THAMES WATER UTILITIES LTD

WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT WORKS

CAZENOVE ROAD AND NORTHWOLD ROAD AREA, E5 & N16

LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

December 2007

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: PSN06

SITE CENTRE NGR: TQ 3420 8655

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December 2007

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 22nd November 2006 and 27th September 2007, on water mains replacement works by Thames Water Utilities Ltd. within the area of Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, London Borough of Hackney. Works comprised a mixture of open-cut trenches and localised pits linked by pipe insertion.

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. Exposed deposits consisted largely of modern road-makeup layers, made-ground and truncated natural deposits. Post-medieval activity was observed in the form of brick rubble made-ground layers which reflect development of the area and road construction in the latter part of the 19th century, and a buried soil horizon at the north end of Alkham Road possibly belonging to the period prior to redevelopment: Other areas of truncated subsoil horizon in Cavenove Road that probably also relate to this period. Other features were of 20th century date, including present road make-up and existing service trench fills.

Natural deposits consisted of silty-clay 'brickearth' across the majority of the study area, with Hackney Gravels exposed in trenching to the south of the study area along Northwold Road.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in the area of Cazenove Road and Northwald Road, E5 and N16, London Borough of Hackney, during water mains replacement works by Thames Water Utilities.

1.2 The area affected by groundworks forms a group of selected roads within the area defined by Thames Water (see Figure 1), including Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, with an approximate site centre at NGR TQ 3420 8655. The works comprised a mixture of open-cut trenches (notably along Cazenove Road) and more localised pits.

1.3 Archaeological observations were carried out during contractor's groundworks within the highlighted area, coverage being determined by the nature and extent of the exposed deposits. Potential remains were investigated by hand, with recording and recovery of dating evidence as appropriate.

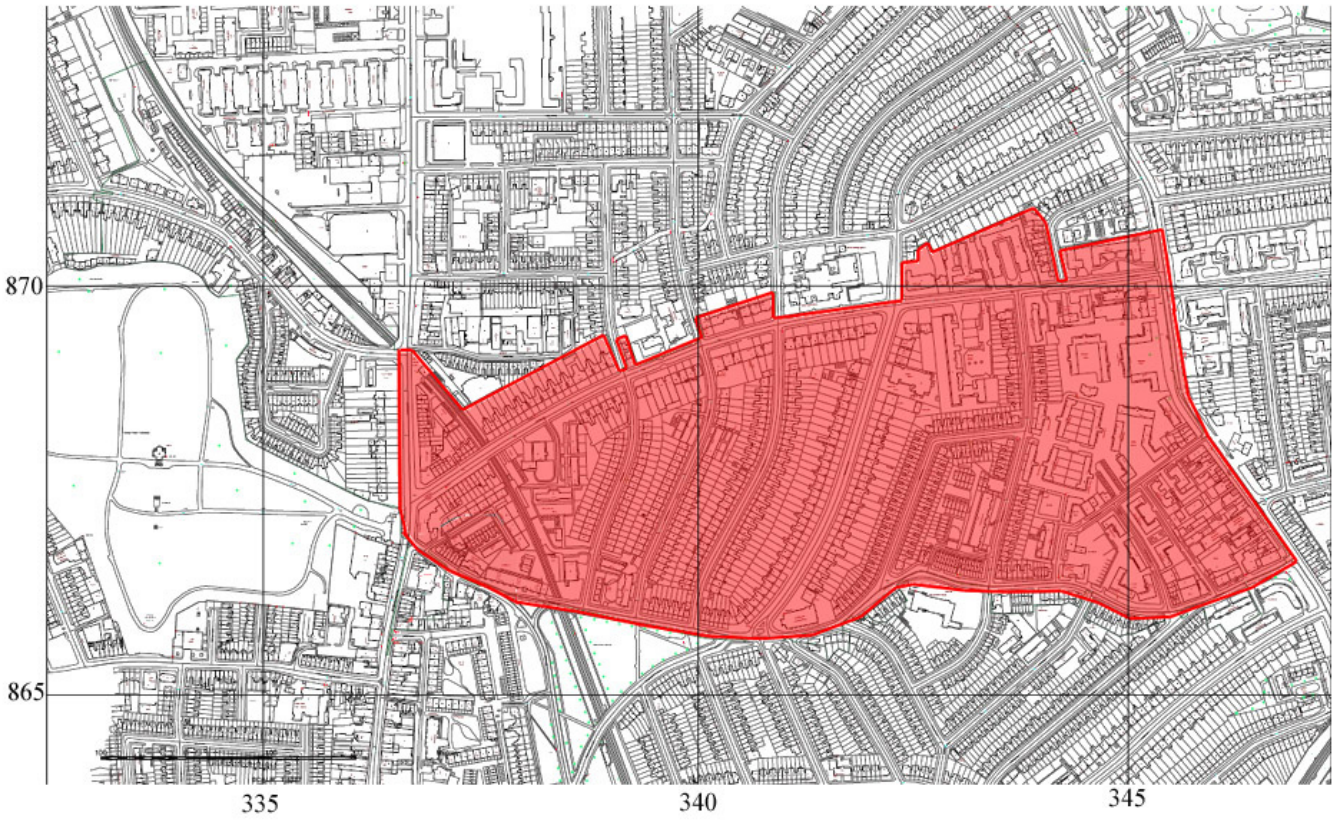

Figure 1: The study area, reproduced from plans provided by Thames Water Utilities Ltd, and based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

1.4 The archaeological programme was commissioned by Arabella Bramley, Ecology and Conservation Advisor, Thames Water Utilities Limited. Assistance during the project was also given by representatives of the main contractor, Clancy Docwra.

2. Site Location and Geology

2.1 The archaeological fieldwork covered an area with overall dimensions of some 600m north-south by 1,000m east-west (Figure 1 approx. centred at NGR TQ 3420 8655). In general terms, the land in this area slopes towards the southwest, Northwold Road being at a level of c. 24.0m to 20.5m OD and Cazenove Road 29m to 24m OD (both taken east-west).

2.2 The British Geological Survey (1994, *North London. Sheet 256*) indicates that in this area the majority of the site is defined as Langley Silt, or 'brickearth', whereas the southern edge of the site along Northwold Road, on an east-west axis, is Hackney Gravel.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Significant Palaeolithic deposits have been found at several locations within the water mains replacement area. An important assemblage of Palaeolithic stone artefacts was found south of Cazenove Road, between Alkham and Kyverdale Road. Excavations in 1894 revealed a Palaeolithic land surface and deposits of 'brickearth' and gravel (Smith, 1894): these deposits were penetrated during the construction of houses in the late 19th century. The alleged Palaeolithic floor that was exposed during these investigations has been anticipated in more recent excavations in the vicinity, although it has not been found. (Green and Bishop, forthcoming).

More recent excavations have been informative in terms of the sedimentary sequence in the area. Excavations in Northwold Road in 1981 revealed gravel and sand at the base of the sequence, which was concluded to have been the result of accumulation due the action of a stream on the site, in a cold, possibly periglacial, climate (Harding and Gibbard, 1984). Archaeologically sterile clayey silt was identified as overlying the gravel and sand surface, suggesting that the layer was deposited over a short period of time.

In excavations in 1981 two distinct flint industries were found overlying the clayey silt layer; a Lower Palaeolithic industry below 19.0m OD and a later Mesolithic industry. The Mesolithic finds were distributed in a fashion which dipped slightly to the north, between 19.10 and 19.30m OD. The random distribution of the artefacts and the presence of some heavily rolled and sorted flint flakes suggests a degree of derivation, possibly from the Stoke Newington Sands to the north, which outcrop just north of Northwold Road and with which Smith's Palaeolithic floor is associated (Harding and Gibbard, 1984). If the derivation of the Lower Palaeolithic assemblage is indeed from the same source as Smith's, although it does not represent a single episode or site of knapping, it can still be regarded as a single technological tradition (*ibid*).

Despite the evidence for re-deposited finds, some refitting of flint flakes has been achieved with flints recovered by Smith, suggesting *in situ* deposition. Thus it is possible that towards the north of the site, between Alkham and Kyverdale Road, there is at least a partially intact 'Palaeolithic floor'. The deposits uncovered during the 1981 excavation at Northwold Road may be

derived from the north, although more information regarding the nature of the sedimentary sequence in the area between Northwold Road and Cazenove Road to the north would inform this interpretation further.

The course of the Hackney Brook also falls within the southwestern part of the site area, flowing in the west through the modern Abney Park Cemetery, following Northwold Road and then coursing south just past the junction of Northwold Road and Fountayne Road. Northwold Road is now within the area of the floodplain of the Hackney Brook and the earlier deposits would have been subject to periodical water action (Harding and Gibbard, 1984), which may explain the early archaeologically sterile deposits and the rolled nature of some of the stone artefacts.

If primary Palaeolithic deposits are present in Stoke Newington it is likely they will be found within a 500m radius of the site of the former Hackney Brook, at the point of Northwold Road and Fountayne Road. (Green and Bishop, forthcoming) This includes practically the entire area defined in Fig. 1, with the exception of the westernmost side (Park Manor Road).

