



## 165-167 ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD E15, LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*



**165 – 167 ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD, E15  
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Museum of London Site Code  
RFF06**

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**165 – 167 ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD, E15  
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 165-167 Romford Road in the London Borough of Newham. A single trench was excavated. No archaeological remains were present as a result of extensive modern disturbance.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Raj and Bira Sanger of Metroman Ltd for commissioning the work, and also to thank David Divers of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the works. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves. Cornelius Barton conducted the fieldwork and compiled this report, with illustrations by Mark Roughley.

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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Scope of Document**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Metroman Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 165-167 Romford Road, Stratford in the London Borough of Newham (the Site), centred on NGR 539700, 184730 (**Figure 1**). This document sets out the results of the evaluation.

**1.2 Planning Background**

- 1.2.1 A planning application has been approved for the development of the Site, with the erection of residential flats. As part of the conditions, further information was requested by the Local Planning Authority on the survival of any archaeological deposits within the Site.
- 1.2.2 It was determined in consultation with David Divers, English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Newham, that an archaeological evaluation of the Site was appropriate.

**2 SITE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

**2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the area comprises Flood Plain Gravel terraces of the Thames and Roding (British Geological Society Drift Edition, Sheet 257).

**2.2 Topography & Use**

- 2.2.1 The modern ground level within the site is approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.2.2 The Site is a disused petrol filling station with much of the western area having been occupied with holding tanks for fuel. It is directly north of Romford Road some 400m east of the core of the historic village of Stratford.
- 2.2.3 The fuel tanks have been removed from the site. Records of this, provided by the client, clearly show only the eastern half of the site had any form of archaeological potential.

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

#### **3.1 Area of Archaeological Priority**

3.1.1 The Site is defined within the London Borough of Newham Unitary Development Plan (adopted June 2001) as being within an Area of Archaeological Priority. The area is presumed to contain evidence of medieval activity given that Romford Road overlies the route of the old road linking the historic village centre of East Ham to Barking Abbey.

3.1.1 No known archaeological deposits or finds have been recorded from the Site prior to the evaluation.

### **4 EVALUATION STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Methodological Standards**

4.1.1 All work was undertaken in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2001).

#### **4.2 Health and Safety**

4.2.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force. A risk assessment was prepared and all site staff were required to read and sign it before works commenced.

#### **4.3 Fieldwork**

4.3.1 Fieldwork methodology was agreed in advance with David Divers of GLAAS and a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced (Wessex Archaeology 2006). The evaluation was undertaken by means of a single trench measuring 10m by 2m (see **Figure 1**). This was excavated by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of an archaeologist.

4.3.2 A complete drawn and written record of excavated deposits was compiled. This included a plan drawn at 1:100 and a sample section at 1:10.

4.3.3 A full photographic record was maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film). A digital photographic record of the work was also maintained.

### **5 RESULTS**

5.1.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The trench was dug to a depth of 2.10m, at which point the natural terrace gravel was observed. The deposits above the natural gravel all consisted of made-ground levelling deposits below a concrete slab of mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> Century origin.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 It appears that successive phases of development on the Site associated with previous use have truncated the area to such an extent that no archaeological remains survive, if they existed originally.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

- 7.1 The completed project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). The archive from the project will be deposited with the Museum of London under MOL Site Code: RFF06.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

London Borough of Newham Unitary Development Plan (adopted June 2001)  
<http://www.newham.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/20C26A87-34EB-4C34-8254-D73A1ADE46D2/0/UDP3EnvironmentQuality.pdf>

