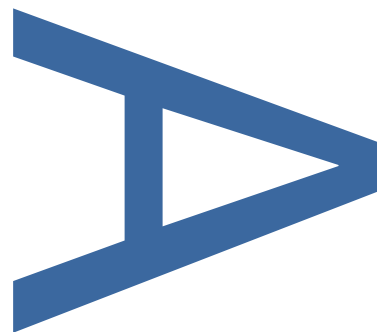
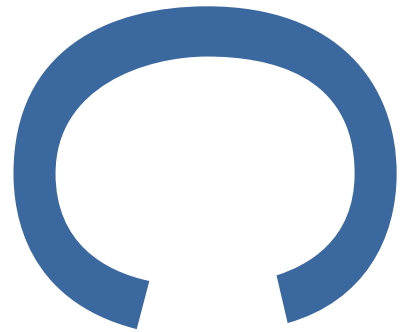


**SITE AT CHADWELL STREET,
LONDON BOROUGH
OF ISLINGTON**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

APRIL 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY


DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

SITE AT CHADWELL STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**SITE AT CHADWELL STREET, LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Site Code: CDW19

Central NGR: TQ 30668 69762

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Islington

Planning Reference: P2015/2406/FUL

Commissioning Client: Archaeology Collective on behalf of the overall client

Written by: Chloe Sinclair
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

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April 2019

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on a site at Chadwell Street, Islington, London. The site is located in the London Borough of Islington and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 31407 82931.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the site consisting of construction of seven new houses (London Borough of Islington Planning Ref. P2015/2406/FUL).
- 1.3 Following a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA 2018), an archaeological evaluation was undertaken over two days between 15th and 16th April 2019. A single evaluation trench measuring 20m x 0.60-1.50m was excavated.
- 1.4 Natural geology encountered on the site was composed of gravels identified as the Finsbury Gravel member.
- 1.5 The lowest archaeological horizon observed was interpreted as post-medieval ground raising layer.
- 1.6 Sealing this layer of suggested disturbance was another ground-raising deposit containing small quantities of animal bone fragments, post-medieval ceramic building materials and glass.
- 1.7 Completing the sequence was a 0.20m thick layer of brick rubble and 0.10m thick layer top soil.
- 1.8 No evidence of any civil war defensive features was observed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) on the site at Chadwell Street, Islington, London (Figure 1). The site is located in the London Borough of Islington and is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 31407 82931. The site comprises a vacant car park at the rear of properties on the southern side of Chadwell Street.
- 2.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (2018) and approved by Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for the site by Archaeology Collective in 2018. It concluded that there is a potential for encountering the remains of mid-17th century earthwork defences of the English Civil War period and for encountering the foundations of former ancillary buildings of 19th century date close to the street.
- 2.4 Planning permission was granted for the construction of seven new houses (London Borough of Islington Planning Ref. P2015/2406/FUL). An archaeological condition, which detailed that the site should be subject to an archaeological trial trench evaluation in the first instance, was added to the permission.
- 2.5 The work was undertaken over two days between 15th and 16th April 2019 in advance of the proposed development. The investigation comprised of a single archaeological evaluation trench measuring 20m x 0.60-1.50m (Figure 2).
- 2.6 In advance of the investigation PCA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2018) which provided the design for the evaluation work and was approved by Sandy Kidd of Historic England's Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.7 PCA was instructed for the project by Dr Anne Johnson of Archaeology Collective on behalf of the overall client.
- 2.8 The archaeological evaluation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Chloe Sinclair. The project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski of the PCA.
- 2.9 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under the unique site code CDW19.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission was granted, on appeal, for the construction of seven new houses together with associated access, amenity space and landscaping arrangements (LB Islington Council Planning Ref. P2015/2406/FUL).

