

**IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT CLAPTON COMMON,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY,
E5 9AL**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



July 2019

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TQ ref: 34130 87700 (centre)

Site Code: CCM19

July 2019

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Abstract

Between the 9th and 11th July 2019 Compass Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at the north-eastern edge of Clapton Common, London Borough of Hackney E5 9AL. The work was commissioned by the London Borough of Hackney due to the site's location within an Archaeological Priority Area and proximity to a Roman road, Ermine Street, and possible Roman burials found in Springfield Park.

The watching brief monitored the completion of a single T-shaped trench, excavated to accommodate the installation of two new tree beds and a footpath. The trench was located at the north-eastern edge of Clapton Common, adjacent to Belz Terrace. The completed trench measured a total of 63m in length x 2-13m in width x 0.1-0.52m in depth (c. +29.74 to +29.32m OD).

The works exposed several layers of made ground, dating to the mid-19th century. Within these layers were several residual finds, including fragments of ceramic building material, pottery, shell, animal bone, clay tobacco pipe and glass. The finds mostly dated to the late post-medieval and modern period, with some Roman and medieval pottery fragments also recovered. The made ground layers were likely to have been dumped on the Common from elsewhere, presumably after the upper part of the original soil profile was stripped off.

No significant archaeological features were encountered, with stratigraphy comprising the upper tarmac/grass layers over made ground deposits present between depths of 0.02m to 0.5m (c. +29.82 to +28.97m OD). Natural geology was not reached.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a summary of the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the north-eastern edge of Clapton Common, London Borough of Hackney E5 9AL (fig.1). The work took place between the 9th and 11th July 2019.

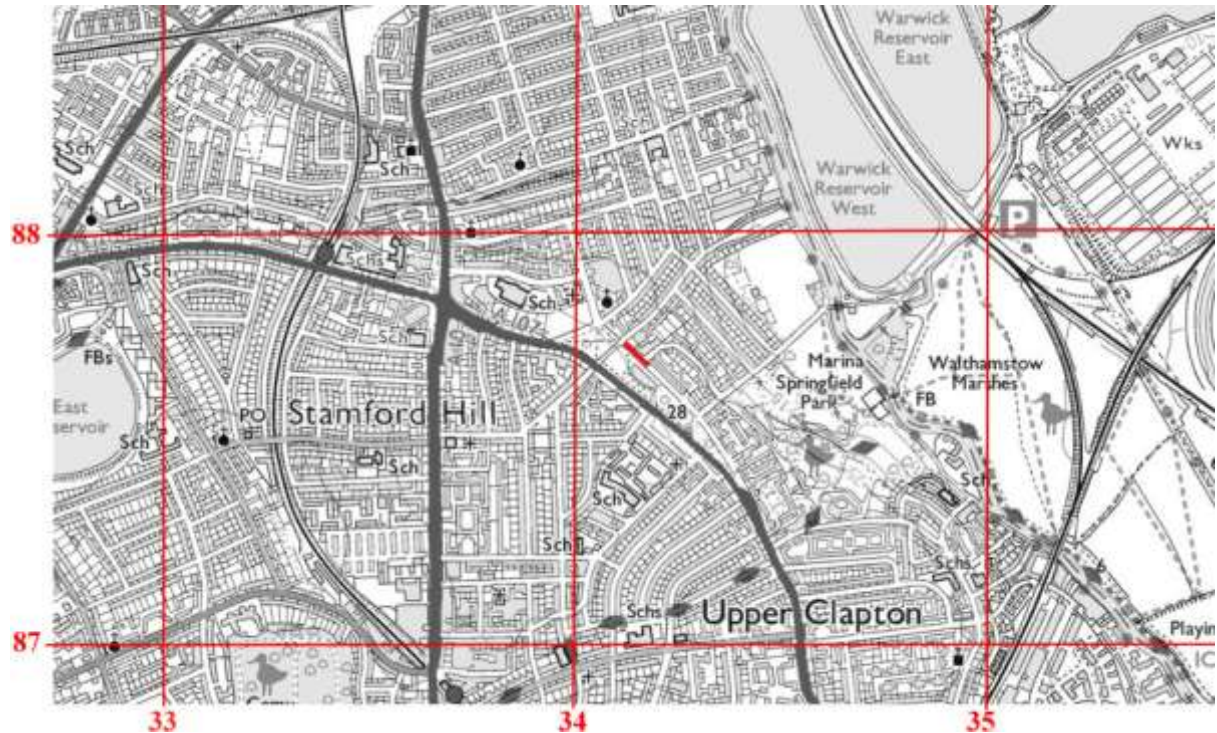


Figure 1: Site location marked in red.

- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned by Polycarp Tengwana, Senior Engineer, Public Realm Directorate for London Borough of Hackney, due to the site's location within a historically significant landscape.
- 1.3 The site is located within the Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area (APA) 2.6 *Springfield Park and Clapton Common* as designated by the *London Borough of Hackney* (fig.2).
- 1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised a watching brief to monitor the completion of groundworks associated with the installation of two tree beds and a footpath. This comprised a single irregular trench dug to accommodate the new tree beds and footpath.

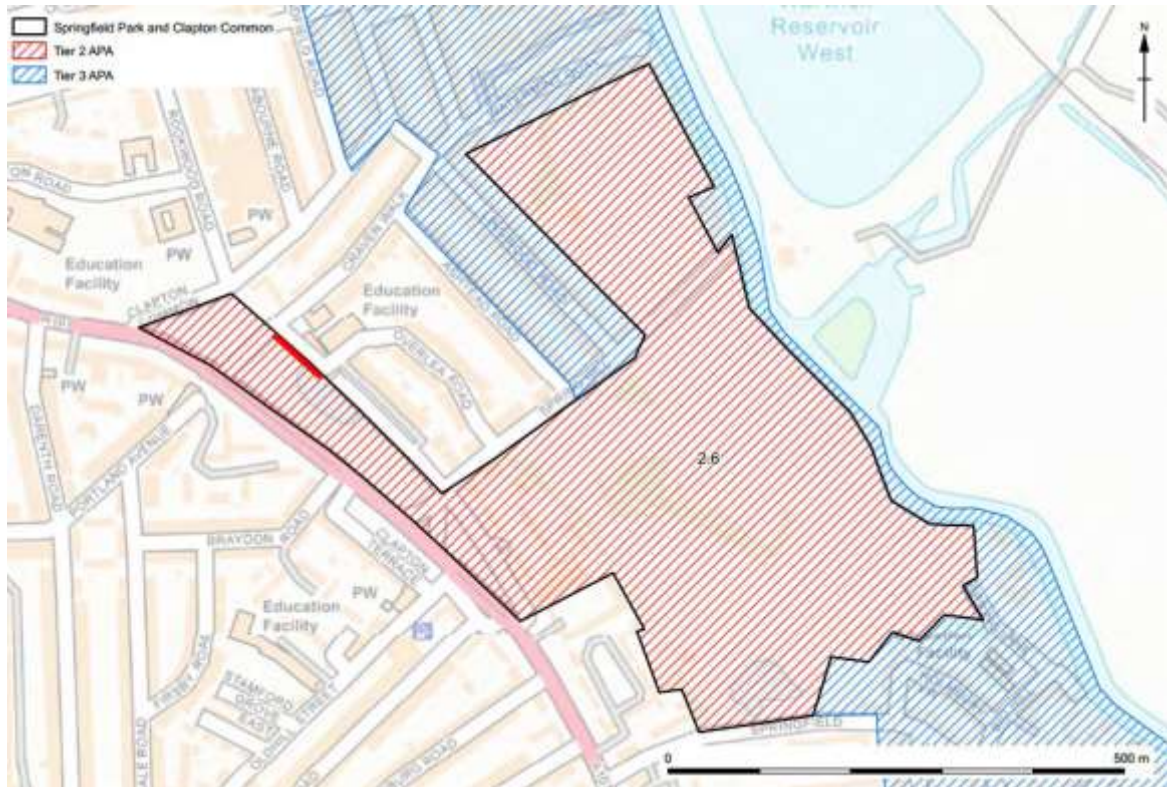


Figure 2: Site location (red) in relation to the Springfield Park and Clapton Common Archaeological Priority Area (red diagonal stripe).

