



Proposed Site of
Gateway Community College
Tilbury, Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

**PROPOSED SITE OF
GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TILBURY, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared for:

CgMs Consulting

by

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Ref. 57310

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**PROPOSED SITE OF
GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TILBURY, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a Watching Brief on sixteen geotechnical Test Pits excavated at the proposed site of the Gateway Community College, Tilbury, Essex (centred on NGR 564230 177780).

The only evidence for archaeological activity found during the Watching Brief comprised part of a shallow cut in one Test Pit. This possibly represents a portion of anti-glider ditch known to be present at the Site. No finds were recovered. All other observed deposits comprised of either topsoil or naturally deposited silts, clays and peat.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Rob Bourn of CgMs consulting for commissioning the project.

Hilary Valler and Robert Wardill carried out the fieldwork. The report was written by Hilary Valler with contributions from Liz James (illustrations). The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Robert Wardill.

**PROPOSED SITE OF
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TILBURY, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the excavation of sixteen geotechnical Test Pits at the proposed site of Gateway Community College, Tilbury, Essex (the Site). This report details the results of fieldwork undertaken from 27-29th July 2004.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The Site is located on the Thames floodplain midway between Chadwell St Mary and Tilbury NGR 564230 177780 (site centre). It is bounded by Marshfoot Road (A126) to the north and St Chad's Road (A126) to the east (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site comprises *c.*2ha of flat arable land, lying at a height of around 2m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), which is crossed by a series of drainage ditches and a trackway. The underlying geology comprises Marine Alluvium.

1.2.3 To the north of the Site the land rises up sharply to the gravel bluffs, at around 25m aOD, that overlook the floodplain.

1.2.4 Fifteen of the sixteen geotechnical Test Pits were located in the northern half of the Site. Test Pit sixteen was positioned in the south-west corner of the Site (**Figure 2**).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 A desk-based study of the Site has been carried out (CgMs Consulting, 2003). Below is a summary of its conclusions.

1.3.2 Due to the absence of evidence in the vicinity of the Site, there is low potential for finding remains relating to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Saxon, and medieval periods.

1.3.3 There are no known Iron Age finds from the Thames floodplain in the vicinity of the Site. A Romano-British settlement site has been excavated 150m to the

north-east of the Site and some finds associated with occupation found in the Tilbury dock area.

- 1.3.4 A number of anti-glider ditches are recorded as excavated on the Marshes and within the Site during WWII.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS

- 2.1.1 The general aim of the project was to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the presence/absence, extent, date, character, and depth of any surviving archaeological remains located within the Test Pits.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Health and Safety

- 3.1.1 All work was carried out 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 and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 3.1.2 A risk assessment was prepared by Wessex Archaeology before the commencement of fieldwork.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 1999).
- 3.2.2 A total of sixteen approximately rectangular Test Pits ranging in size from 1m x 2.5m up to 1m x 3m, and to depths from 2.48 to 4.3m were excavated at the Site (**Figure 2**).
- 3.2.3 Revealed archaeological deposits were assessed before excavations were continued either under supervision of or by the Wessex Archaeology archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 Representative sections of each pit were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A photographic record of the works was maintained.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following sections provide a brief summary of the findings for each Test Pit. Detailed descriptions of deposits and depths are provided in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Test Pit 1

4.2.1 Four layers were found in the Test Pit, the upper two comprised topsoil and a firmer red/brown silty clay. Below this was a mid grey/blue silty alluvial clay containing a small amount of organic material and below this was peat which extended beyond the depth of the excavated Test Pit at 3.7m.

4.3 Test Pit 2

4.3.1 Test Pit 2 contained three layers, the top soil, the alluvial clay (mid green/grey silty clay) and a dark red/brown peat which continued below the maximum 3.4m depth of the Test Pit.

4.4 Test Pit 3

4.4.1 This Test Pit contained a similar sequence to TP2 with three layers comprising topsoil, alluvial clay and peat. The alluvial clay was a dark grey/blue silty clay with red/brown mottled and occasional roots and fragments of organic material near the base.

4.5 Test Pit 4

4.5.1 Test Pit 4 again contained three layers, topsoil, mid blue/grey silty clay and peat.

4.6 Test Pit 5

4.6.1 Four layers were recorded in this Test Pit. Below the topsoil, two layers of silty clay were observed. These comprised a dark brown and a dark blue/grey silty clay layer. The peat was seen at 2.8m and continued past excavation depth at 3.9m.

