Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Evaluation at Upminster Cemetery, London Borough of Havering

NGR: 557000,185330
(TQ 57000, 85330)

ASE Project No: 6025
Site Code: UMC13

ASE Report No: 2013077
OASIS id: archaeol6 -147163

Gary Webster

With contributions by
Dr Matt Pope and Liz Chambers

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd. on behalf of their client the London Borough of Havering (LBH), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an extension to Upminster Cemetery.

No archaeological remains were identified in the six evaluation trenches. Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated at the end of each trench, with the deeper stratigraphy recorded. These test pits revealed a sequence of topsoil, overlying Head Deposit, overlying Brickearth, overlying pure medium to coarse sand (fluvial deposit). This lower deposit did not contain any seams of organic material or finer-grained landsurfaces and no artefacts were recovered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Jacobs UK Ltd. on behalf of their client the London Borough of Havering (LBH), to undertake an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation on an extension to Upminster Cemetery (hereafter referred to as 'The Site').

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site is London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand (BGS 2013). Several boreholes were excavated on site prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation (Hertfordshire and Essex 2009). They confirmed that the was a layer of clay interbedded with sand deposits. This lies over permeable sand and gravel deposits.

1.2.2 The site lies to the east of the existing Upminster Cemetery, to the south of Upminster Town. Directly to the north if the site is Spring Wood. The M25 lies to the east. The proposed development site has previously been used as agricultural land. It slopes gently from the south-west corner (19.8 mAOD) to the north and east sides with a low point of 17.19m AOD mid-way along the northern boundary.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Jacobs UK Limited (Jacobs), working on behalf of the London Borough of Havering, submitted a planning application for the extension to Upminster Cemetery.

1.3.2 A Heritage Statement has been previously prepared by Jacobs (Jacobs 2013a). This recommended trial trenching over the area to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. These proposed archaeological works were agreed by Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).

1.3.3 A borehole survey was undertaken in 2009, (Hertfordshire and Essex 2009).

1.3.4 Target Archaeology undertook a gradiometer survey over the area in 2012. This did not reveal any archaeological remains (Jacobs 2013b, Appendix A).

1.3.5 Jacobs produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the proposed archaeological fieldwork, which outlined the methodology and the background of the site (Jacobs 2013b).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The research aims and objectives, as specified in the WSI are reproduced here in full:

The general aim of the trial trenching was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to establish the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. More specific aims and objectives are as follows:

- To identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains to the extent possible by the methods put forward in the Specification;
- To determine (as far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the archaeological deposits or features identified;
- To clarify the date, character and extent of archaeological features identified within the footprint of the proposed development;
- To provide recommendations for any mitigation measures, if required.

Specific aims for the geoarchaeological assessment are:

- To characterise the sedimentary sequence at the site in terms of lithology, agents of deposition, preservational environment and age of deposition;
- To develop, from observations on site, the boreholes and previous geotechnical work, a sedimentary model for the site;
- To develop from this model recommendations for mitigation.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This document outlines the results of the excavation of six archaeological evaluation trenches and six geoarchaeological test pits. The work was carried out between the 25th and 27th of March and also on the 4th June by Gary Webster (Archaeologist) Kristina Krawiec (Archaeologist), Liz Chambers (Assistant Archaeologist) and John Cook (Surveyor).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Early prehistory: context of the fluvial deposits by Dr Matt Pope

2.1.1 The site lies on deposits mapped by the BGS and through geotechnical mapping as relating to the Lynch Hill/Corbetts Tey terrace, more generally these gravels form part of a wider spread of fluvial deposits relating to the former course of the River Thames mapped between Upminster and Grays. The fluvial gravels here rest on London Clay bedrock and has been worked in local area through a number of gravel pits including that of Bush Farm (TQ570844). Local isolated finds of Palaeolithic hand-axes (Wymer 1999) indicate possible human (Neanderthal) occupation between Marine Isotope Stages 10-7) but no sites of contextualised Palaeolithic material have been recorded in the vicinity. Gerpins Pit to the south showed extensive organic preservation possibly relating to interglacial conditions and more widely the terrace has produced cold stage faunal material. Fine grained deposits overlying the terrace gravels could relate to the Langley Silt which formed subsequent to the terrace and could contain fine grained archaeology of Late Pleistocene age (Gibbard 1985).

2.2 Archaeological background

2.2.1 Below is a summary of the archaeology, taken from the WSI (Jacobs 2013b) with due acknowledgement. It was originally based on the Heritage Statement, and for a full archaeological background, this should be consulted (Jacobs 3013b).

