



95-103, Belmont Park Road, E7 London Borough of Waltham Forest

Report on Archaeological Evaluation





**95-103, BELMONT PARK ROAD, E10
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST**

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**95-105, BELMONT PARK ROAD, E10
LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST**

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Theori & Demetri Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 95-103 Belmont Park Road, E10 in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 538060 188200.

The programme of works consisted of the excavation of one evaluation trench, measuring 19 x 1.80m in plan and to a depth of 0.75m below the present ground level and took place on the 27th February 2008.

The work was carried out as a means to discharge a planning condition attached to the consent for the Site's re-development involving the construction of residential properties.

The Site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined within the London Borough of Waltham Forest Unitary Development Plan. The work was requested due to the Site's proximity to known archaeological remains consisting of Roman pottery c. 600m to the north of the Site at Claredon Road and Roman remains, including possible buildings some 200m to the northeast of the Site at Lea Green Road

The evaluation uncovered Drift geological deposits, coarse sandy gravels and sandy clay at a height of 0.70m below the present ground level. These natural geological deposits were sealed by an undated B-horizon/subsoil and remnants of topsoil mixed with modern demolition / builders' rubble.

No archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during the evaluation and no finds were recovered from the Site.

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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Tony Theori of Theori & Demetri Ltd for commissioning the work.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank David Divers of Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) who monitored the works.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lawrence Pontin. Gary Evans conducted the fieldwork and compiled this report, with illustrations by Kitty Brandon

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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Theori & Demetri Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 95-103, Belmont Park Road, E10, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest (the Site), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 538060 188192 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This document sets out the results of the evaluation which took place on the 27th February 2008.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 A planning application has been approved for the development of the Site, with the erection of residential flats (planning application no 2007/0196). As part of the conditions, further information was requested by the Local Planning Authority on the survival of any archaeological deposits within the Site.
- 1.2.2 It was determined in consultation with David Divers, English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Waltham Forest that the further information should be sought by means of an archaeological evaluation of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2008).

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The Site lies some 150m to the south of Lea Bridge Road and 220m to the east of Leyton High Road. The Site is rectangular in shape and measures 24m by 22m covering an area of 556m². To the west it fronts on to Belmont Park Road, to the east it backs on to the playing fields of Belmont Park School. To the north and south the Site is bordered by early 20th century terrace houses (**Figure 1**).

2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The ground on Site is level and the modern ground level within the Site is approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.2.2 The Site was previously in use as a Timber Merchants with part of the Site taken up with a bungalow (all now demolished).

2.3 Geology

- 2.3.1 The underlying geology of the area comprises London Clay adjacent to Taplow gravels to the west and Lynch Hill gravels to the east (British Geological Society Drift Edition, Sheet 256, North London)

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 The Site is defined within the London Borough of Waltham Forest Unitary Development Plan as being within an Area of Archaeological Priority.
- 3.1.2 The Site does not lie within a Scheduled Monument (SM) and no known archaeological deposits or finds have been recorded from the Site prior to the evaluation. However, Roman pottery has been discovered c. 600m to the north of the Site at Claredon Road and more substantial Roman remains, including possible buildings, have been uncovered some 200m to the northeast of the Site at Lea Green Road (MoLAS, 2000, 170, **WF6** and **WF7** on Map 7).
- 3.1.3 Post-medieval remains have also been uncovered in the area at the site of the former Livingstone College Tower block in Lea Green Road (NMR Excavation index. Waltham Forest <http://www.heritageatway.org.uk>).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish, as far as reasonably possible, the presence/absence, extent, character, date, condition and significance of any archaeology deposits and remains within the area affected by the proposed development.

5 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All work was undertaken in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (revised 2001) and with Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) Guidance Paper 5 (revised 1998).

5.2 Health and Safety

- 5.2.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices overrode archaeological considerations at all times.
- 5.2.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislations, regulations and codes of practice which are in force.
- 5.2.3 A Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of work. This was reviewed as the project progressed.

5.3 Fieldwork Methodology

- 5.3.1 Fieldwork methodology was agreed in advance with David Divers of GLAAS and a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced (Wessex Archaeology, 2008).
- 5.3.2 The fieldwork strategy is described in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA, 2008 ref 68690.01) but in summary it comprised the supervised excavation, in 50mm spits, of a single evaluation trench measuring 19m by 1.80m. This was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

- 5.3.3 A complete drawn and written record of excavated deposits was compiled. This included a plan drawn at 1:100 and a sample section at 1:10.
- 5.3.4 A full photographic record was maintained using both colour transparencies and black and white negatives (on 35mm film). A digital photographic record of the work was also maintained.
- 5.3.5 Upon completion of the project and with the agreement of the English Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Waltham Forest, the trench was backfilled and levelled in the approximate order in which it was excavated. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken using the excavated material.

5.4 The Archive

- 5.4.1 The project archive, covering all phases of archaeological work, including the evaluation, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in London under the Wessex Archaeology project code WA 68690.
- 5.4.2 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990).
- 5.4.3 The resulting archive will be put onto microfiche to the standards accepted by the National Monuments Record (NMR).
- 5.4.4 Following the conclusion of the project and with the permission of the landowner the archive will be prepared for deposition with the Museum of London under MOL Site Code BPQ08.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Archaeological Sequence

- 6.1.1 No archaeological deposits or features were uncovered during the evaluation.
- 6.1.2 The earliest deposits uncovered on Site comprised a compact coarse sandy clayey gravel (**04**) with frequent small to medium sub angular and occasional medium well rounded pebbles This deposit, which represents the lowest natural geological deposit on Site, sloped down from north to south and was observed at a height of between 0.30m below the present ground level at the northern end of the trench and 0.70m below the present ground level at the southern end of the trench.
- 6.1.3 Layer **04** was partly sealed by a deposit of stiff clay (**03**) which completely covered the gravels at the southern end of the trench and was present as small pockets over the rest of the trench. This deposit was observed at a height of c. 0.35m below present ground level.
- 6.1.4 Remnants of a B-horizon/subsoil (**02**) lay directly above the natural geological deposits. This sandy clayey silt was some 0.20m thick and its lower boundary was diffuse and wavy it contained occasional flecks of charcoal and small fragments of red brick and tile.
- 6.1.5 A 0.15m thick layer (**01**) of modern demolition material mixed with remnants of the former topsoil was the latest deposit uncovered on Site. This deposit overlay the B-horizon (**Figure 2 Plates 1 and 2**).

6.2 Finds

- 6.2.1 No artefactual material was recovered from the evaluation. Material observed in the up cast from the excavations was of obvious twentieth century origin; it was noted and discarded.

6.3 Environmental

- 6.3.1 Due to the absence of suitable deposits, no samples were taken for environmental analysis.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The evaluation uncovered Drift geological deposits, coarse gravels and clay at a height of 0.70m below the present ground level.
- 7.1.2 These natural geological deposits were sealed by a B-horizon and remnants of the former topsoil mixed with modern demolition / builders' rubble. Both of these deposits contained modern finds.
- 7.1.3 No archaeological remains were uncovered and the evaluation has demonstrated that nothing of archaeological significance will be impacted upon by the development.

8 REFERENCES

English Heritage London Region (1998) Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork – Archaeological Guidance Paper 5

