

# 1 RICHES ROAD, ILFORD, IG1 1JH

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



January 2015



# 1 RICHES ROAD, ILFORD, IG1 1JH

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Planning reference: 2978/10

Site code: RCS15

NGR: 4414 8655 (centre)

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## ***Abstract***

*In January 2015, Compass Archaeology Ltd. conducted an archaeological field evaluation on land to the front and rear of 1 Riches Road, Ildord, IG1 1JH. The evaluation was conducted prior to redevelopment of the site as a basemented, 8-storey block of flats, within commercial properties on the ground floor.*

*The evaluation involved the excavation of 3 trial trenches with an additional 4 exploratory sondages dug into the natural brickearth to establish the presence or non-presence of prehistoric mega faunal remains, many of which have been found in the surrounding area.*

*On this occasion the evaluation revealed no archaeologically significant features and demonstrated that the site had been largely stripped of historic land surfaces prior to its development in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of the wider late-Victorian expansion of Ilford.*

*No archaeological evidence for pre-20<sup>th</sup> century activity was observed. A single, early-20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit was exposed in the southeast corner of the site, in Trench 2.*

*Natural brickearth was observed across the site from c0.50m to 0.75m below existing ground levels, equal to 11.47mOD in the west and 11.37mOD to 11.29mOD in the east of the site. Sterile deposits of brickearth were recorded continuing for at least a further 2.84m, (Trench 2), and beyond.*

*As a result of the evaluation no further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary as no significant deposits were observed either above the brickearth or buried within it for at least 2.5m. It is therefore believed that the proposed basement will have a negligible effect on the underlying stratigraphy.*

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*Fig.4 adapted from original drawings provided by ATP*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a summary of the findings of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 1 Riches Road, Ilford, situated within the London Borough of Redbridge, (TQ 4414 8655, fig.1). The evaluation, which took place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, formed a condition of planning consent, (LB Redbridge planning ref: 2978/10), following recommendations by English Heritage.

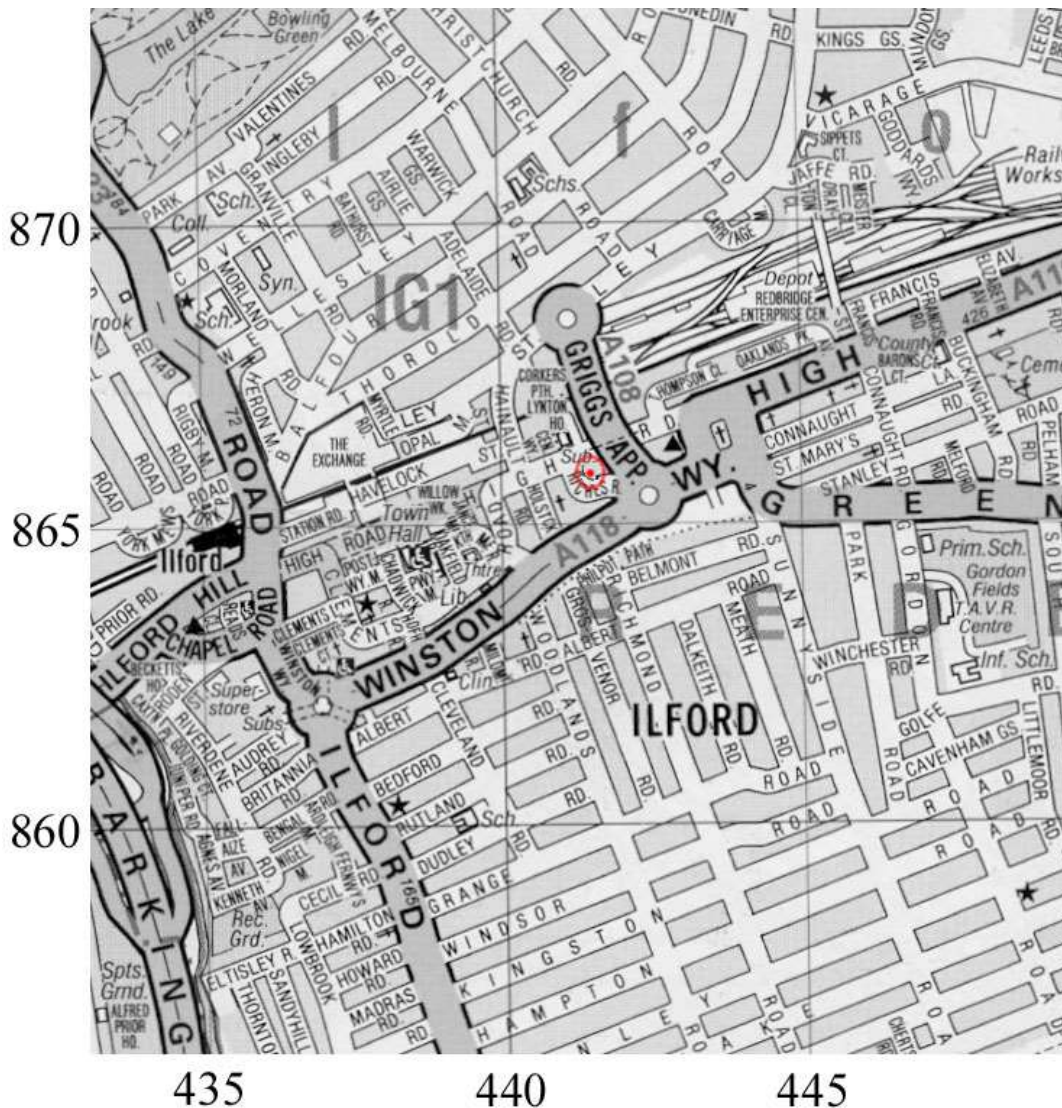


Fig.1: Site location

1.2 The approved scheme includes the demolition of the existing terraced property and the construction of a new eight storey building with retail and office space on the ground floor and 24 one and two bedroom flats on the upper floors. The building will also have a single storey basement below the entire footprint to accommodate plant and further commercial space to the front of the property, (fig.4).

1.3 The evaluation took place prior to any development works, (including demolition of the existing terrace), and was split across the existing front garden and rear yard of the property; within the footprint of the proposed basement. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 3 trial trenches and a further 4, deeper, test pits.

## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compass Archaeology would like to thank Mr Devinderjit Singh of Elmpine Developments for commissioning and supporting the fieldwork and report, and also David Harris of ATP Architects and Building Surveyors for his help and support during the implementation of the works programme.

## 3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The evaluation site is situated at the far southern end of Riches Road in Ilford. The site is occupied by a single mid-19<sup>th</sup> century terraced property, (No.1 Riches Road), aligned roughly NNW-SSE across the plot; with a paved front garden to the W and a slightly larger rear yard to the E. The site is bounded by further yards and residential plots to the north, and the large modern residential development of Raphael House to the east, (fig.2).

