



HERITAGE NETWORK



22-26 OSBORNE ROAD Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering

HN734

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD
Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation
Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

22-26 OSBORNE ROAD
Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering

Project no.: HN734
MoL Site Code: OSB08
LPA ref.: P0773.07

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Bellwinch Homes Limited

by

Katie Watkins, BA PIFA

Report no. 494

August 2008

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The cover photograph shows a general view of the site looking north

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Chris Turner, Katie Watkins, Geoff Saunders and Mark Winter. The finds assessment was undertaken by Andy Fawcett, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Alan Simpson, Bellwinch Homes Ltd; Demenex Plant Hire; and David Divers, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	22-26 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering		
County:	Havering	District:	London
Village/town:	Hornchurch	Parish:	Hornchurch
Planning reference:	P0773.07	NGR:	TQ52642 88272
Client name and address:	Bellwinch Homes Ltd, 1 Oaks Court, Warwick Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1GS		
Nature of work:	New Housing	Former land use:	Residential
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Post Determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 4282m ²	Size of area investigated:	c. 159m ²
Project no.:	HN734	Site Code:	OSB08
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Evaluation	Archive recipient:	Museum of London
Start of work	22/07/2008	Finish of work	24/07/2008
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Iron-age and Roman
Oasis UID	heritage1-41111	Significant finds:	Ceramics
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	Ceramics, CBM		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct 12 new dwellings on land situated at 22-26 Osborne Road, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of development.

A number of linear features were recorded in Trench 3 and a small post-hole in Trench 4. Several sherds of pottery with a date range from Late Iron Age to the early Romano-British period were also recovered from these trenches.

There is considered to be a high risk that further archaeological remains of similar date would be disturbed in the course of the redevelopment of the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Bellwinch Homes Ltd*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site located at 22-26 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, London Borough of Havering. The investigation has been a requirement of the planning consent granted by the London Borough of Havering (ref. P0773.07), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work was defined in discussion with the *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS)*, a department of English Heritage acting as archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Havering. A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated May 2008.

1.2 The study area is centred on NGR TQ 52642 88272, in the parish of Hornchurch in the London Borough of Havering. The site is bordered to the south-west by The Frances Bardsley School for Girls, to the north-west by nos. 1-15 Oakdene Close, to the north-east by Osborne Road, and to the south-east by no. 28 Osborne Road. The site is situated in a largely residential area with little to no heavy industry in the vicinity. The Romford to Upminster railway line runs parallel with Osborne Road, approximately 100 metres, to the north-east of the site.

1.3 On the basis of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site, GLAAS advised that archaeological evaluation of the development site should be undertaken before the development can proceed. The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

1.4 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2. Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies in a sub-urban area which became built up following the arrival of the railways and, in particular, the District Railway in the 1930s.

2.2 The geology of the area consists of light soils overlying Orsett Heath gravels which themselves seal boulder clay known as Hornchurch till. On site the natural geology is characterised as a firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay containing iron and manganese with patches of localised gravel.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.3 A Palaeolithic hand axe was found in a garden at 24 Globe Road, Hornchurch (NMR 1142357) after 1945. The object was found at the junction of Orsett Heath Gravel and Corbets Tey Gravel geology, and is located approximately 400m west of the current development.

2.4 Located on Hornchurch Road (SMR 062446) approximately 900m south of the site was an Iron Age Gully. Indicating some level of local occupation during this time. Additionally located on Rainham Road, approximately 2.4km away excavation revealed Late Iron Age, Early Medieval and Roman field systems and an additional Roman well (NMR 1257009).

2.5 A Roman coin was found in Gidea Park, Romford (NMR 965559) approximately 750m north-west of the current development. Although there is no evidence of Roman occupation within the local vicinity it is worth noting that Romford, situated 2.7km to the north-west, lies astride the main Roman road that ran between London and Colchester.

2.6 The site of a moat and house is recorded at Great Gardens Road, Romford (SMR 06079001) approximately 250m north-east of present site. The Liberty of Havering map of circa 1618 depicts a large irregular shaped pond, possibly a moat, with a water channel leading to the River Ravensbourne. The site is now occupied by a residential street.

