

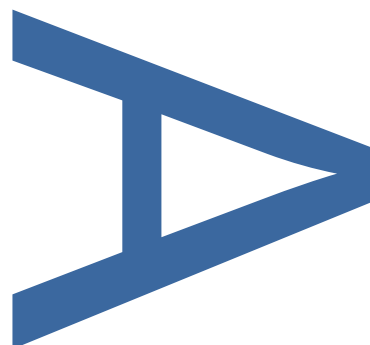
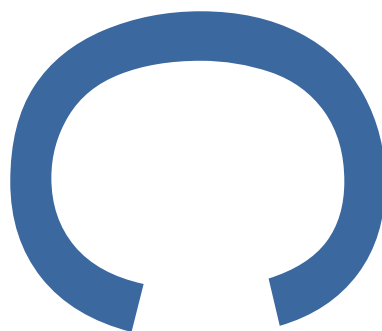
**157 HIGH STREET NORTH, EAST HAM E6
1JB:**

**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

PCA REPORT NO. R12454

APRIL 2016



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

157 HIGH STREET NORTH, EAST HAM, E6 1JB

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

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Project Number	K4335
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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Phil Frickers		22 April 2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Ray Murphy		26 April 2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		27 April 2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Gemma Stevenson		27 April 2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at 157 High Street North, East Ham E6 1JB.

Central National Grid Reference:	TQ 42362 84091
Local Planning Authority:	London Borough of Newham
Site Code:	HIN 16
Project Manager:	Gemma Stevenson
Written and Researched by	Phil Frickers
Commissioning Client: Limited	Attwood Design on behalf of Cashino Gaming
PCA Report Number:	R12454
Contractor:	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre 96 Endwell Road Brockley London SE4 2PD
Tel:	020 7732 3925
Fax:	020 7733 7896
E-mail:	gstevenson@pre-construct.com
Web:	www.pre-construct.com

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief at 157 High Street North, East Ham, London Borough of Newham E6 1JB. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and commissioned by Attwood Design on behalf of Cashino Gaming Limited. The area monitored measured 8.75 metres long by a maximum of 4.90 metres wide. Into this area trenches with a total length of 17.80 metres were excavated. These had a width of 0.45 metres and a depth of 1.75 metres deep below current ground level. The area of the site was fairly flat and a nearby Ordnance Survey ground value was 8.40m AOD.
- 1.2. Natural deposits were identified as a fairly stiff light yellowish brown sandy clay in the trenches excavated at a depth of between 6.80m and 6.60m AOD.
- 1.3. Above the natural layers found was a thick layer of what was interpreted as agricultural soils with a similarly thick layer of associated subsoils.
- 1.4. Postdating the agricultural soils in the archaeological stratigraphy were a number of cut features. At the west end of the site a large shallow pit, a small fairly modern rubbish pit against the northern section, and a modern cut probably for a water pipe.
- 1.5. No archaeological features or artefacts of any earlier date were found in the trenches excavated.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Attwood Design to conduct an Archaeological Watching Brief at 157 High Street North, East Ham, London Borough of Newham E6 1JB, during work to add an extension to the rear of the present building (Figure 2).
- 2.2. The watching brief consisted of ground reduction of the area involved by up to 0.40m, and then the excavation of trenches for foundations to support the new extension and a drainage trenches. In all there were 5 trenches (Figure 3). Sizes were as follows :-

Trench 1	Foundation	1.90m N-S	1.10m E-W
Trench 2	Foundation	0.50m N-S	1.50m E-W
Trench 3	Foundation	5.55m N-S	2.30m E-W
Trench 4	Foundation	1.90m N-S	4.20m E-W
Trench 5	Drainage	2.50m N-S	6.00m E-W

- 2.3. All the trenches were 450mm in width and up to 1.50m in depth.
- 2.4. The study site was located to the rear of 157 High Street North. This was to the west of the present building. The site was bounded to the east by the main building of 157 High Street, to the north and south by the yards and outbuildings of adjacent buildings, and to the west by an access alleyway to Bendish Road to the south.
- 2.5. The site covered an area of c. 45 square metres and was centred at NGR TQ 42362 84091.
- 2.6. The work was carried out on the 11th-12th, 14th-15th and 20th April 2016. The monitoring of the site was carried out by Phil Frickers and the project was managed by Gemma Stevenson, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 2.7. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 2.8. The site was allocated the unique site code HIN 16.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The aims and objectives for the mitigation are as follows:
- The main aim of the watching brief is to preserve 'by record' the extent and significance of any surviving archaeological features and deposits within the site.

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. Geology

- 4.1.1. The British Geological Survey indicates the underlying geology of the site consists of Taplow Gravels deposited during the Quaternary period by fluvial action forming part of the Thames Gravel Terraces. The gravel terraces are series of steps eroded by the River Thames during the Upper Palaeolithic between c. 12,000 and 9,500 BC, prior to the warming following the end of the last Ice Age.
- 4.1.2. The superficial geology of the site comprised alluvial sandy clay, probably of Holocene date.
- 4.1.3. The River Roding runs north to south approximately 1.2km east of the study site, joining the River Thames southeast of the site. The Thames itself runs west to east 4km to the south.

4.2. Topography

- 4.2.1. The site is located on relatively flat land at 8.40m AOD. Land rises to the north and slopes away to the rivers to the south and east.

4.3. Archaeology

- 4.3.1. The proposed site lies within the East Ham Archaeological Priority Area (APA). This demarcates the three linked historic settlements of North End, East Ham and South End and a Roman settlement.

Prehistoric

- 4.3.2. Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered from the terrace gravels to the south of the site, whilst there is Neolithic and Bronze Age potential on the Thames gravel terraces as a whole, particularly where tributaries such as the Roding connect. Although a Bronze Age celt was found beyond the Study Area there is no reason to believe significant remains of these dates underlay this particular site. However, Iron Age activity in the area is demonstrable via trial trenching finds of an early Iron Age pit and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features at two nearby locations at 137-141 and 149-153 High Street North respectively. It is possible this road follows a prehistoric route with attendant settlements along its course.
- 4.3.3. Roman and prehistoric finds have been uncovered throughout the Archaeological Priority Area and an excavation at 149-153 High Street North in 2006 found a number of features and finds dating to both periods. This evidence suggests that prehistoric and Roman settlements were located within the Archaeological Priority Area.
- 4.3.4. The archaeological excavation carried out at 149-153 High Street North in 2006 yielded five possible Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pits and a possible eaves drip gully were identified at the southern end of the site. A residual Neolithic scaper was found in the fill of a Roman L-shaped ditch, found in the northern part of the site and interpreted as either part of an enclosure or a field boundary.

Roman

- 4.3.5. The area is likely to have been farmed in the Roman period and some indications of

settlement are known within the Study Area and in the wider vicinity (including Roman artefacts from the parish church). The course of High Street North is also believed to follow the course of a Roman route linking the East Ham floodplain pasture levels to the south. Nevertheless there is no specific reason to suspect a Roman presence at the Site.

- 4.3.6. St Mary Magdalene church is at the southern end of the Archaeological Priority Area. Parts of it date to the 12th century although an earlier church building may have stood on the site. The church is near the site of a Roman cemetery and a number of Roman finds have been uncovered in the vicinity of St Mary's. Remains from the cemetery were uncovered during the construction of a sewer in 1863 near the site of what is now Roman Road. One stone coffin, two wooden coffins, three lead coffins and approximately 20 cremation urns were excavated. More than 30 skeletons were also observed and excavated pottery was used to date the cemetery to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The number of burials suggests that a Roman settlement was located nearby.

Medieval

- 4.3.7. The village, comprising a series of hamlets was present by the late Saxon period and there are 15th century references to High Street. Cross roads attract settlement and it is possible that medieval and earlier post-medieval activity began near the south of the Site.
- 4.3.8. According to the Domesday Book, East Ham was already a substantial rural settlement by the 11th century and had apparently grown rapidly after the Norman Conquest. Until the 20th century the village of East Ham comprised of three distinct hamlets, called North End, East Ham and South End, which were spread out along what is now High Street North and High Street South. North End was located near to East Ham station; East Ham was concentrated near to the junction of Barking Road and the High Street while South End was to the south of Barking Road as far as the parish church of St Mary Magdalene. At the end of the 19th century the area retained a rural character and it was still possible to discern the three separate parts of East Ham. However, by 1920 all three settlements had been joined together by the development of housing and other buildings and many earlier buildings had been demolished.
- 4.3.9. A watching brief carried out in 2001 at 137-141 High Street North revealed pottery from a red slip bowl dated to 1480-1550.

Post-Medieval

- 4.3.10. There is some potential for survival of footings and/or cellars associated with the post-medieval farm buildings. East Ham Hall was built slightly to the north of St Mary Magdalene church and was the manor house for East Ham in the medieval period. At some point the hall became a farm called Manor Farm which appears on Ordnance Survey maps until the end of the 19th century.
- 4.3.11. Historic maps show that in the mid-19th century the type of buildings along the High Street consisted of farms, cottages, inns, almshouses and a number of large country houses. Rancliffe House was located in South End on the south side of what is now Central Park on Rancliffe Road. Oak Hall, East Ham House, Temple House and Wakefield House were in East Ham while Wood House and The Limes were built in North End. Plashet Park was formerly the grounds of Wood House. Most of these houses dated to the 18th century but while some survived into the early 20th century none of them exist anymore.
- 4.3.12. A watching brief carried out in 2001 at 137-141 High Street North revealed early post-med deposits. A linear feature was excavated which contained potsherds dating to 1580-1700. The excavation at 149-153 High Street North revealed a number of smaller post holes dated to the post medieval period were found in the centre of the site. Other post medieval features recorded consisted of an 18th century brick-built cess pit and

19th century rubbish pits.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations in advance of the construction of a one storey extension to the rear of the main building of 157 High Street North.
- 5.2. The groundworks were excavated by a 360° rubber tracked 1.5 ton mini digger. First, ground reduction of up to 0.40 metres took place to allow space for the construction of substructures for the new floor. Trenching then took place around the perimeter of the extension. In all the trenches were 12.70 metres in length. They were 0.45 metres in width and extended to a depth of up to 1.90 metres below the present floor level.
- 5.3. Following the pouring of the concrete foundations, a drainage trench running west to east was excavated and material removed from the north-south sewer at the east end of site. The trench was 0.45 metres in width, and sloped up from 1.75 metres in depth at the east end to 0.70 metres in depth at the west end.
- 5.4. Ground reduction took place with a 750mm wide grading bucket excavating in 100mm spits, and the trenches were excavated by a 450mm wide bladed bucket. The spoil generated by the foundations was removed from site by wheelbarrow. Much of the spoil from the drainage trench was stored on site with the intention of returning it to the trench after the pipe had been laid.
- 5.5. Recording was made with drawn and measured plans and sections, descriptions of ground were noted on pro forma sheets and a digital photographic record of the excavation was kept.
- 5.6. All relevant health and safety legislation, CDM and COSHH regulations and codes of practice on site were respected.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1. Natural

- 6.1.1. The earliest stratigraphic deposit encountered was a fairly stiff light yellowish brown alluvial sandy clay [15], found deep in trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 at a height of 6.80m to 6.60m AOD. Taplow gravels were not seen on site, instead the base consisted of an alluvial deposit probably later in date.

6.2. Post Medieval

- 6.2.1. Sitting upon the alluvium within the site and once again appearing in all the deep trenches was a thick layer of mid brown silty clay [19]. Fairly homogenous within its depth of 400mm this was probably the result of post medieval farming and market gardening with constant reworking and turning of the soils. Two complete ceramic land drains, post medieval in date, were seen within this layer. The top of the layer was fairly level with a top height of 7.65m to 7.60m AOD. Associated with these soils, and everywhere underlying it, was a mid-orangey brown silty sandy clay [22]. With a depth of 500mm this context had few inclusions except pea grits and flint pebbles and tended towards the underlying natural. This was interpreted as agricultural subsoils, occasionally disturbed during ploughing.
- 6.2.2. Above the agricultural soils was the first proper dump layer found on site, a dark grey brown clayey silt [18]. This context had a top height of 7.80m AOD and a depth of 150 to 200mm. It contained charcoal and plaster fragments and was in contrast to previous activity found.
- 6.2.3. Sealing the dumped material was a further dump layer of orangey brown silty clay [4]. This was a layer of redeposited natural probably imported from nearby and then laid across on the site. It contained cbm and charcoal frags and flint pebbles. All the intrusive features were cut through this layer.
- 6.2.4. At the west end of site was a large pit [10] with a north-south length of at least 3.30 metres and an east-west width of over 1.80 metres. The feature continued beyond the excavated area in two directions. The backfill [9] was a soft mid brown clayey silt. Around the edge of the cut, and present in solidified lumps on the surface to the east was a white hard substance later identified as lime. Originally thought to be deep, the feature was in fact quite shallow at around 0.20m with a flattish base. This fill contained an assemblage of 19th – early 20th century pottery including a soup dish with a late 19th-early 20th century blue coloured floral design and a dinner plate with a late 19th-early 20th century brown geometrical design (Appendix 2).
- 6.2.5. The function of this feature would seem to be a mixing pit for mortar almost certainly involved in the construction of nearby buildings, pottery retrieved from the backfilling suggest it is 19th century in date, predating the present structures. The underlying clay layer [4] may well have been brought in as part of the same building scheme.
- 6.2.6. At the opposite, east end of the site, was a mains sewer [12], as mentioned above. This ran parallel to, and from the bricks used, was contemporary with the existing buildings. Consisting of just a ceramic pipe the cut for this was 1.20 metres in width and truncated the earlier archaeology to a depth of 1.75 metres below present floor level. Further truncations were caused by later alterations to the sewerage system.

6.3. Modern

- 6.3.1. Along the northern edge was part of a sub rectangular pit with a rounded base [8]. This measured 0.80 metres east-west by 0.80 metres north-south continuing into the northern limit of excavation and had a depth of 0.40 metres. The fill of this feature [7] consisted of a dark grey brown clayey sandy silt with frequent inclusions including some

concrete fragments so it may well be quite modern.

- 6.3.2. Running east-west and cut into the mortar pit was a v-shaped surface feature [6] running to a manhole on the southern edge of the site. This was 0.20 metres in width north-south and 0.15 metres in depth. This would seem to be the cut for a waste pipe running to the sewer manhole from the alleyway. The pipe had later been removed, probably when the overlying made ground and concrete were laid
- 6.3.3. Sealing all the intrusive features was the final layer of made ground [1]. This layer, c.100mm thick, consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt with many, sometimes modern, inclusions and was found immediately below the concrete slab. It terminated as the concrete sloped down to the east. The whole area was then capped by a concrete slab 100mm in depth.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1. Natural alluvial clay was present on the site at the base of all the trenches.
- 7.2. This was overlain in the trenches by a thick layer of silty clay agricultural soils which reflect the rural nature of the area until recent times. The agricultural soils were accompanied by a thick layer of sandy clay subsoil.
- 7.3. Above this and dating to the late post medieval period or more recently were a number of features cut into fairly recent deposits of made ground.
- 7.4. The large pit at the western end of the site may well be a pit for mixing mortar, perhaps for buildings predating the present late Victorian structures, but no traces were found of any earlier buildings. These structures were probably sited nearer the frontage of the north-south High Street and then destroyed when the present structures were erected.
- 7.5. No fragments of any other buildings or features were observed during the excavation of the trenches. The building material assemblage from HIN86 has one item of intrinsic interest, a rare example of an Aldgate tin-glazed floor tile from context [9] which is indicative of Late Tudor/Early Stuart occupation. The Roman tegula from the same context provides evidence of Roman occupation or dumping in the area. The value of the assemblage therefore lays beyond in its ability to just date features [9] and [19].
- 7.6. It is recommended no further works are required.

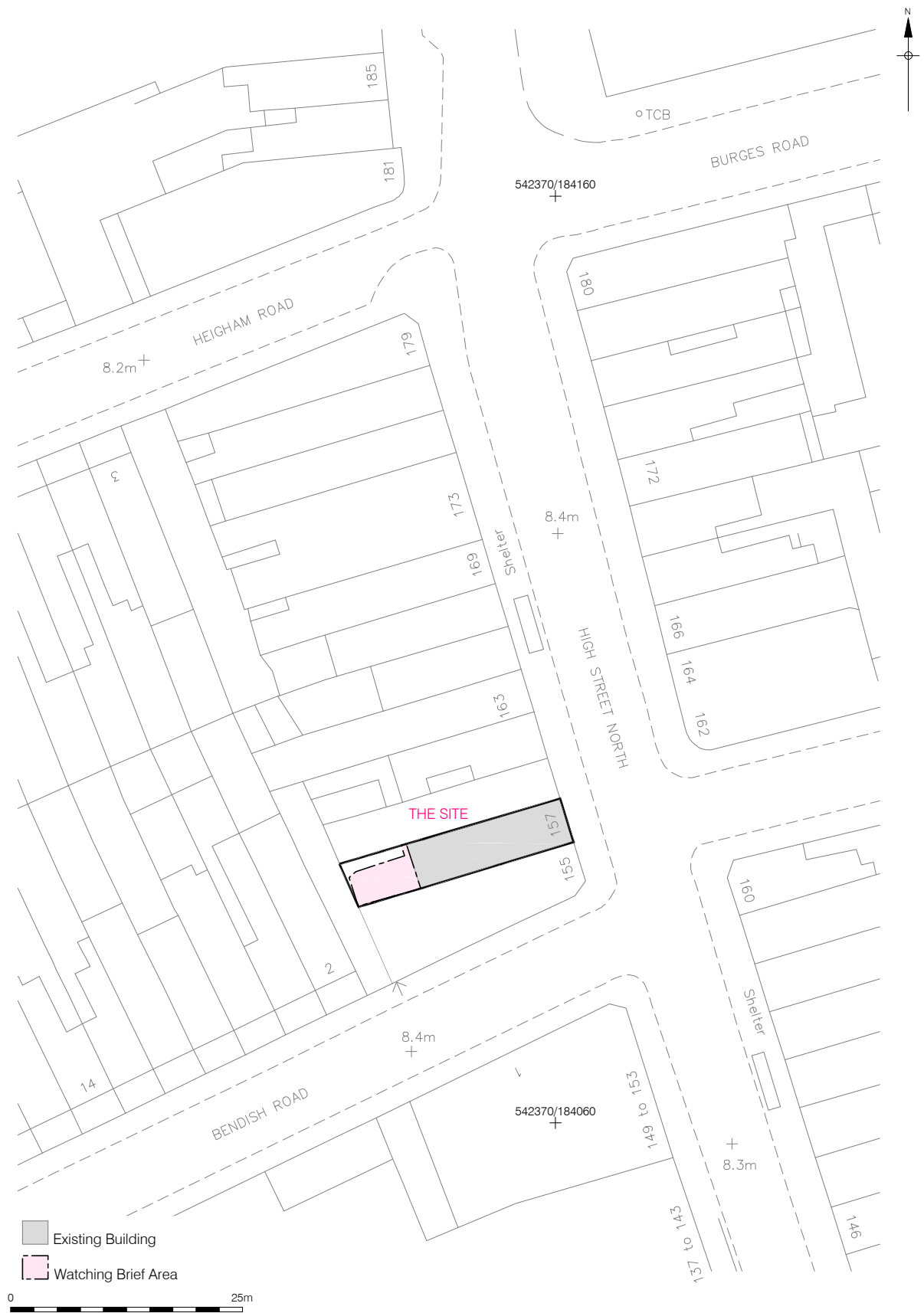


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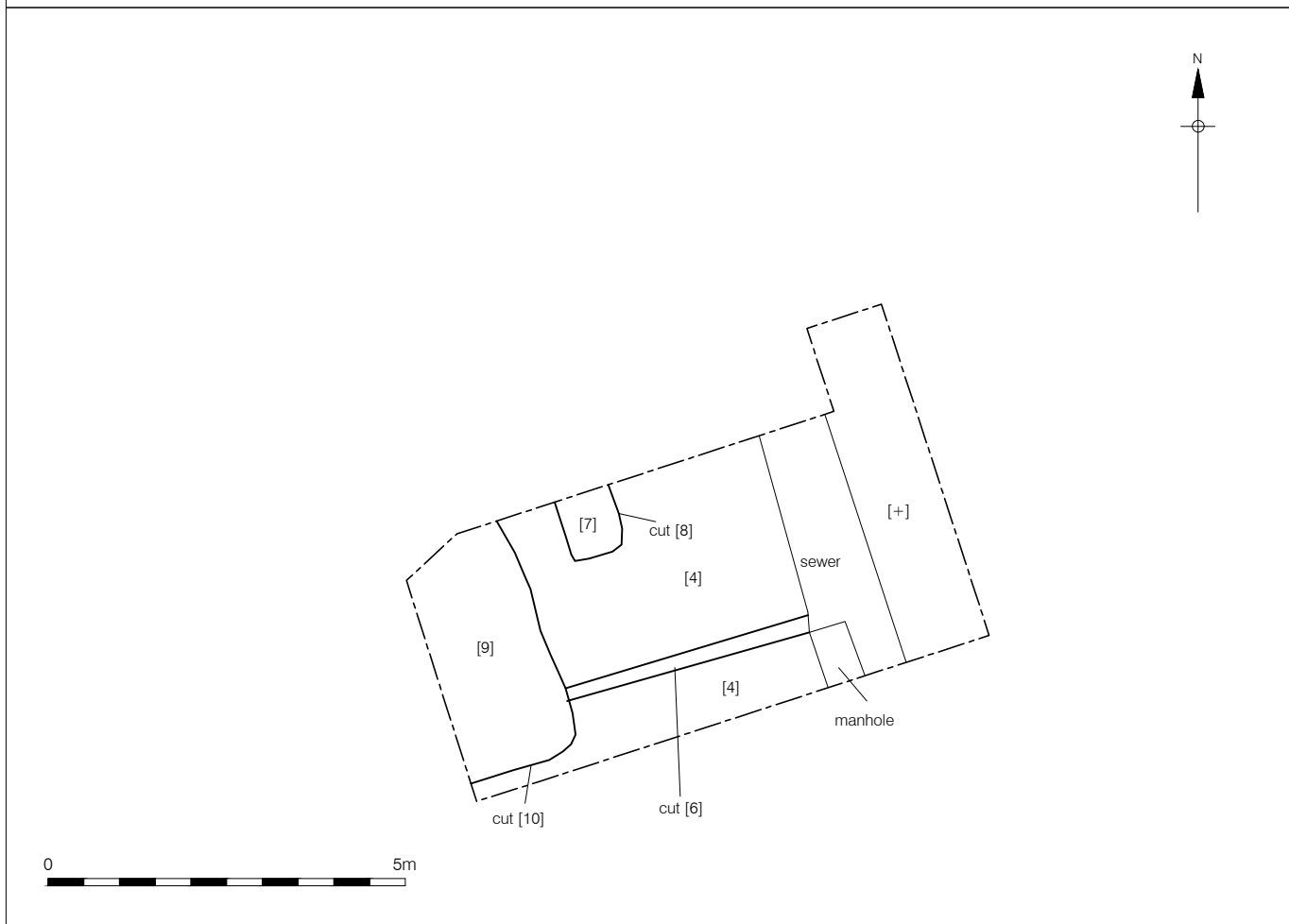
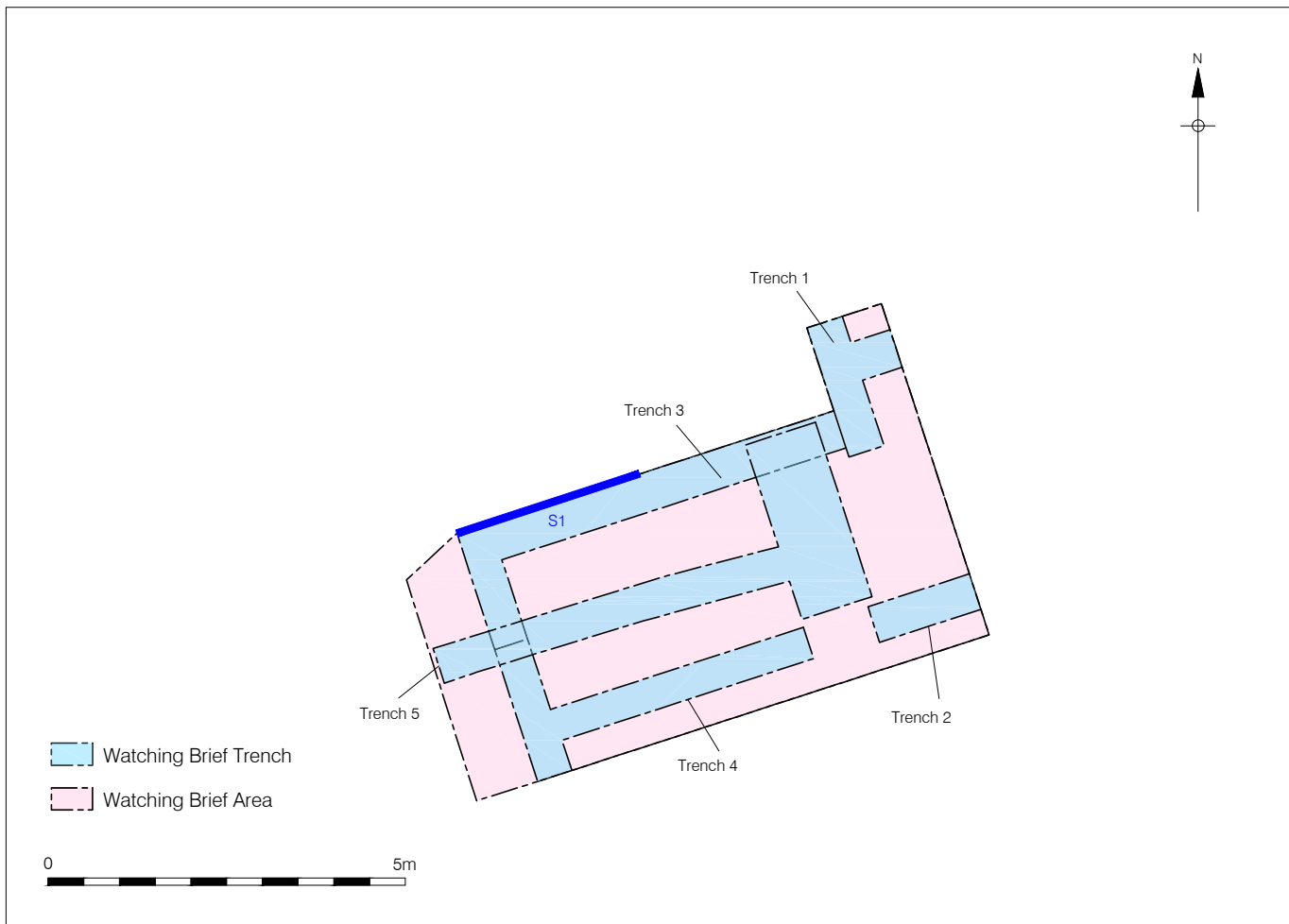
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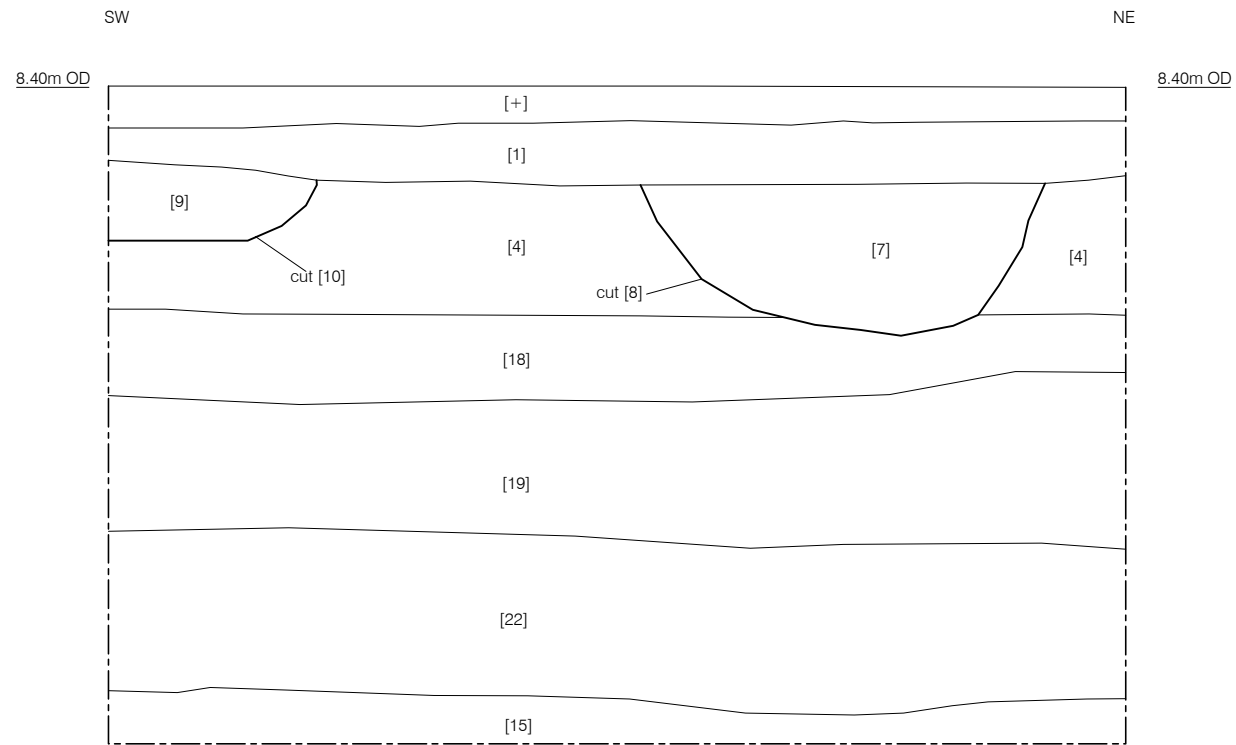
Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4



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 26/04/16 RM

Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:625 at A4





Section 1
Trench 3
Southeast facing



Plate 1: Mortar pit feature [10]



8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Stevenson, G. 2016 *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 157 High Street North, East Ham E6 1JB.*

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to express their thanks to Clive Attwood of Attwood Design on behalf of Cashino Gaming Limited for commissioning this archaeological investigation.
- 9.2. Many thanks to Daniel James and his staff for their help on site. The author would like to thank Gemma Stevenson for her project management and editing of this report. Thanks also to ?? for the illustrations.

APPENDIX 1: Glass assessment

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of glass (seven fragments/5 estimated number of vessels /296g, none of which was unstratified). The glass dates to the post-medieval period and more specifically the 19th and possibly the early 20th century. The assemblage is in a good condition, although it is present as mostly fragmentary material, a form could be assigned to all of the shards and two items are nearly intact. Residual material appears to be absent and therefore the assemblage appears to have been deposited fairly rapidly after breakage or on its discard. The material was found in three contexts as small sized groups (under 30 shards) and the assemblage is discussed as a spot dating index.

Spot dating Index

FC: fragment count, ENV: estimated number of vessels, Wt (g), weight in grams

Context [1], spot date: mid-late 19th century

Glass					
type/colour	Form	FC	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
High-lime low alkali (HLLA): clear	Bottle, square sectioned	1	1	56	Grooved type rim finish: deep collared with a triangular sectioned cordon below, deep neck, rounded shoulder, square sectioned body with recessed panels containing evidence for embossed lettering. Moulded. Mid-late 19th century +
HLLA: clear	Stopper	1	1	13	Nearly intact except that the pointed end is missing, 25mm in diameter, 31mm+ in height. Moulded. 19th century +

Context [7], spot date: late 19th-early 20th century

Glass type/colour	Form	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
HLLA: aquamarine	bottle, square	1	1	218	Nearly intact, patent-type rim finish (35mm in diameter), moderately deep

sectioned	neck, rounded shoulder, square
d	sectioned (45mm x 45mm) with one flat side and three recessed panels, recessed underside. Height: 148mm. Moulded. Mid-late 19th century +

Context [9], spot date: 19th century

Type/colour	Form	S C	EN V	Wt (g)	Comments
HLLA: aquamarine	bottle	4	1	9	Neck and body fragments, ?moulded. 19th century

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The glass has no significance at a local level and consists of glass types and forms frequently encountered in the London area. The glass has only the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from and little can be said about the inferred activities associated with it. As there are no recommendations for further work and as the assemblage is mundane and has been fully catalogued, then the glass can be discarded.

APPENDIX 2: Post-Roman pottery spot dating index

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the excavation (five sherds/5 estimated number of vessels /121g, none of which was unstratified). The pottery dates to the post-medieval period and more specifically the 19th and early 20th century. The assemblage is in a good condition, although it is present as mostly sherd material, none of which has a complete profile, however, the majority of the pottery could be assigned to a form. None of the sherds were deemed to be residual and shows no evidence of abrasion and therefore the assemblage was mostly deposited fairly rapidly after breakage or on its discard. The material was found in three contexts as small sized groups (under 30 sherds). The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology (2014). The assemblage is discussed as a spot dating index.

Spot dating Index

SC: sherd count, ENV: estimated number of vessels, Wt (g), weight in grams

Context [1], spot date: late 19th-early 20th century

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Form(s)
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration	TPW	1780–1900	1	1	1	Soup dish with a late 19th-early 20th century blue coloured floral design

Context [9], spot date: 1700–1900

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Form(s)
Derbyshire stoneware	DERBS	1700–1900	1	1	12	Unidentified: handle
London-area post-medieval redware	PMR	1580-1900	1	1	17	Flower pot
Surrey-Hampshire border redware	RBOR	1550–1900	1	1	20	Unidentified: base
Total: three sherds, 3 ENV, 49g						

Context [9], spot date: late 19th-early 20th century

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Form(s)
Refined whiteware with under-glaze brown or black transfer-printed decoration	TPW3	1810–1900	1	1	1	Dinner plate with a late 19th-early 20th century brown geometrical design

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery has no significance at a local level and consists of pottery types frequently found in the London area. The pottery has only the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from and infers very little upon activities associated with the study area. There are no recommendations for further work on the material, which has been fully catalogued and therefore can be discarded.

References

Museum of London Archaeology, 2014. Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes.
<http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>

APPENDIX 4: Building Material

Kevin Hayward High Street North, East Ham, Newham, HIN16

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
9	2815 1977 2196	Abraded fragment of Tegula; Glazed Flemish silty floor tile and rare Aldgate pot house tin glazed floor tile	3	50	1615	1571	1615	1571-1615+	No mortar
19	2276	Post medieval peg tile Post medieval drain pipe	2	1480	1900	1480	1900	1480-1700+	No mortar

Review

This small building material assemblage (5 fragments) from High Street North, East Ham HIN86 consists of an admixture of Roman and earlier post medieval building material.

Context [9] is of particular interest as it contains a fragment of Roman tegulae albeit abraded. A rare Aldgate tin glazed floor tile, a product of the first tin-glazed tile production centre in London from 1571-1615 (Betts & Weinstein 2010, 98) hints of affluence in the area as does the associated glazed Flemish floor tile.

Context [19] consists of a brickearth drain pipe and an early post medieval peg tile which suggest activity dating from 1480 to 1700+

Recommendations

The building material assemblage from HIN86 has one item of intrinsic interest a rare example of an Aldgate tin-glazed floor tile from [9] with is indicative of Late Tudor/Early Stuart occupation. The Roman tegula from the same context provides evidence of Roman occupation or dumping in the area. The value of the assemblage therefore lays beyond in its ability to just date features [9] and [19]. All the material should be retained. There is potential for further work.

Bibliography

Betts, I.M. & Weinstein, R.I. (2010). *Tin-Glazed tiles from London*. Museum of London Archaeology.

APPENDIX 4: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-249378

Project details

Project name	A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at 157 High Street North, East Ham E6 1JB.
Short description of the project	The report details the results of an archaeological watching at 157 High Street North, East Ham, London Borough of Newham E6 1JB. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and commissioned by Attwood Design on behalf of Cashino Gaming Limited. The area monitored measured 8.75m by 4.90m. Into this five trenches with a length of 17.80m were excavated. These had a width of 0.45m and a depth of 1.75m below current ground level. Above natural, a yellowish brown sandy clay, were agricultural soils. Above this were layers of made ground and cut into these were two pits and a modern linear pipe cut,
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2016 End: 20-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HIN16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM EAST HAM 157 High Street North
Postcode	E6 1JB
Study area	45 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 42362 84091 51.537244414534 0.052920360594 51 32 14 N 000 03 10 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.6m Max: 6.8m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Attwod Design
Project design originator	Gemma Stevenson
Project director/manager	Gemma Stevenson
Project supervisor	Phil Frickers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Attwood Design

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Archive ID HIN16

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID HIN16

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID HIN16

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