

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on land at
Shadbolt Avenue, Chingford, London N18**

NGR TQ 363 921

Planning Application Number: 2006/1662

Project No. 2995

By

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Waterman CPM Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Shadbolt Site, Chingford. During Geotechnical Investigations a selection of trial pits were monitored in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Additionally, two trenches were excavated in the attempt to locate a culvert running across site – this was duly discovered in Trench 2 and then uncovered back to the northern edge of site. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the trial pitting or the excavation of the trenches.

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Fig. 1: Site Location

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by Waterman CPM Ltd., on behalf of their client, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation works in advance of redevelopment at the Shadbolt Site, Chingford, Waltham Forest Borough Council (NGR TQ 363 921 centred), (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning consent was granted for the construction of a warehouse on the site (Planning Reference 2006/1662). Due to the location of the site within an Archaeological Priority Zone, the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory (GLAAS), in its capacity as advisor to Waltham Forest Borough Council on archaeological planning matters, requested that an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the intrusive ground investigation works.
- 1.3 A Method Statement was produced by ASE (2007), in response to Waterman CPM Ltd.'s specification for the work (Waterman 2007) and duly approved by GLAAS.
- 1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Swift and Tom Collie from the 18th-20th June 2007. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is not within the scope of this report to give a full and detailed history of Chingford. However, a small summary is provided here. Chingford lies upon the western slope of the London clay ridge from which the land slopes down to the alluvial flood plain of the Lea itself. Pre-Saxon finds have included both Mesolithic and Neolithic flints and Iron Age and Roman coins, discovered from the marsh areas around the excavation of Girling Reservoir. Despite this, there is no real evidence to suggest the presence of early settlements. Situated in the Lea valley, Chingford may have started as a small settlement beside the River Lea. Numerous other derivations include Chingefort, Chilgelford, Echingelsford, Schingelford, Shymgylford and Chinkford. Two explanations have been given to the derivation of its name. The first "cingeford", means the "Kings ford" where the second "cëgingaford" is Saxon meaning the "dwellers by the stumpy ford". Indeed, the remanants of pile-dwellings were revealed in reservoir excavations at Higham Hill, just south of Chingford and it has been argued that original Saxon settlements were formed in the far south-west.
- 2.2 It is recorded within the Domesday Book as "cingehfort" and was reported to have had two parishes, one belonging to St Paul's. Indeed, the medieval manor house is situated in the south-west of the parish along with the manor house of Chingford Earl, again indicating a continued presence in the south-western area. These medieval manor houses date back to the 12-13th centuries and later clearances of the forest in the 16th century allowed for further settlement and expansion. This continued into the 18th century, indicated by villages at Chingford Green (in the north), Low Street (in the north-west) and Chingford Hatch (in the east.) Various landed gentry inhabited Chingford, the most famous being the Snell family who resided in Chingford Hall. Chingford expanded with the introduction of the railway from Walthomstow in 1873 and the population increased from 612 in 1801 to 1,387 in 1881, with rapid expansion occurring just prior to WWII. Population rose from 2,053 in 1931 to 48,355 in 1951 and now the town is a dormitory suburb, being divided by the main north circular London road, the A406. Its most important development in the last one hundred years has been the construction of the London County Council's Friday Hill Estate, on the last remaining portion of the manor of Chingford Earls.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to the knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the trial pits. Particular attention was to be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 The geotechnical trial pit excavations, undertaken by engineering contractors, were monitored at all times until the excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils.
- 3.4 The trial pits measured varied in measurement from 0.40m to 1m in width and between 2-3m in length. They were excavated to varying depths of c. 3m for the purposes of the geotechnical engineer. A total of 16 trial pits were supervised. A further trench was excavated in the search for a pre-existing modern culvert. This was excavated in two halves, respectively classed i and ii. Trench ii was excavated and the culvert was discovered at the far western end. The extent of this culvert was then revealed to the northern edge of site. All excavations were carried out with a tracked machine (equipped with a toothless bucket).
- 3.5 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.6 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards. A full photographic record was kept of the work as appropriate.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

First Phase of Monitoring

4.1 Trial Pit 1 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Made ground dark grey compact gravel with occasional inclusions of modern brick fragments, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	3m	0.5m	1m
1/002	Layer	Natural geology orange yellow sands containing abundant gravels (95%) and small lens of mid grey sand containing abundant gravel (95%)	3m	0.5m	2.3m+

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 1.

