

Sutton Archaeological Services

Evaluation Report

on

1177-79 Newham Way

East Ham, London, E6

NHW 05: (TQ 426821)

for

Telford Homes Plc.

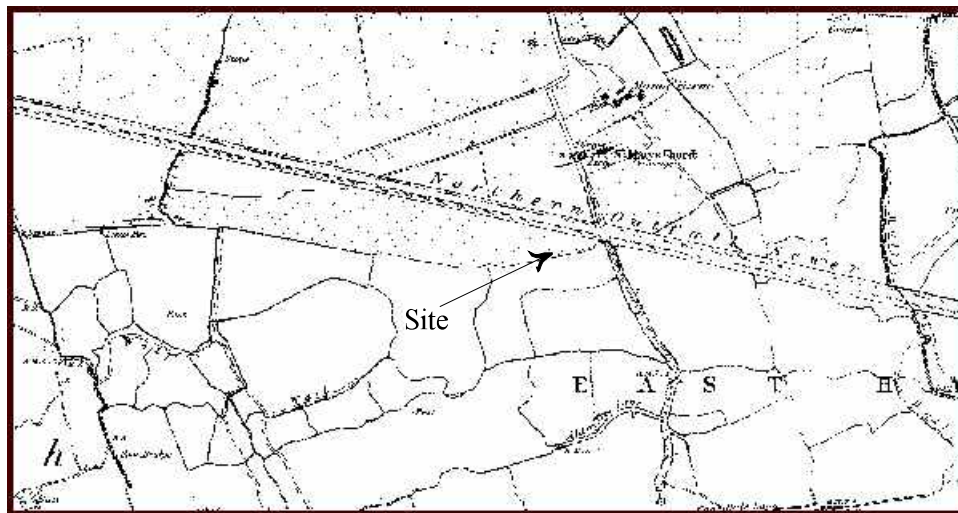


Fig. 1

OS Map of 1882

Evaluation Report

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East Ham, London, E6.
London Borough of Newham
NHW 05: (TQ 426821)

by

J G PERRY: May 2005

Summary

Sutton Archaeological Services (SAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 1177-79 Newham Way, East Ham, London, E6 on 18th May, 2005.

The site lay in an area of archaeological importance as defined in London Borough of Newham's Unitary Plan. Research by Sutton Archaeological Services for the project design indicated that there was Prehistoric archaeology in the surrounding area.

Two trenches were excavated across the site revealing modern concrete and fill deposits over an alluvial deposit and the natural sands and gravels.

No Prehistoric archaeology was found. In trench 2 was the remains of a gravel terrace to the river Thames. We recovered pottery dating from the 19th century.

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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Introduction

Origin and scope of report: This report relates to the proposed development at 1177-79 Newham Way, East Ham, London, E6.

Telford Homes plc (the Developer) has commissioned Sutton Archaeological Services to undertake an evaluation, to assess the impact of the development on the archaeology of the site.

