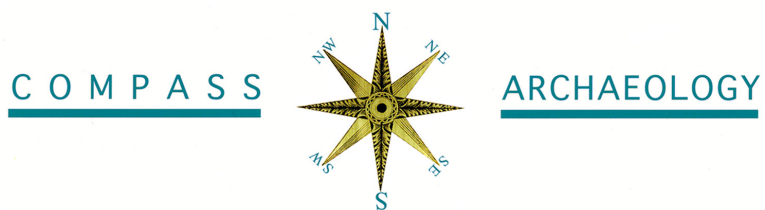


**LAND AT 42^A MEDORA ROAD,
ROMFORD, RM7 7EP.
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

August 2007



LAND AT 42^A MEDORA ROAD,
ROMFORD
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: MEO 07

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 5067 8930

PLANNING REFERENCE: P1226.06: Condition 17

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August 2007

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Abstract

Archaeological evaluation of land at 42^A Medora Street, Romford, took place on the 24th July 2007. The evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to redevelopment of the site.

This area has potential for the survival of archaeological remains. In particular, previous archaeological investigation just to the east of the site has revealed features and environmental remains of Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. Historic maps indicate that in more recent times the site lay within open agricultural land, with the first recorded development in the mid 19th century.

It was proposed to open one archaeological evaluation trench, covering an area of some 40 square metres at the level of potential archaeology or natural, however, the site was found to contain an extensive network of deep concrete foundations which could not be removed by machine and following consultation with English Heritage a series of five smaller trial trenches were evaluated across the site.

As anticipated each trial trench exposed a sequence of alluvial deposits and natural clays and gravels below a layer of recent made ground, but these did not reveal any archaeological finds or features. All the deposits exposed were of a uniform sterile nature with no manmade inclusions and represent a natural build up of deposits as the local river regime changed over time.

The evaluation trenches revealed extensive 20th century disturbance from the previous buildings on the site and no archaeological finds or features were present, however, the evaluation offered an opportunity to record the natural alluvial sequence across the footprint of the new building. It is suggested that no further archaeological measures are required in relation to this application.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report presents a summary of archaeological evaluation of land 42^A Medora Street, Romford, London Borough of Havering (Figure 1).

The evaluation fieldwork was undertaken by Compass Archaeology on the 24th July 2007.

- 1.2** It was considered that the site had the potential for archaeological remains. In particular, previous archaeological investigation adjacent to and east of the site at the former Romside Commercial Centre and 146-147 North Street revealed features and environmental remains of Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

Historic maps indicate that in more recent times the site lay within open agricultural land, with the first recorded development in the mid 19th century.

- 1.3** The Written Scheme of Investigation, approved by English Heritage, initially recommended that one archaeological trial trench should be investigated, covering an area of some 40 square metres at the level of potential archaeology or natural. However, this methodology had to be changed when significant depths of concrete foundations were found across the site. Following negotiation with English Heritage a series of smaller trial trenches were excavated across the site (see Figure 2).

2. Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mr Peter Wilson of M. L. Hart Builders Ltd.

David Divers (English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) monitored the project on behalf of the London Borough of Havering.

3. Background

3.1 Location and topography

The site itself occupies an approximately triangular-shaped plot some 60m in length (N-S) by up to 35m wide, and approximately centred at NGR TQ 5067 8930 (see Figure 1). The site is bounded to the north by Brooklands Approach, to the east by properties fronting onto the River Rom and North Street (including the Romside Commercial Centre and 146-7 North Street; site code NOT05), to the south by no. 42 Medora Road and to the west by Medora Road. The site was previously occupied by a single storey office building, Lunar House, and this was still in the process of being demolished and the ground slab cleared during the evaluation.

The site is located some 50m to 70m to the west of the River Rom, which at this point flows roughly north-south. Although now contained within in an open culvert the course of the river appears to be little changed from that shown on the undeveloped land of the mid-later 19th century (*cf.* Figure 3).

