

LAND AT SPILSBY ROAD, HAROLD HILL, ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

Archaeological Evaluation Report



**LAND AT SPILSBY ROAD, HAROLD HILL, ROMFORD
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared on behalf of
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Frogmore Property Company Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land off Spilsby Road, Romford (the Site) centred on NGR 554110 191147.

A predetermination evaluation was undertaken following the advice of English Heritage, archaeological advisors to the London Borough of Havering, in response to a planning application for residential redevelopment. This advice was based on the Borough's planning policies that indicated that the site was in an area of presumed Roman archaeological potential being in close proximity to the route of the London to Colchester Roman Road.

Six trenches; four measuring 20 x 2m and two measuring 10 x 2m were excavated. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded. The Site appears to have been terraced in the recent past for the construction of the former Eagle Business Centre.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Frogmore Property Company Limited for commissioning the project, and also to thank David Divers of English Heritage for monitoring the fieldwork. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves. The fieldwork was undertaken by Cornelius Barton who also compiled this report, with illustrations prepared by Mark Roughley.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Frogmore Property Company Ltd (the Client) to undertake the archaeological evaluation of land at Spilsby Road, Romford NGR 554110, 191147 hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site comprises an area of 1.8 hectares, located 3km north-east of the centre of Romford. The Site is currently occupied by a number light industrial and office buildings surrounded by tarmac hard standing used for car parking and storage of materials.
- 1.1.3 The boundaries of the Site are fenced and follow Spilsby Road to the north and east and Ashton Road to the south. The south-western boundary is formed by a depot building. The Site is flat and lies at approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.1.4 The underlying geology of the Site comprises Eocene London Clay. There is a high occurrence of patches of Boulder Clay in the surrounding area. (Geological Survey of Great Britain Solid and Drift 1:50,000; Sheet 257; Romford).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous archaeological work within the Area

- 2.1.1 A desk based assessment of the Site has been prepared (Wessex Archaeology 2005), which considered known and potential archaeological remains within a 500m Study Area around the Site, drawing on information held in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record and supplied by GLAAS.
- 2.1.2 The occurrence of recorded archaeology within the Study Area is low for all periods. The Site appears to have lain within woodland or agricultural land up to the mid-20th century and the potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval date is therefore low. The Roman road from Romford to Colchester passes to the south of the Site and a possible cremation cemetery is recorded to the south-west. There is therefore a low to moderate potential for Roman period archaeological deposits within the Site.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the presence, extent, depth of burial, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

3.2 Health and Safety

- 3.2.1 The health and safety of site staff and of the general public was of utmost importance during the undertaking of all fieldwork. A risk-assessment was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and all staff were required to familiarise themselves with it before fieldwork commenced.

3.3 Trial trenching methodology

Machine excavation

- 3.3.1 Six trenches were excavated, four to a length of 20m and two 10m long. The two trenches that were reduced in length followed discussions with David Divers, GLAAS. The decision to reduce trench lengths was made due to the lack of archaeological evidence in the previous four trenches and the conclusion arrived at from those trenches that the site had been previously levelled.
- 3.3.2 Mechanical excavation was carried out by means of a 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool before excavation.
- 3.3.3 After consultation with David Divers of GLAAS all trenches were backfilled upon completion of fieldwork, but the areas were not fully reinstated as construction work is scheduled to commence immediately.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 Trench by Trench details are contained in Appendix 1. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in any of the trenches. In all trenches the stratigraphic sequence consisted of made-ground deposits overlying natural clays. These deposits are illustrated in **Plates 1 and 2**. Natural ground was present at a depth of between 0.60 – 0.90m below the present ground surface. The underlying natural was observed to be planed off to a uniform height across the site. The overlying made ground deposits lay on a smooth clean surface.
- 4.1.2 The sequence of deposits that were observed and recorded demonstrates that the Site has been severely truncated by previous construction works, and that any archaeological remains which may have been present have been removed.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 There are no surviving archaeological remains present in the evaluated area of the Site. The consistent stratigraphic sequence of made ground lying directly on the surface of the underlying planed off natural, observed across the site, suggests that it is unlikely that there are underlying deposits elsewhere within the Site. No further archaeological work is therefore recommended.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Wessex Archaeology 2005, Spilsby Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Client document reference 61650.

Wessex Archaeology, 2006, Spilsby Road, Harold Hill, Romford. Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological Evaluation. Client Document reference 63780

6 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench 1		
Length: 20m	Width: 2m	Depth: 1.10m
Context Number	Description	Depth
101	Mix of building rubble and gravel- made ground	0.34m
102	Brick rubble and clay- made ground	0.45m
103	Clay with brick and tile fragments- made ground	0.90m
104	Clean yellow-brown clay natural	0.90m+

Trench: 2		
Length:20	Width: 2m	Depth: 1.10m
Context Number	Description	Depth
201	Clay with brick rubble and tile fragments- made ground	0.95m
202	Clean yellow-brown clay natural	0.95m+

Trench: 3		
Length: 20m	Width: 2m	Depth: 0.80m
Context Number	Description	Depth
301	Builders gravel and brick rubble- levelling deposit	0.30m
302	Clay with brick rubble and glass fragments- made ground	0.75m
303	Clean yellow-brown clay natural	0.75m+

Trench: 4		
Length: 20m	Width: 2m	Depth: 1.20m
Context Number	Description	Depth
401	Builders gravel with brick rubble- made ground	0.40m
402	Clay with brick and tile fragments- made ground	0.90m
403	Clean yellow-brown clay natural	0.90m+

