

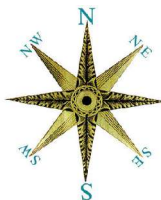
**BROADWAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**  
**TRIAL HOLE B4**  
**STRATFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**  
Interim Report

**April 2008**



**COMPASS**



**ARCHAEOLOGY**

BROADWAY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME  
TRIAL HOLE B4

LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
Interim Report

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April 2008

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### ***Abstract***

*This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of Thames Water trial trenches on the Broadway, Stratford, E15, London Borough of Newham, in the proposed location of a construction shaft. The monitoring took place over weekends (due to road closure issues) during March 2008*

*Excavations did not extend beyond 1.5m depth below the existing ground surface. Modern made-ground and services were exposed for the full depth, and the extent of modern ground deposits could not be established. Consequently, the presence and relative survival of archaeological material could not be ascertained.*

*It is concluded that further work is necessary in order to determine the existence and nature of archaeological remains; it is anticipated that this will take place during the main shaft-construction works.*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of Thames Water Flood Alleviation Scheme trial trenches on the Broadway, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, during March 2008 (see Figure 1). The trial excavations took place in advance of the installation of a 5.3m external diameter shaft that will give access to a tunnelled sewer pipe. The site is located within a Priority Zone as defined by the Newham UDP.
- 1.2 Groundworks involved the excavation of two trenches, 18m and 20m in length respectively, orientated northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast to form a cross in plan. The trenches were excavated to a target depth of 1.5m to establish the nature of underlying deposits, on the premise that excavation would cease at the level of archaeology if such material proved to be shallower.
- 1.3 The work was commissioned by Thames Water Utilities Ltd in response to recommendations made by English Heritage. The groundworks were carried out by Barhale.



**Figure 1: Site Location**

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## **2. Site Background**

### **2.1 Location and Geology**

The site lies within the Broadway, and is approximately centred at NGR TQ 38900 84340. St John's Church (1834) lies a short distance to the northeast of the site and West Ham Lane immediately to the southeast.

The British Geological Survey (North London *Sheet 256*, 1993) indicates that the site lies more or less at the junction between River Terrace Deposits of Taplow Gravel and overlying Alluvium. The latter occupies a broad swathe of land to the west, some 1.6 km wide and reflecting the historic Lea floodplain and Stratford Marsh.

The site lies at *c* 5.6m OD and is quite level, although the ground surface rises slightly to the north and east (*ie*, away from the Lea floodplain).

### **2.2 History and Archaeology**

**2.2.1** Some prehistoric finds are recorded in the site area, including a single Palaeolithic hand axe and a pit containing late Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint (*c* 100m to 200m to the northeast; SMR refs. MLO 24569 & 77209). Thus prehistoric evidence may be found, either *in situ* or residually in later deposits.

**2.2.2** The Roman road from London to Colchester is thought to have run through Stratford after crossing the Lea valley from Old Ford. A gravelled surface that may be part of this road has been found about 50m to the north of the present evaluation (site code HW-AL94), and other sections are recorded *c* 80 to 280m to the northeast (SMR ref. MLO 22725 & site code WRR86). A secondary road to Great Dunmow may also have branched off to the northeast at this point, roughly following the line of Leytonstone Road. Remains of a Roman settlement might also be expected in Stratford. Although this has proved elusive there are a few references to pottery, building material and a ditch within 200 to 300m of the site.

**2.2.3** The nature and extent of Saxon settlement is uncertain. However, Stratford is an Anglo-Saxon place-name (first recorded as *Straetforda* in the later 11<sup>th</sup> century). Moreover, archaeological investigation just to the north of the present site (code HW-AL94) produced post-Roman dumped deposits and a cultivation soil.

