



WORCESTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Goat Lane
London N1

London Borough of Enfield

Watching brief report

July 2012



WORCESTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Goat Lane
Enfield
EN1

London Borough of Enfield

Report on an archaeological watching brief

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by the London Borough of Enfield in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out at Worcesters Primary School, Goat Lane, Enfield, EN1.

A watching brief was monitored between 6th June and 11th July 2012 during drainage works, and topsoil strip for the creation of additional modular class room spaces in the southern part of the site. An earlier watching brief was carried out in April 2012 during works for the creation of car parking spaces, where residual archaeological finds were retrieved, but no archaeological features were recorded

Natural deposits of London Clay were observed sealed by subsoil, an older topsoil, newer, modern topsoil and turf. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.

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Front cover: Worcesters Primary School Logo

Fig 1 Site location plan

Fig 2 Areas of investigation



Fig 1 Site location

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place at Worcesters Primary School, Goat Lane, Enfield, EN1, hereafter called 'the site' (Fig 1). The site is located in the southwest corner of the playing field of Worcesters Primary School (Fig 2). The centre of the site is at OS National Grid Reference 534045 198315. The modern ground level of the playing field for this watching brief falls gently from northwest to southeast from 35.77m OD to 34.99m OD. The site code is WPS12.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was previously prepared for this watching brief (MOLA 2012).

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the WSI which formed the project design for the watching brief (see Section 1, MOLA 2012).

1.3 Planning background

This watching brief is in response to an archaeological Condition 11 on the planning application for the car park extension (Planning reference No: LBE/11/0031):

Condition 11: 'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by the London Borough of Enfield and produced by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. A number of more site-specific research aims and objectives were established in the preceding *Method Statement* (MOLA 2012), and are outlined in the following section.

The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take place.

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2.2):

- 1 What was the level of natural topography?
- 2 What are the earliest deposits identified?
- 3 Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?
- 4 Is there evidence of Ermine Street, or roadside activity associated with it, located on the site?
- 5 What are the latest deposits identified?

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002*

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

The drift geology of the Enfield area is characterised by the alluvial deposits of the River Lea in the east, and a band of brickearth in the central area of the borough. To the west London Clay is overlain in places by river terrace gravels or Boulder Clay. The site is situated over London Clay.

2.2 Prehistoric

There is little evidence for prehistoric settlement in Enfield. However the remains of a prehistoric sub-circular structure cut into the natural brickearth was found at Forty Hill School in 1992 (site code FHS92) at the north of the site. It was sealed by topsoil, in the lower levels of which, worked flints and two sherds of late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery were found (Gibson 1992). Additionally the Greater London Historic Environment Record (HER) lists a flint artefact found in the allotments to the south of the site (HER 083618) and another c 130m to the north of the site (HER 080570).

2.3 Roman

During the Roman period the site was close to the line of a Roman road later known as Ermine Street. The road entered the parish south of Enfield Town and passed east of Forty Hill to the east of the site (VCH Middlesex Vol V). The line of the Roman Road is thought to lay c 100m to the east of the edge of the site. There is the chance of associated roadside activity such as ditches and burials on the eastern side of the site. The Greater London Historic Environment Record lists the remains of a Roman quern was found at Clock Hill c 50m to the north of the site (HER 20219).

2.4 Saxon

During the Saxon and medieval periods the site was situated within farmland

2.5 Medieval and post medieval

The New River, an artificial cut bringing fresh water from Chadwell Spring, near Ware, to London, was completed by 1613 and is located to the east of the site. The course through the area was drastically altered in 1859 with a replacement section, including a new aqueduct over Maidens Brook, running from Turkey Street to Tenniswood Road (*ibid*).

By the mid 19th century the settlements in this area of Enfield had changed relatively little since 1572 and by the 20th century area was still predominantly rural. The school was built on the site in the second half of the 20th century.

Prehistoric finds have been made at the north and south of the school and the school lies close to the predicted line of Ermine Street, Roman finds have been recorded in the grounds of the properties to the north of the school. The most recent work prior to this phase of work was carried out in April 2012.. No archaeological features or

deposits were observed, although some unstratified artefacts were observed: struck and burnt flints, and pottery possibly indicative of some prehistoric activity in the general area along with post medieval tile and brick fragments, and pottery (Braybrooke 2012)

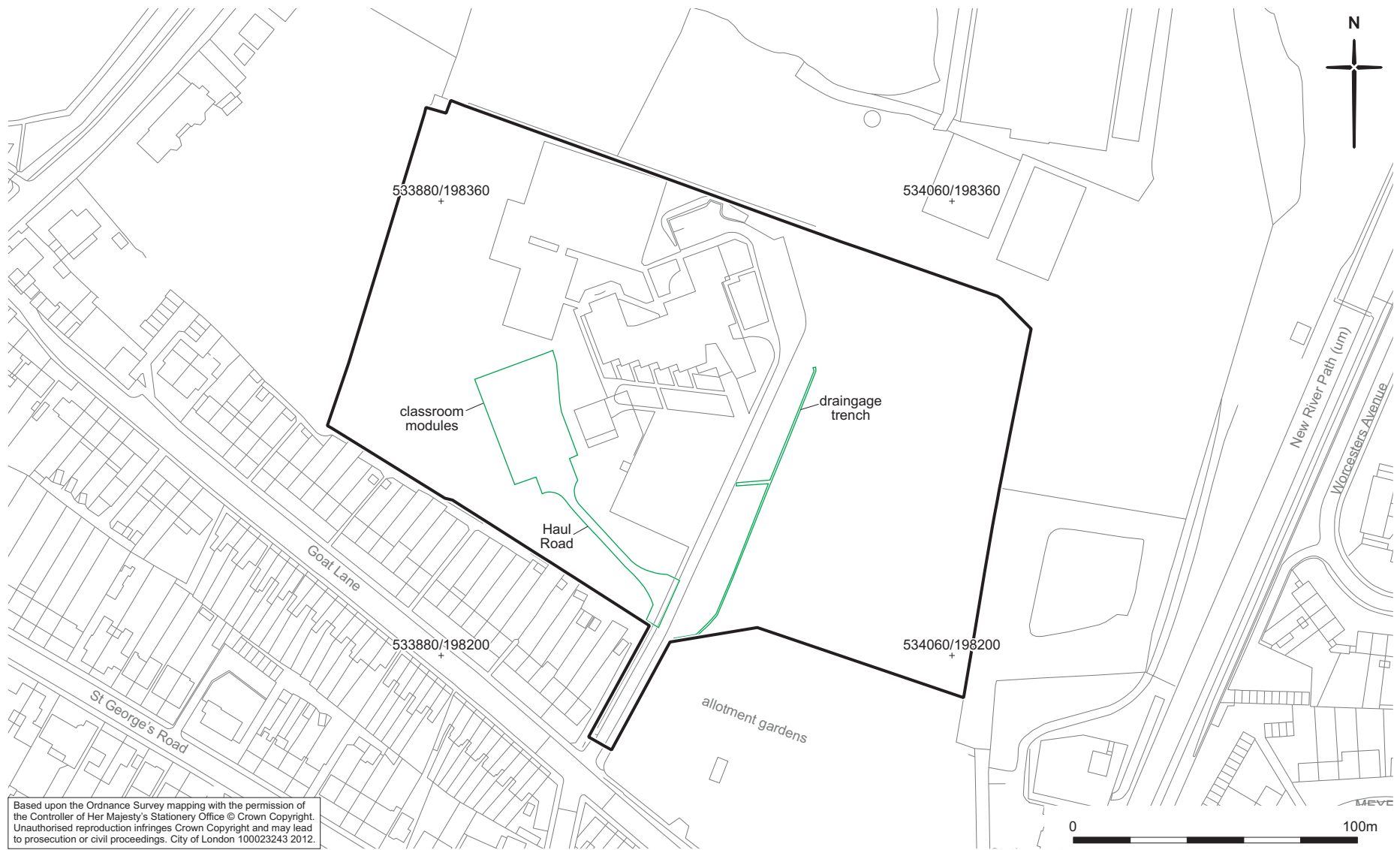


Fig 2 Areas of investigation

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOLA 2012) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

A topsoil strip and ground reduction during drainage works was carried out by contractors under MOLA supervision.

The location of the area of excavation is shown on Fig 2 and was taken from plans supplied by the London Borough of Enfield. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid by MOLA Geometricians.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum via a temporary bench mark (TBM) of 35.99m OD established by the contractors.

The site has produced: one site plan, and 20 digital photographs.

The site records can be found under the site code WPS12 in the MoL archive

3.2 Results of the watching brief

Three interventions were monitored on the site; a north-south drainage trench located on to the east side of the school access road; topsoil strip along a length of a haul road

And topsoil strip within the footprint of the proposed classroom modules to the south west of the main school buildings.(for trench locations see Fig 2).

Watching Brief Drainage trench	
Location	East of Worcesters School access road
Dimensions	53 metres (north/south) x 0.60m wide x 1.50m deep
Modern ground level	35.50 OD (north) to 35.00m OD (south)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	N/A
Natural observed	Sandy clayey silt 35.30m OD (north) and 34.80m (south)

Watching Brief Haul Road	
Location	South west of school
Dimensions	c 35m x 5.00m northwest/southeast x 0.25 - to 0.72m deep (at the eastern end)
Modern ground level	35.43m OD (northwest); 34.86m OD (southeast)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	N/A
Natural observed	Sandy clayey clay 35.23 – 34.66m OD

Watching Brief Classroom module topsoil strip	
Location	Southwest of school
Dimensions	c 24m (east/west) x 40m (north/south) 0.20m deep
Modern ground level	c 36m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed	c 35.80m OD
Natural observed	Sandy clayey silt c 35.10m OD

No identifiable archaeological features or deposits were observed in any of the interventions monitored.

4 Potential of archaeology

4.1 Original research aims

- What was the level of natural topography?

Natural sandy clay silt was found to be at its highest in the southwest part of the site at c 35.80m OD sloping gradually down to the southeast where it was at its lowest at 34.66m OD

- What are the earliest deposits identified?

No archaeological deposits were identified.

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?

No prehistoric activity was recorded in the areas observed.

- Is there evidence of Ermine Street, or roadside activity associated with it, located on the site?

No evidence of Roman activity was observed

- What are the latest deposits identified?

The remains of a robbed out land drain at the eastern end of the haul road.

4.2 New research aims

The absence of any features or identifiable archaeological deposits has generated no new research aims.

4.3 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeologically unstratified finds recovered are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the WSI (MOLA, 2012) with the LAARC (London Archaeological Archive Centre) within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.

In view of the very limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.3) it is suggested that a short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Conclusions

The absence of any other archaeological features or significant deposits indicate that, despite the proximity of a major Roman road, Ermine Street to the east, this area of the site has probably existed as agricultural land until, at least, the school was built

7 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank London Borough of Enfield for commissioning this watching brief and the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Danny Hammond (structural engineer, London Borough of Enfield), Derek Seeley (MOLA project manager), Mark Burke (A H and his team (Nicholls & Sons Ltd site engineer).

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-123701

Project details

Project name	Worcesters Primary School, Goat Lane, Enfield
Short description of the project	A watching brief, carried to cover the extension of car parking facilities, modular classrooms and drainage runs. Natural deposits of London Clay were observed at between 36.11m OD and 34.49m sealed by subsoil, old topsoil, new topsoil and turf. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.
Project dates	Start: 02-04-2012 End: 11-07-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WPS12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Post Medieval

Significant Finds	FLINT KNAPPING WASTE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Car park (flat)
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ENFIELD ENFIELD Worcesters Primary School
Postcode	EN1 4UF
Study area	1307.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 34045 98315 51 0 51 40 01 N 000 03 41 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34.00m Max: 36.00m

Project creators

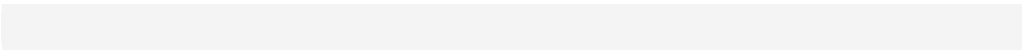
Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	MOLA

Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	Tim Braybrooke
Project supervisor	Portia Askew
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Enfield Borough Council



Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	WPS12
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	WPS12
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	WPS12
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"



Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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