3.2 Much of the level data for the study area has had to be inferred, especially from the 19th century excavations. Smith's Palaeolithic floor is believed to be at 21.6m OD at Fountayne Road, and from 26.4m OD to 20.7m OD elsewhere. The ground apparently has considerable local relief (Green and Bishop, forthcoming) although it is lower towards the south. The 1981 excavations revealed flint industries at *c.*19.0m OD, although the conclusions reached in the post-excavation report suggest that many of the finds were re-deposited from the Stoke Newington Sands, at a higher level towards the north, but still within the study area. (Harding and Gibbard, 1984).

3.3 Stoke Newington was relatively undeveloped until a programme of intensive house construction began in the 1860s. It was this programme of urbanisation which allowed Smith to observe what he interpreted as a 'Palaeolithic floor' at various sites in Stoke Newington and the surrounding area. Rocque's 1746 map of Stoke Newington shows very little development of the area north of Northwold Road. The course of the Hackney Brook is shown, as it is on Stanford's *Library Map* (1862).

At the time of the survey of Stanford's 1862 map there was very little development within the study area, with just a few buildings on the east side of Stamford Hill and a small complex of buildings towards the centre of the study site. Therefore, intensive development of the area occurred from the 1860s onwards. At this time Victorian houses usually had extensive basements. It is likely that any construction destroyed any evidence of possible Palaeolithic deposits in the area, although there is considerable potential for remains to be recovered in the roadways, where possible truncation due to earlier development is negligible.

4. Archaeological Research Questions

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- Is there any evidence of Palaeolithic deposits, either *in situ* or residual?
- How does any evidence of Palaeolithic deposits relate to the 'Palaeolithic floor' described by Smith in 1894?
- What is the nature of the sedimentary sequence on the site and how do the deposits to the north of the site differ from those to the south?
- What evidence is there post-medieval development, and how does this relate to the 18th century and later map evidence?

5. The Archaeological Programme

5.1 Standards

The field and post-excavation work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (in particular, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork, Guidance Paper 3*). Works also conformed to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full Member of the Institute.

The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used were directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

5.2 Specialist support

ArchaeoScape, based at the Department of Geography at the Royal Holloway University of London, provided their Palaeolithic specialist, Dr Chris Green, for consultation and advice, although in the event no significant remains were encountered.

5.3 Fieldwork

5.3.1 Attendance

The archaeological watching brief took place during contractors' groundworks, and involved one archaeologist on site as required to monitor works and to investigate and record any archaeological remains. Liaison was maintained with the groundworks team to ensure a presence on site as and when necessary.

Were archaeological remains to be exposed adequate time was allowed for investigation and recording, although every effort would be made not to disrupt the contractor's programme.

The Client and English Heritage were kept advised of the progress of the fieldwork, and in particular of significant remains.

5.3.2 Methodology

Archaeological deposits and features were investigated and recorded in stratigraphic sequence, and where appropriate finds dating and environmental evidence recovered.

Archaeological deposits and features were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* context or trench sheets, and/or 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. The fieldwork record was supplemented as appropriate by photography (35mm &/or digital).

6. Post-Excavation Work

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

6.1 Finds and samples

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'*. In the event there were no significant finds or artefacts, and material was only of value in confirming the quite recent (later 19th century+) dates of the deposits and features that were exposed.

6.2 Report procedure

Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client, English Heritage, local planning authority and the local studies library.

The level of reporting has been determined by the results of the fieldwork. A short summary of the fieldwork is appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the *London Archaeologist*.

6.3 The site archive

The records from the archaeological project will be ordered in line with MoL *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under the site code PSN06.

7. The Archaeological Watching Brief

Archaeological monitoring in the area of Cazenove Road and Northwold Road consisted of regular visits by one or more archaeologists to observe and record open groundworks. The level of recording was determined by the nature of the exposed ground, and as the majority of trenches and pits were negative for archaeological material a simplified recording method was employed. Every isolated excavation was recorded under a set of required elements on a 'Trench Record Sheet' and supplemented with sketch location plans and photography. The standard recorded elements constituted length, width and depth of excavations (in metres), location, orientation, brief description and dimensions of exposed deposits, and methods/conditions. Where appropriate photographs were taken with an appropriately sized scale, and in general covered a section shot, overall trench shot and where possible a wider location shot.

A single site code PSN06 was used to cover all archaeological monitoring within the designated area (as defined in Figure 1 above).

