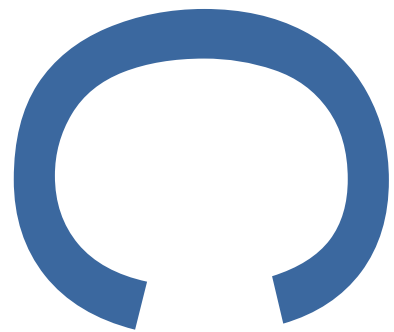


**BARKING ABBEY LOWER SCHOOL,
LONGBRIDGE ROAD, BARKING,
ESSEX, IG118UD, AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

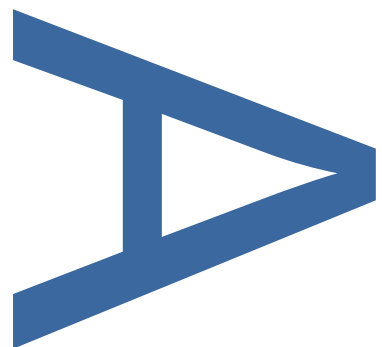


SITE CODE: LBR17



**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND
DAGENHAM**

DECEMBER 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**BARKING ABBEY LOWER SCHOOL, LONGBRIDGE ROAD, BARKING, ESSEX,
IG118UD, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: LBR17

Central NGR: TQ 451 850

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Planning Reference: 17/01464/REG3

Commissioning Client: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Written/Researched by: Guy Seddon
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins (MCIfA)

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

Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: zpozorski@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

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December 2017

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

BARKING ABBEY LOWER SCHOOL, LONGBRIDGE ROAD, BARKING, ESSEX, IG118UD

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5280	
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	G Seddon & P Alexander		1.11.17
Graphics Prepared by:	R Murphy		1.11.2017
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		15.12.2017
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		15.12.2017

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Barking Abbey Lower School, Longbridge Road, Barking, Essex, IG11 8UD. The site was located within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and was centred at TQ 451 850.
- 1.2 Following the approval by the archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham of a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Hawkins 2017), an archaeological evaluation was carried out between 23rd and 25th October 2017, and on 13th December 2017 and was completed in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists and following the guidelines issued by Historic England.
- 1.3 Natural brickearth deposits were located between 7.58m OD in Trench 2 to the south of the site, 7.43m OD in Trench 1 and 7.50m OD in Trench 3 to the north.
- 1.4 The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of sub-soil, which was in turn sealed by the topsoil and turf which made up the current ground surface.
- 1.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation, commissioned by Neilcott Construction on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, was undertaken on land at Barking Abbey School, Longbridge Road, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham between 23rd and 25th October 2017, and on 13th December 2017. It was undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to the construction of an extension to the existing school buildings.
- 2.2 The school is spread over three different campuses across Barking, and is looking to expand all of them. This report specifically deals with the archaeological evaluation at the Longbridge Road Campus.
- 2.3 The site comprised a roughly rectangular plot of land to the south-east of the campus sited at Longbridge Road. The site fronted onto Longbridge Road to the south-east, the rest of the school campus was located to the north-east and the other sides were bounded by Barking Park. The site was centred at TQ 451 850.
- 2.4 The Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Hawkins 2017), detailed the methodology by which the evaluation was to be undertaken. The WSI followed the Historic England (Historic England GLAAS 2014) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (CIFA, 2014). The evaluation was supervised by Guy Seddon and Poppy Alexander and the project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski and Helen Hawkins for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The project was monitored by Adam Single, Historic England, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 2.5 The site was given a unique site-code LBR17. The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with LAARC.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The planning background is laid out in full in the site specific Desk-Based Assessment (Banens 2016), below are the salient points.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on 27 March 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 Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate Desk-Based Assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Additionally:

141. Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

- 3.1.3 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will now be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF.

