

## Croydon APA 2.12: Pollards Hill

### Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the summit of Pollards Hill where a possible earthwork is located and includes the site of a recreation ground and a number of houses in Ena Road and Pollards Wood Road. It is classified as a Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area because it is a distinctive topographical feature with evidence of archaeological interest.

### Description

A series of low banks have fuelled the belief that a prehistoric earthwork is located here and a low bank between 0.5m and 1.3m high surrounds a circular area of flat ground but the age and extent of the earthwork are currently unknown. Excavations that have taken place at the site found little of significance and prehistoric finds have not been made in the area. The Norwood Archaeological Society excavated the site in 1962 but the results were inconclusive. In 1996 a watching brief was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service which did not find any significant archaeological remains but none of the test pits were located in the area of the potential earthwork.

The APA is located on the highest point of the local area on a hill comprised of London Clay so it is logical for a prehistoric hillfort to be situated here due to the commanding views across wide stretches of the surrounding area. It is also a possibility that some form of signalling station was located here in the Roman period due to its proximity to the London to Brighton Roman road.

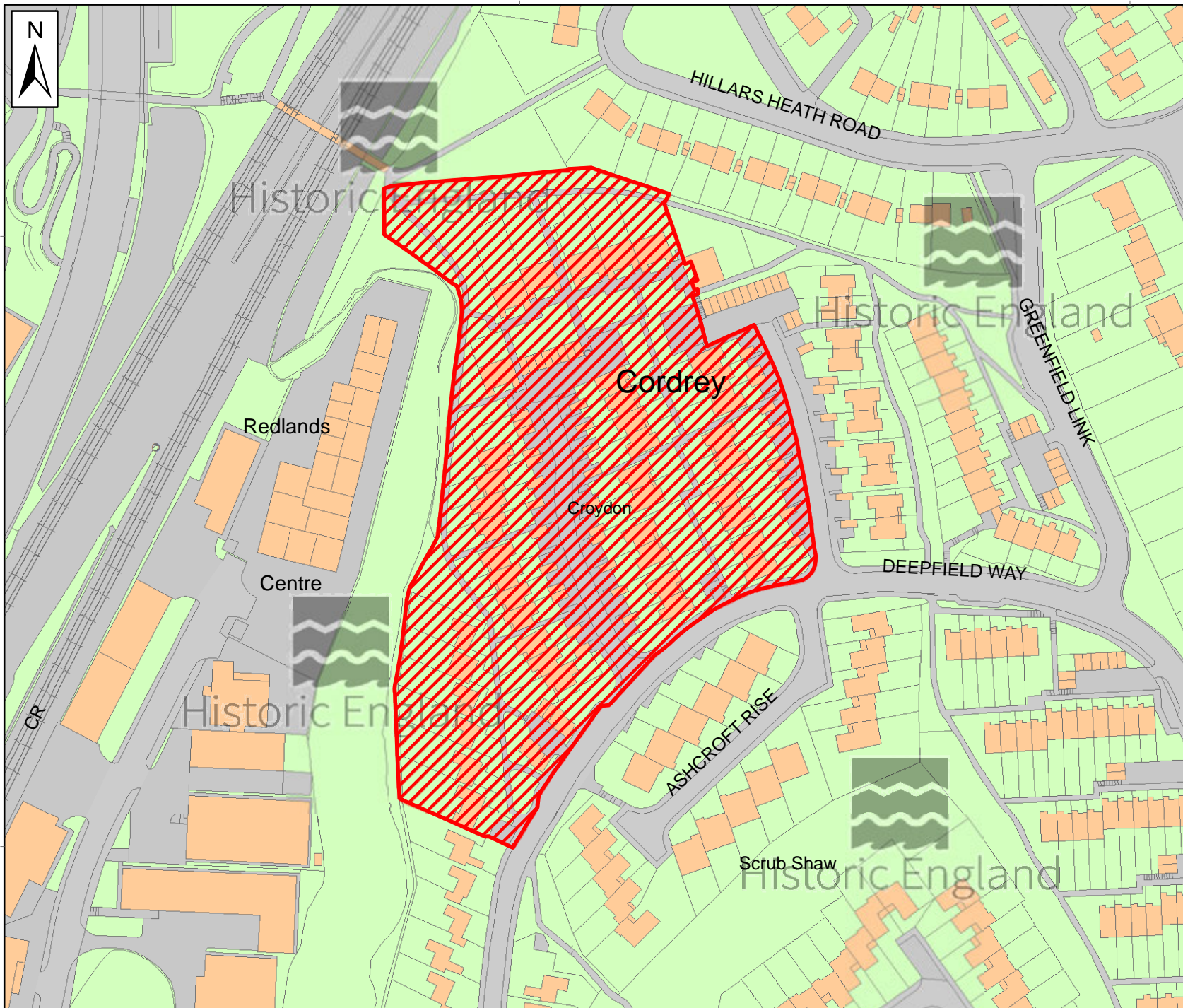
The site was farmland until the area around it started to be developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. An OS map of 1882 shows nothing on the site apart from a flagstaff while an Old Clay Pit is marked on the site on an OS map from 1894. The clay extraction may have had an impact on any surviving archaeological remains. The open area was made into a recreation ground in 1913 and by 1934 most of the houses that surround it had been erected.

### Significance

Further investigations are necessary to confirm the purpose and age of the earthwork. If it was confirmed that the site was a prehistoric hillfort, for example, it would be of regional or national importance and enhance our knowledge of how hillforts were distributed across this area of south London. The undeveloped nature of the earthwork also allows its topographical location to be appreciated. Further finds could be located in the area

surrounding the earthwork and could relate to an associated settlement. There is clearly a need to learn more about the site before the purpose and significance of the earthwork can be fully appreciated.





 Deepfield Way 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 2.13: Deepfield Way

### Summary and Definition

The APA covers an area to the north of Deepfield Way where Roman burials and Iron Age ditches were discovered in the late 1960s. The APA is classed as Tier 2 because the features uncovered in the 1960s represent heritage assets of archaeological interest which are recorded on the GLHER.

### Description

The area was unoccupied and rural until it was developed in the 1960s. Building work to the north of Deepfield Way in the late 1960s found three v-shaped ditches that were approximately 14 feet wide and 5 feet deep. Pottery fragments that were recovered from the ditches could be dated to the Romano-British period indicating that the features may have been some type of boundary or defensive feature. During the same works 11 burials were found between two of the ditches. The coffins the burials had been interred in had disintegrated but the nails survived and could be dated to the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. A bronze coin depicting the emperor Constantius II was also found with the burials which could be dated to around 346 AD. In 1923 a large pit had been found nearby which contained Roman pottery.

It is possible that the ditches were associated with an Iron Age settlement that continued to be used in the Roman period or there may have been a period when the site was not occupied until a cemetery was established in the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The settlement may have been a roadside settlement although no major Roman road is thought to have passed near here although lesser roads that may have been based on earlier prehistoric trackways may have passed along the valley to the west of the site. No further archaeological investigations have taken place since the 1960s but it is possible that further features and finds might be present although building developments since then would have had an impact on any surviving remains.

### Significance

The ditches, burials and pottery fragments indicate that some form of activity was taking place in the vicinity during the Romano-British period. However, the precise nature of that activity and the length of time it took place is unclear. The ditches may relate to a nearby settlement or they may be an isolated feature but only further research would clarify their purpose and significance. The Roman burials are of significance due to their number

and the fact that they can be dated to such a precise part of the Roman period. A number of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been found on hillsides in Croydon but this is an example of a Roman cemetery in a similar location. Its existence might indicate that hillside Saxon cemeteries may have had a precedent in the Roman period and could be used to compare and contrast burial practices in both periods. The discovery of further archaeological features or burials would help to establish the exact nature, purpose and context of the activity that took place here and may lead to the boundaries of the APA being extended.

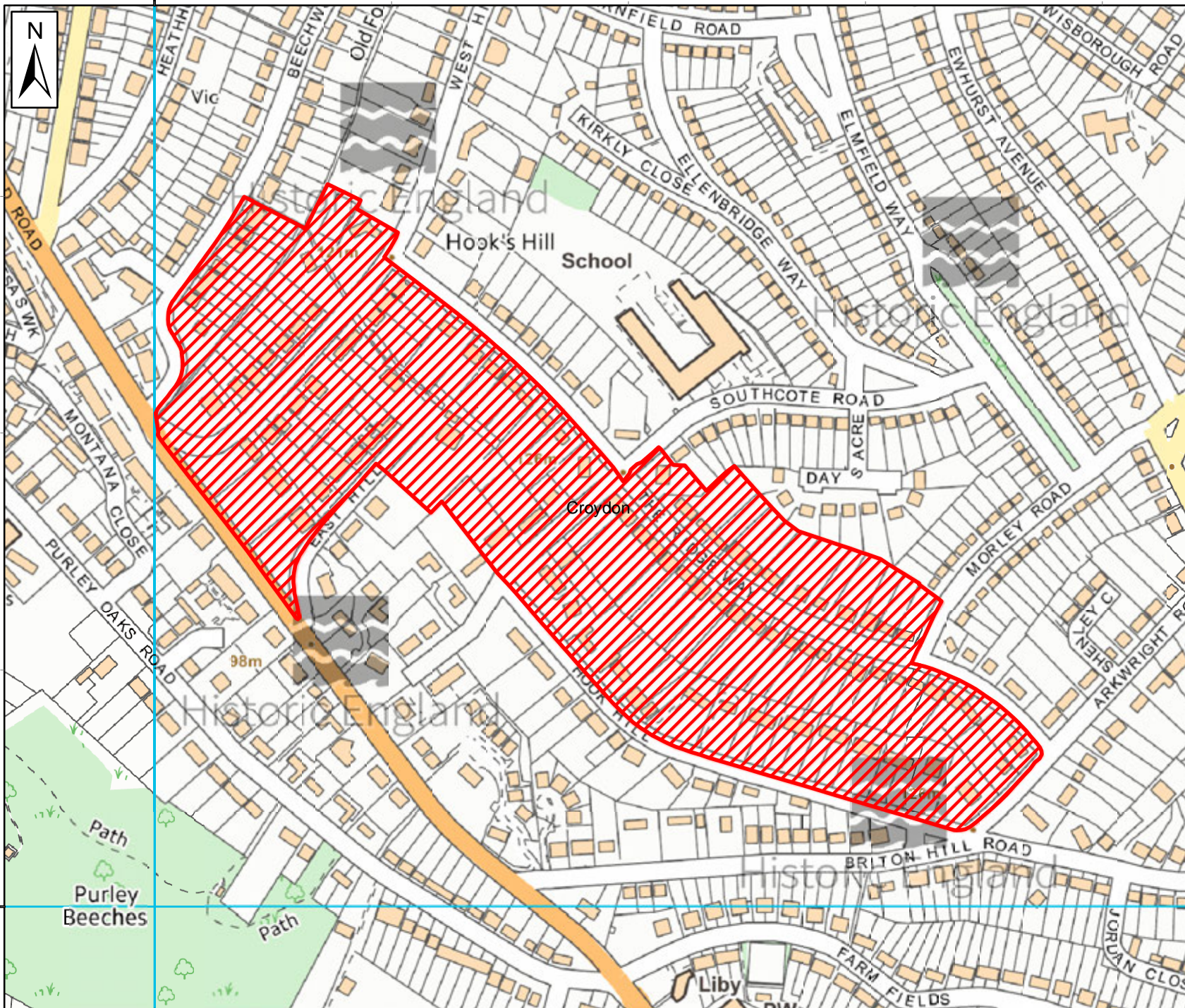
### **Key References**

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





Croydon APA 2.14  
Hook Hill



 Hook Hill APA

 Tier 1  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

 Tier 2  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

 Tier 3  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,500

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## Croydon APA 2.14: Hook Hill

### Summary and Definition

The Hook Hill Archaeological Priority Area covers an area to the north-west of Sanderstead. What is thought to be part of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found within the APA in 1884. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because the Saxon burials represent a heritage asset of archaeological interest but the cemetery is insufficiently well defined to merit Tier 1 status.