7.1 Streets within the monitored study area

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief. Due to the nature of archaeological monitoring and recording, the results will be presented as a brief summary of specific areas (defined by individual roads within the study area as shown in Figure 1). The specific streets/roads to be discussed are as follows:

Street Name	Location/Orientation	Approx. linear distance of pits/ trenching
Stamford Hill	Major north-south road bounding study area to west.	140m
Cazenove Road	East-west road bounding study area to north.	332m
Northwold Road	East-west road bounding study area to south.	90m
Alkham Road	North-south road between Cazenove and Northwold Roads.	61m
Kyverdale Road	North-south road between Cazenove and Northwold Roads.	23m
Osbaldeston Road	North-south road between Cazenove and Northwold Roads.	82m
Fountayne Road	North-south road between Cazenove and Northwold Roads.	10m
Durlston Road	North-south and east-west stretches connecting Geldeston and Northwold Roads.	50m

Street Name	Location/Orientation	Approx. linear distance of pits/ trenching
Geldeston Road	North-south road between Cazenove and Northwold Roads.	32m
Rossington Street	Northeast-southwest road between Upper Clapton Road and Northwold Road.	9m
Upper Clapton Road	Major north-south road bounding study area to east.	5m

7.1.1 Stamford Hill

A series of open cut trenches and test pits were observed along the east and west sides of Stamford Hill, within pavement and road areas. Modern made-ground road and pavement make-up was observed in all trenches immediately below the existing ground surfaces. Make-up consisted of concrete and tarmac rubble in a silty clay matrix with occasional sand and gravel inclusions. Numerous modern services and associated backfills were observed within the trenches. Redeposited natural gravels were observed in a small section of trenching running south in the western pavement south of the Manor Road junction. A section of modern ashlar red-brick wall was observed in trenching in the eastern pavement south of Stoke Newington Station. The wall was clearly of modern construction, and probably relates to service housings beneath the pavement.

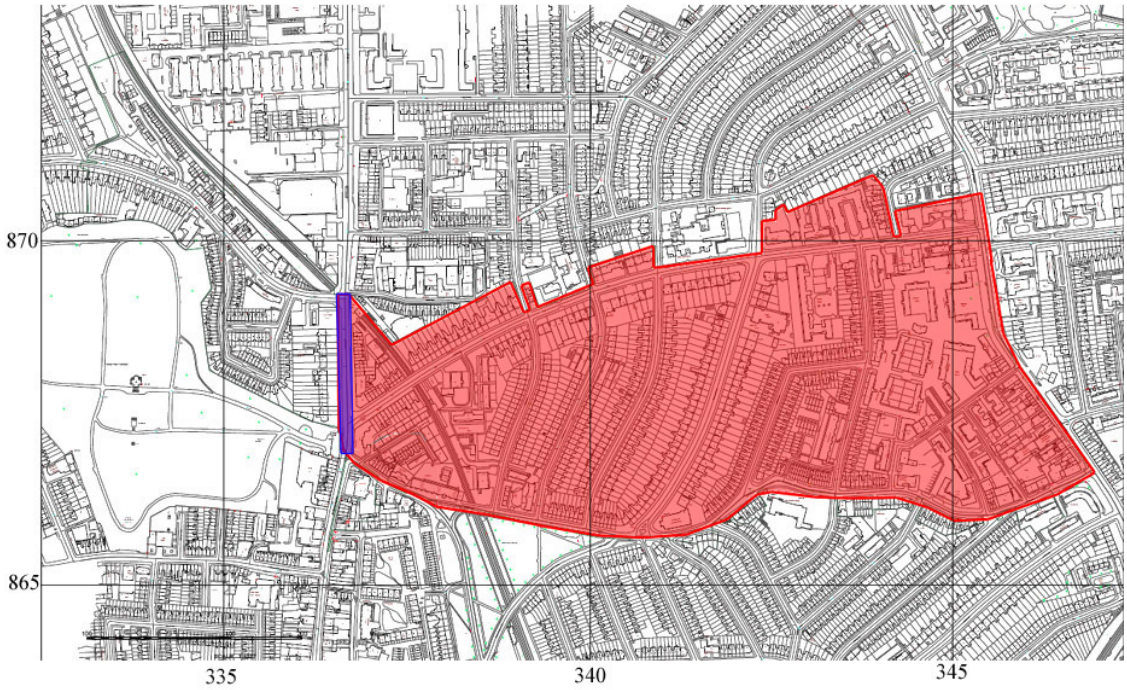

Figure 2: Location of Stamford Hill works (blue) in relation to the study area (red). Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

Figure 3: Trenching on Stamford Hill, looking south towards Cazenove Road junction.

7.1.2 Cazenove Road

Approximately 332m of linear trenching was observed along the course of Cazenove Road, including open cut trenches and test pits. The majority of trenches exposed a shallow rubble base below the existing tarmac or paved ground surface, with concrete hardcore between 100-500mm in thickness.

