Caxton Works, Caxton Street North, Canning Town, London Borough of Newham, E16: An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Local Planning Authority:	**London Borough of Newham**
Planning Application Number:	**13/01461/FUL**
Central National Grid Reference:	**TQ 39766 81042**
Site Code:	**CXT15**
Written and researched by:	**James Young Langthorne**
Project Manager:	**Tim Bradley**
Commissioning Client:	**CgMs Consulting**

Contractor: **Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London SE4 2PD
Tel: **020 7732 3925**
Email: tbradley@pre-construct.com
Website: www.pre-construct.com

April 2015

PCA Report No.: R12085

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Caxton Works, Caxton Street North, Canning Town, London Borough of Newham on land that was previously occupied by The Moss Buildings and Goswell Bakeries. Archaeological monitoring of the site was undertaken between 2nd February and 16th March 2015. The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting.

1.2 The archaeological programme for the watching brief consisted of monitoring deep excavations across the site, namely staircore and crane base excavations, in order to determine the presence or absence of any archaeologically significant remains, to provide additional information on the topographic sequence at the site and establish the impact that previous development had had on the site.

1.3 No discrete features or deposits relating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval periods were encountered during the archaeological investigation.

1.4 Natural gravel was not reached in any of the excavations, however the naturally deposited stratigraphic sequence that comprised upper and lower alluvium and thick, intermediate peat deposits, as described during previous geoarchaeological investigations, was observed. The topography of the peat deposits would appear to indicate a landscape which sloped from the south-west to the north-east.

1.5 Once this project is deemed complete and this report approved, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will eventually be deposited with LAARC under site code CXT15.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 2nd February and 16th March 2015, during groundworks at the Caxton Works, Caxton Street North, Canning Town, E16 in the London Borough of Newham (Figure 1). The site is bordered to the north by Jude Street, to the east by Huntingdon Street and the eastern extent by Hoy Street, to the south by Nelson Street and to the west by Caxton Street North. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 39766 81042.

2.2 The archaeological watching brief comprised monitoring staircore and crane base excavations in order to fulfil the following objectives as defined by the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2014):

- What is the nature, depth, survival and date of any archaeological deposits on the site?
- What information can be gathered to further understand the natural topographic sequence across the site?
- Is there any evidence for human occupation of the site within the alluvial sequence, particularly any evidence for prehistoric remains within the peat or at the surface of the underlying gravel?
- What has been the impact on the site by the previous development?

2.3 The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting with the archaeological watching brief being undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of James Langthorne and the project management of Tim Bradley. The watching brief was monitored by English Heritage GLAAS on behalf of the London Borough of Newham.

2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, digital and image records will eventually be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC), identified by the unique site code CXT15.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The Caxton Works watching brief was set up under the planning regulations that were current in 2013, specifically the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the London Plan and those criteria required by the London Borough of Newham. The following is a reiteration of the development background and development plan framework detailed in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Smith 2013).

3.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaces national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (PPS5: Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment). The Practice Guide issued in support of PPS5 is still valid however, and English Heritage has provided documentation translating former PPS5 policy into its NPPF counterpart.

3.3 Section 12 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 12 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

- Delivery of sustainable development
- Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment
- Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and
- Recognition of the contribution that heritage assets make to our understanding of the past.
- preservation.

3.4 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

3.5 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan published 22 July 2011.

3.6 The Newham LDF Core Strategy was adopted in January 2012 and contains the following general policy which protects heritage.

SP5 HERITAGE AND OTHER SUCCESSFUL PLACE-MAKING ASSETS 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 NON DESIGNATED 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.

3.12 A number of ‘saved’ policies in the Newham Unitary Development Plan continue to inform planning decisions following the adoption of the Core Strategy. The following ‘saved’ policy promotes the conservation, protection and enhancement of the boroughs archaeological heritage

POLICY EQ4 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.

3.13 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or particularly near the study site and the site does not lie within an 'Archaeological Priority Zone' defined on the Newham UDP Proposals Map.

3.14 Prior to the start of the project an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by PCA (Bradley 2014). This document was approved by the English Heritage Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Newham.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey Map (sheet 257 – Romford: 1996) defined the solid geology of the site principally as river alluvium and terrace deposits which are underlain by a sequence of London Clay, Woolwich and Reading Beds, Thanet Sands and Upper Chalk.

4.1.2 Several geotechnical/geoarchaeological investigations have previously taken place at the Caxton Works site including five geotechnical boreholes, two in the northern and three in the southern areas of the site, by K F Geotechnical in 2013 and three geoarchaeological boreholes in the northern area of the site by QUEST also in 2013 (Young 2014).

4.1.3 The K F Geotechnical boreholes demonstrated a sequence of River Terrace sand and gravel deposits between 4-4.5m below ground level sealed by 2-2.5m thick peat deposits. The peat deposits were in turn overlain by organic silty clay which was approximately 1m thick and finally by modern made ground. No datum heights were available for these boreholes (Smith 2013).

4.1.4 A similar sequence was recorded in the QUEST boreholes with a sand and gravel horizon succeeded by lower alluvium which was in turn sealed by peat. The peat deposit was subsequently overlain by upper alluvium and finally by made ground (Young 2014).

