

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**122-6 Southbridge Road, Croydon,  
London Borough of Croydon**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: SSC19/65**

**(TQ 3234 6464)**

**122-6 Southbridge Road, Croydon,  
London Borough of Croydon**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Finnerti Ltd**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SSC19/65

**May 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** 122-6 Southbridge Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon

**Grid reference:** TQ 3234 6464

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 12th - 16th May 2019

**Project coordinator:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Kyle Beaverstock

**Site code:** SUH19 (SSC19/65)

**Area of site:** c. 425 sq m

**Summary of results:** The northwest and southern area of the site have been heavily truncated by post-medieval groundworks, in areas where the natural geology was encountered no finds or features of an archaeological nature were encountered.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London with accession code SUH19.

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|                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 17.06.19<br>Steve Preston ✓ 17.06.19 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# 122-6 Southbridge Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 19/65

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 122-6 Southbridge Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (TQ 3234 6464) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Hussnan Nadir on behalf of Finnerti Ltd, 130 Old Street, London, EC1V 9BD.

Planning permission (18/02081/FUL) has been gained for demolition of an existing outbuilding on the site at 122-126 Southbridge Road, London Borough of Croydon (TQ 3234 6465) and erection of two single-storey buildings with associated soft and hard landscaping, bicycle and refuse/recycling storage. The consent is subject to a condition (15) which requires a programme of archaeological work to be carried out during works. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Louise Davies, Assistant Archaeology Advisor (South London), of Historic England, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock between 12th and 16th May 2019, and the site code is SUH19. The TVAS Project code is SSC19/65.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London, with accession code SUH19.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south-western side of the Southbridge Road approximately 1km south of Croydon centre in south Croydon. This 'L' shaped parcel of land was a former pub garden with outbuildings and is situated at the rear of residential properties on Dering Road to its north-west, south-west and south-east and the commercial properties of Southbridge Road on its north-eastern side. The site is relatively flat, at a height of c. 50m above Ordinance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as 2nd River Gravel Terrace (BGS 1981), which was observed on the site as a pale greyish yellow sandy gravel.

## **Archaeological background**

The site is located on a gravel terrace of the river Wandle, which has the potential for early prehistoric (Mesolithic and Neolithic) deposits. A modest range of archaeological finds and sites is recorded in the Greater London Historic Environment Record for the environs of the site (MoLAS 2000). To the north-west of the site a site was recorded in which a collection of Mesolithic flint tools were recovered, and a prehistoric ditch. In addition, a modest number of Saxon deposits as well a formal garden (probably belonging to the Jacobean 'Eagle House') were recorded. To the south-south-east of the site, an evaluation identified four ditches, together with a significant assemblage of worked flint, including a small blade element of likely Mesolithic/early Neolithic date (MoLAS 1993).

The site lies on the presumed route of the Roman road between London and Brighton. Although its exact location within the vicinity of the site is unknown it was identified in excavations carried out in 1961 to the north-west of the site, and further identified 6km to the north-northwest (Humphries 1962, 88-9). Further activity of Roman date includes gravel extraction at sites to the north-west, with associated ditches and a range of finds.

Little evidence of Saxon activity is recorded for the area, with just two sherds of pottery from an excavated site 220m to the north-west. though in the wider area (to the north east) a 5th/6th century cemetery is recorded. Croydon is well documented in medieval times but little archaeological evidence for medieval occupation has been recorded for the vicinity of the site possibly because the site lies away from the core of the settlement. Recent watching briefs carried out on sites along both sides of Southbridge Road have revealed little of archaeological interest.

Cartographic evidence from the 18th century onwards suggests the site area was occupied by gardens, with the route of the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway built in 1838 passing close to the site, parallel to Southbridge Road. Later maps show the gradual infill of the area.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works and assess them against the research aims for the region (MoLAS 2015). In particular, this was to involve any archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks, which comprised of number of small pad foundations. The watching brief initially involved monitoring stripping of overburden to expose the natural geology before further excavation. Any archaeological deposits revealed were to be excavated and recorded before the pad holes were completed. Any other invasive groundworks outside the building footprint areas such as service trenches and landscaping works that involved ground reduction were also to be monitored.

A total of 30 pad foundations were to be hand dug and monitored by an archaeologist and the spoil was to be monitored for finds. Archaeological deposits which were exposed were to be recorded but not further excavated unless threatened by the groundworks. A programme of environmental sampling was to take place should sufficient well stratified subsoil deposits be located. A metal detector was to be used to enhance recovery of any metal finds.

## **Results**

Areas monitored on the site comprised of a series of 30 pad foundations of between 1m and 1.5m square and up to 1m in depth. The stratigraphy in the western area of the site had the remains of the concrete foundations of the former building comprising the upper 0.20m to 0.30m. Below this the stratigraphy appeared to be relatively consistent across the entire site. It comprised of approximately 0.3-0.4m of a dark brown-grey silty-sand made ground (52), over 0.2-0.4m of a dark brown-grey sandy-silt buried garden soil (53) and 0.3m+ of a dark grey-brown silty-sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel inclusions (54), this overlays a pale greyish yellow sandy gravel natural geology.

From within the made ground (52) blue willow-pattern china, glass, brick and tile were recovered, giving it a likely late 19th to 20th century date. Beneath this made ground in the south-east and central areas of the site, the dark greyish brown sandy silt layer (53) contained few inclusions and so is possibly the remains of garden soil. Below layer 53 and above the natural geology was a mixed dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54), most likely a subsoil interface layer.

## **Finds**

An array of finds were noted in the made ground, with easily recognisable finds of ceramic pottery (transfer printed 'china' and glazed ceramics). A clay tobacco pipe stem and brick and tile were also recovered from layer 52. This was a mixed context, with a wide ranging late date to the finds, and can only be generalized as 19th century, with a early 19th century clay pipe stem found with later 19th century ceramics.

The only material recovered from the two lower deposits (layer 53 and 54) were smaller fragments of red ceramic building materials. No pieces were particularly recognizable.

## **Conclusion**

The site has been extensively disturbed across the whole area of the site as evidenced by the made ground in all 30 post pads. Truncation by former groundworks in the south and north-west of the site went below the level of the natural geology and across much of the site the groundworks did not penetrate below relatively modern made ground. In the north-west and central areas of the site where natural geology was encountered no archaeological remains were recovered.

## **References**

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 270, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Humphries, P H, 1962, 'The London to Portslade Roman Road', *Surrey Archaeol Collect* **59**, 88–9
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- MoLAS, 1993, 'Former Dee's Garage, Brighton Road, South Croydon, London Borough of Croydon, An Archaeological report', Museum of London Archaeology Service unpubl rep, London
- MoLAS, 2000, *The archaeology of Greater London; an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*, Museum of London Archaeology Service Monogr, London
- MoL, 2015, *A strategy for researching the historic environment of Greater London*, Museum of London, London

