

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Land at Rectory Court  
Feltham, Hanworth  
London Borough of Hounslow**

**NGR: 511160 171920**

**Planning Ref: Pre-application**

**ASE Project No: 7608  
Site Code: REC 14**

**ASE Report No: 2015253  
OASIS id: archaeol6-218110**

**By Ian Hogg**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at land at Rectory Court, Hanworth, London Borough of Hounslow. The archaeological work comprised monitoring the excavation of four trial pits targeting services and a further trial pit for filtration testing.*

*Natural London clay was overlain by natural terrace gravels in a single trial pit (Trial Pit 5), in the remaining pits, natural deposits were not recorded as the excavation ceased once the services were encountered. Modern made ground and imported topsoil were encountered across the site; these deposits were associated with the construction of the existing buildings in the 1960's.*

*No archaeological or human remains were recorded on site.*

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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 watching brief at land at Rectory Court, Feltham, Hanworth, Hounslow (Figures 1 and 2, NGR: 511160 171920). The watching brief focussed on the monitoring of trials pits targeted on service runs.

1.1.2 The site covers an area of approximately 4,100 square metres and forms an irregular rectangle bound by Fernside Avenue to the north and Elmwood Avenue to the east, and is currently occupied by residential buildings.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin. Overlying the London Clay is a series of gravel terraces deposited during periods of glacial and inter-glacial conditions (Gamble and Lawson 1996).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 It is proposed to redevelop the site for residential use, replacing the current buildings. The site lies within the north-eastern corner of a small Archaeological Priority Area designated by the London Borough of Hounslow around Hanworth House. It also lies close to St George's Church and graveyard.

1.3.2 A desk-based assessment (CgMs 2014) was prepared to assess the archaeological potential of the site and the impact of the proposed development. This document concluded that the site has low archaeological potential and, furthermore, that it is probable that the construction of the existing building will have had a significant impact on any potential archaeological or human remains.

1.3.3 The present incumbent of St George Hanworth, Rev. Paul Williamson, has provided anecdotal evidence that human remains were observed during the construction of the existing buildings on site in the late 1960's/early 1970's. A brick structure recorded by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) to the south of the access road (north of the church) was interpreted as a vault containing burials during the course of a watching brief, and similar structures have been observed to the north of the access road. The access road lies to the south of the proposed development and the issue of potential burials being present on the site appears to be supported in a letter from the Museum of London Archaeology dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2005 (CgMs 2014).

1.3.4 The first phase of archaeological work comprised the monitoring of geotechnical works (ASE 2015a). The work found signs of horizontal truncation across much of the site, likely to be associated with the construction of the bungalows during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern made ground overlay the natural gravels except along the northern

perimeter where extant topsoil and subsoil were noted. No archaeological or human remains were found.

- 1.3.5 Having considered the results of the geotechnical monitoring, GLAAS requested a further phase of pre-determination archaeological work in the form of archaeological evaluation.
- 1.3.6 The evaluation, comprising six trenches, was undertaken in April 2015 (ASE 2015b). This established natural gravelly clay at between 13.67mOD and 14.75mOD immediately below made ground, the consequence of horizontal truncation. No evidence for any archaeological or burial remains was present on site.
- 1.3.7 An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015c) was prepared prior to the commencement of works, this document set out the methodology for the works. All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2015a, b and c) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service's (GLAAS) Archaeological Guidance (GLAAS 2015).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and on the on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014c). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Desk Based Assessment**

2.1.1 The following background information is derived from the Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2014) with due acknowledgement.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 There are few finds of prehistoric date noted on the GLHER within 1km of the site and only one feature is identified; a curvilinear ditch interpreted as part of a circular enclosure or ring fort. It is therefore considered unlikely that remains of this period will be encountered other than chance finds.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 The sole finds of Roman date within one kilometre of the site comprise eight coins of Constantinian found at 38 Wigley Road to the north-east of the site and a residual fragment of Roman *opus signinum* found at the Royal Nurseries site to the northwest.

