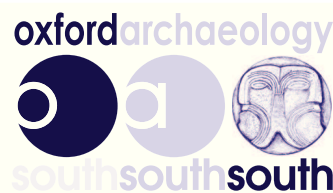


Skinner's Bund Theydon Mount Essex



Archaeological Evaluation Report




December 2014

**Client: Skanska Balfour Beatty
Joint Venture**

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5762
NGR: TQ 4907 9903



Client Name: Skanska Balfour Beatty Joint Venture
Client Ref No: n/a
Document Title: Skinnners Bund, Theydon Mount, Essex
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: TQ 4907 9903
Planning Reference: n/a
OA Job Number: 5762
Site Code: THSKINWB
Invoice Code: TMSB 13
Receiving Museum: Epping Forest District Museum
Museum Accession No: n/a

Issue	Prepared by	Checked and Approved by	Signature
1	Alexandra Latham Supervisor Andrew Simmonds Project Officer	Steve Lawrence Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location \\m\M25_Widening_Fieldwork_Sections1&4\002Reports_Summaries_
Sign_offs\11_THSKINWB_Skinners_Bund_evaluation
Graphics File Location \\invoice codes r thru z\T_codes\THSKINWB\pdf
Illustrated by Hannah.Kennedy and Magdalena.Wachnik

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 2014

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Skidders Bund, Theydon Mount, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
1 Introduction.....	4
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	4
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	4
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	4
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	6
2.1 Aims.....	6
2.2 Methodology.....	6
3 Results.....	7
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	7
3.2 General soil sequence.....	7
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	7
3.4 Ditches in Trenches 18, 26, 29 and 33.....	7
3.5 Sediment sequences in Trenches 9, 23 and 29.....	8
3.6 Made ground in Trenches 41, 42, 43 and 45.....	8
4 Discussion.....	10
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	11
Appendix B. Bibliography.....	26
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	27



List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Trench locations and archaeological features
Fig. 3 Sections through archaeological features and sondages

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 24, facing north
Plate 2 Trench 30, facing south with the M25 in the background
Plate 3 The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 9
Plate 4 The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 23
Plate 5 The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 29
Plate 6 The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 42



Summary

Oxford Archaeology South undertook a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Skanska Balfour Beatty Joint Venture on the site of a proposed noise bund and screen at Theydon Mount, Essex. The investigation comprised the initial excavation of 17 small test pits followed by 45 evaluation trenches set within the c 5.3ha area enclosed by the site boundary.

The only archaeological features that were identified were four shallow ditches, none of which produced any dating evidence. One ditch corresponds with the northern edge of a copse of mature trees that is shown on the 1st Edition OS map, surveyed in 1870-2, and may have formed part of a ditched boundary around the trees. Tree-holes that were recorded in Trenches 19, 20, 25 and 27 are probably also associated with the plantation. Some tree boles remained at the time of the evaluation with the apparent deceased mature oak trees removed prior to the evaluation.

The slopes to the west and east of the plantation appear to have been built up by the addition of redeposited clay, which in one location was greater than 3m thick. Modern disturbance and made ground deposits relating to a former construction compound were also identified within the south-eastern part of the site.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) undertook a trial pit assessment followed by a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Skanska Balfour Beatty JV (SSB) on the site of a proposed noise bund and screen at Theydon Mount, Essex (Fig. 1). The construction was being undertaken as part of a Permitted Development Works associated with the widening scheme of the M25.
- 1.1.2 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) provided archaeological services to SBB throughout the M25 widening construction phase in relation to Sections 1 and 4 (Junctions 16-23 and 27-30). An Environmental Statement (ES) had previously been produced in relation to these works (Highways Agency 2007). As part of SBB's ongoing commitment and obligation to cultural heritage, the issues associated with the newly acquired site at Theydon Mount were identified through discussion with OA. Subsequently OA contacted Richard Havis, Planning Archaeologist at Essex County Council (ECC) to discuss ECC's requirements for evaluation. Following OA's advice, SBB also sought the views of English Heritage as the site lies within a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden and borders a Scheduled Monument. English Heritage's response and requests were forwarded to ECC. OA also contacted the Garden History Society responsible for commenting on proposed works that affect Grade II listed Registered Parks and Gardens although no reply or comment was given. Subsequently OA agreed a scope of works for evaluation with ECC, which were detailed within a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2013). All work was undertaken following ECC and Institute for Archaeologists guidelines.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated to the north of the M25 between Junctions 27 and 28 within the parish of Theydon Mount, Essex (NGR TQ 4907 9903, Fig. 1). The southern boundary of the site is formed by the Highways Agency (HA) fence line of the east-bound carriageway of the M25. The northern and western boundaries lie within a large open pasture field with the eastern side bounded by a historic track that now links a service slip road off the M25 to Hill Hall, a Grade I listed building. The bund footprint encompassed an area of c 5.3ha.
- 1.2.2 The underlying soil geology is recorded as London Clay (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer/>). This is overlain by superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, comprising moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.
- 1.2.3 At the time of the evaluation the site comprised grazed pasture with areas of scrub that had recently been cleared as part of the destructive environmental search. The land sloped down from north to south from 81m aOD to 64m aOD. The central part of the site was occupied until recently by a historic copse of mature trees that had been felled within the last few years. This occupied a slight dry valley with the land rising to the east and west.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background covering the route of the Section 4 widening (Junctions 27 to 30), which includes the limits of this site, was described in detail in the Environmental Statement (HA 2007). This identified designated sites and



