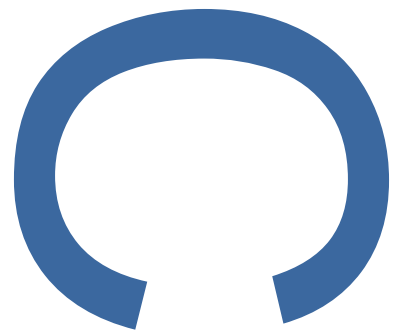


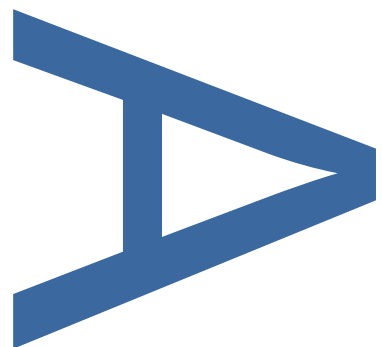
**ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD,
CHURCH ROAD, LEYTON, LONDON
BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST
E10 5JX: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM
FOREST**



SITE CODE: MCY17



MAY 2017

**ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD, CHURCH ROAD, LEYTON, LONDON BOROUGH
OF WALTHAM FOREST E10 5JX: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Site Code: MCY17
Central NGR: TQ 3765 8687
Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Waltham Forest
Planning Reference:
Commissioning Client: NPS London
Written/Researched by: Helen Hawkins
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project Manager: Helen Hawkins (MCIfA)

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: hhawkins@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION
ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD, CHURCH ROAD, LEYTON, LONDON
BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST E10 5JX

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4980
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	H Hawkins		2.5.2017
Graphics Prepared by:	C Faiers		8.5.2017
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	8.5.2017
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		8.5.2017

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief for a test pit to explore the foundations of the churchyard wall at St Mary's Churchyard, Leyton, Waltham Forest. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and was commissioned by NPS London.
- 1.2 The watching brief monitored the excavation of one test pit against the churchyard wall, carried out on 10th April 2017. The test pit measured 0.70m x 0.70m x 1.30m deep and was hand dug.
- 1.3 Natural gravel was seen at the base of the test pit. The rest of the test pit fill comprised the backfill of the construction cut for the churchyard wall. No archaeological structures or features other than post-medieval made ground were identified.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Church Road, Leyton, E10 5JX (Figure 1). The work was carried out on 10th April 2017.
- 2.2 The site did not contain any listed buildings other than the Church itself or Scheduled Monuments. The site was located in an Archaeological Priority Area centred on the historic centre of Leyton (DLO35947) and the River Lea and its environs (DLO35927).
- 2.3 The churchyard wall had partially collapsed in the north-west corner of the churchyard and therefore a test pit was excavated against the wall to assess the nature and depth of its foundations. The test pit was monitored archaeologically as it was located within both a post-medieval graveyard and in an area of known Roman and prehistoric activity.
- 2.4 A written scheme of investigation for the work was produced by PCA (Hawkins 2017). The work was carried out for NPS London, under a faculty provided by the Diocese of Chelmsford. An archaeological watching brief during the work was requested by the GLAAS, archaeological advisers to the London Borough of Waltham Forest.
- 2.5 The archaeological watching brief was monitored and project managed by Helen Hawkins, of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 2.6 The complete archive will be deposited with the LAARC under the unique site code MCY17.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site was carried out under a Faculty issued by the Diocese of Chelmsford, as part of ongoing works to rebuild the churchyard wall.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background is taken from the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017).

4.2 Geology and Topography

- 4.2.1 The area of the site is highlighted on the British Geological Survey Sheet for the area as being comprised of Taplow Gravel.

- 4.2.2 The site is situated c. 800m east of the River Lea on the eastern Taplow gravel terrace on the edge of the higher ground before the Leyton-Hackney part of the Lea marshes.

4.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.4 Prehistoric

- 4.4.1 The London Borough of Waltham Forest has a rich resource of prehistoric activity ranging from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

- 4.4.2 To the south, in the area of Oliver Road, the natural gravel rises to form a small promontory before descending rapidly into the valley of the River Lea; a prime area for exploitation during the prehistoric period.

- 4.4.3 Archaeological investigations at Oliver Close Estate, to the south of the site, during 2001, 2002 and 2005 revealed a number of phases of prehistoric human activity. This activity included struck flints from the Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods and pottery sherds tentatively identified as dating from the Neolithic, both of which were indicative of seasonal or temporary use of the site. However a major period of occupation, represented by a large 'aggrandised'/'Springfield style' ditched enclosure and associated features, was encountered and dated to the late Bronze Age. All of these features were sealed beneath a layer of soil which formed following the settlement's abandonment.