2.2.2 The Heritage Statement examined a study area within a 300m buffer around the boundary of the proposed cemetery extension. A total of 11 heritage assets were identified within the study area, consisting of one Historic Landscape Character Area, eight archaeological assets and two built heritage assets. Part of the proposed development site is located within an area of high archaeological potential which is designated as an Archaeological Priority Zone (APZ) by the LBH. There are a further two APZs located outside of the proposed development site, to the north of the study area.

2.2.3 The APZ within the study area is designated as such due to its location on sand and gravel geology which has archaeological potential for prehistoric remains below this level (see 2.1.1).

2.2.4 The APZs located outside the proposed development site footprint, on the northern periphery of the study area, contains two groups of cropmark sites, possibly prehistoric in origin, which have been identified from aerial photographs.

2.2.5 The Greater London Archaeological Advisor for the London Borough of Havering has indicated that GLAAS considers the full archaeological potential of the proposed development site to be unknown.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation trenches

3.1.1 The archaeological methodology was initially set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Jacobs 2013b). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and in line with professional standards and guidelines (IfA 2009).

3.1.2 The WSI originally specified that six trenches, measuring 30m by 2m would be mechanically excavated, in addition to six machine dug geoarchaeological test pits.

3.1.3 The trenches were all laid out using GPS, and were tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, in accordance with the original trench location plan.

3.1.4 The proposed locations of trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT scanner) in order to check for services.

3.1.5 Topsoil and subsoil in the trenches was mechanically excavated using a toothless bucket. Excavation proceeded in spits until archaeological structures or deposits were encountered or to the top of natural geology, whichever was the uppermost. This was monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist.

3.2 Geoarchaeological test pits

3.2.1 Ten geoarchaeological test pits were excavated, including four (GA7-GA10) which targeted the deeper deposits. The excavation of these was monitored by an experienced geoarchaeologist. This was undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for geoarchaeology (2007). A section was, photographed and recorded for each pit. Each test pit is identified by the prefix 'GA' and the trench number. Once recorded the test pits were backfilled for safety reasons.

3.3 The archive

3.3.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be produced. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at LAARC in due course. A paper only archive has been generated from the site as no finds were recovered. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	12
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	48
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3
1/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 This trench was orientated north-south. The natural substrate, [1/002], an orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, occurred at 17.00mAOD. This was overlain by 0.30m of dark brown silty clay topsoil, [1/001].

4.1.2 No archaeological deposits or features were present and no artefacts were recovered.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/002	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35
2/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 This trench was orientated east-west. The natural substrate, [2/002], an orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, occurred at 16.95mAOD. This was overlain by 0.35m of dark brown silty clay topsoil, [2/001].

4.2.2 No archaeological deposits or features were present and no artefacts were recovered

4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35
3/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 This trench was orientated north-south. The natural substrate, [3/002], an orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, occurred at 16.80mAOD. This was overlain by 0.35m of dark brown silty clay topsoil, [3/001].

4.3.2 No archaeological deposits or features were present and no artefacts were recovered

4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32
4/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 This trench was orientated east-west. The natural substrate, [4/002], an orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, occurred at 17.26mAOD. This was overlain by 0.32m of dark brown silty clay topsoil, [4/001].

4.4.2 No archaeological deposits or features were present and no artefacts were recovered

4.5 Trench 5 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37
5/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 This trench was orientated north-south. The natural substrate, [5/002], an orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, occurred at 17.27mAOD. This was overlain by 0.37m of dark brown silty clay topsoil, [5/001].

4.5.2 No archaeological deposits or features were present and no artefacts were recovered

4.6 Trench 6 (Figure 4)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37
6/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 This trench was orientated east-west. The natural substrate, [6/002], an orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, occurred at 17.17mAOD. This was overlain by 0.37m of dark brown silty clay topsoil, [6/001].

4.6.2 No archaeological deposits or features were present and no artefacts were recovered

5.0 GEOARCHAEOLOGY RESULTS by Dr Matt Pope and Liz Chambers

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Six initial geoarchaeological test pits (GA1-GA6) were machine excavated, one at the end of each evaluation trench (Figs 3, 4). Lithological descriptions are tabulated for each trench, below. These test pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m below the existing ground surface

5.1.2 A further four geoarchaeological test pits (GA7-GA10) were excavated in a second phase of work to investigate the deeper underlying deposits. These were located at the opposite ends of the evaluation trenches to the previous test pits (see Fig.2). Trenches chosen for re-evaluation were 2, 3, 4 and 5. Test pits were excavated in backfilled trenches by a JCB with a 1m wide toothless ditching bucket. The depths of the test pits were determined by the furthest reach of the machine arm or water table breech.

