

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AT THE
PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN,
WALHAM GREEN,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM**

APRIL 2007

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN, WALHAM GREEN,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND
FULHAM

WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Parish Church of St John,
Walham Green, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham**

Site Code: JWG 07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2518 7733

Written and Researched by Chris Mayo

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, April 2007

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Commissioning Client: Groundwork West London

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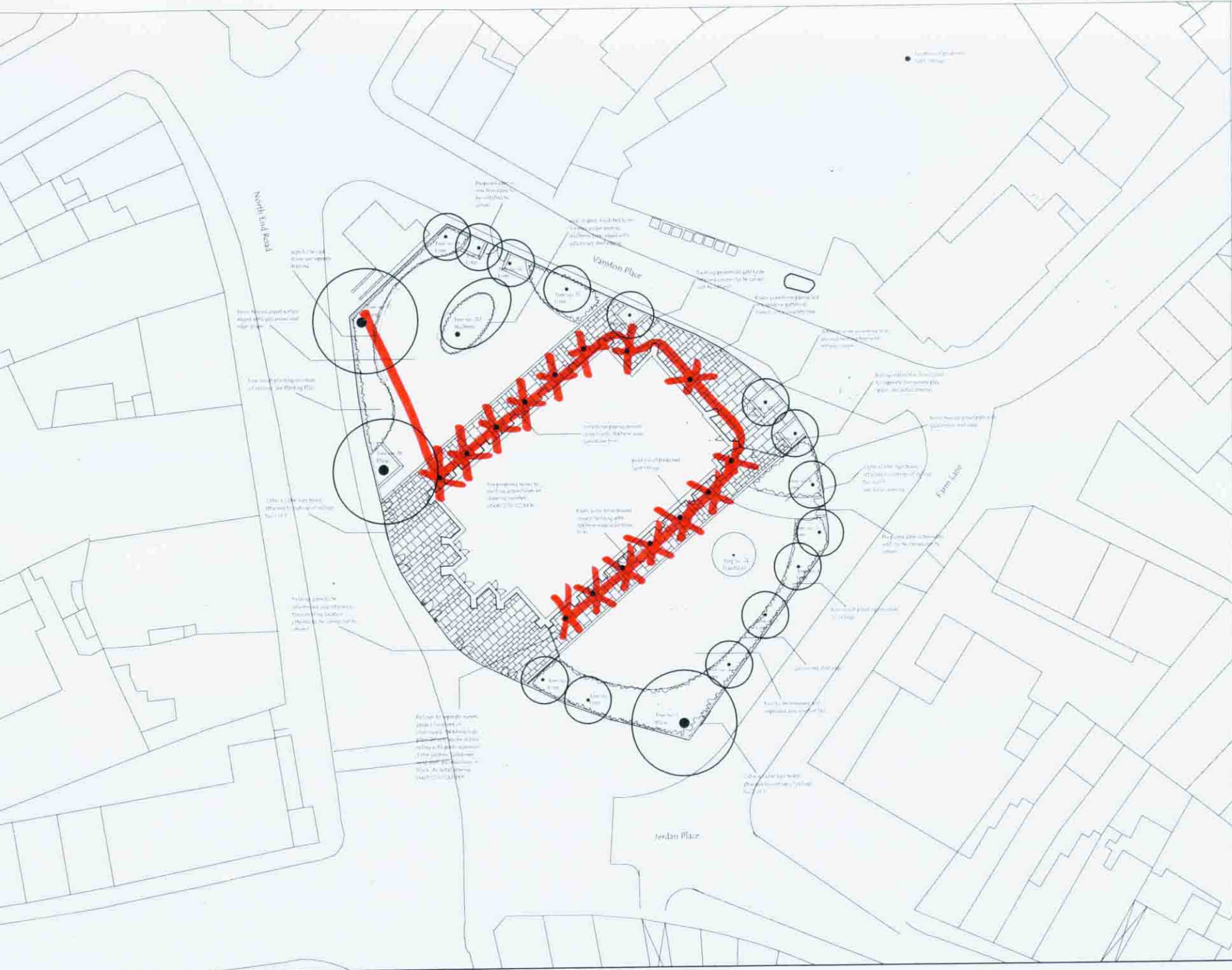
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Parish Church of St John, Walham Green, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (Figure 1). Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Groundwork West London to monitor groundworks associated with the improvement of the churchyard.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted discontinuously between the 15th March and 10th April 2007.
- 1.3 The watching brief monitored the excavation of service trenches and shallow ground reduction on the north and south sides of the church. The groundworks were seen to impact through the upper topsoil and made ground horizons only. No archaeologically significant remains were observed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Parish Church of St John, Walham Green, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on various dates between the 15th March and 10th April 2007 (Figure 1). The investigation was commissioned by Groundwork West London in response to a planning condition, and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2007).
- 2.2 The central national grid reference of the site is TQ 2518 7733. It was issued the unique site code JWG 07.
- 2.3 The project was monitored for the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham by Kim Stabler of English Heritage, was project managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by James Langthorne and William Johnston (both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd).



