

Archaeological Priority Areas in Croydon

A total of 30 Archaeological Priority Areas are recommended for Croydon of which eight are Tier 1 APAs, 21 are Tier 2 APAs and one is a Tier 3 APA. The revised APAs would cover approximately 37% of the borough, increasing from 24% previously. A number of former Archaeological Priority Areas are not included in the new list of APAs. This is because following appraisal it was decided that they did not fulfil the selection criteria and have therefore been omitted from the revised list.

Tier 1 APAs	Size (HA)
1.1 Croham Hurst Round Barrow	0.66
1.2 Riddlesdown Road	6.37
1.3 Farthing Down	85.92
1.4 Lion Green Road	3.55
1.5 Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	1.31
1.6 Russell Hill	24.66
1.7 Elmers End	3.97
1.8 RAF Kenley	78.95
	Total = 205.39
Tier 2 APAs	
2.1 Addington and Addington Park	162.19
2.2 Central Croydon	90.25
2.3 Old Coulsdon	14.84
2.4 Sanderstead	37.13
2.5 Watendone	9.09
2.6 Ampere Way	126.69
2.7 Waddon	65.93
2.8 Mere Bank	61.83
2.9 Addington Hills	104.36
2.10 Croham Hurst	82.36
2.11 Pampisford Road	31.49
2.12 Pollards Hill	4.03
2.13 Deepfield Way	1.95
2.14 Hook Hill	14.99
2.15 Cane Hill	79.27

2.16 Ashburton Park	8.54
2.17 Haling Grove	3.97
2.18 Norwood Grove	9.99
2.19 London to Brighton Roman Road	335.35
2.20 London to Lewes Roman Road	37.54
2.21 Croydon 19 th Century Cemeteries	14.35

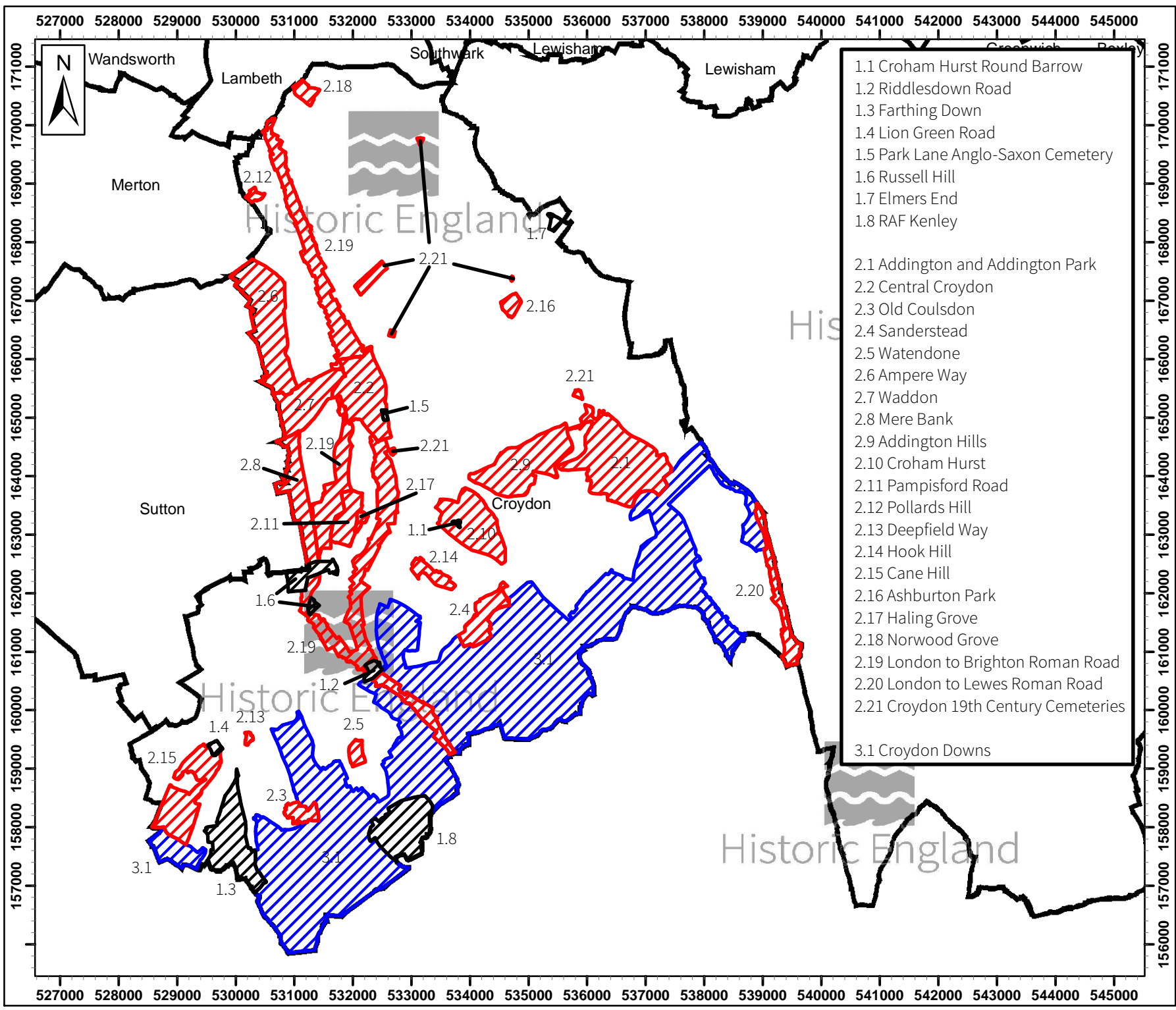
Total = 1296.14

Tier 3 APAs

3.1 Croydon Downs	1672.15
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Total = 1672.15

Total area of all Archaeological Priority Areas in Croydon = 3173.68



Croydon Archaeological Priority Areas

- 1.1 Croham Hurst Round Barrow
- 1.2 Riddlesdown Road
- 1.3 Farthing Down
- 1.4 Lion Green Road
- 1.5 Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery
- 1.6 Russell Hill
- 1.7 Elmers End
- 1.8 RAF Kenley

- 2.1 Addington and Addington Park
- 2.2 Central Croydon
- 2.3 Old Coulsdon
- 2.4 Sanderstead
- 2.5 Watendone
- 2.6 Ampere Way
- 2.7 Waddon
- 2.8 Mere Bank
- 2.9 Addington Hills
- 2.10 Croham Hurst
- 2.11 Pampisford Road
- 2.12 Pollards Hill
- 2.13 Deepfield Way
- 2.14 Hook Hill
- 2.15 Cane Hill
- 2.16 Ashburton Park
- 2.17 Haling Grove
- 2.18 Norwood Grove
- 2.19 London to Brighton Roman Road
- 2.20 London to Lewes Roman Road
- 2.21 Croydon 19th Century Cemeteries

- 3.1 Croydon Downs

Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological Priority Area

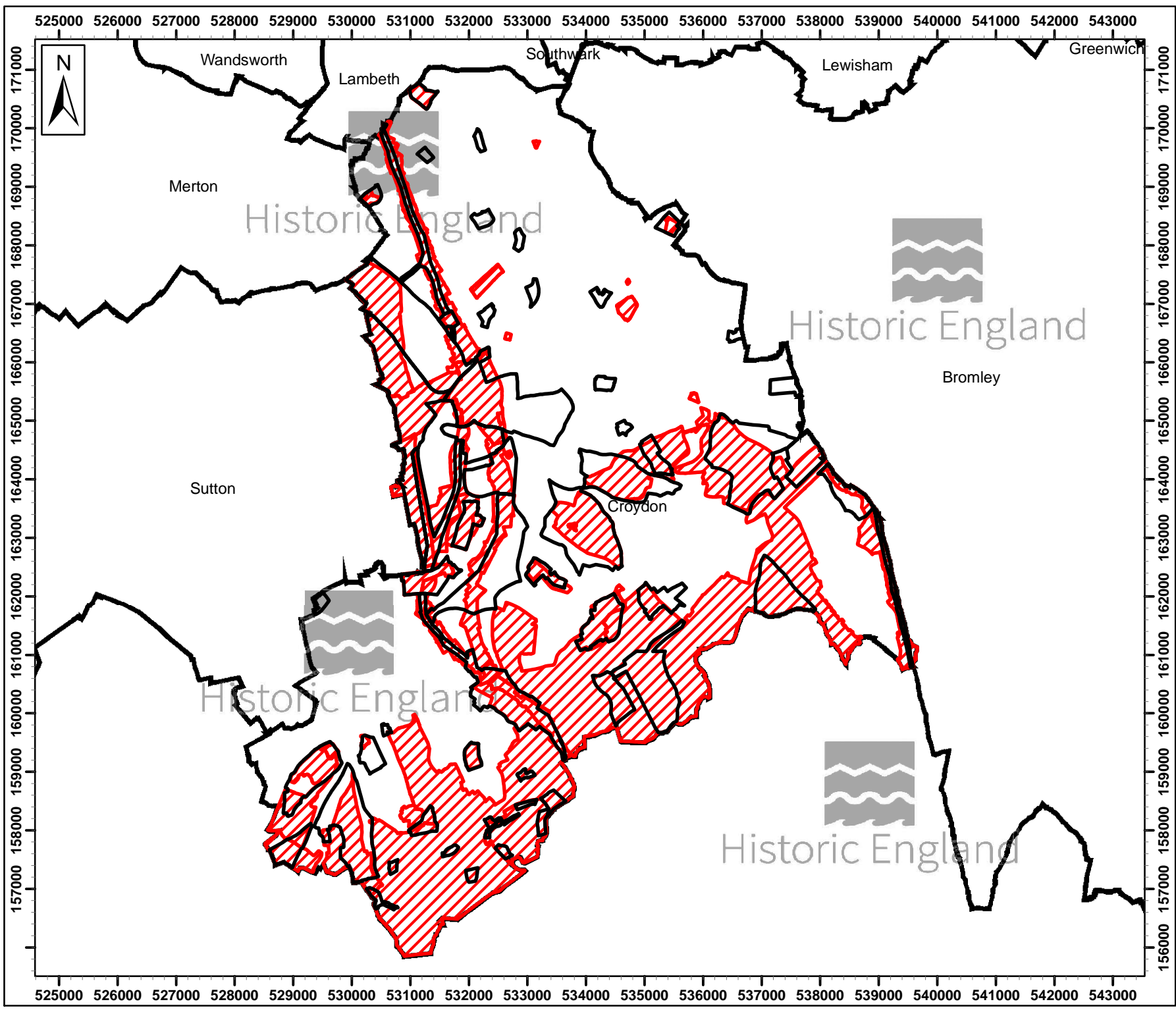
Scale (at A4): 1:85,000

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Croydon APAs and Former Croydon APZs

