

**THAMES WATER MAINS REHABILITATION  
WORKS, FORTUNE GREEN ROAD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF CAMDEN, NW6 1AA**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**



**June 2019**

THAMES WATER MAINS REHABILITATION WORKS  
FORTUNE GREEN ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF  
CAMDEN, NW6 1AA

An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site code: LCF19  
Approximate site centre: NGR TQ 25289 85347  
Thames Water Scheme no.: 1362

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## ***Abstract***

*Between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Compass Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Watching Brief at Fortune Green Road, London Borough of Camden NW6 IAA during groundworks associated with the installation of a new water main. The work was commissioned by Lyndsey Curtis (SMBJV) due to the scheme being located within the West End Archaeological Priority Area.*

*The programme of archaeological works entailed the monitoring of the completion of eleven trenches excavated along the southern part of Lyncroft Gardens, adjacent to Lyncroft Mansions and Emmanuel Church.*

*The stratigraphy recorded was uniform throughout, comprising the existing tarmac road surface (1) overlying a layer of reinforced concrete (2) and a thin lens of loose brick rubble (3). Context (3) overlay a homogenous deposit of compact orange-brown clay (4), taken to be the natural London Clay, continuing below the extent of excavation.*

*No features associated with the land use prior to the creation of the present estate were observed and no finds were recovered. The high level at which natural geology was encountered, c0.5m below ground level (68.3-63.3mOD) would suggest the area was heavily truncated in advance of construction of the present street, wholly removing any evidence of previous activity or occupation.*

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted in the area of Fortune Green Road, London Borough of Camden, NW6 1AA by Compass Archaeology between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (fig.1).

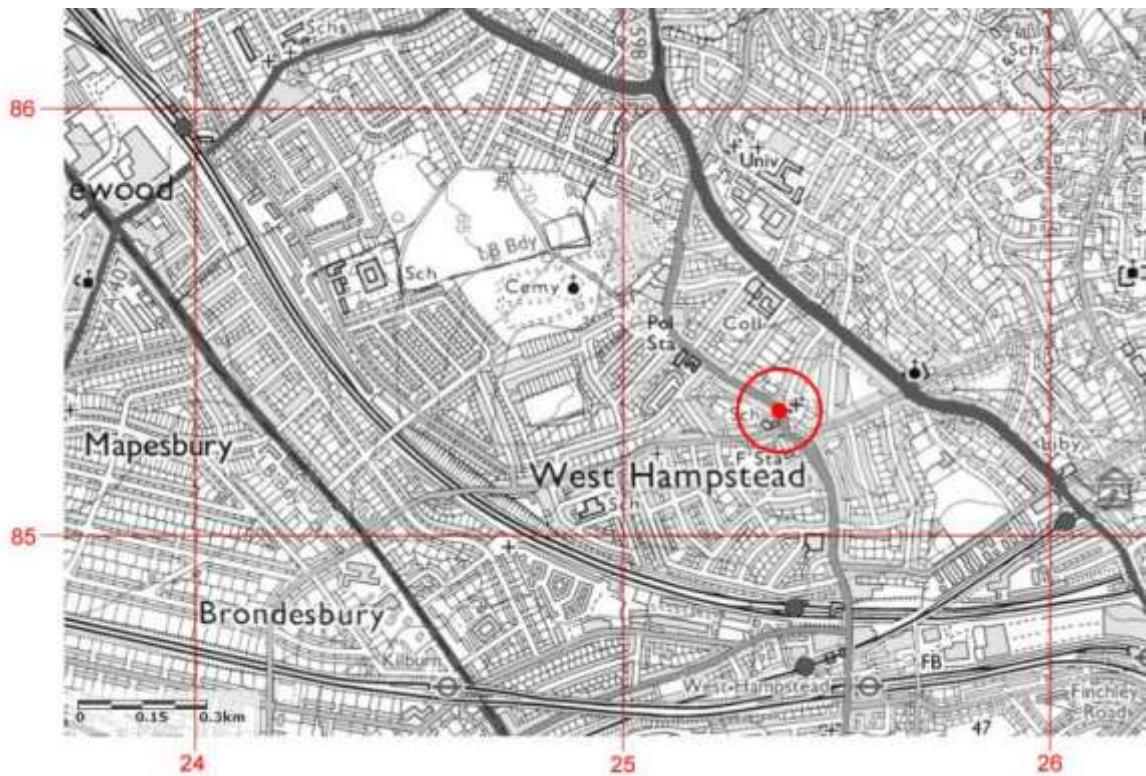


Figure 1: site location, marked in red.

- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned by Lyndsey Curtis (SMBJV) due to the extensive nature of the works and the use of open-cut trenching in the historic areas of Fortune Green and West End.
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works entailed the monitoring of a series of trenches situated along the length of Lyncroft Gardens, excavated to accommodate the installation of new connections, valves and hydrants. The watching brief was maintained on areas within the West End Archaeological Priority Area (fig.2).
- 1.4 The mains rehabilitation scheme entailed the abandonment of the existing mains network and installation of a new polyethylene network.

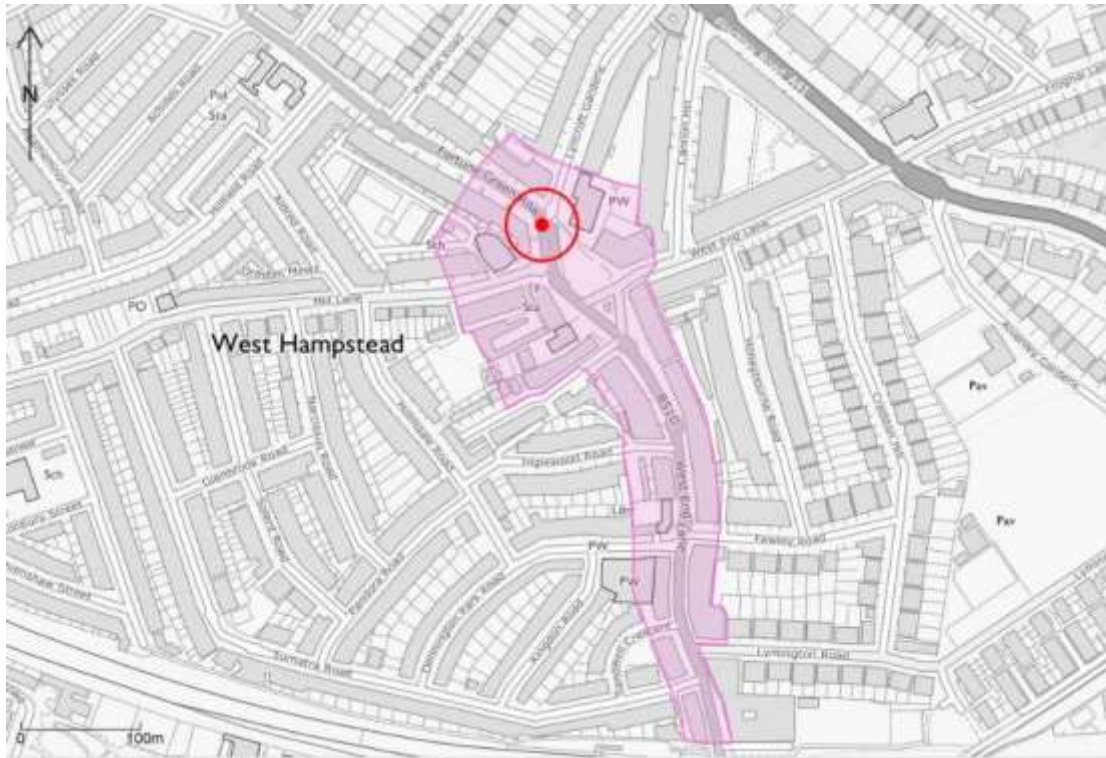


Figure 2: West End Archaeological Priority Area (pink) with site location marked in red.

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.1 Compass Archaeology would like to thank Lyndsey Curtis for commissioning Compass to undertake the archaeological watching brief and also to Instalcom for ensuring accessibility and support on site during their groundworks.

## 3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The monitored works were located along the length of Lyncroft Gardens, bounded by Finchley Road to the north and Fortune Green Road to the south.
- 3.2 According to the British Geological Survey (sheet 256: *North London*), the site lies within a vast expanse of London Clay, just south of an outcropping of the Bagshot Formation overlying Claygate Member, both constituents of the London Clay Formation (fig.3).
- 3.3 Fortune Green Road sits on a noticeable northwest-southeast slope, with the southern end of the road, at the junction with West End Lane sitting at 59-60mOD, rising steadily to 76mOD in the north, at the junction with Finchley Road.

