

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT 41-59
CHURCH ROAD, LEYTON**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
WALTHAM FOREST**

SITE CODE: CHU11

REPORT NO: R11104

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London
Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL**

Site Code: CHU 11

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3756 8684

Report Number: R11104

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. September 2011

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LAG 031/204

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at 41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL, in advance of redevelopment. The evaluation was conducted between 22nd and 26th September 2011. The work was commissioned by Denne in response to a planning condition for the construction of flats. Five evaluation trenches were positioned across the site within the footprint of the new development.
- 1.2 The area of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Waltham Forest in the Unitary Development Plan (2006). A previous archaeological excavation was undertaken on the site in 1978 prior to the construction of the recently demolished buildings. This excavation was located in the thinner strip of land at the eastern extreme of the site and recorded substantial evidence for Roman settlement. This took the form of a large possible enclosure ditch and a series of other small enclosure or field boundary ditches. A few pits were also recorded. Material recovered from these features, which including pottery and coins, dated to the later 4th century AD, possibly even later¹.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation recorded natural terrace gravel deposits throughout all the trenches, consistent with the known underlying geology. Two small undated circular features were recorded cutting the natural gravel in trench 3, possibly representing postholes or small pits. An undated plough mark was also recorded running north-south in trench 2. Evaluation trenches 1 and 3 recorded 19th century basements cutting deeper into the natural terrace gravels. All evaluation trenches encountered heavy truncation relating to 20th century demolition of Victorian buildings and 21st century demolition of the 1970s buildings. No ploughsoil, subsoil, topsoil or similar deposit was encountered within any of the evaluation trenches. Only 20th century or later deposits were recorded sealing the natural, undated features and 19th century basements.
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of 19th century basements and foundations which truncate into the natural terrace gravels. Despite the Roman features recorded during the 1978 excavation no Roman features or artefacts were encountered during the evaluation. What was recorded was a sequence of heavy truncation and intrusion relating to two episodes of demolition in the late 20th century and the early 21st century. This disturbance most likely had a severe impact upon any potentially underlying archaeological features or deposits. Some evidence of human activity was recorded in the form of two small circular features and a plough mark but no dateable material was recovered from any of them. It is recommended that no further archaeological monitoring work should be conducted prior to or during any potentially destructive groundworks carried out over the area.

