

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT
BREDE CLOSE AND DARWELL
CLOSE, EAST HAM, LONDON
BOROUGH OF NEWHAM, E6
6AD**

**SITE CODE: BDE15
REPORT NO: R11964**

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**PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Brede Close and Darwell Close,
East Ham, London Borough of Newham, E6 6AD**

Site Code: BDE15

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4312 8273

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Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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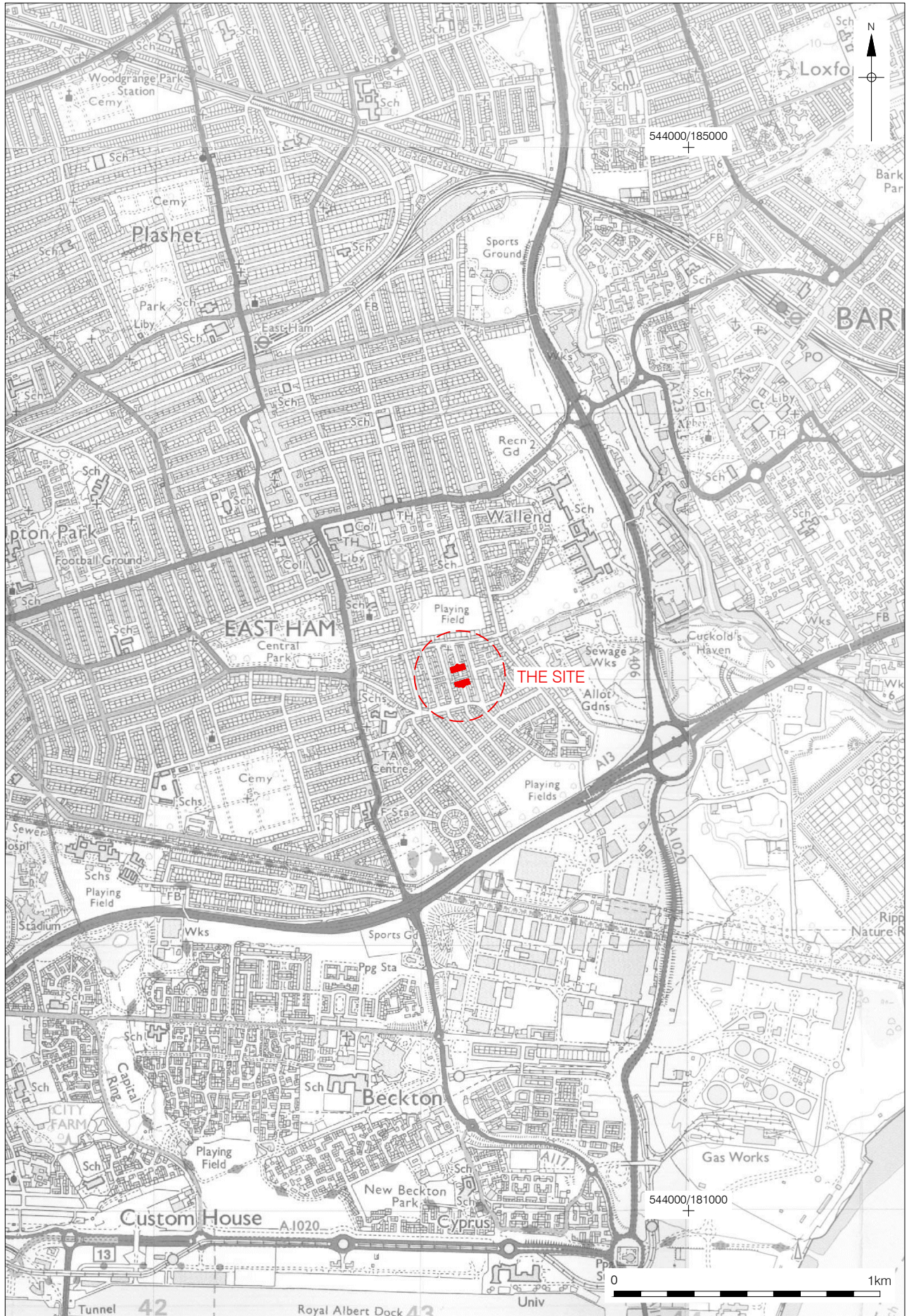
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation that was undertaken on land at Brede Close and Darwell Close, East Ham, in the London Borough of Newham, E6 6AD (TQ 4312 8273).
- 1.2 The aims of the project were to determine the natural topography, the presence, absence, nature and extent of any archaeological structures and deposits within the confines of the site and to establish the extent of all post post-depositional impacts prior to the commencement of a residential redevelopment.
- 1.3 The evaluation demonstrated that the underlying superficial geology consisted of terrace gravel capped by brickearth. This suggested that the site was situated upon dry ground throughout the Holocene.
- 1.4 The entire site had been truncated horizontally in the latter half of the mid 20th century when the surrounding residential redevelopment was constructed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation on land at Brede Close and Darwell Close, East Ham, in the London Borough of Newham, E6 6AD (Figure 1). The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology prior to the commencement of a residential redevelopment.
- 2.2 The site was centred on National Grid Reference TQ 4312 8273. It was bounded to the north by Darwell Close, to the east by properties fronting Wellstead Road, to the south by Brede Close and to the west by properties fronting Telham Road.
- 2.3 The site consisted of two vacant rectangular concreted plots situated either side of an extant residential building. Each site was approximately 500m² in size. As the two sites were so close together, they have been discussed below as a single entity ('the site'). Four trenches, two on each plot, were excavated. Each trench was 10m in length and 1.8m in width (Figure 2).
- 2.4 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2014), the primary objectives of the exercise were:
- To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
 - To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, its nature and (if possible) date.
 - To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.
 - To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity.
 - To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any other period
 - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 2.5 The investigation was conducted between 12th and 16th January 2015. It was supervised by senior field archaeologist, Ireneo Grosso, and was project managed by Helen Hawkins, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) monitored proceedings on behalf of the London Borough of Newham. The project was commissioned and funded by Creation X.
- 2.6 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in its entirety with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the unique code BDE15.