### **2.4 Medieval**

2.4.1 Hanworth is recorded in Domesday Book as Hanworde, translating as a 'small village'.

2.4.2 A Saxon moat is recorded as having been present at Hanworth. The remains of a moat lie to the south-west of the study site although this is believed to be Norman in origin.

2.4.3 The sole archaeological findspot of medieval date within proximity of the site comprises two sherds of residual 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery identified at the former health centre on Spring Road to the north-west of the site.

2.4.5 There is no mention of a church at Hanworth in the Domesday Survey, although St. George's Church, c. 50m to the south of the site is mentioned in an advowson of 1293. The parish of St Dunstan, originally 12th century in date, lies to the northwest of the site.

2.4.6 During the medieval period the site is believed to have lain in open land within the vicinity of the manor house, to the north of the historic settlement of Hanworth. Consequently remains of Saxon or medieval activity are therefore considered to be restricted to evidence of agricultural activity and/or land division associated with the manor and church.

### **2.5 Post-medieval**

2.5.1 Early maps of the study area show the site to lie within Hanworth Park, north of the church and Hanworth House, and the village itself. The original manor house building burnt down in 1797, leaving stables and remains of the kitchens in the grounds.

2.5.2 Two eighteenth century garden houses formerly associated with Hanworth

House form a Scheduled Ancient Monument. They include a pediment above an arcade of Doric columns, together with two terracotta roundels likely to have come from the Holbein Gate at Whitehall following its demolition in the mid eighteenth century. A geophysical survey and subsequent evaluation at Hanworth House, now known as Tudor Court, identified brick walls within the moat dating to the Tudor period and later.

- 2.5.3 Registers for births, marriages and burials at St George's Church are known from 1582, although the earliest are lost and none of those surviving identify burial locations.
- 2.5.4 More detail is shown on the 1800 Hanworth Enclosure Map which shows a field boundary running through the eastern part of the site. The church and churchyard to the south are shown to be enclosed. The site remained much the same until the construction of Rectory Court in the late 1960's/early 1970's.
- 2.5.5 The DBA states:  
"Previous archaeological work during excavations for new drainage, which extended from St George's Church to the south, through the western side of the study site, revealed six post-medieval inhumation burials within the churchyard. The present incumbent of St George Hanworth, the Rev. Paul Williamson, has provided anecdotal evidence that human remains were observed during the construction of the buildings currently occupying the study site c. 1969/1970, including vaults. MoLAS recorded a brick structure to the south of the access road, north of the church, which was interpreted as a vault containing burials, and it is recorded in their watching brief report that similar structures have been observed to the north of the access road. The access road lies to the south of the study site. The issue of burials within the site appears to be supported in a letter from Museum of London Archaeology dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2005 (Rev. Williamson, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014).

## **2.6 Previous Work**

- 2.6.1 A watching brief was carried out on geotechnical works on the site in March 2015 (ASE 2015a). The work found signs of horizontal truncation across much of the site, likely to be associated with the construction of the bungalows during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern made ground overlay the natural gravels except along the northern perimeter where extant topsoil and subsoil were noted. No archaeological or human remains were found.
- 2.6.2 A subsequent evaluation, comprising six trenches, was undertaken in April 2015 (ASE 2015b). This established natural gravelly clay at between 13.67mOD and 14.75mOD immediately below made ground, the consequence of horizontal truncation. No evidence for any archaeological or burial remains was present on site.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 The initial phase of work comprised the monitoring of the hand excavation of four trial pits targeted on services. Originally two trial pits were to be excavated but at the wish of the client a further two pits were excavated to attempt to locate another service. A further phase of watching brief comprised the monitoring of a single machine excavated trial pit (Trial Pit 5) for filtration testing.

3.1.2 Spoil from the test pits was visually scanned for finds.

3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.