## Appendix 1: Details of footing pads observed

| <i>Pad</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | 1                 | 1                  | 1.01             | 0–0.06m concrete, 0.06–0.14m brick floor; 0.14–0.21m rubble make-up; 0.21–0.51m dark brown-grey silty sand (52) with occasional flint and frequent brick, tile, pottery (china), glass, etc; 0.51–0.66m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.66–1.01m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54); 1.01m pale yellowish grey sandy gravel natural geology at 48.9m AOD. |
| 2          | 1                 | 1                  | 0.8              | 0–0.80m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.85             | 0–0.60m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.60–0.75m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.75–0.85m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.7              | 0–0.70m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.87             | 0–0.32m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.32–0.47m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.47–0.87m natural sandy gravel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 6          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.69             | 0–0.34m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.34–0.49m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.49–0.69 natural sandy gravel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.9              | 0–0.90m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.7              | 0–0.70m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9          | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.85             | 0–0.85m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.60             | 0–0.42m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.42–0.60m dark grey brown sandy silt (53)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.95             | 0–0.90m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.90–0.95m natural sandy gravel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.78             | 0–0.4m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.4–0.56m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.56–0.78m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 13         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.85             | 0–0.85m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.96             | 0–0.2m brick and concrete; 0.2–0.38m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.38–0.51m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.51–0.94m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 15         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.8              | 0–0.2m concrete; 0.2–0.8m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 16         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.7              | 0–0.15m brick rubble; 0.15–0.25m hoggin; 0.25–0.35m concrete; 0.35–0.7m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 17         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.73             | 0–0.1m brick rubble; 0.1–0.22m hoggin; 0.22–0.3m concrete; 0.3–0.73m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 18         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.71             | 0–0.1m concrete; 0.1–0.28m brick rubble; 0.28–0.71m dark brown-grey silty sand (52)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 19         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.77             | 0–0.1m brick rubble; 0.1–0.22m concrete; 0.22–0.42m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.42–0.52m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.52–0.77m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 20         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.77             | 0–0.1m rubble; 0.1–0.17m concrete; 0.17–0.42m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.42–0.57m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.57–0.77m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 21         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.75             | 0–0.1m rubble; 0.1–0.22m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.22–0.42m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.42–0.75 dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 22         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.65             | 0–0.08m rubble; 0.08–0.12m concrete; 0.12–0.40m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.40–0.65m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 23         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.80             | 0–0.08m brick rubble; 0.08–0.20m concrete; 0.20–0.42m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.42–0.50m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.50–0.80m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 24         | 1.5               | 1.5                | 0.81             | 0–0.1m brick rubble; 0.1–0.18m concrete; 0.18–0.60m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.60–0.81m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 25         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.63             | 0–0.1m brick rubble; 0.1–0.18m concrete; 0.18–0.29m hoggin; 0.29–0.39m dark brown-grey silty sand (52); 0.39–0.51m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.51–0.63 dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                             |
| 26         | 1                 | 1                  | 0.60             | 0–0.50m brick wall; 0.50–0.60m dark grey brown sandy silt (53); 0.60–0.80m dark grey-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint gravel (54)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 27         | 1                 | 1                  |                  | As 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 28         | 1                 | 1                  |                  | As 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 29         | 1                 | 1                  |                  | As 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 30         | 1                 | 1                  |                  | As 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Appendix 2 OASIS form



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**OASIS ID: thamesva1-355812**

### Project details

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project name                           | 122-126 Southbridge Road, Croydon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Short description of the project       | Excavation of footing pads was observed. Across most of the site these did not penetrate below 19th/20th century made ground. In other areas modern truncation had gone below the natural river terrace geology. Where the natural geology was observed, no features or finds of archaeological interest were present. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 12-05-2019 End: 16-05-2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Previous/future work                   | No / No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Any associated project reference codes | SSC19/65 - Contracting Unit No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Any associated project reference codes | SUH19 - Sitecode                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Any associated project reference codes | SUH19 - Museum accession ID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Any associated project reference codes | 18/02081/FUL - Planning Application 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                                 | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### Project location

|                   |                                                                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Country           | England                                                                   |
| Site location     | GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 122-126 Southbridge Road                   |
| Study area        | 425 Square metres                                                         |
| Site coordinates  | TQ 3234 6465 51.364961070041 -0.098785868027 51 21 53 N 000 05 55 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 48m Max: 49m                                                         |

### Project creators

|                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Thames Valley Archaeological Services |
| Project brief originator     | Historic England                      |
| Project design originator    | Steve Ford                            |
| Project director/manager     | Danielle Milbank                      |
| Project supervisor           | Kyle Beaverstock                      |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer                             |

Name of sponsor/funding body Finnerti Ltd

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London

Digital Archive ID SUH19

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID SUH19

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

#### Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 122-6 Southbridge Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Beaverstock, K

Other bibliographic details 19/65

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Place of issue or publication Reading