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2.1 Compass Archaeology would like to thank the London Borough of Hackney for commissioning Compass to undertake the archaeological watching brief and also thanks to Polycarp Tengwana, Enda O’Conner and Volker Highways for ensuring support and accessibility on site.

3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The groundworks were located at the north-east side of Clapton Common. The work area was bounded to the north by Belz Terrace and the Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadass School, the west by Craven Walk, the east by Overlea Road and Clapton Common Road, and Clapton Common surrounded the south and west boundaries of the site, including a pond with a fountain and a National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC building.

- 3.2 According to the British Geological survey (Sheet 256: *North London*) the site lies on Langley Silt bordering an expanse of London Clay to the west, north and east (fig.3). Taplow Gravel is present on the other side of the River Lea, which is overlain by Alluvium. South of the site, the ground level rises and Hackney Gravel and Kempton Park Gravel are present.

3.3 The site sits on a gradual north-west to south-east slope, ranging from 29.84m OD at the junction of Clapton Common Road, Craven Walk and Belz Terrace, and 29.47m OD at the junction of Overlea Road, Clapton Common road and Belz Terrace.

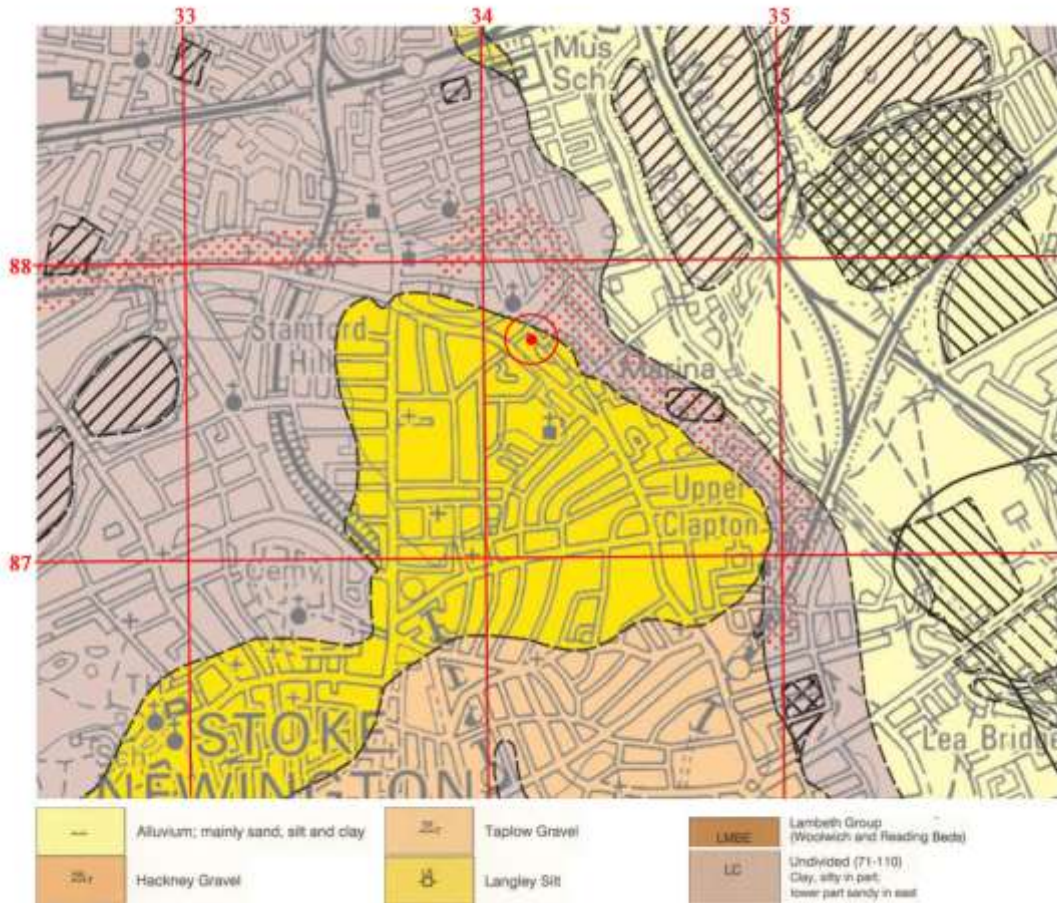


Figure 3: Extract from the BGS (1993) with site location marked in red.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background of the site was discussed at length in the preceding Written Scheme of Investigation (Compass Archaeology, June 2019) so shall not be reproduced. Included here is a summary of the major historical periods with reference to specific Greater London Historic Environment Records (GLHER) and cartographic sources.

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 Throughout the prehistoric period the north-eastern part of the *Springfield Park and Clapton Common* APA and the River Lea APA would have been low-lying wetland which had intermittent periods of flooding by the river. This is demonstrated by an evaluation conducted in 2007 north-east of the study site, which indicated that the area was a low-lying marshland with the presence of alluvial clays (MoLA). The south of the APA would have been higher ground, comprising grassland (Biddulph 2017: 30).

4.1.2 South-east of the study site, evidence of a Palaeolithic land surface was recorded c.2m below present ground level in 2000 (MoLA). Similarly, south-west of the study site, a large Palaeolithic floor was found in the early 1880's in Stoke Newington, which was interpreted as an undisturbed flint scatter on a land surface and sealed by brickearth. Palaeolithic tools were reportedly found on the west side of Clapton Common in the late 1880's, in a deposit of brickearth. Additionally, two Palaeolithic handaxes were recovered south of the study site, close to Clapton Terrace. Much of the material is likely to be associated with hunting and gathering, rather than the practicing of a particular industry. Settlement during the period was relatively ephemeral, conducted on a seasonal basis, and as such left little trace in the archaeological record in the immediate vicinity of the study site.