**2.2.4** A significant settlement at Stratford may only have developed largely after the construction of new bridges and a causeway across the Lea and Channelsea in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. Later documents indicate that the medieval village centred on a large triangular green that stretched from the Broadway northeastwards to The Grove. There also seems little doubt that the present site lies close to the centre of settlement, on the main thoroughfare and opposite the junction leading to the old manorial seat of West Ham. Although there is no archaeological evidence close to the site medieval pottery, rubbish/

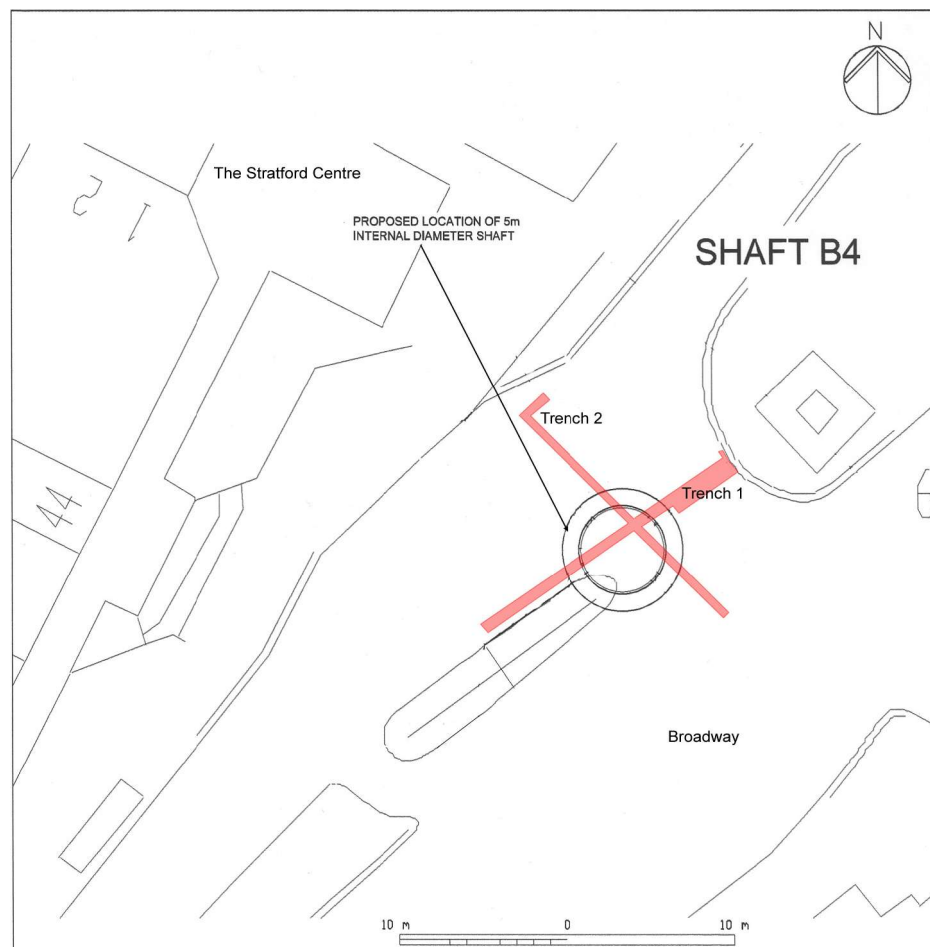


quarry pits and ditches have been recorded from previous evaluations to the south and northeast (site codes WRR86; NMS01 & GVE01).

**2.2.5** Earlier post-medieval records (eg, The Epping & Hainault Forest map of the 1630s) suggest that Stratford had not grown much beyond its medieval boundaries. However, considerable growth is recorded from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (cf. Daniel Defoe, 1722) and is also indicated by Rocque's survey of 1746. Further expansion into the 19<sup>th</sup> century is shown on Crutchley's *Map of London* of 1829. Subsequent maps show that the site has consistently remained within the open street and has not otherwise been developed.

### **3. The Archaeological Watching Brief**

**3.1** Archaeological monitoring took place during the contactors groundworks; due to restrictions of road closure the work took place over weekends in March 2008. Trenches were observed during excavation and recorded using standard Compass Archaeology *Trench Record Sheets*, noting location, orientation, dimensions and the exposed sequence of deposits. The groundworks were located using taped measurements and related to the Ordnance Survey grid. Records were supplemented as appropriate with digital photography.



