

**WEST LONDON FREE SCHOOL
CAMBRIDGE GROVE
HAMMERSMITH
LONDON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



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FIELD EVALUATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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This report has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor), who also undertook the fieldwork. The finds were reported on by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and illustrations prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this document:

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DS	Development Site
EH	English Heritage
GLAAS	Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service
GLHER	Greater London Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

A planning application (2013/00121/FUL) has been approved for construction of a two-storey reception and classroom building at the West London Free School, Cambridge Grove, Hammersmith, London W6.

Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site, the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service recommended that conditions were to be attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. The first phase of this programme was to comprise a trial trench evaluation.

The trial trenching took place on 7th August 2013. It comprised the excavation of a single trench that measured 10m x 1.8m and was located along the eastern limit of the proposed two-storey building.

The trench revealed no remains of archaeological significance. The only findings were two modern linear features, which are probably associated with terraced houses (demolished in the 1960s) that formerly stood along the eastern frontage of Banim Street.

Undisturbed geological deposits were present in the trench. This suggests that there is the potential for archaeological remains to survive in the wider area, despite 19th-century and later development impacts.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

A planning application (2013/00121/FUL) has been approved for construction of a two-storey reception and classroom building at the West London Free School, Cambridge Grove, Hammersmith, London W6.

Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site, the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) recommended that the following conditions (nos. 38 and 39) be attached to the planning permission. This recommendation is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, which was published on 27 March 2012¹. The conditions were as follows:

38. *The development shall not commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the council. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the council.*
39. *In the event that the programme of archaeological works required by condition 38 reveals the presence of archaeological interests on the site, the development shall not commence prior to the implementation in full of a programme of works to ensure that the archaeology is either preserved or fully excavated in accordance with a written scheme previously submitted to and approved in writing from the council.*

The first stage of the programme of archaeological work was to comprise evaluation by trial trench. This work was carried out by Albion Archaeology in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2013b) which was approved by the GLAAS prior to commencement of the fieldwork.

1.2 Site Description

The West London Free School is located in the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. It lies *c.* 600m to north of the River Thames and *c.* 350m to the east of Ravenscourt Park, at the northern end of Cambridge Grove.

The school lies in an area characterised by 19th- and early 20th-century terraced housing and urban residential infrastructure. The 19th-century Godolphin and Latymer School are immediately to the east of Cambridge Grove.

The development site is centred on grid reference TQ 22930 78870 and lies on fairly level ground at an average height of *c.* 4.90m OD. The underlying

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.



geology consists of Kempton Park Sand and Gravel Formation as part of the River Thames floodplain, above London Clay sedimentary bedrock.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following summary of the GLHER records within a 500m radius study area around the development area (DA) is taken from a Heritage Asset Assessment compiled to accompany the planning application (Albion Archaeology 2013a).

A possible Bronze Age settlement was identified during archaeological investigations at King Street to the south of the DA. Several findspots of prehistoric material have also been recorded to the south of the DA. These mainly relate to votive offerings of weaponry within the River Thames and stray finds suggesting a background presence of prehistoric and Roman activity. No Saxon or medieval heritage assets are recorded in the GLHER within the study area.

The majority of heritage assets recorded in the GLHER within the study area date to the post-medieval and modern periods and are associated with the growth of Hammersmith in these periods and the infilling of previously open land to the north of King Street with 19th-century residential housing and infrastructure in the form of churches, public houses, schools and other public amenities.

Two 19th-century designated heritage assets, the Grade II listed Godolphin and Latymer School and the Grade II* listed Church of St John the Evangelist lie opposite the school in Cambridge Grove.

Until 1964 the DA was covered with two rows of 19th-century houses along Banim Street and Cambridge Grove. These were demolished in order to make way for the current school building. The potential for the survival of sub-surface 19th-century building remains is therefore high; however, these may also have destroyed any potential earlier deposits.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the field evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present at the site and, if so, to determine their date, nature, extent, condition, and significance. This information would be used to inform decisions with regard to the impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains, and to help in the formulation of appropriate mitigation measures to protect remains either by preservation or further archaeological investigation.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Fieldwork

The trial trenching took place on 7th August 2013. It comprised the excavation of a single trench that measured 10m x 1.8m and was located along the eastern limit of the proposed two-storey building (Figure 1).

The trench was opened by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged ‘ditching’ bucket operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed down to the top of undisturbed geological stratum. The base and sides of the trench were cleaned by hand to help reveal any potential archaeological deposits. The spoil heaps were also scanned for artefacts recovery

Archaeological features were investigated and recorded using Albion Archaeology’s *pro formae* sheets. The trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 1. Context numbers in square brackets refer to cuts [*] and round brackets to fills or layers (*).

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2 nd edn, 2001).
Museum of London	<i>General Standards for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives Deposited with the Museum of London</i> (2009)
Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service	<i>Standards for Archaeological Work</i> (2009)
English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers’ Guide</i> (2006)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011)
IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (updated 2008) and finds (updated 2008)</i>



2.2 Archive

The full archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Museum of London on completion of the project.

Albion Archaeology adheres to strict archiving standards and ensures that all archive materials are stored appropriately. All storage material is of archival-quality and includes archival-quality photographic storage sleeves. As part of the archiving process all records will be microfiched.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



3. RESULTS

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trench are described below and shown on Figure 2. Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in the Appendix.

Overburden consisted of four layers:

- tarmac (1) — a 0.08m thick deposit of school yard surface;
- levelling layer (2) — blue grey clay / gravel deposit of tarmac base that was up to 0.2m thick;
- make up deposit (3) — up to 0.25m thick layer of grey clay sand with frequent brick/tile rubble;
- subsoil (4) — grey brown silty clay that was up to 0.68m thick.

The undisturbed geological stratum consisted of mid brown grey silty clay with moderate amounts of stone inclusions.

The excavated trench revealed two features [6] and [8], both of which were modern in date. They comprised linear cuts filled with grey clay sand, sealed by the rubble deposit (3)

Feature [6] was aligned NW-SE; while feature [8] was aligned ESE-WNW. They were 0.68–0.87m wide and at least 0.82–0.88m deep.

These features were not fully investigated due to safety considerations. However, limited investigations recovered copper wire (1g), window glass (2g), a brick fragment (46g) and a china cup handle (4g) from fill (7); and a piece of ceramic drain pipe (4g) and a brick piece (297g) from fill (9). None of these artefacts has been retained.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The trial trench evaluation of the development site has revealed no remains of archaeological significance. The only findings were two modern linear features which are probably associated with terraced houses (demolished in the 1960s) that formerly stood along the eastern frontage of Banim Street.

Undisturbed geological deposits were present in the trench. This suggests that there is potential for the survival of archaeological remains in the wider area, despite 19th-century and later development impacts.



5. REFERENCES

Albion Archaeology 2013a. *West London Free School Primary, Cambridge Grove, Hammersmith, London: Heritage Asset Assessment*. Document ref 2013/08, version 1.1.

Albion Archaeology 2013b. *West London Free School, Cambridge Grove, Hammersmith, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Document ref 2013/66, version 1.1.



6. APPENDIX: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.89 m. Max: 1.15 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TQ (Easting: 22886: Northing: 78832)

OS Grid Ref.: TQ (Easting: 22888: Northing: 78822)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential prior to construction of new building.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Tarmac	Hard dark grey black tarmac 0.08m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Levelling layer	Firm mid blue grey clay gravel 0.14-0.20m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Make up layer	Friable mid grey clay sand frequent small-large CBM 0.21-0.25m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-large CBM, occasional small-medium stones 0.4-0.68m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Natural	Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Modern intrusion	Linear NW-SE sides: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.87m, min depth 0.88m, min length 2.95m Cut into subsoil (4). Probably a feature associated with 19th-century terraced houses to the west - demolished in 1960s.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Backfill	Friable dark grey clay sand occasional small-large CBM, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Modern intrusion	Linear ESE-WNW sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 0.68m, min depth 0.82m, min length 2.2m Cut into subsoil (4). Probably a feature associated with 19th-century terraced houses to the west - demolished in 1960s.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Backfill	Friable mid grey clay sand occasional small-large CBM, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

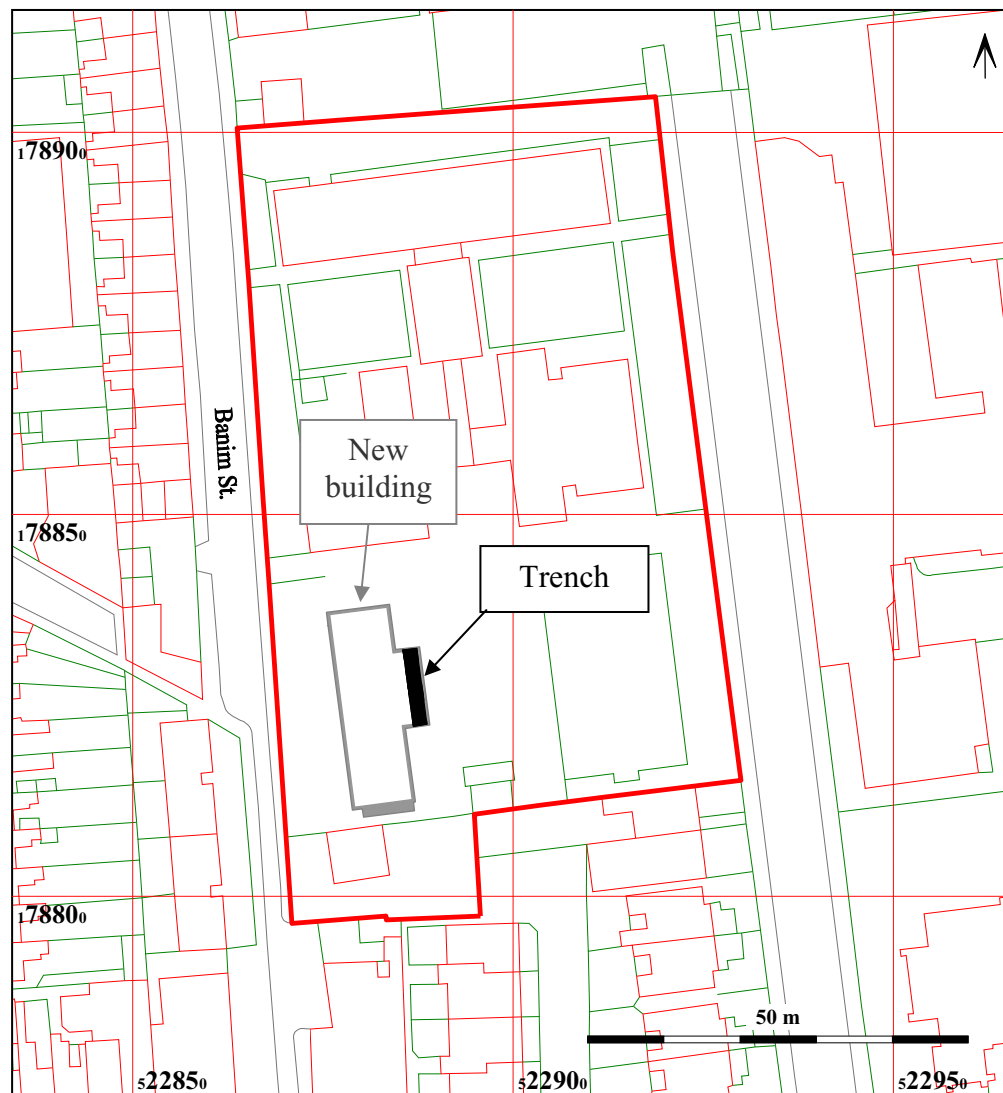
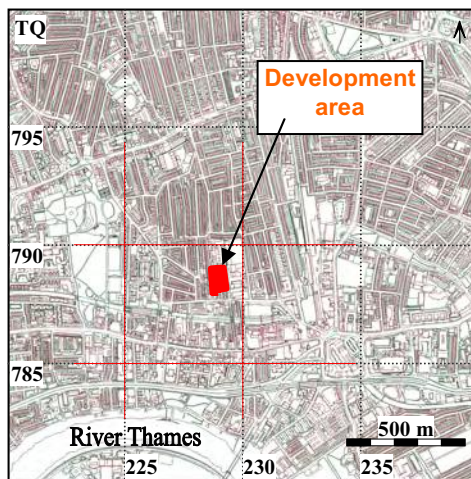
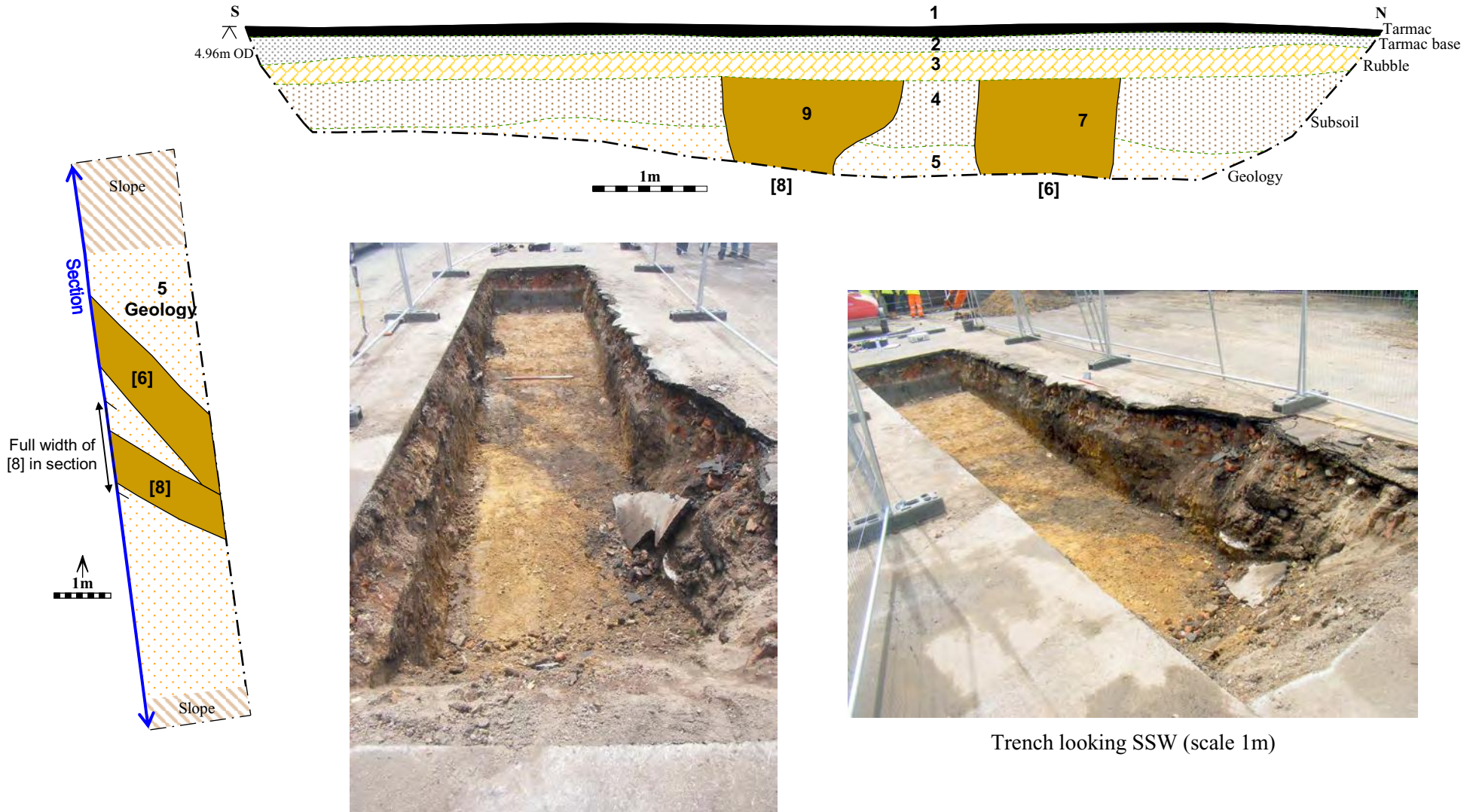


Figure 1: Site location plan

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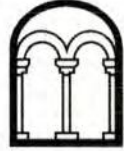
Trench looking SSE (scale 1m)

Trench looking SSW (scale 1m)

Figure 2: Trenching results

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