

Specification for Archaeological Works at

91 PARK LANE CROYDON

For Copithorne Homes

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Works at

91 PARK LANE CROYDON

Client: Copithorne Homes

Local Authority: London Borough of Croydon

NGR: 532613, 165032

Planning App:

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Abstract

Land at 89-91 Park Lane, Croydon is proposed for redevelopment. The site is located close to a known Anglo Saxon burial ground although it is thought unlikely that the burials extend on to the study site.

For this reason English Heritage have requested a 'proactive watching brief' of the initial phase of groundworks. In the event that this phase of works encounters burials or a particularly high concentration of archaeological remains, a further methodology for archaeological excavation will be agreed between the Copithorne Homes, English Heritage and the local planning authority.

This document sets out the aims and methodology for the initial proactive watching brief and also for recording of less significant archaeological features.

1. Introduction and Scope of Study

- 1.1.This specification has been prepared by Guy Hunt of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Copithorne Homes .
- 1.2.The report considers land at 89-91 Park Lane Croydon. The Local Authority is the London Borough of Croydon who take archaeological advice from English Heritage's Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). In this case the archaeological advisor is Mark Stevenson.
- 1.3.The site is located at OS grid reference 532613, 165032.
- 1.4.The site lies in a area which is known to contain both Roman and Anglo Saxon burials as well as various archaeological finds from other periods. The focus of the cemetery is thought to be to the west of Park Lane, in fact no burials have yet been found to the east of the road. This potential is discussed in a little more detail in section 2.
- 1.5.The site is therefore considered to have a high archaeological potential although the previous occupation of the site is likely to have significantly affected this potential.
- 1.6.In response to this potential English Heritage have requested a “proactive” watching brief approach which will involve the stripping of the entire new building footprint under archaeological control. Should any significant archaeological features be identified, a site meeting will then be held before a further more detailed specification for excavation is agreed between the developer and the local planning authority.
- 1.7.This report sets out the methodology for the watching brief phase of the works, should further excavation be required, this must be undertaken under a further Written Scheme of Investigation.

2. Site Details

2.1.GEOLOGY

2.1.1. The British Geological Survey Datascience GeoIndex (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>) indicates that the site is underlain by drift cover of alluvium (clay, sand and silt). This deposit overlies the London Clay.

2.1.2. It should be noted that this data is only available at low resolution and thus more detailed site investigation data is likely to alter or refine this information.

2.2.TOPOGRAPHY

2.2.1. Park Lane runs approximately north-south along the crest of a natural ridge. The land slopes down to the west, with the study site being located in a position that would have been highly visible from the west.

2.2.2. The site is roughly square aligned north-south parallel to Park Lane (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

2.2.3. The site is bounded by Park Lane to the west, Mulgrave Road to the south and by adjacent properties to the north and east.

2.3.LAND USE

2.3.1. The existing buildings on site are due for demolition to ground floor level. No grubbing out of foundations should take place before the commencement of these works.

2.3.2. It is likely that modern development has had a negative impact on any buried archaeology.

2.4.ARCHAEOLOGY

2.4.1. There are a wide variety of archaeological findspots recorded in the vicinity of the site. These do include some significant sites as well as some more ephemeral findspots.

2.4.2. It should be noted that this brief overview is not based on a full analysis of the

sites and monuments record, but is based largely on personal communication with Mark Stevenson at GLAAS as well as a cursory overview of the resources available on the LAARC website.

- 2.4.3. The most significant nearby site is that at 90 Park Lane excavated under site code PLO99, the London Archaeologist Round-up 1999 states:

All or parts of 39 inhumation graves were revealed above the natural gravels, part of a known early Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Most of the graves were orientated E-W and were concentrated in the NW of the site. Two graves in the SE of the site were surrounded by a ring ditch and were, therefore, probably of mid, rather than early, Saxon date. Bone preservation was very poor, with only a few small fragments surviving within 16 of the graves. Objects were recovered from 30 graves (77%), the most common objects being blades or knives, with a small number of shield bosses, buckles, brooches, spearheads and tweezers. Textiles and organic material, eg. a copper-alloy bowl containing hazelnuts, were also recovered. Most individuals appear to have been sub-adult or adult, including 9 males and 5 females. Three cremation burials were excavated, two in urns, of which one was redeposited within, and the other cut through, the fills of inhumation graves. Postholes, possibly structural, and a pit, possibly later in date, were also recorded.

