

Former Forest Lodge School Lodge Lane, Collier Row, Romford, London Borough of Havering

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 113, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk





**FORMER FOREST LODGE SCHOOL
LODGE LANE, COLLIER ROW, ROMFORD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for:

David Wilson Homes Eastern
Juniper House
Warley Hill Business Park
The Drive
Great Warley Brentwood
Essex
CM13 3BE

by:

Wessex Archaeology (London)
Unit 113
The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7QY

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief on works at the former Forest Lodge School site in Collier Row, Romford centred on NGR Ref 549250, 191728. The watching brief was carried out as a condition attached to a planning consent from the London Borough of Havering (ref. P1160.97) for the redevelopment of the Site to provide residential properties.

Large parts of the Site had previously undergone significant levels of truncation during the construction of Forest Lodge School and associated buildings, and the hillside had been partially terraced. No archaeological remains were observed on any part of the Site during the watching brief.

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by James King of David Wilson Homes Eastern (the Client). Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Chris Bradford of David Wilson Homes Eastern and his staff for their assistance and cooperation and David Divers of GLAAS, the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Havering.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lawrence Pontin. The fieldwork was undertaken by Cornelius Barton, who also compiled this report with illustrations by Kitty Brandon.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by David Wilson Homes Eastern Ltd (The Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on at the former Forest Lodge School site in Collier Row, Romford centred on NGR Ref 549250, 191728. (the Site). The watching brief was required by the London Borough of Havering, as a condition of planning consent (ref. P1160.97) for the redevelopment of the Site to provide residential properties.

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2007) and approved by David Divers of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Havering.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The Site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land covering an area of c1.6 ha at the northwest of Colliers Row, Romford (see Figure 1). The Site is bordered to the east by Lodge Lane and to the north, west and south by open ground.

2 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology within the Site has been identified as mixed periglacial Head deposits overlying London Clay (RSA 2005).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The Site slopes gently down to the south from 35m to 31m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 There is very limited information on the archaeology of the immediate area around the Site, as there has been little previous fieldwork or survey carried out in the area. The wider surrounding area is known to contain remains dating from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age

and Roman periods from investigations at Marks Warren Farm, c.1.5km to the southwest of the Site

3.2 GLSMR Search.

- 3.2.1 For the purpose of preparing the Written Scheme of Investigation a search of the Greater London Sites and Monuments record (GLSMR) was commissioned on the area surrounding the Site to a radius of 1km. A summary of the findings follows.
- 3.2.2 The Site is located at the northwest side of the Collier Row district. This area has well-documented links to the medieval period; the name “Collier” deriving from “colier”, the Middle-English name for charcoal-burners. The original Colier’s Row was a line of charcoal-burners cottages according to documentary evidence from 1440 (O’Leary 1960). The exact location of the cottages is uncertain.
- 3.2.3 Place-name evidence also suggests the existence of another medieval building on the present-day Brockley Crescent, approximately 700m to the southeast of the Site. On the Ordnance Survey map of 1881 this parcel of land is occupied by Fullers Farm, suggesting that there may have been a medieval fullery before the construction of the farmhouse.
- 3.2.4 700m to the southeast of the Site was the seat of the medieval manor house of Uphavering (Powell VCH, 1979). Originally belonging to the Uphavering family in the 13th century, the manor was variously sold and inherited until the mid 19th century, with several phases of building, rebuilding and demolition. The details of the medieval manor house and any associated buildings are unknown, but at its largest the manor comprised 650 acres. It is therefore likely that the Site fell within the manor for much of its existence. The Manor House is marked on the 1618 map of the Liberty of Havering as the Great Lodge, and stood on what is now the south side of Collier Row Road.
- 3.2.5 There is also evidence of post-medieval activity in the area. The buildings now known as Lower Park Farm are marked on the 1618 map as the “Little Lodge” and originally part of the holdings of the manor, were released to a Mr John Gauden in c. 1661 (VCH. Vol 7). The farm, then known as Havering Farm, was probably rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries, and only outbuildings from around 1869 still survive. These lay c.500m to the north of the Site.
- 3.2.6 The present building of Gabions Farm dates from 1899, but is thought to stand on remains of at least two earlier phases of building. The farm stands c.600m to the south of the Site.
- 3.2.7 It was therefore concluded that there was a low to moderate potential for the presence of archaeological remains on the Site.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to establish within the constraints of the development the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.

5 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 All watching brief work was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2001), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 5.1.2 All intrusive ground works were carried out under archaeological supervision. These works included the excavation of trenches for drainage and foundations, removal of old footings and the breaking out of the old roadways for resurfacing (see **Figure 2**). Where possible a toothless ditching bucket was used to facilitate observation of the exposed ground.
- 5.1.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded by means of Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording sheets. A photographic record was made by means of black and white prints, colour slides and digital images. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50.
- 5.1.4 Where no archaeological remains were present, the area was recorded by means of digital photography and measured sketch plans. Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. The Site area was surveyed using a GPS system.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1.1 No archaeological remains were observed anywhere on the Site. The area indicated on **Figure 1** had been severely disturbed during the construction of Forest Lodge School. This construction had involved the excavation of deep foundations (see **Plate 1**) and also the partial terracing of the surrounding slope. Where natural ground was observed it was an orange clay overlain directly by made-ground deposits of mixed soils and building rubble (see **Plate 2**).
- 6.1.2 The areas to the south and east of the school buildings had not been disturbed prior to the watching brief, but no archaeological remains were present. The soil sequence throughout these areas consisted of a pale grey silty clay topsoil overlying clean orange clay (see **Plates 2 and 3**).

- 6.1.3 To the north of the School buildings the ground had also been disturbed, with deposits of brick and concrete rubble overlying natural clay (see **Plate 4**). The rubble deposits were presumably laid during landscaping of the school grounds. Again, no archaeological remains were present.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 No archaeological remains were observed throughout the Site. This may be due in part to the severe disturbance caused by the construction of the school buildings and associated landscaping activities. After consultation with Mr. David Divers of GLAAS, it was agreed that no further archaeological works were required on the Site.

8 ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The archive, including site drawings and photographic records, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in London under the WA project code 64420. Following the conclusion of the project the archive will be prepared for deposition at the Museum of London in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990).

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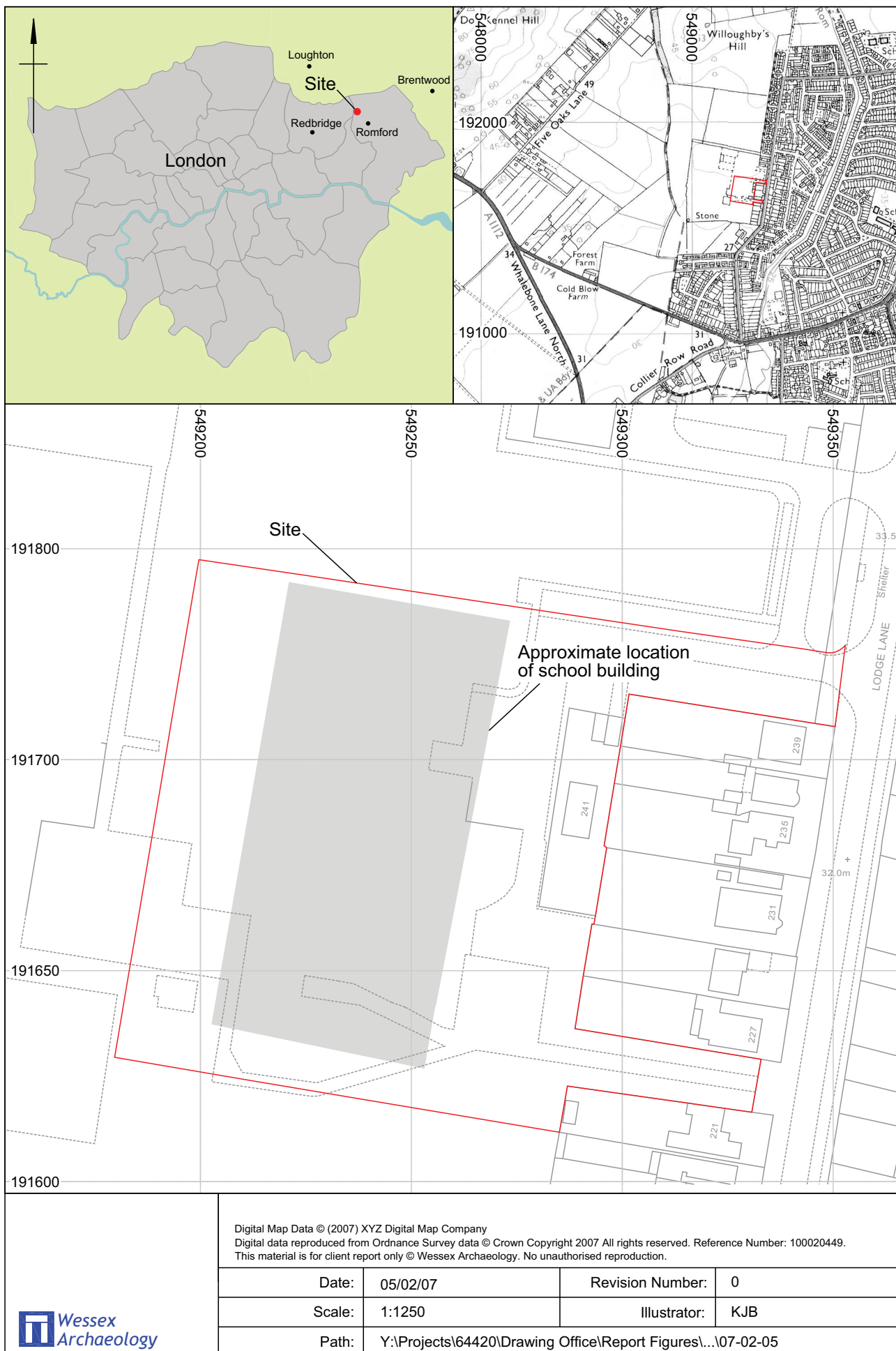
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Site location

Figure 1



- Site outline
- Phase 1: Hardstanding removal, stripping to c0.4m below ground level
- Phase 2: Roadway stripping to c0.7m below ground level
- Phase 3: Footing excavation to 1m+ below ground level

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Plate 1. Removal of school building foundations (from north east)



Plate 2. Section 1 (oblique) from southwest with 1m scale



Plate 3. Section 2 from north with 1m scale



Plate 4. South facing Section 3, with 1m scale