CROWNFIELD SCHOOL, WHITE HART LANE, ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING RM7 8JB: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

SITE CODE: WTA17

JULY 2017

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

CROWNFIELD SCHOOL, WHITE HART LANE, ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING RM7 8JB:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: **WTA17**

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: **LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

CENTRAL NGR: **TQ 49395 90323**

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: **CGMS**

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JULY 2017

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM7 8JB (Figure 1). The fieldwork was undertaken on 3rd and 4th July 2017 for CgMS Limited.

1.2 Three evaluation trenches were excavated across the site to a depth of up to 0.78m below the current ground level. Natural drift deposits of clay-with-gravel were recorded in all of the evaluation trenches.

1.3 The site was located on a plateau partially created during the construction of the school. The site had a gradual, descending slope west and south towards the River Rom valley. The course of the River Rom formed the western boundary of the site.

1.4 Natural geology of clay-with-gravel layers was recorded in all of the trenches between 24.33m OD at its highest to the north and at the top of the slope and 23.84m OD lower down to the south-west.

1.5 Deposits of sub-soil were noted in all three trenches sealing the clay-with-gravel deposits. These were in turn capped by layers of top soil and turf.

1.6 A number of depressions and hollows, likely to be the result of bioturbation, were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. In two instances these anomalies contained pottery and one instance contained a worked flint flake suggesting a back ground of prehistoric activity in the area.

1.7 No archaeological features were observed during the evaluation.

1.8 The completed archive will be deposited with LAARC under site code WTA17

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford RM7 8JB in the London Borough of Havering, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on 3rd and 4th July 2017. The site was located at National Grid Reference TQ 49395 90323 (Figure 1).

2.2 The site was a trapezoidal plot of land with the widest end to the west and located on the east bank of the River Rom. It was bounded by the school car park to the south, the River Rom to the west, the school access path to the north and White Hart Lane to the east (Figure 2).

2.3 The archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited under the supervision of Wayne Perkins, and the project management of Helen Hawkins. This report was written by Wayne Perkins. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMS Limited and the project was monitored by Adam Single of Historic England, archeological advisor to the London Borough of Havering. The work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017).

2.4 The site archive was identified using the unique site code WTA17, issued by the Museum of London. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under that code.

2.5 There were no Scheduled Monuments on or close to the site.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on 27th March 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by "The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004" (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:

Policy 4b.15 Archaeology

The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and Boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London's archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their DPDs for protecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Havering

3.3.1 The relevant local policy is provided by the London Borough of Havering Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2011. It contains the following policy statement with regards to the Historic Environment:

POLICY CP2: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING OUR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
Havering has a rich local history.
However, compared to many other areas the Borough has relatively few protected historic environment assets such as listed buildings and conservations areas. With this in mind the Council will take particular care to:

- Protect and wherever possible enhance our historic environment.
- Promote understanding of and respect for our local context.
- Reinforce local distinctiveness
- Require development proposals and regeneration initiatives to be of a high quality that respect and reflects our historic context and assets.

3.4 Planning permission

3.5 The site lay within an Alluvium Deposits (Geology) Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ) and the Gravel sand Deposits Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Havering's Local Plan.

3.6 The site had an archaeological planning condition (Condition 17):

'A) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which

has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.

B) No development or demolition shall take place other that in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A), and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason:-

Heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site. Insufficient information has been supplied with the application in relation to these matters. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development (including historic buildings recording), in accordance with Policy DC70 of the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document and the NPPF.'

3.7 An archaeological evaluation for the site was therefore requested by the archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Havering, in order to assess the archaeological significance of the site in advance of redevelopment.

3.8 There were no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings within the development site.

4 EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

4.1 The evaluation addressed the following primary objectives outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017):

- *To determine the natural topography of the site;*
- *To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity;*
- *To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity;*
- *To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity;*
- *To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site;*
- *To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site; and*
- *To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.*

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The geological and topographical background cited below was obtained from the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (Hawkins 2017).

5.2 Geology

5.2.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS online 2017) records the solid geology of the site as primarily London Clay Formation (Clay, Silt & Sand), with superficial alluvial deposits of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel across the western edge and Boyn Hill Gravel Member deposits (Sand & Gravel) across the remainder of the site.

5.2.2 Natural geology of clay-with-gravel layers were recorded in all of the trenches between 24.33m OD at its highest to the north and at the top of the slope and 23.84m OD lower down.

5.3 Topography

5.3.1 The plateau upon which the site was located was at 24.65m OD with a slope falling off along its southern edge to 24.03m OD.

5.3.2 The River Rom flowed north to south along the western boundary of the site.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 The archeological and historical background is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment prepared by CGMS (2017) and summarized in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (Hawkins 2017).

6.2 Prehistoric (500 000 BC to AD 43)

6.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic date are known from within a 1km radius of the study site.

6.2.2 A pit containing Mesolithic flint tools is recorded 700m south west of the study site at Marks Warren Quarry, although the finds were considered to be residual finds of low significance (HER Ref: 24073, TQ 48883 89564).

6.2.3 In this section of the Thames Valley, Mesolithic worked flint material occurs within multi-period assemblages recovered by field walking, in sediments exposed at inter- tidal level and in the infill of later pits and ditches. Here, as elsewhere in lowland Britain, sites tend to occur close to rivers or other water sources.

6.2.4 The study site lies on similar Sand and Gravel superficial geology as the area of Marks Warren Quarry to the south west and it can be expected that the potential for early prehistoric artefacts is similar to that found during the Marks Warren Quarry excavations. It is likely that the area was forested during the Mesolithic which limits the likelihood of human intensive activity during this period. This may explain the paucity of early prehistoric material within the study area.

