

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road,  
London Borough of Croydon**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: GFT 15  
GFT15/172**

**(TQ 3150 6605)**

# **Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road, London Borough of Croydon**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Urbanwise**

by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GFT15

**December 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road, London Borough of Croydon

**Grid reference:** TQ 3150 6605

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 11th November - 9th December 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock

**Site code:** GFT 15 (GFT15/172)

**Area of site:** c.0.80 hectares

**Summary of results:** No features or archaeological deposits were observed during the course of the evaluation. On the basis of these results, the site has low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course, with accession code GFT15.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 10.12.15 Steve Preston ✓ 10.12.15
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# **Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road, London Borough of Croydon An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock

**Report 15/172**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road, London Borough of Croydon (TQ 3150 6605) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Keith Ewart of Urbanwise Ltd, Amy Maybrook House, 97 Godstone Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6RF.

Planning permission (14/02895/P) has been gained from the London Borough of Croydon to construct a mixed use development of housing and studio space on the site following demolition of existing structures. The consent is subject to a condition (19) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of fieldwork, initially comprising field evaluation, to be followed by further mitigation if necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, Archaeology Advisor with Historic England, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Kyle Beaverstock, William Attard and Ellen McManus Fry between 11th November and 9th December 2015 and the site code is GFT15/172. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on an irregular plot of land located on the southern and eastern side of Grafton Road, which is on the north-western margins of Croydon (Figs 1 and 2). It is a relatively flat area and at the time of the fieldwork, consisted of the demolished remnants of the former buildings with a concrete slab covering much of the site. The underlying geology is mapped as 2nd Terrace Gravels (BGS 1981) which was observed in the trenches, and the site lies at a height of *c.*42m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been subject to a desk-based assessment (CA 2014). In summary there is the possibility of prehistoric remains on the site with a ditch system, pits and postholes found at Purley Way to the south. A small scale watching brief carried out in the site in the 1990s on the site found no archaeological remains but did establish that the natural geology had not been truncated by modern deposits (MOLAS 1998).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any prehistoric remains are present; and
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed to dig 9 trenches, each measuring 20m long and 1.60m wide, position to target the footprints of the new buildings. These were dug by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

The trenches were dug as close as possible to the positions intended, although some had to be re-positioned slightly to avoid existing foundations and demolition rubble (Fig. 3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned roughly East-West and measured 20.1m long and 1.1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.57m of mixed made ground above 0.53m of mid brown silty sand overlying the gravel natural geology. Much of the trench had been heavily truncated by modern footings.

### Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned North-West to South-East and measured 19.7m long 0.61m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of made ground and 0.14m of mid brown silty sand overlying the gravel natural geology (Fig. 4). Again, most of the trench had been truncated by modern foundations.

#### Trench 3 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned North-West to South-East and measured 20m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.56m of made ground overlying the gravel natural geology.

#### Trench 4 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned close to North-South and measured 17.5m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of made ground and 0.48m of mid brown silty sand overlying the gravel natural geology.

#### Trench 5 (Pl. 5)

This trench was aligned North-West to South-East and measured 20.30m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of black silty sand containing demolition rubble. This overlay 0.20m of yellow sand overlying 0.17m of black silty sand overlying gravel natural geology. Several areas of truncation were evident along the trench from removed concrete bases.

#### Trench 6 (Pl. 6)

This trench was aligned North-South and measured 20.90m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.39m of dark brown grey silty sand containing demolition rubble overlying gravel natural geology. Several areas of truncation were evident along the length of the trench from removed concrete bases as well as the base of a modern brick foundation.

#### Trench 7 (Pl. 7)

This trench was aligned approximately North-West to South-East and measured 20m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of demolition rubble overlying a dark grey brown silty sand. This overlay 0.25m of a mid brown clayey silt containing brick fragments, overlying gravel natural geology. A manhole was observed at the western end and concrete foundation at the eastern end.

#### Trench 8 (Pl. 8)

This trench was aligned approximately WNW–ESE and measured 21.30m long and 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of demolition rubble overlying 0.34m of a black silty sand containing rubble. This overlay 0.14m of mid brown silty sand containing brick fragments, overlying gravel natural geology. A large concrete beam was observed in the centre of the trench.

### Trench 9 (Pl. 9)

This trench was aligned South-West to North-East and measured 17.4m long and 1.2m deep. The trench at the South-Western end was heavily truncated by modern foundations and so consisted of 1.2m of made ground. At the North-Eastern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.41m of made ground overlying the gravel natural geology.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, no features or archaeological deposits were observed over the course of the evaluation. Several of the trenches were heavily truncated by footings from the modern building, also, the made ground directly overlay the natural geology suggesting the site had been partly truncated by the previous groundworks. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

### **References**

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Compass Archaeology Ltd, 2014, 'Grafton Quarter, Croydon: Desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of the site prior to redevelopment', London
- MOLAS, 1998, 'Marmi Works, Grafton Road, Croydon: An Archaeological Watching Brief', Museum of London Archaeology Service unpubl rep, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.10	2.00	1.10	0-0.57m made ground; 0.57m-1.1m mid brown silty sand; 1.1m+ gravel natural. 41.0m aOD
2	19.70	2.00	0.61	0-0.45m made ground; 0.45m-0.61m mid brown silty sand; 0.61m+ gravel natural. 41.7m aOD
3	20.00	2.00	0.56	0-0.56m made ground; 0.56m+ gravel natural. 41.3m aOD
4	17.50	2.00	0.70	0-0.22m made ground; 0.22m-0.7m mid brown silty sand; 0.7m+ gravel natural. 41.4 aOD
5	20.30	2.00	0.60	0-0.20m black silty sand; 0.20m-0.40m yellow sand; 0.40m-0.57m black silty sand; 0.57m-0.60m+ gravel natural. 40.8m aOD
6	20.90	2.00	0.45	0-0.39m dark grey brown silty sand; 0.39m-0.45m+ gravel natural. 41.5m aOD
7	20.00	2.00	0.80	0-0.20m demolition rubble; 0.20m-0.50m dark grey brown silty sand; 0.50m-0.75m mid brown sandy silt; 0.75m-0.80m gravel natural. 41m aOD
8	21.30	2.00	1.00	0-0.45m demolition rubble; 0.45m-0.79m black silty sand; 0.79m-0.93m mid brown silty sand; 0.93m-1.00m+ gravel natural. 40.5m aOD
9	17.40	2.00	1.20	0-1.2m made ground; 1.2m+ gravel natural. 40.6m aOD

## APPENDIX 2: OASiS submission form



## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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OASIS ID: [thamesva1-233724](#)

### Project details

Project name	Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road, London Borough of Croydon
Short description of the project	No archaeological features or finds were encountered. Parts of the site had been truncated by modern building foundations, although the natural river terrace gravels were intact in other places.
Project dates	Start: 11-11-2015 End: 09-12-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	GFT15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	GFT15 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	EHC15/172 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	14/02895/P - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	1600032 - NMR No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, 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 Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road
Study area	0.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3150 6605 51.377739516224 -0.110328269462 51 22 39 N 000 06 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40.6m Max: 41.7m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Steve Ford
Project director/manager	Steve Ford
Project supervisor	Andy Taylor
Project supervisor	Kyle Beaverstock
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Urbanwise