3.1.4 A digital photographic record was taken of the work.

3.1.5 All excavations were screened from the public in case of the presence of human remains.

#### **3.2 The Site Archive**

3.2.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	9

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Trial Pit 1**

4.1.1 Trial Pit 1 was located in the east of the site within previous evaluation Trench 6, and was targeted on an east to west aligned service also seen in Trial Pit 4. The trial pit it measured 0.5m x 0.5m in plan. No archaeological remains were recorded within this trial pit.

4.1.2 The natural deposit was not observed in this trench, the earliest deposit recorded was concrete surrounding the service [7/003], the depth of which could not be ascertained. The concrete was overlain by the service trench backfill [7/002] comprising firm, mid brown gravelly silt 1.05m thick. The backfill was sealed by the mid brown gravelly silt evaluation trench backfill [7/001] which measured 0.95m in thickness.

4.1.3 No archaeological remains were recorded within Trial Pit 1.

4.1.4 A table of recorded contexts is given in Appendix 1.

### **4.2 Trial Pits 2 and 3**

4.2.1 Both of these trial pits were located along the southern boundary of site to search for a service thought to run there. The same stratigraphic sequence was recorded in both trial pits. Trial Pit 2 measured 0.40m x 0.40m in plan while Trial pit 3 measured 0.60m x 0.35m in plan. No archaeological remains were recorded in either trial pit.

4.2.2 Natural deposits were not encountered in these trial pits. The earliest deposit was modern made ground [8/002] and [9/002] comprising dark grey silt gravels with frequent modern CBM and concrete inclusions and measuring at least 0.27m in thickness. The made ground was sealed by between 0.30m and 0.33m of dark black grey silt imported topsoil [8/001] and [9/001].

4.2.3 Both trial holes displayed evidence of the modern truncation recorded during previous works on site.

4.2.4 No archaeological remains were recorded within Trial Pit's 2 and 3.

4.2.5 A table of recorded contexts is given in Appendix 1.

### **4.3 Trial Pit 4**

4.3.1 Trial Pit 4 was located in the west of the site and was targeted on the east to west aligned service also seen in Trial Pit 1; it measured 0.7m x 0.7m in plan. No archaeological remains were recorded within this trial pit.

4.3.2 The natural deposit was not observed in this trial pit, the earliest deposit recorded was concrete surrounding the service [10/003], the depth of which could not be ascertained. The concrete was overlain by the service trench backfill [10/002] comprising firm, mid brown gravelly silt 1.05m thick. The backfill was sealed by 0.33m of dark grey silt imported topsoil [10/001].

4.3.3 No archaeological remains were recorded within Trial Pit 4.

#### **4.4 Trial Pit 5**

4.4.1 Trial Pit 5 was located in the eastern part of the site immediately south of previous evaluation Trench 1. The trial pit it measured 3.20m x 0.70m in plan. No archaeological remains were recorded within this trial pit.

4.4.2 The natural London Clay [11/004] was overlain by 0.46m of natural orange terrace gravels [11/003]. The natural gravels were overlain by mid brown rubbly clay modern made ground [11/002] measuring 0.71m in thickness. The made ground was overlain by a dark grey silt topsoil [11/001] 0.28m thick.

4.4.3 No archaeological remains were recorded within Trial Pit 5.

4.4.4 A table of recorded contexts is given in Appendix 1.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 5.1.1 Natural London Clay was recorded at 13.81m aOD in Trial Pit 5, it was overlain by natural terrace gravels. These natural deposits were sealed by modern made ground and topsoil, both associated with the 1960's construction phase on site.
- 5.1.2 Natural deposits were not recorded in the remaining trial pits (Trial Pits 1-4). The earliest deposit recorded in these pits was modern made ground, shown to overlie the natural in previous phases of work and in Trial Pit 5 (ASE 2015b). The made ground was cut by the service trench running east to west across the site. Topsoil overlay the service trench and made ground.
- 5.1.3 No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the watching brief and no evidence of human remains or burials was found.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 5.2.1 This watching brief confirmed the presence of made ground deposits across the majority of the site, only overlying the natural London Clay in Trial Pit 5. These made ground deposits have previously been shown to be associated with the construction of the existing buildings during the 1960's, this work led to severe horizontal truncation across much of the site.

