DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

HESTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HESTON ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW

EVALUATION

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre 96 Endwell Road London SE4 2PD An Archaeological Evaluation at Heston Community School, Heston Road, London Borough of Hounslow.

Site Code: HCM 08 Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1336 7735

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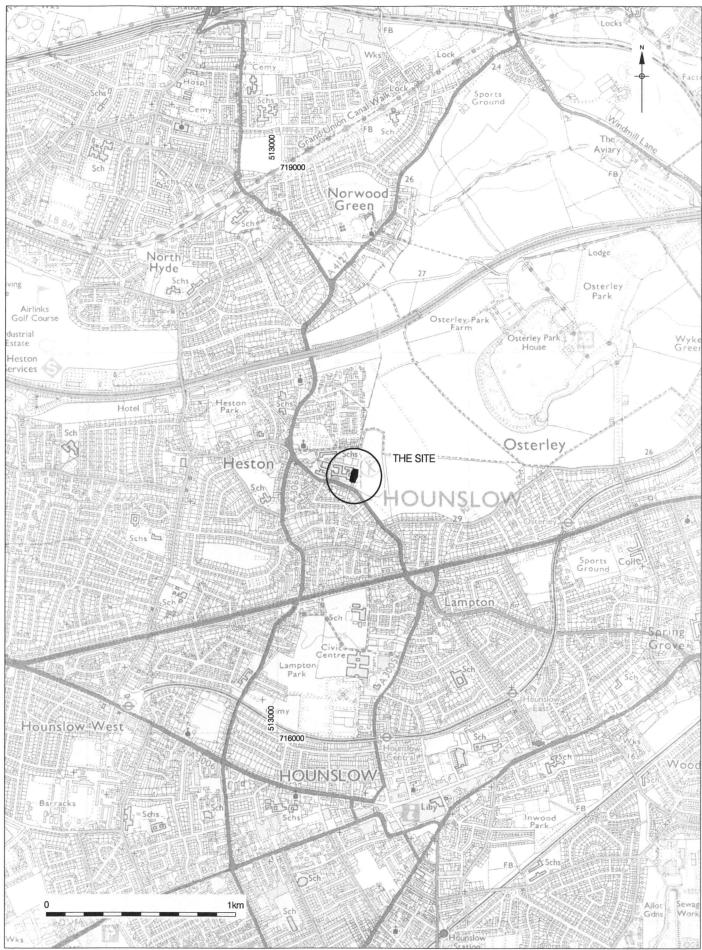
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an Archaeological Evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Heston Community School, Heston Road, London Borough of Hounslow, TW5 OQR.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation consisted of excavating four trial trenches to determine the archaeological potential of the site in order that the necessity or otherwise of further archaeological mitigation could be determined with English Heritage GLAAS, acting on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow.
- 1.3 The investigation revealed natural deposits of Langley Silt (Brickearth) at relatively shallow depths, overlain by late post-medieval / modern deposits of sub-soil and topsoil respectively.
- 1.4 Various modern features were cut into the natural brickearth, primarily foundation pads for temporary buildings, since removed, associated with Heston School. A shallow pit of probable late post-medieval date was also observed.
- 1.5 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval / modern periods were encountered during the evaluation fieldwork.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Heston Community School, Heston Road, London Borough of Hounslow, TW5 OQR. The archaeological investigation was undertaken prior to development of the site for additional school buildings to expand the campus of Heston Community School (Fig 1).
- 2.2 The investigation was conducted between the 17th and 21st November 2008 and was commissioned by Apollo Group.
- 2.3 The site is located on land occupied by Heston Community School and previously housed temporary buildings and associated car parking areas. The site is bounded to the north by the rear of properties fronting Wheatlands, to the east by open fields, to the south by Heston Road, and to the west by existing school buildings (Fig 2).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 1336 7735.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the code HCM 08.
- 2.7 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Watson and the project was managed by Tim Bradley for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The fieldwork was monitored by Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS), on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow.



