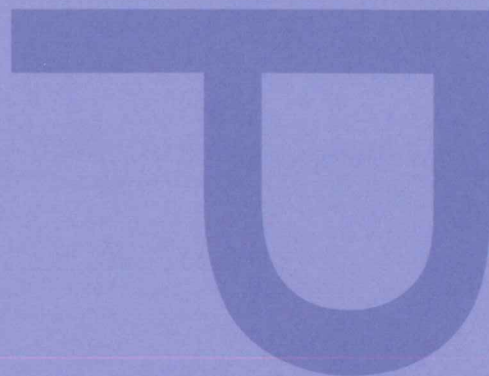
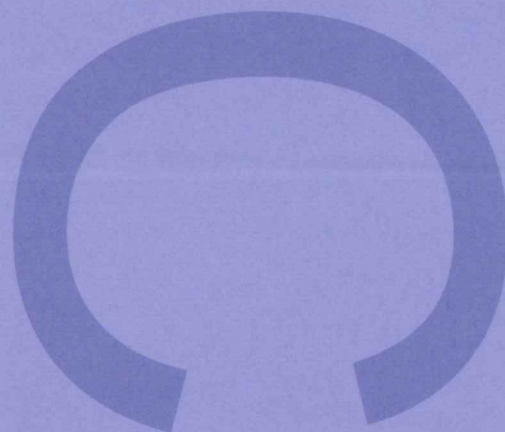


FORMER BRITISH GOODS YARD,
WOOD STREET, WALTHAMSTOW,
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM
FOREST

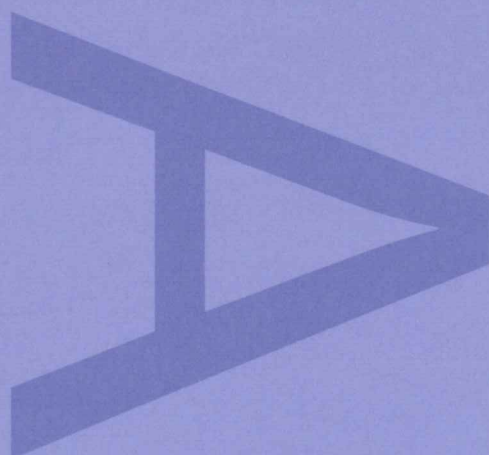


WATCHING BRIEF



NOVEMBER 2004

WDT 04





PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

FORMER BRITISH GOODS YARD
 WOOD STREET, WALTHAMSTOW,
 LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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**Former British Goods Yard, Wood Street, Walthamstow, London
Borough of Waltham Forest**

Watching Brief

**Site code: WDT 04
Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3830 8930**

**Written by Chris Pickard
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, November 2004**

Project Manager: David Divers

Commissioning Client: CgMs on behalf of Mr Ray Graves

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November 2004**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited for CgMs on behalf of their client Mr Ray Graves, on a site of former British Rail Goods Yard, on the west side of Wood Street, Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest (TQ 383 893) (Fig. 1.)
- 1.2 The watching brief, which took place on the 1st November 2004, comprised the observation and recording of trenches dug for mass foundations for a mixed development for eight industrial/warehouse facilities with ancillary service and car parking areas and three 3-storey blocks containing 24 residential units.
- 1.3 In the three areas monitored the natural London Clay had been truncated by previous activity on the site and was sealed by a layer of 20th century gravel and clinker and general rubbish of varying thickness. Any ploughsoil or garden soil that may have been on the site had been completely truncated away. No deeply cut features or cultural material earlier than the 20th century was observed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on the site of the former British Rail Goods Yard, Wood Street, Walthamstow. The site is centered at TQ 383 893, within the London Borough of Waltham Forest (Fig. 1.) The work was commissioned by Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of his client Mr Ray Graves.
- 2.2 In accordance with PPG 16 and local policies, the archaeological work was undertaken to assess the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains. If any remains survived an assessment of the impact upon them by the proposed development will also be made.
- 2.3 The project was managed by David Divers for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and was conducted by the author.

