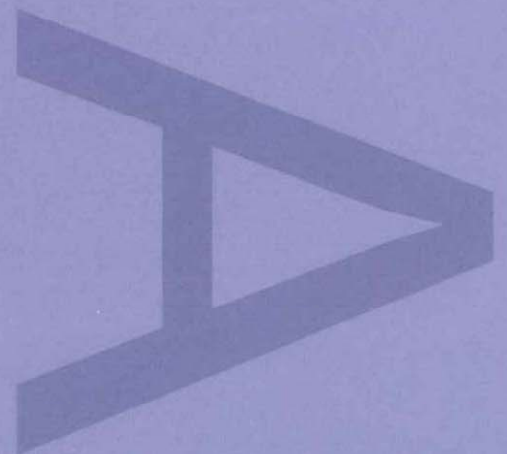
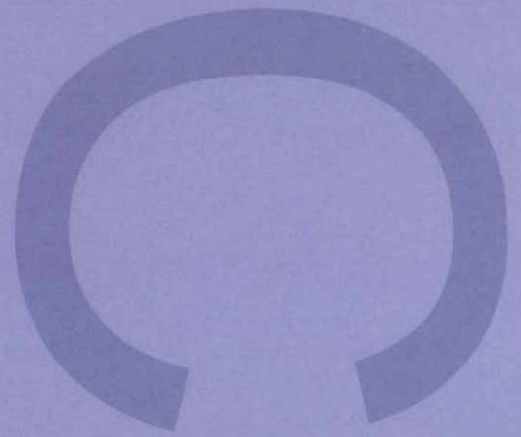
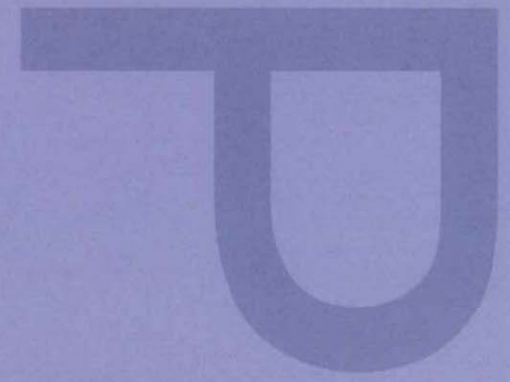


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT STONEGROVE
AND SPUR ROAD ESTATES,
EDGWARE, LONDON BOROUGH
OF BARNET**

SITE CODE: SSG08

MAY 2008



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Stonegrove and Spur Road Estates,
Edgware, London Borough of Barnet, HA 7**

Site Code: SSG 08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1846 9283.

Written by Peter Boyer

Project Manager: Helen Clough

Commissioning Client: RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Barratt Homes

Contractor:

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

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: hclough@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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CONTENTS

1	Abstract.....	3
2	Introduction	4
3	Geology and Topography.....	7
4	Archaeological and Historical Background	8
5	Planning Background and Research Objectives.....	10
6	Methodology.....	12
7	Archaeological Sequence.....	13
8	Discussion and Conclusions.....	21
9	Acknowledgements	23
10	Bibliography	24
	APPENDIX 1: Context Index.....	25
	APPENDIX 2: Site Matrix.....	27
	APPENDIX 3: Finds Spot Dating.....	28
	APPENDIX 4: OASIS Form.....	30

ILLUSTRATIONS

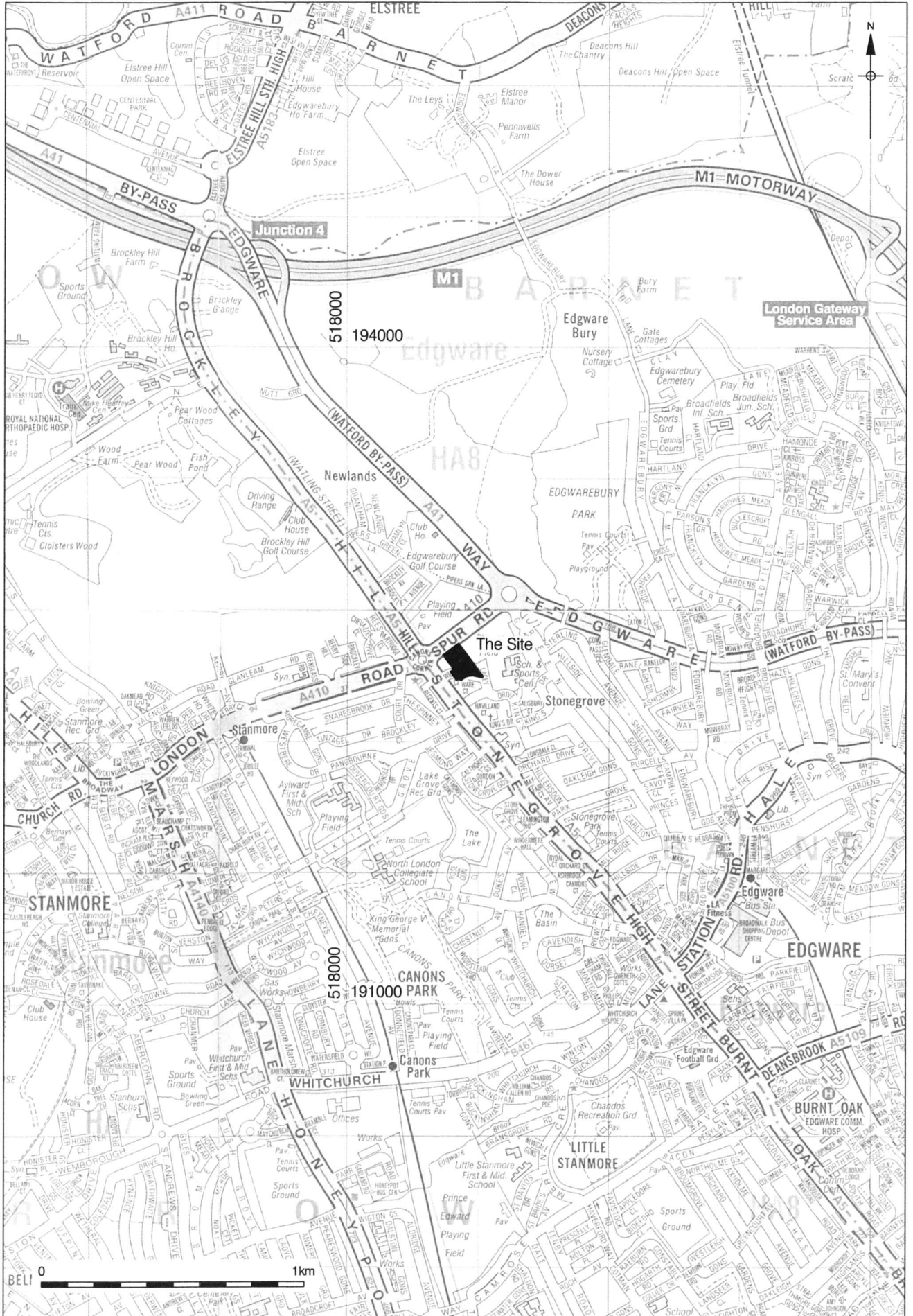
Figure 1: Site Location	5
Figure 2: Trench Locations	6
Figure 3: Approximate Location of large depression	19
Figure 4: Sections 1-5.....	20

