

**BLACK LION HOUSE,  
45 WHITECHAPEL ROAD,  
LONDON ED1 1DU**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

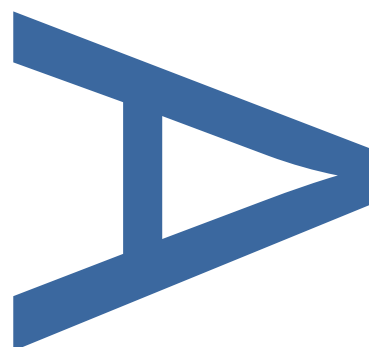
**PLANNING REFERENCE: PA/16/00970**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER  
HAMLETS**

**SITE CODE: WCL17**

**PCA REPORT NO: R12861**

**APRIL 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**



## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

BLACK LION HOUSE, 45 WHITECHAPEL ROAD,  
LONDON ED1 1DU

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### Quality Control

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** WCL17

**Central NGR:** TQ 3412 8155

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Tower Hamlets

**Planning Reference:** PA/16/00970

**Commissioning Client:** Black Lion House Limited Partnership

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**April 2017**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The archaeological work was conducted between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and was completed in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists and following the guidelines issued by Historic England.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of a single trench designed to be excavated to a maximum depth of 4.1m below ground level to reach the underlying natural geology or archaeological features or deposits. As executed, the archaeological evaluation recorded natural terrace gravel at 10.33m OD, approximately 3.8m below ground level.
- 1.3 Considerable modern truncation was recorded across the evaluation trench; a large modern intrusion was located throughout the eastern half which truncated all deposits below the depth of the natural gravel. The western half of the trench was disturbed by the presence of a large modern manhole chamber and its associated construction cut, which truncated all deposits to the top of the natural gravel.
- 1.4 The evaluation did record, however, a small area of undisturbed archaeological deposits. Located in the southern central area of the trench, the surviving archaeological sequence measured only 2.5m in length by 0.50m in width. This sequence consisted of two undated deposits which possibly represent garden or plough soil horizons, or potentially the fill of an unidentified deep feature such as a pit. The undated deposits were sealed by another two post-medieval layers which may be later dumping or garden soil.
- 1.5 This small area of undated stratigraphy represented the only archaeological survival within the trench.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The site is currently occupied by Black Lion House, a six storey office block above a retail podium with a mezzanine. The work was commissioned by Black Lion House Limited Partnership.
- 2.2 The site comprised an irregular area of land, c. 1650m<sup>2</sup> in extent, centred at TQ 3412 8155 within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 2.3 The proposed development has received full planning consent from the local planning authority under application number PA/16/00970. The scheme includes a new pavilion building to the rear of the site with a basement which extends outwards from the current basement.
- 2.4 A Heritage Appraisal of the site (KM Heritage 2013) was carried out for a previous application, concentrating predominantly on the setting of the buildings in relation to the nearby Conservation Area. The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the Local Plan. A letter from the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (Adam Single, Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), Historic England) highlighted the potential of the site: 'The application site lies with an area of archaeological potential connected with the line of the Roman road to Colchester and the early settlement of Whitechapel. The Greater London HER records that the Elizabethan Red Lion Inn stood near the site, a playhouse with a purpose built stage that predated Shoreditch's two pioneering early Shakespearean theatres by perhaps a decade. Numerous Roman and medieval finds are known from the vicinity'<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.5 An archaeological planning condition was therefore attached to the consent, requiring archaeological investigation to allow the design and implementation of mitigation work if remains were found to be present and at risk from the development. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation trenching was produced by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Mayo 2017) and approved by Adam Single of GLAAS<sup>2</sup>. The WSI followed the Historic England (Historic England GLAAS 2015) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (CIFA, 2014). The evaluation was supervised by Neil Hawkins and was project managed by Chris Mayo for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
- 2.6 The project was identified with the unique Museum of London site code WCL17. The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited within the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Adam Single to Local Planning Authority, dated 26/09/13, ref LAG 30/452

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Adam Single to Local Planning Authority, dated 16/03/17, ref CLO22973

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### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

#### **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 the following policy of relevance to archaeology within London:

##### **Historic environments and landscapes**

##### **POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

###### Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historical environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

###### Planning decision

C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D Development affecting heritage assets and their setting should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological assets or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that assets.

### LDF preparation

- F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.
- G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organizations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their setting where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

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

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

#### **SP12**

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 proposed development has received full planning consent from the local planning



authority under application number PA/16/00970. The scheme includes a new pavilion building to the rear of the site with a basement which extends outwards from the current basement.

3.4.2 An archaeological planning condition has been attached to the planning consent, as follows:

5. No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:
  - A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.
  - B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. this part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.

Reason: To protect the archeological integrity of the site in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Section 12) and the London Plan (2015) Policy 7.8.

3.4.3 PCA were appointed to undertake works to satisfy the above condition, and discussed and agreed a strategy with GLAAS whereby an evaluation would be undertaken to inform upon the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and allow the design and implementation of mitigation work if remains were found to be present and at risk from the development.

3.4.4 As required by the condition, a Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation trenching was produced by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Mayo 2017) and approved by Adam Single of GLAAS.