4.1.5 Radiocarbon dating of peat accumulation from a geotechnical investigation at St Luke's Square situated immediately to the north of the Caxton Works site indicated that the peat deposits originated from the early-mid Neolithic period into the middle Bronze Age (Bradley 2014).

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The Caxton Works site is located on the Thames floodplain to the west of the River Lea and the north of the River Thames and due to this close proximity to these two watercourses would have been prone to inundation during periods when sea levels were high and thus only capable of supporting marginal activity. During times of marine regression however the land surface would have been capable of supporting settlement or farming particularly following land reclamation in the 19th century.

4.2.2 The QUEST geoarchaeological investigation (Young 2014) indicates a variable topography for the site as illustrated in the following table:

Deposit	Highest level (m OD)	Lowest level (m OD)
Made Ground	1.50	1.00
Upper Alluvium	1.40	0.25
Peat	-0.41	-1.86
Lower Alluvium	-1.50	-1.86
Sand and Gravel Horizon	-1.97	-2.40

4.2.3 Ground level on site during the watching brief varied between 1.00-1.50m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background of the Caxton Works site. The information was principally taken from the Desk Based Assessment by CgMs Consulting (Smith 2013). This summary highlights the general trends and opportunities for archaeology in the area but should not be taken as being a comprehensive analysis.

5.2 Palaeolithic

5.2.1 The study site occupies a section of the Thames floodplain where Holocene fluvial and estuarine sediments deposited over the last 10,000 years mask the Pleistocene topography. Studies of the Thames river terraces indicate that the Taplow Gravels form a gravel terrace beneath the Holocene alluvium.

5.2.2 Elsewhere the gravel terraces of the Thames have produced a wealth of artefactual and palaeo-environmental evidence, however no Palaeolithic assemblages have been found in sediments laid down subsequent to the interglacial represented within the Taplow Formation, suggesting that the valley was no longer occupied by humans during this period.

5.2.3 There are no palaeolithic sites or finds recorded on the GLHER within a 500m radius of the study site.

5.3 Mesolitihic

5.3.1 The Mesolithic period is marked by rising sea levels resulting in an increasing water-logging of lower floodplain terraces and the origin and accumulation of areas of peat growth. The margins of the river and areas of peat provided a number of different resources which could have been exploited by mesolithic hunter-gathers. Currently little evidence exists to indicate the extent to which the Plaistow Levels were exploited.

5.3.2 There are no Mesolithic sites or finds recorded on the GLHER within a 500m radius of the study site.

5.4 Neolithic and Bronze Age

5.4.1 Geoarchaeological investigations, undertaken immediately north of the study site on land off St Luke's Square, established that peat accumulation occurred between the early to middle Neolithic period and into the middle Bronze Age.

5.4.2 The presence of palaeoenvironmentally rich peat deposits have also been located to the south of the site at Victoria Dock Road, at Dock Road and to the west of the site at Canning Town Limmo Site.

5.4.3 The available evidence for the Neolithic period suggests that settlement and agricultural activities would have focused on the dry gravel terrace further to the north of the study site, whilst the marshy and peat covered areas of the Levels might have attracted seasonal activities such as hunting and stock grazing.

5.4.4 There are no Neolithic or Bronze Age sites or finds recorded on the GLHER within a 500m radius of the study site.

5.5 Iron Age and Roman

5.5.1 A further period of marine transgression from the Iron Age onwards prevented further peat growth and resulted in the deposition of a thick deposit of clay and silt alluvium. The environment of the Levels would have become increasingly saline, and whilst still offering natural resources, would not have supported the diversity of fauna and flora of previous periods.

5.6 Saxon and Early Medieval

5.6.1 Although the detailed alluvial history of the post-Roman period is less well explored than for earlier periods, evidence from St Luke's Square suggests that the marine transgression which inundated this area in the Late Iron Age continued to render the area inhospitable and regularly, if not permanently, underwater.

5.7 Medieval

5.7.1 From the 1100's onwards, often under initiatives from various monastic landowners, increasing efforts were made to reclaim the Levels by the construction of marsh walls and ditched drainage systems, a process known as 'inning'.

5.7.2 It is clear that by the Middle Ages a regime of seasonal grazing by cattle and sheep existed on the Plaistow Levels, based on farmsteads sited on the gravel terrace to the north of the Caxton Works site.

5.7.3 As a result, although the Plaistow Levels have a low potential for settlement and artefactual evidence of this period, field boundaries/drainage ditches could have potentially remained extant within the alluvium.

5.8 Post-Medieval and Modern

5.8.1 The earliest plans showing the Caxton Works site were the 1742 John James Map of Plaistow and the 1745 John Rocque's Map of London, 1777 Chapman and Andre and the 1821 West Ham Tithe Map. All four maps show the study site occupying fields, probably used for livestock grazing.

5.8.2 By the 1860's the rapid urban expansion of Canning Town had formed Emily Street and Hoy Street which are shown as comprising terraced houses. The area of the site to the north of Emily Street was shown as remaining undeveloped at this time.

5.8.3 By the 1893 the site is shown entirely to comprise residential development. The site is shown to have existed in almost exactly the same layout from 1893 to 1937.