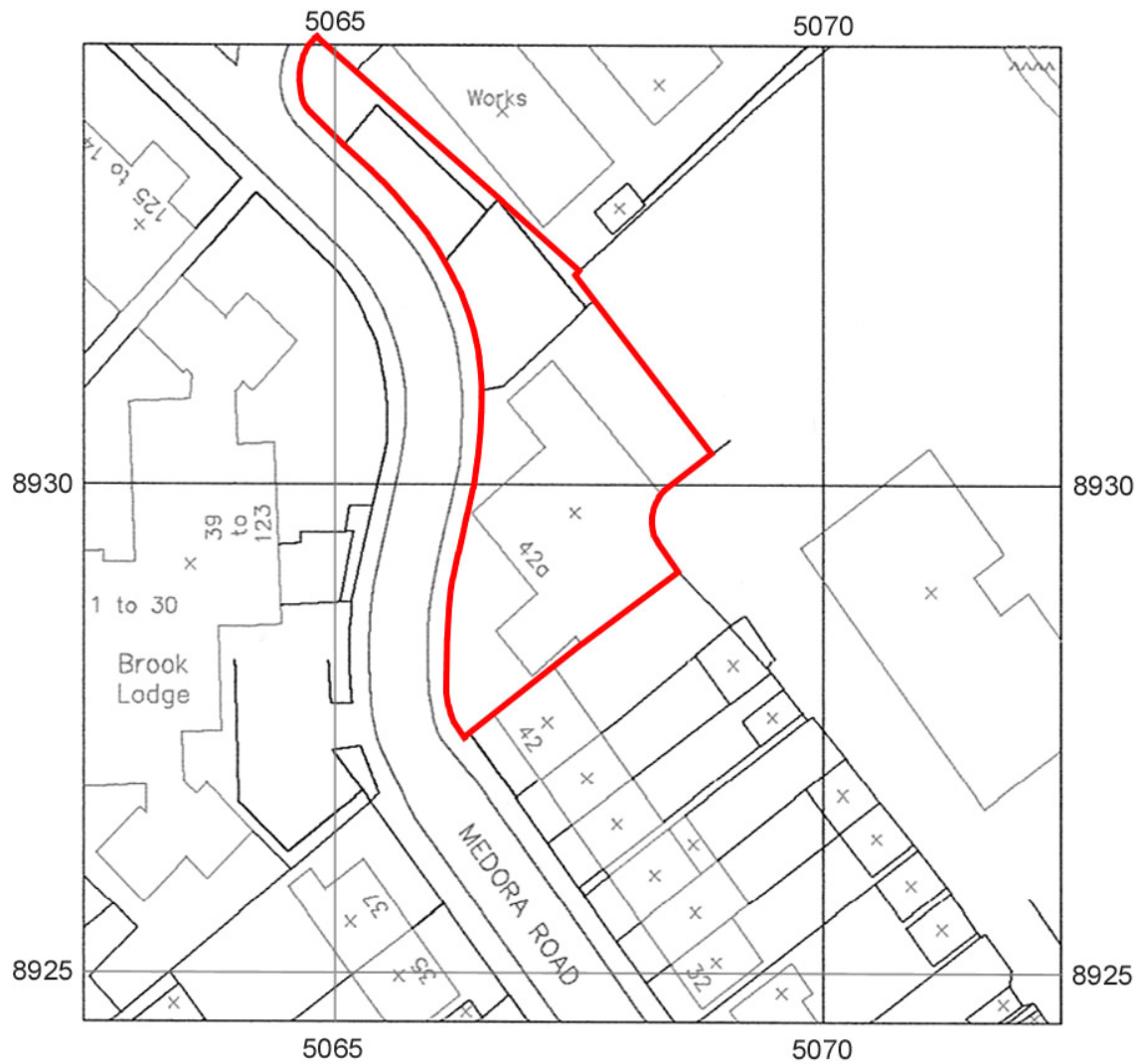


Fig 1 The site location in relation to the current Ordnance Survey plan (TQ 5089 SE)

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The British Geological Survey (*Sheet 257*, 1996) indicates that the site lies on or close to the junction between recent alluvium in the floodplain of the Rom and the more extensive and underlying River Terrace Deposits (Hackney Gravel).

The ground surface in this area is fairly flat, with levels at approximately 15.0m to 16.0m OD across the site; this change in level reflecting more the differences in the removal of the ground slabs across the site than the true topology of the area. However, the site itself is some 0.5m to 1.0m higher than the immediately adjacent ground to the east. This partly reflects the natural topographical rise to the west and away from the Rom, although additionally both areas have been slightly terraced or levelled and this has contributed to appearance of the site being at a higher level than sites to the east.

3.2 Archaeology and history

There are several references to prehistoric activity in the area. Remains have been found within the alluvial deposits overlying the River Terrace, and can include both stray artefacts and *in situ* surfaces and timber remains.

3.2.1 The closest finds are from an archaeological investigation just 6m to the east of the present site (PCA: Romside Commercial Centre, 149 North Street, Romford RM1; site code NOT05). The evaluation consisted of 11 trenches, with two extended areas of excavation situated either side of the north-south flowing River Rom. A sequence of alluvial deposits was recorded overlying natural Terrace gravels commencing in the Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and continuing until the post-medieval period. The results of the investigation at the Romside Commercial Centre are detailed below.

The two areas of subsequent extended excavation were centred on specific features associated with the second phase of occupation on the site: Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age riverside activity. Trench 10, located some 40m east of the present site, exposed a sub-rectangular/oval feature interpreted as an 'occupation hollow'. The feature had a complex series of fills including flood deposits and some charcoal and artefact rich deposits. Within these, evidence for at least three *in-situ* hearths was recorded. Cutting through the sealing deposit of silt-clay were two contemporary pits, both of which showed evidence of burning, and indicated continued use of the same spot at a later date.

To the south of this feature, and some 50m southeast of the present site, Trench 12 exposed a large quantity of worked wood comprising a dump layer. Evidence for cleaving, cutting ends, chipping and carving was present, as well as part of wooden vessel and some limited, badly degraded animal bone. There was no evidence pertaining to a specific structure, and it was considered more likely that the wood represented a dump of material relating to woodworking activity on the riverbank.