5.1.3 The test pits were photographed and sediments recorded using a Munsell chart (Tables 8-18).

5.2 Geoarchaeological Pit 1 (GA1)

Sediment Log	**Depth** m (below ground level)
Topsoil, [1/001]	0-0.30
Natural - Orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, [1/002]	0.30-0.50
Mid orange, with occasional grey mottling. Gravelly, slightly sandy, silty clay	0.50-0.85
Grey (unweathered) with a band of orange (oxidised) Sandy, silty clay	0.85-1.15+

Table 8: GA1 Sediment log

5.3 Geoarchaeological Pit 2 (GA2)

Sediment Log	**Depth** m (below ground level)
Topsoil, [2/001]	0-0.30
Natural - Orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions, [2/002]	0.30-0.50
Mid orange and grey mottled gravelly, sandy, silty clay (becoming more sandy with smaller gravels towards base)	0.50-1.00+

Table 9: GA2 Sediment log

5.4 Geoarchaeological Pit 3 (GA3)

Sediment Log	**Depth** m (below ground level)
[3/001] Topsoil	0-0.30
[3/002] Natural - Orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.30-0.45
Orange (weathered) silty clay with occasional gravel	0.45-0.95
Grey (unweathered) slightly sandy, silty clay	0.95-1.10+

Table 10: GA3 Sediment log

5.5 Geoarchaeological Pit 4 (GA4)

Sediment Log	**Depth** m (below ground level)
[4/001] Topsoil	0-0.33
[4/002] Natural - Orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.33-0.68
Brownish grey fine sandy, silty clay (becoming more grey and sandy towards base)	0.68-0.96+

Table 11: GA4 Sediment log

5.6 Geoarchaeological Pit 5 (GA5)

Sediment Log	**Depth** m (below ground level)
[5/001] Topsoil	0-0.30
[5/002] Natural - Orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.30-0.64
Brownish orange, with occasional grey mottles, slightly sandy, silty clay	0.64-1.00+

Table 12: GA5 Sediment log

5.7 Geoarchaeological Pit 6 (GA6)

Sediment Log	**Depth** m (below ground level)
[6/001] Topsoil	0-0.35
[6/002] Natural - Orangey brown silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.35-0.72
Stiff orange and grey mottled silty clay	0.72-0.94
Brownish orange sandy, silty clay with occasional manganese (becoming more grey towards base)	0.94-1.15+

Table 13: GA6 Sediment log

5.8 Geoarchaeological Pit 7 (GA7)

Sediment Log	**Depth m** (below ground level)
Backfill of original evaluation Trench 4	0-0.45
10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown, clay with sand, occasional subrounded-rounded flint gravel (grading into stiff clay at 0.65m)	0.45-0.80
10YR 6/2 light brownish grey, with yellowish brown mottles, firm clay, with occasional rounded gravel 30-40mm (grading into medium firm clay with sand at 1.50m)	0.80-2.10
10YR 6/6 brownish yellow, pure coarse sand	2.10+ water strike at 2.80m, test pit stopped at 3m

Table 14: GA7 Sediment log

5.9 Geoarchaeological Pit 8 (GA8)

Sediment Log	**Depth m** (below ground level)
Backfill of original evaluation trench 2	0-0.40
10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown, clay with sand, occasional subrounded-rounded flint gravel	0.40-0.90
10YR 6/2 light brownish grey, with yellowish brown mottles, firm clay, with occasional rounded gravel 30-40mm (grading into medium firm clay with sand at 1.20m)	0.90-1.95
10YR 6/6 brownish yellow, pure coarse sand	1.95+ water strike at 2.90m, test pit stopped at 3m

Table 15: GA8 Sediment log

5.10 Geoarchaeological Pit 9 (GA9)

Sediment Log	**Depth m** (below ground level)
Backfill of original evaluation trench 3	0-0.40
10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown, clay with sand, occasional subrounded-rounded flint gravel (grading into stiff clay at 0.65m	0.40-1.10
10YR 6/2 light brownish grey, with yellowish brown mottles, firm clay, with occasional rounded gravel 30-40mm (grading into medium firm clay with sand at 1.50m)	1.10-2.30
10YR 6/6 brownish yellow, pure coarse sand	2.30+ water strike at 2.90m, test pit stopped at 2.90m