3.4.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### 3.5 Research Objectives

3.5.1 The investigation aimed to address the following primary objectives:

- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity;

- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site, specifically the medieval period and 16th century, if present.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) website<sup>3</sup> describes the underlying geology of the site to be Langley Silt (Brickearth) over Thames Gravels. The nearest borehole record for the site, located c. 30m to the north, identifies gravel at c. 4.10m below ground level. Above the gravel is a 0.40m thick layer of brown sandy clay, presumed to be the brickearth, which was sealed by 3.7m of made ground.
- 4.1.2 Natural brickearth was also recorded during an archaeological investigation at Green Dragon Yard (GDY99) in 1999 to the immediate west of the site at 11.60m OD.

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The current topography of the site is generally level at c. 14.10m OD with a rise to 15.18m OD to the northwest<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>

<sup>4</sup> Midland Survey Ltd 'Level Six Utility Mapping Survey', drawing number 25177 0, dated May 2016

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## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The archaeological and historical background below is summarised from a Historic Environment desk based assessment prepared for a site directly across the road at 20-22 Whitechapel Road (Trigpoint 2015) along with other sources where specified.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

- 5.2.1 There are few references to the prehistoric period in the immediate vicinity of the site. At 24-26 Buckle Street, c 250m southwest of the site, a piece of Neolithic Peterborough ware vessel was recovered during an evaluation in 2004.
- 5.2.2 Evaluations at Leman Street revealed a blue glass bead with opaque-white trailed spirals, dated to the Iron Age (MLO77614)

### **5.3 Roman**

- 5.3.1 It has been suggested that Whitechapel Road has Roman origins, although this has not been proved categorically. The main Roman extra mural cemetery lies just to the south of Whitechapel Road, around Alie Street.
- 5.3.2 The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) notes a cluster of individual Roman burials west of the site, outside the City walls. In 1904 several cremations were discovered in amphorae at 22 Alie Street, approximately 300m to the southwest (MLO2713) and on the same street, 2/3 urns were found at a depth of 4.5m with other finds including a glass phial, an iron brooch fragment and a quantity of burnt bone. A skull and samian dish were found just above the pottery (MLO12990). At 24-26 Buckle Street and 19 Lehman Street (50m from MLO2713) a 2004 watching brief identified a possible Roman grave cut and a small amount of abraded Roman pottery (MLO78283).
- 5.3.3 The GLHER also records a number of isolated finds spots of Roman date and, again, these are clustered in the area to the southwest of the site, largely between Aldgate and Commercial Road. These are largely pottery finds, although several of these are residual and found in later medieval contexts. This is suggestive of occupation immediately outside the London Wall and close to the (conjectured) main Roman road east. There is also a Roman cemetery recorded to the east of Aldgate, outside the city. The GLHER record MLO12790 lists cremation urns found in 1836 at the junction of Whitechapel High Street and Leman Street (c 300m from the site). Also at Alie Street, excavations in 1988 revealed extensive evidence of pitting, some of which were dated to the Roman period (MLO19479).

### **5.4 Saxon and Early Medieval**

- 5.4.1 There are no archaeological finds, features or structures dating from the Saxon and Early Medieval periods recorded on the GLHER. The earliest medieval occupation in Whitechapel is postulated along Whitechapel High Street and Whitechapel Road, but is not thought to date to

before the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5.5 Late Medieval**

- 5.5.1 Founded as a chapel of ease in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, the Chapel of the Blessed Mary of Metfelun, was located directly to the south of the site. Whitechapel was one of the earliest manors to separate from Stepney parish, by 1320, and St Mary's became the parish church (MLO3933). The original 14<sup>th</sup> century church was rebuilt in 1673, the 1870s and again in 1882. This latest building was damaged during the London Blitz, but was finally demolished in 1952 after being struck by lightning. The churchyard was extended in 1591, at some point prior to the production of Rocque's map of 1746, and again by 1799, with burials eventually ceasing in 1854.
- 5.5.2 There are multiple records on the GLHER relating to medieval quarrying within the search area, largely in the area between Aldgate and Commercial Road, to the south of Whitechapel Road and away from the likely focus of settlement. These records include MLO77960, several quarry pits containing pottery dated from AD 1080-1500, located at Umberston Street. There are also several records clustered in the Aldgate area, predominantly representing pitting and quarrying (MLO65099, MLO78284, MLO77588, MLO77590 and MLO63388).