6.2.5 By the Bronze Age the wider area would probably have lain in a partially cleared landscape, with the landscape divided between arable, pasture and woodland and interspersed with enclosed settlements, ritual enclosures and burial monuments.

6.2.6 A number of late Neolithic to Bronze Age pits and ditches were recorded during investigations at Warren Farm c.800m south west of the study site. There may have been deliberate tree clearance across part of the Warren Farm Quarry site during the Neolithic which indicates that the area of Hainault Forest was originally more extensive to the south of its existing boundaries.

6.2.7 A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age settlement has been identified at Marks Warren Quarry south west of the study site during a number of excavations from 1986 to 2008. The features include a curvilinear ditch, enclosures, pits, postholes and a ditch system. It was considered likely that this was a settlement or agricultural enclosure or hillfort occupied into the Early Iron Age.

6.2.8 A small ring ditch to the north-east of this fortified enclosure was identified from aerial photographs although excavations in the area revealed no evidence of features matching those identified in the aerial photographs. A further possible prehistoric ring ditch was identified from aerial photography in the same area.

6.2.9 A number of Early to Mid Iron Age features were recorded during ongoing watching briefs at Marks Warren Farm, including pits, ditches and postholes. The study site will have lain within the periphery of the Bronze Age/Iron Age settlement to the south west.

6.3 Roman (AD 43 – AD 450)

6.3.1 The line of the projected London to Colchester Roman road is c.1.37km south of the study site.

6.3.2 A large rectilinear Roman enclosure with at least one building, three or four ditches and a road approaching from the east, was recorded during investigations at Marks Warren Farm south west of the study site between 1988 and 2008. Further evidence for Roman enclosures was recorded nearby during additional work at Marks Warren Quarry and seems likely to have been related to this building.

6.3.3 An undated hearth with associated pits and postholes has been recorded c.800m south west of the study site. The pits and postholes may indicate a structure associated with the hearth.

6.3.4 Unspecified works in the Collier Row area in the 19th century revealed a Samian base stamped with '*belsus fec'.* Recent works have shown that there was a potter called Belsus making pottery in Eastern Gaul from the late 2nd century AD to the first half of the 3rd century. A copper alloy coin of Carausius (AD287-293) was discovered in the same area.

6.3.5 Fragments of 4th century AD pottery were recovered from unspecified work near Collier Row. The GLHER notes that the exact location of the find spot is unknown but it is reasonably considered that the present find spot c.100m south west of the study site is incorrect.

6.3.6 During the Roman period, the study site would have been near to the enclosed Roman building to the south west and the Roman road to the south. It seems likely that the study site would have at least been used for agricultural purposes.

6.4 Saxon & Early Medieval (AD 450 to AD 1066)

6.4.1 Whilst no finds dating to the Saxon period are recorded by the GLHER within the study area, excavation at Marks Warren Quarry east of the study site has revealed a possible small Saxon cemetery and a single structure

6.5 Medieval (AD 1066 to AD 1540)

6.5.1 There are no settlements recorded near to the study site in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Domesday Online 2016).

6.5.2 Archaeological evaluation c.340m north of the study site on White Hart Lane identified pits containing sherds of 13th and 14th century pottery.

6.5.3 The medieval Mark's Hall Manor was located south-west of the study site and is first definitively mentioned in AD1330 although it may have originated as a free tenement of the manor of Barking. Medieval settlement activity dating from the 10th to the 14th centuries was identified at Marks Warren Farm during excavations from 1988 to 2002 and was probably associated with the manor. The manor was pulled down in 1808 but the moat still survives. Further evidence of late medieval through to post-medieval agricultural activity was recorded north of the manor site.

6.5.4 The first documentary reference to the Manor of Uphavering was in AD1387-95 and is located by the GLHER c.520m north of the study site.

6.5.5 The 1391 representation of the Liberty of Havering shows the study site north-west of 'Rolemford' in an area marked as 'Colyers Row'. It is located in probable pastoral land at the southern edge of Hainault Forest and adjacent to the 'Bourne Broke', which would become known later as the River Rom. A road is shown and is projected to run through the centre of the study site by the GLHER which also appears to be shown on a 1945 Google Earth Image. Various hunting lodges are shown within the forest and the manor of Uphavering is shown north of the study site.

6.5.6 Documentary sources attest the existence of Collier Row by AD1440. The name derives from the presence of charcoal burning industry within the area adjacent to Hainault Forest, referred to as 'colliers' during the medieval period.

6.5.7 A number of medieval houses and roads are recorded in Collier Row to the east of the study site, including a house of AD1332 and a possible late medieval house. A half penny of Edward IV (AD1471-83) has also been identified within the same area.

6.5.8 A number of windmills have been identified to the east of Warren Farm. The mills are located in three groups and date from the medieval period through to the post-medieval period.

6.5.9 Although there is a lack of evidence for the Saxon period, it seems likely that the study site would have been used as agricultural land. There is evidence of nearby medieval activity from the 10th to the 14th centuries, and the study site would have likely lain in agricultural land as part of one of the nearby manors.

6.6 Post-Medieval (AD 1540 to AD 1901)

6.6.1 The 1618 map of the Liberty of Havering shows the study site in a similar location to the 1391 representation. Hainault Forest has been cut back slightly by this point to allow for the creation of Havering Park whilst parts of the River Rom have been artificially dammed to create pools within the Park. A windmill is shown at Marks to the south west. A possible hollow way is also shown on this map, running north-east south-west through the site.

6.6.2 By 1777 little change is shown to the study site which is located on the sides of a small valley within which the River Rom runs. There appears to have been an expansion in the number of properties in Collier Row and Hainault Forest has been further cut back. A road west of the study site has been removed and the area of Marks is shown in more detail.

6.6.3 The 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows the study site in more detail, which appears to be in use as agricultural land.

