

Archaeological Evaluation Report

LYMINGTON FIELDS PHASE 1A

For Countryside Properties

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

LYMINGTON FIELDS PHASE 1A

Client: Countryside Properties

Local Authority: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

NGR: 548034,187102

Planning App: 07/01289/out

Author(s): C. Barton

Doc Ref: LP0615L-AER-v1.5

Site Code: LFL10

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the initial phase of the site of Lymington Fields School and playing fields in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by staff of L-P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L-P : Archaeology on behalf of Countryside Properties.

The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings, and there have been no previous archaeological excavations. A desk based assessment of the site and surrounding area concluded that the archaeological potential was moderate to low. Cartographic and documentary evidence indicated that the site had been under cultivation from the medieval period to the construction of the school in 1928.

The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and to determine the nature, extent, date and significance of any such remains as were present.

A total of twenty-three trenches were excavated. Three of these contained archaeological remains, consisting of linear ditches, of probable 18th or 19th century date.

Based on these results it is unlikely that further archaeological works will be required on the Phase 1A area of the site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The works described in this report cover the evaluation of Phase 1A of the Lymington Fields development. Phase 1A is the initial phase of the development and covers an area of 4.06 hectares. The site as a whole covers an area of 13 hectares; accordingly there is another 8.94 hectares to be developed (see FIGURE 1).
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Cornelius Barton and Greg Crees of L-P : Archaeology between 11.01.10 and 22.01.10. This report was written by Cornelius Barton of L-P Archaeology.
- 1.3. The site is located at Lymington Fields, Chadwell Heath, RM8 1RJ, within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 548034,187102.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by the Museum of London is LFL10.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Specification document (WILLIAMS, 2009).
- 1.6. This report should be read in conjunction with the desk based assessment (DUFTON 2007) and specification (WILLIAMS 2009).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for housing and associated infrastructure on the overall development area. The application reference is 07/01289out.
- 2.1.2. The development area lies within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD), who are advised on archaeological matters by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), which is a part of English Heritage.
- 2.1.3. The development area does not lie within any Conservation Areas or Archaeological Priority Areas as defined by the local authority. The development does not contain any listed buildings or scheduled monuments.
- 2.1.4. When considering an application, the local planning authority, LBBD, is bound by the policies DE36, DE37, DE38, DE 39 and DE40 within the UDP. As such, the following condition was attached to the development:
- ◇ No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the LPA prior to commencement of the development.
- 2.1.5. Countryside Properties and LBBD have agreed the methodology for appropriate works on the Phase 1A area in specification LP0615-SAE-v1.2 (WILLIAMS 2009). The specification was based on a brief provided by David Divers of GLAAS, archaeological advisor to LBBD.
- 2.1.6. This document seeks to satisfy the condition with regard to the Phase 1A area of the overall development by describing the results of the evaluation and clarifying the status and location of the project archive. The works described herein do not fulfill the condition imposed on the overall development outside the Phase 1A area.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on River Terrace Gravels over London Clay. This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).
- 2.2.2. A number of geotechnical trial pits and boreholes have been completed in association with development proposals at the site. In the west Taplow Gravels were encountered at depths of 0.4 – 0.8m (WALKER AND VENN 2007). In the eastern field similar deposits were noted, although the exact depth at which gravels were encountered is not known (STRUTT 2007).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located in east London between Ilford and Romford, on the north side of the A1083 (FIGURE 1). The site is within a built up area and there are no nearby hills or other significant topographical features.
- 2.3.2. The site is bounded by Lymington Road to the west, properties fronting Lynett Road and Turnage Road to the south, open land to the east and Calwell Hill Industrial Park to the north.
- 2.3.3. The site is flat, at approximately 20.00m OD, and the phase 1A covers an area of c.4.06ha.
- 2.3.4. The western area of the site previously housed the buildings of the Lymington Road School. Below-ground foundations and associated hard-standing areas are still present across this part of the site.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. The eastern part of the site (former playing fields) has never been developed.
- 2.4.2. The western part of the site is open but once contained the now demolished Lymington Road School. The foundations and surrounding hard-standing areas are still in place.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.5.1. For a full summary of the archaeological potential of the site and surrounding

area please refer to the desk based assessment (DUFTON 2007). No previous archaeological excavations have been carried out on the Site or in its immediate environs.

