

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION & WATCHING BRIEF: 27 PARKER ROAD LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

NGR: TQ 3239 6482

on behalf of Eldridge Bexley Ltd



Ralph Stewart Brown BSc & Calli Rouse BA AIfA

September 2013

ASC: 1619/CPR/2



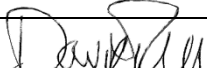
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CPR	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1619 & 1633
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-152434	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	PKR13
<i>County:</i>	London Borough of Croydon		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Croydon		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Croydon		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TQ 3239 6482		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.640sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Disused light industrial unit		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of existing industrial and construction of residential premises		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	London Borough of Croydon		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	12/00057/P		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	Evaluation 1-4 July 2013: Watching Brief: 8 Aug 2013		
<i>Client:</i>	Eldridge Bexley Ltd The Almonry High Street Battle East Sussex TN33 0EA		
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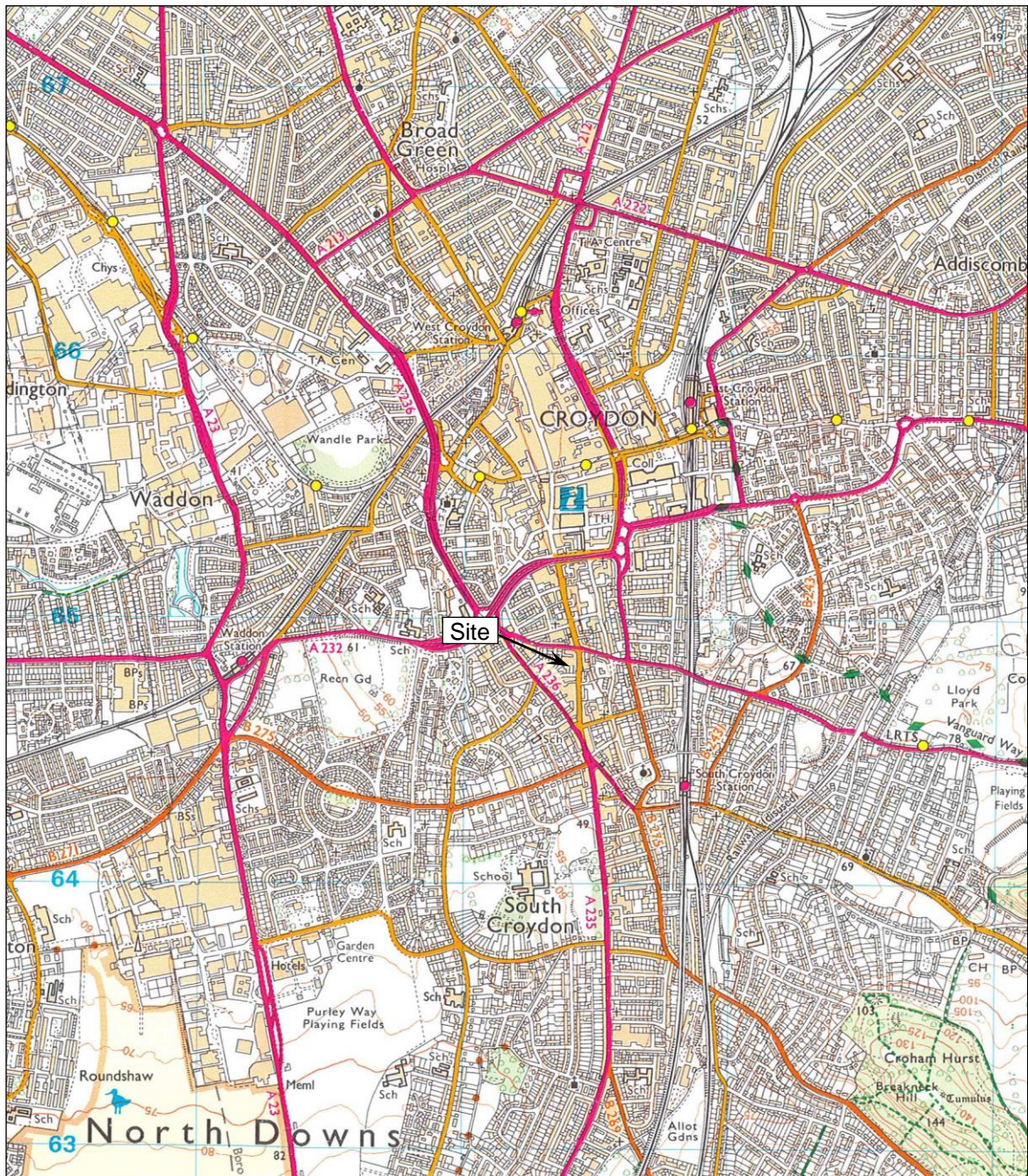


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During July and August 2013, an archaeological evaluation and watching brief were carried out on land at 27 Parker Road, Croydon, in advance of and during the redevelopment of the site. The evaluation revealed the presence of two intercutting Roman pits, and part of a curvilinear ditch. The function of the pits and ditch is unclear, but they may be associated with settlement identified previously to the north of site on Lower Combe Street and St Andrews Road. A small assemblage of Roman pottery and animal bone was recorded during the evaluation but no additional archaeological artefacts or features were observed during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July and August 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) undertook an archaeological evaluation and subsequent watching brief at 27 Parker Road, Croydon. The project was commissioned by *Eldridge Bexley Ltd*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Muldowney 2013), and approved by *Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service*, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), the *London Borough of Croydon*. The relevant planning application reference is 12/00057/P.

1.2 Planning Background

This evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), in order to inform proposals for the development of the site.

1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 The Site

1.4.1 Location & Description

The site lies in an urban area of south-west London, in the Borough of Croydon, and is centred on Ordnance Survey national grid reference TQ 3239 6482 (Fig. 1). It is a roughly regular area covering c.640sq m, on the north side of Parker Road. To the west the area is bounded by residential properties and their gardens, to the east and north by commercial properties and a car park (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 Geology & Topography

The site is in an urban area and the natural soils do not survive. The underlying geology comprises *Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation*, *Seaford Chalk Formation* and *Newhaven Chalk Formation* (BGS, sheet 270). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of c.46.8m OD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises demolition of the existing commercial property followed by the construction of two- and three-storey residences, with associated cycle parking and landscaping (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan with trench locations (scale 1:1250)

