

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**WAREHOUSE SITE, PERIVALE  
EVALUATION**

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at the Warehouse Site, Horseneden Lane  
South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing**

**Site Code: HOD 05**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1610 8360**

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, May 2005**

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May 2005**

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# **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at the Warehouse Site, Horsenden Lane South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing, UB 6. The evaluation was conducted between 25th and 29th April 2005, in advance of the redevelopment of the site for a residential block across the site. The work was commissioned by P.J. Carey (Contractors) Ltd.
  
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of five trial trenches, aimed at comprehensive coverage of the western and southern portions of the site, which revealed waterlogged clay deposits and a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century layer of ploughsoil.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Warehouse Site, Horseneden Lane South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing, UB 6 (see location map, Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by P.J. Carey (Contractors) Ltd., in advance of the redevelopment of the site for residential houses and flats across the site.
- 2.2 The evaluation covers an area of land centred on National Grid Reference TQ 1610 8360. The land had previously been occupied by warehouse buildings. The site is situated at the base of Horsenden Hill and is bounded to the east by Horsenden Lane South, to the north by Horsenden Hill Recreation Ground, to the west by Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve and to the south by buildings fronting onto Sunley Gardens. The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of five trial trenches, aimed at comprehensive coverage of the western and southern areas of the site, which had not been subject to previous development (see trench location map, Fig. 2).
- 2.3 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork, a method statement was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd<sup>1</sup> and approved by English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Ealing.
- 2.4 The evaluation was conducted between 25th and 29th of April 2005 and followed a written scheme of investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The fieldwork was supervised by the author, Neil Hawkins, under the Project Management of Tim Bradley. The site was monitored by Kim Stabler of English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Ealing.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited at London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC).
- 2.6 The site was allocated the site code HOD 05.

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<sup>1</sup> Bradley, 2005

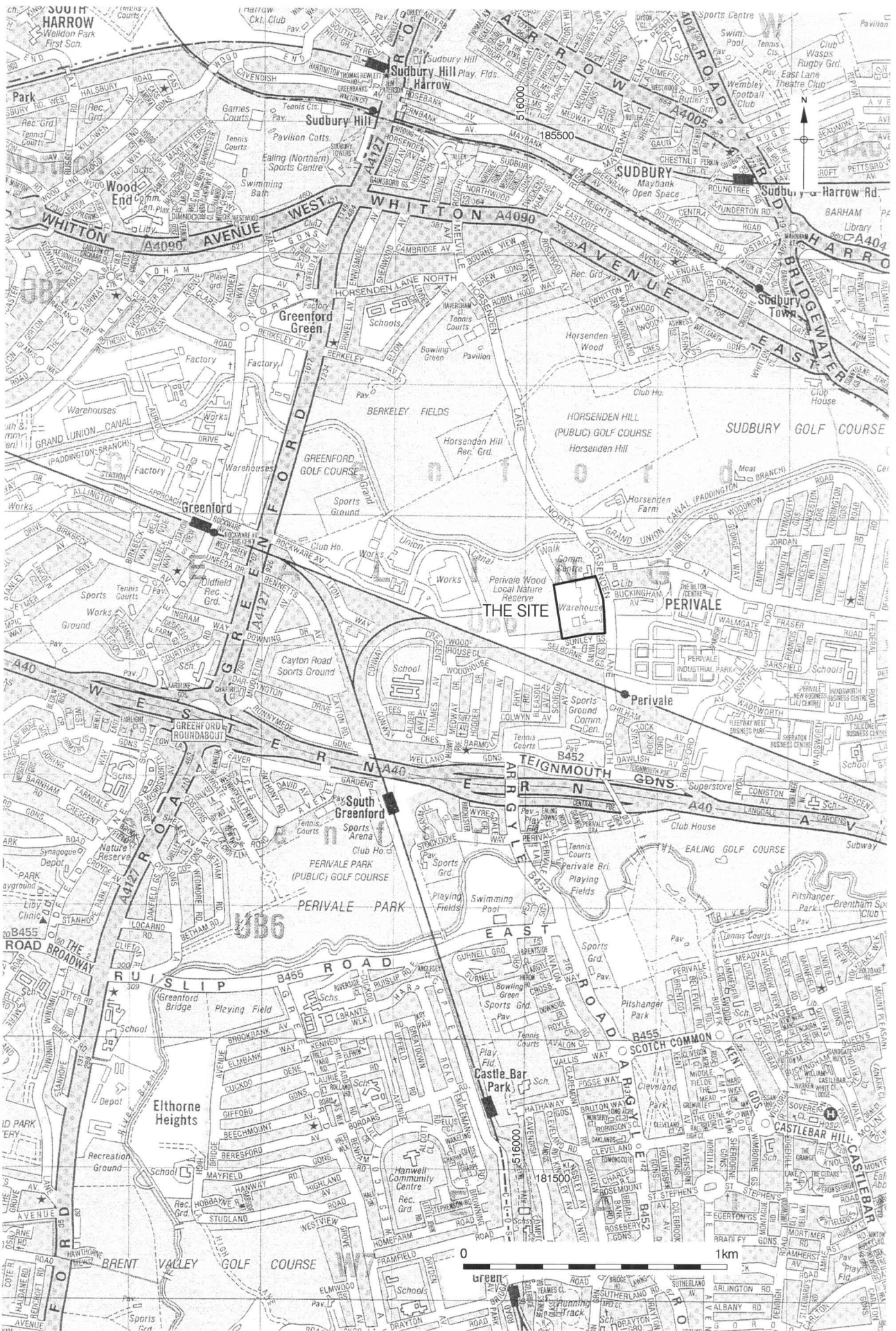
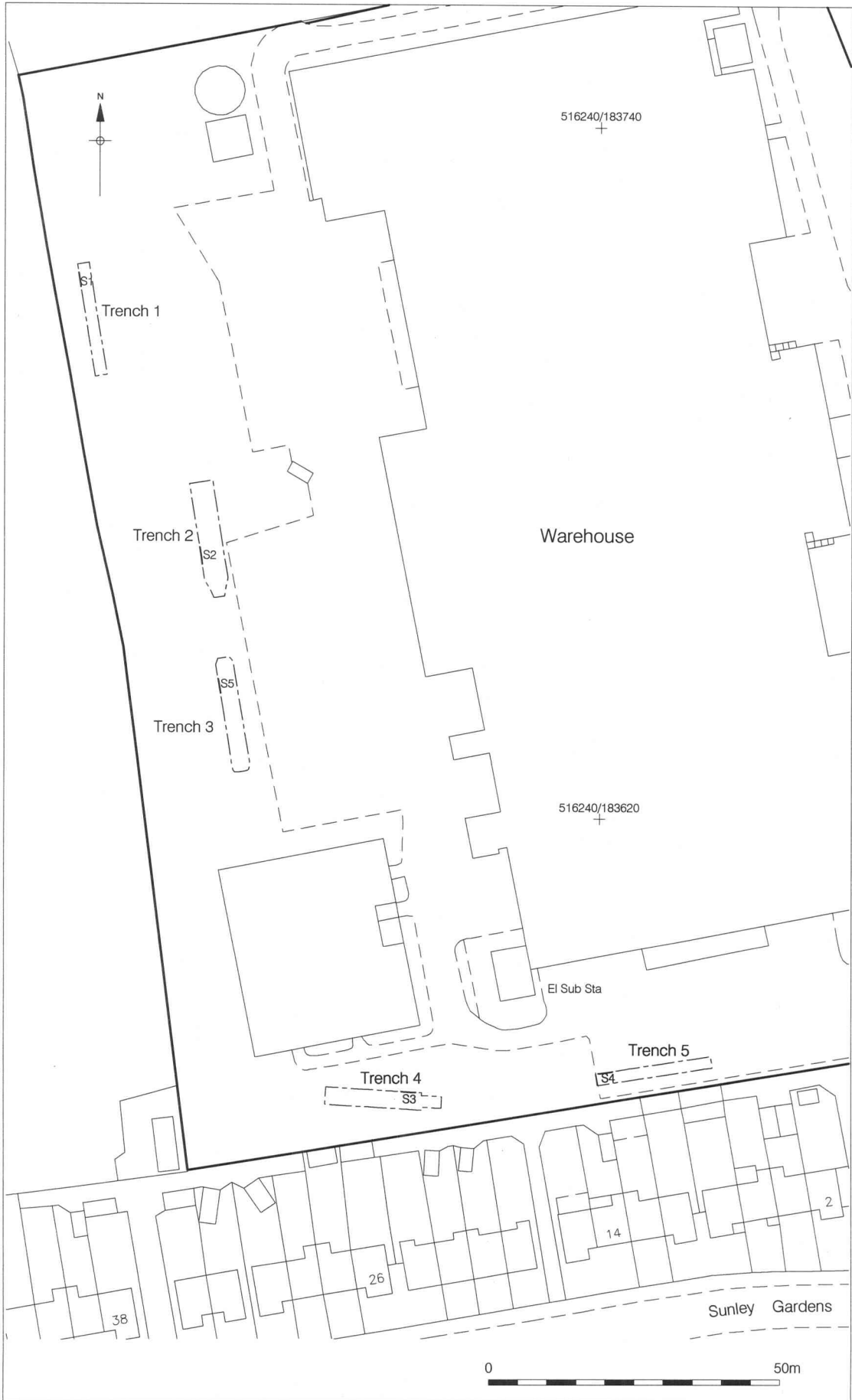


