

**An Archaeological Evaluation on the proposed new site of Rainham Interchange  
and Library, Ferry Lane, Rainham, London Borough of Havering**

**NGR: TQ 521 820  
Project No. 3978  
Site Code: RIL 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009135  
OASIS id: archaeol6-64061**



**Kathryn Grant, MSc, AIFA  
With contributions by  
Anna Doherty, Elke Raemen, Gemma Driver,  
Luke Barber and Sarah Porteus**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East on the proposed new site for Rainham Interchange and Library, Rainham, London Borough of Havering (NGR: TQ 521 820) between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009 for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client.*

*Five archaeological trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 100m in advance of a proposed redevelopment. Three of the trenches contained archaeological features of Late Iron Age/Roman ( AD 10-70), medieval (c.1350-1450) and post-medieval date. The features included four Late Iron Age/early Roman pits and one linear feature of the same date, a medieval ditch and two post-medieval rubbish pits. In addition, three undated linears were revealed. Some modern intrusion was present within the trenches.*

*The natural geology was variable at the site and comprised a combination of reddish-orange sandy clays and orange and yellow sandy gravels, which were encountered at a maximum height of 2.38m AOD in the northeast of the site, falling away to 1.09m AOD in the west. All features were sealed with a combination of subsoil and made ground, overlain by topsoil.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of redevelopment works on the proposed new site of Rainham Interchange and Library, Ferry Lane, Rainham, London Borough of Havering (NGR: TQ 521 820), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase of work in which five trial trenches were investigated. The trenches measured a cumulative length of 100m with a width of 1.8m

### **1.2 Planning Background**

1.2.1 Due to the archaeological potential of the site and the likely impact on the archaeological resource as a result of the proposed development an archaeological strategy was recommended by The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) in the form of evaluation by trial trenching and a Written Scheme of Investigation for the work was prepared (Meager 2009).

1.2.2 The work carried out during the course of the evaluation was undertaken in line with government policy as set out in PPG16, the London Plan's archaeological policies, the London Borough of Havering's archaeological policies and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation which had been formally approved by David Divers, Archaeological Advisor, GLAAS.

1.2.3 In addition, a Method Statement for an archaeological evaluation was prepared by Archaeology South East (ASE 2009). This outlined the strategy for the fieldwork and was followed throughout the evaluation programme. All work was carried out in accordance with this document (unless otherwise specified below) and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

1.2.4 A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) on Rainham Village was carried out in May 2009 by Jacobs (2009). Reference has been made to this document throughout the evaluation work.

### **1.3 Aims and Objectives**

1.3.1 The evaluation set out to determine, as far as was 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 would be studied, and attention would be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).

1.3.2 The specific objectives of the project as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Meager 2009) were:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of Prehistoric or later activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation.
- To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

1.3.3 The evaluation was also designed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions as a means to assessing the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Report**

1.4.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land of the proposed Rainham Interchange and Library, Rainham, London Borough of Havering, between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist/Field Officer) with the assistance of Liane Peyre and Rob Cole. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Geology and Topography**

- 2.1.1 The proposed development site is bounded by Rainham Railway Station to the south and west, Ferry Lane to the east and Wennington Road to the north. The site centre is at NGR TQ 521 820.
- 2.1.2 According to Sheet 257 of the British Geological Survey (BGS 1996), the site lies on Taplow Gravels. These are described as 'Post-diversionary Thames River deposits' comprising variations of gravel, sand and clay. The study area is located immediately adjacent to an area of made ground.
- 2.1.3 The proposed development site seems relatively level at first, but the degree of overburden and made ground deposits revealed during trial trenching suggest some considerable attempts at levelling. The natural geology was revealed at its highest in the northeast of the site at 2.38m AOD with a gentle slope down to 1.09m AOD in the west.
- 2.1.4 The DBA (Jacobs 2009) notes that the underlying base geology of the Rainham area consists of the Lambeth Group (formerly the Woolwich and Reading Beds), overlain by Tertiary River Terrace Gravels and alluvium. The alluvial marshlands are 1.5 – 2.0 metres above sea level. According to the DBA (2009), Rainham appears to be located on the edge of the first gravel terrace, adjacent to Rainham Creek and overlooking marshes adjoining the River Thames.
- 2.1.5 The study site is located on the southern side of the Rainham Conservation Area, which has retained the appearance of a village.

### **2.2 Existing Disturbances**

- 2.2.1 Recent disturbances, such as fly-tipping are known to have occurred on the land where the proposed development lies, whilst during the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site was used for the setting up of a garden, construction of the adjacent railway and the building of housing. In this regard, the extent to which these works had impacted on any potential sub-terra remains was unknown prior to the evaluation.
- 2.2.2 With the exception of a known telecommunications cable crossing the eastern edge of the development site from north to south, the site was not known to have been disturbed by other utilities trenches. The area was checked with a CAT scanner prior to any excavation work. The prior knowledge of the site as an area with 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, suggested that associated utilities, such as disused water pipes were likely to be uncovered during the works.

### **2.3 Archaeological and Historical Synopsis**

- 2.3.1 The archaeological background of the proposed site has been discussed in detail in the DBA (Jacobs 2009). This document was studied by the



supervising archaeologist before work on site commenced. The document was also used for reference during the course of the evaluation.

2.3.2 The potential of the site was assessed in relation to the proximity of known archaeological remains, such as listed buildings and archaeological sites/findspots, recorded in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) within 500m wide radius of the proposed site. Since a detailed account of the known archaeological resource of the study area can be seen in the DBA only an outline will be reproduced here. A summarised version of the sites and monuments search (some information sourced from the Archaeology Data Service) has been tabulated in the Appendix with the majority of site/findspot locations plotted on Figure 1. Those not illustrated were omitted due to non-specific coordinates. The numbering system (shown in brackets) used within this report was created by the author. The following points were pertinent to this evaluation and have been summarised below with all due acknowledgement (Jacobs 2009):

- The Palaeolithic period is represented by a findspot of three hand axes (16) to the east of the churchyard and a Mesolithic stone tool (25) to the southeast of Rainham.
- Late Bronze Age/Iron Age ditches have been recorded in the Tesco site to the north of Rainham village and on the Rainham Town Football Club site to the southeast (9, 21 and 23).
- The Iron Age is evidenced within the area by cut features including ditches, gullies and pits (20, 21 and 23), which are thought to be part of a larger landscape, perhaps associated with the early-middle Iron Age settlement at Rainham Town Football Club.
- Limited evidence in the form of pottery sherds suggest that human activity continued in the southwest and southeast of Rainham from the Iron Age through to the Roman period. A single Roman grey pottery rim sherd was found in the top of a Bronze Age ditch in Wennington Road (22).
- Five medieval sites, including the Grade I listed Church of St. Helen and St. Giles (5), are located within the historic core of Rainham. In addition, medieval pottery (24) was recovered to the southeast of Rainham.
- Twenty-five post-medieval sites have been identified within the study area. Among these are the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century developments at Rainham, the development of Rainham Wharf (11) and the construction of the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway (29). World War II defence structures include an anti-aircraft gun position (26) and an air-raid shelter.
- Excavations carried out at Moor Hall Farm revealed Iron Age and Roman enclosures (33).

## **2.4 Summary of Archaeological Potential**

2.4.1 The preceding DBA demonstrated the presence of human activity from the Palaeolithic through to modern times within the study area. A clear continuation of human activity in the area has been evidenced by cut features dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods. The Saxon derivation of the name Rainham, as well as the construction of the stone church in the

Norman period, suggests there is a high potential for remains from these periods to survive within the area.

- 2.4.2 Historic-mapping has provided clear evidence of post-medieval activity on the actual study site. The maps indicate the presence of an enclosed garden in 1839 and the construction of two rows of cottages between 1882 and 1897. It is likely that the remains of these features will survive.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Methods Employed**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation work comprised five archaeological trenches (measuring 20m in length with a width of 1.8m) which were excavated under constant archaeological supervision to a cumulative length of 100m using an 8 tonne mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The trenches were positioned across the development area so as to ensure that an optimum sample of the area was uncovered (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Prior to the commencement of work a site code was obtained from the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 3.1.3 Prior to the commencement of work on site, the entire area had been fenced-off by contractors and securely locked. The access gates to the site were locked at the end of each day to ensure that the area was safe and secure. Before any excavation was undertaken relevant warning signs to inform the public about the nature of the work were attached to the gate.
- 3.1.4 The locations of potential below-ground services were located with a CAT scanner and highlighted with yellow spray-paint.
- 3.1.5 The trenches were located approximately according to the proposed trench location plan, but flexibility for the trench locations was approved in case of any onsite constraints. Due to the slight relocation/resizing of some trenches it was necessary to re-plan their new positions (Figure 2) using a Total Station fitted with a Global Positioning System (GPS).
- 3.1.6 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. When removed, topsoil, subsoil and made ground deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited stratigraphically during the backfilling process for optimum reinstatement. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts which were recovered and bagged for dating and analysis.
- 3.1.7 The trenches were located and levelled using a Total Station. Any uncovered archaeological features or deposits were planned (also using the total station) and sections were drawn at 1:10. A day-to-day digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) SLR photographic record of all archaeological features. Samples of archaeological deposits were collected for environmental processing.
- 3.1.8 Where only simple stratigraphic sequences were revealed, representative sections (c.1.0m wide) at the end of each trench were drawn. Due to their simplicity these sections will be kept as part of the archive for the site but have not been included within this report. Each trench was fully recorded on trench record sheets and ASE context sheets.