June 2006	D	Final agreement between new fee gate and vendors Edge changed barrier to glass and steel Tree work updated
July 2006	C	Location of light fittings added Gravestone work
	B	Sign board dimensions added
	A	Grass to south side



Client:
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Project:
St John's Churchyard

Title:
Proposed Layout of Churchyard

Scale:
1:250 @ A1

Date:
September 05

Drawn by:
AD

Drawing No.:
0405/2/hf/20/L01

Rev:
D

3 SITE BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site is occupied by the Parish Church of St John, Walham Green and is located on an 'island' formed by Vanston Place to the north-east, North End Road to the west and Farm Lane to the south-east. The church has churchyards on the north-west and south-east sides.
- 3.2 Walham Green is first mentioned historically in 1383, and through the medieval period was a sparsely populated settlement. St John's was designed by J.H.Taylor and built in 1828 on the site of the village pond¹. Burials are not believed to have been conducted at the site for 100 years².

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The groundworks at the site were undertaken by a contractor appointed by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The Written Scheme of Investigation designed that all groundworks would be monitored. However, during the course of the initial watching brief it was realised that the site had very limited archaeological potential. Therefore, following consultation with Kim Stabler of English Heritage, archaeological attendance was timed to provide good coverage of the site rather than exhaustive monitoring.
- 4.2 Groundworks were conducted either by hand or using a mini-excavator fitted with a flat bladed grading bucket. All layers were planned and recorded using *pro forma* context sheets, and levels were approximated from an existing OSBM on the western corner of the church, with value of 4.55m OD.
- 4.3 Archaeological attendance monitored the excavation of linear service trenches on both the north and south sides of the church. The trenches were approximately 1.0m wide and were dug to a depth of 0.7m. Ground reduction for the installation of new paving was also monitored, on the north side of the church to a depth of 0.2m, and on the south to a maximum depth of 0.6m (Figure 2).

¹ Weinreb, B. & Hibbert, C. (eds.), 1995 *The London Encyclopaedia*, London p944

² A Davis, Groundwork West London, pers comm

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION

- 5.1 At the base of the service trench excavated on the north side of the church, a deposit of made ground [2] was observed at a height of 3.30m OD. The deposit was a sandy silt with inclusions of ceramic building material, glass and animal bone.
- 5.2 The churchyards on both sides of the church were seen to be covered by an extensive topsoil deposit [1], recorded at a height of around 4.00m OD.

6 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief was intended to:
- determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
 - clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions (such as other services) and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival.

It was also designed to address the following research objectives:

- If revealed, what is the natural topography of the site?
 - Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on site?
 - Is there any evidence of Roman activity on site?
 - Is there any evidence of Saxon or medieval activity on site?
 - Is there any evidence of post-medieval activity?
 - Is there any evidence of structures or features associated with the 19th century church?
 - Are there any human remains present on the site, in situ or disturbed? If so at what depth are they?
- 6.2 The watching brief recorded only made ground overlain by topsoil, and therefore the above questions can all be answered in the negative. The made ground deposit may represent either levelling at the site or the backfilling of the 19th century pond. None of the groundworks were deep enough to threaten surviving archaeology, if present at the site.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Groundwork West London for kindly funding this project and particularly Andrée Davis who commissioned it. We also thank Kim Stabler of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank James Langthorne and William Johnston for conducting the watching brief, and Dave Harris for the illustrations.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mayo, C 2007 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at St John's Church Walham Green, Fulham Island, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham', unpub rep for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Weinreb, B. & Hibbert, C. (eds.), 1995 *The London Encyclopaedia*, London p944

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
JWG 07	1	Multi-context	no	layer	topsoil	modern	2	no
JWG 07	2	Multi-context	no	layer	made ground	19th century - modern	1	no

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-26369

Project details

Project name	St John's Church, Walham Green
Short description of the project	This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Parish Church of St John, Walham Green, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham . Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Groundwork West London to monitor groundworks associated with the improvement of the churchyard. The watching brief was conducted discontinuously between the 15th March and 10th April 2007. It monitored the excavation of service trenches and shallow ground reduction on the north and south sides of the church. The groundworks were seen to impact through the upper topsoil and made ground horizons only. No archaeologically significant remains were observed.
Project dates	Start: 15-03-2007 End: 10-04-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	JWG07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM St John's Church, Walham Green
Postcode	SW6
Study area	1680.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2518 7733 51.4805576863 -0.197111081216 51 28 50 N 000 11 49 W Point

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	James Young Langthorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architectural Practice
Name of sponsor/funding body	Groundwork West London

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images vector','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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