LAND AT OAK FARM CEMETERY, MAYLANDS FIELDS, HAVERING, LONDON

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Archaeological Evaluation Report NGR: 556263 191919

Planning Ref: P1742.14

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Independent Archaeology Consultants carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of 44 trenches and 2 test pits randomly spaced across Maylands Fields, Havering, London (centred: NGR: 556263 191919).Nine of the trenches contained archaeological features.

The two Test Pits which were excavated down to 3.5m below ground level proved that close to the Inglebourne River exists an intact waterlogged dark grey humic Alluvium which contains a high percentage of surviving organic remains, most noticeably large wooden fragments assumed to be from a natural submerged forest considered to have originated in the Palaeolithic (40,000–10,000 BC).

The earliest discovery was two linear features uncovered in Trench 34 with mid Iron Age pottery within their fills. This is considered a locally/regionally significant discovery as the potential for prehistoric archaeology on a clay geology was considered low at the desk based assessment stage. Contingency trenching was used to follow the course of the ditches as far as practicable during this stage of the investigation forming a T-shaped trench. One ditch was proved to be curvilinear and extended beyond the limits of the trench. It would seem the prehistoric archaeology is localised to the area around Trench 34 only.

Two trenches were excavated as close to the northern boundary of the development area as possible in an attempt to trace the possible Roman road thought to cross through this area on a similar alignment to the present day A12. However, upon excavation no trace of the Roman road was evident in the trenches.

Medieval ditches were discovered within Trenches 3 & 27 which are considered to be of local interest as they may have been associated with the medieval manor.

Post-medieval linear and discrete features were uncovered within Trenches 6, 11, 4, 15, & 39. Trench 15 revealed a large pit with modern finds which cut two late post-medieval ditches. Other discrete features, interpreted as postholes, were sectioned and recorded, and also dated to the late post-medieval period. The overall interpretation is this was an area of post-medieval industrial activity, such as a small workshop perhaps covered by a structure.

Adam Single (GLAAS) visited the site on three occasions and gave permission to backfill trenches when the fieldwork was satisfactorily completed.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site is located at Oak Farm Cemetery, Maylands Fields, Havering, London (centred: NGR: 556263 191919) and covers an area of approximately 10ha in size.
- 1.2 The method of the archaeological investigation was an archaeological trial trench evaluation consisting of 44 trenches randomly spaced across the development area designed by Independent Archaeology Consultants ("IAC") and set out in a Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service ("GLAAS") approved Written Scheme of Investigation ("WSI").
- 1.3 All work was undertaken in mid to late October 2017 and adhered to the Code of Conduct issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists ("CIfA"). All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project, in particular the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA 2014).

2. SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The development site is located at Maylands Fields within the London Borough of Havering and is roughly triangular in shape, and is situated between the A12 Colchester Road and the Ingrebourne River. To the west, the site is bounded by residential properties within Harold Wood and on the eastern side by the Ingrebourne River.
- 2.2 Abutting the site to the north-east is a former petrol filling station which used to service the west bound carriageway of the A12. This site has in recent years been used as a Travellers' site, and has had a number of temporary residential structures occupying it.
- 2.3 The site is approximately 10ha in size and consists of historic farmland which has been left largely unmanaged. The site has a gradual gradient sloping down towards Ingrebourne River to the south and is characterised by a mixture of relatively open meadow and woodland which covers the central and northern areas of the site. A redundant agricultural barn and shed lie in the south-eastern part of the site near the river, accessed via the A12 Colchester Road.
- 2.4 A topographic survey of the site in July 2008 showed a steep slope down from west to east across the site, with a level of 42.2m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the north-western corner of the site and a level of 29.6m OD at the north-eastern corner. There is also a natural downward slope from north to south towards the Ingrebourne River. The incline down from the northern site boundary to the Ingrebourne River varies between 4.1% in the western part of the site, and 3.2% in the eastern part, with slight variations across the site.

Along the western bank of the river, forming the southern and eastern site boundaries, levels vary from 30.8m OD in the eastern part of the site, to 28.8m OD in the south-western part.

2.5 The geology of the northern, western and central parts of the site (c 60% of the overall site area) comprises London Clay, whilst the part of the site adjacent to the Ingrebourne River, comprises river alluvium with a thin band of head deposits on the western side of the valley. Head deposits are commonly found on valley floors, comprising sands, gravels and other material moved glacially or by wind or water action from higher areas.

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted on appeal (APP/B5480/W/15/3132860) for the change of use of land at the site to burial grounds including the removal of existing agricultural buildings and erection of two pavilion buildings for associated usage, hard and soft landscaping, new access to A12 and internal roads and paths, parking, and workshop area for storage of associated equipment, tools and materials.
- 3.2 The relevant conditions linked to the planning permission state that:

3) a) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.

b) No development or demolition shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under (a).

c) The use hereby permitted shall not commence until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under (a), and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

3.3 This report aims to fulfill condition 3b. The remaining sub-section of condition 3 will be discharged upon completion of the post excavation assessment and archive, depending on whether a further stage of work is required depending on the advice of GLAAS.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 RAMBOLL-ENVIRON UK Ltd commissioned MOLA to carry out a historic environment desk based assessment (MOLA 2014) of the development area.

A full archaeological background of the development area within a 1km radius can be found in that assessment.