The London Plan

- 3.1.4 The London Plan, first published July 2011, updated March 2015, includes the following policy regarding the historic environment in central London, which should be implemented through the Local Development Framework (LDF) being compiled at the Borough level:

POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historic 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 of 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 decisions

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

D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings 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 asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

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 organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

3.1.5 The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Local Development Framework (LDF) manages the growth and development of the borough through a set of planning policy documents. The relevant documents within the plan are the Borough Wide Development Policies (2011), which set out guidelines that developers must follow in order to develop land in Barking and Dagenham. They follow the policies contained in the Core Strategy (2010) but give more detail about what new developments should include and what standards they should meet. The pertinent section has been outlined below:

POLICY BP3: ARCHAEOLOGY

The conservation or enhancement of archaeological remains and their settings will be secured by:

(a) Requiring an appropriate assessment and evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application for any developments in areas of known or potential archaeological interest.

(b) Operating a presumption in favour of the conservation of scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings.

(c) Requiring the conservation in situ of other archaeological remains or, where this is not justifiable or feasible and the need for the development and or other material considerations outweigh the importance of the remains, making provision for their excavation, recording and dissemination.

Where appropriate, access to and interpretation of in-situ archaeological remains should be provided, if this is possible without having a detrimental impact on the site.

Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs)

3.1.6 The Longbridge Road site is not located in an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the Borough's Local Plan.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The British Geological Survey shows that a superficial deposit of Taplow Gravels lies below the site. It is composed of sand and gravel, and was formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment dominated by rivers. The rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat.

4.1.2 The bedrock geology is comprised of sedimentary London Clay Formation – clay, silt, and sand formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene. These rocks were created in deep seas from infrequent slurries of shallow water sediments which were then re-deposited as graded beds.

4.1.3 Historic borehole data is available from locations near to the study site. A borehole sunk c. 400m north-north-east of the Lower School site recorded 0.91m of made ground sealing 1.22m of alluvium. The alluvium capped 1.22m of brown clay and stones, which in turn covered ballast; these two layers were interpreted as the natural floodplain terrace. Another borehole, c. 600m west-north-west of the Lower School site recorded only 0.30m of 'soil' (possibly made ground) over the natural sand and gravel. The terrace gravels had a thickness of 3.35m, sealing the underlying London Clay.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The study site lies within the western half of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, north of Barking and Upney Stations, and is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 451 850. The Lower School site is located on a rectangular plot of land, fronting Longbridge Road to the south-east, with the rest of the school to the north-east and the other sides bordered by Barking Park.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 A full version of the archaeological and historical background has already been laid out in the site specific Desk-Based Assessment (Banens 2016). The following comprise the salient points.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 There is considerable evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, despite only three entries recorded in the GLHER. The Bronze Age and Romano-British settlement at Buttsbury is located c. 600m west-north-west of the Lower School site, whilst the Middle Iron Age settlement of Uphall Camp is c. 1.2km west. Additionally, Middle Bronze Age ditches, possibly forming an enclosure, were uncovered just north of Mayesbrook Park, c. 600m north-west of the Upper School site. Iron Age pottery was discovered even closer to the Upper School site, less than 500m north.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 While there is little Roman activity present in the GLHER, what evidence there is would seem to suggest that the Romans continued to use, if not occupy, the earlier prehistoric sites. In addition to this, Roman pottery discovered just north of the Upper School site is thought to form part of an early Roman cremation cemetery, although no grave goods or bones were reported. Though there is the possibility of encountering evidence of Roman activity, it is likely that the site remained predominantly rural and undeveloped during this period.

5.4 Early Medieval

5.4.1 Although Barking was an important Saxon settlement, the centre of activity was focussed around the Abbey, and did not extend as far as the site. Any early medieval activity is likely to be agricultural in nature.

5.5 Medieval

5.5.1 During the medieval period, the site was most likely located in agricultural land. However, there is some evidence that a medieval house may have been located at Fair Cross, near the Lower School and Sports Building sites, while the Upper School site was on the border of a medieval manor house. A path, which modern Woodbridge Road likely follows, ran straight from the manor to Fair Cross.

5.6 Post-Medieval

5.6.1 Throughout the post-medieval period, the site would likely have been agricultural land. The historic map regression shows the site within fields. Even with the opening of Barking rail station, urban development did not extend as far as the study sites.

5.7 Modern

5.7.1 During the modern period, the only alterations to the site was in relation to the present

buildings. The earliest building, off Longbridge Road, was opened in 1922, and there have been few, if any, works unrelated to the construction of the current buildings.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES

- 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. All works were undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeology.
- 6.2 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017), the evaluation aimed to address the following issues:
- To determine the natural topography of the site.
 - To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, whether settled occupation of 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 periods at the site.
 - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 6.3 The site was subject to three evaluation trenches, each of which measured 20m x 1.80m.
- 6.4 All excavation of the low-grade overlying deposits was undertaken using a backhoe, wheeled mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist.
- 6.5 Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until the natural ground was exposed.
- 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 by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section.
- 6.7 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. Features were evaluated so as to characterise their form, function and date.
- 6.8 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with 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 London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The complete archive produced during the evaluation and watching brief, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with LAARC with site code LBR17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 The earliest deposit observed during the archaeological evaluation consisted of natural brickearth (sandy silts), recorded in all three of the trenches, which were numbered layers [3], [5] and [7].
- 7.2 The natural ground comprised firmly compacted, light yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and was over 0.14m thick. The top of the natural fell from a height of 7.58m OD in Trench 2, located to the south of the site, to 7.50m OD in Trench 3, located to the north of the site.
- 7.3 Overlying the natural layer within all of the trenches was a layer of subsoil, recorded as layers [2], [4] and [6]. The subsoil comprised firmly compacted, light yellowish brown sandy clay that had frequent inclusions of small rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and occasional inclusions of small fragments of cbm. The subsoil was between 0.10m and 0.25m thick. The top of the subsoil fell from a height of 7.89m OD in Trench 2, located to the south of the site, to 7.65m OD in Trench 3, located to the north of the site.
- 7.4 The subsoil deposits were directly sealed by topsoil and turf, [1], which brought the ground up to the current day level of 8.02m OD in the area of Trench 2, 7.75m OD in the area of Trench 1 and 7.90m OD in Trench 3.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

8.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

8.1.1 The earliest deposit seen on the site comprised brickearth. The top of the layer fell from a height of 7.58m OD in Trench 2, located to the south of the site, to 7.49m OD in Trench 1, located to the north of the site. The natural deposit was at 7.50m OD in Trench 3.

8.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval-Modern

8.2.1 Directly sealing the natural deposits was a layer of sub-soil, which fell from a height of 7.89m OD in Trench 2, located to the south of the site, to 7.61m OD in Trench 1, located to the north of the site. The subsoil was 7.65m OD in Trench 3.

8.2.2 It is probable that this layer represented a well developed plough soil dating from when the site was open fields. The use for the site as farmland continued throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods until the mass conurbation of the area in the late 19th century.

8.2.3 The subsoil was directly overlain by topsoil and turf, probably deliberately laid as part of the playing field for the school, which was opened in 1922. The area of the archaeological trenching was still in use as a playing field at the time of the evaluation.

9 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

9.1 Primary Objectives

9.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017) prepared prior to the commencement of archaeological work at Barking Abbey School, Longbridge Road, highlighted a set of specific objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

9.2 To determine the natural topography of the site.

9.2.1 The natural topography of the site fell from a height of 7.58m OD in Trench 2, located to the south of the site, to 7.50m OD in Trench 3, located to the north of the site. This reflects the general topography of the land-surface of the site, which is relatively flat.

9.3 To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, whether settled occupation of artefact scatters.

9.3.1 No prehistoric activity of any sort was witnessed during the course of the evaluation.

9.4 To establish the presence or absence of Roman and medieval activity.

9.4.1 No Roman or medieval activity was witnessed during the course of the evaluation.

9.5 To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site.

9.5.1 The probable plough-soil that was recorded in all three of the trenches. Layers [2], [4] and [6], reflect the nature of the site throughout the post-medieval period, that of agrarian farming. No other evidence of post-medieval land usage was witnessed during the evaluation.

9.6 To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.

9.6.1 Apart from the previously mentioned plough-soil, no other evidence of archaeological activity was witnessed during the course of the evaluation.