4.2 Trial Pit 2 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Made ground dark grey compact gravel with occasional inclusions of modern brick fragments, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	3m	0.5m	1m
2/002	Layer	Natural geology orange yellow sands containing abundant gravels (95%) and small lens of mid grey sand containing abundant gravel (95%)	3m	0.5m	2.5m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 2.

4.3 Trial Pit 3 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Made ground dark grey compact gravel with occasional inclusions of modern brick fragments, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	3m	0.5m	0.4m
3/002	Layer	Deposit Mid brown silty clay containing common very small angular stone	3m	0.5m	0.7m
3/003	Layer	Natural geology orange yellow sands containing abundant gravels (95%) and small lens of mid grey sand containing abundant gravel (95%)	3m	0.5m	2.5m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 3.

4.4 Trial Pit 4 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Made ground dark grey compact gravel with occasional inclusions of modern brick fragments, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	3m	0.5m	0.5m
4/002	Layer	Deposit Dark grey clay	3m	0.5m	0.6m
4/003	Layer	Deposit Mid brown firm clay	3m	3m	0.8
4/004	Layer	Natural geology orange yellow sands containing abundant gravels (95%) and small lens of mid grey sand containing abundant gravel (95%)	3m	0.5m	2.5m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 4.

4.5 Trial Pit 5 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Made ground dark grey compact gravel with occasional inclusions of modern brick fragments, sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles	3m	0.5m	0.4m
5/002	Layer	Deposit Dark orange grey sandy gravels – natural geology mixed with leeching from 5/001	3m	0.5m	0.7m
5/003	Layer	Natural geology orange yellow sands containing abundant gravels (95%) and small lens' of mid grey sand containing abundant gravel (95%)	3m	0.5m	2.1m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 5.

4.6 Trial Pit 6 (Fig. 2)

This trial pit was abandoned since a second concrete slab was discovered at 0.6m bgl. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 6 during the first 0.6m since this layer was made ground.

4.7 Trial Pit 7 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Made ground Modern concrete slab and associated concrete hardcore base	2m	0.5m	1m
7/002	Layer	Deposit Dark brown black firm silty clay	2m	0.5m	1.5m
7/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid orange brown firm clay sand	2m	0.5m	2.0m
7/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid grey brown sandy gravels	2m	0.5m	3m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 7.

4.8 Trial Pit 8 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Made ground Modern concrete slab and associated concrete hardcore base	2m	0.5m	0.3m
8/002	Layer	Disturbed ground Mid brown firm clay containing occasional small brick fragments and concrete	2m	0.5m	1.3m
8/003	Layer	Deposit Mid grey stiff clay with occasional small angular flint	2m	0.5m	1.8m
8/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid orange sandy loose gravels	2m	0.5m	3.3m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 8.

4.9 Trial Pit 9 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
9/001	Layer	Made ground Modern concrete slab	2m	0.8m	0.26m
9/002	Layer	Made ground Mid grey yellow compact silty sand with occasional small brick fragments	2m	0.8m	0.76m
9/003	Layer	Deposit Dark blue black firm clay with a highly organic odour – possibly alluvium	2m	0.8m	1.30m
9/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2m	0.8m	2.9m
9/005	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown grey sandy gravels (all flint <10mm) – very damp	2m	0.8	3m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 9.

4.10 Trial Pit 10 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
10/001	Layer	Made ground Modern concrete slab	2m	1m	0.20m
10/002	Layer	Made ground Dark brown firm silty clay containing common fragments of brick and concrete	2m	1m	0.85m
10/003	Layer	Made ground Concrete slab	2m	1m	0.85m+

This test pit was abandoned when the discovery of the second concrete slab was revealed. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 10.

4.11 Trial Pit 11 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
11/001	Layer	Made ground Modern concrete slab	2m	0.6m	0.50m
11/002	Layer	Made ground Mid red brown sandy silt with common small fragments of brick and concrete	2m	0.6m	1m
11/003	Layer	Deposit Dark grey firm clay	2m	0.6m	1.85m
11/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2m	0.6m	2.9m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 11.

4.12 Trial Pit 12 (Fig. 2)

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 12 since it was abandoned due to the discovery of a 0.5m thick concrete slab at ground surface.

4.13 Trial Pit 13 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
13/001	Layer	Top Soil Firm brown grey sandy silt	2m	0.9m	0.10m
13/002	Layer	Deposit Firm grey brown sandy silt containing occasional small brick and chalk fragments – dumped deposit	2m	0.6m	0.6m
13/003	Layer	Made ground Concrete slab	2m	0.6m	0.6m+

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 13.

