AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT TETHERDOWN SCHOOL, FORTIS GREEN, LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY

JULY 2006

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

TETHERDOWN SCHOOL
FORTIS GREEN
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY

EVALUATION

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Tetherdown School, Fortis Green, London Borough of Haringey

Site Code: WDV 04

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2815 8930

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2006

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation at Tetherdown Primary School, Fortis Green, London Borough of Haringey. The evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of the Treehouse Trust and Haringey Council. The evaluation was conducted in two phases. The first phase was supervised by Helen Clough, on 8th July 2004, and the second phase was supervised by Jon Crisp from 19th to 20th June 2006. It was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Chris Mayo.

1.2 The evaluation involved the excavation of two trenches, located within the footprint of the proposed new buildings. A canteen and kitchen area associated with the school previously occupied the site.

1.3 Trench 1 contained a deposit of natural London Clay, which was sealed by post-medieval subsoil and modern topsoil. Trench 2 contained natural London Clay, truncated by a ditch, orientated east-west. The feature appears to have silted up partially, before being recut at a later date. It is thought that the ditch represents the northern pale (boundary) of a medieval deer park. It was backfilled in the 20th century and sealed by a thick deposit of modern made ground.

2 INTRODUCTION

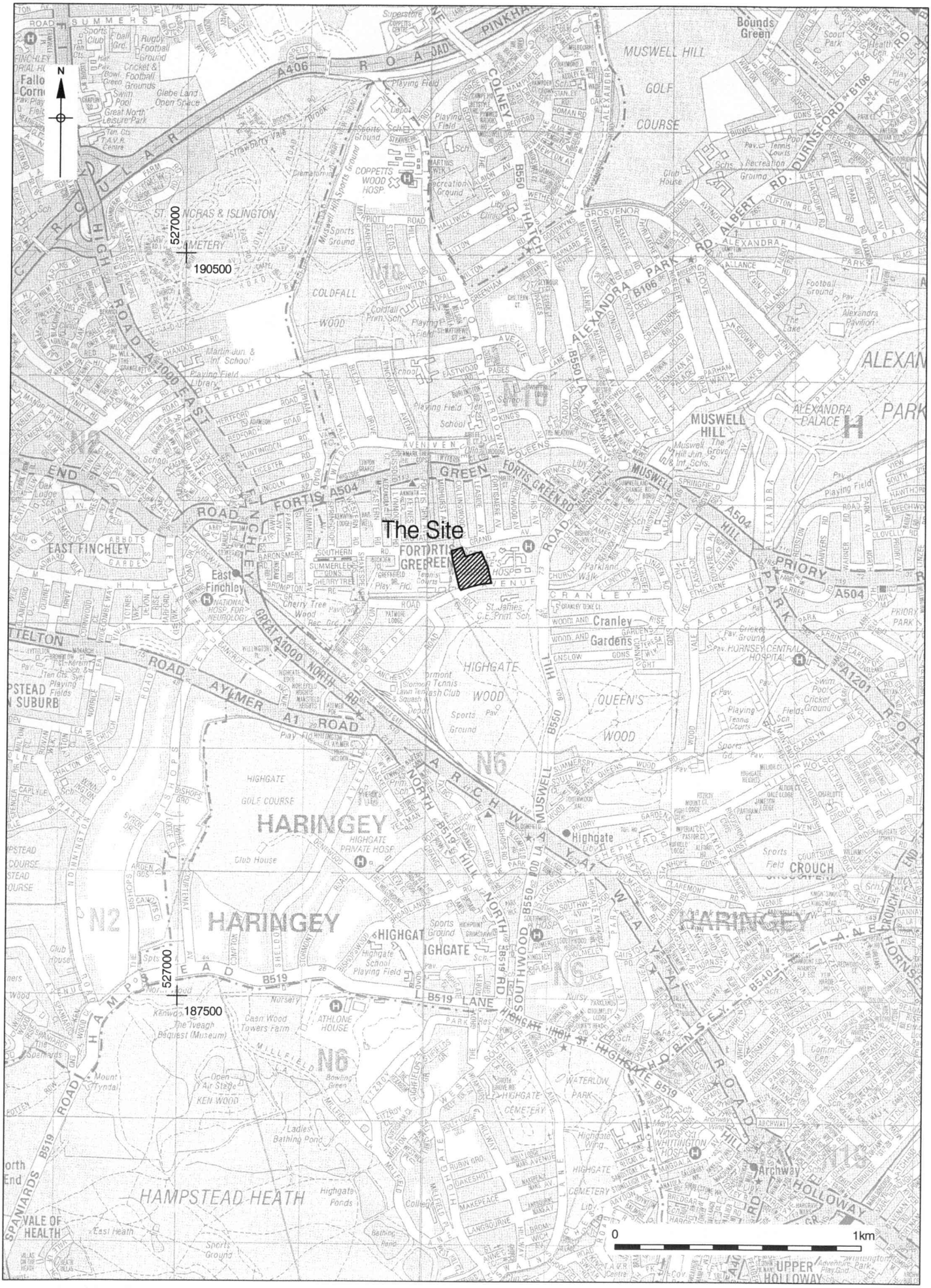
2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Tetherdown School, Fortis Green, London Borough of Haringey. The work was carried out in two phases on 8th July 2004 and on 19th and 20th June 2006. The work was commissioned by the Treehouse Trust and Haringey Council, prior to extension of the school buildings.