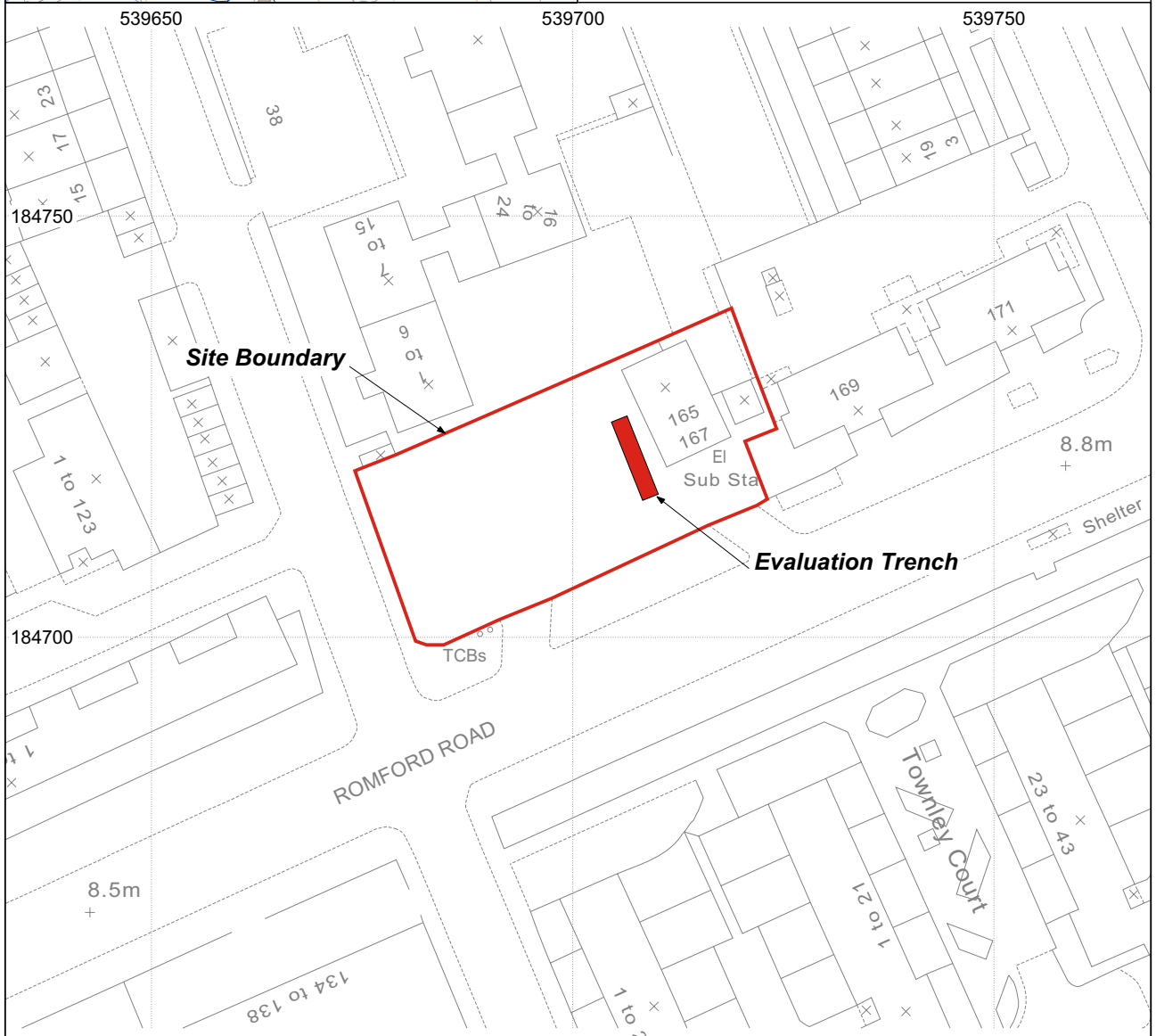
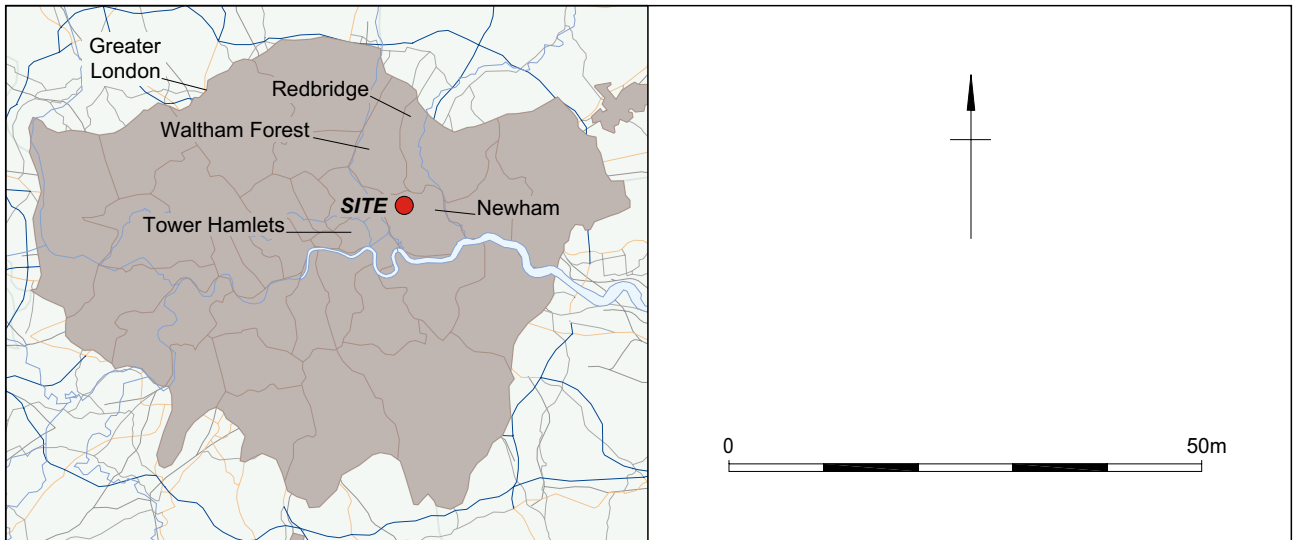
Wessex Archaeology 2006 *163-165 Romford Road, Stratford, E15, London Borough of Newham: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*




## APPENDIX 1 TRENCH SUMMARY

| Trench 1           |   |                     |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>Length:</b> 10m | <b>Width:</b> 2m  | <b>Depth:</b> 2.10m |
| Context Number     | Description   | Depth               |
| 100                | Concrete slab   | 0-0.05m             |
| 101                | Made ground deposit- mixed clay, sand and gravel with building rubble | 0.05-0.40m          |
| 102                | Mixed clay and gravel layers  | 0.40-0.85m          |
| 103                | Yellow-brown terrace gravel natural                                   | 0.85m+              |

## **APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM**



|  |   |  |                  |    |
|--|---|--|------------------|----|
| <b>MOL# - RFF06</b><br><br> | <small>Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2006 All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449.<br/>         Digital Map Data © (2004) XYZ Digital Map Company (www.xyzmaps.com)<br/>         This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small> |  |                  |    |
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Site Location and Trench Location Map

Figure 1



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