

# Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

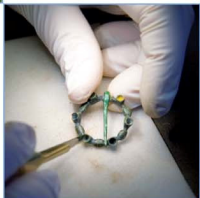
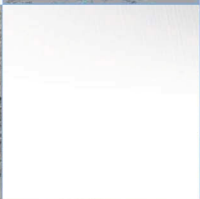
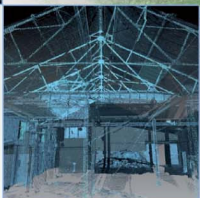
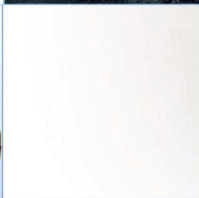
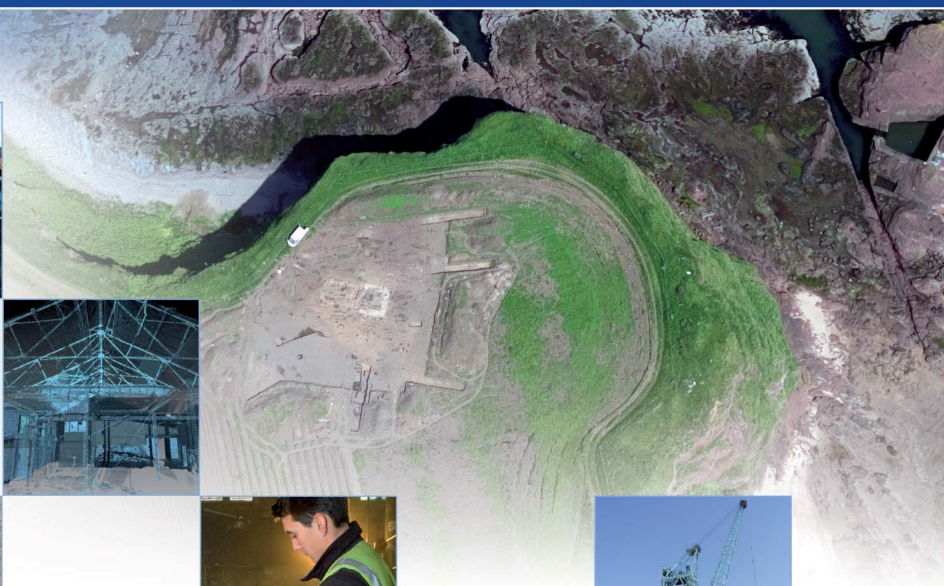
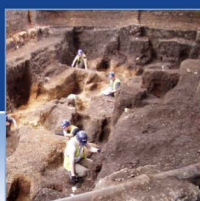
Planning Application Number: 1454/APP/2011/828

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 05151 90516

AOC Project No: 32198

Site Code: HJS12

Date: November 2012



**AOC**  
Archaeology  
Group

ARCHAEOLOGY

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# Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>MACE Limited</b> Atelier House 4 Pratt Street London NW1 0LF
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>TQ 0515 9051</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>32198</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Les Capon</b>
<b>Illustration by:</b>	<b>Gisli Pálsson</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>November 2012</b>

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

**Author:** Ian Hogg

**Date:** November 2012

**Approved by:** Paul Mason

**Date:** November 2012

**Draft/Final Report Stage:** Draft

**Date:** November 2012

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## Non-Technical Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of MACE Limited, on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, London Borough of Hillingdon. The evaluation consisted of two machine-excavated trenches, each measuring 5m by 2.0m.*

*No archaeology was observed in either trench. Natural Gerrards Cross Gravel was observed at 87.95mOD in Trench 1, whereas Trench 2 had services cutting into the gravel horizon. The natural deposit was overlain by hardcore, concrete and tarmac of the current school playground. This strongly suggested that the site had been stripped to gravel when the playground was established. The trenches were sealed by concrete and asphalt surfaces from the school, and demolition deposits.*