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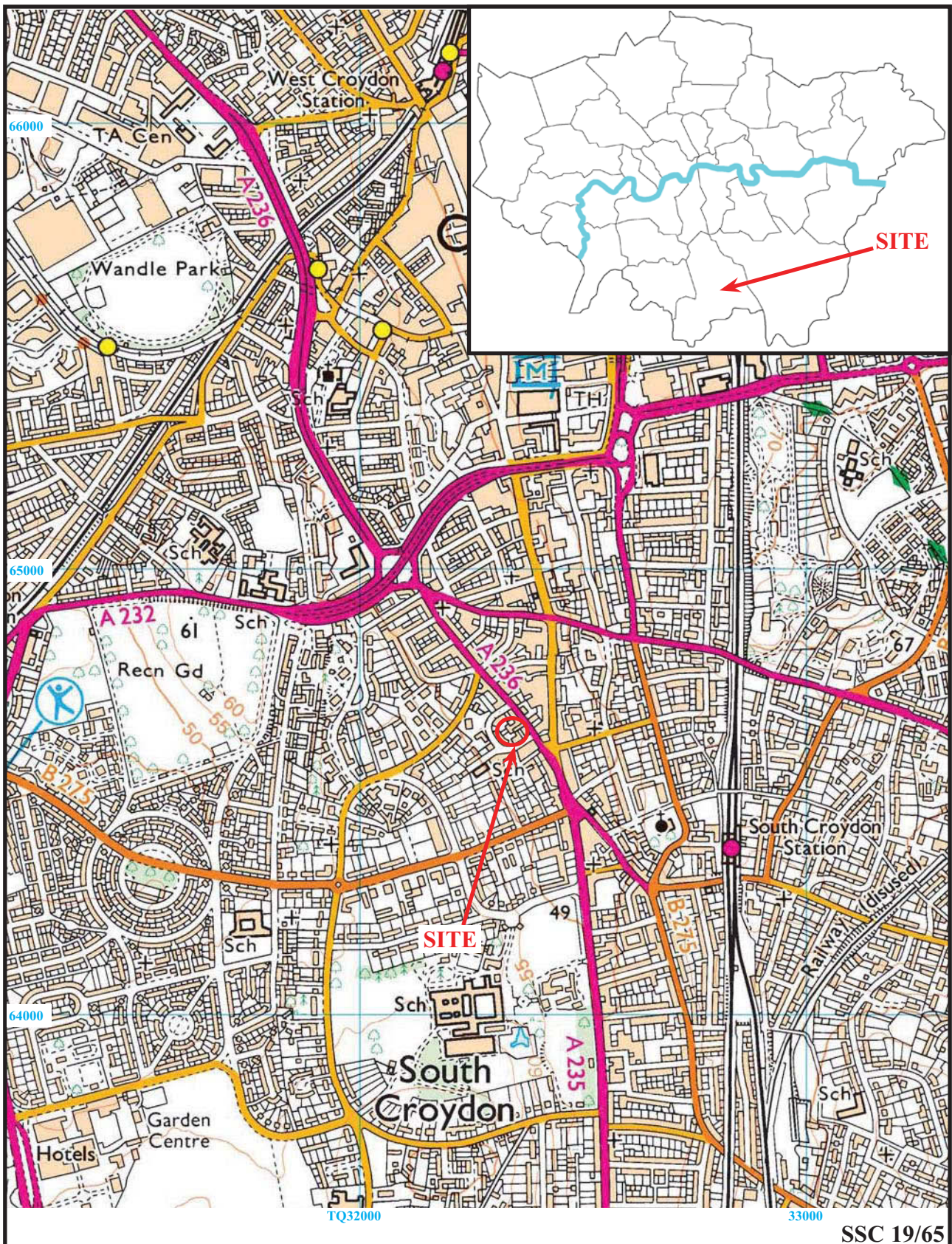
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