

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Former Norbury Police Station
London Road, Norbury
London Borough of Croydon**

NGR: TQ 30598 69859

Planning Ref: 16/02158/P

**ASE Project No: 170769
Site Code: NPS17**

**ASE Report No: 2017470
OASIS id: archaeol6-300172**

By Steve White

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work on the site of the Former Police Station, London Road, Norbury, London Borough of Croydon on the 26th of October, 2017. The work consisted of the excavation of one evaluation trench. Trench TR1 measured 18.50m x 2.10m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.70m

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed. Terracing and levelling associated with the previous development had removed any potential topsoil and subsoil horizons and/or potential archaeological remains within area of the trench. This is likely to be the case throughout the footprint of the police station building(s). The exposed stratigraphic sequence was natural sand and gravel at 33.52m AOD overlain by modern made ground and surfaces etc relating the police station construction.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work at the former Norbury Police Station, London Road, Norbury, London Borough of Croydon (Figure 1, NGR TQ 30598 69859).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is an 'L' shaped parcel of land that measured 0.1 hectares (centered on NGR TQ 30598 69859). It is bounded by properties to the north, London Road to the west, and Norbury park to the south and east. The site is level at c.34m however, the site has been terraced to accommodate the 20th century former Police buildings removing a former north-west facing slope. The Norbury Brook, flowing from east to west lies approximately 75m to the north of the site. The brook passes west under the High Street and joins the River Graveney which also flows east to west.

1.2.2 The site is situated upon solid geology of London Clay, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS website, 2017) in the area.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area which relates to the London Road; a road that is believed to follow the route of the London to Brighton Roman road. Planning permission has been granted by the London Borough of Croydon (Ref. No.: 16/02158/P) for alterations and refurbishment of the existing police station to provide 188m² D1/D2 floor space on the ground floor and 8 one bedroom flats on first and second floors; erection of three/four storey building at rear comprising 8 three bedroom, 5 two bedroom and 1 one bedroom flats; provision of associated landscaping, cycle parking, refuse storage and ancillary works redevelopment and extension of a residential building including two houses within an adjacent garden. Condition 17, attached to the planning consent, set out a requirement for a programme of archaeological mitigation on the site.

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 evaluation 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 evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.

C) 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 mitigation in

accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.

D) Under Part C, the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) shall implement a programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.

E) 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 Parts (A and C), and the provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured. Reason: To ensure that the development identifies and manages any historic significance on the site.

1.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2017) to advise on the potential, and nature of, archaeological assets that might be encountered during the requisite evaluation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2017a) for an archaeological evaluation was prepared, and approved by GLAAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with GLAAS Standards for Archaeological Work (Historic England 2015) and the appropriate Standard and Guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2017).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site on the 26th of October, 2017.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2017) for the site.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 In view of the geological position of the site on the London Clay Formation, a low theoretical potential is identified for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. During the later prehistoric period the site probably lay within marginal woodland. Accordingly, the site is considered to have a low to modest archaeological potential for residual archaeological material from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. There is no evidence to suggest any Iron Age remains in the area and subsequently this period has a low potential. Due to the sites location near to the River Graveney it is possible that the throughout the prehistoric periods the area may have been used on a seasonal basis for its flora, fauna and water supply.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area which relates to the London Road, which forms the south-west boundary of the site. London Road followed the route of the London to Brighton Roman road. The road at this point is referred to by Margary (Roman Roads in Britain: I, 1955) as “an old trackway, not an aligned road” which indicates that the Roman roads actual position and significance may be open to interpretation.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon & medieval

- 2.4.1 The closest recorded manor to the site, and hence evidence for settlement, recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD is Streatham, located 1.6km to the north. Domesday also records the settlement of Croydon to the south as holding 73 households, a mill, a church, considerable woodland, and c.2400 acres of plough land (Open Domesday website, 2017). During the medieval period the site lay some distance from the edge of either settlement. However, the fact that the site is located adjacent to the Roman road means that there could be some potential for roadside activity in the medieval period.

2.5 Post-medieval

- 2.5.1 For the majority of the post-medieval period the area is likely to have remained agricultural or open land. The 1729 Senex Map of Surrey places the site in open ground between Streatham Wells, to the north and Thornhill Heath, to the south. The post-medieval London to Brighton Road is located to the west of the site. The site remained open undeveloped land until c.1924.
- 2.5.2 The Police Station on the site is believed to have been constructed in 1925. The 1974-75 Ordnance Survey shows the site fully developed with the original 1925 buildings at the front of the site (adjacent to London Road) and buildings in the south-east and northern ends of the site. These later buildings were constructed by 1954.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The general objectives of the evaluation, as described in the WSI (CgMs 2017a) were:

- To determine whether any archaeological assets are present on site and to record and excavate any features encountered to determine the character, quality and date of each feature or group of features
- Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development should also be considered
- 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 development
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits

2.7.2 The site specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence of any prehistoric activity on site
- To determine the presence of any Roman activity on site
- To determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity on site
- Establish the likely impact of past land use and development
- Provide sufficient information to, if appropriate, to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The single trench (TR1) was located as close as possible to its location in the WSI (*ibid*). The final location of the trench was recorded by hand held GPS (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The archaeological methodology was initially set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid*).
- 3.1.3 The trench location was scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.1.4 The trench was excavated using a tracked machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, grading in spits of no more than 200mm at a time until the natural geology was encountered.
- 3.1.5 The trench was recorded using a trench record form. A digital photographic record was made.
- 3.1.6 The location of the trench was accurately surveyed using a Leica Viva CS15 RTK GPS instrument and tied into the Ordnance Survey.

3.2 Archive

- 3.3.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) before the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Digital photos	4
Trench Record forms	1
Trial Pit Records	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench TR1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth (m)	Height
1/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.10	33.17
1/002	Layer	Concrete	Trench	Trench	0.25	33.07
1/003	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.30-0.52	32.82
1/004	Layer	Natural (Sand)	Trench	Trench	0.40-0.80	32.52
1/005	Layer	Natural (Gravels)	Trench	Trench	>0.50	31.72

Table 2: Trench TR1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 The earliest observed deposit was natural gravel [1/005] at 31.72m AOD, this was overlain by a band of natural sand [1/004] that was 0.40-0.80m thick at 32.52m AOD. The natural sand was directly overlain by modern made ground [1/003], a sandy-silty clay with modern brick rubble inclusions that was 0.30-0.52m thick at 32.82m AOD. The made ground was sealed by concrete [1/002] at 33.07m, which was then overlain by modern tarmac [1/001] at the ground level of 33.17m AOD.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits of any interest were observed within the trench. The natural deposits were dug into by machine to ascertain how substantial they were and as no superficial geological deposits were recorded on the British Geological Survey website. A modern water pipe was observed towards the north-eastern edge of the trench.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was of natural sand and gravel overlain by modern made ground and surfaces etc relating the police station construction.

5.1.2 The natural deposits were observed at 33.52m AOD.

5.1.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 Natural deposits were directly sealed by a modern made ground. There were no surviving subsoil or topsoil horizons. This suggests that extensive levelling occurred during the construction of the police station. Any potential archaeological remains were most likely removed in the area of the building(s).

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 With regards to the general research aims of the project:

- To determine whether any archaeological assets are present on site and to record and excavate any features encountered to determine the character, quality and date of each feature or group of features

No archaeological assets were observed.

- Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development should also be considered.

No archaeological remains were observed during the evaluation, so physical preservation is not a concern.

- 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 development.

No archaeological remains were observed.

- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.

No archaeological deposits of any interest were observed.

5.3.2 With regards to the site specific aims of the evaluation:

- To determine the presence of any prehistoric activity on site.

No evidence for prehistoric activity was observed.

- To determine the presence of any Roman activity on site.

No evidence for Roman activity was observed.

- To determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity on site.

No evidence of Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was observed.

- Establish the likely impact of past land use and development.

Terracing and levelling associated with the previous development had removed any potential topsoil and subsoil horizons and/or potential archaeological remains within area of the trench. This is likely to be the case throughout the footprint of the police station building(s).

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed. Terracing and levelling associated with the previous development had removed any potential topsoil and subsoil horizons and/or potential archaeological remains within area of the trench. This is likely to be the case throughout the footprint of the police station building(s). The exposed stratigraphic sequence was natural sand and gravel at 33.52m AOD overlain by modern made ground and surfaces etc relating the police station construction.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. We would also like to thank, Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Advisor South-London, for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Steve White. With assistance from Paulo Clemente. Andy Lewsey produced the figures for this report; Andy Leonard managed the excavations, Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	NPS17					
Identification Name and Address	Former Norbury Police Station, London Road					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Croydon					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 30598 69859					
Geology	London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	170769					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site			Deep Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork	26/10/2017					
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Steve White					
Period Summary						
						Modern
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work on the site of the Former Police Station, London Road, Norbury, London Borough of Croydon on the 26th of October, 2017. The work consisted of the excavation of one evaluation trench. Trench TR1 measured 18.50m x 2.10m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.70m</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed. Terracing and levelling associated with the previous development had removed any potential topsoil and subsoil horizons and/or potential archaeological remains within area of the trench. This is likely to be the case throughout the footprint of the police station building(s). The exposed stratigraphic sequence was natural sand and gravel at 33.52m AOD overlain by modern made ground and surfaces etc relating the police station construction.</i></p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-300172****Project details**

