

Archaeological Evaluation Report

596-606 HIGH ROAD TOTTENHAM

For Barnes Webster and Sons

Author: Cornelius Barton BA AIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

596-606 HIGH ROAD TOTTENHAM

Client: Barnes Webster and Sons

Local Authority: London Borough of Haringey

NGR: 533939,190380

Planning App: HGY/2010/0201

Author(s): C. Barton

Doc Ref: LPI094L-AER-v1.2

Site Code: TTH11

Date: April 11

L~P:ARCHAEOLOGY

A trading name of the L~P: Partnership Ltd.

The Truman Brewery | 91 Brick Lane | London, E1 6QL | +44 [0]20 7 770 6045 | +44 [0]20 7 691 7245

www.lparchaeology.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Plates

Table of Appendices

Abstract

1. Introduction
2. Site Background
3. Aims
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Finds
7. Summary and Conclusions
8. Archive

Sources Consulted

Figures

Appendices

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail and Trench Plan

Figure 3 - Sections

Figure 4 - Plan of Trench 1 with Section of [100]

TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 - Linear feature 100 in Tr 1

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 -Oasis Record

Appendix 2 -Trench Summary Tables

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 596-606 High Road, Tottenham in the London Borough of Haringey. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Barnes Webster and Sons.

The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance as defined by the London Borough of Haringey, due to its proximity to the Medieval core of Tottenham. It was considered that the site had the potential to contain archaeological remains of Roman or Medieval date.

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence or absence of below-ground archaeological remains on the Site.

The only archaeological feature on the site was the truncated remnant of a medieval gully. No further archaeological works are recommended at this time.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Cornelius Barton of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Barnes Webster and Sons.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Michael Bamforth and Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology between 21st and 22nd March 2011.
- 1.3. The site is located in at 596-606 High Road, Tottenham, within the London Borough of Haringey (LBH) (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 533939,190380.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) is TTH11.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the specification of works prepared by Cornelius Barton of L – P : Archaeology (BARTON 2011).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for mixed development at 596-606 High Road, Tottenham N17 (the site). The application reference is HGY/2010/020.
- 2.1.2. The site is not a scheduled monument and does not contain any listed buildings.
- 2.1.3. The Local Planning Authority is LBH. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment LBH take impartial advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.1.4. When considering an application, LBH is bound by local policy **CSV8** (archaeology) within the Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2006, saved 2009) regarding archaeology and planning. 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 in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.
- 2.1.5. Barnes Webster and Sons and LBH have agreed the methodology for these works in the specification of works document (BARTON 2010).

2.2. GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the superficial (drift) deposits as sands and gravels overlying Thames Group Clay. This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data. ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).
- 2.2.2. Results from the evaluation proved this information to be broadly accurate with clay encountered at depth of 1.45-1.85m below ground level across the site.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. On the wider scale the site area falls within the Lea Valley and the topography slopes from higher ground in the west to the River Lea and associated reservoirs to the east (FIGURE 1).
- 2.3.2. The site is bounded to the north and east by residential development along Scotland Green and Parkhurst Road, respectively, to the west by Tottenham High Road and to the south by parking facilities (FIGURE 2).
- 2.3.3. The site area itself is relatively level and slopes gently with the wider topography from an approximate elevation of 12m OD in the west to 10m OD in the east.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. Prior to the evaluation the site contained several derelict standing buildings fronting onto Tottenham High Road in the west with the central and eastern site area unoccupied. The buildings were demolished before works on site began.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.5.1. An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out on the site and surrounding area by L – P : Archaeology (DUFTON 2011). A brief summary of the results follows:
- 2.5.2. The site falls within the Lower Lea Valley, a general area of recognised Prehistoric activity (WYMER 1999). However the study area does not contain any Greater London Historic Environment Record entries relating to the Prehistoric periods. The wider surrounding area contains known Prehistoric sites and findspots, notably a probable Mesolithic butchery site at Glover Road (STEVENSON 2005) and a field system at Montague Road, Edmonton (HAWKINS 2006), but no Prehistoric remains are known to exist within 1km of the site.
- 2.5.3. The site falls along the Tottenham High Road, the suspected route of the Roman Ermine Street connecting London with northern regional centres of

Lincoln and York. The line of the road is said to have followed the present day A10, running through Dalston, Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Tottenham (MARGARY 1967:195).

