

NORWOOD HALL JOINT SERVICE CENTRE
25 DEVANE WAY, KNIGHTS HILL
LAMBETH, SE27 0DF

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



August 2012



NORWOOD HALL JOINT SERVICE CENTRE, 25 DEVANE
WAY, KNIGHTS HILL, LAMBETH, SE27 0DE

An Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: DVW12
NGR (centre): TQ 31743 72037
Application No: 10/02230/RG4

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
5-7 SOUTHWARK STREET
LONDON SE1 1RQ

Telephone: 020 7403 9660
Email: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk
Author: Emma Jeffery

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief, plus the excavation of five trenches, was carried out during the redevelopment of the site at Norwood Hall, into a Joint Service Centre Building. The work followed an archaeological desk based assessment of the site by Compass Archaeology in May 2006. This archaeological work did not reveal any remains of archaeological significance.

In general, the site consisted of modern garden topsoil, overlying silty-sand subsoil, over compact and sterile clay deposits (the natural).

The only features observed were a few ceramic land drains running across the area of the playing field, and a large modern concrete feature in the north-western corner of the playing fields (possibly a pavilion of some type). Trench 4 also indicated that the land in the far eastern part of the site may have been built up before the construction of the railway (as a dump of modern material was observed over what looked like a previous land surface here), however no earlier finds, features, or deposits were observed.

There was, therefore, no sign of any early (pre-19th century) activity on the site, or any remains relating to the medieval manor house of Levehurst Manor (thought to have been positioned just to the north of the site). Furthermore, no evidence was recovered for the early 19th century building constructed in the northern-most part of the site, or the 1866 Jewish Hospital and Orphanage building.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an enhanced programme of archaeological observation and recording, undertaken during groundworks and soil stripping on the redevelopment site at Norwood Hall (25 Devane Way, Knights Hill, Lambeth, SE27 0DE). This took place between 29th May 2012 and 4th September 2012. The planning reference number for the development is 10/02230/RG4.



Fig 1 The site outline in relation to the current Ordnance Survey Map

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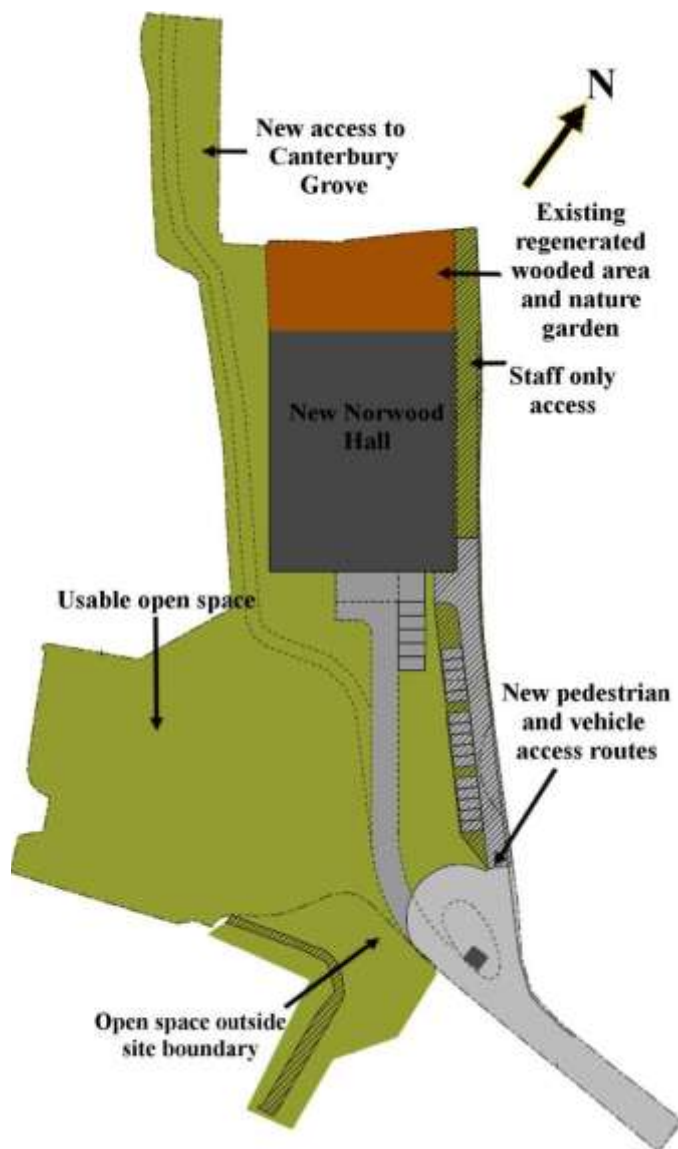


Fig 3: Plan of the proposed redevelopment at Norwood Hall based on an original drawing by Allford Hall Monaghan and Morris Architects Ltd (Drawing No: 08013-037)

- 1.3** This archaeological work followed the compilation of a desk-based assessment (Compass Archaeology, May 2010), which showed that the site had some archaeological potential, particularly because large parts of it had never been developed. Furthermore, although it seems likely that the medieval house of Levehurst manor was located to the north of the development site, there is some confusion over this such that remains relating to it could lie within the northern part of the redevelopment footprint. A small house and garden dating from the early 19th century was also located in the most northern part of the site, and a small part of the 1866 Norwood Hall Building (a Jewish Hospital and Orphanage) is located in the western side of the footprint.

