials and chance losses.

2.4 Anglo Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 Croydon developed as a planned medieval town, centred on the Archbishops Palace c.1.5km to the south-east of the site. The town was known as *Croendene* in 1086 at the time of Domesday and a church appears to have existed in Croydon from at least 960AD, though the present one dates from the 12th century with later additions. The Lords of the Manor then and subsequently were the Archbishops of Canterbury. Extensive archaeological evidence of medieval habitation and activity has been found in the historic centre of Croydon.

2.4.2 The site of Waddon Manor has been identified at Waddon Court Road, c.800m to the south-east of the site. The Manor of Waddon was formed from the ancient demesne of the Crown as a member of the royal manor of Bermondsey. In 1127 the manor was given to the monks of Bermondsey by Henry I (VCH Surrey 1912: p.217-228).

2.4.3 Possible Saxon remains were found during archaeological investigations at 7-8 Commerce Way c.200m to the south of the site. Two construction trenches were located with one found to contain chaff tempered pottery. A number of post-holes were also found associated with the beam slots (MLO74098).

2.4.4 Located away from the historic centres of Waddon and Croydon the GLHER records no further entries for the Saxon or medieval period within the vicinity of the site. This is likely due to the ground conditions within the Waddon Marsh area, which may not have been suitable for settlement.

2.5 Post-medieval and Modern

2.5.1 Early maps show the site to lie in open land (1692 Waddon Manor Map; 1768 John Rocque's Map of Surrey; 1800 Croydon Enclosure Map). The 1844 Croydon Tithe Map, together with the Associated Award shows that the site lies within meadowland.

2.5.2 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (1867) shows the site within open land. Subsequent Ordnance Survey dated to 1897 shows a railway track along the western boundary of the site.

2.5.3 The 1933 Ordnance Survey shows the start of the industrial development of the area. Progress Way was laid out along the eastern boundary of the site by 1941 and the site, together with the area to the south-east, was occupied by industrial units.

2.5.4 The site has remained in industrial use until present, with minor alterations to the layout of the buildings.

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 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 enable the archaeology advisor at GLAAS to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site.

3.2 Specific Research Aims

The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- Is there any evidence of Bronze Age or Iron Age activity?
- Is there any evidence of continuation of the prehistoric linear features found at the 226 Purley Way site?
- Is there any evidence of Roman roadside development?
- To determine the presence of Saxon or medieval remains on site.

3.3 With reference to the research framework for London (MoL 2002) the project considered the following research aims:

P5, para. 3:

- *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*

R1, para. 6:

- *Understanding how the relationship between the hinterland and territorium of Londinium operated*

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork Methodology

4.1.1 The WSI (ASE 2017) for the evaluation provided for the excavation of three trenches, Trench 1 measuring 20.0m x 1.8m at base and Trenches 2a and 2b measuring 10m x 1.8m at base (Figure 2).

4.1.2 The trial trenches were excavated using 360 back-hoe excavators equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by ASE. Machine excavation proceeded to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher.

4.1.3 Once backfilling had been authorised by CgMs and GLAAS, trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated and were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

4.1.4 The recording strategy was in accordance with the WSI (ibid).

4.2 Archive

4.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	22
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	2
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	11
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	2 bags
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	5
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	1
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-west of the site; it was east-west aligned and measured between 1.89m and 2.58m in depth (Figures 2 and 3). A sondage was excavated at the eastern end of the trench to ascertain the height of the natural deposits.

5.1.2 Natural Hackney Gravels [1/013] were recorded at between 35.28m and 35.97m aOD. These were cut by a probable paleaochannel [1/012]; which was only partially seen within the trench and may therefore just as conceivably represent a pond or other such feature. It appeared to be aligned north-east to south-west and measured at least 15.40m in length, 1.80m in width and 0.75m in depth; the feature had gently sloping sides and a flat base.

