



13–16 Dingwall Road
Croydon
CR9

London Borough of Croydon
Archaeological evaluation report

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MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

13-16 Dingwall Road
Croydon
CR9

London Borough of Croydon
Archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: DWR07
National Grid Reference: 532665 165800

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of 13-16 Dingwall Road, Croydon, London, CR9. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Quantic Associates on behalf of Dingwall Road Investments Limited Partnership.

Following the recommendations of English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, archaeological advisers to the London Borough of Croydon, four trenches were excavated in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by the London Borough of Croydon. No remains of archaeological significance were revealed in the evaluation trenches.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the proposed development is unlikely to have an archaeological impact.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 13-16 Dingwall Road, Croydon, CR9, hereafter called 'the site'. The properties front onto Dingwall Road which lies to the east. The OS National Grid Ref. for the centre of site is 532665 165800. Modern ground level on the site is 58.15m OD in the south west and 57.7m OD in the north. The site code is DWR07.

A desk-top *Archaeological impact assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Lyon, 2003). The assessment document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *archaeological impact assessment* (see Section 2, Lyon, 2003) and the *archaeological method statement* (see Sections 1.2 and 1.4, Nielsen 2007), which formed the project design for the evaluation.

1.3 Planning background

Planning permission had been granted subject to an archaeological condition placed upon development (Condition 5, Application no. 03/00534/P).

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Quantic Associates on behalf of Dingwall Road Investments Limited Partnership and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

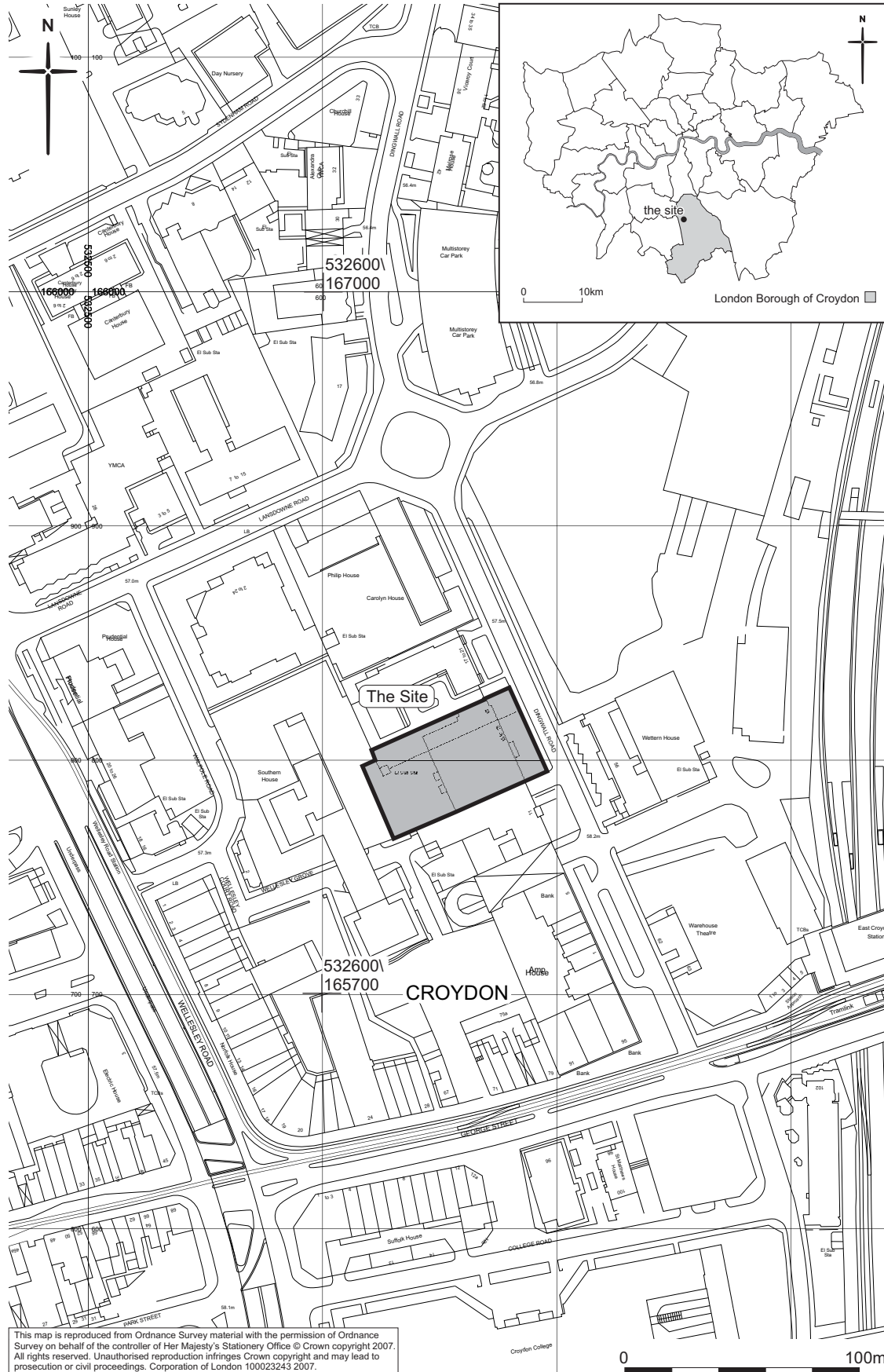


Fig 1 Site location

1.5 Aims and objectives

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2, Nielsen 2007):

1. What is the nature and level of natural topography?
2. What are the earliest deposits identified?
3. Is there any evidence for prehistoric settlement or other activity?
4. Is there any evidence for Roman settlement or other activity?
5. Is there any evidence for Saxon settlement or other activity?
6. Is there evidence for medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity or later medieval or post-medieval occupation on the site?
7. What are the latest deposits identified?

2 Topographical and historical background

The geological and archaeological background was discussed in detail in the *archaeological impact assessment* (Lyon, 2003). Briefly, it suggested that:

“...the site has some potential for the discovery of in-situ prehistoric remains. Evidence of activity associated with the hinterland of the Roman settlement may be encountered. Given the proximity of a known Saxon cemetery remains dating from the Saxon period may also be encountered on the site.

It is possible that later medieval and early post-medieval structures and cut features could still survive along the road frontage. Evidence of post-medieval buildings in the form of wall or cellar foundations and yard activity such as refuse pits, cesspits, ditches, wells and early cellars dating from the 16th to 19th century could survive in truncated form within the site area. Field systems and ditches from the medieval and post-medieval periods may also survive.”

The archaeological *impact assessment* concluded that archaeological deposits might survive in areas of the site currently not affected by the present building's partial basement.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Nielsen, 2007), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in the rear car park of the property. The ground was broken out and cleared by contractors under MoLAS supervision (see Fig 2). Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The locations of evaluation trenches were recorded by MoLAS offsetting from adjacent standing walls and plotted onto the OS grid. A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by a traverse from a nearby spot height on Wellesley Court Road at 57.3m OD.

The site has produced: a trench location plan; four trench record sheets; four section drawings at 1:20 and 1:10. No finds were recovered from the site.

