

**8-10 PAUL STREET, SHOREDITCH,
LONDON, EC2A 4JH**

**ASSESSMENT OF AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

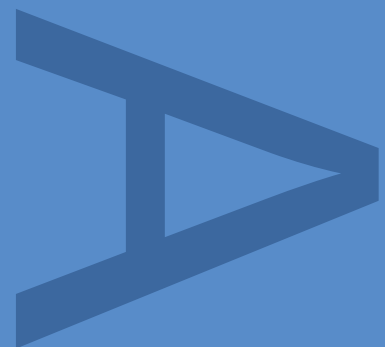
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SITE CODE: PLS14

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY



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8-10 PAUL STREET, SHOREDITCH, LONDON,
EC2A 4JH

ASSESSMENT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF

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ASSESSMENT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site Code: PLS 14

Central NGR: TQ 3305 8195

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Hackney

Planning Reference: 2013/1345

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at 8-10 Paul Street, Shoreditch, London, EC2A 4JH in the London Borough of Hackney. The watching brief was undertaken between 28th January and 24th February 2015 and was commissioned by Queensway Hotels. The archaeological consultant was Mills Whipp Projects.
- 1.2 The fieldwork consisted of monitoring pile probing excavations in various locations across the site with particular emphasis being given to the area due to be reduced in its entirety for the construction of a basement. Excavations were carried out to a depth of 5.0m below ground level.
- 1.3 The works revealed a sequence of natural sands and gravels sealed by a cap of naturally deposited brickearth which, in places, showed clear evidence of having been quarried out during the post-medieval period. In places there was evidence for some survival of alluvial marshland deposits presumably where brickearth quarrying had been less intrusive. The brick earth was sealed by a deposit of early post medieval made ground followed by subsequent layers of 18th and 19th century made ground.
- 1.4 A similar sequence to that above was recorded during an archaeological watching brief and evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in September 2014 (Cipin, 2014).

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological mitigation watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at 8-10 Paul Street, Shoreditch, London, EC2A 4JH in the London Borough of Hackney that was undertaken between 28th January and 24th February 2015.
- 2.2 The watching brief monitored pile-probing groundworks necessary to prepare the site for construction. This necessitated localized excavation from ground level down to the natural soil horizons approximately 5.00m below ground level. Due to concrete obstructions, part of the works resulted in the complete excavation of the area (Trench 3) due to be reduced for the construction of a basement (Figure 2).
- 2.3 An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken by PCA at the site in September 2014 (Cipin, 2014). Three geotechnical test pits were monitored and one evaluation trench (Trench 1) excavated with the trench being located in such a manner as to give a good cross section across the site. The works last year recorded a sequence of naturally deposited brickearth overlain by 18th and 19th century made ground, late 19th century walls and a late 19th century cobbled surface. There was no trace of the buildings depicted on Horwoods 1799 map. The cobbled surface revealed may belong to the courtyard depicted on Ordnance Survey Map of 1875. The works also revealed no evidence of alluvial marsh deposits. The entire site was sealed by a modern concrete slab.
- 2.4 The site is located within the Shoreditch Archaeological Priority Area as defined in the Borough Local Development Framework. The site comprises a rectangular plot of land, centered to NGR TQ 3305 8195, measuring approximately 34m east-west by 17m north-south, equating to an area of 578m². The site is bordered to the north by the ongoing construction of student flats at 12-20 Paul Street, to the east by office buildings, to the south by a school and to the west by Paul Street. The two storey 1960s building that occupied the site during the initial watching brief and evaluation has since been demolished.
- 2.5 The works were commissioned by Queensway Hotels and the archaeological consultant was Mike Hutchinson of Mills Whipp Projects. The mitigation watching brief was supervised by Ian Cipin and project managed by Chris Mayo, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The works were monitored by Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Hackney.
- 2.6 The works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Mayo, 2015).
- 2.7 Following approval of the project by the Local Planning Authority, the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeology and Archive Research Centre (LAARC), identified with the unique site code PLS14.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

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 archaeology within central London:

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: Archaeology in the London Borough of Hackney

3.3.1 The relevant local policy is provided by the London Borough of Hackney’s Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2010. It contains the following policy statement with regards to the Historic Environment:

Core Strategy Policy 25: Historic Environment

All development should make a positive contribution to the character of Hackney’s historic and built environment. This includes identifying, conserving and enhancing the historic significance of the borough’s designated heritage assets, their setting and where appropriate the wider historic environment.

3.4 Site Specific Planning Background

3.4.1 The proposed redevelopment of the site has been permitted by the London Borough of Hackney under application number 2013/1345. The consent included an archaeological planning condition as follows:

8 A) No demolition or development shall take place until the applicant has secured

the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

B) No demolition or development shall take place other than that in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A), and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

REASON: Heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation followed by the subsequent recording of significant remains prior to development (including preservation of important remains), in accordance with recommendations given by the borough and in PPS 5/NPPF.

