Little Ilford School,

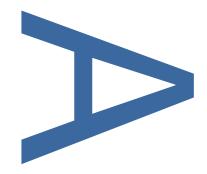
Browning Road,

llford, Newham,

E12 6JB.



Phase II Archaeological Evaluation



Planning reference	n/a		
Local planning authority	London Borough	of Newham	
report no.	R14629	Site Code	LIX21
project no	K7097	Date	August 2021
			TED

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

www.pre-construct.com

	Project Information					
Site name	Little Ilford School, Browning Road, Ilford, Newham, E12 6JB					
Project type	Phase II Archaeological Evaluation					
Site address	Little Ilford School, Browning Road, Ilford, Newham, E12 6JB					
NGR	TQ 4283 8518					
Local planning authority	London Borough of Newham					
Planning reference	n/a					
Commissioning client	RPS Group					
Project dates	27/07/2021-29/07/2021					
Archive site code	LIX21					

Information						
project code	K7097 report number R14629					
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of a Phase II archaeological evaluation commissioned by RPS Group undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Little Ilford School, Browning Road, Ilford E12 6JB. The site, in the London Borough of Newham, was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 4283 8518.
- 1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new teaching block in the southwestern part of the school complex.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was carried out between 26th-29th July 2021 and consisted of four trenches, three of which were divided into two parts either due to the presence of multiple services within the school's car park, or because of topographical constraints on site.
- 1.4 The evaluation exposed an archaeological sequence that was the product of two phases of modern activity at the site. Firstly, the impact caused by modern terraced housing that fronted onto Browning Road in the first half of the 20th century, and more recently the features of the current school car park.
- 1.5 No features or deposits from any period pre-dating the 20th century were extant at the site.
- 1.6 Natural deposits including silty sand and gravel were recorded within all evaluation trenches. These deposits were consistent with the results of the earlier geotechnical investigations at the site and were encountered at heights between 8.40-8.50m OD.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A Phase II archaeological evaluation was carried out at Little Ilford School, Browning Road, Ilford, E12 6JB in the London Borough of Newham (Figure 1). The site was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 4283 8518.
- 2.2 The work was required by a condition attached to the planning consent for the development, with the methodology outlined within a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by RPS Consulting Limited (RPS 2021). The fieldwork was carried out between 26th-29th July 2021.
- 2.3 The site covered an area of approximately 2.7 hectares, comprising an irregularly shaped plot of land occupied by the school and associated facilities. The boundaries of the Little Ilford School site were defined by Church Road to the north, residential properties to the east, Rectory Road to the south, and Browning Road to the west.
- 2.4 The site had been subject to a number of previous archaeological investigations in recent years. These works commenced with the compilation of an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment written by CgMS in 2014 (CgMS 2014). Following this an archaeological evaluation was carried out by AOC Archaeology in 2015 which consisted of nine trenches targeted on the footprint of a proposed new school building. Several ditches and postholes were identified during this fieldwork which contained prehistoric pottery (AOC 2015). This led to further mitigation in the form of an archaeological excavation within the eastern footprint of the new school building, and an associated watching brief on drainage works (AOC 2017). During this mitigation several Neolithic pits, a Late Prehistoric roundhouse, two Roman ditches and a single pit/posthole containing Saxon pottery were identified. Trial trenching and archaeological monitoring undertaken in 2020, prior to the construction of new sports pitches, identified features dating to the 19th and 20th century (Salford Archaeology 2020). Recently Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook further evaluation trenching (Phase I) that revealed no evidence of significant archaeological activity earlier than the post-medieval period. (Edmonds 2021). An archaeological watching brief on groundworks by PCA is also ongoing within the area of the 2021 Phase I evaluation trenches at the time of the compilation of this report, as requested by GLAAS, and will be reported on subsequent to the completion of the fieldwork.
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation consisted of four trenches within the south-western car park of the school, three of which were unevenly divided into two parts (Figure 2).
- 2.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
 - New Teaching Block, Little Ilford School, Browning Road, Ilford, London Borough of Newham: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation (RPS 2021)
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015).
 - Standards and guidance for an archaeological evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020).

- Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London (Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service HE GLAAS 2015).
- Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual, (Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018).
- 2.7 The investigation was conducted under the supervision of the author, was managed by Helen Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology and was monitored by Adam Single of Historic England on behalf of the London Borough of Newham. The archaeological work was commissioned by RPS Consulting Limited.
- 2.8 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) identified by the unique site code LIX21.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (www.bgs.ac.uk) indicated that the solid geology within the vicinity of Little Ilford School consisted of London Clay deposits, forming the London Basin, overlain by superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel.
- 3.2 A geotechnical investigation at the site in 2014 recorded a consistent horizon of made ground containing brick and glass fragments across the site overlying natural sand and gravel deposits. The depth of made ground varied between 0.45m and 0.70m, although in one location adjacent to the western boundary it was much deeper, extending to 1.50m below ground level (Nicholls Colton Geotechnical 2014). Similar results were obtained by a later geotechnical investigation (Jomas Associates 2021).
- 3.3 The site occupied roughly level ground, at a height of *c*.10m OD (Ordnance Datum).
- 3.4 The nearest water course, the River Roding, lay approximately 650m to the east of the school.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This chapter summarises the findings of the archaeological desk-based assessment by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2014), supplemented by the Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2021):
- 4.2 Prehistoric
- 4.3 Multiple Palaeolithic artefacts have been recorded within the area primarily recovered during 19th century quarrying, preventing identification of their exact location or context of origin. The closest location to the site where Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered is *c*. 250m to the north, consisting of a single handaxe and at least 11 worked flints. Other small assemblages of Palaeolithic material, including contemporary animal bones have been found in seven other locations scattered across the wider area.
- 4.4 Several residual fragments of Mesolithic worked flint were found during excavations at Uphall Road *c* 750m to the east of the site.
- 4.5 A small assemblage of Neolithic worked flint and pottery were recovered during the Uphall Road excavations, *c* 750m to the east of the site, which were interpreted as the remains of a seasonal hunting camp.
- 4.6 The same excavations identified a small number of cut features and finds relating to possible Middle Bronze Age occupation in the area. A later shift in the focal point of occupation appears to have occurred as a rectangular enclosure ditch, possible roundhouses, and a series of pits associated with Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age were identified further to the east.
- 4.7 Evidence for Iron Age activity within the study area primarily consists of evidence related to Uphall Iron Age Hillfort, formerly occupying a 48 acre area on the east bank of the River Roding, c. 650m to the east of the site. Prior to the clearance of the site in the 1960s, the original earthworks associated with the hillfort were recorded as surviving to a height of 6m. Evidence for Iron Age occupation of the hillfort were found during rescue excavations prior to the clearance of the site. Several Iron Age coins have been recovered from within the area of the hillfort.
- 4.8 Roman
- 4.9 The course of High Street North, running through the western part of the area, is thought to be Roman or medieval in origin. At its closest point, High Street North lies *c* 600m to the west of the site.
- 4.10 An enclosure and several burials of possible Roman date were found during the rescue excavations at Uphall Hillfort.
- 4.11 Saxon and Medieval
- 4.12 The name Ilford derives from the Saxon name associated with a fording point on the River Roding. The manor of Hamme, in which Ilford is located, is first documented in 958 when King Edgar granted land to an Ealdorman Athelstan of East Anglia.