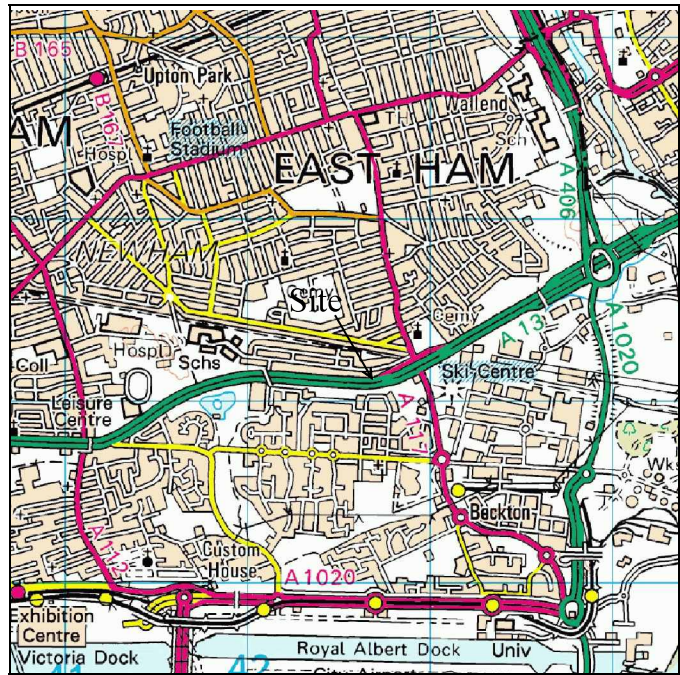


Fig. 2 Site Location © Crown Copyright MC/98/38

Location: The site lies in the London Borough of Newham, close to its eastern boundary with Barking and Dagenham. The site lies on the north side of the A13, Newham Way, just by the junction of High Street South and Woolwich Manor Way.

Topography: The sites lie in a residential area on the northern side of the Thames Valley. The surrounding ground gently slopes from the north-west (4m aOD) to the south-east (2m aOD) sites lying at a height of about 2.05m aOD.

Geology: Under the site lies alluvial deposits over sand and gravel.

Planning background

The site was an old 20th century garage. Telford Homes plc has received for planning permission to demolish the present building and to develop the site for housing, gardens and landscaped areas (fig. 4).