Trench: 5		
Length 10m	Width: 2m	Depth: 0.90m
Context Number	Description	Depth
501	Brick and tile rubble- made ground	0.50m
502	Clay with building rubble- made ground	0.85m
503	Clean yellow-brown clay natural	0.85m+

Trench 6		
Length 10m	Width: 2m	Depth: 0.80m
Context Number	Description	Depth
601	Builders gravel and brick-rubble made ground	0.40m
602	Clay with brick rubble- made ground	0.70m
603	Yellow-brown clay natural	0.70m+

7 **APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT**

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OASIS ID: wessexar1-17784

Project details

Project name	Land at Spilsby Road, Harold Hill, Romford, London Borough of Havering: evaluation
Short description of the project	A predetermination evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology, following the advice of English Heritage, archaeological advisors to the London Borough of Havering, in response to a planning application for residential redevelopment. The site lies in an area of presumed archaeological potential, being close to the route of the London to Colchester Roman road. Six trenches were excavated but no archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered. It appears that the site was terraced in the recent past for the construction of of the former Eagle Business Centre.
Project dates	Start: 17-07-2006 End: 21-07-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	63780 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	EBC06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD Land at Spilsby Road, Harold Hill, Romford: evaluation
Study area	160.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 54110 91147 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Peter Reeves
Project supervisor	C. Barton

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive	Museum of London

recipient

Digital Archive ID EBC06

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Museum of London

Paper Archive ID EBC06

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unspecified Archive'

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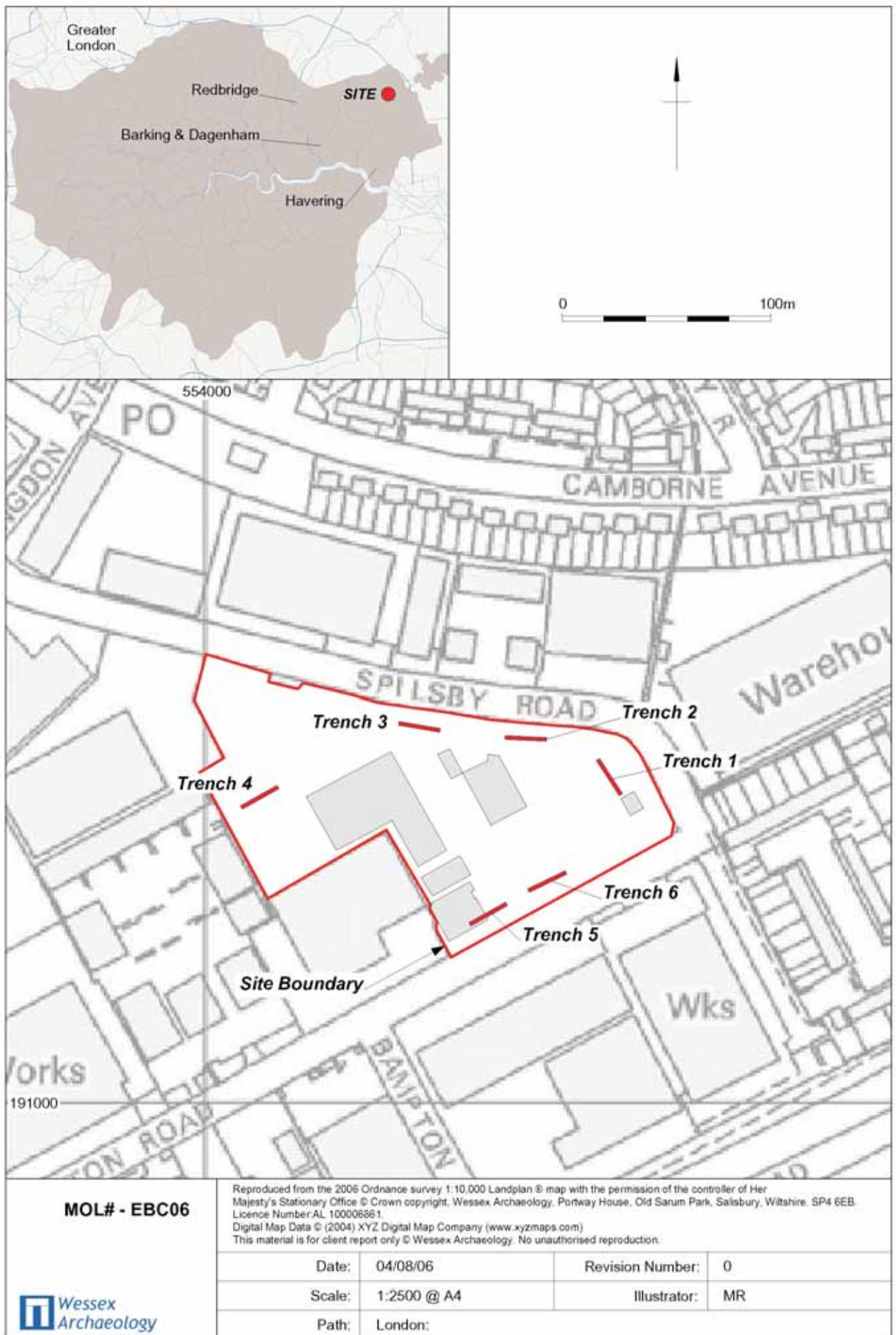
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Site location map showing the Site Boundary and Evaluation Trenches

Figure 1



Plate 1: East facing section in Trench 1 (0.5m Scale)



Plate 2: South facing section in Trench 3 (0.5m Scale)

MOL# - EBC06



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