2.7 A Medieval house is located at Bush Elms (NMR 965605), Hornchurch, approximately 500m to the south-west.

2.8 The village of Hornchurch appears to have been well established by c.1158 after Henry II gave the land at Havering, i.e. Hornchurch, to the hospice of St. Nicholas and St. Bernard this transformed the origin of Hornchurch priory, which was built beside Hornchurch church. The name Hornchurch is first recorded in 1222 and from the 13th century appears to have been a developing and expanding community. The development of Hornchurch continued through the Middle Ages and well into the 17th century. From the 17th to the 19th century Hornchurch was established as a residential area and many of the earlier houses from that time were either improved or rebuilt. The 1920s and 1930s witnessed a rapid rebuilding throughout the central and northern parts of Hornchurch. After the Second World War a large number of housing estates were constructed and there was large-scale industrial development on Hornchurch marshes. By 1965, the only large area of open land was the former R.A.F. station at Suttons Farm (Powell, 1978).

METHODOLOGY

2.9 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.10 The trenches were located by survey using a total station theodolite, and have been related to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

2.11 Four trenches were opened using a JCB excavator fitted with a 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket, and reduced to the first significant archaeological horizon. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.12 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10.

SITE STRATIGRAPHY

2.13 The stratigraphy was consistent across the site and comprised of a layer of moderately firm very dark gray (10YR 3/1) topsoil over a firm, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sandy silt subsoil. Beneath this lay the natural geology of firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay. Within the natural in Trenches 1 and 2, there were both iron and manganese deposits present. Trenches 3 and 4 contained little to no iron or manganese, but did include lenses of gravel.

RESULTS

Trench 1

2.14 Trench 1 was located in the southwest corner of the site across the location proposed for Buildings 7 and 9, as well as the access road associated with the new development. The trench measured 1.60 x 24.80m and was aligned approximately north – south.

2.15 Although no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts predating the modern period, were observed in this trench, there was a modern posthole along the boundary between numbers 24 and 26 Osborne Road. This posthole was in line with a concrete post at the rear of the site. The backfill was a dark gray silt which contained no finds.

Trench data:

Length (m):	24.80	Width (m):	1.60	Maximum Depth (m):	0.66	Orientation	N – S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.58	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.59
		Base	30.92			Base	30.99
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
	Layer	Firm, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) Topsoil.	-	-	0.33		
	Layer	Moderately firm, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sandy silt. Subsoil.	-	-	0.22-0.10		
	Layer	Firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay with iron and manganese. Natural geology.	-	-	0.11+		

Trench 2

2.16 Trench 2 was located in the western half of the site across the footprint of the proposed Buildings numbered 9, 10 and 11. The trench measured 1.6 x 24.90m and was aligned approximately east-west.

2.17 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench data:

Length (m):	24.90	Width (m):	1.60	Maximum Depth (m):	0.66	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.51	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.62
		Base	31.04			Base	30.96
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
	Layer	Firm, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) Topsoil.	-	-	0.40-0.27		
	Layer	Moderately firm, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sandy silt. Subsoil.	-	-	0.27-0.16		
	Layer	Firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay with iron and manganese. Natural geology.	-	-	-		

Trench 3

2.18 Trench 3 was located in the south of the site across the footprint of the proposed Building 6. The trench measured 1.6 x 24.70m and was aligned approximately east-west.

2.19 A number of archaeological features were recorded which may be late prehistoric in date.

- The butt end of a linear ditch [301] was excavated, running east-west, which may have been a boundary ditch given its steep sides. The fill (302) does not appear to have been the result of silting and may have been a deliberate backfill. Several pottery sherds, which appeared to have been handmade, were collected from this fill and it was noted that the tempering had leached out.
- Adjacent to [301] was a possible pit or a further butt end [303]. This feature was shallower than [301] although the fill (304) was identical. On this basis, the two features may be contemporary.
- A shallow gully [305], situated on a similar alignment to [301], was also present within this trench. The fill (306) was very clean and there were no finds.
- A possible pit [307], which had been cut through the subsoil, was recorded in the northern baulk at the eastern end of the trench. Fragments of burnt clay were noted, which may be crushed building material, but no significant dating evidence was observed.

Trench data:

Length (m):	24.70	Width (m):	1.60	Maximum Depth (m):	0.43	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.49	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.49
		Base	31.13			Base	31.06
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
301	Cut	Linear cut with very steep, straight sides and a flat base. Aligned ESE-WNW	1.15	0.75	0.42		
302	Fill	Soft dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay. Fill of [301] with small occasional charcoal fragments and small occasional sub-angular flints.	1.15	0.75	0.42		
303	Cut	Sub-ovoid linear cut with slightly concave steep sides and a slightly rounded flat base. Aligned N-S	0.37	0.73	0.29		
304	Fill	Soft dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay. Fill of [303] with small occasional charcoal fragments and small occasional sub-angular flints.	0.37	0.73	0.29		
305	Cut	Linear cut with concave shallow sides and a slightly rounded flat base. Aligned SE-NW	1.30	0.36	0.06		
306	Fill	Firm dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey sand. Fill of [305] with frequent rounded stones.	1.30	0.36	0.06		
307	Cut	Sub ovoid cut with steep slightly concave sides and a rounded base. Aligned E-W	0.8	0.33	0.21		
308	Fill	Soft very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clay. Fill of [307] with frequent small charcoal fragments and moderate small sub-angular flints	0.8	0.33	0.21		
	Layer	Firm, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) Topsoil.	-	-	-		
	Layer	Moderately firm, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sandy silt. Subsoil.	-	-	-		
	Layer	Firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay with iron and manganese. Natural geology.	-	-	-		

Trench 4

2.20 Trench 4 was located in the north-east of the site across the footprint of the proposed Buildings 1-4 and the access road. The trench measured 1.6 x 24.30m and was aligned approximately north-south.

2.21 This trench lay across the frontage of nos. 22 and 24 Osborne Road, in the area previously built up. Modern building debris had been compressed into the natural in the course of demolition of the earlier dwellings. Footings and services cross the trench and include a ceramic drain pipe positioned in the north-west corner, other metal and plastic pipes, a brick wall and a concrete slab.

2.22 A small posthole [401] was excavated, and contained a moderate amount of small charcoal fragments and a singular piece of pottery within the fill (402). No associated structural features were observed within the trench.

Length (m):	24.30	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	0.49	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.36	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	31.34
		Base	30.96			Base	30.85
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)			
				Length	Width	Depth	
401	Cut	Sub-circular cut with steep straight sides and a flat base.		0.30	0.30	0.17	
402	Fill	Firm brown (10YR 4/3) clayey sand. Fill of [401] with moderate charcoal fragments and moderate amounts of small sub-angular flints.		0.30	0.30	0.17	
	Layer	Firm, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) Topsoil.		-	-	0.20 where present	
	Layer	Firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay with patches of gravel. Natural geology.		-	-	-	

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Concordance

Context	Pottery		CBM	
	No	Wt	No	Wt
302	4	45		
308			5	24
402	1	12		

Pottery

2.23 A total of 5 sherds with a weight of 57g were recovered from the evaluation work at 22-26 Osborne Rd, Hornchurch, Essex.

2.24 All of the pottery noted on the site is shell tempered and equates to the fabrics identified by both Going (1987) and Pollard (1988). These are designated SEX SH (south Essex shell tempered ware) and NKT SH (north Kent shell tempered ware) respectively.

2.25 The fabric is variously dated, but essentially starts from around the LIA/mid 1st and continues up until the early/mid 2nd century AD. Although these sherds display leaching (plate like voids left by dissolved shell on the surface), they only exhibit slight abrasion. The single diagnostic sherd within this small assemblage (302) belongs to a long-lived bead rimmed jar.

Bibliography

Going, C. J, 1987 *The Mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus: The Roman pottery* Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 3.2, CBA Research Report 62

Pollard, R. J, 1988 *The Roman pottery of Kent* Monograph Series of the Kent Archaeological Society, 5, Kent Archaeological Society, Maidstone

Ceramic Building Materials

2.26 Just 5 abraded fragments of CBM with a weight of 24g have been identified; none are diagnostic.

3. Discussion

3.1 Four trenches were excavated in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the present site. Trenches 1 and 2 contained no archaeological features. Trenches 3 and 4 contained a number of features that were identified as being of archaeological interest.