Subsequent consultation with English Heritage (Mark Stevenson) recommended further archaeological work, and the form this should take – a programme of enhanced archaeological observation and recording. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Compass Archaeology, April 2011) detailed how this was to be undertaken.

- 1.4 Archaeological monitoring took place during contractor's groundworks, particularly during soil stripping and the removal of the foundations of the former synagogue / community centre building. Furthermore, five trenches (between c.6m and 20m in length) were excavated within the footprint of the site, to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains.
- 1.5 Compass Archaeology would like to thank Gita Tandon, Chris Radley, Mike Dennis, Bob Stevens, Gottlieb Schoeman, and Paul Mills of Galliford Try Partnerships, for commissioning the project and for all their assistance on site. Further thanks to Mark Stevenson, English Heritage, for his advice and recommendations.

2 Site Location, Geology and Topography

- 2.1 The Norwood Hall site is bounded to the north by Canterbury Grove and its residential properties, to the east by railway lines, to the south by a small area of open space with adjacent residential properties and to the west by Prioress Road with adjacent properties (including those of the Hainthorpe Estate). It is centred at NGR TQ 31743 72037.
- 2.2 It comprises the existing Norwood Hall, a deconsecrated synagogue built in 1962 as a succession to the Norwood Jewish Hospital and Orphan Asylum, later used as a community hall, and empty since 1997. Of the remaining site, a large proportion is designated public open space and used as playing fields. An access road runs between Knights Hill to the east, Norwood Hall and Prioress Road to the west. A small wooded area is located at the very north end of the site, adjacent to residential gardens. The site is irregular in plan and covers a total area of some 12,875 square metres.
- 2.3 It lies on steeply sloped land, sloping in varying degrees from northwest/west to southeast/east across the site. The existing ground surface varies between 63.05m in the west to between 54.3m and 57m OD in the east.
- 2.4 The British Geological Survey (1998: Sheet 270) shows the site overlying natural London Clay, as confirmed by soil investigations.

