

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Phase 2 – The Whitworth Centre**

#### **Harold Hill**

#### **London Borough of Havering**

**ASE Project No: 8032**

**Site Code: WTW12**

**ASE Report No: 2014222**



**June 2014**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Phase 2 – The Whitworth Centre  
Harold Hill  
London Borough of Havering**

**Centred at NGR: TQ 53140 92490**

**Planning Ref: N/A**

**ASE Project No: 8032  
Site Code: WTW12**

**ASE Report No: 2014222  
OASIS id: 182405**

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**June 2014**

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## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and their client Persimmon Homes to undertake an evaluation on Plot 2 at the Whitworth Centre, Harold Hill, London Borough of Havering.*

*Plot 1 of the development area was archaeologically evaluated by trial trenching in February 2012. No archaeological remains were discovered and the trenches revealed extensive areas modern disturbance on site.*

*This second phase of evaluation at the Whitworth Centre comprised the excavation of a further eight trenches across the eastern 2.15ha of the site. The results of this work are consistent with those of the previous archaeological works on site. It appears that the northwest part of the site, where trenches 1-4 of Phase 1 and trenches 10–11 of Phase 2 were placed, had been heavily disturbed, presumably by clay or brick-earth extraction. The southeast part of the site, and particularly the south of Plot 2, seems to have been subject to ground levelling works, as the topsoil was demonstrated to directly overlie homogenous natural clay that was devoid of any archaeological deposits or finds.*

*Any archaeological features, if ever present, were most likely removed by late 18th century and later quarrying works on site or else by the creation of the school playing fields in the 1960s.*

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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), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Whitworth Centre, Noak Hill Road, Harold Hill, in advance of Phase 2 of the redevelopment of the site.

### **1.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

- 1.2.1 The proposed development (NGR: TL 53140 92490) is located on the eastern side of the junction between Straight Road and Noak Hill Road and consists of a 5.24 hectare area that has been subdivided into two plots – plot 1 and plot 2. This evaluation took place on plot 2.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 256 North London 1994) shows the study site to lie on an area of London Clay with a channel of Head Deposits, formerly the route of the Ingrebourne brook/stream, immediately to the east of the site boundary (CgMs 2011). Part of the site is shown as landfill; however, geotechnical and archaeological evaluation works suggest that the area of ‘landfill’ is not as previously mapped (ECC FAU 2011 and 2012 – also see Fig. 1).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The Phase 2 site is under consideration for residential development and in order to determine the likely impact of the development upon the historic environment an archaeological evaluation was required in order to confirm the presence or absence, date, character, condition and significance of any remains that may be present, in accordance with previous discussions between CgMs Consulting and the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) as to the nature/ scope of the archaeological works required. This requirement for archaeological investigation is in accordance with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). Although planning permission for the scheme has not yet been granted, this requirement is likely to be secured through a condition attached to planning consent that will state:

*"No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological work shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority".*

- 1.3.2 Prior to the commencement of works a Written Scheme of Investigation that specified the aims and methodology was produced by ASE and approved by the GLAAS officer.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains.

1.4.2 A specific objective was to understand the impacts and extents of past ground disturbance within the site.

1.4.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made the report was to seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *A Research Framework for London Archaeology* (MoL 2002) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 2nd and 4th June 2014 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The fieldwork was carried out by Lukasz Miciak with assistance from Jim Ball.

1.5.2 The reported results will be supplied to the client and to the GLAAS officer and will inform decisions on the requirement for, and nature and scope of, any further archaeological work either before or during development.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 The following archaeological background makes use of a desk-based assessment previously prepared for the site by CgMs Consulting in March 2011 (CgMs 2011).

2.2 The HER indicates very little archaeological investigation has taken place within the wider vicinity of the site to date. Cartographic evidence appears to indicate that the site has been partially developed since the 1950's but that remains of earlier post-medieval structures may well be present.

2.3 There is very little evidence for Prehistoric activity within 1km of the site, which is likely to have been situated within a densely wooded landscape during this period. The enclosure of Romford Common in 1814 led to the discovery of large amounts of Roman roof tile, recorded as spread over an area of '300 paces'. The fragments are recorded from higher ground near Wrexham Road, some 750m to the east of the site. Fragments of tile along with remains of stone buildings are also said to have been found to the eastern of Ingrebourne School, 500m east of the site (MLO26050).