- 3.4.2 An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken by PCA at the site in September 2014 (Cipin, 2014), in accordance with a WSI which was approved by Adam Single of GLAAS, the Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Hackney. This work resulted in a further requirement from Mr Single for monitoring of construction groundworks. This further work followed a methodology contained within a new Written Scheme of Investigation by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Mayo, 2015), and which was approved by GLAAS.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The underlying drift geology at the site is Hackney Gravel (British Geological Survey 256). Archaeological excavations in the immediate area have shown that the gravel was overlain by brickearth in some areas but that both deposits have been heavily exploited by quarrying. During the archaeological evaluation of 12-20 Paul Street (immediately to the north of the current study site) the Hackney gravel was recorded but no brickearth cap was observed. The gravel was recorded as yellow brown silty gravelly sand with a surface elevation of 11.40. OD to 11.60m OD (Hawkins 2012, Brookes 2014).
- 4.2 Although no longer visible, the River Walbrook ran through the area. In the 12th century it was described as 'a great marsh or sheet of water washing the walls of the city on the north side'. The area was drained during the 16th century. The alluvial deposits of the marsh were recorded during the evaluation of 12-20 Paul Street as 'homogeneous and sterile gravelly clay and silty clay with infrequent organic lenses' (Hawkins 2012, p12). In some areas it was 2.5m thick. In most areas it had been truncated by modern development.
- 4.3 The archaeological evaluation for the study site recorded soft, mid yellow brown sandy clay with no visible inclusions that was interpreted as in situ naturally deposited brickearth seen at a height of 12.48m OD and was noted at the base of a deep sondage inserted into the northeast corner of Trench 1 (Cipin, 2014).
- 4.4 At the time of the watching brief, the previous 1960s building had been demolished and site comprised a modern made surface which was recorded at an approximate level of 16.50m OD. However in the northeast corner of the site some localised excavation has already occurred to facilitate the removal of a buried oil tank; this rendered the ground level in this small area at a level of approximately 14.50m OD.



Plate 1: pre-excitation of the site (view east)

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background of this site has been researched in an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Mills Whipp Projects 2012); the following text forms a summary of that document (Brookes, 2014).

5.1 Prehistoric

- 5.1.1 Little evidence for activity for the prehistoric period has been found in the immediate vicinity of the site. The line of Old Street is thought to have its origins as a prehistoric trackway, but no archaeological evidence for this has ever been recorded. A pointed Palaeolithic handaxe was found close to the junction of City Road and Old Street in 1896. Recovered from the same general vicinity was a Bronze Age chisel.
- 5.1.2 The largest concentration of prehistoric material was recovered from investigations at the Honourable Artillery Ground, c. 330m west of the site. Forty-four sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were found along with struck and burnt flints, potentially recovered from a stream thought to be leading to the Walbrook. Iron Age pottery sherds have also been found to the south of Finsbury Square.

5.2 Roman

- 5.2.1 The Roman settlement of Londinium had begun to grow as a mercantile centre by AD 50. It was centred on the bridgeheads that had been built across the Thames after the Roman invasion in AD 43 and was situated approximately 700m to the south of the site. A large extra mural cemetery was located in the area of Finsbury Circus to the south. The construction of the City wall at the end of the 2nd century AD was probably one of the causes of the area becoming marshy, as the wall circuit interfered with the drainage regime of the River Walbrook.
- 5.2.2 A handful of Roman finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the site: a Roman cremation was found in 'Moorfields' and Roman pottery was found during a 1976 excavation on Bunhill Street, along with four bronze armlets found in 1912 on Old Street. The head of a Roman terracotta figurine was found somewhere on Paul Street, and on Scrutton Street a Roman bone needle was found. These types of finds and their small number are thought to be typical of the periphery of a major Roman settlement.

5.3 Saxon

- 5.3.1 The place-names "Hoxton", "Haggerston" and "Shoreditch" have Saxon origins and it is likely that the latter began to develop as a settlement in the 11th century. It was probably focussed on the church of St Leonard at the junction of what was Ermine Street and Old Street.
- 5.3.2 The walled City was largely abandoned by the Saxons until the 9th century in favour of a new trading settlement fronting the Strand at Covent Garden. With the exception of a supposed Saxon spur from 'Moor fields' there is no evidence for Saxon activity in the area of the site.
- 5.3.3 The Domesday Book of 1086 records that the Canons of St Paul's held nine acres of land

outside Bishopsgate in 1066. The area of the site itself is also thought to have belonged to St Paul's Cathedral, as in the medieval period, and was probably a bog.