## **5.6 Post-Medieval**

- 5.6.1 There are a large number of post-medieval archaeological features, finds and deposits relating to the area's industrial past within the area of the site. Buildings related to a brewery (MLO64061) and warehouse (MLO64062) – St George's Brewery – dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century occupy a large site fronting onto Commercial Road, approximately 250m south of the site.
- 5.6.2 Approximately 400m south of the site, excavations at 27-29 Whitechapel High Street in 2002 recorded a long history of industrial activity and occupation from the 14<sup>th</sup> century through to the post-medieval periods including large quarry pits sealed in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century and filled with cess or night soil from the city (MLO77588) and a medieval bell-casting pit (MLO77590) sealed by bell-making waste to level the ground. A late medieval timber-framed structure was recorded in association with evidence of metal working, and built on levelled foundry pits; fragments of other Tudor buildings were also uncovered (MLO77591).
- 5.6.3 Directly west of the site, at Green Dragon Yard, an evaluation (GDY99) in 1999 recorded pits and finds dating from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (MLO74054-6). These finds were above a cultivation horizon containing Roman pottery, suggesting earlier occupation of the site close to the road.
- 5.6.4 The Elizabethan Red Lion Theatre is thought to be located within the area of the site, although its exact location is not known. A research report for the location of the theatre was carried out for Crossrail (Philpotts 2004), as it was suggested that the Red Lion Theatre could be located in the proposed position of one of the new Crossrail stations. The report concluded that, although the location of the Red Lion was not fully confirmed, it was very likely to be

south of Whitechapel Road and close to the junction with Cambridge Heath Road, further to the east.

- 5.6.5 By the time of William Morgan's map of 1682 the site was already occupied by buildings fronting onto 'Whitechapel Street'. However, occupation at this time seems to have been largely confined to the line of the street itself as it runs eastward towards Stratford. Settlement was characterised by long, narrow plots, with buildings on the street frontage. St Mary Whitechapel is marked to the south of the site.
- 5.6.6 John Rocque's map of 1746 shows the contemporary development in some detail with a number of buildings occupying the site.
- 5.6.7 By the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1873) the site has a number of buildings on the frontage of Whitechapel Road. The wider area is heavily built up with a mixture of housing and industrial buildings including a bell foundry. A Public House is marked in the east of the site, and a yard to the northeast is marked 'Black Lion Yard'. A similar layout is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1894 and 1914. The bomb damage map and Ordnance Survey map of 1948 both show the impact that bombing had on the Whitechapel area. A number of buildings on the site are marked in black, indicating total destruction. On the 1948 map several of the buildings are marked as 'ruin'.
- 5.6.8 Black Lion House appears to have been built during the 1970s or early 1980s (KM Heritage 2-13, 11). It includes a large basement footprint with, to the north, a lightwell which extends beyond the structure by approximately 4m to its retaining wall.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine the presence or absence of surviving features at the site and, if present, to assist in formulating an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy.
- 6.2 The proposed methodology consisted of a single trench to be located in the area of the proposed new basement beneath the pavilion building. The trench was designed to measure 7.8m x 7.8m at the top and was to be stepped four times to reach a depth of c4.1m. In the event, the methodology was altered somewhat during the excavation of the trench due to the presence of a number of modern intrusions, including a large manhole chamber and a live service. Machine excavated sondages were judiciously and carefully positioned where available to ascertain the levels of truncation.
- 6.3 The trench was CAT-scanned before and during excavation.
- 6.4 The machining was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator. The mechanical excavator broke out the tarmac surface with a hydraulic breaker then used a toothless ditching bucket (1.8m wide) to remove modern overburden under the supervision of an archaeologist. Following machine excavation, relevant faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.
- 6.5 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. A full digital photographic record was made and maintained during the archaeological investigation.
- 6.6 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 and presented in the PCA Site Manual (Taylor and Brown, 2009).
- 6.7 The complete archive produced during the evaluation, watching brief and excavation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with LAARC identofoed with the Museum of London site code WCL17.
- 6.8 A single temporary benchmark (TBM1) was established on the site from a detailed topographic survey<sup>5</sup> which included Ordnance Datum spot heights. The value of TBM1 was 14.16m OD.

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<sup>5</sup> Midland Survey Ltd 'Level Six Utility Mapping Survey', drawing number 25177 0, dated May 2016

## **7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation identified four main phases of activity;

- **Phase 1** Natural
- **Phase 2** Undated
- **Phase 3** Post-Medieval
- **Phase 4** Modern

### **7.2 Phase 1: Natural**

7.2.1 The earliest deposit recorded within Trench 1 was an orange sandy-gravel, context [5], recorded at 10.33m OD. This deposit survived only within a small area of the southern half of the evaluation trench between modern truncations. This deposit represents the natural terrace gravel.

### **7.3 Phase 2: Undated**

7.3.1 Sealing the natural gravel was a sequence of two undated deposits, contexts [3] and [4]. These both consisted of a grey-brown sandy-silt with the stratigraphically lower of the two, context [4], being slightly darker in colour. Layers [3] and [4] were recorded at 11.78m OD and 10.73m OD respectively and had a combined thickness of 1.45m. Both were homogenous and sterile, contained no anthropogenic material and therefore are undated.

### **7.4 Phase 3: Post-Medieval**

7.4.1 Sealing undated deposits [3] and [4] was a sequence of two post-medieval layers, contexts [1] and [2]. These consisted of a dark grey-brown sandy-silt which contained fragments of brick and chalk as inclusions. The stratigraphically higher of these deposits, context [1], also contained very fragmentary clay tobacco pipe stems, to the extent that they could not be used for refined dating. Deposits [1] and [2] were recorded at 13.04m OD and 12.36m OD respectively and had a combined thickness of 1.26m.

