

SANDY LANE
Sidcup
DA14

London Borough of Bromley

An archaeological evaluation report

April 2007



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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Sidcup
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An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: SLZ07

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site at Sandy Lane, Sidcup, DA14. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by West Faulkner Associates on behalf of the client Conrad Phoenix (London) Limited.

Following the recommendations of English Heritage, five evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. The evaluation trenches revealed only natural geological deposits, providing limited information on the substrate and the topography of the site. Trenches 2 and 5 confirmed that the western part of the site had been subject to remodelling and subsequent landfilling.

In the light of the results of the evaluation it is concluded that the site has little or no archaeological potential.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at Sandy Lane, hereafter called ‘the site’. It is located in a field bounded by Sandy Lane to the north. The OS National Grid Ref. for the centre of site is 547860 170215. The ground level varied between 48.35m OD in the north and 43.49m OD in the south. Ground level in Sandy Lane was 47.38m OD. The site code is SLZ07.

An archaeological desk-top assessment was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (MoLAS, 2006). The *assessment* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by the London Borough of Bromley (Nielsen, 2007) in April 2007. The results of the evaluation are presented in section 3.2 of this report.

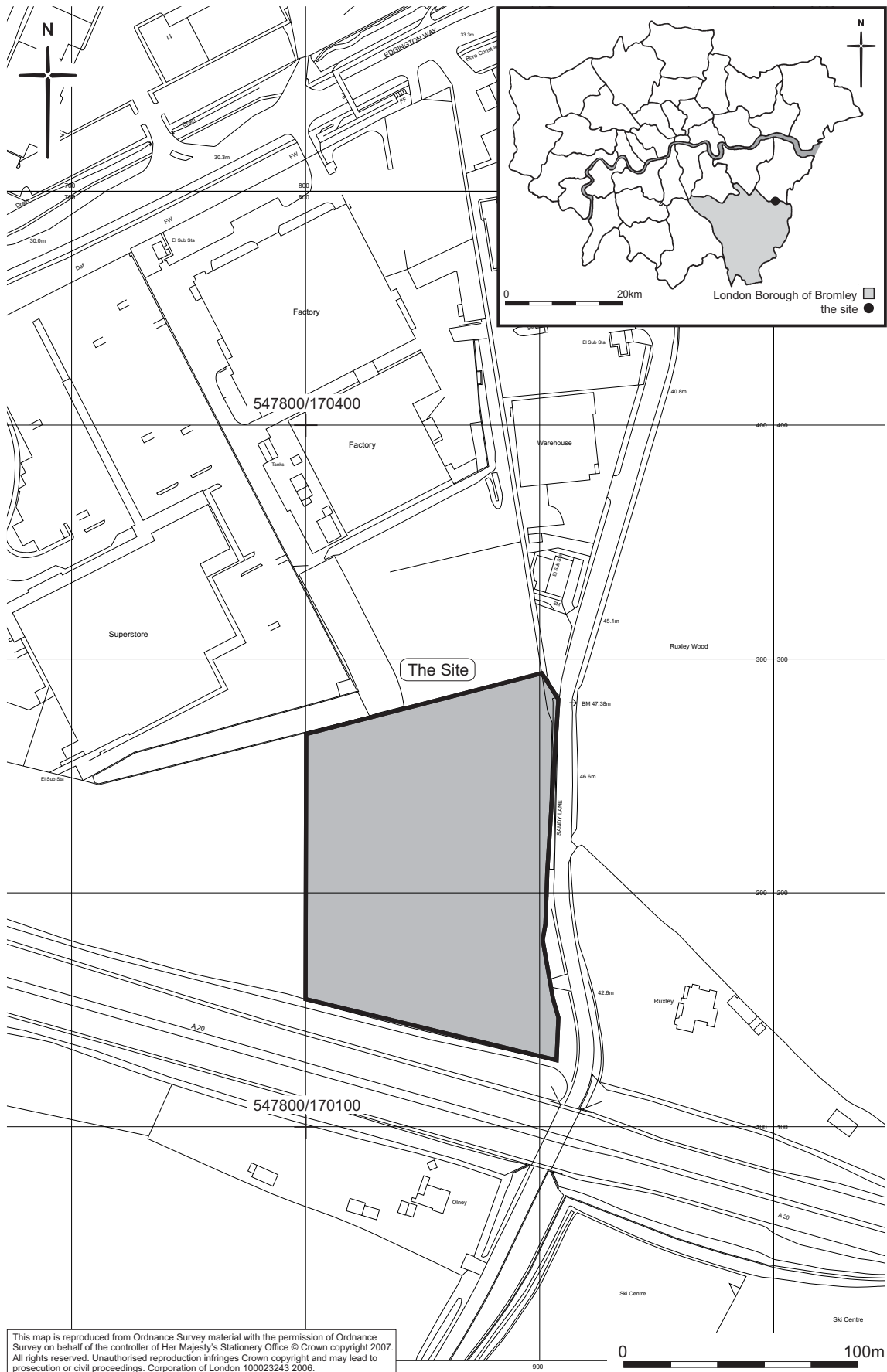


Fig 1 Site location

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* (Nielsen, 2007) which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 3, MoLAS, 2006).