- 2.5.2. The site is located on river terrace gravels. Although the gravels are a known focus of early prehistoric activity, evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is sparse and consists largely of scattered finds. Aerial survey has identified ditches to the east which may be of prehistoric origin.
- 2.5.3. Bronze-Age and Iron-Age evidence from the area is also sparse. Ring-ditches have been identified at Becontree Heath 1km to the southeast, and at Crown Farm in Romford 1km northeast which may be of Bronze-Age or Iron Age date, and a bronze age palstave was found in a gravel-pit to the north of the site. There is no evidence of Bronze- or Iron-Age activity on the study site area.
- 2.5.4. The Roman road from London to Colchester passes approximately 750km to the north of the site. Other than the road there is no evidence of Roman activity within 1km of the site in any direction.
- 2.5.5. The first known settlements in the area surrounding the site are Medieval. The parish of Dagenham, within which the site lies, was first recorded in the register of 687, although Chadwell Heath is not mentioned until much later in 1252. The site was a part of the manor of Valence House – the manor was named in 1309 when it became the property of the Earl of Pembroke, but had likely been in existence for some time previously. Archaeological evidence from Wangey Road to the west of the site indicates cultivation from the 12th century onward.
- 2.5.6. Documentary evidence indicates that the site remained in agricultural use throughout the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. There is no evidence of buildings on the site itself until the construction of the school in 1928. The only other evidence of activity on the site is from the Ordnance Survey map of 1938, which shows the gravel pits adjacent to the school to be slightly encroaching into the northern part of the playing fields.

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.1.1. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined in the Specification (WILLIAMS 2009) were:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site, and to comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site, especially in the area of the former Lymington Road School.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required. Any such strategy could consist of further fieldwork followed by a programme of post excavation analysis, reporting and possible publication and dissemination.

3.1.2. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the specification (WILLIAMS 2009).
- 4.2. The archaeological evaluation consisted of twenty-three 20mx2m trenches with a contingency for a further twenty-two 20m x2m trenches if any areas of interest were identified during the works. This equated to a 2.5% sample of the site area, with a contingency for a further 2.5%. In the event, the contingency trenches were not excavated due to lack of archaeological remains.
- 4.3. The trench locations were surveyed prior to excavation by means of a GPS system and related to the National Grid. All trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and levelled against Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 4.4. The trenches were excavated using a 360 degree tracked excavator with a 1.9m wide toothless bucket. All mechanical excavation was carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist.
- 4.5. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was undertaken by hand using appropriate hand tools. All archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section. All archaeological contexts were described by means of L-P Archaeology's recording system, and photographed using black-and-white negative and colour transparency film. A digital photographic record was kept of features of interest, and of general site works.
- 4.6. All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2002). Accordingly the project team followed the IfA's code of approved practice and GLAAS guidance papers.

5. Results

5.1. GENERAL

- 5.1.1. Results are given below trench by trench. Trench is abbreviated below to Tr. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. All heights given are measured against Ordnance Survey Datum (OD).
- 5.1.2. In all 23 trenches were dug (FIGURE 2). Of these only 3 contained archaeological features; these were Tr 15, Tr 16 and Tr 17 (see below).
- 5.1.3. Trenches 1–4 were excavated immediately to the east of the footprint of the old school buildings (marked as “Coll” on FIGURE 1). Below the tarmac hard-standing were made-ground deposits resulting from the construction of the school, to a depth of 16.57–16.32 OD (0.60–0.75m below ground level).
- 5.1.4. The remaining trenches contained no archaeological features or finds. The stratigraphic sequence was broadly homogenous across the site, consisting of a dark brownish-grey silty clay topsoil (100) generally lying between 16.80 and 17.10 OD, overlying a pale grey silty clay subsoil (101) at 16.60 – 16.80 OD. Context (100) was clearly the remnant of the old ploughsoil. The interface between (100) and (101) was generally somewhat indistinct, presumably having been blurred over time by root action since the area ceased to be ploughed annually.
- 5.1.5. Below (101) was a mixture of coarse orange-brown flint gravels, with patches of fine orange sand and fine gravel.

