

An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Elmhurst Lodge, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering, RM11 1JT

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Havering

Central National Grid Reference: TQ53048727

Written and Researched by: Guy Seddon
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, March 2013

Project Manager: Tim Bradley

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting
on behalf of
Thames Water

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
Email: tbradley@pre-construct.com
Website: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

March 2013

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT.....	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	5
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY.....	7
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION	8
7	INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	9
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	10
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	11

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location.....	12
Figure 2: Trench Location.....	13
Plates.....	14

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at Elmhurst Lodge, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering, RM11 1JT.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out between 12th and 15th March 2013 and was designed to observe and record the excavation of a pipe trench connecting two live sewer mains (Fig 2). It followed on from an archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken in 2012 which observed groundworks on the northern half of the Elmhurst Lodge site. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Thames Water. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the monitoring of the Thames Water excavations.
-

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Elmhurst Lodge, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering, RM11 1JT.
- 2.2 The site is located within the London Borough of Havering, and centred at National Grid Reference TQ53048727.
- 2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned for the watching brief by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Thames Water. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited had previously undertaken an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site (Seddon 2012) during which a post-medieval pit, pond and ditches were recorded.
- 2.4 The area under observation for the most recent phase of work was located in the north eastern corner of the site and comprised of the exaction of a single service trench linking two live sewer mains. The eastern end of the trench was located on a grass verge whereas the western end extended into the road, Torrance Close.
- 2.5 The watching brief was conducted between 12th and 15th March 2013.
- 2.6 The project was monitored by Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, (GLAAS), and project-managed for PCA by Tim Bradley. The watching brief was supervised by Guy Seddon.
-

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 The solid geology of the site are London Clay deposits forming the London Basin (Meager 2011).

3.1.2 The British Geological Survey Sheet 257 (Romford: 1996) shows that the site is overlain by Head deposits, defined as 'undifferentiated: variable pebbly sandy clay' (Meager 2011).

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 The site is generally level with a spot-height of 23m AOD in the centre of Hornchurch Road immediately to the north (Meager 2011).

3.2.2 The River Ravensbourne runs from north to south c.350m east of the study site, through Harrow Lodge Park (Meager 2011).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The archaeological and historical background is presented in full in the desk based assessment (Meager 2011) and summarised below.

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic or Bronze Age date have been identified on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) within a 750m radius of the study site.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 The only find of Roman date within a 750m radius of the site comprises a large linear Roman ditch, containing Samian pottery, revealed during archaeological work at the former Hornchurch Bus Garage c.200m to the west of the site.

4.4 Anglo Saxon & Medieval

4.4.1 No finds or features of Anglo Saxon date have been identified within a 750m radius of the site. The settlement at Hornchurch developed as a linear one some distance to the east of the site. The first references to Hornchurch occur in the twelfth century.

4.5 Post Medieval and Modern

4.5.1 The Chapman & Andre Map of Essex (1777) shows the site to lie south of the road to Hornchurch. A map of the parish of Hornchurch dated 1812 shows the site to lie in undeveloped land, with a pond towards the western boundary. No change is shown on the 1849 Hornchurch Tithe Map.

4.5.2 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (1868) shows the site as on earlier maps, with the pond remaining on the western boundary. No changes are shown on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey (1915). The Revised Ordnance Survey (1939) shows the absence of the pond, and the 1965 Ordnance Survey shows no change from the previous edition.

4.5.3 During recent works upon the site by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited a post-medieval pit, pond and field ditches were recorded, (Seddon 2012).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 A single trench measuring 12m x 0.70m x 2m deep was excavated in order to link two live sewers. The continuously shored excavation was carried out by a mini digger fitted with a flat bladed bucket and was monitored by the attending archaeologist, (the author).
- 5.2 Within the excavation area, deposits were removed by the machine in spits of no more than 250mm, with each sedimentary unit numbered separately. Spoil from each spit was examined to allow correlation of artefacts to spits.
- 5.3 Following all machine and hand excavation, the relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools, with recording of all deposits on pro-forma sheets.
-

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

6.1 Phase 1: Natural

6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the investigations was London Clay recorded across the base of the trench at exposed thicknesses of between 0.40m and 0.60m. This was overlain by gravelly clay recorded at thicknesses of between 0.60m (east) and 0.20m (west).

6.2 Phase 2: Late Post-Medieval - Modern

6.2.1 Sealing the gravelly clay was a layer of subsoil. This was a loosely compacted mid yellowish brown clayey silt containing frequent rounded and sub-rounded gravels and had a maximum thickness of 0.40m.

6.2.2 The subsoil was overlain by a 0.35m thick deposits of topsoil on the verge towards the east of the trench, and by modern road make-up and surfacing within Torrance Close.