### Description

Hook Hill projects from the North Downs with slopes on its northern and western sides. The area was rural and undeveloped until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when Sanderstead station was opened and housing started to be built. During construction of a residential estate in 1884 a number of skeletons were found to the south of the station on the eastern side of Croydon Road, now Sanderstead Road. The location of the burials is thought to be in the vicinity of the southern end of West Hill. Approximately 12 skeletons were found in two groups and a small pot or urn found near the head of one of the burials and two knives found in other graves dated the burials to the Anglo-Saxon period. Two further skeletons were found during construction of The Ridge Way in the 1920s although it was not possible to date these burials.

Other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been found along the Wandle Valley at Farthing Down, Cane Hill, Croydon, Beddington and Mitcham. Those found at Hook Hill are thought to be part of a larger cemetery although its extent is unknown. It is also unknown whether the cemetery was located here because of its proximity to a particular feature such as a settlement, the summit of the hill or a boundary marker such as a dyke or ditch. The skeletons found in 1924 were located some distance to the east of those found in 1884 and if they were also Saxon and part of the same cemetery it would give an indication of the size and possible burial population of the cemetery. It is therefore possible that the remains of further burials might be present within the APA or elsewhere on Hook Hill.

### Significance

Along with other Saxon cemeteries that have been found in Croydon the burials at Hook Hill demonstrate that areas overlooking the Wandle Valley were selected as burial sites during the Anglo-Saxon period. Together they form a network along the Wandle Valley which could indicate whether settlements were located nearby. The discovery of more burials

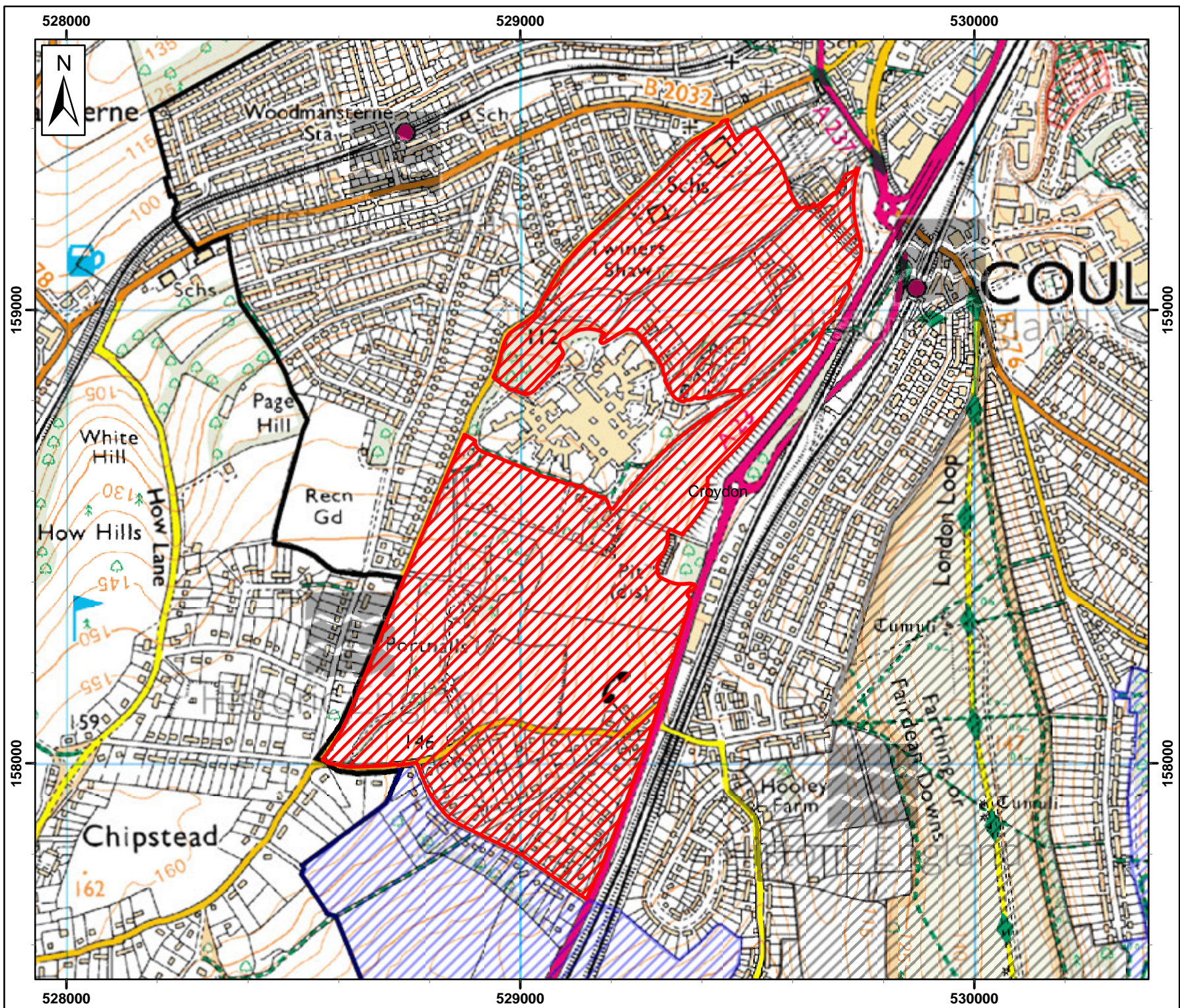
might provide information relating to the social status, health and general background of the people being buried in the cemetery. If further investigations enable the cemetery to be better defined it might be judged of national importance and upgraded to Tier 1.

### **Key References**





*A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites*, A. Meaney, George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1964







Croydon APA 2.15  
Cane Hill

-  Cane Hill APA
-  Tier 1  
Archaeological  
Priority Area
-  Tier 2  
Archaeological  
Priority Area
-  Tier 3  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:11,000

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## Croydon APA 2.15: Cane Hill

### Summary and Definition

The Cane Hill Archaeological Priority Area occupies the side of a valley in the south-west of Croydon. Like other parts of the North Downs in Croydon this is a relatively undeveloped area with potential for finds and features from the prehistoric period and finds from later periods have also been recovered. Collectively these finds indicate that areas near the summit of the hill were occupied to varying extents across a prolonged period of time. The APA is classed as Tier 2 because there have been positive archaeological interventions in a topographically distinctive and relatively undeveloped area. The site of the former Cane Hill Hospital has been excluded because construction of the hospital and its basements has completely removed any archaeology. However, the developed area around Starrock Road has been included because there is still potential for archaeology in the gardens of the properties.

### Description

With the exception of the residential area near Starrock Road much of the APA has never been developed. It is therefore likely that archaeological remains would survive within it. A number of prehistoric finds such as flint flakes and an axe have been recovered from the APA. In this respect it is similar to other chalk upland areas of Croydon where numerous prehistoric finds and features have been discovered.

An extensive archaeological evaluation that took place in 2014 between Portnalls Farm and Lion Green Road found prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval material and features. The amount of prehistoric pits and postholes that were found to the south of the former hospital site suggested that one or more settlements had been located there.

Roman features and finds such as post holes, cut features, building material and pottery which were observed during the evaluation in the same area as the prehistoric finds indicated that the site continued to be occupied into the Roman period. Collectively they may indicate that a Roman farmstead was located there. Saxon finds recovered from the same area indicated that the farmstead continued to be used into the Saxon period too. Further material such as pottery and peg tiles dating from the medieval and early post medieval periods suggest that another building or buildings were present in the area during those later periods. Portnalls Farms appears on a map dating to the 1760s but it is unclear when it was initially established.



A number of Anglo-Saxon burials have been found on Farthing Down to the east of the APA on the opposite side of the valley. Saxon burials have also been found in other high areas in southern Croydon such as Riddlesdown and Hook Hill and it is logical to expect Cane Hill to have similar Saxon burials. It was thought that Saxon burials had been found near the site of Cane Hill hospital in 1873 but it is now believed that these burials were found near Lion Green Road and are part of that cemetery. In 1910 one or possibly two skeletons were found near Starrock Road but it is not known if they were Anglo-Saxon. The Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Lion Green Road is located to the north of the APA and it is possible that it extended into the area around Smitham Primary School.

Cane Hill hospital previously occupied a large site at the hill's summit. It was a psychiatric hospital which was built in the 1880s and remained in use until 2008. Most of its buildings, with the exception of the chapel, water tower, administration block and a few others, have since been demolished.

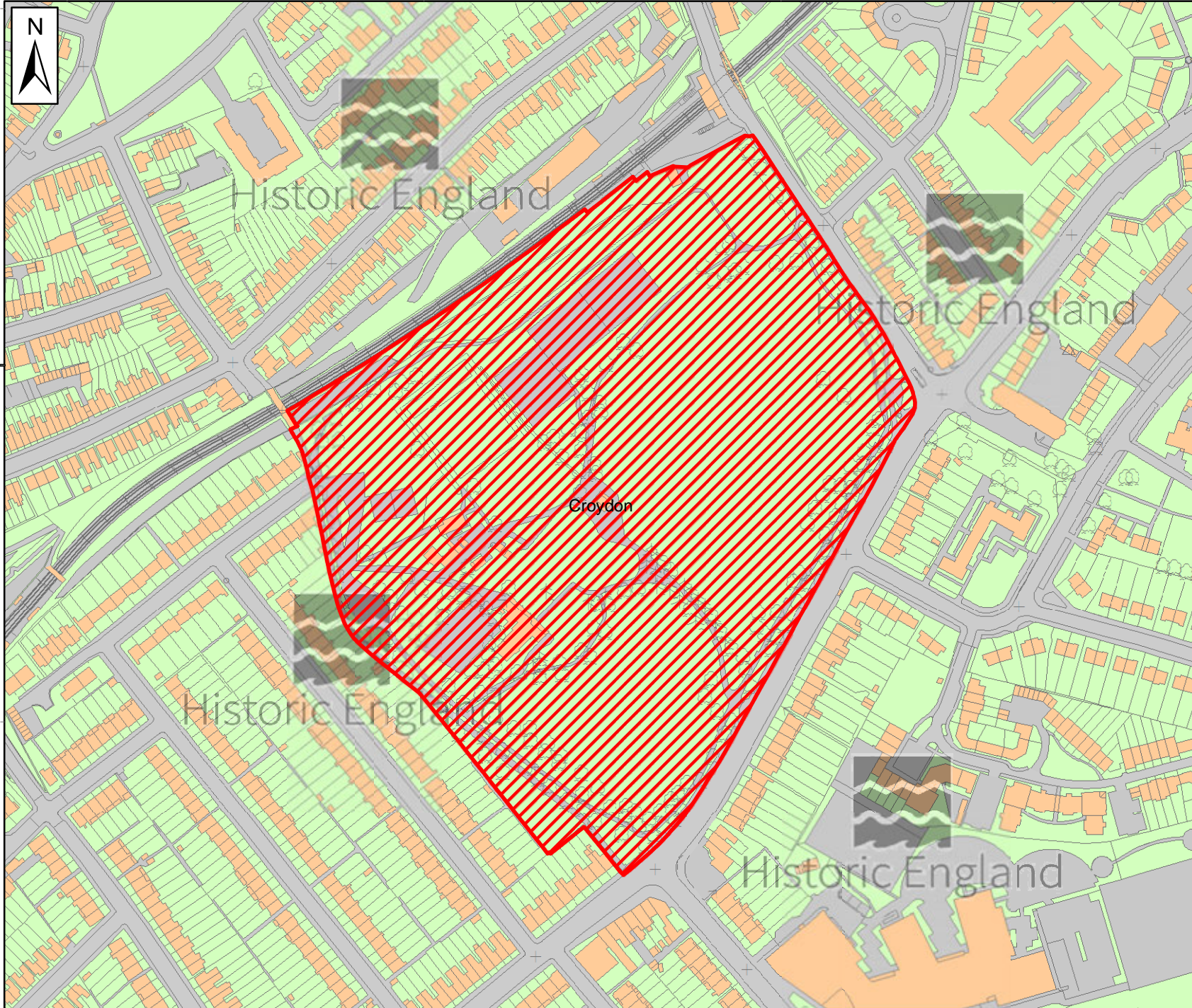
### **Significance**

The higher chalk land areas of southern Croydon have potential to contain evidence of prehistoric finds and the Cane Hill area has the same potential. The evidence found during the 2014 evaluation demonstrated that the hilltop had been settled for a prolonged period of time across a range of different periods. Further surveys and investigations may clarify the nature and extent of the settlement at different times and would assist in the significance of the site being fully appreciated. If Cane Hill was the location for an important prehistoric hill top settlement it would be an important example of potentially national significance. The APA also has potential for Anglo-Saxon burials and if such burials were to be found it would lead to the boundaries and Tier level of parts of the APA being altered accordingly. Further archaeological fieldwork has taken place at Cane Hill since the 2014 evaluation and the results of this work could also lead to the boundaries and Tier level of the APA being changed.


