

## Holinser House, 2 The Grove Ealing, London W5 5LH

### Archaeological Evaluation Report





**HOLINSER HOUSE, 2 THE GROVE, EALING, LONDON W5 5LH**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Museum of London Site Code: HOL10**

**NGR: 517750 180390**

Prepared for  
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|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--|-------------|--|
| SITE CODE                 | <b>MOL CODE:<br/>HOL10</b>         | ACCESSION CODE |  | CLIENT CODE |  |
| PLANNING APPLICATION REF. | <b>LB EALING<br/>P2006/0945/LB</b> | NGR            |  |             |  |

| VERSION | STATUS* | PREPARED BY | APPROVED BY | APPROVER'S SIGNATURE  | DATE       | FILE |
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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

Figure 2: Trench 1 section and photograph

## **HOLINSER HOUSE, 2 THE GROVE, EALING, LONDON W5 5LH**

### **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Peter Wadley Architects to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Holinser House, 2 The Grove, Ealing, London W5 5LH, located at NGR 517750 180390. The evaluation was carried out pursuant to a condition of planning permission for development of the Site granted by the London Borough of Ealing. The evaluation was carried out on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of one 10m x 1.8m trench located in the garden at the rear of Holinser House, aligned approximately east to west. Beneath the topsoil were three distinct layers of made ground that consisted of dark brown silty clay mixed with modern rubble building debris. Natural brickearth was reached at a depth of 1.07m. A possible palaeochannel on a north to south alignment was revealed at a depth of 1.0m below ground level. A section through it revealed no archaeological deposits or artefacts.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed by the evaluation and it is concluded that the Site has little or no significant archaeological potential.

## **HOLINSER HOUSE, 2 THE GROVE, EALING, LONDON W5 5LH**

### **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Wadley Architects for commissioning the evaluation and to Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) for her advice and assistance.

The evaluation was carried out by Jon Martin and Ross Lefort. This report was prepared by Jon Martin and the report illustrations were prepared by Liz James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch.

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## HOLINSER HOUSE, 2 THE GROVE, EALING, LONDON W5 5LH

### Archaeological Evaluation Report

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Peter Wadley Architects to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Holinser House, 2 The Grove, Ealing, London W5 5LH, located at NGR 517750 180390 and hereafter to referred to as 'the Site'. (**Figure 1**). The evaluation was carried out in connection with a proposed residential development that will include a single basement level.

1.1.2 The evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission for the development granted by the London Borough of Ealing, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) (Planning Reference P2006/0945/LB. The condition is based on advice provided to the LPA by their archaeological advisor the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) in keeping with Department of the Environment, *Archaeology and Planning, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* 1990; the Site lies within a defined Archaeology Priority Zone and was considered to have the potential to contain archaeological remains.

1.1.3 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the methods detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and following guidance issued by English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and the Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.

1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

##### 1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is located in the London Borough of Ealing on the south side of The Grove and comprises the rear garden of Holinser House, a residential block. The Site is level and lies at approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum. Natural deposits beneath the Site comprise 'Brickearth' of the Langley Silt Complex, overlying the Lynch Hill Gravel terrace.

##### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The Site lies in an area of known archaeological sites and findspots recorded in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record.

1.3.2 Palaeolithic (500,000 – 10,000 BC)  
Within the London Borough of Ealing numerous and widespread finds of Lower Palaeolithic flint implements of the Acheulian and Clactonian

industries have been recorded, mainly derived from the gravel terrace deposits, in particular the Lynch Hill Terrace gravels. A flint artefact of the period is recorded as being found in Grove Road. Evidence for flintworking is more rare although a flintworking site is recorded in Creffield Road, west of the Site. Upper Palaeolithic, Early Post-Glacial and Mesolithic (10,000 – 4,000 BC) artefact assemblages have also been recorded and include findspots at Creffield Road.