5.2. TRENCH 15

- 5.2.1. Trench 15 contained a single linear feature or ditch [161] – see FIGURE 3, SECTION 2, and PLATE 1. The sides of the ditch were sloping at 45° to a concave base at a depth of 16.59 OD. The ditch was aligned approximately east - west. Two deposits formed the fill, (159) and (160). Both deposits were composed of silty grey clay, the lower of the two (160) being slightly darker in colour. The lower fill contained pottery of 19th or early 20th century date.

5.2.2. The cut of the ditch was visible in the subsoil but not the topsoil. The interfaces were sharp and clear.



Plate 1 - West-facing section [161] Trench 15

5.3. TRENCH 16

5.3.1. Trench 16 contained another ditch, [189] – See FIGURE 3, SECTION 3. This ditch was similar in profile to [161] being straight-sided with a concave base. The ditch was cut to a depth of 16.65 OD. The fill in this case was a single deposit of grey-brown silty clay (188). As with [161] the interfaces were sharp and clear, and the ditch could be seen to cut through the subsoil.

5.3.2. Context [189] was aligned approximately north-south. The only material recovered from the fill was a single piece of ceramic roofing-tile.

5.4. TRENCH 17

5.4.1. Trench 17 contained another linear feature [157] – see FIGURE 3, SECTION 1. This was very similar to the ditch [161] seen in trench 15, having a similar profile and two distinct fills, with a maximum depth of 16.34 OD. The ditch cut on the same east-to-west alignment as [161], and appears likely that they are sections of the same feature (see FIGURE 2).

5.4.2. The lower fill of the ditch (156) contained glazed ceramic and clay-pipe

fragments of 19th century date. A corroded iron fragment of unknown function was also recovered.

5.5.DISCUSSION

- 5.5.1. The similarity of the three ditch sections in plan, profile and alignment suggest strongly that they form part of a single field-management system. The larger, east-west aligned ditch is almost certainly that represented on the tithe award map of 1844 (see DUFTON, 2007 p.28). The smaller north-south aligned ditch, cut at an approximate right angle, most likely represents a contemporary subdivision or tributary drainage ditch.
- 5.5.2. The general stratigraphic profile of the Phase 1A area is a clear and homogenous sequence of ploughsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel and silt deposits. Excepting the western area below the school buildings there is no evidence of landscaping activity or other disturbance; it is highly unlikely that any archaeological remains were exposed without detection. If any archaeological remains are present in the remainder of the overall development area, to the east of the Phase 1A area, it appears likely that they would be in a good state of preservation.

6. Finds

6.1.1. A very small quantity of finds was recovered from the Site. Of these, most consisted of 19th or 20th century material recovered from the topsoil (100). These were noted but not retained. The only retained find consisted of a small assemblage of 19th century material from contexts (156) (160) and (188) – see below. Retained finds were washed and marked by hand.

6.1.2. Material from other contexts is recorded below:

Context 156.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
White clay	Pipe	0.12m	Decorated in relief with floral pattern,	19 th century
Iron	Object (bolt?)	0.09m	Badly corroded, function uncertain	Unknown
Pottery	Sherd	0.04m	Small sherd, reddish-brown glaze	Probably 19 th / century

Context 160.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Pottery	sherd	0.05m	Willow pattern	19 th century
Pottery	sherd	0.05m	White glaze with relief decoration	probably 19 th century

Context 188

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Roof tile	0.16m	-	probably 19 th century

6.1.3. This assemblage indicates that the fills of the ditches were most likely deposited in the 19th or early 20th century. This would be consistent with the period of use ending in the early 20th century prior to the construction of the school in 1928, and the eastern area of the site being used as playing-fields.