### **7.5 Phase 4: Modern**

7.5.1 Sealing post-medieval deposits [1] and [2] was a sequence of modern levelling layers and tarmac, representing the current surface level of c. 14.19m OD. Considerable modern intrusions were also recorded throughout the trench. A large cut truncated almost its entire eastern half to below the natural gravel, some 4.2m below ground level. This cut was backfilled with gravel and contained frequent concrete, brick plastic and metal inclusions, illustrating its modernity.

7.5.2 The western half of the trench also saw considerable modern impact from a manhole and its associated construction cut. This truncated to c. 10.33m OD, where the natural gravel was visible underneath.





*Plate 1: Upper two steps of Section 1, facing south 1m scale, post-medieval contexts  
[1] and [2] located centrally*



*Plate 2: Sondage on western side of Trench 1, Section 1,  
natural gravel [5] at base*



*Plate 3: Sondage through large modern truncation in  
eastern side of Trench 1, facing east*

## **8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits**

- 8.1.1 Natural gravel was recorded within the evaluation trench at 10.33m OD. This deposit was generally consistent with the known underlying geology of terrace gravels. However the British Geological Survey described the area as consisting of Langley Silt (brickearth) which was not encountered during the evaluation; in fact archaeological deposits directly sealed the natural gravel. Immediately west of the site a previous archaeological investigation at Green Dragon Yard (GDY99)<sup>6</sup> recorded natural brickearth at 11.60m OD (). This Ordnance Datum height is considerably higher than the recorded gravel with Trench 1, and suggests that the gravel surface encountered at 10.33m OD was a substantially truncated horizon. However, the gravel was directly overlain by an undated archaeological deposit and this may therefore suggest that it is indeed a truncated horizon but perhaps by an archaeological feature, such as a pit, rather than by modern activity.

### **8.2 Phase 2: Undated Deposits**

- 8.2.1 The evaluation trench recorded a sequence of two undated deposits, which were encountered in such a small area that it is difficult to determine their exact nature. The archaeological investigation to the west at Green Dragon Yard recorded was what was interpreted as a Roman cultivation horizon sealing the natural brickearth. The undated sequence in Trench 1 may potentially be of a similar nature or simply a garden soil.
- 8.2.2 Alternatively, however, as discussed in Phase 1, it is also possible that these undated deposits may actually represent the fill of a deep feature, such as a pit, as they sealed what appears to be a truncated natural gravel horizon.

### **8.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval**

- 8.3.1 Sealing the undated deposits was a sequence of two post-medieval layers; these are broadly dated to the post-medieval period as they contained fragmentary post-medieval artefacts such as brick and clay tobacco pipe stems which could not provide more precise dating evidence.
- 8.3.2 These deposits may represent dumped levelling material or more likely a garden soil deposit. Such a garden soil was recorded during the archaeological investigation at Green Dragon Yard directly west of the site, where it was dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-702-1/dissemination/pdf/molas1-13110\\_1.pdf](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-702-1/dissemination/pdf/molas1-13110_1.pdf)

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## **9 ORIGINAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

### **9.1 Research Objectives**

- 9.1.1 The research objectives posed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2017), as set out at section 3.5, are answered here.
- 9.1.2 The evaluation recorded an extremely limited stratigraphic sequence of archaeological deposits sealing the natural terrace gravel; the sequence will have been entirely truncated a short distance to the south by the current basement retaining wall of Black Lion House, to the east and north by a modern cut, and to the west by a manhole chamber. The area measured approximately 0.50m in width by 2.30m in length, tapering out to the north.
- 9.1.3 Within the limited confines of observed stratigraphic sequence, no evidence for prehistoric activity was encountered.
- 9.1.4 The exposed stratigraphic sequence was 2.71m thick and was composed of four deposits above the natural terrace gravel. These deposits were divided into two distinct phases of activity: undated and post-medieval.
- 9.1.5 The lower two were sterile and homogenous, and yielded no dateable material. These may represent some form of garden or ploughsoil horizon. Previous archaeological work at Green Dragon Yard to the west of the site recorded a Roman cultivation soil and a post-medieval garden soil (*ibid*). It is therefore not inconceivable that the lower undated deposits may represent either a Roman horizon or more simply date to the post-medieval period.
- 9.1.6 The upper sequence of post-medieval deposits may represent dumping or a later phase of garden soil; during the Green Dragon Yard archaeological evaluation, an 18<sup>th</sup> century garden soil was recorded sealing earlier features<sup>7</sup> and the deposits recorded at Black Lion House can be seen as being comparable.
- 9.1.7 The single evaluation trench exposed considerable impacts across almost its entire area. A large modern intrusion ran through virtually the entire northern and eastern part of the trench which truncated to below the level of the natural gravel – this truncation is likely to have originated during the construction of Black Lion House, given the presence of concrete, metal and plastic debris. The western side of the trench also recorded considerable truncation in the form of a large manhole chamber. The construction cut of this had truncated into the top the natural gravel.

### **9.2 Archaeological Potential and Recommendations**

- 9.2.1 The considerable impacts discussed above left only a very small area approximately 2.30m by 0.5m where truncated archaeological deposits survived, located in the southern central area of the trench. These deposits can only continue a very short distance (approximately 3m)

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7

<http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/siteinfo.asp?id=4335&code=GDY99&terms=green+dragon+yard&search=simple&go=Go>

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to the south before being completely truncated by the extensive basement of Black Lion House. No potential for archaeological remains exists for the eastern side of the area of Trench 1 as the modern intrusions truncate beyond the natural strata.

- 9.2.2 On the western side of the trench the modern intrusions truncated to the top of the recorded level of the natural terrace gravel in the location of the manhole chamber. However beyond those services further to the west and northwest there is an unproven potential for archaeological survival. On this basis it is expected that an archaeological watching brief may be necessary to monitor development groundworks on this western half of the proposed pavilion basement to record any deposits or remains which may be present.
- 9.2.3 If, following review of this report, it is agreed by GLAAS that this proposed mitigation strategy is appropriate, then it will need to be designed in a further Written Scheme of Investigation.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Quartz Project Services who commissioned the work on behalf of Black Lion House Limited Partnership.
- 10.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited also thanks Adam Single of GLAAS, Historic England for monitoring the archaeological work on behalf of London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 10.3 The author would also like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing and editing this report, Wayne Richards for logistics, Charlotte Faiers for the CAD illustrations and Chloe Sinclair for her hard work on site.

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<http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/siteinfo.asp?id=4335&code=GDY99&terms=green+dragon+yard&search=simple&go=Go>.

CIfA regulations, standards and guidelines: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

GLAAS Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Greater London:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/glaas-standards-for-archaeological-work/>

Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual:

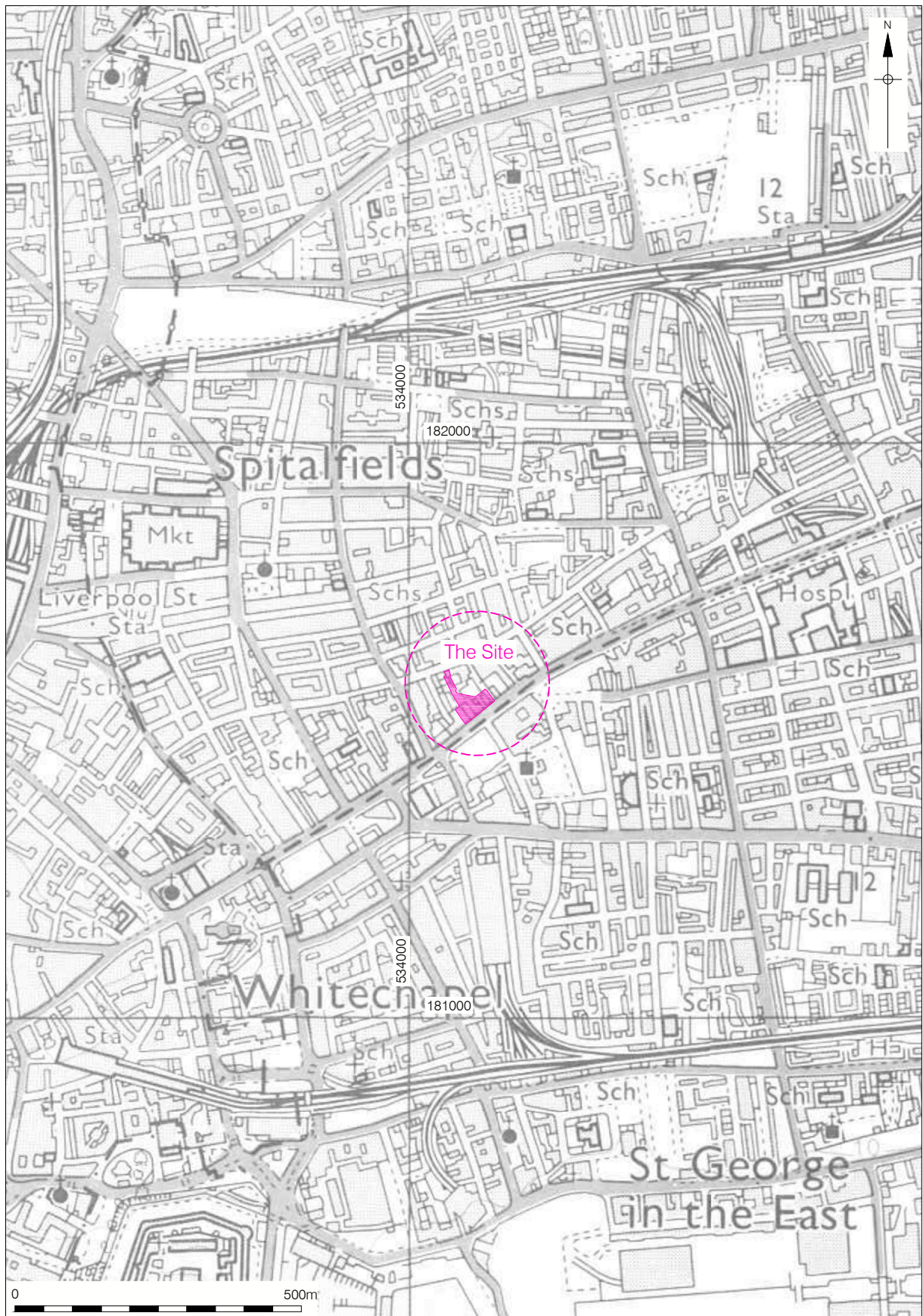
<http://www.thedigsite.co.uk/assets/molasmanual942.pdf>

National Planning Policy Framework

[http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/environment\\_and\\_planning/planning/planning\\_guidance/planning\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/environment_and_planning/planning/planning_guidance/planning_guidance.aspx)

British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain map*

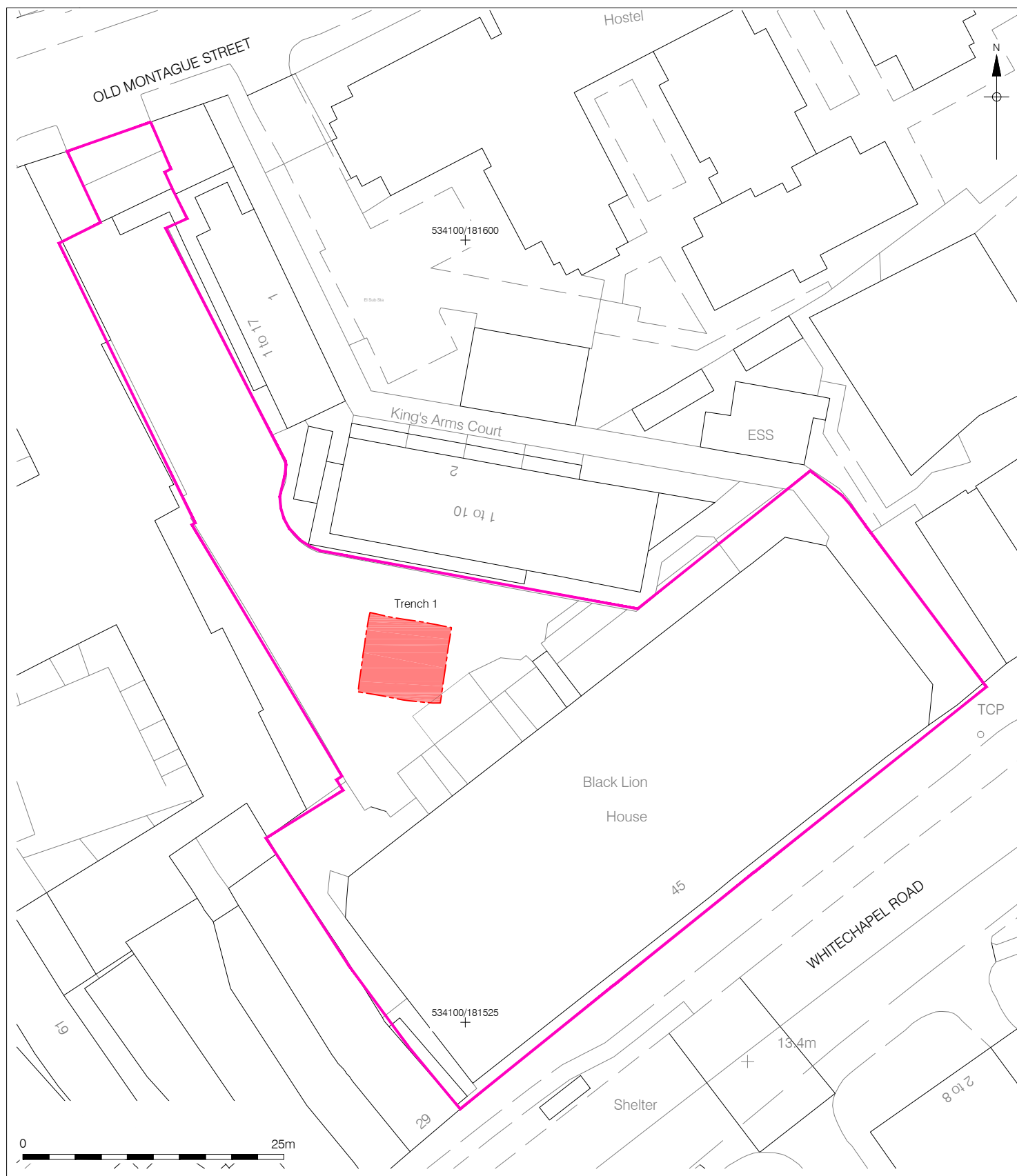
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>



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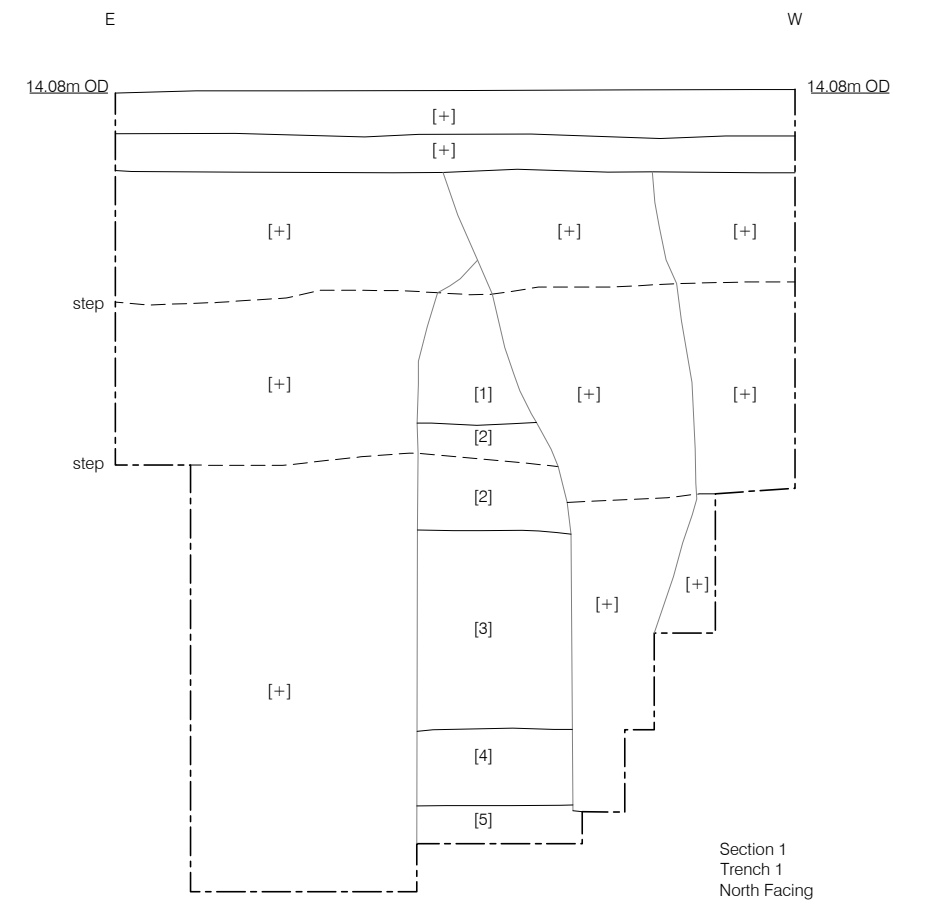
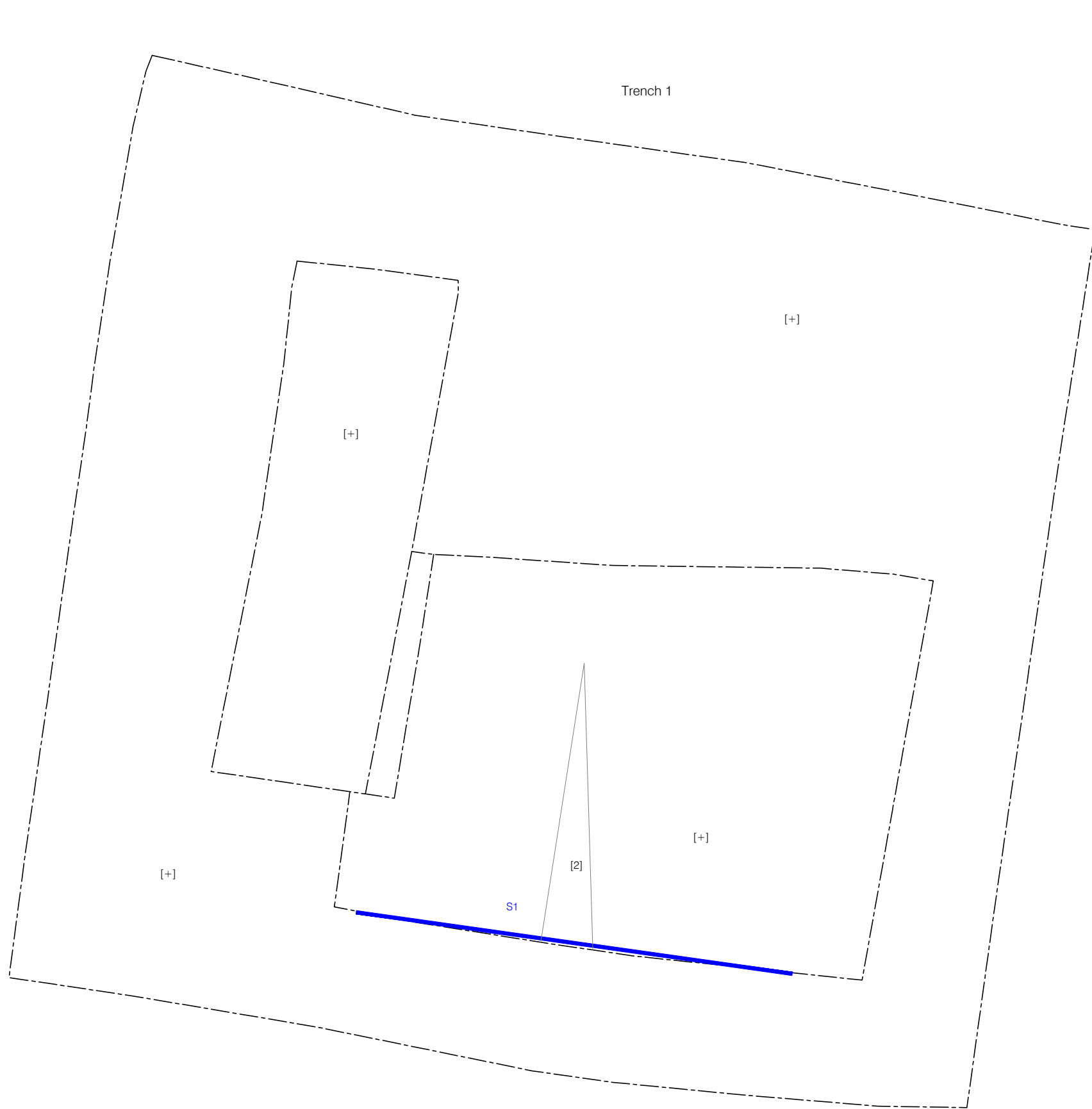
Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:10,000 at A4





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 28/04/17 RM

Figure 2  
 Trench Location Plan  
 1:500 at A4



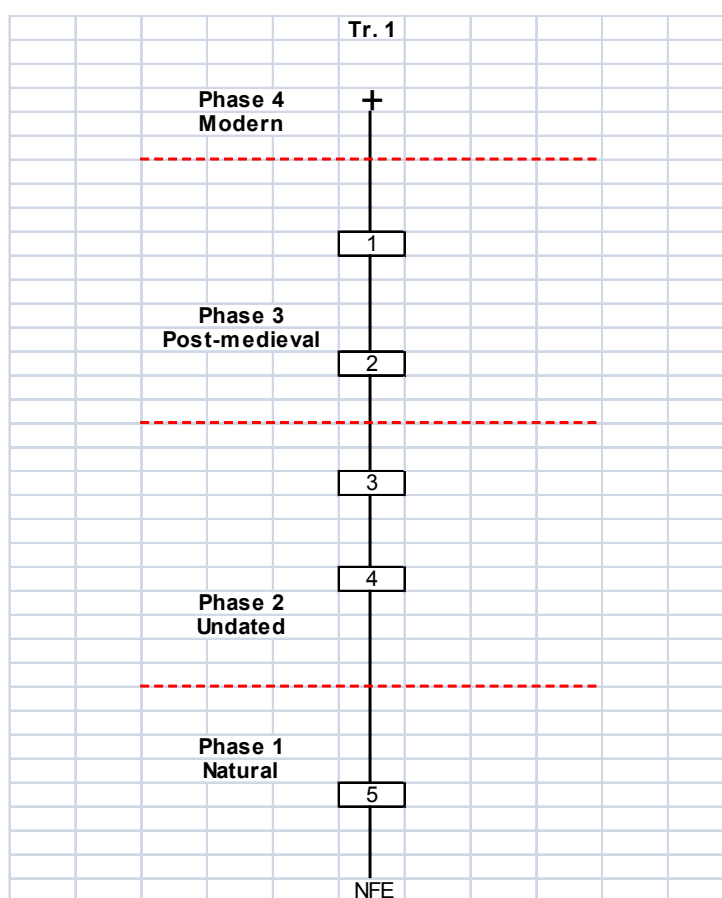
0 2m

Figure 3  
Plan and Section of Trench 1  
1:40 at A3

## 12 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	Trench	Section	CTX_ Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	Phase
1	Layer	1	1	Dump layer	Dump	0.68	13.04	3
2	Layer	1	1	Possible dump layer or garden soil	Garden Soil	0.58	12.36	3
3	Layer	1	1	Undated layer, possible fill	Garden Soil	1.05	11.78	2
4	Layer	1	1	Undated layer, possible fill	Garden Soil	0.4	10.73	2
5	Natural	1	1	Natural terrace gravel	Natural		10.33	1

## 13 APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



## 14 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-283935

### Project details

Project name	Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An evaluation comprising of a single trench which recorded natural terrace gravel at 10.33m OD, approximately 3.8m below ground level. Considerable modern truncation was recorded across the evaluation trench; a large modern intrusion was located throughout the eastern half which truncated all deposits below the depth of the natural gravel. The western half of the trench was disturbed by the presence of a large modern manhole chamber and its associated construction cut, which truncated all deposits to the top of the natural gravel. The evaluation did record, however, a small area of undisturbed archaeological deposits. Located in the southern central area of the trench, the surviving archaeological sequence measured only 2.5m in length by 0.50m in width. This sequence consisted of two undated deposits which possibly represent garden or plough soil horizons, or potentially the fill of an unidentified deep feature such as a pit. The undated deposits were sealed by another two post-medieval layers which may be later dumping or garden soil. This small area of undated stratigraphy represented the only archaeological survival within the trench.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2017 End: 14-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WCL17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	PA/16/00970 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, London
Postcode	E1 1DU
Study area	1650 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3412 8155 51.516430952368 -0.066825483754 51 30 59 N 000 04 00 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.33m Max: 10.33m

### Project creators

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

Name of sponsor/funding body	Aeora Sarl
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	WCL17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	WCL17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Section"
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU: An Archaeological Evaluation
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