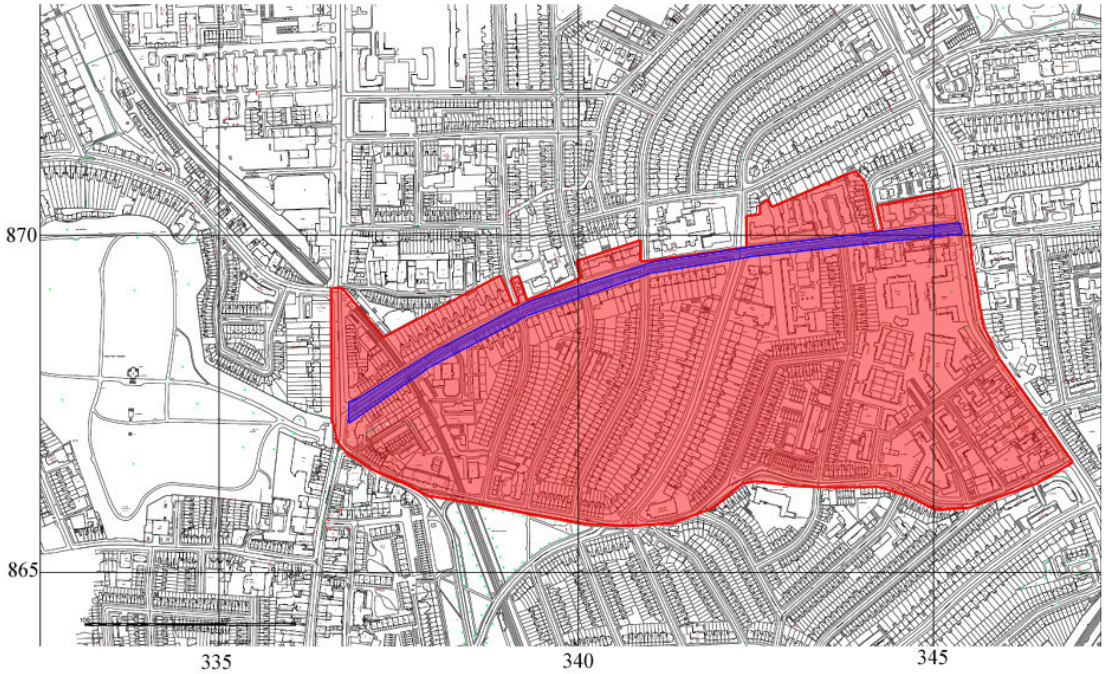

Figure 4: Location of Cazenove Road works (blue) in relation to the study area (red). Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

To the western end of Cazenove Road layers of rubble made-ground were observed below the concrete, consisting or red and yellow stock brick, pebbles and occasional ceramic inclusions within a silty matrix. These layers are probably related to the demolition of buildings in the latter part of the 19th century following the arrival of the Great Eastern Railway and the construction of more affordable houses. Natural clays and brickearths were observed in most trenches, between 0.6m and 1.2m below the existing ground levels and were truncated by made ground layers above.

Figure 5: General views of the Cazenove Road works in the vicinity of the Osbaldeston Road and Kyverdale Road junctions

Figure 6: Sample sections from Cazenove Road trenching to the west of Kyverdale Road, showing truncated natural brickearth deposits overlain by rubble made-ground and modern road make-up

Figure 7: South-facing section to the east of Gilda Crescent, near the eastern end of Cazenove Road, clearly showing modern deposits directly over natural

Figure 8: Cazenove Road west end - small pit west of Alkham Road showing natural brickearth immediately below modern road make-up

7.1.3 Northwold Road

No archaeological finds of features were observed in trenching on Northwold Road – open cut excavations exposed modern road-makeup layers overlying made-ground, modern services and backfills and truncated natural deposits. Trenches on the north side of Northwold Road generally exposed similar brickearth and silty clay deposits as those exposed in trenching within the roads to the north; however, trenching further south exposed Hackney Gravel levels between 0.8m and 1.2m below the existing ground level. Again, these deposits appeared to be truncated, in come cases severely, by services and made-ground layers above. There was no evidence for deposits relating to the Hackney Brook.

