143 NORTH STREET, ROMFORD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING,
RM1 1ED

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2018

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY

143 NORTH STREET, ROMFORD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING,
RM1 1ED

An Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: TQ 50815 89250

Planning Ref. 00996.15

Site Code: NOE18

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out between 20th and 21st August 2018 on land at 143 North Street, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM1 1ED (TQ 50815 89250).

The evaluation was commissioned by Stephen Oakley of S&A Construction Ltd to fulfil a condition of planning attached to an approved application (planning ref.P0096.15). Redevelopment includes the demolition of existing structures and the construction of 40 new flats in two blocks with parking and landscaping. The condition was attached following advice from the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) due to the site's proximity to previous archaeological investigations which produced prehistoric remains.

*The fieldwork involved the excavation of four rectangular trial trenches (**Trenches 1, 2, 3 & 4**). Trench 1 measured 15m x 1.80m (NE-SW), Trench 2 measured 12m x 1.80m (NW-SE), Trench 3 was divided into two smaller trenches, due to unfavourable ground conditions, measuring 5m x 1.80m and 7m x 1.80m (both NE-SW), and Trench 4 measured 15m x 1.80m (NW-SE).*

There was no evidence of early archaeological features having been cut into the sandy gravels below the alluvial deposits. Any archaeological deposits discovered at the site were limited to dumped layers – c. 0.70m thick - of modern demolition rubble and loose soil, forming the upper context in each trench. It is thought this acted as made ground for a series of small industrial units constructed on the site sometime before the 1960's.

In all four trenches the made ground deposits sealed underlying alluvium deposits. These were encountered at c. 0.70m below ground level, and varied in thickness - between 0.60m (Trench 4) and 1.50m (Trench 2). The upper alluvium was typically orange-brown and distinctively clean and homogenous in character; while the lower alluvium was a mixed blue-green-grey containing sandy lenses. This was deposited during the repeated flooding of the River Rom, while the colour variation probably indicates separate deposition events, combined with modern contamination.

The natural geology was encountered at varying depths depending on the trench location. In Trench 1 it was located at 13.32mOD, Trench 2 was 12.81mOD, Trench 3 was 12.78mOD, while in Trench 4 the natural level was evidently shallower at 13.98mOD. It is thought that the variation in the level of gravel may have been caused by the erosion of earlier river channels which may have flowed across the site prior to its current canalized course.

As the stratigraphic evidence at 143 North Street revealed a relatively straightforward example of small-scale, late post medieval/modern industry, overlying a series of alluvial river deposits and natural gravel layers, it is not considered that any further archaeological mitigation need to be undertaken here.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a summary of the result of an archaeological evaluation carried out between 20th and 21st August 2018 on land at 143 North Street, Romford, London Borough of Havering, RM1 1ED (Fig.1). The work conformed to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) composed by Compass Archaeology (August 2018), although with some changes undertaken in consultation with Historic England due to pre-existing ground conditions.

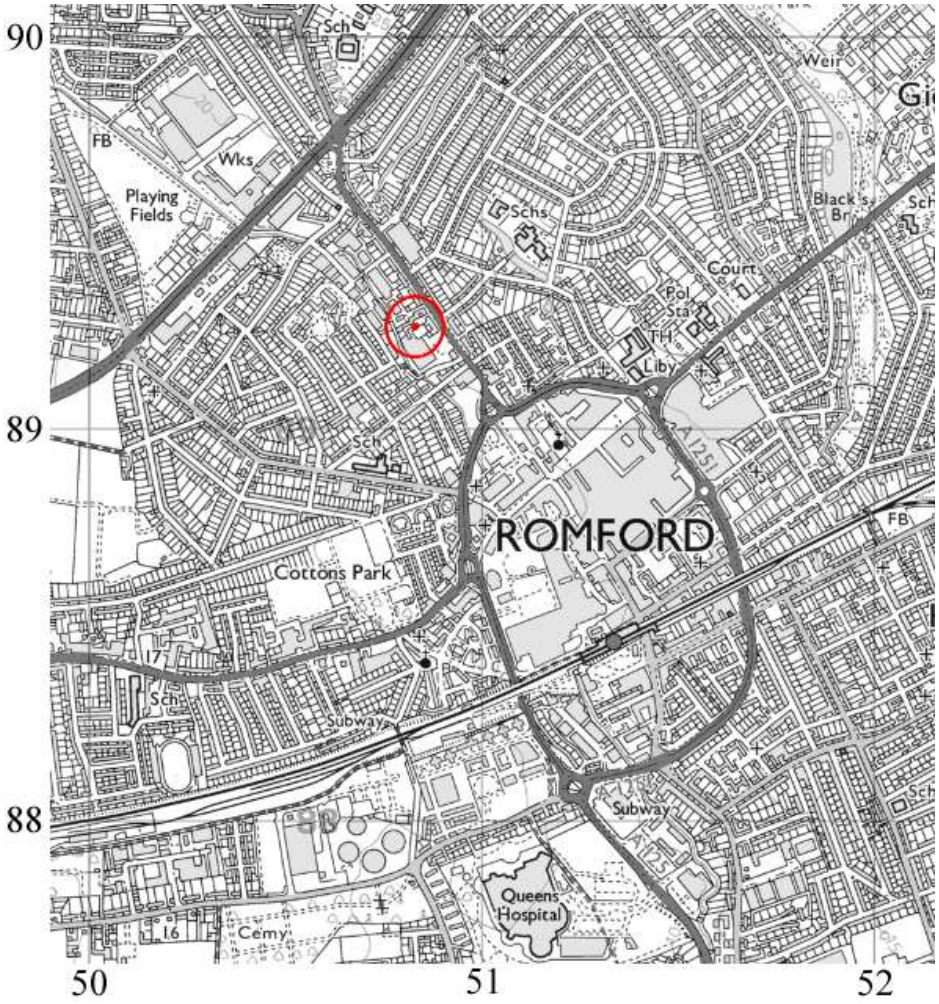


Fig 1: *General site location*

1.2 The present site has been approved for redevelopment including the demolition of existing structures and the construction of 40 new flats in two blocks with parking and landscaping. Block A in the northeast of site will measure 30m by 10m and comprise 3-storeys, Block B will be situated in the southwest of the site and measure 45m by 16m and comprise 4-storeys plus basement car park dug to *c*3.00m in depth.

1.3 The evaluation was commissioned by Stephen Oakley of S&A Construction Ltd to fulfil a condition of planning attached to an approved application (planning

ref.P0096.15). The condition was attached following advice from the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) due to the site's proximity to previous archaeological investigations which produced prehistoric remains.

1.4 The archaeological evaluation was proposed to mitigate the potential impact of the development through investigation and assessment of the nature and significance of any archaeological survival across the development footprint.

1.5 The fieldwork took the form of a trial investigation with four trenches being excavated; Trenches 1 and 3 were aligned northeast-southwest, while Trenches 2 and 4 were aligned northwest-southeast. Trenches 1 and 4 measured 15m x 1.80m, while Trenches 2 and 3 measured 12m x 1.80m. The fieldwork commenced after the initial clearance of the site down to existing ground level.

2. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Compass Archaeology would like to thank S&A Construction Ltd, in particular Stephen Oakley, for their assistance on site and the provision of plant during the excavation.

3. SITE LOCATION & GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies on the western side of North Road, and extends westwards from the street frontage to the canalised banks of the River Rom (Fig.2). The site is surrounded by a mixture of residential, commercial and light industrial buildings to the north and south.

The site was previously occupied by a number of small industrial units associated with the site's former use as Sui Generis car servicing and the North Street Garage. These have since been demolished to ground level and is now a large open space, forming an L-Shaped plot measuring approximately 100m by 60m at its maximum dimensions.

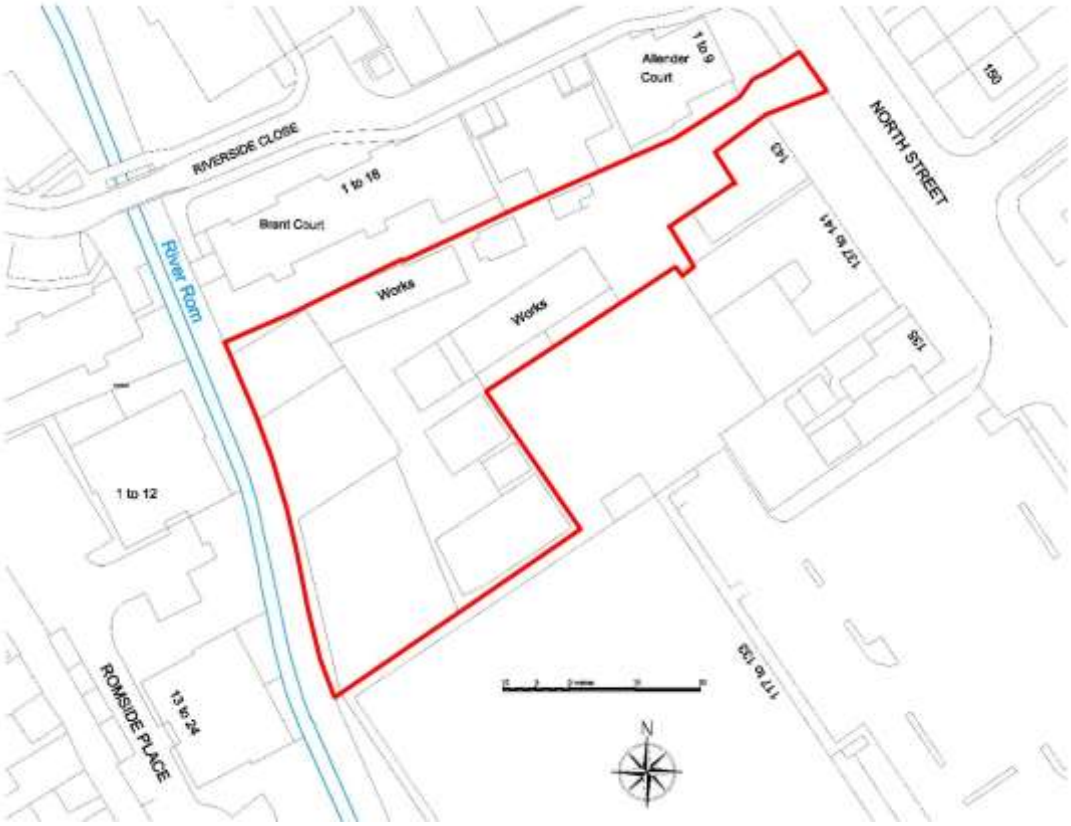


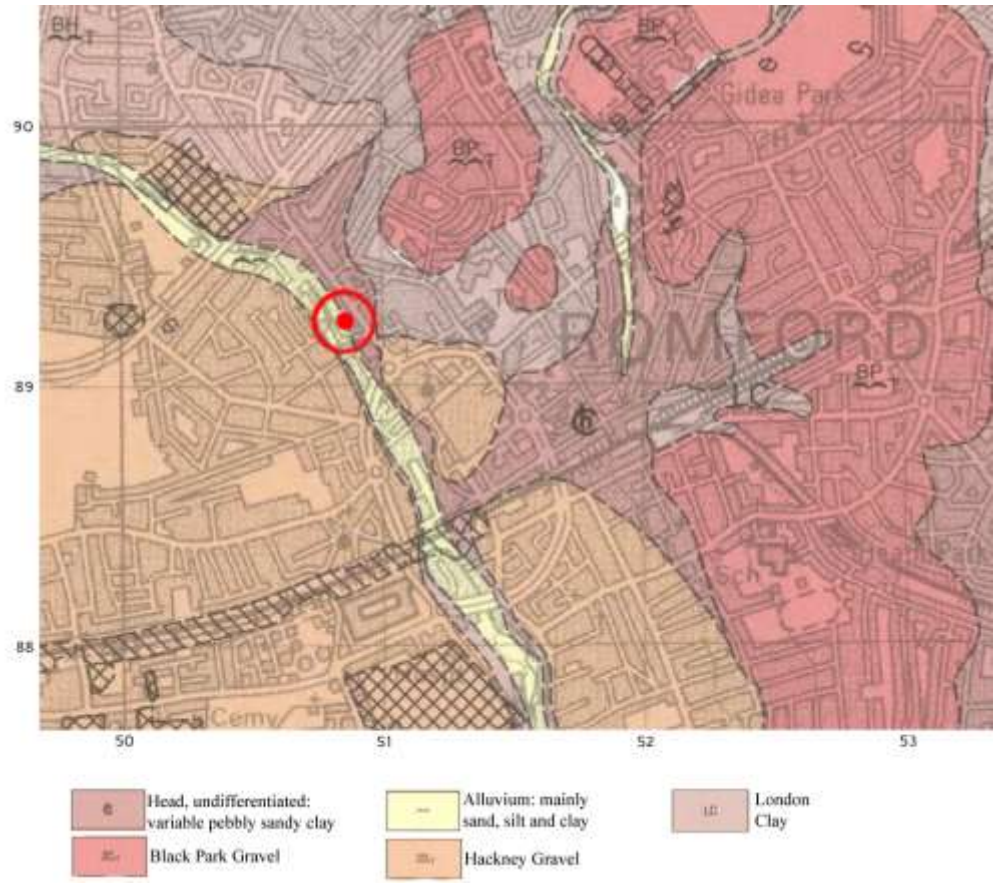
Fig.2: *Site plan showing previous layout before demolition of the on-site structures*

3.2 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 257: Romford, 1998, fig.3) the site lies over a mixture of alluvium in the western part of the site and head material towards the east (Fig.3). This reflects the historic topography of the site and its location adjacent to the course of the River Rom.

The above observations were confirmed by soil investigations conducted in April 2018 by GEMCO (GEMCO, 2018). This included 8 investigations across the footprint of the site which showed a similar stratigraphy of between 0.20m and 0.45m of made ground deposits comprising modern rubble and demolition material sealing underlying alluvium deposits of at least 1.00m in depth and up to 1.80m over sandy gravels. These sealed another layer of sandy-clays and a further layer of gravels before

reaching London Clay the upper levels of which were reached at depths of between 7.50m to 9.0m below ground level.