Table 16: GA9 Sediment log

5.11 Geoarchaeological Pit 10 (GA10)

Sediment Log	**Depth m** (below ground level)
Backfill of original evaluation trench 5	0-0.38
10YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown, clay with sand, occasional subrounded-rounded flint gravel (grading into stiff clay at 0.65m)	0.38-1.10
10YR 6/2 light brownish grey, with yellowish brown mottles, firm clay, with occasional rounded gravel 30-40mm	1.10-1.80
10YR 6/6 brownish yellow, pure coarse sand	1.80+ test pit stopped at 2.60m

Table 17: GA9 Sediment log

5.12 Interpretation of observed sediment sequence

5.12.1 The test pits show a broadly similar sedimentary sequence. This is best demonstrated by the deeper pits (GA7-GA10):

1. Below topsoil a dark yellowish brown Head Deposit containing both sand and sub-rounded to rounded flint gravel was encountered. This deposit, which contained both derived Pleistocene fluvial gravel and apparent Eocene Tertiary flint, most likely represents the movement of material under periglacial condition over the site from the north. This deposit was between 0.4 and 0.8m in thickness.

2. Below this is a mottled firm clay with occasional seams of sub-rounded flint gravel. This deposit, apparently decalcified in its upper part, is of apparent low-energy fluvial or shallow lacustrine origin. It is interpreted as a Brickearth, forming wither in extensive pools in advance of and at the margins of the periglacial Head Deposit or as the continuation of the underlying fluvial sequence. The deposit is up to 0.7m in thickness.

3. The lowest observed deposit is a pure medium to coarse sand. Although clean sections could not be directly observed due to their depth, the deposit appeared to be cross bedded and contained no seams of organic material or finer-grained landsurfaces. Although it was attempted to penetrate this deposit and expose the gravel deposit known to underlie it, it was beyond the safe depth of excavation. The deposit is interpreted as a medium energy Fluvial Deposit.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 **Archaeological evaluation** by Gary Webster

6.1.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified at the site during the archaeological evaluation. All of the trenches excavated were archaeologically negative. This supports the findings of the gradiometer survey, which did not detect any potentially archaeological anomalies (Jacobs 2013b, Appendix A).

6.2 **Geoarchaeological evaluation** by Dr Matt Pope

6.2.1 The observed sequence is entirely consistent with previous observation of the Corbets Tey sedimentary sequence recorded nearby at both Bush Farm (TQ 570844) and Gerpins Pit (TQ 550833). Indeed, all observations across this portion of the Lynch Hill/Corbetts Tey terrace are consistent (Gibbard 1985): above an erosive surface of the Eocene London Clay up to 1.5m of gravel is present, this is overlain by up to 1.5m of sand (observed in our test pits and overlying Head Deposits). Given the lack of organics or palaeosols within the observed sequence at Upminster Cemetery, and the widespread occurrence of this depositional sequence, the proposed 1.8m depth of impact at the site does not present a specific threat. No artefacts or large fauna were encountered as part of the investigation.

6.2.2 Borehole data recovered from the site (Hertfordshire and Essex 2009) demonstrated that gravel deposits were located at c.2.5m below the current ground surface

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	UMC1 3					
Identification Name and Address	An Archaeological Evaluation at Upminster Cemetery, London Borough of Havering					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Havering					
OS Grid Refs.	557000,185330					
Geology	Clay and Gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2013077					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 25th – 27th March	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Jacobs					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		

