

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road  
London Borough of Hillingdon**

**NGR 50557 18446  
(TQ 0557 8446)**

**Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Hillingdon  
Planning Reference: 4149/APP/2007/2165**

**ASE Project no: 4952  
Site Code: LAC 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011297  
OASIS ID: 115546**

**Andy Leonard**

**December 2011**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, London Borough of Hillingdon on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011.*

*The work comprised the excavation of two 'L' shaped trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, totalling 80m<sup>2</sup>. The trench in the east end of the site demonstrated the almost complete truncation of the subsoil horizon by previous development. The west trench demonstrated better survival as the natural deposit sloped down with an intact subsoil deposit overlying the Lynch Hill Gravels.*

*No archaeological remains were identified during the trenching work.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, London Borough of Hillingdon. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 0557 8446 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the site lies on the Lynch Hill Gravel formation comprising sand and gravels. The site slopes gradually down from the east at 46.29mAOD to the west at 45.30mAOD.

1.2.2 The site is currently vacant land, the previous building having been demolished. It is bounded to the east by Lancaster Road, to the south and west by the industrial units of Penfield Estate and to the north by residential properties.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of a two storey detached building was sought in 2007. Having considered the application, the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), in their capacity as advisors to the London Borough of Hillingdon, recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken as a condition of planning consent. Planning permission was granted (Ref: 4149/APP/2007/2165) subject to conditions. Condition 12 states:

*'No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of archaeological works is submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.'*

*REASON: In order to safeguard an area of archaeological importance in accordance with Policies BE1 and BE3 of the Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies (September 2007).'*

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared (ASE 2011) and approved by GLAAS. All work was carried out in accordance with this document

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The WSI outlined the following aims and objectives:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development.
- To determine the extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any archaeological remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological remains
- To report on the results of the archaeological evaluation

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in accordance with the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service's Guidance Paper No. 4: Archaeological Reports (GLAAS 1998). The fieldwork was carried out and managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the WSI (ASE 2011), which included an HER search of a 500m radius of the current site. For full HER references, refer to that document.

### **2.2 Mesolithic/Neolithic**

- 2.2.1 Some 400m to the north-west of the site, Three Ways Wharf revealed important early Mesolithic finds associated with occupation, tool manufacture and butchery (Lewis & Rackham 2010). The HER also records Late Mesolithic/Neolithic flintwork 250m to the north-west of the site.

### **2.3 Later Prehistoric**

- 2.3.1 Later prehistoric pits and ditches were recorded at Three Ways Wharf, whilst similar features were also found 650m to the south of the current site and later prehistoric pottery find-spots have been recorded at both 250m to the north-west and 300m to the south-west.

### **2.4 Medieval and Post-medieval**

- 2.4.1 Medieval and post-medieval pits and ditches were also represented at Three Ways Wharf and on a site c. 650m to the south of the current site. Find-spots of late medieval pottery are recorded 300m to the west, whilst post-medieval pottery has been found 250m to the north-west

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2011) and the relevant Standards and Guidance issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

#### **3.2 Excavation**

3.2.1 Two trenches were excavated within the proposed development area (Figure 2). Both trenches were 'L' shaped, totalling 20m x 2m each.

3.2.2 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

3.2.3 The excavations were taken down in small spits to the top of the underlying geology. Due to the presence of contamination on the site, and on the recommendations of a contamination report (Chemtest 2011), the trenches were not entered. All recording was undertaken from the trench edge. The presence of any artefacts was noted but none were retained for the same reason.

#### **3.3 Survey and Recording**

3.3.1 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).

3.3.2 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded using pro-forma ASE record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. A digital photographic record was also kept.

