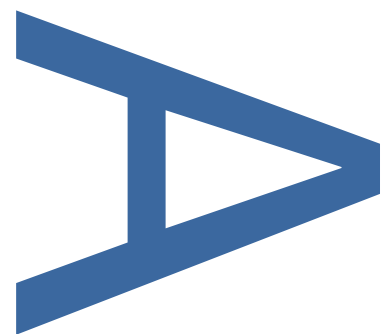
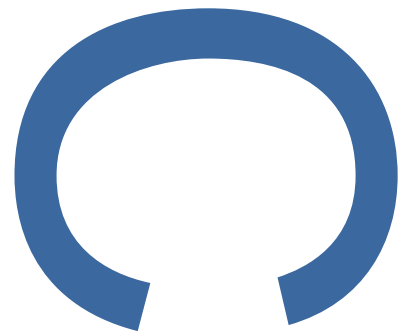


**LAND AT 75-89 WALLIS ROAD & 59  
BERKSHIRE ROAD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF HACKNEY: AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**SITE CODE: WLB19**

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

**MARCH 2019**



**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**Site Name**

**LAND AT 75-89 WALLIS ROAD & 59 BERKSHIRE ROAD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF HACKNEY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Type of project**

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**LAND AT 75-89 WALLIS ROAD & 59 BERKSHIRE ROAD, LONDON BOROUGH  
OF HACKNEY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Site Code:** WLB19

**Central NGR:** TQ 3707 8470

**Local Planning Authority:** London Borough of Hackney

**Planning Reference:**

**Commissioning Client:** CGMS Heritage (pat of the RPS Group)

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March 2019

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## CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT .....	4
2	INTRODUCTION.....	5
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND .....	6
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....	8
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	9
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY .....	13
7	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE, BY TRENCH .....	15
8	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	20
9	CONCLUSIONS .....	23
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	24
11	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	25
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX.....	36
	APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX .....	37
	APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL .....	38
	APPENDIX 4: ANIMAL BONES REPORT .....	39
	APPENDIX 5: SMALL FINDS AND LEATHER.....	40
	APPENDIX 6: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM .....	43
	Figures	
	Figure 1: Site Location .....	26
	Figure 2: Trench Location Plan .....	27
	Figure 3: Plan and Section of Trench 1 .....	28
	Figure 4: Plan and Section of Trench 2 .....	29
	Figure 5: Overlay on Ordnance Survey Map of 1870 .....	30
	Figure 6: Overlay on GOAD Map of 1890.....	31
	Figure 7: Overlay on Ordnance Survey Map of 1916 .....	32
	Figure 8: Trenches Overlain on Transcribed Historic Buildings.....	33
	Figure 9: Piling Plan with Archaeology .....	34
	Figure 10: Piling Section and Deposit Model.....	35



## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted on land at 75-89 Wallis Road and 59 Berkshire Road, London Borough of Hackney. The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 11th and 15th March 2019 and was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 3707 8470.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation found evidence of archaeological deposits spanning from the second half of the 17th to the early 20th centuries. Of note was a small section of a timber and gravel manmade structure with a possible north-east to south-west orientation positioned on the east bank of a north to south orientated channel which occupied the west part of the site in the 17th century.
- 1.3 The earliest cartographic evidence for the presence of a watercourse in the western part of the site is shown on the Rocque map of 1745 whilst the latest is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1870.
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation recorded a sequence of undated alluvial deposits to a maximum depth of 3.40m below ground level, corresponding to 1.13m OD. Natural river terrace gravel was not observed during the evaluation. However natural gravel was recorded to the south east of the site at 80-84 and 88 Wallis Road (Turner 2016) where a watching brief on geotechnical works recorded river terrace gravel at 2.50m OD. As a result, the site seems to be located in an area scored by channels and exposed to frequent flooding events until the mid-19th century when the area is developed with the construction of the Parkesine Works and its later modifications during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 1.5 No masonry structures dated earlier than the 20th century were recorded during the evaluation.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at 75-89 Wallis Road and 59 Berkshire Road, London Borough of Hackney between 11th and 15th March 2019.
- 2.2 The site had a central National Grid Reference of TQ 3707 8470 and covered a total ground area of approximately 0.25ha in an area formerly occupied by an automotive garage to the south and by warehouses to the west. The site was bounded by warehousing and areas of concrete hard standing to the north and east, Wallis Road to the south and Berkshire Road to the west. The proposed development retained and planned to refurbish the existing mid-nineteenth century industrial buildings associated with the Parkesine Works within the northern part of the site. All other buildings had already been demolished at the time of the evaluation.
- 2.3 The evaluation methodology, outlined in a site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2019), envisaged the excavation of three trenches designed to reach the alluvial deposit at a depth of c.2.40m below ground level in order to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the entire stratigraphic sequence to natural deposits. In order to reach the maximum level of 2.4m below ground level, the trenches were stepped at a gradient of 1:1 with a maximum depth of 1.20m per step.
- 2.4 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area for the Lea Valley and the Hackney Wick Conservation Area as defined by the London Borough of Hackney.
- 2.5 The archaeological works were commissioned by CGMS Heritage (part of the RPS Group) (the archaeological consultant) on behalf of the developer (the client). The project was managed for PCA by Helen Hawkins and monitored by Adam Single, archaeological adviser for the London Borough of Hackney.

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Site Specific Constrains

3.1.1 There were no Scheduled Monuments or listed buildings within the development site. The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area for the Lea Valley and the Hackney Wick Conservation Area as defined by the London Borough of Hackney.

3.1.2 An archaeological condition attached to the planning permission for the site states that:

*No development shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works. If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by stage 1 then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest, a stage 2 WSI shall be also be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing prior to the commencement of development within the relevant area. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:*

- A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*
- B. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.*

3.1.3 In accordance with the above condition a written scheme of investigation was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Hawkins 2018) and approved by Adam Single of Historic England. The WSI included the following primary objectives:

- To determine the presence and nature of any gravel and alluvium and the height at which it survives.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological activity, its nature and (if possible) date.
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity at the site. Is there any evidence for the Parkesine Works and associated material?
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.



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

3.1.4 This report documents the findings of the evaluation works.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The geological and topographical background detailed below was taken from the Desk Based Assessment (CGMS Heritage 2015).

### **4.2 Geology**

4.2.1 The solid geology of the study site is shown by the British Geological Survey as Lambeth Group, comprised of clay, silt and sand. Superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, silt, peat, sand) are recorded at the site.

4.2.2 Historic borehole logs recorded within the vicinity of the site recorded 1.2-2.4m of made ground over between 1.7 and 2.3m of alluvium, in turn overlying Kempton Park Gravel.

4.2.3 PCA carried out an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical interventions directly to the south of 75-89 Wallis Road, at 80-84 Wallis Road. The site investigation recorded some evidence for the development of the upper part of the underlying geology of the area. These consisted of the Thanet beds and Lambeth group formation.

4.2.4 Natural terrace gravels were extant across 80-84 Wallis Road and showed some variations in surface elevation. The relatively thin deposit of alluvium overlying the gravels across the site suggested that the site was located towards the western edge of the River Lea's natural course, and it was suggested that the variations in surface elevation of the gravel had been caused by the riverine erosion. This gravel was part of the Taplow gravel unit. The rest of the sequence comprised made ground measuring between 0.50m and 0.75m in thickness, above a grey silty clay alluvium, which itself had an average height of 3.5m OD. The gravel layer occurred at a height of 2.25m OD, approximately at 2.75m BGL.

### **4.3 Topography**

4.3.1 The site is located on level ground at approximately 5m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

4.3.2 The River Lee Navigation of the Hackney Cut lies to the immediate east of the site. The Lee Navigation is a canalised river constructed during the 18th century, incorporated in to the existing River Lea. The canalised element runs from Hertford at the north to Bow Creek at the south, where it joins the River Thames. The manmade elements of the river are referred as Lee, as named by an Act of Parliament. The natural features are referred to as Lea. The River Lee Navigation joins the Hertford Union Canal at Hackney Wick on the southern edge of Hackney Marsh.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 The full archaeological and historical background is given in the Desk Based Assessment (CGMS Heritage 2015) and summarised below.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

5.2.1 Three Palaeolithic findspots are recorded to the north of the study site. An assemblage of Palaeolithic artefacts were collected from the River Lea Gravels to prior to 1890, however the exact findspots are unknown. Lower Palaeolithic flint implements including a series of Chellean type handaxes and a trimmed flake were recovered to the north-west of the study site. A Lower Palaeolithic axe was recovered from Sedney Road to the north-west of the site.

5.2.2 A geo-archaeological watching brief to the southeast of the site, bordering the River Lee Navigation revealed significant environmental evidence for the Lea Valley landscape from the Early Mesolithic period onwards (see Geology above). Further geo-archaeological investigations in the same area close to the river revealed evidence for Mesolithic vegetation and changes in the local environment at that time. This was interpreted as the possible result of changes to the river level. Evidence for a Mesolithic water channel was recorded to the southeast of the study area identified from peat samples suggesting the presence of a prehistoric watercourse. A Mesolithic Tranchet axe was collected to the immediate west of the site.

5.2.3 An evaluation carried out at three locations to the east of the River Lee Navigation found further evidence for a possible historic channel or tributary. An excavation north-east of the site uncovered the partial skeleton of a prehistoric horse within a prehistoric soil horizon.

5.2.4 There is no evidence for any Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age activity within the 750m radius study area. However, this is not surprising as the area to the east of the study area would have been subject to periods of tidal flooding from the Mesolithic period onwards and settlement at this time would have focused on the dry gravel terrace to the western edge of the study area.

