



## Pyrgo Primary School, Settle Road, Harold Hill, London Borough of Havering

Report on Archaeological Watching Brief





**PYRGO PRIMARY SCHOOL, SETTLE ROAD  
HAROLD HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

**REPORT ON  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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# PYRGO PRIMARY SCHOOL, SETTLE ROAD HAROLD HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

## Report on Archaeological Watching Brief

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**PYRGO PRIMARY SCHOOL, SETTLE ROAD  
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**Report on Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Britspace to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Pyrgo Primary School, Settle Road, Harold Hill RM3 9RT in the London Borough of Havering. No archaeological remains were present, as a result of extensive 20<sup>th</sup> century truncation.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Andrew Wood of Britspace for commissioning the work, and also to thank Mark Wayling and his staff for assistance on site. David Divers of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) monitored the works. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lawrence Pontin who also undertook the fieldwork. Cornelius Barton compiled the report, with illustrations by Kitty Brandon.

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# PYRGO PRIMARY SCHOOL, SETTLE ROAD HAROLD HILL, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

## Report on Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of Document

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Britspace (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Pyrgo Primary School, Settle Road, Harold Hill RM3 9RT in the London Borough of Havering (the Site – see **Figure 1**) centred on NGR 555083, 192545.

#### 1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken in fulfilment of a planning condition of the approved development No. P0668.07 for a single-storey children's' centre.

1.2.2 The Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Havering (AALBH) advised that the Site had the potential for archaeological remains, possibly relating to the nearby medieval moated site of Cockerells (see below). It was advised that an archaeological watching brief be carried out on any ground-intrusive works undertaken on the Site.

1.2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2008) and approved before commencement of works.

### 2 SITE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### 2.1 Site Area

2.1.1 The Site, comprising a sub-rectangular parcel of land covering an area of 336m<sup>2</sup>, forms part of the Pyrgo Priory Primary School. The Site is bounded by a car-park to the north, by single-storey buildings to the east and west and by playing fields to the south.

#### 2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The Site was previously the location of outbuildings, and is currently under hard standing.

2.2.2 The Site is generally flat and lies at a height of approximately 33m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2.2.3 The underlying geology within the Site has been identified London Clay (British Geological Survey 1994, sheet 257).

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### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General Archaeological Background**

- 3.1.1 The present A12 follows the line of the Romano-British road from London to Colchester. The Site lies approximately 1.1km to the north of the road.
- 3.1.2 Harold Hill is believed to take its name from King Harold, who kept the area as a royal park before the Norman Conquest. The area was inhabited through the medieval period, and a medieval tile-kiln has been excavated to the north of the site at Noak Hill.
- 3.1.3 The Site lies within the area of the medieval manor of Dagenham and Cockerells, later shortened to Dagnam (O'Leary 1960). The Site lies approximately 80m to the southeast of the Scheduled Monument of The Cockerells, a medieval earthwork.
- 3.1.4 The Cockerells was a medieval country house built between 1200 and 1250. The site is recorded on a map of 1618 as a group of buildings south east of the square moat (AALBH pers comm). In 1633 it was recorded as a substantial gabled building, standing outside a moat. The building was demolished in 1948, but the line of the moat is still visible.

#### **3.2 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 3.2.1 As stated above, very little archaeological work has been carried out in the vicinity of the Site area. A series of four transects were taken across the moat during a survey in 1999 to check silting levels, but this work was of very limited scope. No other investigations are recorded in the Site or immediate surroundings.

### **4 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Methodological Standards**

- 4.1.1 All work was undertaken in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001) and with Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) Guidance Paper 5 (revised 1998).

#### **4.2 Health and Safety**

- 4.2.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force. A risk assessment was prepared and all members of staff were required to read and sign it before works commenced.

#### **4.3 Fieldwork**

- 4.3.1 Fieldwork methodology was agreed in advance with David Divers of GLAAS and a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced (Wessex Archaeology 2008).