A series of small pits and gullies belonging to the same period were observed in other trenches across the site. Alluvial deposits, indicating periodic flooding for the rest of prehistoric period and most of the ensuing historic periods, subsumed all features on both sides of the river.

Late medieval and early post-medieval occupation was indicated by a series of deposits and features attributed to Phase 4 and consisting of drainage and industrial activity. Two linear features were observed orientated east-west, interpreted as

drainage channels belonging to the late medieval period. A possible tanning pit, of square, steep-sided construction was recorded some 50m east of the present site, again indicative of increasing industrialisation.

A soil horizon consisting of reworked alluvium, and suggesting the end of alluviation on site, was observed to seal all earlier features. Cut into this layer was a large ditch or channel recorded on the western bank of the river. Only small sections of this feature were exposed, and thus interpretation was indefinite, although a large drainage channel or localised industrial activity in the form of canal, basin or inlet was also suggested.

Modern makeup layers associated with landscaping during the industrial development of the area were recorded overlying the site, and dated from the early 20th century to the present.

The excavations at the Romside Commercial Centre included two trenches within close proximity to the present site, just 6m east of the eastern limit of the study area. Trenches 8 and 9 measured 15m by 2.5m and were located in the western corner of the site. The sequence recorded within in these trenches is significant as it relates directly to the depositional sequence recorded at this evaluation.

In Trenches 8 and 9 natural deposits of compact mid-orange brown gravels, pebbles and cobbles within clay (Hackney Gravels) were recorded at their highest point between 14.34m to 14.42m OD, but no pre-alluvial Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features were recorded in either trench.

Alluvial deposits were recorded in Trench 8 in the form of firm mid-orange brown, silty clay with occasional gravel and pebbles and this is very similar to the upper deposit recorded in the present evaluation. No datable material was recovered from this layer, although one example of worked flint was collected. This deposit was levelled between 14.77m and 14.67m OD, again similar to the present evaluation and reflecting a general sloping of deposits towards the river. In Trench 9 alluvial deposits were recorded as firm mid blue orange clay with frequent orange flecks, moderate gravel and pebbles. In this case a sherd of Mill-Green ware pottery was recovered and provided a date of between 1270-1350. Deposits here were levelled at between 14.48m and 14.30m OD. This evidence from Trench 9 at the Romside Commercial Centre again accords with the alluvial deposits encountered in the present evaluation and appears to be very similar to the deeper band of blue/grey alluvium recorded in trenches 7 and 10 on the Medora Road site, although this deposit was very clean and compact and no finds were evident.

Late medieval/early post-medieval activity was observed within Trench 8 at the Romside Commercial Centre in the form of a linear channel or drainage ditch orientated east west. The feature was steep-sided, with a depth of 0.4m and partially exposed for 2.05m by *c* 2m wide. The fill sequence consisted of waterlain silt-clays, indicating the feature was intended to aid drainage within a very wet, marshy area. The channel had an upper height of 14.63m and a base height of 14.23m OD. In both trenches 8 and 9 the soil formation layer (thought to have formed by the late Post-medieval period) consisted of soft light brown orange sandy silt and was encountered at 14.78m to 15.12m OD. The southern side of a substantial cut feature was exposed in the northern parts of both Trenches 8 and 9. The presence of London Stock bricks within the fills of this feature indicated that infilling took place no earlier than the late 18th century. The channel was exposed at its highest point between 14.26m and

15.12m OD. The full extent of the feature was not ascertained as it extended beyond limits of excavation in all trenches. The full depth was not reached in either trench, but in Trench 8 it was observed cutting the natural Terrace gravels to at least 0.54m. Both trenches 8 and 9 exhibited modern makeup layers overlying all earlier features; these consisted of mixed redeposited alluvium, brick rubble and concrete, garden soils and metal objects. No similar cut features or soil formation layers were present at the Medora Road site and the natural terrace gravels were also not exposed, although a thick gravel lens within the alluvial sequence was recorded.

- 3.2.2** The more recent history of the site can also be summarised from cartographic evidence. On the OS First Edition map of 1805 the area forms open countryside to the northwest of the established town, with the only nearby feature being the Rom. The Second Edition of this map (surveyed 1862-73) shows several small (?farm) buildings in the immediate site vicinity, at the northern end of a track.

A clearer picture is given by the OS 6-inch map of 1898, which indicates three buildings, enclosed yards and a pond to the southeast (Figure 3). The site appears to lie roughly across the centre and eastern side of this group. The 1946 6-inch plan gives a similar picture, although without the large southern building in the group and much more development in the surrounding area. The latter includes Medora Road, at this point terminating just to the south of the present site.

4. Aims and objectives of the evaluation

4.1 Archaeology and planning

After demolition of the former Lunar House building it is proposed to erect a 2 and 3-storey residential building on the site, comprising 4 no. 2 bedroom flats and 6 no. 1 bedroom flats (LB of Havering Planning Ref. P1226.06).

