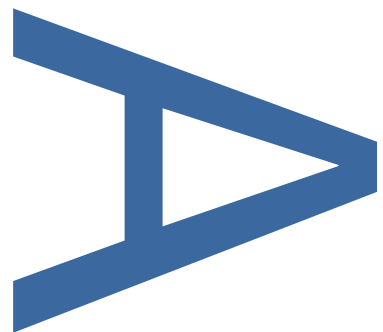
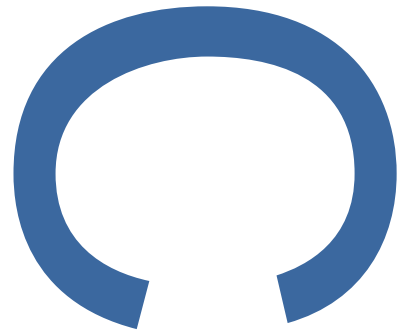


**BAITUL FUTUH MOSQUE,
181 LONDON ROAD,
MORDEN,
SM4 5PT**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

SITE CODE: BFM19

JULY 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**BAITUL FUTUH MOSQUE, 181 LONDON ROAD, MORDEN,
LONDON, SM4 5PT**

Type of project

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5928
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BAITUL FUTUH MOSQUE, 181 LONDON ROAD, MORDEN, SM4 5PT:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE CODE: BFM19

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

PLANNING APPLICATION REF. 16/P4559

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: TQ 2530 6800

WRITTEN BY: CHLOE SINCLAIR
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

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July 2019

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the Baitul Futuh Mosque, 181 London Road, Morden, London Borough of Merton, SM4 5PT. The site comprises the area of demolition and reconstruction of the building adjacent to the mosque and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2530 6800.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was conducted between 6th and 24th June and comprised the inspection and recording of excavation for the new attenuation tank for the reconstructed building on the site.
- 1.3 Natural deposits were observed across the site and consisted of London clay, present at a maximum height of 20.60m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 1.4 Natural geology was overlain by modern made ground deposits and the remains of the 20th century development on the site.
- 1.5 No evidence of archaeological activity was observed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the Baitul Futuh Mosque, 181 London Road, Morden, London Borough of Merton, SM4 5PT (Figure 1). The site comprises the area of demolition and reconstruction of the building adjacent to the mosque and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2530 6800.
- 2.2 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared for the site (Mills Whipp 2017a). The site lies within the Archaeological Priority Area as designated by LB Merton. The site had a potential for Roman archaeological remains, particularly relating to the Roman road connecting London to Chichester which may have crossed the study area.
- 2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the project (Mills Whipp 2017b), which defined a programme of archaeological evaluation on the site. Further consultation and the site visit confirmed that the area where the evaluation trench had been proposed was not available and contained substantial and deep buried modern drainage. Subsequent consultations between Mills Whipp and Historic England Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, advisors to LB Merton, changed the requirement for archaeological works to a programme of pro-active observation and recording during the groundworks within areas not affected by previous modern development. As the result, the investigation comprised monitoring of ground reduction to accommodate an attenuation tank for the proposed structure.
- 2.4 The work was related to the planning permission for the demolition of 2,100 square metres of the fire damaged Baitul Futuh Mosque and determination as to whether the Prior Approval of the Council would be required for the method of demolition and any proposed restoration of the site under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 11, Class B of the General Permitted Development Order (2015).
- 2.5 The monitoring was conducted between the 6th and 24th June 2019. The work was supervised by Chloe Sinclair and Richard Krason, and managed by Zbigniew Pozorski, of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 2.6 The site was allocated the unique site code BFM19. The complete archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 2.7 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- *Baitul Futuh Mosque, 181 London Road, Morden: Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Evaluation* (Mills Whipp 2017b)
 - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016)
 - *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service HE GLAAS 2015)

- *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014).
- *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, (Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited; Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009).

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The following conditions were described in the archaeological desk-based assessment prepared for the site (Mills Whipp 2017a).
- 3.2 The site lies at c. 22.50m OD on London Clay on the western side of the River Wandle Valley. The river is a tributary of the Thames, rising at the foot of the South Downs in Wasson and Carshalton. The valley floodplain consists of Wandle Gravel (elsewhere in London equated to the Hackney Gravel) dating to c. 10,000 BC overlying the Thames floodplain Taplow Gravel and sealed by later local alluvial deposits of brickearth (British Geological Survey (BGS)).
- 3.3 Excavations in the wider area revealed the wide and marshy landscape of Mesolithic Wandle valley. Peat found 1.5km north of the site was dated to c. 7,500BC.
- 3.4 In the Roman period was characterised by localised flooding and increased Wandle flow. The peat was cut by chalk and silt brought by the river.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The following summary was adapted from the archaeological desk-based assessment for the site, provided by Mills Whipp Projects Ltd. In 2017.

Prehistoric

4.2 The earliest evidence for human settlement in the Wandle Valley has come from gravel pits which have produced Palaeolithic material.

4.3 Neolithic pottery has been found in the area. Other finds there suggest a Bronze Age presence. No clear Iron Age occupation has been found in the area.

4.4 It appears there were transient prehistoric populations in the area but no long term settlements.

Roman

4.5 The main Roman road from London to Chichester, known by its Saxon name of Stane Street (i.e. Stone Street), ran along the present line of the High Street Colliers Wood and London Road to the south-west of the site. The line of the Roman road between these points is unclear. If the Roman road ran in a straight line it would cross the subject site.

4.6 A scatter of Roman finds has been found in the Morden area. These finds suggest a small Roman settlement lay about 2km north of the site. Excavations around the site have not yet revealed any Roman material.

Saxon

4.7 The first mention of Morden is in 968, when Edgar the Confirmed confirmed previous gifts of lands to Westminster Abbey, including Morden. No significant Saxon remains have been reported in the area of the site.

Medieval

4.8 The Medieval Village of Morden clustered around the church of St Lawrence about 600m to the south west of the site. The site probably lay in open ground east of the road to London. No significant medieval remains have been reported in the area of the site.

Post-medieval

4.9 Roque's map of 1762 shows the site as a ploughed field by the milestone for London. It remained open ground until the 20th century.

4.10 By 1951 construction had commenced on the site of a milk bottling plant which had been completed by 1954. This express Dairy depot was serviced by milk trains coming from the main line tracks.

4.11 The Express Dairy Depot remained until 1992. The site was purchased in 1996 following fundraising by Mirza Tahir Ahmad on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Community for the construction of the mosque. The mosque was completed in 2003.

- 4.12 In 2015 a major fire destroyed up to 50% of the complex. The proposed development will enlarge and enhance the mosque and the ancillary buildings.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief programme was agreed to ascertain the impacts of the proposed development, as well as the nature and extent of archaeological remains. The monitoring encompassed the excavation for the new attenuation tank located in the northern end of the reconstructed building (Figure 2).
- 5.2 Reduction of deposits in 100mm spit using s toothless ditching bucket, were conducted under the supervision on the attendant archaeologist.
- 5.3 All archaeological features were to be excavated with hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Features were to be excavated so as to characterise their form, function and date.
- 5.4 A full digital photographic record of the watching brief was compiled.
- 5.5 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's Operations Manual (Taylor 2009).

6 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 6.1 The earliest deposit observed was the London clay [4] a compact mid brown clay with yellow mottling at a 20.60m OD, continuing below the lower limit of excavation.
- 6.2 Overlaying the London clay was a natural bluish brown gravelly clay [3] with patches of coarse sand 0.30m thick and seen at a maximum height of 20.80m OD. The clay deposits were seen across the length of the study area.
- 6.3 A thin layer of dark bluish black sandy silt with patches of peat [2] overly the clay sequence to a height of 20.90m OD.
- 6.4 Sealing the sequence was a 2.30m thick layer of heavily disturbed clay [1] and made ground with scrap metal and brick fragments throughout.
- 6.5 No features of remains predating the 20th century was recovered or observed.

7 CONCLUSIONS

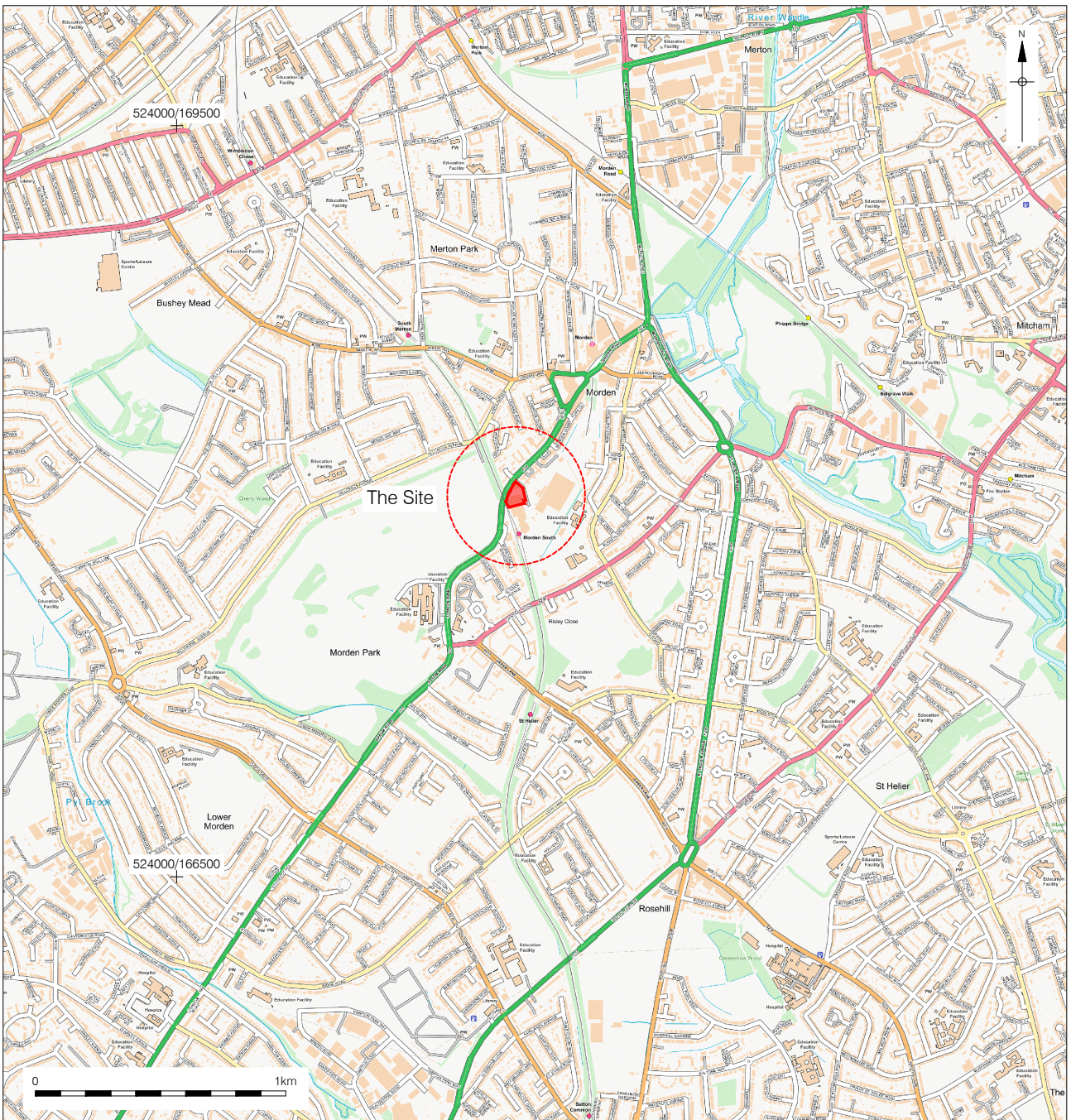
- 7.1 The effects of previous construction within the study area were evident in form of the highly disturbed nature of most observed deposits. The northern and southern perimeters of the attenuation tank trench were further disturbed by the addition of sheet piles during the ground reduction.
- 7.2 Archaeological activity would have likely been previously removed by the horizontal truncation observed across the study area.
- 7.3 No evidence of the Roman road, or any activity predating the 20th century was seen.
- 7.4 Once the project is deemed complete and this report approved by Historic England on behalf of the local planning authority, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will eventually be deposited by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited with LAARC under site code BFM19.
- 7.5 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the London Archaeologist 'Round Up'.

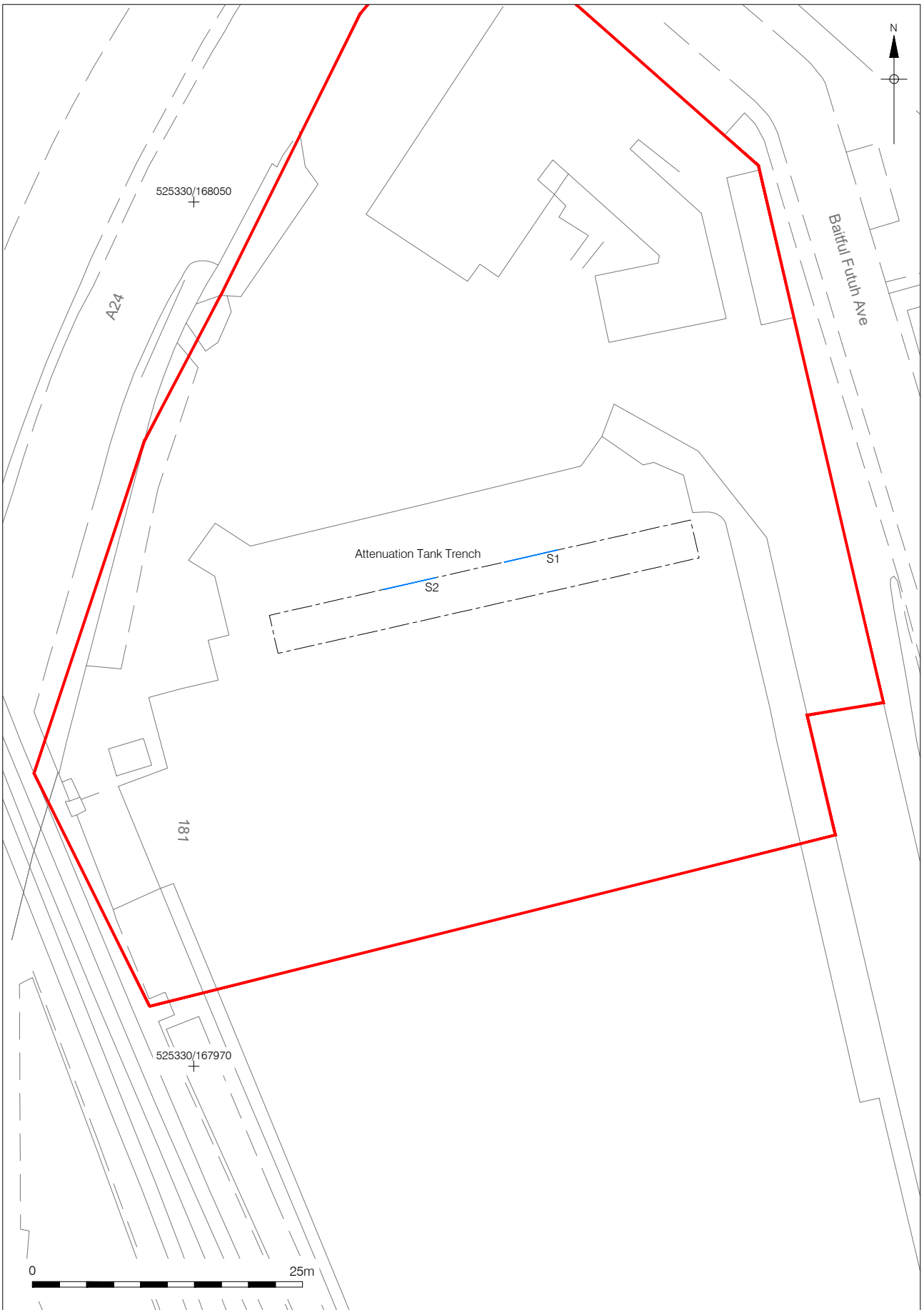
8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