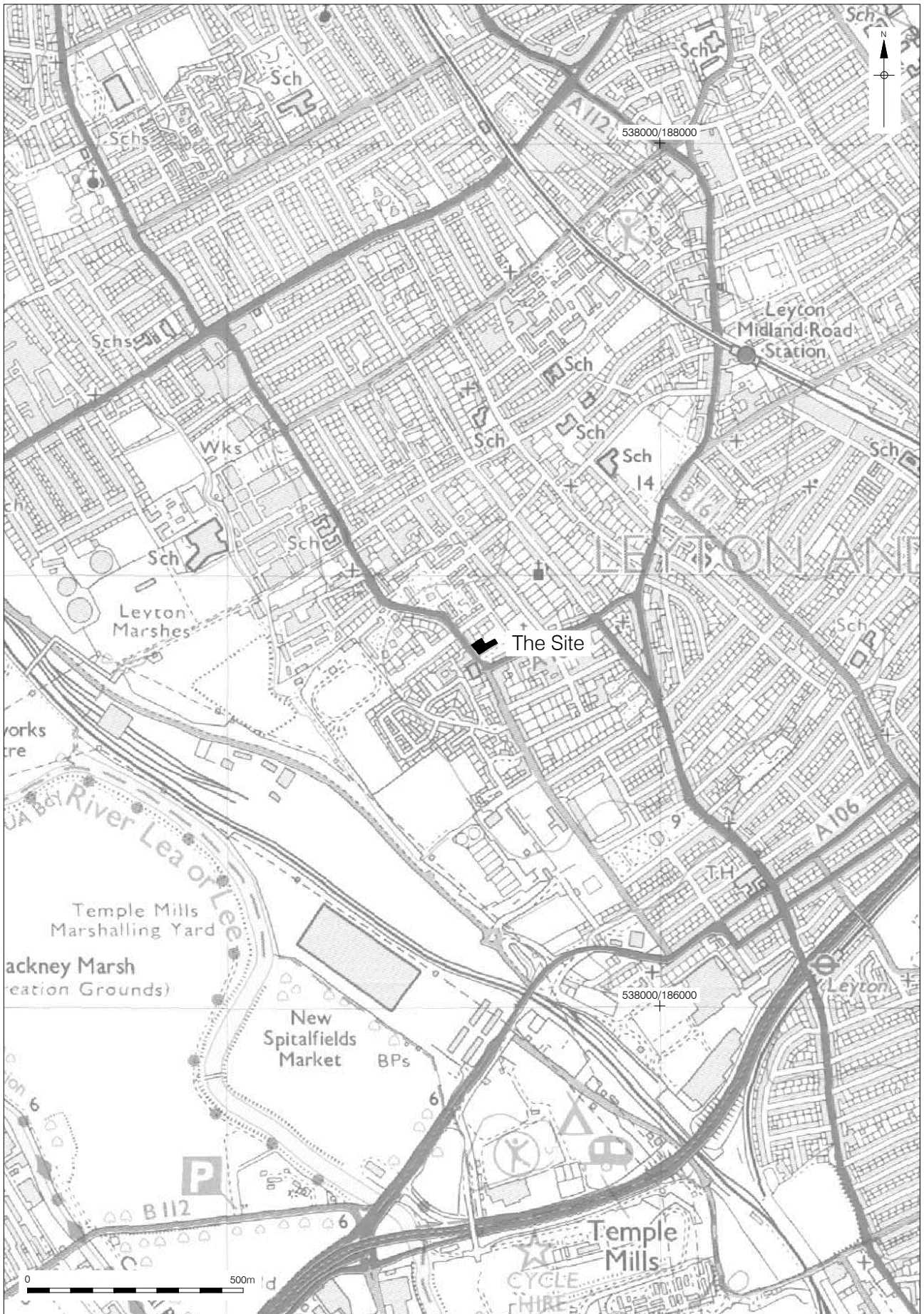
¹ Greenwood 1979

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted between 22nd and 26th September 2011 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL, in advance of redevelopment. The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3756 8684.
- 2.2 The evaluation was commissioned by Denne and was monitored by Kim Stabler, Archaeological Advisor, GLAAS (archaeological advisors to the London Borough of Waltham Forest). The field investigation was supervised by Neil Hawkins and project managed by Helen Hawkins for PCA. All work was undertaken following the appropriate English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines.
- 2.3 A previous archaeological excavation in 1978 on the site recorded a number of Roman features. These features comprised a large possible enclosure ditch and a series of other small enclosure or field boundary ditches. A few pits were also recorded. Material recovered from these features, which including pottery and coins, dated to the later 4th century AD, possibly even later².
- 2.4 The redevelopment site currently lies as open land post-demolition of buildings erected in the late 1970s. Prior to the 1970s buildings the site was occupied by Victorian houses constructed in the mid to late 19th century. Before the 19th century the area of the site is thought to have existed as open fields directly adjacent to the cemetery of St Mary's Church. The site is located directly to the north of a row of 17th century Almshouses. Neither the boundary of the Almshouses or the cemetery is shown to have extended into the site on historic maps.
- 2.5 The Local Planning Authority, under the advice of their Archaeology Advisor, Kim Stabler of GLAAS, placed an archaeological condition on the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation³ for the work was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and approved by the Archaeological Advisor.
- 2.6 The evaluation comprised five trenches targeted across the site so as to inform upon the archaeological potential.
- 2.7 The evaluation aimed to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological features at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. In particular it aimed to establish if the Roman features recorded on one area of the site in 1978 were present in other parts of the site which were to be impacted by the proposed development.

² Greenwood 1979

³ Hawkins, H. (2011) *41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500 at A4

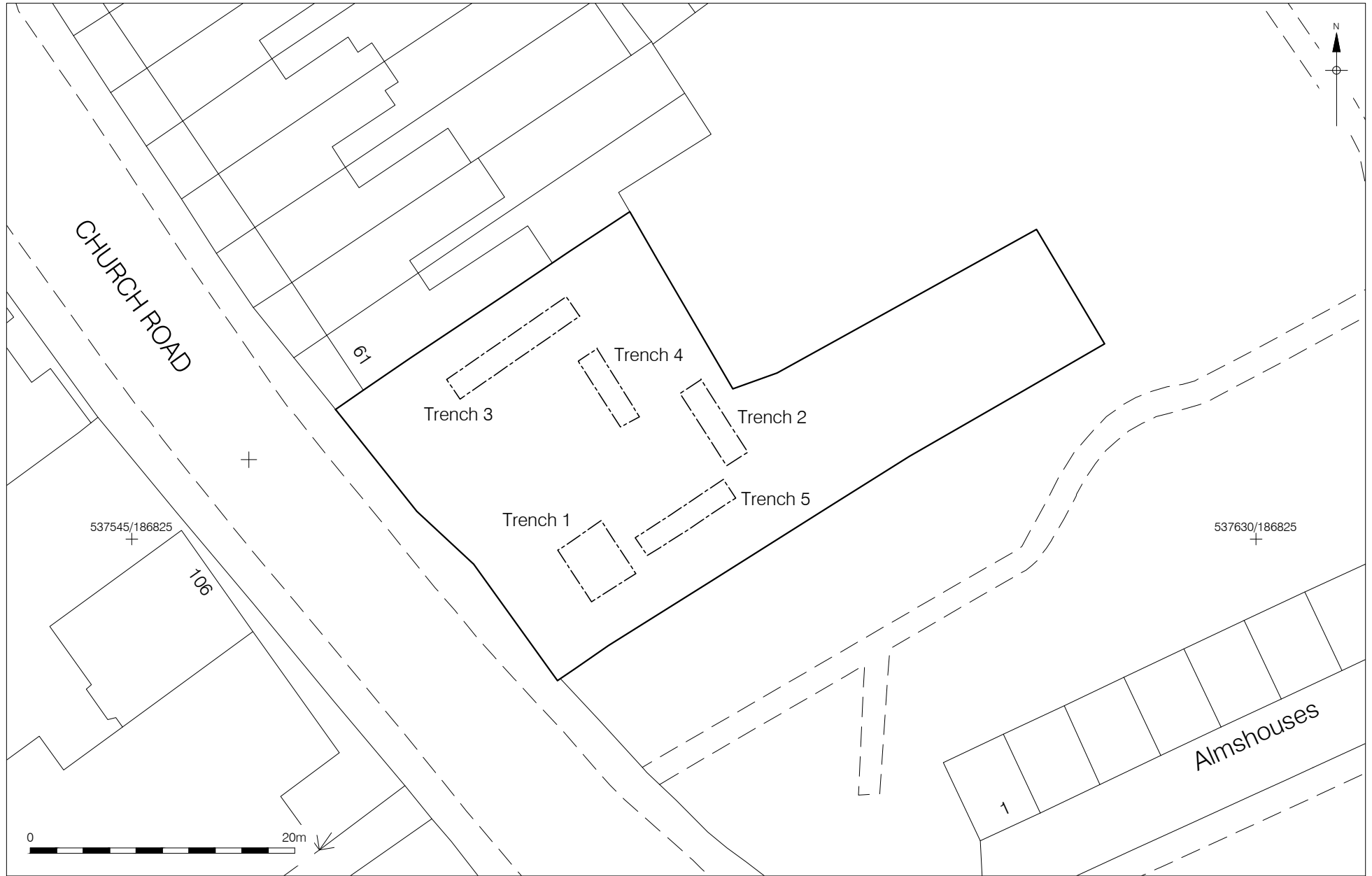


Figure 2
 Detailed Site and Trench Location plan
 1:400 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) "Planning for the Historic Environment", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any proposal for development, including allocations in emerging development plans, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, of existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.
- 3.3 Archaeology in Waltham Forest and the UDP
- 3.3.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's Unitary Development Plan (UDP)⁴, adopted March 2006, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource. Development of the site is subject to:

BHE17: The council will ensure the preservation, protection and where possible the enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the borough.