- 4.13 Excavations undertaken in the early 1980s at the Church of St. Mary The Virgin, approximately 50m to the northeast of the site, revealed that a timber structure with a possible apsidal end predated the later 12th century church. Pottery evidence dated the postholes to the Late Saxon/Early Conquest period. Several contemporary burials were also found within the footprint of the church.
- 4.14 Documentary evidence suggests the presence of a Saxon Manor House in the vicinity of Dersingham Avenue, *c* 250m to the northeast of the site.
- 4.15 Historians have suggested that the original Saxon abbey in the vicinity of Barking was located adjacent to the River Roding *c* 1km southeast of the site.
- 4.16 By the 12th century the Church of St. Mary The Virgin had been rebuilt in stone, with excavations finding burials within the church and documentary research identifying reference to a medieval churchyard. The post-medieval, 18th century Church of St. Mary The Virgin, now stands on the site.
- 4.17 A medieval wharf was recorded adjacent to the River Roding.
- 4.18 Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from a ploughsoil horizon c 250m to the northeast of the site.
- 4.19 Post-medieval and Modern
- 4.20 During the majority of the post-medieval period, the site is likely to have been located within agricultural land immediately adjacent to the settlement at Little Ilford.
- 4.21 The earliest cartographic depiction of the site is shown on Chapman and Andre's map of 1777, locating the site in open ground immediately to the west of Little Ilford, in the vicinity of roadside properties.
- 4.22 The Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1839 indicates that the general northern part of the site is occupied by roadside plots containing houses, with fields present in the south.
- 4.23 The Little Ilford Tithe map of 1839 provides a detailed depiction of the site, with what appears to be two buildings, with associated garden plots, present adjacent to the road in the northwest part of the site. The remaining area of the site is occupied by two arable field plots.
- 4.24 The Ordnance Survey map of 1862 now only depicts a single roadside property and associated garden. The field to the rear of this property has been subdivided. The layout of the site remains unaltered in 1894-96.
- 4.25 By 1920 Browning Road now forms the western boundary with a consistent series of terraced houses having been constructed within the site boundary adjacent to the road. The plot containing the roadside property to the north now contains a rectangular glasshouse. The boundary dividing the fields to the rear has been removed with two small buildings having been constructed adjacent to the northern site boundary.

- 4.26 By 1939 the fields are now labelled as a Sports Ground. One of the small buildings has been demolished while a new pavilion and tennis courts have been constructed. The road side property to the north has also been demolished, which has been replaced by a Club house built outside the site boundary.
- 4.27 By 1961 a number of the terraced houses fronting onto Browning Road have been demolished to facilitate the construction of Rectory Manor Secondary School, School House and playing fields.
- 4.28 By 1989 the remaining terraced houses on Browning Road have been demolished with the school complex having been significantly extended and altered. The school is now known as Little Ilford School.
- 4.29 By 2010 further school buildings have been added. The site now conforms to the currently existing layout of the site.
- 4.30 Previous Archaeological Investigations
- 4.31 In 2015, an initial archaeological evaluation was undertaken consisting of nine trial trenches targeted on the footprint of the proposed new school building. A number of ditches and postholes containing prehistoric pottery were found in the eastern part of the site (AOC 2015).
- 4.32 Once the archaeological potential of the site had been recognized further mitigation was required, and an archaeological excavation took place within the eastern footprint of the new school building with an associated watching brief on drainage works. The excavation recorded several pits dating from the early to middle Neolithic, a late Prehistoric roundhouse, two parallel east-west orientated Roman ditches adjacent to a short length of the contemporary fence line, and a single isolated Saxon pit or large posthole (AOC 2017).
- 4.33 A subsequent programme of trial trenching and archaeological monitoring was undertaken in 2020 prior to the construction of new sports pitches. The findings were limited to features dating to the 19th and 20th centuries (Salford Archaeology 2020).
- 4.34 Further evaluation trenches were recently excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Phase I) which revealed no evidence of significant archaeological activity earlier than the late post-medieval period (Edmonds 2021). An archaeological watching brief on groundworks is currently ongoing in the area of these trenches, as requested by GLAAS, which will be reported on following completion of the fieldwork.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The methodology of the archaeological evaluation was outlined in the most recent Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2021). The initial project design comprised the excavation of four trenches with the provision that they could be split into smaller trenches due to the high concentration of services within the grounds of Little Ilford School.
- 5.2 During the investigation, due to the presence of services, it was not possible to excavate the eastern extent of Trench 2, nor, due to the topography of the site, was it possible to dig part of the eastern extent of Trench 4. Ultimately, the final investigation consisted of seven trenches: Trenches 1A, 1B, 2, 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B (Fig. 2).
- 5.3 The dimensions, orientation, Ordnance Datum heights and depths of the trenches are tabulated below:

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Max height at base of Trench (m OD)	Min height at top of Trench (m OD)	Depth of Trench (m)
1A	NNE-SSW	8.40	1.80	8.93	8.40	0.53
1B	N-S	6.50	1.80	9.05	8.50	0.55
2	NW-SE	18.00	1.80	8.89	8.06	0.83
3A	NE-SW	6.10	1.80	8.88	8.09	0.79
3B	NE-SW	8.70	1.80	9.64	8.14	1.15
4A	NW-SE	12.40	1.80	9.18	8.45	0.73
4B	NW-SE	2.00	1.80	9.75	8.70	1.05

Table 1: Details of archaeological evaluation trenches

- 5.4 Excavation of Trenches 1A-4B was carried out using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket operating under archaeological supervision. Excavation was carried out in 100mm spits until either archaeological or natural deposits were found.
- 5.5 Following the cessation of excavation all deposits and features were cleaned using hand tools, such as trowels, shovels, and mattocks, by the archaeological team prior to recording.
- 5.6 Adopting a single context recording methodology, all sections were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10, and deposits, structures, and features were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. Digital photographs were taken throughout the archaeological evaluation. All seven trenches were planned and surveyed, both for heights within and around the trenches and their locations on site, using Geomax equipment.

- 5.7 The recording system adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those initially developed in the Site Manual of the Department of Urban Archaeology, now presented within the Site Manual (Taylor 2009, updated 2018). The site archive is compatible with other archaeological archives currently produced within the London Area.
- 5.8 The completed archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records, will eventually be deposited with Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) identified with site code LIX21.

6 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 6.1 **Phase 1: Natural** (Figs. 2 & 3 and Plates 1-6)
- 6.1.1 Natural deposits were revealed in all seven trenches during the archaeological investigation.The natural was described as firm, greyish orange brown, silty sand and gravel [207], [202], [219], and [222]. The details of each natural deposit are summarised in the table below:

Table 2: Details of natural deposits

Context no.	Trench	Maximum height (m OD)
[207]	1A & B	8.50
[202]	2	8.41
[219]	3A & B	8.50
[222]	4A & B	8.45

- 6.2 **Phase 2: Modern housing** (Figs. 2 & 3 and Plates 1-5)
- 6.2.1 A small series of modern features and structures were seen to truncate natural deposits within the majority of the trenches including manholes [204] and [213] in Trenches 2 and 3A, the remnants of possible basements [209] and [218] in Trenches 1B and 3B, and cuts [201] and [221] of unspecified function backfilled with modern material [200] and [220] in Trenches 2 and 4 respectively. The details of each feature are outlined in the table below:

Context no.	Cut no.	Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Max. height (m OD)
[209]	[210]	1B	NW-SE	1.70	0.50	8.25
[200]	[201]	2	NW-SE	5.20	1.80	8.41
[204]	[205]	2	n/a	1.33	1.06	8.29
[213]	[215]	3A	n/a	0.60	0.59	8.19
[217]	[218]	3B	NE-SW	5.30	1.80	8.52
[220]	[221]	4A	NW-SE	4.49	1.22	8.27

Table 3:	Details	of the	housing	features
10010-0.	Dotano	01 110	nouoing	ioutai oo

