

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Shadbolt Road, Chingford, London**

NGR TQ 263 921

Planning Application Number: 2006/1662

Project No. 2995

By

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Abstract

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 a second phase of works at the proposed Shadbolt Site, Chingford. During Geotechnical Investigations, thirteen test pits were monitored in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Additionally, a further six test pits, to establish the extent of hydrocarbon contamination, were monitored. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the trial pitting.

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Acknowledgements

Oasis form

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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 a second phase of 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) (Fig. 2). Due to the location of the site within an Archaeological Priority Zone, the English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (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 the Specification (Waterman CPM 2007) for the work and duly approved by GLAAS.
- 1.4** The fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Collie from the 30th- 31st July 2007. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-Excavation Manager).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** 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 remnants 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 Walthamstow 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.

- 2.3** During previous geotechnical investigations ASE monitored a selection of trial pits to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Two trenches, attempting to locate a recent culvert, were also monitored – 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.

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, below which no archaeological remains would be present.
- 3.4** The trial pits measured varied in measurement from 500 millimetres to 1.1m in width and between 2.5 to 3 metres in length. They were excavated to an approximate depth of c. 2 metres for the purposes of

the Geotechnical Engineer. A total of 19 trial pits were supervised. The first thirteen were excavated to further establish and detail the underlying geological stratigraphic sequences. These were numbered accordingly 1 to 13 (Fig. 3). A further group of six test pits were excavated in the north western area of site in order to establish the extent of hydrocarbon contamination found therein during the excavations that were carried out in Phase 1. These were allocated letters A to D for identification purposes (Fig. 4).

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 (Figs. 3 & 4)

4.1.1 Trial Pit 1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Made ground Concrete slab and underlying white firm gravel hardcore base	3m	1.1m	0.3m
1/002	Layer	Natural geology Dark grey brown firm silty clay	3m	1.1m	0.5m
1/003	Layer	Natural geology Dark brown orange firm sandy silt	3m	1.1m	0.8m
1/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid grey sandy loose gravels	3m	1.1m	1.6m
1/006	Layer	Natural geology orange brown sands containing abundant gravels	3m	1.1m	1.8m

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

4.2.1 Trial Pit 2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Made ground Concrete slab and underlying white firm gravel hardcore base	2.5m	1m	0.45m

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2/002	Layer	Natural geology Dark grey brown firm silty clay	2.5m	1m	1m
2/003	Layer	Natural geology Light grey yellow loose sandy gravels	2.5m	1m	1.2m
2/004	Layer	Natural geology orange brown sands containing abundant gravels	2.5m	1m	1.8m

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

4.3.1 Trial Pit 3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	3m	0.7m	0.85m
3/002	Layer	Natural geology Light yellow grey loose sandy gravels	3m	0.7m	1.3m
3/003	Layer	Natural geology orange brown sands containing abundant gravels	3m	0.7m	1.7mm

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

4.4.1 Trial Pit 4

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.5m
4/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.1m
4/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.6m
4/004	Layer	Natural geology orange brown sands containing abundant gravels and strong odours of petro-hydrocarbon residues.	2.5m	0.5m	2.1m

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

4.5.1 Trial Pit 5

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.5m
5/002	Layer	Deposit Dark brown firm silty clay	2.5m	0.5m	1.2m
5/003	Layer	Natural geology Light yellow grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.8m

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

4.6.1 Trial Pit 6

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.2m
6/002	Layer	Deposit Light orange brown firm clay	2.5m	0.5m	0.75m
6/003	Layer	Alluvial clay Dark blue grey firm alluvial clay containing occasional mollusc shell and large brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	1.46m
6/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid orange yellow sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.9m

4.6.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 6.

