CROWNFIELD SCHOOL, WHITE HART LANE, ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING, RM7 8JB



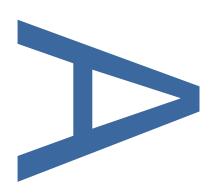
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (PHASE 2)

SITE CODE: WTA17



LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

APRIL 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM7 8JB: An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

Site Code: WTA 17

Central NGR: TQ 49395 90323

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Havering

Planning Application Number:

Commissioning Client: CgMS Limited

Written/Researched by: Matt Edmonds

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PCA Report Number: R13673

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM7 8JB

Type of project

An Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K6006
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	M Edmonds		26.4.19
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of CgMS Heritage at Crownfield Junior School, White Hart Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM7 8JB.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation, carried out between 16th and 18th April 2019, consisted of four trenches located in the footprint of the new school extension.
- 1.3 Natural clay was encountered within all four trenches at a maximum height of 22.15mOD in Trench 6 and 22.08m OD in Trench 4.
- 1.4 A sequence of 20th century topsoil and sub-soil deposits was recorded overlying the natural deposits.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation was commissioned by CgMS Heritage (part of the RPS Group) for a site at Crownfield Junior School, White Hart Lane, Romford RM7 8JB in the London Borough of Havering, TQ 4395 90323, between 16th and 18th April 2019. The site was bounded to the east by White Hart Lane and by fields on all other sides. The River Rom ran along the western boundary of the site. The site encompassed an area of 3.9ha.
- 2.2 A Phase 1 archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site at the Infant School in 2017 (Perkins 2017). The Phase 2 archaeological evaluation was located on the Junior school site and consisted of four trenches: Trenches 4-7.
- 2.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation (Hawkins 2019) detailed the methodology by which the archaeological investigation was undertaken. The WSI followed Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2015) and those of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014). The evaluation was supervised by Matt Edmonds. The site was project managed by Helen Hawkins for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and monitored by Adam Single, the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advice Service (GLAAS) Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Havering.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The site had an archaeological planning condition attached to the planning permission (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:-

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, April 2019

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.'

- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 The site continued to use the site code WTA17, assigned to the first phase of evaluation. The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA).
- 2.8 There were no Scheduled Monuments on or close to the site.

3 EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The evaluation addressed the following primary objectives outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2019):
 - 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 if the possible 'hollow way' runs thought the evaluation area;
 - 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.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The geological and topographical background cited below was obtained from the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (Hawkins 2019).

4.2 Geology

- 4.2.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales defined the local geology of the Crownfield School site as being of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and 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.
- 4.2.2 Natural geology of clay with gravel layers were recorded in all of the trenches between 22.15m OD and 22.08m OD. In this part of the site the natural is relatively flat when compared to the gradual slope encountered in other trenches excavated on this site during the Phase 1 works (Perkins 2017).

4.3 Topography

- 4.3.1 The site sloped gently from east to west into the valley created by the River Rom, at a height of c.25m OD at the eastern boundary to c.22m OD at the western boundary.
- 4.3.2 The River Rom flowed north to south adjacent to the western boundary of the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The archaeological 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 2019).

5.2 Prehistoric

- 5.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic date are known from within a 1km radius of the study site.
- 5.2.2 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).
- 5.2.3 In this section of the Thames Valley, Mesolithic worked flint material occurs within multiperiod assemblages recovered by field walking, in sediments exposed at intertidal 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.
- 5.2.4 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.
- 5.2.5 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.
- 5.2.6 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.
- 5.2.7 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.
- 5.2.8 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.

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 The line of the projected London to Colchester Roman road is c.1.37km south of the study site.
- 5.3.2 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.
- 5.3.3 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.
- 5.3.4 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.
- 5.3.5 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.
- 5.3.6 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.

5.4 Saxon & Early Medieval

5.4.1 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

5.5 Medieval

- 5.5.1 There are no settlements recorded near to the study site in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Domesday Online 2016).
- 5.5.2 Archaeological evaluation c.340m north of the study site on White Hart Lane identified pits containing sherds of 13th and 14th century pottery.
- 5.5.3 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.
- 5.5.4 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.
- 5.5.5 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.
- 5.5.6 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.
- 5.5.7 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.
- 5.5.8 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.

5.6 Post-Medieval

- 5.6.1 The 1618 map of the Liberty of Havering shows the 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.
- 5.6.2 By 1777 little change is shown to the 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.
- 5.6.3 The 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows the study site in more detail, which appears to be in use as agricultural land.
- 5.6.4 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.

