

**GIBSON HOUSE,
800-802 HIGH ROAD, TOTTENHAM N17
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

London Site Code

HTT05

REF 61410.01

November 2005

Prepared for

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Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Non-technical Summary</i>	<i>iii</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT	1
1.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
2 SITE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	1
2.1 GEOLOGY	1
2.2 TOPOGRAPHY	1
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3.1 HISTORIC MAPPING AND AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY	2
3.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
4 WATCHING BRIEF STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY	2
4.1 METHODOLOGICAL STANDARDS	2
4.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY	2
4.3 FIELDWORK	2
5 RESULTS	3
6 CONCLUSION	3
7 SOURCES	4
8 APPENDIX 1. TRENCH/TEST PIT SUMMARY TABLES	5

Figures

Figure 1. Site & Test Pit Location Plan

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology (London) would like to thank Ian Marychurch on behalf of Card Geotechnics for commissioning the works.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Hilary Valler, who also prepared this report. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology (London) by Lawrence Pontin. Mark Roughley prepared the illustrations.

Non-technical Summary

Wessex Archaeology (London) was commissioned by Card Geotechnics to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical test pits at Gibson House, 800-802 High Road, Tottenham, centred on NGR 533946/191397 (the Site).

The works were commissioned as part of the determination of a planning application to re-develop the Site for residential development.

Observations on the test pits showed a single 20th century brick wall, orientated east-west, no other archaeological finds or deposits were noted. The report concludes that archaeological deposits do not exist in the areas that the test pits were positioned.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Document

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Card Geotechnics Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of three geotechnical pits (see **Appendix 1**) at Gibson House, 800-802 High Road, Tottenham (the Site), centred on NGR 533946/191397 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken on 27th October 2005.

1.1.3 This document sets out the results from the observation of the geotechnical pits. It does not constitute a full archaeological watching brief of the Site.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application has been submitted for the residential redevelopment of the Site, with the erection of 10 units in an over 4 storey building. As part of this process, further information has been requested by the Local Planning Authority, the London Borough of Haringey, on the survival of any archaeological deposits within the Site.

1.2.2 Kim Stabler, English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Haringey, agreed that in the first instance, such information could be derived from a watching brief on geotechnical investigations on the Site.

2 SITE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the area comprises alluvium; mainly sand, silt and clay. To the east and west the Enfield Silt brickearth extends from beneath this layer (BGS North London, Solid and Drift Edition, Sheet 256).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The modern ground level within the site is approximately 11.7m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.2.2 The Site is within a business park just to the east of the High Road and is at present a car park.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historic Mapping and Area of Archaeological Priority

3.1.1 The Site appears never to have been built upon, historic maps dating from 1867 (Ordnance Survey) show that the area was at the back of houses fronting on to the High Road and were rural plots. The plots do not appear to have altered from this period with the use changing to a car park from the middle to end of the 20th century.

3.1.2 The Site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance as designated in the Haringey Unitary Development Plan <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/council/strategiesandpolicies/udp-2.htm> due to Roman and medieval activity. Recent discoveries in this area have included the remains of a 17th century manor house adjacent to the Site at 761-767 High Road.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The objective of the watching brief was to elucidate the nature and character of any archaeological remains disturbed by the excavation of the test pits, and to assess their potential significance.

4 WATCHING BRIEF STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Methodological Standards

4.1.1 All excavation was undertaken in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching briefs* (as amended 2001). No brief or specification was provided.

4.2 Health and Safety

4.2.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force.

4.3 Fieldwork

4.3.1 The test pits were excavated by JCB. Each pit was excavated under archaeological supervision.

4.3.2 All spoil was visually inspected for artefacts.

4.3.3 A drawn record of test pit sections was compiled at an appropriate scale of 1:20.

4.3.4 A photographic record was maintained using digital images.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 None of the test pits contained features of apparent archaeological significance. Test pit 1, to the north contained the continuation of a boundary wall extending to the east and west. The other two test pits did not produce any archaeological remains.
- 5.1.2 Detailed contextual information is presented in tabulated form in **Appendix 1** at the rear of this report. The stratigraphy seen within the test pits was natural below modern soil which was below tarmac. In Test Pit 1 a 20th century brick wall was recorded orientated east to west, no other features were observed.
- 5.1.3 All the test pits were excavated to a depth well in excess of the top of the underlying natural.
- 5.1.4 The excavated spoil was scanned by eye for artefacts. The only material found was of 20th Century origin.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1 No remains of any archaeological significance were detected in any of the trenches. However, given the nature of the watching brief, absence of evidence from the test pit locations excavated cannot necessarily be taken as evidence of the absence of archaeological deposits from the site *per se*.
- 6.1.2 There is a slight potential for archaeological remains on the Site given the small percentage of it investigated with these test pits.

7 SOURCES

Haringey Unitary Development Plan

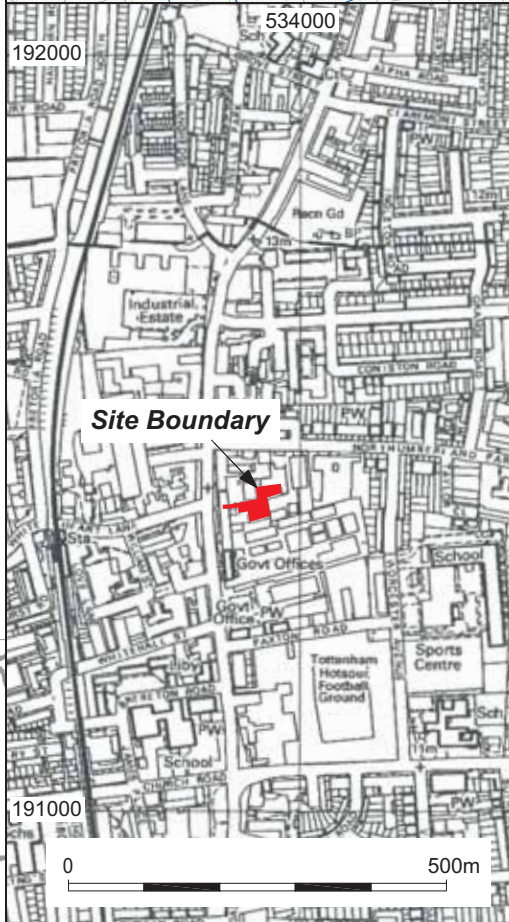
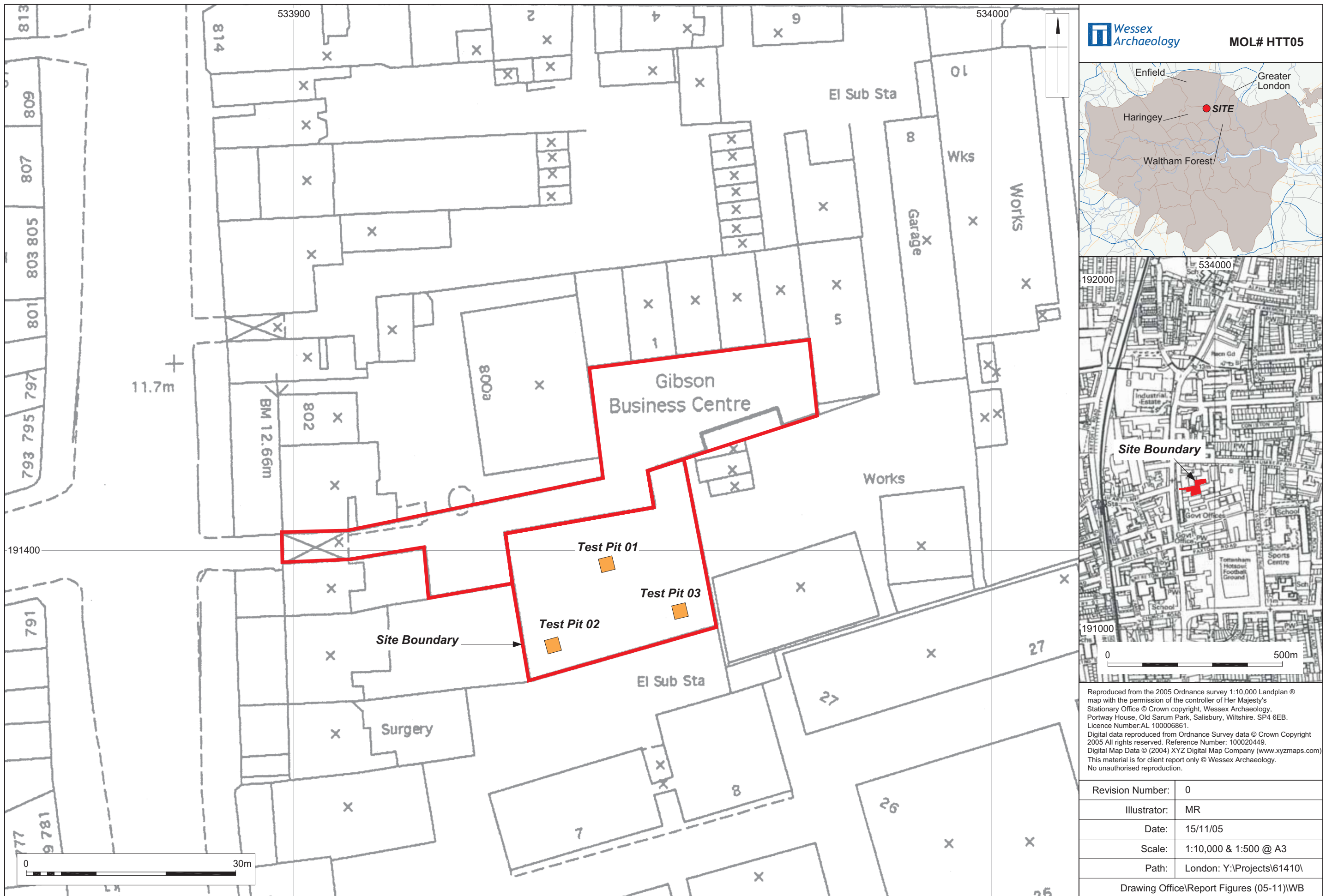
<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/council/strategiesandpolicies/udp-2.htm>