### **5.3 Roman**

5.3.1 There is evidence for Roman activity and settlement in the wider vicinity, predominantly on the east side of the Waterworks River. An excavation revealed two unstratified finds comprising a possible copper alloy coin and a brick with imprints of a hob-nailed shoe with opus signinum mortar attached to its base. Several pottery sherds from a single Much Hadham oxidised ware vessel were found just to the north of the brick and coin. Further south, an excavation revealed fluvial deposits from the late Roman period containing pottery sherds from a dish and amphora.

5.3.2 There is very limited evidence for Roman activity west of the Waterworks River with only one findspot recorded comprising Roman pottery and coins found during the construction of an air raid shelter in Victoria Park to the southwest of the site.

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

5.4.1 As seen in the Roman period there is evidence for Saxon, early medieval and medieval activity within the wider vicinity but very limited evidence is recorded within a close proximity to the site. A crossing of the River Lea, near Stratford to the east of the site was recorded in AD 958. It is likely that a small settlement continued in the area of Wick Lane until Bow Bridge was built in the 12th century.

5.4.2 Evidence of Saxon/early medieval activity is largely focused on the periphery of the study area, east of the Hackney Cut. Finds comprised early timber revetting which continued into the medieval and post-medieval periods suggesting continued management of the waterways of the River Lea. Other finds include further possible timber revetting of the river channels and fluvial deposits.

5.4.3 A medieval manor house lay to the northwest of the site, first mentioned in 1231. Wick House was later shown on Rocque's Plan of Hackney in 1745. 'Wic' is a Saxon place name, one meaning of which is dairy farm and it is possible that the site was developed before 1231. The manor was granted by the Knights Templars to Robert de Wick at this time.

5.4.4 A medieval road is recorded to the west of the site in the vicinity of the present Victoria Park. The road was aligned from Stratford-At-Bow to Old Ford continuing to Hackney.

#### **5.5 Post-Medieval and Modern**

5.5.1 There is limited evidence for post-medieval and Modern activity within the study area. During the mid to late 18th century the surrounding landscape began to change when the River Lea was canalised into the River Lee Navigation. The Hertford Union Canal was opened in 1830 connecting the Lee Navigation and the River Thames, which was later altered by the Regents Canal Company in 1855. A lock was constructed over the Hertford Union Canal to the south of the site during this period.

5.5.2 An evaluation of three sites to the east of the River Lee Navigation revealed a series of water management structures including a brick culvert and cast iron drain associated with the nearby 19th century reservoir. A mixed dump deposit of sandy silt and clay containing 20th to 21st century building rubble was interpreted as the fill of a large cut feature, such as a canal. Natural was recorded between 0.80m OD and 2.45m OD where observed.

5.5.3 A watching brief was undertaken to the west of the site between Chapman Road and Wansbeck Road (for a pipeline scheme) revealing a layer of re-deposited clay, most likely representing 19th century ground raising. A layer of 20th century made ground was also recorded to the north of the scheme.

- 5.5.4 Early maps show that the site lay within a rural landscape to the south-east of the Wick House Estate. The 1745 Rocque Plan of Hackney Parish shows that the site and immediate surrounding area lay within open fields, to the west of the main branches of the River Lea. Wick House is marked further to the northwest, otherwise there had been little development within wider study area at this time. The 1763 Crow & Marsh Plan of the Wike Manor shows the site located within open ground, just outside of land part of the Barbaroux Estate. The 1831 Hackney Parish Map shows the site still situated within open ground. The Hackney Cut of the River Lee can be seen to the east, otherwise there had been little change to the rural landscape.
- 5.5.5 The first plastics produced in Britain were patented as 'Parkesine' by Alexander Parkes in 1862/6. The products were produced from a factory building located within the site leased from the waterproofers George Spill & Co. The company went bankrupt by 1868. Daniel Spill continued at the same works and made improvements to Parkesine from 1869 to 1874 when his company also went bankrupt, and production moved away from the site. The 1870 5ft London Map shows the construction of a Parksine Works on the site comprising a main factory building and outbuildings in the northern part of the site. The southern part of the site is shown as open ground, with a small stream running close to the western site boundary. A series of terraced buildings are shown to the west of the plot fronting Wallis Road. Another building is shown to the west of the plot fronting White Post Lane. Windsor Road (now named Berkshire Road) formed the western boundary of the site, with Wallis Road marking the southern boundary. The Waterproof Cloth Work factory is shown to the east, and open ground to the north of the site.
- 5.5.6 The 1893 GOAD Insurance Plan shows some change to the site buildings. The Oriental Waterproof Syndicate have taken over ownership of the main factory in the north of the site, making some additions to the buildings. Clarke Nickolls & Coombes Ltd, known locally as 'Clarnico' were a confectionary company who had constructed terrace housing and mess rooms in the southern half of the site. The surrounding area shows increased development of industrial factories and associated terrace housing for the workers. Little change is evident on the 1894-6 Ordnance Survey map.
- 5.5.7 Some change to the buildings is evident within the site by the 1916 Ordnance Survey map. An additional warehouse fronting on to Wallis Road and Berkshire Road (adjacent to the terraced housing) has been constructed. The entirety of the site and industrial buildings on the north side of Wallis Road are owned by the Clarnico Works. By 1921 two of the terraced houses in the south-east corner of the site have been replaced by factory buildings. An extension to the factory buildings in the north-west corner is evident. The 1937 Ordnance Survey map confirms these changes to the study site. The surrounding area is now fully developed, with the Atlas Works to the north, further Clarnico Works to the east, Wallis Road and the Beulah Works to the south, and Berkshire Road and terraced housing to the west.

- 5.5.8 The 1940 Block Plan of the site by the LCC Architects Department only details the southern part of the site, where no change is visible to the buildings. The 1945 LCC Bomb Damage Map shows that only the western most buildings facing Berkshire Road received minor blast damage. The remained of the site is shown to be unaffected by any war damage.
- 5.5.9 After the Second World War (1939-45), Clarnico was one of the largest confectioners in Britain, and begun to vacate their premises in Wallis Road from 1955 for a larger site. The 1958 GOAD Insurance Plan shows that the terraced housing and workshops in the south-eastern part of the site remained in use as part of the Clarnico Works. The workshops in the west and northern part of the site are now in use as a Motor Body Builders, comprised of body shops, stores, a saw mill and paint shops. One of the paint shops is a new addition, built within the previous void between buildings in the north and south of the site, facing on to Berkshire Road.
- 5.5.10 The 1963 Ordnance Survey map shows some extension to the works within the central courtyard area. The 1982-88 Ordnance Survey map, albeit not as detailed, shows the site as still largely developed. The central courtyard has been turned into factory buildings, but a new courtyard facing Wallis Road is now evident in the south-east corner of the site. It was during this period (by 1986) that the terraced housing fronting on to Wallis Road was demolished and turned into a further motor works building.
- 5.5.11 The Google Earth Image from 2013 shows the site in the new configuration, unchanged since the 1980s.
- 5.5.12 The site is largely comprised of standing buildings, many from the first original factory buildings associated with the Parkesine Works and Waterproof Cloth Factory built on the site in the mid-19th century. There is limited potential for remains associated with the Post Medieval period, when the site remained open agricultural ground. Any remains from the modern period are most likely to relate to demolition phases and subsequent levelling works of buildings within the southern part of the site.
- 5.5.13 An anti-aircraft battery is recorded to the west of the site in Victoria Park, dated to July 1942 to December 1943.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Hawkins 2019) on behalf of CGMS Heritage. The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, form, extent, date character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 6.2 The archaeological investigation consisted of three evaluation trenches located in the west and south part of the site. Trenches 1 and 2 were orientated north-west to south-east whilst Trench 3 was orientated east to west. The trenches were designed to reach a depth of 2.40m below ground level and as a result were stepped at a gradient 1:1 with a maximum step depth of 1.20m. The dimensions of Trench 1 were 6.15m long by 3.20m wide at the top and 3.60m long by 1.60m wide at the base; Trench 2 was approximately 15.5m long by 4.5m wide at the top and 9.90m long by 2.20m wide at the base; Trench 3 was abandoned shortly after commencing machining due to the chemical fumes released from soil contaminated with cresol which is a very harmful substance when inhaled.
- 6.3 The locations of the evaluation trenches were first scanned for live services and repositioned accordingly. This was followed by the breaking and removal of the concrete slab and the re-scanning of the ground for live services. The modern make up was carefully reduced using a 21 ton 360° mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 1.20m below ground level. A step was then excavated at a distance of 1.20m from the top edge to a maximum depth of 1.20m. As a result, Trenches 1 and 2 reached the basal level of 2.4m BGL. Following the recording of Trench 1, a sondage was excavated straight down, reaching a maximum depth of 3.4m BGL.
- 6.4 Once the archaeological horizon was reached it was cleaned by hand. Representative sections were cleaned and drawn, and the base of each trench cleaned in order to define cut features, layers and masonry foundations. Where these were identified localised excavation took place to characterise the feature and recover dating evidence.
- 6.5 The fieldwork was carried out according to the relevant methodologies, as follows:
- The Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2019);
  - GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Papers 3: *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London* (GLAAS 2017);
  - *MoRPHE* (English Heritage 2015)
  - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations' (CIFA 2017);
  - The *Treasure Act* (1996);
  - The *Burial Act* (1857).

- 6.6 Pre-Construct Archaeology is a Registered Organization (number 23) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Practices'.
- 6.7 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 (Taylor and Brown 2009).
- 6.8 Individual description 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 principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- 6.9 A photographic record of the investigation was made using a DLSR digital camera.
- 6.10 Levels were calculated from a Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) with a value of 4.82m OD, obtained with a GPS, located alongside the centre west site boundary. The outline, baseline and section of each trench was surveyed with a GPS.
- 6.11 The archaeological works were inspected and monitored by Adam Single GLAAS Archaeological Adviser for the London Borough of Hackney.
- 6.12 The complete site archive including site records, photographs and finds will be deposited at the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA) under the site code WLB19.



## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE, BY TRENCH

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Two main phases and three sub-phases for the development of the site were identified during the archaeological evaluation:

- Phase 1 represents the undated alluvial deposits
- Phase 2.1 represents the late 17th century activity
- Phase 2.2 represents the 18th and 19th century alluvial deposits
- Phase 2.3 represents the late 19th to early 20th century activity

### 7.2 Trench 1

#### Phase 1

7.2.1 The earliest deposits observed in Trench 1 consisted of naturally deposited alluvium varying in colour and composition and recorded as [15], [14], [13] and [12]. The top of this sequence was recorded as layer [12] at 2.78m OD whilst the base of the trench (context [15]) was recorded at 1.13m OD. These undated deposits had different degrees of organic material varying from organic sands [14], to clayey peat [13] to mid grey sandy clay [12].

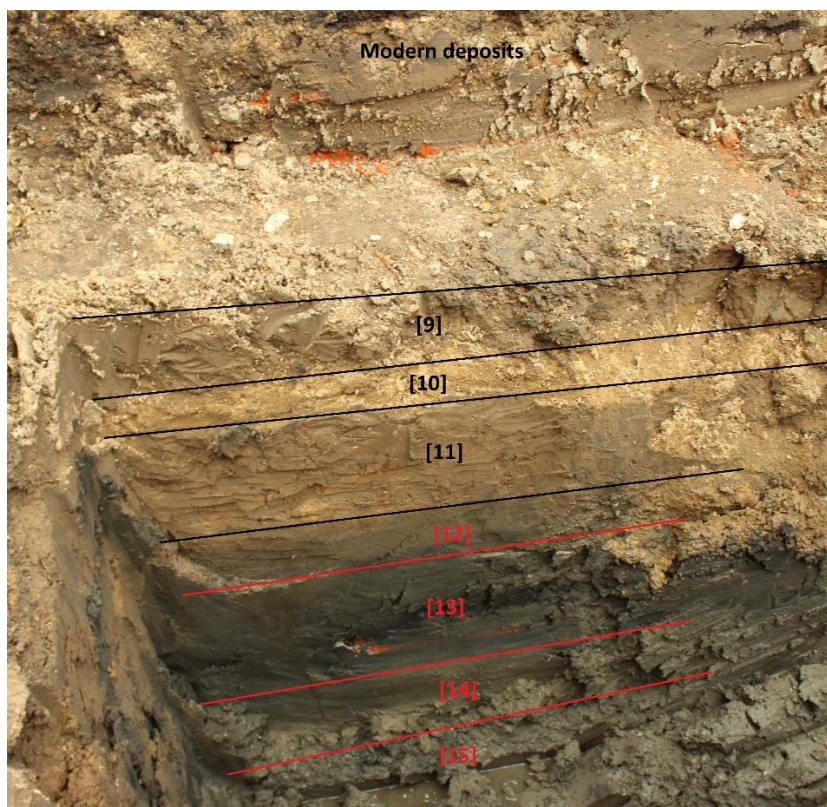


Plate 1: Phase 1 deposits (red lines) and Phase 2.2 (black lines) in west facing section 2 in Trench 1.

#### Phase 2.2

7.2.2 Layer [12] was sealed by a 0.90m thick sequence of layers recorded as [9], [10] and [11] at 3.55m OD. These layers were interpreted as similar in composition and colour and level to the later post-medieval alluvial deposits observed in Trench 2 and as a result they were interpreted as post-medieval (see Plate 1).

### **Phase 2.3**

7.2.3 In the southeast corner of Trench 1 a north to south orientated concrete foundation recorded as masonry [21] truncated the late post-medieval made ground at 4.11m OD. The concrete foundation supported the south end of masonry [20] which was found at 4.50m OD and consisted of yellow stock deep frogged bricks bonded with light greyish white sandy mortar. The unearthed masonry measured 1.50m long and extended beyond the east and south limit of excavation. Two brick samples recovered from context [20] were dated between the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century.



*Plate 2: Masonry [20] in Trench 1, looking east.*

7.2.4 The archaeological sequence in Trench 1 was sealed by hard core and levelling for the reinforced concrete slab which was recorded across the north-eastern corner of the site at 4.81m OD.

## **7.3 Trench 2**

### **Phase 1**

7.3.1 A sequence of undated alluvial deposits were recorded across the west facing section of Trench 2. Mirroring the deposits encountered in Trench 1, they also varied in composition from sands to clay with varying organic content. Contexts [16], [25], [17] and [18] were only partially excavated in a 0.65m wide area (see Plate 4 and section 1 Figure 3) The table below details all layers assigned to this phase:

Context	Interpretation	Highest Level	Lowest Level
2	Coarse sand layer	2.53	2.45
6	Peaty clay layer	2.78	2.72
16	Organic silty clay layer	2.62	2.6
17	Clay layer	2.42	2.39
18	Alluvial silty sand layer	2.31	2.28
24	Alluvial deposit	2.87	2.81
25	Alluvial deposit	2.51	2.49
26	Alluvial deposit	2.62	2.52

### **Phase 2.1**

7.3.2 In the north-east corner of Trench 2, Phase 1 alluvial deposits [24] and [16] and [6] were truncated between 2.87m OD and 2.62m OD (base of cut) by a north-west to south-east orientated construction cut [7] for brush wood foundation [8], timber lining [19] and gravel surface [1]. The construction cut was approximately 2.30m long and 1.50m wide and extended beyond the east limit of excavation following a possible north-east to south-west orientation. North-west to south-east orientated timber [19] defined the western side of the structure and brushwood [8], placed on the same orientation, provided a base for the compact gravel [1] which was recorded at 2.88m OD. Two timber posts recorded as [22] and [23] positioned alongside the west face of [19] acted as support for the structure on the western side. Two fragments of post- Great Fire brick recovered from gravel surface [1] were dated to the late 17th century. The structure was interpreted as a possible bridge, crossing the natural channel which ran north-south through the west of the site. The gravel surface represents the probable ground level at this time.



*Plate 3: Gravel surface and brush wood foundation structure in Trench 2, looking east with 1m scale.*



*Plate 4: West facing section showing sequence of alluvium (Phase 1 contexts [18] to [25]), timber and gravel structure (Phase 2.1 contexts [8] and [1]) and later alluvial deposits (Phase 2.2 contexts [5] and [3]).*



*Plate 5: General view of Trench 2 looking south with 1m scale.*

## **Phase 2.2**

- 7.3.3 The Phase 2.1 gravel surface [1] was sealed by 18th to 19th century alluvial deposits [5] and [3] recorded at 2.98m OD and 3.60m OD respectively (see Plates 3 and 4). A one-piece single-side comb (SF 1) was recovered from context [3] probably made of horn or tortoise shell is likely to date from the 18th or 19th centuries.
- 7.3.4 Due to the paucity of dating from the alluvium, Dr Chris Green of Quest was contacted to provide an insight into the formation of the upper alluvium over the bridge structure. He confirmed it was unlikely that there had been much alluvial deposition since the mid 19th century or even earlier when the locality was first developed for industrial and residential use, probably in the early 19th century. To have accumulated a metre of sediment over the remains of the bridge, even in a favoured site, the bridge would have to have collapsed early in the 18th century at the latest (pers comm Dr Chris Green).
- 7.3.5 It is likely that the channel was recut in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century; a cut line through the upper alluvium is clear in the north facing section of Trench 2 (Plate 5) and it was this recut that was backfilled with later 19<sup>th</sup> century material, corresponding with the filling in of the channel shown on the historic maps.
- 7.3.6 Phase 2.1 timber [19] was partially sealed by organic and soft waterlogged layer [4] at 2.53m OD. This layer produced a number of leather fragments which were interpreted as part of a shoe possibly dated to the 19th century.
- 7.3.7 The archaeological sequence was sealed by modern hard core and levelling for the existing concrete slab which was recorded across the location of Trench 2 at 4.82m OD.

## 8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The evaluation aimed to address the following primary objectives:
- To determine the presence and nature of any gravel and alluvium and the height at which it survives.
- 8.2 The archaeological investigation did not find evidence of naturally lain river terrace gravel, although, based on the results of work nearby, this was likely to be located at a greater depth than the extent of the trenches.
- 8.3 Alluvial deposits were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. In Trench 1 the alluvial sequence was recorded between 3.55m OD and 1.13m OD. The top 0.78m of the alluvium from Trench 1 was very similar in composition and OD level to the alluvial deposits encountered in Trench 2 where it was found at 3.60m OD and had an overall thickness of approximately 0.80m. In Trench 2 this alluvial formation comprised the upper alluvium and was dated between the 18th and 19th centuries (Phase 2.2) (pers comm Dr Chris Green, Quest).
- 8.4 Earlier alluvial deposits recorded below 2.78m OD and 1.13m OD were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.55m OD and 2.27m OD in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively and were the earliest but undated deposits (Phase 1) observed during the archaeological evaluation. River terrace gravel was observed during a watching brief undertaken by PCA to the south-east of the present site at 80-84 and 88 Wallis Road (Turner 2016). Here the gravel deposits ranged in thickness from 7.80m to 4.70m and were found between of 2.50m OD and 1.70m OD. As a result, evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 were probably located across a large palaeochannel or a series of palaeochannels which scored the river terrace gravel of this particular location of the Upper Lea Valley. As a result the site was probably level between 2.78m OD and 2.87m OD during the second half of the seventeenth century when the gravel and timber structure was likely to have been constructed at ground level, with a maximum finish level of 2.88m OD. Following the construction of the gravel and timber structure this was subsequently sealed by alluvial deposits during the 18th and 19th centuries to a maximum recorded level of 3.60m OD.
- 8.5 The 1870 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) shows a north to south channel positioned alongside the west boundary of the site. The earliest cartographic evidence for this channel is shown on the 1745 Rocque map (illustrated in the desk based assessment, CGMS Heritage 2018). Evaluation Trench 2 was positioned across its north to south route and the archaeological evidence confirms the presence of a channel in this part of the site. Furthermore, the cartographic and archaeological evidence shows that the northeast corner of Trench 2 covered part of the east bank of the channel where the timber and gravel structure was located.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological activity, its nature and (if possible) date.

