

**BRINDWOOD ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST,
E4 8BH**

**THAMES WATER UTILITIES SEWER REPLACEMENT
WORKS**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

MARCH 2016



BRINDWOOD ROAD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST, E4
8BH

THAMES WATER UTILITIES SEWER REPLACEMENT
WORKS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE NGR: TQ 3709 9345 – TQ 3725 9342 (linear)

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

Tel: 020 7403 9660

e-mail: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

March 2016

Author: James Aaronson

©Compass Archaeology Ltd

Abstract

Between 27th October 2015 and 8th March 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the course of groundworks associated with sewer replacement works by Thames Water along the north side of Brindwood Road, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. It was shown through all monitoring visits that the area appeared to have been stripped of all previous land surfaces or archaeological horizons prior to the construction of the existing roads and housing stock.

The extant road and its bedding material directly overlay a grey-blue-black clay probably representing an exposed surface of natural ground which was used as a base from which to develop the site sometime in the later 1930s. This in turn overlay the untouched natural clay deposits.

Contents

| | page |
|--|------|
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 2 Acknowledgments | 2 |
| 3 Site location, geology, and topography | 2 |
| 4 Site background | 2 |
| 5 Methodology | 3 |
| 6 Results | 5 |
| 7 Conclusions | 8 |
| 8 Sources consulted | 9 |
| Appendix I OASIS data collection form | 10 |
| Appendix II London Archaeologist summary | 12 |

List of figures

| | | page |
|-------|---|------|
| Fig.1 | OS location plan | 1 |
| Fig.2 | Plan showing location of observations made in relation to the locally designated Archaeological Priority Zone | 5 |
| Fig.3 | Trial pit facing WNW, (1m scale), 27.10.15 | 6 |
| Fig.4 | South-facing section through west end of trench, 17.02.16. Facing N | 7 |
| Fig.5 | Open-cut trenching outside No.26 Brindwood Road facing SSE, showing natural clay at base | 8 |

Figs.1 and 2 reproduced from the OS digital information with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of HMSO ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. (Compass Archaeology Ltd, license no. AL 100031317)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted by Compass Archaeology during Thames Water sewer replacement works along Brindwood Road, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, E4 8BH.



Fig.1: OS location plan showing watching brief area, (pink), and further associated excavations, (green)

1.2 The watching brief took place between the 17th of February and 8th of March 2016. The watching brief followed on from an initial monitoring exercise during test pitting along the route of the proposed sewer in October 2015.

- 1.3 The site was deemed appropriate for archaeological monitoring due to its proximity to the locally designated Archaeological Priority Zone of Chingford Village, (APZ No.7 London Borough of Waltham Forest, 2012).

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 2.1 Compass Archaeology would like to thank Thames Water Utilities Ltd for its support of the archaeological fieldwork, and to Claire Hallybone, Senior Archaeologist at Thames Water, for commissioning the works on their behalf. Thanks also to Barhale's groundwork crew, especially James and Marc for allowing inspection of the trench works and for keeping Compass informed of the progress of the works and facilitating site visits.

3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site of the groundworks lay within the London Borough of Waltham Forest, on the eastern side of the Lea Valley approximately centred on NGR TQ 3713 9345. Brindwood Road runs east from Waltham Way, flanked on either side by semi-detached properties, with three cul-de-sacs on the southern side; Mayhew Close, Rampton Close, and Rectory Close respectively.
- 3.2 According to the British Geological Survey (England & Wales Sheet 256: North London), the site overlies the London Clay Formation – part of a large area comprising Claygate Member: silt & fine-grained sand. Just to the west is a strip of more recent alluvium, bordering the William Girling Reservoir and corresponding to the original Lea Valley.
- 3.3 Brindwood Road is aligned east-west; the ground rising significantly to the south and east, from just below 19mOD at the western end of Brindwood Road to over 30mOD towards the eastern end. The houses on the north side of the road are set back from the pavement at ground level, but are raised up and accessed by flights of steps on the south side, with the three cul-de-sacs rising steeply to the south.

4 SITE BACKGROUND & SUBSEQUENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 4.1 The site history and background has been discussed previously in the Written Scheme of Investigation compiled prior to commencement of the fieldwork¹, and so shall not be repeated at length. Only the most relevant points shall be reproduced below.

4.2 *Early History, (Prehistoric to medieval)*

- 4.2.1 There is limited evidence of prehistoric and Roman presence in the vicinity of the site and is confined to a few chance find spots of flint tools and pottery / coins respectively unearthed during construction of the William Girling Reservoir to the northwest.
- 4.2.2 Chingford is mentioned in the Domesday Survey, inferring Saxon origins, but no physical evidence of such a settlement has been recorded as of yet. By the 12th century the Church of All Saints immediately to the southeast of the site was established and possibly some

¹ Compass Archaeology, 2016, Section 3

low level agricultural settlement, but this is inferred rather than proven. Nevertheless the eastern end of Brindwood Road, from Rectory Close, eastwards, falls within the locally designated APZ based around All Saints and a House / farmstead called Merry Hill which existed by 1367.

4.3 *Post medieval*

4.3.1 Brindwood Road remained open land until the 20th century. Chingford itself remained small and essentially rural, consisting mainly of scattered pastoral farms and cottages plus a few larger houses. Widespread development only began with the extension of the railway from Walthamstow in 1873, although this remained slow and as late as 1922 there were still a dozen farms under cultivation.

4.3.2 Between the world wars and especially after 1931 the pace accelerated: building was at first concentrated at the Green near Chingford station, and in the south of the parish near Highams Park station. The 1936 25-inch OS Revision shows that at least the western part of Brindwood Road was still open and undeveloped, although with Priory Avenue and Close immediately to the south now built up. The subsequent 6-inch: mile Provisional Edition of 1938 includes the line of Brindwood Road, although perhaps only just set out, as individual houses are not depicted.

4.4 Archaeological research questions

The watching brief provides the opportunity to answer the following specific and more general research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, either *in situ* remains or residual finds?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity or finds?
- What evidence is there for medieval or early post-medieval activity? Can the nature of this be defined (eg. agriculture), and how closely can it be dated?
- At what level do archaeological deposits, if any, survive across the watching brief area?
- At what depth is natural geology recorded and what form does it take?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 *Standards*

5.1.1 The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2015). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2015). Overall management of the project will be undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.

The watching brief followed the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) adopted in March 2012.

5.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held valid CSCS Cards (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme), and wore hi-vis jackets, hard hats, steel-toe-

capped boots, and gloves as required. Members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

5.2 *Fieldwork*

5.2.1 The archaeological watching brief took place during groundworks to expose existing services along the east-west line of Brindwood Road in the northern lane. The trenchworks were cut up to 0.95m wide, and to a depth of c2.75m. A total of c340m was excavated although only the easternmost c165m was deemed necessary for archaeological monitoring from Mayhew Close eastwards to outside No.14 Brindwood Road.

5.2.2 If archaeological remains were exposed adequate time was allowed for investigation and recording, although every effort was made not to disrupt the development programme.

5.2.3 Archaeological deposits and features will be investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and finds dating evidence recovered.

5.2.4 Archaeological contexts and observations were recorded on pro-forma Trench Recording Sheets. The fieldwork record will be supplemented as by digital photography.

5.2.5 The Client and Historic England were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork.

5.3 *Post-excavation report and Archive*

5.3.1 Copies of this report will be supplied to the client and Historic England.

5.3.2 A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for inclusion in London Archaeologist Fieldwork round-up.

5.3.3 There is no provision for further analysis or publication of significant findings. Should these be made the requirements would need to be discussed and agreed with the Client and with Historic England.

5.3.4 An ordered indexed and internally consistent archive will be compiled in line with MoL Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives, and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The watching brief was conducted over the course of 5 site visits; one on the 27th October, and a further 4 between the 17th of February and 8th of March 2016.
- 6.2 A total of 46.85m of trench was observed representing an approximate 28% sample of the proposed watching brief area, and a 14% sample of the whole length of the route was observed. The results of these observations are discussed below in chronological order.



Fig.2: Plan showing location of observations made, (pink), in relation to the locally designated Archaeological Priority Zone, (brown)

6.3 27st October 2015

6.3.1 A single rectangular trial pit measuring 1.7m long, (E-W), by 0.80m wide and up to 1.05m deep was observed outside No.14 / 16 Brindwood Road on the northern side of the road.

6.3.2 Observed stratigraphy comprised 300mm to 500mm of existing road surface and road base material overlying 250mm to 300mm of mixed rubble, silty clay containing crushed brick and peg tile. This in turn overlay a sterile grey-black clay probably representing weathered natural².



Fig.3: Trial pit facing WNW, (1m scale), 27.10.15

² Compass Archaeology, 2015

6.4 17th February 2016

- 6.4.1** 12.40m of open-cut trenching was observed between Nos.50 and 54 Brindwood Road, on the northern side opposite Mayhew Close. The trench was cut 1.00m wide by c2.00m deep, (it was partially backfilled around newly lain pipe).
- 6.4.2** The stratigraphy included 260mm of existing tarmac and compacted road base over 1250mm of dirty grey weathered clay below which was a sterile orange-brown clay as previously observed at the eastern end of the excavation area, (see 6.3.2 above).



Fig.4: South-facing section through west end of trench, 17.02.16. Facing N

6.5 22nd February 2016

- 6.5.1** An open-cut trench 12m long, by 0.95m wide and 2.70m deep was monitored outside of Nos.38 and 36 Brindwood Road.
- 6.5.2** The stratigraphy was similar to that observed the previous week; 400mm of existing road surface and tarmac road base overlying c1600mm of grey clay-silt representing a weathered surface over sterile orange-brown clay representing untouched natural deposits.

6.6 1st March 2016

- 6.6.1** On this occasion 13.60m of open-cut trenching were recorded from No.34 to No.32a Brindwood Road opposite the junction with Rampton Close. The trench was cut 0.95m wide by 2.70m deep as before.
- 6.6.2** Stratigraphy took the form of 400mm of road surface and road bed material; 400mm of grey-brown sterile clay over pale-brown to orange sterile clay with rare stone inclusions representing untouched natural.

6.7 8th March 2016

- 6.7.1 A total of 7.15m of open-cut trench measuring 0.95m wide by 2.75m deep was observed on the north side of Brindwood Road from outside No.28 to outside No.26.
- 6.7.2 Observed stratigraphy comprised 350mm to 400mm of existing tarmac and road base overlying 800mm of grey-blue clay representing a former exposed natural land surface over a deep deposit of orange-brown sterile clay.



Fig.5: *Open-cut trenching outside No.26 Brindwood Road facing SSE, showing natural clay at base*

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. It was shown through all monitoring visits that the area appeared to have been stripped of all previous land surfaces or archaeological horizons prior to the construction of the existing roads and housing stock.
- 7.2 The extant road and its bedding material directly overlay a grey-blue-black clay probably representing an exposed surface of natural ground which was used as a base from which to develop the site sometime in the later 1930s. This in turn overlay the untouched natural clay deposits.

8 SOURCES CONSULTED

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2015, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*

Compass Archaeology, 2015, *An Archaeological Watching Brief during Thames Water Utilities ground investigation trial holes*, (interim of trial hole works)

Compass Archaeology, 2016, *Brindwood Road, London, E4 8BH, Thames Water Utilities Sewer Replacement Works: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Historic England, 2015. *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*

London Borough of Waltham Forest, July 2012. *Waltham Forest Local Plan. Development Management Policies*

Appendix I OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: compass1-245907

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Brindwood Road, Thames Water Sewer Replacement works |
| Short description of the project | Between 27th October 2015 and 8th March 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the course of groundworks associated with sewer replacement works by Thames Water along the north side of Brindwood Road, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. It was shown through all monitoring visits that the area appeared to have been stripped of all previous land surfaces or archaeological horizons prior to the construction of the existing roads and housing stock. The extant road and its bedding material directly overlay a grey-blue-black clay probably representing an exposed surface of natural ground which was used as a base from which to develop the site sometime in the later 1930s. This in turn overlay the untouched natural clay deposits. |
| Project dates | Start: 27-10-2015 End: 08-03-2016 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | walt005 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area |
| Current Land use | Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice |

Project location

Country England

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Site location | GREATER LONDON WALTHAM FOREST CHINGFORD Brindwood Road |
| Postcode | E4 8BH |
| Study area | 0.2 Kilometres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 3709 9345 51.622661891993 -0.01940012765 51 37 21 N 000 01 09 W Line |
| Site coordinates | TQ 3725 9342 51.622353194124 -0.017101781555 51 37 20 N 000 01 01 W Line |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Compass Archaeology |
| Project brief originator | Historic England |
| Project design originator | Compass Archaeology |
| Project director/manager | Compass Archaeology |
| Project supervisor | James Aaronson |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Thames Water Utilities |

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 | "Diary","Map","Photograph","Unpublished Text" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | BRINDWOOD ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST, E4 8BH THAMES WATER UTILITIES SEWER REPLACEMENT WORKS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Aaronson, J |
| Date | 2016 |
| Issuer or publisher | Compass Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | 5-7 Southwark Street, SE1 1RQ |
| Description | A brief summary report of the watching brief containing; site location plan and plan of observations along with site background, research questions, methodology, written description of observations, and conclusions |
| Entered by | James Aaronson (james@compassarchaeology.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 17 March 2016 |

Appendix II London Archaeologist summary

Brindwood Road, E4 8BH TQ3718 9342 CA (James Aaronson) watching brief October 2015 – March 2016 Thames Water Utilities Ltd

Between 27th October 2015 and 8th March 2016 Compass Archaeology conducted a watching brief during the course of groundworks associated with sewer replacement works by Thames Water along the north side of Brindwood Road, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. It was shown through all monitoring visits that the area appeared to have been stripped of all previous land surfaces or archaeological horizons prior to the construction of the existing roads and housing stock.

The extant road and its bedding material directly overlay a grey-blue-black clay probably representing an exposed surface of natural ground which was used as a base from which to develop the site sometime in the later 1930s. This in turn overlay the untouched natural clay deposits.