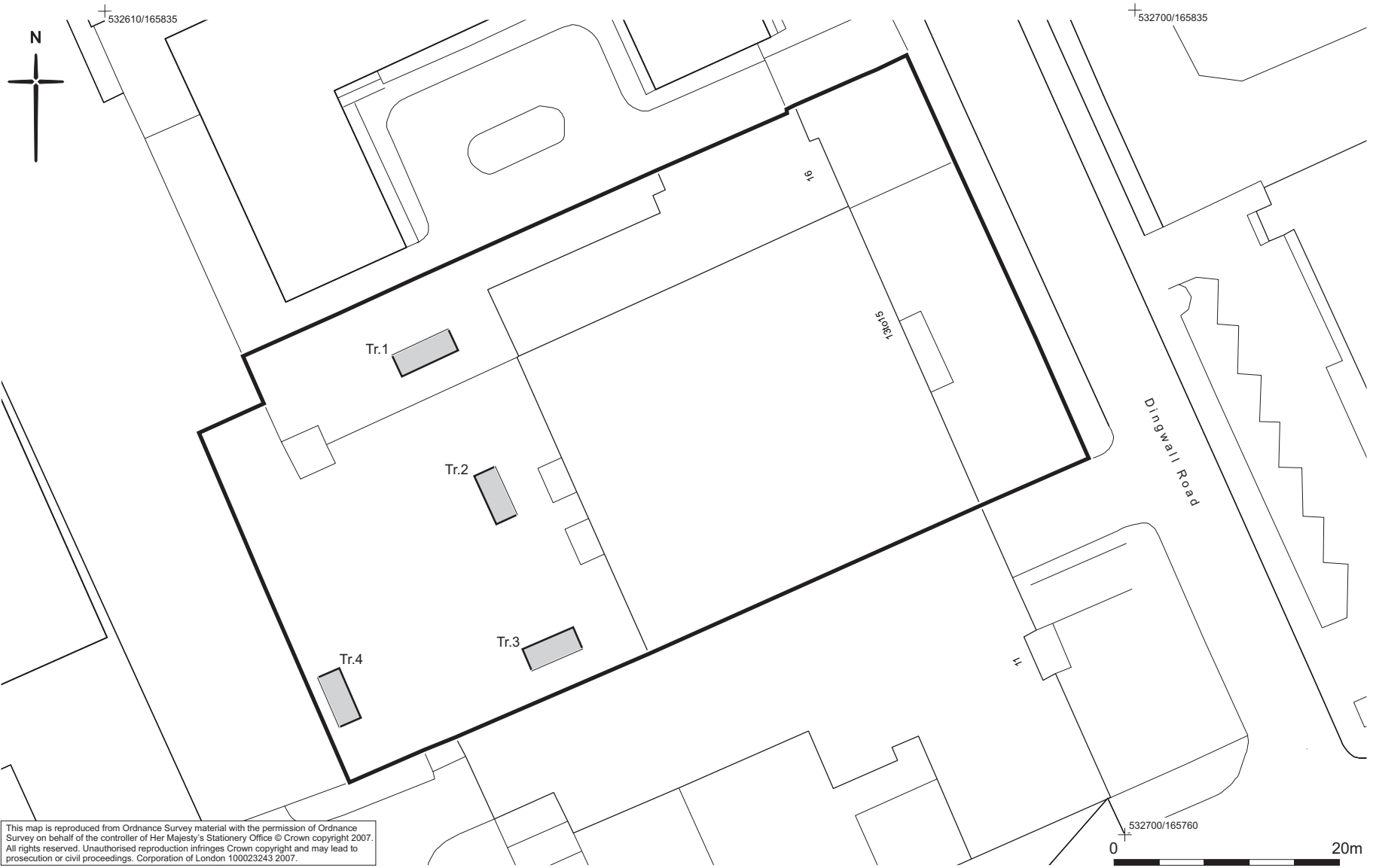
The site finds and records can be found under the site code DWR07 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