Figure 1  
 Site location  
 1:20,000



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:1,000

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY IN EALING AND THE UDP**

3.1.1 The study site lies within the an Archaeological Interest Area. This study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Ealing, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's deposit draft 'Unitary Development Plan' Chapter 7 1998 contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.1.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policy, and has an archaeological planning condition placed on the planning permission:

##### **POLICY B28 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas**

The council will require the protection of ancient monuments and their setting whether scheduled or not. In the event of development being proposed which would affect such sites, the developer should make adequate provision for an evaluation of the impact of the development which could include a request for an appropriate archaeological assessment of the setting by an organisation approved by the Council and should submit such information as part of any planning application.

##### **POLICY B29 Archaeology and Development**

The Council will promote the protection enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the Borough by encouraging co-operation between landowners, developers and archaeological organisations. Schemes involving development on any sites of archaeological remains should provide adequate opportunities for archaeological excavation prior to development in accordance with the British Archaeologists and Developers Liason Code of Practice, and arrangements can be the subject of a Section 106 Agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The importance of the areas identified on the proposals map are recognised and set out in Table 11, where clusters of archaeological finds have been made, or there is known archaeological potential required before considering such proposals and the Council will where appropriate:

- i) Normally refuse permission for development that would adversely affect important archaeological remains. Encouragement will be given to modify designs that avoid such adverse effect.
- ii) Encourage suitable design, land use and management to safeguard any important remains and may also seek an agreement covering arrangements for access and interpretation:
- iii) Where preservation in situ is not feasible, require appropriate levels of provision for excavation, subsequent analysis, interpretation and presentation to the public of any archaeological remains. NB. Sites of significance include any relatively large area of undisturbed ground especially on gravels and brickearth.



- 3.1.3 The Ealing UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata. Once the results of the Desktop Assessment and, where necessary or otherwise for follow-up trial work is known, an informed decision on the necessity or otherwise for further archaeological strategies may be taken. These strategies may be preservation in situ, excavation, or watching brief.
- 3.1.4 The proposed development lies within an Archaeological Interest Area as defined by the London Borough of Ealing UDP. A Scheduled Ancient Monument (GL 141), a multi period settlement site, lies approximately 600m north of the site.
- 3.1.5 Planning permission has been granted for the site. A condition, requiring archaeological investigation of the site has been placed on the planning consent granted for the scheme (Condition 28). The condition reads:

'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.'