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 During February 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological evaluation on a former school sports field at Stonegrove and Spur Road Estates, Edgware, London Borough of Barnet. Eleven trial trenches measuring between 10.3m and 44.6m in length, by up to 2m in width were excavated at locations across the site.
- 1.2 In all trenches the earliest deposit identified was a layer of natural clay. In eight of the trenches (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12) this had been partly truncated by an extensive depression, which appears to have occupied most of the site. This had initially silted up naturally, but was subsequently backfilled with domestic rubbish and demolition rubble during the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 1.3 In the other three trenches (7, 13 and 14) the natural clay was overlain by recent rubble and modern materials used to level the ground surface for the school sports field.
- 1.4 Apart from the large depression and a very modern posthole (still containing its wooden post), towards the northeast corner of the site, no other archaeological features were present. Finds recovered were mostly contemporary with the 19th and 20th century rubbish and rubble deposition, though occasional artefacts of an earlier date were also recovered.

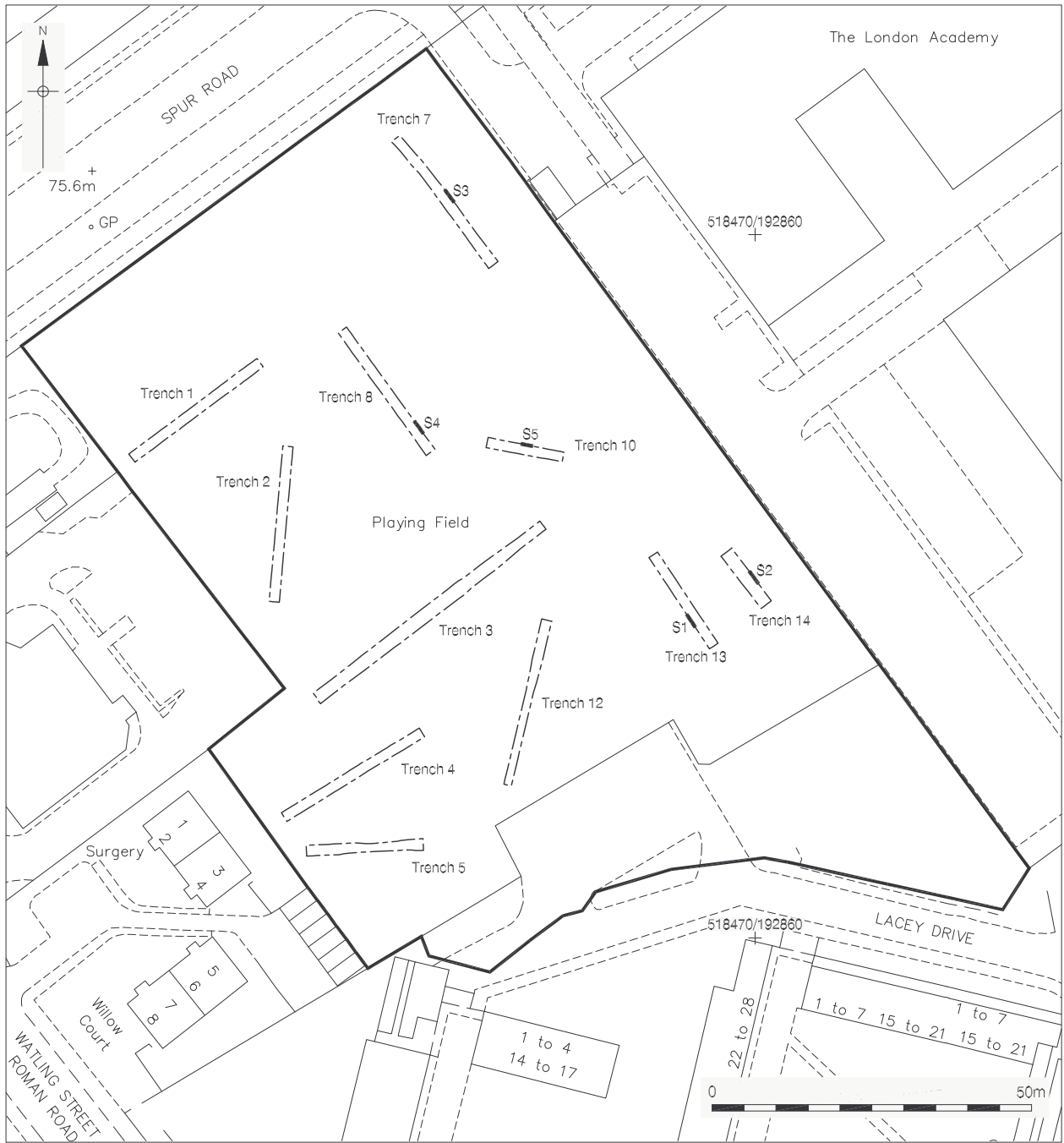
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 During the period 6th – 19th February 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological evaluation on a former school sports field at Stonegrove and Spur Road Estates, Edgware, London Borough of Barnet (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Martin Connell of RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Barratt Homes, and carried out as part of a planning condition prior to the redevelopment of the site for residential use. The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of eleven trial trenches (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The site was located close to the eastern side of the former Watling Street Roman Road and south of Brockley Hill, in an area which previous research had suggested was of moderate to high archaeological potential. In particular, the remains of possible Roman settlement were thought likely to be present, along with evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity.
- 2.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by RPS Planning and Development (RPS 2007), and a method statement was prepared by Helen Clough of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (Clough 2008). The site was supervised by Peter Boyer and project managed by Helen Clough.
- 2.4 The site was located at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1846 9283 and was allocated the site code SSG 08.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The underlying geology of the site as shown by the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 plan (Sheet 256, North London) is Eocene London Clay overlain by localised deposits of alluvium.