7. Environmental Sampling

7.1. Due to the lack of waterlogged or organic remains, no environmental samples were taken during this phase of works.

8. Summary and Conclusions

- 8.1. A site at Lymington Fields is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves housing and attendant services. The initial phase of the development, Phase 1A, has been subject to archaeological evaluation.
- 8.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings, and no previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken on the site.
- 8.3. As indicated in the desk-based assessment, previous development on the Phase 1A area has been confined to the western part of the site, in the area previously housing the school buildings. The results of the evaluation confirm that land-use in the playing fields area has been confined to agriculture since the medieval period, with no evidence of archaeological activity on the site prior to that period. The findings of the evaluation consisted of two probable boundary ditches of 18th or 19th century origin, which are worthy of record but do not require further investigation.
- 8.4. Based on the results of the evaluation it appears unlikely that further work will be required on the Phase 1A area. The potential for surviving archaeological remains within the remainder of the overall development area remains low to moderate; were any such remains to be present they would likely be in a well-preserved state.

9. Archive

9.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 2 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 25x Drawing Film(45 drawings on 25 sheets)
- ◆ 2 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 2 x Photographic register (digital)
- ◆ 72xBlack and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 69xMounted colour slides
- ◆ 3 x Context Register
- ◆ 10 x Context sheets

9.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

9.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code LFL10.