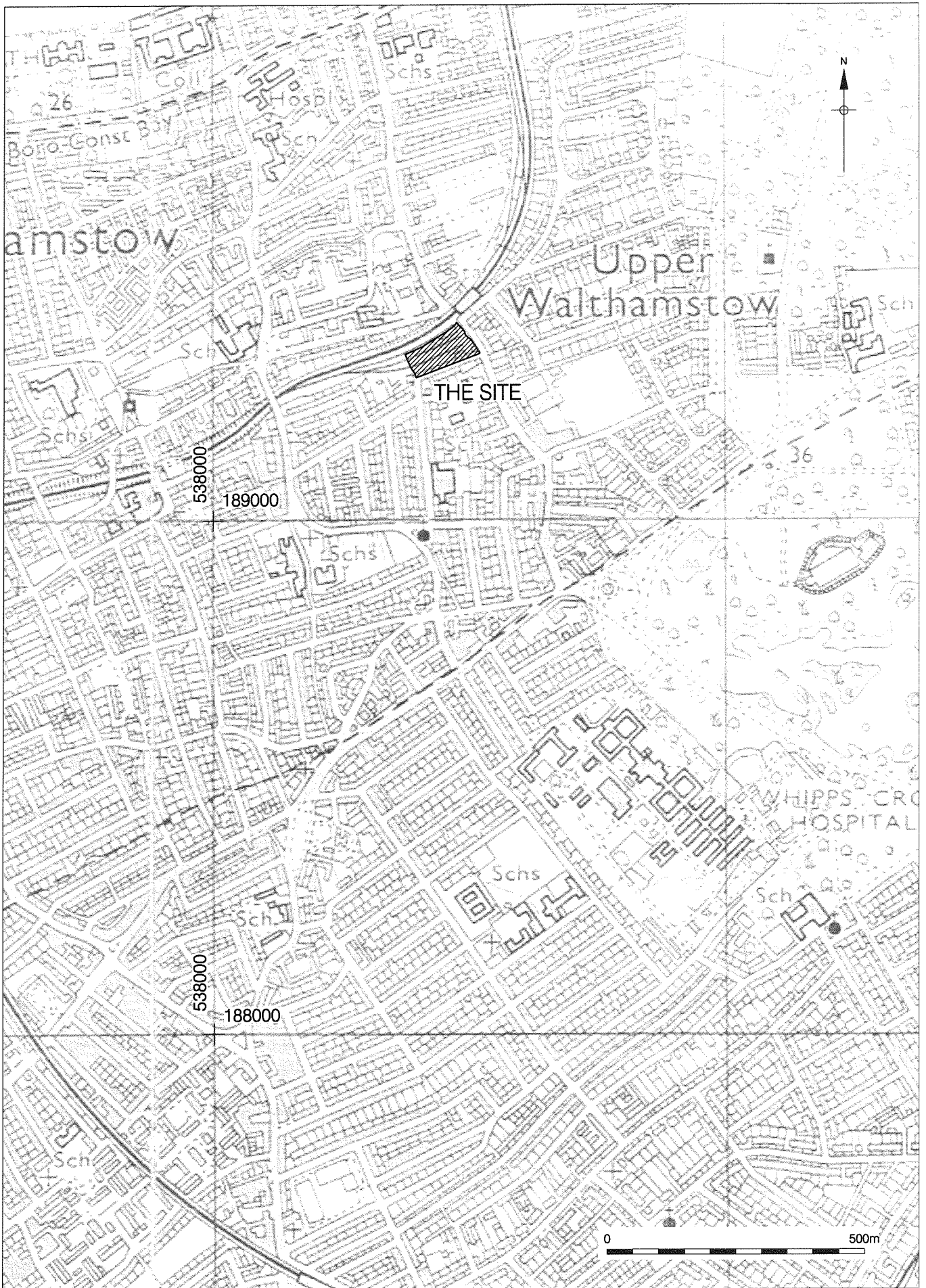


Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000



Figure 2
 Watching Brief Areas
 1:625

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 GEOLOGY

3.1.1 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin.

3.1.2 The 1:50 000 Geological Map of Great Britain and Wales (Sheet 256 North London) shows that the site lies on an area of London Clay. Areas of Boyn Hill gravels lie to the west and southeast of the study site.

3.1.3 Geotechnical data from the study site reproduced in the Desktop study (Meagre 2004) confirmed the geological conditions indicated on the geological map. Made ground was encountered within all the boreholes, between 1.1m and 1.8m thick. Generally this made ground included clay and rubble with brick and concrete, ash, clinker, coal and chalk fragments. The clay below that, observed to the limits of the boreholes at 20m, was noted as stiff grey fissured silty clay with claystones and selenite crystals. Clay deposits between 1.4m and 3.8m included sand and gravel deposits, suggesting natural erosion of the clay.

