STONEHILL BUSINESS PARK, HARBERT ROAD, ENFIELD (SITE CODE: SBP14): GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AND DEPOSIT MODEL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological fieldwork and deposit modelling undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development of land at Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield (Site Code: SBP14; National Grid Reference: TQ 3593 9185; Figure 1). Quaternary Scientific were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake the geoarchaeological investigations. The site is in the lower valley of the River Lea, bordered to the west by the River Lee Navigation channel and *ca*. 150m to the north and west of the River Lea diversion (Figure 1). The site lies *ca*. 200m to the northwest of the Banbury Reservoir. The mouth of the River Lea (known as Bow Creek), at its confluence with the Thames, lies *ca*. 10km to the south. The British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Sheet 257 Romford 1996) shows the site underlain by Alluvium, described as comprising mainly sand, silt and clay with some gravel, resting on London Clay bedrock. In fact, the Holocene alluvium of the Lower Thames and its tributaries is almost everywhere underlain by Late Devensian Late Glacial Gravels (in the Thames valley, the Shepperton Gravel of Gibbard, 1985, 1994; in the Lea valley, the Lea Valley Gravel of Gibbard, 1994).

The site lies within the area that has been investigated in the Lea Valley Mapping Project (Corcoran *et al*., 2011). In this project the Lea Valley has been divided into Landscape Zones characterised by their Holocene landscape history based largely on sedimentary evidence derived from borehole records. The Stonehill Business Park site lies on the eastern edge of Landscape Zone 4.5. In Zone 4.5 Corcoran *et al*. (2011) suggest that the Lea Valley Gravel surface lies at between *ca*. 7 and 9m OD, falling gradually from north to south. Corcoran *et al*. (2011)'s Map 4 Transect 2 traverses the northern part of the site, and BGS borehole TQ39SE357 (just outside the northeastern part of the site) shows the Gravel surface lying at 8.8m OD, overlain by 1.2m of possible organic Alluvium. The areas of relatively low Gravel surface in this zone are described by Corcoran *et al.* (2011) as having the 'potential to preserve fine-grained deposits dating to the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene', including Mesolithic peat horizons. Peat deposits are described as 'most common across a 1km area

in LZ4.5 at the boundary with LZ4.4', *ca*. 500m to the north of the present site, 'at depths of a maximum of 2m'.

Geotechnical boreholes were put down at the site by Enviros Aspinwall in 1999 and 2002. Although no OD heights are available for these boreholes, they demonstrate a sequence of London Clay bedrock overlain by Gravel, Alluvium and Made Ground. The study site is described as lying at *ca*. 10-11m OD. The surface of the Lea Valley Gravel across the site appears to fall towards the north and east, generally lying at between *ca*. 2.5 and 3.5m below ground surface (bgs) towards the south and west, and between 3.5 and 4.5m bgs in the northeast in an area mapped by Enviros Aspinwall as 'associated with a former river channel'. Variable thicknesses of Alluvium are recorded overlying the Gravel (between 0.3 and 4.3m), with generally greater thicknesses recorded towards the northeast. The Alluvium is organic in places, and in the northernmost borehole (CP3) Peat is recorded between 2.85 and 3.0m bgs.

The aims of the geoarchaeological investigations at the site were: (1) to clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy, in particular the presence and thickness of Alluvium (including Peat) across the site, and (2) to evaluate the potential of the sedimentary sequences for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. In order to achieve this aim, four geoarchaeological boreholes were put down at the site. A programme of deposit modelling was then undertaken, as outlined in the written scheme of investigation for the site (Young, 2014). This process incorporated:

1. Recording the lithostratigraphy of the new geoarchaeological borehole sequences to clarify the nature of the subsurface stratigraphy at the site, and to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the sedimentary history;
2. To use the stratigraphic data from the new locations and existing records to produce a deposit model of the major depositional units across the site.

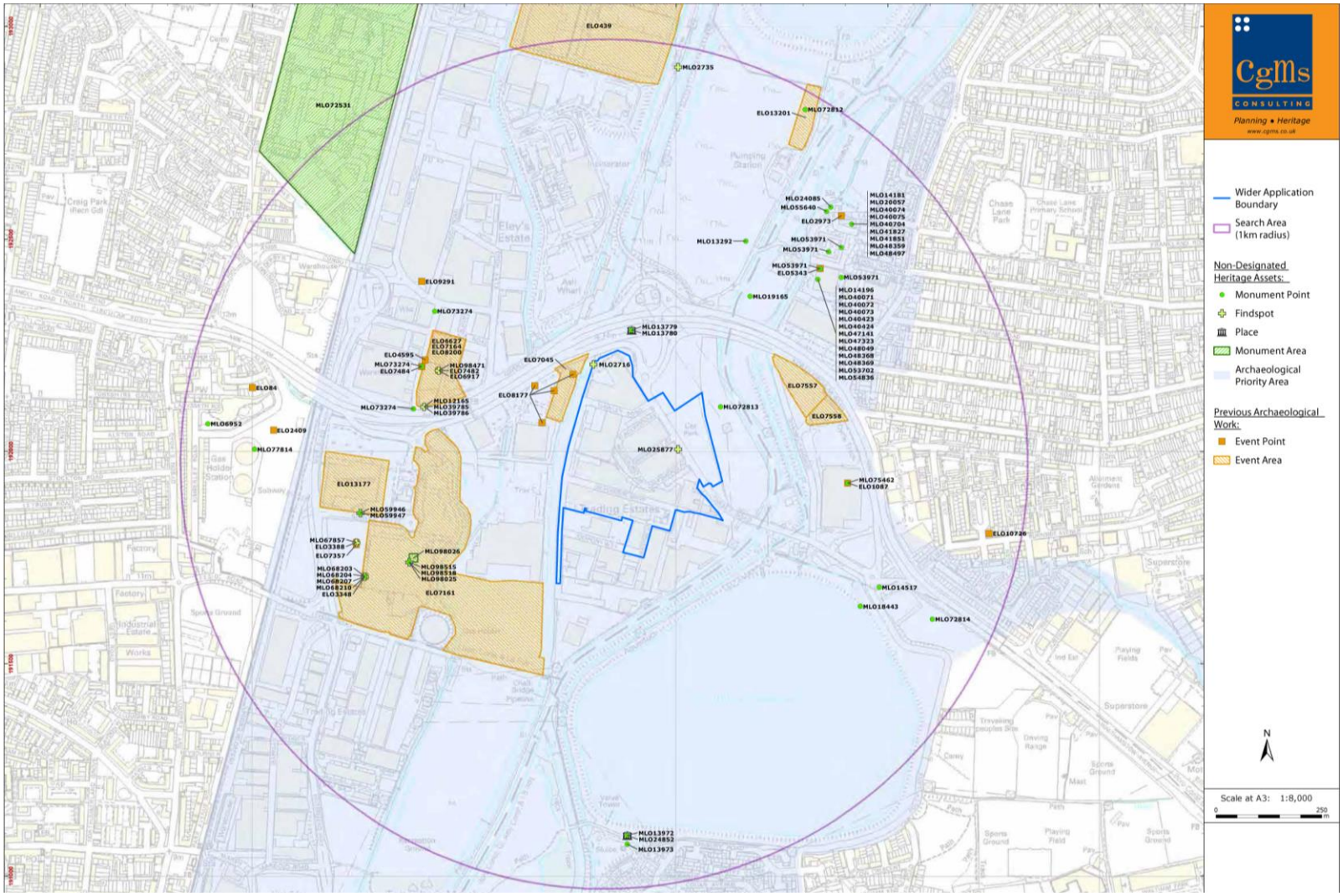

Figure 1: Location of Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield with associated HER data (figure provided by CgMs Consulting [Meager, 2014]).

