

**NO.64 TREDEGAR ROAD,
TOWER HAMLETS,
LONDON, E3 2EP**



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
TOWER HAMLETS**



REPORT NO: R11352

DECEMBER 2012



An Archaeological Evaluation at No.64 Tredegar Road, Tower Hamlets, London, E3 2EP

Site Code: TRE12

Central NGR: TQ 36833 83054

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, December 2012

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the result of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at No.64 Tredegar Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London, E3 2PD (Figure 1). The archaeological investigation was conducted between 3rd and 6th December 2012. The evaluation was commissioned by Rob Bourn of CgMS on behalf of his client, Telford Homes.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation at the site comprised three evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 to 3) excavated outside the footprint of the existing warehouse buildings on site.
- 1.3 The earliest deposit uncovered consisted of truncated natural deposits encountered in all evaluation trenches. To the east, the site sequence comprised sand and gravels at levels between 10.19m OD and 9.93m OD, overlain by a deposit of brickearth, the top of which was recorded between 10.70m OD and 10.66m OD. On the southwest area of the site a deposit of brickearth was encountered at between 10.87m OD and 10.82m OD.
- 1.4 One single cut feature, recorded in Trench 2 to the eastern side of the site, was uncovered during the archaeological investigation. Its fill contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the Roman period. This archaeological feature cut the natural deposits.
- 1.5 A post-medieval deposit interpreted as levelling/made ground associated with the construction of the existing warehouse building was observed in Trenches 1 to 3. Modern truncation and made ground deposits for the existing concrete surface sealed the post-medieval levelling layer.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation was undertaken at No.64 Tredegar Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets between 3rd and 6th December 2012. The site measured approximately 0.28 hectares and was located at National Grid Reference TQ 36833 83054.
- 2.2 The project was managed by Peter Moore of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The site was supervised by Ireneo Grosso of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 2.3 Prior to the archaeological fieldwork an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for the site (Dicks 2010) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Moore 2012) were prepared by CgMs. Consulting and Pre-Construct Archaeology respectively. Both documents were approved by the Archaeology Advisor to the Local Planning Authority, Kim Stabler of English Heritage. A ground investigation (Knapp Hicks & Partners Ltd 2012) was also undertaken.
- 2.4 The evaluation was conducted in advance of the redevelopment of the site, and it was required by a planning condition.
- 2.5 The site of the proposed development is irregular in shape and bounded to the north-west by the rear of properties off Tredegar Road, to the east by a Royal Mail Sorting Office, to the south by a railway line and to the west by Balmer Road.
- 2.6 Planning permission (App. No PA/10/02340) has been granted for the demolition of the existing warehouse buildings on the study site and the erection of four-six storey blocks to provide 88 new residential units incorporating communal and private space, onsite car parking for 23 cars and a single car parking space off Balmer Road. The planning application was submitted on 14th October 2010 and a consent was granted on 30th March 2012 together with an archaeological condition.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Policy

3.1.1 In March 2010 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) "Planning for the Historic Environment", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of heritage assets.

3.1.2 In short, government policies provide a framework which:

- Protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- Protect the settings of these sites;
- Protect nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments;
- Has a presumption in favour of *in situ* preservation;
- In appropriate circumstances, requires adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions; and
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit *in situ* preservation

3.1.3 In considering any proposal for development, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, of existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy

3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by 'The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004' (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating to heritage conservation and archaeology within London:

POLICY 4B.12 HERITAGE CONSERVATION

BOROUGHS SHOULD:

ENSURE THAT THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HISTORIC ASSETS IN LONDON ARE BASED ON AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SPECIAL CHARACTER, AND FORM PART OF THE WIDER DESIGN AND URBAN IMPROVEMENT AGENDA, INCLUDING THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO ADJOINING AREAS, AND THAT POLICIES RECOGNISE THE MULTICULTURAL NATURE OF HERITAGE ISSUES

IDENTIFY AREAS, SPACES, HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS, AND BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL QUALITY OR CHARACTER AND ADOPT POLICIES FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR ENHANCEMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STRATEGIC LONDON CONTEXT

ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL, TO AND WITHIN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND THE TIDAL FORESHORE.

POLICY 4B.15 ARCHAEOLOGY

THE MAYOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE, THE MUSEUM OF LONDON AND BOROUGHS, WILL SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF LONDON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. BOROUGHS IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THEIR DPDS FOR PROTECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS WITHIN THEIR AREA.

3.3 Local Policy

- 3.3.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. Relevant policy is provided by the Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan (adopted 1998) of which the following 'saved' policy relates to Conservation Areas, listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites:

DEV25 - NEW DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS

IN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS THE COUNCIL WILL PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DESIRABILITY OF PRESERVING OR ENHANCING THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THOSE AREAS.

DEV28 - DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO CONSERVATION AREAS

PROPOSALS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS WILL BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. THE DESIRABILITY OF PRESERVING OR ENHANCING THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF THE AREA;
2. THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING;
3. THE LIKELY COSTS OF THE REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDING;
4. THE ADEQUACY OF EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE BUILDING IN USE; AND
5. THE SUITABILITY OF ANY PROPOSED REPLACEMENT BUILDING.

