

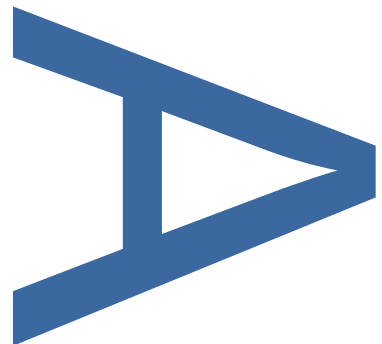
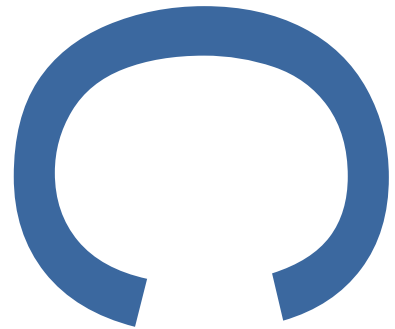
**THE HARTLEY CENTRE,  
267 BARKING ROAD,  
LONDON E6 1LB**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF**

**SITE CODE: BAI19**

**PCA REPORT NO: R13815**

**AUGUST 2019**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**THE HARTLEY CENTRE,  
267 BARKING ROAD, LONDON E6 1LB**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Quality Control

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd</b>	
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Report Number	R13815

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**THE HARTLEY CENTRE, 267 BARKING ROAD, LONDON E6 1LB  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Site Code:** BAI19

**Central NGR:** TQ 42277 83527

**Local Planning Authority:** LB Newham

**Commissioning Client:** RPS Consulting

**Written/Researched by:** Ester Capuz-Duran  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during geotechnical investigations on land at The Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, London E6 1LB in the London Borough of Newham, consisting of 6 boreholes, 6 trial pits and 3 trenches.
- 1.2 The investigation recorded the Lambeth stratigraphic group from a depth of 20.50m BGL, bedrock London clays from a depth of 5m BGL and natural gravels from a depth of 0.80m BGL in all the boreholes, and natural gravels and sands in all the trenches from a depth of 0.60m BGL. None of the test pits were deep enough to reach the natural deposits.
- 1.3 Late post-medieval levelling and modern made ground completed the sequence in all locations.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was appointed by RPS Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations on land at The Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, London E6 1LB in the London Borough of Newham.
- 2.2 The site was centred at TQ 42277 83527 (Figure 1), and bound by Barking Road to the south, buildings fronting Barking Road to the east, Hartley Avenue to the west and buildings fronting Hartley Avenue to the north.
- 2.3 The geotechnical contractor (Southern Testing Ltd.) excavated 6 boreholes, 6 trial pits and 3 trenches (Figure 2) between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019, under constant archaeological supervision by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), following a methodology outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2019).

## **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Planning permission is being sought for the development of the site. To inform upon the site's archaeological potential, PCA monitored a planned suite of geotechnical site investigation (SI) works. The SI work comprised six trial pits, three trenches and six boreholes.
- 3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2019) was prepared for the investigation which designed the watching brief.
- 3.3 The site is located within a Tier 2 Archaeology Priority Area, as defined by the local planning authority – this is focused upon the medieval core to East Ham along the High Street, a short distance to the east of the site.

## **4 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND**

*The following is summarised from the WSI (Mayo 2019):*

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey records that the site is located upon the superficial Taplow Gravel Member (Sand and Gravel), which sits upon London Clay bedrock geology.
- 4.2 The site has until recently been occupied by buildings and hard-surfaces including a multi-use games area. It is generally level at a height of around 7.3m OD.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

*The following is summarised from the WSI (Mayo 2019):*

- 5.1 An investigation by PCA at the Former Co-Op Site on High Street North, was sited approximately 200m to the east at the junction of High Street North and St Johns Road. The following historic background is derived from the evaluation report completed further to a field evaluation there (Koussiounelos 2015).

