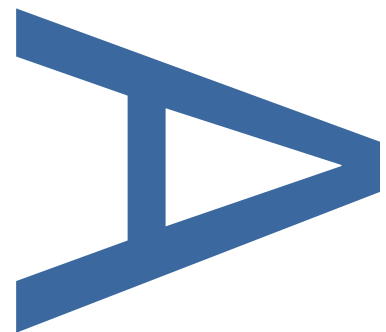
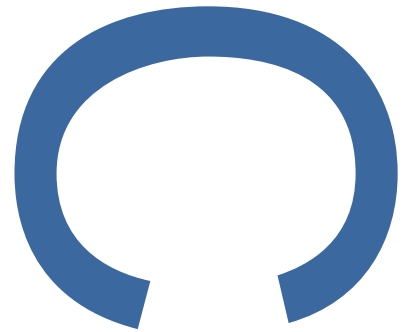


**LAND AT STEPHENSON STREET,
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM
E16 4PT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

SITE CODE: SEP19

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

JANUARY 2019



**LAND AT STEPHENSON STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM E16 4PT
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: SEP18

Central NGR: TQ 38990 82818

Local Planning Authority: LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

Planning Reference: 17/01847/OUT

Commissioning Client: AECOM Limited on behalf of Berkeley Homes (South East) Ltd.
Rev 1 Client Comments

Written/Researched by: Neil Hawkins MCIfA
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: HHawkins@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name

**LAND AT STEPHENSON STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM
E16 4PT**

Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5896
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	N Hawkins		28.1.19
Graphics Prepared by:	A Tonelli		28.1.19
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley	M Roughley	29.1.19
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins	H Hawkins	29.1.19

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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 of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Land at Stephenson Street, West Ham, London Borough of Newham E16 4PT. The central grid reference for the site was TQ 38990 82818. The fieldwork was undertaken between 10th December 2018 and 11th January 2019. The work was commissioned by AECOM Limited on behalf of Berkeley Homes (South East) Ltd.
- 1.2 The site has been subject to extensive geoarchaeological deposit modelling relating to the deposition of Late Devensian Lea Valley Gravel and Holocene alluvium. Initially the site was mapped as part of the Lea Valley Mapping Project (Corcoran et al 2011) which suggested the site traversed three Landscape Zones, LZ1.1a and LZ1.11 (active channel) and LZ1.10 (low terrace), which have different types of potential for archaeological settlement. A subsequent deposit model by QUEST (QUEST 2017) specifically for the site suggested instead that the majority of the site lay almost entirely within LZ1.11 and no conclusive evidence existed for the presence of the low terrace (LZ1.10), suggested to encompass the north-eastern corner of the site.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation recorded natural sandy gravel throughout all evaluation trenches excavated, except Trench 14, between 0.21m OD and -1.8m OD. This deposit represents the Lea Valley Gravel known to underlie the entirety of the site.
- 1.4 Sealing the Lea Valley Gravel throughout the site was a sequence of inorganic Holocene alluvial clay, silt, gravel and sand alluvial deposits, recorded between 0.37m OD and 1.13m OD and ranged in thickness from 0.92m to 2.3m.
- 1.5 Evaluation Trenches 12 and 13, located on the southern periphery of the site, both recorded organic peat deposits, which had not been identified during the site specific deposit model. However the presence of peat is unsurprising as the site of West Ham Bus Garage adjacent to the south also encountered intermittent deposits of organic peat which were dated to the Bronze Age. Such peat deposits with high organic content are of particular importance as they have a high potential to provide detailed reconstruction of past environments and human activity and interaction with the environment. Assessment of the samples taken from the depositional sequence in Trench 13 is to be carried out by QUEST, incorporating description, organic-matter determinations, radiocarbon dating, pollen, macrofossils (seeds, wood, insects, Mollusca) and diatoms.
- 1.6 The evaluation confirmed the conclusions of the QUEST deposit model which suggested the area of the site lay almost entirely within LZ1.11 (Corcoran et al) due to the elevation of the gravel surface. No evidence for the low terrace was encountered (LZ1.10) during the evaluation with the Lea Valley Gravel being located at 0.21m OD and sloping to -0.20m in the north-eastern evaluation Trench 1. This again suggested that the trench lay within LZ1.11 like the rest of the area of the site.
- 1.7 No cultural finds or features of any date prior to the 20th century were identified on the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Stephenson Street, West Ham, London Borough of Newham E16 4PT (Figure 1) in advance of redevelopment of the site.
- 2.2 The site was centred at TQ 38990 82818 and comprised an irregularly shaped plot of land previously occupied by a Parcelforce sorting office and depot, now demolished. The site was bound to the north and east by the Underground and DLR lines, the Bromley-by-Bow gasworks to the southwest, residential properties to the northwest and a mixture of light industrial buildings, including the West Ham Bus Depot, to the south.
- 2.3 The evaluation methodology was outlined in a site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (AECOM 2017) which was prepared prior to the fieldwork and was approved by Adam Single, Archaeological Advisor for the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the London Borough of Newham.
- 2.4 The fieldwork consisted of fourteen trenches, two of which were subsequently abandoned, and two of which were altered to test pits, excavated across the evaluation area (Figure 2); these were intended to assess the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures or deposits within the development area.
- 2.5 The evaluation was instructed by AECOM Limited on behalf of Berkeley Homes (South East) Ltd. The project was managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins, supervised by the author and was monitored for the local planning authority by Adam Single of Historic England.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Site Specific Planning Background

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was designed to discharge condition 10 of the planning consent (17/01847/OUT) for the development of Stephenson Street, London Borough of Newham (LBN). The condition states:

No Phase within the development shall be commenced unless and until a Stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) relevant to that Phase has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. For land that is included within the WSI, no development (excluding any Early Works) shall commence 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. The planning application lies in an area of archaeological interest. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which has archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no development (excluding any Early Works) shall Commence 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 and 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: The site lies in an area of archaeological interest and to protect and preserve archaeological remains. This condition is required prior to Commencement to protect and preserve potential archaeological assets and is fundamental to the development permitted that it would have been otherwise necessary to refuse the whole permission.

- 3.1.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens within the site. The National Heritage List for England records a scheduled monument, Stratford Langthorne Abbey (NHL Entry No. 1003775) 550m to the north.
- 3.1.3 The site lies within the Cannington Town/Newham Way APA (Tier 3), which covers an area that was once an extensive estuarine/marshland landscape extending to the north of the Royal Docks as far as Newham Way, and the area north of Cannington Town between the River Lea and the Jubilee Line. The remains of this former landscape can be expected to survive beneath modern made ground and could have the potential to contain significant prehistoric finds, in particular along the boundary of this APA with tier 1 APAs covering important prehistoric features (LBN 2011).
- 3.1.4 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in line with an archaeological planning condition for trial trenching issued by Historic England/GLAAS. The work was designed within a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AECOM limited (AECOM 2018) which was approved by the archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Newham, Adam Single (GLASS).
- #### 3.2 Project aims and objectives

3.2.1 The following general objectives and site specific aims were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AECOM 2018);

3.3 General Objectives

- To confirm the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains within the site
- To determine the location, nature, extent, date, condition, state of preservation, significance and complexity of any archaeological remains
- To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present; and
- To inform the design of any detailed archaeological mitigation required, if appropriate

3.4 Site specific aims

- To determine whether there is any evidence of the low terrace (LZ1.10) identified in the LVMP, extending into the northeastern corner of the site
- To determine whether there is any prehistoric activity evidence along the marginal zone surrounding the edge of the low terrace (LZ1.10); and
- To determine whether the limited remains recorded in the central floodplain (LZ1.11 and LZ1.1a) are the result of the former channel activity removing such evidence or due to the limited number of investigations previously carried out in these areas

