

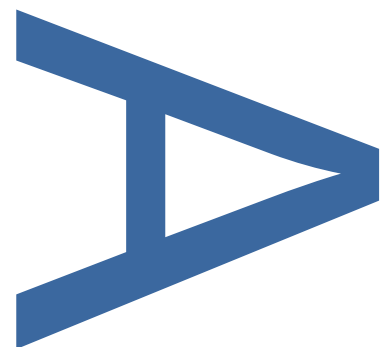
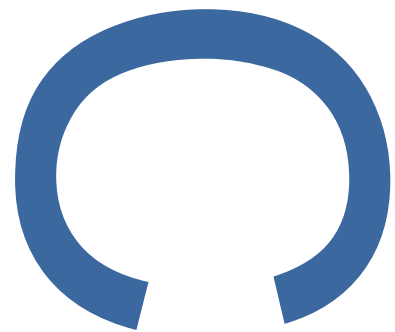
**HIGHGATE CEMETERY,
HIGHGATE N6 6PJ**

**SUMMARY OF AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

SITE CODE: HGG16

PCA REPORT NO: R12389

APRIL 2016





PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HIGHGATE CEMETERY, HIGHGATE N6 6PJ

SUMMARY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION

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SUMMARY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Central NGR: TQ 28533 86989

Site Code: HGG16

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Camden

Commissioning Client: Ramboll UK Ltd

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by Ramboll UK Ltd to excavate an archaeological test trench to the immediate rear of the screen wall war memorial within Highgate Cemetery, Highgate, London Borough of Camden, N6 6PJ (Figure 1 & Plate 1). The memorial is located just inside the west cemetery main entrance at central National Grid Reference TQ 28533 86989 and is curated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- 1.2 The war memorial was originally constructed in the 1920s, upon a flat terrace which involved cutting into the hill to its rear, the ground behind being retained by a stone and cement screen wall.
- 1.3 Over time damp penetration has affected the structure necessitating the construction of a French drain to the rear of the screen wall. The archaeological test trench (Figure 2) formed part of exploratory works that served the following purposes:
- to test the geophysical survey interpretation, where relevant to the detection of burials in close proximity to the retaining wall.
 - to check for the presence of graves in close proximity to the retaining wall.
 - to verify the extent of the wall's construction cut (if practicable) to inform the two previous aims described above, as well as informing the conservation assessment.
 - to expose a section of the rear face of the wall to inform the conservation assessment.
- 1.4 The archaeological investigation was carried out between 7th – 9th March 2016.
- 1.5 The archaeological work was project managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by James Langthorne, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA). The works were instructed by Phil Emery, archaeological consultant for Ramboll UK Ltd.
- 1.6 The archaeological investigation showed the presence of the construction cut for the screen wall, made into natural geological strata and sealed by cemetery soil. Some planting beds were also found cut into the natural; these, and the test trench, are considered to explain the anomalies which were identified during a recent geophysical survey of the site (GeoArch Report 2016/03).

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A single test trench was excavated in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2016) prepared for the site. The trench abutted and followed the contours of the rear part of the screen wall of the war memorial (Figure 2). The trench measured 5m east-west by 1m north-south and reached a maximum depth of 0.5m. Following the excavation of the test trench a small sondage of dimensions 1.0m by 1.0m by 1.05m deep was dug at the eastern end of the trench.
- 2.2 Both the test trench and sondage were excavated and cleaned by hand using appropriate tools. All deposits were then recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Trench and sondage plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was also kept of the excavations.
- 2.3 The base line of the trench was located from map detail and levels on site were ascertained by a temporary bench mark at a height of 89.39m OD extrapolated from a benchmark on the Highgate Cemetery Mortuary Chapel wall on Swains Lane that was registered at a height of 87.81m OD.
- 2.4 The project was allocated the unique site code HGG16; this was used to identify all elements of the site archive.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

3.1 Phase 1: Natural (Figures 3 and 4)

3.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered within the test trench was firm-compact light-mid orange brown naturally deposited clay [8] (Plates 2, 3, 4 & 5). This deposit was encountered at a maximum height of 90.87m OD at the western end of the test trench and at a minimum height of 90.08m OD in the eastern part of the trench.

3.2 Phase 2: Screen wall war memorial construction cut and planter beds (Figures 3 and 4)

3.2.1 The curved screen wall had been built within a concentric construction cut [3], which was recorded over the full length of the trench. It measured up to 0.42m wide and at least 1.10m deep. The cut was encountered at a maximum height of 90.86m OD.

3.2.2 Construction cut [3] was filled by fairly compact but friable dark blackish brown silty clay with frequent modern deeply frogged brick fragments, moderate root activity and occasional cobbles and moulded stone fragments [2]. This feature would have originally been dug during the construction of the war memorial in the 1920s.

3.2.3 Also truncating natural clay [8] were a series of planter beds [5], [7] and [10] (Plates 2, 3 & 4) and the construction cut for the screen wall of the war memorial [3] (Plates 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6).

3.2.4 The planter beds [5] and [7] were sub-rectangular in plan while [10] was only seen in the west facing section. The dimensions of these features are summarized in the table below:

Cut No.	North-South (m)	East-West (m)	Depth (m)	Height (m OD)
5	0.41	0.84	0.51	91.17
7	0.47	1.32	0.51	90.79
10	0.52	-	0.41	90.10

3.2.5 The difference in heights between each of the planter beds was due to the steep slope of the ground on which the trench was located.

3.2.6 The fills of all of the cut features, [4], [6] and [9] (from cuts [5], [7] and [10] respectively), were fairly compact, mid brown with grey and yellow mottling, slightly sandy silty clay with occasional-moderate small sub-rounded pebbles, occasional flecks of ceramic building material (CBM) and moderate root activity.

3.3 Phase 3: Modern

3.3.1 Sealing all of the features in the test trench was a layer of fairly compact mottled dark blackish brown with mid grey brown and orange brown patches slightly silty clay with occasional plastic wrappers, occasional-moderate brick or tile fragments, occasional small sub-rounded and rounded pebbles, occasional cobbles and frequent root activity [1]. A fragment of modern glass was recovered from this layer as well as several residual sherds of pottery dating from

the 17th-19th centuries (see Appendices 3 and 4). This layer of cemetery topsoil was up to 0.22m thick and was seen at heights between 90.49-91.26m OD.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The test trench revealed the presence of the construction cut for the screen wall of the war memorial several and disused planter beds truncating naturally deposited clay.
- 4.2 No grave cuts were present within the boundaries of the test trench. The recent geophysical survey had indicated a positive resistivity anomaly and a concentric negative resistivity anomaly within the vicinity of the screen wall (GeoArch Report 2016/03), but it is considered that these anomalies reflected the presence of the rubble filled construction cut and the planter beds.
- 4.3 The construction cut [3] for the war memorial's screen wall extended beyond the depth which it was possible to reach in the sondage at the eastern end of the test trench. It is assumed that the cut continues further to the base of the screen wall. The cut [3] was excavated to a height of 89.26m OD, approximately 1.20m below ground level at this end of the trench, below which it continued.
- 4.4 The excavation of the construction cut [3] revealed details of both the form and the current state of preservation of the northern face of the screen wall. Within the sondage the flat face of the northern aspect of the screen wall was seen to have been subject to modification below the penultimate course of masonry (Plates 4, 5 & 6). A thick render of cement had been applied to the northern face of the wall and had been poured in vertical sections, apparently serving the dual functions of waterproofing and consolidating the stonework. The render was cracked and, in parts, missing entirely (Plate 7), exposing the masonry to damp penetration. Given that the render was absent rather than flaking away from the wall during the excavation of the test trench, this could be indicative of previous groundworks having been performed against the northern face of the screen wall; perhaps a previous attempt at re-pointing or re-setting the stonework.
- 4.5 Given that no graves or other archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the test trench investigation it is considered unlikely that further archaeological mitigation will be required during the drainage works on the war memorial at Highgate Cemetery.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