4.7 Test Pit 6

4.7.1 Test pit 6 also contained four layers. Below the topsoil was a dark brown silt and below this was a layer of dark blue/grey silty clay containing frequent roots and fragments of organic material. This overlay a dark blue/grey clay containing lots of organic material. The Test Pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.6m.

4.8 Test Pit 7

4.8.1 Three layers were recorded in this Test Pit. Below the topsoil was silty clay above a dark red/brown peat. The Test Pit was excavated to a depth of 3.8m.

4.9 Test Pit 8

4.9.1 Four layers were found in Test Pit 8. These comprised the topsoil, two silty clay layers and peat starting at 3.3m.

4.10 Test Pit 9

4.10.1 As for TP8 with the peat starting at 2.4m depth.

4.11 Test Pit 10

4.11.1 Four layers were recorded in this pit. Below the topsoil a layer of mid brown/grey silty clay was observed below which was a blue/grey clay containing organic material. The peat was observed at a depth of 1.9m from the ground surface.

4.12 Test Pit 11

4.12.1 As for TP7, the peat was observed at 3.2m depth.

4.13 Test Pit 12

4.13.1 Test pit 12 contained 3 layers. Below topsoil was a layer of dark grey peaty clay overlying blue/grey silt.

4.14 Test Pit 13

4.14.1 Three layers were observed in this Test Pit similar to those found in Test Pit 7.

4.15 Test Pit 14

4.15.1 Below the topsoil a deposit was observed comprising mid grey sandy clay with inclusions of pale beige sand. This deposit was located within a shallow cut, part of which was seen in the north section of the Test Pit. It is possible that this cut represents a north/south orientated anti-glider ditch. Below this were two layers of silty clay with the peat starting at 3.9m depth.

4.16 Test Pit 15

4.16.1 Five layers were observed in this pit. Below the topsoil were two layers of dark silty clay. Below this a dark blue/grey sandy clay above a dark blue/grey silt.

4.17 Test Pit 16

- 4.17.1 Test pit 16 contained a similar sequence of layers as Test Pit 15. A dark brown/black peat was observed at a depth of 2.7m.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 No finds were uncovered during the Watching Brief.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1 The only evidence for archaeological activity located during the Watching Brief was found in Test Pit 14. This comprised part of a shallow cut possibly representing a portion of anti-glider ditch. All other observed deposits comprised of either topsoils or naturally deposited silts, clays and peat.
- 6.1.2 The sequence of deposits found in the Test Pits was similar across the Site. The topsoil was recorded to a depth of between 0.2-0.7m laying above the alluvial clay. The clay was variable in colouring and the number of layers but was of a similar silty texture in all the Test Pits. Peat was encountered between 1.76m (Test Pit 2) and 3.9m (Test Pit 14) in all but three of the Test Pits (6, 12 and 15). These three Test Pits were not excavated as deep as the other thirteen and it is probable that the peat is present in these parts of the Site but below the final depth of the Test Pits.

7 THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 The project archive will be held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, under the project code 57310. Following conclusion of the project it will be deposited at the appropriate museum or storage facility.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CgMs Consulting 2003 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation. Gateway Community College, Tilbury, Essex. Unpublished.*

APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT SUMMARIES

Test Pit 1	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.7m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
01001	Layer	Topsoil. Firm dark red/brown silty clay with occasional small stones and hay roots	0-0.3m
01002	Layer	Firm mid red/ brown silty clay with occasional roots	0.3-0.5m
01003	Layer	Mid grey/blue silty clay with small amount of organic material, pale yellow rooty fibrous material with band of dark material at 1.1-1.2m	0.5-2.7m
01004	Layer	Dark red/brown wet fibrous peat	2.7-3.7+m

Test Pit 2	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.4m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
02001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.5m
02002	Layer	Mid green/grey silty clay	0.5-1.76m
02003	Layer	Dark red/brown peat	1.76-3.4+m

Test Pit 3	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.9m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
03001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.4m
03002	Layer	Dark grey/blue silty clay with red/brown mottles and occasional roots and fragments of organic material near base	0.4-2.6m
03003	Layer	Dark red/brown spongy peat	2.6-3.5+m

Test Pit 4	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 4.1m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
04001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.5m
04002	Layer	Mid blue/grey silty clay with orange mottles	0.5-2.3m
04003	Layer	Dark red/brown spongy peat	2.3-4.1+m