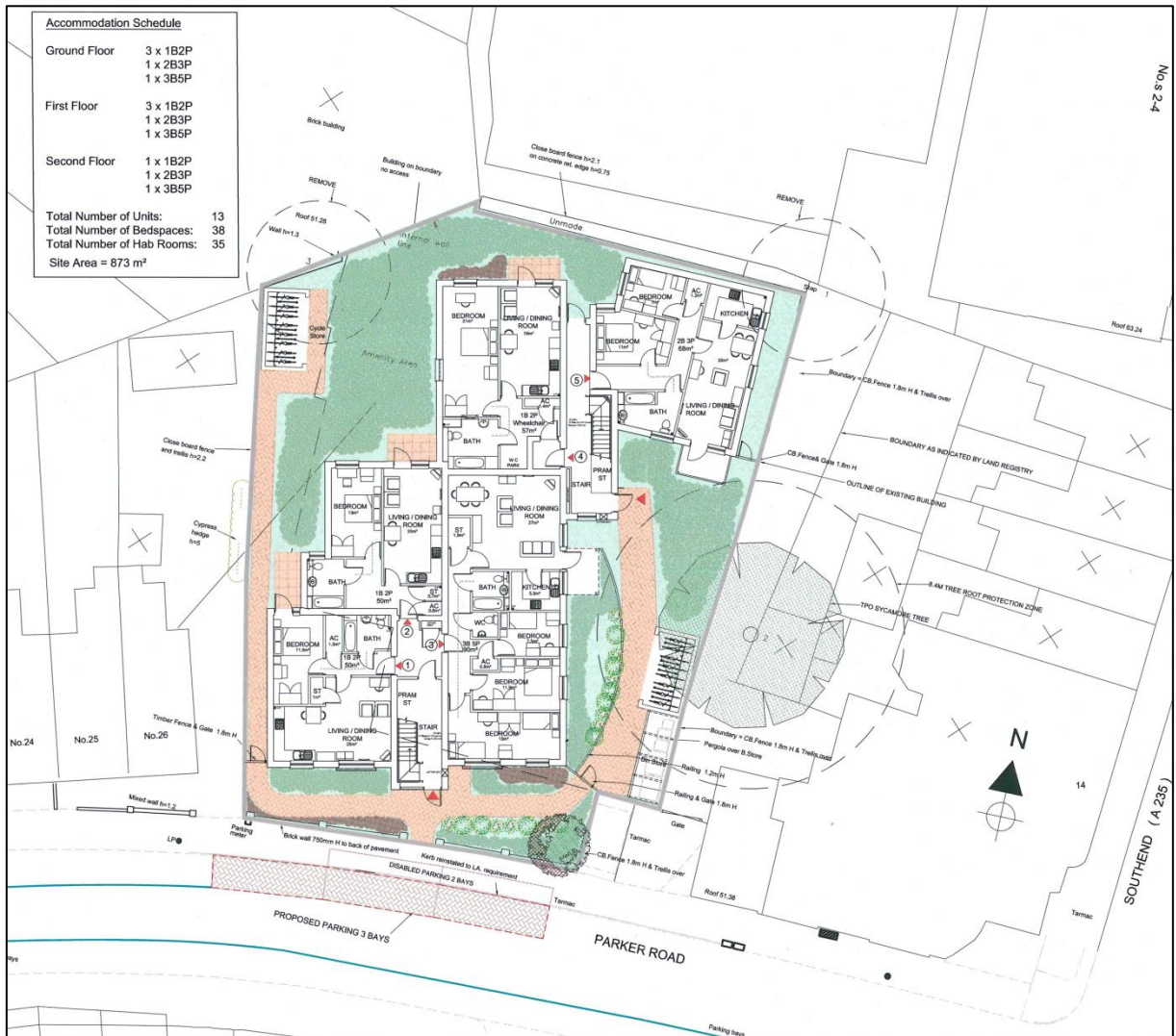


Figure 3: Plan of the proposed development (*not to scale*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, nature, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed on site.

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design and subsequent requirements of the AA, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2009), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

Evaluation

The work was carried out according to the project design, which proposed:

- The excavation of two trial trenches representing 5% of the development area, totalling 32sq m. A contingency for an area up to the equivalent of an additional trench was also in place, in the event that significant archaeological remains were present. Due to the presence of significant archaeological features this contingency was activated and the locations of trenches are shown in Fig. 2.

Watching Brief

In line with the requirements of the AA, the methods adopted for the watching brief were:

- The archaeological monitoring of footing trenches and associated services in the vicinity of archaeological remains present in Trial Trench 1
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered during the evaluation. Due to the unstable nature of the ground and the depth of the footing trenches, health and safety considerations made it impossible to enter the footing trenches during the watching brief.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Greater *London Historic Environment Record* (HER) and ASC'S reference collection.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before AD43)

Croydon was probably an area of some importance during the early prehistoric periods. Little large scale archaeological work into this period has taken place in the immediate vicinity, but a number of finds of Neolithic date have been recorded. These include an area on Purley Way, south of the site, where evidence for cooking or boiling liquids was recorded (Cotton 2004, 25) and a Neolithic arrowhead (HER 23305), which was recorded c.500m west of the site, on Duppas Hill Lane. Prehistoric flint implements have also been recorded c.500m northwest of the site, on Charles Street, Nottingham Road c.400m to the southwest, and on Coombe Road, c.2km east of the site (HER 5790). Further evidence for earlier activity has been found during excavations at Lower Coombe Street and St Andrews Road, c.100m northwest of the site, where a prehistoric pit and gully were revealed (HER 97836).

A number of artefacts of this period (and later) are recorded in antiquarian accounts, including mammoth tusks and Neolithic flints and are included in the HER (e.g. HER 10793, etc.). Many of these lack an accurate provenance, but nevertheless provide an indication of the general significance of the area.

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

There is an increasing corpus of information to suggest that there was a small settlement in the area of what is now Croydon town centre during the Roman period. A Roman road is recorded running through Croydon, linking *Londinium* (London) with Hassocks, in Sussex (Bird & Bird 1987, fig.7.7). The presence of this road has been recorded c.200m northwest of the site, on Lower Coombe Street (HER 15116).

The extent of the Roman site has not been identified, but settlement may have developed either side of the Roman road. A number of finds of this period have been made in the vicinity, notably a hoard of 182 coins at South End, c.200m south of the site (HER 18796). Further coins and also pottery sherds have been recorded in the area (e.g. HER 9057, 12308, 12373, 12383), along with Roman occupation activity at Lower Coombe Street and St Andrews Road (HER 97842). Bird (1987, 169) suggests that the Roman activity may imply the presence of 'more than a farm or hamlet'.

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

The early development of Croydon is not understood in detail, but the town may have originated during the Saxon period. It may have been the site of a Minster Church (Blair 1991, 92) and a synod was held at Croydon in 809 (*ibid*, 103). The nucleus of the Saxon and early medieval settlement was to the northwest of the site, centred on the site of the Church of St John. This area is often referred to as the 'Old Town'.

There is evidence for Saxon activity *c.*300m northeast of the site, along Park Lane and Edridge Road. A Saxon cemetery containing forty-three inhumations was recorded at 82-90 Park Lane (HER 76750; Welch 1997; MoL 2002, 51) and further early Saxon burials have been recorded in Edridge Road (HER 24037; MoL 2000, 182). It is not clear whether these burials formed part of a single cemetery serving the Old Town, or was associated with a separate settlement, further to the east.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086), where it is referred to as *Croindene*. The land was held by Archbishop Lanfranc and contained a church and a mill. It was assessed as 80 hides, but prior to the Norman Conquest had been assessed at 16 hides (Williams & Martin 2003, 73).

The parish church of St John was situated *c.*900m north of the site. This was originally a medieval building and a number of monuments from the 16th century survive within the building. Much of the fabric was destroyed by fire in 1867, and the church was largely rebuilt to a design by Sir Gilbert Scott (Cherry & Pevsner 2002, 208-209).

The Archbishops of Canterbury made Croydon the centre for the management of their estates in Surrey, Middlesex and Canterbury and a residence for the archbishop and his guests was built on the east side of the parish church. The surviving buildings date from the 12th century (Malden 1920, 206; Cherry and Pevsner 2002, 212-214).

There is little evidence for medieval activity immediately surrounding the site. Traces from this period include medieval field strips, located between the High Street and Park Lane, *c.*200m northeast of the site (HER 12334, 14893).