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The topography of the site and surrounding area is dominated by the Lea and Channelsea Rivers and associated flood plains that make up the Lea Valley floor. The site lies on the floor of the Lea Valley, around 420m to the northeast of the River Lea and approximately 2km from the confluence of the Lea and Thames River. The River Lea forks 400m west of the site.
- 4.2 The British Geological Survey (1:50,000 Sheet 257 Romford 1996) shows that the site is underlain by Eocene period London Clay bedrock overlain by Lea Valley Gravel and Alluvium, described as comprising clay, peat, sand and silt deposited in the Holocene.
- 4.3 Previous geotechnical and geoarchaeological investigations, including a deposit model for the site (Quest 2017), confirmed the sequence of London Clay overlain by Lea Valley Gravel and Holocene Alluvium. The Lea Valley Gravel is recorded between -1m OD and 0m OD with a slope down to the south. The Upper surface of the alluvium was recorded between 0 and +1m OD.
- 4.4 Modern ground level at the site is variable between 1.09m OD and 2.65m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following is summarised from the detailed archaeological and historical background which was included within the archaeological desk-based assessment (AECOM 2017).
- 5.2 The Buried Landscape
- 5.2.1 The Site is located within the extents of the Lea Valley Mapping Project (LVMP) (Corcoran *et al.* 2011), which mapped the buried topography of past landscapes within the Lower Lea Valley using geotechnical borehole data and archaeological records. In addition, a site specific deposit model was completed in two stages by Quaternary Scientific (QUEST 2017).
- 5.2.2 The Site is located within three specific buried landscape zones identified in the LVMP (LZ1.1a, LZ1.10 and LZ1.11). Zones LZ1.1a and LZ1.11 make up the deepest part of the floodplain (Terrain 1) and are present at the southernmost part of the study area, the Thames confluence, which extends up Bow Creek from the confluence with the Thames to just beyond the Mill Meads area (Corcoran *et al.* 2011: 44).
- 5.2.3 LZ1.1a is characterised as an area of active channels consisting of clayey alluvial deposits with some silt and sand within the alluvium, with only very little evidence of peat deposits. Its characteristics are identified as consistent with in channel sediments, indicating that this zone has always been within an area of active channels (Corcoran *et al.* 2011: 48). As a consequence marginal marshland and wetland deposits either did not take hold in this zone or have been subsequently washed away.
- 5.2.4 In contrast LZ 1.11 contains wide tracts of peat, infilling abandoned channels as well as forming beds within the alluvial sequence. A fairly extensive peat bed has been recorded in the Stratford area, north-west of the Site; however, this peat bed has yet to be dated. LZ1.10 consists of the southern end of the low terrace landform that extends from the Mill Meads area to Temple Mills and underlies much of the modern Stratford Marsh.
- 5.2.5 LZ1.10 is characterised by a gravel surface ranging from 1-2.5 m OD, likely to belong to the East Tilbury Marshes Gravel of the Lower Thames (Corcoran *et al.* 2011: 59). A high level of archaeological evidence has been uncovered within LZ1.10, predominantly from the Stratford Market Depot site and Stratford Langthorne Abbey. Evidence uncovered during various archaeological excavations spans the prehistoric to medieval periods, indicating continuous activity within LZ1.10 (Corcoran *et al.* 2011; 59). LZ1.10 therefore has a high potential to contain archaeological deposits from the Mesolithic/ Neolithic through to the modern period.
- 5.2.6 A deposit model was prepared by QUEST (2017) to identify the composition, nature and distribution of the sediments across the development site (forming a site specific geoarchaeological model of the deposits sequence). The site specific deposit model was subsequently used to build on the results of the Lea Valley model within the Site to better understand its archaeological potential. This deposit model was completed in two phases, both comprised of desk-based research. Phase A was produced using historic borehole information

and previous archaeological investigation results within the Site and wider study area. Phase B built on the earlier deposit model by incorporating the results of the 2017 geotechnical site investigation.

- 5.2.7 The resultant deposit model identified that overlying the basal layer of London Clay is a sandy gravel horizon, identified as Lea Valley Gravel. The surface of the gravel lies at between 0 and -1 m OD across the majority of the Site, descending to approximately -3 m OD in the south. Across most of the Site, the surface of the Lea Valley Gravel is overlain by inorganic clayey, silty and sandy alluvium (Quest 2017), identified as a mixture of Lower and Upper Alluvium (deposited within a low to moderate energy fluvial environment). Elsewhere, in the Lower Lea and Thames Valley similar deposits have been identified as being deposited during the Holocene as a result of a combination of changing hydrological and colluvial processes (Quest 2017: 11). The alluvium is described by QUEST as between 1 m and 2 m in thickness, with the upper surface at between 0 and +1 m OD. The alluvium is absent in a number of records across the site, where it is likely truncated by modern ground intrusion. Peat is also absent from the current records for the Site. However, peat deposits have been recorded to the south of the site, within the alluvium at the West Ham Bus Depot site.
- 5.2.8 The results of the site specific geoarchaeological model (Quest 2017) indicate that the majority of the Site lies within LZ 1.11 with the southern part of the Site and the majority of West Ham Bus Depot to the south located in LZ1.1a. There is no conclusive evidence that the low terrace (LZ.1.10) identified by Corcoran *et al.* (2011) extends into the north-eastern corner of the Site. In addition, the alluvium overlying the gravel surface is inorganic, consisting of clays, silts and sands with some gravel. No peat deposits identified within the Site.
- 5.3 Previous archaeological investigations within the site
- 5.3.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (2012) undertook an archaeological evaluation in the northeastern corner of the Site in 2012. The evaluation consisted of a series of trial trenches prior to the construction of a new electricity substation to upgrade the existing railway network. No features of archaeological significance were recorded during the evaluation. The sequence of deposits observed within the evaluation trench represented natural alluvial deposition and modern dumping deposits.
- 5.4 Prehistoric
- 5.4.1 A low terrace landform, extending from the Mill Meads to Temple Mills, underlying much of modern Stratford Marsh, has been identified as LZ1.10 in the LVMP (Corcoran et al 2011: 59). A high level of archaeological evidence has been uncovered within LZ1.10, predominantly from the Stratford Market Depot Site and Stratford Langthorne Abbey. Evidence uncovered during various archaeological excavations spans the prehistoric to medieval periods, indicating continuous activity within LZ1.10 (Corcoran et al 20011: 59). LZ1.10 therefore has a high potential to contain archaeological deposits from the Mesolithic/Neolithic periods onwards.
- 5.5 Roman

5.5.1 The site was located northeast of the Roman city of Londinium and would have formed part of the agricultural hinterland consisting of dispersed rural settlement, concentrated near Roman roads and trackways. The London to Colchester road passed through the north of Newham, roughly following the projection of Romford Road, 1.4km to the north of the site. The Roman crossing of the Lea River is believed to have been located at Old Ford at Bethnal Green.

5.6 Early Medieval

5.6.1 A settlement known as Hamme was mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon charter of AD958 and at the compilation of the Domesday Book in 1086. West Ham and East Ham represent Saxon settlements with the Old English 'hamm' and meaning 'a dry area of land between rivers or marshland'. This will reference its location on the gravel terrace bounded on three sides by the rivers Lea, Thames and Roding and their marshes.

5.7 Medieval

5.7.1 The Site is likely to have remained marginal land along the edge of the Lea River and would have been prone to flooding throughout the medieval period, with settlement focused along the higher, drier river terraces. The Domesday manor of West Ham lay on the gravel terraces above the marshes.