- 3.2 The site is sub-rectangular in shape, measuring up to 160m NW-SE by 90m NE-SW, and covering an area of c. 11,500 m². It is broadly level at c. 75m OD, with individual surface elevations varying between 73.66m OD and 75.22m OD across the site. The site is located directly to the south of Brockley Hill and some 400m southwest of the nearest water course; a small stream that runs down the western edge of Edgwarebury Park.

- 3.3 The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 1846 9283, and is bounded by properties fronting the A5 Stonegrove to the west, the A410 Spur Road to the north, the London Academy to the east, and Lacey Drive and the Stonegrove Estate to the south.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has previously been reported in an archaeological desk-based assessment of the area (AOC Archaeology Group 2007). The results of this work were summarised in the WSI (RPS 2007) and are again briefly recorded here.
- 4.2 There are no records within the immediate vicinity of the study site for activity during earlier prehistoric (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic) periods, though Mesolithic and Neolithic flints were recovered during fieldwalking by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) on fields approximately 1km northwest of the site in 1987 (RPS 2007, 3). A small number of flints of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date were also recorded at Bury Farm, c. 0.6km northeast of the site during an archaeological evaluation by Oxford Archaeology in 2005 (*ibid.*). A small number of Neolithic flints and a Bronze Age arrowhead have also been found closer to the site (RPS 2007, 2). Bronze Age occupation is further evidenced by finds of Bronze Age pottery, particularly to the north of the site in the Brockley Hill area, where William Stukely also recorded a Bronze Age barrow in 1776 (*ibid.*). A Middle Bronze Age bucket urn of Deverel-Rimbury type has also been recorded from Brockley Hill (Cockburn *et al.* 1969, 43). Finds of Belgic pottery and a small, undated, rectangular earth-banked enclosure may provide evidence of Iron Age Occupation on Brockley Hill (RPS *op. cit.*).
- 4.3 The evidence for activity during the Roman period in the vicinity of the site is far greater than for preceding periods. The western part of the site lies within the “Local Area of Special Archaeological Significance of Watling Street” as defined by the London Borough of Barnet (*ibid.*). The modern A5 Stonegrove follows the approximate route of the Roman road so the site may indeed lie very close to an area of high archaeological potential associated with Roman roadside activity. Furthermore, Brockley Hill is thought to be the site of *Sulloniacae*, recorded in the Antonine Itinerary. It was the site of a significant pottery industry, producing wares during the late 1st century AD though there was probably occupation here throughout the Roman period (Cockburn *et al.* 1969, 64).
- 4.4 Recent archaeological interventions have recorded further evidence of Romano-British activity in the area. An archaeological evaluation by AOC Archaeology in 2005 recorded evidence of a small Roman settlement to the northeast of the site, on the north side of Spur Road (Thatcher 2005). Interestingly, evaluation trenches to the south of the road, in the area now occupied by the London Academy and adjacent to the site, produced no such evidence.

- 4.5 An excavation by Oxford Archaeology in 2001, a short distance northwest of the site, in a field north of Canons Corner roundabout, revealed part of a Roman road surface with associated ditch and drainage channels, with 2nd – 4th century pottery being recovered (Smith 2001). Archaeological finds and features of Roman date were also recorded during an evaluation at London Road by Wessex Archaeology in 1995, just 200m northwest of the site (RPS 2007, 3). Further evidence of Roman activity was detected a little further afield during an excavation on a former MOD site in Stanmore some 500m to the northwest, by Oxford Archaeology in 2003 (*ibid.*). Further north along former course of Watling Street, archaeological interventions in 1995 and 2000 by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) recorded extensive evidence of Roman activity c. 1km from the site.
- 4.6 There is little evidence for Anglo-Saxon, medieval and earlier post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. It is likely that medieval and post-medieval settlement would have been concentrated further to the south in the historic core of Edgware, with the site lying within the agricultural hinterland (RPS 2007, 2). An archaeological evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at 76 Stonegrove, some 300m south of the site, revealed a ditch containing predominantly 18th century pottery, which was probably a feature associated with this post-medieval hinterland (Holden 2003).
- 4.7 Historic maps, whilst illustrating the expansion away from the historic cores of Edgware and Stanmore, and encroachment towards the site, suggest that the site has remained unaffected by development.

5 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Barnet Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians.
- 5.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance Department of the Environment, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.
- 5.3 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan, published on 10th February 2004. It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:

POLICY 4B.14 ARCHAEOLOGY

THE MAYOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE, THE MUSEUM OF LONDON AND BOROUGHs, WILL SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, INTERPRETATION AND PRESERVATION OF LONDON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. BOROUGHs IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THEIR UDPS FOR PROTECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS WITHIN THEIR AREA.

- 5.4 The relevant Development Plan Framework is provided by the Barnet Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in May 2006. The Plan contains the following policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

POLICY HC 16 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS – NATIONAL

THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS, INCLUDING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, ARE PRESERVED. THE COUNCIL WILL NOT PERMIT DEVELOPMENT WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS SUCH REMAINS.

POLICY HC17 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS – LOCAL

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH MAY AFFECT LOCAL AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MAY BE REFUSED. PROPOSALS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO:

- THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS;
- THE LIKELY IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE REMAINS;
- THE NEED FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT; AND
- THE MEASURES PROPOSED TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

POLICY HC18 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS – PRESERVATION

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MINIMISE DAMAGE TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WHERE PRACTICABLE. WHERE IMPORTANT REMAINS EXIST PRESERVATION IN SITU IS TO BE PREFERRED.

**POLICY HC19 – ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS – RECOGNISED
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION**

WHERE THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS ON SITE IS NOT APPROPRIATE, THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE A RECOGNISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATION, EXCAVATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PUBLICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS BEFORE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS. ALL SUCH WORK SHALL BE CARRIED OUT TO A FORMAT TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE COUNCIL.

- 5.5 The western part of the development site lies within the London Borough of Barnet's designated "Local Area of Special Archaeological Significance of Watling Street".
- 5.6 It is proposed to redevelop the site for residential purposes. The nature and scale of the proposed development suggests it is unlikely that any archaeological remains now present on the study site would survive the redevelopment process.
- 5.7 In response to an archaeological planning condition and the policies contained within the Borough UDP, a written scheme of investigation (RPS 2007) and a method statement (Clough 2008) were produced for a programme of archaeological work. An archaeological evaluation was thus carried out.
- 5.8 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions, and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 5.9 Within these parameters and given the archaeological and historical background, the evaluation presented the opportunity to address a number of research themes:
- Was there any evidence for late prehistoric settlement, funerary or agricultural activity in the area of the site, and if so, was there any evidence for temporal changes within this period?
 - Was there evidence for continuity of land use or settlement from the late prehistoric into the Roman period?
 - Was there any evidence of Roman activity associated with Watling Street and/or the small settlement identified to the north of Spur Road?
 - What evidence was there for post-Roman occupation and/or activity on the site?