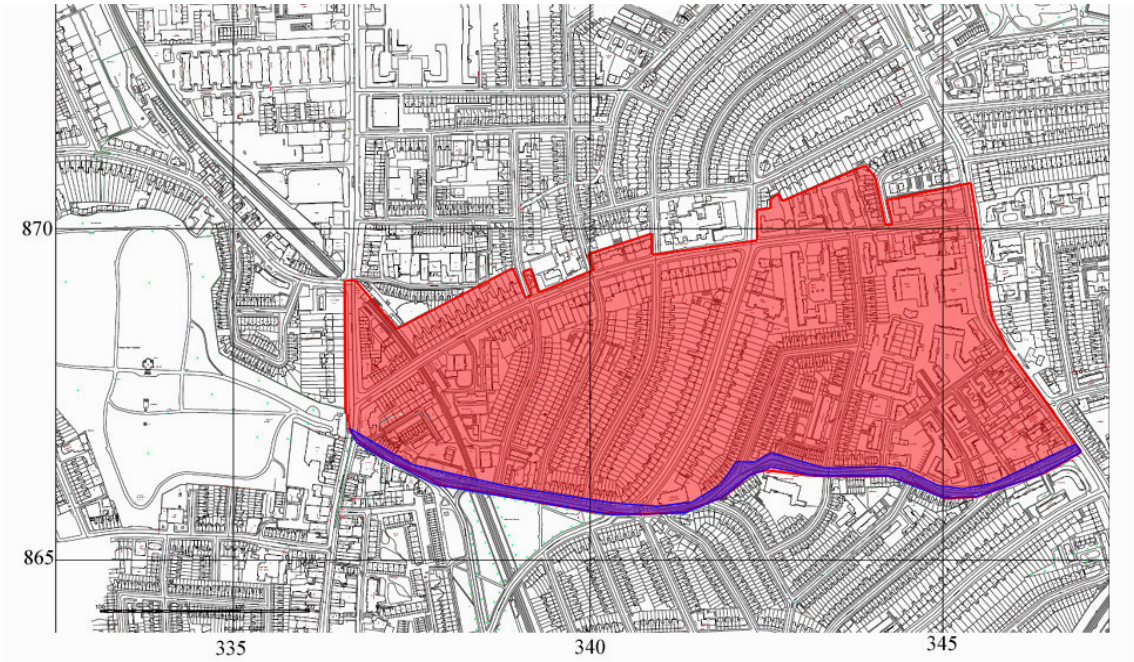

Figure 9: Location of Northwold Road works (blue) in relation to the study area (red). Based on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

Figure 10: Northwald Road: trenching between Fountayne and Durlston Road junctions

Figure 11: Trenching on Northwald Road, east of Kyverdale Road (top left) and east of Durlston Road. Sections show modern road-makeup layers overlying truncated natural deposits of silty clay and Hackney Gravels.

7.1.4 Alkham Road

Over 60m of trenching was observed along the north-south course of Alkham Road. A similar sequence of tarmac, rubble make-up, services, backfills and truncated natural deposits was observed in most trenches. There were also occasional sherds of post-medieval (*c* 19th century) pottery. Smaller pits at the north end of Alkham Road, just south of the junction with Cazenove Road, revealed a more interesting sequence of deposits (Fig 9).

Natural deposits exposed at the base of the trench were overlain by an apparent buried soil-horizon (consisting of topsoil and subsoil), which was sealed by a yellowish sandy clay deposit. This latter deposit may represent hill-wash, or possibly dumping of redeposited natural. This deposit was then overlain by a series of gravel and rubble ground-makeup layers below the existing tarmac

ground-surface and shallow concrete base. The potential buried soil horizon contained fragments of ceramic building material (brick) and coal, and may well relate to the period of occupation prior to the 19th century demolition and redevelopment of the area.