2.2 The site is situated on the crest of a hill, which slopes gradually to the south of the main school building. It is bounded by school buildings to the north and east, a fenced public footpath to the west and Woodside Avenue to the south.

2.3 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2815 8930.

2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code WDV 04.

2.5 The first phase of the fieldwork was supervised by Helen Clough and the second phase was supervised by Jon Crisp. It was project managed by Chris Mayo and monitored by Kim Stabler of English Heritage on behalf of the LPA.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey. Crown Copyright 1998.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20 000

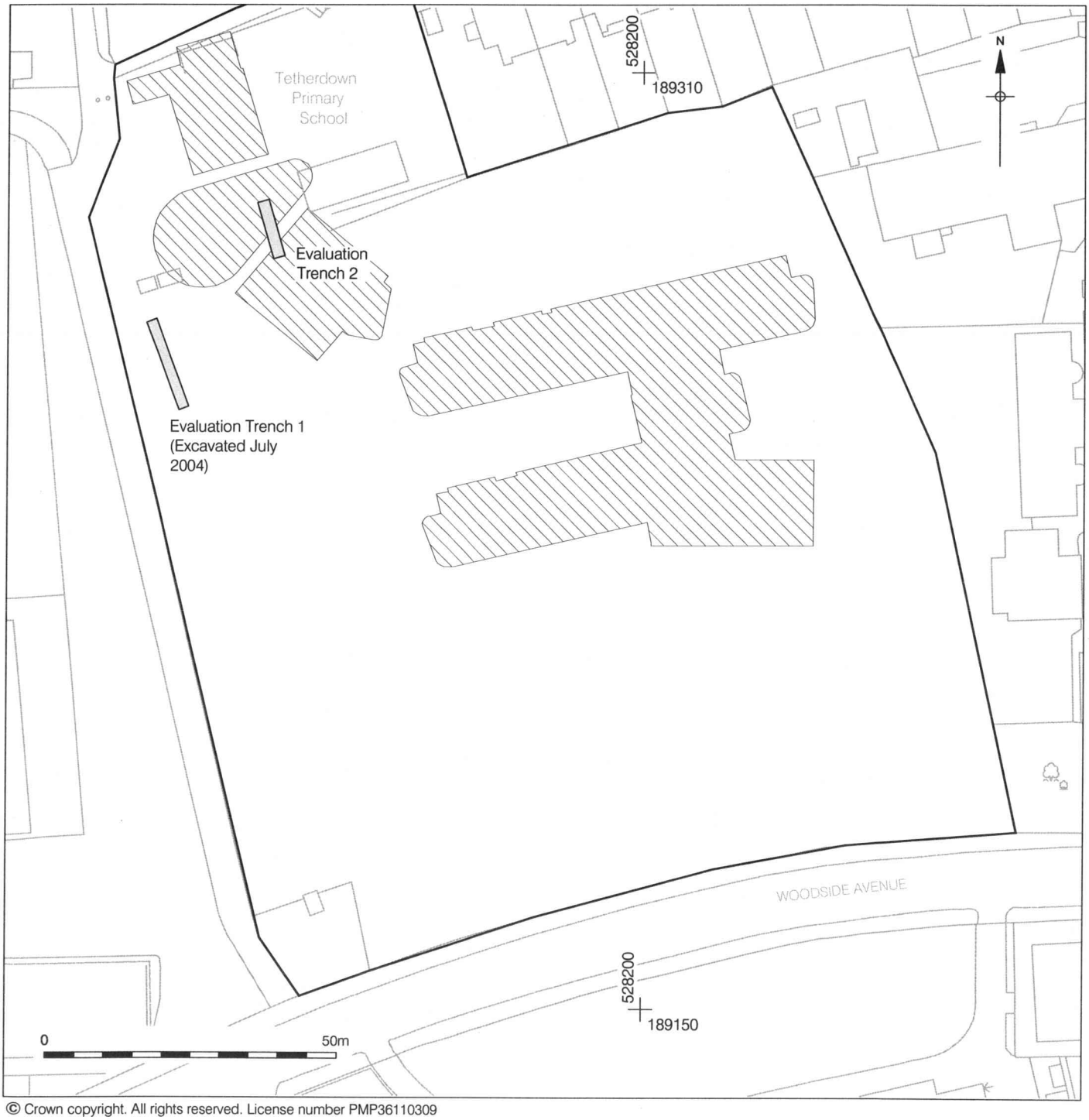


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) “Archaeology and Planning”, providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2 In short, government policies provide a framework which:

- Protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Protect the settings of these sites
- Protect nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
- Has a presumption in favour of in situ preservation
- In appropriate circumstances, requires adequate information (from field evaluation) 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 proposal for development, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, of existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

3.4 The London Borough of Haringey Unitary Development Plan (UDP) includes several clauses in relation to archaeological practice within the Borough. This includes the following:

"**CSV4 ARCHAEOLOGY**

11.5 The Council will consider granting planning permission for proposals affecting sites of archaeological potential provided they meet with the following criteria:

a) Applications must be accompanied by an archaeological assessment and evaluation of the site, including the impact of the proposed development.

b) Development proposals will be required to preserve *in situ*, protect and safeguard important archaeological remains and the settings and, where appropriate, provide for the permanent display and interpretation of the remains.

The Council will ensure the proper investigation, recording of sites and publication of results by a suitably qualified archaeological contractor, as an integral part of a development programme where a development incorporates archaeological remains or where it is considered that preservation *in situ* is not appropriate.

11.16 Haringey's archaeological heritage has the potential to be an educational, recreational and tourist resource. The Council will therefore promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of archaeological sites and their presentation to the public."

3.5 In accordance with the conditions laid down in the London Borough of Haringey's UDP, a programme of evaluation by trial trenching was designed and carried out in consultation with Kim Stabler of English Heritage.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 GEOLOGY

4.1.1 The site is located on London Clay of the Eocene era (Clough 2004). In Trench 1 this clay was encountered at a level of 90.36m OD in the north of the trench, and 87.63m OD in the south. In Trench 2 it was observed at a height of 90.18m OD.

4.2 TOPOGRAPHY

4.2.1 The current ground surface slopes towards the south from a level of 92.40m OD in the north to 87.00m OD in the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site has previously been undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Clough 2004). The findings of this document are summarised here.

5.2 PREHISTORIC

5.2.1 No prehistoric material has been encountered within a 500m radius of the site (Clough 2004).

5.3 ROMAN

5.3.1 Evidence of several Roman pottery kilns was found in Highgate Wood, 200m south of the site. The kilns are thought to date to from the 1st to 2nd centuries AD. A Roman coin hoard was found at Cranley Gardens, to the south-west of the site (Clough 2004).

5.4 SAXON AND MEDIEVAL

5.4.1 No evidence of Saxon activity has been identified within the vicinity of the site.

5.4.2 During the medieval period the site lay within the Manor of Hornsey or Haringey and was the property of the Bishops of London. Much of the area was in use as a deer park until the post-medieval period. An earthwork survey at Highgate Wood recorded linear earthworks, including a double bank and triple ditch feature, more than 300m long, and a curvilinear, single bank and ditch of shorter length. These earthworks were very difficult to date but have been tentatively assigned to the medieval period (Clough, 2004).