- 3.1.6 The archaeological evaluation was instructed in accordance with this condition.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 The natural geology of the site consists of London Clay<sup>2</sup>.
- 4.2 The site lies on a slight slope from north to south, with an average level of c. 22.80m OD.
- 4.3 The site lies approximately 600m south of Horsenden Hill.
- 4.4 No watercourses occur within the vicinity of the study site. The Grand Union Canal (Paddington Branch) runs approximately 200m north of the site.

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<sup>2</sup>. British Geological Survey, 1994,

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 PREHISTORIC**

5.1.1 Approximately 600m north of the site lies the Scheduled Ancient Monument (GL 141), Horsenden Hill. The top of Horsenden Hill is a hill top settlement including possible defensive ditches and banks to the south and west, utilising the existing slope of Horsenden Hill. This settlement is thought to be dated to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, although excavations have yielded remains from the Mesolithic through to Saxon material. No other prehistoric material has been recorded in the area<sup>3</sup>.

### **5.2 ROMAN**

5.2.1 No Roman material has been recovered within the area.

### **5.3 SAXON / EARLY MEDIEVAL / MEDIEVAL**

5.3.1 Greenford, and neighbouring Northolt, are mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. A manor and church were located in the hamlet of Greenford Green. The Victoria County History also suggests that there was a settlement dating to as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century near to where Horsenden Farm is today, at the junction of Horsenden Lane South and the Grand Union Canal. This settlement is visible on the Rocque map of 1746. Medieval painted wall plaster and pottery has been recovered from Horsenden Farm, although the extent of this settlement is unknown<sup>4</sup>.

5.3.2 Approximately 400m from the site, and situated to the east of Horsenden Farm, is the Scheduled Ancient Monument (GL 142), a moated manor house. This manor house was described as 'ruinous' by 1342<sup>5</sup>.

### **5.4 POST-MEDIEVAL**

5.4.1 The settlement name Perivale, pear tree valley, was first mentioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Previously the hamlet was known as Greenford Parva, Little Greenford. It lay to the east of the larger settlement of Greenford itself, Greenford Magna<sup>6</sup>. Horsenden

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<sup>3</sup>Bradley, T., (2005)

<sup>4</sup> ibid

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> Weinreb & Hibbert, (1993), pg. 610

Lane South, known as Horsenden Wood Lane in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, appears to have lead from the settlement at Horsenden Farm to Perivale, and likely dates from the medieval period<sup>7</sup>.

5.4.2 In 1901 only 60 people lived in Perivale in a cluster of houses around the church. A station was opened here in 1904 by the Great Western Railway, later becoming part of the London Transport's Central Line. With the building of Western Avenue industry came to the area, principally Sanderson's Wallpaper Factory and the Hoover Factory, and a sizeable industrial estate was developed in the 1930's. House building followed this industrial development and the area was built up by the 1940's<sup>8</sup>.

5.4.3 The area of the site lay as open fields, illustrated on the Rocque map of 1746, with Perivale Woods clearly marked to the west. The area of the site remained as open fields until its development during World War 2 when it was used as a munitions factory and then subsequently occupied by a series of industrial and warehouse buildings<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> **Bradley, T.**, (2005)

<sup>8</sup> **Weinreb & Hibbert**, (1993), pg. 610

<sup>9</sup> **Bradley, T.**, (2005)

## 6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of five trenches was outlined in the Method Statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd<sup>10</sup>. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 6.2 All trenches were machine excavated with a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. The maximum dimensions of the trenches are shown in Table 1. Once archaeologically sensitive deposits or features were encountered, machining was stopped to allow archaeologists to clean with hand tools as necessary and record the remains.

Trench Number	Max Dimensions (m)	Max height (m OD)
1	20.00 x 2.00	23.25
2	20.00 x 4.00	22.82
3	20.00 x 3.00	22.72
4	20.00 x 3.00	22.39
5	20.00 x 2.00	22.46

**Table 1: Trench Dimensions**

- 6.3 Recording was undertaken using the single context planning method. All features and deposits observed were planned and recorded onto *pro forma* context record sheets. Contexts were numbered sequentially and are shown in this report within square brackets. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A general photographic survey of the site and working conditions was taken.
- 6.4 Two temporary benchmarks, 22.50m OD and 22.86m OD, were traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark of 23.08m OD, located on the northern face of 108 Horsenden Lane South.