Project name	Former Norbury Police Station, London Road
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological work on the site of the Former Police Station, London Road, Norbury, London Borough of Croydon on the 26th of October, 2017. The work consisted of the excavation of one evaluation trench. Trench TR1 measured 18.50m x 2.10m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.70m. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed. Terracing and levelling associated with the previous development had removed any potential topsoil and subsoil horizons and/or potential archaeological remains within area of the trench. This is likely to be the case throughout the footprint of the police station building(s). The exposed stratigraphic sequence was natural sand and gravel at 33.52m AOD overlain by modern made ground and surfaces etc relating the police station construction.
Project dates	Start: 26-10-2017 End: 26-10-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	NPS17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
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 Former Norbury Police Station, London Road
Postcode	SW16
Study area	0.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 30598 69859 51.412182797927 -0.121880824427 51 24 43 N 000 07 18 W Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 32.52m Max: 32.52m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Steve White
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

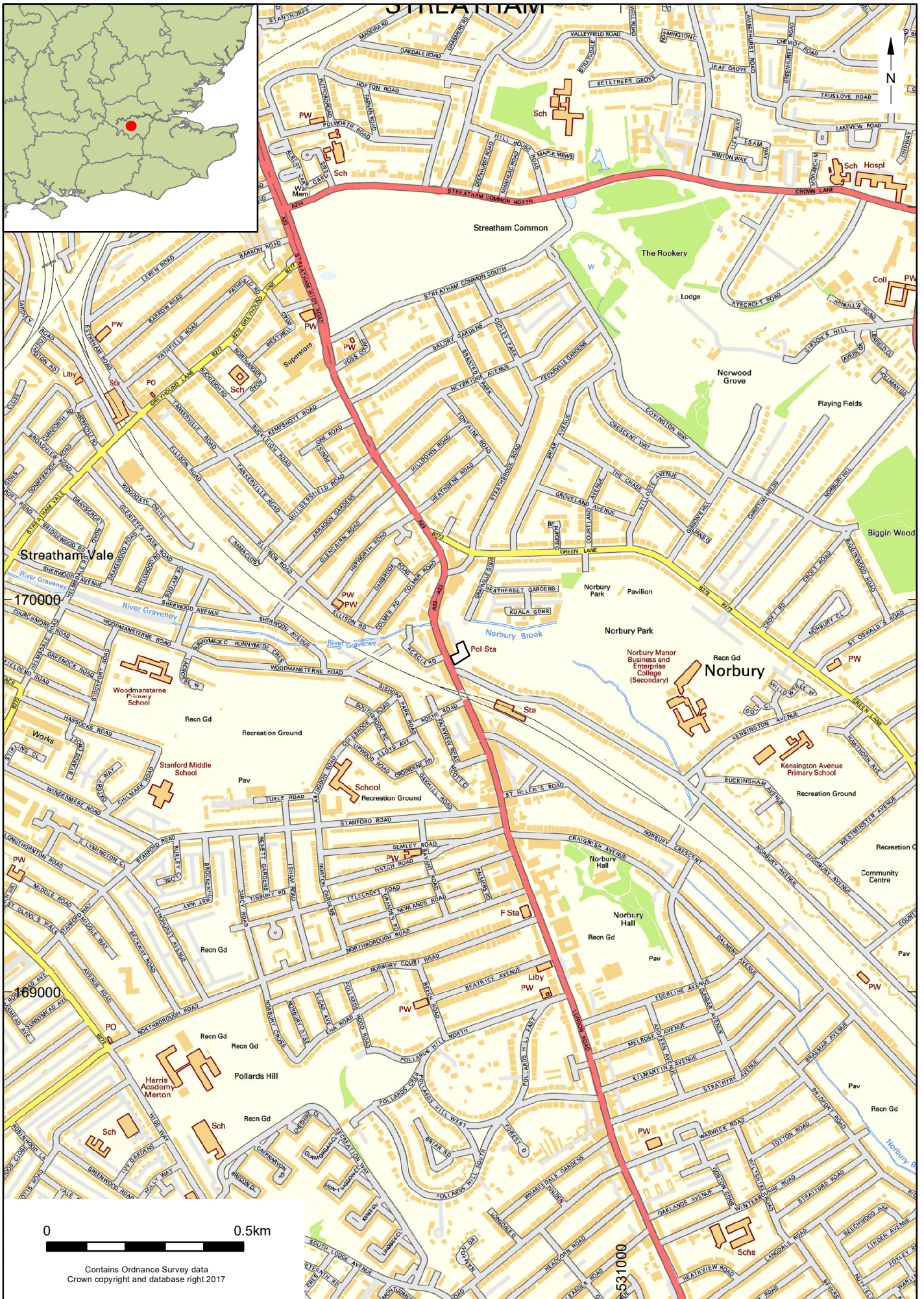
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	NPS17
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	NPS17
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		Norbury Police Station, London Road, Norbury, Croydon		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170769	November 2017	Site location		
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View north-east along Trench 1

View south-west along Trench 1

© Archaeology South-East		Norbury Police Station, London Road, Norbury, Croydon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170769	November 2017	Trench1- Plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017470	Drawn by: AR		

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