5.4 Medieval

- 5.4.1 In the medieval period the area of Moorfields was part of the prebendal manor of Finsbury owned by St Paul's. A charter of William I mentioned the moor as a landmark. About 1180 the chronicler Fitzstephen wrote a description of London which included a description of Londoners skating in wintertime on 'that great marsh which washes the walls of the City on the north side'. An inspection of Moorfields in 1301 by the Lord Mayor's Court had to be undertaken by boat. The damp conditions have permitted the survival of many medieval artefacts including large quantities of leather, predominantly from shoes and waste material from industry, which would have been situated in the general vicinity of the site.
- 5.4.2 The medieval manor house Finsbury Court was located at the junction of Chiswell Street with Finsbury Pavement, on a natural prominence within Moorfields marsh. The manor house is depicted on the mid-16th century Copperplate map and was recorded during an archaeological excavation.
- 5.4.3 The area was transformed in 1415 when the Lord Mayor, Thomas Falconer, breached the City wall to make a new gateway, Moor Gate. This gate was probably only a postern as it was rebuilt in 1472 by the Mayor William Hampton. The causey or causeway became known as Finsbury Pavement.
- 5.4.4 In 1477 Ralph Joceline, Mayor, repaired the City wall between Aldgate and Aldersgate. He also caused 'Moorfields to be searched for clay, and brick thereof to made and burnt; he likewise caused chalk ... to be burnt into lime in the same Moorfields'.
- 5.4.5 In 1511 the Mayor 'caused dikes and bridges to be made, and the ground to be levelled, and made more commodious for passage, since which time the same hath been heightened' but 'yet it stood full of noisome water'. Stow considered that the 'moorish' nature of the ground would defy any long term drainage scheme. In 1527 Mayor Thomas Seymour improved the sluices and ditches and drained the marsh.
- 5.4.6 Archaeological investigations corroborate the picture presented by the historical sources. The area of Moorfields was crossed by streams such as those found at 101-117 Finsbury Pavement, 119-125 Finsbury Pavement, 7-21 Wilson Street and 19-23 Worship Street. Extensive medieval quarrying for brickearth and gravel has also been identified at numerous sites in the vicinity. These include 25-32 Chiswell Street, 10-13 Dominion Street, Finsbury Island Site, Finsbury Pavement, Finsbury Square, Goswell Road and Worship Street, along with interventions in advance of the construction of the London Overground east London Line at Shoreditch, where series of roadside medieval quarry pits were recorded (Bull et al. 2011, 28-33). These quarries acted as sumps for the surrounding ground and so acquired a marsh vegetation. The resulting deposits can be waterlogged and anaerobic which results in good organic preservation. Furthermore, as the disused quarries were ideal for garbage disposal vast amounts of waste leather, horn, wood and timber have survived in some instances.

5.5 Post-Medieval

- 5.5.1 As land reclamation proceeded large amounts of soil and debris were imported to raise the ground level. At Bonhill Street levelling was reportedly 10m deep but such a depth undoubtedly encompasses a backfilled quarry. Dumping to raise the ground level has also been recorded at City Road, Worship Street and Appold Street, between 1m to 5.5m thick.
- 5.5.2 In the early 17th century the paths crossing the fields were formalised as gravel walks and avenues of planted trees, being described in 1607 as 'the garden of this city and a pleasurable place of sweet airs for citizens to walk in'.
- 5.5.3 The copperplate map of the mid 16th century graphically illustrates the environs of the site. On Moorfields archers are shown practicing their skills while animals graze in the open fields. West of the site the main road follows the line of modern Moorgate before heading east along the line of Hog Lane (present day Worship Street) towards Bishopsgate.
- 5.5.4 By the time of Faithorne and Newcourt's map of 1658 there have been significant changes in the vicinity of the site. To the south and west a number of walled tenter-grounds had been established (for drying new cloth). London was expanding at this time beyond the tight confines of the City walls; the site however remained open ground.
- 5.5.5 During the Great Plague of 1665 additional graveyards were opened at Moorfields in Finsbury Fields. Samuel Pepys wrote on 30th August 1665 'I went forth to Moorfields to see (God forgive my presumption!) whether I could see any dead corpse going to the graves; but as God would have it did not'.
- 5.5.6 Moorfields became a refugee camp for the homeless following the Great Fire in 1666. Debris from the fire was spread over open ground around the City, including Moorfields, and has been found at 2-14 Bunhill Row.
- 5.5.7 Horwood in 1799 depicted the site as open ground but with a few small buildings in the central area, Paul Street having now been laid out. The tenements fronting on to Paul Street are not, however, shown to occupy the study site. By 1875 the site is shown to be occupied by buildings on the western Paul Street side and along the southern and eastern side of the site. A similar picture was presented in 1896 and 1913. The site suffered some bomb damage in the Second World War. The site was, up until its recent demolition as part of the current development of the site, occupied by a two storey 1960s building that had offices and a car park on the ground floor but does not have a basement.

5.6 Previous Archaeological Work in the Vicinity

- 5.6.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by PCA on the site immediately to the north of the current study site at 12-20 Paul Street (Site code: CLF 12). It consisted of three evaluation trenches which lay 20m, 35m and 52m north-east of the study site respectively.
- 5.6.2 They recorded a deposit sequence consisting of natural gravel, sealed by marsh alluvium, capped by post medieval made ground which in turn was cut by a modern basement.
- 5.6.3 The sequence for this evaluation is described as follows:

- Hackney Gravel – its surface was recorded at between 11.40m OD and 11.60m OD. It is described as yellow brown slightly silty gravelly sand. It was sealed by the marsh alluvium.
- Marsh alluvium – it was recorded at a maximum height of 13.54m OD and at its thickest, in some areas, was over 2m deep. It is described as homogenous and sterile gravelly clay and silty clay with infrequent organic lenses. In many areas its upper section had been truncated in the post medieval period. It was sealed by made ground.
- Made ground – late post medieval in date and at its highest point lay at 15.75m OD. It had an overall thickness of 2.20m to 2.50m. It is described as ‘stratified sequence of varying deposits which contained frequent brick and tile fragments’ possibly representing dumped reclamation material (Hawkins 2012).
- Modern basement – cutting the made ground on the northern side of the site was a 19th century brick basement. It was aligned north-south on the Clifton Street side of the site. Its floor lay at 14.25m OD.
- Sealing the sequence was a modern concrete surface which lay at about 16.50m OD.