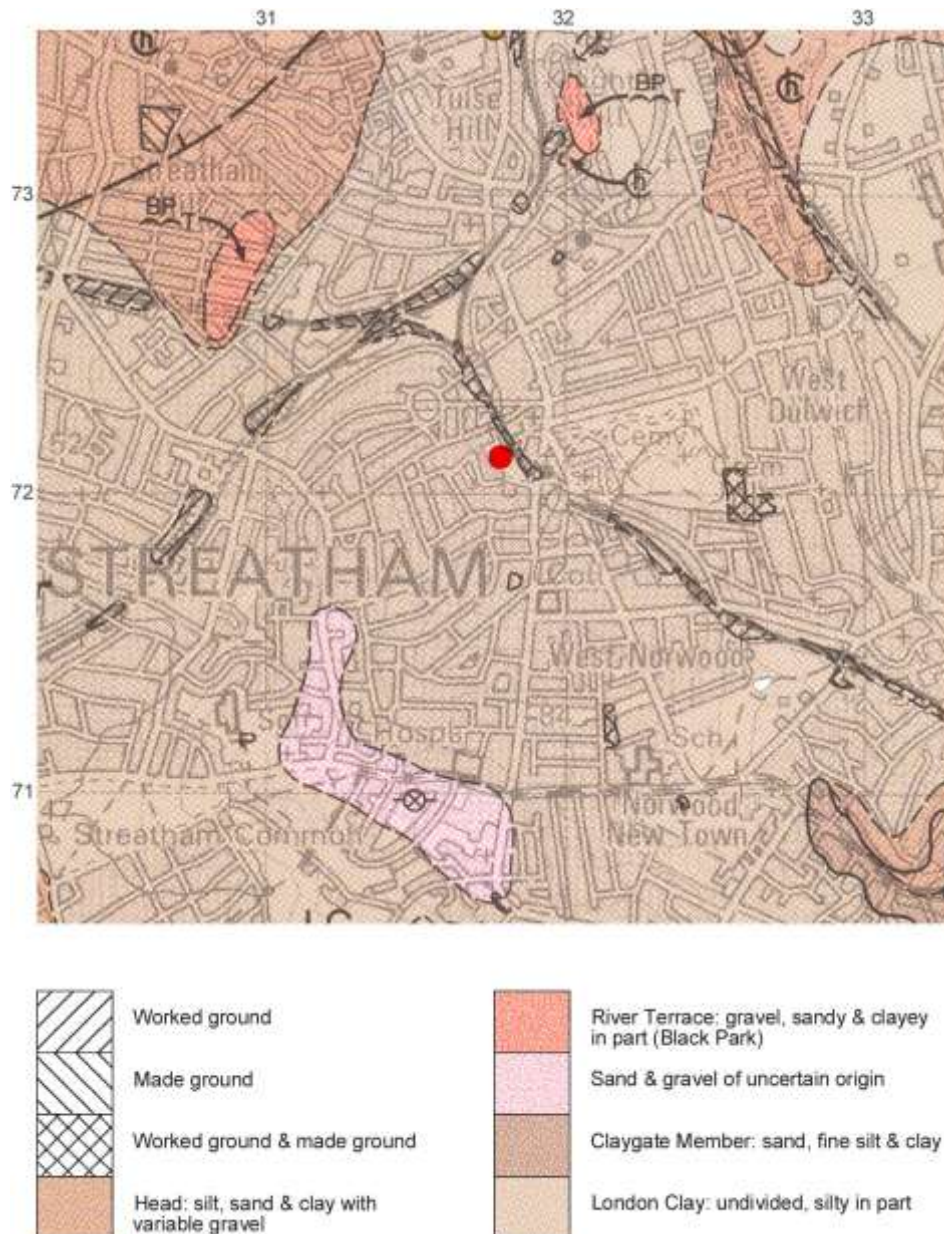


Fig 4 Site location in relation to British Geological Survey, South London, Sheet No.270

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1** The historical and archaeological background to the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment (Compass Archaeology, 2010) and so is only briefly summarised below.
- 3.2** There is very little evidence for any prehistoric, Roman or Saxon activity or occupation in the area. Evidence for prehistoric activity is concentrated in the more northerly parts of the Borough of Lambeth, towards the River Thames. Similarly, there is no evidence of Roman settlement in the vicinity of the site, and all Roman roads / thoroughfares are a distance away from the site.

- 3.3** The site appears to be situated on the boundary between the lands of the medieval manors of Levehurst and Lambeth. The exact line of this boundary is difficult to judge – although it seems likely that it ran just to the south of Canterbury Grove, i.e. on the approximate northern boundary of the site. It is therefore possible, although unlikely, that remains associated with the manor of Levehurst could be located around the site-area.
- 3.4** Nonetheless, the site remained undeveloped throughout the early-post medieval period – probably as open fields or meadows (see Rocque's 1746 Map - Fig 5), with very few remains of medieval date being uncovered in the vicinity of the site. It was not until the early 19th century that the area began to be developed.



Fig 5 Extract from John Rocque's Map of 1746, with site marked

- 3.5** From the first half of the 19th century a small house and garden were located in the far north of the site and apparently remained (although somewhat altered) until at least 1916, after which it was presumably demolished and the site terraced to create a sloping bank (see 1843 Tithe Map – Fig 6).



Fig 6 Extract from the 1843 Tithe Map, with the site outline marked

- 3.6** From 1865, the majority of the site lay within the grounds of the Jewish Hospital and Orphanage. The original 1866 Norwood Hall building mainly lay to the west of the site boundary, although parts of the south and east faces extended into the site. The rest of the area remained open playing fields during this time (see 1870 OS Map – Fig 7).

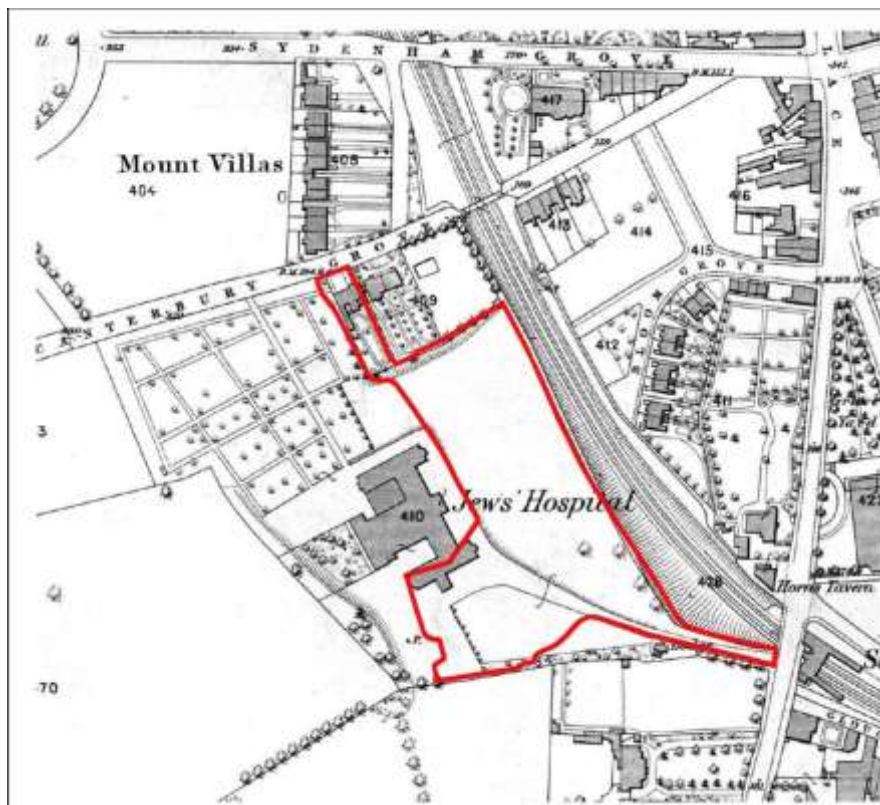


Fig 7 Extract from the 25 inch OS Map of 1870, with site outline marked

- 3.7 The 1866 Norwood Hall was demolished in 1962 and a new Hall (the existing one) was constructed as a synagogue (see 1966 OS Map – Fig 8). It later became a community hall following the site's purchase by Lambeth Council in the early 1970s, and has been empty since the 1990s.

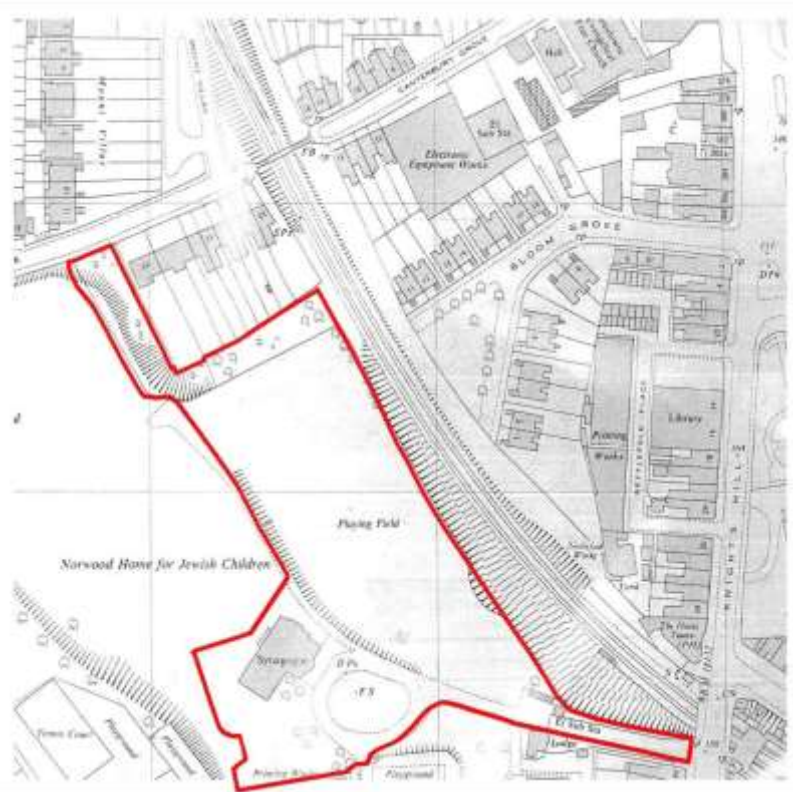


Fig 8 Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1966, 1:1250, with site outline marked

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address four main research questions:

- *Is there any evidence for any type of activity or occupation from before the 19th century?*
- *Is there any evidence for remains relating to the medieval manor house of Levehurst Manor?*
- *Is there any evidence for the early 19th century building constructed in the northern-most part of the site?*
- *Is there any evidence for the 1866 Norwood Hall Building (the Jewish Hospital and Orphanage)?*

5 Methodology

5.1 Fieldwork

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (in particular, GLASS *Standards, Paper 3: Fieldwork, Consultation Draft, 2009*) and to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief, 2008*). A full member of the Institute will undertake the overall management of the project.

