

PHASE 1 WORKS, EXCALIBUR ESTATE, LEWISHAM, SE6

APPROX SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 39109 72637

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



COMPASS



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March 2016

PHASE 1 WORKS, EXCALIBUR ESTATE, LEWISHAM, SE6

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Site code: EXC16

Approx. site centre NGR: TQ 39109 72637

LB of Lewisham Planning ref: DC/10/75973/X

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 9th and 14th March 2016 in the north-east corner of the Excalibur Estate, Lewisham, SE6. The site formerly comprised part of a pre-fabricated (c 1946) housing estate bounded by Baudwin Road to the east and Hazelbank Road to the north, with Persant Road slightly to the south and the western boundary falling just west of Ector Road. The area under investigation had been cleared of housing and was an open space with the former road system still in existence.

The archaeological works consisted of 12 trial trenches located around the development footprint. The trenches measured between 4.45m and 21m in length x c2m in width x a maximum of 1.70m in depth (37.22mOD). Works were undertaken by machine, following by hand cleaning and recording.

The general stratigraphy observed in all 12 trenches comprised a mid-brown topsoil abundant with fragments of CBM and modern detritus, above a darker brown silty soil overlying natural orange clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The natural was encountered at a depth of between 38.79mOD (Trench 9, SW corner of the site) and 37.47mOD (Trench 6, NE corner of the site). Some variation in the stratigraphy was observed, taken to be a result of groundworks completed on the site in the mid-20th century and associated with the construction of the estate.

No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and no further archaeological mitigation work on the site is recommended as part of the planning process.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 9th and 14th of March 2016 at the Excalibur Estate in Lewisham. The works involved the excavation of twelve trial trenches as part of ‘Phase 1’ of development works at the site.

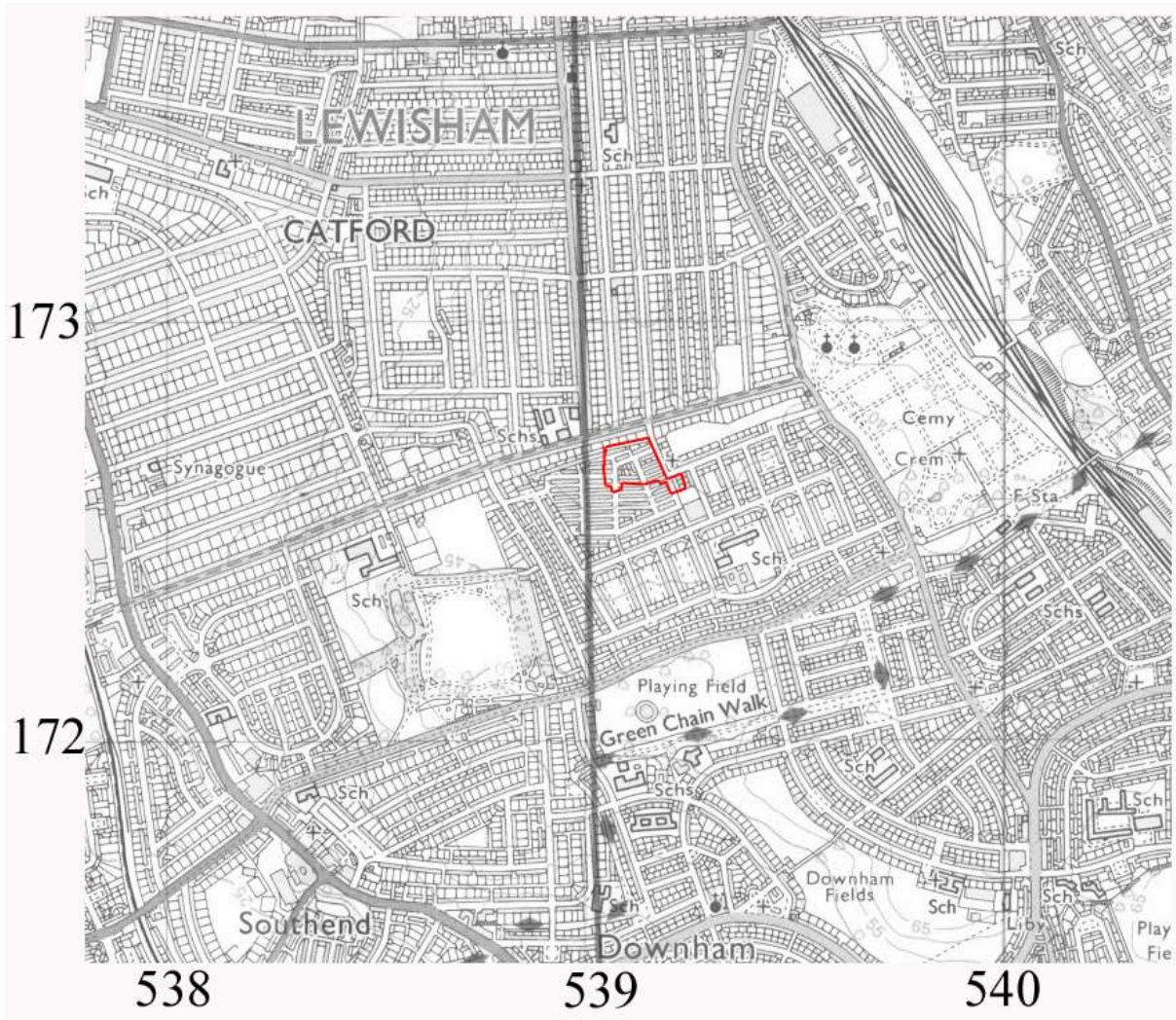


Fig.1: *Site location, with site outlined in red*

- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was required as a condition of planning consent for redevelopment of the site (Planning Ref: DC/10/75973/X), further to recommendations from Historic England as advisor to the LPA. Archaeology also forms part of the current London Borough of Lewisham’s ‘Unitary Development Plan’ (adopted July 2004), although the site itself does not fall within an ‘Area of Archaeological Priority.’

2. Location, geology and topography

- 2.1 The site is located *c*1.2km to the east of Bellingham and *c*1.8km south-east of Catford (fig.1). It is bounded by Hazelbank Road to the north and Baudwin Road to the east, with Persant Road slightly to the south and the western boundary falling just west of Ector Road (fig.2).
- 2.2 The site occupies relatively level ground, through with a gentle rise to the south/southeast from around 37.5m to 40.0m OD.
- 2.3 The British Geological Survey, 1998, indicates that the site lies on London Clay.
- 2.4 Geotechnical investigations were carried out on the site by Quadrant Construction Services in October 2010. This uncovered made-ground deposits (gravelly-clay deposits with fragments of flint, brick, concrete, ash, and charcoal) to a maximum depth of 0.8m beneath the modern ground-surface, directly overlying the London Clay deposits.

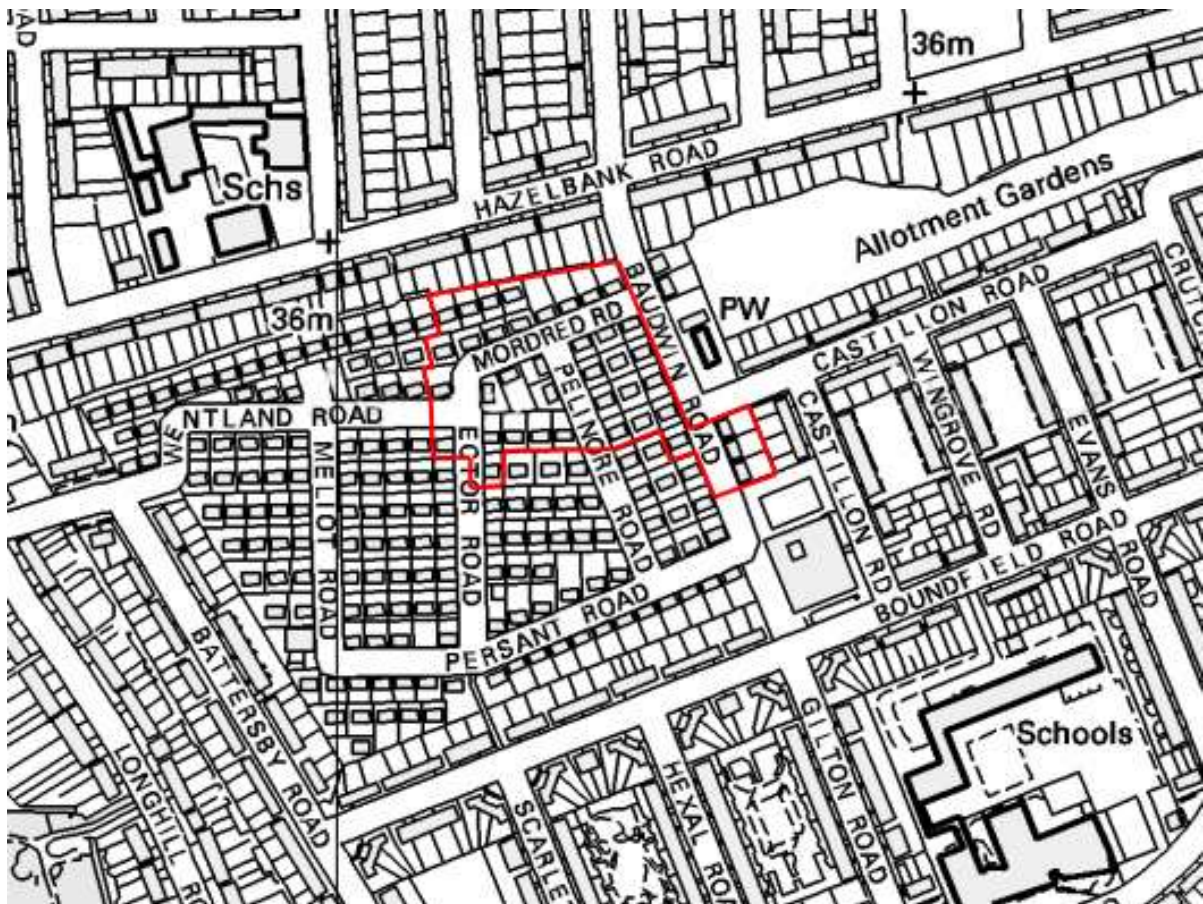


Fig.2: Detailed plan with the site location outlined in red

3 History and archaeology

The historical and archaeological background to the site has been discussed in a previous desk-based assessment, (Purcell Miller Tritton, 2011), and is outlined here.