*Due to the lack of archaeological deposits encountered it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The results of the evaluation will be summarised for inclusion in the London Archaeology Round-up and published via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website. On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, will be deposited with the LAARC, Museum of London.*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation, consisting of two evaluation trenches excavated in advance of a proposed new school block at Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Harefield Junior School is located within Harefield town centre; the approximate National Grid Reference coordinates at the centre of the site are TQ 0515 9051 (Figure 2). The site is roughly rectangular in shape and covers c. 0.78 hectares.
- 1.1.3 The site comprises school buildings opened in 1990, replacing a school established in 1907, which had had a swimming pool constructed later along the eastern side of the school lands. The bell tower of the original school has been incorporated into the new build. The site is level with a tarmac playground surface.

### 1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Hillingdon. Archaeological advice to the borough is provided by Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of English Heritage.
- 1.2.2 The site falls adjacent to an Archaeological Priority Area as designated by Hillingdon Borough Council. The site does not contain any Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings. No World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields lie within 1km of the site.
- 1.2.3 The site is in an area of archaeological interest and therefore the development was considered to have the potential to impact upon remains of some significance. In 1997, a 17<sup>th</sup> century kiln was excavated directly to the east of the proposed development, in Taylor's close. The kiln was in fact made from re-used medieval tiles which may have derived from a building/buildings nearby (AOC 1997). There was the potential for similar remains to survive from the medieval and post-medieval periods at Harefield Junior School.
- 1.2.4 An archaeological condition was attached to planning consent (1454/APP/2011/828). This is in accordance with paragraph 141 of the NPPF and local policies.

Condition:

*'No development, including the demolition of existing buildings, 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 development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition.'*

- 1.2.5 In response to this, a Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012) set out the methodology for the archaeological evaluation and was approved by Kim Stabler prior to the start of work on site.

### 1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey data indicates that the underlying bedrock geology in the area of the site consists of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand). The site lies close to the border of a superficial deposit of Gerrards Cross Gravel Formation (sand and gravel) (British Geological Society 2006).

- 1.3.2 Harefield is located on an area of relative high ground which slopes down to the River Colne to the north and west. Survey data provided by the client indicates that the site is generally flat, varying in height from 88.03m OD at the north of the site at Park Lane, to 88.14m OD to the south of the site (WSP Drawing No: 0011-D-02).

## **2. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 2.0.1 The following historical background utilises the Victoria County History of Middlesex, the Greater London Historic Environment Record (through Heritage Gateway) and the 14-16 High Street, Harefield Evaluation Report (AOC 1997).

### **2.1 The Prehistoric Periods (Palaeolithic c. 500,000 – 10000 BC; Mesolithic c. 10000 to 4000 BC; Neolithic c. 4000-2200 BC; Bronze Age c. 2200-700 BC and Iron Age c. 700 BC - AD 43)**

- 2.1.1 The Greater London Historic Environment Record records a number of prehistoric findspots within 500m of the site. This includes a Palaeolithic handaxe recovered from Dower House on Northwood Road, Mesolithic – Neolithic flint scrapers recovered from Colne Farm, and a Neolithic chipped axe. The site is located on a superficial deposit of Gerrards Cross Gravels, a Thames River Gravel deposit which is associated with early prehistoric activity.

### **2.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)**

- 2.2.1 The settlement of Harefield is located approximately 30km north-west from the Roman centre of Britain, *Londinium*. Settlement evidence for the village of Harefield is fairly scant; an archaeological investigation at St Mary's Vicarage, Church Hill (c. 500m to the south of the site) recorded a ditch with Roman to early medieval dating evidence within. Additionally a sepulchre was claimed to have been found at Breakspear Avenue to the east of the site in 1818, however the exact location and context cannot be assumed to be secure.