- 3.1.9 Although the context numbering system is not always continuous (in numerical order) each context does have its own unique identity denoted by the prefixed trench number.
- 3.1.10 On the completion of all excavation and recording, the consulting archaeologist, Richard Meager (CgMs Consulting Ltd.) was informed. A meeting was arranged to discuss the archaeological findings in light of further mitigation strategy. Permission was obtained to begin the reinstatement of trenches.

**3.2 Onsite Constraints**

- 3.2.1 A tree with a Tree Protection Order (TPO) had been identified along the western boundary of the site. Any nearby trenches were relocated to ensure a recommended distance of at least two metres from the extent of the tree canopy. Trench 2 was reduced by 3 metres (17m) in length to ensure that it was positioned a suitable distance from the surrounding trees. Consequently, Trench 3 was extended by 3 metres (to 23m) to prevent any loss.
- 3.2.2 Due to the depth of the overburden at the site which at times exceeded 1.2m, the trench sides were stepped to ensure that overlying deposits were stable and that safe access into and out of the trench was available.
- 3.2.3 Due to the depth of some of the features uncovered at the site (up to 2m in depth to the base in some cases) the water table had been reached and some inevitable water seepage was present in feature bases as a result.
- 3.2.4 Due to the level of modern rubbish, scrap metal and made ground at the site a full metal detecting survey was compromised. However, all clear archaeological horizons and features were scanned for the presence of artefacts.

**3.3 The Project Archive**

- 3.3.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (Table 1).

Number of Trenches	5
Number of Contexts	43
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	2 Section Sheets @ 1:10
Bulk Samples	5 (8 Buckets)
Photographs	1 b&w film, 1 colour film & 62 digital colour photographs
Bulk finds	1 large box, 1 small box, 1 stewart tub
Registered finds	3
Environmental flots/residue	1 small box

**Table 1:** Quantification of the site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Four of the five archaeological trenches (2, 3, 4, 5) excavated during the evaluation contained potential archaeological features. Trench 1 contained only overburden deposits, modern intrusion and natural geology as described below.

4.2 **Trench 1** (Figure 2), measuring 20m northwest-southeast with a maximum depth of 0.60m, was located along the northeast edge of the proposed development. No archaeology was revealed within this trench. The recorded contexts from this trench have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 2).

#### 4.2.1

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (max.)	Max Height m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.2m	2.95
1/002	Deposit	Made ground	0.4m	2.75
1/003	Deposit	Natural	-	2.38

**Table 1:** List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 1

#### 4.2.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural light brownish-yellow sandy river gravels [1/003] (Reading Woolwich Beds) were encountered c.0.57m below ground level at 2.38m AOD. The remains of nineteenth century wall footings were observed cutting the natural in the south-eastern part of this trench. Some bricks were retained for post-excavation analysis to confirm their date. Above the natural was grey-brown silty sandy made ground [1/002] with frequent inclusions of ceramic building materials (CBM), concrete, glass, asphalt and small sub-rounded flint pebbles. Recovered from [1/002] were two late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century 'frogged' bricks, two early 19<sup>th</sup> century blue transfer-printed plate fragments and a single clay pipe stem fragment. A layer of loose, friable dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil [1/001] covered all of the deposits within this trench.

4.3 **Trench 2** (Figures 2, 3), measuring 17m north-south with a maximum depth of 1.4m, was located in the western corner of the proposed development. Six features of Late Iron Age/early Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were recorded within this trench. The recorded contexts from this trench have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 2).

#### 4.3.1

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (max.)	Max Height m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	2.33
2/002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.64m	1.93
2/003	Cut	Oval pit	-	1.71
2/004	Fill	Fill of 2/003	0.29m	-

2/005	Cut	Amorphous pit	-	1.26
2/006	Fill	Fill of 2/005	0.4m	-
2/007	Cut	Post. med refuse pit	-	c1.8
2/008	Fill	Fill of 2/007	c.0.40m	-
2/009	Cut	Medieval Linear	-	1.35
2/010	Fill	Fill of 2/009	0.72m	-
2/011	Cut	Dark rectangular feature	-	1.35
2/012	Fill	Fill of 2/011	0.31m	-
2/013	Cut	Post med. refuse pit	-	-
2/014	Fill	Fill of 2/013	c.0.8m	-
2/015	Deposit	Redeposited natural lens	0.2m	-
2/016	Deposit	Natural	-	1.24

**Table 2:** List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 2

#### 4.3.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural brownish orange sandy clay with light yellow mottling [2/016] was encountered at 1.09m below ground level at 1.24m AOD. In the central part of the trench two pit features were uncovered. [2/003] was a small oval-shaped pit (0.8m x 1.10m) with a fairly steep eastern edge and a more gradual western edge made slightly irregular by rooting. The base of this feature was fairly flat. The feature was filled with loose dark grey brown sandy silt [2/004] with light yellowish green and grey clayey mottling, which contained occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles and abundant Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery sherds. [2/005] was a larger amorphous pit with gradually sloping sides and a moderate break of slope into a concave base. The feature was filled with light grey fine, but compact sandy silt [2/006] with yellowish green clay mottling, which contained occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles, Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery sherds, small fine roots, sub-angular flints and rare animal bone fragments.

Towards the southern end of the trench several ambiguously defined features were uncovered. [2/009] seemed linear-shaped in plan and had a very steep, vertical western edge and an irregular base. The feature was 0.75m deep, and was consequently filling with water. Some undercutting of the sides was present and probably resulted from water movement within the feature, perhaps suggesting a drainage ditch/sewerage system. This feature was filled with dark greyish brown friable silty clay [2/010] with occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles and organic components such as fine twigs and degraded leaves towards the base of the feature. This feature, likely to be of mid 14<sup>th</sup>- to mid 15<sup>th</sup>- century date, established by green-glazed pottery and a local hard fired fine sand tempered oxidised cooking pot fragment found towards the base, truncates [2/011]. Some peg tile fragments recovered from the top of this feature provided a contrary 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date, but these fragments may be intrusive due to clear truncation from a later feature [2/013] (described below). [2/011] was a much shallower (0.32m deep) rectangular/linear feature with concave sides and base and a very dark brownish, bluish grey silty clay fill [2/012] also with organic debris and what appears to be green cess-like deposits. Unfortunately, no datable material was recovered from this earlier feature.

In the southernmost end of the trench a feature [2/013] containing dark greyish brown friable silty clay fill [2/014] was revealed extending beyond the

extent of the evaluation trench and was observed in plan cutting through feature [2/009]. The feature was sealed by a lens of redeposited light orange gravely sand natural [2/015]. A slot was not hand-excavated through this feature as mixed finds, such as oyster shell fragments, 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century peg tile fragments, mixed pottery sherds of early/mid 15<sup>th</sup>- to mid 16<sup>th</sup>- century date and animal bone fragments were collected from within the fill which were deemed sufficient to characterise it and suggest a likely function of refuse disposal. A post-medieval feature [2/007] was located in the northern end of the trench truncating part of [2/005]. The shape of this later feature was ambiguous as it clearly extends outside of the trench although it seemed in plan to be a possible linear, obliquely crossing the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment. This feature was filled with dark grey clayey silt [2/008] with light green cassy mottling. A slot was not hand-excavated through this feature as finds, such as blue transfer-printed pottery wares, pottery sherds dating from c.1780 to 1810, clay pipes (c.1740-1840), CBM (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century peg tiles), glass fragments (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> c.), animal bones were collected from within the fill which were deemed sufficient to characterise it and suggest a probable function of refuse disposal.

Loose, friable brownish grey silty sandy subsoil [2/002] with frequent rounded flint pebbles and gravels was recorded in Trench 2. Although some modern intrusion was present within this deposit, it did not contain the extent of modern debris suggestive of made ground seen in other trenches. A layer of loose, friable dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil [2/001] covered all of the deposits within this trench.