10. Sources Consulted

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

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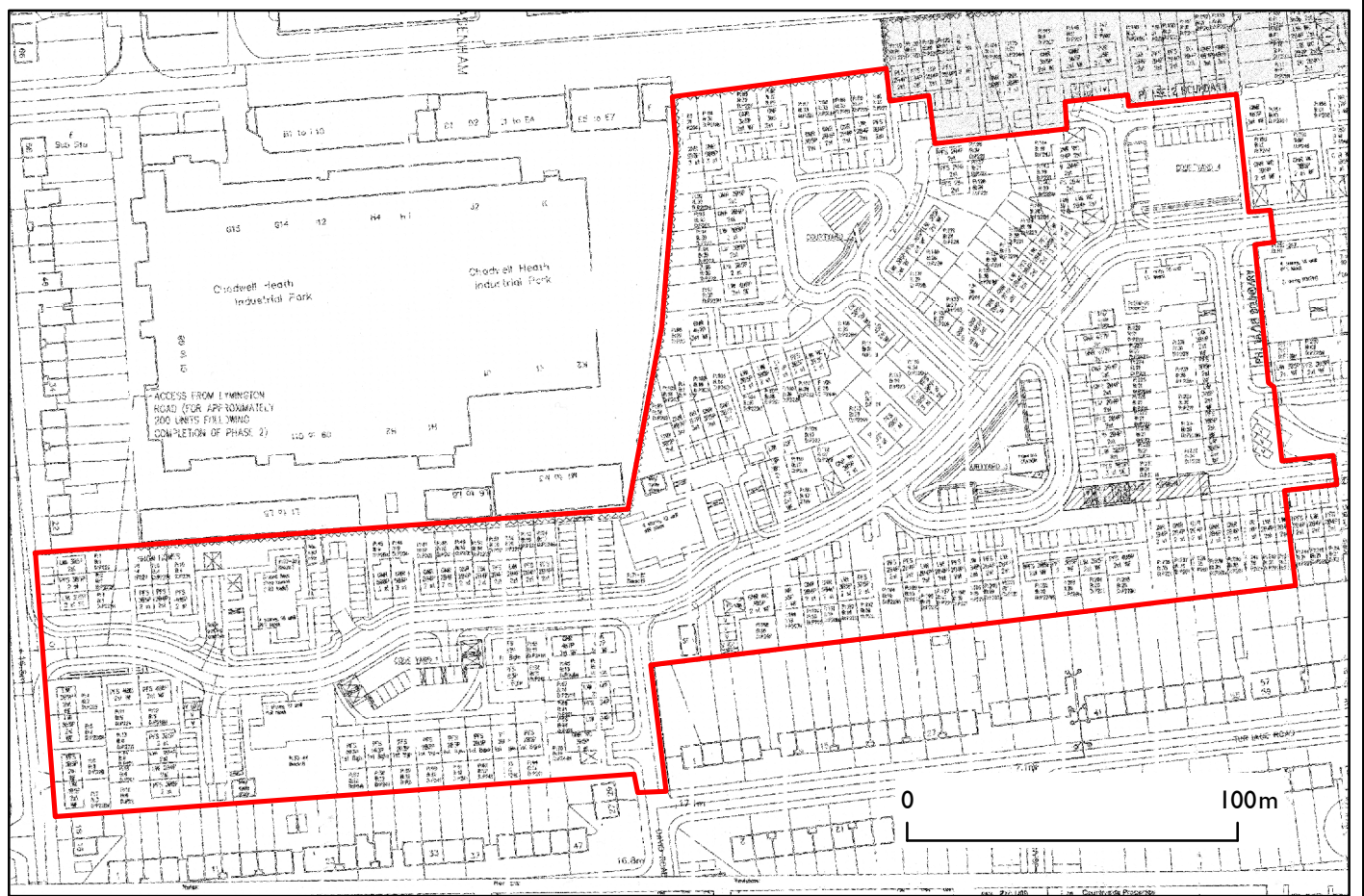