5.6.4 A subsequent watching brief on the same site carried out in June 2014 (Brookes 2014) revealed a similar sequence although OD levels recorded suggest the land is somewhat uneven across the study area.

5.6.5 In September 2014 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief and evaluation at the study site (Cipin 2014). Three geotechnical test pits along the southern perimeter of the site were monitored and one trench, running diagonally in a northeast-southwest direction, was excavated.

5.6.6 The works recorded a sequence of naturally accumulated brickearth sealed by various layers of post medieval made ground which in turn was sealed by a 19th century cobbled surface.

5.6.7 The sequence for these works is described as follows:

- Naturally deposited brickearth – its surface was recorded in a deep sondage in the evaluation trench at a height of 12.48m. It is described as soft, mid yellow brown sandy clay with no visible inclusions. At the limit of excavation it had a thickness of 0.20m.
- Made ground – sealing the brickearth was a layer of 18th century made ground that is believed to relate to the raising and consolidation of the ground level. It was recorded as lightly indurated dark greyish brown sandy silt that was seen at heights of between 13.58m OD and 14.18m OD. This in turn was sealed by various layers of 19th century made ground and demolition rubble seen at heights of between 15.48m OD and 15.90m OD.
- 19th century cobbled surface – the made ground was sealed by a cobbled surface

seen at heights of between 16.78m OD and 16.88m OD. It is described as comprising of unworked granite cobbles and sets laid with an irregular coursing. It is suspected that this relates to the courtyard of the buildings depicted in the Ordnance Survey Map of 1875.

- The entire site was sealed by a modern concrete slab.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The mitigation watching brief was designed to comprise of two phases.
- 6.2 Phase 1 comprised of a pile probing trench to be excavated using a 360° HYMAC operating under archaeological supervision and control. It used a flat-bladed grading bucket to excavate through the soft ground so that an inspection could be made in plan and in section of the exposed stratigraphic sequence. The trench was approximately 1.5m to 2.0m wide, was approximately 30m long and was excavated to a depth of 5.0m below ground level.
- 6.3 Phase 2 of the project saw the bulk ground reduction to the various formation levels required for the development using a 360° HYMAC operating under archaeological supervision and control using a flat-bladed grading bucket to excavate through the soft ground so that an inspection could be made in plan and in section of the exposed stratigraphic sequence.
- 6.4 All aspects of the work followed national (IfA 2014) and local (GLAAS 2014) guidelines, and complied with PCA's own fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with methodologies stipulated within an approved WSI (Mayo 2015).
- 6.5 All significant archaeological features and deposits were investigated by hand tools where possible and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Photographs were taken where appropriate.
- 6.6 Plans, sections and the location of the interventions monitored were located by use of engineering site drawings and foundation location plans, which referenced piling lines and positions anticipated on site. Heights in this report are calculated as from below ground level.
- 6.7 Site records were compiled using unique site code PLS 14 that was obtained for the previous watching brief and evaluation work at the site.
- 6.8 For the purpose of simplifying identification of the locations of the various deposits, the works were divided into three trenches. Trench 2 relates to the Phase 1 pile probing trench, Trench 3 relates to the bulk reduction of the ground in the northeastern corner of the site and Trench 4 (Sub-labelled A-F) relates to the more general and targeted pile probing on the rest of the site (Figure 2).

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposits encountered during the works were natural sands and gravels visible in Trenches 2 and 4 [25 & 33] consisting of mid-light yellow brown sand. In places it had frequent inclusions of small round and sub angular pebbles (gravels) while in others it was just sand. The top of the deposit was recorded at a distance of approximately 4.9m below ground level, c11.60m OD. This level compares very well to the levels at which natural gravel was recorded at the adjacent site at 12-20 Paul Street, between 11.41m and 11.60m OD (Hawkins 2013, 12).
- 7.1.2 The natural sands and gravels were capped by a layer of naturally accumulated brickearth [24, 27, 32]. It comprised of firm, mid yellow brown sandy silty clay. In places there were no inclusions while in others there were frequent inclusions of small round and sub angular pebbles. Towards the eastern end of the site it was seen at a height considered to be untruncated, approximately 12.51m OD. In some places, particularly towards the center of the site, it was not present at all, presumably having been quarried out during the post medieval period.



Plate 2: Trench 3 - brickearth banding (view west)

7.2 Phase 2: Alluvial Marsh Deposits

- 7.2.1 Visible only in limited places in Trench 4, some remains of alluvial marsh deposits [31] were noted comprising of soft, mid greyish green clayey silt with occasional small round and sub angular pebbles. Two small fragments of post-medieval tile were also noted that presumably had sunk in from above. The top of the layer was recorded at approximately 13.30m OD,

compared to similar marshland deposits recorded to the north at between 13.20m OD and 13.54m OD (Hawkins 2013, 12).

7.3 Phase 3: 17th/18th Century

- 7.3.1 In Trench 2, approximately 6.20m from the western end of the trench and visible only in section, a cut was visible that had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was cut through the brickearth [24] and slightly into the natural sandy gravels [25]. This cut together with the absence of brickearth in the base suggests that this relates to brickearth extraction on this portion of the site. The top of the cut was at a level above 11.91m OD.