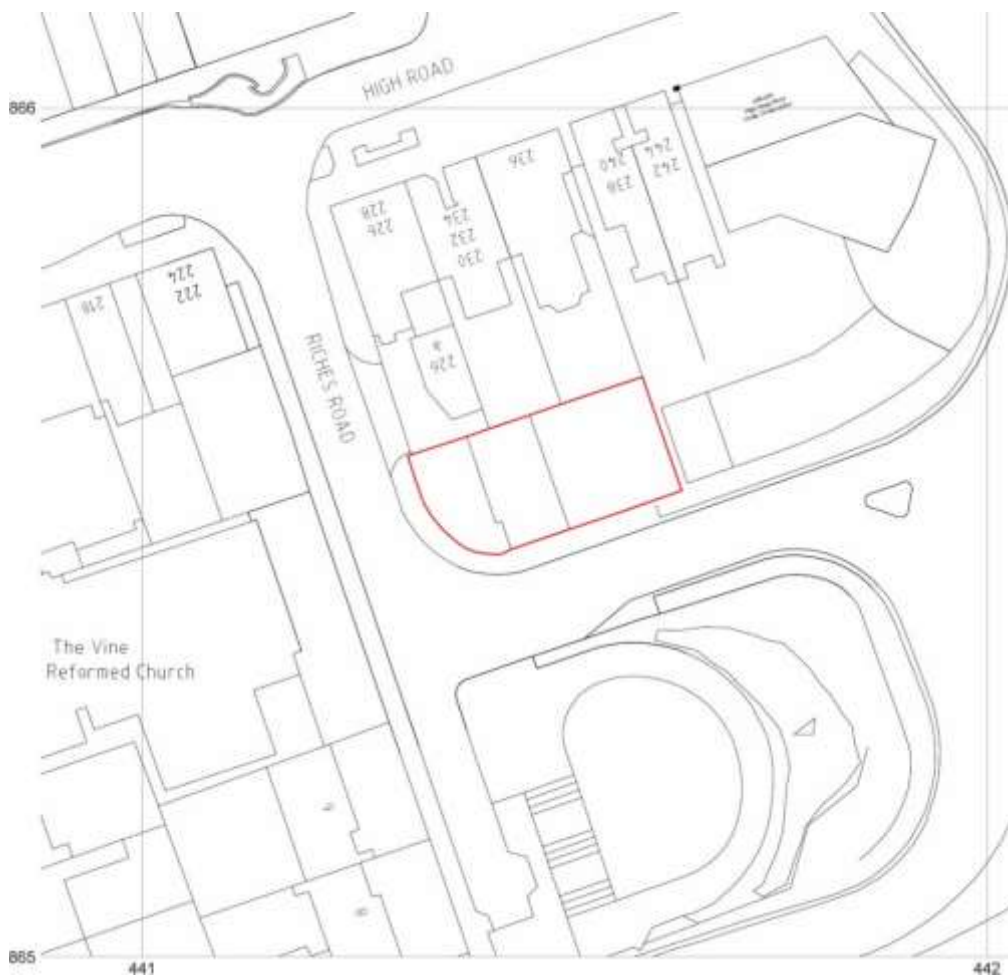


Fig.2: Larger scale location plan



The plot is rectangular in shape with a rounded corner in the SW where Riches Road merges with Winston Way to the south and measures approximately 29m E-W by 13.5m N-S.

- 3.2** The development site is situated close to the western edge of a large patch of Ilford Silt Member – a mixture of clay and silts also known as ‘brickearth’, with Hackney Gravels situated to the north and Taplow Gravels to the south. The underlying geology is London Clay.

The ‘brickearth’ has yielded substantial amounts of high quality fossilised animal remains dating back to the Palaeolithic, (see section 4.1), including mammoth, rhinoceros, bison and ox.

A recent geotechnical borehole survey conducted on the site revealed approximately 700mm of made ground overlying at least 3.3m of ‘brickearth’ deposits within the centre of the back yard<sup>1</sup>. This suggested a significant level of truncation of historic ground surfaces; with the site possibly having been ‘scalped’ of topsoil and subsoil prior to development in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. This assumption was proved to be correct, as discussed in section 7 of this report.

- 3.3** The site is relatively flat with a very gradual uphill slope from west to east, lying at 11.61mOD on the pavement opposite the front of the property and 11.85mOD on the southern side of the rear yard.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The history of the site has been discussed previously in the Written Scheme of Investigation, (WSI), submitted prior to commencement of the evaluation and will not be repeated at length here. What follows is a brief summary of the most pertinent facts.

### **4.1 PREHISTORIC**

The Prehistoric period is represented largely by an extensive collection of fossilised mega fauna dating from the Palaeolithic era. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century local brickearth quarrying revealed substantial quantities of mammoth, elephant, bison, ox, giant deer, bear, rhinoceros, and other mammals. Many of these pits were located quite close to the study site, with ‘Uphall Pit’, ‘Clements Lane Pit’ and ‘Cauliflower Pit’, all lying within the space between the River Roding and Seven Kings. Similar fossilised specimens were encountered during the creation of the southern relief road, (Winston Way), in 1984. The proximity of the site to these works would suggest a high potential to find such remains during the planned evaluation, especially considering the depth of the proposed basement and piling scheme.

Ilford is less well represented during the rest of the prehistoric period due to the poor quality soils making it less attractive to early human farming communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from initial site logs dated 19/09/2014, provided by Soil Investigation, (Eastern) Ltd.

This said, the lack of evidence of early human activity may be biased due to later -19<sup>th</sup> century- developments destroying them altogether.

## 4.2 LATER HISTORY

Ilford was recorded as a small hamlet within the Manor of Barking at the time of Domesday, (1086). The Manor of Barking was one of the most densely populated manors in Essex at the time, but the main focus was around the Abbey of Barking itself, with smaller, scattered, roadside settlements elsewhere. The name Ilford derives from the 'crossing over the Hile', (the former name for the River Roding).

Ilford remained an agricultural settlement for much of the post-medieval period, with only sporadic ribbon development occurring along the High Road. Up until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the population was only a few thousand. The coming of the railways in 1839 led to a huge leap in industry, homebuilding and general economic growth. Between 1891 and 1901 the population of Ilford nearly quadrupled from 10, 913 to 41,234.

The study site was slowly swallowed up under the expansion of terraced housing estates across Ilford, with Riches Road being laid out by the 1896 OS map, (but called Richmond Road), as a continuous row of terraces south of the High Road. This arrangement survived until the 1980s when the southern relief road, (Winston Way), was constructed, effectively removing all the properties south of 1 Riches Road by 1984.



Fig.3: Extract from the 1896 OS map showing the site was once part of a continuous row called Richmond Road. It has since been cut short by the construction of the southern relief road, Winston Road, to the south and east

## 5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 An archaeological evaluation of the development area was recommended by English Heritage as part of the Local Authority planning process, to form a condition of planning consent.
- 5.2 The protection of archaeological sites is a material planning consideration. An initial evaluation should be designed to provide all parties, particularly the Local Planning Authority, with sufficient material information upon which to base informed decisions, incorporating adequate heritage safeguards. Where an evaluation produces positive results safeguards will be applied; these would normally consist of either design modifications to preserve archaeological remains *in situ* or, where this is not achievable, archaeological rescue excavation in advance of development.
- 5.3 The evaluation conformed to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), adopted in March 2012, which replaces PPS 5 'Planning for the Historic Environment' and policies HE6 and HE7.
- 5.4 The London Borough of Redbridge has its own specific policies regarding archaeological remains and other heritage assets contained within its Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Borough Wide Primary Policies Development Plan.
- 5.5 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as designated by the London Borough of Redbridge, associated within the historic line of the Roman London to Colchester Road, (preserved as the modern day High Road). As well as this the underlying geology of the site, and previous excavations, emphasise the fact that the site has high potential for containing Palaeolithic animal remains, of regional and possibly even national importance.

As Archaeological Advisory Body for the London Borough of Redbridge English heritage had the following comments to make with regards to the development:

*In order to secure a programme of archaeological evaluation I recommend that the following condition be attached to any consent that the Borough is minded to grant.*

### **Reason**

*Important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly the planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development, in accordance with the guidance and model condition set out in PPG16;*

### **Condition**

*"No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for 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."*

**Informative**

The development of this site is likely to damage archaeological remains. The applicant should therefore submit detailed proposals in the form of an archaeological project design. This design should be in accordance with the appropriate English Heritage guidelines.

The council therefore deemed it pertinent to attach the following condition to grant of the planning consent:

6. The development hereby permitted shall only take place in accordance with a programme of archaeological work as set out in a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of work. The archaeological works as approved shall only be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological examination and recording at the site can take place, and to accord with Policy SP3 of the Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Policy E4 of the Council's Borough Wide Primary Policies Development Plan Document.

- 5.6 The site is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and no Listed Building was effected by the proposals.