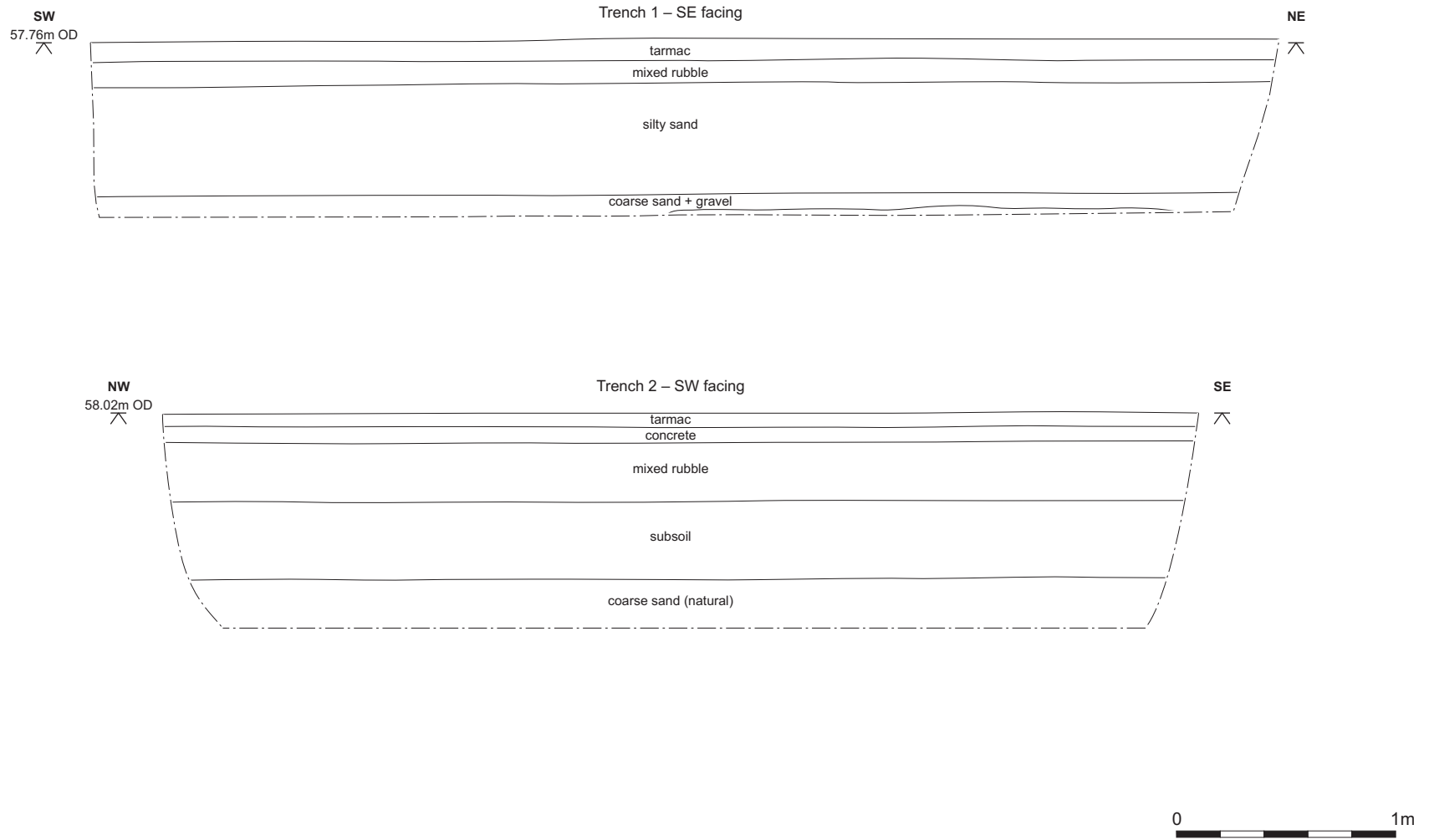
<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	Rear of 16 Dingwall Road; NE corner of site
Dimensions	5.5m by 2.1m by 0.8m depth
Modern ground level	57.76m OD
Base of modern fill	57.56m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and base of trench	56.96m OD
Natural observed	57.06m OD

Undisturbed natural coarse, orange brown sand with gravel and flints was located at 57.06m OD. This was overlain by a buried subsoil deposit 0.5m thick, of mid grey brown, silty sand with occasional CBM (ceramic building material) fragments and small particles of chalk, gravel and charcoal. This was covered by a mixed rubble



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Fig 2 Areas of evaluation



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Fig 3 Trench 1 and 2 sections



Fig 4 Trench 1, facing east

deposit used as bedding for the disturbed and overgrown Tarmac surface (Figs 3 and 4).

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Rear of 13-15 Dingwall Road; NE corner of site
Dimensions	4.7m by 2.05m by 0.96m depth
Modern ground level	58.02m OD
Base of modern fill	57.62m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.58m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and base of trench	57.04m OD
Natural observed	57.27m OD

Undisturbed natural coarse, orange brown sand with gravel and flints was located at 57.27m OD. This was overlain by a buried subsoil deposit 0.36m thick of mid grey brown, silty sand with occasional CBM fragments and small particles of flint and gravel. This was covered by a mixed rubble deposit and concrete covered by Tarmac. A recent geotechnical pit was observed in section on the western trench edge.

<i>Evaluation Trench 3</i>	
Location	Rear of 13-15 Dingwall Road; SE corner of site
Dimensions	4.9m by 2.1m by 1.05m depth
Modern ground level	58.17m OD
Base of modern fill	57.87m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.75m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and base of trench	57.12m OD
Natural observed	57.45m OD

A ridge of undisturbed natural coarse orange brown sand with gravel and flints was located at 57.45m OD in the western edge of the trench. This was disturbed by a 0.65m thick deposit of mid grey brown, silty sand with frequent red frogged bricks, tiles, glass and charred wood. The full depth of this deposit was observed as a further 0.25m cut into the natural sands. This was covered by a mixed rubble deposit with thin clinker layers, and concrete covered by Tarmac (Fig 4).

<i>Evaluation Trench 4</i>	
Location	Rear of 13-15 Dingwall Road; SW corner of site
Dimensions	4.8m by 2.1m by 1.2m depth
Modern ground level	58.15m OD
Base of modern fill	57.51m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.58m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and base of trench	56.95m OD
Natural observed	57.3m OD

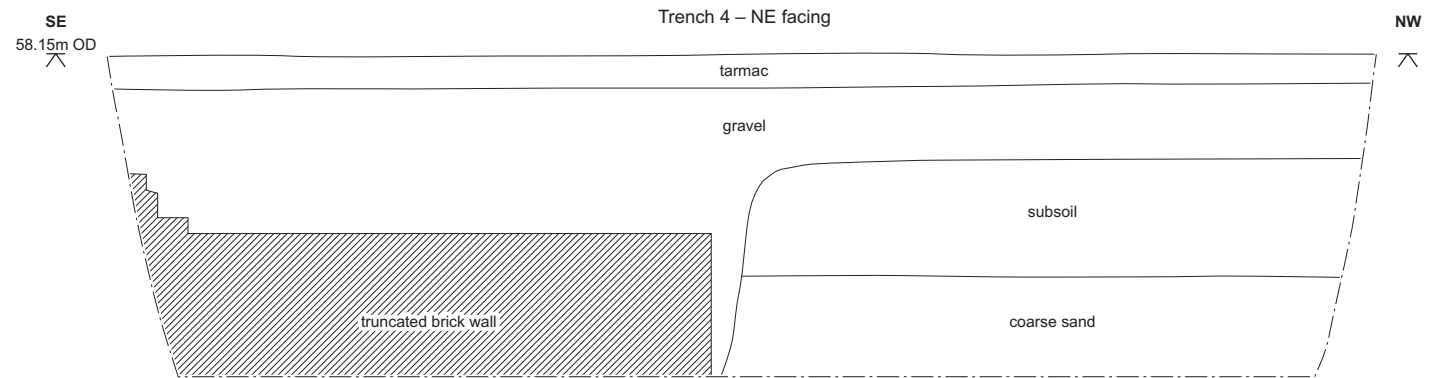
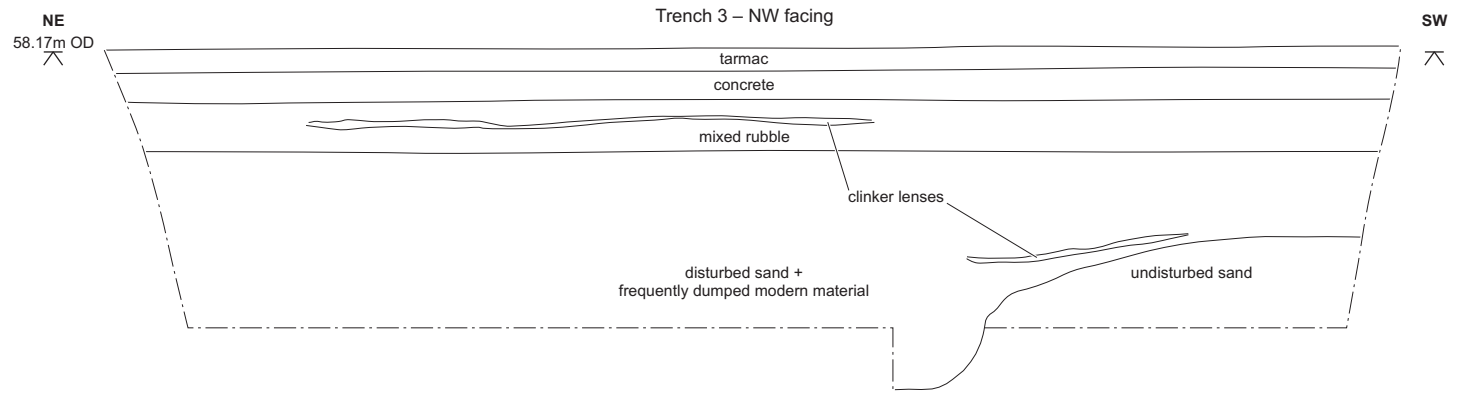