3.2 The planning condition (9) attached to the decision reads as follows:

No development shall take place unless and until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has submitted a desk based archaeological assessment which has been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Should such an assessment indicate the potential for significant archaeology then a scheme for investigation and a programme of archaeological work shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and subsequently implemented in accordance with the approved details.

3.3 Consultation with Sandy Kidd of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), archaeological advisor to LB Islington, confirmed the details required for the evaluation to be undertaken on the site.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales, the local solid geology is London Clay forming the London Basin. The southern part of the site is overlain by superficial deposits of Finsbury Gravel Member (sand and gravel) whilst no superficial deposits are recorded in the northern part of the site (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4.1.2 Geotechnical site investigation was carried out at the site in 2013 (GB Card 2013). Two boreholes revealed c. 2m of made ground above river terrace gravels. The made ground comprised of sandy gravelly clay with fragments of brick, flint, chalk, charcoal, concrete, sandstone, bone, tile and gravel.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is generally level at c. 31m above Ordnance Datum (OD). Chadwell Street stands on the southern edge of a ridge of higher ground, overlooking the valley of the former Fleet River, whose line is today followed by Farringdon Road to its former confluence with the River Thames, which lies c. 2km distant, to the south.

4.2.2 The site comprises a vacant car park at the rear of properties on the southern side of Chadwell Street and the southeast side of Myddelton Square, situated c. 200m south-southwest from the Angel, Islington (the junction of Islington High Street with Pentonville Road, St John Street and City Road). The site forms an irregularly-shaped plot of land covering an area of c. 825m² (Figure 2).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following background is taken from the site specific archaeological desk-assessment prepared by Archaeology Collective (2018). In summary:
- 5.2 The site is not located within a local authority Archaeological Priority Area (APA) and it does not contain any designated archaeological assets such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, or registered battlefields where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ and against development. There are no designated archaeological assets within the wider (250m radius) study area whose setting, or appreciation of setting would be affected by the proposed development.
- 5.3 Based on the information within the GLHER, supplemented by historic mapping and images the application site is likely to have been open farmland until Chadwell Street and Myddelton Square were built in 1829-34. When Chadwell Street was first built the land to the west of the end terrace house (No. 11), along the street frontage of the application site, was not occupied by a house or basement, although this area has subsequently been occupied by buildings, possibly a coach house or garage serving the adjacent house. There is assessed to be a potential for encountering the remains of mid-17th century earthwork defences of the English Civil War period, and potential for encountering the foundations of former ancillary buildings of 19th century date close to the street frontage, together with the foundations of contemporary garden walls within the remainder of the application site. There is a low potential for encountering archaeological remains from other periods.
- 5.4 London was fortified by the Parliamentarian army during the English Civil war in the period 1642-43, by means of an earth and timber palisaded rampart and ditch (known as the 'Lines of Communication'), with fortified gateways, reinforced at strategic locations by a number of distinctive star-shaped forts and smaller redoubts housing cannon. Both banks of the river were included in the circuit which extended from Wapping through Shoreditch, Islington, and Bloomsbury and Westminster on the north bank, and from Vauxhall passing through Bermondsey and Rotherhithe on the south bank. Recent excavations (2009) on the site of new World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre, within the northwest part of the British Museum campus, close to Montague Place, revealed part of the Bloomsbury section of the ditch and rampart. Here the ditch survived between 3.7 and 9.7m in width and 1.8-2m deep, with the base of the rampart on the south side varying between 13 and 18m in width, and with an estimated height of 2.5 - 3m.
- 5.5 The closest archaeological investigation to the application site took place in 1996 in advance of extensive basement excavations at Sadlers Wells Theatre on the southeast side of Arlington Way, c. 40m southeast of the application site (ELO4437). The evaluation revealed evidence for the brick foundations of former buildings known to have stood on the site in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the original Sadler's well shaft was located at the rear of the stalls, 2.4m beneath the present auditorium floor. Trial trenching at five locations within the footprint of The Angel