**4.4 Trench 3** (Figures 2, 3), measuring 23m northeast-southwest with a maximum depth of 0.98m, was located east of Trench 2 in the central part of the proposed development. Three, possibly four archaeological features were uncovered within this trench. The recorded contexts from this trench have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 3).

4.4.1

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (max.)	Max Height m AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.3m	2.93
3/003	Deposit	Natural	-	2.13
3/005	Deposit	Subsoil	0.7m	2.63
3/014	Cut	Amorphous pit	-	1.48
3/015	Fill	Fill of 3/014	0.7m	-
3/016	Cut	Linear terminus	-	1.86
3/017	Fill	Fill of 3/016	0.11m	-
3/018	Cut	Linear cut in L-slot	-	2.04
3/019	Fill	Fill of 3/018	0.2m	-
3/020	Cut	Irregular pit/possible rooting	-	2.04
3/021	Fill	Fill of 3/020	0.17m	-
3/022	Cut	Amorphous pit	-	1.81
3/023	Fill	Fill of 3/022	-	-

**Table 3:** List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 3

#### 4.4.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural brownish orange sandy clay [3/003] with light yellow mottling and patches of flint gravels, particularly in the north-eastern end of the trench, was encountered at 2.13m AOD. [3/014] was a large, fairly deep (0.7m) amorphous pit c.3m wide and extending beyond the western edge of the trench. This feature had moderately sloped concave sides with a fairly flat, even base. The north-east side of this feature was undercutting at base as probable result of water movement/water table. The fill [3/015] was dark grey fine silty clay with frequent patches of green organic cassy clay and occasional small sub-rounded flint pebbles and rare roots. Although a few fragments of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were recovered from the feature, the relatively small size of the assemblage and the cess-like nature of the fill suggest that it was not used for general domestic refuse, but perhaps as a cess-pit. A second feature very similar in appearance [3/022], was uncovered adjacent (northeast) of [3/014], but due to limited time a hand-excavated slot was not undertaken. A single fragment of late medieval or early post-medieval peg tile in a brownish orange sandy fabric was collected from the surface of this feature.

In addition a linear segment [3/016]/[3/018] with two termini was uncovered in the central part of the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment. This feature was fairly shallow (0.11-0.21m deep) with gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a compact dark greyish brown clayey silt fill [3/017]/[3/019] with occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles. A second L-shaped slot was excavated through both the linear and [3/020], a possible pit. The uneven edge and irregular sides of this possible feature suggest that it may be of natural derivation, but it is equally possible that the edges have become irregular as a result of root action. This second excavation slot revealed that the linear [3/016]/[3/018] was cut through the possible pit [3/020] and was therefore later. A ceramic cooking pot rim fragment of early/mid 12<sup>th</sup>- to early 13<sup>th</sup>- century date was found within the linear fill in this slot, which provides contrary dating evidence to the southern terminus, which contained typical Roman brick fragments. The earlier, Roman date is perhaps more likely, as the context in the terminal slot shows no indication of later truncation or disturbance and is therefore arguably more secure. The linear feature [3/018] and the potential pit [3/020] had been truncated in two places by intrusive modern rubbish pits, which meant that further excavation slots were not possible.

Overlying the features in Trench 3 was loose, friable brownish grey silty sand subsoil [3/005] with frequent rounded flint pebbles and gravels. As with Trench 2, although some modern intrusion was present within this deposit, it did not contain the extent of modern debris suggestive of made ground seen in other trenches. A layer of loose, friable dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil [3/001] covered all of the deposits within this trench.

**4.5 Trench 4** (Figures 2, 4), measuring 20m northeast-southwest with a maximum depth of 1.27m was located east of Trench 3 in the central part of the proposed development. The recorded contexts from this trench have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 4).



4.5.1

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (max.)	Max Height m AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	3.16
4/002	Deposit	Made ground	0.82m	2.34
4/003	Deposit	Natural	-	1.89
4/004	Deposit	Dirty natural spread	0.15m	1.99
4/005	Cut	Linear	-	1.64
4/006	Fill	Fill of 4/005	0.15m	-
4/012	Cut	Amorphous Pit	-	2.18
4/013	Fill	Fill of 4/012	0.46m	-

**Table 4:** List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 4

4.5.2 Summary of Contexts

Natural reddish orange sands with yellowish brown mottling and patches of flint gravels were encountered at 1.89m AOD. A spread of dirty natural [4/004] was revealed in the centre of the trench. Another large amorphous pit [4/012] was located in the centre of the trench with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. This feature contained dark black brown friable sandy silt fill [4/013] with rare sub-angular flint, several fragments of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a heavy duty iron nail shank fragment. This feature was considerably darker than the fills of the other amorphous pits recorded on site and did not contain any cess-like deposits, perhaps indicating a different function.

A linear feature [4/005] on an approximate northwest-southeast alignment with a dark black brown silty fill [4/006] was revealed crossing the southwestern half of the trench. This was directly beneath and aligned with a 19<sup>th</sup> century water pipe observed during the initial machining. It therefore seems likely that [4/005] is associated with the construction cut for this pipe or that the modern pipe has respected an earlier pipeline. A slot was hand-excavated through the shallow (0.15m) linear, but no finds were recovered. Overlying all of the features in Trench 4 was grey-brown silty sandy made ground [4/002] with frequent inclusions of CBM, concrete, glass, asphalt and small sub-rounded flint pebbles. A layer of loose, friable dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil [4/001] covered all of the deposits within this trench.

**4.6 Trench 5** (Figures 2, 4), measuring 20m northwest-southeast with a maximum depth of 1.29m was located in the southern part of the proposed development. Two undated potential linear features were uncovered within this trench. No artefactual material was recovered. The recorded contexts from this trench have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 5).

4.6.1

Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness	Max Height m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25m	2.72
5/003	Deposit	Natural	-	1.42
5/005	Deposit	Subsoil	1.05	2.47
5/008	Cut	NE/SW Linear	-	1.41
5/009	Fill	Fill of 5/008	0.25m	-

5/010	Cut	N/S Linear	-	1.39
5/011	Fill	Fill of 5/010	0.15m	-

**Table 5:** List of Recorded Contexts for Trench 5

#### 4.6.2 Summary of Contexts

The natural in Trench 5 [5/003], encountered at 1.42m AOD, demonstrated the variable nature of the geology uncovered at the site with bands of reddish orange sands and pockets of flint gravels.

Two potential linear features crossed the trench: the first on a north-south alignment [5/010] and the second orientated northeast-southwest [5/008]. Both of the potential features were investigated and recorded. Excavation revealed that the linears were ephemeral and shallow; the ill-defined cut suggested a natural band of geology in which overlying silt had gathered. No artefacts were recovered from either of the fills during excavation.

The north-western end of the trench revealed several very dark irregular anomalies which were identified as tree-bowls through excavation. With the exception of frequent roots, the dark deposit was very sterile with uneven, undulating natural below. Loose, friable brownish grey silty sandy subsoil [5/005] with frequent rounded flint pebbles and gravels was recorded within this trench. As with Trenches 2 and 3, although some modern intrusion was present within this deposit, it did not contain the extent of modern debris suggestive of made ground seen in other trenches. A layer of loose, friable dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil [5/001] covered all of the deposits within this trench.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

The archaeological evaluation at the proposed development site of Rainham Interchange and Library, produced a small assemblage of finds, a summary of which is given in Table 7 (see Appendix). Three clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragments show maker's marks and have been assigned a unique registered finds number (RF <00>). These have been described in conjunction with the bulk clay tobacco pipes. All bulk finds were washed and dried by context. Materials were bagged by type and pottery marked with site code and context.

### 5.1 The Late Iron Age/ early Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.1.1 An assemblage of 249 sherds, weighing 3572g, and amounting to 1.3 Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVE), was recovered across four contexts in the evaluation trenches from both hand collection and the environmental samples. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight and EVE. The fabrics and forms were recorded on pro-forma recording sheets using LAARC/MOL codes but, as this assemblage has more in common with south Essex pottery traditions, they have been concorded to codes in use at Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (Biddulph et al in prep.).

5.1.2 The fabrics and forms are, in general, diagnostic of activity datable to the range c. AD10-70. The condition of the pottery is very poor but the average sherd size is very large, suggesting that the high levels of abrasion may have been caused by post-depositional factors rather than being indicative of redeposition/residuality.