**Figure 2:** Location of trenches (in red) and proposed shaft on Broadway.  
*Reproduced from a plan supplied by Thames Water Utilities (Dwg No: 6HDG-A1-00604-EX)*

- 3.2 The trenches were excavated to a target depth of 1.5m below the existing ground surface – the archaeological horizon was not exposed, with only modern made-ground, services and associated backfills removed. As the full depth of modern deposits has not been established, the existence (or lack thereof) of archaeological remains cannot be determined.
- 3.3 Initial excavations at the northeastern end of Trench 1 exposed concrete hardcore [2] to the full depth of 1.5m below the existing tarmac ground surface [1]. An orange cased electrical cable was exposed within the concrete at a depth of 0.84m below the existing ground surface, running approximately in line with the trench in the southeast facing section. Consequently, the trench was extended to the southeast, creating an open-cut of some 4.5m in length (NE-SW) by 0.95m in width (NW-SE). The concrete continued in the full extent of the open trench, although notably softer in the extended section below *c.*1m depth. The trench was not excavated beyond 1.5m depth and consequently the extent of the concrete hardcore cannot be established.



**Figure 3:** View south of the north-eastern end of Trench 1, showing concrete hardcore beneath the existing tarmac road surface, with an orange-cased cable running approximately parallel.

- 3.4 The concrete hardcore continued to the southwest over the junction between Trenches 1 and 2. Trench 2 exposed a sequence of made-ground layers, again continuing beyond the 1.5m limit of excavation depth. Tarmac and base [1] were exposed to a depth of 0.3m below the existing road surface, overlying a layer of concrete hardcore [2] 0.13m in thickness. A mid-yellow/grey sandy deposit [3] was exposed beneath, with frequent flint and gravel inclusions and occasional brick and tarmac fragments, 0.52m thick. This presumably represents relatively recent ground-makeup and was cut by existing services at the southeast end of Trench 2 and within the southwest continuation of Trench 1. Glazed-stoneware ceramic pipes were exposed in Trench 1, approximately 0.94m below the existing ground surface, with both cut and backfill obvious in section. The concrete hardcore was significantly thicker over service cuts. An orange armoured electrical cable was observed in the southwest end of Trench 1, and concrete encased cables to the southeast end of Trench 2.
- 3.5 Beneath made-ground layer [3], dark grey/black sand and gravel with crushed stone and tarmac inclusions [4] was observed in the south-east end of Trench 2, exposed to a thickness of 0.55m and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. Trench 1 exposed a lighter-grey deposit [5] of similar makeup, again continuing beyond the 1.5m depth. Unfortunately, the junction between trenches 1 and 2 was not excavated at the time of monitoring, nor was the north-west continuation of Trench 2.



**Figure 4:** Southeast facing section of the southwest end of Trench 1. Showing tarmac and base [1] overlying hardcore [2], and made-ground layers [3] and [5].



**Figure 5:** Northeast facing section of the southeast end of Trench 2, showing hardcore [2] overlying made-ground layers [3] and [4], with a glazed-stoneware ceramic pipe casing for a presumed gas pipe.

#### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1** The extent of modern made-ground layers and service intrusions was not established with the excavation limit of 1.5m. Consequently, the potential existence and survival of archaeological material cannot be determined. Further investigation is required to ascertain the extent of modern deposits and the depth of the archaeological or natural horizon.

#### **Bibliography**

**Compass Archaeology.** 2008. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Thames Water Utilities Ltd: Broadway Flood Alleviation Scheme, Trial Hole B4. Stratford E15, London Borough of Newham.*

## Appendix I: OASIS Data Collection Form

**OASIS ID: compassa1-41218**

### Project details

Project name	Broadway Flood Alleviation Scheme: Trial Hole B4
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief monitoring the excavation of two trial trenches in the proposed location of a construction shaft for the Thames Water flood alleviation scheme in Stratford, London Borough of Newham. The trenches exposed modern made-ground and services to the limit of excavation, 1.5m below the existing ground surface.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2008 End: 15-03-2008
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BBF08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM STRATFORD Broadway Flood Alleviation Scheme - Trial Hole B4
Postcode	E15
Study area	17.10 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 38900 84340 51.5403467807 0.00312833067419 51 32 25 N 000 00 11 E Point

### 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	Rosie Cummings
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	'Map','Photograph','Plan','Report'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Broadway Flood Alleviation Scheme: Trial Hole B4. An Archaeological Watching Brief, Interim Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cummings, R
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	5-7 Southwark St, London SE1 1RQ
Description	Short bound report describing the results of the archaeological watching brief and suggestions for further work.

Entered by	Rosie Cummings (mailto:mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	24 April 2008