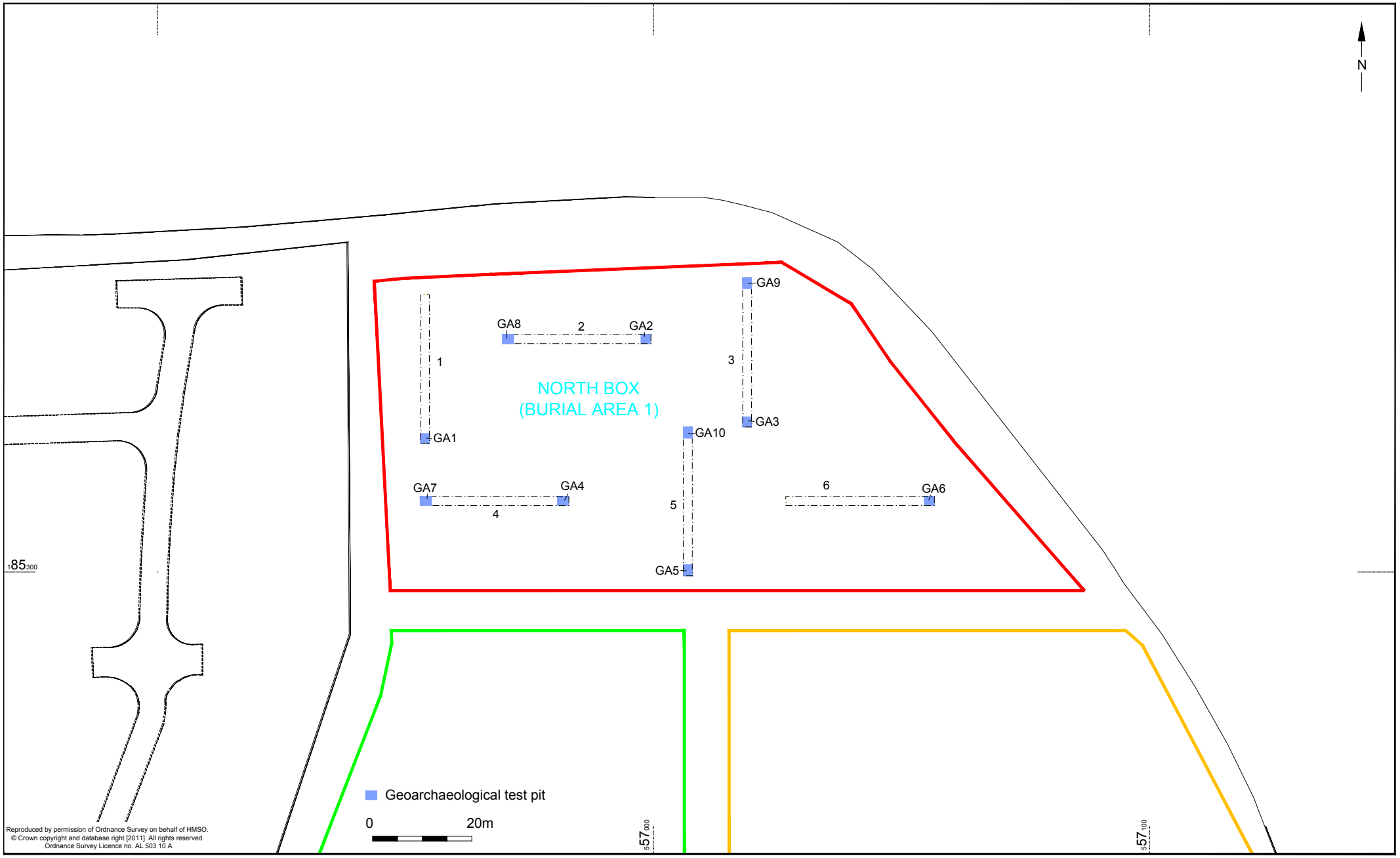
100 Word Summary

No archaeological remains were identified in the six evaluation trenches. Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated at the end of each trench, with the deeper stratigraphy recorded. These test pits revealed a sequence of topsoil, overlying Head Deposit, overlying Brickearth, overlying pure medium to coarse sand (fluvial deposit). This lower deposit did not contain any seams of organic material or finer-grained landsurfaces and no artefacts were recovered.

OASIS Form

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Upminster Cemetery, London Borough of Havering,
Short description of the project	No archaeological remains were identified in the six evaluation trenches. Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated at the end of each trench, with the deeper stratigraphy recorded. These test pits revealed a sequence of topsoil, overlying Head Deposit, overlying Brickearth, overlying pure medium to coarse sand (fluvial deposit). This lower deposit did not contain any seams of organic material or finer-grained landsurfaces and no artefacts were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2013 End: 27-03-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	UMC 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Zone
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING UPMINSTER Upminster Cemetery
Postcode	RM14 2UY
Study area	7350.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 57000 85330 51 0 51 32 40 N 000 15 51 E Point
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Jacobs UK Limited
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

© Archaeology South-East		Upminster Cemetery	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6025	March 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013077	Drawn by: LD		



© **Archaeology South-East**		Upminster Cemetery	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6025	March 2013	Trench and geoarchaeological test pit location plan	
Report Ref: 2013077	Drawn by: LD		

Trench 1 looking north

Geoarchaeological test pit 1

Trench 2 looking west

Geoarchaeological test pit 2

Trench 3 looking north

Geoarchaeological test pit 3

© **Archaeology South-East**		Upminster Cemetery	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6025	April 2013	Trench photographs (Trenches 1, 2 and 3)	
Report Ref: 2013077	Drawn by: JLR		

Trench 4 looking west

Geoarchaeological test pit 4

Trench 5 looking north

Geoarchaeological test pit 5

Trench 6 looking west

Geoarchaeological test pit 6

© **Archaeology South-East**		Upminster Cemetery	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6025	April 2013	Trench photographs (Trenches 4, 5 and 6)	
Report Ref: 2013077	Drawn by: JLR		

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