5.8.4 The LCC Bomb Damage Map does not cover Canning Town but it is an area known to have suffered heavily from German bombing raids during the Second World War. Post-war mapping from 1952 showed that the site was virtually cleared of the buildings which formerly occupied the area with just a few ruins left situated in the immediate area, indicating that the area around the Caxton Works site was indeed bombed. However a map dated to just a year later, 1953, showed the definite indications of regeneration within the area; specifically two buildings denoted as being 'Light Engineering Works' are recorded on the southern part of the site.

5.8.5 The small scale industrial character of the site was established by the early 1970s. Maps from the decade showed the site to mainly consist of works buildings and warehouses. A similar layout was retained up until the recent demolition works.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The initial outline in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bradley 2014) for the Caxton Works site required archaeological monitoring of deep excavations for a car stacker and a sprinkler tank. However subsequent revisions to the new buildings excised these structures from the ground works. Therefore it was agreed that the watching brief would focus on the staircore and crane base excavations, which represented the only elements of site excavation which would penetrate to the surface of, and into, the alluvial sequence on the site.

6.2 Archaeological monitoring (Figure 2 and Plate 1) took place on 3 staircores and 2 crane bases in the northern area of the site (Staircore 1-3 and Crane Base 1 & 2) and 1 staircore and 1 crane base in the southern area of the site (Staircore 5 and Crane Base 3). The table below summarises the dimensions of each of the excavations:

Excavation	Length at top (m)	Width at top (m)	Max. Depth (m)
Staircore 1	9.50	11.50	2.40
Staircore 2	10.65	8.15	2.00
Staircore 3	12.40	14.70	2.40
Staircore 5	6.50	5.00	2.50
Crane Base 1	6.30	9.70	2.15
Crane Base 2	7.35	7.35	1.96
Crane Base 3	8.90	9.00	2.75

6.3 All deposits were then recorded on pro forma context sheets. Excavation plans were drawn at a scale at 1:100 or 1:50 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. A photographic record was also kept of all the excavations.

6.4 Spot heights between 1-1.50m OD were established by each excavation using the height data provided by site survey.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.1.1 The earliest deposits seen in 3 of the 7 excavations was firm mid blue grey alluvial clay which was identified in Staircore 5 as [3], in Crane Base 1 as [13] and as [16] in Crane Base 2. The maximum height the alluvium was encountered at is summarised in the table below:

Context	Excavation	Height (m OD)
3	Staircore 5	-0.40
13	Crane Base 1	-0.24
16	Crane Base 2	-0.40

7.1.2 Overlying alluvium [3] in Staircore 5 was a 0.30m thick soft friable dark blackish brown peat with occasional root fragments. Peat deposits of a similar character were also seen as the earliest deposits in Staircores 1, 2 and 3 and also Crane Base 3, furthermore peat was also seen as one of the earliest deposits in Crane Base 1 but its relationship with alluvium [3] could not be established due to extensive modern truncation. The heights of these deposits are shown in the table below:

Context	Excavation	Height (m OD)
2	Staircore 5	-0.10
6	Staircore 1	-0.52
8	Crane Base 3	-0.40
10	Staircore 3	-0.97
12	Crane Base 1	-0.20
18	Staircore 2	-0.50

7.1.3 Overlying peat deposits [6] and [10] in Staircores 1 and 3 respectively were further deposits of firm mid blue grey alluvial clay. These alluvial deposits, [5] in Staircore 1 and [9] in Staircore 3, were between 1.03-1.10m thick and found at heights of 0.55m OD in Staircore 1 and 0.05m OD in Staircore 3.

7.1.4 These naturally deposited layers were consistent with the underlying geology of the site as identified during the QUEST and K F Geotechnical investigations. The topography of the peat deposits would appear to indicate a landscape which sloped downwards from the south-west to the north-east; the variation in height ranged between -1.60m OD and -0.97m OD in the north-east of the Caxton Works site (as seen in QUEST borehole QBH 2 – Young 2014 and Staircore 3 respectively) and -0.10m OD and -0.20m OD in the south-west (recorded in Staircore 5 and Crane Base 1 respectively). Typically heights in the remainder of the excavations varied between -0.40 and -0.52m OD.

7.2 Phase 2 – Exposed alluvium

7.2.1 Sealing natural clay deposits in all of the excavations, with the exception of Staircore 3, were layers composed of fairly firm- soft light brownish grey clay with occasional brick fragments, charcoal flecks and small sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded pebbles identified as [1], [4], [7], [11], [15] and [17]. The dimensions of this exposed/weathered clay horizon are detailed in the table below:

Context	Excavation	Thickness (m)	Height (m OD)
1	Staircore 5	0.90	0.80
4	Staircore 1	0.45	1.00
7	Crane Base 3	0.60	0.20
11	Crane Base 1	1.40	0.84
15	Crane Base 2	1.78	0.85
17	Staircore 2	1.00	0.15

7.2.2 No discrete archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this deposit

7.3 Phase 3 – Modern

7.3.1 Deposits in all 7 excavations had been subsequently overlain by layers of made ground formed by the demolition and redevelopment of the Caxton works site. The made ground was typically described as fairly firm mid-light brownish grey clay silt with frequent-moderate concrete and brick fragments, occasional-moderate rebar, occasional plastic fragments and occasional-moderate small-medium sized angular/sub-angular/sub-rounded/rounded pebbles. The dimensions of the modern made ground are detailed in the table below:

Excavation	Maximum depth (m)	Height (m OD)
Staircore 1	0.50	1.50
Staircore 2	0.51	1.00
Staircore 3	1.15	1.20
Staircore 5	0.40	1.20
Crane Base 1	0.46	1.30
Crane Base 2	0.20	1.00
Crane Base 3	1.00	1.20

[7] that was subsequently capped by modern made ground [+].

