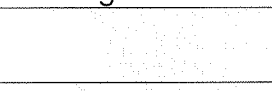
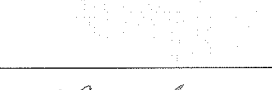




DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

445 – 447 ROMAN ROAD
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited			K1155
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on land at 445-447 Roman Road, London
Borough of Tower Hamlets**

Site Code: RRT 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 8330 3635.

**Written and Researched by Rebecca Lythe
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April 2006**

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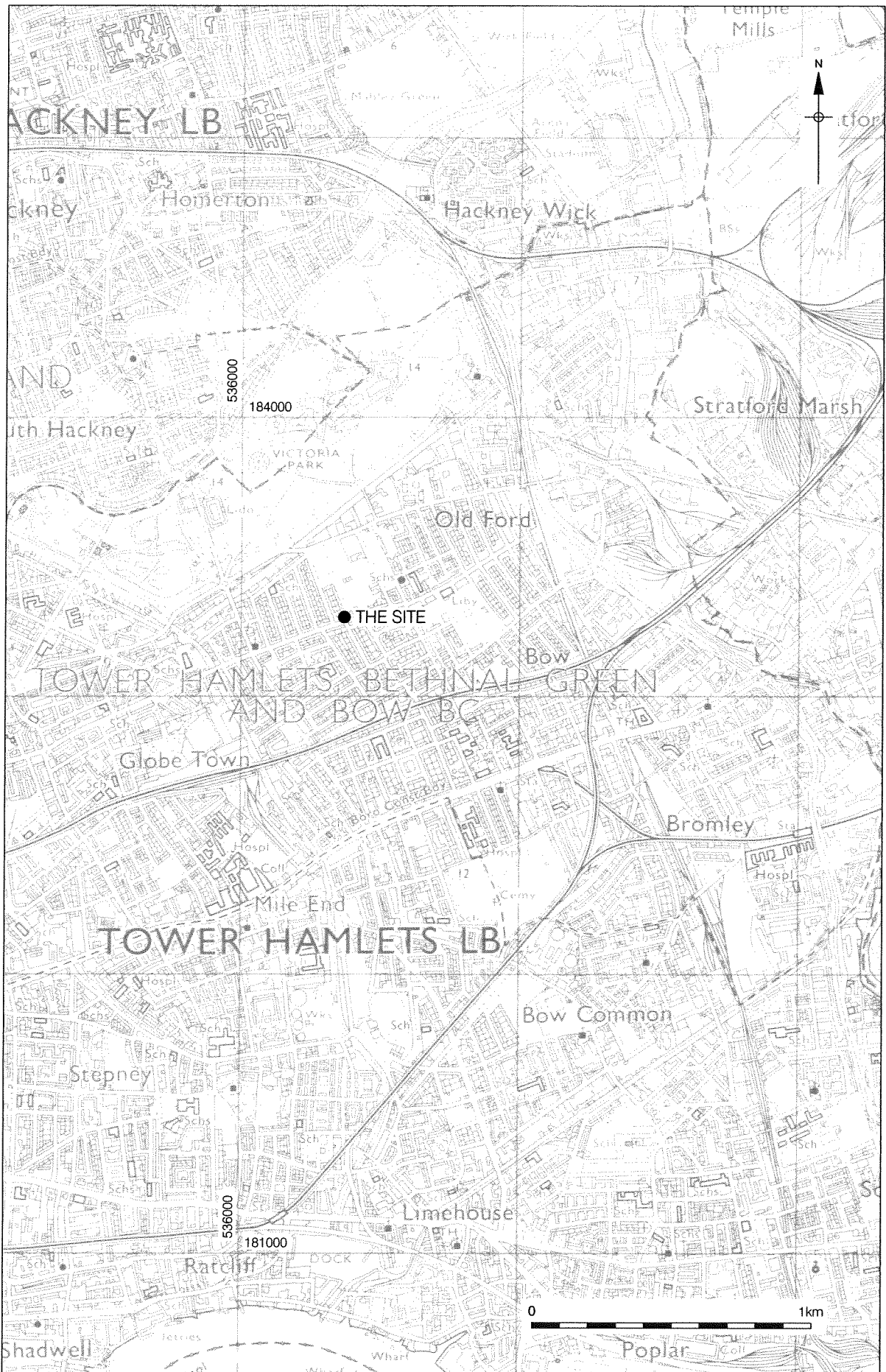
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at 445-447 Roman Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, commissioned by Moira Levy on behalf of Raphen Homes. The evaluation took place on 12th April 2006.
- 1.2 One trench was positioned to the rear of the property at 447 Roman Road. The site had been concreted over to form an external yard at the time of excavation.
- 1.3 The trench contained natural terrace gravel, sealed by a possible subsoil or plough soil, truncated by a nineteenth century wall and a modern intrusion.
- 1.4 No pre-19th century archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at 445-447 Roman Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site for residential properties. The evaluation was conducted on 12th April 2006 and was commissioned by Moira Levy on behalf of Raphen Homes.
- 2.2 The site was located on land to the rear of residential properties 445-447 Roman Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The site is bound to the north by residential properties fronting Hewlett Road, to the east by Hewlett Road, to the south by Roman Road and to the west by residential properties fronting Roman Road.
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3635 8330.
- 2.4 The site was given the code RRT 06.
- 2.5 The project was monitored for the client by David Divers, project managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1987.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20 000



