

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

on

685-976 Lea Bridge Road

Leyton, London, E10.

LAB 05: (TQ 3810 8848)

for

Telford Homes Plc.



Fig. 1

Tithe Award Map (1839)

Evaluation Report

on

685-97 Lea Bridge Road

Leyton, London, E10.

LAB 05: (TQ 3810 8848)

by

J G PERRY: February 2005

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 685-97 Lea Bridge Road, Lyton, London, E10 on 23rd February 2005.

The Planning Inspectorate inserted an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ in the grant of planning consent. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the project design indicated that there was Post-Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

Two trenches were excavated across the site revealing rubble deposits over the natural clay and gravel.

No Post-Medieval archaeology was found.

In our opinion, we suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

¹ Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

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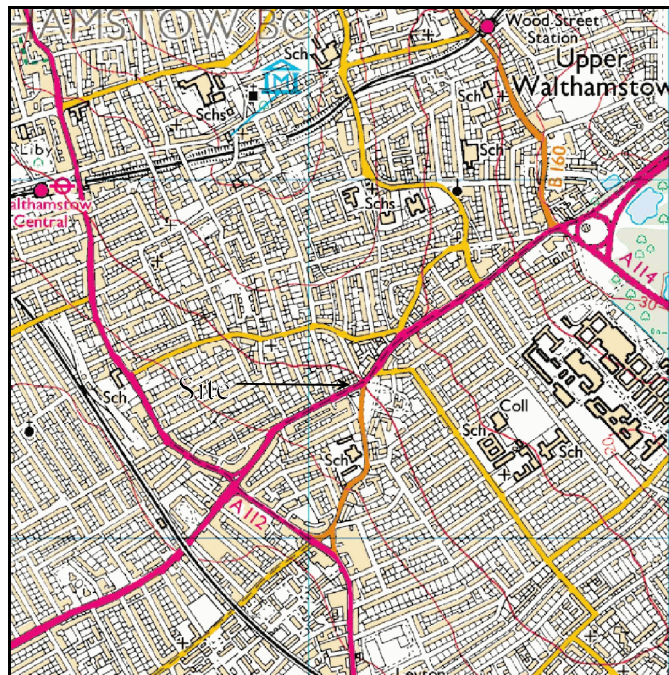
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Introduction

Origin and scope of report: This report relates to the site of the proposed development at 685-697 Lea Bridge Road.

Telford Homes plc (the developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary.



Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, close to its southern boundary with Hackney and Newham. The sites lie on either side of Lea Bridge Road, which runs from Upper Clapton, across the River Lee and westwards to Whipps Cross. To the north lies Grove Road, while to the east are Knotts Green, Livingstone College and Whipps Cross Hospital. To the south lies a triangular area formed by Leyton High Road, Leyton Green Road and Lea Bridge Road.

Topography: The sites lie in a mainly residential area on the eastern side of the Lee valley, which runs southwards to the Thames. The ground slopes downwards from the north-east to the south-west. The sites lie at a height of between 23m and 25m aOD. To the north the ground rises to small hill.

Geology: Under the site lies clay over sand and gravel.

Planning background

The site once contained a terrace of 19th century houses which was bombed during the Second World War. The development area is now waste ground.

Telford Homes plc has received for planning permission to develop the site for housing, gardens, access roads and landscaped areas (fig. 4).



Fig. 3

Site Location Plan

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Outline planning permission was refused by the London Borough of Waltham Forest, but the development was approved on appeal. An archaeological condition under PPG 16 was included in the Planning Inspectorate's decision APP/U5930/A/02/1102997 dated 11th June 2003:

24/6. *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme so approved. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body or person(s) acceptable to the local planning authority.*

Archaeological and historical background

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the evaluation, the potential for Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement in the area of the site was considered **low**, though we expected stray finds might turn up.

There is plenty of evidence for human occupation and activity in the area around the site, though this is mostly confined to the Roman, Medieval and later periods.

Prehistoric: There have been only a few Prehistoric finds recorded in the area around the site, however, this could be due to a lack of archaeological survey in the research area. The lack of Prehistoric material from the nearby evaluations shows there was no Prehistoric archaeology on those sites. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

Roman: The Roman road to the south-west of the site is thought to be aligned towards the north-east, possibly along what is now Leyton Green Road. The Roman building found in Leyton Green Road may be associated with the Roman road. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

Saxon: During this period, little Domesday suggests that the surrounding area seems to have been mainly forest, with little or no Saxon occupation. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon archaeological is low.

Medieval to Modern: There is some evidence, both archaeological and historical, to indicate the presence of Medieval buildings at Knotts Green. Many of these could have survived into the Post-Medieval period and may have been replaced in the Tudor great rebuilding. Certainly the records refer to many large, 16th century buildings. One of the buildings has a moat, but this seems to be a modern feature.

The cartographic evidence from the 19th century shows ribbon development on two sides of the Knotts Green triangle, to the south along Leyton Green Road and to the west along Leyton High Road. These buildings probably indicate the position of the earlier Post-Medieval buildings. The area of the site, however, remained undeveloped until the late 19th century. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for archaeology for this period.

Research objectives

Sutton Archaeological Services carried out the evaluation following our research design dated February 2005. After a brief assessment of the evidence, our objectives were to look for signs of Post-Medieval occupation on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

“The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001

Archaeological Methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our project design dated February 2005.
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- the planning condition inserted by the Planning Inspectorate's grant of planning permission APP/U5930/A/02/1102997 dated 11th June 2003

Control: All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

Trenches: We dug 2 trenches as shown on Fig 4.

Trench	Position	Dimensions (metres)
1	eastern part of the site	10 x 2
2	western part of the site	10 x 2

We broke open each trench with a 360° excavating machine, using a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits from the 19th century or later. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits), at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. (We excavated up to 20cm into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material.) In this way we excavated trenches 1 and 2 without finding any significant archaeological deposits.

Site records: We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. A Munsell soil colour chart was used to determine soil colour and all readings were taken with moist soil. In all, we recorded 5 contexts - numbered [001] to [005] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in Appendix III of our Project Design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

Appendix 1 to this report is a list of the contexts found, and Fig. 5 shows the site matrix.

Levels: All levels were taken from the developers site survey (9116/01).

Backfilling: After excavating and recording we backfilled the trenches and roughly levelled the ground, leaving surplus spoil on site.

Evaluation results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the eastern part of the site and oriented north to south.

Context **001** was a brick rubble fill deposit (south: 24.98m to north: 24.99) that extended across the whole of the trench to a depth of 62cm.

Underlying **001** was the natural silty clay [**002**] (south: 24.36m to north: 24.34) which extended across the whole of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of 40cm.

There were no archaeological features and the only find, other than modern CBM, was a fragment of 20th century pot.

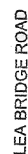
Trench 2

Trench 2 was in the western part of the site and oriented north to south.

Context [**003**] was the brick rubble fill (south: 24.46m to north: 24.55), similar to context **001**. The deposit was 64cm in depth and extended across the whole of the trench.

Underlying **003** was the natural silty clay [**004**] (south: 23.82m to north: 24.90) and extended across the whole of the trench to a depth of 19cm.

Below the clay was a the natural gravel [**005**]



Trench location plan

There were no archaeological features and the only find was modern CBM.

Assessment and interpretation

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Post-Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

The evaluation only revealed rubble deposits over the natural clay and gravel.

There was no evidence for archaeology in any of the trenches other than the 19th century rubble. The only archaeological finds made, except modern CBM, was a sherd of 20th century pottery.

We found no evidence of any period occupation on the site.

Archaeological Potential

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development does not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

In our opinion, we suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

Publications and dissemination

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

Archive

The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed

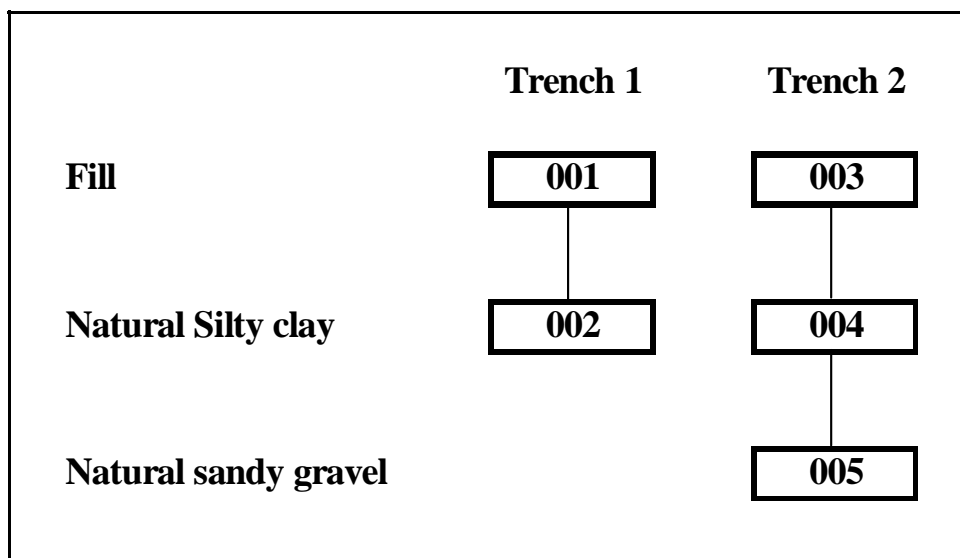


Fig. 5 Context Matrix

APPENDIX I:**Context descriptions**

Context No.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	1	A friable to very soft, very dark greyish brown silty sand, containing 20-30% CBM rubble	Brick rubble
002	1	A soft, yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) to dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay.	Natural
003	2	Friable to very soft, very dark greyish brown silty sand, containing 20-30% CBM rubble	Brick rubble
004	2	A soft, yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) to dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay.	Natural
005	2	A friable to very soft, sandy clay, containing 60-70% small to medium rounded flint pebbles and occasional large rounded flint pebbles.	Natural



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