



Prince of Wales Children's Centre  
Salisbury Road  
EN3 6HG  
London Borough of Enfield

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**PRINCE OF WALES CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
SALISBURY ROAD  
EN3 6HG  
LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

Prepared for:

**Architectural Services**  
London Borough of Enfield  
PO Box 50  
Civic Centre  
Enfield EN1 3XB

By:

**Wessex Archaeology in London**  
Unit 113  
The Chandlery  
50 Westminster Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 7QY

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**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Architectural Services, London Borough of Enfield (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching on land located at the Prince of Wales Children's Centre, Salisbury Road, Enfield EN3 6HG in the London Borough of Enfield, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site occupied an area of approximately 120m<sup>2</sup> and was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): 536871 198475.

No archaeological sites or findspots have been recorded on the Site itself although several archaeological sites have been identified to the north, east and south of the Site with dates ranging from the Palaeolithic to the Late Medieval periods. Post Medieval activity in the area includes the partial canalisation of the River Lea with the construction of a lock at Waltham Abbey and the construction of The Royal Ordnance Factory to the north of the Site.

The evaluation of the 120m<sup>2</sup> development area was undertaken in July 2008 and comprised an approximate 5% sample, consisting of 2 trenches, each 20m by 1.8m.

The evaluation identified no archaeological remains or finds. A single land drain was identified in Trench 1.

The absence of archaeological remains revealed during the evaluation would suggest that there is little potential for archaeological remains to be affected by the proposed development.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bob Barnard, Architectural Services, London Borough of Enfield. The evaluation was directed by Robert De'Athe with the assistance of Emma Nordström. The report illustrations were prepared by Kitty Brandon. Lawrence Pontin managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.

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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Architectural Services, London Borough of Enfield (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Prince of Wales Children's Centre, Salisbury Road, Enfield EN3 6HG in the London Borough of Enfield (the Site), centred on NGR 536871 198475 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site is currently occupied by a grassed area which is used as part of the playing fields for the adjacent Prince of Wales Primary School to the west.
- 1.1.3 It is proposed that the Site be developed with the erection of a new Children's Centre and the creation of new parking facilities.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2008). The WSI was submitted to, and approved by the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Enfield (EH) in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.1.5 This report details the results of the evaluation, which was carried out between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2008. The evaluation covered an area of approximately 5% of the total Site area of 120m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.1.6 The fieldwork programme, which comprised the mechanical excavation of two archaeological evaluation trenches, was carried out as part of the works requested by the EH. These works sought to expedite the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy for the impact of the proposed scheme on any archaeological deposits that would be affected by its construction.

## 2 THE SITE

### 2.1 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 The Site is east of the Prince of Wales Primary School, west of the north-south running course of the Small River Lee, north of playing fields and south of Salisbury Road.
- 2.1.2 The Site was previously in use as part of the adjacent primary school's playing fields and is to the immediate south of a boiler house. Three major services run through the Site comprising a freshwater main, foul water sewer and a gas main. The Site and surrounding playing fields are relatively flat with gentle undulations.
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology of the area comprises Kempton Park Gravel overlying London Clay, (British Geological Society Drift Edition, Sheet 256 – North London).

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 No previous archaeological field work has been undertaken on the Site and the Site is not part of a Scheduled Monument.
- 3.1.2 The Site is defined within the London Borough of Enfield Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 1994) as being within an Area of Archaeological Priority.

### *Palaeolithic (500,000 – 10,000BC)*

- 3.1.3 A Levallois handaxe and flake were found in a well at Moxeys Nursery, Enfield Lock, in association with a mammoth tusk (GL SMR 080580). A mammoth tooth or teeth were found nearby (GL SMR 080601).

### *Mesolithic (8,500 – 4000BC)*

- 3.1.4 There is limited evidence of Mesolithic activity in the area but a dugout canoe was found in the river valley to the south of the Site (Essex SMR 3457).

### *Neolithic (4,000 – 2,400BC)*

- 3.1.5 A layer of soot and charcoal alluvium identified at Mill Marsh Lane, Enfield provides possible evidence for Neolithic woodland clearance in the Lea Valley (Lewis 1995).

### *Bronze Age (2,400 – 700BC)*

- 3.1.6 Three sites listed in the Greater London SMR relate to isolated finds of bronze weaponry of Middle to Late Bronze Age date in the vicinity of the Site. These include a bronze spearhead found in 1835 (GL SMR 080565), a Middle Bronze Age bronze basal loop spearhead with wood in socket, found near a buried channel of the River Lea (GL SMR 080582) and a Late Bronze Age leaf-shaped sword, found to the north-west of Rammey Marsh Lock. These finds represent a recognised pattern of deposition of metal work within rivers or wetland contexts in the Bronze Age.

### *Iron Age (700BC – 43AD)*

- 3.1.7 Artefacts recovered during gravel extraction to the north of the Site in 1952 provide evidence of Iron Age activity. Occupation debris (GL SMR 080581), the mid section of a dugout canoe (GL SMR 08058101) and wooden stakes possibly representing a landing stage, fishing weir or a dwelling was identified (GL SMR08058102).

*Roman (43 – 410AD)*

- 3.1.8 No Roman sites have been identified within the area, but a number of Roman finds recovered from the floodplain of the Lea attest to their exploitation of the floodplain during this period.

*Post-Roman (410 – 1066AD)*

- 3.1.9 A Saxon knife or sword (GL SMR081516) dating to the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from the same location as the Iron Age artefacts during gravel extraction.

*Medieval (1066 - 1499)*

- 3.1.10 The site of a medieval moated settlement, including a manor house and farmstead, has been identified to the south-west of the Site (GL SMR 080691).

*Post-Medieval and Modern (1500 - present)*

- 3.1.11 The moat, manor house and farmstead continued in occupation during the post-medieval period. The River Lea was partially canalised in 1571. This entailed the construction of a pound lock at Waltham Abbey to the north of the Site. The Royal Ordnance Factory was originally constructed in 1814 and known at that time as the Royal Small Arms Factory; production of weapons began in 1816.

## **4 AIMS**

- 4.1.1 The aims of the archaeological works were to: identify the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving archaeological remains beneath the present ground level.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Methodological Standards**

- 5.1.1 The observations, evaluation and preparation of this report have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation document (WSI), which was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA, 2008). This was approved by the EH.
- 5.1.2 All archaeological works were undertaken in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2001) and GLAAS Guidance Papers (2004).

### **5.2 Health and Safety**

- 5.2.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.
- 5.2.2 The 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 legislations, regulations and codes of practice which are in force.
- 5.2.3 A Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of work. This was reviewed as the project progressed.
- 5.2.4 As part of the project briefing, all staff were made aware of their responsibilities and site specific hazards identified under the Risk Assessment.



### 5.3 Fieldwork

- 5.3.1 A total of 2 trenches, each 20m in length and 1.8m in width were excavated, comprising a 5% sample of the 120m<sup>2</sup> development area. The trenches were located within the new school development area that is currently part of the school playing fields (**Figure 1**).
- 5.3.2 Evaluation trenches were laid out in advance, using GPS, to an accuracy of within ± 100mm.
- 5.3.3 Prior to excavation both trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live subterranean services. A Site walkover was also conducted to inspect for any obstructions which may have facilitated the realignment of any trenches.
- 5.3.4 All trenches were machine excavated by a JCB under constant archaeological supervision. All machine excavation was carried out using a toothless ditching bucket in discrete level spits of approximately 0.1m, with spoil stored adjacent to each trench. All spoil was visually scanned for finds. All trial trenches were machine-excavated to the upper surface of significant archaeological features and/or deposits, the surface of *in situ*, solid or drift geology, whichever was encountered first. Trenches were cleaned by hand to ensure the machine-stripped surface was clean and as clear as possible to allow confident identification of archaeological remains.
- 5.3.5 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork a Museum of London site code was obtained and arrangements were made with the Museum of London for deposition of the archive and finds, subject to agreement with the landowner.
- 5.3.6 Both evaluation trenches were fenced upon the completion of fieldwork until backfilling could commence. Both trenches were backfilled under archaeological supervision with any large blocks of modern debris (i.e. concrete) omitted from the backfill material.
- 5.3.7 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. Plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 in pencil on permanent drafting film.
- 5.3.8 The spot height of all principal features and levels were calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate.
- 5.3.9 Photographs were taken as necessary to produce a photographic record consisting of monochrome prints. Digital images were also taken to support general Site recording.
- 5.3.10 The test pits were monitored by the EH. Upon completion of archaeological work, all the test pits were backfilled with the agreement of the EH. Excavated material was backfilled and levelled in the approximate order in which it was excavated. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken using the excavated material.