5.7 Modern

- 5.7.1 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.
- 5.7.2 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.
- 5.7.3 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.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The Phase 2 works consisted of the excavation of four trenches (Trench 4, Trench 5, Trench 6 and Trench 7) which were arranged in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2019).
- 6.2 The trench numbering followed on from the three trenches excavated during Phase 1 works (Perkins 2017).
- 6.3 The dimensions of each trench were detailed in the following table:

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Upper height
					at top (m OD)
4	NE-SW	10.00	2.00	0.49	22.42
5	E-W	10.00	2.00	0.72	22.63
6	NE-SW	10.00	2.00	0.72	22.65
7	E-W	10.00	2.50	0.50	22.62

- 6.4 A JCB (3CX) mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used to dig the evaluation trenches. Machine excavation continued under archaeological supervision until natural geology or archaeologically significant horizons, were encountered, upon which excavation was continued by hand.
- 6.5 All mechanical excavation was supervised by the author or an experienced archaeologist and proceeded in 100mm spits.
- 6.6 Trenches were CAT scanned after each spit in order to check for buried services.
- 6.7 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- The locations of the trenches were determined using a GPS. The same device was also used to establish a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) at a height of 22.56m OD. Levels on archaeologically relevant structures and strata were taken from this TBM using a dumpy level.
- 6.9 The evaluation followed CIFA guidelines, and the methodologies set out in Historic England (GLAAS) Guidance Papers for standards and practices in archaeological fieldwork.
- 6.10 The complete archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive (MLAA).

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Archaeological Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded in all four trenches was firm, mid-light orangey brown naturally deposited clay.
- 7.1.2 These natural deposits are tabulated below:

Trench	Context no.	Maximum height (m OD)
4	23	22.08
5	14	22.11
6	17	22.15
7	20	22.01

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

7.2 Archaeological Phase 2: Sub-Soil

- 7.2.1 Capping these natural deposits were layers of subsoil which were described as loose mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional gravels and medium sub-angular stones.
- 7.2.2 Layers of sub-soil were encountered in all of the trenches and have been tabulated below:

Trench	Context no.	Thickness (m)	Maximum Height (m OD)
4	22	0.25	22.32
5	13	0.34	22.41
6	16	0.40	22.45
7	19	0.20	22.43

7.3 Archaeological Phase 3: Topsoil

- 7.3.1 Sealing these sub-soil layers were layers of topsoil which were described as loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional roots and occasional medium sub-rounded and sun-angular stones.
- 7.3.2 Layers of topsoil were encountered in all of the trenches excavated and have been tabulated below:

Trench	Context no.	Thickness (m)	Maximum Height (m OD)
4	21	0.22	22.40
5	12	0.28	22.63
6	15	0.22	22.63

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Trench	Context no.	Thickness (m)	Maximum Height (m OD)
7	18	0.26	22.61

7.3.3 All layers of topsoil were capped by layers of turf which formed the modern surface of playing fields and outdoor areas associated with the Crownfield Junior School.

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 A number of aims and objectives were identified prior to the excavation:

To determine the natural topography of the site

- 8.1.1 Four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site at a depth of up to 0.72m below the current ground level. Natural drift deposits of clay-with-gravel were recorded in all of the evaluation trenches.
- 8.1.2 The site was located on a plateau partly created for the school recreation field. Previous evaluation trenches across the site had shown a gradual, descending slope west and south towards the River Rom valley.
- 8.1.3 Natural geology of clay gravel layers were encountered in all of the trenches between 22.15m OD at its highest and 22.08m OD lowest. This suggested the original land surface was fairly flat in this part of the site.

To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity

8.1.4 Despite the presence of some potential prehistoric finds and features in the first phase of evaluation trenches no evidence of prehistoric activity was encountered during this phase of fieldwork.

To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity

8.1.5 No evidence of Roman activity was found during the evaluation.

To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity

8.1.6 No evidence of medieval activity was found during the evaluation.

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

8.1.7 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 during the construction of the school.

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 of the archaeological resource.

