

**AN ENHANCED ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF DURING THE DEVELOPMENT  
AT 180-182 PAMPISFORD ROAD, CROYDON**



**AN ENHANCED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF DURING THE DEVELOPMENT AT  
180-182 PAMPISFORD ROAD, CROYDON**

*An enhanced archaeological watching brief was undertaken during a development at 180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon. The observations of the development did not reveal any archaeological features or finds, other than a Second World War air raid shelter, that was possibly re-used as a pond, was exposed during the groundworks.*

Surrey County Archaeological Unit  
Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road,  
Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 518777 Fax: 01483 518780  
email: [archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk)

website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/scau](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/scau)

Unit Manager	Rob Poulton
Project Manager	Nowal Shaikhley
Author	Thomas Munnery
Date of fieldwork	10 December 2007 to 8 January 2008
Date of report	16 April 2008
Client	Garrick Homes Ltd
Consultant	Shaw Design Services
NGR North End	TQ 31901 62853
MoL Site Code ref	PFY08



The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and is not for publication to third parties, without the prior written consent of Surrey County Council, otherwise than in pursuance of the specific purpose for which it was prepared

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### *Planning Background*

1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the conduct of an enhanced archaeological watching brief was prepared by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (Shaikhley 2007) on behalf of Garrick Homes Ltd in relation to the development of a new set of flats on the site of 180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon TQ 31901 62853 (figs 1 and 2). The specification highlights that the proposed work required an archaeological monitoring programme due to the site falling within an area designated by English Heritage's Greater London Sites and Monument Record as an Archaeological Priority Area.

1.2 Garrick Homes Ltd commissioned the Surrey County Archaeological Unit to undertake the enhanced archaeological watching brief in connection with this development.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

2.1 Between 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008, the site of the new development was visited by Surrey County Archaeological Unit to monitor the groundworks within the area of new car park. The topsoil and, in some areas, subsoil stripping was monitored, along with the area of the footings of the new flats in order to assess the archaeological evidence within the site.

2.2 The reduced strip groundworks across the car park were carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The car park was monitored in two halves, north then south. Within the northern half of the area the maximum depth reached was c.450mm in the north-west corner with the minimum depth of c.150-200mm at the west of the area. This revealed an orange-brown subsoil that was flecked with chalk. The underlying natural chalk was not reached during the levelling of the northern half of the car park area.

2.3 The southern half of the car park area was levelled to a maximum depth of c.200-250mm. These groundworks revealed an orange-brown subsoil with chalk flecks and in some places towards the south the underlying chalk natural.

2.4 Two soakaways, each c.2.6m x 2.6m wide and c.2m deep, were also excavated within the car park area (see fig 2). A pipeline linking the two soakaways was excavated to a depth of c.400mm and width of c.500mm, using a 400mm wide toothed bucket. The two soakaways and the pipeline were all cut through the subsoil remaining from the levelling of the car park into the chalk natural.

2.5 The footings of the new flats were also visited during their excavation. These were excavated to depth of c.1.2m and c.500-600mm wide using a 400mm toothed bucket.

2.6 Close liaison with the site contractors was maintained in order to ensure that the site visits were carried out at appropriate times, whilst the stripping occurred.

2.7 A careful watch was maintained on the soils as they were removed and exposed, and any finds of p interest recovered. As and when features or soil layers of

potential archaeological interest were identified, machining was stopped to enable investigation.

### 3. RESULTS

3.1 The area of the car park revealed a stratigraphy comprising c.300mm of topsoil that overlay c.100mm of an orange-brown subsoil with chalk flecking. This overlay the chalk natural. There was some root disturbance along the northern edge of the car park. No features or finds of archaeological interest were noted during the watching brief.

3.2 A Second World War air raid shelter was revealed adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, see figs 2 and 3. The upper concrete surface was removed, as part of the ground level reduction in this part of the new car park, to reveal a shallow void (c.400mm deep) and a further concrete surface. It appeared as though the air raid shelter had been converted, possibly into a garden pond, by the addition of short walls, shown in the photograph below.

(i) View of air raid shelter (looking west)



3.3 The chamfered internal corners of the exposed upright wall suggest that these were intended to be seen. The possible pond went out of use and was capped with concrete (see photograph (ii) below). The later additional walls (see photograph (i) above) were removed but the remainder of the structure was left *in situ*.



*(ii) View of Air Raid Shelter (looking east) prior to removal of concrete cap*

3.3 No signs of steps or an entrance were revealed during the groundwork. A vertical concrete face was partially exposed in the soakaway that was excavated adjacent to the east side of the structure.

3.4 The footings of the new flats on the north-west of the site (on the site of the former 182 Pampisford Road, see figs 2 and 4) revealed a stratigraphy comprising c.200-300mm of newly applied crushed material that overlay an orange-brown subsoil, c.0-300mm in depth. These overlay a chalk natural. No topsoil was present in this area. The footings of the north-west set of flats revealed no archaeological features or finds of archaeological interest.

3.5 Following agreement with the G.L.A.A.S Archaeological Officer, Mark Stevenson, the footings of the flats at the south-west of the site (on the site of the former 180 Pampisford Road, see figs 2 and 4) were not monitored, owing to the lack of archaeological evidence revealed during the earlier stages of monitoring.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The aim of the enhanced watching brief was to clarify the archaeological potential of the footprint of the new development through archaeological observations undertaken during the groundworks to level the car park and excavate the footings of the new flats.

