

Isaac Newton Primary School, High Road, Ilford, London Borough of Redbridge: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

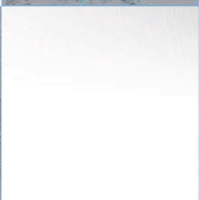
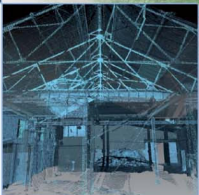
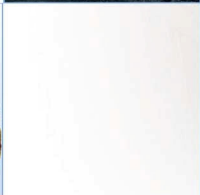
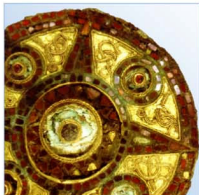
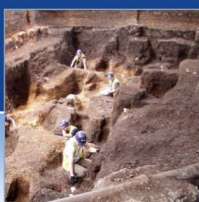
Planning Reference: 1575/13

National Grid Reference: TQ 4500 8689

AOC Project No: 32539

Site Code: ISA13

Date: November 2013



**Isaac Newton Primary School, High Road, Ilford,
London Borough of Redbridge:
An Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

On Behalf of:	Bouygues UK
Commissioned by:	CgMs Consulting, Planning and Heritage Consultants, 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 4500 8689
AOC Project No:	32539
Prepared by:	David Fallon and Tara Fidler
Illustration by:	Lesley Davidson
Date:	November 2013

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

Author: David Fallon and Tara Fidler	Date: November 2013
Approved by: Catherine Edwards	Date: November 2013
Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft	Date: November 2013

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 7
St Margarets Business Centre
Moor Mead Road
Twickenham
TW1 1JS

Tel. 020 8843 7380
Fax. 020 8892 0549
e-mail. london@aocarchaeology.com



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Non-Technical Summary

AOC Archaeology Group undertook an archaeological watching brief between the 15th and 18th of November 2013, at Isaac Newton Primary School, High Road, Ilford, London Borough of Redbridge. The site is located at National Grid Reference TQ 4500 8689. The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bouygues UK.

The watching brief monitored the excavation of a single test pit, measuring 2.50m long x 1.50m wide and 3.75m deep and also involved the recording of a single exposed section of machine excavated ground within the northern limit of the site.

Test Pit 1 recorded a natural clay horizon overlain with a 20th century levelling layer, comprised of fragmented finds and redeposited natural. The exposed northern section also recorded a natural clay horizon, however evidence of substantial truncation of the site was observed, in the form of 20th century services was observed along with levelling deposits.

No archaeological features were exposed or artefacts recovered during the watching brief. Previous intrusive activities on site followed by the construction of Ilford baths are likely to have removed archaeological deposits. Due to the lack of archaeological deposits it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The results of the Watching Brief will be summarised for inclusion in the Local Archaeology Round-up and published via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a single test pit and includes the recording of an exposed machine excavated section at Isaac Newton Primary School, High Road, Ilford (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 4500 8689 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site is bounded by Isaac Newton Academy to the south and Ilford High Road to the north (Fig.1). The scheme of works involved the demolition of the Ilford Public Baths and the erection of a new three storey building with associated landscaping.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The Local Planning Authority is the London Borough of Redbridge. Archaeological advice is provided by Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), English Heritage.
- 2.2 A planning application (Ref: 1575/13) for the development has been submitted and approved subject to condition. Condition 14 relates to archaeological investigations and states:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and historic buildings recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed Written Statement of Investigation.

Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological examination and recording at the site can take place, and to accord with Policy SP3 of the Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Policy E4 of the council Borough Wide Primary Policies Development Plan Document.