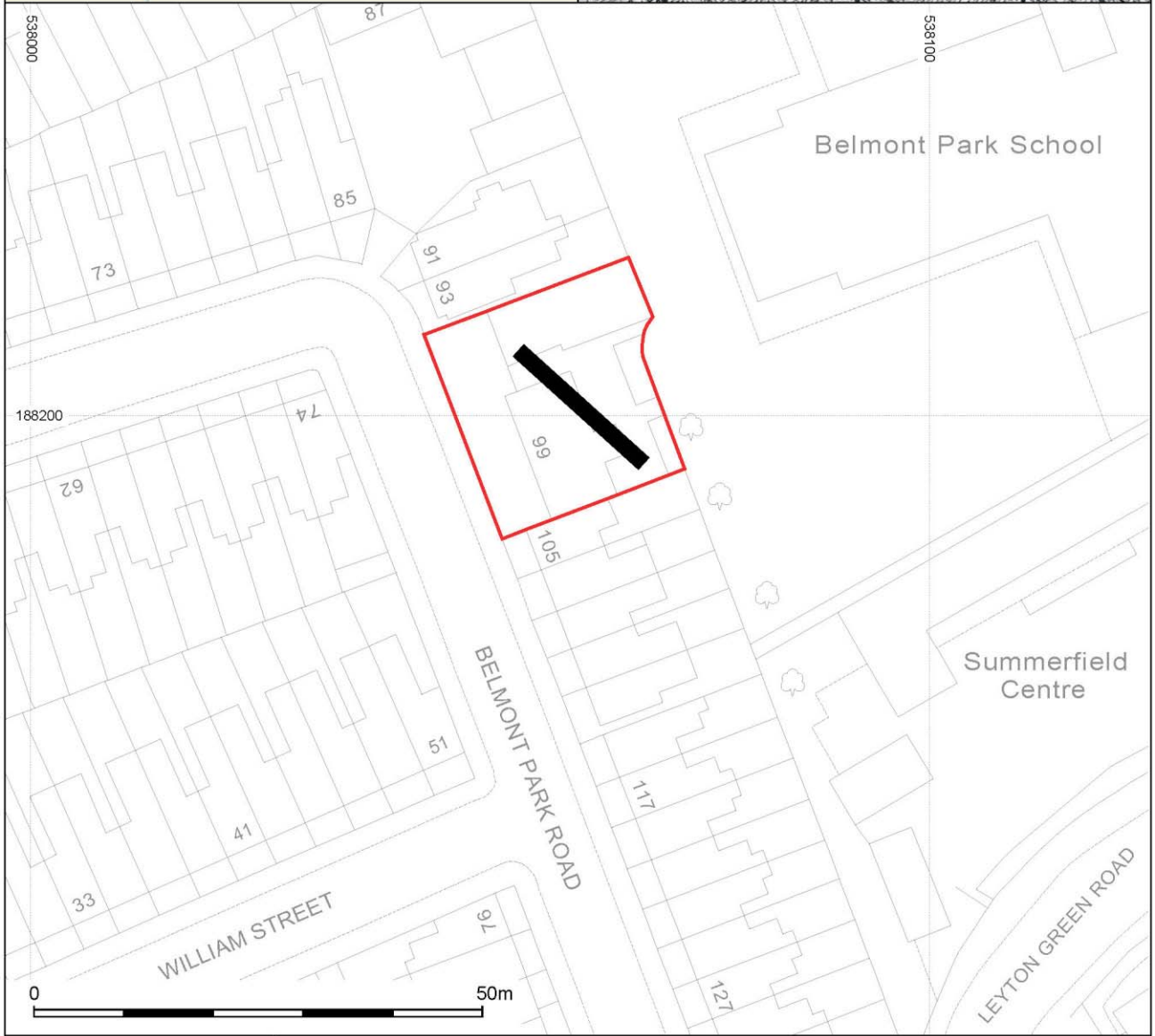
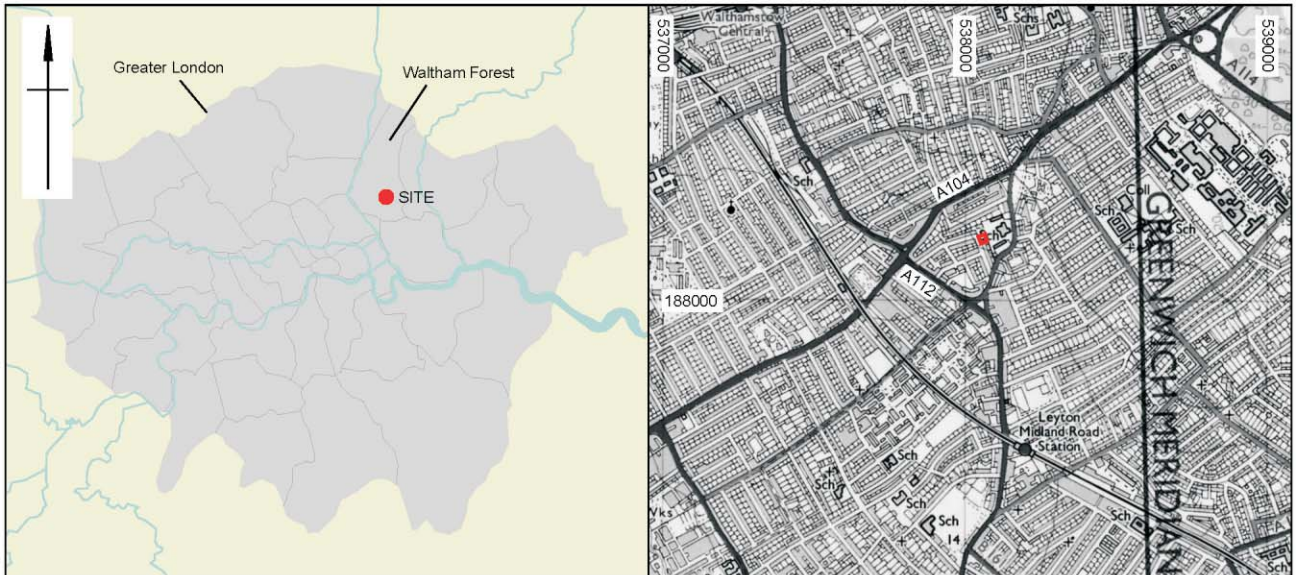
Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations



Museum of London (2000) The Archaeology of Greater London: An assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London

Wessex Archaeology (2008), 95-103 Belmont Park Road, E10 London Borough of Waltham Forest: *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation. Report Ref: 68690.01*

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Length: 19m		Width: 1.80m	Depth:0.75m
Context Number	Description	Depth below present ground level	
01	Made ground - mixed with former topsoil. Dark grey loose sandy silt mixed with demolition/building rubble	0-0.15m	
02	B horizon/subsoil – Mid greyish brown with 10 % dark orange brown mottling throughout, a fine sandy clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded to well rounded pebbles, charcoal flecks and small fragments of red brick and tile throughout. Lower boundary diffuse and wavy	0.15-0.35m	
03	Natural Geology - Mid orange brown stiff clay. Moderate small sub-angular to well rounded pebbles throughout	0.35-0.70m	
04	Natural Geology - Mid greyish brown with dark brown mottling throughout, very compact coarse sandy clayey gravel. Gravel small to medium well rounded to sub-rounded pebbles	0.70-0.75m (+)	



 Site boundary
 Trench

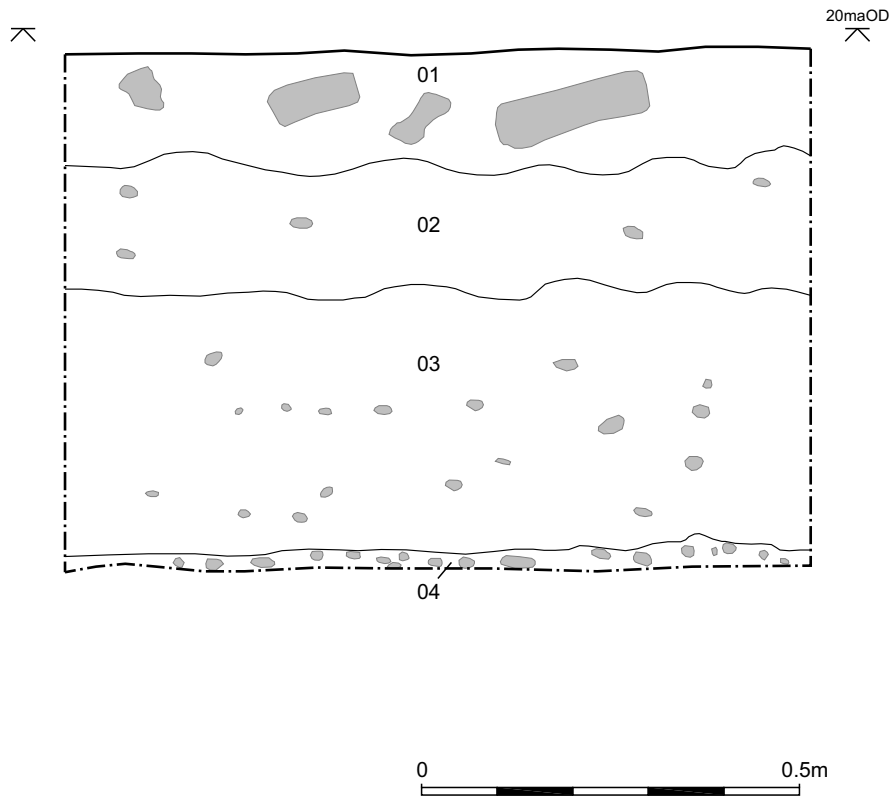
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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



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East facing section

Figure 2



Plate 1: East-facing section



Plate 2: Trench from south

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