

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

Land at 228 Crow Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering

Type of project

EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K1216
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Richard Humphrey		17/7/06
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		14/7/06
Graphics Checked by:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	24/7/06
Project Manager Sign-off:	Peter Moore	<i>Peter Moore</i>	24/7/06

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London  
SE4 2PD

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 228 Crow Lane, Romford,  
London Borough of Havering**

**Site Code: CZR 06**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4936 8780**

**Written and Researched by Richard Humphrey  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, July 2006**

**Project Manager: Peter Moore**

**Client: P. F. Ahern (London) Limited**

**Contractor:  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London  
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 020 7732 3925  
Fax: 020 7732 7896  
E-mail: [pmoore@pre-construct.com](mailto:pmoore@pre-construct.com)**

**© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
July 2006**

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

## CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT.....	3
2	INTRODUCTION.....	4
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	7
4	METHODOLOGY.....	8
5	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	9
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE.....	10
7	CONCLUSIONS.....	15
8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	16

## ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.....	5
FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION.....	6
FIGURE 3: SECTIONS 1, 4, 9 & 11.....	14
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	17
APPENDIX 2: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM.....	18

## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at 228 Crow Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering.
- 1.2 Eleven trenches were excavated across the site, in advance of development of the land into residential property. The client had removed some contaminated, modern made ground as part of remediation works prior to the archaeological works. A layer representative of an interface between natural deposits and the made ground covered the site. In all of the trenches this layer was fully removed under archaeological supervision to expose the natural gravel below, with no features of archaeological significance observed.
- 1.3 Trench 1 was reduced to the level of natural gravel and then beyond to ensure that the gravel observed was a natural deposit rather than redeposited material.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at 228 Crow lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering in advance of construction of residential property.
- 2.2 The evaluation was conducted between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 and was commissioned by the Anthony Thorogood of P. F. Ahern (London) Limited. The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines<sup>1</sup> and discussions with David Divers (GLAAS).
- 2.3 The excavations were undertaken on an area of stripped land, to the east and north of an area currently in use as yard for the client (Ahern's) waste management business. The site was bounded by residential property at the terminus of Vignoles Road to the west, a railway line to the north, fenced scrub land to the east and office buildings to the south (figure 1).
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is T4936 Q8780
- 2.5 The site was assigned the code CZR 06
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by Richard Humphrey and assisted by Amelia Fairman. The project was managed by Peter Moore for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

---

<sup>1</sup> English Heritage, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 1 Written Schemes of Investigation; 2 Desk-Based Assessments; 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; 4 Archaeological Reports; 5 Evaluations", Revised June 1998.