4.5 Roman

- 4.5.1 Archaeological investigations in Leyton over the past twenty years have added greatly to our knowledge of Roman occupation and land use in the area. Excavations at Oliver Close Estate to the south of the site found evidence for late Roman activity. Excavations at Livingstone College Tower revealed Roman deposits and cut features including northeast-southwest orientated ditches, whilst cremations, inhumations and a rectangular double banked enclosure, or possible Roman date, were excavated further to the south at Ruckholts.

- 4.5.2 Evidence for Roman masonry has been found during excavations in the vicinity of Knotts Green and antiquarians recorded the discovery of Roman masonry structures during landscaping works at Grange Park Estate in the 18th century.

- 4.5.3 It has been noted in the past that the Roman find spots in the Leyton area form a discreet line on a northeast-southwest axis, with excavations away from this axis producing no evidence for Roman activity. As a result it has been postulated that this line represents the line of a Roman road, most likely the southern continuation of the Dunmow to London road, crossing the river at Temple Mills. A mixture of forest exploitation, farming, small ribbon settlements and cemeteries could represent Roman activity along this road. In the first phase of the evaluation at Beaumont Road Estate a metalled surface was exposed in the northwest of the site, with a north-south orientated ditch situated on each side. The style of construction together with the location strongly suggests that this feature was part of the Roman Road.

- 4.5.4 During the 17th and 18th centuries a series of important discoveries were made in the area of Leyton. Large arched foundations were recorded during garden works along with wells and substantial timbers. Roman coins were also recovered during these works. The exact location of these discoveries is uncertain however but were said to be close to the church of St Mary, perhaps within the grounds of Leyton Grange (see below).

4.6 The Church of St Mary

- 4.6.1 The following background is taken from the church's pamphlet on its history, *St Mary with St Edward & St Luke, Leyton* (<http://leytonparishchurch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Heritage-Leyton.pdf>)
- 4.6.2 St Mary's is one of the oldest places of worship in Leyton. The Domesday Book lists two priests as present on manors in Leyton in 1086, during the reign of William the Conqueror. However there was no mention made of an actual church building.
- 4.6.3 The earliest reference we have to a church here is in a charter from 1182 when Henry II gave nearby Stratford Langthorne Abbey the rights of the land in areas such as Leyton and West Ham. There are no records of any changes at St Mary's during the Abbey's ownership, which lasted until its dissolution in 1538. It is only in 1610 that we have the first details of the physical building which describe the erection of an upper chancel or chapel on the north side of the existing chancel. Prior to this the church would have consisted of only Nave, Chancel, and West Tower – all of which have disappeared under later extensions.
- 4.6.4 1656 saw the first major work when it was decided that the body of the church "being very old and ruinous" needed to be rebuilt, and they also decided to expand with a North Aisle. The dilapidated medieval tower was replaced by a new brick tower built on the northwest corner of the Nave, and a new North Aisle filled the gap between this tower and the 1610 chapel.
- 4.6.5 The clock and cupola are probably the most noticeable features of the building when walking around outside. Interestingly, the cupola is not the original; the current one was added in 1806. The cupola consists of eight wooden pillars with a black dome and an attractive gilt weather vane on top. The clock is placed in the middle of the pillars.
- 4.6.6 In 1817, Thomas Lane, the then churchwarden, paid for another gallery to be added over the communion table for the purpose of accommodating Sunday school boys; the gallery could accommodate 100 boys.
- 4.6.7 In 1822 came extensive alterations designed by the architect John Shaw and built by Thomas Cubitt. The South Aisle and the Vestry were added on the south side of the church after the realization that the "small tradesman, labourers and servants who [then] sit or stand in the Aisles, to a great inconvenience of themselves and others."
- 4.6.8 The new South Aisle was built of brown stock brick in a plain Gothic style, and included a west gallery. These alterations also saw the Nave extended 12 feet eastwards into the Chancel space to form an extra bay in the body of the church, so that only the 1693 extension remained as sanctuary space, and they also took away the oval side windows that had been added in 1693. In 1928 and 1932 all the Victorian stained glass, with the exception of the East window and the East window of the North Aisle, were replaced by modern glass.
- 4.6.9 In 1932 the chancel was lengthened again by 16 feet to provide much-needed room for the sanctuary, and the oval windows once again made an appearance, copying those removed in 1822. This was part of a substantial overhaul that saw the Chancel Arch and clerestory both rebuilt in concrete. Even the cast-iron arcade pillars were encased in concrete – the new wonder-material of the Modern movement.
- 4.6.10 During World War II, bombs fell in the churchyard of St Mary's, but it was believed that the building itself had remained unharmed. However, damage was found to the parapet walls of the tower after the war, and in 1951 repairs had to be made to the tower parapet and the interior decoration of the tower.