9.7 To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

9.7.1 It is possible that during the construction of the school in 1922, terracing and landscaping of the grounds took place. However, the presence of the post-medieval plough-soil indicates that this was not severe, and the potential archaeological horizon remains intact, at least within the area of the trial trenching. Any archaeological activity within the site would therefore have been preserved and visible within the evaluation trenches.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 The evaluation shows that although the site may have been subject to landscaping during the construction of the school, this was only minimal and the archaeological horizon remained intact.
- 10.2 The earliest deposit which can be associated with human activity on the site was an agricultural soil which yielded finds from the late post-medieval period, without even residual finds of an earlier date being encountered during the course of the exercise. The site was then developed in to the current day school.
- 10.3 No archaeology pre-dating the 19th century was found during the work, despite the presence of intact brickearth.
- 10.4 Given the absence of archaeological remains demonstrated by this investigation, PCA considers no further work to be appropriate for this planning condition.
- 10.5 Once the project is deemed complete and this report approved by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will be deposited by PCA with LAARC under site code LBR17. Until then the archive comprising all paper, digital and artefactual material will be stored at PCA's headquarters in Brockley, London.
- 10.6 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Neilcott Construction for commissioning the work on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 11.2 Thanks also to Adam Single, Historic England, Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for monitoring the site.
- 11.3 The author would also like to thank: Zbigniew Pozorski and Helen Hawkins for project managing and editing this report, Ray Murphy for the illustrations and Corso Dominici and Sote Angeleski for their work in the field.

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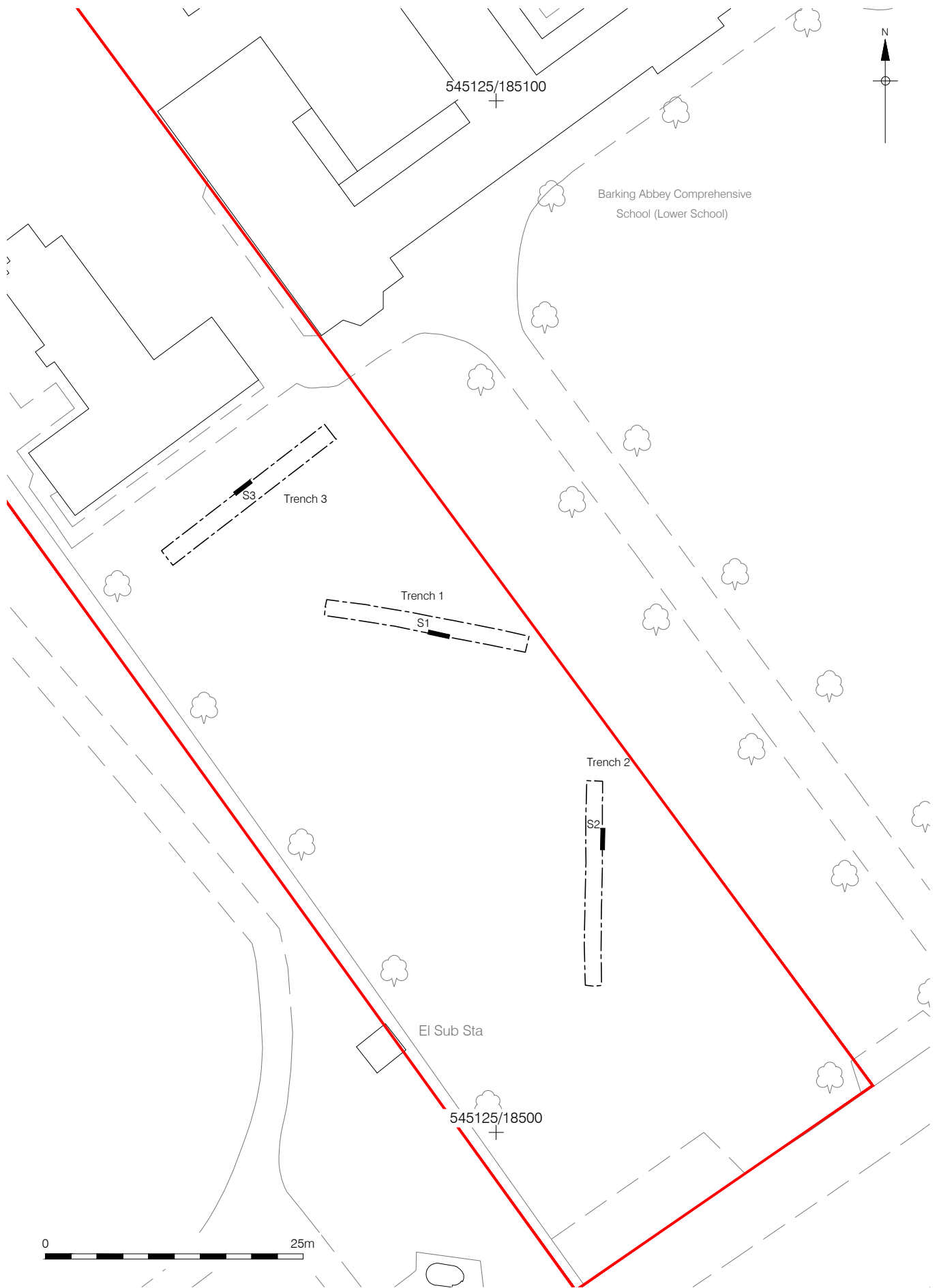


