

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at Land Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, Barnet, London,  
NW9 6SJ**

**NGR: TQ 2115 8929**

**Planning Ref: 16/6222/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 170599  
Site Code: SVC17**

**ASE Report No: 2017497  
OASIS id: archaeol6-302234**

**By Craig Carvey**

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**Craig Carvey  
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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Sheaveshill Court, Barnet between 13th and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of residential development. The evaluation consisted of 5 trenches across a narrow, approximately rectangular plot of land to the rear of Sheaveshill Court, Barnet. One of the trenches was not excavated due to the clearly truncated nature of the site.*

*The trenches revealed multiple layers of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground, and a shallow, probable 19<sup>th</sup> century pond in Trench 4. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the evaluation.*

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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 at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, London Borough of Barnet (Figure 1; NGR TQ 2115 8929).

1.1.2 The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land bound on three sides by residential housing and to the west by Sheaveshill Court and Edgware Road.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The British Geological survey (BGS, 2017) indicates the site's natural geology consists of London Clay with overlying deposits of Taplow Gravel. Geotechnical investigations suggest a made ground on the site leaving the natural deposits in excess of 1m below current ground level.

1.2.2 The area has been terraced into two tiers; the current site has been made up to the level of the garages and Sheaveshill Court, leaving Colin Park Road to the rear of site on a lower level. The site ranges from a high of c.51mOD at the western site boundary, to a low of c.49mOD at the eastern site boundary.

1.2.3 Ordnance Survey maps indicate the terracing most probably took place between 1935 and 1955 as the plot was developed from a wooded area to include parking and garages for Sheaveshill Court.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 A planning application has been submitted to the London Borough of Barnet for the demolition of existing garages and stores, and the erection of two three-storey buildings to provide twenty-four flats, and ten two-storey houses, with associated amenity space and ancillary structures (Ref. No.: 16/6222/FUL).

1.3.2 In support of the planning application CgMs Consulting (CgMs, 2016) prepared an archaeological Desk Based Assessment. That document concluded that although the site has a relatively low potential for the survival of archaeological remains, it does partially lie within an Archaeological Priority Area and consequently a programme of (conditioned) archaeological work would be required by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), who advise LB Barnet on their archaeological obligations.

1.3.3 All works was carried out in accordance with a preceding *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2017a) the ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a; 2014b and 2014c) and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) Standards for Archaeological Work (Historic England, 2015). Variations to the scope of work were agreed with CgMs and Laura O'Gormen of GLAAS prior to implementation.

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the evaluation conducted by Craig Carvey and Steve White between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017. The work followed the guidelines set out in the WSI (ASE 2017a) and was conducted in accordance with the Risk Assessment Method Statement (ASE 2017b).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 This site background utilises selected information provided in the Archaeological Desk based Assessment (CgMs 2016), drawing from Historic Environment Record, historic mapping and other available sources.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

2.2.1 The HER indicates there are no are no prehistoric remains within the vicinity of the site. It is noteworthy, however, that rhino and mammoth bones belonging to the Pleistocene were found in the vicinity of Silk Stream to the northeast.

### **2.3 Roman**

2.3.1 Edgware Road follows the route of Roman Watling Street, c. 40m to the west of the site. A watching brief at Grove Park to the northwest identified several layers of compacted sand and pebbles, possibly representing bedding layers for the road.

2.3.2 A small number of Roman finds have been recovered in the wider area around the site; these include an assemblage of Roman pottery to the south and a gold coin to the north.

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

2.4.1 The southern part of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area for a possible early medieval settlement at The Hyde on Watling Street. Although the settlement is not recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 this is probably due to the lack of a taxable manor. There is evidence for a small settlement from the mid-late 13th century.

2.4.2 The wider area was occupied by a number of dispersed farmsteads in the medieval period, and the 14th century Kingsbury Manor was located to the south.

2.4.3 The area remained in use as open farmland throughout the remaining medieval and post-medieval periods.

### **2.5 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

2.5.1 The 1914 OS map notes the first significant change; the north is shown covered by woodland with the south containing several small outbuildings/structures.

2.5.2 By 1955 the site was cleared of vegetation and a square building constructed in the southern part of the site, along with two groups of garages along the western boundary. The square building was demolished by 1991 and replaced by two sets of garages.

### **2.6 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.6.1 The general aims of the evaluation as set out in the preceding Written Scheme

of Investigation (ASE 2017a) 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
- 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

2.6.2 The site-specific aims of the evaluation were to investigate whether:

- there is any Roman evidence on the site?
- there is any evidence for medieval activity on the site? If so, does it relate to the medieval settlement?

2.6.3 Specific relevant research aims highlighted by the research framework for London Archaeology (Museum of London 2002) include:

*R4 Para 1: Analysing the nature and reasons for the evolution of the road system, river crossings and internal street layouts and their importance as engines of development and change.*

*M5 Para 6: Addressing a regional understanding of rural development through synthesis and comparison with other regions*

*M5 Para 7: Studying the evidence for rural housing before 1400 and the impact of the Black Death*



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The 5 trenches were initially plotted using a Leica GPS system and the area scanned with a CAT scanner by a trained member of staff to detect any live services.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were excavated using an 8 tonne 360 mechanical excavator with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil, modern overburden and made ground were removed under archaeological supervision to the natural deposit. The excavated soils were bunded around the edge of the trench and tarmac from Trench 5 piled separately for later re-instatement.
- 3.1.3 As all trenches exceeded a metre in depth and consisted of successive layers of made ground each trench was stepped as a precautionary measure, with spoil bunds kept 0.50m from the stepped edge.
- 3.1.4 Trench 5 was shortened by approximately 10m due to a water pipe crossing the trench's trajectory, and to maintain access to the site and an active garage.
- 3.1.5 After discussion it was agreed by project manager Sarah Ritchie (ASE) and monitor Laura O'Gorman (GLAAS) that Trench 1 and the remainder of Trench 5 did not need to be excavated due to limitations of access and the negative results already provided.
- 3.1.6 The trenches were hand cleaned and recorded using standard ASE Evaluation Trench Record sheets. Depths, descriptions and sketch plans were taken and the trench position and levels digitally plotted using a GPS.
- 3.1.7 A digital photographic record was made to document the excavation of the trench and all excavated features. The photographic register included: shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 ASE informed 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 LAARC in due course.

Context sheets	0
Section sheets	2
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	23
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	4

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## **4.0 RESULTS** (Figures 2 and 3)

### **4.1 Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5**

4.1.1 All four trenches proved to be archaeologically negative. A list of recorded contexts with associated height data (mAOD) is recorded in Appendix 3.

4.1.2 Their geological sequences all followed the same approximate pattern of topsoil or tarmac overlaying successive layers of modern made ground with a natural geology of London Clay. Each trench is discussed in more detail below.

### **4.2 Trench 2**

4.2.1 The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was 1.77m deep.

4.2.2 Topsoil [2/001] consisted of a loose, dark blackish-brown garden soil ranging in thickness' of 0.07-0.20m, which overlay successive layers of clay based made ground [2/002], [2/003], [2/004] ranging in individual thicknesses of 0.07-0.89m. The modern made ground as a single entity ranged in thickness between 0.56-1.19m. The natural [2/005] consisted of mid orangey-brown London Clay.

### **4.3 Trench 3**

4.3.1 The trench was 28.30m in length, 1.8m in width, and cut to a maximum depth of 1.67mbgl.

4.3.2 The topsoil [3/001] consisted of a soft, dark garden soil with abundant rooting and frequent domestic rubbish. It varied in thickness between 0.22-0.33m. Three layers of modern made ground consisting of two light yellowish brown to mid brown clay layers (contexts [3/002], [3/003]), and a dark grey clayey silt [3/004]. All three contained varying quantities of masonry, metal and glass fragments, rooting and rounded stones. The thicknesses of the layers varied between 0.25-0.55m, with their total thickness ranging from 0.80-1.22m. The natural [3/005] consisted of London Clay.