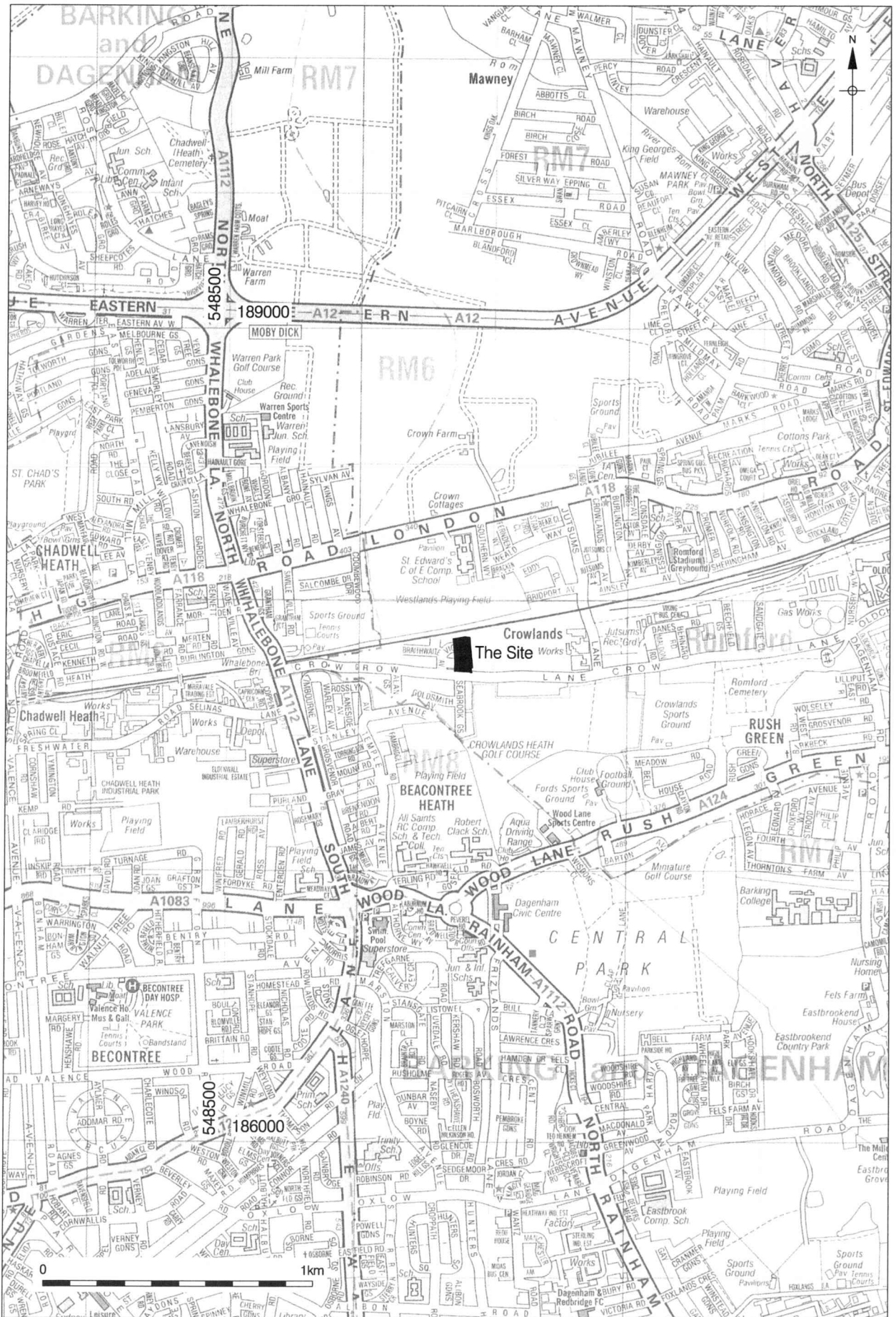


Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:625

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

- 3.1      The Archaeological and Historical Background, together with the potential for the survival of remains on the site, are covered in a Method Statement prepared by Peter Moore, June 2006.
  
- 3.2      The site is an area where some prehistoric finds and features have been discovered which may relate to occupation, rural land use or other activities.
  
- 3.3      Historical maps indicate the site formed part of an agricultural field until at least 1920. From 1939 a number of buildings had been built on-site. The site has been used as a waste transfer and management site since 1983 and as a waste disposal yard since 1998.



## 4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the method statement prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology<sup>2</sup>. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, so as to inform the need for any further investigation.
- 4.2 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove the make-up layer down to the highest archaeological horizon or natural. A total of eleven trenches were opened across the study site (figure 2).
- 4.3 The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. This was conducted by the excavation of slots through features and by half sectioning.
- 4.4 The features were assigned individual context numbers. Drawings were made in plan and a representative section of each trench was also made.
- 4.5 Temporary benchmarks (values 14.25m and 15.22m OD) were traversed onto the site from an Ordnance Survey Bench mark on number 218 Crow Lane (value 14.93m OD).
- 4.6 The trench locations were surveyed in using measurements from fixed points on an OS map of the site.

---

<sup>2</sup>Peter Moore, "A Method Statement For An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 228 Crow Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering", Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report, 2006.

## **5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 Prior to commencement of the evaluation the site, which had contaminated made ground, was being remediated by the removal of 700mm of soil.
  
- 5.2 The site is underlain by varying thickness of recent drift deposits that comprise the Taplow Terrace Gravels. These typically consist of flint, gravel, limestone, gravel and brickearth. The solid geology shows these superficial deposits to directly overlie a minimum thickness of 110m Paleocene London Clay Formation, which typically consists of blue clay.
  