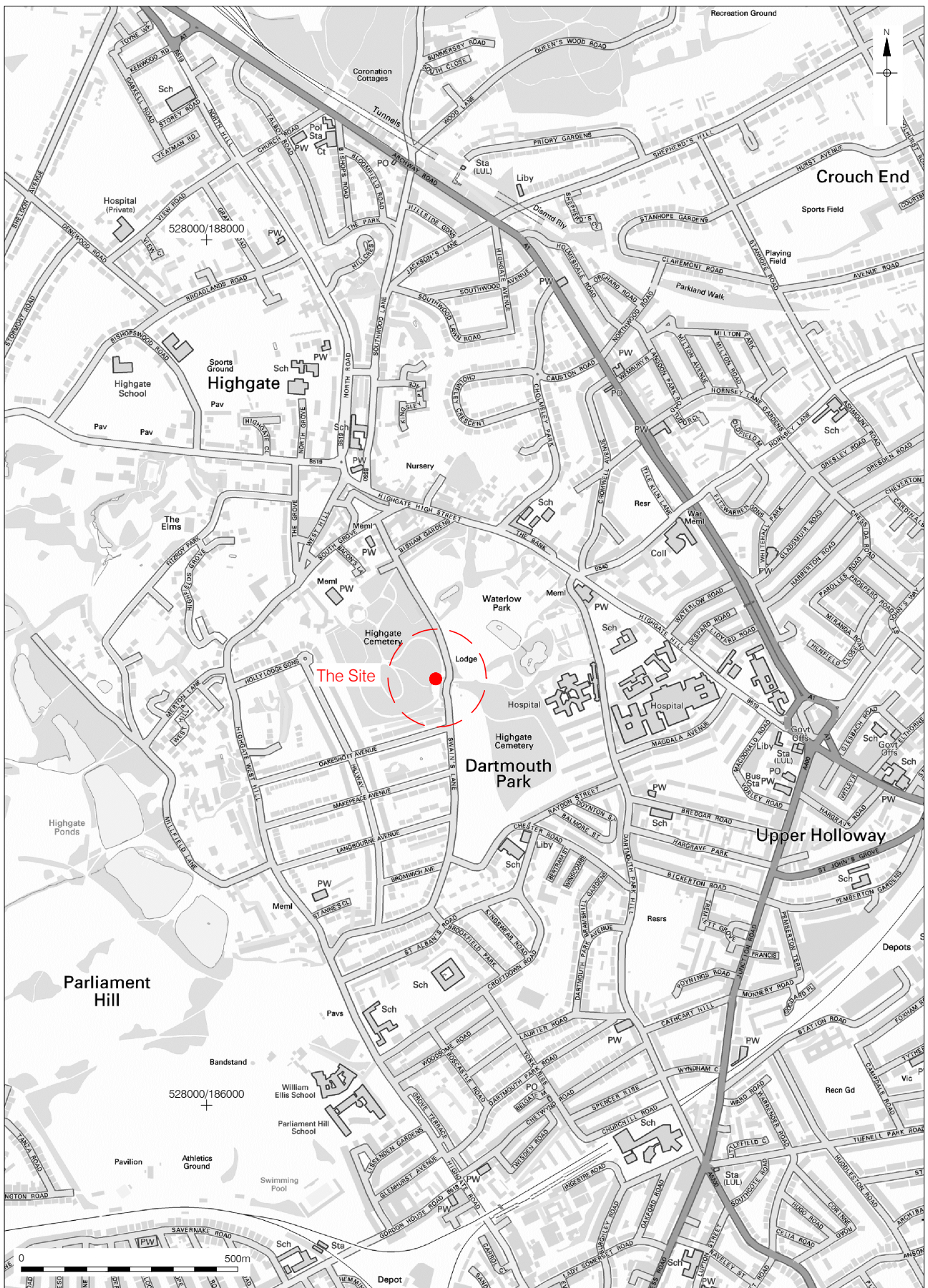
GeoArch 2016, 'Geophysical survey in Highgate Cemetery, Highgate, NW6', unpublished report 2016/03

Mayo, C. 2016. 'Highgate Cemetery, Highgate, N6 6PJ: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Test-Trench'. PCA unpublished report

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited thanks Phil Emery of Ramboll UK Ltd for instructing the works on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and Dr Ian Dungavell, CEO of Highgate Cemetery, who kindly provided access to the site and hosted the team.

6.2 The author wishes to thank Corso Dominici for his work on site, John Joyce for logistical support, Chris Jarrett for assessing the artefacts, Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for project management and editing this report.

