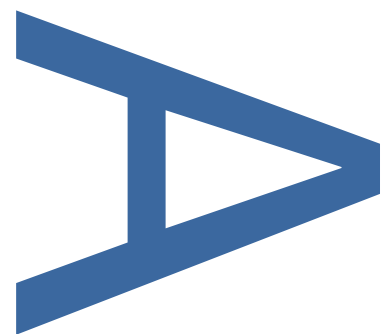
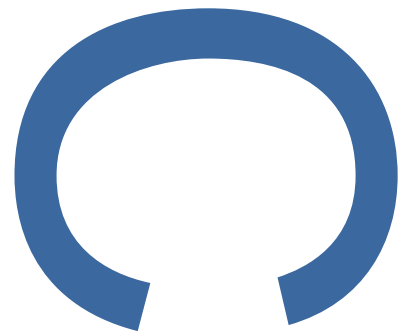


**101 WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
LONDON E1
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL PIT
EVALUATION**

SITE CODE: WEA18

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

JANUARY 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**101 WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, LONDON E1
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: WEA18

Central NGR: TQ 3389 8144

Local Planning Authority: LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

Planning Reference: pre-application

Other reference if any:

Commissioning Client: CGMS HERITAGE

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January 2019**

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

101 WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, LONDON E1

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL PIT EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5867
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Text Prepared by:	J Brooks & I Grosso		10.1.19
Graphics Prepared by:	D Valk		10.1.19
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
Rev 1: client comments	17.1.19	HH	CM

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological trial pit evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 101 Whitechapel High Street, London E1.
- 1.2 Five trial pits were excavated. The earliest deposit on site consisted of natural brickearth overlying gravels. Levels recorded suggested that natural deposits occurred at a higher level in the south of the site than in the north. As it is unlikely that the natural topography slopes upwards towards the south, these levels may indicate that quarrying of natural deposits may have taken place in the central and northern parts of the site.
- 1.3 In Trial Pit 1, located in the north-east part of the site, the earliest deposit recorded consisted of a sterile clay deposit found at 4.04m below ground level. The thickness of this deposit together with its composition suggested a possible deep and large cut feature in this part of the site such as a quarry pit. This deposit was excavated to a maximum depth of 4.80m below ground level and did not reach natural ground.
- 1.4 Layers of reworked brickearth directly sealing natural deposits were recorded in the central part of the site and suggest that prehistoric, Roman and medieval ground surfaces potentially survive later truncation, although no artefactual evidence from these periods was recovered during the investigation.
- 1.5 A post-medieval brick structure – possibly a wall foundation - was discovered in Trial Pit 2, situated in the eastern part of the site. This structure was sealed by a bedding layer for an intact cobbled surface dating to the 19th century.
- 1.6 The central part of the site was dominated by a large 19th century basemented building, recorded in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5. The basement extended to between c.2.5m and c.3m below ground level and was backfilled with demolition rubble derived from the demolition of the building after WW2. The site was sealed with a 0.1m thick layer of tarmac forming the surface of a car park and a disused open space.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at 101 Whitechapel High Street, London E1.
- 2.2 The site was centred on National Grid Reference TQ 3389 8144, located in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (see Figure 1). The site was bounded by Whitechapel High Street to the southeast, Commercial Street to the southwest, an educational institute to the northeast and Gunthorpe Street and commercial/residential properties to the northwest.
- 2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by PCA (Fairman & Hawkins 2018), which designed the archaeological investigation. It was undertaken in line with a pre-determination archaeological requirement from Adam Single, Archaeological Adviser to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, for trial pits to assess the archaeological potential of the site. Five trial pits were proposed, but as one was located within the school playground which was in use, only four of the pits were completed in the first phase of work. The evaluation was completed in early 2019 with the excavation of Trial Pit 1 during the school holidays.
- 2.4 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared for the site (CgMs 2018) to support the planning submission. The assessment identified that the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The desk-based assessment identified a low potential for prehistoric and Saxon remains, a moderate to high potential for Roman and medieval remains, and a high potential for post-medieval remains.
- 2.5 The evaluation was undertaken between 27th and 28th November 2018 (Trial Pits 2 to 5) and 3rd January (Trial Pit 1). The archaeological works were supervised by Joe Brooks (Trial Pits 2 to 5), Ireneo Grosso (Trial Pit 1) and the project was managed by Helen Hawkins, all of PCA. The work was monitored by Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), on behalf of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, and was overseen by the client's archaeological consultant, CgMs Heritage.
- 2.6 The complete 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 WEA18.

3 EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

3.1 In line with the approved WSI (Fairman and Hawkins 2018), the trial pits sought to address the following primary objectives:

- To establish the survival or truncation of natural brickearth deposits at the base of the sequence
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric and Roman activity, and allow the design of a suitable mitigation strategy if appropriate;
- To establish the presence or absence of evidence relating medieval and post-medieval activity, and record it as appropriate if present; is there any evidence for the ribbon development associated with Whitechapel High Street?
- To establish the presence or absence of evidence relating to late post-medieval and modern industrial activity, and record it as appropriate if present;
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the British Geological Survey (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) as London Clay forming the London Basin, overlain by superficial Langley Silt Member deposits, commonly referred to as brickearth.

4.1.2 Geotechnical investigations of the new Aldgate Place development, a short distance to the south of the site, identified the top of the Taplow Terrace Gravels has been recorded at between c.8.80 and 11.05m OD, and the top of the Langley silt at between c.10.20m – 12.20m OD.

4.1.3 An archaeological evaluation at Nos 15-17 Leman Street and No 1a Buckle Street (GLHER Ref: ELO10294), to the south of the south of the study site showed that:

“the area was part of a Brickearth quarry which was probably in use during the last quarter of the seventeenth century”.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The natural topography of the site was not fully characterised during the investigation. Levels taken on natural deposits in Trial Pit 5, situated in the southern part of the site (see Figure 2), were higher than in Trial Pit 3 located c.45m to the north. As the Thames is situated to the south of the site, it was expected that the natural topography would slope downwards towards the river. These levels may indicate that the natural topography of the site has been altered by brickearth quarrying.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 A detailed background to the site was provided in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2018). The following is a reproduction of the background information provided in that document.

5.2 Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age & Iron Age)

5.2.1 From around 4000 BC the mobile hunter-gathering economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social and other factors. The trend was one of a slow, but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance.

5.2.2 By the 1st millennium BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.

5.2.3 The GLHER lists a small number of prehistoric findspots located across the study area. The earliest of this material derives from the Neolithic period consisting of a polished flint axe (MLO03953, TQ 339 812) found approximately 150m south of the site, and fragments of Neolithic pottery (MLO78282, TQ 33974 81252) found c150m to the southeast on Lemn Street.

5.2.4 Human remains, possibly dating to the later Iron Age period were found at Camperdown Street c150m to the south (MLO3808, TQ 339 812).

5.2.5 Due to the paucity of material of prehistoric date within the study area, the potential of the study site for this period can therefore be defined as generally low.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 During the Roman period the area of Whitechapel would have been located immediately outside of the town of Londinium, in close proximity to one of the main gates into the settlement and the main Roman road heading to the east (MOLAS 2000; MLO106812, modern route of Whitechapel High Street located immediately to the southeast of the site. Evidence for multiple contemporary road surfaces is recorded approximately 50m to the west of the site (MLO12949, TQ 3385 8135).

5.3.2 Typical archaeological features associated with Roman road can include evidence for settlement and land/agricultural divisions, together with quarry pits, burials and stray finds.

5.3.3 Due to the site's proximity to the Roman road there are a significant number of Roman burials which been identified in the study area, the closest of which have been located on

Braham Street (MLO63391, TQ 3380 8125) c150m southwest of the site. Other cremations and inhumations have been found at:

- Mansell Street (MLO39791, TQ 337 812)
- Northeast and Southwest Alie Street (MLO12990, TQ 3405 8125)
- Camperdown Street (MLO8193, MLO7748, TQ 339 812)

5.3.4 There are multiple entries recorded on the GLHER relating to the recovery of isolated Roman artefacts within proximity of the site on Whitechapel High Street. Antiquated records associated with the recovery of multiple jugs (MLO28276), urns (MLO12790) and samian ware (MLO12963) are associated with Grid Reference TQ 3385 8135 a short distance to the west of the site. The nature of the records suggest such finds are likely derived from the general vicinity of Whitechapel High Street, rather than the specific location recorded on the GLHER.

5.3.5 Three fragments of Roman coarse ware pottery were recovered by workman in 1931 at the junction of Whitechapel High Street and Leman Street, a short distance to the south of the site (MLO2019, TQ 3388 8135). Further pottery fragments were found at Gardiners Corner approximately 100m to the south of the site (MLO3969, TQ 3381 8127; MLO63390, TQ 3380 8125).

5.3.6 A significant number of Roman finds and isolated features have also been recovered within the study area, consisting:

- Roman pottery and axe head at Camperdown Street MLO3823, MLO3824, TQ 339 812; MLO3952, MLO3966, TQ 339 812)
- A Roman well, pottery, coin, figurine and barrel at the north end of Leman Street (MLO3858, MLO39815, MLO39814, MLO12972, MLO3846, MLO12971, TQ 3390 8130)
- Roman lamp and urn on Braham Street (MLO3944, TQ 338 812; MLO3824, TQ 339 812; MLO7748, TQ 339 812)
- Pottery and a brooch from Mansell Street (MLO3882, MLO3883, MLO12941, TQ 3374 8127)

5.3.7 Due to the proximity of the recorded Roman road adjacent to the site to the south, there is a known archaeological potential within the study site for the Roman period associated with evidence for localise roadside activity, primarily related to isolated finds, where not truncated by later activity.

5.4 Anglo-Saxon & Late Medieval

5.4.1 No finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been identified within a 250m radius of the study site. In view of this, a low archaeological potential is identified.

- 5.4.2 By the medieval period Whitechapel soon developed into a suburb of the City of London due to its position adjacent to the main route from the City into Essex (Weinreb & Hibbert 2008; MLO11245, TQ 3400 8150; MLO9192, TQ 3394 8195), believed to follow the same course as Whitechapel High Street. The route of another medieval road is thought to have followed the established line of Commercial Road, formerly known as White Horse Lane (MLO9223, TQ 3535 8105).
- 5.4.3 Contemporary Late Medieval occupation adjacent to Whitechapel High Street include an inn and associated well (MLO3861, MLO3871, TQ 3410 8150), plus a church (MLO3933, TQ 3409 8146), located approximately 200m to the east of the site. A linear feature containing Late Medieval pottery (MLO99481, TQ 33981 81553) and several other discoveries of residual Medieval pottery have been found in the eastern study area (MLO3971, TQ 3409 8151; MLO74053, TQ 3406 8155).
- 5.4.4 Medieval quarry pits have been recorded in several different locations within 100m of the study site, along Whitechapel High Street, including Green Dragon Yard (MLO11253, TQ 3381 8127), 27-29 Whitechapel High Street (MLO77588; TQ 3388 8131; MLO98340, TQ 33881 81316), 111-120 Whitechapel High Street (MLO75391, TQ 3384 8136), Middlesex Street (MLO74944, TQ 3375 8130) and Gardiners Corner (MLO63388, TQ 3380 8125). Among the frequent evidence for quarrying a number of Later Medieval foundry pits at 27-29 Whitechapel High Street, c75m to the south of the site, have also been recorded (MLO77590, TQ 3388 8131).
- 5.4.5 A Late Medieval dump deposit was recording during an evaluation at Goulston Street Baths c150m to the west of the site (MLO75916, TQ 33730 81400).
- 5.4.6 It would appear that during the Late Medieval period activity adjacent to Whitechapel High Street within proximity of the site primarily consisted of aggregate extraction for the provision of building material to the City of London, resulting in an extensive number of quarry pits being excavated with later backfilling. Overall the archaeological potential for such activity within the study site for this period can probably be defined as moderate to high for such activity, where not impacted by later development.
- 5.5 Post Medieval and Modern**
- 5.5.1 The earliest document to depict the area is Agas' map of 1570 which identifies that Whitechapel High Street has been developed by this period, with houses occupying the road frontage, with gardens to the rear.
- 5.5.2 The Ogilby and Morgan map of 1678 shows that by the mid-17th century the study site has been occupied by a dense concentration of terraced houses, yards and gardens. Multiple courtyards are present, around which the terraced houses are focused. The character of the site remains unaltered between 1682 and 1862.

- 5.5.3 The 1873 Ordnance Survey map suggests that the layout of the site has not changed significantly from that depicted in the mid-17th century. The site is still occupied by a dense network of terraced houses centred around several individual courtyards, several of which are associated with stables.
- 5.5.4 The GOAD Insurance map of 1890 indicates that commercial properties are present fronting onto Commercial Street and Whitechapel High Street (including a drapers, bookbinders and clothier), while the interior is occupied domestic residences and multiple stables.
- 5.5.5 By 1894, with the exception of a number of properties in the northwest of the site increasing the size of the yard, the layout of the site remains unaltered.
- 5.5.6 By 1916 buildings adjacent to the northern boundary have been demolished and replaced by a single large school building.
- 5.5.7 By 1938 the Ordnance Survey map does not indicate any substantial changes having occurred to the layout of the site, which supported by the GOAD Insurance plan of the same date. The GOAD plan does indicate that the type of occupancy within the site has significantly altered, with the road side commercial properties occupied by household stores, hairdressers, or are recorded as vacant. Internally within the site, garages have replaced stables, although some domestic dwellings survive adjacent to the LCC Commercial Street School.
- 5.5.8 The 1939-45 Bomb Damage map records the site as receiving significant damage during the World War II bombing campaigns, with buildings in the site receiving a base level of blast damage (orange) through to total destruction (black).
- 5.5.9 By 1953 the majority of buildings which were recorded as totally destroyed have been cleared, and vacant plots left in their place. The layout of the site remains unaltered in 1979.
- 5.5.10 By 1999 further building clearance has taken place in the eastern part of the site, leaving only the northern school building and properties on the corner of Commercial Street and Whitechapel High Street still remaining located either side of an extensive central yard. The layout of the site remains unaltered up to the present.
- 5.5.11 The potential of the study site for the Post Medieval period can be identified as high, due to known development occurring on the site from the 16th century onwards.
- 5.5.12 The Archaeological Desk Based Assessment has identified that the study site has a moderate to high archaeological potential for Roman road side activity, Late Medieval quarrying and Post-Medieval settlement activity, where not impacted by later development. Any such remains present can be considered of local significance.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Five trial pits were proposed by the project design. Trial Pit 1 was located within the playground of Canon Barnett Primary School; Trial Pit 2 was located in the northeast part of the site near to an entrance gate onto Gunthorpe Street; Trial Pits 3 and 4 were located in the central part of the site in an area of disused land; Trial Pit 5 was located in the southern part of the site near to hoarding fronting Whitechapel High Street (Figure 2).
- 6.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the methodology described in the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation and the PCA Archaeological Site Manual.
- 6.3 Each Trial Pit was marked out using GNSS GPS. A JCB 3CX type mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket removed modern overburden under the supervision of an attendant archaeologist. Machine excavation continued in spits of 100mm at a time until either archaeological deposits were discovered, or the natural strata was reached.
- 6.4 The trial pits, which were excavated beyond 3m below ground level without steps, were not safe to enter so relevant faces were not cleaned.
- 6.5 Where possible, the trial pits were recorded in plan at 1:20 and section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods. A photographic record of the investigation was also prepared.
- 6.6 The context records comprising plans, sections, finds and photographs recording the trial pits will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code WEA18.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 The following section describes the deposits recorded during the investigation by archaeological phase.