1.3 Planning background

The archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with the recommendation of the London Borough of Bromley's archaeological advisors, English Heritage and in accordance with Condition 18 of the planning consent (Application 06/03868/FULL1, approved 10th January 2007). The report is intended to inform in respect of possible mitigation if required.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by West Faulkner Associates on behalf of the client Conrad Phoenix (London) Limited and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

- What is the nature and level of natural topography?
- What are the earliest deposits identified?

- What are the latest deposits identified?

2 Topographical and historical background

The site was subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Chandler, 2006) which describes in detail the topographical and historical background. The site lies on the Woolwich Beds geological formation. A large proportion of the western part of the site has been truncated, with former deposits replaced with landfill. The area of archaeological potential is limited to the north eastern part of the site.

The report concluded that the site had a moderate potential for Roman remains, while the potential for remains from other periods was low, though this had not been established by previous archaeological investigation.

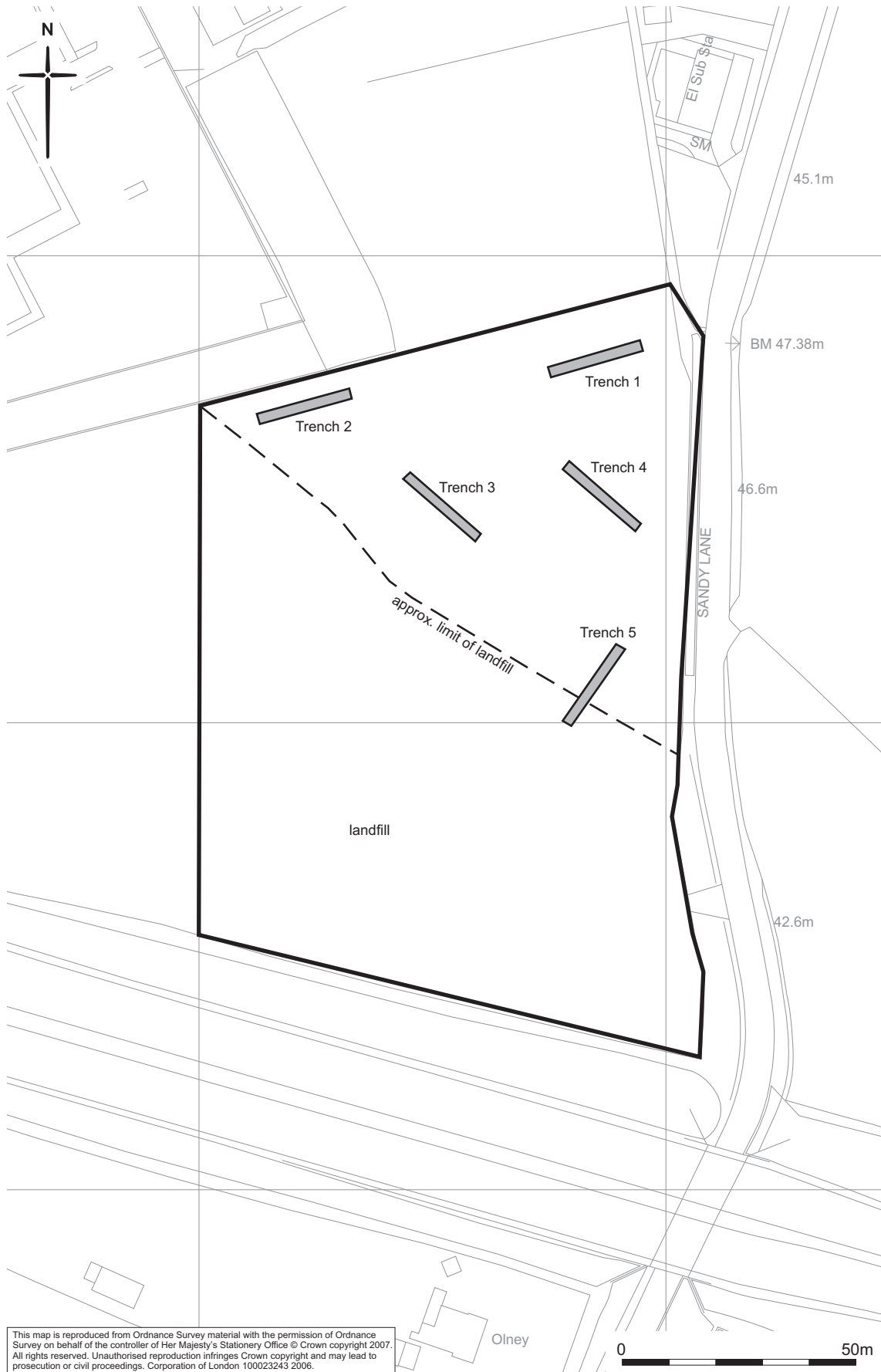
3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (Nielsen, 2007), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

Five evaluation trenches were excavated in the north east area of the field. Machine excavation was undertaken by contractors under MoLAS supervision.

