

A Watching Brief
at 274 North Street, Romford.
London Borough of Havering.

RO - NS 96.

TQ 8970 5060

Project Manager: M. Turner.
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05.08.1996.

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1. Abstract

- 1.1. The watching brief revealed garden soils, subsoil and natural strata.

2. Introduction.

- 2.1. A watching brief was undertaken on land adjoining 274 North Street, Romford (Fig. 1A) on the 8th August 1992, by the Archaeology Section of Newham Museum Service. It was designed to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of development of the land as an extension to the existing doctors surgery (Fig. 1B).
- 2.2. The work was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological planning clause in application 0557.95, and conducted according to English Guidance Paper No. 3 (Standard Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork), No. 5 (Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports), and the archaeological specification for the watching brief (Meddens, 1996).
- 2.3. The work was funded by Quantum Links Associates, directed by Mark Turner for the Museum, and supervised by the author.
- 2.4. The Museum and the author would like to thank of Quantum Links Associates for funding the watching brief, especially Trevor Seabrook, Dr. Frank Meddens, and Graham Reed for the illustrations.

3. Archaeological Background.

- 3.1. The site is situated to the south of the A12 Eastern Avenue. This is thought to be the course of the Roman Colchester Road. Earlier archaeological finds in the vicinity have revealed the potential of Roman and Medieval deposits. It lies near the site of the Medieval manor of East House.

4. Archaeological Methodology.

- 4.1. The watching brief consisted of observing the excavations of the strip foundations for the surgery extension (Fig. 2). A section of these foundations was recorded by photograph.

5. Description of Results.

- 5.1. To the east of the area, the watching brief showed between 0.20m. and 0.30m. of topsoil overlying a layer of disturbed natural 0.10m. in depth. This overlay sterile natural London clay to a depth of 1.50m. To the North of the area the topsoil had been removed and brick rubble and tarmac laid. This overlay the same disturbed natural, which again overlay natural clay.
- 5.2. In addition to the strip foundations, a cut had been excavated along the eastern boundary. This cut showed identical stratigraphy.
- 5.3. No cut features of any date were recorded in any of the foundation cuts.

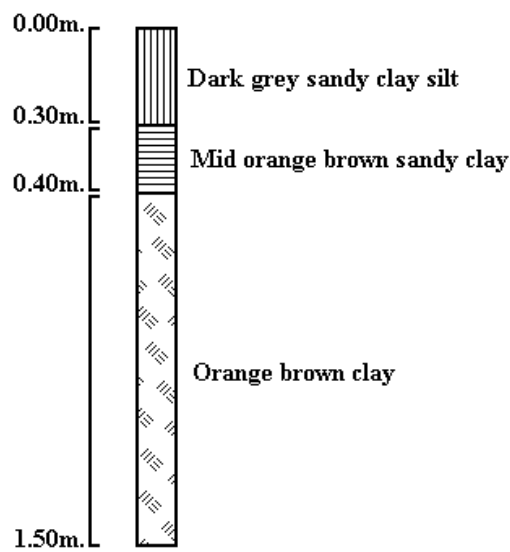


Fig. 3. Column Diagram.

6. Interpretation and Conclusions.

- 6.1. From the watching brief it appears that the site has been totally undisturbed in the past, until the foundation trenches for the surgery extension. The disturbed natural may be as a result of ploughing, but no clear evidence of this was observed, and the horizon is undated.
- 6.2. There were no cut features in any of the trenches, and finds were restricted to 20th. century pottery from the topsoil.
- 6.3. The site appears to be totally devoid of archaeological deposits, and no further work is required on the site.

7. Bibliography.

Meddens, F, 1996, "Archaeological Specification for a Watching Brief at 274 North Street, Romford, Essex." Newham Museum Service.

~~Palaeolithic~~ ————— ~~Roman~~
~~Mesolithic~~ ————— ~~Saxon (pre AD 1066)~~
~~Neolithic~~ ————— ~~Medieval (AD 1066–1485)~~
~~Bronze Age~~ ————— ~~Post Medieval~~
~~Iron Age~~ ————— ~~Unknown~~

6. PERIOD SUMMARIES. Use headings for each period (Roman; Medieval; etc.), and continue on additional sheets as necessary.

NO ARCHAEOLOGY

7. NATURAL. (state if not observed; please DO NOT LEAVE BLANK)

Type: LONDON CLAY

Height above Ordnance Datum: A.O.D. NO LEVELS

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES.

a) Please indicate those categories still in your possession:

~~Notes~~ ————— ~~Plans~~ ————— ~~Photos~~ ————— ~~Negatives~~
~~Slides~~ ————— ~~Correspondence~~ ————— ~~Manuscripts (unpub. reports etc.)~~

b) All/ some records have been/ will be deposited in the following museum/ records office etc. :

NEWHAM MUSEUM SERVICE,
 31, STOCK STREET,
 PLAISTOW,
 LONDON E13 OBX.

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996

d) Location of any copies:

NEWHAM MUSEUM SERVICE,
 31, STOCK STREET,
 PLAISTOW,
 LONDON E13 OBX.

e) Has a security copy of the archive been made? ~~YES~~/ NO

If not, do you wish RCHME to consider microfilming? ~~YES~~/ NO

9. LOCATION OF FINDS.

a) In your possession? ~~ALL/SOME~~/ NONE

b) All/ some finds have been/ will be deposited with the following museum/ other body:

NEWHAM MUSEUM SERVICE,
31, STOCK STREET,
PLAISTOW,
LONDON.
E13 OBX.

c) Approximate year of transfer: 1996

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beasley, M, 1996, "A Watching Brief at 274 North Street, Romford. London Borough of Havering." Unpublished client report, Newham Museum Service.

SIGNED:



DATE:

NAME (Block capitals) M. BEASLEY

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