4.14 Trial Pit 14 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
14/001	Layer	Top Soil Firm brown grey sandy silt	2m	0.4m	0.20m
14/002	Layer	Deposit Firm grey brown sandy silt containing occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles and occasional small charcoal pieces	2m	0.4m	1.4m
14/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2m	0.4m	2m
14/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown grey loose sandy gravels	2m	0.4m	2.6m
14/005	Layer	Natural geology Dark brown grey sandy gravels – very wet	2m	0.4m	3m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 14.

4.15 Trial Pit 15 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
15/001	Layer	Made ground Concrete slab	2m	0.7m	0.1m
15/002	Layer	Made ground Dark black sandy silt with occasional small brick fragments	2m	0.7m	0.5m
15/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow grey sand	2m	0.7m	1m
15/004	Layer	Natural geology Dark brown firm clay	2m	0.7m	1.5m
15/005	Layer	Natural geology Loose yellow grey sandy gravels	2m	0.7m	3.4m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 15.

4.16 Trial Pit 16 (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
16/001	Layer	Top soil Friable dark brown sandy silt	2m	0.6m	0.4m
16/002	Layer	Dumped deposit Mid white pink silt sand with abundant (95%) angular gravels – type 1/scalpings used as foundation base for construction industry	2m	0.6m	1m
16/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid orange brown firm silty clay	2m	0.6m	1.4m
16/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange loose sandy gravels	2m	0.6m	2.25m
16/005	Layer	Natural geology Loose dark brown sandy gravels – very wet	2m	0.6m	3m
16/006	Layer	Natural geology Loose light brown sand – very wet	2m	0.6m	3.2m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 16.

4.17 Trench i (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
A1/001	Layer	Made ground Crushed concrete fragments, used as road surface	20m	0.6m	0.2m
A1/002	Layer	Deposit Dark brown grey sandy clay containing occasional small sub-angular and sub rounded flint.	20m	0.6m	0.6m
A1/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid orange brown loose sandy gravels	20m	0.6m	0.9m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of Trench i.

4.18 Trench ii (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
A2/001	Layer	Made ground Concrete slab	15m	0.6m	0.2m
A2/002	Layer	Made ground Loose white grey silty sand containing abundant concrete rubble	15m	0.6m	0.5m
A2/003	Layer	Made ground Dark black loose silty sand containing common small brick and service pipe fragments and occasional small modern glass fragments	15m	0.6m	0.9m
A2/004	Layer	Natural geology Dark blue firm grey clay – possibly alluvium	15m	0.6m	1.40m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit ii.

4.19 Trench iii (Fig. 2)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
B001	Layer	Made ground Concrete fragments which provide road surface	30m	0.5m	0.4m
B/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	30m	0.5m	0.85m
B/003	Layer	Natural geology Light grey loose sandy gravels	30m	0.5m	1.3m

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit iii.

5 DISCUSSION

No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the trial pits. A large area of the site showed signs of disturbance from groundwork associated with the creation of the concrete slabs for the nearby industrial shopping depots. Layers of made ground were encountered directly beneath the concrete slabs in the north east of site. These layers directly overlay the underlying geology of mid orange loose gravels with localised patches of alluvial clay.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to the client Freddie Alcock of Waterman Environmental Consulting Engineers and Scientists.

7 REFERENCES

Archaeology South East, 2007; A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief at the Shadbolt Road, Chingford, London.

<http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=42713&strquery=chingford>. Date accessed: 26 June 2007. From: 'The parish and borough of Chingford', A History of the County of Essex: Volume 5 (1966), pp. 97-114.

8 OASIS FORM

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological watching brief at Shadbolt Road, Chingford, London
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, were commissioned by Waterman CPM Ltd, on behalf of their client to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during works at the proposed Shadbolt Site, Chingford. During Geotechnical Investigations a selection of trial pits were monitored in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Additionally, two trenches were excavated in the attempt to locate a culvert running across site, this was discovered in Trench 2 and then uncovered back to the northern edge of site. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the trial pitting or the excavation of the trenches..
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2007 End: 20-06-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SDB 07 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	GREATER LONDON WALTHAM FOREST CHINGFORD Shadbolt Road, Chingford
Postcode	E4 8GP
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 363 921 51.6107217865 -0.03133152633670 51 36 38 N 000 01 52 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Tom Collie
Type of sponsor/funding body	Waterman CPM Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Waterman CPM Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	SDB07 - Shadbolt Road, Chingford, London
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	SDB07 - Shadbolt Road, Chingford, London
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text','Photograph'

Project bibliography 1

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