### **5.3 Consideration of research aims**

- 5.3.1 The evaluation did not reveal any evidence of human remains or burials associated with the nearby churchyard. Given the level of truncation across the site it is possible that any human remains which may have existed have been removed during the 1960's construction.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

- 5.4.1 The watching brief confirmed the absence of human remains and demonstrated the presence of modern made ground across the site.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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CIfA, 2015b *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

CIfA 2015c *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Gillian King of GLAAS for her guidance and monitoring..

**Appendix 1: Recorded contexts**

<b>Trial Pit</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>	<b>Height m AOD</b>
TP1	7/001	Layer	Trench backfill	0.95	15.39
TP1	7/002	Fill	Service trench fill	0.25	14.44
TP1	7/003	Masonry	Concrete	-	14.19
TP2	8/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30	15.42
TP2	8/002	Layer	Made ground	0.08	15.12
TP3	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.33	15.08
TP3	9/002	Layer	Made ground	0.27	14.75
TP4	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32	14.63
TP4	10/002	Fill	Service trench fill	1.05	14.31
TP4	10/003	Masonry	Concrete	-	13.26
TP5	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28	15.26
TP5	11/002	Layer	Modern made ground	0.71	14.98
TP5	11/003	Layer	Natural gravels	0.46	14.27
TP5	11/001	Layer	Natural London clay	-	13.81

**Trial Pits, list of recorded contexts**

**HER Summary**

Site Code	REC 14					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Rectory Court, Hanworth, Hounslow					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Hounslow					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 1116 7192					
Geology	London Clay, Taplow Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7608					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork			15-7-2015 to 16-7-2015 & 25-08-2015			
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary						
				Other	None	
<b>Summary</b>						
<p><i>The archaeological work comprised monitoring the excavation of four trial pits targeting services and a further trial pit for filtration testing.</i></p> <p><i>Natural London clay was overlain by natural terrace gravels in a single trial pit (Trial Pit 5), in the remaining pits, natural deposits were not recorded as the excavation ceased once the services were encountered. Modern made ground and imported topsoil were encountered across the site; these deposits were associated with the construction of the existing buildings in the 1960's.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological or human remains were recorded on site.</i></p>						

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-218110**

Project details

Project name Rectory Court, Hanworth

The archaeological work comprised monitoring the excavation of four trial pits targeting services and a further trial pit for filtration testing.

Short description of the project

Natural London clay was overlain by natural terrace gravels in a single trial pit (Trial Pit 5), in the remaining pits, natural deposits were not recorded as the excavation ceased once the services were encountered. Modern made ground and imported topsoil were encountered across the site; these deposits were associated with the construction of the existing buildings in the 1960's.

No archaeological or human remains were recorded on site.

Project dates Start: 15-07-2015 End: 25-08-2015

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes 7608 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes REC 14 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW FELTHAM Rectory Court, Hanworth