- 2.5.4. The nearest known Roman settlement along the probable line of Ermine Street is located in Enfield, approximately 5km north of Tottenham (FINCH SMITH 1987:177). A site at Lincoln Road towards the southern limits of present day Enfield dated the occupation of the settlement to between the late-first century and the fourth century (IBID). It has been argued that this site was located at the southern periphery of Roman Enfield suggesting occupation would not have run south into Tottenham (GENTRY ET AL 1977:111-115). Supporting this hypothesis, there are no records within the GLHER within the study area dating to the Roman period.
- 2.5.5. The earliest recorded date of Tottenham is said to be from 894 AD when 'Danes invaded England, and Sailed up the River Lea...at this time from Tottenham to Hertford one continuous lake' (FISK 1913:2). An Anglo-Saxon settlement, otherwise unrecorded, is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Survey where the area is referred to as Totta's *Ham* (COCKBURN ET AL 1969:95).
- 2.5.6. The site lies within the southern part of the Medieval centre of Haringey, as defined by LB Haringey in the Area of Archaeological Importance. High Road continued in use into the Medieval period and formed the central thoroughfare of the Medieval village. The location of the Medieval bridge is recorded 190m north of the study site (MLO19764) on High Road. The Medieval hospital, chapel and cathedral (MLO12272) were located 150m west of the site on Lordship Lane.
- 2.5.7. The area of Tottenham has been steadily developed throughout the Post Medieval period with initial emphasis on the eastern side of the High Road in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries spreading to the west by the 19th and 20th centuries. Old OS maps show successive phases of redevelopment on the site, the most recent of which is the Liberal and Radical club which was built in 1955 and has recently been demolished.
- 2.5.8. Immediately to the south of the site is a Friends Meeting House, with an

associated burial ground. Map study indicates that the boundary of the burial ground has not changed, making it unlikely that associated burials would be found on the site (DUFTON 2011).

2.5.9. For a more detailed summary of the archaeology and history please refer to the desk based assessment (DUFTON 2011).

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.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ 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.

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

4. Methodology

- 4.1. Five trenches were excavated, covering approximately 5% of the site area. These consisted of two trenches measuring 15m by 2m, and three trenches measuring 20m by 2m (FIGURE 2).
- 4.2. All trenches were dug by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist. Modern overburden was removed until either archaeological deposits or natural drift geology was exposed.
- 4.3. The position of one trench was slightly altered due to the presence of services and welfare unit; this was trench 5 which was rotated approximately 40° and moved 10m northeast from its original position. Trench 3 was extended several metres to the south to compensate for an area in the centre of the proposed trench area which contained a large modern brick soakaway, and could not be fully excavated (see FIGURE 2).
- 4.4. Given the lack of any archaeological remains in any of the trenches it is not considered likely that either of these alterations caused anything of significance to be missed.
- 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. Recording was by means of pro forma recording sheets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50; sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.6. For a full description of the methodology please refer to section 4 of the specification (BARTON 2011).

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive and trench summary. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Heights given are m OD.

5.2. TRENCH 1

5.2.1. The stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1 consisted of several layers of modern make-up deposits (101) (103) and (104). At the western end of the trench was a concrete floor layer (102). This was clearly the the ground floor of the building previously occupying the site.

5.2.2. Below the make up layers was the natural (105). This was a deposit of firm grey-blue clay with pale grey mottling (see FIGURE 3).