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 Following the successful Claudian invasion in AD43, a fortified settlement was established at *Londinium* surrounded by a civilian settlement, connected to other prominent towns via an extensive road network. Ermine Street ran from Bishopsgate (*Londinium*), through Stoke Newington to Royston, which is largely the present-day A10, situated west of the study site. The Roman road continued on to Lincoln (*Lindum Colonia*) and York (*Eboracum*). Ribbon developments grew along the major Roman roads leading to *Londinium*, including roadside buildings, cemeteries, kilns, quarry sites and agricultural space. Despite this, Roman finds are particularly rare in Hackney. Roman burials were recovered in 1814, near Springfield Lane, south-east of the study site. Several sarcophagi were found, with human remains inside, one of which had two skeletons in a single coffin, with pottery sherds described as rudimentary found nearby. Other evidence of Roman activity comes from 12 sherds of Samian pottery found in Springfield and Homerton, as well as a possible Roman barrow in Springfield Park.

4.2.2 In general, the evidence suggests there may have been a small-scale settlement within the vicinity of the study site, exploiting its location in proximity to the Roman road and water trade routes and connections of the River Lea. Following the withdrawal of a Roman presence in Britain in the late 4th to early 5th century, the area fell into decline.

4.3 Saxon

4.3.1 The name Hackney is thought to derive from the Old English *Haca's ey* meaning ground in marshland. Early settlement may also be indicated by *clop* (lump or hill) and tun (farm) in Clapton. This is supported by the notion that the River Lea was fast flowing with the surrounding area used for agriculture and husbandry, as evidenced by wood and pollen analysis. A 10th century Saxon logboat was recovered from the banks of the River Lea, demonstrating the use of lesser rivers in the London area.

4.4 Medieval

4.4.1 Similarly, moving into the medieval period the area is almost completely devoid of archaeological activity. The River Lea remained an important transport route during the period, transporting wares from the East Midlands to London (Sloane *et al.* 2000: 213). It is likely that the study site area comprised river meadows and open ground during the

medieval period. In 1666, Samuel Pepys described the Clapton area as a veritable Garden of Eden, a refuge from the densely populated City of London (Lafferty 2012).

4.4.2 Stamford Hill, west of the study site, is a settlement dating back to the medieval period, formerly known as *Sanford* or *Saundfordhill* in the 13th century.

4.4.3 At the southern end of Clapton Common, a house dating from the medieval to modern was recorded at 15-17 Clapton Common, which was used as a boy's school called *The Academy*.

4.5 *Post-medieval*

4.5.1 The area surrounding the study site during the early post-medieval period saw little change since the medieval period, with small ribbon settlements connected by a network of roads, land divided into plots, marshland and the River Lea. Clapton Common formed part of Broad Common, which was much larger than the present-day common (fig. 4). Rocque's map demonstrates that the route of the Roman Road, running north to south situated west of the study site, was in use in during the post-medieval period, possibly continuing from the Roman period. The area was characterised by large Georgian properties, such as Clapton Terrace situated on the west side of the common which is formed of Grade II Listed 3- and 4-storey houses.

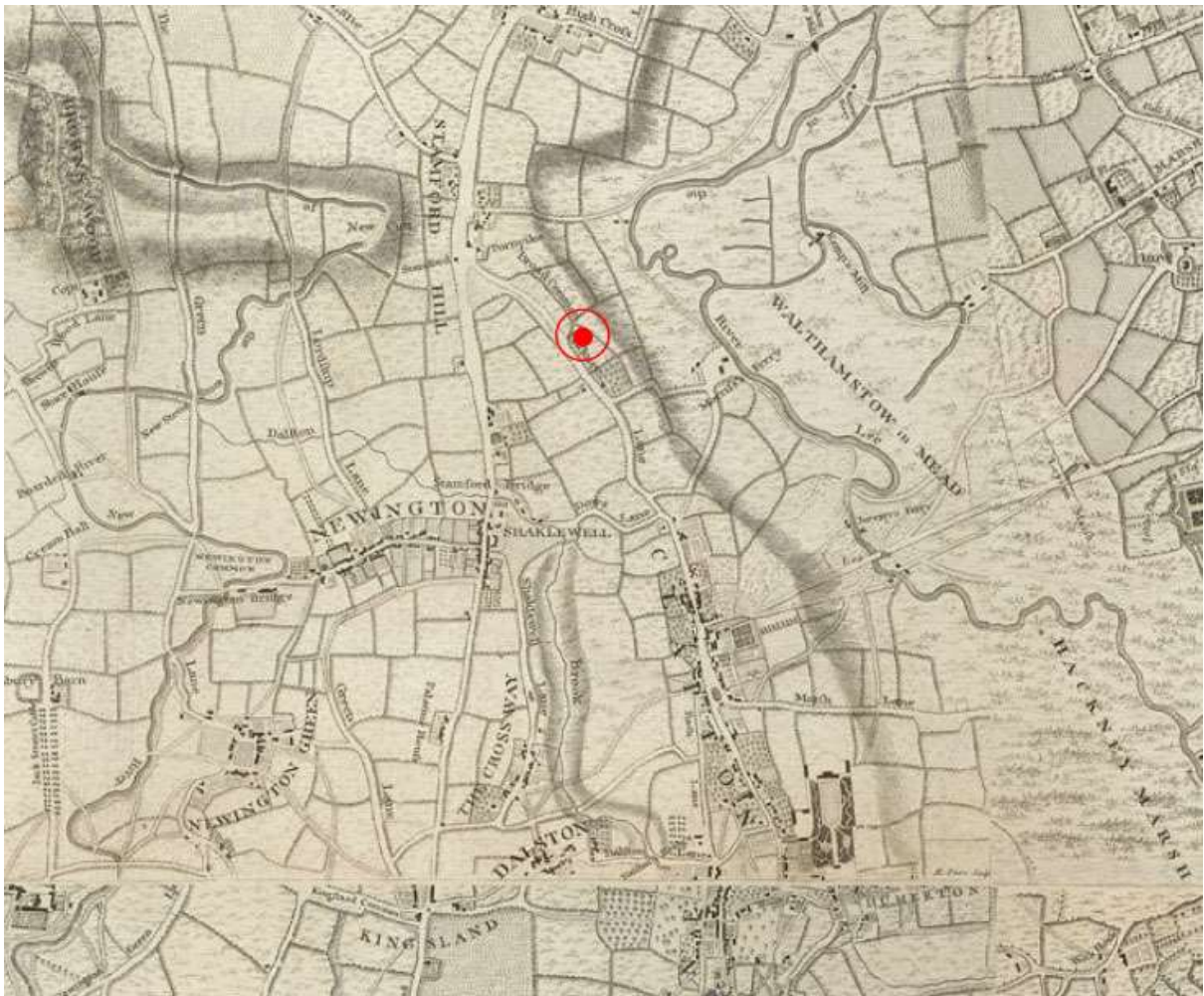


Figure 4: Extract from Rocque's map (1746), with approximate site location marked in red.

4.5.2 The existing footprint of Clapton Common was created by 1831, with the extant pond shown on Starling's map (fig. 5). North of the study site was a 70 acre estate belonging to John Craven, which included Craven Lodge and a pond (Baker 1995).