2.4 There are no records of any Anglo-Saxon remains within 1km of the site, while Medieval activity is also limited and appears to take the form of fairly isolated dwellings and farms in a still heavily-wooded landscape. Woodland clearance increased throughout the later medieval period as Harold Wood was cleared to form Romford Common. By the early 17th century only a small part of Harold's Wood remained at the northern end of Romford Common although Havering Wood survived at Noak Hill where there were also several smaller woods.

2.5 The GLHER records that in 1775 John Heaton of Bedfords unlawfully built a brick kiln on land enclosed from Romford common. The suggested location of the kiln is to the south of Noak Hill Road junction with Straight Road, later becoming Tile Kiln Farm.

- 2.6 This general location remained largely open and undeveloped throughout the 19th and early 20th century. OS mapping from 1871-1961 depicts the Plot 2 area as enclosed fields with various field boundaries running across its eastern part. One north-south boundary ditch has a pond along it. There is no indication of any quarrying or other disruption of the agricultural land evident on any of the available historic mapping.
- 2.7 Land use remains basically unchanged until the construction of the Broxhill Secondary and Harold Hill Grammar schools (subsequently forming the Whitworth & Broxhill Centres) in the 1960s. The 1971 OS map shows the then Harold Hill Grammar School with no sign of the earlier field boundary ditches running across its playing field – presumably infilled as part of school construction.
- 2.8 Consequently, the Desk-based Assessment concluded that the site had some potential for the presence of archaeological remains, primarily of Roman and Post-Medieval date.
- 2.7 Previous work on the site**
- 2.7.1 The archaeological monitoring of geotechnical works undertaken in April 2011 indicated that the extent of the landfill was not as shown by the British Geological Survey, potentially encompassing a smaller or different shaped area to that mapped (ECC FAU 2011).
- 2.7.2 The subsequent archaeological evaluation of the Phase 1 development area showed that the north part of the site, covered by trenches 1-4, was the most disturbed with a 0.8m-1m+ thick layer of re-deposited clay backfill, containing tile fragments, found underlying the topsoil. Trenches 5 and 6, located in the middle of the site, revealed a similar deposit but it contained no finds and it is not clear whether this layer represented backfill or a natural deposit disturbed by other factors. The ground in south part of the site, exposed within trenches 7-9, appeared to have been significantly reduced / levelled during the construction of the playing field. Here, the deposit sequence was established to consist of a layer of topsoil immediately overlying natural clay. No archaeological remains were discovered in any of the trenches and as a consequence it has been suggested that the archaeological potential of the remainder of the site is low (ECC FAU 2012).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 Eight 30m long by 2m wide trenches, numbered sequentially to follow on from the 2012 Phase 1 evaluation were excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The removal of overburden deposits stopped at the top of the archaeological horizon or else on reaching the top of the undisturbed natural geological deposit.
- 3.1.2 All trenches were positioned as indicated in the WSI, with the exception of trench 11 which had to be slightly moved and rotated by approximately 90 degrees due to the presence of a drainage installation in the northeast corner of the site.



- 3.1.3 All trenches were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and planned using GNSS technology.
- 3.1.4 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. All work was undertaken in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation, and Code of Conduct (IfA 2013a and 2013b), and the ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). ASE is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the IfA.
- 3.1.5 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances. A written record, including trench sheets was produced together with survey drawings of all trenches and features identified within them. A digital photographic record was also created.
- 3.1.6 No deposits judged to have significant potential for environmental analysis were identified. Consequently, no bulk soil or other environmental samples were collected.

## 3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	8 (trench record sheets)
Plan and sections sheets	N/A
Bulk soil samples	N/A
Photographs	16 (digital)
Bulk finds	N/A
Registered finds	N/A
Environmental flots/residue	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 General

- 4.1.1 Trench locations and other pertinent information, alluded to in the results text below, are shown on Figure 1.
- 4.1.2 Deposit thicknesses and heights AOD for every trench can be found in the table in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

- 4.2.1 Trench 10 was located in the northwest corner of the site beyond the area that is indicated by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as landfill.
- 4.2.2 The deposit sequence consisted of a thin (0.06 – 0.1m thick) layer of dark brown soft sandy silt topsoil [10/01], overlying a 0.8-0.9m thick layer of modern made ground [10/02]. Natural geology, comprising mid-brown



compact clay [10/03], was sealed beneath [10/02].