 Croydon APA

 Former Croydon APZ

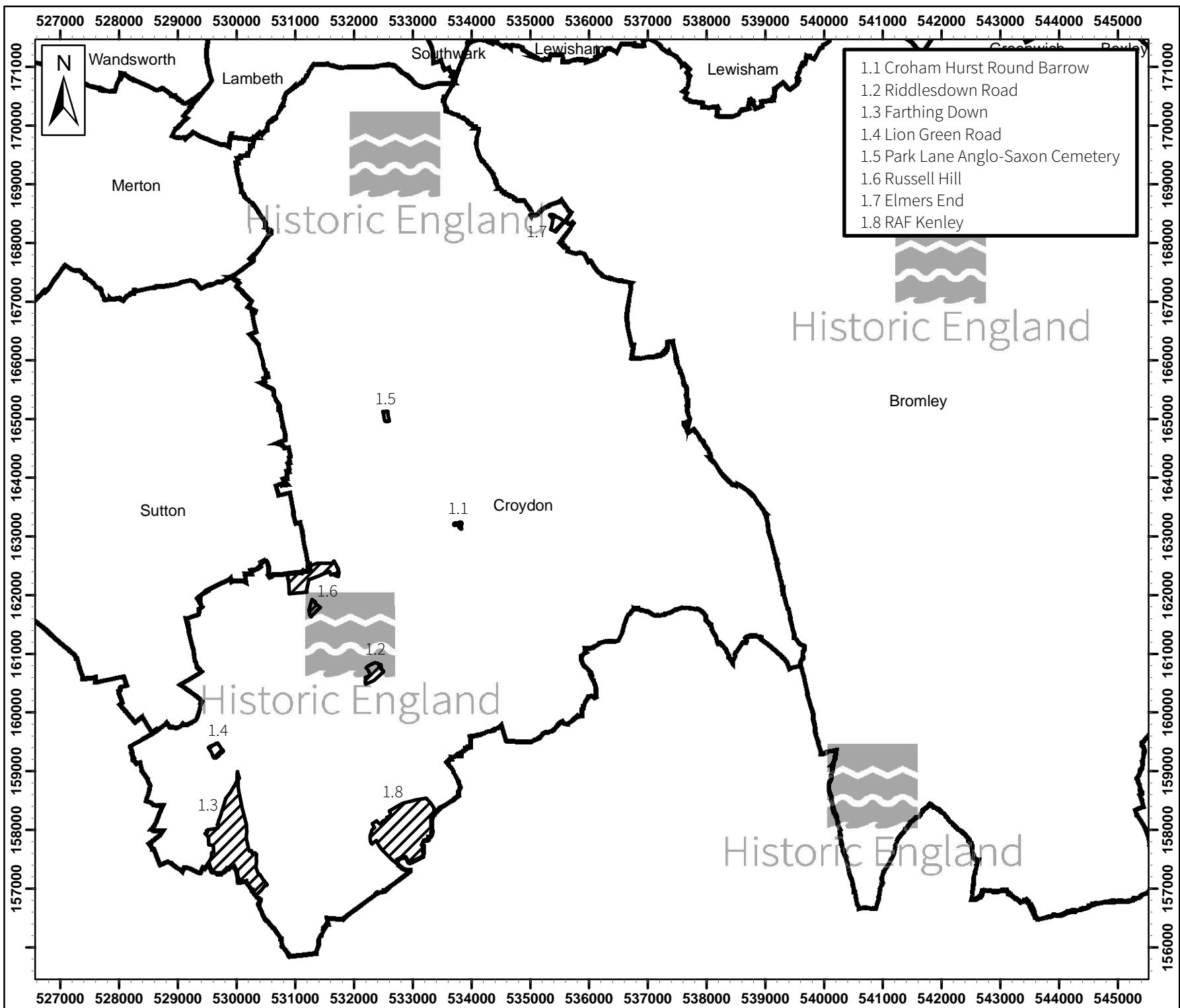
Scale (at A4): 1:85,000

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- 1.1 Croham Hurst Round Barrow
- 1.2 Riddlesdown Road
- 1.3 Farthing Down
- 1.4 Lion Green Road
- 1.5 Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery
- 1.6 Russell Hill
- 1.7 Elmers End
- 1.8 RAF Kenley

Croydon Tier 1
Archaeological Priority Areas

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:85,000

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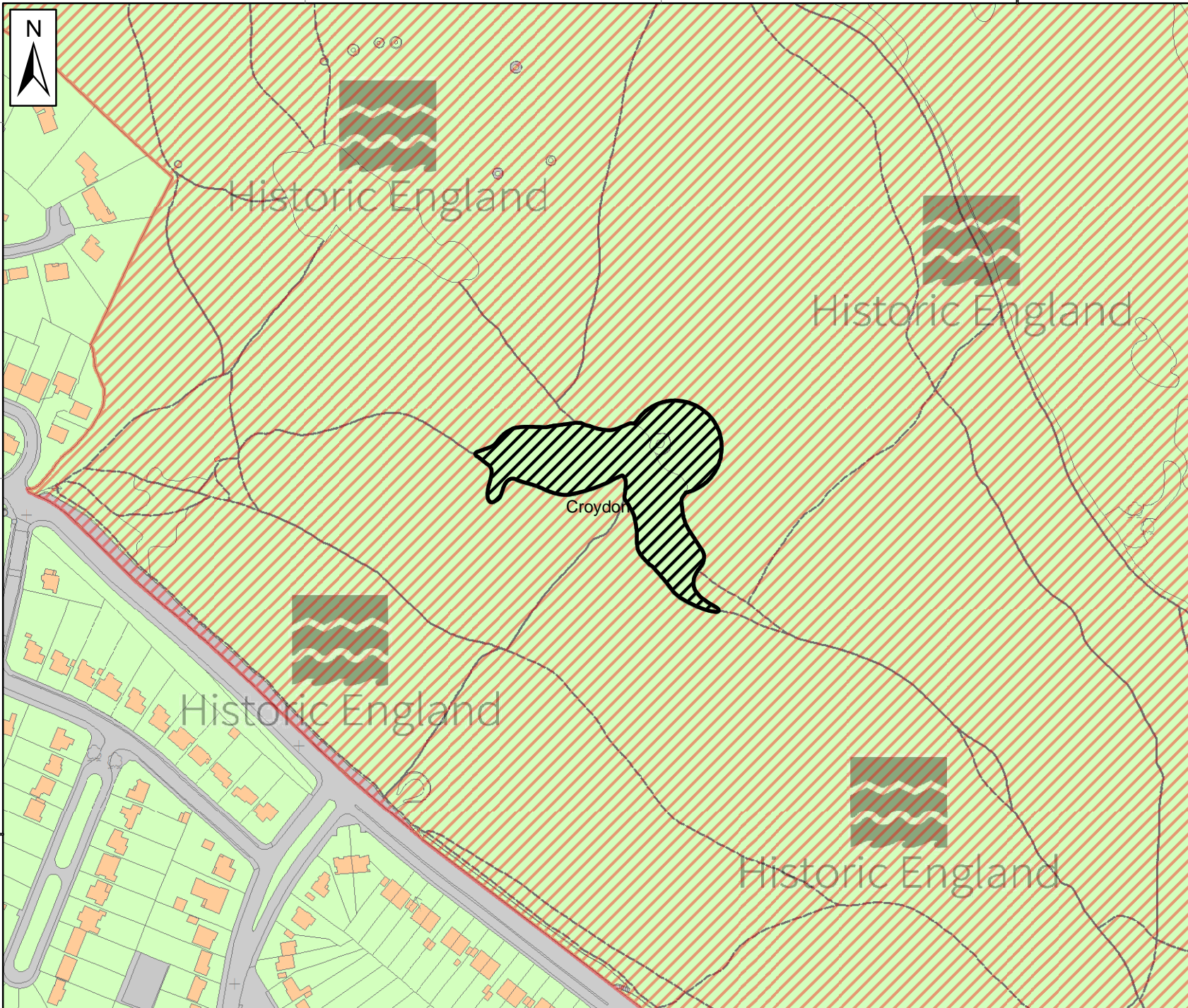
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Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas

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Croydon APA 1.3: Farthing Down	page 31
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Croydon APA 1.5: Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	page 41
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Croydon APA 1.1
Croham Hurst Round Barrow



 Croham Hurst Round Barrow APA

 Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

 Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

 Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:3,000

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Croydon APA 1.1: Croham Hurst Round Barrow

Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers an area at the summit of Croham Hurst which is a ridge that projects from the North Downs. The APA covers Croham Hurst Round Barrow and five hut structures which are thought to be prehistoric, one of which was excavated in 1969. The APA is classed as Tier 1 because the barrow is a Scheduled Monument and the hut structures could be regarded as undesignated assets equivalent to a Scheduled Monument.

Description

The round barrow was not identified until the 1940s and was scheduled in 1951. It has an approximate diameter of 11m and is 0.4m high making it somewhat small and difficult to discern within the landscape. It is a bowl barrow which is the most common type of round barrow, most of which were constructed in the late Neolithic or Bronze Age periods (the majority date from 2200BC-1500BC). A scraper was found in an animal burrow in the side of the barrow which appeared to date from the early Bronze Age. Barrows were often located in prominent positions, such as the Croham Hurst example which is located at the highest point of the hill. Since its identification it has never been thoroughly investigated and it is unknown how many burials are in or around it. Such barrows normally had surrounding ditches created after the earth was extracted to deposit over the burials but no such ditch surrounding the Croham Hurst barrow has been positively identified. However, it is possible that such a ditch has been filled in since the barrow's creation. Later burials could be inserted into the mound or placed around it.

Five sub rectangular enclosures, which are thought to represent former huts, are present to the south-west of the round barrow and appear on the surface as a series of banks. In the late 19th century a collection of approximately 140 flints was found in this area and in 1968 and 1969 these enclosures were examined more thoroughly. One of the huts was excavated and it was found that the banks that were visible on the surface were formed of pebbles and sandy soil and were the remains of turf walls. There was an entrance at the eastern end of the hut and six post holes which would have supported a roof were also uncovered. An earlier hut was found underneath the western side of the hut which also had post holes and a pit which may have been a storage pit or a fire pit. The walls of this earlier hut contained the same material as the walls of the excavated hut and another hut that was partially excavated also had similar walls. It therefore appears that all the huts belonged to the same period.

A large amount of flint was also recovered during the excavation some of which had been worked into tools such as axes, scrapers, awls, burins and arrowheads although the majority of flint fragments appeared to be waste flakes. More than 2400 flints had been subjected to fire, possibly for cooking purposes.

Dating the settlement proved to be problematic because apart from the structures and the flints no other material that could be dated was recovered. The form of the hut structures, the types of flint tools and the absence of any pottery led to the site being tentatively dated to the late Mesolithic period. It is possible that the flints and structures were not contemporaneous and the people working the extracted flint may have lived elsewhere. It is therefore unclear if any form of settlement was present on Croham Hurst when the barrow was created.

A sample of charcoal from the fire pit found in one of the excavated huts was sent for radiocarbon dating and gave a result of the early 9th century AD during the Anglo-Saxon period. This is problematic since no other Saxon material has been found on Croham Hurst and the hut structures and flints do not appear to date from the Saxon period. It is possible that the charcoal sample had been contaminated in some way which led to an erroneous result. Nevertheless the 9th century date cannot be ignored when considering the potential age of the settlement.

Significance

The site is significant because of the barrow and potential late Mesolithic settlement. Many prehistoric finds have been made across the North Downs in Croydon but few prehistoric settlements have been positively identified. Known late Mesolithic settlement sites are extremely rare in England so if the Croham Hurst site was confirmed to belong to that period it would be a particularly important example. The Anglo-Saxon radiocarbon date is problematic because it does not corroborate with the evidence that was gained from the excavations in the 1960s and has therefore been doubted. However, if the settlement was Anglo-Saxon it is still an important example of a small Saxon settlement that could be judged equivalent to a Scheduled Monument.

Bronze Age barrows are relatively rare in London and only 20-30 examples are known so the one at Croham Hurst is important. It demonstrates the burial practices of the period and possibly the social importance of the occupants. We know little about the barrow but any invasive excavation would damage the site. It may not have had any sort of relationship with the nearby settlement, which may have been abandoned by the time the barrow was

constructed, but together they are both important examples of their types and justify the APA's Tier 1 status.

Key References

Extracts from the Bulletins of 1968, P. L. Drewett, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 66, 1968

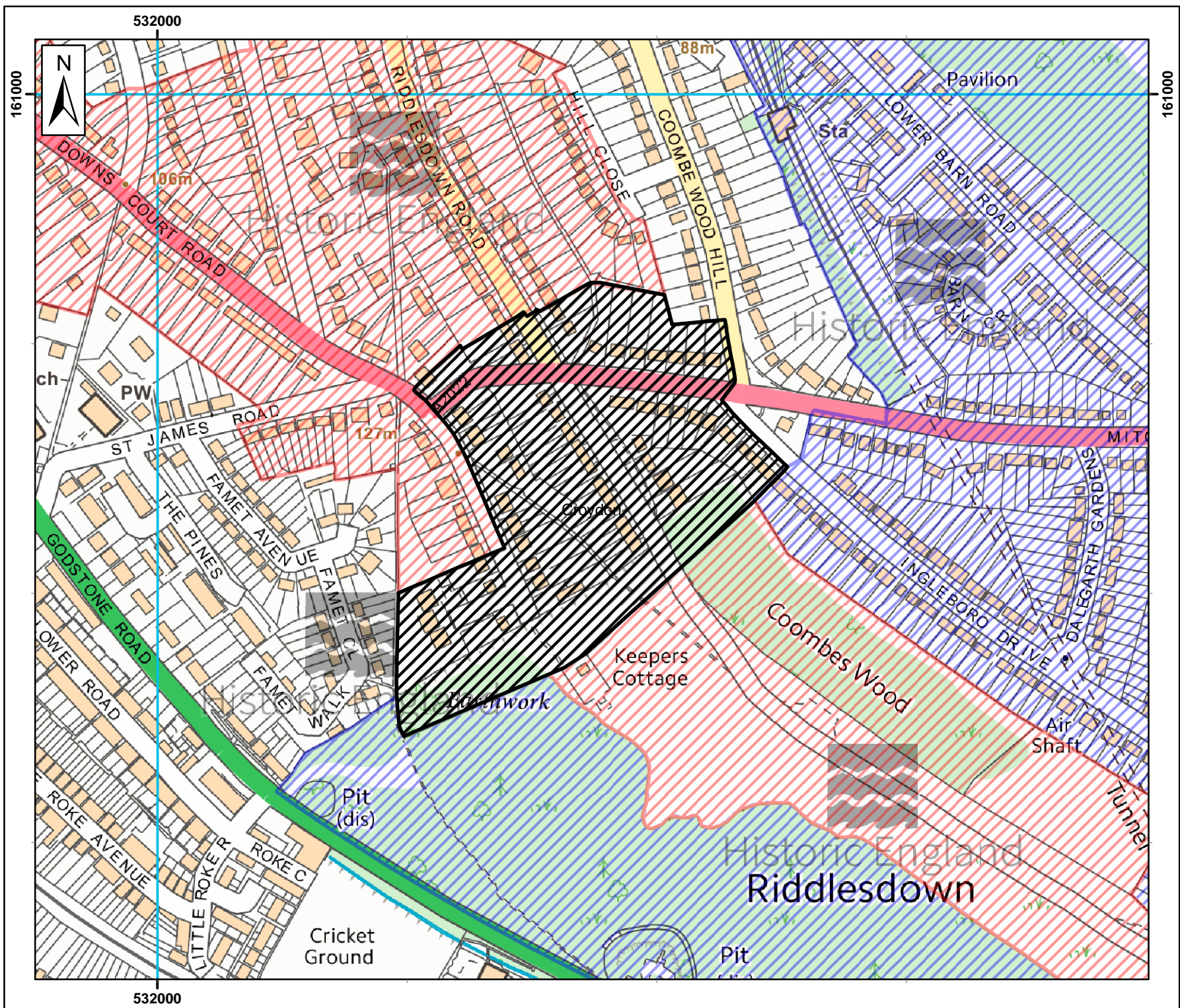
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Recent Work on Croham Hurst, P. L. Drewett, London Archaeologist, Vol. 1, No. 6, 1970





The Excavation of a Turf-Walled Structure and other Fieldwork on Croham Hurst, Croydon, 1968/69, P. L. Drewett, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 67, 1970

Guide to Local Antiquities, M. Farley, The Bourne Society, 1973

A newly-discovered Round Barrow on Croham Hurst near Croydon, B. Hope-Taylor, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 49, 1946



Croydon APA 1.2
Riddlesdown Road

-  Riddlesdown Road APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

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Croydon APA 1.2: Riddlesdown Road

Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers Newe Ditch which is a Scheduled Monument and an area surrounding Riddlesdown Road and its junction with Mitchley Avenue where Anglo-Saxon burials have been found. The APA is classed as Tier 1 because it covers a Scheduled Monument while the Saxon burials are part of a cemetery that is an undesignated asset judged equivalent to a Scheduled Monument.

Description

Newe Ditch is a bank and ditch that runs in a south-west to north-east direction across the north-western edge of Riddlesdown. The scheduled area covers the bank and ditch between Riddlesdown Road and Famet Close, a length of approximately 200 metres. However, the scheduled area should not be regarded as the limit of the ditch's extent since it continues beyond Riddlesdown Road into Coombes Wood. There are a number of other linear features on Riddlesdown which are less discernible which include a ditch that runs along the north side of a footpath that emerges from Famet Close and another ditch which runs downhill from Downs Court Road. It is possible that all these were once part of a single interconnecting feature of which the Newe Ditch is the most obvious visible part.

The precise age of the ditch has never been conclusively established although it has often been referred to as a Bronze Age feature. Its purpose is also unclear. It is situated to the north-west of the highest part of Riddlesdown where a prehistoric settlement may have been located and it may have been part of an enclosure for that settlement. However, no trace of such a settlement has been found and neither has any other part of the ditch and bank although various other ditches on Riddlesdown may have been different parts of an encircling feature. Since it is not high enough to serve any meaningful defensive purpose it may have been constructed as a territorial boundary marker.

On an OS map from 1868 the ditch is marked as "Newedich or Widedich" and consists of three sets of banks and ditches but on this map the feature is not shown continuing further north-east into Coombes Wood. By the 1930s two of the three sets of banks and ditches had been removed by housing built along Riddlesdown Road and Downs Court Road although traces of the banks and ditches may still exist in the gardens of these houses.

At least eight skeletons were found when Mitchley Avenue and Riddlesdown Road were being constructed in the late 1920s. They were between what is now the junction

between the two roads and the gardens of 154, 156 and 158 Riddlesdown Road. A knife was found with one of the burials which dated them to the Saxon period although few other grave goods were recovered which could indicate that these burials were Christian. Further burials have since been discovered including three from the garden of 119 Riddlesdown Road. In April 2014 a number of human bones were recovered from underneath the front driveway of 176 Riddlesdown Road during building work and were radiocarbon dated to between 670 and 775 AD.

