

A Summary Of The Archaeological Watching Brief Undertaken At Duke Street Baptist Chapel, Duke Street, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames.

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1792 7500

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, January 2008.**

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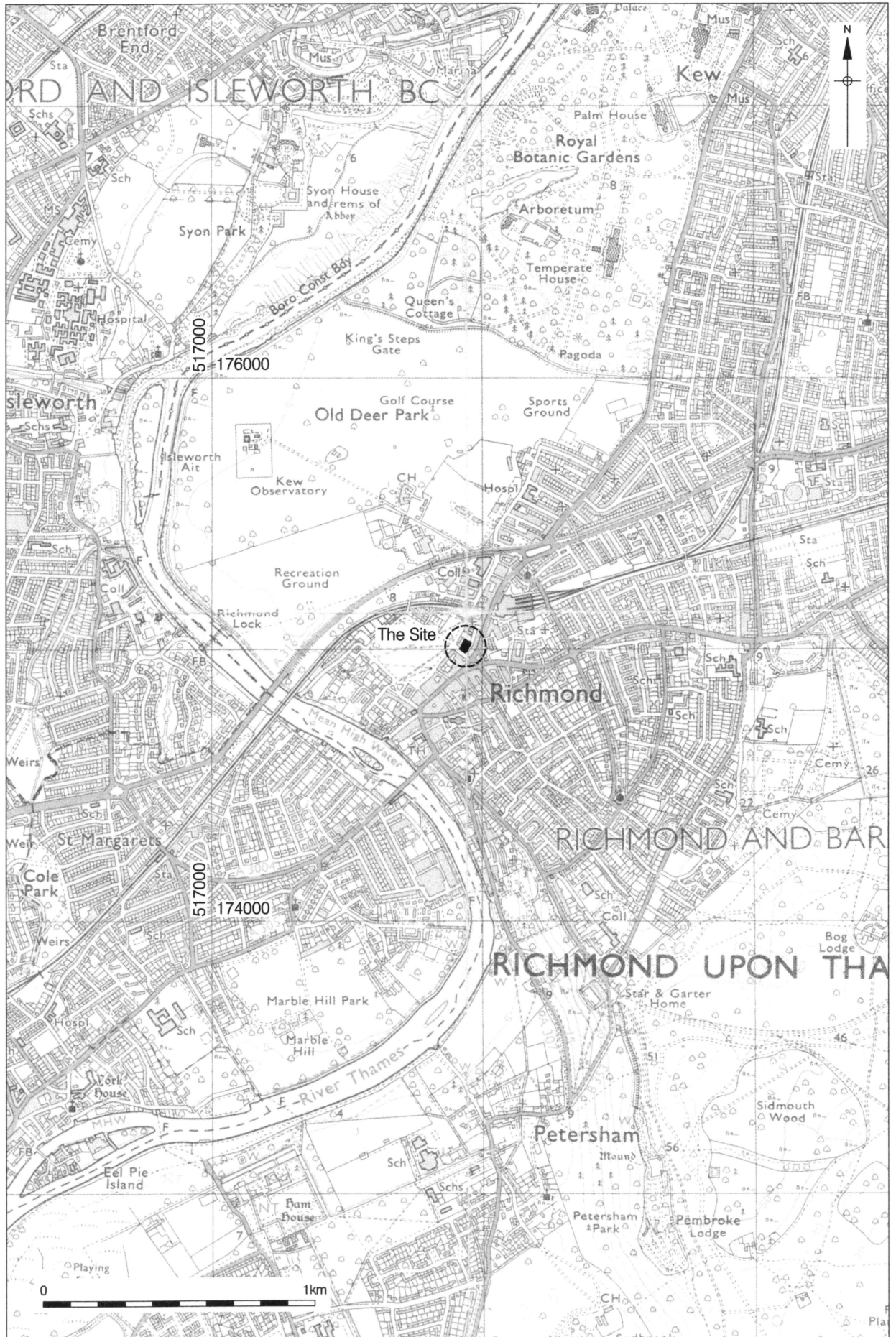
Website: www.pre-construct.com