DEV32 - LIST OF BUILDINGS WORTHY OF PRESERVATION

THE COUNCIL WILL MAINTAIN A LOCAL LIST OF BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST WITH A VIEW TO GIVING AS MUCH ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE TO BUILDINGS AND FEATURES WORTHY OF PRESERVATION. THE DEMOLITION OF LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS WITHIN CONSERVATION AREAS WILL BE RESISTED.

DEV39 - DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING

DEVELOPMENT WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING INCLUDING ANY LANDSCAPED AREAS OR GARDEN AREAS WILL BE RESISTED. THIS INCLUDES SUB-DIVISION OF GARDEN AREAS WITHIN THE CURTILAGE OF LISTED BUILDINGS.

DEV42

DEVELOPMENT WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTS NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, INCLUDING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, WILL NOT NORMALLY BE PERMITTED.

DEV43

DEVELOPMENT WHICH AFFECTS ANY LOCALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OR REMAINS, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY, MAY BE PERMITTED DEPENDING UPON:

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS;
2. THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT; AND
3. MEASURES PROPOSED FOR THE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE SITE AND THE INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE REMAINS TO THE PUBLIC.

DEV44

THE PERMANENT PRESERVATION IN SITU OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT REMAINS WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED. PRESERVATION OF OTHER REMAINS WILL BE A PREFERENCE, SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REMAINS AND THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE. WHERE PRESERVATION IS NOT APPROPRIATE, EXCAVATION AND RECORDING MAY BE REQUIRED. DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES SHOULD ADOPT SUITABLE DESIGN, LAND USE AND SITE MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE THESE ENDS.

DEV45

PROPOSALS INVOLVING GROUND WORKS IN AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OR POTENTIAL, SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, OR CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL SITES NOTIFIED TO THE COUNCIL BY ENGLISH HERITAGE OR THE MUSEUM OF LONDON WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. WITHIN AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE APPLICANTS WILL NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN PROPERLY ASSESSED. A WRITTEN ASSESSMENT (ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATEMENT) BASED ON THE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE OF AN APPROVED ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANT OR ORGANISATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR A COMPLETE PLANNING APPLICATION;
2. WITHIN AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUEST, WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS LIKELY TO AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, THAT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION OF THE SITE IS CARRIED OUT BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE ON THE PLANNING APPLICATION;
3. WHERE THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU IS NOT APPROPRIATE, THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT NO DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE ON THE SITE UNTIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, EXCAVATION AND RECORDING HAS TAKEN PLACE BY AN APPROVED ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION;
4. IN APPROPRIATE CASES THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AFFORDED FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF SITES, BEFORE AND DURING DEMOLITION AND DEVELOPMENT. SUITABLE PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR IN SITU PRESERVATION OF REMAINS (DEV44) AND FINDS IN THE ORIGINAL LOCATION, OR FOR REMOVING THEM TO A SUITABLE PLACE OF SAFE KEEPING.

3.3.2 The final draft of the Tower Hamlets Core Strategy, which sets out the overall strategy for development in the Borough until 2026, is being prepared for adoption by the Council. The adoption of the Core Strategy is expected in September 2010. Therefore, although the following general policies which relate to the protection of heritage assets and the enhancement of the historic environment are currently only draft policies, they may be adopted in the foreseeable future:

POLICY SP10

2. PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE FOLLOWING HERITAGE ASSETS AND THEIR SETTINGS:

- WORLD HERITAGE SITES
- STATUTORY LISTED BUILDINGS
- CONSERVATION AREAS
- LONDON SQUARES
- HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS
- SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS
- LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS

-
- LOCAL LANDMARKS
 - OTHER BUILDINGS AND AREAS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS
3. PRESERVE OR ENHANCE THE WIDER BUILT HERITAGE AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE BOROUGH, ENABLING THE CREATION OF LOCALLY DISTINCTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS, THROUGH:
- A. PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING PLACEMAKING ACROSS THE BOROUGH TO ENSURE THAT THE LOCALLY DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER AND CONTEXT OF EACH PLACE IS ACKNOWLEDGED AND ENHANCED.
 - B. PROTECTING, CONSERVING, AND PROMOTING THE BENEFICIAL REUSE OF, OLD BUILDINGS THAT PROVIDE SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT USES, INCLUDING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES.
 - C. ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT THAT PRESERVES AND ENHANCES THE HERITAGE VALUE OF THE IMMEDIATE AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT AND THE WIDER SETTING.
 - D. WORKING TO REDUCE HERITAGE AT RISK.
- 3.3.3 The study site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area centred on the Roman settlement at Old Ford, as defined on the Borough's Unitary Development Plan Proposal Map.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The geological and topographic background cited below was obtained from the desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs. in May 2010 and from the written scheme of investigation prepared by PCA in August 2012.