- 4.1.1** English Heritage recommended that an archaeological evaluation take place prior to development as part of the Local Authority planning process. This recommendation duly formed Condition 17 of the present permission.
- 4.1.2** The protection of archaeological sites is a material planning consideration (DOE Circular 8/87). 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.

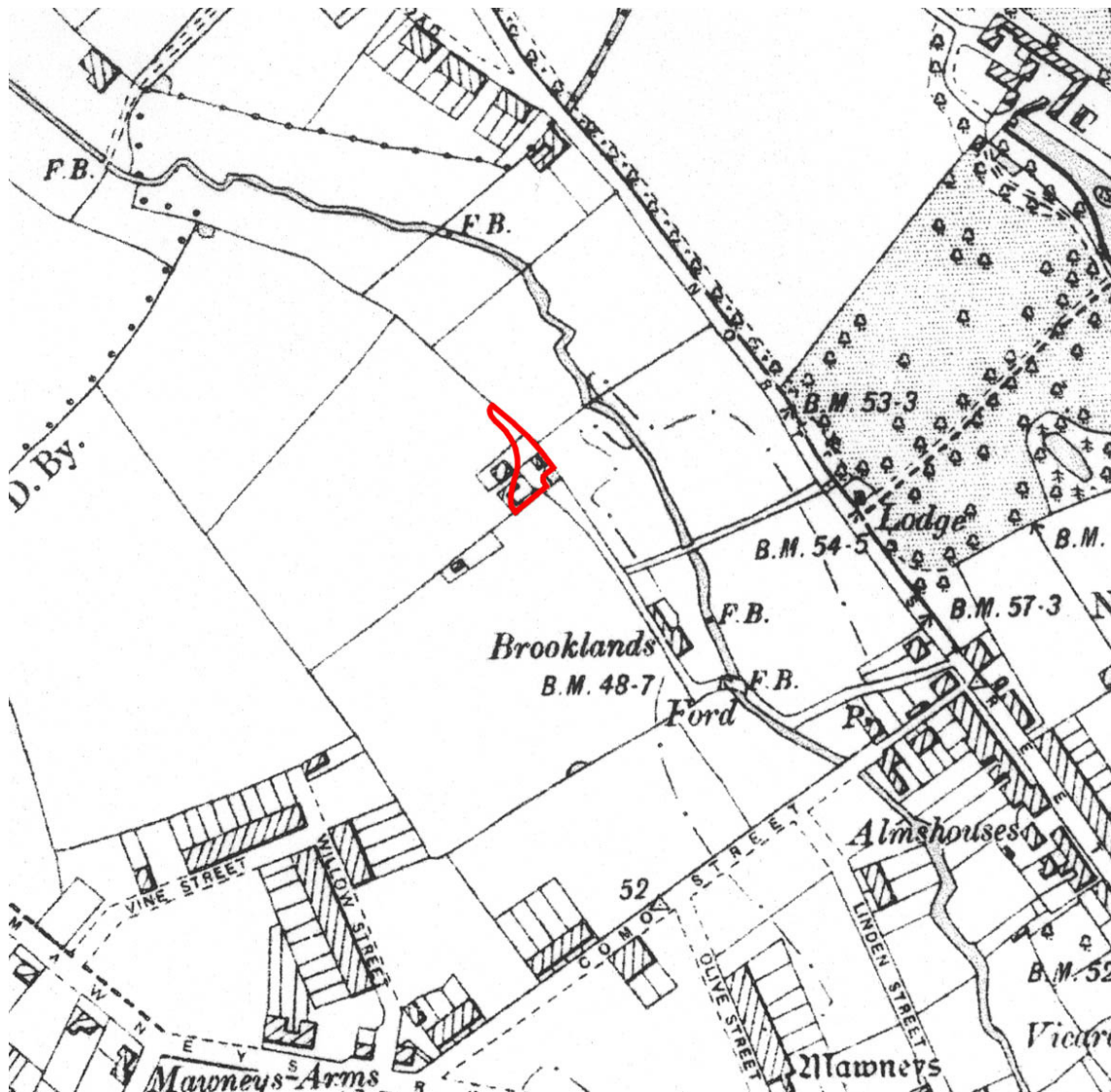


Fig 3 Ordnance Survey plan of 1898 (enlarged from the 6 inch: mile map), showing the site location

4.2 The archaeological brief

The accepted brief for archaeological evaluation is to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment (English Heritage, *Model Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*).

The general methodology is set out in DOE Planning Policy Guidance 'Archaeology and Planning' No.16, November 1990 (PPG16).

In addition, a site-specific *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* (WSI) was produced (Compass Archaeology 20th July 2007).

The WSI outlined a series of research questions for the site and the objective of the evaluation was to establish information on as many of the research questions as possible, whilst primarily answering the terms of the brief which is to provide information on which decisions can be taken as to the need for any further archaeological action (*e.g.* preservation *in situ* or archaeological rescue excavation), or for no further action.