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was carried out according to the WSI (RPS 2007) and the method statement (Clough 2008), though with a number of modifications to take account of logistical and safety concerns. The programme of work conformed to the IFA code of conduct.
- 6.2 It was initially intended to excavate thirteen trenches, twelve of them 25m long and 1.8m wide, and the thirteenth, 60m long and 1.8m wide, with proposed trenches 1 – 5 intended to specifically test for activity associated with Watling Street. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 12 (Figure 2) were excavated according to the intended methodology, though it was necessary to slightly alter the locations of Trenches 1 and 12 because of physical obstructions. The excavation methodology for a number of other trenches was modified for various reasons. Trenches 3, 5 and 13 were significantly foreshortened because of obstructions in the field, the location of Trench 5 was also slightly altered because of the obstructions. An extra trench (Trench 14) was excavated to compensate for the shortness of Trench 13. Trench 10 was only partly excavated because it became clear that further excavation would not expose significant archaeological remains. Trenches 6, 9 and 11 were not excavated at all, for the same reason, a course of action that was agreed with Kim Stabler of English Heritage, who monitored the evaluation on behalf of the London Borough of Barnet.
- 6.3 All trenches were machine excavated to the base of recent, unconsolidated deposits, or to a maximum depth of 1.2m where such deposits continued below this level. In such cases, temporary sondages were excavated in order to assess the extent of recent intrusions and then backfilled. All machining was undertaken by a 180° wheeled excavator using a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision. Where possible, the longitudinal sections and bases of the trenches were then cleaned, and sample sections and base plans recorded. Exposed sections and spoil heaps were also checked in order to collect any dateable evidence and assess the extent of residual finds preservation. A written, drawn and photographic record of each trench was made, and the location of each trench was recorded and tied into local and national grids.
- 6.4 A temporary benchmark (value 74.48m OD) was established on a concrete slab located towards the southern edge of the site. This was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark (value 81.36m), located on the northwest corner of the house at 25 London Road, to the north of the site.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 TRENCH 1

7.1.1 This trench was located towards the northwest corner of the site (Fig. 2) and aligned NE-SW. It measured 25m NE-SW by 1.6m NW-SE. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [33], recorded at an upper elevation of 73.63m OD. This had been truncated by an extensive feature [51] across much of the trench. A sondage at the eastern end of the trench indicated that this truncation extended down to a level of at least 73.15m OD. The fill of cut [51] was a soft, dark brownish yellow organic clay, containing frequent demolition rubble [31] and was up to 0.6m thick. It was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.20m OD and probably dated to the 19th century at the earliest. The fill was overlain by a thin deposit of friable, mid brownish grey silty clay [32], also containing frequent demolition rubble. This in turn was overlain by a 0.20m thick deposit of weakly cemented, light brownish orange clayey sand [30]. It contained ceramic building material (CBM) dated no earlier than 1850, glass dated to the 19th/20th centuries and pottery dated no earlier than 1840, though the material was probably deposited in the second half of the 20th century. It was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.40m OD. The sequence was capped by a layer of topsoil [29] recorded at an upper elevation of between 74.40m OD and 74.60m OD. Although clearly modern, this contained CBM and pottery, which may have dated as early as the mid 19th century.

7.2 TRENCH 2

7.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the southeast of Trench 1 (Fig. 2) and aligned north-south. It was only exposed in a machine-excavated sondage and recorded at an upper measured 24.40m north-south by 1.6m east-west. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [40], the equivalent deposit to [33] in Trench 1. It elevation of 73.33m OD. It was extensively truncated by a large cut [52] (the equivalent of [51] in Trench 1), the base of which was recorded at 72.24m OD at the western end of the trench. The basal fill was a plastic, dark bluish green clay [39] containing large CBM fragments. It was at least 0.20m thick and recorded at an upper elevation of 73.57m OD. It was overlain by a 0.35m thick deposit of plastic, mid greyish yellow, redeposited natural clay (38), recorded at an upper elevation of 73.92m OD. Both of these layers were probably deposited in the 19th century.

7.2.2 Deposit [38] was overlain by a layer of firm, mid greyish brown clay [37], which was up to 0.5m thick and contained significant quantities of demolition rubble. This was overlain by a 0.25m thick deposit of weakly cemented, mid brownish orange gravelly sand containing occasional fragments of CBM [36] and recorded at an upper

elevation of 74.17m OD. This layer in turn was overlain by a thin deposit of friable, dark greyish brown silt [35]. These latter three layers appeared to have been deposited in the second half of the 20th century. The sequence was capped by a layer of topsoil [34] up to 0.4m thick and recorded at a surface elevation of between 74.53m OD and 74.62m OD. This was clearly a modern deposit, despite containing CBM and pottery which dated as early as the early 19th or even late 18th century.

7.3 TRENCH 3

7.3.1 This trench was located to the south of Trench 2 (Fig. 2) and measured 44.6m. It was aligned NE-SW and was 2m wide. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [23] equivalent to that recorded in other trenches, recorded at an upper elevation of 73.43m OD. This had been truncated by an extensive feature [53] (also equivalent to that in other trenches) across much of the trench. The base of this feature was recorded at 72.36m OD in a machine-excavated sondage at the western end of the trench and at 72.85m OD in a sondage at the eastern end of the trench. It was filled with a 1m+ thick deposit of plastic to soft, dark grey organic clay [22], which became mid yellowish brown with increased elevation. The clay fill was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.31m OD and appears to have been a predominantly 19th century dumping deposit, though may have included later intrusive material. The clay fill was overlain by a layer of friable, dark brown silt [21], at least 0.2m thick. This contained CBM dated no earlier than 1850 and glass dated no earlier than 1898. The material was probably deposited in the latter half of the 20th century.

7.3.2 The sequence was capped with a layer of topsoil [20], recorded at a surface elevation of between 74.41m OD and 74.71m OD. This also contained CBM and glass, similarly dated to that from the layer below, though was clearly a modern deposit.