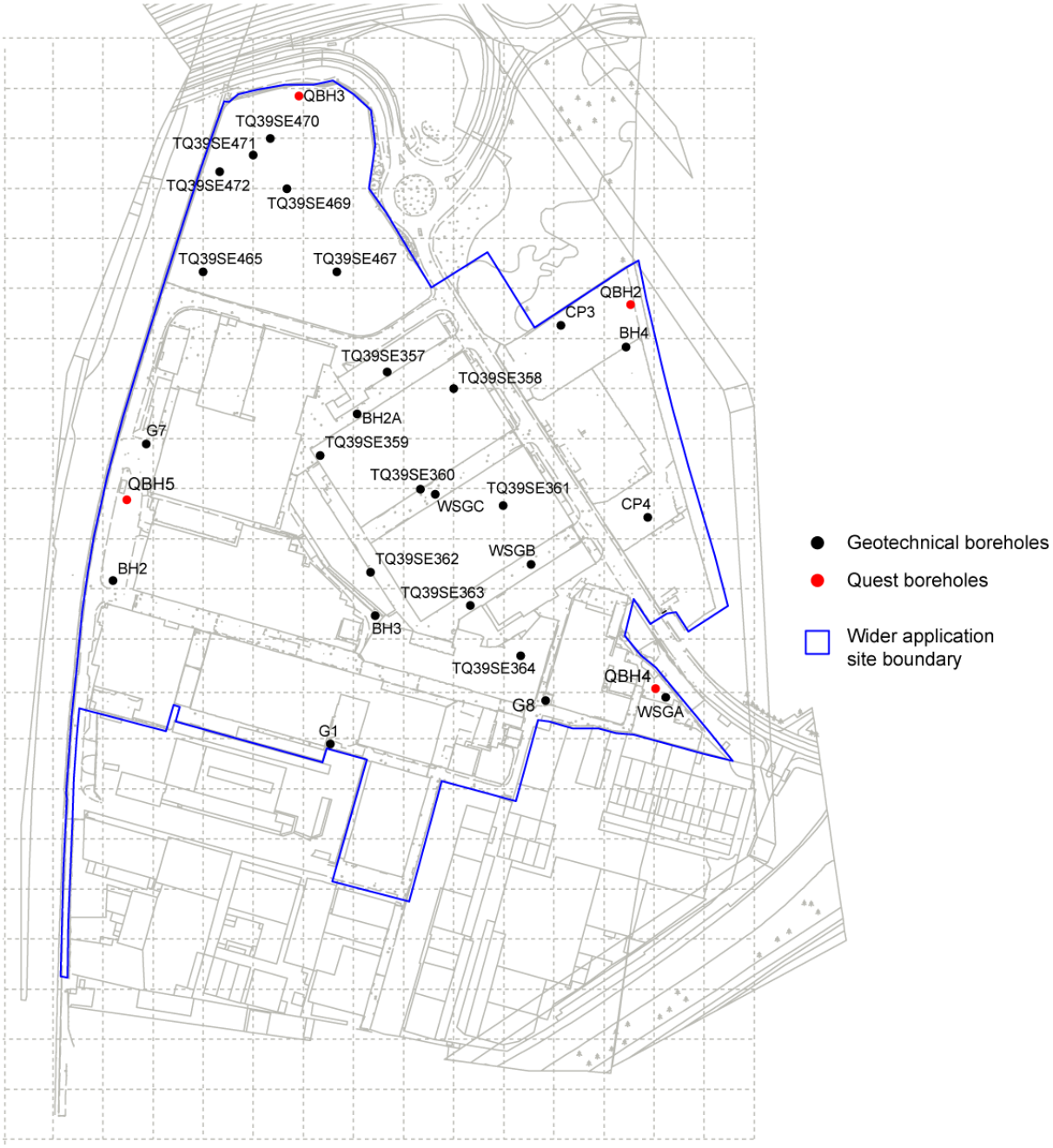

Figure 2: Location of the new geoarchaeological (red) and existing geotechnical (including BGS records (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience) boreholes (black) used in the deposit model at Stonehill Business Park. Original figure provided by CgMs Consulting.

METHODS

Field investigations and lithostratigraphic descriptions

Four geoarchaeological boreholes (boreholes QBH2 to QBH5) were put down at the site in September 2014 (Figure 2) by Quaternary Scientific. A proposed fifth borehole in the southern area of the site (QBH1; see Young, 2014) was not put down due to issues regarding access for site occupants in this area of the site at the time of the fieldwork. Borehole core samples were recovered using an Eijkelkamp window sampler and gouge set using an Atlas Copco TT 2-stroke percussion engine. This coring technique is a suitable method for the recovery of continuous, undisturbed core samples and provides sub-samples suitable for not only sedimentary and microfossil assessment and analysis, but also macrofossil analysis. The borehole locations were recorded using a Leica GS09 Differential GPS (Table 1). The lithostratigraphy of the retained core samples was described in the laboratory using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment and organic sediments, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter) and inclusions (e.g. artefacts) (Tröels-Smith, 1955). The procedure involved: (1) cleaning the sample using a scalpel; (2) recording the physical properties, most notably colour using a Munsell Soil Colour Chart; (3) recording the composition; gravel (Grana glareosa; Gg), fine sand (Grana arenosa; Ga), silt (Argilla granosa; Ag) and clay (Argilla steatoides); (4) recording the degree of peat humification and (5) recording the unit boundaries e.g. sharp or diffuse. The results of the geoarchaeological descriptions of the boreholes are displayed in Tables 2 to 5. The spatial attributes of the new geotechnical records are displayed in Table 1 and in Figure 2.

Table 1: Borehole attributes for those records used in the deposit model, Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

Borehole	Easting	Northing	Elevation (m OD)
Geoarchaeological boreholes			
QBH2	536055.98	192110.37	11.63
QBH3	535857.24	192235.35	11.21
QBH4	536070.74	191880.36	10.47
QBH5	535754.43	191993.47	10.76
Geotechnical boreholes (Enviros Aspinwall, 1999; 2002)			
BH2A	535892.00	192045.00	11.30*
CP3	536014.00	192098.00	11.50*
CP4	536066.00	191983.00	11.50*
G7	535766.00	192027.00	10.80*
G8	536005.00	191873.00	12.50*
WSGA	536077.00	191875.00	10.50*
WSGB	535996.00	191955.00	12.30*
WSGC	535939.00	191997.00	12.20*
BH2	535746.00	191945.00	10.80*