- 6.2.2 The deep frogged red brick and grey cement of manhole [204] dated to the 1950s, while the frogged, yellow Gault bricks from manhole [213] were of an earlier date, 1880-1930. The type 3035 and 3038 bricks from possible wall foundation [209] dated to 1900-1940. Modern material. including brick, metal, concrete, and plastic fragments. was also visible within fills [200], [217] and [220].
- 6.2.3 Accordingly, these features, structures and deposits were attributed to the row of terraced housing that fronted onto Browning Road from the early part of the 20th century until the construction of the Rectory Manor Secondary School in the middle part of the same century.
- 6.3 **Phase 3: Modern** (Figs. 2 & 3 and Plates 1-6)
- 6.3.1 Overlying natural deposits in Trenches 1A and 4B, and modern housing features in Trenches 1A, 1B, 3B, 4A and 4B was a landscaped deposit of fairly loose, mid brownish grey, sandy silt [206], [216], and [223] that formed the mounded grassed verges delineating the boundary of the school car park.
- 6.3.2 The car park itself was composed of a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac over a *c*.0.30m bedding layer of gravel [+]. The surface of the car park was observed to seal all deposits in Trenches 2 and 3A and partially seal features and natural deposits in Trenches 3B and 4A.
- 6.3.3 The cut for geotechnical pit STP2 [212] was found to have truncated all deposits in Trench 1A. Similarly, a north-south orientated modern service cut [+} was seen to have truncated garden soil [206] in Trench 4A.

7 CONCLUSIONS

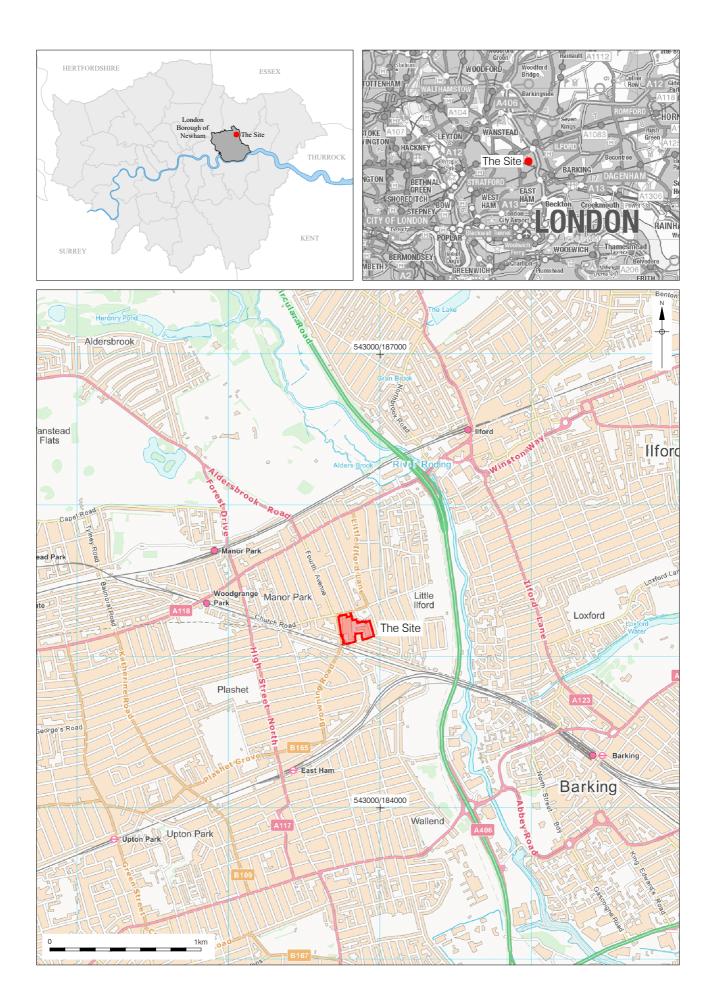
- 7.1 The evaluation at the Little Ilford School site revealed an archaeological sequence that primarily testified to two phases of modern activity at the site; initially remains of early 20th century terraced housing that fronted onto Browning Road and latterly the structures of the school car park. No evidence for a boundary ditch as seen on the post-medieval cartographic evidence and identified as running through this area of the site, was recorded within Trench 4.
- 7.2 Natural deposits including silty sand and gravel, found within all the evaluation trenches, were consistent with the results of the earlier geotechnical investigations at the site. These deposits were found at heights between 8.40-8.50m OD.
- 7.3 The presence of either modern garden soil or the bedding layer for the tarmac surface of the car park directly overlying natural deposits in all seven trenches indicated that all potential archaeological deposits had been excised by modern landscaping works at the site.
- 7.4 Upon approval of this report, and with confirmation that the work is complete, the archive will be deposited with the LAA under the site code LIX21.
- 7.5 The results of the site investigation will be published by as a summary in the annual 'Round-Up' of London Archaeologist.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

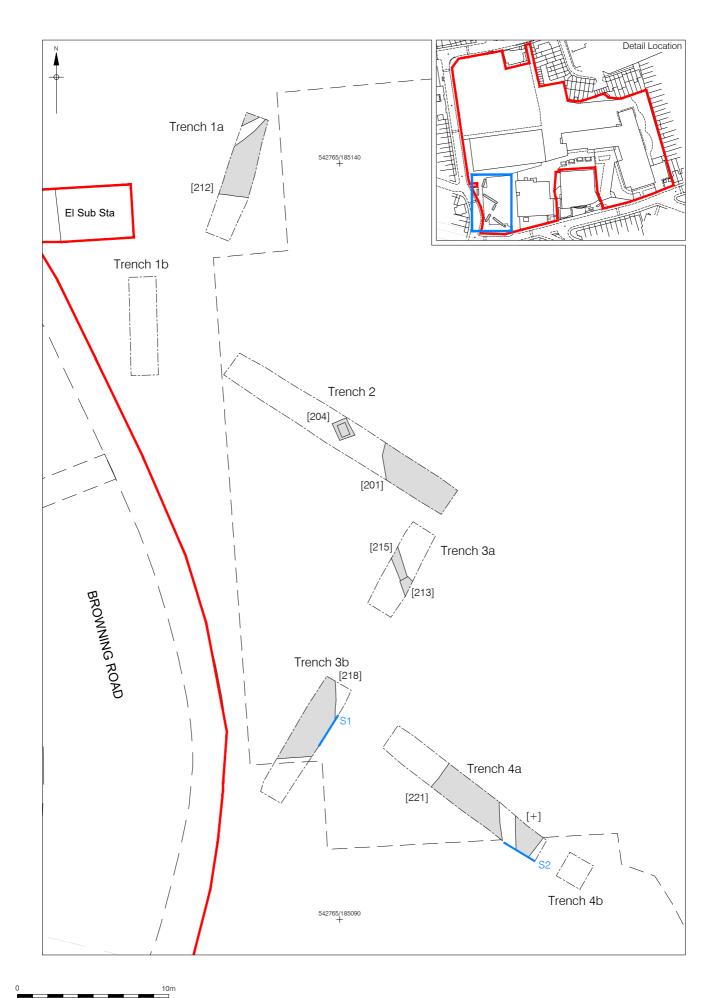
- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting for commissioning the work and Russell, the Little Ilford School caretaker, and the Lengard staff for all of their assistance on site.
- 8.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology would also like to extend thanks to Adam Single of Historic England for monitoring the site on behalf of the London Borough of Newham.
- 8.3 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project managing the evaluation and editing this report.
- 8.4 Further thanks are also extended to extended to John Joyce for logistics, Mark Roughley for the illustrations, and Amparo Valcarcel for assessing the CBM on site.
- 8.5 Finally, thank you to Amparo Valcarcel and Tamsin Cornelius all their hard work on site.

9 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

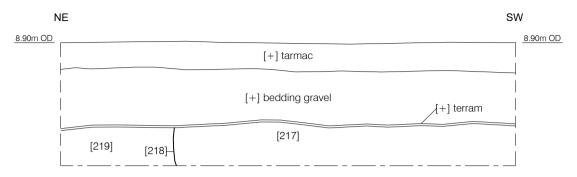
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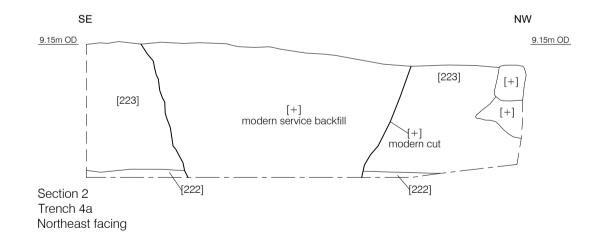
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Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2021. All rights reserved. License number 100022432 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2021 16/08/21 MR Figure 2 Detailed Site and Trench Location Detail 1:250 (Inset 1:4,000) at A4