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Figure 1 Site Location 1:20,000 at A4



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3 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND RESERCH OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Apollo Group to undertake archaeological evaluation fieldwork required following discussions with Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS), to determine the archaeological potential of the site in order that the necessity or otherwise of further archaeological mitigation could be determined with English Heritage, acting on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow.
- 3.2 The archaeological investigation followed the schedule as specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for this site¹, which was approved by English Heritage (GLAAS) in advance of the fieldwork.
- 3.3 The site lies on the West London Gravel Terraces, where extensive prehistoric settlement has previously been recorded. Flint tools are known to have been found either within, or immediately adjacent to, the eastern boundary of the site, while crop marks identified throughout Osterley Park to the east suggest widespread settlement in the area. Heston was also a medieval settlement centred on the Church of St Leonard, north-west of the site.
- 3.4 Following consultation with Diane Walls, English Heritage GLAAS, it was recommended that an archaeological investigation (in this instance, archaeological evaluation trial trenching) should be focused on the part of the development proposal likely to have the most significant archaeological impact; namely the groundwork associated with the construction of the new school buildings.
- 3.5 The archaeological works followed the methodologies as set out in:
 - Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London (GLAAS 1998).
 - Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Reports (GLAAS 1998).
 - Archaeological Guidance Paper 5: Evaluations (GLAAS 1998).
- 3.6 The site is located in an Archaeological Priority Zone, as defined by London Borough of Hounslow.

¹ Bradley, T. November 2008

3.7 Research Objectives

- 3.8 The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 3.9 In addition, the following specific research questions were addressed by the archaeological works:
 - What evidence can be revealed of the natural strata and its' topography at the site?
 - Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains known to have occupied the area of the West London Gravels in the area of development? Does the activity previously observed as crop marks to the east of the site extend into the area of development?
 - Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site?
 - Is there any evidence for medieval activity, know to have been centred on St Leonard's Church to the north-west, in the area of the site?
 - Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity in the area of the site?

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 270 (South London) indicates that site lies on Langley Silt: sandy clay and silt ('Brickearth'). The excavation confirmed this data when natural deposits of Brickearth were encountered at approximately 0.15m below current ground level at between 29.71mOD to 29.83mOD.
- 4.2 The ground level at the study site is generally flat and even at c. 30.00 m OD.

5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The village of Heston lies to the north of Hounslow and has been settled since Saxon times. A charter of Henry II gives the name as *Hestune*, meaning "enclosed settlement, located in the *Warren* of Staines, between the ancient Roman Road to Bath, and the Uxbridge Road to Oxford.
- 5.2 Prior to 1229 Heston was part of the parish of *Gistleworth* (Isleworth) before being aquired by Henry III, who subsequently granted it to the Earl of Cornwall. Following his death in 1316, Heston was owned by the Crown, and later by the Wardens of St Giles Hospital, prior to being surrendered to Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Elizabeth I granted Heston to Sir Thomas Gresham, and after eating some bread made from locally grown wheat, insisted on a supply for her own personal use. Wheat grown in Heston aquired the reputaion of the finest in Middlesex².
- 5.3 St Leonard's Church, to the west of the site, dates from the 14th century, though there are records of a priest in Heston in the Seventh century. The church tower survived rebuilding works in the 19th century, as did the lychgate.
- 5.4 The completeon of the Great West Road in 1925 precipitated the farm land and market gardens around the village to be rapidly aquired for housing developments, and it is a suburban landscape that defines modern day Heston.

² Walford, E. 1983

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Four trenches were strategically located across the study area within and immediately adjacent to the footprint of the proposed development, but outside areas of previous impact (Fig 2).
- 6.2 A JCB type 'backhoe' mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, was employed to excavate the trenches under archaeological supervision.
- 6.3 The final excavated dimensions of the trenches are as follows:
 - Trench 1, located to the north-west of the site, measured: 21.30m north-south by 2m east-west.
 - Trench 2, located in the central western part of the site and south of Trench 1, measured: 19.60m east-west by 2m north-south.
 - Trench 3, located in the south-west of the site, south of Trench 2, measured: 21.50m east-west by 2m north-south.
 - Trench 4, located in the east of the site and east of Trenches 1, 2 & 3, measured: 20.50m north-south by 2m east-west.
- 6.4 The total excavated area of the trenches was 124.33 m^2 , within a study area of $1625m^2$.
- 6.5 All archaeological features (stratigraphic layers, cuts, fills) were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. All written data was entered on *pro-forma* sheets following standard recording methods, and a photographic record using 35mm monochrome film, 35mm colour slide film and digital format was made as appropriate.
- 6.6 All levels were calculated via GPS or reduced from a Temporary Bench Mark established at the north of the site, value 30.04mOD.
- 6.7 The work was undertaken following English Heritage and IFA guidance papers³.

³ English Heritage GLAAS, 1998 and Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1993.

6.8 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC)

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.2 The following description of the stratigraphy, discussed by trench, details the main characteristics of each context and its position in the phased stratigraphic matrix. Further information regarding the contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

7.3 Trench 1 (Figs 3 & 6)

- 7.4 Trench 1 was excavated to an average depth of 0.40m, with a deeper slot at the southern end of the trench to establish the extent of the natural deposit to a depth of 1.30m.
- 7.5 The earliest deposit encountered was layer [20], a natural deposit of mid orange brown clayey sandy silt Brickearth encountered at c. 0.15m below ground level at 29.71mOD and continuing beyond the trench base limit of excavation.
- 7.6 Layer [20] was overlain by a layer of modern topsoil [1] which measured between 0.10 and 0.20m thick, and the top of which formed the current ground level at c.30.19m OD. This layer was recorded across the site and had previously been overlain by modern layers of Tarmac, which had been removed prior to the archaeological works.
- 7.7 No archaeological deposits or finds from any period were encountered within the above layers.

7.8 Trench 2 (Figs 3 & 6)

- 7.9 Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.40m.
- 7.10 The earliest deposit encountered was layer [18], a natural deposit of mid yellow brown sandy clay brickearth continuing beyond the trench base limit of excavation, the top of which was encountered at 29.76mOD. This natural layer had a higher sand content, and hence a lighter colour, than that described above in Trench 1, and is the same as the natural deposits described in Trenches 3 and 4 below.

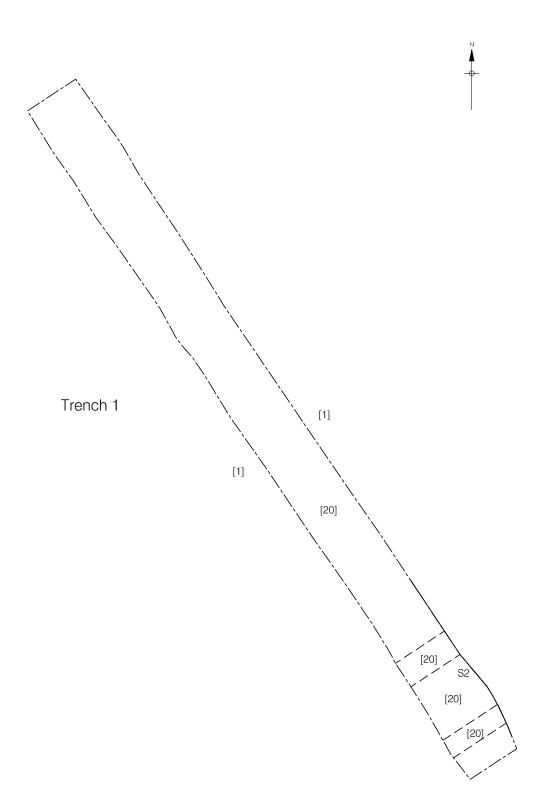
- 7.11 Layer [18] was partly overlain by layer [19], a 0.08m thick layer of mid orange brown silty sandy sub-soil, only observed in the western end of the trench, the top of which was at 29.84m OD.
- 7.12 The above layers were sealed by a layer of modern topsoil [1] which was 0.12m thick and the top of which formed the current ground level at c. 29.96mOD.
- 7.13 No archaeological deposits from any period were encountered in the above layers.

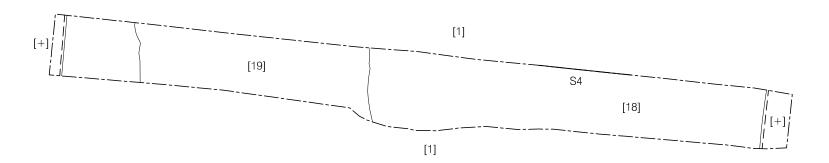
7.14 Trench 3 (Figs 4 & 6)

- 7.15 Trench 3 was excavated to an average depth of 0.20m, with a deeper slot at the western end to establish the extent of the natural deposit to a depth of 0.75m.
- 7.16 The earliest deposit encountered was layer [8], a natural deposit of mid yellowish brown sandy clay brickearth, becoming progressively more clayey at greater depth, the top of which was encountered at 29.78mOD. Cut into this layer was a modern post-hole, containing plastic and soft drinks cans.
- 7.17 The above layer was part overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of mid orange brown silty sand sub-soil [9], the top of which was at 29.98mOD and the base at 29.78mOD, which was limited to the western half of the trench. This layer contained finds of late post-medieval and modern pottery sherds and fragments of modern ceramic building material. Cut into this layer were various modern intrusions: a concrete foundation base, two narrow linear features parallel to each other and filled with light grey course gravel presumed to be the remains of path edging, a modern square post-hole [10] and a root hole [13]. Also cut into this layer was a shallow pit [15] containing fill [14], a greyish brown silty sand from which sherds of modern pottery, glass, and fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. It is possible that this feature was also a root hole.
- 7.18 The above layers were overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of modern topsoil [1], the top of which formed the current ground level at c.30.18mOD.
- 7.19 No archaeological features pre-dating the late post-medieval/ modern periods were observed in this trench.

7.20 Trench 4 (Figs 5 & 6)

- 7.21 Trench 4 was excavated to an average depth of 0.40m, with a deeper slot at the northern end to establish the extent of the natural deposit to a depth of 0.60m.
- 7.22 The earliest deposit encountered was layer [3], a natural deposit of mid yellowish brown sandy clay brickearth, the top of which was observed at 0.15m below ground level at 29.83mOD. Cut into this layer were three associated rectangular pits [4], [21] and [22]. All three were similar in size (0.70m north-south by 0.60m east-west) and contained identical fills of loose dark brown silty sand at c. 29.65m OD. Only feature [4] was fully excavated with the level at the top recorded at 29.65m OD and the base at 29.37m OD. Two coins recovered from the fill [5] of this feature dated to 1942 and 1971, and confirmed these features to be 20th century in date. It is presumed these features are the remains of foundation pads for temporary buildings known to have been standing on this site prior to their recent demolition.
- 7.23 Also cut into layer [3], but seen in section only, was modern foundation cut [17], the top of which was at 29.73mOD and the base at 29.53mOD. It is likely that this cut had previously housed a concrete foundation pad. The feature had been backfilled with [23], a dark brown clayey silt identical to topsoil [1].
- 7.24 The features discussed above were sealed by a 0.20m thick layer of dark grey brown silty sand modern topsoil [1], the top of which formed the current ground level at c.29.90mOD.
- 7.25 No archaeological deposits earlier than the late post-medieval/modern period were observed in this trench.

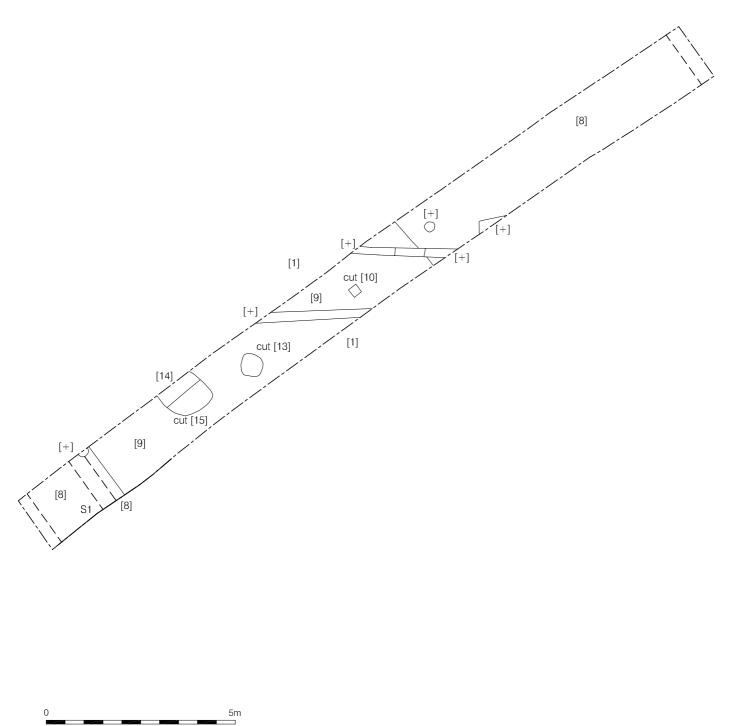




Trench 2



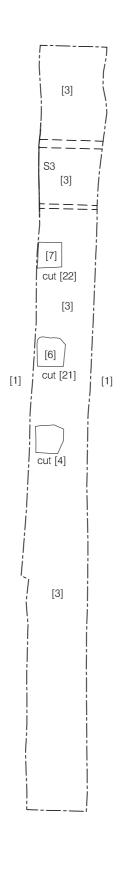
Figure 3 Trenches 1 & 2 1:100 at A3



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Figure 4 Trench 3 1:100 at A4

Å



0 5m © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

> Figure 5 Trench 4 1:100 at A4

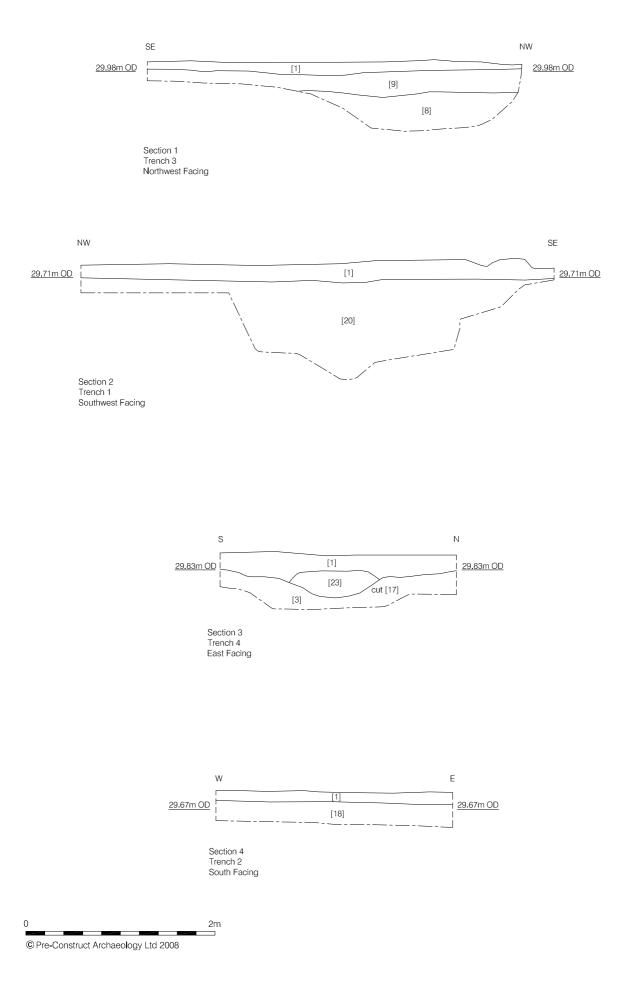


Figure 6 Sections 1-4 1:40 at A4

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The original research objectives of the investigation are listed below with a summary of the archaeological evidence recovered to formulate interpretations and conclusions.

8.2 General Research Objectives:

The general aim of the research objectives at the site are as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

8.3 Specific Research Objectives:

8.4 What evidence can be revealed of the natural strata and its topography at the site?

- 8.4.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series map indicates that the site lies on Quaternary deposits of Langley Silt; 'Brickearth'. This was confirmed when natural deposits of brickearth were encountered at very shallow depths across the site, approximately 0.15m below current ground level. In Trench 1 this deposit ([20]) had a higher clay content than the deposits [18], [8] and [3] in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 respectively. In addition a thin layer of sub-soil was observed concentrated to the west of the site.
- 8.4.2 The thin layer of topsoil that overlay the natural deposits may have been re-deposited material, part of the ground make up and levelling for the Tarmac car park surface above.
- 8.5 Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains known to have occupied the area of the West London Gravels in the area of development? Does the activity previously observed as crop marks to the east of the site extend into the area of development?
- 8.5.1 No evidence was revealed for any prehistoric activity within the trial trenches excavated. Similarly, no evidence for the extension of crop marks into the area of the site was observed.

8.6 Is there any further evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site?

8.6.1 No evidence of Roman activity was revealed by excavation on the site.

8.7 Is there any evidence for medieval activity, known to have been centred on St Leonard's Church to the north-west, in the area of the site?

8.7.1 No evidence for medieval activity was revealed by the archaeological investigation.

8.8 Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity in the area of the site?