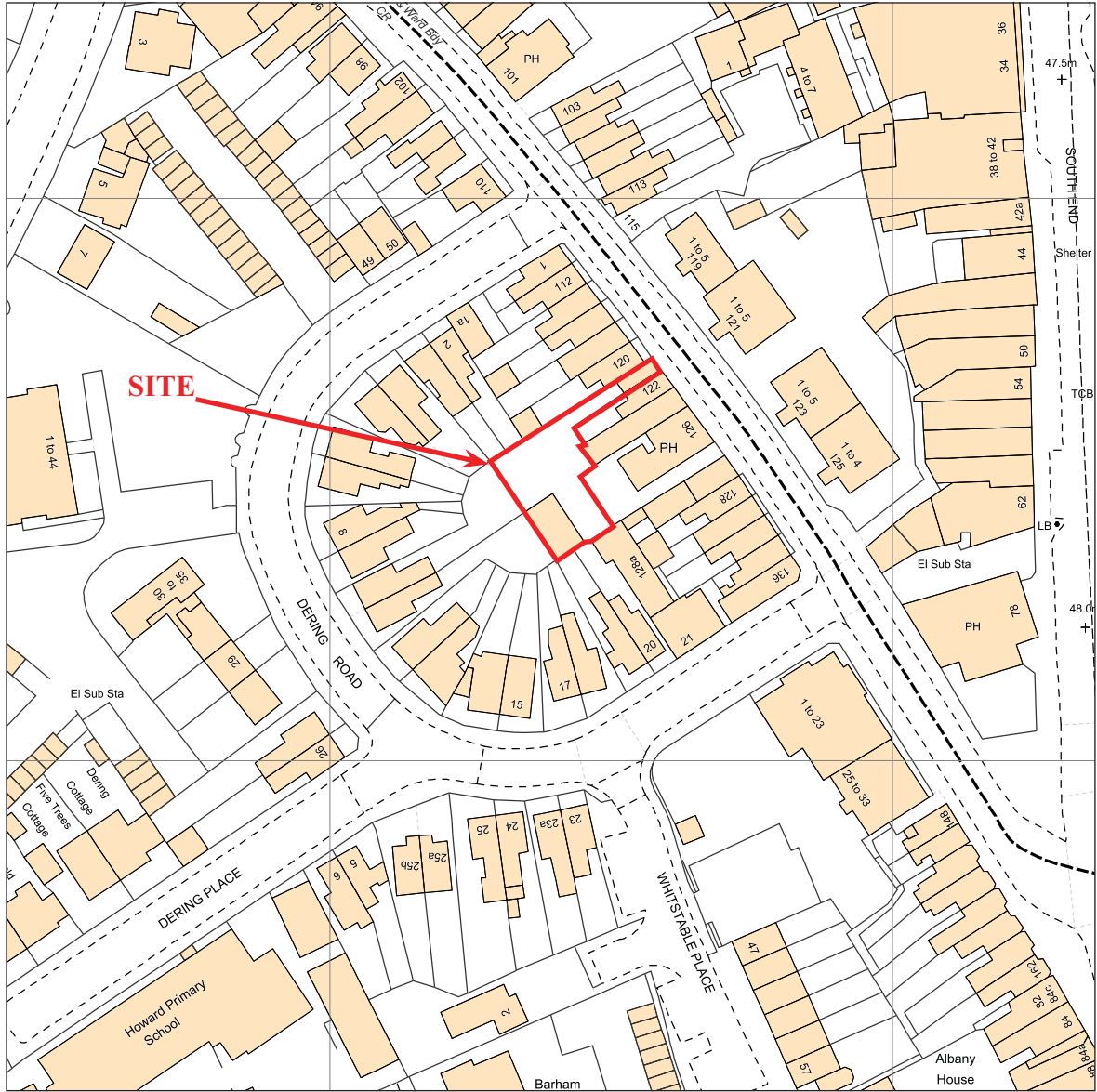
**122-126 Southbridge Road, Croydon,  
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Archaeological Watching Brief**