The locations of evaluation trenches were recorded by MoLAS on a site survey. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid. A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by traverse from a benchmark in Sandy Lane.



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Fig 2 Trench location

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan, 19 context records and 1 section drawing at 1:20. The site records can be found under the site code SLZ07 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations, see Fig 2.

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	Extreme north east of site
Dimensions	20.00m by 2.00m by 1.25m depth
Modern ground level	48.35m OD in north to 48.20m OD in south
Base of modern fill/slab	N\A
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.25m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	1.25 m OD
Natural observed	47.22m OD

Natural pale grey, mottled sand [1] was observed at 47.22m OD and was sealed by a layer of silty sand subsoil [2] beneath the topsoil layer [3] which consisted of greyish brown silty sand. Ground level was at 48.35m OD in the north, sloping down to 48m.20m OD in the south. No archaeological deposits or features were recorded.

<i>Evaluation Trench 2</i>	
Location	Extreme north west of site
Dimensions	20.00m by 2.00m by 2.50m depth
Modern ground level	45.25m OD in north, 44.73m OD in south
Base of modern fill/slab	N\A
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	2.50m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and base of trench	42.75 m OD
Natural observed	43.10m OD

Natural was observed at 43.10m OD and consisted of mottled, pale orangey yellow, fine sand [4]. It was sealed by a layer of very clean, mid pale brown sand [5] which may have been colluvial. This in turn was sealed by a dark brown organic layer [6] containing occasional flecks of tree bark, charcoal and brick. (Equivalent to layer [10] in trench 3). [6] was sealed by a pale greenish grey, slightly silty, fine sand [7] ([11] in trench 3), which had the appearance of redeposited natural. The topsoil [8] consisted of a mid brown silty sand with occasional modern inclusions such as fragments of concrete, brick and metal. Ground level was at 45.25m OD in the north, sloping down to 44.73m OD in the south. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