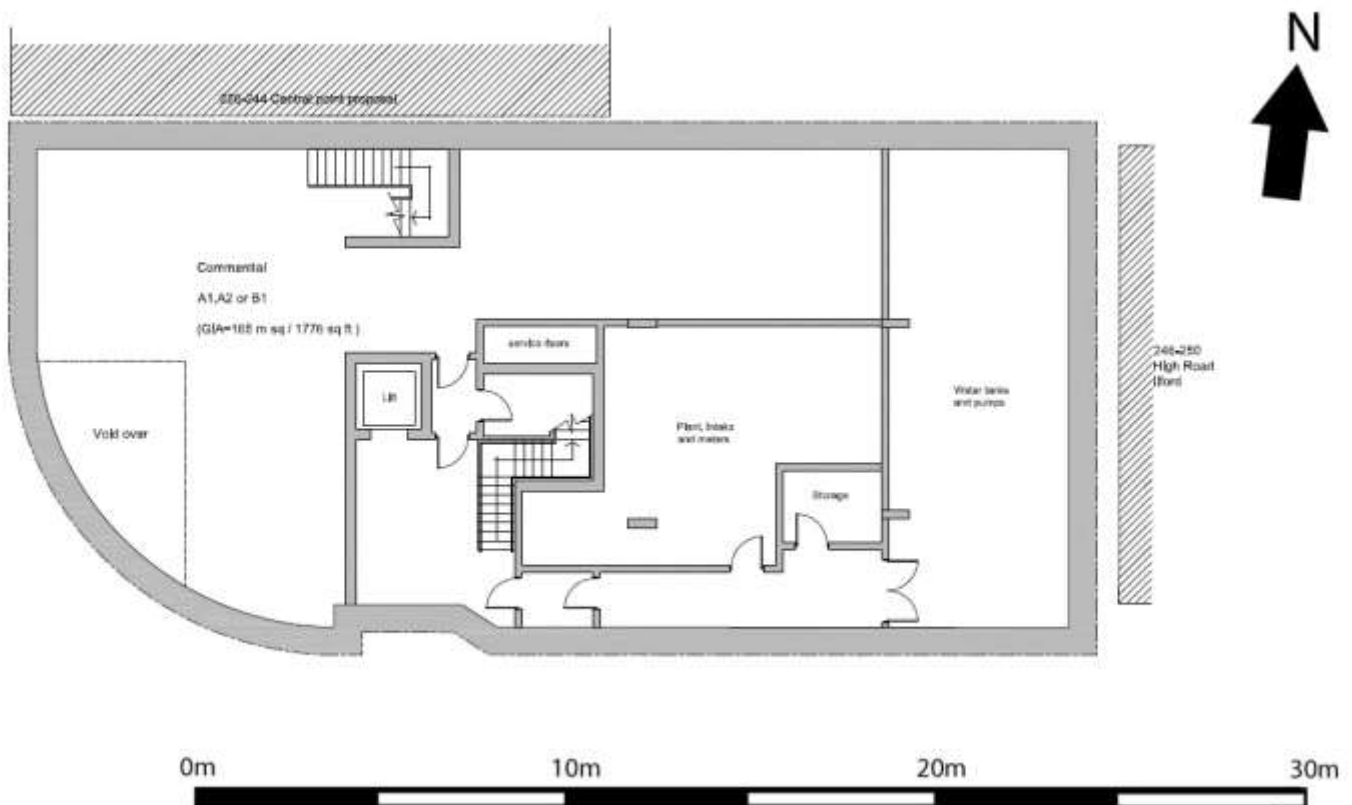


Fig.4: Plan of the proposed basement adapted from original drawings by ATP Group provided by Client

## 5.7 Archaeological research questions

The evaluation provided the opportunity to answer the following specific and broader research questions

- Does the site contain any Palaeolithic remains associated with the Ilford Mammoth Beds? If so what form do these remains take and what can they tell us about Ilford in the Prehistoric period?
- Does the site contain any evidence of early human habitation in the form of seasonal exploitation of the land or more settled communities?
- Does the site contain any evidence of Roman activity? Does this take the form of roadside settlement or agricultural exploitation?
- Is there any evidence of Saxon or Medieval settlement or land use? Is this linked with the establishment of Ilford or later growth?
- Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity other than that of the extant mid-19<sup>th</sup> century terraced property?
- To what extent and at what level do archaeological remains survive across the site?
- What is the nature of the underlying geology, and at what level can ‘natural’ ground be identified?

## 6 METHODOLOGY

### 6.1 Standards

- 6.1.1** The fieldwork and off-site assessment was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work*, February 2014). Work also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (*Standard and guidance for field evaluation*). Overall management of the project will be undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.
- 6.1.2** The objective of the evaluation was to define the character, extent and significance of potential remains, and to recover dating and environmental evidence, rather than to fully excavate.
- 6.1.3** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork held valid CSCS Cards, (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-visibility vests or jackets, hardhats, and steel-toe-capped boots during excavation.

## 6.2 Fieldwork

**6.2.1** The evaluation took place in two distinct phases involving the excavation of 3 trial trenches and the subsequent investigation and recording of any archaeological deposits and features within them. Sufficient work was undertaken to establish the nature of deposits and features, with adequate recovery of finds dating and other evidence.

Upon completion of the original 3 trenches, a further 4 exploratory pits / sondages were dug deeper into the 'natural' brickearth to ascertain the presence or absence of any remains associated with prehistoric fauna

**6.2.2** Initial clearance of the trial trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. Deposits were removed in this way to the latest significant archaeological horizon, or in the absence of remains to a clean natural subsoil.

**6.2.3** Where services or other obstructions were encountered during the course of work it was deemed necessary to extend the footprint of the trenches to avoid them whilst retaining the same overall coverage.

**6.2.4** In total 3 trial trenches were excavated, one in the front yard measuring 4m long by 2m wide, and two in the rear yard one measuring 4m long by 2m wide, and a second measuring 6m long and 2m wide. Within the area of these trial trenches a further 4 pits, each measuring approximately 2m<sup>2</sup>, were dug c3m further into the 'brickearth' to determine whether the proposed basement would disturb any fossil remains, (fig.5).

The trenches were located in such a way as to incorporate the area of immediate development, but also to focus on the areas that appeared to have been subject to less intrusive development in the past, eg. the front and rear yards. This provided the highest potential for encountering any buried remains or undisturbed natural ground and the most effective coverage of the development footprint. It represented an approximate 7% sample of the overall development footprint with a total of 28m<sup>2</sup> of ground being investigated.

**6.2.5** Following initial clearance to the uppermost levels of undisturbed natural ground the trenches were hand cleaned and recorded in plan and section. The trenches and archaeological contexts were recorded on *pro forma* Trench Recording Sheets. Levels were taken along the length of the trench, (on the existing surface and base of excavations), and on any relevant deposits and recorded sections, transferred from the nearest OSBM. This was located on the corner of the Catholic Church of SS Peter and Paul, on the High Road. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by digital photography.

### **6.3 Post-excavation work & report procedure**

The fieldwork was followed by a programme of off-site processing and assessment; by compilation of a post-excavation report; and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

**6.3.1** Appropriately qualified staff undertook assessment.

**6.3.2** This report provides details of methodology plus an interpretation of the deposits observed, and includes a series of scale drawings, photographs and context descriptions. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended using the OASIS Report Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*. Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, the local planning authority and local studies library

### **6.4 Archive**

Following the issue of the report and any further work that may be agreed, an ordered, indexed and internally consistent site archive will be compiled in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*.

It is proposed that the archive will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under site code RCS15. The integrity of the site archive should also be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

## 7 RESULTS

What follows is a written description of observations made during the course of the fieldwork augmented by illustrative photographs. The following description should be read in conjunction with fig.5 for trench locations and figs.15-23 in Appendix II for scaled plans and sample section drawings of the trenches. A more detailed context list for individual trenches as also been appended to the report; see Appendix I.