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

Settlement along the present High Street, *c.*200m north of the site, probably developed from the 18th century. This area is sometimes referred to as the 'New Town' and became significant when, by Acts of Parliament in 1717-18 and 1723-24, a turnpike was constructed from Croydon to Brighton (Malden 1920, 206). A post-medieval cross, found at the junction of the High Street and Lower Coombe Street (HER 7378) indicates the boundary of the post-medieval settlement.

The earliest readily available map to show the area in detail is the Enclosure map of Croydon, compiled in 1800. It shows that the site and its environs comprised an area that was still semi-rural within a triangular land parcel (no.1487) held by R. Allen, with properties immediately to the east fronting South End, south of the medieval village and later High Street. The first edition one inch scale Ordnance Survey map was published sixteen years later. It shows that the site area remained partly a field with properties to the east and scattered to the south.

The Tithe map, produced in 1838, and a map prepared for the Tithe Commissioners in 1847 by W. Robert, show little change to the site layout.

The first large-scale Ordnance Survey map was published in 1868 and shows the area in considerable detail. The church of St Andrew (HER 82350), constructed in 1851 (Malden 1920, 225) and *c.*200m northwest of the site, is shown. Parker Road is clearly shown, with the site surrounded by residential properties. The site itself contains an L-shaped building surrounded by a number of smaller rectangular buildings.

The layout of the area in the late 19th century is shown on the 1895 Ordnance Survey map. The pattern of housing development had been well established by the third quarter of the 19th century, but the 1895 edition map suggests an intensification and more concentrated pattern of settlement. The site itself remains largely unchanged from the earlier map.

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

The street layout and buildings in the area changed little in the first half of the 20th century, and this area of southwest Croydon appears to have seen relatively little development during that period.

In contrast, the area underwent a considerable amount of change during the 1960s and 1970s. A boom in office development during the 1960s led to extensive development in the area to the northeast of the site, centred on the High Street and East Croydon Railway Station (Cherry & Pevsner 2002, 217-220).

On the 1913 Ordnance Survey map the buildings which once stood on the site have disappeared, the plot of land is empty, and extends to its present-day site boundaries. The 1932 Ordnance Survey map depicts a large rectangular building in the centre of the site with a further rectangular building along the northern border of the site. These buildings are still present on the 1954 OS map, labelled 'Box Factory'. The buildings have continued in use commercially.

4 Evaluation Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation. The trenches were located in order to test the footprints of the proposed buildings and full descriptions, in tabulated form, are provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 Two trenches were excavated (Fig. 2) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless bucket operating under continuous archaeological supervision. Each trench was cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Basic trench information was recorded on pro-forma sheets and a photographic record was made.
- 4.1.3 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation c.0.6m of modern debris was mechanically removed from the surface to reveal a layer of uncompacted dark brown sandy silt (100) and (200). This was 0.35m thick, extended across the entire evaluation area and is interpreted as modern made ground. The underlying natural stratum comprised mid brown orange gravel.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figs 4-6: Plates 1-5)

4.2.1 General

This trench was located in the northeast part of the site and was 11.2m long and 2.0m wide. An extension measuring 4.2m by 8.5m was opened on its northwest side in order to examine two features extending beyond the original edges of the trench. A sondage was excavated at its northeast end (Plate 1), in order to test whether the natural geological deposits had been reached. The uppermost deposit comprised modern made ground (100) beneath which three archaeological features were present. The underlying natural stratum was present at a depth of c.0.46m.

4.2.2 Pit 103

Pit [103] was situated at the north end of the trench. Only the northeast part of this feature was present within the trench, which was widened at this point to allow full definition of the feature. It measured c.3.1 × 2.3m and had a total depth of 1.27m (Fig. 5; Plates 3 & 5).

- 4.2.3 A deposit of loose yellowish grey silty sand (115) was present at the base and south edge of the pit. This was 0.17m thick and is interpreted as material slumped from the edge of the pit with some backfilled material. This was overlain by a more substantial deposit of mid brown coarse sand (110), interpreted as material weathered from the edge of the pit. It had a maximum depth of c.0.4m and contained a single sherd of first century AD pottery. A deposit of orangy brown silty clay (104) occupied the central part of the pits profile. It is interpreted as deliberately deposited material and contained five sherds of Roman pottery dating between c.40 and c.160 AD and a small assemblage of animal bone. This in turn was overlain by a deposit of orangy yellow clay (111). The latter was centrally positioned within the pit and no artefacts were recovered from this deposit. The upper part of the profile was filled with a deposit of brownish grey sandy silt and stones (105). It contained an assemblage of animal bone and pottery sherds dating between 40 and 300 AD. It is interpreted as a deliberate dump of material.

4.2.4 **Pit 106**

A second pit [106] was present at the north end of Trench 1 (Fig. 5; Plate 5). It was irregular in plan and measured *c.*3.5 x 3m and was *c.*0.39m deep. It was stratigraphically earlier than Pit [103], which cut into its north east side.

4.2.5 Pit [106] contained three separate deposits. A deposit of grey sandy gravel and silt (107) was present at its base which is interpreted as natural redeposited material. This was overlain by a less substantial deposit of brownish grey sandy silt (108), which may have been derived from decomposed organic matter. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit. The upper part of the profile comprised dark brownish grey silty sand and stones (109) which contained two fragments of animal bone and three sherds of 1st to 2nd century pottery. The latter deposit is interpreted as backfilling of the upper part of the pit profile.

4.2.6 **Ditch 112/117**

A curvilinear ditch [112]/[117] was present at the northeast end of the extension to Trench 1 (Fig. 5; Plate 4). Its west terminal [117] was present within the trench extension and it extended to the northeast beyond the northeast side of the trench. It was stratigraphically later than Pit [103] and was exposed for a length of *c.*4.0m.

4.2.7 Two separate sections were excavated across the ditch. Its western terminal [117] was 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep (Plate 4: Fig. 6, Section 103) and contained a single deposit of brown sandy silt (118). No artefacts were recovered from this material. A section was excavated at the point where the ditch [112] intersected with Pit [103], in order to test their relationship (Plate 4: Fig. 4, Sections 101 & 102). At this point the ditch was 0.72m wide and 0.21m deep and contained three separate deposits. A lens of yellowish orange gravel and sand (116) directly overlay the latest deposits in Pit [103], which may be weathered material from the ditch edge. This was overlain by a deposit of grey-yellow sandy gravel (113) which is interpreted as primary silting. In turn, this was overlain by an upper layer of mid-brown sandy silt and stones (114).

No artefacts were recovered from the ditch. The presence of Roman period features to the south and the lack of modern debris in its fills suggests that it may be of Roman date, but this interpretation is uncertain.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west showing the sondage



Plate 2: View of the extension to Trench 1 showing archaeological features prior to excavation



Plate 3: Trench 1 looking southwest, showing Ditch [112] and Pit [103]



Plate 4: Ditch Terminus [117] looking southeast



Plate 5: Section through Pits [103] and [106] looking west

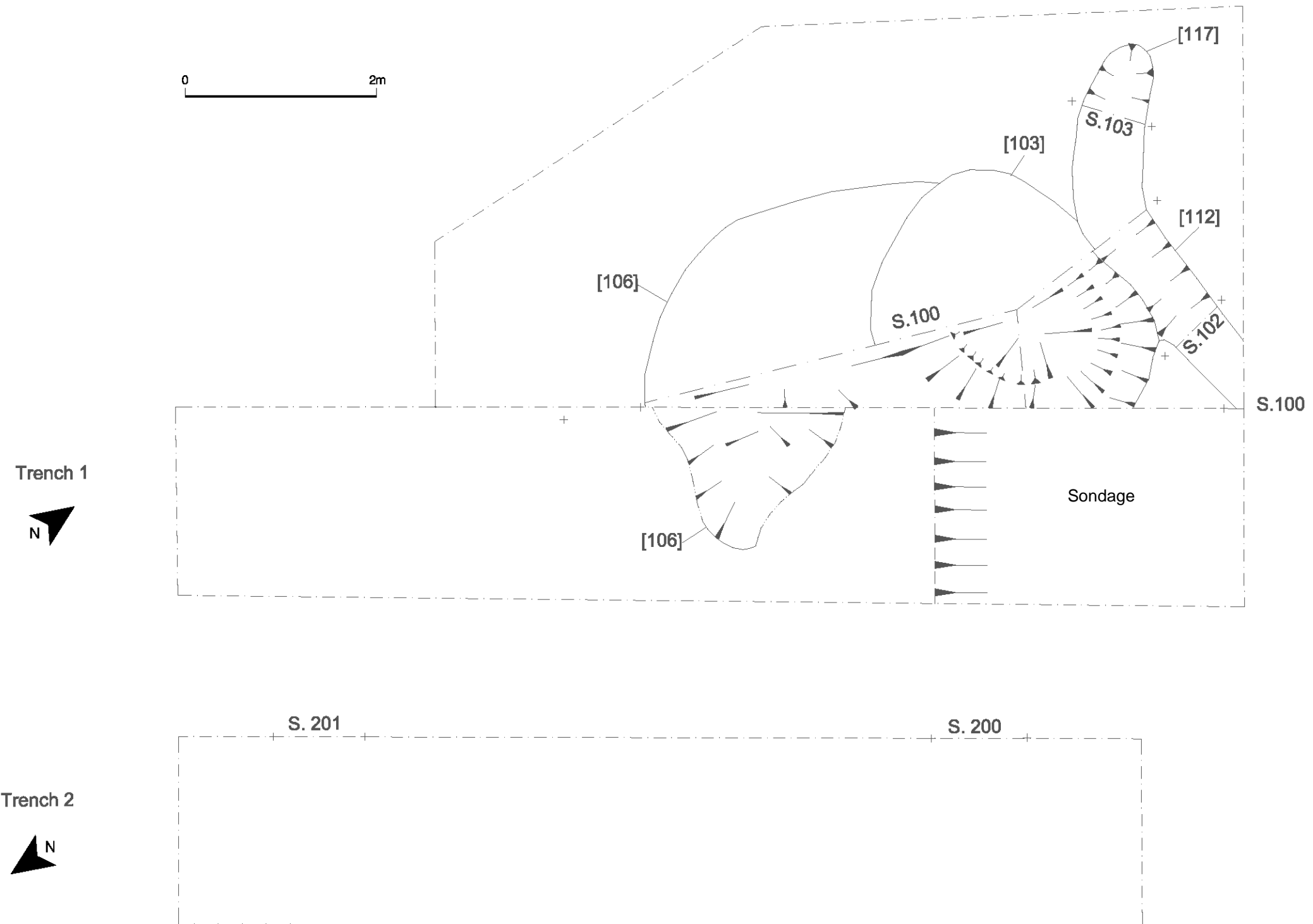


Figure 4: Trench plans (Scale 1:50)

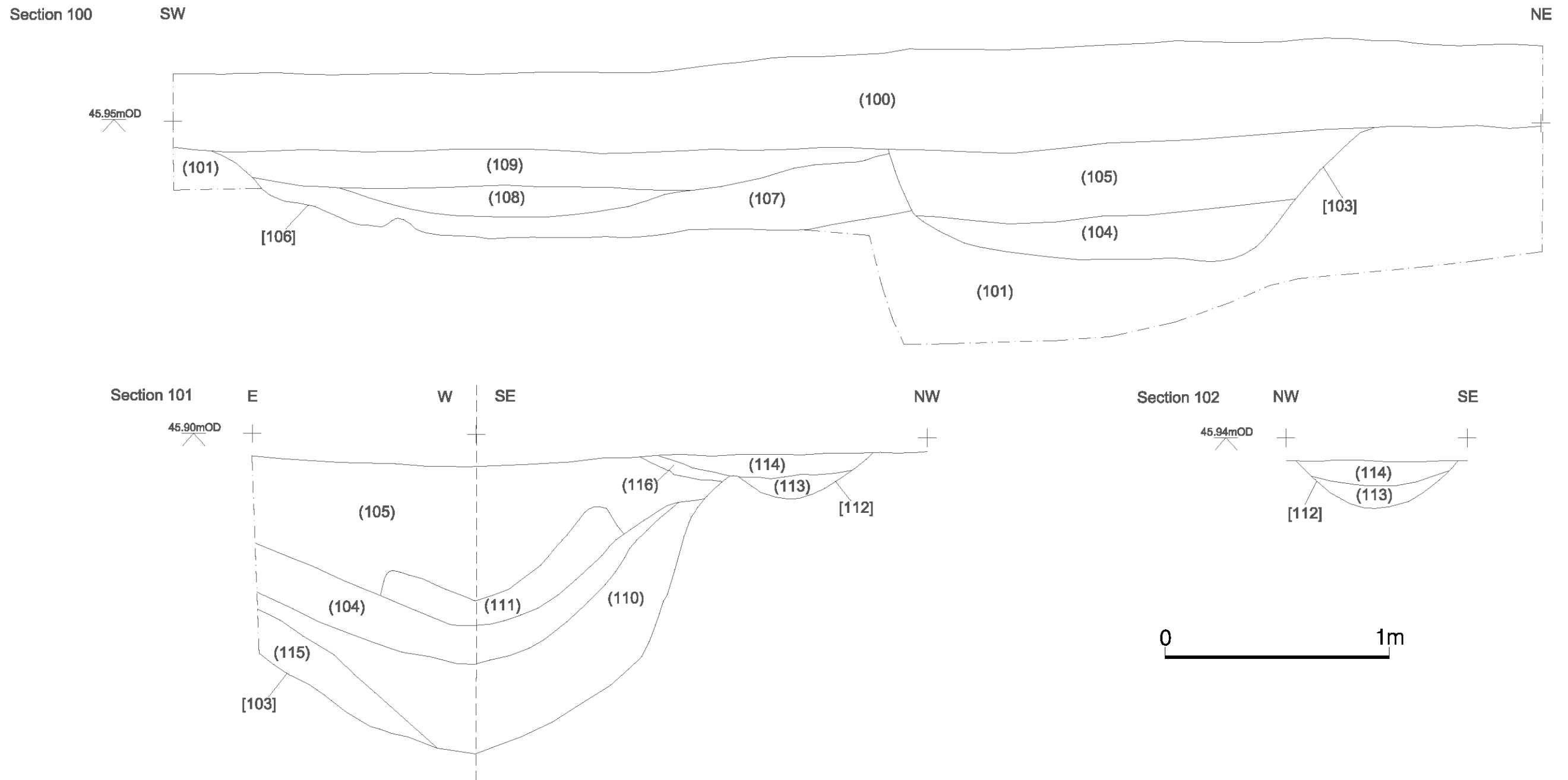


Figure 5: Sections 100 - 102 (Scale 1:20)

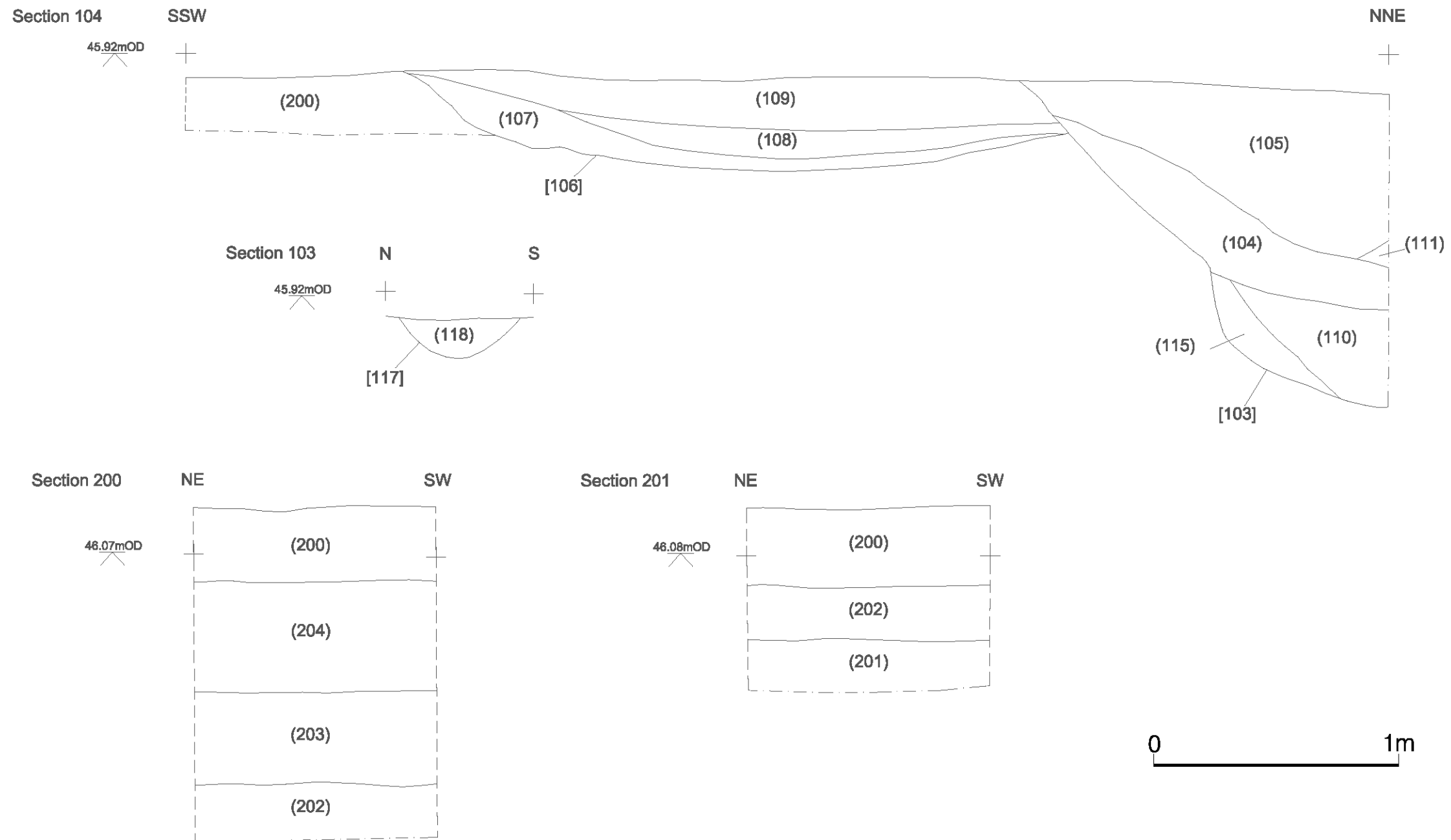


Figure 6: Sections 103, 104, 200 and 201 (Scale 1:20)

4.3 **Trench 2** (Figures 4 and 6; Plates 6 - 7)

4.3.1 **General**

This trench was located in the northwest part of site and was 10.1 long and 2.0m wide. No archaeological features were present and this trench revealed that this part of the site had been heavily disturbed by previous development. No archaeological features or artefacts were present in this trench.

4.3.2 **Stratigraphy**

The uppermost deposit comprised a 0.31m thick layer of brownish grey sandy silt (200). This contained modern ceramic building material and the deposit is interpreted as modern made ground. Beneath this, at the southern end of the trench (Fig. 6, Section 200; Plate 6), further deposits of modern demolition debris were present (203) and (204). These were c.0.84m thick and were situated above the natural stratum which was present at a depth of c.1.15m in this part of the trench. Less modern debris was present at the north end of the trench (Fig. 6; Section 201; Plate 7) where the natural stratum was revealed at a depth of c.0.54m.



Plate 6: Profile of the south end of Trench 2 (Section 200)



Plate 7: Profile of the north end of Trench 2 (Section 201)

5 Watching Brief Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Following the discovery of archaeological features in Trial Trench 1, the Archaeological Advisor of the *Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service* required that a watching brief should be maintained during the excavation of the footing trenches for the new development. The observation took place during the excavation of footing trenches in the northeast part of the site (Fig. 7). Due to the soft and unstable nature of the ground, it was not possible to enter the footing trenches.

5.1.2 Results

The trenches had a maximum width of 0.9m, and varied in depth between 1.0m and 1.7m. The observations confirmed the results of the evaluation and the stratigraphy generally comprised 0.2-0.5m of grey, friable flinty silt and modern made ground, above the natural gravel strata (above, sections 4.2.1 & 4.3.2). The deepest footing trenches were located over the area of Trench 1.

The footing trenches in the northeast part of the site were cut into the natural gravel strata. The footing trenches further to the west were cut into modern made ground, which contained fragments of modern brick and metal, which was probably derived from the 20th century buildings which formerly occupied the site (Fig. 7, Section 3.7). The natural stratum was not reached in this area, which confirmed the results of Trial Trench 2, where a greater depth of modern deposition was observed.

No further archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 8: General view of the footing trenches, looking northeast