Adequate time was given for investigation and recording of the soil stripping and trenches, although every effort was made not to disrupt the contractor's programme. Observations were recorded on *proforma* trench sheets, and drawn in plan with measured sketches taken of sample sections. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

5.2 Post-excavation work

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

Finds were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's '*Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London*'.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage and the local planning authority. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

6 Results

6.1 Initial watching brief

Archaeological monitoring took place between the 29th May 2012 and 4th September 2012. This initially took the form of monitoring of the soil stripping in the north-eastern part of the site, and of the demolition and removal of the foundations of the former Community Centre (see Figs 9-11). The results of the watching brief are detailed below in the order in which they were observed. (*cf.* Fig 9).

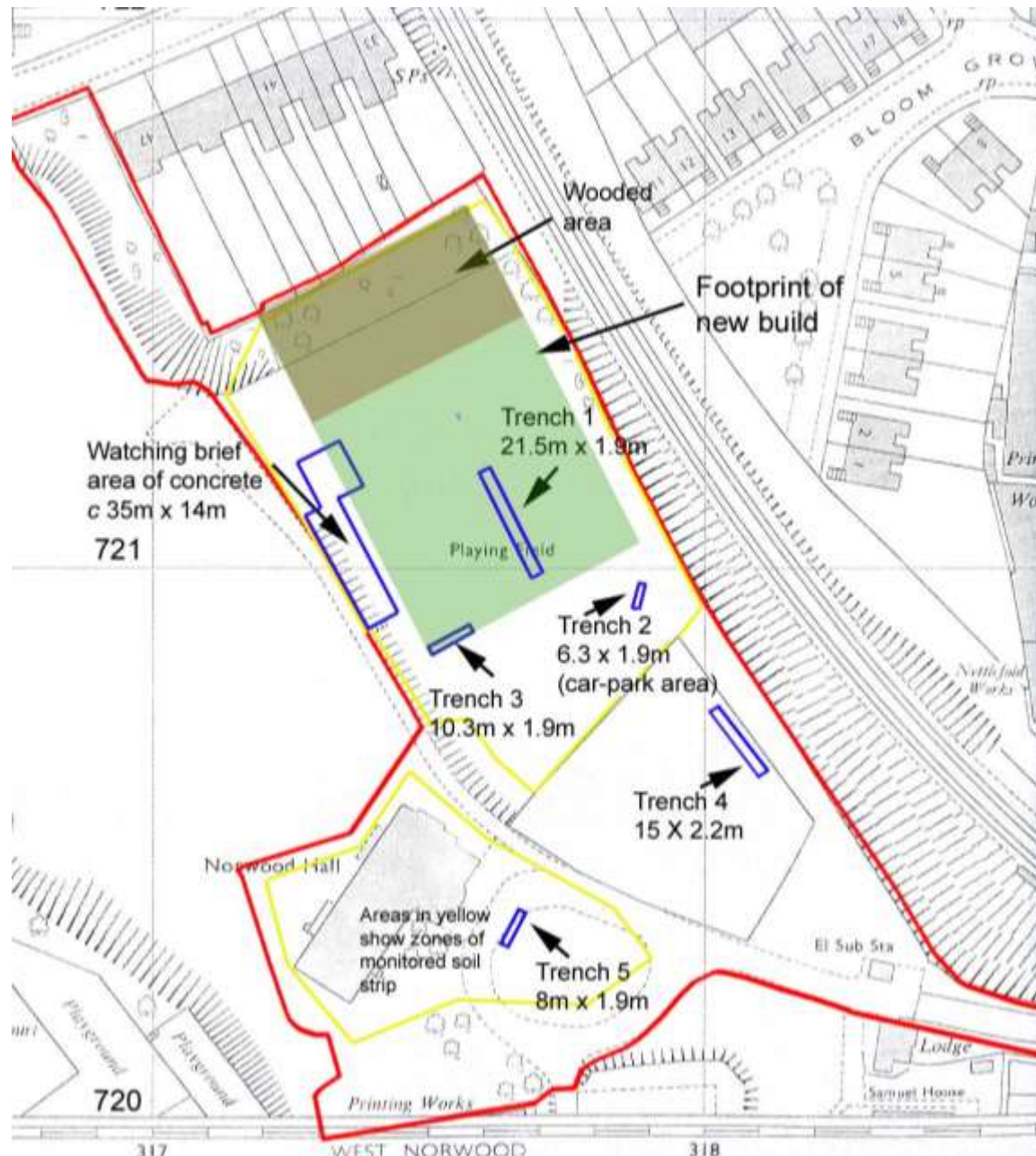


Fig 9 Site plan overlay on the OS base plan, showing the location of the five trenches (blue) and the watching brief fieldwalking and monitoring areas (yellow)

6.2 Initial Soil Strip

An initial soil strip was undertaken on the northern part of the site within the area of the playing field (see Fig 9 northern area outlined in yellow). This removed the turf and topsoil, and reduced the area down to the level of the light-brown silty-sand subsoil (*c.*0.2m beneath the original ground-surface level).