8.7.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Crane Base 3.

8 EXCAVATION SUMMARY

8.1 Staircore 1 (Figures 3 & 4 and Plate 2)

8.1.1 The base of Staircore 1 revealed natural peat [6] which was overlain by alluvium [5] that was in turn sealed by exposed alluvial clay [4] and finally by modern made ground [+].

8.1.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Staircore 1.

8.2 Staircore 2 (Figures 3 & 4)

8.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Staircore 2 was natural peat [18] that was sealed beneath exposed alluvial clay [17] and was in turn overlain by modern made ground [+].

8.2.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Staircore 2.

8.3 Staircore 3 (Figures 3 & 4 and Plate 3)

8.3.1 The base of Staircore 3 revealed natural peat [10] which was overlain by alluvium [9] that was subsequently capped by modern made ground [+].

8.3.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Staircore 3.

8.4 Staircore 5 (Figures 3 & 4)

8.4.1 The base of Staircore 5 revealed alluvium [3] which was overlain by peat [2] that was in turn sealed by exposed alluvial clay [1] and finally by modern made ground [+].

8.4.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Staircore 5.

8.5 Crane Base 1 (Figures 3 & 4 and Plate 4)

8.5.1 Two deposits were recorded at the base of Crane Base 1: alluvium [13] on the western side of the excavation and peat [12] on the eastern side. Unfortunately due to a large linear modern truncation, the relationship between these natural deposits was no longer extant. Both the peat and the alluvium were then sealed by exposed alluvial clay [11] which was in turn capped by modern made ground [+].

8.5.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Crane Base 1.

8.6 Crane Base 2 (Figures 3 & 4)

8.6.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Crane Base 2 was alluvium [16] that was sealed beneath exposed alluvial clay [15] and was in turn overlain by modern made ground [14].

8.6.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered in Crane Base 2.

8.7 Crane Base 3 (Figures 3 & 4)

8.7.1 The base of Crane Base 3 revealed natural peat [8] which was overlain by exposed alluvial clay

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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