Fig.3:



Site location in relation to the underlying geology

3.3 The site is relatively flat, but in a wider context lies towards the bottom of a significant slope; rising by *c*6m to the northeast, away from the River Rom. The ground also rises somewhat to the southeast towards Romford town centre, but by no more than *c*1m.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 The following section is largely lifted directly from the conclusions drawn from the WSI (August, 2018) and based upon Compass Archaeology's own research and the results of a 350m radius search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GHLER) for TQ 50815 89250; dataset search ref.14280. The results of this search are discussed briefly below:

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 The GLHER results suggested probable, but relatively limited, Prehistoric activity in the form of pits, ditches and possible occupation spreads. Excavations on adjacent land to the north and west of the River Rom in 2005 recorded several pits, fragments of shallow ditches, and a large hollow possibly once used for seasonal occupation during the end of the early Iron Age or beginning of the middle Iron AGE, *c*400BC, (MLO98668, fig.4). The excavations showed evidence of localised woodworking in the form of a deliberate dump of hazel, oak, willow, dogwood and alder on the west side of the River Rom. The occupation hollow also contained the remnants of several hearths and burnt flint scatters each sealed by successive alluvial deposits suggesting the area was prone to inundation from an early date. These features were sealed below a considerable depth of organic clay representing a prolonged period of waterlogging, therefore the underlying remains were left relatively intact. However, despite these features their size and distribution was relatively sparse.

The proximity of these findings and the perceived depth of deposits on the study site would suggest similar levels of preservation if archaeology is present. Therefore the likelihood of finding pre-historic remains is considered medium to low.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 The major Roman route running between London and Colchester is preserved in line of North Street off of which the evaluation site lies, (MLO26658). A posting station known as Durolitum is believed to have been located somewhere around Romford. The study site falls within the boundary of an Archaeological Priority Area based around this premise. As of yet no physical evidence of this settlement has conclusively been identified. It is always possible that the site may contain Roman deposits associated with roadside activity, but given the evidence that the site was unoccupied marginal land from the adjacent 2005 excavations this seems less likely.

Therefore, the likelihood of finding Roman remains is considered to be low to negligible.

4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 No Anglo-Saxon remains have been found in the site's local area.

Thus it is deemed that the chance that Anglo-Saxon remains will be found is negligible.

4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 Very little evidence of medieval activity was returned, bar antiquarian references to the longevity of North Road and former properties lining the road itself, (MLO58262). The site itself lay to the north and peripheral to the main focus of settlement based around the Church of St Edward the Confessor and market place. Romford remained a rural backwater well into the post-medieval period.

For this reason, it is thought that the chance of finding medieval remains is low, and if at all most likely in the form of occasional residual pottery.

4.6 Post-Medieval

4.6.1 The majority of GLHER records consulted in relation to the site pertain to Listed buildings dating to the later post-medieval period. During the 2005 evaluation works to the north and west two sections of ditch and a single pit were found cut into the alluvium which sealed earlier deposits. These features were believed to be drainage ditches, and a possible tanning pit, (MLO98669). The latter feature and its possible interpretation would suggest that the site still lay on the periphery of any settlement in marginal land where drainage issues were still a concern and less salubrious trades were focused. It is likely that the site remained open ground for much of the post-medieval period subject to minimal human influence.

It is thought the likelihood of finding post-medieval deposits are low to medium.

4.6.2 The post-medieval development of the area and the site can be best illustrated using cartographic sources:

Fig.4: *Extract from the original Ordnance Surveyors Drawings, Sheet 138: Enfield, (site highlighted in red)*

4.6.2.1 The original 1799 Ordnance Surveyors drawings show the site on the northwestern outskirts of Romford, which forms a ribbon along the course of the east-west London Road (Fig.4). The surrounding landscape is almost devoid of settlement apart from sparsely spread farmsteads based around large expanses of enclosed fields. The study site lies in such a field with a row of properties to the southeast, and the meandering course of the River Rom to the immediate west.

Fig.5: *Extract from 1861 OS map showing the site, (red outline), on the periphery of Romford*

4.6.2.2 Sixty years later the First edition OS map shows the site within a single large field behind a row of properties known as Brooklands Villas to the southeast, with the River Rom to the west (Fig.5).

Fig.6: *Extract from 1914 OS map showing saw mill buildings once situated within the site, (red outline)*

4.6.2.3 By 1914, the field had been occupied by a Saw Mill based around a collection of buildings along the northern and western boundaries of the field (Fig.6). The largest of these buildings occupied the southwestern corner of the present site, whilst three smaller outbuildings occupied the far northeastern tip and northern portion. This saw mill survived until 1939.

Fig.7: *Extract from 1960 OS plan, showing the build-up of industrial units within and around the study site*

4.6.2.4 The 1960 OS plan of the site shows a much more densely built-up site (Fig.7). The surrounding areas to the north and west are also given over to similarly packed industrial sites, a pattern presumably initiated by the original Saw Mill in the early 20th century. Many of these buildings still survive on the existing site.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

5.1 The evaluation presented the chance to explore the following general and specific research questions:

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site? Is this opportunistic/seasonal exploitation or a more formal sedentary occupation? What form does this take?
- Is there any evidence associated with roadside activity along the course of North Street during the Roman period? If so, is this domestic, agricultural, military, religious or industrial?
- Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site? If so, what form does this take?
- Is there any earlier post-medieval evidence such as drainage ditches associated with attempts to reclaim the landscape?
- Is there any evidence of the site's later use as a Saw Mill or other industrial functions?
- At what level and to what extent do archaeological deposits survive across the site?
- What is the nature and depth of natural geology across the site?

6. PLANNING BACKGROUND

6.1 National Policy

6.1.1 The evaluation represents one element in the archaeological planning process. The evaluation conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), adopted in July 2018. It contains amongst other things the following advice;

189. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, ***a field evaluation.***

6.2 Local Policy

6.2.1 The study is located in the London Borough of Havering which has its own policies regarding the historic environment these can be found within the Heritage Supplementary Planning Document, (adopted 2011), which states;

DC70 – ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT MONUMENTS
The Council will ensure that the archaeological significance of sites is taken into account when making planning decisions and will take appropriate measures to safeguard that interest. Planning permission will only be granted where satisfactory provision is made in appropriate cases for preservation and recording of archaeological remains in situ or through excavation. Where nationally important archaeological remains exist there will be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Particular care will need to be taken when dealing with applications in archaeological

5.5 GLAAS is the English Heritage specialist archaeological advisory service for London. They advise on SAM Consent, and advise local authorities on the planning guidance on archaeology affecting all other types of planning application. GLAAS also advises developers and contractors on carrying out archaeology related work, owners and Archaeology and Ancient Monuments tenants on how to manage their archaeological sites, and publishes standards on archaeological projects and procedures.

