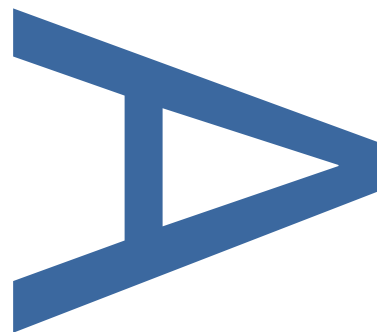
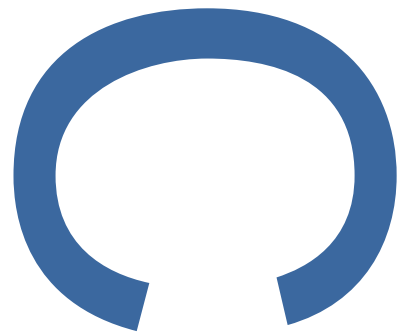


**382 MARE STREET,  
HACKNEY,  
LONDON,  
E8 1HR**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
TRIAL PIT EVALUATION**

**SITE CODE: MRJ19**

**SEPTEMBER 2019**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**382 MARE STREET, HACKNEY, LONDON E8 1HR**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL PIT EVALUATION**

Quality Control

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd</b>	
Project Number	K6300
Report Number	R13820

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**382 MARE STREET, HACKNEY, LONDON, E8 1HR**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL PIT EVALUATION**

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**Site Code:** MRJ19

**Central NGR:** TQ 34958 85103

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

**Planning Reference:** 2018/3476

**Commissioning Client:** RPS Consulting

**Written/Researched by:** Tanya Jones  
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**September 2019**

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological trial pit evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 382 Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 1HR. The site is located in the London Borough of Hackney and site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 34958 85103.
- 1.2 Following a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (2019), the archaeological investigation was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and it comprised hand excavation and recording of two test pits.
- 1.3 The pits were excavated to investigate locations of foundation for the new property measured 1m by 0.80m with a depth of 1.5m.
- 1.4 No natural deposits were encountered during the works carried out.
- 1.5 The archaeological horizons encountered appeared to be post-medieval in date and likely from domestic land use.
- 1.6 The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that no archaeological features or horizons had survived within the study area to the excavated depth of 1.5m.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results of an archaeological trial pit evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at 382 Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 1HR (Figure 1). The site is located in the London Borough of Hackney and site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 34958 85103.
- 2.2 Planning permission has been granted for the rear extension to provide a self-contained dwelling house and creation of pedestrian access in rear boundary wall of site (London Borough of Hackney Planning Ref 2018/3476).
- 2.3 A desk-based assessment was completed for the site (CgMs 2018) which identified a moderate potential for the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods and a low to moderate potential for the Palaeolithic and Roman periods.
- 2.4 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA (2019) which defined a programme of trial pit evaluation, approved by the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by PCA on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The investigation has taken place within the area of the proposed new rear extension to the existing house (Figure 2).
- 2.6 The investigation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Tanya Jones, and project management of Zbigniew Pozorski. The archaeological work was commissioned by Manca Petric of RPS Consulting.
- 2.7 The site archive was identified using the unique site code MRJ19, issued by the Museum of London. The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA) under that code.
- 2.8 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- 382 Mare Street, London Borough of Hackney, E8 1HR: Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Trial Pit Evaluation (PCA 2019)
  - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015)
  - *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service HE GLAAS 2015)
  - Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014).
  - *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual* (PCA; Taylor, J & Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018)

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the rear extension to provide a self-contained dwellinghouse and creation of pedestrian access in rear boundary wall of site (London Borough of Hackney Planning Ref 2018/3476). Planning is granted subject to the following conditions:

*7 No demolition or development shall take place until a stage 1 archaeological written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the works.*

*REASON – To ensure no harm is caused to any archaeological remains as a result of the development. These details are required prior to commencement as they are integral to the suitability the development and cannot therefore be dealt with retrospectively.*

*8 If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by the stage 1 archaeological written scheme of investigation then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 archaeological written scheme of investigation (WSI) shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:*

- i) The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*
- ii) The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.*

*REASON – To ensure no harm is caused to any archaeological remains as a result of the development.*

3.2 The site is located within the Tier 2 Hackney Settlements Archaeological Priority Area (APA) as defined by Hackney Council and Historic England. The study site also lies within the Clapton Square Conservation Area, as defined by Hackney Council.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

4.1.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales, the local geology consists of clay of the London Clay Formation. Superficial deposits comprise the Hackney Gravel Member (sand and gravel).

4.1.2 No site-specific geotechnical information is currently available.

4.1.3 An archaeological evaluation c. 25m north from the subject site identified deposits of the Hackney Gravel Member at c. 13.1-13.2m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). An evaluation to the immediate east identified natural gravels at c. 13.7-13.9m aOD.

### **4.2 Topography**

4.2.1 The study site is situated on a flat area, approximately at 18m aOD. The topography of the yard at the easternmost part of the study site varies slightly.

4.2.2 No naturally occurring watercourses or standing bodies of water are known within the immediate vicinity of the site.

4.3 The site is located within a mixed residential and commercial property on a plot of land at the rear of 382 Mare Street.



## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS, 2018) for the site. The latter considered all information held on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) within a 500m radius of the study site. In summary:
- 5.2 The study site has been identified as having a low to moderate theoretical potential for the Palaeolithic and Roman periods, a moderate potential for the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods, and a low to negligible potential for encountering archaeological remains of all other periods of past human activity.
- 5.3 The Hackney Gravels underlying the study site have proved to be one of the richest sources of Palaeolithic material in the country. These finds have largely been observed in or below the brickearth overlying gravel terraces. Various flint tools, cores, and flakes have been recovered in the wider area, including a Palaeolithic kill-site. No findspots dating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods have however been recovered within the study site or immediate vicinity, however.
- 5.4 No findspots within the study area have been dated to the Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age.
- 5.5 Ermine Street, the main Roman road connecting London and Lincoln is located c.2km from the study site. A Roman road is also believed to have passed within c.80m west of the site, which linked London to Great Dunmow, Essex. A Roman road from London to Cambridge is thought to have extended northwards along the route of Mare Street, along the western boundary of the site. The use of the road continued into the early medieval period and up to the present and is believed to have intersected the London to Great Dunmow road. Despite the location of numerous roads, both presumed and identified archaeologically, little artefactual evidence indicative of settlement
- 5.6 Little evidence was highlighted on the GLHER for the Anglo-Saxon period. A gully and possible quarry pit dating to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century were recorded c.330m east of the study site. As such it is likely that occupation/exploitation of the area was negligible during this period.
- 5.7 The study site is located within the village of Hackney which dates to the medieval period and was centred on Mare Street. Medieval settlement in Hackney has been identified in the wider area in the form of structural foundations, cut features and a timber sluice. Evidence of land management has also been identified with strip fields recorded c.250m east of the subject site. Other settlements in the wider area dating to the medieval period include Clapton and Homerton. The Tier 2 Hackney Settlements APA has been established to reflect the presence of multiple settlements in the area at this time. As such there is a moderate potential at the study site for remains relating to the ribbon development along Mare Street.
- 5.8 The earlier ribbon development along Mare Street continued into the early post-medieval period. The number of hearths recorded along Mare Street rose from 49 in 1664 to 78 in 1672.

Development also increased along Homerton High Street, with infill development between the settlement centres.

- 5.9 Cartographic sources illustrate the development of the subject site during the later post-medieval periods. The earliest source consulted comprised Roque's map of 1746. The latter illustrates the site within an area of settlement on the eastern flank of Church Street (later Mare Street) with arable land, pasture and orchards to the rear of the properties. By 1799 the plot to the rear of the site appears to have been in use as a vegetable garden. In the mid-19th century the site is located within a well-developed part of the wider settlement, with regular terraced properties facing onto the street and outbuildings and yards to the rear. The plot to the immediate east of the study site is recorded as being occupied by a rectory, house and garden. The cellars of the rectory were identified archaeologically during an evaluation in 2017. The land division and arrangement of the property encompassed by the study site remained largely unchanged throughout the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The proposed methodology of the archaeological work was detailed in the site-specific Witten Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2019) and comprised of two test pits to be excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1.5m below ground level (BGL).
- 6.2 The investigation comprised the monitoring of two hand dug test pits to a depth of 1.3m below ground level with a sondage in each of the pits to reach 1.5m BGL. The depth of 1.5m BGL was not reached within entire pits for safety reasons as the sides of the excavations were unstable.



*Plate 1: The site, looking north-east*

- 6.3 All recording systems adopted during the investigation were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in the London Borough of Hackney; presented in PCAs Operations Manual 1 (Taylor & Brown 2009, updated 2018). A representative section of each test pit was drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10 in order to illustrate the observed stratigraphy, modern disturbance and current ground level. In addition to a series of digital photographs recording the encountered deposits a written record of each deposit was also produced. Location of the section drawing was located by offsetting from the property boundary and plotted onto OS mapping data by CAD.
- 6.4 The completed archive produced during the trial pit evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive under the allocated site code MRJ19.

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Phase 1: Post Medieval

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a firm mid yellowish-brown silty sand layer [3] with slightly compacted flint and occasional rooting. The layer was 0.55m+ thick and was seen in the base of Test Pit 1.
- 7.1.2 Sealing layer [3] in Test Pit 1 and also being in the base of Test Pit 2 was a friable mid greyish brown sandy silt layer [2] and [5] with occasional rooting, small stones and charcoal flecks. It contained pottery which appeared to be 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century in date where [5] revealed pottery fragments dated to c. 1850 – early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Plate 2: Pit 1, Section 1, looking south*



*Plate 3: Pit 2, Section 2, looking south*

## 7.2 Phase 2: Modern

- 7.2.1 The entire site was overlain with a soft dark greyish brown sandy silt layer [1] and [4] with frequent rooting, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century glass were recovered from [1], and [4] contained pottery fragments which dated to c. 1887 – 1912. The finds were mixed with 20<sup>th</sup> century debris and CBM.

## 8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The general aims and objectives of the project were as follows:

- to characterise and assess the archaeological resource within the site;
- to explain any chronological, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and to link the archaeological results with the data already recovered in the wider area;
- to identify different levels of survival and truncation of archaeological deposits across the site.

8.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2019), highlighted a set of specific objectives to be addressed by the investigation:

- To establish the natural topography and geology of the site, and the height at which it survives.
- To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval or post-medieval activity if present, its nature and (if possible) date.
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

8.3 No evidence for surviving archaeological features was found during the evaluation. The depositional sequence was relatively simple, comprising of upper layer of modern made ground [1]/[4] over lower deposits of the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century in form of [2]/[5] and [3]. No natural geology has been exposed. No *in situ* subsoils or interface layers were present.

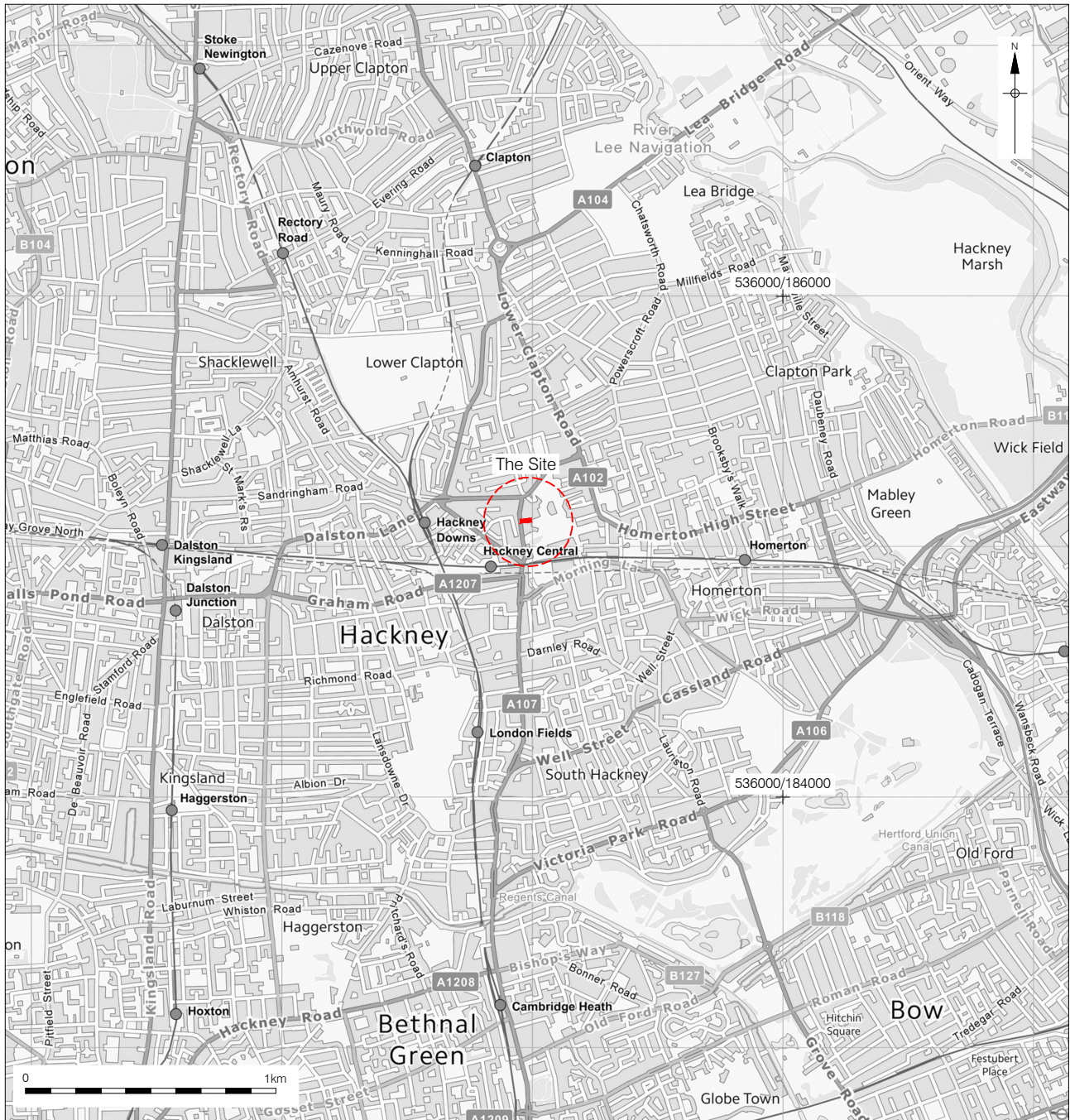
8.4 Whilst earlier deposits are likely related to the use of the area as gardens, the modern thick made ground probably is a result of ground levelling during development of the property. The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that no archaeological features or horizons had survived within the study area.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

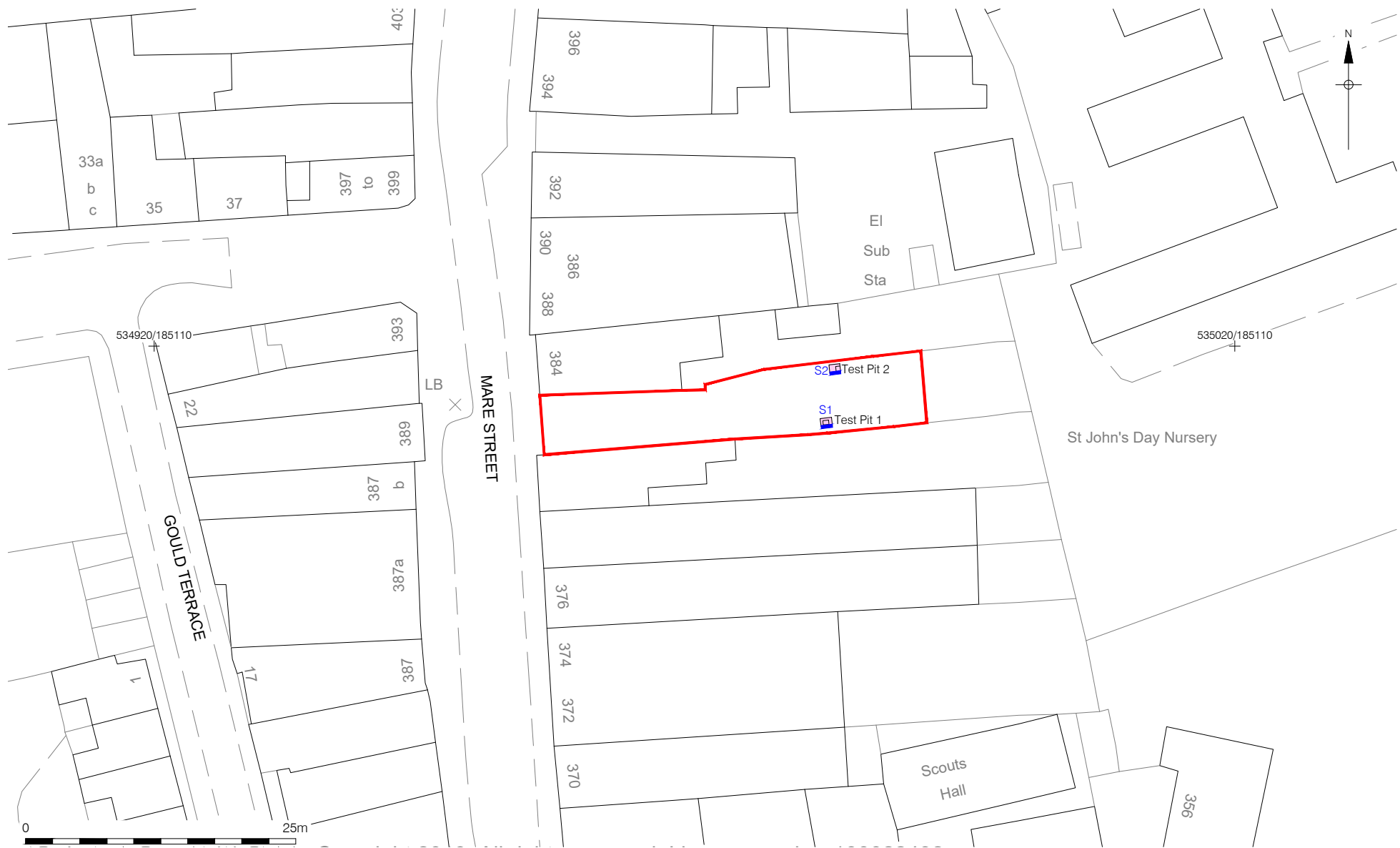
- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Manca Petric of RPS Consulting for commissioning the work. We also thank Adam Single of Historic England's Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS) for his input and advice to the project.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for his project management and editing this report, Gabriel Prajsteanu of Suncomfort Limited and his team for their help and hard work on the site, and Ray Murphy for the illustrations.

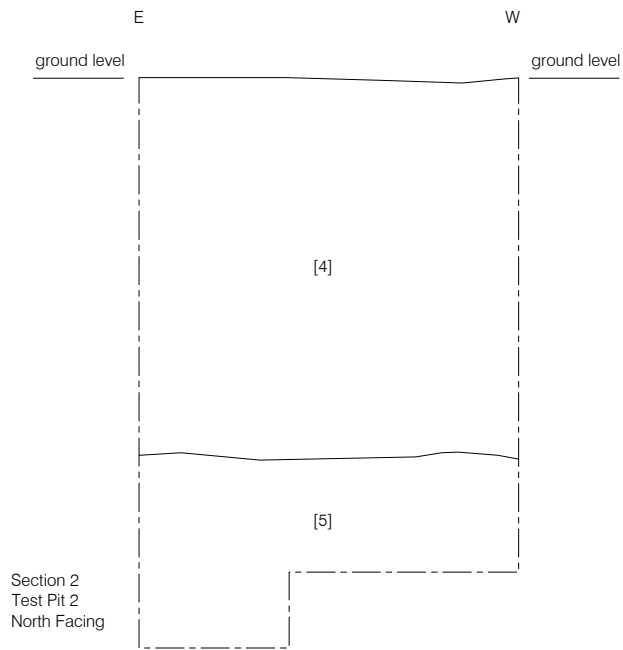
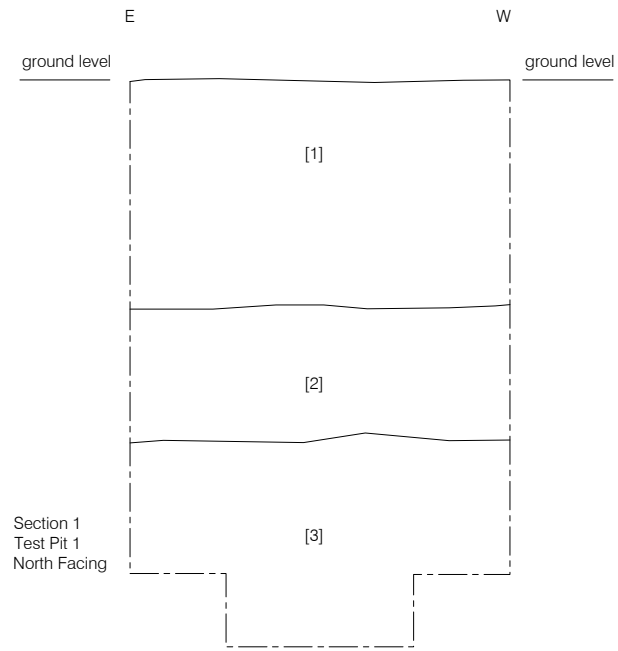
## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- CgMs (Part of RPS), 2018, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: 382 Mare Street, Hackney London, E8 1HR*, unpublished client report
- Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, 2019, *382 Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 1HR: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Pit Evaluation*, unpublished client report
- Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2014, *Standards for Archaeological Work*
- Taylor, J with Brown, G. 2009, updated 2018, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited





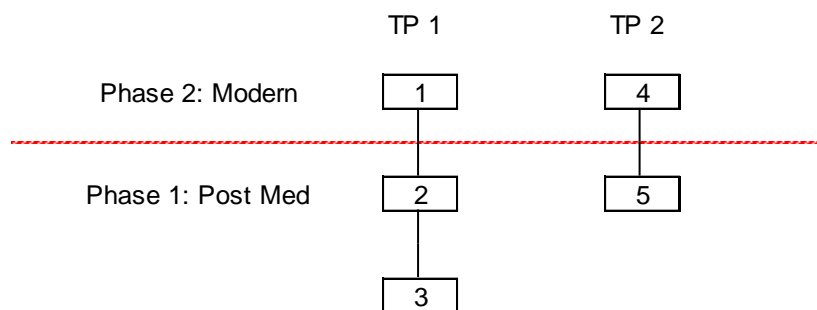




## Appendix 1: Context Index

Site_Code	Context	CTX_Type	CTX_equalto	Trench	CTX_ Interpretation	CTX_Category	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth
MRJ19	1	Layer	4	TP1	Made ground	Surface (External)	0.8	1	0.6
MRJ19	2	Layer	5	TP1	Post Med layer	Occupation	0.8	1	0.35
MRJ19	3	Layer		TP1	Poss post med layer	Dump	0.8	1	0.55
MRJ19	4	Layer	1	TP2	Madeground	Surface (External)	0.8	1	0.1
MRJ19	5	Layer	2	TP2	Post med layer	Occupation	0.8	1	0.5

## Appendix 2: Phased Matrix



## Appendix 3: Oasis Form

**OASIS ID: preconst1-365087**

### Project details

Project name	382 Mare Street, Hackney, London E8 1HR
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial pit evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 382 Mare Street, Hackney, E8 1HR in the London Borough of Hackney. The watching brief monitored two test pits to investigate the location of the foundation for the new property which measured 1m by 0.80m with a depth of 1.5m. No natural deposits were encountered during the works carried out. The archaeological horizons encountered appeared be post medieval in date and likely from domestic land use.
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2019 End: 27-08-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MRJ19 - 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	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY 382 Mare Street, Hackney
Postcode	E8 1HR
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 34958 85103 51.548162620028 -0.053392247839 51 32 53 N 000 03 12 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	PCA
Project design originator	RPS Consulting

Project director/manager Zbigniew Pozorski  
Project supervisor Tanya Jones  
Type of sponsor/funding body Consultancy

---

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient LAA  
Physical Archive ID MRJ19  
Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient LAA  
Digital Archive ID MRJ19  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient LAA  
Paper Archive ID MRJ19  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

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#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title 382 Mare Street, Hackney, London, E8 1HR: An Archaeological Trial Pit Evaluation  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Jones, T.  
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Place of issue or publication London  
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