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY

3.2.1 Wood Street, adjacent to the northeast corner of the study site, is level at 24.9m OD, and Barrett Road to the south of the study site is level at 24.7m OD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 PREHISTORIC - PALAEOLITHIC, MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC

4.1.1 A Palaeolithic flint flake was found during works at 127 Essex Road, Leyton, south of the study site (SMR ref LO3010, grid ref TQ 3880 8832). A Neolithic barbed arrowhead was found at Farnham Avenue allotments in c.1950, northwest of the study site (SMR LO18476, grid ref TQ 3755 8985).

4.1.2 A broken flint blade and two sherds of prehistoric pottery were found during an archaeological evaluation at Orford Road, southwest of the study site (SMR ref LO65910, grid ref TQ 3792 8903, 3794 8899, 3796 8902, 3798 8901, 3798 8905).

4.2 BRONZE AGE

4.2.1 The construction of No 2 reservoir, Chingford, southeast of the study site in 1940, revealed several Bronze Age artefacts, including a spearhead, a flint axe, and a hexagonal oak coffin containing a small amount of human bones (SMR ref LO25873, LO25874, LO25875, grid ref TQ 3910 8905).

4.3 IRON AGE

4.3.1 No Iron Age finds are recorded from within a kilometre radius of the site.

4.4 ROMAN

4.4.1 A coarse ware cooking pot and wine jar, were found in 1920 at 37 Clarendon Road, southwest of the site (SMR ref LO10203, grid ref TQ 3774 8836). Works at Whipps Cross in 1933, south of the site, revealed a shallow earthenware dish dating to the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD (SMR ref LO8058, grid ref TQ 3874 8886).

4.4.2 Two Roman building tiles were found at allotments on Forest Road c.1953, northeast of the study site (SMR ref LO18858, grid ref TQ 3902 9000). Re-used Roman building material can be seen in the fabric of the parish church of St Mary, west of the study site (SMR ref LO20724, grid ref TQ 3784 8923). A medal dedicated to 'Dius Neva Traianus' was found at Vallentin Road in 1931, immediately north of the study site (SMR ref LO5756, grid ref TQ 3835 8935).

4.5 SAXON

4.5.1 No finds of Saxon date have been located from within a kilometre radius of the study site.

4.6 MEDIEVAL

- 4.6.1 A 13th/14th century cooking pot was found during rebuilding works at the Monoux almshouses in 1955, to the west of the site (SMR ref LO13944, grid ref TQ 3785 8927). The earthworks of a small rectangular moat are marked on a 1952 Ordnance Survey plan, associated with Brookscroft Hall, to the northwest of the site. It is apparently unclear whether this feature enclosed a medieval building, or the Elizabethan Brookscroft Hall (SMR ref LO14235, grid ref TQ 3791 8791). A Medieval millstone was found at the site of Temple Farm in 1957, west of the site (SMR ref LO22709, grid ref TQ 3786 8928).
- 4.6.2 Medieval pottery and tile, interpreted as indicating medieval occupation in the vicinity, was found during an archaeological evaluation in 1994 at Leyton Green Road, southwest of the site (SMR ref LO61485, grid ref TQ 3823 8837).
- 4.6.3 As with the Roman period, there appears to be a certain amount of evidence for Medieval activity close to the site. However, the study site lies to the south of the core of the Medieval settlement.

4.7 POST MEDIEVAL

- 4.7.1 This section should be read in conjunction with the Desktop assessment as the maps discussed are not reproduced here. The map of the Manor of High Hall, surveyed by Forbes in 1699 is somewhat fragmentary across the area of the study site, but appears to show it lying in empty fields. Rocque's Plan of 1756 shows the study site occupied by an orchard.
- 4.7.2 Chapman and Andre's Map of Essex, 1777, shows the study site as lying to the west of Wood Street, which is shown as built up along most of its western side. The study site itself occupies an area which is not built up. Coe's Map of 1822 shows the study site to be devoid of buildings, and lying within plot 716. The index to this map states that this field was described as 'Meadow by the Street called Lambkins, Wood St'.
- 4.7.3 The Tithe Map of 1842 shows the study site to comprise an empty field, listed in the Apportionment as 'meadow'. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map dating to 1866 (Fig 6 in Meagre 2004) shows the study site comprising an empty field immediately west of Wood Street, with the line of the projected railway forming the northern boundary. A subsequent Ordnance Survey map dated 1881 (Fig 7 in Meagre 2004) is identical for the study site to the previous edition, but does not show the railway. Wood Street Station opened in November 1873, so there appears to be an anomaly with these maps.

- 4.7.4 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map dating to 1894-6 shows the railway line curving to the southwest, and the study site occupied by railway sidings, with several ancillary structures along the Wood Street frontage. Three sets of tracks are shown running into the study site. Post Office Directories show that from at least 1889 a coal merchants and a railway goods office occupied the site.
- 4.7.5 The 1919 Ordnance Survey map first shows the layout of Barrett Road which forms the southern boundary of the study site. A square building has been added to the southeast of the study site.
- 4.7.6 Walthamstow in general was badly damaged during the Second World War, although it is not known whether the study site was affected. The site history section of the environmental desk study refers to the site being used for allotments during the war, and up to 1948. This would appear to be contradicted by the map evidence.
- 4.7.7 On the Ordnance Survey map for 1955, the study site is labelled *Coal Depot*, and bunkers are present to the southwest and along the northern boundary. An electricity substation is present in the southwest corner. Four sets of tracks are shown running into the study site.
- 4.7.8 The 1969 Ordnance Survey map shows the study site labelled *Goods & Coal Depot*, with bunkers along the southern boundary, hoppers between the sets of railway lines, and along the northern boundary. Further bunkers lie east of the square buildings, now shown connected, towards the southeastern corner of the study site. Three sets of railway lines lead into the study site.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 A program of observation and recording was undertaken at the site during the excavation of foundations the new development (see Fig 2). All work followed the Method Statement by Pre-Construct Archaeology¹ which adhered to guidelines issued by English Heritage² and in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.³
- 5.2 Machine excavation of trenches dug for A, C and H Blocks of the new development (see Fig 2) were monitored by the attendant archaeologist. Archaeological deposits were recorded as contexts, in section and plan at 1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate.
- 5.3 The site archive will be stored at the Museum of London's London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under the site code WDT 04.

¹ Divers 2004

² English Heritage, 1998

³ IFA, 1993

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

A BLOCK

- 6.1 Below a 0.40 to 0.80m thick layer of gravel, clinker and coal [01] natural London Clay was located at between 24.00-24.40m OD. No features earlier than 20th century were recorded

C BLOCK

- 6.2 Below a 0.60m thick layer of gravel, clinker and coal [01] was natural London Clay located at 24.20m OD. No features earlier than 20th century were recorded

H BLOCK

- 6.3 Below a 0.60m thick layer of gravel, clinker and coal [01] natural London Clay was located at between 24.20-24.40m OD. No features earlier than 20th century were recorded.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief did not reveal any material that was earlier than 20th century in date. Taking into account the absence of any archaeologically significant features or residual material in later deposits, it is highly unlikely that further work on the site would reveal any evidence to enhance the archaeological understanding of the area.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank CgMs and their client Mr Ray Graves for generously funding this project. Thanks also to David Divers who edited the report and Hayley Baxter who produced the illustrations.

- 8.2 Thanks also to Richard Meager to undertake the background research for the report. The Archaeological and Historical Background and the Geology and Topography sections were reproduced from his Desk-top Assessment of for the site.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Meager, R. 2004 'Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Former Goods Yard Wood Street Walthamstow' unpublished report CgMs
- Divers, D 2004 Method Statement of an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Former Goods Yard, Wood Street Walthamstow, unpublished document, PCA

APPENDIX 1: Oasis HER form

OASIS ID: preconst1-4902

Project details

Project name	Former British Rail Goods Yard, Wood Street
Short description of the project	Watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches revealed only 20th century made ground overlying truncated natural London Clay
Project dates	Start: 01-11-2004 End: 01-11-2004
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	unknown
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WALTHAM FOREST WALTHAMSTOW Former British Rail Goods Yard Wood Street
Study area	.5 Hectares
National grid ref	TQ 3830 8930 Point
Height OD	Min: 24.2m Max: 24.4m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design originator	David Divers
Project manager	David Divers
Project supervisor	Chris Pickard

Project archives

Archive recipient	LAARC
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Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Former British Rail Goods Depot Wood Street: Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pickard, C. G.
Date	2004
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue	London
Description	Watching Brief Report, A4 document
Entered by	David Divers (ddivers@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	18 November 2004

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