7.4 TRENCH 4

7.4.1 This trench was located south of Trench 3 towards the southwest corner of the site (Figs. 2 & 3) and aligned NE-SW. It measured 26.3m NE-SW by 1.8m NW-SE. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [11] (equivalent to that recorded elsewhere), recorded at an upper elevation of 73.63m OD. This layer had been truncated by an extensive feature [54] (also recorded elsewhere) across much of the trench. A machine-excavated sondage recorded the base of the feature at 72.29m OD. The feature was filled with at least 0.8m of variably compacted, dark grey silt [10], which included some CBM fragments, and appears to have been deposited from the 19th century. The fill was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.11m OD and was overlain by at least 0.3m of plastic to soft, mid yellowish brown silty clay [9], which appeared to comprise redeposited natural clay and domestic rubbish, including

a discarded metal music box (SF <2>). Other finds included CBM, glass and pottery dating to the mid 19th century and later, though this material was probably deposited in the later 20th century. The layer was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.41m OD and was overlain by up to 0.4m of topsoil [8] recorded at an upper elevation between 73.81m OD (west) and 74.81m OD (east), the surface sloping significantly at the western edge of the site. Although clearly modern, the topsoil contained CBM, glass and pottery that may have dated as early as the mid 19th century.

7.5 TRENCH 5

7.5.1 This trench was located in the southwest corner of the site (Figs. 2 & 3) and aligned east-west. The trench measured 18.3m in length and was up to 1.76m wide. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [7] (equivalent to that recorded elsewhere), recorded at an upper elevation of 73.17m OD. The natural clay had been truncated by an extensive feature [55] (also recorded elsewhere) across much of the trench. A machine-excavated sondage recorded the base of the feature at 72.21m OD. The feature was filled with at least 0.8m of dark grey, organic silty clay [6], becoming mid yellowish brown with increased elevation and including some CBM fragments, which appears to have been deposited from the 19th century. The fill was recorded at an upper elevation of 73.97m OD and was overlain by at least 0.3m of variably compacted, dark grey silt [5], which contained building material dating no earlier than 1940. Other finds included pottery dating to the mid 19th century and later, though this material was probably deposited in the later 20th century. This layer was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.27m OD and was overlain by up to 0.2m of topsoil [4] recorded at an upper elevation between 73.82m OD (west) and 74.47m OD (east). Although clearly modern, the topsoil contained pottery that may have dated as early as the early 19th century.

7.6 TRENCH 7

7.6.1 This trench was located towards the northeast corner of the site (Figs. 2 & 4) and aligned NW-SE. It measured 25m NW-SE by 1.8m NE-SW. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish brown, natural clay [28], recorded at an upper elevation of between 73.95m OD and 74.02m OD. The natural clay was overlain by a 0.2m thick intermittent deposit of plastic, mid greyish blue gravely clay [27], probably laid down in the 19th century. Natural clay [28] was also overlain by a 0.47m thick deposit of plastic, mid yellowish brown, redeposited natural clay [26], recorded at an upper elevation of 74.46m OD and containing a Victorian coin (SF <1>). This layer in turn was overlain by a 0.58m thick deposit of friable, dark brown silt [25]. The silt deposit contained ceramic building material (CBM) dated no earlier than 1850 and pottery dated no earlier than 1830, though this and the underlying material were probably

deposited in the second half of the 20th century. Deposit [25] was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.76m OD. At the northwestern end of the trench this had been truncated by a rather recent posthole, which still had its undecayed, wooden post *in situ*. The sequence was capped by a layer of topsoil [24] recorded at an upper elevation of between 74.65m OD and 74.84m OD. Although clearly modern, the topsoil contained pottery which may be early 19th century in date.

7.7 TRENCH 8

7.7.1 This trench was located in the northern central area of the site (Figs. 2 & 4) and aligned NW-SE. It measured 24.5m NW-SE by 1.6m NE-SW. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [45], recorded at an upper elevation of 73.57m OD. This had been truncated by an extensive feature [56] across much of the trench. A sondage at the northern end of the trench indicated that this truncation extended down to a level of at least 73.21m OD. The fill of cut [56] was a plastic to soft, dark bluish grey organic clay [44] and was up to 0.7m thick. The fill was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.25m OD and probably dated to the 19th century at the earliest. The fill was overlain by a 0.2m – 0.3m thick deposit of plastic, mid brownish yellow, redeposited natural clay [43]. This deposit in turn was overlain by a 0.2m to 0.3m thick deposit of weakly cemented, mid yellowish orange gravelly sand [42]. The sand layer contained ceramic building material (CBM) dated no earlier than 1850, glass dated to the 19th/20th centuries and pottery dated no earlier than 1800, though the material was probably deposited in the second half of the 20th century. The layer was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.60m OD.

7.7.2 The sequence was capped by a layer of topsoil [41] recorded at an upper elevation of between 74.57m OD and 74.68m OD. Although clearly modern, this contained CBM, which may have dated as early as the mid 19th century.

7.8 TRENCH 10

7.8.1 This trench was located to the east of Trench 8 (Fig. 2) and demonstrated a similar stratigraphic sequence to that found in Trench 8. It was aligned WNW-ESE and measured 12.1m in length by 1.6m in width. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [50] (equivalent to [45] in Trench 8). This layer had been truncated by an extensive feature [57] (equivalent to that recorded in other trenches) across much of the trench. The fill of cut [57] was a plastic, dark bluish grey organic clay [49]. The fill was recorded at an upper elevation of 73.52m OD and probably dated to the 19th century at the earliest. The fill was overlain by a thick deposit of plastic, mid brownish yellow, redeposited natural clay [48]. This deposit in turn was overlain by a 0.2m thick deposit of weakly cemented, mid yellowish orange

gravelly sand [47]. The sand layer contained ceramic building material (CBM) dated no earlier than 1850, though the material was probably deposited in the second half of the 20th century. The sand layer was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.54m OD.

- 7.8.2 The sequence was capped by a layer of topsoil [46] recorded at an upper elevation of between 74.64m OD and 74.70m OD. Although clearly modern, this contained pottery, which may have dated as early as the late 18th century.

7.9 TRENCH 12

- 7.9.1 This trench was located to the east of Trenches 4 and 5 (Figs. 2 & 3) and was aligned NNE-SSW. It was 26.5m long and 1.6m wide. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid yellowish orange, natural clay [19] equivalent to that in other trenches and recorded at an upper elevation of 73.61m OD. This layer had been truncated by an extensive feature [58] (also equivalent to that in other trenches) across much of the trench. The base of this feature was recorded at 72.78m OD in a machine-excavated sondage at the southern end of the trench and at 72.89m OD in a sondage at the northern end of the trench. The feature was filled with a 0.5m+ thick deposit of friable, dark grey organic clay [18], which included some demolition rubble. The fill was recorded at an upper elevation of 73.98m OD and appears to have been a predominantly 19th century dumping deposit, though may have included later intrusive material. The fill was overlain by a layer of soft, mid yellowish brown, redeposited natural clay [17], at least 0.3m thick. The material was probably deposited in the latter half of the 20th century.