non-designated remains within a 1km corridor to either side of the M25. The following is a summary from the information provided by the ES that are relevant to the bund construction at Theydon Mount.

- 1.3.2 There are two Grade I listed buildings located to the north of the site. These are the Church of St Michael the Archangel and Hill Hall, both within the Parish of Theydon Mount. Hill Hall also has several Grade II structures associated with it.
- 1.3.3 The hall is also set within a Scheduled Monument, the southern limit of which borders the northern side of the site. The Scheduled Monument (List Entry Number 1021438, Legacy ID 36354) comprises the site of Mount Hall and associated village earthworks. The earthworks indicate that the manor house adjacent to the existing parish church, which is recorded in a map of 1657, was of a considerable size. Mount Hall may have originally been the leading element of two manors, the second being at Hill Hall. By 1553, Hill Hall appears to have become the main residence with Mount Hall being relegated to the status of a farm. The structure of Hill Hall may originate from the 14th century with a timber framed structure recognised from 15th century onwards. The Hall is significant in having perhaps the earliest classical architectural features (Friezes and columns) so far identified in England, a possible 14th century stained glass window and 16th century wall paintings. Original occupation of the site is probably pre-Norman, with the first known house dating from the 13th century. Hill Hall was remodelled in 1567-77 and again during the 17th and 18th centuries, with new ranges added. Part of the landscape scheme was on advice of Repton 1791. Further improvement of the grounds was made by Tilden during the 1920s before the house was sold in 1923. The house has variously been a maternity ward, RAF officer's accommodation and a women's prison before being gutted by fire 1969. It is currently private accommodation.
- 1.3.4 The Scheduled Monument is also set within the boundary of the Grade II listed Registered Park associated with the Hall (List Entry Number 1000315, Legacy ID 1257). The whole of the site limit lies within the southern extent of the park boundary. ECC has also designated several areas to the north and west as areas of Archaeological Potential.
- 1.3.5 The eastern part of the site had been previously used as a construction compound, disturbance from which and is visible in an aerial photograph from 2006.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to:

- (i) establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains,
- (ii) determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under more detailed open area excavation or Strip, Map and Sample recording,
- (iii) determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise,
- (iv) characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlay) deposits where possible,
- (v) determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered,
- (vi) establish what archaeological remains/deposits maybe affected by the construction of the soil bund,
- (vii) make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent mitigation strategies,
- (viii) produce a report and full archive or a summary report where this will facilitate a rolling programme of investigation,
- (ix) disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 BGS mapping and boreholes from the surrounding areas indicated that the site coincided with potential landfill or contaminated areas. Consequently, as part of an initial assessment to inform the archaeological potential of the site, seventeen small trial pits spaced across the site were machine excavated under archaeological supervision to characterise the soil sequence and undisturbed geological deposit surface (Fig. 2). Although not conclusive, this indicated that the natural geology was overlain by a layer of topsoil 0.2-0.3m thick and that the site had not been subjected to any significant disturbance that may have affected or removed archaeological deposits.

2.2.2 Following discussion of the trial pit results, ECC stipulated a 5% evaluation of the site by area of the c 5.3ha footprint of the bund. This equated to 45 trenches measuring 30m by 2m that were arranged to provide a full coverage of the accessible land (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 The trenches were located using GPS prior to the machine excavation of the non archaeological overburden which was completed under direct archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to the first archaeological horizon or to the top of the geology if no archaeology was present. In the event deep sequences of made ground were encountered within parts of the site and initially misidentified as being the upper horizon of geological deposits. Subsequently sondages were excavated in Trenches 9, 23 and 29 in order to clarify the sediment sequence and in Trenches 41, 42, 43 and 45 to establish the depth of made ground deposits.