8.1.8 The site 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 potential

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- archaeological resource, followed by the terracing and landscaping of the surrounding playing fields and outdoor areas.
- 8.1.9 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 MLAA under site code WTA17.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank James Archer of CgMS Limited for commissioning the work. We would also like thank Adam Single, archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Havering, for monitoring the site works on behalf of the borough.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Helen Hawkins for her project management and the editing of this report, Ester Capuz-Duran for her assistance in the field and Diana Valk for the CAD illustrations.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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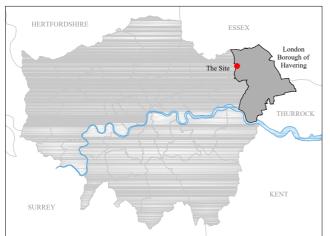
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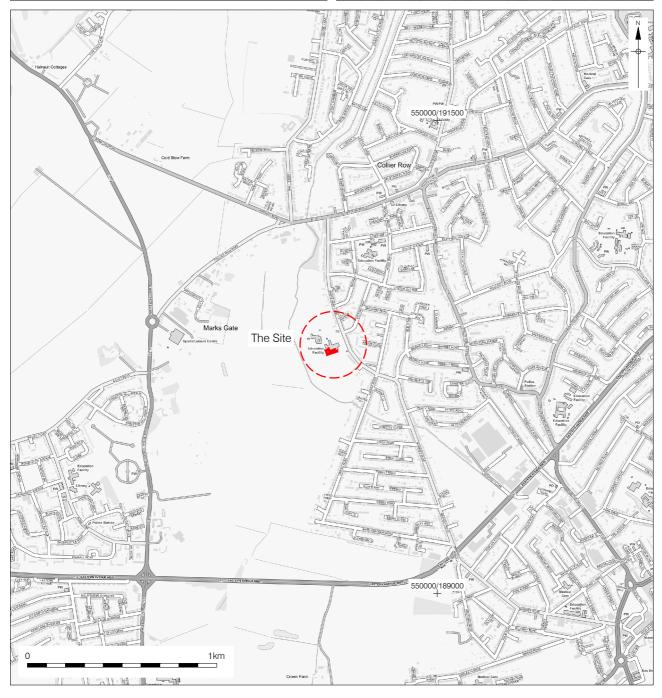
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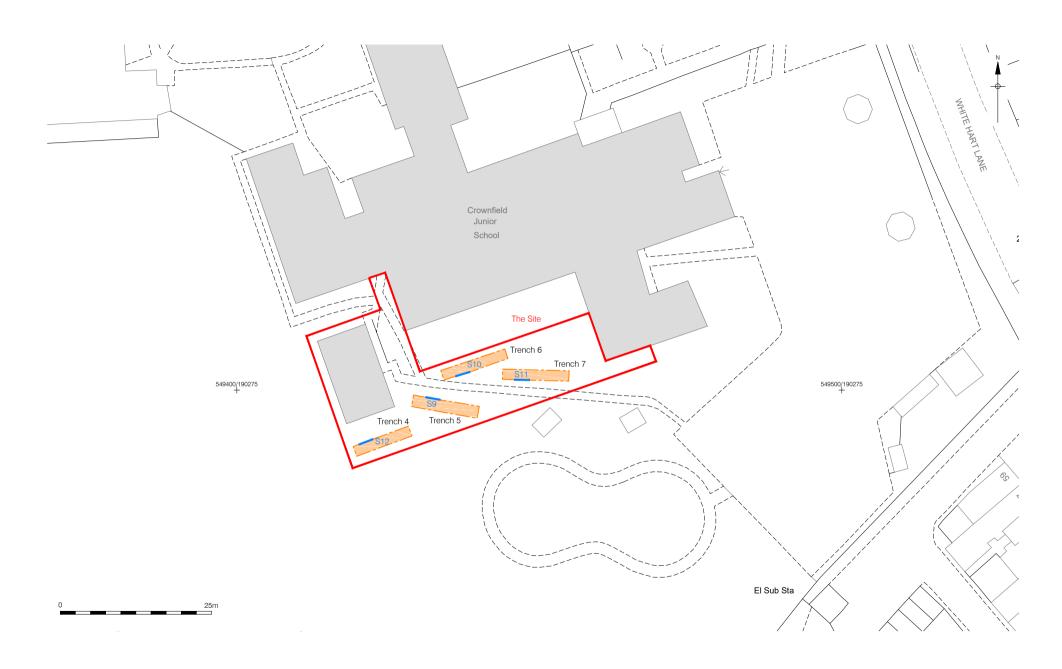
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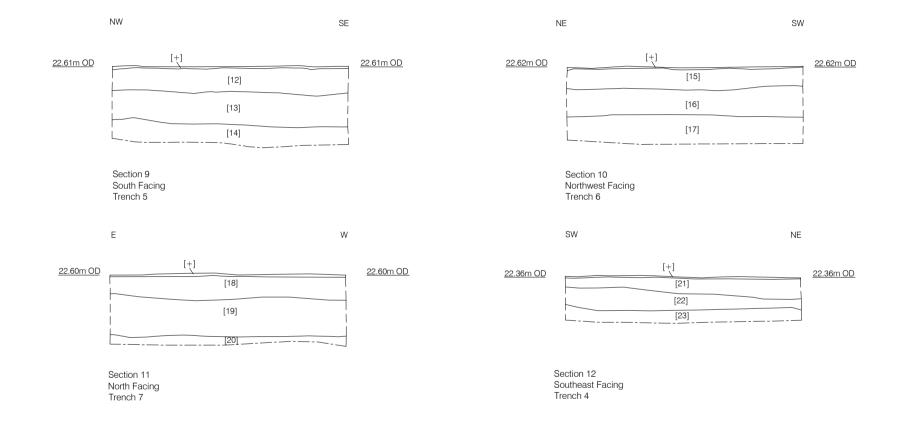
Website: British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk











APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: West Facing View of Trench 4 (1m Scale)





Plate 2: West Facing View of Trench 5 (1m Scale)

Plate 3: East Facing View of Trench 6 (1m Scale)





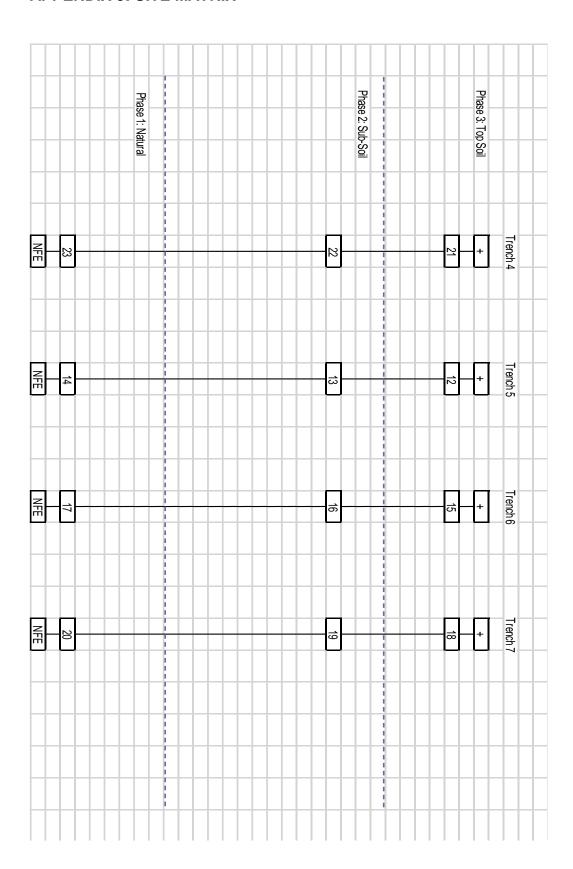
Plate 4: East Facing View of Trench 7 (1m Scale)

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APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Trench	Interpretation	Highest	Lowest	Phase
				Level (m	Level (m	
				OD)	OD)	
12	Layer	5	Top Soil	22.63	-	3
13	Layer	5	Sub Soil	22.41	22.35	2
14	Layer	5	Natural	22.11	22.01	1
15	Layer	6	Top Soil	22.63	22.63	3
16	Layer	6	Sub Soil	22.45	22.41	2
17	Layer	6	Natural	22.15	22.13	1
18	Layer	7	Top Soil	22.61	-	3
19	Layer	7	Sub Soil	22.43	22.37	2
20	Layer	7	Natural	22.01	21.99	1
21	Layer	4	Top Soil	22.40	-	3
22	Layer	4	Sub Soil	22.32	22.20	2
23	Layer	4	Natural	22.14	22.08	1

APPENDIX 3: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-350104

Project details

Project name Crownfield School, White Hart Lane, Romford,

London Borough of Havering, RM7 8JB: An

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2

Short description of

the project

his report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Crownfield Junior School, White Hart Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM7 8JB. The archaeological evaluation consisted of four trenches located in the footprint of the new school extension. Natural clay was encountered within all four trenches at a maximum height of 22.15m OD in Trench 6 and 22.08m OD in Trench 4. A sequence of 20th century topsoil and sub-soil deposits was recorded overlying the natural

deposits.

Project dates Start: 16-04-2019 End: 18-04-2019

Previous/future

work

Yes / Not known

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 **NONE None**

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 Junior School, White Hart Lane,

Romford, London

Postcode RM7 8JB

Study area 100 Square metres

Site coordinates 51.591423044189 49395 90323

0.156913074582 51 35 29 N 000 09 24 E Point

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, April 2019

Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.08m Max: 22.15m	
Project creators		
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited	
Project brief originator	CGMS Heritage (part of the RPS Group)	
Project design originator	James Archer	
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins	
Project supervisor	Matt Edmonds	
Type of sponsor/funding body	School	
Name of sponsor/funding body	London Borough of Havering	
Project archives		
Physical Archive Exists?	No	
Digital Archive recipient	MLAA	
Digital Archive ID	WTA17	
Digital Contents	"none"	
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"	
Paper Archive recipient	MLAA	
Paper Archive ID	WTA17	
Paper Contents	"none"	
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Section"	
Project bibliography		
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)	
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