

**Drainage improvements to Churchwell Path within the jurisdiction of the
Church of St John-at-Hackney,
Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD,
London Borough of Hackney**

**NGR Northern trench 535089 185270. NGR Southern trench 535125 185157
An Archaeological Watching Brief. Site code CYP10**

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Archaeological Observation and Recording took place on 21st June 2010 during drainage improvement and resurfacing works in two locations on church land at Churchwell Path, Hackney (*cf.* Fig 1). A Grant of Faculty was in place for these works. The land falls under the jurisdiction of the Church of St John-at-Hackney, Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD, although the path is maintained by Hackney Council. The two sites were located on the eastern side of Churchwell Path, immediately adjacent to two gates in the high brick walls that form the eastern extent of the Path. The northern area was adjacent to the gate at the rear of the Police Station at NGR 535089 185270 and the second area was adjacent to the residents' access gate for Sutton Square at NGR 535125 185157. Both sites were on approximately level land the northernmost trench being at +17.38m OD and the southern at +17.07m OD.
- 1.2** The works involved the excavation of a single north-south running drainage trench, adjacent to the entrance gateways at both locations. The northern trench was located adjacent to the eastern boundary wall of Churchwell Path and 26.8m north of the northern junction point of Rowe Lane and the eastern wall of Churchwell Path. The trench was of an irregular shape, having a shallow Aco drainage channel at the northern end in front of the access gate to the Police Station, which drained into a deeper 1m³ soakaway just to the south of the gateway. The combined Aco trench and soakaway measured 3.01m N/S in length. The soakaway was located at the southern end of the trench and was approximately 1m wide (1.02m N/S x 1.03m E/W x 1m deep). The Aco drainage channel measured only 0.36m wide by 0.18m deep for the northern 2m length in the trench area. Churchwell Path was 3.4m wide between the boundary wall and the low kerb with railings that encloses the monumental tombs in this location. The northern trench was excavated adjacent to the family vaults of George Jube and B.W. Scott E^{sq}.
- 1.3** The southern trench was rectangular, again in the form of a shallow Aco drainage channel across the access gate to Sutton Square and Hall Place and was located 54m south of the junction of the south side of Rowe Lane and the eastern wall of Churchwell Path. The Aco trench was a maximum length of 2.7m N/S by 0.4m E/W and was only 0.2m deep. Churchwell Path was 3.45m wide between the boundary wall and the low kerb with railings that encloses the monumental tombs in this location. The southern trench was excavated adjacent to the family vaults of George Edwardes Carruthers and of Colonel William Sother (text illegible in many places).

2. Results

- 2.1 The groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist and exposed deposits investigated by hand, but no significant remains were recorded and no finds recovered. In particular, there was no evidence for any historic burials and no sign of significant earlier paths across the churchyard.
- 2.2 Both trenches were hand dug after the tarmac surface of the Path was cut and removed. The southern trench was only 0.2m deep and the limit of excavation was still within the tarmac and concrete bedding and levelling layers for the existing tarmac path at +17.08m OD. Only in the northern trench in the area of the new soakaway did excavations penetrate beneath the tarmac surfacing and bedding layers. In the northern trench the upper elements of the exposed sequence comprised tarmac (*c* 100mm) over a series of tarmac and crushed concrete bedding layers or hardcore surface for the tarmac some 170mm thick. Beneath these modern path makeup layers was a layer of light-yellow brown friable sandy silt (*c* 200mm thick), which overlay a deposit of a very similar composition but of mid-brown/grey colour and with a slightly finer matrix. This initially suggested a possible previous path surface or buried soil, however, on closer examination this deposit overlay the stepped wall footing for the boundary wall to the east and it seems most likely that this discolouration in the subsoil was the result of root action from the mature tree that stands just 2.5m to the west of the soakaway and whose large roots covered the base of the trench from 0.8m below the current ground surface. Beneath this discoloured subsoil deposit was a thick deposit of light brown sandy silt extending to the base of the soakaway, which became sandier, coarser and lighter in colour with depth and appeared to be a naturally formed and broadly sterile subsoil (some root disturbance), overlying the natural sandy gravels of the Hackney Gravel component in this area.
- 2.3 The soakaway excavation revealed the stepped footing for the red brick wall of the Police Station and the first half-bat step (60mm wide) was at a depth of 0.61m below the current ground surface, the footing was constructed of two half brick wide steps sitting on a concrete base. The top of the concrete footing was at 0.81m below the current ground surface; *i.e.* at a height of +16.57m OD. The brick footing was made of red frogged London Stock bricks of probably later 19th century or early 20th century date. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below the current ground surface (*i.e.* to +16.38m OD)

