

**An Archaeological Evaluation of
Land at Cleve Cross, Selbourne Road, Croydon**

(NGR 533416 165018)

PROJECT REF. 2416

**by
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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Cleve Cross Selborne Road, Croydon, in advance of the demolition of the existing bungalow and redevelopment of the site. Three trial trenches were excavated. Due to on site constraints each trench had to be shortened, resulting in a total meterage of 1.8m X 23m. No archaeological features were observed. One piece of worked flint was recovered from a deposit of made ground within Trench 1.

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SMR sheet

OASIS Summary Sheet

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by Malachy Walsh and Partners on behalf of Lancsville Construction Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment at Cleve Cross, Selborne Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon (NGR 533416 165018) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2** The proposed development includes the demolition of an existing brick building and the erection of a two/three storey building comprising six, two bedroom and four, one bedroom flats; the formation of vehicular access onto Langton Way and the provision of associated car and cycle parking.
- 1.3** Due to the archaeological potential of the site, The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service of English Heritage (GLAAS), in their role as advisor to Croydon Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)), had recommended that an archaeological condition (Condition 5) be attached to the planning consent. After consultation between ASE and GLAAS it was established that this condition specifically required that a Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation be carried out prior to any development taking place (Planning reference: 05/04704/P)
- 1.4** A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by ASE and duly approved by GLAAS and the LPA. All work was carried out in accordance with GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Paper No.3 (AGP3). Any variations were agreed with GLAAS as advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.5** The fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Thorne and Simon Stevens on the 22 of March 2006. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The proposed development is bounded to the south and west by existing residential development and to the north and east by Selborne Road and Langton Way respectively (Fig. 2). The plot is currently occupied by a bungalow to the north of the site, with the former garden to the south.
- 2.2** The site is located on a west facing hill slope. However the topography of the development area is largely flat, with a sloping driveway accessing the property at the front. A substantial bank of up to 1.5m forms the eastern boundary at the rear of the property.
- 2.3** The British Geological Survey map Sheet number 270 (Area South London) Solid and Drift Edition (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the site lies on Clay,

mottled in part with beds of sand and shelly clay, overlying Thanet sand formation.

- 2.4** The GLSMR was consulted to within a 500m radius of the site. The results are shown in Appendix 1.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The general aim of this archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence, location, extent, depth, stratigraphical relationships, condition, character, quality, significance, date and origin of any potential archaeological features and/or deposits which may be encountered within the area of the proposed development site.

- 3.2** The original evaluation strategy specified the excavation of three trial trenches. One, positioned diagonally across the former garden, was to have measured 1.8m x 20m. Two other trenches, measuring 1.8m x 15m were located close to the bungalow, and targeted the footprints of the proposed new build.

- 3.3** However, upon arrival on-site demolition and servicing works were already underway. Due to these constraints, and following advance agreement with Robert Whitehead of GLASS, alterations to the original trenching design were made. Trench 1 was shortened to the NE to avoid a temporary access road and spoil heap located to the east of the site. Trench 2 was shortened to the west to avoid a Health and Safety risk within a service trench in which groundwork and pipe laying was underway. The east of the trench abutted a large bank, and was shortened to allow space for movement of the machine. Trench 3 was located parallel to the front of the bungalow. However in this area a live Electric Mains was known to be located, in addition to Mains Water, Sewage and drainage services. A spoil heap was also located over the western extent of the trench. As a result the trench was rotated around 90 degrees, with the new position orientated N- S, located through the front garden and crossing part of the drive outside the house (Fig 2).

- 3.4** The trench was excavated by a 13 tonne tracked digger, with a 1.8m wide flat blade ditching bucket. All trenches were scanned prior to excavation with a use of Cable Avoidance Tool. As no archaeological deposits were encountered above this level, the evaluation trenches were taken down to the top of the natural clay.

- 3.5** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets.

- 3.6** A full photographic record of the work was kept (black and white prints and

colour slides) and will form part of the site archive. All photographs included a board that detailed: the Museum of London site code, Trench number and a north arrow. In addition general working shots were taken during the pre-excavation stage to illustrate the general context and setting of the project. All photographs were fully indexed and cross-referenced on ASE context sheets and photographic registers.

3.7 The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling and will be offered to a suitable local museum. In this case it will be the Museum of London.

3.8 An overall trench location plan was maintained at a scale of 1:250 using offsets from known positions. The site was levelled with respect to OD, and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Upon arrival on site it became clear that the garden topsoil in the area of Trench 1 had already been stripped to a depth of between 250 – 350mm. An exposed baulk section and spoil heap revealed this to be a dark brown silty clay comprising frequent modern CBM, slate, concrete and roots.

4.1.2 A total of 7.7m of Trench 1 was excavated (Fig 2). The stratigraphic sequence revealed was as follows:

- Context 1 was a firm dark brown silty clay matrix with pockets and smears of redeposited natural. It contained frequent poorly sorted flint nodules, ranging from angular to rounded water worn pebbles. It also contained frequent chalk fragments, gravels, tile, brick, tarmac and evidence of substantial rooting. At the NE extent of the trench this deposit had a thickness of 400mm, and became deeper towards the SW extent where it had a maximum depth of 0.65m.
- Below this the bright orangish – brown slightly silty clay natural was encountered (Context 2).

4.1.3 No archaeological features were identified. Two modern garden features were investigated.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 A length of 8.5m of Trench 2 was excavated (Fig 2). The stratigraphic sequence revealed was as follows:

- A layer of made ground (Context 1) was removed initially. This had a maximum depth of 50mm at the eastern extent and became progressively deeper towards the west, where it was located to a depth of 400mm.
- Below this the clay natural was encountered (Context 2)

4.2.2 No archaeological features were identified. An area of modern disturbance measuring c 2m in length, containing brick stains, wood and root fragments were observed extending from the northern baulk. This was interpreted as an area of rooting disturbance.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Trench 3 was re-orientated on a north-south axis, and was located partially through the front garden and the driveway to the house.

4.3.2 A total length of 6.8m was excavated (Fig 2). The stratigraphic sequence revealed was as follows:

- A dark silty humic garden soil to a depth of 350mm was observed extending for 3 meters along the northern extent of the trench. This contained occasional fragments of tile and flint (Context 3). In the southern part of the trench the tarmac surfacing of the driveway was noted to overly a chalk rubble bedding deposit to a depth of 200mm. Below these deposits the Natural clay was encountered (Context 2)

4.3.3 No archaeological features were identified.

4.4 Levels data

Trench	Top of Trench (mOD)	Base of Trench (mOD)
1 SW end:	79.88	79.26
1 NE end:	80.10	79.56
2 W end:	79.99	79.34
2 E end:	80.12	79.71
3 N end:	80.35	79.80
3 S end:	80.14	79.88

Table 1: Levels information

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Worked Flint by Lucy Allott

- 5.1.1** One flake of worked flint was collected from the topsoil. This flake displays clear flake scars and platform preparation scars on the dorsal side and a cortical platform is present. The ventral side has an unusual shatter pattern but the bulb of percussion is present. The piece also shows evidence for modern damage along the edges. This flake is not diagnostic of date.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** No features of archaeological significance and only a single residual worked flint flake were observed during this phase of archaeological work at Cleve Cross, Selborne Road, Croydon. Due to the presence of a demolition/construction team on site in addition to live services, the original archaeological sample area of 90 square meters was reduced to just below half, at 41 square meters.
- 6.2** However, the sloping deposits of made ground located in Trench 1 and 2 in the garden at the rear of the property may indicate that this area has been landscaped. It is possible that the hill slope to the east of the site has been truncated and the ground level built up to the west of the garden. This may have implications for the survival of archaeological features in this area.

Appendix 1: GLSMR Information.

	Pref. Ref.	Name	Monument Types	Date Range
MLO9022	020046/00/00	27 BIRD HURST RD	FINDSPOT	Mesolithic (10000 BC to 4001 BC)
MLO9071	020216/00/00	Park Hill, Croydon	FINDSPOT	Iron Age (700 BC to 42 AD)
MLO0778	020291/00/00	Park Hill, Croydon	FINDSPOT	Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)
MLO10811	020245/00/00	Stanhope Road, No. 53, Croydon	FINDSPOT	Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)
MLO12310	020371/00/00	53-55 STANHOPE RD (GARDENS)	CULTIVATION SOIL, FINDSPOT	Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)
MLO12311	020372/00/00	Park Hill Road, Croydon	FINDSPOT	Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)
MLO130201	020679/00/00	53-55 STANHOPE RD	OCCUPATION SITE	Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)
MLO130251	020687/00/00	COOMBE RD	FARMHOUSE, FARMHOUSE	Medieval to 19th Century (1066 AD to 1900 AD)
MLO14066	020373/00/00	PARK HILL RD	FARMSTEAD	Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)
MLO15077	020662/00/00	LONDON RD	ROAD	Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)
MLO16222	020648/00/00	FAIRFIELD RD ?	MANOR HOUSE, MANOR HOUSE	Medieval to 19th Century (1066 AD to 1900 AD)
MLO16231	020698/00/00	CROYDON RD	TRACKWAY	Iron Age (700 BC to 42 AD)
MLO18461	222865/00/00	COOMBE RD	HOUSE	Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)
MLO19579	020302/00/00	27 STANHOPE RD	FINDSPOT	Neolithic (4000 BC to 2201 BC)
MLO19580	020301/00/00	27 STANHOPE RD	FINDSPOT	Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)
MLO19587	020300/00/00	27 STANHOPE RD	DEER PARK	Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)
MLO19596	020299/00/00	Redcourt (earlier Walden), Stanhope Road, No. 27, Croydon	WALL, COBBLED SURFACE, ROBBER TRENCH, POST HOLE, SILT, PIT, DITCH	Early Iron Age to Roman (700 BC to 409 AD)
<u>MLO22493</u>	021157/00/00	169-171 COOMBE RD	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age (2200 BC to 701 BC)
<u>MLO22494</u>	021158/00/00	169-171 COOMBE RD	FINDSPOT	Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)
<u>MLO22496</u>	021161/00/00	Park Hill Road,	FINDSPOT	Roman (43 AD to

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		No. 47, Croydon		409 AD)
<u>MLO23324</u>	020688/00/00	FAIRFIELD RD	FARMHOUSE, FARMHOUSE	Medieval to 19th Century (1066 AD to 1900 AD)
<u>MLO25106</u>	021159/00/00	169-171 COOMBE RD	CULTIVATION SOIL, CULTIVATION SOIL, FINDSPOT, FINDSPOT	Medieval to 19th Century (1066 AD to 1900 AD)
ML039948	020373/01/00	PARK HILL RD	FARMHOUSE	Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)
<u>MLO62785</u>	021734/00/00	30 ALPINE CLO	FINDSPOT, FINDSPOT	Prehistoric (500000 BC to 42 AD)
<u>MLO69087</u>	022365/00/00	163 COOMBE RD (LAND TO THE REAR OF)	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric (500000 BC to 42 AD)
<u>MLO69088</u>	022366/00/00	163 COOMBE RD (LAND TO THE REAR OF)	FINDSPOT	Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)
<u>MLO69089</u>	022367/00/00	163 COOMBE RD (LAND TO THE REAR OF)	PLOUGH MARKS	Post Medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)
<u>MLO74309</u>	025576/00/000	SELBOURNE RD	NEGATIVE EVIDENCE	Unknown (Unknown)
<u>MLO75699</u>	MLO75699	Archbishop Tenison's School	LANDSCAPE DEPOSIT, DUMP LAYER, FIELD DRAIN	19th Century (1850 AD to 1900 AD)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol6-13679

Project details

Project name	Cleve Cross, Selborne Road, Croydon, London Borough of Croydon
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Cleve Cross Selborne Road, Croydon, in advance of the demolition of the existing bungalow and redevelopment of the site. Three trial trenches were excavated. Due to on site constraints each trench had to be shortened, resulting in a total meterage of 1.8m X 23m. No archaeological features were observed. One piece of worked flint was recovered from a deposit of made ground within Trench 1.
Project dates	Start: 22-03-2006 End: 22-03-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CVX06 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2416 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A Uncertain
Monument type	N/A Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT FLAKE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON CROYDON Cleve Cross, Selbourne Road, Croydon
Postcode	XXXXXXX
Study area	1450.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 53341 16501 Point
Height OD	Min: 79.00m Max: 80.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

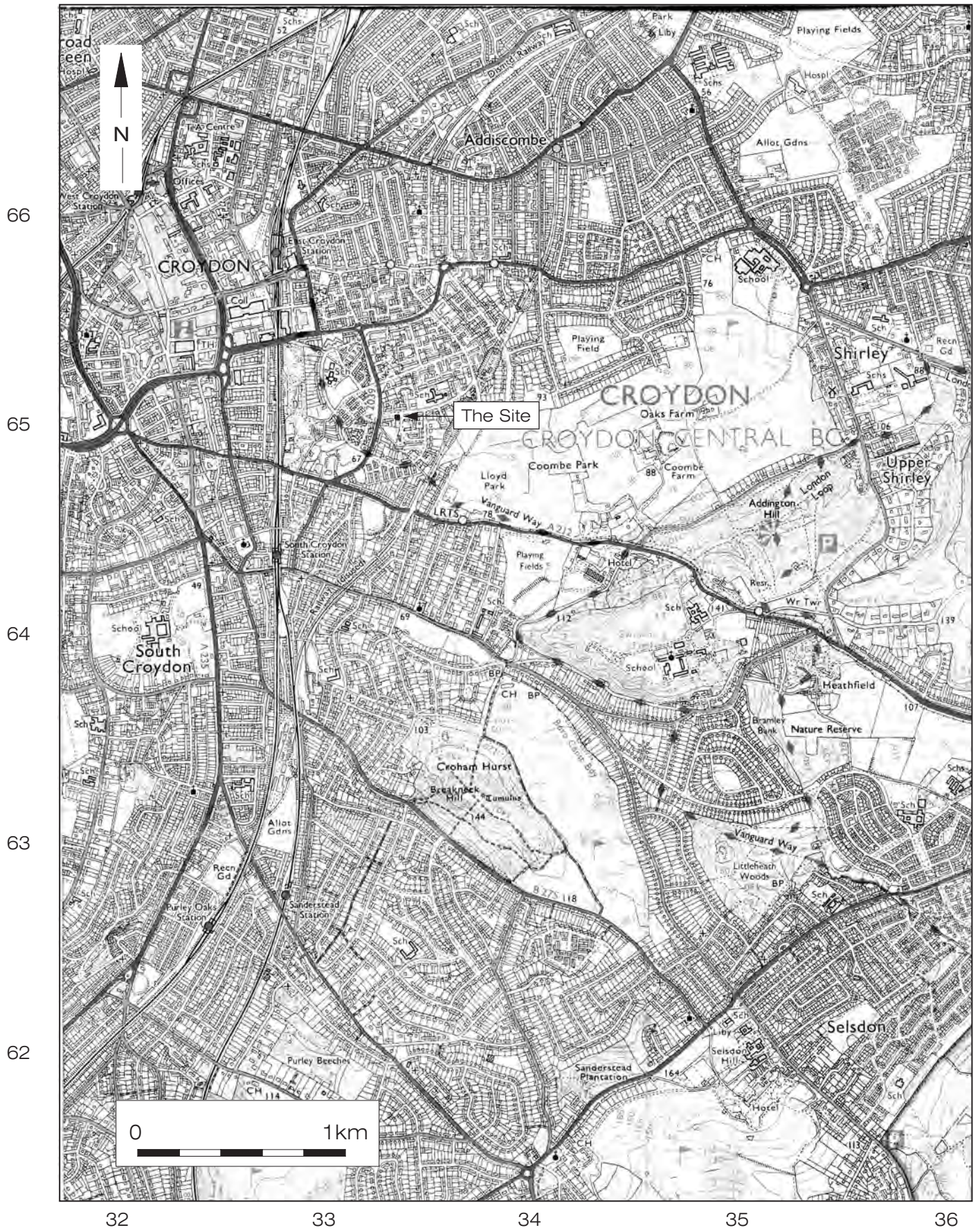
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Contents	'other'
Digital Archive recipient	n/a
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

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Ref: 2416	April 2006	Drawn by: FEG	Site Location Plan	

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			Fig. 2	

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