- 2.4.4. Additional parts of the cemetery have been excavated at 82-86 Park Lane under site code PAK92 London Archaeologist Round-up 1992 states:

Evaluation Sept 1992 Access, Equity & Law Investments. A number of pits and gullies, dated to the Bronze Age, were recorded. Cremations and inhumation burials, dated to 5th/6th c, are part of a previously identified Anglo-Saxon cemetery. All the graves were truncated during subsequent ploughing; one layer, presumed to be plough soil, contained finds from the prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Towards the N of the site was a brick wall on chalk footings, provisionally dated to the late 18th/early 19th c.

- 2.4.5. Other archaeological remains such as prehistoric finds are also known in the area such as prehistoric features recorded at 68-74 Park Lane, London Archaeologist Round-up 1996 states:

Excavation Mar 1996 Croydon Properties Ltd. A layer of colluvium above the natural gravel sealed prehistoric cut features: two pits, a posthole and a linear cut, which are broadly dated from the Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age. They were sealed by the possible remains of a cultivated soil containing Roman and medieval material. At the N end of the trench a medieval gravel extraction pit was recorded, followed by a further cultivated soil into which 18th-19th-c wall footings had been set; the site was sealed with modern make-up.

- 2.4.6. As discussed, these references are not intended as a definitive guide to the archaeology of this area, but they serve to illustrate the type of deposits likely to be found on the study site.

3. Aims of the Works

3.1. Given the archaeological potential discussed above the aim of the works is to strip the entire proposed building footprint under archaeological supervision.

3.2. Based on the findings of this work, one of three courses of action will be followed:

3.2.1. If significant archaeological remains or burials are present on site, works will be halted and a meeting will be held between L – P : Archaeology, English Heritage and the client to agree a programme of archaeological excavation. In this case, a further Written Scheme of Investigation will be required.

3.2.2. If low levels of archaeology are encountered, any features will be dealt with according to the watching brief methodology set out in this specification. This will be broadly the sampling and characterisation of the features.

3.2.3. If no archaeological features are encountered, the archaeological programme will be halted and development will proceed without further archaeological intervention. In this case, a formal report is still required, including plans of the area observed.

3.3. In order to achieve the level of information required to make this decision, the aims of the initial phase of watching brief are as follows:

3.3.1. To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.

3.3.2. To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will comment on the quality and significance of the remains.

3.3.3. To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.

3.3.4. To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.

3.3.5. To collect enough information to allow a reliable decision to be made as to the necessity of further archaeological works as set out in paragraph 3.1.2.

3.4. In the event that low levels of archaeology are encountered on site, these will be

recorded under watching brief conditions, the aim of the recording under watching brief will be:

- 3.4.1. To characterise the nature of the archaeological deposits encountered on site.
- 3.4.2. To provide dating information that will be useful in dating the archaeological deposits encountered.
- 3.4.3. To provide accurate plans of the archaeological remains encountered on the study site.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor all agreed groundworks.
- 4.2. The entire building footprint of the proposed building (Figure 3) will be stripped under archaeological supervision where the supervising archaeologist will direct and control the method and speed of the stripping.
- 4.3. All machine excavation will be undertaken by a large excavator such as a tracked 360 excavator or similar plant. A wide, smooth toothless (ditching) bucket will be used at all times.
- 4.4. Machine excavation will proceed in thin spits of a thickness to be decided by the supervising archaeologist during the groundworks and according to archaeological criteria.
- 4.5. The area of groundworks will be visually inspected prior to the commencement of work.
- 4.6. Provision will be made for site visits by English Heritage, L – P : Archaeology will endeavour to supply English Heritage with ample notice prior to the commencement of groundworks.
- 4.7. Where the groundworks reveal archaeological deposits, the site archaeologist will record these deposits in situ pending a decision as to their significance. In particular, the archaeologist will define the extent of all features paying particular attention to the potential presence of burials on the study site.
- 4.8. Any human remains must be left in situ, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds Amendment Act 1981.
- 4.9. If the deposits are not considered to be either burials or a concentration of significant archaeology, they will be removed under the following methodology:
 - 4.9.1. A minimum number of features within each significant archaeological horizon will be hand excavated to meet the objectives of the watching brief. Pits and postholes will be half-sectioned, although some features may require complete

excavation.