- 4.2.3 Modern truncation was noted in the central part of the trench but no archaeological features or finds were present.

#### **4.3 Trench 11 (Fig. 3)**

- 4.3.1 Trench 11 was positioned along the northeast boundary of the site again outside the BGS plotted extent of landfill, near geotechnical test-pit TP107.

- 4.3.2 The revealed deposit sequence comprised a 0.15-0.2m thick layer of dark brown loose sandy silt topsoil [11/01] overlying a thick (1.95-2.7m) deposit of modern made ground [11/02] which in turn was underlain by natural geology consisting of mid-brown compact clay [11/03].

- 4.3.3 No archaeological features or finds were identified below the made ground.

#### **4.4 Trenches 12 to 17 (Fig. 4-5)**

- 4.4.1 Trenches 12 to 17 were located across the southeast part of the overall site, which was indicated by the BGS to be partially covered by the landfill. All but trench 15 and parts of trenches 12 and 14 were positioned outside the plotted landfill extent.

- 4.4.2 All of these trenches demonstrated the same stratigraphic sequence that consisted of a 0.13-0.47m thick layer of dark brown soft sandy slit topsoil which lay directly on top natural geology comprising mid-brown compact clay. Three sondages located at the southwest end of trench 12, northeast end of trench 14 and southwest end of trench 16 were dug down to 0.7-1m below the trench base. None of these sondages revealed any additional deposits and confirmed the natural clay to be a thick and uniform deposit.

- 4.4.3 Land drains were noted in all of these trenches and also a modern truncation was revealed in the centre of trench 14. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified within any of the trenches.

### **5.0 FINDS**

- 5.1 No artefacts were recovered from the site during this second phase of the evaluation.

### **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

#### **6.1 Discussion**

- 6.1.1 The results of this second phase of evaluation of the Whitworth Centre site are consistent with the results of previous works on site. It appears that the northwest part of the site, where trenches 1-4 of Phase 1 and trenches 10-11 of Phase 2 were placed, has been heavily disturbed, presumably by clay or brick-earth extraction. However, no depiction of this has been identified on readily available historic mapping.

- 6.1.2 Trenches 10 and 11 appear to show that the northern extents of the quarrying / landfill area are greater than as plotted by the BGS. This is

presumably down to inaccuracies of determining its area on the basis of available borehole data.

- 6.1.3 The southeast part of the site, and particularly the south of Plot 2, seems to have been subject to ground reduction / levelling works, as the topsoil lies directly on homogenous natural clay that was devoid of any archaeological deposits or finds. This is likely to have been the product of the creation of the school playing fields.
- 6.1.4 No evidence has been identified for there ever having been archaeological remains present within this eastern part of The Whitworth Centre site. Indeed, not even residual artefacts in later infill and overburden deposits were found. If ever present, such remains must have been completely removed by past quarrying and landscaping of the site.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

- 6.2.1 This evaluation has facilitated a more detailed and accurate understanding of the differing nature and extents of ground disturbance and truncation across the site.
- 6.2.2 It is demonstrated that almost the whole area of the site appears to have been significantly disturbed in the past.
- 6.2.3 None of the evaluation trenches encountered archaeological remains and it is judged that the remainder of the site has no archaeological potential.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Matthew Smith at CgMs Consulting and their client Persimmon Homes for commissioning the work and Adam Single, monitoring officer at the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, who monitored the work on behalf of the local planning authority.

The site work was directed by Lukasz Miciak, assisted by Jim Ball. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures. Adrian Scruby managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation work.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |                        |       |  |
|------------------------|-------|--|
| Archaeology South-East | 2013  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at Phase 2 – The Whitworth Centre, Noak Hill Road, Noak Hill, London Borough of Havering</i>    |
| CgMs Consulting        | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: The Whitworth Centre &amp; Broxhill Centre, Noak Hill Road, Harold Hill, Essex</i>                                      |
| ECC FAU                | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test-pits at The Whitworth &amp; Broxhill Centres, Harold Hill, London Borough of Havering. ECC FAU report 2413</i> |
| ECC FAU                | 2012  | <i>The Whitworth Centre, Harold Hill, London Borough of Havering: Phase 1 Archaeological Evaluation. ECC FAU report 2389</i>                                     |
| IFA                    | 2013a | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation</i>   |
| IFA                    | 2013b | <i>Code of Conduct</i>   |
| Medlycott, M. (ed)     | 2011  | <i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24</i>                                       |
| Museum of London       | 2002  | <i>A Research Framework for London Archaeology</i>   |

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts**

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
10	10/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.06-0.10	52.42-52.88
10	10/02	Layer	Made ground	0.80-0.90	52.34-52.78
10	10/03	Layer	Natural	-	51.12-51.49
11	11/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.20	51.85-52.27
11	11/02	Layer	Made ground	1.95-2.70	51.67-52.07
11	11/03	Layer	Natural	-	49.39-50.17
12	12/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.47	52.57-52.88
12	12/02	Layer	Natural	-	52.15-52.26
13	13/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.18	52.13-52.18
13	13/02	Layer	Natural	-	51.64-51.68
14	14/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.20	52.52-53.22
14	14/02	Layer	Natural	-	52.04-52.71
15	15/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.16-0.18	53.48-53.69
15	15/02	Layer	Natural	-	53.17-53.33
16	16/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.19-0.32	53.58-54.51
16	16/02	Layer	Natural	-	53.17-53.96
17	17/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.27	51.74-51.80
17	17/02	Layer	Natural	-	51.41-51.27

## Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

<b>Site name/Address:</b> The Whitworth Centre, Noak Hill Road, Noak Hill	
<b>Parish:</b> Noak Hill	<b>District:</b> Havering
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 53140 92490	<b>Site Code:</b> WTW 12
<b>Type of Work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Lukasz Miciak, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 2nd to 4th June 2014	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 2.15 ha
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> LAARC	<b>Funding source:</b> developer
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related EHER Nos:</b> None
<b>Final Report:</b>	<b>OASIS Ref:</b> 182405
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Archaeological evaluation of Plot 2 at the Whitworth Centre, Noak Hill, London Borough of Havering was undertaken. Eight trenches were excavated across the eastern part of the site.</p> <p>The plot 1 of the development area was archaeologically evaluated by trial trenching in February 2012. No archaeological remains were discovered and the trenches revealed extensive areas modern disturbance.</p> <p>The results of this second phase of evaluation at the Whitworth Centre are consistent with the results of previous works on site. It appears that the northwest part of the overall site, where trenches 1-4 of Phase 1 and trenches 10 – 11 of Phase 2 were placed, had been heavily disturbed, presumably by clay or brick-earth extraction.</p> <p>The southeast part of the site, and particularly the south of Plot 2, appears to have been subject to ground levelling works, as the topsoil lies directly on homogenous natural clay that was devoid of any archaeological deposits or finds. No artefacts, even occurring residually in later deposits, were retrieved.</p> <p>Any archaeological features, if ever present, were most likely removed during the late 18th century or later quarrying works or else by school playing field construction.</p>	
<p><b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b></p> <p><i>The Whitworth Centre, Harold Hill, London Borough of Havering: Phase I, Archaeological Evaluation.</i> ECC FAU report 2389</p> <p><i>Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test-pits at the Whitworth &amp; Broxhill Centres, Harold Hill, London Borough of Havering.</i> ECC FAU report 2413</p> <p><i>Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: The Whitworth Centre &amp; Broxhill Centre, Noak Hill Road, Harold Hill, Essex.</i> CgMs Consulting</p>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> L. Miciak	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2014

### Appendix 3: OASIS Record

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-182405**

#### Project details

Project name	The Whitworth Centre - Phase 2 evaluation
Project dates	Start: 02-06-2014 End: 04-06-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	8032 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING HAVERING The Whitworth Centre, Noak Hill Road, Noak Hill
Postcode	RM3 7YA
Study area	2.15 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 53140 92490 51.6098865879 0.211885558167 51 36 35 N 000 12 42 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Height OD / Depth      Min: 49.39m Max: 53.96m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation      Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator      GLAAS

Project design originator      Archaeology South-East

Project  
director/manager      Adrian Scruby

Project supervisor      Lukasz Miciak

Type of sponsor/funding  
body      CgMs Consulting

**Project archives**

Physical Archive  
Exists?      No

Digital Archive recipient      LAARC

Digital Contents      "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Digital Media available      "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient      LAARC

Paper Contents      "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available      "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

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Entered on      25 June 2014



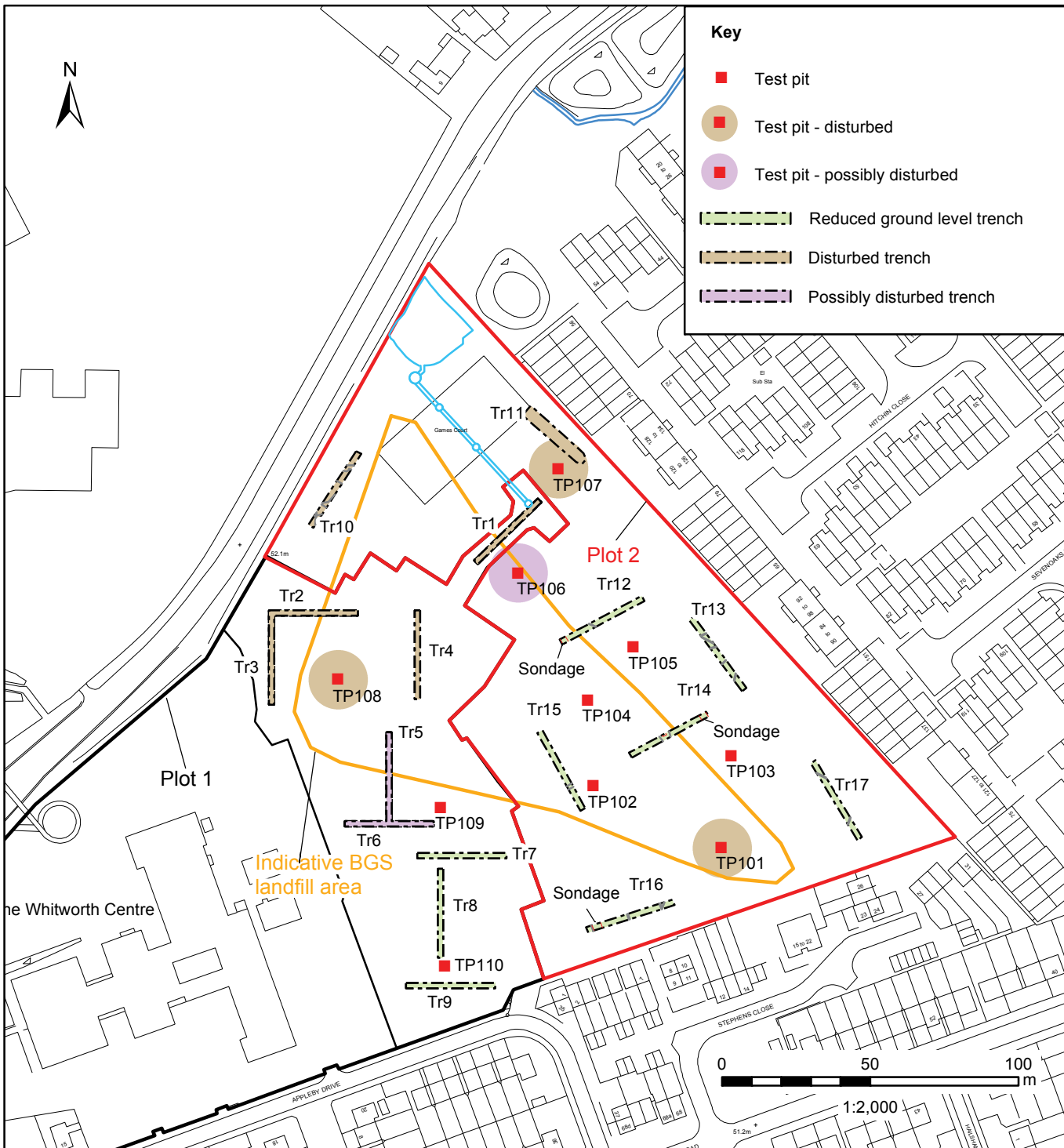






Figure 2: Trench 10



Figure 3: Trench 11





Figure 4: Trench 12



Figure 5: Trench 14

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