*Plate 3: Trench 2 – cut [23] showing natural gravels in base with brickearth to the side
(view south)*

- 7.3.2 Filling cut [23] and spread across the entire site was a layer [22, 26 & 30] of soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of animal bone, cbm, pot, shell, ctp, mortar and small round and sub angular pebbles. In places this deposit was particularly organic in nature. Pottery collected from context [22] has been dated to 1550-1700 (C Jarrett, pers. comm.) while the clay tobacco pipe had been attributed a spot date of 1700-1710 (C Jarrett, pers. comm.) and the cbm attributed a spot date of 1666-1700 (B Sudds, pers. comm). This deposit was seen at approximately 13.30m OD in Trench 2 and 13.90m OD in Trench 3, and it had an approximate thickness of 2.0m.
- 7.3.3 This phase represents the late 17th / early 18th century quarrying of brickearth from the site together with rubbish dumping and land reclamation that is likely to have taken place after the draining of the marshland.

7.4 Phase 4: 18th Century

- 7.4.1 Sealing fill/deposits [22] and [30] was a layer of 18th century made ground [21 & 29] comprising of mid-light brown sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of mortar and cbm (crushed 18th century building material). It was seen at a level of approximately 14.30m OD

and had a thickness of 1.00m.

7.5 Phase 5: 19th Century

- 7.5.1 Sealing layers [21] and [29] was 19th century made ground [20 & 28] comprising of loose, lightly indurated dark greyish brown silty sandy clay with frequent 19th century cbm fragments, wood, metal and pot. It had a thickness of 1.80m and was seen at approximately 16.00m OD.



Plate 4: Trench 2 – showing the post-medieval sequence (view southeast)

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1.1 Natural sands and gravels at 11.60m OD were sealed by a brickearth cap (which was not possible to witness in the earlier works). It is evident, however, that this brickearth cap occurs at varying depths with it being lower at the eastern end of the site than to the west, at c. 12.51m OD. Towards the centre of the site it is not present at all.
- 8.1.2 The presence of both brickearth and a cut through it to the natural sand is evidence for quarrying on the site. This quarrying is clearly not uniform across the whole site but varies in the level of intrusion. It was noted that in certain areas the brickearth contained a relatively high density of pebbles, almost a gravelly brickearth, which was perhaps less desirable to acquire and it is possible that intensive quarrying only took place in areas where the brickearth was seen as favorable. This banding of the different types of brickearth is noticeable in Plate 2.
- 8.1.3 While no marsh deposits were encountered during the earlier works, this watching brief phase was able to establish that there are, in fact, some limited alluvial marsh deposits still *in situ* at approximately 13.30m OD. The limited survival of these deposits can once again be attributed, at least in part, to quarrying activity on the site.
- 8.1.4 It has now been possible to attribute a date to the layer immediately sealing the brickearth with a spot date of 1700-1710. This would be in keeping with the dumping of rubbish and reclamation of land that took place after the draining of the marshland in the 16th century, raising ground level to between 13.30m and 13.90m OD.
- 8.1.5 The subsequent later post-medieval layers, previously identified in the 2014 watching brief and evaluation, are clearly in evidence across the entire site.
- 8.1.6 None of the interventions during both phases of the works revealed any deposits or features earlier than the post medieval period.
- 8.1.7 None of the brickearth exposed revealed any surviving archaeological features or deposits relating to the Saxon, Roman or prehistoric periods.
- 8.1.8 No further work is required for the finds recovered from the site.
- 8.1.9 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd does not consider that further specific post-excavation work for this planning condition is necessary or appropriate.

8.2 Publication

- 8.2.1 The results of the site investigation will be published as a brief note by PCA in the annual 'Round-Up' of *London Archaeologist*.

8.3 **Archive Quantification and Destination**

8.3.1 The archive from all PCA's work at the site comprises the following:

Context Sheets	33 Sheets
Plans @ 1:20	3 Sheets
Sections @ 1:10	7 (10 Sheets)
Photographs	127 images
Finds (all types)	1 Box

8.3.2 Upon approval of this report and with confirmation that the condition is discharged the complete archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre under the unique site code PLS 14.

8.4 **Confidence**

8.4.1 PCA considers that the archaeological work was completed in accordance with all relevant guidelines, best-practice documents and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

8.4.2 The work was undertaken in reasonable weather conditions. The Principal Contractor afforded appropriate care to the archaeological aims of the project and utilised careful excavation methods with grading buckets to allow close inspection of the site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Queensway Group and Mike Hutchinson of Mills Whipp Projects for commissioning the works. Thanks also go to Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for monitoring the works on behalf of the London Borough of Hackney.
- 9.2 The author would especially like to thank Mike Jameson and Scott Sim of McLaren Construction together with Kevin Hagerty and his team from Coffey Construction all of whom provided enthusiastic, friendly and unwavering support during the works.
- 9.3 I also thank Chris Mayo for his project management and editing of this report, Chris Jarrett for providing the assessments on the pottery and clay tobacco pipe, Berni Seddon for providing the assessment report on the ceramic building material and last but not least to Adela Murray-Brown for preparing the drawings.

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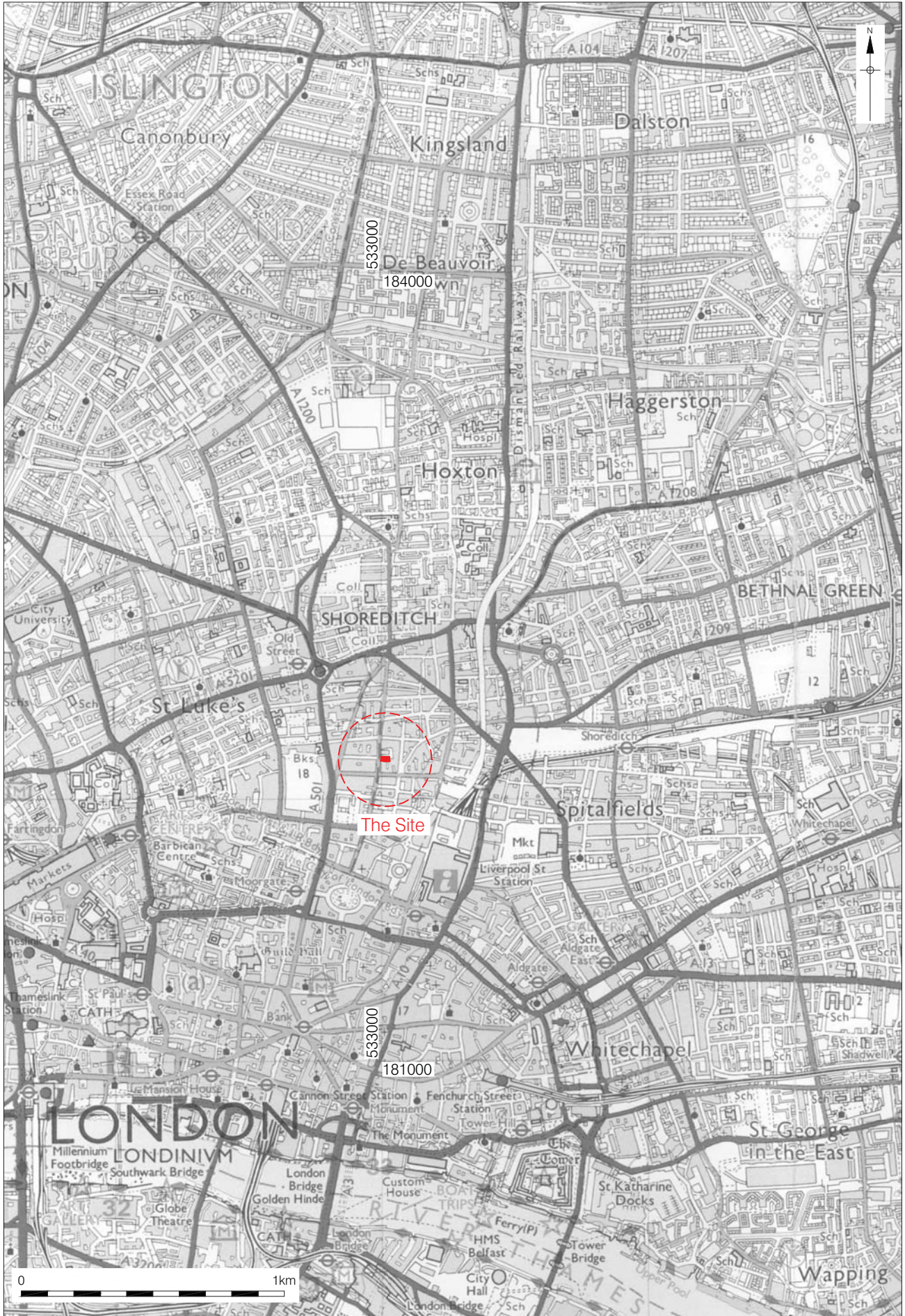
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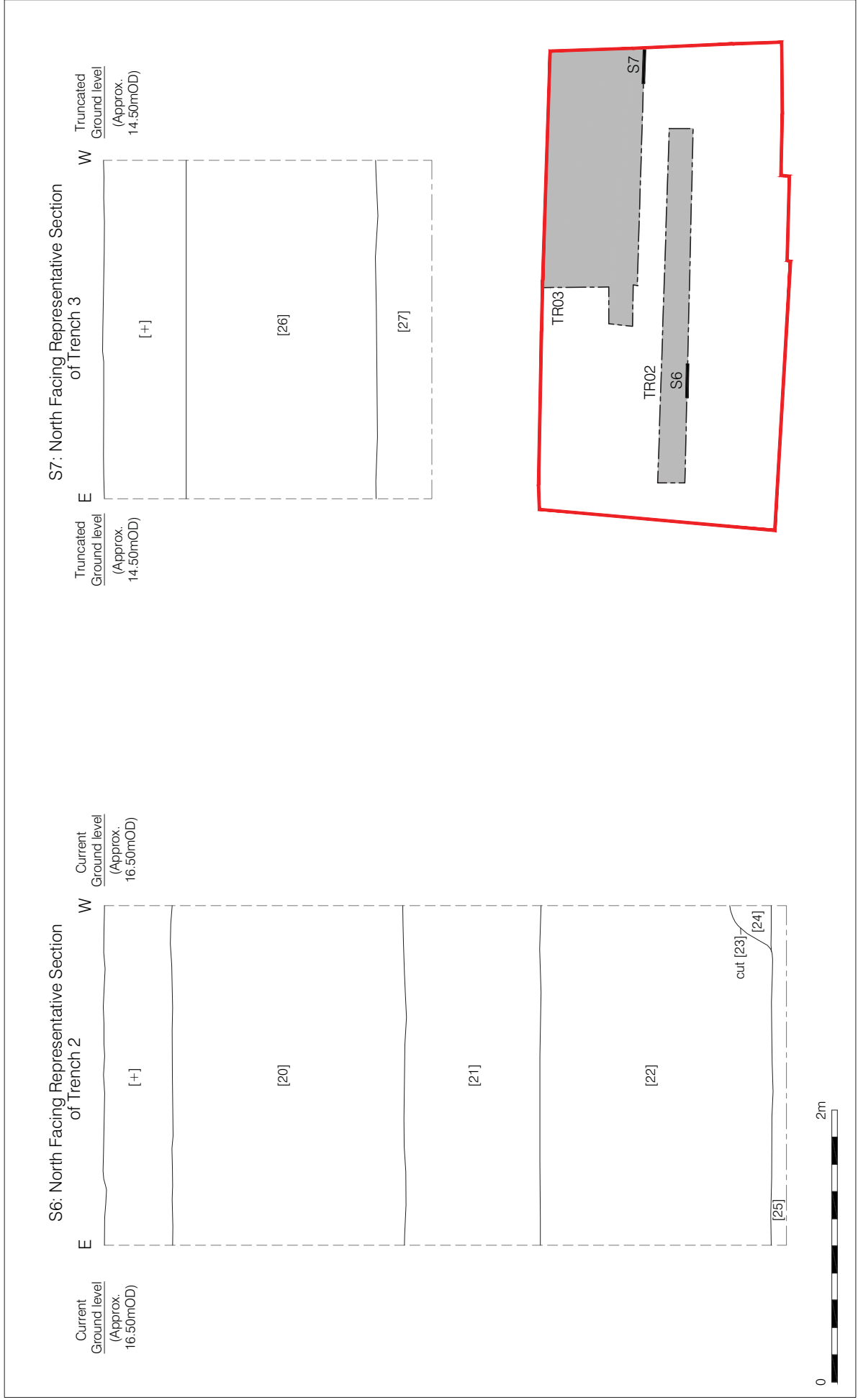
Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