

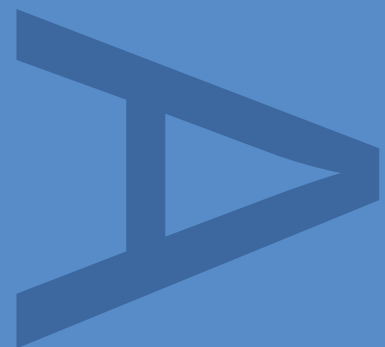
**EAGLESFIELD PARK  
SHOOTERS HILL  
GREENWICH  
LONDON SE18**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**PCA REPORT NO: 11123**

**SITE CODE: EPP11**

**DECEMBER 2011**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

EAGLESFIELD PARK, SHOOTERS HILL  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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# **An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Eaglesfield Park, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London, SE18**

**Site Code: EPP11**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4390 7665**

**Written and Researched by Guy Seddon**

**Project Manager: Tim Bradley**

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**December 2011**

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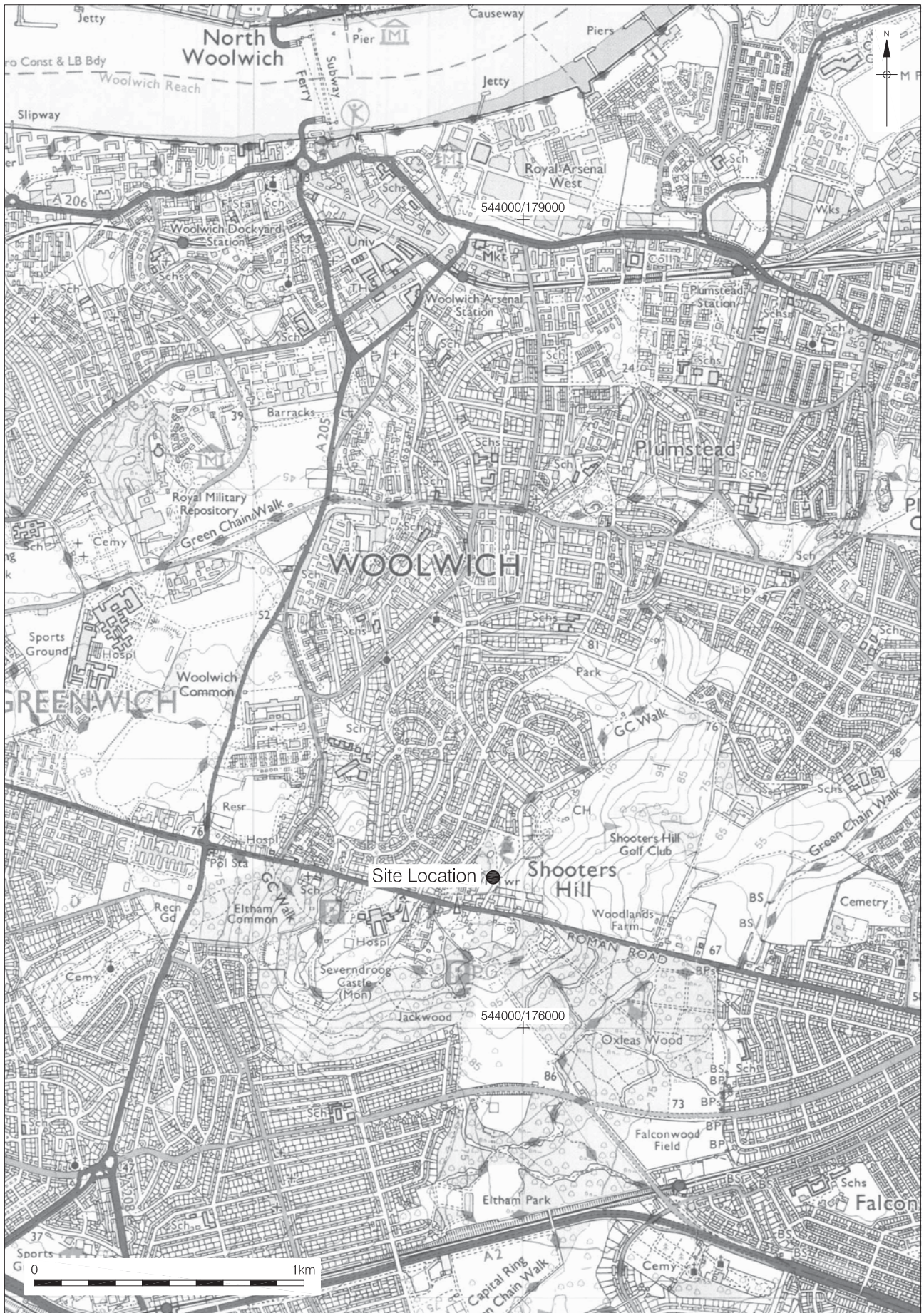
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land at Eaglesfield Park, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London, SE18. The Watching Brief was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2011.
- 1.2 The watching brief covered excavations during the renovation of an historic pond (The Lily Pond). Three willow trees were removed from the side of the pond and a pipe was laid to provide a new water supply.
- 1.3 No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the exercise.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) on land at Eaglesfield Park, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London in order to record and interpret any archaeological finds and features encountered during excavations associated with the refurbishment of The Lily Pond within the park. The watching brief was conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2011 and was commissioned by J. B. Riney & Co.
- 2.2 The site comprises a sub-rectangular irregular shaped plot of land on the summit of Shooters Hill with commanding views to the east.
- 2.3 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 4390 7665.
- 2.4 The site was given the code EPP11.
- 2.5 The project was monitored by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage, project managed for PCA by Tim Bradley and supervised by the author.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4