5.0 Archaeological research questions

The evaluation presented an opportunity to address the following research questions, as defined in the preliminary Specification (*Compass Archaeology, September 2005*):

- What is the natural topography and geology of the site, in particular the level of the Terrace gravels and whether there is overlying alluvium that would put the site within the floodplain of the Rom?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what is the stratigraphic context and date range? How does this relate to the Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features and deposits recorded on the site immediately to the east?
- Is there any evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity, and can the nature of this be defined – for example, land drainage, agriculture?
- What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and does this add anything to what is known from cartographic sources relating to the development of the area?
- What remains survive from the 19th century development of the site which is shown on contemporary plans?

6. Evaluation methodology

- 6.1** The WSI was produced and agreed prior to the fieldwork. Initially it was proposed to excavate one evaluation trench measuring 20m x 2m, but on beginning the work it was discovered that massive concrete footings criss-crossed the site and these could not be removed either by the JCB or by the much larger 360° excavator, that was present on the site for the demolition works (see Figures 4 and 5). It was also felt that these massive footings might be incorporated into the foundation design for the redevelopment. Such extensive footings had not been anticipated, as the previous building had been a lightweight single storey office building. The foundations were very extensive with concrete bases up to 1.5m thick in places and it is possible that they were the foundations for an earlier building on the site or that either the office structure had originally been intended to be a much larger scheme or had simply been over engineered for some reason. After telephone discussions with David Divers of English Heritage (Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service) it was decided to evaluate five smaller trenches, located where possible in between the concrete foundations but still being within the footprint of the new build. The final trench locations are shown on Figure 2 and annotated on Figure 6. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the English Heritage *Brief* and general guidelines (including *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*, 1998) and those of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations*).



Fig 4 The evaluation area looking north and showing the extensive concrete footings across the site (2m scale).



Fig 5 A similar general view of the evaluation area, this time looking south and again showing the extensive concrete footings across the site. The larger 360° mechanical excavator can be seen in the background.

6.2 The evaluation comprised five trial trenches located within the footprint of the proposed building, as shown on Figure 2. The trench dimensions were as follows:

Trench 1	2.2m long x 1.2m wide
Trench 2	5.1m long x 1.2m wide
Trench 3	4.2m long x 1.2m wide
Trench 4	5m long x 1.2m wide
Trench 5	3.4m long x 1.2m wide

The area evaluated by the five smaller trenches totals nearly 24 square metres.

The trenches were opened by a JCB mechanical excavator, where possible, using a toothless bucket and working under archaeological supervision. Recent deposits and undifferentiated soil horizons were removed to a general depth of between 0.5m and 1.0m. Thereafter the exposed surfaces and sections were investigated by hand, recorded and photographed by the on-site archaeologists.

At the conclusion of the field evaluation the trenches were backfilled by machine with the excavated spoil.

- 6.3** The deposits and features exposed in the evaluation were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets (excluding recent material) and by scaled plan and section, supplemented by 35mm photography. Levels were derived from an OSBM located on the south east corner wall of no. 203 North Street, value 17.03m OD.

The evaluation trench positions were located to the existing site boundaries by taped measurement, with the resultant plan in turn related as a 'best fit' to the Ordnance Survey grid as derived from the 1:1250 map.

The records from the evaluation have been allocated the site code: MEO 07 by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive. An ordered and indexed site archive will be compiled in line with the MoL *Guidelines* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archive.