### **Key References**

*Former Cane Hill Hospital, Brighton Road, Coulsdon CR5 3YL, An Archaeological Evaluation, Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2015*





Croydon APA 2.16  
Ashburton Park

 Ashburton Park 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 2.16: Ashburton Park

### Summary and Definition

The APA covers Ashburton Park which was formerly the grounds of an 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house known as Stroud Green House which was demolished in the 1920s. The convent building (the former Ashburton Library) and a collection of small buildings, one of which is known as the Lodge, which are located in the western part of the park, were part of the manor house. The APA is classed as Tier 2 because Stroud Green House was a post medieval manor house and any remains are likely to be well preserved.

### Definition

Stroud Green House was built in 1788, slightly to the north-east of where the convent building is located, and its grounds occupied the same area as the current park. It was known by a number of names before it came to be known as Stroud Green House from the 1860s onwards. The house can be seen on an OS map of 1880 with gardens to its rear and two drives leading from the front to Lower Addiscombe Road. A number of small buildings that can be seen on the map to the north-west of the house still survive and were built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The convent was constructed in 1882 by Father Tooth and became the base for an order of Anglican nuns who established an orphanage and a women's refuge in the building. An OS map from 1896 shows that a block had been added to the south-west of the house which had connecting walkways to the Lodge buildings and the Convent.

The house was demolished in 1927 and its grounds became a public park. The convent building was converted into Ashburton Library which closed in 2006. Remains of Stroud Green House may survive because the site where it was located has never been developed and traces of its gardens and associated garden features may also survive.

### Significance

Post medieval country houses and their gardens are important for garden history and social history. The construction of Stroud Green House reflects how Croydon had become a desirable area for a certain strata of society by the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The house and estate could be compared and contrasted with similar estates within the borough and across London during the same period.

## Key References

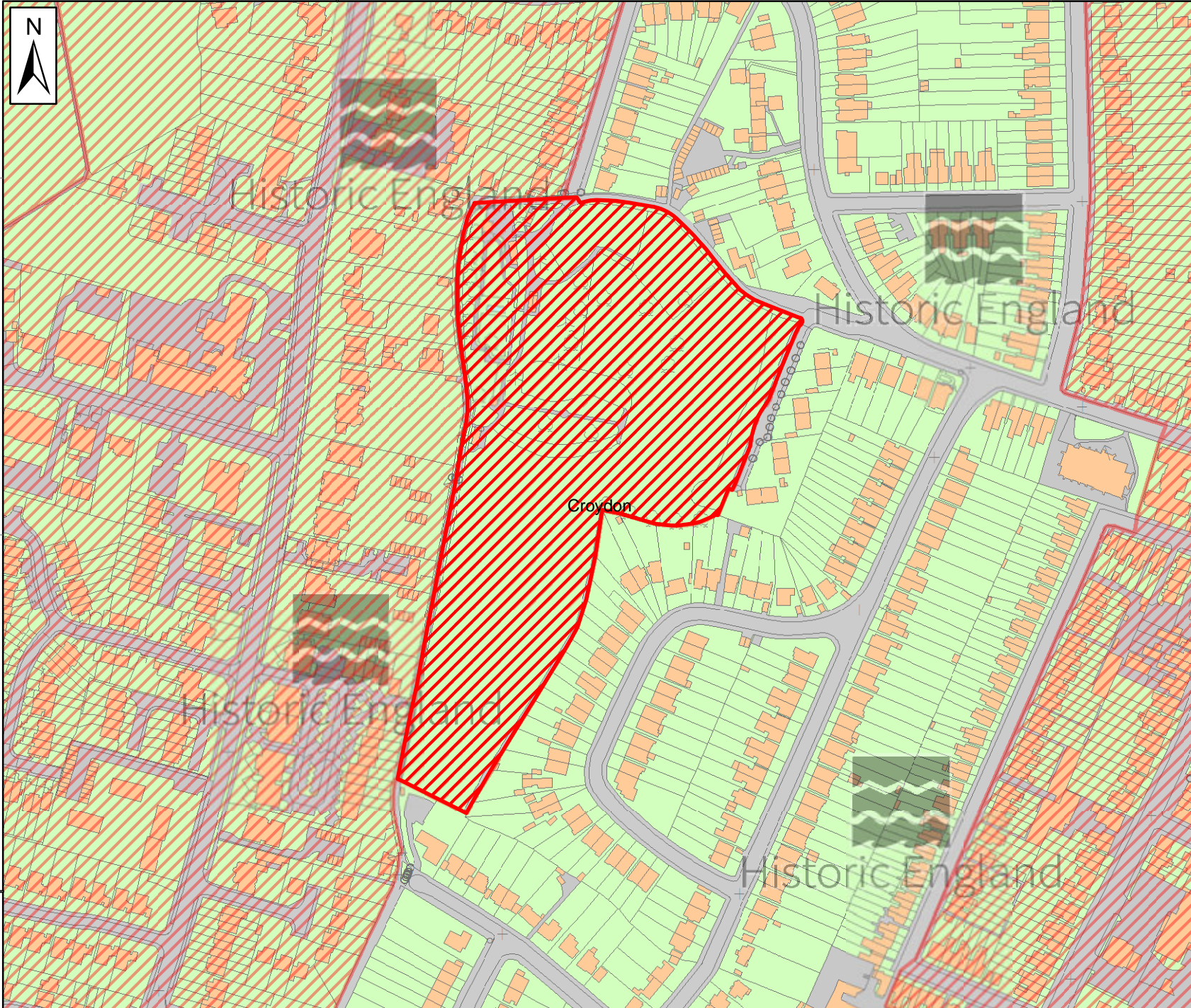
*London 2: South*, B. Cherry and N. Pevsner, Penguin Books, 1983

*Woodside*, Lilian Thornhill, North Downs Press, 1986







Croydon APA 2.17  
Haling Grove



 Haling Grove 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 2.17: Haling Grove

### Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers Haling Grove Park which lies to the east of Pampisford Road. The grounds of Haling Grove House, which was previously located in the north-west of the park, were converted into a public park after the house was demolished in the 1930s. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because the remains of Haling Grove House are likely to be well preserved.

### Description

The grounds of Haling Grove were formerly part of the Haling Park estate which was once owned by Lord Howard of Effingham. Haling Park House was located to the north-east of Haling Grove on land now occupied by the Whitgift School. Haling Grove House was built at some point in the early Victorian period and most of the rest of the Haling Park estate was sold off in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. An OS map of 1882 shows the house, its grounds, an open meadow to the south and a number of associated buildings close to the house. A farm called Haling Farm was located to the west of Haling Grove.

The last owner of Haling Grove House was Sydney Shorter who died in 1929. After his death his wife donated Haling Grove to the Playing Fields Association in 1933 who subsequently gave it to the local authority and it became a public park. The house was demolished in 1936 but since the park has not been developed it is likely the foundations of the house survive beneath the surface. Other features related to the house and its grounds which still survive in the park are a walled garden, parts of a coach house and the remains of a ha-ha.

A possible prehistoric arrowhead has been recovered from the park and it is possible that the prehistoric finds that have been found in the vicinity of Pampisford Road extend into this area too. Any surviving prehistoric finds and features would have survived due to the lack of development within the Haling Grove parkland area.

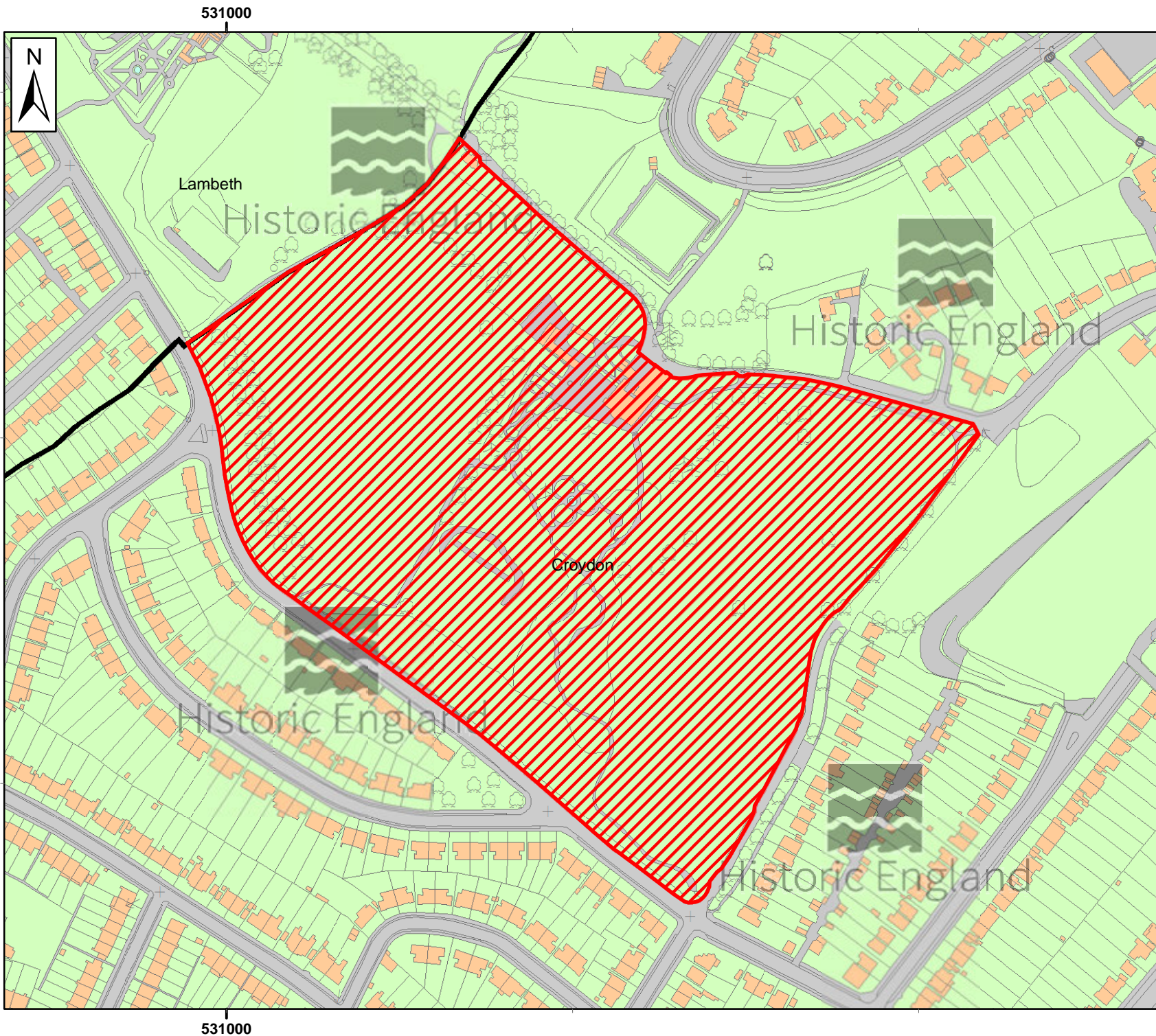
### Significance

While the focus of the APA is the former house its parkland has potential for archaeological remains from a variety of periods since it is a relatively large open area of ground. The house represents an example of a Victorian country house built at a time when the area was still predominantly rural and demolished after the surrounding area had been


built on by housing. It demonstrates how the area was an attractive location for people to build their country houses at a time when the larger estate the land originally belonged to was being broken up.