Neolithic (4,000 – 2,400 BC)

- 1.3.3 Flint artefacts of the period, including an axe from Grove Road, have been recorded in Ealing. Chance finds predominate in the evidence for this period of early farming and settlement, although it seems likely that the area of Greater London once probably contained monuments and settlements for which the evidence has been destroyed by the expansion of Greater London. Monuments such as the Stanwell Cursus near Heathrow suggest that the landscape of the Thames gravel terraces supported and was exploited by Neolithic populations.

Bronze Age (2,400 – 700 BC)

- 1.3.4 There is evidence that patterns of farming and settlement of the period were continued from the Neolithic period and extended into the later Iron Age period. Sites and findspots of the Bronze Age are numerous along the Thames Valley and on the gravel terraces of West London. In the area of the Site, an occupation site including Deverel-Rimbury pottery is recorded at Horsenden Hill, a hearth is recorded at Creffield Road, and a cremation cemetery utilising Deverel-Rimbury vessels is recorded from Avenue Gardens, Acton.

Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)

- 1.3.5 Sparse evidence of the period is known from the area of the Site. Two findspots include pottery and an enamelled metalwork terminal from Horsenden Hill, and Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery from Avenue Gardens, Acton.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 1.3.6 The Site lies almost ten kilometres from *Londinium* and some distance from the line of the Roman road from *Londinium* to *Calleva* (Silchester). However, there is strong evidence that the Romano-British landscape west of the provincial capital was organised and productive. Finds of the period from Ealing include cremation burials from The Mount, a coin hoard from Hanwell Park and settlement evidence at Avenue Gardens, Acton.

Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

- 1.3.7 There is evidence for Saxon settlement at Northolt Manor, along with inhumation burials, and an inhumation cemetery was recorded at the County Schools site, Oakland Road, in a WW2 bomb crater. Archaeological evidence for the period, whilst not rare, can be sparsely represented due to its ephemeral nature. However, when taken with place-name evidence patterns of settlement can be discerned and may be reflected in later settlements, manors and churches of the medieval period, such as at Ealing.



Medieval (AD 1066 - 1500)

- 1.3.8 The medieval settlement of Ealing was centred on St Mary's Road and included a moated Manor south of the Site. St Mary's church was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and presumably provided a focus to the community. Further afield, other settlements, manor houses and parish churches are recorded and attested by documentary records. However, no archaeological sites or findspots of the period are known from close to the Site.

Post-medieval (AD 1500 - present)

- 1.3.9 In the post-medieval period the development of Ealing is closely associated with the great expansion of London. Archaeological finds of the period include evidence for buildings, brickearth pits and fishponds.

## **2 AIMS**

### **2.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1.1 The principal aim of the evaluation was to record the location, extent, date, nature, character and significance of archaeological remains as may exist on the Site and to report on the results of the evaluation so that an informed decision on their subsequent treatment can be made, in light of the impact of the proposed development. Specifically, the evaluation aimed to:

- Address the potential for prehistoric activity within the Site given the range of evidence for the period from the vicinity of the Site
- Address the potential for medieval activity within the Site given its proximity to the medieval village core identified to the south of the Site.

## **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of one 10m x 1.8m trench located in the garden at the rear of the existing building (**Figure 1**).

### **3.2 Standards and Practices**

- 3.2.1 All fieldwork was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Field Archaeologist's standard and guidance for Archaeological Evaluations, and English Heritage London Region *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork - Archaeological Guidance Paper 3* (English Heritage 2009).

### **3.3 Health and Safety**

- 3.3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety (H&S) at Work Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992. A H&S Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.



### 3.4 Mechanical Excavation

3.4.1 The existing topsoil and subsoil was carefully removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and under the supervision of Wessex Archaeology. Modern overburden was removed in a series of level spits to the top of the underlying brickearth, which was reached at a depth of 1.07m below ground level.

### 3.5 Recording

3.5.1 Recording was undertaken in accordance with the guidance given in English Heritage London Region *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork - Archaeological Guidance Paper 3* (English Heritage 2009) and using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* recording system.

3.5.2 A drawn record of the excavated trench and exposed deposits was compiled. The graphic record included plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a Site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The OD height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation and is based on the Site archive. A summary of the context record is provided in a Table under **Appendix 1**.

### 4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 The trench (**Figure 1**) measured 10.30m long, 1.80m wide and had a maximum depth of 1.23m. It was aligned approximately from east to west. Beneath the topsoil were three distinct layers of made ground that consisted of dark brown silty clay mixed with modern rubble; brick, mortar, ceramic pipe, concrete and other debris.

4.2.2 The natural brickearth was reached at a depth of 1.07m.

4.2.3 A possible palaeochannel was recorded at a depth of 1.02m below ground and cut into the natural brickearth. It was aligned approximately from north to south and the edges of the feature were irregular. A section was cut through it to a depth of 1.20m below ground and revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

4.2.4 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded.

### 4.3 Discussion

4.3.1 The results of the trial trench suggests that the Site does not appear to contain archaeological features or deposits of any period. The evaluation revealed made ground to a depth of c1.00m, which may be the result of the

ground being raised and levelled prior to the construction of Holinser House. The fill of the paleochannel contained nothing of archaeological significance. It is concluded that the Site retains no significant archaeological potential

## 5 ARCHIVE

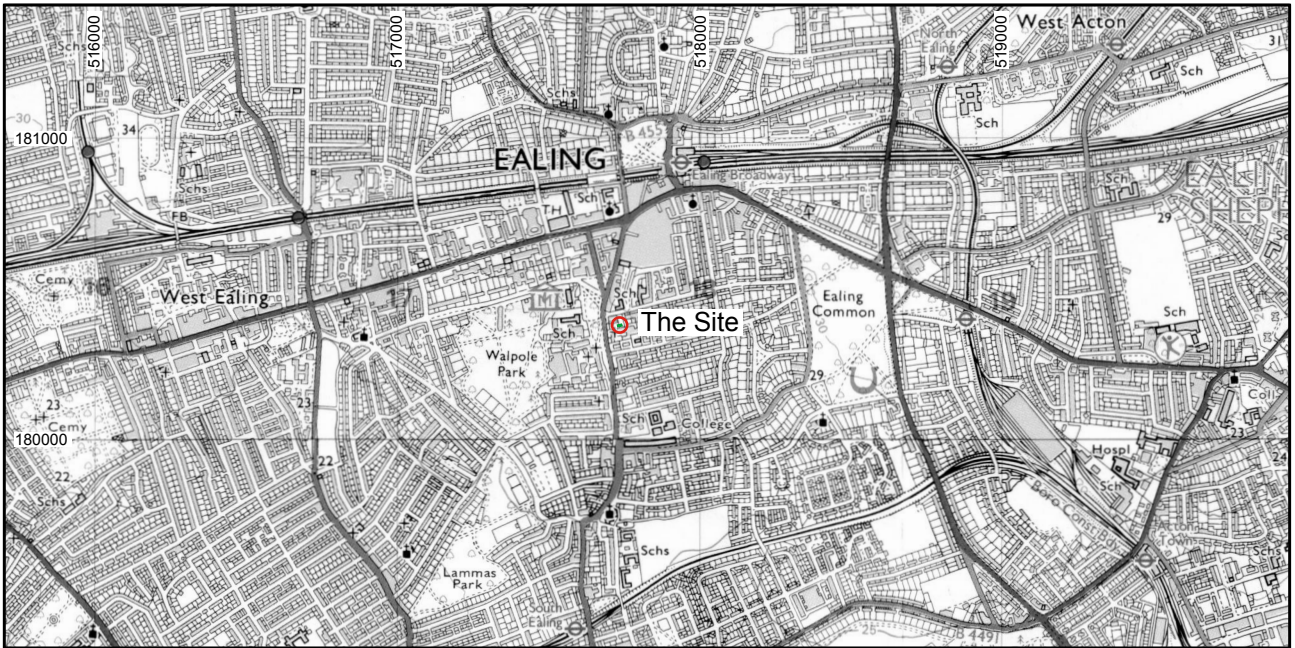
- 5.1.1 The archive will be prepared to the standards set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (MoRPHE), English Heritage (2006).
- 5.1.2 The Site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (Walker 1990) and Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). It is proposed in principle that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the entire archive will be deposited with the Museum of London.




## 6 REFERENCES

- Department of the Environment, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*.
- English Heritage, 1991, 'Management of Archaeological Projects', (MAP2)
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- Wessex Archaeology, 2010, Holinser House, 2, The Grove, Ealing, London, Written Scheme of Investigation: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation, Client Document ref T13623.1.

**APPENDIX I: SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS**

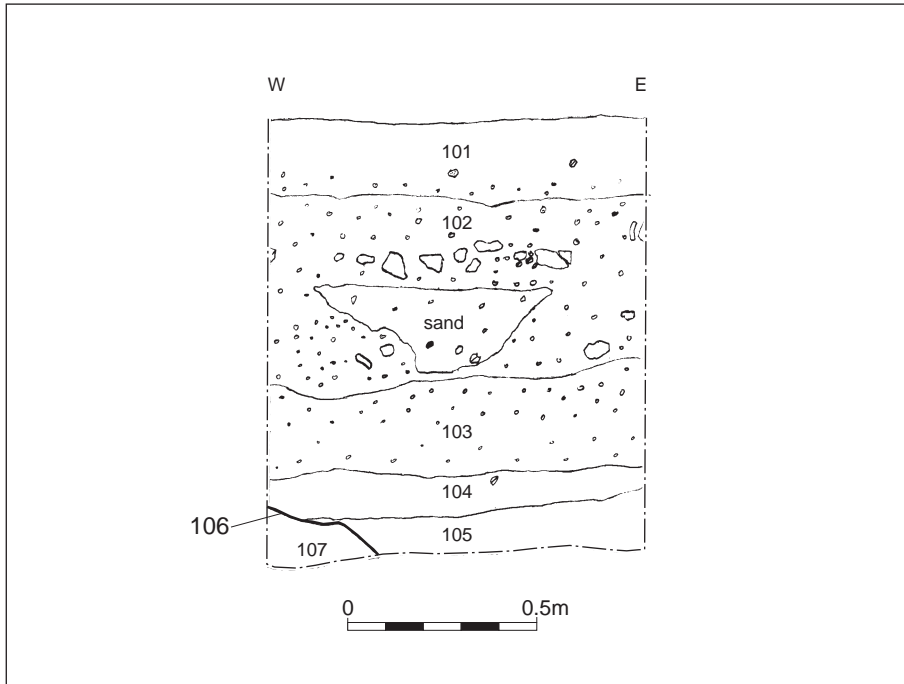
| <b>Trench 1</b> |   | <b>Dimensions(m):<br/>10.30 x 1.80<br/>Max. depth(m):<br/>1.23</b> |
|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>Context</b>  | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Depth (m)</b>   |
| 101             | Turf and topsoil, greyish brown silty clay, small chalk and flint inclusions.                               | 0-0.20m  |
| 102             | Layer of dark brown silty clay with brick, stone, concrete, ceramic pipe, sand.                             | 0.20-0.67m   |
| 103             | Layer of dark brown silty clay with brick, stone, concrete, ceramic pipe, less inclusions than layer above. | 0.67-0.93m   |
| 104             | Layer of dark brown silty clay with very rare, small fragments of brick and ceramic building material.      | 0.93-1.02m   |
| 105             | Greyish blue gleyed soil, rare flint pebbles, fill of <b>106</b> .  | 1.02-1.20m   |
| 106             | Cut for possible paleochannel, irregular, aligned approx. N-S. Filled with <b>105</b> .                     | 1.02m  |
| 107             | Natural brickearth, reddish brown silty clay  | 1.07m+   |



|  |  |  |                  |        |
|--|--|--|------------------|--------|
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Site and trench location plan


Figure 1



Trench 1 section



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from east

|   |        |  |                  |    |
|---|--------|--|------------------|----|
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