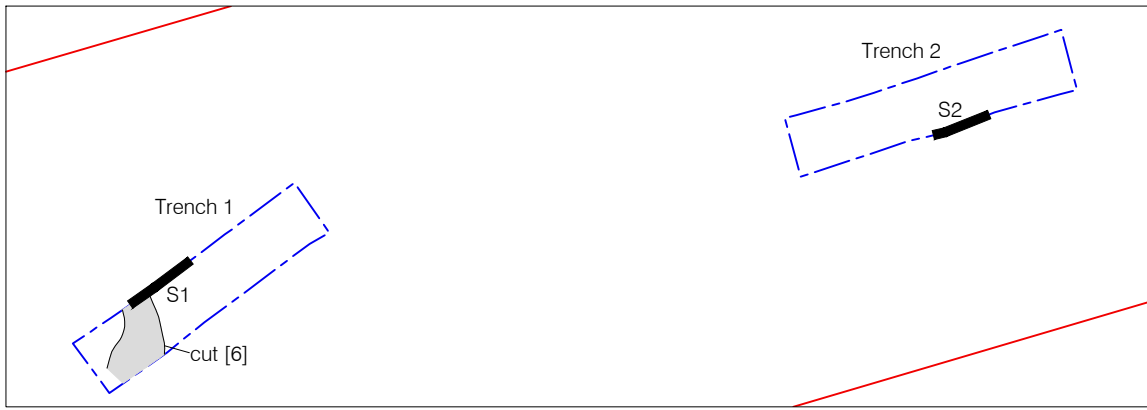
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4

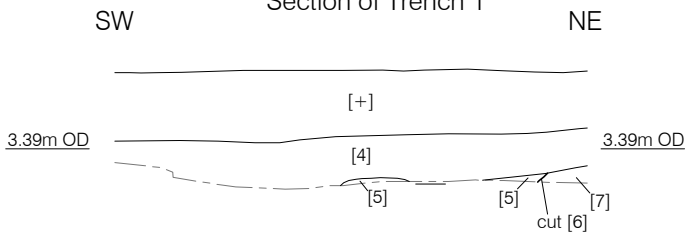


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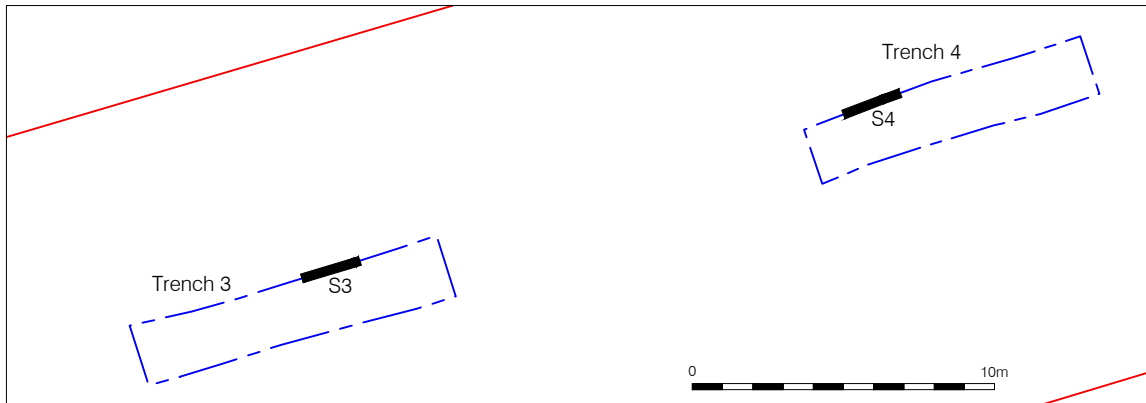
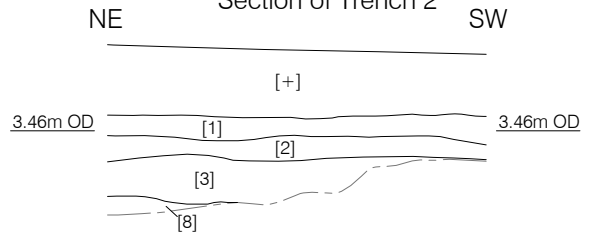
Brede & Darwell Close, East Ham
 Proposed Trench Location
 1:1,000 at A4



