

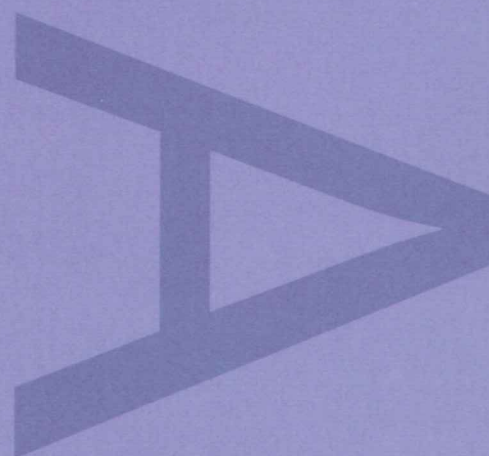
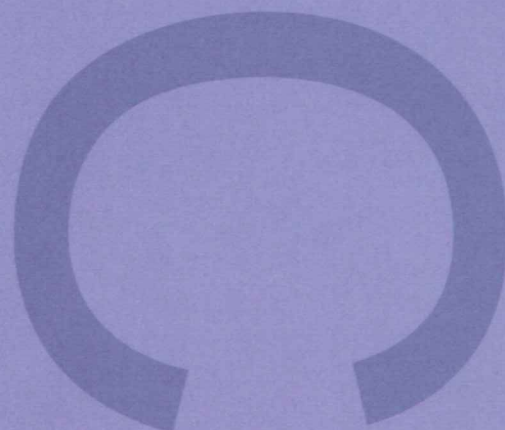
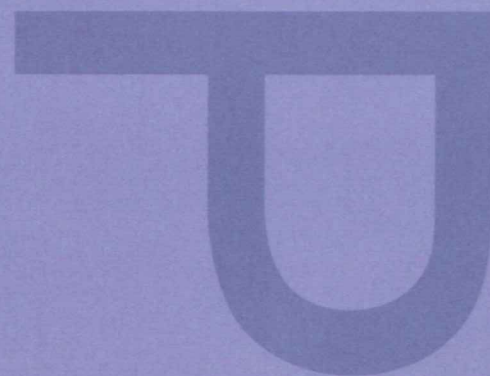
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING

BRIEF AT

5-13 BURNT OAK BROADWAY,

EDGWARE,

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT



JULY 2008

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

5-13 BURNT OAK BROADWAY,
EDGWARE, LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway,
Edgware, London Borough of Brent**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2020 9029