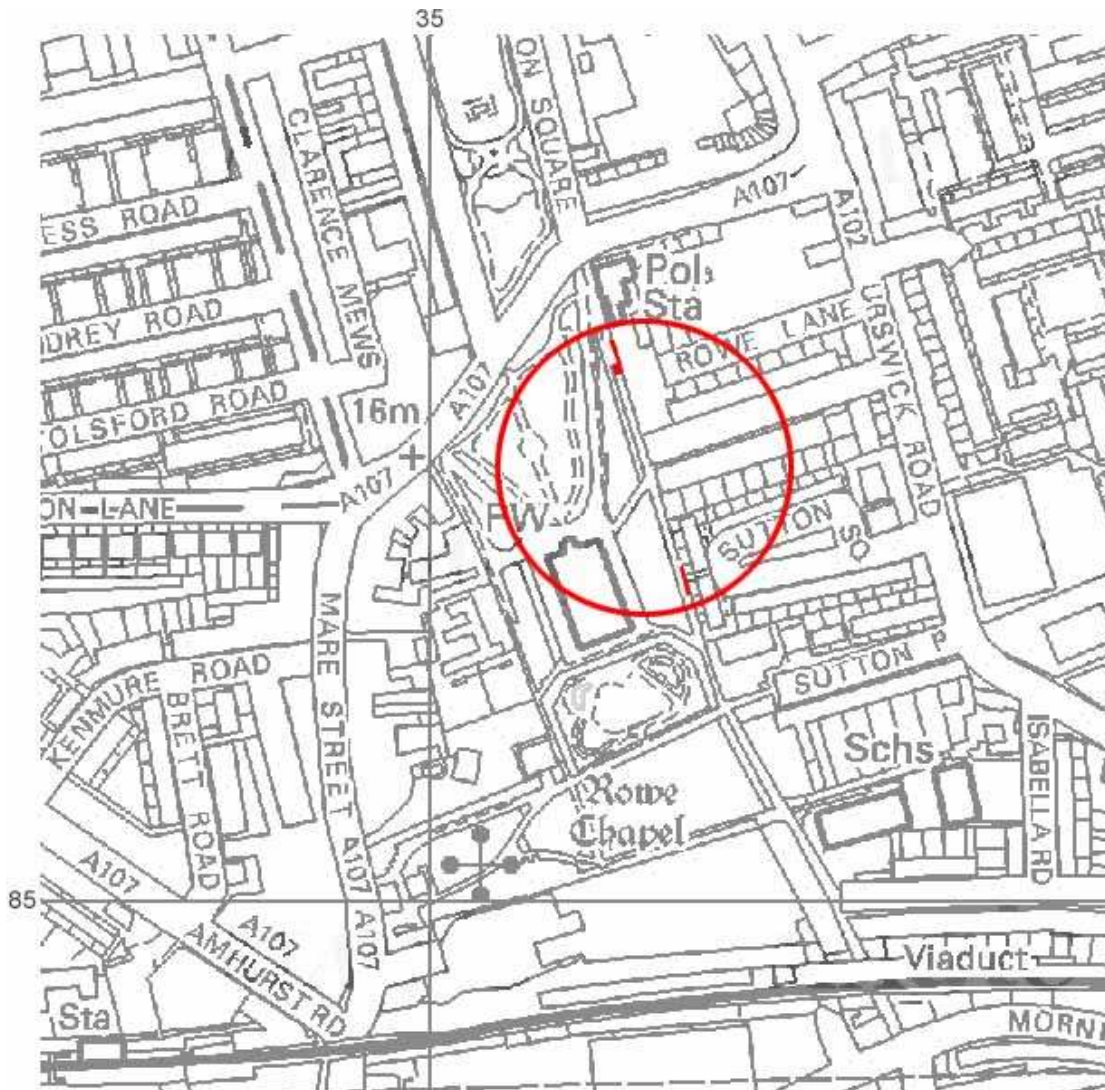


Figure 1 Site Location Plan, showing the watching brief areas highlighted in red. The northern trench measures 3.01m in length and the southern trench is 2.7m in length.

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Figure 2 Location of the northern trench on Churchwell Path, looking north, the entrance gate to the Police Station can be seen to the right of the gully excavation, the soakaway is in the foreground.



Figure 3 Detail of the north facing section of the soakaway, looking south. Scale 0.5m. The Aco gully enters the soakaway at the bottom left of this image.



Figure 4 Location of the southern trench on Churchwell Path looking approximately south, the Dutch gable end of No. 27 Sutton Square can be seen.



Figure 5 Detail showing the location of the southern trench in front of the access gate to Sutton Square.



Figure 6 Detail of the southern trench on Churchwell Path. Scale 0.2m.

Compass Archaeology
29th June 2010

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: compassa1-78729

Project details

Project name	Drainage Improvements to Churchwell Path, St John-at-Hackney, London Borough of Hackney
Short description of the project	Compass Archaeology carried out a watching brief on 21st June 2010 during drainage improvements to Churchwell Path, within the jurisdiction of the Church of St John-at-Hackney, Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD, London Borough of Hackney. A Grant of Faculty being in place for these works. Two small trenches were located on the eastern side of Churchwell Path, immediately adjacent to two gates in the high brick walls that form the eastern extent of the Path. The northern area was adjacent to the gate at the rear of the Police Station at NGR 535089 185270 and the second area was adjacent to the residents' access gate for Sutton Square at NGR 535125 185157. Both sites were on approximately level land - the northernmost trench being at +17.38m OD and the southern at +17.07m OD. The northern trench was of an irregular shape, having a shallow Aco drainage channel (0.36m wide x 0.18m deep) at the northern end in front of the access gate to the Police Station, which drained into a deeper soakaway (c. 1m x 1m x 1m deep) just to the south of the gateway. The northern Aco trench and soakaway were a maximum length of 3.01m N/S. The southern trench was a maximum length of 2.7m N/S by 0.4m E/W, but was only 0.2m deep. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in either trench. The northern trench revealed a naturally accumulated subsoil of light brown sandy silt, which became sandier and lighter with depth (observed to a depth of +16.38m OD) and appeared to be a naturally formed and broadly sterile subsoil overlying the natural in this area of Hackney.
Project dates	Start: 21-06-2010 End: 21-06-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CYP10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Site status (other)	Church Land Faculty Jurisdiction
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Churchwell Path, St John-at-Hackney Church, Hackney E5 0PD.
Postcode	E5 0PD
Study area	5.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 35089 85270 51.5496320655 -0.05143976433990 51 32 58 N 000 03 05 W Point
Site coordinates	TQ 35125 85157 51.5486078711 -0.05096422533920 51 32 54 N 000 03 03 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 16.38m Max: 17.38m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeologist
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	Gill King
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Digital Archive ID	CYP10
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	CYP10
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media	'Context'

available sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Map', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

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