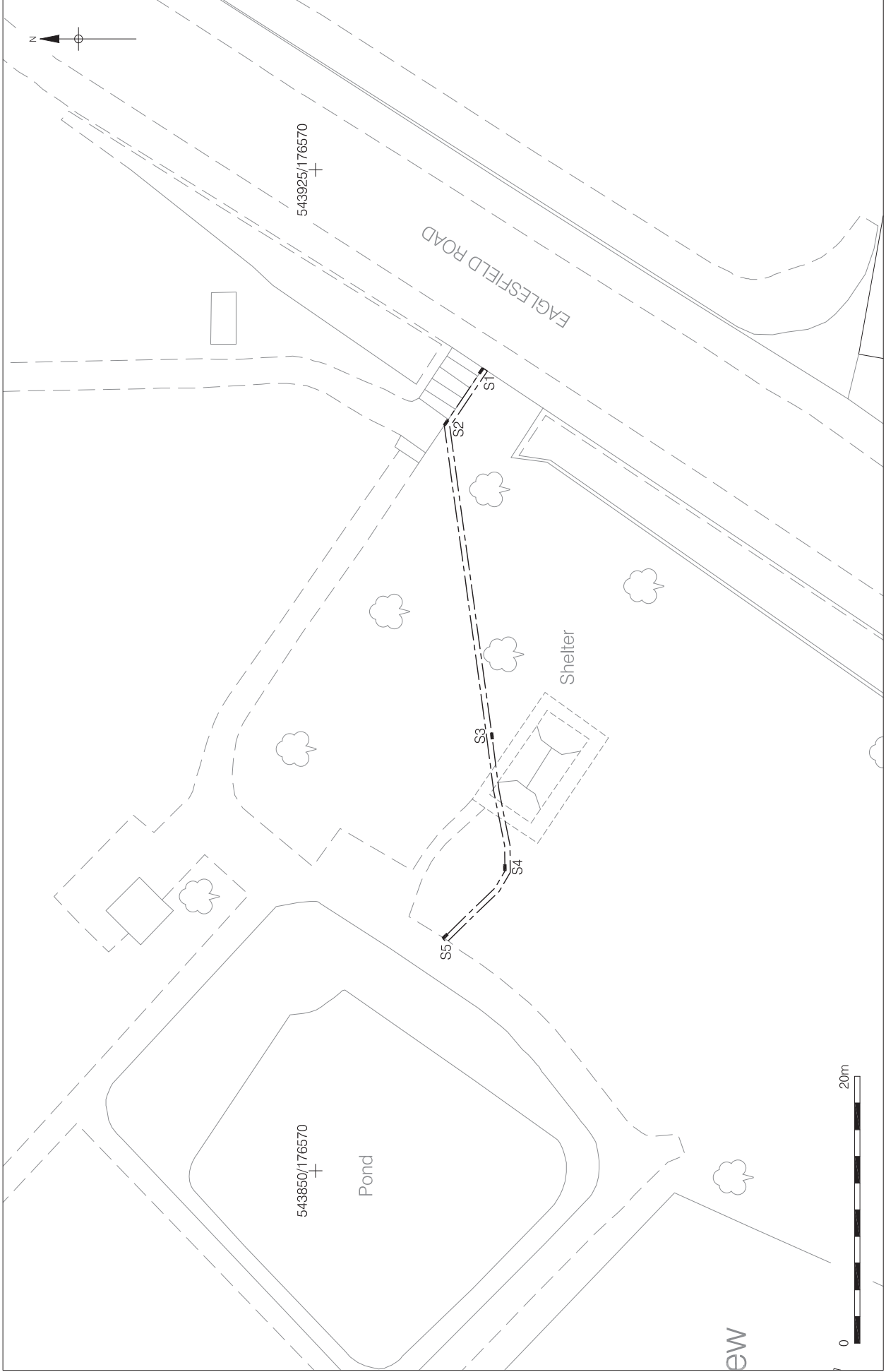


Figure 2  
Detailed Site and Trench Location  
1:400 at A4



### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In March 2010 the Departments of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) issued Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) entitled 'Planning for the Historic Environment'. This document has replaced PPG15 and PPG16.
- 3.2 In short, government guidance provides a framework which:
- Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
  - Protects the settings of these sites
  - Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
  - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information to enable informed decisions
  - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.
- 3.3 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.4 In May 2009 the Secretary of State published the final approved Regional Spatial Strategy (The South East Plan). The RSS replaces the Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG 9). The South-East Plan contains the following policy relating to archaeology and the historic environment:

#### **POLICY BE6: MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

**WHEN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER BODIES WILL ADOPT POLICIES AND SUPPORT PROPOSALS WHICH PROTECT, CONSERVE AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ENHANCE THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND THE CONTRIBUTION IT MAKES TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS AND SENSE OF PLACE. THE REGION'S INTERNATIONALLY AND NATIONALLY DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS SHOULD RECEIVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROTECTION. PROPOSALS THAT MAKE SENSITIVE USE OF HISTORIC ASSETS THROUGH REGENERATION, PARTICULARLY WHERE THESE BRING REDUNDANT OR UNDER-USED BUILDINGS AND AREAS INTO APPROPRIATE USE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.**

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey Sheet No 271 indicates that the site is underlain by drift deposits of the Stanmore Gravel formation (sands and gravels) underlain by Claygate Member.

