

**BELLE VUE CINEMA CAR PARK,
MANOR PARK CRESCENT
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET**

NGR: TL 1933 9191

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**by
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Museum of London Archaeological Archive Site Code: MPE03

Commissioned by: CgMs Consulting

**Report No. 288
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in March 2003 by Foundations Archaeology at Belle Vue Cinema Car Park, Manor Crescent, Edgware (NGR: TL 1933 9191). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Wilcon Homes North London.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of one 10m by 1.8m trench, one 11.5m by 1.8m trench and two 5m by 1.8m trenches across the proposed development area.

No significant archaeological finds or features were present within the evaluation trenches.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in March 2003 by Foundations Archaeology at Belle Vue Cinema Car Park, Manor Crescent, Edgware (NGR: TL 1933 9191). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Wilcon Homes North London, in response to a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological works in advance of the determination of a planning application to erect a new extension to the rear of the property.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 5: Evaluation: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) and the Specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (2002).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological evaluation and conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site covers 0.1ha and is located at NGR: TL 9133 9191 with Manor Park Crescent to the south. There are residential buildings to the north and west, while Edgware Delivery Office lies immediately to the east. The site is situated at a height of *circa* 60.50m OD and the natural geology consists of Clay. The area was being utilised as a contractors compound at the time of the evaluation works.

3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The development area lies within the Archaeological Priority Area designated to cover the historic core of Edgware. A map of 1597 shows that the site may have contained domestic dwellings in the early Post-medieval period and had the potential to contain earlier remains. A watching brief undertaken by PCA in 2002 at the Cinema site approximately 30m to the east had negative results, but demonstrated that the site had been subject to considerable disturbance associated with the construction of the cinema.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 4.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following specific objectives as stated in the Specification (CgMs 2002).

i) to determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present; to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence; to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains; to determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains; to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; to determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present; to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Three 10m x 1.8m trenches were to be excavated within the site area. On-site constraints, associated with access and services, required the relocation of all of the trenches from the initially planned positions and the division of Trench 3 into two smaller trenches. Final trench locations are detailed on Figure 2.
- 5.2 Deposits of non-significant overburden were removed to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural clay, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB 3CX excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.
- 5.3 No suitable contexts for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 5.4 All site recording was undertaken in accordance with Foundations Archaeology *Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual)*. A written, drawn and photographic record of the evaluation was compiled in accordance with the specification.
- 5.5 Levels were recorded from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark on the Cinema building, value 61.60m

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 Trench 1 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW and was excavated onto natural clay at an average depth of 0.51m (60.38m OD) from the modern ground surface. The top of the clay had been disturbed by modern activity and was cut by a brick wall footing, on an east-west alignment, in the northern part of the trench. The natural was sealed beneath a layer of mid-dark grey silty clay up to 0.3m thick (103) containing quantities of modern brick and other building debris. This layer was sealed beneath a gravel hardcore layer (102) up to 0.13m thick, beneath a tarmac hardstanding (101) up to 0.25m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were present.

- 6.2 Trench 2 was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated onto natural clay at an average depth of 0.33m (60.10m OD) from the modern ground surface. The top of the clay had been disturbed by modern activity. The natural was sealed beneath a patchy layer of mid-dark grey silty clay (203) containing quantities of modern brick and other building debris. This layer was sealed beneath a gravel hardcore layer (202) up to 0.16m thick, beneath a tarmac hardstanding (201) up to 0.21m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were present.
- 6.3 Trench 3a was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated onto natural clay at an average depth of 0.40m (60.03m OD) from the modern ground surface. The top of the clay had been badly disturbed by modern activity, particularly in the central part. The natural was sealed beneath a patchy layer of dark grey/black silty clay and gravel (303) containing quantities of modern brick and other building debris. This layer was sealed beneath a gravel hardcore layer (302) up to 0.06m thick, beneath a tarmac hardstanding (301) up to 0.15m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were present.
- 6.4 Trench 3b was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated onto natural clay at an average depth of 0.22m (60.21m OD) from the modern ground surface. The top of the clay had been disturbed by modern activity and was cut by two ceramic drainpipes. The natural was sealed beneath a patchy layer of dark grey/black silty clay (303) containing quantities of modern brick and other building debris. This layer was sealed beneath a gravel hardcore layer (302) up to 0.06m thick, beneath a tarmac hardstanding (301) up to 0.15m thick. No archaeologically significant finds or features were present.

7 CONCLUSIONS

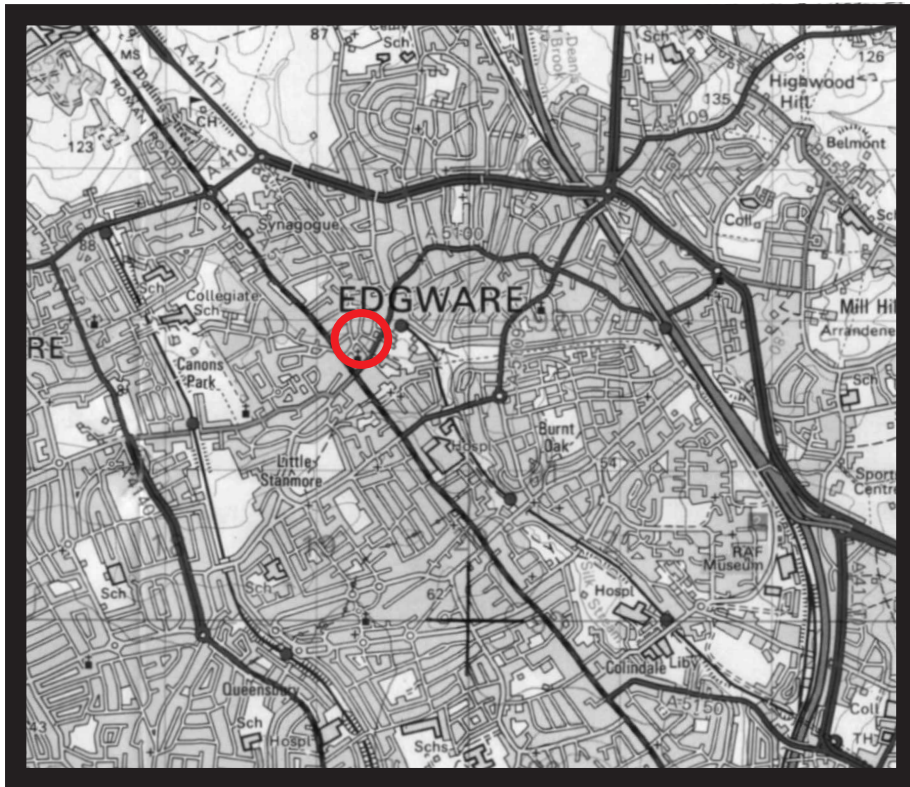
- 7.1 No archaeologically significant deposits were revealed during the course of the evaluation. It may be considered likely, therefore, that the development will not affect archaeological deposits.
- 7.2 The site had clearly been stripped onto natural in the near past. A thin, patchy silty clay layer containing much modern building debris was present in all of the trenches, beneath a hardcore layer and tarmac hardstanding.
- 7.3 Observation of hand dug geotechnical pits along the edge of the eastern boundary confirmed the stratigraphic sequence identified in the evaluation trenches.
- 7.4 The archive will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive under accession code MPE03 in accordance with all appropriate standards.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bourn, R 2002 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Belle Vue Cinema Car Park, Manor Park Crescent, Edgware*. CgMs Consulting

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FIGURE 1: Site Location Map



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1:1250 N

- TRENCHES
- SITE BOUNDARY



FIGURE 2: Trench Location Map