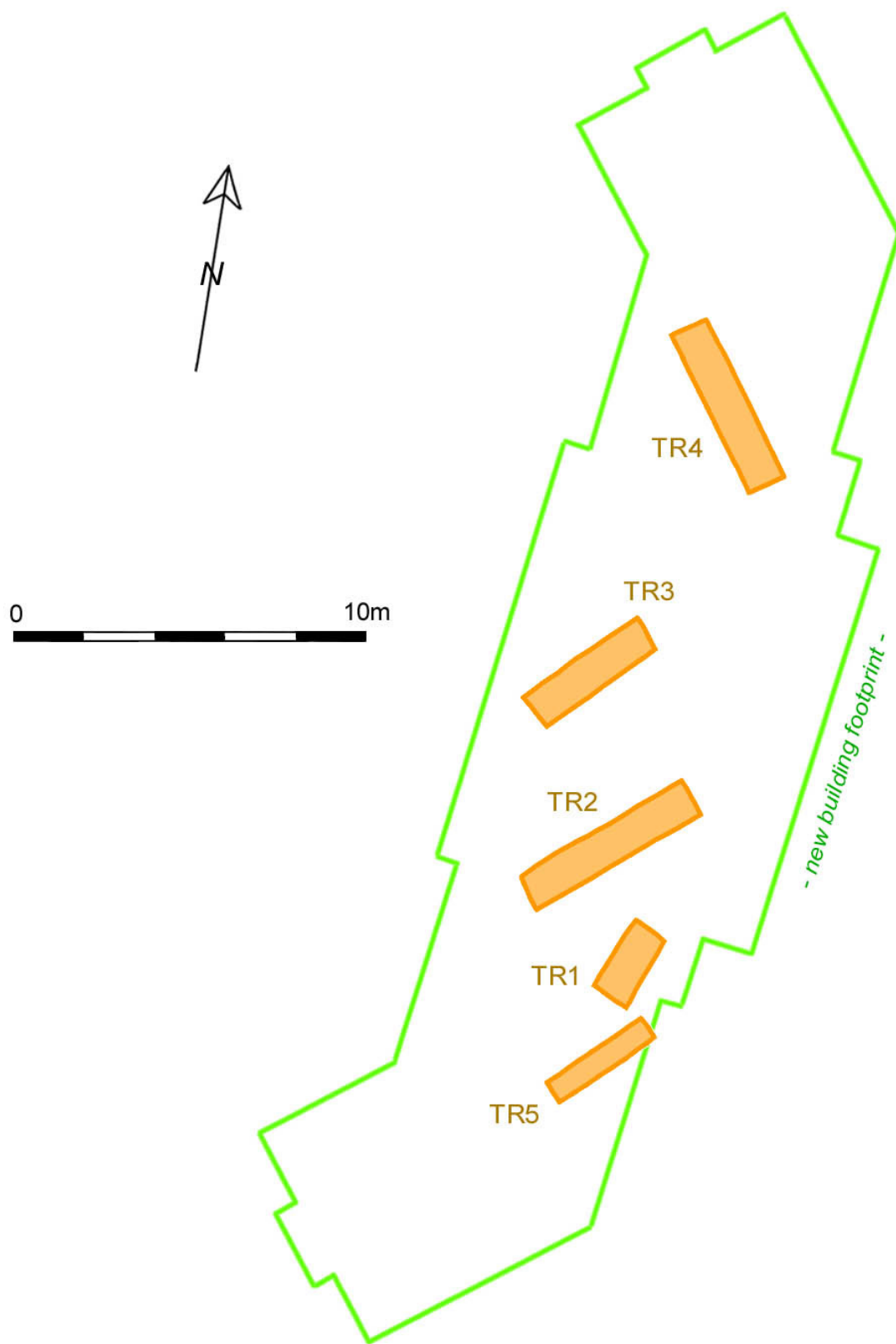


Fig 6 The archaeological evaluation trenches in relation to the new building footprint, see Figure 2 for more detailed survey data.

7. The archaeological evaluation (Fig 6)

7.1 Summary of the findings

The five evaluation trenches were dug from a more or less level surface at *circa* 16m AOD. Most of the trenches were extended beyond 1.2m in depth in order to obtain a profile through the alluvial and natural sequence, removing overlying modern fills and disturbed material. It was not possible to extend the top of the trenches by stepping or battering of the sides because of the large deep concrete foundations present on the site.

In general the sequence was quite straightforward, exposing a significant depth of modern demolition rubble and *in situ* concrete, over a firm compact mid orange brown clay with a moderate silt content. This deposit was generally about 700mm thick and was of a uniform nature across the site (contexts [1], [5], [8], [11] and [13]). This deposit overlay a lens of compact mid orange brown angular gravels (contexts [2], [6], [9], [12] and [14]), which appeared at a level of *circa* +15.20m OD across the site. The gravel lens was approximately 50mm thick (5cms) and appeared to become thicker towards the east at 150mm (15cms). The gravel layer in turn overlaid a stiff compact blue/grey anaerobic clay (contexts [7] and [10]) which was exposed at *circa* 15m OD and extended to depths below safe trench depths and in places was observed to below 1.8ms from the site surface i.e. extending below 14.2m OD. No archaeological finds or features were encountered and no ancient formations such as palaeochannels, peat deposits etc. were encountered in this sequence.

The contexts recorded represent deposits laid down by various natural formation processes and these probably include the action of hill wash (colluvium) as well as the significant deposition of alluvium that characterises the more modern geology of the changing river regime in this area. The site's location within a fluvial landscape would have led to sporadic flood and over bank depositional events each adding to the sequence across the floodplain of the Rom. The general levels across the site are similar to those encountered on the adjacent site of the Romside Commercial Centre and the two closest trenches, Trenches 8 and 9, which were just 6m east of the Medora Road site's eastern boundary have similar levels for the upper alluvial deposits. Trench 8 had a highest recorded level of 14.77m OD on the top of the alluvium and 14.42 on the top of the natural gravels and in Trench 9 a highest recorded level of alluvium at 14.48m OD and the top of the natural gravels at 14.32m OD. The natural gravels were not encountered at the Medora Road site although a thin lens of gravel was recorded at *circa* 15.2m OD above the blue/grey clay at *circa* 15m OD and it is possible that the gravels encountered at the Romford Commercial Centre (14.77m OD in Trench 8 and 14.42 in Trench 9) may represent possibly a continuation of the gravel lens encountered at the Medora Road site.