5.20 Any proposals for development in relation to an archaeological resource must have due regard for its intrinsic interest and the archaeological contribution it makes. It is always preferable to preserve archaeology intact and in situ wherever possible, but if a development is going to damage or destroy a site of archaeological potential then planning conditions or obligations will be used as appropriate to ensure the developer records the significance of the archaeological resources,

6.3 Archaeological Priority Areas, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments

6.3.1 The site lies within the locally designated Archaeological Priority Area, (APA), of Durolitum Roman Settlement, based around the ancient Roman Road linking London with Colchester, (see section 3.3). Although the designation and boundaries of the Borough's APAs are over 10 years old they are due to be reviewed by Historic England in 2019.

6.3.2 The site does not lie within any Conservation Area, nor does it contain or lie within the curtilage of any Listed buildings. The site is not, nor does it lie close to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1 Standards

7.1.1 The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work, 2015*). Works conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2017*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.

7.1.2 Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team held valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and were equipped with PPE including hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, and steel-toe-capped boots, and gloves. All members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

7.1.3 The Client and the GLAAS Archaeological Advisor for the London Borough of Havering were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork, and in particular of any significant finds or remains that were exposed

7.2 Fieldwork

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation took place after initial clearance of the site down to existing ground level thus removing any previous buildings which may have limited the location and size of archaeological trenches.

7.2.2 The fieldwork involved the excavation of four trenches, sited to provide a representative coverage of the development footprint and also to extract the greatest amount of archaeological data possible (Fig.8).

Two of the four trenches measured 15m long by 1.8m wide and were arranged on a NE-SW alignment, whilst the other two were 12m long by 1.8m wide and arranged at right angles to the former on a NW-SE alignment. As a consequence of pre-existing ground conditions, the southwestern trench (Trench 3) was shortened from 15m to 12m and divided into two separate trenches, in order to avoid two substantial concrete

footings discovered running NW-SE across its centre. In order, therefore, to maintain a trench coverage of 97.2m^2 – representing a *c*3.5% sample of the development footprint – the northwestern trench (Trench 4) was extended from 12m to 15m.

Fig.8: *Location of the evaluation trenches (red), in relation to the ground floor of the proposed scheme.*

7.2.3 Initial bulk excavation of the trenches was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and operated under archaeological supervision. Deposits were removed in this way in shallow spits to a clean natural layer. It was necessary to step back the sides of the trenches in order to maintain safe access due to the depth of alluvium overlying the natural.

7.2.4 Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan or section generally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid.

Levels were taken on the top and bottom of any archaeological features or deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark on the SE facing wall of 203 North St ('Wok's Tonight' Restaurant) RM1 1DT - **17.02mOD** (TQ 50724 89488) (see **Table 2, Appendix II**). The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography, in .jpeg and RAW formats.

7.3 Post-Excavation

7.3.1 The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and compilation of an evaluation report, and will be completed by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

7.3.2 Assessment of finds was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff. Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including the Museum of London's 'Standards for the Preparation of Finds to be permanently retained by the Museum of London'. All identified finds and artefacts were retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of material were discarded once an appropriate record had been made.

7.4 Report and Archive

7.4.1 Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, Historic England and Havering Borough Council.

7.4.2 This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations are included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid, and provided in both .pdf and .dwg shapefile formats. A short summary of the project will be appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

7.4.3 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 the Archaeological Advisor to the Borough of Havering.

7.4.4 An ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation 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 under site code NOE18. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

8. RESULTS

8.1 The fieldwork involved the excavation of four rectangular trial trenches (**Trenches 1, 2, 3 & 4**). Trench 1 measured 15m x 1.80m (NE-SW), Trench 2 measured 12m x 1.80m (NW-SE), Trench 3 was divided into two smaller trenches measuring 5m x 1.80m and 7m x 1.80m (both NE-SW), and Trench 4 measured 15m x 1.80m (NW-SE) (see Fig.9).

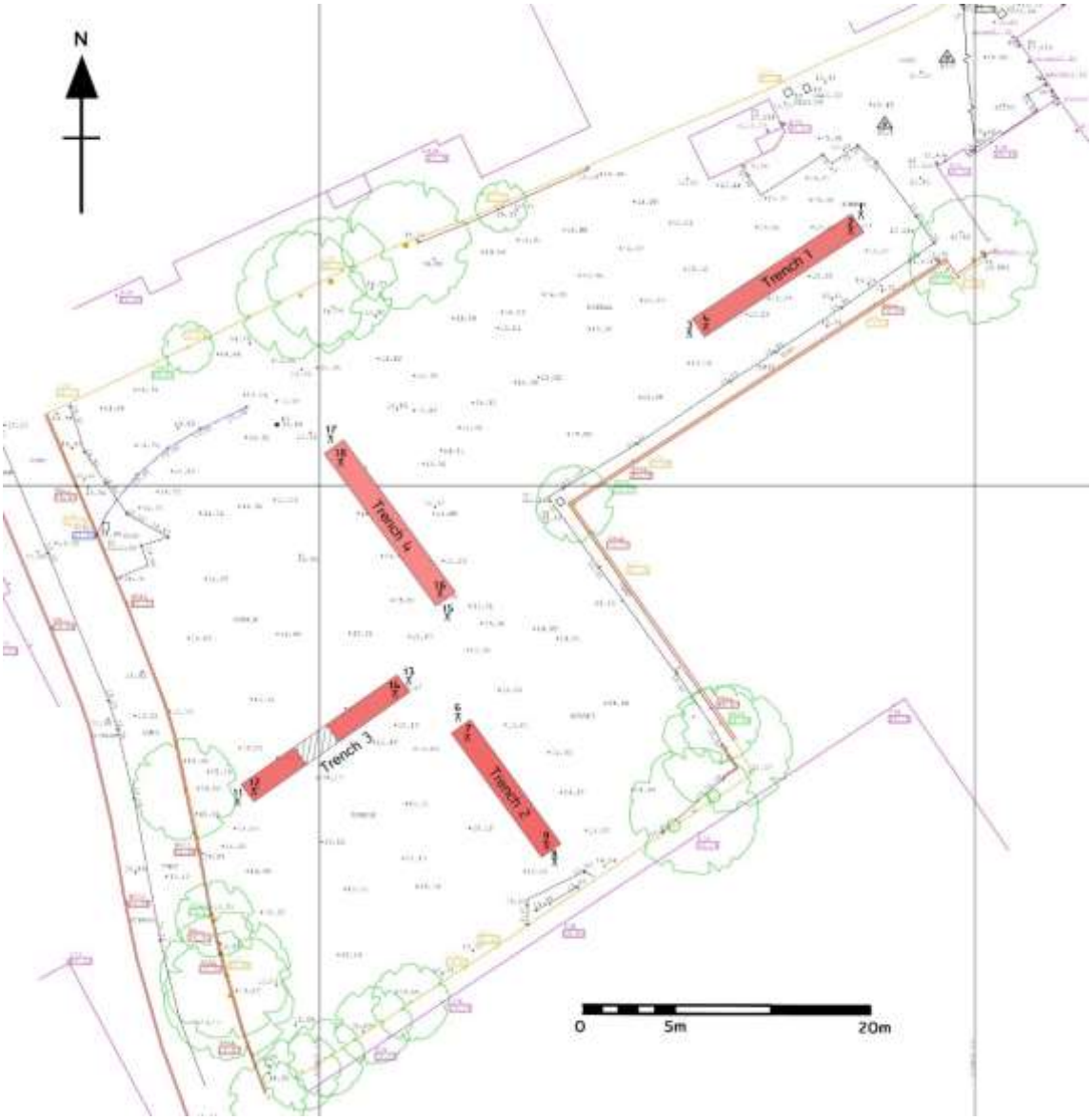


Fig.9: *Trench locations added to site survey plan, with levels (see **Table 2**); Drawing no. SJG2842 (Dovetail Architects, 17.08.19)*

8.2 The trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, down to the natural geology, which varied significantly between approximately 1m - 1.50m below the modern ground level. The trenches are all located within a large L-shaped open space, previously occupied by the North Street Garage.

