

8 West Hill: London Borough of Croydon

Site type: Suburban

Fieldwork: PCA (2016 - 2017)

GLHER Records: [Test Pits at 8 West Hill](#)

Proposed scheme

Planning permission was sought to build a detached house in the large garden between 8 and 10 West Hill. It was known that when the estate was built in 1884, six or seven Saxon inhumation graves were discovered, primarily within the area of the new road and a further four graves close by. It had been suggested as the site of a burial mound.

Archaeological response

It was necessary to evaluate the site before a planning decision was taken to assess the site's true significance and whether preservation in-situ needed to be considered. Access for heavy plant was difficult and disturbance to the lawn was to be minimised so archaeological evaluation comprised five hand-dug test pits each 2m x 1m. Each pit was de-turfed and dug by hand and scanned with a metal-detector for grave goods. After recording the pits were backfilled and the lawn restored.

Outcomes

A feature into the underlying chalk contained just a single fragment of human vertebrae to indicate that it had possibly been one of the graves disturbed in 1884. It was clear that any remaining burials within the site would be a small proportion of the Saxon cemetery and so could be excavated rather than left in-situ and not be a bar to development.

In 2024 a fresh planning application was submitted to demolish 8 West Hill and develop the enlarged plot with six four-bedroomed houses. The 2017 evaluation allowed us to recommend a condition for further investigation if consent is granted.



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