8 APPENDIX 1. TRENCH/TEST PIT SUMMARY TABLES

Trench/Test Pit No.		Dimensions (Length/Width/Depth)	
1		<i>3.00m x 0.80m x 3.70m</i>	
Context No.	Description	Interpretation and Processual Key word	Depth below ground level
001	Tarmac	Modern surface	0-0.04m
002	Mid orange sandy clay with concrete rubble	Make up for surface	0.04-0.26m
003	Red brick wall	20 th century boundary wall	0.04-1.00m
004	Cut of brick wall	20 th century boundary wall	0.04-1.00m
005	Mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles	Layer/soil formation	0.26-1.20m
006	Mid red brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles	Natural	1.20-3.00m
007	Small & medium rounded gravel with sparse yellow sand	Natural	3.00-3.70+m

Trench/Test Pit No.		Dimensions (Length/Width/Depth)	
2		<i>2.50m x 0.80m x 3.10m</i>	
Context No.	Description	Interpretation and Processual Key word	Depth below ground level
008	Tarmac	Modern surface	0-0.04m
009	Mid orange sandy clay with brick rubble fragments	Make up for surface	0.04-0.20m
010	Mid grey sandy clay with brick frags and 20 th century debris	Layer/soil formation	0.20-0.60m
011	Mid orange sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles	Layer/soil formation	0.40-0.60
012	Mid orange grey sandy clay with brick fragments	Layer/soil formation	0.60-1.80m
013	Mottled orange & grey sandy clay with small & medium rounded pebbles	Natural	1.80-2.92m
014	Small & medium rounded gravel with sparse yellow sand	Natural	2.92-3.10+m

Trench/Test Pit No.		3	Dimensions (Length/Width/Depth) <i>2.50m x 0.80m x 3.40m</i>	
Context No.	Description	Interpretation and Processual Key word		Depth below ground level
015	Tarmac	Modern surface		0-0.04m
016	Mid orange sand & pebbles with brick rubble	Make up for surface		0.04-0.50m
017	Mid brown sandy clay with brick & concrete fragments	Layer/soil formation		0.44-0.86m
018	Mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles	Natural		0.80-1.70m
019	Mid brown orange sandy clay with medium & small rounded pebbles	Natural		1.70-3.00m
020	Small & Medium rounded gravel & sparse yellow sand. Water ingress at 3.40m	Natural		3.00-3.40+m



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Revision Number:	0
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Site Location Map showing Location of Test Pits

Figure 1