Centre, c. 90m north-north-east of the application site, revealed significant ground reduction associated with the modern building, although an area containing an 18th - 19th century cess pit and brick foundations, typical of post-medieval backyard activity, survived truncation away from the main road frontages (ELO8023). Trial trenching on the east side of St John Street, c. 120m northwest of the application site, revealed brick foundations and gravel quarry pits of probable 19th century date (ELO3756). Further post-medieval and modern brick foundations were noted at two further locations close to St John Street at 1-3 Rawstone Place (ELO267 & ELO9838), and at Hugh Myddelton School, c. 250m south-east of the application site (ELO9612 & ELO10505). Evaluations south of Myddelton Passage, c. 100-150m southwest of the application site identified site-specific structures and features associated with the former post-medieval waterworks (ELO7739, ELO23 & ELO2689).

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The methodology for the proposed excavation of the trench was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced for the site (PCA 2018).
- 6.2 The evaluation was designed to comprise a single archaeological trench located in the western part of what was the car park, just south of the remaining concrete slab near the site entrance (Figure 2). The trench measured 20m x 1.50m at the top and was stepped to measure 20m x 0.60m at base.
- 6.3 The trench was laid out as specified in the WSI. The trench was excavated by a JCB 3CX type mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision and it was scanned using CAT device after each spit in order to check for buried services which were not marked on the service plan.
- 6.4 The excavation continued until the natural deposits were encountered.
- 6.5 Once excavation had been completed and the trench cleaned, all deposits were then recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at scales of 1:50 and 1:20 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. A digital photographic record was also kept.
- 6.6 A temporary benchmark (TBM) at a height of 36.04 OD was established on site for levelling purposes using the GPS system. This system was used to set out and locate the trench upon excavation.
- 6.7 The completed archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with LAARC, identified by site code CDW19.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 The archaeological sequence encountered within Trench 1 has been separated into two phases, as follows:

7.2 Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1 The earliest natural deposit encountered, was a yellowish sandy river terrace gravel [1]. This was recorded along the length of the trench base, at a maximum depth of 2.75m BGL (27.89m OD).

7.3 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

7.3.1 Overlying the gravel in the northern portion of the trench was a layer of redeposited natural [4] seen at 1.00m below ground level and extending beyond the northern limit of excavation.

7.3.2 The only cut feature observed was a 1.20m wide pit [3], with its fill [2], recorded in section at a height of 1.00m BGL. Due to the unstable ground conditions within the trench this pit was not excavated, and no dating evidence was retrieved.

7.3.3 A layer of dark brown made ground up to 2.75m thick covered the earlier deposits, with post-medieval finds recovered dating to 1550-1900.

7.3.4 Layer of brick rubble, 0.20m thick, and 0.10m thick layer of topsoil sealed the sequence.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking south

8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Research Objectives

8.1.1 The evaluation aimed to address following research objective contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2018):

The main research objective is to establish the date and character of the made ground deposits and if deep cut features of mid-17th century date are present within the site.

8.1.2 Although there were substantial variations in the recorded depths of the natural geology, no features indicative of the civil war defensive ditch could be identified, nor were any finds recovered conclusively dated to this time period. Finsbury gravels, the naturally occurring geology of the area, were seen throughout the base of the trench. The deposits overlying the natural layer were primarily post-medieval build up layers, raising the study area significantly above the level of the surrounding flats. It is suggested that this later horizon represents a built-up area created by dumped materials from the surrounding housing estates, in order to construct the parking lot that served them. Quarrying activity may have also been a factor contributing to deep intrusion on the site disturbing earlier stratigraphy. As the result, despite deep (2.50 – 2.75m) truncation on the site no feature which could be related to the Civil War defences could be recognized.