6.6.4 By 1871, the study site is shown as open fields. The road within the study site has been removed and now appears to end immediately to the north (plot 84). A footpath runs down the eastern edge of the study site and a further footpath runs to the south, crossing the River Rom south west of the study site. No change is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1896, 1920 or 1939. The roadway to the north is now named as White Hart Lane in 1939.

6.7 Modern (AD 1901 to present)

6.7.1 The 1945 historic Google Earth Image shows the study site as open fields prior to the construction of the school. The former roadway is shown running through the centre of the study site whilst there appear to be unidentified cropmarks forming an enclosure adjacent to the River Rom.

6.7.2 The 1964 Ordnance Survey Map shows the construction of Crownfield County Primary School and associated playing fields, the extent of which forms the northern and southern boundaries of the study site. There has been major residential development to the east, including the extension of White Hart Lane to form the eastern boundary of the study site. Allotment gardens are marked to the north. No change is shown by 1972-77.

6.7.3 The 2008 Google Earth Image shows little change to the majority of the study site. There have been a few minor extensions and changes to the school buildings. The course of the River Rom has been artificially straightened and now forms the western boundary of the study site. The study site would have probably lain in pastoral land as part of one of the nearby farmsteads during the post-medieval period and for much of the modern period prior to the construction of the school.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

7.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological deposits at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate mitigation strategy (Hawkins 2017). All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeology.

7.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches which were excavated to either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural ground.

7.3 Trench dimensions and highest and lowest levels are listed below:

Trench Number	Length	Width	Depth (BGL)	Highest level	Lowest level
1	10.00m	1.80m	0.43m	24.27m OD	23.69m OD
2	10.00m	1.80m	0.40m / 0.78m (sondage)	24.45m OD	23.87m OD
3	10.00m	1.80m	0.48m	24.65m OD	24.02 OD

BGL = Below Ground Level

7.4 The excavation of all evaluation trenches was undertaken using a JCB (3CX) mechanical excavator provided by the client's contractor. Spoil was mounded at a safe distance from the edges of the trenches.

7.5 Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until either significant archaeological strata were found or undisturbed natural ground exposed.

7.6 Trench locations were CAT scanned before machining could begin and then after each spit was removed in order to check for buried services which were not marked on the service plan.

7.7 All open trenches were secured with fencing.

7.8 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The investigation of archaeological levels was carried out by hand, with cleaning, examining and recording both in plan and in section.

7.9 All archaeological features (stratigraphic layers, cuts, fills, structures) were excavated with hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded as to characterize their form, function and date.

7.10 The recording system adopted during the evaluation was fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS 1994) and with the PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.

7.11 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation consisting of a digital photographic archive that was maintained during the course of the archaeological investigation.

7.12 The trenches were located using a GPS prior to excavation.

7.13 One temporary benchmark was established with a GPS at a height of 24.05m OD on the top of a

nearby inspection cover to the east of Trenches 1 and 2.

7.14 The completed archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the allocated site code WTA17

7.15 All trenches were backfilled and compacted without reinstating the turf.

8 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Clay-with-gravel

8.1.1 In all three trenches, natural clay-with-gravel was identified (Plates 1-3). The deposit [11] was recorded as firm, orangey-mid-brown clay with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional small sub angular, well-rolled flint fragments. A variation occurred between Trench 3 at the north of the site, where the gravel was more pronounced on the higher ground and that of Trenches 1 and 2 where it appeared as a clay 'cap' with a moderate amount of gravel inclusions on the lower slope.

8.1.2 These deposits were summarized in the table below:

Trench	Context	N-S	E-W	Thickness	Highest Level
1	[11]	10.00m	1.80m	Unknown	23.89m OD
2	[11]	10.00m	1.80m	Unknown	24.08m OD
3	[11]	10.00m	1.80m	Unknown	24.33m OD

8.1.3 The natural clay gravel deposits found were consistent with the underlying drift geology described by the British Geological Survey.

8.2 Phase 2: Bioturbation / land clearance (Prehistoric?)

8.2.1 In Trenches 1 and 2 areas of bioturbation were observed which took the form of irregular spreads of light grey clayey-silt with frequent, small rounded gravel inclusions.

8.2.2 In Trench 1 the bioturbation took the form of a shallow, irregularly shaped, sub-oval depression [4] at the west end of the trench, 1.35m long by 0.79m wide and 0.15m deep (Plate 4). A single worked flint flake was recovered from this deposit [3].

8.2.3 At the eastern end of Trench 1 another irregularly shaped feature [6], containing the same kind of friable, light grey fill [5] produced a tiny fragment of prehistoric pottery.

8.2.4 In Trench 2, two further ambiguous features were recorded identical in form to those in Trench 1. Feature [10] was an irregular linear (aligned north-west to south-east) which widened into a sub oval shape in plan at the south-east end (Plate 5). It measured 2.06 long by 1.32m wide (at its widest point) and was only 0.07m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature.

8.2.5 A smaller, almost sub-oval feature [8], 0.51m across the long axis, was uncovered c.1m to the east of linear [10] (Plate 6). Its fill [7], identical to that described above. It contained several sherds of prehistoric pottery with a flint temper which possessed sharp edges (or breaks) suggesting that they had not been deposited as residual material. The condition of the pottery suggests the sherds were deposited at the time these anomalous features were created.

Trench	Context	N-S	E-W	Thickness	Highest Level
1	[3], [5]	10.00m	-	0.16m	23.93m OD
2	[9]	10.00m	-	0.06	24.03m OD
3	-	-	-	-	-

8.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval Activity (Sub-Soil)

8.3.1 Capping these natural deposits was a fairly consistent layer of sub-soil deposit [2]. This was identified in all of the trenches excavated and given the same number due to the proximity of the trenches. It consisted of a compacted, mid grey brownish clayey-silt with moderate inclusions of rounded pebbles and occasional sub-angular flint fragments.