5.7.2 Medieval development of the manor of West Ham was prompted by the establishment of religious houses on either side of the River Lea as well as the increasing use of the River Lea for various medieval industries. In 1134 the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne was founded by Mountfitchet. Stratford Langthorne Abbey (NHLE 1003775) is a scheduled monument. Archaeological excavations of the abbey undertaken so far have been focused on the remains of the monastic church and associated buildings as well as the associated cemetery. The abbey precincts are believed to cover an area of about 20 acres and were moated to the north, east and south. The main (eastern) entrance to the precinct was from Abbey Road through the Great Gate, which stood in Bakers Roe. The gatehouse for the eastern entrance survived until 1825. The recorded western entrance to the abbey precinct was through the 'Kilnhouse Gate'.

5.8 Post-Medieval

5.8.1 The Site remained part of the marginal land between the Channelsea and Lea River until the late post-medieval period. The earliest detailed map that depicts the Site is Rocque's 1746 map of London (see AECOM 2016). It shows the Site within the Abbey Marsh to the south of West Ham Abbey. Roque depicts the abbey as consisting of a number of buildings as well as a number of small market gardens located on to the north and south of Abbey Road and along the banks of the Channelsea River. The Abbey Marshes were separated into fields. The layout of the roads and the largely agricultural nature of West Ham are unlikely to have changed much since the late medieval period. From the 16th to the early 19th century West Ham was increasingly favoured as a place of residence or holiday resort by wealthy merchants and professional men working in London (Powell 2012).

- 5.8.2 West Ham and the marshes to the south retained a rural character until the mid-19th century when it underwent rapid urban development, facilitated by the construction of the Eastern Counties and Thames Junction Railway, which passed to the immediate east of the Site (connecting the Royal Docks with the Eastern Counties Railway in 1844-1846). The coming of the railways stimulated the industrial growth of the area allowing factories within the area to easily transport goods by rail to the main docks and elsewhere. The resulting industrial boom stimulated more building to house workers, the layout of which was influenced by field boundaries and the existing railways (LBN 2011).
- 5.8.3 The first edition Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1850 shows the Site located within West Ham Abbey Marshes (west of the Eastern Counties Railway North Woolwich Branch line). Marsh Lane ran through the Site, parallel to the east boundary of the site which is formed by the railway. The area surrounding the Site also remained undeveloped and formed part of the marshes. The 1874 O.S. map shows there had been few changes to the Site. There had been little development along the western banks of the River Lea, but greater development had occurred along its eastern banks. The Abbey Marsh Congreve Rocket Works is shown to the southwest of the Site.
- 5.8.4 By 1898, industrial expansion had spread to the marginal marsh lands that the Site formed part of. Two buildings, identified as oil depot buildings, are depicted in the north-eastern corner of the Site, in the area between the railway lines. Directly to the east of the Site, the Bromley-By-Bow Gasholders are depicted. The gasholders formed part of the Bromley-By-Bow Gasworks that had been established in 1872 by the Imperial Gas and Coke Company. The gasworks were linked to the dock at Bow Creek and connected by the rail running through the Site to the Great Eastern Railway, as well as the London Tilbury and Southend Railway. Seven of the eight gasholders are still extant and all are Grade II listed.
- 5.8.5 A second gasworks, the West Ham Gas Company Works, is recorded 700 m north of the Site. The West Ham Gas Company occupied the Site from the late 19th century until it was taken over by the Gas Light and Coke Company in 1910, eventually becoming part of British Gas after nationalisation in 1948.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 A detailed methodology for the archaeological evaluation is set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AECOM 2018). The original methodology for the evaluation consisted of fourteen evaluation trenches, four of which were proposed to measure 20m x 2m at base and ten of which were to measure 30m x 2m at base. These trenches also varied in depth between 2m and 3m being stepped accordingly, the exception was Trench 14 which was excavated to 1m below ground level. The trenches were designed to access the top of the natural gravel safely using steps, based on the depth information provided by the geotechnical investigations. Trenches were also located away from known services shown on plans provided by the client.
- 6.2 Due to on site health and safety constraints, notably the presence of live services, evaluation Trenches 2 and 5 had to be abandoned. Any such variation from the original WSI was approved during the work by Adam Single, Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Newham. Further health and safety constraints during the evaluation precluded the excavation of Trenches 6 and 9. Following consultation with Adam Single two test pits, c. 5m² were excavated in their place. Further live services were encountered in other evaluation trenches which were left in situ and excavation along the line of the trench continued at a safe distance.
- 6.3 All evaluation trenches were set out and located with a GPS survey instrument, which was also used to install a series of temporary benchmarks across the site. Prior to, and during, excavation of all evaluation trenches their locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT). A 13-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under the supervision of an attendant archaeologist, removed the modern overburden and continued in spits removing the Holocene alluvium until natural Lea Valley Gravel was revealed.
- 6.3.1 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in London; that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological and geological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being at scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10. The OD heights of all principle strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A full photographic record was taken in the digital format.
- 6.3.2 The complete site archive include site records and photographs will be deposited at the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA) under the unique site code SEP18.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural sandy gravel

7.1.1 Natural sandy gravel deposits were recorded within all but one of the excavated evaluation trenches, excluding abandoned Trenches 2 and 5, the Ordnance Datum heights of which are tabulated below. These natural sandy gravel deposits are interpreted as the Lea Valley Gravel, deposited during the Late Devensian.

Trench	Context number	Highest level of natural gravel (m OD)	Lowest level of natural gravel (m OD)
1	2	0.21	-0.2
2	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	4	-1.71	-1.80
4	57	-1.04	-1.31
5	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	61	-1.17	N/A
7	52	-0.72	-0.91
8	8	-1.35	-1.49
9	65	-1.42	N/A
10	30	-0.58	-1.34
11	36	-0.38	-0.50
12	58	-0.50	-0.78
13	70	-0.73	-0.83
14	N/A	N/A	N/A

7.2 Phase 2: Natural Holocene alluvium

Trench 1

7.2.1 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 1 was a homogenous deposit of inorganic alluvial clay, context [1]. This deposit was recorded at a highest level of 1.13m OD and had an overall thickness of 0.92m.

Trench 3

7.2.2 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 3 was a sequence of inorganic clay, silt, sandy and gravel alluvium, contexts [3], [4] and [9-26]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.95m and had a combined overall thickness of 2.66m.

Trench 4

- 7.2.3 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 4 was a sequence of inorganic gravel, clay and sandy alluvium, contexts [53-56]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.83m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.87m.

Trench 6

- 7.2.4 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 6 was a sequence of inorganic homogenous clay and sand alluvium, contexts [59-60]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.83m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 2.3m.

Trench 7

- 7.2.5 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 7 was a sequence of inorganic homogenous clay, gravel and sandy alluvium, contexts [47-51]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 1m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.72m.

Trench 8

- 7.2.6 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 8 was a sequence of inorganic homogenous clay and sandy alluvium, contexts [5-7]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.75m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 2.25m.

Trench 9

- 7.2.7 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 9 was a sequence of inorganic homogenous clay, sandy and gravel alluvium, contexts [62-64]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.48m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.9m.

Trench 10

- 7.2.8 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 10 was a sequence of inorganic homogenous clay and sandy alluvium, contexts [27-29]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.37m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.71m.

Trench 11

- 7.2.9 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 11 was an inorganic deposit of alluvial sand, context [43]/[37], which was recorded at 0.09m OD. Apparently cutting through this deposit in the eastern end of Trench 11 was an irregularly shaped possibly natural feature, context [38]. This possible natural feature survived for dimensions of 3.45m east-west by 1.8m north-south but continued south beyond the limit of excavation and was recorded at -0.16m OD. This natural feature was filled to a depth of 1.27m with a series of inorganic alluvial gravel, sand and clay deposits, contexts [33-35] and [39-42]. Amongst these naturally accumulated fills was a thin, 0.13m, deposit of peat, context [39], which contained some organic content. This possible feature is most likely of natural origin and may be a depression in the topography which has also filled with alluvial deposits.

- 7.2.10 Sealing possible natural feature [38] within Trench 11 was a sequence of inorganic homogenous alluvial clay and gravel deposits, contexts [31] and [32]. This sequence was recorded at a highest level of 0.94m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.04m.

Trench 12

- 7.2.11 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 12 was a sequence of alluvial deposits which consisted of homogenous gravel, context [46], overlain by a peat deposit, context [45], which had a high organic content. This organic peat was sealed by an inorganic homogenous alluvial clay deposit, context [44]. This sequence of alluvium was recorded at a highest level of 0.98m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.76m.
- 7.2.12 Peat deposit [45] had geoarchaeological potential due to its high organic content which can provide palaeoenvironmental information. This deposit was recorded at 0.08m OD and was 0.30m thick. The deposit was included in a column sample and bulk sampled.

Trench 13

- 7.2.13 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in Trench 13 was a sequence of alluvial deposits which consisted of an organic peat deposit, context [69], sealed by inorganic homogenous silt and clays, contexts [66-69]. This sequence of alluvium was recorded at a highest level of 0.61m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 1.34m.
- 7.2.14 Peat deposit [69] had geoarchaeological potential due to its high organic content which can provide palaeoenvironmental information. This deposit was located at -0.39m OD and was 0.34m thick. The deposit was included in a column sample of the lower sequence of the trench.

- 7.3 Phase 3: Modern

Trench 14

- 7.3.1 Trench 14 was targeted on possible post-medieval remains but recorded only modern made ground deposits to 1.4m below ground level, 1.81m OD.
- 7.3.2 Modern made ground sealed the Holocene alluvium deposits within all excavated archaeological trenches. This made ground varied in thickness between 0.14m OD and 1.65m OD and was located from a highest level of 1.09m OD to 2.65m OD, the modern surface level.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded a sequence of natural deposits throughout all excavated trenches. This comprised natural sandy gravel deposits, located between 0.21m OD and -1.8m OD, which are consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey and by previous geoarchaeological investigations in the area including a desk-based geoarchaeological deposit model for the site itself (QUEST 2017) which illustrates these deposits to be the Lea Valley Gravel, deposited in the Late Devensian.
- 8.2 Sealing the Lea Valley Gravel throughout the site was a series of inorganic, homogenous alluvial clays, sands, silts and gravels, with the exception of peat deposits in Trenches 12 and 13 discussed below, which were deposited during the Holocene. This alluvial sequence is again consistent with the geoarchaeological deposit model previously undertaken for the site which identified inorganic clays, silts, gravels and sands across the site which, due to their sterile and homogenous nature, suggested the archaeological potential for the site to be low (QUEST 2017).
- 8.3 The lower alluvial sequence recorded in Trench 3 appeared to be somewhat different in its nature from the homogenous and uniform sand and gravel deposits in the other evaluation trenches in that it appeared to have more thin laminates of sand, gravel and silt layers but contained no organic material. Consultation with Quest provided the following information regarding this alluvial sequence, *'Sections, photographs and descriptions from the archaeologists all indicate that this is a typical fining up sequence of alluvial deposits reflecting a decrease in sediment supply and flow of water from the end of the last Glacial period; due to the nearby location of the floodplain edge, some of the material may have been washed in from a colluvial source. Furthermore the elevation of the sand is consistent with that indicated by the results of the deposit model, in which the sand is often amalgamated with the River Terrace Gravels (due to technical difficulties in separating the two units). In the deposit model, the surface of these deposits rests between -1 and -2m OD. The sand itself has minimal palaeoenvironmental potential, and no flints were recorded during its excavation by the archaeologists.'* (Rob Batchelor Quest pers comm).
- 8.4 Evaluation Trench 11 recorded what appeared to be a possible feature, context [38]. This had an irregular shape in plan and profile, suggesting it was of natural origin. This possible feature was also filled with a series of naturally accumulated alluvial deposits which contained no anthropogenic material or inclusions. Alternatively this feature could have represented a depression within the Lea Valley Gravel which has filled with similar alluvial deposits to those recorded across the site, however, the depth of this feature suggests otherwise. This potential feature therefore is of little significance as it is most likely of natural original and contained no anthropogenic material nor did the deposits have organic content which could have informed on past environmental conditions.

- 8.5 The area of the site has been subject to a series of geoarchaeological deposit models relating to the deposition of Late Devensian Lea Valley Gravel and Holocene alluvium. The site was initially mapped as traversing three Landscape Zones as defined by Corcoran et al (2011): LZ1.1a and LZ1.11 (active channel) and LZ1.10 (low terrace). A subsequent deposit model by Quest (QUEST 2017) suggested that instead the majority of the site appears to lie almost entirely within LZ1.11 due to the elevation of the gravel surface between -1 and 0m OD. The Quest deposit model also identified inorganic clayey, silty and sandy alluvium, sometimes with gravel clasts generally between 1m and 2m thick, the upper surface of which was resting between 0m and +1m OD. The evaluation recorded a very similar stratigraphic sequence to that of the Quest deposit model; the Lea Valley Gravel surface was recorded between 0.21m OD and -1.8m OD which was sealed by inorganic alluvial clay, silt, gravel and sandy alluvium, again between 0.92m and 2.3m thick and located between 0.37m OD and 1.13m OD. This supports the evidence that the site does indeed lie almost entirely within LZ1.11. The exception to this was the presence of peat deposits within Trenches 12 and 13 (discussed below) which correlates with similar deposits at the base of, or within the alluvium to the south on the West Ham Bus garage site.
- 8.6 No conclusive evidence was recorded during the evaluation for the low terrace (LZ1.10) suggested by Corcoran to encompass the northeastern corner of the site. Although Trench 1 in that location recorded the highest level of the Lea Valley Gravel surface, 0.21m OD sloping to -0.2m in the southern end of the trench, this would still suggest it was within LZ1.11 where the gravel is around 0m OD.
- 8.7 Evaluation Trenches 12 and 13, both located in the southwestern area of the site, recorded peat deposits with high organic content, contexts [45] and [69]. The importance of such organic rich peat deposits is highlighted in the deposit model for the site which states, '*Organic rich sediments (in particular peat) have a high potential to provide a detailed reconstruction of past environments on both wetland and dryland. In particular, they provide the potential to increase knowledge and understanding of the interactions between hydrology, human activity, vegetation succession and climate*' (QUEST 2017). Although the deposit model did not identify the peat deposits recorded in Trenches 12 and 13, the adjacent site to the south, West Ham Bus Garage site (QUEST 2010), did encounter peat deposits which were dated to the Bronze Age and therefore the presence of peat during the evaluation, particularly in the southern extreme of the site, is unsurprising. The peat deposits in Trenches 12 and 13, although located at 0.08m OD and -0.39m OD respectively, most likely represent the same horizon extant across the southern portion of the site, a possible continuation of the peat deposits intermittently recorded on the West Ham Bus Garage Site. A set of column and samples and associated bulk samples were recovered from these peat deposits. No archaeological features or structures were recorded within, or associated with, the organic peat deposits within Trenches 12 and 13.
- 8.8 No cultural archaeological material predating the 20th century was found in any of the trenches.
- 8.9 Recommendations

- 8.9.1 Due to the presence of organic rich peat in two of the evaluation trenches and the high potential for palaeoenvironmental information contained within them, highlighted above, it is recommended that an assessment of the samples taken from the depositional sequence in Trench 13 is carried out incorporating description, organic-matter determinations, radiocarbon dating, pollen, macrofossils (seeds, wood, insects, Mollusca) and diatoms (Rob Batchelor Quest pers comm). This data can they be added to the corpus of palaeoenvironmental information relating to Lea Valley Mapping Project.

