

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 1a – 3a High Street,  
Crawley, West Sussex**

**Stage 1**



by  
**Teresa Hawtin BA MSc PIFA**  
July 2007

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 1a – 3a High Street,  
Crawley, West Sussex**

**Stage 1**

**NGR 526802 136417**

**Planning ref: CR/2004/0624/FUL**

**Project No. 3042  
(HIC 07)**

**CRAWLEY: Crawley**

**by  
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**July 2007**

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## **Summary**

*Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Mr. John Hurlock of Hurlock Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site at 1a – 3a High Street, Crawley (NGR 526802 136417) (Planning Reference: CR/2004/0624/FUL).*

*One evaluation trench was excavated to a length of 7 metres in July 2007. The floor platform of the Victorian terraced buildings that formerly occupied the site, which was overlying a thin sandy levelling layer deposited directly onto the natural sandy clay, was removed. Brick walls relating to these buildings were encountered during the excavation of the trench and a square drain filled with broken bottles was also revealed, which was probably contemporary with the terraced buildings. No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr. John Hurlock of Hurlock Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed new four-storey residential block at 1a – 3a High Street, Crawley, West Sussex (Fig.1, NGR 526802 13641).
- 1.2 According to the British Geological Survey (1:50 000 map sheet No. 302), the underlying geology at the site is Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, comprising sandstone and clay. Upon excavation the geology was discovered to be sandy clay.
- 1.3 Planning permission has been granted by Crawley Borough Council for the conversion of the existing buildings on the site and the demolition of the outbuildings to make way for construction of a new four-storey residential block (ref. CR/2004/0624/FUL). Owing to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the area, and after consultation John Mills, Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) (Crawley Borough Council's advisers on archaeological planning matters) a condition was attached to this consent requiring a programme of archaeological works to be implemented at the site.
- 1.4 West Sussex County Council requested that the ground slabs and hard surfaces should be broken up carefully, using minimum ground penetration, under the supervision of an archaeologist, and that no other ground reduction or grubbing up of buried building foundations and mains services should be undertaken before the archaeological investigation took place. After clearance of the rubble, the site was then to be evaluated for archaeological remains by one mechanically excavated trial trench. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Jon Sygrave of Archaeology South East. The stated aims of the evaluation were to ascertain:

*'the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and the potential impact of development upon them and to publish the results.'*
- 1.5 The on-site archaeological work was carried out by Teresa Hawtin (Archaeologist) in July 2007, with the assistance of Caroline Russell and Simon Stevens. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following is a summary of the records held at the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the area of the proposed development.

No	SMR Number	NGR	Details
1	5955-MWS5204	TQ 26750 37000	Bloomery slag and medieval pottery
2	5305-MWS3990	TQ 26500 36500	Bloomery slag and medieval pottery
3	4015-MWS676	TQ 26860 36540	Church- (St John the Baptist)- South wall of the nave probably 14 <sup>th</sup> Century
4	5689-MWS5478	TQ 26739 36460	Medieval Hall- 16 Crawley High Street. Building has four main construction phases starting in the 15 <sup>th</sup> Century
5	5307-MWS5475	TQ 26826 36780	Medieval House- five main phases of construction. Earliest phase is a four bay 'Wealden' style Hall house from the early 15 <sup>th</sup> Century
6	5306-MWS5474	TQ 26800 36500	Small concentration of forging slag was found along with medieval pottery sherds
7	5304-MWS5473	TQ 26750 37000	An uprooted tree revealed bloomery slag and several sherds of medieval pottery
8	4036-MWS686	TQ 26700 36500	Four Paleolithic axes
9	5957-MWS5205	TQ 26630 36540	Iron working slag and medieval pottery
10	6871-MWS6906	TQ 26725 36509	A pit containing medieval pottery and iron working slag
11	5954-MWS5203	TQ 26800 36500	Iron working slag and medieval pottery
12	6218-MWS4878	TQ 26600 36800	Brickfield at West Green
13	5692-MWS4395	TQ 26720 36480	Evaluation- Crawley High Street Relief Rd. Four gullies, two ditches and a shallow circular feature were excavated and all contained medieval pottery and later pits contained iron slag
14	5691-MWS4394	TQ 26630 36600	Evaluation- Crawley High Street Relief Rd. Six small pits contained medieval pottery and iron working slag
15	5690-MWS4393	TQ 26800 36950	Evaluation- Crawley High Street Relief Rd. Seven trenches were excavated three of which produced two gullies, five post holes and eight pits which mostly contained late medieval pottery and large quantities of iron slag
16	5617-MWS4356	TQ 26500 36500	Crawley medieval town. In 1202 King John granted Crawley license to hold a market every Wednesday.
17	5308-MWS3991	TQ 26930 36930	Excavation- Roman pottery found at Crawley Barn in 1973
18	6583-MWS5365	TQ 26680 36660	Two post medieval gullies found at Shaws Garage
19	7157-MWS7212	TQ 26724 36407	ASDA development Excavation. A complex of ditches and gullies found. Pits and post holes were also exposed. Medieval and post medieval pottery found. Intense areas of burning around a kiln
20	7859-MWS7952	TQ 2676 3698	Medieval anthropomorphic jug found after the 1987 storm.
21	7759- MWS7850	TQ 2685 3685	Medieval pottery
22	7544-MWS7619	TQ 2630 3630	Bloomery- Goffs park