5.1.3 The feature contained two primary fills; mid grey yellow sand silt [1/011] was recorded towards the western side of the feature and measured 0.25m in thickness. In the centre and the east of the feature dark brown black peat [1/010] was observed; it measured 0.20m in thickness and contained frequent waterlogged wood as well as animal bone and a worked flint blade of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date. The samples taken from this deposit were found to contain hydrocarbon contamination. The primary fills were sealed by pale grey silt with frequent chalk inclusions [1/009]; this deposit measured 0.14m in thickness and was likely to represent a fluvial deposit, which had washed in from the higher chalk areas to the south, animal bone was retrieved from this context. The chalky deposit was overlain by a dark grey silt deposit [1/008], which measured 0.28m in thickness; this was overlain by another pale grey chalk silt deposit [1/007], which was 0.14m thick and contained animal bone.

5.1.4 The channel deposits were sealed by mid brown grey sand silt subsoil [1/005] between 0.30m and 0.39m in thickness. The subsoil was overlain by a dark grey silt buried soil deposit [1/004] interpreted as the original topsoil; it measured between 0.12m and 0.21m in thickness. The buried soil was overlain by a second buried topsoil deposit [1/003]; this comprised dark grey brown silt between 0.28m and 0.37m in thickness and is likely to have been imported to raise the ground level.

5.1.5 The soil deposits were cut by a modern wall [1/006] comprising a concrete foundation with a wall of frogged red bricks laid in English bond and bonded with cement mortar; the wall measured 11.10m in visible length, 0.95m in maximum width and was at least 2.00m high. The wall was sealed by modern made ground [1/002] consisting of loose dark brown rubbly silt with frequent concrete and CBM inclusions, it measured between 0.75m and 0.98m in thickness. The made ground was overlain by a concrete slab and asphalt surface [1/001] between 0.20m and 0.26m in thickness.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
1/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	20.00	1.80	0.20-0.26	37.80-37.86
1/002	Layer	Made ground	20.00	1.80	0.75-0.98	37.60-37.61
1/003	Layer	Topsoil	20.00	1.80	0.28-0.37	36.62-36.86
1/004	Layer	Buried soil horizon	20.00	1.80	0.12-0.21	36.24-36.49
1/005	Layer	Subsoil	20.00	1.80	0.30-0.39	36.14-36.28
1/006	Masonry	Wall	11.10	0.95	2.00	37.6
1/007	Fill	Fill, upper	10.30	1.80	0.14	35.97-36.08
1/008	Fill	Fill, intermediate	12.45	1.80	0.28	35.79-35.85
1/009	Fill	Fill, intermediate	13.40	1.80	0.14	35.50-35.85
1/010	Fill	Fill, basal	5.00	1.80	0.20	35.36-35.60
1/011	Fill	Fill, basal	3.00	1.80	0.25	35.88
1/012	Cut	Palaeochannel	15.40	1.80	0.75	35.88-35.97
1/013	Layer	Natural	20.00	1.80	-	35.28-35.97

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

5.2 Trench 2a

5.2.1 Trench 2a was located in the west of the site within a warehouse, it was north-south aligned and measured between 0.81 and 0.85m in depth (Figures 2 & 4). The individual context information is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2.2 The natural Hackney Gravels [2/005] were observed between 36.59m and 36.68m aOD. The gravels were overlain by a grey brown gravel silt subsoil [2/004] between 0.13m and 0.16m in thickness. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown sand silt buried topsoil [2/003] between 0.20m and 0.22m in thickness. The buried topsoil was overlain by modern made ground [2/002] comprising loose dark brown rubbly silt between 0.79m and 0.83m thick. The made ground was sealed by a concrete slab [2/001] between 0.12m and 0.15m thick.

5.2.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in this trench.

5.3 Trench 2b

5.3.1 Trench 2b was located in the east of the site within a warehouse, it was east-west aligned and measured between 0.81 and 0.85m in depth (Figures 2 & 4). The individual context information is presented in Appendix 1.

5.3.2 The natural Hackney Gravels [3/004] were observed between 37.48m and 37.49m aOD. The gravels were overlain by a grey brown gravel silt subsoil [3/003] between 0.14m and 0.15m in thickness. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown sand silt buried topsoil [3/002] between 0.24m and 0.27m thick. The topsoil was sealed by a reinforced concrete slab [3/001] between 0.36m and 0.37m thick.