This states:

8.86 The history of Waltham Forest dates from the time of the earliest settlements in the Forest. Archaeology is an important way in which greater knowledge about the history of the borough can be discovered. However, the opportunity to carry out archaeological investigations usually only arises during the course of new development when foundations are exposed.

8.87 The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service has defined a number of Archaeological Priority Zones (APZs) which have been identified as having particular archaeological interest. Some of the APZs are extensive and include the whole of the Lea Valley, the valleys of The Ching and The Fillebrook Rivers and areas around former Saxon and Mediaeval settlements such as Chingford, Walthamstow, Leyton, Highams Park and Leytonstone.

8.88 The Council will seek to encourage the conservation, protection and enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the borough. When any development involving a site of 0.16 hectares or more is proposed within the archaeological priority zones (as shown on the Proposals Map and Schedule 36), or for any site identified by a recognised archaeological authority, the archaeological significance of the site will be considered. The Council may require a preliminary archaeological site evaluation before development proposals are considered.

8.89 The Council will seek to ensure that the most important archaeological remains and their settings are permanently preserved in situ, and if necessary, are made available for public viewing.

⁴ <http://www.esrcartography.co.uk/lbwf/>

8.90 Sites of archaeological significance or potential not requiring preservation in situ shall have provision made for preservation by record through an appropriate level of archaeological investigation and excavation to be undertaken by a professionally qualified archaeological consultant or specialist archaeological organisation before and during the process of development. Such provision shall also include the subsequent analysis, interpretation and in appropriate cases, presentation to the public of the archaeological results and finds.

8.91 There are also a number of less extensive APZs. For proposed developments involving a site of 0.16 hectares or more within the APZs, the Council will liaise with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service in order to assess the archaeological significance of the site. Where appropriate, a preliminary archaeological site evaluation or desk-based assessment may be required by the Council before such proposals are considered.

8.92 The most important archaeological remains and their setting should be permanently preserved. Developers can help to achieve this by, for example, preparing sympathetic designs and using foundations which avoid disturbing remains altogether. If the physical preservation of remains is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of "preservation by record" may be an acceptable alternative.

8.93 The Council will promote co-operation between landowners, developers, and archaeological organisations in accordance with the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice which it recognises and endorses.

3.4 The London Development Plan

3.4.1 The proposed development is also covered by policy 4B.15 from the London Development Plan (consolidated with alterations since 2004).

3.4.2 The site is located within the Waltham Forest Archaeological Priority Area Zone as defined in the local Unitary Development Plan. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

3.4.3 The LAG number for the site is LAG 031/204 and the planning reference number is ref 2009/1410. The archaeological condition attached to the site is given below:

Reason Important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly the planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development, in accordance with the guidance and model condition set out in PPG16;

Condition "No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority."

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The area of the site is highlighted on the British Geological Survey Sheet for the area as being comprised of Taplow Gravel⁵.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is situated c. 800m east of the River Lea on the eastern Taplow gravel terrace on the edge of the higher ground before the Leyton-Hackney part of the Lea marshes. The modern topography of the site is largely masked by urban development post-demolition and the site comprises relatively level ground at c. 13.20m OD.

⁵ British Geological Survey Sheet 256 'North London' Solid and Drift (1994) 1:50,000 series

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background of the area in which the Church Road site is located.
- 5.2 Prehistoric
- 5.2.1 The London Borough of Waltham Forest has a rich resource of prehistoric activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.
- 5.2.2 To the south, in the area of Oliver Road, the natural gravel rises to form a small promontory before descending rapidly into the valley of the River Lee; a prime area for exploitation during the prehistoric period.
- 5.2.3 Archaeological investigations at Oliver Close Estate, to the south of the site, during 2001, 2002 and 2005 revealed a number of phases of prehistoric human activity. This activity included struck flints from the Mesolithic or early Neolithic and pottery sherds tentatively identified as dating from the Neolithic, both of which were indicative of seasonal or temporary use of the site. However a major period of occupation, represented by a large 'aggrandised'/'Springfield style' ditched enclosure and associated features, was encountered and dated to the late Bronze Age. All of these features were sealed beneath a layer of soil which formed following the settlement's abandonment⁶.
- 5.3 Roman
- 5.3.1 Archaeological investigations in Leyton over the past twenty years have added greatly to our knowledge of Roman occupation and land use in the area. Excavations at Oliver Close Estate to the south of the site found evidence for late Roman activity⁷. Excavations at Livingstone College Tower revealed Roman deposits and cut features including northeast-southwest orientated ditches⁸, whilst cremations, inhumations and a rectangular double banked enclosure, or possible Roman date, were excavated further to the south at Ruckholts.
- 5.3.2 Evidence for Roman masonry has been found during excavations in the vicinity of Knotts Green and antiquarians recorded the discovery of Roman masonry structures during landscaping works at Grange Park Estate in the 18th century.
- 5.3.3 It has been noted in the past that the Roman find spots in the Leyton area form a discreet line on a northeast-southwest axis, with excavations away from this axis producing no evidence for Roman activity. As a result it has been postulated that this line represents the line of a Roman road, most likely the southern continuation of the Dunmow to London road, crossing the river at Temple Mills. A mixture of forest exploitation, farming, small ribbon settlements and cemeteries could represent Roman activity along this road⁹. In the first phase of the evaluation at Beaumont Road Estate a metalled surface was exposed in the northwest of the site, with a north-south orientated ditch situated on each side. The style of construction together with the location strongly suggests that this feature was part of the Roman Road¹⁰.
- 5.3.4 During the 17th and 18th centuries a series of important discoveries were made in the area of Leyton. Large arched foundations were recorded during garden works along with wells and substantial timbers. Roman coins were also recovered during these works. The exact location of these discoveries is uncertain however but were said to be close to the church of St Mary¹¹, perhaps within the grounds of Leyton Grange (see below).