- 2.3 Following on site discussions between the archaeological advisor, Adam Single and consultant Chris Clarke, an archaeological watching brief was required on site during the excavation of a single test pit, along with attendance to archaeological record an exposed machine excavated section.
- 2.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing the methodology that would be used for the watching brief and including some background history of the site, was produced by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2013). This report presents the results of those investigations.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The underlying geology of the proposed development site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as being the Ilford Silts, a brickearth deposit which in this general area rests on the boundary between Taplow (Mucking) Gravels and Hackney (Corbets Tey/ Lynch Hill) Gravels, river terrace gravels associated with the river Thames. The solid geology of the site is mapped as London Clay (ASE 2013).
- 3.2 The site lies at a height of c.12m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site lies on the Thames Terraces and brickearth deposits which are of Pleistocene date. Works elsewhere in the local vicinity have demonstrated that they contain significant Palaeolithic faunal remains. Palaeolithic artefacts have also been recovered in the Ilford area. These results indicate the brickearth deposits within the area of the site have the potential to contain remains dating to this period. (CgMs 2013).

5 Aims of the Investigation

5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:

- To record any archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any 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 confirm the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the archaeology advisor to LB Redbridge to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.

5.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine the presence of any Palaeolithic deposits or remains on site. How does this evidence relate to contemporary find spots identified within the local area?
- To establish the presence or otherwise of any activity post-dating the Palaeolithic period?
- Establish the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Establish the requirement for any further mitigation works.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

6.1 Excavation of the single test pit was carried out by a tracked 13 tonne excavator using a flat bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervisor of the archaeological supervisor. Successive spits were removed until the natural horizon was reached at a depth of approximately 3.75m. The up cast spoil was scanned and searched by the assistant archaeologist, but no finds were recovered.

6.2 The exposed machine excavated section was re-cleaned with the tracked 13 tonne excavator using a flat bladed ditching bucket. Following this, the archaeological supervisor and assistant hand cleaned and recorded the exposed section.

6.3 The site code ISA13 was obtained from the LAARC, London Archaeological Archive Research Centre, and was used as the site identifier for all records produced.

6.4 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).

6.5 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. (), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. []. 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

7 Results

7.1 Test Pit 1

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.20m	12.28m – 12.08m	Black clay silt. Topsoil
101	0.21m	12.08m – 11.87m	Rooted mid brown clay silt. Buried soil
102	0.14m	11.87m – 11.73m	Dark blackish brown clay silt. Subsoil
112	0.30m+	9.42m+	Firm mid yellowish orange clay. Natural

- 7.1.1 Test Pit 1 was located in the southwest corner of the site (Figure 2 and 3). It measured 2.50m by 1.50m. The natural deposit (112), firm mid yellow orange clay, was recorded at 9.42mOD or 3.33m below current ground level. Deposit (112) was overlain by a 0.15m dump layer (111) comprised of fragments of domestic ceramic pottery, glass vessels and wasters, iron objects and fragments of red and yellow brick. This was interpreted as an early 20th century levelling layer possibly stabilising the ground in the southwest corner of the site.
- 7.1.2 Above (111) were successive sterile layers of mixed redeposited sandy clay silts (110-103), measuring 2.17m thick (Plate 1). These were overlain by a dark blackish brown clayey silt subsoil (102), 0.14m thick, and a heavily rooted mid brown clay silt buried soil (101), 0.21m thick. Uppermost in the stratigraphic sequence was a topsoil (100), soft black clay silt and wood chips, measuring 0.20m thick.



Plate 1: Trench 1 north facing section

- 7.1.3 No significant archaeological features or finds were recorded in Test Pit 1.

