

# *Sutton Archaeological Services*

## Evaluation Report

on

**736 Lea Bridge Road**

Leyton, London, E10.

LID 05: (TQ 3811 8840)

for

*Telford Homes Plc.*



**Fig. 1**

Tithe Award Map (1839)

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LID 05: (TQ 3811 8840)

by

J G PERRY: May 2005

## Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 736 Lea Bridge Road, Lyton, London, E10 on 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

The site lay close to an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Waltham Forest's Unitary Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the project design indicated that there was Prehistoric and Roman archaeology in the surrounding area.. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the project design indicated that there was Post-Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

Four trenches were excavated across the site revealing rubble deposits over the natural clay and gravel. In two cases an earlier phase of demolition (possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century) was found.

No Post-Medieval archaeology was found.

In our opinion, we suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

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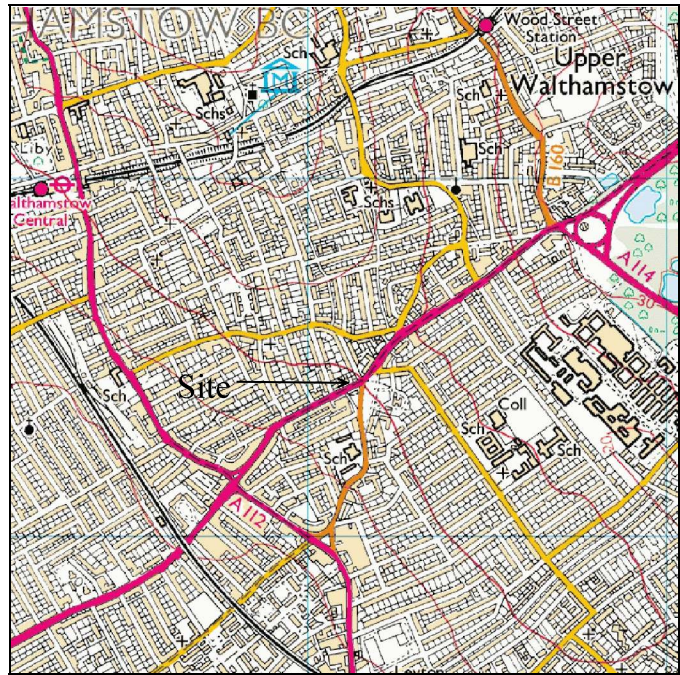
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## Introduction

**Origin and scope of report:** This report relates to the site of the proposed development at 736 Lea Bridge Road.

Telford Homes plc (the developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) to carry out an evaluation and any subsequent archaeological work that may be necessary.



**Location:** The site lies in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, close to its southern boundary with Hackney and Newham. The sites lie on the south side of Lea Bridge Road, which runs from Upper Clapton, across the River Lee and westwards to Whipps Cross. To the north lies Grove Road, while to the east are Knotts Green, Livingstone College and Whipps Cross Hospital. To the south and west lies a triangular area formed by Leyton High Road, Leyton Green Road and Lea Bridge Road.

**Fig. 2**

Site Location

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**Topography:** The sites lie in a mainly residential area on the eastern side of the Lee valley, which runs southwards to the Thames. The ground slopes downwards from the north-east to the south-west. The sites lie at a height of about 23m aOD. To the north the ground rises to small hill.

**Geology:** Under the site lies clay over sand and gravel.

## Planning background

The site was until recently a Motor sales centre and a repairs & servicing garage.

Telford Homes plc has received for planning permission to develop the site for housing, gardens, access roads and landscaped areas (fig. 4).



Outline planning permission was approved by the London Borough of Waltham Forest. An archaeological condition under PPG 16<sup>1</sup> was included in the planning decision 2003/1661/OUT dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2003:

11. *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the local planning authority.*

### **Archaeological and historical background**

There is plenty of evidence for human occupation and activity in the area around the site, though this is mostly confined to the Roman, Medieval and later periods.

Taking the evidence as a whole, before the evaluation, the potential for Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval settlement in the area of the site was considered **low**, though we expected stray finds might turn up. The pre-evaluation potential for Post- occupation and activity was considered medium.

**Prehistoric:** There have been only a few Prehistoric finds recorded in the area around the site, however, this could be due to a lack of archaeological survey in the research area. The lack of Prehistoric material from the nearby evaluations shows there was no Prehistoric archaeology on those sites. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Prehistoric archaeology on this site.