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
January 2008**

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1 Introduction

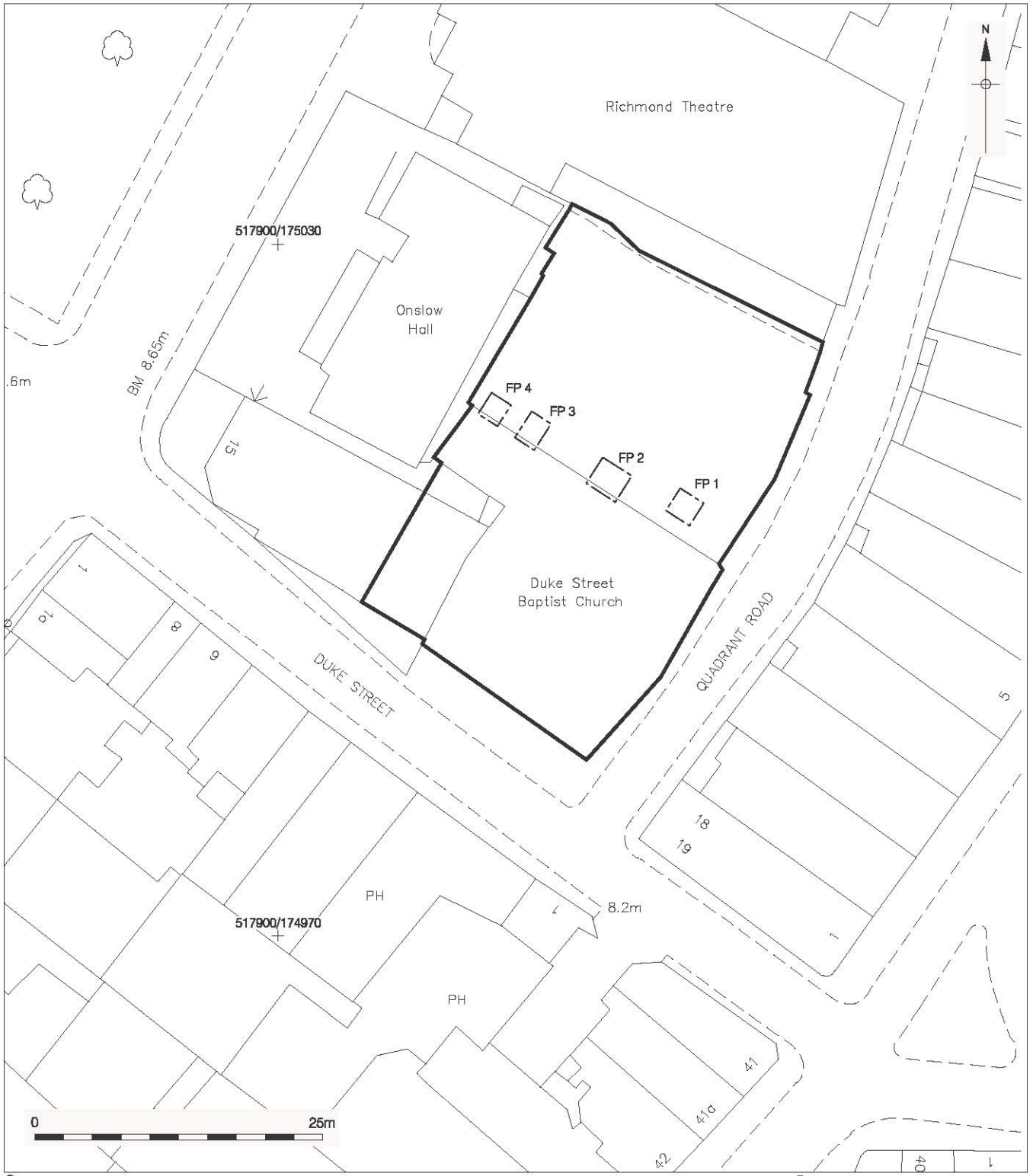
- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Alistair Douglas, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, at the Duke Street Baptist Church, Duke Street, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames (see Fig 1).
- 1.2 The site was visited on the 9th and 10th January 2008. The watching brief was carried out in order to fulfil the archaeological planning condition as specified by Mr M Stevenson of Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, on behalf of the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. The work was commissioned by Hunter Price Limited.
- 1.3 The site central national grid reference was TQ 1792 7500
- 1.4 The site has been given the unique site code DUQ 08.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Foundation Pit Location
 1:500 at A4

2 Archaeological Background

2.1 The site is located close to the historic town of Richmond. In the medieval period it was these back plots, close to the town that were often developed for small-scale industry such as metalworking and pottery¹.

