Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report 1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane Edgware, London Borough of Harrow

> NGR: 519174 191602 (TQ 19174 91602)

Planning Ref: P/0539/13 ASE Project No: 7998 Site Code: RDW16 ASE Report No: 2016048 OASIS id: archaeol6-242548



By Sarah Ritchie

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Able Construction UK Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow, HA8 6JX.

Three archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated and revealed late postmedieval buried soil horizons sealing a late post-medieval clay layer with small amounts of residual medieval pot and CBM. The only archaeological feature observed was a rubbish pit of 18th century date cut into the natural clay, located at c. 53.40m OD.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Able Construction UK Limited to undertake the archaeological evaluation at 1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow, HA8 6JX. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 19174 91602.
- 1.1.2 The site lies mostly within an Archaeological Priority Area (Figure 1) and is an irregularly shaped parcel of land enclosed by buildings on all sides, at the junction of Whitchurch Lane and Edgware Road. The site measures approximately 500m²

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The geology of the site comprises London Clay with no overlying superficial deposits.
- 1.2.2 Geotechnical works undertaken on site in May 2015 (Nicholls Colton Geotechnical, 2015) reveal a sequence of made ground, overlying superficial deposits of orange/brown and grey mottled clay, which sealed the London Clay formations. The natural deposits were encountered at depths of between 1.30m and 1.60m below ground level.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning Consent was granted (Ref. No.: P/0539/13) for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a 2 storey residential building comprising five residential units with associated parking, refuse storage and amenity space. Permission was granted subject to the following condition:

16 "No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing. No development or demolition shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation. Provision shall be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition.

REASON: Heritage assets of archaeological interest may survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development, in accordance with recommendations given by the borough and in the NPPF"

1.3.2 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation (ASE 2016) was compiled and approved by GLAAS.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation on the site, carried out between the 20th and 22nd January 2016, and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE, 2016). The work was carried out by Sarah Ritchie (Project Supervisor). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation work by Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is drawn from a 1km radius search of the Greater London Historic Environment Service (provided 5th January 2016).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Various prehistoric find spots were noted within the 1km study area, including a flint pick (081948/00/00 - MLO16271) Neolithic axe, as well as a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age axe (081943/00/00 - MLO16397).

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 Edgware Road follows the line of Roman Watling Street, one of the main arterial roads leading out of Roman London to St Albans. Sites nearby include a former Roman settlement at Brockley Hill and the remains of a 3rd century AD house in Burnt Oak, to the southeast of the site.
- 2.3.2 The GLHER notes a Roman tile kiln (052033/00/00 MLO9609), tile surfaces (052145/00/00 MLO5721) and tile dumps (052033/01/00 MLO42721) recorded within the 1km search radius of the site.

2.4 Anglo Saxon and Medieval

- 2.4.1 The name Edgware is of Saxon origin, originally "Ecgi's Weir", and is in reference to the Edgware or Dean's Brook located to the south. Although not directly mentioned in the Domesday Book it is probable that the medieval manor existed by this period, albeit as part of Stanmore or Kingsbury. However, there are no known Saxon finds spots within the 1km search radius of the site.
- 2.4.2 Edgware developed along the line of the Roman road during the medieval period, with the parish church constructed by the mid-13th century, and the subsequent St Margaret's Church by the mid-14th century on the east side of the High Street.
- 2.4.3 Throughout the medieval period the area was mostly used for farming with the Edgware Road as the main thoroughfare.
- 2.4.4 A medieval pit was excavated by Compass Archaeology at 25-27 High Street (MLO106862).
- 2.4.5 A medieval ditch and pit were also excavated by AOC Archaeology at 105-109 High Street (MLO71410).
- 2.4.6 A medieval manor stood in Little Stanmore from 1260-61, and by 1276 it comprised a 'court' and 396 acres of land (052232/00/00 MLO20948).
- 2.4.7 The medieval church of St Margaret's was largely rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries (MLO107159).

2.4.8 This evidence would indicate that around the site location there is moderate potential for medieval activity, primarily of agricultural origin.

2.5 Post medieval and modern

- 2.5.1 Into the post-medieval period Edgware remained a primarily agricultural based economy incorporating arable, pastoral and forestry use. From the mid-16th century to the beginning of the 19th century the population increased from 120 to 412 and remained centred on the High Street until the late 19th century.
- 2.5.2 Buildings along the High Street included several inns and blacksmiths' workshops, reflecting the importance of the road as a staging post for travellers in and out of London, and regular markets and fairs were held in Edgware from the 17th century until the mid-19th century.
- 2.5.3 Whitchurch Lane itself was one of several narrow side roads in existence at the time, in this instance leading to St Lawrence Church in Little Stanmore. As it nears the High Street it was referred to as "Poor Lane" by one source (Harrow Council, 2013).
- 2.5.4 Not until the start of the 20th century did substantial change reach Edgware as the settlement became increasingly seen as a suburb of London, helped by the opening of the tramline along the Edgware Road from Cricklewood in 1904. Many timber buildings on the east side of the High Street were demolished to make way for the tramline and the High Street as a whole was modernised both before and after the First World War with tarmacked road surfaces, shopping parades and a granite stone war memorial erected in 1920.

2.6 **Project Aims and Objectives**

- 2.6.1 The general aims and objectives of the field evaluation were:
 - To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development
 - To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
 - To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
 - Specifically to identify any remains of Roman roadside features associated with Watling Street
 - To enable the archaeology advisor at GLAAS to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work at the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Three trenches, two measuring 3m x 1m and one measuring 2m x 1m were excavated (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Excavation was carried out by hand. The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. Care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over digging.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were laid out in general accordance with the pattern given in the WSI (ASE 2016). The trench locations were located by the principle contractor, and levelled using a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) on site.
- 3.1.4 Features and deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Sample sections were recorded and a comprehensive photographic record taken.
- 3.1.4 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye for unstratified finds.
- 3.1.5 The trenches were backfilled and compacted upon completion.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed the LAARC prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 & 2).

Context sheets	13
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	22
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

(Figure 3)

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Made ground	3m	1m	0.54m	54.61m OD
1/002	Layer	Concrete	3m	1m	0.16m	54.07m OD
1/003	Layer	Buried soil	3m	1m	0.50m	53.91m OD
1/004	Layer	Layer	3m	1m	0.20m	53.41m OD
1/005	Layer	Natural	3m	1m	0.10m	53.21m OD

 Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Natural mid-grey clay [1/005] was observed at *c*. 53.21m OD. Overlying this was c. 0.20m of grey-brown clay with occasional CBM and animal bone inclusions [1/004], as well as quite frequent rooting. An almost complete brick collected from [1/004] has a suggested 16th century date.
- 4.1.2 Overlying [1/004] was 0.50m of post-medieval black sandy-silt [1/003] with occasional CBM, slate and glass inclusions. This has been interpreted as an old garden soil.
- 4.1.3 Sealing [1/003] was a concrete slab and underlying made ground consisting of crushed brick and mortar [1/002]. Overlying this slab, and sealing the trench, was 0.54m of black sandy-silt garden soil [1/001] with frequent brick, concrete and metal inclusions, including paint pots. [1/001] was located at 54.61m OD.
- 4.1.4 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

4.2 Trench 2

(Figure	3)
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Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Made ground	3m	1m	0.32-0.58m	54.23m OD
2/002	Laver	Laver	3m	1m	0.40-0.50m	53.65m OD
2/002	Layer	Natural	3m	1m	0.18m	53.55m OD

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Natural mid-grey clay [2/003] was observed at c. 53.55m OD. Overlying this was c.0.40-0.50m of grey-brown clay with occasional CBM inclusions [2/002], and sloped very gradually from the north-west to the south-east. Dating from this deposit was mixed, with residual 16th century brick and a medieval pot fragment and 19th-20th century roof tile.
- 4.2.2 Overlying [2/002], and sealing the trench, was 0.32 0.58m of post-medieval black sandy-silt [2/001] with occasional CBM, pebble and glass inclusions. This has been interpreted as garden soil. [2/001] was located at 54.53m OD.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Concrete	2m	1m	0.06m	54.70m OD
3/002	Layer	Made ground	2m	1m	0.46m	54.64m OD
3/003	Layer	Buried soil	2m	1m	0.40m	54.18m OD
3/004	Layer	Layer	2m	1m	0.38m	53.78m OD
3/005	Fill	Fill of [006]	0.60m	1m	0.60m	53.40m OD
3/006	Cut	Pit	0.60m	1m	0.60m	53.40m OD
3/007	Layer	Natural	2m	1m	0.10m	53.40m OD