**Roman:** The Roman road to the south-west of the site is thought to be aligned towards the north-east, possibly along what is now Leyton Green Road. The Roman building found in Leyton Green Road may be associated with the Roman road. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Roman archaeology on this site.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment: *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, HMSO, 1990.

**Saxon:** During this period, little Domesday suggests that the surrounding area seems to have been mainly forest, with little or no Saxon occupation. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Saxon archaeological is low.

**Medieval:** There is some evidence, both archaeological and historical, to indicate the presence of Medieval buildings at Knotts Green. Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a low potential for Medieval archaeological is low.

**Post-Medieval to Modern:** Many of the possible Medieval buildings could have survived into the Post-Medieval period and may have been replaced in the Tudor great rebuilding. Certainly the records refer to many large, 16<sup>th</sup> century buildings. One of the buildings has a moat, but this seems to be a modern feature.

The cartographic evidence from the 19<sup>th</sup> century shows ribbon development on two sides of the Knotts Green triangle, to the south along Leyton Green Road and to the west along Leyton High Road. These buildings probably indicate the position of the earlier Post-Medieval buildings. The area of the site, however, remained undeveloped until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested there was a medium potential for Post-Medieval archaeological is low.

### **Research objectives**

Sutton Archaeological Services carried out the evaluation following our research design dated February 2005. After a brief assessment of the evidence, our objectives were to look for signs of Post-Medieval occupation on the site, and if found to determine their extent, date, condition and significance.

The Institute of Field Archaeologists has defined the purpose of a field evaluation as follows.

“The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource

- the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.”

*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, IFA, 2001*

## **Archaeological Methodology**

**Standards:** SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our project design dated April 2005.
- the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangement in Field Archaeology, Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations
- the archaeological guidance papers issued by English Heritage.
- the planning condition inserted by the London Borough of Waltham Forest 2003/1661/OUT dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2003:

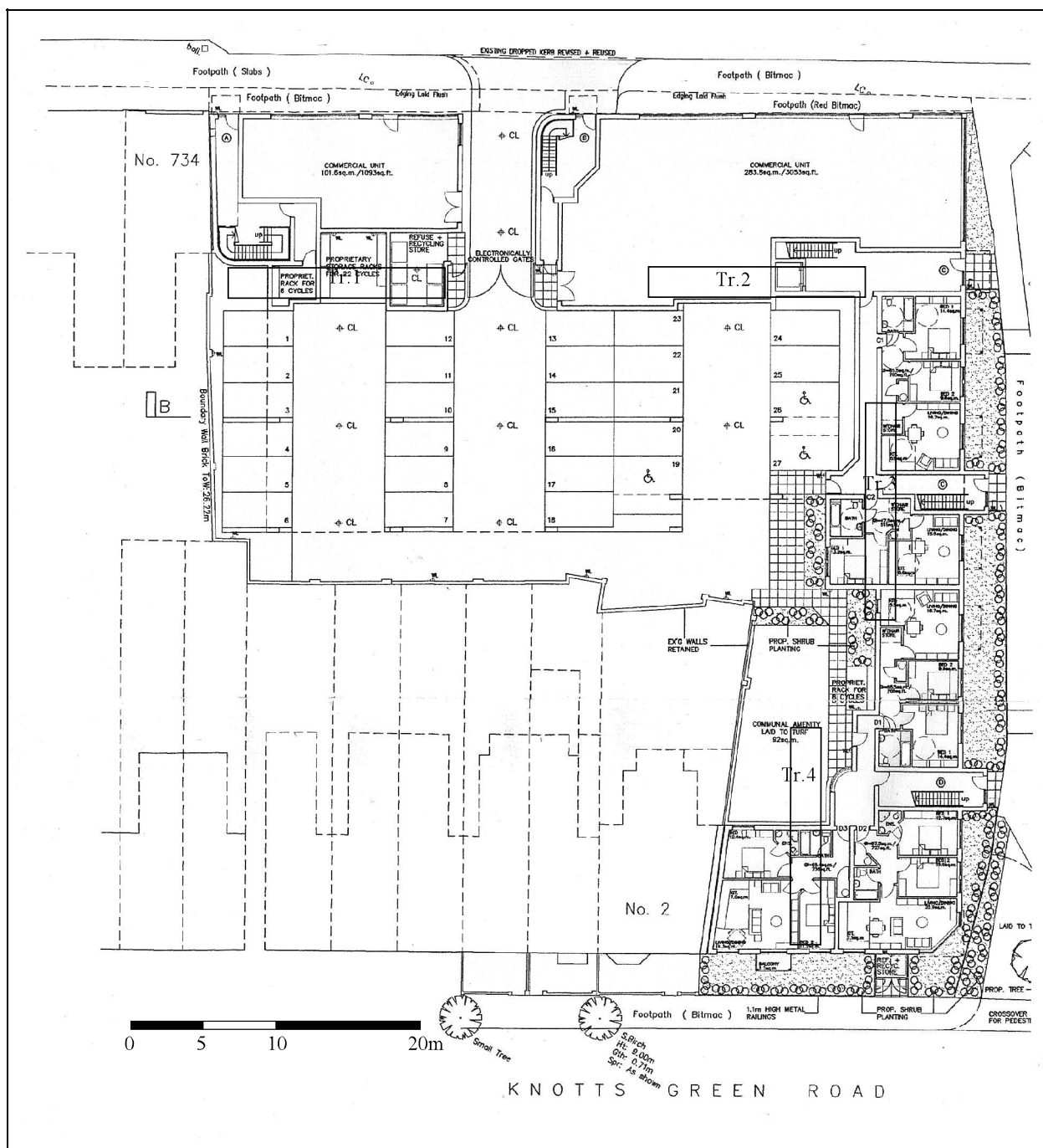
**Control:** All excavation work was done under the control of the archaeologists on site.

**Trenches:** We dug 4 trenches as shown on Fig 4.

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dimensions (metres)</b>
1	north-eastern part of the site	15 x 2
2	north-western part of the site	15 x 2
4	eastern part of the site	15 x 2
5	southern part of the site	15 x 2

We broke open each trench with a 360° excavating machine, using a wide-bladed (1.50m+) smooth-edged ditching bucket.

**Non-archaeological deposits:** In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits from the 19th century or later. Work continued removing all overburden until we reached the first significant archaeological layer (or the natural deposits), at which point all machine work ceased in that trench. (We excavated up to 20cm



**Fig. 4** Trench location plan

into the natural to make sure we had reached true natural and not re-deposited material.) In this way we excavated trenches 1 and 2 without finding any significant archaeological deposits.

**Site records:** We recorded all features as we proceeded, by written records, plans, sections and photographs. A Munsell soil colour chart was used to determine soil colour and all readings were taken with moist soil. In all, we recorded 11 contexts - numbered [001] to [011] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in f our Research Design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

Appendix 1 to this report is a list of the contexts found, and Fig. 5 shows the site matrix.

**Levels:** All levels were taken from the developers site survey.

**Backfilling:** After excavating and recording we backfilled the trenches and roughly levelled the ground, leaving surplus spoil on site.

## **Evaluation results**

### ***Trench 1***

Trench 1 was located in the north-western part of the site and oriented east to west.

Context **001** was a brick rubble fill deposit (east: 23.495m aOD to west: 23.485m aOD) that extended across the whole of the trench to a depth of between 1.10 to 1.14m.

Underlying **001** was the natural silty clay. This was a friable to very soft, orangish brown silty clay [**002**] (east: 22.395m aOD m to west: 22.365m aOD), containing 15% to 20% fine to medium rounded flint pebbles. This deposit extended across the whole of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of 20cm.

There were no archaeological features and or finds, other than modern CBM.

### ***Trench 2***

Trench 2 was in the north-eastern part of the site and oriented north to south.

Context **003** was the brick rubble fill (east: 23.46m aOD to west: 23.431m aOD), similar to context **001**. The deposit was about 1.20m in depth and extended across the whole of the trench.

Underlying **003** at the eastern end of the trench was another brick rubble deposit [**004**] (23.15m aOD), but consisting of 19<sup>th</sup> century bricks. It was 25cm thick and contained a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found within the context.

The natural silty clay [**005**] (east: 22.26m aOD to west: 22.191m aOD) lay below **005** and extended across the whole of the trench.

### ***Trench 3*** (Plate 1)

Trench 3 was located in the eastern part of the site and oriented north to south (north: 23.35m aOD to south: 23.431m aOD).

Context **006** was a fill deposit consisting of a very soft, dark brown sandy clay that extended across the whole of the trench to a depth of between 20cm to 24cm. Contained within the deposit were occasional medium to large fragments of brick and small to large flint pebbles.

Underlying **006** was a further fill deposit. This was a friable to very soft, orangish brown sandy clay [**007**] (north: 23.10m aOD to south: 23.050m aOD), containing 10% small to medium flint pebbles and moderate medium to large fragments of brick. The deposit covered the trench to a depth of between 40cm to 50cm.

Below **007** was another fill deposit, similar to context **006**. This was a very soft, dark brown sandy clay (north: 23.35m aOD to south: 23.431 aOD) [**008**], containing moderate medium to large fragments of brick and small to large flint pebbles.

The natural silty clay [**009**] (north 22.72 aOD m to south: 22.625 aOD) which extended across the whole of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of 5cm to 10cm.

There were no archaeological features and or finds, other than modern CBM.

### ***Trench 4***

Trench 4 was located in the southern part of the site and oriented north to south.

The first context was a very soft, dark brown sandy clay [**010**] (east: 23.23m aOD to west: 23.22m aOD) that extended across the whole of the trench to a depth of between 1.18 to 1.20m.

Underlying **010** was the natural silty clay [**011**] (east: 22.05m aOD m to west: 22.02m aOD) which extended across the whole of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of 10cm to 20cm.

There were no archaeological features and or finds, other than modern CBM.

## **Assessment and interpretation**

The evidence from the SAS preliminary research indicated that there was Post-Medieval archaeology in the surrounding area.

The evaluation only revealed rubble and fill deposits over the natural clay and gravel.

There was no evidence for archaeology in any of the trenches other than the 19<sup>th</sup> century rubble. The only archaeological finds made, except modern CBM, was a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

We found no evidence of any period occupation on the site.

## **Archaeological Potential**

Following the evaluation our revised view is that this site has no potential for archaeological remains of any period.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Our findings set out above lead us to conclude that the proposed development does not threaten to destroy any archaeological remains of national, regional or local importance, deserving further investigation or preservation.

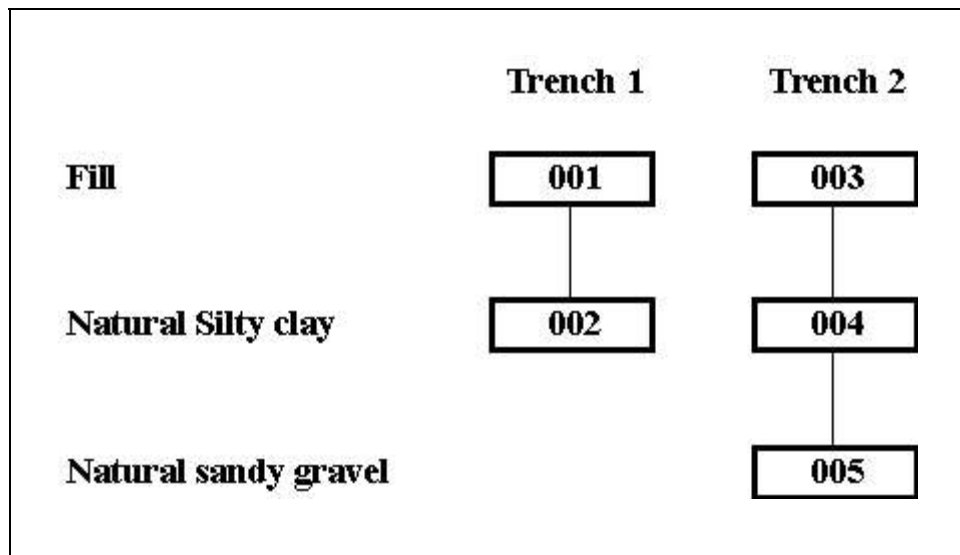
In our opinion, we suggest that no further archaeological monitoring or intervention is needed and that the archaeological condition in the planning consent has been fulfilled. The decision to discharge the archaeological condition, however, rests with the Archaeological Officer at English Heritage and the local planning authority.

## **Publications and dissemination**

The evidence is not worthy of publication but a note on the evaluation will be placed in the *London Archaeologist's* round-up and a copy of the report lodged in the local library.

## Archive

The resulting archive, including all of the finds, will be donated by the developer and deposited with the Museum of London when the final report has been completed

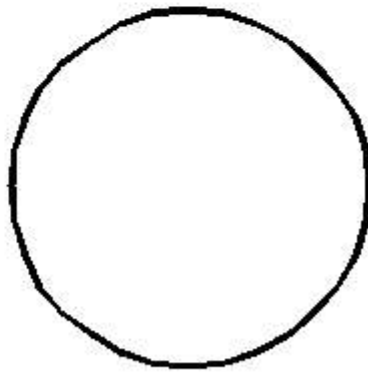


**Fig. 5** Context Matrix



**Plate 1**

Trench 3: west section



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