8.3.2 There was little direct dating evidence found within this deposit (as the finds were likely to have been residual) so an exact date for this sub-soil is problematic but it probably formed during the post-medieval to modern periods both before and during the terracing of the site for the construction of the school.

8.3.3 These deposits are summarized in the table below:

Trench	Context	N-S	E-W	Thickness	Highest Level
1	[2]	10.00m	1.80m	0.41m	10.15m OD
2	[2]	10.00m	1.80m	0.20m	9.85m OD
3	[2]	10.00m	1.80m	0.15m	10.03m OD

8.3.4 The depth of the subsoil increased as the land sloped down to the south-west, which may be accounted for by colluvial action and soil creep

8.4 Phase 4: 20th Century Landscaping (Turf & Top Soil)

8.4.1 The site was covered by turf and topsoil [1] across the field which was a friable, greyish, mid brown clayey-silt with rooting and modern inclusions. The topsoil was seen across the area of investigation covering the sub-soils. Due to the proximity of the trenches and lack of variation between the deposits, it was numbered [1] across the study area.

8.4.2 These deposits were summarized in the table below:

Trench	Context	N-S	E-W	Thickness	Highest Level
1	[1]	10.00m	1.80m	0.16m	24.27m OD
2	[1]	10.00m	1.80m	0.22m	24.45m OD
3	[1]	10.00m	1.80m	0.18m	24.64m OD

Plate 1: Trench 1 facing south west. Small patches of lighter gravel are visible. Scale 1m.

Plate 2: Trench 2 facing south-east. The deeper sondage is visible in the foreground. Scale 1m.

Plate 3: Trench 3 facing east. Scale 1m.

Plate 4: Trench 1 facing south-east. Bioturbated feature [4] excavated which produced a worked flint. Scale 1m.

Plate 5: Trench 2 facing south-east. Bioturbated linear [10]. Scale 1m.

Plate 6: Trench 2 facing south-east. Small depression [8], likely to be bioturbation, produced several sherds of prehistoric pottery. Scale 0.3m.

9 CONCLUSIONS & EVALUATION QUESTIONS

9.1 A number of evaluation questions were posed prior to excavation -

To determine the natural topography of the site

9.1.1 Three evaluation trenches were excavated across the site at a depth of up to 0.78m below the current ground level. Natural drift deposits of clay-with-gravel were recorded in all of the evaluation trenches but no underlying terrace-gravel deposits were exposed.

9.1.2 The site was located on a plateau partly created for the school recreation field. The site had a gradual, descending slope west and south towards the River Rom valley.

9.1.3 Natural geology of clay-with-gravel layers were recorded in all of the trenches between 24.33m OD at its highest to the north and at the top of the slope and 23.84m OD lower down to the south-west.

To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity

9.1.4 Evidence of significant archaeological activity was limited on this evaluation. In Trenches 1 and 2 four irregular, shallow features were recorded which contained the same light grey clayey-silt fill at odds with the surrounding orange-reddish, mid brown clay-with-gravel natural which made up the natural geology. Three of the four 'features' produced prehistoric finds.

9.1.5 The irregularly shaped pit depression [4] produced a worked flint flake which belonged to the prehistoric period although the flint technology used does not allow a specific dating of the object (Jarrett 2017, Appendix 5). The soil fill [3] contained a few flecks of charcoal and a concentration of manganese.

9.1.6 A minute sherd of pottery was recovered from a similarly irregularly-shaped depression at the eastern end of Trench 1. The edges of the sherd were sharp and un-abraided, suggesting 'fresh' breaks (or edges) on the sherd. This suggested that the sherd had not been rolled around in agricultural tillage and deposited residually. The pottery has been dated to between the Late Bronze Age and mid Iron Age periods (Jarrett 2017, Appendix 3).

9.1.7 Evidence for the finds being present *in situ* was further evidenced by the several pottery sherds from the smaller depression [8] at the eastern end of Trench 2. Most displayed clean, un-abraided edges and one sherd appeared to be a rim fragment. The pottery has been dated to between the Late Bronze Age and mid Iron Age periods (Jarrett 2017, Appendix 3).

9.1.8 Reviewing the prehistoric evidence for the immediate area, it would seem that activity is restricted mainly to along the meander corridor of the River Rom. The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds in the area are characterised by being mainly 'chance' finds with objects in secondary contexts (Perkins 2017). The Neolithic period in the Romford area is characterized by isolated finds which suggests a very light density of occupation or resource exploitation (Grant 2002:4). At the Romside Commercial centre 1.5km to the south-east and adjacent to the River Rom a number of Bronze Age features including a hollow, pits, gullies and postholes were uncovered. Finally, a putative Iron Age enclosure on Warren Hill has been identified but has yet to be proven through excavation (Perkins 2017).

9.1.9 Taking the above into account, the small assemblage recovered from the natural depressions (or bioturbated voids) hints at prehistoric activity. It is possible that the features may have been open long enough for archaeological material to fall into them. They may indicate a period of land clearance associated with tree or shrub clearance, possibly in advance of settlement activities.

To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity

9.1.10 No evidence for Roman activity was found during excavation.

To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity

9.1.11 No evidence for medieval activity was found during excavation.

To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site

9.1.12 The subsoil layer [2] had a mix of post-medieval artefacts recovered from it and may have been derived from elsewhere to make up the ground prior to it being levelled during the construction of the school. However, the base of the subsoil had quite a large quantity of pebble and flint nodule inclusions and appeared to be a genuine interface with the underlying gravel geology [11].