5.3.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in this trench.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)
1/010	1	10	3	411
Total	**1**	**10**	**3**	**411**

Table 4: Finds quantification

6.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

6.2.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 10g was recovered from one of the basal fills of probable palaeochannel [1/012]. Fill [1/010] (a dark brown black peat) contained a blade that displayed moderate edge damage. The artefact is entirely recorticated to a dark blue / grey colour. It is clearly the product of a blade-orientated industry and is likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period.

6.3 **The Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

6.3.1 A small assemblage of animal bone, containing eleven fragments, weighing 423g, was recovered from the evaluation. The animal bone was recovered by hand from context [1/010] and retrieved from two whole earth samples; <1> and <3> from contexts [1/007] and [1/009] respectively. The hand-collected bones are in a poor state of preservation with signs of severe surface erosion evident, the bones retrieved from the whole earth samples are in a moderate state of preservation with minimal signs of erosion.

6.3.2 Context [1/010] contained a distal cattle humerus fragment and one large mammal unidentified bone fragment. Whole earth sample <1> from context [1/007] contained three medium mammal long bone fragments, a cattle carpal, and a single dog mandibular premolar. Whole earth sample <3> from context [1/009] contained two unidentified bone fragments and two medium mammal long bone fragments. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology was observed.

6.4 The Environmental Samples by Mariangela Vitolo

Introduction

6.4.1 Five bulk soil samples were taken from palaeochannel fills to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report summarises the contents of the samples and discusses the information provided by the plant remains on diet, agrarian economy and vegetation environment.

Methodology

6.4.2 The samples came from possibly waterlogged deposits and underwent different processing methods. 2L subsamples were taken from samples <1> to <3> and were wet-sieved using a stack of geological sieves of 4, 2, and 1mm and 500 and 250 µm. A further 10 L were processed by flotation for finds retrieval and any remaining soil was retained for further analysis. Sample <6> was only 10 L and was floated in its entirety. Sample <4> was taken from the peat deposit at the bottom of the palaeochannel, but it was contaminated with hydrocarbon and therefore it was not processed.

The residues and flots from the flotation samples were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2, Table 6). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots and the wet sieved fractions were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2, Tables 7 and 8). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Results

Samples <1> [1/007], <2> [1/008], <3> [1/009] and <6> [1/011]

6.4.3 The flotation samples produced rather small flots, with no charred plant macrofossils. Occasional uncharred seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), bramble (*Rubus* so) and a fragment of grape (*Vitis vinifera*) pip were recovered from two contexts. These seeds could be modern contaminants that infiltrated the deposits through root activity or could be contemporary with said deposits and have survived in anoxic conditions. Charcoal fragments were infrequent and too small for identification. Snail shell fragments were noted in all flots.

6.4.4 The wet sieved fractions yielded a single seed of dock (*Rumex* sp.), which might have either survived in waterlogged conditions or be modern. No uncharred wood or insect remains were noted. Fragments of flint, some of which were fire cracked, were recorded from fills [1/007] and [1/009].

Discussion

6.4.5 The environmental samples from Progress Way yielded no charred plant macrofossils and a limited amount of uncharred seeds, which could be contemporary with the deposits. It is likely that the deposits were only intermittently wet, which led to the preservation of only the sturdier plant remains. The absence of charred plant remains and charcoal is probably due to the nature of the sampled deposits. Any future work at the site should include sampling, targeting well sealed primary deposits.

6.5 **Geoarchaeology** by Alice Dowsett

6.5.1 One geoarchaeological bulk sample (<4>), and one block column (<5>) was taken from context (1/010), a primary fill of a palaeochannel or pond feature. The context was targeted because of its potential for containing waterlogged environmental evidence, such as insects, plant macros, pollen and wood. The sediment is a dark brown, silty peat, with flint gravel inclusions and occasional pieces of wood. The peat is moderately humified, and dry in places. After closer inspection, during post excavation analysis, the sample was found to be contaminated with hydrocarbons and deemed unsuitable to process. The patchy, dry condition of the peat suggests that it was intermittently drying and wetting, which considerably reduces the potential for good preservation of waterlogged environmental remains. It is therefore suggested that analysis of these samples should not be taken forward and that they may be discarded. For future work on this peat, an area of uncontaminated and fully waterlogged sediment could hold the potential for well-preserved environmental remains.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 Natural Hackney Gravels were recorded at between 35.28m and 37.49m aOD; the natural deposits sloped downwards to the north. The natural deposits were overlain by subsoil and buried topsoil deposits; in Trench 1, a second buried topsoil was also observed. The soil deposits were overlain by modern made ground and concrete floor slabs.