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<sup>10</sup>Bradley, T., (2005)

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Phase 1 – Natural Clay**

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered throughout Trenches 1-5, [21], [23], [25], [27] and [20] respectively, was the natural clay. This context existed as a firm deposit of silt clay matrix, with gravel patches, light orange brown in colour. The natural clay encountered within Trenches 4 and 5, [27] and [20], varied slightly with less gravel inclusions and small lenses of orange sand. In Trench 1 it was encountered at a highest depth of 22.13m OD, in Trench 2, 20.82m OD, in Trench 3, 20.52m OD, in Trench 4, 21.00m OD, and in Trench 5, 21.36m OD.

### **7.2 Phase 2 – Natural Waterlogged Clay Deposits**

7.2.1 Sealing the natural clay, [21], in Trench 1 was a layer of waterlogged clay, [4]. This context existed as a soft deposit of silt clay matrix, mid orange brown in colour with mottled blue/grey staining. This staining, known as gleying, illustrate the wet and waterlogged nature of the deposit. This layer was encountered at a height of 22.43m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m.

7.2.2 Sealing the natural clay, [23], in Trench 2 was a layer of waterlogged clay, [22]. This context existed as a firm deposit of silt clay matrix, mid orange brown in colour with mottled blue/grey staining. Again this staining illustrates the process of gleying. This layer was encountered at a height of 21.22m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.41m. Sealing this layer was another distinct layer of waterlogged clay, [8]. This context existed as a soft deposit of silt clay matrix, light orange brown in colour with more frequent mottled blue/grey staining. This layer was encountered at a height of 22.02m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.82m.

7.2.3 Sealing the natural clay, [25], in Trench 3 was a layer of waterlogged clay, [24]. This layer of clay was equivalent to layer [22] encountered within trench 2. It was encountered at a height of 20.95m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.44m. Sealing this layer was another layer of waterlogged clay, [13]. This layer was equivalent to layer [8] encountered within trench 2. It was encountered at a height of 21.84m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.89m.

7.2.4 Sealing the natural clay, [27], in Trench 4 was a layer of waterlogged clay, [17]. This context existed as a soft deposit of silt clay matrix, mid orange brown in colour with occasional mottled blue/grey staining. The less frequent staining, indicative of the

process of gleying, shows this layer to have not been as wet and waterlogged as the previous three trenches. This deposit was encountered at a height of 21.59m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.63m.

- 7.2.5 Sealing the natural clay, [20], in Trench 5 was a layer of clay, [19]. This context existed as a soft deposit of silt clay matrix, mid orange brown in colour with rare mottled blue-grey staining. Again this deposit shows signs of being wet and waterlogged but to nowhere near as wet and deep as trenches 2 and 3. This deposit was encountered at a height of 21.62m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.28m.

### **7.3 Phase 3 – 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century Ploughsoil**

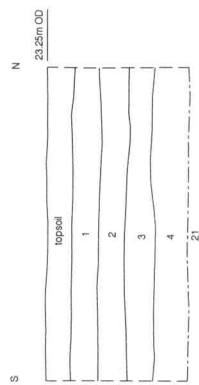
- 7.3.1 Sealing the waterlogged deposits [4], [8], [12] and [16] in trenches 1 to 4 was a layer of probable 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century ploughsoil, [3], [7], [12] and [16] respectively. This context existed as a slightly organic, friable deposit of clay silt matrix, dark brown grey in colour. This deposit contained within it 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, cbm and glass. This layer may represent a horizontally truncated, due to a certain amount of ground reduction, represented by Phase 4, pastoral/open field horizon sealing the earlier waterlogged clay deposits. Within Trench 1, [3], this layer was encountered at a height of 22.64m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.21m OD. In Trench 2, [7], this layer was encountered at a height of 22.22m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.20m. In Trench 3, [12], this layer was encountered at a height of 21.97m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.16m. In Trench 4, [16], this layer was encountered at 21.79m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.20m.

### **7.4 Phase 4 – Modern**

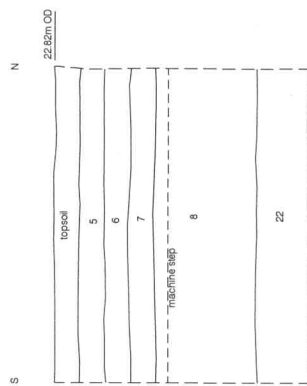
- 7.4.1 Sealing the layer of ploughsoil, [3], in Trench 1 were a series of layers of modern made ground, [2] and [1], sealed by the topsoil. The highest level of which was 23.25m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.64m.
- 7.4.2 Sealing the layer of ploughsoil, [7], in Trench 2 were a series of layers of modern made ground, [6] and [5], sealed by the topsoil. The highest level of which was 22.82m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.60m.
- 7.4.3 Sealing the layer of ploughsoil, [12], in Trench 3 were a series of layers of modern made ground, [11] and [10], sealed by topsoil. The highest level of which was 22.72m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.75m.

- 7.4.4 Sealing the layer of ploughsoil, [16], in Trench 4 were a series of layers of modern made ground, [15] and [14], sealed by topsoil. The highest level of which was 22.39m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.61m.
- 7.4.5 Sealing the layer of clay, [19], in Trench 5 was a layer of modern made ground, [18], sealed by topsoil. The highest level of which was 22.46m OD and the maximum thickness of the combined layers was 0.82m.