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

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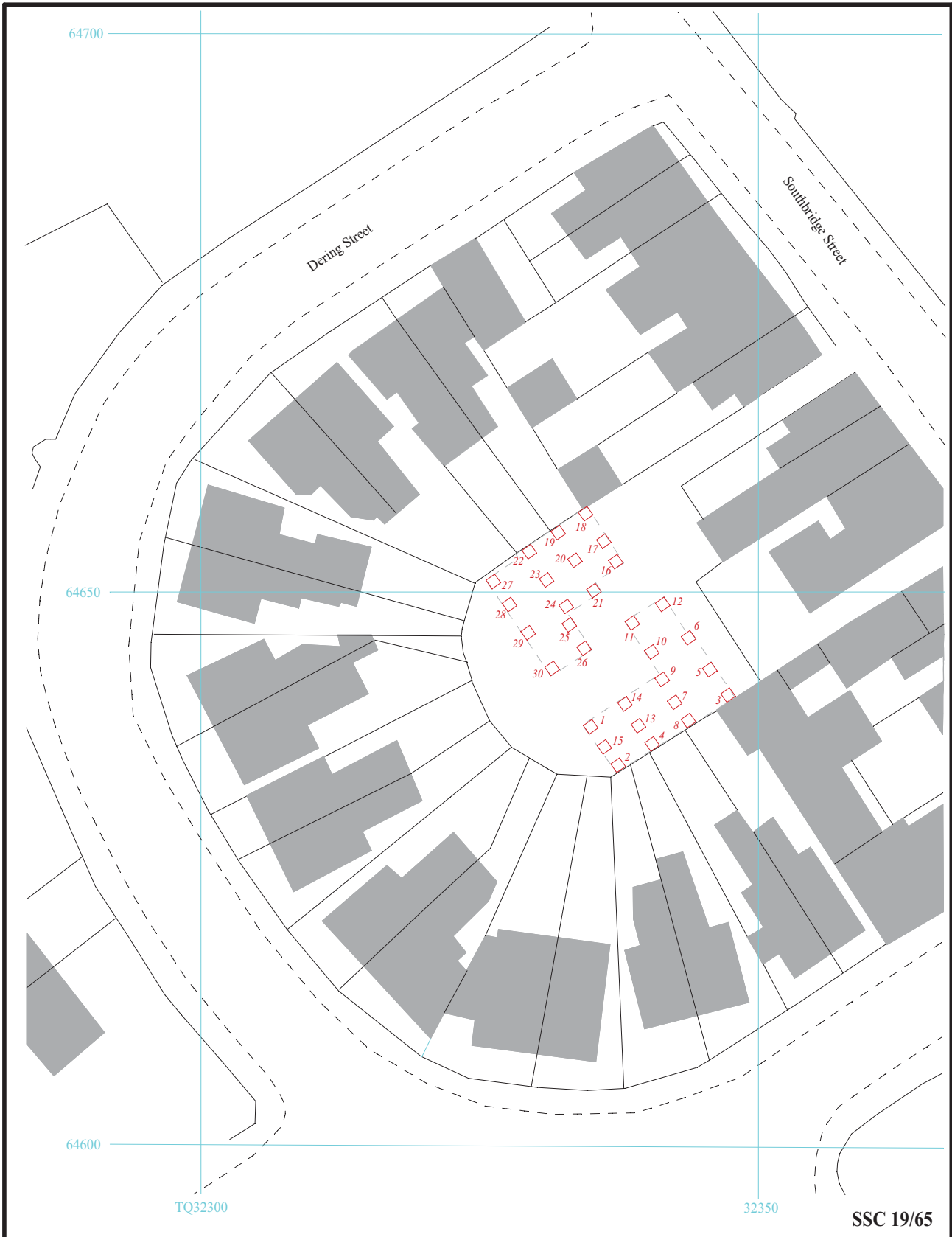
SSC 19/65



**122-126 Southbridge Road, Croydon,  
London Borough of Croydon, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Southbridge Street  
(A236).

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Pad hole 6, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 0.3m; vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Pad hole 9, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 0.3m; vertical 0.5m.

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122-126 Southbridge Road, Croydon,  
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Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Pad hole 21, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 0.3m; vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Pad hole 25, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 0.3m; vertical 0.5m.

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122-126 Southbridge Road, Croydon,  
London Borough of Croydon, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 3 and 4.

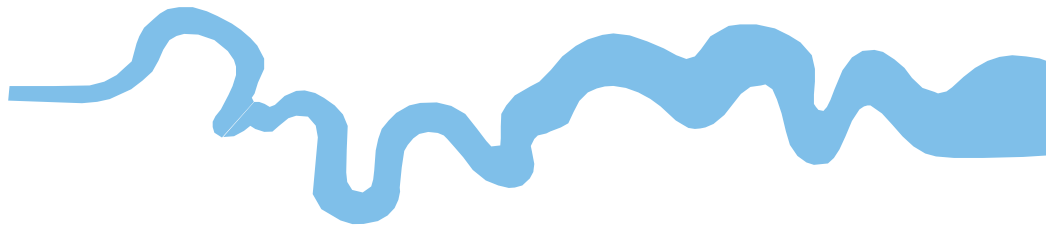
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## TIME CHART

|                            | Calendar Years   |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Modern _____               | AD 1901          |
| Victorian _____            | AD 1837          |
| Post Medieval _____        | AD 1500          |
| Medieval _____             | AD 1066          |
| Saxon _____                | AD 410           |
| Roman _____                | AD 43<br>AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____             | 750 BC           |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Bronze Age: Late _____     | 1300 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Middle _____   | 1700 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Early _____    | 2100 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Neolithic: Late .....      | 3300 BC          |
| Neolithic: Early .....     | 4300 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Mesolithic: Late .....     | 6000 BC          |
| Mesolithic: Early .....    | 10000 BC         |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Palaeolithic: Upper .....  | 30000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Middle ..... | 70000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Lower .....  | 2,000,000 BC     |







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