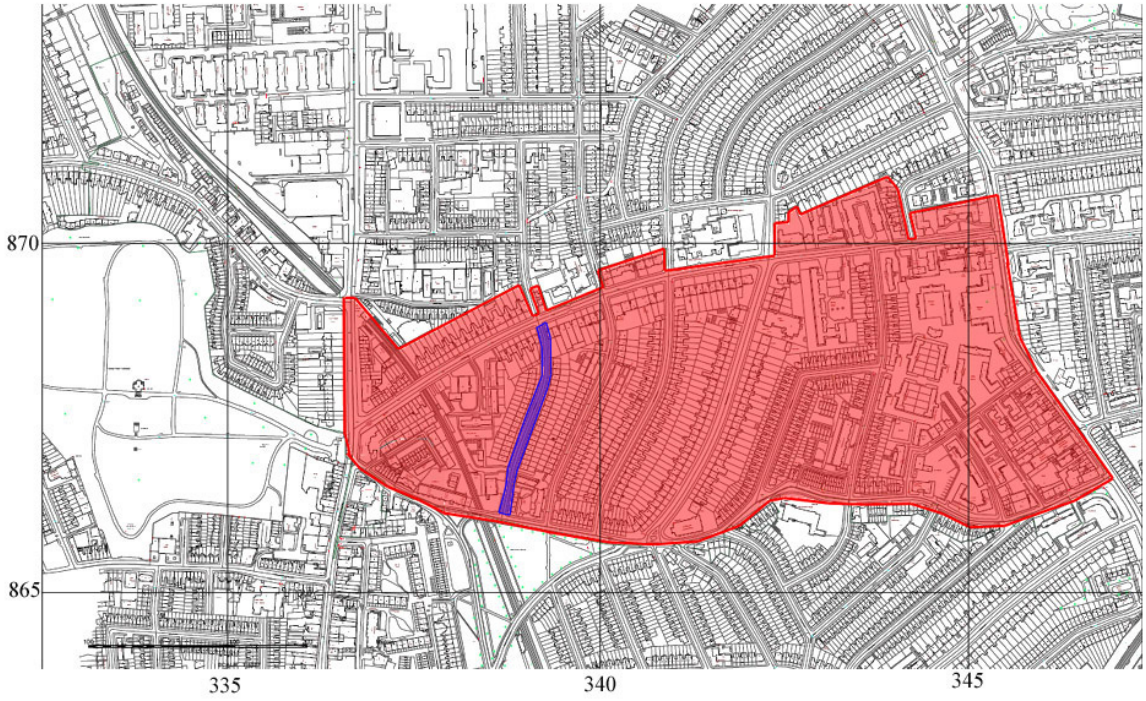

Figure 12: Location of Alkham Road works (blue) in relation to the study area (red). Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

Figure 13: Section of trenching near the northern end of Alkham Road, showing the natural silty clay with gravel and buried soil horizon overlain by modern makeup layers.

7.1.5 Kyverdale Road, Osbaldeston Road, Fountayne Road, Durlston Road, Geldeston Road, Rossington Street and Upper Clapton Road.

Open cut trenching and (more frequently) localised pitting along the above roads exposed a similar sequence of deposits – consisting largely of modern road-makeup levels beneath existing tarmac and paving, with truncated natural 'brickearth' deposits beneath. Natural was encountered between 0.6m and 1.2m beneath the existing ground surface, with rubble ground makeup an average of 0.4m in thickness. Figures 11 and 12 below show a sample of the excavations within these roads, demonstrating the general uniformity in exposed deposits.

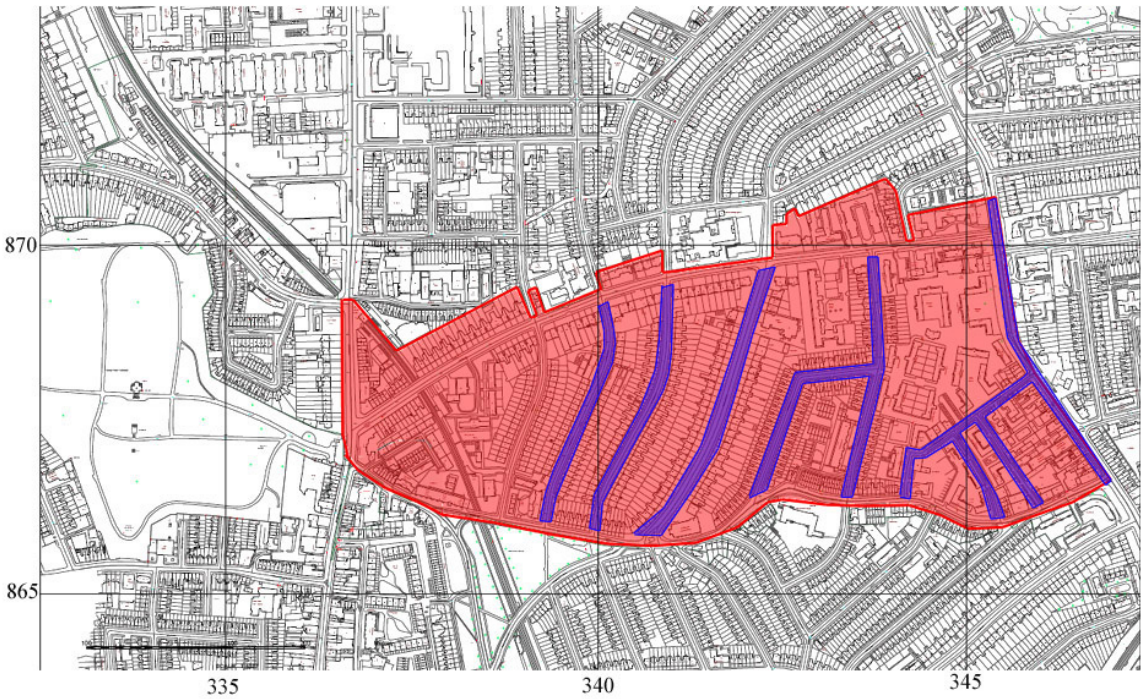

Figure 14: Location of mains replacement works (blue) in relation to the study area (red). Based on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map.