Test Pit 5	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.9m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
05001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.4m
05002	Layer	Dark brown silty clay	0.4-1.2m
05003	Layer	Dark blue/grey silty clay	1.2-2.8m
05004	Layer	Dark red/brown spongy peat with moderate organic material (reed)	2.8-3.9+m

Test Pit 6	Length: 2.5m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 2.6m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
06001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.5m
06002	Layer	Dark brown, dry, friable silt	0.5-0.65m
06003	Layer	Dark blue/grey silty clay with red/brown mottles. Light brown bands of silt and sand with frequent roots and fragments of organic material	0.65-1.1m
06004	Layer	Dark blue/grey silty clay with lots of organic material (reeds & grass)	1.1-2.6+m

Test Pit 7	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.8m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
07001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.4m
07002	Layer	Mid grey/brown silty clay with pale orange mottling	0.4-2.0m
07003	Layer	Dark red/brown peat with organic material (reed)	2.0-3.8+m

Test Pit 8	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.5m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
08001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.2m
08002	Layer	Mid grey/brown silty clay	0.2-1.2m
08003	Layer	Mid grey/brown silty clay with orange mottling	1.2-3.3m
08004	Layer	Dark red/brown spongy peat	3.3-3.5+m

Test Pit 9	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.3m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
09001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.5m
09002	Layer	Mid grey/blue silty clay	0.5-2.4m
09003	Layer	Dark red/brown damp peat with organic material (reed)	2.4-3.3+m

Test Pit 10	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.6m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
10001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.3m
10002	Layer	Mid brown/grey with yellow mottling silty clay	0.3-0.6m
10003	Layer	Mid blue/grey silty clay with occasional organic material	0.6-1.9m
10004	Layer	Dark red/brown peat, frequent organic material (reeds)	1.9-3.6+m

Test Pit 11	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 4.3m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
11001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.4m
11002	Layer	Dark grey/brown silty clay	0.4-3.2m
11003	Layer	Dark red/brown spongy peat with occasional roots	3.2-4.3+m

Test Pit 12	Length: 2.5m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 2.48m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
12001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.7m
12002	Layer	Dark grey peaty clay	0.7-1.1m
12003	Layer	Blue/grey silt	1.1-2.48m

Test Pit 13	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 3.9m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
13001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.4m
13002	Layer	Mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional organic material	0.4-1.8m
13003	Layer	Dark red/brown damp peat with moderate organic material (reed)	1.8-3.9+m