Croydon APA 2.18  
Norwood Grove


 Norwood Grove APA


**Pottery Sites**

**Rivers**

**Modern Boroughs**

 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 2.18: Norwood Grove

### Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers an open parkland area on the slope of a ridge which was previously the grounds of Norwood Grove. Norwood Grove is a Grade II Listed Building and the surrounding park is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. It is classified as Tier 2 because it is a Registered Park and Garden with significant archaeological interest.

### Description

The name Norwood comes from the North Wood, a heavily wooded area that covered northern Croydon and southern Lambeth in the medieval period. In the Domesday Book the area that Norwood Grove was located in is recorded as Lime Common but the area was also known as the Great Streatham Common. A manmade earthwork within the park has been recorded although it is unclear whether it relates to a hillfort, a field boundary or a lynchet. Its position on a ridge with a commanding view within walking distance of a river would make it an attractive location for a prehistoric hillfort although little evidence has been found to support such as hypothesis and the field boundary explanation appears more likely. The undeveloped nature of the park means that any activity that has taken place here is likely to have left an archaeological trace.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century part of the Common was enclosed by the Duke of Portland to create a shooting estate and a manor house was presumably built at the same time in the vicinity of the modern building. The present building was constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is likely that the current building occupies the same site as previous houses and may have incorporated sections of an earlier building in its fabric. However, if former houses were built away from Norwood Grove then any remains are likely to survive since the park has not undergone major development.

The house has been known as Norbury Grove, Streatham Grove and Norwood Grove and is also referred to as the White House. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century it was owned by Arthur Anderson, the co-founder of the P&O Shipping Company but in 1913 the houses and its estate were sold to the Croydon Corporation. Local residents objected to plans for the redevelopment of the land in 1924 and managed to buy the site and opened it as a public park in 1926. Part of the house was damaged by bombing during the Second World War.

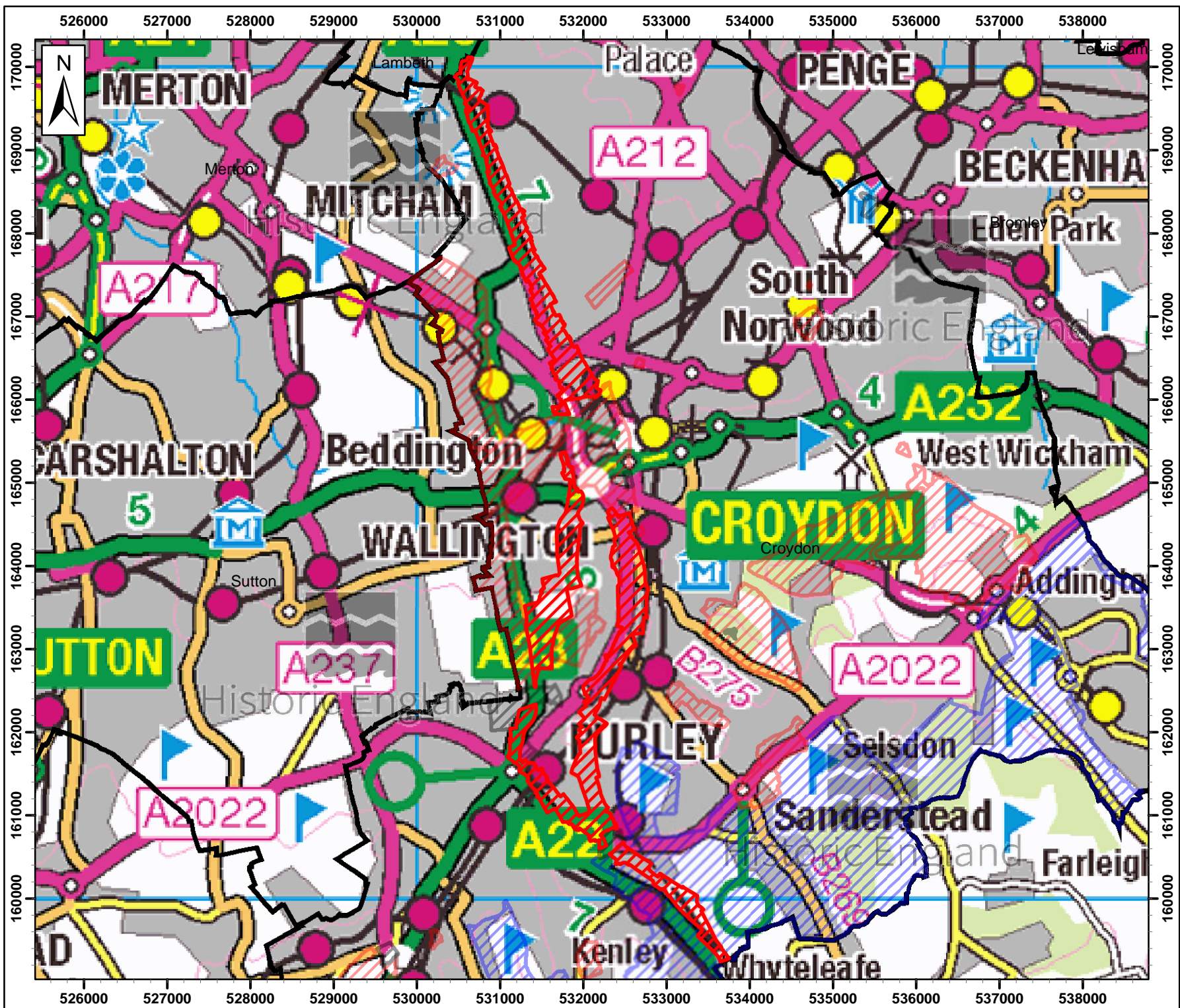
## Significance

The park and house represent an example of a post medieval country estate, several other examples of which can be found in this and other parts of south London. Such estates illustrate how the area became a desirable place to build a country house in the post medieval period. Archaeological investigation and public interpretation could better reveal its historic interest.





The earthwork within the park appears to be a manmade structure but further study would be necessary in order to confirm its date and purpose. If it is a hillfort then it would be a rare survival for London and possibly of national importance.







Croydon APA 2.19  
 London to Brighton  
 Roman Road

-  London to Brighton Roman Road APA
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

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## Croydon APA 2.19: London to Brighton Roman Road

### Summary and Definition

The London to Brighton Roman road runs across the borough from Norbury in the north to Riddlesdown in the south. Between the borough boundary with Lambeth and Broad Green the road followed approximately the same route as London Road. South of this there are two possible routes which converge at Riddlesdown. The settlement of Croydon developed during the Roman period because it was situated on the road at a convenient stopping distance from *Londinium*. Other smaller settlements, hamlets or farmsteads may also have developed close to the Roman road. The APA is classed as Tier 2 because it is a corridor of land centred along a Roman road.

### Description

The London to Brighton Roman road, sometimes referred to as the London to Portslade Roman road, is one of three major routes that led south from London along with the London to Lewes road and Stane Street. Together they linked London with the south coast and the iron producing and corn growing areas of Sussex. The London to Brighton road branched from Stane Street near Kennington Park and then followed a route marked by several modern roads including Brixton Road, Brixton Hill, Streatham Hill and Streatham High Road. London Road follows the route of the road between Norbury and Broad Green.

A section of the road was uncovered in 1961 during road works near Hermitage Bridge close to the borough boundary with Lambeth. The Norbury Archaeological Society was able to carry out an investigation and a complete section of the road was exposed. It was 32 feet wide with a ditch that was 15 inches deep on its western side and it also had a kerb that was four inches high and six inches wide. The road was made of flint and surfaced with cobble stones and iron slag. Another section of the road was exposed in 1962 near the junction of London Road and St Helen's Road. The road had a similar composition to the section found in 1961 but it was supported by a layer of mortar beneath which was a three inch layer of hazel wood. The hazel wood is thought to have been laid down because the area was particularly boggy. The road is thought to have crossed Norbury Brook by a ford which was found during works to widen a culvert at Hermitage Bridge and consisted of a layer of packed flint and gravel that was more than four feet thick.

There is debate over which route the road followed south of Broad Green. On the one hand it may have branched to the west along Handcroft Road and then passed to the west of Croydon town centre along the route of Roman Way/Old Town and Southbridge Road.

Alternatively after Broad Green it may have continued along London Road and then passed through what is now the centre of Croydon along the route of North End and the High Street before it continued south along the same path now followed by Brighton Road.

Croydon developed due to the Roman road and its convenient location approximately ten miles south of central London. It is not known precisely where the centre of the Roman settlement was situated but if its location was established it could help to clarify how the road passed through it. If the road passed to the west of Croydon town centre it may have encountered boggy conditions close to the Wandle which would have been liable to flooding. In later centuries it was these wet conditions that influenced the focus of the medieval settlement to move eastwards towards the market area. The eastern route through the centre of Croydon may have therefore been the more likely route that the road followed. It is also possible that the route split into two different routes at Broad Green and converged at a point to the south of Croydon town centre possibly where Southbridge Road meets South End. It was also at Croydon that the London to Brighton road crossed a lesser Roman road which ran from east to west along the foot of the North Downs. Remains of this road were encountered in Lower Coombe Street. Few other Roman settlements or sites along the road have been identified but should nevertheless be anticipated within the boundaries of the APA.

The route of the Roman road between Croydon and Riddlesdown is not known although there are two theories. It may have followed the route of Brighton Road along the base of the Wandle Valley before rising onto the higher ground of the North Downs, possibly along the route of Riddlesdown Road. The second theory is that if the road had passed to the west of Croydon town centre it may have continued southwards along Duppas Hill and Violet Hill before it turned in a south-west direction towards Russell Hill. Even though such a route across Purley Way Playing Fields is no longer followed by any modern path or road, a track can be seen on the Rocque Map from the 1760s and in OS maps until the 1930s. It then descended into Purley, crossed the Wandle Valley and then ascended to Riddlesdown possibly via Downs Court Road.

The Brighton Road route may have become muddy or flooded during wet conditions since it passed along a river valley floor with steep slopes on either side. The Russell Hill route would not have been prone to such wet conditions since it went along higher ground above the western side of the valley. However, the Russell Hill route would have needed to ascend/descend a steep slope at Russell Hill and another as it climbed onto Riddlesdown while the gradient of the slope the Brighton Road route would have followed up to Riddlesdown was comparatively gentle. It is also possible that both routes were used at different times depending on seasonal conditions. Remains of the road have not been found

on either projected route between Croydon and Riddlesdown and it is not yet possible to say which route the London to Brighton Road followed.

Riddlesdown Road becomes a track once it comes to the open area of Riddlesdown and the track is thought to follow the route of the road as it descends towards Godstone Road and the county boundary. Alternatively the road may have continued along the highest part of Riddlesdown instead of descending to the valley floor. Once again the road may have followed two different routes which were used depending on seasonal circumstances which would have had an impact on the condition of the road.

### **Significance**

The London to Brighton Roman road was one of the more important routes that radiated from London. While there is conjecture over the precise route it is clear that several major and minor roads in Croydon still mirror its alignment thus demonstrating its continued importance and usage following the Roman period. Future archaeological investigations may uncover further sections of the road which would clarify its exact route and lead to the boundaries of the APA being altered accordingly. It is possible that the road did not follow a single route and may have converged and diverged a number of times as it passed through Croydon and finding a section of the road in one area will not necessarily mean that it is absent in another. The road would have stimulated the development of various roadside settlements, the most noteworthy of which is Croydon itself. The remains of any other smaller settlements within the APA would enrich our knowledge of what types of settlement and land use developed alongside or close to the Roman road.

