

1 Woodstock Road Croydon London



Archaeological Watching Brief



November 2005

Client: Copithorne Homes

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	2
2.1 Aims	2
2.2 Methodology	2
3 Results	3
3.1 Description of deposits.....	3
3.2 Finds	3
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains	3
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references.....	5
Appendix 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR Archaeological Report Form	6

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Plan of area of watching brief
 Fig. 3 Sections 1-3

SUMMARY

Between November 17th and the 22nd 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 1 Woodstock Road, Croydon, London (NGR: TQ 326 650). The work was commissioned by Copithorne Homes in advance of the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a three storey building and associated parking. The watching brief revealed deposits of worked soil consistent with open fields or burgage plots, overlying alluvial deposits. No significant archaeology was observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between November 17th and 22nd 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 1 Woodstock Road, Croydon, London (NGR: TQ 326 650). The work was commissioned by Copithorne Homes in respect of a planning application for the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a three storey building, vehicular access and associated parking (Planning Application No. 04/04620/P).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Mark Stevenson, the Archaeological Advisor representing the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), setting out the standards and requirements for the archaeological work in line with the GLAAS policy and PPG 16 (GLAAS 2005).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2005).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on level ground and is bounded to the south by Woodstock Road and to the west, east and north by residential properties. The site occupies an area of 378 m² at approximately 60 m above OD. The underlying geology is Alluvium overlying London Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet no 270).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared using a SMR search provided by the GLSMR of sites within a 500 m radius, centred on the sites location, and a summary of this search is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 A series of rescue excavations, carried out during the 1970s and 1990s, on a car park 150 m to the south-west of the development site (ELO197), and reported during the 1990s (CNHS) revealed evidence of archaeological activity dating from the Mesolithic period through to the post-medieval period with finds including flintcores and Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery. In particular, excavations revealed

a single, coffined inhumation dated to the Roman period, and 43 Early Saxon Inhumations at 82-90 Park Lane. The excavators recorded substantial damage to the archaeological deposits during the Victorian development of the area.

- 1.3.3 Further isolated findspots, also dating from the late prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period have been identified further to the west and south. These included Mesolithic worked flints and waste flakes, Bronze Age flint tempered pottery and medieval pottery recovered from a site in Coombe Road, 500 m to the south (MLO5790), (MLO5801) and (MLO5811). Work in Edbridge Road, 250 m to the west produced evidence of 15th-century burgage plots and open fields and a late 17th-century pit (MLO6408). A Roman copper Magnentius was recovered at 107 the High Street, 450 m to the south-west (MLO8916). Two Paleolithic hand axes have been recovered from a site in Park Lane, 40 m to the west (MLO9630). Work between the High Street and Park Lane, 300 m to the west, has produced evidence of medieval field strips (MLO12334). There appears to be a general pattern indicating that archaeological activity is becoming scarce to the west of Park Lane.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development. In particular attention will be paid to the likely presence of inhumations associated with the nearby Anglo-Saxon Cemetery.
- 2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a continuous archaeological presence during any works likely to damage, disturb or remove archaeological deposits. These works included the reduction of the ground level within the site and the excavation of the building foundations.
- 2.2.2 All work was carried out using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1.5 m wide toothless grading bucket during the ground reduction and a 0.6 m wide toothless bucket during the excavation of the footings.
- 2.2.3 A plan of all excavations was maintained at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2) and any sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). The sections and the excavations were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The central area of the site had been heavily disturbed during the excavation and construction of a cellar relating to the now demolished building.
- 3.1.2 Within the western extent of the site a layer of reddish brown sandy clay (6) was encountered at a depth of between 0.9 m and 1.3 m below ground level (Fig. 3, sections 2 and 3). This very clean deposit represents a layer of alluvium. Overlying this deposit in the north-east corner of the site, was a layer of light yellow brown sandy clay (5) (Fig. 3, section 1), in excess of 0.4 m in depth tapering off towards the west. Containing occasional small pebbles this also represents a layer of alluvium.
- 3.1.3 Overlying both 5 and 6 was a layer of reddish brown sandy clay (4), of between 0.15 m and 0.65 m in depth (Fig. 3, sections 1, 2 and 3). This deposit contained numerous small pebbles and represents an alluvial deposit.
- 3.1.4 Sealing this deposit was a layer of dark brown clay loam (3) of between 0.2 m and 0.3 m in depth. This layer produced some charcoal flecking and very small fragments of abraded brick or tile suggesting a layer of worked soil. This was overlaid by a 0.2 m to 0.35 m thick layer of dark grey-brown clay loam (2). This layer contained many fragments of brick and tile identical to material from the demolished building, suggesting it was a mixture of topsoil and construction debris.
- 3.1.5 Overlying this deposit across the northern edge of the site was a layer of grey-brown clay silt (1) 0.18 m to 0.25 m in depth (Fig. 3, section 1). Very mixed in nature and containing lens of redeposited material this was a layer of made ground associated with the demolished building and may represent material cast up when the septic tanks and sewer pipes were installed within this area.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 The only finds recovered during the course of the watching brief were post-medieval in date (19th and 20th century) and included fragments of brick and tile and fragments of transfer printed creamware (“Willow Pattern”) from within layers 1 and 2. These were evaluated on site but were not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The excavations exposed a layer of post-medieval topsoil associated with the now demolished building, sealing an earlier layer of worked soil, which represents a layer

of agricultural or horticultural soil. This is consistent with results shown by other sites within the vicinity which have produced evidence of medieval field strips (Park Lane and the High Street), Burage plots and open fields (Edbridge Road).

- 4.1.2 No evidence for the continuation of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery observed in Park Lane, either in the form of grave cuts, skeletons or charnel was encountered.

APPENDICES**APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.18 m - 0.25 m	Modern made ground	Brick, tile	C19th/C20th
2	Layer	0.2 m - 0.35 m	Modern topsoil	Brick, tile, pottery	C19th/C20th
3	Layer	0.2 m - 0.3 m	Worked soil	-	Medieval/ early post-medieval ?
4	Layer	0.15 m - 0.65 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
5	Layer	0.0 m - > 0.4 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
6	Layer	> 0.4 m	Alluvial sand	-	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

GLSMR 2005 Brief: Archaeological pro-active Observation and Recording, 1 Woodstock Road, Croydon, London

IFA 2001 Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

OA, 1992 Field Manual (ed. D. Wilkinson)

OA 2005 No. 1 Woodstock Road, Croydon, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation, Excavation, **Watching Brief**, Building Recording, Survey,
Geoarchaeological Evaluation, Fieldwalking, Other

2) LOCATION

Borough: Croydon

Site address: 1 Woodstock Road

Site Name: 1 Woodstock Road Site Code: WKR 05

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 3264 6504

Limits of site: N TQ 3264 6505 S TQ 3264 6503

E TQ 3265 6504 W TQ 3263 6504

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeology

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: Mike Sims Project manager: Dan Dodds

Funded by: Copithorne Homes

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started 17th November 2005 Date finished: 22nd November 2005

Fieldwork previously notified? YES/NO

Fieldwork will continue? YES/NO/NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon (pre-AD 1066),
Medieval (AD 1066-1485), Post-Medieval, Unknown

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES Post medieval building, late medieval or early post-medieval
worked soils, field system or burgage plots

7) NATURAL

Type: Alluvial clay

Height above Ordnance datum: 59.3 m

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes x3	PLans x1	PHotos	Ngatives x12
SLides x12	CORrespondence	MScRipts (unpub reports, etc)	
BULk finds	SMall finds	SOil samples	
OTHer			

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location:
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