It therefore seems clear that an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located in what is now Riddlesdown Road although its precise extent is unknown and would be difficult to establish. Other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been found in high areas of Croydon such as Farthing Down although whether the Riddlesdown Road burials had any relationship with Newe Ditch is unknown. The potential Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Russell Hill is situated close to Mere Bank which may be another prehistoric boundary feature and perhaps these Saxon burials were also placed here because of the proximity to Newe Ditch.

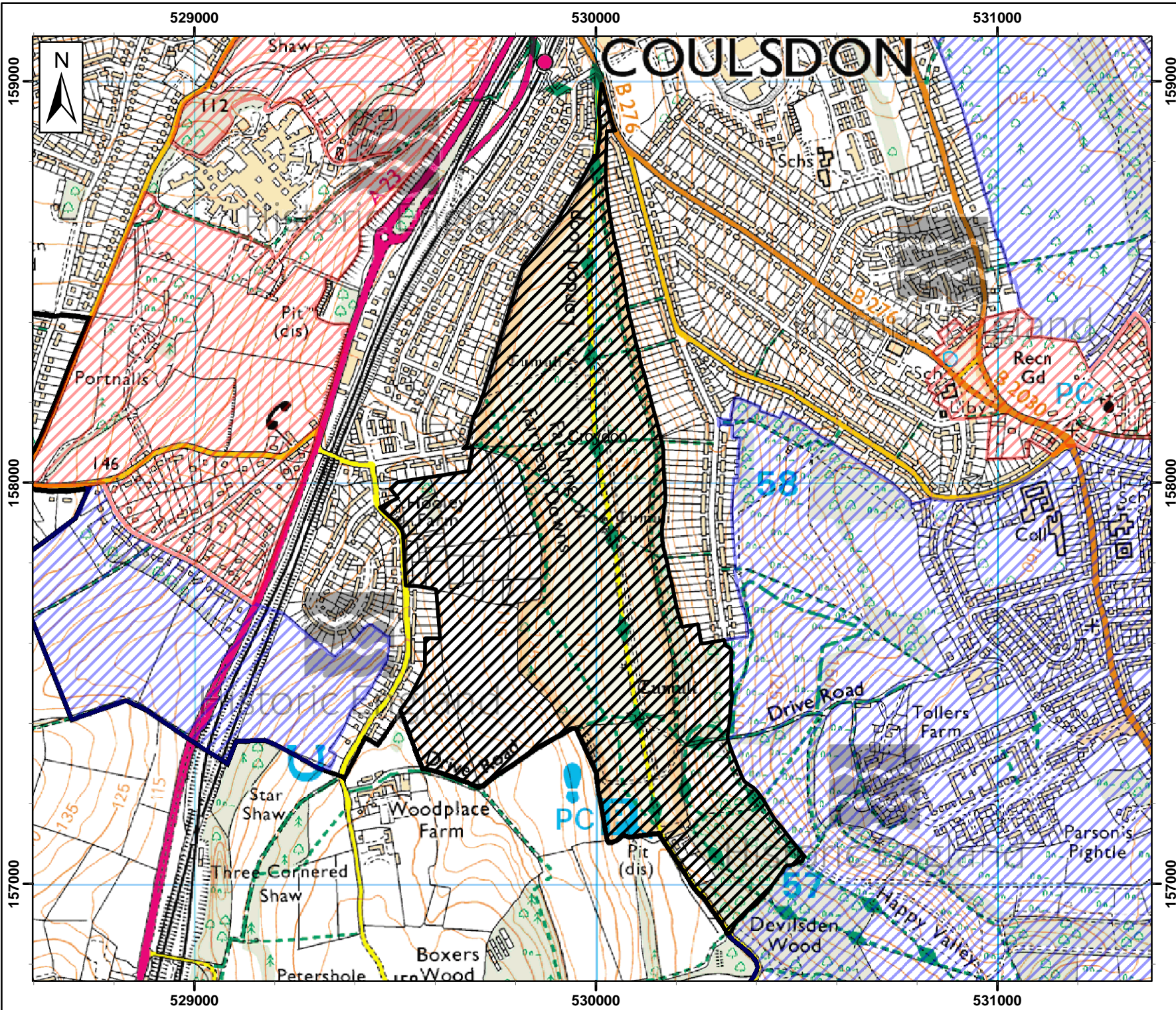
Significance

Newe Ditch is a significant visible feature within the landscape worthy of scheduling. Its precise purpose and age is currently unknown but understanding its relationship with other features on Riddlesdown may help to clarify its role and what sort of prehistoric activity it may have been related to. While the Newe Ditch and Anglo-Saxon cemetery may not have been contemporaneous the siting of the cemetery here may still have been linked to the ditch and its potential role as a boundary marker. Further burials close to Riddlesdown Road are possible which could provide information on the people being buried there. This information could also reflect the religious beliefs, social hierarchy and the general health of the local population during the Anglo-Saxon period. Further burials may also help to establish the limits of the cemetery and the potential burial population.





Key References

Guide to Local Antiquities, Michael Farley, The Bourne Society, 1973

Anglo-Saxon Surrey, J. Morris, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 56, 1959



Croydon APA 1.3
Farthing Down

-  Farthing Down APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Croydon APA 1.3: Farthing Down

Summary and Definition

The Farthing Down Archaeological Priority Area covers the entirety of the Farthing Down Scheduled Monument and areas on its western and eastern sides. The North Downs have produced multiple prehistoric features and finds and was clearly an active prehistoric landscape. Farthing Down is no exception and finds dating from all prehistoric periods have been found in the APA. Farthing Down is particularly noteworthy for the Iron Age/Romano British field system and Saxon burial grounds that are located there. The APA is classified as Tier 1 because it covers the site of a Scheduled Monument and adjacent archaeological remains directly associated with it.

Description

Farthing Down is a flat topped ridge that projects from the North Downs with relatively steep slopes on its western, northern and eastern sides. Prehistoric finds include flints from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, pottery fragments dating from between the Bronze Age and Roman periods and a number of tools such as axes and a razor. No trace of a prehistoric settlement has been found on Farthing Down but it is possible that some sort of settlement was located nearby. A path that is thought to have originally been a prehistoric trackway running from north to south along the top of the Down is closely followed by the modern road. The finds do suggest that some form of activity was taking place but it is not clear if the activity related to settlement or other activity alongside the trackway.

The chalk on Farthing Down is overlaid by a light free draining soil which would have made the area suitable for early agriculture. A field system has been identified along the summit of Farthing Down on either side of the trackway which is typical of the Romano-British period. Earth banks projecting from either side of the trackway created enclosures that were presumably used for farming and some of these banks are still identifiable. The large amount of pottery dating from between the 1st century BC and mid-2nd century AD has led to the conclusion that this was the period when the field system was in use. No contemporary settlement associated with the field system has been identified on Farthing Down but one may have been located nearby and it is possible that the fields were farmed by more than one community.

A number of Saxon burial mounds are located on Farthing Down in three distinct clusters from north to south along the trackway which are identified on modern maps as tumuli. The northernmost group of barrows is situated near the top of the northern slope of

the Down and has the largest amount of barrows. Another smaller group of barrows is located approximately 400m to the south while two isolated barrows are located 350m further south. Excavations during the 1870s examined 16 barrows while a survey in 1931 counted 14 identifiable barrows which varied in diameter between 3.7m and 12.2m and none were more than 0.6m high. However, a survey in 2011 found there to be a total of 15 visible barrows (nine in the northern group, four in the central group and two in the southern group). It is difficult to account for this discrepancy which makes it difficult to state precisely how many barrows there once were. However, due to the relatively low height of the barrows it is possible that some were not noticed during earlier surveys or the intrusions of previous excavations may have made them less visible within the landscape.

A number of excavations have taken place since the 18th century and all the barrows appear to have been investigated at some point. Little is known about the first excavation that took place in the 18th century but it appears that one or two of the barrows were opened and the skeletal remains were removed. A far more thorough excavation took place in the 1870s. During this excavation 16 of the barrows were excavated and a number of skeletons and grave goods were found which included silver pins, a knife blade, an iron spear, a bucket, a gold medallion, a bronze buckle and a drinking cup with bronze fillets. One barrow contained the skeleton of a 6ft 5in man, an iron sword and an impressive iron shield boss which appeared to indicate that the person was someone of importance. Most of the human remains were left in the barrows while the grave goods were sent to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and helped to date the barrows to the 7th century. The impressive nature of the grave goods and relatively low number of barrows may indicate that only people of high rank within the local community were being buried on Farthing Down. The location of the nearest Saxon settlement is not known but it is possible that it was in the area now known as Old Coulsdon to the east which is mentioned in a charter dating from the late 7th or early 8th century.

Another grave, which had not been placed in a barrow, was found unexpectedly in 1939 by workmen digging a cable trench. An excavation in 1948 found that it was one of a series of six graves located approximately 60ft from the nearest barrow. Three of the graves contained young children who were approximately two years old and a small iron spear was found in one of the children's graves. Another grave was excavated in 1949 which contained the bodies of a young man, a boy who was approximately 12 years old and a middle aged woman who appeared to have been thrown into the grave after the other two burials had been laid there. Objects found from all these graves included pins, beads, a comb, shears, iron knives and a miniature spear which helped to date the graves to the mid-7th century which makes them contemporaneous with the barrows. The fact that these burials had not been placed in barrows suggests that the occupants may have been of a different social

status. The 1948/1949 excavations also re-examined four of the barrows that had been excavated in the 1870s and found the skeleton of a child that had not been found during the earlier excavations.

Little activity appears to have taken place on Farthing Down during the medieval and post medieval periods and on the Rocque map of Surrey from the 1760s it is shown as an open area presumably used for grazing. It therefore retains a historic landscape that has seen little change since at least the medieval period. During the Second World War 24 anti-glider trenches were cut across Farthing Down in order to prevent enemy aircraft from landing there. A large quantity of late Iron Age and early Roman pottery fragments were found in these trenches, which helped to date the field system, and two late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flint axes were also found. Excavations in 2005 and 2006 recovered Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint flakes and pottery fragments dating to between the late Bronze Age and early Roman periods.

Significance

Farthing Down is an area of open downland which represents a significant survival of historic rural landscape on the outskirts of London. The field system and Saxon burials justify its status as a Scheduled Monument and as a Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area. The Celtic field system demonstrates how local people were farming the land in the late prehistoric and early Roman period while the Saxon burials reflect the beliefs and burial customs of the local community during the 7th century.

The barrows and the unmarked burials show that Farthing Down had become a commemorative site in the Anglo-Saxon period and was part of a network of cemeteries along the Wandle Valley along with sites at Cane Hill, Croydon, Beddington, and Mitcham. Differences in the orientation of the burials and the presence of grave goods may reflect the pagan or Christian beliefs of the local population. The graves may mark a cross over period in beliefs where important people, such as the man buried with the iron sword and shield boss were still being buried with grave goods even if they were Christian. The 7th century was a period when Christianity was being re-introduced to the South-East of England and the Farthing Down burials may reflect a transitional period of conflicting beliefs.

The chance find of an unmarked Saxon burial in 1939 demonstrated that non barrow burials were present on Farthing Down and more may still be present. If more Saxon burials with associated grave goods were found in the future they would further enhance our knowledge of the people buried there and their associated customs and beliefs.

The Second World War remains are illustrative of anti-invasion precautions used to counter potential airborne landings that were anticipated as part of a German invasion using new blitzkrieg tactics.

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Celtic Agriculture in Surrey, B. Hope-Taylor, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 50, 1949

Excavations on Farthing Down, B. Hope-Taylor, The Archaeological News Letter, Vol. 2 No. 10, 1950

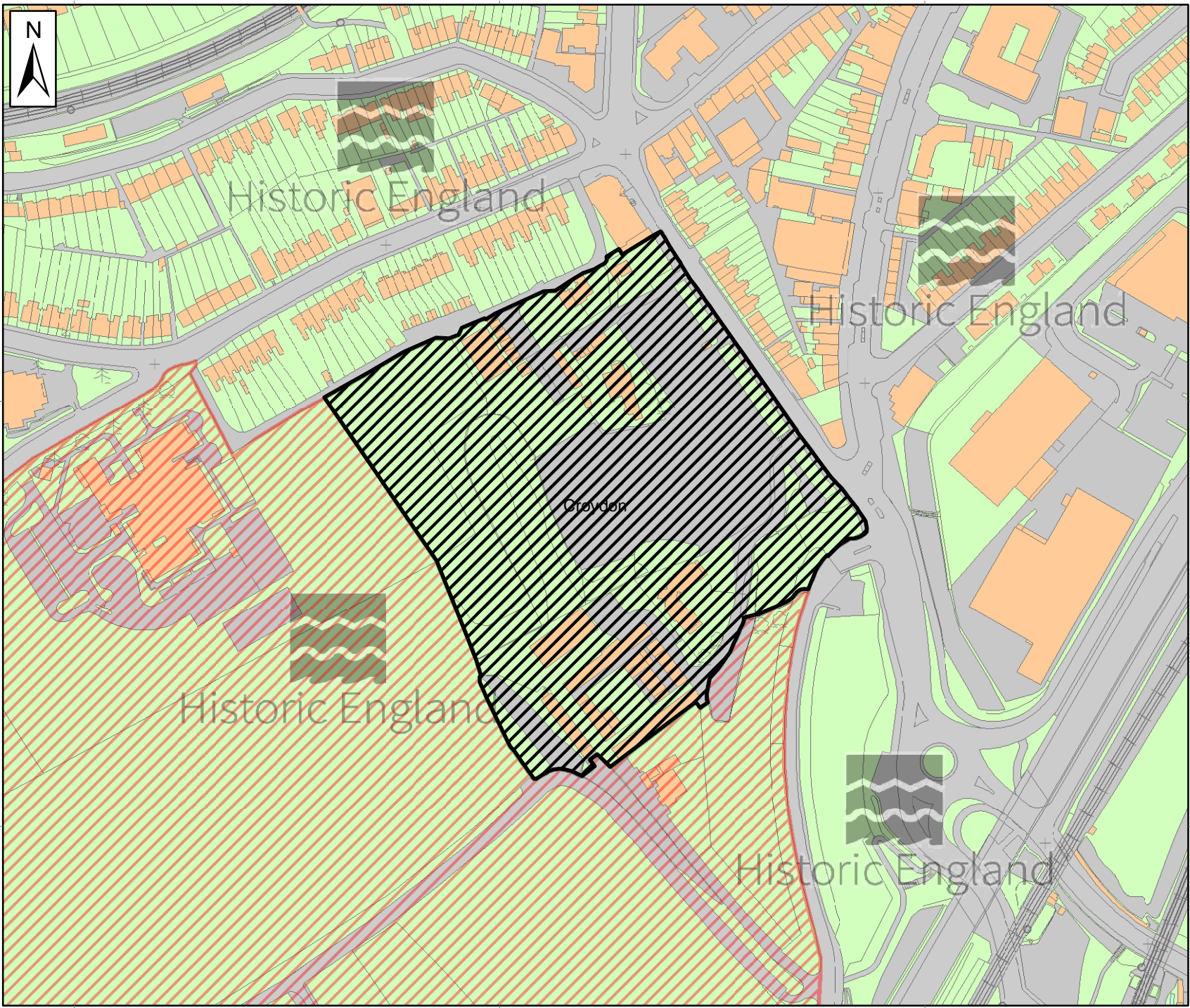
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Croydon APA 1.4
Lion Green Road

 Lion Green Road APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Croydon APA 1.4: Lion Green Road

Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area is situated to the west of Lion Green Road. A large part of the APA is currently occupied by a car park next to Sovereign House where a number of Anglo-Saxon burials were found during excavations in 1912-13 and 2015. A scheduled railway embankment which was built as part of the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway in the early 19th century is also within the boundaries of the APA. The APA is classed as Tier 1 because the Saxon burials that have been found are part of a cemetery that could be judged equivalent to a Scheduled Monument.

Description

In 1873 a number of skeletons were found in the Cane Hill area along with grave goods which could date them to the Anglo-Saxon period. Records of the 1873 excavations have been lost along with the grave goods but for a long time it was thought that the burials had been found near Cane Hill hospital during the earliest stages of its construction. However, it is now thought that rather than being found at the Cane Hill hospital site the burials were actually found near Lion Green Road.

Up to 11 further burials were found during an excavation in 1912-13 on the site of Lion Green Road car park, some of which are thought to have been the same as those found in 1873 which had been reburied. Four iron knives were also recovered which could date the burials to the late 6th or early 7th century. An excavation that took place in August 2015 found another three burials and while no grave goods were found they are thought to be part of the same Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The 2015 excavation also found two postholes and a pit which may indicate that some form of settlement was also established there although further investigation would be needed to confirm such a theory.

The scheduled railway bank to the west of the car park was built as part of the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway which was an extension of the Surrey Iron Railway. The railway was built between 1803 and 1805 and the embankment at Lion Green Road is approximately 8 metres high, 102 metres long and at its base 35 metres wide. The railway closed in the late 1830s as steam railways became increasingly popular and the line had been dismantled by 1848 although sleepers and sections of the iron track may survive in parts of the embankment. The embankment was scheduled because it was built as part of the first independent railway in the world and its construction demonstrates how early railway engineers could overcome physical difficulties within the landscape.

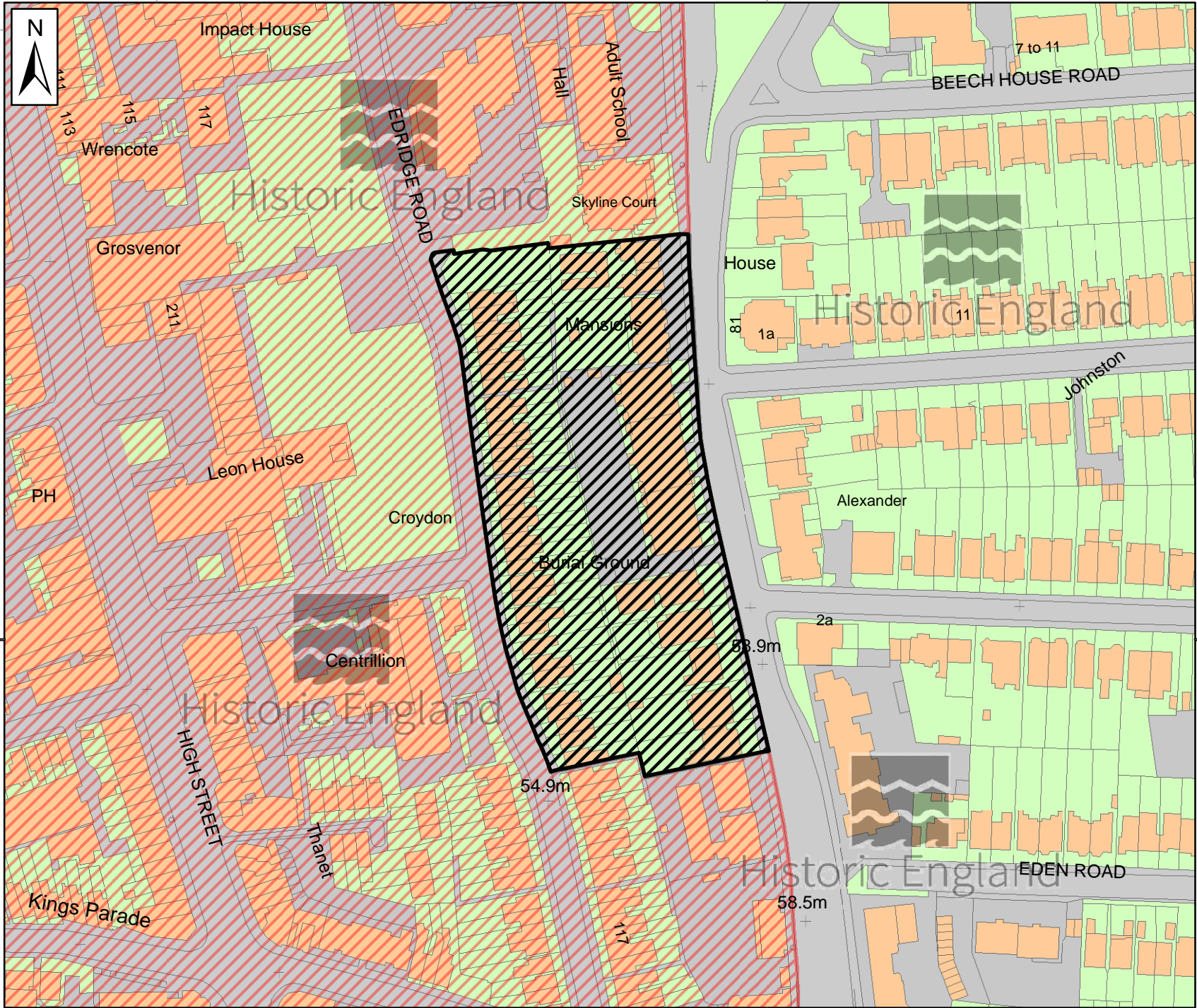
Significance

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery found at Lion Green Road is an important example of its type along with several others that have been found in Croydon along the Wandle Valley. It is possible that a Saxon settlement may have been located close to the cemetery which, along with other Saxon burial sites, would provide an indication of where settlements were located during the Saxon period. From the burials we can gain information about the social status, health and beliefs of the people being buried there. The boundaries of the cemetery have not been established and it is possible that further burials survive within the APA which may be uncovered during future investigations. It is also possible that the cemetery extended beyond the boundaries of the APA and further inhumations may be present on Cane Hill. If burials were discovered outside of the APA its outline may have to be altered accordingly. The railway embankment is also an important example of railway engineering and remains relating to the railway itself may survive within it or in the vicinity.





Key References

Anglo-Saxon burials at Cane Hill, Coulsdon, M. Shaw, Proceedings of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, Vol. 14, 1975

Lion Green Road Car Park, Evaluation report, Museum of London Archaeology, 2015



Croydon APA 1.5
Park Lane Anglo-Saxon
Cemetery

-  Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery APA
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,750

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Croydon APA 1.5: Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery

Summary and Definition

The Park Lane Anglo-Saxon Cemetery is situated between Edridge Road and Park Lane. It was found by chance in the 1890s and subsequently excavated in 1992 and 1999/2000. A large number of burials and associated grave goods dating from the Anglo-Saxon period were recovered during these excavations. The APA is classed as Tier 1 because the cemetery is judged equivalent to a Scheduled Monument and even small scale ground works could disturb burials.

Description

While Edridge Road was being constructed in 1893 and 1894 workmen found a number of burials and associated grave goods. Approximately 100 objects were recovered including weapons, jewellery, buckets, tools and cremation urns. Unfortunately the discoveries were not adequately recorded and afterwards many of the finds and human remains were lost so it is not known exactly how many burials were found, although an estimate of between 118 and 136 has been made.

Investigations in 1992 and 1999/2000 in advance of development at 82-90 Park Lane found further burials from the same cemetery. The 1992 evaluation found seven inhumations and five cremation burials and remains of a structure that appeared to enclose one of the cremations. The significance and future management of the site was considered at a public enquiry in 1995 which decided that measures should be taken to protect and preserve in-situ the cemetery in an area to the rear of the new buildings whilst remains within the footprints of the new buildings were excavated in 1999 and 2000.

The 1999/2000 excavations found 46 inhumation burials, two cremation burials and objects which included weaponry, jewellery and several high status objects including a bronze bowl filled with hazelnuts. The date range of the burials extended from the late 5th to the early 7th centuries and the earliest burials may have been part of the first wave of Anglo-Saxon settlers who migrated to Britain in the decades following the end of Roman authority. However, a coffined burial dating to the Roman period was also found. The presence of such a burial suggests that the area may have been used as a cemetery in the late Roman period and continued to be used into the early Anglo-Saxon period. Estimates for the burial population of the whole cemetery have varied between 200 and 350 which would make it as large as the Anglo-Saxon cemetery found at Ravensbury near Mitcham where more than 200 burials were found in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

While the eastern and southern edges of the cemetery were found during the 1999/2000 excavations it is unknown how far it extended to the north and west. The area to the rear of 82-90 Park Lane was not investigated during the excavations and steps were taken to protect further burials which are known to be located there before it was covered by the current car park.

Significance

The Edridge Road/Park Lane cemetery is a large and nationally important example of its type and further burials and grave goods are likely to survive in areas that have not yet been excavated. The site could provide detailed information about the people who were buried there including whether they were part of the earliest Germanic migrations into Britain. Several Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been found along the Wandle Valley which can be compared and contrasted with each other and any future discoveries would enrich our knowledge of the communities living in the area during that period. Mitigation strategies involving preservation in-situ need to take account of the fragility and vulnerability of this type of burial archaeology.

Key References

On some Roman and Saxon remains found at Croydon in 1893-94, F. L. Griffith, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 13, 1897

The early Saxon cemetery at Park Lane, Croydon, J. I. McKinley, Surrey Archaeological Collections, Vol. 90, 2003

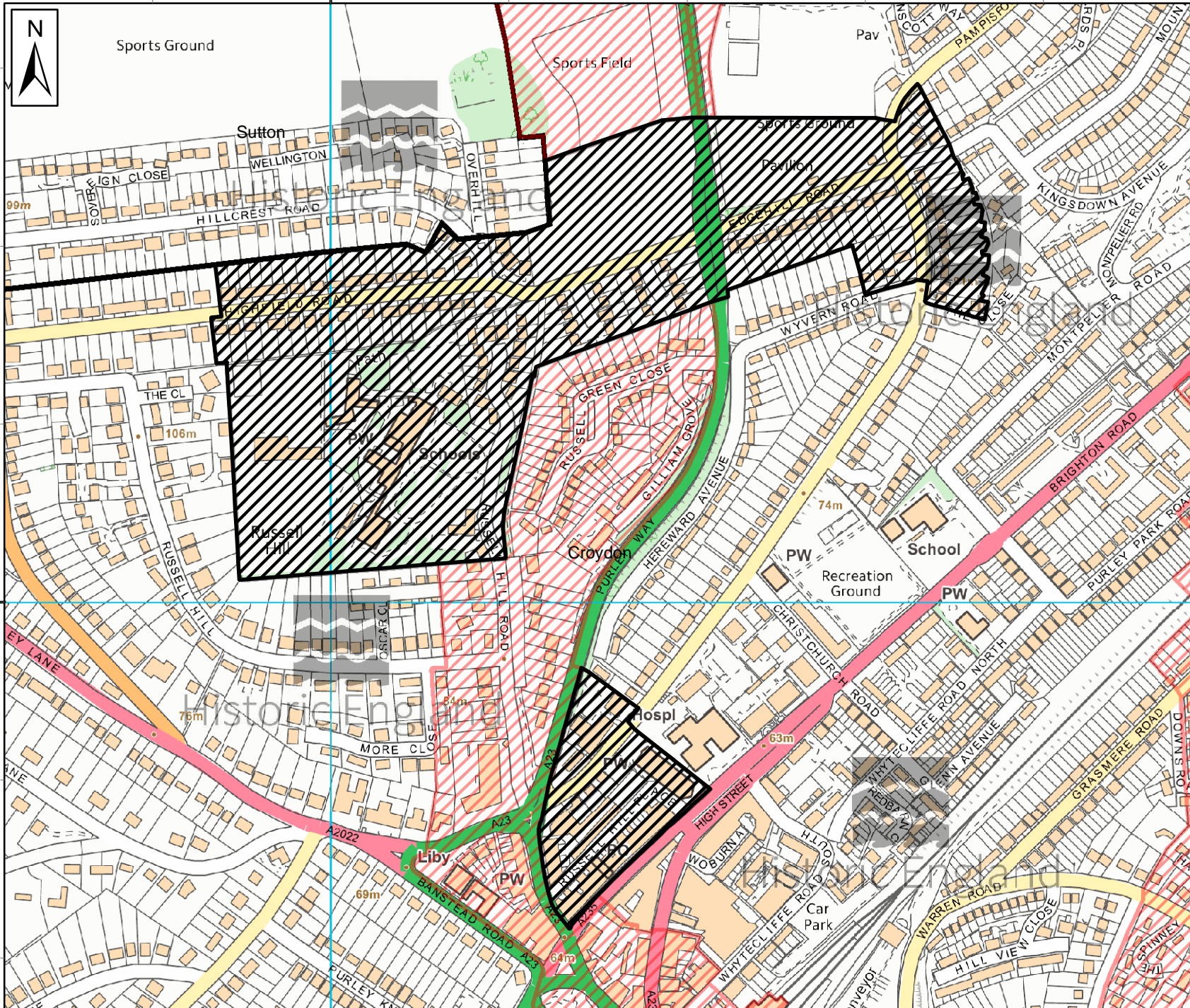
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Croydon Saxon Cemetery, the Re-Discovery of the Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Croydon and its partial excavation in 1999: Trials and Tribulations, M. Welch, Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, 2000


The Early Saxon Cemetery at Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, Wessex Archaeology, 2002

Croydon APA 1.6
Russell Hill



 Russell Hill APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

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Croydon APA 1.6: Russell Hill

Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers two separate areas: one is to the north-west of Purley town centre at the summit of Russell Hill while a smaller area is located at the foot of the hill. Human remains have been found at various times and at various sites within the APA since the mid-19th century indicating that the hill was once an extensive cemetery. The site is often referred to as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery even though only a few of the burials have provided dating evidence. Finds and features dating to the prehistoric period have also been recovered from within the APA. The APA is classified as Tier 1 because the cemetery could be regarded as an undesignated asset equivalent to a Scheduled Monument and the presence of human remains makes the area sensitive to even small scale ground works.

Description

The southern side of Russell Hill rises steeply from the Wandle Valley which passes through Purley. Such a hill would have been an attractive site for prehistoric settlement due to the strategic advantages that the view from its summit along the valley could provide. Like other areas along the Croydon/Sutton borough boundary a number of prehistoric finds dating from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age have been found across the APA. These finds have included pottery fragments, tools and weapons and indicate that some sort of activity was taking place here.

Until the mid-19th century the area was undeveloped but when the Royal Warehousemen's Clerk's and Draper's School was built at the top of the hill in the 1850s a number of skeletons were found. Further skeletons were found in the 1860s to the north of the school, during the construction of what is now Pampisford Road near its junction with Edgehill Road and at the junction of Edgehill Road and Purley Way in 1920. Burials were also found near the junction between Pampisford Road and Purley Way which is why the area near Purley town centre has also been included in the APA. Single skeletons have also been found just outside of the APA in Overhill Road in the 1920s and in Bridle Road in the 1970s. The burials have been found across a wide area and they might all belong to a single large cemetery or several smaller burial grounds spread out across the hill.

Unfortunately the skeletons were all discovered unexpectedly during construction or road widening works and little recording or analysis took place. It is therefore impossible to say precisely how many skeletons have been uncovered since the mid-19th century although it is estimated to be more than 100. It was rumoured that some of the burials found in the

1860s were found with weapons but this has not been confirmed. One of the graves found in 1920 near the junction of Purley Way and Edgehill Road contained a knife and a bronze buckle which were dated to the early 6th century. This is the only burial that was dated to the Anglo-Saxon period but it has led to all the burials being considered part of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. It is possible that some of the burials were from later centuries of the Saxon period and were Christian which is why they were found without any grave goods. Like the Anglo-Saxon burial grounds at Farthing Down further to the south the Russell Hill cemetery is located on high ground overlooking the Wandle Valley. The Russell Hill burials are also situated close to the boundary feature known as the Mere Bank and other Saxon cemeteries, such as the one on Riddlesdown Road, were also established close to a territorial boundary. An Anglo-Saxon settlement may also have been established nearby.

However, some of the burials might date from an earlier prehistoric period. An excavation that took place at Thomas More School in 2001 found the remains of a ditch which was thought to be part of a ring ditch surrounding a burial mound. However, it was unclear whether the burial mound dated to the early Bronze Age or Saxon periods although its dimensions were more comparable to known Bronze Age ditches. Russell Hill's location close to the Mere Bank earthwork could also be significant and the cemetery may have been part of a prehistoric ritual landscape. However, it is possible that Saxon burials reused an earlier Bronze Age burial ground since a large amount of inhumations without any grave goods would be unusual for prehistoric burials. Further burials are likely to be present within the APA and archaeological investigations are necessary in order to confirm the age and extent of the cemetery.

Significance

The number of burials that have been found since the mid-19th century and the strong likelihood that further burials are present on Russell Hill is significant and could potentially provide a wealth of information about the site's purpose and the people being buried there in earlier periods. If the cemetery at Russell Hill is Anglo-Saxon then it is one of several that can be found along the Wandle Valley and Wandle River in Croydon, Sutton and Merton. Together they appear to show a common practice of establishing cemeteries on sites along the Wandle's route. If it is assumed that settlements were located nearby to these cemeteries then they show how the settlements were dispersed and approximately where they may be located.

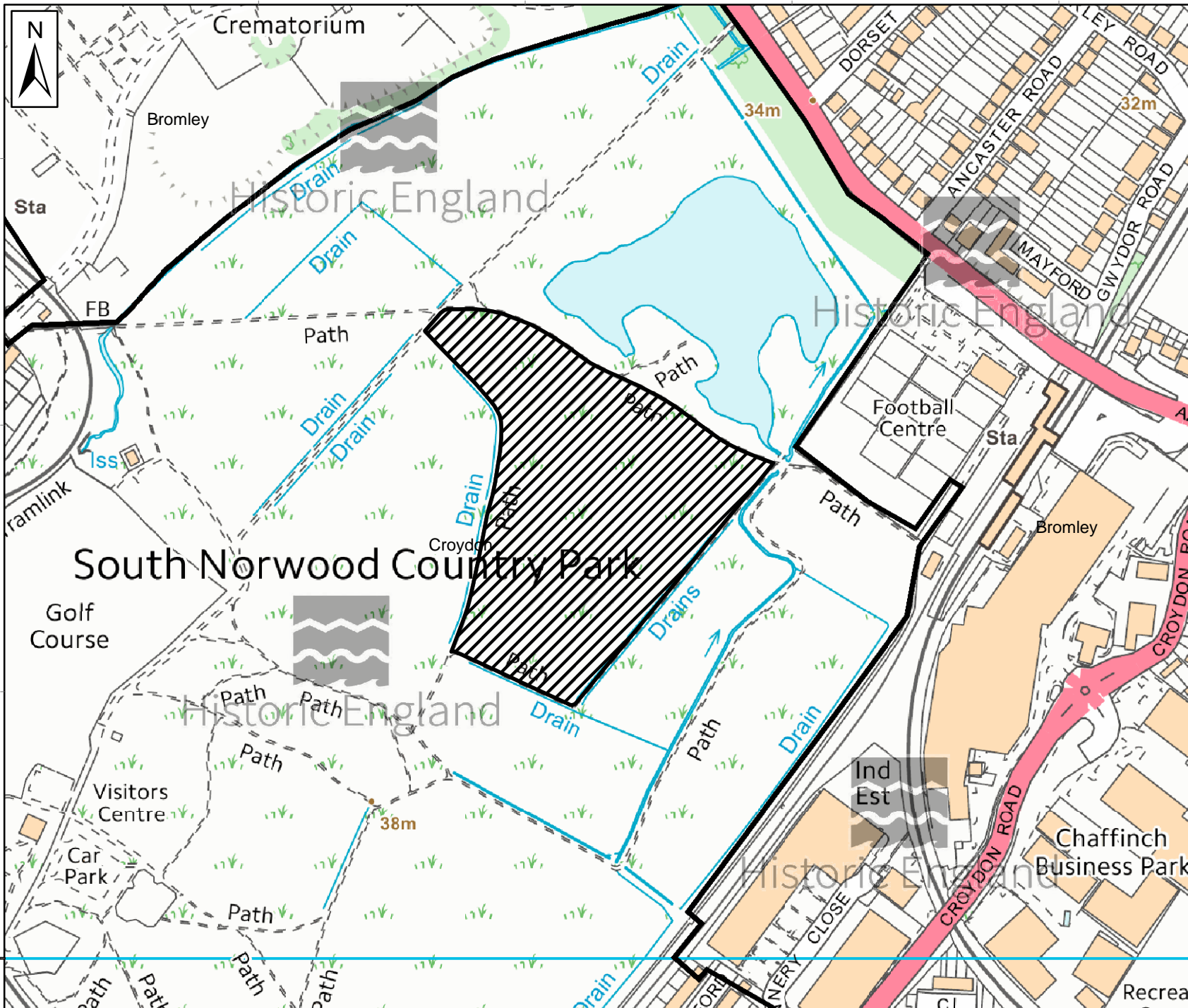
The burials can provide a wealth of information about the community being buried there and can demonstrate Anglo-Saxon burial practices and changing religious beliefs. For example, those that are found with grave goods reflect the pagan beliefs of the community

while those found without goods and on an east-west alignment could represent the increasing spread of Christianity during the Saxon period. Saxon cemeteries found elsewhere in the borough have contained burials dating to the earlier centuries of the Anglo-Saxon period. If the Russell Hill burials date from the early Saxon period then they may relate to the earliest wave of Saxon migrations into England. The remains themselves can provide information such as the age, health and social status of those who were being buried.

However, the possibility that some the burials might be not date from the Saxon period should not be ignored and finds and features, such as the potential Bronze Age barrow at the top of the hill, indicate that the area saw some level of activity during the prehistoric period. If burials were found to be prehistoric then they could provide the same sort of information about the beliefs and burial practices of the local communities during that period. The area's relationship with the Mere Bank is also an element that needs to be considered.

Key References

Guide to Local Antiquities, M. Farley, Bourne Society, 1973




Croydon APA 1.7
Elmers End

 Elmers End APA

 Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

 Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

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Croydon APA 1.7: Elmers End

Summary and Definition

The Elmers End Archaeological Priority Area covers part of South Norwood Country Park around the Elmers End moated site which is a Scheduled Monument. The APA is classified as Tier 1 because it includes a scheduled site.

Description

The moated site consisted of two concentric rectangular moats surrounding a house which was probably established in the second half of the 13th century, a period when the majority of such sites in England were built. A house was located within the inner moat on a square platform made of upcast gravel. A deed relating to the grant of a house and 20 acres of land in Beckenham to Robert de Retford is thought to relate to the site. The deed is not dated but Lord Robert de Retford was one of the king's itinerant judges who was active between 1296 and 1318. A deed from 1467 mentions the moats and gardens but not a house suggesting that it had been demolished by this time. The house may have been abandoned and then demolished because it was built in a low lying area of London Clay subsoil which hampered drainage and was prone to flooding and severe floods are known to have affected the area in the early 14th century.

The moats were re cut at some point in the 17th century and oak trees were also planted over the whole area. An estate map of 1736 refers to the site as La Motes and the site can also be seen on an Ordnance Survey map of 1872 where it is marked as The Moat. The fact that the moats were later recut and enhanced with a number of oak trees shows that whoever owned the land wanted to preserve the site as a landscape feature which survived until the 19th century. The site remained a discernible feature within the landscape until the area started to be redeveloped for use as the South Norwood Sewage Farm. The site of The Moat is shown on an OS map of 1894 but the moats had been infilled and the site levelled by this date and it does not appear on later maps.