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered on the site was a layer of brickearth, representing the superficial Langley Silt Complex, which sealed terrace gravels. The maximum level at which natural deposits were recorded within each trial pit is tabulated below:

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
Context Number	-	-	[17]	[11]	[13]
Maximum level of natural (mOD)	-	-	10.02	10.35	10.5

7.2.2 The natural deposits recorded in Trial Pits 4 and 5 were sandy gravels [11]/[13] whereas the natural deposit in Trial Pit 3 was a horizon of brickearth [17], probably sealing gravel at a lower level. Natural ground was not reached in Trial Pit 1 despite excavation to 4.8m BGL.

7.3 Phase 2: Undated

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
Context number	[24]	[21]	[16]	-	[12]
Maximum Level (mOD)	10.05	12.48	10.22	-	11.15
Thickness (m)	0.76 (NFE)	1.5	0.2	-	0.65

7.3.1 In Trial Pit 1, located in the north-east corner of the site, mid to dark grey sandy silty clay layer [24] was recorded at 10.05m OD. This deposit was partially excavated to a maximum depth of 9.29m OD and was interpreted as an alluvial deposit. Furthermore, the recorded OD level of [24], together with its thickness, showed that this deposit was positioned below the level of the natural deposits recorded in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5 where natural terrace gravel was recorded between 10.50m and 10.02m OD. This finding suggested that layer [24] represented the natural silting up of a larger cut feature, possibly a quarry pit located in the north-east part of the site. The orientation, dimension and date of this postulated cut feature are unknown at this stage of the investigation. No finds were recovered from the deposit, which was very clean in nature.

7.3.2 A layer, at least 1.5m thick, of firm dark brownish grey clayey silt [21] with occasional fragments of chalk, but containing no dating evidence, was recorded at a maximum level of 12.48m OD in Trial Pit 2. This context, which extended across the entire base of Trial Pit 2, may represent the backfill of a pit or a layer of made ground.

7.3.3 A layer of reworked brickearth [16] sealing sterile brickearth, was recorded at a maximum level of 10.22m OD in Trial Pit 3. A similar 2.95m thick layer of mid greyish brown silty clay [9] extended across the entire extent of Trial Pit 4. In Trial Pit 5 a 0.65m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silty clay [12] with flecks of CBM, mortar and charcoal, was recorded at a maximum level of 11.15m OD. These layers of reworked natural brickearth, which directly sealed the terrace gravels but from which no finds were recovered, may represent agricultural activity on the site before urban development in the post-medieval period.

7.4 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

7.4.1 In Trial Pit 1 a 1.44m thick deposit of mid brownish grey sandy silt recorded as layer [23] sealed Phase 2 deposit [24] at 11.71m OD. Sherds of pottery and clay tobacco pipe recovered from layer [23] were dated to the mid-17th century and the layer was interpreted as an agricultural deposit.

7.4.2 A structure - possibly a wall foundation – measuring around 0.60m high, built from pinkish orange brick [20] with sandy yellowish brown mortar, was recorded in the northern section of Trial Pit 2 at a maximum level of 12.68m OD. As it was not possible to recover a brick sample during the investigation, the dimensions, and whether the bricks were frogged, could not be established making accurate dating of the structure impossible. However, stratigraphically the structure [20] appeared to be post-medieval in date as it was sealed by a layer of 19th century made ground [19].

7.5 Phase 4: 19th century

7.5.1 In Trial Pit 1, Phase 3 post-medieval deposit [23] was sealed at 14.05m OD by a 2.34m thick deposit of mix demolition rubble recorded as layer [22]. This deposit contained very frequent fragments of roof tiles and mortar (see Plate 1) and was interpreted as consolidation/ground raising associated with the re-development of the site during the late post-medieval period.

7.5.2 The brick structure [20] was sealed by a 1.20m thick layer of friable, mid greyish brown sandy silt [19] containing frequent fragments of brick that extended across the entire extent of Trial Pit 2. Layer [19], which appeared to be formed from demolition material, provided a bedding layer for a cobbled surface [18] c.0.20m thick that was recorded at a maximum level of 13.88m OD.

7.5.3 Phase 4 was represented in Trial Pit 3 by a c. 0.10m thick dark grey concrete floor surface [15], which was recorded at a level of 10.32m OD. This surface probably represented an internal floor of a basement.

7.5.4 The remains of a 19th century building were recorded extending to a minimum depth of 11.20m OD in Trial Pit 4. This structure was formed from a c.0.40m thick wall [7], aligned northwest-southeast constructed from pinkish red and orange bricks bonded with sandy

yellowish brown mortar, which stood 2.10m high to a level of 13.30m OD. Wall [7] was abutted by a wall [10] constructed from pinkish red bricks in English bond with light greyish brown sandy mortar that was 0.50m thick and stood to a maximum level of 13.30m OD.

7.5.5 A 0.10m thick concrete surface [8] recorded at a level of 11.30m OD appeared to form an internal floor associated with walls [7] and [10].

7.5.6 The remains of a 0.50m thick wall [3] constructed from pinkish red and yellow bricks aligned northwest-southeast was recorded in Trial Pit 5 extending to a depth of 11.25m OD from a maximum level of 13.35m OD. Wall [3] was abutted by a concrete surface [4] which was recorded at a maximum level of 11.25m OD and presumably formed an interior floor to a basement.

7.6 Phase 5: mid-20th century

7.6.1 in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5 the 19th century brick structures were sealed by thick layers of demolition rubble. The maximum levels at which these contexts were recorded, and the thicknesses of the deposits, are tabulated below.

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
Context number	-	-	[14]	[5]/[6]	[1]/[2]
Maximum Level (mOD)	-	-	13.92	13.6	13.35
Thickness (m)	-	-	3.6	2.3	2.1

7.6.2 Layers [14], [5]/[6] and [1]/[2] are thought to represent the remains of various pre-war buildings demolished after it was bombed during WW2.