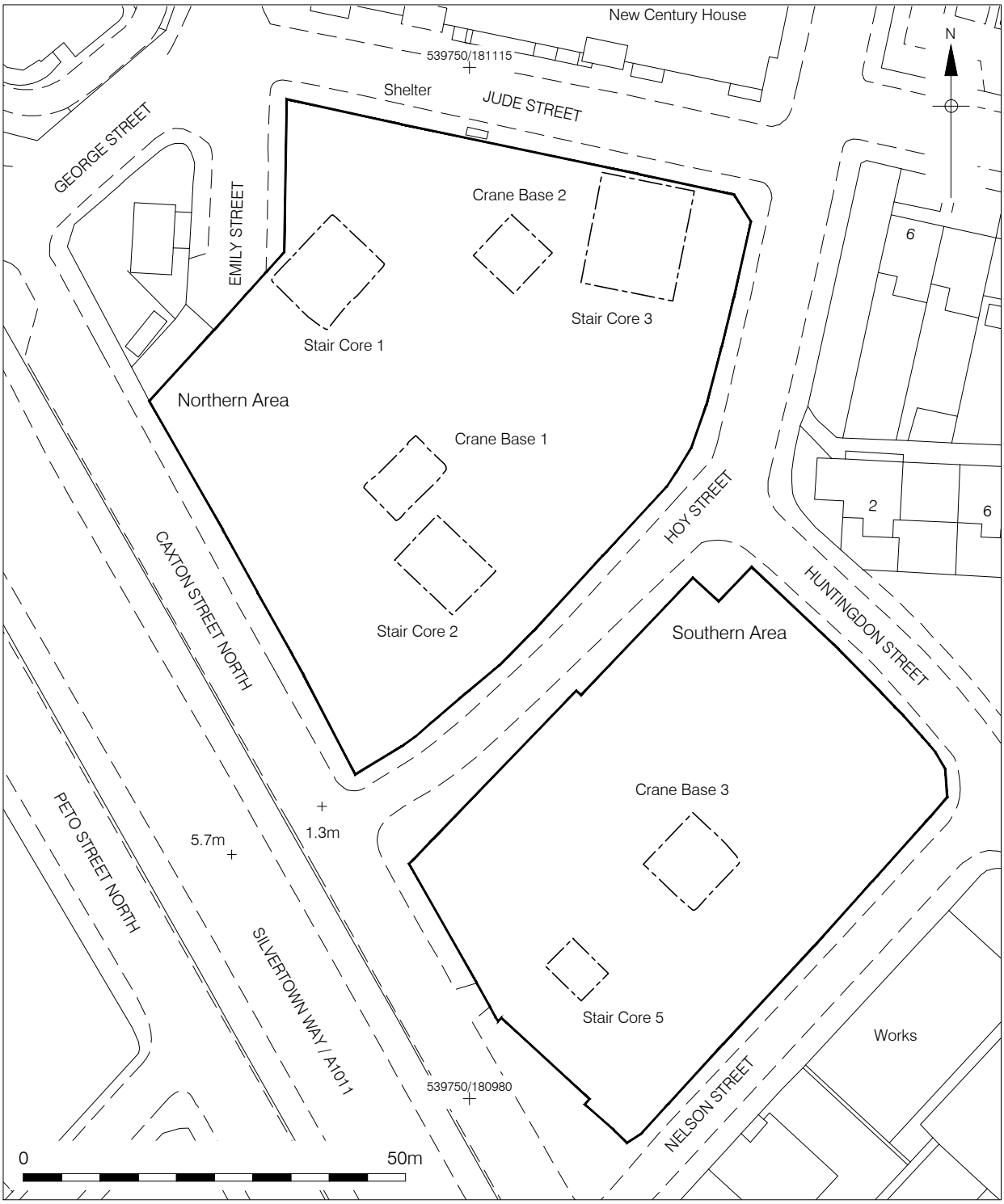

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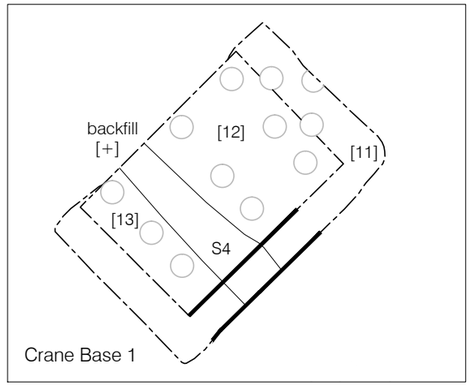
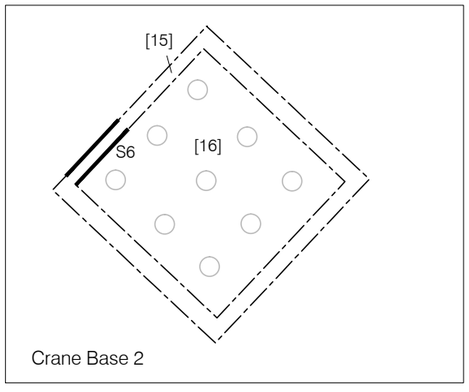
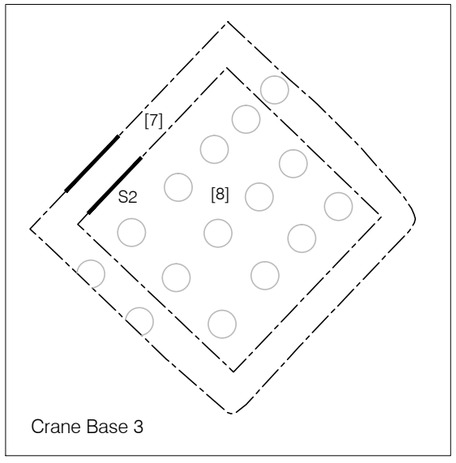
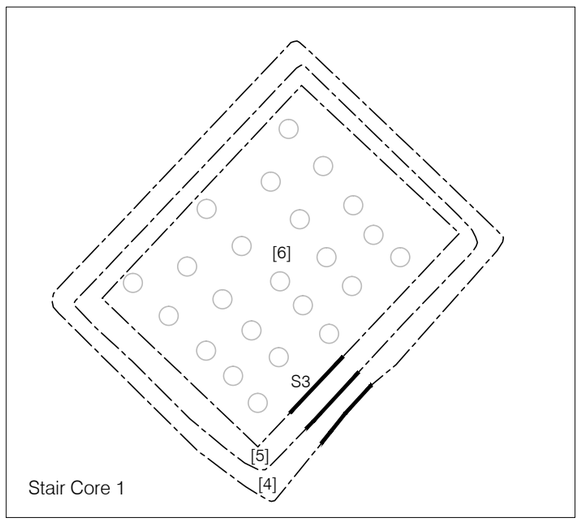
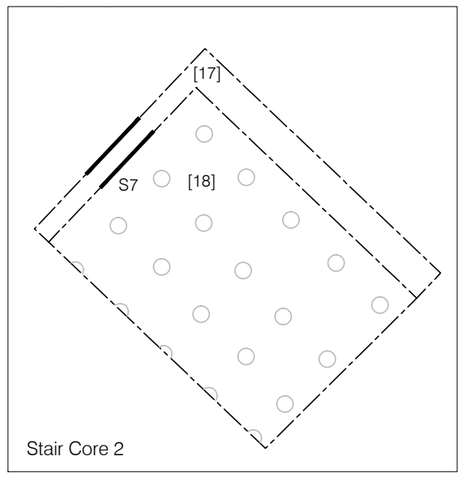
Figure 2
Trench Location
1:800 at A4