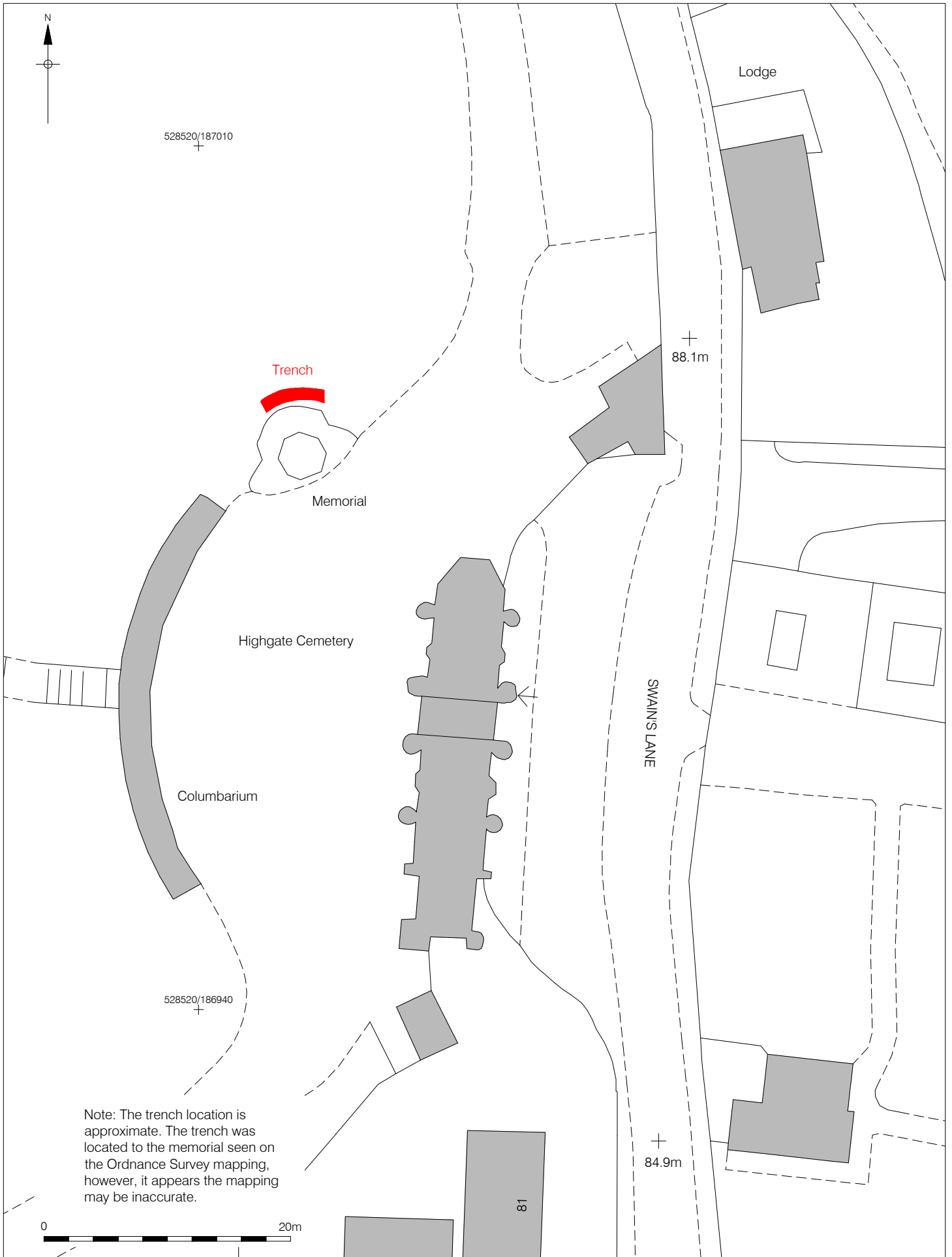


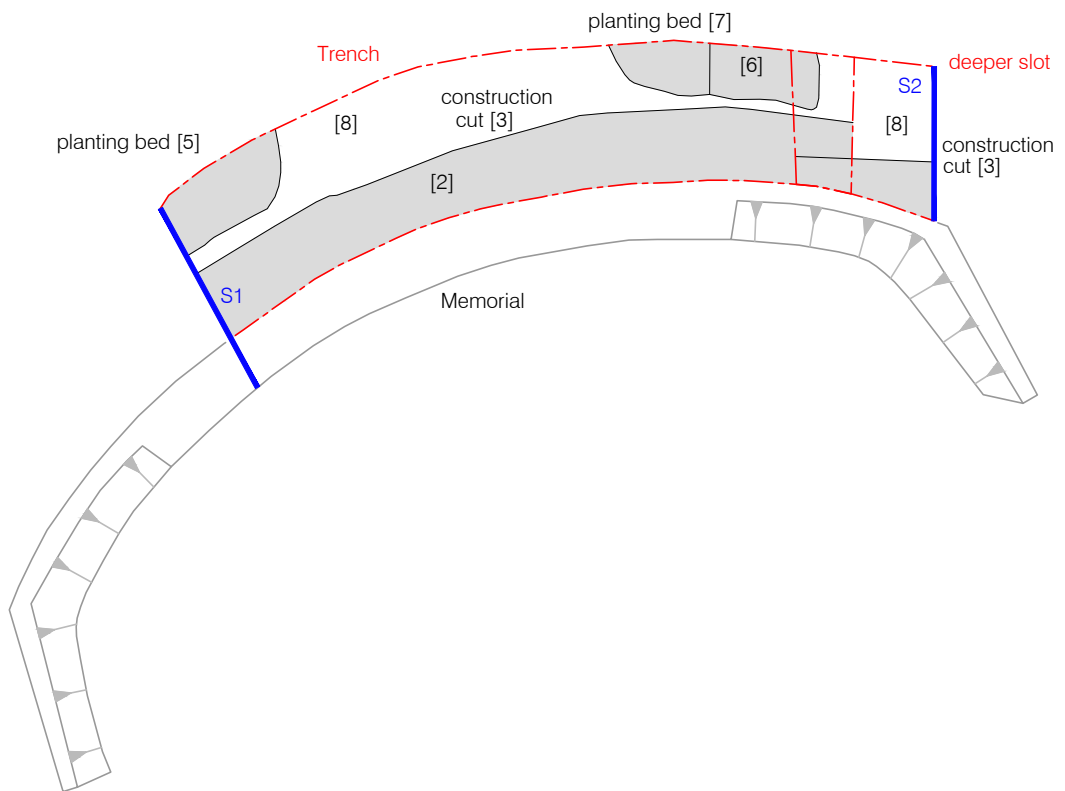
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500 at A4

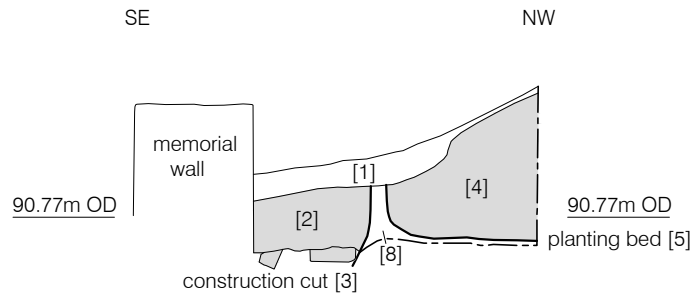




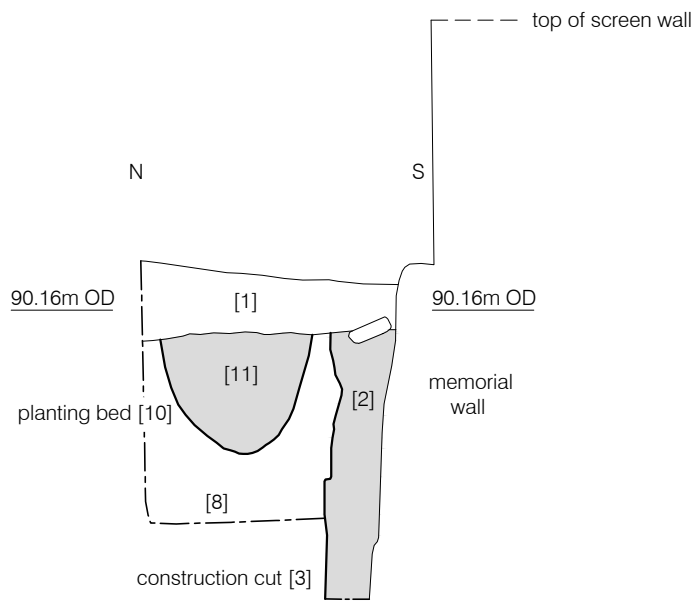
Note: Memorial was drawn on site.