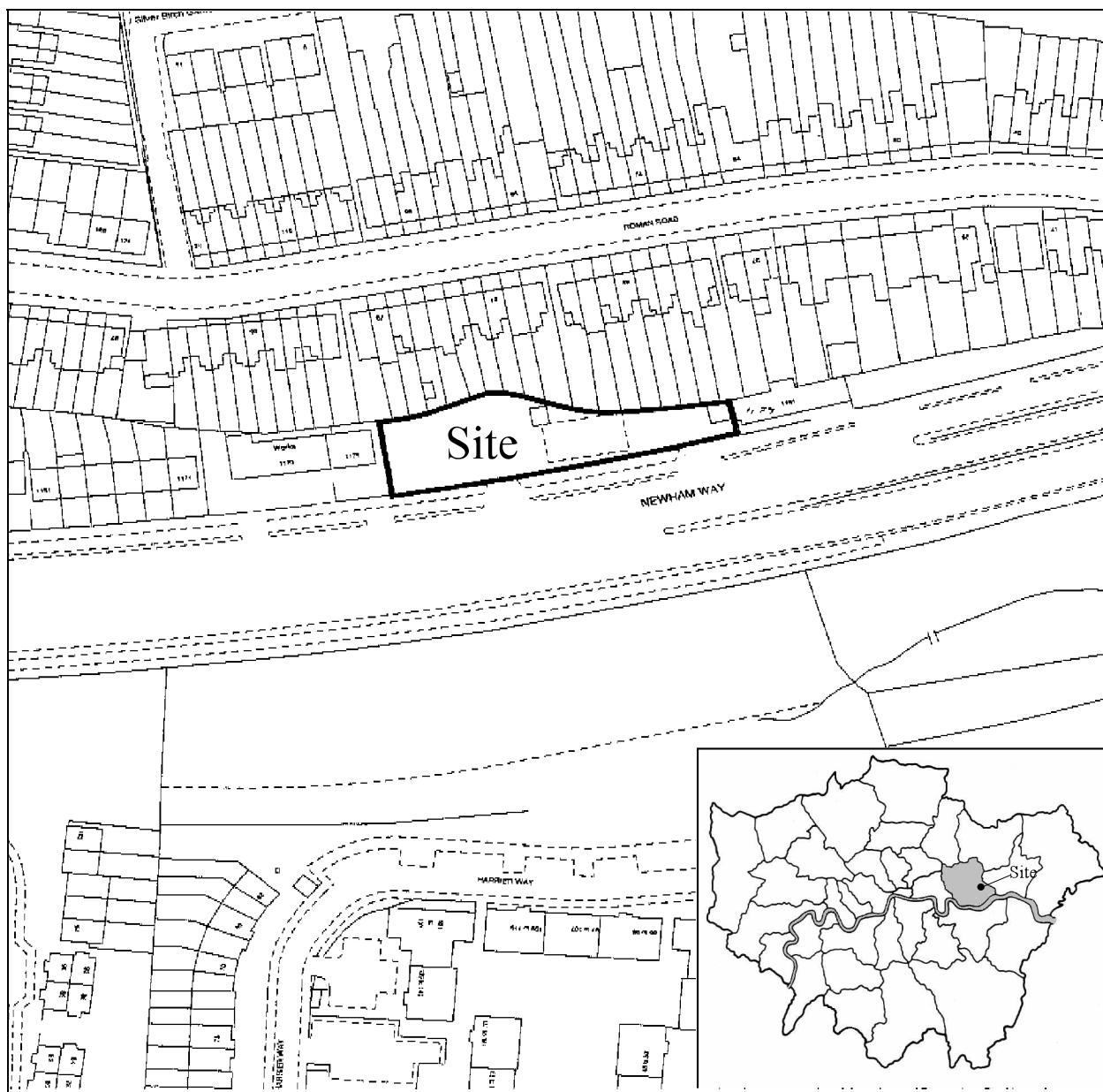


Fig. 3

Site Location Plan

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The site lies in an area of archaeological importance and English Heritage advised the borough that an archaeological condition under PPG 16¹ should be included in the planning approval. The borough inserted the following condition into the planning approval (P/04/1368) on 16th march 2005:

19. *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*

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

works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Archaeological and historical background

There is considerable evidence for the Prehistoric period, particularly Bronze Age track ways, in the area to the south of the site. There is very little evidence of the Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods in the area of the site. A Roman Road runs to the north of the site.

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

Prehistoric: There have been many finds of Bronze Age track ways to the south of the site, along what would have been the northern margins of the river Thames. Sites are known at Evelyn Dennington Road, Beckton, East Ham, E6 (HE-ED93) and Beckton Nursery (HE-BN94). Further excavations (WMA 02) have been conducted as part of the A13 improvements. At the SW of the junction of Woolwich Manor Way and the A13, the natural gravels were overlaid by deposits which were interpreted as degraded land surfaces of Neolithic date. Elsewhere on the site these surfaces contained pottery, flint and charred grain. These deposits were sealed by a layer of peat, on the surface of which were found three Middle Bronze Age brushwood trackways.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested the potential for Prehistoric archaeology was considered medium to high.

Roman: There is no known Roman occupation in the, though the main road from London to Colchester ran to the north of the site. The excavations above also found undated features that may be of Roman date.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested the potential for Roman archaeology was considered low.

Saxon: There have been no Saxon finds recorded in the area around the site or from nearby evaluations. The excavations mention in the Prehistoric period found undated features that may be of Saxon date.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested the potential for Saxon archaeology was considered low

Medieval and Post-Medieval: There have been no Medieval or Post-Medieval finds recorded in the area around the site or from nearby evaluations, though the line of the A13 is thought to be of Medieval date. The excavations mention in the Prehistoric period also found undated features that may be of Medieval date.

Pre-evaluation evidence suggested the archaeological potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology was considered low.

Research objectives

Sutton Archaeological Services carried out the evaluation following our research design dated September 2003. After a brief assessment of the evidence, our objectives were to look for signs of Prehistoric and Roman 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