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PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 facing south, 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 3 facing north, 1m scale



Plate 3: Northern end of west facing Section 3 in Trench 3



Plate 4: Southern end of west facing Section 3 in Trench 3



Plate 5: Trench 4 facing east, 1m scale



Plate 6: Trench 6 (TP) facing north



Plate 7: Trench 7 facing east, 1m scale



Plate 8: Trench 8 facing west, 1m scale



Plate 9: Trench 9 (TP) facing east



Plate 10: Trench 10 facing northwest, 1m scale



Plate 11: Trench 11 facing east, 1m scale



Plate 12: Natural feature [38] in Trench 11, facing southeast 1m scale



Plate 13: Trench 12 facing east, 1m scale



Plate 14: East facing Section 7 in Trench 12 with Columns <3> & <4>



Plate 15: Trench 13 facing west



Plate 16: North facing Section 12 in Trench 13 with Columns <1> & <2>



Plate 17: Trench 14 northwest facing, 1m scale

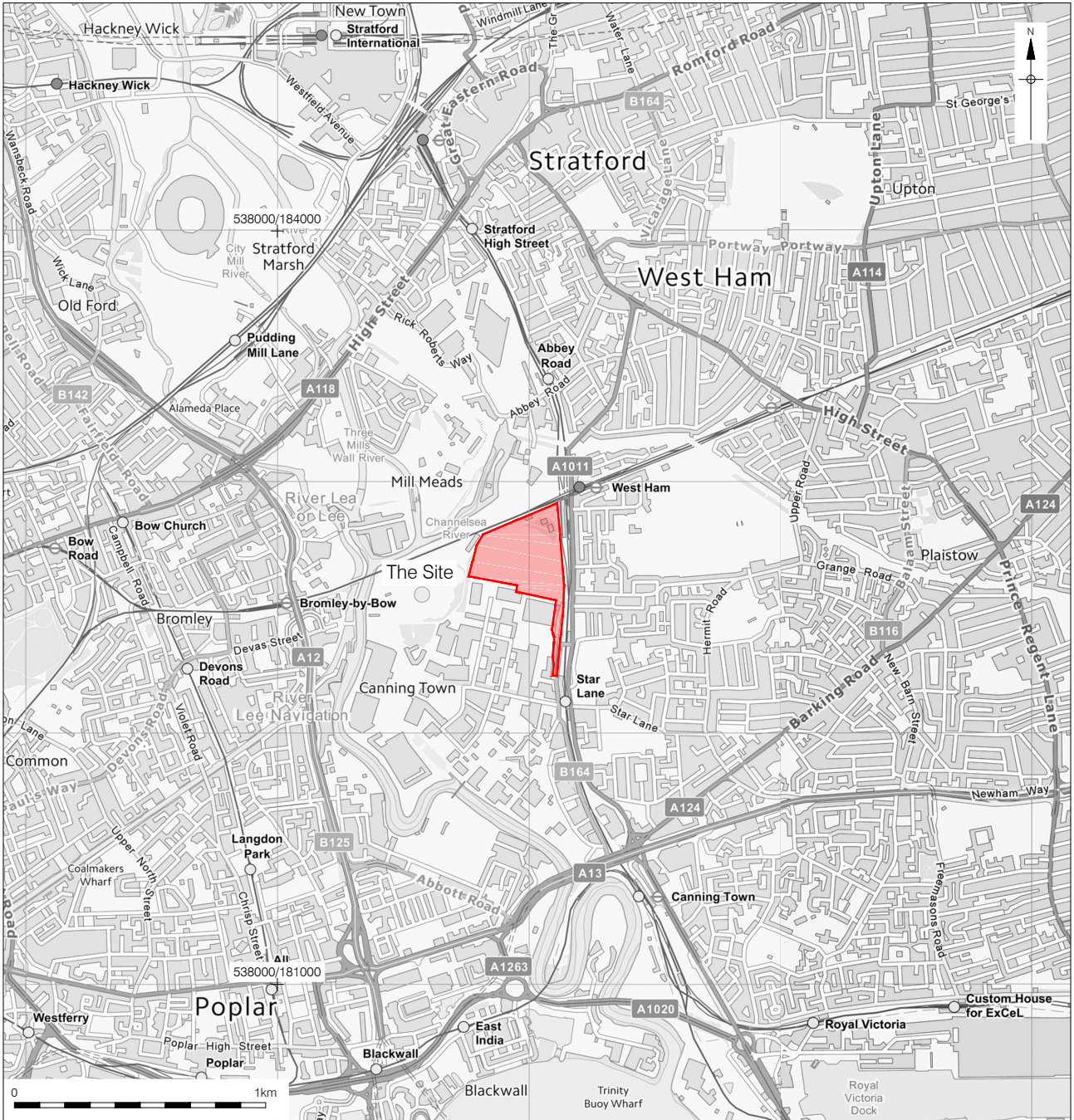
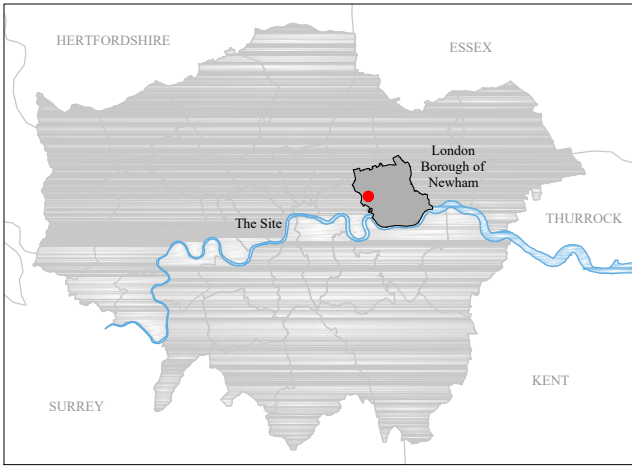
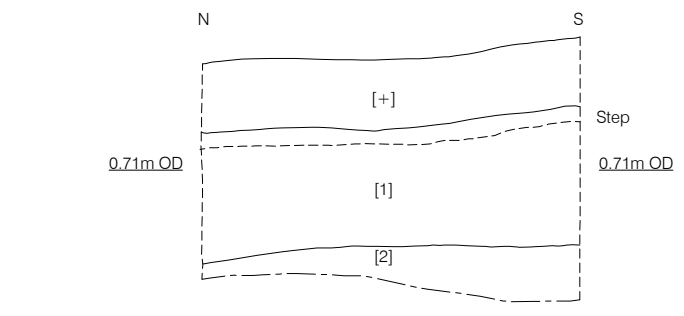
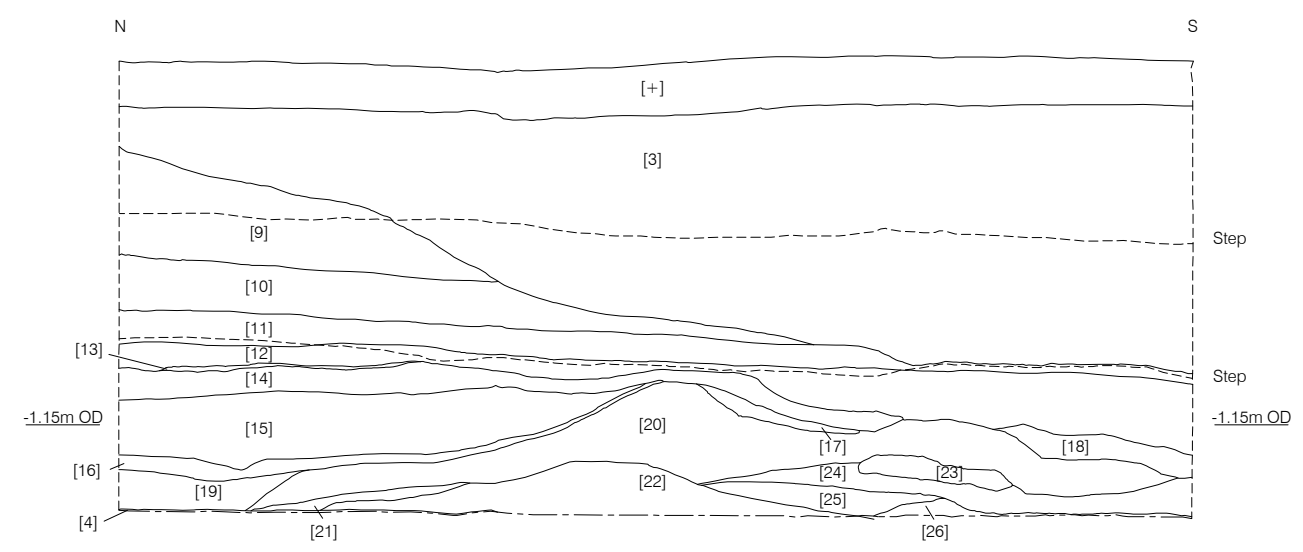




