

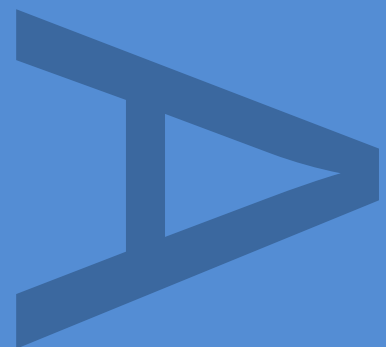
**ST GILES CHURCH, ICKENHAM  
LONDON BOROUGH OF  
HILLINGDON  
UB10 8BG**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: SGC11**

**MAY 2011**

**PCA REPORT NUMBER: R11037**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

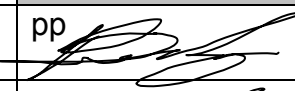

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

ST GILES CHURCH, ICKENHAM LONDON  
BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
	Project Number	K2506
	Report Number	R11037

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	James Young Langthorne		April 2011
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		April 2011
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	pp 	May 2011
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley		May 2011

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London  
SE4 2PD

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Giles Church, Ickenham, London  
Borough of Hillingdon UB10 8BG**

**Site Code: SGC11**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 07721 86352**

**Written and Researched by James Young Langthorne  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, May 2011**

**Project Manager: Tim Bradley**

**Commissioning Client: St Giles' Parochial Church Council**

**Contractor:**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London  
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925  
Fax: 020 7732 7896  
Email: [tbradley@pre-construct.com](mailto:tbradley@pre-construct.com)  
Web: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**

**May 2011**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

## CONTENTS

1	Abstract	2
2	Introduction	3
3	Planning Background	6
4	Geology, Topography and Archaeological and Historical Background	8
5	Archaeological Methodology	9
6	Archaeological Phase Description	10
7	Interpretations and Conclusions	15
8	Acknowledgements	16
9	Bibliography	17

## APPENDICES

1	Context Descriptions	18
2	Site Matrix	19
3	OASIS Form	20

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site Location	4
Figure 2	Trench Location	5
Figure 3	Sections 1-3	11