8.1.3 Dating of the recovered finds suggested numerous interventions in the area resulting in mixed post-medieval archaeological material present on the site. No artefacts recovered could be conclusively dated to the 17th century and any attempt to provide more precise dating to the assemblage would likely point to 18th -19th century for its provenance.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Archaeology Collective for commissioning the work on behalf of the overall client and Sandy Kidd of GLAAS for his input and advice to the project.
- 9.2 The author also thanks Zbigniew Pozorski for project managing the evaluation and editing this report and Diana Valk for the CAD illustrations.

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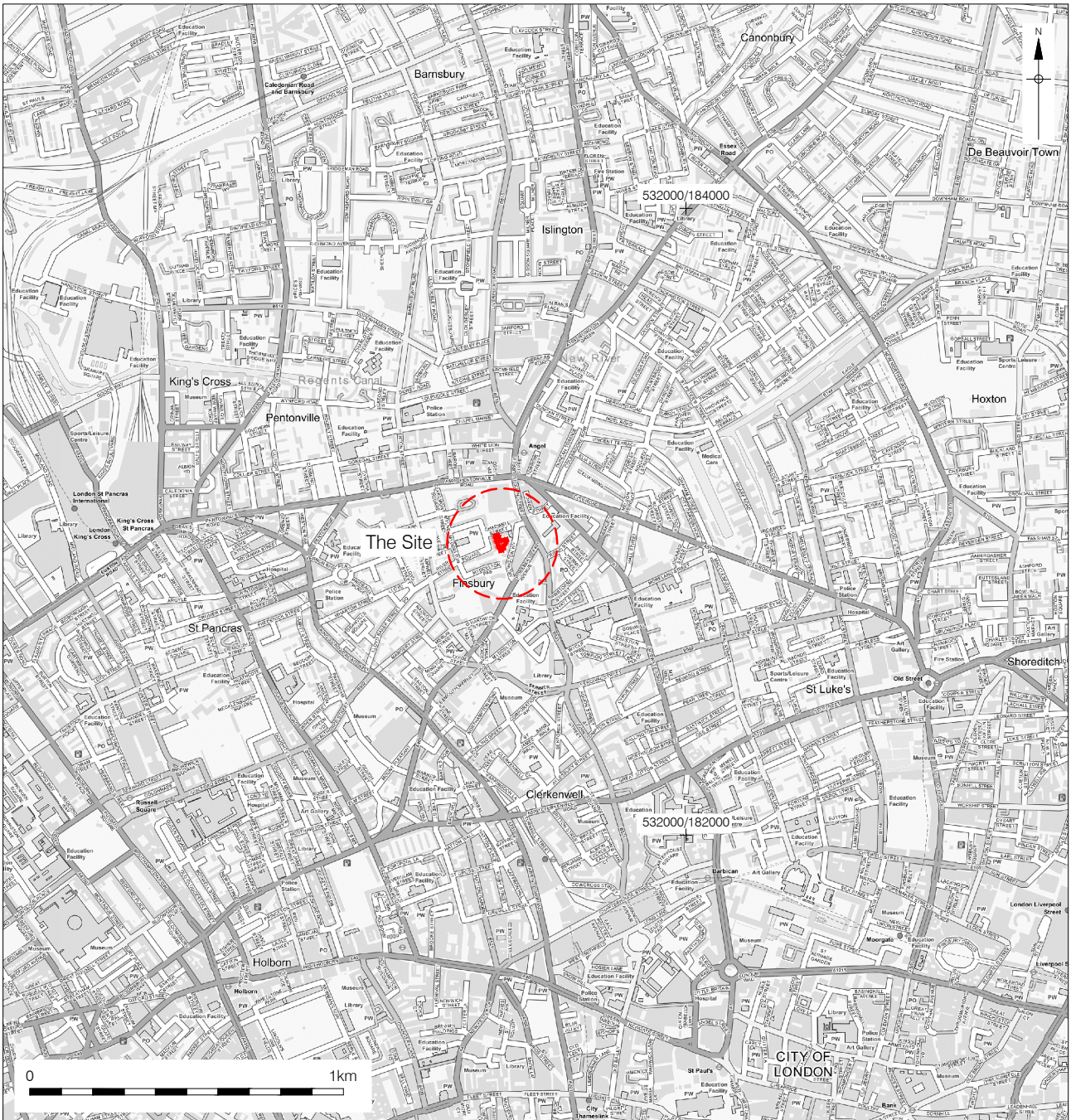
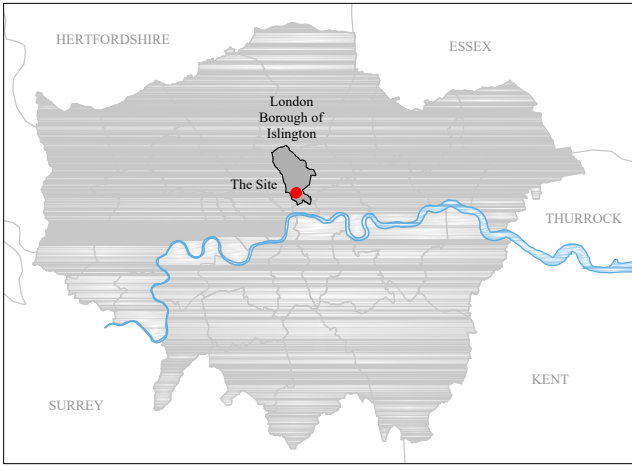
Online Resources