### **2.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1538)**

- 2.3.1 Harefield is recorded as a pre-conquest manor in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it appears as *Herefelle*, comprising the Anglo-Saxon words 'Here', (Danish for army) and 'felle' (later *feld*), (old English field). The Greater London Historic Environment Record adds that the settlement may have taken form after the migration period, and was probably located at the cross roads on the plateau (at the junction of modern day Rickmansworth and Park Lane Roads), placing the development site within very close proximity to the early core of the settlement (GLHER 2012).
- 2.3.2 Archaeological evidence for early medieval Harefield is scant, with evidence restricted to a single Roman to early medieval ditch, recorded at St Mary's Vicarage c. 500 to the south of the site.
- 2.3.3 Although from the early medieval period until the modern day the settlement is believed to have centred on the crossroads close to the site, the medieval church of St Mary's is situated c. 500m to the south of the site. The original medieval Manor of Harefield, held by the Newdigate family from about 1440, is believed to be located adjacent to the St Mary the Virgin church, where the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Harefield Lodge is located. Archaeological investigations around Church Hill have recorded medieval cut features and ceramics near Harefield Lodge, and medieval ceramics at St Mary's Vicarage.
- 2.3.4 In addition to a medieval brass roundel which was recovered from a garden close to the cross roads and the site, archaeological investigations in 1997 by AOC Archaeology at Taylor's close (to the immediate west of the site) recorded a kiln made from re-used medieval tiles. This implied the proximity of a medieval building / buildings close by.



## **2.4 The Post-Medieval (AD 1538 – AD 1900) and Modern Period (AD 1900 to present )**

- 2.4.1 Historic mapping indicates that the site lay in open, presumably agricultural land to the rear of the settlement which formed along the crossroads. The site itself was unoccupied until the construction of the primary school in 1907. The school originally occupied the southern part of the site and the 1960 Ordnance Survey depicts a north-south aligned structure which falls within the area of the proposed school block. This block, as with the main school building, was demolished by 1990, and the present school buildings were constructed.
- 2.4.2 Further afield, a cluster of settlement is located to the south of the cross roads, which includes possible burgage plots and a field boundary which curves round the vicarage and delineates this area of settlement. This possible boundary forms the southern limit of the development site.
- 2.4.3 The Greater London Historic Environment Record records a number of features relating to the post-medieval settlement of Harefield, including below and extant heritage features. As previously discussed, archaeological investigations by AOC Archaeology at Taylor's Close (to the immediate west of the site) recorded a post-medieval pit and hearth (AOC 1997). Re-used medieval tiles were recovered from the pit fill and a 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe was recovered from the hearth. The investigation concluded that the limited survival of archaeological features was caused by truncation by previous development.

## **3. Strategy**

### **3.1 Aims of the Archaeological Investigation**

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To determine the extent, condition, significance, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
  - To enable the archaeology advisor to Hillingdon Borough Council to make an informed decision on the status of the planning application in relation to the archaeological potential of the site, and the possible requirement for further work.
  - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 3.1.2 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as being:
- To determine whether there is evidence of usage of the site in the medieval or post-medieval periods.
- 3.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### **3.2 Methodology**

- 3.2.1 A written scheme of investigation prepared by AOC Archaeology (AOC 2012) defined the site procedures for the archaeological evaluation. This document detailed how the evaluation, consisting of two machine-excavated trenches, would be undertaken (Figure 2). All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IfA 2009 & 2010, EH 2008 & 2009). Provision was made for a report as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

- 3.2.2 A unique site code for the project (**HJS 12**) was issued by the London Archaeological Archive Resource Centre (LAARC), and was used as the site identifier.
- 3.2.3 The levels for the trenches were established using a survey provided by the client.
- 3.2.4 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Paul Mason, AOC Project Manager. The site was monitored by Kim Stabler of GLAAS on behalf of Hillingdon Borough Council.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
88.41m	0.00m	(100)	Playground Surface
88.35m	0.06m	(101)	Playground Subsurface
88.15m	0.26m	(102)	Hardcore
88.05m	0.36m	(103)	Hardcore
87.95m	0.46m	(108)	Naturally-lain sand and gravel



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking East.