4.3.3 The natural geology could not be observed or measured in the southeast end of the trench due to unstable trench walls.

### **4.4 Trench 4**

4.4.1 The trench measured 30m in length, 1.8m in width and was 1.37m in depth.

4.4.2 Trench 4's topsoil [4/001] was identical to Trench 2 and Trench 3, ranging between 0.18-0.60m in thickness. A total of 4 modern made ground layers [4/002], [4/003], [4/004], [4/005] and an interface [4/006] between made ground and natural totalled 0.50-0.99m in thickness. Individual layers varied between 0.05-0.72m. The 5 layers all consisted of clay, black, red, grey and brown in colour. Natural [4/007] was London Clay.

4.4.3 A 19<sup>th</sup> century pond was recorded in the northwest end of the trench. It's fill [4/008] was a light brown clay. The cut [4/009] was sub circular and extended beyond the trench's northeast boundary.

#### **4.5 Trench 5**

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was shortened by approximately 10m. It measured 17.80m in length and was 1.8m wide. It was cut to a maximum depth of 1.42m.
- 4.5.2 Tarmac [5/001] was a consistent 0.10m across the trench and overlaid hardstanding [5/002] of compacted brick mortar and stone 0.12m in thickness.
- 4.5.3 Two layers of modern made ground [5/003] and [5/004] were recorded. [5/003] was a mix of clay, crushed brick and mortar, sand and stone, with metal and glass fragments, and was 0.50m thick. Towards the south-eastern end of the trench [5/003] became more diffuse, fading into [5/004] a redeposited soft, mottled grey silty clay with moderate stone, small brick fragments, occasional pieces of tarmac and rooting. This layer ranged in thickness between 0.30m in the northeast to 0.80m in the southwest. The natural [5/005] was London Clay.
- 4.5.4 The trench was crossed by 5 disused service pipes, and a further one running along its southwest edge.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

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

5.1.1 The evaluation recorded a natural geology of London Clay ranging between 48.51m and 53.00mOD. Above this was successive layers of mostly clay and rubble modern made ground between 0.50m-1.22m in thickness. The topsoil for Trench 2 and Trench 4 was a dark garden soil with refuse and rooting 0.07 to 0.60m thick, whilst Trench 5 was overlain with a 0.22m layer of hardstanding and tarmac.

5.1.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded.

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

5.2.1 Artificial terracing/levelling of the site somewhere between 1935 and 1955 means deposition survival within site and the surrounding area can be considered very poor. No evidence of the overlying Taplow Gravels was encountered and it is therefore plausible that the natural horizon formed by London Clay has been severely truncated.

5.2.2 Any archaeological deposits that existed in the area would have been truncated during the terracing process and the construction of nearby buildings.

### **5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

5.3.1 Due to previous groundworks truncating any archaeology that may have been present, the proposed development will have little or no significant impact on the archaeology of the area.

### **5.4 Consideration of research aims**

5.4.1 The evaluation established an absence of archaeological remains within the boundaries of the site. As such, the evaluation was unable to add any data to the site specific aims or wider research framework.

### **5.6 Conclusions**

5.6.1 No archaeological remains were identified within the boundaries of the sampled areas. 20<sup>th</sup> Century development will have served to truncate any deposits of interest had they been present.

