

Care UK

**80 Como Street, Romford, Essex  
(London Borough of Havering)**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

NGR TQ 5060 8910

Planning ref. No: P0769.00

© OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

November 2000

Care UK

**80 Como Street, Romford, Essex  
(London Borough of Havering)**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

NGR TQ 5060 8910

Planning ref. No: P0769.00

Prepared by: <i>Mark Lacey</i>
Date: <i>21 / 11 / 00</i>
Checked by: <i>Steve Owen</i>
Date: <i>23 / 11 / 00</i>
Approved by: <i>R. Williams</i>
Date: <i>23 / 11 / 2000</i>

**80 Como Street, Romford, Essex  
(London Borough of Havering)**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

CONTENTS

Summary .....	1
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work .....	1
1.2 Geology and topography .....	1
1.3 Archaeological background.....	1
<b>2 Evaluation Aims .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 General .....	1
2.2 Site specific aims.....	1
<b>3 Evaluation Methodology.....</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Scope of fieldwork .....	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording.....	2
3.3 Finds .....	2
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	2
<b>4 Results.....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Trench 1.....	3
4.2 Trench 2.....	3
4.3 Trench 3.....	3
4.4 Finds .....	4
<b>5 Discussion and Interpretation .....</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Overall interpretation .....	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	5
Appendix 2 GLSMR Archaeological Report Form.....	7

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location map
Figure 2	Trench location plan
Figure 3	Sample sections: Trenches 1 to 3

## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a field evaluation at 80 Como Street, Romford, Essex within the London Borough of Havering on behalf of Care UK, between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2000. No archaeological deposits were encountered within the evaluation.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a field evaluation at 80 Como Street, Romford, Essex within the London Borough of Havering (Figure 1) on behalf of Care UK between 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2000. This followed an application for the redevelopment of the site for a nursing home (Planning Application No. P0769.00). OAU produced an approved WSI to the brief set by Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) prior to the start of the fieldwork.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on a gravel terrace to the west of the River Rom at approximately 15m OD. The site is situated on the premises of recently vacated light industrial businesses, with approximately half the area occupied by standing buildings. The development site is approximately 0.3ha in area, and is all on hard concrete standing.

#### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The site lies in an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined in the Borough UDP on a gravel terrace to the west of the River Rom. Such locations were favoured during prehistoric periods and occupation evidence is often encountered on the gravel terraces. The Roman road from London to Colchester also passes nearby to the south of the site. Associated activity in the form of field systems or settlement evidence may also be present.

### 2 EVALUATION AIMS

#### 2.1 General

2.1.1 To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be impacted upon by the proposed development.

#### 2.2 Site specific aims

2.2.1 The site specific aims as identified in the brief set by GLAAS were:

- To look for evidence of Prehistoric or Roman occupation or land use within the site boundaries.
- To look for evidence of medieval land use.

- To look for evidence of post-medieval industry or associated land use.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 On arrival at the site, the hard standing was found in places to consist of a number of substantial layers of reinforced concrete and, as access to some of the trenches was limited due to their locations in the interior of buildings, only a mini digger could be used. Because of the difficulties of breaking through such material with this type of machine, a reduction in the size and number of trenches specified in the brief and WSI was agreed with Nick Truckle of GLAAS.

3.1.2 The evaluation consisted of three trenches each measuring approximately 5m x 1-1.5m, and positioned to give the best coverage of the proposed development area accessible at the time of the fieldwork (Figure 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator (Trench 1) and then for access reasons by a mini digger (Trenches 2 and 3). Both machines were equipped with concrete breakers and toothless ditching buckets, and were used to remove the overburden to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the surface of the natural geology.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 Following breaking of the concrete slab in each trench, machine excavation was undertaken using a toothless bucket to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon or the level of undisturbed natural geology. Each trench was then cleaned by hand where necessary and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50, and sample sections drawn at 1:20 following Museum of London recording guidelines for the deposition of archives. All trenches were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film.

#### 3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation. These were examined, identified and noted whilst on site and all modern material was discarded.

#### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 As no archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation, no environmental samples were taken.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Trench 1 contained a thin layer of tarmac (101) over a thicker layer of modern concrete (102), which in turn overlaid two modern make-up layers. The uppermost of these contained a large quantity of brick rubble (103), and the lower one consisted mainly of gravel (109). This overlaid a 0.6m thick brown gravel deposit (110), which could represent either weathered natural gravel, or a layer of very gravely ploughsoil. This layer directly overlaid a bright orange deposit of natural sandy gravel (111).

4.1.2 The natural gravel (111) was only visible in the easternmost 2m of the trench, as the remainder of the trench contained two inter-cutting modern features (105) and (108), probably pits. The fills of these features (104), (106), and (107) contained numerous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century items, including pottery, bottles, and iron objects.

4.1.3 No features of archaeological interest were encountered within this trench, and no archaeological finds were encountered within any of the deposits.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

4.2.1 Trench 2 contained a thin layer of concrete (201) forming the current interior floor surface of a warehouse building. This surface overlaid a second, thicker layer of concrete reinforced with an iron mesh (202), which was itself built on a thick foundation of brick rubble (203), and a thick gravely make-up layer (208). This layer sealed a modern pit (210) with an ashy fill (209), which was partly revealed at the north end of the trench.

4.2.2 Pit (210) cut three more make-up layers (204), (205), and (206), all containing quantities of modern pottery. Layer (206) directly overlaid the natural reddish yellow gravely sand (207). The absence of a layer of 'dirty' natural in this trench differs from Trench 1 nearby, and along with the added depth of Trench 2, suggests that the whole trench may be within a large cut. This may be supported by the fact that layers (204) to (206) appear to tip down to the south.

4.2.3 No features of archaeological interest were encountered within this trench, and no archaeological finds were encountered within any of the deposits.

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

4.3.1 Trench 3 contained a layer of concrete (301) forming the current floor surface of the building. This surface was built on a series of three make-up layers of sand and gravel (302), (303), and (304), all containing modern material. These deposits overlaid a light reddish brown sandy layer of gravel (305), which appeared similar to layer (110) in Trench 1. In this case it had the appearance of weathered natural, and it directly overlaid the bright orange natural sand (306). A modern iron pipe within cut (308) crossed the trench slightly west of its centre.

4.3.2 No features of archaeological interest were encountered within this trench, and no archaeological finds were encountered within any of the deposits.

#### 4.4 **Finds**

4.4.1 The only finds encountered derived from the made ground levels and were of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century origin. These were examined, identified and noted on site prior to discard.

### 5 **DISCUSSION and INTERPRETATION**

#### 5.1 **Overall interpretation**

5.1.1 The trenches demonstrated an absence of archaeological remains within the area evaluated of the development footprint. However, due to the limited access for machine excavation, only a reduced area could be sampled to that proposed in brief and WSI. This has therefore provided only a low sample of the area. The potential presence of prehistoric remains, which are often scattered and difficult to locate within low sample evaluations, may therefore not be well covered by the evaluation and their absence for the trenches may not be taken as an absence from the site altogether. Conversely, the trenches also demonstrated significant levels of modern truncation and disturbance which significantly reduces the potential of encountering coherent deposits and remains not identified by the evaluation and surviving within the footprint.

## APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Date</i>
1(5m x 1.6m)					
	101	Layer	0.03	Tarmac surface	Modern
	102	Layer	0.10	Concrete slab	Modern
	103	Layer	0.10	Make up for concrete	Modern
	104	Fill	0.90	Fill of 105	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	105	Cut	0.90	Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	106	Fill	0.25	Fill of 108	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	107	Fill	0.60	Fill of 108	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	108	Cut	0.85	Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	109	Layer	0.24	Modern make up	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	110	Layer	0.60	Disturbed gravel	
	111	Layer	-	Natural gravel	
2 (3.6m x 1m)					
	201	Layer	0.05	Concrete slab surface	Modern
	202	Layer	0.20	Concrete slab foundation	Modern
	203	Layer	0.25	Brick rubble make up	Modern
	204	Layer	0.60	Make up	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	205	Layer	0.40	Make up	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	206	Layer	0.50	Make up	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	207	Layer	-	Natural sand and gravel	
	208	Layer	0.30	Make up	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	209	Fill	1.00	Ash/debris fill of 210	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	210	Cut	1.00	Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C
	211	Fill	0.30	Ashy backfill of wall foundation trench 212	Modern
	212	Cut	0.30	Foundation trench for 213	Modern
	213	Wall	-	Modern brick wall	Modern
3 (5m x 1m)					
	301	Layer	0.08	Concrete slab surface	Modern
	302	Layer	0.10	Sand and gravel make up	Modern
	303	Layer	0.12	Make up	Modern