(Figure 3)

 Table 5:
 Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Natural mid-grey clay [3/007] was observed at c. 53.40m OD. Cut into the natural clay was pit [3/006], only partially revealed within the trench, the pit appeared to be round or oval in shape and c.0.60m deep, filled with a black, heavily waterlogged organic silt with 18th century roof tile [3/005]. The base of the pit was located at 52.70m OD. The pit contained 4 fragments of roof tile unlikely to date any earlier that the 18th century.
- 4.3.2 Sealing the pit was c. 0.38m of grey-brown clay with occasional CBM, crushed chalk oyster shell and 19th-20th century roof tile fragments [3/004].
- 4.3.3 Overlying [3/004] was 0.40m of post-medieval black sandy-silt [3/003] with occasional CBM, pot and pebble inclusions. This has been interpreted as an old garden soil, pottery from which date the garden soils deposition to *c*.1825-1900.
- 4.3.4 Sealing [3/003] was 0.46m of mid-brown silty made ground with frequent crushed brick, mortar and pebbles [3/002]. Sealing the trench was a 0.06m skim of concrete [3/001], located at 54.70m OD.

5.0 Finds

5.0.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at 1 Rodwell Place, Edgware. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 6). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	СВМ	Wt (g)
1/004			2	1226
2/002	1	5	6	115
3/003	3	100	5	721
3/004			1	375
3/005			4	275
Total	4	105	18	2712

Table 6: Finds quantification

5.1 **Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The evaluation recovered pottery from just two deposits. A small bodysherd of medieval pottery was noted in context [2/002]. In addition, context [3/003] produced three relatively fresh sherds. These consist of a sherd from a Sunderland slipware bowl (1/6g), an iron-washed salt-glazed English stoneware bottle (1/26g, with adhering mortar on its interior) and part of a blue transfer-printed serving dish with floral decoration (66g). Taken together they suggest a deposition date between c. 1825 and 1900.

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.2.1 Eighteen pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 2562g were hand collected from five evaluation contexts at Rodwell Place. The majority of the material was fragmented and given the small size of the assemblage the variety of fabrics identified is suggestive of refuse deposits (see Table 7).
- 5.2.2 Roof tile made up most of the CBM collected, with fourteen fragments collectively recovered from [1/004], [2/002], [3/003], [3/004] and [3/005]. All of the roof tile was fragmentary and there were few notable characteristics to enable dating. Exceptions to this was a fragment in T2A from [2/002] that appeared machine-made, which would indicate a c.19th-20th century date, and another fairly large tile piece in T2 from [3/004] which had a thick layer of cement mortar on the base and edges; this would also suggest a date of the mid-19th century or later. One T2 tile fragment from [3/005] had both a partial round peg-hole of diameter 13mm and surface decoration consisting of three raised linear ridges running horizontally across the tile. This fragment also looked very neatly made and is unlikely to date any earlier that the 18th century.
- 5.2.3 Only three pieces of brick were recovered; one nearly full brick from [1/004] and two smaller, spall-like pieces in the same fabric (B1) from [2/002]. The nearly full brick was unfrogged and generally poorly made with heavily creased

faces and base. One end was broken but the remaining brick was intact enough for width and depth measurements to be taken, respectively 105mm and 50mm. This would indicate a $c.16^{th}$ century date.

- 5.2.4 A single floor tile was collected from [3/004]. One edge was broken, but it is likely to have originally been a square floor tile of 110mm² x 32mm. When found it was unglazed, with a worn upper surface and faint traces of lime mortar on the base and faces. There is not much to date the floor tile, but it was recovered from the same context as the roof tile with cement, which would suggest at least a deposition date of c.19th-20th century.
- 5.2.5 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms and this information was then entered into a digital Excel spreadsheet. Samples of fabrics and forms have been retained.