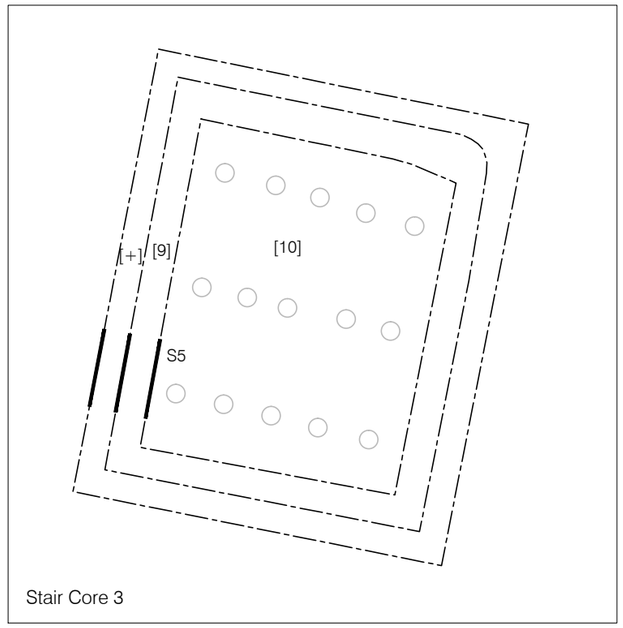


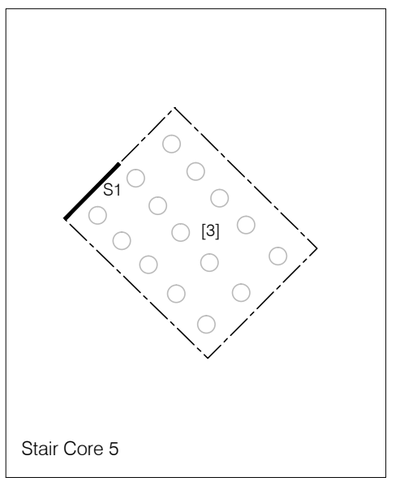










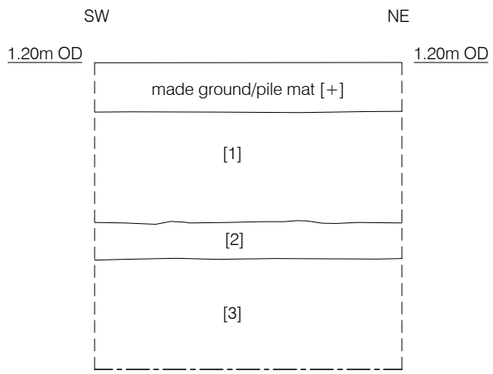


pile cap [+]

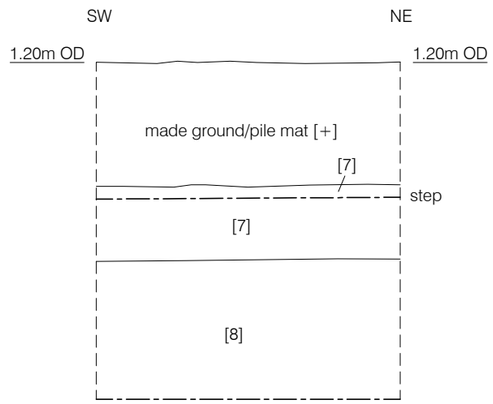
0 10m

30/04/15 JS

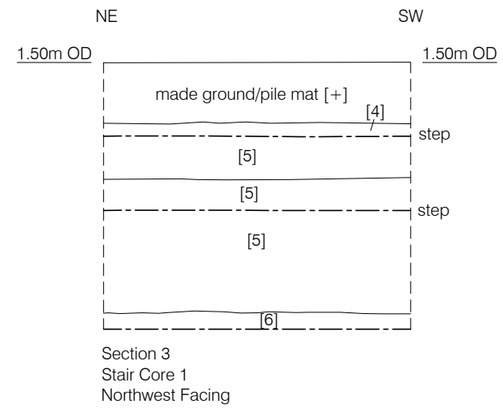
Figure 3
Plan of Crane Bases 1 - 3 and Stair Cores 1 - 5
1:200 at A3