7.1.2 In Trench 1, a palaeochannel or pond cut the natural deposits; the fills of this feature showed evidence of successive flood events. While this feature was not securely dated, the presence of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint blade and the lack of any later material suggest a prehistoric date.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 Despite successive developments on site during the 20th century, deposit survival was general good with buried topsoil and subsoil extant in all three trenches. The only evidence of modern truncation observed was in Trench 1, where a modern wall ran across the trench.

7.2.2 While no contamination was recorded during the evaluation, samples of the peaty primary fill of the palaeochannel were found to be contaminated with hydrocarbons.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains

7.3.1 The only feature recorded was a probable palaeochannel located at the eastern end of Trench 1. While this feature could not be closely dated, the presence of Mesolithic or early Neolithic flintwork from the basal peat fill suggest a prehistoric date. Two of the fills contained frequent chalk inclusions suggesting inwashing during a flood event.

7.3.2 Excavations at 226 Purley Way (PCA 2011), found evidence of broadly prehistoric natural channels, which had silted up in a low energy marshy environment surrounding the River Wandle. While the feature in Trench 1 is more substantial and shows evidence of flood events, it is likely to have existed in a similar environment.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 The evaluation established the presence of probable prehistoric remains on site. This likely palaeochannel could not be closely dated.

7.4.2 No evidence of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval remains was found on the site. No evidence of agricultural activity was recorded on site. While none of the features recorded at 226 Purley Way (PCA, 2011) were recorded on the site, the palaeochannel did bear some resemblance to a series of wide linear features found on that site. The features were broadly prehistoric in date and were interpreted as natural channels in a marshy low energy environment close to the River Wandle. While the primary fills of the

palaeochannel on this site do suggest a low energy environment, the chalky fills hint at successive flood events.

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The evaluation found evidence of a prehistoric probable palaeochannel in the north of the site; this feature could not be closely date but showed evidence of having existed in a low energy marshy environment occasionally interrupted by flood events.

7.5.2 No other features were recorded on site. Very little truncation was observed with extant topsoil and subsoil in all three trenches.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site code	PGS17					
Project code	170076					
Planning reference	16/04349/FUL					
Site address	Land at 15, 16 & 21 Progress Way, Croydon, CR0 4XD					
District/Borough	London Borough of Croydon					
NGR (12 figures)	530787 165792					
Geology	Hackney Gravels					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	02-05-2017 to 05-05-2017					
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting					
Project manager	Sarah Ritchie					
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period summary	Prehistoric					
					Modern	
Project summary	The evaluation comprised three trenches and revealed natural Hackney Gravels between 35.29m and 37.49m aOD; the gravels were overlain by subsoil and buried topsoil deposits demonstrating the general good deposit survival seen on site. Modern made ground and concrete floor slabs overlay the buried soils. A probable palaeochannel lay in the north of the site; this feature is likely to be of natural origin and it was likely to have infilled naturally. The feature could not be securely date by the primary fill did contain a single flint blade of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The fills appeared to be alluvial and fluvial in nature and indicate that the site lay within a varying yet damp environment, not particularly conducive to human occupation. The site lies relatively close to the River Wandle and previous excavation to the east have characterized the area as a marshy environment during much of prehistory.					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-285900