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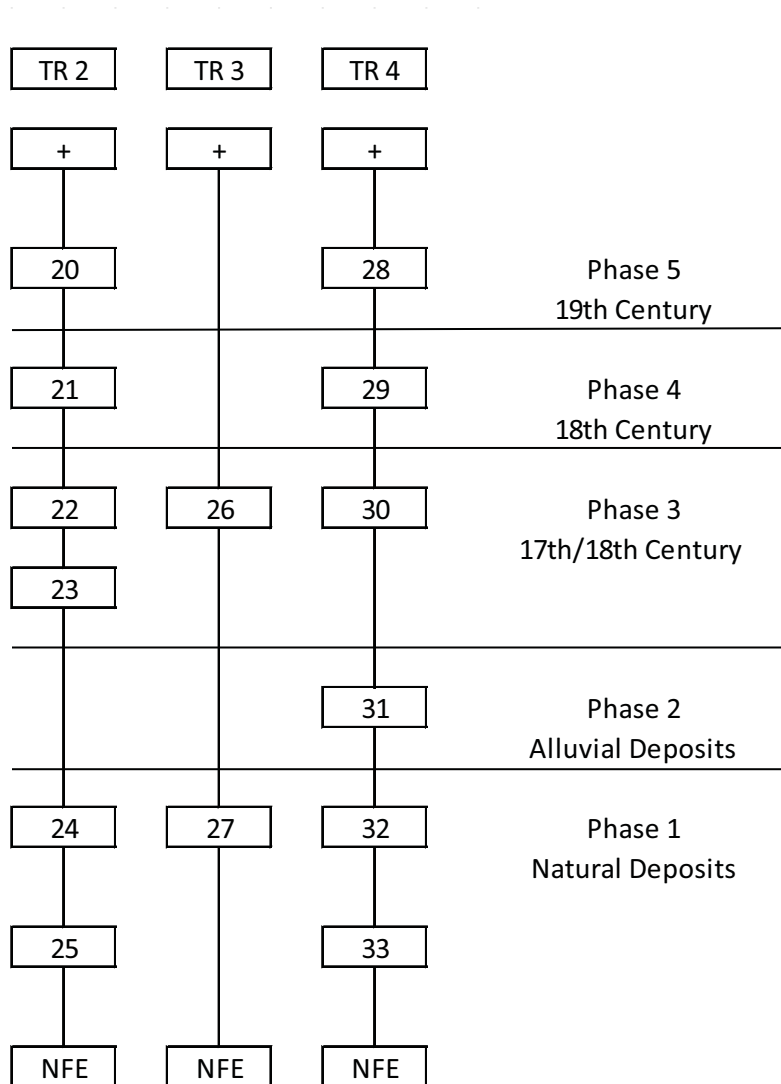
Figure 2
Area of Watching Brief and location of Evaluation Trench
and Geotechnical Test Pits
1:400 at A4