- 4.9.2. Particular care will be taken not to damage any areas containing significant remains, which might merit preservation in situ. Such evidence would normally include deep or complex stratification settlement evidence and structures. Such areas will be protected from disturbance or deterioration prior to a site meeting between English Heritage, the client and their representatives to determine the most appropriate strategy for preservation in-situ.
- 4.9.3. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.10. Should no/low levels of archaeology be identified the Archaeological Advisor at English Heritage shall be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting will be held to determine the strategy of continued monitoring.
- 4.11. Unless otherwise agreed with the client and English Heritage, an archaeological presence will be maintained on site during all groundworks/excavation.

5. Recording System

- 5.1.1. The site code will be allocated by the Museum of London. This code will be used to label (using appropriate materials not adhesive labels) all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 5.1.2. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (edited by Chris Spence, 3rd Edition 1994).
- 5.1.3. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the excavation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide.
- 5.1.4. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of the Museum of London. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used. This requirement for archival compatibility extends to the use of a computerised database.
- 5.1.5. A site location plan will be prepared (OS 1:1250) showing investigation area and development site in relation to surrounding locality and street pattern.
- 5.1.6. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area, OS grid. The locations of the OS bench marks used and site TBM will also be indicated.
- 5.1.7. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20.
- 5.1.8. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 5.1.9. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn

at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.

5.1.10. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.1.11. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains in both plan and section. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.1.12. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.

6. Finds and Samples

- 6.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the nominated representative of the local authority.
- 6.2. Unstratified material recovered from the spoil is to be recovered and included with the finds assemblage.
- 6.3. Material dating to the 19th century shall be retained and included with the finds assemblage.
- 6.4. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the local museum.
- 6.5. Marking of finds will include the Museum Accession Number, Finds Number and Context Number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same Accession Number, Finds and Context Number.
- 6.6. Documentary material including the paper archive, photographic negatives and prints will be stored in boxes to the same standard as above.
- 6.7. Photographic negatives will be stored in archival quality polypropylene sleeves with strip divisions, three ring holes, centres 107mm apart and dimensions no greater than, 255mm (from the punched side to the opposite edge) by 300mm. The sleeve should have a white writing strip.
- 6.8. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds'. 3rd edition 1998. Any necessary, conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.
- 6.9. All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to the standards of the Museum of London. They will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2" and the Museum of London guidelines. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)"

will also be followed and the current IFA guidelines.

6.10. Environmental samples will be collected from relevant deposits as appropriate to the objectives.

6.11. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered during the course of the excavation, the advice of English Heritage will be sought. A visit will be arranged to determine the importance that will be attached to the deposits exposed during the investigation. If it is considered appropriate these will be sampled by a specialist in accordance with A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis (Murphy, P. and Wiltshire, P. 1994). These deposits will be subject to the following treatment;

6.12. Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis. There may be a requirement to submit timbers to dendrochronological analysis and to process some samples to provide C14 dating. Other forms of specialist analysis may also be appropriate.

- ◆ For carbonised remains, bulk samples a minimum of 10 litres (but up to 30 litres for early prehistoric features) will be collected.
- ◆ Bulk samples of 10 - 30 litres will be taken from waterlogged deposits for analysis of macroscopic plant remains
- ◆ Columns for pollen analysis will be taken where appropriate
- ◆ Mollusc samples will be gathered when required.
- ◆ Other bulk samples for small animal bones and other small artefacts maybe taken from appropriate deposits depending on the aims of the project.
- ◆ Environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analysis by an environmental specialist.
- ◆ Residues and any retained samples will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.
- ◆ If in doubt samples should be taken and disposed of subsequently at the discretion of the environment specialist and in consultation with English Heritage.

7. Report

7.1.A formal report on the results of the archaeological works will be prepared and will include:-.

- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the watching brief.
- ◆ A full description of the archaeological deposits encountered during groundworks including specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- ◆ A catalogue of the finds.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ Summary of archaeological works including comment on the significance of the results both nationally and locally.

8. Archive and Published Reports

- 8.1.1. The Accession number will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.
- 8.1.2. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (1992), and the SMA’s draft “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (1992) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 8.1.3. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” 5.4 and Appendix 3. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 8.1.4. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate Museum.
- 8.1.5. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork. In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.
- 8.1.6. A short summary of the results of the work, even if negative, will be submitted to GLAAS (using the appropriate archaeological report forms). This will include details of the archive deposition, date of deposition, and recipient museum.

9. Access and Safety

- 9.1.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for representatives of the Local Planning Authority who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 9.1.2. Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum and risks to health and safety. In addition to this risk assessment, the following considerations will also be made.
- 9.1.3. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 9.1.4. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. Where the installation of temporary support work and other attendance are required, these will be provided as required.
- 9.1.5. The possible presence of groundwater within the pits will be taken into account.
- 9.1.6. All archaeological sections will be backfilled upon completion for safety reasons, unless the applicant or developer has given written instructions to the contrary.
- 9.1.7. Excavation will be in accordance with the relevant Health and Safety Guidelines.