- 7.9.2 The sequence was capped with a layer of topsoil [16], recorded at a surface elevation of between 74.57m OD and 74.68m OD. This contained glass dated no earlier than 1888 and pottery dated no earlier than 1840, though was clearly a modern deposit.

7.10 TRENCH 13

- 7.10.1 This trench was located to the east of Trench 12 (Figs. 2 & 4) and was aligned NW-SE. It was 17.1m long and 1.6m wide. The basal deposit was a plastic to soft, mid yellowish orange natural clay [3] equivalent to that in other trenches and recorded at an upper elevation of 74.28m OD. The natural clay layer was overlain by up to 0.4m of plastic to soft, mid greyish brown silty clay [2], recorded at an upper elevation of 74.71m OD. Although this layer included clay tobacco pipe (CTP) dated no later than 1760 and pottery dated as early as 1830, it appears to have been deposited in the later 20th century. The layer was overlain by up to 0.4m of topsoil [1], recorded at a surface elevation of between 74.77m OD and 75.05m OD.

7.11 TRENCH 14

7.11.1 This trench was located immediately to the east of Trench 13 (Figs. 2 & 4) and was aligned NW-SE. It was 10.3m long and up to 2.1m wide. The basal deposit was a plastic, mid brownish yellow natural clay [15] equivalent to that in other trenches and recorded at an upper elevation of 74.81m OD. The natural clay was overlain by a friable, dark greyish brown silt [14] and a firm to plastic, dark yellowish brown silty clay [13], both up to 0.2m thick. The former was recorded at an upper elevation of 74.81m OD and the latter at 74.98m OD. Both layers appear to have been deposited in the later 20th century. They were overlain by up to 0.4m of topsoil [12], recorded at a surface elevation of between 75.00m OD and 75.22m OD. Although the topsoil contained CBM dated as early as 1850 and pottery dated as early as 1830, it was clearly a modern deposit.



Figure 3
Trench plan showing conjectured
extent of large depression
1:625 at A4

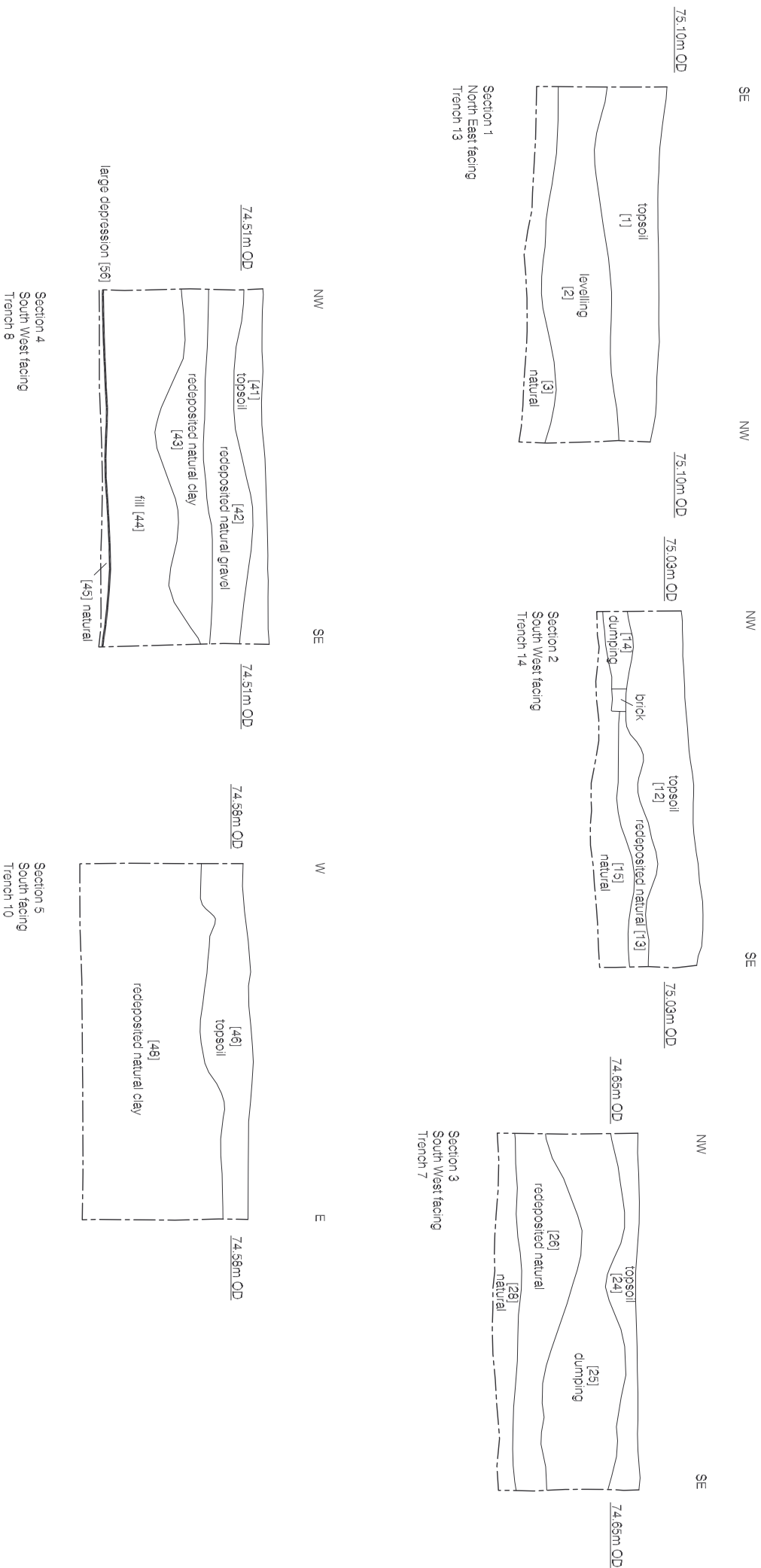


Figure 4
 Sections 1-5
 1:40 at A4

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 From the information derived from the evaluation trenches, four broad stratigraphic phases could be deduced:

- Phase 1: Natural
- Phase 2: 19th Century
- Phase 3: 20th Century
- Phase 4: Modern

8.2 Despite the moderate to high archaeological potential of the site and its apparent lack of previous development, prior to the archaeological investigations, no evidence of activity pre-dating the 19th century was found (although a small number of residual finds may have dated to earlier periods).

8.3 The earliest deposit encountered in all trenches was natural London Clay, the surface of which was recorded at elevations between 74.02m OD and 74.81m OD, though across much of the site it was recorded at maximum elevations much lower than this because of extensive truncation. In Trenches 4 and 5 in the southwest corner of the site, for example, the surface of the clay was recorded at a little over 73m OD.