Fieldwalking was carried out on this area, looking for any archaeological features or finds. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted, with the only finds being several modern golf balls.



Fig 10 Photograph of an archaeologist fieldwalking the north-eastern part of the site, after it had been stripped, image taken looking east



Fig 11 Photograph of an archaeologist fieldwalking the north-eastern part of the site, after it had been stripped, image taken looking west

6.3 Concrete feature in north-western corner

A large concrete feature was observed in the far north-western corner of the playing fields, and was recorded and photographed before it was removed (see Fig 9 outlined in blue in northwestern area).

This was a large concrete subterranean base, with a long sloping base area measuring *c.*35m in length (sloping down from the south to the north, running along the western boundary of the playing fields), by 10m in width (east-west) at its northern end), and 3.8m in width at its southern end. It broadly formed an 'L-shape' (see Figs 9,12-13), with the northern end stretching for *c.*10m to the south before turning to the west (for *c.*6.2m) and heading south for a further 25m.

The surrounding walls of this concrete feature were observed on the northern, western, southern, and north-eastern sides (see Figs 12-13). No walls appeared to be present on the other two sides (see Fig 13), with the concrete base appearing to simply stop and the natural clay deposits begin.

The walls of this feature were *c.*0.5m thick, and made of a mixture of yellow stock and red / purple brick. This brick was regularly coursed, and set within a hard grey concrete mortar. A concrete render was observed on the inner faces of the walls, and in some places (particularly along the western wall), the walls appeared to be made of two abutting walls. The base of this western wall was also slightly rounded.

The long north-south section sloped up towards the south, although the top of the wall remained level. This means that the concrete base was *c.* 1m beneath the top of the wall at its southern end, and 2m beneath the top of the wall at its northern end (sloping down by *c.* 1m).

This feature as clearly a modern feature, based on its concrete and yellow stock brick construction, there were three down-pipes for toilet cubicles in the northern (east to west running) area. It is unclear precisely what it was – but apparently a pavilion/changing rooms of some sort in association with the playing fields.



Fig 12 Photograph of the large concrete feature in the north-western corner of the playing fields, image taken looking south



Fig 13 Photograph of an archaeologist recording the western wall of the concrete feature. The two abutting yellow stock brick walls, and concrete render on the internal face, can be seen

6.4 Demolition of the 1960s synagogue / community centre

The area of the 1960s synagogue / community centre was monitored during the demolition of this structure, and the removal of its foundations. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed here, with the underlying deposits just consisting of the natural clay deposits observed elsewhere on the site. There was, therefore, no sign of the older (1866) Jewish Hospital, which spread into the far northern part of this area (see Figs 14-15). Trench 5 was excavated in this area of the site and is discussed below (see Figs 26-28) .



Fig 14 Photograph of the area under the 1960s community centre building, during demolition, image looking north-east



Fig 15 Photograph of the monitoring of the demolition of the 1960s community centre building

6.5 Trenches

Following the monitoring of the demolition of the 1960s community centre building and the initial soil-strip of the north-eastern part of the site, it was decided, with consultation with English Heritage, to excavate five trenches within the footprint of the site. This was designed to enable a conclusion to be reached as to whether any archaeological finds or features were present on the site. The results of this are discussed below and the location of the trenches is shown on Fig 9.

6.6 Trench 1

A 21.5m long trench (1.9m in width, and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m) was excavated in approximately the centre of the main part of the site (see Figs 9,16-18).

The modern topsoil (a loose grey-brown silty-sand, 0.18m in thickness) overlay yellow-brown silty subsoil. This subsoil had occasional pebbles and ceramic building material flecks in, and was disturbed by roots in places, although showed no signs of having been heavily affected by human activity. This subsoil was 0.28m in thickness.

Beneath this were the natural deposits –compact yellow clay, exposed *c.*0.46m beneath the modern ground-surface. Two ceramic land drains were observed within this, running southwest to northeast across the trench. These were *c.*10m apart, had a diameter of *c.*80mm, and were observed at an uppermost level of 0.65m beneath the modern ground-surface.

No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 1.



Fig 16 Photograph of Trench 1, looking north and showing natural clay, beneath the humic subsoil of the playing fields. Some ceramic land drains crossed the trench, but these were relatively modern, Scale 1m.



Fig 17 Photograph of Trench 1, looking south. The firm natural clay separated into fissures as it was excavated.



Fig 18 Photograph of a section of the ceramic land drain in Trench 1 (Scale 0.2m).

A sample of the ceramic land drain, was retained for identification and was found to be probably mid to later 19th century (*pers comm* Sue Pringle) and was made through the extrusion technique; the first extrusion process was patented in 1797 (for making lead pipe) and the process developed after 1820 with introduction of the hydraulic powered press.