3.1 Prehistoric

No prehistoric finds or features have been recorded within a 1km radius of the site. No evidence for activity or settlement of this date has been found in the area.

3.2 Roman

Similarly, no Roman finds or features have been recorded within a 1km radius, with no evidence for any activity of this date being uncovered.

3.3 Saxon - Medieval

No archaeological evidence for Saxon or medieval activity in the vicinity of the site has been uncovered. The centres of activity during this period were focused at Lewisham, Lee, and Blackheath, with smaller agricultural settlements around Rushey Green, Catford, Forest Hill, Sydenham, Brockley, Bellingham, Southend, and Downham. It seems likely that the development site remained outside the areas of Saxon / medieval activity.

3.4 Post-Medieval

The area remained almost exclusively open ground throughout the majority of the post-medieval period and was used for local agriculture. This is illustrated on Rocque's survey of 1746, where the site is positioned within open fields (fig.3). The site is depicted as positioned within a single, large, open field on the 1897 OS Map, with a field boundary shown along the northern boundary of the site (fig.4). By the time of the 1916 OS Map Hazelbank Road (to the north of the site) had been constructed, with residential development along either side of it (fig.5). The site itself remained undeveloped until the laying-out of the Excalibur Estate between 1946-7, as shown on the 1947-8 OS Map (fig.6).

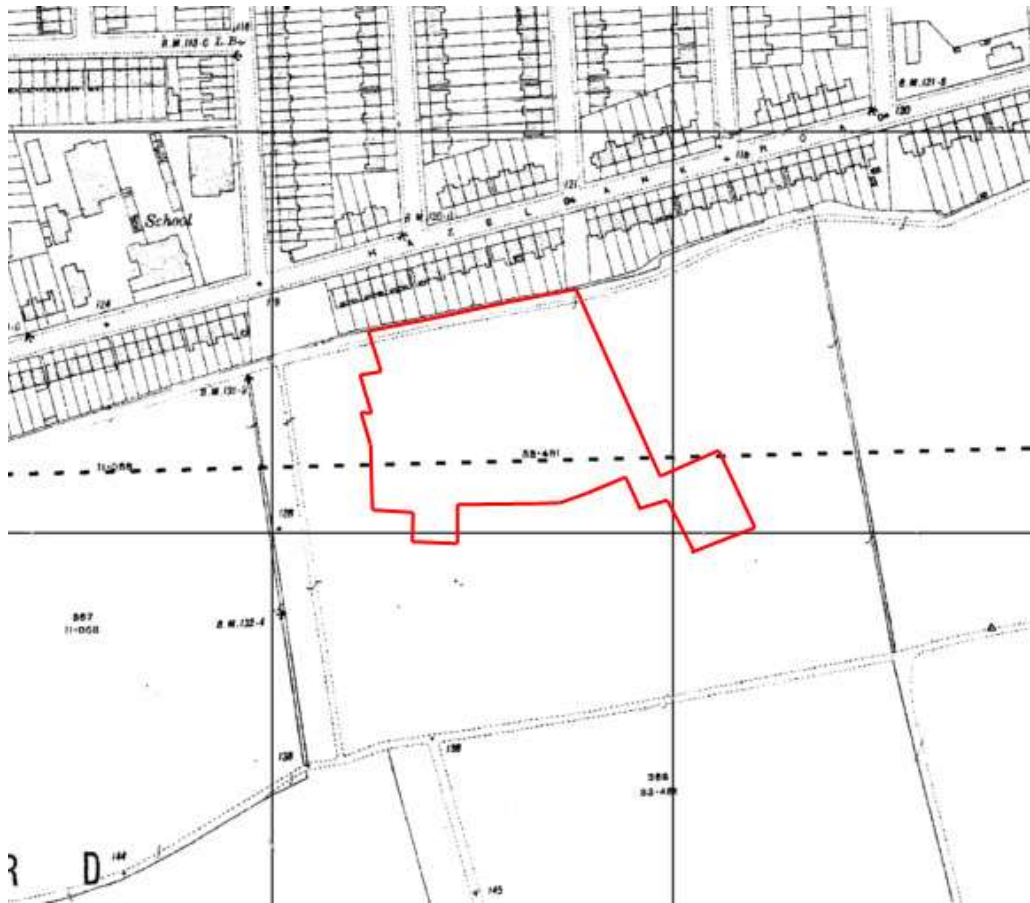


Fig.5: OS map, 1916, with site outline marked in red



Fig.6: OS map, 1947-48, with site outline marked in red

4. Archaeological Research Questions

The site presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- Is there any evidence for early activity, i.e. prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, or medieval, on the site?
- Is there any evidence for any later (post-medieval) activity on the site? In particular, is there any evidence for agricultural practices, field boundaries (particularly that along the northern boundary of the site), or activity in association with the construction of the Excalibur Estate?
- At what levels do any archaeological or geological deposits survive across the area?
- Can the evaluation works inform on the research questions of the Museum of London and English Heritage's '*A Research Framework for London Archaeology*' publication 2002?

5. Evaluation methodology

- 5.1** Initial clearance of the trial trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator, working under archaeological supervision. Deposits were removed in this way in the absence of remains to a clean natural clay layer.

In some cases the shape of trenches were slightly altered to accommodate services which were encountered during the course of the work, whilst the same overall coverage was retained.

- 5.2** No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the course of the evaluation, except those deposits which related to the 20th century construction of the Excalibur Estate.

- 5.3** Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* trench sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan and/or section. The trench positions were recorded on a general site plan and related with appropriate accuracy to the Ordnance Survey grid.

The recording system used followed the MoL Site Manual for on-site work. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum. The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography as appropriate.

- 5.4** 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.

- 5.5** No human remains were encountered during the course of the fieldwork.

- 5.6 No finds applicable to the Treasure Act (1996) or the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) were recovered during the course of the fieldwork.
- 5.7 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations, and safe working conditions will be assessed during the course of the evaluation. Spoil was mounded at a safe distance from the trench edges, and hazard tape was erected around the trenches before they were back-filled.
- 5.8 The Client and the archaeological representatives of Historic England were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork, and in particular any significant finds or remains that might require additional work.

6 Post- excavation work

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

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of this evaluation.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client and Historic England. A short summary of the fieldwork has been appended to this report using the OASIS Data Collection Form.

7 Results

The following section is a summary of the twelve trenches including reference to the stratigraphy observed, features of interest and a selection of illustrative photographs. Section drawings are also provided with can be cross-referenced with the overall site plan fig.7.



Fig. 7: Site plan with trench plans

7.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-west corner of the site, on the north side of Wentland Close (see fig.7). The trench measured 16.5m in length x 2.0m in width x 1.10m in depth at its greatest extent and aligned north-west. An east-west baulk of 3.5m was retained towards to the northern end of the trench to provide cover for two exposed water mains.

