

Proposed erection of three two-storey buildings at 67 Church Road, Croydon

NGR TQ32196498

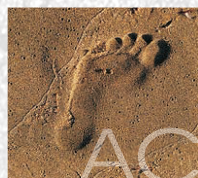
Results of an archaeological evaluation
Planning Application 09/01166/P

Prepared by:
Paul Jones

On behalf of:
Teachers Housing Association

Document No: ACW358/2/0

Date: June 2011



archaeology

PROPOSED ERECTION OF THREE TWO-STOREY BUILDINGS AT 67 CHURCH ROAD, CROYDON: NGR TQ32196498

PLANNING APPLICATION 09/01166/P

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation, comprising two mechanically-excavated trial trenches, was undertaken by AC archaeology at no. 67 Church Road, Croydon in May 2011. The investigation was undertaken in accordance with a condition of planning consent for the proposed construction of three, two-storey, buildings on the site. The site lies in an area of archaeological significance. The trial trenches revealed, in both instances, that there were no natural soil horizons present, but quantities of redeposited gravel and demolition deposits above natural gravel. A number of drains were present with the area investigated. No subsoil features or pre-modern artefacts were present.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation of land at 67 Church Road, Croydon. It was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd, on behalf of the Teachers Housing Association, through their archaeological consultants EDP (the Environmental Dimension Partnership), to meet the requirements of a condition of the planning consent granted, on appeal, by Croydon Borough Council.

1.2 Condition 4 of the appeal decision (09/01166/P) requires that *'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with approved details. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigative body, details of which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority before any archaeological works are commenced.'*

1.3 The site occupies an area of c. 230m² and is derelict with dense rank vegetation (Fig. 1). The previous (post-war) buildings on the site have been cleared. The site lies at c. 46m OD. The underlying solid geology on the site is believed to be Chalk (BGS *Open Geoscience* online), overlain with valley gravel.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 There are no recorded heritage assets within the site boundary. The site lies close to the recorded location of Saxon burials in Church Street and Romano-British evidence has been found south of Lower Coombe Street. Historical maps show that there were 19th century structures on part of the Church Street frontages, and a smaller structure on the Queen Street frontage. These were replaced by post-WW2 structures that were cleared from the site prior to the evaluation.

2.2 The site lies in an area recorded in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record as being an area of archaeological significance.

3. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Aims and Objectives

3.1 The principal aims of the investigations were:

- To ascertain the presence/absence, function, date and chronology of any archaeological deposits.
- To assess remains in a context of local, regional and national significance, particularly the site's ability to contribute to research objectives relating to the Roman and Saxon periods, as set out in the Museum of London's *A Research Framework for London's Archaeology* (2002)
- To enable a description of the significance of the Heritage Asset as defined in PPS5 (Policy HE6.1)
- To enable an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the Heritage Asset (PPS5 Policy HE6.2)
- To enable a mitigation strategy to be produced if required (PPS 5 Policy HE12).

3.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches; one 5m x 1.8m in plan and one 10m x 1.8m in plan, as shown on Fig. 1. A further 10m of trench was held over as a contingency, but unused, by agreement with the English Heritage. The positions of both trenches were moved slightly from the proposed positions to avoid surface-visible drain runs.

3.3 The site investigation was undertaken in accordance with the approved project design for archaeological evaluation (Cox 2011). The archive has been prepared using the site code CRC11, supplied by Museum of London Archaeology Service.

4. RESULTS

Introduction

4.1 The trial trenches revealed, in both instances, that there were no natural soil horizons present on the site, but varying quantities of redeposited soils, gravel and demolition materials above natural gravel. Due to the very dry conditions and loose gravel, trench sides collapsed with great frequency.

Trench 1

4.2 After clearance of weeds, the upper deposit of the trench comprised a greyish brown to yellow gravel in a grey-brown soil matrix (context 100) that was 200mm thick at the north-east end of the trench, but thickened to c1.40m at the south-west end. This overlay a natural yellow to brown gravel, with frequent flint nodules (context 101), that lay conformably with the upper gravel deposit.

4.3 The upper deposit, context 100, appears to have been imported into the site, presumably as make up for former yard surfaces, and was cut through by various modern ceramic drainage pipes. No artefacts were recovered from either deposit.



Plate 1: SW end of trench showing infill deposit 100 at maximum thickness

Trench 2

4.4 After clearance of weeds, the upper level of the trench comprised a deposit of grey-brown soil with much modern brick rubble (context 200), that was 100mm thick at the north-west end of the trench, but thickened to 200mm at the south-west end. This overlay a yellow to brown gravel, with frequent flint nodules (context 201), that was excavated to a depth of 1.4m to confirm its homogeneity. The upper 400mm of this deposit was stained dark grey/black as a result of leaching from context 200.

4.5 A baulk was left part way along the trench to avoid a drain. No artefacts were recovered from either deposit.



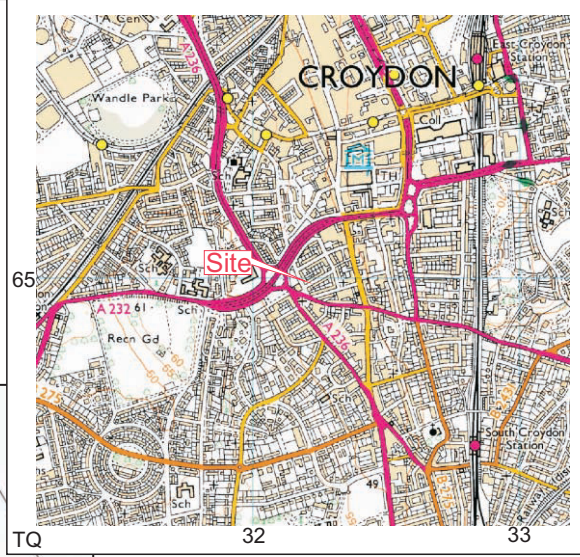
Plate 2: general view of Trench 2 from the SE

5. COMMENT

- 5.1 The trial trenches revealed no evidence for heritage assets within the site, either in the form of buried archaeological deposits or artefacts.
- 5.2 The site appears to have suffered truncation of its upper levels, dumping of mixed gravel and soil deposits and spreading of demolition rubble. Several drainage pipes cross the site. The potential for the survival of former ground surfaces or subsurface archaeological deposits is considered low. It is unlikely that the development of the site will have any adverse effects on buried remains of any significance.

6. REFERENCES

Cox, P. W., 2011 *Proposed erection of three two-storey buildings at 67 Church Road, Croydon: NGR TQ32196498, Planning application 09/01166/P; Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished document prepared by AC archaeology Ltd for Teachers Housing Association. May 2011. Doc. no. ACW358/1/0



PROJECT

67 Church Road, Croydon

TITLE

Fig. 1:
Trench location plan



Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

www.acarchaeology.co.uk