

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Cricketer's Arms,  
Southbridge Place, Croydon, CR0 4HA**

**London Borough of Croydon  
Planning Ref: 06/05290/P**

**NGR 532062 164880**

**Project No. 3292  
Site Code: CKY 08**

**ASE Report No. 2009006  
OASIS id: archaeol6-54411**

**by  
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**January 2009**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with redevelopment work at The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon during visits to the site in November and December 2008. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by AM Surveying, on behalf of their client, Ganco PLC to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a redevelopment at The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon (NGR 532062 164880) (Fig. 1)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located on the south side of Southbridge Place. It is bounded to the east and west by properties fronting onto Southbridge Place and to the south by a property in Rathbone Square. The site lies at an elevation of c.50mAOD.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 270) the site lies at the boundary of the Thanet Beds Formation and the Lambeth Group of clays.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by the London Borough of Croydon for a programme of demolition work at the site, to be followed by the erection of an extension to the existing building. Permission was also given for the erection of a further two-storey building at rear, and for the construction of front entrance gates, provision of vehicular access, car parking and cycle parking spaces (planning ref. 06/05290/P and planning appeal reference APP/L5240/A/07/2047045).

1.3.2 Following consultation between the London Borough of Croydon and the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service of English Heritage (GLAAS), acting in their role as advisers on archaeological issues to the London Boroughs, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring that:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.'*

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological work undertaken at the site was produced by Giles Dawkes of ASE and accepted by GLAAS prior to the commencement of the groundworks. This document set out the scope of the work to be undertaken during the monitoring process (ASE 2008).

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed during the redevelopment of the site were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 Site specific aims outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2008) were:

- What is the depth of the modern made ground on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Roman activity?
- Is there any evidence of activity of other periods?

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the site carried out in November and December 2008. The work was undertaken by a team comprised of Paul Riccoboni (Senior Archaeologist), David Fallon and Deon Whittaker (Archaeologists). The project was managed by Giles Dawkes (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following summary of the known archaeological sites in the area is taken directly from the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2008).

### **2.2 Prehistory**

2.2.1 Prehistoric sites have been identified in Croydon. Mesolithic sites are known from the Banstead area, an area perhaps favoured for its close proximity to sources of flint. A number of Neolithic finds are known from the wider downland context around Croydon, including polished axes.

2.2.2 In addition, a putative flint mine is suggested on West Hill, Sanderstead, and a small collection of cut features (a pit/posthole and a ditch) from Park Lane. A relatively large amount of Bronze Age material has been found in the area, including a concentration of Late Bronze Age hoards on the North Downs dip-slope. The Iron Age period is generally not well represented in Croydon.

### **2.3 Romano-British**

2.3.1 Romano-British settlement evidence is known from scattered sources in Croydon, forming part of a pattern of small nucleated settlements around London situated along roads, and which may have grown up around Imperial posting stations. Most of this material derives from the historic centre of Croydon. Significant quantities of pottery, coins and human remains, together with settlement/activity features, suggest a settled and farmed landscape with a sizeable settlement focused near Park Street/George Street. The line of the Roman road from London to Brighton is thought to follow the line of Handcroft Road.

### **2.4 Anglo-Saxon**

2.4.1 The Early Anglo-Saxon period saw central London largely abandoned. Instead, a number of small settlements grew up around the periphery, of which Croydon is one. The place-name itself is of British origin, suggesting that a sub-Roman native settlement existed on the site, upon which an Anglo-Saxon population element was grafted. Archaeological evidence for early settlement exists in the form of several cemeteries, which form part of a larger group within the Wandle valley. By the Late Anglo-Saxon period, Croydon had grown in importance as an estate centre for the Archbishops of Canterbury, which, while impacting positively on the settlement in economic terms also drew unwelcome attention from Viking raiders, as demonstrated by the find of a hoard interpreted as booty from a raid.

## 2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 Croydon developed as a planned medieval town, centred on the Archbishops Palace. 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 12<sup>th</sup> century with later additions (MLO16221, TQ31946544). 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.



### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained during the mechanical excavation at the site associated with the redevelopment work. This consisted of limited ground reduction and the mechanical excavation of trenches for the footings of the new buildings (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome print, colour transparencies and digital) and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	5 B&W 5 Colour Slide 11 Digital
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The details of the contexts encountered during the watching brief are tabulated below.

Context Number	Type	Description	Diameter	Deposit Depth
001	Deposit	'Natural' Gravel	-	-
002	Deposit	Cut	760mm	300mm
003	Deposit	Fill	-	-
004	Deposit	Garden Soil	-	260mm
005	Deposit	Brick Rubble	-	310mm

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

4.2 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the archaeological monitoring undertaken at the site, which consisted mostly of the observation of the mechanical excavation of strip foundations to a maximum depth of 2m.

4.3 At the base of the excavations was Context [001], the 'natural' yellowish brown gravel. A possible archaeological feature was encountered at the surface of the 'natural' gravel. Cut [002] had a diameter of 760mm and a depth of 300mm. The single fill was Context [003], a dark brown clayey silt, which was extremely similar in character to the overlying deposit, Context [004] (see below). No artefacts were recovered from the fill, and it is considered likely that the feature may have been a hollow in the surface of the 'natural' gravel, rather than a 'true' archaeological feature.