7.2 List of recorded contexts:

Context	Trench	Context same as	Description	Interpretation
+	All	-	Concrete, rubble make-up, brick and concrete	Demolition rubble
[1]	1	[5] [8] [11] [13]	Firm orange brown silty clay (no inclusions)	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[2]	1	[6] [9] [12] [14]	Lens of compact angular orange brown gravel in a sandy matrix, becoming thicker to the east.	Lens of gravel, possibly redeposited by natural formation processes.
[3]	2	-	Fill of [4] brown soil, concrete and brick inclusions	Fill of small cut relating to the 20 th century foundations.
[4]	2	-	Modern cut feature in east-facing section	Small cut feature filled with [3] and relating to the 20 th century foundations in this area of the site.
[5]	2	[1] [8] [11] [13]	Same as [1]	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[6]	2	[2] [6] [9] [12] [14]	Same as [2]	Lens of gravel, possibly redeposited natural.
[7]	2	[10]	Blue/grey firm clay with moderate pebble and gravel inclusions	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[8]	3	[1] [5] [11] [13]	Same as [1] and [5]	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[9]	3	[2] [6] [12] [14]	Same as [2] and [6]	Lens of gravel, possibly redeposited natural.
[10]	3	[7]	Same as [7]	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[11]	4	[1] [5] [8] [13]	Same as [1] [5] [8]	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[12]	4	[1] [6] [9]	Same as [1] [6] [9]	Lens of gravel, possibly redeposited natural.
[13]	5	[1] [5] [8] [11] [13]	Same as [1] [5] [8] [11]	Alluvium (probably with a hillwash component) as defined on the Geological Survey.
[14]	5	[2] [6] [9] [12]	Same as [2] [6] [9] [12]	Lens of gravel, possibly redeposited natural.

7.3 Trench 1 (*Figs 6 & 7*)

- + (recent made ground/demolition rubble)
- |
- 1 (firm orange brown silty clay)
- |
- 2 (lens of gravels)

The smallest trench revealed only recent made ground and demolition rubble [+] overlying clean firm orange brown silty clay. The deposit had no inclusions and was the same as contexts [5] [8] [11] [13] encountered in the other trenches across the site. These contexts were most probably deposited by alluvial formation processes, but being higher up the valley of the River Rom may also have an element of hillwash in its formation (colluvium). In appearance it was clean and overlay a lens of gravel [2]. The trench was dug from a level of 15.97m OD to the north and 15.99m OD at the south. The trench was excavated to a depth of 15.02m OD to the north and 14.97m OD at the south. The trench was not extended beyond the gravel horizon.



Fig 7 View of Trench 1 looking towards the northwestern section (1m scale). The depths of concrete and firm alluvial clay can be clearly seen. The gravel is just evident at the base of the trench.

7.4 Trench 2 (Figs 6 & 8)

- + (recent made ground/demolition rubble)
- |
- 3 (modern fill)
- |
- 4 (modern cut)
- |
- 5 (firm orange brown silty clay)
- |
- 6 (lens of gravels)
- |
- 7 (stiff blue/grey clay with moderate pebble inclusions)

Trench 2 was the largest trench (5m x 1.2m) and was placed centrally within the new build footprint. Again it revealed only recent made ground and demolition rubble [+] overlying clean firm orange brown silty clay. The deposit had no inclusions and was the same as contexts [5] [8] [11] [13] encountered in the other trenches across the site. This in turn overlay the lens of gravels which in turn overlay a very firm blue grey clay deposit of a very clean undisturbed nature, however containing some pebble and gravel inclusions [7]. The trench was dug from a level of 16.13m OD to the north and 16.11m OD at the south and to a depth of 14.90m OD to the north and 14.31m OD at the south. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.8m and the stiff blue/grey clay continued beyond this level for an unknown depth.



Fig 8 View of Trench 2 looking towards the northwestern section (2m Scale). The depths of concrete and firm alluvial clay can be clearly seen. The gravel lens is just evident above the last red block of the scale and the blue clay can be seen appearing below this point.

7.5 Trench 3 (Figs 6 & 9)

- + (recent made ground/demolition rubble)
- |
- 8 (firm orange brown silty clay)
- |
- 9 (lens of gravel)
- |
- 10 (firm blue grey clay)

Trench 3 measured 4.2m x 1.2m and followed the same alignment as Trench 2 and Trench 5. This trench again revealed a similar sequence of deposits. The trench was dug from a level of 16.13m OD to the north and 16.20m OD at the south and to a depth of 14.89m OD to the north and 14.42m OD at the south. The trench was excavated to a depth of *circa* 1.8m and the blue grey clay continued beyond this level for an unknown depth.



Fig 9 View of Trench 3 looking towards the northwestern section (2m Scale). The depths of concrete and firm alluvial clay can be clearly seen. The gravel is just evident above the last red block of the scale and the stiff blue/grey clay can be seen appearing below this point and does continue under the gravel to the left of this image.

7.6 Trench 4 (Figs 6 & 10)

- + ((recent made ground/demolition rubble)
- |
- 11 (firm orange brown silty clay)
- |
- 12 (gravel lens)

Trench 4 was positioned running northeast to southwest across the site in the northern half of the new build footprint. This trench revealed a very similar sequence and was excavated to the top of the compact gravel lens as encountered in the other evaluation trenches. The trench was dug from a level of 16.31m OD to the east and 16.13m OD at the west and to a depth of 14.83m OD to the east and 15.02m OD at the west. The trench was excavated to a depth of *circa* 1.5m and no archaeological finds or features were observed.



Fig 10 View of Trench 4 looking towards the northeastern section (2m Scale). The depths of concrete and firm alluvial clay can be clearly seen. The gravel is just evident at the base of the trench.

7.7 Trench 5 (Fig 6)

+ ((recent made ground/demolition rubble)
|
13 (firm orange brown silty clay)
|
14 (gravel lens)

Trench 5 revealed a similar sequence to Trench 4 and was excavated from a level of 15.97m OD to the east and 16.12m OD at the west and to a depth of 15.00m OD to the east and 15.33m OD at the west. The trench was excavated to a depth of *circa* 1m and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

8. Assessment of the results of the evaluation

The archaeological evaluation has provided an opportunity to address the site-specific objectives that were defined within the preliminary *Written Scheme* (4.3 above). The responses to these are outlined below:

1) What is the natural topography and geology of the site; in particular the level of the Terrace gravels and whether there is overlying alluvium that would put the site within the floodplain of the Rom?

It would appear that the site lies within the floodplain of the River Rom and significant deposits of alluvium and colluvium have built up on the floodplain and valley sides and these extend into the area of the site.

2) Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity, and what is the stratigraphic context and date range? How does this relate to the Bronze/early Iron Age features and deposits recorded on the site immediately to the east?

There was no evidence for any prehistoric activity on the site, nor were any residual artefacts recovered

3) Is there any evidence for Roman, Saxon or medieval activity, and can the nature of this be defined – for example, land drainage, agriculture?

There was no evidence of any Roman activity or land use. There was no evidence of any Saxon or medieval activity, and it appears that this site lies some way outside the contemporary settlement.

4) What evidence is there for post-medieval activity, and does this add anything to what is known from cartographic sources relating to the development of the area?

There was no evidence of any post-medieval activity or land use.

5) What remains survive from the 19th century development of the site which is shown on contemporary plans?

The site was heavily disturbed by 20th century activity. There was no direct evidence for land use, and no features were found that could be related to contemporary map evidence

9. Conclusions and recommendations

- 9.1** The archaeological evaluation did not reveal any significant remains
- 9.2** In view of these results it is suggested that no further archaeological measures should be undertaken in relation to the proposed development.

10. Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1998 *England & Wales. North London. Solid and Drift Geology 1:50 000*

Department of the Environment 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance No.16: Archaeology and Planning.*

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service 1998 *Archaeological Guidance Papers*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

London Borough of Havering *Unitary Development Plan*

PCA 2005 'Romside Commercial Centre, 149 North Street, Romford RM1; site code NOT05' *PCA in-house developer report*

Potter, G. 2007 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at 42A Medora Road, Romford. London Borough of Havering'. *Compass Archaeology*

Appendix 1: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: compassa1-30054

Project details

Project name	42A Medora Road, Romford RM 7.
Short description of the project	A Compass Archaeology evaluation took place on the 24th July 2007. The evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to redevelopment of the site. The area has the potential for archaeological features; in particular previous archaeological investigations just to the east of the site have revealed features and environmental remains of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age date. The evaluation revealed that large 20th century concrete foundations that criss-crossed the site had extensively truncated the footprint of the proposed new build. Five small evaluation trenches were investigated, but no archaeological finds or features were encountered. A clean alluvial and geological sequence was recorded across the site. The sequence was of alluvial clay overlying a lens of gravel overlying a further thick clay deposit. No further archaeological work is required in consideration of this planning application.
Project dates	Start: 24-07-2007 End: 24-07-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MEO 07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	P1226.06 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Direction from English Heritage
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD 42A Medora Road, Romford
Postcode	RM 7 7EP.
Study area	700 square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5067 8930 51.5818900394 0.174867718364 51 34 54 N 000 10 29 E Point
Height OD	Min: 14.31m Max: 15.33m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	Gill King
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Archive ID	MEO 07
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Archive ID	MEO 07
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Map',' Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	42A Medora Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering. An Archaeological Evaluation.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	King, G.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology
Description	A4 spiral bound Compass Archaeology in-house developer report.
Entered by	Gill King (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	13 August 2007

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm> for this page

Appendix II. London Archaeologist summary

42^A Medora Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering RM7 7EP. TQ 5067 8930. CA (Gill King). Evaluation. July 2007. M.L. Hart Builders Ltd. MEO 07.

Summary

A smallscale evaluation took place on the 24th July 2007 and was carried out as a condition of planning consent, prior to redevelopment of the site. The area has the potential for archaeological deposits and features; in particular previous archaeological investigations just to the east of the site have revealed features and environmental remains of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age date. The evaluation revealed that large 20th century concrete foundations that criss-crossed the site had extensively truncated the evaluation area. It was however possible to investigate five small evaluation trenches, but no archaeological finds or features were encountered. A clean alluvial and geological sequence was recorded across the site. The sequence was of alluvial clay overlying a lens of gravel, which increased in depth to the east and in turn overlay a further thick blue/grey anaerobic clay deposit. The anticipated natural gravels were not encountered even though excavations were to a depth of nearly 2ms in places.

No further archaeological work is required in consideration of this planning application.