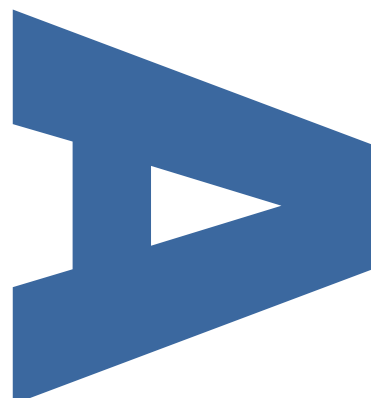


**LAND AT GASCOIGNE EAST  
(ZONE 1), KING EDWARD'S  
ROAD, BARKING, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF BARKING  
AND DAGENHAM:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**SITE CODE: GEB 16**

**REPORT NO: R12593**

**AUGUST 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**LAND AT GASCOIGNE EAST (ZONE 1), KING EDWARD'S ROAD, BARKING,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Site Code:** GEB16  
**Central NGR:** TQ 4468 8364  
**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
**Planning Reference:** n/a  
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**Commissioning Client:** London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
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August 2016**

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**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**LAND AT GASCOIGNE EAST (ZONE 1), KING EDWARD'S ROAD,  
BARKING, LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM:**

**Type of project  
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the result of an archaeological evaluation on land at Gascoigne Estate East (Zone 1), King Edward's Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and was commissioned by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 1.2 Three evaluation trenches were excavated (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) up to 1.81m below current ground level. Natural brickearth was recorded in two of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) but no gravel deposits were exposed.
- 1.3 The evaluation confirmed the results of previous archaeological investigations carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at the Gascoigne Estate in 2003 (Keith-Lucas 2003), in August 2014 (Douglas 2014) and December 2014 (Maher 2015) which showed a natural topography, consisting of terrace gravel topped by natural brickearth, which sloped from the north downwards to the south.
- 1.4 Natural brickearth was recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 at 2.73m OD and 2.37m OD in the north and south part of the site respectively.
- 1.5 The natural brickearth was overlaid by a sequence of post-medieval and later deposits which were in turn truncated by a large modern reinforced concrete building located in the western half of the site. This structure is believed to be the remains of a 1970s multi-level car park which was subsequently demolished due to fire.
- 1.6 No archaeological deposits dating between the prehistoric and medieval period were observed during the evaluation. However, the modern impact on the archaeological resource seems not to have impacted upon the eastern half of the site which as a result is the only area with some archaeological potential within the subject site.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at the Gascoigne Estate (East), Zone 1, King Edward's Road, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, IG11 7SU. The site was a rectangular shaped parcel of land bounded by King Edward's Road to the east, St Mary's to the south and east and by flats to the north. The site covered an area of 1,330 sq m and is centred at NGR TQ 4468 8364 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 A number of test pits were excavated to the north of the subject site in August 2014. One test pit found evidence of an archaic soil horizon that probably formed during the prehistoric period (Douglas 2014). This soil was located approximately 55m to the north of the subject site and produced pottery and worked flints dated to the Bronze Age or early Iron Age. As a result an evaluation was carried out in December 2014 (Maher 2015) which consisted of the excavation of nine trenches and two test pits. This later evaluation produced very ephemeral evidence of prehistoric occupation in the form of prehistoric pottery and one flint scraper found c. 240m to the north-west of the subject site.
- 2.3 As a result of the findings from the previous archaeological evaluations carried out in 2014 an archaeological evaluation commissioned by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham was carried out on the Zone 1 site between 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2016) and following English Heritage guidelines (GLAAS 2014).
- 2.4 The site was located within a locally designated Archaeology Priority Area which covers much of the southern fringe of the borough and refers to its documented potential to contain both prehistoric and Romano-British features, deposits and artefacts.
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation was supervised by Ireneo Grosso and was project managed by Helen Hawkins, both of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The work was monitored by John Gould of Historic England, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 2.6 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 2.7 The site was allocated the unique site code GEB 16.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### 3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

#### 3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by "The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004" (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:

##### **Policy 4b.15 Archaeology**

The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and Boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London's archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their DPDs for protecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

#### 3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

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

##### **POLICY CP2: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING OUR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

Barking and Dagenham has a rich local history. Signs of our fishing, maritime and industrial heritage can still be seen for example at Barking Town Quay, the Ford works in Dagenham, and the Malthouse and Granary buildings on Abbey Road. The Becontree Estate, the Curfew Tower and remains of Barking and Abbey, Eastbury Manor House, Valence House and Dagenham Village are also important symbols of our past. However, compared to many other areas the Borough has relatively few protected historic environment assets such as listed buildings and conservations areas. With this in mind the Council will take particular care to:

- - Protect and wherever possible enhance our historic environment.
- - Promote understanding of and respect for our local context.
- - Reinforce local distinctiveness
- - Require development proposals and regeneration initiatives to be of a high quality that respect and reflects our historic context and assets.

#### 3.4 Planning permission

3.4.1 Planning permission has been sought for the phased comprehensive redevelopment of the site for residential dwellings.

3.4.2 The Zone 1 and 2 sites have permission for demolition of standing structures and grubbing out of foundations, whilst a masterplan and planning application for housing and a new school are prepared. The planning team are aware of the masterplan but have not got final details of the school. Zone 1 has implied approval to proceed under the masterplan, and therefore the archaeological evaluation needed to be carried out prior to grubbing out of foundations, as the site is very likely to get an archaeological condition at the planning stages.

3.4.3 The site is located within a locally designated Archaeological Priority Area which covers much of the southern fringe of the borough and refers to its documented potential to contain both prehistoric and Romano-British features, deposits and artefacts.

## **4 EVALUATION OBJECTIVES**

4.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2016) addressed the following primary objectives:

- To determine the natural topography of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity at the site, whether settled occupation or artefact scatters.
- To establish the presence or absence of Roman and medieval activity.
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site.
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological resource.



## **5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 The geological and topographical background cited below was obtained from the DBA carried out for the Gascoigne East development site (AOC 2014) and from the PCA archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out to the north of Zone 1 site for Phase 1 works (PCA 2015 and forthcoming).

### **5.2 Geology**

5.2.1 Geological mapping of the area indicates that the geology underlying the proposed development site comprises London Clay, which is overlain by Taplow Gravel with alluvial deposits present in the southern corner of the site (BGS 1996). Brickearth was found on top of the Taplow Gravel in the archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out directly to the north of the Zone 1 site (PCA 2015 and forthcoming). The brickearth had been truncated away at the top of the hill in the St Margaret's Road area.

### **5.3 Topography**

5.3.1 Assimilation of the data collected from previous archaeological investigations in close proximity to the site, indicated that the natural gravels to the north of the site boundary were present at a height of approximately 7m OD, decreasing to a height of c. 5.50m OD to the north-west of the site. The evaluation at St. Ann's found natural gravel surviving to a maximum height of 7.48m OD (PCA 2015 and forthcoming). As the local topography descends towards Barking Creek to the south, the height of the gravel decreases to between 1.53m OD and -0.35m OD towards the north-west of the application site.

5.3.2 The geotechnical test pits carried out in August 2014 by PCA indicated that the remains of the brickearth cap were present in the south and east of the site, and that the north of the site lay on higher ground where the gravel were exposed and the brickearth cap had been exposed.

## **6 NEARBY INVESTIGATIONS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 The previous archaeological works background cited below was obtained from the evaluation report carried out for the Gascoigne East development site in 2014 (Maher 2015).

### **6.2 Previous Archaeological Works**

6.2.1 Two archaeological evaluations have been carried out for the Phase 1 Gascoigne Estate redevelopment work, and a number of other evaluations have been carried out in the area. The results of these evaluations have some bearing on the geological and topographical nature of the area, and hence the potential survival of archaeological material.

6.2.2 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by PCA at Westbury Road, c 220m north of the centre of the current site, in 1996 (Gollop 1996). The evaluation found natural gravel at between 5.57m OD and 5.30m OD. The gravel was sealed in both trenches by a thick layer of late post-medieval ground make up. Westbury Road is located at the top of the gravel terrace as it rises away from the River Roding. As seen during the 2014 evaluation conducted by PCA (Maher 2015) and the previous test pitting (Douglas 2014), the gravel terrace has either been truncated, or never had a yellow silty clay cap (brickearth). Modern development on the higher terrace has therefore had a higher impact on any potential prehistoric deposits simply because they would have been shallower and therefore more vulnerable to destruction.

6.2.3 An archaeological evaluation was carried out at St Ann's in the Gascoigne Estate by PCA in 2003, c. 380m to the north-west of the current works (Keith-Lucas 2003). Five trenches were excavated and the natural sands and gravels were found at between 6.80m OD and 7.48m OD, sloping down to the south. This fits with the natural gravel found in Trenches 1a and 1b at 7.06m OD and 6.95m OD respectively in 2014 (Maher 2015). Again, in keeping with the general trend, no yellow silty clay was identified on this higher part of the terrace.

6.2.4 During the evaluation carried out in 2014 (Maher 2015), nine features were recorded in evaluation Trenches 1 – 4, but no archaeology was evident in Trench 5. Three of the features appeared prehistoric in date, including an east-west aligned ditch in Trench 2. Charcoal and daub flecking were present in the features and one contained a struck flint.

6.2.5 As found at the current site, the construction of the Gascoigne Estate had had a high localised impact, generally truncating archaeological deposits. The impact of the Victorian terraces was less noticeable.

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The archaeological and historical background is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (Hawkins 2016).

### **7.2 Prehistoric**

7.2.1 A review of the GLHER data from within the 750m study area indicates that the majority of entries relate to isolated find spots. The earliest material identified in the area is Palaeolithic in date consisting of one example of a worked flint cleaver found in Wanstead Flats Manor Park c. 600m to the northwest of the application site, and two worked flint flakes recovered in 1888 near St. Paul's Road approximately 200m to the northwest. Later Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flint blades, knives and axes have been recovered from two further sites, located on Abbey Road, c. 750m to the northwest of the site, and adjacent to Barking Creek c. 300m south of the site boundary. The discovery of a stone axehead, dated generally to the prehistoric period, has also been found in the vicinity of Barking town centre, to the northeast of the development. A possible Neolithic pit was found during the excavation works in Phase 1 Zone A2 during July 2016 (PCA forthcoming).

7.2.2 Evidence for Bronze Age activity has been found in two locations within the vicinity of the site. In 2004 an excavation took place at the former Icon Warne Works, located on the opposite side of Gascoigne Road from the application site, which identified both a pit and peat deposits which dated to this period. Bronze Age pottery has also been found during works at the Church of England Primary School, c.600m northwest of the application site.

7.2.3 The most recent evidence for prehistoric activity derives from the excavation of a pit which contained fragments of Iron Age pottery, associated with other possible contemporary pit and ditch features, during an evaluation adjacent to St. Ann's, located adjacent to the western boundary of the site.

### **7.3 Roman**

7.3.1 The main focus of Roman period activity in the region was located to the west, within and close to the modern extent of the City of London, which was occupied from AD 43 through to the Roman withdrawal from Britain in AD 410, and beyond.

7.3.2 One of the Roman roads which linked the major Roman settlements of London and Colchester passed through Chadwell Heath, to the north of Barking.

7.3.3 Evidence for Roman activity is sparse within the study area. The most significant feature believed to be Roman in date is a possible dock, identified using aerial photography, located on the southern bank of Barking Creek to the south of the application site. The isolated discovery of a silver denarius of Vespasian in the grounds of the Church of England Primary School, located to the northwest, has also been reported.

### **7.4 Early Medieval and Medieval**

7.4.1 The name 'Barking' derives from the Anglo-Saxon name 'Berecingum' where the termination 'ingum' derives from the Old English -ingas, meaning 'people or followers of...' which was added to the name of the local tribal chieftain- in this case Berica, meaning 'Berica's People' (Field 1980).

7.4.2 According to the GLHER the first documented evidence for a settlement at Barking occurs in AD 666, the focus of which is thought to be located near the remains of Barking Abbey, approximately 300m from the northern boundary of the application site. It is likely that the original Barking Abbey was established at a similar time to that of the settlement, but was rebuilt in c.AD 930 after a raid by the Danes. Evidence for this early Abbey building is very limited; although a Saxon carved stone cross has been found in this location.

7.4.3 Excavations adjacent to Barking Abbey in 1990 discovered the remains of early medieval glass working, in the form of a kiln and glass working debris, both of which were associated with a contemporary east-west boundary ditch. Immediately to the south of the Abbey an early medieval loom-weight has also been found.

- 7.4.4 Isolated early medieval finds have also been discovered in the immediate vicinity of the application site. A residual sherd of pottery dating to this period was identified during the evaluation at St. Ann's, adjacent to the site, while it was reported that Saxon coins were found in the vicinity of the Gascoigne Estate during the mid 18th century. Their exact location of their discovery is unknown.
- 7.4.5 By the beginning of the medieval period the manor of Barking is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as being 30 hides held by the abbey. The manor probably included Dagenham, as well as Barking and Ilford. Such information suggests that the settlement of Barking had expanded in size since the early medieval period.
- 7.4.6 The medieval development of the town is well attested to archaeologically with a significant number of entries on the GLHER recording evidence for medieval activity.
- 7.4.7 Several of these records lie within, or close to, the boundary of the application site. One of these records relates to the area of the Gascoigne Estate lying within an extensive area of heathland during the medieval period known as Upper Turnedowne. An excavation in 1986 in the western area of the estate, in proximity to St. Paul's Road, c. 300m to the east, revealed a series of medieval features such as pits, postholes, and beam slots, interpreted as dating to the 14th century. Features such as these strongly imply that settlement was taking place in this area by the middle of the medieval period.
- 7.4.8 A substantial quantity of evidence is associated with the development of Barking Abbey during the medieval period. Both evaluations and geophysical survey have identified a series of buried wall lines and pits associated with the Abbey, while contemporary documents indicate the Abbey contained both a hermitage and chantry chapel. One element of the medieval Abbey survived the Dissolution, represented by the Grade II listed standing walls.
- 7.4.9 Closely associated with the remains of Barking Abbey is the surviving Grade I listed St. Margaret's Church immediately to the south of the Abbey, which was originally constructed in the 13th century.
- 7.4.10 Commerce was closely tied into life around the medieval Abbey, as the Barking Abbey rentals mentions the presence of a fishmongers located at the southern end of Abbey Road, c.500m west of the application site. It is likely that this shop fronted onto a medieval street named Fish Row. Documents also indicate that there were commercial properties which once fronted onto North Street/Broadway on the eastern side of the Abbey such as a shop, storehouse, and public house.
- 7.4.11 The area to the west of Abbey Road is likely to have been highly developed during the medieval period due to the opportunities offered by the presence of Barking Creek. Excavation and research in the vicinity of Town Quay has highlighted the remains of buildings and possible watermills, as well as kilns, ovens, and flood defences. Other medieval watermills may be present up stream of this location as a mill leat is recorded in the vicinity of London Road. Further evidence that medieval exploitation of the creek is recorded to the south of Town Quay, at Hewetts Quay, where there is evidence for the backfilling and maintenance of drainage channels in this area during the 12th to 14th century.
- 7.4.12 Evidence for domestic activity associated with this period has been found to the east of the Abbey on Axe Street, c. 50m to the north of the application site, in the form of rubbish pits and ditches.
- 7.4.13 Archaeological investigations in proximity to St. Joseph's School, c. 200m west of the proposed development, discovered the remains of timber structures and boundary ditches dating to the 13th or 14th century.
- 7.4.14 Medieval activity in Barking is known to extend into the northern part of the study area, approximately 350m from the application site, as several sources identify East Street as being associated with a medieval Leper Hospital of St. Lawrence positioned close to one the entrance gates to the town.
- 7.4.15 Contemporary documents also make note of several grand houses present in the town by the later medieval period, one of which was located on Heath Street c. 250m to the

northwest of the site, with another noted on Ripple Road adjacent to the eastern boundary of the application site. Investigation at the Ripple Road has highlighted a possible moat associated with this property.

## **7.5 Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 7.5.1 By the beginning of the post-medieval period Barking had developed into a town of significant size, with many of the commercial interests which assisted in the town's growth still located along Abbey Road c. 500m to the west of the proposed development. From the 16th century onwards there is evidence for docks and blacksmiths workshops; brewhouses, jute mills and factories; malthouses and maltkilns; and windmills all competing for space.
- 7.5.2 Other areas where post-medieval industrial evidence survives include Hewetts Quay where docks and associated structures have been recorded; a furnace and culvert on North Street; a mill leat and house adjacent to London Road; and warehouse, mill house and offices at Town Quay.
- 7.5.3 Despite the Abbey's destruction in 1541, activity continued in and around the site such as the 16th century Grade II\* listed Fire Bell Gate and various 16th to 17th century pits and posthole features excavated in the grounds demonstrates.
- 7.5.4 The earliest detailed cartographic depiction of Barking town derives from 1653 showing a high concentration of properties fronting onto the important thoroughfares of Abbey Road, North Street, East Street and Axe Street. The northern area of the site is shown on the plan, lying south of Axe Street in an area of open ground named as Upper Turne Downe. It is known that the area of the site remained as open ground between the 17th and 18th centuries as the Gascoigne Estate map of 1799 clearly indicates that the area of site now falls within the boundaries of the park belonging to Bifrons House. The only features marked are several groups of trees, two ponds adjacent to the eastern boundary, and a possible small structure adjacent to the western boundary. The Bifrons Estate had been designed and created in the early 18th century by John Bamber, with the grand three storey estate house located fronting onto the south side of Axe Street, immediately to the north of the site boundary.
- 7.5.5 Features associated with Bifrons Estate were possibly identified during archaeological investigations immediately to the northwest of the application site where 18th and 19th century ditch, drain, posthole and pit features were identified.
- 7.5.6 Sharing the Axe Street frontage at this time with the Bifrons Estate was also a mineral water factory and icehouse.
- 7.5.7 The majority of the entries on the GLHER relating to the post-medieval period are associated with the town's rapid development during the 18th to 19th century. Many institutions were being established at this time such as the House of Correction and Nonconformist Meeting House on East Street; and court house, pillory, prison and workhouse on North Street.
- 7.5.8 In the immediate vicinity of the Abbey activity continued with evidence for post-medieval burials and tombs, while shops and lodging houses had been constructed fronting onto Broadway. The truncated remains of other structures post-medieval structures have been identified on the opposite side of Broadway.
- 7.5.9 Other evidence for 19th century growth in the town has been identified to the north of Ripple Road, a short distance from the northeast boundary of the site. One of the key records relates to the survival of Westbury Manor House in 18th century and then later demolished, evidence for which may have been identified during several archaeological investigations.
- 7.5.10 One example of an 18th century property that survives in close vicinity to the application site is the Grade II listed St. Margaret's Vicarage c. 200m to the north. Insubstantial post-medieval structures have been found in the grounds of the vicarage during archaeological works.
- 7.5.11 Other Grade II listed buildings in Barking, built a century later, include Barking Magistrates Court on East Street and The Old Granary at Town Quay.

- 7.5.12 The layout of Barking during the 19th century is shown on the 1846 Barking Tithe map. The map shows that while the road frontages remain intensively occupied, the land to the rear of the road frontage properties still consists of open fields. Further analysis identifies that similar to the previous 1799 Estate plan, the area of the site still lies in open fields, with apportionment indicating the land is still parkland belonging to the Bifrons Estate.
- 7.5.13 With the publication of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area in 1875-82 the area of the site is depicted in much greater detail. The area is still shown as open fields with a pond and several wells marked bordering Ripple Road/Creekmouth Lane. Two small structures are present adjacent to a field boundary in the southern area of the site. By 1896 significant changes occur in the northern half of the site due to the construction of a terraced housing estate. The houses are lined up uniformly, fronting onto Ripple Road and a series of new roads laid at right angles to one another, with small yards or gardens to the rear. These new roads are marked as St. Paul's Road, St. Ann's Road, St. Mary's Road, St. Margaret's Road, Coverdale Road and Morley Road. A terraced housing estate, similar in form, has also been built by this time approximately 200m east of the site. A well remains within the site boundary, marked adjacent to Ripple Road/Creekmouth Lane at the eastern end of Morley Road. The southern half of the application site remains as open ground, although the two small structures remain. The western boundary is now defined by the newly built Gascoigne Road.
- 7.5.14 By 1920 the terraced housing estate has been extended into all but the very southern limit of the site which remains as open ground or allotments. The second phase of housing has been constructed fronting onto a series of parallel roads, named as Howard Road, Boundary Road, Perth Road, Keith Road and Oban Road. A proportion of the same housing stock is still present on the eastern site of King Edward's Road indicating that these houses would have primarily been two storey, two bay, stock brick built houses with pitched tiled roofs.
- 7.5.15 A review of the bomb damage records held by the Barking and Dagenham Local Studies Library recorded bomb damage affecting properties within the area of the application site. The records show that in May 1941 one high explosive bomb was dropped at the junction of Oban Road and Gascoigne Road which appeared to have destroyed or damaged five properties, while a second unexploded bomb fell into gardens on the south side of Oban Road. Further significant damaged was caused when two V1 flying bombs hit the estate in August 1944. One impact was located at the junction of Coverdale Road and St. Ann's Road, while the second impact occurred just south of the junction of Oban Road and King Edward's Road. The impacts appeared to have destroyed up to six properties in each incident, while causing blast damage to numerous properties in a 100m radius.
- 7.5.16 The threat of air raids was taken seriously enough at the time to warrant the construction of an air raid shelter on Abbey Road, c. 500m west of the site.
- 7.5.17 Post-war development of the site is shown on the 1966-69 Ordnance Survey map which clearly shows that the terraced estate is still extant, with new residential blocks, includes a tri-lobed building present in the southeast corner of the application site. The southern boundary of the site is now defined by the Barking By-pass (the modern Alfred's Way) and by a large warehouse and associated smaller buildings fronting onto the by-pass.
- 7.5.18 A search of the planning applications for the site by the client identified that there was an application to construct a multi-level car park on the site in the 1970s. Additionally, a local resident remembered that a carpark was built on the site, and was subsequently demolished due to fire (pers. Com. Haylee Pratt, Mace)..
- 7.5.19 The map of 1975 shows that all but the southeast corner of the site has been redeveloped. The terraced housing estate and associated network of roads have been demolished and removed, to be replaced by a regular series of individual housing blocks surrounded by a series of new access roads, forming the modern Gascoigne Housing Estate. This site layout has primarily remained unaltered from that which is currently present. The Zone 1 site is occupied by the basketball court which is still extant.

## 8 METHODOLOGY

8.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation (Hawkins 2016) was to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological deposits at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeology.

8.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) which were excavated to either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural ground. As natural ground was found deeper than 1.2m below ground level (BGL) Trench 1 and 3 were stepped in order to make them safe whilst in Trench 2 a small sondage was excavated to expose the thickness of the concrete slab exposed at the base of the trench and the underlying deposit. The table below details all trenches dimensions including orientation:

Trench Number	Length	Width	Highest Level	Lowest level	Trench Orientation
1	14.91m	1.88m	3.96m OD	2.35m OD	N-S
2	14.58m	1.93m	3.96m OD	2.35m OD	NW-SE
3	14.67m	2.42m	3.96m OD	2.15m OD	N-S

8.3 The excavation of all evaluation trenches was undertaken using a JCB (3CX) mechanical excavator. After breaking the tarmac, 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.

8.4 Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until either significant archaeological strata were found or undisturbed natural ground exposed. Where modern concrete obstructions were encountered the breaker was used to break the concrete.

8.5 Trenches were CAT scanned after each spit was removed in order to check for buried services which were not marked on the service plan.

8.6 All open trenches were secured with secured Heras fence panels to prevent unauthorised access. Fences were also placed horizontally across the trenches as an extra precaution to prevent falls into the trenches.

8.7 Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The investigation of archaeological levels was carried out by hand, with cleaning, examining and recording both in plan and in section.

8.8 All archaeological features (stratigraphic layers, cuts, fills, structures) were excavated with hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:50 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded as to characterise their form, function and date.

8.9 The recording system adopted during the evaluation was 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 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.

8.10 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation consisting of a digital photographic archive that was maintained during the course of the archaeological investigation.

8.11 The complete archive produced during the evaluation and watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Museum of London site code GEB16.

8.12 One temporary benchmark was established with a GPS at a height of 3.87m OD in the eastern part of the basketball court.

8.13 All trenches were backfilled and compacted but without reinstating the tarmac.



## **9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION**

9.1 Three phase of activity were recorded during the evaluation:

- Phase 1 represents the natural geology
- Phase 2 represents the post-medieval activity
- Phase 3 represents the modern activity across the site

9.2 **Trench 1** (Section 101 and Plan, Figure 3)

9.3 Phase 1

9.3.1 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 1 was firm light yellowish brown silty clay [105] found at 2.49m OD. This deposit, exposed across the north half on Trench 1, had occasional to moderate flint pebbles inclusions but did not contain dating evidence, and was interpreted as natural brickearth.

9.4 Phase 2

9.4.1 Natural brickearth [105] was overlaid at 2.92m OD by dark greyish brown sandy silty clay [104] with occasional CBM and charcoal flecks inclusions. This layer was also located in the north half of Trench 1 where it was truncated to the south by the construction cut for the large reinforced concrete structure recorded across the site in all trenches (see Phase 3 below). Context [104] was interpreted as a late post-medieval layer associated with the late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the site as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1896 and 1920.

9.5 Phase 3

9.5.1 Phase 2 layer [104] was truncated to the south by a north-west south-east orientated construction cut for a modern reinforced concrete wall and concrete floor slab which occupied nearly the full extent of Trench 1. This reinforced concrete was interpreted as part of a 20<sup>th</sup> century structure located across the western part of the site.

9.6 **Trench 2** (Section 102 and Plan, Figure 4)

9.7 Phase 3

9.8 The earliest deposit exposed in this trench was disturbed natural sandy silt clay [107] exposed within the sondage located in the western part of Trench 2 only. This deposit was sealed by the modern concrete floor slab for a large 20<sup>th</sup> century building also exposed in Trenches 1 and 3 to the north and south respectively. The top of deposit [107] was recorded at 2.59m OD whilst the top of the concrete floor slab found at 2.77m OD.

9.9 **Trench 3** (Section 100 and Plan, Figure 5)

9.10 Phase 1

9.10.1 The earliest deposit recorded in this trench consisted of natural brickearth [102] found at 2.37m OD. Context [102] was exposed across the base of the central and northern part of Trench 3. No archaeological features or dating evidence were found within this deposit which was interpreted as being the same as deposit [105] recorded to the north in Trench 1.

9.11 Phase 2

9.11.1 Phase 1 brickearth [102] was sealed at 2.62m OD by 0.14m thick layer [101] which consisted of mid yellowish brown fine silty clay with moderate sub angular flint pebbles and occasional CBM flecks inclusions. This layer was dated to the post medieval period.

9.11.2 Layer [101] was sealed at 2.77m OD by mid brown silty clay [100]. This layer also contained a small quantity of material dated to the late post-medieval period and was interpreted as being associated with the back garden of one of the properties which occupied this part of the site during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 9.11.3 Post-medieval layer [100] was in turn sealed by a 0.04m thick layer of mortar at 2.80m OD. This layer was interpreted as part of an external surface associated with the back garden of one of the properties dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 9.11.4 In the central part of Trench 3 the natural brickearth was sealed by dark brown layer [103] at 2.37m OD. This layer produced dating evidence dated to the late post-medieval period in the form of domestic pottery sherds. In addition a fragment of a larger cast iron object (part of a fireplace?) depicting a medieval knight (sf 1) was also recovered from layer [103].
- 9.12 Phase 3
- 9.12.1 The southern part of Trench 3 was truncated by the north-west south-east orientated construction cut for the construction of the reinforced concrete wall and slab situated in the western part of the site. This reinforced concrete formed the southernmost part of the modern structure also recorded in Trenches 2 and 1 to the north. In the northern half of Trench 3, to the east of the large 20<sup>th</sup> century reinforced concrete structure, four large deep concrete foundations truncated the post-medieval and underlying natural. This structure is likely to be the remains of the multi-level car park constructed in the 1970s and subsequently demolished (pers. Com. Haylee Pratt, Mace).
- 9.12.2 The large concrete building, located in the western part of the site and exposed in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, was backfilled with concrete rubble and in turn sealed by the modern hard core/make up for the construction of the existing tarmac surface which represented the basketball court occupying the site at the time of the evaluation.

## **10 CONCLUSIONS**

### **10.1 Natural topography of the site**

10.1.1 The archaeological work encountered natural brickearth the north area of Trench 1 and in the north half of Trench 3 in the south only. In Trench 1 the natural brickearth survived later modern truncation at 2.73m OD and in Trench 3 was found at 2.37m OD. The height variation suggested by a drop towards the south as it was expected as the same drop was recorded to the north and north-west of the site during archaeological trial pitting (Douglas 2014), trial trenching in 2003 (Keith-Lucas 2003) and 2014 (Maher 2014). During the evaluation carried out in 2014 (Maher 2015) untruncated natural gravel was recorded at 6.94m OD in Trench 1b located approximately 400m to the north-east of the subject site, whilst the evaluation undertaken in August 2014 (Douglas 2014) recorded natural brickearth at 3.62m OD in TP 50, located approximately 55m to the north of the subject site.

10.1.2 The archaeological investigations undertaken within the Gascoigne Estate (east) area evidenced and confirm a substantial drop of the natural topography of the site from the north downwards to the south.

### **10.2 Prehistoric activity at the site**

10.2.1 No prehistoric activity was recorded at the site during the archaeological evaluation. The reason for the lack of archaeological deposits surviving on site is largely the result of the modern deep truncation associated with the construction of a large reinforced concrete structure which occupied the western half of the site.

### **10.3 Roman and medieval activity at the site.**

10.3.1 No Roman or medieval activity was recorded at the site. Cartographic evidence from the DBA assessment prepared by AOC in 2014 showed the site as agricultural/open ground until urban development took hold of this part of Barking during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **10.4 Post-medieval activity at the site.**

10.4.1 Post-medieval deposits were recorded in Trench 1 and 3 during the investigation. These deposits overlaid the natural brickearth and were in turn truncated by the modern reinforced concrete and concrete foundations. The post-medieval deposits were interpreted as part of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the site as shown by the cartographic evidence. In particular, the Ordnance Survey map of 1920 shows the site as fully developed with Howard Road crossing the middle of the site on a north-east south-west orientation. To the north and south of this road terraced housing was well established during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, no evidence of these terraced housing foundations was observed during the evaluation.

10.4.2 During the early 1970s the site underwent radical redevelopment as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1975, when the eastern section of Howard Road was occupied by residential buildings which formed the existing Gascoigne Estate.

10.4.3 Archaeological evidence for the modern period is represented by reinforced concrete walls and concrete floor slab found in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. This concrete structure, orientated north-west south-east, was at least 45m long end extended towards the west part of the site. The structure is believed to be the remains of a multi-level car park present on the site during the 1970s and subsequently demolished.

### **10.5 Potential surviving archaeological deposits.**

10.5.1 The archaeological evaluation shows that the western half of the site has been affected by modern development with the construction of a large concrete building. Evidence of large concrete foundations was also observed in the south east area of the site. However, the natural brickearth overlaid by later post-medieval deposits were recorded in the eastern part of the site. To the north of the site, in Trench 1 a very small triangle of stratified deposits consisting of natural brickearth overlaid by post-medieval and later deposits was recorded. In the north half of Trench 3. In the south of the site, the natural brickearth and the later overlying post-medieval deposits were truncated and defined by the eastern extent of the 20<sup>th</sup> post-war reinforced concrete structure. It is unclear at this

stage if the natural brickearth surviving in the eastern part of the site was affected by the terraced housing during the late post-medieval period. However, the result of the evaluation shows that the eastern half of the site is the only area with potential for surviving archaeological deposits.

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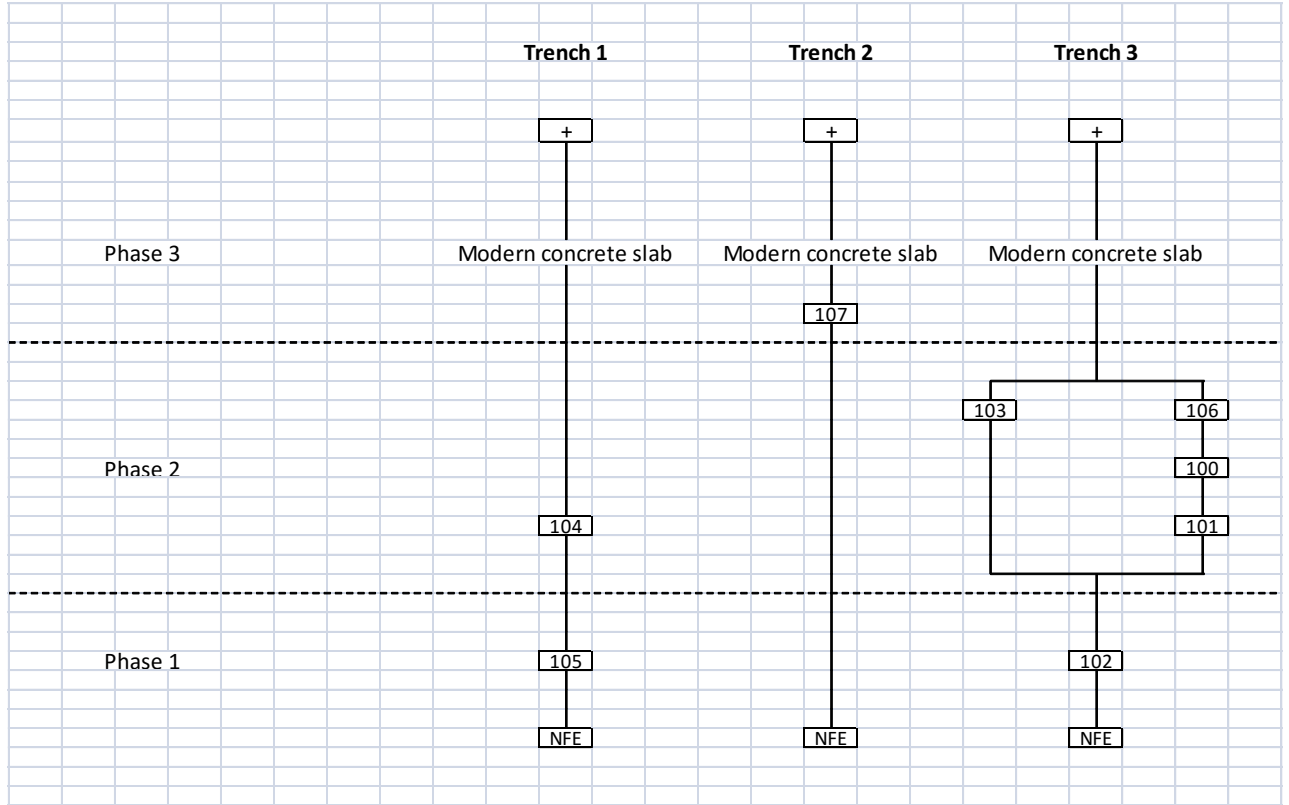
## **12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 12.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Haylee Pratt of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for commissioning and funding this investigation.
- 12.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank John Gould of Historic England for monitoring the work.
- 12.3 The author would like to thank Corso Dominici for his work on site, Richard Archer for the surveying, Charlotte Faiers for the illustrations, Chris Jarrett for his identification of the pottery and dating of the ceramic building material and Wayne Richards and John Joyce for the logistics.
- 12.4 Finally, special thanks are given to Helen Hawkins for her project management and the editing this report.

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Trench No.	Phase	Plan	Section	Type	Description	Highest Level	Lowest Level
100	3	2	Tr. 3	100	Layer	Post-med layer	2.77m OD	2.73m OD
101	3	2	Tr. 3	100	Layer	Post-med layer	2.62m OD	2.60m OD
102	3	1	Tr. 3	100	Layer	Subsoil	2.49m OD	2.48m OD
103	3	2	Tr. 3	100	Layer	Natural brickearth	2.37m OD	2.37m OD
104	1	2	Tr. 1	101	Layer	Post-med layer	2.92m OD	2.90m OD
105	1	1	Tr. 1	101	Layer	Natural brickearth	2.73m OD	2.70m OD
106	3	2	Tr. 3	100	Layer	Mortar layer	2.80m OD	2.79m OD
107	2	3	Tr. 2	102	Layer	Disturbed natural	2.59m OD	2.58m OD

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX





## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-260643

### Project details

Project name Evaluation on Land at Gascoigne East (Zone 1), King Edward's Road

Short description of the project Three evaluation trenches were excavated (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) up to 1.81m below current ground level. Natural brickearth was recorded in two of the evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 and 3) but no gravel deposits were exposed. The evaluation confirmed the results of previous archaeological investigations at the Estate which showed a natural topography, consisting of terrace gravel topped by natural brickearth, which sloped from the north of the estate downwards to the south. Natural brickearth was recorded in Trenches 1 and 3 at 2.73m OD and 2.37m OD in the north and south part of the site respectively. The natural brickearth was overlaid by a sequence of post-medieval and later deposits which were in turn truncated by a large modern reinforced concrete building located in the western half of the site. No archaeological deposits dating between the prehistoric and medieval period were observed during the evaluation.

Project dates Start: 11-08-2016 End: 16-08-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes GEB16 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Site status (other) Archaeology Priority Area

Current Land use Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods techniques & "Sample Trenches"

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

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

### **Project location**

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING Land at Gascoigne East (Zone 1), King Edward's Road, Barking

Postcode IG11 7SU

Study area 1330 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4468 8364 51.532600673123 0.086137916901 51 31 57 N 000 05 10 E Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 2.37m Max: 2.73m

### **Project creators**

Name of PCA  
Organisation

Project brief Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
originator

Project design Helen Hawkins  
originator

Project Helen Hawkins  
director/manager

Project supervisor Ireneo Grosso

Type of London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
sponsor/funding  
body

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive LAARC  
recipient

Physical Contents "Ceramics","Metal"

Digital recipient      Archive      LAARC

Digital Contents      "Stratigraphic","Survey"

Digital available      Media      "Database","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper recipient      Archive      LAARC

Paper Contents      "Stratigraphic","Survey"

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

### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      LAND AT GASCOIGNE EAST (ZONE 1), KING EDWARD'S ROAD, BARKING, LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Grosso, I.

Date      2016

Issuer or publisher      PCA

Place of issue or publication      London

Entered by      archive (archive@pre-construct.com)

## APPENDIX 4: PLATES



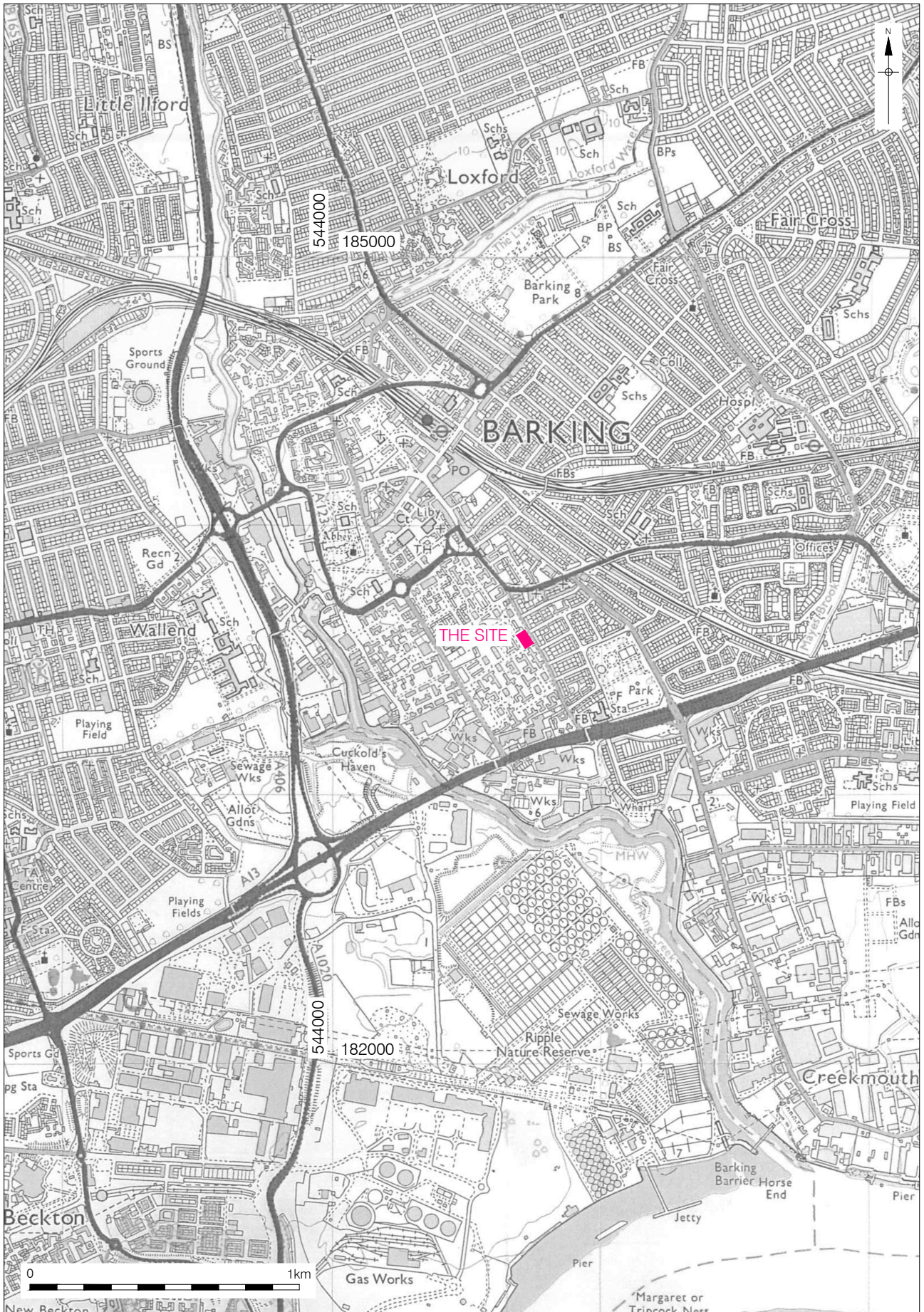
Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south showing natural brickearth [105] and modern reinforced concrete.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking south east showing modern reinforced concrete floor slab and walls.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking south showing natural brickearth [100] and modern concrete.

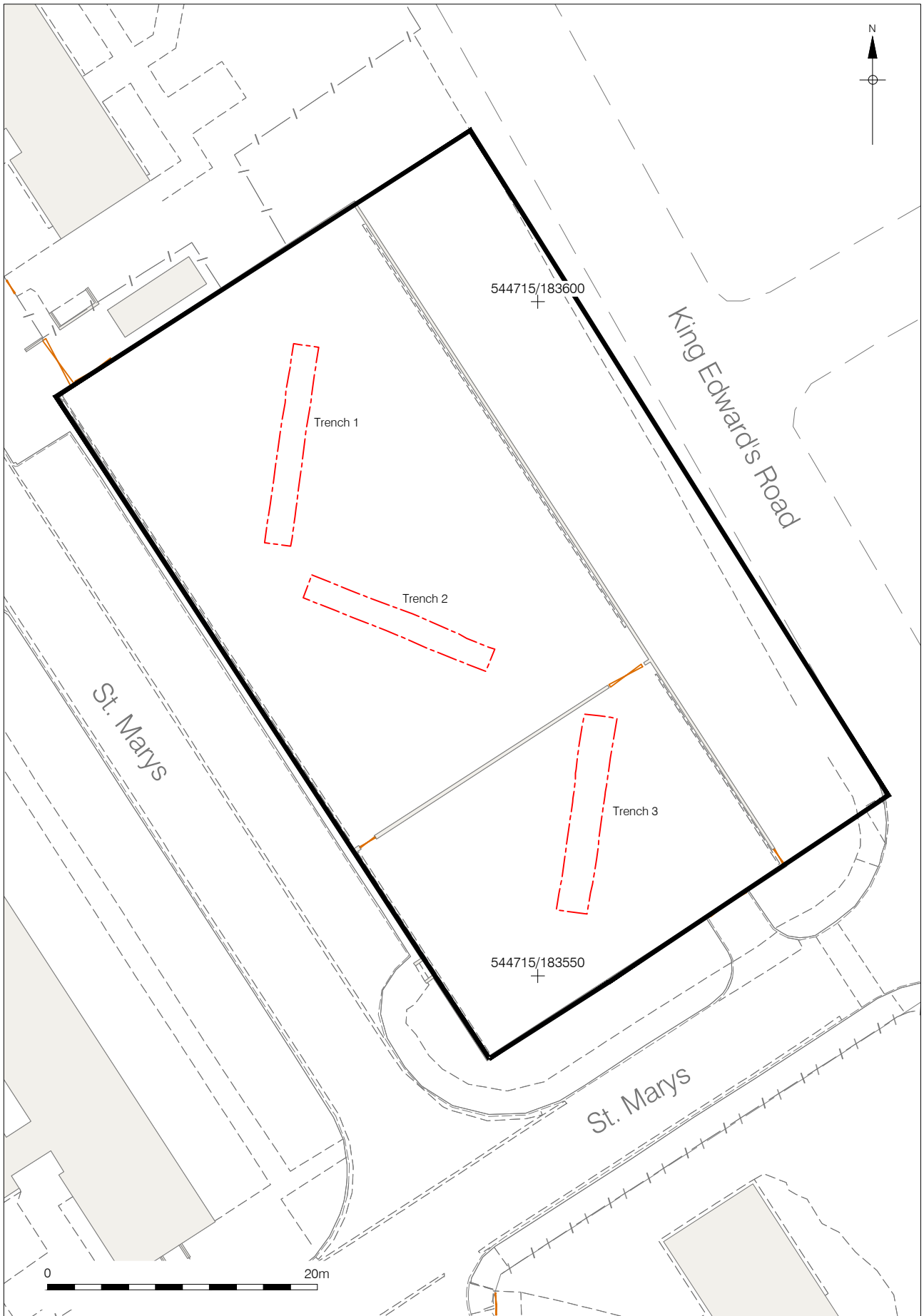


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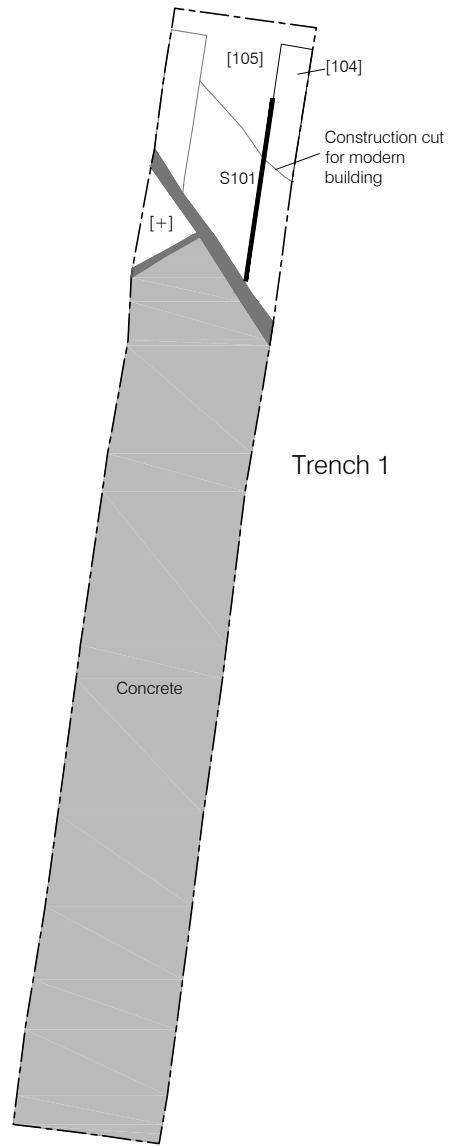
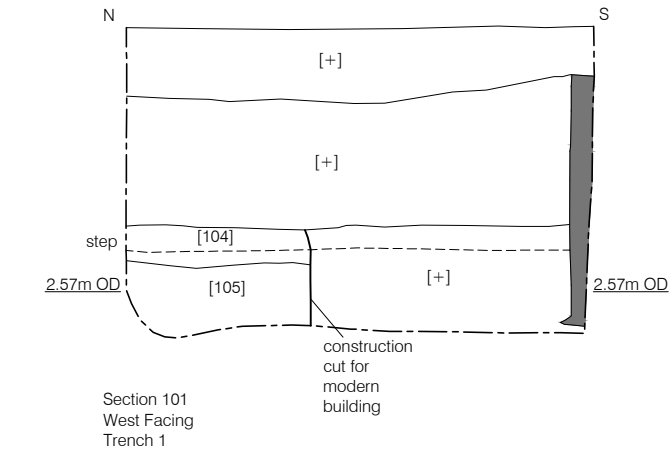
Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



Map Detail based on survey drawing supplied by Sumo Services Ltd, 2013  
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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:400 at A4

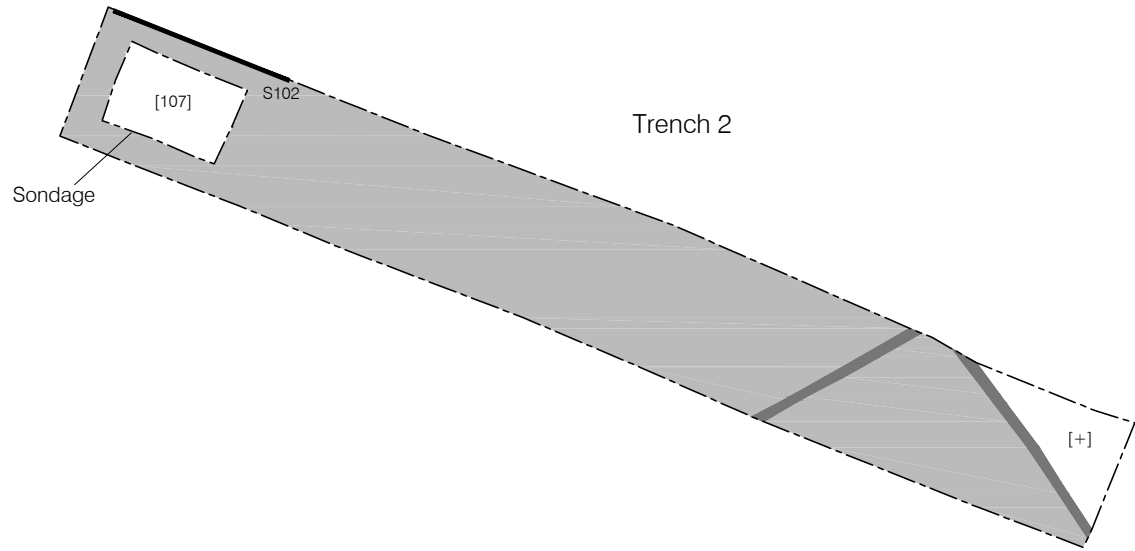
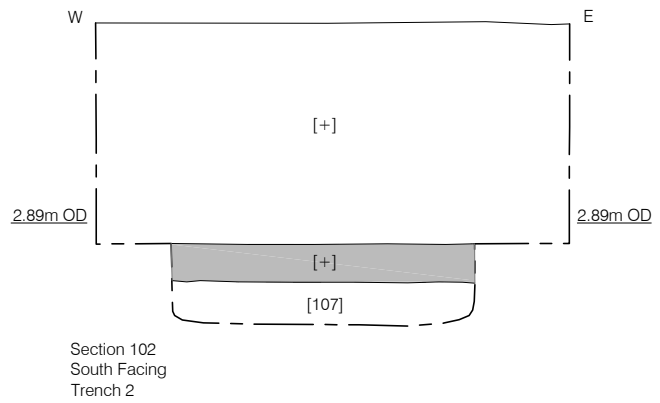




- Modern Walls
- Concrete Slab



Figure 3  
Trench 1 and Section 101  
1:100 and 1:40 at A4

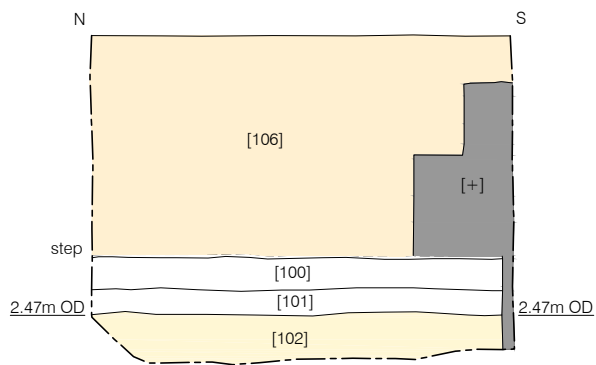


- Modern Wall
- Concrete Slab






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Figure 4  
Trench 2 and Section 102  
1:100 and 1:40 at A4



Section 100  
West Facing  
Trench 3

-  Modern Walls
-  Concrete Slab
-  Concrete building segments