⁶ Bishop & Boyer 2010

⁷ Moore 2004

⁸ Moore & Sabel 2004

⁹ ibid

¹⁰ Taylor 2004a & 2004b

¹¹ Greenwood 1979

- 5.3.5 Excavations on the area of the site itself in 1978 recorded evidence for Roman activity. This took the form of a large possible enclosure ditch and a series of other small enclosure or field boundary ditches. A few pits were also recorded. Material recovered from these features, which including pottery and coins, dated to the later 4th century AD, possibly even later¹² (Figure 3).
- 5.4 Medieval
- 5.4.1 The area in which the site falls appears to have been used solely for agriculture throughout the medieval period with very little archaeological evidence; a ditch, containing 15th / early 16th century pottery, was recorded at 134 & 136 Downsell Road, c. 1km to the south-east of the site¹³.
- 5.4.2 A house called Leyton Grange was occupied by John Hanger, husbandman, in the 1470s, and was probably located to the east of the site, behind the church. The earliest recorded house probably lay east of Leyton church and may have disappeared about the late 1640s when the site of the grange house and 'the ground on which it stood' is first mentioned, though the gatehouse apparently remained. The house later known as Leyton Grange probably occupied the site of its predecessor; it was built by David Gansel (d. 1753) to his own designs and completed in 1720. The house lay on the line of the present Grange Park Road, north of Church Road. The Grange was sold in 1860 to the British Land Company, who demolished it in the following year and developed the estate¹⁴
- 5.5 Post-medieval
- 5.5.1 The roads established in Leyton during the medieval period became a focus of ribbon settlements during the post-medieval period through to the 19th century. Farming was commonplace in the area and utilised the areas of land that were not used for occupation. Post-medieval houses and cultural material have been recorded at a number of excavations in the area including Leyton Baths, 789 High Road, Leyton and Church Road¹⁵ and Langthorne Hospital¹⁶.
- 5.5.2 The parish church of St. Mary the Virgin stands on the north side of Church Road, to the east of the site, and consists of chancel, aisled nave, and embattled north-west tower. It is mainly of the early 19th century, but the tower and parts of the north wall of both nave and chancel date from the 17th century (ibid). The cemetery forms the eastern boundary of the site, with the unconsecrated part of the cemetery forming the north-eastern boundary of the site.
- 5.5.3 Directly to the south of the site are a row of almshouses. John Smith, by will dated 1653, devised land in trust to pay annually 50s. each to 8 inmates of almshouses then being built by him in Leyton. The houses were completed in 1656 west of the church in Church Road. The alms-houses were extensively repaired in 1739 by subscriptions aided from the poor-rate, and again in 1790. In 1885 the houses were rebuilt with the aid of £2,000 from the Hibbert family, who had for long been the owners of Hughes Farm. Before rebuilding the alms-houses consisted of a singlestoreyed brick range with lattice casements and a small central gable; the front had been partly obscured by later porches and outhouses. The new single-storey range was of flint with stone dressings, designed in a Tudor style by Richard Creed.

¹² Greenwood 1979

¹³ Holden 2003

¹⁴ 'Leyton: Manors and estates', A History of the County of Essex: Volume 6 (1973), pp. 184-197.

¹⁵ Moore 2004

¹⁶ Holden 2003

5.5.4 The alms-house rules of 1711 provided for the admission of men or women, but by 1818 all the inmates were women. From the middle of the 18th century the alms-houses received a succession of endowments, mostly to provide stipends or gifts in kind for the alms-women¹⁷.

¹⁷ 'Leyton: Education and charities', A History of the County of Essex: Volume 6 (1973), pp. 233-240.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The methodology for evaluating the site is given in the Written Scheme of Investigation¹⁸. The original evaluation methodology consisted of three evaluation trenches but following consultation with English Heritage, whilst the evaluation was underway a further two evaluation trenches were undertaken (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The trench dimensions and locations were altered somewhat from the original Written Scheme of Investigation due to site constraints including the presence of live services. Most notably trench 3 was relocated almost entirely.
- 6.3 The trenches were machined using a 360° mechanical excavator. The machine was fitted with a toothless bucket to remove modern overburden under the supervision of an attendant archaeologist. Machine excavation continued in spits of approximately 100mm until archaeologically relevant material was observed. Spoil was piled a safe distance from the trench edges.
- 6.4 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that required further examination were cleaned and investigated using appropriate hand tools.
- 6.5 All archaeological features were assigned individual context numbers and evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Recording was done on pro-forma sheets. A digital and slide photographic record was also made.
- 6.6 The trenches were surveyed and located using a Leica GPS device. This device was also used to install a temporary benchmark on the site, the value of which was 13.00m OD.

¹⁸ Hawkins, H. (2011) *41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL. Written Scheme of Investigation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Plans of the trenches are shown on Figure 3 and sections on Figure 4.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1 The earliest deposit recorded within all five evaluation trenches was the underlying natural Taplow Gravel, context [1], as illustrated on the British Geological Survey sheet for the area¹⁹. The recorded heights of the natural gravel within the trenches are tabulated below.