- 4.2 Alluvial deposits alongside the Ingrebourne River have the potential for palaeoenvironmental remains to be preserved within them. The DBA concluded that there was high potential for these deposits close to the Inglebourne River, but that these deposits were of low archaeological significance.
- 4.3 The nearest evidence of occupation during the early to mid Iron Age was found at North Street in Romford, *c*. 3km to the west of the site, where features of early to mid Iron Age date, including a hollow (possibly the remains of a structure), pits, ditches and an accumulation of worked wood was recorded. Other sites have been discovered at Mildmay Road, of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date (Greenwood & Maloney 1993, 79). At Fairlop Quarry, *c*.6km to the west of the site, a settlement associated with a substantial rectangular enclosure was established during the mid Iron Age (Greenwood & Maloney 1995, 346).
- 4.4 In the wider landscape, c. 4km to the south-west of the site, evidence of mid Iron Age settlement has been identified alongside the River Ingrebourne at Maybank Avenue in Hornchurch, which consisted of a roundhouse that was rebuilt on three occasions, alongside a possible droveway and many pits (Greenwood & Maloney 1993, 78; 1994, 204). On the gravel terraces to the east of the River Ingrebourne widespread evidence of early and mid Iron Age activity has been found (Greenwood et al 2006). Occupation has been identified at Hunt's Hill Farm, where an extensive settlement, consisting of at least ten roundhouses, a rectangular post-built building and a number of pits and ditches, has been dated to perhaps the 7-6th century BC (Filer 1991, 303; Greenwood & Maloney 1994, 205; Greenwood et al 2006). This was followed by further activity, including the construction of a six-post structure, apparently of mid Iron Age date (Greenwood & Maloney 1993, 79). To the south of these, at Moor Hall Farm, a small settlement or farmstead dated to the mid Iron Age was revealed (Greenwood et al 2006), whilst to the north of this, at Manor Farm, excavations produced evidence for a further early to middle Iron Age settlement (Richardson 1984, 387).
- 4.5 The desk based assessment (MOLA 2014) highlighted the development area is situated immediately south of the projected route of the London to Colchester Roman road, although it is likely to have been at least partly woodland during this period. It was concluded that there is moderate potential for roadside ditches of medium or low heritage significance.
- 4.6 By the time of the Norman Conquest, a large manor (estate) had developed in the areas of modern Harold Hill and Noak Hill (to the north of the site), both of which were part of the Royal Manor of Havering. The manor became an important unit of land ownership. The Libertie of Havering map of c 1617 shows that the majority of the manor lands (in the early-17th century) lay to the north

of the Roman road, with the site lying in the very south-eastern part of the Liberty, although how this would have equated to the Liberty boundaries in the 11th century is uncertain. It is believed that the modern names of 'Harold Hill' and 'Harold Wood' are probably connected with the medieval association with King Harold. The king retained many manors for personal use, and this included the Royal Manor of 'Havering-atte- Bower', bounded to the east by the River Ingrebourne.

4.7 Post-medieval field boundaries and ditches, dating to the mid-18th century onwards existed on the development area, but they are considered of low archaeological significance.

5. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:
 - to gain an understanding of the archaeological potential within the proposed development area;
 - to provide detailed information regarding the date, nature, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of any identified heritage assets;
 - to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains; and
 - to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.
- 5.2 The following are specific research objectives which this investigation had been designed to attempt to answer:
 - whether any features such as Roman roadside ditches or roadside settlement exist adjacent to the London to Colchester Roman road at the northern end of the development area;
 - whether Alluvial deposits exist alongside the Ingrebourne River (eastern side of the development area) and
 - to investigate the post-medieval ditches seen on historic maps.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1 Machine Excavation

- 6.1.1 42 trenches were excavated using a 20 tonne 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2.1m wide ditching bucket, following the excavation of trenches 13 & 14 with a smaller 8 tonne machine. This was replaced with a larger machine as the ground was harder than expected due to the extensive vegetation which had dried out the topsoil. Two geoarchaeological test pits were excavated with the same machine but fitted with a 1m wide bucket with a blade over the teeth. The machine excavation reduced the ground in 100-150mm spits down to the natural clays or archaeological features, whichever was uppermost.
- 6.1.2 The trenches covered over a 4% sample of the affected areas and were positioned to test known features seen on historic maps and seemingly blank areas, also to avoid known services (in particular a larger diameter foul and surface water drain/sewer) and other modern areas of disturbance.
- 5.1.2 The position of the trenches were altered in the field for trenches 1, 2 3, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 27, 37 & 39 (see Figure 1 for a trench plan) due to the presence of a haul road running across the development area which was not accounted for a design stage. The haul road was required as vegetation clearance was taking place during the archaeological trial trench investigation and organic material was being transported to a stock pile on the eastern edge of the development area. The archaeological evaluation was conducted in one phase, although originally planned in two phases. Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of trees were not harmed by the excavation of trenches and areas deemed protected for ecological reasons were also left undisturbed.
- 5.1.3 The trenches were set out with a hand held GPS using canes and were reinstated to a good condition. Any trench alterations were also recorded with GPS.

6.2 Hand Excavation

6.2.1 All man-made features were investigated. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

- 6.2.2 Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features.
- 6.2.3 All exposed archaeological features were subject to a minimum of 50% excavation. At least 25% of linear features and/or very large and deep features were hand excavated. Particular attention was given to terminals and intersections, to ascertain stratigraphic and physical relationships.