2.2.4 The four archaeological features identified were hand excavated and recorded according to standard OA practices (Wilkinson 1992). No finds were recovered.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 This section provides an overview of relevant details. A comprehensive listing of individual trenches and associated data can be found in Appendix A. The Appendix should be referred to for detailed information such as dimensions, which are not included within the text unless pertinent to the description.

3.2 General soil sequence

3.2.1 Following the initial removal of the turf and topsoil horizon undisturbed London Clay was exposed only in the south-eastern part of the evaluation, in Trenches 41-45 below a further horizon of disturbed ground and subsequently in a sondage in Trench 29. Till and patches of till within the surface of the London Clay was positively identified in Trenches 18-22 and 24-29, in the dip in the central part of the site that had previously been occupied by a historic copse of trees (Plate 1). Elsewhere each trench was machine excavated to the surface of a deposit comprising clay with gravel inclusions (Plate 2). This was initially identified as the natural geology by the Site Supervisor. However, after on site consideration between the OA Project Manager, Steve Lawrence, and the ECC Planning Archaeologist, Teresa O'Conner, it was thought probable that this was redeposited material and that it did not represent an undisturbed geological deposit. The extent of the redeposited clay and gravel sequence was subsequently investigated in three machine excavated sondages in Trenches 9, 23 and 29. These suggest that redeposited material is present to varying depths both to the west and east of the former copse area that divides the site. The made and disturbed ground within Trenches 41-45 was characterised by frequent tarmac inclusions.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Only four archaeological features were identified, comprising undated ditches in Trenches 18, 26, 29 and 33. Features interpreted as single large tree-holes were recorded near the southern end of Trench 19, in the middle of Trench 20 and at the western end of Trench 25. Groups of less substantial tree-holes were recorded in southern half of Trench 26 and also occupied all but the eastern end of Trench 27 and all but the southern end of Trench 28.

3.4 Ditches in Trenches 18, 26, 29 and 33

Trench 18

3.4.1 Ditch 1802 was situated at the eastern end of the trench and lay on a slightly curving E-W alignment (Fig. 2). Only the northern side of the ditch was exposed within the area of the trench and consequently its full dimensions were not established, but it measured at least 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 3, section 1801). It was observed for a length of 9.1m, the western end gradually curving to the south, out of the trench footprint, and the eastern end continuing beyond the end of the trench. The ditch contained a single sand and silt fill (1083) that did not produce any finds.

Trench 26

3.4.2 Ditch 2602 extended diagonally across the northern end of the trench on a NE-SW alignment (Fig. 2). It was a very slight feature, 0.6m wide and only 0.08m deep that contained a single sterile silty clay fill (2603) (Fig. 3, section 2601).



Trench 29

- 3.4.3 Ditch 2902 lay on a NNW-SSE alignment that extended laterally across Trench 29 (Fig. 2). The ditch had a V-shaped profile and measured 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep containing a single sterile sandy silt fill (2903) (Fig. 3, section 2901).

Trench 33

- 3.4.4 Ditch 3302 was a shallow feature that extended across the western end of the trench on a NW-SE alignment (Fig. 2). It was 0.9m wide but only 0.08m deep containing a single sterile silty clay fill (Fig. 3, section 3301).

3.5 Sediment sequences in Trenches 9, 23 and 29

Trench 9 (Fig. 3, Plate 3)

- 3.5.1 A sondage was machine excavated at the south end of the trench to a depth of 2.6m below the current ground level. The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of sand and gravel (905) that was excavated to a depth of 0.40m but the bottom was not reached. Above this was a layer of brown silty clay (904) overlain by a band of flint gravel (903). A 1.2m thick clay and gravel deposit (902/901) grading from grey to brown towards the surface sealed layer 903 with topsoil and turf (900) completing the sequence.
- 3.5.2 All of the deposits appear to have been redeposited with no clear buried soil horizon or undisturbed geological deposits being encountered.

Trench 23 (Fig. 3, Plate 4)

- 3.5.3 A sondage was machine excavated at the north end of Trench 23. This was 3.4m deep although this also failed to encounter undisturbed geological deposits. The entire depth of the sondage comprised redeposited clay. The lower part (2302) was grey with frequent angular gravel inclusions and isolated brown clay inclusions, patches of sand and occasional pieces of wood. The upper part (2301) was brown with inclusions of brick and tarmac. This made ground was directly overlain by the current topsoil (2300).

Trench 29 (Fig. 3, Plate 5)

- 3.5.4 A sondage was machine excavated to 2.2m below the current ground level at the eastern end of Trench 29. This trench was chosen due to the proximity of the former historic copse and the identification of undisturbed geological deposits in the trenches immediately to the north.
- 3.5.5 London Clay (2904) was identified within this trench at 0.5m below the current ground level. The sondage was excavated to a greater depth to establish that this was undisturbed and not redeposited. Above this was a comparatively thin layer of redeposited greyish brown clay with inclusions of angular flint gravel (2901). The topsoil (2900) completed the sequence.

3.6 Made ground in Trenches 41, 42, 43 and 45

Trench 41

- 3.6.1 A layer of modern made ground (4101), comprising dark brownish grey clay and containing pieces of brick and tarmac, extended throughout the southern part of trench. A sondage was machine excavated to a depth of 1m at the southern end of the trench to investigate the layer but did not reach its base. It was not possible to excavate deeper due to the unstable nature of the material and the sondage had to be



immediately backfilled. A black oily substance stained the natural in the central part of the trench.

Trench 42 (Fig. 3, Plate 6)

- 3.6.2 Modern made ground was recorded throughout much of the trench, with the natural geology only exposed at the western end. A sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.6m at the eastern end of the trench. It exposed two layers of made ground, each of which was 0.35m thick. The upper layer (4202) comprised mixed clay and gravel with pieces of tarmac and the lower deposit (4203) consisted of grey clay, gravel and sand. This layer overlay London Clay (4201).

Trench 43

- 3.6.3 A layer of made ground (4302) extended throughout all but the southern end of the trench. Excavation of a sondage at the northern end of the trench found that the layer was 1.1m thick and overlay London Clay (4301).

Trench 45

- 3.6.4 Made ground (4502) extended throughout the western and central parts of the trench. A sondage excavated at the western end of the trench found the layer to be loose and unstable and 1m thick, overlying London Clay (4501).



4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Undisturbed geological deposits were only certainly identified in the trenches located within the central part of the site previously occupied by the historic copse and in the south-eastern area below a sequence of made and disturbed ground. The geology within the area of former copse comprised patches of glacial till within and overlying the surface of the London Clay. Due to the size and maturity of the recently felled trees and the presence of the copse indicated on the 1st Edition OS map, surveyed in 1870-2, it is clear that this part of the site had remained largely untouched for the last 140+ years.
- 4.1.2 The made ground present within the south-eastern part of the evaluation area in Trenches 41, 42, 43 and 45 was characterised by tarmac inclusions and this corresponds with the southern part of the area of disturbance visible on a Google Earth image taken in 2006. The disturbance represents use of the site as a construction compound and the made ground is the remains of this following reinstatement to the current pasture. The made and disturbed ground was approximately 1m thick lying directly over undisturbed London Clay.
- 4.1.3 The identification of undisturbed geological deposits to the north of the former compound and west of the former copse was more problematic. Here a mixed clay with flint gravel was encountered, some of which was clearly redeposited having brick and wood fragment inclusions. However, borehole data for the immediately bordering areas that is accessible from the British Geological Survey website suggests that boulder clay of a similar appearance may also be present. Due to the limited investigation of the deep sediment sequence it was not possible to establish in detail what areas were made ground and which were of natural origin although anecdotal accounts suggest that this part of the site was used for permanent landscaping using excess material derived from the construction of the M25. Therefore, based upon the available and recorded evidence, it is reasonable to suggest that most of this is redeposited material. This appears to be backed up by the sondage excavation undertaken in Trench 29. This location was chosen due to the proximity of the undisturbed topography of the former copse. Indeed, when excavated this sondage demonstrated that the clay with flint gravel deposit was only 0.35m thick overlying undisturbed London Clay. This suggests that the local topography was remodelled incorporating the copse area where it was not possible to redeposit substantial amounts of material.
- 4.1.4 The only archaeological features that were identified were four ditches, none of which produced any dating evidence. Ditch 1802 corresponds with the northern edge of the copse that is shown on the 1st Edition OS map and may have formed part of a ditched boundary around the trees. The tree-holes that were recorded in Trenches 19, 20, 25 and 27 are probably associated with the copse, which was only finally cut down shortly before the evaluation was carried out.
- 4.1.5 It is possible that ditches 2602 and 3302 represented a pair of contemporary boundaries, since they were located only c 25m apart, had similar shallow profiles and lay at right angles. They may have converged to the north of Trenches 26 and 33 to form the northern corner of an enclosure or part of a field system although they did not coincide with any boundaries shown on historic maps of the area. Their precise date is unknown.
- 4.1.6 The evaluation effectively demonstrated that there is limited archaeological potential within the site boundary. Much of the area has been subjected to significant recent and historical modification and disturbance represented by topographical remodelling, temporary constructions and tree roots.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)	2.6	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		E-W
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.25
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.25
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		E-W
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		E-W
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigated with a machine excavated sondage revealing a sequence of clay with gravel over gravel. Possibly all made ground although not conclusive at this location.				Avg. depth (m)		0.20
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.20-0.30	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	c 0.60	Mottled brown-grey clay with angular flint gravel and occasional chalk pieces	-	-
902	Layer	-	c 0.60	Firm grey clay with occasional angular flint gravel inclusions	-	-
903	Layer	-	c 0.30	Gravel, angular flint in grey sand silt	-	-



904	Layer	-	c 0.50	Brown silt clay with gravel inclusions	-	-
905	Layer	-		Sand and gravel	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay clay with flint gravel initially identified as natural. However, further investigation suggests that this is made ground.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay at northern end of trench and changing to a mid red-brown sandy clay in the southern end with gravel inclusions. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with gravel inclusions. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)	0.25	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey firm clay with gravel inclusions. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)		0.25
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation		E-W
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with occasional gravel inclusions. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)		0.20
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with occasional gravel inclusions. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)		0.20
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with less than occasional gravel inclusions. The gravel inclusions increased in patches towards the eastern end of trench and in the western end patches of mid-light orange-brown firm clay were noted. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with occasional pockets of gravel inclusions. This is probably redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)	0.25	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Undated ditch at eastern end of trench. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid grey firm clay with patches of gravel rich inclusions.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1802	Cut	9.1	0.80	Ditch	-	-
1803	Fill	9.1	0.80	Ditch fill. Friable, light brown grey silty sand with occasional well-rounded stones.	-	-



Trench 19						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. A large tree hole at the southern end of trench. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid brown-grey firm clay with gravel rich patches present within the surface of the clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. A large tree hole in the middle of the trench. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid brown-grey firm clay with gravel rich patches present within the surface of the clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Heavily disturbed by modern root action. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid brown-grey firm clay with gravel rich patches present within the surface of the clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 22						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid brown-grey firm clay with gravel rich patches present within the surface of the clay. Some of the clay and gravel may have been redeposited material although this was not investigated or conclusive.				Avg. depth (m)	0.28	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2200	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay made ground, which was more than 3.15m thick in a machine excavated sondage.				Avg. depth (m)	3.40	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	c 1.50	Mid grey-brown clay with occasional flint gravel, occasional brick and tarmac at surface level	-	-
2302	Layer	-	c 1.65	Mid-dark grey clay with frequent angular gravel and brown clay patches, discrete sand and gravel patches	-	-

Trench 24						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay subsoil, over a mid grey firm clay with occasional gravel inclusions. Unclear if the clay with gravel is of natural origin or more recent redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil, mid grey clay	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 25						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. A large tree hole at the western end. Topsoil overlay a mid brown clay with rare gravel inclusions. This may represent natural clay with some till incorporated into the surface of the clay. Alternatively this may represent redeposited material.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 26						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Undated ditch aligned NE-SW. Modern disturbance in the central part of the trench. A large tree hole to the south. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions and patches of mid-light brown-orange firm clay with more frequent gravel inclusions. This may represent natural clay with some till incorporated into the surface of the clay. Alternatively this may represent redeposited material at its limit where it meets the copse area.				Avg. depth (m)	0.25	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2602	Cut	-	0.60	Ditch, aligned NE-SW. Shallow concave base with gently sloping sides	-	-
2603	Fill	-	0.08	Ditch fill. Soft light brown-grey silty clay fill	-	-

Trench 27						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Tree holes throughout except at east end. Natural was disturbed by root action. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. This may represent natural clay with some till incorporated into the surface of the clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 28						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Tree holes throughout except at south end. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. This may represent natural clay with some till incorporated into the surface of the clay or redeposited material as recorded in Trench 29 to the immediate south.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 29						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Undated ditch aligned NW-SE. A machine excavated sondage at the eastern end revealed a layer of clay with gravel 0.35m thick overlying London Clay. The clay with gravel may be redeposited material although this was not conclusive.				Avg. depth (m)	2.2	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.35	Brown clay with moderate angular flint gravel. Possible redeposited material.	-	-
2902	Cut	0.60	0.22	Ditch cut, concave base with moderate sloped sides	-	-
2903	Fill	0.60	0.22	Ditch Fill, firm light brown-grey sandy silt	-	-
2904	Layer	-	-	London Clay	-	-

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with some gravel inclusions with patches of mid-light brown-orange firm clay with more frequent gravel inclusion.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3001	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 31						
General description				Orientation		E-W
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid brown-grey firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this represents redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.15
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 32						
General description				Orientation		N-S
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a natural of mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this represents redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.15
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3201	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 33						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Undated ditch aligned NW-SE. Two wheel ruts near east end of trench. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this represents redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.15
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3301	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-
3302	Cut	0.90	0.08	Ditch. Concave-irregular base with gently sloping sides	-	-
3301	Fill	0.90	0.08	Ditch fill. Soft dark brown-grey silty clay, 5% small sub rounded stone inclusions	-	-



Trench 34						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions with patches of mid-light orange-brown firm clay with more frequent gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
3401	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 35						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3501	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 36						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
3601	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 37						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions with patches of mid-light orange-brown firm clay with more frequent gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
3701	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 38						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3800	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3801	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 39						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.15	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-



Trench 40						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay a mid grey-brown firm clay with rare gravel inclusions. It is unclear if this deposit is redeposited material or till incorporated into the surface of the natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 41						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay modern made ground with tarmac inclusions over a natural of mid orange-brown firm clay (London Clay).				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4101	Layer	-	1.0	Made ground	-	-
4102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 42						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay modern made ground with tarmac inclusions over a natural of mid orange-brown firm clay (London Clay).				Avg. depth (m)	1.60	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4200	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
4201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4202	Layer	-	0.35	Made ground	-	-
4203	Layer	-	0.35	Made ground	-	-



Trench 43						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay modern made ground with tarmac inclusions over a natural of mid orange-brown firm clay (London Clay).				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4300	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4302	Layer	-	1.1	Made ground	-	-

Trench 44						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay probable redeposited clay with gravel over London Clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
4401	Layer	-	-	Clay with gravel	-	-

Trench 45						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
No archaeology present. Topsoil overlay modern made ground with tarmac inclusions over a natural of mid orange-brown firm clay (London Clay).				Avg. depth (m)	0.20	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4500	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
4501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4502	Layer	-	1	Made ground	-	-



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Highways Agency, 2007, Cultural Heritage Technical Report. M25 Widening Section 4 Junctions 27-30, Environmental Statement Technical Report Part 7: Cultural Heritage

OA, 2013 Skidders Bund, Theydon Mount, Essex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Evaluation, Oxford Archaeology unpublished client report

Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit field manual, Oxford Archaeology



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Skidders Bund, Theydon Mount, Essex
Site code:	TMSB13
Grid reference:	TQ 4907 9903
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	8th-11th November 2013
Area of site:	c 5.3ha

Summary of results:

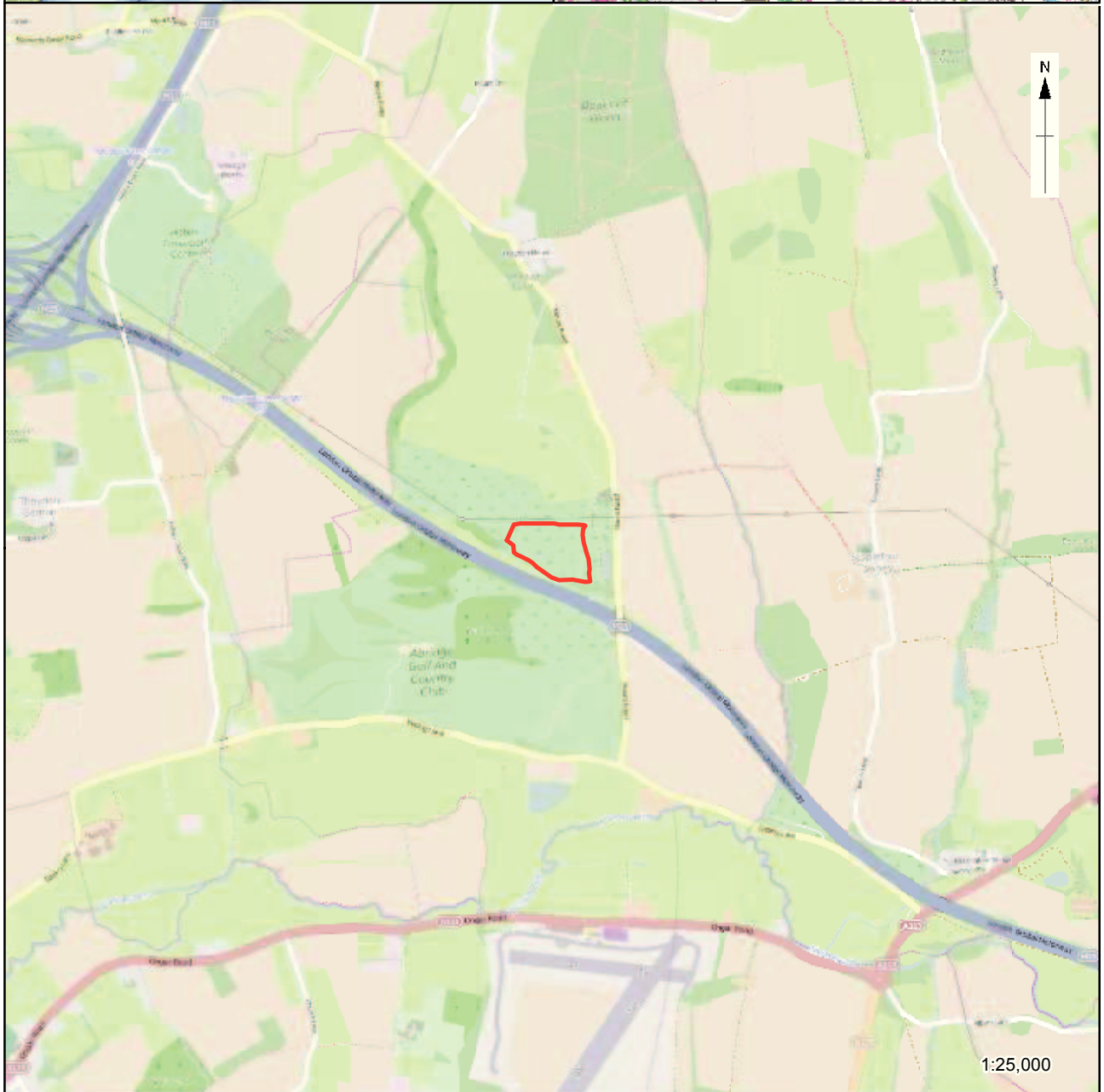
Oxford Archaeology South undertook a trial trench evaluation on behalf of Skanska Balfour Beatty Joint Venture on the site of a proposed noise bund and screen at Theydon Mount, Essex. The investigation comprised the initial excavation of 17 small test pits followed by 45 evaluation trenches set within the c 5.3ha area enclosed by the site boundary.

The only archaeological features that were identified were four shallow ditches, none of which produced any dating evidence. One ditch corresponds with the northern edge of a copse of mature trees that is shown on the 1st Edition OS map, surveyed in 1870-2, and may have formed part of a ditched boundary around the trees. Tree-holes that were recorded in Trenches 19, 20, 25 and 27 are probably also associated with the plantation. Some tree boles remained at the time of the evaluation with the apparent deceased mature oak trees removed prior to the evaluation.

The slopes to the west and east of the plantation appear to have been built up by the addition of redeposited clay, which in one location was greater than 3m thick. Modern disturbance and made ground deposits relating to a former construction compound were also identified within the south-eastern part of the site.

Location of archive:

The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Epping Forest District Museum in due course.



\\Server1\invoice codes r thru z\T_codes\THSKINWB\THSKINWB_fig01.mxd\hannah.kennedy*12/11/2014

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2014
 (c) OpenStreetMap and contributors, Creative Commons-Share Alike License (CC-BY-SA)

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench locations and archaeological features