5.1.3 Almost all of the sherds are of the same fabric type: a very coarse, often unevenly-fired ware, containing sand, grog and shell. Although there is some variability in the size and ratio of these inclusions, no meaningful sub-grouping of fabrics could be defined, and the overall impression is of relatively little preparation of the clay by the potter; many examples contain rare large naturally-occurring uncalcined pieces of flint of up to 10mm. Mixed-tempered wares are a very typical of south Essex assemblages of this period. However, only one small sherd of the more widely traded South Essex Shell-tempered Ware was recorded and only two of Going's (1987, 9) 'Romanising' fabric. One sherd of Highgate C ware, probably from a poppy-head beaker found in context [4/013], is the only Romanised sherd in the assemblage. As this fabric and form date to after AD70, it is suggested that this deposit was probably sealed in the early Flavian period since its composition is otherwise identical to the other Late Iron Age/ early Roman groups.

5.1.4 There are at least 18 examples of the same form type, a distinctive beaded rim jar with an internal thickening below the rim, similar to Cam 256A (Hawkes & Hull 1947, plate LXXXII). Two other storage jar forms were recovered. One has a flattened bead rim whilst the other is necked with stabbed decoration on the shoulder. All of the pottery appears to be wheel-thrown, despite being quite crudely made and poorly finished.

5.1.5 The substantial pottery groups, almost exclusively made up by large sherds

of one fabric and form type, especially the very large group from pit fill [2/004], are of particular interest. An exceptionally large contemporary group from excavations at Moor Hall Farm, Rainham (Featherby in prep.) has recently been re-examined by the author and, although mixed-tempered wares and Cam. 256 and related forms are amongst the most common types, that assemblage encompasses a much greater diversity of pottery types, including large quantities of Going's (1987, 9) 'Romanising' fabric, as well as finer necked and cordoned jar forms. The homogeneity of the current assemblage, together with a high incidence of irregular- and over-firing may therefore be indicative of pottery production in the vicinity. However, there was no direct evidence of kiln structures either amongst the excavated features or in the fired clay assemblage, so the very narrow range of pottery might alternatively be linked to specific functional activities carried out on site. In either case, there is potential for a significant assemblage to be recovered, in the event of further excavation, which should be analysed in conjunction the evaluation material.

## 5.2 The post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery consisting of both medieval and post-medieval material. The pottery is in good condition, consisting of medium to large unabraded sherds. On the whole residuality appears to be very low.
- 5.2.2 The earliest post-Roman pottery from the site consists of a simple out-turned rim from a reduced cooking pot tempered with sand and sparse shell recovered from [3/019]. An early/mid 12<sup>th</sup>- to early 13<sup>th</sup>- century date range is probable for this vessel. The only other sherd in this fabric, which could run well into the 13<sup>th</sup> century, consists of a small abraded and residual body sherd in [2/010].
- 5.2.3 Two contexts produced later medieval/Transitional assemblages. The best of these was recovered from [2/010]. This deposit contained two large unabraded rim sherds. One of these is from a local hard fired fine sand tempered oxidised cooking pot with flat-topped heavy club rim of mid 14<sup>th</sup>- to mid 15<sup>th</sup>- century date. The other sherd, of similar date, is from a Surrey whiteware (coarse border ware) cooking pot with flat-topped rim, internal drips of green glaze and applied oblique strip on its exterior (sooted) surface. Context [2/014] produced a slightly more ambiguous assemblage including two fine sand tempered sherds, one from a glazed jug the other from an internally glazed cooking pot base, which could be placed anywhere between the later 14<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the same context produced three sherds (75g) in fine sand tempered high-fired oxidised earthenware which is more likely to be of early/mid 15<sup>th</sup>- to mid 16<sup>th</sup>- century date. The only recognisable form is a rod handle from an unglazed small jug. This context also produced a jar bodysherd in a similar (but reduced) fabric decorated with a white slip painted line typical of this period.
- 5.2.4 A small assemblage of post-medieval pottery is present. The majority was recovered from [2/008] which produced a group dated to c. 1780 – 1810. This includes two unabraded sherds, a tin-glazed earthenware bowl with blue band decoration and a post-medieval redware, which are either residual or old vessels as both would be more in keeping with a mid 17<sup>th</sup>- to early/mid

18<sup>th</sup>- century date. The remainder of this group is composed of creamware plates (2/32g), plain pearlware bowl (1/87g) and blue transfer-printed pearlware plate with Chinese landscape (1/46g). Two more blue transfer-printed plate fragments, probably of early 19<sup>th</sup>- century date, were recovered from [1/002]. Both appear to be decorated with the willow pattern design.

- 5.2.5 The post-Roman pottery assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis on its own though if further work at the site recovered more post-Roman pottery this assemblage should be studied in conjunction with the new material.

### **5.3 The Ceramic Building Material** by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 Ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from six contexts and included brick and roofing tile.
- 5.3.2 The earliest CBM identified was from context [3/017]. Three fragments of Roman brick were identified, two of which were vitrified and no identification of fabric could be made. The third fragment of Roman brick is of a fine sandy orange fabric with sparse fine black sand inclusions and sparse fine mica speckles, though abraded this fragment retained the partial imprint of a hobnail boot in the upper surface.
- 5.3.3 Late medieval or early post-medieval peg tile in a brownish orange sandy fabric with fine mica sparkle and grey sand was recovered from [3/023], [2/010] and [2/014], in the latter two contexts these fragments appear to be residual.
- 5.3.4 The remainder of the roofing tile is of probable 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century post-medieval date and two fabric types were identified; a fine orange fabric with sparse coarse quartz and sparse fine black sand, and a fine orange fabric with mica scatter and moderate fine white sand inclusions. Peg tile in these fabrics was recovered from contexts [2/010], [2/008] and [2/014]. In addition two fragments of possible pantile were recovered, also of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date, from contexts [2/010] and [2/014].
- 5.3.5 [1/002] produced two complete, frogged bricks. Both bricks are in Museum of London fabric MoL3035, a type manufactured on the Kentish coast and of late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **5.4 The Glass** by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 Glass was recovered from feature [2/007] (fill [2/008]). Included are two green glass rim sherds from a jar and a clear wine glass base with collared stem, both of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. The same context also contained a green glass wine bottle base with kick, dating to the mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to mid 19<sup>th</sup>- century.

### **5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage of five clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragments was recovered, mainly from feature [2/007] (fill [2/008]). Included are two plain

stem fragments of mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century date. Three further fragments contained moulded maker's initials in relief on the spur sides (see section 5.6). Bowls were classified according to the London "Chronology of Bowl Types" by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180).

## 5.6 Registered Finds: Catalogue of mould-marked pipes

5.6.1 The registered finds comprising three clay tobacco pipes have been tabulated below (Table 6).

5.6.2

Context	RF No	Object	Material	Period	WT (G)	Date
2/008	1	PIPE	CERA	PMED	8	c. 1820-40
2/008	2	PIPE	CERA	PMED	6	c. 1780-20
1/002	3	PIPE	CERA	PMED	4	c. 1740-1840

**Table 6:** List of Registered Finds

5.6.3 **HS** RF <1> [2/008] AO28 (c1820-1840). Complete bowl with oak leaf decoration on seams. Maker's initials moulded in relief on spur sides (S moulded reverse). Probably referring to Henry Strutt, recorded in 1839 in Romford and in 1854 in Stepney (Oswald 1975).

5.6.4 **IB** RF <2> [2/008] AO27 (c1780-1820). Bowl missing. Moulded leaf decoration in relief on part of stem and maker's initials on spur sides. Possibly referring to J. Balme, recorded in 1823-8 in Romford (Oswald 1975).

5.6.5 **HS** RF <3> [1/002] c1740-1840. Stem fragment with surviving spur with moulded initials in relief on sides. Possibly referring to either Paul Balme, recorded between 1832 and 1866 in Mile End Wharf, or to Mrs P. Bellis, recorded in 1851 in Romford (Oswald 1975).

## 5.7 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 A single iron heavy duty nail shank fragment was recovered from pit [4/012] (fill [4/013]). Pottery from the same feature is of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date.

## 5.8 The Fired Clay by Elke Raemen

5.8.1 A small assemblage of 18 fired clay fragments was recovered from pit [2/003] (fill [2/004]) and pit [4/012] (fill [4/013]). Both contexts also contained pottery, which has been dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. All fragments are sparse to medium fine sand-tempered with occasional quartz inclusions to 2mm and rare iron oxides to 1mm. Some pieces contain voids to 1mm, possibly from organic temper.

5.8.2 Virtually all pieces are amorphous and fairly abraded. A piece from [4/013]

retains a flat surface, with a second piece from the same context showing a slightly concave surface.