Plate 9: View of footing trenches in the vicinity of Trench 1, looking north



Plate 10: Footing trench in the northwest part of the site, looking south



Plate 11: Westernmost footing trench, looking south

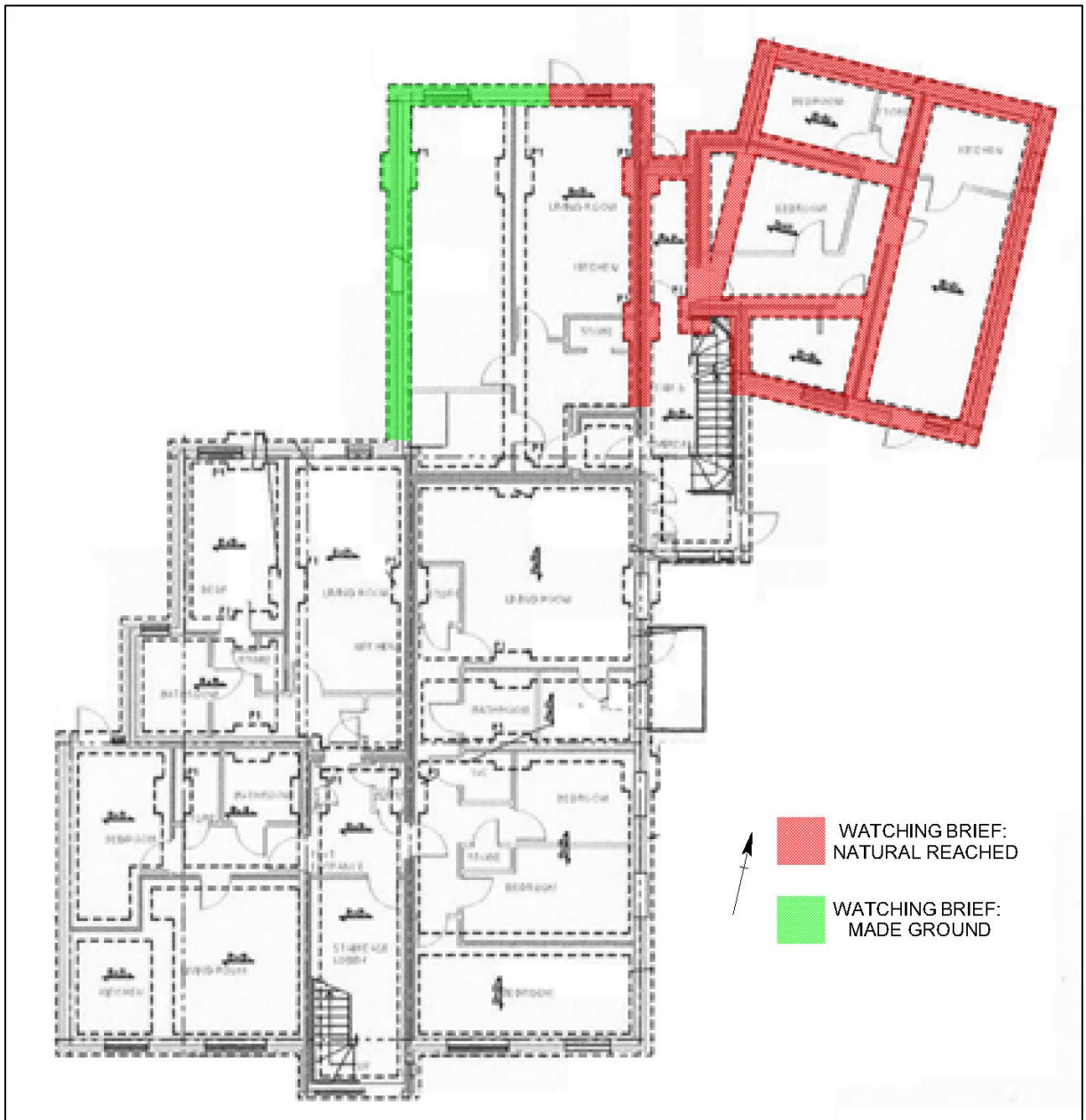


Figure 7: Watching brief observations (*not to scale*)

6. Conclusions

6.1 *Evaluation*

- 6.1.1 Two trial trenches were excavated, in the north part of the site, one of which contained two intercutting pits, [103] and [106] and the terminal of a curvilinear ditch [112]/[117]. The function of the pits is uncertain but they were filled with material containing a small assemblage of animal bone and pottery of 1st and 2nd century date.
- 6.1.2 Ditch [112]/[117] was the latest feature in the sequence and had been cut into Pit [103]. No dating evidence was obtained from the ditch but it may also be of Roman date. Only a short length was exposed within the trench, but a butt end was identified at the west and it is tentatively interpreted as part of a drip gully, surrounding a circular building.
- 6.1.3 The natural geology was exposed in Trench 1 in the northeast part of the site and this area was relatively undisturbed. The northwest part of the site, investigated in Trench 2, had been more heavily disturbed by recent development and the natural stratum was not exposed in this area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present in this area and the results of the evaluation suggest that archaeological remains are likely to be restricted to the northeast part of the site.
- 6.1.4 A small assemblage of pottery and animal bone was present in Trench 1. The bone assemblage was assessed as being in fair condition and comprised 24 fragments of cattle sheep/goat and horse bone. The pottery assemblage comprised 178 sherds dating to the early Roman period. In addition to local wares, South Gaulish Samian ware and sherds of an amphora from southern Spain were present. Two ceramic tile fragments were also present. The majority of these artefacts were from the upper fills of Pit [103].
- 6.1.5 There is a growing body of evidence for Roman activity in this area of Croydon. Recent work to the north of the site, at 23-31 Lower Coombe Street revealed the presence of a number of gravel extraction pits, later used for rubbish disposal (Taylor 2005). The evidence from Trench 1 in Parker Road adds to this data and extends the limits of known Roman activity in the area further to the south.

6.2 *Watching Brief*

- 6.2.1 No further archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. While the potential for the survival of individual features away from the evaluation and watching brief areas cannot be entirely dismissed, the presence of made ground to the west of the watching brief area combined with the cartographic evidence for the development of the site suggests this potential is limited.

6.3 *Confidence Rating*

The evaluation and the watching brief were both carried out in good weather conditions, and full co-operation was received from all parties involved. A high confidence rating is attached to the results of both phases of work.

7. Acknowledgements

ASC Ltd is grateful to Steve Eldridge for commissioning the project on behalf of *Eldridge Bexley Ltd*. The project was monitored by Mark Stevenson BA MIfA of the *Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service*, on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Stuart Cakebread BA MSc PIfA for providing access to the HER data.

The project was managed for *ASC Ltd* by David Fell MA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Ralph Brown BSc (evaluation) and Calli Rouse BA AIfA (watching brief). The report was prepared by Ralph Brown and Calli Rouse and edited by David Fell.

8. Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. Original specialist reports and supporting information
12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with *London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre*.

9. References


Standards & Specifications


- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2009*).
- Muldowney M 2013 *27 Parker Road, London Borough of Croydon: Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation*, ASC doc ref 1619/CPR/2

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Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	11.2m	Width	6.3m	Depth	1.42m
	Levels					
	Trench top NE		46.34m OD			
	Trench base NE		44.92m OD			
	Trench top SW		46.30m OD			
	Trench base SW		45.66m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	TQ	532390 164819		TQ	532394 164830	
	Orientation			Northeast - southwest		
Reason for Trench			Evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: m)	Thickness (max: m)	Depth (BGL: m)	
100	Layer	Brownish grey sandy silt with frags of modern ceramic building material. Modern made ground.	-	0.46	-	
114	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt. Secondary silting of Ditch 112. Same as 118.	0.72	0.11	0.46	
113	Fill	Mid grey/yellow gravel & silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 112	0.61	0.10	0.57	
116	Fill	Yellowish orange gravel and Sand. Upcast from Ditch 112	0.39	0.06	0.46	
112	Cut	'U' shaped Construction cut of ditch. Filled with 113,114 & 115. Same as 117	0.72	0.21	0.46	
118	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt. Silting of Ditch 117. Same as 114.	0.50	0.16	0.46	
117	Cut	Construction cut of ditch terminus. Same as 112. Filled with 118	0.50	0.16	0.46	
105	Fill	Brownish grey sandy silt. Contained 17 sherds of Roman pottery & 19 animal bone frags. Backfill of Pit 103	2.30	0.68	0.46	
111	Fill	Orange yellow clay. Deliberate backfill in Pit 103	0.78	0.17	0.68	
104	Fill	Dark orange brown silty silt. Contained 5 sherds of Roman pottery and 2 animal bone frags. Deliberate backfill of Pit 103	2.20	0.25	0.62	
110	Fill	Mid brown coarse sand. Contained a single sherd of Roman pottery and a single animal bone frag.. Slumped material within Pit 103	1.67	0.40	1.34	
115	Fill	Yellowish grey silty sand. Primary fill of Pit 103	0.46	0.17	1.14	
103	Cut	Slightly irregular 'U' shaped cut. Construction cut of pit. Filled with (104), (105), (110), (111) and (115)	2.30	1.28	0.46	
109	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty sand. Contained 3 sherds of Roman pottery and 2 fragments of animal bone. Upper fill of Pit 106	2.70	0.22	0.46	
108	Fill	Brownish grey sandy silt. Intermediate fill of Pit 106	2.04	0.12	0.60	
107	Fill	Mid grey sandy gravel and silt. Primary fill- probably slumping of natural material into Pit 106	2.65	0.19	0.48	
106	Cut	Shallow 'U' shaped cut. Truncated by Pit 103. Construction cut of pit. Filled with (107) – (109)	2.74	0.39	0.46	
101	Layer	Uncompacted brownish orange gravel. Natural Gravel	-	-	0.46	

Trench 2											
						Max Dimensions (m)					
						Length	10.1m	Width	2.0m	Depth	1.33m
						Levels					
						Trench top NE			46.22m OD		
						Trench base NE			45.52m OD		
						Trench top SW			46.34m OD		
						Trench base SW			45.01m OD		
						NGR Co-ordinates					
						SW	TQ 532364 164816		NE	TQ 532368 164823	
						Orientation			Northeast-southwest		
Reason for Trench			Evaluation								
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: m)	Thickness (max: m)	Depth (BGL: m)						
200	Layer	Brownish grey sandy silt with frags of modern ceramic building material. Modern made ground.	-	0.31	-						
204	Layer	Deliberate deposit of demolition rubble	4.3	0.45	0.31						
203	Layer	Post-medieval/modern made ground	8.0	0.39	0.76						
202	Layer	Disturbed natural gravels	3.4	0.22	1.15						
201	Layer	Uncompacted brownish orange gravel. Natural Gravel	-	-	0.54-1.15+						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME:27 Parker Road, Croydon			SITE NO/CODE:1619CPR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Trench 1 looking northeast
2		✓	Trench 1 looking northeast
3	✓	✓	Sondage Trench 1 looking southeast
4		✓	Sondage Trench 1 looking southeast
5		✓	Sondage Trench 1 looking southeast
6	✓	✓	Trench 2 looking northeast
7		✓	Section 100 looking northwest
8		✓	Section 100 looking northwest
9	✓	✓	Section 100 looking southwest
10	✓	✓	General site shot looking southwest
11		✓	Section 200 looking southeast
12		✓	Section 201 looking southeast
13		✓	Trench 2 looking south
14		✓	Section 100 looking northwest
15	✓	✓	Trench 1 extension looking southwest
16	✓	✓	Trench 1 extension looking south
17	✓	✓	Section 101 looking south
18	✓	✓	Ditch [112] Section 102 looking northeast
19	✓	✓	Trench 1 extension looking south
20	✓	✓	Terminus [117] Section 103 looking east
21		✓	Section 104 looking west
22		✓	Section 104 looking west
23	✓	✓	Section 104 looking southwest
24	✓	✓	Watching brief: General shot, footing trenches in north east corner, looking north east
25	✓	✓	Watching brief: Area of Trench 1, looking north
26	✓	✓	Watching brief: Area of Trench 1, looking north
27	✓	✓	Watching brief: Easternmost footing trench, looking north
28	✓	✓	Watching brief: Section, north of are of Trench 1, looking east
29	✓	✓	Watching brief: Northernmost footing trench, looking east
30	✓	✓	Watching brief: General shot, footing trenches in north east corner, looking south east
31	✓	✓	Watching brief: General shot, footing trenches in north east corner, looking north east
32	✓	✓	Watching brief: Southernmost footing trench, looking east
33	✓	✓	Watching brief: Footing trench in north west section, looking south
34	✓	✓	Watching brief: Footing trench in north west section, looking south
35	✓	✓	Watching brief: Footing trench in north west section, looking south

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		CBM		Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	Type	(no)
104	19	160	2	23				
105	37	392	19	169	1	10		
109	120	670	2	17	1	43		
110	1	41	1	16				
203	1	11						

Appendix 4: Pottery Report

Nicholas J. Cooper, University of Leicester Archaeological Services

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 178 Roman pottery sherds weighing 1276g were retrieved from contexts (104), (105), (109) and (110). Two fragments of Roman ceramic tile from (105) and (109) and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery from (203) are also reported on below. The Roman pottery has been analysed by form and fabric with reference to the Museum of London Roman Pottery Fabric Series (Davies *et al* 1994, 3; Featherby 2006, 58 Table 13), quantified by sherd count and weight, and recorded on an MS Excel spreadsheet.

Results

The full record of the material is presented in the following table.

Context	Fabric Gen	MoL Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	dating
104	Reduced	HWC	beaker	poppyhead	6	30	70-160
104	GrogTemp	GROG/HWB	jar	misc	7	100	40-60
104	Reduced	ERS?	misc	misc	3	6	50-100
104	Reduced	NKGW?	misc	misc	1	10	100-150
104	Reduced	ERSA/B	misc	misc	2	15	50-120
105	Amphora	BAET	Amph	Dressel 20	2	65	50-300
105	Amphora	misc	Amph	misc	1	20	1st/2nd
105	Samian	SAMLG	bowl	Drag 37	2	21	80-100
105	Samian	SAMCG	dish	Drag 18/31	1	25	100-150
105	Samian	SAMCG	bowl	Drag 37	1	6	2nd cent
105	Samian	SAMLG	dish	Drag 36	1	2	2nd cent
105	White	Misc White	bowl	bead rim	1	8	2nd cent
105	BB1	BB1	jar	Type 12	2	16	120-160
105	Reduced	HWC	beaker	poppyhead	2	8	70-160
105	Reduced	HWC	misc	misc	3	15	70-160
105	White	VRW	misc	misc	1	5	50-160
105	GrogTemp	GROG/HWB	misc	misc	9	95	40-60
105	White-slip	RWS	flagon	Misc	1	46	50-150
105	Reduced	ERSA/B	jar	misc	1	10	50-120
105	Reduced	ERSA/B	jar	misc	3	48	50-120
105	Oxidised	OXID/LOXI	misc	misc	2	10	90-160
105	Oxidised	OXID/LOXI	beaker		3	6	90-160
109	Reduced	HWC	misc	misc	1	35	70-160
109	Reduced	GW	bowl	flanged	2	23	2nd cent
109	Reduced	GW	jar	evert rim	119	610	L1st-2nd
110	GrogTemp	GROG/HWB	jar		1	41	40-60
Total					178	1276	AvWt 7g

Analysis of the Assemblage by Form and Fabric

The material from all four contexts consistently ranges in date from the middle of the 1st century to the middle decades of the second century at the latest. The pottery is generally in a rather abraded condition, and although the average sherd weight of 7g is on the low side, even in a rural setting, there are examples of joining sherds, particularly from (109) which yielded the crushed remains of part of a necked jar. The earliest dating material, the 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery (probably in Highgate Wood Fabric B: London Code HWB) dating c.AD40-60 is in the poorest condition and the lack of diagnostic rim sherds supports the idea that this material has been re-deposited when the later material such as the samian and BB1 was being deposited for the first (and perhaps last) time in the early or middle decades of the 2nd century. The material from (105) is the most closely-dated including the base of a South Gaulish samian Form 37 (c.AD80-100), and Central Gaulish Form 18/31 (c.100-150), Form 37 and Form 36 (dating to the early-mid 2nd century). This group also produced two joining sherds from a small BB1 jar with acute lattice dating c.120-160 alongside two abraded sherds of Dressel 20 olive oil amphora from Southern Spain (fabric code BAET). Other diagnostic wares of more local origin from (105) include sherds of fine grey ware poppy-headed beakers from Highgate Wood in North London (Fabric HWC) dating c.70-160, one with burnished surface and the other with a white slip which probably belongs to the vessel of which there are six joining sherds in (104) with barbotine dot decoration. There is also a single sherd of Verulamium region white ware (code VRW), made in the St Albans area, from (105). Both contexts contain Early Roman sandy wares (ERSA/B) and London oxidised wares (LOXI) made locally. Context (110) contained two diagnostic vessels. The first is the crushed remains of about a quarter of a reduced ware necked jar with a black surface and an oxidised core and margins. It has an everted bead rim and a shoulder zone of lattice decoration between faint neck and shoulder cordons. It is closely paralleled in form and fabric by an example from Burrough High St, Southwark (Hammerson & Murray 1978, 107 no. 67, fig. 36.67). The second is a shallow curve-sided bowl with a down-curved flange in a local grey ware fabric (unsourced GW). The group probably dates to the early decades of the 2nd century.

Overall, the assemblage has produced a wide range of diagnostic material from closely-dated contexts in the Early Roman period and demonstrates that there is potential to produce a significant group of material if the site continues to full excavation. The present assemblage fits within an emerging picture of Roman occupation in the vicinity summarised during work by Wessex Archaeology (2007, 7), notably at nearby Lower Coombe Street, indicating the location of a possible villa building with associated pottery dating to the 2nd – 3rd century, preceded by early Roman gravel extraction pits, used as ponds and later for rubbish disposal, in the late 1st and 2nd century, and so broadly contemporary with the present assemblage.

Roman Ceramic Building Material

Two ceramic tile fragments were recovered, both in a standard orange sandy, oxidised fabric. The first fragment (10g) from a miscellaneous form, came from (105). The second, from an imbrex curving roof tile (43g) came from (109).

Post-medieval Pottery

A single sherd (11g) from the base of a Surrey-Hampshire border red ware vessel with internal brown glaze (London Fabric Code RBORB; Blackmore 2006, 61-2, Table 17) was recovered from (203), dating between 1580 and 1800.

References

- Blackmore, L. 2006 'medieval and Post-medieval pottery' in K. Pitt *Roman and Medieval Development South of Newgate*. MoLAS Archaeology Studies Series 14, 58-64
- Davies, B., Richardson, B. and Tomber, R. 1994 *A Dated Corpus of Early Roman Pottery from the City of London*. CBA Res Rep 98
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- Wessex Archaeology 2007 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: The Peter Sylvester Centre, Bramley Hill, London Borough of Croydon* Report reference: 67410.01

Appendix 5: Animal Bone Report

Jennifer Browning (August 2013)

Introduction

The animal bones were recovered during hand-excavation from four contexts dating to the Early Roman period; 104; 105; 109 and 110. The bones were assessed to evaluate preservation and variety and therefore provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation.

The Assemblage

The current sample consists of 24 fragments from four different contexts. The assemblage was fragmented, illustrated by the fact that both old and modern breakage was observed (table 1). Surface condition was assessed as 'fair', indicating the bone surfaces were 'solid in places but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of specimen' and 'poor', 'surface flaky or powdery over 50% of specimen', following Harland et al (2003). Just over a third of fragments were identified to species level; bones belonging to cattle, sheep/goat and horse were observed. Few modifications were noted, however, gnawing was present on a sheep/goat radius.

Context	Number	Bone	Taxa	Condition	Notes
104	1	metatarsal	sheep/goat	fair	
104	1	tibia	lge mml	fair	
105	1	tooth	horse	poor	upper cheek tooth
105	1	radius	sheep/goat	fair	midshaft. gnawing distal shaft,
105	1	metacarpal	sheep/goat	fair	proximal and shaft.
105	3	shaft fragments	med mml	fair	
105	5	rib fragments	lge mml	fair	
105	1	metatarsal	sheep/goat	fair	shaft only
105	6	shaft fragments	lge mml	fair	
105	1	humerus	cattle	fair	
109	1	femur	sheep/goat	good	shaft fragment
109	1	mandible	cattle	fair	fragment of alveolar bone.
110	1	mandible	cattle	fair	diastema
Total	24				

Table 1: The animal bones recovered from the site

Archaeological Context and Potential

This small sample has provided an indication of the type of faunal material that may be recovered, should the site progress to excavation. Cattle, sheep/goat and horse were identified in the assemblage. The assemblage was in reasonable condition, although fairly fragmented and it is therefore possible that preservation factors may limit the potential of the assemblage as, for example, juvenile or small bones may be less likely to survive. However, surface condition indicates that there is reasonable expectation of identifying modifications such as burning, butchery marks or pathologies which could help interpret the type of activities taking place.

Roman archaeology has been previously excavated nearby; for example, in 2005 an investigation took place in at 23-31 Lower Coombe Street, where five early Roman gravel extraction pits, later used for rubbish disposal, were recorded (Pre-Construct Archaeology). A finds-rich layer over the top suggested that a building of some status was present nearby. Several further finds of this date have been found in the vicinity and there have been other

archaeological investigations. Should the work progress to excavation, such sites will help provide a context for further analysis.

References

- Harland, J. F., Barrett, J. H., Carrott, J., Dodney, K. and Jaques, D. 2003 *The York System: an integrated zooarchaeological database for research and teaching. Internet Archaeology 13: (http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue13/harland_toc.html)*.
- Wessex Archaeology 2007 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: The Peter Sylvester Centre, Bramley Hill, London Borough of Croydon* Report reference: 67410.01

Appendix 6: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	27 Parker Road, London Borough of Croydon	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-152434
Short Description:	During July and August 2013, an archaeological evaluation and watching brief were carried out on land at 27 Parker Road, Croydon, in advance of and during the redevelopment of the site. The evaluation revealed the presence of two intercutting Roman pits, and part of a curvilinear ditch. The function of the pits and ditch is unclear, but they may be associated with settlement identified previously to the north of site on Lower Combe Street and St Andrews Road. A small assemblage of Roman pottery and animal bone was recorded during the evaluation but no additional archaeological artefacts or features were observed during the watching brief.		
Project Type:	Evaluation & Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	none
Current land use:	Disused light industrial unit	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:		Monument period:	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	London Borough of Croydon	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TQ 3239 6482
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	27 Parker Road, London Borough of Croydon		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.640sq m	Height OD: (metres)	46.8
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:		Project design originator:	Mo Muldowney
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	Ralph Brown
Sponsor / funding body:	Eldridge Bexley Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	01/07/2013	End date:	08/08/2013
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (PKR13)	Pottery, Bone	
Paper:		WSI, Report	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief: 27 Parker Road, London Borough of Croydon		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1619/CPR/2		
Author(s):	Ralph Stewart Brown BSc & Calli Rouse BA AlFA		
Page nos		Date:	