Fig 5 Trench 3 and 4 sections

Undisturbed natural coarse, orange brown sand with gravel and flints was located at 57.3m OD. This was overlain by a buried subsoil of mid grey brown silty, sand. In the east facing section, these deposits were truncated by a modern construction cut for a modern red brick structure. This consisted of a wall 2.26m long and observed as 8 courses high. It was not excavated to its full depth nor investigated further as it was likely to be an active service channel. The structure was covered by light brown gravel which was overlain by Tarmac.

The west facing section of the trench showed the same natural and subsoil deposits at the base, however these were overlain by a deposit of clean white chalk measuring 0.24m thick in the southern end but thinning to a lens of chalk in the northern end of the trench. This was covered by a mixed rubble deposit and thin deposit of clean yellow sand bedding for the Tarmac.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'. In the case of this site the trenches were located to cover the areas most likely to contain intact archaeological deposits; they reached undisturbed geological deposits allowing the observation of both potential horizontal deposits and the potential for cut features.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

1. *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*

Undisturbed geology consisting of coarse sands and gravels were reached at between 57.06m and 57.45m OD.

2. *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

The earliest deposits are the buried subsoils located throughout the site with occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM.

3. *Is there any evidence for prehistoric settlement or other activity?*

There is no archaeological evidence for this period.

4. *Is there any evidence for Roman settlement or other activity?*

There is no archaeological evidence for this period.

5. *Is there any evidence for Saxon settlement or other activity?*

There is no archaeological evidence for this period.

6. *Is there evidence for medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity or later medieval or post-medieval occupation on the site?*

There is evidence for post-medieval activity on the site in the form of dumping of waste material in Trench 3. This is likely to be associated with the construction of the present buildings.

7. *What are the latest deposits identified?*

The latest feature identified is the modern brick service-related structure located in Trench 4.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) or cut features on the site is extremely low due to the absence of such features in the areas of evaluation and because of modern truncation.

4.3 Significance

The only archaeological deposits identified were buried subsoils with post-medieval or modern finds. The significance of these finds is low. Information on the composition and height of the geological substrate is of limited local significance.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at 13-16 Dingwall Road, Croydon involves the demolition of the current buildings and the construction of an office building with basement parking and retail units. The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be to remove any surviving archaeological deposits throughout the site.

The assessment of potential above (Section 4) suggests that, in view of the low significance of the deposits identified, no further archaeological mitigation is required. The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within the site, however, rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

6 Acknowledgements

MoLAS and the author would like to thank Quantic Associates and Niamh Mulligan of that organisation for their assistance and Dingwall Road Investments Limited Partnership for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for his advice and assistance.

7 Bibliography

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-28149

Project details

Project name 13-16 Dingwall Road, Croydon

Short description of the project Four evaluation trenches were excavated on the site in the rear car park. The site was shown to have modern truncation and disturbance overlying buried subsoil and natural geology, only modern dumped material was present in trench 3. Modern services were located in trench 4.

Project dates Start: 25-06-2007 End: 27-06-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes DWR07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 13-16 Dingwall

Road, Croydon, CR9

Postcode CR9

Study area 2800.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 32665 65800 51.3752209504 -0.09369033416810 51 22 30
N 000 05 37 W Point

Height OD Min: 57.06m Max: 57.45m

Project creators

Name of MoLAS
Organisation

Project originator brief MoLAS project manager

Project originator design MoLAS

Project director/manager Robin Nielsen

Project supervisor Sian Anthony

Name of Dingwall Road Investments Limited Partnership
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID DWR07

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive ID DWR07

**Project
bibliography 1**

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