#### **3.4 Site Archive**

3.4.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) that fieldwork would be taking place. The LAARC issued the site code LAC11 to the project and its resultant archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and will be deposited in due course. The contexts of the archive are quantified in Table 1

Number of Contexts	7
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	
Bulk Samples	
Digital Photographs	16
Bulk finds	
Registered finds	
Environmental flots/residue	

Table 1: Quantification of archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Natural, moderately compacted, light yellow/orange sandy gravel, [103], was encountered at approximately 45.20m AOD. At the northern extremity of the trench it was overlain by a subsoil deposit, [102], of moderately compacted, light brown sandy silt. This was a maximum of 300mm thick and tapered off rapidly, extending only 1.50m to the south. Sealing the subsoil and natural gravels was a loosely compacted, dark brown silt, [101], with frequent building material inclusions of recent (20<sup>th</sup> century) date; these were not retained as finds. This deposit was the result of levelling, following the demolition of the previous building.

4.1.2 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 1.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
101	Layer	Levelling	Tr.	Tr.	1.00m
102	Layer	Subsoil	1.50m	Tr.	0.50m
103	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NFE

Table 2: List of contexts in Trench 1

### 4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Natural moderately compacted, yellow/orange sandy gravel [204] with lenses of orange clay were encountered at 44.10m AOD. It was sealed by a subsoil deposit of loosely compacted, light brown silt, [203]. Sealing the subsoil was a firmly compacted, clayey silt, [202], containing lumps of metal and brick with patches of green/white discolouration, presumably caused by contamination, resulting from the adjacent car workshop. This was sealed by, [201], a loosely compacted, dark brown silt with frequent building material inclusions laid to level the site following the demolition of the previous building. Again the 20<sup>th</sup> century building material was not retained

4.2.2 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 2.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
201	Layer	Levelling	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
202	Layer	Occupation	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
203	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m
204	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	NFE

Table 3: List of contexts in Trench 2

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains. The only finds noted on site were fragments of ceramic building material, relating to the recent demolition of the building, which were not retained.
- 5.2 Subsoil deposit [102] had been partially truncated at the east end of the site and a more substantial, intact subsoil deposit in the lower lying to the west (Trench 2) demonstrates that the site was subjected to a horizontal terracing episode at some point in the past, most probably during the construction of the previous building on the site.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Lewis, J S C, and Rackham, J, 2010, *Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge: a late glacial and early Holocene hunter-gather site in the Colne Valley*, MoLA monograph 51

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	LAC 11					
Identification Name and Address	Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, Uxbridge, London Borough of Hillingdon					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Hillingdon					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 0557 8446					
Geology	Lynch Hill Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4952					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. Dec 11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Andy Leonard					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, London Borough of Hillingdon on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011.</p> <p>The work comprised the excavation of two 'L' shaped trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, totalling 80m<sup>2</sup>. The trench in the east end of the site demonstrated the almost complete truncation of the subsoil horizon by previous development. The west trench demonstrated better survival as the natural deposit sloped down with an intact subsoil deposit overlying the Lynch Hill Gravels.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were identified during the trenching work.</p>						

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-115546**

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**Project details**

Project name	Evaluation, Penfield Estate, London Borough of Hillingdon
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, London Borough of Hillingdon on 6th December 2011. The work comprised the excavation of two 'L' shaped trenches within the footprint of the proposed development, totalling 80m <sup>2</sup> . The trench in the east end of the site demonstrated the almost complete truncation of the subsoil horizon by previous development. The west trench demonstrated better survival as the natural deposit sloped down with an intact subsoil deposit overlying the Lynch Hill Gravels. No archaeological remains were identified during the trenching work.
Project dates	Start: 06-12-2011 End: 06-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LAC11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4952 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON HILLINGDON Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, London Borough of Hillingdon
Postcode	UB8 1AP
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 0557 8446 51.5486587075 -0.477288658784 51 32 55 N 000 28 38 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 44.10m Max: 46.70m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
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Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Andy Leonard
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Report'