4.4 The encountered overburden consisted of two distinct layers. Directly over the 'natural' was Context [004], a c.260mm thick dark brown clayey silt garden soil. The uppermost deposit, laying directly above [004] was Context [005], a c.310mm thick layer of brick rubble, presumably the result of the recent demolition work at the site.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 The monitored mechanical excavation did not reveal any archaeological deposits. No significant archaeological features were identified during the examination of the revealed surfaces of the 'natural', or in any of the trench sections, and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
- 5.2 Therefore, it is clear that the monitored groundworks at the site did not lead to the disturbance and/or destruction of any significant archaeological deposits. Hence, based on the available evidence, it appears likely that no archaeological remains survived at the site as a whole, and hence that the development did not adversely affect significant buried archaeological remains.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Despite the results, the instigation of an archaeological watching brief was prudent given the archaeological sensitivity of the site, and would have resulted in the discovery and recording of archaeological deposits, features and/or significant artefacts had any been disturbed during the groundworks.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**ASE** 2008. *The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon CR0 4HA Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub ASE Document

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation of the on-site contractors is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Mark Stevenson of GLAAS for his input.

### SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CKY 08					
Identification Name and Address	The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Croydon					
OS Grid Refs.	532062 164880					
Geology	Thanet Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3292					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. Nov. 2008 – Dec. 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	AM Surveying, on behalf of their client, Ganco PLC					
Project Manager	Giles Dawkes/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	David Fallon					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with redevelopment work at The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon during visits to the site in November and December 2008. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-54411**

### Project details

Project name	The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with redevelopment work at The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon during visits to the site in November and December 2008. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 19-11-2008 End: 03-12-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CKY 08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	3292 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
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Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON The Cricketer's Arms, Southbridge Place
Postcode	CR0 4HA
Study area	625.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 532062 164880 50.9268976169 0.180265067622 50 55 36 N 000 10 48 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.00m Max: 50.00m

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### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Giles Dawkes
Project supervisor	David Fallon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	AM Surveying on behalf of Ganco PLC

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### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum

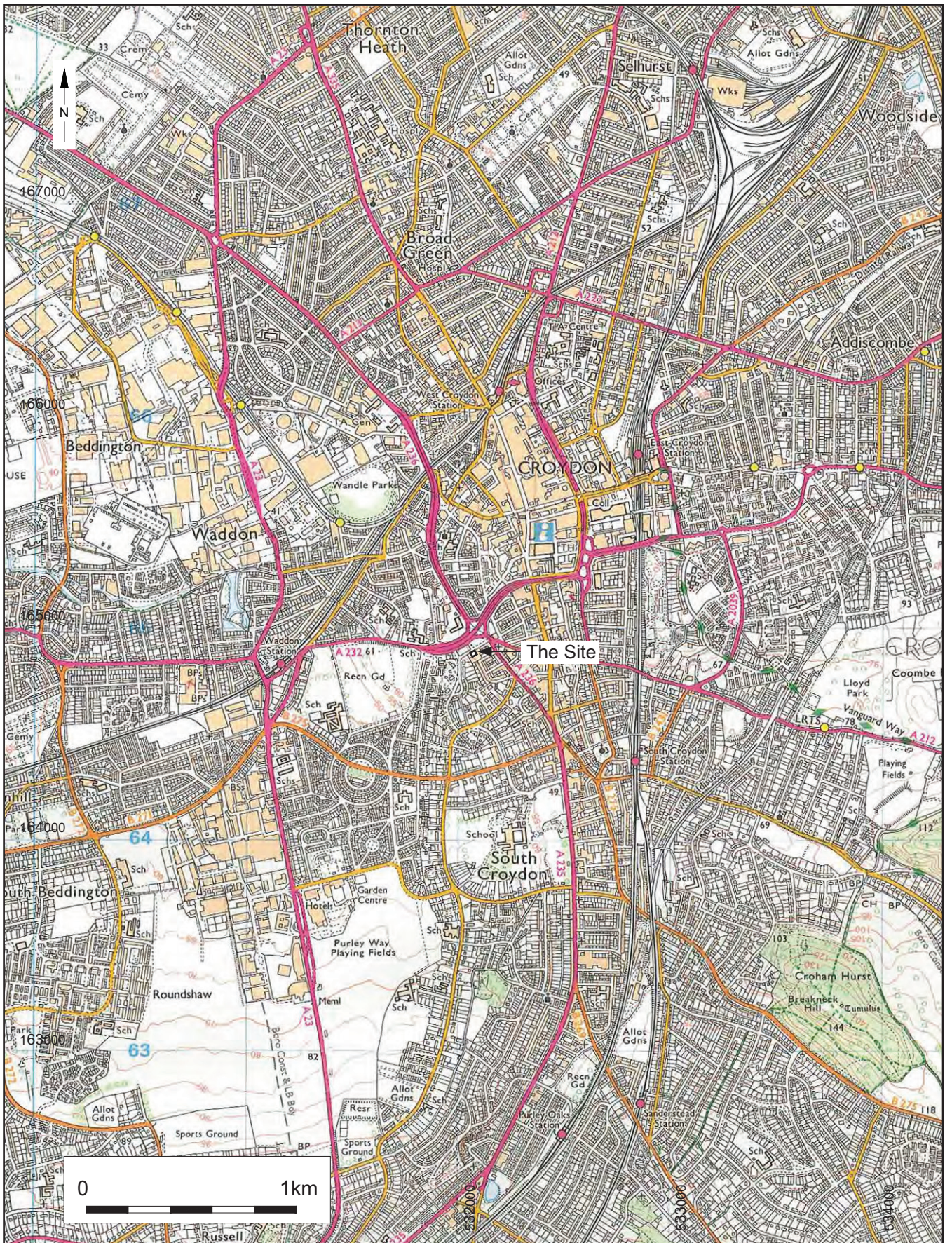
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report'

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### **Project bibliography 1**

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© Archaeology South-East		Cricketers Arms, Southbridge Place, Croydon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3292	Jan 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2009006	Drawn by: HLF		

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Project Ref: 3292	Jan 2009	Site Plan	
Report Ref: 2009006	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 2

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