8.3 The following section is a written description of the stratigraphy observed within each trench. This is complemented by a photographic record of sections and plans. The context numbers used in this report will be numbered according to their trench allocation– 100, 101, 102, 103 etc. and 200, 201, 202, 203 etc. Fills and layers are shown in (rounded brackets), while cuts are shown in [square brackets]. A context list **(Table 1)** and a table for those levels included on the drawings **(Table 2)** have been appended to the report (see **Appendix I & II**).

8.4 Trench 1

8.4.1 Trench 1 was situated in the NE portion of the evaluation area (Fig.9), and measured 15m long (NE-SW) by 1.8m wide (NW-SE). It was positioned approximately 5m from the SE site boundary, and 14.2m from the NW boundary.

Following the demolition and clearance of the previous buildings, Trench 1 was excavated from a ground surface that exhibited a very slight downward slope, varying from 15.03mOD at its NE, down to 14.91mOD at its SW end. The trench was excavated down to 1.50m below ground level (13.53mOD) at its NE end, sloping down to 1.78m below ground level (13.13mOD) at the SW end.

The Trench 1 section drawing and accompanying photographs (shown below) should be consulted as a reference for the stratigraphic sequence.

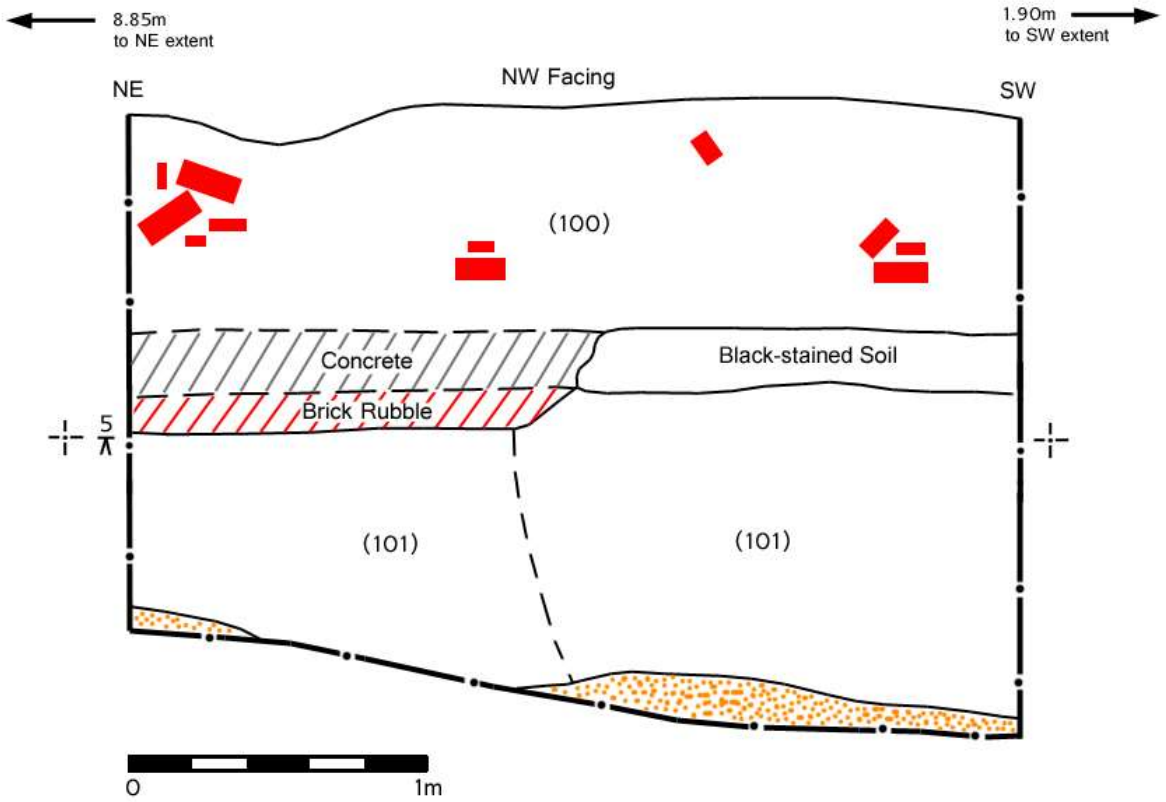


Fig.10: *NW facing sample section drawing of Trench 1*

Fig.11: *NW facing section, Trench 1, highlighting alluvial deposits and black soil, brick rubble is far left of photograph (1m scale)*

Fig.12: *Oblique view of Trench 1, facing E*

Fig.13: *Trench 1, facing NE*

8.4.2 The uppermost layer (100) consisted of loosely compacted overburden, formed of pale dusty, sandy soil with frequent building material rubble, metal and glass inclusions. A small amount of late post-medieval pottery fragments were also recovered. (Fig.14). Layer (100) sealed three dumped deposits (Fig. 11): a 0.18m-thick layer of broken concrete was observed at 0.76m below ground level. On approximately the same level with the concrete, concentrated to the SW of the trench, was a thin layer (approximately 0.20m thick) of black soil. Below this was a layer of loose brick demolition rubble, measured at 0.12m-thick, extending down to 0.96m below ground level. In total, layer (100) measured 0.76m-0.96m thick.

The same overburden was also observed constituting the upper layer in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 – (200), (300), (400). It is interpreted as a layer of modern demolition rubble, probably acting as made ground for a series of industrial units constructed across the site by the 1960's.

Fig.14: *Fragment of late 19th century Marmalade vessel (JAMES KEILLER & SON, 1862)*

8.4.3 Below (100) was a layer of very compact sticky, silty clay (101), containing occasional modern building material fragments and a single sherd of late post-medieval pottery. The layer varied in thickness from 0.60m in the NE, to 1.10m in the SW; a consequence of the gradual downslope of the natural gravel deposits continuing towards the River Rom. The clay was coloured orange-brown across the majority of the trench, although this changed to a mixed green-blue at its SW end. This discolouration appears to have been the result of leaching down from the reworked soil above, probably combined with the effects of persistent waterlogging. Layer (101) is thought to be a consolidation of alluvial deposits caused by the recurrent flooding of the nearby River Rom.

8.4.4 A moderately compacted, orange-grey, natural gravel deposit (102) was reached along the bottom of the whole trench, although its level varied slightly due to the general downslope of the site towards the River Rom in the SW. It was exposed at 1.25m below ground level in the NE (13.78mOD), and dropped down to 1.63m below ground level at its SW end (13.28mOD). The colour of the natural gravel changes from orange-grey in the NE, to a dark blue-grey in the SW, probably due to the contamination of the soil (100) concentrated in the SW end of Trench 1. The natural layer is truncated by two modern ceramic land drains; one running across the centre of the trench N-S, the other running NE-SW, roughly parallel with the trench section.

8.5 Trench 2

8.5.1 Trench 2 was excavated perpendicular to Trench 1, on a NW-SE alignment. The trench measured 12m long (NW-SE) and 1.8m wide (NE-SW), and was located in the SE corner of the study site (Fig.9). The trench was situated approximately 3.75m from the SW site boundary.

Following the demolition and clearance of the previous buildings, Trench 1 was excavated from a relatively flat ground surface that measured 14.58mOD in the NW and 14.68mOD in the SE. The trench base was measured at 1.83m below ground level (12.85mOD) at its SE end, rising up sharply to 1.42m below ground level (13.16mOD) at the NW end.

The Trench 2 section drawing and accompanying photographs (shown below) should be consulted as a reference for the stratigraphic sequence.

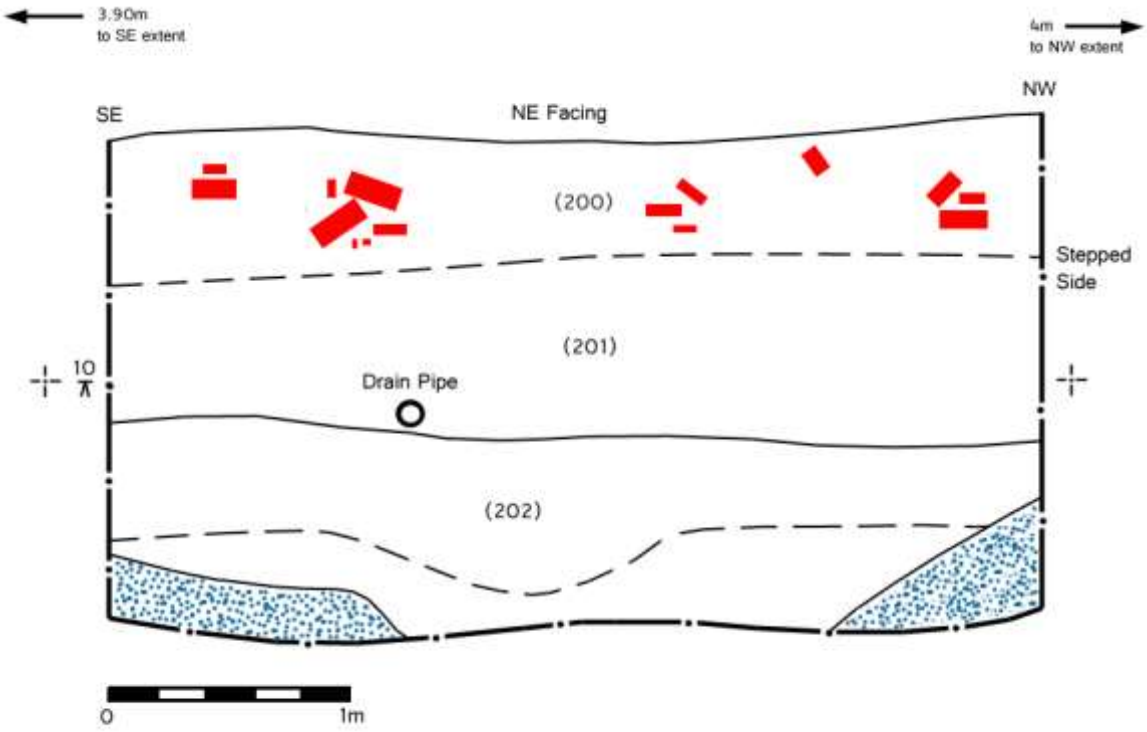


Fig.15: *Sample section drawing of Trench 2, NE Facing*

Fig.16: *NE facing section of Trench 2 (1m scale); highlighting rise in level of natural gravel layer in NW end (right), and blue-orange mixed alluvial deposits (left)*

Fig.17: *Oblique view of Trench 2, facing W*

Fig.18: *Plan view of Trench 2, facing SE*

8.5.2 The uppermost layer (200) was the same loose, dusty overburden observed in Trench 1 (100). It contained frequent brick and concrete rubble inclusions. It was approximately 0.60 thick and ran the length of the trench. It was interpreted as a layer of made ground formed of modern demolition rubble, associated with the industrial units displayed on the 1960 OS map (Fig.7).

8.5.3 Beneath the made ground, there was a layer of very compact red-brown mottled sticky clay (201). It is comparable to the alluvial deposits discovered in Trench 1 (101), although (201) lacked any inclusions, appearing relatively clean and homogenous. It was recorded 0.60-0.75m thick, lying above further layers of alluvial deposits (202).

A small modern ceramic land drain cut through layer (201), running NE-SW and truncating the centre of the trench.

Below (201) was another layer of clean, compact, sticky clay (202); it was coloured blue-grey, with yellow-orange patches mixed throughout (Fig.16). A large lens of yellow sand can also be observed at the NW end of the trench. Layer (202) was 0.76m thick in the centre of the trench, although this is reduced in the NW end of Trench 2 where the natural gravel rises up. Together with (201), this layer was interpreted as natural alluvium associated with the recurrent flooding of the River Rom; the colour variation probably indicates separate deposition events.

8.5.4 A moderately compacted, dark blue-grey, natural gravel deposit (203) was uncovered during excavation; its depth varied noticeably as it began to incline at a distance of 4.80m from the NW end of Trench 2. Subsequently, the natural was measured at 1.83m below ground level (12.85mOD) at its SE end, which rises up 0.41m to 1.42m below ground level (13.16mOD) at the NW end (Fig.16).

8.6 Trench 3

8.6.1 Trench 3 was excavated at a 90 degree angle to Trench 2, on a NE-SW alignment. The trench was initially intended to measure 15m long (NE-SW) and 1.8m wide (NW-SE). It was, however, divided into two separate trenches totalling 12m (5m and 7m long) in order to avoid two substantial concrete footings which traversed the centre of the excavation (Fig.20); accordingly, an unexcavated 3m gap was left in between the concrete footings. It was located in the SW corner of the study site. The trench was located approximately 11.80m from the W site boundary and 5.10m SW of Trench 4 (Fig.9).

Following the demolition and clearance of the previous buildings, Trench 3 was excavated from a relatively level ground surface that measured 14.90mOD in the NE and 14.80mOD in the SW. The trench base was machine dug to a depth of 2.31m below ground level (12.59mOD) at its NE end, rising slightly to 2.10m below ground level (12.70mOD) at the SW end.

The accompanying photographs for Trench 3 (shown below) should be consulted as a reference for the stratigraphic sequence.

Fig.19: *Overhead view of Trench 3, facing SE (2m scale)*

Fig.20: *Oblique view of Trench 3, facing S (2m scale); with concrete footing (right of scale)*

Fig.21: *NW facing section of Trench 3; highlighting rise in level of natural gravel layer (left)*

8.6.2 As with Trenches 1 and 2, the uppermost layer (300) is approximately 0.70m thick, and consists of a loosely compacted, mid-brown sandy soil, with frequent building material, glass and concrete inclusions. It is considered to represent modern made ground formed of demolition rubble. The made ground is truncated by two linear, NW-SE-running, concrete foundations, which cut across the centre of Trench 3 (Fig.20). These correspond with the location of one of the garage structures which previously occupied the study site.

8.6.3 A layer of compact red-brown alluvium (301) can be seen in section below the made ground; measuring 0.65m thick. Layer (301) contained a small amount of building material inclusions, but was otherwise relatively clean.

The red-brown alluvium lies above another layer of compact clay, coloured dark blue-grey. This corresponds with the stratigraphy recorded in Trench 2 (see above). This lower layer of alluvial river deposit displays variation in colour and includes thick lenses of yellow sand - especially near the trench base in the NE end. It is approximately 0.60m thick and directly overlies the natural gravel. As with in Trench 2, the alluvial layers (301) and (302) are an indication of the recurrent flooding of the River Rom.

8.6.4 The natural geology (303) corresponds with the moderately compacted, dark blue-grey gravel encountered in Trenches 2 and 4. In Trench 3 its depth was recorded at 12.59mOD in the NE and rises slightly to 12.70mOD in the SW. However, the level of the gravel seemed to rise sharply beyond the NE end of the trench (Fig.21). The natural in Trench 3 did not appear to exhibit the extent of downward slope towards the current river course as predicted prior to excavation.

8.7 Trench 4

8.7.1 Trench 4 was excavated perpendicular to Trench 3, on a NW-SE alignment. The trench measured 15m long (NW-SE) and 1.8m wide (NE-SW). It was extended from 12m to 15m, after Trench 3 was reduced in size, in order to maintain a 3.5% sample of the development footprint. The trench was located approximately 13.20m from the N site boundary and 10.80m from the inner corner of the L-shaped site boundary.

Following the demolition and clearance of the previous buildings, Trench 4 was excavated from a relatively flat ground surface that measured 14.79mOD in the NW and 14.81mOD in the SE. The trench base was machine dug to a depth of 1.02m below ground level (13.68mOD) at its NW end, declining to 1.58m below ground level (13.23mOD) at the SE end.

The section drawing and accompanying photographs for Trench 4 (shown below) should be consulted as a reference for the stratigraphic sequence.

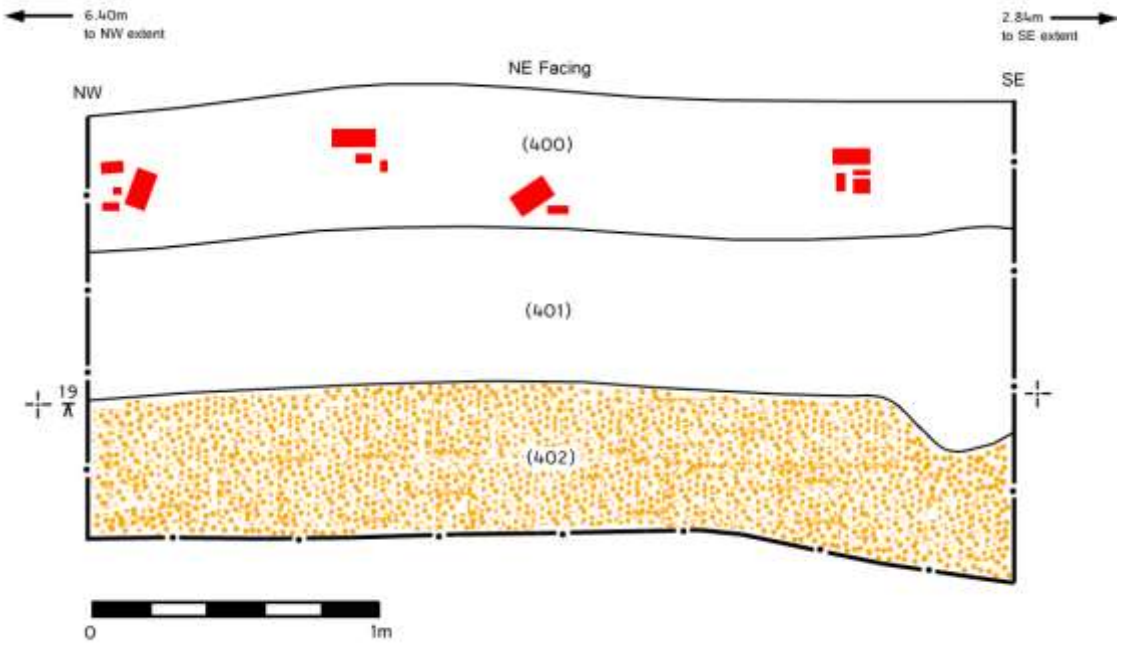


Fig.22: *NE facing sample section drawing of Trench 4*

Fig.23: *NE facing sample section of Trench 4 (1m scale)*

Fig.24: *Plan view of Trench 4, facing SE*

8.7.2 The upper layer (400) consists of the same demolition rubble as encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. The loosely compacted, made ground layer comprises mid brown-grey silt with frequent inclusions formed of building material and concrete fragments. It measured up to 0.50m thick and covered the extent of the trench.

8.7.3 The made ground (400) sealed a layer of compact, dark brown-grey, sticky clay (401). This corresponds with similar alluvial deposits found in other trenches – eg. (101),

(201), (301). However, unlike the thick alluvial deposits observed in the other trenches, (401) only measured 0.55m thick and continued down to a depth of just 1m below ground level (Fig.23). Furthermore it lay directly on top of the natural gravel, with no lower layer of blue-green alluvium and yellow sand. Layer (401) was truncated by modern electricity services in the NW end of the trench.

8.7.4 The natural geology (402) corresponds with the moderately compacted, flint gravel encountered at the bottom of the other trenches. In Trench 4, the gravel shifts from a yellow-orange colour in its SE half, to a blue-grey in its NW half (Fig.24). The recorded depth of the natural gravel layer is noticeably shallower than in other trenches; it was measured at 1.02m below ground level (13.93mOD) in the centre of the trench and appeared consistent along the extent of the trench, with no discernible slope.

9. CONCLUSIONS

9.1 In answer to the archaeological research questions proposed in the WSI (Compass Archaeology, August 2018), there was no indication in the evaluation trenches of any activity having occurred pre-19th century. Prior to the evaluation, archaeological interest was primarily focused on the sandy gravels encountered below the levels of alluvium, as these were believed to represent the original land surface. There was no evidence, however, of any early archaeological features having been cut into these layers. Instead, the stratigraphic evidence at 143 North Street presented a relatively straightforward example of small-scale, later post-medieval/modern industry, overlying a series of alluvial river deposits and natural gravel layers. As such it is not considered that any further archaeological mitigation needs to be undertaken here.