- 8.6 The archaeological investigation found evidence of archaeological deposits spanning from the second half of the 17th century (Trench 2) to the early 20th century (Trench 1). Of note is the uncovering of a manmade wood and gravel structure, possibly a bridge, alongside the east bank of a channel, dated to the second half of the 17th century. The channel was clearly recut in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, before it was backfilled permanently at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity.
- 8.7 No evidence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity was recorded during the archaeological investigation.
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site. Is there any evidence for the Parkesine Works and associated material?
- 8.8 The earliest evidence for human occupation of the site was found in Trench 2 were a manmade gravel surface dated to the second half of the 17th century was recorded.
- 8.9 The earliest evidence of human occupation from Trench 1 was a north to south orientated masonry foundation dated to the early 20th century.
- 8.10 Cartographic and Historical documents show that the first plastics produced in Britain were patented as Parkesine in 1862/6. The earliest cartographic evidence for the Parkesine Works is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1870 which corresponds to the existing building located in the north half of the site which is planned to be refurbished and redeveloped. The masonry foundation encountered in the south-east corner of Trench 1 however seems to be part of an extension to the original Works dated to the early 20th century as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1916 (Figure 7) where the former Parkesine Works is labelled as the 'Waterproof Cloth Works'. The GOAD map of 1893 shows the foundation is still outside the Parkesine works buildings (Figure 6). The foundation seen in Trench 1 seems to be part of an extension to the original buildings after the site was taken over by the Waterproof Cloth Works. The foundation seen is therefore not part of the original Parkesine works.
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site.
- 8.11 The archaeological evaluation found evidence dating to the mid to late post-medieval and modern period on the site.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 8.12 The archaeological investigation confirmed the findings from the cartographic evidence in terms of post-depositional impact on the archaeological deposits. The area immediately to the west of the Parkesine works and the later 19th and early 20th century extensions to the original building (the northwest corner of the site) shows that this area was less affected by the late post-medieval and modern development of the site. The same can be said about the

southwest corner of the site which was left undeveloped until the present day. The most impacted area from the modern development was localised in the centre south part of the site where a very substantial 20th century concrete structure was located. The removal of part of the modern concrete was followed by the machining of Trench 3 which ceased as soon as the underlying highly contaminated ground was exposed creating a potential health issue for the on-site personnel and the local residents.



## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 Trenches 1 and 2 demonstrate that the westernmost part of the site lay within a part of the site which had not been previously developed. Of note are the findings from Trench 2 where a man-made timber and gravel structure interpreted as a possible north-west to south-east orientated bridge was found, which also shows the original ground surface level at that date. The bridge would have originally crossed the north to south orientated channel and continued its route to the south-west or west. The evaluation also identified that the channel was finally backfilled in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as evidenced by the historic maps. The presence of alluvium over the eastern bank of the channel suggests that the channel had been recut after the alluvium had formed, as evidenced by the much later backfill which sealed the alluvium and the bridge structure
- 9.2 The masonry wall foundation found in Trench 1 was identified as an early 20<sup>th</sup> century extension to the original Parkesine Works buildings within the site and was not part of the original Works buildings

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank James Archer of CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) for commissioning the project on behalf of Canbury Construction and Adam Single, Historic England Archaeological Adviser for the London Borough of Hackney, for monitoring the archaeological investigation.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Mick of Canbury Construction (the principal contractor) for his support and help during the investigation and Helen Hawkins for her project management and for editing this report.
- 10.3 The author would also like to thank Armi Utrainen for her work on site, John Joyce for the logistics, Joe Brooks for the surveying, Ray Murphy for the illustration, Amparo Valcarcel for the CBM assessment, Märit Gaimster for the small find assessment, Karen Deighton for the animal bone assessment and Kate Turner and Duncan Field for the environmental processing. Thanks also to Dan Young and Chris Green of Quest for their advice.

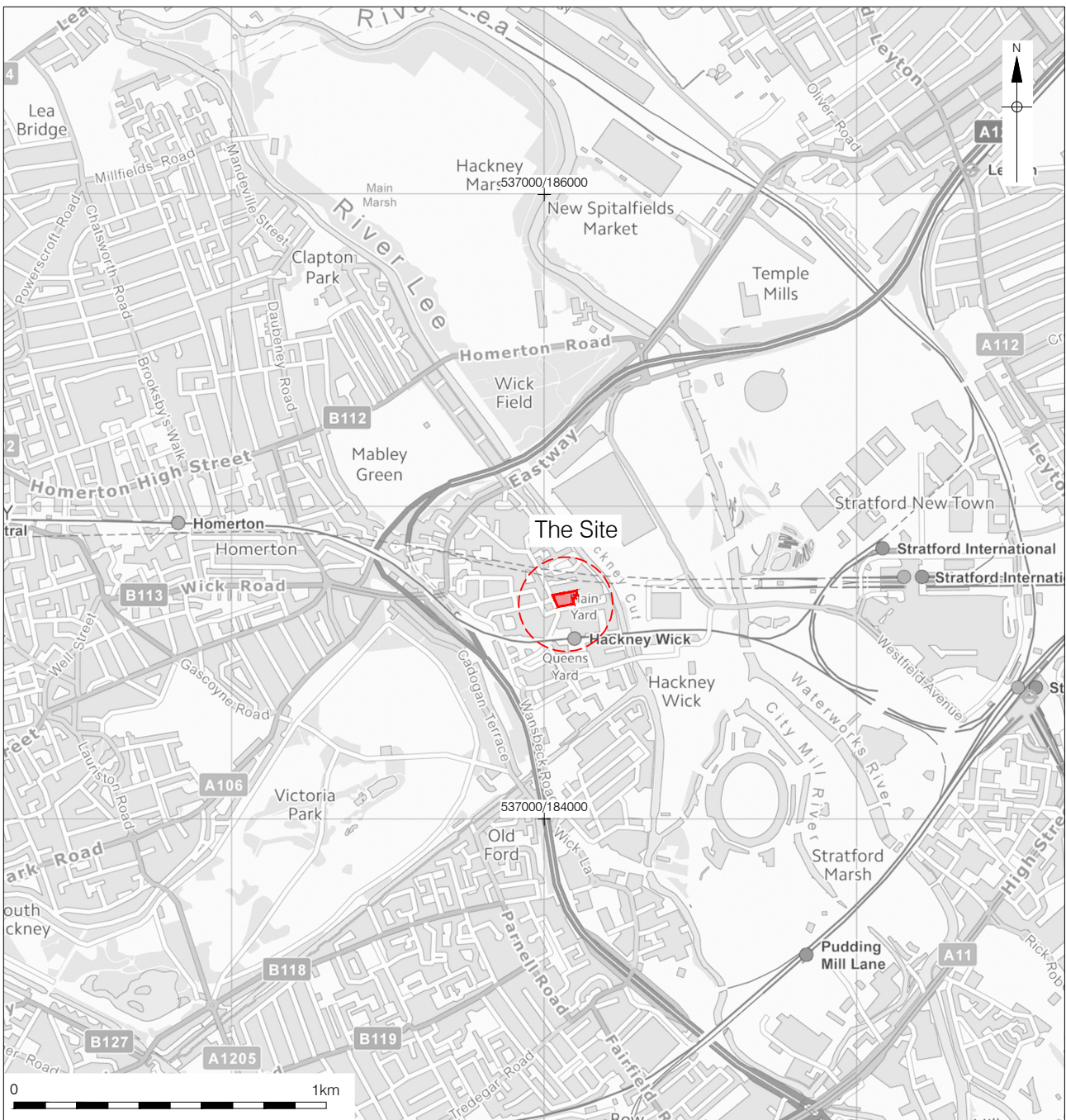
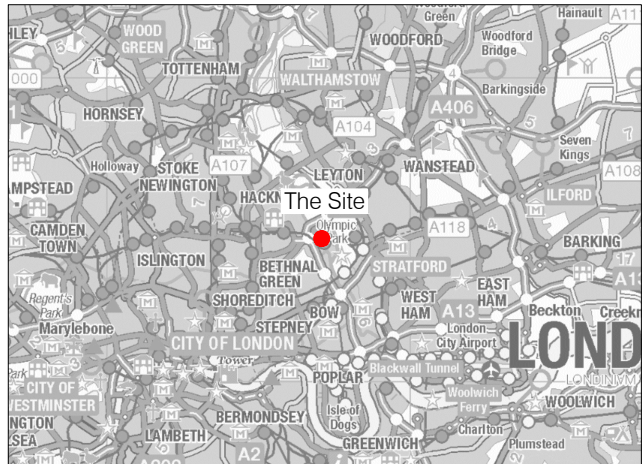
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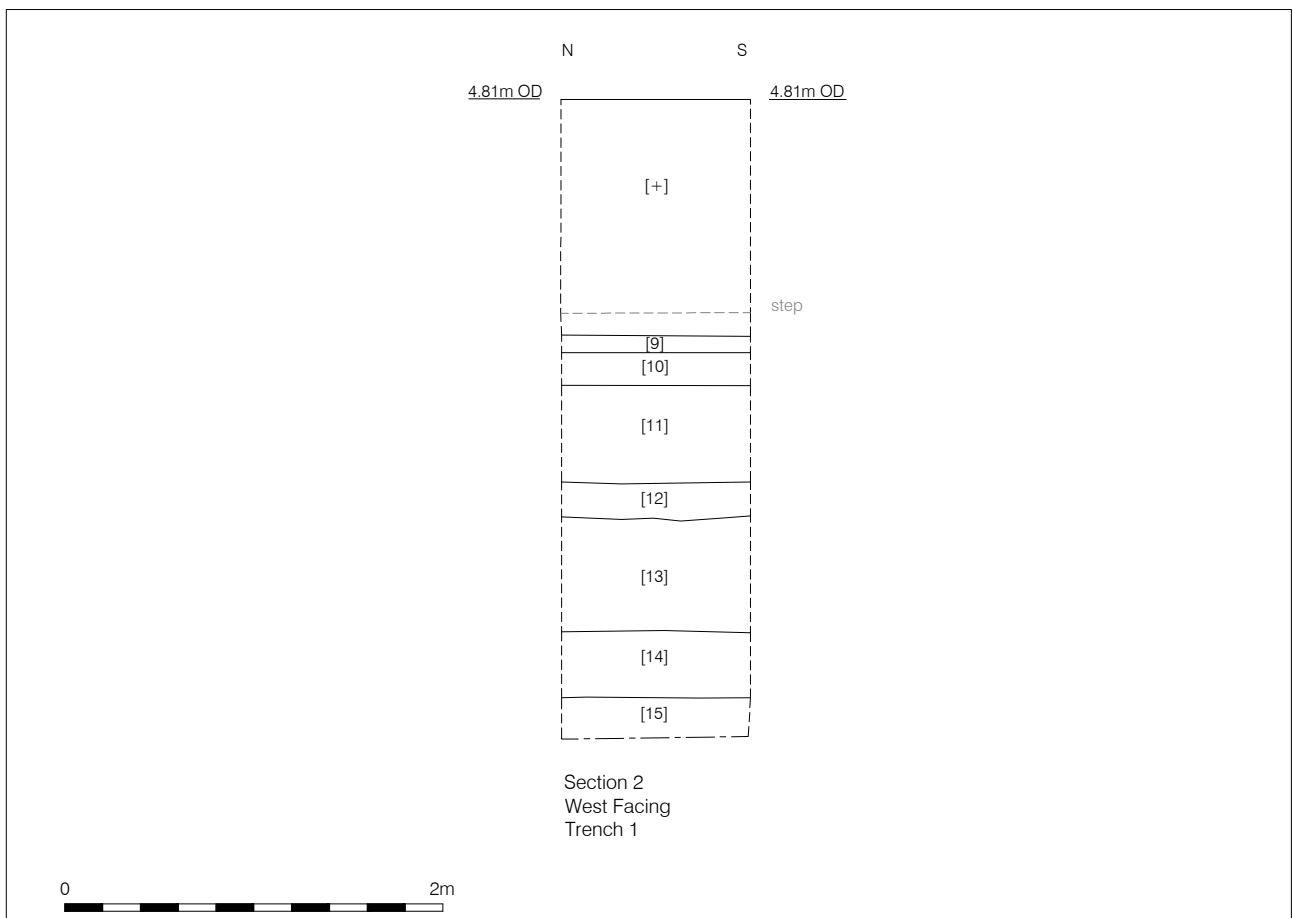
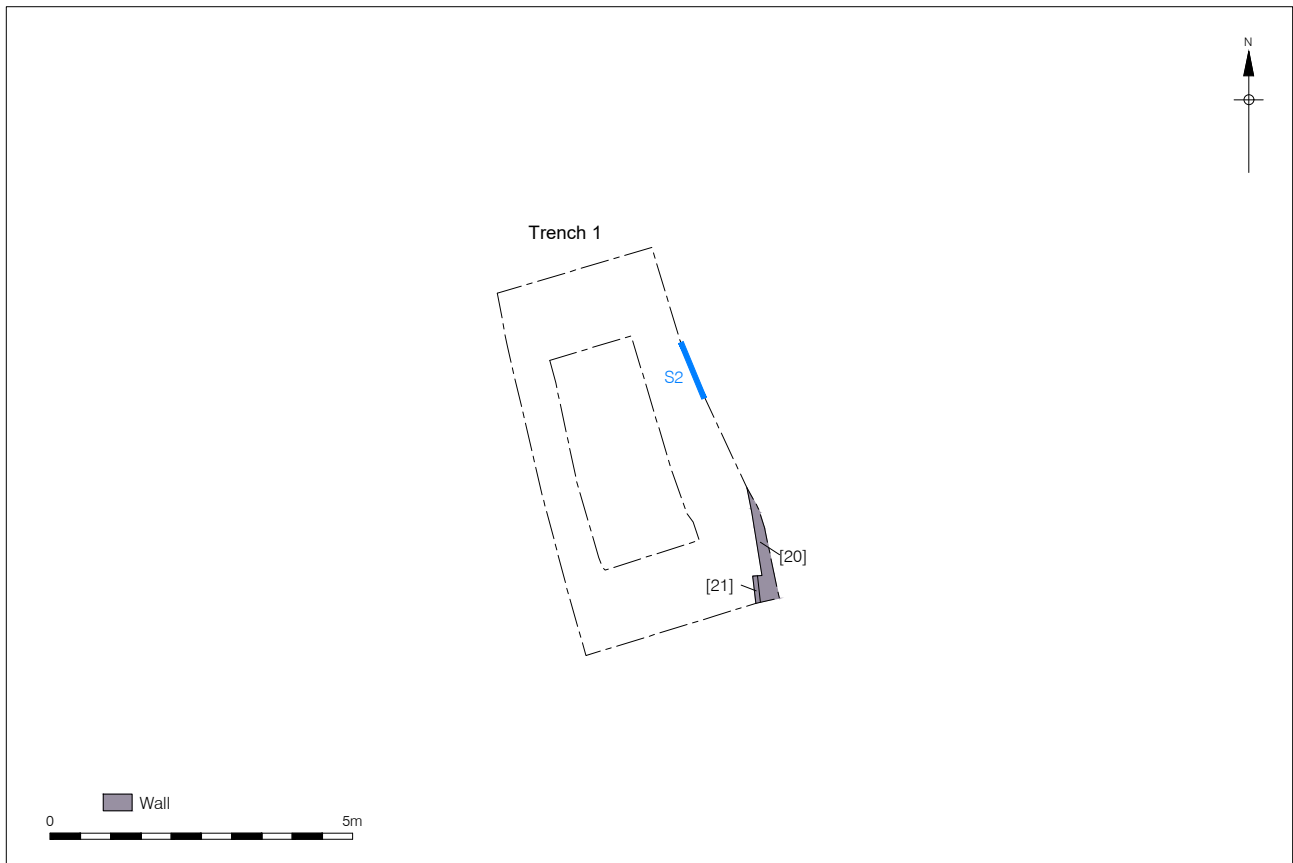
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20/03/19 RM

Figure 2  
Trench Location Plan  
1:625 at A4



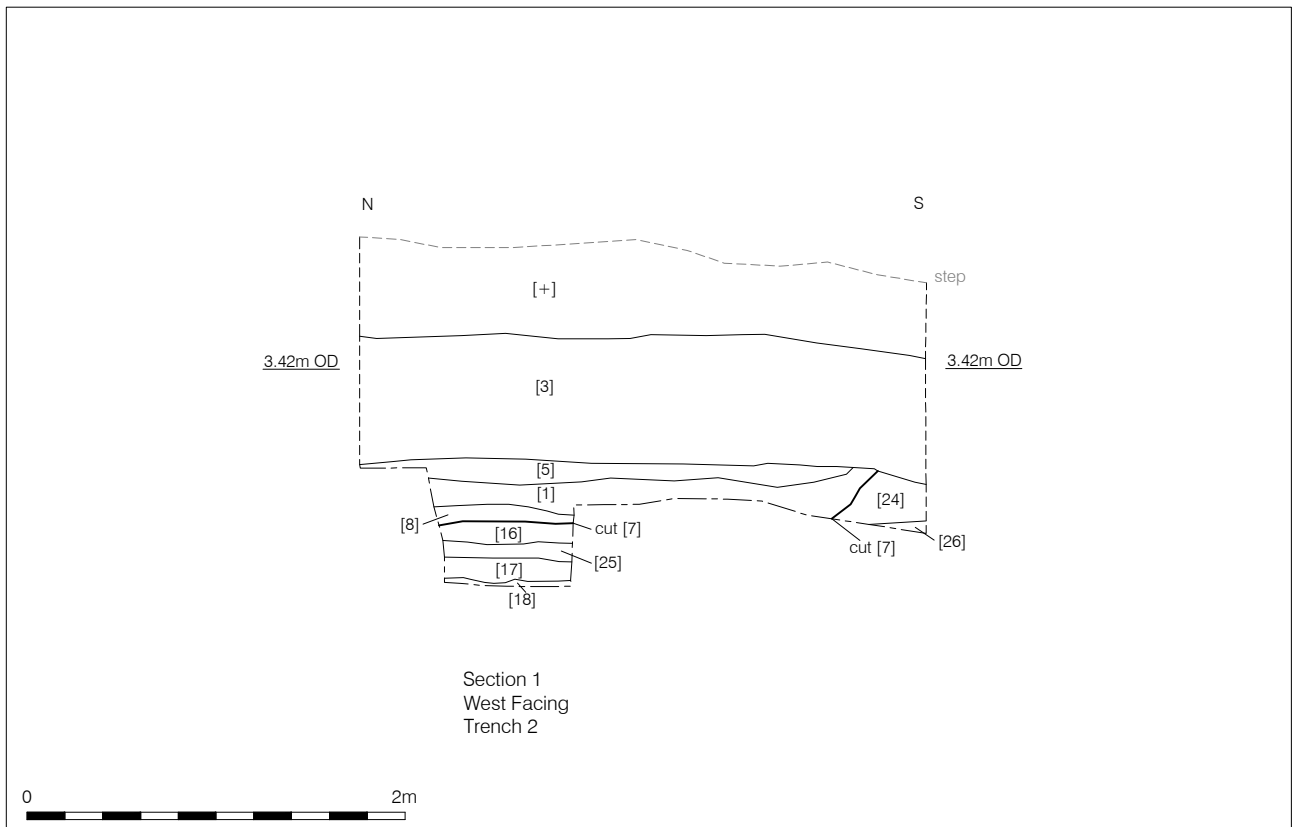
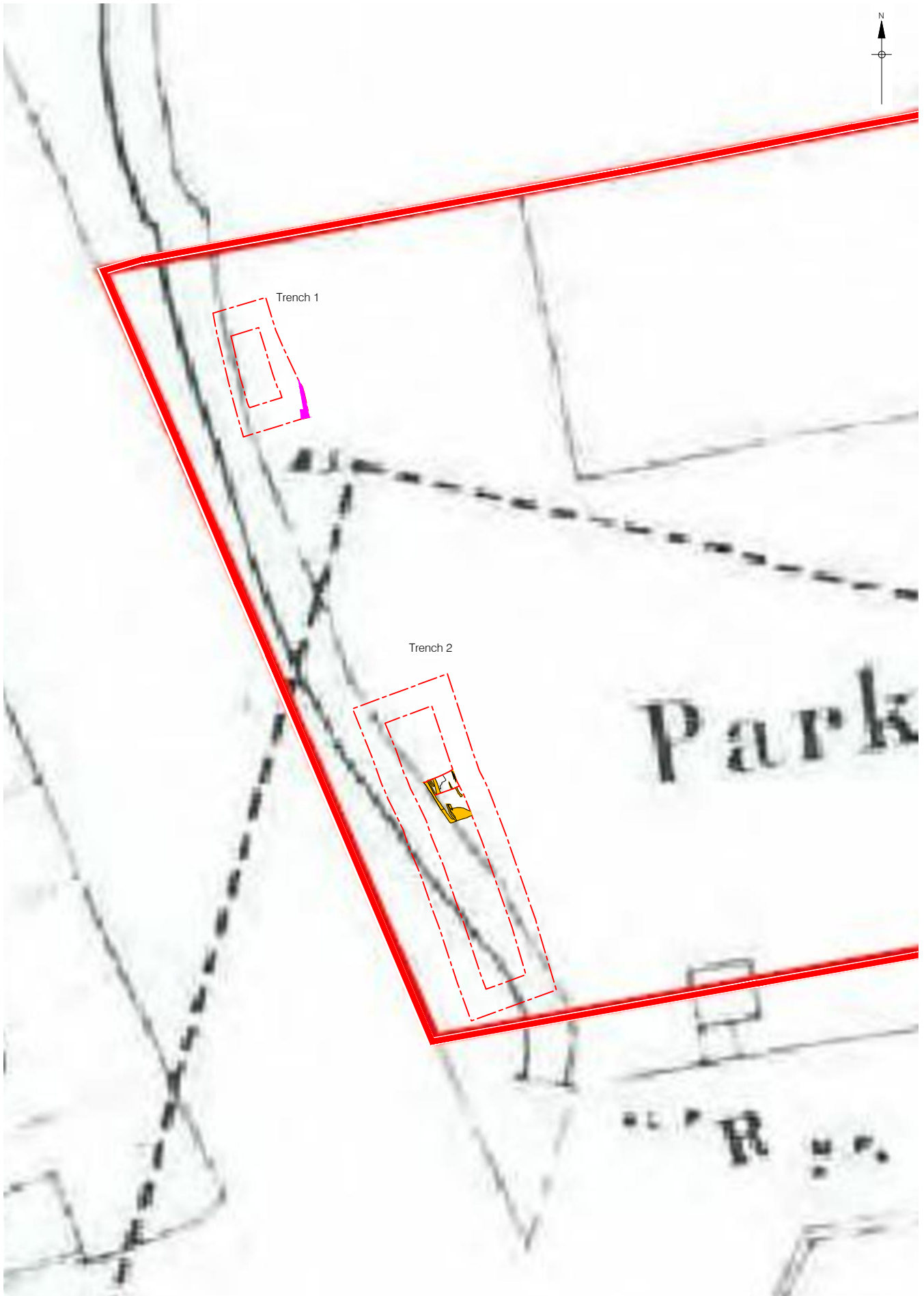


