

**LAND AT NORTH STREET,
ROMFORD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

NGR: TQ 5107 8898

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LAARC Accession Code: NMF08

June 2008

Report No. 604

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

In April 2008 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at North Street, Romford (centred at NGR: TQ 5108 8898). The fieldwork was undertaken during May 2008.

A single 15m x 2m trench was excavated in an area of the site which had not been badly affected by earlier cellaring. This identified that the underlying Hackney Gravels were present at a depth of 0.97m from the modern ground surface. The gravels were overlain by a 0.62m thick layer of brown silt clay containing frequent early modern brick and tile rubble beneath a layer of concrete and brick rubble up to 0.54m thick.

No archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the project.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum)

OS

Ordnance Survey

Romano-British

Term used to describe the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with the invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated between AD 43 and AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation on land at North Street, Romford (NGR: TQ 51071 88996).
- 1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (2007). This was produced in order to comply with Planning & Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) and the archaeological policies of the London Borough of Romford. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: *Archaeological Evaluation: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region). The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.
- 1.3 The evaluation was undertaken during May 2008. The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within six months with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAARC) under code NMF08.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to construct a 16 storey block of flats at North Street, Romford, London Borough of Havering.
- 2.2 The site is located at North Street, Romford, at grid reference TQ 51071 88996. It is bounded by North Street to the east, St. Edwards Way to the north and Angel Way to the west (Fig. 1 & 2). It was previously occupied by two blocks of 1950's flats, which had been demolished prior to the archaeological evaluation. The underlying geology is London Clay overlain by Hackney Gravels and Head deposits. The site is flat, lying at c. 15.5m OD.
- 2.3 The Specification by CgMs (2007) provides the following archaeological background. The small town of Durolytum, identified on the Antonine Itinerary, is thought to lie in the vicinity of Romford town centre, although its exact location is not known. The site lies within the historic core of Romford just to the north of the crossroads of North Street, South Street, High Street and the Market Place. Therefore the site has moderate potential for Roman remains and high potential for medieval and post-medieval remains. The specification also notes that the site may have been significantly disturbed due to previous development.
- 2.4 The study area therefore contained the potential for the presence of archaeological deposits, predominantly associated with the Romano-British, Medieval and Post-

medieval periods. This in no way prejudiced the evaluation in the recovery of evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for the management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this would allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site and to date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A single 15m x 2m trench was to be excavated within the site area. On-site constraints required the minor relocation of the trench from the initially planned position. The final trench location is detailed on Figure 2.
- 4.2 The proposed location of the trench was CAT scanned.
- 4.2 Deposits of non-significant overburden were removed through the use of a mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was to be conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.
- 4.3 No suitable contexts for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 4.4 All site recording was undertaken in accordance with Foundations Archaeology *Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual)*. A written, drawn and photographic record of the evaluation was compiled in accordance with the specification.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Excavation of the trench immediately revealed an unrecorded plastic water-pipe on a northeast-southwest alignment. Avoidance of this feature meant that only a total of 9m of trench at the southwestern end could be excavated to depth.
- 5.2 **Trench 1** was orientated northeast-southwest and was excavated onto gravels at an average depth of 0.97m (14.30m OD) from the modern ground surface. The gravels were overlain by a 0.62m thick layer of brown silt clay containing frequent early modern brick and tile rubble beneath a layer of concrete and brick rubble up to 0.54m thick. No intact subsoils or archaeological finds or features were present within the trench area.
- 5.3 The results were discussed with David Divers of GLAAS and Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting and the trench was thereafter recorded and backfilled.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified that the stratigraphic sequence within the area available for evaluation consists of Hackney Gravels at a depth of 0.97m from the modern ground surface, below modern fills and layers. .
- 6.2 The complete absence of artefactual evidence pre-dating the 19th and 20th centuries, either stratified or unstratified, is clearly due to the removal of all top and subsoil deposits during the previous phases of development associated with the now demolished flats. The areas to the north and south of the trench area contained basements approximately 2.5m deep.
- 6.3 The results of the evaluation suggest that previous development of the site will have resulted in the total removal of archaeological deposits or features that may have been present. The proposed development is therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on archaeological deposits within the immediate vicinity of the evaluation trench.
- 6.4 The archive will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under code NMF08 in accordance with all appropriate standards.
- 6.5 A note will be published in the London Archaeologist annual round-up. An OASIS form has been completed and is appended to this document.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bourn, R 2006 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at North Street, Romford*. CgMs unpublished report

IFA 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting, David Divers of English Heritage and Cath Maloney of LAARC for their assistance with the smooth running of this project.

APPENDIX 1: GLSMR/EH ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1. TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation Excavation Watching Brief Other

2. LOCATION

Borough : HAVERING

Site Address : NORTH STREET, ROMFORD

Site Name & Code : Land at North Street, Romford. NMF08

National Grid references : TQ 51071 88996 (CENTRE)

3. ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society : FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

Address 109, ALBION STREET, SWINDON SN1 5LP

Phone: 01793 525993 or 08700 780 555 Fax: 01793 529403

Site supervisor/Director ANDREW HOOD

Project Manager : ROY KING

Funded By : CgMs CONSULTING

4. DURATION

Date Fieldwork Started : 20/05/08

Date Finished : 20/05/08

Fieldwork Previously notified? : YES

Fieldwork will continue? NO

5. PERIODS REPRESENTED

Paleolithic Roman Modern

Mesolithic Saxon (pre AD1066)

Neolithic Medieval (AD 1066 – 1485)

Bronze Age Post Medieval

Iron Age Unknown

6. **PERIOD SUMMARIES** (Use headings above for each period). The Trench demonstrated that the site had been previously stripped either to the top, or into the underlying Hackney Gravels. No archaeological finds or features were present.

7. **NATURAL** (State if not observed)

Type : HACKEY GRAVEL

North Street, Romford: Archaeological Evaluation.

Height AOD : 14.30m

8. LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

Notes	Context Sheets	3	Plans	Context Plans	0	Photos	b/w	2
	Site notebook			Section Drawings	0		digital	2
				Site Plans	0			

Correspondence			Mscripts		1			
----------------	--	--	----------	--	---	--	--	--

Bulk Finds	Pottery	14	Small Finds	0	Soil Samples	0
	CBM	0			Bone	0

b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and has been deposited at the following location :

Address : FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY
109 ALBION STREET
SWINDON
SN1 5LP

Tel/ Fax 08700 780 555

It will subsequently be deposited with LAARC

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made? NO

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bourn, R 2006 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at North Street, Croydon*. CgMs unpublished report

Foundations Archaeology 1999 *Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual*

GLAAS 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practice in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*

GLAAS 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Reports*

GLAAS 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Paper 5: Evaluation*

DATE :
SIGNED ;

NAME

Please return completed form to :

English Heritage, GLSMR, ROOM 214, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: foundati1-43402

Project details

Project name Land at North Street, Romford

Short description of the project A single 15m x 2m trench was excavated in an area of the site which had not been badly affected by earlier cellaring. This identified that the underlying Hackney Gravels were present at a depth of 0.97m from the modern ground surface. No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.

Project dates Start: 20-05-2008 End: 20-05-2008

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes NMF08 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

North Street, Romford: Archaeological Evaluation.

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD Land at North Street
Study area	1400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 51071 88996 51.5790506993 0.180520705189 51 34 44 N 000 10 49 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Foundations Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andrew Hood
Project supervisor	Andrew Hood
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report'

North Street, Romford: Archaeological Evaluation.

Project
bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Other bibliographic
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Site Code: NSR08
LAARC Code: NMF08



0m 2000m
1:50000@A4

FIGURE 1: Site Location