**Plate 2. Trench 1, North-Facing Section**

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north of the site, parallel to the south wall of Harefield Junior School. It was orientated roughly east-west and measured 5.00m by 1.80m (Figures 2 and 3, Plate 1).
- 4.1.2 Naturally-lain Gerrards Cross sand and gravel (108) was observed at 87.95mOD, lying generally flat across the trench. The sand was yellowish brown and the gravel was small to medium rounded stones. The natural deposit was cut by two intrusions. One was part of a tree pit [109] close to the south edge of the trench. This was 1.00m wide, and revealed shallow sloping sides to an irregular base, just 0.18m deep. The pit had a lower fill of greyish brown silty clay with high gravel content (105) and root disturbance was evident. The upper fill was also greyish brown silty clay, but with less stone content (104). The feature was clearly of 20<sup>th</sup> century date, as shown by the presence of ceramic drainpipe fragments and pieces of brick.
- 4.1.3 The second intrusion was oriented northwest-southeast at the eastern end of the trench, and was 1m wide with straight edges [110]. It was filled with powdery concrete and small fragments of brick (107) and a small patch of dark brown silty clay (106). This strongly resembled a robbing episode, perhaps relating to the demolition of the original school buildings around 1990.
- 4.1.4 There was no subsoil or topsoil above the gravel, strongly indicating that the site had been stripped and levelled in advance of the new school buildings. The upper sequence in the trench comprised 0.1m depth of grey and purple sharp stones (103), with 0.10m depth of pinkish orange sharp stone and sand (103) above it. This formed the base for 0.20m depth of concrete, which was the subsurface for tarmac that formed the children's playground (100). The tarmac lay flat, at 88.41mOD.

## 4.2 Trench 2

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
88.40m	0.00m	(200)	Playground Surface
88.32m	0.08m	(201)	Playground Subsurface
88.20m	0.20m	(202)	Hardcore
87.80m	0.60m	(203)	Fill of service trench
87.80m	0.60m	(204)	Fill of service trench
87.60m	0.80m	(206)	Naturally-lain sand and gravel

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the east of the site, oriented north-south, parallel with the site boundary. It measured 5.00m by 1.80m. The ground hereabouts was truncated by demolition events and services.
- 4.2.2 Naturally-lain Gerrards Cross sand and gravel (206) were observed at 87.60mOD at the base of a service trench. These were very clean were probably truncated by at least 0.20m. The entire trench was cut by two service trenches running side-by side, and filling the entire trench. One on the east side of the trench [206] was backfilled with a mix of mid brown sandy clay and pea shingle (204). The other, on the west side of the trench, appeared to have been laid afterward. This service trench [205] contained a modern ceramic drainpipe within a bed of pea-shingle (203). The pipe lay at 87.77mOD and ran towards a surface water drain cover near the school.
- 4.2.3 The fills of the two service trenches were sealed by purplish grey sharp stones and sand (202) up to 0.4m deep. This was sealed by 0.1m depth of concrete (201), with 0.1m depth of tarmac above, which formed the playground surface of the school, lying at 88.40m OD.

## **5. Finds**

- 5.1 During the course of the archaeological investigation no finds were retrieved from the evaluation trenches and no environmental samples were taken.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Truncated Gerrards Cross sand and gravel was identified in both trenches, with no interface between the gravel and the made ground of the current playground surface. This indicates that the site had been stripped, probably during the demolition of the old school buildings in around 1990. One intrusion in Trench 1 had the character of a robbing episode. This suggests that the foundations of the school were removed during the demolition phase. There was a notable lack of demolition material. This also implies concerted removal of previous buildings on the site.
- 6.2 No significant archaeology was observed in either trench. The edge of the tree pit in Trench 1 is a fairly modern event, of low archaeological significance.
- 6.3 Due to the lack of archaeological deposits encountered it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision in regards to the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Kim Stabler of GLAAS, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Hillingdon.