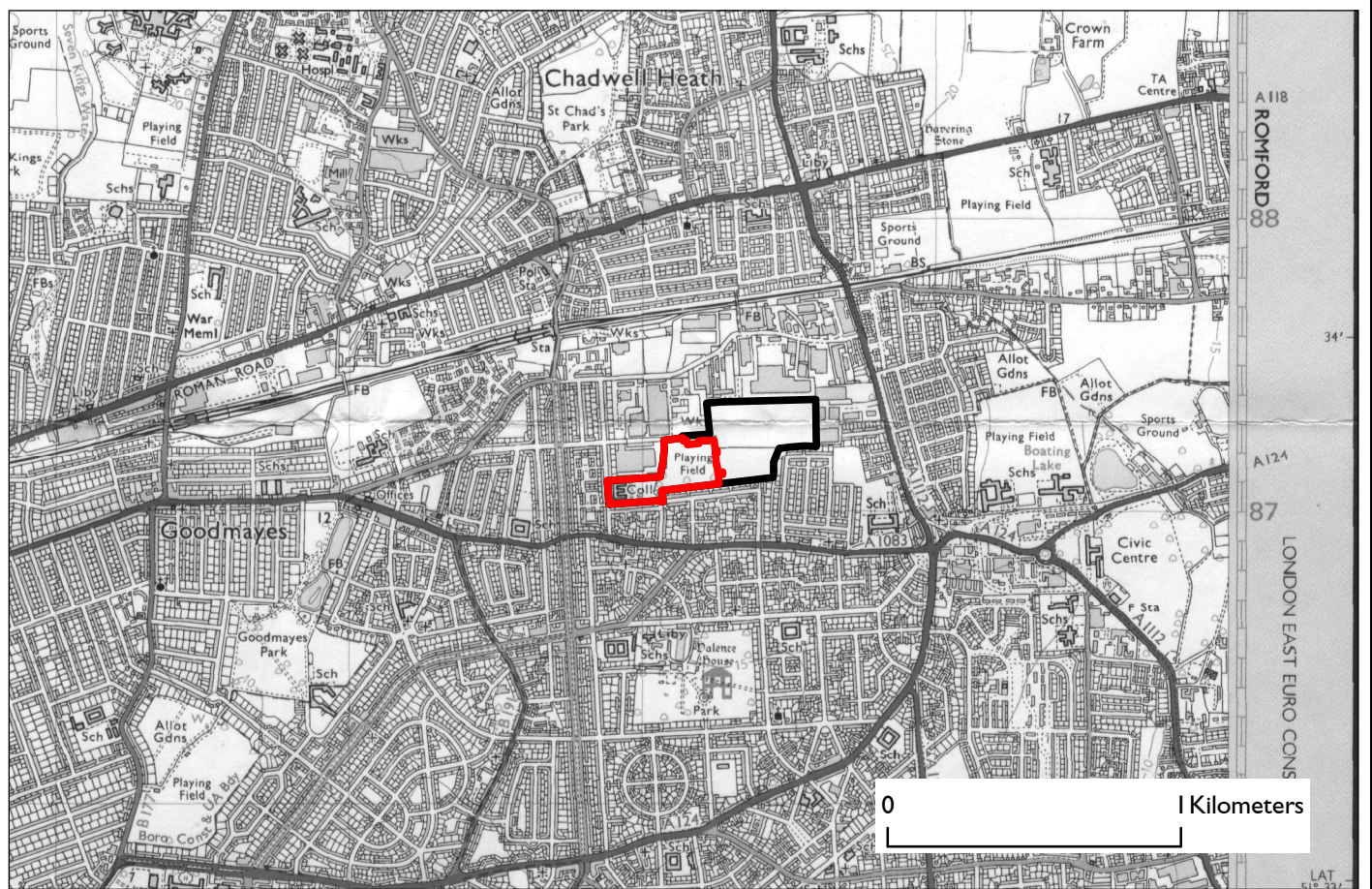
WILLIAMS, M 2009. *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation of Lymington Fields, Phase 1A Chadwell Heath*. L-P Archaeology Ref. LP0615-DBA-v1.3.