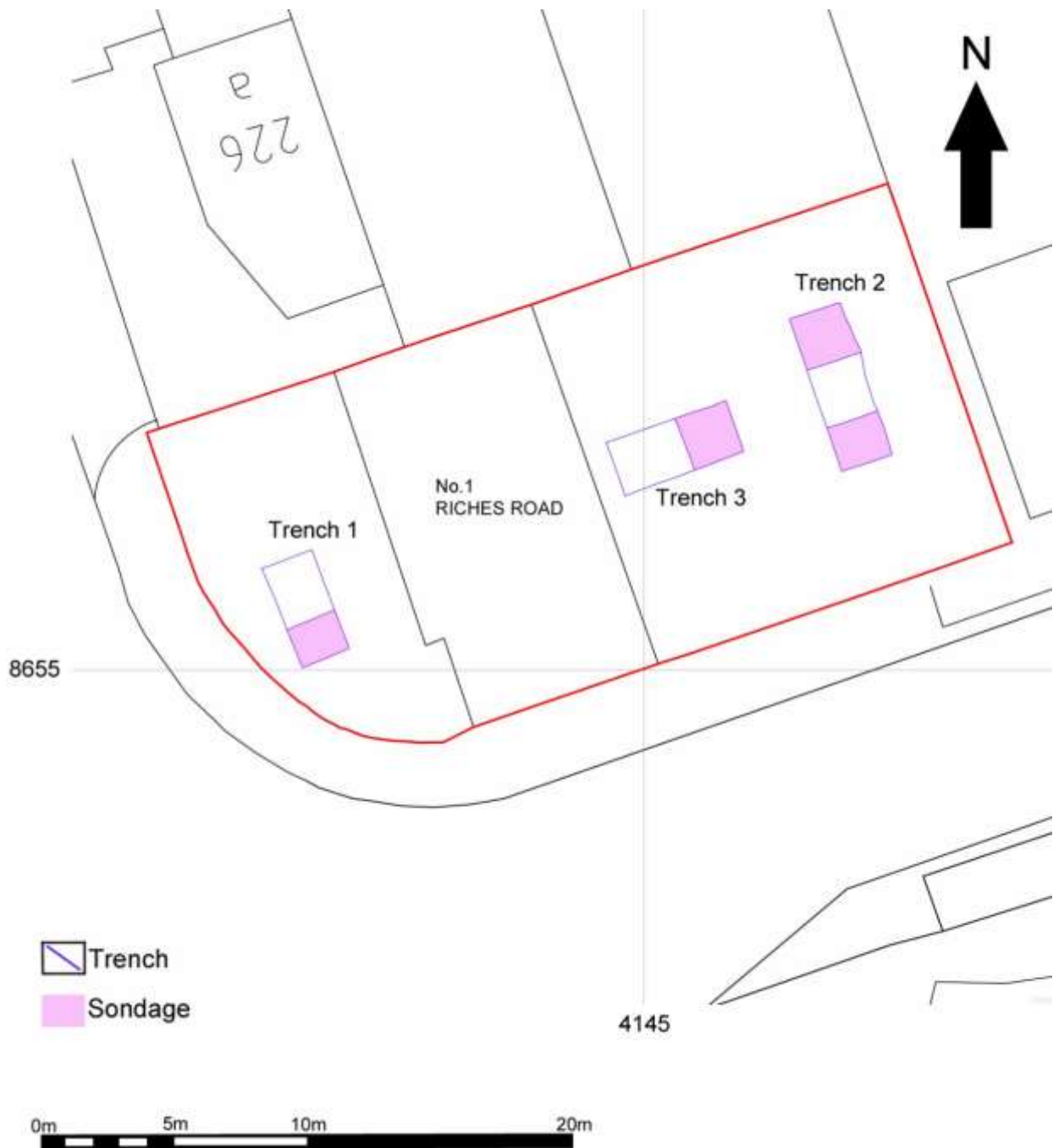


Fig.5: Trench location plan



## 7.1 TRENCH 1

7.1.1 Trench 1 was situated in the front garden of the property, aligned NNW-SSE, and measured 4.00m long by 2.00m wide. Upon first opening the trench, services were encountered in the northernmost 2m preventing further reduction and so the trench was extended southward by 2m to provide the required 4m length as set out in the WSI.

7.1.2 The trench was initially dug to a depth of 0.75m, exposing the top of undisturbed brickearth at 0.52m, (11.47mOD), below modern ground surface to the east and 0.68m, (11.25mOD) in the west, reflecting a natural slope in the ground towards the west. This upper layer of brickearth was given context number (107), and was a mottled vivid orange and brown clay-silt.

7.1.3 During this initial ground reduction the natural was shown to be overlain by up to 0.56m of reworked subsoil laid down in bands of grey to brown clayey-silt, (106) and (105) respectively and a levelling layer of black silt perhaps representing a former garden soil, (102). This deposit was then sealed below a foundation layer of sand and gravel and the present crazy paving, (101), comprising the uppermost 0.12m of stratigraphy. Deposit (102) had been cut through by the planting of a small bush laid at the same time as the crazy paving, (104)/[105].



Fig.6: Trench 1 in the front garden of the property facing SSE, (left), and NNW, (right). 1m scale

**7.1.4** As specified in the WSI a sondage was dug deeper into the brickearth at the southern end of the Trench 1. The sondage was dug a further 2.31m into the brickearth, a total of 3.06m from existing ground level. The base of the excavation was at 8.91mOD.

**7.1.5** The uppermost layer of exposed brickearth, (107), overlay a light-brown clay-silt, (108), 0.78m deep. This in turn overlay (109); a dark-brown clay-silt containing infrequent inclusions of calcite-like stones of irregular shape up to 3cm big. This deposit measured 0.66-0.68m deep and sealed deposit (110) which was a thick, compacted, dark-brown and blue clay-silt. This lowermost deposit was exposed to a depth of 0.74m and continued below the limit of excavation. All deposits were sterile apart from occasional sub-angular gravels and yielded no archaeological material.



*Fig.7: Sondage at the southern end of Trench 1 facing west. The staff is extended to 3m*

## 7.2 TRENCH 2

7.2.1 Trench 2 was located on the eastern side of the rear yard to the property. The trench was aligned NNW-SSE and measured 6.00m long by 2.00m wide and as with Trench 1 the initial ground reduction was to approximately 0.75m below existing ground surface.



Fig.8: Trench 2, in the rear yard, facing NNW (left), and SSE (right). Note modern pit [205] with black silty fill (204). 1m scale

7.2.2 The uppermost 0.22m of the trench was made up of the existing concrete yard surface which had been lain over a deposit of sand and gravel, (201). This layer sealed a dark-grey to black silt containing occasional crushed brick and tile, becoming more frequent at the northern end of the trench, (202), 0.14m thick. Below this layer was a light brown silty clay probably forming a truncated subsoil, (203), measuring 0.26m deep. Context (203) sealed undisturbed natural brickearth, similar in nature to that exposed in Trench 1 and also in Trench 3. This brickearth, (206), was present 0.75m below existing ground level at c11.29mOD.

**7.2.3** In the southeastern corner of Trench 2, sealed below the existing yard surface and cutting through deposits (202) and (203) was a cut feature, [205]. This feature was exposed for a length of 1.60m and was 1.20m, but continued beyond the limits of excavation to the south and east. The feature was reduced along with the rest of the trench to 0.75m below ground level and continued below the base of this initial excavation. The cut was backfilled with a dark black silt, (204), containing frequent inclusions of brick, tile, occasional broken ceramics and glass in the form of small sheets and also a large number of bottles of various sizes and forms. The bottles and ceramics indicated an early-20<sup>th</sup> century date for the deposit, specifically post-1928 as one of the bottles was for Brylcreem which did not exist prior to 1928. The cut was probably a rubbish pit created in a single episode of dumping.



*Fig.9: Assorted glass bottles and pottery sherds found within rubbish pit fill (204)*

7.2.4 Sondages were dug at the southern and northern ends of the trench, roughly 2m long either end of the trench.

7.2.5 At the southern end of the trench the ground was reduced by a further 2.09m giving a total depth of 2.84m below ground level. The base of the sondage lay at 9.14mOD. The most notable feature of this sondage was the presence of pit [205] exposed in the southern and eastern section. The feature was shown to be 0.93m deep and sheer sided with a flat base at 10.83mOD. Two large iron bars forming a right angle in the position of the cut suggest that the pit may have been lined with planks, fixed in place by iron straps, (the wood having since rotted away).



*Fig.10: Sondage at the southern end of Trench 2, facing SSE. Note the modern rubbish pit [205] in the top-left hand corner. The staff is extended to 3m*

**7.2.6** The northern sondage was better illustrative of the stratigraphy of the natural as it was not truncated by modern features. In the southern section the uppermost natural, (206), was shown to be 0.22m thick, and overlay a thick deposit of pale-brown / off-white sandy-silt 0.78–0.80m deep, (207). This overlay a band of orange-brown sandy gravels roughly 0.26m thick, (208), sealing the lowermost deposit (209). Context (209) comprised a mottled brown to pale brown clay silt containing occasional small gravels less than 1cm big, and was exposed to a depth of 0.96m continuing below the level of excavation. The base of the sondage was 2.88m below ground level, equivalent to 9.16mOD.



*Fig.11: Sondage at the northern end of Trench 2, facing NNE. The staff is extended to 4m*

### 7.3 TRENCH 3

7.3.1 Trench 3 was situated immediately outside of the rear exit from the house into the yard area. The trench was aligned SSW-NNE and measured approximately 4.80m long and 2.00m wide. The initial reduction of the trench was to a maximum depth of 0.67m at the eastern end. An existing ceramic drain pipe was encountered at the western end of the trench closest to the property and so was only reduced to 0.37m at this end. An additional 0.80m in length was excavated at the eastern end to compensate for the loss at the western end.



Fig.12: Trench 3 facing SSW. 1m scale

7.3.2 The uppermost 0.18m of stratigraphy was made up of the existing yard surface and sandy-gravel levelling material lain down as a base to the surface, (301). The existing surface overlay made-ground (302) and truncated subsoil (303). These two layers comprised a further 0.44m of ground. The uppermost regions of clean natural brickearth, (304), were exposed at 0.60-0.64m below the existing yard surface, (11.37mOD). The brickearth was the same as exposed elsewhere; a mottled orange-brown clay-silt.



Fig.13: *Trench 3 facing E. 1m scale*

**7.3.3** A sondage was dug a further 2.34m into the brickearth deposits at the eastern end of the trench. The base of the sondage rested at 3.16m below existing yard surface, 8.81mOD. The uppermost orange clay-silt deposit, (304), was shown to be c0.20m deep and overlay another clay-silt deposit, which was a pale-brown to off-white colour and 0.38m thick, (305). Context (305) overlay a band of orange sandy-silt, (306), similar to deposit (208) in Trench 2, and was 0.58m thick. This in turn overlay a 0.68m thick deposit of compacted dark-brown clay-silt which sealed the lowest deposit observed; a mottled dark-brown / blue clay silt at least 0.70m thick, continuing below the limit of excavation.