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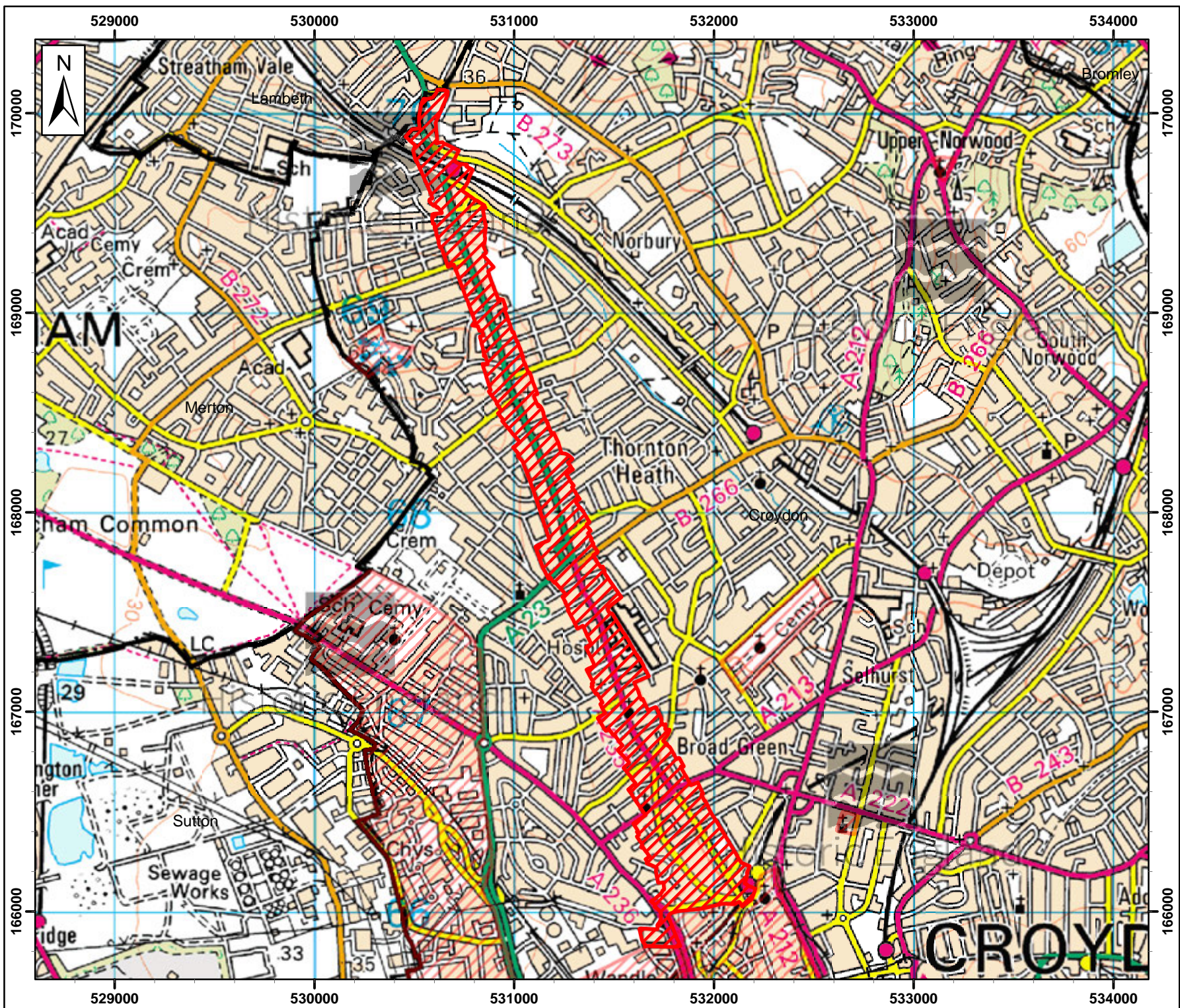
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*Roman Roads in Britain (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*, I. D. Margery, John Baker, 1973





Croydon APA 2.19  
 London to Brighton  
 Roman Road  
 (Northern Section)

-  London to Brighton Roman Road APA
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:25,000

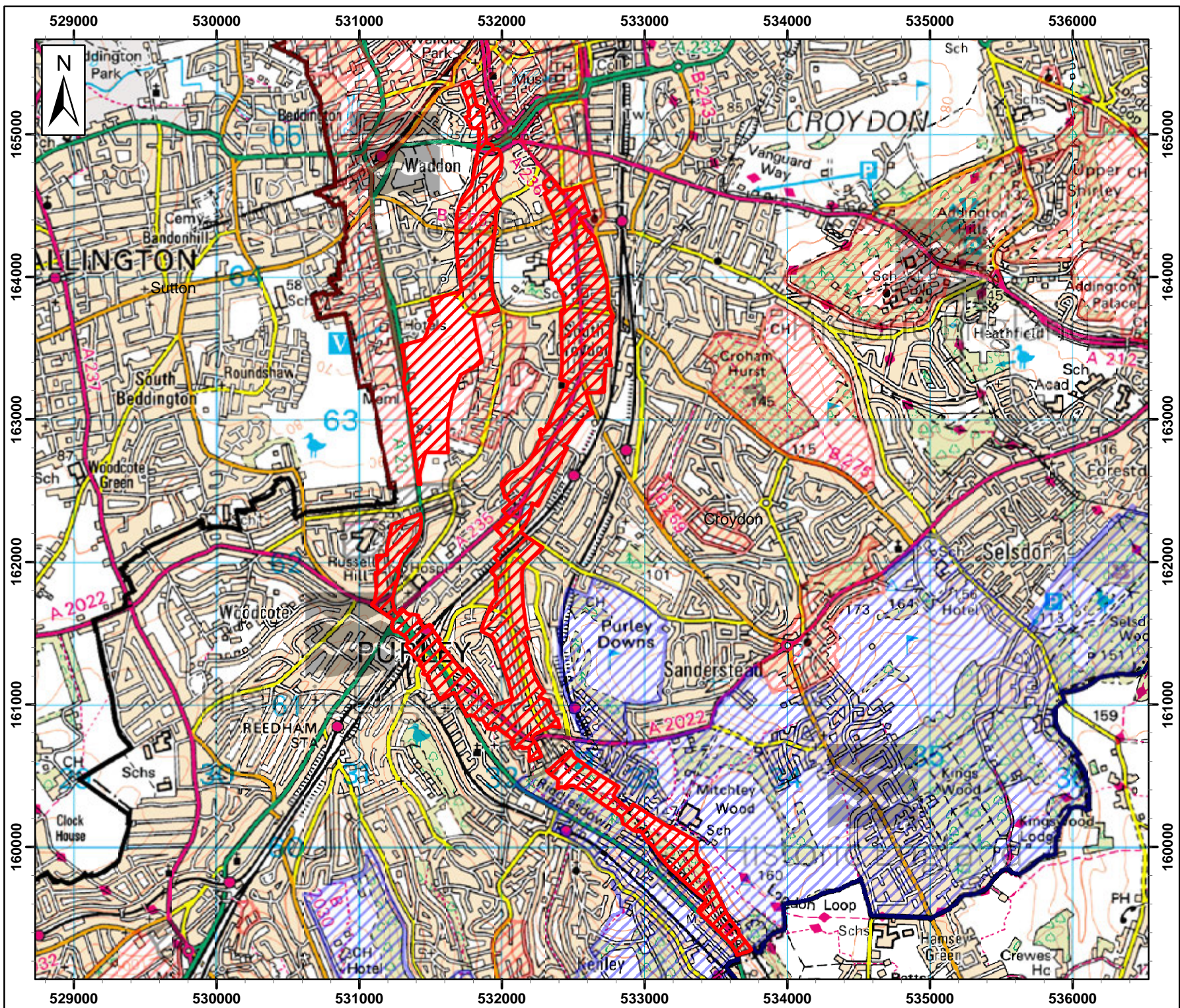
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Croydon APA 2.19  
 London to Brighton  
 Roman Road  
 (Southern Section)

-  London to Brighton Roman Road APA
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:35,000

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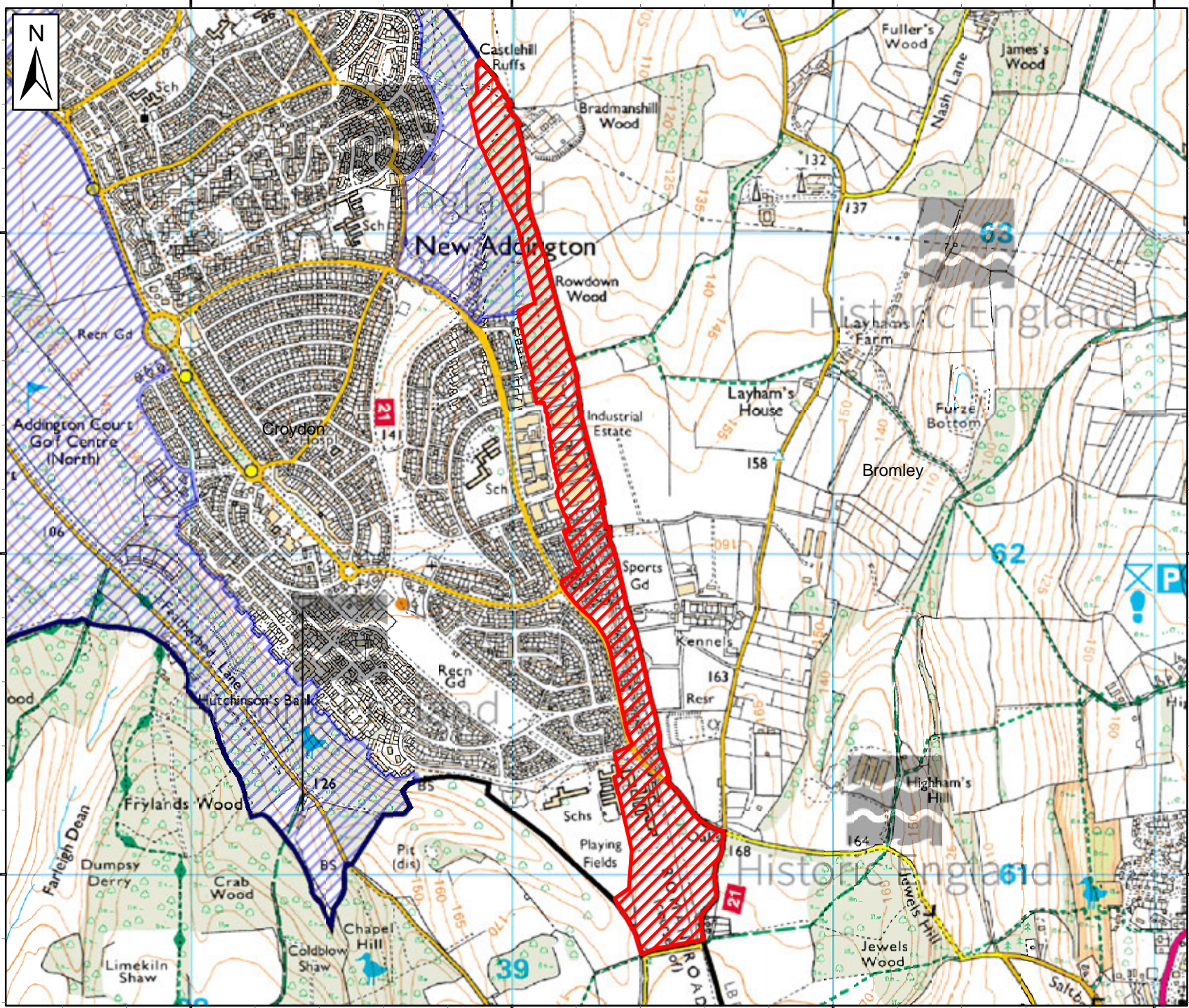
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538000 539000 540000 541000

Croydon APA 2.20  
London to Lewes  
Roman Road

-  London to Lewes Roman Road APA
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:16,500

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## Croydon APA 2.20: London to Lewes Roman Road

### Summary and Definition

The APA covers an area in the south-east of Croydon along the borough boundary with Bromley. The borough boundary which runs along the eastern side of Rowdown Wood and continues southwards until it reaches the county boundary with Surrey follows the course of the London to Lewes Roman road. The APA is classed as Tier 2 because it is a corridor of land alongside a Roman road.