7.2 Section Recording

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
113	0.05m	11.74m – 11.69m	Concrete.
114	0.08m	11.69m – 11.61m	Loose yellow coarse sand. Levelling layer
115	0.14m	11.61m – 11.47m	Asphalt. Surface
116	0.28m	11.47m – 11.19m	Loose light brown clayey silt. Made ground
122	0.60m	11.19m – 10.41m	Mid brownish orange clay. Redeposited natural
123	0.65m	11.51m – 10.86m	Light yellowish brown clay. Redeposited natural
137	0.58m	11.10m – 10.52m	Mix of grey, dark brown and yellowish brown clay. Redeposited natural
131	0.30m+	10.74m+	Light yellowish orange clay. Natural

- 7.2.1 The section of excavated ground, cleaned and recorded, was located at the northern extent of the site (Figure 2 and 3). It measured 41.00m long east to west and had a minimum and maximum depth of 1.10m and 1.40m respectively.
- 7.2.2 A highly truncated light yellowish orange clay natural (131) was recorded centrally within the exposed section at a height of approximately 10.74mOD. Overlying the natural were a series of redeposited natural layers. This included (122), a 0.60m thick deposit of mid brownish orange clay, and (123), a 0.65m thick deposit of light yellowish brown clay, located towards the western end of the section. Within the eastern end of the section was redeposited natural (137), a mix of grey, dark brown and yellowish brown clay, measuring up to 0.58m thick.
- 7.2.3 Cutting the redeposited layer (122), was a service trench [117], located in the centre of the exposed section. This was overlain by made ground (116), a 0.28m thick loose light brown clayey silt and sealed by asphalt (115). Three manholes [119], [124], [134], a service trench [132] and a 20th century wall [129] all cut (115) (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Wall [129] in northern section

- 7.2.4 The complete length of the exposed section was overlain with a sand levelling layer (114), for the uppermost layer (113), a paved pedestrian horizon, recorded at an uppermost height of 11.74mOD.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 The watching brief did not reveal any significant features or artefacts of archaeological nature. Earlier intrusive activities, followed by the construction of the baths, are likely to have removed any archaeological potential.
- 8.2 Due to the lack of archaeological deposits/features it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The final decision in regards to the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork lies with Adam Single of GLAAS, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Redbridge.

9 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 9.1 Due to the nature of the results, 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).
- 9.2 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, and finds, will be deposited with the LAARC.