CARTOGRAPHIC

TITHE AWARD MAP 1844 (IN DUFTON 2007)

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site location



- Site Phase 1A area
- Total Site Area

Top - Site location 1:25,000@A4

Bottom - Site area and proposed development

CLIENT // Countryside Properties

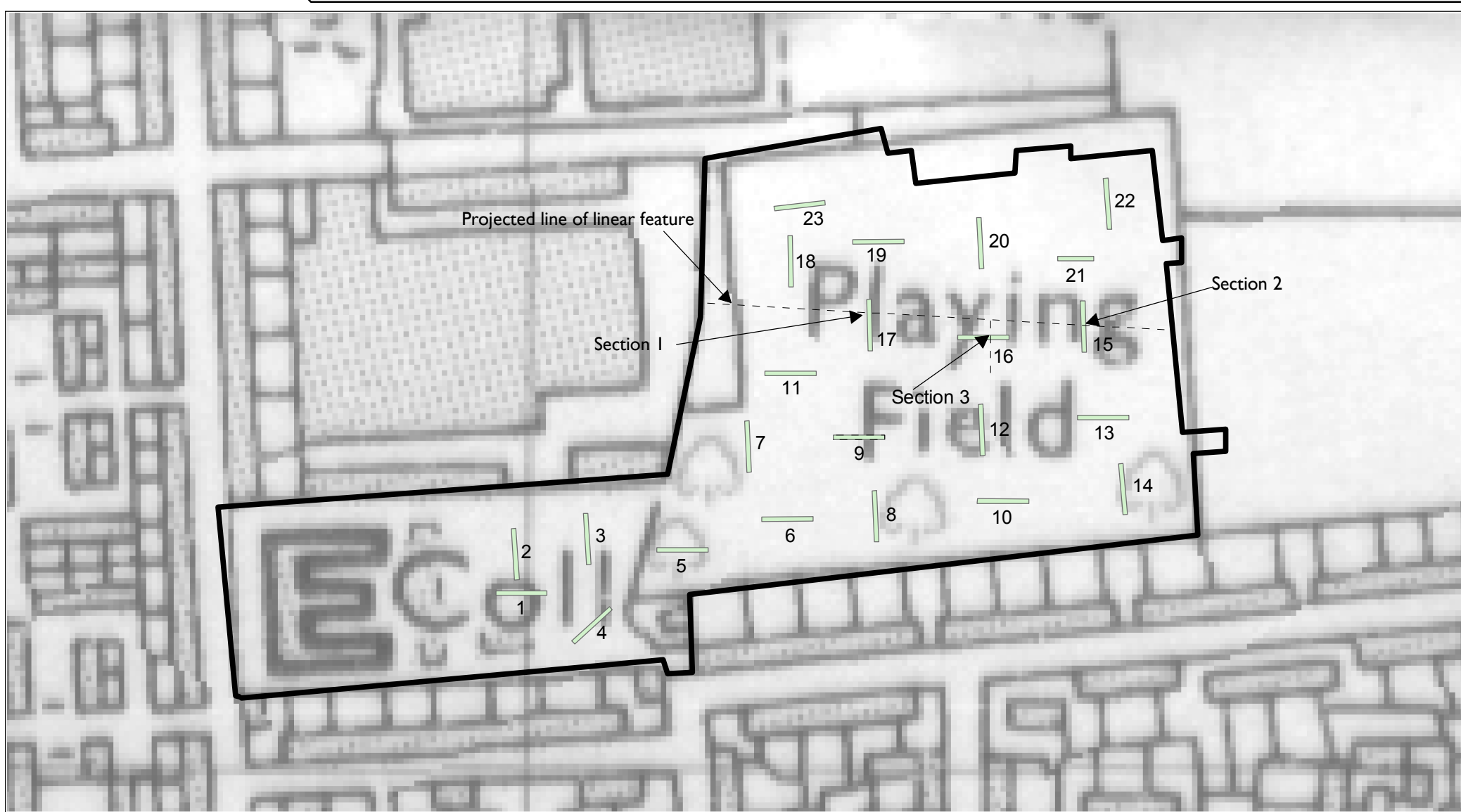
PROJECT // Lymington Fields

DESCRIPTION // Site location and proposed development

DOC REF: LP0615L-AER-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Evaluation Trench Locations



