

## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

# OLDCHURCH HOSPITAL, ROMFORD LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING PHASE 1

## EVALUATION

### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K1255
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Richard Humphrey		August 2006
Graphics Prepared by:	Adrian Nash		August 2006
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>pp ch</i>	August 2006
Project Manager Sign-off:	Chris Mayo	<i>ch</i>	August 2006

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

**Summary of an Archaeological Evaluation at Oldchurch Hospital,  
Romford, London Borough of Havering, Phase 1**

**Site Code: OWH 06**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 5092 8813**

**Written and Researched by Richard Humphrey  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, August 2006**

**Project Manager: Tim Bradley**

**Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting**

**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**

**E-mail: [tbradley@pre-construct.com](mailto:tbradley@pre-construct.com)**

**Website: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This summary report details the results of Phase 1 of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd of land at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, London Borough of Havering.
- 1.2 Fieldwork was conducted between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2006 and was commissioned by Sally Dicks on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The evaluation was supervised by Richard Humphrey and assisted by Mike Bazeley.
- 1.3 Four trenches were dug as part of the first phase of archaeological investigation on the site. In three of the trenches, topsoil was removed to reveal subsoil containing modern material. These overlay naturally deposited brickearth and in turn, natural sandy gravels. In the other trench, tarmac was removed to reveal modern made ground and again, naturally deposited brickearth and gravels.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background is summarised in the Desk Based Assessment (Chadwick & Dicks 2004a).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

3.1 The proposal to excavate three trenches each measuring 20m x 2m as set out in the method statement (Chadwick & Dicks 2004b), had to be modified due to restrictions imposed by existing services. Trench 1 had an additional 10m from Trench 2 added to it and Trench 3 was split in half due to known service locations, to become Trenches 3 and 4. A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket was used to excavate each trench.

#### **3.2 Trench 1**

Trench 1 measured approximately 25m long by 2m wide and was aligned north-south. This was 5m shorter than the proposed 30m length due to the positioning of cabins on the site.

Topsoil was removed at a height of 15.81m OD. Below this sat a layer of grey-brown sandy silt [3], containing modern redbrick fragments at a height of 15.77m OD. This was removed to reveal natural brickearth [4] at 15.61m OD. Below this was a layer of natural sandy gravels [5] at 15.30m OD.

A slot was dug through a possible ditch feature [2], but this revealed no dating evidence and was most likely a variation in natural deposits.

#### **3.3 Trench 2**

Trench 2 measured 10m x 2m and was aligned north south. Tarmac was removed at a height of 15.98m OD. Below this were layers of modern levelling material [6] and [7].

Naturally occurring brickearth deposits [8] were observed at a height of 15.33m OD. Below this was natural gravel [9] at a height of 15.29m OD.

Running along the eastern limit of excavation was a modern drain. An east west running service was also encountered near the southern end of the trench.

#### **3.4 Trench 3**

Trench 3 measured 10m x 2m and was aligned east west. Topsoil was removed at a height of 16.08m OD.

Below this sat grey-brown gravelly-silt [10] that contained modern material such as redbrick and asphalt.

Below this was a layer of naturally deposited brickearth, [11], at a height of 15.51m OD.

Several service trenches, assumed to be live, were dug through this layer.

### **3.5 Trench 4**

Trench 4 measured 10m x 2m and was aligned east west. Topsoil was removed at a height of 16.18m OD. Below this were an additional four layers of levelling material, each containing modern redbrick and some charcoal and ash lenses.

At a height of 15.68m OD, a layer of dark grey brown clayey-silt [16], containing ceramic building material and modern asphalt was also removed. Although this most likely represents another phase of modern landscaping of the site, an isolated find of a clay pipe fragment was recorded.

Below this layer was naturally occurring brickearth [17] and gravel [18] at heights of 15.53m OD and 15.32m OD.

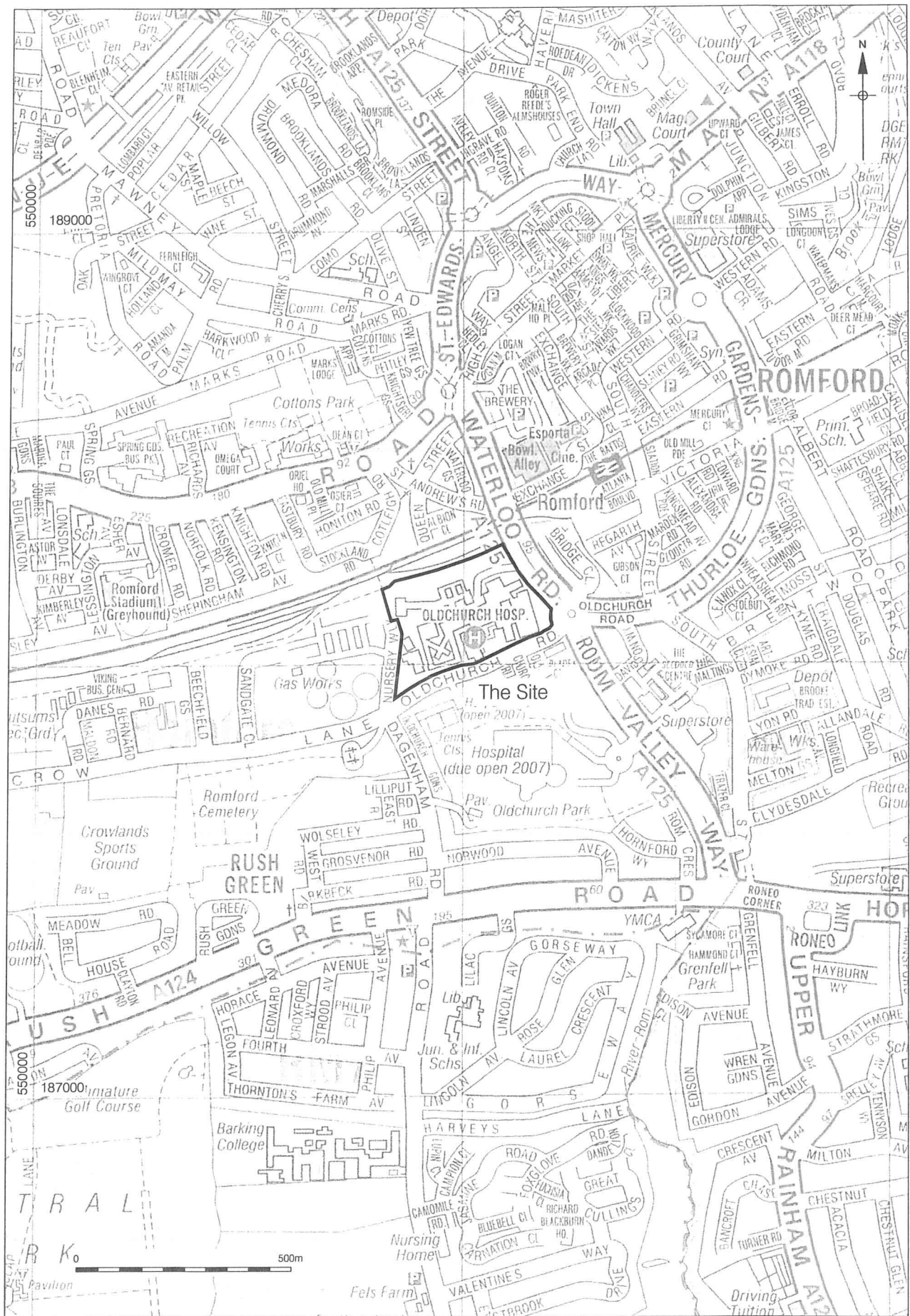
A service trench ran north south towards the western end of the trench.

## **4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Naturally occurring brickearth was observed in all four trenches at heights ranging from 15.61m OD to 15.33m OD. Natural gravel was recorded at 15.32 to 15.29m OD.
- 4.2 No archaeological features were observed in all four trenches. An east-west running feature seen in Trench 1 most likely represents a variation in natural deposits.