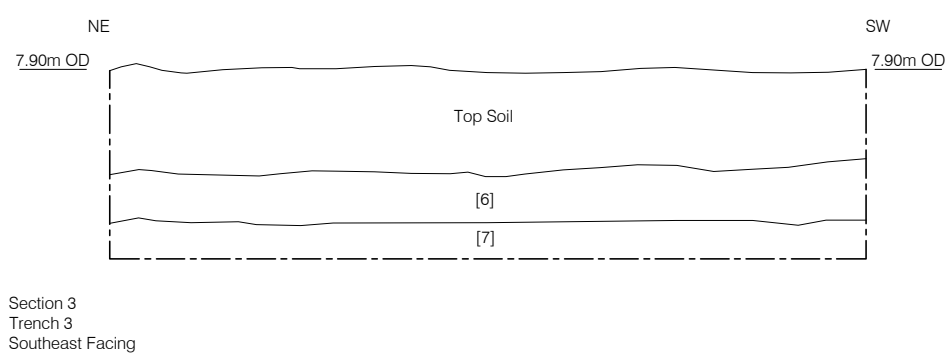
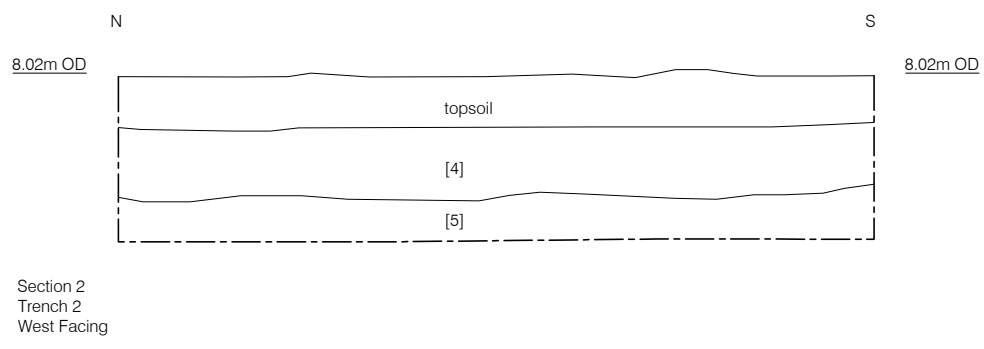
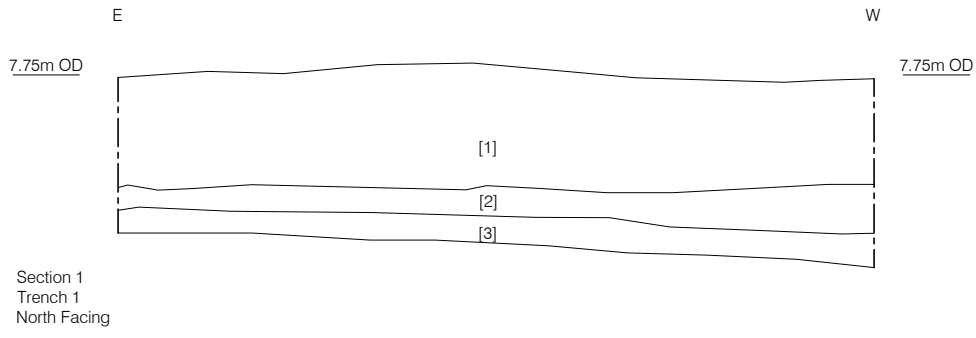
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4





13 PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, Looking East.



Plate 2: Section 1, Trench 1, Looking South.