0 150m



PROJECT // 0615L- Lymington Fields Phase 1a

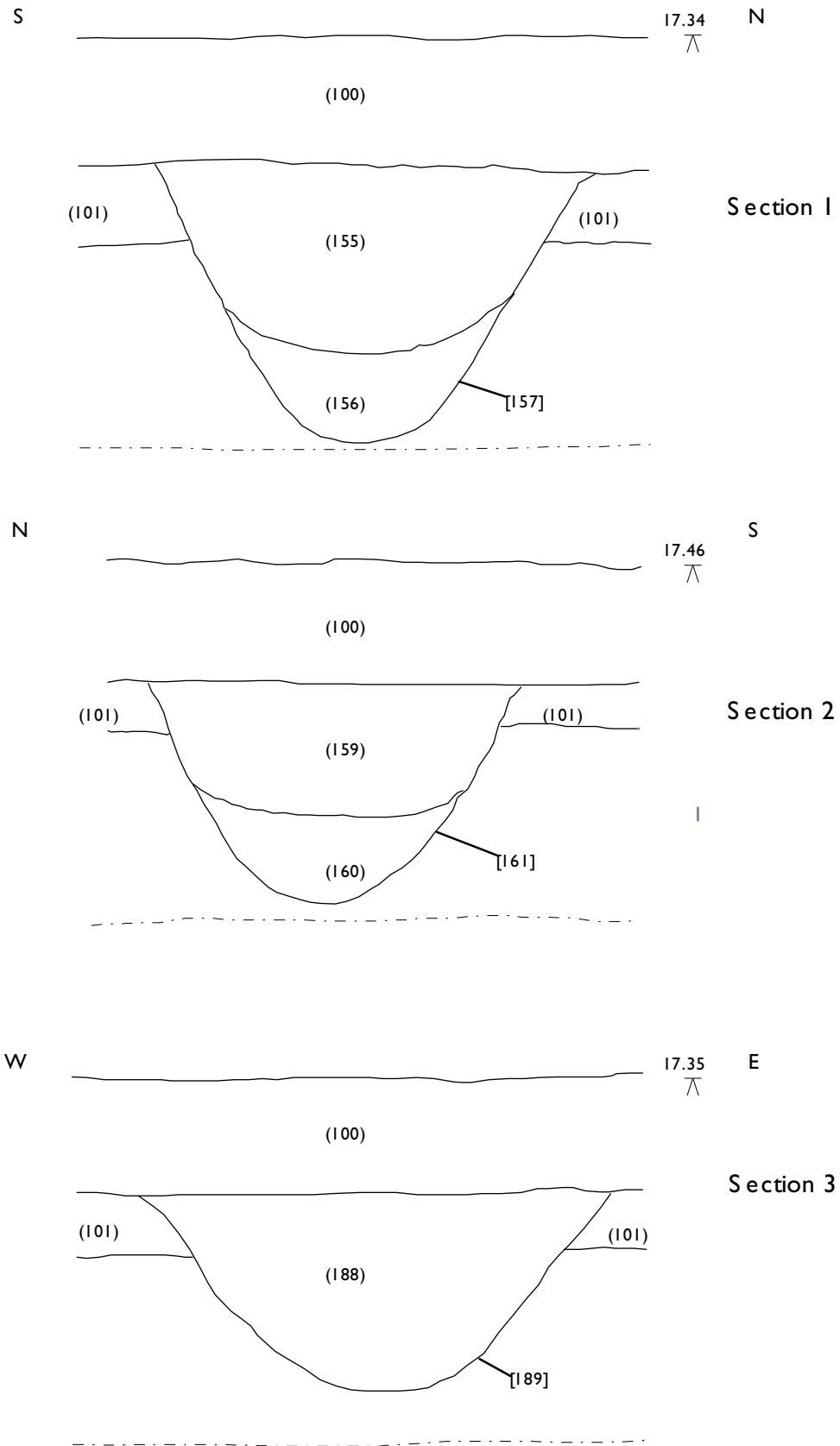
DESCRIPTION // Trench plan showing location of sections and projected

line of 18th century ditches

DOC REF: LP0615L-AERv1.0

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FIGURE 3 // Sections 1-3



0 | m

PROJECT // LP0615L - Lymington Fields Phase 1a
DESCRIPTION // Sections 1-3
DOC REF: LP0615L-AER-v1 | -PARTICIPATION

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-71698

Project details

Project name	Lymington Fields Phase 1a
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of Lymington Fields School and playing fields in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings, and there have been no previous archaeological excavations. A desk-based assessment of the site and surrounding area concluded that the archaeological potential was moderate to low. Cartographic and documentary evidence indicated that the site had been under cultivation from the medieval period to the construction of the school in 1928. The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and to determine the nature, extent, date and significance of any such remains as were present. A total of twenty-three trenches were excavated. The results of the evaluation confirm that land-use in the playing fields area has been confined to agriculture since the medieval period, with no evidence of archaeological activity on the site prior to that period. The findings of the evaluation consisted of two probable boundary ditches of 18th or 19th century origin, which are worthy of record but do not require further investigation.
Project dates	Start: 11-01-2010 End: 22-01-2010
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	LFL10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING AND DAGENHAM Lymington Fields Phase 1a
Postcode RM8 1RJ
Study area 4.06 Hectares
Site coordinates TQ 548034 187102 50.9464402602 0.203921052983 50 56 47 N 000 12 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 16.80m Max: 17.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager Matthew Williams
Project supervisor Cornelius Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Countryside Properties

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London
Physical Archive ID LFL10
Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient Museum of London
Digital Archive ID LFL10
Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available 'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient Museum of London
Paper Archive ID LFL10
Paper Contents 'Ceramics','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Map', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey'

Project bibliography 1

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