



**165 PAMPISFORD ROAD
Croydon
CR2**

London Borough of Croydon

An archaeological watching brief report

September 2006



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

165 PAMPISFORD ROAD
Croydon
CR2

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An archaeological watching brief report

Site Code: PMD06
National Grid Reference: 531917 163208

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by Skillcrown Homes Ltd in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at 165 Pampisford Rd., Croydon.

Work on the new development was monitored between 23-29 August, 2006 during the redevelopment of the site from a detached house to three semi-detached houses and a block of flats.

The first part of the watching brief involved the stripping of the topsoil and part of the subsoil. The second part involved monitoring the excavation of the foundations for the houses at the rear of the property.

No archaeological deposits were encountered during the monitoring. Weathered chalk was observed at 79.05 OD, and chalk bedrock at 78.65 OD.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at No.165 Pampisford Rd., Croydon, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded by No.163 Pampisford Road to the south and No.167 Pampisford Road to the north. The rear garden of the site backs onto the garden of 1 Kendra Hall Drive (Fig 1). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 531917 163208. Modern ground level immediately adjacent to the site is 80 OD. The site code is PMD 06.

A desk top *Archaeological (impact) assessment* was previously prepared by MoLAS, which covers the whole area of the site (Anthony, 2006). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the watching brief (MoLAS, 2006).

1.3 Planning background

Archaeological investigation took place following a grant of planning application and as a condition of consent for redevelopment.

The archaeological investigation took the form of a watching brief, carried out in accordance with a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority and English Heritage. The primary purpose of a watching brief is to observe and record the extent and character of archaeological remains.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Skillcrown Homes Ltd and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant standards and guidance specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001) and English Heritage (English Heritage 1998).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2006), and are outlined in the following section.

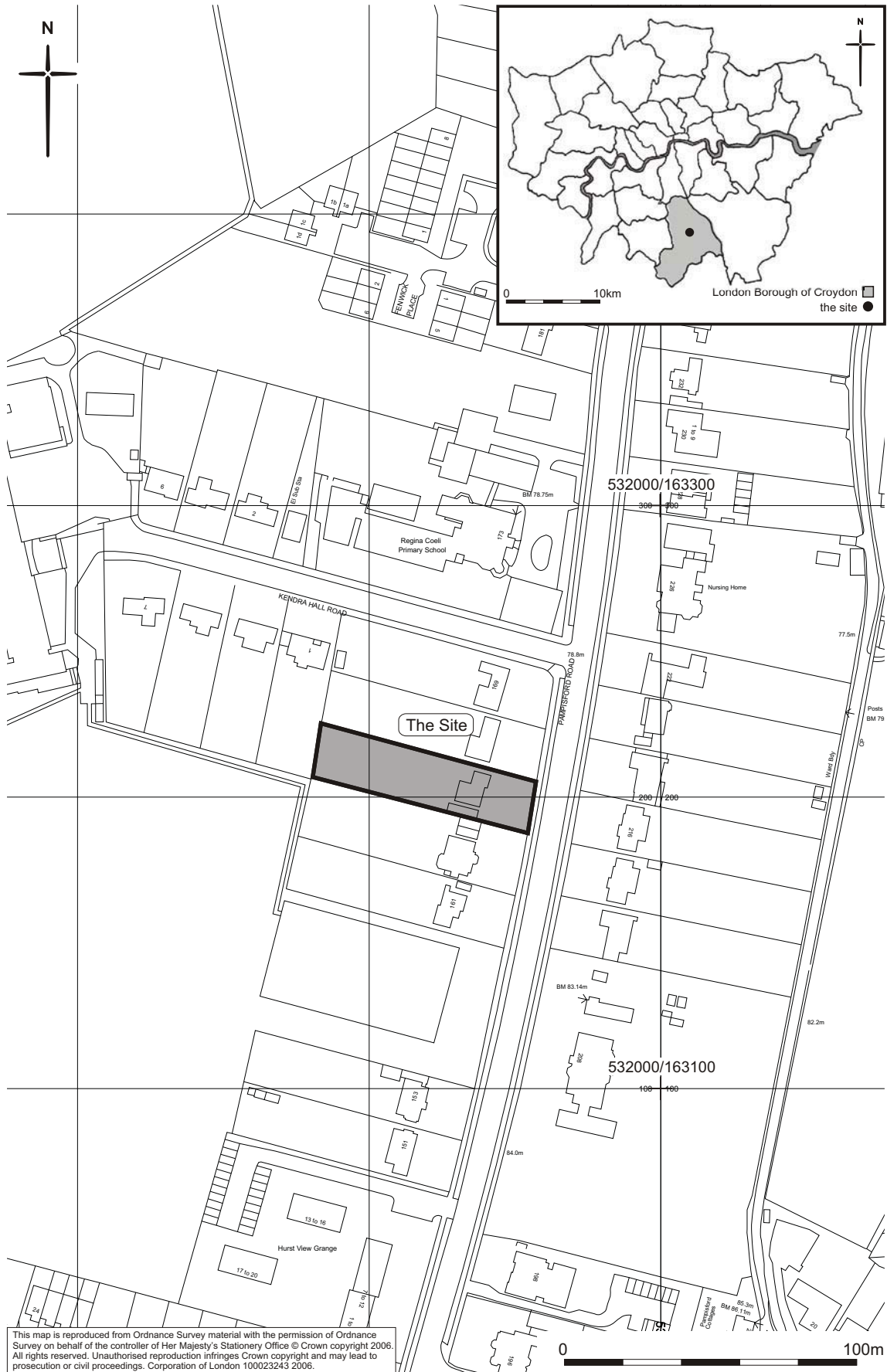


Fig 1 Site location

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

- What was the level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
- What are the latest deposits identified?

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

2 Topographical and historical background

The geological and archaeological backgrounds to the site are described fully in the *Archaeological assessment* (Anthony, 2006) and *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2006).

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (Nielsen, 2006) and the MoLAS Archaeological Site Manual (MoLAS, 1994).

The area of proposed development is a long strip running west from Pampisford Rd. measuring 18m N–S by 76m E–W centred on OS National Grid Reference TQ 531917 163208.

The impact of the development was judged to have a potentially damaging effect upon any archaeological remains on the site, by various forms of foundation trenching and general soil disturbances. This was partly based on the likelihood of the existence of shallow soil deposits over natural geology.

The watching brief commenced with ground reduction in Block B in the western part of the site (Fig 2). The stripping began 11m east of the western property boundary, as this area is located in the rear gardens of the new development where no ground reduction is needed. The stripping was monitored for 38m as far as the foundations of the recently demolished house, as beyond this point there was no potential for archaeological survival.

The ground was reduced to 600mm beneath finished floor level in the new development (80.00 m OD), to 79.40 m OD. This resulted in 0.5 – 0.6 m being stripped from the south side of the site and 0.20 – 0.40 m from the north. The deposits were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.50m toothless grading bucket.

Subsequent monitoring took place during the excavation of the building foundations in the west end of the site. This involved the cutting of footing trenches 0.60 m in width by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator. The trenches were excavated approximately 2.0 m below ground level to a depth of 78.20 m OD.

The excavation of the footing trenches at the eastern end of site for the new block of flats was not monitored. It is located in Block A, the site of the former house, so any archaeological deposits there would have been previously truncated (Fig 2).

A trench for a new sump was not monitored as the ground stripping revealed no features in its vicinity.

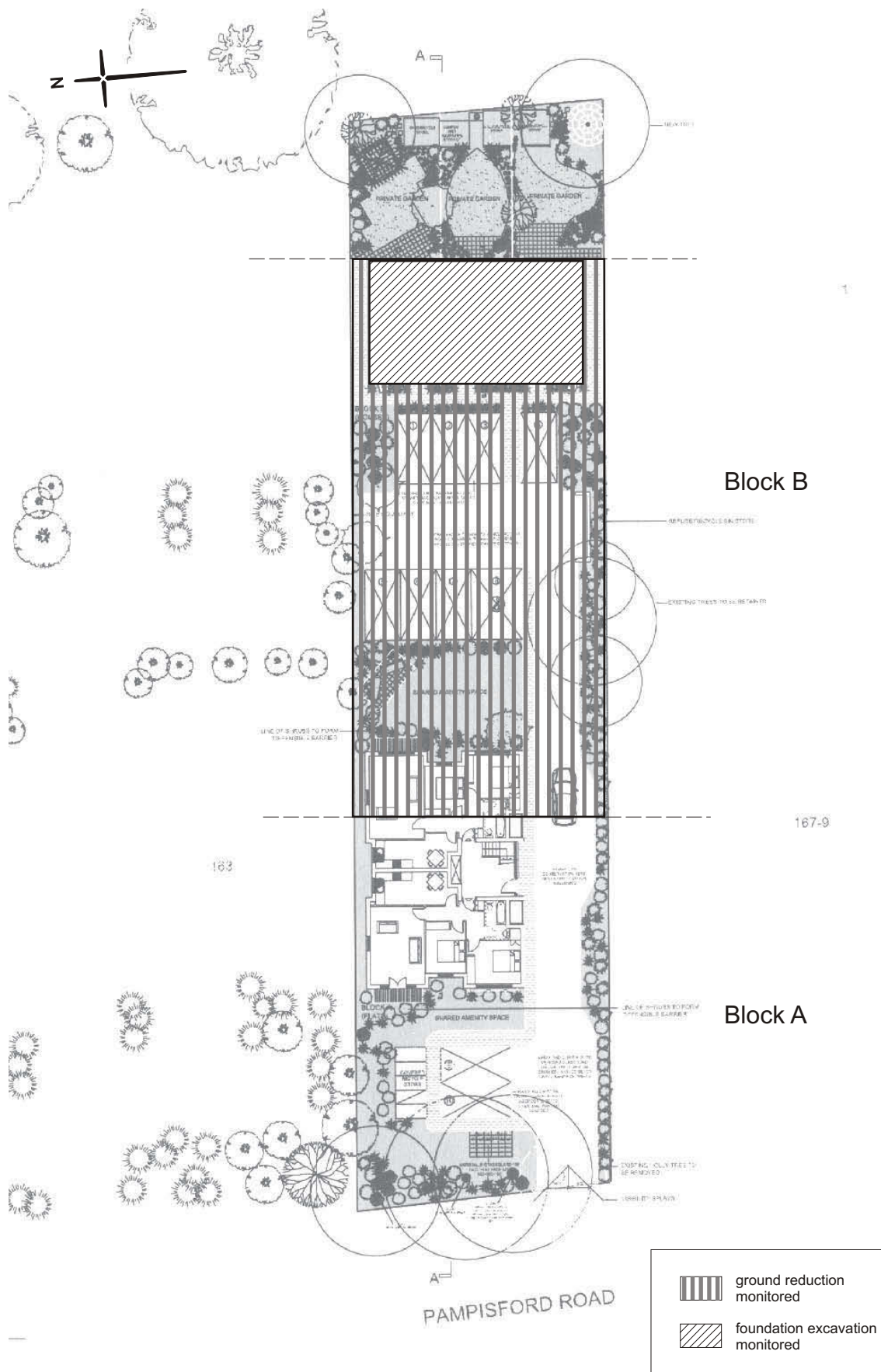


Fig 2 Area of watching brief

3.2 Results of the watching brief

No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the subsoil. This is not unexpected as many nearby sites, including the adjacent properties to the north and south, have also been found to have no surviving archaeological deposits.

Weathered chalk was observed at 79.05 m OD and chalk bedrock at 78.65 m OD.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

What was the level of natural topography?

- Chalk bedrock was observed in the western end of site at 78.65 OD. It probably rises towards the east end of site.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

- No archaeological deposits were found and no residual finds were recovered.

What are the latest deposits identified?

- 20th Century garden features, such as fence posts and gravel pads for patio stones, were found in the rear of the site.

4.2 New research aims

There are no new research aims. The watching brief showed that there was no potential for archaeological deposits on this site. The only surviving undisturbed area is at the western end of site, which has continued potential for residual finds in the colluvium.

4.3 Significance of the data

There were no archaeological remains on the site. The investigation has very limited local significance in the levels on natural substrata observed.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2006) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the very limited potential of the findings (Sections 4) and significance of the data (Section 4.3), it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Conclusions

There were no archaeological deposits observed during the watching brief, nor were any residual finds recovered from the subsoil. This is a similar result to many nearby sites, and is likely to be a result of landscaping undertaken during construction of houses on this part of Pampisford Road.

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Skillcrown Homes Limited for commissioning the archaeological watching brief and report. MoLAS also thanks Mr Salik Osman and Ms Kimberley Allen of Skillcrown Homes for their assistance and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for their advice and help.

8 Bibliography

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

Project details

Project name	165 Pampisford Rd, Croydon
Short description of the project	Watching brief during the ground preparation works for a new development. Involved the monitoring of soil stripping and excavation of house foundations. No archaeological deposits observed and no residual finds recovered from the sub-soils.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2006 End: 29-08-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	HOUSE Modern
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON 165 Pampisford Rd, Croydon

Postcode	CR2
Study area	1362.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 53191 16320 Point
Height OD	Min: 78.65m Max: 78.65m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	MoLAS project manager
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Robin Nielsen
Project supervisor	Christopher Menary
Sponsor or funding body	Skillcrown Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Digital Contents	'none'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	165 Pampisford Rd, Croydon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Menary, C
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	MolAS
Place of issue or publication	London

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