### Description

The London to Lewes Roman road was constructed in the late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century and was one of three major routes that led south from London along with Stane Street and the London to Brighton Roman road. They linked London with the south coast and the iron producing and corn growing areas of Sussex. The road branched off from Watling Street in Peckham and then ran south towards Lewes passing through the modern boroughs of Lewisham and Bromley. Unlike other important Roman routes that radiated from London few modern roads follow the course of the London to Lewes Roman road. However, its route dictates part of the borough boundary between Croydon and Bromley for approximately 2.7km from Rowdown Wood until it reaches the county boundary with Surrey. On historic maps the road's route was marked by a number of field boundaries and hedgerows.

Two sections of the road were uncovered to the north of Rowdown Wood in Bromley at some point prior to 1935. The road was approximately 17 feet wide and consisted of a layer of loose flints beneath rammed chalk which was covered by loose gravel with ditches on either side. Another section of the road was uncovered near Wickham Court Farm in the 1960s which had similar dimensions and composition.

Roadside settlements would have developed along the route and Roman material has been found in the vicinity of the road in both Bromley and Croydon. The scheduled site to the north of Wickham Court Farm in Bromley is a Roman settlement situated on either side of the road where excavations in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s recovered more than 5000 pottery fragments and 100 Roman coins. The remains of a potential Roman farmstead were also found in the 1960s on Fox Hill in Bromley slightly to the west of the road which was dated to between 80 and 140 AD. Other important Roman finds found close to the APA include an iron hoop, thought to come from a Roman wheel which was found near Layhams Farm in 1976, a Roman brooch that was found in Addington Woods and Roman coins that were found in New Addington. While fewer Roman features associated with the road have been found on

the Croydon side of the borough boundary they should nevertheless be anticipated within the APA along with sections of the road itself.

### **Significance**

The London to Lewes Roman road was one of the most important routes that radiated from *Londinium* and linked the city to important industrial and farming centres in Sussex. It is somewhat unusual that modern roads do not follow the route either in Croydon or along much of its route between Peckham and Surrey. However, the fact that parish, borough and county boundaries still follow its route demonstrates its continued importance after the Roman period. The road would have stimulated the development of various roadside settlements such as the one near Wickham Court Farm in Bromley. The discovery of such a settlement within the APA would enrich our knowledge of what type of settlements developed alongside or close to the Roman road.

### **Key References**

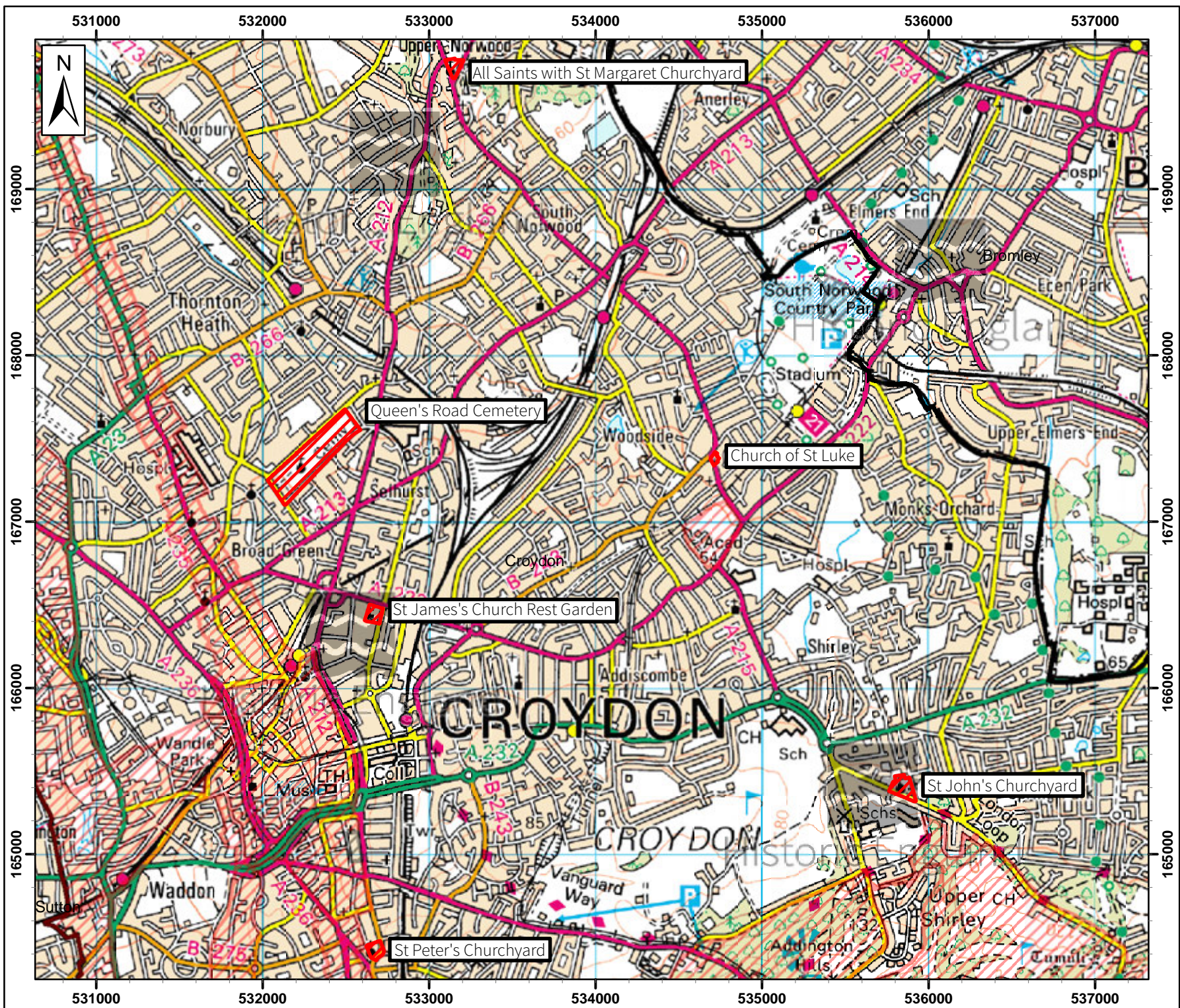
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*Roman Ways in the Weald (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*, I. D. Margary, Phoenix House, 1965





*Roman Roads in Britain (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*, I. D. Margary, John Baker, 1973







Croydon APA 2.21  
Croydon 19th  
Century Cemeteries

-  Croydon 19th Century Cemeteries APA
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:30,000

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## Croydon APA 2.21: Croydon 19<sup>th</sup> Century Cemeteries

### Summary and Definition

This APA covers one municipal cemetery and five 19<sup>th</sup> century churchyard cemeteries which are not already covered by an Archaeological Priority Area. Queen's Road Cemetery and Mitcham Road Cemetery are the only municipal cemeteries in Croydon and they have now reached capacity. Queen's Road Cemetery is covered by this APA while Mitcham Road Cemetery is covered by the Ampere Way APA. None of the church yards included in the APA accept new burials. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it covers burial grounds with 19<sup>th</sup> century origins.

### Description

**Queen's Road Cemetery, Queen's Road:** Queen's Road cemetery was opened in 1861 in response to cemeteries closer to London reaching capacity and the growing local population which by the 1860s had exceeded 30,000. It is one of two municipal cemeteries in Croydon, the other being Mitcham Road Cemetery, which were established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and parts of the cemetery were allocated for different Christian denominations. Two linked chapels at the centre of the cemetery were built around 1880 for Non-Conformist and Anglican ceremonies. Initially the cemetery extended slightly to the east of the chapels but by 1896 it had been extended to its current limit. A substantial air raid shelter built in the Second World War is situated in the south-east corner of the cemetery. There are an estimated 37,000 burials within the cemetery and it has now reached capacity although certain graves are being reused.

**All Saints with St Margaret Churchyard, Beulah Hill:** The church is a Grade II Listed Building that was built between 1827 and 1829 as a chapel of ease for St John the Baptist in Croydon. The churchyard is no longer in use but headstones and memorials are still visible and the memorial to Vice Admiral Robert Fitzroy is a Grade II listed structure that was erected in 1865.

**Church of St Luke, Woodside Green:** The Grade II listed church was constructed in 1870 to the east of the small settlement of Woodside. An OS map from 1896 shows a grave yard located between the church and its vicarage to the east. However, the grave yard is not shown on later OS maps and its site is now covered by the current vicarage building and the eastern side of the church which was extended to its current size in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is possible that burials from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century grave yard are still present.

**St James's Church Rest Garden, St James's Road:** St James's Church was consecrated in 1829 and is a Grade II\* Listed Building. The surrounding area is marked as a graveyard on 19<sup>th</sup> century OS maps but was converted into a memorial garden in the late 1960s which entailed using gravestones to pave an area next to the church. The church was later closed and has been converted into a residential care home.

**St John's Churchyard, Shirley Church Road:** St John's Church was completed in 1836 and is a Grade II Listed Building. The memorial to members of the Preston family which was erected in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the memorial dedicated to the parents of John Ruskin which was built around 1870 are both Grade II listed. Initially the churchyard occupied a smaller area surrounding the church but had reached its current extent by the 1930s.

**St Peter's Churchyard, St Peter's Road:** St Peter's Church is a Grade II Listed Building that was built between 1849 and 1851. The churchyard is surrounded by a flint wall and burials took place there between 1852 and 1986.

### Significance

Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century most cemeteries in Croydon were associated with churches that had existed since at least the medieval period. However, the rapid growth of Croydon's population and the expansion of its urban areas during the 19<sup>th</sup> century necessitated new churches and burial grounds. This is why the cemeteries covered by this APA were all established during that time and collectively they reflect the rapid development of Croydon. Other burials might survive at other sites although further research would be necessary to establish where such burials may be located. If the opportunity to study any of the burials within these cemeteries ever occurred they could provide information on the life expectancy, general health and social background of the local community and the diseases that they were suffering from.

Burials which are more than 100 years old are potentially of archaeological interest. The interest in burials and burial grounds relate to differences in burial practices, buildings and monuments which typically reflect a variety of social and religious factors and also to the study of human populations including life expectancy, health and disease.

Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines, archaeological investigation in post medieval burial grounds would normally only occur when burials more than 100 years old have to be disturbed for other reasons. Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than routine small scale cemetery

operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would be considered.