5.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

5.5.1 Historical records suggest that Fortis Green was in existence as a hamlet by at least the 16th century, and was probably named after a local resident. By 1600, Highgate had become a wealthy area, occupied by several aristocratic residences. Most of the surrounding countryside, however, remained rural and undeveloped. The map regression exercise, carried out as part of the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, suggests that the study site was used as farmland in the post-medieval period, before becoming a playing field for a hospital in 1928-30 (Clough 2004).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 In accordance with the specification, the trenches were arranged to fully investigate the underlying geology and the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains across the site.

6.2 A total of two archaeological trial trenches were excavated. The dimensions of Trench 1 were 16m x 1.8m and the dimensions of Trench 2 were 10m x 2m.

6.3 The trenches were excavated using a 360 mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision, fitted with a ditching bucket. Excavation by machine was undertaken in spits and continued through the made ground until significant archaeological horizons or natural clay was reached.

6.4 One sample section in each trench and the base of each trench were hand-cleaned before recording.

6.5 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The OD heights of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record of the investigations was also prepared, including both black and white prints and colour transparencies on 35mm film.

6.6 A temporary benchmark was located on the footpath to the west of Trench 1, with a value of 90.77m OD. In Trench 2, levels were calculated from a spot height previously taken on tarmac surfacing just in front of a wooden building, which had a value of 92.41m OD.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 TRENCH 1

7.1.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1.1 The earliest deposit to be encountered within Trench 1 was context [3], a firm, mid orange brown clay with occasional, sub-angular pebble-sized flint inclusions. The deposit covered the entire base of the trench and was of unknown thickness, the base being beyond the vertical limit of excavation. It was observed at a level of 90.36m OD. The layer was interpreted as a deposit of natural London Clay.

7.1.2 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

7.1.2.1 Sealing the natural clay within Trench 1 was layer [2], which contained occasional fragments of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe. The deposit covered the entire trench and was 300mm thick, the top being at a level of 90.3m OD. It was interpreted as a layer of sub-soil dating to the post-medieval period.

7.1.3 Phase 4: 20th Century

7.1.3.1 The subsoil was sealed by a layer of modern topsoil, context [1]. The deposit sealed the entire trench and was 280mm thick, the top being at a level of 90.36m OD.

7.2 TRENCH 2

7.2.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1.1 The earliest deposit to be encountered within Trench 2 was context [6], a firm, mid orange brown clay with occasional small sub-angular pebble-sized flint inclusions. The deposit covered the entire base of the trench and was of unknown thickness, the base being beyond the vertical limit of excavation. It was observed at a level of 90m OD. The layer was interpreted as a deposit of natural London Clay.

7.2.2 Phase 2: Medieval

7.2.2.1 The natural clay within Trench 2 was truncated by a ditch [7] which was orientated east-west. The ditch was 2.0m wide, at least 2.0m long and 0.70m deep, the top being at a level of 89.37m OD. It had a "U"-shaped profile with fairly steep, concave sides. It contained one fill [8], a deposit of firm, dark greenish-grey, highly organic silty

clay. The fill probably formed over a long period of time, whilst the ditch remained open. It was interpreted as representing a phase of natural silting, which partially infilled the ditch. No dating evidence was obtained from the feature. However, documentary evidence suggests that it may represent the northern pale of a medieval deer park, located in Highgate Wood.

7.2.2.2 Truncating fill [8] was ditch [11], also orientated east-west, and 0.8m wide, at least 2.0m long and 0.35m deep, the top being at a level of 89.88m OD. It had a "U"-shaped profile, with fairly steep, concave sides. The feature was interpreted as a recut of the medieval deer park pale, presumably excavated in order to remove some of the natural silting and prolong the life of the pale. The recut does not appear to have been backfilled and levelled until recent times.

7.2.2.3 Immediately north of ditch recut [11] was context [9], a relatively thin layer of firm, dark brown clay, visible in section only. The dimensions of the deposit were 2m east-west, 1.2m north-south and 140mm thick, the top being at a level of 90.15m OD. It partially sealed the fill of ditch [7]. The layer was interpreted as a deposit of "up-cast", created during the excavation of recut [11].

7.2.3 Phase 4- 20th Century

7.2.3.1 Filling ditch recut [11] and sealing "up-cast" [9] was a deposit of firm, mid-yellow, re-deposited clay natural, context [10] at an upper level of 90.14m OD. It contained frequent modern inclusions of brick, slate and glass, and was therefore interpreted as being 20th century in date. The material appears to have been dumped into ditch recut [11] in order to level the ground surface, probably during construction of the modern school building.

7.2.3.2 Sealing backfill [10] was context [5], a deposit of compact, light yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of modern pottery, red fabric brick and slate. The deposit covered the entire trench and was 0.8m thick, the top being at a level of 90.94m OD. The deposit was interpreted as 20th century made ground, probably deposited during the construction of the school.

7.2.3.3 Sealing layer [5] was context [4], a deposit of compact, light yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of modern pottery and red fabric brick. The deposit sealed the entire trench and was 0.75m thick, the top being at a level of 91.29m OD. The deposit was interpreted as 20th century made ground, probably deposited during the construction of the school.

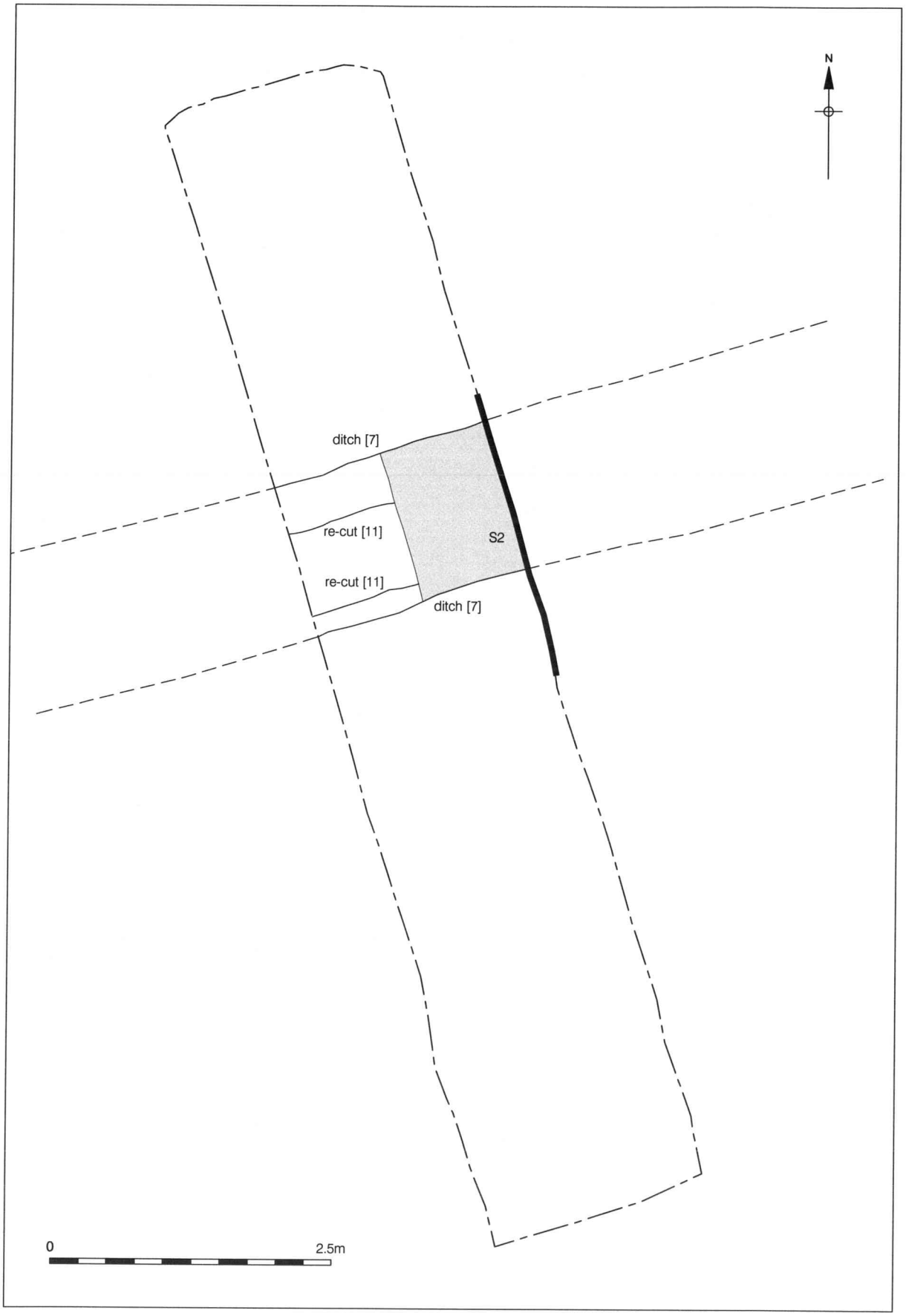


Figure 3
Trench 2
1:50

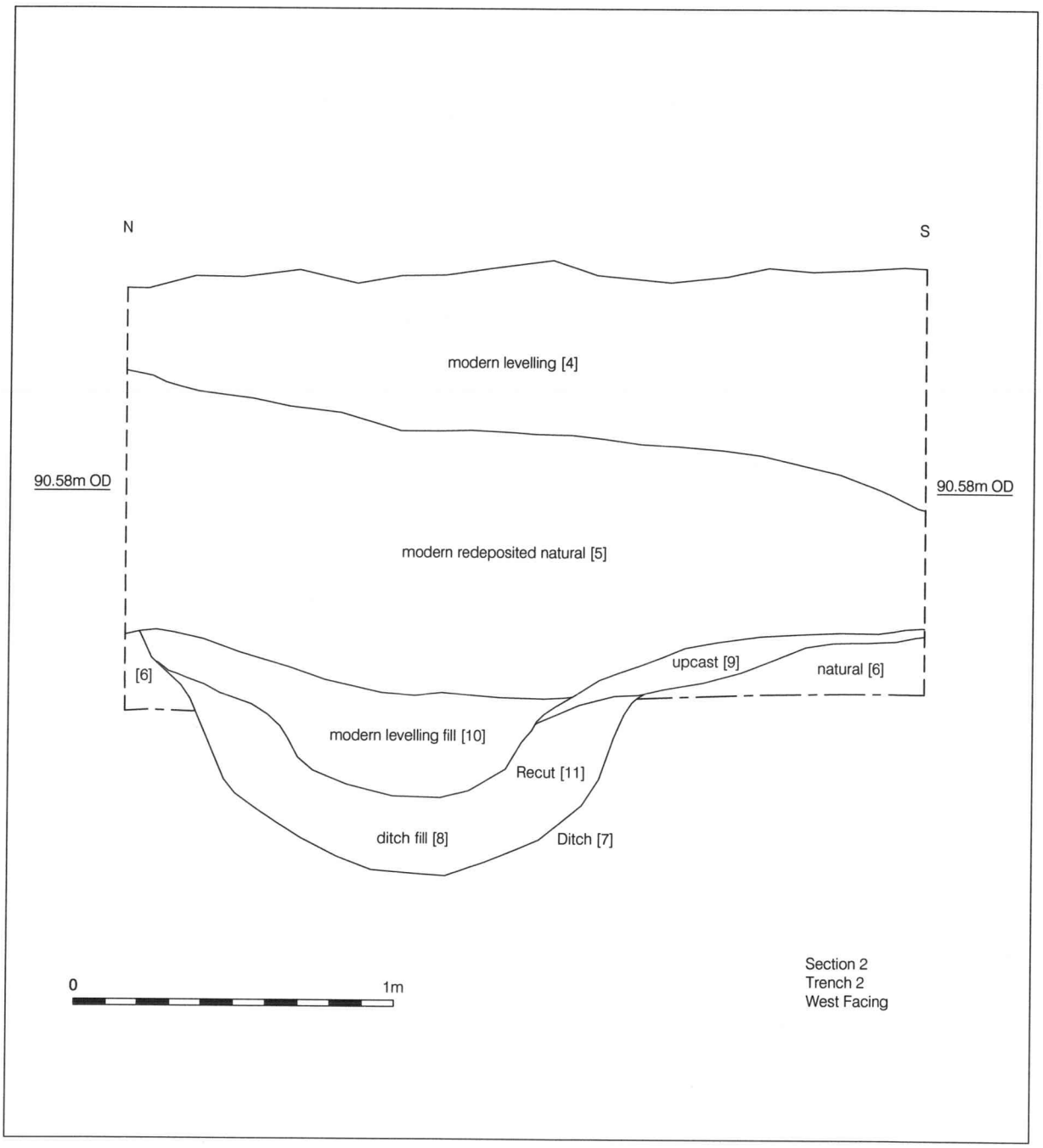


Figure 4
Section 2
1:20

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the nature of the underlying drift geology and to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. These objectives were achieved and the results are summarised below.

8.2 Natural London Clay was observed in both trenches at a level of 90.36m OD in Trench 1 and 90.14m OD in Trench 2.

8.3 No features or artefacts pre-dating the medieval period were observed in the trenches and no surface finds were made on the site.

8.4 A ditch orientated east-west was observed in Trench 2. No dating evidence was obtained during the excavation of the feature, but documentary evidence suggests that it may represent the northern pale of the medieval deer park located in Highgate Wood. As the ditch is not located near any known medieval settlement, the lack of dating evidence in the form of artefacts is not surprising. The ditch appears to have partially silted up, before being recut at a later date. The recutting created a mound of "up-cast" immediately north of the feature.

8.5 A layer of subsoil was observed in Trench 1. Artefactual evidence suggests that the deposit dates to the post-medieval period, when the site functioned as agricultural land.

8.6 The boundary ditch, observed in Trench 2, appears to have remained visible as an earthwork until the early part of the 20th century, when it was infilled with modern material. A thick deposit of made ground was then deposited in order to level the ground surface, probably during construction of the school. This episode was observed in Trench 2 only.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clough, H. 2004. 'An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of Land at Woodside Avenue, Fortis Green, London Borough of Haringey, N10.' Pre-Construct Archaeology: Unpublished Report.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Haringey Council for commissioning the first evaluation trench and Paul Shadbolt of Durkan Homes for commissioning the second on behalf of Haringey Council.

10.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Kim Stabler of English Heritage for monitoring the project.

10.3 Thanks go to Tiva A Montalbano for on-site assistance during Trench. The authors would like to thank Adrian Nash for the illustrations, Chris Mayo for his project management and editing, and Helen Clough for supervising the first evaluation trench.

APPENDIX 1- CONTEXT INDEX

Appendix 1- Context Index

Context	Plan No.	Section No.	Sample No.	Photo	Phase	Trench No.	Type	Description
1	*	1	*	Y	4	1	Layer	Topsoil
2	*	1	*	Y	3	1	Layer	Subsoil
3	1	1	*	Y	1	1	Layer	Natural London Clay
4	*	2	*	Y	4	2	Layer	Modern levelling layer
5	*	2	*	Y	4	2	Layer	Modern levelling layer
6	2	2	*	Y	1	2	Layer	Natural London Clay
7	2	2	*	Y	2	2	Cut	Medieval boundary ditch
8	2	2	*	Y	2	2	Fill	Fill of [7]
9	*	2	*	Y	2	2	Layer	"Up-cast" created during excavation of [11]
10	2	2	*	Y	4	2	Fill	Fill of [11]
11	2	2	*	Y	2	2	Cut	Recut of boundary ditch [7]