7 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No archaeological features were identified during the entirety of the watching brief and no finds were observed. However, an intact sequence of London Clay sealed by subsoil and topsoil was recorded along the grass verge, with only limited truncation of the topsoil and upper horizon of subsoil evident in the roadway of Torrance Close.
-

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of Thames Water. We also thank Adam Single of English Heritage for monitoring the fieldwork on behalf of the London Borough of Havering.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for project management, and editing and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations.
-

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

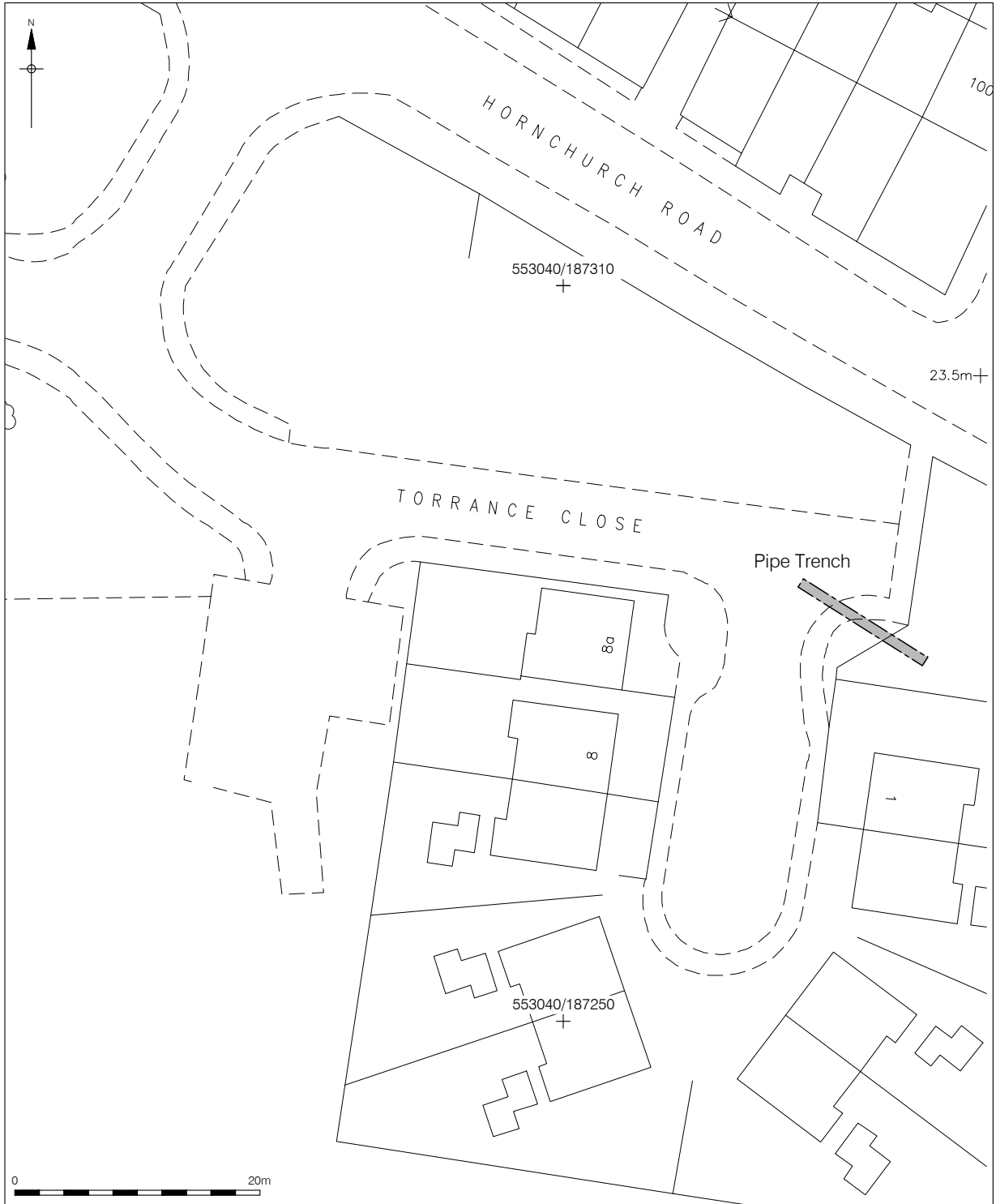
Meager, R. 2011. 'Land at Elmhurst Lodge, Hornchurch, Essex. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment.' CgMs Consulting, Unpublished Report.

Seddon, G. 2012. 'Land at Elmhurst Lodge, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering, RM11 1JT An Archaeological Evaluation and Mitigation Watching Brief.' Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Unpublished Report.



© Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. License number 36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2013
 19/03/13 HB

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



© Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2013
19/03/13 HB

Figure 2
Pipe Trench Location
1:500 at A4

10 PLATES



Plate 1: Trench looking east



Plate 2: Section through grass verge



Plate 3: Trench looking west



Plate 4: Section through road