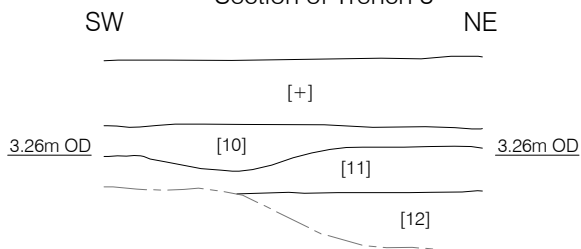
S1: South-East Facing Representative Section of Trench 1



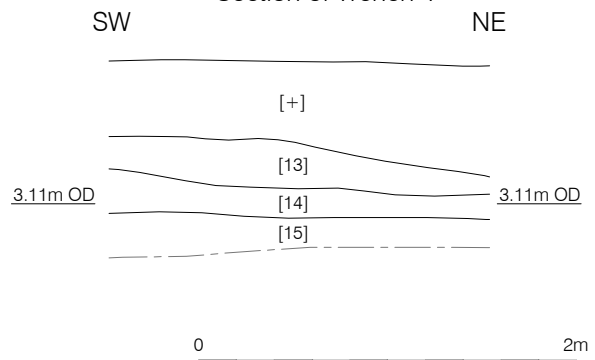
S2: North-West Facing Representative Section of Trench 2



S3: South-East Facing Representative Section of Trench 3



S4: South-East Facing Representative Section of Trench 4



3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 A planning request for a residential redevelopment within the boundary of the site has been submitted to the London Borough of Newham.

3.2 NATIONAL GUIDANCE

3.2.1 In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment' which itself replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of heritage assets.

3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance the NPPF, by current Unitary Development Plan policy and by other material considerations (for further details and guidance see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>).

3.3 REGIONAL GUIDANCE: THE LONDON PLAN

3.3.1 The over-arching strategies and policies for the whole of the Greater London area are contained within the Greater London Authority's London Plan of July 2011 (<https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/london-plan>) which includes the following statement relating to archaeology:

Policy 7.8: Heritage assets and archaeology

Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

C Development should identify value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

LDF preparation

F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.

G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.4 LOCAL GUIDANCE: ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

The London Borough of Newham's Core Strategy adopted January 2012 (<http://www.newham.gov.uk/Planning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/CoreStrategy.htm>) contains the following policies relating to the borough's heritage and archaeology:

SP5 Heritage and other Successful Place-making Assets

Objective

6.48 Recognise the value of heritage and other assets (natural, cultural, architectural, and infrastructural) through their protection, conservation, and enhancement.

Policy

The value of heritage and other assets (natural, cultural, architectural, and infrastructural) which contribute to local character and successful places will be recognised by protection, conservation, and enhancement of the assets and their settings.

To this end, proposals which address the following in their concept, design and implementation will be supported:

1. An approach to urban design that recognises the strengths and weaknesses of local character and seeks to contribute positively to the composition of the townscape, achieving better integration and enhancement of new and old, natural and built environments, infrastructure and living environments;
2. The need to conserve and enhance designated and nondesignated heritage assets, with any change to them based on an understanding of the nature of their significance and the contribution of their settings to that significance, seeking to increase their presence and encourage wider appreciation, ownership of, and access to them; and
3. The need for innovation to realise the value of assets and secure viable, sustainable and appropriate futures for them, particularly where they are under-performing, reconciling this with the sensitivity to change presented by many (see also Policies SC4, INF6 and INF7).

Reasoned justification

6.49 In seeking to create distinctive and successful places, it is vital that existing assets are recognised in design so that their full potential can be realised in line with national and London-wide policies. Starting with heritage, until recently traditionally this has to some extent been overlooked in Newham both by statutory agencies such as English Heritage, and others responsible for change in the borough, from home owners through to large-scale developers. This is partly due to Newham's relatively recent development when compared to some areas which means heritage assets have been seen as less significant than older ones elsewhere, and partly the inevitable result of incremental changes (with limited character-based direction) which add up to more significant ones. As such, Newham currently has relatively few Conservation Areas and listed buildings despite having a range of identifiable heritage features including many fine examples of Victorian and Edwardian buildings, docks and

waterways. It also means that through neglect, distinctiveness has been eroded and the physical condition of some assets has deteriorated: this is reflected in the fact that the borough contains a variety of heritage assets on the 'Heritage At Risk' register, for example 15% of listed buildings and monuments were considered to be 'At Risk' in 2009.