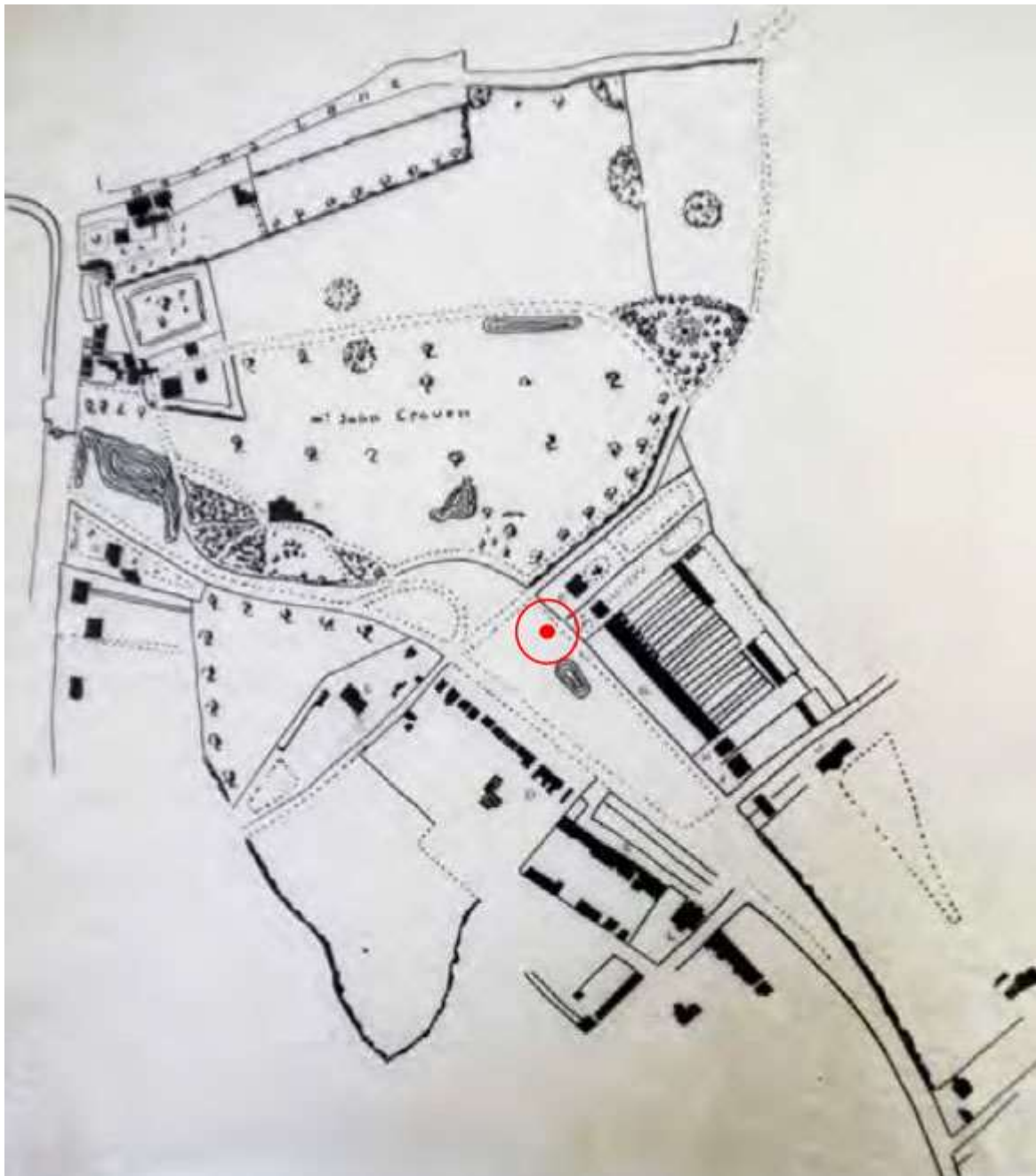


Figure 5: Extract from Starling's map (1831), with site location marked in red.

4.5.3 Clapton Common was acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1872, changing from grazing land to a park. By 1872 trees had been planted along parts of Clapton Common's boundary, including the location of the study site (fig. 6). The pond within the common appears to have been enlarged since 1831 and several pathways had been created through the common.



Figure 6: Extract from the Clapton Common map by the Metropolitan Commons Supplemental Act (1872), with site marked in red.

4.5.4 Towards the end of the 19th century, the wider area surrounding Clapton Common was formed of residential, industrial and commercial development (fig. 7). The areas along the main roads Stamford Hill and Clapton Common appear to have been the focus of development, with areas further afield retaining an open landscape of agricultural land.



Figure 7: Extract from OS Six-inch map (1973), with site marked in red.

4.5.5 The introduction of railway lines at Stamford Hill and Clapton during the 1870s drove the area's population to increase, with the large houses and open fields beginning to give way to development of mass housing for the middle class (fig. 8).



Figure 8: Extract from OS five-foot-to-the-mile map (1995), with site marked in red.

5 PLANNING AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The groundworks entailed the completion of a single trench located along the north-eastern boundary of Clapton Common (fig.9). The main trench measured 63m in length (north-west to south-east) x 4m in width at the north-west end and 2m in width at the south-east end. The north-west part of the trench was 24m in length and was divided into two sections running the length of this part, each 2m in width, with the south-west section measuring 0.28m in depth (c. +29.56m OD) and the north-east section 0.52m in depth (c. +29.34m OD). The south-east part of the trench measured 32m in length and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m (c. +29.04m OD). A square area along the centre of the south-west side was also opened up, measuring 9m x 6m x 0.1m in depth with the south-east and north-east borders to a depth of 0.3m.



Figure 9: The completed trench (red).

- 5.2 The excavation works were undertaken via mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- 5.3 The work followed the standards set out in the current *London Plan* (2016 and currently in draft), Chapter Seven: London’s Living Spaces and Places which states that new developments are expected to align with the following procedures:

Historic Environment and Landscapes

Policy 7.8 *Heritage assets and archaeology*

Strategic

- A** *London’s heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.*
- B** *Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site’s archaeology.*

Planning decisions

- C** *Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.*
- D** *Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural design.*

E *New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes, and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.*

LDF Preparation

F *Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.*

G *Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.*

5.4 In addition to the policy outlined above, the London Borough of Hackney has its own, additional policies concerning archaeological remains and other heritage assets, laid out within its *Local Plan LP33* (submitted November 2018). Of particular relevance here are policies *LP3*, *LP4* and *LP6* (Chapter Five: Protecting and Enhancing Heritage and Leading the way in Good Urban Design) laid out in part below:

LP3 – Designated Heritage Assets

E. Conservation Areas

i. Development proposals affecting Conservation Areas or their settings will be permitted only where they preserve and enhance the established, positive characteristics of the area including the special local character of individual buildings and groups of buildings (in terms of height, massing, scale, form, design, materials, detailing and use) and the rhythms and historical form of the area (in terms of the spaces between buildings, density, settings, building lines, siting, pattern of development, urban grain and plot coverage).

LP4 – Non Designated Heritage Assets

A. Development proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets should conserve, reveal and enhance the significance of the assets and their settings.

LP6 – Archaeology

A. All new development must protect, enhance and promote archaeological heritage (both above and below ground). The interpretation and presentation of archaeological heritage to the public will be encouraged. Proposals that would adversely affect archaeological remains or their setting will be refused.

B. Where development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or potential significance, desk-based assessments and, where necessary, archaeological field evaluation, will be required before development proposals are determined.

B. Undesignated Heritage Assets

i. Where non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments, the Council will regard them as Designated Assets and apply the relevant national planning policies.