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2 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
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in situ preservation

3.3 In considering any proposal for development, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, of existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

3.4 The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted 2003) includes several clauses in relation to archaeological practice within the Borough. This includes the following:

DEV 40 **Developments that adversely affects a scheduled monument will normally be refused.**

DEV 41 **Planning powers will be used to protect and preserve the archaeological heritage including the industrial heritage of the borough. Interpretation and presentation to the public will also be sought.**

DEV 42 **The permanent preservation of remains in the original location will normally be required. Suitable design, land use and site management to achieve this will be encouraged.**

DEV 43 **Proposals involving ground works in Areas of Archaeological Importance or Potential, shown on the proposals map, or on individual sites notified to the Council by English Heritage or the**

Museum of London will be subject to the following requirements:

1. Applicants will need, as part of their submission, to demonstrate that the archaeological implications of the development have been assessed using the professional advice of an approved archaeological consultant.

2. Appropriate planning conditions will be attached to planning permissions to ensure that investigation, excavation and recording takes place by an approved archaeological organisation before excavation commences; and

3. In appropriate cases, planning agreements will be sought to ensure that adequate opportunities are afforded for the archaeological investigation of sites, before or during demolition and suitable provision is made for preserving remains and finds in the original location or for removing them to a place of safe keeping.

3.5 One of the principal sources of archaeological evidence is the development of sites, a source of evidence for this history from Roman times to the recent industrial past, but this evidence is easily destroyed in the development process. Archaeological remains are an important resource therefore wishes to ensure that development involving groundworks in areas that may contain archaeological remains makes early and specified allowance for the investigation of the archaeological potential of the site before groundworks for the development are allowed to proceed. The neighbourhoods' first priority will be to seek and maintain any finds and remains *in situ*.

3.4 The Neighbourhoods are concerned to see that sites that may be of interest are properly investigated and records made of any finds before development takes place. It is important the borough's archaeological heritage is made accessible to the public as an educational, recreational and tourist resource. The neighbourhoods will therefore support and promote measures which protect and conserve sites and which will allow the public access to the sites with archaeological remains to the extent that this is compatible with the protection of the remains.

3.5 The Neighbourhoods will seek professional archaeological advice as appropriate and expect applicants to do the same when proposing development that could affect

archaeological remains. It is important that developers have properly assessed and planned for the implications of their proposals in terms of scheduling time for the investigations to be carried out on the site. Proposals for investigations should be built into the development programme at an early stage in the process.

