

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 13 Sunningfields Road, Hendon,
London Borough of Barnet**

Site Code: SFZ 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2295 8965

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of BMH Construction at 13 Sunningfields Road, Hendon, London Borough of Barnet (fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2295 8965. The watching brief involved the machining of a car parking area to the west of a housing plot. The original house to the east of the site had previously been demolished. The new building will be positioned on the site of the original, and because of the previous impact this area was concluded to have no archaeological potential. The watching brief in the area of the car park in the west of the site took place on the 3rd April 2006.
- 1.2 Groundworks in the car park area were observed and recorded. Loose and humic garden soil was observed across the site becoming deeper to the west. This sealed firmer brown clay/silt subsoil that subsequently sealed the natural gravel clays. The natural soil was not reached in the north-west corner of the excavated area. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.
- 1.3 No further groundworks need to be observed as any further works are to be built up from the existing ground surface and therefore would not have an impact below ground.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, on land at 13 Sunningfields Rd, Hendon, London Borough of Barnet, on 3rd April 2006. The work was commissioned by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting on behalf of BMH Construction prior to a residential development. The watching brief was supervised by the author, project managed by Tim Bradley and Chris Mayo, and monitored by Kim Stabler English Heritage on behalf of the LPA.
- 2.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2295 8965 and was bounded by Sunningfields Road to the east, Sunny Hill Park to the west, and housing to the north and south. The area of the site is approximately 380.5m².
- 2.3 The project consisted of the monitoring of the machining of a rectangular car parking area in the western third of the site.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code SFZ 06.



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Figure 2
Area of Watching Brief
1:500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The planning background for the site has been documented in the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for the site (Meager 2005b, 5-7)

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The purpose of the watching brief was to observe the reduction of a car parking area down to its foundation level. This was excavated utilising a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, the results of which were observed and recorded.
- 4.2 All material excavated was observed and stratigraphic changes were recorded until natural deposits were penetrated.
- 4.3 Site levels were calculated from engineering spot heights situated across the area of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 5.1.1 At the base level of the car park excavation a firm, light green/yellow clay natural [1] with frequent rounded and sub-angular flint & pebble inclusions was encountered. There were also some lenses of red/orange clay within this matrix. This was recorded at a maximum height of 85.83m OD to the north and falling to 84.57m OD to the south. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded cutting this deposit.

5.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

- 5.2.1 Overlying the natural [1] was a mid-orange brown clayey silt colluvium layer [2] containing moderate inclusions of small sub-angular & rounded flints & pebbles and also occasional coal and chalk lumps and modern tile and pottery. This layer existed at a maximum height of 85.60m OD to the north-west falling to 84.70m OD to the south-west where it is much shallower. Very late post-medieval/modern material was encountered from this layer.

5.3 Phase 3: Modern

- 5.3.1 Sealing the western part of the site in the area of machining was a very loose, dark, organic garden soil [3] with many roots and containing inclusions of very modern debris. This topsoil existed at a maximum height of 86.40m OD to the north falling to 86.04m OD to the south.

6 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The sequence of topsoil and colluvium, underlain by gravel-clay, was recorded across the entirety of the site during the monitoring of the car park groundworks. Other than limited and localised impact from the foundations of a probable garden shed, the area had been subject to minimal previous truncation.
- 6.2 No archaeologically significant features or finds were observed. The site had a perceptible slope from north to south, which may have rendered it topographically unsuitable for occupation/utilisation prior to the modern period.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of BMH Construction and Kim Stabler for monitoring the project. The author would also like to thank Doug Rose of BMH Construction for his assistance, Adrian Nash for the illustrations and Chris Mayo and Tim Bradley for project management and editing.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Meager, R

2005a 'Specification for an Archaeological Monitoring Exercise, 13 Sunningfields Road London NW4' CgMs Consulting, unpublished report

2005b 'CgMs Consulting Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, 13 Sunningfields Road London NW4' in Meager 2005a

APPENDIX 1 OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-13815

Project details

Project name	13 Sunningfields Road, Hendon
Short description of the project	Watching brief in advance of laying of residential car park to west of proposed housing development. Previous housing had removed any potential archaeological deposits in the east of the site and this area was, therefore, not investigated. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed. Natural clay was recorded sealed by colluvial subsoil and topsoil accross the site.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2006 End: 03-04-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SFZ 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARNET HENDON 13 Sunningfields Road

Postcode	NW4
Study area	380.50 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 2295 8965 Point
Height OD	Min: 84.57m Max: 85.83m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Richard Meager
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley / Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Jon Crisp
Sponsor or funding body	BMH Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster','Images vector','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Map', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Crisp, J.

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