3.2 The site is situated within an area of known archaeological activity. Previous excavation from within the local area has revealed an Iron Age gully (SMR 062446) and a late Iron Age field system (NMR 1257009), which are indicative of some level of local occupation or settlement. Ditch [301], which has been interpreted as a possible boundary ditch, contained sherds of pottery which are indicative of late Iron Age/early Romano-British activity. Feature [303] may represent a contemporary plot/enclosure boundary, and a shallow gully [305] has also been suggested to be late Iron Age in date.

3.3 Within Trench 4, a small posthole [401] was recorded but no other associated features.

Conclusion

3.4 The present evaluation has demonstrated the presence of features on the site which are likely to represent boundaries dating to the late Iron Age/early Romano-British period. The recovered artefacts suggest that the focus of activity was in the east and south-east of the site. Posthole [401], situated within Trench 4, may be indicative of settlement activity, but it was not possible to confirm this within the limits of the evaluation sample.

3.5 On the basis of these findings, it is considered that there is a high risk that further archaeological remains of similar date would be disturbed in the course of the redevelopment of the site.

Confidence Rating

3.6 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

3.7 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

4. Bibliography

Archaeology Data Service : <http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue>

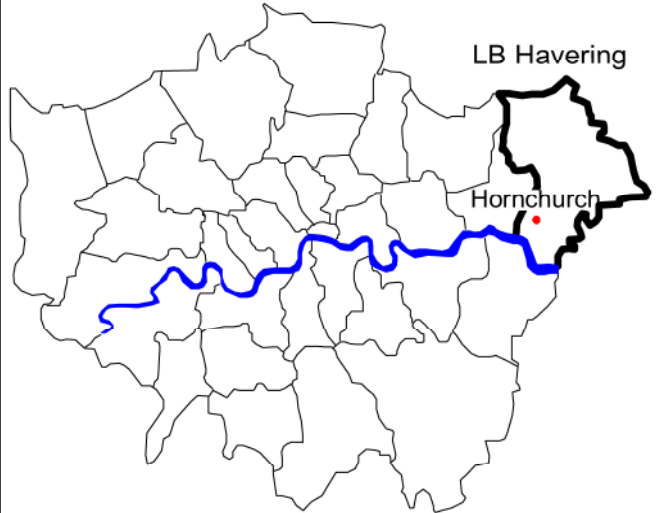
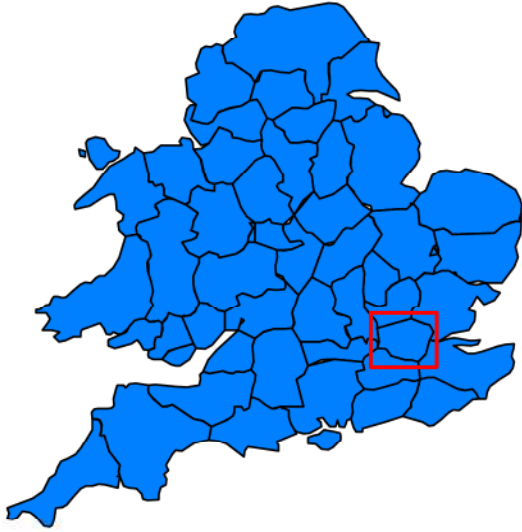
Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