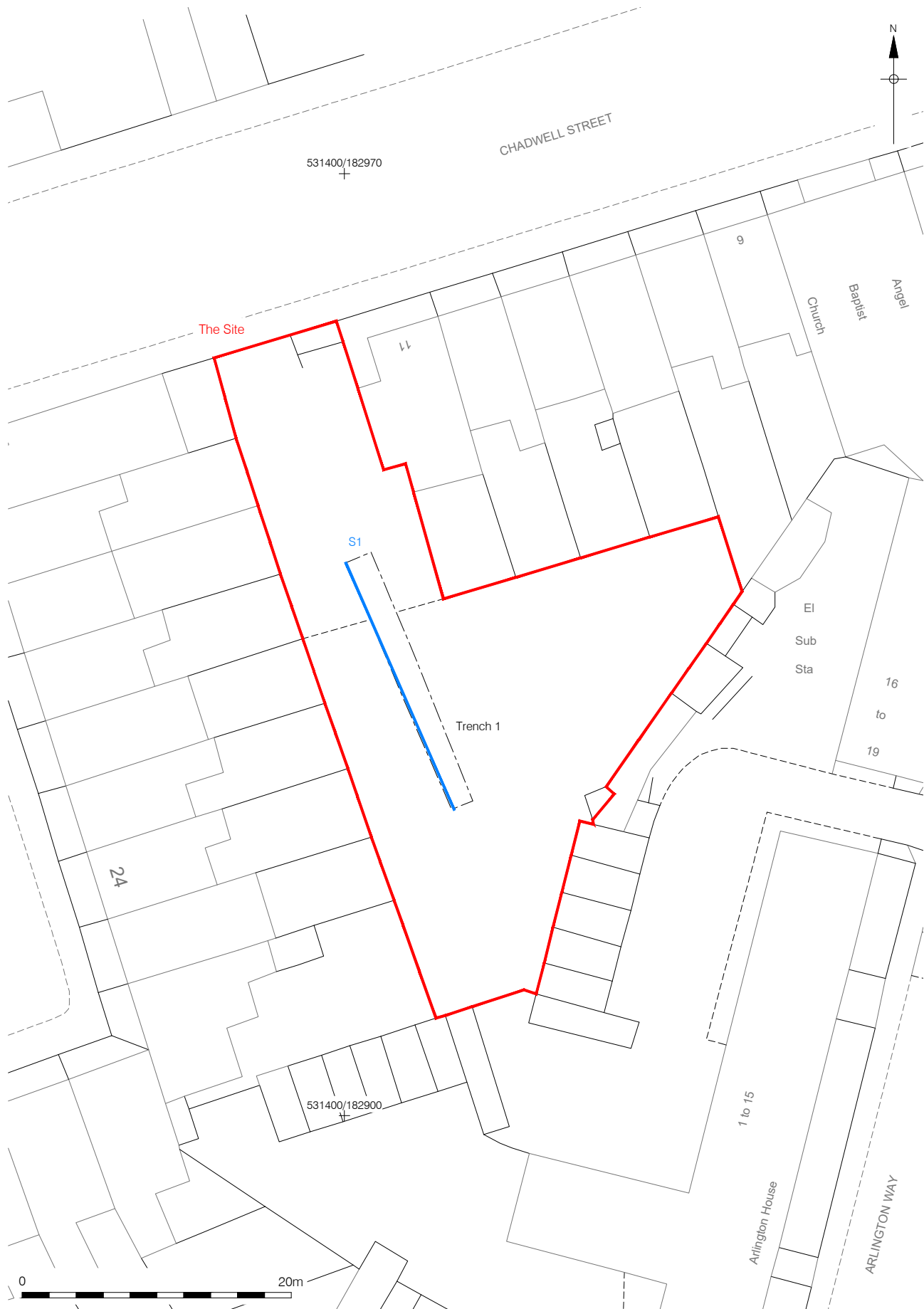
British Geological Survey (Geology of Britain Viewer)

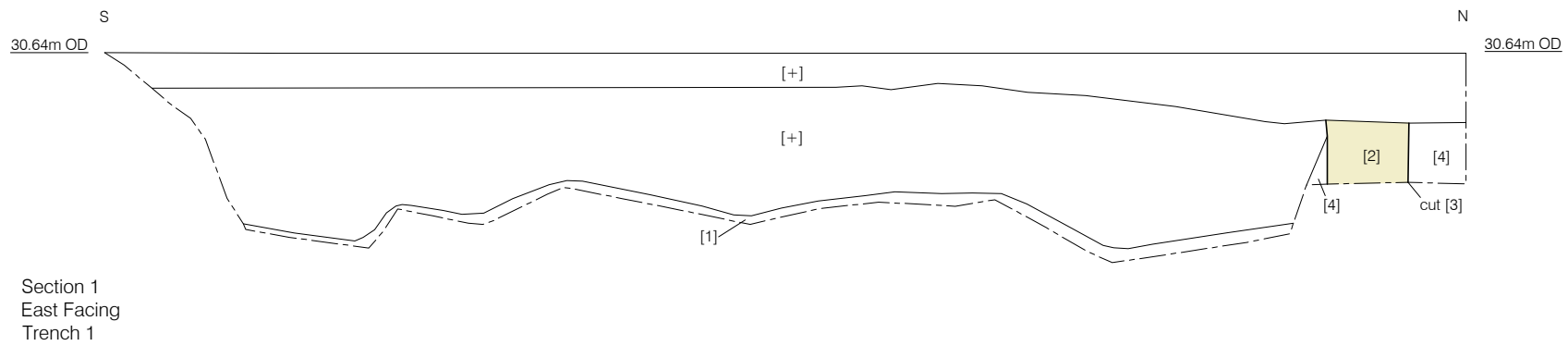
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Cranfield Soil & Agrifood Institute

<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/#>







APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site_id	Site_Code	Context	CTX_Type	CTX_equalto	CTX_Over	CTX_Under	Trench
155	CDW19	0					
155	CDW19	1	Natural				1
155	CDW19	2	Fill	3			1
155	CDW19	3	Cut				1
155	CDW19	4	Layer				1

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Berni Sudds

A single sherd of unstratified pottery was recovered dating to the post-medieval period. No further work is recommended, and as unstratified and a well-paralleled type in the region the sherd is recommended for discard.