## **7 Publication and Archive Deposition**

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the results at this stage of the archaeological investigation, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the London Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).
- 7.2 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings and digital and black and white photographs will be deposited with the LAARC.

## 8 Bibliography

- AOC Archaeology Group (1997). *14-16 High Street, Harefield – Evaluation*. Client Report
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<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>. Date Accessed: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
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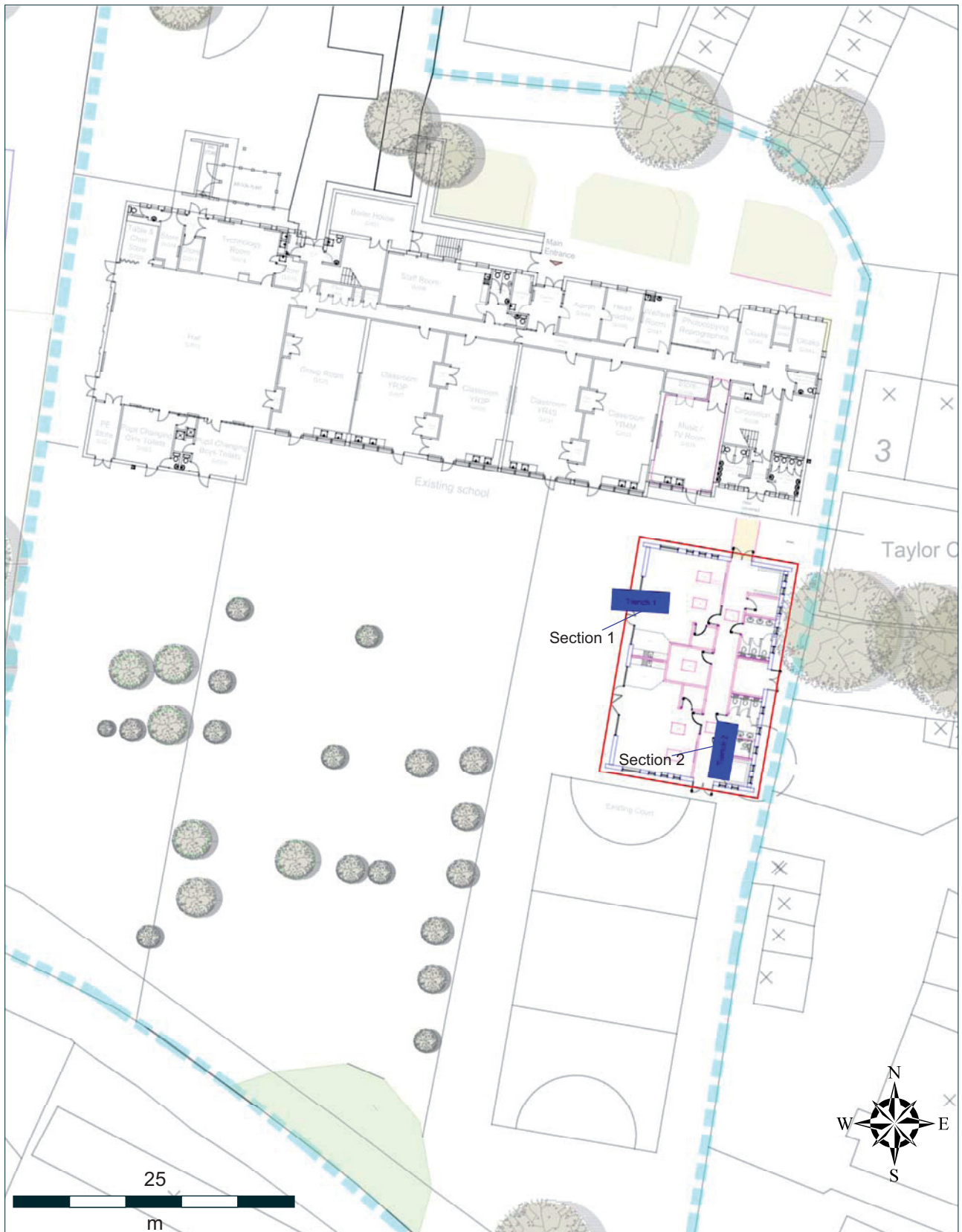


HAREFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL, PARK LANE, HAREFIELD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



Figure 1: Site Location

HAREFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL, PARK LANE, HAREFIELD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



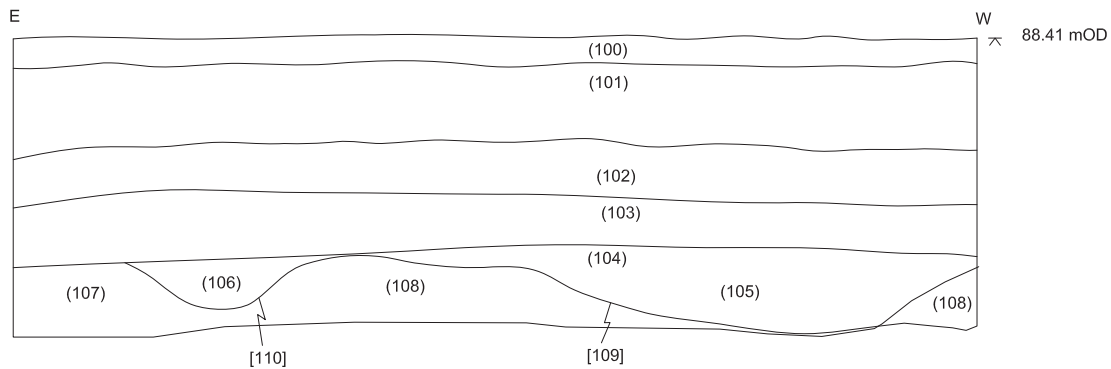
Based on data provided by the client.

— Site Boundary

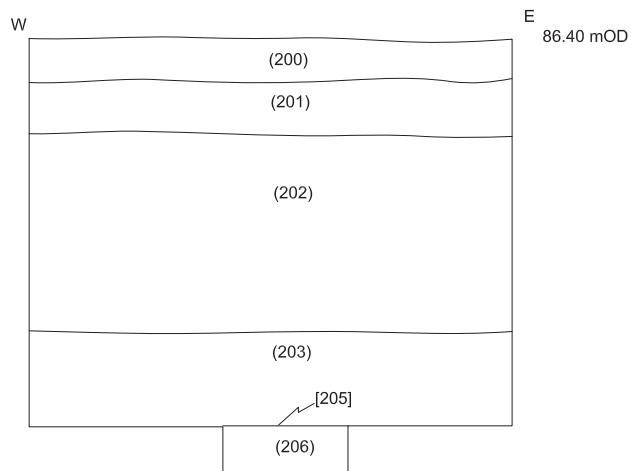
**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location and Trench Plan



## Section 1



## Section 2



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cm

**Figure 3:** Sample Sections

## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Tarmac surface	5.00m	1.80m	0.06m
101	Concrete	5.00m	1.80m	0.20m
102	Hardcore	5.00m	1.80m	0.10m
103	Hardcore	5.00m	1.80m	0.10m
104	Fill of 109	1.00m	0.20m	0.05m
105	Fill of 109	0.95m	0.18m	0.15m
106	Fill of 110	0.40m	0.30m	0.15m
107	Fill of 110	2.00m	1.20m	>0.20m
108	Natural sand and gravel	4.00m	1.80m	NFE
109	Tree pit	1.00m	0.20m	0.18m
110	Robber trench	2.00m	1.20m	>0.20m
200	Tarmac surface	5.00m	1.80m	0.10m
201	Concrete	5.00m	1.80m	0.10m
202	Hardcore	5.00m	1.80m	0.40m
203	Fill of 205	5.00m	1.00m	0.20m
204	Fill of 206	5.00m	0.80m	NFE
205	Service trench	5.00m	1.00m	0.20m
206	Service trench	5.00m	0.80m	NFE
207	Natural sand and gravel	0.20m	0.20m	NFE

## Appendix B – OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-135074**

### Project details

Project name Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon: Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project Archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed school block, comprising two trial trenches. The site of the new building had been stripped to natural deposits in 1990.