7.7 Phase 6: Late 20th century

7.7.1 A 0.10m thick layer of crushed tarmac sealed Trial Pits 1, 3, 4 and 5 forming the current ground level. In Trial Pit 2 the cobbled surface [18] was sealed by a 0.3m thick layer of crushed tarmac capped with a 0.1m thick skin of hardened tarmac forming the surface of carpark. The current ground level at each trial pit is described in the table below:

	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5
Maximum Level (mOD)	14.33	14.28	14.02	13.7	13.45

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Natural Topography (Phase 1)

8.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on site was natural brickearth, representing the Langley Silt Complex sealing natural gravel as recorded in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5, located in the southern and central parts of the site. Levels taken at the top of natural deposits seem to suggest that the natural topography slopes downwards to the north. However, this is unlikely and it is expected that the land should slope downwards towards the Thames, situated to the south of the site.

8.1.2 It is more likely, taking into account other sites excavated in the vicinity, that the levels represent the uneven terrain produced by brickearth quarrying.

8.2 Undated deposits (Phase 2)

8.2.1 An undated deposit recorded in Trial Pit 2 may represent the fill of a pit or a made ground layer. No datable artefacts were recovered from this deposit but frequent inclusions of chalk, a lack of brick inclusions and its stratigraphic position – cut by a post-medieval brick wall – indicates an early post-medieval or earlier date.

8.2.2 Similarly, an undated deposit recorded in Trial Pit 1 as [24] was interpreted as the natural silting of a cut feature. Orientation, function and date of this postulated feature is unknown at this stage of the archaeological investigation.

8.2.3 The investigation revealed that reworked brickearth soil horizons, interpreted as post-medieval or earlier ground external surfaces, remained intact in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5, in the central part of the site.

8.3 Post-Medieval (Phase 3)

8.3.1 A post-medieval structure was potentially identified in Trial Pit 2, in which a possible brick wall foundation was recorded and was dated stratigraphically. The discovery of this wall foundation indicates that the remains of post-medieval structures survive below a 19th century cobbled surface in the eastern part of the site.

8.3.2 A substantial deposit of fine sandy silt [23] in Trial Pit 1 was also assigned to this period and dated to the 17th century. This deposit is very likely to be associated with the use of the north-east part of the site for agricultural use during the 17th century.

8.4 19th century (Phase 4)

8.4.1 Evidence of 19th century development was recorded in all four of the trial pits. A cobbled surface encountered in Trial Pit 2 demonstrates that 20th century redevelopment of the eastern part of the site as a carpark has not truncated 19th century deposits.

8.4.2 The discovery of several large supporting walls and internal floors in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5 indicate the presence of a basemented 19th century building situated in the central and

southern parts of the site. This building may have truncated earlier post-medieval deposits, but features cutting a layer of brickearth observed below the basement may remain.

8.5 Modern (Phases 5 and 6)

8.5.1 The desk-based assessment (CgMs 2018) suggested that the site had been severely damaged during WW2. A layer of demolition material sealing the 19th century walls indicated that, following their destruction, the remains of the bombed out buildings were pulled down in order to level the site and form the current ground surface.

9 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

9.1 A number of site specific research aims and objectives were raised and addressed for the investigation. The archaeological trial pits sought to address these research questions and are answered in the following section:

9.2 To establish the survival or truncation of natural brickearth deposits at the base of the sequence.

9.2.1 Natural brickearth was only recorded in Trial Pit 3 located in the centre of the site. However, deposits of reworked brickearth were observed in Trial Pit 4 and 5.

9.3 To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric and Roman activity and allow the design of a suitable mitigation strategy if appropriate.

9.3.1 No evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity was encountered on the site, although the investigation of the lower layers in the trial pits was limited due to lack of access.

9.4 To establish the presence or absence of evidence relating to medieval and post-medieval activity, and record it as appropriate if present; is there any evidence for the ribbon development associated with Whitechapel High Street?

9.4.1 Deposits of reworked brickearth, which may represent medieval or post-medieval external ground surfaces, were recorded in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5. A single brick wall foundation, encountered in Trial Pit 2, may indicate the survival of post-medieval structures in the eastern part of the site. This structure may be associated with ribbon development along Whitechapel High Street. A possible quarry pit of 17th century or earlier date was identified in Trial Pit 1.

9.5 To establish the presence or absence of evidence relating to late post-medieval and modern industrial activity and record it as appropriate if present.

9.5.1 No evidence relating to late post-medieval and modern industrial activity was encountered on the site. However, the extensive remains of 19th century commercial buildings were recorded in the central and southern parts of the site.

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

9.6.1 The archaeological investigation suggested that the site may have been subjected quarrying during the post-medieval period or earlier, which has probably affected the survival of any prehistoric and Roman deposits. However, the observation of naturally deposited brickearth in Trial Pit 3 suggests that not all areas of the site were subjected to quarrying and therefore ground surfaces dating to the prehistoric or Roman periods may remain intact in the central part of the site.

9.6.2 The construction of a large basemented building located in the southern part of the site will have had a significant impact on any post-medieval remains that were located in this part of the site, but the survival of a re-worked brickearth horizon beneath the basement floor may mean that remains dating to the earliest development of the site may be extant.

10 PLATES



Plate 1: south-east facing photograph of Trial Pit 1



Plate 1: west facing photograph of Trial Pit 2



Plate 2: south facing photograph of Trial Pit 3



Plate 3: west facing photograph of Trial Pit 4



Plate 4: south facing photograph of Trial Pit 5 (scale: 1m)

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology and the author would like to thank CgMs Heritage for commissioning the project and to Adam Single, Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for monitoring the work. The authors would like to thank Tanya Jones and Guy Seddon for assisting with the field work and Hayley Baxter for preparing the figures. Additionally, many thanks to Helen Hawkins for managing the project and editing the report.

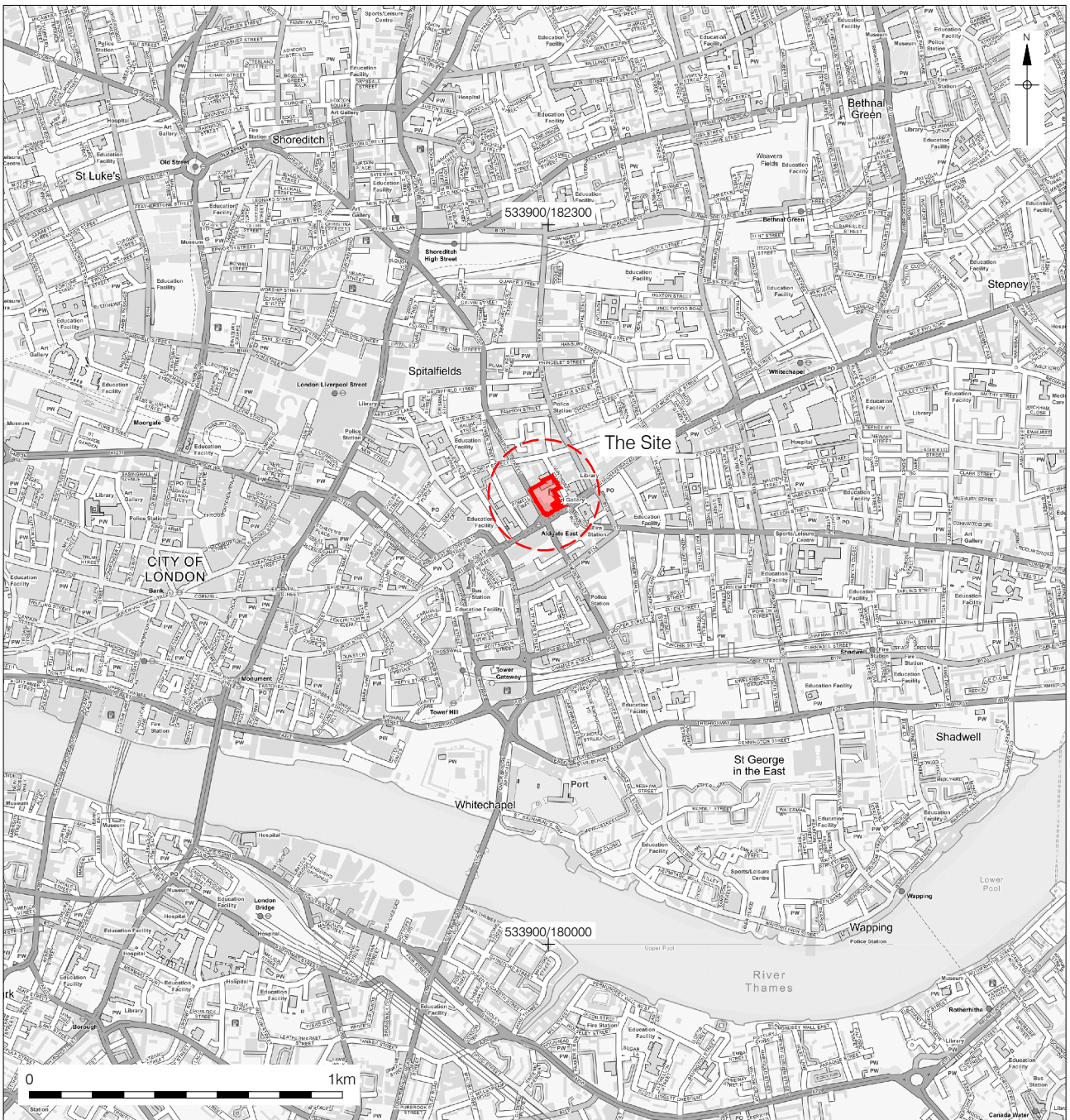
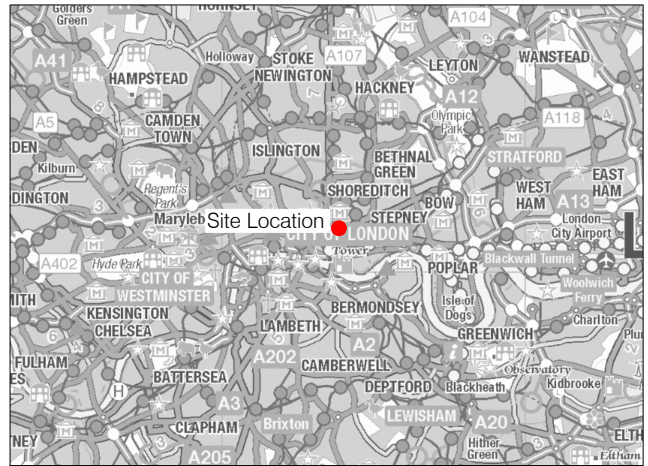
12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

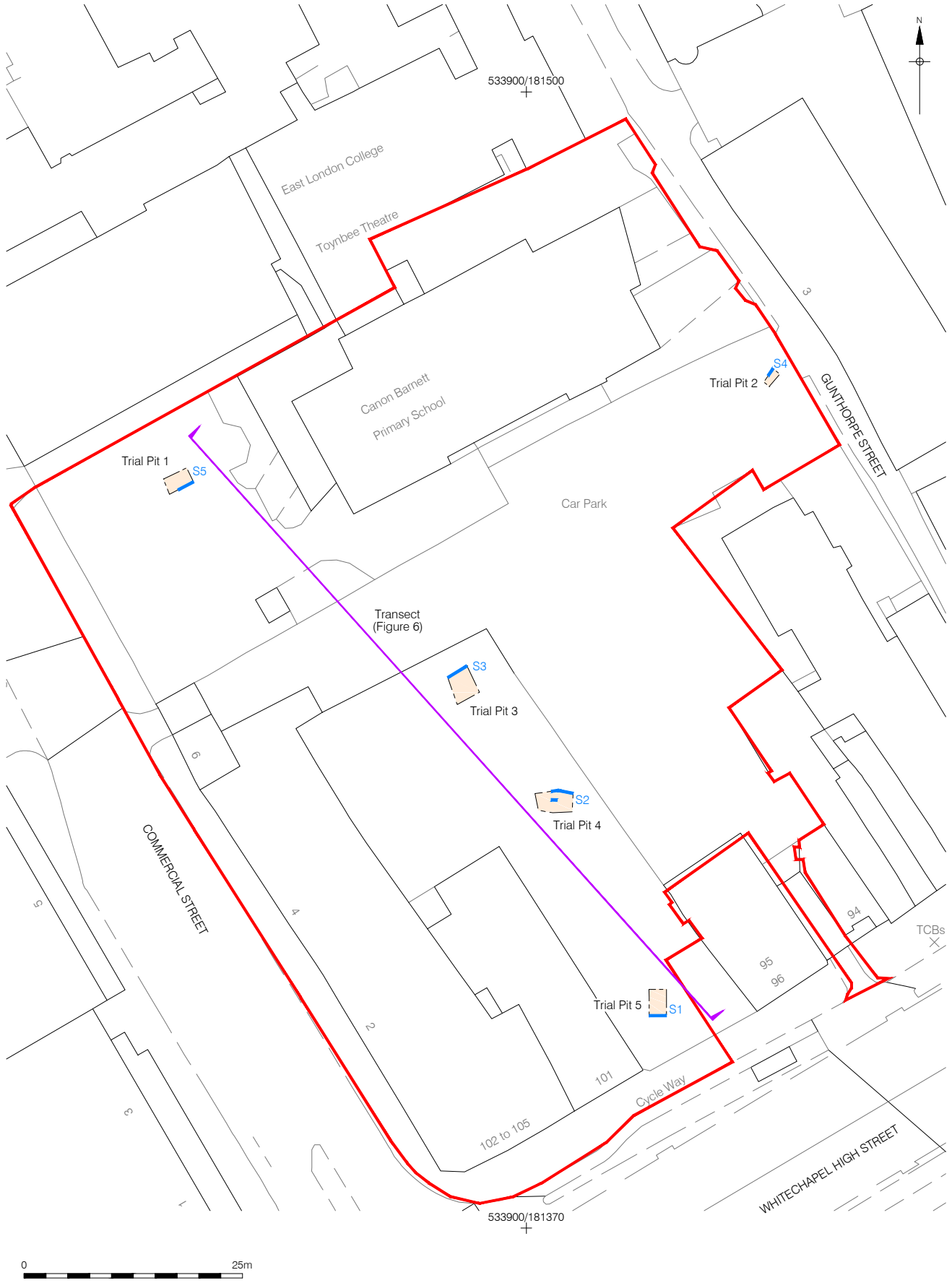
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Trial Pit 4

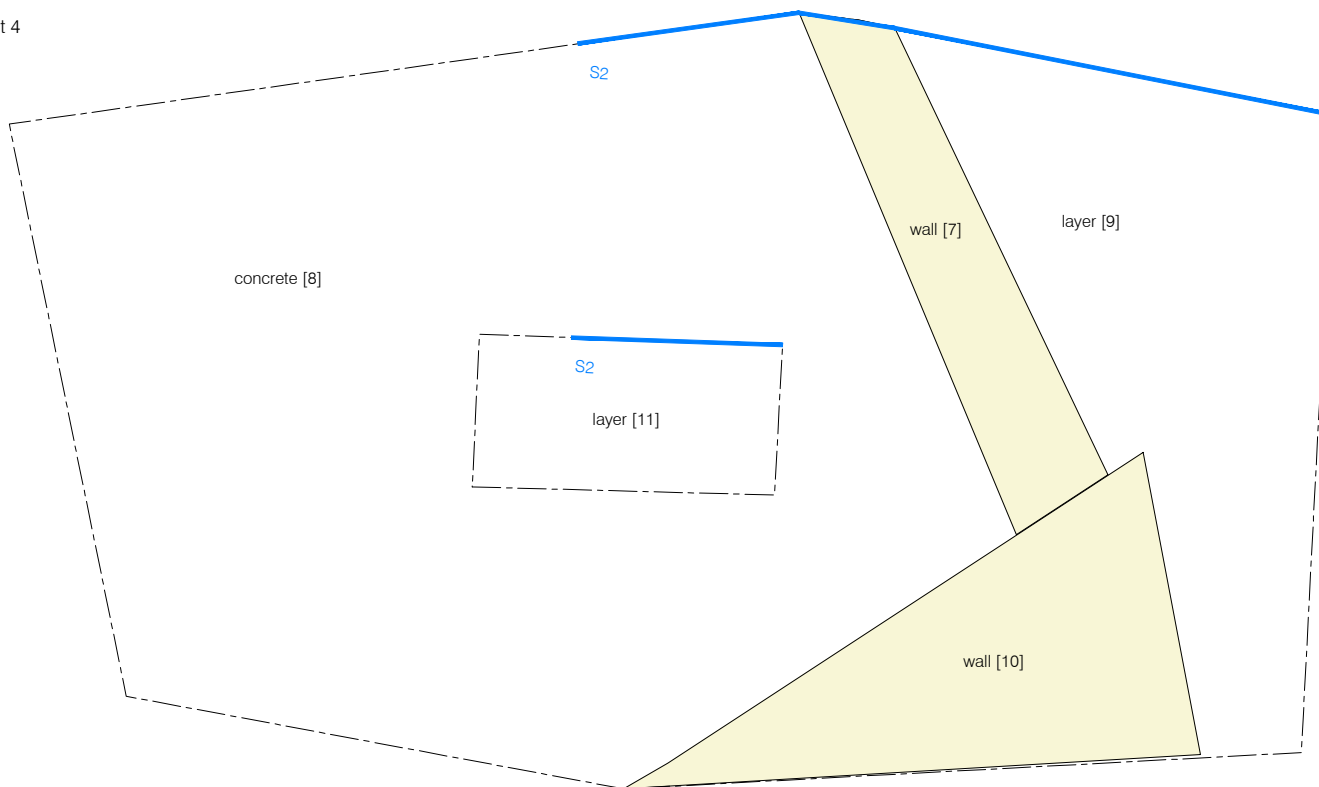
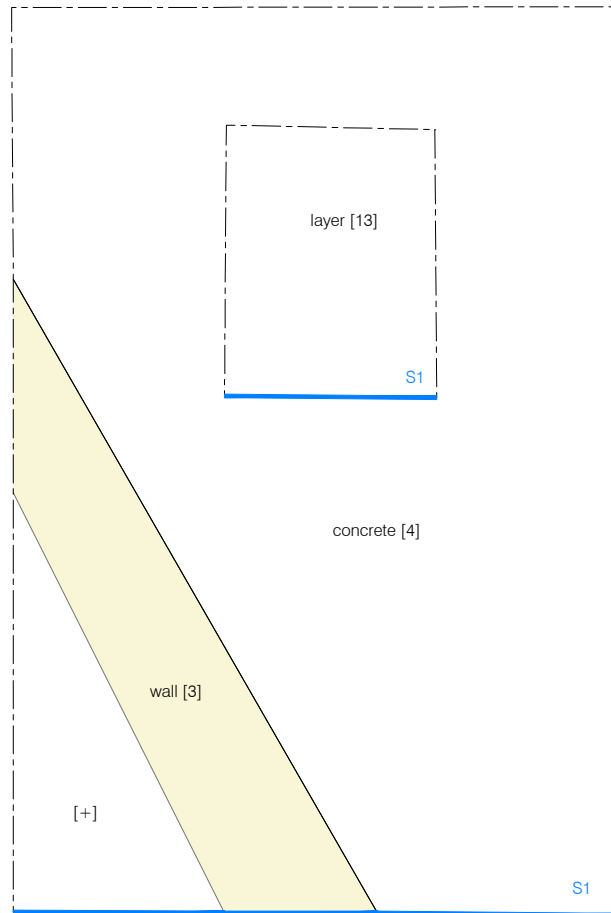
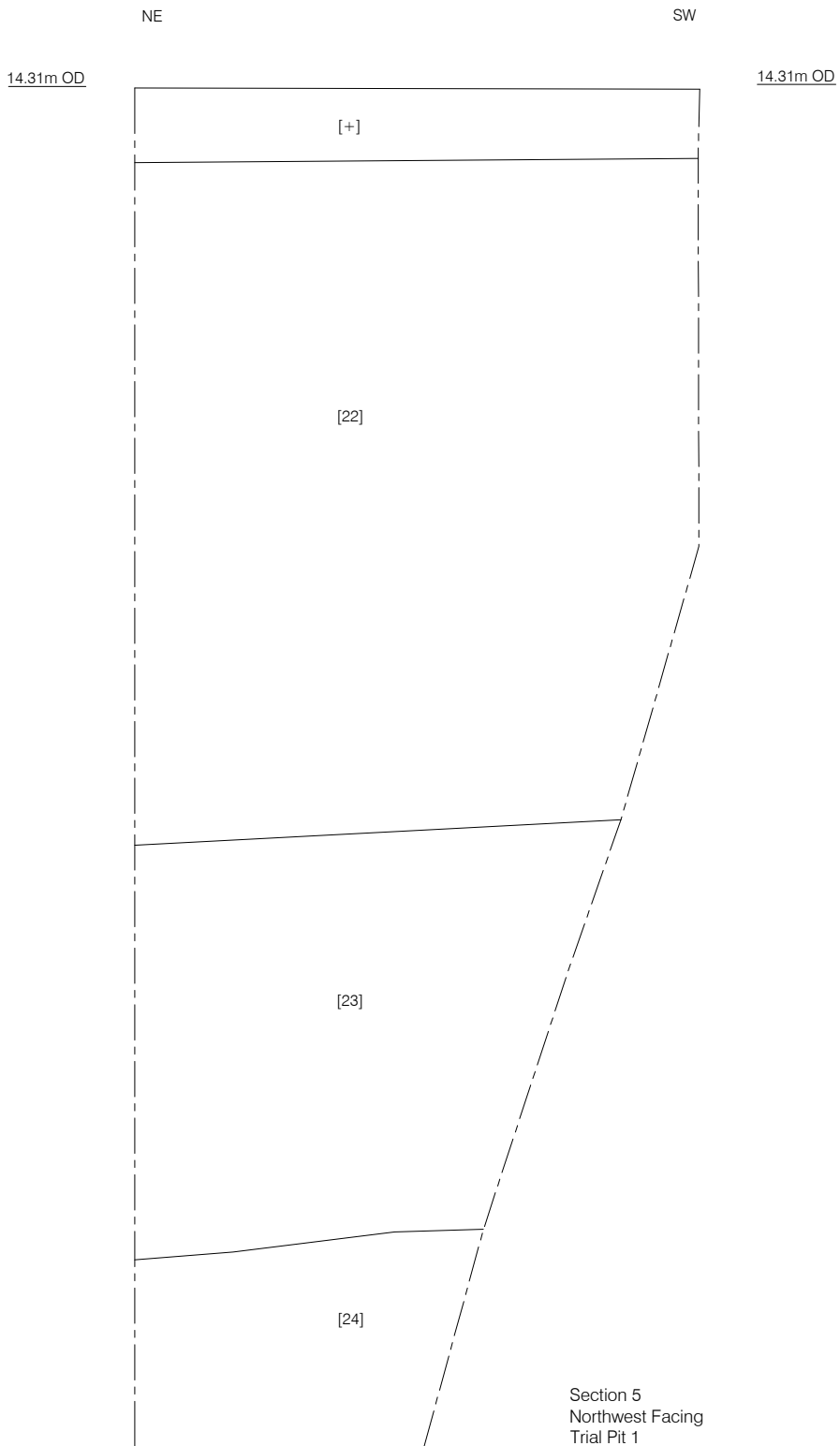


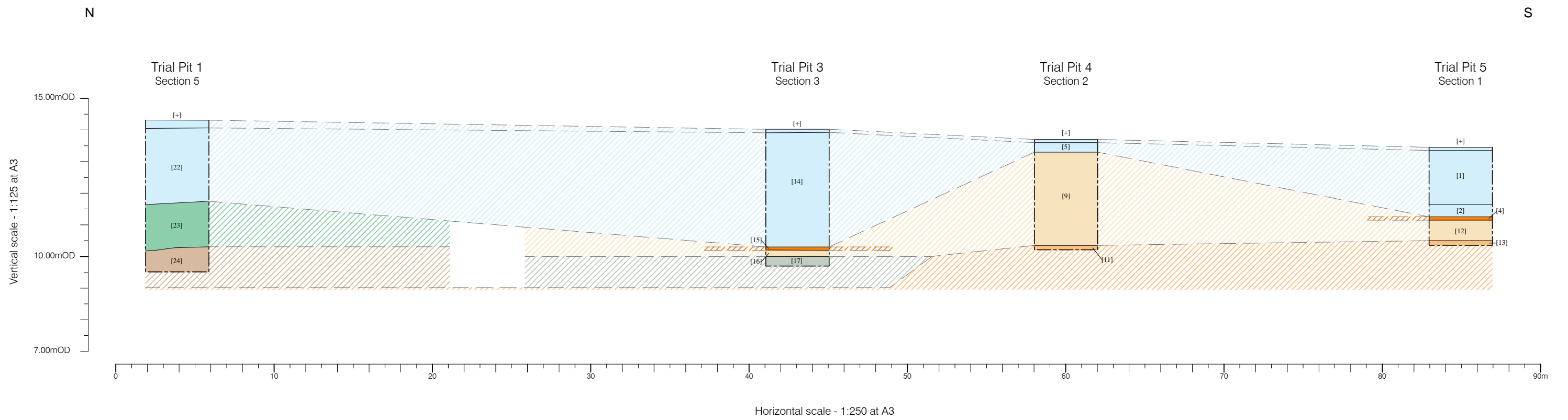
Figure 3
Plan of Trial Pit 4
1:25 at A4



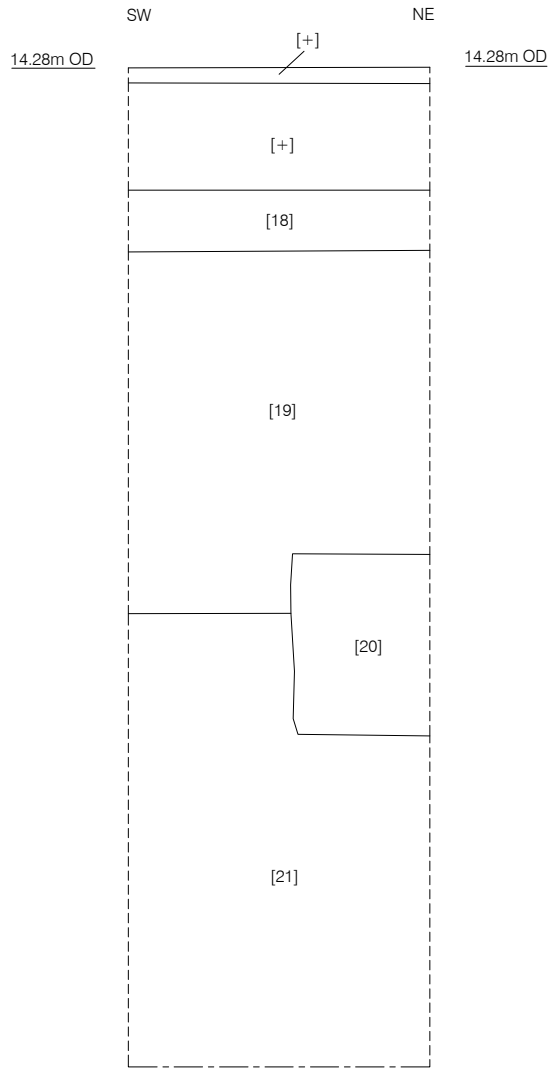
Trial Pit 5







- Made Ground
- C19th Basement Floors
- Reworked Brickearth/Soils
- Agricultural (Sandy silt)
- Brickearth
- Alluvium
- Gravels



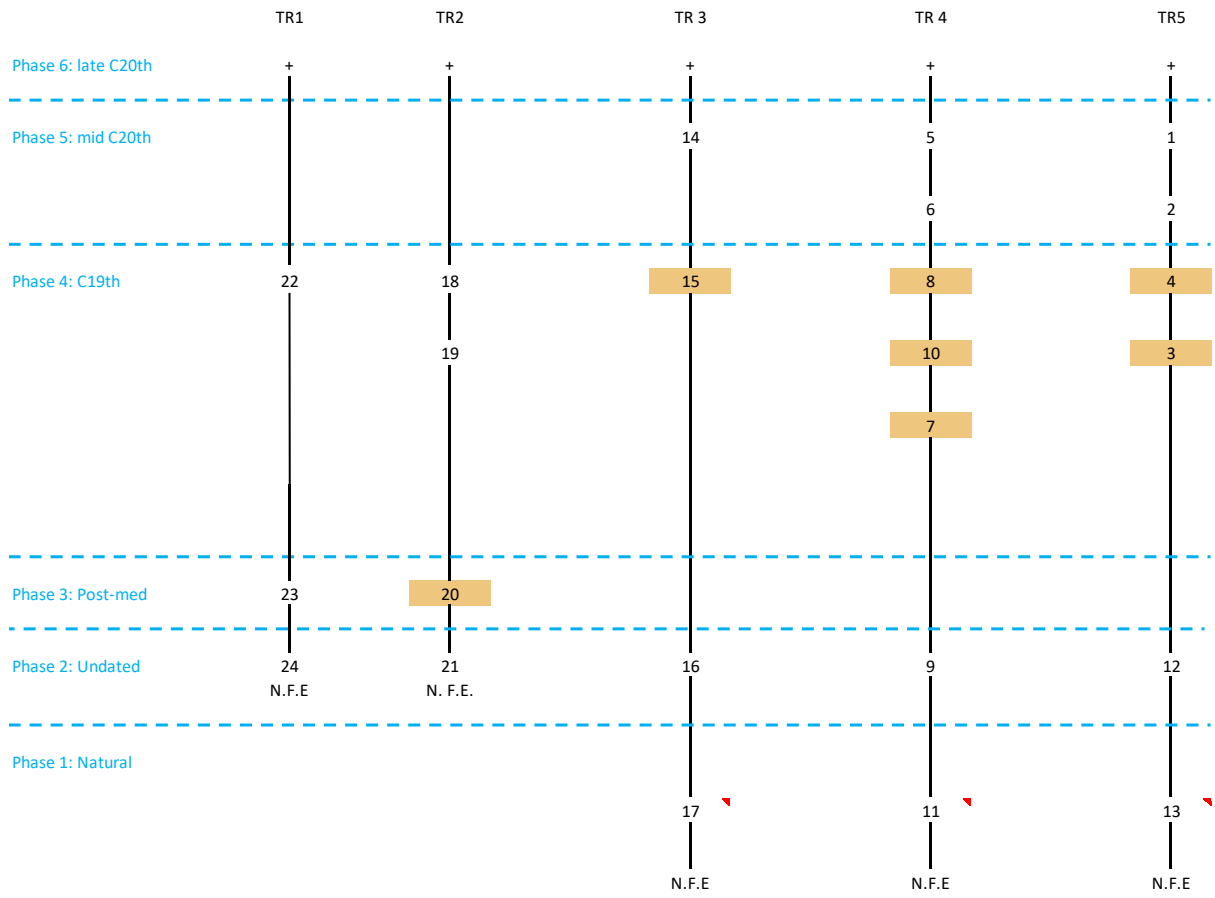
Section 4
Southeast Facing
Trial Pit 2



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Trench	Interpretation	Category	Length	Width	Depth	Highest Level	Lowest Level	Phase
1	Layer	5	20th century demolition rubble	Demolition	3.3	1.9	1.7	13.35		WEA18-PH1
2	Fill	5	Backfill of basement	Backfill	0.8	2.2	0.4	11.65		WEA18-PH5
3	Masonry	5	C19th supporting wall	Wall	2.2	0.5	2.1	13.35	11.25	WEA18-PH3
4	Masonry	5	Concrete basement floor	Floor	3	1.9	0.1	11.25	11.15	WEA18-PH4
5	Layer	4	C20th demolition material	Demolition	2	3	0.3	13.6		WEA18-PH5
6	Layer	4	C20th demolition material	Demolition	2	3	2	13.3		WEA18-PH5
7	Masonry	4	C19th wall	Wall	2	0.5	2.1	13.3	11.2	WEA18-PH4
8	Masonry	4	Concrete basement floor	Floor	2	3	0.1	11.3	11.2	WEA18-PH4
9	Layer	4	Undated reworked brick earth		2	1.4	2.95	13.3		WEA18-PH2
10	Masonry	4	C19th wall	Wall	2.4	0.5	2.1	13.3	11.2	WEA18-PH4
11	Natural	4	Natural gravel	Natural	1.1	0.6	0.15	10.35	9.85	WEA18-PH1
12	Layer	5	Undated reworked brick earth	Agricultural	0.8	2	0.65	11.15		WEA18-PH2
13	Natural	5	Natural terrace gravel	Natural	0.8	0.6	0.15	10.5		WEA18-PH1
14	Layer	3	Demolition material	Demolition	2	2	3.6	13.92	13.92	WEA18-PH5
15	Masonry	3	Basement floor	Floor	2	2	0.1	10.32	10.32	WEA18-PH4
16	Layer	3	Reworked soil horizon	Agricultural	2	2	0.2	10.22		WEA18-PH2
17	Natural	3	Naturally deposited brick earth	Natural	2	2	0.3	10.02	9.72	WEA18-PH1
18	Masonry	2	C19th cobbled yard surface	Surface (External)	0.6	1	0.2	13.88	13.88	WEA18-PH4
19	Layer	2	C19th made ground	Make-up	0.6	1	1.2	13.68	13.68	WEA18-PH4
20	Masonry	2	Post-medieval wall foundation	Foundation	0.6	0.45	0.6	12.68		WEA18-PH3
21	Layer	2	Possible backfill of quarry pit		1	0.6	1.5	12.48	12.48	WEA18-PH2
22	Layer	1	Post-medieval made ground	Make-up	2	1.6	2.34	14.05	14.03	WEA18-PH4
23	Layer	1	Post-med agricultural deposit	Agricultural	2	1.6	1.44	11.71	11.63	WEA18-PH3
24	Layer	1	Alluvial deposit	Alluvium	1	1.6	0.76	10.05	9.95	WEA18-PH2

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-335752

Project details

Project name	101 Whitechapel High Street
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology at 101 Whitechapel High Street, London E1. Five trial pits were excavated. The earliest deposit on site consisted of natural brickearth overlying gravels. Levels recorded suggested that natural deposits occur at a higher level in the south of the site than in the north. As it is unlikely that the natural topography slopes downwards towards the south, these levels may indicate that quarrying of natural deposits may have taken place in the central and northern parts of the site. Layers of reworked brickearth directly sealing natural deposits were recorded in the central part of the site and suggest that prehistoric, Roman and medieval ground surfaces potentially survive later truncation, although no artefactual evidence from these periods was recovered during the investigation. A post-medieval brick structure - possibly a wall foundation - was discovered in Trial Pit 2, situated in the eastern part of the site. This structure was sealed by a bedding layer for an intact cobbled surface dating to the 19th century. The central part of the site was dominated by a large 19th century basemented building, recorded in Trial Pits 3, 4 and 5. The basement extended to between c.2.5m and c.3m below ground level and was backfilled with demolition rubble derived from the demolition of the building after WW2. The site was sealed with a 0.1m thick layer of tarmac forming the surface of a car park and a disused open space.
Project dates	Start: 27-11-2018 End: 04-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WEA18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Test Pits""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS 101 Whitechapel High Street

Postcode	E1
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3389 8144 51.515497025524 -0.070180420722 51 30 55 N 000 04 12 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.2m Max: 14.28m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	CGMS Heritage (part of the RPS Group)
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Joe Brooks

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	101 Whitechapel High Street, London E1: An archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brooks, J. and Grosso, I.
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 bounded report

Entered by	Ireneo Grosso (igrosso@pre-construct.com)
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Entered on 9 January 2019

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