Context	Fabric	Common name	Form/ comments	Sherd count	Weight	Date
Unstratified	RBOR	Surrey-Hampshire border redware	Thickened rim, chamber pot? Heavy wear to rim, internal lamination and sooting/ burnt residue. Used as a cooking vessel.	1	62	1550 - 1900

Table 1: The pottery by context.

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDINGS MATERIAL REVIEW

By Amparo Valcarcel

A Flemish pan tile was the only material recovered from [0] in the archaeological evaluation at Chadwell Street (Sinclair 2019). This curved and nibbed tile was introduced in England in 1630 and was still manufactured in 1850. This example merely reflects the post-medieval occupation of the area. No further work is recommended.

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
0	2279	Post-medieval pan tile	1	1630	1850	1630	1850	1630-1850	No mortar

Bibliography

Sinclair, C. 2019: Site at Chadwell Street, London Borough of Islington: An Archaeological Evaluation, PCA Unpublished Manuscript.

APPENDIX 5: GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Berni Sudds

A single unstratified dark green wine bottle neck with a string rim was recovered from site. The profile of the neck and rim are indicative of a late 17th- to early 18th- century date. No further work is recommended, and as unstratified and a well-paralleled type, the vessel is recommended for discard.

Context	Type	Description	Count	Weight	Date
Unstratified	Vessel	Short tapered neck from a dark green wine bottle. String rim.	1	64g	Late 17 th to early 18 th century

Table: Catalogue of the glass by context.

APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Rielly

Introduction

The site is located some 50m south of the Pentonville Road and about 250m south of the Angel Underground Station. A single elongated trench in the centre of the study area revealed evidence for post-medieval activity. Small quantities of ceramic materials (pottery and tile), glass and animal bones were taken from a single deposit interpreted as a make-up level below a modern car park. These finds were allocated as unstratified.

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

Description of faunal assemblage

A total of 5 animal bones were hand collected from the site, all classified as unstratified. These bones were very well preserved and include 4 complete bones and one shaft limb bone piece. The former are comprised of a cattle humerus and calcaneus (both fully fused), a cattle-size cervical vertebra and a sheep/goat mandible (full adult teeth and well worn). The remaining fragment includes the major part of the shaft of a pig femur. The cattle, cattle-size and pig bones are all clearly from rather large individuals, most probably representing 'improved' breeds thus suggesting a date no earlier than the latter part of the 18th century. Such improvements were in progress during the 18th century with the establishment of the precursors of the modern breeds by the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries (after Rixson 2000, 215).

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

These few bones obviously represent a selection and it cannot be stated whether the associated deposits will provide a lesser or greater quantity, however, there is certainly a good potential for bone survival. The size of the bones clearly indicates a rather late date and in combination with the condition of the bones it can be supposed that further excavation may well provide a notable 18th/19th century collection. Smaller bones, if present, will undoubtedly be similarly well preserved and thus it is recommended that any further work should include a sampling programme.

There are late post-medieval comparisons in this general area, including the moderately sized collections from Almeida Street, somewhat to the north on Upper Street (Rielly 2016).

References

Rielly, K, 2016 Assessment of animal bone recovered from 5 Almeida Street and 129 Upper Street, London Borough of Islington (ALE14), Unpublished PCA Report

Rixson, D, 2000 *The History of Meat Trading*, Nottingham University Press

APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-350019

Project details

Project name	Site at Chadwell Street, Islington, London
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation
Project dates	Start: 15-04-2019 End: 16-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CDW19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
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 ISLINGTON ISLINGTON Site at Chadwell Street, London Borough of Islington
Study area	850 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31407 82931 51.529481769051 -0.105391651666 51 31 46 N 000 06 19 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 29.25m Max: 32m

Project creators

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

Project brief originator	Sandy Kidd
Project design originator	Archaeology Collective
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Chloe Sinclair
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	Archaeology Collective

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Glass"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Glass"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

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