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 According to the British Archaeological Survey North London Map (Sheet 256 1:50,000), the site lies in an area of River Terrace Gravels comprising both Kempton Park and Taplow gravels. Recent excavation and borehole analysis have indicated that in some places these are overlain by brickearth.

4.2.2 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the Institute of Geological Science (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin. Overlying the London Clay are a series of gravel terraces, deposited during inter-glacial conditions.

4.2.3 A ground investigation (Knapp Hicks & Partners Ltd 2012) found that concrete and made ground lay over clay and gravel. The gravel lies at a depth of circa 1-1.2m below ground level.

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 The study site is roughly at 12.6m OD (above Ordnance Datum)

4.3.2 The study site lies within a generally flat landscape. However, earth moving to create the railway embankment which forms the southern boundary of the study site, may have altered the site's natural topography.

4.3.3 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are recorded in the vicinity of the study site. The nearest watercourse is the River Thames c. 2km south of the study site. As a result of the surrounding topography the site drains towards the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological and historical background cited below is a summary obtained from the desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs. in May 2010 (Dicks 2010) and from the archaeological evaluation report of Tredegar Road Estate, Phase 3, prepared by PCA in June 2003 (Holden 2003).

5.1.2 Examination of data in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (HER) from a 500m radius of the study site and published sources indicates that the archaeology of the study site is dominated by the Roman settlement at Old Ford. However, there are no sites or finds dated to the prehistoric and early-medieval and post-medieval periods and only limited late medieval evidence within a 500m radius of the study site.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 The Taplow gravels, which underlie the site, have previously revealed large amounts of Palaeolithic material, although none have been recovered for the study area. However, there are no prehistoric sites recorded on the HER for a 500m radius centred on the study site and generally prehistoric finds from the Bow area appear to be rare.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 Roman Road lies 500m north of the study site and follows the line of Vicinal Way, the Roman road from London to Colchester (Margary 1955).

5.3.2 Archaeological excavations have identified Roman settlement along Roman Road and Roman burials and settlement off Armagh Road c.600m northeast of the study site.

5.3.3 Recent archaeological excavation at the former Safeway Store off Gladstone Place c.250m northeast of the study site, recorded evidence of Roman occupation in areas adjacent to Roman Road. Evaluation trenching within the southern part of the Gladstone place site recorded negative evidence which suggests that the southern edge of settlement along Roman Road lies c. 280m northeast of the study site.

5.3.4 Within a 250m radius of the study site, the remains of a Roman sarcophagus containing a male skeleton was discovered on Saxon Road c. 200m northwest of the study site. A separate entry on the HER records the discovery of a stone coffin containing a male skeleton, on Saxon Road and to the south of this burial were two vessels containing cremations with associated funerary gifts including water jugs, vases and a Samian plate.

5.4 Saxon/Early Medieval

5.4.1 There are no Saxon/early medieval sites or finds within 50m of the study site. It is conceivable that during these periods the study site lay in an area of open land, perhaps in agricultural use. However, evidence of agricultural activity and land division may conceivably be present within the study site.

5.5 Late Medieval

5.5.1 The archaeological investigations undertaken on Armagh Road identified two Medieval ditches one on an east-west alignment and the second on a north-south alignment. These ditches suggest that land adjacent to the Roman road was in agricultural use during the medieval period.

5.6 Post-medieval and Modern

5.6.1 The map regression exercise demonstrated that the site remained undeveloped until the late 19th century when a silk mill was built on the site. The remains of a 19th century silk mill are considered to be of local historic interest.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the written scheme of investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Moore 2012). The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of any archaeological structure, deposits or artefacts on the site, to understand them, and to inform the decision making process with regard to any further mitigation.
- 6.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three evaluation trenches. The dimensions of Trenches 1 to 3 were as follows:
- Trench 1 measured 2.35m wide, 8.11m southeast-northwest and 0.77m maximum depth
 - Trench 2 measured 2.30m wide, 12.40m southeast-northwest and 1.78m maximum depth
 - Trench 3 measured 12.90m northwest-southeast, 2.20m wide and 1.72m maximum depth
- 6.3 The research design set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Moore 2012) aimed to address the following primary objectives:
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period at the site.
 - To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to the Roman Period.
 - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 6.4 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove unproductive deposits down to the highest archaeological horizon.
- 6.5 The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was designed to identify the date, nature and extent of archaeological deposits and features and to recover dating evidence. This was achieved by excavation, or partial excavation of any archaeological features.
- 6.6 The recording system adopted during the investigation was fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, and presented in Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd's Operation Manual 1. The site archive was organized to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.
- 6.7 All context, sections and plans were recorded on pro-forma sheets. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections were recorded at scale 1:10.
- 6.8 A full photographic record of the investigation was prepared. This included black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), and digital shots illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered.
- 6.9 Two Temporary Bench Marks (TBM1 and 2) were established at 10.48m OD and 11.57m OD respectively. TBM1 was located at the base of the staircase situated to the southwest of Evaluation Trench 2. TBM2 was located between the southwest site entrance and Evaluation Trench 1.
- 6.10 The resultant archive was assessed and the results are detailed in this assessment report. The complete archive will be deposited with LAARC.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The findings of the evaluation can be summarized by three phases. The first being the natural deposits encountered, which to the east of the site comprised of sand and gravels at levels between 10.19m OD and 9.93m OD, overlain by a deposit of brickearth, the top of which was recorded between 10.70m OD and 10.66m OD. On the southwest area of the site a deposit of brickearth was encountered at between 10.87m OD and 10.82m OD.
- 7.1.2 Phase two consisted of one cut feature, recorded in Trench 2 to the eastern side of the site, containing a single sherd of pottery dating to the Roman period. This archaeological feature cut the natural deposits.
- 7.1.3 The third and final phase consisted of post-medieval and modern truncation and made ground deposits.

7.2 Trench 1

- 7.2.1 This trench was excavated in the southwest corner of the site and measured 8.11m by 2.35m, aligned southwest-northeast. The earliest deposit exposed was light red brown silt sand [10] with very occasional small round and sub-angular flint pebbles, found at a level of 10.87m OD. This deposit was observed across the trench and was interpreted as natural brickearth.
- 7.2.2 Deposit [10] was sealed at 11.24m OD by mid dark brown sandy silt [9] with occasional flecks of charcoal and CBM and small round to sub-angular flint pebble inclusions. This layer extended beyond all limits of excavation of Trench 1 and was interpreted as a post-medieval levelling layer associated with the construction of the existing warehouse buildings in the site.



Plate 1: Evaluation Trench 1 (looking northeast)

7.3 Trench 2

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- 7.3.1 This trench measured 12.40m by 2.30m and was aligned southwest-northeast. The earliest deposit encountered was mid yellowish brown gravelly silt sand [4] at a level of 10.20m OD. This layer was observed across the trench and was interpreted as a natural deposit.
- 7.3.2 Natural deposit [4] was truncated in the eastern half of Trench 2 by cut feature [3] (see Figures 3 & 4) at a level of 10.80m OD. This cut measured 2.30m north-south, 5.00m east-west, 0.77m deep and extended beyond the north, east and south limit of excavation of Trench 2. Cut [5], truncated to the west by a north-south aligned service trench which extended beyond the north and south limit of excavation of Trench 2, contained soft mid brown silt sand [2]/[5] which produced one sherd of abraded Roman amphorae (B Seddon pers. comm.). This large cut feature was interpreted as a possible quarry pit dating to the Roman period or later.
- 7.3.3 Fills [2] and [5] were overlain by light bluish-grey silt clayey sand [1] at 10.75m OD with very occasional CBM and charcoal flecks and sub-rounded flint pebbles. This layer was observed across the trench and was interpreted as a very late post-medieval levelling/made ground associated with the construction of the existing warehouse buildings.



Plate 2: Evaluation Trench 2 (looking southwest)

7.4 Trench 3

-
- 7.4.1 This evaluation Trench was excavated in the southeast corner of the site, was aligned southeast-northwest and measured 12.90m by 2.20m. The earliest deposit encountered at 10.19m OD was yellowish brown gravel silt sand [8] sealed at 10.70m OD by mid brown silt clayey sand [7] with occasional rounded and sub-angular flint pebble inclusions. Both contexts [7] and [8] were interpreted as natural deposits.
- 7.4.2 Deposit [7] was overlain at 10.94m OD by light grey silt clayey sand layer [6] with frequent CBM and mortar fragment inclusions. This layer was observed across the trench and was interpreted as a post-medieval levelling layer probably associated with the construction of the existing warehouse buildings on the study site.



Plate 3: Evaluation trench 3 (looking northwest)

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Original research objectives

8.1.1 The archaeological investigation aimed to address the following research objectives:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period at the site.
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to the Roman period.
- To establish the extent of all past depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

8.2 Questions arising from the archaeological investigation are as follows:

8.2.1 Were any archaeological remains of any period present on the Site?

Only one large cut feature was found during the archaeological investigation. This cut contained one single abraded shard of pottery identified as part of a Roman amphora. The cut feature was interpreted as a possible quarry pit.

8.2.2 What was the nature, date and survival of activity relating to the Roman period?

The only cut feature observed during the archaeological investigation contained one single sherd of Roman amphora which was not enough to securely date the feature as Roman. The sherd was very abraded and may be interpreted as residual and consequently the cut feature may post-date the Roman period.

8.2.3 What was the extent of all past depositional impacts on the archaeological resource?

Modern service trenches were observed in Evaluation Trenches 1 to 3 truncating the natural horizon and the western side of cut feature [3]. Moreover, the natural deposits observed in Trenches 1 to 3 were sealed by a post-medieval layer which was interpreted as a levelling/made ground associated with the construction of the existing warehouse building on site. It is possible that any early archaeological deposits were removed during the construction of the existing warehouse.

8.3 Review of strategy

8.3.1 The evaluation set out to examine the archaeological potential of the site. The site was located within an Archaeological Priority Area centred on the Roman settlement at Old Ford, as defined by the Borough's unitary Development Plan. As the depth of the natural deposits was recorded less than 0.5m from present ground level, the choice not to step the Evaluation Trenches was revealed to be an effective way to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. The shape, dimension and position of Evaluation Trenches 1 to 3 were dictated by logistical considerations.

8.4 Potential and recommendations

8.4.1 Very little of archaeological interest was found during the evaluation, although this may be the result of truncation on the site during the construction of the current buildings. It is therefore recommended that a watching brief be carried out on the site during the construction of the new development. This strategy will need to be agreed with the archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the project on behalf of their client, Telford Homes. Thanks also to Paul Saunders and Luke Heslin of Telford Homes. Thanks to Kim Stabler of English Heritage for monitoring the site.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Peter Moore for his project management; Mark Roughley and Hayley Baxter for the illustrations; Berni Seddon for the dating of pottery; Aidan Turner and Ian Cipin for their field work and Chris Cooper for logistical support.

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APPENDIX 1 – OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: preconst1-139839

Project details

Project name 64 Tredegar Road, Tower Hamlets, Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation at the site comprised three evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 to 3) excavated outside the footprint of the existing warehouse buildings on site. The earliest deposit uncovered consisted of truncated natural deposits encountered in all evaluation trenches. To the east, the site sequence comprised sand and gravels at levels between 10.19m OD and 9.93m OD, overlain by a deposit of brickearth, the top of which was recorded between 10.70m OD and 10.66m OD. On the southwest area of the site a deposit of brickearth was encountered at between 10.87m OD and 10.82m OD. One single cut feature, recorded in Trench 2 to the eastern side of the site, was uncovered during the archaeological investigation. Its fill contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the Roman period. This archaeological feature cut the natural deposits. A post-medieval deposit interpreted as levelling/made ground associated with the construction of the existing warehouse building was observed in Trenches 1 to 3. Modern truncation and made ground deposits for the existing concrete surface sealed the post-medieval levelling layer.

Project dates Start: 03-12-2012 End: 06-12-2012

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes TRE12 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Roman

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS 64 Tredegar Road

Postcode E3 2PD

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 368330 830540 51 0 51 31 45 N 000 01 37 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 9.93m Max: 10.19m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief CgMs Consulting
originator

Project design Rob Bourne
originator

Project Peter Moore
director/manager

Project supervisor Ireneo Grosso

Type of House builder
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Telford Homes
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive TRE12

ID

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive LAARC
 recipient

Digital Archive ID TRE12

Digital Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Media "Database","Text"
 available

Paper Archive LAARC
 recipient

Paper Archive ID TRE12

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media "Context
 available sheet", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at No.64 Tredegar Road, Tower Hamlets, London, E3 2EP

Author(s)/Editor(s) Grosso, I.

Date 2012

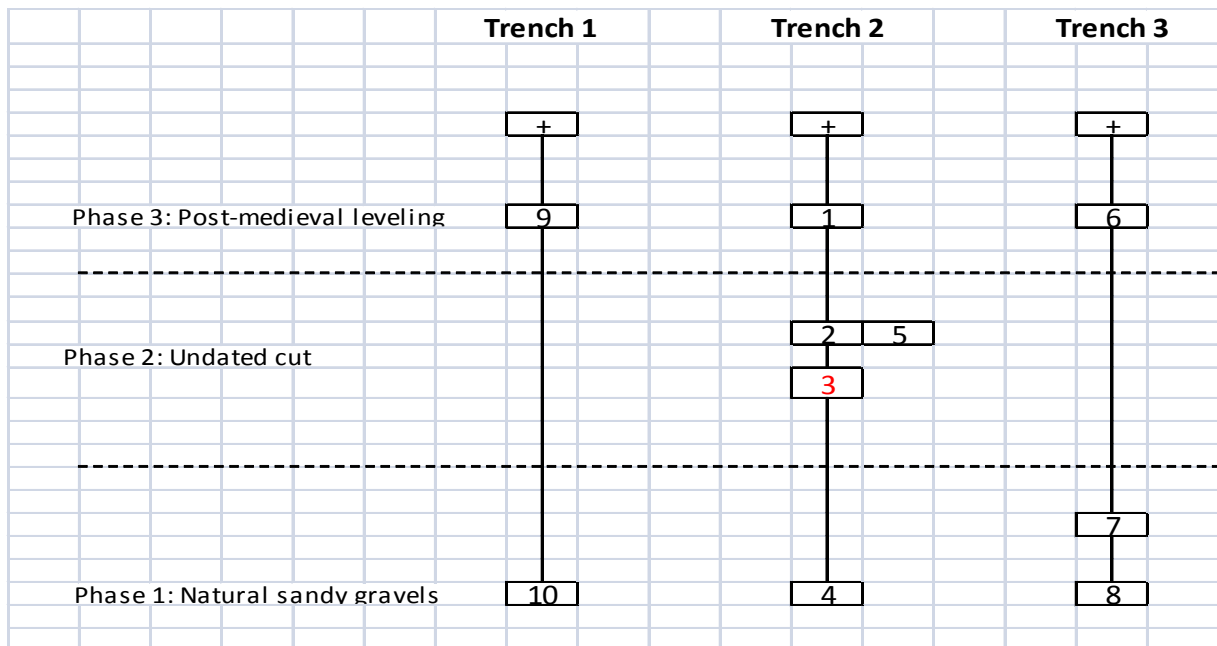
Issuer or publisher PCA

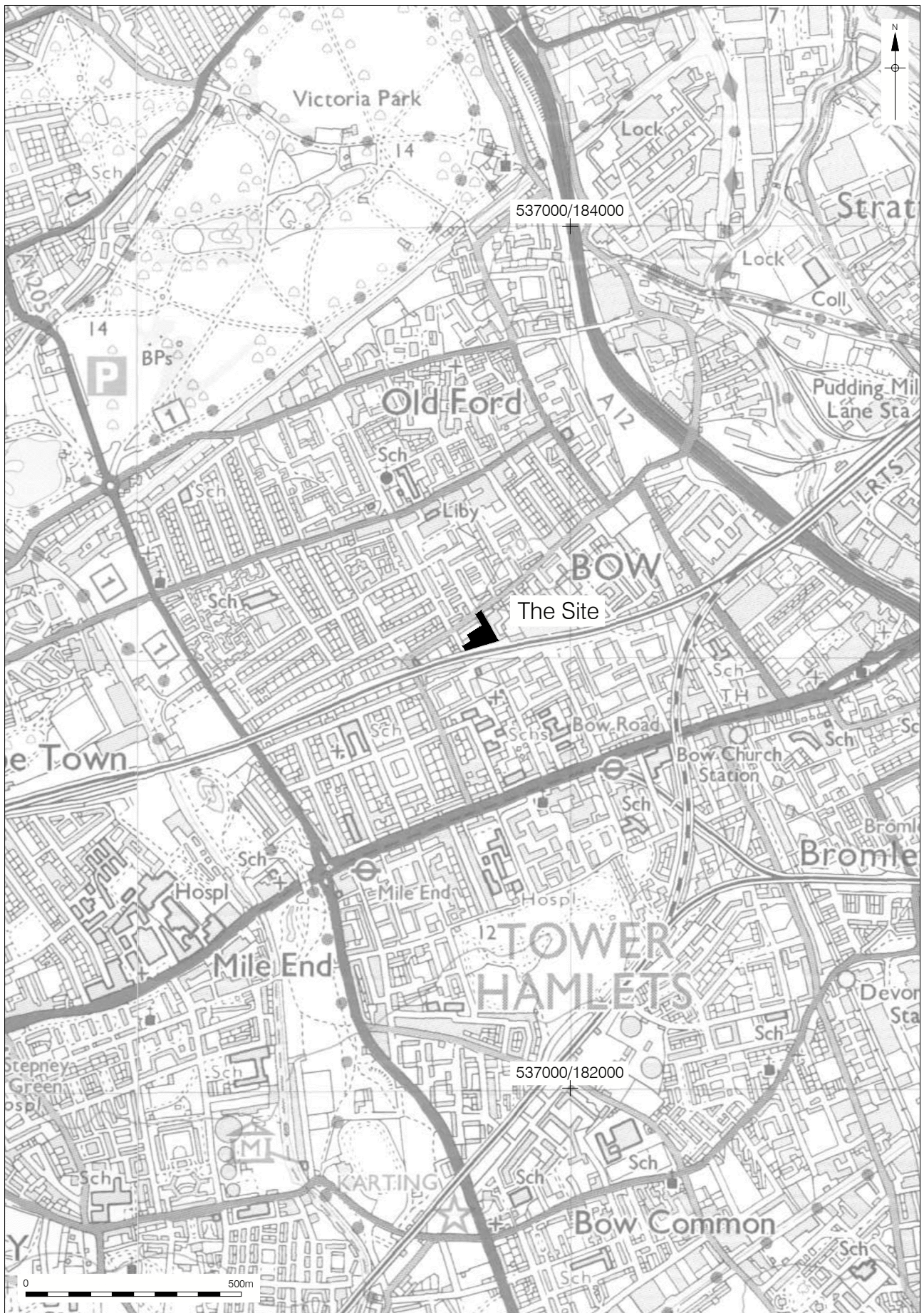
APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Trench No	Phase	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Finds
1	2	3		1	Layer	Post-medieval leveling	10.75m OD	10.53m OD	
2	2	2	Tr.2		Fill	Fill of cut [3]	10.08m OD	10.08m OD	

3	2	2	Tr.2	1	Cut	Post-medieval cut filled by [2]	10.08m OD	9.60m OD	
4	2	1	Tr.2	1	Layer	Natural sandy gravel	10.20m OD	9.93m OD	
5	2	2	Tr.2	1	Fill	Fill of cut [3]. Same as [2]	10.44m OD	10.05m OD	Yes
6	3	3	Tr.3	2	Layer	Post-medieval leveling	10.94m OD	10.93m OD	
7	3	1	Tr.3	2	Layer	Silt sand layer (sub-soil/natural?)	10.70m OD	10.66m OD	
8	3	1	Tr.3	2	Layer	Natural sandy gravel	10.19m OD	10.18m OD	
9	1	3	Tr.1	3	Layer	Post-medieval leveling	11.24m OD	11.17m OD	
10	1	1	Tr.1	3	Layer	Natural brickearth layer	10.87m OD	10.82m OD	

APPENDIX 3 - MATRIX





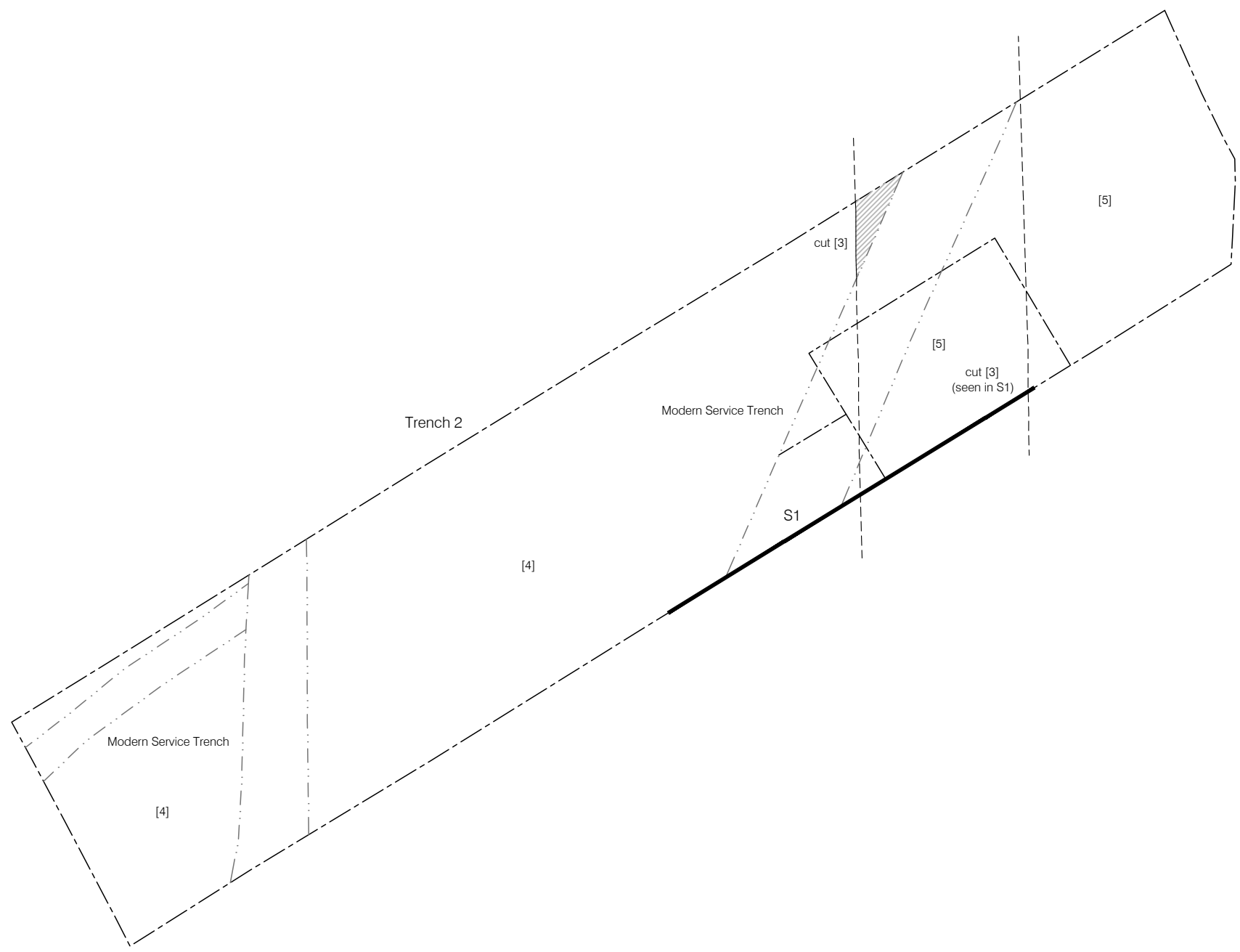
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 18/09/12 MR

