

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Paul's Church, Corner of Long Lane and Dukes Avenue, London Borough of Barnet**

**Site Code: LLZ06**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2566 9091**

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2006**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at St Paul's Church, corner of Long Lane and Dukes Avenue, London Borough of Barnet (location map, Fig. 1). The watching brief was conducted during the development of an extension to the church building and was commissioned by **Martin Heijne of bch architects on behalf of Conniston Homes Ltd.**
- 1.2 The watching brief was located on land on the southern side of St Paul's Church, centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2566 9091. The land previously comprised a triangular shaped lawn measuring approximately 35m east-northeast/west-northwest by a maximum width along the western site boundary of 20m northwest/southeast. The site is bound by Dukes Avenue to the south and Long Lane to the east. The archaeological watching brief involved the monitoring and recording of five wall foundation trenches, and the recording of eight previously excavated pile trenches. These interventions provided a transect along the length of the development area and comprehensive coverage of the eastern area of the site (see trench location map, Fig. 2).
- 1.3 The watching brief was conducted on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>rd</sup> November 2006 and followed a verbal brief provided by Martin Heijne of bch architects. The fieldwork was undertaken by the author, under the Project Management of Chris Mayo.
- 1.4 The site was allocated the site code LLZ 06.

## 2 BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by **Martin Heijne of bch architects, on behalf of Conniston Homes Ltd**, to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at St Paul's Church, corner of Long Lane and Dukes Avenue, London Borough of Barnet (Fig. 1) prior the development of the site, which comprises an extension to the church building. The work was undertaken in response to an archaeological planning condition for a watching brief placed on the site by the London Borough of Barnet. St Paul's Church itself was built in the 1880's. Prior to this the site is cartographically shown to be undeveloped. Church records indicate the site has never been used for human burial<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2 A verbal brief for the watching brief was provided by Martin Heijne of bch architects.
- 2.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation* produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2000). The main objectives of the watching brief were to identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains and to determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date.
- 2.4 Five foundation trenches were excavated and recorded under archaeological supervision and eight previously excavated pile trenches were recorded. Previously excavated wall foundations in the west and north of the site were not recorded because they had been lined and filled with steel cages prior to commencement of the watching brief (Fig. 2). The positions of all excavated and recorded trenches in relation to the southern wall of St Paul's Church were plotted onto a site plan provided by the developer.
- 2.5 The trenches were machine excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Thereafter trench sections were examined and manually cleaned with the use of hand tools.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Heijne, *pers comm*

2.6 The maximum dimensions of the trenches are shown in Table 1:

Trench Number	Max Dimensions	Max Depth
1	4m x 0.80m	0.70m
2	4m x 0.80m	0.80m
3	31m x 0.80m	0.80m
4	3.5m x 0.80m	0.80m
5	5m x 0.80m	0.80m
PT 8	1.8m x 1.3m	0.70m
PT 12	2m x 1.4m	0.70m
PT 15	2.2 x 1.4m	0.75m
PT 17	2.2 x 1.4m	0.80m
PT 22	1.5 x 1.2m	0.60m
PT 18	2m x 1.3m	0.80m
PT 21	1.7m x 1.2m	0.80m
PT 23	2m x 1.3m	0.70m

**Table 1: Trench Dimensions (PT= Pile Trench)**

2.7 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 brackets.

### **3 RESULTS**

- 3.1 Natural subsoil [4] was revealed in the base of each trench comprising grey - orange brown soft alluvial clay with c. 5% small subangular and subrounded stones. It varied in thickness between 0.30m and 0.60m.
- 3.2 In all trenches natural subsoil was sealed by a layer of loose crushed concrete [1] up to 150mm diameter with occasional modern pieces of red brick. This deposit varied in thickness between 0.20m (in Pile Trench 17) and 0.40m (in Trenches 1 and 2, and in Pile Trench 12).
- 3.3 Topsoil [2] and Subsoil [3] deposits were examined around the edge of the development area in the north western corner of the site. Subsoil [3] comprised greyish - yellow brown soft sandy clay with c. 5% small subangular and subrounded stones and occasional pieces of post-medieval brick. It was sealed by topsoil [2] comprising dark grey brown sandy silty clay with c. 5% small subangular and subrounded stones. These deposits had been removed across the development area to the level of the natural clay [4] prior to the deposition of crushed concrete [1].
- 3.4 No archaeological features, deposits or residual finds were revealed in any of the trenches.

### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Five trenches and eight pile trenches were recorded, which provided a complete transect along the southern site boundary and good coverage in the eastern half of the site. Topsoil [2] and subsoil [3] deposits were mechanically removed to the level of the natural clay [4] prior to the laying of the crushed concrete piling mat [4] (and prior to the watching brief). However, an examination of topsoil and subsoil deposits around the perimeter of the site revealed that they were of post-medieval date and therefore of little archaeological merit.
- 4.2 The watching brief provided an opportunity for the examination of underlying deposits, which comprised solely natural clay subsoil [4]. The trenches revealed no archaeological features cut into the natural subsoil or presence of earlier deposits and residual finds.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank **Martin Heijne of bch architects for commissioning the work on behalf of Conniston Homes Ltd.**
- 6.2 The author would also like to thank Ray Denny of Conniston Homes Ltd for his help and co-operation on site, Haley Baxter for the illustrations, and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Trench	Description
1	Deposit	All	Crushed concrete piling mat
2	Deposit	All	Topsoil
3	Deposit	All	Subsoil
4	Deposit	All	Natural subsoil



## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-20469**

### Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Paul's Church, corner of Long Lane and Dukes Avenue, London Borough of Barnet

Short description of the project A watching brief was conducted in five wall foundation trenches and eight pile trenches, revealing natural clay subsoil in all of the trenches, overlaid by modern crushed concrete piling mat, subsequent to the stripping of topsoil and subsoil over the whole of the site. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed.

Project dates Start: 13-11-2006 End: 15-11-2006

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes LLZ 06 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type TOPSOIL Modern

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARNET FINCHLEY St Paul's Church, Long Lane
Postcode	N3
Study area	700.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2566 9091 51.6025071118 -0.185352012496 51 36 09 N 000 11 07 W Point
Height OD	Min: 80.00m Max: 81.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	bch architects
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Mark Bagwell
Type of sponsor/funding body	bch architects

Name of sponsor/funding body  
Conniston Hohes Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'

Entered by Mark Bagwell (cmayo@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 16 November 2006

**OASIS:**

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