4.2 The monitoring work revealed that the site was underlain by an orange-brown subsoil with chalk flecks that overlay a chalk natural geology. Archaeological investigations undertaken on downland chalk have often produced positive results of ancient occupation or settlement. This was not the case for the Pampisford Road site and there was no evidence of ancient occupation. There is no recommendation for any further work in relation to this project.

4.3 The Second World War air raid shelter / bunker was of some local interest and was recorded, but no further work is recommended in relation to this feature.

---

## REFERENCES

- Shaikhley, N, 2007 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the Conduct of an Enhanced Archaeological Watching Brief During the Development at 180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon (SCAU Client Report)

## FIGURE LIST

Fig 1 *180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon* Site location

Fig 2 *180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon* Site plan

Fig 3 *180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon* Plan of Air Raid Shelter

Fig 4 *180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon* Development Plan

**Fig 1 180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon: site location**



Date: 25/09/2007

'Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.'

Scale 1:20000

Surrey County Council, LA076872, 1996.

Fig 2 180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon.  
Site plan (scale 1:200)

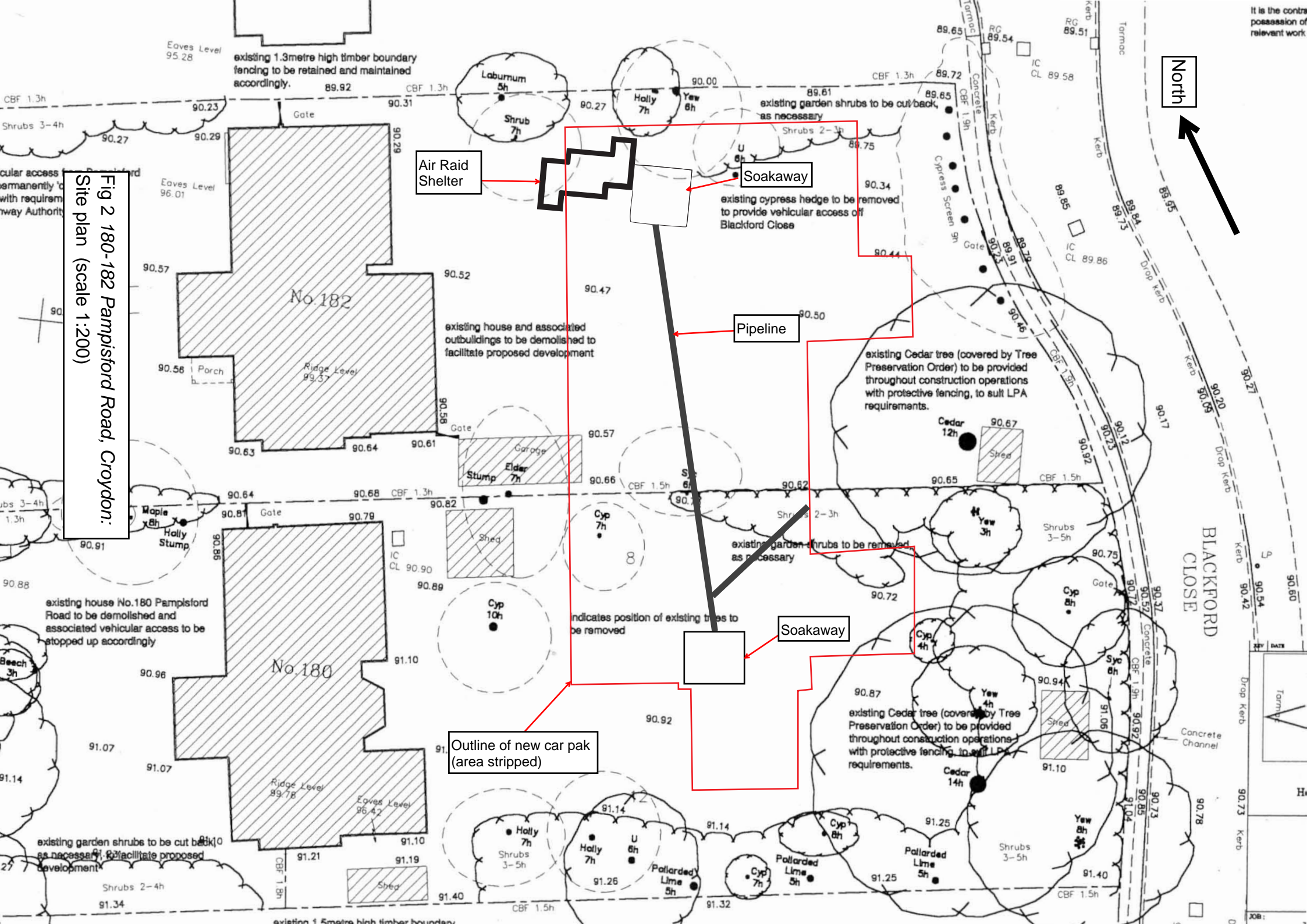




Fig 3 180-182 Pampisford Road, Croydon: Plan of possible Air Raid Shelter