4.7.1 Trial Pit 7

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional	2.5m	0.5m	0.45m

7/002	Layer	small concrete and brick fragments Deposit Dark brown grey fairly compact sandy silt with common small sub-rounded gravels	2.5m	0.5m	0.9m
7/003	Layer	Natural geology Light yellow grey loose sand	2.5m	0.5m	1.9m

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

4.8.1 Trial Pit 8

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.5m
8/002	Layer	Natural geology Light yellow grey loose sand	2.5m	0.5m	1.1m
8/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.7m
8/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2.2m

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

4.9.1 Trial Pit 9

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
9/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.6m
9/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange firm sandy gravels (50%)	2.5m	0.5m	0.95m
9/003	Layer	Natural geology Light grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.9m
9/004	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2.1m

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

4.10.1 Trial Pit 10

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
10/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.6m
10/002	Layer	Natural geology Light grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	0.95m
10/003	Layer	Natural geology Light yellow loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.2m
10/004	Layer	Natural geology Light grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.6m
10/005	Layer	Natural geology Dark yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2.3m

4.10.1 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.

4.11.1 Trial Pit 11

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
11/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.75m
11/002	Layer	Natural geology Light yellow loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.55m
11/003	Layer	Natural geology Dark yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2.3m

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

4.12.1 Trial Pit 12

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
12/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional	2.5m	0.5m	1.35m

		small concrete and brick fragments			
12/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid white grey loose sand	2.5m	0.5m	1.65m
12/003	Layer	Natural geology Dark yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2.3m

4.12.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit 12.

4.13.1 Trial Pit 13

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
13/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.5m
13/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid grey brown loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.6m
13/003	Layer	Natural geology Dark yellow orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2m

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

4.14.1 Trial Pit A

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
A/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.9m
A/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.65m
A/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2m

4.14.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit A. No contaminated deposits were revealed.

4.15.1 Trial Pit B

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
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B/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.8m
B/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.4m
B/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2m

4.15.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit B. No contaminated deposits were revealed.

4.16.1 Trial Pit C

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
C/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.6m
C/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.4m
C/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.8m

4.16.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit C. No contaminated deposits were revealed.

4.17.1 Test pit D

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
D/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.6m
D/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.7m
D/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels containing a strong petro-hydrocarbon odour	2.5m	0.5m	2.1m

4.17.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of test pit D. Petro-hydrocarbon residues were present within D/003.

4.18.1 Trench E

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
E/001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	1.2m
E/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.8m
E/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	2.1m

4.18.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of test pit E. No contaminated deposits were revealed.

4.19.1 Test pit F

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
F001	Layer	Made ground Mid brown grey loose sandy silt with occasional small concrete and brick fragments	2.5m	0.5m	0.7m
F/002	Layer	Natural geology Mid yellow grey loose sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.6m
F/003	Layer	Natural geology Mid brown orange sandy gravels	2.5m	0.5m	1.9m

4.19.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of trial pit F. No contaminated deposits were revealed.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The underlying geology encountered during the course of the trial pitting consisted of mid orange loose gravels with localised patches of alluvial clay.

5.2 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the trial pitting. A large area of the site had been disturbed through groundwork associated with previous activity on site. Layers of made ground containing crushed concrete and brick were encountered directly on the ground surface under which lay striations of gravely sands and coarse gravels.

OASIS FORM:

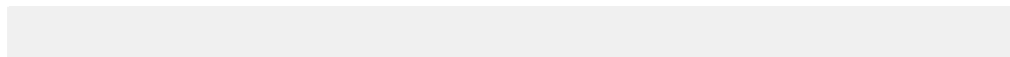
Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Shadbolt Road, Chingford - Phase 2
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 a second phase of works at the proposed Shadbolt Site, Chingford. During Geotechnical Investigations , thirteen test pits were monitored in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Additionally, a further group of six test pits were excavated in the attempt to establish the extent of hydrocarbon contamination on site. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the trial pitting.
Project dates	Start: 30-07-2007 End: 31-07-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SDB 07 - Sitecode
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

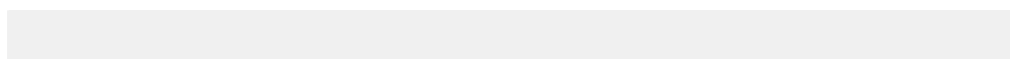
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON WALTHAM FOREST CHINGFORD Shadbolt

	Road, Chingford
Postcode	E4 8GP
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 263 921 51.6130590985 -0.175686071455 51 36 47 N 000 10 32 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
Digital Archive	Local Museum

recipient

Digital Archive ID SDB 07

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID SDB 07

Paper Media available 'Diary','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report'

**Project
bibliography 1**

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