### **5.9 The Stone** by Elke Raemen

5.9 A single piece of Welsh slate was recovered from feature [2/007] (fill [2/008]).

### **5.10 The Animal Bone** by Gemma Driver

5.10.1 An assemblage containing 30 fragments of bone was recovered from four contexts including [2/006], [2/008], [2/010] and [2/014]. The assemblage is in good condition with some large fragments remaining. There is little sign of weathering or erosion on the surface of the bone.

5.10.2 The assemblage has been identified to species and part and proportion of the bone present. The assemblage contains cattle (*Bos Taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), dog (*Lepus*), horse (*Equus*) and domestic chicken (*Gallus gallus*).

5.10.3 The majority of the bone was recovered from contexts [2/014] and [2/008]. The contexts contained both meat-bearing and non-meat bearing elements. A transverse cut mark was noted on the shaft of a sheep radius recovered from context [2/014]. Context [2/008] contains a horse ulna on which the proximal end has been sliced off. There is no evidence of gnawing or pathology on the bone.

5.10.4 The assemblage of animal bone has no potential for further statistical analysis.

### **5.11 The Marine Shell** by Elke Raemen

5.11.1 A total of 21 oyster shell fragments was recovered from three different contexts. Included is a lower valve from pit [3/014] (fill [3/015]), pottery of which is of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date. Other pieces are from medieval/post-medieval features and include an immature upper valve from linear feature [2/009] (fill [2/010]). Most pieces however were recovered from pit [2/013] (fill [2/014]), with a minimum of seven different oysters represented. Included are seven lower valves, mainly immature, some with marks caused by parasitic activity and one showing signs of overcrowding. A further seven upper valve fragments, again mainly immature, and five undiagnostic oyster valve fragments were also recovered.

### **5.12 Potential**

5.12.1 The assemblage as it stands is too small to warrant any further analysis. However, finds should be kept and studied in conjunction with any further stage assemblages.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

6.1 Five bulk soil samples were taken to establish evidence for environmental remains such as charcoal, charred botanical remains, bone and shell. The samples were taken from a range of Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval deposits in pits and linear features within trenches 2, 3 and 4.

## 6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Samples were processed in a flotation tank, the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 9). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45 and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 10). Preliminary identifications have been made through consultation with modern comparative material and reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004).

## 6.3 Results

### 6.3.1 Trench 2

Three samples were taken from trench 2 deposits. Sample <1>, (2/004) from a small pit feature produced very few environmental remains, pottery, CBM and Iron fragments. The environmental assemblage consists of small charcoal fragments and indeterminate charred macro botanical remains.

Samples <2> and <4> taken from the fills, (2/010) and (2/012) respectively, of two small linear features produced very similar assemblages that were dominated by well preserved charred chaff and cereal seeds. A large proportion of the very fine charred material in these flots consisted of small chaff fragments. Identifiable elements include wheat glume bases of spelt wheat (*Triticum cf. spelta*) and emmer wheat (*Triticum cf. dicocum*), rachis fragments some of which may be barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and awn fragments that may be identifiable. Cereal grains of non free threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.), hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wild or cultivated oats (*Avena* sp.) were common in both samples. A small quantity of possible bromes (cf. *Bromus* sp.) and other wild grasses were also noted. Sample <2> also contained charcoal fragments, a burnt bone fragment and a single fish vertebra while sample <4> produced charcoal fragments only some of which is from small round wood.

### 6.3.2 Trench 3

Sample <3> from a cess like deposit (3/015) contained very few environmental remains and no artefacts were recorded in the sample. A small quantity of charcoal and poorly preserved cereal grains were present. This assemblage does not contain remains that are typical of cess deposits.

### 6.3.3 Trench 4

Sample <5>, (4/013) was taken from a large pit feature dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman land use phase. This deposit produced a moderate assemblage of charred cereal grain including wheat (*Triticum* spp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wild or cultivated oats (*Avena* sp.) as well as infrequent glume bases and other elements of chaff. A small quantity of charred weed



seeds including knotweed/dock (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) and grasses (Poaceae) were also noted. Infrequent charcoal fragments, a moderate assemblage of pottery and fire cracked flint were also recorded.

## **6.4 Discussion**

6.4.1 Sampling at this site has revealed an interesting and well preserved assemblage of charred botanical remains in three of the samples (<2>, <4>, and <5>). The assemblage consists predominantly of charred cereals and chaff. The range of taxa noted is fairly diverse and given the presence of well preserved chaff, these samples present some potential to obtain specific identifications for the wheat and barley as well as the oat. These samples are likely to derive from crop processing waste however it is interesting to note that very few weed seeds (that might be expected in such a deposit) are present. The assemblages present some potential to establish the stage of processing at which these remains were deposited and became charred. Further archaeological interventions at the site are likely to reveal well preserved charred plant remains that will assist in furthering the interpretation of domestic and perhaps agricultural land use activities associated with both the Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval occupations at the site.

## 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 A reminder of the aims of the project as outlined in the *WSI* (Meager 2009) is set out below:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of Prehistoric or later activity/occupation and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation.
- To establish the palaeo-environmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at the proposed redevelopment site can be seen to have fulfilled the aims and objectives set-out in the *WSI* in that the nature and date of human activity on the site has been characterised.

7.1.2 No archaeological remains were revealed in the northern extent of the site and Trench 1 revealed only the remains of late 18<sup>th</sup> – mid 19<sup>th</sup> century wall footings.

7.2 The features uncovered at the site during the evaluation stage have been summarised below.

7.2.1 Three amorphous pits (2/005, 3/014 and 4/012) of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date were revealed although the full size and shape of these pits is unknown since they all extended beyond the limits of the trial-trenches. All of the pits were substantially deep and similarly dated from AD10 and AD70. The presence of a single Romanised sherd in [4/013] however, suggests that an Early Roman date for this pit at least is more likely. The function of the pits is at this time unclear and despite the cess-like appearance of [3/014], the environmental evidence is not typical of a cess deposit. The quantity of finds within these features does not suggest a function of rubbish disposal and more likely indicates an accidental deposition during the infill process.

7.2.2 The small oval-shaped pit [2/003] containing abundant pottery sherds with a date range of AD10-70, was interesting because of the substantial quantity of ceramic material of one fabric and form type.

7.2.3 The depth and profile of the medieval ditch [2/009] in Trench 2 suggests that it may have functioned as a drainage ditch. In fact, a modern pipe seen in the the section above this feature also respects this alignment. The investigative slot through this feature demonstrated that it cut an earlier feature [2/011], but the extent and function of this earlier feature is not known at this time.

7.2.4 Features [2/007] and [2/014] are similar in character and the quantity of mixed finds within these features suggest that the probable function was of domestic refuse disposal. The recovered artefacts from these features have provided a wide date range from early/mid 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards for [2/014] and 1780 onwards for [2/007].

- 7.2.5 The linear segment [3/016] in Trench 3 is likely to be of Roman date, because of the brick fragments contained within the southern terminus, one of which was imprinted with a hobnail impression.
- 7.2.6 Although no datable artefacts were recovered from the linear feature [4/005] in Trench 4, the alignment/location of this feature directly under a modern water pipe may perhaps suggest that this was itself an earlier pipe trench.
- 7.2.7 Two ephemeral linears in Trench 5 were ambiguous and contained no datable material.
- 7.3** The homogeneity of the pottery assemblage recovered from the evaluation stage, together with a high incidence of irregular- and over-firing may be indicative of nearby pottery production. However, there was no direct evidence of kiln structures either amongst the excavated features or in the fired clay assemblage.
- 7.4** The environmental evidence is also of interest. Assemblages from both the Late Iron Age/Early Roman and medieval samples are very similar, containing well-preserved crop processing waste. The good preservation conditions indicated by the samples recovered during this evaluation, suggest that it may be possible to determine the nature of the agricultural practices more precisely following any further investigation at the site.
- 7.5** The evaluation at the proposed Rainham Interchange and Library site has proved informative and has provided valuable information pertaining to the nature and date of human activity on the site. This information may also prove to be useful in our understanding of activity/occupation within the wider Rainham area. The evaluation has provided evidence of activity on the site from the Late Iron Age/early Roman period. The mixed date range of the features uncovered on the site demonstrates the concentration of occupancy throughout time within the area. It is interesting that the evaluation has shown the survival of earlier features within close proximity to much later features.

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## Online Sources

Archaeology Data Service (ADS) - <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/> - accessed 03/09/09

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**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	RIL 09					
Identification Name and Address	Rainham Interchange and Library, Ferry Lane, Rainham					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Havering					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: TQ 521 820					
Geology	Taplow Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3978					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	<b>Eval. 18/08/09- 21/08/09</b>	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	<b>MED</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>Modern</b>		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East on the proposed new site for Rainham Interchange and Library, Rainham, London Borough of Havering (NGR: TQ 521 820) between 18th and 21st August 2009 for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client. Five archaeological trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 100m in advance of a proposed redevelopment. Three of the trenches contained archaeological features of Late Iron Age/Roman ( AD 10-70), medieval (c.1350-1450) and post-medieval date. The features included four Late Iron Age/early Roman pits and one linear feature of the same date, a medieval ditch and two post-medieval rubbish pits. In addition, three undated linears were revealed. Some modern intrusion was present within the trenches. The natural geology was variable at the site and comprised a combination of reddish-orange sandy clays and orange and yellow sandy gravels, which were encountered at a maximum height of 2.38m AOD in the northeast of the site, falling away to 1.09m AOD in the west. All features were sealed with a combination of subsoil and made ground overlain by topsoil.</p>						

**OASIS Form**

OASIS ID: archaeol6-64061

## Project details

Project name Rainham Interchange and Library, Rainham

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South East on the proposed new site for Rainham Interchange and Library, Rainham, London Borough of Havering (NGR: TQ 521 820) between 18th and 21st August 2009 for CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client. Five archaeological trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 100m in advance of a proposed redevelopment. Three of the trenches contained archaeological features of Late Iron Age/Roman (AD 10-70), medieval (c.1350-1450) and post-medieval date. The features included four Late Iron Age/early Roman pits and one linear feature of the same date, a medieval ditch and two post-medieval rubbish pits. In addition, three undated linears were revealed. Some modern intrusion was present within the trenches. The natural geology was variable at the site and comprised a combination of reddish-orange sandy clays and orange and yellow sandy gravels, which were encountered at a maximum height of 2.38m AOD in the northeast of the site, falling away to 1.09m AOD in the west. All features were sealed with a combination of subsoil and made ground overlain by topsoil.

Project dates Start: 18-08-2009 End: 21-08-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes RIL 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type PITS Late Iron Age

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type REFUSE PITS Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Iron Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Methods &amp; techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre,

law courts etc.)

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING RAINHAM Rainham Interchange and Library, Ferry Lane
Postcode	RM13 9
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 521 821 51.5168070475 0.192379606117 51 31 00 N 000 11 32 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.09m Max: 2.38m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant

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Entered by	Kathryn Grant (kathryn.grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	4 September 2009



**APPENDIX**

**Table 7:** Quantification of the finds from the evaluation at Rainham Interchange and Library

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	F.Clay	Wt (g)
Tr1 subsoil			2	4690																
1/002	2	2																		
2/004	124	2130							3	164									15	238
2/006	19	196			2	6														
2/008	6	194	3	258	18	526					1	16			4	644	2	8		
2/010	3	156	3	130	1	30	1	<2												
2/014	6	114	19	1520	9	158	19	166												
3/015	5	60					1	86												
3/017			3	514																
3/019	1	16																		
3/023			1	50																
4/013	39	876											1	16					3	56
<b>Total</b>	205	3744	31	7162	30	720	21	252	3	164	1	16	1	16	4	644	2	8	18	294

**Table 9:** Sample residue quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250) and weights in grams

Context	Sample Number	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	CPR Identifications	Bone and Teeth	Cremated/Burnt?	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
2/004	1	small pit	20	20	*	<1	*	<1									CBM */18g, Pot 14/44g, FE */2g
2/010	2	linear feature (medieval)	10	10	*	<1	**	<1	**	4	<i>Triticum</i> spp., <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled), <i>Avena/Bromus</i> sp.	*	Burnt?	2	*	<1	FCF */16g, Pipe */<1g
2/012	4	small linear feature	10	10	**	4	**	<1	***	10	cf. <i>Avena</i> , cf. <i>Bromus</i> sp., <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled), Fabaceae (1), <i>Triticum</i> spp. Some with spikelets attached						
3/015	3	cess like deposit	20	20	*	<1	**	<1	*	<1	cerealia generally poor preservation						
4/013	5	Pit (Roman)	20	20	*	<1	**	<1	*	<1							FCF */10g, Pot 49/346g

Table 10: Flot Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)

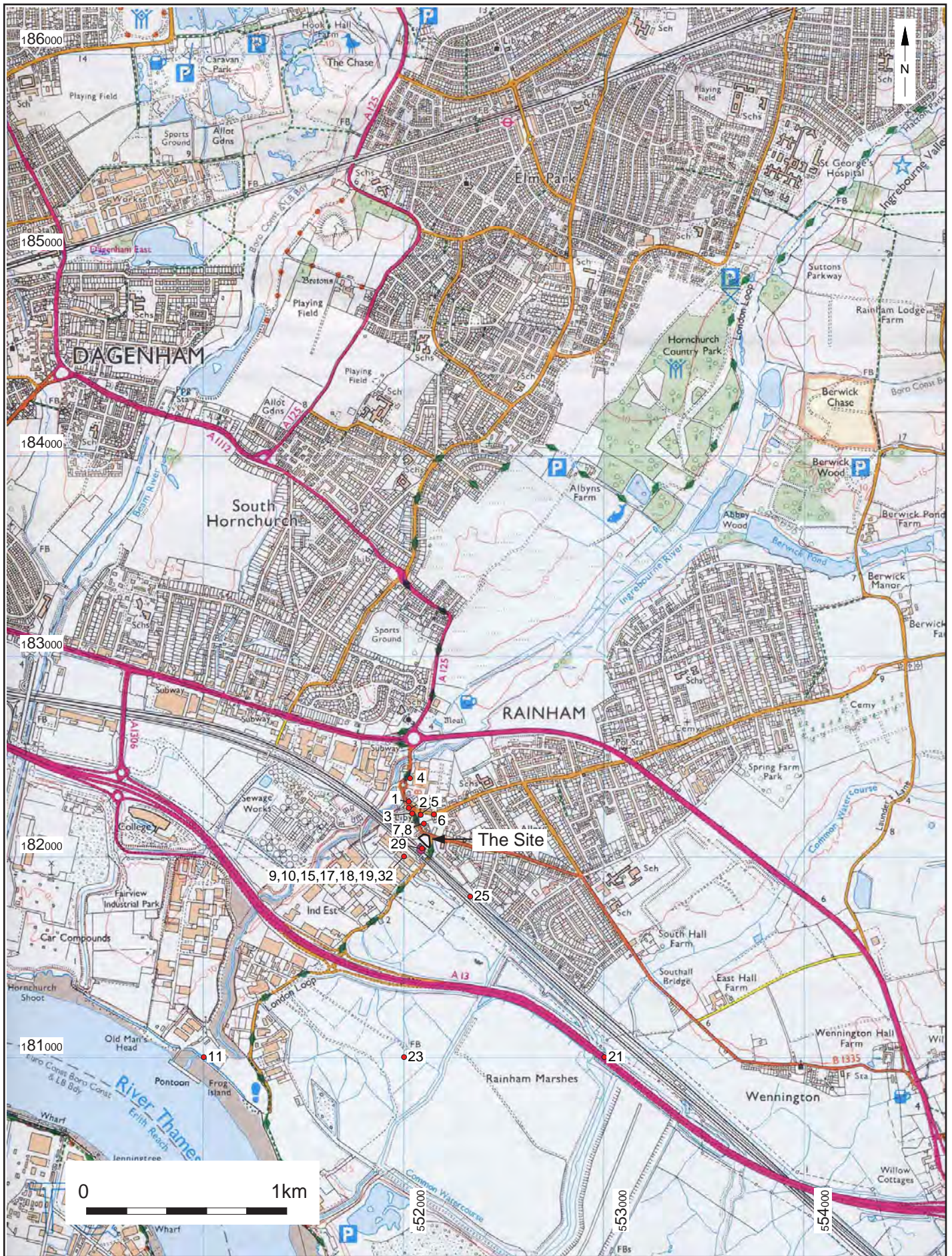
Context	Sample Number	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	Uncharred seeds	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Other botanical charred	Identifications	Preservation
2/004	1	25	80	Y	*	**	**	*	indet.	+	*	indet.	+		indet. cpr	+
2/010	2	120	30	Y	**	**	***	***	<i>Triticum</i> spp., <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled), <i>Avena</i> sp.	++	*	Poaceae	++	****	chaff, g.b. – <i>T. spelta</i> , <i>T. dicoccum</i> ; rachis frags - cf. <i>Hordeum</i> ; awns	++/ ++
2/012	4	130	30	Y	*	**	***	****	<i>Triticum</i> spp., <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (hulled), <i>Avena</i> / <i>Bromus</i> sp.	++/ +++	**	Poaceae	++	***	chaff, g.b. – <i>T. spelta</i> , <i>T. dicoccum</i> ; rachis frags - cf. <i>Hordeum</i>	++/ +++
3/015	3	40	15	Y		*	**	*	cerealia, <i>Triticum</i> / <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	+/ ++						
4/013	5	30	70	Y	*	**	***	***	<i>Triticum</i> spp., <i>Hordeum</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp., & cerealia indet.	+/ ++	**	<i>Polygonum</i> / <i>Rumex</i> sp., Poaceae	+/ ++	*	g.b. & other chaff	+/ ++

**Table 11:** List of sites and monuments within a 500m radius of the site  
(numbering system created by author – information courtesy of Jacobs 2009 and ADS)

Site No.	Site Name/ Description	Site Type	Date	NGR
1	K6 Telephone Kiosk NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Grade II Building	c.1935	TQ5202482274
2	Redbury - NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Building	Mid C18	TQ5202482242
3	The Vicarage NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Grade II Building	1710	TQ5204182214
4	Bridge Road, Rainham NMR/SMR ref: ML05830	Bridge	1234	TQ52038239
5	Church of St Helen & St Giles NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Grade I Building	c.1170	TQ5208382208
6	2-8 Upminster Road NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Grade II Building	C17- early C18	TQ5214982210
7	Forecourt railings, gates & piers, walls and vases NMR/SMR ref: N/A NMR_NATINV-411451	Grade II Building	Early C18 1729	TQ 5210 8216
8	Rainham Hall + the lodge, stable block & wall & gate NMR/SMR ref: N/A NMR_NATINV-765069	Building	Early C18	TQ5209982164
9	Bridge Road, Rainham – excavations at Tesco site by M. Beasley for Passmore Edwards Museum NMR/SMR ref: ML023799 & ML023801 GLSMR-061690	Trackway, Flood deposit, peat/stream	Bronze Age	TQ5282
10	Viking Way – evaluation by M. Beasley for NMUS 1996 NMR/SMR ref: ML023799 EHNMR-1120471	Ditch	Bronze Age & Post. Med	TQ5282
11	Rainham Creek NMR/SMR ref: ML023799 GLSMR-060394/ EHNMR-1439753	Wharf & Granary	Med/Post med. transition	TQ5181
12	The Broadway – Coaching Inn NMR/SMR ref: ML023799	Building	1633	TQ58SW
13	The Broadway – Charnel Pit NMR/SMR ref: ML023799	Pit	Not specified	TQ58SW
14	Rainham NMR/SMR ref: ML 023799	Settlement	Saxon, Roman & Prehistoric	TQ58SW
15	Church of St Helen & St Giles Burial vault uncovered EHNMR-1341071	Watching Brief	C18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	TQ5282
16	Rainham – 3 handaxes found NMR/SMR ref: ML07981	Findspot	Prehistoric	TQ58SW
17	Broadway, Rainham – Chapel NMR/SMR ref: ML05837 GLSMR-060400	Building	1834	TQ5282
18	Broadway, Rainham – Public House NMR/SMR ref: ML05837 GLSMR-060393	Building	1730 Rebuilt 1907	TQ5282
19	Charlottes Alley, Rainham –	Building	C17	TQ5282

	house NMR/SMR ref: ML05834 GLSMR-060390			
20	Rainham Squash & Snooker Club (former Ferry Lane) NMR/SMR ref: ML097876	Pit, ditch & gully	Iron Age	TQ58SW
21	Wennington Road NMR/SMR ref: ML062685 EHNMR-1332031	Ditch & Pit	Late BA/IA	TQ 53 81
22	Wennington Road – grey pottery rim sherd NMR/SMR ref: ML062689	Findspot	Roman	TQ58SW
23	Former Rainham Football Club NMR/SMR ref: ML077097 EHNMR-1063544/EHNMR- 1039018	Ditch	Late BA/IA Roman Early Med.	TQ5281
24	Ellis Avenue – pottery sherds NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Findspot	Medieval	TQ58SW
25	Rainham – stone tool NMR_NATINV-1213163	Findspot	Mesolithic	TQ 5233 8180
26	Ferry Lane NMR/SMR ref: ML068294	Anti Aircraft Gun Post	WWII	TQ58SW
27	Broadway/Ferry Lane 2 rows of cottages NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Cottages	On 1897 OS map	TQ58SW
28	Ferry Lane – garden NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Garden	On 1938 Tithe map	TQ58SW
29	Rainham Railway NMR/SMR ref: 1368964 NMR_NATINV-509174	Railway	N/A	TQ 5209 8204
30	Rainham NMR/SMR ref: N/A	Conservation Area	N/A	TQ58SW
31	Rainham – located on vicinity of present Rainham Station NMR/SMR ref: ML023799	Building	c.1600	TQ58SW
32	Rainham – Flint Artefact GLSMR-060044	Findspot	Palaeolithic	TQ5282
33	Moor Hall Farm, Rainham NMRMIC-5118	Enclosures	Iron Age & Roman	TQ 545 820

