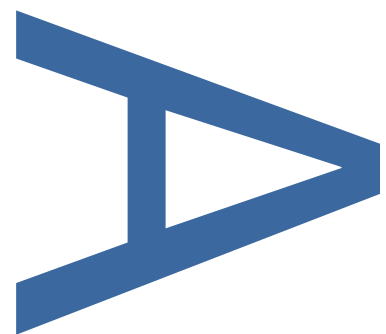
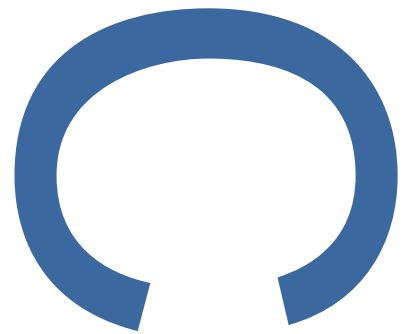


**LAND ADJACENT TO
19 WOOLWICH MANOR WAY,
NORTH WOOLWICH,
LONDON, E16 2NJ**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

SITE CODE: WWM19

FEBRUARY 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**LAND ADJACENT TO 19 WOOLWICH MANOR WAY,
NORTH WOOLWICH, LONDON, E16 2NJ**

Type of project

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K5960
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**LAND ADJACENT TO 19 WOOLWICH MANOR WAY,
NORTH WOOLWICH, LONDON, E16 2NJ:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: WWM19

Central NGR: TQ 543709 180046

Local Planning Authority: LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

Planning Reference: 18/03375/FULL

Commissioning Client: PCA Heritage

Written/Researched by: Ireneo Grosso
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

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February 2019**

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology at land adjacent to 19 Woolwich Manor Way, North Woolwich, London Borough of Newham, London E16 2NJ. The site is located on the northern side of Woolwich Manor Way close to the point where it meets Albert Way, to the south east of London City Airport, and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 543709 180046.
- 1.2 Planning permission is sought for development of vacant land to provide nine new residential homes in a four-storey building (London Borough of Newham Council Planning Ref. 18/03375/FUL).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was carried out between 19th January and 1st February 2019. The work was commissioned by Mr Jacek Gruszczynski of PCA Heritage on behalf of the overall client. A single evaluation trench was excavated within footprint of the proposed new building.
- 1.4 The excavation of Trench 1 recorded organic alluvium at the base of the trench sealed by a substantial alluvial deposit in turn capped by a further layer of alluvium which contained intrusive late post-medieval building material concentrated in its upper part.
- 1.5 The archaeological evaluation did not find evidence for pre-historic, Roman or medieval activity within the excavated trench. The site lays in an area occupied by superficial alluvial deposits in an area previously dominated by braided channels. The archaeological investigation on the site at Milk Street to the immediate north-west in 1996 identified evidence of Roman activity; however, the evaluation on the current site did not record such evidence. The site was likely located away from the focus of activity known from a dry or semidry environment alongside the bank of the river; instead it was situated in an area where sterile alluvial deposits formed at least from the Roman period onwards. The alluvium recorded to a maximum depth of c. 3m below ground level (-1.10m OD), is indicative of a wet environment during the Roman period.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at land adjacent to 19 Woolwich Manor Way, North Woolwich, London E16 2NJ. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 543709 180046 (Figures 1-2).
- 2.2 The site is located in the London Borough of Newham and comprises a parcel of land bounded by residential properties along Woodman Street to the north and east, Milk Street to the west, and by Albert Road to the south with an area of c. 350m². The existing site access is off Albert Road.
- 2.3 The fieldwork was carried out between 19th January and 1st February 2019.
- 2.4 PCA Heritage produced a written scheme of investigation for the site (2019) that designed the archaeological investigation in line with recommendations by Adam Single of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS; archaeological advisors to LB Newham).
- 2.5 The evaluation was requested as the archaeological investigation immediately to the west of the application site undertaken in 1996 found Roman post-holes and a dump of late 2nd - to late 3rd -century Roman pottery, together with ceramic building material, burnt daub, bone, charcoal and wood and it is likely that the current site may contain further evidence of this Roman activity, which may have acted as the northern end of the traditional river crossing from Woolwich, a route that dates from the earlier, prehistoric period.
- 2.6 The archaeological works were supervised by Ireneo Grosso and the project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski, both of the PCA. The site work was monitored by Adam Single of GLAAS.
- 2.7 The site archive was identified using the unique site code WWM19, issued by Museum of London. The site archive will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under this code.
- 2.8 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation*.
 - Historic England 2016, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).
 - Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS; 2015), *Standards for Archaeological Work*.
 - PCA Heritage 2019, *Land Adjacent to 19 Woolwich Manor Way, Newham, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*.
 - Taylor, J & Brown, G. (PCA) 2009, updated 2018, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission has been submitted for development of vacant land to provide nine new residential homes in a four-storey building (LB Newham Planning Ref. 18/03375/FUL).
- 3.2 The consultation with Historic England GLAAS, archaeological advisors to LB Newham, has identified that the planning application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Because of this GLAAS have recommended that a pre-determination archaeological evaluation is undertaken at the site:

An archaeological field evaluation involves exploratory fieldwork to determine if significant remains are present on a site and if so to define their character, extent, quality and preservation. Field evaluation may involve one or more techniques depending on the nature of the site and its archaeological potential. It will normally include excavation of trial trenches. A field evaluation report will usually be used to inform a planning decision (pre-determination evaluation) but can also be required by condition to refine a mitigation strategy after permission has been granted.

[GLAAS] will need to agree the work beforehand and it should be carried out by an archaeological practice appointed by the applicant. The report on the work must set out the significance of the site and the impact of the proposed development. [GLAAS] will read the report and then advise you on the planning application.

- 3.3 A subsequent consultation undertaken by PCA Heritage with GLAAS identified that the evaluation should take form of trial trench evaluation.

4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

4.1 The archaeological evaluation was intended to address the following objectives:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
- help characterise, if possible, the archaeological sequence down to maximum safe depth that can be achieved within the trench;
- correlate the results of this evaluation with the results of the investigations undertaken to the west of the site (Hanson 1996);
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses;
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence;
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost; and
- assess the nature and extent of any existing disturbance on the site.

4.2 A specific aim of the project was to identify evidence for a Roman river crossing.

5 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Geology

5.1.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS), shows that the underlying solid geology of the site consist of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, formed approximately 72 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The solid geology is in turn capped by surface (drift) geology sedimentary deposits, fluvial in origin, consisting of alluvium of the River Thames.

5.2 Geotechnical information provided by a single borehole located near the southern boundary of the site and excavated in 1889 (ref. TQ 48 SW 72) detail a drift geological sequence for the site consisting of 3.35m thick deposit of alluvial clay varying from yellow to dark blue clay, found between +0.85m OD and -2.50m OD which in turn capped a 1.22m thick layer of peat. The peat sealed a sequence of clay gravel, fine sand and coarse sand which was in turn underlaid by fine ballast at 5.83m OD. All levels from this borehole are approximate.

5.3 Topography

5.3.1 The study site is located in a flat area at approximately 2m above Ordnance Datum. The closest watercourse within the vicinity of the site is the River Thames situated c. 200 south and c. 350m east. In addition, the artificial King George V Dock is located c. 110m north from the site.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 The archaeological and historical background cited below derives from the desk-based assessment prepared for the site (CgMs 2018) and the WSI for the project (PCA Heritage 2019).

6.2 The site lies within the Tier 3 Royal Docks Archaeological Priority Area, defined by Historic England (formerly English Heritage), and adopted by Newham Council's Development Plan Document (2016).

6.3 No Palaeolithic evidence has been recorded within a 500m radius of the site. The nearest archaeological finds, consisting of several Palaeolithic hand axes, were encountered at Royal Dock, c. 2.5km west of the site.

6.4 Paleoenvironmental evidence, indicative of prehistoric flora and environmental conditions, is often available from layers of riverine peat, within which the evidence become trapped. Peat layers observed during the excavation of a borehole in the late 19th in the immediate vicinity of the site and during the archaeological evaluation at Milk Street in the mid-1990s (Hanson 1996) suggest that peat deposits are likely to be present in the site. Of note is the sequence of flood deposits with well humified organic inclusions which suggest vegetation growing on top of re-deposited silts alongside the edge of an active channel. The deposit recorded and sampled from Milk Street which (Hanson 1997, 20) within Unit C (-0.52n OD and below) return a radio carbon date for the formation of these flood deposits to the Early to mid Bronze Age. As a result,

prehistoric activity may theoretically have taken place within the study area within the marshland occupying the study area and its enviro.

- 6.5 Small-scale rural settlement during the Roman period is recorded on the north bank of the Thames and east of London, beyond the study area at West Ham, Barking, and the Isle of Dogs. In 1996, a single trench archaeological evaluation at Milk Street, to the immediate west of the site, recorded evidence of Roman activity dated to the late-2nd to late-3rd centuries AD. The remains comprised a considerable quantity of Roman pottery sherds, ceramic building material, burnt daub, wall plaster, charcoal, wood, slag and animal bone, within a layer of organic clay encountered at c. -0.10m aOD. Additionally, several postholes were recorded to the east, and an almost complete bovine skeleton to the north of the single trench. The evaluation report concluded that the evidence supports the theory that during the Roman period a branch road ran north/south through North Woolwich, terminating in a ferry landing, which may be represented by the postholes (Hanson 1996). The conjectured course of this road is defined on the GLHER as Manor Park to North Woolwich Roman Road Area of Archaeological Potential. It is possible that the area may have acted as the northern end of the traditional river crossing from Woolwich. In view of the proximity of recorded evidence, a high potential for encountering further Roman remains has been considered likely within the site, where it would potentially comprise a continuation of the artefact-bearing clay deposit, and possibly further discrete features.
- 6.6 No early medieval artefactual evidence has been recorded within the study area. Accordingly, there is a low overall potential for encountering such archaeological evidence within the site.
- 6.7 The evidence for medieval activity within the site is scarce and comprises a layer of alluvial clay excavated c. 490m south-west of the site, which was provisionally dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods. Consequently, the potential for encountering medieval remains within the site has been deemed to be low.
- 6.8 During the 18th century, the study site lay within undeveloped land of the Plaistow or East Ham Levels, seasonally inundated by tidal flooding and employed as pasture. No settlements are situated within the immediate environs of the study site by the mid-18th century, the landscape being occupied by enclosed fields and crossed by several paths leading to the Thames. The rural nature of the study site and its environs is further suggested by the 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing. The study site is situated adjacent to a road leading to the riverside (later the route of Woolwich Manor Way), while the irregular boundaries of plots on this map may be dictated by drainage channels (not illustrated). From the late 17th to the 19th centuries, Newham experienced suburban prosperity, with the establishment of wealthy Londoner's homes in the largely rural, tranquil landscape. One such property lay to the immediate south of the study site, as shown on the 1846 Woolwich Parish Tithe Map. The 1838 East Ham Parish Tithe Map and accompanying Apportionments List records the plot in which the study site lay as marsh grass, with no recorded use.

- 6.9 By the mid-19th century, the study site lay on the boundary between Woolwich and East Ham parishes, located within the latter. North Woolwich developed from 1847, after the railway was extended to here, and a new steam ferry across the Thames had a landing constructed nearby. Numerous terraces of dwellings, built to house the workers of the Royal Docks and local industries, were constructed throughout North Woolwich. By the end of the 19th century, a collection of such dwellings had been established to the immediate north and east of the site, and one dwelling was situated within the eastern boundary of the site itself.
- 6.10 By 1916, the study site remained unaltered, although the plot to the immediate east had been cleared. A public house came to occupy this plot shortly after, relocated from slightly north in the wake of the construction of the King George V Docks, named the “General Grant” in 1896, the “General Gordon” between 1906 and 1983, and the “Roundhouse” until its closure in 2003.
- 6.11 Due to the proximity of the Royal Docks, Newham incurred significant bomb damage during the Second World War. The Newham Archives Civil Defence Map records an aerial bomb strike on, or more likely close to, the site. This would account for the absence of all dwellings within the plot of land between Milk Street, Woodman Street, and Albert Road, save for that within the study site, by the mid-20th century. The 1956 Ordnance Survey map shows the site situated over three small plots, with two small structures, possibly outbuildings, at its northern boundary, in addition to the surviving dwelling fronting Albert Road at no 13.
- 6.12 The site at present lies empty, in use for vehicle parking.

7 METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA Heritage (2019). It was proposed to excavate a single stepped evaluation trench measuring at least 4m by 4m at the base. The trench designed to reach a maximum level of approximately 2.5m below ground level (approximately -0.50m OD).
- 7.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the methodology (Section 6) of the WSI and the PCA Archaeological Site Manual.
- 7.3 Following an initial scanning of the central area of the site for live services, the trench was positioned at a 3m distance from the western side of the existing property (19 Woolwich Manor Way). The removal of the first 0.25m of modern deposits was undertaken using a 6-ton 360° mechanical excavator. Any further machining was preceded by scanning for services and the remaining of the modern deposit reduced in 100mm horizontal spits using a flat bladed bucket under the constant observation of an archaeologist.
- 7.4 The machining continued to a maximum depth of 1.2m below ground level. The dimension of the trench at ground level was 7.80m north to south by 6.40m east to west. Following the first phase of machining a further trench was excavated within the original trench creating approximately 1.20m steps on all four sides with the base at approximately 2m below ground level and measuring 5.50m by 4.60m. Having reached sterile alluvium 2m below ground level a further 2m by 2m and 0.5m deep sondage was excavated at the base of the trench in order to reach the maximum depth of approximately 3m below ground level. Having reached water table level at approximately -0.50m OD the small sondage was quickly filled with water.
- 7.5 Following the excavation of the trench the north face of the sondage was cleaned with hand tools and a section drawn in order to record the full sequence of alluvial and modern deposits.
- 7.6 The recording systems adopted during the investigation were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented within PCA's site manual (Brown and Taylor 2009, updated 2018).
- 7.7 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 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.
- 7.8 A full digital photographic record was made and maintained during the archaeological investigation.
- 7.9 The context records, plans, sections, finds and photographs recording the trenches will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the site code WWM19.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Phase 1: Natural superficial geology

8.1.1 The underlying superficial geology was observed to a maximum depth of -1.10m OD. The earliest natural deposit recorded in Trench 1 consisted of dark bluish grey silty clay deposit [3] which contained moderate organic wood fragments, occasional lenses of sand and small shells fragments. Context [3] was found at -0.58m OD, had a thickness of 0.52m and was interpreted as a flood deposit.

8.1.2 Deposit [3] was sealed at 0.42m OD by firm mid brown brownish yellow clay [2]. This 0.98m thick sterile deposit, also interpreted as a flood deposit, was in turn sealed at 1.06m OD by dark bluish grey silty clay [1]. The upper horizon of context [1] contained occasional to moderate post-medieval CBM fragments indicative of a certain degree of modern disturbance associated with the modern development of the site between the late 19th and the early 20th centuries.

8.2 Phase 3: Modern deposits

8.2.1 Context [1] was sealed and truncated by a modern concrete footing associated with the modern development of the site. Modern make-up sealed the archaeological sequence at 2m OD.



Plate 1: North facing section 1 showing contexts [1], [2] and [3] with 1m scale

9 INTERPRETATION AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 An evaluation conducted by Newham Museum Service in 1996 (Hanson 1996), located approximately 35m north-west of the site found evidence of Roman activity dated between the late 2nd and late 3rd century.

9.1.2 As a result, the research objective contained within the WSI for the evaluation (PCA Heritage 2019), tried to clarify the archaeological potential of the site. A range of research objectives were formulated in order to investigate the paleotopography of the site, the absence or presence of paleoenvironmental remains and to determine the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity.