8.4 The extensive truncation of the natural clay was caused by a large depression, which was recorded in eight of the eleven excavated trenches (Figure 3). The evidence from the evaluation suggests that this feature extended over a minimum area of 91m NW-SE by 75m NE-SW, and its base was recorded at a lowest level of 72.21m OD in Trench 5 at the southwest corner of the site. Only in Trenches 7, 13 and 14 along the northeastern edge of the site was this feature not recorded. It is unclear whether the depression was of natural or anthropogenic origin, although it was initially infilled naturally; a fine, organic silty clay being recorded at the base. However, cultural waste material was deposited into the feature, which intruded through the soft basal clay. The evidence from finds recovered suggests that this infilling began no earlier than the mid 19th century, and it may be that the depression was excavated a short time before this.

8.5 Infilling of the depression appears to have continued into the 20th century and numerous deposits representing individual deposition phases were observed. Once the feature had been completely infilled, deposition of waste material on the site continued, not only over the infilled depression but across the remainder of the site as well (up to 0.8m of rubble was recorded in Trench 7 towards the eastern edge of the site). Extensive dumping of building demolition rubble appears to have taken place across the site in the second half of the 20th century. This may have been contemporary with the construction of the Stonegrove Estate in the 1960s.

- 8.6 More recent deposition of various materials appears to have taken place in order to level the site in order that it could serve as a school sports field. Topsoil and turf was then laid down to provide a useable surface.
- 8.7 Historical research of the site suggested that it had experienced little disturbance and was historically a greenfield site. However, the evaluation has clearly shown that it has suffered extensive truncation and disturbance since the mid 19th century, which has significantly compromised any previously extant archaeological deposits. Interestingly, the large depression, its infill and the use of the site as a waste disposal area appears to have evaded record in historical cartographic and written sources.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Martin Connell of RPS Planning and Development for commissioning the work on behalf of his clients, Barratt Homes, who funded it. PCA would also like to thank Kim Stabler of English Heritage for monitoring the project.
- 9.2 The author wishes to thank Helen Clough for project management and editing this report, Sophie White and Richard Krason for their assistance on site, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, and Chris Jarrett for assessing the finds. Thanks also to Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

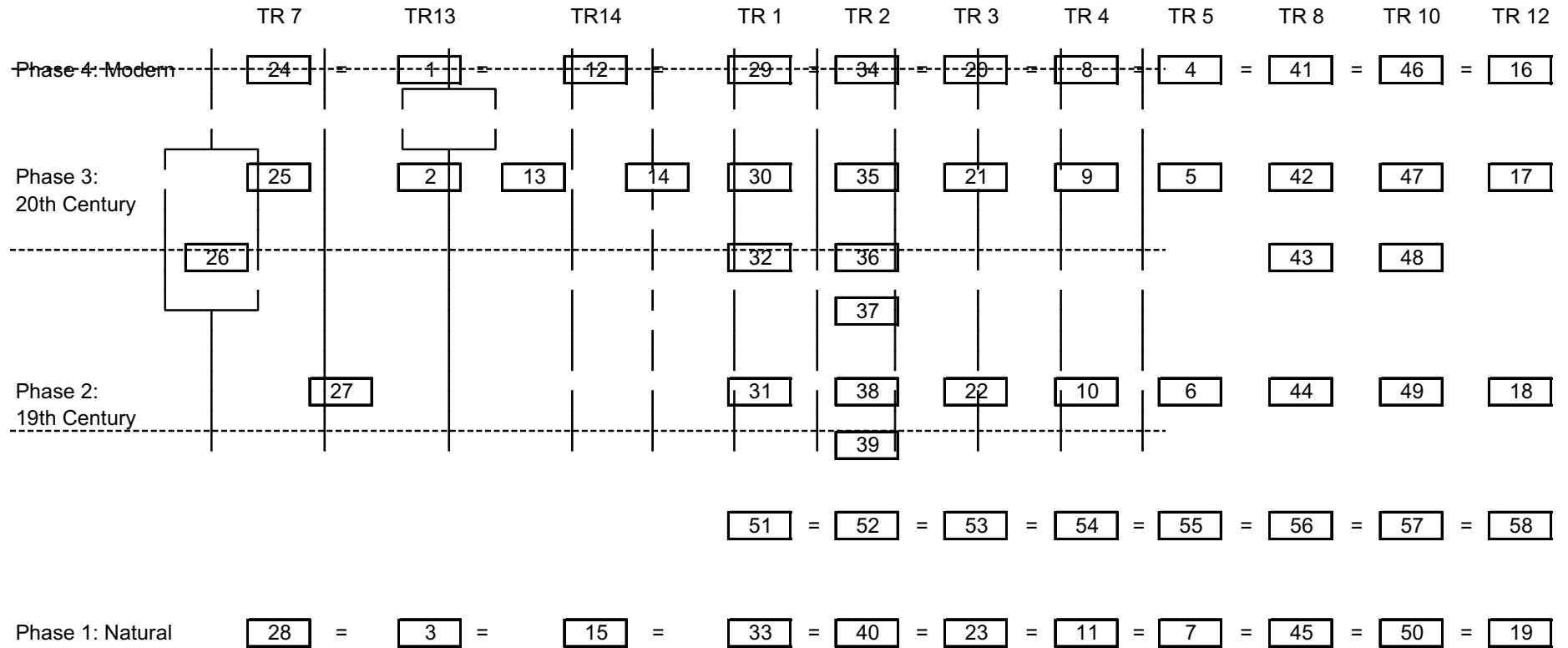
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Cxt. No	Type	Co-ords	Plan	Section	Date	Phase	Photo No.	Description
SSG08	1	Layer	TR 13	N/A	1	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	2	Layer	TR 13	N/A	1	20th C	3		Recent levelling deposit, redeposited natural clay
SSG08	3	Layer	TR 13	TR 13	1	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	4	Layer	TR 5	N/A	N/A	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	5	Layer	TR 5	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Recent rubble dump
SSG08	6	Fill	TR 5	TR 5	N/A	19th C	2		Redeposited natural, fill of [55]
SSG08	7	Layer	TR 5	TR 5	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	8	Layer	TR4	N/A	N/A	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	9	Layer	TR4	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Recent levelling deposit, redeposited natural clay
SSG08	10	Fill	TR4	TR 4	N/A	19th C	2		Dumped deposit, fill of [54]
SSG08	11	Layer	TR4	TR 4	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	12	Layer	TR 14	N/A	2	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	13	Layer	TR 14	N/A	2	20th C	3		Redeposited natural
SSG08	14	Layer	TR 14	N/A	2	20th C	3		Recent dumping deposit
SSG08	15	Layer	TR 14	TR 14	2	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	16	Layer	TR 12	N/A	N/A	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	17	Layer	TR 12	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Redeposited natural
SSG08	18	Fill	TR 12	TR 12	N/A	19th/20th C	2/3		Demolition rubble and fill of [58]
SSG08	19	Layer	TR 12	TR 12	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	20	Layer	TR 3	N/A	N/A	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	21	Layer	TR 3	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Mixed dumped deposit
SSG08	22	Fill	TR 3	TR 3	N/A	19th C	2		Redeposited natural, fill of [53]
SSG08	23	Layer	TR 3	N/A	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	24	Layer	TR 7	N/A	3	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	25	Layer	TR 7	N/A	3	20th C	3		Recent dumping deposit
SSG08	26	Layer	TR 7	N/A	3	20th C	3		Redeposited natural
SSG08	27	Layer	TR 7	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Redeposited clay
SSG08	28	Layer	TR 7	TR 7	3	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	29	Layer	TR 1	N/A	N/A	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	30	Layer	TR 1	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Recent demolition deposit
SSG08	31	Layer	TR 1	N/A	N/A	19th C	3		Dumped deposit, fill of [51]
SSG08	32	Fill	TR 1	TR 1	N/A	20th C	2		Recent rubble dump
SSG08	33	Layer	TR 1	N/A	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	34	Layer	TR 2	N/A	N/A	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	35	Layer	TR 2	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Recent levelling deposit
SSG08	36	Layer	TR 2	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Redeposited natural

