

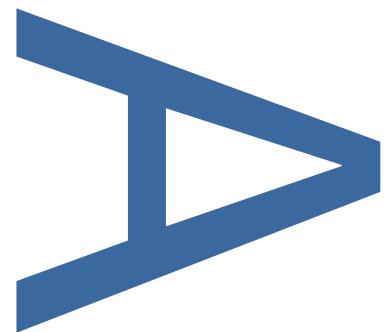
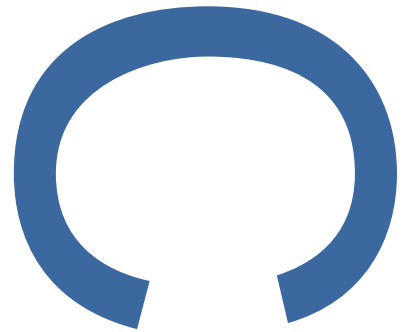
**LAND AT FORMER FORD
STAMPING PLANT, KENT AVENUE,
DAGENHAM, LONDON RM9 6SA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT**

SITE CODE: KNV17

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND
DAGENHAM**

NOVEMBER 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**EXCAVATION AT LAND AT FORMER FORD STAMPING PLANT, KENT
AVENUE, DAGENHAM, LONDON RM9 6SA**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Site Code: KNV17
Central NGR: TQ 49280 83203
Local Planning Authority: LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM
Planning Reference: P/2017/3934

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting (part of the RPS Group)

Written and Researched by: Neil Hawkins MCIfA
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins (MCIfA)

Post-Excavation Manager: Lucy Whittingham

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7732 7896

E-mail: HHawkins@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Former Ford Stamping Plant, Kent Avenue, Dagenham, London RM9

Type of project

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	Name		Date
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Graphics Prepared by:	R Murphy		12.11.2019
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley		13.11.2019
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		20.11.2019