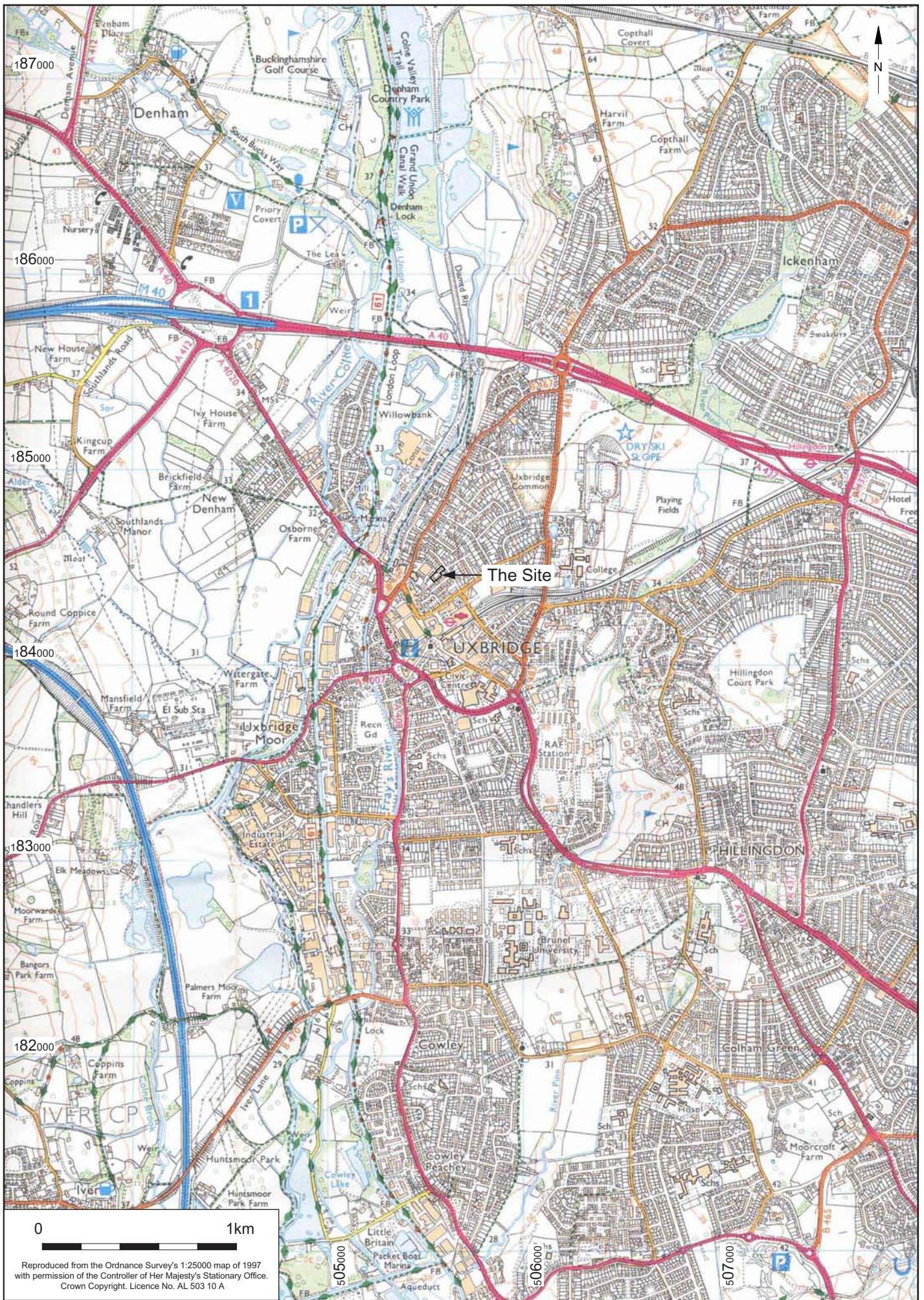
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**Project bibliography 1**