Plate 3: Trench 2, Looking South.



Plate 4: Section 2, Trench 2, Looking East.



Plate 5: Trench 3, Looking East

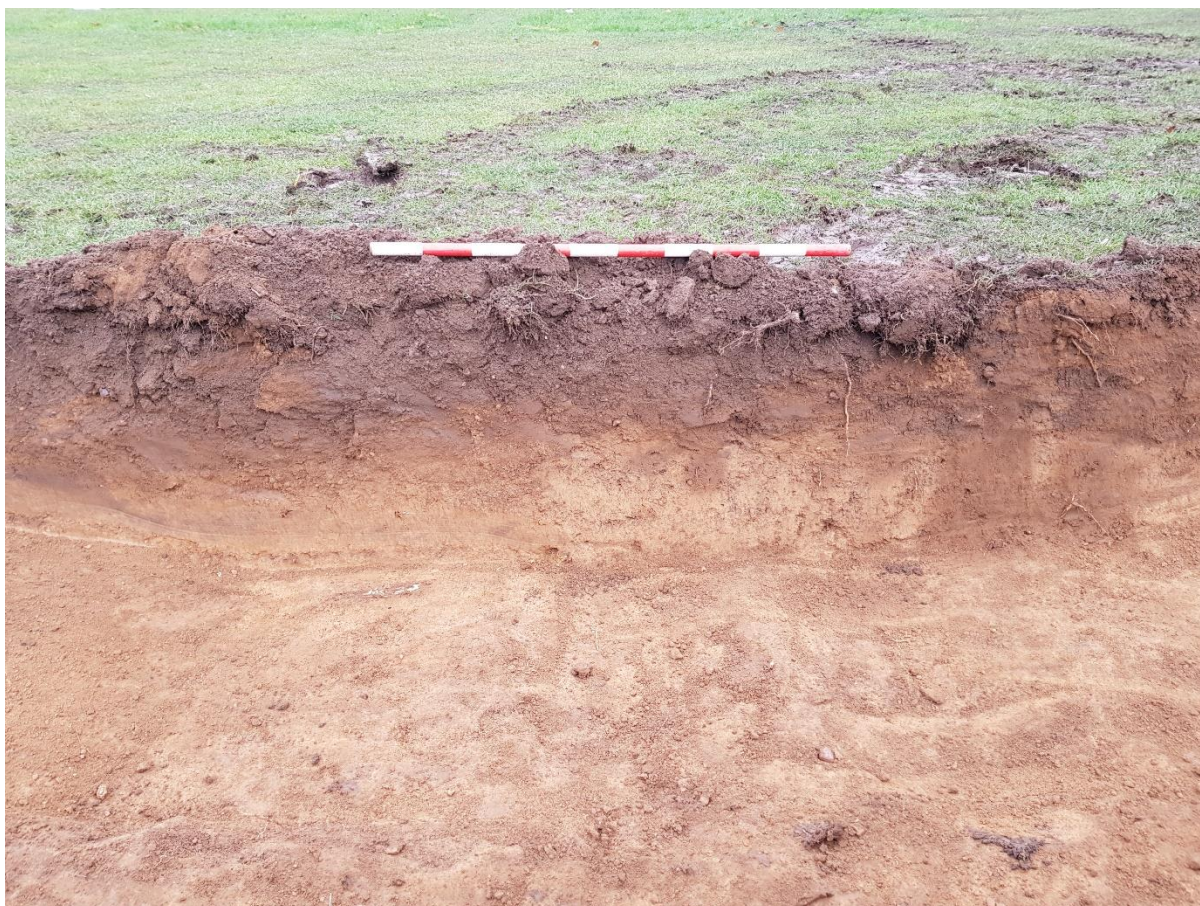
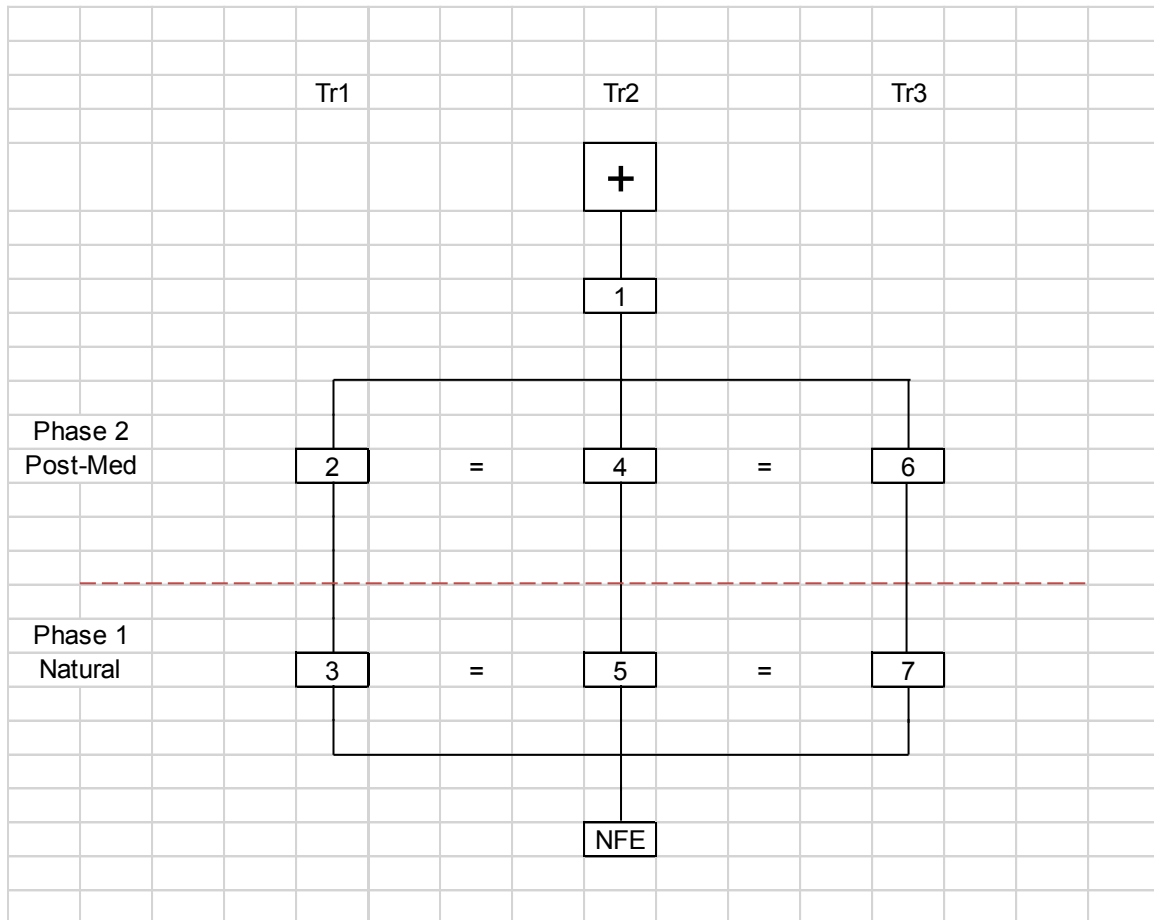


Plate 6: Section 3, Trench 3, South Facing Section

APPENDIX 1: PHASED MATRIX



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-299391

Project details

Project name	Barking Abbey School, Longbridge Road, Barking, Essex, IG1 11UD, An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Barking Abbey School, Longbridge Road, Barking Essex, carried out between 23rd and 25th October and on 13th December 2017. Natural brickearth deposits were located between 7.58m OD and 7.43m OD. The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of sub-soil, which was in turn sealed by the topsoil and turf which make up the current day ground surface. No Archaeological finds or features were observed during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 23-10-2017 End: 25-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LBR17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING Barking Abbey School, Longbridge Road
Postcode	IG1 18UD
Study area	3000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 45100 85000 51.544714144656 0.092750249329 51 32 40 N 000 05 33 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.43m Max: 7.58m

Project creators

Name of	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
---------	-----------------------------------

Organisation

Project brief originator	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Neilcott Construction

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	LBR17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	LBR17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

UNIT 19A, TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
TURSDALE
DURHAM DH6 5PG
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01223 845522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com