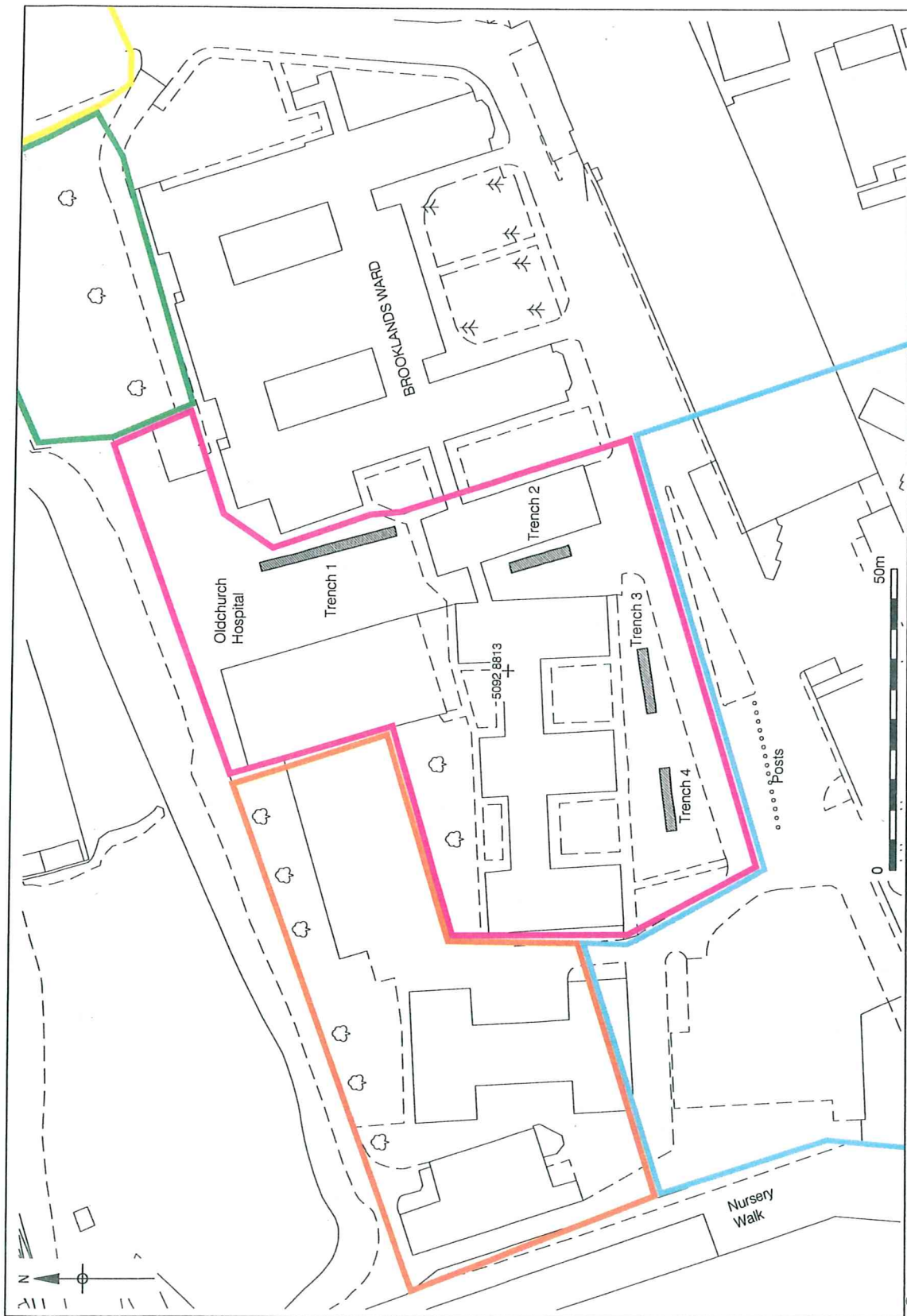
## **5 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Chadwick, P. & Dicks, S.,  
2004a 'An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Essex.' CgMs Consulting, Unpublished report.
- 2004b 'Written Scheme of Investigation for a Field Evaluation Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Essex.' CgMs Consulting, Unpublished report.



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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:12 500



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:1000

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-17240**

### Project details

Project name	Phase 1 of an Archaeological Investigation of Oldfield Hospital, Romford
Short description of the project	This summary report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd of land at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, London Borough of Havering. Fieldwork was conducted between the 7th and 9th of August 2006 and was commissioned by Sally Dicks on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The evaluation was supervised by Richard Humphrey and assisted by Mike Bazeley. Four trenches were dug as part of the first phase of archaeological investigation on the site. In three of the trenches, topsoil was removed to reveal subsoil containing modern material. These overlay naturally deposited brickearth and in turn, natural sandy gravels. In the other trench, tarmac was removed to reveal modern made ground and again, naturally deposited brickearth and gravels. No archaeology was recorded.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2006 End: 09-08-2006
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	OHW06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
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	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD Oldchurch Hospital
Postcode	RM7 0BE
Study area	7.60 Hectares
National grid reference	TQ 510 881 Point
Height OD	Min: 15.29m Max: 15.61m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting

Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley / Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey
Sponsor or funding body	Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

#### Project bibliography 1

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