6.3 Palaeoenvironmental Sampling

Environmental samples taken

6.3.1 Two bulk samples were taken. One from a prehistoric ditch in evaluation Trench 34 and one from a medieval ditch in Trench 29. The size of the samples taken was 40 litres for each selected context. The full 40 litres from each sample taken was processed. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

Methodology

6.3.2 The samples were processed, using standard methodology. Samples were processed outside using a 'Siraf' style flotation tank, with meshes of 0.5mm apeture for retention of the residue. The flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned by environmental archaeologist Val Fryer under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are mentioned below. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded. The residue was additionally bucket floated to obtain maximum possible retrieval of environmental evidence..

6.3 Recording

- 6.3.1 A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.
- 6.3.2 Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:50 and 1:20 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

6.3.3 A photographic record comprising digital photos were taken and will form part of the excavation record.

7 RESULTS

Cut features are described in brackets [] and fills of features or deposits are shown in ().

7.1 Blank trenches

- 7.1.1 Trenches 1, 2, 35, 33, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 did not contain any archaeological features. The earliest deposit noted within the blank trenches consisted of natural clays or gravels, which was reached between varying heights across the proposed development site from 29.84m AOD in Trench 42 in the south eastern end to 41.62m AOD in Trench 1 in the north western end of the development area.
- 7.1.2 The natural was overlain by subsoil which varied in thickness from 0.10m to 0.20m. The topsoil was generally a consistent 0.30m thick.
- 7.1.3 Appendix 1 details the results of all blank trenches including all heights OD.

7.2 Trenches with features

7.2.1 The following trench descriptions are for those trenches which contained archaeological features 3, 4, 6, 15, 26, 27, 29, 34, & 39. A summary of all trenches can be found in Appendix 1.

7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

- 7.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.45m at the northern end and 0.37m at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (3/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.07m of subsoil (3/102), overlain by 0.29m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (3/101).
- 7.3.2 A 1m wide and 0.15m deep linear feature [3/104] was orientated on an approximate east-west direction with shallow sides and a gently curving base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silt clay (3/105) with occasional gravel inclusions and one sherd of late 13th Century AD pottery (Fig. 3; S.3.4).

- 7.3.3 A narrow linear feature [3/108] was protruding from the baulk section 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep on a NE-SW direction with very shallow sides and a gently concave base. It was filled by a mid-greyish brown silt clay (3/108) with no finds (Fig. 3; S. 3.3).
- 7.3.4 A linear feature [3/110] was protruding from the baulk section 0.80m wide and 0.10m deep on a North-South direction with very shallow sides and a gently concave base. It was filled by a mid-greyish brown silt clay (3/111) with no finds (Fig. 3; S. 3.1).
- 7.3.5 A discrete feature [3/106] was seen protruding from the section which was 0.60m in width (minimum) and c.0.12m deep with concave sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (3/107) with no finds.

7.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

- 7.4.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.28m at the north-western end and 0.32m at the south eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the light brownish yellow natural geology (4/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.08m of subsoil (4/102), overlain by 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (4/101).
- 7.4.2 A linear feature [4/104] orientated on a north-south direction was 0.80m wide and 0.14m deep with gently sloping concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions (4/105) with no finds (Fig. 3; S. 4.1).

7.5 Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

- 7.5.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.30m at the western end and 0.28m at the eastern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (6/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.08m of subsoil (6/102), overlain by 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (6/101).
- 7.5.2 A linear feature [6/104] orientated on a north-south direction was 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep with gently sloping concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions (6/105) with 1 sherd of post medieval pottery (Fig. 2; S. 6.1).

7.6 Trench 15 (Fig. 4)

7.6.1 Trench 15 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.54m at the north-eastern end and 0.56m at the south-western

end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (15/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.08m of light brownish yellow subsoil (15/102), overlain by 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (15/101).

- 7.6.2 A linear feature [15/04] was 0.60m wide and 0.08m deep with gently sloping concave sides and an almost flat base orientated on approximate east-west direction. The feature was filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay with 1 sherds of peg tile (Fig. 4; S. 15.2).
- 7.6.3 A sub-circular feature [15/07] was 0.38m wide and 0.07m deep with shallow concave sides and a gently rounded base. The feature was interpreted as a posthole and was filled by mid orange grey silty clay (15/06) with one fragment of peg tile of post-medieval date (Fig. 4; S. 15.5).
- 7.6.4 A sub-circular feature [15/09] was 1.0m wide and 0.38m deep with shallow concave sides and a gently rounded base. The feature was interpreted as a posthole and its earliest fill was 0.25m mid grey orange silty clay (15/08). The latest fill was 0.17m thick (15/17) mottled greyish orange silty clay with one fragment of clay pipe stem (Fig. 4; S. 15.3).
- 7.6.5 A sub-circular feature [15/11] was 0.47m wide and 0.09m deep with shallow concave sides and a gently rounded base. The feature was interpreted as a posthole and was filled by mid orange grey silty clay (15/10) with no finds (Fig. 4; S. 15.4).
- 7.6.6 A linear feature [15/20] was 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep with gently sloping concave sides and an almost flat base orientated on approximate northeast-southwest direction. The feature was filled by mottled greyish orange silty clay (15/14) with post-medieval finds (Fig. 4; S. 15.6).
- 7.6.7 A sub-circular feature [15/15] was 5m wide and 0.25m deep with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The feature was interpreted as a shallow pit and was filled by mottled grey with redeposited natural patches (15/16) with occasional modern finds, such as bone china and an iron nail. On the surface of the fill of the pit was a patch of redeposited clay (15/18) covering an area of approximately 1.5m square. This pit cut ditches [15/20] & [15/04] (Fig. 4; S. 15.7)

7.7 Trench 26 (Fig. 2)

7.7.1 Trench 26 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.31m at the northern end and 0.50m at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (26/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.06m of subsoil (26/102), overlain by 0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (26/101).

- 7.7.2 A sub-circular feature [26/104] was 1m wide and 0.18m deep with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The feature was interpreted as a shallow pit or tree root hole. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay with few inclusions (26/105) and no finds (Fig. 2; S. 26.3).
- 7.7.4 A linear feature orientated approximately east-west [26/106] was 1.20m wide and 0.12m deep with concave sides and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay (26/107) with no finds (Fig. 2; S. 26.2).
- 7.7.5 A sub-circular feature [26/108] was 1m wide and 0.20m deep with shallow concave sides and a flat base. The feature was interpreted as a shallow pit or tree root hole. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay with few inclusions (26/109) and no finds (Fig. 2; S. 26.1).

7.8 Trench 27 (Fig. 3)

- 7.8.1 Trench 27 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.38m at the northern end and 0.69m at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (27/103). The overburden consisted of *c*.0.12m of subsoil (27/102), overlain by 0.31-0.38m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (26/101).
- 7.8.2 One linear feature [27/104] orientated on an approximate NE-SW direction was sectioned 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with steep concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by (27/105) dark greyish brown silty clay with 1.23kg of post-medieval peg tile (Fig. 3; S. 27.1)

7.9 Trench 29 (Fig. 3)

- 7.9.1 Trench 29 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.34m at the northern end and 0.40m at the southern end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (29/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.10m of subsoil (29/102), overlain by 0.24m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (29/101).
- 7.8.2 One linear feature [29/104] orientated on an approximate NE-SW direction was sectioned 0.90m wide and 0.12m deep with concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by (29/105) light greyish brown silty clay with one sherd of medieval pottery (Fig. 3; S. 29.1).

7.10 Trench 34 (Fig. 5)

7.10.1 Trench 34 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.55m at the north-eastern end and 0.43m at the south-western

end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (39/103). The overburden consisted of *c*.0.07m of subsoil (39/102), overlain by 0.11m-0.25m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (39/101).

- 7.10.2 Ditch [34/04] had two sections placed across the feature. It was a curving ditch with steep concave sides and a rounded base approximately 0.60m wide and 0.20 deep. The ditch was filled by a dark blue grey clay silt with 5 sherds of Mid Iron Age pottery well sealed within the backfill of the ditch (Fig. 5; S. 34.1 & 34.3).
- 7.10.3 Ditch [34/06] was linear and was extending beyond the limits of the trench. It had one section placed across it, which was then extended to capture the terminal of the ditch. The cut of the ditch had steep sides and a gently rounded base approximately 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled by a mid brownish grey firm clay silt with 25 sherds of prehistoric pottery dated to the Mid Iron Age, mostly coming from the terminal end (Fig. 5; S. 34.2).

7.11 Trench 39 (Fig. 2)

- 7.11.1 Trench 39 was excavated to a length of 25m (2.1m wide) and to varying depths of between 0.20m at the north-eastern end and 0.46m at the south-western end. Machine excavation ceased at the top of archaeology or the natural geology (34/103). The overburden consisted of c.0.10m of subsoil (34/102), overlain by 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (34/101).
- 7.11.2 One linear feature [39/104] orientated on an approximate NE-SW direction was sectioned 0.50m wide and 0.07m deep with shallow concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by (39/105) dark greyish brown silty clay with no finds (Fig. 2; S. 39.1).

7.12 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITS (Fig. 1)

Two test pits were excavated for geoarchaeological purposes close to the Inglebourne River approximately 4m long and 1m wide. They were deliberately sighted with Test Pit 1 as close to the River as possible and Test Pit 2 located some 30 metres away with the intention of establishing the extent of the Alluvium from the River.

7.12.1 Test Pit 1 (Fig. 1)

Test Pit 1 (Appendix 2) was excavated to a depth of 3.6m below ground level. Beneath the topsoil (TP1/01) was a consistent 3.1m thick deposit of yellowish orange brown Alluvium deposit (TP1/02) which was directly over a dark grey blue humic Alluvium with a high content of organic material such as tree branches and trunks (TP/103) (uppermost surface of Alluvium was 27.20m AOD)

7.12.2 Test pit 2 (Fig. 2)

Test Pit 2 was excavated to a 3.4m below ground level. Beneath 0.30m of topsoil (TP2/01) was 0.60m thick deposit of mid yellow brown natural brickearth. This overly 0.50m thick deposit of compacted medium sized gravels, likely to be a remnant mid-Pleistocene or earlier gravels. Beneath the gravels was a 1.50m thick dark brown Alluvium. In turn, beneath this the earliest deposit encountered was a dark brown blue clay silt Alluvium although not as organic or waterlogged as that encountered in Test Pit 1 at the same depth.

8. **THE POTTERY** By Paul Blinkhorn

8.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 36 sherds with a total weight of 212g. It comprised a mixture of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval wares. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Prehistoric

8.2 The following fabric was noted:

MIA: Fine Sand and Organic. Moderate to dense fine sand < 0.1mm, rare organic voids. Mid-late Iron Age. 30 sherds, 162g.