- 3.6 Archaeologically important areas are found throughout the Borough. There are also records of numerous finds that may indicate areas of potential. The Neighbourhoods will consult with English Heritage and the Museum of London in the designation of areas of archaeological importance and will consult them about any areas of potential. Proposals that fall within these areas will be subject to policy DEV 40-43.
- 3.7 Pre-Construct Archaeology has carried out a succession of excavations, evaluations and watching briefs in the Parnell Road and Lefevre Walk area over the last ten years. These have demonstrated the wealth of the archaeological resource of the area and considerably enhanced the archaeological community's understanding of the status of the Roman settlement at Old Ford.
- 3.8 The site is in an area classified as an 'Area of Particular Archaeological Importance' in the Tower Hamlets Unitary Development Plan.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The underlying geology comprises natural terrace gravel.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is flat, at a level of 12.76m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

5.1.1 Evidence for prehistoric land use in Bow was uncovered at Lefevre Walk Estate^{1,2,3} and at 91-93 Parnell Road⁴, both situated to the east of the site. A number of scatters of residual lithics have also been found in the vicinity of the site, suggesting Palaeolithic, possible Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and Middle to Late Bronze Age activity⁵.

5.1.2 Work on the Lefevre Walk Estate revealed several Neolithic and Middle to Late Bronze Age pits and possible field boundaries. Some possible Middle to Late Bronze Age votive offerings were also recovered from the site⁶. Evidence of late Bronze Age occupation has also been found at 91-93 Parnell Road⁷. Several sherds of handmade pottery, dated to the Late Bronze to Early Iron Age and several fragments of burnt flint were recovered from Bow North Youth Centre on Parnell Road. Several undated features, themselves truncated by Iron Age pits, were the earliest examples of human activity on the site. Residual prehistoric worked flints were also recovered from Iron Age ditches⁸.

5.1.3 Ceramics recovered from 91-93 Parnell Road suggest that the site was occupied during the

¹ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1995

² Douglas, A., 1999

³ Mayo, C., 2001

⁴ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1996

⁵ Mayo, C., 2001

⁶ Douglas, A., 1999

⁷ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1995

⁸ Leary, J., 2005

Late Iron Age c. 50BC – AD50⁹. A possible Iron Age roundhouse was excavated at Lefevre Walk Estate¹⁰. Evidence for ritual and settlement activity was also observed, along with field boundaries dating to the Late Iron Age¹¹. Further evidence for Iron Age occupation nearby was observed during excavations at Bow North Youth Centre, where several ditches and possible drainage gullies containing Iron Age pottery sherds were recorded, along with a later Iron Age hearth and metal working evidence¹².

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 The site is located approximately 130m to the north of the London to Colchester Roman road. A 65m stretch of the road was revealed during excavations at Lefevre Walk Estate¹³. At 91-93 Parnell Road, a further stretch was excavated. Several boundary ditches, predominantly at right angles to the line of the road, were recorded and dated to the last century of Roman occupation¹⁴.

5.2.2 A number of clay and timber buildings, bounded by property ditches, were recorded at Lefevre Walk Phase 2. Field boundary ditches, fence lines, deep pitting and a possible sump were also recorded¹⁵. Further evidence of Roman occupation in the area was recovered during an excavation at Lefevre Walk Phase 3, which consisted of a number of postholes, pits and a clay and timber structure¹⁶. Fragmentary remains of roadside clay and timber buildings and a small inhumation cemetery were recorded at Lefevre Walk Estate¹⁷. Pits and deposits, which may have been connected to the roadside settlement, were also recorded at Parnell Road¹⁸.

5.3 Medieval

5.3.1 Some evidence of Medieval occupation has been recorded in the vicinity of the site. A handful of Medieval pot sherds were recovered from both Lefevre Walk Estate¹⁹ and Parnell Road²⁰. Two Medieval pits were recorded during excavations at Lefevre Walk Phase 3²¹.

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1996

¹¹ Douglas, A., 1999

¹² Leary, J., 2005

¹³ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1996

¹⁴ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1995

¹⁵ Douglas, A., 1999

¹⁶ Mayo, C., 2001

¹⁷ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1996

¹⁸ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1995

¹⁹ Douglas, A., 1999

²⁰ Taylor-Wilson, R., 1995

²¹ Mayo, C., 2001

- 5.3.2 Several Medieval buildings, which may have fronted Old Ford Road, were observed at Lefevre Walk Phase 2, along with possible brickearth quarrying pits and field drainage ditches. A layer of Medieval plough soil also covered part of the site²².
- 5.3.3 A Medieval ditch was recorded at Ruston Street to the north²³.
- 5.3.4 Despite the probable decline in use of the Old Ford crossing over the River Lea during the Medieval period, a fulling mill was built in the area in the 13th century, as was a large dye house circa 1500²⁴.

5.4 Post-Medieval

- 5.4.1 At the start of the 18th century, farming and market gardening is thought to have been predominate. This was corroborated by excavations at Lefevre Walk and Bow North Youth Centre. A number of field boundaries (deep ditches, fences and possibly hedgerows) and probable agricultural soils were recorded during Lefevre Walk Phase 2²⁵, and a number of possible field drainage gullies or channels were recorded during Lefevre Walk Phase 3²⁶. A thick agricultural soil, dated to the Medieval / Post-Medieval period, was observed at Bow North Youth Centre²⁷.
- 5.4.2 By the end of the 19th century the area had been transformed into an industrial suburb of London, with poor housing. Work at Lefevre Walk revealed a Victorian sewer associated with this housing, along with rubbish pits and garden features²⁸. A 19th century service trench or industrial feature was observed at Bow North Youth Centre²⁹.

²² Douglas, A., 1999

²³ Mayo, C., 2001

²⁴ Weinreb, B and Hibbert, C, 1988, 559

²⁵ Douglas, A., 1999

²⁶ Mayo, C., 2001

²⁷ Leary, J., 2005

²⁸ Douglas, A., 1999

²⁹ Leary, J., 2005

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the specification³⁰, the trench was located to investigate the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains across the site.
- 6.2 One trench was located to the rear of the previous buildings on site and surveyed in from existing buildings using a 30m tape and a plan prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology. The trench was 2m wide and 7.4m long.
- 6.3 The trench was excavated using a mini-digger under archaeological supervision, fitted with a ditching bucket. Excavation by machine was undertaken in spits and continued through the modern made ground until natural gravel was reached.
- 6.4 The base of the trench and one 2.5m long sample section were hand-cleaned before recording.
- 6.5 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London, that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The OD height of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record of the investigations was also prepared, including both black and white prints and colour transparencies on 35mm film.
- 6.6 Levels in the trench were taken from a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) established on the site with a value of 12.76m OD. The TBM was traversed in from a benchmark located on the northwest corner of Roman Road and Driffield Road, which had a value of 13.22m OD. The trenches were surveyed in by hand and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid.

³⁰ Mayo. C., 2006.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

One evaluation trench was excavated to the rear of the properties fronting Roman Road. The land forming the site was roughly flat, at a level of 12.76m OD. The trench contained modern made-ground, which was found to seal a possible subsoil, which in turn sealed a deposit of natural terrace gravel. A 19th century wall was observed in the eastern edge of the evaluation trench, truncating the possible subsoil. The dimensions of the trench were 7.4m north-south and 2m east-west.

7.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.2.1 Phase 1 – Natural Clay and Gravels

7.2.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was layer [3], natural terrace gravel. The gravel was a firm to compact deposit, mid reddish-yellow in colour, at a level of 11.65m OD. The gravel covered the entire base of the trench.

7.2.2 Phase 2- Subsoil

7.2.2.1 Sealing the natural gravel was layer [2], a deposit of firm, mid reddish-brown, humic rich sandy silt. The deposit was observed throughout the entire trench, the top of the deposit being at a level of 12m OD. The deposit was interpreted as the remains of a possible subsoil or ploughsoil. No artefactual evidence was found in the layer.

7.2.3 Phase 3- 19th Century

7.2.3.1 A nineteenth century wall foundation, context [1], was observed in the eastern edge of excavation. The dimensions of the wall were 7.4m north-south, 100mm east-west, continuing beyond the eastern limit of excavation, and 500mm thick, the top being at a level of 12.4m OD. The wall consisted of six courses of header-bonded, yellow, frogged bricks. The wall was trench built within construction cut [4], which partially truncated possible subsoil or ploughsoil layer [2].

7.2.3.2 A 700mm thick layer of modern made ground sealed the entire trench. The top of the trench was at a level of 12.7m OD.

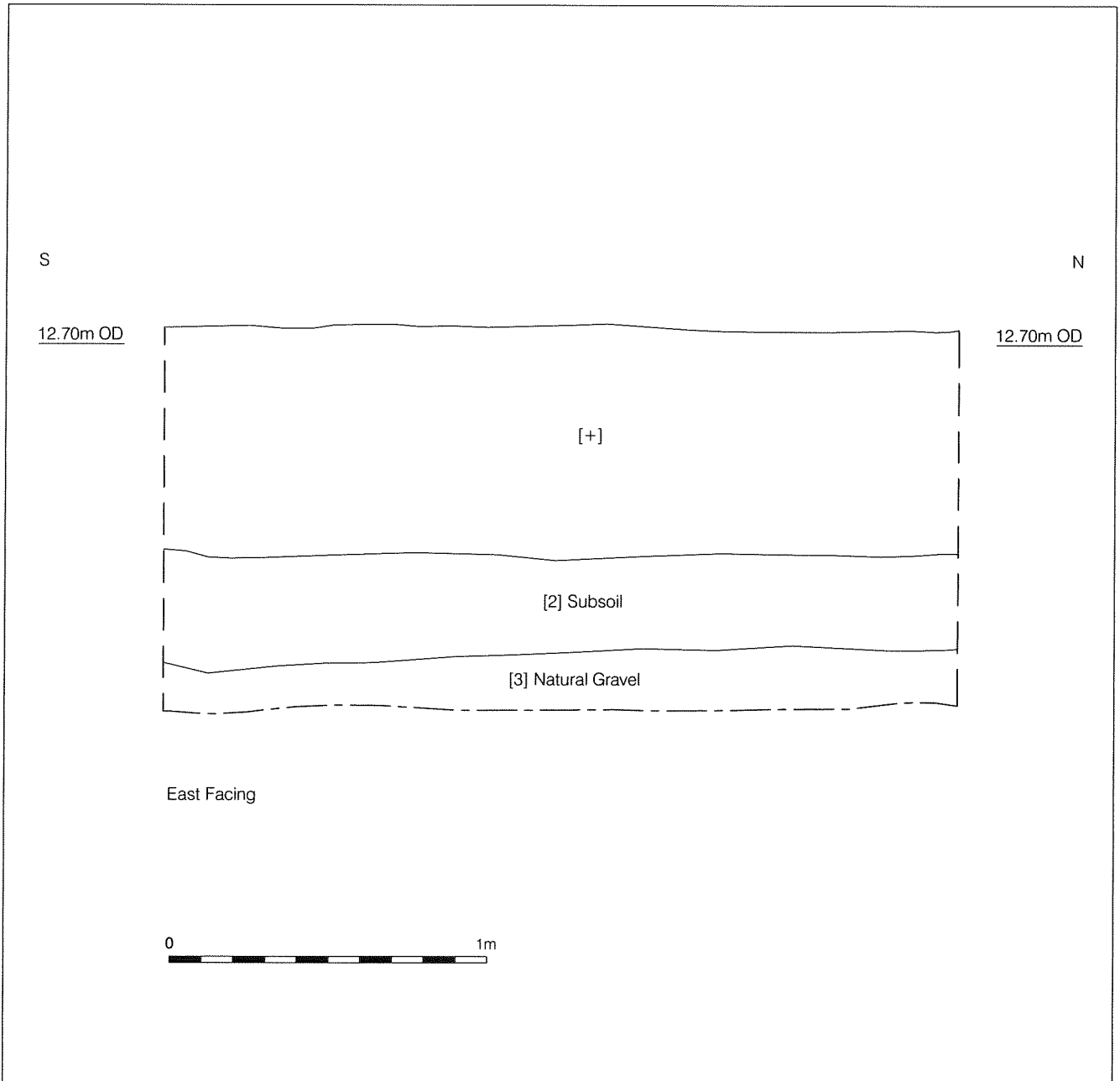


Figure 3
Section 1
1:20

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. No archaeological features predated the Post-Medieval period.
- 8.2 The earliest datable evidence of human activity at the site dates to the 19th century, and consists of a brick wall foundation. The bricks used in the wall are identical to those observed in the surrounding residential properties, suggesting that they are contemporaneous. An undated subsoil or ploughsoil was also observed, which may have been associated with the market gardening that took place during the Post-Medieval period.
- 8.3 The evaluation has confirmed that there are no significant archaeological deposits and features predating the Post-Medieval period on the site. Natural terrace gravel was found in the base of the trench.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Moira Levy for commissioning the work on behalf of Raphen Homes and David Divers of EH for monitoring on behalf of the LPA.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Adrian Nash for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing. Thanks also to Shane Maher for his hard work and assistance with the fieldwork and Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support.

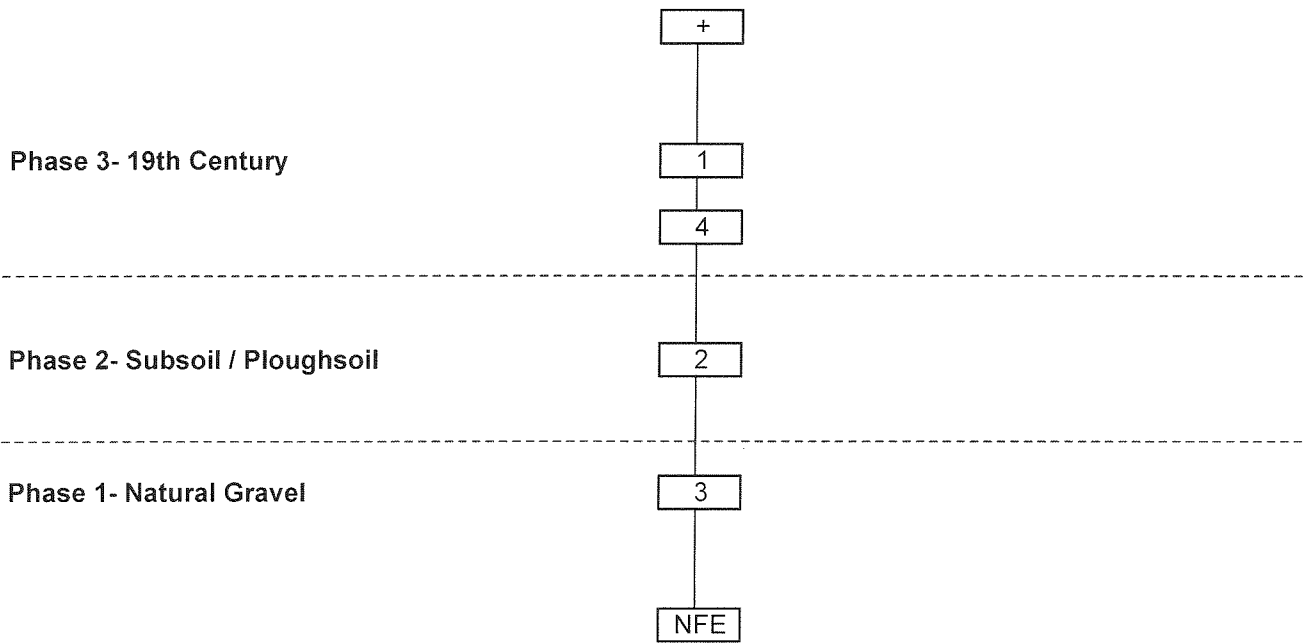
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Appendix 1- Context Index

Context	Plan No.	Section No.	Sample No.	Photo	Phase	Trench No.	Type	Description
1	1	*	*	Y	3	1	Masonry	19th century wall foundation
2	*	1	*	Y	2	1	Layer	Subsoil / Ploughsoil
3	1	1	*	Y	1	1	Layer	Natural Gravel
4	1	*	*	Y	3	1	Cut	Construction cut for [1]

Appendix 2- Site Matrix



APPENDIX 3 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-13987

Project details

Project name	445-447 Roman Road Bow
Short description of the project	The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 445-447 Roman Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. One trench was positioned to the rear of the property at 447 Roman Road. The site had been concreted over to form an external yard at the time of excavation. The trench contained natural terrace gravel, sealed by a possible subsoil, truncated by a nineteenth century wall and a modern intrusion. No pre-19th century archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 12-04-2006 End: 12-04-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW 445-447 Roman Road
Postcode	E3 5XX
Study area	152.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3635 8330 Point
Height OD	Min: 11.64m Max: 11.65m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Rebecca Lythe
Sponsor or funding body	Raphen Homes PLC

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 445-447 Roman Road, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Lythe, R.
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