Project details	
Project name	Land at 15, 16 and 21 Progress Way, Croydon
Short description of the project	The evaluation comprised three trenches and revealed natural Hackney Gravels between 35.29m and 37.49m aOD; the gravels were overlain by subsoil and buried topsoil deposits demonstrating the general good deposit survival seen on site. Modern made ground and concrete floor slabs overlay the buried soils. A probable palaeochannel lay in the north of the site; this feature is likely to be of natural origin and it was likely to have infilled naturally. The feature could not be securely date by the primary fill did contain a single flint blade of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The fills appeared to be alluvial and fluvial in nature and indicate that the site lay within a varying yet damp environment, not particularly conducive to human occupation. The site lies relatively close to the River Wandle and previous excavation to the east have characterized the area as a marshy environment during much of prehistory.
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2017 End: 05-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PGS 17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	170076 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	PALAEOCHANNEL Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Mesolithic
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Land at 15, 16 and 21 Progress Way
Postcode	CR0 4XD
Study area	6131 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 30787 65792 51.375585717441 -0.120663226611 51 22

	32 N 000 07 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.29m Max: 37.49m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Sarah Ritchie
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"
Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	25 May 2017

Appendix 1: Archaeologically Negative Trenches. List of Recorded Contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
2a	2/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	10.00	1.80	0.12-0.15	37.88-37.97
2a	2/002	Layer	Made ground	10.00	1.80	0.79-0.83	37.73-37.85
2a	2/003	Layer	Topsoil	10.00	1.80	0.20-0.22	36.94-37.02
2a	2/004	Layer	Subsoil	10.00	1.80	0.13-0.16	36.72-36.82
2a	2/005	Layer	Natural	10.00	1.80	-	36.59-36.68
2b	3/001	Masonry	Concrete slab	10.00	1.80	0.36-0.37	38.25
2b	3/002	Layer	Topsoil	10.00	1.80	0.24-0.27	37.88-37.89
2b	3/003	Layer	Subsoil	10.00	1.80	0.14-0.15	37.62-37.64
2b	3/004	Layer	Natural	10.00	1.80	-	37.48-37.49

Appendix 2: Environmental Quantification

Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50) and weights in grams

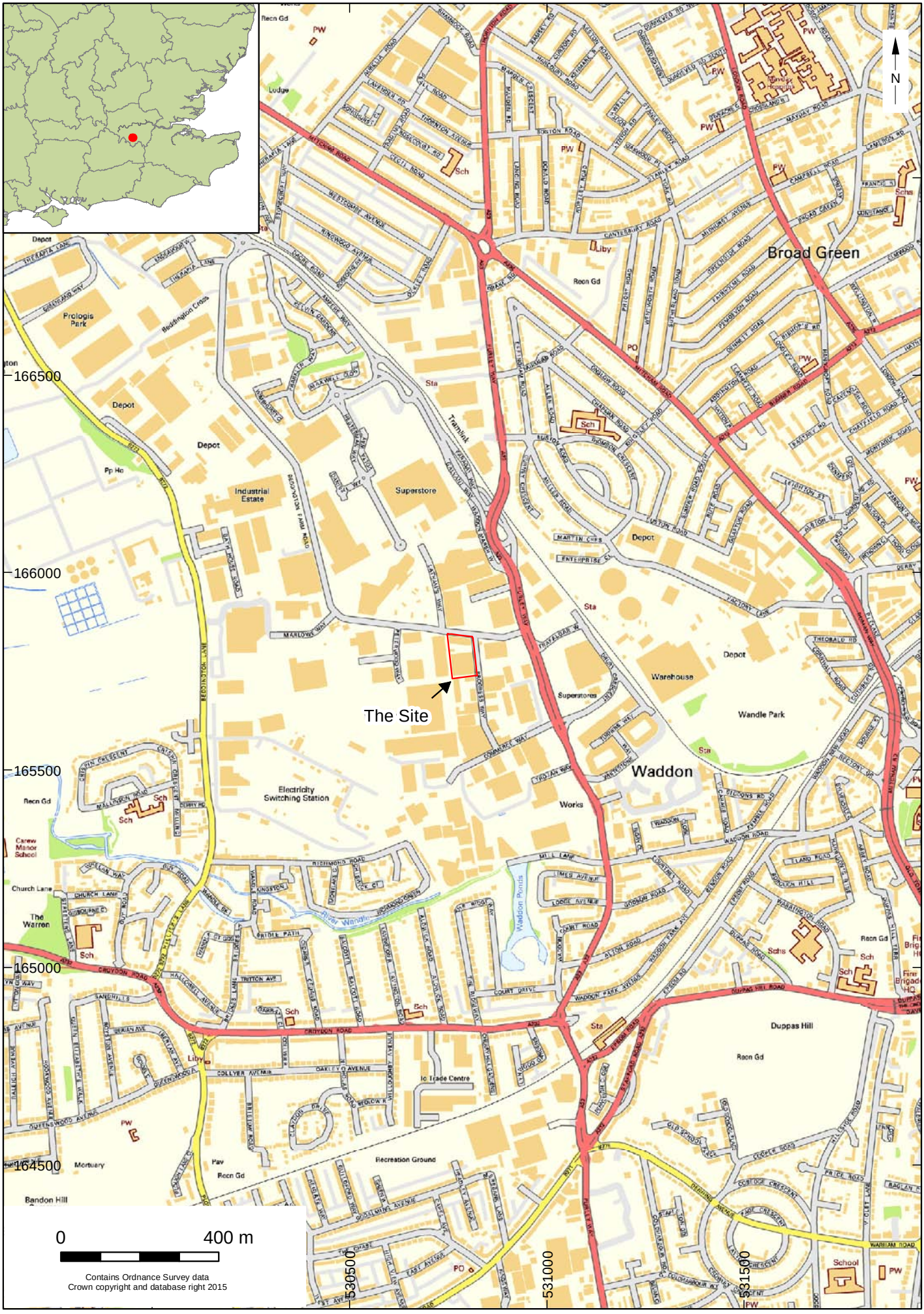
Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Sub-Sample Volume (L)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Land Snail Shells	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	1/007	Palaeochannel fill	10	8	*	9	*	<1			FCF (*/8g)
2	1/008	Palaeochannel fill	20	10							FCF (**/104g)
3	1/009	Palaeochannel fill	20	10	*	1			*	<1	FCF (*/<1g)
6	1/011	Palaeochannel fill	20	10							