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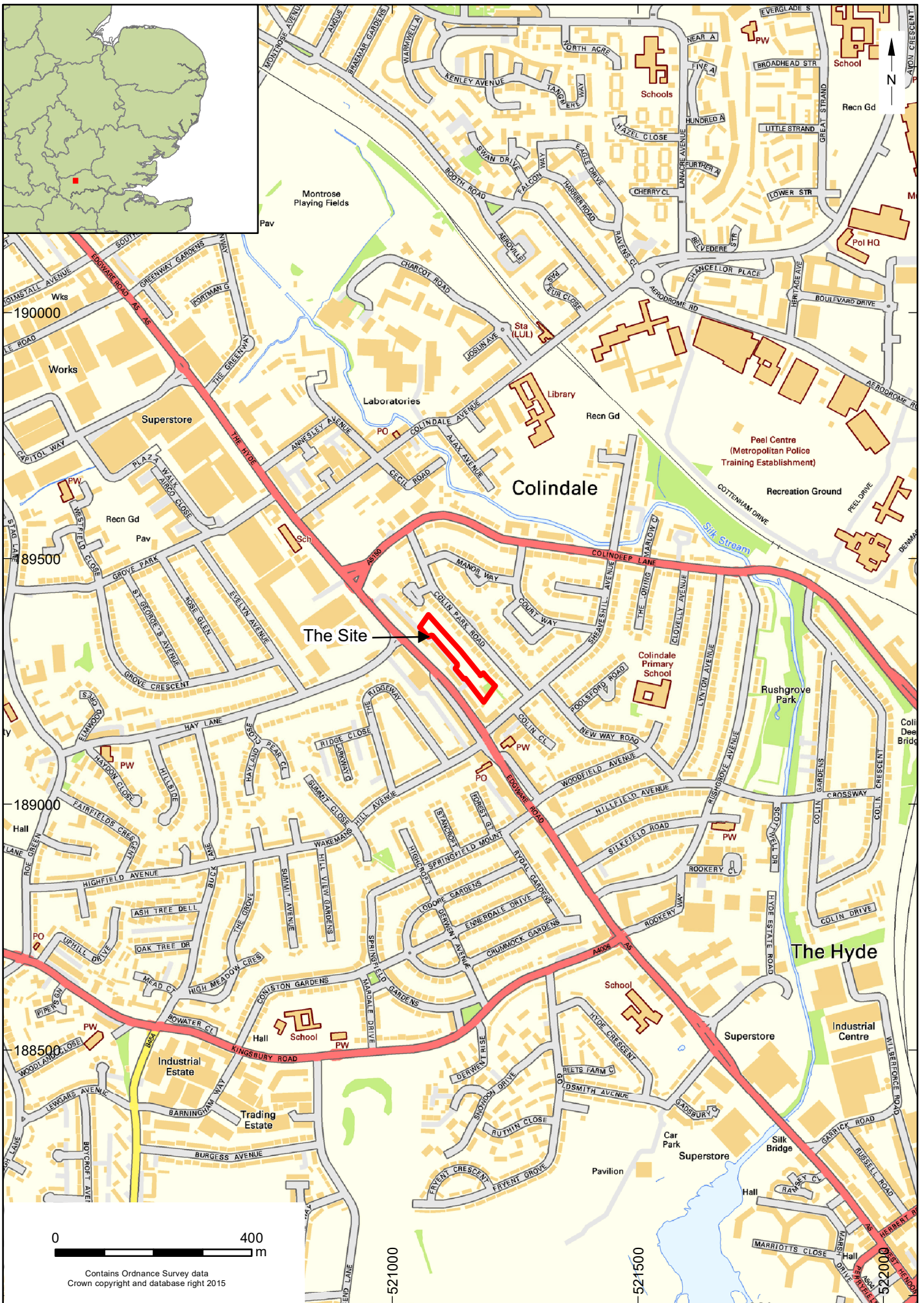
## Online resources

BGS 2017. *British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer* [accessed  
27/11/2017]