Fabric code	Description
T1	Dense orange fabric with abundant unsorted quartz, mostly <1mm. Sparse black iron oxides up to 0.5mm.
T2	Dense and slightly micaceous orange fabric with moderate fine and medium quartz.
T2A	Modern fabric? Very similar to T2 but with common fine quartz.
Т3	Dense orange fabric with a laminated quality. Clusters of sub-rounded grey quartz up to 0.5mm.
T4	Floor tile fabric. Dense reddish and slightly micaceous fabric. Common fine quartz giving a slightly 'gritty' texture.
B1	Dense reddish fabric (well-fired) with sparse unsorted medium and coarse quartz and sparse dark red iron-rich inclusions and patches up to 2mm.

Table 7: Summary of Ceramic Building Material fabrics

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence, deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.1.1 The evaluation revealed natural clay at *c*.53.40m OD within the eastern corner of the site, sloping down to 53.21m OD to the west and up to 53.55m OD to the north.
- 6.1.2 Cut into the natural, within Trench 3, was a rubbish pit of possible *c*.18th century date. This was the only archaeological feature observed on the site. Sealing the rubbish pit and natural clay was a grey clay of *c*.19th century date with residual 16th century brick and a medieval pot sherd, observed in all three trenches.
- 6.1.3 In all three trenches the clay was overlain by various made ground deposits. It is likely that layers [1/003]; [2/001] and [3/003] all represent the same garden soil layer, dated to 1825-1900.
- 6.1.4 The archaeological sequence within the areas evaluated is consistent in both content and date, suggesting it can be stated with a high degree of confidence that the archaeological sequence observed represents the type and date of the archaeology within the site as a whole.

6.2 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 6.2.1 Archaeological remains consisting of one late post-medieval pit and late postmedieval garden soils were observed on the site. A small amount of residual 16th century brick and medieval pot was collected from the lower layers, indicating some earlier activity within the general area.
- 6.2.2 The development is not basemented, and so any impact to archaeological deposits would occur only within the excavation of foundation trenches and possibly any drainage. The impact on any archaeology can be considered low.

6.3 Consideration of research aims

6.3.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential within the footprint of the proposed development.

No archaeological remains with palaeoenvironmental potential were observed within the evaluation.

6.3.2 To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains

No archaeological remains with palaeoenvironmental potential were observed within the evaluation.

6.3.3 To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits

Archaeological remains identified on site consisted of a rubbish pit of 18th century date and made ground of mid-19th century date.

6.3.4 Specifically to identify any remains of Roman roadside features associated with Watling Street

No remains associated with Watling Street or the Roman roadside were observed.

6.4 Conclusions

6.4.1 The site revealed late post-medieval buried soil horizons sealing a late postmedieval clay layer with small amounts of residual medieval pot and CBM. The only archaeological feature observed was a rubbish pit of 18th century date cut into the natural clay, located at *c*. 53.40m OD

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HER Summary

Site Code	RDW16					
Identification Name and Address	1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, HA8 6JX					
County, District &/or Borough	London Bor	London Borough of Harrow				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 19174	91602				
Geology	London Clay	Ý				
Arch. South-East Project Number	7998					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site			Deep Urban		1	
Dates of Fieldwork	20-22 Jan 2016					
Sponsor/Client	Able Constr	uction UK L	imited	·		
Project Manager	Andy Leona	rd				
Project Supervisor	Sarah Ritch	ie				
Period Summary						
		MED	PM	Modern		
Summary Archaeology South-Eas archaeological evaluati Harrow, HA8 6JX, in ac trenches were excavate post-medieval clay laye archaeological feature located at c. 53.40m O	on at 1 Rodw dvance of the ed and revea er with small a observed wa	vell Place, redevelop led late po amounts of	Whitchurch L ment of the s st-medieval i f residual me	ane, Edgwar site. Three ard buried soil hol dieval pot and	e, London E chaeologica rizons sealii d CBM. The	Borough of Il evaluation ng a late e only