Figure 15: Trenching on Kyverdale Road, showing ground-makeup layers overlying truncated natural deposits.

Figure 16: Trenching on Durlston Road, with compacted brick rubble road base overlying truncated sterile subsoil and natural deposits.

Figure 17: Trenching on Geldeston Road, showing a similar picture to that above

7.2 Archaeological Research Questions

The fieldwork presented an opportunity to address several research questions:

- *Is there any evidence of Palaeolithic deposits, either* in situ *or residual?*

  No

- *How does any evidence of Palaeolithic deposits relate to the 'Palaeolithic floor' described by Smith in 1894?*

  No Palaeolithic deposits or finds were observed during the course of mains replacement works within the study area.

- *What is the nature of the sedimentary sequence on the site and how do the deposits to the north of the site differ from those to the south?*

  Silty clay or 'brickearth' deposits were observed in the majority of trenches across the study area. At the southern extent of the study area, in trenches along Northwold Road, orange/brown sandy gravels were exposed in places.

Occasionally the brickearth deposits also contained quantities of pebbles or gravel. Natural deposits were largely truncated by overlying ground-makeup layers, although a sterile subsoil was observed in places.

- *What evidence is there of post-medieval development, and how does this relate to the 18th century and later map evidence?*

  Layers of made-ground consisting largely of compacted brick rubble within a sandy matrix were observed in trenching along Cazenove Road, and elsewhere. Some later post-medieval pottery was also exposed in section within these deposits, most notably in trenching at the north end of Alkham Road, Fountayne Road and Geldeston Road.

  These rubble layers may well relate to post-medieval demolition 'mansions' in the locality in the latter part of the 19th century, a period in which much of the area was redeveloped in a drive to provide more affordable housing in line with the arrival of the Great Eastern Railway. Trenching at the north end of Alkham Road also exposed a possible buried soil horizon consisting of silty-soil deposits containing fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material. Again, it is likely that these deposits relate to the pre-redevelopment period in the late 19th century.

8. Summary and Conclusions

No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief in the area of Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, London Borough of Hackney. Trenching on a number of roads within the defined study area generally exposed made-ground layers and rubble road-makeup dating to the later 19th century, and overlying truncated sterile/natural deposits.

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Harding, P. and Gibbard, P. (1984) Excavations at Northwold Road, Stoke Newington, north-east London, 1981 *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, **34**, 1-18

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LAARC Catalogue of archaeological sites

Smith, W.G. (1894) Man, the Primaeval Savage: his haunts and relics from the hilltops of Bedfordshire to Blackwall. Stanford, London

Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: compassa1-35294

Project details

Project name	Thames Water Utilities Ltd Water Mains Replacement Works: Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, London Borough of Hackney
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief on water mains replacement works within the area of Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, London Borough of Hackney. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 22-11-2006 End: 27-09-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PSN06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY STOKE NEWINGTON Cazenove Road and Northwold Road Area.
Postcode	E 5 & N16
Study area	25 Ha.
Site coordinates	TQ 3400 8655 51.5613960551 -0.06665031164950 51 33 41 N 000 03 59 W Point
Height OD	Min: 21.40m Max: 24.80m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water Utilities

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London archive
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archive
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Thames Water Utilities Ltd. Water Mains Replacement Works: Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, London Borough of Hackney
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Compass Archaeology 5-7 Southwark Street, London.

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	5 December 2007

Appendix II: London Archaeologist Summary

Site Address:	Cazenove Road and Northwald Road Area, E5 & N16, London Borough of Hackney.
Project type:	Watching brief.
Dates of Fieldwork:	22nd November 2006 to 27th September 2007.
Site Code:	PSN06
Supervisor:	Geoff Potter
NGR:	TQ 3420 8655
Funding Body:	Thames Water Utilities Ltd

An archaeological watching brief on Thames Water Victorian Mains Replacement Works exposed no significant archaeological finds or features. Deposits consisted mainly of modern ground-makeup and road levels overlying truncated natural levels. A buried soil horizon was observed in Alkham Road, probably closely predating 19th century development. Brick rubble layers relating to this redevelopment were exposed in streets particularly to the north of the study area.

Natural deposits consisted of silty-clay 'brickearth' across the majority of the area, with Hackney Gravels exposed to the south along Northwold Road.