5.5 The fieldwork presented the opportunity to answer the following general and more specific research questions:

- Is there any surviving evidence of the early Prehistoric utilisation of the area? If so, what form does it take?
- Is there any surviving evidence of Roman utilisation of the area? If so, could it advance our understanding of how the Roman road – Ermine Street and the burials recovered from Springfield Park could be related?
- Are there any finds, features or stratigraphy dating to the Saxon-medieval period?
- Are there any remains of the 18th – 19th century development around Clapton Common?
- At what level and in what condition does archaeology survive across the site as a whole?
- If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Standards

6.1.1 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 also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief 2015*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.

6.1.2 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 wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, etc., as required. All members of the fieldwork team also followed the contractors' health and safety guidelines.

6.1.3 The Client, London Borough of Hackney were kept informed of the progress of fieldwork and any finds recovered.

6.2 Fieldwork

- 6.2.1** The archaeological watching brief took place during the groundworks associated with the installation two tree beds and a new footpath along the north-east boundary of Clapton Common with Belz Terrace.
- 6.2.2** The work was undertaken on the 9th and 11th July 2019, under archaeological supervision.
- 6.2.3** 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 archaeological features or deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark, a spot height noted on Topographic Survey Plans *Clapton Common*, at 29.84m OD to 29.47m OD. The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography, in .jpeg and RAW formats.
- 6.2.4** The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual. By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used are directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

6.3 Post-excavation

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

6.3.1 Finds and samples

- 6.3.1.1** Assessment of finds was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff (see Appendices II-VI). Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including Cifa's '*Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*' (2014).
- 6.3.1.2** All identified finds and artefacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of ceramic building material were discarded after an appropriate record was made. Sensitive artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the appropriate Standards as stated above.

6.4 Report procedure

- 6.4.1** This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form.
- 6.4.2** Copies of this report will be supplied to the Client and Historic England.

6.4.3 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.

6.5 The site archive

Assuming that no further work is required, 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 CCM19. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum.

7 RESULTS

7.1 The following forms a written description of observations made during the watching brief. The works are discussed in chronological order, covering the phase 1 (north-west part) and phase 2 (central and south-east part). Deposits are shown as (x), cuts and structures as [x]. The text is supplemented with illustrative photographs. For a full context list refer to Appendix I.

7.2 The trench was located at the north-eastern edge of Clapton Common, adjacent to Belz Terrace. The completed trench was T-shaped in plan, measuring a total of 63m in length x 2-13m in width x 0.1-0.52m in depth (c. +29.74 to +29.32m OD) (fig. 10).

7.3 The north-west part of the trench, excavating during phase 1 of the works, measured 4m wide, with 2m width along the south-west side excavated to a depth of 170-280mm (c. +29.46 to +29.56m OD). From the terminus of the north-west end of the trench for a length of 24m and width of 2m from the north-east side, a slot was excavated to a depth of 500mm from the grass ground level (c. +29.34m OD).



Figure 10: Working shot of the north-west part of the trench. Facing SE. No scale.

7.4 The stratigraphy of the north-west part of the trench comprised 20-100mm of upper grass and pavement make up layers, including turf on the south-west side and tarmac on the north-east side (1) (fig.11). Below the upper layer was a dark greyish brown made ground layer which had varying thicknesses along the length of this part of the trench, from 310mm to 400mm and 500mm+ in places (2). There was a mixture of inclusions within this layer including moderate roots and gravels and several finds including glass, ceramic building material (CBM), pottery, bone, shell, clay tobacco pipe, and a whetstone. The CBM included post-medieval bricks and a possible floor tile as well as medieval to post-medieval peg tiles (see Appendix II for more detail). The pottery from this layer was post-medieval and was mostly utilitarian earthenware (see Appendix III for more detail). Part of a Roman amphora handle was also recovered, which is of Dressel 20 group (see Appendix IV for more detail). Other finds from within context (2) included seven partial clay tobacco pipe stems, six shells, 6 fragments of animal bone, two pieces of glassware and a whetstone (see Appendices V-VI for more detail).

Context (2) was overlying a deposit of made ground comprising light yellowish brown compact sand, which occurred at varying levels (3). This context also contained a mixture of inclusions including moderate roots and occasional gravels. Finds from this layer included CBM, pottery, glass, shell, bone and clay tobacco pipe. The CBM included post-medieval bricks, peg tile, pantile, pipe and possible firebrick and medieval to post-medieval peg tiles and ridge tiles (see Appendix II for more detail). The pottery from this layer was varied, including two medieval sherds of Coarse Border Ware and Mill Green Ware, as well as several sherds of post-medieval and modern

pottery (see Appendix III for more detail). Context (3) also included one clay tobacco pipe fragment, four shells, one fragment of glass and 4 fragments of animal bone (see Appendices V-VI for more detail).



Figure 11: North-east facing section through the centre of the north-east part of the trench. Scale 0.5m.

- 7.5** The central part of the trench was rectangular in plan, orientated south-west to north-east, running adjacent to the National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC building (fig. 12). This part of the trench measured 9m in length x 6m in width. It was excavated to a depth of 100mm, with a 9m length x 350mm width x 300mm depth slot running along the south-eastern edge (c. +29.39m OD). This slot joined up at a right angle with a 12m long x 350mm wide x 300mm deep slot running along the south-west edge of north-western part of the trench (fig.13). The other side of this slot the central part of the trench continued for 4m to Belz Terrace at a depth of 100mm, with a tree and manhole cover present.



Figure 12: Working shot of the central part of the trench. Facing N. No scale.



Figure 13: Working shot of the central part of the trench. Facing S. No scale.

7.6 The stratigraphy of the central part of the trench comprised the pavement make up which included 60mm thick tarmac overlying a 250+mm thick loose grey gravelly sand with moderate modern CBM inclusions (1) (fig.14). The pavement make up layers overlay a made ground layer of dark greyish brown with frequent inclusions of gravels and concrete and occasional modern CBM (2). No finds or features were present in context (2) of the central part of the trench.



Figure 14: North-west facing section of the central part of the trench through the slot excavated on the south-east side, showing tarmac over made ground. Scale 0.5m.

7.7 The south-east part of the trench was 32m in length x 2m in width and of varying depths from 0.52m (c. +29.04m OD) in the north-west, 0.2m (c. +29.27m OD) in the centre where an electrical junction box was present and 0.5m towards the south-east terminus (c. +28.97m OD) (figs. 15 and 16).



Figure 15: Working shot of the south-east part of the trench. Facing NW. No scale.



Figure 16: Working shot of the south-east part of the trench. Facing SE. No scale.

7.8 The stratigraphy of the south-east part of the trench comprised layers of made ground at different depths (fig.17). Nearest the central part of the trench the stratigraphy comprised upper pavement make up including a 100mm thick layer of tarmac overlying a layer of sand with gravels which had varying thicknesses of up to 50mm (1). Below the sand was a layer of dark greyish brown made ground of varying thicknesses of around 100mm, which had inclusions of occasional roots and frequent gravels (2). Context (2) had mixture of finds within this layer including glass, CBM, pottery, animal bone, shell and clay tobacco pipe (see Appendices II-VI for more detail).