9.2 Any archaeological deposits excavated at the site consisted of modern dumped layers of demolition rubble and loose soil. This formed the upper context in each of the four trenches – (100), (200), (300), (400). It was typically 0.60m-0.70m thick and appeared to extend across the majority of the study site. This layer contained a high frequency of late post-medieval brickwork, glass and concrete fragments, in addition to a small amount of late 19th century pottery. It is thought that these dumps of demolition rubble acted as a layer of made ground for a series of small industrial units constructed on the site sometime in the early 20th century. The concrete footings discovered in Trench 3 appeared to correspond with the footprint of one of these units, as depicted on the 1960 OS map (Fig.7). The most recent use of the site as a garage and car servicing business was the cause of staining of the observed soils in Trenches 1, 2 and 4.

9.3 In all four trenches, the made ground deposits sealed underlying alluvium deposits – (101), (201), (202), (301), (302), (401). These were encountered at c.0.70m below ground level, varied in thickness - between at least 0.60m (Trench 4) and up to 1.50m (Trench 2), - and sealed a layer of natural sandy gravel. In Trenches 2 and 3, the upper c.0.70m layer of alluvium was typically coloured orange-brown, clean and homogenous in character; while the lower c. 0.60m layer was a mixed blue-green-grey colour which contained orange sandy lenses. These sticky clay layers can be interpreted as the natural alluvium deposited during the recurrent flooding of the River Rom over an extended period of time; while the colour variation probably indicates separate deposition events, combined with modern leeching from ground level.

9.4 The alluvial deposits seal natural sandy gravel layers in all four trenches (102), (203), (303), (402). The natural geology was encountered at varying depths depending on the trench location. In Trench 1 it was located at 13.32mOD, Trench 2 was 12.81mOD, Trench 3 was 12.78mOD, while in Trench 4 the natural level was evidently shallower at 13.98mOD. The expectation was that the level of the gravel would correspond with the general topography and gradually slope downwards towards the River Rom in the SW. However, it appeared evident from the recorded levels and section drawings that the depth of the gravel is relatively uniform across the site, except where it rises up sharply towards an area between Trenches 2 and 3. It is thought that the localised variation in the level of gravel may have been caused by the erosion of earlier river channels which may have flowed across the site prior to its current canalized course.

10. SOURCES

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APPENDIX I. Context List *(Table 1)*

Trench 1

Context	Description	Interpretation
(100)	Loosely compacted, dusty sandy soil layer with ceramic building material (CBM) rubble, metal, glass and frequent rooting; thin layer of black contaminated soil located at base of layer, sits above layer of loose brick	Demolition rubble comprising modern made ground
(101)	Very compact sticky silty clay → orange-brown coloured, but turns green-blue towards W end of trench; occasional CBM fragments	Alluvial deposits resulting from flooding of nearby River Rom
(102)	Moderately compacted orange-grey flint gravels (rounded and sub-angular), 10-60mm diameter; cut by two small land drains	Natural gravel deposit

Trench 2

Context	Description	Interpretation
(200)	Loosely compacted sandy/silty soil with frequent rubble inclusions	Modern made ground comprised of demolition rubble; same as (100)
(201)	Very compact red-brown mottled sticky silty clay; no inclusions, very clean and homogenous	Alluvial deposits resulting from flooding of nearby River Rom; same as (101)
(202)	Very compact waterlogged blue-grey clay, with yellow sandy clay lenses; no inclusions.	Similar to (201); colour variation of alluvium likely resulting from separate deposition events relating to flooding of River Rom
(203)	Moderately compacted dark blue-grey flint gravels; same as (102)	Natural gravel deposit

Trench 3

Context	Description	Interpretation
(300)	Loosely compacted mid brown sandy/silty soil, frequent CBM, glass and concrete inclusions; truncated by concrete foundations running across trench (NW-SE)	Modern made ground comprised of demolition rubble; same as (100), (200)
(301)	Very compact red-brown sticky silty clay, occasional CBM inclusions	Alluvial deposits, same as (201)
(302)	Very compact waterlogged blue-grey, large lens of yellow sand observed near base at NE end of trench	Various alluvial deposition events from River Rom; same as (202)
(303)	Moderately compacted dark blue-grey flint gravels; same as (102), (203)	Natural gravel deposit

Trench 4

Context	Description	Interpretation
(400)	Loosely compacted light brown-grey silt, frequent CBM and concrete fragments	Modern made ground comprised of demolition rubble; same as (100), (200), (300)
(401)	Very compact dark brown-grey sticky silty clay, homogenous and clean; truncated by modern services in NW end of trench	Alluvial deposits
(402)	Moderately compacted pale brown-orange flint gravels; same as (102), (203), (303)	Natural gravel deposit

Appendix II. Site Levels *(Table 2)*

All values are given in metres above ordnance datum (mOD). Refer to (Fig.9)

OSBM: SE facing wall of 203 North St ('Wok's Tonight' Restaurant) RM1 1DT - **17.02mOD** (TQ 50724 89488)

Trench 1	
⏄	**mOD**
1	15.03
2	13.53
3	14.91
4	13.13
5	14.12

Trench 2	
⏄	**mOD**
6	14.58
7	13.16
8	14.68
9	12.85
10	13.67

Trench 3	
⏄	**mOD**
11	14.80
12	12.70
13	14.90
14	12.59

Trench 4	
	**mOD**
15	14.81
16	13.23
17	14.79
18	13.68
19	13.93

APPENDIX III. Oasis Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-327197

Project details

Project name	143 North Street, Romford, RM1 1ED - An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out between 20th-21st August 2018. The fieldwork involved the excavation of four rectangular trial trenches. The stratigraphic evidence at 143 North Street presented a relatively straightforward example of small-scale, late post medieval/modern industry, overlying a series of alluvial river deposits and natural gravel layers. The natural geology was encountered at varying depths depending on the trench location. In Trench 1 it was located at 13.32mOD, Trench 2 was 12.81mOD, Trench 3 was 12.78mOD, while in Trench 4 the natural level was evidently shallower at 13.98mOD. It is not considered that any further archaeological mitigation needs to be undertaken here.
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2018 End: 21-08-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NOE18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	MADE GROUND Modern
Monument type	FOUNDATIONS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Methods & techniques	'"Targeted Trenches"'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD 143 North Street
Postcode	RM1 1ED
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 50815 89250 51.581401855601 0.176937639055 51 34 53 N 000 10 36 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.59m Max: 13.68m

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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Archive ID	NOE18
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	NOE18
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	NOE18
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	143 NORTH STREET, ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING, RM1 1ED - An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kerr, A
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	250 York Rd, London SW11 3SJ
Description	In house report: 47pp, including 24 illustrations and photographs, and two tables. Text includes historical background to the site, details of

methodology used, description and interpretation of deposits/features investigated.