9.1.13 There was very little direct dating of the layers forming the sub-soil but it is believed that this material was developed over a broad length of time through the medieval to late post-medieval period and would have represented perhaps a small survival of the agricultural land that would have formed the vast majority of the landscape at this time. It had subsequently been truncated through landscaping and terracing of the site. The broad picture for the surface of this post-medieval ground can be seen on the maps from the 17th century onward. It may once have been rich woodland, suggested by its earlier demarcation as Colyers Rowe (1391) or Colly Rowe (1618) toponyms which derive from the presence of a charcoal burning industry, known as 'Colliers' in the medieval period and which probably related to such an activity taking place in nearby Hainault Forest (Archer, J and Smith M (2017: 15). From the map of 1771 (Chapman & Andre) through to the Google Earth Image of 1945 it is depicted as open fields for pasture or agricultural land.

To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site; and to establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

9.1.14 The features and artefacts recovered may represent remnants of a relict prehistoric landscape following tree and vegetation clearance prior to settlement. No Roman or medieval vestiges were found during excavation. The site appears to have been either pasture or under light cultivation up until the mid 20th century.

9.1.15 The study area remained open fields until the mid to late 20th century when the Ordnance Survey map of 1964 shows that Crownfield County Primary School had been constructed on the site. The construction of the school buildings with their attendant footings and service runs would have had the greatest impact on the archaeological resource, followed by the terracing and landscaping of the surrounding playing fields and garden.

9.1.16 The site will be published as an entry in the annual fieldwork round-up of the London Archaeologist. The completed archive will be deposited with LAARC under site code WTA17.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank James Archer of CgMS Limited for commissioning the work and Matt Peppet of ValueGrade for his help on site. We also thank Adam Single, archeological adviser to the London Borough of Havering, for monitoring the site works on behalf of the borough.

10.2 The author would also like to thank Helen Hawkins for her project management and editing, Dan Britton for his assistance in the field, Richard Archer for the surveying and Tilia Cammegh for the CAD illustrations.

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Online Resources

British Geological Survey
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/

Domesday Survey online
http://opendomesday.org/

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Phase	Highest Level (OD)	Dimensions (N-S)	Dimensions (E-W)	Thickness /Depth	Photos
WTA17	1	1-3	Tr. 1-3	1-8	Layer	Top Soil	4	24.62m	10.00m	1.80m	0.16m	D1
WTA17	2	1-3	Tr. 1-3	1-8	Layer	Sub-Soil	3	-	10.00m	1.80m		D1
WTA17	3	1	Tr. 1	1	Fill	Firm mid grey silty-clay	2	23.80m	10.00m	1.80m	0.15m	D1
WTA17	4	1	Tr. 1	1	Cut	Irregular, sub oval	2	23.80m	10.00m	1.80m	0.15m	D1
WTA17	5	1	Tr. 1	2	Fill	Firm light brownish grey clayey-silt	2	23.76m	10.00m	1.80m	0.19m	D1
WTA17	6	1	Tr. 1	2	Cut	Irregular, sub oval	2	23.76m	10.00m	1.80m	0.19	D1
WTA17	7	2	Tr. 2	-	Fill	Firm light brownish grey clayey-silt	2	23.96m	10.00m	1.80m	0.08m	D1
WTA17	8	2	Tr. 2	-	Cut	Irregular, sub oval	2	23.96m	10.00m	1.80m	0.08m	D1
WTA17	9	2	Tr. 2	8	Fill	Friable, orangey light grey	2	24.00 m	10.00m	1.80m	0.04m	D1
WTA17	10	2	Tr. 2	8	Cut	Irregular, sub oval	2	24.00m	10.00m	1.80m	0.04m	D1
WTA17	11	1-3	Tr. 1-3	1-8	Layer	Natural geology: clay-with-gravel	1	24.33m	10.00m	1.80m	Unknown	D1

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-289347

Project details	
Project name	Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering RM7 8JB.
Short description of the project	A three trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 3rd and 4th July 2017 on the recreation ground of Crownfield School, Romford. Trenches 1 and 2 recorded four areas of bioturbation, three of which produced prehistoric material. In Trench 1 a worked flint flake was recovered from an irregularly shaped depression (in the west of the trench) as was a sherd of prehistoric pottery from a similar feature at the east end. In Trench 2 a small, sub-oval depression produced several sherds of prehistoric pottery which displayed un-abraded edges. The areas of bioturbation contained a light grey, clayey silt that was in opposition to the surrounding orange-coloured clay-with-gravel natural geology. The putative interpretation was for ground clearance of tree or shrubs in preparation for settlement activities located on the gravel terraces on the east bank of the River Rom.
Project dates	Start: 03-07-2017 End: 04-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WTA17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches''
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford RM7 8JB
Postcode	RM7 8JB
Study area	3.9 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 49395 90323 51.591423044189 0.156913074582 51 35 29 N 000 09 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.84m Max: 24.33m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	James Archer
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Wayne Perkins
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor/funding body	Crownfield School
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	WTA17
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'',''Worked stone/lithics''
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	WTA17
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'',''Worked stone/lithics''
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'',''Spreadsheets'',''Survey'',''Text''
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	WTA17
Paper Contents	'none''
Paper Media available	'Context sheet'',''Plan'',''Section''
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	CROWNFIELD SCHOOL, WHITE HART LANE, ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING RM7 8JB: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Perkins, W
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	London
Entered by	archive (archive@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	12-Jul-17

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Pottery Assessment (WTA17)

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

The pottery assemblage consists of ten sherds, representing six estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighed 54g, of which none was unstratified. The pottery dates to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods and more so that of a prehistoric date. The condition of all of the pottery can be considered as fresh and only present as sherd material. The pottery is most likely to have been deposited under secondary and tertiary circumstances. The prehistoric pottery was coded according to Orton *et al* (1993) and the post-medieval wares are defined according to the Museum of London Archaeology (2014). The pottery was recovered from three contexts and it is presented as an index.