8.3 The majority of the pottery of this type came from context 34/07, the rest from 34/05. It appears to be all from a single, highly fragmented and somewhat under-fired vessel, although no feature sherds were present. Sandy fabrics such as this are fairly typical of the middle-late Iron Age in the region (eg. Leivers 2008). The sherds appear to be a primary deposit.

Post-Roman

8.4 The post-Roman pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

HORT:	Horticultural Earthenwares, 19th – 20th century. 2 sherds, 11g
MG:	Mill Green Ware, 1270 – 1350. 1 sherd, 5g.
PMR:	Post-medieval Redware, 1580 – 1900. 1 sherd, 26g.
REFW:	Refined Whiteware, 1800-1900. 1 sherd, 4g.
SEMS:	South Essex Shelly Ware, 1100-1300. 1 sherd, 4g.

8.5 The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. Most of the sherds are small, and all appear to be the result of secondary deposition. The sherd of MG is from the base of a jug, a typical product of the tradition.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	MIA	L.	SEN	IS	MG		PMF	२	HOF	RT	REF	W	
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
3/105					1	5							L13thC
15/16							1	26	2	11	1	4	MOD
29/05			1	4									12thC
34/05	5	20											
34/07	25	142											MIA
Total	30	162	1	4	1	5	1	26	2	11	1	4	

8.6 THE TILE

- 8.6.2 A total of 18 fragments of peg tiles were uncovered from the investigation at Oak Farm, Havering, London. The fragments from contexts (27/105), (15/04), (15/06) and (6/105) were all of similar appearance and can all be dated to the early Post Medieval period (Table 2).
- 8.6.3 Nib tiles were used to cover the sloping surfaces of a roof, and were fixed to the roof by a projecting nib of clay which hooked over the roof battens. Nib tiles came into use from the second half of the 12th century (Lewis 1987, 7-8) but they were largely replaced by peg tiles in the 13th century.
- 8.6.4 Peg tiles, on the other hand, were used to cover the sloping surfaces of a roof and were pierced by a hole to accommodate a wooden peg or an iron nail which fixed the tile to the roof. Nationally, most tiles have a single peg hole, but examples with two peg holes are known (Lewis 1987, 7; Betts 1996, 222).

- 8.6.5 Peg tiles are known in London in late 12th century deposits (Betts 1996, 223), but do not seem to have become widespread until the mid-13th century (Lewis 1987, 7). They remained in use until the early Post Medieval period.
- 8.6.6 There is considerable overlap between the forms of ceramic building material (CBM) used in the medieval and post-medieval periods. In the case of York, for instance, peg tiles remained the dominant method of roofing until the 17th century, and such peg tiles are indistinguishable from medieval examples (Betts 1985, 535).
- 8.6.7 There were some changes, however, from the 17th century onwards pan tiles became the dominant form of roof tile in eastern England. Pavers were introduced for flooring. In the case of brick there was a change in overall size and the method of manufacture. Some forms went out of use due to changes in fashion, notably inlaid floor tiles.
- 8.6.8 In the 17th century brickwork became more widespread (Brunskill 1997, 140), especially in London, which was largely rebuilt in brick following the Great Fire in 1666. There were an increasing number of building acts during the Georgian period to regulate building construction, such as the 1774 Building Act which was drafted by leading architects to control the standard of building and fire-proofing nationwide (Yorke 2007, 40-1).
- 8.6.9 There were some changes in the methods of production in the Post Medieval period. Many bricks were fired in clamps, whereby unbaked bricks were stacked with fuel under or among them. The fuel was then lit to fire the bricks, but the results could be somewhat uneven, with some bricks being overfired and others underfired. In the 17th century, however, Scotch kilns developed, some of which are still in use today because, despite their fuel inefficiency, they produce beautifully coloured bricks (Hammond 2001, 22).

Context	No.	Weight	Date
27/105	15 1.23kg I		Post-medieval
15/04	1	75g	Post-medieval
15/06	1	152g	Post-medieval
6/105	1	177	Post-medieval

Table 2: Tile occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context

8.6.10 Since Trenches 6 and 27 were located close to each other, and on the highest land within the investigation area, this may suggest that a post-medieval building was once located close to these two trenches. However, no foundation stones or other foundation features were identified in any of the two trenches. Considering that the other finds, in the same contexts as the peg tile fragments, could be dated to the post-medieval period it is likely that the pieces of peg tiles

which were uncovered during the evaluation are also post-medieval. The colours, textures and manufacturing methods suggest a similar date.

8.7 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

- 8.7.1 Two palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from two contexts. Sample <1> was taken from fill (34/105) of the prehistoric ditch in Trench 34. Sample <2> was taken from the fill of a ditch in Trench 29 (29/104).
- 8.7.2 Little environmental evidence was present in both residues.

Wood charcoal

- 8.7.3 Flot <1> contained a few charcoal remains, and no seeds remains were present, perhaps due to either lack of preservation or more likely lack of inclusion within the context. Flot <2> contained no evidence of wood charcoal or other organic remains.
- 8.7.4 The recovered Flot <1> is very small (<0.1 litres in volume) and extremely limited in composition. Highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present, but most are too small for species identification. Of the larger fragments, only one has a cross section suitable for identification, and this shows a distinctive 'flame' like ring porous pattern (with large springwood pores and smaller late wood pores) typical of oak (Quercus sp.). Other remains are all but absent, although occasional small fragments of black porous residue (probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic materials) are noted.
- 8.7.5 In summary, the few remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from a very low density of scattered or wind-dispersed refuse, all of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the ditch fill.
- 8.7.6 The current assemblage is too small for further analysis, containing considerably less than 100 individual plant macrofossils. In addition, the material is unsuitable for dating, as small roundwood charcoal and/or other single season materials (for example cereal grains) are absent, and the only identifiable charcoal is that of oak, which rarely provides an accurate date of felling. This assemblage does, however, show that charred plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon, and this factor may be worth noting if further interventions are contemplated.

9. DISCUSSION

General

9.1 The archaeological evaluation was successful in determining the archaeological potential of the development area and the character of any below ground features and deposits. The trial trench design provided a sufficient coverage for location and characterisation of the depth, quality and nature of the archaeological features encountered. The archaeological features were most dense across the western and central areas of the site. The eastern half of the development area proved only modern activity.

Geoarchaeology

9.2 The two Test Pits which were excavated down to 3.5m below ground level proved that close to the Inglebourne River exists an intact waterlogged dark grey humic Alluvium which contains a high percentage of surviving organic remains, most noticeably large wooden fragments assumed to be from a natural submerged forest which originated in the Palaeolithic (40,000–10,000 BC). This Alluvium probably developed after the last glacial maximum, perhaps around 13,000 BC, when climate warming took place and the environment changed from steppe-tundra to birch and pine woodland. This intact land surface did not seem to have suffered erosion and was sealed beneath other layers of successive Alluvial deposits and gravel bands with much less organic content. The timber did not appear to be part of a deliberate construction and showed no evidence of structural elements or of having been purposefully placed. Having said that, it should be stressed that meaningful observations within a narrow and deep test pit have limitations.

Prehistory

9.3 The only prehistoric remains recorded within a 1km study area, prior to this trial trench evaluation, were discovered during an archaeological field walking and geophysical survey carried out at Harold Court Road (HEA 1), c 590m to the south of the site. Two concentrations of burnt flints were discovered, with scattered single flints associated with each concentration. It has been suggested that the presence of such material, on the London Clay, suggests activity or possible seasonal occupation by prehistoric peoples, attracted by the resources of water, food and materials provided by the Ingrebourne River. The characteristic settlements and associated field systems of the Bronze Age, previously present across much of south-eastern Britain, suddenly disappear, in the early to mid Iron Age. It is not until the late Iron Age, the couple of centuries preceding the Roman conquest, that a comparable complexity in landscape and social organisation becomes recognisable again within the archaeological record (Greenwood 1997; Bradley & Yates 2007; Needham 2007).

- 9.4 The two parallel ditches discovered within Trench 34 were both securely dated to the mid Iron Age, which is considered of local/regional significance, given that the clay geology of the majority of the study area is considered to have provided poor conditions for agriculture in the later prehistoric period. Within the study area, this trial trench investigation has been the first comprehensive investigation of a large area of previously undeveloped land with good potential for the survival of archaeological features. The mid Iron Age features which were discovered indicate the London Clay geology of this area was more densely settled during the Iron Age than previously thought, and adds to the growing corpus of evidence. In particular there may be comparisons from the discoveries at North Street in Romford (Bishop, 2005), where mid Iron Age features of settlement during this period in the district of Havering.
- 9.5 The two ditches [34/104] & [34/106] contained a high amount of pottery sherds within their fills, once forming a single vessel. Therefore this would appear to suggest the ditched enclosure was used, or at least known of, at this time, and the pottery may have acted as a 'closure deposit' linked to the end of its use.
- 9.6 The ditch [34/104] was seen to be curving, although not curving enough to be considered an eaves drip gully for a prehistoric round house. The ditch was perhaps enclosing a relatively small space, which was long lasting enough to be re-established with a second ditch. The mid Iron Age activity seems very localised given no other mid Iron Age features were present in the other trenches.
- 9.7 The localised features would fit well with the theory that instead of a widespread decline in occupation during the mid Iron Age, there may have been reorganisation away from the extensive, specialised and perhaps centrally-organised agricultural landscapes of the late Bronze Age and towards a pattern of relatively locally-organised, smaller scale and more mixed farming settlements (Merriman 2000, 45).

Roman

- 9.8 The MOLA desk-based study assessed the potential for buried Roman remains as moderate. The site is situated immediately south of the projected route of the London to Colchester Roman road.
- 9.9 Romford lies astride the main Roman road between London and Colchester, but so far, there is no physical record of any Romano-British settlement in the immediate area, the nearest confirmed site being Chigwell on the Roman road from London to Great Dunmow.
- 9.10 The Roman route from Chelmsford to London is punctuated by the posting station named Durolitum thought somewhere near the Harold Wood railway station. Durolitum then, would seem to have been positioned close to the ford

over Paines Brook, a tributary of the Ingrebourne River, though it is unknown on which bank of the stream the station was actually constructed.

9.11 Although two additional 10m long trenches (T43 & 44) were positioned as close to the northern site boundary as possible, no trace of any Roman road was observed in any of the trenches. It is therefore considered with a high confidence that the Roman road did not cross through the development area and is either beneath the existing A12 or further to the north.

