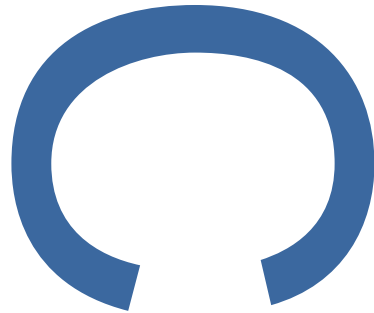
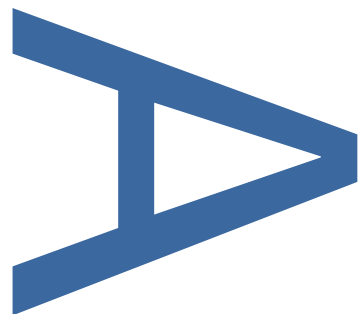


**291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285
Rainham Road North, London
Borough of Barking and Dagenham,
RM10 7YU**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief on
Geotechnical Site Investigation**



<i>Planning reference</i>	19/01917/FUL		
<i>Local planning authority</i>	Dagenham Borough Council		
<i>PCA report no.</i>	R14001	<i>Site Code</i>	OXL20
<i>PCA project no</i>	K5646	<i>Date</i>	January 2020

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

www.pre-construct.com

Project Information	
Site name	291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, RM10 7YU
Project type	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Site Investigation
Site address	291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, RM10 7YU,
NGR	TQ 49871 85880
Local planning authority	Dagenham Borough Council
Planning reference	19/01917/FUL
Commissioning client	Harrison Group
Project dates	10 th – 12 th December 2019
Archive site code	OXL20

PCA Information			
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Reissued report version:		
Reason for reissue:		
Project Manager approval:		



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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited during a geotechnical site investigation at 291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, RM10 7YU. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 49871 85880 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken by Patric Cavanagh of PCA between 10th and 12th December 2019.
- 1.3 The geotechnical site investigation comprised two Test Pits (TP1 and TP2), four Boreholes (B/H1, BH2, BH3 and BH4), four Window Samples (WS1, WS2, WS3 and WS4) and a Soakaway (SA).
- 1.4 The works were done using a percussive bore rig, a rubber tracked drilling rig and a tracked excavator. The works were undertaken by the client, Harrison Group.
- 1.5 Natural deposits of gravel, clay and silt were seen, along with post-medieval and modern levelling and landscaping layers. No archaeological finds or features were seen mostly due to limited nature of the investigation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Harrison Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a geotechnical site investigation relating to the proposed construction works at 291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North, London RM10 7YU (Figures 1 & 2). The site is centred at TQ 49871 85880.
- 2.2 The works took place within the open areas around the existing structures within the proposed site boundary. The site is bordered by residential properties to the west, Oxlow Lane to the south, Rainham Road North to the east and Webbscroft Road to the north (Figure 2).
- 2.3 It is proposed to demolish all existing buildings and structures on the site and construct 63 no. Class C3 residential units (London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Planning Ref. 19/01917/FUL. The application has not yet been decided; however, the client requested the archaeological monitoring of the geotechnical site investigation works to address potential requirement for archaeological investigation attached to the planning consent. This report provides the results of that monitoring.
- 2.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) had been produced for the site By PCA (Banens 2018), showing nearby prehistoric activity, but little evidence of activity from the Roman period onwards. This is likely this is due to a lack of investigation rather than a lack of potential. The site is not located within a local authority Archaeological Priority Area (APA), but is approximately 400m to the east of the Tier 2 Fritzlands Manor APA and 600m to the south of the Tier 3 Central Park APA.
- 2.5 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Patric Cavanagh and was project managed by Zbigniew Pozorski, both of PCA.
- 2.6 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive (LAA) identified by the unique site code OXL20, obtained from the Museum of London.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The local geology consists of superficial deposits of Hackney Gravel, with a north-south area of superficial Head deposits to the west of the site. The bedrock geology of the area is sedimentary London Clay Formation. (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 3.2 The site is located c. 2km to the west of the Beam River, and c. 4.5km to the north of the River Thames. Historically, the Wantz Stream ran c. 200m to the west of the study site, it has since been culverted, though flows openly through Beam Valley Country Park.
- 3.3 The site is located on sloped ground at a maximum height of c. 13m OD at Rainham Road North, dropping to c. 11m OD along the western boundary of the site, this is due to the sites being situated within a localized valley associated with the Wantz Stream.
- 3.4 The site is located within the eastern half of the Borough of Barking and Dagenham, northwest of Dagenham East Station (Figure 1). The site is currently occupied by two three-story residential apartment blocks and associated outbuildings, much of the open space is paved and currently used as a car park with a small grassed area to the east of the site.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning application has been submitted to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council development on the site comprising demolishing all existing buildings and structures on the site and construction of 63 no. Class C3 residential units, and ancillary works (LB of Barking & Dagenham Planning Ref. 19/01917/FUL.
- 4.2 There is no requirement for archaeological works as the application has not been decided yet. The client requested the archaeological monitoring of the geotechnical site investigation works to address that potential requirement for archaeological investigation which may be attached to the planning consent.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following background is summarised from the DBA (Banens 2018).
- 5.1.1 There has been considerable evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the study site including field systems, evidence of intense woodland prior to clearance and struck flints.
- 5.1.2 It is believed that the site remained predominantly rural and undeveloped during the Roman period.
- 5.1.3 Despite limited Saxon evidence within the vicinity of the site, Barking and Dagenham were among the earliest Saxon settlements in Essex, as such it is likely that development occurred during this period.
- 5.1.4 Although much of the surrounding land would have been used as farmland during the medieval period, it is clear that substantial activity took place in the near vicinity of the study site. Given its proximity, the study site would have almost certainly fallen within the manor of Frizlands.
- 5.1.5 During the post-medieval period the area of Barking and Dagenham became more developed, however, there is little evidence of activity within the vicinity of the study site.
- 5.1.6 Map regression shows the site to be open land until 1959 when the buildings currently present on the site were first recorded (Ordnance Survey).

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The works took place within the open areas around the existing structures within the proposed site boundary.
- 6.2 All excavation works were completed by Harrison Group whilst an archaeologist was present to observe and record the findings. The works were done using a percussive bore rig for the bore holes, a rubber tracked drilling rig for the windowless samples and a tracked excavator for the test pits.
- 6.3 Two Test Pits (TP1 and TP2), four Boreholes (B/H1, BH2, BH3 and BH4), four Window Samples (WS1, WS2, WS3 and WS4) and a Soakaway (SA) were carried out on the site.
- 6.4 All boreholes, window samples and the soakaway were recorded on *pro forma* borehole record sheets, all investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Sections of the investigations were recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A photographic record of the site was maintained.
- 6.5 The recording system adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented within PCA's Site Manual (Taylor 2009, updated 2018). The site archive was organised to be compatible with other archaeological archives produce in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 6.6 The levels provided in this report are taken as below ground level (BGL).
- 6.7 The locations of the investigation were located by the geotechnical team in relation to the site boundary to allow it to be transferred to the OS grid.
- 6.8 The completed archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will eventually be deposited with Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) identified with site code OXL20.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 Within W/S3 a layer of blue grey clay [18] was seen from a depth of 1.40m below ground level (BGL) and continuing below the LOE at 1.80m BGL. It is not clear if this was natural London clay as it was not seen elsewhere on site which would suggest that this was a lense within the natural gravel.

7.1.2 Natural gravel was seen across the site, encountered within all interventions, from a depth of between 0.60m and 1.30m BGL (TP1 [2] (Plate 1), TP2 [4], BH1 [9], BH2 [27], BH3 [30], BH4 [24], WS1 [20] [21], WS2 [7], WS3 [17], WS4 [15] and SA [12]). The gravel seen ranged from red brown to orange brown across the majority of the site, except to the southwest where [2] and [4] were seen to be grey. Within W/S1 two layers of gravel were noted [20] and [21], although this difference was likely just a natural colour variation.

7.2 Phase 2: Alluvial Deposits

7.2.1 The natural gravels were overlain by alluvial silt and clay deposits (TP1 [1] (Plate 1), TP2 [3], BH1 [8], BH2 [25] [26], BH3 [28] [29], BH4 [22] [23], WS1 [19], WS2 [5] [6], WS3 [16], WS4 [13] [14] and SA [11]). These deposits were sterile of finds and likely also naturally lain.

7.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval

7.3.1 Within S/A, a 0.30m thick layer of brick rubble [10] was seen to overlay clay layer [11]. This layer is likely leveling related to the post-medieval development of the area.

PLATES



Plate 1: Test Pit 1, looking northwest, layers [1] and [2].



Plate 2: WS1, layers [19] and [20] in the foreground, layer [21] in the background

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The watching brief monitored a number of geotechnical investigations comprising boreholes, window samples and test pits, giving a limited window into the archaeological remains.
- 8.2 The maximum depth excavated during the works was 10.00m BGL within the boreholes. The window samples were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.80m BGL and the test pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m BGL.
- 8.3 Natural was seen at a depth of between 0.60m BGL and 1.30m BGL, continuing beyond the limit of excavation (LOE). The natural gravels were overlain by silt and clay layers, likely naturally deposited. Sealing these deposits were leveling layers related to the post-medieval development of the area.
- 8.4 The completed archive, comprising all site records from the fieldwork, including field records and artefacts, will be deposited by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited with LAA under site code OXL20. Until then the archive will be stored at our headquarters in Brockley, London.
- 8.5 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Round Up'.

9 BIBLIOGRAPY

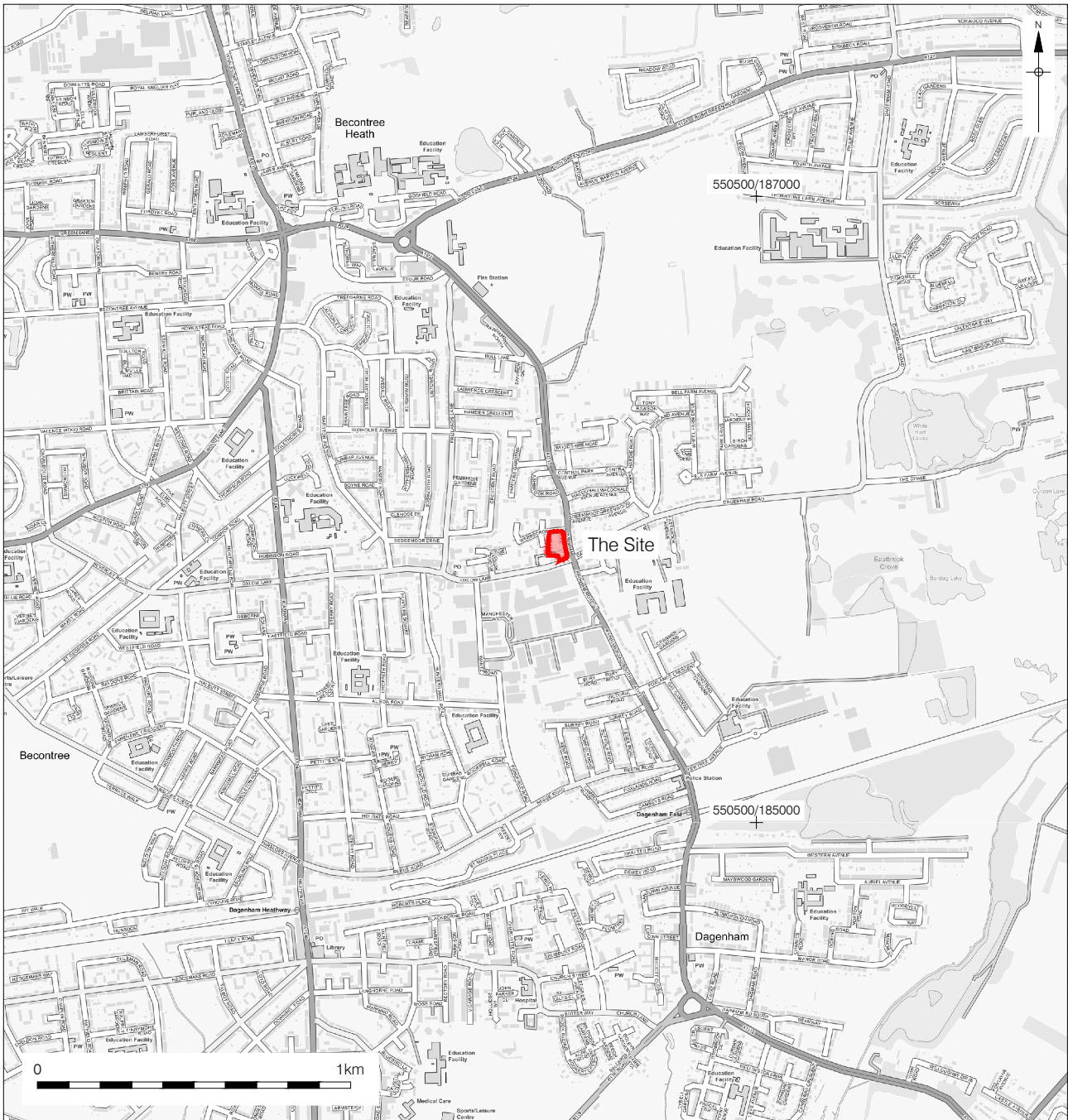
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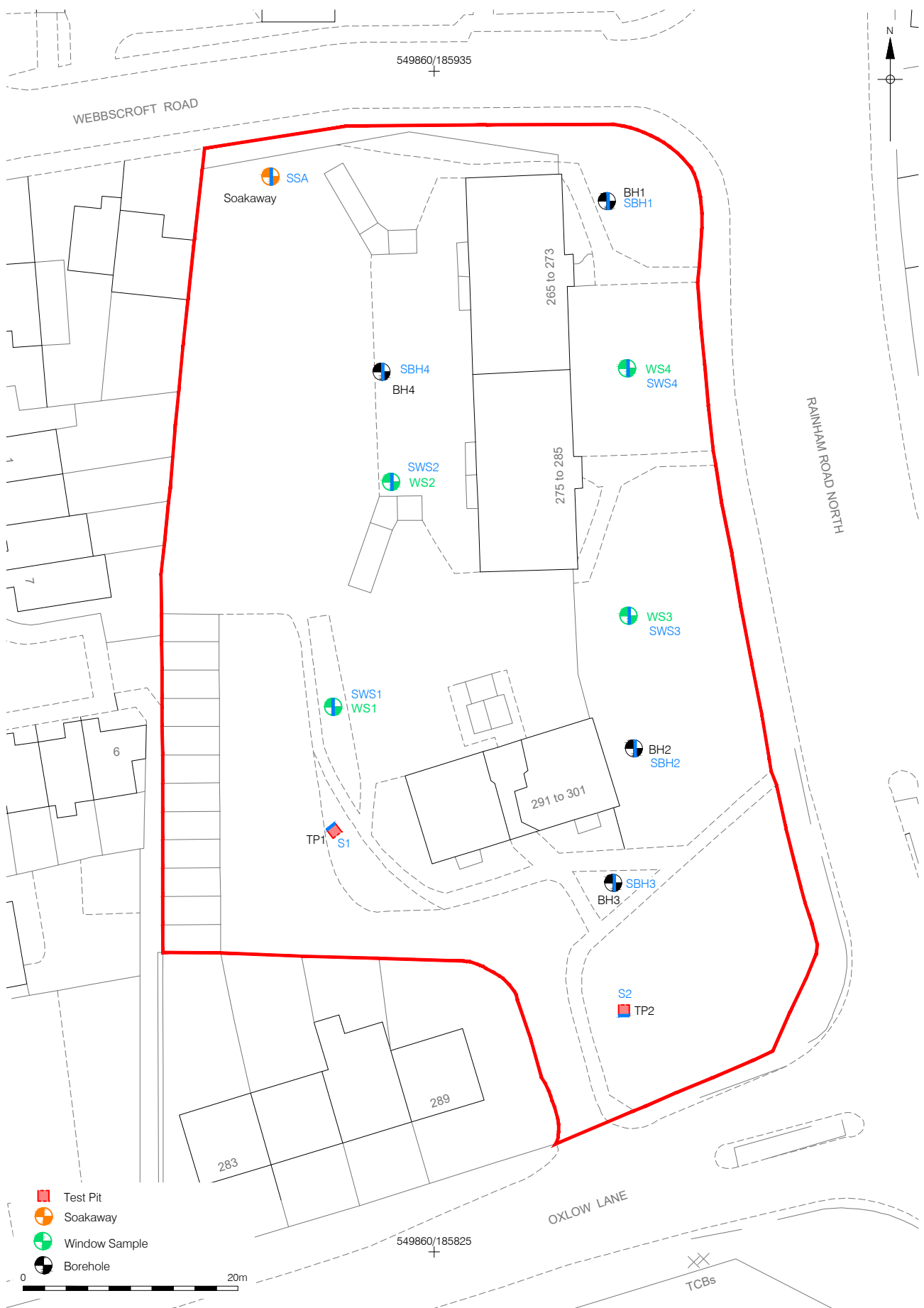
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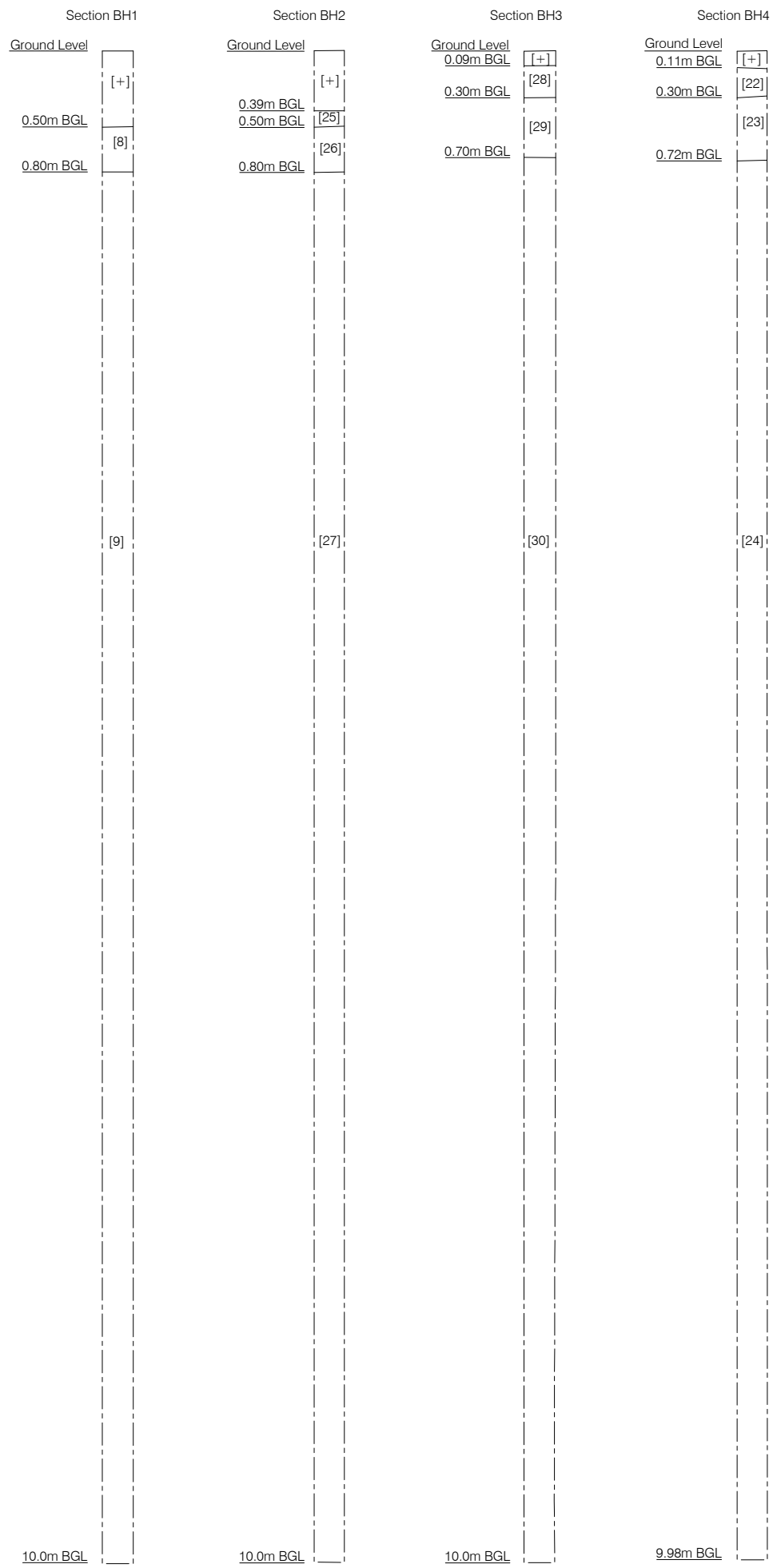
Taylor, J. with Brown, G., 2009, updated 2018. *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operation Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Harrison Group for commissioning the work and particularly their onsite staff for their help and hospitality.
- 10.2 We also thank Gillian King for monitoring the fieldwork on behalf of the Borough of Barking and Dagenham.
- 10.3 The author would like to thank Zbigniew Pozorski for his help, project management and editing and Diana Valk for the CAD illustrations.







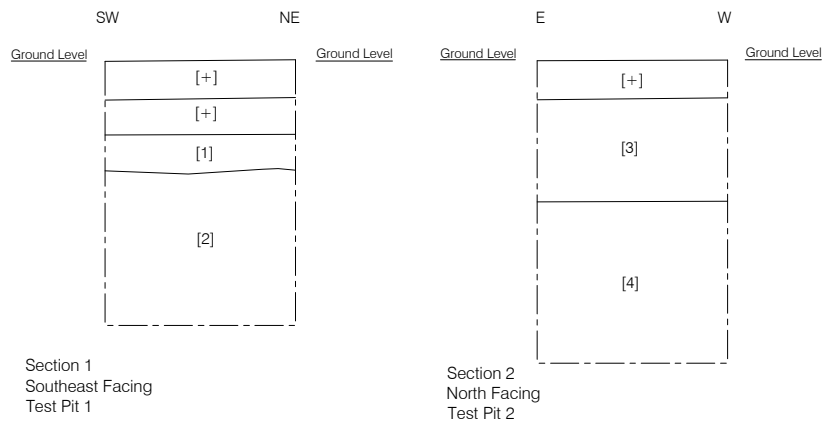
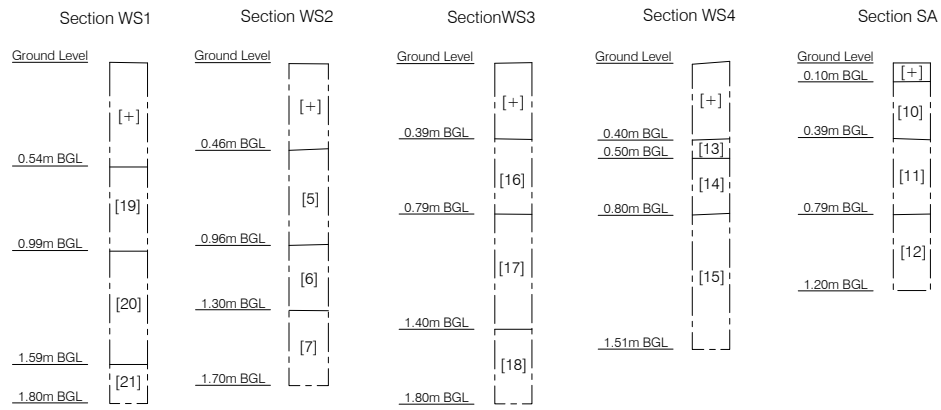
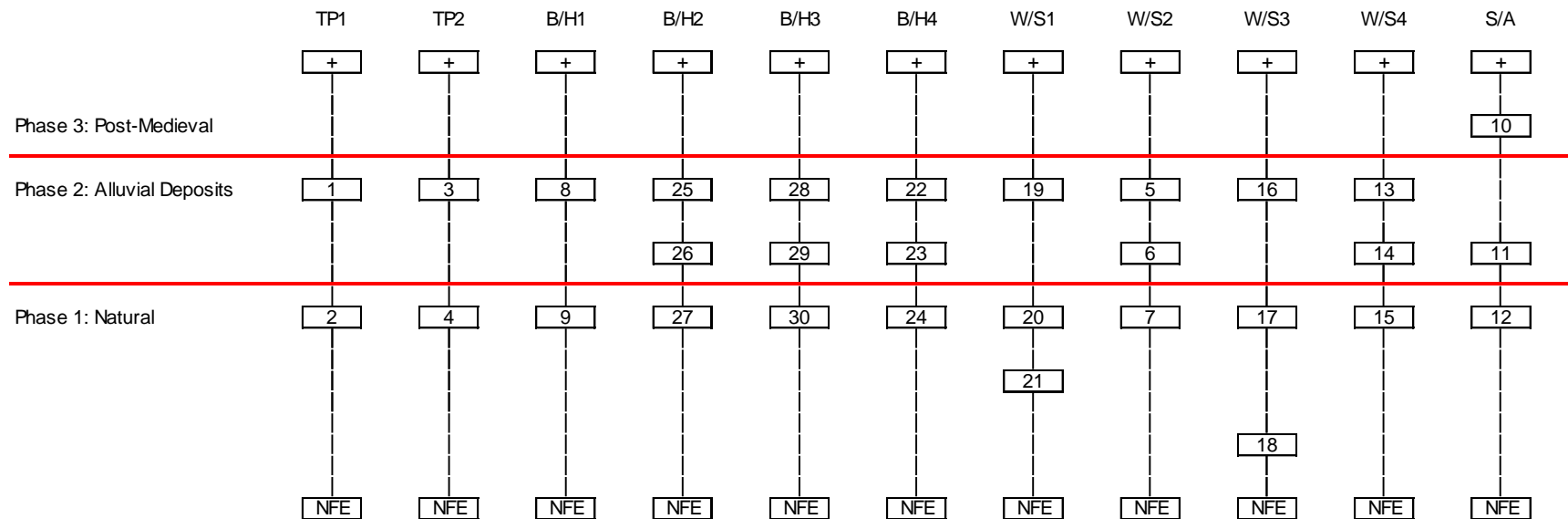


Figure 4
Window Sample, Soakaway, and Test Pit Sections
1:40 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Area	Description	Same as	Phase	Thickness (m)	Depth (m BGL)
1	TP1	Grey brown silty clay	3,	2	0.20	0.40
2	TP1	Grey clay gravel	4, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.80	0.60
3	TP2	Grey brown silty clay	1,	2	0.55	0.20
4	TP2	Grey brown gravels	2, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.85	0.75
5	W/S2	Grey brown sandy silty clay		2	0.50	0.45
6	W/S2	Grey orange clay		2	0.35	0.95
7	W/S2	Red brown gravel	2, 4, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.40	1.30
8	B/H1	Grey brown sandy silty clay		2	0.30	0.50
9	B/H1	Red brown gravel		1	9.20	0.80
10	S/A	Brick rubble		3	0.30	0.10
11	S/A	Grey clay		2	0.40	0.40
12	S/A	Orange brown gravel	2, 4, 7, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.40	0.80
13	W/S4	Brown grey silty clay		2	0.10	0.40
14	W/S4	Grey alluvial clay/Brickearth		2	0.30	0.50
15	W/S4	Orange brown sandy gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.70	0.80
16	W/S3	Grey brown alluvial clay/brickearth		2	0.40	0.40
17	W/S3	Gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 15, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.60	0.80
18	W/S3	Blue grey clay		2	0.40	1.40
19	W/S1	Grey brown sandy silt		2	0.45	0.55
20	W/S1	Orange brown sandy gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 15, 17, 21, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.60	1.00
21	W/S1	Red brown sandy gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20, 24, 27, 30,	1	0.20	1.60
22	B/H4	Brown grey clay		2	0.20	0.10
23	B/H4	Grey alluvial clay/Brickearth		2	0.40	0.30
24	B/H4	Gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 27, 30,	1	9.20	0.80
25	B/H2	Grey silty clay		2	0.10	0.40
26	B/H2	Grey alluvial clay/Brickearth		2	0.30	0.50
27	B/H2	Orange brown sandy gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 30,	1	9.20	0.80
28	B/H3	Grey brown silty clay		2	0.20	0.10
29	B/H3	Grey silty clay		2	0.40	0.30
30	B/H3	Red brown silty clay gravel	2, 4, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27,	1	9.30	0.70

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-380016

Project details

Project name	291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited during a geotechnical site investigation at 291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North. The watching brief was undertaken between the 10th and 12th December 2019 to monitor a geotechnical site investigation comprised two Test Pits, four Boreholes, four Window Samples and a Soakaway. The works were done using a percussive bore and a tracked excavator by the client, Harrison Group. Natural deposits of gravel, clay and silt were seen, along with post-medieval and modern levelling and landscaping layers. The limited nature of the investigation did not fully allow for nonstructural archaeological features to be seen.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2019 End: 12-12-2019
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	LEVELING LAYER Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM DAGENHAM 291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North
Postcode	RM10 7YU
Study area	2.75 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 49871 85880 51.551371657006 0.161884609247 51 33 04 N 000 09 42 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Harrison Group

Project design originator	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Patric Cavanagh
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Harrison Group

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAA
Digital Archive ID	OXL20
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAA
Paper Archive ID	OXL20
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	291-301 Oxlow Lane / 265-285 Rainham Road North, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham RM10 7YU: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Harris, S. A.
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 grey literature document with PCA covers

Entered by	archive (archive@pre-construct.com)
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Entered on 9 January 2020

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