6.50 Therefore in turn, the importance of attending to (protecting, conserving and enhancing) both designated heritage assets and those more informally recognised, together with their setting, is indicated. The former includes those buildings, monuments, structures, parks, etc, that are subject to national listing/scheduling, and those areas designated as Conservation Areas; the latter includes Areas of Townscape Value, Archaeological Priority Areas and locally listed buildings.

6.51 This value includes adding interest and legibility, (as landmarks) to an area; the contribution to community building as a focus for community memory and activity; the contribution to sustainability by embodying energy if they continue in use; and harder economic value as visitor attractions either individually or as part of a place for spending time and money in, or in the case of waterways, as transport routes. In turn they can be seen as important to create neighbourhoods which are desirable to invest and stay in, hence the need to address their presence and encourage wider ownership of and access to them. In relation to archaeological remains, where excavation is unavoidable, the expectation will be that appropriate recording, analysis and dissemination of findings is undertaken.

6.52 A more holistic approach to heritage in place-making is logically extended to other character assets, whether natural, cultural (e.g. meeting places and places of social display and other cultural activity), architectural or infrastructural (e.g. stations) as part of the transformation plans for the borough (see Policies SP1 and SP3). These are indicated in relevant spatial policies and more extensively but not exhaustively in the Newham Character Study (2010). This approach recognises that all these asset types have in common sensitivity to change that directly or indirectly affects them and those that benefit from them including the difficulty presented by competition with uses able to pay higher values for land. Moreover, many such assets are underperforming in one way or another, often due to a lack of integration with the wider environment including other assets, so that their settings detract from them, they are underused or create a barrier effect. This highlights the importance of composition - ensuring coherent and sensitive ensembles of assets and their settings, as well as innovation and change both from the present situation and to address evolving circumstances, including climate change. Innovation includes appropriate deployment of 'meanwhile' uses and other suitable measures to activate spaces and structures to help bring them back into people's day-to-day experience of places, improving security, resilience to climate change and energy efficiency and enabling immediate community benefit. However, any such change needs to be based on an understanding of the sensitivity to change of the asset in question, ensuring it is appropriately valued and accommodated in order to avoid causing harm to its significance.

Implementation

6.53 Developers will be expected to respond to the various aspects of this policy as appropriate in their Design and Access Statements having analysed the context to their development. This should result in incremental change, including resources to support heritage conservation and enhancement, helping to reduce the number of assets identified as Heritage at Risk.

6.54 The Council will continue its programme of Conservation Area appraisal and with its partners including English Heritage and local heritage groups, investigate the scope of further identifying, protecting and enhancing heritage assets (e.g. through designating new Conservation Areas, identifying opportunities for reuse and where appropriate, modification of heritage assets to improve energy efficiency) and English Heritage will be encouraged to undertake a listed buildings review. Existing Conservation Areas and those Areas of

Townscape Value considered to continue to be of merit will be carried forward from the UDP and subsequent designations/amendments as follows (see map for clarification; full extents are shown on the Proposals Map).

6.55 Further guidance and advice is to be found in the guidance referenced (and updates as appropriate), and from English Heritage, Design Council CABE and the Council's Design and Conservation Officers.

6.56 Masterplanning and Supplementary Planning Documents will assist in identifying more assets, and strategies to conserve and enhance them as part of wider area-based change.

- 3.4.1 Saved policies EQ36 and EQ43 (saved February 2012) from the Unitary Development Plan of June 2001 are also relevant to any proposed redevelopment within the confines of the borough (<http://www.newham.gov.uk/Planning/UnitaryDevelopmentPlan/default.htm>):

POLICY EQ36: THE COUNCIL WILL NEGOTIATE WITH A VIEW TO MAINTAINING THE ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF BUILDINGS ON THE LOCAL LIST OF BUILDINGS OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology: Investigation, Excavation and Protection

3.114 Archaeological remains often provide the only evidence of the Borough's past. They are a finite and fragile resource very vulnerable to modern development and land use. The archaeology of the Borough is a community asset which should be preserved and the needs of development balanced and assessed against this. Early consideration of and consultation on archaeological issues will maximise preservation in accordance with PPG16. The destruction of such remains should be avoided if possible and either left in situ if the remains are of national or particular local interest, or excavated and recorded prior to development, where remains are of lesser importance. Site layouts designed to retain archaeological features intact will be considered favourably by the Council.