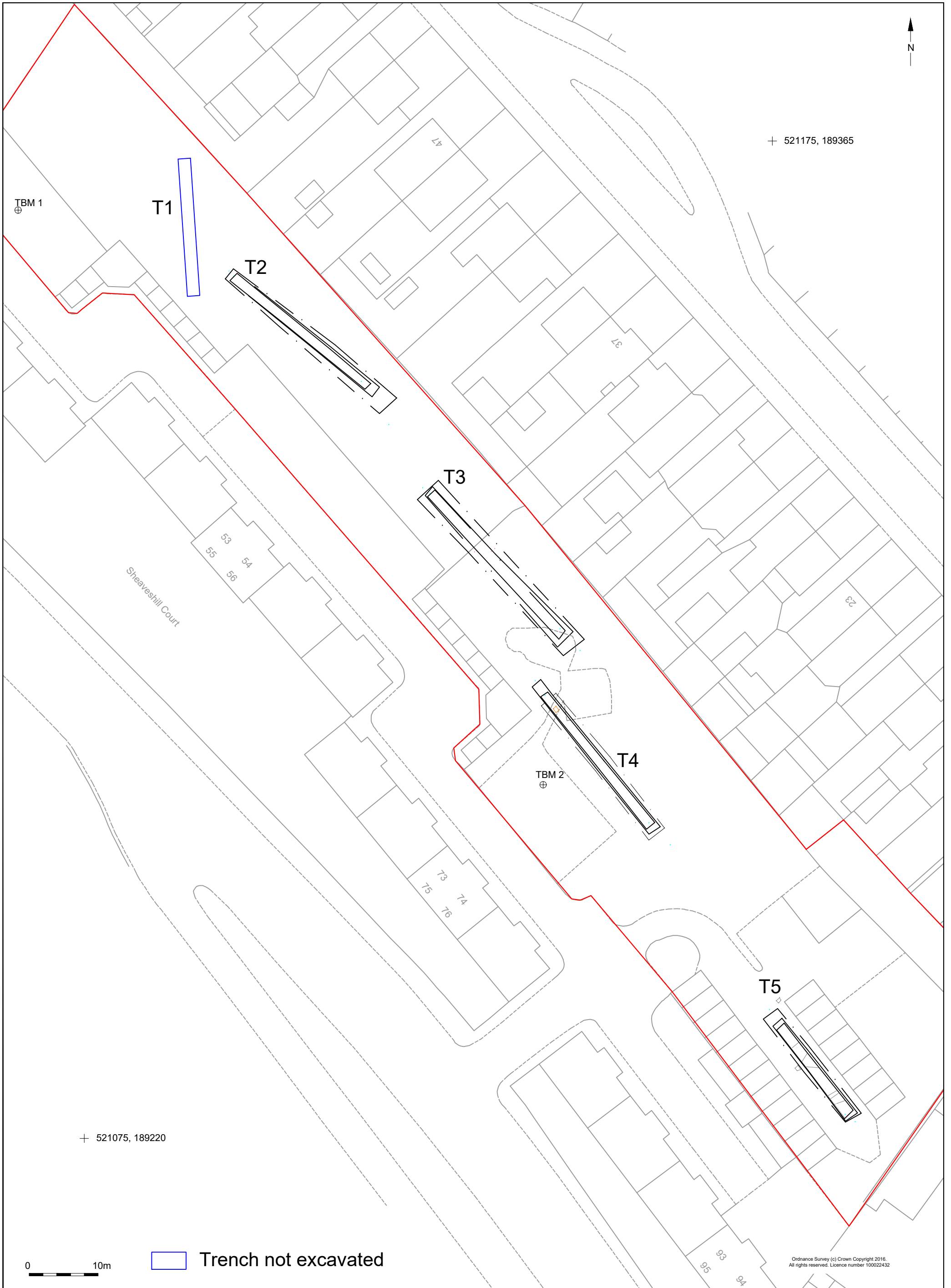
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Laura O’Gorman of GLAAS for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Craig Carvey and Steve White. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Nathalie Gonzalez who produced the figures for this report; Sarah Ritchie who project managed the excavations and Mark Atkinson and Andy Margetts who project managed the post-excavation process.



© Archaeology South-East		Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, London		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170599	11 - 2017	Site location		
Report No: 2017497	Drawn by: NG			



© Archaeology South-East		Barnet, Sheaveshill Court Colindale	Fig.2
Project Ref: 170599	11 - 2017	Trench Plan	
Report Ref: 2017497	Drawn by: NG		





Trench 4, representative section, looking north east



Trench 5, representative section, looking north east



Trench 2, looking south east



Trench 3, looking north west



Trench 4, looking north west



Trench 5, looking south east

### Appendix 1: HER Summary

<b>HER enquiry no.</b>						
<b>Site code</b>	SVC17					
<b>Project code</b>	170599					
<b>Planning reference</b>	16/6222/FUL					
<b>Site address</b>	Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, Barnet, London, NW9 6SJ					
<b>District/Borough</b>	Barnet					
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	TQ 2115 8929					
<b>Geology</b>	London Clay					
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	<b>Eval</b>	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017					
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	CgMs Consulting					
<b>Project manager</b>	Sarah Ritchie					
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Craig Carvey					
<b>Period summary</b>	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other <b>Modern</b>	
<b>Project summary (100 word max)</b>	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Sheaveshill Court, Barnet between 13th and 22nd November 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of residential development. The evaluation consisted of 5 trenches across a narrow, approximately rectangular plot of land to the rear of Sheaveshill Court, Barnet. One of the trenches was not excavated due to the clearly truncated nature of the site.</p> <p>The trenches revealed multiple layers of 20th century made ground, and a shallow, probable 19th century pond in Trench 4. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the evaluation.</p>					
<b>Museum/Accession No.</b>	TBC					

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-302234

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#### Project details

Project name	Sheaveshill Court, Barnet, London
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, Barnet, London, TQ 2115 8929, between the 13th and 22nd November 2017. The evaluation consisted of 5 trenches, all demonstrating successive layers of made ground in excess of 1m deep from 20th century groundworks. All trenches provided negative archaeological results.
Project dates	Start: 13-11-2017 End: 22-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	16/6222/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SVC17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARNET BARNET Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, Barnet
Postcode	NW9
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2115 8929 51.588936512365 -0.251006895575 51 35 20 N 000 15 03 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 48.51m Max: 53m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
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Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Sarah Ritchie
Project supervisor	Craig Carvey
Project supervisor	Steve White
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Report","Section"

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### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Sheaveshill Court, Colindale, Barnet, London
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carvey, C.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade

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Entered by	Craig Carvey (ycrng10@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	27 November 2017

### Appendix 3: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.07-0.20	49.77-50.93
2	2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.31-0.89	
2	2/003	Layer	Made ground	0.07-0.09	
2	2/004	Layer	Made ground	0.18-0.22	
2	2/005	Layer	Natural	0.05-0.50+	48.51-49.12
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.33	51.12-52.34
3	3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.50-0.55	
3	3/003	Layer	Made ground	0.27	
3	3/004	Layer	Made ground	0.25-0.45	
3	3/005	Layer	Natural	0.08-0.23 +	49.81-50.58
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.60	52.59-53.66
4	4/002	Layer	Made ground	0.20-0.72	
4	4/003	Layer	Made ground	0.04-0.16	
4	4/004	Layer	Made ground	0.02-0.04	
4	4/005	Layer	Made ground	0.05-0.10	
4	4/006	Interface	-	0.05-0.15	
4	4/007	Layer	Natural	0.06-0.20 +	51.67-52.02
4	4/008	Fill	Fill	0.33	51.49-51.82
4	4/009	Cut	Pond	0.33	51.49-51.82
5	5/001	Layer	Tarmac	0.1	54.13-54.14
5	5/002	Layer	Hardstanding	0.12	
5	5/003	Layer	Made ground	0.5	
5	5/004	Layer	Made ground	0.30-0.80	
5	5/005	Layer	Natural	0.07-0.40 +	52.98-53.00

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