

# PROPOSED LIFT, MILLFIELD HOUSE, SILVER STREET, ENFIELD N18 1PJ

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: TQ 33011 92533	Report No. 3641
District: London Borough of Enfield	Site Code: AS 1273
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3958
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Proposed Lift, Millfield House, Silver Street, Enfield N18 1PJ</i>		
<p><i>In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Millfield House, Silver Street, Enfield N18 1PJ (NGR TQ 33011 92533). The monitoring was commissioned by London Borough (LB) of Enfield in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new lift for Millfield House Arts Centre and decoration of the building.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in Edmonton, within London Borough of Enfield. It is occupied by a Grade II* listed Millfield House, now home to Arts Centre. The house is of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. Exposed foundations of the house did not indicate any earlier development than of 18<sup>th</sup> century date.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3958</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1273</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Arts centre</i>		
Planned development	<i>New lift</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Enfield</i>	<i>Edmonton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>GLSMR</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>N18 1PJ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 80m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 33011 92533</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 18m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski, Lukasz Miciak</i>		
Funded by	<i>London Borough of Enfield</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed Lift, Millfield House, Silver Street, Enfield N18 1PJ. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3641</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2010</i>		

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Millfield House, Silver Street, Enfield N18 1PJ (NGR TQ 33011 92533). The monitoring was commissioned by London Borough (LB) of Enfield in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new lift for Millfield House Arts Centre and decoration of the building.*

*The site is located in Edmonton, within London Borough of Enfield. It is occupied by a Grade II\* listed Millfield House, now home to Arts Centre. The house is of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. Exposed foundations of the house did not indicate any earlier development than of 18<sup>th</sup> century date.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Millfield House, Silver Street, Enfield N18 1PJ (NGR TQ 33011 92533; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by London Borough (LB) of Enfield in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new lift for Millfield House Arts Centre and decoration of the building (LB of Enfield Planning Ref. LBC/09/0028/DP1, GOWM/PLN/Q5300/92470).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to an advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (Archaeological Advisors to London Borough of Enfield), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 16/06/2010), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the and the English Heritage (London Region) Archaeological Guidance Papers (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*. It also adhered to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the monitoring were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

The specific objective of the project was a monitoring of any intervention through the historic fabric.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located within the remaining parkway/garden area between Silver Street and A406 North Circular Road in Edmonton, London Borough of Enfield (Fig. 1). It is located c. 80m south-east of Silver Street School and within the residential area of Edmonton situated to the east of A10 road and to the north of A406 road.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies at c. 18m AOD on a land gently sloping towards the south. The solid geology of the environs is clay of Eocene Thames Group overlay by river terrace gravels of Pymme's Brook (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site have not been surveyed; however, the soils to the north are of the Windsor association, described as clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils over clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the Lea Valley, which has revealed evidence of human activity and palaeoenvironmental evidence from the prehistoric period onwards.

4.2 The site is located in vicinity of the course of the Roman Ermine Road which is now largely part of the A10. A Roman coin of Emperor Galerius (AD 291-311) was found at Orpington Gardens, c. 300m to the north of the site (GLSMR 080654). The remains of what may have been a Roman settlement were found c. 200m to the south-west of the site. Those included: pottery, tesserae, roof tiles, a hypocaust tile with wall plaster and a human skull. A Roman lamp was found c. 450m to the west.

4.3 The church of All Saints dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (GLSMR 222089), though may have had an earlier predecessor. A medieval moated house was situated at Silver Street, c. 250m to the west. Wyer-hall probably took its name from the family of Wyrehalle who had considerable property in Edmonton at the time of Edward III (1327-77). In 1581 the Hall belonged to Jasper Leeke and in 1611 to George Huxley. It was rebuilt in the same year (1611) and was demolished in 1818 (Websites 1, 2). Medieval mill is believed to be located at Silver Street (GLSMR 080699).

4.4 Millfield House is a Grade II\* listed building, originating in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century as a small building extended with wings to the north and south in 1792 and 1796 along with the addition of an L-shaped service wing to the south east corner (Paul Drury Partnership Conservation Management Plan 2009). The building was rebuilt from the ground up shortly afterwards, as a country villa for one of the London elite, and adapted again for family use in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It became a boarding school associated with the Strand Union workhouse in 1849 and became a hospital after World War I. Enfield Council bought the building in 1971, much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century school buildings were demolished and a theatre/library built to the west.