0 1m

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Figure 3 Sections 1:20 at A4

PLATES



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1B (N facing – 1m scale)



Plate 2: General view of Trench 2 (NW facing - 1m scale)



Plate 3: General view of Trench 3A (SW facing - 1m scale)



Plate 4: General view of Trench 3B (SW facing - 1m scale)



Plate 5: General view of Trench 4A (NW facing - 1m scale)



Plate 6: NE facing section in Trench 4B

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Туре	Fill_of	Trench	CTX_Interp	Levels_ high	Levels_ low	Phase
200	Fill	201	2	Fill of [201]	8.50	8.36	2
201	Cut		2	Modern cut	8.41		2
202	Natural		2	Natural silty sand	8.41		1
203	Fill	204	2	Fill of manhole [204]	8.29		2
204	Masonry	205	2	Modern manhole	8.29		2
205	Cut		2	Construction cut for manhole [204]	8.30		2
206	Layer		1	Garden soil	9.05	8.92	3
207	Natural		1	Natural silty sand and gravel	8.50	8.40	1
208	Fill	210	1B	Fill of [210]	8.55		2
209	Masonry	210	1B	Possible wall foundation	8.25		2
210	Cut		1B	Construction cut for masonry [209]	8.55		2
211	Fill	212	1A	Fill of modern investigation cut [212]	9.00		3
212	Cut		1A	Modern investigation trench	9.00		3
213	Masonry	215	ЗA	Possible manhole	8.19	8.08	2
214	Fill	215	ЗA	Fill of services cut [215]	8.23		2
215	Cut		ЗA	Services cut	8.23		2
216	Layer		3B	Garden soil	9.70	9.03	3
217	Fill	218	3В	Backfill in possible basement	8.52		2
218	Cut		3B	Construction cut for possible demolished basement Natural silty	8.52		2
219	Natural		3	sand and gravel	8.50		1
220	Fill	221	4A	Backfill in cut [221]	8.27		2

Context	Туре	Fill_of	Trench	CTX_Interp	Levels_ high	Levels_ low	Phase
221	Cut		4A	Large modern cut	8.27		2
222	Natural		4	Natural silty sand	8.45		1
223	Layer		4	Garden soil	9.75	9.02	3

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX

	Tr. 1			Tr. 2					Tr. 3				Tr. 4
						[+]							
	211												
	212												
Phase 3: School car park (modern)	206	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	216	=	223
	208		200		203								
											217		220
	209		201		204		213		214				
											218		221
	210				205								
								215					
Phase 2: Housing (modern)	+-												
Phase 1: Natural	207	=	=	202	=	=	=	=	219	=	=	=	222
						nfe							

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-427486 Project details	
Project name	Little Ilford School, Browning Road, Ilford, Newham, E12 6JB
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of seven trenches. The evaluation exposed an archaeological sequence that was the product of two phases of modern activity at the site. Firstly the impact caused by modern terraced housing that fronted onto Browning Road in the first half of the 20th century, and latterly the features of the current school car park. No features or deposits from any period pre-dating the 20th century were extant at the site.
Project dates	Start: 26-07-2021 End: 29-07-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	LIX21 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	MANHOLE Modern
Monument type	BASEMENT Modern
Monument type	GARDEN SOIL Modern
Monument type	BEDDING LAYER Modern
Monument type	CUT Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
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 NEWHAM NEWHAM Little Ilford School, Browning Road

Postcode	E12 6JB
Study area	2.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 4283 8518 51.546912308087 0.060106472858 51 32 48 N 000 03 36 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 8.4m Max: 8.5m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	RPS Consulting
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