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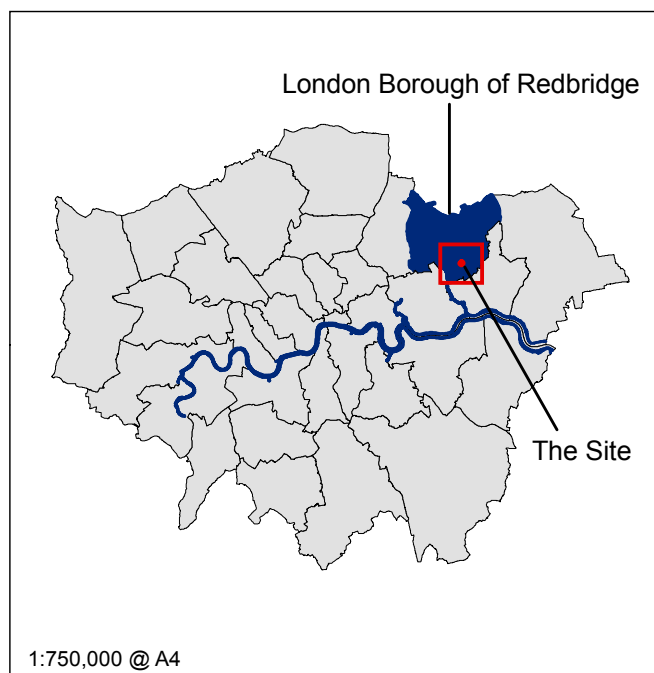
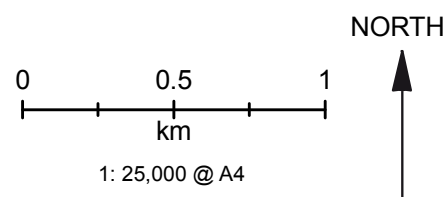
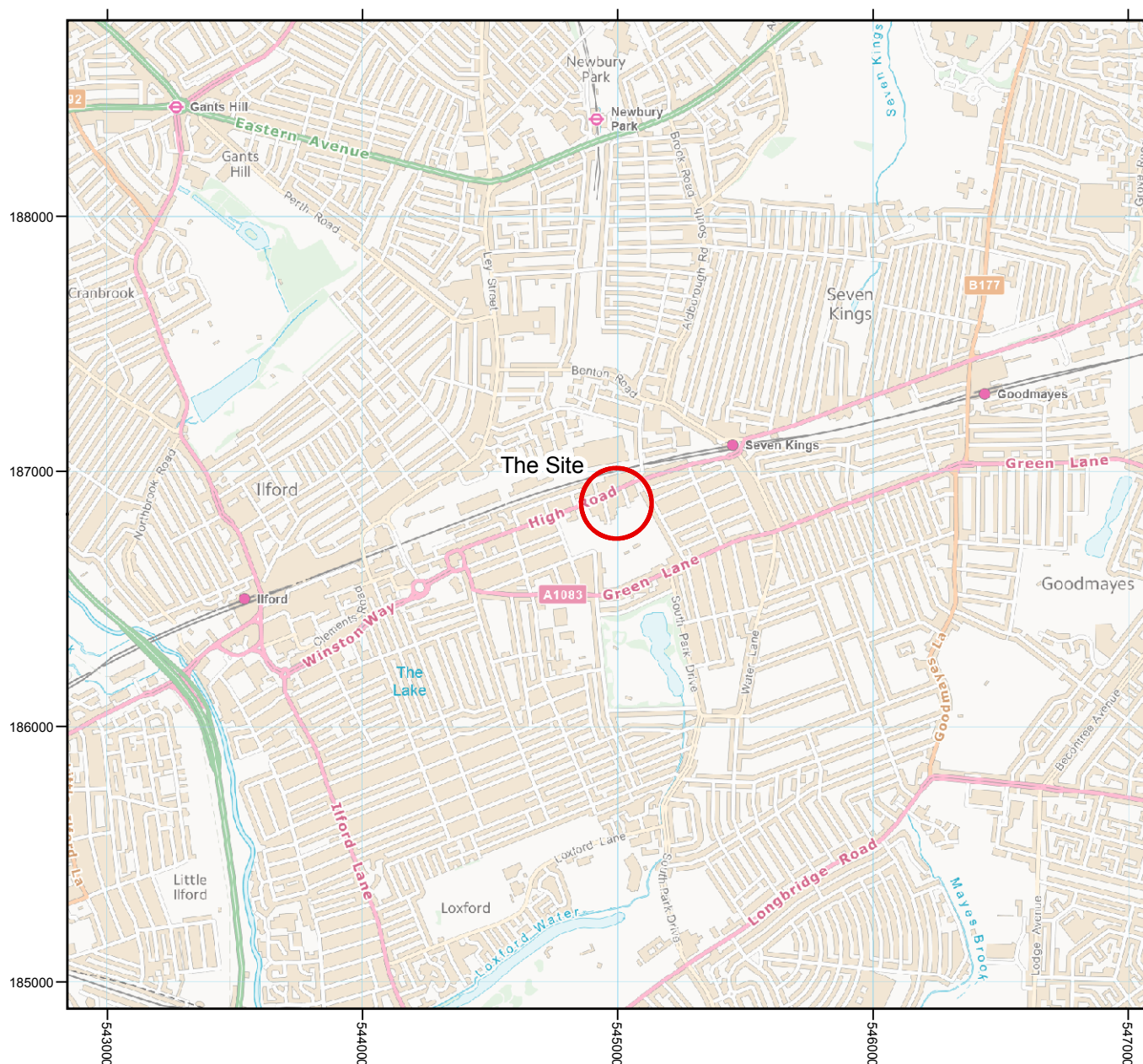


Figure 1:
Site Location



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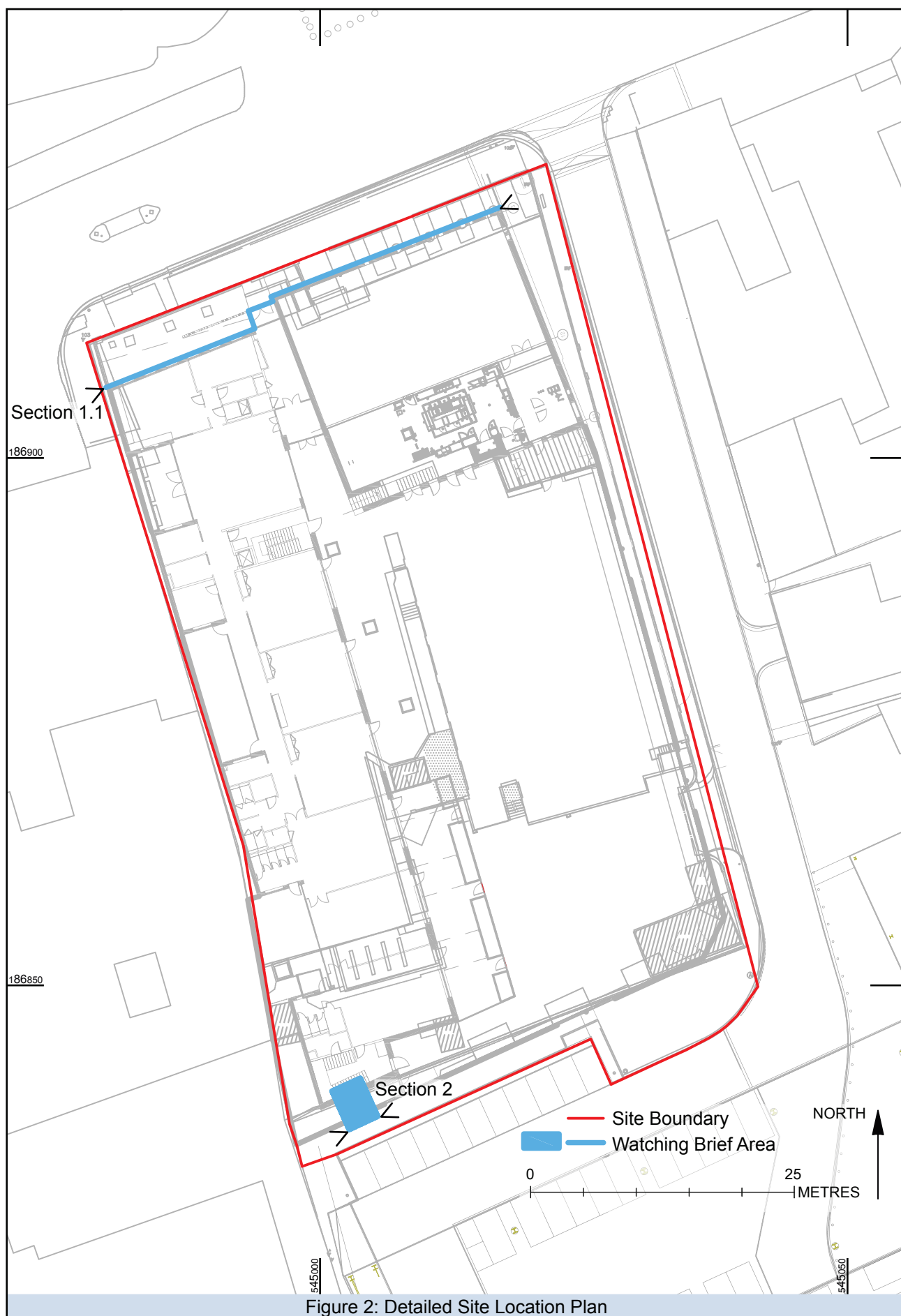
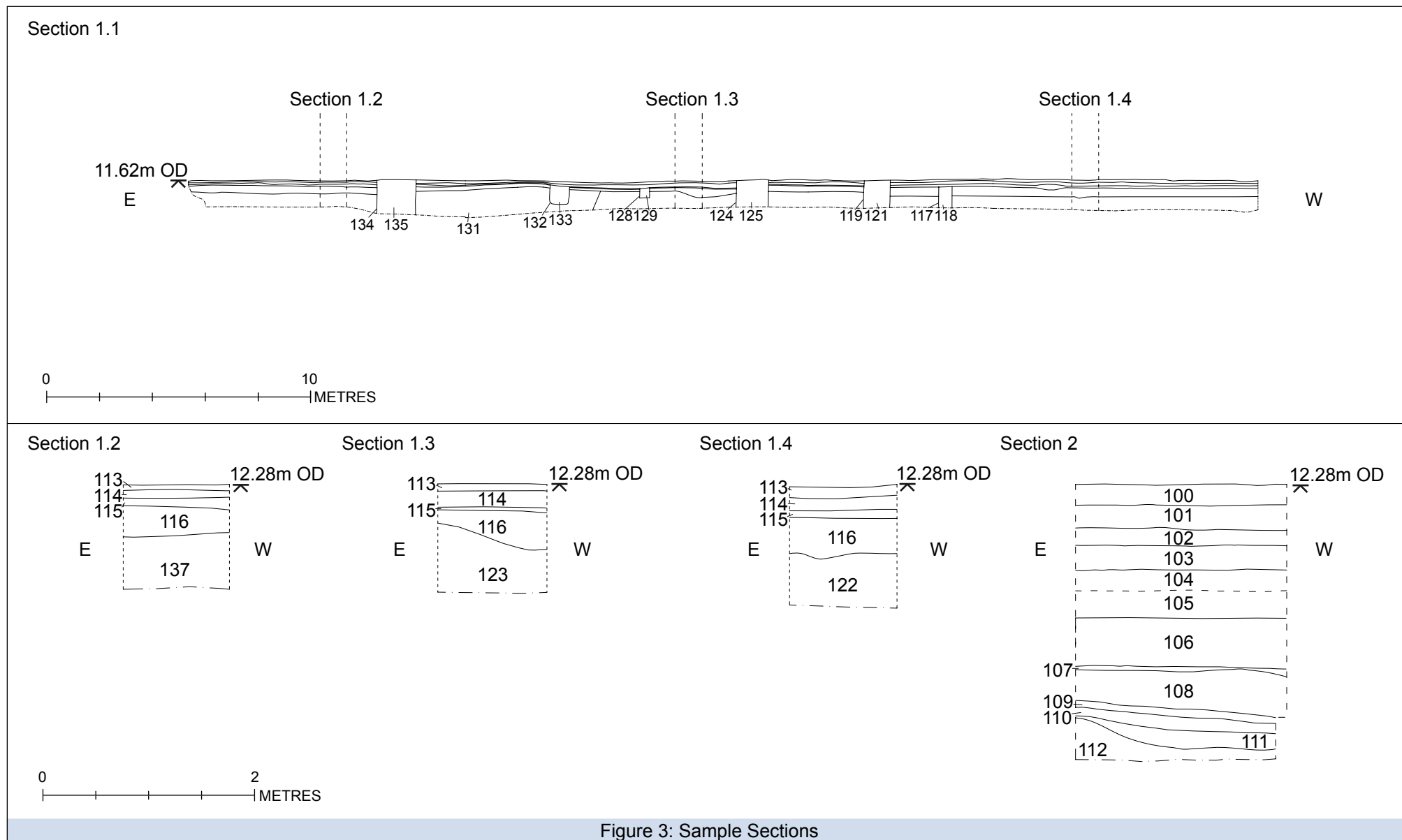


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Thickness/Depth
100	Soft dark black brown clay silt with wood chips. Imported topsoil	2.50m	1.50m	0.20m
101	Soft Heavily rooted mid brown clay siltgrowth horizon. Buried top soil	2.50m	1.50m	0.21m
102	Light black brown sand clay silt. subsoil	2.50m	1.50m	0.14m
103	Friable light grey sand silt clay. Redeposited natural deposit	2.50m	1.50m	0.20m
104	Friable Light grey sand clay silt. Same as (105) result of rooting of (105). Redeposited natural	2.50m	1.50m	0.18m
105	Friable Light grey sand clay silt. Same as (104). Redeposited natural	2.50m	1.50m	0.45m
106	Friable, mid grey brown clay sand silt. Make-up layer of redeposited natural	2.50m	1.50m	1.00m
107	Soft dark grey brown silt clay. An activity horizon indicating a pause in the successive dumping of make-up layers.	2.50m	1.50m	0.57m
108	Soft mid yellow brown sandy clay. Redeposited natural	2.50m	1.50m	0.80m
109	Soft mid grey silt clay. Made ground. Redeposited natural	2.50m	1.50m	0.72m
110	Firm, mid grey silt clay. Made ground. Redeposited natural	2.50m	1.50m	0.12m
111	Levelling layer of debris comprised of coarse clay sand and fragments of ceramic and earthenware vessels and tableware, iron objects, moulded glass vessels and red and yellow bricks	2.50m	1.50m	0.15m
112	Dark red brown firm clay. In-situ natural deposit	2.50m	1.50m	
113	Modern concrete paving slab	40.00m		0.05m
114	Coarse sand levelling layer for (113)	41.00m		0.08m
115	Tarmac carpark	41.00m		0.15m
116	Soft clay, brick rubble made ground	41.00m		0.28m
117	Square 'u'-shaped profiled modern cut for services		0.40m	0.90m
118	Mixed soft clay with occasional fragments of red brick backfill of [117]	0.40m		0.90m
119	Square 'u'-shaped profiled cut for a modern manhole		1.08m	1.80m
120	Mixed soft clay with occasional fragments of red brick backfill of [119]	1.80m		1.08m
121	Red brick superstructure of manhole		0.64m	1.00m
122	Tenacious mid red clay. Redeposited natural	2.50m		0.60m
123	Light yellow brown tenacious clay. Redeposited natural	2.10m		0.65m
124	Construction cut for a manhole		1.20m	1.20m
125	Red brick and concrete superstructure of modern manhole	1.20m		1.20m
126	Soft mixed clay and fragments of red and yellow brick backfill of [124]	0.10m		0.20m
127	VOID			
128	Construction cut for a northwest – southeast yellow		0.45m	0.80m

	brick wall			
129	Yellow brick wall aligned northwest - southeast		0.33m	0.50m
130	Mid grey clay silt backfill of [128]	0.20m		0.24m
131	Soft light yellow brown clay a possible surviving remnant of natural deposit	5.70m		0.80m
132	A square 'u'-shaped construction cut for modern services		0.84m	0.76m
133	Friable black potash backfill of [132]	0.76m		0.84m
134	Square'U'-shaped profiled construction cut for a manhole		2.70m	1.20m
135	Substantial red brick superstructure of a manhole		1.36m	1.00m
136	Soft light yellow clay silt backfill of [134]	0.20m		1.00m
137	Mixed clay, clay silt and silt with frequent fragments of red and yellow brick, gravels and roots. Disturbed, redopsited ground at west of south facing section at northern limit of site	7.00m		1.10m

Appendix B – OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-164883

Project details

Project name	Isaac Newton Primary School, High Road Ilford, London Borough of Redbridge
Short description of the project	Watching Brief: Excavation of 2.5m x 1.5m x 3.75m Test Pit 1 and recording of northern section exposed by ground reduction.
Project dates	Start: 15-11-2013 End: 18-11-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ISA 13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	32539 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON REDBRIDGE ILFORD Isaac Newton Primary School