The sewage farm also suffered from drainage problems and closed in 1967. In 1972 an excavation carried out by the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society found a number of features and artefacts associated with the moated site. The 1972 excavation found that the levelling of the area, the infilling of the moats and the sewage farm had not eradicated all trace of the moated site and enough material was recovered from the moats to help develop a better understanding of the site and the people who lived there during the medieval period. Finds included medieval pottery fragments from 33 different vessels

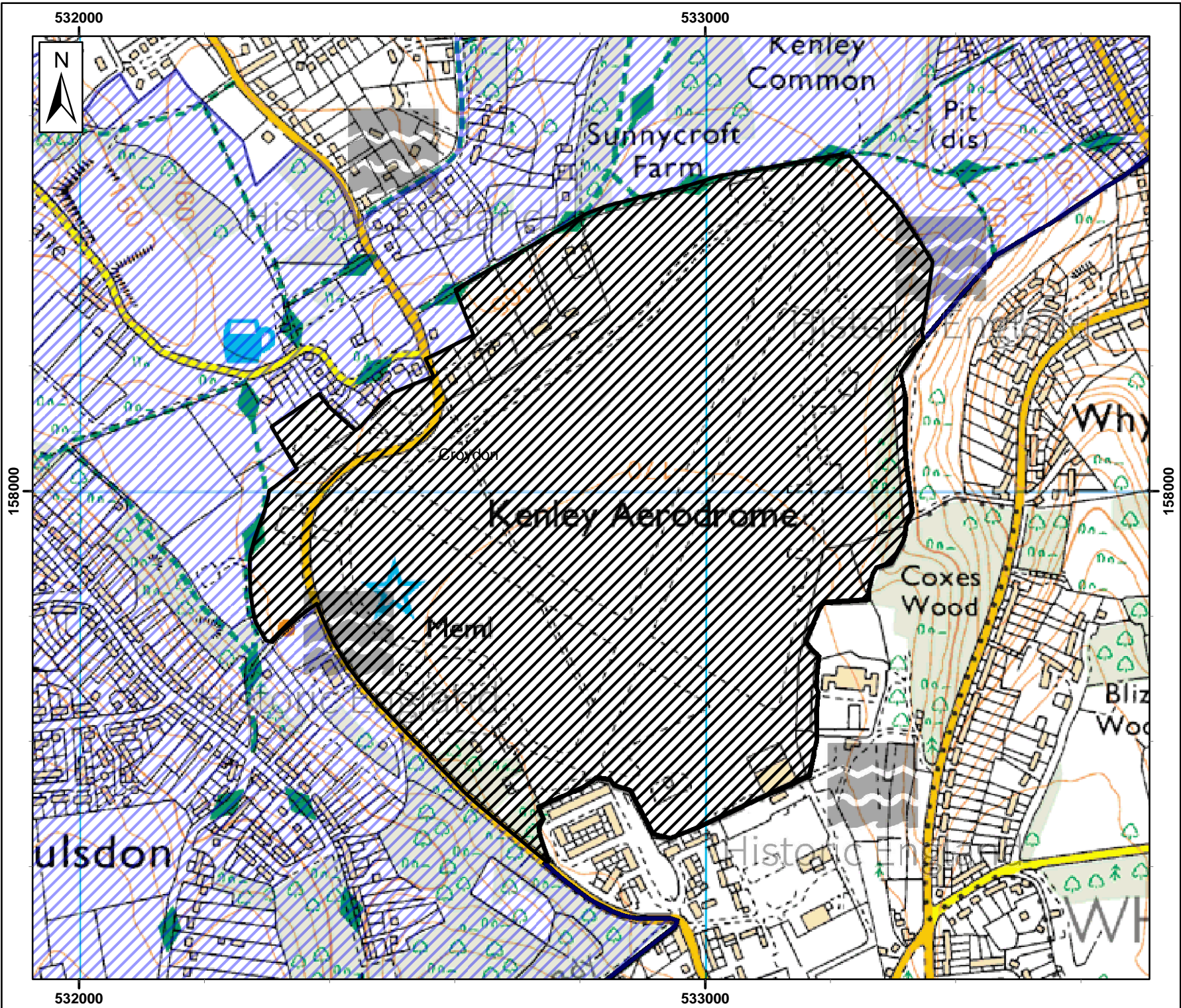
including cooking pots, jugs and bowls which dated between the mid-13th and early 15th centuries. The quality of the pottery suggested that a wealthy family had lived at the house. Timbers from bridges across the moats and building material such as tiles and dressed stone were also recovered during the three month excavation. The stumps of several trees that had been planted in the 17th century were also uncovered. The 1972 excavation concentrated on an area in the south-west of the moated site so it is likely that further remains will survive in other parts of the scheduled site and immediate area. The area was later converted into a country park which opened to the public in 1989.

Significance





Medieval moated sites represent a distinct type of monument which reflected the social status of the people who lived within them. The moat served a dual purpose by giving the site a certain level of prestige while also acting as a protective feature. There is no typical medieval moated site and there is great variety in terms of the shape and size of the moat and the type of buildings that were built inside them. The Elmers End moated site is one of approximately 6000 known moated sites across England most of which were built between 1250 and 1350. The scheduled status of the Elmers End demonstrates its importance and it contributes to a wider national picture concerning the distribution, purpose and residents of medieval moated sites. Although the site is no longer visible there is potential for public interpretation due to its location within the country park.

Key References

A double-moated site at Beckenham, L. Thornhill, *Archaeologica Cantiana*, Vol. 91, 1975



Croydon APA 1.8
RAF Kenley

-  RAF Kenley APA
-  Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area
-  Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Croydon APA 1.8: RAF Kenley

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the site of RAF Kenley which was an aerodrome between 1917 and 1978 and is still used by gliders. It was active during the Second World War particularly during the Battle of Britain. The majority of the airfield is within the London Borough of Croydon but parts of it are in the District of Tandridge in Surrey. Those parts that are within Croydon include the runways, the perimeter track and 11 scheduled fighter pens that were built around the perimeter track in 1940. The Kenley Aerodrome Conservation Area also covers the area. The APA is classified as Tier 1 because it includes several Scheduled Monuments, their historical setting and archaeological remains associated with them.

Description

The site, which was previously part of Kenley Common, was requisitioned by the Royal Flying Corps in 1917 and converted into an aircraft acceptance park where military aircraft could be assembled and tested before entering active service. Initially the acceptance park consisted of tents and more rigid hangars made from wooden frames covered by heavy canvas but seven larger hangars, known as Belfast hangars, were built to the south of what became the runway area. Many of the buildings associated with the site's initial use as an aircraft acceptance park would have left little archaeological trace as they were temporary structures such as tents. The exception would be the seven Belfast hangars which would have left more substantial foundations that may still be present.

At the end of the First World War the airfield was retained for military use and expanded in the early 1930s. Many of the aerodrome's ancillary buildings were built in what is now Tandridge to the south of the runways. Most of these buildings have been demolished although the Officers' mess and NAAFI building, which were both built in 1932, survive and are both Grade II Listed Buildings. Parts of the former airfield in Tandridge have been redeveloped for housing but the area that lies within Croydon has never been developed and has not been greatly altered since the Second World War.

At the beginning of the Second World War in 1939 it was recognised that RAF Kenley needed to be enhanced in order to meet the threat of Luftwaffe attacks and assist in the protection of London and the South-East. During the winter of 1939 and 1940 two concrete runways, a concrete perimeter track and twelve fighter pens were completed while three of the seven Belfast hangars were demolished and Hayes Lane was diverted to the west to make way for the expansion of the airfield. The fighter pens were E-shaped structures dispersed

around the perimeter track where two fighter aircraft could be parked separated by a central blast wall. An air raid shelter which had enough room for 25 people was incorporated into the rear bank of each pen and the side arms of the pen and central blast wall would protect any parked aircraft from bomb damage during an air raid. Two of the fighter pens also had gun emplacements. Of the 12 pens that were built 11 survive and are now Scheduled Monuments although the current condition of the fighter pens varies greatly and a number are overgrown while only two retain a central blast wall.

Kenley was attacked by a major German air raid on 18 August 1940 during the Battle of Britain. Ten people were killed, a number of aircraft along with three of the four surviving Belfast hangars were destroyed while buildings such as the hospital block, the barrack block and the Officers' mess were damaged. The Officers' mess still has a number of scars sustained during the August 1940 air raid. Despite this attack Kenley continued to operate effectively and aircraft based there were involved in numerous air battles with Luftwaffe fighter and bomber aircraft during the Battle of Britain.

Kenley continued to be used as an operational airfield until 1978 but since then a number of its buildings have been lost. The last Belfast hangar was destroyed by fire in 1978 and since then the Operations Block, Control Tower and most of the perimeter pill boxes have also been removed. However, a number of structures associated with the wartime use of the site still survive within the APA. A rifle range is located at the south-west corner of the airfield, a perimeter pill box is located to the west of the airfield and the remains of machine gun emplacements known as Pickett-Hamilton forts are located at the north end of one of the runways and near the intersection of the runways. The partial remains of other buildings, such as an electricity substation, can also be discerned and the foundations of other ancillary buildings may also be present since the site has not undergone major redevelopment since their demolition.

Significance

Kenley retains key elements associated with its use as a Second World War fighter airfield such as the fighter pens, the runway and the perimeter track and it has been described as one of the most complete fighter airfields associated with the Battle of Britain. The survival of so many wartime features at Kenley provides a clear link with its wartime past. No other Battle of Britain airfield in Greater London or the South-East has retained as many Second World War features. Similar Battle of Britain airfields at Gravesend and Hornchurch have been converted into a housing estate and a country park respectively while others at Northolt and Biggin Hill are still active airfields but have been altered so more of their wartime heritage has been lost. Kenley has not been redeveloped for an alternate use and

enough wartime buildings have survived to retain a strong link with its wartime past. The link could be further enhanced by any surviving archaeological remains of buildings, or even pieces of shrapnel from air raids such as the one that occurred on 18 August 1940.

The fighter pens merited scheduled status because no other set of similar pens has survived to the same degree. The APA encompasses their historic airfield surroundings, a critical aspect of their setting. RAF Kenley's status as an exemplar Battle of Britain fighter airfield with high potential for surviving archaeological finds or remains justifies its status as a Tier 1 APA complementing the very specific protection of the Scheduled Monuments and the broader historical significance recognised by the Conservation Area.

Key References

R.A.F. Kenley, P. Flint, Terence Dalton, 1985

RAF Kenley Conservation Management Plan, Stabler Heritage, 2015