

**Archaeological Evaluation
227-229 London Road, Romford
London Borough of Havering**

**NGR 550160 188300
(TQ 50160, 88300)**

Planning Ref: P0420.11

**Project No: 5057
Site Code: FRF 11
ASE Report No: 2011203
OASIS id: archaeol6-109179**

**Nick Garland MA
With contributions by
Justin Russell**

September 2011



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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East in association with On-Site Archaeology Ltd in August 2011 at 227-229 London Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering. The work was undertaken on behalf of Churchgate Services and comprised the excavation of three trenches, 1 x 5m x 5m, 2 x 20m x 3m.

The evaluation uncovered no significant archaeological remains and demonstrated that minimal modern truncation exists in some areas of the site. It therefore seems unlikely that the proposed development will have any archaeological impact.

The natural brickearth was recorded at c. 16.41m OD in the north of the site and at c. 16.10m OD in the south of the site. Natural gravel was exposed beneath the brickearth in the north of the site at c 15.62m OD. Minimal truncation of the brickearth by modern services was noted.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 On-Site Archaeology Ltd and Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), were commissioned by Churchgate Services to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at 227-229 London Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering (NGR 550160 188300; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Currently the site is occupied by several semi-derelict buildings fronting onto London Road and along the western edge of the site. The site is bounded to the north by London Road, to the east by Esher Avenue to the west by Crowlands Junior and Infants School and to the south by Lessington Avenue.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011) the site lies on brickearth which overlies the superficial geology of the Hackney sand and gravels.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a care home fronting London Road and Esher Avenue and six houses adjacent to Lessington Avenue. Due to the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains a programme of archaeological evaluation is required. The results of the evaluation will inform the planning process with regards to the impact of the development upon any archaeological remains.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (On Site Archaeology 2011) for the Archaeological Field Evaluation was produced and submitted to and approved by GLAAS prior to the commencement of work. This document detailed the aims, objectives and methods to be used during the archaeological evaluation.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of this work were outlined in the WSI and are reproduced below (*ibid*).

- To determine by means of trial trenching, the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals. Trial trenches of sufficient size and depth to provide this information will need to be excavated, and archaeological deposits will need to be explicitly related to depths below existing surface and actual

heights in relation to Ordnance Datum.

- To prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of proposed development.
- To prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum. The work will be undertaken using a unique site code issued by the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre in advance of commencement

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by Nick Garland (Archaeologist) and Lesley Davidson (Surveyor) in August 2011. The project was managed by Graham Bruce (OSA) and Andy Leonard (ASE; fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (ASE; post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A detailed description of the archaeological potential of the site and of any previous work was included in the written scheme of investigation, including a 1km historic environment records search, (*ibid*). This has been summarised below.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 While early prehistoric sites are not represented within the Study Area, the location of the site on the gravels of the Thames basin indicates that there is potential for Palaeolithic artefacts to be recovered from this geology. It must also be noted that the brickearth deposits present on the site cap and can obscure prehistoric remains located at the top of the gravel geology.

2.2.2 Several areas surrounding the site have been investigated including at Warren Farm, Romford, to the north-west, which revealed evidence of Mesolithic activity. Evidence of a Bronze Age wood working site was found to the north-east at Romsid Commercial Centre, North Street.

2.3 Iron Age & Roman

2.3.1 Iron Age occupation was also uncovered at the Warren Farm site including an Early Iron Age fortified site and Late Iron Age field systems. As part of these field systems, an evaluation undertaken at Marks Road uncovered a large ditch and a unurned sheep cremation.

2.3.2 Occupation in the Roman period is well known in the Romford area, with the modern town lying on the presumed line of the Roman Road from London to Chelmsford, on which a posting station, may have been located in this area. An archaeological evaluation at Spring Gardens, to the north of the site, revealed evidence of occupation in the form of ditches, a gully and postholes.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and medieval

2.4.1 While no Anglo-Saxon evidence has been uncovered within the study area, both the place names of Romford and Havering, had origins in this period. Romford itself was first referred to in the 1150's and St Andrew's church built there in 1177. Romford itself was market centre in the medieval period, although the site itself, lay outside the core of the settlement. An evaluation to the east of the site uncovered evidence for late medieval or post-medieval drainage ditches for what was once a marshy area.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

2.5.1 In the early post-medieval period, the site, continued to lay outside of the main core of Romford, as evidenced from the Chapman and Andre 18th century map of the area. Later in the 19th century, the Romford area was the location of an early railway development and is visible in the 1st edition OS map of the area. The site in this period shows no evidence of development and lies within presumably an agricultural field. The early 20th century saw the start a of major development in this area, including the primary school that lies immediately to the west of the site, although the site itself remains undeveloped until the 1930's, where the buildings are more extensive than the buildings present on the site presently.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** Three trenches, two measuring 20m x 3m and one measuring 5m x 5m, were machine excavated across the area of the proposed development under archaeological supervision (Figure 2). The two trenches measuring 20m x 3m were excavated to the level of the brickearth while the trench measuring 5m x 5m was excavated in the location of a proposed basement. As such this trench was excavated down to the level of the river gravels underlying the brickearth deposits.
- 3.2** The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a 13 ton 360 degree tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3** Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine and kept separately. These layers were excavated in spits of no more than 0.1m for the top and subsoil, down to the top of the underlying 'natural'. Surfaces were manually cleaned to identify any archaeological deposits or features. All spoil removed from the trenches was inspected visually and also scanned with a metal detector for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.4** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (On Site Archaeology 2011) and IfA guidelines (IfA 2008). Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 or surveyed using GPS or Total Station. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.5** A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital images), and will form part of the site archive.
- 3.6** The archive, which is quantified in Table 1, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex and will be offered to the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in due course.

Number of Contexts	14 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheets
Photographs	5 colour slides, 5 B+W, 66 digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig 3 and 4)

Three trenches were excavated across the area of the site. Trench 1 measured 5m x 5m and trenches 2 and 3 measured 20m x 3m.

4.1 Trench 1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m OD
1/001	Layer	Overburden	N/A	N/A	0.3 m	16.936
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.27 m	16.636
1/003	Layer	Natural Brickearth	N/A	N/A	0.75 m	16.413
1/004	Layer	Natural Gravels	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.616

Table 2: Recorded Contexts within Trench 1

4.1.1 Summary

Natural gravel [1/004] was exposed in a sondage in the central part of the trench at c. 15.62m OD. This was overlain by natural brickearth [1/003], a mid orange silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions, which was observed between 16.413 OD in the north-east of the trench and 16.319 OD in the south-west of the trench.

A subsoil layer, [1/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, overlay the brickearth [1/003] and was sealed in turn by a layer of overburden [1/001]. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered within this trench.

4.2 Trench 2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m OD
2/001	Layer	Overburden	N/A	N/A	0.4 m	16.923
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.33 m	16.523
2/003	Layer	Natural Brickearth	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.269
2/004	Masonry	Wall foundation	2.34 m	0.22 m	N/A	16.374
2/005	Masonry	Wall foundation	2.16 m	0.77 m	N/A	16.455

Table 3: Recorded Contexts within Trench 2

4.2.1 Summary

The natural brickearth [2/003], a mid orange silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions, was observed between 16.269 OD in the north of the trench and 16.116 OD in the south of the trench. A subsoil layer, [2/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the brickearth and was sealed by a layer of overburden [2/001].

Two foundation walls were uncovered within this trench. Foundation [2/004] was constructed on two courses of brick above a concrete base and ran across the trench in a north-west to south-east direction. Foundation [2/005] was constructed of concrete and was orientated in the same direction. These walls probably represent a building on the site shown on the 1939 OS Map and are of 20th century date.

4.3 Trench 3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Max. Height m OD
3/001	Layer	Overburden	N/A	N/A	0.3 m	16.829
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.43 m	16.529
3/003	Layer	Natural Brickearth	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.10

Table 4: Recorded Contexts within Trench 3

4.3.1 Summary

The natural brickearth [3/003], a mid orange silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions, was observed between 16.097 OD in the east of the trench and 16.10 OD in the west of the trench. A subsoil layer, [3/002], a light orangish grey silty clay, lay over the brickearth and was sealed by a layer of overburden [3/001]. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered within this trench.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The evaluation has illustrated a lack of archaeological survival in the area of the 3 trenches. Two wall foundations were uncovered in Trench 2, both of which date to the first half of the 20th century. These foundations are probably associated with, or part of, the buildings that were located on the site in the 1930s.

5.2 Depth of archaeological remains and extent of modern truncation

5.2.1 The natural horizon measured between 0.57 and 0.73 m below the existing ground surface with brickearth recorded at c. 16.41m OD in Trench 1 to the north and at c. 16.10m OD in Trench 3 to the south. Natural gravel was exposed beneath the brickearth in Trench 1 at c 15.62m OD.

5.2.3 Minimal truncation of the brickearth by modern services was noted.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 The evaluation has uncovered no significant archaeological remains.

5.3.2 It has demonstrated that minimal modern truncation exists in some areas of the site.

5.3.3 From this it seems unlikely that the proposed development will have any archaeological impact.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2011, *British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer*, accessed 30.08.2011, http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

IfA 2008, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*, accessed 06.07.2011, <http://www.archaeologists.net>

On Site Archaeology. 2011. 227 London Road, Romford. London Borough of Havering: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. March 2011. Unpublished grey literature.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OSA and ASE would like to thank Churchgate services for commissioning the work, and Robert Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Name: 227-229 London Road, Romford	
Site Address: 227-229 London Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering	
Summary: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East between 10 th and 12 th August 2011 at 227-229 London Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering. The work was commissioned by On Site Archaeology Ltd and comprised the excavation of three trenches, 1 x 5m x 5m, 2 x 20m x 3m. The evaluation uncovered no significant archaeological remains and demonstrated that minimal modern truncation exists in some areas of the site. It therefore seems unlikely that the proposed development will have any archaeological impact. The natural brickearth was recorded at c. 16.41m OD in the north of the site and at c. 16.10m OD in the south of the site. Natural gravel was exposed beneath the brickearth in the north of the site at c 15.62m OD. Minimal truncation of the brickearth by modern services was noted.	
District/Unitary: London Borough of Havering	Parish:
Nature of Development: Construction of residential home and six houses	
Period(s): Modern	
NGR (centre of site : 8 Figures): NGR 550160 188300	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 10 th to 12 th August 2011	
Unit undertaking recording: Archaeology South-East	
Geology: Brickearth and Hackney sand and gravels.	
Title and author of accompanying report: Archaeological Evaluation: 227-229 London Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering by Nick Garland	
Summary of fieldwork results: Two concrete and brick wall foundations were uncovered in Trench 2, relating a building that once existed on the site in the 1930s. No other archaeological remains were uncovered.	
Likelihood of surviving archaeological remains on-site: Low	
Location of archive/finds: Currently held at the offices of ASE	
Contact at Unit: Andy Leonard	Date: September 2011

OASIS ID: archaeol6-109179

Project details

Project name London Road, Romford

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology South-East between 10th and 12th August 2011 at 227-229 London Road, Romford, London Borough of Havering. The work was commissioned by On Site Archaeology Ltd and comprised the excavation of three trenches, 1 x 5m x 5m, 2 x 20m x 3m. The evaluation uncovered no significant archaeological remains and demonstrated that minimal modern truncation exists in some areas of the site. It therefore seems unlikely that the proposed development will have any archaeological impact. The natural brickearth was recorded at c. 16.41m OD in the north of the site and at c. 16.10m OD in the south of the site. Natural gravel was exposed beneath the brickearth in the north of the site at c 15.62m OD. Minimal truncation of the brickearth by modern services was noted.

Project dates Start: 10-08-2011 End: 12-08-2011

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes FRF11 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Monument type WALL Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Targeted Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD 227-229 London Road, Romford

Postcode RM7 9JS

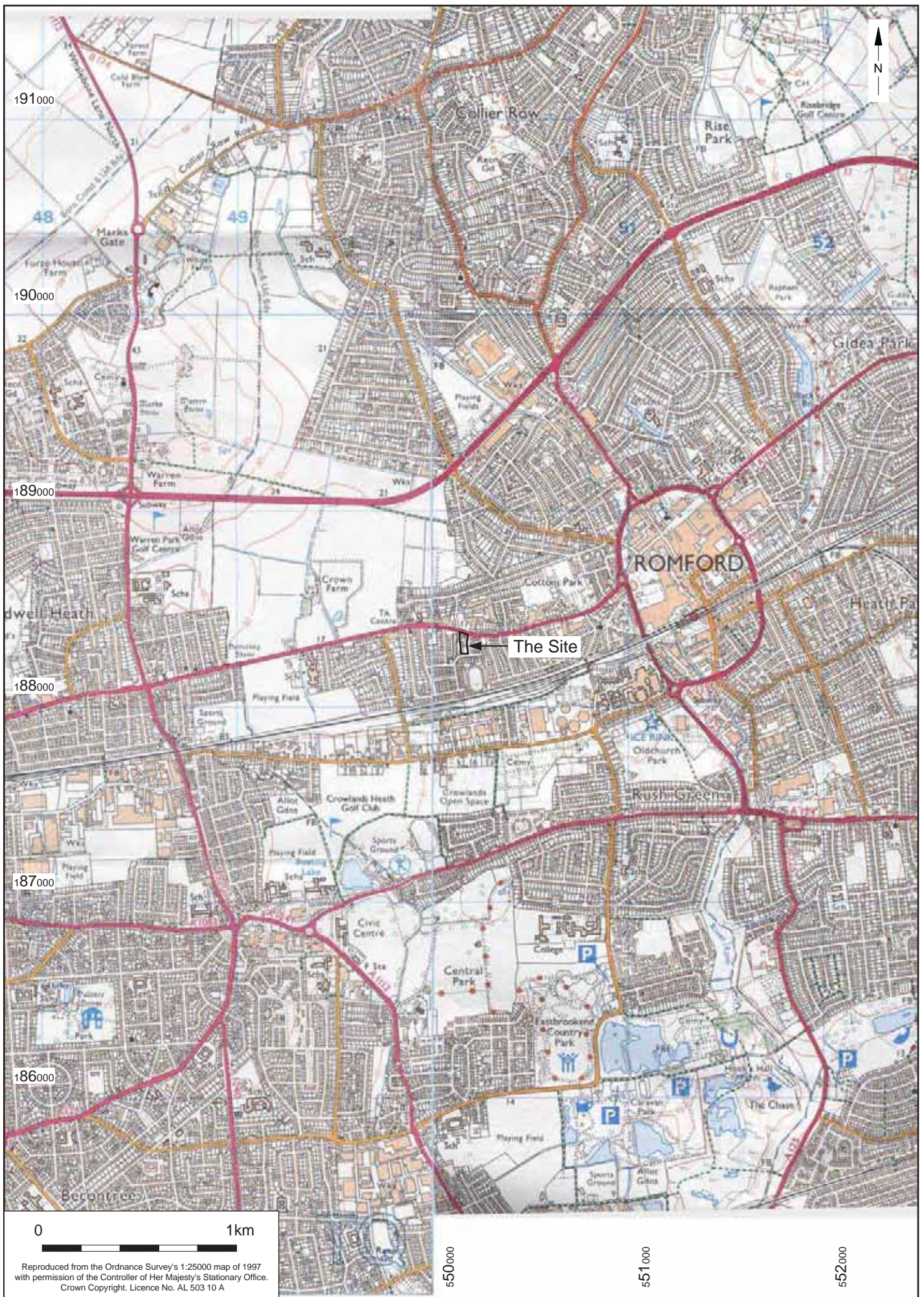
Study area 3930.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 50160 88300 51.5730406061 0.167084117731 51 34 22 N
000 10 01 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 16.10m Max: 16.37m

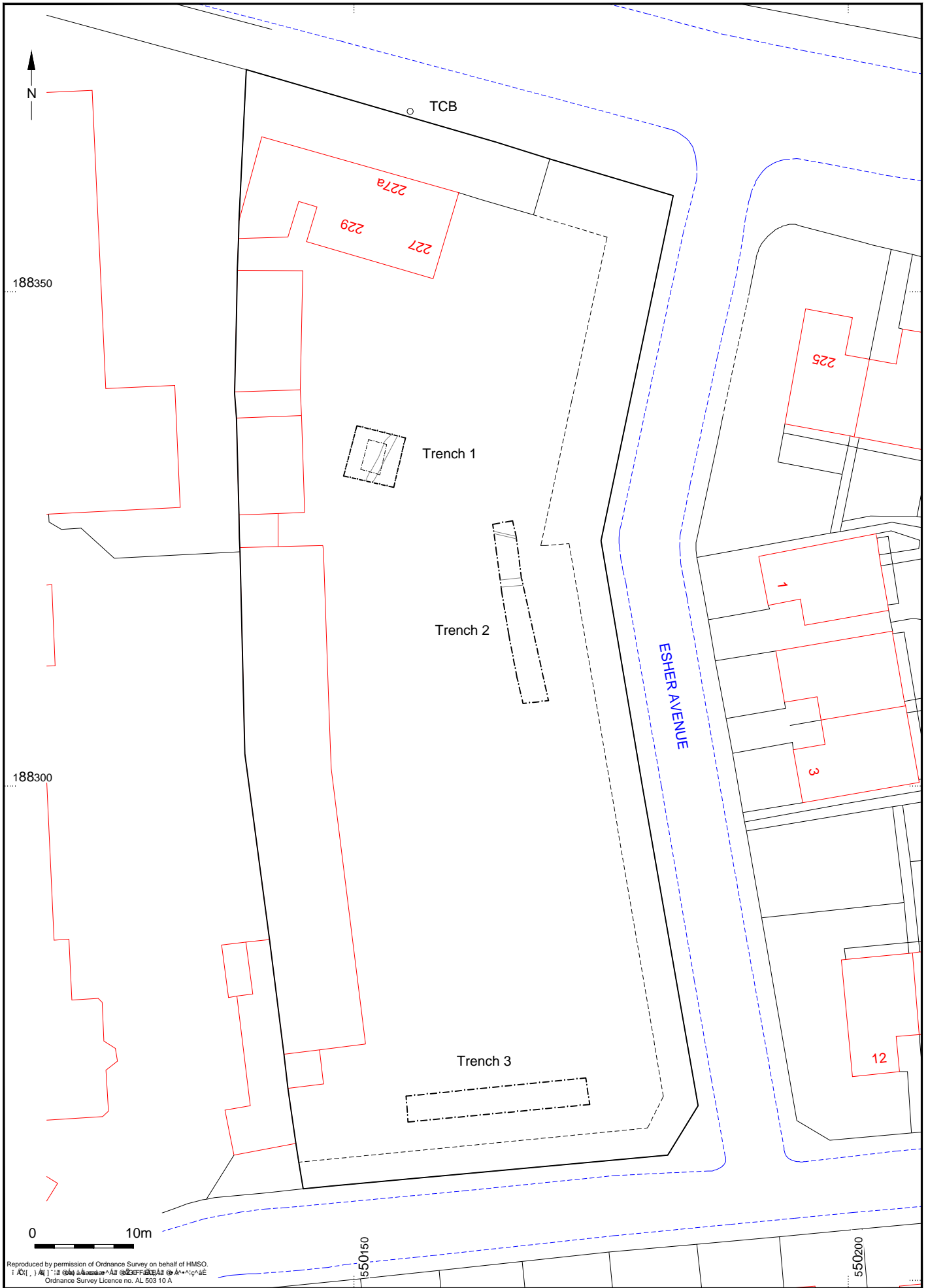
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	On Site Archaeology
Project design originator	On Site Archaeology
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Survey '
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation 227-229 London Road, Romford London Borough of Havering
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garland, N
Other bibliographic details	2011203
Date	2011
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Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Nick Garland (n.garland@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	5 September 2011



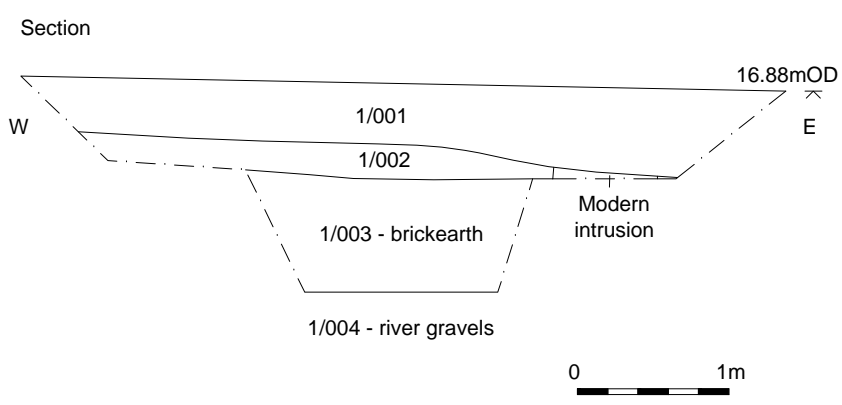
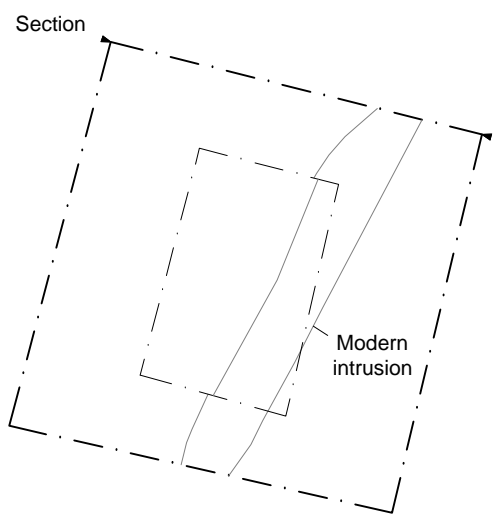
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© Archaeology South-East		227-229 London Road, Romford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5057	Sept 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011203	Drawn by: JLR		



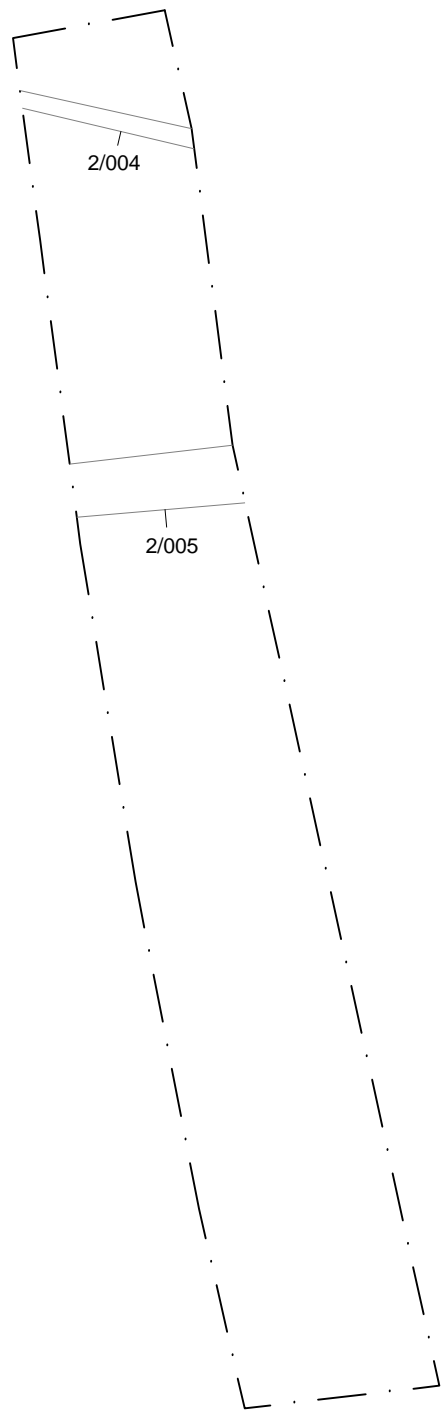
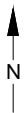
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		227-229 London Road, Romford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5057	Sept 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011203	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 1, south facing section

Archaeology South-East		227-229 London Road, Romford	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5057	Sept 2011	Trench 1: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011203	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 2, wall foundation 2/004, looking north-east

Archaeology South-East		227-229 London Road, Romford	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5057	Sept 2011	Trench 2: Plan and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011203	Drawn by: JLR		

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