Postcode TW13 7QE

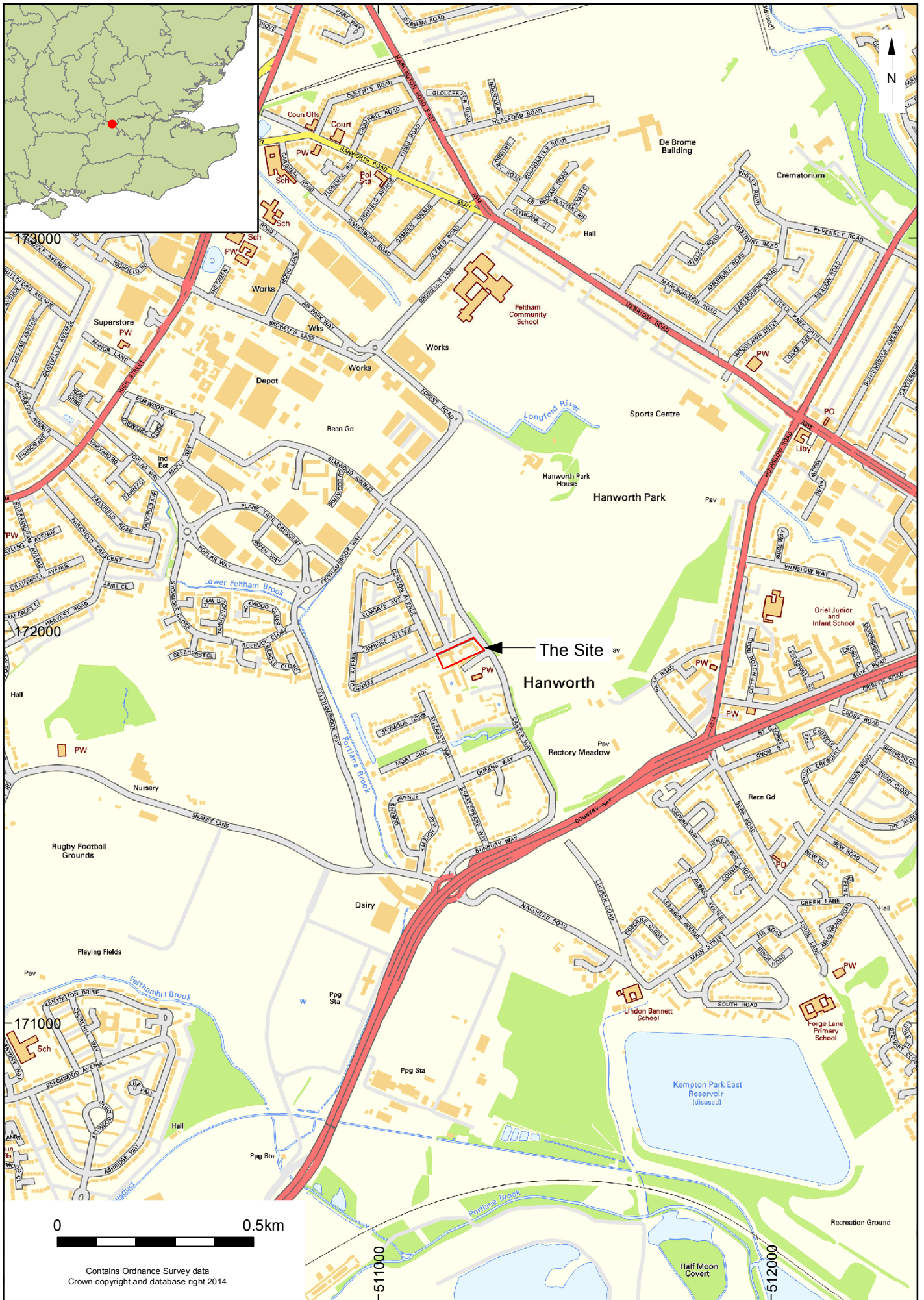
Study area 4100.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 1116 7192 51.4348614446 -0.400643314872 51 26