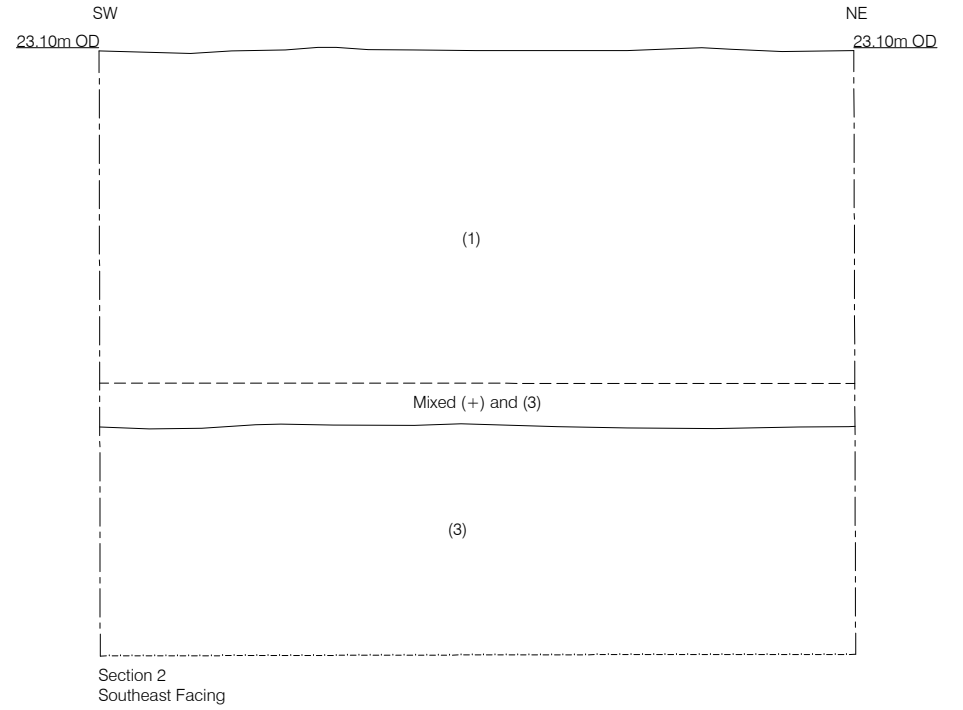
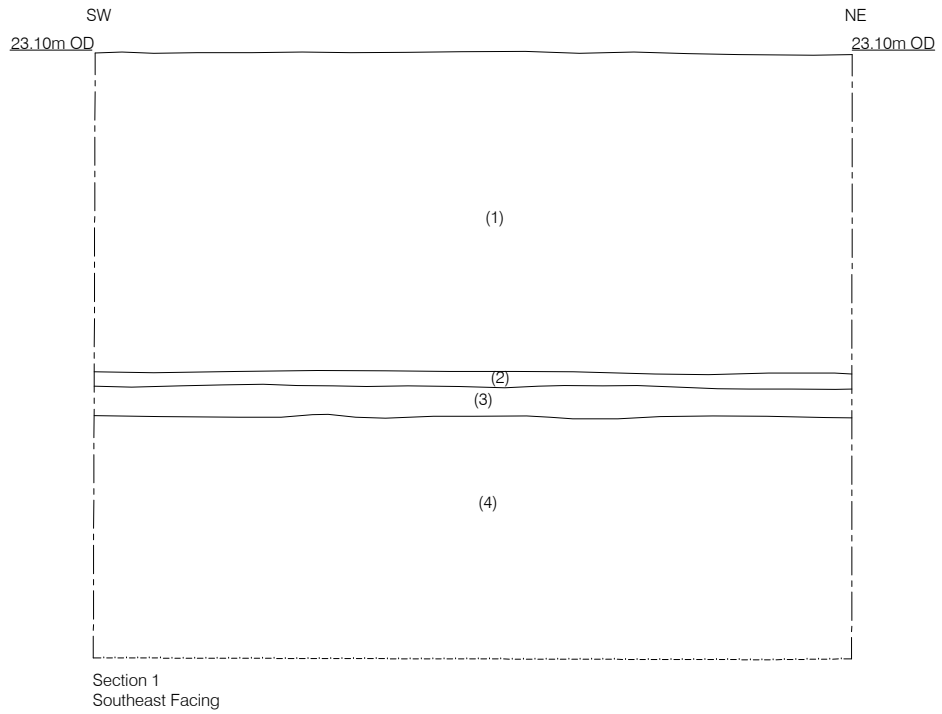
- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank PDR Construction Ltd for commissioning the project on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association.
- 8.2 PCA would also thank Mills Whipp Projects Ltd for their input and advice.
- 8.3 The author would like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for his project management and editing, and for his work on site and Ray Murphy for the illustrations.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PLATES



Plate 1: Section 1, facing south.



Plate 2: London clay, looking north.



Plate 3: Heavily disturbed ground, looking west.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	type	height (m) od
1	LAYER	23.10
2	LAYER	20.90
3	LAYER	20.80
4	LAYER	20.60

APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

		+		
		1		
		2		
Phase 2 Modern				
		3		
Phase 1 Natural		4		

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-357238

Project details

Project name Baitul Futuh Mosque

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at The Baitul Futuh Mosque London Borough of Merton. The works comprised of the monitoring of ground reduction along a western strip of the site footprint, excavated for the placement of an attenuation tank. Thick made ground and heavily disturbed deposits overly natural London clay. No archaeological remains were observed over the course of the investigations.

Project dates Start: 06-06-2019 End: 26-06-2019

Previous/future work Not known / No work

Any associated project codes BFM19 - Sitecode reference

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type LAYER Modern

Monument type LAYER Uncertain

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON MERTON MORDEN Baitul Futuh Mosque

Postcode SM4 5PT

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 2530 6800 51.396671783382 -0.198686413151 51 23 48 N 000 11 55 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 20.6m Max: 20.6m

Project creators

Name of Mills Whipp
Organisation

Project brief Mills Whipp Projects Ltd
originator

Project design Mills Whipp Projects Ltd
originator

Project Zbigniew Pozorski
director/manager

Project supervisor Chloe Sinclair

Project supervisor Richard Krason

Type of Mosque
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Baitul Futuh Mosque
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
available

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Section"
available

Entered by archive (archive@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 27 June 2019

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