



**370 ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD, E7  
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Prepared for**  
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by

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**Table of Contents**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Table of Contents.....</b>                           | <b>i</b>   |
| <b>Summary.....</b>                                     | <b>ii</b>  |
| <b>Acknowledgements.....</b>                            | <b>iii</b> |
| <b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>                              | <b>1</b>   |
| 1.1 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT .....                             | 1          |
| 1.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND .....                           | 1          |
| <b>2 SITE GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....</b>              | <b>1</b>   |
| 2.1 GEOLOGY .....                                       | 1          |
| 2.2 TOPOGRAPHY & Use .....                              | 1          |
| <b>3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....</b> | <b>2</b>   |
| 3.1 AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY.....                | 2          |
| <b>4 EVALUATION STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>      | <b>2</b>   |
| 4.1 METHODOLOGICAL STANDARDS .....                      | 2          |
| 4.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY .....                             | 2          |
| 4.3 FIELDWORK.....                                      | 2          |
| <b>5 RESULTS.....</b>                                   | <b>2</b>   |
| 5.1 TRENCHES .....                                      | 2          |
| <b>6 CONCLUSION.....</b>                                | <b>3</b>   |
| 6.1 SITE .....  | 3          |
| 6.2 ARCHIVE .....                                       | 3          |
| <b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>                              | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM.....</b>                      | <b>4</b>   |

**Figures**

- Figure 1 Site Location and Trench Location Map
- Figure 2 Sections **1** (Trench 1) and **2** (Trench 2)
- Figure 3 Plates **1**(North-facing section of Trench 1) and **2 (Plan view of Trench 2 from east)**

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**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 370 Romford Road in the London Borough of Newham. The Site is within an area of Archaeological Priority as defined by the London Borough of Newham Unitary Development Plan. Two trenches were excavated adjacent to the projected line of the London to Colchester Roman Road. No archaeological remains were present, as a result of extensive 20<sup>th</sup> century truncation.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Peter Fawn of Archer Hoblin for commissioning the work, and also to thank Keith Weddell and his staff for assistance on site. David Divers of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) monitored the works. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lawrence Pontin. Cornelius Barton conducted the fieldwork and compiled this report, with illustrations by Kitty Brandon.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of Document**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Archer-Hoblin Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 370 Romford Road, Stratford E7 8BS in the London Borough of Newham (the Site), centred on NGR 540913 185046 (**Figure 1**).

### **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. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Wessex Archaeology before the commencement of works.

## **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 48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.2.2 The Site measures approximately 30m by 41m or 0.12 ha. The Site was vacant at the time of the evaluation, having previously been occupied by a Police Station. Anecdotal evidence suggested the presence of cellars and a petrol tank below the present ground surface.
- 2.2.3 Records provided by the client record the removal of the fuel tanks and 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 Roman roadside activity given that Romford Road overlies the route of the London to Colchester Roman Road. Evidence of the road and contemporary activity has been noted to the west of the Site, at 32 Romford Road and at the Fire Station both less than 1km away.

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* (revised 2001) and with Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) Guidance Paper 5 (revised 1998).

#### **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 members of 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 2008). The evaluation was undertaken by means of a two trenches each measuring 15m by 2m (see **Figure 1**). These were 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 Trenches**

5.1.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. Trench 1 was dug to a depth of 1.6m, 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 (see **Section 1** and **Plate 1**).

- 5.1.2 Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, at which point the natural terrace gravel was observed. The deposits above the gravel were again all made-ground of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin (see **Section 2** and **Plate 2**).

## **6 CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 Site**

- 6.1 It appears that previous modern development on the Site has truncated the area to such an extent that no archaeological remains survive, if any existed originally.

### **6.2 Archive**

- 6.2.1 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 RFG08.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

London Borough of Newham Unitary Development Plan (adopted June 2001)

Wessex Archaeology 2008, *370 Romford Road, Stratford, E7, London Borough of Newham: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation* Ref 68200.1

## **APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM**