



TOUCHSTONE ARCAHEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation

629 – 631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN

February 2019

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Archaeological evaluation at 629 – 631 Roman Road, London, E3 2RN

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Summary

Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Cedar Gate Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 629 – 631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN in advance of the development of the current terraced shop and residential space to 5 no residential apartments.

The archaeological work was undertaken in three phases, between 2016 – 2018.

Phase I (2016) consisted of the hand excavation of three structural survey test pits, one of which contained the continuation of the London to Colchester Roman road recorded during an evaluation at Parnell Road, Lefevre Road and Appian Way in 1980 by the Inner London Archaeological Unit (Mills, P.S.). One piece of pottery was recovered; a single sherd of post-medieval red earthenware with a broad but probable dating period of 17th-18th century.

Phase II (2018) consisted of the hand excavation of nine structural foundation test pits, six of which contained evidence of the Roman road encountered in Phase I. A small quantity of pottery was recovered dating from c.43 – 270 CE. Most of the pottery dated from 2nd century to first half of 3rd century and included amphora, Black-burnished ware, Colchester mortarium, North Kent shell-tempered ware, and Thameside greyware and a broken clay pipe bowl (c.1680-1710CE).

Phase III (2018) consisted of the monitoring of the hand excavation of eleven pad-stone and underpinning trenches, confirming the extent of the Roman road which appears to agree with the alignment detailed in the 1980 evaluation (Mills, P.S.). No further archaeological remains or deposits were uncovered and no further work is anticipated.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Cedar Gate Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 629 – 631 Roman Road, London, E3 2RN (TQ 36934 83537) in advance of the development of the current terraced shop and residential space to 5 no residential apartments.

1.2 Geology & Location

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey the underlying solid geology at the site is London Clay (clay, silt and sand) sealed by superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel Member (sands and gravels).

1.2.2 The PDA is located in Greater London, within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the district of Bow on the north side of Roman Road and is currently a terrace style building of ground floor shops and first and second floor workspace and accommodation. Roman Road is located east of the city of London, north of the River Thames and west of the River Lea (Fig. 1-2, Plate 1).

1.3 Scope of the report

This report provides an account of the archaeological evaluation.

1.4 Planning background

1.4.1 Planning consent was granted by Tower Hamlets Borough Council for the change of use of the existing shop to residential space and the conversion to 5 no apartments (Planning Ref: PA/15/02869) with an archaeological condition (10) in place.

1.4.2 The archaeological condition states:

No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.

If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage one then for those parts of the site, which have archaeological interest a stage two WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage two WSI no demolition/ development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage two WSI, which shall include:

- A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*

- B. The programme for post investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage two WSI.*

Reason: In order to identify and protect heritage assets of archaeological interest in accordance in policy DM27 of the Managing Development Document.

1.4.3 Zoe Schofield consulted John Gould Historic England Advisor during the 2016 works and Adam Single Historic England Advisor throughout the 2018 works.

1.4.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for Phase I was submitted to and approved by John Gould Historic England Advisor and a WSI for Phase II was submitted to and approved by Adam Single Historic England Advisor in advance of the development (Schofield, Z., 2018).

2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The PDA was historically located in a rural setting west of the River Lea and just south of the 'Ford', the ancient and most downstream crossing of the River Lea.

2.2 The Old Ford Road, has been documented as the ancient paved Roman Road, that ran from Colchester to London, crossing the River Lea at the Ford and supplying London with agricultural products and pottery and bestowing the name of *Stratforde* (paved way to a Ford) on the local area. A second road, on a similar alignment to the C19th Roman Road, running parallel and to the south of the Old Ford Road, has been identified through several archaeological evaluations (¹).

2.3 In the Antoine Itinerary, a C2nd document that details the Roman roads of the Empire, there are two routes recorded between Chelmsford and London. The first route (*Iter V*), is 28 Roman miles long and the second route (*Iter IX*) is 25 Roman miles long. The longer route of 31 miles is punctuated by a *Durolitum*, or posting station, at the midpoint between *Londinium* (London) and *Caesaromagus* (Chelmsford). On the shorter route of 28 miles there is no mention of a posting station. This may be attributed to the surveyor's measurements or to the fact that these are two different routes, the second being a route that ran through Stratford to Great Dunmow in Essex. A distance of c.260m separates the Old Ford Road and the Roman Road.

¹ Mills, P.S., 1980, *Excavations at Roman Road/Parnell Road, Old Ford Road, London E3*

² Map: 1719AD, issued 1731AD, a later map by Bowles based on An actual survey of The Parish of St

2.4 Around 1110CE a bow-shaped, three-arch bridge was built over the river Lea, causing the medieval population of Old Ford to move south towards Bow (Bridge) and the new settlement area became known as *'Stratford-atte-Bow'*. The area of Old Ford and the PDA remained a smaller rural settlement.

2.5 By the C17th *'Old Ford'* was the site of a windmill and a cluster of houses and the PDA was located directly on the northern edge of a footpath known as the *'Path to Bethnall Green'* that ran in a northeast direction from a second north-south footpath known as *'the way to Old Ford'* (the position of the later Tredegar Road) before turning east towards London. The footpaths are set between two parallel roads of Old Ford Lane to the north and Beer Binder Lane to the south (²).

2.6 A later map by John Rocque in 1761 and the Ordnance Survey field books of 1799 both note the feature as a 'Footpath'. From this point the footpath is included in some maps but not others until c.1825 when it disappears from cartographic evidence.

2.7 By 1807, in a Map of the Sewers, the PDA is located on an east-west footpath to London, which is known as 'The Drift Way', a broad route used for the driving of sheep and cattle. The Road continues to be named either as a Footpath or as The Drift Way until the 1853 map by J Whitbread in which it is named as the Roman Road. The Metropolitan Board of works was set up in 1855 for the upkeep of the roads and to provide a sewer system and it was around this time that the new road was constructed.

2.8 By 1873 the road was flanked with sporadic buildings stretching out from London but the settlement did not quite reach the area of the PDA, which continued in the rural vein of farming and market gardening.

2.9 By 1875, the Old Ford area, including the area of the PDA had been developed into housing and shops. In the C20th the building underwent repairs and reconfiguration.

² Map: 1719AD, issued 1731AD, a later map by Bowles based on An actual survey of The Parish of St Dunstan Stepney alias Stebunheath by Joel Gascoyne (engraved by John Harris 1703AD)

2.10 The Roman Road has regional significance as an area of conservation in recognition of its historic significance and special character as a traditional east end market. It was one of the main routes in to London and as such housing, trade and manufacturing developed along the road in the form of large factories (Bryant and May Match Factory), small houses that traded from their front rooms and market traders. The market came under threat twice from closure or diversion but with the inauguration of the Old Ford and Bow Traders & Shopkeepers Union it survived and was designated a conservation area in 1989. The area is also famed for being the Headquarters of the East London Federation of the Women's Social and Political Union from Feb 1913 until May 1914 (TQ28SE315).

3.0 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area (DLO35910), which relates specifically to the Roman Road. Evidence of a crossing over the River Lea was uncovered at Crown Wharf Ironworks and excavations have revealed a settlement dating from the 2nd to the 4th centuries around the area of the Roman Road, the Old Ford Road and the crossing at the River Lea.

3.2 There have been numerous evaluations within the immediate vicinity confirming both the presence of the road and roadside settlement. The road, dating to c.50CE, is generally described as a metaled surface constructed of a base deposit of brickearth with layers of sand and gravel and flint above, sealed beneath a deposit of loamy soil, which correlates with that found at the PDA.

3.3 The road measuring 65m in width was uncovered in full in 1995-6 at Lefevre Walk (³). The road had a raised central 'agger' with pebbled auxiliary tracks and ditches to both the north and south sides. There was evidence of several phases of development, including repairs and resurfacing. At one point it was transformed into a dual carriageway and the auxiliary tracks were raised. This was also documented in 1970

³ Pre- Construct Archaeology Ltd, R Taylor-Wilson LEK95, Phase I, 271-321 Lefevre Walk, Estate Block F/083695/00/00-MLO68141/ELO1080

in excavations at Appian Court, Lefevre Road and Parnell Road (⁴).

3.4 Sarcophagi and coffins have been uncovered at Armagh Road, Lefevre Walk and Parnell Road. Quarrying for the construction of the road and evidence of ditches and fence lines relating to field boundaries and finds of pottery, tile, coin, bone etc. have been found at Armagh and Parnell Road and at 72A Armagh Road, a substantial Roman building was discovered represented by ground beams and supporting wattle and daub walls (082337).

4.0 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

4.1 In March 2016 Touchstone Archaeology submitted a WSI for trial trenching to three areas of the proposed development site. John Gould HE GLAAS approved the WSI and the works were carried out on 18th July 2016. Three test pits of 1sqm were excavated to natural geology. Trench 3 revealed a solid structural feature at a depth of 0.3m below the foundation of the building and continuing for 0.38m to a brick earth base. Trench 1 revealed a possible mortar surface of a very thin lens at 0.45m. No finds were recovered (App. 1 & 4).

4.2 John Gould HE GLAAS visited site on 18th July 2016 to view the evaluation trenches and recommended that further investigation be undertaken to establish the extent of the road feature and the survival of any evidence of settlement adjacent to the road. A summary report was submitted in July 2016 (Appendix I) and on the 8th November 2016 a new WSI was approved for Stage 2 of the works.

4.3 In 2017 the developers CG Developments Ltd revised their structural plan and in so doing, opened six test pits to establish the depth of the existing foundations of the building. A new Archaeological Advisor, Adam Single, was appointed to the case, a new revised WSI was submitted and approved taking into consideration the six test pits already opened by the developer and a further three opened for the evaluation. The result was that the gravel road feature, which seemed to correlate with that found at Lefevre Walk in 1970 (MLO11263) and 1995-6 (083695/00/00-MLO68141), was found in

⁴ MLO11263, Sheldon, 1971, 1972 & Mills 1984

test pits 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11, to the south of the shop. The depth of the archaeological horizon was between c.50cm and 1.1m beneath modern ground level and in some cases the current foundation plan would have impacted on the archaeological resource (App 2 & 5).

4.4 After further discussion with the Archaeological Advisor it was agreed that the developers would produce a new shallower foundation plan to mitigate any impact on the archaeology and a watching brief was carried out on the remaining groundworks in accordance with the WSI (2018) (App 3 & 5).

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

5.1 Aims and Objectives

5.1.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks in accordance with current archaeological standards and to assess past impacts on the site. The information collated was to enable the Historic England Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work.

5.1.2 Specific research aims were to identify any evidence of settlement activity associated with the position, extent and date of the road feature uncovered in Test Pit 3 during Stage 1 of the archaeological works in 2016, any Roman activity or occupation, Medieval and Post Medieval activity.

5.2 Methodology

5.2.1 All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with prior discussions with the Historic England Advisor Adam Single, the WSI prepared by Touchstone Archaeology (Schofield, Z., 2018) and the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

5.2.2 In Phase I the test pits were hand excavated under supervision of the archaeologists. In Phase II the foundation trenches had been partially excavated by the developer prior to the archaeologists attendance. In Phase III the foundation trenches were excavated to a level agreed with the archaeologist prior to their attendance and monitored from that point onwards.

5.2.3 The fieldwork took place over five days. In 2016 Zoe Schofield acted as senior archaeologist on site. In 2018, David Britchfield MCIfA acted as the senior archaeologist on site. The developer provided construction labour.

5.2.4 Phase I comprised of three test pits: 1m x 1m. Phase II comprised of seven trenches and test pits of varying sizes and Phase III comprised of the monitoring of the remaining underpinning trenches (Figure 3).

5.2.5 In Phase I the trenches were numbered 1-3, however in Phase II and III the trenches were given alphabetical references by the structural engineers. This was changed in post-excavation analysis to a numerical system. The Trench plan (Fig.3) is based on the numerical system however, some of the site archive uses the alphabetic system. Therefore, a spreadsheet of the correlation between alphabetic and numerical has been added to the site archive (*ROR16 Trench numbering system, 2019*).

5.2.5 The trenches and archaeological features were accurately located and planned by use of a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) and architects drawings.

5.2.6 All deposits were recorded in a site diary and using Touchstone Archaeology standard recording sheets.

5.2.7 Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn where necessary on plastic drafting film at a scale of 1:10 (Plates 1-2) and later digitised.

5.2.8 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.

5.2.9 The fieldwork was monitored by John Gould of Historic England and a site visit was made on 18th July 2016 during Phase I of the works. Phase II and III were monitored by Adam Single of Historic England, however, due to the results a site visit was deemed unnecessary.

5.3 Site archive

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Touchstone Archaeology and will be delivered to the Museum of London in due course. The contents of the archive include:

Type	No.
WSI	3
Site Diary/Day book	1
Context Register	3
Photographic Register	3
Photographs	138
Drawings	2
Summary sheet	3
Final Report	1

Table 1. Site Archive

6.0 RESULTS

The post-excavation assessment and the preparation of this report have been carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Research projects in the Historic England (MoRPHE, 2015).

6.1 Phase I

Three archaeologists attended site on 18th July 2016.

Zoe Schofield acted as senior archaeologist

Three structural survey test pits had been opened and the modern concrete surface removed so that the topsoil beneath was exposed.

Trench 1 (1.0m x1.0m) was excavated by hand to a natural brick earth (108), 0.95m below the post medieval brick foundation (1.36m AOD). At a depth 0.45m a yellow brown hard gritty sandy clay lens of 12cm thickness with small stones, pebble and iron slag inclusions (106) was encountered and interpreted as a surface. No finds were recovered (Figure 3 & 4, Plate 2).

Trench 2 (1.0m x 1.0m) was excavated by hand to a natural, possibly weathered, brick earth (210), 0.65m below the modern (1.17m AOD). Several post-medieval layers were encountered above a layer of possibly, ploughed soil, at a depth of approximately 0.25m below modern. One piece of post-medieval pottery was recovered from a redeposited layer (Figure 3 & 4).

Trench 3 (1.0m x 1.0m) was excavated by hand revealing a solid metalled structural feature, at a depth of 0.30m below the foundation of the existing building. The location and construction of the feature suggested that it was a section of the London to Colchester Roman Road (305). The road was constructed of several compacted layers of flint fragments, pebbles, gravel and sand. The feature was cut and the depth was confirmed as 0.38m overlaying natural brick earth (309) (1.1m AOD). No finds were recovered (Figure 3 & 4, Plate 3 & 4).

6.2 Phase II

Phase II of the evaluation comprised of the recording of six structural survey test pits and three additional archaeological test pits, a total of c.12sqm.

Evidence of the London to Colchester Roman Road, found in Trench 3 in 2016, was also uncovered in Trenches 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 towards the front/south of the shop.

A common stratigraphy of modern floor construction over a dark loamy soil (005) that sealed the road surface below (008 & 009) was established across the trenches and the depth of the deposits ranged from 50cm at the very front/south to 1m towards the centre/north of the shop suggesting a camber or sloped edge. The findings were consistent with those found in previous excavations at Lefevre Road and Parnell Road (⁵). Natural brick earth was recorded at c.1m - 1.2m depth.

Phase III followed a revised structural plan that mitigated the damage to the Roman road feature. Some of the existing trenches were widened or lengthened to allow for larger structural pad-stones or underpinning that reduced the depth of the new foundations.

Trench 4 (1.1m x 1.8m) - In Phase II the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. The southern end produced one fragment of roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one sherd of Dorset black-burnished ware c.120-200 CE, recovered from a dark soil deposit (005) sealing a compact gravel/sand surface (008 & 009) with CBM inclusions, surmised to be the northern extent of the road feature.

In Phase III the trench was extended along the west wall of the building to meet Trench 5. A deposit of clay, silt and gravel (006) found to the southern end was interpreted as washed off road material. Towards the northern end the base was natural gravel. As the trench extended towards the northern end of the shop the modern disturbance became

⁵ Pre- Construct Archaeology Ltd, R Taylor-Wilson LEK95, Phase I, 271-321 Lefevre Walk, Estate Block F/083695/00/00-MLO68141/ELO1080

more prevalent. An inverted stone animal trough (014) was uncovered in the east section in a layer of modern disturbance (013) (Figure 3 & 7, Plate 5 - 9).

Trench 5 (1.2m x 1.6m) was excavated in Phase II to a depth of 1.3m to natural gravel and was heavily disturbed from the construction of the north extension of the building and produced no finds (Figure 3 & 6).

Trench 6 (1.2m x 1.8m) was opened in Phase III to a depth of 1.1m and produced no finds (Figure 3).

Trench 7 (1.0m x 1.4m) was excavated to a depth of 1.1m in Phase II, to a gravel surface (008), interpreted as the remains of the road feature. The interface of the gravel and dark soil II deposit (005) produced one sherd of North Kent shell-tempered ware c.70-170 CE, three sherds of Black-burnished 2 ware c.120-250 CE, one sherd of Thameside Greyware c.150-270 CE and three fragments of animal bone.

Unstratified finds were recovered from the spoil heap from the dark soil I deposit (003): two sherds of early Baetican Dressel 20 amphora fabric c.43-250, two fragments of Tegula c.43-250 CE, one large sherd of Colchester mortarium fabric c.170-250 CE, one fragment of roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one broken bowl & stem fragment of clay pipe c.1680-1710 CE (Figure 3).

Trench 8 (1.0m x 1.0m) was excavated in Phase II to a depth of 0.8m to a gravel surface (008), interpreted as the remains of the road feature. No finds were recovered (Figure 3, Plate 10).

Trench 9 (1.0m x 1.4m) was excavated in Phase II to a depth of 0.5m to a gravel surface, interpreted as the remains of the road feature. No finds were recovered (Figure 3).

Trench 10 (1.0m x 1.0m) was excavated in Phase II to a depth of 0.5m to a gravel surface, interpreted as the remains of the road feature. No finds were recovered (Figure 3).

Trench 11 (1.0m x 0.8m) was excavated in Phase III to a depth of 0.5m to a gravel surface (032) interpreted as the remains of the road feature. No finds were recovered (Figure 3, Plate 11).

Trench 12 (1.1m x 10.6m, east) was excavated in Phase II to a depth of 0.65m to a gravel surface (050 & 051) interpreted as the remains of the road feature. A deposit of clay, silt and gravel (049) was interpreted as washed off road material. No finds were recovered (Figure 3 & 9).

Trench 13 was located to the south of the shop and was a Phase III extension of Trench 3. The shared stratigraphy was that of a dark soil overlying the remains of the road and produced a small fragment of clay pipe stem (Figure 3, 6 & 9, Plate 12).

Trench 14 was excavated in Phase III to a mottled brickearth (019) and produced no finds (Figure 3).

Trench 15 (L) and Trench 16 (K) were excavated in Phase III and shared a common stratigraphy of dark soil overlying natural sand and gravel (040 & 044) and produced no finds (Figure 3 & 8).

Trench 17 (H) was excavated in Phase III and was heavily disturbed from previous construction and produced no finds (Figure 3 & 8).

Trench 18 (E) was excavated in Phase III to natural gravel (007) overlain by an alluvial wash (006) and a layer of dark soil II (005). A brick built Victorian well/drain was encountered to the north east (012) (Figure 3 & 7, Plate 13-15).

6.3 Natural geology

The lowest deposit identified was brick earth, at between 0.87 – 1.36m below ground level, which presented as a mid orange silty sandy clay and was a common stratigraphic layer across the site. Natural gravel was also encountered towards the north of the site.

7.0 FINDS

7.1 In phase I Trench 2 produced one sherd of post medieval red earthen wear with an all over glaze which could span almost the entire post medieval period but was most likely to be C17th – C18th date was recovered from a redeposited layer.

7.2 In phase II Trench 4 produced one fragment of abraded roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one slightly abraded sherd of Dorset black-burnished ware dish (BB1), c. 120 - 200 CE, recovered from the soil deposit sealing the road feature.

Trench 7 produced several finds from the interface of the road and soil deposit. One sherd of north Kent shell-tempered ware c. 70 – 170 CE from a jar basal; three sherds of black-burnished 2 ware c. 120 – 250 CE from an ac latticed cooking pot c. 120 – 250 CE, a chamfered open form base c. 170 – 230 CE and an ev.rim cooking pot c. 170 – 250 CE; one shard of Thameside grey ware closed form, c. 150 – 270 CE; three fragments of animal bone.

Several unstratified finds were recovered from the spoil heap of trench 7; two sherds of early Baetican Dressel 20 amphora fabric, c. 43 – 250 CE; two fragments of tegula tile,

early roman; one large shard of Colchester mortarium fabric, c. 170 – 250 CE; one fragment of roof tile c. 1275 CE onwards; one broken clay pipe bowl and stem fragment (form 21) c. 1680 -1710 CE.

7.3 In Phase III a post medieval stone animal trench was found inverted in the east section of Trench 4 in a heavily disturbed layer.

8.0 DISCUSSION

In 2016 three structural test pits were excavated in advance of construction at a shop on the Roman Road. Trench 3, located within and to the front and south of the shop revealed a metallised surface similar to that described in previous archaeological evaluations carried out at Parnell Road and Lefevre Road (*Mills, P.S., 1984*) to the east and south east of the PDA respectively and interpreted as the London to Colchester Roman Road.

Phase II of the evaluation focused on a further nine structural trenches of varying sizes located within the shop and Phase III was the extension of some of the existing trenches for underpinning.

The evidence suggests that the metallised feature found in phase I was the northern extent of the Roman Road that ran east west at an angle across the front and southern part of the shop in accordance with the findings of the Inner London Archaeological Unit in 1984. Although no definitive edge was encountered, the road petered out towards the centre of the shop, where a deposit interpreted as road wash was recorded. Pottery recovered from trenches 4 and 7 gave a date from 43 CE to 270 CE which is concurrent with the 50 CE date of the road construction.

Fortunately, the construction of the shallow post-medieval foundations had not impacted on the road feature, however early modern alterations to the building, including the rear north extension and the installation of a basement had caused significant disturbance. This area produced no Roman roadside features or finds,

however, an inverted stone animal trough was found in the east section of Trench 4 in a heavily disturbed layer and a Post Medieval brick built well or drain was found in Trench 18 to the rear of the shop.

A mitigation strategy by the structural engineers reduced the impact of the new alterations considerably and the road feature was left largely intact.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Touchstone Archaeology would like to thank Cedar Gate Developments Ltd for commissioning the work and John Gould (HEA) and Adam Single (HEA) for their guidance throughout the project. David Britchfield (MCIfA) carried out the fieldwork, Zoe Schofield authored the report, Digitise This produced the digital renderings of trench plan and sections, Malcolm Lyne and Helen Walker carried out the pottery analysis.

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Form) SLO65133.*

Online Resources:

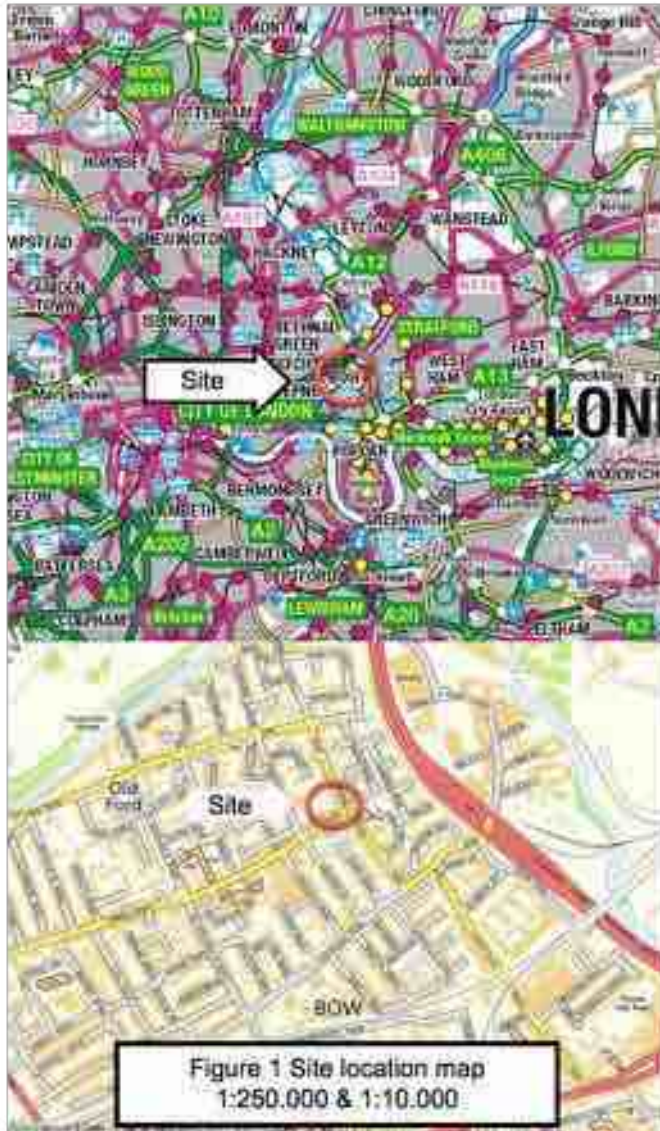
British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer accessed 15th May 2018

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

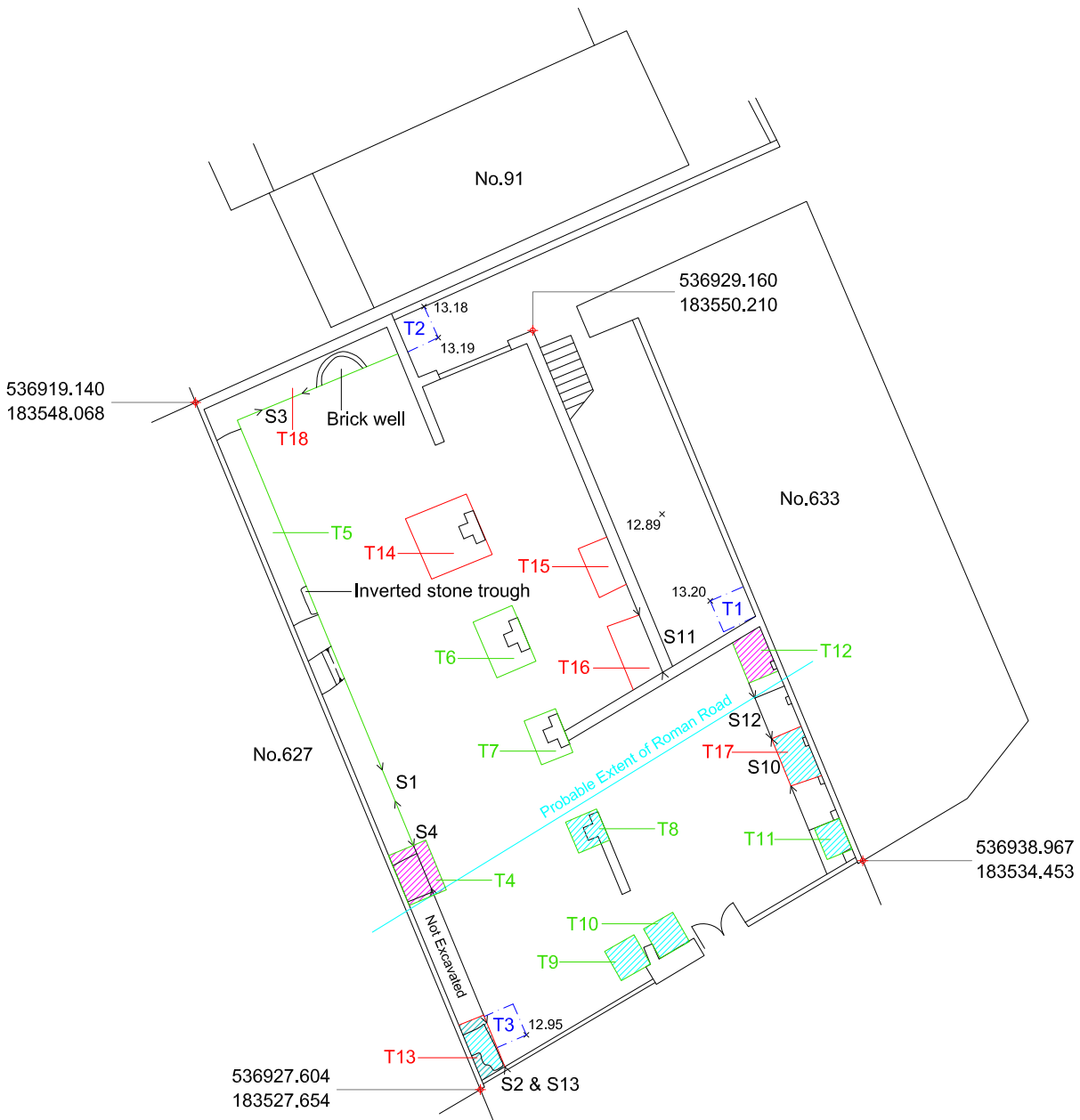
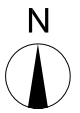
OS Maps provided by Groundsure 8th May 2018

HER update received 6th August 2018

<http://roman-britain.co.uk/names/durolitum.htm>








Phase I (2016)
Phase II (2018)
Phase III (2018)

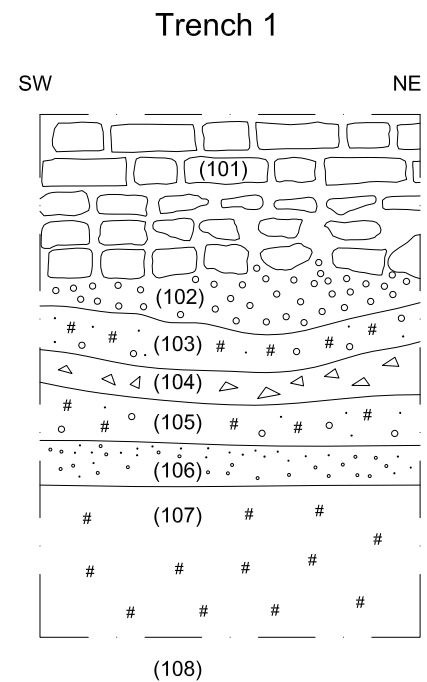
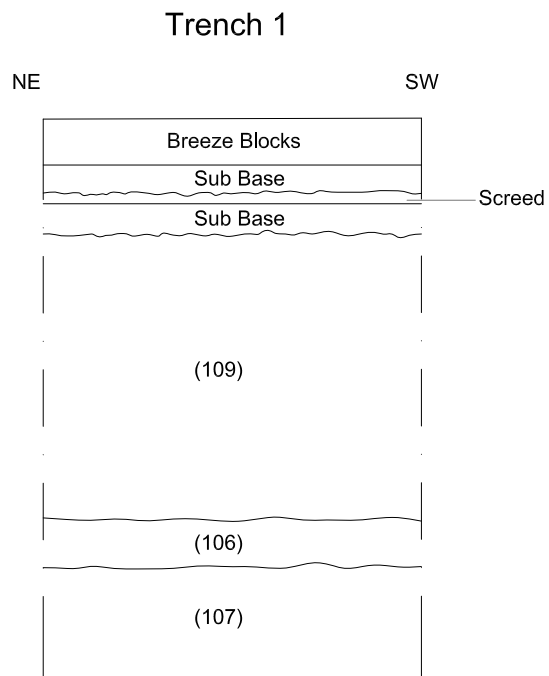
Presence of Roman Road 