9.2 Research Objectives

- **Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains**

The archaeological evaluation did not reveal evidence for human activity on the site with an exception of the modern remains in the form of concrete foundation and brick walls dated between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

- **Characterise, if possible, the archaeological sequence down to a maximum safe depth that can be achieved within the trench**

The evaluation trench was excavated to a maximum depth of -1.10m OD which corresponds with approximately 3m below existing ground level. Logistical issues such as the limited space available for the spoil storage dictated the maximum achievable depth of the trench. An additional problem associated with the waterlogged nature of the site was encountered during the machining. Despite those issues the archaeological evaluation reached a level lower than 2.50m BGL originally proposed in the WSI. This effort, however, did not reveal archaeological deposits pre-dating the modern period.

- **Correlate the results of this evaluation with the results of the investigations undertaken to the west of the site (Hanson 1996)**

The Milk Street stratigraphic sequence indicated flood deposits of silty clays associated with a river channel dating from the Bronze Age throughout the Roman periods. The earlier part of the archaeological sequence recorded between -1.55m OD and -0.52m OD revealed a sequence of sterile alluvial deposits containing organic material dated to the Bronze Age. Further flooding events recorded between -0.52m OD and 0.02m OD, with iron staining associated with roots/root penetration towards the top, are indicative of probable (later) bioturbation, and grey clay patches exhibiting crumbly structure may

indicate drying out of the unit to some degree. The predominance of roots at the top of this unit suggest an open land surface or tidal zone developing on which the unit above (the Roman layers) were deposited (Hanson 1996, Appendix III Paleoenvironmental Report). The Roman deposits were recorded between -0.25m OD and 0.02m OD consisted of a stratigraphic sequence of dump deposits and wooden structure/s represented by post-holes.

Some similarity to the Milk Street stratigraphy with the study site were observed, however these seems to be limited to the lower part of the sequence. The current evaluation recorded organic alluvial deposit [3] between -0.58m OD and -1.10m OD which seems to correspond to the lower sequence from Milk Street. Context [2] however was recorded and interpreted as a sterile 0.98m thick deposit with no evidence for its subdivision in shallower stratigraphic units. As a result, the combined evidence from the two sites suggest that the present site was located in a wet environment such as a channel, from the Bronze Age to the Roman period.

- **Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation**

The archaeological investigation did not find evidence for human activity pre-dating the modern period. The modern period was represented by a series of masonry structures consisting of concrete foundations concrete slabs and brick walls facing onto modern Albert Road to the south.

- **Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses**

The modern activity seems to have had a very limited impact upon the underlying deposits. The latest phase of alluvium recorded as context [1] was the only deposit truncated by the modern activity on site. It is possible that medieval and post-medieval activity were removed during the development of the site during the late 19th/early 20th centuries.

- **Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.**

The investigation demonstrated that organic alluvial sediments are present on site at approximately -0.50m OD and as a result the site has some potential for recovering paleoenvironmental evidence of the area. The majority of the evidence is thought to going to be preserved *in situ* as the construction methodology will likely involved piled foundations for the new building.

- **Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practice, timetables and order cost**

Following a site visit from the Adam Single of GLAAS, archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Newham, no further archaeological work is required for the site.

9.3 A specific aim of the project was to identify evidence for a Roman river crossing.

No evidence of the crossing was identified. Although the site appears located within the lower part of land likely inundated during the Roman period, no indication of the river crossing was recorded.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-construct Archaeology and the author would like to thank Jacek Gruszczynski of PCA Heritage for commissioning the project on behalf the overall client and Adam Single of Historic England for his advice and monitoring the work.

10.2 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd for his project management, Ray Murphy for the illustrations, Cecilia Galleano for the GPS survey and John Joyce for the logistic.