Site Code: BOQ08

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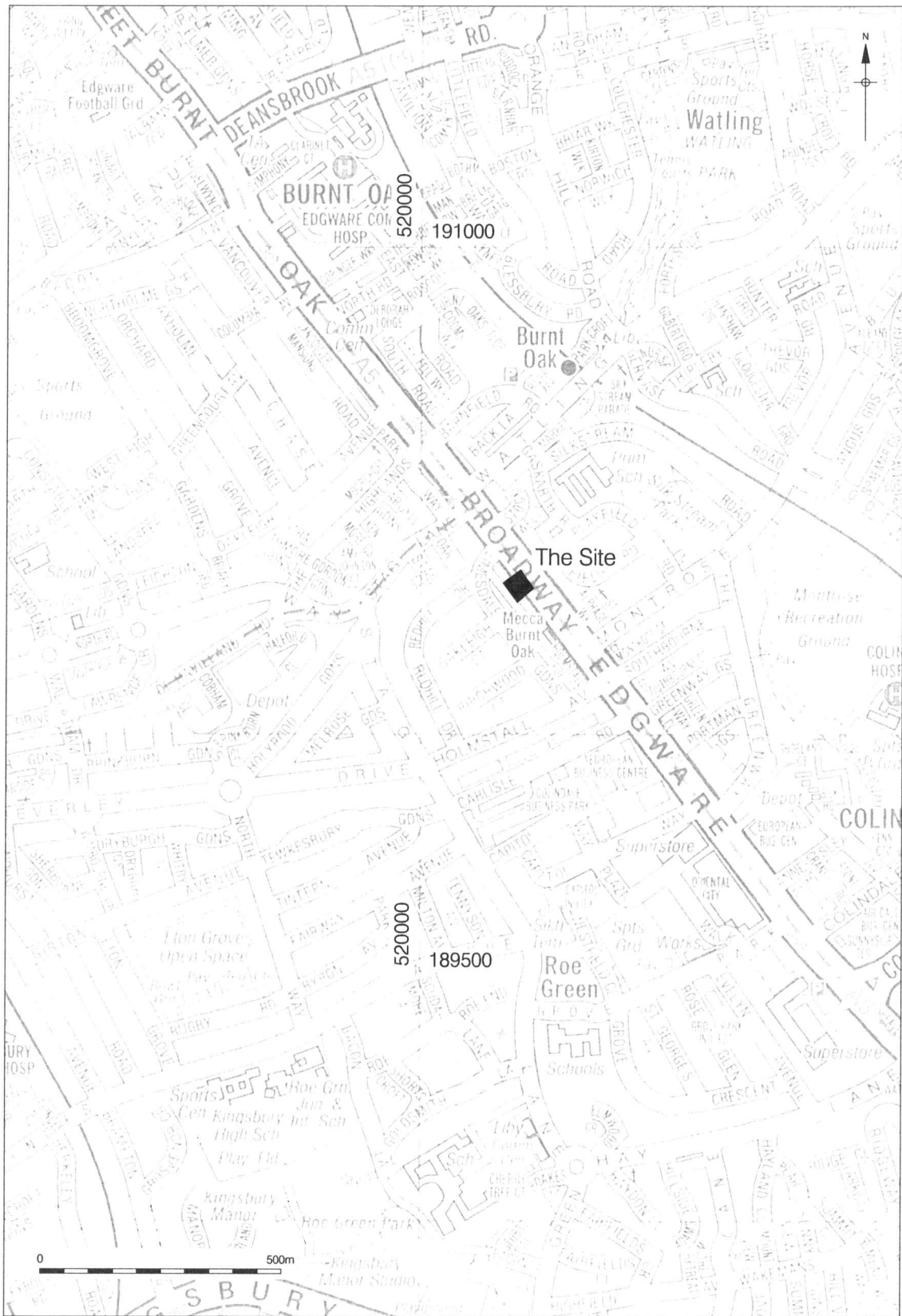
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8, London Borough of Brent. The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 2020 9029. The watching brief was undertaken between 17th and 22nd July 2008 by Richard Humphrey of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The commissioning client was Allenbuild Ltd.
- 1.2 The works consisted of the monitoring of the removal of large fuel tanks from the sites previous use as a filling station, which had been constructed by the 1980s.
- 1.3 Due to the potential risk of exposure to contamination relating to hydrocarbons, that had entered the surrounding environment as a result of seepage from the fuel tanks, close examination of stratigraphic layers was impossible. Therefore, following the removal of the fuel tanks, observations on the resulting sections produced were made from a safe distance where risks from contamination were minimal.
- 1.4 No archaeological remains were observed at the site, presumably resulting from large scale truncation brought about by the groundworks during the construction of the filling station that formerly occupied the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, London Borough of Brent, HA8 5HX (Figure 1) by Richard Humphrey of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, between 17th and 22nd July 2008 by. The work was commissioned by John Chappell of Allenbuild Ltd.
- 2.2 The site is bordered to the northeast by Burnt Oak Broadway, to the southeast by a large commercial building, and to the northwest and southwest by terraced and semi-detached housing.
- 2.3 Prior to the current development at the site, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook a desk based assessment for a previous application in 2006. This concluded that the site had a low potential for prehistoric remains, a moderate potential for Saxon and medieval remains and a high potential for Roman and post-medieval remains. The potential for all post-Roman periods was largely derived from the fact that the current Burnt Oak Broadway is aligned on Roman Watling Street.
- 2.4 Following the submission of a new planning application for the current development at the site, discussions between Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and Kim Stabler of English Heritage, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Brent, led to the submission and approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation for a watching brief during groundworks to remove the buried petrol tanks, of which at least five were known.
- 2.5 The work was undertaken following English Heritage guidelines.¹ The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2020 9029 and the site was given the unique code BOQ 08.

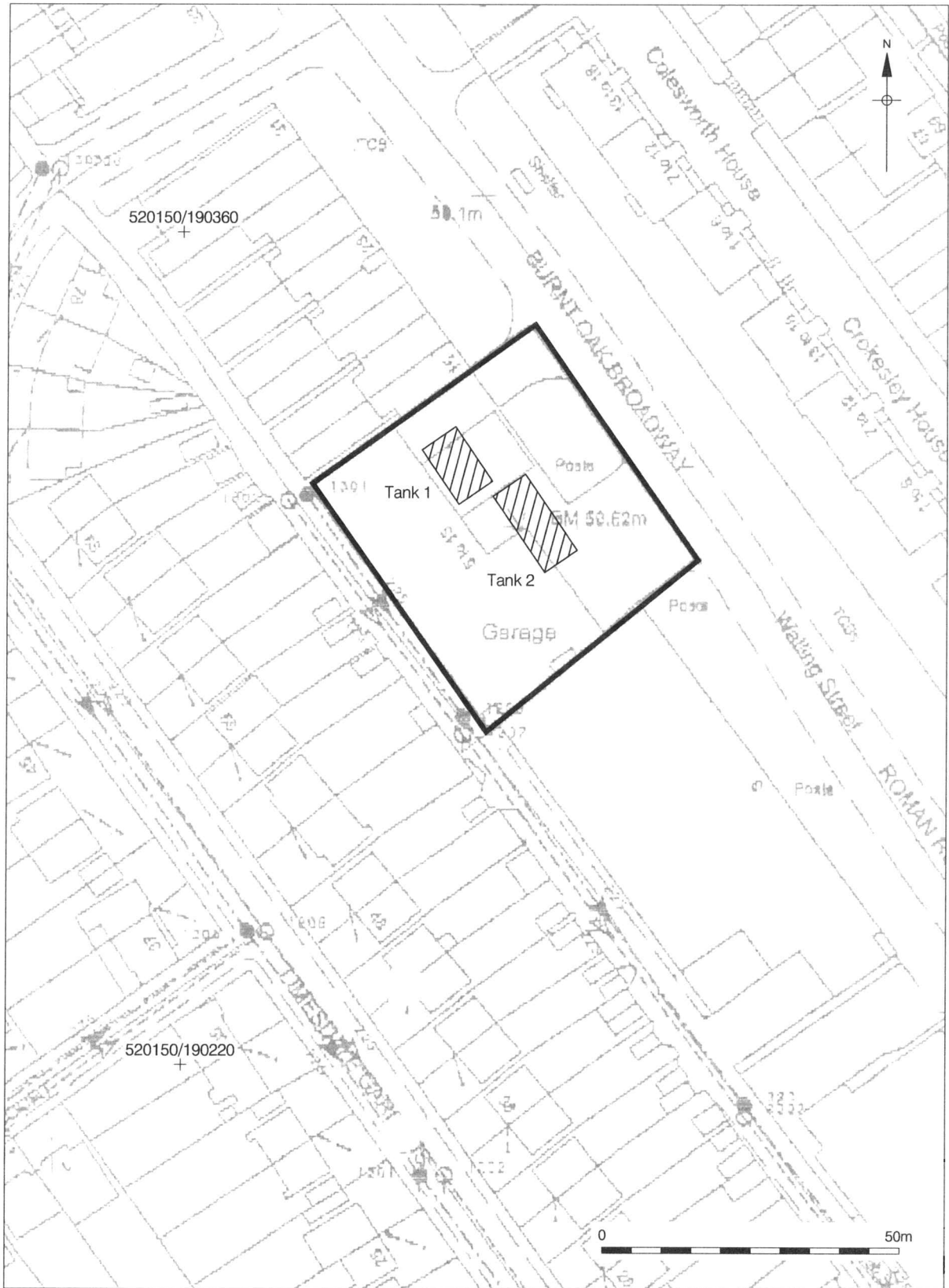
¹ English Heritage, Greater London Advisory Service, (1992) *Archaeological Guidance Papers: 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; 4 Archaeological Watching Briefs*