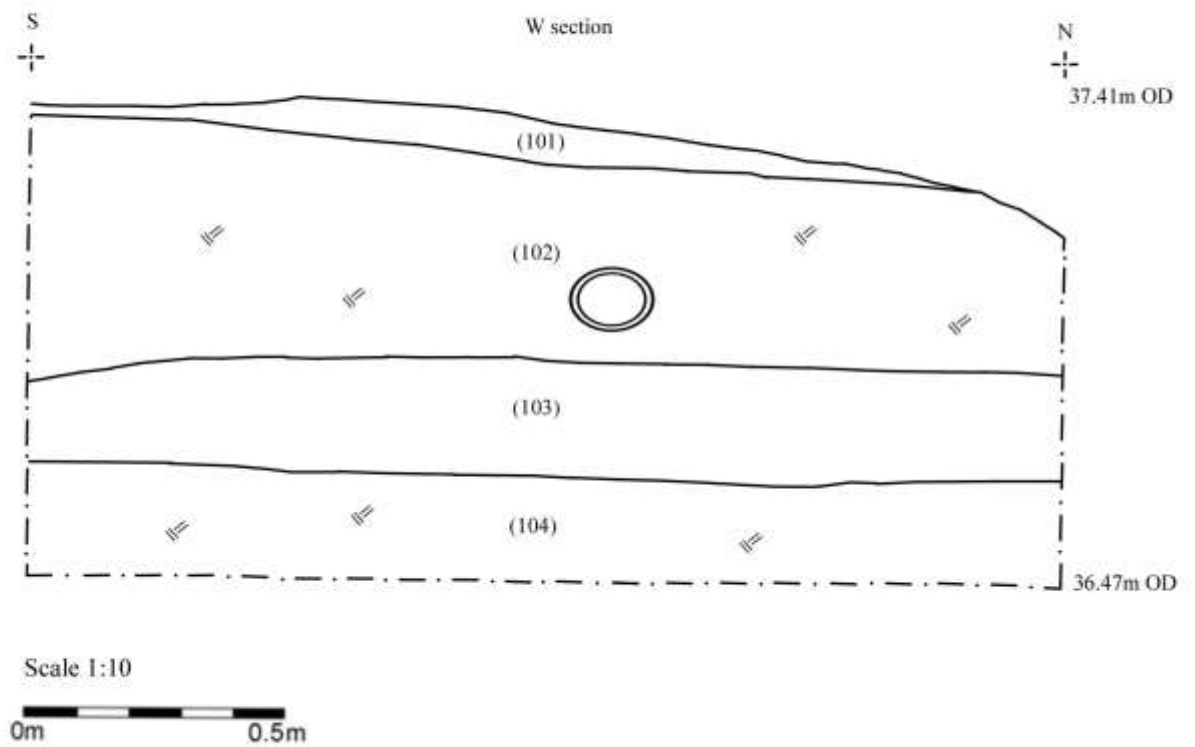


Fig. 8: Trench 1 in section, facing W



Fig.9: Overview of Trench 1. The east-west baulk can be seen towards the far end of the trench. Facing N. Scale 1m

The stratigraphy comprised the following: 100-300mm of brown/black topsoil (101) containing frequent fragments of ceramic building material, rounded stones and angular gravel; above 300-400mm of light brown clay (102) with infrequent inclusions of gravel; 200-300mm of mid-brown loamy soil (103) above a minimum of 350mm (approximately 220mm seen in the west section) of orange brown sticky clay (104) abundant with gravels (see fig.10). The clay is taken to be natural, and continuing below the level of excavation (36.39mOD-36.47mOD). A pipe can be seen cutting into (102) in the section drawing (see fig.8).



Fig. 10: *Stratigraphic sequence in west facing section. Facing W. Scale 1m*

No finds or features were recorded in the southern part of the trench. The topsoil at the northern end of the trench was darker in colour, with some commingling with the clay beneath. The topsoil was 300mm in thickness with a U-shaped profile (see fig.11). This cut measured a minimum of 1.5m in length x 0.25-.030m in width, aligned east-west with a gently sloping southern edge. The fill contained frequent fragments of building rubble and modern rubbish, including, most notably, an entire folded away pram. The topsoil was directly overlying the clay below, the subsoil observed in the northern part was not present. This small cut was attributed to a modern ditch or hole dug with the purpose of being filled with refuse.



Fig. 11: *Shallow ditch at northern end of Trench 1. Facing NW. Scale 1m*

No further features were observed in Trench 1 and no artefacts recovered. The stratigraphy recorded in the trench was interpreted as modern made ground above the natural, with a recent, (within the last fifty years) shallow ditch dug in a former garden to be used as a refuse tip. Natural was encountered at 36.79mOD.

7.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on the northern side of the site (see fig. 13), approximately 30m east of Trench 1. The trench was aligned NW-SE, measuring 16.50m in length x 2.0m in width x 1.10m in depth. This depth was reduced to 0.5m at the north-west end to provide adequate cover for 2 ceramic service pipes.

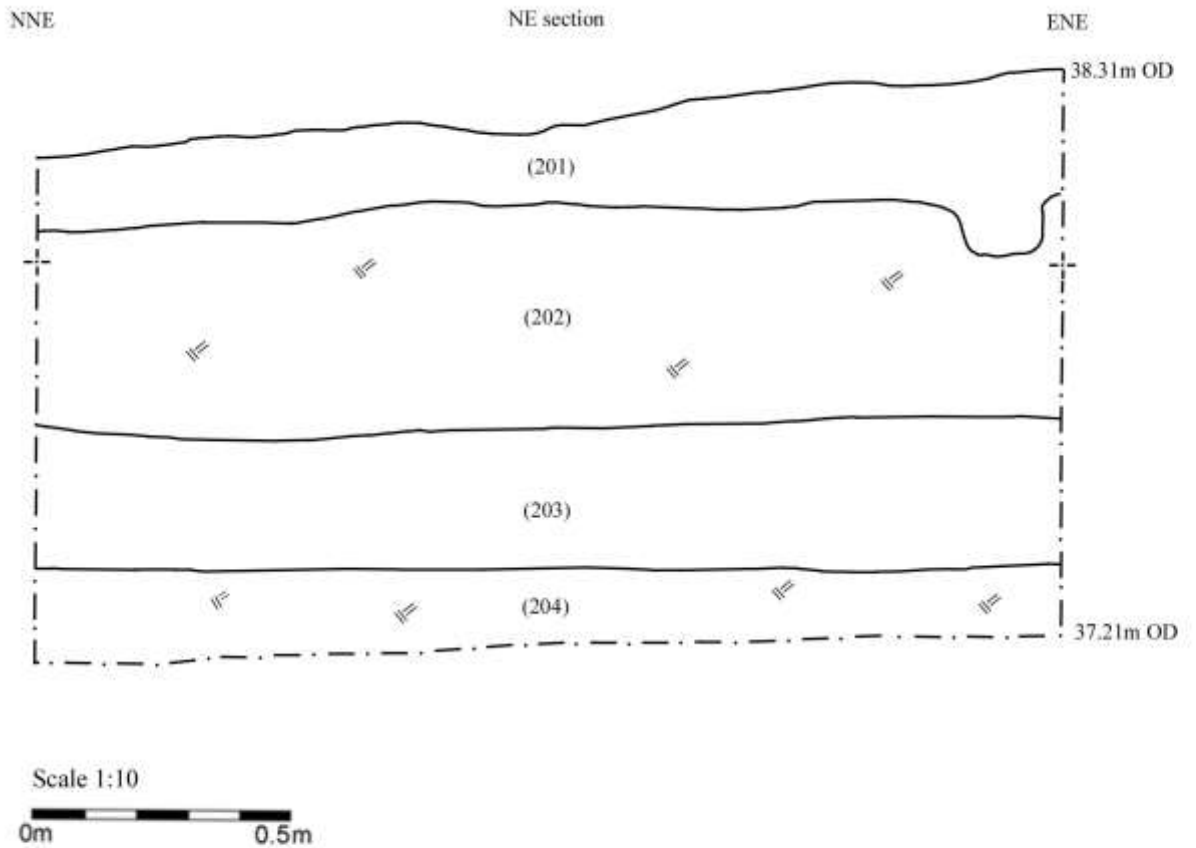


Fig. 12: Trench 2 in section, facing NE



Fig. 13: *Overview of Trench 2. Facing NW. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy (see fig.14) comprised an undulating layer of mid-brown topsoil (201) containing fairly frequent fragments of rubble and general debris, 100-300mm thick, above 420mm of orange clay (202) abundant with rounded gravel and infrequent roots. This orange clay sat directly above 270-310mm of lighter brown clayey soil (203) containing infrequent black flecks. Closer to the trench base the clay became browner and more gravelly (204), measuring 180mm in thickness and continuing below the level of excavation (37.19-37.21mOD).



Fig. 14: NE facing section of Trench 2. Facing NE. Scale 1m



Fig. 15: Two existing services aligned approximately E-W at north-western end of trench. Facing SE. Scale 1m

The services (see fig. 15) were located at a depth of 0.5m and were aligned approximately east-west. They were filled by a linear stretch of gravel running parallel with the pipes. The services were not observed in any of the other trenches located on the northern side of the development site. No archaeological features were observed in this trench. Natural was encountered at 37.39mOD.

7.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 (see fig.17) was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site, north of Mordred Road and approximately 20m east of Trench 2. The trench was aligned north-south and measured 10.5m in length x 2.20m in width x approximately 0.95m in depth.