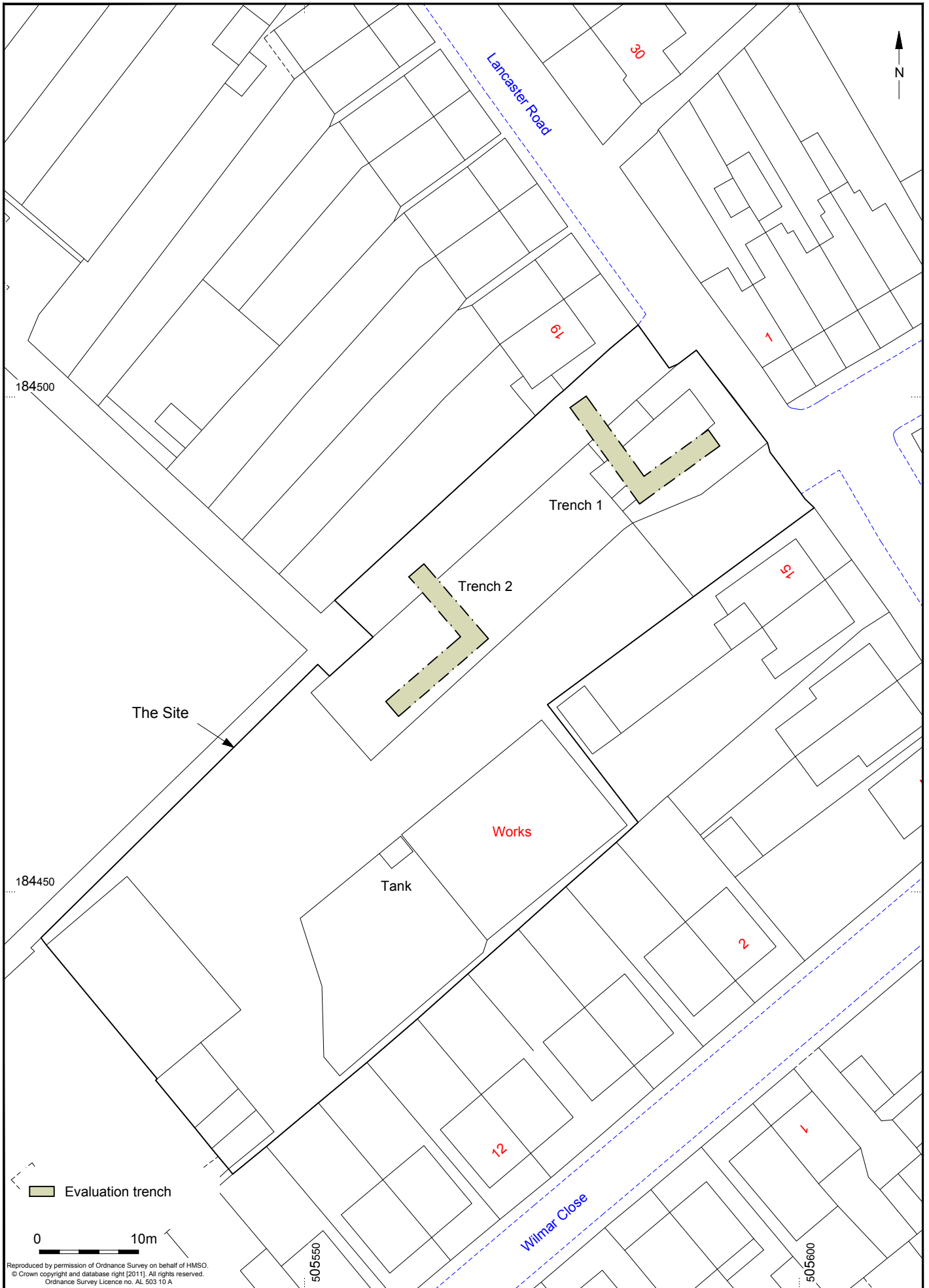
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Arcaheological Evaluation Report, Penfield Estate, 17 Lancaster Road, London Borough of Hillingdon
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© Archaeology South-East		17 Lancaster Road, Uxbridge		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4952	Dec 2011	Site location and HER data		
Report Ref: 2011297	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		17 Lancaster Road, Uxbridge	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4952	Dec 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011297	Drawn by: JLR		



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