

**THE FORMER EON DEPOT
190 LONDON ROAD
RAYLEIGH
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

NOVEMBER 2012

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: The former Eon Depot, 190 London Road, Rayleigh, Essex	
Parishes: Rayleigh	District: Rochford
NGR: TQ 7941, 9185	Site Code: RLLR12
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 6th to 10th August 2012	Size of Area Investigated: 990 sq.m.
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.:
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: 138088
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land at the former Eon Depot, 190 London Road, Rayleigh in advance of residential development. Eighteen evaluation trenches, totalling 990 sq m, were excavated across the 3.2 ha site (Fig. 1). The majority of the site was formerly occupied by the electricity depot which had been demolished prior to the evaluation. In the north-east corner of the site were several in situ buildings of a former day nursery and in the north-west a compound housing a live telecommunications mast.</p> <p>By prior agreement with ECC HEM the evaluation trenches were positioned to avoid the site of the demolished Eon office building, the existing former nursery buildings and several areas where remediation of asbestos contaminated soils had taken place. Further re-positioning took place in the field to avoid two tree protection zones, several large spoil tips (see Plate 1), the site access road/compound and a steep drop and metal fence to the south of Trench 6.</p> <p>Dark greyish brown topsoil and a small amount of underlying subsoil was encountered in Trench 1, Trench 2 and the southern part of Trench 6. Trench 3 and the northern part of Trench 6 were excavated through in situ tarmac. The majority of trenches were excavated through varying amounts of brick rubble, in part resulting from the recent demolition work and part being hardcore and make-up deposits for former car park and yard areas. Trench lengths varied between 20m and 40m and trench depths were on average 0.4-0.5m with localised variations (Appendix 1). Surprisingly, given its location beyond the main Eon site, Trench 3 was the deepest trench with clearly modern disturbance to a maximum depth of 0.83m.</p>	

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<p>The exposed underlying natural was a fairly uniform mid orange brown clay that was present across the whole of the development area and in a few places had been stained darker grey/brown. Numerous modern service trenches and drains were encountered and Trench 6 was crossed by the cut for a live sewer pipe. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches. Significantly, in most of the trenches, apart from Trenches 1, 2 and 6, rubble deposits directly overlay natural clay implying that the entire Eon site had been stripped of topsoil and subsoil, and probably truncated in the process, prior to the construction of the depot.</p> <p>After the completion of the trenching, monitoring was undertaken on the excavation of foundation trenches for show homes (plots 1-3) in the south-east corner of the site. The eastern half of this area was observed including a garage projecting to the north (Plate 2). No archaeological features were observed and the rubble overburden and underlying natural clay was consistent with the rest of the site.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: November 2012

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Trench	Measurements	Co-ordinates (end, centre)
1	34m x 1.9m x 0.54m (max), orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579390.94, 192005.66 S = 579381.93, 191971.78
2	10m + 35m x 1.9m x 0.6m (max), orientated N/S & E/W	S = 579378.33, 191950.59 C = 579381.07, 191961.25 E = 579415.00, 191958.48
3	40m x 1.9m x 0.83m (max), orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579451.55, 191973.90 E = 579489.12, 191960.16
4	40m x 1.9m x 0.70m (max), orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579377.25, 191927.34 S = 579366.70, 191887.33
5	40m x 1.9m x 0.55m, orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579423.34, 191905.81 E = 579461.91, 191895.21
6	29m x 1.9m x 0.3m, orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579481.52, 191939.80 S = 579470.76, 191912.87
7	40m x 1.9m x 0.85m (max.), orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579387.86, 191874.28 E = 579428.19, 191865.07
8	40m x 1.9m x 0.66m (max), orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579443.67, 191886.26 S = 579433.08, 191847.69
9	36m x 1.9m x 0.5m, orientated NE/SW	N = 579366.91, 191871.68 S = 579351.53, 191839.26
10	20m x 1.9m x 0.4m, orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579425.22, 191804.54 E = 579445.36, 191798.34
11	23m x 1.9m x 0.40m, orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579429.75, 191793.09 S = 579421.76, 191771.46
12	20m x 1.9m x 0.35m, orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579337.56, 191781.14 S = 579331.22, 191760.71
13	20m x 1.9m x 0.5m , orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579333.43, 191762.02 E = 579353.06, 191756.25
14	40m x 1.9m x 0.60m (max), orientated NW/SE	NW = 579353.19, 191772.44 SE = 579371.91, 191736.84
15	28.6m x 1.9m x 0.54m (max), orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579400.96, 191737.42 E = 579430.19, 191735.35
16	20m x 1.9m x 0.7m (max), orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579386.76, 191755.29 S = 579381.10, 191735.98
17	20m x 1.9m x 0.55m, orientated WNW/ESE	W = 579334.40, 191738.96 E = 579355.87, 191732.06
18	20m x 1.9m x 0.54m (max), orientated NNE/SSW	N = 579349.20, 191750.47 S = 579343.14, 191731.75



Plate 1. Trench 18 under excavation (looking north)



Plate 2. Monitored foundation trenches