An Archaeological Evaluation at the proposed City Academy on the site of McEntee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E17

Site Code: MSW 06
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3680 9100

Written and Researched by Neil Hawkins
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2006

Project Manager: Tim Bradley

Commissioning Client: Cundall Johnston & Partners LLP

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

Tel: **020 7732 3925**

Fax: **020 7733 7896**

Email: tbradley@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at the proposed City Academy on the site of McEntee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E17. The evaluation was conducted in two phases, the playing field area between 15th and 21st March and the playground between 30th May and 2nd June 2006. The work was undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of the site and was commissioned by Cundall Johnston and Partners LLP on behalf of the United Learning Trust.

1.2 The evaluation consisted of thirteen trial trenches, aimed at coverage of the development area, which revealed natural London Clay and glacial gravel and sand, an undated ditch and three gullies and a possible channel/pond, sealed by subsoil, made ground and topsoil/tarmac.

2 INTRODUCTION

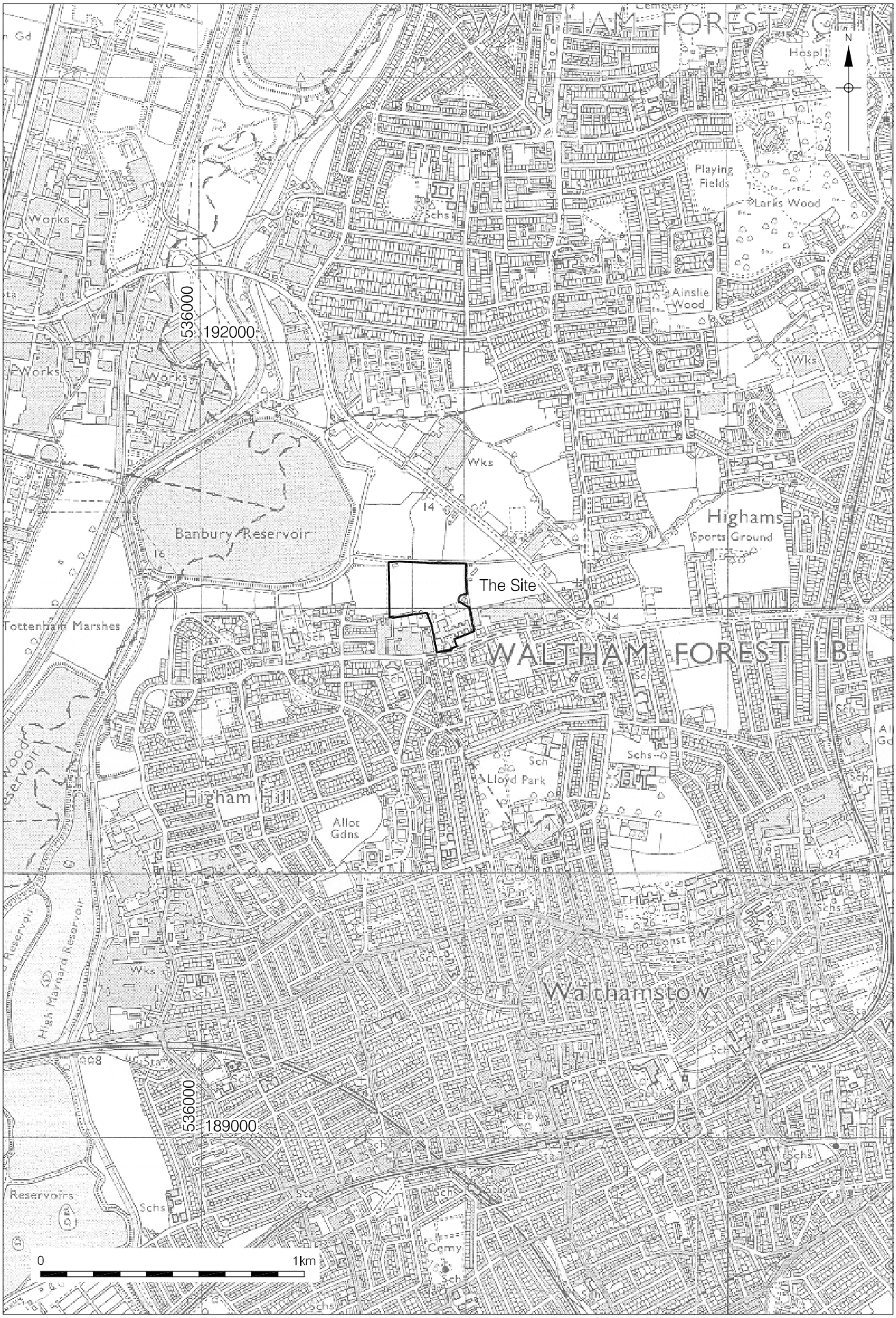
2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the proposed City Academy on the site of McEntee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest, E17 (location map, Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Cundall Johnston and Partners LLP on behalf of the United Learning Trust advance of the redevelopment of the site.

2.2 The evaluation covered an area of land centred on National Grid Reference TQ 3680 9100. The land was previously used as playing fields and playground. The site is bounded by playing fields and a golf course to the north, and by industrial units and housing to the east and west. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of thirteen trial trenches, aimed at comprehensive coverage of the development area (see trench location map, Fig. 2).

2.3 The evaluation was conducted between 15th and 21st March and 30th May and 2nd June 2006 and followed a written specification prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The fieldwork was supervised by the author, under the Project Management of Tim Bradley. The site was monitored by David Divers of English Heritage GLAAS on behalf of the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited at LAARC.

2.5 The site was allocated the site code MSW 06.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20 000

Conjectured Pond/Channel

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

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', adopted in January 1996, contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Historic Environment and Archaeology Policies:

SP1 THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF THE BOROUGH. IN PARTICULAR IT WILL:

i) ENSURE THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR CHANGES OF USE ENHANCE RATHER THAN DETRACT FROM THEIR SURROUNDINGS;

ii) PROMOTE THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE BOROUGH PARTICULARLY IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITY AREA;

iii) CONSERVE AND ENHANCE AREAS AND BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL TOWNSCAPE VALUE OR OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST;

iv) CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE GREEN BELT AND METROPOLITAN OPEN LANDFROM INCOMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT;

v) CONSERVE AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACES WITHIN THE URBAN AREA WHICH HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY WHETHER FOR AMENITY REASONS, FOR NATURE CONSERVATION, OR FOR RECREATION AND COMMUNITY PURPOSES;

vi) PROTECT AND ENHANCE GREEN CHAINS.

ENV21 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 0.4 OF AN ACRE OR MORE IS PROPOSED WITHIN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY ZONES (AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP), OR FOR ANY SITE IDENTIFIED BY A RECOGNISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL AUTHORITY, THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE WILL BE CONSIDERED. WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION BEFORE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ARE CONSIDERED.

THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED, IF NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND DISPLAY.

SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OR POTENTIAL NOT REQUIRING PERMANENT PRESERVATION SHALL HAVE PROVISION MADE FOR AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND EXCAVATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY A RECOGNISED 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.

3.3 Archaeological remains constitute the principal surviving evidence of the Borough's distant past but are a finite and fragile resource very vulnerable to modern development and land use. Once removed, that part of the Borough's physical past is lost forever. The Council considers that Walthamstow's archaeology is a community asset and that its preservation is a legitimate objective against which the needs of the development must be balanced and assessed, as stated in the UDP:

'The Council considers that 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.'

'The Council 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 and areas around former Saxon and Mediaeval settlements such as Walthamstow and Highams Park. '

'The Council considers that wherever possible, 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.'

3.4 The Waltham Forest UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata. Once the results of the Desktop Assessment are known, and where follow-up trial work is known to be necessary or otherwise, an informed decision on the necessity or otherwise for further archaeological strategies may be taken. These strategies may be preservation *in situ*, excavation, or watching brief. The destruction of

archaeological remains should be avoided wherever possible and should never take place without prior archaeological excavation and record.

3.5 The site has previously been the subject of a Desk Based Assessment[1] and the archaeological evaluation represents the next stage of archaeological mitigation of the site.

[1] Barrett, 2005

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 GEOLOGY

4.1.1 The site is situated to the east of the Lea Valley, just beyond the spread of alluvial deposits. The British Geological Survey sheet 256[2] indicates that the site lies on a mantel of glacial sand and gravel underlain by London Clay. There are patches of brickearth on the higher ground to the west. Immediately to the west of the northern section of the site is a former landfill site.

4.1.2 The site was the subject of an investigation by STATS Ground Engineering on behalf of the United Learning Trust in July 2005, during which a series of geotechnical boreholes and environmental window samples were examined (STATS report 34675/02 for United Learning Trust, commissioned by Cundall, Johnston and Partners LLP). Made ground (mostly gravelly clay) across the site was found to a depth of 0.30 to 1.10m. River Terrace Gravels were only found in two boreholes south of the playing fields, while London Clay was encountered at all investigation points, being firm to very stiff brown, locally grey, slightly sandy clay.

4.1.3 The archaeological evaluation trenching broadly reflected the results of the geotechnical work with London Clay being recorded across the site (recorded at heights of between 12.94m OD in Trench 1 to 11.80m OD in trench 13), sealed by a thin deposit of terrace gravel in the south eastern area of the site (Trenches 12 and 13). Waterlain alluvial deposits of c.1m thickness were recorded sealing the London Clay in Trenches 10 and 11, possibly representing a channel or lower lying 'pond' area (see sections 7 and 9 for further discussion).

4.2 TOPOGRAPHY

4.2.1 The southern part of the site is located on the edge of the built-up area to the north-west of Walthamstow. The remainder of the site consists of playing fields and sports pitches surrounded by further playing fields. The site is fairly level, sloping very gradually down to the north- west towards the Lea Valley from a height of c 13.10m OD on Billet Road down to c 10m OD at Folly Lane, now the edge of Banbury Reservoir. The land to the west rises up to Higham Hill, c 21m OD at the junction of Billet Road and Folly Lane. Beyond Higham Hill are the Lockwood Reservoir and the Lee Navigation Canal.

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[2] British Geological Survey Sheet 256 *North London*, 1994

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 An archaeological Desk Based Assessment was undertaken on the site prior to the evaluation fieldwork.[3] The following section summarises the archaeological and historical background to the site as detailed in that document.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 Only two prehistoric finds have been made in the vicinity of the site. A sherd of prehistoric pottery was recorded during archaeological investigations to the north-east of the site in Salisbury Hall playing fields (SMR Ref: 062318), although it could not be ascribed to a specific prehistoric period. A number of undated features were also recorded in this area, including pits and ditches. To the south-west of the site, a Neolithic half polished stone axe was found in a garden on Manor Road (SMR Ref: 060851). Further to the west of the site, along the Lea Valley, a large number of significant finds were made during the construction of the reservoirs and the Navigation Canal from the Paleolithic through to the Iron Age indicating widespread settlement of the marshes, including a crannog and a logboat.

5.2.2 The scarcity of prehistoric findspots in the vicinity of the site reflects the lack of fieldwork in this area rather than the lack of potential. Any prehistoric deposits are likely to occur at some depth below the surface and may therefore be well-preserved. The area may have been suitable for occupation and agriculture in all periods, although the clayey soil is poorly drained and is likely to have been covered in large amounts of woodland for much of prehistory; some clearance for the creation of pasture and even arable land may have occurred, evidenced by the undated ditches and gullies in the vicinity.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 There is a general paucity of archaeological evidence dating to the Roman period in the vicinity of the site, reflecting the lack of fieldwork in the area. Woodland probably still dominated the area and there would have been passing traffic travelling to the crossings of the River Lea. The crannog settlements in the marshes appear to have continued into the Roman period[4].

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[3] Barrett, 2005

[4] Hatley, 1932

5.4 Saxon / Medieval

5.4.1 Saxon evidence is restricted to the Lea Valley to the west where evidence of shipping along the river has been found. Danish raids on London were launched from the Lea and a camp was attacked by King Alfred in 895. Burials of warriors with their swords and spears as well as remains of boats have been found along the river[5]. Many of the distinctive east-west routes, seen on historic maps, which lead to the river may date from this period, including Billet Road. Most of the area would still have been forested: the Royal Forest of Waltham was in the bailiwick of Becontree Hundred which included the Walthamstow manors.

5.4.2 There were two manors in the Walthamstow area: *Wilcumeston* (Walthamstow) and *Hechum* (Higham). The site was in the Higham manor which had belonged to Haldane, a free man, before 1066. At Domesday it belonged to Peter of Valognes who held it in lordship. Before 1066 it had been worth 10s and was worth 201s in 1086 (Domesday 36/6). This appears to indicate that woodland was cleared in this period, increasing the value of the land. The manor of Salisbury Hall (SMR Ref: 060811) was sub-divided from Higham in the 14th century.

5.4.3 The moated manor (SMR Ref: 060827) belonged to the manor of Salisbury Hall: in 1541 the Countess of Salisbury, Margaret Pole, was beheaded by Henry VIII for her alleged role in a Catholic conspiracy. George Monoux, a wealthy City merchant and property owner, Sheriff and Mayor of London, had acquired the property in 1513 and named it 'Moons'; he resided there until his death in 1544. He was a great benefactor to the area, founding a school and almhouses and building bridges and causeways for better access to London across the Lea and marshes. Moons was said to be a spacious moated dwelling with a number of enclosures of land and meadows. In 1536 Archbishop Cranmer granted Monoux a licence to have sacrament administered in his private chapel at Moons – a crypt was said to have survived into the late 19th century[6].

5.4.4 In 1589 the property was sold to Thomas Hale and by 1635 belonged to the Rowe family of neighbouring Higham Hall.

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[5] Hatley, 1932

[6] Clarke, 1861

5.5 Post-Medieval

5.5.1 In 1756 the property at Moons is described as being smaller than the previous large moated house, having been rebuilt as a farmhouse in the 17th century (SMR Ref: 060827). In 1817 it was sold along with other property of Salisbury Hall.

5.5.2 The earliest cartographic evidence for the area of the site is the 1754 Rocque map which, although lacking in detail, shows the general area of the site to be situated in large open fields. Chapman and Andre's map of 1772-4 shows a similar pattern. Coe's map of 1822 shows the site as one large L-shaped field, with no structural elements within, surrounded by similar large field parcels. To the south is Moons Farm and the site of the manor house is depicted along with ponds, some of which still have the appearance of a moat. The Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows few changes, except that the site has been divided into two fields. Some of the moat at Moons has been infilled. Brick works are noted in the land parcel immediately to the east and brick works and a pottery are also situated to the north-west. The situation is largely unchanged by the Ordnance Survey revision published 1897.

5.5.3 The 1935 Ordnance Survey map shows a transformation in the character of the area due to the expansion of housing and industry from Walthamstow to the south and west. Some of this process was visible on the 1915 and 1920 map but by 1935 housing has spread to the surroundings of the site. Moons Farm and the site of the moat and manor house have been replaced by housing – today a Blue Plaque commemorates the lost location. There are houses in the parcel of land to the east of the site while immediately to the west are a Laundry then a 'Screw Machine Manufactory' and a 'Wireless Sets Manufactory'. The site itself has become a sports ground; all remaining land to the north and west up to the reservoir is a mixture of sports grounds and allotments. A number of pavilions have been constructed across the grounds: there are seven within the site boundary as well as some other small buildings, tennis courts and a bowling green.

5.5.4 Walthamstow suffered considerable damage during wartime though not in the vicinity of the site. Just to the north of the site in Higham playing fields a Heavy Anti-Aircraft artillery battery was positioned between 1940 and 1946.

5.5.5 In 1957 the technical college was moved to the site from Hoe St and named the McEntee School: this appears to be the first construction on the site other than sports pavilions.

5.5.6 The cartographic and documentary evidence indicates that the site, and indeed the north-western side of Walthamstow as a whole, developed at a slightly slower rate than settlement along the main arteries which connected to bridges across the Lea, and to the new navigation canal and railway in the 19th century. The site appears to have remained open land throughout the post-medieval period, changing from agricultural to recreational use in the early 20th century. It is possible, however, that some of the clay extraction for brick-making and landfill activities that are recorded as taking place slightly further to the north and west in the later post-medieval period may have occurred in areas of the site.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The excavation of fourteen trenches, one of which it was not possible to excavate, was outlined in the Specification for an Archaeological Field Evaluation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd[7]. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development, which may require further investigation.

6.2 The trenches were machine excavated by a JCB and 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. The maximum dimensions of the trenches are shown in Table 1. Once archaeologically sensitive deposits or features were encountered, machining was stopped to allow archaeologists to clean with hand tools as necessary and record the remains.

Trench Number	Max Dimensions (m)	Max height (m OD)
1	19.50m x 1.80m	13.48
2	20.00m x 1.80m	13.42
3	22.00m x 1.80m	13.43
4	19.50m x 1.80m	13.45
5	19.80m x 1.80m	13.38
6	19.70m x 1.80m	13.42
7	19.40m x 1.80m	13.38
8	19.10m x 1.80m	13.41
9	21.50m x 1.80m	13.37
10	19.00m x 1.80m	13.48
11	20.00m x 1.80m	13.46
12	22.75m x 1.80m	12.82
13	19.25m x 1.80m	12.75

Table 1: Trench Dimensions

6.3 Recording was undertaken using the single context planning method. All features and deposits observed were planned and recorded onto *pro forma* context record sheets. Contexts were numbered sequentially and are shown in this report within square

[7] Bradley, 2006

brackets. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A general photographic survey of the site and working conditions was taken.

6.4 Two temporary benchmarks, 13.55m OD & 13.41m OD, were traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark of 13.56m OD, located on the corner of 43 Billet Road.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 – Natural London Clay & Glacial Gravels & Sands

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered throughout Trenches 1-13 was the natural London Clay. In Trenches 1 to 8 the London Clay was recorded as [6]. In Trench 1 it was encountered at 12.94m OD; in Trench 2 at 12.86m OD; in Trench 3 at 12.90m OD; in Trench 4 at 12.91m OD; in Trench 5 at 12.84m OD; in Trench 6 at 12.80m OD; in Trench 7 at 12.93m OD; in Trench 8 at 12.86m OD; in Trench 9 it was recorded as [32] and encountered at 12.17m OD; in Trench10 it was recorded as [21] and encountered at 11.76m OD; in Trench 11 it was recorded as [25] at encountered at 11.98m OD; in Trench 12 it was recorded as [36] and encountered at 11.91m OD and in Trench 13 it was recorded as [35] and encountered at 11.80m OD.

7.1.2 Thin layers of glacial sand and gravel was encountered in Trenches 9, 12 & 13 sealing the London Clay, as described on the British Geological Survey Sheet (Sheet 256). In Trench 9 this deposit was recorded as [31] and was encountered at 12.37m OD, with a thickness of 0.20m. In Trench 12 it was recorded as [28] and was encountered at 11.96m OD with a thickness of 0.05m. In Trench 13 it was recorded as [34] and was encountered at 11.90m OD with a thickness of 0.10m.

7.2 Phase 2 – Possible Channel/Pond

7.2.1 Overlying the London Clay in Trenches 10 & 11 was a sequence of alluvial deposits, [20] & [19] and [24] & [23] respectively, possibly forming a channel or pond, [38]. The highest level of alluvium was encountered in Trench 10 at 12.73m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.97m. It existed throughout Trench 10. The same sequence was again encountered throughout Trench 11, the highest level of which was 12.76m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.77m. Trench 11 was extended eastward at this point to try to define an the eastern limit of this alluvial feature. The level of the London Clay began to steadily rise for c. 5.50m east of the original Trench 11 where a diffuse edge to the feature was encountered. Here it appeared to merge into a thinner layer of more silty alluvium [37], which may represent overspill from the feature itself. This deposit [37] was c. 0.23m thick and was encountered at 12.71m OD. On the edge of this alluvial feature the natural London Clay was at 12.41m OD.

7.3 Phase 3 – Undated Features

7.3.1 Cutting through the natural London Clay [6], and running north-south through Trenches 5, 6 & 8, was a ditch [5]. The ditch was encountered at c. 12.85m OD and was 1.40m wide and 0.70m deep throughout but widened to 2.14m at the southernmost point at which it was exposed, in Trench 8. The eastern side of the ditch was very steep whilst the western side was moderately steep and appeared to be stepped. It had a concave to flat base and no evidence of a bank or upcast associated with the ditch was encountered. The ditch had silty-clay fills that were heavily leeched, implying natural, waterlain silting of the ditch. No artefactual material was recovered from the ditch and it may represent a field boundary and/or drainage feature.

7.3.2 Running from west to east into ditch [5] in Trench 6 was a shallow gully [17]. This gully was encountered at 12.80m OD, was 0.78m wide and 0.19m deep. The gully had gently sloping sides with a concave base. It was filled with apparently identical material to ditch [5], which it ran into, implying that they were contemporaneous. No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from the gully.

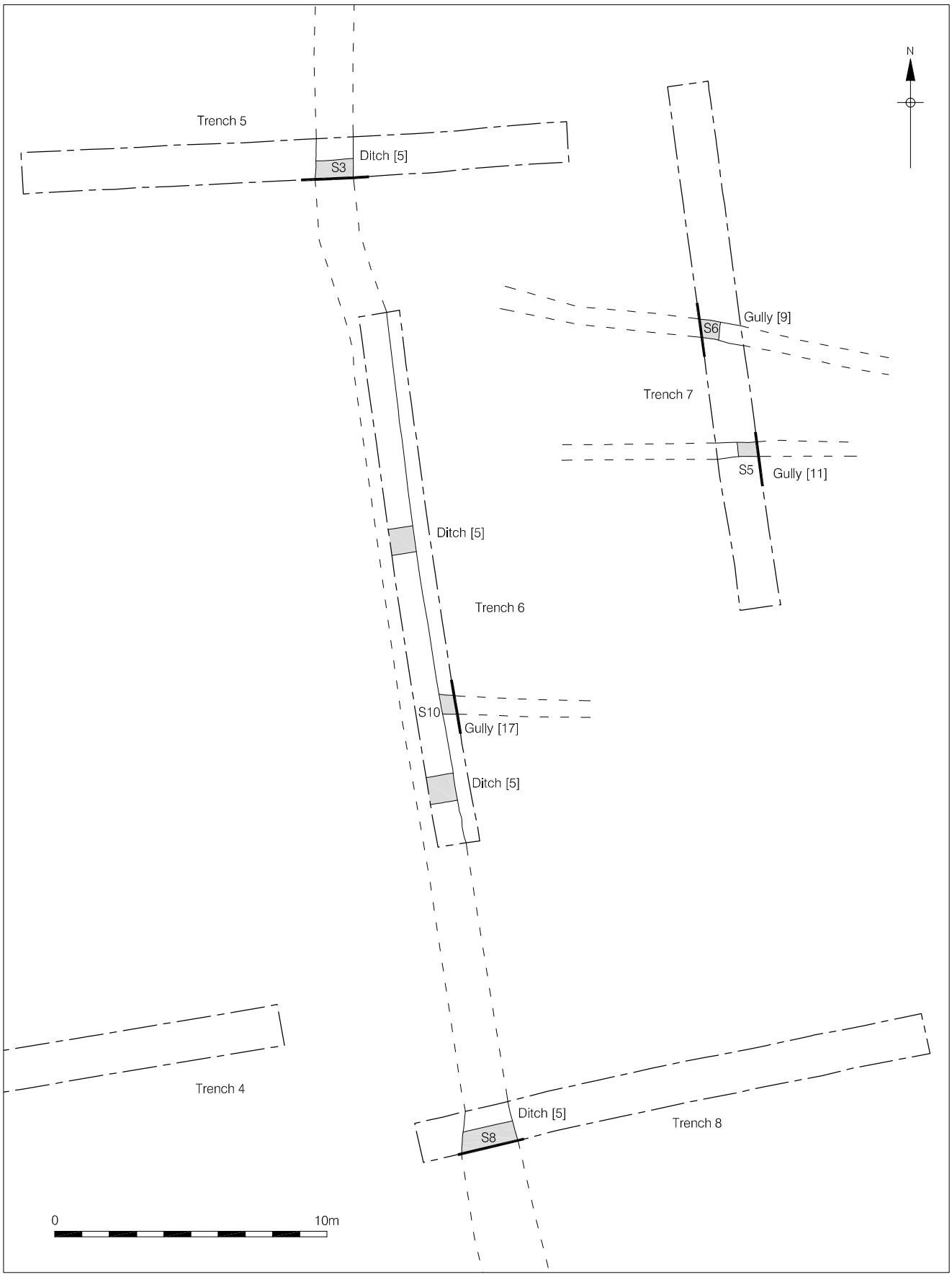
7.3.3 Two shallow gullies [11] & [9] were encountered in Trench 7. Gully [11] ran east-west through the trench, was 0.57m wide and 0.28 m deep and was encountered at 12.93m OD. One side had a near vertical edge, the other being moderately steep, and it had a concave base. Gully [9] ran northwest-southeast through the trench, was 0.72m wide and 0.37m deep and was encountered at 12.90m OD. Both sides were moderately steep with the base being a concave point, forming a 'V' profile. Again the fills were very similar to those within ditch [5], implying that they were contemporary. No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from either of the gullies.

7.4 Phase 4 – Modern

7.4.1 Sealing all features and natural deposits in all trenches were various layers of subsoil and made ground. Sealing the London Clay in Trench 1 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.48m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.54m. Sealing the London Clay in Trench 2 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.42m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.56m. Sealing the London Clay in Trench 3 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence encountered at a highest level of 13.43m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.53m. Sealing the London Clay in Trench 4 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence

was encountered at a highest level of 13.45m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.55m. Sealing ditch [5] in Trench 5 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.38m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.54m. Sealing ditch [5] and gully [17] in Trench 6 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.42m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.62m. Sealing gullies [11] & [9] in Trench 7 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.38m OD and had a combined thickness 0.45m. Sealing ditch [5] in Trench 8 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.41m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.55m.

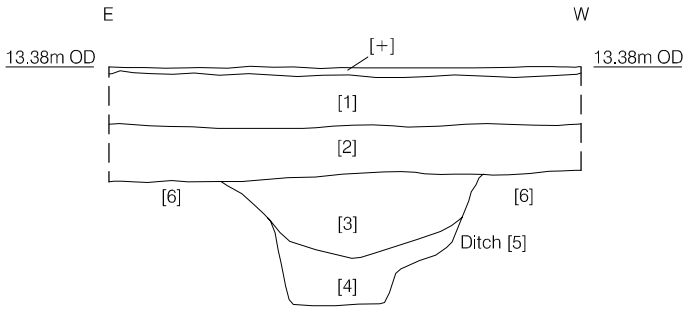
7.4.2 Sealing the glacial gravel and sand layer [31] in Trench 9 was a layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.37m OD and had a combined thickness of 1.00m. Sealing the alluvial deposit [19] in Trench 10 was a layer of subsoil overlain by made ground and tarmac. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.48m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.75m. Sealing the alluvial deposit [23] in Trench 11 was a layer of subsoil overlain by made ground and tarmac. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 13.46m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.69m. Sealing the glacial gravel and sand layer [28] in Trench 12 was a layer of subsoil overlain by made ground and tarmac. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 12.82m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.86m. Sealing the glacial gravel and sand layer [34] in Trench 13 was a layer of subsoil overlain by made ground and tarmac. This sequence was encountered at a highest level of 12.75m OD and had a combined thickness of 0.85m.



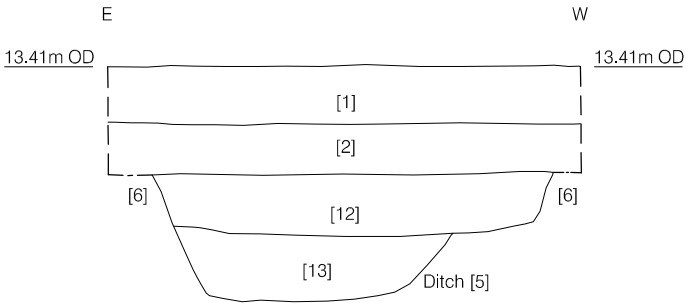
Conjectured

Excavated slot

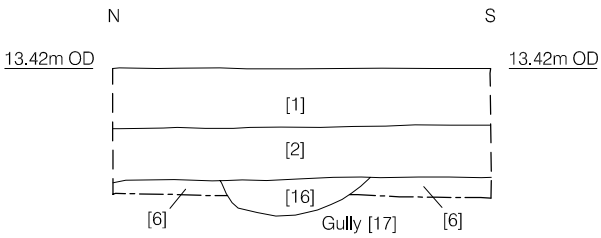
Figure 3
Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8
1:200



Section 3
Trench 5
North Facing

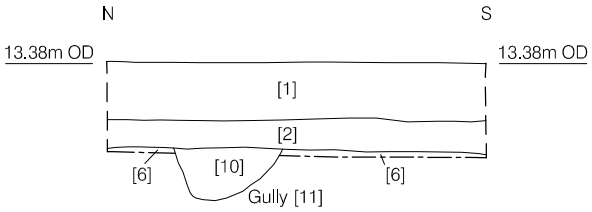


Section 8
Trench 8
North Facing

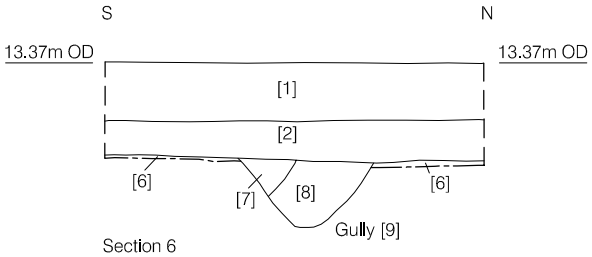


Section 10
Trench 6
West Facing

Figure 4
Sections 3, 8 and 10
1:40



Section 5
Trench 7
West Facing



Section 6
Trench 7
East Facing

Figure 5
Sections 5 and 6
1:40

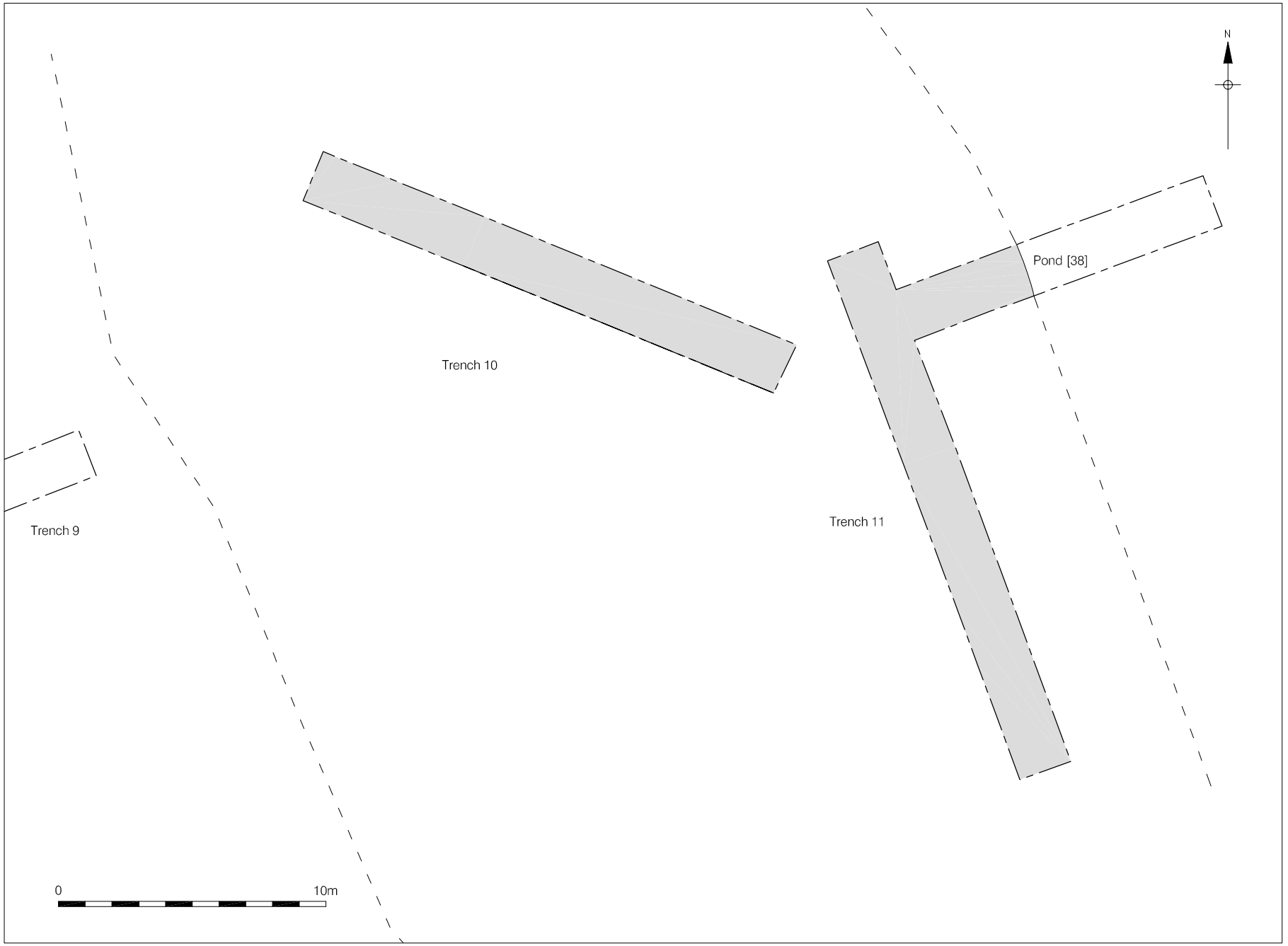


Figure 6
Trenches 10 and 11:
possible pond or channel
1:200

8 TRENCH SUMMARY

8.1 TRENCH 1

8.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural London Clay overlain by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.2 TRENCH 2

8.2.1 Trench 2 revealed natural London Clay overlain by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.3 TRENCH 3

8.3.1 Trench 3 revealed natural London Clay overlain by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.4 TRENCH 4

8.4.1 Trench 4 revealed natural London Clay overlain by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.5 TRENCH 5

8.5.1 Trench 5 revealed natural London Clay cut by a field boundary/drainage ditch running north-south, this was sealed by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.6 TRENCH 6

8.6.1 Trench 6 revealed natural London Clay cut by the same field boundary/drainage ditch encountered in Trench 5, a shallow gully, sealed by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.7 TRENCH 7

8.7.1 Trench 7 revealed natural London Clay cut by two shallow gullies, sealed by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.8 TRENCH 8

8.8.1 Trench 8 revealed natural London Clay cut by the same field boundary/drainage ditch encountered in Trenches 5 & 6, sealed by subsoil overlain by topsoil.

8.9 TRENCH 9

8.9.1 Trench 9 revealed natural London Clay sealed by glacial sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil, sealed by topsoil.

8.10 TRENCH 10

8.10.1 Trench 10 revealed natural London Clay sealed by alluvial deposits associated with a channel or pond, overlain by subsoil, sealed by made ground and tarmac.

8.11 TRENCH 11

8.11.1 Trench 11 revealed natural London Clay sealed by alluvial deposits associated with a channel or pond, overlain by subsoil, sealed by made ground and tarmac.

8.12 TRENCH 12

8.12.1 Trench 12 revealed natural London Clay sealed by glacial sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil, sealed by made ground and tarmac.

8.13 TRENCH 13

8.13.1 Trench 13 revealed natural London Clay sealed by glacial sand and gravel, overlain by subsoil, sealed by made ground and tarmac.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1.1 The evaluation revealed natural deposits in all trenches consistent with the underlying London Clay and glacial gravel and sand. The glacial gravel and sand was only present in the south-eastern portion of the site in Trenches 12 & 13. The level of the London Clay across site seems to imply a slight slope downwards from the north to the south. In Trench 1 at the north end of the site it was at 12.94m OD, in Trench 13 at the south of the site it was at 11.80m OD.

9.1.2 Running north-south through Trenches 5, 6 & 8 was an undated ditch. This appeared to represent a field boundary and/or drainage ditch. Running west into this ditch in Trench 6 was a shallow gully. In Trench 7 two more gullies, one running east-west, the other north-west south-east, were encountered. These two gullies may also have fed into the north-south ditch further north, outside the area of the evaluation trenches. All of these features had a very similar fill, with no dateable evidence recovered from them, suggesting that they may have been contemporary. The sterile and heavily leached nature of the fill implied that the features were of some considerable antiquity, possibly being prehistoric in date. It has to be noted that occupation on the London Clay is traditionally thought to have been avoided, and these features may represent part of a field boundary and drainage system aiding water management of poorly draining soil. The identification of undated ditches and gullies is in keeping with previous findings in the area such as those recorded to the north-east of the site at Salisbury Hall playing fields.

9.1.3 An isolated sequence of alluvial deposits was encountered in Trenches 10 & 11. Trench 11 was extended eastwards to try to define the eastern edge of this feature. It appeared to end c. 5.50m east of the original Trench 11, where the London Clay once again rose up to a level consistent with those already encountered across site. As this feature wasn't fully exposed it is hard ascertain its exact extent and nature. It may represent a wide channel, which, due to the lack of similar deposits in any of the other trenches, means it can only have run north-south through the area of the site. However, the substantial width (30-35 metres) and relatively shallow depth of the feature is not necessarily characteristic of a watercourse. Perhaps more likely is that this alluvial feature represents a localised depression in the London Clay which would have then been subject to continued, possibly seasonal, flooding. This is further suggested by the levels of the London Clay where it slopes from 12.94m OD to the north down to 11.80m OD in the south. In the area of the alluvial deposit the London Clay is recorded at 11.76m OD, lower than the bottom of the slope to the south. Examination of the contours on and around the site on the Ordnance Survey Map of

Epping Forest & Lee Valley (Explorer Map 174) showed no discernable topographic evidence for the location of a channel. The area of and around the site was located on generally flat land with a slight rise to the west.

9.1.4 The ditch and drainage gullies may also have related to the alluvial feature, whether it was a channel or a pond. The gullies may have drained or fed water into this lower lying area from higher ground up-slope. The overall lack of any artefactual evidence makes it hard to date the features on site. This lack of finds also implies that the area of the site lay some distance from any settlement core.

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10.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank David Divers of English Heritage GLAAS for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

10.3 The author would also like to thank the field staff Freya Sadarangani, Andrew Sargeant & Ashley Pooley, Adrian Nash for the illustrations, Lisa Lonsdale for the logistics, Fiona Keith-Lucas for the surveying and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

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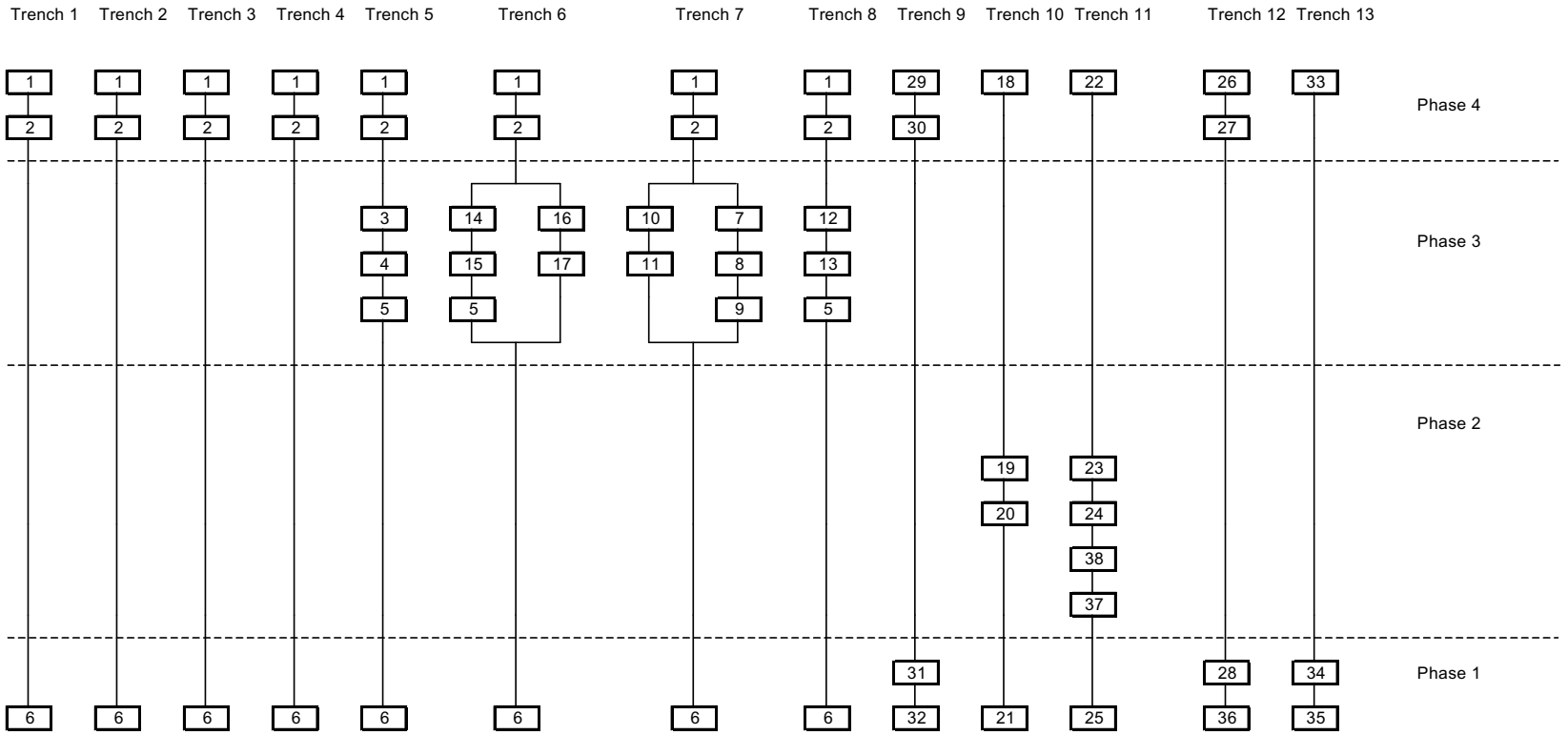
APPENDIX 1: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Trench	Phase	Description
1	Layer	1 to 8	4	Topsoil
2	Layer	1 to 8	4	Subsoil
3	Fill	5	3	Fill of [5]
4	Fill	5	3	Fill of [5]
5	Cut	5, 6 & 8	3	North-South Ditch
6	Layer	1 to 8	1	Natural London Clay
7	Fill	7	3	Fill of [9]
8	Fill	7	3	Fill of [9]
9	Cut	7	3	NW/SE Gully
10	Fill	7	3	Fill of [11]
11	Cut	7	3	East-West Gully
12	Fill	8	3	Fill of [5] In Trench 8
13	Fill	8	3	Fill of [5] In Trench 8
14	Fill	6	3	Fill of [5] In Trench 6
15	Fill	6	3	Fill of [5] In Trench 6
16	Fill	6	3	Fill of [17]
17	Cut	6	3	East-West Gully
18	Layer	10	4	Subsoil
19	Layer	10	2	Alluvium
20	Layer	10	2	Alluvium
21	Layer	10	1	Natural London Clay
22	Layer	11	4	Subsoil
23	Layer	11	2	Alluvium
24	Layer	11	2	Alluvium
25	Layer	11	1	Natural London Clay
26	Layer	12	4	Subsoil
27	Layer	12	4	Subsoil
28	Layer	12	1	Natural Glacial Sand & Gravel
29	Layer	9	4	Subsoil
30	Layer	9	4	Subsoil
31	Layer	9	1	Natural Glacial Sand & Gravel
32	Layer	9	1	Natural London Clay
33	Layer	13	4	Subsoil
34	Layer	13	1	Natural Glacial Sand & Gravel

35	Layer	13	1	Natural London Clay
36	Layer	12	1	Natural London Clay
37	Layer	11	2	Alluvium
38	Cut	11	2	Cut of Pond/Channel

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



Phase 1 - Natural London Clay & glacial gravels & sands
Phase 2 - Pos. Channel/Pond
Phase 3 - Undated Features
Phase 4 - Modern

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-15520

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at McEntee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Evaluation at Mcentee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest. 13 evaluation trenches revelaed natural London Clay, a N-S drainage ditch/field boundary, 3 shallow gullies, a pond, all of which represent a field system. No dateable finds were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 15-03-2006 End: 02-06-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MSW 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain

Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	POND Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts 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 WALTHAMSTOW McEntee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest
Postcode	E17
Study area	14000.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3680 9100 Point

Height OD	Min: 11.76m Max: 12.94m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Neil Hawkins
Sponsor or funding body	Cundall Johnston and Partners LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media	'Survey','Text'

available	
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Mcentee School, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest
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OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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