Borehole	Easting	Northing	Elevation (m OD)
BH3	535903.00	191924.00	12.30*
BH4	536053.00	192085.00	11.50*
BH2A	535892.00	192045.00	11.30*
CP3	536014.00	192098.00	11.50*
CP4	536066.00	191983.00	11.50*
G7	535766.00	192027.00	10.80*
G8	536005.00	191873.00	12.50*
WSGA	536077.00	191875.00	10.50*
WSGB	535996.00	191955.00	12.30*
WSGC	535939.00	191997.00	12.20*
BH2	535746.00	191945.00	10.80*
BH3	535903.00	191924.00	12.30*
BH4	536053.00	192085.00	11.50*
BGS borehole records			
TQ39SE364	535990.00	191900.00	12.56
TQ39SE363	535960.00	191930.00	12.34
TQ39SE362	535900.00	191950.00	12.30
TQ39SE360	535930.00	192000.00	12.26
TQ39SE361	535980.00	191990.00	12.53
TQ39SE357	535910.00	192070.00	11.40
TQ39SE358	535950.00	192060.00	12.28
TQ39SE359	535870.00	192020.00	11.25
TQ39SE467	535880.00	192130.00	12.16
TQ39SE465	535800.00	192130.00	11.28
TQ39SE469	535850.00	192180.00	12.89
TQ39SE472	535810.00	192190.00	12.77
TQ39SE471	535830.00	192200.00	13.14
TQ39SE470	535840.00	192210.00	13.41

**estimated based on existing survey data*

Deposit modelling

The deposit model was based on a review of 29 borehole records, incorporating the four new geoarchaeological boreholes, ten geotechnical boreholes put down by Enviros Aspinwall (1999 and 2002), and 14 BGS borehole records (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience) within the site (Figure 2). Modelling was undertaken using RockWorks 16 geological utilities software. The term 'deposit modelling' describes any method used to depict the sub-surface arrangement of geological deposits, but particularly the use of computer software to create contoured maps or three dimensional representations of contacts between stratigraphic units. The first requirement is to classify the recorded borehole sequences into uniformly identifiable stratigraphic units. At the Stonehill Business Park site sedimentary units from the boreholes were classified into five groupings: (1) Gravel, (2) Lower Alluvium, (3) Peat, (4) Upper Alluvium and (5) Made Ground. Models of surface height (using a nearest neighbour routine) were generated for the Gravel and Upper Alluvium (Figures 5 and 7). Thickness of

the Peat (Figure 6), combined Alluvium (incorporating the Lower Alluvium, Peat and Upper Alluvium (Figure 8) and Made Ground (Figure 9) was also modelled (also using a nearest neighbour routine).

How effectively Rockworks portrays the relief features of stratigraphic contacts or the thickness of sediment bodies depends on the number of data points (boreholes/test pits) per unit area and the extent to which these points are evenly distributed across the area of interest. The portrayal is also affected by the significance assigned to these data points, in terms of the extent of the area around the point to which the data are deemed to apply. This can be predetermined for each data set, and in the present case the value chosen each data point (borehole) is equivalent to an area of 100m radius around each borehole.

Although the boreholes are well distributed at the present site, the boreholes are not uniformly distributed over the area of investigation and the reliability of the models is variable. Reliability is also affected by the quality of the stratigraphic records which in turn are affected by the nature of the sediments and/or their post-depositional disturbance during previous stages of land-use on the site. Quality is also affected where boreholes have been put down at different times and recorded using different descriptive terms and subject to differing technical constraints in terms of recorded detail including the exact levels of the stratigraphic boundaries. Of the records used in the deposit model, the cores from the boreholes put down or monitored by Quaternary Scientific represent the most detailed record of the sediment sequences. Finally, because of the 'smoothing' effect of the modelling procedure, the modelled levels of stratigraphic contacts may differ slightly from the levels recorded in borehole logs.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS AND DEPOSIT MODELLING

The geoarchaeological investigations (Tables 2 to 5) have permitted a programme of deposit modelling of the surface elevation and thickness of each major stratigraphic unit (Figures 3 to 9). The basal unit at the site is a horizon of sand and gravel, the surface of which lies at between 9.9 and 6.7m OD (Figures 3 to 5). This horizon is interpreted as the Lea Valley Gravel of Gibbard (1985), deposited during the Late Devensian (10-15,000 years before present) within a high energy braided river environment. The surface of this unit is variable (see Figure 5), with higher areas of Gravel towards the north of the site in the area of boreholes TQ39SE469 (9.69m OD) TQ39SE470 (9.9m OD), TQ39SE471 (9.79m OD) and

TQ39SE472 (9.72m OD); and in the southern area of the site, in the area of boreholes TQ39SE362 (9.56m OD), BH3 (9.40m OD) and G8 (9.65m OD). Lower Gravel surfaces are recorded across the middle of the site, in the area of boreholes BH2A (7.7m OD), TQ39SE357 (7.59m OD) and TQ39SE359 (6.68m OD); and towards the east and southwest of the site, where the Gravel surface is recorded at 7.06m OD in QBH5, 6.97m OD in QBH2 and 6.7m OD in QBH4. The lower Gravel surfaces recorded in these areas may be indicative of former channels of the River Lea, aligned broadly north-south in the eastern part of the site, and northeast-southwest across the middle of the site. The higher areas of Gravel identified between these channels are likely to have represented higher, drier Gravel islands which may have been utilised by Prehistoric people.

In the majority of borehole records the Gravel is overlain by a horizon of frequently sandy silt, with occasional gravel inclusions. Where this unit is recorded it is similar in nature to the Lower Alluvium recorded elsewhere in the Lower Thames Valley and its tributaries, the sediments of which were deposited during the Early to Mid-Holocene, as the energy of flow decreased and the Lea probably became confined to a single meandering channel. A horizon of Peat between 0.45 and 0.15m thick (see Figures 3 and 6) is recorded within the Lower Alluvium in three boreholes, between 8.65 and 8.50m OD (CP3), 6.77 and 6.32m OD (TQ39SE360) and 7.25 and 7.10m OD (TQ39SE358). In borehole TQ39SE358 the Peat directly overlies the Gravel. Significantly, the Peat horizon is indicative of a transition towards a semi-terrestrial environment, supporting the growth of wetland vegetation and which may have been utilised by prehistoric people. The Peat horizon is confined to the centre of the site, within the area of the lower Gravel surface associated with the possible northeast-southwest aligned palaeochannel. However, no Peat was recorded within boreholes QBH2 or QBH5, also put down within this feature, or several of the geotechnical records in this area, indicating that the Peat is present in localised areas and its accumulation may have been limited to floodplain hollows rather than forming a continuous horizon across the site. It is of note that no organic units that might be interpreted as soil horizons were identified overlying the Gravel in the area of the Gravel highs identified above. Although the new geoarchaeological boreholes were not put down immediately on top of these Gravel highs, no organic horizons were recorded in borehole QBH3 (in which a relatively high Gravel surface of 8.23m OD was recorded), put down just to the north of one of these features.

In those boreholes where Alluvium is recorded above *ca*. 9.0m OD, it is generally more clay-rich, and is more similar in character to the Upper Alluvium frequently recorded in the Lower

Thames Valley and its tributaries and indicative of sediment accumulation on the floodplain at a distance from any active channels. The surface of the Holocene Alluvium lies at between *ca*. 8 and 10.5m OD across the site (Figure 7), where in all boreholes it is directly overlain by Made Ground. In general the total thickness of the Holocene Alluvium (incorporating the Lower Alluvium, Peat (where present) and Upper Alluvium) is greatest in the eastern and western areas of the site (partly, but not confined to, where the Gravel surface is lower; Figure 8), where it is generally between 2.0 and 3.0m thick. Through the middle of the site, including above the higher areas of Gravel recorded towards the north and south, the Alluvium is generally between 0.5 and 1.0m thick. The thickness of Made Ground across the site is generally greatest towards the centre of the site, where in places it is up to 5m in thickness (Figure 9). The modern surface elevation of the site is between *ca*. 11 and 13m OD.