3.115 The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS - part of English Heritage) provides impartial advice to Newham Council. Sites of potential archaeological importance, to which this policy relates, can be defined as any site within an Archaeological Priority Area (APA). APAs are defined by GLAAS as areas having particular interest or value (Please refer to Map EQ6), or as sites where it can reasonably be shown from existing sources of information (most notably the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record) that remains of archaeological importance may survive. For further information, please refer to SPG Note 'Archaeological Code of Practice'. An archaeological assessment (either a desk study or a preliminary field investigation) will normally be required for any development involving a site more than 0.4 acres within an APA. The Council will also require such an assessment for smaller sites within the APAs, and sites outside the APAs, where this is clearly justified by the archaeological sensitivity of the site. Developers should undertake early consultation with the Council, and recognised archaeological organisations such as GLAAS, to avoid uncertainty and later delays.

POLICY EQ43: THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE BOROUGH. DEVELOPERS OF SITES OF POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A WRITTEN REPORT, AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION, ON THE RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OR FIELD EVALUATION CARRIED OUT BY A SUITABLY QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTOR; AND WHEN REMAINS OF IMPORTANCE ARE

IDENTIFIED, THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK PRESERVATION OF THE REMAINS IN SITU. ON OTHER IMPORTANT SITES, WHERE THE BALANCE OF OTHER FACTORS IS IN FAVOUR OF GRANTING PLANNING PERMISSION BY MEANS OF THE IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS ON THE GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION, AND POSSIBLY BY LEGAL AGREEMENTS, THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE PROTECTION, EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OF REMAINS, AND THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF THE RECORDS OF EXCAVATION, PROVIDING A WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION, INCLUDING RECORDS OF FINDS.

3.116 The Council will promote co-operation between landowners, developers and archaeological organisations in accordance with the British Archaeologists' and Developers' Liaison Group Code.

- 3.4.2 The site does not contain any listed buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It is not in an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Newham, however it is situated in an area of known archaeology. Consequently, in accordance with national, local and regional guidance, Adam Single of GLAAS requested that an archaeological trial trench evaluation take place prior to its redevelopment.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey of England and Wales states that the site is situated on Pleistocene river terrace deposits overlying Eocene Thames Group Clay (BGS 2014).
- 4.2 Geotechnical investigations on the site itself suggested that the brickearth cap that was identified during an adjacent archaeological excavation at Vicarage Lane Primary School extends across the site at a depth of c. 0.70m below modern ground level (SAS 2012a, 2012b; Mayo 2002). However, the same investigation also indicated that significant, localised truncation occurred when terraced residential properties were constructed in the east and west of both sections of the site in the 19th century.
- 4.3 There were no watercourses in close proximity to the site, which was situated to the east of the River Lea and to the north of the River Thames.

5 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric

- 5.1.1 Palaeolithic artefacts discovered within 150m of the site include two hand axes, two retouched flint implements, one unretouched flint flake and a pointed hand axe (Hawkins, 2014). In this topographical and geological setting, these artefacts represent chance finds that have been reworked from their primary depositional context by fluvial action before being lain down within the Pleistocene terrace gravels that underlie the area.
- 5.1.2 The courses of the Rivers Thames, Lea and Roding were commonly exploited by prehistoric communities throughout the Holocene. Dominated by extensive swamps interspersed by braided channels and upstanding eyots, such environments appealed to prehistoric communities thanks to the presence of dry island sites suitable for permanent or temporary settlement beside the rich resources and transport opportunities that were provided by the marsh and the river. Fortuitously for modern scholars, the repeated flooding events that routinely characterised these riverside areas from the Mesolithic period onwards have created rich archaeological and environmental records.
- 5.1.3 Unspecified archaeological works at "Old Barn", c.400m to the north of the site, unearthed a number of unstratified finds of Bronze and Iron Age date. These included a "Bronze Celt", now in the British Museum, a Ptolemaic bronze coin and an early Iron Age currency bar (*ibid*). Fragments of late Iron Age pottery were also retrieved from the throw of a lime tree in St. Mary's Churchyard that was blown over during the hurricane of 1983 (*ibid*).
- 5.1.4 *In situ* artefacts and structural evidence of later prehistoric activity was found at the adjacent site of Vicarage Lane Primary School, where an east-west aligned later prehistoric drainage ditch was discovered, along with a retouched flint scraper and some daub pertaining to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age periods (Mayo, 2002; Hawkins, 2012).
- 5.1.5 A major Iron Age site, Uphall Camp, Ilford, is situated in the region, and this has been extensively excavated. Eleven round houses, "granaries", enclosures and ditches and nine rectangular structures were revealed, along with fragments of a Middle Iron Age Burial (Hawkins, 2012).

5.2 Roman

- 5.2.1 A relative dearth of Roman evidence has been discovered in the area. The major London to Colchester road ran some distance to the north of the site, following the modern alignment of Romford Road. It is believed to have had subsidiary roads which led towards the marshes and the river Thames, and these are predicted to have followed the lines of Green Street and East Ham High Street (*ibid*).
- 5.2.2 Late 19th century excavations for the Northern Outfall Sewer, c.0.8km west of the St. Mary Magdalene Church, revealed a sizeable Roman cemetery. That combined with the presence of a nearby Roman road strongly suggests that contemporary settlement occurred in the vicinity. Indeed, grave digging in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene has uncovered numerous fragments of Roman pottery and tile (*ibid*).

5.3 Saxon

- 5.3.1 The first documentary record of 'Hamme' occurred in 958 AD, when King Edgar granted land to Ealdorman Athelston of East Anglia. Evidence from *Domesday* indicates that the main focus of settlement lay to the south of the parish, in accord with the Roman pattern of occupation, whilst the northern areas remained thickly wooded (*ibid*). This may be why no evidence of Saxon activity has been found within 500m of the site.

5.3.1.1 Medieval

- 5.3.2 Following the Norman Conquest there was a great deal of forest clearance within the area, which is presumably why it came to be known as "Ham", which translates as 'low-lying pasture'. By the time of the *Domesday* survey, three manors went by that name, one of which was undoubtedly in East Ham. Although West Ham's importance increased, East Ham fell

into a decline, reputedly because of repeated flooding events. Indeed a settlement just outside East Ham was supposedly destroyed by a 'great flood' in 1236 (*ibid*).

- 5.3.3 Although the precise pattern of medieval settlement remains unknown, the subject site lies between the predicted locations of two Manors. The manor house of East Ham Burnells and West Ham Burnells, or Burnells Fee, is placed c.250m to the north of the site. It was owned by the Haudlo family by 1311 being later enlarged by the Hungerfords. Despite being under the same ownership, the manors of East Ham Burnells and West Ham Burnells had distinct identities from the 16th century onwards (*ibid*).
- 5.3.4 The site is thought to have lain within the manor of East Ham Hall. This was first documented in 1267 and later reported to have adjoined East Ham Church from 1294. By the early 14th century the Stratford Langthorne Abby had acquired the entire manor. The manor house is believed to have been established c.400m to the south of the site and is recorded as being 'no more than a farm-house' (*ibid*).
- 5.3.5 The medieval period is somewhat better represented on the GLHER. Excavations at the Vicarage Lane Primary School site identified a large drainage ditch, several gullies, post-holes and intercutting pits dating between 950 AD and 1150 AD. The large ditch was aligned north-west south-east, and was located within the south-eastern corner of the excavation area. Of further significance was the lack of contemporary finds or features to the north of this ditch, indicating a potential land or property division which remained in use throughout the medieval and into the post-medieval periods. It is noteworthy that the organisation of post holes around one of the gullies led to a potential interpretation as a sluice mechanism. The latest features dated to the 15th century and were interpreted as rubbish pits (*ibid*).
- 5.3.6 Further contemporary evidence was recovered during mid 19th century grave digging at St. Mary Magdalene's. This unearthed an "abbatial" ring. An examination of a tree throw left as a result of the 1987 hurricane also produced numerous fragments of medieval pottery and tile (*ibid*).
- 5.4 Post-Medieval
 - 5.4.1 Following the dissolution, the King granted the manor of East Ham Hall to his servant Richard Breame. It subsequently passed through the hands of his descendants, being mapped in 1764, 1775 and 1829 as comprising c.400 acres in the centre and east of the parish (*ibid*).
 - 5.4.2 Until the mid 19th century the subject site was most probably situated within an agricultural landscape. Indeed, Rocque's map of 1746 demonstrates that the site was located in open land at that time (*ibid*). Agriculture remained an important industry until the 19th century. Potatoes and other garden produce, such as turnips, were grown on a commercial scale from at least the late 18th century (*ibid*).
 - 5.4.3 The former medieval manor houses belonging to East Ham Hall, East Ham Burnells and West Ham Burnells survived into the late 19th or early 20th centuries. In 1802 the manors of East Ham Burnells and West Ham Burnells were reunited and by 1810 they had been incorporated within the Pelly Estate, which was sold for building purposes forty years later. The population of East Ham only began to rise significantly after that date following extensive industrial development and house building schemes that advanced from West Ham. By 1901, following the annexation of Ilford, the population had reached 96, 018 (*ibid*).