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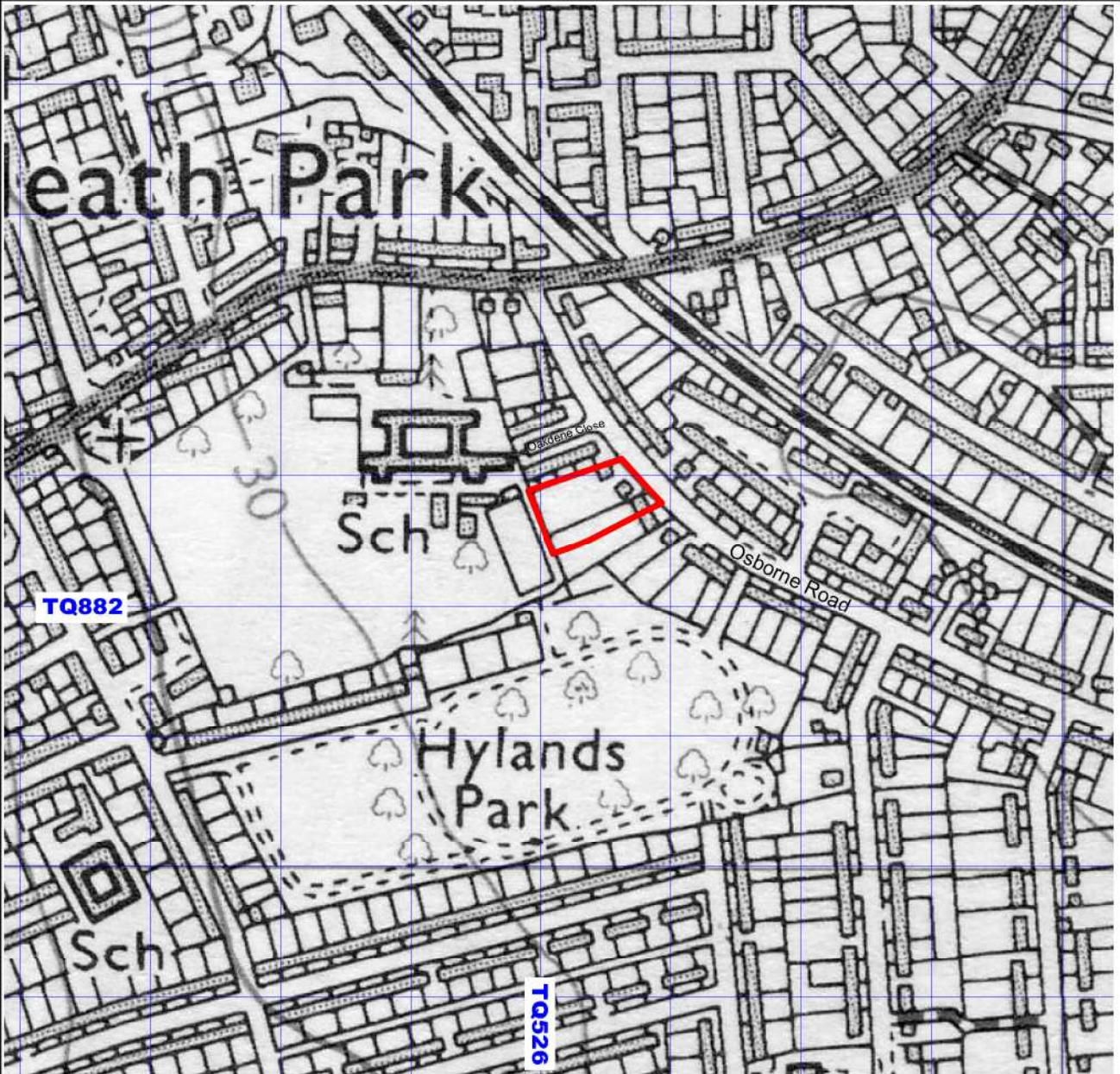
Powell, W.R. (editor), 1978, 'Hornchurch: Introduction' in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 7* (1978), pp. 25-31.

5. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Plan of Trenches 3 & 4
Figure 4	Feature Sections
Plate 1	Trench 1 looking North
Plate 2	Trench 2 looking West
Plate 3	Trench 3 looking East
Plate 4	Trench 4 looking North