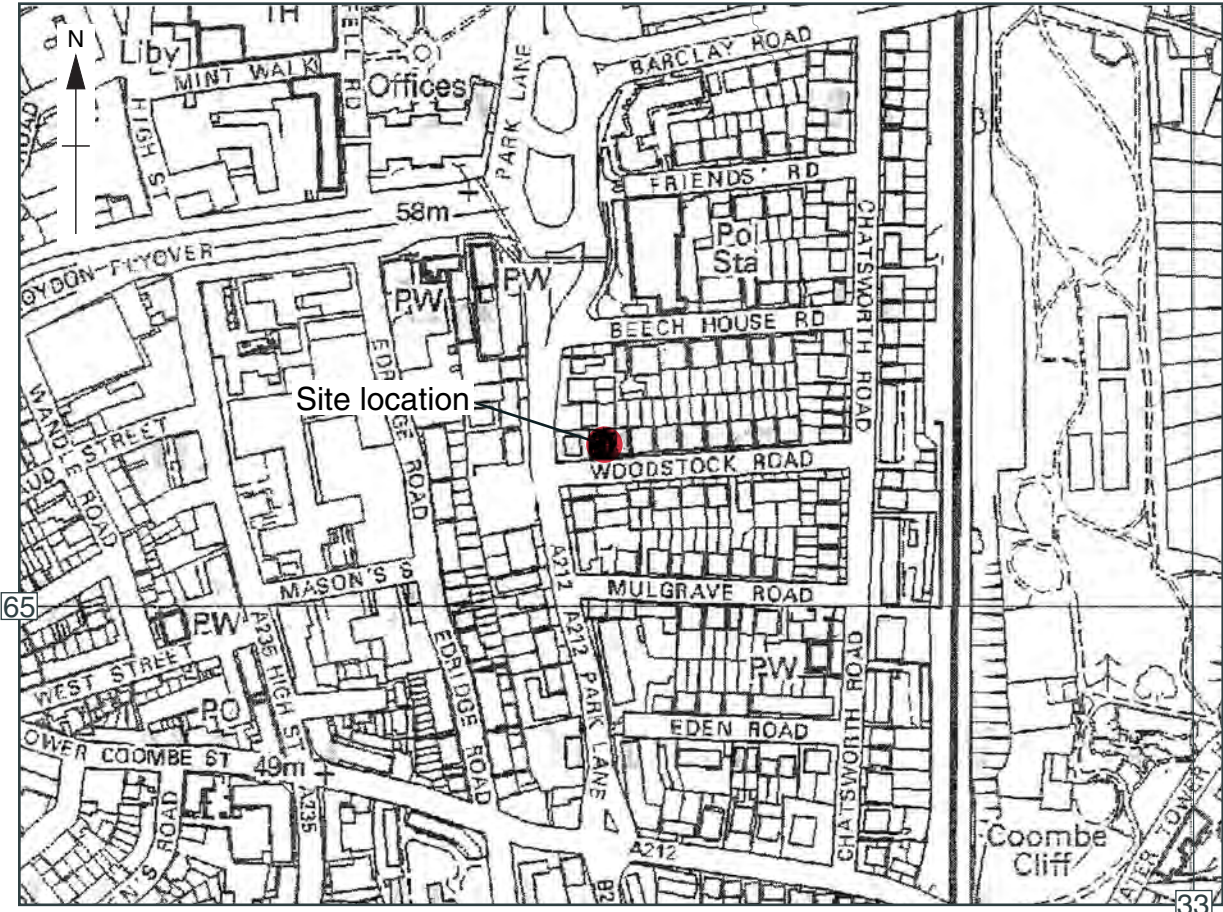
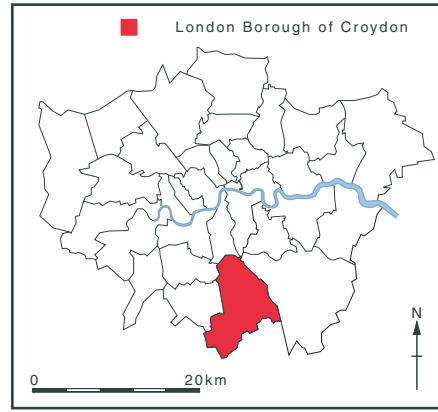
10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Appendix 2 Bibliography and references

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME :



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Figure 1: Site location

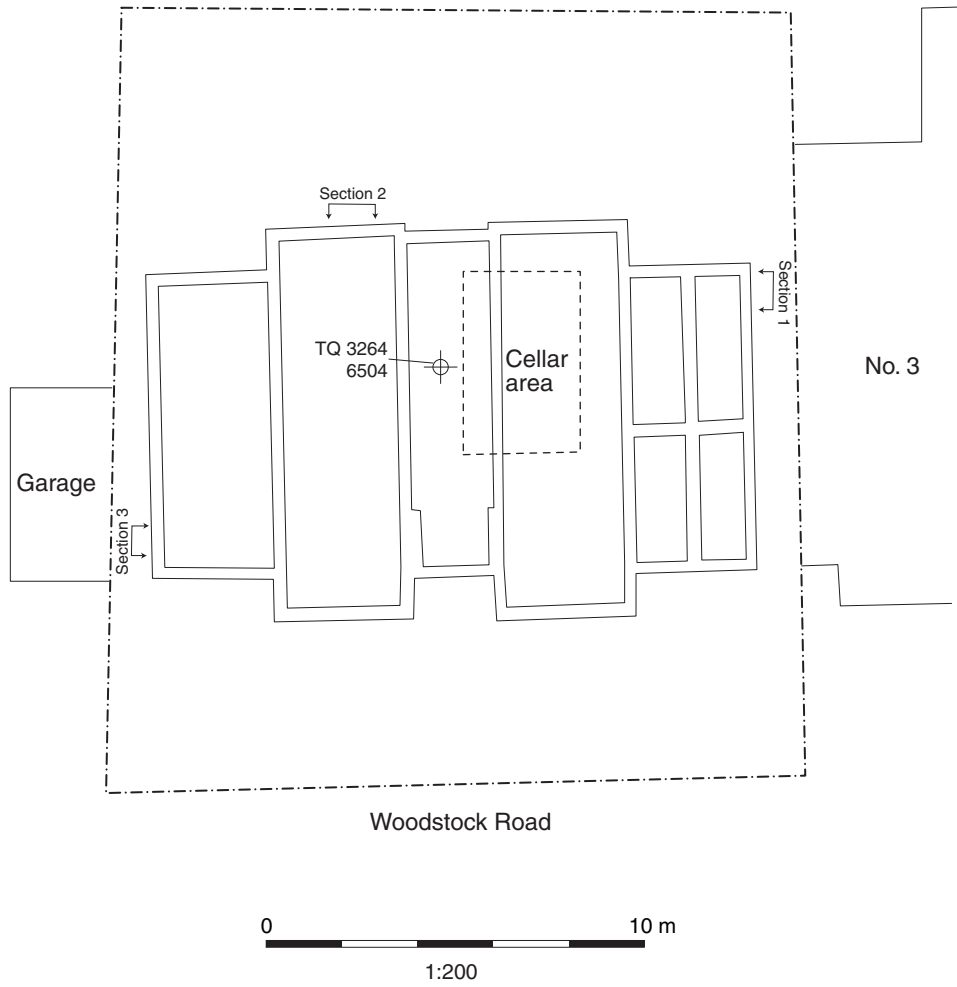


Figure 2 : Plan of area of watching brief

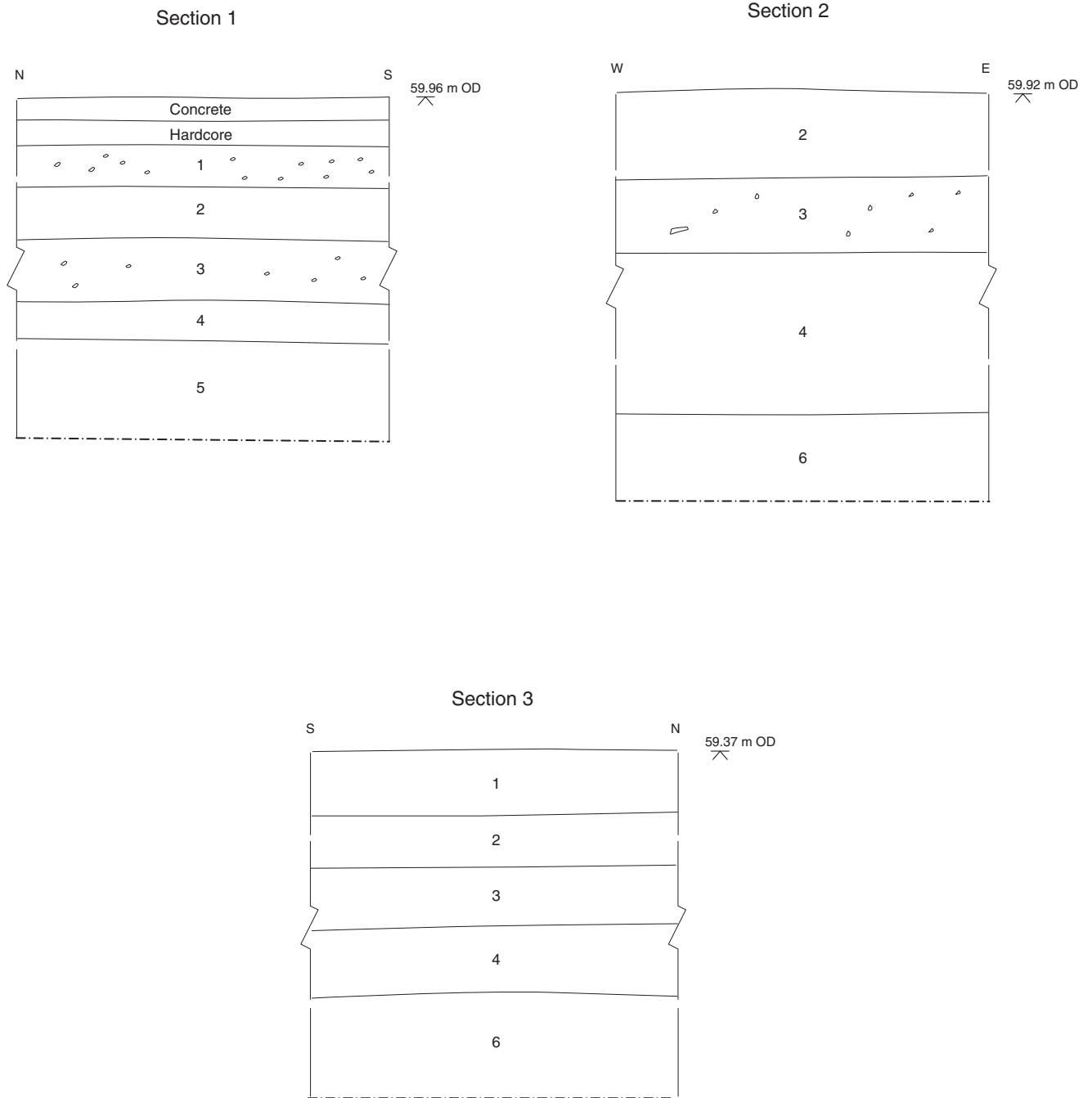


Figure 3 : Sections 1 - 3



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