Below context (2) was a layer of compact, light orangey brown, clayey silt with frequent gravels and very occasional root inclusions, which measured 130mm thick (4). Context (4) included a fragment of post-medieval possible firebrick (see Appendix II for more detail). Pottery from context (4) consisted of post-medieval material, including a sherd of English Stoneware, two sherds of London Area Slipped Redware and a fragment of Refined White Earthenware (see Appendix III for more detail). Other finds included two partial stems of clay tobacco pipe, two fragments from glass bottles and five shell fragments (see Appendix VI for more detail).

A deposit of medium brown silty clay with occasional gravels was present below (4), which measured 120+mm, continuing beyond the base of the trench (5). Context (5) included several finds, including pottery of post-medieval date, with a large number of Transfer-printed Whiteware recovered (see Appendix III for more detail). Other finds from context (5) included three shell fragments, one animal bone fragment and three partial stems from clay tobacco pipes (see Appendices V-VI for more detail).

Towards the terminus of the south-east part of the trench, adjacent to the pond, the stratigraphy alters slightly. The stratigraphy consist of tarmac and sand comprising the pavement make up layers (1) overlying a layer of loose dark silt, measuring 100mm in thickness (6). Context (6) had frequent gravels as well as pottery, which included a fragment of a Romano-British Verulamium White Ware flagon handle and post-medieval Refined White Earthenware sherds (see Appendix IV for more detail). Other finds from context (6) included five fragments of glass bottles (see Appendix VI for more detail). Also from context (6) was a ceramic milk bottle lid, which has the remains of a metal either side to clamp it to the bottle. It has 'A. B. MANSFIELD & SONS' marked on the top of the lid, referring to the dairy of the same name, which was established in 1878 and had a premise in Stoke Newington. Underlying context (6) was a deposit of wet, orangey brown clay with frequent gravels, some relatively large, which measured 210+mm, continuing below the base of the trench (7) (fig.18).



Figure 17: North-east facing section of the south-east part of the trench, nearest the centre of the trench. Scale 0.5m.



Figure 18: Section through the north facing corner of the terminus of the south-east part of the trench. Scale 0.5m.

8 CONCLUSION

The following section refers to the original research questions set down in the WSI and compares them with the results of the watching brief.

8.1 *Is there any surviving evidence of the early Prehistoric utilisation of the area? If so, what form does it take?*

8.1.1 No evidence of early prehistoric activity or occupation was recorded during the watching brief. This is likely due to the ground level having been built up with late post-medieval made ground and the depth of groundworks being too shallow to observe any possible remains. Some of the made ground layers contained finds from multiple periods, which suggests that the layers were probably dumped on the common from elsewhere, possibly after the original soil profile was stripped.

8.2 *Is there any surviving evidence of Roman utilisation of the area? If so, could it advance our understanding of how the Roman road – Ermine Street and the burials recovered from Springfield Park could be related?*

8.2.1 No Roman features were observed during the watching brief, as detailed above this is probably due to the limited scope of the groundworks and the built up level of made ground. There were two fragments of Roman pottery recorded, including part of an amphora handle, however, these were residual finds as they were found within the made ground contexts with post-medieval to modern material. As such they are not evidence of the local Roman activity due to the possibility that they may have come from further afield.

8.3 *Are there any finds, features or stratigraphy dating to the Saxon-medieval period?*

8.3.1 No deposits predating the post-medieval to modern made ground layers were recorded, however, two residual sherds of medieval pottery were included in the made ground layer context (3).

8.4 *Are there any remains of the 18th – 19th century development around Clapton Common?*

8.4.1 There was no direct evidence of the 18th-19th century development around Clapton Common observed during the watching brief, however, residual CBM and pottery of this date were recorded within the layers of made ground.

8.5 *At what level and in what condition does archaeology survive across the site as a whole?*

8.5.1 No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief, residual finds were recorded within the made ground layers, which range in levels of c. +29.56m to +29.34m OD. Much of the CBM and some of the pottery is abraded and fragmentary.

8.6 *If encountered, what is the natural geology and at what level does it exist across the site?*

8.6.1 Natural geology was not encountered during the watching brief.

9 SOURCES

9.1 Digital Sources

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9.3 Cartographic Sources (chronological order)

Rocque, J, 1746. *Map of the County of Middlesex*.

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Reference: MBW/2495 Metropolitan Board of Works/MBW-32 – Architect's
Department: Parks and Open Spaces/MBW-32-1 - Plans

Ordnance Survey, *Middlesex XII* (surveyed 1863-1869, published 1873). Six-inch.

Ordnance Survey, *London Sheet III.67* (published 1895). Five feet to the Mile.

British Geological Survey. 1993. *Sheet 256: North London*.

APPENDIX I: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description
(1)	Upper surface of tarmac and turf, with sand below the tarmac in the south-east part of the trench
(2)	Dark greyish brown made ground below (1)
(3)	Light yellowish brown made ground of compact sand below (2)
(4)	Light orangey brown made ground of compact clayey silt below (2)
(5)	Medium brown made ground of silty clay with frequent gravels below (4)
(6)	Loose, dark silt made ground below (1)
(7)	Wet, orangey brown clay with frequent gravels below (6)

APPENDIX II: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL *by Susan Pringle*

Introduction

The following report catalogues and discusses the ceramic building material (CBM) recovered from the archaeological watching brief undertaken at Clapton Common (CCM19). The assemblage comprises a total of 20 fragments from three contexts with a total weight of 3.093kg. The assemblage comprised post-medieval material including bricks, peg tile, floor tile, firebrick, ridge tile, pantile and pipe.

Assessment methodology

All the CBM was recorded on a standard recording form, weighed and measured and brief fabric descriptions were noted. Any further comments regarding the state or any features of the fragments were also recorded. The information was collated onto an Excel database.

Discussion

The assemblage comprised brick, peg tile, pantile, ridge tile, pipe, and possible floor tile and firebrick. All the CBM was dated to the post-medieval period, with the exception of five peg tiles and a ridge tile, which were dated to the medieval/post-medieval period.

Two brick fragments, three fragments of peg tiles and one possible floor tile were recovered from context (2), with the peg tile having a medieval to post-medieval date. The majority of the CBM came from context (3), which included fragments of two bricks, six peg tiles, a ridge tile, a pantile, a pipe, and a possible fragment of firebrick and brick. Two of the peg tiles and one ridge tile was dated to the medieval to post-medieval period. One post-medieval possible firebrick came from context (4).

The CBM was typical of an urban site, with many of the individual finds being little more than fragments with few larger diagnostic examples. The material broadly dates between 1850 and 1950, with some of the material possibly dating earlier, such as the ridge tile which may date between 1500 and 1800.

The catalogue

What follows is a tabulated catalogue of the assemblage containing discussion of the recovered material by context number. Notable observations on fabric type and other condition of the material are made along with all measurable dimensions. Below is a key to abbreviations used in the table. :

A – Abraded
H – Heat-cracked
M – Mortar
Med – Medieval
PM – Post-medieval
Rd – Reduced
Ru – Ru-used
S – Sooted

All measurements are given in millimetres, (L – Length; B – Breadth; T – Thickness).

Weight is given in grams.