0 2m
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Figure 3
Trench Plan
1:50 at A4



Section 1
Trench 1
Northeast Facing



Section 2
Trench 1 - Slot
West Facing

Plate 1: West view of war memorial and test trench (no scale)



Plate 2: East view of test trench (1m scale)



Plate 3: West view of test trench (no scale)



Plate 4: East view of sondage (1m scale)



Plate 5: West view of sondage (1m scale)



Plate 6: South view of exposed screen wall in sondage (no scale)



Plate 7: South view of detail of screen wall in sondage (no scale)



7 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	Trench	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Details	Prov Date	Phase
HGG16	1	1	-	1, 2	Layer	Cemetery topsoil	Fairly compact mottled dark blackish brown with mid grey brown and orange brown patches slightly silty clay	Modern	3
HGG16	2	1	1	1, 2	Fill	Fill of [3]	Fairly compact but friable dark blackish brown silty clay and modern brick rubble	Modern	2
HGG16	3	1	1	1, 2	Cut	Construction cut	Curvi-linear construction cut for 1920s war memorial screen wall.	Modern	2
HGG16	4	1	-	1	Fill	Fill of [5]	Fairly compact mid brown with grey and yellow mottling slightly sandy silty clay	Modern	2
HGG16	5	1	1	1	Cut	Planter bed	Sub-rectangular cut for planter bed	Modern	2
HGG16	6	1	1	-	Fill	Fill of [7]	Fairly compact mid brown with grey and yellow mottling slightly sandy silty clay	Modern	2
HGG16	7	1	1	-	Cut	Planter bed	Sub-rectangular cut for planter bed	Modern	2
HGG16	8	1	1	1, 2	Layer	Natural	Firm-compact light - mid orange brown clay	N/A	1
HGG16	9	1	-	2	Fill	Fill of [10]	Fairly firm but friable mid brownish grey slightly sandy silty clay	Modern	2
HGG16	10	1	-	2	Cut	Planter bed	Planter bed only seen in west facing section.	Modern	2

8 APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-247210

Project details

Project name	Highgate Cemetery, Highgate, N6 6PJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological test trench located to the rear of the war memorial, a structure initially built in the 1920s. The principle purpose of the test trench was to determine the presence or absence of grave cuts prior to the installation of a French drain to prevent further damage to the monument caused by damp penetration. Investigation of the wall construction cut would also provide information for the conservation assessment. No grave cuts were present within the boundaries of the test trench, rather the test trench revealed the presence of three disused planter beds and the construction cut for the screen wall of the war memorial truncating naturally deposited clay.
Project dates	Start: 07-03-2016 End: 09-03-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HGG16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	PLANTER BED Modern
Monument type	WAR MEMORIAL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Installation of drain to rear of War Memorial
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CAMDEN HAMPSTEAD Highgate Cemetery
Postcode	N6 6PJ
Study area	5 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 28533 86989 51.566616848913 -0.145322151658 51 33 59 N 000 08 43 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 90.49m Max: 91.26m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Phil Emery, Ramboll
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	James Langthorne

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
--------------------------	----

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	HGG16
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	HGG16
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	HGG16
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Matrices","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	A forthcoming report
Title	Highgate Cemetery, Highgate, N6 6PJ: Summary of an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Langthorne, J.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 softcover grey literature report.

Entered by	James Langthorne (jlangthorne@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	1 April 2016

9 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY SPOT-DATES

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

- 9.1 A total of five sherds of pottery were recovered from the archaeological work and this was solely recovered from context [1]. The assemblage consists of two pottery types. Firstly, there are three sherds of London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), dated 1580–1900 and this is found as two different forms. The first vessel consists of a bowl or dish rim, which is squared, with a grooved top and an internal lid-seating and the vessel probably dates to the 17th century. The second form recorded in PMR is found as two rim sherds from different flower pots, with either a rolled, narrow oval profile or a simple, thickened rim with a groove on the side. The flower pots date to the 19th century. The second pottery type is represented by two sherds of refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), dated 1780–1900 and these are in the form of a dinner plate with the Willow pattern, dated from c.1789 and a soup plate rim with a geometrical, scrolling foliage design and dated to the mid 19th century. The latter item dates the deposition of the pottery in context [1].
- 9.2 The pottery has no significance at a local level as it consists of a small quantity without much meaning and present as types frequently recorded in the London area. The only potential of the pottery is to date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery and as the assemblage has been fully recorded, then it can be discarded.

10 APPENDIX 4: GLASS SPOT-DATES

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

- 10.1 A single fragment of glass was recovered from the archaeological work and this was found in context [1]. The glass fragment consists of a rolled rounded rim from a probable jar and this was made in clear high-lime low-alkali (HLLA) glass. The item dates from the mid 19th-20th century.
- 10.2 The glass has no significance at a local level, its only potential is to date the context it was recovered from and there are no recommendations for further work and the item can be discarded.

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