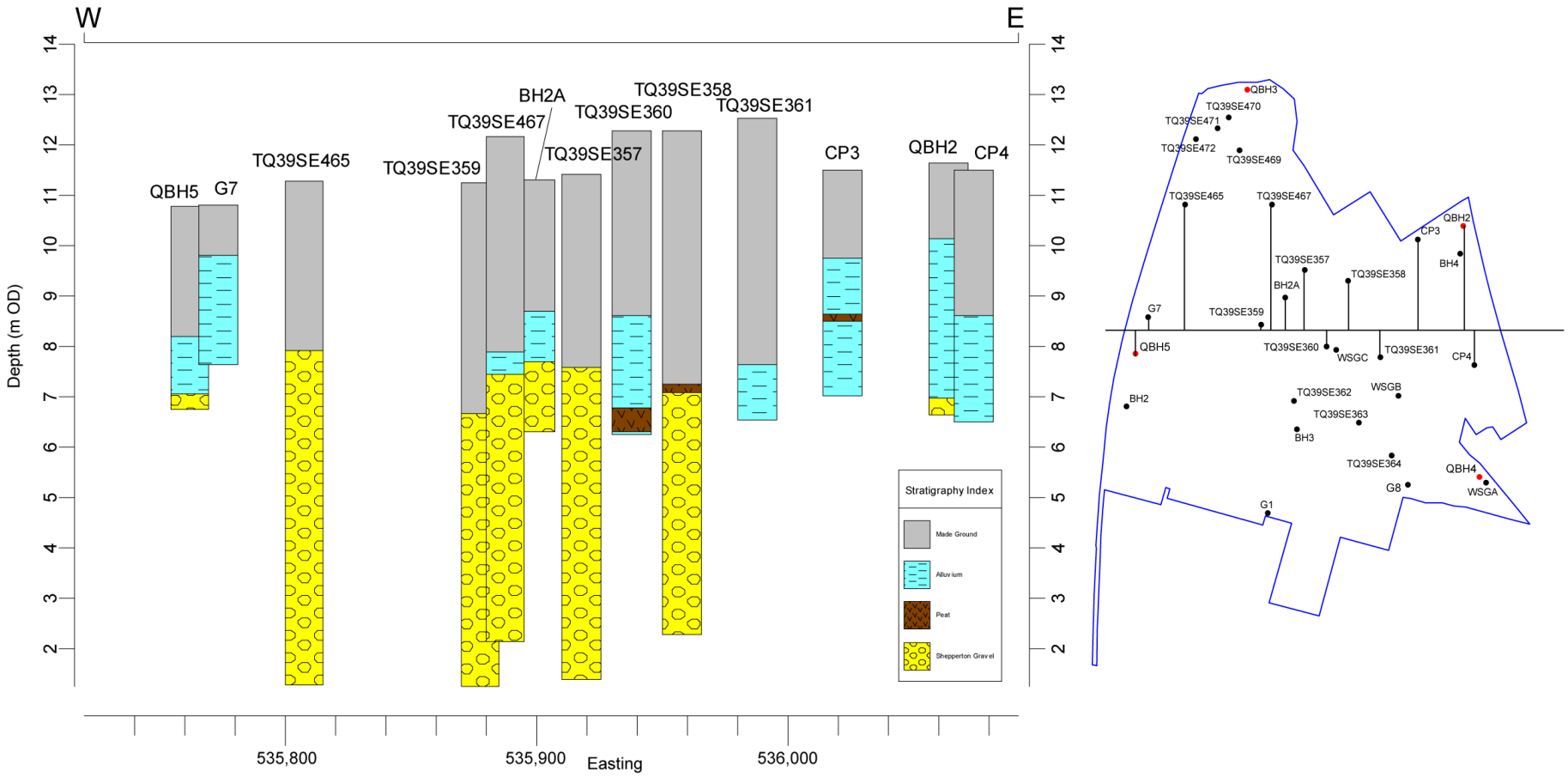

Figure 3: West-East transect of selected boreholes across the site at Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

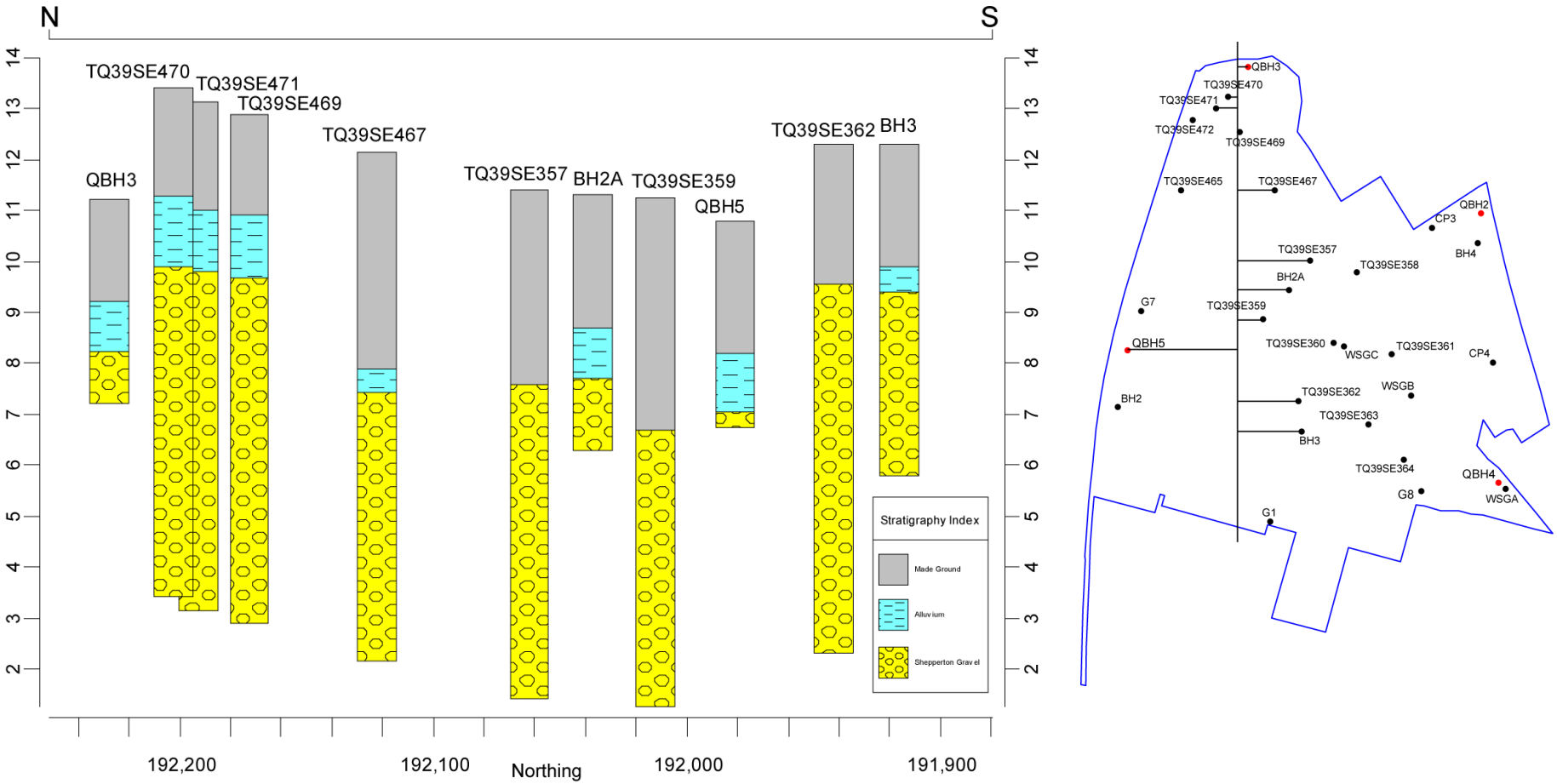

Figure 4: North-South transect of selected boreholes across the site at Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

Table 2: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH2, Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgs)	Description
11.63 to 10.63	0.00 to 1.00	Made Ground
10.63 to 10.13	1.00 to 1.50	Made Ground/redeposited Alluvium
10.13 to 8.90	1.50 to 2.73	Gley 1 4/10Y; As3 Ag1 Ga+; dark greenish grey silty clay with a trace of sand. Diffuse contact in to:
8.90 to 8.63	2.73 to 3.00	Gley 1 4/10Y; As2 Ag2; dark greenish grey silt and clay. Colour change at Xm OD to Gley 1 3/N very dark grey.
8.63 to 8.42	3.00 to 3.21	10YR 4/2; As2 Ag1 Ga1; dark greyish brown silty sandy clay. Sharp contact in to:
8.42 to 8.23	3.21 to 3.40	Gley 1 5/10Y; Ga2 Ag1 Gg1; greenish grey silty sand with gravel. Sharp contact in to:
8.23 to 8.06	3.40 to 3.57	Gley 1 4/10Y; Ag2 As1 Ga1; dark greenish grey sandy clayey silt with horizontal bedding. Sharp contact in to:
8.06 to 7.87	3.57 to 3.76	Ga2 Gg2; sand and gravel. Sharp contact in to:
7.87 to 7.63	3.76 to 4.00	Gley 1 3/10Y; As3 Ag1 Ga; dark greenish grey silty clay with a trace of sand.
7.63 to 7.33	4.00 to 4.30	10YR 4/3; Ag2 As2 Ga+; brown silt and clay with a trace of sand. Sharp contact in to:
7.33 to 6.97	4.30 to 4.66	10YR 3/1; Ga3 Ag1 As+ Gg+; very dark grey silty sand with a trace of clay and occasional gravel clasts. Sharp contact in to:
6.97 to 6.76	4.66 to 4.87	Ga2 Gg2; sand and gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to well-rounded, up to 20mm in diameter. Sharp contact in to:
6.76 to 6.63	4.87 to 5.00	Gg3 Ga1; sandy gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to well-rounded, up to 20mm in diameter.

Table 3: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH3, Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgs)	Description
11.21 to 10.21	0.00 to 1.00	Made Ground
10.21 to 9.21	1.00 to 2.00	Made Ground/redeposited Alluvium
9.21 to 8.70	2.00 to 2.51	10YR 5/3; As3 Ag1; brown silty clay. Diffuse contact in to:
8.70 to 8.29	2.51 to 2.92	10YR 4/1; Ag3 As1; dark grey clayey silt. Sharp contact in to:
8.29 to 8.23	2.92 to 2.98	10YR 2/1; Ag2 As2 Ga+ Gg+; black clay and silt with a trace of sand and occasional gravel clasts. Sharp contact in to:
8.23 to 8.21	2.98 to 3.00	10YR 5/4; Gg2 Ga1 Ag1; yellowish brown sand and gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to well-rounded, up to 20mm in diameter.
8.21 to 7.21	3.00 to 4.00	10YR 5/4; Gg3 Ga1 Ag1; yellowish brown silty sandy gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to sub-rounded, up to 20mm in diameter.

Table 4: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH4, Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgs)	Description

10.47 to 7.87	0.00 to 2.60	Made Ground
7.87 to 7.47	2.60 to 3.00	10YR 4/1; As2 Ag2 Ga+; dark grey silt and clay with a trace of sand.
7.47 to 6.83	3.00 to 3.64	10YR 4/1; Ag2 As1 Ga1; dark grey clayey sandy silt. Diffuse contact in to:
6.83 to 6.70	3.64 to 3.77	10YR 4/1; Ga2 Ag1 As1; dark grey clayey silty sand. Sharp contact in to:
6.70 to 6.47	3.77 to 4.00	Gg3 Ga1; sandy gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to well-rounded, up to 40mm in diameter.

Table 5: Lithostratigraphic description of borehole QBH5, Stonehill Business Park, Harbert Road, Enfield

Depth (m OD)	Depth (m bgs)	Description
10.76 to 8.76	0.00 to 2.00	Made Ground
8.76 to 8.18	2.00 to 2.58	Made Ground/redeposited Alluvium
8.18 to 7.95	2.58 to 2.81	Gley 1 4/N; Ag3 As1; dark greenish grey clayey silt with some iron staining. Diffuse contact in to:
7.95 to 7.67	2.81 to 3.09	Gley 1 2.5/N; Ag3 As1 Dl+; black clayey silt with a trace of detrital wood. Sharp contact in to:
7.67 to 7.30	3.09 to 3.46	Gley 1 4/10Y; Ag2 As1 Ga1; dark greenish grey sandy clayey wilt. Sharp contact in to:
7.30 to 7.18	3.46 to 3.58	Ga3 Gg1; gravelly sand. Diffuse contact in to:
7.18 to 7.11	3.58 to 3.65	Gg3 Ga1; sandy gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to well-rounded, up to 20mm in diameter. Sharp contact in to:
7.11 to 7.06	3.65 to 3.70	10YR 4/1; Ga2 Ag2; dark grey silt and sand. Sharp contact in to:
7.06 to 6.76	3.70 to 4.00	Gg3 Ga1; sandy gravel. Gravel clasts are flint, sub-angular to well-rounded, up to 30mm in diameter.