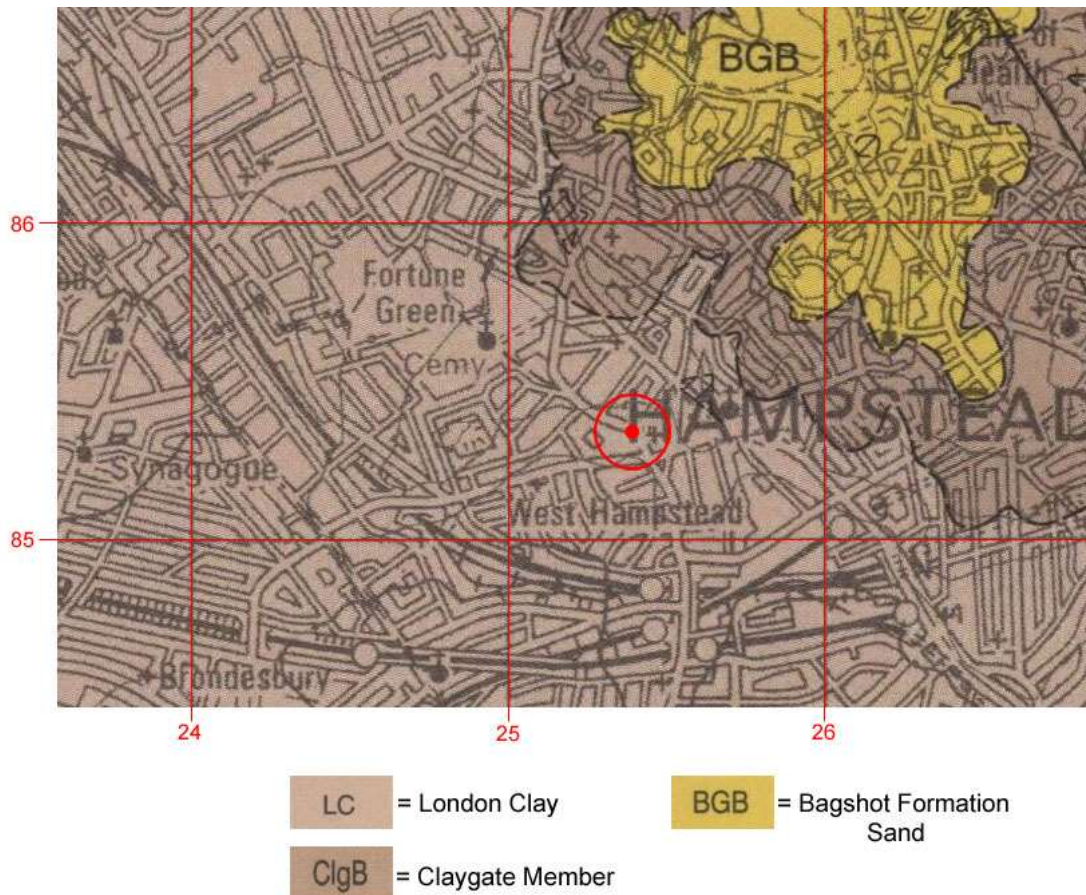


Figure 3: Extract from the BGS (sheet 256: North London, 1993) with site location marked in red.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Standards

- 4.1.1** The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2015*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.
- 4.1.2** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, etc., as required. All members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.
- 4.1.3** The Client and Historic England were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork and any finds recovered.



## 4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief took place during groundworks associated with a mains rehabilitation scheme along the length of Lyncroft Gardens. Eleven trenches were monitored and recorded in March 2019 (fig.4).



Figure 4: Plan showing the locations of the eleven trenches monitored during the watching brief (red).

4.2.2 Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan or section, generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were taken on archaeological features or deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark, spot heights noted on Ordnance Survey Plans *Fortune Green Road*, at 63.6mOD and *Finchley Road*, at 73.0mOD. The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography, in.jpeg and RAW formats, and shapefiles in .shp and .dwg formats.

4.2.3 The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London (MoL) recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

### **4.3 Post-excavation**

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

#### **4.3.1 Finds and samples**

No finds or samples were recovered during the programme of archaeological monitoring.

### **4.4 Report procedure**

**4.4.1** This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form.

**4.4.2** Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client and Historic England.

**4.4.3** There is no provision for further analysis or publication. Should these be made the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client.

### **4.5 The site archive**

Assuming that no further work is required, an ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with MoL Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under site code LCF19. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The following forms a written description of observations made during the watching brief. Deposits are shown as (x), cuts and structures as [x]. The text is supplemented with illustrative photographs.
- 5.2 Eleven trenches were undertaken along the length of Lyncroft Gardens, adjacent to Lyncroft Mansions (fig.5).



*Figure 5: Completed pits, looking towards Fortune Green Road. Facing SSW. No scale.*

- 5.3 The trenches measured between 0.7 and 3.0m in length x 1.0 – 1.3m in width, excavated to an average depth of 1.2m (c63.8-68.8mOD).