Medieval

- 9.12 Two ditches, one discovered in Trench 29 & one in Trench 3 contained medieval pottery sherds spanning the 12th to late 13th century AD.
- 9.13 The location of a possible 15th-century house is recorded by the GLHER, 500m south-west of the site (HEA 12). It was considered at the desk based stage that it is likely that throughout most of this period, the site lay within woodland, or possibly pastures along the very eastern edge of the royal manor. The medieval ditches discovered during this trial trench evaluation indicate there was more use of this land than envisaged, and the ditches discovered may have been associated with the grounds of the medieval manor, and perhaps once defined the boundaries of cultivated fields.

Post-medieval to Modern

- 9.14 Trench 27 contained a post-medieval ditch with a high amount of peg (roof) tile, which indicates there may have been a post-medieval building somewhere on the vicinity not shown on historic maps.
- 9.15 Trench 15 contained late post-medieval/modern finds within the ditches and postholes which mean they have once been part of a small industrial area of unknown purpose. The modern date of the finds within the fills of the features prove that this area is not of archaeological significance.

Summary

9.16 The mid Iron Age features are considered of local/regional importance given the relative rarity of features from this period on a clay geology. The medieval features are also of local interest as they show the development area was also used, probably for agricultural use, such as ploughing, during the 12th through to at least the end of the 13th century AD.

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APPENDIX 1; ALL TRENCHES SUMMARY TABLE

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
1	n	556099	191936	0.25	0.04	41.91	41.62
1	S	556099	191912	0.15	0.01	41.11	40.95
2	n	556111	191901	0.25	0.02	40.13	39.86
2	S	556118	191878	0.25	0.01	38.84	38.58
3	n	556141	191876	0.40	0.05	39.37	38.92
3	S	556154	191854	0.35	0.02	38.27	37.90
4	nw	556146	191842	0.18	0.00	37.79	37.61
4	se	556165	191824	0.15	0.00	36.75	36.52
5	ne	556147	191919	0.30	0.04	40.16	39.82
5	sw	556140	191894	0.17	0.00	39.75	39.58
6	nw	556147	191935	0.30	0.01	39.53	39.22
6	se	556154	191935	0.25	0.00	38.37	38.12

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
7	nw	556168	191922	0.40	0.07	39.44	38.97
7	se	556191	191913	0.45	0.05	39.47	38.97
8	ne	556200	191905	0.30	0.01	38.11	37.80
8	sw	556182	191888	0.45	0.11	38.48	37.92
9	nw	556206	191916	0.30	0.03	37.98	37.65
9	se	556230	191907	0.40	0.00	37.14	36.74
10	ne	556192	191980	0.50	0.10	38.74	37.70
10	SW	556170	919964	0.45	0.06	38.69	38.18
11	n	556207	191974	0.30	0.04	38.52	38.18
11	S	566214	191950	0.24	0.00	37.52	37.28
12	ne	556234	191981	0.35	0.06	37.94	37.53
12	sw	556224	191958	0.28	0.00	37.39	37.11
13	ne	556212	192002	0.50	0.13	39.20	38.57
13	sw	556194	191994	0.50	0.08	39.24	38.66
14	ne	556234	192019	0.40	0.05	38.74	39.19

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
14	sw	556219	192007	0.50	0.08	39.20	38.62
15	ne	556406	192100	0.50	0.05	31.69	31.15
15	sw	556401	192075	0.50	0.06	31.70	31.14
16	nw	556393	192072	0.50	0.05	32.20	31.65
16	se	556417	192063	0.28	0.00	31.40	31.12
17	ne	556403	192062	0.22	0.00	31.57	31.35
17	sw	556398	192037	0.28	0.00	31.24	30.96
18	ne	556138	191923	0.26	0.00	39.72	39.46
18	sw	556118	191909	0.20	0.00	39.94	39.74
19	nw	556109	191869	0.18	0.00	38.72	38.55
19	se	556131	191850	0.25	0.009	37.77	37.53
20	nw	556110	191845	0.30	0.03	37.76	37.43
20	se	556132	191832	0.18	0.00	36.71	36.53
21	nw	556134	191790	0.40	0.04	36.24	35.80
21	se	556155	191177	0.30	0.05	35.19	34.84

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
22	nw	556168	191763	0.51	0.00	34.74	34.23
22	se	556189	191751	0.45	0.06	33.72	33.21
23	n	556174	191812	0.23	0.00	36.10	35.87
23	S	556167	191788	0.24	0.00	35.34	35.15
24	nw	556185	191833	0.30	0.05	36.83	36.47
24	se	556208	191820	0.20	0.00	35.71	35.57
25	n	556221	191822	0.25	0.00	36.29	35.86
25	S	556243	191810	0.26	0.00	35.16	34.90
26	n	556171	191881	0.30	0.01	38.80	38.49
26	S	556163	191862	0.35	0.08	38.31	37.92
27	ne	556144	191973	0.40	0.02	40.02	39.66
27	sw	556142	191944	0.17	0.00	39.78	38.97
28	nw	556174	191948	0.40	0,05	38.39	37.94
28	se	556195	191935	0.31	0.00	37.43	37.12
29	n	556244	191902	0.25	0.00	36.66	36.41

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
29	S	556238	191877	0.30	0.10	36.13	35.73
30	nw	556250	191910	0.30	0.05	36.52	36.16
30	se	556272	191897	0.35	0.05	35.48	35.08
31	w	556257	191920	0.40	0.07	36.72	36.25
31	е	556282	191920	0.25	0.03	36.07	35.82
32	ne	556247	191947	0.30	0.04	37.94	37.60
32	sw	556231	191927	0.25	0.00	37.41	37.18
33	n	556261	191991	0.35	0.08	36.98	36.57
33	S	556255	191967	0.30	0.03	37.05	36.72
34	nw	556222	192003	0.30	0.06	38.80	38.34
34	se	556243	191996	0.40	0.15	37.50	36.95
35	n	556264	192033	0.40	0.03	37.63	37.20
35	S	556253	192011	0.45	0.15	37.77	37.16
36	ne	556296	192046	0.45	0.08	36.38	35.87
36	sw	556290	192022	0.45	0.04	36.41	35.90

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
37	ne	556361	192088	0.26	0.00	33.28	33.12
37	sw	556337	192072	0.25	0.00	34.19	33.92
38	е	556396	192105	0.45	0.14	32.10	31.69
38	w	556374	192098	0.30	0.05	32.81	32.46
39	ne	556363	192086	0.20	0.01	33.07	32.96
39	sw	556354	192055	0.40	0.03	33.51	33.08
40	nw	556342	192054	0.17	0.00	33.67	33.50
40	se	556366	192046	0.60	0.10	33.07	32.67
41	nw	556412	192048	0.30	0.08	31.14	30.76
41	se	556434	192033	0.30	0.04	30.19	29.84
42	ne	556420	192030	0.30	0.05	30.56	30.21
42	sw	556413	192006	0.20	0.00	30.54	30.34
43	nw	56091	91950	0.25	0.00	1	/
43	se	56097	91941	0.30	0.00	1	/
44	nw	56158	91984	0.27	0.05	/	/

Trench No	Orientation	Northing	Eastern	Depth of Topsoil	Depth of subsoil	Top of Trench AOD	Base of Trench AOD
44	se	56164	91975	0.30	0.20	1	1

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APPENDIX 2: SPECIALIST ASSESSMENTS OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

Appendix 2a: The Tile by Christer Carlsson

The assemblage is considered to hold limited archaeological interest and a discard policy will be discussed with the Museum of London.

Appendix 2b: The Environmental Residue by Val Fryer

The current assemblage is too small for further analysis, containing considerably less than 100 individual plant macrofossils. In addition, the material is unsuitable for dating, as small roundwood charcoal and/or other single season materials (for example cereal grains) are absent, and the only identifiable charcoal is that of oak, which rarely provides an accurate date of felling. This assemblage does, however, show that charred plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon, and this factor may be worth noting if further interventions are contemplated.

Appendix 2c: The Geoarchaeological potential

Geoarchaeological stratigraphic data from the two test pits are isolated and there are no known sites close by for comparisons. Test pit 1 reached a clear deposit of late Pleistocene Alluvium at over 3m from the existing ground level with a clear contact with the overlying head deposits above it. The Alluvium was waterlogged and contained a high percentage of organic remains, including tree fragments. The waterlogged Alluvium is localised to the banks of the existing river and therefore outside the area of development. There is potential for further study of this Alluvium and it would benefit from further palaeoenvironmental sampling and radiocarbon dating to provide an absolute date for when it ceased to accumulate. However, given there would be no impact this research is not considered commercially appropriate.

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APPENDIX 3: SELECTED PHOTOS

Oak Farm Cemetery, Maylands Fields, Havering, London: Archaeological Evaluation Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Photo 1: Trench 34; Ditch [34/104] & Ditch [34/106]



Photo 4: Trench 15 extension looking north.



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Photo 3: Trench 34 looking south-west



Photo 4: Trench 27 looking north-west



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Photo 6: Trench 29 Looking north east

Photo 7: Trench 29, Ditch [29/104] looking south



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Photo 7: Test Pit 1 looking northwest

Photo 8: Wooden branch/trunk fragment from Alluvium





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Photo 9: Test pit 2 showing gravel layer in section



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Appendix 5; Figure 2.

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Appendix 5: Figure 3

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Appendix 5; Figure 4

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Appendix 5; Figure 5



C	Location overview
	Planning red line boundary
	Tranch logation
	Archaeology
	Reference drawings
/	
/	Client
	Oradam (D.
	Gargens of Peace
	Archaeological Trial Trench
	Evaluation
	Gardens of Peace Havering
	Greater London
	Drawn PR Coordination G.C.
	Dwg check CC Approved GC
	Scale at A1 Status Rev Security
	Rev01 Rev01
	Drawing Number

	[11/ 104]	
	Section 11.1; Pit/treehole section (11/105) [11/104]	
	Plan of Trench 26	
0	$\begin{array}{c} (26/107) \\ S. 26/109) \\ S. 26.1 \\ S. 26/108] \\ S. 26/106] \\ S. 26/104] \\ S.$	
	Section 26.1; SE facing Section 26.2: SE facing Section 26.3; West facing section of [26/108] section of [26 106] section of [26/104]	
	(26/109) [26/108] [26/108] [26/106] [26/106]	
Plan of Trench 39	Section 39.1: East facing section of $[39/104]$ (39/105) [39/104]	
Plan of Trench 39	5, 39, [[39/104] Section 39.1: East facing section of [39/104] (39/105) [39/104] Trench 6	
Plan of Trench 39 Plan of	Section 39.1: East facing section of [39/104] (39/105) [39/104] Trench 6	