<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Date</i>
	304	Layer	0.44	Gravel make up	Modern
	305	Layer	0.20	Weathered natural interface	
	306	Layer	-	Natural sand and gravel	
	307	Fill	0.40	Fill of 308	Modern
	308	Cut	0.40	Pipe trench	Modern



## 6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

No archaeological deposits or remains encountered

## 7) NATURAL

Type: Hackney Gravels overlying London Clay

Height above Ordnance datum: 14m OD

## 8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes	40	PLans	4	PHotos	0	Ngtives	40
SLides	40	Correspondence	0	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	0		
BUlk finds	0	SMall finds	0	SOil samples	0		
OTHer							

b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location: Museum of London

c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: ~~YES~~/NO

Security copying to be undertaken prior to deposition of the archive.

## 10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

N/A

SIGNED:

DATE: 23/11/00

NAME STEVE LAWRENCE

Please return the completed form to:

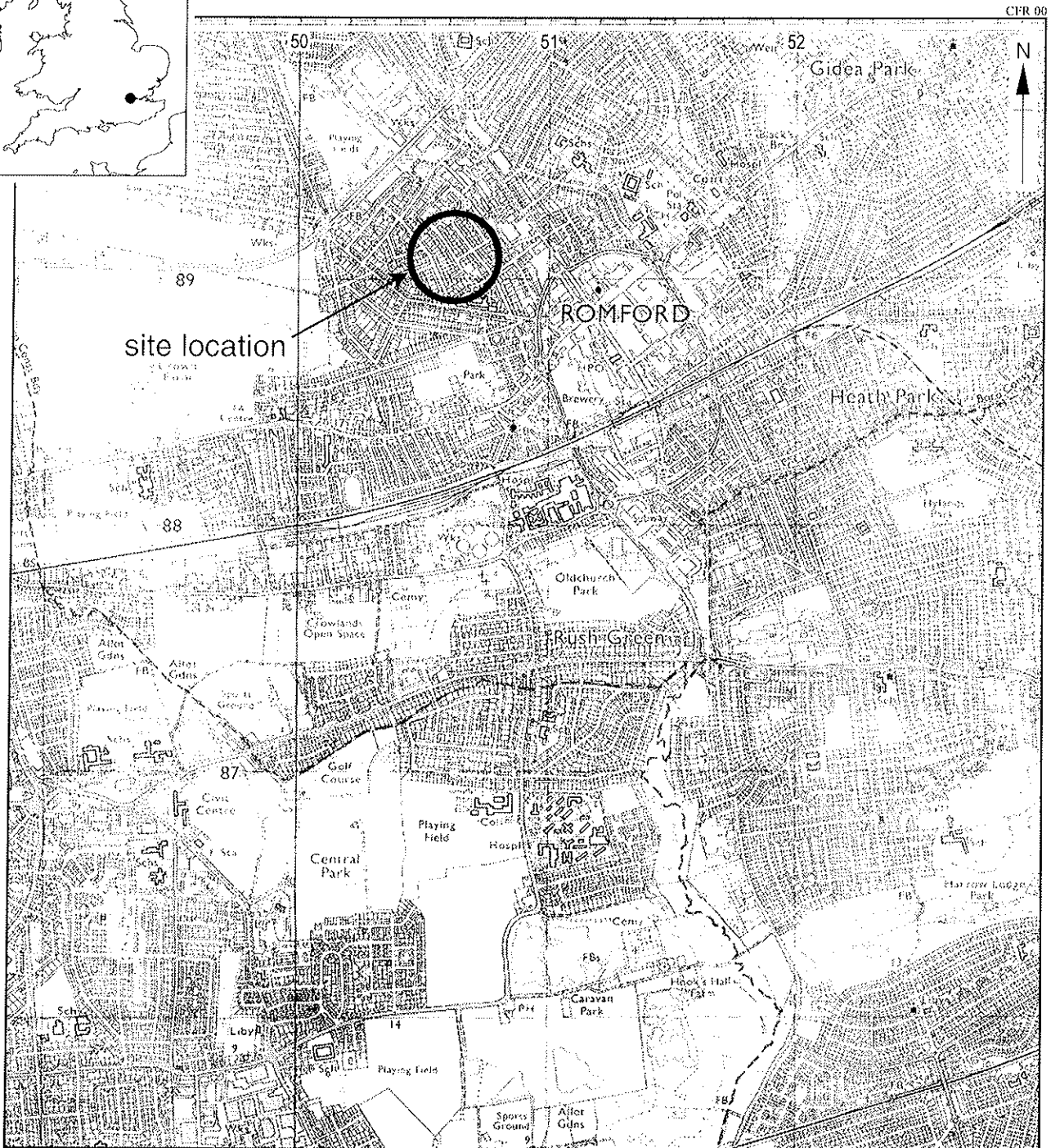
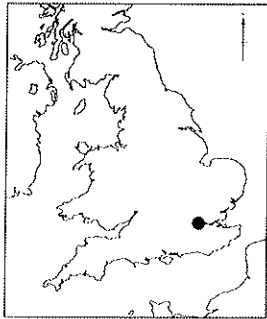
The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record,

English Heritage London Region,

30 Warwick Street,

London W1R 5RD.

Tel 020 7973 3731/3779 (direct dial)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 map of 1981 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Licence No. 854166

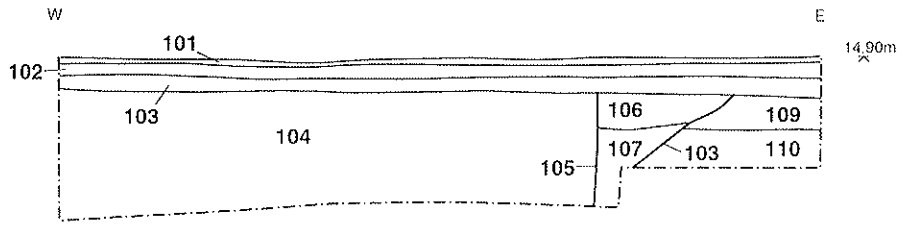
Figure 1: Site location.



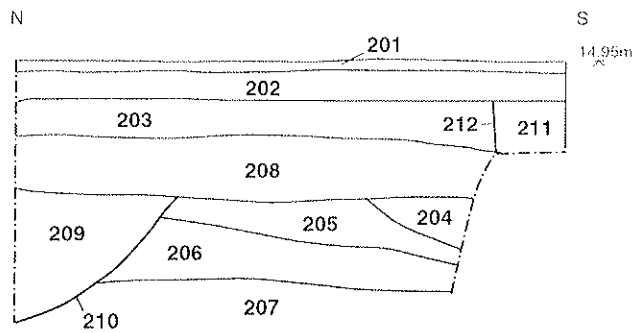
scale approx. 1:500

Figure 2: Trench location plan.

Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

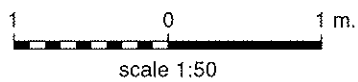
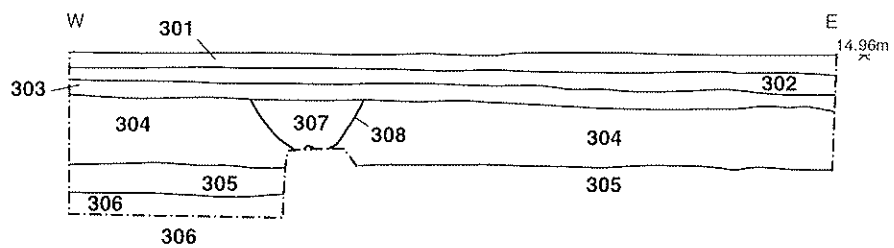


Figure 3: Samples of Trench sections.



## OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

email: [postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk)



---

Director and Chief Executive: David Jennings B.A., M.I.F.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.  
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.  
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES