

**Land at 24 Sutherland Road, London E17
An Archaeological Evaluation Report (SUX 06)**

(TQ 3605 9005)

By

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Project No. 2616

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, the Field Archaeology Unit retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 24 Sutherland Road, Walthamstow, E17 London Borough of Waltham Forest. The work was carried out in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site on the 18th, 19th and 20th September 2006.

Three trenches were excavated in the western extent of the site. No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded on the site.

A probable channel of the River Lea, or one of its tributaries, was recorded in Trench 1. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 had substantial deposits of c. 19th/20th century made ground associated with the infilling of the channel. The site had been affected by previous industry and was contaminated in some areas. The modern ground surface across the site was recorded between 14.38m OD to 13.25m OD. Natural gravel was observed between 13.86m OD to 11.05m OD.

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FIGURES

Fig. 1	Site Location
Fig. 2	Trench Location
Fig. 3	Sections

1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 24 Sutherland Road, Walthamstow, E17, London Borough of Waltham Forest, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The work was carried out in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site on the 18th, 19th and 20th September 2006.

The site is bounded to the north and south by industrial units, to the east by residential property and to the west by Sutherland Road.

The modern ground surface across the site was recorded between 14.38m OD (adjacent to Trench 1) to 13.25m OD (adjacent to Trench 2). Natural gravel was observed between 13.86m OD (Trench 1) to 11.05m OD (Trench 2).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Sygrave (Senior Archaeologist), Rosie Cummings and Cordelia Hall (Archaeologists) between the 18th and 20th September 2006. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Senior Project Manager).

1.1 Planning Background

The Waltham Forest Unitary Development Plan outlines the need to consider the Archaeological Heritage of the Borough when considering planning proposals:

BHE 17

The council will ensure the preservation, protection and where possible the enhancement of the Archaeological Heritage of the borough.

This led to the production of an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of the site (CgMs 2006a), which outlined the sites archaeological potential. The proposed site was identified to have a moderate/good potential for the Palaeolithic period and a low/moderate potential for the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

Following the production of the Desk Based Assessment David Divers (GLAAS), acting as the Archaeological Advisor for Waltham Forest, instructed that an Archaeological Evaluation be conducted as a condition of planning consent. In response to this CgMs Consulting Ltd produced a Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2006b), to which Archaeology South-East produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2006), which was agreed by David Divers

(GLAAS).

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The Aims and Objectives of the evaluation were laid out in the *Specification* (CgMS 2006b) and are reproduced below.

- To establish whether any archaeological sites exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation in situ.
- The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).
- The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:
 - To establish the presence or otherwise of Palaeolithic and/or later activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
 - To establish the environmental context of any Palaeolithic and/or later activity.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect affect of the proposed development should also be considered.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

For a full discussion of the site's archaeological background please refer to the preceding Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2006a).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

The trench layout was agreed prior to the evaluation between CgMs Consulting Ltd and GLAAS (David Divers) and was designed to provide a representative sample of the redevelopment area not truncated by previous activity (see Figure 2). The evaluation consisted of three trenches 2m by 20m. The precise location and extent of the trenches was affected by on site conditions, changes to the trenches were agreed with CgMs Consulting Ltd (Richard Meager) who subsequently agreed them with the GLAAS monitor (David Divers).

The trenches were broken out and excavated using a 13T tracked machine. The machine was fitted with a smooth grading bucket and the trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern (19th/20th century) made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until archaeological deposits or the top of the underlying natural sediments was reached. Care was taken so that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.

Due to the presence of contaminants on the site, and the depth of excavation, the majority of the trenches were recorded from the surface.

All recording was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards according to the UCLFAU Fieldwork Manual (draft) and the Method Statement (ASE 2006).

The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

A photographic record of the trenches was kept in both Black and White and Colour Slide film.

The trenches were levelled in relation to a nearby bench mark.

The trenches were measured to known points and reproduced on a site plan in relation to the Ordnance Survey (see Fig 2).

Trench record sheets were filled out for each trench and measured sketch sections produced.

An on line OASIS form was filled out for the site, a copy of which is reproduced as an appendix to this document.

The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South East office in Ditchling and will be offered to a suitable museum (LAARC) in due course. All finds are the property of the landowner, but will be donated to a suitable museum.

4 RESULTS

The site is presented by trench.

4.1 Stratigraphy (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north of the site and measured 12.5m by 2m. In the north east of the trench natural gravels [2] were encountered 0.52m below modern ground surface at 13.86m OD. In the centre of the trench the gravels [2] dropped sharply to the south west and were recorded in the south west of the trench 2.95m OD below modern ground surface at 11.08m OD. The gravels were recorded as being sub-angular to sub-rounded <50mm in a clayey sand matrix banded with an iron panned mid brown clayey sand. At depth the gravel bands became infrequent and expanses of mid brown silty clay with bluish grey clay veining were recorded.

In the south west of the trench, a wet dark greenish grey clayey sand [1] with frequent water rounded sub-angular gravel <50mm was recorded sealing the natural gravels. The deposit was c. 0.4m deep and recorded at a height of 11.63m OD. A sample <1> was taken as there was no smell of hydro-carbons (unlike those observed in the other trenches).

Sealing deposit [1] in the south west of the trench was a sub-angular gravel <50mm in a wet mid to dark brown clayey sand matrix [3]. The deposit was c. 0.6m deep and recorded at a height of 12.23m OD. The deposit contained occasional modern (19th/20th century) brick and was interpreted as a levelling deposit.

Sealing deposit [3] in the south west of the trench was a dark grey friable silty sand [4] with frequent pieces of modern (19th/20th century) industrial waste (glass, metal, building debris etc). The deposit was 1.3m deep and recorded at a height of 13.53m OD.

Sealing deposit [4] in the south west of the trench and the higher gravels in the north east was a c. 0.5m deep deposit of modern (20th century) made ground comprising of building debris.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the south west of Trench 1 and measured 20m by 2m. The underlying natural gravels [2] were encountered at c. 11.05m OD throughout the trench (see description above). Gravel deposit [2] was sealed by river deposit [1] (see description above), which was c. 0.8m deep and recorded at a height of c. 11.85m OD. In Trench 2 river deposit [1] contained occasional modern (19th/20th century brick) and had a distinct smell of hydrocarbons.

Sealing deposit [1], was a dark grey friable silty sand [4] (see

description above) c. 0.7m deep recorded at a height of c. 12.55m OD.

Sealing deposit [4], was a c. 0.7m deep deposit of modern (20th century) made ground comprising of building debris.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the south of Trench 2 and measured 20m by 2m. The underlying natural gravels [2] were encountered at c. 11.20m OD throughout the trench (see description above). Gravel deposit [2] was sealed by river deposit [1] (see description above), which was c. 0.4m deep and recorded at a height of c. 11.60m OD. In Trench 3 river deposit [1] contained occasional modern (19th/20th century brick) and had a distinct smell of hydrocarbons.

Sealing deposit [1], was a dark grey friable silty sand [4] (see description above) c. 1.30 m deep recorded at a height of c. 12.90m OD.

Sealing deposit [4], was a c. 0.5m deep deposit of modern (20th century) made ground comprising of building debris.

4.2 The Finds

No finds were recovered from the site.

4.3 Environmental Samples by Lucy Allot

One 40 litre bulk sample <1> was taken from grey-green deposit [4], exposed below 1.5m in Trench 1, and observed (contaminated) in Trenches 2 and 3. The deposit was sampled to establish whether the sediment represented a natural river deposit from the River Lea or one of its tributaries.

A preliminary scan of 5 litres of the sample has confirmed the presence of sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded black/blue (60%) and orange (5%) flint fragments and flint pebbles. These were predominantly between 2-8mm in size although some larger pieces, up to 40mm were noted. The <2mm sediment fraction consisted of flint fragments and the remaining 35% were fine grey-green silt particles. The presence of sub-rounded and rounded flint fragments and silt particles suggest that the sample was from a river deposit.

No artefacts (such as worked flint) or environmental remains (such as botanicals or fauna) were present in the sub-sample.

The remaining 35 litres of the sample have not been processed and will be discarded as no further work is required.

5 DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation showed that the western extent of the site had been landscaped with substantial amounts of made ground due the presence of a probable channel of the Lea, or one of its tributaries, the bank of which was observed in Trench 1. Natural gravel deposits did survive at height in the east of Trench 1 but elsewhere seemed to have been eroded by the presence of the river channel. No archaeological remains were observed.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the paucity of archaeological deposits on the site no further work is recommended at this time.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd (Richard Meager) for commissioning the work.

8 REFERENCES

ASE 2006 *Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation, 24 Sutherland Road, London E17* ASE unpub report

CgMs 2006a *Desk Based Archaeological Assessment of Land at 24 Sutherland Road, London E17* CgMs unpub report

CgMs 2006b *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at 24 Sutherland Road, London E17* CgMs unpub report

9 APPENDIX

9.1 OASIS Form

Project details

Project name 24 Sutherland Road

Short description of the project Archaeology South East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 24 Sutherland Road, Walthamstow, E17 London Borough of Waltham Forest. The work was carried out in advance of proposed redevelopment of the site on the 18th, 19th and 20th September 2006. Three trenches were excavated in the western extent of the site. No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded on the site. A probable channel of the River Lea, or one of its tributaries, was recorded in Trench 1. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 had substantial deposits of c. 19th/20th century made ground associated with the infilling of the channel. The site had been affected by previous industry and was contaminated in some areas. The modern ground surface across the site was recorded between 14.38m OD to 13.25m OD. Natural gravel was observed between 13.86m OD to 11.05m OD.

Project dates Start: 18-09-2006 End: 20-09-2006

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes 2616 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes SUX 06 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Methods & techniques 'Annotated Sketch','Sample 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 WALTHAM FOREST WALTHAMSTOW 24 Sutherland Road

Postcode E17

Study area	1.42 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3605 9005 Point
Height OD	Min: 11.05m Max: 13.86m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	consultant
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Jon Sygrave
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LARC
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LARC
Paper Contents	'Environmental','Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jon Sygrave
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Issuer or publisher	ASE

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publication ASE

Description grey report



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