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

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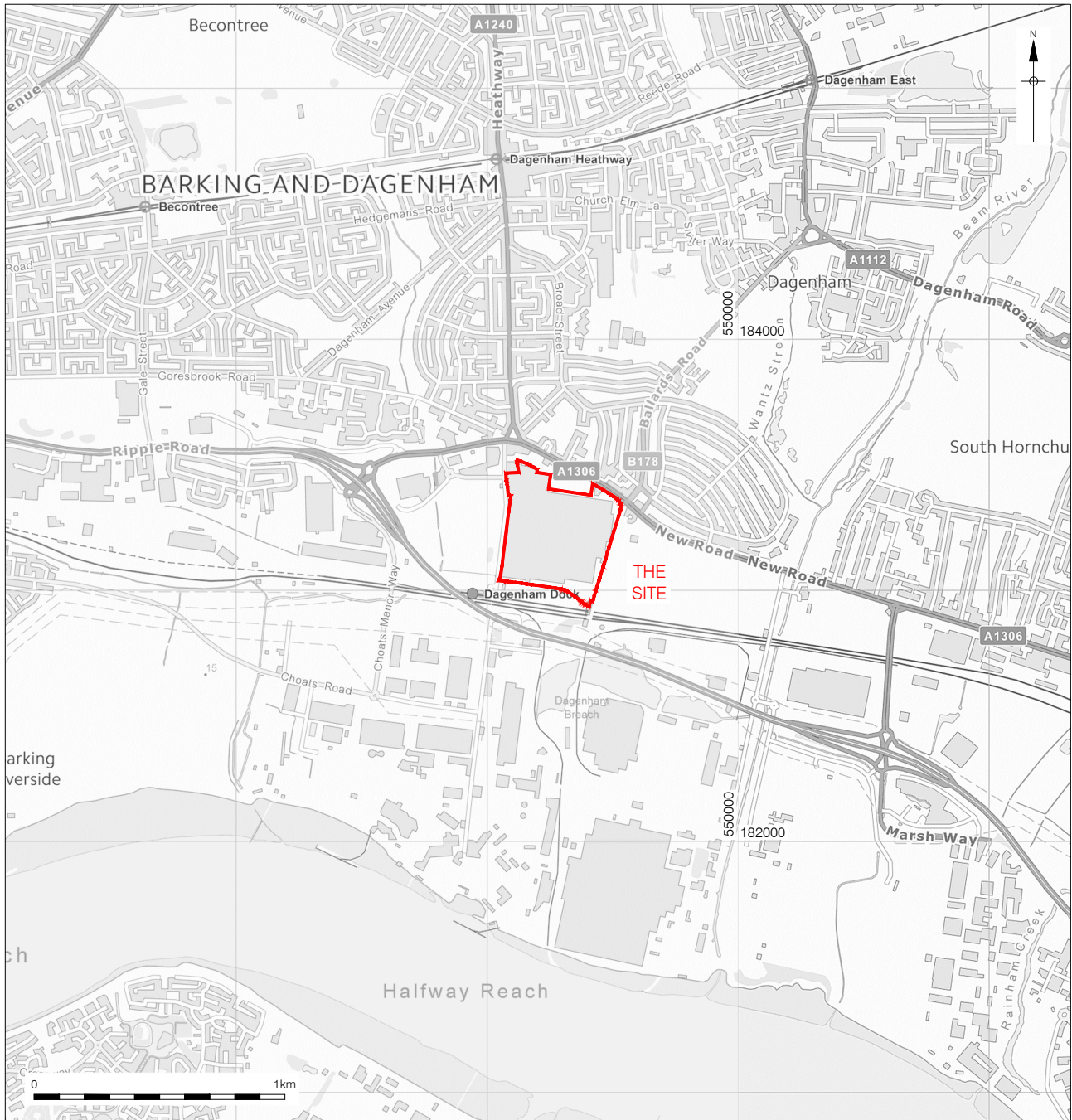
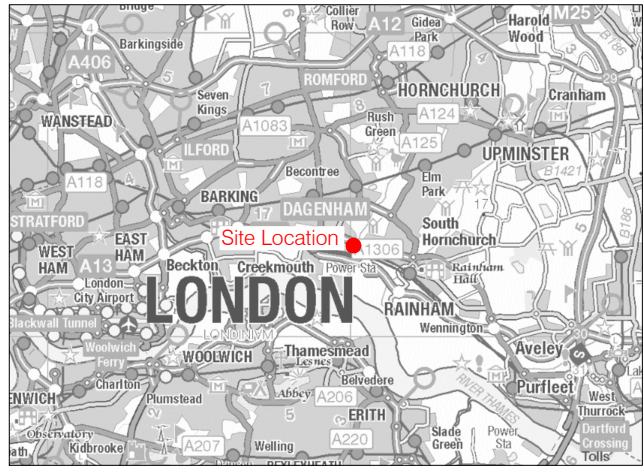
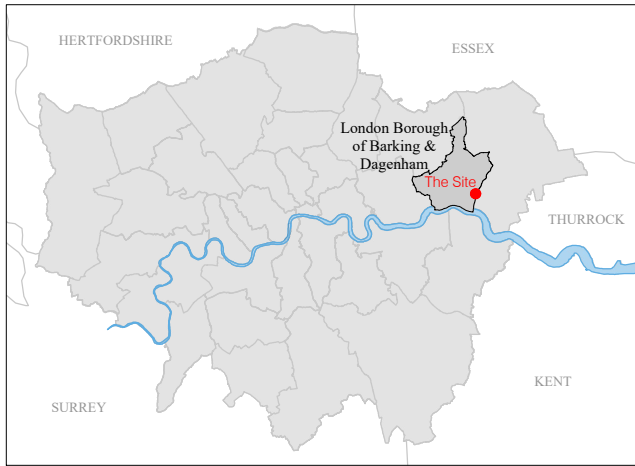
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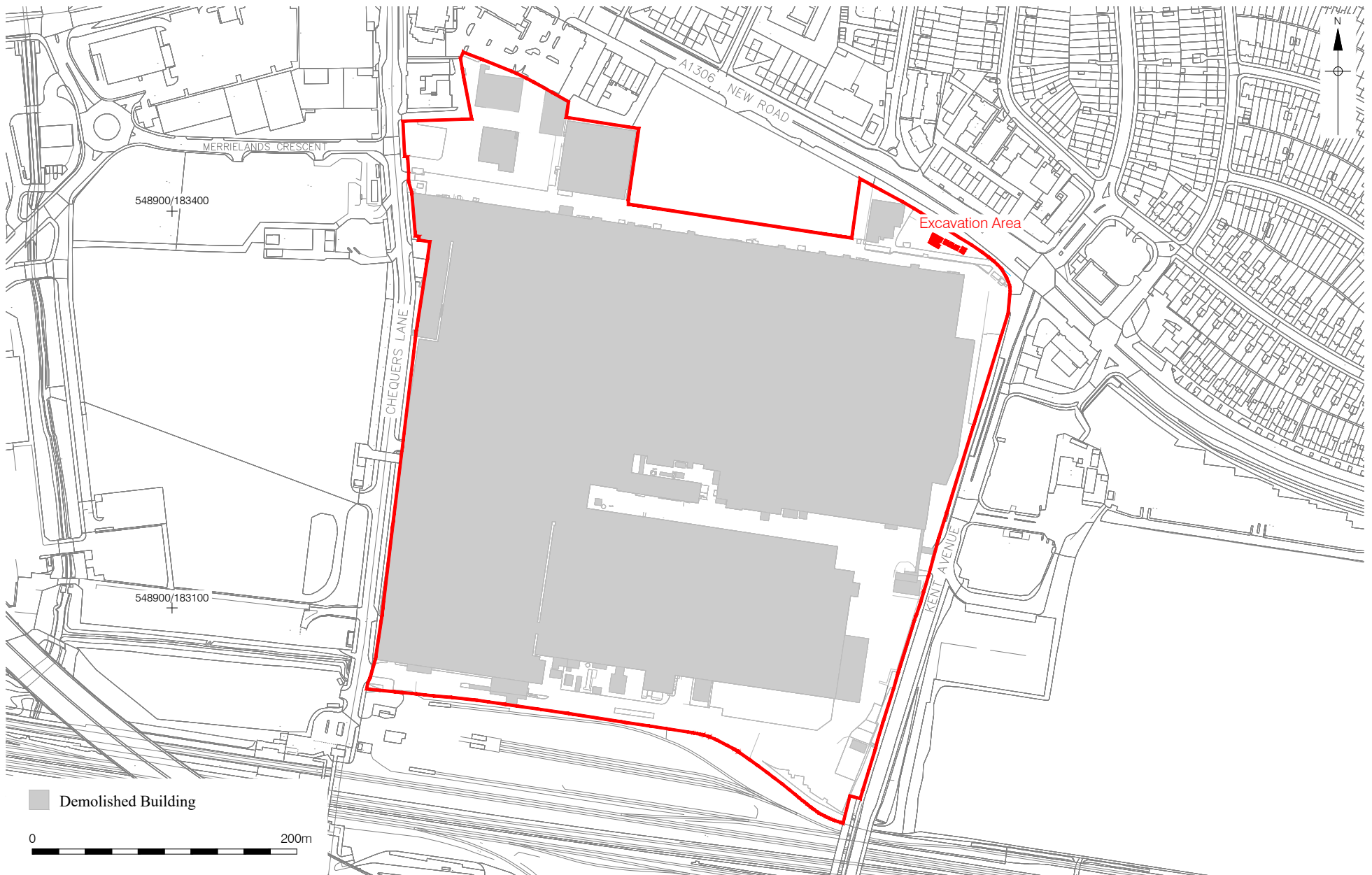
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Following an earlier archaeological evaluation (Seddon 2018), an archaeological excavation was undertaken between 11th and 19th February 2019 at land at the former Ford Stamping Plant, Kent Avenue, Dagenham, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham RM9 6SA. The works were commissioned by CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS group).
- 1.2 The archaeological remains encountered during the excavation represented a single phase of activity, with two sub-phases, dated to the medieval period. A number of the archaeological features recorded during the excavation contained no material culture and therefore remain undated. However these features are currently allocated to the medieval phase of activity due to their similarities in nature.
- 1.3 Geologically the site was underlain by terrace gravel of the Taplow Gravel Member sloping down from 2.09m OD in the northwest corner to 1.4m OD to the southeast. In the eastern area of the excavation the terrace gravel was overlain by brickearth, located at 1.7m OD.
- 1.4 Evidence for human activity on the site was confined to the medieval period with a series of ditches, pits and postholes which represented peripheral activity on the edge of the marshland. Drainage ditches attempted to reclaim the marshy environment whilst the potential postholes suggest temporary structures such as fence lines. Small assemblages of pottery recovered from some of these features, much of which were cooking pots, dated predominantly to the 12th and 13th century.
- 1.5 Modern deposits directly sealed the archaeological remains and represented the current ground level. A series of modern intrusions truncated the archaeological features and underlying natural strata, this included a series of concrete World War 2 air raid shelters.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological mitigation excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at the former Ford Stamping Plant, Kent Avenue, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham RM9 6SA, TQ 49280 83203 (Figure 1). These works took place in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site.
- 2.2 The site was located on land previously occupied by the Ford Stamping Plant, a large industrial complex, with an approximate area of 17.90ha in area. The archaeological excavation was located within the northern extent of the site, centred on the previously undertaken evaluation Trench 10/10A, located on the higher gravel terrace (Figure 2).
- 2.3 The site was previously subject to an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Archer 2017), a geotechnical exercise (Quest 2017), an archaeological evaluation (Seddon 2018) and an historic building assessment (Matthews and Valcarcel forthcoming). The overall archaeological evaluation revealed the presence of well developed prehistoric peat beds, which included the remains of a prehistoric forest, prehistoric and medieval pits and post-holes and air raid shelters that dated to the Second World War
- 2.4 This report details the results of the archaeological mitigation centred on evaluation Trench 10/10A, a second mitigation area is proposed to be centred on evaluation Trench 3, which encountered prehistoric peat beds, possible prehistoric pits a Mesolithic tree and an auroch bone. This mitigation stage will be undertaken at a later phase in the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.5 The archaeological investigations were commissioned by CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group). The field excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of the author and project managed by Helen Hawkins. The work was additionally monitored by Adam Single, Archaeological Advisor for the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 2.6 A site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018a) detailing the methodology and work programme for the archaeological investigation was prepared prior to the fieldwork and approved by Adam Single, Archaeological Advisor for the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 2.7 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited at the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) under the unique site code KNV17.





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06/06/19 RM

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:4,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27th 2012, (revised July 2018, updated February 2019) and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications. Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

3.1.2 In considering any proposal for development, including allocations in emerging development plans, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, existing development plan policy and of other material considerations.

3.2 Regional Guidance: The London Plan

3.2.1 Additional relevant planning strategy framework is provided by The London Plan, published January 2011. It includes the following policy of relevance to archaeology within central London:

Historic environments and landscapes

POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historical environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Planning decision

C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D Development affecting heritage assets and their setting should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological assets or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that assets.

LDF preparation

F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.

G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organizations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying, protecting, enhancing and improving access to the historic environment and heritage assets and their setting where appropriate, and to archaeological assets, memorials and historic and natural landscape character within their area.

3.3 London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Local Plan: Strategic Policies

3.3.1 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Barking & Dagenham Local Plan Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted July 2010. Relevant policy includes:

POLICY CP2: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING OUR HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Barking and Dagenham has a rich local history. Signs of our fishing, maritime and industrial heritage can still be seen for example at Barking Town Quay, the Ford works in Dagenham, and the Malthouse and Granary buildings on Abbey Road. The Becontree Estate, the Curfew Tower and remains of Barking and Abbey, Eastbury Manor House, Valence House and Dagenham Village are also important symbols of our past. However, compared to many other areas the Borough has relatively few protected historic environment assets such as listed buildings and conservations areas. With this in mind the Council will take particular care to:

- **Protect and wherever possible enhance our historic environment.**
- **Promote understanding of and respect for our local context.**
- **Reinforce local distinctiveness.**
- **Require development proposals and regeneration initiatives to be of a high quality that respects and reflects our historic context and assets.**

3.3.2 Further guidance is provided in the Borough Wide Development Policies:

POLICY BP3: ARCHAEOLOGY

The conservation or enhancement of archaeological remains and their settings will be

secured by:

A. Requiring an appropriate assessment and evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application for any developments in areas of known or potential archaeological interest.

B. Operating a presumption in favour of the conservation of scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings.

C. Requiring the conservation in situ of other archaeological remains or, where this is not justifiable or feasible and the need for the development and or other material considerations outweigh the importance of the remains, making provision for their excavation, recording and dissemination. Where appropriate, access to and interpretation of in-situ archaeological remains should be provided, if this is possible without having a detrimental impact on the site.

3.3.3 In terms of relevant designated heritage assets, as defined above, no designated World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield sites or Historic Wreck sites lie within the vicinity of the site. The site lies within the Ripple Road Archaeological Priority Area (HER Ref: DLO37897) as defined by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

3.3.4 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in line with an archaeological planning condition for a mitigation excavation area issued by Historic England/GLAAS. The work was designed within a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Hawkins 2018a) which was approved by the archaeological adviser to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Adam Single (GLAAS).

4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS Website, 2016) records the solid geology of the northern half of the study site as London Clay Formation (Clay, Silt and Sand) and the southern half of the study site as Lambeth Group (Clay, Silt and Sand). Superficial deposits are recorded throughout the study site as Alluvium (Clay, Silty, Peaty, Sandy) with Taplow Gravel Formation (Sand and Gravel) running across the northern boundary.
- 4.2 The geoarchaeological model (Quest 2017) suggested that an area of higher gravel was located in the north-west of the site, around QBH5 (Figure 3). In the south of the site, the alluvial deposits were extremely thick, as the ground descended towards the Thames. In the east of the site, a possible channel was noted around QBH2.
- 4.3 The site was located on generally level ground at a height of c.1m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The north west area of the site was slightly higher with a greater depth of made ground and generally level at a height of c.3.4m.
- 4.4 The Gores Brook runs north-south c.250m west of the study site towards the River Thames which is located c.1.25km to the south of the study site. The Dagenham Breach is located c.220m south east of the study site, which is an area of flooded marsh.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The full archaeological and historical background is given on the desk based assessment (Archer 2017) and not repeated here. A summary of the conclusions is given below
- 5.2 In terms of designated heritage assets, no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield sites or Historic Wreck sites lie within the study area search radius. The site lies within the Ripple Road Archaeological Priority Area (HER Ref: DLO37897) as defined by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, which covers the geological change from Thames foreshore peat deposits to the gravel to the north.
- 5.3 The map regression demonstrates that the site remained marshland with some use as agricultural land until the construction of the Briggs Motor Bodies and Kelsey- Hayes Wheel Company Works in 1932. The immediate surroundings have been developed with residential areas to the north and the Ford Motor Works to the south. The buildings of the former Ford Stamping Plant which used to occupy the site have been demolished.
- 5.4 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic & Neolithic
- 5.4.1 No certain finds dating to the Palaeolithic period have been recorded within the study area.
- 5.4.2 Two concentrations of early Mesolithic worked flint were found during excavations at Beam Washlands c.750m east of the study site (HER Ref: MLO99492, TQ50175 83672). A sequence of alluvial deposits were sampled c.600m south west of the study site, including peat which was thought to have been formed from marginal woodland close to the river/fenlands during the Late Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age (HER Ref: MLO105893, TQ48372 82937). The large tree encountered in Trench 3, c 4m below ground level was C14 dated to the Mesolithic period, which suggests that an aurochs bone found in an associated context was also of a similar date.
- 5.4.3 Fieldwork at the Hornchurch Marshes site, c.1.3km east of the site was carried out following the discovery of fine-grained mineral sediments, peat deposits and substantial parts of well-preserved ancient woodland. The earliest sediments recorded were fine-grained mineral rich deposits, apparently deposited in a freshwater fluvial environment. Peat accumulation occurred between c.6890-6560 years BP through to c.4160-3710 years BP, a period which was characterised by mixed fen woodland and followed by a return to fine-grained mineral rich sedimentation.
- 5.4.4 An early Neolithic pit or post hole was located during excavations at Dagenham Park Community School c.600m north of the study site (HER Ref: MLO103505, TQ49523 84028). The Dagenham Idol, a wooden figurine dated to the Neolithic period, was discovered in 1922 during installation of sewer pipes c.300m west of the study site (HER Ref: MLO5743, TQ4877 8331). The skeleton of a deer was discovered nearby, possibly within the same peat layer. Neolithic peat deposits were identified during a geoarchaeological assessment at Merrilands Crescent c.300m west of the site (HER Ref: MLO107515, TQ4887 8324).

- 5.4.5 A borehole sample of peat from the embankment just to the north of the current Wantz Stream channel has been radiocarbon dated to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age period and included a leaf-shaped arrowhead find (HER Ref: MLO99493, TQ50113 83559).
- 5.4.6 Several ditches were observed during an archaeological evaluation at Digby Garden allotments c.400m north of the study site; they were tentatively dated to the prehistoric period due to the presence of burnt flint in one of the ditches (HER Ref: MLO77561, TQ4921 8395). A pit or post hole of possible prehistoric date was discovered during a watching brief at Dagenham Park Community School c.600m north of the study site (HER Ref: MLO102689, TQ4954 8405). Construction of dams during the early 18th century close to the Dagenham Breach revealed moorlogs consisting of partly rotten yew timber (not decayed), brushwood, hazel nut and stag antlers (HER Ref: MLO47522, TQ5020 8304). These were considered to possibly be prehistoric although due to the length of time since the find, it is acknowledged that they could be of any date ranging from prehistory to the post-medieval period.
- 5.4.7 There is a lack of evidence relating to the study area for the Palaeolithic period. Based on current geotechnical surveys from the site, it is likely that the peat identified within the site is of a similar Mesolithic date to that identified by Batchelor at Hornchurch Marshes to the east. Current evidence indicates that there was activity within the study area during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and that activity of various levels took place across the wider area.
- 5.4.8 Bronze Age, Iron Age & Roman
- 5.4.9 A Bronze Age causeway, constructed of gravel, burnt flint and sand, was identified c.550m west of the study site (HER Ref: MLO59097, TQ4850 8320) as part of a peat deposit (HER Ref: MLO59100, TQ4850 8320). A further Bronze Age peat deposit was recorded c.150m south east of the study site (HER Ref: MLO61540, TQ4961 8281).
- 5.4.10 Archaeological investigations at Dagenham School c.600m north of the study site uncovered evidence of a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age landscape, including a ditched enclosure (HER Ref: MLO98232, TQ49495 84040). Quantities of briquetage were found in the various ditches and on top of the possible relict land surface, which may have come from a pottery kiln or were used in salt production.
- 5.4.11 Possible Middle Iron Age ditch termini were found during an excavation at Beam Washlands c.650m east of the study site (HER Ref: MLO78367, TQ50202 83633).
- 5.4.12 A Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement site was identified c.650m east of the study site during excavations at Beam Washlands comprising an agricultural area to the south, an industrial area to the north and a cremation cemetery.
- 5.4.13 The presence of the causeway is indicative of Bronze Age activity within the wider area whilst it seems likely that there was agricultural and possibly industrial salt production within the wider study area during the late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period. However it seems

likely that this activity would have been concentrated to the north beyond the marsh land limit during these periods.

5.4.14 Saxon/Early Medieval & Medieval

5.4.15 Dagenham was one of the earliest recorded Saxon settlements in Essex, first mentioned in a Charter of AD 687 (Powell 1966) whilst at the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey, the manor of Dagenham fell within the larger holding of Barking. No certain finds dating to the Saxon/Early Medieval period are recorded within the study area.

5.4.16 The Manor of Cockermouth is first attested in AD1250 and is located by the HER c.220m north west of the study site (HER Ref: MLO26064, TQ4892 8353). It consisted of a rectangular piece of land c.600 acres in extent of which nearly two thirds was marsh.

5.4.17 Documentary sources suggest that flooding in the 14th and 15th centuries flooded the entire area south of the study site which breached the flood defences and was allowed to become permanent (HER Ref: MLO20717, TQ4837 8231).

5.4.18 Although there is a lack of evidence for the Saxon and medieval periods, it seems likely that the site would have lain in marsh land used for pasture. Trench 10 of the evaluation found a number of medieval features of 12th century date (based on the pottery) which were probably rural or agricultural rather than settlement remains.

5.4.19 Post Medieval and Modern

5.4.20 Chapman and Andre's Map of 1777 shows the site in an area of marshland called 'Dagenham Marsh', immediately south east of 'Cockermouth'. The village of Dagenham is located c.1.25km north-east of the study site. A stream is depicted running west of the study site whilst there is a body of water south of the study site called 'the Gulph', which appears to be the early name for the Dagenham Breach.

5.4.21 The 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows the site in a similar situation. The site itself is shown in more detail with individual boundaries shown within the site. The road from Cockermouth southwards to the Thames, now Chequers Lane, is shown and had previously been known as Marsh Way (1563), West Marsh Lane (1630) and Breach Lane (1752). Cockermouth itself is now named 'America Farm'. The Gulph has increased in size and a small pond is shown immediately north of the study site.

5.4.22 The 1841 Dagenham tithe map shows the study site in a similar situation in land described as 1769 Horse Marsh (grass), 1770 Long Three Acres (arable), 1771 Part of Five Acre Marsh (grass), 1772 Part of Five Acre Marsh (grass), 1773 Acre Piece (grass), 1774 Dove House Marsh (grass), 1775 Top Marsh and Barn (grass), 1834 Ten Acre Marsh (arable) and 1836 In Old Field Common (arable). The field boundaries have been altered slightly since 1799 and New Road has been constructed to the north of the study site.

- 5.4.23 The Ordnance Survey Maps of 1864 and 1897 show no change to the site. The Tilbury and Southend Railway was constructed in 1854 and runs parallel to the southern boundary of the study site. By 1897, terraced residential housing has been developed east of Chequers Lane.
- 5.4.24 The Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1919-20 shows no change to the site. The railway has been expanded with the construction of Dagenham Dock station in 1908 and various goods and coal sidings. These were connected to the works to the south west of the station. Allotment gardens are marked on land immediately south of the site.
- 5.4.25 The Revised Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1939 shows the Briggs Motor Bodies and Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company manufactories on the site, both of which were constructed in 1932 after the land was bought for the Ford Motor Company. The Briggs building occupies the north central area of the site whilst the Kelsey-Hayes occupies the south east of the site. The power station building is shown in the centre of the study site in 1932 and 1939. A sports ground occupies the south west of the site whilst there are associated railway sidings connecting the works to the railway. The Ford works have been constructed south of the railway and various railway connections have been constructed to connect these works to the railway as well. Further residential development has occurred north of New Road.
- 5.4.26 A high explosive bomb is shown to have fallen in the vicinity of Kent Avenue during the Blitz of 1940-41 although there doesn't appear to have been serious damage caused on the study site. The 1945 Google Earth Image shows minor changes to the site with construction in the north west tip of the site and north east of the site. The archaeological evaluation of the site identified a number of air raid shelters, some of which were exposed and recorded by PCA.
- 5.4.27 An extension to the east side of the power station building is shown in 1953. Weinreb et al (2008) describe the site as the '1950s Body Plant', and major changes are shown to the buildings on the 1963 Ordnance Survey Map which have now been amalgamated into one building. This presumably took place after Briggs and Kelsey-Hayes were purchased and absorbed by Ford in the early 1950s. Extensions have been constructed in the south west of the study site over the sports ground, in the north east of the site and the south east of the site. A large factory has been built east of the site.
- 5.4.28 The Ordnance Survey Map of 1972-90 shows no change on site. The Ford Works have continued to expand to the west of the site. The 1999 Google Earth Image shows no change to the majority of site although it does show the demolition of buildings in the north west tip of the site. This demolition is also shown on the 2015 Google Earth Image which demonstrates the removal of railway sidings adjacent to the southern boundary of the site and the demolition of the works to east and west of the site. The Ford Motor Works ceased car production in 2002 although part of the site was retained as the Dagenham Diesel Centre.
- 5.4.29 The existing works have undergone extensive changes since original construction in 1932, with major expansion particularly in the 1950s. The power station building was extended to

the east by 1953 to accommodate the power demands from the enlarged works and improvements in technology and machinery.

- 5.4.30 The site would have lain in a mixture of marsh land used for pasture and agricultural land until the construction of the Works in 1932.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 A detailed methodology for the archaeological excavation is set in the site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018a). The methodology for the excavation comprised a rectangular mitigation area approximately 110 square metres centred on evaluation Trench 10, in site area 10, where medieval and possible prehistoric features had been identified on a higher gravel terrace above the marsh.
- 6.2 The excavation area was undertaken by a mechanical 360° excavator under archaeological supervision in controlled spits of up to 100mm until archaeological deposits, features or structures were encountered. These were then cleaned, investigated and recorded by archaeological staff using hand tools.
- 6.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2018a).
- 6.4 All site records were identified using the unique Museum of London site code KNV17, which was allocated to the site by the Museum of London, London Archaeological Archive (LAA) in 2017 at the start of the initial phase of evaluation. All numbering (i.e. trenches, contexts, sections etc) was sequential from the previous phase of work to ensure no duplication.
- 6.5 The investigation of all significant archaeological deposits, features and structures was undertaken by full-time archaeologists employed by PCA. All significant deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers and recorded using the standard Museum of London single context recording system. Context information was recorded on pro-forma context sheets and all plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively on polyester based drawing film (permatrace).
- 6.6 A full photographic record of the site was maintained in HQ digital photography.
- 6.7 All finds from the site were retained for off-site assessment.
- 6.8 Feature and site plans were drawn from baselines established and located to the OS grid using GPS survey equipment. Site levels and datums were established from a temporary benchmark installed by the PCA surveyor using GPS survey equipment.
- 6.9 Upon completion of all phases of work the complete site archive, include site records and photographs, will be deposited at the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) under the unique site code KNV17.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural sandy gravel

7.1.1 Natural sandy gravel deposits, contexts [110], [119] and [106], were recorded across the entire excavation area (Figure 3). These deposits were recorded between 2.09m OD in the northwest corner sloping down to 1.70m OD in the northeast and further sloping down to 1.94m OD in the southwest and 1.40m OD to the southeast. These deposits were consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey as the Taplow Gravel Member (BGS website 2019).

7.1.2 Sealing the natural sandy gravel in the eastern third of the excavation was a deposit of natural sandy-silty clay 'brickearth', context [105]. This deposit was recorded at 1.70m OD.

7.2 Phase 2.1: Medieval

7.3 Layer [104]

7.3.1 Sealing the natural sandy-gravel in the eastern end of the excavation area was a sandy-clay silt deposit [104], (Figure 3). This layer, recorded at 1.68m OD, survived for an area which measured 4.3m by 2.9m and appeared to have accumulated naturally. This was attested to by deposit [104] increasing in thickness to the southeast from 0.12m to 0.23m. A single sherd of Essex shell-tempered ware (SEMS) dated to 1100-1300 and a residual sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this layer (Appendix 3).

7.4 Phase 2.2: Medieval

7.4.1 Ditch [101]

7.4.2 Cutting the natural deposits in the western end of the excavation area was a linear feature alongside which was a circular pit/posthole. Ditch [101] ran northeast-southwest through the excavation for a length of 8.5m, continuing both north and south beyond the excavation limit, and was 0.9m wide by 0.28m deep (Figure 3). A single clay-silt deposit, [100], filled the ditch from which was recovered a single sherd of Essex unsourced sandy orange ware (SOWX) dated to 1200-1550 (Appendix 3). This ditch was recorded at 2.09m OD sloping down to 1.94m OD to the south.

7.4.3 Pit [108]

7.4.4 Located just to the east of ditch [101] was a circular feature, [108] (Figure 3). This feature, recorded at 2.04m OD, measured 0.9m by 0.05m by 0.35m deep and was filled with a single sterile and homogenous light grey sandy silt deposit [107] which contained no material culture and therefore remains undated.

7.4.5 Pit [112]

7.4.6 A series of features were recorded through the centre of the excavation area cutting the natural sandy gravel (Figure 3). Pit [112] was circular in shape with dimensions of 1.68m by 1.44m and was 0.38m deep. Recorded at 1.98m OD this feature was identified during the previous evaluation as cut [30], the fill of which, [29], contained a small assemblage of pottery dated to the mid to late 12th century (Seddon 2018). The continuation of this pit beyond the evaluation trench, recorded during the excavation phase, yielded no further dating evidence.

7.4.7 Ditch [114]

7.4.8 Just east of pit [112] was a ditch [114] which ran northeast-southwest through the excavation area for a length of 2.4m, continuing south beyond the excavation limit and apparently terminating at its northern end (Figure 3). The northern end more likely, however, was not a terminus but instead was horizontally truncated as the feature rose in height to the north. Recorded at 1.89m OD the ditch was 1.22m wide by 0.25m deep. This ditch was previously recorded during the evaluation as [32] the fill of which, [31], contained a small assemblage of pottery dated to the 12th century (Seddon 2018). The continuation of this ditch beyond the evaluation trench, recorded during the excavation phase, yielded no further dating evidence.

7.4.9 Postholes [28] and [116]

7.4.10 To the east of ditch [112] were two pits or large postholes in probable association. Posthole [28] (Figure 3) was fully excavated and recorded during the evaluation and required no further investigation during the excavation stage. Fills [27] and [26] were identified as post-packing and a post-pipe within this feature and yielded no dating evidence. This posthole was recorded at 1.76m OD and had dimensions of 0.92m by 0.63m and was 0.35m deep.

7.4.11 East of posthole [28] lay pit/posthole [116] (Figure 3). This pit was ovoid in shape with dimensions of 1.20m by 0.7m, was 0.35m deep and was filled by a single homogenous silt deposit [115]. Located at 1.9m OD this feature was previously recorded during the evaluation as [34] and yielded no dating evidence. The continuation of this feature recorded during the excavation phase also contained no material culture and therefore remains undated.

7.4.12 Circular feature [118]

7.4.13 Located to the east of pit [116] was truncated circular feature [118] (Figure 3). This possible circular feature had recorded dimensions of 1.06m by 0.40m but was truncated on its eastern side by the 20th -century concrete air raid shelters. This truncated feature was recorded at 1.9m OD and was 0.32m deep. The single silt deposit [117] which filled the feature contained no material culture and it therefore remains undated.

7.4.14 Ditch [103]

7.4.15 Cutting layer [104] at the eastern end of the excavation area was a ditch, [103] (Figure 3). Ditch [103] was aligned generally west northwest-east southeast running for a recorded length of 4m. At its eastern end it continued beyond the excavation limit and at the western end it was truncated by modern concrete (20th -century air raid shelters). Recorded at 1.7m OD this ditch was 1.1m wide by 0.40m deep. The single sandy-clay silt deposit [102] which filled the ditch yielded a single sherd of Essex shell-tempered ware (SEMS) dated to 1100-1300 (Appendix 3).

7.4.16 Phase 3: Modern

7.4.17 Modern made ground deposits sealed the archaeological features and a series of modern intrusions were located throughout the excavation including foundation pads and 20th -century air raid shelters and associated construction cuts.

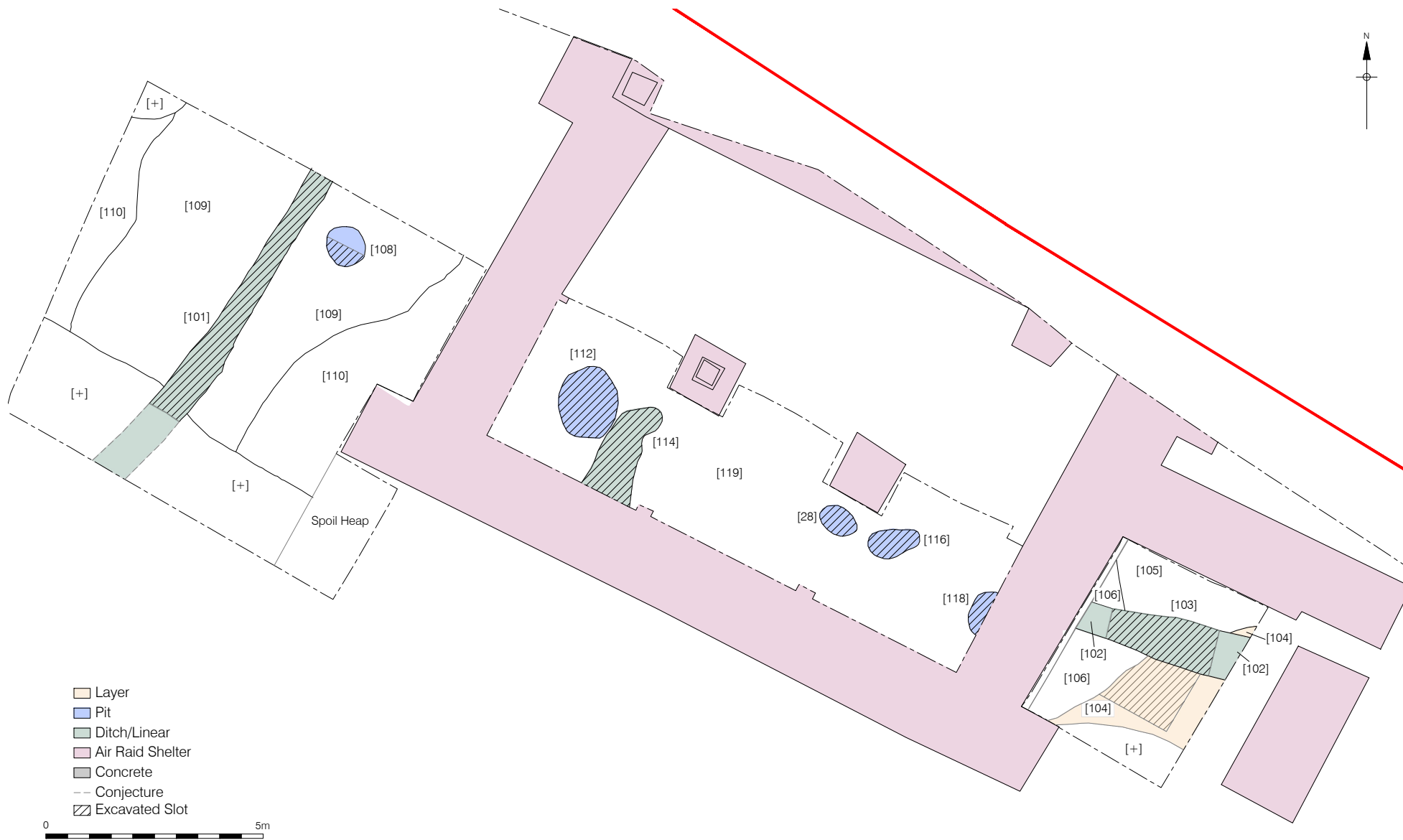


Figure 3
 Plan of Features
 1:125 at A4

PLATES



Plate 1: Ditch [101] and pit [108] facing northeast (1m scale)



Plate 2: Ditch [101] and pit [108] facing southeast, (1m scale)



Plate 3: Pit/postholes [116] and [28] facing northwest, (1m scale)



Plate 4: Pit [112] and ditch [114] facing southeast, (1m scale)



Plate 5: Ditch [103] and layer [104] facing south, (1m scale)



Plate 6: Ditch [103] and layer [104] facing east, (1m scale)

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

8.1 Phase 1: Natural

8.2 Natural deposits were recorded across the excavation area which were consistent with the known underlying geology, predominantly being the Taplow Gravel Member, recorded with a slope from north to south between 2.09m OD and 1.4m OD. In the eastern part of the excavation a natural brickearth deposit sealed the terrace gravel and was recorded at 1.7m OD.

8.3 Phase 2: Medieval

8.4 The earliest evidence for human activity recorded during the excavation appeared to date to the medieval period. This activity was divided into two sub-phases, the first being a naturally deposited alluvial deposit, [104]. This deposit thickened to the south towards a considerable slope in the natural terrace gravel which was identified during the archaeological evaluation (Seddon 2018). The slope represented the interface between the higher gravel terrace and alluvial deposits associated with the River Thames. A single sherd of Essex shell-tempered ware (SEMS) dated to AD1100-1300 and a residual sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit (Appendix 3) which suggests deposition during, or not long after, the medieval period. Cartographic evidence, albeit considerably later, illustrates the area of the site to lie within Dagenham Marsh in the 18th century. This marshland was undoubtedly present during the medieval period and the layer recorded during the excavation most likely represents such marshland deposits.

8.5 A small group of features were recorded during the excavation which also appeared to date to the medieval period and represent the secondary sub-phase of activity. This activity was represented by three ditches, two of which were aligned northeast-southwest and the third as west northwest-east southeast. Limited dating evidence was recovered from all three of these features; a single sherd of Essex shell-tempered ware (SEMS) dated to AD1100-1300, a single sherd of Essex unsourced sandy orange ware (SOWX) dated to AD1200-1550 (Appendix 3), and a small assemblage of pottery dated to the 12th century, initially recovered during the evaluation stage (Seddon 2018). These ditches most likely represent simple drainage features within the Dagenham Marsh during the medieval period.

8.6 Also recorded across the excavation area was a series of five pits and possible postholes. These appeared to all be on the same northwest-southeast alignment but this may have been deceptive due to the size of the area excavated, they clearly did not form part of a continuous feature or structure as they were notably different in size, shape and depth. Only one of these features, shallow pit [112], contained dating evidence recovered during the evaluation phase consisting of mid-late 12th century pottery, fill [29] of pit [30] as recorded during the evaluation (Seddon 2018). The remainder of these undated features had a very similar deposit filling them, a dark brown sandy-silt, and therefore are allocated to this phase of activity. The only

exception to this was pit [108] at the western end of the excavation area which had a light greyish-blue silty-sand deposit filling it, [107], the appearance of which suggested the deposit may have been of some antiquity. It cannot therefore be discounted that this feature may actually represent an earlier period of activity currently unidentified, but without definitive evidence this cannot be ascertained precisely. It should be noted that the location of the site lies within an area of extensive and well-documented prehistoric and Roman settlement activity, see Beam Washlands and Mardyke Estate (Biddulph et al. 2010 & Hawkins 2018c). The pits and possible postholes recorded during the excavation therefore represent peripheral activity on the edge of the marshland including possible rubbish disposal and temporary structures such as postholes and fence lines.

- 8.7 The presence of medieval activity and a small assemblage of associated medieval pottery, representing domestic vessels predominantly cooking pots, is somewhat unusual as the site most likely lay as open marshland during this period with little settlement in close proximity. It seems unlikely that this domestic detritus would have been dumped very far away from its source and therefore it has some potential to provide information on medieval activity in the close proximity to the site; this potential is, however, low due to the limited size of the ceramic assemblage recovered.

9 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND REVISED RESEARCH QUESTIONS

9.1 A number of research aims were identified subsequent to the evaluation phase which detailed were detailed within the specific Written Scheme of Investigation documents for the mitigation phase (Hawkins 2018a). These research aims and questions are addressed below.

9.2 General Research Objective

To establish if further medieval material is present in the Trench 10 area and investigate what that area was being used for. To date the features cut by the medieval material and establish their purpose.

The excavation recorded further features of a medieval date comprising of a series of drainage ditches, pits and possible postholes. The ceramic assemblage recovered during the excavation phase was of a similar nature and date to evaluation assemblage illustrating contemporary activity of this period. The activity of this medieval period appeared to be peripheral on the edge of marshland on the northern bank of the River Thames.

9.3 Revised Research Aims

9.4 The results of the archaeological excavation raised a limited number of new research questions relating to the archaeological remains uncovered.

Can the source of the medieval domestic ceramic assemblage be more precisely attributed to a source?

Can the undated features be better assigned to a period of activity?

10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS

10.1 Importance of the Results

10.1.1 The archaeological excavation recorded very limited activity attributed to the medieval period. This activity was divided into two sub-phases (Medieval phases 2.1 and 2.2), the first representing a naturally accumulated alluvial deposit on the interface between the terrace gravel and the alluvium associated with the River Thames and the second being a series of drainage ditches, pits and possible postholes. The recorded archaeological features therefore are of little significance due to the paucity of remains.

10.2 Further Work

10.3 Pottery

10.3.1 A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from the archaeological excavation and previous evaluation which can add to an understanding of 12th century activity on the site and the ceramic profile for north-east London. However, the size of this assemblage means that is of limited significance and recommendations for further work consists only of the assemblage published as a small report, none of the pottery merits illustration to supplement this text.

10.4 Publication Proposal

10.4.1 Due to the limited importance of the archaeological remains recorded during the excavation it is proposed that the site be published within the 'fieldwork round up' section of London Archaeologist and will include a greater emphasis on the medieval ceramic assemblage.

11 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 Paper Records

Context Sheets	20 sheets
Plans	10 sheets
Sections	2 sheets

11.2 The Finds

Pottery	1 Box
CBM	1 Bag

11.3 Digital Archive

11.3.1 48 digital images

12 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- 12.4 The author would also like to thank the field team for their hard work during the excavation; Phil Frickers, Amparo Valcarcel, Ellen Green and Esther Capuz-Duran.

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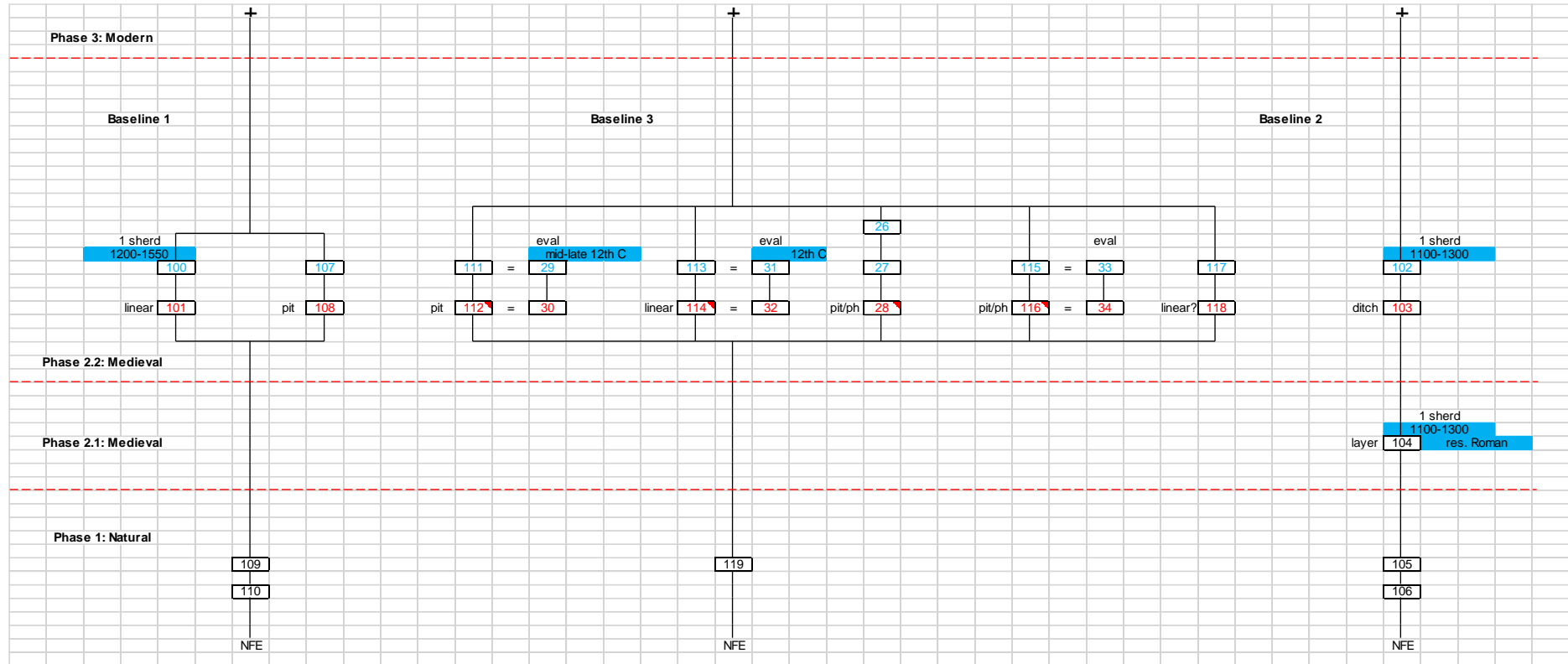
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	Fill_of	CTX_ Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Levels_high	Levels_low	Phase
100	Fill	101	Fill of linear [101]	8.5	0.9	0.28	2.1	1.82	2.2
101	Cut		NE-SW aligned ditch	8.5	0.9	0.28	2.1	1.66	2.2
102	Fill	103	Fill of ditch [103]	4	1.1	0.4	1.7		2.2
103	Cut		WNW-ESE aligned ditch	4	1.1	0.4	1.7	1.3	2.2
104	Layer		Probable alluvial layer	4.3	2.9	0.23	1.68	1.64	2.1
105	Layer		Natural brickearth	1.7	3.62		1.7		1
106	Layer		Natural terrace gravel	3.9	1.7		1.7	1.4	1
107	Fill	108	Fill of pit [108]	0.9	0.95	0.35	2.04		2.2
108	Cut		Circular pit	0.9	0.95	0.35	2.04	1.69	2.2
109	Layer		Natural sand layer				2.1	1.94	1
110	Layer		Natural terrace gravel				2.09	1.94	1
111	Fill	112	Fill of pit [112]	1.68	1.44	0.38	1.98		2.2
112	Cut		Circular pit	1.68	1.44	0.38	1.98	1.6	2.2
113	Fill	114	Fill of linear feature [114]	2.4	1.22	0.25	1.89		2.2
114	Cut		NE-SW aligned ditch	2.4	1.22	0.25	1.89	1.64	2.2
115	Fill	116	Fill of posthole/pit [116]	1.2	0.7	0.35	1.9		2.2
116	Cut		Circular pit/posthole	1.2	0.7	0.35	1.9	1.55	2.2
117	Fill	118	Fill of circular feature [118]	0.4	1.06	0.32	1.9		2.2
118	Cut		Circular pit	0.4	1.06	0.32	1.9	1.58	2.2
119	Layer		Natural terrace gravel	12.1	3.8		1.98	1.78	1

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POST-ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

INTRODUCTION

Pottery from an earlier phase of archaeological work has been previously reported upon (Jarrett 2018) and this report considers finds recovered from contexts [100] to [104]. This archaeological work produced a total of four sherds of pottery, representing 4 estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weighing 29g, of which none are unstratified. The pottery dates to the Roman and medieval periods and was found in three contexts. The assemblage consists solely of sherd material, although diagnostic parts are represented and most fragments can be assigned to a form at a basic level. The material is in a variable condition (two sherds are abraded) indicating that it was deposited under both secondary and tertiary conditions. The pottery was quantified by sherd count, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight and was classified according to the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA 2014). The assemblage is discussed by pottery types and its distribution.

POTTERY TYPES

The break down of the pottery types by period is as follows:

Roman: 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 4g

Medieval: 3 sherds, 3 ENV, 25g

The range of pottery types and their quantification recorded are shown in Table 1, which also shows the pottery forms found in each type.

Pottery type	Date range	Code	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Forms
Roman						
Un sourced oxidised ware	AD 40–100	OXID	1	1	4	flagon
Medieval						
South Essex shell-tempered ware	AD 1100–1300	SEMS	2	2	20	Cooking pot jar, unidentified
Essex un sourced sandy orange ware	AD 1200–1550	SOWX	1	1	5	Unidentified

Table 1. KNV17: medieval pottery quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV), weight and the forms that occur in the different types

Roman

The sherd of Roman pottery consists of the vertical loop strap handle of a probable flagon made in un sourced oxidised ware (OXID), dated AD 40–400. The sherd is abraded and was residual in context [104].

Medieval

The three sherds of medieval pottery are represented by two types of ware. The first consists of South Essex shell-tempered ware (SEMS), dated AD 1100–1300 and both sherds were probably derived from jars used as cooking pots: both vessels have external sooting. A convex base sherd was noted in deposit [102] while a body sherd was recovered from context [104]. The second type of medieval pottery is recorded as Essex un sourced sandy orange ware (SOWX), dated 1200–1550, although it is more likely to date to the beginning of that date range. The sherd is an abraded body fragment and was recovered from context [100].

Distribution

The distribution of the pottery is shown in Table 2, which shows for each context pottery occurs in, the feature it was derived from, the phase, size, number of sherds, ENV and weight, besides the date range of the latest pottery type (Context ED/LD), the pottery types present and a spot date for the deposition. Pottery was only recovered from Phase 2.1 and 2.2 dated features.

Context	Fill of	Phase	Size	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Context ED	Context LD	Pottery types	Spot date
100	101	2.2	S	1	1	5	1200	1550	SOWX	1200–1550
102	103	2.2	S	1	1	13	1100	1300	SEMS	1100–1300
104	-	2.1	S	1	1	9	1100	1300	OXID, SEMS	1100–1300

Table 2. KNV17: distribution of the pottery. Sherd count: SC, estimated number of vessels: (ENV), weight in grams: Wt (g)

Significance and potential of the assemblage and recommendations for further work

The assemblage is of little significance although it complements the larger quantity of early medieval pottery recovered from the previous phase of archaeological work (Jarrett 2018) and adds to an understanding of the 12th-century activity on the site, besides the ceramic profile for north east London. Comparable local pottery assemblages are known from Barking, located four miles to the west of the study area and from such sites as Axe Street (Carew *et al* 2009), London Road/North Street, (Jarrett 2014) and Barking Abbey (e.g. Jennings n.d.), besides other sites in the London Borough of Havering (Howell *et al* 2011). The potential of the pottery is to date the features it was found in and adds to the knowledge of early medieval activities occurring on the study area. It is recommended that the pottery from this and the earlier phase of archaeological work is published as a small report. None of the medieval pottery from the KNV17 site merits illustration to supplement the publication text.

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APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-361882

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Excavation at the former Ford Stamping Plant, Dagenham
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Excavation at the former Ford Stamping Plant, Dagenham, RM9 6SA was centred on a previously undertaken evaluation trench which recorded medieval activity. The excavation recorded natural gravel between 2.09m OD and 1.4m OD sealed by brickearth in one location at 1.7m OD. A series of drainage ditches, pits and possible postholes were recorded many of which contained pottery dated to the medieval period although some of the features yielded no dating evidence.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2019 End: 19-02-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	KNV17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation","Part Excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM DAGENHAM Former Ford Stamping Plant, Dagenham
Postcode	RM6 6SA
Site coordinates	TQ 49280 83203 51.527473061124 0.152230434861 51 31 38 N 000 09 08 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.4m Max: 2.09m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project	Helen Hawkins

director/manager
Project supervisor Neil Hawkins
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC
Physical Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient LAARC
Digital Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Media available "Database","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Contents "Ceramics"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan"

Project bibliography 1

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Entered on 1 August 2019

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

UNIT 19A, TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
TURSDALE
DURHAM DH6 5PG
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01223 845522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com