### Project archives

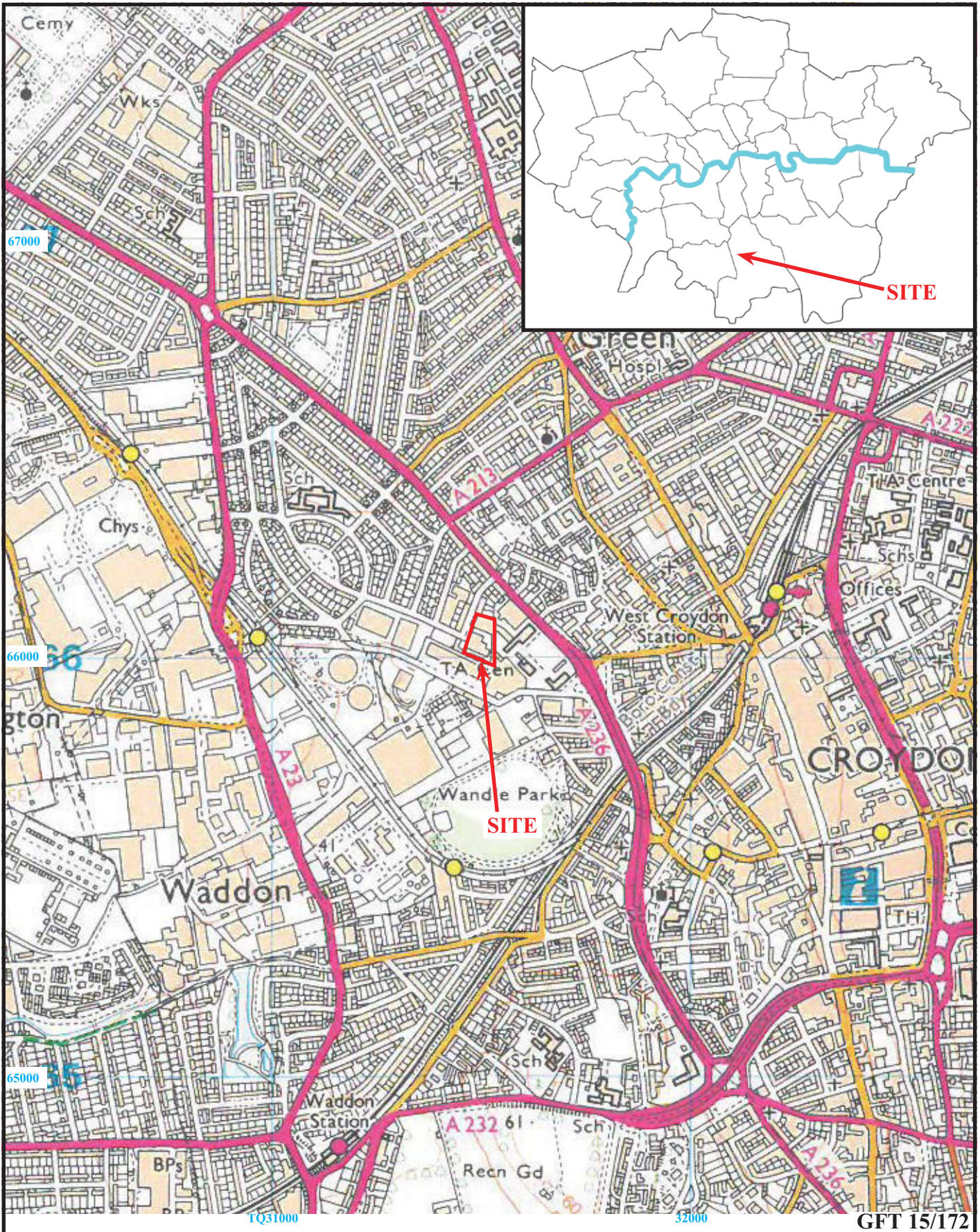
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Archive ID	GFT15
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Archive ID	GFT15
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"; "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"; "Correspondence"; "Drawing"; "Matrices"; "Microfilm"; "Miscellaneous Material"; "Photograph"; "Plan"; "Report"; "Section"; "Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Eurocrown House and Marmi Works, Grafton Road, London Borough of Croydon: an archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Taylor, A

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Beaverstock, K
Other bibliographic details	15/172
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Place of issue or publication	Reading
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Entered on	10 December 2015

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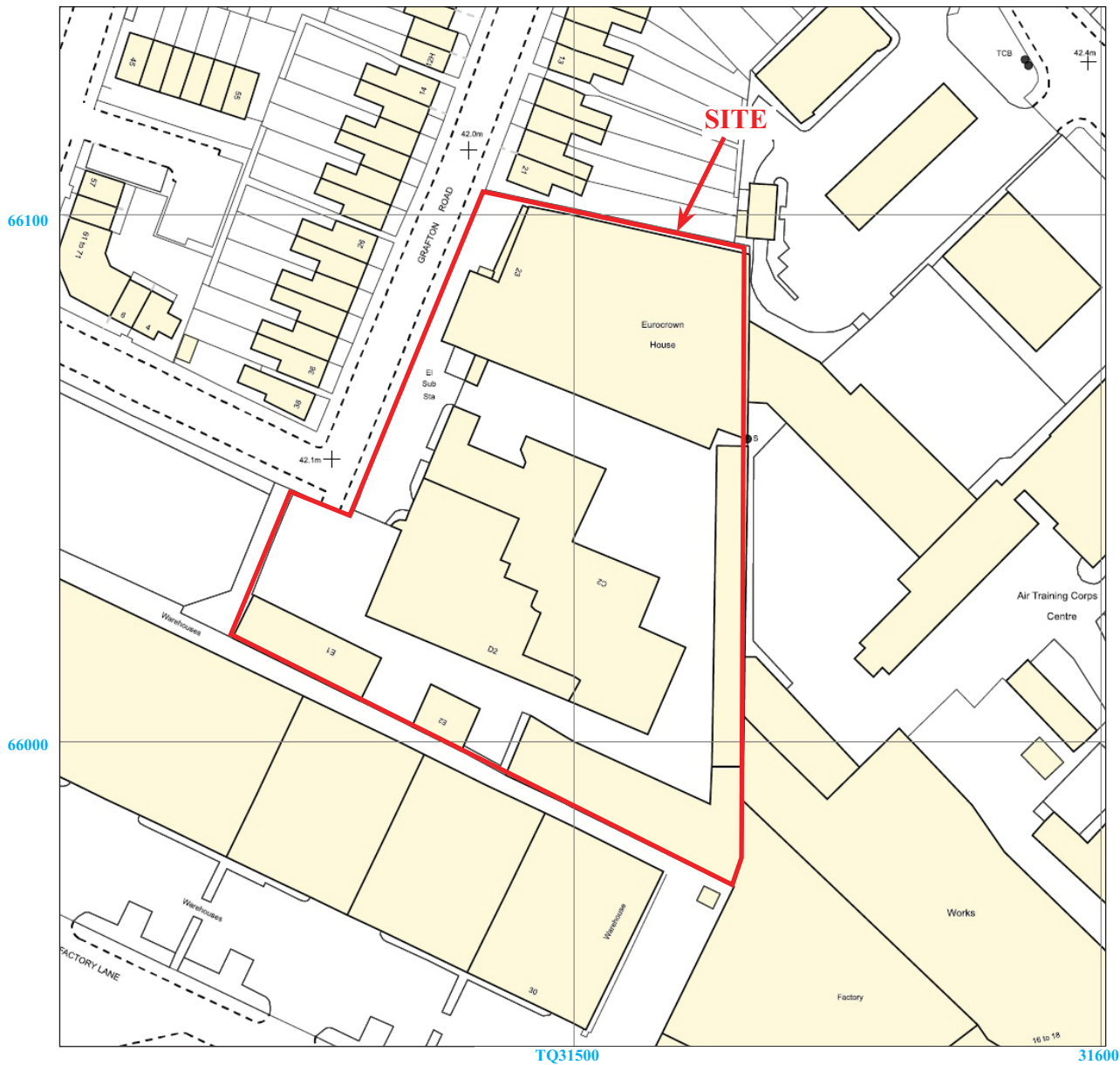