## **1 ABSTRACT**

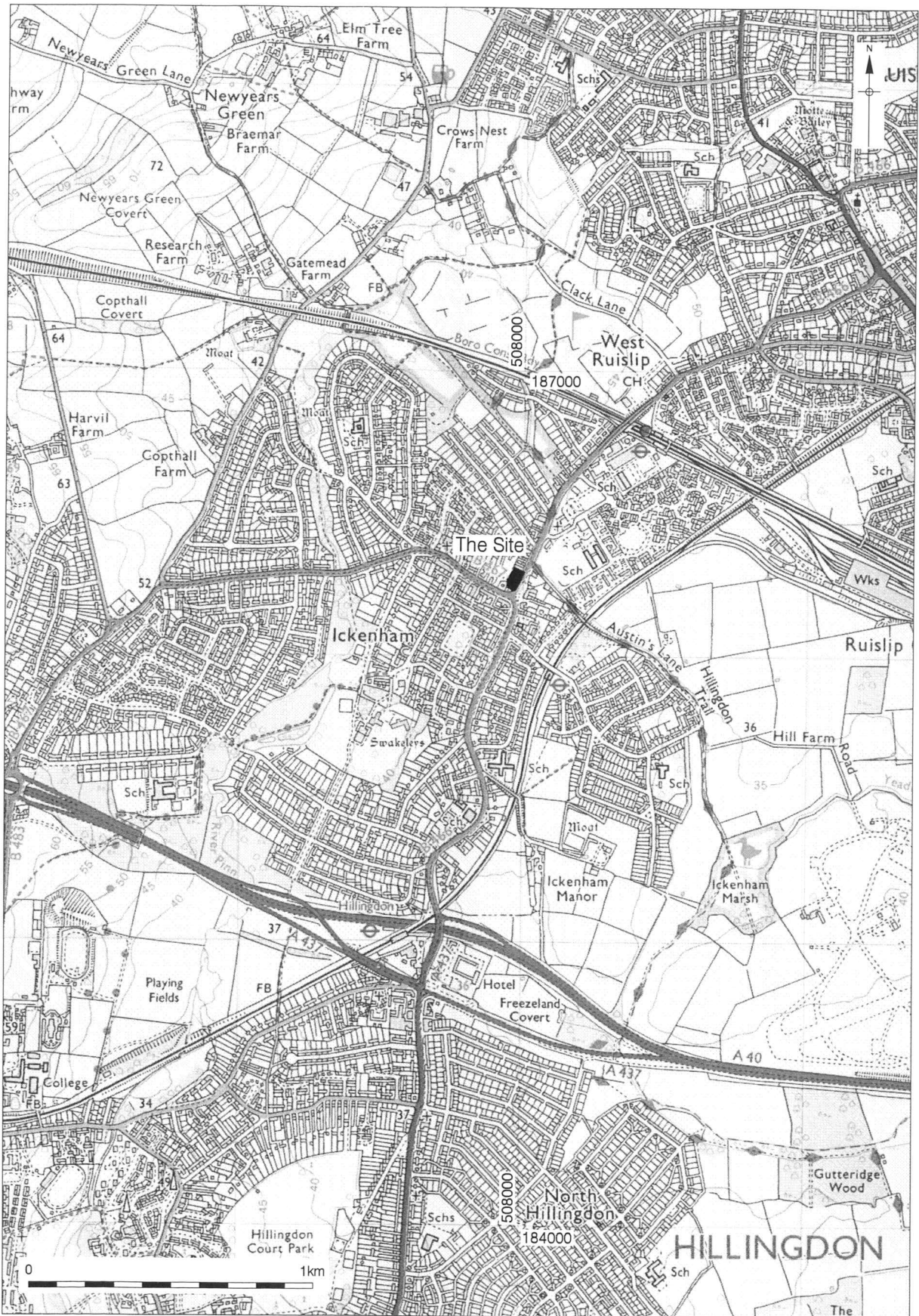
- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at St Giles Church, Ickenham, London Borough of Hillingdon by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The evaluation was commissioned by St Giles' Parochial Church Council.
- 1.2 Archaeological monitoring was required on two trenches, which were excavated to facilitate the installation of new lighting.
- 1.3 The only deposits encountered in the two trenches were modern topsoil and subsoil within which no discrete archaeological features were observed.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at St Giles Church, Ickenham, London Borough of Hillingdon (Fig. 1) between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The site was the church yard of St Giles Church and its boundaries were defined by the junction of Swakeleys Road and High Road to the south, properties fronting Boniface Road to the west, the Church Hall to the north and High Road to the east.
- 2.2 The requirements for the archaeological watching brief were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>1</sup>. The investigation entailed the monitoring of two trenches for the installation of new lighting (Fig. 2). The watching brief was commissioned by Caroline Hill on behalf of the St Giles' Parochial Church Council, was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. by Tim Bradley and carried out by James Young Langthorne. The site was monitored by Kim Stabler (English Heritage GLAAS), archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Hillingdon.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site was TQ 07721 86352
- 2.4 The site was given the code SGC11.

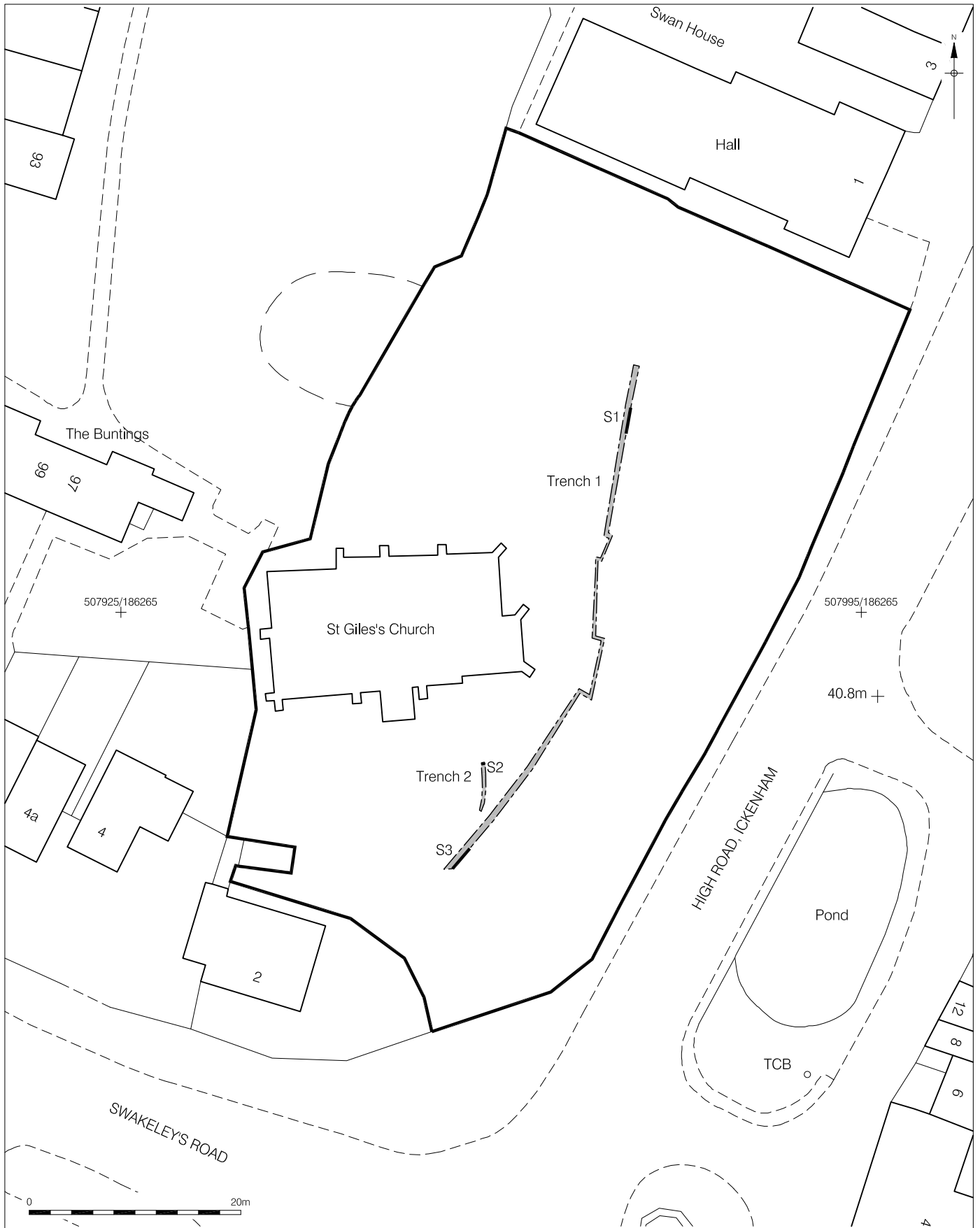
---

<sup>1</sup> Bradley 2011



© Crown copyright 2008. All rights reserved. License number 36110309  
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2011

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4



© Crown copyright 2011. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309  
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2011

Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:500 at A4



### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The proposed development of the site consisted of two trenches to accommodate new lighting within the St Giles church yard. These excavations had the potential to impact on any possible archaeological deposits, specifically burials, extant within the boundaries of the site.

#### 3.2 Hillingdon Council Archaeology Policy<sup>2</sup>

Hillingdon is rich in archaeology and its archaeological remains are an important and valuable local and national resource.

Archaeology contributes positively to the quality of life, character and distinctiveness of local communities and as such can attract interest, promote community involvement and provide a sense of local and national identity.

Significant prehistoric sites at Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge and more recently at Heathrow Terminal Five site have been excavated. The excavations at Heathrow have highlighted the Borough's potential for providing important information about the changing landscape of London from prehistory through to modern times.

Records of archaeological finds throughout the Borough have been included in the Scheduled Monuments Records, which now forms part of the Historic Environment, maintained by English Heritage. More details regarding this can be found at [Greater London Historic Environment Record](#). Currently, the Council has identified a number of 'Archaeological Priority Areas', which are:

Ref	Name of the area	Nature of resource
APA1	Harmondsworth	Mediaeval and earlier
APA2	West Bedfont	Prehistoric
APA3	Harlington	Prehistoric
APA4	North Harefield	Prehistoric
APA5	South Harefield	Prehistoric
APA6	Uxbridge	Prehistoric and Mediaeval
APA7	West Drayton	Saxon and Mediaeval

<sup>2</sup> [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=22673](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=22673)

APA8	Hayes	Saxon and Mediaeval
APA9	Ruislip Motte and Bailey	Mediaeval

3.3 Additionally the London Borough of Hillingdon planning conditions relating to archaeology continue:

**5 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 to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. REASON The site is of archaeological interest and it is considered that all evidence of the remains should be recorded in accordance with Policy BE3 of the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved policies (September 2007).**

**103 With regard to condition 5, the development of this site is likely to damage archaeological remains. The applicant should therefore submit detailed proposals in the form of an archaeological project design. This design should be in accordance with English Heritage guidelines.**

3.4 The investigation does not impact on St Giles Church itself and the site is not located within an archaeological priority area as defined by the Borough's Local Plan

## **4 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 GEOLOGY**

4.1.1 The site is located on brickearth, referred to as the 'Langley silt complex'.

4.1.2 There has been no recent geological survey performed on or near the site.

### **4.2 TOPOGRAPHY**

4.2.1 The site is located on gently undulating ground at an approximate height of 41.00m OD.

### **4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.3.1 St Giles Church dates back to 1335 when the first Rector of the Parish of Ickenham was appointed. Burials and internments dating back to the medieval period have been recovered from within the Church building, and by late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century burials were moved to within the church yard itself.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

5.1 In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>3</sup>, the excavation of two trenches were to be monitored in order to determine the following criterion:

- To establish the presence or absence of human burials or charnel in all parts of the development site.
- To collect charnel and to record and excavate any in situ remains.
- To establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological remains.

5.3 The excavation of both trenches was performed by hand under archaeological monitoring. The table below summarises the dimensions of the two trenches:

Trench	North-South (m)	East-West (m)	Depth (m)
1	50.00	0.37	0.48
2	5.00	0.39	0.48

5.3 After excavation was completed the location of trenches was triangulated from the church and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. The single context system was used for all recording on the site. A full photographic record was also kept of all the trenches

---

<sup>3</sup> Bradley 2011

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION**

### **6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)**

6.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 at a maximum height of -0.28m below ground level (40.70m OD) was a layer of firm mid yellow grey brown slightly silty clay subsoil with occasional brick fragments, small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles and occasional-moderate root activity [2].

6.1.2 Subsoil [2] was sealed by a 0.34m thick layer of modern topsoil composed of firm-friable dark grey brown clay silt with frequent root activity, moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional glass, metal and plastic fragments, including a small toy pig, a modern St Christopher's medal<sup>4</sup> and a 1979 penny, and occasional brick and CBM fragments [1]. The highest level for this deposit was approximately 41.05m OD.

6.1.3 No discrete archaeological deposits were found in Trench 1.

### **6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2 &3)**

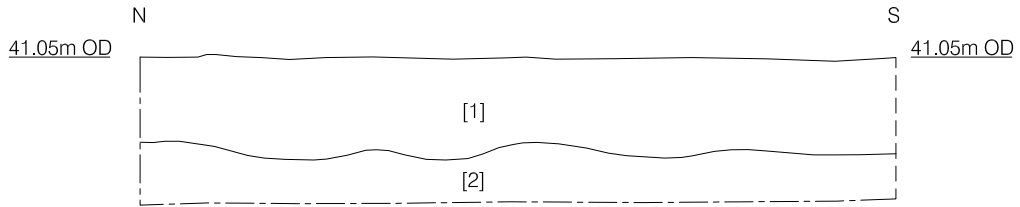
6.2.1 The same deposits were encountered in Trench 2: A layer of subsoil [4] was found at a maximum height of -0.23m below ground level (highest level 40.77m OD) and sealed by a 0.23m thick layer of modern topsoil [4] (highest level 41m OD). The topsoil contained a single residual fragment of disarticulated human bone, the poorly preserved shaft of a femur. A digital image was taken of the bone and then it was reinterred within Trench 2 as detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>5</sup>.

6.2.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were found in Trench 2.

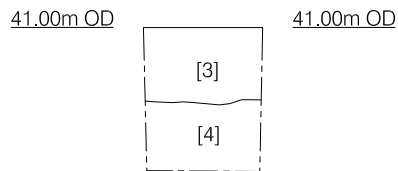
---

<sup>4</sup> A car was depicted on the reverse face.

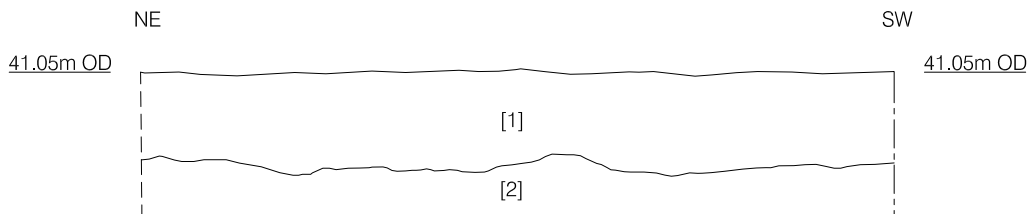
<sup>5</sup> Bradley 2011



Section 1  
Trench 1  
West Facing



Section 2  
Trench 2  
South Facing



Section 3  
Trench 1  
Northwest Facing

0 1m  
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2011

Figure 3  
Sections 1 - 3  
1:25 at A4

**Digital Image 1- Northern end of Trench 1 (South facing)**



**Digital Image 2- Southern end of Trench 1 (South facing)**





**Digital Image 3- Trench 2 (North-west facing)**



## **7 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Interpretation**

7.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>6</sup> prepared before archaeological work at St Giles Church highlighted three specific research objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

#### **7.2 To establish the presence or absence of human burials or charnel in all parts of the development site.**

7.2.1 A single residual fragment of disarticulated human bone was found within the topsoil of Trench 2. No other human remains were found within the topsoil or subsoil of either Trenches 1 or 2.