10.3 Thank you also to Cloe Sinclair and Cecilia Galleano for their work on site.

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PCA Heritage, 2019. *1 Land Adjacent to 19 Woolwich Manor Way, Newham, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

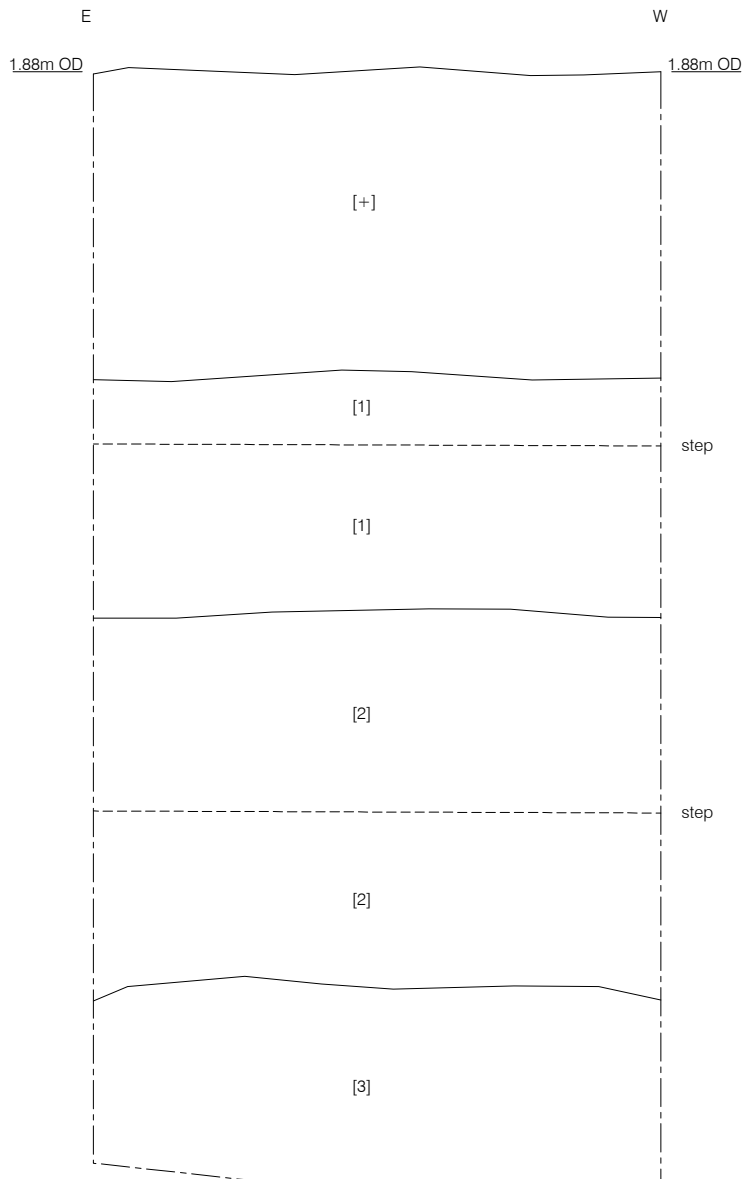
Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

Websites:

www.bgs.ac.uk British Geological Survey







Section 1
Trench 1
North Facing



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site_id	Site_Code	Context	CTX_Type	Trench	Phase	CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low
126	WWM19	1	Layer	1	2	Reworked natural alluvial deposit	Alluvial	1.06	1.04
126	WWM19	2	Layer	1	1	Natural alluvial deposit	Alluvial	0.42	0.4
126	WWM19	3	Layer	1	1	Organic alluvium	Alluvial	-0.58	-0.6

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-342698

Project details

Project name	Land adjacent to 19 Woolwich Manor Way, North Woolwich, London
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation
Project dates	Start: 29-01-2019 End: 01-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WWM19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM CANNING TOWN Land adjacent to 19 Woolwich Manor Way, North Woolwich, London
Postcode	E16 2NJ

Study area	400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 543709 180046 50.940215538784 0.197469347822 50 56 24 N 000 11 50 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.1m Max: 2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	PCA Heritage
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Ireneo Grosso
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	PCA Heritage

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Entered by Zbigniew pozorski (zpozorski@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 14 February 2019

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