- 5.3 The topography of the site is approximately flat with negligible variations.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 6.1 The following section describes each of the trenches excavated and the deposits recorded. The interface layer that covered the site contained modern fragments of building material as well as demolition rubble associated with the contaminated made ground that had been previously removed.
- 6.2 **Trench 1** (Figure 3)
- 6.2.1 This trench was aligned north-south and measured 10.50 m in length by 2.00m wide. At a height of 14.40m OD, 0.40m of layer [6], representative of an interface between the made ground and natural, was removed to reveal natural orange, sandy gravels [7]. No archaeological features were observed to be dug into this layer.
- 6.2.2 This was excavated to a depth of 12.72m OD in order to confirm this layer to be natural and not redeposited gravel.
- 6.3 **Trench 2**
- 6.3.1 Not excavated.
- 6.4 **Trench 3**
- 6.4.1 Trench 3 was aligned north-south and measured 10.75m in length and was 2.40m wide. 0.12m of the interface layer [18] was removed to reveal a blue-grey sandy gravel layer [19], assumed to be natural, at a height of 13.99m OD. This was removed to test its interpretation as natural. No archaeological features were revealed at this level.
- 6.4.2 Layer [19] was removed to reveal a mottled natural deposit of sandy-gravelly clay, [20], at a height of 13.45m OD.
- 6.5 **Trench 4**
- 6.5.1 This trench was aligned north-south and measured 11.00m in length by 2.00m wide. At a level of 14.23m OD layer [15] was recorded. This was the same interface layer as observed across the entire site.
- 6.5.2 Layer [15] was removed to reveal a blue-grey sandy gravel layer [16], similar to [19] in Trench 3, at a height of 14.08m OD. No archaeological features were observed at this height. Beneath this layer was natural sandy-gravel [17] at a height of 13.70m OD, where again no archaeological features were uncovered.

- 6.6 **Trench 5** (Figure 3)
- 6.6.1 This trench was aligned east-west, measuring 11.50m in length and 2.25m wide. 0.65m of the interface layer [1] was removed, to reveal layer [2] at a height of 13.87m OD.
- 6.6.2 Layer [2] represented a deposit consisting of yellowish-brown silty sand. No archaeological features were observed. This was removed as it was felt this might have represented a layer of material used for levelling the site or as made ground.
- 6.6.3 Natural orange sandy-gravel with occasional blue lenses [3], was observed at a height of 13.57m OD.
- 6.7 **Trench 6**
- 6.7.1 Not excavated.
- 6.8 **Trench 7**
- 6.8.1 This trench was aligned north-south measuring 9.50m and 2.10m wide. Interface layer [4] was observed at a height of 14.46m OD and extended to a depth of up to 0.65m in places. Beneath this, at a height of 13.81m OD, was a natural deposit of orange sandy gravel with blue lenses [5], as seen in other trenches across the site. No archaeological activity was observed in this trench.
- 6.9 **Trench 8**
- 6.9.1 Trench 8 was aligned north-south measuring 12.00m in length and 2.00m wide. Layer [23] was observed at a height of 14.46m OD and represented a light grey-blue sandy gravel deposit, mixed with some modern building material, similar to [1]. It was approximately 0.40m deep. Layer [23] overlay natural deposit [24].
- 6.9.2 Layer [24] represented natural sandy-gravelly clay with blue-green sandy patches. It was observed at a height of 14.46m OD. No archaeological activity was observed in this trench.
- 6.10 **Trench 9**
- 6.10.1 This trench was aligned east-west and measured 11.25m in length and was 2.00m wide. At 14.39m OD, layer [21] represented the interface between modern made ground and natural deposits as seen over the entire site. This was approximately 0.20m deep and was removed to reveal layer [22]. No archaeological activity was observed at this height.

- 6.10.2 Layer [22] was a natural deposit of sandy-gravelly clay, observed at a height of 14.19m OD.
- 6.11 **Trench 10** (Figure 3)
- 6.11.1 Not excavated.
- 6.12 **Trench 11**
- 6.12.1 This trench was aligned east-west and measured 8.50m long by 2.00m wide. Layer [10] represented the interface between natural material and modern, made ground. It was observed at a height of 14.15m OD.
- 6.12.2 Beneath layer [10] was a layer of orange-brown sandy gravel, measuring 0.20m deep. Given the possibility this was redeposited material, it was removed by machine to a height of 13.55m OD.
- 6.12.3 Variations in the natural were observed as a vein of blue-grey gravel [12] that appeared to cut through a layer of orange gravel [13], that in turn sealed a layer of gravelly-sandy clay, [14] at a height of 13.17m OD. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.
- 6.13 **Trench 12**
- 6.13.1 Not excavated.
- 6.14 **Trench 13**
- 6.14.1 This trench was aligned north-south and measured 11.00m long by 2.10m wide. The interface layer [8] was observed at a height of 13.98m and was approximately 0.40m deep. It was removed by machine to reveal layer [9], a natural deposit of loose, brown-orange sandy gravel at a height of 13.58m OD. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.
- 6.15 **Trench 14**
- 6.15.1 This trench was aligned southeast-northwest, measuring 12.25m long by 2.00m wide. At a height of 13.74m OD, layer [25] represented the interface between natural sandy-gravels and the removed made ground, and was 0.35m thick. It was removed to reveal layer [26], a naturally occurring gravelly-sandy clay at a height of 13.39m OD. No archaeological activity was recorded in this trench.

6.16 **Trench 15**

- 6.16.1 This trench was aligned approximately north-south, measuring 13.50m long by 2.00m wide. At a height of 14.01m OD, layer [27] represented the interface between modern made ground and the underlying natural deposit [28]. The thickness of [27] was approximately 0.30m. Layer [28] was natural gravelly-sandy clay and was recorded at a height of 13.76m OD, showing no indication of being disturbed by human activity.

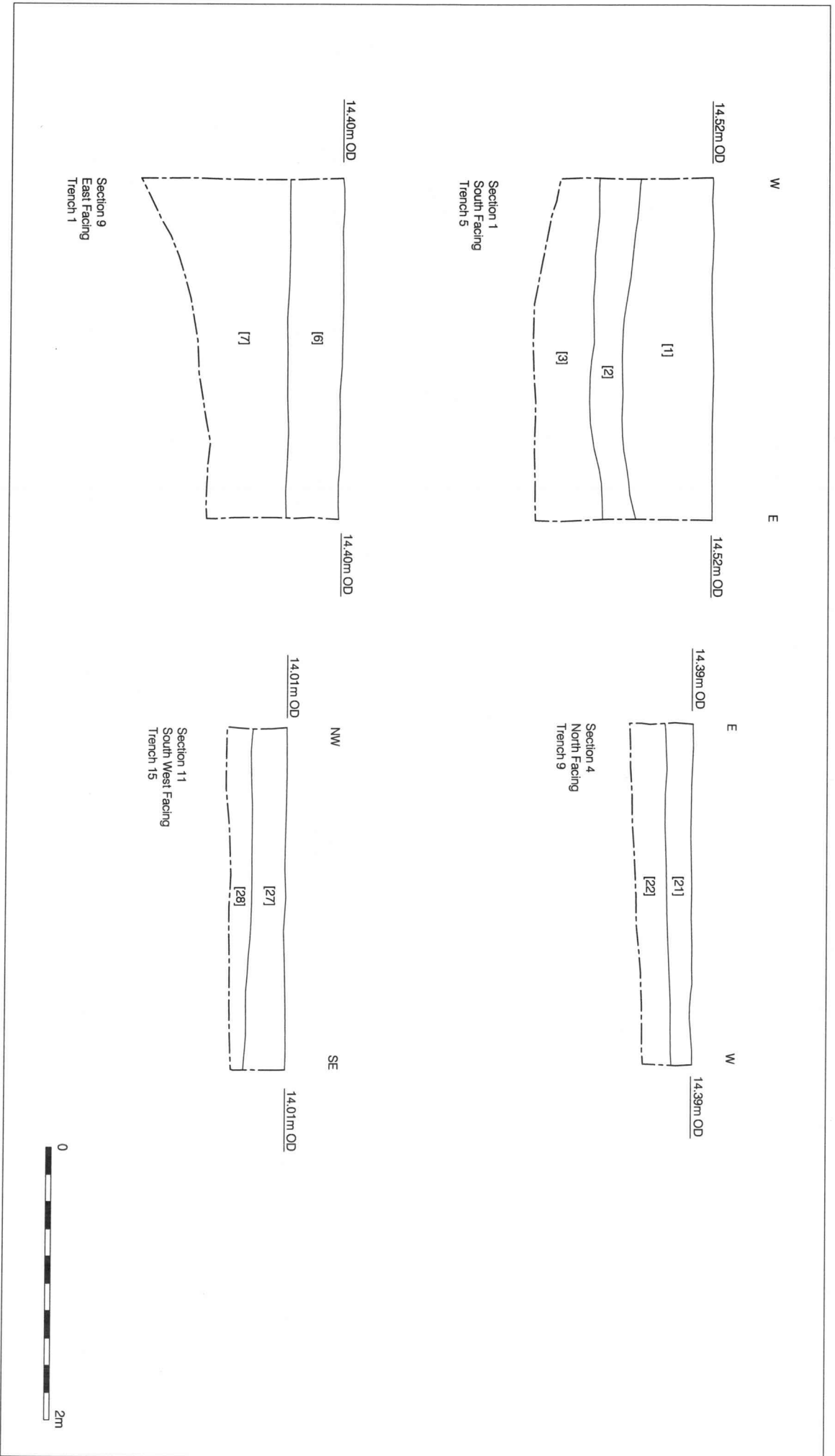


Figure 3  
Sections 1, 4, 9 & 11  
1:40

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The evaluation conducted at 228 Crow Lane shows that the site is devoid of any archaeological deposits or artefacts from the late prehistoric through to the post-medieval period.
  
- 7.2 Continuous transferring of materials on the site and then the remediation stripping of the contaminated made ground by the client resulted in the creation of an interface layer of modern material and natural sandy-gravelly clay that covered the entire study area. This layer sealed undisturbed natural deposits.



## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank P. F. Ahern (London) Limited, especially Anthony Thorogood, for funding this project and for all their help and support on site. The author would like to thank the field staff, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Peter Moore for his project management and editing.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Description
1	Layer	5	Dirty gravel/ made ground
2	Layer	5	Natural sandy gravel (Interface)
3	Layer	5	Natural sand with blue sand lenses
4	Layer	7	Dirty gravel/ made ground
5	Layer	7	Natural orange sandy gravel with blue lenses
6	Layer	1	Dirty gravel/ made ground
7	Layer	1	Natural sandy gravel
8	Layer	13	Dirty sandy gravel interface
9	Layer	13	Natural orange sandy gravel
10	Layer	11	Dirty gravel interface
11	Layer	11	Orange/ brown sandy gravel lense
12	Layer	11	Blue/ grey gravel
13	Layer	11	Brown/ orange sandy gravelly clay
14	Layer	11	Natural sandy gravelly clay
15	Layer	4	Dirty gravel interface
16	Layer	4	Blue/ grey sandy gravel
17	Layer	4	Gravelly sand
18	Layer	3	Dirty gravel/ made ground
19	Layer	3	Blue/ grey sandy gravel
20	Layer	3	Natural orange/ blue gravel
21	Layer	9	Interface - mixed gravel
22	Layer	9	Natural gravels (blue/ grey)
23	Layer	8	Blue/ grey sandy gravels
24	Layer	8	Sandy gravelly clay
25	Layer	14	Dirty gravel/ made ground
26	Layer	14	Natural gravelly sandy clay
27	Layer	15	Dirty gravel/ made ground
28	Layer	15	Natural gravelly sandy clay

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-16653**

### Project details

Project name            An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at 228 Crow Lane, Romford,  
London Borough of Havering

Short description of the project    This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land at 228 Crow Lane, Romford, London Borough of Havering. Eleven trenches were excavated across the site, in advance of development of the land into residential property. The client had removed contaminated, modern made ground as part of remediation works prior to the contractor's arrival. A layer representative of an interface between natural deposits and the made ground covered the site. In all of the trenches this layer was fully removed to expose the natural gravel below, with no features of archaeological significance observed. Trench 1 was reduced to the level of natural gravel and then beyond to ensure that the gravel observed was a natural deposit rather than redeposited material.

Project dates            Start: 19-06-2006 End: 20-06-2006

Previous/future work        No / No

Any associated project reference codes    CZR 06 - Sitecode

Type of project            Field evaluation

Site status                Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

#### Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD 228 Crow Lane, Romford

Postcode RM7 0HA

Study area 1.00 Hectares

National grid reference TQ 4936 8780 Point

Height OD Min: 14.05m Max: 13.17m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator Pre-Construct Archaeology

Project design originator Peter Moore

Project director/manager Peter Moore

Project supervisor Richard Humphrey

Sponsor or funding body P. F. Ahern (London) Ltd.

Entered by Richard Humphrey (richardhumphrey1980@hotmail.com)

Entered on 18 July 2006

### **OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2006 Created by [Jo Gilham](#), email Last modified Friday 3 February 2006

Cite only: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm?ID=16653> for this page