#### **7.3 To collect charnel and to record and excavate any in situ remains.**

7.3.1 The disarticulated human bone recovered during the excavation of the trenches was recorded as a poorly preserved fragment of part of the shaft of a human femur. A digital image was then taken of the bone prior to it being reinterred within Trench 2 as per the Written Scheme of Investigation.

#### **7.4 To establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological remains,**

7.4.1 The only deposits on site were modern topsoil and subsoil. No discrete archaeological features of any description were encountered during the watching brief,

### **7.5 Conclusions**

7.5.1 It has been clearly shown by the watching brief that only deposits dating from the modern period are extant on the site to a depth of -0.48m below ground level.

7.5.2 The only human material encountered during the excavation of the trenches was a disarticulated femur shaft found within modern topsoil and therefore residual in nature.

---

<sup>6</sup> Bradley 2011

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Caroline Hill of St Giles Parochial Church Council for commissioning the work, for their support and for funding the work. Thanks also to Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the site.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Andrew Ericson and his crew for their assistance on site; Tim Bradley for his project management and editing this report and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

## 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

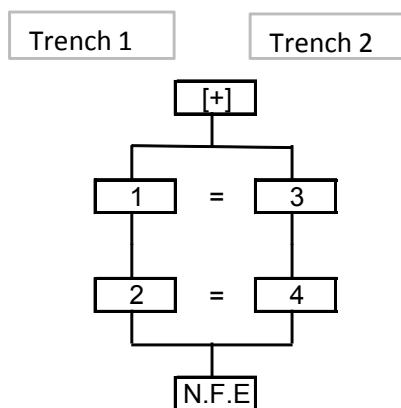
Bradley, T. 2011. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigations at St Giles Church, Ickenham, London Borough of Hillingdon*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished report.

Internet resource: <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=22673>

## APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
SGC11	1	N/A	S1 & S3	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	1
SGC11	2	N/A	S1 & S3	Layer	Subsoil	Modern	1
SGC11	3	N/A	S2	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	1
SGC11	4	N/A	S2	Layer	Subsoil	Modern	1

## APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3 – OASIS FORM

### 1.1. OASIS ID: preconst1-99132

#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Giles Church, Ickenham
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between the 4th-7th April 2011 at St Giles Church, Ickenham. Archaeological monitoring was required on two trenches, which were dug to facilitate the installation of new lighting. The only deposits encountered in either of the two trenches were modern topsoil and subsoil within which no discrete archaeological features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 04-04-2011 End: 07-04-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SGC11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	TOPSOIL Modern
Monument type	SUBSOIL Modern
Significant Finds	HUMAN FEMUR (DISARTICULATED) Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON HILLINGDON AND ICKENHAM St Giles Church
Postcode	UB10 8BG
Study area	3950.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 07721 86352 51.5652589226 -0.445695659864 51 33 54 N 000 26 44 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	St Giles' Parochial Church Council
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	James Young Langthorne

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	SGC11
Physical Contents	'Human Bones','Metal','other'
Physical Archive notes	Findings including a coin (1979 penny), a small plastic toy pig and a modern St Christopher's medal were removed from site but disposed of after dating was confirmed. The human femur was reinterred in Trench 2 whence it originated.
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	SGC11
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	SGC11
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Section','Unpublished Text'

---

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Giles Church, Ickenham, London Borough of Hillingdon UB10 8BG.



Author(s)/Editor(s) Langthorne, J.  
Date 2011  
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Ltd.  
Place of issue or publication London  
Description A4 softcover grey literature report.

---

Entered by archivist (archive@pre-construct.com)  
Entered on 13 April 2011

# PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091

FAX: 020 7639 9588

EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

PCA NORTHERN

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE

STAPLEFORD

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL

TEL: 01223 845 522

FAX: 01223 845 522

EMAIL: [mhinman@pre-construct.com](mailto:mhinman@pre-construct.com)