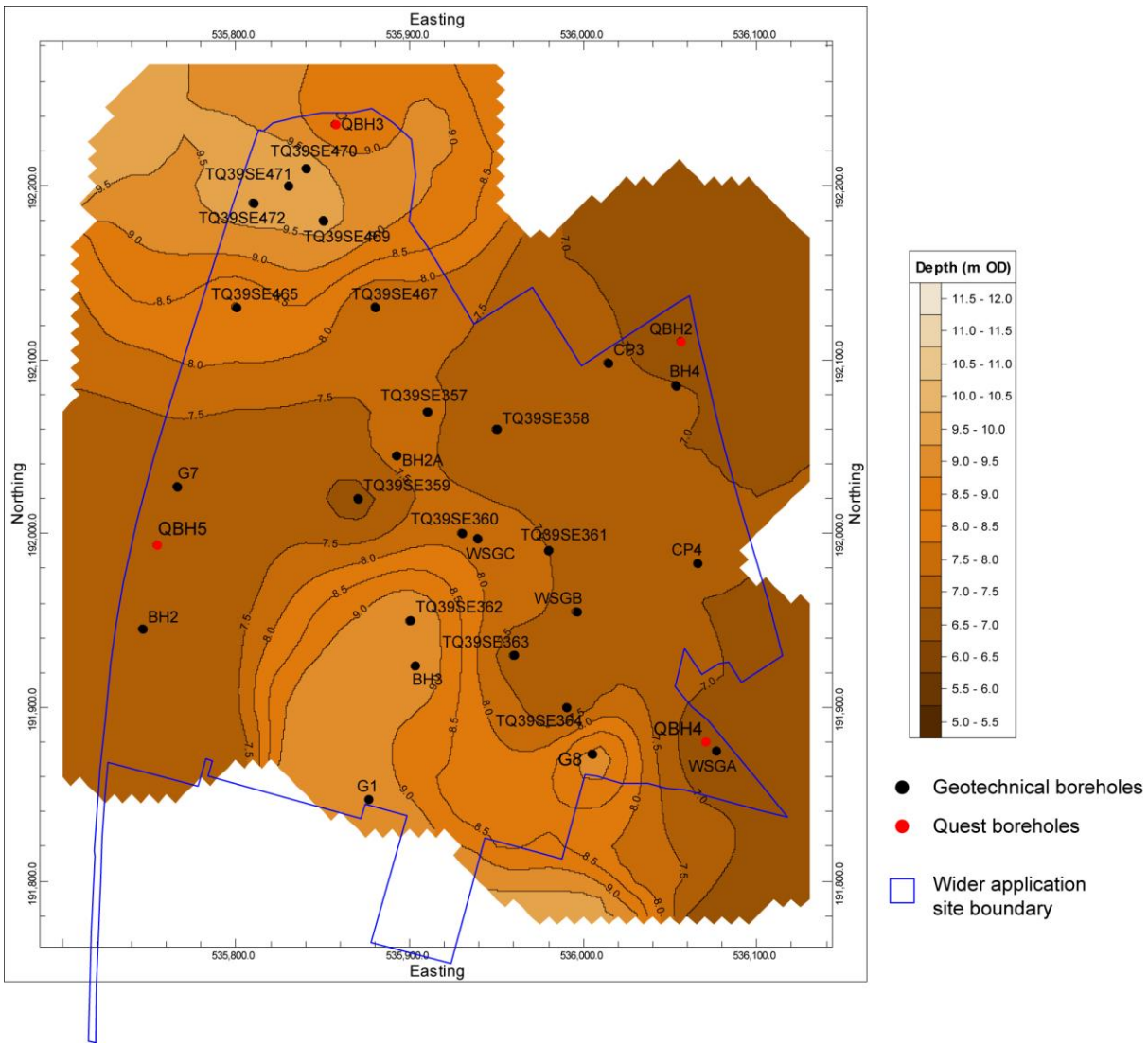

Figure 5: Top of the Gravel (m OD) (site outline in red)

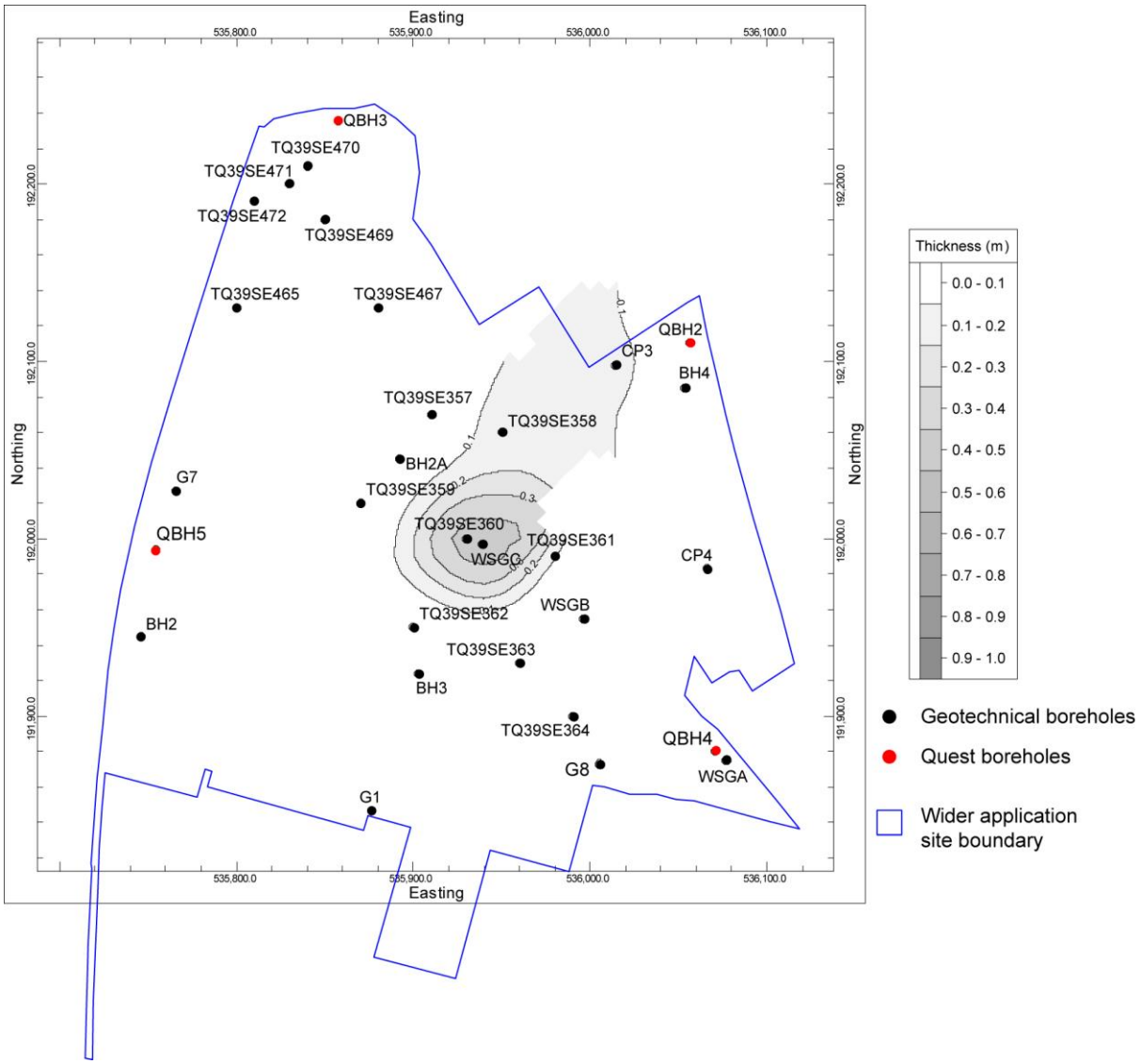

Figure 6: Thickness of the Peat (m) (site outline in red)

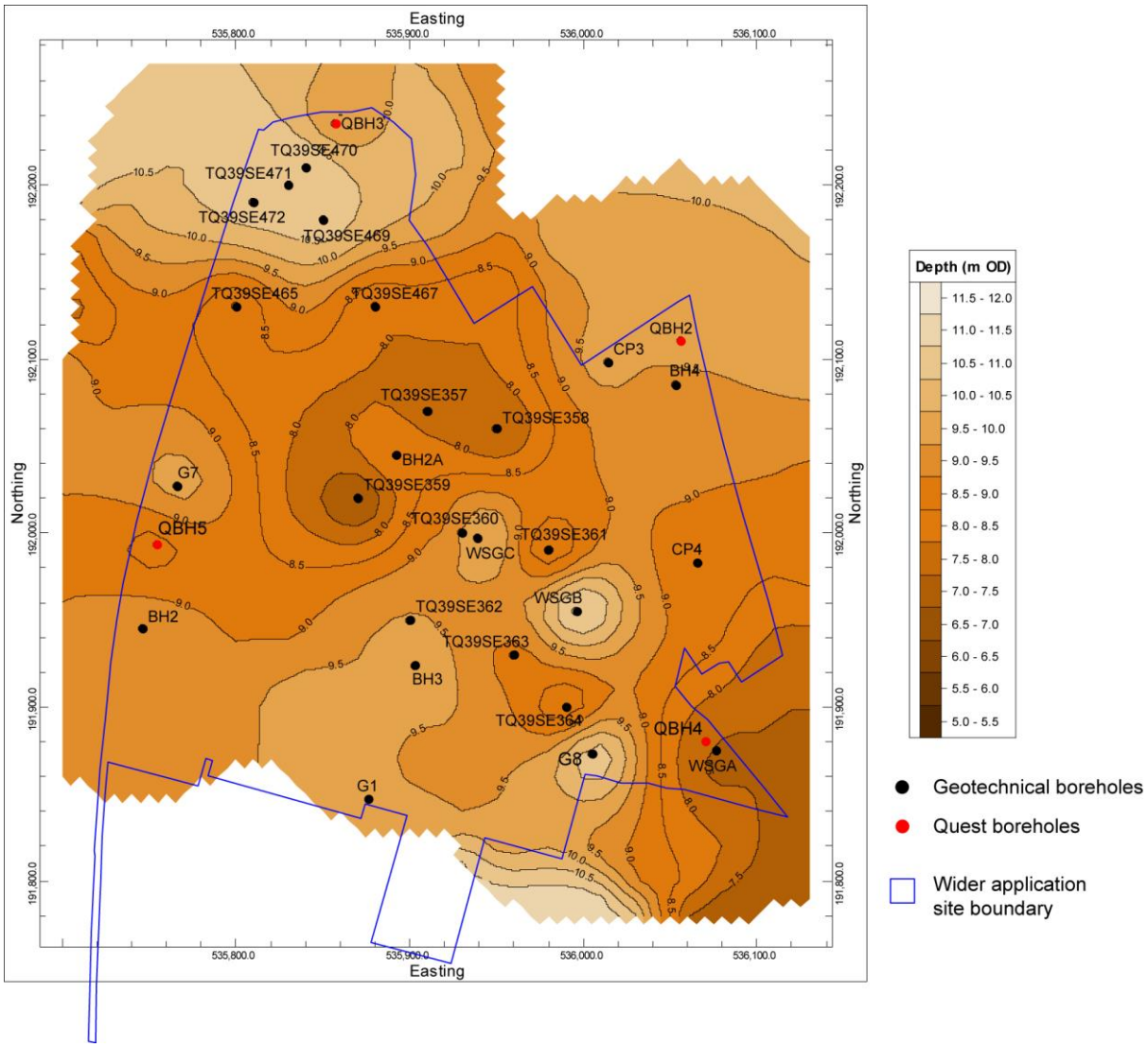

Figure 7: Top of the Upper Alluvium (m OD) (site outline in red)

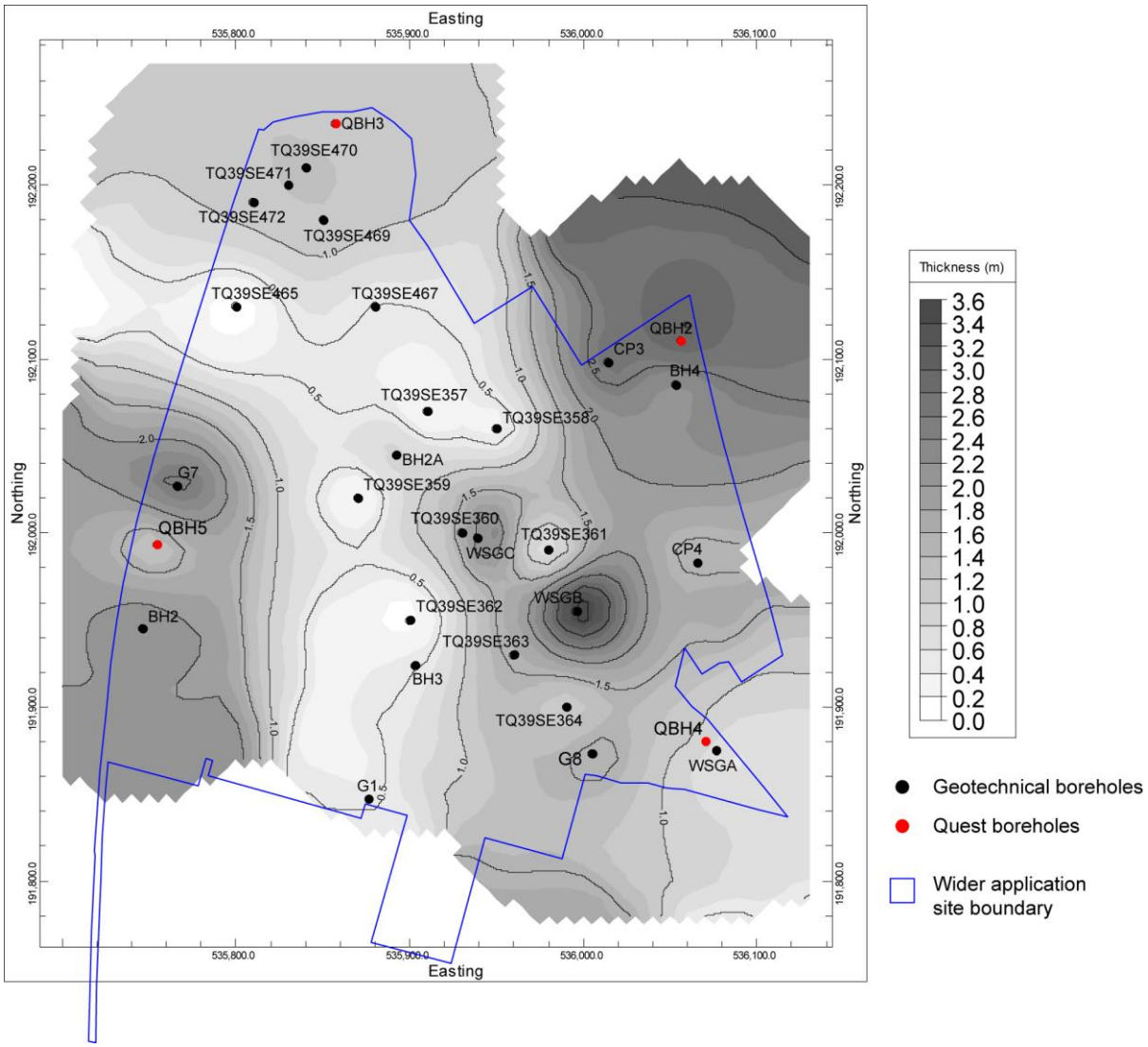

Figure 8: Thickness of the Holocene Alluvium (m) (site outline in red)

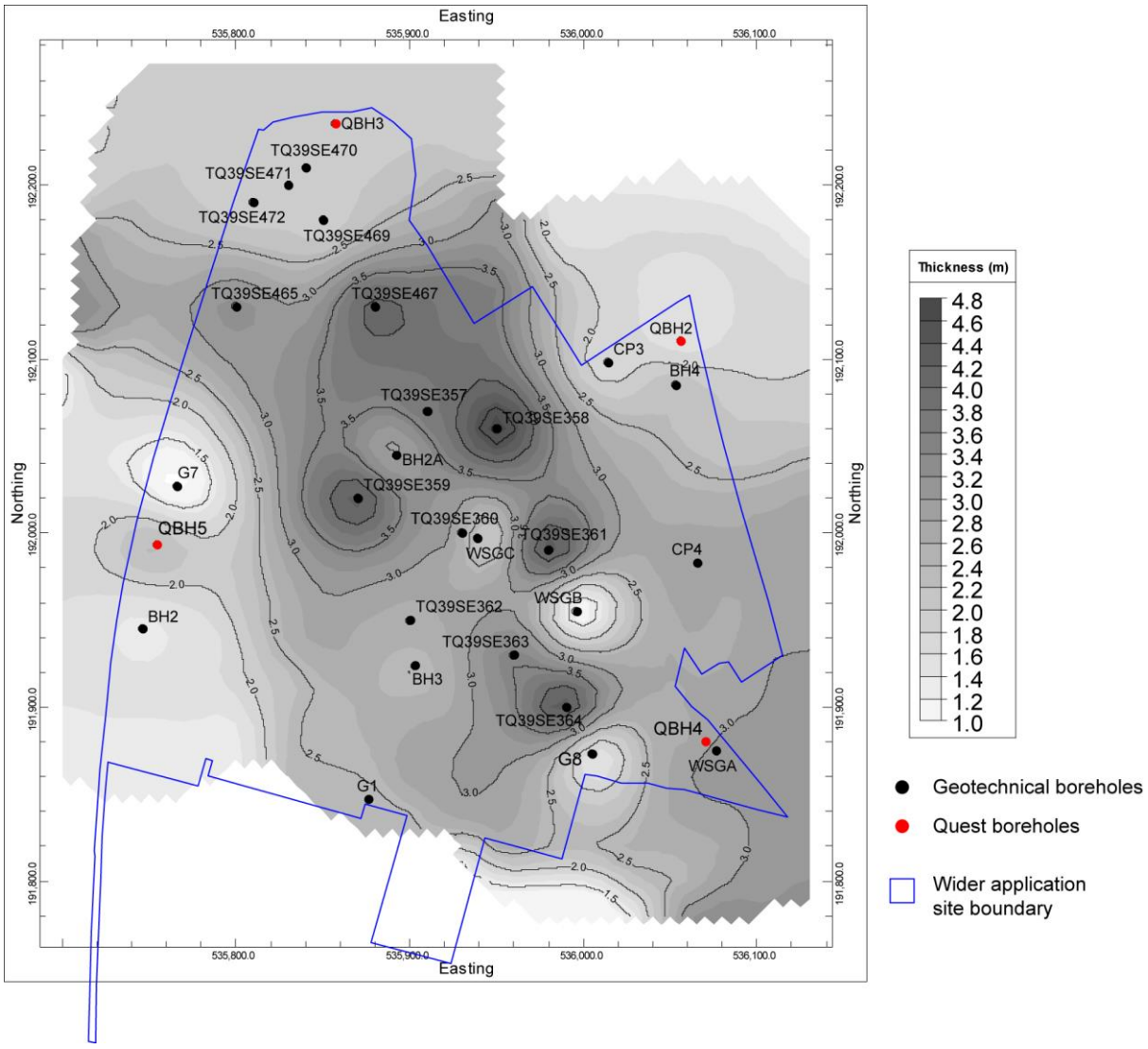

Figure 9: Thickness of the Made Ground (m) (site outline in red)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the geoarchaeological investigations at the Stonehill Business Park site was to (1) clarify the nature of the sub-surface stratigraphy, in particular the presence and thickness of Alluvium and Peat across the site, and (2) to evaluate the potential of the sedimentary sequences for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. In order to achieve this aim, a programme of deposit modelling of the surface elevation and thickness of the major stratigraphic units at the site was carried out, incorporating previous geotechnical borehole descriptions and records from four new geoarchaeological boreholes.

The results of the geoarchaeological investigations have contributed to our understanding of the Holocene stratigraphic sequence in this area of the Lea Valley. Within the site itself a sequence of Lea Valley Gravel is recorded (deposited during the Late Devensian, 10-15,000 years before present), overlain by variable thicknesses of Holocene Alluvium (in places containing Peat), in turn overlain by Made Ground. As stated above, the Stonehill Business Park site lies within Corcoran *et al*. (2011)'s Landscape Zone 4.5. In this Zone the Gravel surface is described as lying at between *ca*. 7 and 9m OD. The new deposit model demonstrates that across much of the site the surface of the Gravel lies within this range, but in some areas (including Gravel highs identified towards the north and south of the site) it is consistently recorded at between 9.4 and 9.9m OD. It is possible that the Gravel high recorded in the northern area of the site extends westwards, and can be regarded as part of the 'low gravel terrace' identified in the area of Meridian Way (A1055) to the northwest of the site (Corcoran *et al*., 2011). Corcoran *et al.* (2011) highlight that this low terrace feature would have 'formed an area of dry land over which Early Holocene soils could begin to develop'. However, no evidence for soil formation was identified in any of the boreholes in this area of the site.

The deposit modelling has identified depressions in the Gravel surface, where it lies as low as 6.7m OD, which may represent former channels that flowed between the areas of higher Gravel topography, typical of Zone 4.5 (Corcoran *et al*., 2011). These features, which may or may not have been contemporaneous, are aligned broadly north-south in the eastern part of the site, and northeast-southwest across the centre of the site. Corcoran *et al*. (2011) highlight that such palaeochannels have both palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential, since they are often associated in Zone 4.5 with fine-grained, organic sediments and Mesolithic and Bronze Age artefacts. A northwest-southeast aligned palaeochannel dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age was identified *ca*. 1.5km to the north at Montagu

Road, Edmonton (Bradley, 2000), whilst at the Ikea site, Glover Drive, Edmonton *ca*. 300m to the southwest evidence for an Early Mesolithic site was identified associated with a former channel in this area (Stephenson, 2006). Artefacts from the Mesolithic were also identified within Alluvium at Meridian Point, Glover Drive, *ca*. 400m to the west (Bowsher, 1996), and at Advent Way, *ca*. 500m to the northwest, organic sediments and worked wood dating to the Bronze Age were identified at between *ca*. 11 and 12m OD.

A horizon of Peat between 0.45 and 0.15m thick was recorded within the Lower Alluvium in three of the existing geotechnical boreholes at Stonehill Business Park, present at levels between 8.65 and 6.32m OD. The Peat is confined to the centre of the site, within the area of the lower Gravel surface associated with the possible northeast-southwest aligned palaeochannel. However, no Peat was recorded within the new geoarchaeological boreholes (QBH2 to QBH5), and in general the sediments recorded within the areas of lower Gravel topography are often coarse-grained (sand-rich), indicative of episodes of fluvial deposition in active channels and of limited palaeoenvironmental potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The sediments identified within the boreholes retained from Stonehill Business Park site are of limited palaeoenvironmental potential. No further environmental archaeological investigations are therefore recommended.

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