OASIS Form

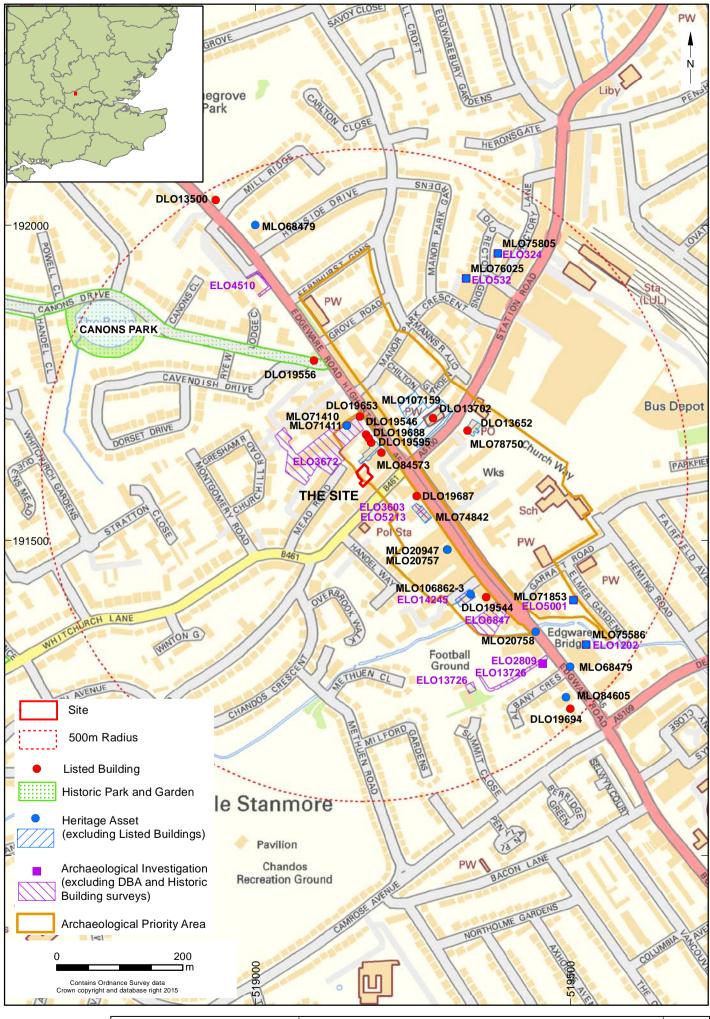
OASIS ID: archaeol6-242548

Project details	
Project name	1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, London
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Able Construction UK Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, London Borough of Harrow, HA8 6JX, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Three archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated and revealed late post-medieval buried soil horizons sealing a late post-medieval clay layer with small amounts of residual medieval pot and CBM. The only archaeological feature observed was a rubbish pit of 18th century date cut into the natural clay, located at c. 53.40m OD
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2016 End: 22-01-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RDW16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

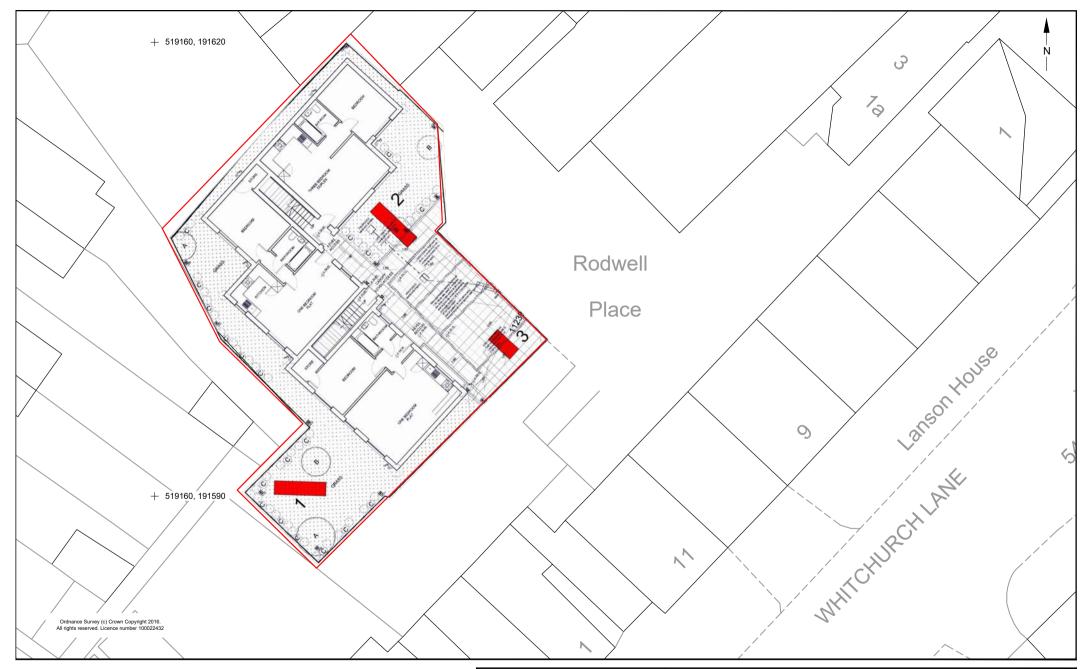
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HARROW EDGWARE 1 Rodwell Place, Whitchurch Lane
Postcode	HA8 6JX
Study area	500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 19174 91602 51.610139626058 -0.27873397294 51 36 36 N 000 16 43 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 53.21m Max: 53.55m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Groundwork Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Sarah Ritchie
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