Postcode IG1 1FY

Site coordinates TQ 4500 8689 51 0 51 33 42 N 000 05 31 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 9.42m Max: 10.74m

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator EH GLAAS

Project design originator CgMs

Project director/manager Catherine Edwards

Project supervisor David Fallon

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultancy

Name of sponsor/funding CgMs

body

Project archives

Physical Exists?	Archive	No
Digital recipient	Archive	LAARC
Digital Archive ID		ISA13
Digital Contents		"Stratigraphic"
Digital available	Media	"Images raster / digital vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text" photography", "Images"
Paper recipient	Archive	LAARC
Paper Archive ID		ISA13
Paper Contents		"Stratigraphic"
Paper available	Media	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Report", "Section", "Un published Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Isaac Newton Primary School, High Road, Ilford, London Borough of Redbridge. A Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fallon, D. and Fidler, T.
Date	2013

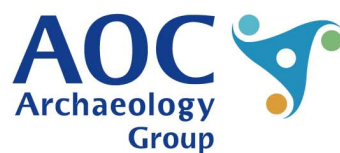
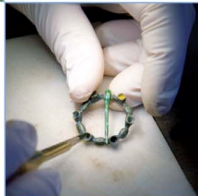
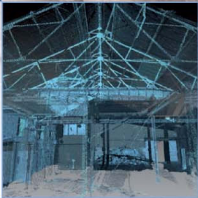
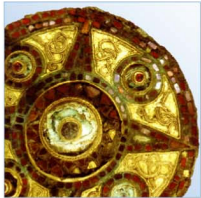
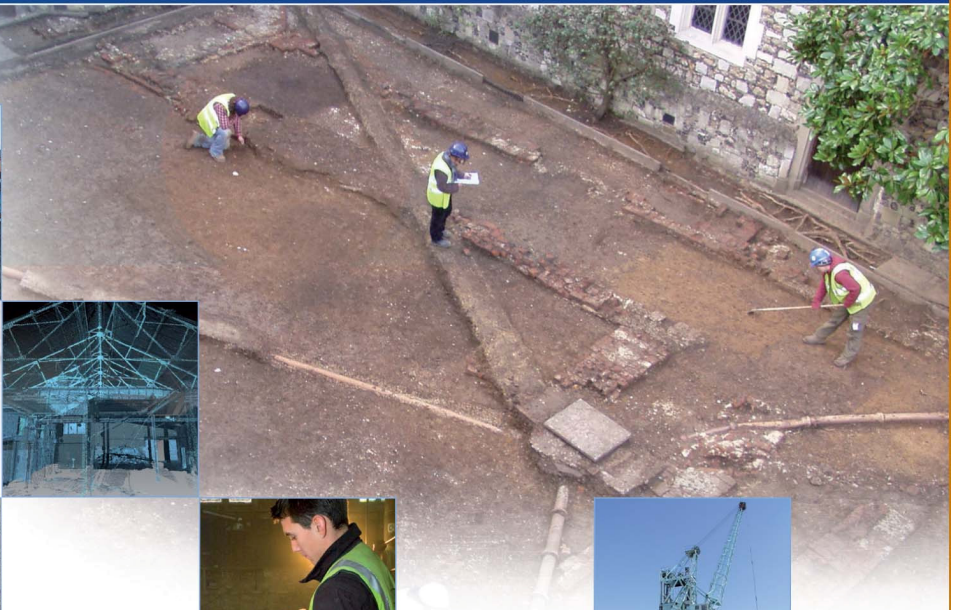
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AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 7, St Margarets Business Centre, Moor Mead Road, Twickenham TW1 1JS
tel: 020 8843 7380 | fax: 020 8829 0549 | e-mail: london@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com