### **Key References**

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*The London Inventory, Historic Green Spaces, Croydon*, London Parks & Gardens Trust, 2003




Croydon APA 2.20  
Croydon 19th  
Century Cemeteries  
(Queen's Road Cemetery)

 Queen's Road Cemetery

Tier 1  
Archaeological  
Priority Area  


Tier 2  
Archaeological  
Priority Area  


Tier 3  
Archaeological  
Priority Area  


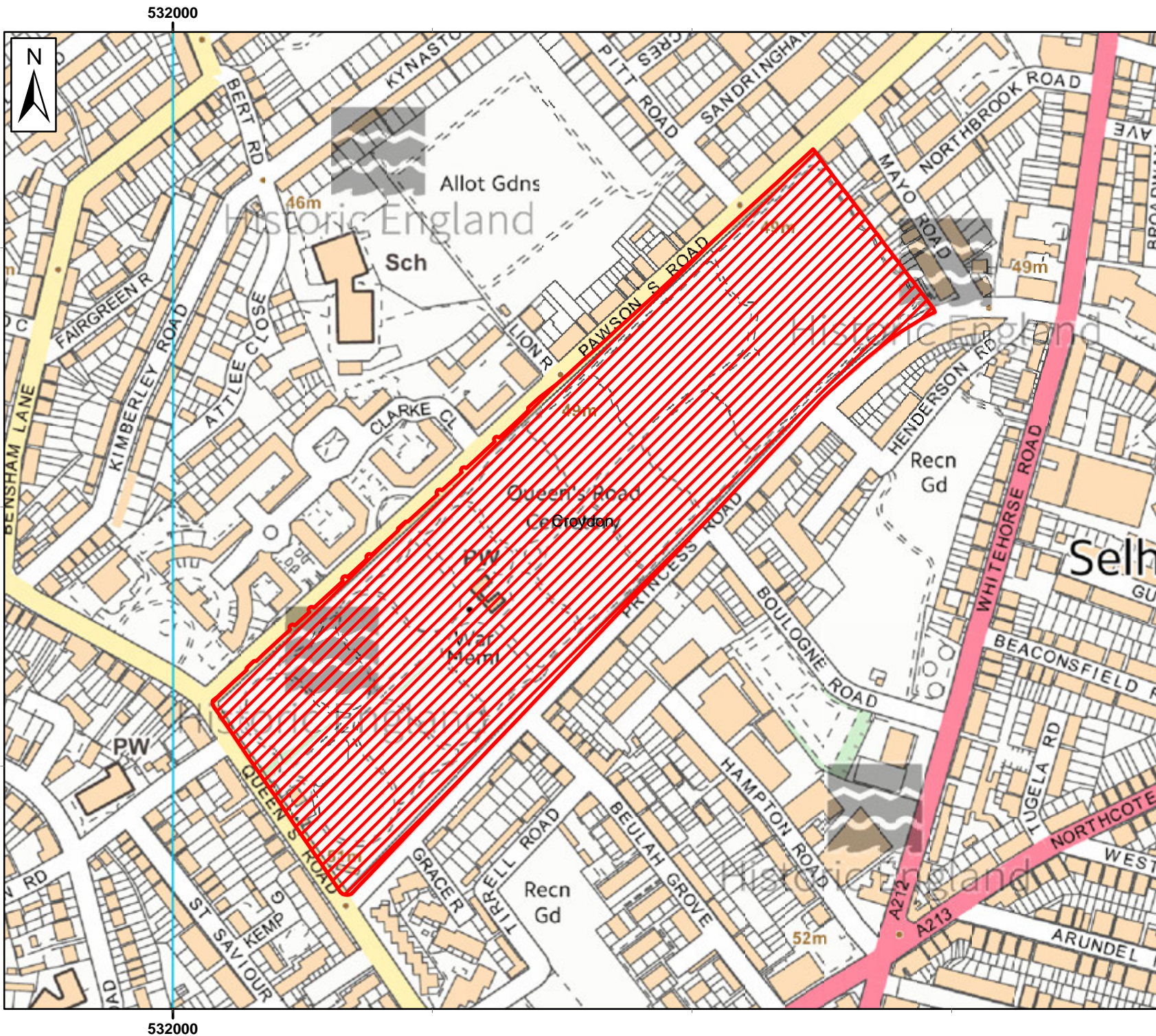
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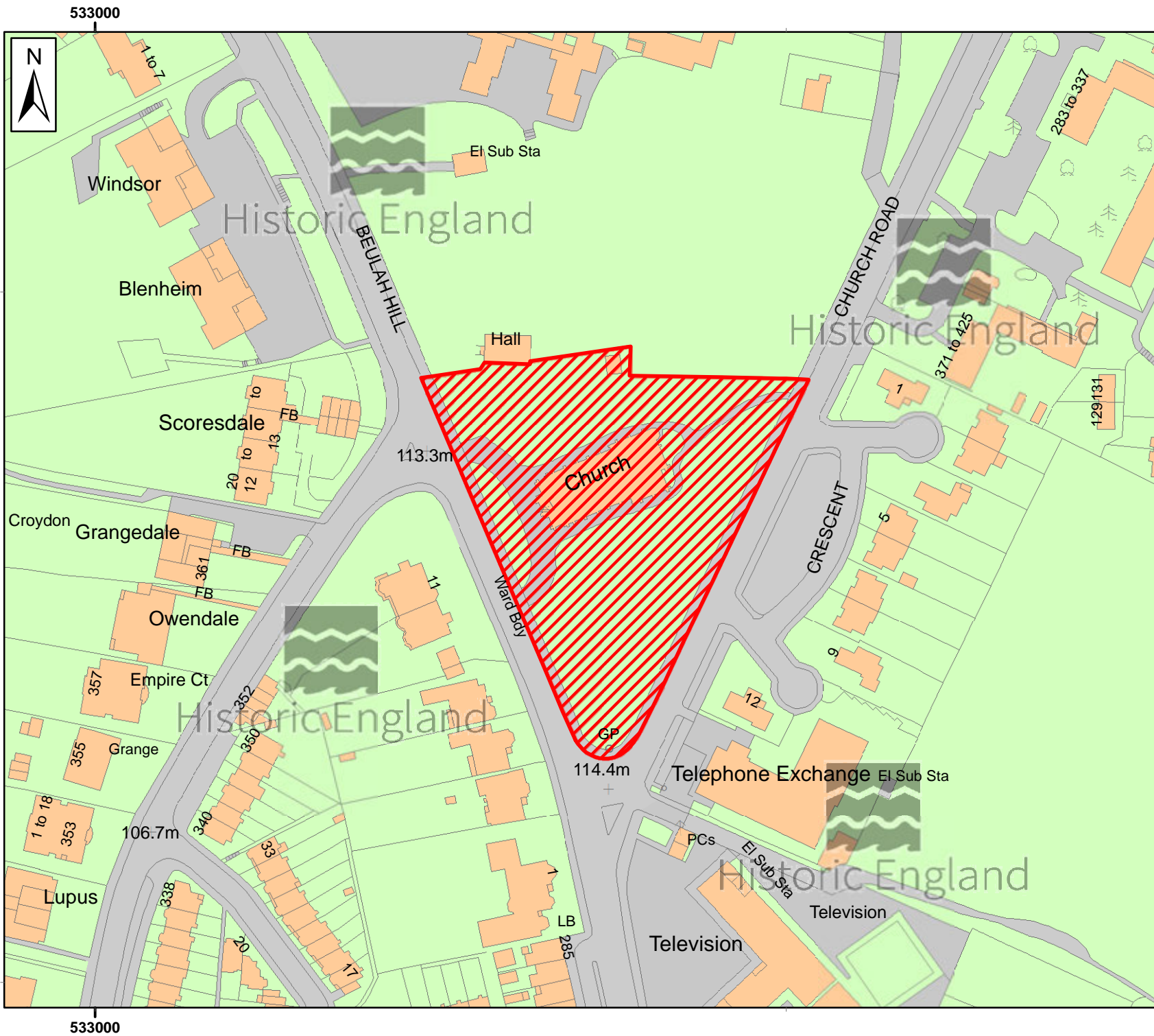
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Croydon APA 2.20  
 Croydon 19th  
 Century Cemeteries  
 (All Saints & St Margaret)

-  All Saints with St Margaret Churchyard
-  Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
-  Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,500

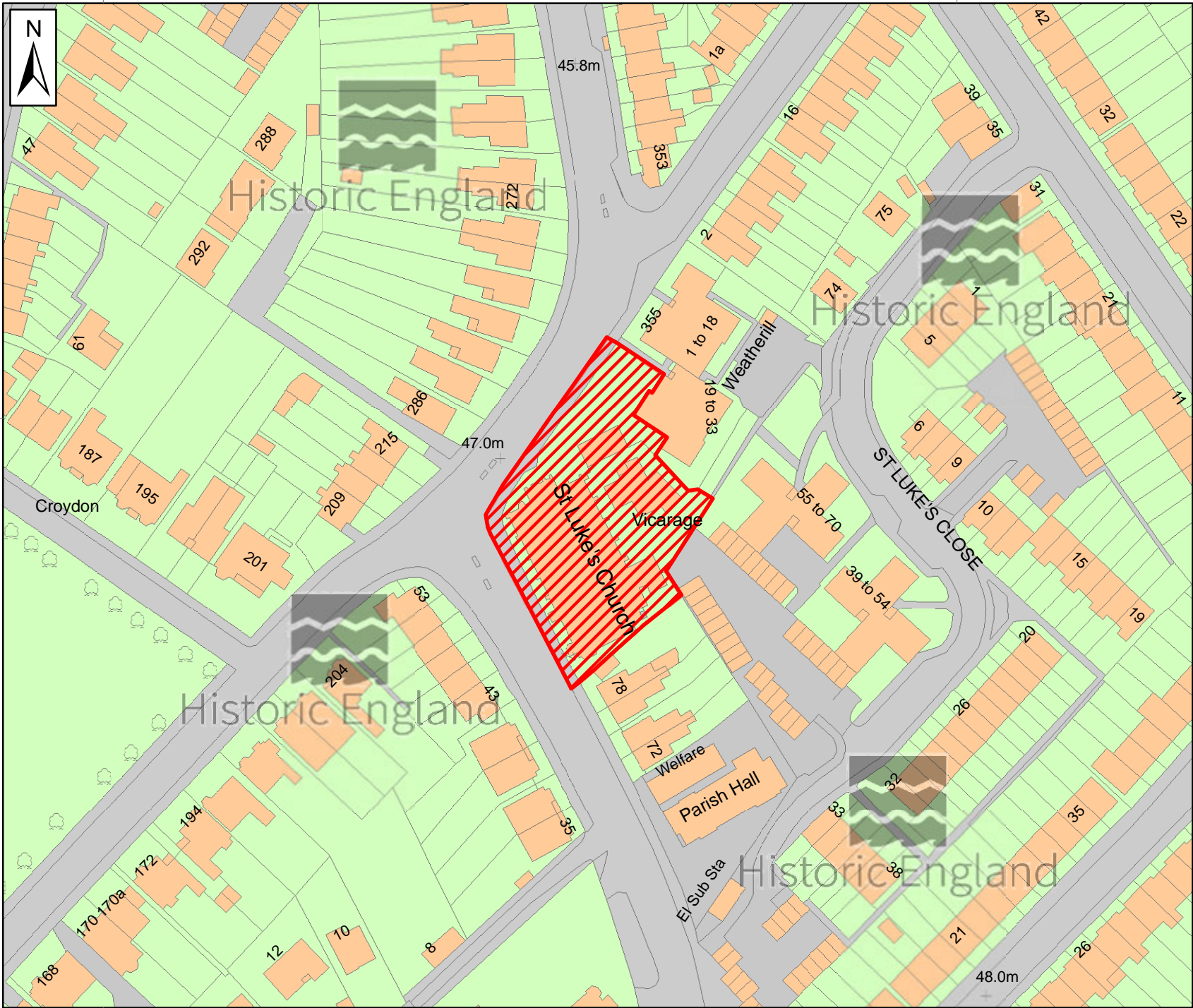
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Croydon APA 2.20  
 Croydon 19th  
 Century Cemeteries  
 (Church of St Luke)

-  Church of St Luke
-  Tier 1  
Archaeological  
Priority Area
-  Tier 2  
Archaeological  
Priority Area
-  Tier 3  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

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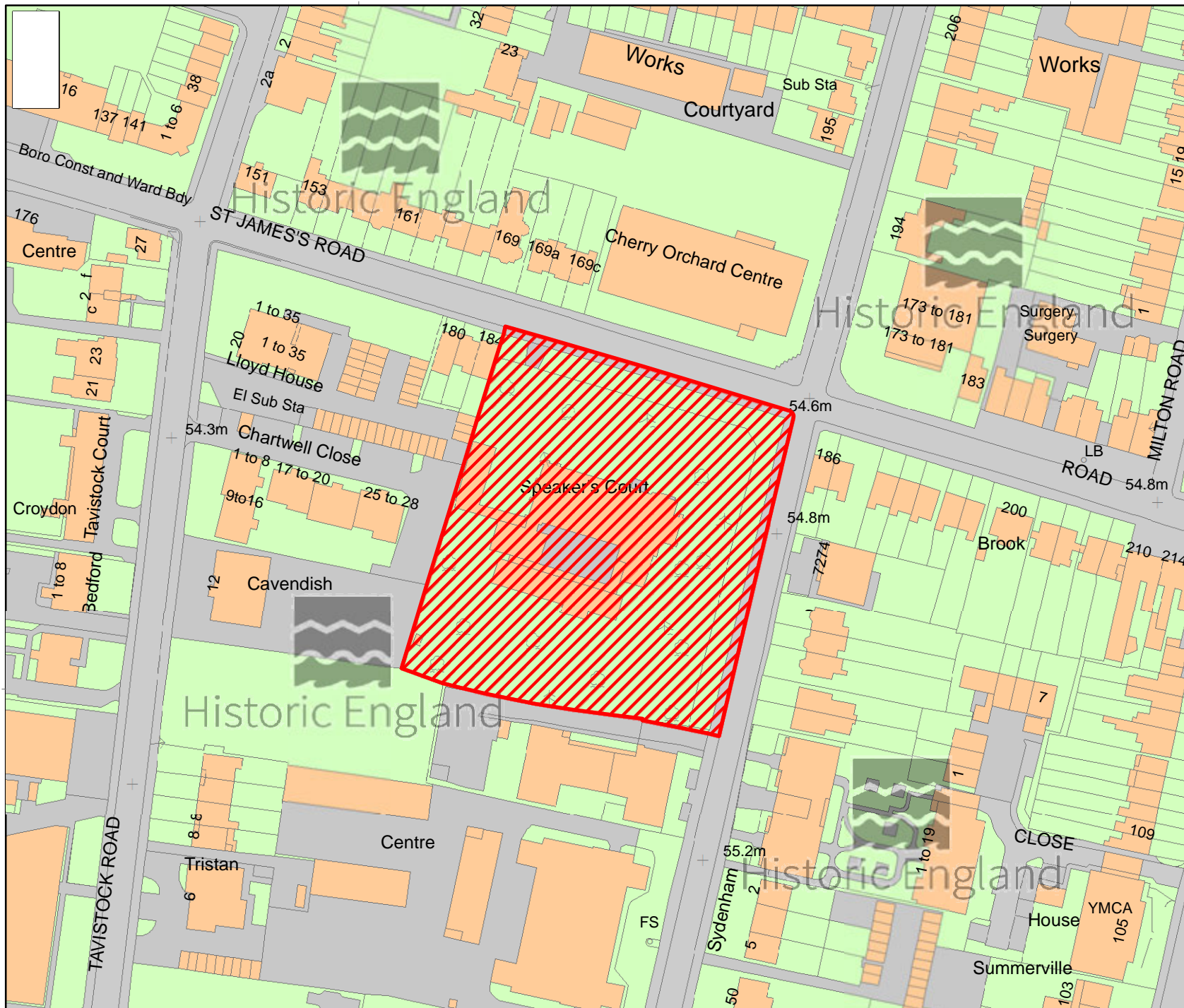
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Croydon APA 2.20  
Croydon 19th  
Century Cemeteries  
(St James's Church)



 St James's Church  
Rest Garden

 Tier 1  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

 Tier 2  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

 Tier 3  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,500

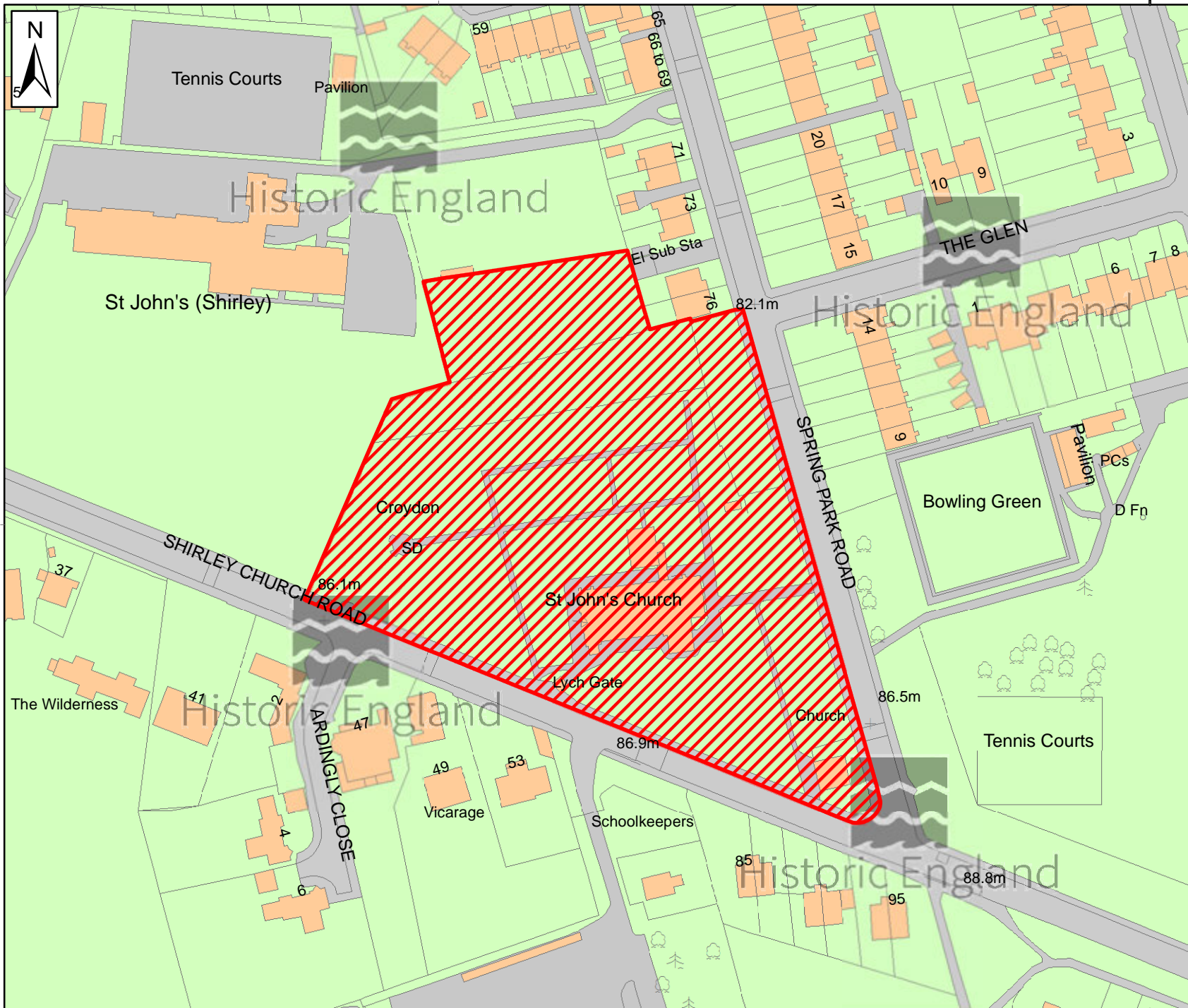
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Croydon APA 2.20  
 Croydon 19th  
 Century Cemeteries  
 (St John's Churchyard)

-  Pottery Sites
-  Rivers
- Modern Boroughs**
- Tier 1**
-  Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2**
-  Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3**
-  Archaeological Priority Area

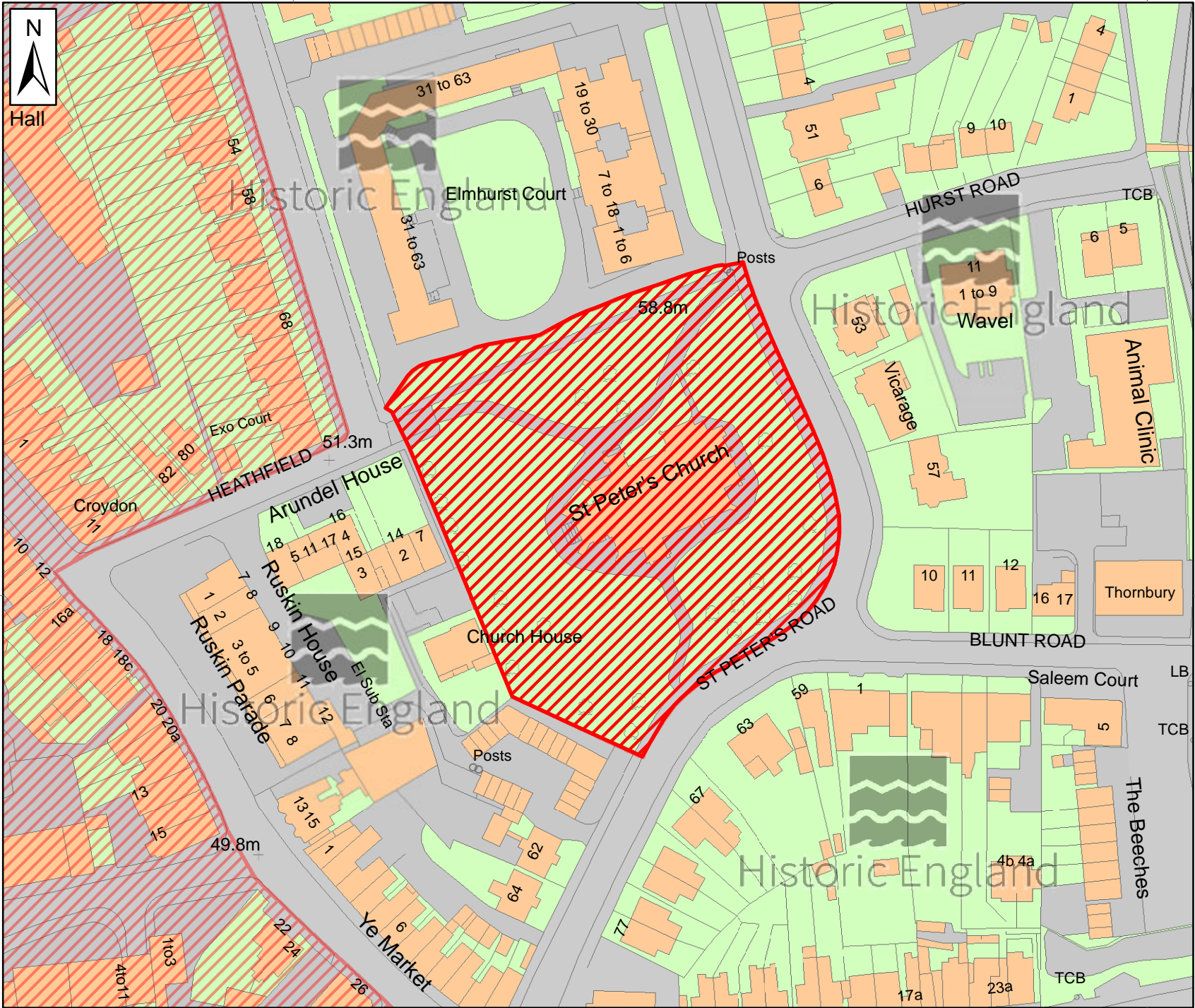
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Croydon APA 2.20  
 Croydon 19th  
 Century Cemeteries  
 (St Peter's Churchyard)

-  St Peter's Churchyard
-  Tier 1  
Archaeological  
Priority Area
-  Tier 2  
Archaeological  
Priority Area
-  Tier 3  
Archaeological  
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

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