4.3.2 A complete drawn and written record of excavated deposits was compiled. This included a plan drawn at 1:100 and a sample section at 1:10.

4.3.3 A full photographic record was maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film). A digital photographic record of the work was also maintained.

#### **4.4 Phases of Work**

4.4.1 The ground intrusive works to be watched consisted of the excavation of 30 building footings measuring 1.20m by 0.60m, to a depth of 1.15m, followed by the excavation of a drainage trench to the north of the main site area (see **Figure 1**).

### **5 RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Footings and Trench**

5.1.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present in any of the footings or in the trench (see **Plate 1** and **2**). Below the concrete hard standing was a layer of redeposited mid brown clay containing fragments of modern brick and tile. This deposit extended to the base of all footings, and appears to be a made ground.

5.1.2 It appears that the Site area has been severely disturbed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, probably during the construction of the school.

### **6 CONCLUSION**

#### **6.1 Site**

6.1 It appears that development on the Site associated with previous use has truncated the area to such an extent that no archaeological remains survive, if any existed originally.

#### **6.2 Archive**

6.2.1 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). The archive from the project will be deposited with the Museum of London under MOL Site Code PPS08.



## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1994, sheet 257 Romford

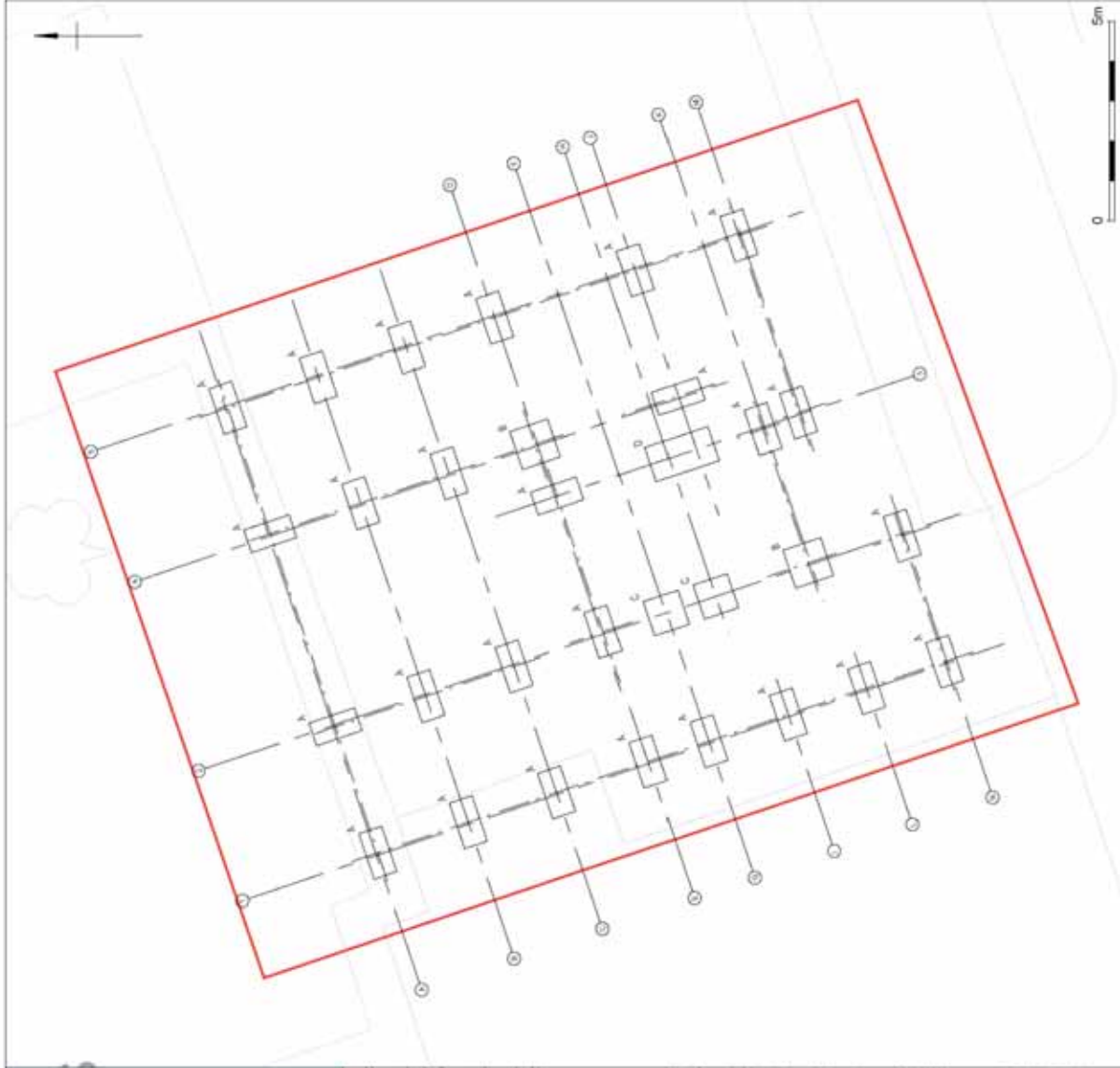
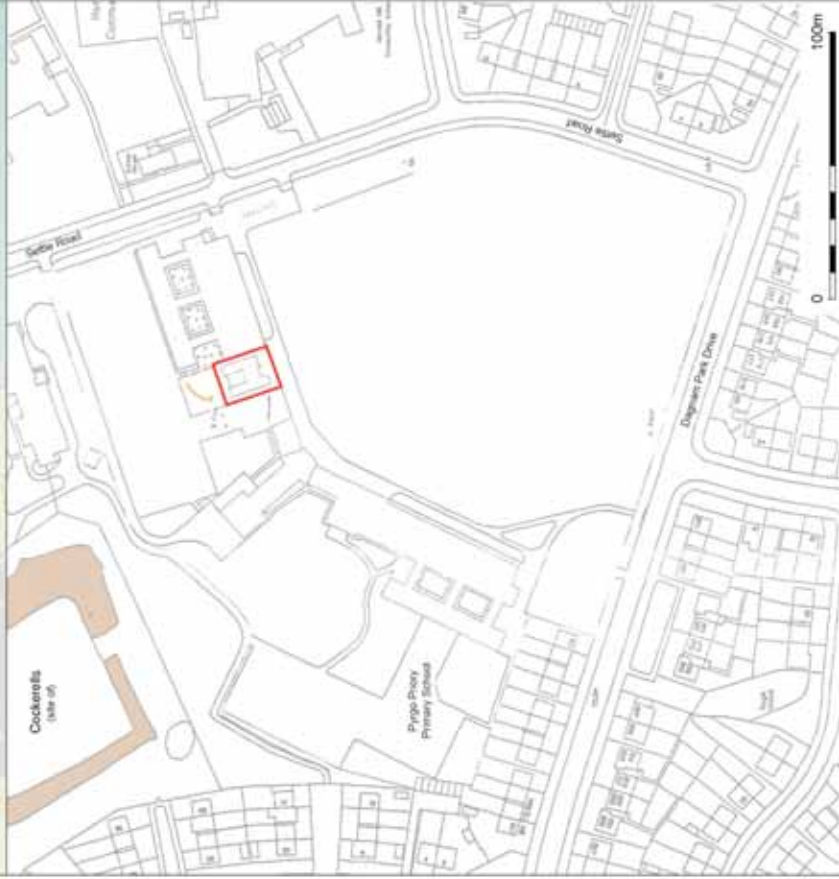
English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

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O'Leary, O.G. 1960: *Place Names of Dagenham* in *English Historical Review* LXXV: 146

## **APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM**



MCL# - PPS28  
 Wessex Archaeology

Legend:  
 Site boundary  
 Scheduled Monument  
 Proposed foundation layout  
 Pipeline

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Figure 1 Site location plan



Plate 1: Building footing trench from southeast



Plate 2: Pipe trench from northeast

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