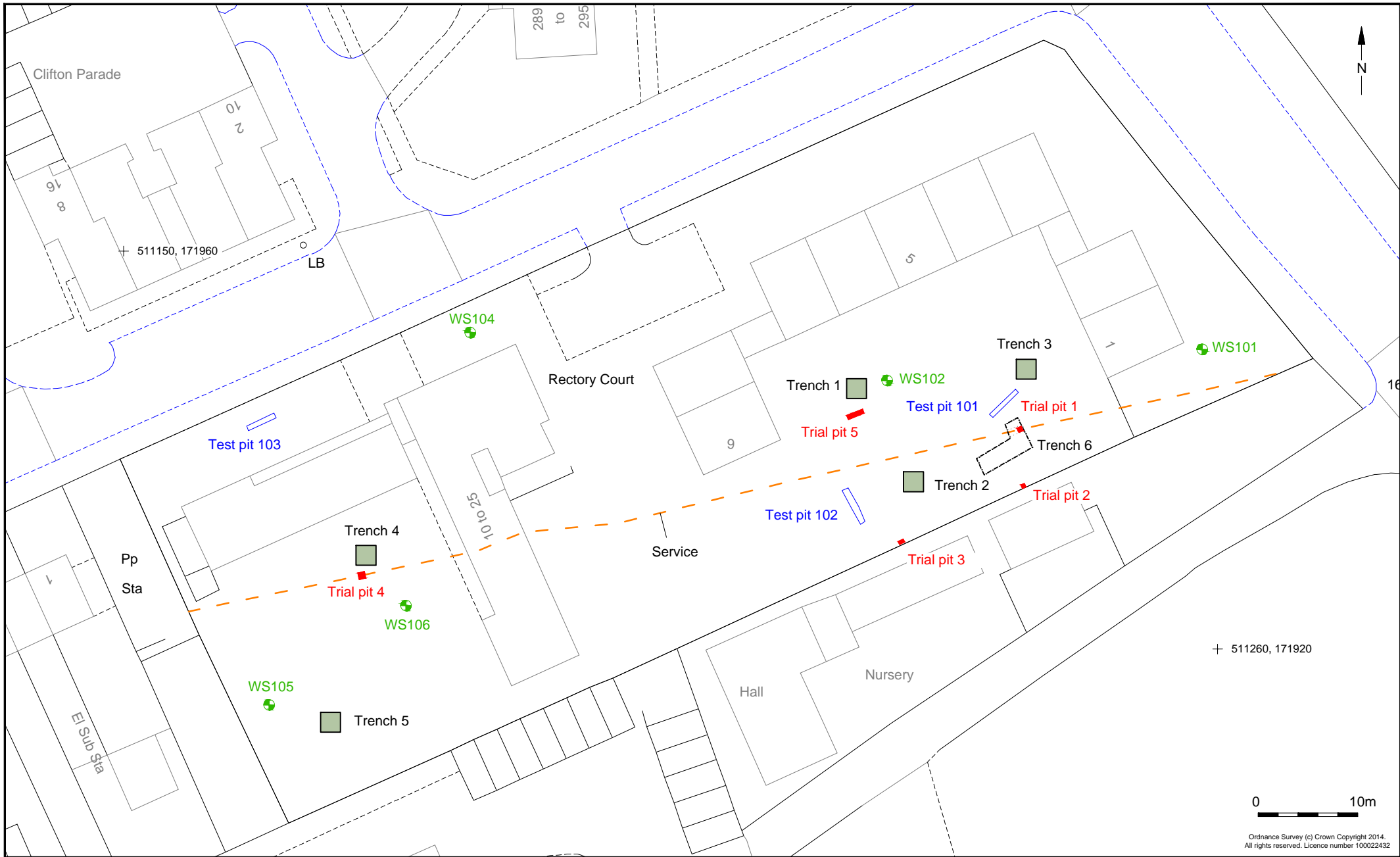
05 N 000 24 02 W Point

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Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan"
Entered by	ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	08 September 2015



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Project Ref: 7608	July 2015	Site location		
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© Archaeology South-East		Rectory Court, Hanworth	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7608	Aug 2015	Trial pit location	
Report Ref: 2015253	Drawn by: JLR		



Trial pit 1 looking west



Trial pit 2 looking south



Trial pit 3 looking south



Trial pit 4 looking south



Trial pit 5 looking south-west

© Archaeology South-East		Rectory Court, Hamworth	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7608	Sept 2015	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2015253	Drawn by: JLR		

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