**7.3.4** All deposits were sterile and contained no archaeological finds.





Fig.14: *Sondage at the eastern end of Trench 3 facing north. The staff has been extended to 3m*

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation revealed no archaeologically significant features and demonstrated that the site had been largely stripped of historic land surfaces prior to its development in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of the wider late-Victorian expansion of Ilford.

As stated no previous land surfaces in the form of soil horizons or occupation layers were observed across any of the trenches, except perhaps in the front garden where a previous potential garden soil, (102), was sealed below the existing crazy paving. Only a thin layer of truncated subsoil was consistently observed in all three trenches, as contexts (104)/(105), (203), and (303). This measured between 0.15-0.40m in depth, surviving to a greater depth in the front garden which makes sense as the land slopes downwards towards this point allowing a greater depth of subsoil to accumulate.

This limited depth of subsoil suggests that the ground had been ‘scalped’ prior to the episode of construction associated with the present property. The remaining subsoil, devoid of any archaeologically significant finds, directly overlay clean natural brickearth, which was shown to have been lain down as successive layers of clay-silts and sandy-gravels, also devoid of any notable inclusions, (106)-(110), (206)-(209), and (304)-(308).

These observations mean that the majority of the archaeological research questions set out in the WSI and in section 5.7 of this report have to be answered with a negative as no archaeological evidence for pre-20<sup>th</sup> century activity was observed. It is also likely that no evidence would be observed across the rest of the site bearing in mind the evidence for previous truncation of historic horizons.

Natural brickearth was observed across the site from c0.50m below existing ground levels, 11.47mOD in the west and 11.37mOD to 11.29mOD in the east of the site. Sterile deposits of brickearth were recorded continuing for at least a further 2.84m, (Trench 2), and beyond.

As a result of the evaluation it is proposed that no further archaeological mitigation is necessary as no significant deposits were observed either above the brickearth or buried within it for at least 2.5m. It is therefore believed that the proposed basement will have a negligible effect on the underlying stratigraphy.

## 9 SOURCES

British Geological Survey Sheet 257: Romford Solid and Drift Geology 1:50 000 scale

CIfA, (2014), *Standards and guidance for field evaluation*

Compass Archaeology Ltd, (2014), *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at 1 Riches Road, Ilford, IG1 1JH*

English Heritage, (2014), *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work*

GLHER Heritage Gateway website <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

*Ordnance Survey County Series, London: Sheet 34, 1:2500 scale*

Soil Investigation (Eastern) Ltd, *Borehole log for Job BC2400 19/09/2014*

The Essex Field Club website <http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/>

## Appendix I Individual trench context lists

### *Trench 1*

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Level (top of deposit in m.O.D)</b>
(101)	Existing paving and sand / gravel bedding material	0.12	11.99 – 11.93 East to west
(102)	Black silty-clay, possible buried garden soil	0.22	11.87
(103)	Black friable soil within planter [104]	0.20	11.99
[104]	Cut of planting hole for small bush	0.32	11.99
(105)	Light-grey clay-silt reworked subsoil deposit	0.32	11.65
(106)	Dark-grey clay-silt, truncated subsoil	0.26	11.33
(107)	Uppermost brickearth deposit, orange-brown clay-silt	0.36	11.07
(108)	Light-brown clay silt	0.78	10.71
(109)	Dark-brown clay-silt containing infrequent calcite inclusions	0.68	9.93
(110)	Dark-brown to blue-grey clay-silt. Very compacted	0.74+	9.25

### *Trench 2*

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Level (top of deposit in m.O.D)</b>
(201)	Existing concrete yard surface and sand / gravel bedding material	0.22	12.04 – 11.98 North to south
(202)	Dark grey silt made ground containing occasional CBM material	0.14	11.82
(203)	Brown silty-clay, truncated subsoil	0.26	11.68
(204)	Black silt fill of pit [205] containing frequent modern rubbish in the form of glass bottles, broken ceramics and CBM	0.93	11.76
[205]	Cut of rubbish pit. Sub-square, (only northwest corner seen), with sheer sides and flat base at 10.83mOD	0.93	11.76
(206)	Uppermost brickearth deposit, orange-brown clay-silt	0.22	11.42
(207)	Pale-brown / off-white sandy-silt	0.78	11.20
(208)	Orange sandy-gravels	0.26	10.42
(209)	Mottled, brown / pale-brown, clay-silt	0.96+	10.16

### *Trench 3*

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Level (top of deposit in m.O.D)</b>
(301)	Existing concrete yard surface and sand / gravel bedding material	0.18	11.98
(302)	Dark-grey / black silty-clay containing occasional small gravels less than 2cm big	0.22	11.80
(303)	A dark-brown silty-clay, truncated subsoil	0.22	11.58
(304)	Uppermost brickearth deposit, orange-brown clay-silt	0.20	11.36
(305)	Pale-brown / off-white sandy-silt	0.38	11.16
(306)	Orange sandy-gravels	0.58	10.78
(307)	Compacted brown clay-silt	0.68	10.20
(308)	Mottled, brown / pale-brown, clay-silt	0.71+	9.52