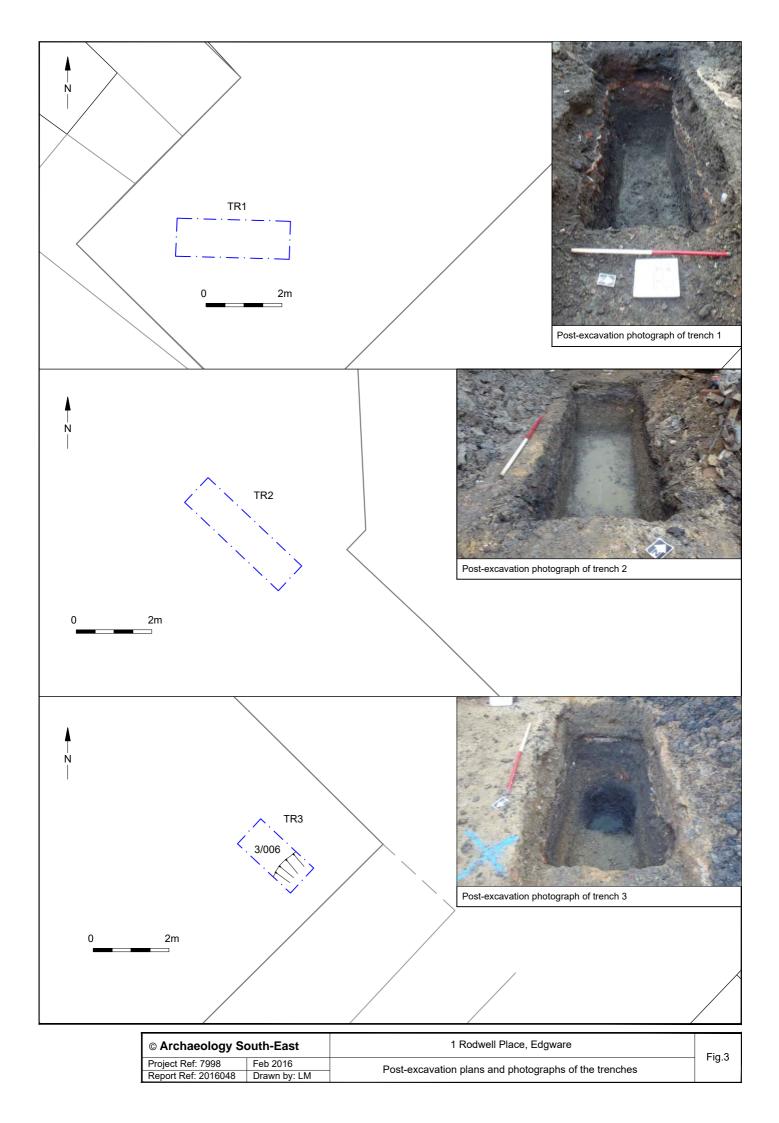
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Project bibliography 1	
	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
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Entered by Entered on	Sarah Ritchie (s.ritchie@ucl.ac.uk) 12 February 2016



© Archaeology South-East		1 Rodwell Place, Edgware	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7998	Feb 2016	Site location showing heritage assets (GLHER)	l ig. i
Report No: 2016048	Drawn by: EMH		



© Archaeology South-East		1 Rodwell Place, Edgware	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7998	Feb 2016		1 ig. 2
Report Ref: 2016048	Drawn by: LM	Location of evaluation trenches	



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