Site Code	Cxt. No	Type	Co-ords	Plan	Section	Date	Phase	Photo No.	Description
SSG08	37	Layer	TR 2	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Recent demolition deposit
SSG08	38	Layer	TR 2	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Redeposited natural
SSG08	39	Fill	TR 2	TR 2	N/A	19th C	2		Organic clay fill of [52]
SSG08	40	Layer	TR 2	N/A	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	41	Layer	TR 8	N/A	4	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	42	Layer	TR 8	N/A	4	20th C	3		Redeposited natural gravel
SSG08	43	Layer	TR 8	N/A	4	20th C	3		Redeposited natural clay
SSG08	44	Fill	TR 8	TR 8	4	19th C	2		Organic clay fill of [56]
SSG08	45	Layer	TR 8	N/A	4	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	46	Layer	TR 10	N/A	5	Modern	4		Modern topsoil
SSG08	47	Layer	TR 10	N/A	N/A	20th C	3		Redeposited natural gravel
SSG08	48	Layer	TR 10	N/A	5	19th/20th C	2/3		Redeposited natural clay
SSG08	49	Fill	TR 10	TR 10	N/A	19th C	2		Organic clay fill of [57]
SSG08	50	Layer	TR 10	N/A	N/A	Natural	1		Natural clay
SSG08	51	Cut	TR 1	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	52	Cut	TR 2	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	53	Cut	TR 3	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	54	Cut	TR 4	TR 4	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	55	Cut	TR 5	TR 5	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	56	Cut	TR 8	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	57	Cut	TR 10	N/A	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression
SSG08	58	Cut	TR 12	TR 12	N/A	19th C	2		Cut of large depression

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: FINDS SPOT DATING

Chris Jarrett

Building material

Context	No. of fragments	Spot date
5	1	1940+
9	1	1940+
12	1	1940+
20	1	Undated
41	1	1940+

Ceramic building material

The majority of the ceramic building material in the assemblage consists of modern wall tiles, almost certainly dating to the 20th century.

Context	No. of fragments	Spot date
2	1	1180-1800
8	1	1850+
9	8	1850+
12	1	1850+
18	1	1850+
20	2	1850+
21	1	1850+
25	1	1850+
29	20	1850+
30	4	1850+
34	1	1800+
41	1	1850+
42	3	1850+
47	5	1850+

Clay tobacco pipes

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage consists only of stems and therefore can only be generally dated to between 1580-1910. Context [2] did contain only thick stems and therefore dated to before c.1760.

Context	No. of fragments	Spot date
2	2	1580-1760
5	2	1580-1910
46	2	1580-1910

Glass

Context	No. of fragments	Spot date
8	1	19th/20th C.
9	4	1872+
16	4	1888+
18	7	19th/20th C.+
20	3	1898+
21	4	1898+
30	1	19th/20th C. +
42	1	19th/20th C. +

Plastic

Context	No. of fragments	Spot date
8	1	20thc

Pottery

The majority of the pottery types present in the assemblage were first manufactured in the 19th century, but continued production into the 20th century or the present day.

Context	No. of fragments	Spot date
2	2	1830+
4	1	1800+
5	3	1800+
8	3	1830+
9	3	1830+
12	2	1830+
16	7	1840+
18	2	1800+
20	5	1800+
24	1	1800+
25	1	1830+
29	2	1800+
30	2	1840+
34	1	1780+
42	2	1800+
46	1	1780+

APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-38364

Project details

Project name Stonegrove and Spur Road Estates, Edgware

Short description of the project During February 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. carried out an archaeological evaluation on a former school sports field at Stonegrove and Spur Road Estates, Edgware, London Borough of Barnet. Eleven trial trenches were excavated at locations across the site. In all trenches the earliest deposit was a layer of natural clay. In eight of the trenches this had been partly truncated by an extensive depression, which appears to have occupied most of the site. This had initially silted up naturally, but was subsequently backfilled with domestic rubbish and demolition rubble during the 19th and 20th centuries. In the other three trenches the natural clay was overlain by recent rubble and modern materials used to level the ground surface for the school sports field. Apart from the large depression and a very modern posthole, towards the northeast corner of the site, no other archaeological features were present. Finds recovered were mostly contemporary with the 19th and 20th century rubbish and rubble deposition, though occasional artefacts of an earlier date were also recovered.

Project dates Start: 06-02-2008 End: 19-02-2008

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes SSG08 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BARNET EDGWARE Stonegrove and Spur Road Estates

Postcode HA 7

Study area	11500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1846 9283 51.6213282221 -0.288626335524 51 37 16 N 000 17 19 W Point
Height OD	Min: 73.01m Max: 74.81m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	RPS Planning and Development
Project brief originator	Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service
Project design originator	Helen Clough
Project director/manager	Helen Clough
Project supervisor	Peter Boyer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Barratt Homes

Project archives

Physical recipient	Archive LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey'
Paper Archive	LAARC

recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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P C A

PRE - CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 0207 732 3925 0207 639 9091

FAX: 0207 639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED (NORTHERN OFFICE)

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