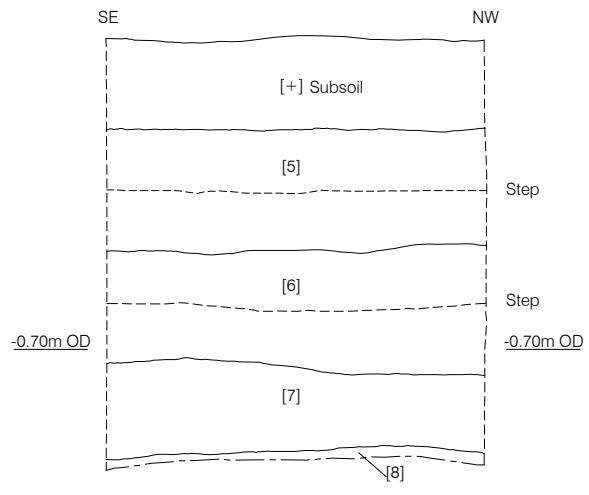
Figure 2
 Trench Locations
 1:2,000 at A4



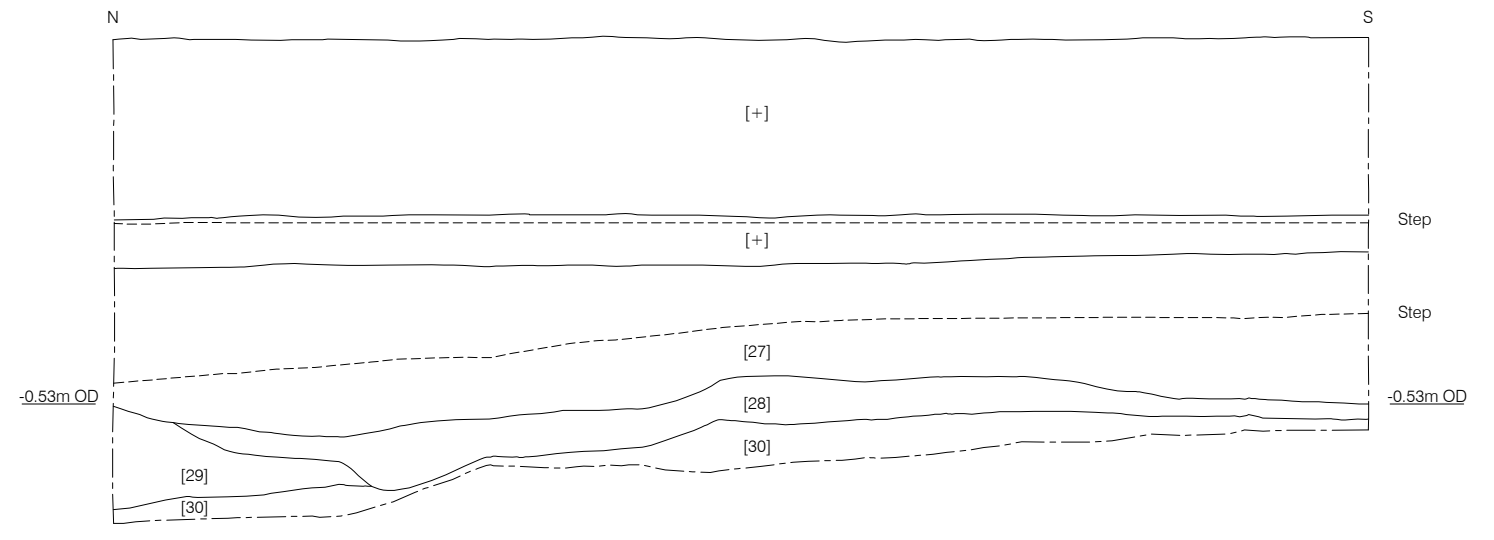
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West facing
Trench 1



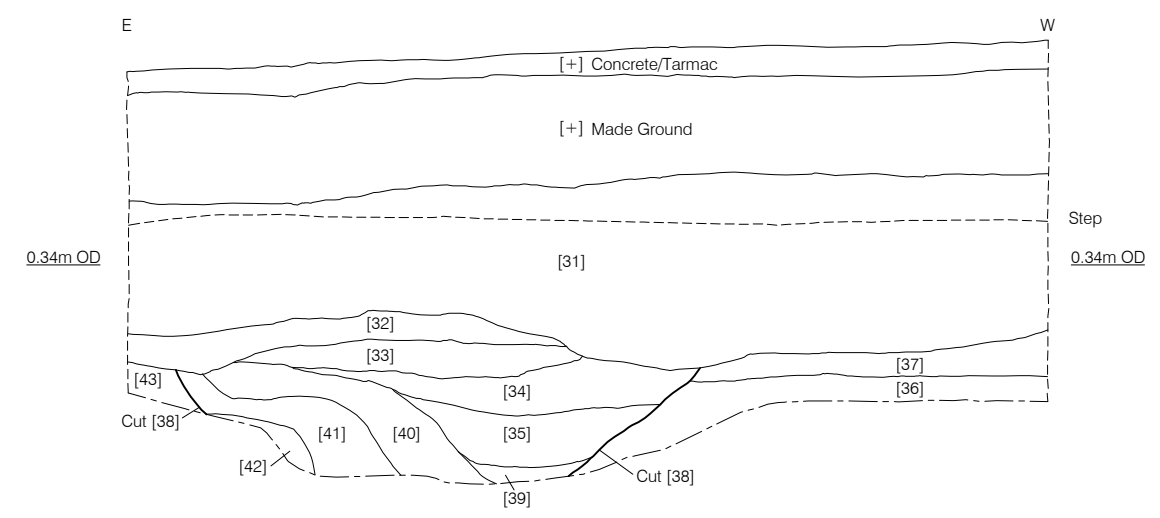
Section 3
West facing
Trench 3



Section 4
North East facing
Trench 8

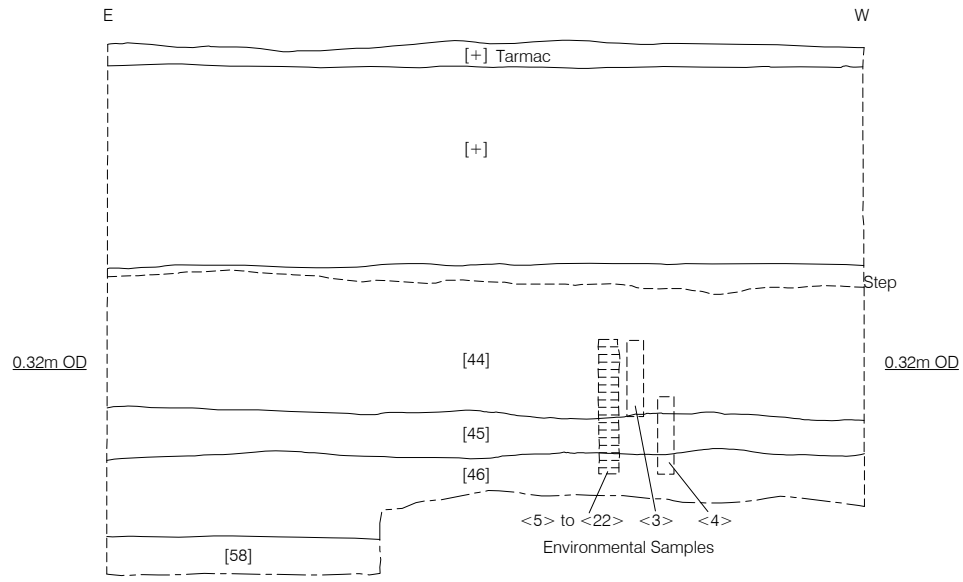


Section 5
West facing
Trench 10

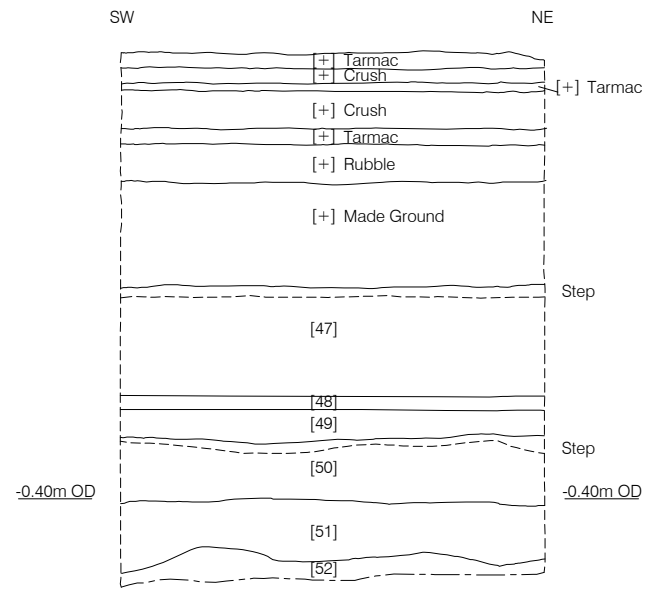


Section 6
North facing
Trench 11

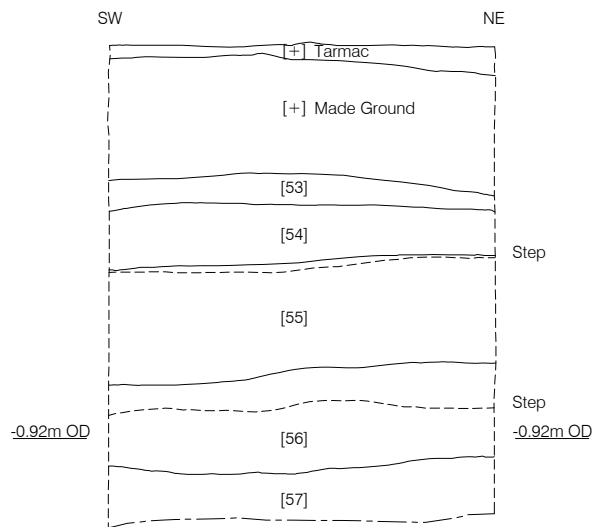




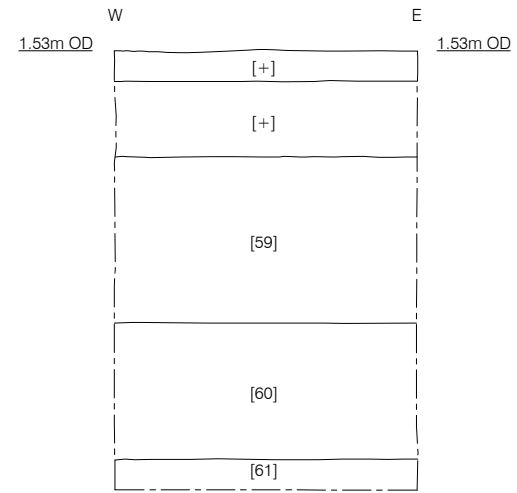
Section 7
North facing
Trench 12



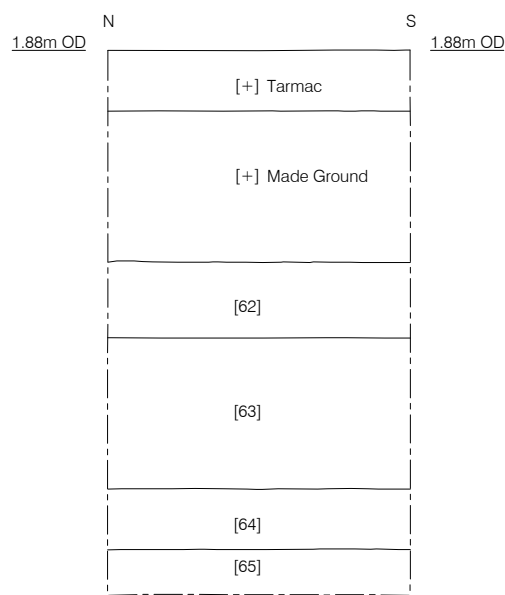
Section 8
South East facing
Trench 7



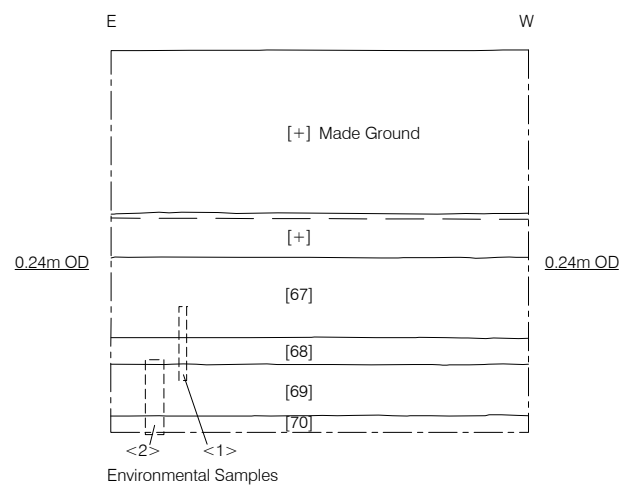
Section 9
South East facing
Trench 4



Section 10
South facing
Trench 6



Section 11
West facing
Trench 9



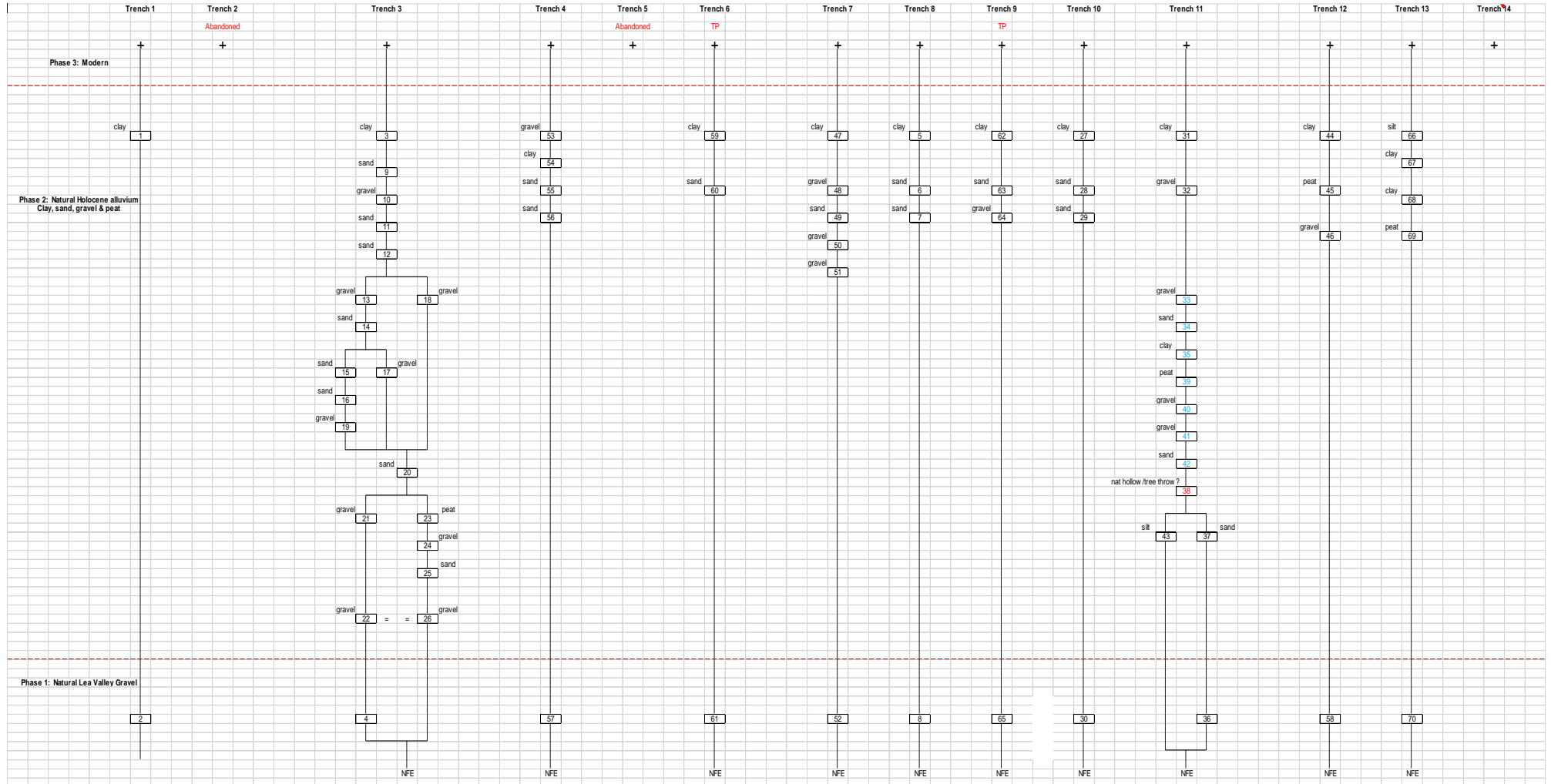
Section 12
North facing
Trench 13



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	Trench	Section No.	Fill_of	Phase	Context Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low
1	Layer	1	1		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.92	1.13	0.96
2	Layer	1	1		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		0.21	-0.2
3	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	1.5	0.95	
4	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-1.71	
5	Layer	8	4		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.75	0.75	
6	Layer	8	4		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.87	0	
7	Layer	8	4		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.64	-0.75	
8	Layer	8	4		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-1.35	
9	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.6	0.7	
10	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.38	-0.02	
11	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.37	-0.5	
12	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.15	-0.6	
13	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.04	-0.73	
14	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.22	-0.73	
15	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.44	-0.9	
16	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.1	-0.9	
17	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.1	-0.95	
18	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.15	-1.15	
19	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.25	-1.45	
20	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.2	-0.9	
21	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.08	-1.53	
22	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.18	-1.39	
23	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Peat	Alluvial	0.15	-1.35	
24	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.25	-1.5	
25	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.18	-1.53	
26	Layer	3	3		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.1	-1.55	
27	Layer	10	5		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.6	0.37	
28	Layer	10	5		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.4	-0.36	
29	Layer	10	5		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.67	-0.53	
30	Layer	10	5		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-0.58	-1.34
31	Layer	11	6		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	1.3	0.94	
32	Layer	11	6		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.22	0.04	
33	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Accumulation	0.25	-0.16	
34	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Accumulation	0.35	-0.26	
35	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Accumulation	0.34	-0.59	
36	Fill	11	6		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-0.38	
37	Layer	11	6		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.3	-0.09	
38	Cut	11	6		SEP18-PH2	Possible sub-circular natural feature	Natural	1.27	-0.16	-1.43
39	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Peat lense	Accumulation	0.13	-0.96	
40	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Accumulation	0.4	-0.5	
41	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Accumulation	0.5	-0.58	
42	Fill	11	6	38	SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Accumulation	0.25	-0.55	
43	Layer	11	6		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial silt	Alluvial	0.22	-0.3	
44	Layer	12	7		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.9	0.98	
45	Layer	12	7		SEP18-PH2	Organic peat	Alluvial	0.3	0.08	
46	Layer	12	7		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.35	-0.22	
47	Layer	7	8		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.63	1	
48	Layer	7	8		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.09	0.28	
49	Layer	7	8		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.24	0.19	
50	Layer	7	8		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.46	0.03	
51	Layer	7	8		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.42	-0.4	
52	Layer	7	8		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-0.72	
53	Layer	4	9		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.22	0.83	
54	Layer	4	9		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.22	0.64	
55	Layer	4	9		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.86	0.29	
56	Layer	4	9		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.75	-0.42	
57	Layer	4	9		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-1.04	
58	Layer	12	7		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-0.78	
59	Layer	6	10		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	1.1	0.83	
60	Layer	6	10		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	0.9	-0.27	
61	Layer	6	10		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-1.17	
62	Layer	9	11		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.5	0.48	
63	Layer	9	11		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial sand	Alluvial	1	-0.02	
64	Layer	9	11		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial gravel	Alluvial	0.4	-1.02	
65	Layer	9	11		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-1.42	
66	Layer	13	12		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial silt	Alluvial	0.29	0.61	
67	Layer	13	12		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.48	0.32	
68	Layer	13	12		SEP18-PH2	Alluvial clay	Alluvial	0.23	-0.16	
69	Layer	13	12		SEP18-PH2	Organic peat	Alluvial	0.34	-0.39	
70	Layer	13	12		SEP18-PH1	Natural sandy gravel	Natural		-0.73	

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS

OASIS ID: preconst1-341099

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Excavation at Land at Stephenson Street, London Borough of Newham E16 4PT

Short description of the project

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at Stephenson Street, West Ham, London Borough of Newham E16 4PT. The original methodology comprised fourteen evaluation trenches, health and safety constraints meant that two of these trenches were abandoned and two were changed to test pits. The evaluation recorded natural Lea Valley Gravel between 0.21m OD and -1.8m OD overlain by Holocene alluvial clays, gravels and sands located at 0.37m OD and 1.13m OD and ranged in thickness between 0.92m and 2.3m. Two of the trenches recorded organic peat deposits at 0.08m OD and -0.39m OD. This depositional sequence was consistent with a geoarchaeological deposit model previously undertaken for the site by QUEST and suggests that the site lies within Corcoran et al's Landscape Zone LZ1.10. No cultural archaeological remains were found in any of the trenches.

Project dates Start: 10-12-2018 End: 11-01-2019

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes SEP18 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques ""Targeted Trenches"", ""Test Pits""

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

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

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

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON NEWHAM WEST HAM Land at Stephenson Street, West Ham

Postcode E16 4PT

Study area 9.45 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 38990 82818 51.526646463149 0.003824508941 51 31 35 N 000 00 13 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: -1.8m Max: 0.21m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Project brief originator GLAAS

Project design originator AECOM

Project director/manager Helen Hawkins

Project supervisor Neil Hawkins

Type of sponsor/funding body Housing Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Berkeley Homes (South east) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient MLAA

Physical Archive ID SEP19

Physical Contents "Environmental"

Digital Archive recipient MLAA

Digital Archive ID SEP19

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"

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

Paper Archive recipient MLAA

Paper Archive ID SEP19

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Section"

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