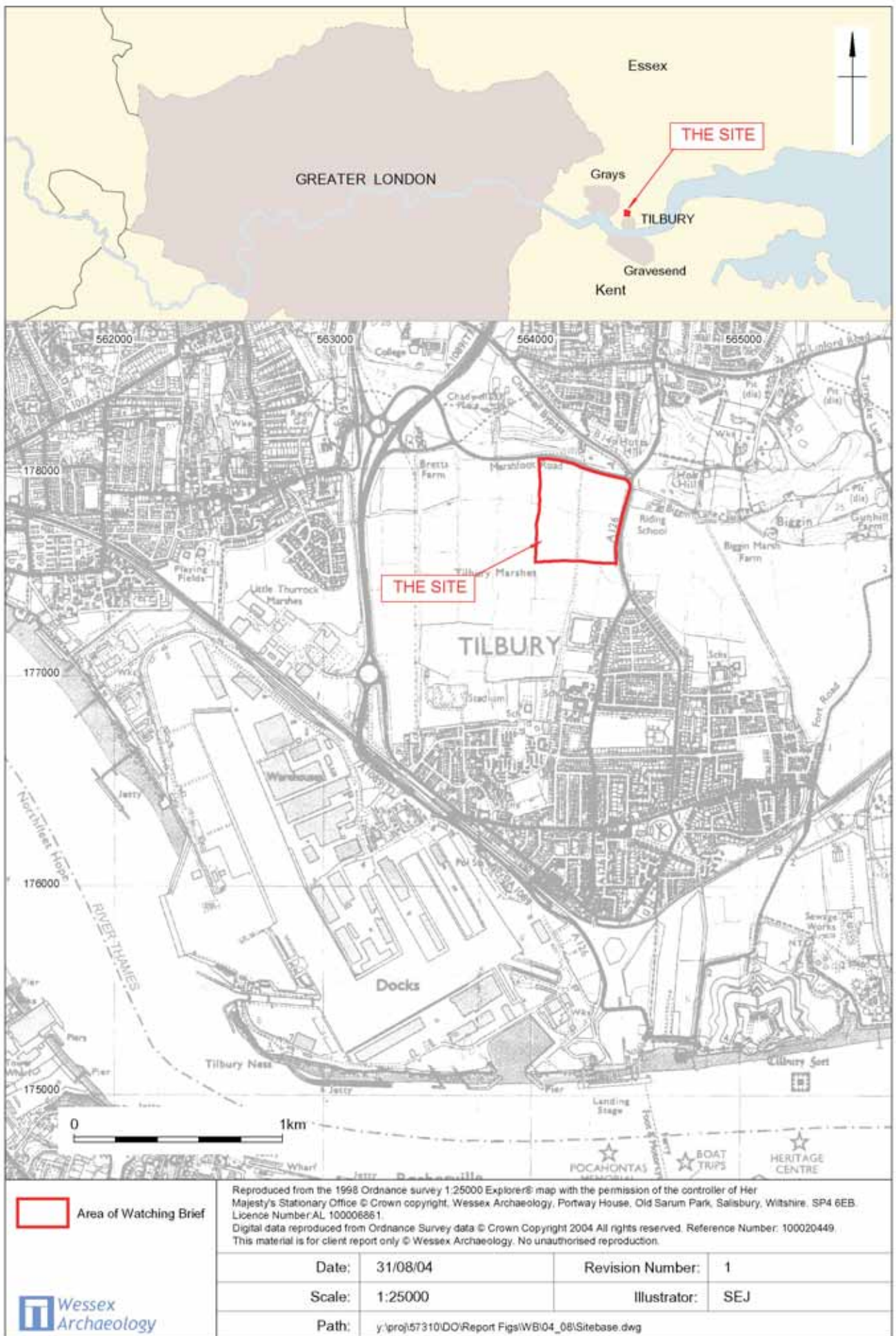
Test Pit 14	Length: 3.0m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 4.2m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
14001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.2m
14002	Fill	Mid grey with orange/brown mottling, firm sandy clay with patches of pale beige sand inclusions, mixed fill	0.2-0.6m
14003	Cut	Gradual slope of cut (sloping down from east side). One side of anti-glider trench orientated N-S	0.2-0.6m
14004	Layer	Mid orange/blue mottled silty clay	0.6-2.0m
14005	Layer	Fine blue/grey sticky silty clay	2.0-3.9m
14006	Layer	Dark red/brown spongy peat with frequent organic material (reed)	3.9-4.2+m

Test Pit 15	Length: 2.8 (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 2.5
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
15001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.4m
15002	Layer	Dark grey silty clay	0.4-0.7m
15003	Layer	Dark brown silty clay	0.7-0.8m
15004	Layer	Dark blue/grey mottled red/brown organic peaty fibrous, sandy clay	0.8-1.4m
15005	Layer	Dark blue/grey silt	1.4-2.5+m

Test Pit 16	Length: 2.8m (at top)	Width: 1.0m (at top)	Max Depth: 2.9m
Context No.	Type	Description	Depth of contexts from surface
16001	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.45m
16002	Layer	Dark blue/grey mottled brown clay with bands of light brown sand	0.45-0.7m
16003	Layer	Dark grey mottled with brown clay	0.7-1.1m
16004	Layer	Blue/grey silt	1.1-2.7m
16005	Layer	Dark brown/black peat	2.7-2.9+m