5.2.3. Cut into (105) was a shallow concave based linear feature [100] (see FIGURE 4 AND PLATE 1). [100] contained a single fill (106), consisting of well-sorted grey silty clay similar to (105) but slightly darker. (106) contained a single sherd of pottery, tentatively dated to late medieval or early post-medieval periods (see Section 6 below).



Plate 1 - Linear feature [100] in Trench 1. 1m scale

5.2.4. The fill (106) appeared to be remains of a primary (construction-related) fill.

The original cut of the feature would presumably have been made from a considerably higher level, and it appears that the site has undergone substantial truncation.

5.3.TRENCHES 2-5

5.3.1. The remaining trenches contained a similar stratigraphic sequence to that in Trench 1, consisting of several layers of modern make-up deposits overlying natural clay (see FIGURE 3). There were no other archaeological features present.

5.3.2. Trench 2 was dug parallel to the wall between the site and the cemetery associated with the Friends Meeting House; there were no burials or associated features present. This confirmed the conclusion from the earlier map regression exercise that the boundary of the cemetery has not altered at any point.

6. Finds

6.1.POTTERY

6.1.1. A single sherd of pottery was found in (106), the fill of a small truncated linear feature in Trench 1. The sherd is tentatively dated as late medieval or early post medieval but has no rim or base and can only be dated by the fabric, which is a hard grey ware with an oxidized outer surface. The sherd has been sent to a specialist to be formally dated.

6.1.2. No other finds of archaeological significance were recovered. All five trenches contained large quantities of 20th century material, but this was not retained.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site at 596 – 606 High Road, Tottenham is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the construction of a mixed development of urban residential and commercial property.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 7.3. The site was considered to have some potential to contain Roman, Medieval or Post Medieval remains. The only archaeological feature found was the terminus of a small ditch or gully, probably representing part of an old field boundary and of late Medieval or early Post Medieval date. This was of local interest only.
- 7.4. The stratigraphic sequence indicated that a series of previous developments has caused some truncation of the site.
- 7.5. Due to the low potential for further remains it does not appear likely that further work will be required at this stage.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 5 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1x Photographic Register
- ◆ 36x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1x Context Register
- ◆ 5x Trench Record Sheets

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 bag containing 1 sherd of pottery.

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the LAARC under the site code TTH11.

SOURCES CONSULTED

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

- DUFTON A, 2011 596 – 606 High Road Tottenham: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. L – P : Archaeology unpublished archive report.
- COCKBURN JS, KING HPF & McDONNELL KGT, (EDS), 1969. *A History of the County of Middlesex, Volume I, Domesday Survey: Introduction IV*. Victoria County History.
- FINCH SMITH R, 1987. *Roadside Settlements in Lowland Roman Britain: A Gazetteer and Study of their Origins, Growth and Decline, Property Boundaries and Cemeteries*. BAR British Series 157.
- FISK F, 1913. *The History of Tottenham, in the county of Middlesex..* Tottenham, London.
- GENTRY G, IVENS J & McCLEAN H, 1977. Excavations at Lincoln Road, London Borough of Enfield, November 1974 – March 1976. *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* 28: 101 – 189.
- HAWKINS N, 2006. *Desk Based Assessment for land off Advent Way, Edmonton, London*. Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished archive report.
- MARGARY ID, 1967. *Roman Roads in Britain*. John Baker, London.
- STEPHENSON A, 2005. *A post excavation assessment report on an archaeological evaluation and excavation at the Ikea superstore site, Glover Drive, Edmonton, London Borough of Enfield*. AOC Archaeology, unpublished archive report.
- WYMER J, 1999. *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain – Volume 1*. Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage.

ELECTRONIC

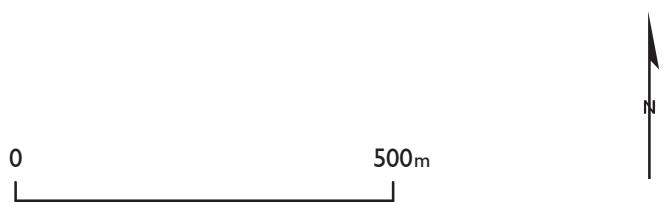
[www. bgs.ac.uk/geoindex](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)

STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE

STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION Institute for Archaeologists 2008

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



PROJECT // 1094L- 596-606 High Road Tottenham

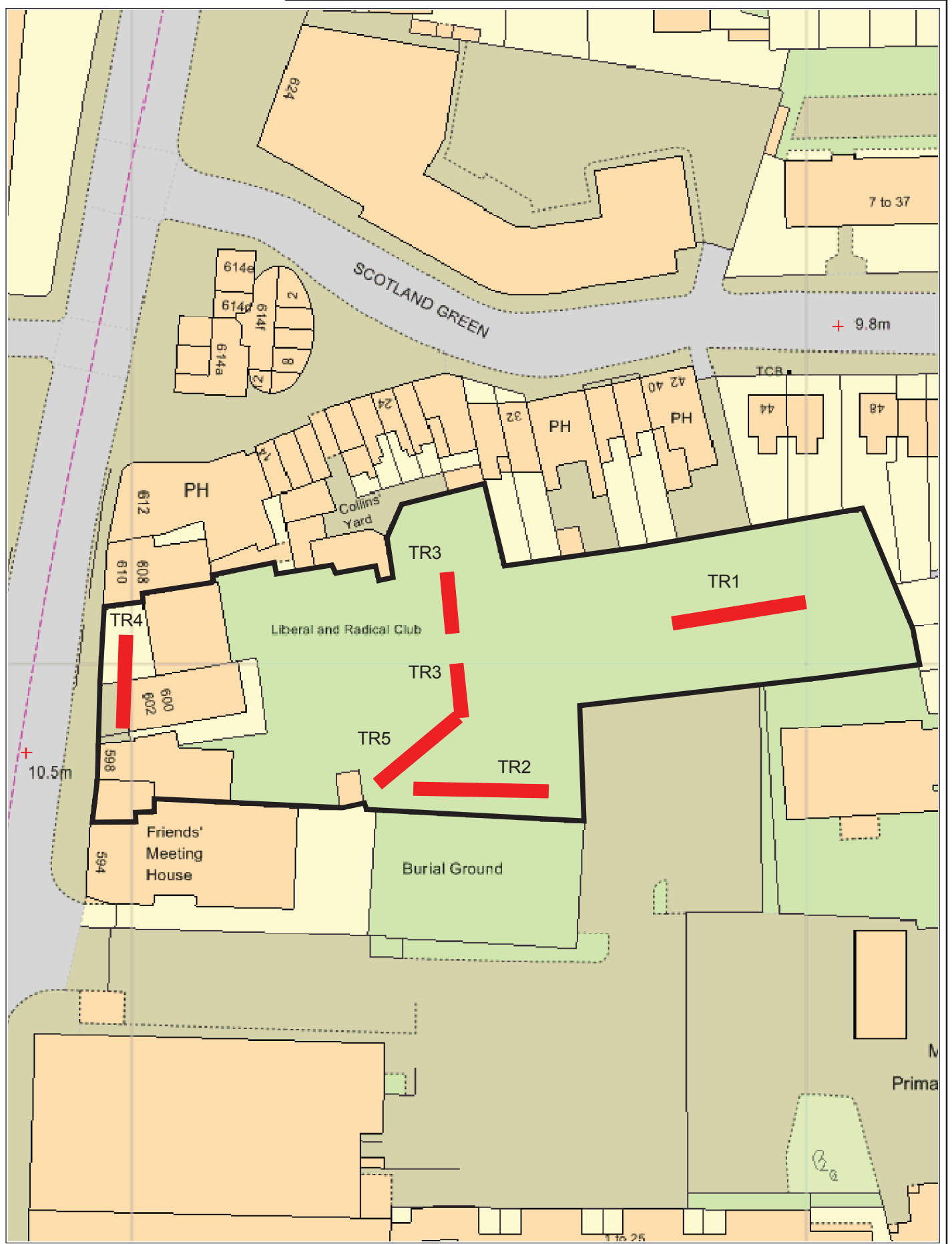
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Map

Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO, Licence 100030862

DOC REF: LPI 094L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



 Trench Location

0 50m



PROJECT // 1094L- 596-606 High Road Tottenham

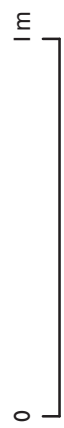
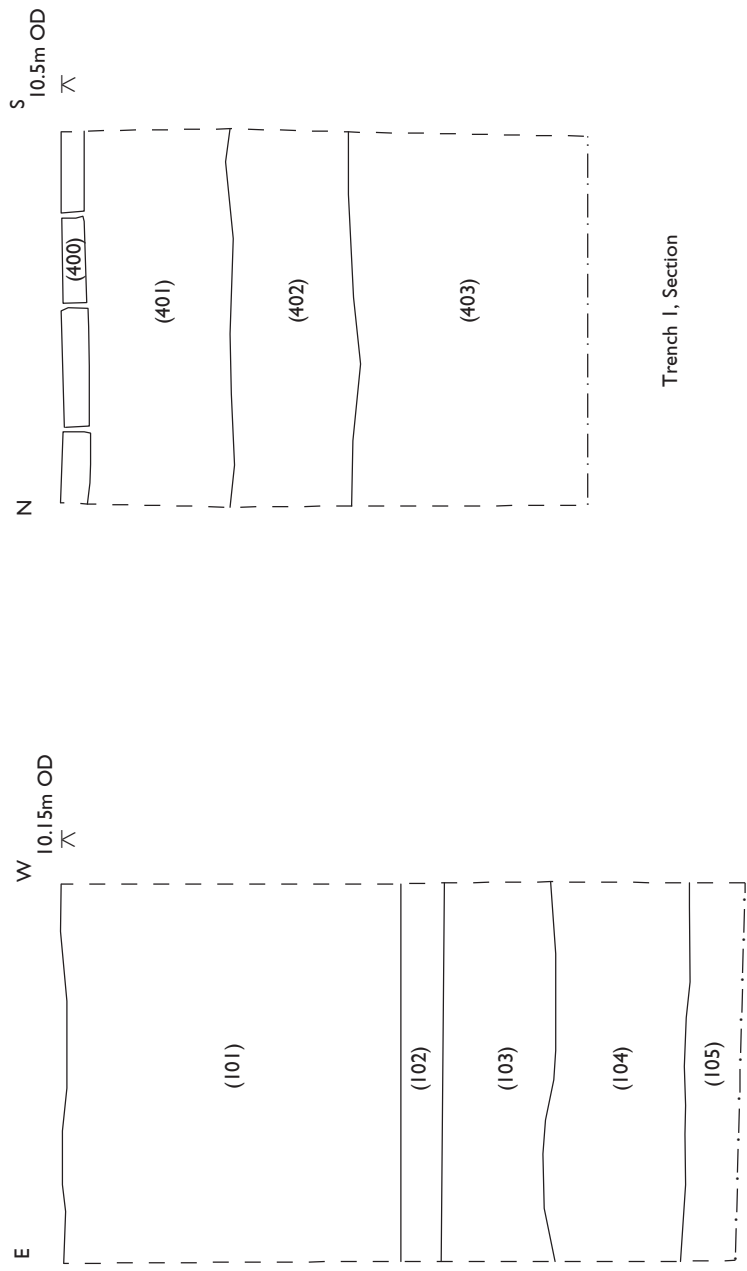
DESCRIPTION // Site Detail Map

Map data generated by GroundSure Ltd., Licence No.10001511162

DOC REF: LPI094L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Sections



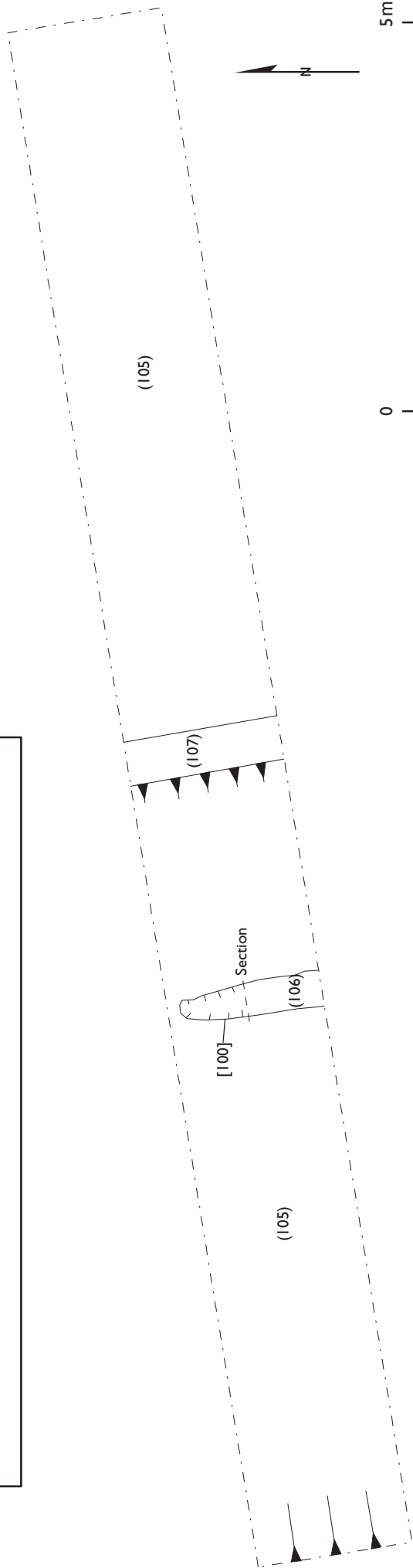
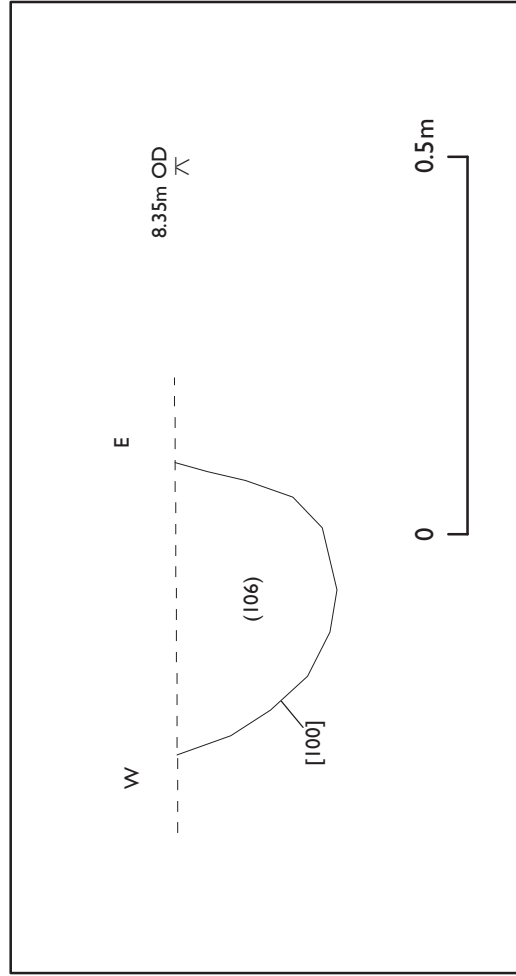
PROJECT // 1094L- 596-606 High Road, Tottenham

DESCRIPTION // Trench I and 4 sections

DOC REF: LPI094L-AER-v1

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 4 // Trench I Detail



PROJECT // 1094L- 596-606 High Road, Tottenham

DESCRIPTION // Trench I Detail

DOC REF: LP1094L-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS ID: lparchae1-98027

Project details

Project name	596-606 High Road Tottenham
Short description of the project	5 Trench archaeological evaluation. Negative result.
Project dates	Start: 21-03-2011 End: 24-03-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TTH11 - Site code
Any associated project reference codes	LP1094L - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

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

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HARINGEY TOTTENHAM 596-606
High Road Tottenham

Postcode N17 9TS

Study area 0.36 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 533939 190380 50.9497639636 0.184007888180
50 56 59 N 000 11 02 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 12.00m Max: 13.00m

Project creators

Name of Organization L - P : Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning
Authority/advisory body

Project design originator L - P : Archaeology

Project director/manager Cornelius Barton

Project supervisor Cornelius Barton

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Barnes Webster and Sons

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Media available	'GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
	'Context'
Paper Media available	sheet','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	596-606 High Road Tottenham Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cornelius Barton
Other bibliographic details	LP-1094L-AERv1.0
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	L-P: Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 bound text
Entered by	C. Barton (c.barton@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	31 March 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email](#) Last modified Friday 3 February 2006

Cite only: `/d1/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm` for this page

TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

APPENDIX 2

TRENCH NO 1			
Context No	Description	Type	Depth
100	Terminus of small linear feature	Cut	1.84m
101	Mixed building rubble with loose sand and modern rubbish	Demolition layer	0.90m
102	Concrete slab	Floor	1.0m
103	Firm, mid grey-brown sandy clay with gravels and modern CBM	Modern make up	1.28m
104	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with gravel and modern CBM	Modern make up	1.65m
105	Firm, mottled pale-grey silty clay	Natural	1.65m+
106	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay	Fill of gully [100]	1.84m

TRENCH NO 2			
Context No	Description	Type	Depth
200	Building rubble and sand	Modern make up	0.30m
201	Soft black silty humic soil	Topsoil	0.70m
202	Firm mid grey sandy clay with occasional fragments of modern CBM and gravel	Subsoil	1.75m
203	Firm mottled pale grey clay with orange patches	Natural	1.75m+

TRENCH NO 3			
Context No	Description	Type	Depth
300	Building rubble and sand	Modern make up	0.30m
301	Soft black silty humic soil	Topsoil	0.70m
302	Firm mid grey sandy clay with occasional fragments of modern CBM and gravel	Subsoil	1.75m
303	Firm mottled pale grey clay with orange patches	Natural	1.75m+

TRENCH NO 4			
Context No	Description	Type	Depth
400	Concrete slab	Pavement	0.10m
401	Firm grey silty clay with CBM and gravel	Modern make up	0.38m
402	Firm mid grey silty clay with gravel and building rubble	Modern make up	0.84m
403	Mid yellow-grey silty clay	Subsoil	1.45m
404	Stiff mottled orange and mid grey clay	Natural	1.45m+
405			

TRENCH NO 5			
Context No	Description	Type	Depth
500	Mixed tarmac fragments and building rubble	Modern make up	0.45m
501	Mixed building rubble	Modern make up	0.85m
502	Loose black sandy silty silt with brick fragments	Topsoil remnant	1.35m
503	Firm mid grey silty clay with CBM fragments and gravel	Subsoil	1.80m
504	Firm mottled grey clay	Natural	1.80m+

Figure List:

FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION GENERAL

FIGURE 2 - SITE LOCATION DETAIL AND TRENCH PLAN

FIGURE 3 - SECTIONS

FIGURE 4 - PLAN OF TRENCH 1 WITH SECTION OF [100]

Appendix List:

APPENDIX 1 - OASIS RECORD

APPENDIX 2 - TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES