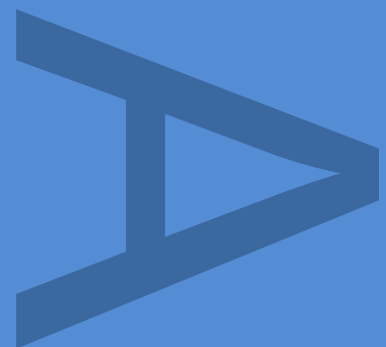


**PHASE 1B, BLACKWALL REACH,
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
& EVALUATION**

**PCA REPORT NO: R12477
SITE CODE: DCB16**

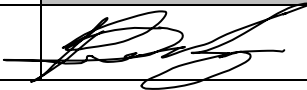


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

PHASE 1B, BLACKWALL REACH,
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF &
EVALUATION

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation at Blackwall Reach Phase 1B, London E14, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Site Code: DCB16

Central NGR: TQ 38302 80728

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Planning Reference: PA/12/00001/LBTH

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the result of an archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on behalf of CgMs Consulting at Blackwall Reach Phase 1B, London Borough of Tower Hamlets (Figure 1). The archaeological investigation was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 took the form of a watching brief during the removal of concrete hard-standing and foundations and was carried out between 28th March and 20th April 2016. Phase 2 commenced directly after the conclusion of Phase 1, running from 25th – 29th April 2016, and comprised the excavation of a single evaluation trench targeted within the footprint of the proposed new development.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015), the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) and following the guideline issued by English Heritage (now Historic England) (2015).
- 1.3 The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds or features whilst the evaluation uncovered a late Georgian – early Victorian well and a Victorian cess pit cut into alluvial layers. The upper 1.2 metres of the sequence was truncated by modern construction, effectively removing the potential for anything other than the deepest cut archaeological features relating to the historic development of Poplar High Street.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation and watching brief commissioned by CgMs Consulting was undertaken on land at Blackwall Reach in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets between 28th March 2016 and 29th April 2016. The evaluation trench was roughly square in plan, measuring approximately 8m / 8m across the base.
- 2.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2015) detailed the methodology by which the archaeological investigation was undertaken. The WSI followed Historic England guidelines (GLAAS 2015) and those of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). Both phases were supervised by the author. The site was project managed by Tim Bradley for Pre-Construct Archaeology and monitored by the Historic England archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, John Gould. Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting oversaw the archaeological work on behalf of the developer, Hill.
- 2.3 The site of the proposed development was bordered by Ditchburn Street to the south, Cotton Street to the west, Poplar High Street to the north and Prestage Way to the east and was until recently occupied by warehouses.
- 2.4 The site was given the Museum of London Site Code DCB16. The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

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. Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

3.1.2 In considering any proposal for development, including allocations in emerging development plans, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan

3.2.1 Additional relevant planning strategy framework is provided by The London Plan, which was updated in 2015. It includes policy 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY, which is of relevance to archaeology within London and the Blackwall Reach site.

3.3 London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Local Plan: Strategic Policies

3.3.1 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is the London Borough of Tower Hamlets whose strategic policy (adopted September 2012) stipulates as follows:

SP12

3.3.2 Improve, enhance and develop a network of sustainable, connected, well-designed places across the borough through:

- a. Ensuring places are well-designed so that they offer the right lay out to support the day to day activities of local people.
- b. Retaining and respecting the features that contribute to each places' heritage, character and local distinctiveness.
- c. Ensuring places have a range and mix of dwelling types and tenures to promote balanced, socially mixed communities.
- d. Ensuring places have access to a mixed-use town centre that offers a variety of shops and services.
- e. Ensuring places have a range and mix of a high quality publicly accessible green spaces that promote biodiversity, health and well-being.
- f. Promoting places that have access to a range of public transport models in order for local people to access other parts of the Borough and the rest of London.
- g. Ensuring places provide for a well- connected, safe and attractive network of streets and spaces that make it easy and pleasant to walk and cycle.

- h. Ensuring spaces promote wider sustainability and assist in reducing society's consumption of resources and its carbon footprint.
- i. Ensuring development proposals recognise their role and function in helping to deliver the vision, priorities and principles for each place.

3.4 Site Specific Planning Background

3.4.1 The site is partially located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Tower Hamlet. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within or adjacent to the site.

3.4.2 Planning Permission (ref. PA/12/00001/LBTH) was granted by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) for the redevelopment of the site. This report and the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015) which precedes it have been prepared to discharge the following archaeological condition relating to archaeology:

"D4 No development shall take place for a Development Phase until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured for that development phase in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Development shall only be undertaken in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with English Heritage.

Reason: important archaeological remains may exist on this site. Accordingly the planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to the development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and policy DM27 of the Managing Development DPD (Proposed Submission Version 2012).

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin.

4.1.2 Further detail is shown on British Geological Survey Sheet 256 (North London: 1994) which shows the underlying geology of the study site to be predominantly Kempton Park Gravels (defined as 'Post-diversionary Thames River Terrace Deposits; gravel, sandy and clayey in part'), with a small area of alluvium (defined as 'mainly sand, silt and clay') towards the northeast and southeast corners.

4.1.3 Limited programmes of geotechnical investigations have been carried out within the study site. The boreholes show substantial quantities of made ground above the naturally occurring gravels and alluvial deposits.

4.1.4 Geoarchaeological evaluation at Blackwall Station on the Docklands Light Railway within the southern part of the site revealed Shepperton Gravels of late Glacial origin, overlain by sands deposited during the early Holocene which became a land surface during the Mesolithic period. Silt and peat deposited during the Neolithic and Bronze Age gave way to mudflats/fens which formed during the Iron Age. This land appears to have dried out in the historic period prior to the deposition of modern made ground (ELO10937, TQ3842 8067; MoLA 2009).

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 Spotheights on Cotton Street, along the western boundary drop from 5.2m AOD at the junction with East India Dock Road, to 4.0m at the junction with Woolmore Street, and 4.1m at the junction with Poplar High Street. The northern part of the study site drops from west to east, with spotheights along Woolmore Street dropping from 4.1 to 3.3 and 2.6m AOD at the junction with Robin Hood Lane. Poplar High Street is generally level at 4.4m AOD, and Robin Hood Lane along the eastern boundary rises from 2.6m to 4.17m close to the junction with Poplar High Street and Naval Row. Naval Row itself drops to 2.5m in the centre before rising to 3.7m in the southeast corner of the study site. Prestage Way is level at 3.5m AOD at the junction with Poplar High Street and Naval Row, rising to the south to the bus terminal, level at 4.1m AOD. The approach to the Blackwall Tunnel, along the eastern boundary of the study site, drops to a maximum depth of -1.9m AOD, adjacent to the tunnel entrance.

4.2.2 The River Thames flows west to east to the southeast of the study site and the River

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological and historical background cited below derives from the desk based assessment prepared for this site (CgMs 2011).

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 Digging at Blackwall Dock c.1665 to the southeast of the study site, revealed a fossil forest, including yew and ivy. These remains were reported at a depth of 12 feet (c.3.65m) below ground level. Excavation of the Blackwall Tunnel to the southeast of the study site revealed part of a mammoth tusk.

5.2.2 The sole find of certain Mesolithic date within the study area comprises a tranchet axe from Poplar to the west of the study site, beyond the study site boundary

5.2.3 Several Neolithic axes have been sourced from the River Thames, southeast of the study site. An early Neolithic burial, together with pottery was identified at the White Swan public house, Yabsley Road, south of the study site.

5.2.4 Evaluations at Blackwall Way to the south of the study site revealed peat deposits sealed by alluvium, carbon dated to the Late Neolithic and Late Bronze Age, indicative of marine regression, with associated Iron Age material culture. The site of a Bronze Age hearth with associated finds including pottery, struck and burnt flint and fired clay, was identified at the White Swan public house, Yabsley Road, south of the study site. A Bronze Age sword has been identified in Bow Creek to the east of the study site and a socketed axehead has been identified near Leamouth Road to the east.

5.2.5 To the northeast, Bronze Age flintwork and associated cut features, together with peat deposits and a palaeochannel, were identified at the Aberfeldy Estate..

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 Within the study area evidence of Roman settlement and activity has been identified some distance to the west of the study site, on the south side of the Highway, at the Tobacco Dock and Babe Ruth sites.

5.3.2 Closer to the study site the sole find of Roman date within the study area was a miniature wine vessel recovered from the vicinity of Aspen Way, southeast of the study site.

5.4 Anglo-Saxon & Medieval

5.4.1 No finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been identified within a one kilometre radius of the study site. Consequently a low potential is identified for remains of such date within the study site itself.

5.4.2 The eastern end of the historic core of Poplar is considered to lie within the southwestern part of the study site and developed as a linear settlement along the High Street. The name *Popler* (dated 1327) is thought to derive from the poplar trees growing in the area. A dock is known from the medieval period at Poplar, used by fishermen. Poplar High Street is known to have joined the road known as The Highway, west of the study site by the 15th century, to provide a dry route into the City.

5.4.3 A separate settlement developed around Blackwall Stairs within the southeastern part of the study site from the late Medieval period onwards.

5.4.4 The presence of river defences along the line of Poplar High Street would suggest that during the Anglo Saxon and Medieval periods the southern part of the study site lay in an area of salt marsh prone to seasonal and/or permanent flooding.

5.5 Post Medieval and Modern

5.5.1 The post-medieval period saw the rapid development of the area with numerous phases of construction and clearance noted. Within the Phase 1B site, there is a perceived potential for archaeological survival associated with the historic route now followed by the line of Poplar High Street and Naval Row, which forms the northern boundary of the site.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Following the archaeological desk based assessment carried out for the site, (CgMs 2011) the methodology for evaluation fieldwork was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015) which aimed to address the following primary objectives:
- To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity;
 - To establish the environmental context of prehistoric and later activity;
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development;
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 6.2 The first phase of work on the study site comprised an Archaeological Watching Brief, monitoring elements of the demolition of the existing buildings, i.e. the removal of the hard standing and grubbing out of foundations.
- 6.3 The evaluation (Figure 2) consisted of a single trench that aimed to reach the top of the natural gravel terrace. The trench was positioned carefully by survey in order to avoid several significant below-ground constraints including the Blackwall Tunnel to the east, a live sewer to the west, and the fibre optic cable link to Canary Wharf to the south.
- 6.4 The excavation of the evaluation trench was undertaken using a 22 ton 360° mechanical excavator. The mechanical excavator used a toothless ditching bucket to remove modern overburden under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil was mounded at a safe distance from the edges of the trenches.
- 6.5 Due to the presence of a substantial amount of asbestos to the west of the trench, it was foreshortened but made wider to accommodate the difference.
- 6.6 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The investigation of archaeological levels was carried out by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 6.7 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were excavated with hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded so as to characterise their form, function and date. Fabric samples were taken from brickwork structures and environmental samples were taken from the sequence of alluvium and peat layers.
- 6.8 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in London that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London

Archaeological Service (MoLAS 1994) and with the PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown, 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.

- 6.9 A full digital photographic record was made and maintained during the archaeological investigation.
- 6.10 The complete archive produced during the watching brief and evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Museum of London site code DCB16.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The following text is an overview of the archaeological sequence recorded during the evaluation. Full individual context description and Ordnance Datum levels are detailed in Appendix 1 and stratigraphic relationships are in Appendix 2.

7.2 Phase 1: Terrace Gravel and Early River Bed Deposits

7.2.1 The earliest deposit, [14], consisting of loose sand and gravel (Terrace Gravel) was recorded at between 0.72m OD and -0.50m OD, sloping down from the north-east corner of the trench towards the south and west.

7.2.2 The Terrace Gravel was sealed by a sequence of sands and clay layers. Directly overlying the gravels was a layer of pale, yellowish brown, silty clay [5] at 0.74m OD and -0.22m OD. This was sealed by layer [4], comprising a loose, firmly compacted pale yellow sand at 0.80m OD to -0.12m OD. The sand was in turn overlain by a 1.12m thick layer of firmly compacted, mid yellowish brown clay [3], which sloped from 0.90m OD to 0.28m OD. Sealing this was firmly compacted, dark grey silty clay [2], between 1.22m OD and 0.66m OD with layer [1], a firmly compacted, light grey silty clay overlying it at a height of between 1.42m OD and 1.26m OD.

7.3 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

7.3.1 A well [9] of late Georgian – early Victorian date and the remains of a probable cess pit [7], dating to the Victorian period were recorded in this phase. During the excavation these features were both observed to be stratigraphically above layer [2], the probability is though, that they should be over layer [1], however this relationship had been lost due to horizontal truncation of the site.

7.3.2 Well [9] was constructed from re-used bricks, (3032), dated to 1664 - 1725, however the mortar that was used as a bonding agent dates to the late 18th – early 19th centuries. It was built within construction cut [11] and was located at a maximum height of 0.61m OD. The construction cut was over 1.17m in depth, continuing beyond the base of the trench. The primary fill of the construction cut, [13], comprised of re-deposited natural gravels, 0.61m + in thickness. This was sealed by a further fill [10], a firm to compact, mid dark grey sandy clay 0.45m thick. No finds were retrieved from either fills. The infill of the well structure, [8], was formed from brick rubble in a sandy clay matrix and is probably the result of the structure being demolished into itself. A single sherd of Roman redeposited pottery was recovered from this deposit.

- 7.3.3 Probable cess pit [7] was heavily truncated on all sides, leaving it as a pyramid of upstanding archaeology measuring 1.08m by 0.22m, 0.32m high. The base of the structure was formed from half bricks. As with the well these bricks had been re-used, comprising of 3032, dating to 1700 – 1900 and 3035, from 1770 -1850 within cut [15]. The pit had a single fill [6], comprised of loose – firmly compacted, mid brown silty clay which contained pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe all dating to the late 19th century.
- 7.3.4 Sealing the entire sequence was a metre thick deposit of mixed made ground, a result of late post-medieval/modern dump deposits and recent demolition and grubbing out, bringing the level up to the current land surface at c.3m OD.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

8.1.1 Terrace gravel was recorded across the base of the trench, falling from 0.72m OD in the north-eastern corner of the site to -0.50m OD in the southwest. This probably reflects the natural topography of the area with the land surface falling towards the River Thames. Another possibility is that it was formed by an ancient stream or palaeochannel the likes of which are common in this area having once been a fluvial environment.

8.1.2 Evidence of fluvial deposition was observed across the site where clay deposits were recorded. The formation of these deposits is indicative of extensive alluvial inundation of the area through flooding within a generally low energy fluvial environment, creating a stable and semi aquatic environment.

8.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

8.2.1 The well and the cess pit point to domestic activity during the late 18th and 19th centuries. The features most probably relate to a building fronting on to Poplar High Street, however due to the severe horizontal truncation that occurred across the site in the earlier 20th century, no footings of buildings or associated boundary walls were observed.

9 ORIGINAL AND REVISED RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

9.1 Primary Objectives

9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015) prepared before archaeological work commenced at the Blackwall site highlighted a set of specific objectives to be addressed by the investigation.

9.2 To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.

9.2.1 A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the backfill of the construction cut for a late post-medieval well. There was no further evidence of prehistoric, Roman, or Medieval activity on site.

9.2.2 A well, [9] and a probable cess pit, [15] dating to the post-medieval were recorded on site. These features are indicative of domestic activity on the site from the late 18th century through to the late 19th century. It may be speculated that the assemblage of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipes recovered from the backfill of the soakaway is indicative of a public house. This argument may be further advanced as a public house is known to have existed in the immediate vicinity of the site, being shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey, fronting on to Poplar High Street (CgMs 2011).

9.3 To establish the environmental context of prehistoric and later activity.

9.3.1 The topographic information recorded at the site shows that during the prehistoric period the ground level fell from the north towards the south. This probably indicates that to the north of the study area there was raised, dry land, dipping down to the south, into either a wider, shallower Thames or possibly an east-west aligned palaeochannel.

9.4 To establish the likely impact of past land use and development.

9.4.1 The evaluation showed that there was limited, if any impact from land use until the recent past. The earliest human activity witnessed was the construction of the well and cess pit dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries.

9.4.2 Within the area of the evaluation it was also possible to see that during landscaping/levelling and re-development work during the 20th century the site was severely re-worked to a depth of around 2 metres from the current street level, thus removing any archaeological evidence, remains or features from the upper parts of the sequence.

9.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

- 9.5.1 Within the area of the evaluation trench only limited evidence for post-medieval archaeological finds and features were identified. The natural topography indicates that the majority of the study site lay under water during the prehistoric period, rising up to dry land along the northern boundary.
- 9.5.2 The evaluation also illustrated that during the earlier 20th century, truncation of the site the archaeological horizon had been removed to c.1m OD. This ties in with the data from the borehole survey carried out on the site, suggesting uniform removal of the upper archaeological sequence across the entire area.
- 9.5.3 It is therefore recommended that no further work archaeological works are deemed necessary at the Blackwall Reach Phase 1B site.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of Hill. Thanks also to John Gould of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), for monitoring the evaluation on behalf of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management, and editing, Jenny Simmonson for the illustrations, Richard Archer for the on-site surveying and Tanya Jones for excavating the site, Chris Jarrett and Berni Sudds for their specialist reports and Wayne Richards for technical and logistical support.

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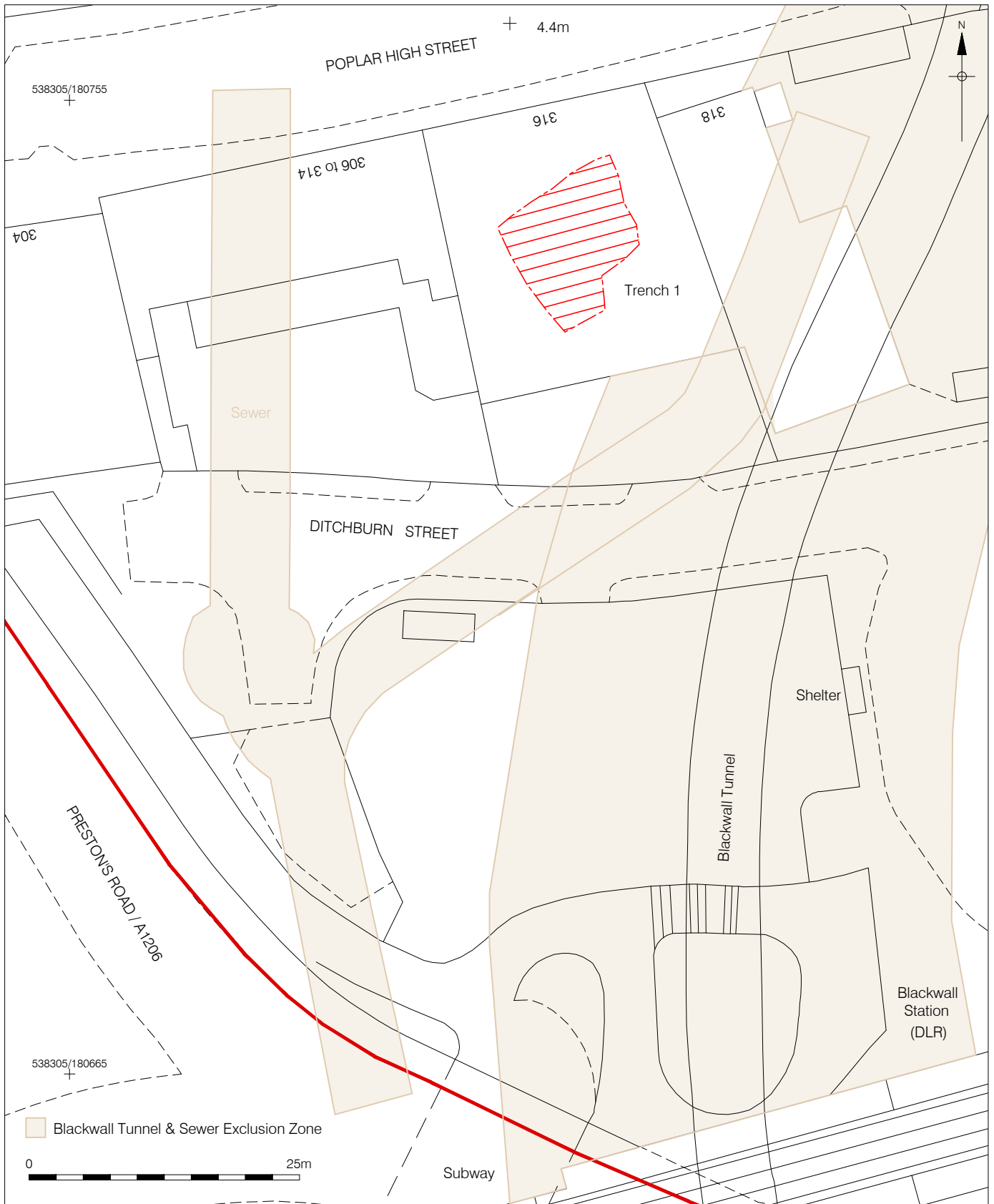
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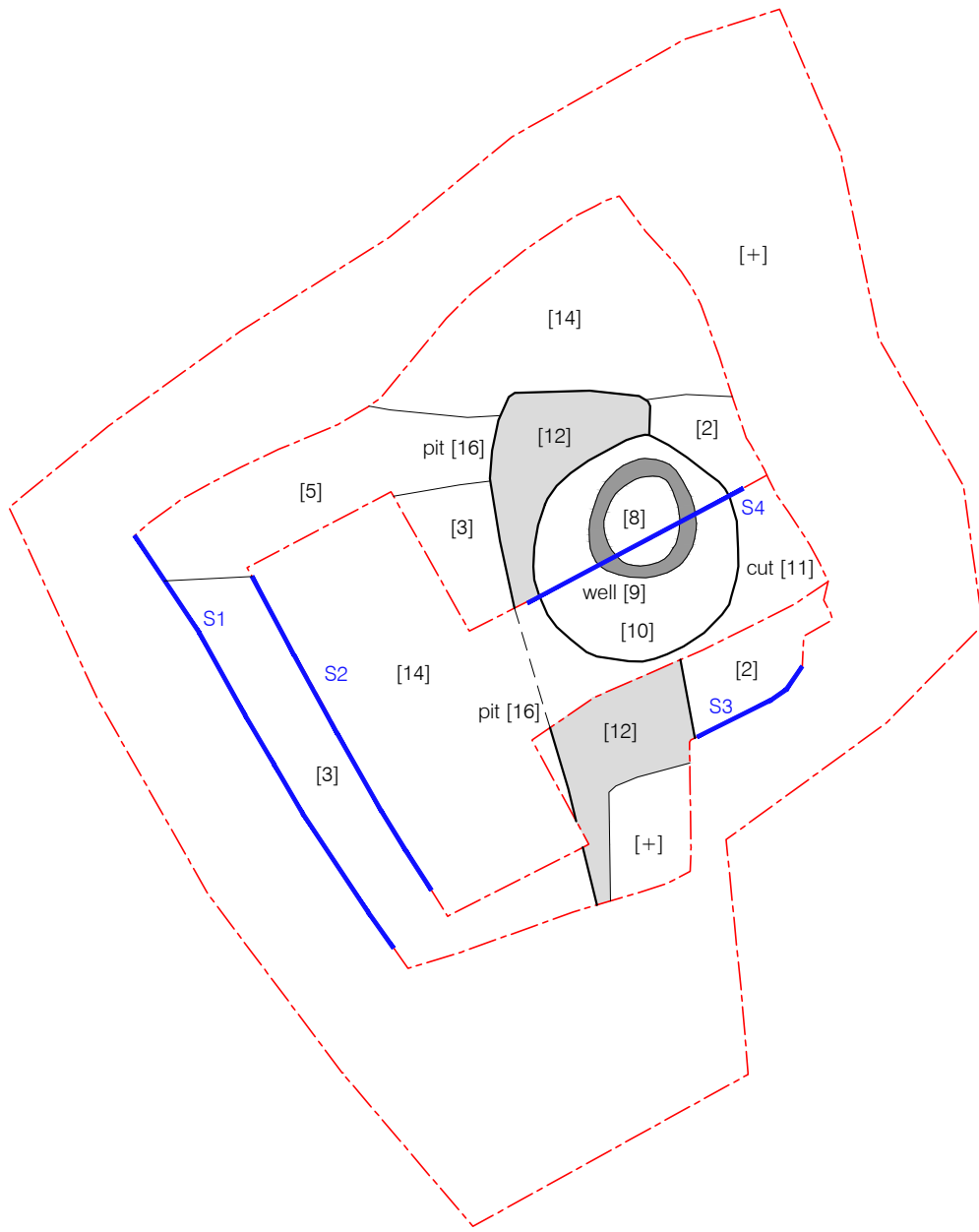
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



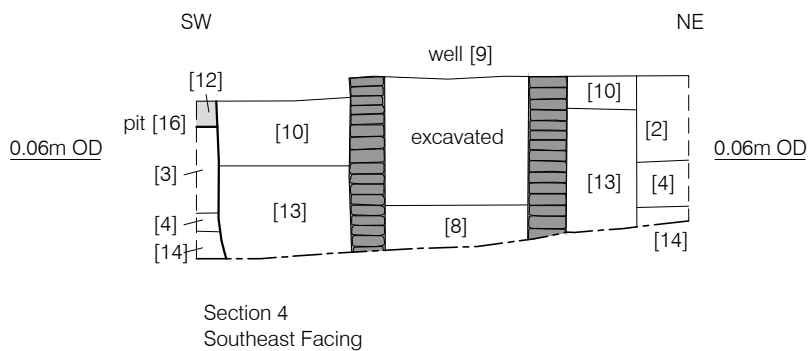
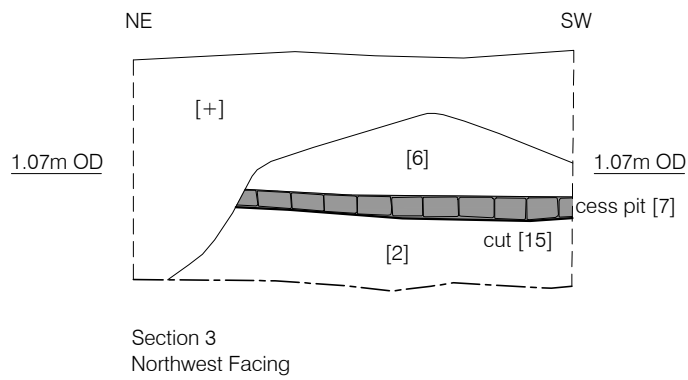
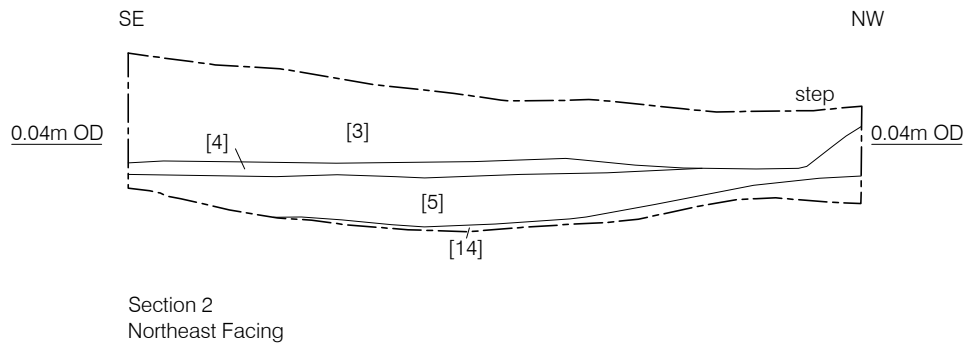
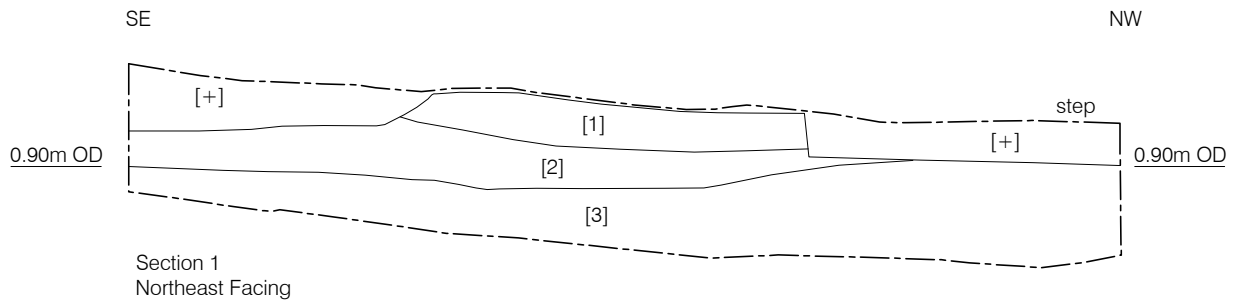
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Figure 2
 Phase 1B Area: Trench Location
 1:500 at A4



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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:100 at A4



0 2m
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Figure 4
Sections 1 - 4
1:50 at A4

PLATES:



Plate 1: Trench Overview, Looking West.



Plate 2: Cess Pit [15], Looking South.



Plate 3: Well [9], Looking North



Plate 4: Sections 1 & 2, Looking West



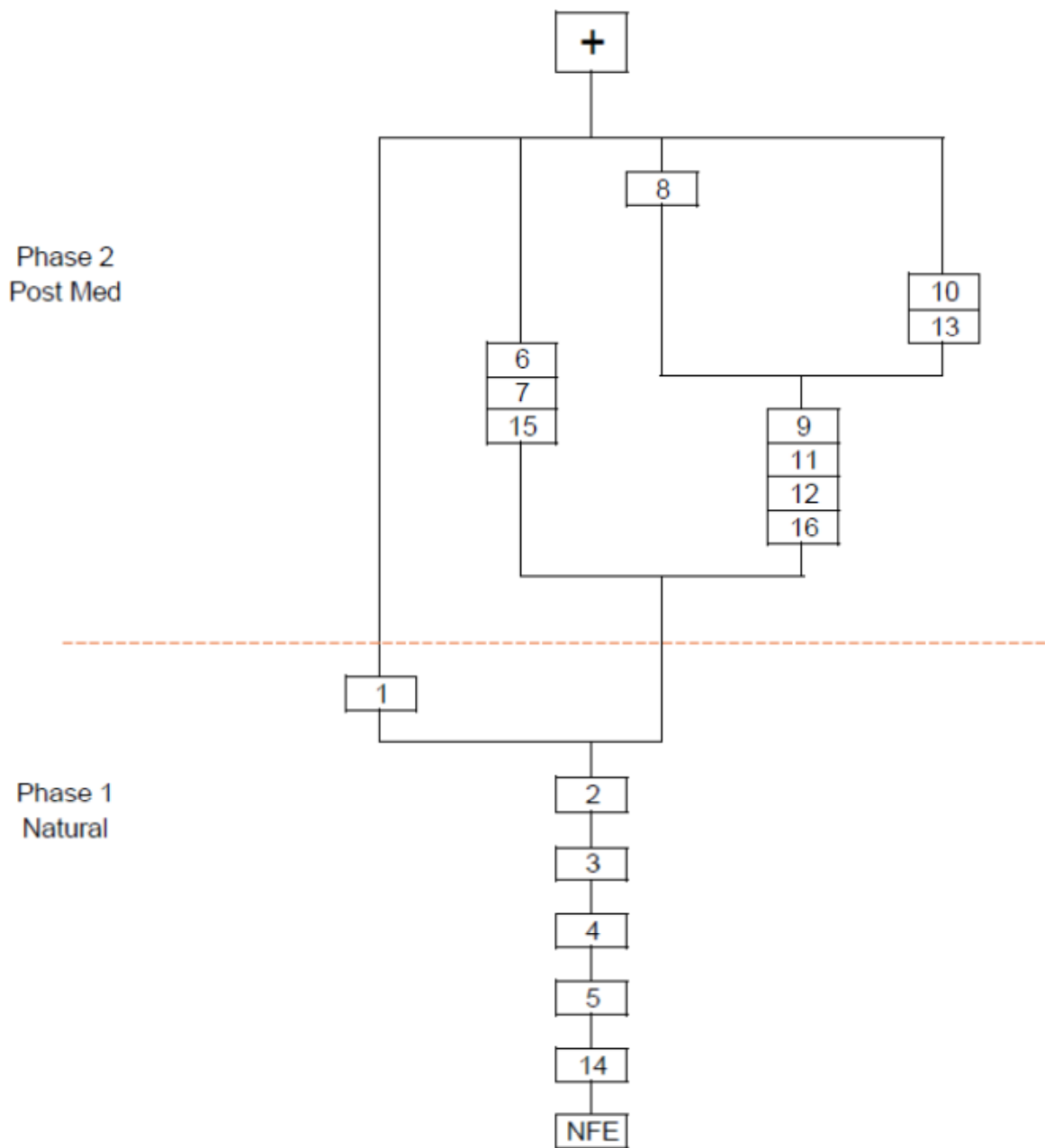
Plate 5: Section 4, Looking North

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Fill_of Cut	Trench	CTX_Description	Category	Levels
				Firmly compacted, light grey, silty clay.		
1	Layer		1	Mod. Small sub-rounded stones. Firmly compacted, dark grey, silty clay.	Natural	1.42
2	Layer		1	Occ. Small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks.	Natural	1.22
3	Layer		1	Firmly compacted, mid yellowish brown, clay. Loose - firmly compacted, pale yellow sand.	Natural	0.9
4	Layer		1	Occ - mod small sub-rounded stones.	Natural	0.8
5	Layer		1	Firm - compact, pale yellowish brown silty clay. Fill of probable Victorian cess pit. Loose - firmly compacted, mid brown silty clay.	Natural	0.74
				Occ. Small sub-rounded stones.		
				Heavily truncated.		
6	Fill	15	1	Contained pot, ctp and glass. Remnant of lining for probable Victorian cess pit.	Backfill/disuse	1.27
				Made of half bricks.		
7	Masonry	15	1	Heavily truncated. Rubble fill of well [9] in con. Cut [11].	Lining	1.02
				Probably the result of demolition of the well structure into itself.		
8	Fill	11	1	Not fully excavated. Brick well lining in con. Cut [11].	Backfill/disuse	0.61
9	Masonry	11	1	Not fully excavated.	Lining	0.61
10	Fill	11	1	Backfill of Con. cut [11] for well [9]. Construction cut for well [11].	Infilling/use	0.61
				Circular in plan with vertical sides.		
11	Cut		1	Not fully excavated. Fill of post-med pit [16].	Construction Cut	0.61
				Firmly compacted, dark grey clay.		
				Occ. Small sub-rounded stones and flecks of cbm.		
				No finds.		
12	Fill	16	1	Heavy horizontal truncation.	Backfill/disuse	0.67

				Lower backfill of Con. Cut [11] for well [9].		
				Loose - firmly compacted, pale brownish yellow sandy gravel.		
				Probable redeposited natural.		
13	Fill	11	1	No finds. Natural gravels.	Infilling/use	0.4
14	Layer		1	Loose - firmly compacted, light yellowish brown sandy gravels. Cut of probable Victorian cess pit.	Natural	0.72
15	Cut		1	Heavily truncated, only seen in section. Cut of post-med pit.	Construction Cut	1.27
				Sub-rectangular in plan, sharp bos from surface to concaved sides, mod bos to a flat base.		
16	Cut		1	Heavy horizontal truncation.	Pit	0.67

APPENDIX 2: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POTTERY

Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (three boxes). The assemblage dates to the Roman and post-Roman periods and particularly the 19th century. None of the sherds shows evidence for abrasion and the pottery recovered from fill [6] of the masonry cesspit [7] contains many vessels with complete profiles and indicates that this material was thrown away (under secondary depositional circumstances) fairly rapidly after breakage. The pottery was quantified by sherd count (SC) and estimated number of vessels (ENV's), besides weight. Only two contexts produced pottery and the sizes of the groups are either as small (fewer than 30 sherds) or medium sized (31–100 sherds) groups.

In total the assemblage consists of 94 sherds, 58 ENV, 3.670kg (of which twelve sherds, 11 ENV, 618 was unstratified). The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and entered into a database format, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types follows the Museum of London Archaeology (2014) typology (form and fabric series). The assemblage is discussed as a spot dating index.

QUANTIFICATION OF THE POTTERY BY PERIOD

Roman: 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 5g

Post-medieval: 93 sherds, 57 ENV, 3.665kg

SPOT DATING INDEX

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

Unstratified

Pottery type	Code	Date	Forms
Chinese Imari porcelain	CHPO IMARI	1680-1900	9 Bowl: deep rounded (19th century polychrome ware with a

Pearlware	PEAR	1770-1840			dragon)
Pearlware with transfer-printed decoration	PEAR TR	1770-1840			2: Dish: rounded
Slipped redware	PMR SLIP	1800-1900			10 Lid: tureen (landscape design featuring a man leaning on a stick and a cow)
Refined white earthenware	REFW	1805-1900			2: Baking dish
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration	TPW	1780-1900			4: Coffee cup (large robust vessel with panelled walls)
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed 'flow blue' decoration	TPW FLOW	1830-1900			6 Lid: teapot (a tree design)
Yellow ware	YELL	1820-1900			4: Tea cups a(floral and a European landscape design)
Yellow ware with slip decoration	YELL SLIP	1820-1900			20: Bowl: rounded, Jug: baluster
					1: Bowl: deep rounded

Total: 81 sherds, 46 ENV, 3.047kg

Context [6], spot date: 1850–1900

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Forms
Bone china	BONE	1794-1900			25	Egg cup, figurines, tea cup: porringer,
Chinese blue and white porcelain	CHPO BW	1590-1900				Jar: rounded, plate
English stoneware with Bristol glaze	ENGS BRST	1830-1900			2	-
Majolica	MAJO	1850-1900			4	Dishes with mould leaf patterns and green-glazed
Pearlware with transfer-printed decoration	PEAR TR	1770-1840	3	1	75	Dish: rounded, ?jug, plate: dessert (Willow pattern, x2 marked 'STAFFORDSHIRE STONECHINA'; dinner,

					saucer (marked '...lip./Curey's'), tea cup; porringer (seated girl with a dog/lion with an anthropomorphic face)
Refined white earthenware	REFW	1805-1900	1		34 Chamber pot, figurine, jar cylindrical ('jam' jar), plate: dinner; large
Refined white earthenware with under-glaze polychrome-painted decoration in 'chrome' colours	REFW CHROM	1830-1900			6 Plate: large
Refined white earthenware with sponged or spattered decoration	REFW SPON	1805-1900			2 Bowl: deep rounded
Spanish unsourced amphora	SPOA	1200-1900			30 Amphora (handle)
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration	TPW	1780-1900	1		83 Chamber pot (landscape design of neo-classical women stood around a fountain), jug
Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed 'flow blue' decoration	TPW FLOW	1830-1900	1		26 Bowl: small flared, tea cup: waisted, dish; rounded, lid, saucer (marked 'CHALLIN...' and 'TUNSTALL')
Yellow ware	YELL	1820-1900			2 Bowl
Yellow ware with slip decoration	YELL SLIP	1820-1900			9 Jug: pear-shaped

Total: 81 sherds, 46 ENV, 3.047kg

Context [8], spot date: 120–250

Pottery type	Code	Date range	Form
Black-burnished ware 2	BB2	120–250	-

SIGNIFICANCE, POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

The assemblage is of significance for demonstrating possible Roman and post-medieval activity on the

study area or in its vicinity. The Roman pottery sherd was residual in the fill [8] of the construction cut [11] for the masonry structure [7]. The greater quantity of the assemblage relates to 19th-century activity on the site and the group of pottery from fill [6] of the masonry structure [7] probably represents the rubbish from one of the many terraced houses located on the study area. It was postulated that the pottery found in fill [6] may have been derived from a public house or other type of drinking establishment. However, very few items, if any, are associated with an alcoholic consumption or storage function or with other ceramic uses that can be associated with drinking establishments (Pearce 2000). The glass (see Jarrett this report) is a little more persuasive for the material in [7] being derived from a drinking establishment. However it equally, like the pottery, could have been derived from a domestic household and it is more similar to 19th-century groups of pottery recovered from Stockwell Street, Greenwich and associated with shops and their residents (Jarrett forthcoming). The pottery has the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from and inform upon the activities associated with a 19th-century property on the study area. However, as the assemblage is relatively small and it would be difficult to find a venue for a publication of the material, then there are no recommendations for further work on the pottery.

REFERENCES

- Jarrett, C. Forthcoming, 'The pottery, glass & clay tobacco pipe'. In: J. Taylor, 'Medieval and post-medieval Greenwich: Excavations at 4–19 Stockwell Street, London Borough of Greenwich'. Pre-Construct Archaeology Kent papers.
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- Pearce, J. 2000. A late 18th-century inn clearance assemblage from Uxbridge, Middlesex, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, Volume 34, 144-186.

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Berni Sudds

Four brick samples were taken from two masonry features on site. Two different types were recovered from cesspit [7], both in fabrics common to the London region. The earlier 3032nr3033 has been re-used, and the presence of a yellow 'London stock' would suggest the cesspit was constructed no earlier than the late 18th century. Both samples from well [9] are unfrogged 'transitional' 3032nr3033 types dating to the late 17th or early 18th century but demonstrate clear evidence of re-use. The earlier yellow mortar with some charcoal is likely to be contemporary with the initial use of the bricks but the later grey mortar with brick and tile fragments, used to bond the well, suggest the feature was constructed during the late 18th or even 19th century.

The fragment of mortar and plain plaster from deposit [8] are not particularly diagnostic but likely date to the post-medieval period.

Aside from providing evidence of date the small assemblage has little intrinsic value, comprised of well-paralleled types. For this reason no further analysis is recommended.

Context	Fabric	Type	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Context considered date
7	3035	Unfrogged brick	1770	1900	1770 – 1850
	3032nr3033	Unfrogged brick	1664	1725	
8	3100	Plain wall plaster	1480	1900	1480 – 1900
	3101	Hard lime, sand and gravel mortar	1480	1900	
9	3032nr3033	Unfrogged brick	1664	1725	1750 – 1900 (Bricks re-used, bonded with a grey mortar including brick and charcoal)
	3032nr3033	Unfrogged brick	1664	1725	

Table 1: CBM by context.

APPENDIX 5: GLASS

Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

The glass is recorded as a small sized assemblage dating solely to the 19th century. All of the 28 fragments of glass (representing some 25 vessels or items and weighing 1.931kg, of which four fragments, 4 MNV, 839g is unstratified) are in a good condition although in a mainly fragmentary state, except for two near identical intact vessels. The majority of the stratified glass appears to have been deposited soon after breakage. The glass occurs in two contexts as small (under 30 fragments) sized groups. The material is discussed as a spot dating index.

Spot dating catalogue

No.: no of fragments; HLLA: high-lime low-alkali glass

Unstratified

Form	Glass type	Colour	No.	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
Bottle, squat, square-section	HLLA	Pale green tint	1	1	56	1 of 2. Intact, moulded. Simple rim with a rounded cordon below and a short cylindrical neck, arcaded panels on the wall. Mid to late 19th century
Bottle, octagonal -section	HLLA	Aquamarine, tint	1	1	60	2 of 2. Nearly intact, moulded. The rim is missing. With a rounded cordon below and a short cylindrical neck, arcaded panels on the wall. Poorly handle during manufacture and the neck is bent. Mid to late 19th century
Bottle, squat, square-section	soda	Blue tint	1	1	106	Base, moulded. Embossed measure marks and the dosage number II to IV survive. 'Poison' bottle. Mid 19th century
English cylindrical wine	HLLA	Olive green	1	1	617	Complete, except that the base is missing, squared, preparation type

Form	Glass type	Colour	No.	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
bottle, late						rim finish. 19th century
Context [6], spot date: mid 19th century						
Form	Glass type	Colour	No.	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
Bottle	Soda	Aquamarine, tint	1	1	6	Wall/shoulder
Bottle, cylindrical	Soda	Blue tint	1	1	16	Rim (21mm in diameter), short straight side and short neck, rounded shoulder, moulded. Slightly weathered. C. 1810 onwards
Bottle, cylindrical	Soda	Clear	1	1	74	Base (52mm in diameter) , free-blown with a pontil scar on the underside
Bottle, flat-oval section	Soda	Clear	1	1	26	Rim, narrow rounded/blob type (16mm maximum in diameter) and poorly applied, conical neck flattened side. Slightly weathered. 19th century
Bottle, squat octagonal - section	Hlla	Green tint	1	1	17	Rim (12mm in diameter), rounded finish with a short bevelled cordon below, conical neck and arcaded panels on the wall
English cylindrical wine bottle, late	Hlla	Dark olive green	1	1	90	Rim (26mm in diameter), rounded finish with a short bevelled cordon below, cigar shaped neck
Unidentified	Soda	Clear	1	1	49	Relatively deep pedestal base, C-shaped in section (49mm x 43mm) below a rounded carination and straight sided wall. Moulded. Slightly weathered.
Jar, squat shouldered and cylindrical	Soda	Clear	1	1	19	Rim, rounded (34mm in diameter) and poorly moulded, gently angled wide shoulder. Slightly weathered
Phial, deep necked	Soda	Green tint	1	1	15	Simple fire finished rim (18mm in diameter, flaring neck, rounded shoulder, Slightly weathered. 19th century

Form	Glass type	Colour	No.	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
Phial, squat cylindrical	Soda	Clear	1	1	9	Rim is damaged, short neck, rounded shoulder. Slightly weathered
Phial, squat cylindrical	Soda	Clear	1	1	8	Base with a rounded angle, pontil scar. 19th century. Slightly weathered
Rummer	Lead	Clear	1	1	267	Foot (76mm in diameter) with a merese and thick baluster stem and the vessel bowl has eight evenly spaced vertical ribs. Possibly optically blown. Slightly weathered
Tumbler	Soda	Clear	2	1	116	Base (73mm in diameter) with an embossed floral motif on the underside, rim missing, and the wall of the vessel is decorated with circular facets around the base and below vertical elongated oval facets. Slightly weathered. Moulded. Mid-late 19th century
Tumbler	Soda	Clear	2	1	142	Base (72mm in diameter) rim missing, fifteen facets on the wall. Slightly weathered. Moulded. Mid to late 19th century
Tumbler	Soda	Clear	2	1	186	Complete profile, 114mm tall. Hexagonal section with the base measuring 70mm x 62mm, moulded. Slightly weathered. Mid 19th century
Vessel	Lead	Clear	1	1	16	Vessel wall with facets and cordons. Thick walled. Moulded. Mid to late 19th century
Vessel	Soda	Clear/red	1	1	4	Wall sherd, clear glass with red surfaces and yellow trailed enamel. 19th century
Window pane	Soda	Clear	2	2	20	Cylinder blown, thin walled. ?19th century

Total: 22 fragments, 19 MNV, 1.080kg

Context [8], spot date: 19th century

Form	Glass type	Colour	No.	ENV	Wt (g)	Comments
English cylindrical wine bottle	HLLA	Olive green	1	1	10	Wall sherd c. 1740 onwards
Vessel	Soda	Clear	1	1	2	Cylindrical sectioned wall fragment. Weathered. 19th century

Total: 2 fragments, 2 MNV, 12g

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The glass has some significance as one or two unusual forms are recorded, especially the item with the C-shaped section pedestal base. It was postulated that the glass recovered from context [6] of the masonry feature [7] was derived from a public house or a similar drinking establishment. Indeed, four tumblers and a rummer are recorded for an alcoholic consumption use and some of the other bottles may have contained spirits. However, there was only one fragment of a wine bottle noted. Finds groups associated with shop owners and their residents recorded at Stockwell Street, Greenwich also contained multiple occurrences of tumblers and other alcohol consumption vessels, such as wine glasses, besides a larger number of wine bottles (Jarrett forthcoming). Therefore, the glass found in fill [6] may purely be a domestic group of material dumped in the backyard of one of the properties relating to the terraced housing previously located on the study area. The glass has the potential to date the contexts it was recovered from and also to illuminate upon the activities associated with a household, previously located on the site. However, as the assemblage is rather small compared to other groups of 19th-century finds from London households, and there being a difficulty for finding a venue for a publication on this material, then there are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage.

Reference

Jarrett, C. Forthcoming, 'The pottery, glass & clay tobacco pipe'. In: J. Taylor, 'Medieval and post-medieval Greenwich: Excavations at 4–19 Stockwell Street, London Borough of Greenwich'. Pre-Construct Archaeology Kent papers.

APPENDIX 6: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

Chris Jarrett

Introduction

A small sized assemblage of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from the site (half of a box). All of the fragments are in a good condition, indicating fairly rapid deposition after breakage. Clay tobacco pipes occur in two contexts as small (under 30 fragments) sized groups. All of the clay tobacco pipes (32 fragments, comprised of thirteen bowls, two nibs (mouth parts) and seventeen stems), of which none are unstratified, were classified by Atkinson and Oswald's (1969) typology (suffixed AO). The quality of finish has also been recorded. All of the bowls types date to the 19th century and have a date range of c. 1820–1910. The material is discussed as a spot dating index,

Spot dating Index

Context [6], spot date: c. 1870s

Part	Bowl type	Date Range	Initials	No. of bowls/ fragments	Comments
Bowl	AO28	1820–1860		1	Plain. Spur missing
Bowl	AO28	1820–1860		1	A raised circle on the left side of the heel with a leafy spray above and at the base of the bowl. ?Flower on the right side of the heel. Leaf borders
Bowl	AO28	1820–1860	W C	1	Wheat ear borders, worn mould. Possibly made by William Critchfield, c. 1877-80, Bethnal Green, although other London pipe makers with these initials are known (Oswald 1975, 134)
Bowl	AO28	1820–1860	? C	1	Wheat ear borders, poor handling with finger nail marks (see above for the possible pipe makers)
Bowl	AO28S	1860–1880	I F	1	Front of the bowl is missing, leaf borders. Poorly moulded. Probably made by Jesse Ford, 1836–1877, Mile End, although at least two other

Part	Bowl type	Date Range	Initials	No. of bowls/ fragments	Comments
					contemporaneous pipe makers are known with these initials (Oswald 1975, 136)
Bowl	AO28	1820–1860	I F	1	Short bowl, wheat ear and grass leaf borders (see above for the possible pipe maker)
Bowl	AO28	1820–1860		1	Plain. Spur missing
Bowl	AO29	1840–1880		1	A shield on each side of the heel, leaf borders, worn mould
Bowl	AO30	1840–1910+		1	Slanting rim, wheat ear borders, worn mould. A long stem survives
Bowl	AO30	1840–1910+		1	Plain bowl with a slanting rim and the stem has an incuse stamp '[BURN]S CUTTY PIPE', c. 1870's type of stamp. Burn's Cutty refers to a specific bowl shape named in pipe makers' catalogues
Bowl	AO30	1840–1910+		1	Decorated large rib with a surround on the front and back of the bowl
Bowl	AO30	1840–1910+		1	Slanting rim, wheat ear borders
Bowl	AO30	1840–1910+		1	Slanting rim, the bowl has curving ribs containing a flower, while the base of the bowl has round ended ribs with the central one containing a tassel type motif
Stem	-			15	X14 thin stems with fine bores, x1 thick stem, medium bore
Nib	-			2	X1 bevelled finish, x1 gently bevelled with red wax

Total: 30 fragments, comprised of thirteen bowls, two nibs (mouth parts) and fifteen stems

Context [8], spot date: 1660-1680

Part	Bowl type	Date Range Initials	No. of bowls/ fragments	Comments
Stem	-		2	x1 thin with a fine bore, x1 medium with a wide bore

Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The clay tobacco pipes are of some interest and therefore of some significance. It has been postulated that the contents of fill [6] may have been derived from a public house or drinking establishment. Clay tobacco pipes found in large quantities are often found to be associated with drinking establishments, although some inn groups can be completely devoid of these finds (Pearce 2000). Therefore, the small assemblage of clay tobacco pipes found in the masonry feature [7] cannot be conclusively assigned to a drinking establishment and could equally have been derived from a domestic household. The latter was probably located on one of the terraced streets documented on the study area. The bowl types found in fill [6] of the masonry structure [7] are generally contemporaneous, although some of the spurred AO28 examples may be residual. At least two local (East London) clay tobacco pipe makers working in the late 19th century are represented amongst the marked bowls. These bowls could therefore be contemporaneous with the AO30 bowl with the Burns Cutty stamp, the latter stylistically dated to the 1870's. The pipe makers and the stamps therefore indicate a final c. 1870s deposition date for both the clay tobacco pipes, pottery and glass found in fill [6]. Therefore, the main potential of the material is to date the contexts they were recovered from. The material also adds to a holistic understanding for all of the activities associated with the finds recovered from feature [7]. However, as the assemblage is too small and would be difficult to publish, then there are no recommendations for further work on the material.

References

- Atkinson D. and Oswald, A., 1969 'London clay tobacco pipes'. *Journal of British Archaeology Association*, 3rd series, Vol. 32, 171-227.
- Pearce, J. 2000. A late 18th-century inn clearance assemblage from Uxbridge, Middlesex, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, Volume 34, 144-186.

APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: [preconst1-250726](#)

Project details

Project name Blackwall Reach Phase 1B, London E14, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on behalf of CgMs Consulting at Blackwall Reach Phase 1B, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The archaeological investigation was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 took the form of a watching brief upon the removal of concrete hard-standing and foundations. Phase 2, commenced directly after the conclusion of Phase 1 comprising the excavation of a single targeted evaluation trench targeted within the footprint of the proposed new development. The watching brief and evaluation revealed a Victorian well and cess pit cut into alluvial layers that were formed within a possible east-west aligned palaeo-channel.

Project dates Start: 28-03-2016 End: 29-04-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes BDC16 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status (other) Archaeological Priority Zone

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Monument type CESS PIT Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Methods & "Targeted Trenches" techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS POPLAR Blackwall Reach,
London E14

Postcode E14

Study area 7.5 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 383 808 51.508680483812 -0.006908799993 51 30 31 N 000 00 24 W
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: -0.5m Max: 0.72m

Project creators

Name of CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Organisation

Project brief Richard Meager
originator

Project design Richard Meager
originator

Project Tim Bradley
director/manager

Project supervisor Guy Seddon

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Capita Symonds
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Glass", "Worked bone"

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital
available photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"
available

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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