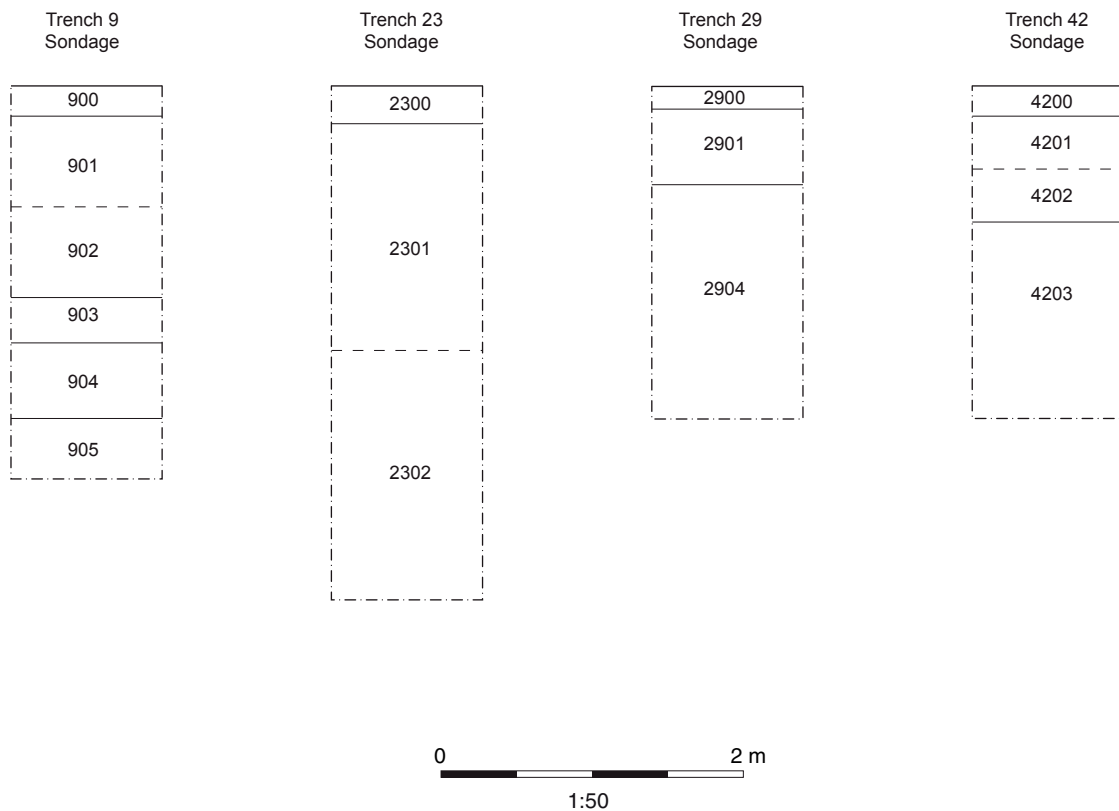
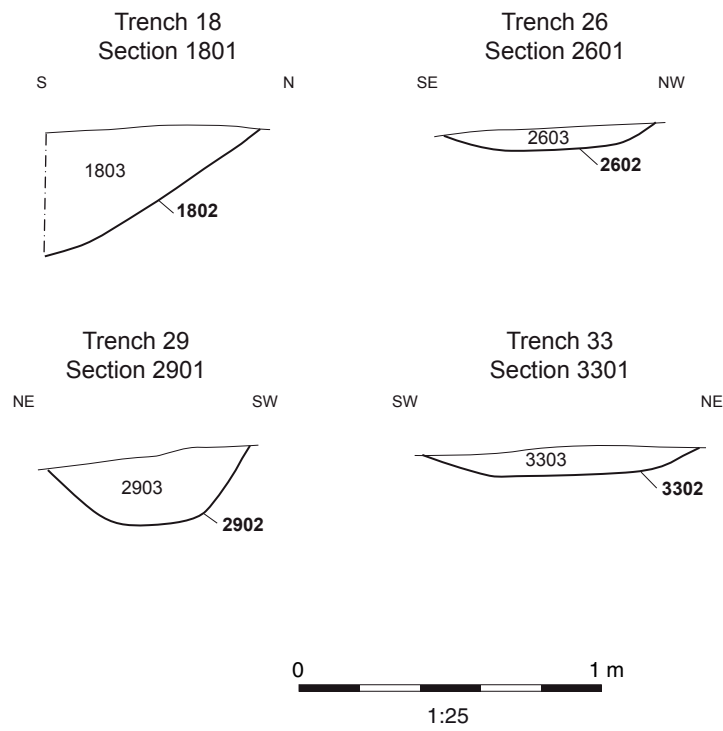


Figure 3: Sections through archaeological features and sondages



Plate 1: Trench 24, facing north



Plate 2: Trench 30, facing south with the M25 in the background



Plate 3: The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 9



Plate 4: The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 23



Plate 5: The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 29



Plate 6: The sediment sequence in the sondage in Trench 42



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*