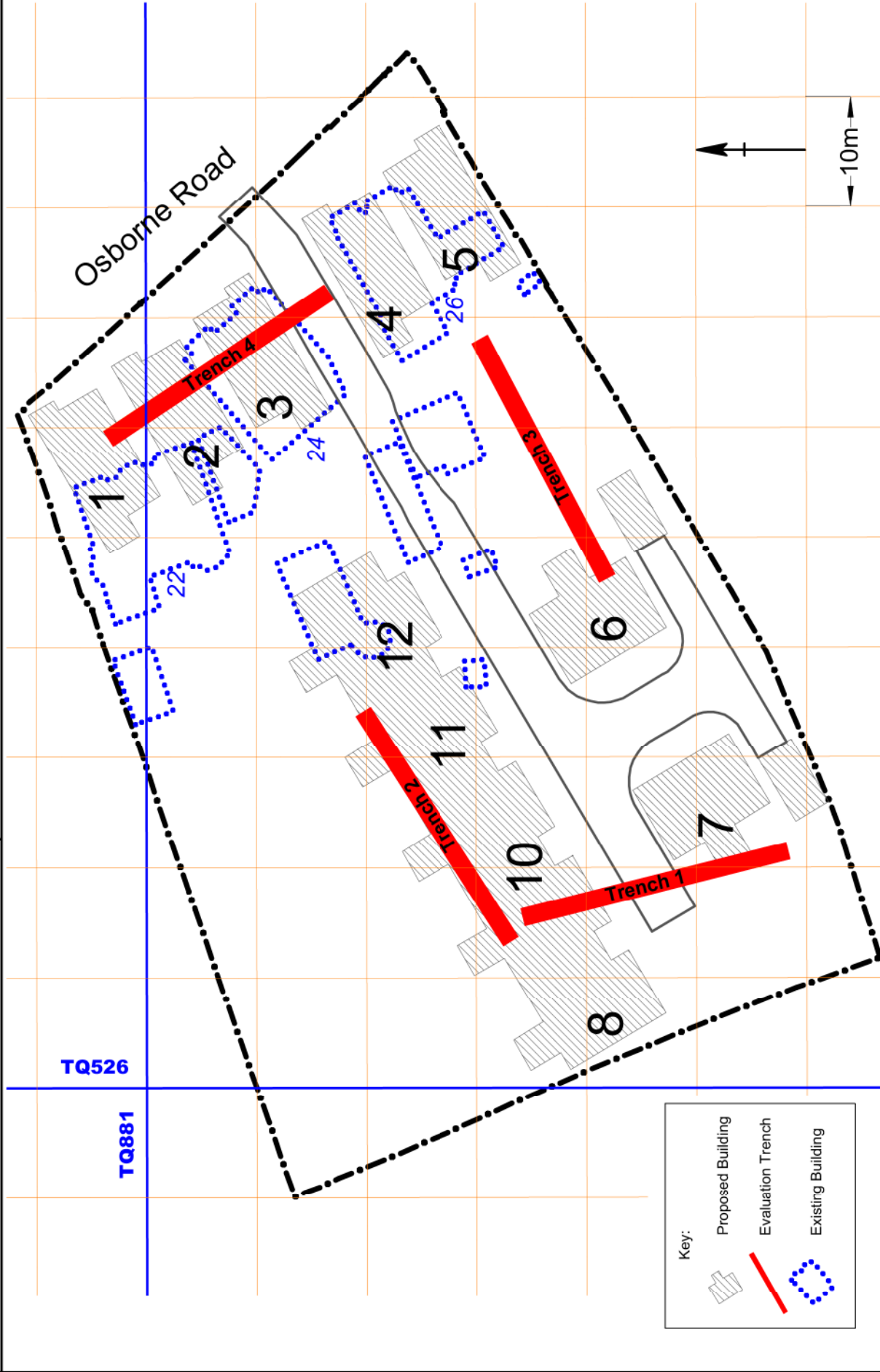


GREATER LONDON



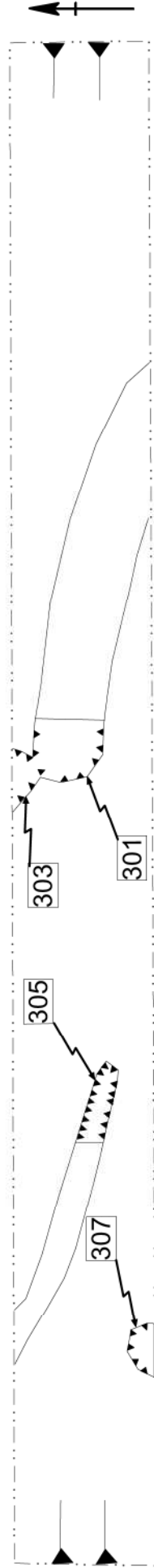
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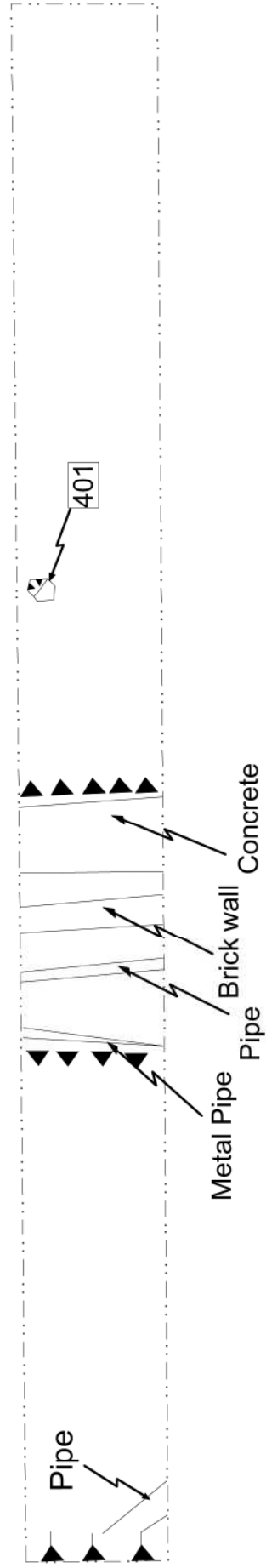


Site Layout

Trench 3



Trench 4



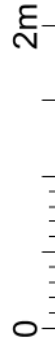
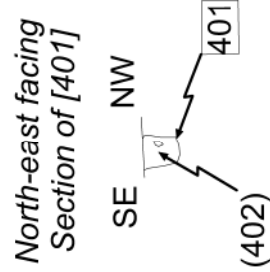
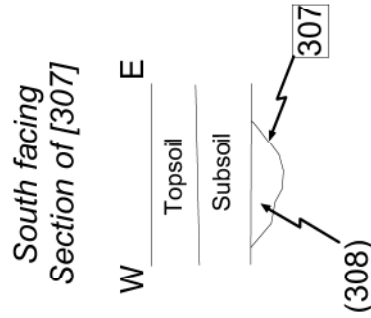
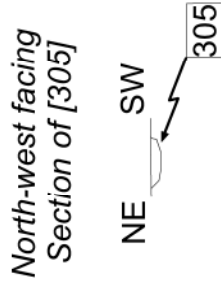
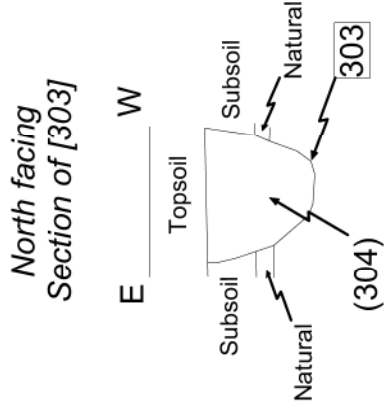
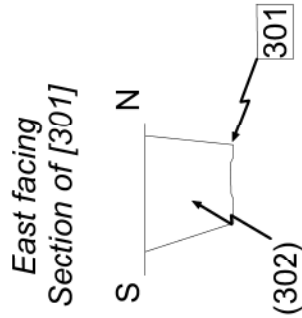




Plate 1: Trench 1 looking North



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking West



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking East



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking North

Appendix

OASIS Data Entry Form: heritage1-41111

Project details

Project name	22 - 26 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, LB Havering
Short description of the project	In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct 12 new dwellings on land situated at 22-26 Osborne Road, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of development. A number of linear features were recorded in Trench 3 and a small post-hole in Trench 4. Several sherds of pottery with a date range from Late Iron Age to the early Romano-British period were also recovered from these trenches. There is considered to be a high risk that further archaeological remains of similar date would be disturbed in the course of the redevelopment of the site.
Project dates	Start: 22-07-2008 End: 24-07-2008
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Associated project reference codes	HN734 - Contracting Unit No.
Associated project reference codes	OSB08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
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

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING HORNCHURCH 22-26 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, LB Havering
Postcode	RM11 1HA
Study area	4282.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 52642 88272 51.5721205990 0.202863524107 51 34 19 N 000 12 10 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.85m Max: 31.13m

Project creators

Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Chris Turner
Type of funding body	Developer

Name of funding body Bellwinch Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Physical Archive ID OSB08

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Digital Archive ID OSB08

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Paper Archive ID OSB08

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 22-26 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, LB Havering: Archaeological Evaluation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Watkins, K.

Other bibliographic details Heritage Network Report 494

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