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50)

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	Land Snail Shells
1	1/007	<0.5	<5	<5	90	10	* *Chenopodium* sp., *Rubus* sp. *Vitis vinifera* (1)		**
2	1/008	<0.5	<5	<5	90	10			**
3	1/009	2	10	10	10	70		**	**
6	1/011	<0.5	<5	<5	80	10	* *Rumex* sp., *Chenopodium* sp.	*	

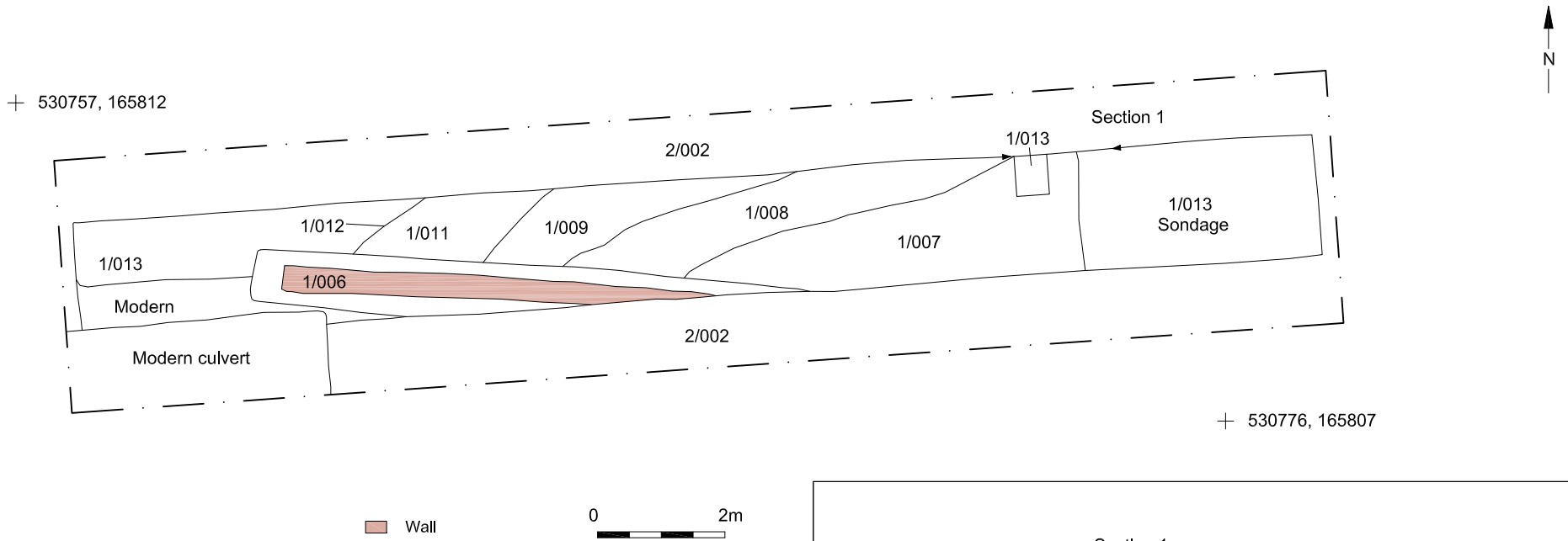
Wet sieved fractions data (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50)

Sample Number	Context	Sample Volume	Sub-sample processed	Sieves used	Sub-sample scanned	Macrobotanical Remains	Idenitifcation and preservation notes	Wood	Notes on Preservation of Wood	Other finds	Notes on finds
1	1/007	10	2L	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	100ml	*	*Rumex* sp. (1)	*	small charcoal fragments in <1mm fraction	**	flint
2	1/008	20	2L	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	100ml			*	small charcoal fragments in <1mm fraction		
3	1/009	20	2L	4, 2,1mm, 500 & 250 micron	100ml			*	small charcoal fragments in <1mm fraction	**	flint, FCF (small fragments)



© Archaeology South-East		Land at 15, 16 & 21 Progress Way, Croydon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170076	Feb 2017	Site location	
Report No: 2017240	Drawn by: APL		

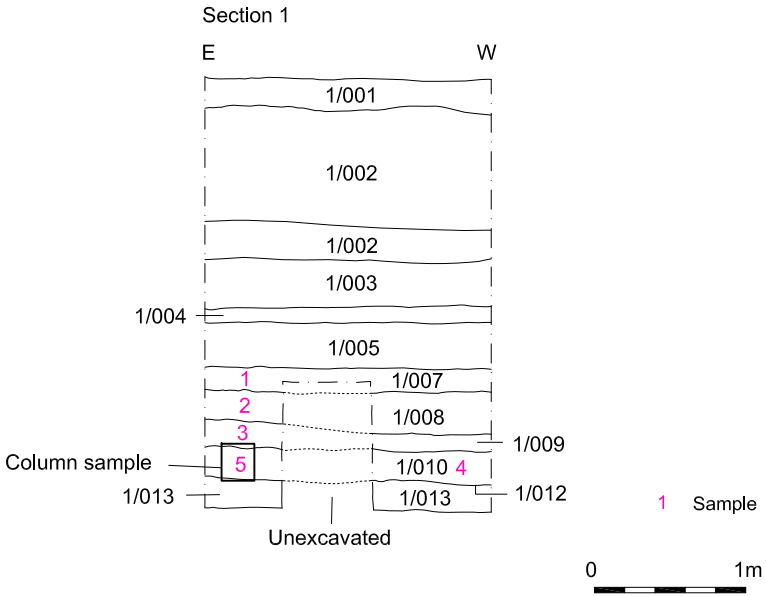
© Archaeology South-East		Land at 15, 16 & 21 Progress Way, Croydon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170076	Feb 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 1 looking east

Trench 1 sondage looking north

Sondage looking north-west



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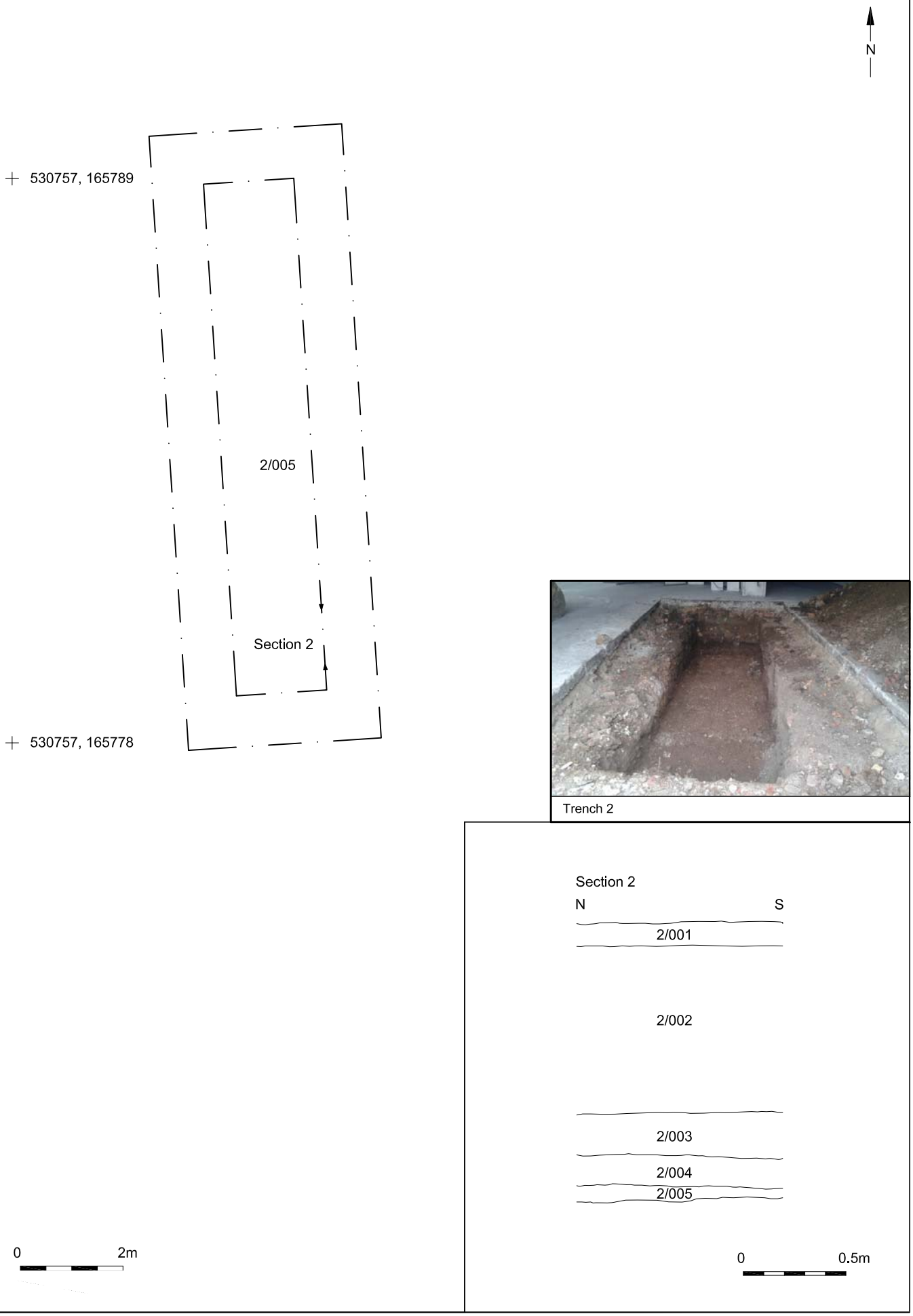
Project Ref: 170076	Feb 2017	Trench 1	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at 15, 16 & 21 Progress Way, Croydon	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170076	Feb 2017	Trench 2a	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		

N

530797, 165775

3/004

Section 3

530797, 165766

0 2m

Trench 2b

Section 3

E W

3/001

3/002

3/003

3/004

0 0.5m

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Project Ref: 170076	Feb 2017	Trench 2b	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		

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