### **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording

of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal element monitored was hand-excavated two initial trial pits and lift pit excavation (Fig. 3). Trial pits were located in the basement level of the building and Pit 1 measured 0.90 x 0.60 x 0.50m whilst Pit 2 measured 0.70 x 0.50 x 0.40m. Lift Pit has been dug from a groundfloor level through the basement and it measured 3.50 x 1.60 x 1.70m.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The groundworks exposed foundations of the buildings below basement level as well as deposits present within Lift Pit (Fig. 4). The foundations were made of red and yellow bricks (0.215 x 0.103 x 0.064m) and were laid in 2-3 courses below floor level, with ledges (0.05m) in every course. The foundations were set directly over natural gravel.

6.2 The natural gravel, L1002, was present direct below foundations of the house and it comprised a brownish grey, loose, gravel. Below the floor of the basement and above the natural gravel, a layer of blackish grey, loose, silty gravel (L1001) was present and it was 0.08 – 0.12m thick. The layer was likely a natural gravel with inclusions of silt and organic waste.

6.3 Deposits recorded during the monitoring are presented below.

<i>Trial Pit 1, Section 1, facing N (DP 3)</i>		
<i>0.00 = c. 16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	M1000	Stone-made floor of the basement (removed).
0.08 – 0.31m	M1012	Brick-made wall of the house.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural brownish grey, loose, gravel.

<i>Trial Pit 2, Section 3, facing W (DP 5)</i>		
<i>0.00 = c. 16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	M1000	Floor (removed). As above, Pit 1.
0.07 – 0.14m	L1012	Wall. As above, Pit 1.
0.14m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above, Pit 1.

<i>Lift Pit, Section 7, facing W (DP 7)</i>		
<i>0.00 = c. 18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	M1010	Stone floor of the groundfloor corridor.
0.08 – 0.12m	M1011	Creamy grey mortar.
0.12 – 0.98m	L1009	Backfill of service trench. Mid brownish grey, compacted, CBM rubble with gravel.
0.98 – 1.23m	L1006	Dark brownish grey, compact, sandy clay.



1.23 – 1.44m	L1005	Dark greyish brown, compact, silty clay.
1.44 – 1.52m	L1001	Blackish grey, loose, silty gravel.
1.52m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above, Pit 1.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No residual finds were recovered. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified which may have preceded construction of the house in 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building foundations below basement level were relatively shallow, which may surprise as the natural geology of the area is loose river terrace gravel. Deposits exposed within Lift Pit were more likely of early modern and modern origin and may relate to construction of the house and later alterations to the building and its surrounding.

## 9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at London Archaeological Archives and Resource Centre (LAARC). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank London Borough of Enfield for funding the project.

AS would like to thank Mr. Tony Holt for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr. Kim Stabler of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service



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Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

## Websites

- 1 Archaeology Data Service – ArchSearch [www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)
- 2 British History Online – Edmonton History [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Millfield house, Silver Street, Enfield. View SE.



DP 2. Basement of the house with Trial Pit 1. View SW.



DP 3. Trial Pit 1. Section 1, view S.



DP 4. Basement with Trial Pit 2. View N.



DP 5. Trial Pit 2. Section 3, view E.



DP 6. Lift Pit. View W.



DP 7. Lift Pit. Section 7, view E.

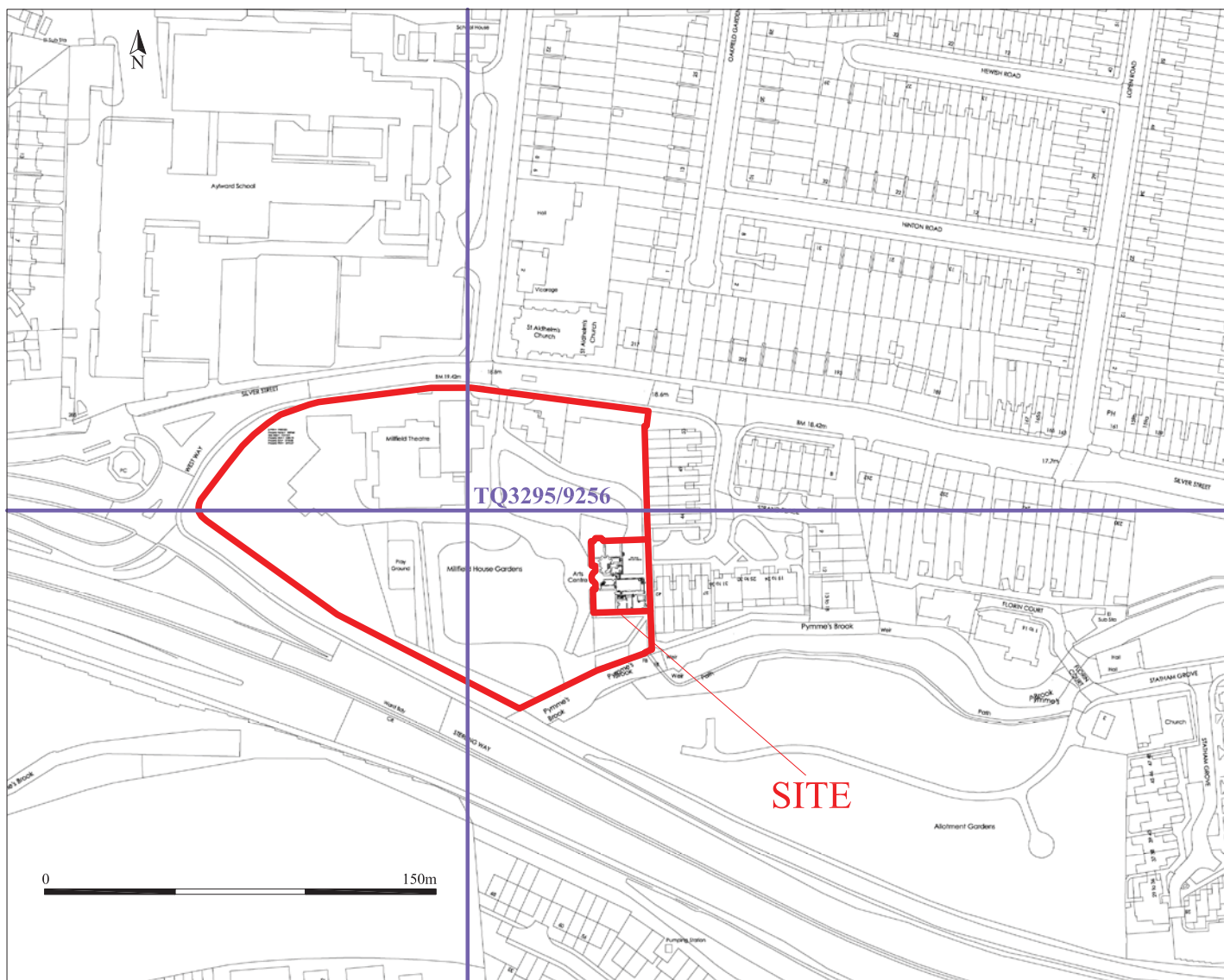


DP 8. Lift Pit. E wall, view W.





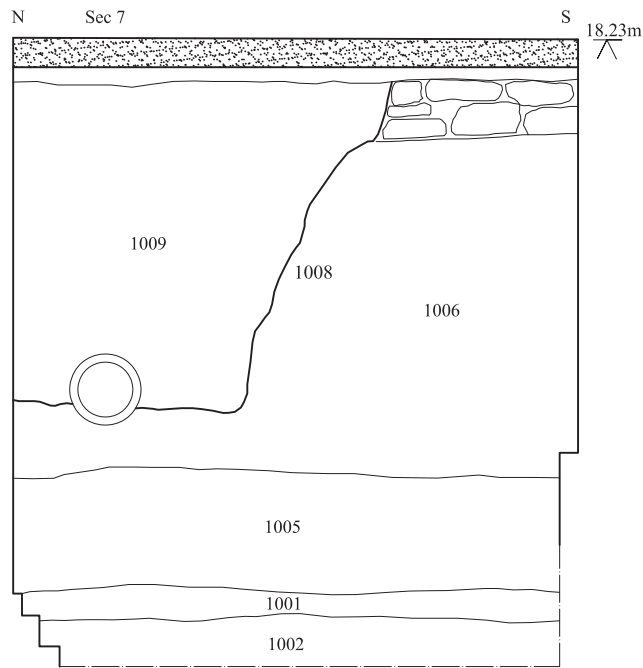
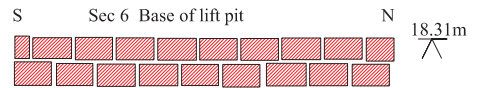
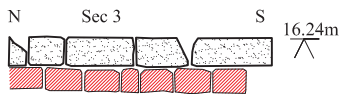
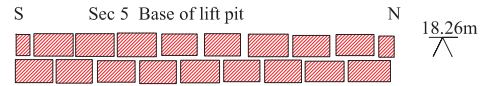
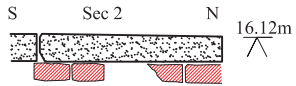
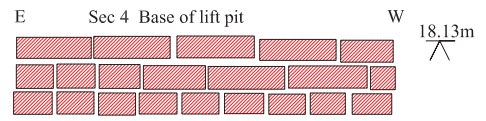
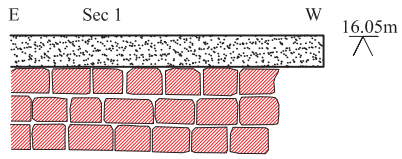




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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2500 at A4





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**Fig. 4 Sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A4