## Appendix II Trench plans and sections

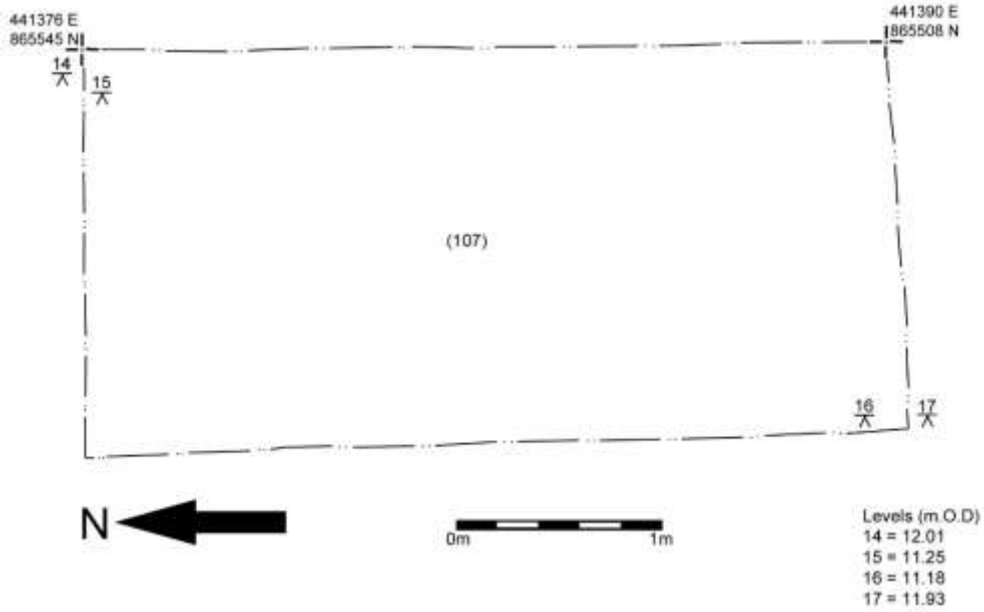


Fig.15: Plan of Trench 1, initial ground reduction

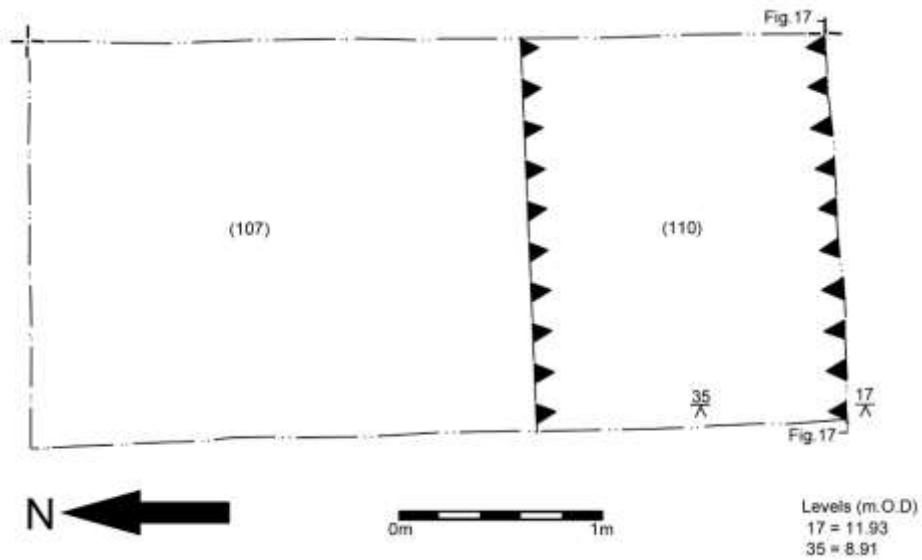


Fig.16: Plan of Trench 1, sondage

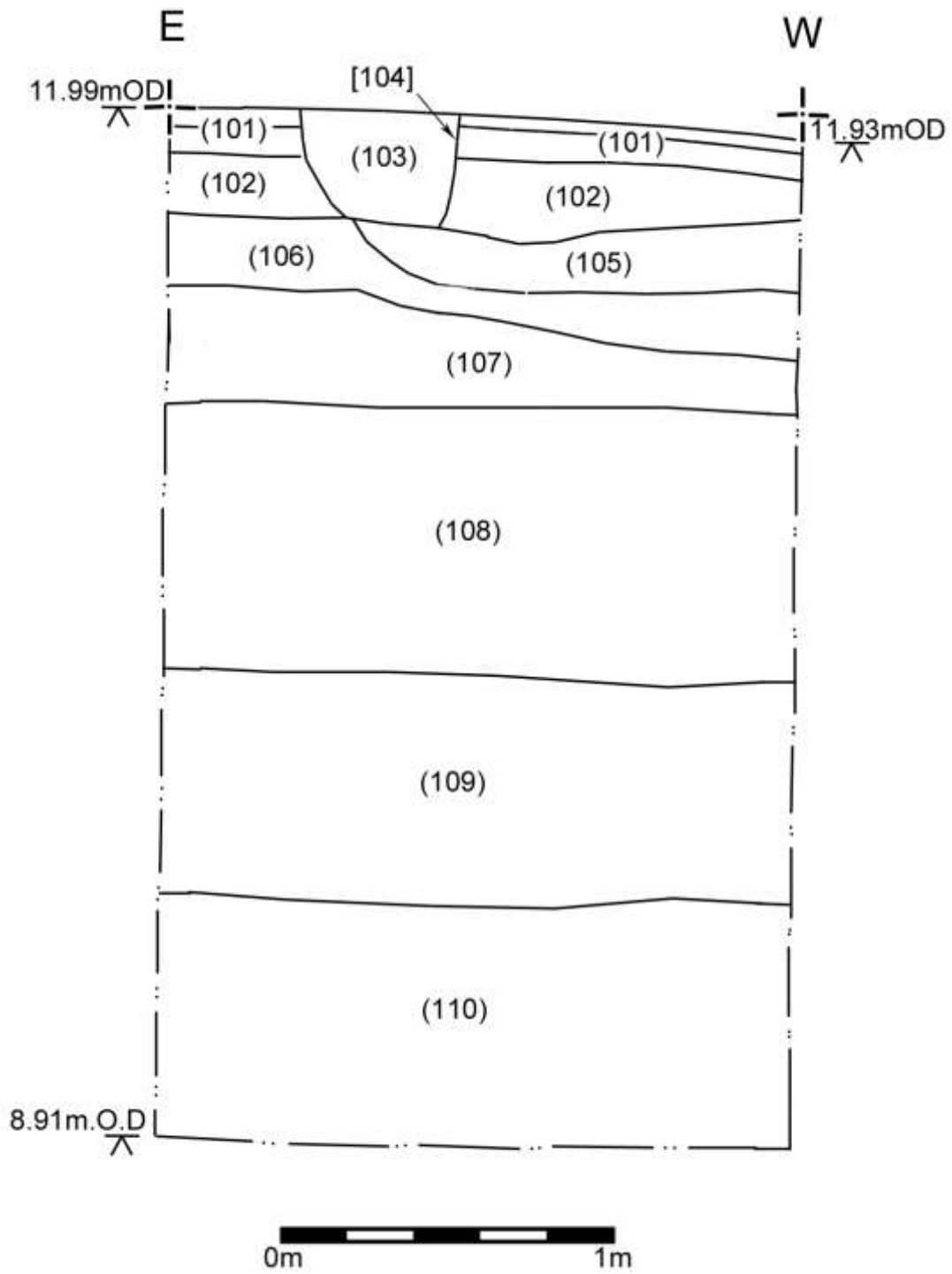


Fig.17: North-facing section across the southern end of Trench 1

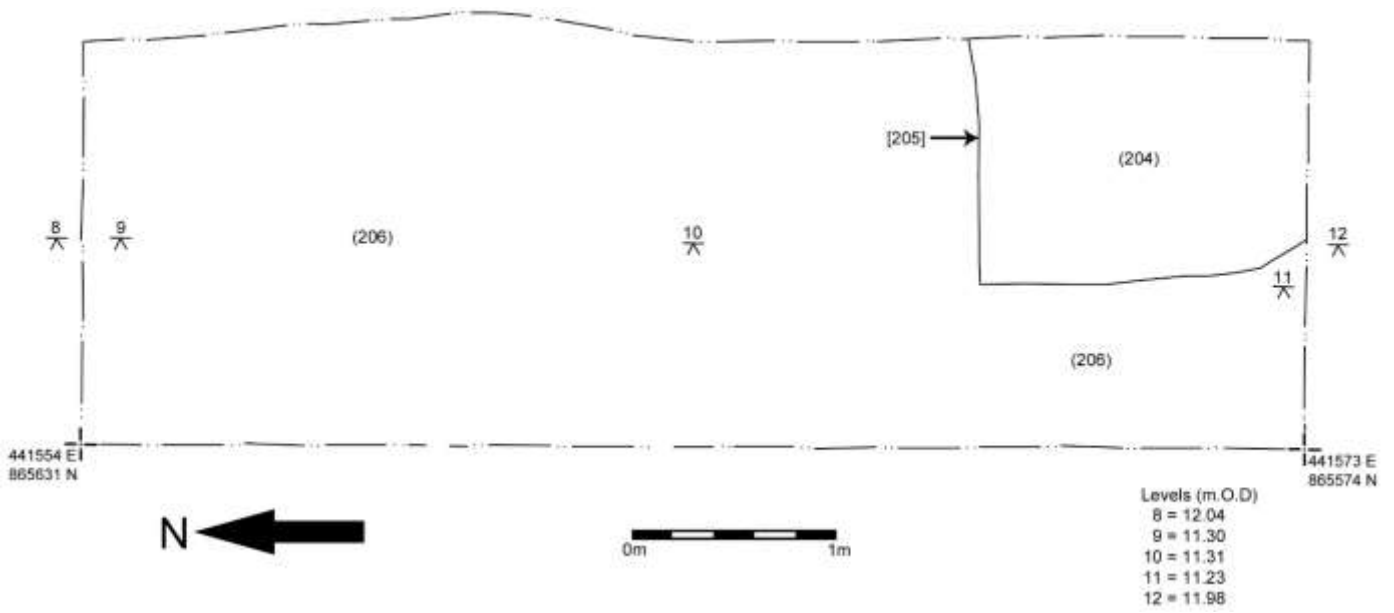


Fig.18: Plan of Trench 2, initial ground reduction

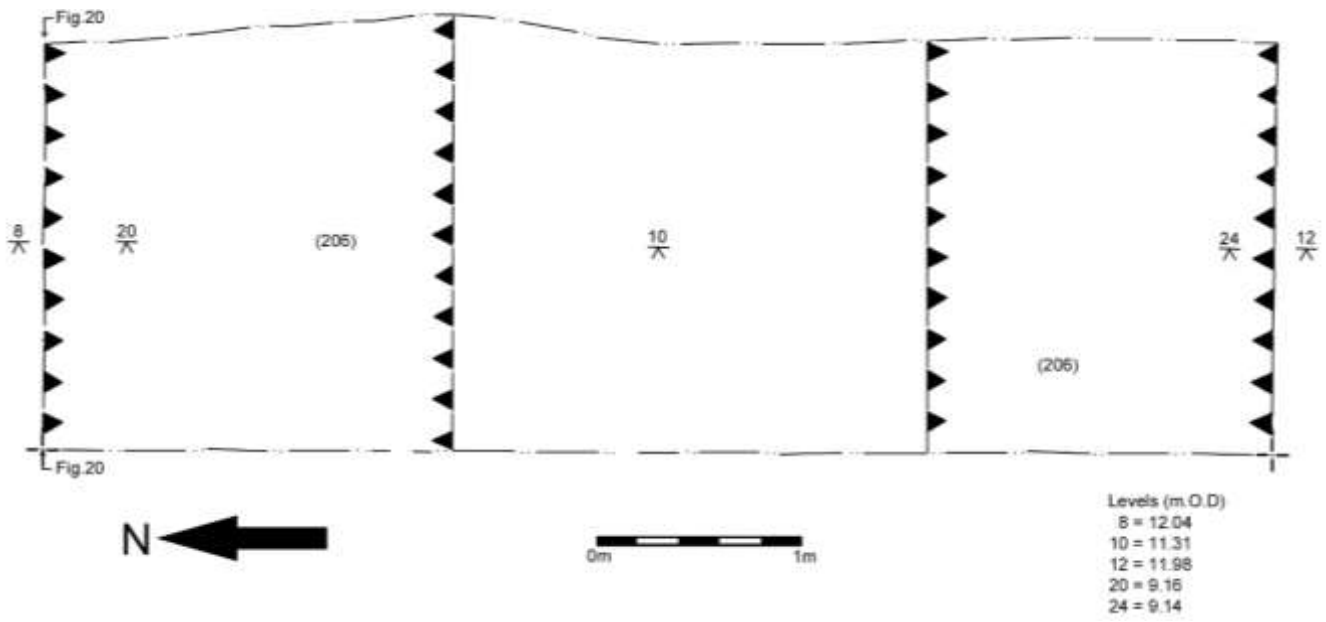


Fig.19: Plan of Trench 2, sondages



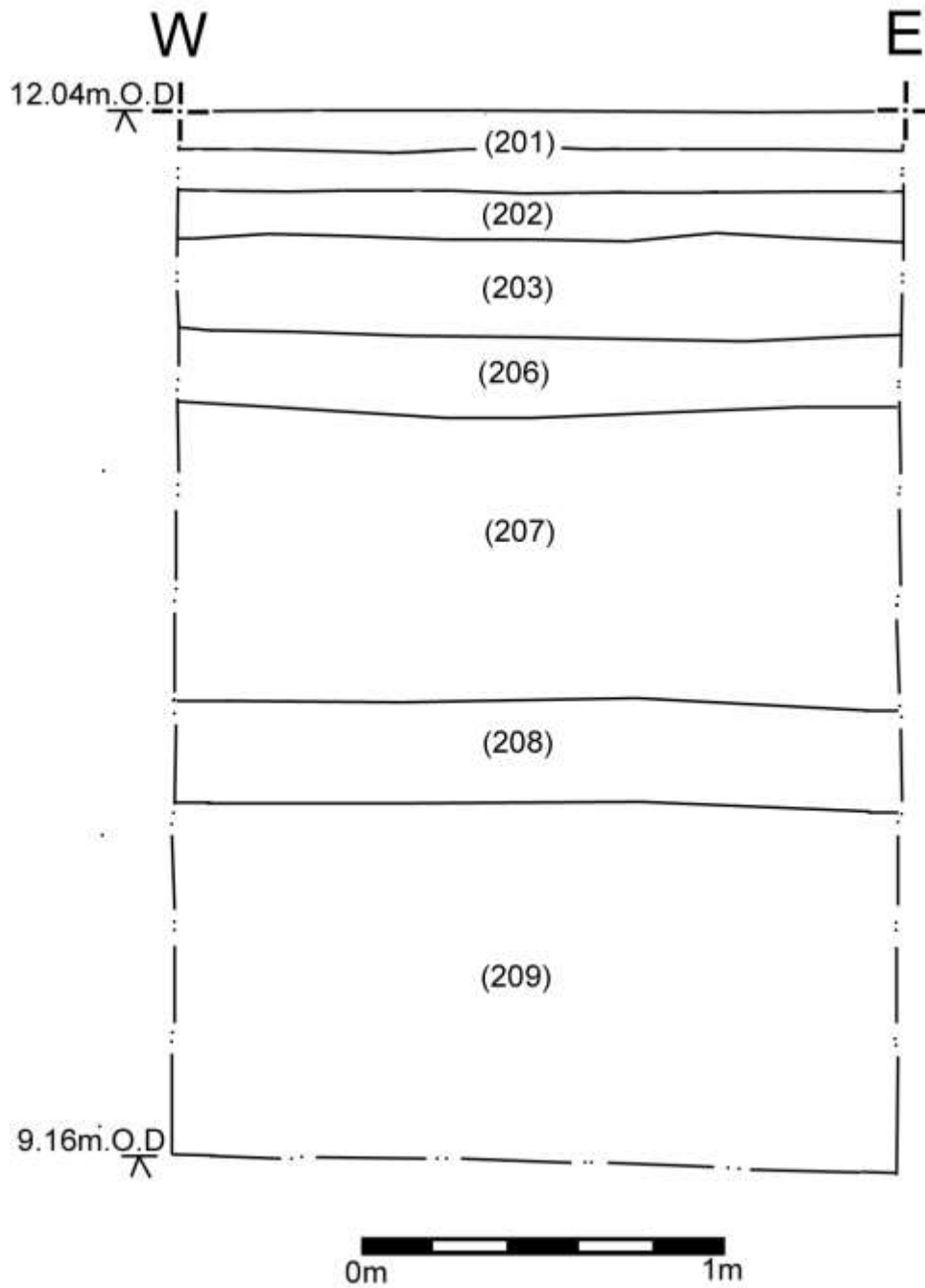


Fig.20: South-facing section across northern end of Trench 2

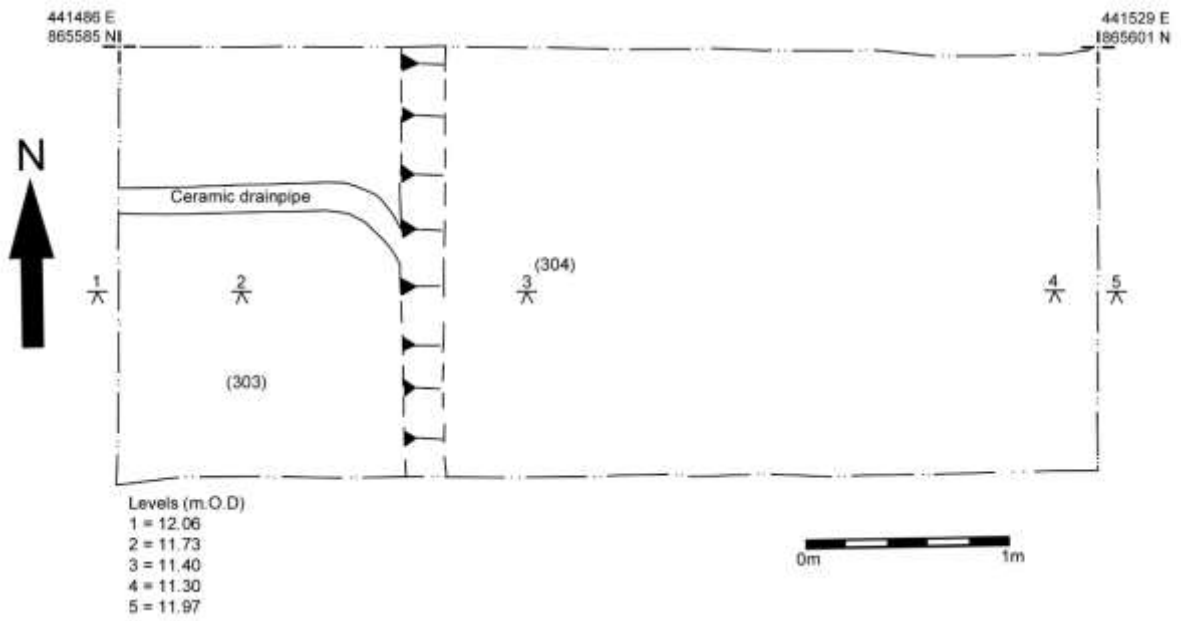


Fig.21: Plan of Trench 3, initial ground reduction

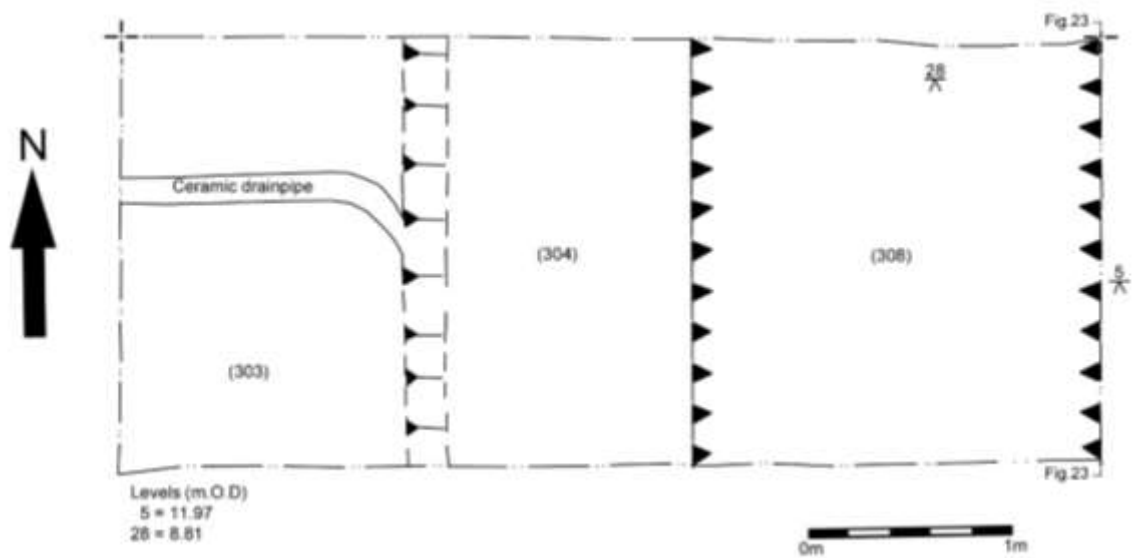


Fig.22: Plan of Trench 3, sondage

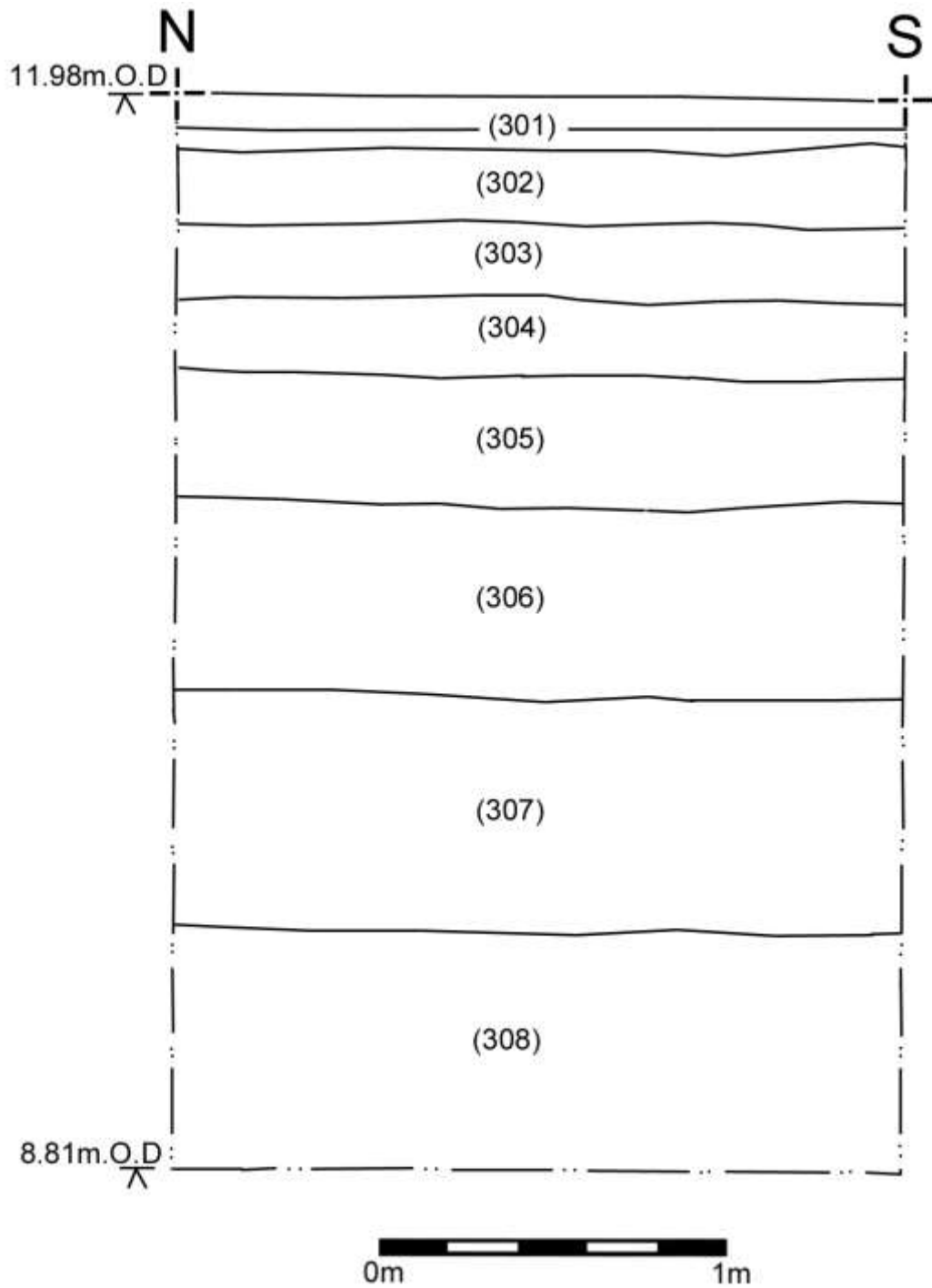


Fig.23: *West-facing section across eastern end of Trench 3*

## Appendix III OASIS online database collection form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-201168](#)

### Project details

Project name	1 Riches Road, Ilford: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	In January 2015, Compass Archaeology Ltd. conducted an archaeological field evaluation on land to the front and rear of 1 Riches Road, Ildord, IG1 1JH. The evaluation was conducted prior to redevelopment of the site as a basemented, 8- storey block of flats, within commercial properties on the ground floor. The evaluation involved the excavation of 3 trial trenches with an additional 4 exploratory sondages dug into the natural brickearth to establish the presence or non-presence of prehistoric mega faunal remains, many of which have been found in the surrounding area. On this occasion the evaluation revealed no archaeologically significant features and demonstrated that the site had been largely stripped of historic land surfaces prior