	Max. Height (m OD)	Min. Height (m OD)
Trench 1	12.03	-
Trench 2	12.07 (northwest end)	11.94 (southeast end)
Trench 3	11.94 (southwest end)	11.88 (northeast end)
Trench 4	11.83 (northwest end)	11.73 (southeast end)
Trench 5	12.13 (northeast end)	11.83 (southwest end)

7.3 Phase 2: Undated Features

7.3.1 Cutting the natural gravel [1] in the southwestern end of trench 3 were two undated features [5] and [7]. Both features were sub-circular in shape with feature [5] measuring 0.60m east-west by 0.45m north-south. Feature [7] measured 0.90m northeast-southwest by 0.70m northwest-southeast. Both features were c. 0.30m deep and were filled with an almost identical deposit [6] and [8], consisting of a loose mid greyish-brown sandy-silty-gravel. No anthropogenic material was recovered from either of these features and they were therefore undated. These features were recorded at c. 11.90m OD with feature [7] being located approximately 2m northeast of feature [5]. The relatively regular nature of these features suggests they are man-made despite no cultural material being recovered from them. These features may be the remnants of postholes, originally driven or cut from higher up, or may possibly represent simple garden features.

7.3.2 Cutting the natural gravel [1] in trench 2 was plough mark [9]. This linear feature ran virtually north-south through the trench for c. 2.50m, continuing both north and south outside the trench limit. The plough mark was recorded at 12.10m OD, was 0.10m wide and 0.15m deep. No anthropogenic material was again recovered from the fill of the plough mark [10] a mid greyish-brown gravelly-silt. Despite being undated it is assumed that this plough mark relates to activity during the post-medieval period.

7.4 Phase 3: 19th Century Basements

7.4.1 Recorded within evaluation trenches 1 and 3 were the remnants of 19th century basements. In trench 1 19th century brick basement walls were recorded running northeast-southwest in the northwestern edge of the trench at c. 11.98m OD. The northeastern end of this wall was truncated by 21st century activity. The probable return of this wall was also recorded in this trench, running northwest-southeast in the eastern extreme of the trench. This brick wall was recorded at 11.87m OD. The brick basement walls continued deeper below the trench limit, with the interior of the basement being located on the western/northwestern and eastern/northeastern sides. The interior of the basements were backfilled with mixed rubble and demolition debris to the surviving height of the brickwork. These basements are consistent with the Victorian buildings illustrated on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1865 and 1896 which were demolished in the 1970s.

¹⁹ British Geological Survey Sheet 256 'North London' Solid and Drift (1994) 1:50,000 series

- 7.4.2 Another section of 19th century brick basement wall was recorded in the southwestern end of trench 3. This brick wall ran northeast-southwest for 2.57m on the eastern edge of the trench before being truncated by modern activity. This wall survived to a height of 12.63m OD at its southwestern end but was truncated down to a height of 11.93m OD at the northeastern end. This truncation most likely relates to the demolition of the 19th century buildings in the 1970s or the more recent demolition of the late 1970s buildings. The interior of this brick basement was to the southeast and was backfilled with various mixed demolition debris.
- 7.5 Phase 4: Modern
- 7.5.1 All five evaluation trenches recorded modern truncation either cutting into the natural gravel or horizontally truncating it. Trench 1 saw a number of modern truncations. These modern truncations were cut from the modern surface level and truncated the natural gravel. These truncations ranged from service trenches, activity relating to the demolition of the 19th century buildings and the more recent 21st century demolition of the 1970s buildings. The numerous modern truncations within trench 1 meant that no horizontal natural or man made deposits survived, it was a sequence of modern cuts cutting other modern cuts. The modern ground surface in trench 1 was at 13.25m OD.
- 7.5.2 Sealing the undated ploughmark in trench 2 was large mass of modern made ground. This mixed deposit was identified throughout the trench and measured between 1m and 1.10m thick right up the modern ground surface at c. 13.23m OD. This made ground most likely corresponds to demolition of the 1970s buildings in the 21st century.
- 7.5.3 Sealing undated features [5] and [7] in trench 3 was a sequence of mixed modern made ground. This made ground was c. 1m thick throughout the length of the trench. Another modern truncation cut through these deposits in the southwestern end of trench and truncated the underlying natural gravel. These modern deposits were recorded through to the modern ground surface of 12.95m OD. Again, this made ground most likely corresponds to the demolition of 1970s buildings in the 21st century.
- 7.5.4 Sealing the natural gravel in trench 4 was a sequence of modern made ground to the modern ground surface. This made ground was between 1.20m and 1.30m thick and survived to a height of 13.03m OD. At the southeastern end the modern deposits began to dive deeper, truncating the natural gravel, but were left unexcavated. These deposits most likely relate to the demolition of the previously extant 1970s buildings in the 21st century.
- 7.5.5 Trench 5 recorded various modern intrusions throughout its length which truncated the natural gravel. These intrusions were sealed by a mass deposit of modern made ground between 1m thick, at the northeastern end of the trench, and 1.40m at the southwestern end of the trench. These deposits survived up to the modern ground surface of 13.23m OD. Once again these intrusions and deposits most likely relate to the demolition of the previously extant 1970s buildings in the 21st century.