Project dates Start: 15-10-2012 End: 06-11-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 32198 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes HJS12 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques ""Sample Trenches""

Development type Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON HAREFIELD Harefield Junior School

Postcode UB9 6BJ

Study area 0.78 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 051 905 51 0 51 36 10 N 000 28 56 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 87.60m Max: 87.95m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology Group

Project brief originator English Heritage

Project design originator AOC Archaeology Group

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of sponsor/funding body developer

Name of MACE  
sponsor/funding body



### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient N/A

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London-LAARC

Digital Archive ID HJS 12

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"

Digital Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London-LAARC

Paper Archive ID HJS12

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Paper Archive notes held at AOC until transfer

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Harefield Junior School, Park Lane, Harefield, London Borough of Hillingdon. An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Capon, L.

Date 2012

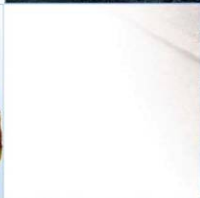
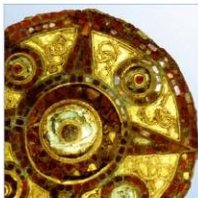
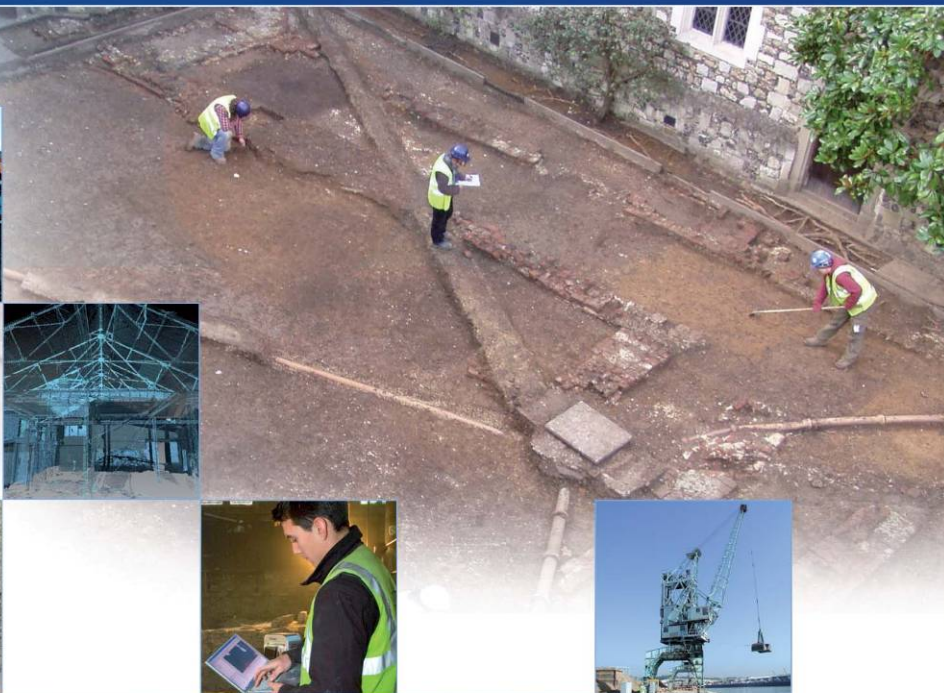
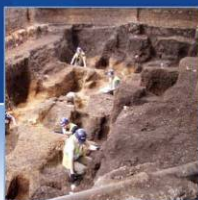
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