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:12,500 at A4



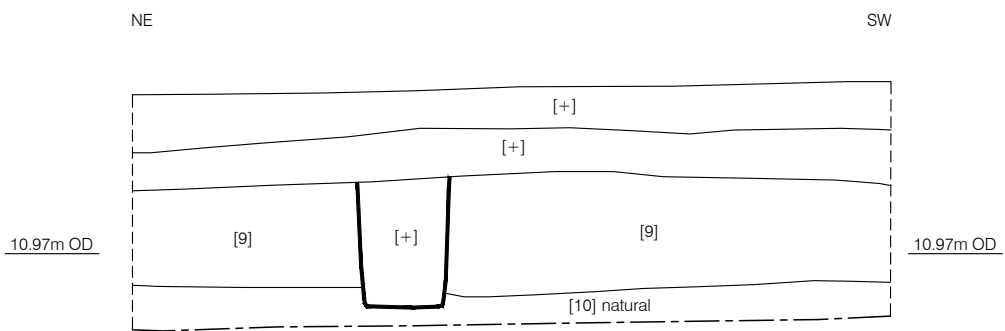
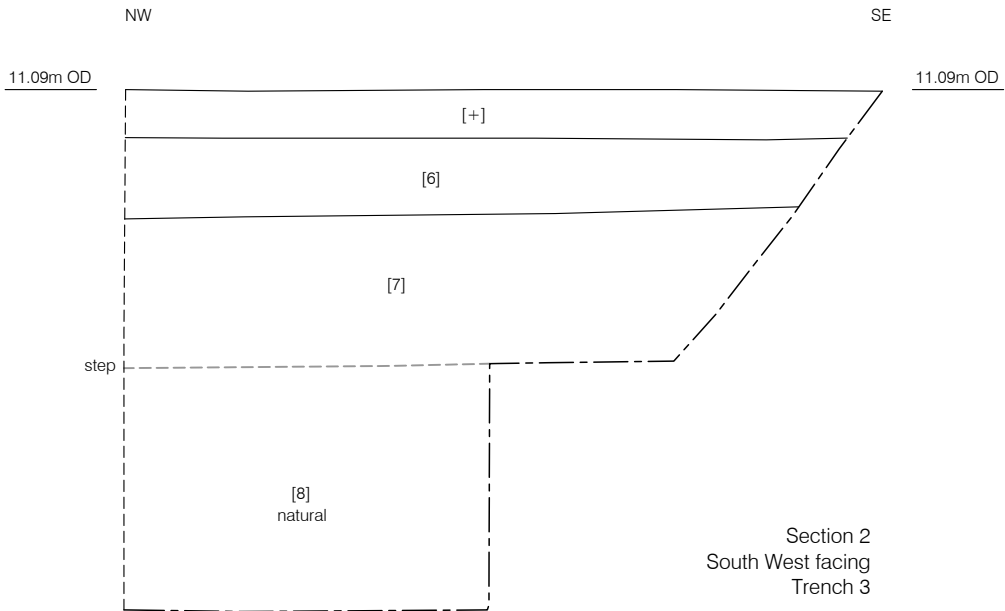
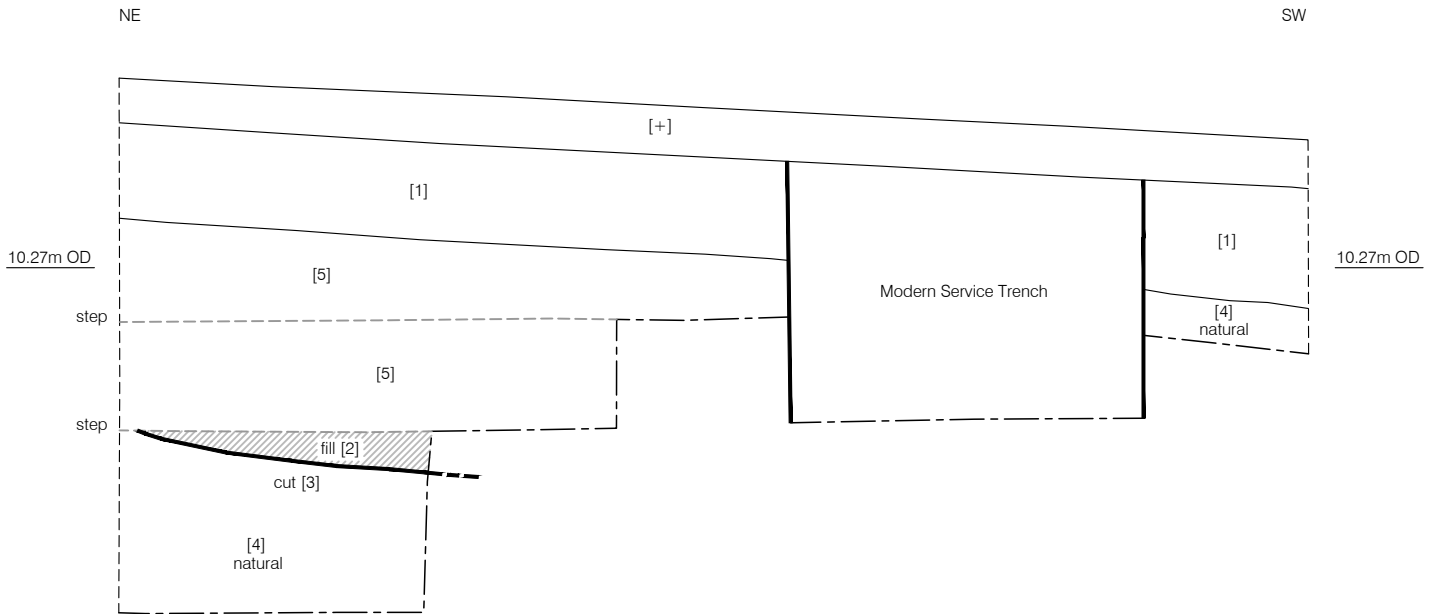
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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4



0 2m
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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 2
1:50 at A4



PCA

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