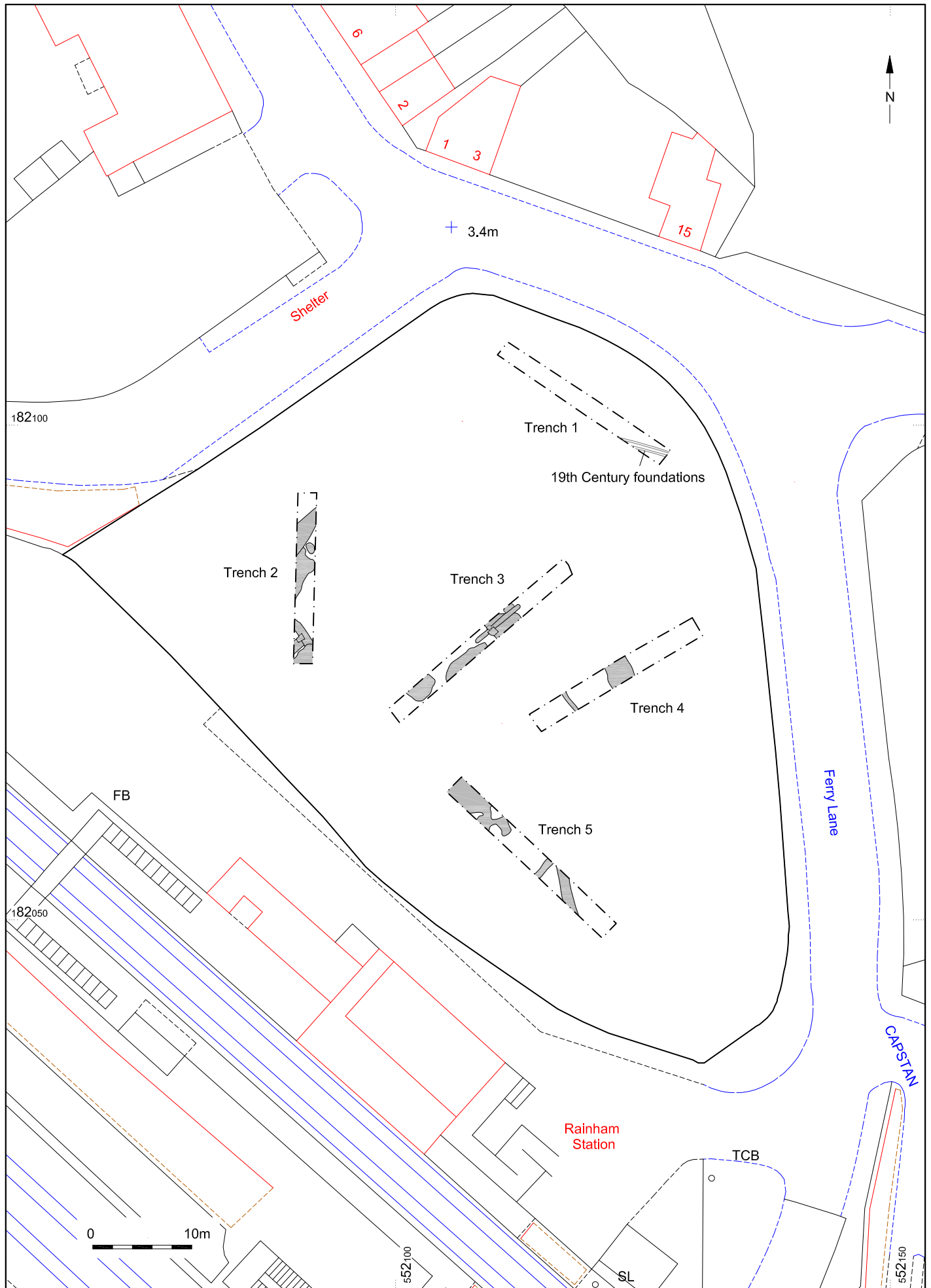




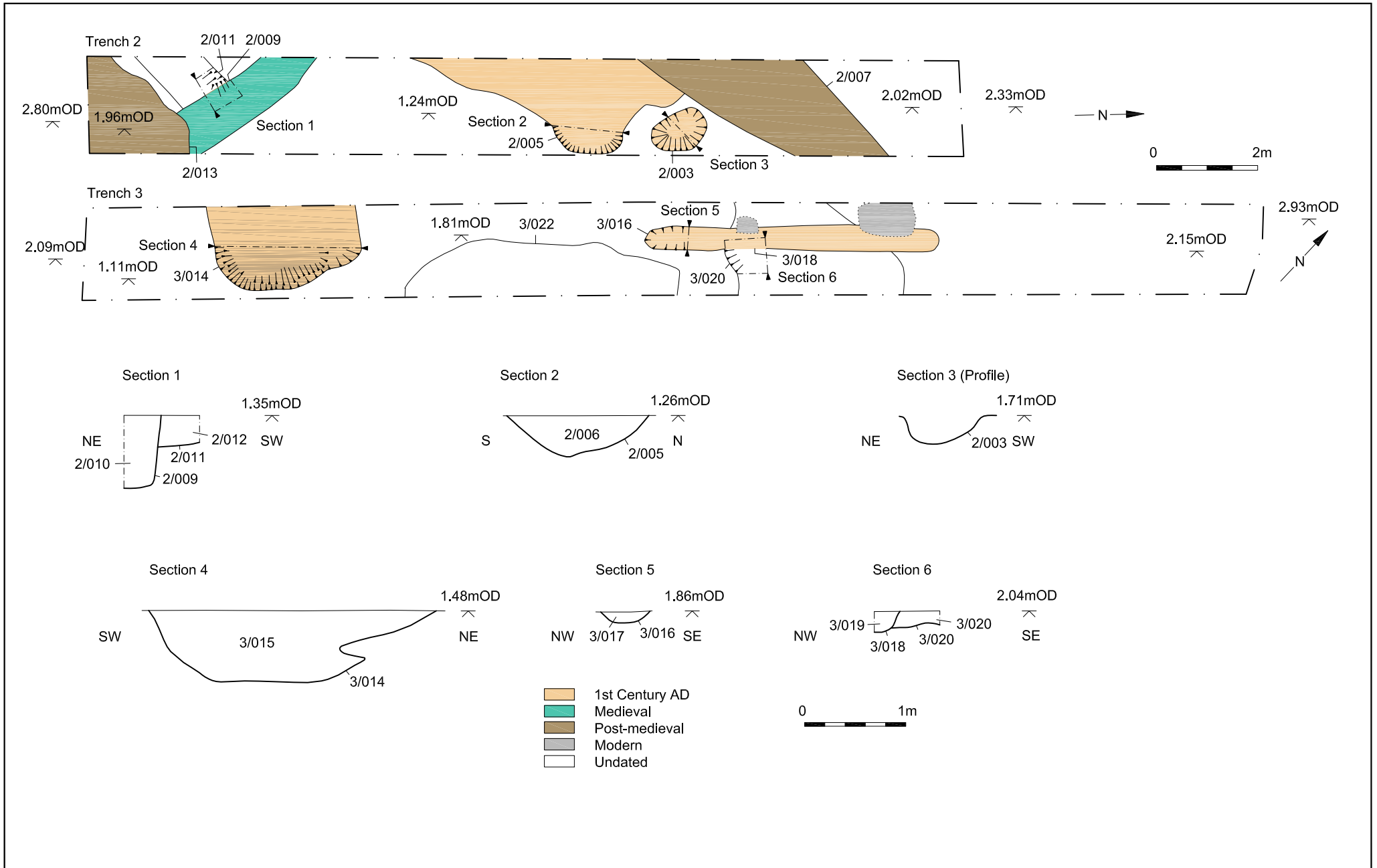
© Archaeology South-East		Rainham Interchange and Library, Ferry Lane, Rainham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3978	Sept 2009	Site location	
Report Ref: 2009135	Drawn by: JLR		

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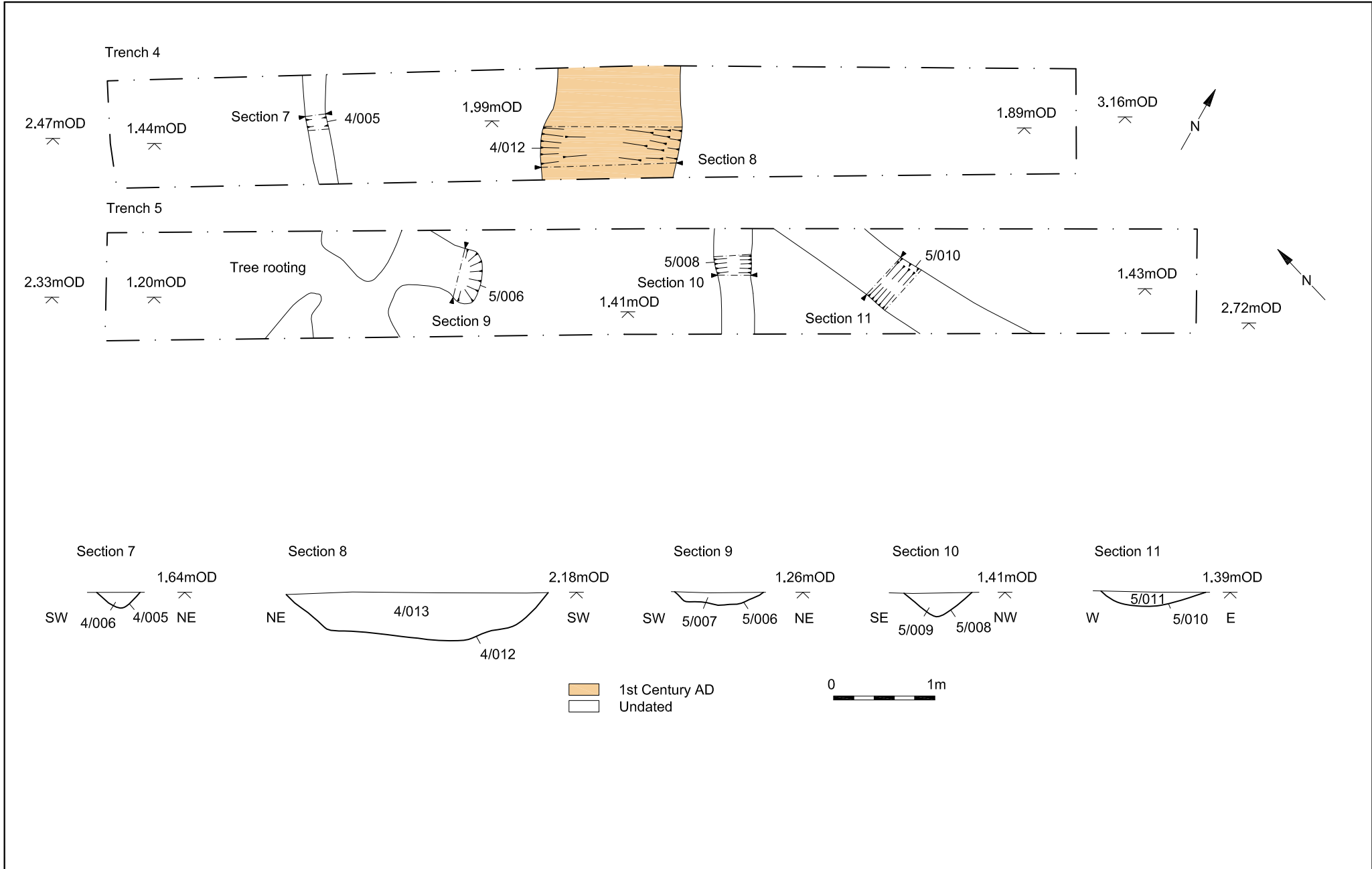




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Project Ref: 3978	Sept 2009	Trenches 4 and 5: Plans and sections	
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Fig. 5: Trench 1 pre Ex



Fig. 6: Trench 2 pre Ex

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Fig. 7: Trench 2, feature [005]



Fig. 8: Trench 2, features [009] & [011]

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Fig. 9: Trench 3 pre Ex



Fig. 10: Trench 3, feature [015]

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Fig. 11: Trench 3, feature [016]



Fig. 12: Trench 4 pre Ex

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Fig. 13: Trench 4, feature [012]



Fig. 14: Trench 5 pre Ex

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