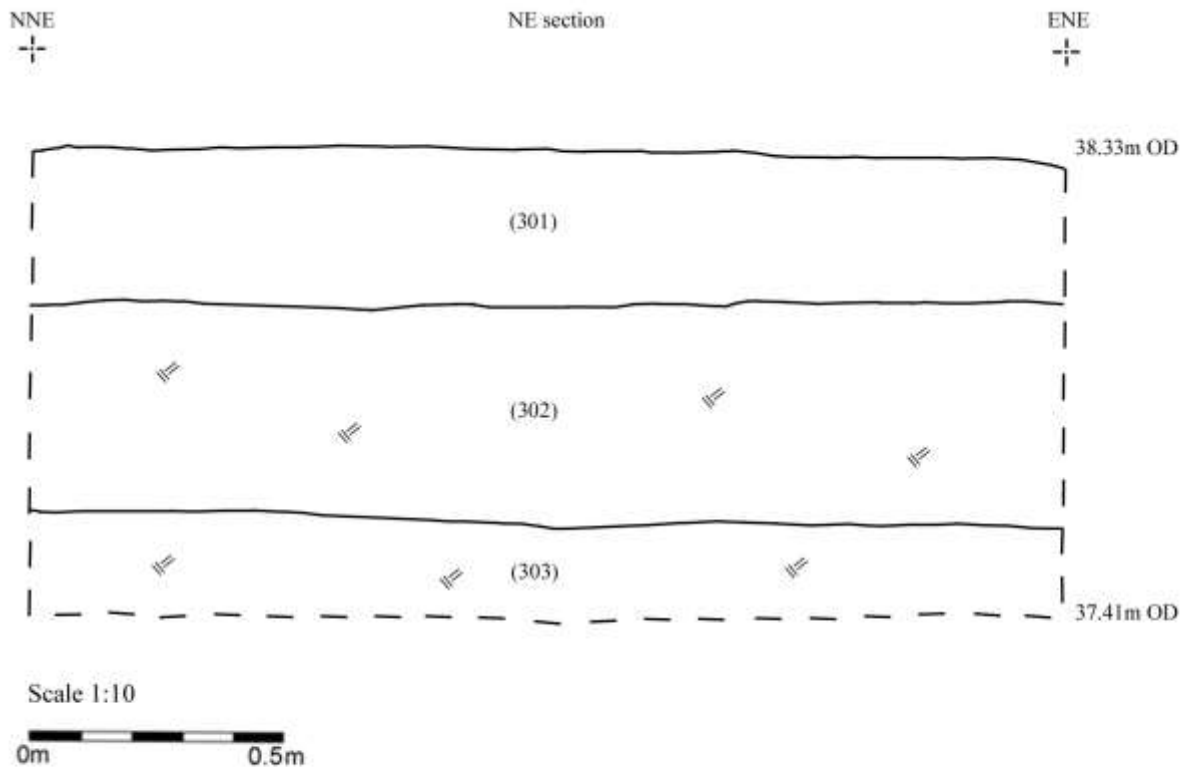


Fig. 16: Trench 3 in section, facing NE



Fig. 17: *Overview of Trench 3. Facing N. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy in Trench 3 (see fig.18) comprised 280mm of dark brown-grey clayey topsoil (301) abundant with rounded pebbles, above 400mm of brown-grey clay (302) with infrequent black flecks above 200mm of mottled brown-orange clay (303), becoming cleaner and more orange towards the trench base. This layer was abundant with gravel and infrequent fragments of brick.



Fig. 18: *Stratigraphic sequence in west facing section of Trench 3. Facing E.*
Scale 1m

The sequence in Trench 3 was interpreted as modern made ground above the natural, with some disturbance indicated by the presence of ceramic building material towards the trench base. No archaeological features were observed in this trench and no finds were recovered. Natural was encountered at 37.61mOD.

7.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 (see fig. 20) was located on the western side of the site, bounded by Ector Road to the east and the north-south hoarding crossing Wentland Road to the west. The trench was aligned NNW-SSE and measured 16.50m in length x 2.30m in width x 0.71m in depth at the south end. The depth was increased to 1.15m at the north end due to a dip in the natural. A central baulk measuring c4.0m was retained to provide cover for existing services including both ceramic and plastic pipes running approximately NW-SE.

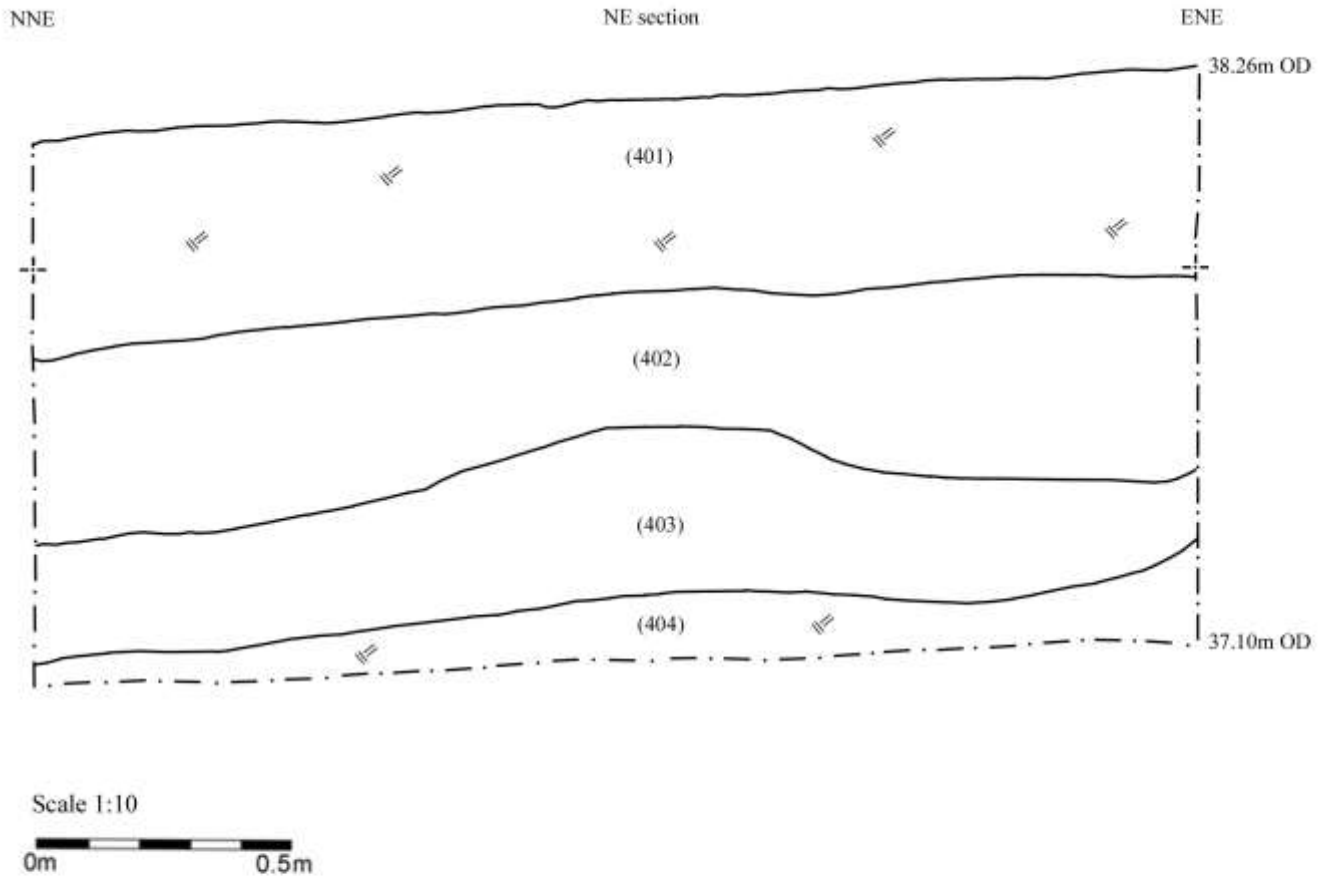


Fig. 19: *Trench 4 in section, facing NE*



Fig. 20: *Overview of Trench 4, showing existing services and natural gravels at the southern end. Facing SSE. Scale 1m.*

The stratigraphy (see fig.21) comprised 200mm of brownish topsoil (401) with infrequent pebble inclusions at the southern end of the trench, increasing to 380mm at the northern end. Below this was a layer of mid greyish-brown silty clay (402) 140mm in thickness at the southern end and 350mm in thickness at the northern end, and beneath this a layer of mid greyish-brown soil (403) 120mm in thickness at the southern end of the trench and increasing to 330mm in thickness at the north end at its greatest extent. Below the soil a minimum of 190mm (120mm at the northern end) of natural (404) was observed, taken to continue below the level of excavation (37.10-37.33mOD).



Fig. 21: *Stratigraphic sequence at deeper northern end of Trench 4. Facing NE. Scale 1m.*



Fig. 22: *Stratigraphic sequence at the southern end of the trench. Facing NE. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy recorded in Trench 4 was taken to be a series of modern make up layers and fills for services. It is likely that the deeper northern end of the trench had been dug on a previous occasion due to the presence of a buried soil layer recorded at a depth of 0.6m, which would account for the increased depth at which natural gravel and clay was encountered. No dating evidence was recovered from this soil layer but it is likely to be associated with either the construction or demolition of the pre-fab on the site in the 20th century. No other features were observed in this trench. Natural was encountered at approximately 37.42mOD at its highest depth on the trench.

7.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 (fig. 24) was located approximately 4-6m south of Mordred Road, bounded by Pellinore Road to the east and Ector Road to the south. The trench measured 20.5m in length x 2.2m in width x 0.9-0.98m in depth and was aligned ENE-WSW.

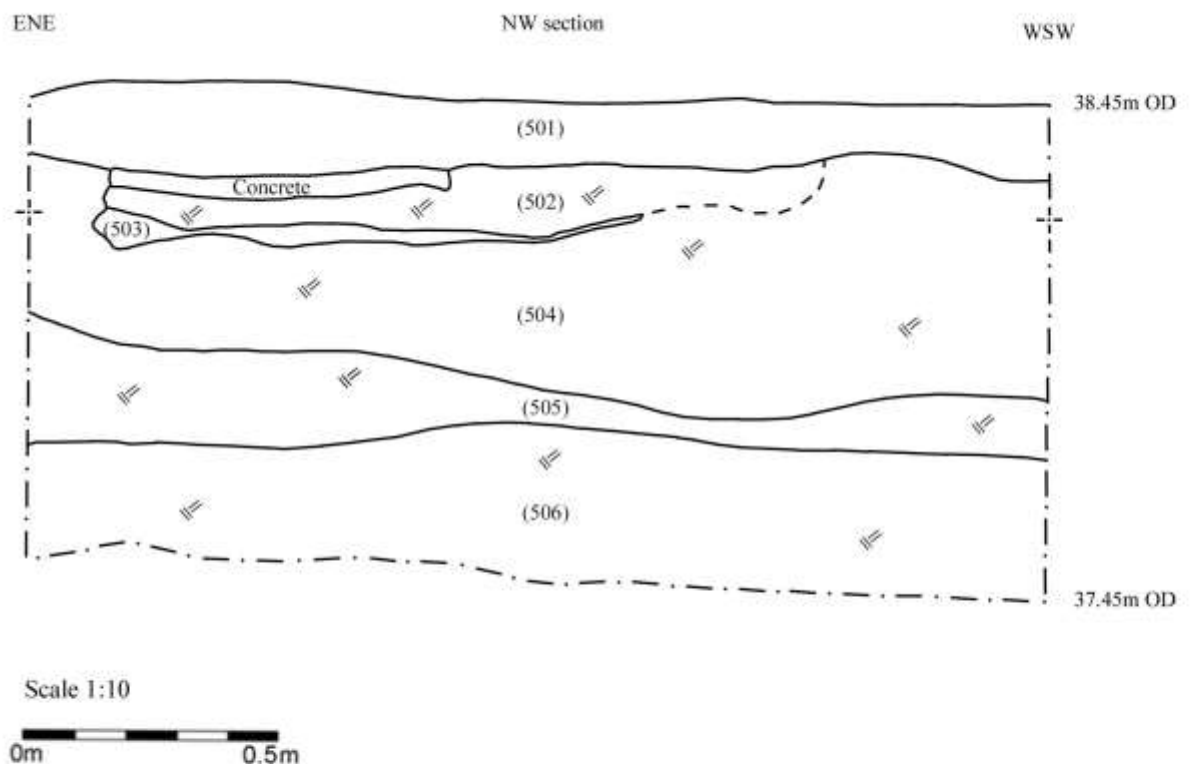


Fig. 23: Trench 5 in section, facing NW



Fig. 24: Overview of Trench 5. The orange mesh fencing in the background marks the location of Trench 4. Facing W. Scale 1m

The stratigraphy of Trench 5 (see fig. 25) generally comprised 200mm of light brown friable topsoil (501) containing frequent fragments of concrete and infrequent fragments of CBM, above 350-550mm of subsoil (504). In the NW section, a slab of concrete as well as a 150mm deposit of light brown-orange clay (502) and 80mm of brown-black silt (503) can be seen cutting into the subsoil. This was above 50-250mm of dark brown silt (505). Natural gravelly clay (506) was encountered at a depth of 0.68-0.75m and was taken to continue to below the level of excavation.



Fig. 25: *Stratigraphic sequence with some modern disturbance observed in the north facing section. Facing NW. Scale 1m*

Fig. 25 above shows a localised section of disturbance observed approximately 10m from the eastern end of the trench. Remains of a concrete slab can be seen above a thin horizon of black silt and a larger deposit of light brown redeposited clay within the darker brown subsoil. This was taken to be 20th century make up layers associated with the digging, and subsequent laying the foundations for a house. No finds were recovered from these layers.

A slight slope in the natural from west to east was observed towards the eastern end of the trench, but no cuts or similar features were noted. No other archaeological finds or features were uncovered in this trench. Natural was encountered at approximately 37.75mOD.

7.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 (see fig.27) was located 7.32m south of Mordred Road, bounded by Baudwin Road to the east and Pellinore Road to the west. The trench measured 20.35m in length x 2.4m in width x 0.4-1.58m in depth, and was aligned approximately ENE-WSW. A 1.0m north-south baulk was retained at the eastern end of the trench to provide adequate cover for existing services.

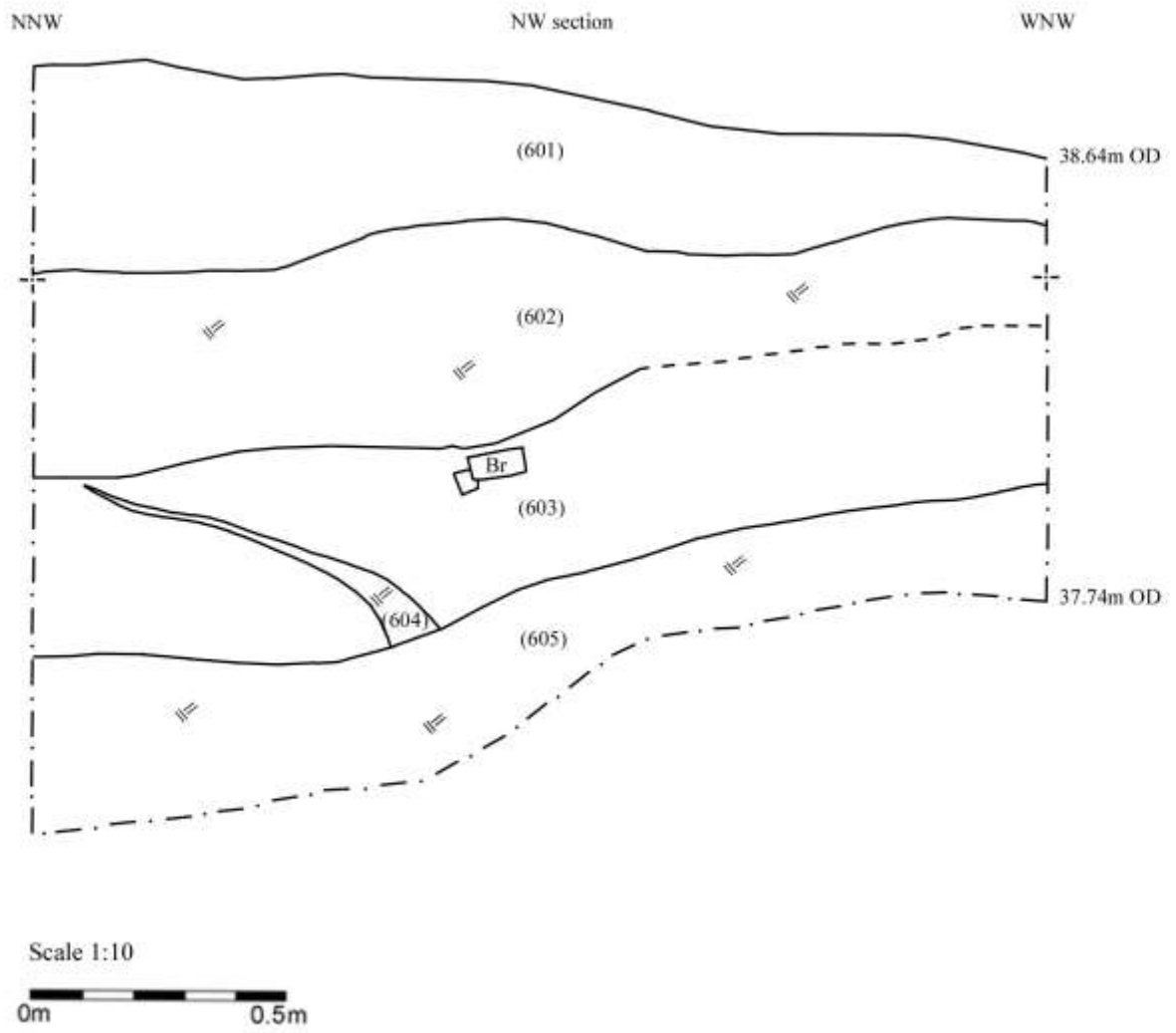


Fig. 26: Trench 6 in section facing NW



Fig. 27: Overview of Trench 6 showing sloping base and baulk. Baudwin Road runs N-S behind the hoarding. Facing E. Scale 1m

The stratigraphy comprised the following: 300-700mm of friable brown topsoil (601) abundant with vegetation and brick rubble above a 400mm light brown clay patch seen in section (602) and below this 400mm of fairly compact dark brown-black silty soil (603) contacting frequent stones and brick fragments. Some patches of lighter brown clay were noted in this layer, with the addition of an intrusion of orange clay (seen in fig.28). This subsoil was above at least 350mm of natural clay and gravel, the gravel becoming frequent towards the trench base (37.12mOD). The natural is taken to continue below the level of excavation.



Fig. 28: *Depression cut into the natural. A small vertical intrusion of orange clay can be seen to the right of the scale bar. Facing NW. Scale 1m*

A shallow depression (see fig. 28) aligned north-south measuring 5.10m in width x 0.35m in depth was observed 4.75m from the west end of the trench, cutting into the natural gravel and clay. The area above was filled by a mix of topsoil, subsoil and lead services. A degree of commingling between the layers was noted. This feature was interpreted as a backfilled ditch, formed as a result of previous groundworks. It is likely that during clearance of a site a machine dug the slightly deeper depression to remove footings/services and backfilled the area using spoil. The level at which natural was observed otherwise remained fairly consistent across the rest of the trench (generally 38.26mOD, 37.47mOD at its deepest in the trench).

No other archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

7.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 (see fig. 30) was located 12m south of Trench 6, adjacent to Pellinore Road in the west. The trench measured 20.7m in length x 2.2-4m in width x 1.0m in depth at the eastern end, increasing to 1.3m at the western end, and was aligned east-west. Approximately 3m of the east and west ends of the trench were not recorded as they were filled with water from nearby drains.

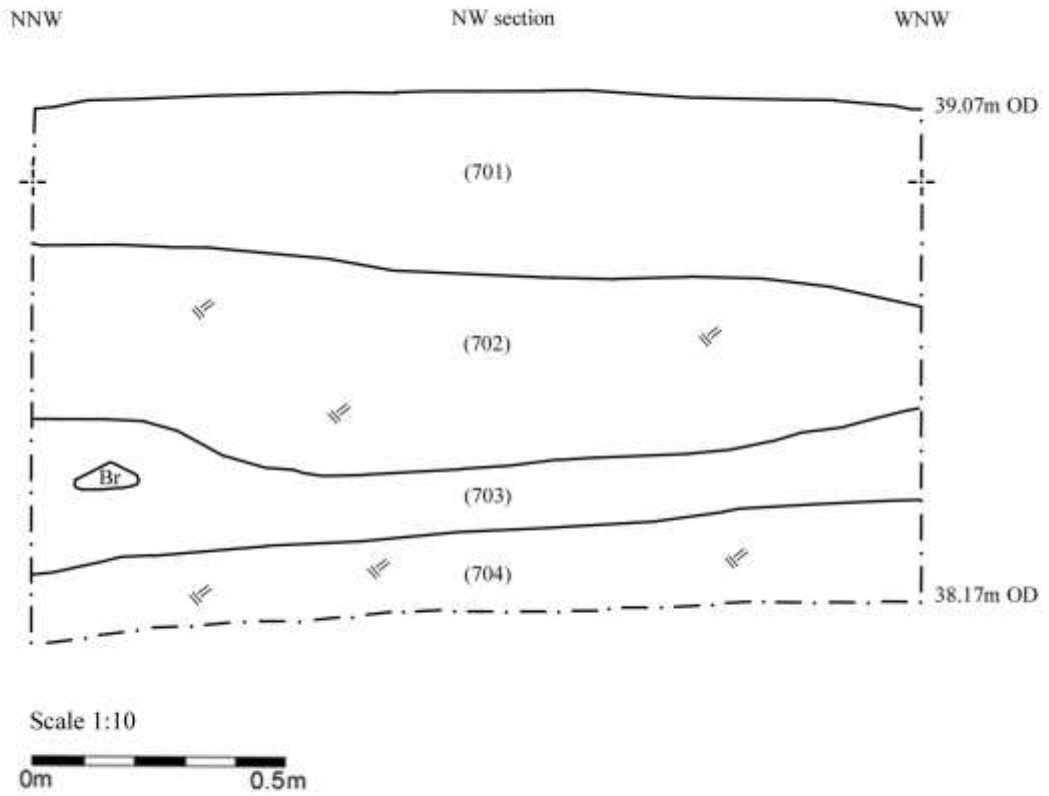


Fig. 29: Trench 7 in section, facing NW



Figure 30: *Overview of Trench 7. Both the east and west ends could not be drained. Facing E. Scale 1m.*

The stratigraphy in Trench 7 comprised a simple sequence of 260-380mm of mid brown topsoil (701) with frequent pebble inclusions, above 200-410mm of light brown-orange clay (702), above 100-290mm of dark greyish-black silty soil (703) containing some fragments of ceramic building material, which sat directly above the natural (704). The natural measured a minimum of 150mm in thickness and was taken to continue below the level of excavation. It comprised an orangey clay abundant with gravel. Some undulations in the light brown-orange clay were recorded although no features were present. This layer appeared as isolated deposits, particularly towards the ends of the trenches, and not indicative of the trench as a whole.



Fig. 31: *Representative section of stratigraphy in Trench 7. Facing NW. Scale 1m*

The patches of clay described above are taken to be redeposited material associated with the clearance of the site. No archaeological finds or features were observed in this trench. Natural was encountered at 38.26mOD.

7.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 (see fig.33) was located in the south-west corner of the site, to the east of Ector Road. Originally intended to be 10m in length, the trench was extended to 15.50m in length to compensate for the foreshortening of Trench 9. The trench measured 2.0-2.20m in width x 0.94m in depth at the north end, increasing to 1.70m at the south end, and was aligned north-south. The south end of the trench was battered due to the increase in depth and to prevent water ingress.

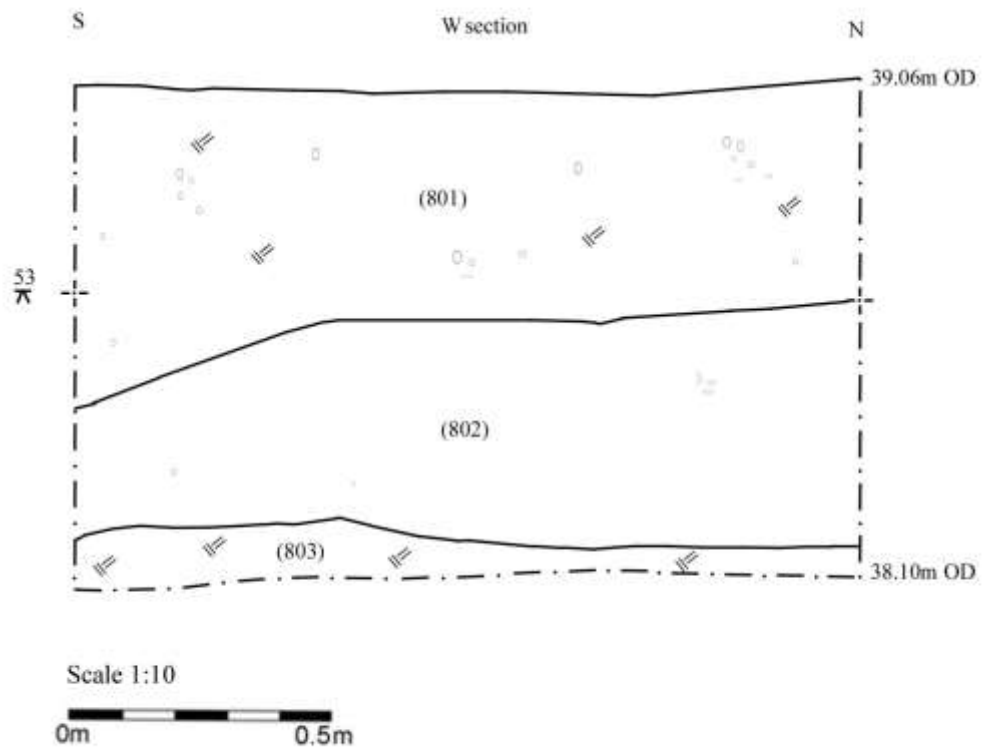


Fig. 32: Trench 8 in section facing W



Fig. 33: *Overview of Trench 8. Facing N. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (801) consisting of a mixed soil/clay and demolition spread from clearance of the estate, measuring 500-650mm in thickness (up to 1.7m at the south end), above a sterile weathered subsoil (802), grey-brown in colour with some occasional gravel and crushed CBM inclusions c300-400mm in thickness, above a sterile orange/white/blue veined clay-silt (803). Some ceramic land drains were present at the base of the trench (37.86mOD).



Fig. 34: *West section of Trench 8. Facing W. Scale 1m*

The sequence (see fig.34) in this trench was interpreted as being a deposit of mixed topsoil and rubble associated with the clearance of the estate overlying a weathered subsoil – potentially truncated or left exposed during a construction/clearance event. These overlaid compacted ground. The increased in depth at the south end was the result of a cut into the natural which was filled with modern debris. No other features or finds were observed in this trench. Natural was encountered at 37.99mOD at its deepest extent.

7.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 (see fig.36) was located in the south-west corner of the site, lying to the south of Trench 8. Originally intended to be 10m in length it was foreshortened due to the presence of live services in the area. The overall dimensions measured 4.45m in length x 2.20m in width x 0.65m in depth, and was aligned north-south.

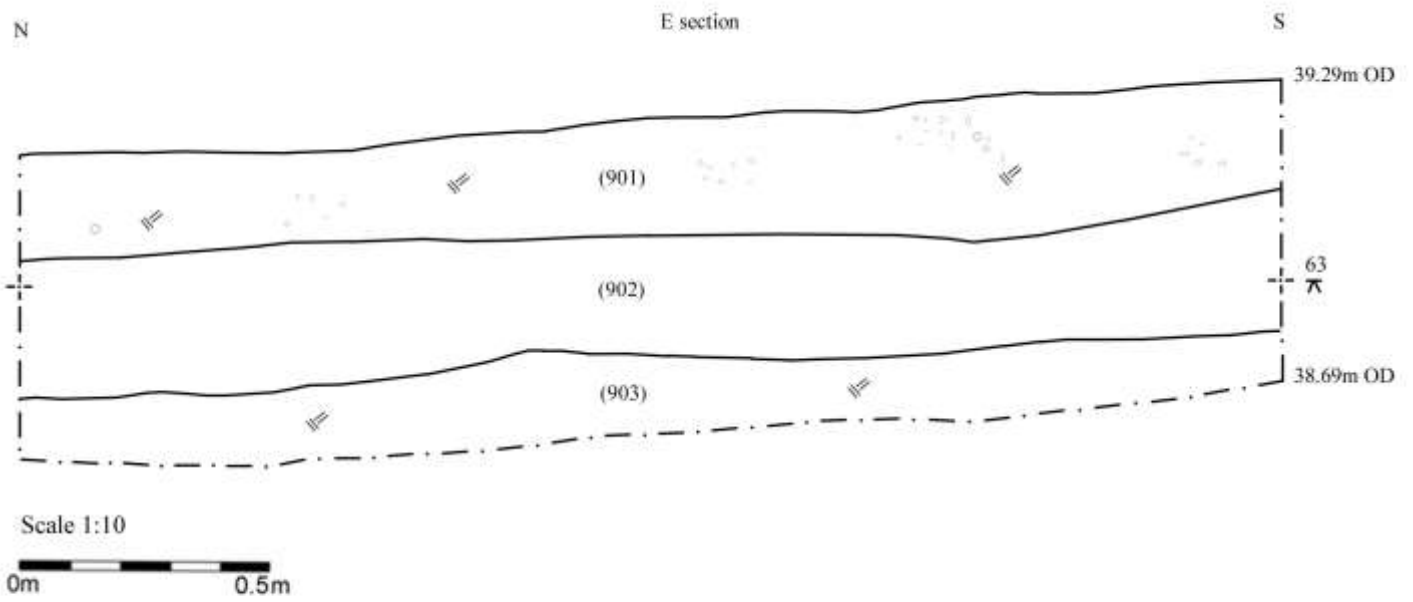


Fig. 35: Trench 9 in section facing E



Fig. 36: *Overview of Trench 9. Facing N. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy was similar in character to that exposed in Trench 8 to the north. It comprised up to 280mm of worked over ground (901), consisting of a mix of soil, gravel, building debris and modern refuse, above 270mm of a weathered grey-brown clay-silt (902) containing infrequent rounded gravels up to 20mm in size. This subsoil overlay at least 120mm of a sterile orange/white/blue veined clay-silt (903) containing occasional pockets of smooth river-worn gravels (<20mm). The undulations reflect the natural topography.



Fig. 37: *Stratigraphic sequence in east section. Facing E. Scale 0.5m*

The sequence noted above was interpreted as a deposit of potentially imported or reworked topsoil from the demolition of former properties overlying a weathered subsoil, possibly truncated/exposed for a period during a construction/clearance phase. Remnants of garden landscaping (cultivated plants and a washing line) surrounding the trench suggests the property was demolished and some of the debris dumped *in situ*, resulting in the disturbance recorded. Trench 9 was noted as being the shallowest level at which natural was encountered (38.79-38.40mOD) suggesting a natural southward slope in topography. No other archaeological finds or features were observed in this trench.

7.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 (see fig. 39) was located on the southern side of the site, bounded by Pellinore Road to the east and Trench 8 to the west. The trench measured 20.6m in length x 2.3m in width x 0.9m in depth at the east end, increasing to 1.2m at the west, and was aligned east-west.

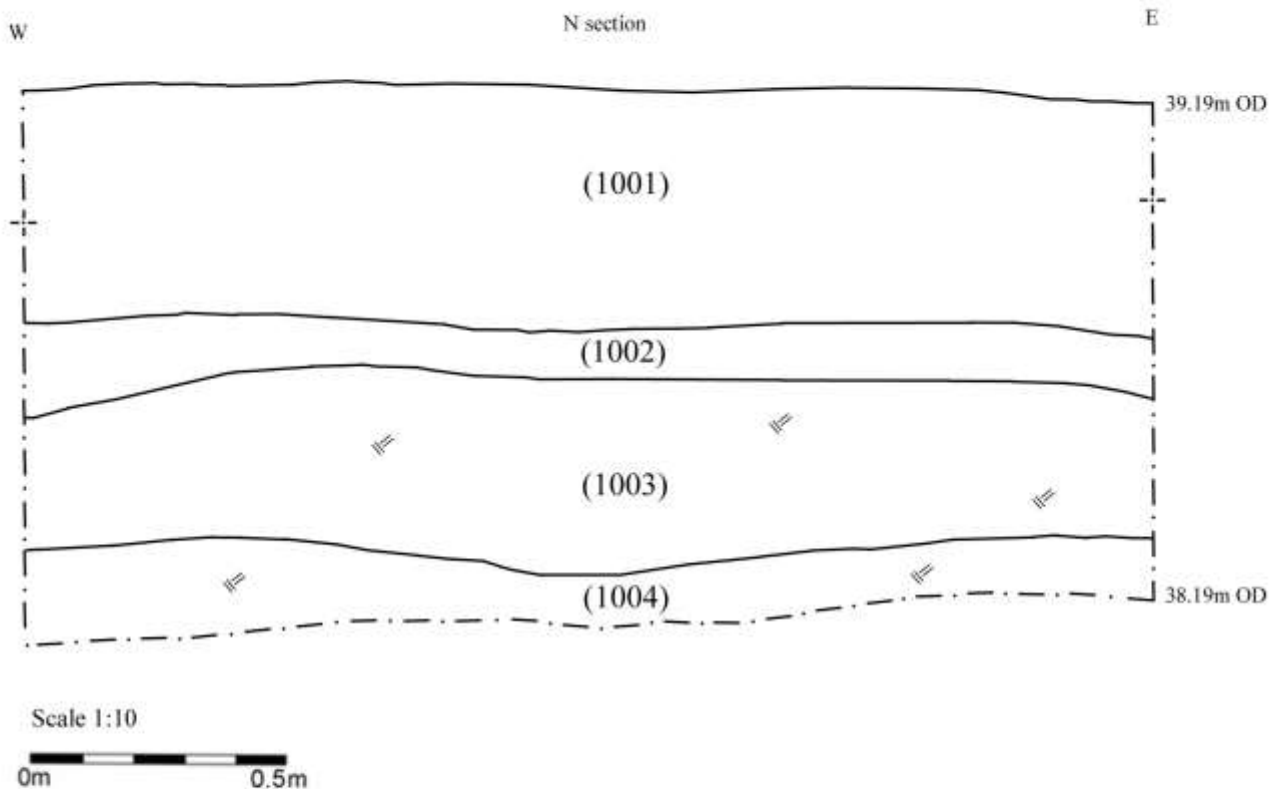


Fig. 38: Trench 10 in section facing N



Fig. 39: Overview of Trench 10. Facing E. Scale 1m

The stratigraphy (see fig.40) comprised 260-480mm of mid brown topsoil (1001) containing frequent fragments of ceramic building material, above 100-190mm on dark brown-black silty soil (1002) containing CBM fragments, above 260-360mm of relatively clean light brown clay (1003) which overlay at least 240mm of natural orange clay (1004) and gravel, taken to continue below the level of excavation (37.97- 38.50mOD). A slight slope along the trench base was noted from west to east.



Fig.40: *Stratigraphic sequence observed in the north section. Facing N. Scale 1m*

The trench was relatively shallow, and abundant with tree roots and vegetation. The west end was partially filled with water at the time of recording. The stratigraphy is taken to be modern make up layers over the natural, containing dumped debris from the clearance of the estate. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. Natural was encountered at approximately 38.35-38.65mOD.

7.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 (fig. 42) was located in the south-east corner of the site, to the west of Pellinore Road and south of Trench 7. The trench measured 20.2m in length x 2.15-30m in width x a maximum of 1.20m in depth. The trench was slightly deeper at both ends due to the greater depth of made ground. The central section of the trench was higher, with a maximum depth of c.0.70m. Trench 11 was aligned approximately ENE-WSW.

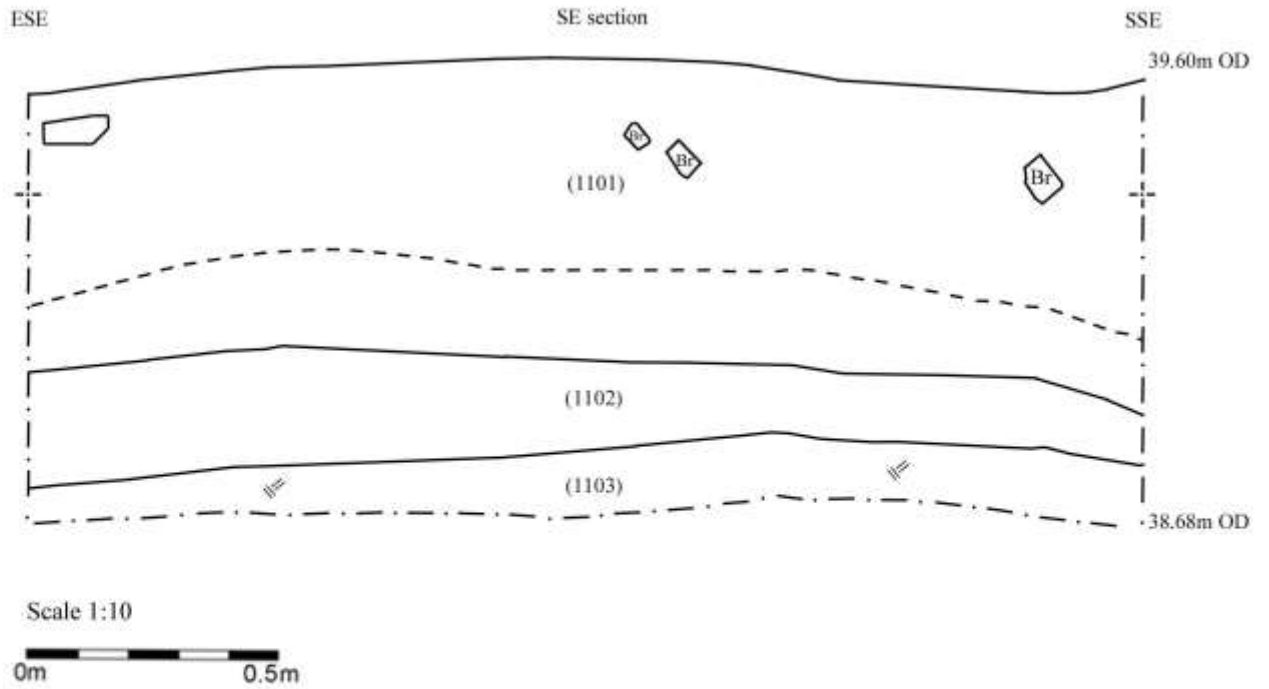


Fig. 41: Trench 11 in section facing SE



Fig. 42: *Overview of Trench 11. Facing E. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy comprised 450-900mm of topsoil (1101), consisting of a mix of soil/turf/clay/gravel with crushed CBM/plastic/mortar dust, and frequent pebble inclusions from a depth of 400mm (represented by a dashed line in fig. 36), above a grey/dark-grey clay silt (1102) contacting the occasional rounded flint pebble (<20mm), measuring 100-240mm in thickness, above a mottled orange/white/blue veined clay-silt (1103) with occasional pockets of small rounded gravel, which measures a minimum of 100mm in thickness and continues below the level of excavation.



Fig. 43: *Stratigraphic sequence observed in the north facing section. Facing S. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy (see fig. 43) observed in Trench 11 was interpreted as being a modern clearance/dumping deposit over a buried/truncated subsoil, overlying natural clays. Some former services and land drains were present, visible in section. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered from the trench. Natural was encountered at approximately 38.79mOD.

7.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 (see fig. 45) was located in the south-east corner of the site, on Castillon Road, opposite St Mark's Church. This trench was separated from the main part of the estate by Baudwin Road. The trench measured 21m in length x 2.0m in width x up to 1.0m in depth (getting gradually shallower from south-east to north-west, and was aligned NW-SE.

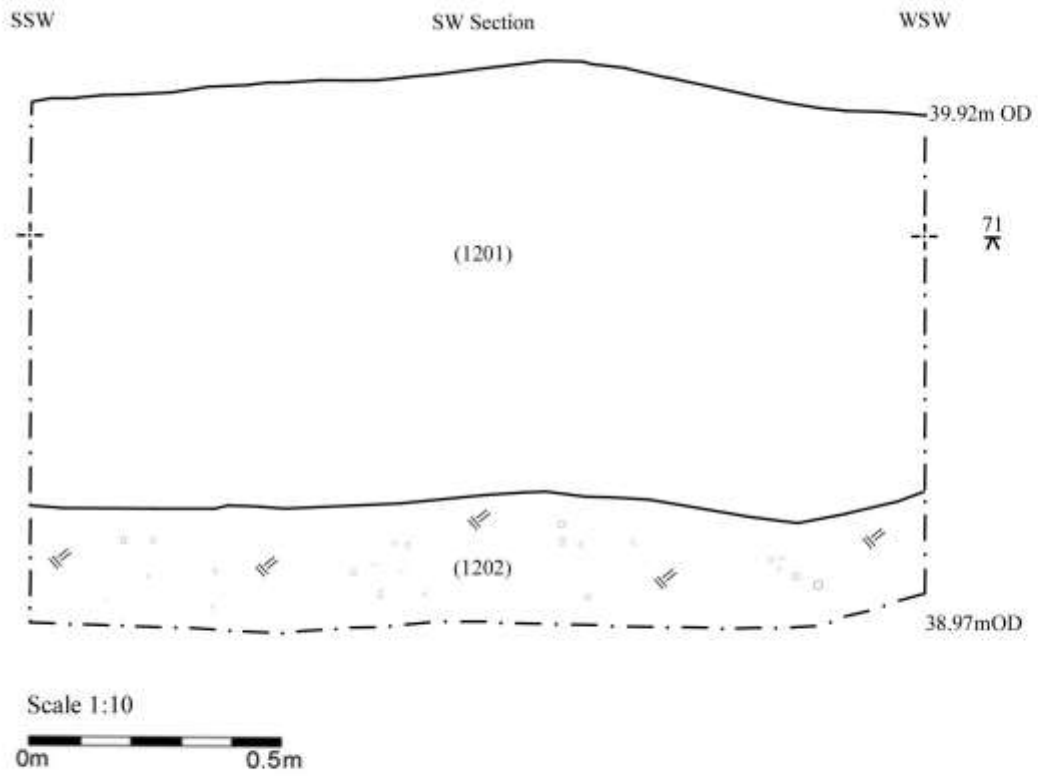


Fig. 44: Trench 12 in section facing SW



Fig. 45: *Overview of Trench 12. Facing SE. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy in this trench (see fig.46) comprised 740-850mm of topsoil (1201), consisting of a mixture of soil/clay/gravels containing frequent crushed CBM and old services, above a layer of mottled orange/brown and beige/blue veined clay-silt (1202) with pockets of smooth gravels (<20mm) continuing to the level of excavation (38.97-39.01mOD).



Fig. 46: *Stratigraphic section observed in the north-east facing section. Facing SW. Scale 1m*

The stratigraphy observed in Trench 12 was interpreted as a mixed demolition spread derived from clearance of the former estate, directly overlying natural clay/gravels. No previous subsoils or surfaces were recorded. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed in this trench. Natural was encountered at approximately 39.19mOD.

7.13 Discussion

The stratigraphy observed and recorded in the 12 trenches is fairly uniform, generally consisting of modern topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay and gravels. Limited dating evidence was recovered from the site, however it is clear that the deposits are from the 20th century. The area has been disturbed on two occasions, the first, being the initial levelling of the site and laying of foundations in preparation for the creation of the estate. Some of the weathered subsoils noted in trenches 8 and 9 may be attributed to this stage. The second was the more recent clearing of the properties. This phase resulted in a widespread deposition of crushed ceramic building material, concrete, and general debris across the site, with some variation in places where a machine has dug deeper, such as in Trenches 2 and 6.

8 Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation provided the opportunity to address several research questions regarding the nature of the archaeology present on site. The evaluation has established that there is no evidence for earlier activity, such as prehistoric, Roman or medieval, on the site. Equally, no evidence was found in support of activity taking place in the post-medieval period before the construction of the Excalibur Estate in the mid 1940s. It is apparent that all changes to the site took place within a relatively short space of time, to provide the necessary foundations and services as quickly as possible. The limited finds recorded on the site date from the 20th century, almost exclusively from the last 60-70 years (with some additional very modern debris).

Based on these results and in the light of a comprehensive sample of investigation across the site, no further archaeological work on the site is recommended in relation to the proposed redevelopment.

9 Bibliography

9.1 Digital sources

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9.2 Non-digital sources

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

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9.3 Cartographical sources

British Geological Survey, 1998, *England & Wales. Solid and Drift Geology 1:50000*.

CIfA. 2014. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Ordnance Survey Maps, various dates and scales.

Rocque, 1744-46, *Map of London*.

Appendix I: Oasis Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-246523

Project details

Project name	EXCALIBUR ESTATE, LEWISHAM, SE6
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 9th and 14th March 2016 in the north-east corner of the Excalibur Estate, Lewisham, SE6. The area under investigation had been cleared of housing and was an open space with the former road system still in existence. The archaeological works consisted of 12 trial trenches located around the development footprint. The trenches measured between 4.45m and 21m in length x c2m in width x a maximum of 1.70m in depth (37.22mOD). The general stratigraphy observed in all 12 trenches comprised a mid-brown topsoil abundant with fragments of CBM and modern detritus, above a darker brown silty soil overlying natural orange clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The natural was encountered at a depth of between 38.79mOD (Trench 9, SW corner of the site) and 37.47mOD (Trench 6, NE corner of the site). Some variation in the stratigraphy was observed, taken to be a result of groundworks completed on the site in the 20th century associated with the construction and subsequent clearing of the estate. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 09-03-2016 End: 14-03-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	EXC16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM CATFORD EXCALIBUR ESTATE
Postcode	SE6 1RR
Study area	600 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 539119 172677 50.933716236705 0.190629277976 50 56 01 N 000 11 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.47m Max: 38.79m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Historic England
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Keepmoat

Project archives

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	"Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	PHASE 1 WORKS, EXCALIBUR ESTATE, LEWISHAM, SE6. AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Smith Nicholls, F.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Archer, H.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RQ
Description	Comprehensive report on the excavation, containing the following: introduction, site location and background information pertaining to the works; methodology; results and discussion, supplemented by photographs, plans and sections; and concluding remarks.

Entered by	Heidi Archer (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	23 March 2016