23	7348-MWS7416	TQ 26595 36569	Evaluation- medieval pottery found at the Hammerson-Ifield site
24	7161-MWS7216	TQ 26585 36532	Excavation- ASDA development. Medieval activity- a complex feature found to be a working platform was exposed
25	4027-MWS680	TQ 26846 36832	Medieval House- Moat Hall, 103 High Street recorded to demolition and removal to Singleton Open Air Museum
26	7158-MWS7213	TQ 26615 36501	Excavation-ASDA Development site-LBA/EIA activity was encountered
27	7928-MWS8042	TQ 26742 36953	Excavation- Pegler Way, uncovered a medieval industrial site.
28	6881-MWS6918	TQ 26578 36454	A Baptist Chapel and graveyard. Gravestones recorded before development
29	5697-MWS6917	TQ 26791 36408	Excavation- Linear feature exposed filled with slag and a well was discovered (top courses 19 <sup>th</sup> Century)
30	5696-MWS6916	TQ 26763 36450	The Old Post Office- Sandstone foundations found and a large number of rubbish pits containing pottery and slag
31	6876-MWS6911	TQ 26437 36622	Post medieval architectural fragment found
32	6875-MWS6910	TQ 26478 36620	Evaluation- A re-cut post medieval boundary ditch filled with slag (probably used as a soak away)
33	Event ID EWS767	TQ 26409 36263	Desk Based Assessment at Denne Road/Newlands Rd

**Table 1: SMR search results (0.5km radius)**

- 2.2 The site lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Crawley. Two small Victorian terraced properties formerly occupied the area of the proposed redevelopment. Archaeological observations elsewhere in the vicinity of the High Street have provided ample evidence of medieval activity in close proximity to the site.
- 2.3 Work undertaken by Archaeology South-East at the Old Post Office, to the north of the current site, revealed 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century features, as well as the remains of a possible 16<sup>th</sup> century house (Stevens 1997). Excavations at Crawley Leisure Centre, also to the north of the site, produced evidence of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century iron working and the remains of a 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century building (Cooke 2001).
- 2.4 At the junction of Kilnmead and the High Street, to the north of the present site, excavations revealed additional evidence of iron working in association with 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (Stevens 2006). Archaeological investigations carried out by along the line of the Crawley High Street Relief Road, to the west of the site, uncovered medieval features (Saunders 1998).
- 2.5 In 2002 excavations at the ASDA site, opposite the site of the proposed development at the southern end of the High Street, revealed features dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods (Stevens 2003 & 2007). The majority of features dated from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to the third quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Two ironworking hearths and large

quantities of slag were encountered as well as evidence of the deposition of domestic refuse in pits and ditches. A 13<sup>th</sup> century well produced a remarkable assemblage of artefacts and environmental evidence including a large group of insect remains.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 One trial trench was excavated to a length of 7 metres and width of 1.8m. The position of the trench was proposed by Archaeology South-East, taking into account safe working distances from adjacent properties and the pedestrian footpath, and was approved by John Mills (WSSC) prior to the commencement of work (Fig. 2).
- 3.2 The location of the evaluation trench was checked with a CAT scanner for the presence of buried services by the groundworks team prior to the commencement of excavation. The floor platform of the Victorian terraced buildings that formerly occupied the site was carefully removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.65m wide toothed bucket under the supervision of archaeologists from Archaeology South-East. The trench was then excavated under archaeological supervision using a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3 The excavation was taken down to the top of the natural strata or archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Where the brick walls of the Victorian terraced properties that formerly occupied the site crossed the trench they were carefully removed in order to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beneath them. An associated brick drain was also removed for these reasons.
- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards, using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system as modified for use by Archaeology South-East. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 The trench was levelled to a Bench Mark located on a building to the southwest of the site, on the opposite side of the level crossing.
- 3.6 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East office in Portslade and will be offered to Crawley Museum in due course. The fieldwork was carried out under sitecode HIC 07.

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Plates 1-3)



Plate 1: North-east facing shot of Trench 1

4.1.1 The trench was excavated to a length of 7 metres, width of 1.8 metres and to depths of between 0.33m at the south-western end and 0.57m at the north-eastern end, with a sondage at the far north-eastern end reaching a depth of 0.95m. When clean 'natural' mottled orange-grey sandy clay was encountered, and the features associated with the former terraced properties had been removed, mechanical excavation ceased. The following is a description of the layers observed at the south-western end of the trench.

Context No	Description	Thickness
1/001	Loose building debris, including bricks and fragments of concrete, overlying a thin grey-orange silty sand levelling layer	0.12m
1/004	Infilling of drain 1/003 comprising Victorian and 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass and glass bottles	
1/003	Brick lined drain, 0.5m square and > 0.37m deep	
1/002	Natural mottled orange-grey and whitish cream sandy clay. Uppermost 4-5cm 'dirty', probably from previous	>0.21m

	exposure during construction of terraced properties	
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**Table 2: Summary of Trench 1 stratigraphy (SW end of trench)**

- 4.1.2 Context 1/001 represented the disturbance caused by the construction of the former terraced properties on the site and reached a thickness of 0.12m at the south-western end of the trench, extending to 0.23m towards the centre. It consisted of loose building debris, including bricks and fragments of the concrete floor platform, overlying a thin levelling layer of grey-orange silty sand.
- 4.1.3 This context directly overlaid the natural mottled orange-grey and whitish cream sandy clay, context 1/002, although the uppermost 4-5cm of this was greyer in colour, probably as a result of exposure and disturbance during the construction works associated with the terraced properties that formerly occupied the site.
- 4.1.4 At the south-western end of the trench the ground level was at an Ordnance Datum height of 77.84mOD and the deepest part of the trench, after the removal of a brick wall, was at a height of 77.51mOD. The natural strata were encountered at a depth of 0.12m below ground level, at a height of 77.72mOD.
- 4.1.5 At the north-eastern end of the trench the following stratigraphic sequence was recorded (latest to earliest).

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness</b>
1/001	Layer of tarmac overlying greenish-grey sandy clay, representing disturbed 'natural'	0.31m
1/002	Natural mottled orange-grey and whitish cream sandy clay	>0.69m

**Table 3: Summary of Trench 1 stratigraphy (NE end of Trench)**

- 4.1.6 The layers recorded were similar to those observed at the south-western end of the trench, although the far north-eastern end lay outside the former building and a tarmac surface had been laid down.
- 4.1.7 Context 1/001 was 0.31m thick and consisted of this tarmac surface and the underlying greenish-grey sandy clay, which is likely to represent disturbed or redeposited natural material. This directly overlaid the natural mottled orange-grey and whitish cream sandy clay, context 1/002.
- 4.1.8 The ground level at the north-eastern end of the trench was at a height of 77.92mOD. Natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.31m below ground level, a height of 77.61mOD, although the trench reached a maximum depth of 0.95m below ground level where a brick wall was removed and a sondage was excavated to investigate the makeup of

the natural strata. At this depth, a height of 77.03mOD, the natural deposits became a more consistent yellow orange colour and contained a higher proportion of sand.

## **4.2 Post-medieval and modern features**

- 4.2.1 Several brick walls associated with the Victorian terraced properties that formerly occupied the site were encountered during excavation of the evaluation trench. One wall ran along the south-eastern edge of the trench, from the south-western end, stopping 0.95m from the north-eastern end of the trench (Plate 2). At least 5 courses of bricks were visible, but the base of the wall was not reached within the trench.
- 4.2.2 A shallower, perpendicular wall ran along the south-western edge of the trench, reaching a depth of 0.54m below ground level. This cut into the natural sandy clay and after careful removal was seen to directly overlie the natural stratum, which was slightly discoloured where it had been disturbed.
- 4.2.3 A third wall was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench, running perpendicular to the end of the long section of wall mentioned earlier. This was more substantial than the shallower wall at the south-western end of the trench and reached a depth of 0.83m below ground level, again cutting into and directly overlying natural strata which were slightly silty and discoloured.
- 4.2.4 Part of another brick structure was seen at the northern corner of the trench (Plate 3), which may have been related to the water supply tap located just beyond the trench. A brick-built drain was also encountered during excavation (See table 2 above). It was located towards the south-western end of the trench and was square in plan with a width of c.0.50m. This drain was filled with broken glass bottles, apparently dating to the late Victorian period or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including some 'cobalt blue' glass. After careful removal of the drain a large-diameter ceramic pipe was seen to connect to it from the north-west side of the trench (Plate 3), from the direction of the existing building at the junction of High Street and Station Way, which is being refurbished as part of this project.
- 4.2.5 No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed during this work.



**Plate 2: North-east facing shot showing the brick wall running along the south-eastern edge of the trench**



**Plate 3: North-west facing shot showing the drain pipe in the side of the trench (blue arrow) and the brick structure at the northern corner (red arrow)**

**5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 A trench was mechanically excavated to evaluate the potential for survival of archaeological remains on the site of 1a – 3a High Street, Crawley.
- 5.2 Although the site lies within the historic core of the medieval town, and nearby archaeological investigations have revealed evidence of the medieval settlement and iron working activities, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were found on this site.
- 5.3 Construction work associated with the Victorian terraced properties that formerly occupied the site appears to have truncated the natural strata, and it is likely that any archaeological features that may have been present on the site have been highly disturbed or entirely removed by those groundworks.
- 5.4 The methodology employed was effective and the confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance and co-operation of John Hurlock and his staff is gratefully acknowledged. The author would also like to thank John Mills, the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Archaeologist, for his advice and support.

## REFERENCES

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**OASIS ID: archaeo16-29048**

**? Project details**

Project name	1a to 3a High Street, Crawley, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site at 1a to 3a High Street, Crawley (NGR 526802 136417). One evaluation trench was excavated to a length of 7 metres in July 2007. The floor platform of the Victorian terraced buildings that formerly occupied the site was removed, which was overlying a thin sandy levelling layer deposited directly onto the natural sandy clay. Brick walls relating to these buildings were encountered during the excavation of the trench and a square drain filled with broken bottles was also revealed, which was probably contemporary with the terraced buildings. No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed.
Project dates	Start: 18-07-2007 End: 18-07-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HIC 07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	3042 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CR/2004/0624/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	Terraced house Post Medieval
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)

**Status**                      **Complete**

**? Project location**

Site location	WEST SUSSEX CRAWLEY CRAWLEY 1a to 3a High Street
Postcode	RH10 1BH
Study area	104 Square metres

Site coordinates    NGR - TQ 26802 36417  
                          LL - 51.1124584988 -0.188300228837 (decimal)  
                          LL - 51 06 44 N 000 11 17 W (degrees)  
                          Point

Height OD            Min: 77.51m Max: 77.61m

**Status**              **Complete**

**? Project creators**

Name of Organisation            Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator (other)    West Sussex County Council

Project design originator        Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager        Jon Sygrave

Project supervisor (other)        Teresa Hawtin

Type of sponsor/funding body    Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body    Hurlock Homes Ltd.

**Status**              **Complete**

**? Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?        'No physical archive'

Digital Archive recipient        Crawley Museum

Digital Contents                'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available        'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient        Crawley Museum

Paper Contents                'Stratigraphic'


Paper Media available        'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

**Status**              **Complete**

**? Project bibliography 1**

**Archaeology South-East**  
**1a – 3a High Street, Crawley, West Sussex.**

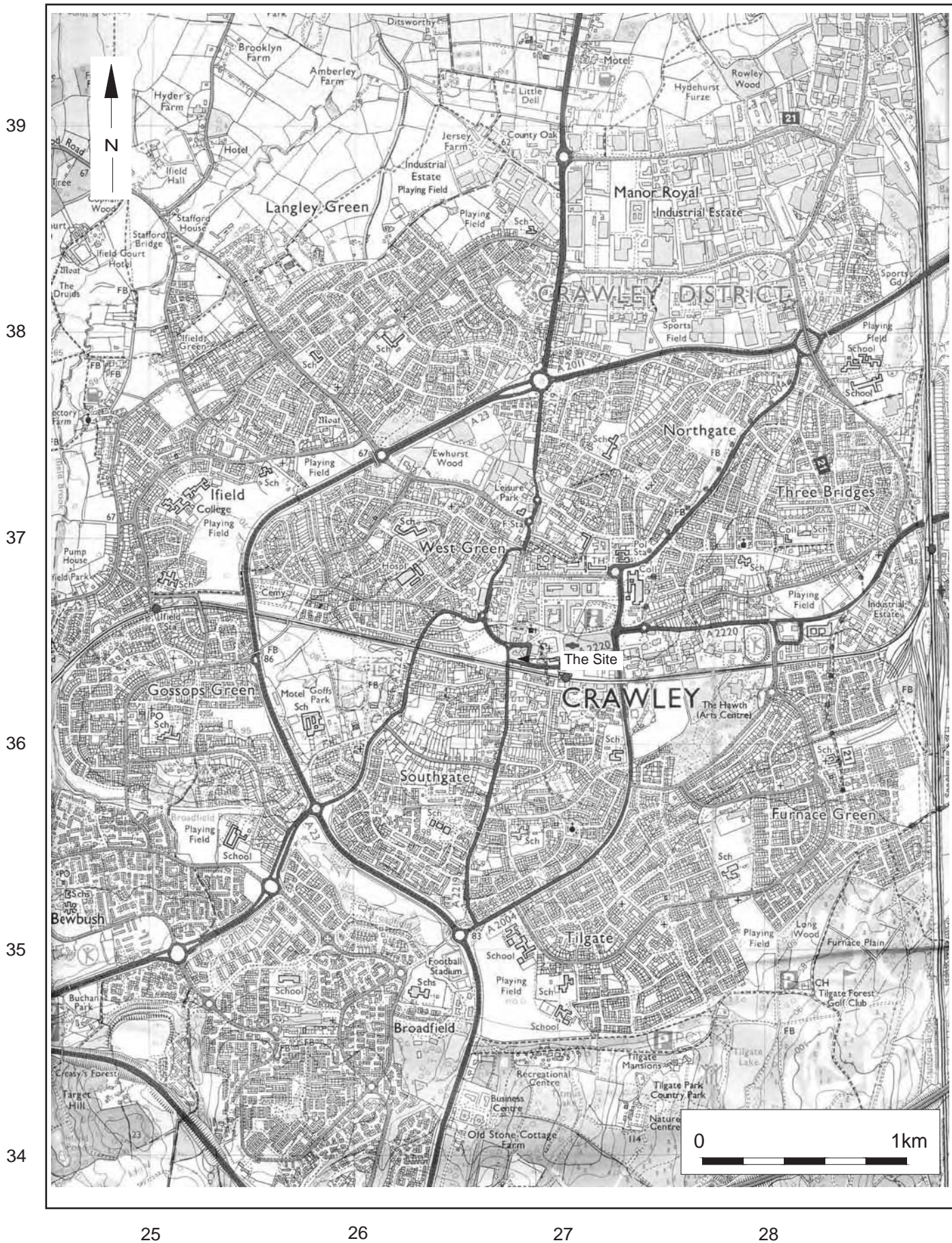
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**Archaeology South-East**  
1a – 3a High Street, Crawley, West Sussex.

**SMR Summary Sheet**

Site Code	HIC 07					
Identification Name and Address	1a – 3a High Street, Crawley, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Crawley Borough					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	NGR 526802 136417					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	3042					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 18/07/07	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr. John Hurlock of Hurlock Homes Ltd.					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Teresa Hawtin					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by Mr. John Hurlock of Hurlock Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site at 1a – 3a High Street, Crawley (NGR 526802 136417) (Planning Reference: CR/2004/0624/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>One evaluation trench was excavated to a length of 7 metres in July 2007. The floor platform of the Victorian terraced buildings that formerly occupied the site was removed, which was overlying a thin sandy levelling layer deposited directly onto the natural sandy clay. Brick walls relating to these buildings were encountered during the excavation of the trench and a square drain filled with broken bottles was also revealed, which was probably contemporary with the terraced buildings. No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed.</i></p>						



© Archaeology South-East			1A-3A Crawley High Street		Fig. 1
Ref: 3042	July 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan		

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© Archaeology South-East			1a-3a Crawley High Street		Fig. 2
Ref: 3042	July 2007	Drawn by: SM	Trench Location		

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