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Figure 3
Sections 6 and 7
Sections 1:40; Plan 1:400 at A4

APPENDIX 1: WATCHING BRIEF MATRIX



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Trench No.	Section No.	Type	Comments
20	TR 2	S. 6	Layer	19th C Made Ground
21	TR 2	S. 6	Layer	18th C made Ground
22	TR 2	S. 6	Layer	Silty/Marshy Deposits
23	TR 2	S. 6	Cut	Quarry Pit
24	TR 2	S. 6	Layer	Natural Brickearth
25	TR 2	S. 6	Layer	Natural Gravels
26	TR 3	S. 7	Layer	Silty/Marshy Deposits
27	TR 3	S. 7	Layer	Natural Brickearth
28	TR 4		Layer	19th C Made Ground
29	TR 4		Layer	18th C made Ground
30	TR 4		Layer	Silty/Marshy Deposits
31	TR 4		Layer	Alluvial Marsh Deposits
32	TR 4		Layer	Natural Brickearth
33	TR 4		Layer	Natural Sands

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-204878

Project details

Project name	8-10 Paul Street, Shoreditch, London, EC2A 4JH:an Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Following an archaeological watching brief and archaeological evaluation of this site in September a mitigation watching brief took place. It consisted of the monitoring of pile probing in various areas of the site with particular emphasis being placed on the northern side of the site where a basement was due to be constructed. The works revealed a sequence of natural sands and gravels sealed by a cap of naturally deposited brickearth which, in places, showed clear evidence of having been quarried out during the post-medieval period. In places there was evidence for some survival of alluvial marshland deposits presumably where brickearth quarrying had been less intrusive. The brick earth was sealed by a deposit of early post medieval made ground followed by subsequent layers of 18th and 19th century made ground.
Project dates	Start: 28-01-2015 End: 24-02-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	PLS14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2013/1345 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CTP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 8-10 Paul Street, Shoreditch, London, EC2A 4JH
Postcode	EC2A 4JH
Study area	578.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3305 8195 51.5202795154 -0.0820878495183 51 31 13 N 000 04 55 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.51m Max: 12.51m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Ian Cipin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Queensway Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	PLS14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	PLS14
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	PLS14
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	8-10 Paul Street, Shoreditch, London, EC2A 4JH: Assessment of an Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cipin, I.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R12029
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client report with blue covers

Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	17 March 2015

APPENDIX 4: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, PCA

Introduction

The post-Roman pottery assemblage consists of four sherds, representing four estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighing 117g. The pottery dates to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The condition of the pottery is good and comprises sherd material, although the evidence from the excavation indicates that it was dumped on the site under tertiary depositional circumstances. The pottery was recovered from one context.

Spot dating index

Context [22], spot date: 1550-1700

- Coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW), 1270-1500, two sherds, 2 ENV, 12g form: unidentified
- Coarse medieval sandy ware (MCS), 1140-1300, one sherd, 1 ENV, 20g form: cooking pot/jar.
- Surrey-Hampshire border whiteware (BORD), 1550-1700, one sherd, 1 ENV, 85g form: tripod pipkin (handle).

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery has no significance at a local level and it is found as types and forms frequently found in the London region and the material occurs in a small group without any meaning. The pottery also appears to have been dumped on site from a source elsewhere. The main potential of the pottery is to date the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work.

APPENDIX 5: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, PCA

INTRODUCTION

A small sized assemblage of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from the site (one box). All of the fragments are in a good condition, indicating fairly rapid deposition after breakage, although the evidence from the archaeological work indicates that the finds were dumped on the site and originated from another location. Clay tobacco pipes occur in one context as a small (under 30 fragments) sized group. All of the clay tobacco pipes (five fragments and present as three bowls and two stems) were classified by Atkinson and Oswald's (1969) typology (AO) and 18th-century bowls are according to Oswald (1975).

Spot dating catalogue

Context [22], spot date: c .1700-1710

- AO7: one spurred bowl, dated c.1610-40, bottered (rim made even, rounded and finished with a tool), three quarters milling of the rim, average quality of finish and no burnishing.
- AO10: one heeled bowl, dated 1640-1660, bottered and no milling, very good burnish.
- OS12: one heeled bowl, dated 1730-1780 with the back of the bowl missing.
- Stems: two fragments; both are of a medium thickness and one has a wide bore while the other has a medium sized bore

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The assemblage has little significance as the material occurs as a small group without much meaning and appears to have been dumped on to the study area from an offsite source. The only potential of the clay tobacco pipes is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

References

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APPENDIX 6: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Berni Sudds, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

A small group of medieval and post medieval ceramic building material was recovered, comprised of fragments of peg tile and brick (Table 1). The fabrics and forms are typical of the greater London region and merit no further analysis.

Context	Fabric	Form	Number	Date	Spot date
Unstratified	2271	Peg tile	1	1180 - 1500	-
22	3033	Unfrogged brick	1	1450 - 1700	1666 – 1700+
	3032	Brick fragment, yellow skin	1	1666 - 1900	
	2271	Peg tile	1	1180 - 1500	
	2586	Peg tile	1	1180 - 1500	
	2276	Peg tile, early post-medieval	2	1480 - 1700	
	2276	Peg tile, cut into a round. Stopper?	1	1480 - 1900	

Table 1: Ceramic building material

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
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FAX: 01223 845 522
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PCA WEST

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