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The following research objectives were identified in the method statement²

- What is the potential for Palaeolithic activities being recorded in the Terrace Gravels?

- What is the nature of the prehistoric activity at the site?

- Is there evidence for exploitation of the area in the Roman period?

- Is there evidence for Medieval remains at the site, particularly those related to the medieval settlement of Richmond.

¹ Letter by M Stevenson dated 21/11/07

² Project Design For An Archaeological Watching Brief At Duke Street Baptist Chapel, Duke Street, Richmond, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, PCA unpublished report.

4 Methodology

- 4.1 The watching brief entailed the monitoring of the ground reduction to project level at circa 7.20m OD and observation and recording of four foundation pad pits (FP1 – 4, see Fig 2). A 360° mechanical excavator carried out the excavation of the pits and the ground reduction.

- 4.2 Foundation pad pits FP1 and FP3 measured 2.20m x 2.20m x 1.20m deep; FP4 measured 2.20m x 2.0m x 1.20m, while FP2 was 3.0m x 2.20m x 1.55m deep.

5 Archaeological Results

- 5.1 The foundation pads were dug into truncated natural sand and gravel. The British Geological Survey 1 : 50 000 England and Wales Sheet 270 Solid and Drift Geology shows that the site is underlain by Kempton Park Gravel.
- 5.2 In FP1 and FP2 the basal layer was a natural orange sandy gravel 0.20m thick, recorded at a height of 6.30m OD. This was overlain by natural gravelly sand 0.65m thick recorded at 6.95m OD, which was capped by a natural mottled light brown and orangey yellow silty sand 0.25m thick and recorded at a height of 7.20m OD. This top layer of silty sand was disturbed by bioturbation, which had introduced very occasional flecks of ceramic building material and charcoal. In pits FP3 and FP4 sandy gravel was observed throughout the section.
- 5.3 It was observed that the natural deposits described above were covered by a mid brown silty sand with inclusion of occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of ceramic building material, about 0.40m thick (7.60m OD). A piece of medieval peg tile was recovered from this deposit. The layer was interpreted as medieval horticultural soil and it was removed as part of the general ground reduction across the site.
- 5.4 The development involves that the building in the southern part of the site is refurbished but remains standing. As part of these works the concrete floor slab was broken out and the ground reduced by c. 600mm. These works did reveal a late 19th century east/west aligned stepped brick wall foundation but this feature is not considered to be of archaeological importance.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The earliest deposit revealed during the watching brief was natural orange sandy gravel. This was overlain by natural gravelly sand, which was capped by a natural mottled light brown and orangey yellow silty sand. A layer of medieval horticultural soil capped the sequence. No archaeological structures or features were recorded during the watching brief. It is likely that the construction of the recently demolished building truncated any later structures which may have been present prior to its construction.

- 6.2 The results of the watching brief demonstrated that the development at Duke Street Baptist Church did not impact on any significant archaeological remains.

APPENDIX 1

Oasis Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-36910

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Duke Street baptist chapel, Duke street, London Borough of Richmond upon thames
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief undertaken 10th Jan 2008, monitoring pile foundation pits which encountered natural sands and gravels, sealed by medieval horticultural soil.
Project dates	Start: 10-01-2008 End: 10-01-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DUQ08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits', 'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES Duke Street Baptist Chapel, Duke Street, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Postcode	TW9
Study area	508.40 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1792 7500 51.4611774238 -0.302399131080 51 27 40 N 000 18 08 W Point
Height OD	Min: 7.20m Max: 7.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Alistair Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Hunter Price Limited
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hunter Price Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A Wathcing Brief undertaken at Duke Street Baptist Chapel, Duke Street, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Douglas, A.
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