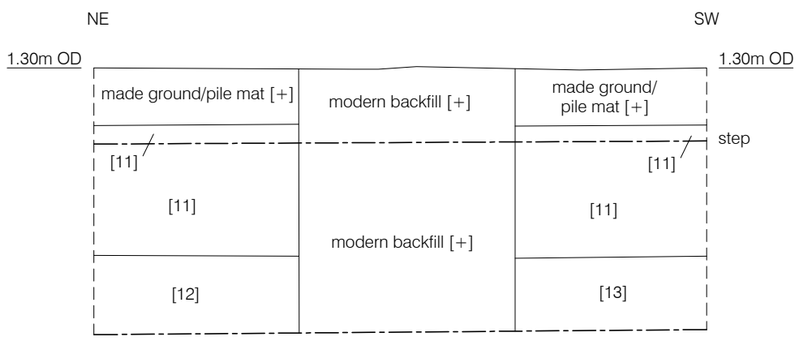
Section 1
Stair Core 5
Southeast Facing



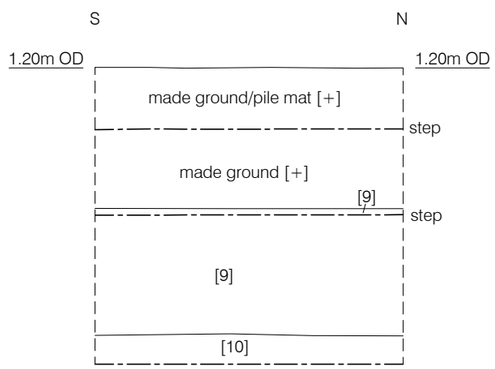
Section 2
Crane Base 3
Southeast Facing



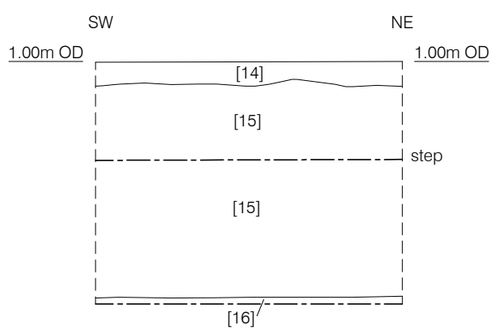
Section 3
Stair Core 1
Northwest Facing



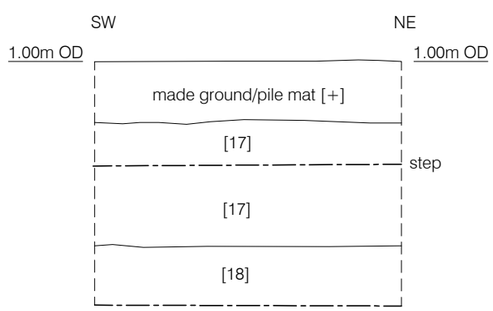
Section 4
Crane Base 1
Northwest Facing



Section 5
Stair Core 3
East Facing



Section 6
Crane Base 2
Southeast Facing



Section 7
Stair Core 2
Southeast Facing

30/04/15 JS

Figure 4
Sections 1 - 7
1:50 at A3

Plate 1 – South-East facing view of Northern Area of site

Plate 2 – East facing view of Staircore 1

Plate 3 – South facing view of Staircore 3

Plate 4 – South facing section in Crane Base 1

9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the Caxton Works site (Bradley 2014) was to establish:

- What is the nature, depth, survival and date of any archaeological deposits on the site?
- What information can be gathered to further understand the natural topographic sequence across the site?
- Is there any evidence for human occupation of the site within the alluvial sequence, particularly any evidence for prehistoric remains within the peat or at the surface of the underlying gravel?
- What has been the impact on the site by previous development?

9.2 No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered during the watching brief within any of the staircore or crane base excavations.

9.3 Although natural gravel was not reached in any of the excavations the naturally deposited stratigraphic sequence that comprised upper and lower alluvium and intermediate peat deposits, as described during the QUEST and K F Geotechnical investigations (Young 2014 & Smith 2013), was observed. The topography of the peat deposits would appear to indicate a landscape which has a notable declination from the south-west to the north-east.

9.4 Previous development on site had completely truncated any potential historic archaeological deposits on site, with only modern made ground sealing the natural alluvium and peat.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and Adam Single of English Heritage for monitoring the site.

10.2 The author would like to thank Angus Gillespie and Chris Drennan of Galliard Construction and the Modebest ground crew for all of their assistance on site, Tim Bradley for project managing the site and editing this report and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley, T. 2014. *Caxton Works, The Moss Buildings and Goswell Bakeries, Caxton Street North, Canning Town: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.* Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report.

Smith, M. 2013. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Caxton Works, The Moss Buildings and Goswell Bakeries, Caxton Street North, Canning Town, London Borough of Newham.* CgMs Consulting unpublished report.

Young, D.S. 2014. *Caxton Works, The Moss Buildings and Goswell Bakeries, Caxton Street North, Canning Town (NGR: TQ 397 810): Interim Report on the Geoarchaeological Investigations*. QUEST unpublished report.