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The aims and objectives for the site were outlined in the WSI (Hawkins 2017).

5.1.1 The watching brief sought to:

- To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric and Roman activity, its nature and (if possible) date.
- To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site.
- To confirm that burials do not extend into this area.
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (Hawkins 2017) outlined the methodology for the archaeological watching brief.
- 7.2 The archaeologist was in attendance to observe the hand excavation of the test pit. If possible archaeological deposits or features were identified during the excavation, then the work was halted and reasonable time was given for the archaeologist to investigate and record to an appropriate level.
- 7.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (number 23) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Practice'.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 8.1 The test pit location is shown in Figure 2 and test pit photographs are shown below.
- 8.1.1 The test pit measured 0.70m x 0.70m and was 1.30m deep.
- 8.1.2 The natural gravel was identified 1.30m below ground level. Sealing the natural gravel was a layer of 19th century made ground [2] which comprised a bedding layer for the concrete foundation of the churchyard wall. This layer was 0.05m thick and comprised a layer of crushed mortar and limestone. It was a light whitish yellow in colour.
- 8.1.3 Above layer [2] was layer [1], which comprised the backfill of the construction cut for the churchyard wall. This layer was 0.70m thick and contained frequent coal, CBM and 19th century pottery. The cut for the wall was not found as the test pit was not extended far enough to the west. The wall itself was constructed on a 0.50m thick layer of concrete.
- 8.1.4 Sealing the backfill layer was a 0.55m thick layer of topsoil and grass.



Plate 1: Test Pit 1 facing north. Concrete foundation is on the right of the base of the test and natural gravel is on the left.

9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The watching brief was carried out as part of the investigation of the construction of the churchyard wall. The test pit size was kept to a minimum in order not to disturb adjacent burials.
- 9.2 The test pit found natural gravel at 1.30m below ground level. No archaeological features were identified in the gravel, although only a very small amount of the gravel was exposed due to the size constraints of the test pit. The gravel was sealed by a makeup layer for the concrete foundation of the wall, and by the backfill of the construction cut for the wall.
- 9.3 No archaeological finds dating prior to the 19th century were identified in the backfill of the construction cut for the wall.
- 9.4 It was clear that the construction of the wall had truncated the top of the natural gravel to a depth of 1.30m below ground level within the construction cut area.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

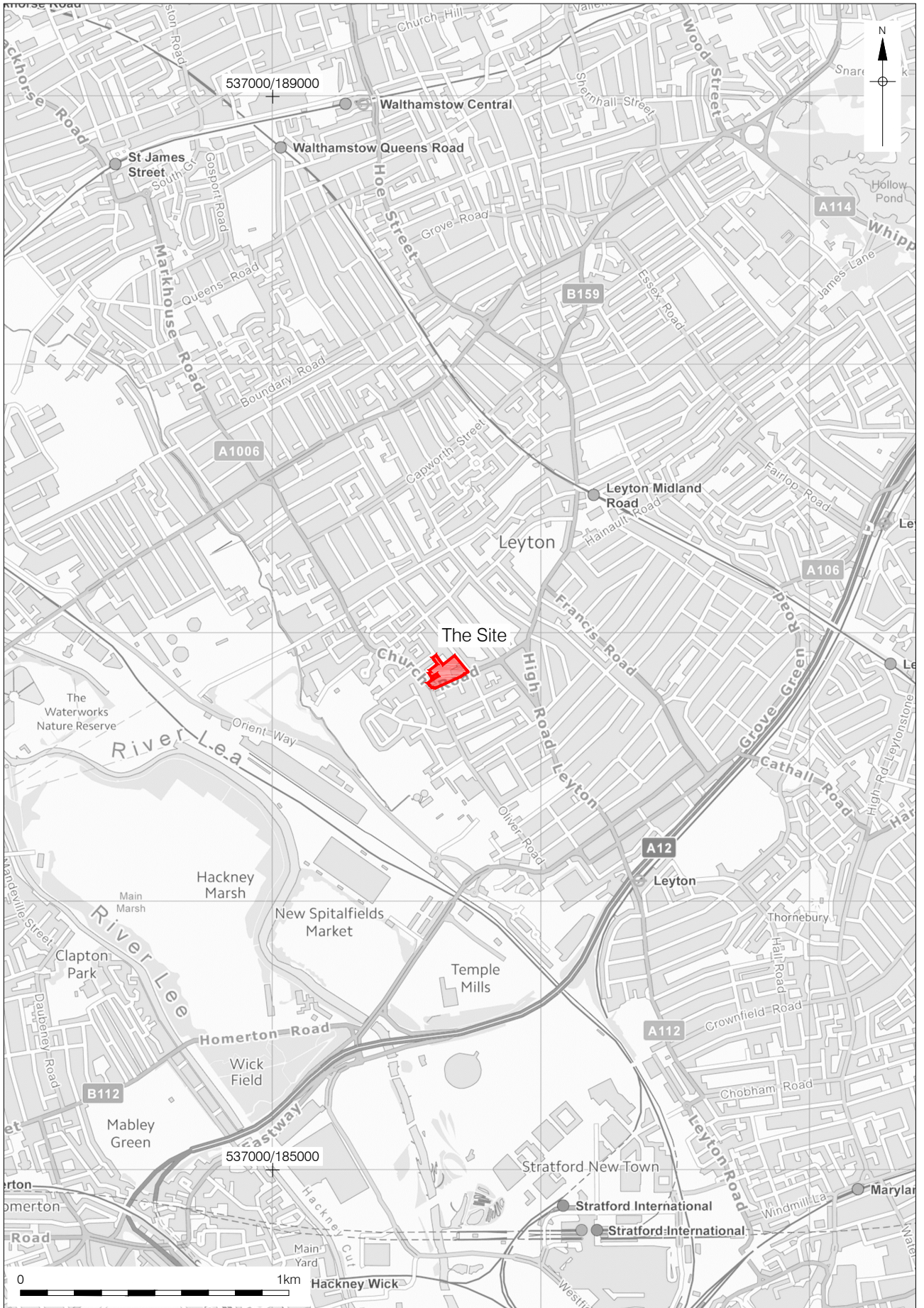
- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Elliss Sharpe of NPS London for commissioning and funding the work.
- 11.2 The author wishes to thank Charlotte Faiers for preparing the illustrations.

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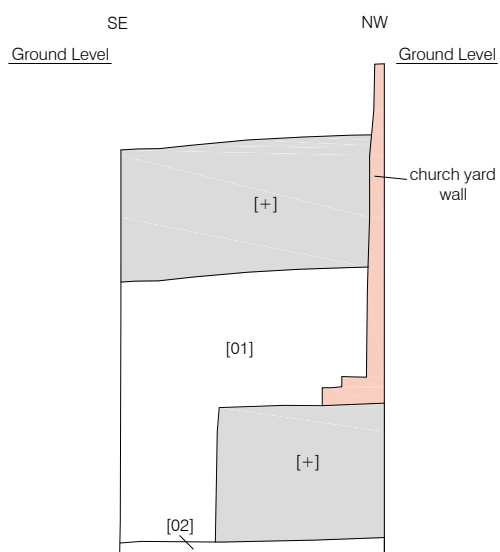
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4




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Figure 2
Test Pit Location
1:800 at A4



Section 1
North East Facing
TP 1

-  St. Mary's Church Yard Wall
-  Modern Intrusion/ Truncation



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Site Code	Context No.	Type	Description	Trench No.	Plan No.	Section / Elevation	Dimensions N-S (m)	Dimensions E-W (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)	Highest Level (mOD)	Lowest Level (mOD)	Phase
MCY 17	1	Layer	Loose yellow orange silty sand, freq coal CBM and pottery, backfill of construction cut for 19th century wall	TP1	TP 1	1	0.7	0.7	0.7	n/a	n/a	1
MCY 17	2	Layer	Layer of bedding material loose whitish yellow, freq mortar	TP1	TR 1	1	0.7	0.35	0.05	n/a	n/a	1

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-284444

Project details

Project name	ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD, CHURCH ROAD, LEYTON, LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST E10 5JX: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Short description of the project	This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief for a test pit to explore the foundations of the churchyard wall at St Mary's Churchyard, Leyton, Waltham Forest. The watching brief monitored the excavation of one test pit against the churchyard wall, carried out on 10th April 2017. The test pit measured 0.70m x 0.70m x 1.30m deep and was hand dug. Natural gravel was seen at the base of the test pit. The rest of the test pit fill comprised the backfill of the construction cut for the churchyard wall. No archaeological structures or features other than post-medieval made ground were identified.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2017 End: 10-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MCY17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Test-Pit Survey"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WALTHAM FOREST LEYTON St Mary's Churchyard, Leyton, Waltham Forest
Postcode	E10 5JX
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3765 8687 51.563390863617 -0.013896413073 51 33 48 N 000 00 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Helen Hawkins
Type of sponsor/funding body	Church
Name of sponsor/funding body	NPS London

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	MCY17
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	MCY17
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

