

No's 5-13 Pampisford Road, Purley: Archaeological Test-Pitting

**5-13 PAMPISFORD ROAD,
PURLEY, SOUTH CROYDON**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST-PITTING

by

Joanne Williams

Site Code: PFD99

Planning Reference: 972145/P

NGR: TQ 3130 6287

May 1999

Report 71

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© Foundations Archaeology
5 Frampton Close, Eastleaze, Swindon SN5 7EN
Tel/Fax 08700 780555 Email Admin@ foundations.co.uk
<http://www.foundations.co.uk>

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GLOSSARY

ARCHAEOLOGY

For the purpose of this report, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains, from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

NATURAL

Defined in archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, e.g. River terrace gravel's etc.

NGR

National Grid Reference, given from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above sea level.

POST-MEDIEVAL

The period following the Medieval period, dating from *c* AD 1500 to the Industrial Revolution.

SMR

Sites and Monuments Record

SUMMARY

In March 1999 Foundations Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation in the form of test-pitting on five domestic properties comprising to No. 5 to No. 13 Pampisford Road, Purley, London. The work was commissioned by Countryside Planning and Management (CPM) on behalf of Bovis Retirement Homes, as a pre-determination condition of planning permission being granted to develop the site.

The results produced evidence of one revetment for a garden terrace dated to the Modern period (*circa* 1930).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological test-pitting carried out in March 1999, on five domestic properties comprising No. 5 to No. 13 Pampisford Road, Purley, London at NGR: TQ 3130 6287 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was commissioned by Countryside Planning and Management Limited (CPM), on behalf of Bovis retirement homes, and was undertaken in support of a planning application for the residential development of the site, as required under Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (planning ref: 972145/P).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological work was conducted according to a Project Design (Foundations Archaeology 1999) based on a specification issued by CPM Ltd. The Project Design was approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (English Heritage) acting as archaeological advisors to the Local Authority. The specification was compiled in line with the '*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*' issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 1.1.4 The study area comprises of approximately 0.43 hectares (1.08 acres) and consists of detached properties with front and rear gardens. The site area is bounded to the west by Purley Way, to the east by Pampisford Road, and to north and south by domestic and commercial properties.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site area lies at about 88m OD and is recorded as overlying Upper Chalk with unclassified terraces in close proximity (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey). The site lies on a slope dropping towards the east.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 An archaeological assessment carried out by CPM showed no recorded archaeological sites Scheduled as Ancient Monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. There were no finds from the study area itself, although the general area is rich in archaeological remains. The site itself was open land up until some point in the 1920's, by which time the present domestic properties had been built. Full details can be found in the CPM assessment (January 1999).
- 1.3.2 There is a Grade II Listed Building called Russell Hill School, which is located about 400m to the north-west of the site area.

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- 1.3.3 Sites and Monuments Records entries relate to three series of finds made in the mid 19th century. These consist of various references to Anglo-Saxon inhumations found in the general area of the southern half of Pampisford Road, about 26m to the south of the site area. The National Grid Reference noted in the SMR that this is only very approximate (within 500m radius) as the information was derived from unspecific 19th century sources.
- 1.3.4 The SMR notes 18th century documentary sources referring to a possible Roman settlement and associated cemetery about 400m to the north-west of the site area.
- 1.3.5 An excavation in 1990, located about 300m to the south-east of the site area produced finds of prehistoric material and Medieval or later ploughsoil deposits.
- 1.3.6 Finds of Prehistoric material ranging from Palaeolithic flint to Bronze Age metal objects have been found in the area surrounding the site.

1.4 Methodology

- 1.4.1 The primary objective of the evaluation was to establish whether archaeological deposits lay within the application area; and if so to determine their extent, date, character and preservation.
- 1.4.2 Five test pits each measuring 2.0m by 2.0m were positioned across the study area in each one of the five houses gardens. The test pits were excavated by hand. Any archaeological deposits encountered were to be planned and recorded to meet the aims stated in the brief. Any archaeological features encountered were to be hand excavated.
- 1.4.3 All artefacts recovered were taken to Foundation Archaeology's offices for cataloguing and analysis.