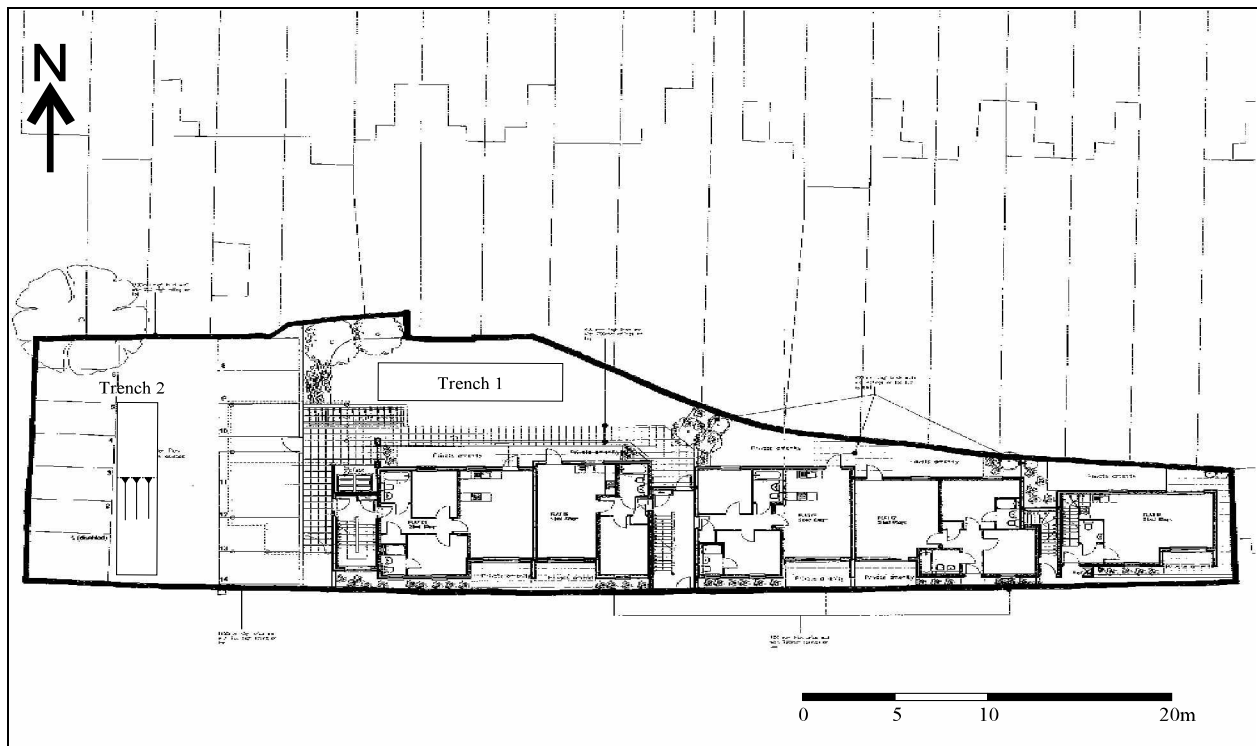


Fig. 4 Development and trench location plan

Archaeological proposals

Usually, where development may destroy archaeology, evaluation is undertaken to identify the presence or absence, extent, character, quality and date of any threatened deposits and, where necessary, to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy.

Telford Homes made an unfortunate oversight in beginning the development of the site, before the archaeological potential could be investigated. The old petrol tanks, interceptors, pipes and contaminated ground were removed and most of the site piled, before Newham Council realises the omission. Work was stopped by the Council until the archaeological situation was resolved. Although it would have been advantageous to have monitored the removal of the old garage infrastructure, very little archaeological evidence can now be gained from this area.

It was proposed, with the agreement of English Heritage and the London Borough of Newham, to allow Telford Homes to complete the piling. The remaining area to be piled is in the area of one of the old petrol tanks, where the potential for archaeological survival is low. On completion of the piling, the site was cleared and the undisturbed areas made available for archaeological evaluation.

SAS proposed to cut 2, 10m x 2m archaeological trenches. One trench was position (east to west) in the garden area, at the northern end of the site, and the second trench was position (north to south) in the car park area at the western end of the site (see fig. 4).

Archaeological Methodology

Standards: SAS carried out the archaeological evaluation in accordance with

- our project design dated May 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 Newham's grant of planning permission P/04/1368 dated 16th march 2005

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

Trenches: We dug 2 trenches as shown on Fig 3.