to its development in the late 19th century as part of the wider late-Victorian expansion of Ilford. No archaeological evidence for pre-20th century activity was observed. A single, early-20th century rubbish pit was exposed in the southeast corner of the site, in Trench 2. Natural brickearth was observed across the site from c0.50m to 0.75m below existing ground levels, equal to 11.47mOD in the west and 11.37mOD to 11.29mOD in the east of the site. Sterile deposits of brickearth were recorded continuing for at least a further 2.84m, (Trench 2), and beyond.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2015 End: 14-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RCS15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	redb004 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	RUBBISH PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning agreement (Section 106 or 52)
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON REDBRIDGE ILFORD 1 Riches Road, Ilford
Postcode	IG1 1JH
Study area	28.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4414 8655 51.5588898381 0.0795494674704 51 33 32 N 000 04 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.56m Max: 3.16m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Elmpine Developments Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1 Riches Road, Ilford, IG1 1JH: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	A brief summary of the findings of the evaluation including; background to site, description and interpretation of stratigraphy observed and conclusions reached. Site location plan, trench location plan, individual trench plans and sample sections, as well as illustrative photographs included.

## **Appendix IV London Archaeologist summary**

Site Address: 1 Riches Road, Ilford, IG1 1JH  
Project type: Field evaluation