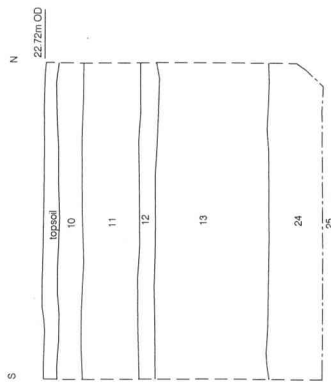




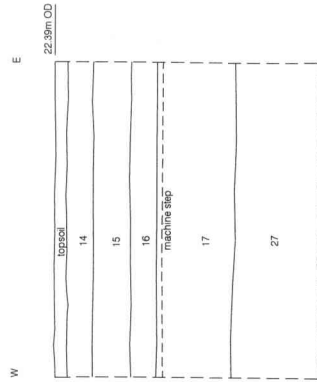
Section 1  
Trench 1, East facing



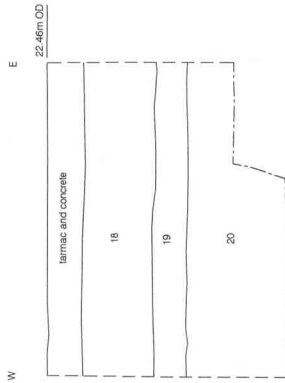
Section 2  
Trench 2, East facing



Section 3  
Trench 3, East facing



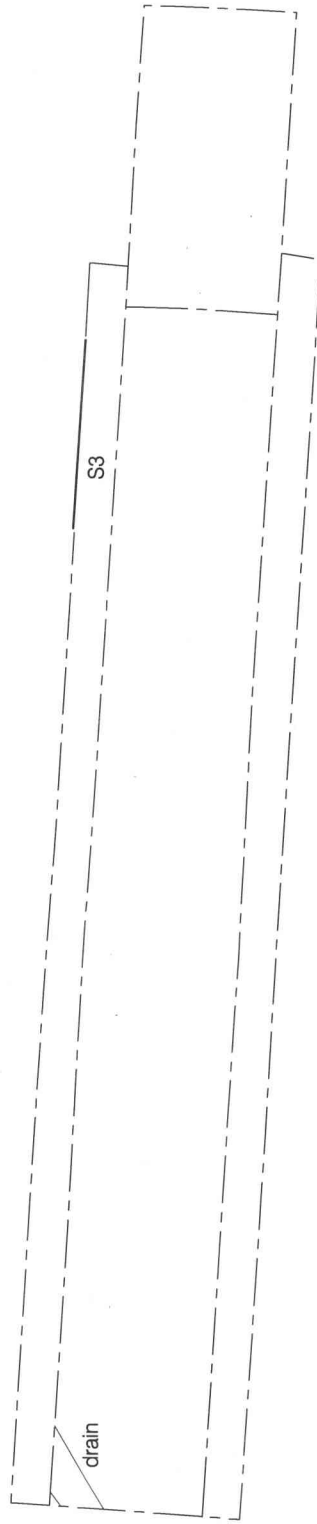
Section 4  
Trench 4, South facing



Section 5  
Trench 5, South facing



Figure 3  
Sections 1-5  
1:60



Trench 4



Figure 4  
Plan of Trench 4  
1:100

## **8 TRENCH SUMMARY**

### **8.1 TRENCH 1**

8.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural clay sealed by waterlogged clay deposits, overlain by a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> layer of ploughsoil sealed by modern made ground and topsoil.

### **8.2 TRENCH 2**

8.2.1 Trench 2 revealed natural clay sealed by waterlogged clay deposits, overlain by a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> layer of ploughsoil sealed by modern made ground and topsoil.

### **8.3 TRENCH 3**

8.3.1 Trench 3 revealed natural clay sealed by waterlogged clay deposits, overlain by a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> layer of ploughsoil sealed by modern made ground and topsoil.

### **8.4 TRENCH 4**

8.4.1 Trench 4 revealed natural clay sealed by waterlogged clay deposits, overlain by a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> layer of ploughsoil sealed by modern made ground and topsoil. Trench 4 was truncated by a land drain running north east-south west through the western end of the trench.

### **8.5 TRENCH 5**

8.5.1 Trench 5 revealed natural clay sealed by waterlogged clay deposits overlain by modern made ground and topsoil. Trench 5 was also truncated by a modern pipe running north-south through the trench.

## **9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **9.1 DISCUSSION**

9.1.1 The evaluation revealed natural deposits in all trenches consistent with the underlying London clay. No archaeological features or deposits of any kind were found within the evaluation trenches implying a lack of activity within the localised area.

9.1.2 The lack of archaeological features may be due to the identification of natural clay horizons showing signs of being wet or waterlogged. The general environment of the site, up until its development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, may have been wet, waterlogged or marshy and therefore not suitable for any kind of localised settlement, which may also attest to the location of the known multi-period settlement on the higher ground of Horsenden Hill. The absence of any nearby rivers and the lack of any anaerobic deposits such as peat may also suggest that the area may only have been wet and waterlogged and not subjected to prolonged and continual flooding episodes.

### **9.2 CONCLUSIONS**

9.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the western and southern areas of the site have had little or no truncation with the exception of a land drain and pipe trench within Trenches 4 and 5.

9.2.2 Despite the complete lack of truncation within the evaluation trenches no archaeological remains were encountered. The area may possibly have been a waterlogged, marshy area, unsuitable for settlement and therefore remained open ground until its development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Nicholas Rivlin of P.J. Carey (Contractors) Ltd for commissioning the work.
- 10.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank Kim Stabler of GLAAS for monitoring the work.
- 10.3 The author would also like to thank the field staff Denise Mulligan, Josephine Brown for the illustrations, Natalie Barrett for the surveying and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey, 1994, 1:50 000 Series, England and Wales Sheet 256, NORTH LONDON, Solid and Drift Geology