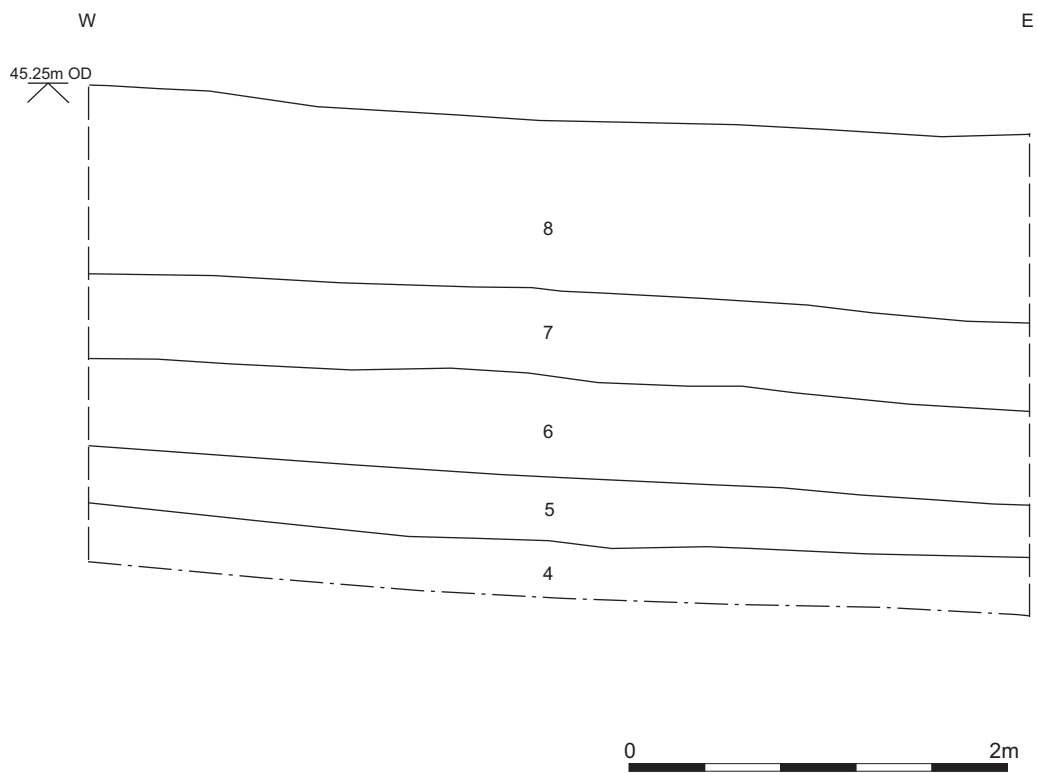


Fig 3 North facing section in trench 2

<i>Evaluation Trench 3</i>	
Location	Extreme south of site
Dimensions	20.00m by 2.00m by 1.65m depth
Modern ground level	45.79m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	44.49m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.65m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	44.14m OD
Natural observed	44.49m OD

Natural mid orangey-brown fine mottled sand was observed at 44.49m OD. This was sealed by a layer 0.20m thick of dark brown organic silt [10] (equivalent to layer [6] in trench 2) with occasional flecks/small fragments of tree bark, charcoal and brick. [10] was overlain by a 0.40m thick pale greenish grey slightly silty fine sand [11] (equivalent to [7] in trench 2) that resembled redeposited natural. This was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of mid dark brown slightly sandy silt subsoil [12], containing occasional mixed pebbles and charcoal flecks. The topsoil [13] was a mid brown silty sand with occasional mixed pebbles, charcoal flecks and brick flecks. Ground level was at 45.79m OD.

<i>Evaluation Trench 4</i>	
Location	Extreme south of site
Dimensions	20.00m by 2.00m by 0.84m depth
Modern ground level	47.85m OD in north west, 47.19m OD in the south east
Base of modern fill/slab	N\A
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.84m deep
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	47.01m OD in north west, 46.35m OD in the south east
Natural observed	47.31m OD in the north west, 46.65m OD in the south east

Natural [14] was observed at 47.31m OD in the north west and sloped down to 46.65m OD in the south east. It consisted of orangey-brown, fine, mottled sand. It was sealed by a 0.32m thick deposit of pale brown sandy silt [15] with occasional charcoal flecks and one fragment of mid 19th century pottery. The topsoil [16] consisted of a pale grey sandy silt. Ground level was 47.01m OD in the north west sloping down to 46.65m OD in the south east.

<i>Evaluation Trench 5</i>	
Location	Extreme south east of site
Dimensions	20.00m by 2.00m by 3.00m depth
Modern ground level	44.89m OD in north, 43.49m OD in south
Base of modern fill/slab	N\A
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	3.00m
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	41.89m OD in north, 40.49m OD in south
Natural observed	42.19m OD in north, 40.49m OD in south

Natural was observed at 42.19m OD in the north sloping down to 40.49m OD in the south. It consisted of mid orangey brown mottled fine sand and was sealed by a 1.70m thick layer of modern dumping, containing fragments of concrete, bricks metal and polythene sheets. The topsoil was 1.00m thick and consisted of mid brown silty sand. Ground level was 44.89m OD in the north, sloping down to 43.49m OD in the south.

3.3 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation ‘in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy’. In the case of this site, the areas opened gave a broad sample across the area due to be affected by the development and not previously truncated. Trenches were located in the area of the site where archaeology was likeliest to survive but established that, if anything, this disturbance was more extensive than predicted (see trenches 2 and 5). The evaluation has strongly suggested that no archaeology survives in this area.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation.

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*
Natural sand is between 47.22m OD in the north, and 40.49m OD in the south
- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*
19th/20th century dumps
- *What are the latest deposits identified?*
20th century made ground

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that there is little or no potential for the presence of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification) or cut features. The results of the evaluation are of very limited archaeological significance, providing information on the geology and topography of the site.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at Sandy Lane involves the building of three warehouses. Given the results of the archaeological evaluation it will have no significant archaeological impact.

The assessment above (Section 4) does not suggest a requirement for further archaeological mitigation. The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed within the site rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

6 Acknowledgements

MoLAS is grateful to Conrad Phoenix (London) Limited for commissioning this investigation, David West of West Faulkner Associates for his assistance, and Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for his advice and assistance.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-26411

Project details

Project name	Evaluation at Sandy Lane
Short description of the project	Evaluation of five 20.00m x 2.00m trenches at Sandy Lane , Sidcup
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2007 End: 13-04-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	SLZ07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY BROMLEY Sandy Lane
Postcode	DA14
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 47860 70215 51.4111334029 0.126338256581 51 24 40 N 000 07 34 E Point
Height OD	Min: 40.44m Max: 47.22m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MoLAS
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	MoLAS
Project director/manager	Robin Nielsen
Project supervisor	P. Cardiff
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Conrad Phoenix (London) Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Sandy Lane, Sidcup DA14: A report on the evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cardiff, P
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