## **Prehistoric**

- 5.2 Research indicates that a Roman Road – the Manor Park to North Woolwich Roman Road APA – might have followed an older route established during prehistoric times, which would have formed a critical route to a River Thames crossing. This route would also be where settlements might have developed and it would have connected the site area to a large Iron Age riverside fort, located on the south bank of the River Thames in Woolwich.
- 5.3 Several Paleolithic finds have been recorded in the area, including axes and flake implements.
- 5.4 Various features dated broadly to late prehistoric times have been excavated in the area, including a gully, five pits and postholes.
- 5.5 During an excavation at Vicarage Infant School undertaken by PCA a layer of brickearth with moderate gravel was recorded and it is likely it was first present in prehistoric times. A drainage ditch dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age was also recorded during the same excavation.
- 5.6 An Early Iron Age cut feature containing pottery sherds was identified during an archaeological evaluation at 137-141 High Street North.

## **Roman**

- 5.7 The Manor Park to North Woolwich Road was established during Roman times. Excavations at 149-153 High Street North discovered Roman features such as a linear ditch and two pits, indicating that settlements could have been established along this road.
- 5.8 A Roman cemetery is also known to have existed to the west of St. Mary's Church.

## **Anglo Saxon and Medieval**

- 5.9 In a charter of AD958 a settlement was recorded in the East Ham area as 'Hamme'. During an excavation at the Vicarage Infant School a large linear cut measuring 22m (north-west) was uncovered and it is thought to be either a drainage or boundary ditch dating to the Early Medieval period.

## **Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 5.10 There are a series of documented post-medieval features in the area. Of significance is an 18th century gravel quarry excavated at the site of the East Ham Methodist Church, which was dug into natural brickearth and backfilled over a lengthy period. This site also contained rubbish deposits, a number of postholes, an 18th-century cess pit, 19th-century rubbish pits and a linear feature containing potsherds dated to the 16th to the 18th centuries. Also, a thick 'ploughsoil' was recorded containing 18th-century finds during a watching brief undertaken at Masterman Road.
- 5.11 It was only during the 19th century that the area becomes urbanized with the opening of Beckton Gas Works.

## 6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Six boreholes, six trial pits and three trenches were excavated as per the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2019).

6.2 All the proposed boreholes, trial pits and trenches were carried out as expected with the following dimensions:

Window Sample	Dimensions	Max. depth BGL	Surface height
BH1	0.16m dia	30m BGL	0m BGL
BH2	0.16m dia	25m BGL	0m BGL
BH3	0.16m dia	25m BGL	0m BGL
BH4	0.16m dia	30m BGL	0m BGL
BH5	0.16m dia	25m BGL	0m BGL
BH6	0.16m dia	30m BGL	0m BGL
TP1	0.44m x 0.24m	0.94m BGL	0m BGL
TP2	0.40m x 0.40m	1.58m BGL	0m BGL
TP3	0.80m x 0.50m	0.48m BGL	0m BGL
TP4	0.40m x 0.40m	1.30m BGL	0m BGL
TP5	0.58m x 0.56m	1.75m BGL	0m BGL
TP6	0.20m x 0.40m	0.60m BGL	1.40m BGL
TRENCH 1	10.00m x 2.50m	1.60m BGL	0m BGL
TRENCH 2	10.00m x 2.50m	1.50m BGL	0m BGL
TRENCH 3	10.00m x 2.50m	1.65m BGL	0m BGL

6.3 All interventions were completed by hand under constant supervision of the attendant archaeologist over the course of seven days. Location plans were drawn 1:250 and a section of each trial pit, bore hole and trenches were drawn at 1:10 showing the location of all archaeological strata.



## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was the Lambeth Group sand layer detailed as follows:

BH	Context	Depth BGL
1	[15]	21.50m
2	[16]	21.50m
3	[27]	20.50m
4	[33]	20.90m
5	[37]	21.00m
6	[41]	22.30m

The sand had a thickness of at least 3.50m to 9.10m.

7.1.2 Sealing the Lambeth Group sand in all boreholes was London Clay, detailed as follows:

BH	Context	Depth BGL
1	[36]	16.40m
2	[40]	16.20m
3	[10]	14.70m
4	[32]	15.90m
5	[26]	15.70m
6	[14]	17.30m

7.1.3 The clay was mid blueish grey and very firm.

7.1.4 Sealing the clay [10] in BH3 was a different clay deposit, which was brown in colour and was encountered at a level of 5.50m BGL with a thickness of 0.30m.

7.1.5 Natural sand [6] was found in Trench 2 at a depth of 1.20m BGL with a thickness of 0.20m exposed.

7.1.6 The above deposits were overlain by natural gravels, detailed as follows:

BH	Context	Depth BGL
1	[35]	0.80m
2	[39]	0.90m
3	[8]	0.80m
4	[31]	1.80m
5	[25]	1.35m
6	[13]	2.10m

7.1.7 In Trench 1 and BH6 the gravels were sealed by a natural deposit of sand, contexts [2] and [12] respectively. The former was 0.20m thick from 1.20m BGL, the latter was 0.30m thick from 1.80m BGL

- 7.1.8 From the surface of layer [25] in BH6 a possible worked lithic was retrieved. It had been struck and is possibly prehistoric, however it could easily have been formed by impact for example from the BH apparatus<sup>1</sup>.

## **7.2 Phase 2: 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

- 7.2.1 The earliest deposit attributed to this phase comprised a made ground layer which included frequent 19<sup>th</sup> century detritus. It was identified in TP4 (context [21]) and TP5 (context [22]) at a depth of 0.60m BGL and 0.36m BGL.
- 7.2.2 A similar made ground layer [4] was also observed in Trench 2 at a depth of 0.50m BGL, and with thicknesses of between 0.50m and 0.30m.

## **7.3 Phase 3: Modern**

- 7.3.1 The sequence was completed by layers [1], [3], [7], [11], [17], [18], [19], [20], [23], [24], [28], [30], [34] and [38] all being a silty sand and demolition material bedding layer for the site's surface.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The boreholes all showed natural gravels at depths between 0.80m BGL and 1.80m BGL. The natural horizons were sealed by 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground layers and modern made ground mainly consisting of demolition material.
- 8.2 A possible lithic recovered from the gravel arisings in BH 6 could easily have been the result of the modern work, and therefore it should be discounted at this stage. No other finds or features were observed.
- 8.3 The results the site investigation will be published as a minimum by PCA as a summary in the annual 'Round Up' of *London Archaeologist*.
- 8.4 The project archive will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) under the site code BAI19.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank RPS Consulting for commissioning the work and Eliza Richardson as well as KF Drilling Ltd and South Eastern Drilling Ltd for the help and co-operation during excavation.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Diana Valk for preparing the illustrations, Ella Egberts for assessing the flint and Chris Mayo for project management and editing.

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<sup>1</sup> pers comm E. Egberts, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, 27/08/19