**5.4** The stratigraphy was relatively uniform throughout, comprising 120mm of well compacted black tarmac (1) above 240-250mm of reinforced concrete (2), overlying a thin lens of red brick rubble (3), measuring a maximum of 100mm in thickness. This lens was observed in all eleven trenches directly overlying a deposit of well compacted mid-brown orange clay with occasional stone inclusions (4), measuring a minimum of 0.5m in thickness continuing below the level of excavation. This clay is taken to be the natural geology (figs.6-8).



*Figure 6: Northwest facing section of a trial pit, showing modern made ground directly overlying the natural London Clay. Facing SE. Scale 1m.*



*Figure 7: The same stratigraphy was encountered towards the southern end of Lyncroft Gardens, comprising the existing road surface above reinforced concrete and rubble, overlying the natural geology. Facing NW. Scale 1m.*



Figure 8: Overview of the works area, showing several flooding trial pits. The same stratigraphy comprising modern made ground over natural London Clay can be seen. Facing approximately S, towards Fortune Green Road.

**5.5** Several of the trenches were flooded so were unable to be fully recorded, however no features of archaeological interest were observed.

**5.6** In spite of the slope of the road, no variation in the stratigraphic sequence was recorded. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

**6.1** During the archaeological watching brief eleven trenches along the length of Lyncroft Gardens were monitored and recorded. The stratigraphic sequence was homogenous and uniform throughout, comprising post-medieval and modern road make-up above the natural London Clay.

**6.2** Cartographic sources show that during the 19<sup>th</sup> century part of what would later become Lyncroft Gardens was occupied by Woodbine Cottage, a considerable post-medieval estate lying to the north of Fortune Green. However, no traces of this complex, *in-situ* or otherwise was encountered. The relatively high level at which natural geology was reached would suggest that the area was heavily truncated and levelled to create the present residential streetscape.

## **7 SOURCES**

### **7.1 Digital Sources**

Greater London Historic Environment Record. [GLHER@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:GLHER@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

London Archaeological Archive & Resource Centre (LAARC) database.  
<http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/>

### **7.2 Bibliography**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2015). *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Communities and Local Government (2018). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Compass Archaeology (2019). *Thames Water Mains Rehabilitation Works, Fortune Green Road, London Borough of Camden NW6 1AA. A Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation*.

Historic England (2015a). *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*.

Historic England (2015b). *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work*.

Mayor of London (2018). *The London Plan (draft)*.

## APPENDIX I – OASIS RECORDING FORM

**OASIS ID: compassa1-354569**

### Project details

Project name	Thames Water Mains Rehabilitation Works at Fortune Green Road, London Borough of Camden NW6 1AA.
Short description of the project	Between the 7th and 11th March 2019 Compass Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Watching Brief at Fortune Green Road, London Borough of Camden NW6 1AA during groundworks associated with the installation of a new water main. The work was commissioned by Lyndsey Curtis (SMBJV) due to the scheme being located within the West End Archaeological Priority Area. The programme of archaeological works entailed the monitoring of eleven trenches excavated along the southern part of Lyncroft Gardens, adjacent to Lyncroft Mansions and Emmanuel Church. The stratigraphy recorded was uniform throughout, comprising the existing tarmac road surface (1) overlying a layer of reinforced concrete (2) and a thin lens of loose brick rubble (3). Context (3) overlay a homogenous deposit of compact orange-brown clay (4), taken to be the natural London Clay, continuing below the extent of excavation. No features associated with the land use prior to the creation of the present estate were observed and no finds were recovered. The high level at which natural geology was encountered, c0.5m below ground level (68.3-63.3mOD) would suggest the area was heavily truncated in advance of construction of the present street, wholly removing any evidence of previous activity or occupation.
Project dates	Start: 07-03-2019 End: 11-03-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LFC19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CAMDEN HAMPSTEAD Fortune Green Road and Lyncroft Gardens
Postcode	NW6 1AA
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 525384 185297 50.945423599461 0.17162377986 50 56 43 N 000 10 17 E Line
Site coordinates	TQ 525428 185426 50.945538362638 0.171691776685 50 56 43 N 000 10 18 E Line
Height OD / Depth	Min: 63.3m Max: 68.3m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Historic England GLAAS
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Heidi Archer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water utility/company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water Utilities

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Photograph","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Mains Rehabilitation Works, Fortune Green Road, London Borough of Camden NW6 1AA. An Archaeological Watching Brief.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, London SW11 3SJ
Description	A short report summarising the results of the watching brief. Report comprises background information, including site location, topography and geology, details pertaining to the archaeological investigation and methodology. The second part comprises the results of the watching brief supplemented by illustrative photographs and concluding remarks. OASIS form included as an appendix.