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Figure 1. Location of site within Croydon and Greater London.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Grafton Road.

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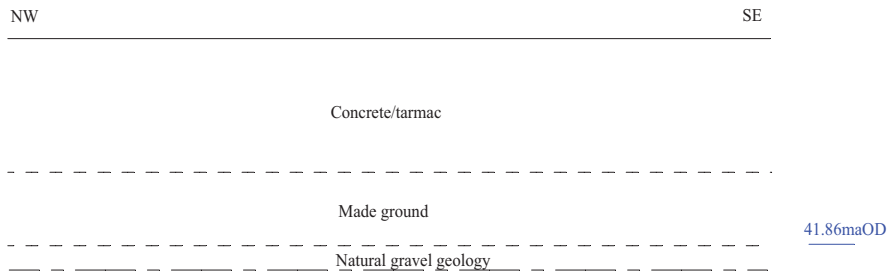
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

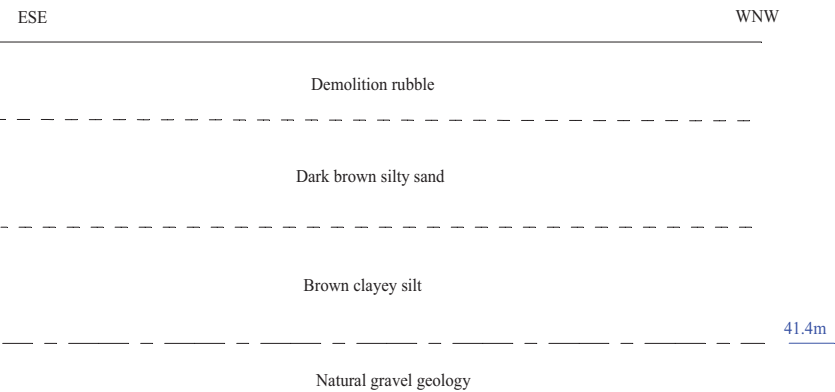


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### Trench 2



### Trench 7



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east south east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking east south east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north north west,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 5, looking east south east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, looking south,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 7. Trench 7, looking north west,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 8. Trench 8, looking west north west,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 5 - 8.**

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Plate 9. Trench 9, looking north east,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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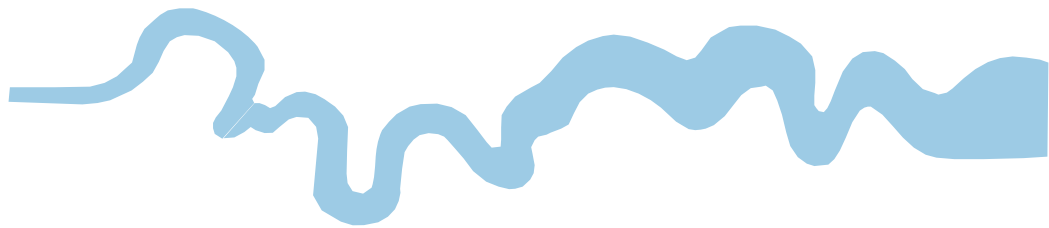
Plate 9

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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