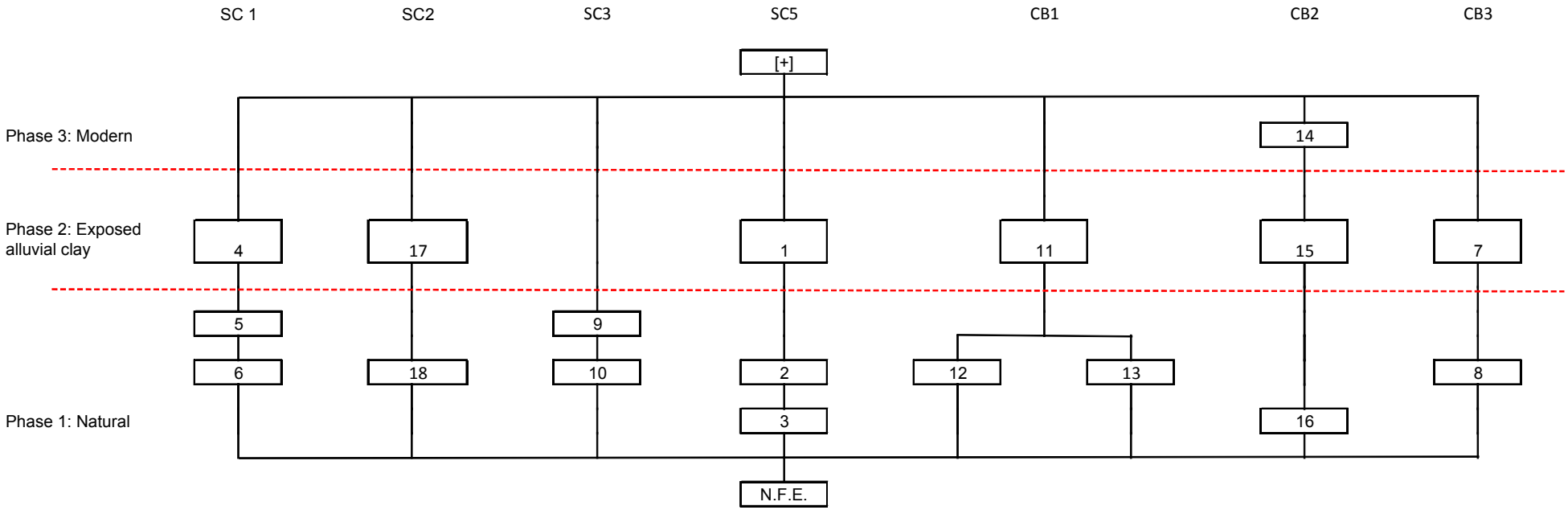
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Details	Notes
1	Staircore 5	-	S1	Layer	Exposed alluvial clay	Fairly firm-soft light brownish grey clay with occasional brick flecks and fragments	-
2	Staircore 5	-	S1	Layer	Peat	Soft/friable dark blackish brown peat with occasional timber and root fragments	-
3	Staircore 5	Staircore 5	S1	Layer	Alluvium	Firm mid blue grey clay	Not bottomed
4	Staircore1	Staircore 1	S3	Layer	Exposed alluvial clay	Fairly firm light brownish grey clay with occasional brick flecks and fragments	-
5	Staircore 1	Staircore 1	S3	Layer	Alluvium	Firm mid blue grey clay	-
6	Staircore 1	Staircore 1	S3	Layer	Peat	Soft/friable dark blackish brown peat with occasional timber and root fragments	Not bottomed
7	Crane Base 3	Crane Base 3	S2	Layer	Exposed alluvial clay	Fairly firm-soft light brownish grey clay with occasional brick flecks and	-

						fragments	
8	Crane Base 3	Crane Base 3	S2	Layer	Peat	Soft/friable dark blackish brown peat with occasional timber and root fragments	Not bottomed
9	Staircore 3	Staircore 3	S5	Layer	Alluvium	Firm mid blue grey clay	-
10	Staircore 3	Staircore 3	S5	Layer	Peat	Soft/friable dark blackish brown peat with occasional timber and root fragments	Not bottomed
11	Crane Base 1	Crane Base 1	S4	Layer	Exposed alluvial clay	Fairly soft light brownish grey clay with occasional brick flecks and fragments	-
12	Crane Base 1	Crane Base 1	S4	Layer	Peat	Soft/friable dark blackish brown peat with occasional timber and root fragments	Not bottomed
13	Crane Base 1	Crane Base 1	S4	Layer	Alluvium	Firm mid blue grey clay	Not bottomed
14	Crane Base 2	-	S6	Layer	Made Ground	Fairly firm mid-light brownish grey clay silt with moderate concrete, rebar and brick	-

						fragments	
15	Crane Base 2	Crane Base 2	S6	Layer	Exposed alluvial clay	Fairly firm light brownish grey clay with occasional brick flecks and fragments	-
16	Crane Base 2	Crane Base 2	S6	Layer	Alluvium	Firm mid-light blue grey clay	Not bottomed
17	Staircore 2	Staircore 2	S7	Layer	Exposed alluvial clay	Fairly firm light blue-brownish grey clay with occasional brick flecks and fragments	-
18	Staircore 2	Staircore 2	S7	Layer	Peat	Soft/friable dark-mid blackish brown peat with occasional timber and root fragments	Not bottomed

APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-207306

Project details

Project name	Caxton Works, Caxton Street North, Canning Town
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief that monitored staircore and crane base excavations, in order to determine the presence or absence of any archaeologically significant remains, to provide additional information on the topographic sequence at the site and establish the impact that previous development had had on the site. No discrete archaeological deposits were encountered and the topographic sequence was similar to that encountered during previous geotechnical investigations.
Project dates	Start: 02-02-2015 End: 16-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CXT15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PEAT Neolithic
Monument type	PEAT Bronze Age
Monument type	ALLUVIUM None
Significant Finds	NONE None

Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM CANNING TOWN Caxton Works, Caxton Street North
Postcode	E16
Site coordinates	TQ 39766 81042 51.5104937441 0.014300242121 51 30 37 N 000 00 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -0.97m Max: -0.10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Projectdirector/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	James Langthorne

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	CXT15
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	CXT15
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	CXT15
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Caxton Works, Caxton Street North, Canning Town, London Borough of Newham, E16: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Langthorne, J.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archeology Ltd.

Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 soft cover grey literature report.