Figure 4  
Plan and Section of Trench 1  
Plan 1:125 and Section 1:40 at A4



Trench 1

Trench 2

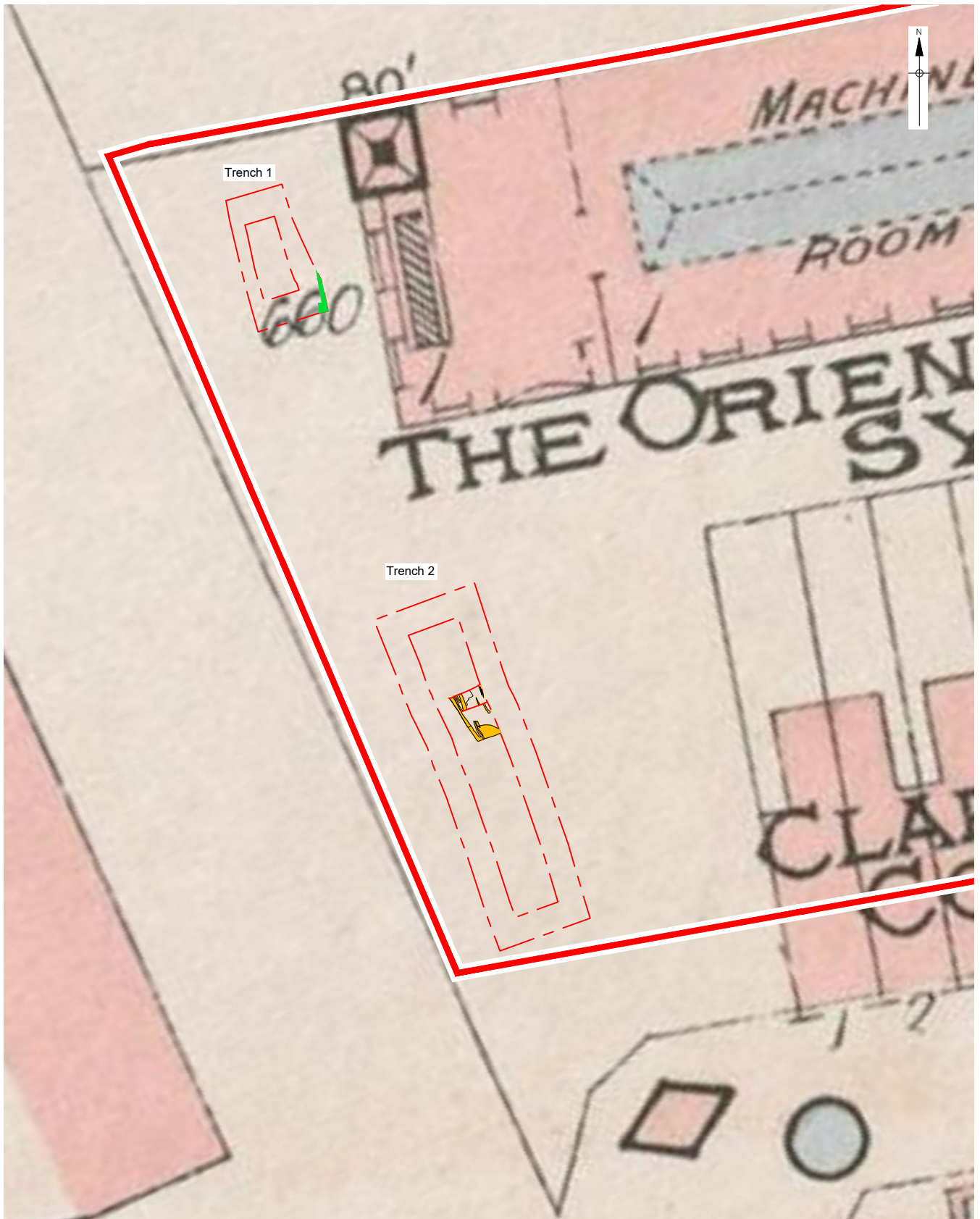
Park

- Wall
- Timber Foundation

0 10m

Figure 5  
Trenches overlain on Ordnance Survey Map, 1870  
1:250 at A4

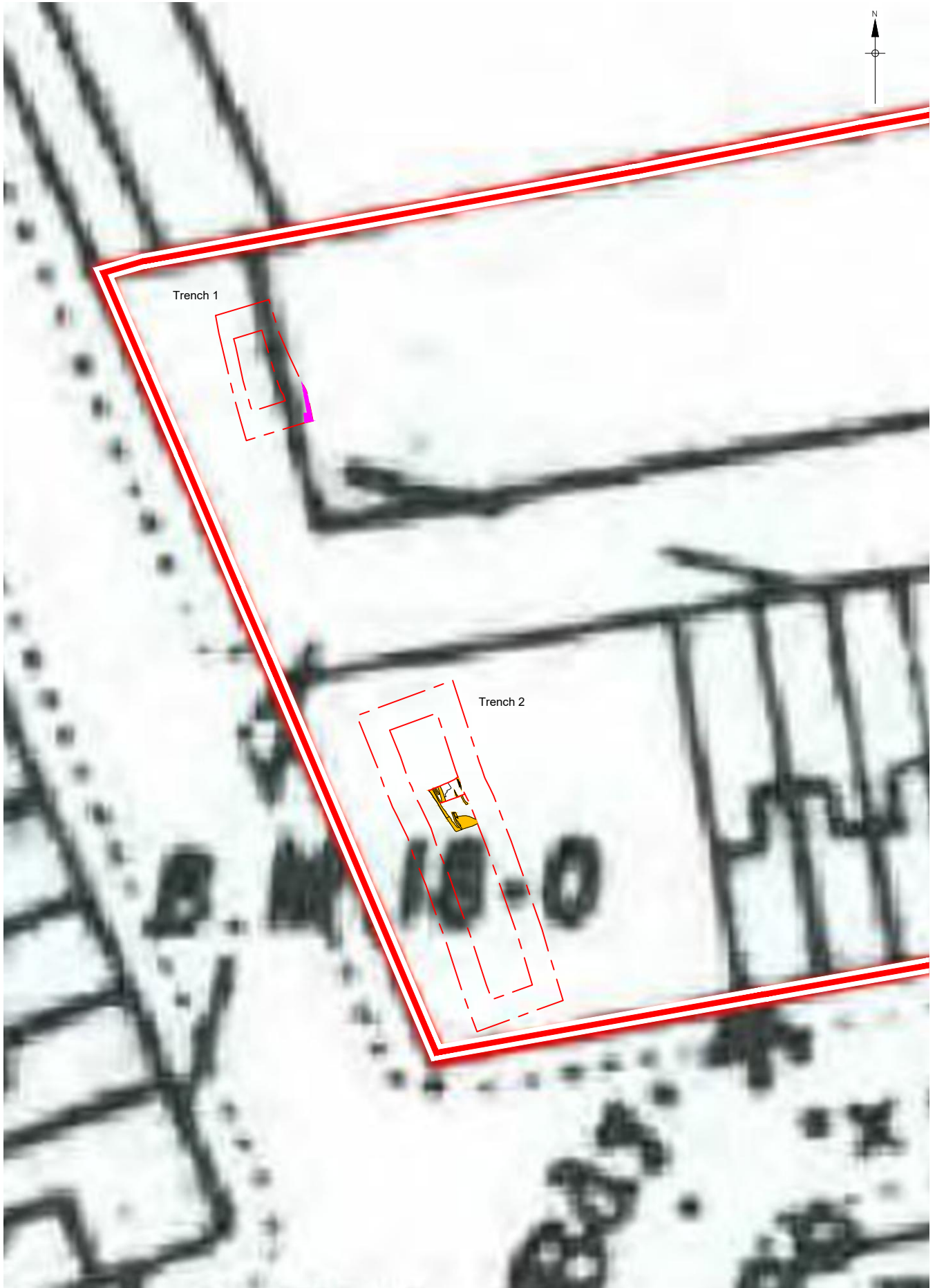




Wall  
Timber Foundation

0 10m

Figure 6  
Trenches overlain on Goad Map, 1893  
1:250 at A4



■ Wall  
■ Timber Foundation

0 10m

Figure 7  
Trenches overlain on Ordnance Survey Map, 1916  
1:250 at A4



- Building - 1870
- Building - 1893
- Building - 1916
- Wall
- Timber Foundation



Figure 8  
Trenches overlain on Transcribed Pre-1916 Historic Buildings  
1:400 at A4



Figure 9  
Proposed Pile Location Plan showing Archaeology  
1:400 at A4

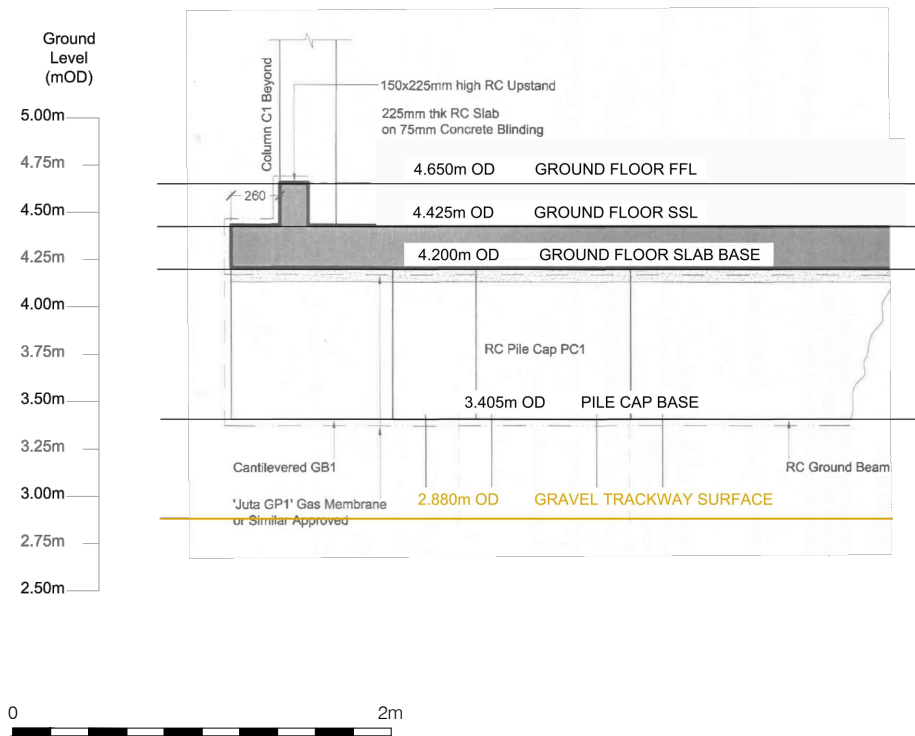
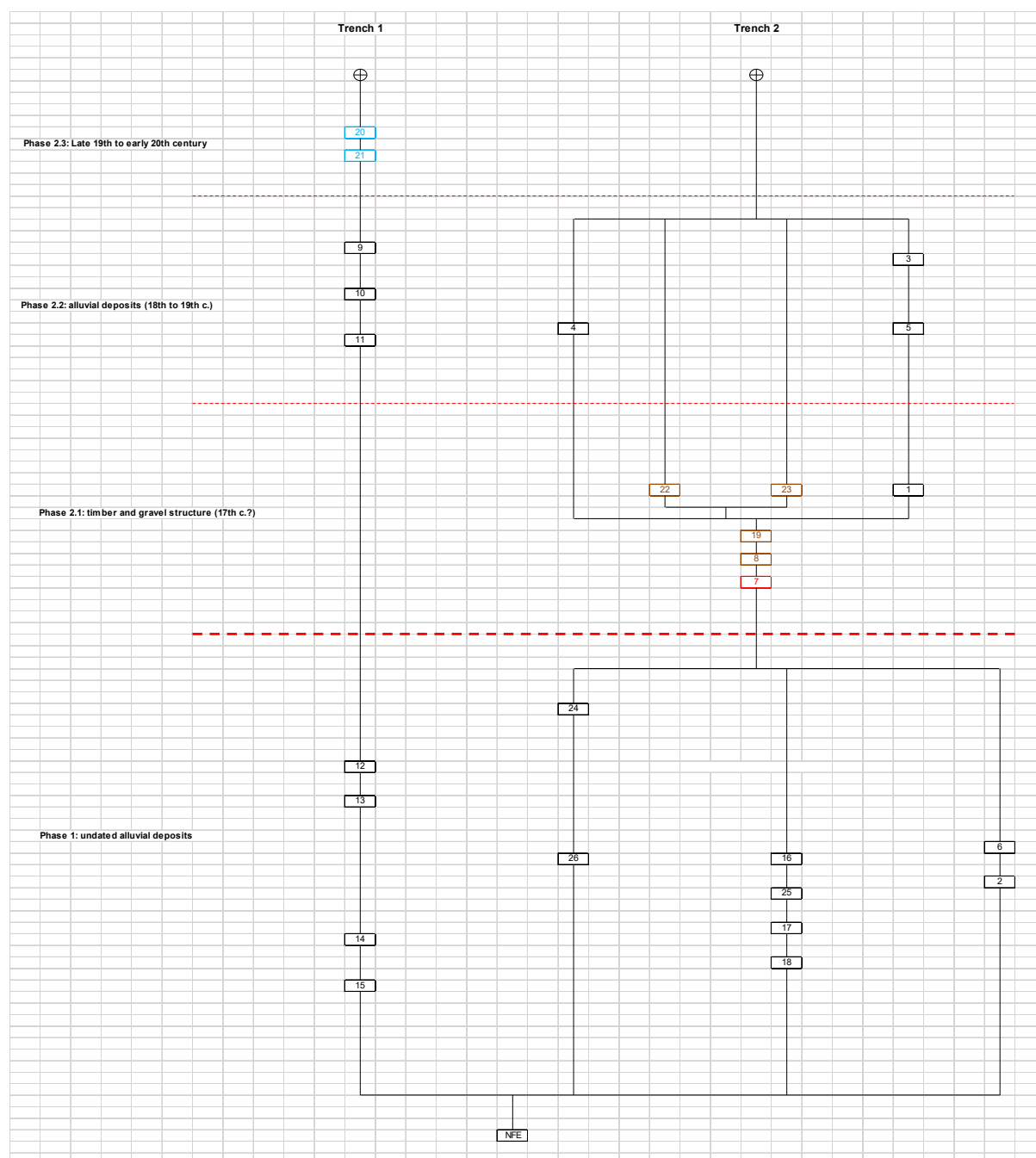


Figure 10  
Section showing Proposed Piling Layout and  
Results of Archaeological Trial Trenches  
Plan1:40 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Trench	Phase	Interpretation	Highest Level	Lowest Level
1	Fill	2	2.1	Compact gravel surface	2.88	2.84
2	Layer	2	1	Coarse sand layer	2.53	2.45
3	Layer	2	2.2	Alluvial clay layer	3.6	3.47
4	Layer	2	2.2	Organic clay layer	2.53	2.52
5	Layer	2	2.2	Alluvial silty clay layer	2.98	2.81
6	Layer	2	1	Peaty clay layer	2.78	2.72
7	Cut	2	2.1	Construction cut for gravel [1]	2.88	2.59
8	Fill	2	2.1	Brush wood foundation for [1]	2.71	2.6
9	Layer	1	2.2	Alluvial sandy clay layer	3.55	3.54
10	Layer	1	2.2	Calayey sand layer	3.46	3.45
11	Layer	1	2.2	Alluvial sandy clay layer	3.29	3.28
12	Layer	1	1	Organic sandy clay	2.78	2.77
13	Layer	1	1	Organic clayey peat layer	2.6	2.56
14	Layer	1	1	Greenish grey clay layer	1.79	1.78
15	Layer	1	1	Clayey sand layer	1.34	1.33
16	Layer	2	1	Organic silty clay layer	2.62	2.6
17	Layer	2	1	Clay layer	2.42	2.39
18	Layer	2	1	Alluvial silty sand layer	2.31	2.28
19	Timber	2	2.1	NW to SE orientated timber associated with [1]	2.78	2.77
20	Masonry	1	2.3	North to south orientated masonry	4.5	4.42
21	Masonry	1	2.3	Concrete foundation for [20]	4.11	4.1
22	Timber	2	2.1	Timber post associated with [19]	2.72	2.71
23	Timber	2	2.1	Timber post associated with [19]	2.65	2.64
24	Layer	2	1	Alluvial deposit	2.87	2.81
25	Layer	2	1	Alluvial deposit	2.51	2.49
26	Layer	2	1	Alluvial deposit	2.62	2.52

## APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Amparo Valcarcel, March 2019

### BUILDING MATERIALS SPOT DATES

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
1	3032	Post great fire bricks	2	1666	1900	1666	1900	1666-1900	No mortar
20	3035	Yellow stock deep frogged bricks	2	1770	1940	1700	1940	1850-1925	1850-1925

### Review

The small assemblage (4 fragments, 4.48 kg) consists mainly of pieces of late post-medieval ceramic building material (post-Great Fire and yellow stock machine frogged bricks). Fragments from [1] are abraded and do not preserved dimensions, making it difficult to assign a date. Bricks samples from [20] are made of yellow stock fabric 3035 and are deep frogged, indicating a mid19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These bricks were bonded with a hard sandy yellow mortar.

The value of this small assemblage lies in dating features from between the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. No further work is recommended.



## **APPENDIX 4: ANIMAL BONES REPORT**

*Karen Deighton March 2019*

### **Introduction**

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered by hand from contexts 1 and 4. This material was assessed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references).

### **Preservation**

Fragmentation was at a high level with bone at the shaft or fragment stage. Surface condition was reasonable. No evidence for canid gnawing was noted.

### **The taxa present:**

Context 4

A complete juvenile cattle sized rib. A large fragment of distal cattle humerus shaft with evidence of sawing. Evidence of sawing as a butchery technique suggests a late post-medieval date.

### **Conclusion**

The potential of the current assemblage is limited by its small size; therefore, no further work is recommended. However, should any future work take place, bone could be collected and analysed and may enhance the understanding of the site and add to the corpus of existing work for the area.

### **Bibliography and references**

Schmid, E 1972 *Atlas of animal bones* London Elsevier press

## **APPENDIX 5: SMALL FINDS AND LEATHER**

Märít Gaimster with coin identification by Murray Andrews

Two small finds were recovered from the excavations, along with four fragments of leather; these are all listed in the table below.

This small and disparate group of finds, with the exception of the coin, is difficult to date closer than to the later post-medieval period. The coin, a heavily corroded farthing of George III (SF 2) was minted in 1771–75 but is unfortunately unstratified. The one-piece single-side comb (SF 1) is a more unusual form in the 18th and 19th centuries, when double-sided combs of bone or ivory were more frequent (cf. Fox and Barton 1986, fig. 153 no. 13). These simple combs, reminiscent of our modern-day headlice combs, continued to be used by the poor and less affluent into the late 19th century (Hume 1969, 174–75). The comb from Wallis Road is also unusual in its simple but quite elegant form, clearly hand made with a crudely stepped curve formed by the sawn or cut teeth lengthening from the end plate. The remaining end plate forms a neat oval, set back from the slightly curved back and has a small central perforation for suspension. The comb is likely made of horn, although tortoise shell is also a possibility, which is a more unusual material for this form of combs and more often found in short coiffure combs with long teeth. It is likely to date from the 18th or 19th centuries, although further parallels need to be sought to confirm this.

Six pieces of leather, recovered from context [4] are dominated by shoe fragments, some possibly but not necessarily from the same shoe. The shoe parts indicate adult-sized footwear, with the exception of the incomplete heel part of a quarter from a child's shoe. A low-cut one-piece quarter curving up to a straight back and with fine seams along the upper edges suggests it originates from an Oxford or Derby style shoe; this piece fits well with the complete right-foot sole present while the eyelet tab with only two holes for laces, if from the same shoe, would be unusual. While shoes of these styles were worn already in the late 1700s (cf. Goubitz 2011, 301), the cut of the quarter and the shape of the sole indicate a date in the later 19th century. At this time there were again distinctly shaped shoes for the right and left foot after a long period of shoes made from straight lasts (cf. Mould 2008, 14).

### **Significance and recommendations for further work**

Metal and small finds potentially provide key elements of domestic material culture and activities related to the investigated site. At Wallis Road, the assemblage of objects recovered is both small and disparate, loosely suggesting activities in the later post-medieval period. Among these finds an unusual comb of horn or tortoiseshell is of particular interest and would deserve further identification.

Fragments of one or several leather shoes also have the potential for a more precise dating. Both of these items would be done offsite if warranted.

## References

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- Noël Hume, I. 1969. *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

context	SF	description	recommendations
+	2	Copper-alloy coin; farthing of George III; 1st <sup>t</sup> issue, 1771-1775; complete but heavily corroded	
3	1	Incomplete one-piece hair comb of ?horn; incomplete single-sided with rather widely spaced teeth; very slightly curved back recessed to oval end plate with small central perforation for suspension; W 25mm; L 78mm+; four teeth per 10mm; slightly decaying	further identify
4		Leather shoe; complete right-foot sole with slender instep and bluntly pointed toe; L 250mm; fits well with low-cut quarter below	further identify
		Leather shoe; low-cut one-piece quarter curving up to straight back; fine grain/flesh stitching along all upper edge; straight vamp edge; likely form Derby or Oxford-style shoe; fits well with sole above	further identify
		Leather shoe; complete eyelet tab with curved front and two holes for laces; fine grain/flesh stitching along bas and angled quarter seam	further identify
		Leather shoe; decayed edge fragment of vamp	further identify
		Leather shoe; incomplete hell part of quarter from child's shoe; heel W c 45mm	further identify
		Leather strap; grain/flesh stitching inside both edges; both ends slightly tapering with a short central axial row of three grain/flesh stiches for attachment; W 32mm; L 142mm; possibly from harness	further identify

### WLB19: small finds and leather



## APPENDIX 6: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-346627

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### Project details

Project name            An Evaluation on Land at 75-89 Wallis Road and 59 Berkshire Road,  
London

Short description of the project    The archaeological evaluation found evidence of archaeological deposits spanning from the second half of the 17th to the early 20th centuries. Of note was a small section of a timber and gravel man-made structure with a possible north-east to south-west orientation positioned in the east bank of a north to south orientated channel which occupied the west part of the site in the 17th century. The earliest cartographic evidence for the presence of a watercourse in the western part of the site is shown on the Rocque map of 1745 whilst the latest is shown of the OS map of 1870. The archaeological evaluation recorded a sequence of undated alluvial deposits to a maximum depth of 3.40m below ground level corresponding to 1.13m OD. Natural river terrace gravel was not observed during the evaluation. No masonry structures dated earlier than the 20th century were recorded during the evaluation and there was no evidence for the former Parkesine works present on the site in the later 19th century.

Project dates            Start: 11-03-2019 End: 15-03-2019

Previous/future work        Yes / Not known

Any associated project codes    WLB19 - Sitecode reference

Type of project            Field evaluation

Site status                Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use        Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type	ROAD Post Medieval
Monument type	MASONRY FOUNDATION Modern
Monument type	ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS Medieval
Monument type	ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ROAD Post Medieval
Methods techniques	& "Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

---

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 75-89 Wallis Road and 59 Berkshire Road, London Borough of Hackney
Postcode	E9 5NP
Study area	0.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3707 8470 51.544030571583 -0.023105541069 51 32 38 N 000 01 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.3m Max: 1.34m

---

#### Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Organisation

Project brief James Archer (CgMs)  
originator

Project design Helen Hawkins  
originator

Project Helen Hawkins  
director/manager

Project supervisor Ireneo Grosso

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of CgMs Heritage  
sponsor/funding  
body

---

#### Project archives

Physical Archive MLAA  
recipient

Physical Archive ID WLB19

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Leather"

Digital Archive MLAA  
recipient

Digital Archive ID WLB19

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

---

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital  
available photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive MLAA  
recipient

Paper Archive ID WLB19

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"  
available

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### Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at 75-89 Wallis Road and 59 Berkshire Road, London Borough of Hackney: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Grosso, I.

Date 2019

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or London  
publication

Description A4 bounded report

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Entered on 25 March 2019



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