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 Results

- 2.1.1 Descriptions of each test pits can be found in the Appendix. This section provides an overall assessment of the remains encountered.
- 2.1.2 Each trench yielded a similar stratigraphic sample. The natural consisted of an ochre sandy clay silt which overlies the chalk in places throughout the Purley area. This material was tested to a depth of *c.* 1m in Test Pit 2. Evidence for chalk was only encountered in one test pit (TP1), although this may have been a redeposited layer.

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- 2.1.3 Test pit 1 produced a cut [102] for a revetting wall (106) for a garden terrace which was cut through the topsoil (101).
- 2.1.4 The topsoil comprised of dark brown, well sorted, fine sandy silt. It contained occasional small flint nodules and a great deal of root action. The terrace feature was sealed beneath the topsoil.
- 2.1.5 Finds recovered from the test-pitting comprised a single sherd of 19th century Glazed Red Earthenware recovered from Test-Pit 3, and a 1932 penny recovered from the revetment cut in Test-Pit 1.

3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The only feature encountered during the evaluation was a revetting wall for a garden terrace which was dated to the Modern period.

4. ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The test-pitting produced evidence of a Modern (*circa* 1932) garden feature.
- 4.2 The evaluation methodology adopted has been successful in identifying and characterising the deposits present on the site. This information will be of use should any additional evaluation works be required.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Royston Clark of CPM, and Mr Ken Whittaker of GLAAS (English Heritage).

Thanks also go to the house owners: Mr & Mrs Dixon (No. 5), Dr Pawa (No. 7), Mr & Mrs McKeever (No 9), Mr & Mrs Jones (No. 11) and Mr & Mrs Killick (No. 13)

The fieldwork was carried out by Clare King, Brona Langton, Roger Linnard, Tracy Michaels, Joanne Williams and Iain Williamson, under the direction of Roy King. The report was written by Joanne Williams and the illustrations were drawn by Clare King.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CPM 1999 *5-13 Pampisford Road, Purley, Surrey: An Archaeological Scoping Report*

Foundations Archaeology 1999 *5-13 Pampisford Road, Purley: Project Design*

APPENDIX

Test Pit Descriptions

Note: *Stratigraphic descriptions are given from the earliest to the latest deposits. Cut features are designated by square brackets thus [000], all other deposits/layers are in round brackets; (000). All stated depths are given from present ground level. Heights OD are based on the Ordnance Survey spot heights across the site.*

Test Pit 1.

Test Pit 1 was in the garden of house No. 5.

Natural sandy clay silt was encountered at a depth of up to 0.40m below present ground level. A revetment wall (106) forming an earlier garden terrace was identified in a cut [102] into the natural. The wall was composed of a simple course of Kent Rapstone. The stones were less than 0.05m.thick and only the external face was dressed. The wall was levelled between 87.84m and 87.74m OD.

A sondage was excavated to 0.55m (87.72m OD) below present ground level along the front of the wall. Three distinct layers were identified within the sondage. The earliest of these comprised a disturbed chalk layer that represented either an outcrop of the underlying geology or a redeposited layer. This was sealed immediately by a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam forming an old garden soil (104). This layer was buried beneath a mixed layer of ochre sandy clay silt and mid-brown sandy clay loam (105) representing a dumped material almost certainly deposited to level the upper part of the garden when the swimming pool was constructed.

Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was in the garden of house No. 7. No archaeology was present.

Natural sandy clay silt was encountered at a depth of up to 0.18m below present ground level. A sondage was excavated through this material to a depth of 0.80m (87.20m OD).

Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 was in the garden of house No. 9. No archaeology was present.

Natural sandy clay silt was encountered at a depth of up to 0.21m (87.06m OD) below present ground level at 87.06m OD.