Trench	Position	Dimensions (metres)
1	northern part of the site	10 x 2
2	western part of the site	10 x 2

We broke open each trench with a 360°, using a pneumatic breaker, a wide-bladed (2m) smooth-edged ditching bucket and, where appropriate, a toothed bucket.

Non-archaeological deposits: In each trench we removed by machine, in level spits of no more than 10-15 cm, the 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). (We excavated up to 20cm 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 6 contexts - numbered [001] to [006] - in a single context recording system. The site was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Methodology in our Research Design, and using the Museum of London's recording system.

Levels: All levels were taken from the developers site survey. The bottom of trench 2 was so deep that a level could not be obtained. The depth of the deposit was measured from the concrete surface.

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 northern part of the site and oriented east to west. Context [001] (1.985m aOD) was a modern fill deposit, containing modern bricks and fragments of concrete. It cover the whole trench and was between 70-75cm deep.

Underlying [001] was the natural silty sand and gravel [002] (1.27m aOD) and extended across the whole of the trench.

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

Trench 2 (plate 2)

Trench 2 was in the western part of the site and oriented north to south. Because of the restricted area in which the excavator had to manoeuvre, the trench was excavated in two halves. The northern part was excavated first and then back filled, before the southern part was excavated and later backfilled. Using this method, a small area in the centre of the trench could not be fully examined.

Context [003] was the concrete surface and rubble fill deposit (south: 2.04m aOD to north: 2.06m aOD). The deposit was between 57cm (south) to 55cm (north).

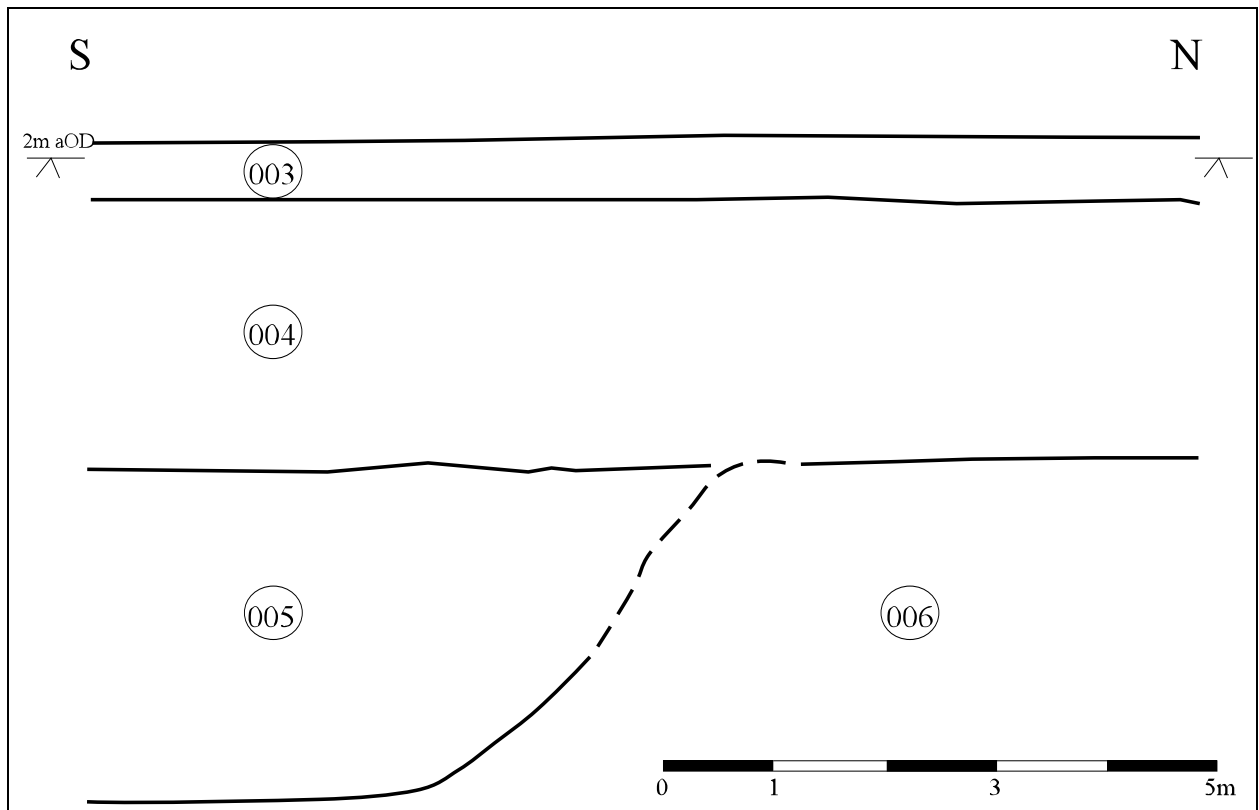


Fig. 5 Trench 2: west section

The underlying context was a soft, medium to dark brown clayey sand fill deposit [004](south: 1.47m aOD to north: 1.51m aOD), containing occasional small to medium pebbles. The deposit was deeper at the southern end of the trench (75cm) than to the north (67cm). This deposit was very unstable and continually collapsed into the trench.

Underlying the fill deposit [004] was a friable, dark bluish grey sandy silt [005](-0.925m aOD), containing occasional small to medium pebbles. This context was only present in the southern part of the trench where it was 1.98m deep, rising up towards the north. Sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered from the top of this deposit.

The natural geological sand and gravel [006](south: -3.495m aOD to north: -0.805m aOD) extended across the whole of the trench. There was a steep dip in the natural halfway along the trench, where there was a gravel terrace.

There were no other archaeological features and the only finds, except modern CBM, was the 19th century pottery from the upper part of the silt [005].

Assessment and interpretation

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

The evaluation only revealed modern concrete and made ground over an alluvial deposit and the natural sands and gravels.

The area of trench 1, and probably the whole site, had been truncated by about 2m when the previous garage was constructed. An examination of the bank (plate 1) to the rear gardens of the houses fronting onto Roman Way, showed that about 50cm of the natural had been removed in this process.

In trench 2 were the remains of a gravel terrace to the river Thames. Abutting the terrace was an alluvial deposit probably laid down by the Thames over a considerable period of time. This most likely represents a marshy area along the margins of the Thames 2½km to the south. Several archaeological excavations on the other side of the A13, Newham Way, revealed waterlogged Bronze Age track ways across this marshy area. The alluvial deposit in trench 2 was extremely dry with no trace of any track way or Prehistoric finds. We recovered pottery dating from the 19th century at the top of the deposit, close to its interface with context **004** above.

There was no evidence for archaeology in any of the trenches. The only archaeological finds made, except modern CBM, was some pottery sherds dating from the 19th century.

We found no evidence of Prehistoric 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

Although the developers started construction before the archaeological work, this does not appear to have destroyed any archaeology. 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.

We recommend that no further archaeology is needed, though the decision to discharge the archaeological condition rests with the archaeological advisor 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

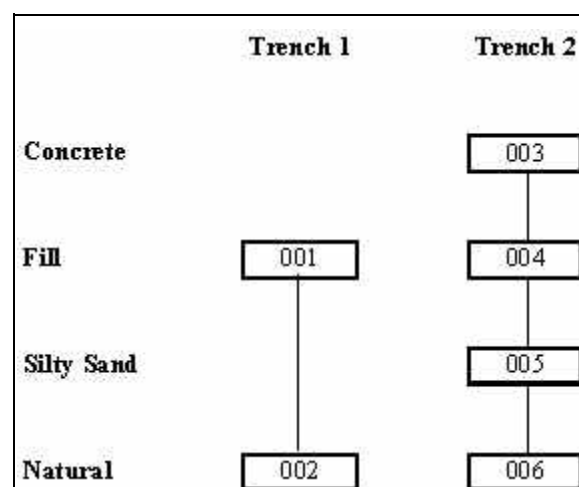


Fig. 6 Context Matrix



Plate 1 Truncated deposits
at the rear of the site



Plate 2 Trench 2: part of the west section