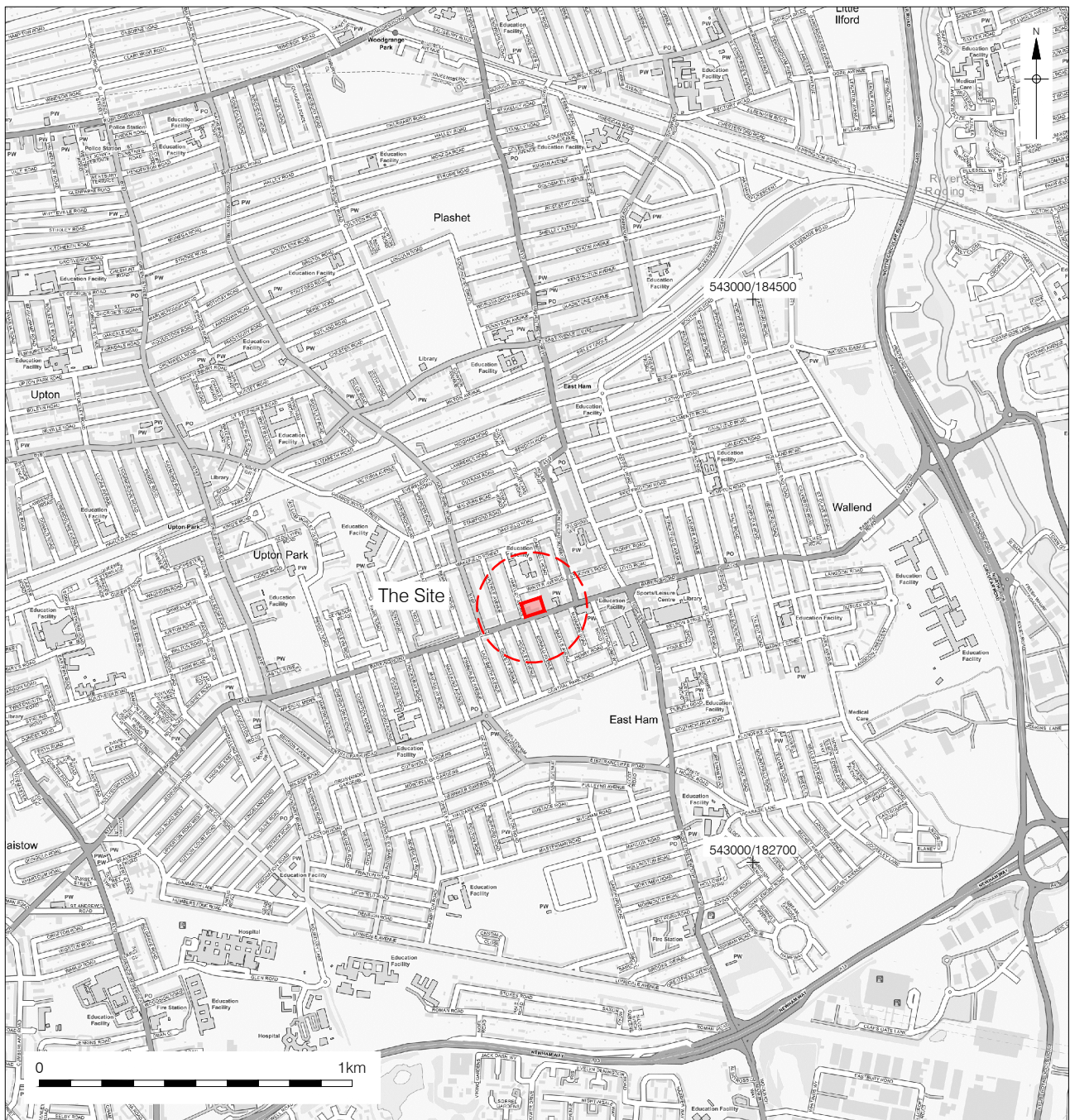
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Koussiounelos, D 2015, "The Former Co-Op Site, High Street North East Ham, London Borough of Newham E6. An Archaeological Evaluation", unpublished report for PCA, number R12254

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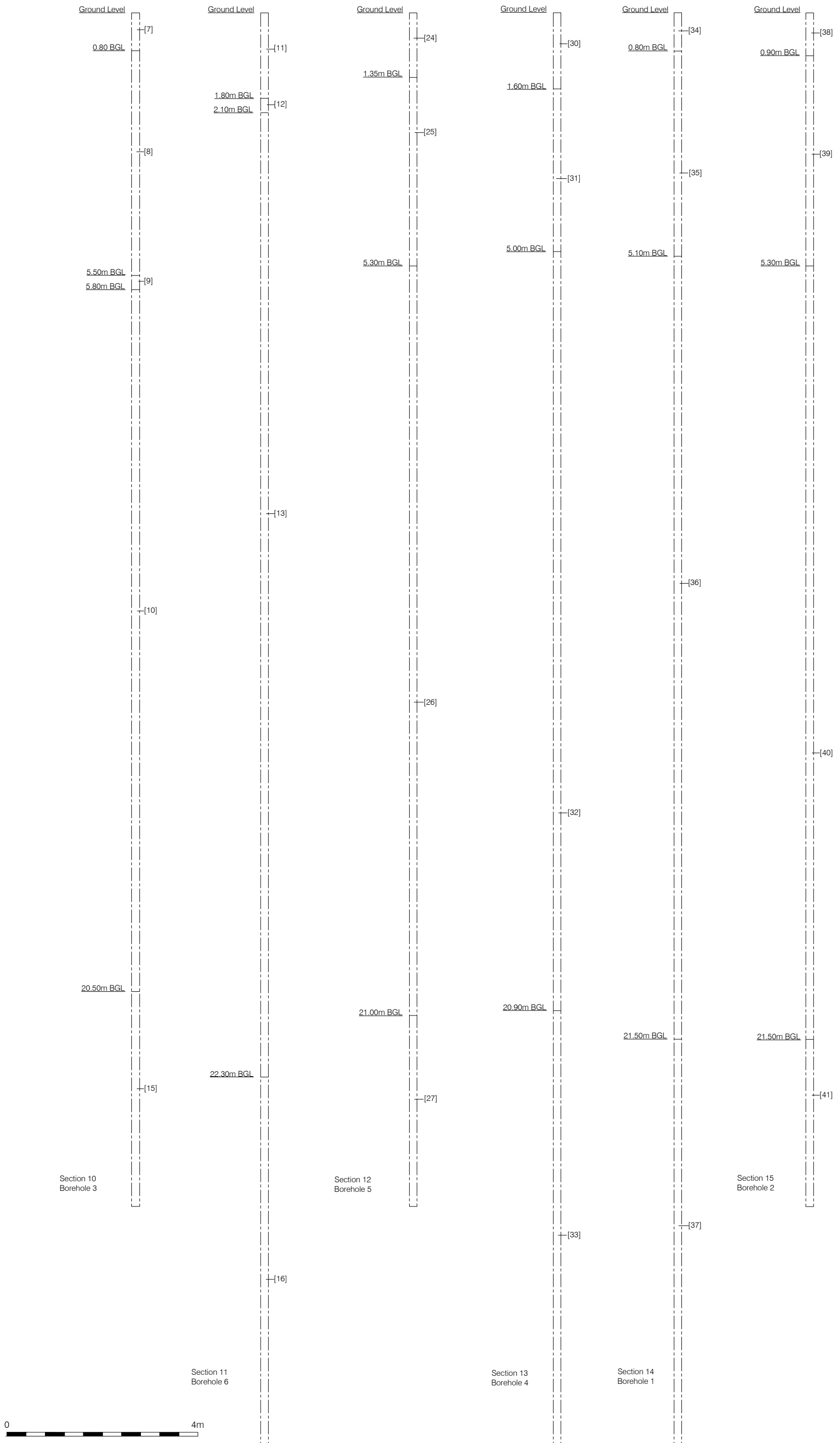


Figure 3  
Borehole Sections  
1:80 at A3

## APPENDIX 1: SITE MATRIX

PHASING	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5	TP6	BH1	BH2	BH3	BH4	BH5	BH6	TR1	TR2	TR3
									+						
MODERN	17	18	19	20		23	34	38	7	30	24	11	1	3	28
19TH C.				21	22									4	
							35	39	8	31	25	13	2		29
									9					5	
							36	40	10	32	26	14		6	
NATURAL							37	41	15	33	27	16			
									NFE						

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	CTX_Type	CTX_equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX_Depth
1	Layer	3/7/11/17/18/19/20/ 23/24/28/30/34/38	1	Demolition layer - Levelling layer	1.3
2	Layer	12/29	1	Natural Sands.	0.2
3	Layer	1/7/11/17/18/19/20/ 23/24/28/30/34/38	2	Made Ground	0.5
4	Layer		2	Made Ground	0.5
5	Layer	8/25/31/35/39	2	Natural Sandy Gravels	1.3
6	Layer		2	Natural sand deposit.	0.2
7	Layer	1/3/11/17/18/19/20/ 23/24/28/30/34/38	BH3	Made Ground- Levelling Layer.	0.8
8	Layer	5/13/25/31/35	BH3	Natural Sandy Gravels	4.7
9	Layer		BH3	Deposit of Brickearth; natural.	0.3
10	Layer	14/26/32/36/40	BH3	Bedrock, London clay.	14.7
11	Layer		BH6	Made ground; Levelling Layer.	1.8
12	Layer	29/2	BH6	Natural sand layer.	0.3
13	Layer	5/8/25/31/34/39	BH6	Natural sandy gravels.	2.9
14	Layer	10/26/32/36/40	BH6	Bedrock; London Clay.	17.3
15	Layer	16/27/33/37/41	BH3	Lambeth Group.	4.5
16	Layer	15/27/33/37/41	BH6	Lambeth Group.	7.7
17	Layer	1/3/7/11/18/19/20/2 324/28/30/34/38	TP1	Made Ground	0.78
18	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/19/20/2 324/28/30/34/38	TP2	Made ground	0.42
19	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/20/2 324/28/30/34/38	TP3	Made ground	0.48
20	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/23/2 4/28/30/34/38/19	TP4	Made ground	0.6
21	Layer	22	TP4	Made ground	0.7
22	Layer	21	TP5	Made ground	1.39
23	Layer		TP6	Made ground	0.6
24	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/23/2 0/28/30/34/38/19	BH5	Made ground	1.35
25	Layer	5/8/13/31/35/39	BH5	Natural Sandy Gravels	3.95
26	Layer	10/14/32/36/40	BH5	Bedrock; London Clay.	15.7
27	Layer	15/16/33/37/41	BH5	Lambeth Group.	4
28	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/23/2 4/20/30/34/38/19	3	Made ground	1.33
29	Layer	12/2	3	Natural sand layer.	0.32
30	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/23/2	BH4	Made ground	1.6

Context	CTX Type	CTX equal to	Trench	CTX Interpretation	CTX Depth
		4/28/20/34/38/19			
31	Layer	5/8/13/25/35/39	BH4	Natural Sandy Gravels	3.4
32	Layer	10/14/26/36/40	BH4	Bedrock; London Clay.	15.9
33	Layer	15/16/27/37/41	BH4	Lambeth Group.	9.1
34	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/23/2 4/28/30/20/38/19	BH1	Made ground	0.8
35	Layer	5/8/13/25/31/39	BH1	Natural Sandy Gravels	4.3
36	Layer	10/14/26/32/40	BH1	Bedrock; London Clay.	16.4
37	Layer	15/16/27/33/41	BH1	Lambeth Group.	8.5
38	Layer	1/3/7/11/17/18/23/2 4/28/30/34/20/19	BH2	Made ground	0.9
39	Layer	5/8/13/25/31/35	BH2	Natural Sandy Gravels	4.4
40	Layer	10/14/26/32/36	BH2	Bedrock; London Clay.	16.2
41	Layer	15/16/27/33/37	BH2	Lambeth Group.	3.5

### APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-364897

#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Hartley Centre, 267, Barking Road, London E6 1LB
Short description of the project	The investigation recorded the Lambeth stratigraphic group from a depth of 20.50m BGL, bedrock London clays from a depth of 5m BGL and natural gravels from a depth of 0.80m BGL in all the boreholes, and natural gravels and sands in all the trenches from a depth of 0.60m BGL. None of the test pits were deep enough to reach the natural deposits. Late post-medieval levelling and modern made ground completed the sequence in all locations.
Project dates	Start: 12-08-2019 End: 20-08-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BAI19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM EAST HAM The Hartley Centre, 267 Barking Road, London
Postcode	E6 1LB
Study area	2500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 42277 83527 51.532197420468 0.05146751953 51 31 55 N 000 03 05 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
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Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Ester Capuz Duran
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	RPS Consulting

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive ID	BAI19
Digital Archive recipient	LAA
Digital Archive ID	BAI19
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAA
Paper Archive ID	BAI19
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan","Report","Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Capuz-Duran, E.
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Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	28 August 2019

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