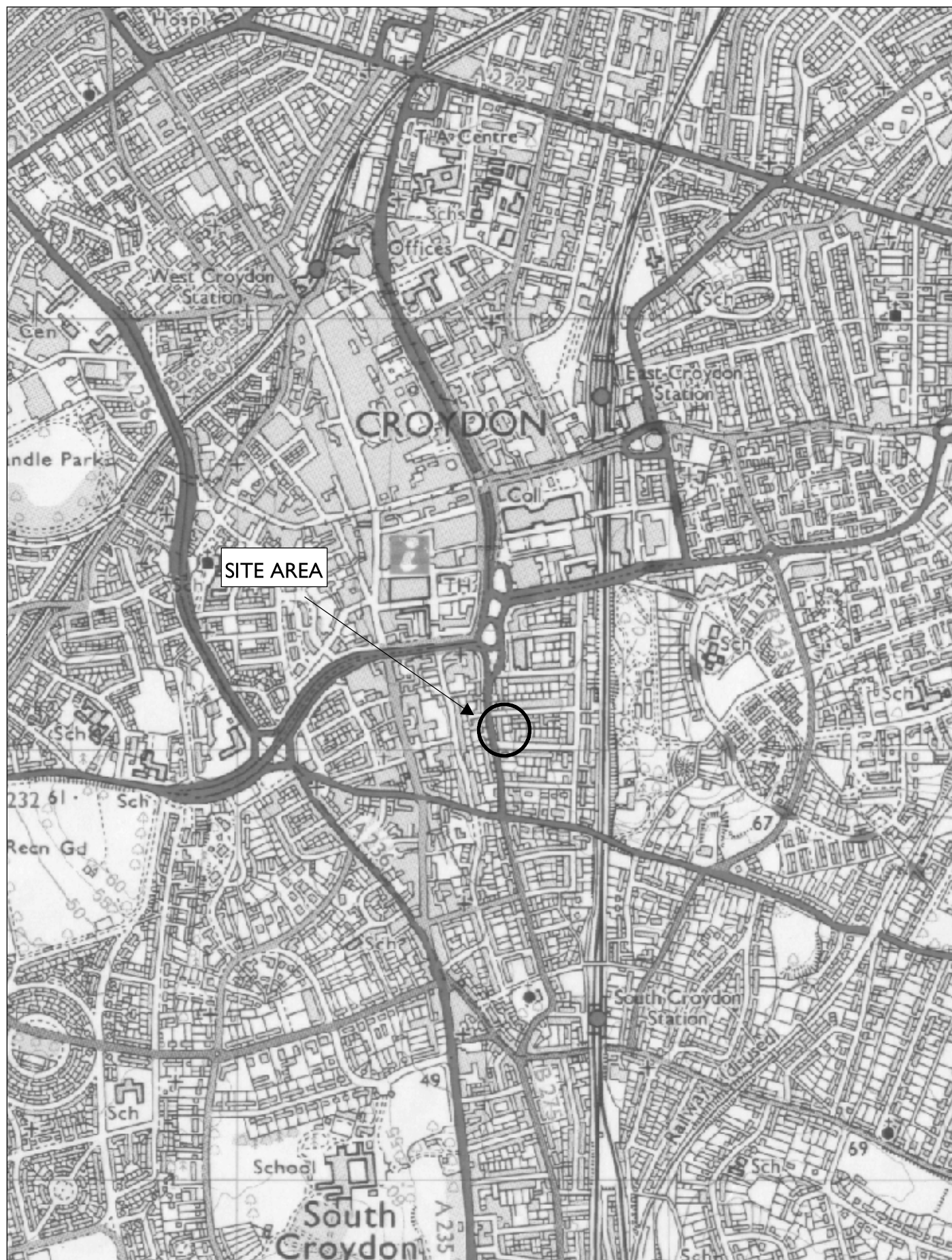
10. Agreement

10.1. This recommended format attempts to define best practice but cannot fully anticipate conditions encountered as the excavation progresses. Material changes are however only to be made with the prior written approval of English Heritage GLAAS.

10.2. L – P : Archaeology and their contractors undertake to adhere to the English Heritage guidelines (1998) for archaeological excavations as outlined in all guidance papers.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



CLIENT // Copithorne Homes

PROJECT // LP0486L- Park Lane

DESCRIPTION // Map of general site location

DOC REF: LP0486L-SAW-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

0 890 m

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detailed



 site area



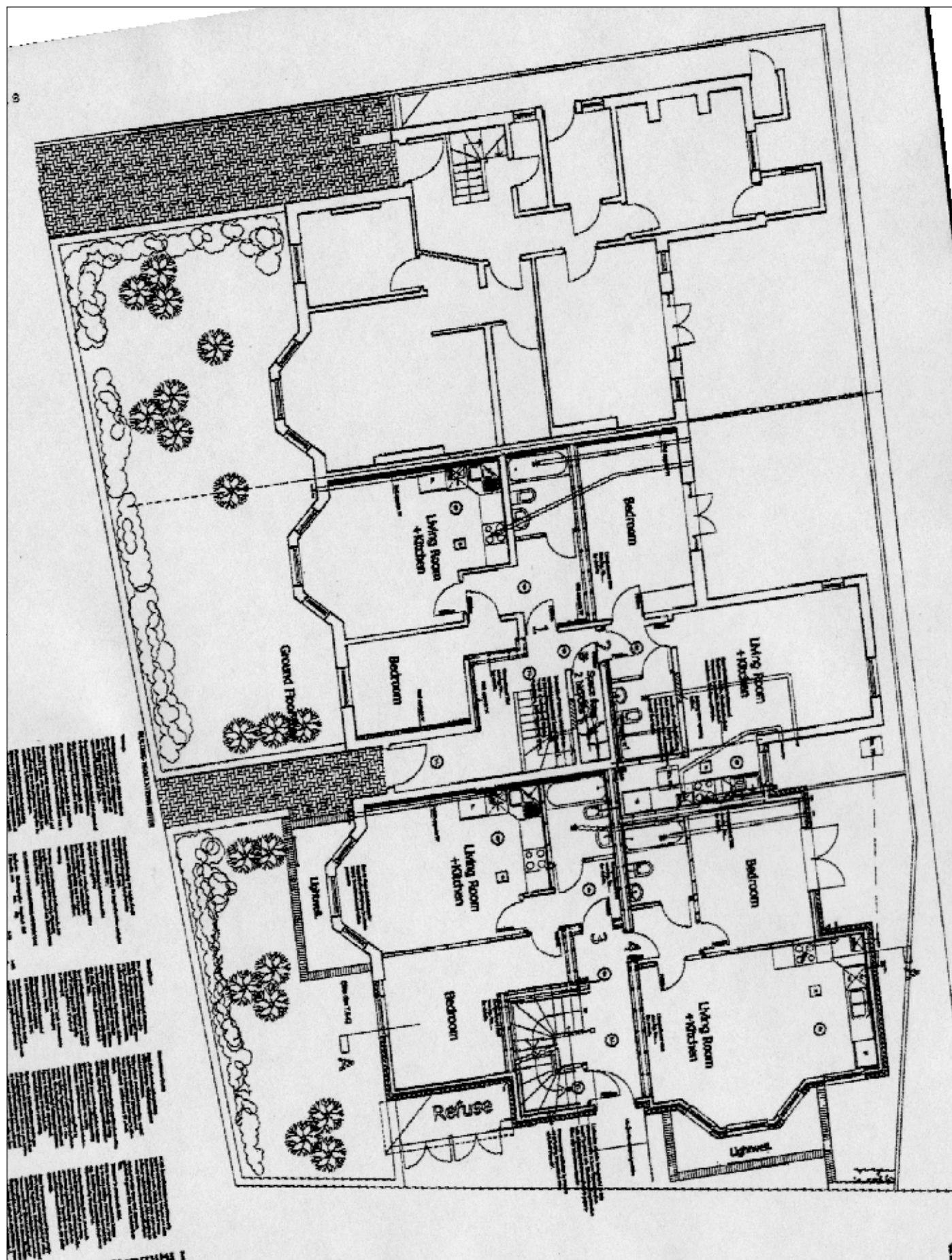
CLIENT // Copithorne Homes

PROJECT // LP0486L- Park Lane

DESCRIPTION // Map of detailed site location

DOC REF: LP0486L-SAW-v1 L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Proposed Redevelopment



CLIENT // Copithorne Homes

PROJECT // LP0486L- Park Lane

DESCRIPTION // Map of proposed redevelopment

DOC REF: LP0486L-SAW-v1 L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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APPENDIX I

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