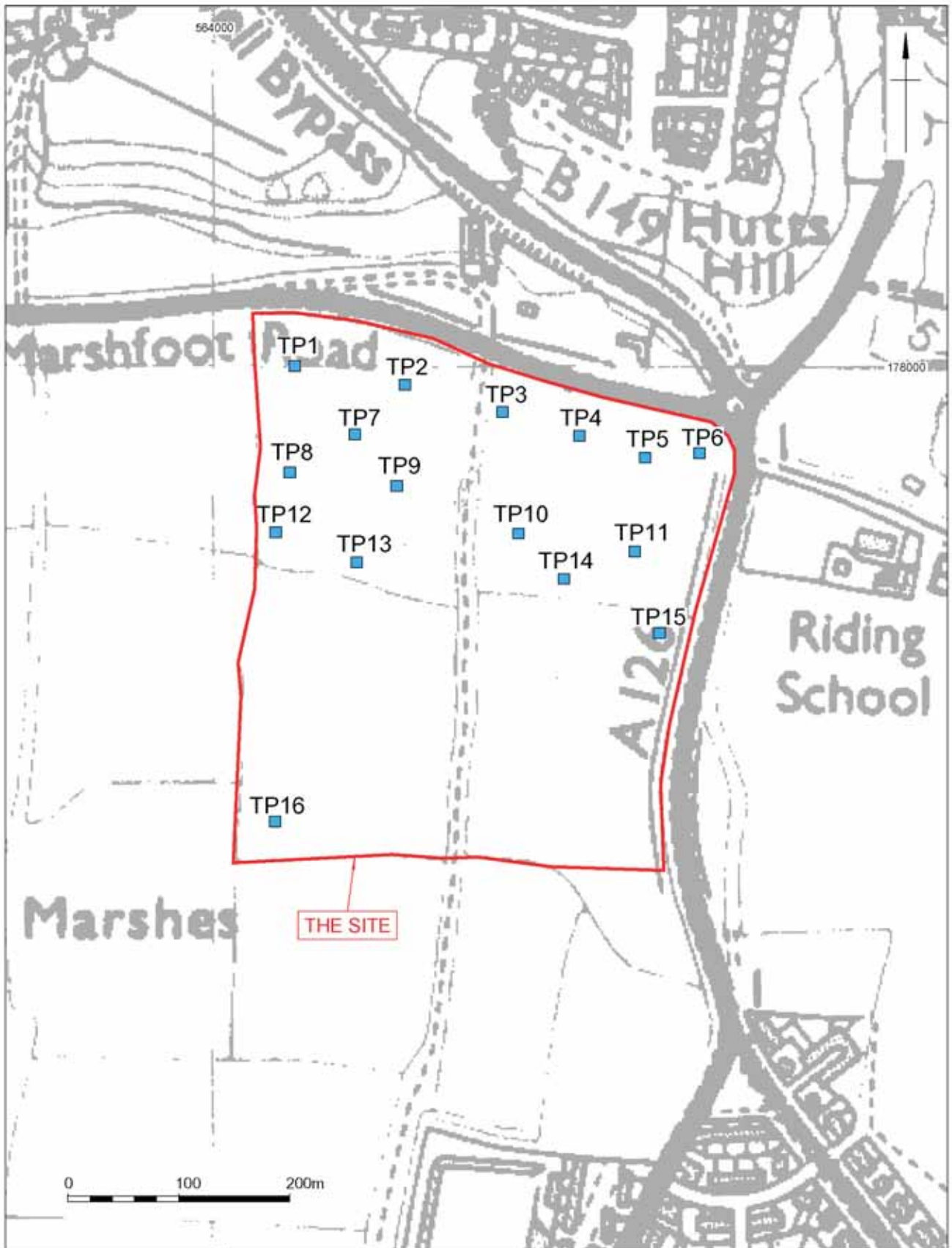
**APPENDIX 2: ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD
SUMMARY SHEET**




Site name/Address: Proposed Site of Gateway Community College, Tilbury, Essex	
Parish:	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ64230, 77780 (centred)	Site Code: GCTH03
Type of Work: Watching Brief	Site Director/Group: Wessex Archaeology
Date of Work: July 2004	Size of Area Investigated: 2ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Thurrock	Funding source: CgMs Consulting
Further Seasons Anticipated?: not known	Related SMR No.s:
Final Report: August 2004	
Periods Represented:	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a Watching Brief on sixteen geotechnical Test Pits excavated at the proposed site of the Gateway Community College, Tilbury, Essex (centred on NGR 564230 177780).</p> <p>The only evidence for archaeological activity found during the Watching Brief comprised part of a shallow cut in one Test Pit. This possibly represents a portion of anti-glider ditch known to be present at the Site. No finds were recovered. All other observed deposits comprised of either topsoil or naturally deposited silts, clays and peat.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
CgMs Consulting 2003 <i>Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation. Gateway Community College, Tilbury, Essex.</i>	
Author of Summary: R. Wardill	Date of Summary: 31/8/4



Site location

Figure 1



 Area of Watching Brief  Test Pit	Reproduced from the 1998 Ordnance survey 1:25000 Explorer® map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6EB. Licence Number: AL 10006861. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2004 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
	Date: 31/08/04	Revision Number: 1	
	Scale: 1:5000	Illustrator: SEJ	
	Path: y:\proj\57310\DO\Report Figs\WB\04_08\Sitebase.dwg		

Location of Test Pits

Figure 2



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