Dates of fieldwork: 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
Site code: RCS15  
Site supervisor: Geoff Potter

NGR: TQ 4414 8655

Funding body: Elmpine Developments Ltd.

In January 2015, Compass Archaeology Ltd. conducted an archaeological field evaluation on land to the front and rear of 1 Riches Road, Ildord, IG1 1JH. The evaluation was conducted prior to redevelopment of the site as a basemented, 8- storey block of flats, within commercial properties on the ground floor.

The evaluation involved the excavation of 3 trial trenches with an additional 4 exploratory sondages dug into the natural brickearth to establish the presence or non-presence of prehistoric mega faunal remains, many of which have been found in the surrounding area.

On this occasion the evaluation revealed no archaeologically significant features and demonstrated that the site had been largely stripped of historic land surfaces prior to its development in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of the wider late-Victorian expansion of Ilford.

No archaeological evidence for pre-20<sup>th</sup> century activity was observed. A single, early-20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit was exposed in the southeast corner of the site, in Trench 2.

Natural brickearth was observed across the site from c0.50m to 0.75m below existing ground levels, equal to 11.47mOD in the west and 11.37mOD to 11.29mOD in the east of the site. Sterile deposits of brickearth were recorded continuing for at least a further 2.84m, (Trench 2), and beyond.

As a result of the evaluation no further archaeological mitigation is deemed necessary as no significant deposits were observed either above the brickearth or buried within it for at least 2.5m. It is therefore believed that the proposed basement will have a negligible effect on the underlying stratigraphy.