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500



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Figure 2
WB Location
1:1000

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series indicates that the underlying geology in the vicinity of the site is comprised of London Clay.
- 3.2 Geotechnical information was not available to confirm site conditions.
- 3.3 The proposed development site is situated at a height of 49m OD and the surrounding land slopes gently downwards from southwest to northeast.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following represents a summary of the background as produced in the Desk Based Assessment²

4.2 Prehistoric

There were no prehistoric sites or findspots within a 500m radius of the study site. The closest prehistoric finds to the site were a number of Late Bronze Age finds uncovered at the Kingsbury Sports Ground on Old Kenton Lane, c. 1.5km south of the site.

4.3 Roman

The study site is situated on the south side of the Roman Road Watling Street. It was built shortly after the Roman invasion of AD43 and was an important route from London to St Albans and the north of England. Remains of this road were recently uncovered at Grove Park, c. 700m south of the site and Roman pottery was reputedly found by Dr Henry Hicks nearby at Grove House in 1889. Roman finds in the wider area include a lamp and funerary urn at Sunny Gardens, c. 2km east of the site.

4.4 Saxon

There were no Saxon findspots within the vicinity of the study site. However, during Saxon times the study site was situated on a large plot of land known as Tunworth or 'Tunweorthe' which means farming settlement. It is first mentioned in 957 when its lands lay adjacent to the extensive woods and hunting grounds of the king. Tunworth was situated in the north of the manor of Kingsbury or 'Cyngesbyrig' which means Kings' manor or stronghold.

² Davis, L. (2006) *An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of Land at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware HA8, London Borough of Brent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

4.5 Medieval

According to the Domesday Book, the population of Kingsbury manor in the late 11th century was 23 men and their wives and children. In the 15th century, the Seakin family began to build up an estate in Tunworth or Redhill as it became known later. It is reported that in 1465, Peter Seakin acquired 12 acres at Redhill from Thomas Molesly. The remains of a medieval timber framed structure were uncovered at Thirelby Road c.500m northeast of the site.

4.6 Post-Medieval

Ownership of the estate at Redhill passed through the hands of several families. Between 1851 and the 1920s, Redhill farm was used by horse dealers, with an OS map dated to 1860 showing a large farmhouse building located in the centre of the study site. Associated with this structure are gardens, walls, pathways and two adjoining buildings that are all partially included within the study area. Development of the area continued up until the decline of dependency on horse power in the 1920s. Opening of the Burnt Oak railway station in 1924 quickly led to the development of the area into a residential suburb of London and an OS map dated to 1935 clearly shows terraced and semi-detached housing to dominate the area.

By the 1980s, a petrol station and garage had been constructed at the site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation³.
- 5.2 All excavations connected with the removal of petrol tanks were conducted under archaeological supervision. The tanks were removed by a 360° type machine.
- 5.3 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and in section as necessary using single context recording methods. A photographic record was also taken as appropriate.
- 5.4 The levels in this report are approximated from an existing ground height across the site of approximately 49.00m OD, taken from engineering drawings provided by the on-site groundworks contractor.

³ Mayo, C., (2008) *A Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, London Borough of Brent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Tank 1

6.1.1 Tank 1 was positioned towards the northwest of the study area and aligned approximately northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The combined size of the tank and the concrete housing that enclosed it was approximately 10m long by 4m wide. Modern made ground consisting of crushed stone and demolition material was removed from the area around the tank in order to expose its full extent.

6.1.2 A 360° tracked machine removed the tank using its bucket. At the northern end of the trench, a thick horizon of mottled clay [1] was exposed. This extended to a height of roughly 45.00m OD. Where seen, this measured approximately 2.5m in thickness and was a grey-brown colour with occasional streaks of demolition material, such as yellow brick, a remnant of either the construction of the trench or as a result of the machine bucket mixing in material following its removal. Closer examination of the clay was not possible, however the deposit is considered to be the upper horizon of truncated London clay.

6.1.3 The west facing section of the trench appeared to be more gravelly than at the north. This was recorded as layer [2]. Closer examination of these deposits was not possible owing to the contaminated nature of the trench, as a result of hydrocarbons once stored in the tanks. These lenses possibly represent naturally occurring gravels or alternatively redeposited material that has been dumped following the excavation of construction cut for the tanks.

6.1.4 Corrugated iron sheeting was observed surrounding the perimeter of the construction cut. This would have presumably acted as shuttering for when the encasing concrete was poured around the tank.

6.1.5 An approximately 1.50m thick layer of modern demolition material combined with redeposited clay sealed both clay [1] and gravels [2]. This represents both the combination of the recent demolition of buildings and the ground raising material that would have sealed the tops of the tanks. The top was at approximately 49.00m OD.

6.2 Tank 2

6.2.1 Tank 2 was located immediately to the southeast of Tank 1. It was positioned in a similar direction as before, namely on a northwest to southeast alignment, running parallel and closer to the road. It measured approximately 12m long by 5m wide.

- 6.2.2 Removal of the tank revealed a similar sequence of deposits as Tank 1. These consisted of what appeared to be naturally occurring clay with gravel lenses, extending to a depth of 4m below the ground surface (approximately 45.00m OD) and measuring 2.50m in thickness. A roughly 1.50m thick layer of modern demolition debris combined with ground raising material sealed the tank. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed, suggesting similar widespread truncation of the site from the construction of the filling station.
- 6.2.3 An unexpected third tank was revealed following the removal of Tank 2. This, along with a single tank to the north of the site, remains in the ground at the time of writing this report.

Figure 3: Northwest facing section in Tank 1



Figure 4: Northwest facing section in Tank 2



7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The removal of the tanks and their surrounding concrete encasement revealed modern made ground, consisting of demolition material combined with sand and clay, to directly overlie deposits of clay with gravel lenses. These layers represent the truncated upper horizons of the underlying geology, London clay. It is considered that the installation of the petrol tanks and the associated construction of the filling station in the 1980s had removed any surviving archaeological finds, features and deposits.
- 7.2 A fourth tank remains in the ground at the northern end of the site. Removal of this feature will progress when party wall agreements are in place with the neighbouring properties.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank John Chappell of Allenbuild Ltd for commissioning this project and Kim Stabler of English Heritage for monitoring the work on behalf of the LPA.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Jennie Simonson for the illustrations. Chris Mayo managed the project and edited this report.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Davis, L. 2006 'An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of Land at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8, London Borough of Brent', unpub rep for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
- Mayo, C. 2008 'A Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, London Borough of Brent', unpub rep for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

APPENDIX 1: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-46048

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, London Borough of Brent
Short description of the project	This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8, London Borough of Brent. The site central National Grid Reference is TQ 2020 9029. The watching brief was undertaken between 17th and 22nd July 2008 by Richard Humphrey. The commissioning client was Allenbuild Ltd. The works consisted of the monitoring of the removal of large fuel tanks from the sites previous use as a filling station. Due to the potential risk of exposure to contamination relating to hydrocarbons, that had entered the surrounding environment as a result of seepage from the fuel tanks, close examination of stratigraphic layers was impossible. Therefore, following the removal of the fuel tanks, observations on the resulting sections produced were made from a safe distance where risks from contamination were minimal. Archaeological remains relating to the Roman Road of Watling Street, that followed the present day course of Burnt Oak Broadway immediately adjacent to the site, were not observed. This was presumably as a result of large scale truncation bought about by the excavation and subsequent landscaping of the site as part of the insertion of several fuel tanks related to the filling station that formerly occupied the site. Finds, features and deposits from other archaeological periods were equally unrepresented presumably as a result of the same means.
Project dates	Start: 17-07-2008 End: 22-07-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BOQ08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BRENT BRENT 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway
Postcode	HA8 5HX
Study area	3500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2020 9029 51.5981285861 -0.264372234573 51 35 53 N 000 15 51 W Point
Height OD	Min: 45.00m Max: 45.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Allenbuild Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of Land at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware HA8, London Borough of Brent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Davis, L.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Unpublished

Project bibliography 2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	A Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief at 5-13 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, London Borough of Brent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mayo, C.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Unpublished

Entered by	Richard Humphrey (rhumphrey@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	25 July 2008

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