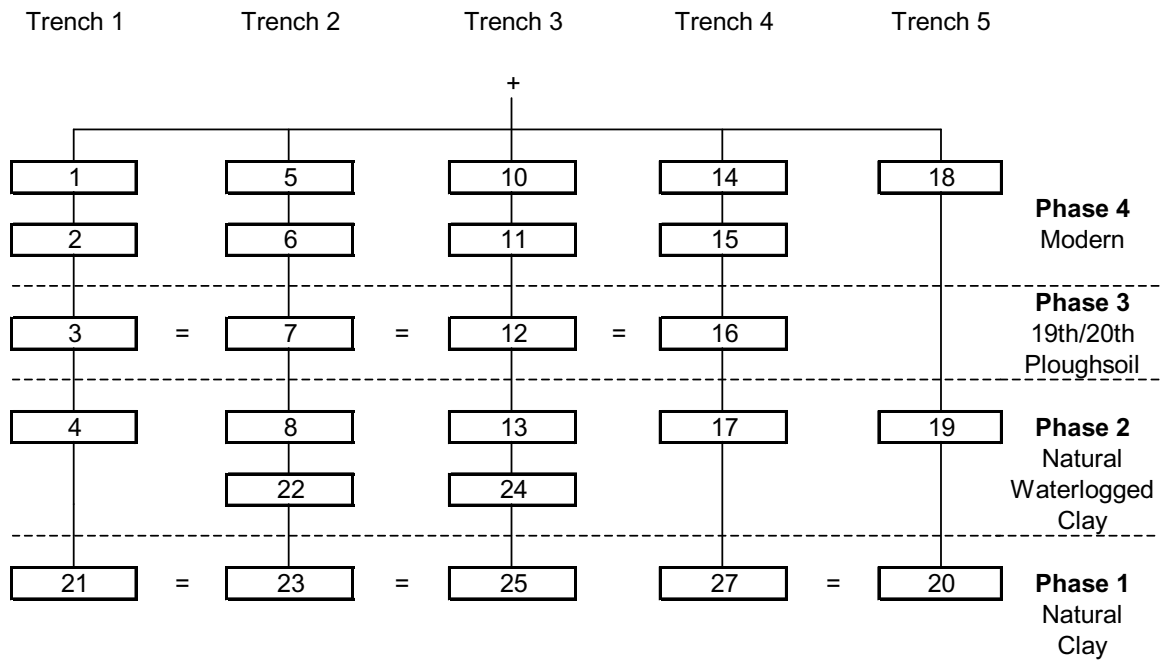
**Bradley, T.**, (2005), *Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Warehouse Site, Horsenden Lane South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing, UB 6*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished report

**Weinreb, B. & Hibbert, C.**, (1993), *The London Encyclopaedia*. Macmillan London Limited, London

## APPENDIX 1: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Trench	Phase	Description
1	Layer	1	4	Made ground
2	Layer	1	4	Made ground
3	Layer	1	3	19th/20th century ploughsoil
4	Layer	1	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
5	Layer	2	4	Made ground
6	Layer	2	4	Made ground
7	Layer	2	3	19th/20th century ploughsoil
8	Layer	2	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
9	VOID			
10	Layer	3	4	Made ground
11	Layer	3	4	Made ground
12	Layer	3	3	19th/20th century ploughsoil
13	Layer	3	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
14	Layer	4	4	Made ground
15	Layer	4	4	Made ground
16	Layer	4	3	19th/20th century ploughsoil
17	Layer	4	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
18	Layer	5	4	Made ground
19	Layer	5	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
20	Natural	5	1	Natural Clay
21	Natural	1	1	Natural Clay
22	Layer	2	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
23	Natural	2	1	Natural Clay
24	Layer	3	2	Waterlogged Clay Layer
25	Natural	3	1	Natural Clay
26	VOID			
27	Natural	4	1	Natural Clay

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX





## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-8242**

### Project details

Project name	Horsenden Lane South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation at Horsenden Lane South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing. Five trenches revealed no archaeological remains, only natural clay deposits.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2005 End: 29-04-2005
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HOD 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON EALING GREENFORD Horsenden Lane South, Perivale
Postcode	UB 6
Study area	29062.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 1610 8360 Point
Height OD	Min: 20.52m Max: 22.13m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Neil Hawkins
Sponsor or funding body	P.J. Carey (Contractors) Ltd.

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
----------------------------	-------

Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	'Survey'
Digital Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Warehouse Site, Horsenden Lane South, Perivale, London Borough of Ealing
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hawkins, N.
Date	2005
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London

Entered by	Neil Hawkins (nhawkins@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	11 May 2005

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