Context	Context CMB date	Period	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments	Fabric notes
2	1850-1950	PM	brick	1	321	86+	109	42	A	Flake. Flat surface – base missing. Sharp arrises.	3035
2	1850-1950	PM	brick	1	70	0	0	32	A, M	Small fragment thin brick. Trace mortar on base.	3047
2	1850-1950	M/PM	peg	3	192	0	0	0	A, M x2	All have circular nail-holes, tapering to base. Diameters are c.13, 16 and 17mm. Probably residual medieval.	2271
2	1850-1950	PM	floor tile?	1	20	37+	28+	10	Rd	Machine-made; compressed red fabric. Sides slightly bevelled. Floor tile?	-
3	1850-1950	PM	brick	1	821	111+	109	50	M	Unfrogged; slightly distorted half-brick, base creased. Indented margin. Lime mortar on all faces.	3039
3	1850-1950	PM	brick	1	48	0	0	30	-	Small fragment thin brick. Flat faces; sharp arrises.	3047

3	1850-1950	PM	peg	4	392	0	0	0	A, M x1	1 circular nail-hole, almost blind; diameter c.9mm	
3	1850-1950	M/PM	peg	2	217	0	0	0	A, M x1, Rd x1	1 with reduced core. 1 with parallel finger marks, vertical?	2271
3	1850-1950	PM	firebrick?	1	44	41+	38+	23	Rd, S	Corner of thin firebrick? Curved bevelled/bullnosed (?) sides. Top flat and stained red, with red colour also on sides.	Yellow fabric with coarse 'sand'.
3	1850-1950	PM	brick?	1	582	165+	129+	23	S, M	Brick/tile with flat surfaces and sharp arrises, curved out in 1 side, quadrant or semicircle? Diameter c.160mm	3047
3	1850-1950	M/PM	ridge tile	1	63	0	0	12	S	Unglazed. Late medieval or early post-medieval? Say 1500-1800.	2271
3	1850-1950	PM	pantile	1	122	0	0	16	S	-	2275
3	1850-1950	PM	pipe	1	109	53+	0	23	-	Rim of dark brown-glazed drain/sewage pipe. Glazed inside and out. Rim has parallel grooves on inner face. External diameter c.240mm	-

4	1850-1950	PM	firebrick?	1	92	61+	50+	28	Rd	Fragment reduced on exterior and interior surfaces. Machine made. External face slightly curved in 2 directions. Inner face has moulded zigzag grooves.	Fabric resembles firebrick fabrics.
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APPENDIX III: POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 98 sherds with a total weight of 1472g. It was mostly modern, but small quantities of medieval and early post-medieval material were also noted. It was recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDY:	Yellow-glazed Border Ware , 1550-1700. 1 sherd, 35g.
CBW:	Coarse Border Ware , 1270 – 1500. 1 sherd, 3g.
CHPO:	Chinese Porcelain , 1580 -1900. 1 sherd, 3g.
CREA:	Creamware , 1740-1830. 1 sherd, 42g.
DERBS:	Derby Stoneware , 1700-1900. 1 sherd, 112g.
ENGS:	English Stoneware , 1700-1900. 4 sherds, 229g.
HORT:	Horticultural Earthenwares , 19 th – 20 th century. 3 sherds, 142g.
METS:	Metropolitan-type Slipware , 1480 – 1900. 1 sherd, 68g.
MG:	Mill Green Ware , 1270 – 1350. 1 sherd, 6g.
PMR:	Post-medieval Redware , 1580 – 1900. 5 sherds, 127g.
PMR SLIP:	London Area Slipped Redware , 1800-1900. 2 sherds, 24g.
RESTG:	Glazed Red Stoneware , 1760-80. 7 sherds, 61g.
TPW:	Transfer-printed Whiteware , 1830-1900. 47 sherds, 307g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabrics is typical of sites in the region.

All the contexts produced modern pottery, so the earlier material is obviously all residual. The two medieval sherds consisted of a bodysherd from an internally glazed bowl or jar in CBW and a rim from a glazed Mill Green jug with characteristic white slip decoration (Pearce *et al* 1982). The post-medieval material was mostly utilitarian earthenwares, although the sherd of METS was from the rim of a highly-decorated plate or shallow dish which would almost certainly served as tableware. The modern wares were largely tablewares, other than fragments of stoneware jars and lids and earthenware plant-pots. This is all very typical of each period.

Bibliography

Pearce, JE, Vince AG, White R with Cunningham, C, 1982. A Dated Type Series of London Medieval Pottery Part One: Mill Green Ware *Trans London & Middlesex Archaeology Soc* **33**, 266-98

Vince, AG, 1985. The Saxon and Medieval Pottery of London: A review *Medieval Archaeology* **29**, 25-93

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	CBW		MG		BORDY		PMR		METS		DERBS		ENGS		CHPO		CREA		RESTG		PMR SLIP		HORT		REFW		TPW		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
2							2	30					1	30					6	58					1	18	7	86	M19thC	
3	1	3	1	6	1	35	3	97	1	68									1	3			2	48	2	11	3	31	M19thC	
4													1	19							2	24			1	37			19thC	
5											1	112	2	180	1	3	1	42					1	94	7	93	37	190	M19thC	
6																										12	154			19thC
Total	1	3	1	6	1	35	5	127	1	68	1	112	4	229	1	3	1	42	7	61	2	24	3	142	23	313	47	307		



Figure 19: Fragment of English Stoneware (1700-1900), recovered from context (4). 10cm scale.



Figure 20: Fragment of Yellow-glazed Border Ware (1550-1700), recovered from context (3). 10cm scale.



Figure 21: Fragment of Metropolitan Slipware, from the rim of a plate or shallow dish (1480-1900) from context (3). 10cm scale.



Figure 22: Fragment of a Mill Green Ware jug (1270-1350) from context (3). 10cm scale.

APPENDIX IV: ROMAN POTTERY

One fragment of an amphora handle was recovered from context (2) (fig. 23). The handle is of Dressel type 20 group, although due to the lack of diagnostic features the type cannot be further defined.

In addition, a single sherd (weight = 11g) of Romano-British material was also noted from context (6). It is somewhat abraded, but appears to be a handle from a Verulamium White Ware flagon, fabric VER WH of the National Roman Fabric Type-Series (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Bibliography

Tomber, R, and Dore, J, 1998. *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook* Museum of London/English Heritage/British Museum



Figure 23: Amphora handle fragment from context (2). 10cm scale.

APPENDIX V: ANIMAL BONE by Heidi Archer

12 fragments of animal bone were recovered from three contexts. The bones were subjected to a brief visual examination and assigned species and bone type where possible. Where speciation was not possible, the bones were classified as small (dog/cat-sized), medium (pig/sheep-sized) and large (cow/horse-sized) mammals.

The quality of preservation varied, though generally the fragments displayed moderate to low levels of surface weathering. The assemblage comprises a small number of complete bones and several bone fragments.

The assemblage includes a mix of small, medium and large mammals, with the range of species present being attributable to domestic consumption – such as pig, cow and chicken. Several of the fragments displayed various marks in the form of straight-cut edges, chops and cuts, typical of the butchery industry. It is likely the assemblage results from the general discarding of domestic waste, rather than an intentional deposition or burial in that particular area.