Index

Context [2], spot date: c. 1789–1900

Metropolitan slipware (METS), 1630–1700, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 13g, form: bowl or dish. Body sherd with a slip trailed feather and zigzag motifs

Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 17805–1900 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 10g, form: rectangular octagonal dish. Body sherd decorated with the Willow pattern, dated from *c*. 1789

Context [5], spot date: Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age

Flint-tempered ware, fine (Fl fine), Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 2g, form: uncertain. Body sherd, oxidised exterior, reduced core and inner surface. Frequent fine white flint grits up to 1mm

Context [7], spot date: Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age

Flint-tempered ware, fine (Fl fine), Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g, form: uncertain. Body sherd, reduced. Frequent fine white flint grits up to 1mm

Flint-tempered ware, medium coarseness (Fl med), Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age, 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 12g, form: jar. Simple rim sherd and a body sherd, reduced. Moderate fine white flint grits up to 2mm

Flint-tempered ware, medium coarseness with sparse organics (Fl med (o)), Late Bronze Age – Middle Iron Age, 4 sherds, 1 ENV, 12g, form: uncertain. Body sherds, oxidised surfaces, reduced core. Moderate fine white flint grits up to 2mm with sparse fine organics

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery has some significance for demonstrating prehistoric activity on or close to the site. The post-Roman pottery has little significance at a local level. The pottery types are found as those types and forms frequently found in the London area. The post-medieval material occurs in a small group (two sherds) and includes a residual sherd and therefore has little meaning as regards to activities associated with these items. The main potential of the pottery is to date the contexts it was recovered from, however the prehistoric pottery adds to an understanding for this period of the local settlement pattern, etc. There are no further recommendations for further work on the material at this stage, however, its importance should be reviewed if new finds are recovered from future archaeological work undertaken on the study area.

References

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Orton, C. Tyers, P. and Vince, G. 1993. *Pottery in Archaeology.* Cambridge University Press.

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS ASSESSMENT

Ceramic Building Material Spot dates, Crownfield School, Romford, Havering (WTA17)

Amparo Valcarcel

BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
2	2276	Post medieval unglazed peg tile	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1900	No mortar

A peg tile fragment made of local sandy red fabric was recovered from the site. The value of example lies in dating from the 15th and late 19th century. No further work recommended.

APPENDIX 5: WORKED FLINT ASSESSMENT

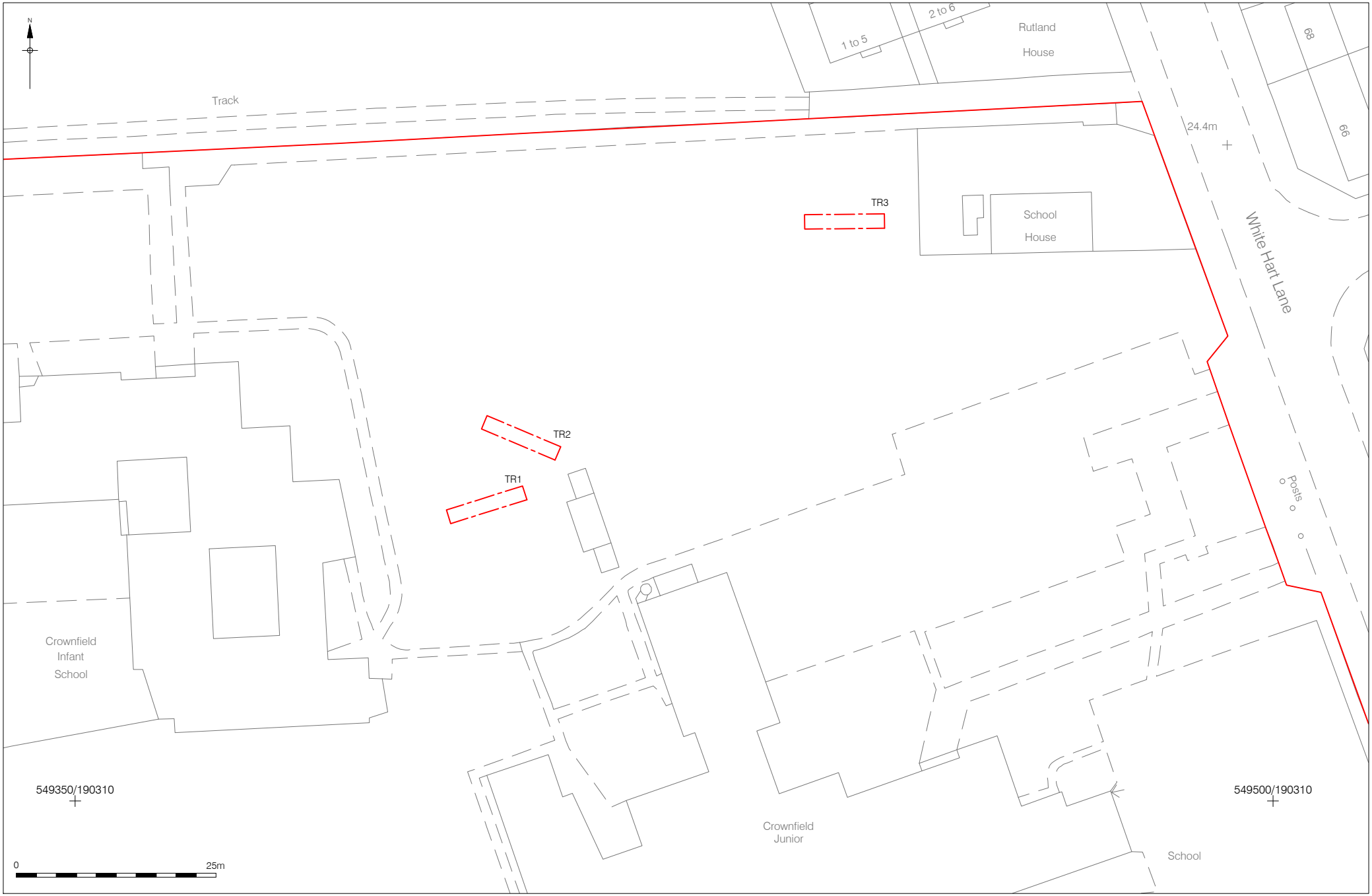
Worked Flint Assessment (WTA17)

Chris Jarrett

A single fragment of worked flint was found in context [3]. The sub-rounded fragment measures 31mm in length x 23mm in width x 9mm in thickness and has part of the cortex surviving, besides a bulb of percussion. The item is dated to the prehistoric period. The struck flint item has little significance, although its occurrence on the study area with prehistoric pottery is a very good indication for activity of this date being present here or in the vicinity. The only potential of the worked flint is to broadly date the context it was recovered from and there are no recommendations at this time for further work on the material.

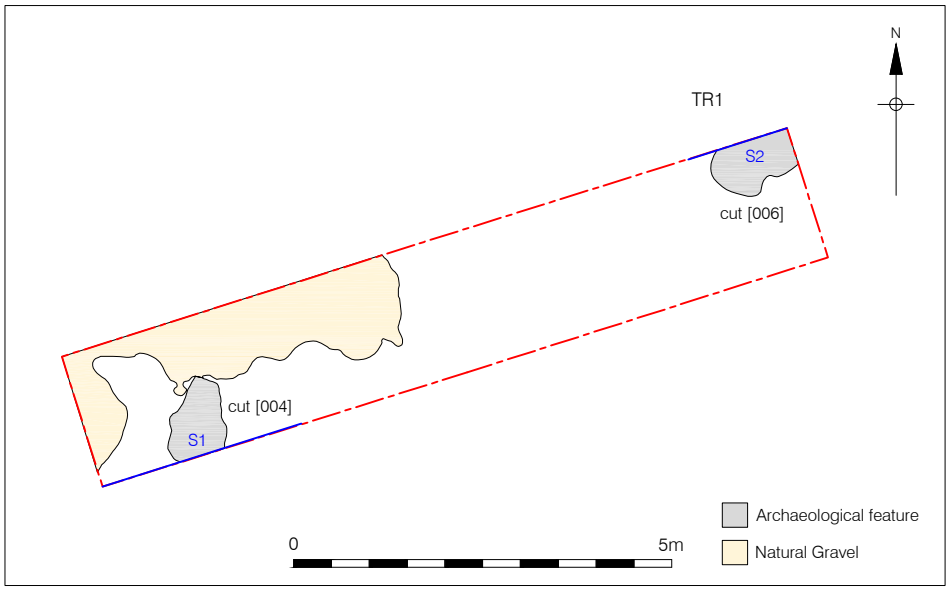
11/07/17 TC

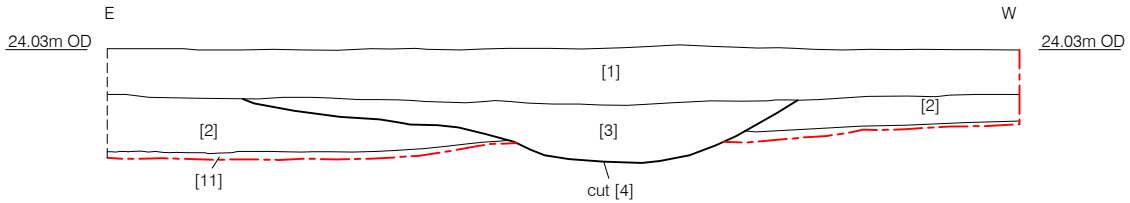
Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000



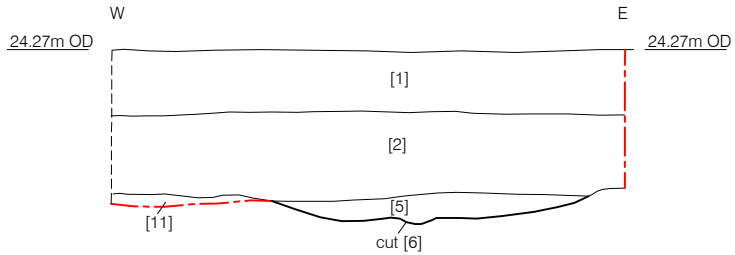
11/07/17 TC

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4





Section 1
North Facing
Trench 1



Section 2
South Facing
Trench 1

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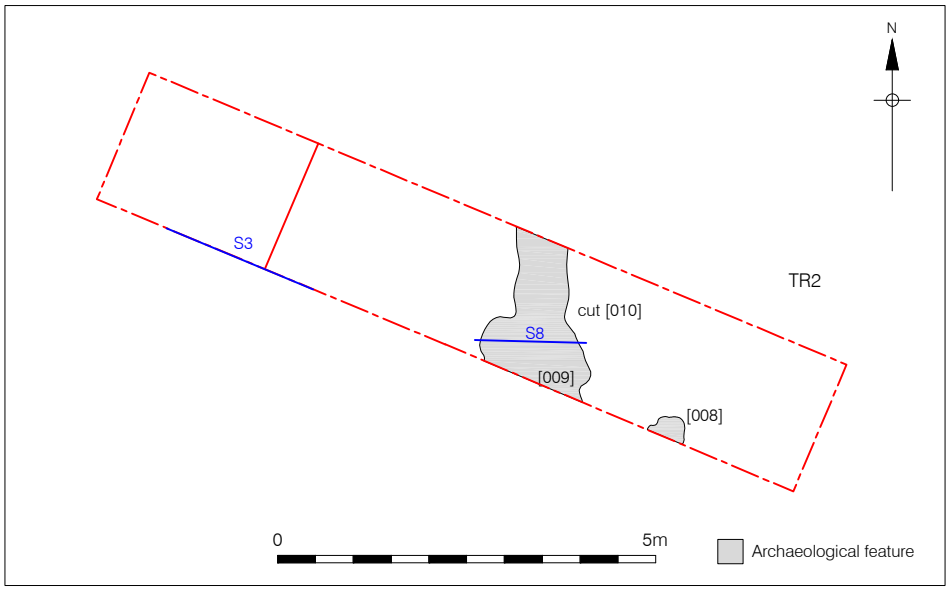
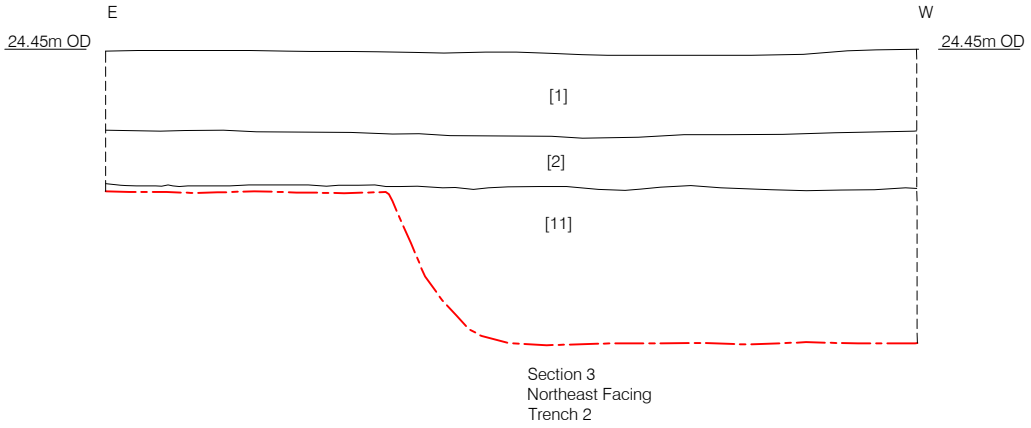
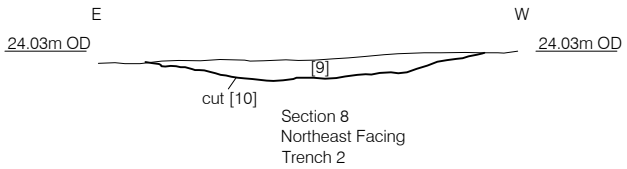
Figure 3
Trench 1: Plan and sections
plan at 1:100, sections at 1:20 at A4





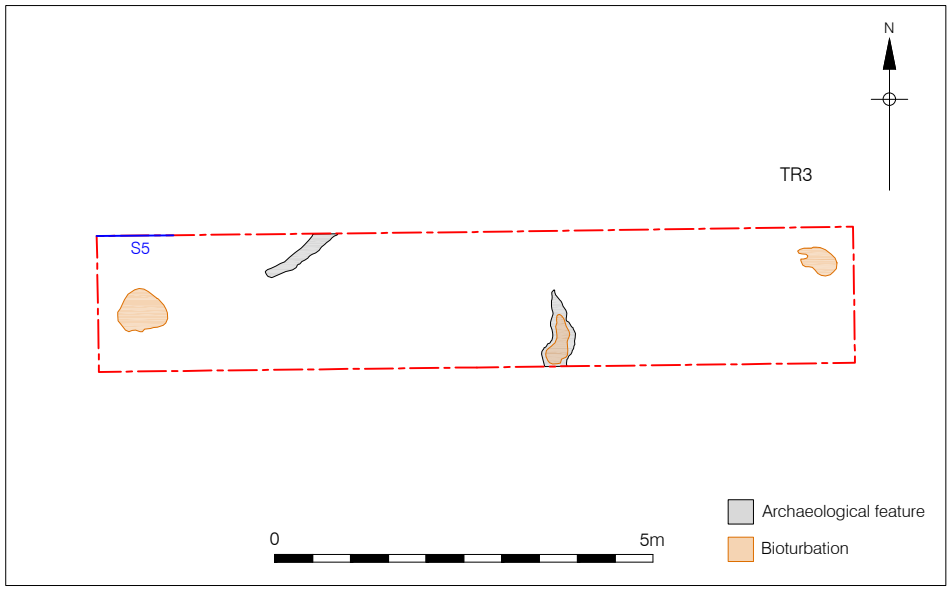
Section 3
Northeast Facing
Trench 2



Section 8
Northeast Facing
Trench 2

11/07/17 TC

Figure 4
Trench 2: Plan and sections
plan at 1:100, sections at 1:20 at A4



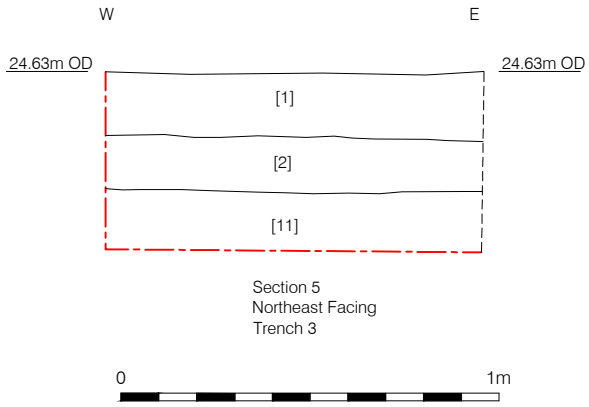


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Figure 5
Trench 3: Plan and sections
plan at 1:100, sections at 1:20 at A4

P C A

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