APPENDIX 2- SITE MATRIX

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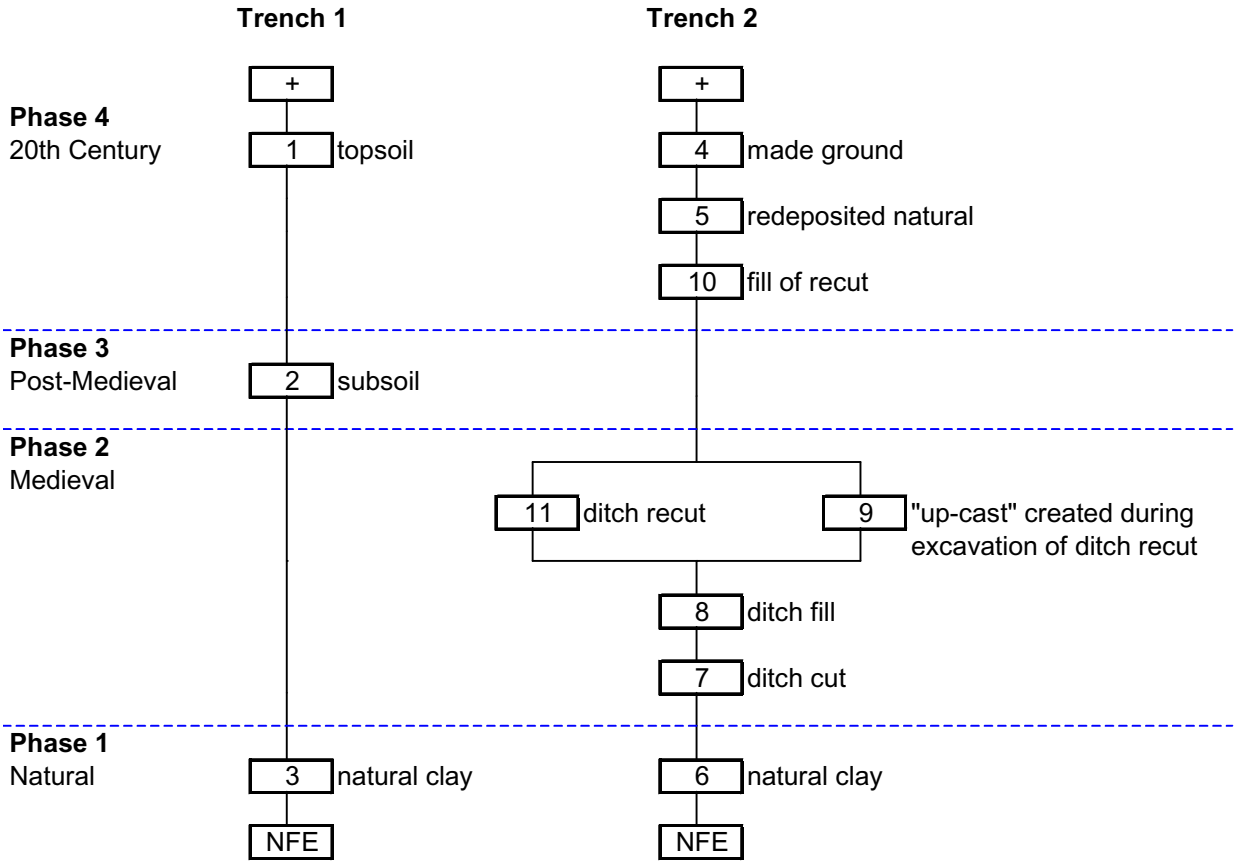

APPENDIX 3- OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-16453

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Tetherdown School, Fortis Green, London Borough of Haringey
Short description of the project	This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation at Tetherdown Primary School, Fortis Green, London Borough of Haringey. The evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of the Treehouse Trust and Haringey Council. The evaluation was conducted in two phases. The first phase was supervised by Helen Clough, on 8th July 2004, and the second phase was supervised by the author from 19th to 20th June 2006. It was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Chris Mayo. The evaluation involved the excavation of two trenches, located within the footprint of the proposed new buildings. A canteen and kitchen area associated with the school previously occupied the site. Trench 1 contained a deposit of natural London Clay, which was sealed by post-medieval subsoil and modern topsoil. Trench 2 contained natural London Clay, truncated by a ditch, orientated east-west. The feature appears to have silted up partially, before being recut at a later date. It is thought that the ditch represents the northern pale (boundary) of a medieval deer park. It was backfilled in the 20th century and sealed by a thick deposit of modern made ground.
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2004 End: 20-06-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WDV 04 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, 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 HARINGEY HIGHGATE AND MUSWELL HILL Tetherdown School, Fortis Green
Postcode	N10 3XX
National grid reference	TQ 2815 8930 Point
Height OD	Min: 87.63m Max: 90.36m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Jon Crisp
Sponsor or funding body	The Treehouse Trust and Haringey Council

Project bibliography 1

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