Bibliography

Schmidt, E. 1972. *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science LTD

Key for in-table text

L = left

R = right

UI = unidentified

UO = unobservable

Context	Species	Bone	Side	Fusion	Completeness	Comments
(2)	UI small mammal	Rib	L	-	Half complete	Small butchery marks on anterior surface.
(2)	UI medium mammal	-	-	UO	Fragment	Possible fragment of mandible.
(2)	Sus	Femur	L	Unfused.	Shaft. Missing distal and proximal epiphyses.	Straight butchery cut across proximal end. Approximately ten small knife marks can be seen along the shaft. Patches of iron staining on anterior surface of shaft.
(2)	Bos	3 rd phalanx	R	Fused	Complete	Slightly weathered.
(2)	Fowl	Carpo-metacarpus	-	Fused	Distal end and shaft of metacarpal II. Missing metacarpal III.	Slightly weathered.
(2)	Ovis	1 st phalanx	-	Fused	Complete	-
(3)	UI medium mammal	Vertebra	-	Fused	Almost complete	-
(3)	Ovis	Pelvis	-	Fused	Fragment	Fragment of acetabulum
(3)	UI small mammal	Fibula	L	UO	Small fragment	Fragment of shaft
(3)	UI mammal	-	-	-	Fragment	-
(5)	Ovis	Vertebra	-	Fused	Partial	Butchered to create a flat edge.
(5)	Ovis	Vertebra	-	-	Fragment	-

APPENDIX VI: MISCELLANEOUS

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Thirteen fragments of stem were recovered from contexts (2), (3), (4) and (5). The fragments were catalogued following guidelines set out in the *DAACS Cataloguing Manual: Tobacco Pipes*, by Kate Grillo, Jennifer Aultman and Nick Bon-Harper (updated February 2012).

Key:

Abbreviations across head of table

BH = Bowl height

BW = Bowl width

SL = Stem length

SW = Stem width

BS = Borehole size

All bowls have been identified using the following guides:

Atkinson, D and Oswald, A, (1969), *'London Clay Tobacco Pipes' Journal of the Archaeological Association. Third Series Vol.XXXII*

Measurements are given in millimetres.

Context	Form	Type	Date	Count	BH	BW	SL	SW	BS	Comments
(2)	Partial stem with heel	-	-	1	-	-	22	8	2	Unmarked, flat heel suggesting forward leaning.
(2)	Stem frag.	-	-	2	-	-	22 and 15	9 and 9	3	Two fragments of the same stem.
(2)	Partial stem	-	-	4	-	-	27, 26, 25 and 41	5, 7, 10 and 10	2, 3, 3 and 3	-
(3)	Partial Stem and heel	-	-	1	-	-	15	7	2	Flat heel marked with the initial 'R' on one side, the other side is partially damaged. Heel is at a right angle with the stem.
(4)	Partial stem	-	-	2	-	-	22 and 31	5 and 6	1 and 1	-

(5)	Partial stem	-	-	3	-	-	21, 38 and 41	5, 5 and 5	2, 2 and 2	-
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Shell

Eighteen fragments of shell were recovered during the watching brief, all were oyster shell with the exception of one cockle shell.

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
(2)	5	94	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (European flat oyster)
(2)	1	<1	<i>Cerastoderma edule</i> (Common Cockle)
(3)	4	50	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (European flat oyster)
(4)	5	93	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (European flat oyster)
(5)	3	20	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (European flat oyster)

Glass

A total of 10 fragments of post-medieval glass were retrieved from Clapton Common. These had a combined weight of 602g. The finds were recovered from the made ground layers contexts (2), (3), (4) and (6).

Context	Form	Count	Weight (g)	Comments
(2)	Jar lid	1	70	Pale blue glass jar lid with 'KILNER BROTHERS' 'DEWSBURY ... DON' embossed on the top of the lid. The Kilner Glass company was a family owned glass plant which, after the death of John Kilner in 1857, was operated by his two sons and known as the Kilner Brothers. Dewsbury was the name of the Thornhill Lees plant, which distributed glassware to London. As the company adopted American Blue machines in 1900, it is likely that this lid predates that. Pearlescent coating on the surface.
(2)	Body and partial neck of bottle	1	20	Small bottle which tapers at the base and has slightly rounded shoulder. Slight iridescent sheen on the surface. Part of neck and rim are broken and missing. Two mold seams present on either side of the exterior of the neck.

(3)	Partial bottle neck	1	10	Fragment of dark green/brown glass, possibly from the neck of a bottle.
(4)	Partial base and body sherd of bottle	2	192	Two fragments of a dark green glass bottle, including part of the base which. There is a deep punt/kick-up and it is not symmetrical, with no signs of mold seams, suggesting it is a free-blown bottle.
(6)	Partial shoulder/neck and base of bottle	2	164	Two fragments of a dark green glass bottle, including part of the shoulder/neck and the base. Shoulder is rounded and base is flat with a base mold seam and embossed with '...EY & Co Ltd'.
(6)	Partial base of bottle	2	84	Two base fragments, possibly from two different objects as the colouring is slightly different. Both pale blue and have a rounded rectangle base. One item is embossed with '...SN.'
(6)	Partial bottle base	1	62	Fragment of a pale blue bottle base which has 'REG' embossed on the base. The base is slightly concave and has a base mold seam.

APPENDIX VII: OASIS RECORDING FORM

OASIS ID: compassa1-365129

Project details

Project name	Improvement works at Clapton Common, London Borough of Hackney, E5 9AL
Short description of the project	On the 9 th and 11 th July 2019 Compass Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at the north-eastern side of Clapton Common, London Borough of Hackney E5 9AL. The work was commissioned by London Borough of Hackney due to the site's location within an Archaeological Priority Area and relative proximity to the Roman Road. The watching brief monitored the completion of a single T-shaped trench, excavated to accommodate the installation of two new tree beds and footpath. The works exposed several layers of made ground, possibly dating to the late post-medieval or modern period. Within these layers were residual finds of ceramic building material, pottery, shell, animal bone, clay tobacco pipes and glass. The finds mostly dated to the late post-medieval period and modern, with some Roman and medieval pottery fragments also recorded. No significant archaeological features were encountered, with the stratigraphy comprising the upper tarmac/grass layer over made ground layers between depths of 0.02m and 0.5m (c. +29.82 to +28.97m OD). Natural geology was not reached.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2019 End: 11-07-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CCM19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	MADE GROUND Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CONTAINER Roman
Significant Finds	CONTAINER Medieval
Significant Finds	CONTAINER Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY Clapton Common
Postcode	E5 9AL
Study area	24 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 34138770 51.571700425307 -0.06433683384 51 34 18 N 000 03 51 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Compass Archaeology
Project supervisor	Geoff Potter
Type of sponsor /funding body	Local Authority
Name of sponsor /funding body	London Borough of Hackney Streetscene

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London archaeological archive
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Improvement Works at Clapton Common, London Borough of Hackney, E5 9AL. An Archaeological Watching Brief Report.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mansfield, R.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea SW11 3SJ
Description	A report outlining the results of an archaeological watching brief. First part contains the background to the project including commission and scope of works, site location, historical and archaeological background, relevant planning policy and site methodology. The second part details the results of the watching brief, complemented by relevant photographs, and concluding remarks. Specialist reports included as appendices.