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The site is on the summit of Shooters Hill, the highest natural point in Greenwich at nearly 130 metres, with commanding views to the south and east. It is bounded by Eaglesfield Road to the north and east, flats fronting onto Dover Road to the south and Cleanthus Road to the west.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Pre-Historic**

5.2.1 A Bronze Age barrow cemetery is recorded near Shrewsbury Lane and Mayplace Lane, located behind Eaglesfield Park, This suggests that there may have been a Bronze Age occupation or ritual centre in the area of Eaglesfield Park. There is otherwise little evidence of prehistoric activity in the Shooters Hill area.

5.2.2 Excavations by Time Team in July 2007 revealed the presence of a Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age ditch within Eaglesfield park, c. 80 metres to the north of the area of excavation, which contained sherds of pottery and iron slag.

### **5.2 Roman**

5.2.1 The main archaeological feature of the area is the line of Roman Watling Street, once the main route from the Kent coast to Roman London, and which is now followed approximately by the route of the A207, (Dover Road) just to the south of the study site.

### **5.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

5.3.1 Shooters Hill is not mentioned in Domesday Book, although it was surrounded by Domesday manors, suggesting earlier extensive Anglo-Saxon occupation of the surrounding area. During the medieval period Shooters Hill was used as woodland pasture and efforts were made to maintain the old highway (Watling Street).

### **5.4 Post-Medieval**

5.4.1 The Lily Pond itself is thought to have originated as a quarry pit in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, whilst in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Eaglesfield Park was part of the Landscape Gardens belonging to The Bull, a large coaching Inn and Pleasure Garden.

### **5.5 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

5.5.1 In the 20th century Shooters Hill became a key point in the planned defence of London during World War II. It is thought that Shooters Hill was a key strongpoint in Stop Line Central, the last

defensive line before central London. If breached, British defenders would have had to fall back to Stop Line Inner, before fighting street by street in Whitehall and the capital.

- 5.5.2 At Shooters Hill there is known to have been a barrage balloon tether at Eaglesfield Park, and also another feature which may have been an anti-aircraft (AA) gun emplacement. A bunker in Oxleas Wood is of unknown use. Other defences along the A207 include the spigot mortar at Eltham Common and a possible gun emplacement at Oxleas Memorial Hospital. There were also other military facilities nearby such as the Woolwich Arsenal, the Royal Artillery barracks and a World War II POW camp at Woodlands Farm.
- 5.5.3 The Time Team excavation located the barrage balloon tether, and evidence was found for the anti-aircraft gun emplacement.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the approved Method Statement (Bradley, 2011), the area of proposed groundworks was excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision. This included the removal of three willow trees from around the edges of the Lily Pond and the excavation of a trench for a new water pipe to the pond. The spoil was also examined for the presence of archaeological artefacts. The areas of excavation are detailed in Figure 2.
- 6.2 The trenches were opened with a wheeled mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Excavation by machine was undertaken in spits until the required depth of 0.80m below ground level was reached.
- 6.3 The sides and bases of the trenches were hand cleaned prior to recording.
- 6.4 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological and geological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All excavated slots were recorded by hand on polyester based drawing film, with the sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. The OD heights of all principle strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- 6.5 The completed archive, comprising all written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under the Site Code EPP11.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 PHASE 1: Natural**

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was natural sand (Stanmore Gravel) [4], which was overlain by gravelly sandy silt subsoil [3] with a maximum thickness of 0.35m.

### **7.2 PHASE 2: Late Post-Medieval**

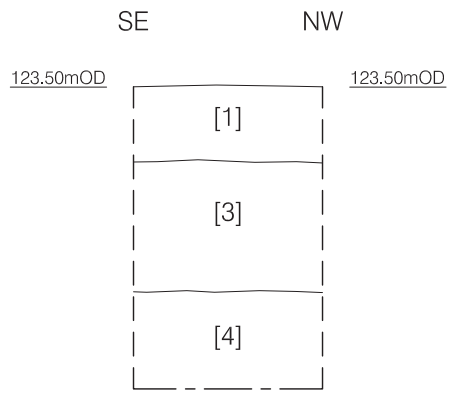
7.2.1 A deposit of made ground [2] (maximum thickness 0.55m) was observed sealing the gravelly sandy silts during the excavation of the pipe trench which dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is probable that this deposit was laid down during landscaping of the park.

7.2.2 Sealing the entire site was a layer of topsoil and turf, [1] (maximum thickness 0.20m), which is the current land surface of the parkland.

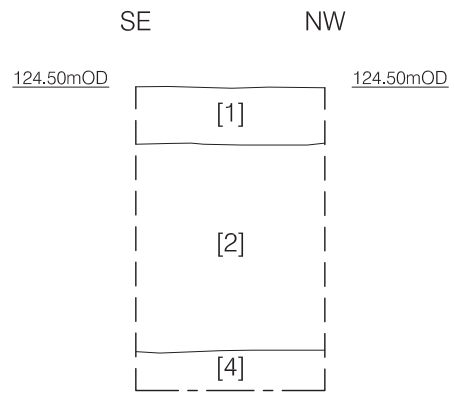
7.2.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during the archaeological watching brief.

## **8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

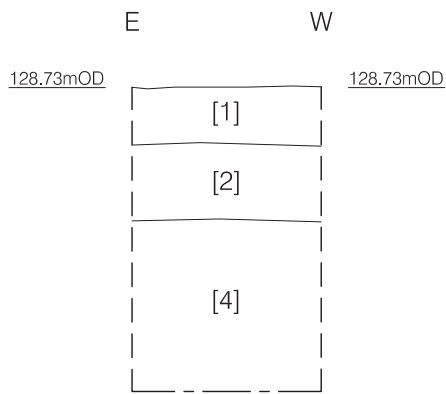
- 8.1 The principle objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to locate, define, record and date any surviving archaeological deposits, features or finds on the site, with a site specific research question of whether any surviving evidence for continuation of the pre-historic and/or 20<sup>th</sup> century defensive features existed in the areas of the groundwork.
- 8.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the area, no features or finds of archaeological significance were observed within the limited areas of excavation undertaken during the groundwork, with a sequence of natural deposits sealed by made ground and topsoil across the area.



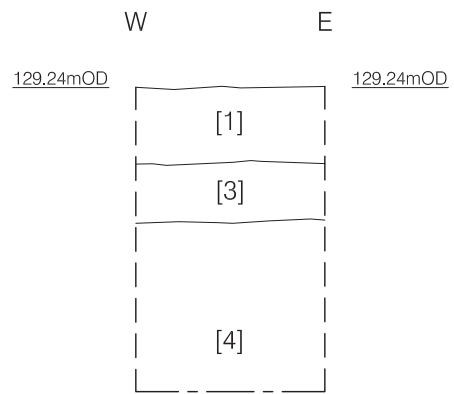
Section 1  
South west facing



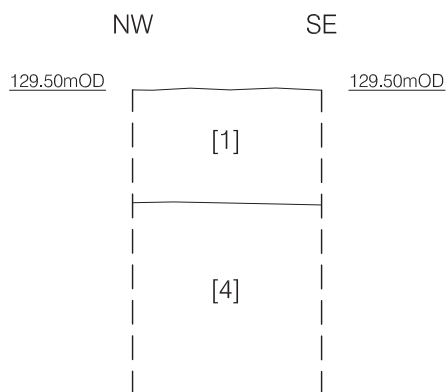
Section 2  
South west facing



Section 3  
North facing



Section 4  
South facing



Section 5  
South west facing





## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank J.B. Riney & Co. for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Mark Stevenson for monitoring the watching brief on behalf of English Heritage.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for project management, and editing, Mark Roughley for the illustrations and Richard Archer for the on-site surveying.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

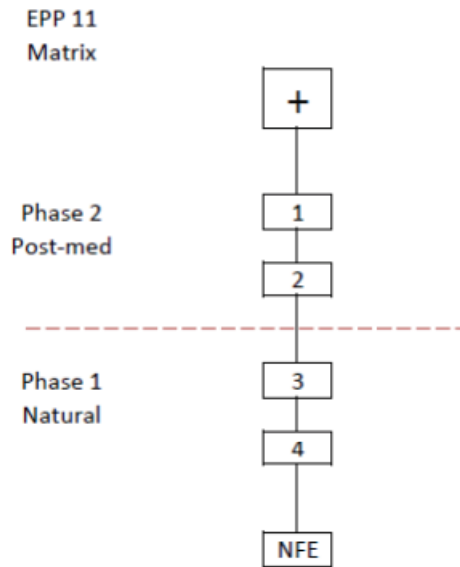
Bradley, T. 2011 Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Eaglesfield Park Pond, Shooters Hill, London Borough of Greenwich. Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report.

Wessex Archaeology. 2008 Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London. Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results. Wessex Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report.

## APPENDIX 1: Context Index

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
EPP11	1	1-4	*	1 - 6	Layer	Topsoil	Post Med	2
EPP11	2	1-4	*	2 & 3	Layer	Made Ground	Post Med	2
EPP11	3	1-4	*	1 & 5	Layer	Gravelly Sandy Silt (Natural)	Natural	1
EPP11	4	1-4	Pipe Trench	1 - 6	Layer	Natural Sand	Natural	1

## APPENDIX 2: Matrix



### APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

#### Project details

Project name	A Watching Brief on Land at Eaglesfield Park, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Eaglesfield Park, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London, SE18 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2011. The Watching Brief covered excavations during the renovation of a Victorian pond. Three willow trees were removed from the side of the pond and a pipe was laid to provide a new water supply. No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the exercise.
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2011 End: 03-11-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	EPP11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH ELTHAM Ealgesfield Park, Shooters Hill, Greenwich, London
Postcode	SE 18
Site coordinates	TQ 4390 7665 51.4699842670 0.07204720598570 51 28 11 N 000 04 19 E Point

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private company
Name of sponsor/funding body	J. B. Riney & Co

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive	Local museum



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