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Four archaeological trenches, termed Trenches 1 to 4 were excavated (Figure 2). In accord with the Written Scheme of Investigation, the trenches were approximately 10m by 1.8m (Hawkins 2014). They were arranged as shown in Figure 2 so that they would avoid all known services and a contamination “hot spot” (*ibid*).
- 6.2 The trenches were dug using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Machining continued in 100mm spits until the top of the archaeological sequence or natural geology was reached. Excavation of horizontal stratigraphy or cut archaeological features then continued by hand. some breaking out of the top layer of concrete was required.
- 6.3 All archaeological interventions were thoroughly hand cleaned before being hand-planned at a scale of 1:20, with sections being drawn at 1:10. The deposits that they contained were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets and a full digital photographic record was compiled. Trenches were located with a hand held GPS and tied into the Ordnance Survey Grid. Finds, brick samples and environmental samples were collected according to standard retrieval methods as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2014).
- 6.4 Levels were obtained from two Temporary Bench Marks with values of 3.87m OD in the northern section of the site and 4.04m OD in the southern area. They were established by PCA’s surveyor through the use of a hand held GPS. Levels on archaeologically relevant structures and strata were taken from these through the use of a dumpy level. The locations of the TBMs can be found in the site archive.
- 6.5 The completed site archive, comprising written and photographic records, will be deposited at the Museum of London’s Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code BDE15.
- 6.6 As detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2014), the evaluation was undertaken in accordance with guidelines issued by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), English Heritage (EH) and the Institute for Archaeologists (GLAAS 2014; EH 2008, 2009; IFA 2014).

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 Natural gravel, [9] / [8] / [12] / [15], was discovered at the base of the sequence in all four archaeological interventions (Figure 3). It represented river terrace gravel laid down by fluvial action during the Pleistocene epoch. The top of the deposit was virtually flat, ranging in height from 3.11m OD in Trench 2 to 3.02m OD in Trench 1.

7.1.2 The gravel was sealed by a brickearth cap that probably formed at the end of the Pleistocene, [7] / [3] / [11] / [14], which was observed in every trench (Figure 4). The presence of brickearth and a lack of alluvium suggest that the site remained predominantly dry throughout the Holocene. Like the terrace gravel, the topography of the brickearth showed little variance, ranging in height from 3.29m OD in Trench 4 to 3.34m OD in Trench 2, however this uniformity could be due to later horizontal truncation.

7.1.3 Taken together the drift geology and its flat topography suggest that no palaeochannels crossed the site in antiquity. Instead it remained dry throughout the Holocene epoch.

7.1.3.1 Phase 2: 20th Century

7.1.4 A curvilinear cut, [6] truncated the brickearth in Trench 1 (Figure 4). The feature was 1.94m wide and 0.29m deep, continuing beyond the northern and southern limits of the excavation. It had been backfilled with fill [5], which contained occasional highly fragmented pieces of modern brick rubble and it was these artefacts that provided a likely date for its formation. In all probability it represents a machine scar or rob cut that was created when the area was stripped prior to its redevelopment in the latter half of the 20th century.

7.1.5 A layer of disturbed natural, [2], was observed across the entirety of Trench 2. It was interpreted as a 0.19m thick interface between the natural brickearth and the overlying material.

7.1.6 A layer of light to mid brownish grey silty clay, [4] / [1] / [10] / [13], was observed at the top of the sequence in all four trenches. This 0.26m thick deposit contained frequent fragments of modern brick rubble and represented a levelling layer that was laid down when the site was redeveloped in the latter half of the 20th century.

Plate 1: Natural terrace gravel in the base of Trench 3 (looking west)



Plate 2: Brickearth cap in the base of Trench 2 (looking east)



Plate 3: Mid to late 20th century cut feature [6] in Trench 1 (looking north east)



8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The results of this evaluation have enabled the research questions that were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation to be addressed:
- 8.2 To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives:
 - 8.2.1 The evaluation confirmed that brickearth deposited at the end of the Pleistocene sealed earlier river terrace gravel across the entire site. No riverine alluvium of Holocene date was found. The top of the brickearth and the underlying gravel were virtually flat, the former located between 3.29m OD and 3.34m OD and the latter between 3.11m OD and 3.02m OD. Together this evidence demonstrates that the site was situated upon predominantly dry ground throughout the Holocene epoch. This accorded with prior knowledge obtained from archaeological and geotechnical investigations on the site itself and in the surrounding area as outlined in section 4 of this report.
- 8.3 To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity or any archaeological activity pertaining to any other period:
 - 8.3.1 No archaeological remains pre-dating the 20th century were discovered.
 - 8.3.2 The only archaeological phase of activity that was identified during the evaluation dated to the latter half of the 20th century. It relates to the construction phase of the residential redevelopment that surrounds the site.
- 8.4 To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource:
 - 8.4.1 The upper reaches of the brickearth capping that was observed in all four trenches had most probably been truncated horizontally when the site was redeveloped in the latter half of the 20th century however the lower reaches of the deposit remained largely undisturbed.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Creation X for commissioning and funding the project and Adam Single of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Ireneo Grosso for supervising the site and Rosie Banens for her proficient assistance with the excavation and recording. Thanks also to Helen Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology for her project management and editing, Rik Archer for the site survey, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Chris Cooper for technical and logistical support.

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Appendix 1: Context Index

Context No	Type	Interpretation	Trench No.	Plan No.	Section No.	Levels (m OD)		Dimensions (as recorded within the confines of the trench)			Period	Phase
						Highest	Lowest	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth / Thickness		
1	Layer	20 th century levelling layer	2	N/A	2	3.55	3.52	9.5m	2m	0.15m	20 th Century	2
2	Layer	Interface between grey layer [1] and natural brickearth [3]	2	Tr. 2	2	3.43	3.41	9.5m	2m	0.19m	20 th Century	2
3	Layer	Natural brickearth	3	Tr. 2	2	3.34	3.3	10m	1.80m	0.27m	Late Pleistocene to Early Holocene	1
4	Layer	20 th century levelling layer	1	4	1	3.5	3.42	1.90m	0.80m	0.25m	20 th Century	2
5	Fill	Fill of [6]. CBM present within this deposit suggested a 20 th century deposition date.	1	6	1	3.26	3.2	2.17m	1.94m	0.29m	20 th Century	2
6	Cut	Truncation created during the construction of the surrounding extant residential estate	1	6	1	3.27	3.02	2.25m	1.94m	0.29m	20 th Century	2
7	Layer	Natural brickearth	1	Tr. 1	1	3.3	3.21	10m	1.80m	0.22m	Late Pleistocene to early Holocene	1

Context No	Type	Interpretation	Trench No.	Plan No.	Section No.	Levels (m OD)		Dimensions			Period	Phase
								(as recorded within the confines of the trench)				
8	Layer	Natural terrace gravel	1	Tr. 2	2	3.11	3.01	2.75m	1.80m	N/A	Pleistocene	1
9	Layer	Natural terrace gravel	1	Tr. 1	N/A	3.02	3	0.88m	0.88m	N/A	Pleistocene	1
10	Layer	20 th century levelling layer	3	Tr. 3	3	3.43	3.41	10m	1.80m	0.25m	20 th Century	2
11	Layer	Natural brickearth	3	Tr. 3	3	3.31	3.19	10m	1.80m	0.24m	Late Pleistocene to early Holocene	1
12	Layer	Natural terrace gravel	3	Tr. 3	3	3.09	3.06	2m	1.50m	N/A	Pleistocene	1
13	Layer	20 th century levelling layer	4	N/A	4	3.46	3.26	10m	1.80m	0.26m	20 th Century	2
14	Layer	Natural brickearth	4	N/A	4	3.29	3.14	10m	1.80m	0.23m	Late Pleistocene to early Holocene	1
15	Layer	Natural terrace gravel	4	Tr. 4	4	3.06	3.02	10m	1.80m	N/A	Pleistocene	1

Appendix 2: Site Matrix

BDE15: SITE MATRIX		TRENCH 1		TRENCH 2		TRENCH 3		TRENCH 4							
			+		+		+		+						
PHASE 2: 20th Century															
Levelling layer		3.50m OD	4	=	=	3.55m OD	1	=	=	3.43m OD	10	=	=	3.46m OD	13
Interface layer							2								
Fill		3.26m OD	5												
Cut			6												
PHASE 1: NATURAL															
Brickearth		3.30m OD	7	=	=	3.34 mOD	3	=	=	3.31m OD	11	=	=	3.29m OD	14
Terrace Gravel		3.02m OD	9	=	=	3.11m OD	8	=	=	3.09m OD	12	=	=	3.06m OD	15
			NFE				NFE				NFE				NFE

Appendix 3: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-200965

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Brede and Darwell Close, East Ham
Short description of the project	This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation that was undertaken on land at Brede and Darwell Close, East Ham, in the London Borough of Newham, E6 6AD (TQ 4312 8273). The aims of the project were to determine the natural topography, the presence, absence, nature and extent of any archaeological structures and deposits within the confines of the site and to establish the extent of all post post-depositional impacts prior to the commencement of a residential redevelopment. The evaluation demonstrated that the underlying drift geology consisted of terrace gravel capped by brickearth. This suggested that the site was situated upon dry ground throughout the Holocene. The entire site had been truncated horizontally in the latter half of the 20th century during a residential redevelopment.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2015 End: 16-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BDE15 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","Environmental Sampling","Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM EAST HAM Brede and Darwell Close, East Ham
Postcode	E6 6AD
Study area	1000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4312 8273 51.5248214937 0.063290231322 51 31 29 N 000 03 47 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.29m Max: 3.34m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Ireneo Grosso
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Creation X

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Brede and Darwell Close, East Ham, London Borough of Newham, E6 6AD
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