- 8.8.1 There is limited evidence for post-medieval activity on the site. A small sub-circular pit, of unknown use, was observed in Trench 3 [15], the fill of which contained sherds of late post-medieval pottery.
- 8.8.2 Overlying most of the study area at Heston Road, and removed prior to the archaeological investigation, was a c. 0.15m thick layer of Tarmac and hardcore substrata which formed a ground surface for car parking and the location of temporary buildings. It seems likely that the construction of the Tarmac surface would have truncated the upper layers of sub-soil and natural deposits (particularly as they exist at such shallow depths) severely impacting upon any surviving archaeological features that may have existed.
- 8.8.3 Only archaeological features relating to the late post-medieval and modern periods were observed at the site, with no indication of any deposits pre-dating these periods.
- 8.8.4 The negative results at the study area, particularly the absence of any prehistoric or medieval evidence, would suggest that no archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern period survive in the area of the proposed development.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Apollo Group for commissioning the work, and Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS) for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Hounslow. The author would also like to thank Patrick Cavanagh for assistance on site. The PCA CAD department produced the drawings and Tim Bradley undertook the project management and editing.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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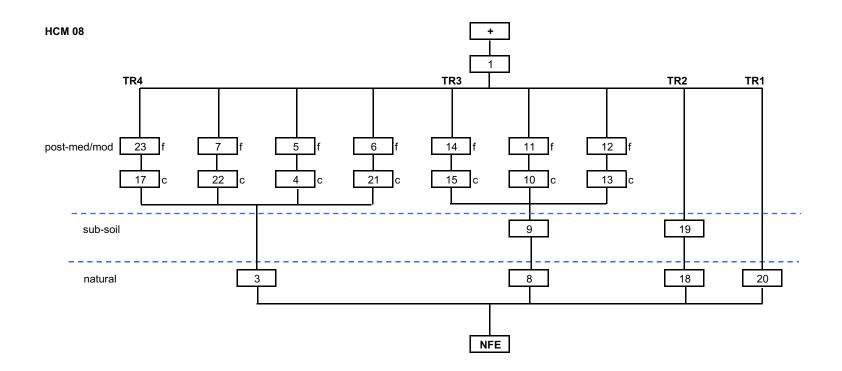
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Cartographic sources.

British Geological Survey. 1; 50 000 Series, England and Wales Sheet 270 (South London) 1998.

SITE	CONTEXT	TYPE	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
Heston School,				
Heston Road	1	Layer	TR1, 2,3,4	Topsoil
HCM08	2	VIOD		
	3	Layer	TR4	Natural Brickearth =[8], [18]
	4	Cut	TR4	Cut of mod foundation pad
	5	Fill	TR4	Fill of [4]
	6	Fill	TR4	Fill of [21]
	7	Fill	TR4	Fill of [22]
	8	Layer	TR3	Natural Brickearth = [3], [18]
	9	Layer	TR3	Sub-soil =[19]
	10	Cut	TR3	Cut of mod post hole
	11	Fill	TR3	Fill of [10]
	12	Fill	TR3	Fill of [13]
	13	Cut	TR3	Cut of mod root bole
	14	Fill	TR3	Fill of [15]
	15	Cut	TR3	Cut of post-med pit
	16	VOID		
	17	Cut	TR4	Cut of mod pit
	18	Layer	TR2	Natural Brickearth =[3], [8]
	19	Layer	TR2	Sub-soil =[9]
	20	Layer	TR1	Natural Brickearth
	21	Cut	TR4	Cut of mod pit=[4]
	22	Cut	TR4	Cut of mod pit =[4]
	23	Fill	TR4	Fill of [17]

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

10.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-51879		
Project details		
Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Heston Community School, Heston Road, London Borough of Hounslow	
Short description of the project	4 trial trenches were excavated to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site. No significant archaeological deposits were found, and only late post-medieval and modern features were observed cut into deposits of natural brickearth, c. 0.10m below current ground level	
Project dates	Start: 17-11-2008 End: 21-11-2008	
Previous/future work	No / Not known	
Any associated project reference codes	HCM08 - Sitecode	
Type of project	Field evaluation	
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area	
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed	
Monument type	FOUNDATION PAD Modern	

Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COINS Modern
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law
Development type	courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW HOUNSLOW Heston Community School, Heston Road.
Postcode	TW5 0QR
Study area	124.33 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1336 7735 51.4832345866 -0.367262568232 51 28 59 N 000 22 02 W Point

Height OD / Depth	Min: 29.71m Max: 29.83m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Stuart Watson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Apollo Group
Project archives Physical Archive recipient	LAARC

Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass'
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Glass'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Heston Community School, Heston Road, London Borough of Hounslow
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Watson, S.
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 bound report

Entered by	Stuart Watson (swatson@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	24 November 2008