Washed gravel deposits and road erosion 

1:200@A4



Figure 3 Trench Plan

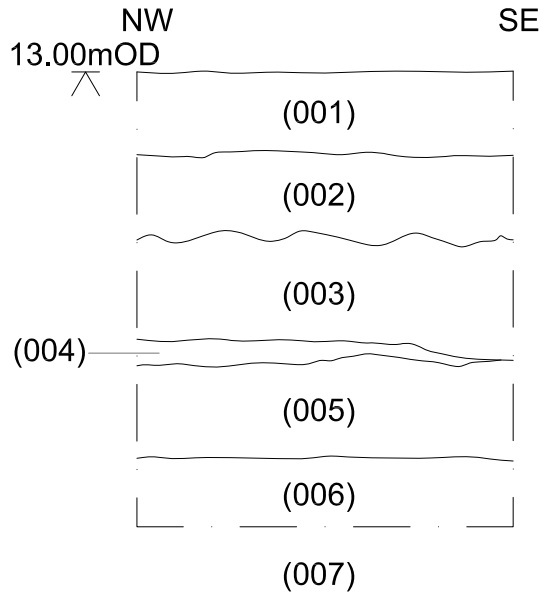


1:20@A4

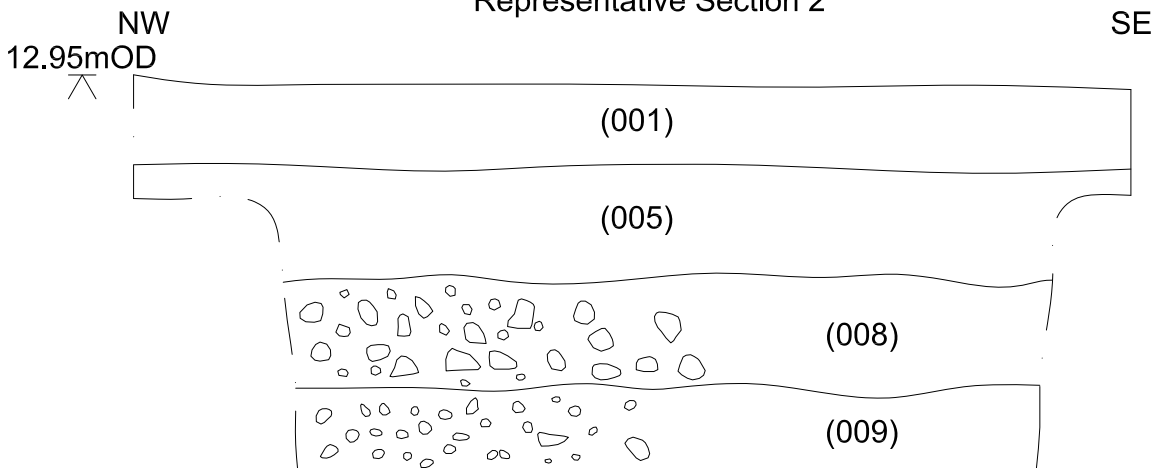


Figure 4. Trench1 Sections

Trench 5
Representative Section 1



Trench 13
Representative Section 2

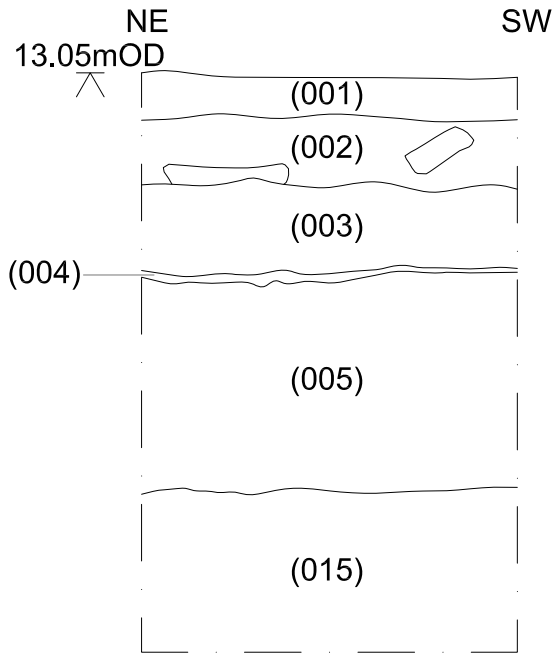


1:20@A4

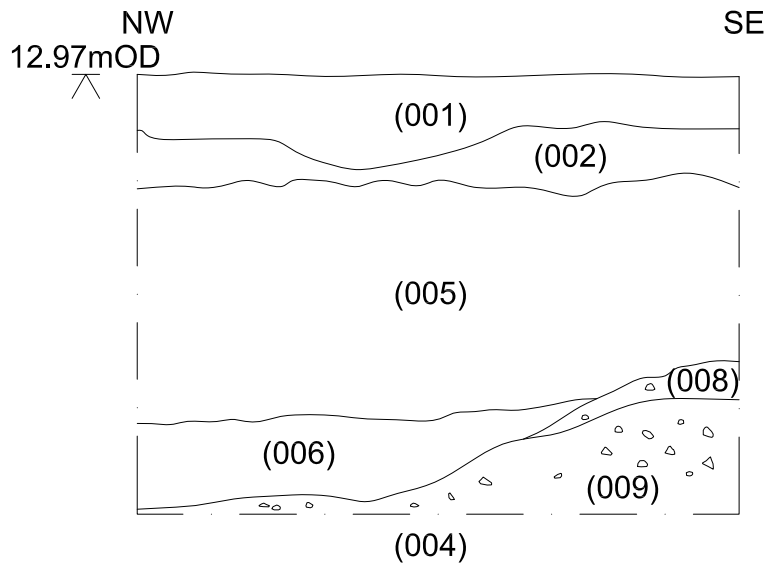


Figure 6 Trench 5 & 13 Sections

Trench 18
Representative Section 3



Trench 4
Representative Section 4

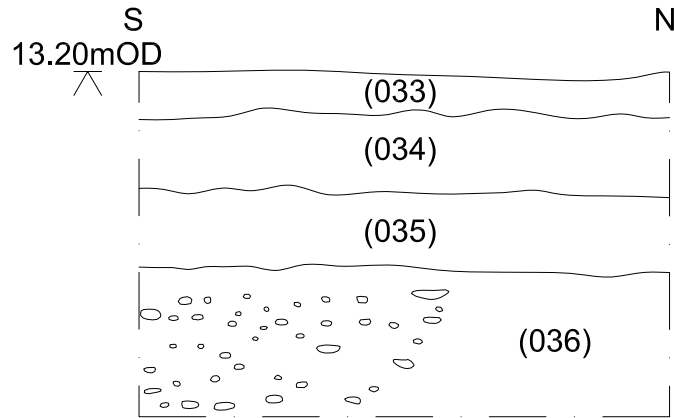


1:20@A4

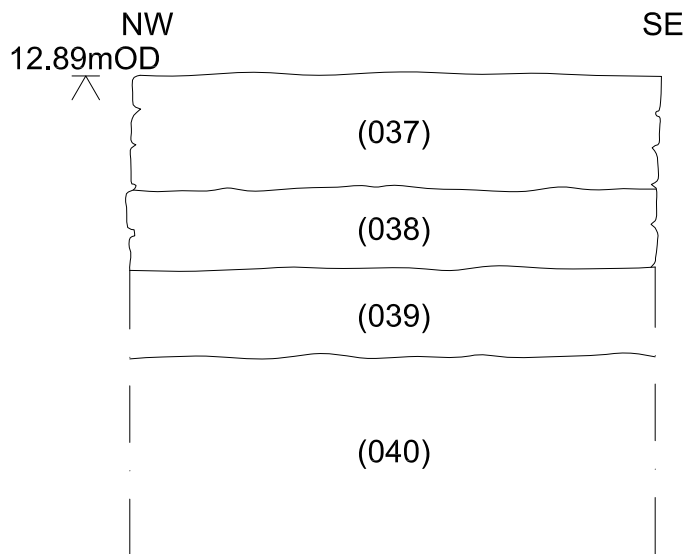


Figure 7 Trench 18 & 4 Sections

Trench 17
Representative Section 10



Trench 15 and 16
Representative Section 11

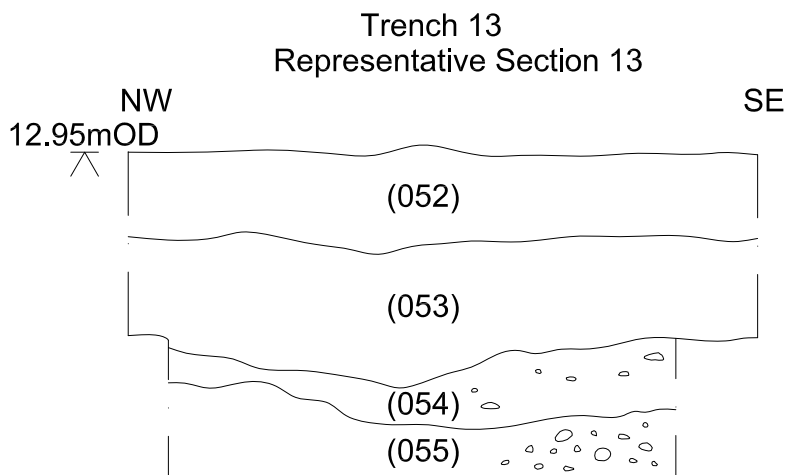
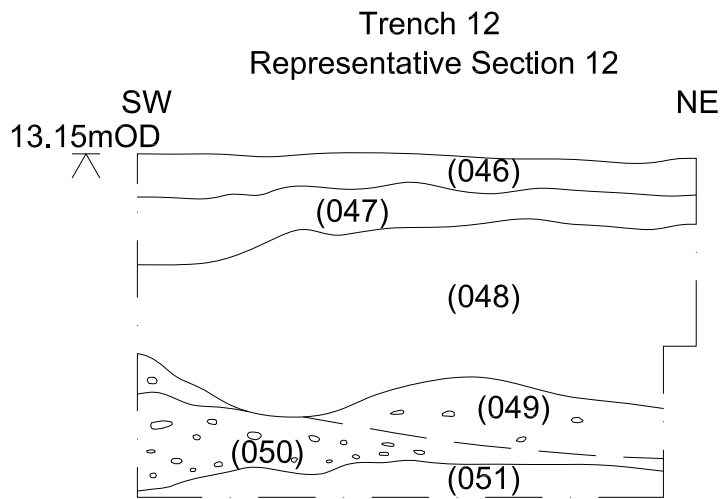


1:20@A4

Figure 8 Trench 15, 16 & 17

0m

2m



1:20@A4

Figure 9 Trenches 12 & 13 Sections 0m

2m



Plate 1 Aerial image



Plate 2 Trench 1 facing northeast (Surface)



Plate 3 Trench 3 facing northeast (Roman road)



Plate 4 Trench 3 facing northwest
(Roman road cut)



Plate 5 Trench 4 facing northwest



Plate 6 Trench 4 facing northwest (surface)

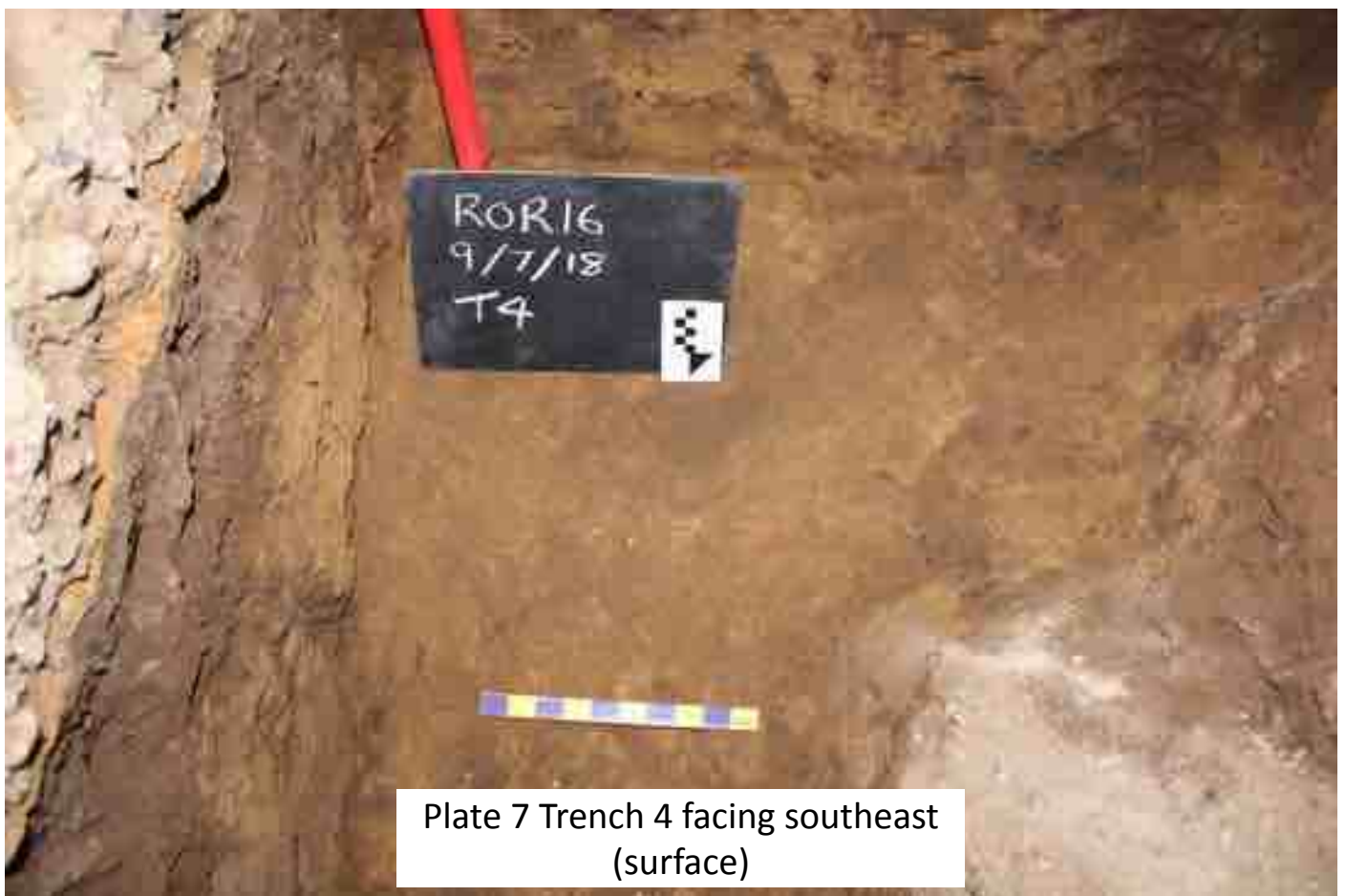


Plate 7 Trench 4 facing southeast
(surface)



Plate 8 Trench 4 facing northwest
(section)



Plate 9 Trench 4 facing
westsouthwest (section)



Plate 10 Trench 8 facing northwest
(section)



Plate 11 Trench 12 facing northwest
(section)



Plate 12 Trench 13 facing southeast (Roman road)



Plate 13 Trench 18 facing northeast (Post-medieval well)



Plate 14 Trench 18 facing
northeast (Post-medieval well)



Plate 15 Trench 18 facing
westsouthwest

Site Name/Address: 629–631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN	
Parish: Bow	District: Tower Hamlets
NGR: TQ 369835	Site Code: ROR16
Type of Work: Trial Trenching	Site Director/Group: Zoe Schofield – Touchstone Archaeology
Date of Work: 18 th July 2016	Size of Area Investigated: 3sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/a	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated? Yes – A second stage of fieldwork is required	Related EHCR No's: 080967, 080814, 083500Z8, 082758Z9,1042603, 082886, 082963,082964
Final Report: To follow on completion of second stage of fieldwork	OASIS number: zoeschof1-258156
Periods Represented: Post Medieval, Roman	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Three test pits of 1sqm each (see attached plan) were opened for the use of both the structural engineer for party wall information and for an archaeological evaluation prior to the commencement of development on site.</p> <p>A brief summary of the results:</p> <p>Three archaeologists attended site on 18th July 2016. The weather was hot and dry. Three trenches had been opened and the modern ground level removed so that the soft ground beneath was exposed.</p> <p>Trench 1 revealed several undated redeposited layers over a yellow/brown hard gritty sandy/clay surface at a depth of approximately 450mm below the brick foundation of the existing building, over and above a clay and silt base, ending at brick earth at a depth of approximately 950mm below the brick foundation. The surface separated easily from the soil layer above and although it had a hard crust it broke easily with the trowel</p> <p>Trench 2 revealed several post medieval layers above a layer of possibly ploughed soil at a depth of approximately 250mm below modern and over and above weathered brick earth at a depth of 650mm below modern. One piece of post-medieval pottery was recovered from a redeposited layer.</p> <p>Trench 3 revealed a solid structural feature, thought to be a section of the Roman Road running from Colchester to London at a depth of 300mm below the foundation of the building and continuing for 380mm to a brick earth base. The feature required the use of a mattock to make a cut and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>A site visit from the HEA confirmed that further fieldwork is required.</p>	

Stratigraphy:

Trench 1 was located in the alleyway immediately behind and to the north of the main building (see plan). It was 1 sqm in size.

The modern floor levels were on two levels. The first level was constructed of 120mm breezeblocks with a 140mm hard-core sub-base, built directly over a 40mm concrete screed on a 80mm hard-core sub-base.

The southeast section exposed the foundation of the north elevation of the main building, two courses of Flemish header-stretcher bond sitting on a three course stepped foundation of header bond in stock brick and yellow mortar probably dating to the 1916 construction (101). Beneath this was a layer of loose dark/brown black gravel (102), probably a levelling base to the foundation. This was followed by a dark brown, silty, clay with occasional stone inclusions (103) and one piece of tegular roof tile above a loose layer of red crushed red CBM (104). Beneath this was a layer of dark brown/black silty clay (105) similar to (103). This layer peeled away easily from a hard gritty surface of yellow sandy clay with small stone and pebble inclusions and iron slag (106). The surface was approximately 120mm and did not have a stone or pebble finish and broke quite easily with a trowel. This was set on what appeared to be redeposited green/grey clay with brown silt pockets (107). A cut was made on the southeast side of the trench and within 200mm reached brick earth. When comparing the other two trenches brick earth was reached at approximately the same level and so we thought it probable that this was the natural geology.

The northwest section had a simpler stratigraphy. Beneath the modern concrete floor level was a dark brown loamy soil with a reddish tint and small stone inclusions (109). Beneath this lay the surface (106) and the clay (107).

The northeast section exposed the foundation of the west elevation of the adjoining building, modern construction of a concrete pad-stone that continued to a depth of 1m. To the southeast of the pad-stone a 300mm wide section survived of 800mm of loamy soil (109) above the surface (106) and the clay (107) and the brick earth (108).

The southwest section exposed the east elevation of a modern inspection chamber that continued to the natural brick earth layer at a depth of 1.4m with 100mm width of back fill to the right.

Trench 2 was located in the alleyway to the rear of the building (see plan). It was 1 sqm in size. The modern floor level was a 170mm concrete base with 240mm hard-core sub base laid on a concrete slab of 100mm and sub-base of 60mm.

Both the northwest and the southwest section revealed the foundations from the adjoining building.

The northeast section held a full stratigraphic sequence. To the southwest was a near vertical cut (202) of 90mm width containing fairly soft mid grey/brown sandy clay with moderate to frequent gravel, lumps of redeposited brick earth and occasional London stock brick (201). The stratigraphy continued alongside the cut with fairly soft, mid grey/brown clay/sand with moderate gravel and CBM inclusions (203), followed by dark brown/black clay/sand mixed with cinder/coal (204) and a mid orange/grey redeposited brick earth dump with sandy clay and occasional

gravel and CBM (205). The cut continued and the remaining section split into two. To the northwest was a mid grey/brown sandy clay with occasional to moderate gravel, flecks of charcoal and CBM with one piece of post medieval pottery, possibly ploughed soil (208). Beneath this was a similar layer, sandier and with fewer inclusions (209) and the final layer was weathered brick-earth (mid orange silty/sandy clay) with root disturbance (210). The second cut (207) again near vertical towards the centre of the section contained a mixed dump of redeposited brick earth and mid-grey/brown sandy clay with gravel and a large lump of slag, slate fragments, CTP stem, CBM and chalk (206).

Trench 3 was located in the north corner of the shop beneath the concrete finished floor level (see plan). The brick foundation of the building was visible as two courses. Adjacent to this was a mid brown loamy soil with occasional mortar (302) and a patch of loose rubble, probably a levelling course. Beneath this was a mid brown loamy soil with occasional chalk flecks, flint fragments and pebbles (303), probably garden soil followed by a mixture of light buff sand and mid brown loam with flint fragments and gravel (304). This gave way to a very compact surface of gravel and occasional medium flint pebbles in light buff sandy silt (305). A cut was made to determine the depth and composition of the surface and a mattock was required to break through. A second very compact mid brown layer of small to medium flint fragments and pebbles in a sandy matrix (306) and a third very compact mid brown layer of medium to large flint fragments and pebbles in a sandy matrix (307) were beneath ending in brick earth (mid grey brown very silty clay sand). A cut was made in the brick earth to determine whether or not it was natural or redeposited. There were occasional small stones and root disturbance and it continued beyond the depth of the cut (250mm). The feature is probably a continuation of the Roman Road found in excavations very close by in 1984 at Parnell Road (080967).

Previous Summaries/Reports:
 N/a

Author of Summary: ZOE SCHOFIELD

Date of Summary: 20th July 2016

Site Name/Address: 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN - Phase 2	
Parish: Bow	District: Tower hamlets
NGR: TQ 369835	Site Code: ROR16
Type of Work: Test Pits	Site Director/Group: Zoe Schofield – Touchstone Archaeology
Date of Work: 9 th July 2018	Size of Area Investigated: 12sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Museum of London	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated? Yes – Phase 3 Watching Brief on new foundations	Related EHCR No's: ELO18574/DLO35910/ELO1080/MLO68141/MLO11263/082337
Final Report: To follow on completion of Phase 3	OASIS number: zoeschof1 - 258156
Periods Represented: Roman, Post Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Phase 1 of the archaeological evaluation (ELO18574) completed in 2016 uncovering evidence of the London to Colchester Roman Road in Trench 3 to the front/south of the shop.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the evaluation comprised of the recording of nine test pits (12sqm in total).</p> <p>Evidence of the London to Colchester Roman Road, found in Trench 3 in 2016, was also uncovered in Trenches 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 towards the front/south of the shop.</p> <p>A common stratigraphy was established across the trenches and the depth of the deposits ranged from 50cm at the very front/south to 1m towards the middle/north of the shop. The findings were consistent with those found in previous excavations at Lefevre Road and Parnell Road.</p> <p>Natural brick earth was recorded at c.1m - 1.2m depth.</p> <p>Trench 4 produced one fragment of roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one sherd of Dorset black-burnished ware recovered from the soil deposit sealing the road feature.</p> <p>Trench 7 produced one sherd North Kent shell-tempered ware c.70-170 CE, three sherds of Black-burnished 2 ware c.120-250 CE, one sherd Thameside Greyware c.150-270 CE and three fragments of animal bone found at the interface of the road and the soil deposit.</p> <p>Unstratified finds were two sherds early Baetican Dressel 20 amphora fabric c.43-250, two fragments Tegula c.43-250 CE, one large sherd Colchester mortarium fabric c.170-250 CE, one fragment Roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one broken bowl & 1 fragment of clay pipe c.1680-1710 CE</p> <p>Phase 3 is due to take place in September 2018.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: Summary Sheet ELO18574	
Author of Summary: Z SCHOFIELD	Date of Summary: 5 th September 2018

Site Name/Address: 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN - Phase 2	
Parish: Bow	District: Tower hamlets
NGR: TQ 369835	Site Code: ROR16
Type of Work: Watching Brief on extension of test pits to structural trenches	Site Director/Group: Zoe Schofield – Touchstone Archaeology
Date of Work: 9 th July 2018	Size of Area Investigated: 10sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Museum of London	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated? No	Related EHCR No's: ELO18574/DLO35910/ELO1080/MLO68141/MLO11263/082337
Final Report: An archaeological evaluation at 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN	OASIS number: zoeschof1 - 258156
Periods Represented: Roman, Post Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Phase I (2016) of the archaeological evaluation (ELO18574) comprised of three test pits (3sqm in total) and uncovered the remains of the London to Colchester Roman Road in Trench 3 to the front/south of the shop.</p> <p>Phase II (2018) of the evaluation comprised of the recording of nine test pits (12sqm in total). The remains of the London to Colchester Roman Road was uncovered in Trenches 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 towards the front/south of the shop.</p> <p>A common stratigraphy was established across the trenches and the depth of the deposits ranged from 50cm at the very front/south to 1m towards the middle/north of the shop. The findings were consistent with those found in previous excavations at Lefevre Road and Parnell Road.</p> <p>Natural brick earth was recorded at c.1m - 1.2m depth.</p> <p>Trench 4 produced one fragment of roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one sherd of Dorset black-burnished ware recovered from the soil deposit sealing the road feature.</p> <p>Trench 7 produced one sherd North Kent shell-tempered ware c.70-170 CE, three sherds of Black-burnished 2 ware c.120-250 CE, one sherd Thameside Greyware c.150-270 CE and three fragments of animal bone found at the interface of the road and the soil deposit.</p> <p>Unstratified finds were two sherds early Baetican Dressel 20 amphora fabric c.43-250, two fragments Tegula c.43-250 CE, one large sherd Colchester mortarium fabric c.170-250 CE, one fragment Roof tile c.1275 CE onwards and one broken bowl & 1 fragment of clay pipe c.1680-1710 CE</p> <p>Phase III followed a revision of the structural plans and comprised of a watching brief on the extension of the trenches to facilitate pad-stones and underpinning. Towards the centre of the shop the road feature petered out and was overlain by a silty, clay, gravel deposit interpreted as road wash. While no definitive edge was uncovered, this area appeared to be the northern extent of the road.</p>	

Towards the north of the shop the ground had been disturbed by modern construction and there was no evidence of roadside features or finds. Within the disturbed ground was an inverted stone animal trough and at the rear of the shop a post-medieval brick well (Victorian).

Previous Summaries/Reports: Summary Sheet ELO18574

Author of Summary: Z SCHOFIELD

Date of Summary: 5th September 2018

Appendix IV

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: zoeschof1-258156

Project details

Project name	629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN
Short description of the project	Trial Trenching to 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN
Project dates	Start: 18-07-2016 End: 18-07-2016
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	PA/15/02869 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ROR16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1611963 - NMR No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW 629-631 Roman Road
Postcode	E3 2RN
Study area	3 Square metres
Site coordinates	0 0 183529.521 N 536928.329 E Point
Site coordinates	0 0 183550.240 N 536925.673 E Point
Site coordinates	0 0 183541.916 N 536935.120 E Point

Site coordinates	TQ 36928 83529 51.533541247446 -0.025607828544 51 32 00 N 000 01 32 W Point
Site coordinates	TQ 36925 83550 51.533730705736 -0.025642890726 51 32 01 N 000 01 32 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.25m Max: 12.53m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Zoe Schofield
Project director/manager	Zoe Schofield
Project supervisor	Zoe Schofield
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Zoe Schofield
Physical Archive ID	ROR16
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Physical Archive notes	1no PM pottery, 1no Roman tile, 1no Brick/tile, 1no Iron slag
Digital Archive recipient	Zoe Schofield
Digital Archive ID	ROR16
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Ceramics"
Digital Archive notes	Plan and section photographs
Paper Archive recipient	GLAAS
Paper Archive ID	ROR16
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Paper Archive notes	WSI, Plan and Section Drawings, Context sheets, Summary Sheet

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological trial trenching to land 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Schofield, Z
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Touchstone Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	www.touchstonearchaeology.com
URL	www.touchstonearchaeology.com

Entered by Mark Barratt (oasis@historicengland.org.uk)
Entered on 19 June 2017

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Appendix V

OASIS ID: zoeschof1-335972

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN Phase II (2018)
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks in advance of new development at 629-631 Roman Road, London E3 2RN Phase II (2018)
Project dates	Start: 27-09-2018 End: 27-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	zoeschof1-258156 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	ROR18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	UF Roman
Significant Finds	SN Roman
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW 629-631 Roman Road
Postcode	E3 2RN
Study area	22 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 36934 83537 51.533611685521 -0.025518256823 51 32 01 N 000 01 31 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.97m Max: 12.05m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Zoe Schofield
Project director/manager	Zoe Schofield
Project supervisor	David Britchfield MCIfA
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	MOLA
Physical Archive ID	ROR16
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	MOLA
Digital Archive ID	ROR16
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	MOLA
Paper Archive ID	ROR16
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Aerial Photograph","Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 629 -631 Roan Road, London E3 2RN Phase II and III
Author(s)/Editor(s)	schofield, Z.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Touchstone Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	www.touchstonearchaeology.comw
Description	PDF
URL	www.touchstonearchaeology.com

Entered by	Zoe Schofield (zoeschofield1@gmail.com)
Entered on	2 March 2019

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Appendix VII

SPOT-DATING OF THE POTTERY FROM 629-631 ROMAN ROAD LONDON E3 (ROR 16)

By

Malcolm Lyne

Fabrics

BAETE Early Baetican Dressel 20 amphora fabric.

BB1. Dorset Black-burnished ware

BB2. Black-burnished 2 ware

COLMO. Colchester Mortarium fabric

NKSH. North Kent Shell-tempered ware

TSK. Thameside greyware

Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Weight in gm.	Comments
---------	--------	------	------------	--------------	---------------	----------

T4. Same as 303 S. section. 4.303.1	BB1	Dish	c.120-200	1	12G	Slightly abraded
T4. Same as 303 N. section. 4.303.2	Tile		?Post Medieval	1	10G	Abraded
T7 . U/S. Same as 303	BAETE Tile	DR20 amphora Tegula	c.43-250 Early Roman	2 2	341 169	Fresh Fresh
				4	510G	
T7. U/S. U4	COLMO	Mortarium	c.170-250	1	211G	Fresh
T7. Same as 304. 7.304.1	BB2	Ac latticed cooking-pot	c.120-250	1	3G	Fresh

T7. Same as 304. 7.304.5	BB2	Chamfered open form base	c.170-230	1	16G	Fresh
T7. Same as 304. 7.304.3	BB2	Ev.rim cooking-pot	c.170-250	1	17G	Fresh
T7.Same as 304. 7.304.4	NKSH	Jar basal	c.70-170	1	29G	Fresh
T7.Same as 304. 7.304.2	TSK	Closed form	c.150-270	1	2G	Fresh