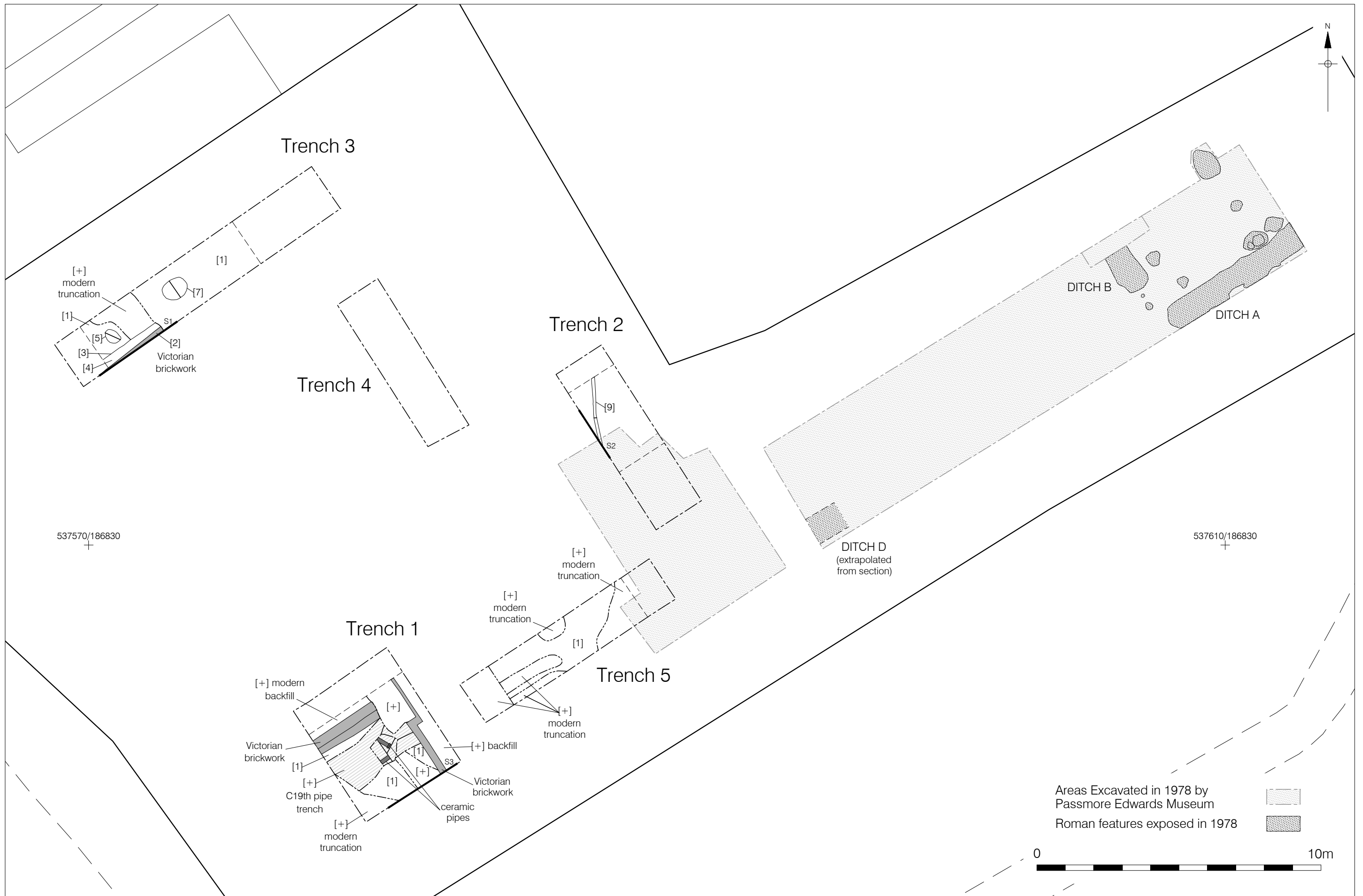
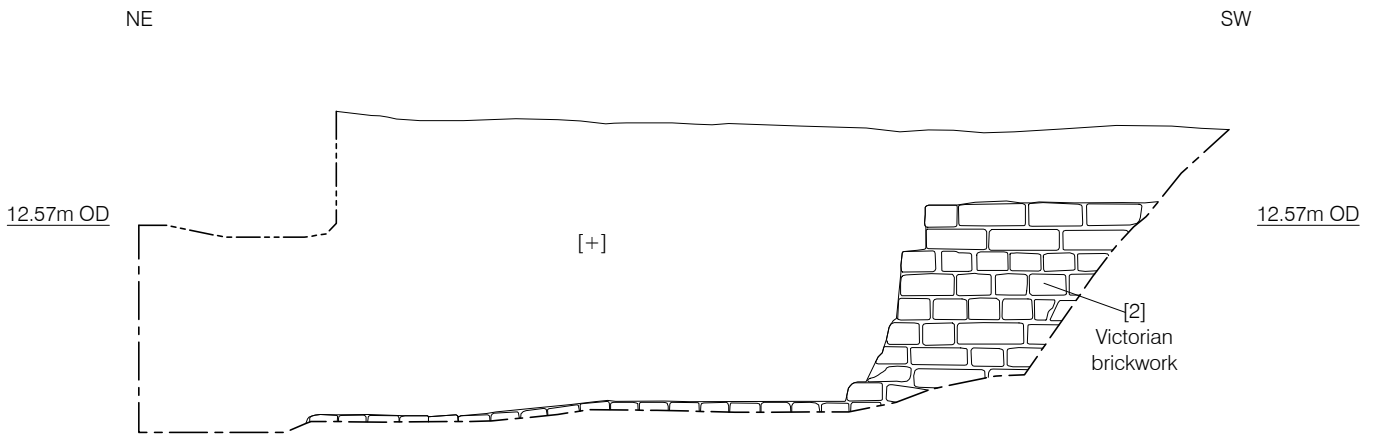
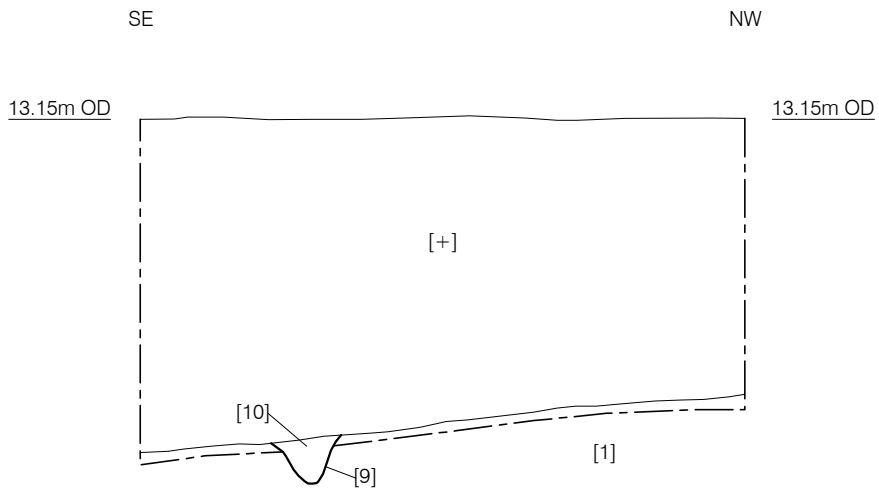


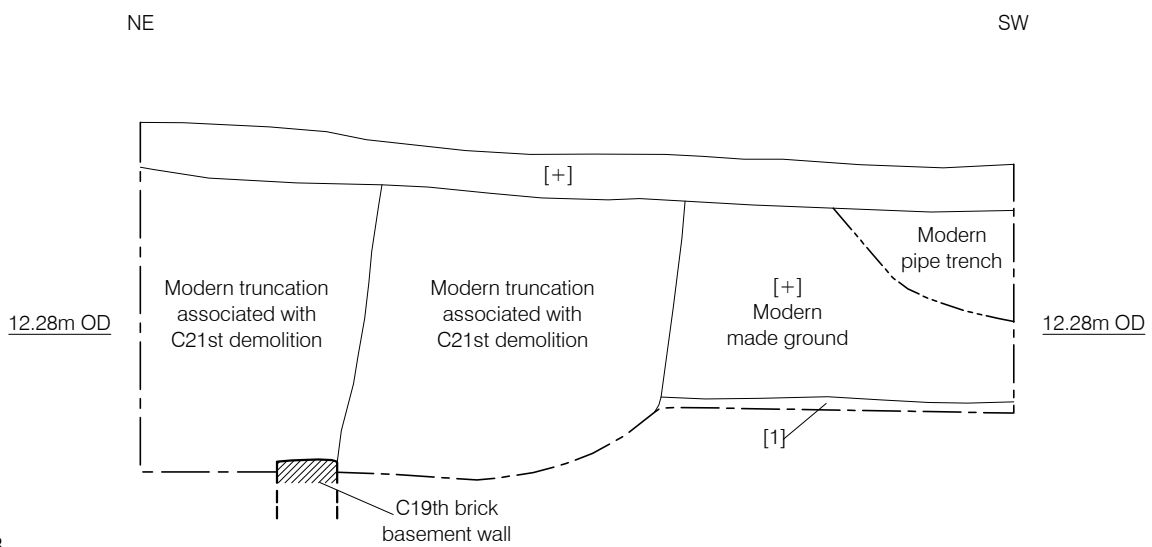
Figure 3
 Plans of Trenches 1 to 5 also showing the location of Roman features exposed during the 1978 excavation
 1:125 at A3



Section 1
Trench 3
Northwest Facing



Section 2
Trench 2
Northeast Facing



Section 3
Trench 1
Northwest Facing

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest deposit encountered throughout all the evaluation trenches was the natural terrace gravel. This is consistent with the known underlying geology as described on the British Geological Survey Sheet for the area (Sheet 256 'North London') specifically Taplow gravel.
- 8.2 Recorded within trench 3 were two small circular features, both of which were devoid of artefacts and therefore remain undated. Similarly in trench 2 a plough mark was recorded which again yielded no dateable material and therefore also remains undated. These two small pits or postholes and the plough mark were the only archaeological features recorded on the site and cannot be dated definitively.
- 8.3 As described above an archaeological excavation was undertaken on the site in 1978. The area of this previous excavation was confined to the thinner segment of land in the eastern extreme of the site (Figure 3). This excavation recorded a series of Roman ditches, pits and postholes along with 19th century foundations. Four Roman ditches, two running east-west and two running north-south were interpreted as representing an enclosure and/or field system and yielded pottery and coins (Ditches C and D were not shown in plan and have been extrapolated from the sections). These artefacts date the field system to the 4th century AD, possibly later. Associated with the ditches were a series of pits with similarly dated material. These combined features show considerable evidence of activity during the Roman period albeit it agrarian by nature, perhaps on the periphery of a settlement.
- 8.4 The trenches of this evaluation recorded no Roman archaeological features or artefacts. This is despite the considerable Roman activity recorded in 1978, some of the features of which would most likely have continued into the area evaluated. The reason for the distinct lack of archaeological features encountered, with the exception of the three undated features described above, is the heavy truncation the site has seen during the demolition of the buildings erected in the 1970s. The levels and sequences of the 1978 excavation and present evaluation highlight this. The bases of the Roman ditches recorded in 1978 were recorded between 12.03m OD and 11.88m OD. In contrast the range of highest levels the natural terrace gravel was recorded at in the evaluation trenches was between 12.07m OD and 11.84m OD. These levels demonstrate that by the time of the evaluation the ground had been stripped down deeper than where the 1978 excavation encountered it. In fact the natural gravel would appear to have been stripped down to virtually the same as the lowest level of the Roman features, wholly truncating them. Only the remnants of particularly deeper cut features may have survived. This may explain the two small features in trench 3 which may represent the very bottoms of larger deeper features of which only the sterile primary fills, naturally silted up, survive.
- 8.5 Further evidence of the truncation of the site can be seen from the sequences recorded during the 1978 excavation and the evaluation. The 1978 excavation recorded a sequence of Roman features cutting the natural gravel which were sealed by a ploughsoil, subsoil and topsoil deposits as you might expect in a rural environment. The evaluation in contrast recorded 19th century brick basements sealed by 20th century and/or 21st century made ground. In the evaluation trenches which saw no 19th century foundations the natural gravel was directly sealed by 20th century and/or 21st century made ground. Most of the evaluation trenches also recorded 20th / 21st century intrusions cutting deeper in isolated places truncating the natural gravel further. It would therefore appear that very recent activity has heavily truncated the area of the site, having a significant impact on any potential archaeological features or deposits which may have been located there.

- 8.6 As briefly mentioned above the archaeological evaluation recorded 19th century brick basements in both trenches 1 and 3. The excavation undertaken in 1978 also recorded 19th century brickwork. These various brickwork foundations and basements relate to buildings constructed during the mid to late 19th century, highlighted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1896. These buildings were demolished in the 1970s prior to the site's redevelopment.
- 8.7 The archaeological evaluation recorded heavy truncation throughout all the trenches. This truncation, as mentioned above has had a severe impact on any potentially underlying archaeological features and deposits such as those recorded in the 1978 excavation. The majority of the footprint of the proposed development covers the area previously occupied by 19th and 20th century buildings and therefore the potential for encountering further archaeology on the site is low.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Denne for commissioning this project and Kim Stabler for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Waltham Forest.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Mark Roughley for the illustrations. Many thanks also to Andrew Brown for his site assistance and Sophie White for logistical support. Thanks also go to Helen Hawkins for project management.

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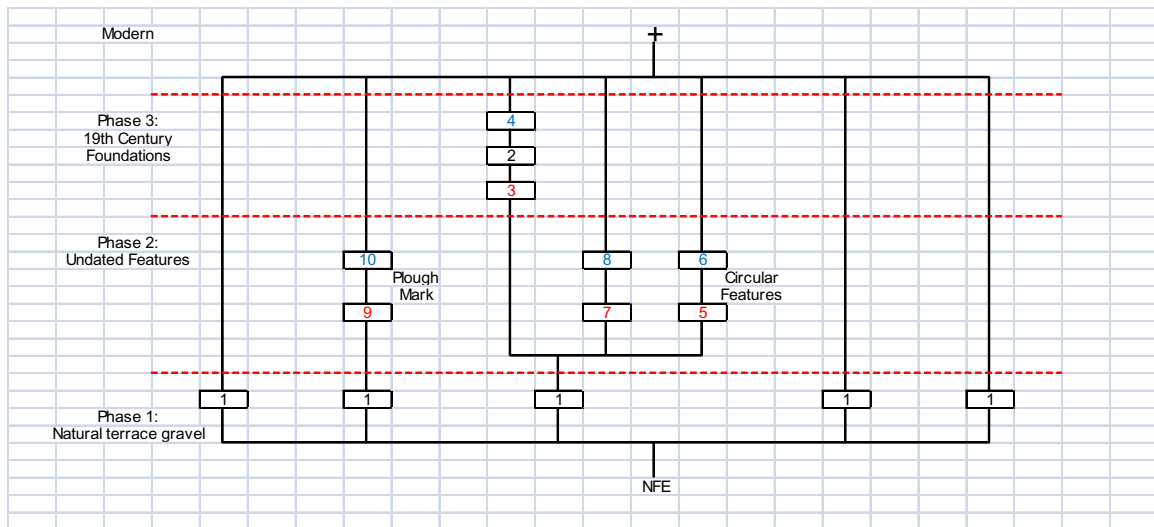
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Comments	Trench
1	Layer	Natural terrace gravel	All
2	Masonry	19th century brick w all	3
3	Cut	Construction cut for brick w all [3]	3
4	Fill	Backfill of construction cut [3]	3
5	Cut	Circular feature	3
6	Fill	Fill of [5]	3
7	Cut	Circular feature	3
8	Fill	Fill of [7]	3
9	Cut	Plough mark	2
10	Fill	Fill of [9]	2

APPENDIX 2: HARRIS MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-111377

Project details

Project name 41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation at 41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E10 5JL recorded natural terrace gravel cut by an undated plough mark and two undated circular features. 19th century basements were also recorded cutting the natural gravel. Throughout the trenches extensive truncation relating to the the demolition of 1970s buildings during the 21st century was noted. A previous excavation was undertaken on the site in 1978 which recorded a number of Roman ditches and pits containing pottery and coins dating to the 4th century and later. The 2011 evaluation recorded no Roman activity due to previous impacts.

Project dates Start: 22-09-2011 End: 26-09-2011

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes CHU 11 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type PLOUGH MARK None

Monument type PIT None

Monument type PIT None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Targeted Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON WALTHAM FOREST LEYTON 41-59 Church Road, Leyton, London Borough of Waltham Forest

Postcode E10 5JL

Study area 400.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3756 8684 51.5631432656 -0.01520589592740 51 33 47 N 000 00 54 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 11.84m Max: 12.07m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
originator

Project design Helen Hawkins
originator

Project Helen Hawkins
director/manager

Project supervisor Neil Hawkins

Type of House builder
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Denne
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID CHU11

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media 'Survey','Text'
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive ID CHU11

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Entered on 13 October 2011

APPENDIX 4: PLATES



Plate 1- Trench 1 facing southeast



Plate 2- Trench 2 facing northwest



Plate 3- Trench 3 facing southwest



Plate 4- Circular feature [7] facing northwest



Plate 5- Trench 4 facing southeast



Plate 6- Trench 5 facing north

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