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Test Pit 4

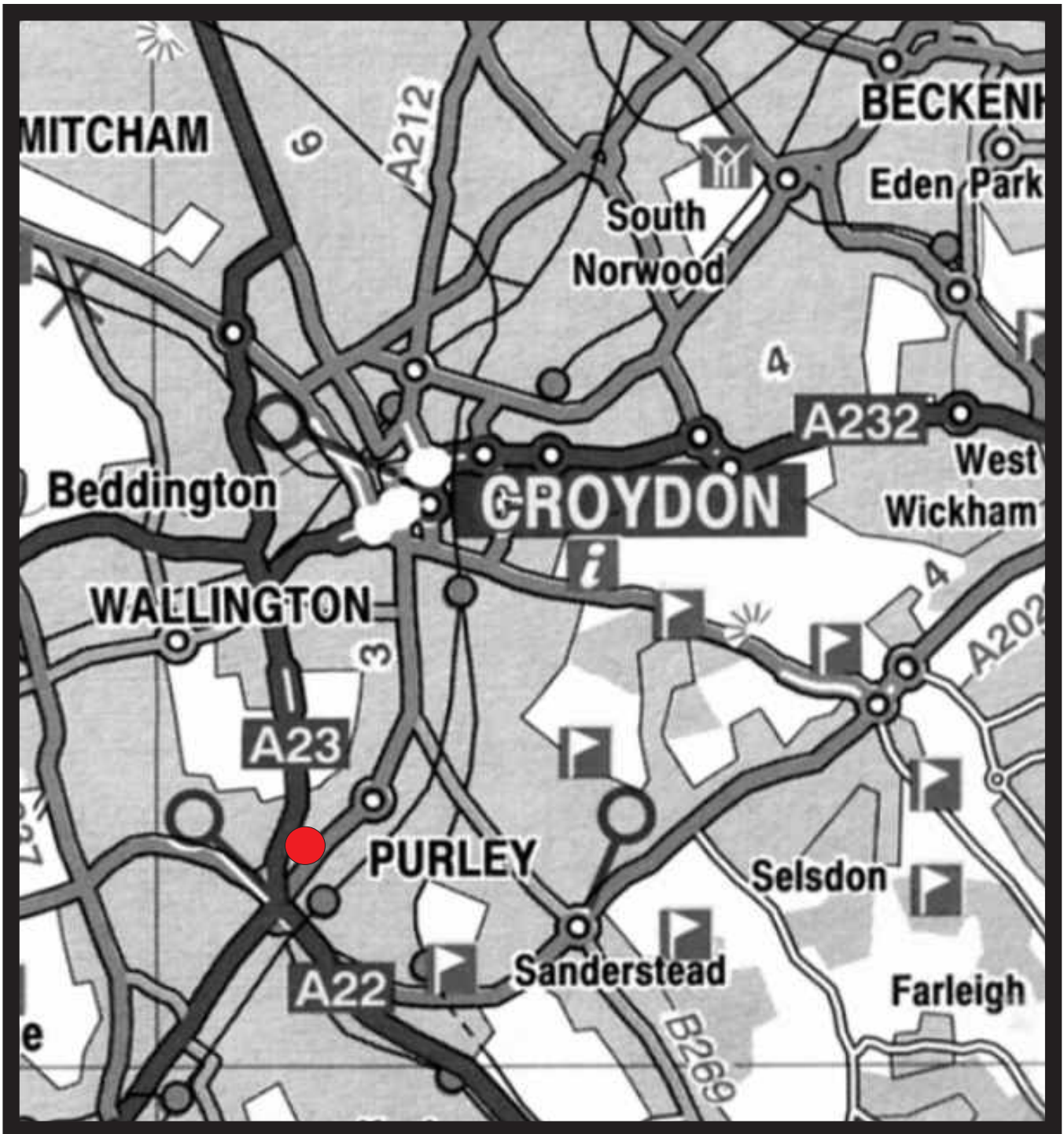
Test pit 4 was in the garden of house No. 11. No archaeology was present.

Natural sandy clay silt was encountered at a depth of up to 0.23m (87.27m OD) below present ground level.

Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 was in the garden of No. 13. No archaeology was present.

Natural sandy clay silt was encountered at a depth of up to 0.25m (87.26m OD) below present ground level.



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 SITE POSITION

FIGURE 1 : Site Position

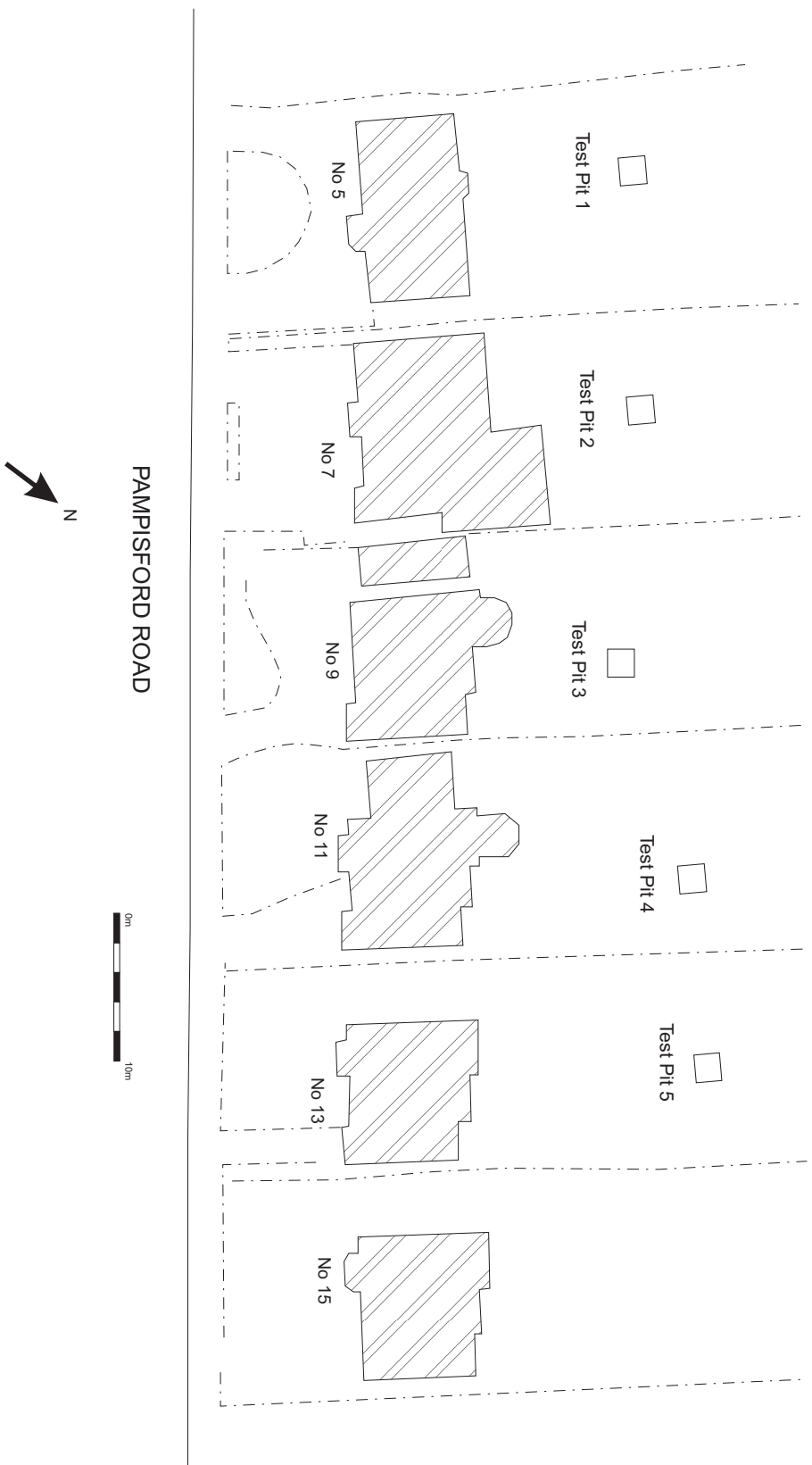


FIGURE 2 : Trench Positions