### 5.4 Finds Collection and Retention

5.4.1 All Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2001), the UK Institute of Conservators' *Guidelines Conservation Guideline No 2* and the Museums and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

5.4.2 Where features or deposits were clearly modern finds were examined noted and discarded.

## 5.5 Environmental Sampling

5.5.1 A strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits was developed in consultation with Wessex Archaeology's environmental manager and was set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology, 2008).

## 5.6 The Archive

5.6.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the Wessex Archaeology project code WA 69840.

5.6.2 The 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).

5.6.3 The resulting archive will be put onto microfiche to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR).

5.6.4 Following the conclusion of the project and with the permission of the landowner the archive will be prepared for deposition with the Museum of London under MOL Site Code SAQ 08.

## 6 RESULTS

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The following section presents a brief summary of the results and an outline of the depositional sequence observed on Site. Detailed summaries of the test pits are presented in Appendix 1 and full details are available in the project achieve. In the following sections context numbers are given in bold.

### 6.2 Archaeological Evaluation Trenches

6.2.1 Two Archaeological Evaluation Trenches (Tr1 & Tr2) were excavated by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. Both Trenches were aligned north/south. (**Plates 1-4**).

#### Evaluation Trench 1

6.2.2 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 1 (**Plates 1 & 2**). Although a single modern land drain [**105**] was observed aligned roughly north/west running the length of the Trench. Made Ground was recorded directly underlying the topsoil

which comprised brick, concrete, ash, clinker and wire. This layer was observed to directly overly the natural clay geology throughout the majority of the Trench with only partial subsoil identified in patches.

### **Evaluation Trench 2**

- 6.2.3 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 2 (**Plates 3 & 4**). Made Ground of identical nature to TR1 was also recorded in Trench 2 which was seen to directly underlie the topsoil and overlying the natural clay geology.

### **6.3 Finds**

- 6.3.1 The only artefacts recovered on Site were modern in origin. These were noted but not retained.

### **6.4 Environmental Evidence**

- 6.4.1 Due to the absence of suitable deposits, no samples were taken for environmental analysis.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has identified no evidence of archaeological features other than those of a modern date. The presence of Made Ground found within both Tr1 & Tr2 may indicate the area was landscaped in the past with Made Ground imported to make up the current ground level across the Site which is generally flat.
- 7.1.2 A land drain of modern origin was identified within Tr1 which comprised a gravel filled trench with brick fragment inclusions. This was orientated along the same axis as the Trench i.e. north/south.
- 7.1.3 No finds were recovered from the Site other than those of a modern date.
- 7.1.4 The absence of archaeological remains revealed during the evaluation would suggest a very low potential for archaeological remains to be affected by the proposed development.

## 8 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

### Key:

- FW = feature was *filled with*
- FO = deposit was a *fill of*

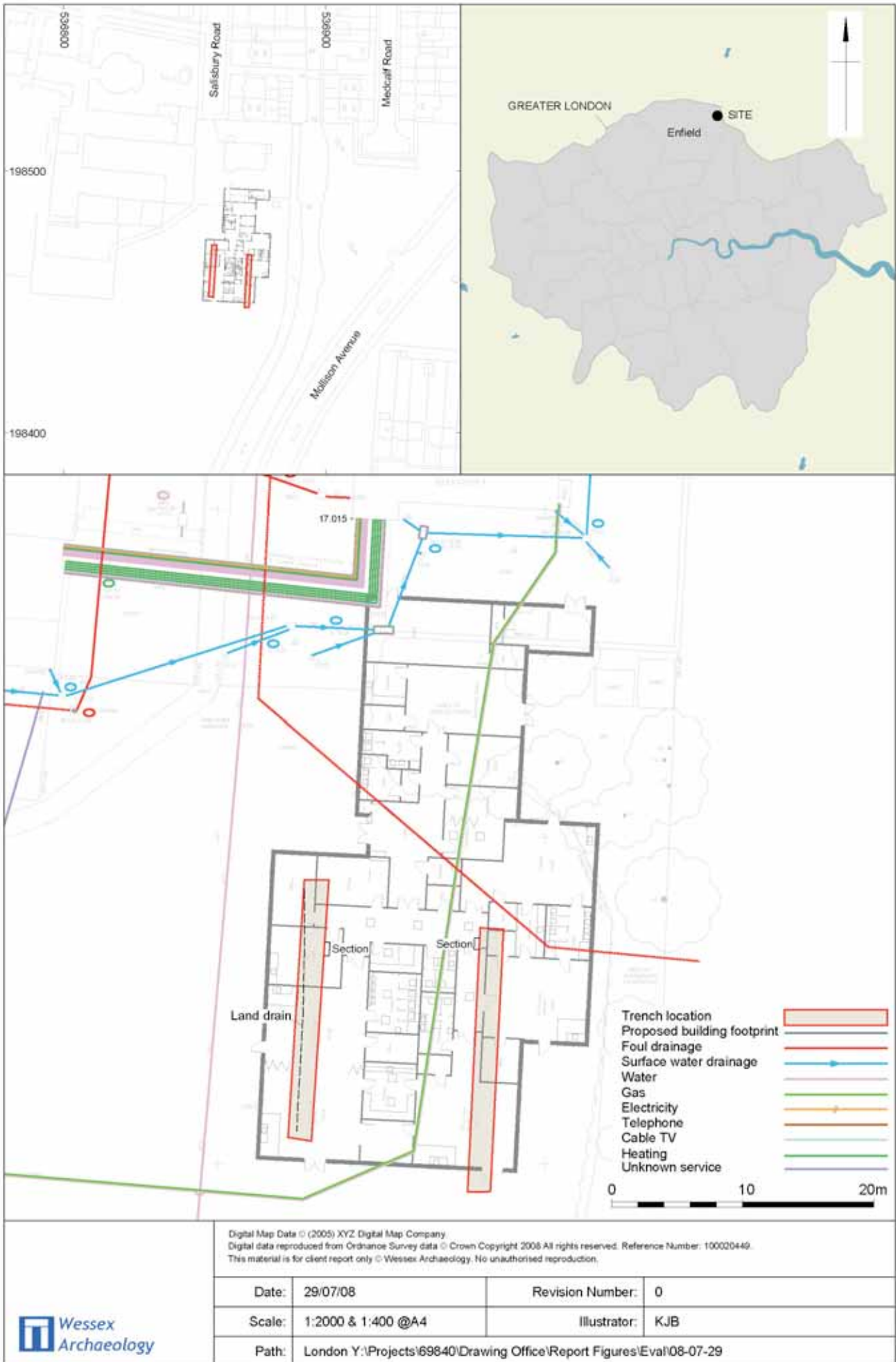
Evaluation Trench 1		Max depth: 0.70m	Length: 20m	Width: 1.8m
Context No.	Type	Description:		Depth: (m)
101	<i>layer</i>	Topsoil – A mid to dark greyish brown loam soil with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and frequent rooting.		0-0.14m
102	<i>layer</i>	Made Ground – Contained a mix of ash, brick fragments, glass and other modern debris.		0.14-0.29m
103	<i>layer</i>	B horizon – Medium greyish/orangey brown silty clay.		0.29-0.35m
104	<i>layer</i>	Natural –Light to medium orangey brown clay.		0.35m+
105	<i>cut</i>	Cut of modern land drain. FW (106).		0.35m+
106	<i>fill</i>	Fill of modern land drain. FO [105].		0.35m+

Evaluation Trench 2		Max depth: 0.53m	Length: 20	Width: 1.8
Context No.	Type	Description:		Depth: (m)
201	<i>layer</i>	Topsoil – A mid to dark greyish brown loam soil with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and frequent rooting.		0-0.19m
202	<i>layer</i>	Made Ground – Contained a mix of ash, brick fragments, glass and other debris.		0.19-0.51m
203	<i>layer</i>	Natural – Light to medium orangey brown brick earth.		0.51m+
204	<i>layer</i>	B horizon – Medium greyish/orangey brown silty clay. Survives only in patches throughout the Trench.		0.19-0.23m



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Site and trench location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from south



Plate 2: Representative section of Trench 1

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Plate 3: Trench 2 viewed from south



Plate 4: Representative section of Trench 2

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**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.**

**Registered Head Office:** Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

**London Office:** Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 [london-info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:london-info@wessexarch.co.uk) [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