The pipe was in lengths 306 ± 3 mm, with an internal diameter of 76 ± 2 mm and wall thickness of 12 ± 1 mm. The nominal dimensions as manufactured were based upon a 12 inches x 3 inch bore.

6.3 Trench 2

A 6.3m trench (1.9 – 2m in width, and 0.35 – 0.7m in depth) was excavated to the south-east of Trench 1 (see Figs 9, 19-20).

The same deposits as in trench 1 were observed in this trench – modern loose grey-brown silty-sand garden topsoil (*c.*0.15m thick), over yellow-brown silty subsoil (*c.*0.25m thick), over the natural compact yellow clay (observed *c.*0.4m beneath the modern ground-surface). No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed in this trench.



Fig 19 Photograph of Trench 2, looking north-east (Scale 1m)

Fig 20 Photograph of northern section in Trench 2, showing a simple profile of a mixed humic top/subsoil over natural clay (Note Scale: 0.6m)



6.4 Trench 3

Another 10.3m trench (1.9m in width and between 0.65m and 0.9m in depth) was excavated to the south-west of Trench 1 (see Fig 9,21-23).

This trench exposed similar deposits to those observed in trenches 1 and 2 – 0.22m of loose garden topsoil, over 0.28m of light brown subsoil (with some pebbles, ceramic building material flecks, etc, in it), over the compact yellow clay (at c. 0.5m beneath the modern ground-surface).

One ceramic land drain was observed in the north-east corner of this trench, running northwest to southeast across the trench. This had the same diameter (80mm) and was observed at the same level (0.65m beneath the modern ground-surface), as those in Trench 1.

No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 1.



Fig 21 Photograph of Trench 3, looking east



Fig 22 Photograph of Trench 3, looking west



Fig 23 Photograph of southern section in Trench 3 (Note Scale is 0.6m)

6.5 Trench 4

A 16m trench (2.2m in width and 0.5 – 0.8m in depth) was observed in the far southern area of the site (see Figs 9, 24-25).

The loose mixed dark-grey-black silty-sand topsoil, with pebbles, mortar, and ceramic building material fragments, was 0.4m thick in this trench. This overlay a dump of mixed modern material, consisting mainly of chunks of brick rubble and clay, *c.*0.3m thick. This was probably a dump of material used to build up the land surface, possibly when the railway was constructed (as the railway runs adjacent to this trench).

This dump of modern material overlay a light brown silty-clay, with occasional pieces of ceramic building material in. This was only 0.1m in thickness, and so was probably a previous land-surface (before the land was raised for the railway).

The natural deposits – a yellow-brown compact clay – was observed at an uppermost level of 0.35m beneath the modern ground-surface at the southern end of the trench (where only topsoil overlay it), sloping down to *c.*0.8m beneath the modern ground-surface at the northern end of the trench. This deposit was largely sterile, although with a few roots and a ceramic land drain (like those in trenches 1 and 3) running southwest to northeast across the trench.



Fig 24 Photograph of Trench 4, looking north



Fig 25 Photograph of Trench 4, looking south-west

6.6 Trench 5

A 8m trench (1.9m in width and 0.5 – 0.8m in depth) was observed on the flatter, higher area of the site to the south (see Figs 9, 26-28). It was aligned NNE by SSW.

The trench was in an area close to the locations of the original hospital, orphanage and synagogue, however, no archaeological structures, features or finds were encountered. The surface deposits had been reworked by demolition of the former synagogue and probably by works relating to the demolition of the former hospital and orphanage. There were some upper layers and lenses of demolition rubble, including a patch of crushed red brick visible in the trenches, but these deposits merely represented modern demolition events. These formed dumps of mixed modern material, consisting mainly of chunks of concrete, brick rubble and clay, *c.*0.5m thick.

This dump of modern material overlay the truncated surface of the natural light yellow-brown compact clay, with contained occasional rounded pebbles. The clay was sterile, but was rising in the trench section towards the south, it was apparent that the top of the hill here had been landscaped and the surface

of the clay remodelled. This was probably when the access roads and turning area were set out (see Fig 9)

The natural deposits – a yellow-brown compact clay – were observed at an uppermost level of 0.28m beneath the modern ground-surface at the southern end of the trench (where only topsoil overlay it), sloping down to *c.*0.7m beneath the modern ground-surface at the northern end of the trench. This deposit was largely sterile, although with a few roots which caused the surface of the clay to peel off in fissures during excavation (as seen in some of the other trenches to the north).



Fig 26 Photograph of Trench 5, looking north east.



Fig 27 General location shot, showing Trench 5 on the higher area to the south of the site.



Fig 28 Detail of the western (east facing) section in Trench 5 at the NNE end, a shallow dump of crushed red brick can be seen above the truncated surface of the natural clay, but this is contiguous with the overlying reworking of the subsoil deposits caused by demolition of the former synagogue, located slightly to the west of this trench (see Fig 9).

7 Conclusions

The archaeological watching brief and excavation of five trenches during the redevelopment of the site at Norwood Hall did not reveal any remains of archaeological significance.

In general, the site consisted of modern laying field topsoil, overlying a silty-sand subsoil, over compact and sterile clay deposits (the natural).

The only features observed were a few ceramic land drains running across the area of the playing field, and the large modern concrete feature in the north-western corner of the playing fields (possibly a pavilion of some type). Trench 4 also indicated that the land in the far eastern part of the site may have been built up before the construction of the railway (as a dump of modern material was observed over what looked like a previous land surface here), however no earlier finds, features, or deposits were observed.

There was, therefore, no sign of any early (pre-19th century) activity on the site, or remains relating to the medieval manor house of Levehurst Manor. Furthermore, no evidence was recovered for the early 19th century building constructed in the northern-most part of the site, or the 1866 Jewish Hospital and Orphanage building.

8 Bibliography

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Appendix 1: OASIS Data Collection Form. 133476

Project details

Project name Norwood Hall Joint Service Centre, 25 Devane Way, Knights Hill, Lambeth, SE27 0DE

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief, plus the excavation of five trenches, was carried out before and during the redevelopment of the site at Norwood Hall, into a Joint Service Centre Building. This archaeological work did not reveal any remains of archaeological significance. In general, the site consisted of modern garden topsoil, overlying a silty-sand subsoil, over compact and sterile clay deposits (the natural). The only features observed were a few ceramic land drains running across the area of the playing field, and the large modern concrete feature in the north-western corner of the playing fields (possibly a pavilion of some type). Trench 4 also indicated that the land in the far eastern part of the site may have been built up before the construction of the railway (as a dump of modern material was observed over what looked like a previous land surface here), however no earlier finds, features, or deposits were observed. There was, therefore, no sign of any early (pre-19th century) activity on the site, or remains relating to the medieval manor house of Levehurst Manor (thought to have been positioned just to the north of the site). Furthermore, no evidence was recovered for the early 19th century building constructed in the northernmost part of the site, or the 1866 Jewish Hospital and Orphanage building.

Project dates Start: 29-05-2012 End: 04-09-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes DVW12 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 10/02230/RG4 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Current Land use Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Test-Pit Survey","Watching Brief"

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON LAMBETH STREATHAM Norwood Hall 25
Devane Way, Knights Hill, Lambeth

Postcode SE27 0DE

Study area 12875.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 31743 72037 51 0 51 25 53 N 000 06 16 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 55.00m Max: 58.00m

Project creators

Name of Compass Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
originator

Project design Compass Archaeology
originator

Project Compass Archaeology
director/manager

Project supervisor Gill King

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Museum of London archive
recipient

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"

Digital Media "Text"
available

Paper recipient	Archive	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents		"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper available	Media	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey"

Project
bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Norwood Hall Joint Service Centre, 25 Devane Way, Knights Hill, Lambeth, SE27 0DE
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jeffery, E
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology
Description	A4 comb bound, 30 page developer report
Entered by	Gill King (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	20 September 2012

Appendix II: London Archaeologist summary

Site Address: Norwood Hall Joint Service Centre, 25 Devane Way, Knights Hill,
Lambeth, SE27 0DE

Project type: Watching Brief

Dates of Fieldwork: 29th May 2012 - 4th September 2012

Site Code: DVW12

Site Supervisor: Gillian King

NGR: TQ 31743 72037

Funding Body: Developer

An archaeological watching brief, plus the excavation of five trenches, was carried out before and during the redevelopment of the site at Norwood Hall, into a Joint Service Centre Building. This archaeological work did not reveal any remains of archaeological significance.

In general, the site consisted of modern garden topsoil, overlying a silty-sand subsoil, over compact and sterile clay deposits (the natural).

The only features observed were a few ceramic land drains running across the area of the playing field, and the large modern concrete feature in the north-western corner of the playing fields (possibly a pavilion of some type). Trench 4 also indicated that the land in the far eastern part of the site may have been built up before the construction of the railway (as a dump of modern material was observed over what looked like a previous land surface here), however no earlier finds, features, or deposits were observed.

There was, therefore, no sign of any early (pre-19th century) activity on the site, or remains relating to the medieval manor house of Levehurst Manor (thought to have been positioned just to the north of the site). Furthermore, no evidence was recovered for the early 19th century building constructed in the northern-most part of the site, or the 1866 Jewish Hospital and Orphanage building.