

**An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford,
London Borough of Newham, E15 2LS**

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3848 8369

Site Code: HFO 09

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, March 2009

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March 2009

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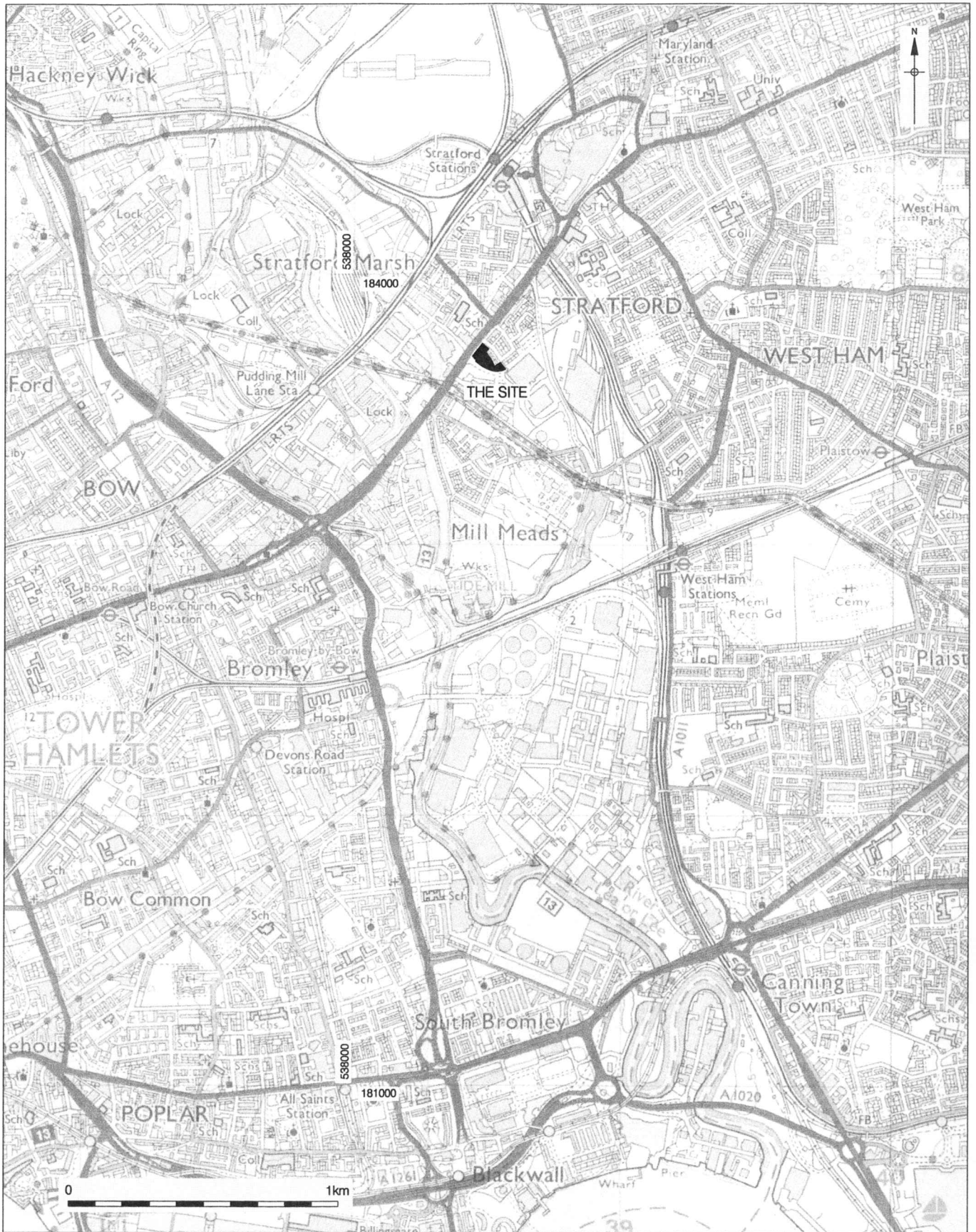
1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd of land at the corner of Stratford High Street and Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London Borough of Newham. The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 3848 8369. The field evaluation was undertaken between 9th and the 17th of February 2009, and the commissioning client was Galliford Try Partnerships.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of four trial trenches designed to comprise a 3% sample of the total area of development in an attempt to determine the archaeological potential of the site. Positioning of the trenches was designed to sample areas of the site scheduled to be impacted by the proposed development.
- 1.3 One cut feature, an east-west aligned ditch dating to the medieval period, was identified and recorded during the excavation of Trench 1. In addition, a number of 19th century features were recorded in all four trenches. Significant truncation had occurred across the site during the 19th and 20th centuries lowering the potential for encountering further archaeological remains.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 9th-17th February 2009, in response to the planned development of land at the corner of Stratford High Street and Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London Borough of Newham (Fig.1). The northwestern corner of the site was previously occupied by a timber yard while terraced houses occupied the southern part during the second half of the 19th century and into the early to mid 20th century. Terraced houses along Wise Road border the site to the north while Stratford High Street and Rick Roberts Way run along the western and southern boundaries respectively.
- 2.2 An early 20th century electricity sub-station and public house were present on the site and were recorded by the PCA historic buildings team. These buildings are the subject of a separate report.
- 2.3 An archaeological planning condition was attached to the site. The condition stated:
'11 No Development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the LPA.

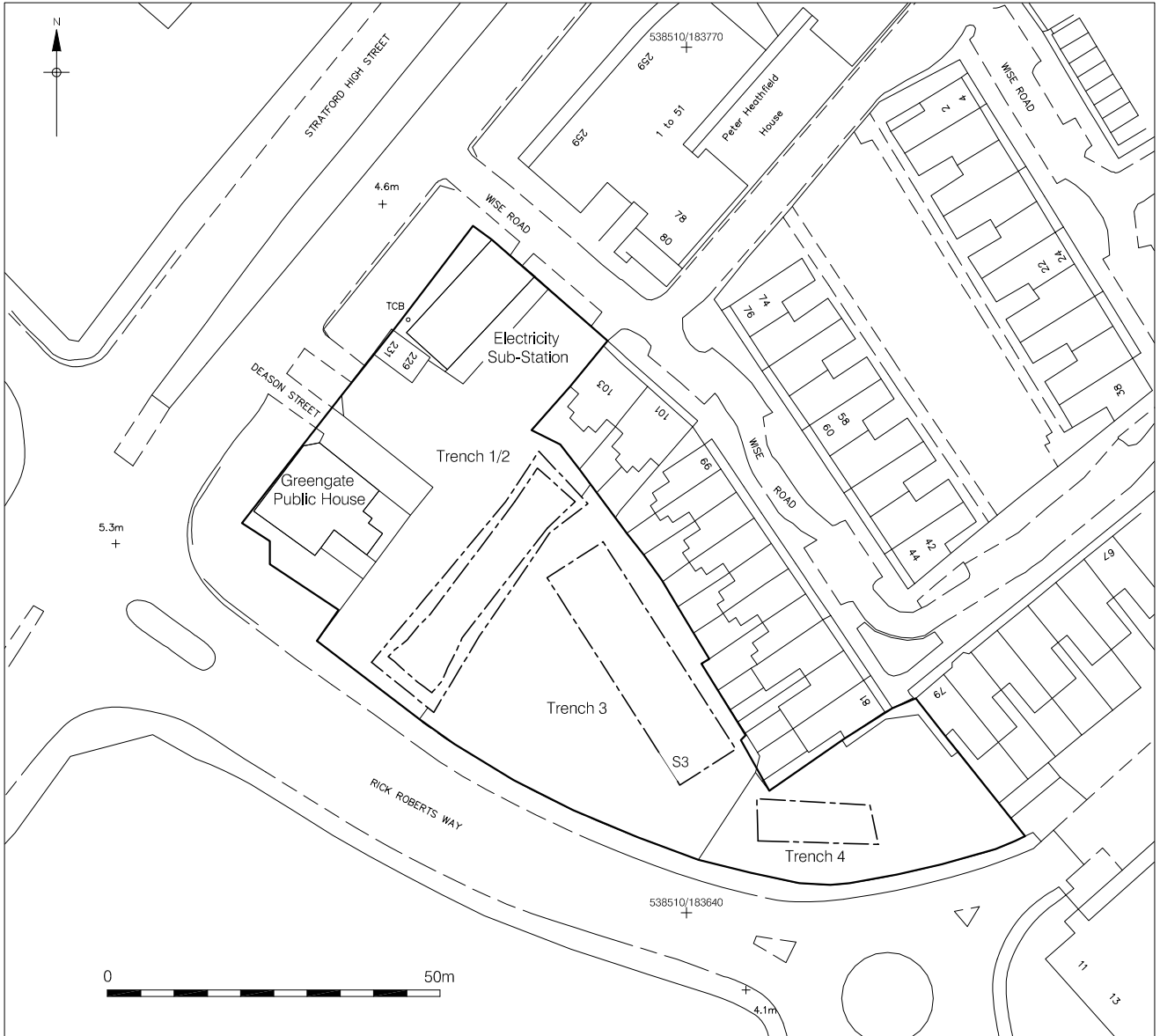
Reason: important archaeological remains may exist on the site. Accordingly the council wishes to secure the provision of archaeological information and subsequent recording of the remains prior to the development in accordance with guidance and model condition set out in PPG 16'.
- 2.4 The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, approved by the London Borough of Newham (Hawkins 2009).
- 2.5 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook the evaluation on the request of the commissioning client, Galliford Try Partnerships, under the supervision of the author and the project management of Helen Hawkins. The purpose of the evaluation was to investigate the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site and to determine the potential impact the planned development would have on such remains. David Divers of English Heritage monitored the evaluation on behalf of the London Borough of Newham.
- 2.6 The excavation of four trenches within the curtilage of the proposed development was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (Hawkins 2009). A service plan provided by the commissioning client indicated an east-west aligned sewer bisecting the site. Trench 1 was located to the south of the alleged sewer while Trench 2 was positioned to the north (Figure 2). However, the absence of the sewer became evident during excavation and the two trenches were combined to form Trench 1/2. Trench 1/2 measured 39.83m northeast-southwest x 9.15m northwest-southeast at the top and 35.94m northeast-southwest x 6.13m northwest-southeast at the base.
- 2.7 Trench 3 was aligned roughly northwest-southeast and measured 9m x 37m at the top and 2m x 30m at the base and Trench 4 was aligned east-west and measured 9m x 17m at the top and 2m x 10m at the base.
- 2.8 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeology Archive Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code HFO 09.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:1,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Policy and PPG 16

3.1.1 Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990 states that where archaeological features, as identified by the Desktop Study or preliminary investigation, are likely to be encountered, strategies should be developed to deal with them. These may include preservation *in situ*, by limiting the development impact on archaeological deposits by redesigning the building, or by 'preservation by record'.

3.2 Archaeology in NEWHAM and the UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.2.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Newham, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Borough's 'Unitary Development Plan' (UDP) (adopted on 6th June 2001) contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.

3.2.2 The proposed development of the site is subject to the Council's Archaeology Policy, outlined in Chapter 3 of the UDP:

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology: Investigation, Excavation and Protection

3.114 Archaeological remains often provide the only evidence of the Borough's past. They are a finite and fragile resource very vulnerable to modern development and land use. The archaeology of the Borough is a community asset which should be preserved and the needs of development balanced and assessed against this. Early consideration of and consultation on archaeological issues will maximise preservation in accordance with PPG16. The destruction of such remains should be avoided if possible and either left *in situ* if the remains are of national or particular local interest, or excavated and recorded prior to development, where remains are of lesser importance. Site layouts designed to retain archaeological features intact will be considered favourably by the Council.

3.115 The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS - part of English Heritage) provides impartial advice to Newham Council. Sites of potential archaeological importance, to which this policy relates, can be defined as any site within an Archaeological Priority Area (APA). APAs are defined by GLAAS as areas having particular interest or value (Please refer to Map EQ6), or as sites where it can reasonably be shown from existing sources of information (most notably the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record) that remains of archaeological importance may survive. For further information, please refer to SPG Note 'Archaeological Code of Practice'. An archaeological assessment (either a desk study or a preliminary field investigation) will normally be required for any development involving a site more than 0.4 acres within an APA. The Council will also require such an assessment for smaller sites within the APAs, and sites outside the APAs, where this is clearly justified by the archaeological sensitivity of the site. Developers should undertake early consultation with the Council, and recognised archaeological organisations such as GLAAS, to avoid uncertainty and later delays.

POLICY EQ43: THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE BOROUGH. DEVELOPERS OF SITES OF POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A WRITTEN REPORT, AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION, ON THE RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OR FIELD EVALUATION CARRIED

OUT BY A SUITABLY QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTOR; AND WHEN REMAINS OF IMPORTANCE ARE IDENTIFIED, THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK PRESERVATION OF THE REMAINS IN SITU. ON OTHER IMPORTANT SITES, WHERE THE BALANCE OF OTHER FACTORS IS IN FAVOUR OF GRANTING PLANNING PERMISSION BY MEANS OF THE IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS ON THE GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION, AND POSSIBLY BY LEGAL AGREEMENTS, THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE PROTECTION, EXCAVATION AND RECORDING OF REMAINS, AND THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF THE RECORDS OF EXCAVATION, PROVIDING A WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION, INCLUDING RECORDS OF FINDS.

3.116 The Council will promote co-operation between landowners, developers and archaeological organisations in accordance with the British Archaeologists' and Developers' Liaison Group Code.

- 3.2.3 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the development site but the site does lie within the Stratford Archaeological Priority Area as defined by English Heritage and illustrated in Map EQ6 of the Newham UDP.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A desk-based assessment was compiled to evaluate the archaeological potential of the study site prior to the commencement of the fieldwork (Boyer 2008). The following archaeological and historical background research is summarised from this document.

4.2 Palaeoenvironmental

4.2.1 The study site lies within the floodplain of the lower Lea Valley and as such would have been susceptible to regular inundations of floodwaters until extensive ground raising and reclamation took place in the post-medieval period. It is likely that the regular flooding events will have deposited large volumes of alluvial material in the vicinity of the study site, which may preserve important environmental remains. Depending upon the nature of past climatic fluctuations and shifts in course of the river, there is also a potential for peat to have formed and become preserved in the vicinity of the site. This also has the potential for the preservation of environmental remains.

4.2.2 Alluvial and palaeoenvironmental deposits have been identified at three sites along High Street, Stratford, within 100m of the study site.

4.3 Prehistoric

4.3.1 Recent archaeological investigations as part of the 2012 London Olympics development, a short distance to the south of the study site (at the new Olympic coach park directly to the south of Rick Roberts Way, report not yet in GLSMR) have added significant data which has led to a significant re-evaluation of prehistoric activity in the near vicinity. An area of shifting channels was identified, evidenced by channel bar deposits, but within these channels flint debitage and Neolithic pottery was recorded. Also associated with the channels were faunal remains and a possible wooden structure. This clearly suggests that the area was suitably hospitable for human occupation during the Neolithic. A channel cutting through these deposits contained the remains of a second possible wooden structure that may have been of late prehistoric date. The area was then sealed by thick deposits of alluvial material, suggesting that there had been extensive flooding. Given the location of these findings (approximately 30m from the edge of the study site), it is possible that comparable deposits extend as far as the site, though the dynamic nature of alluvial systems means this is not certain.

4.4 Roman

4.4.1 The River Lea would have been an important trade and communications route during the Roman period, linking London with its agricultural and industrial hinterland to the north. There was also a Roman settlement upstream of the study site at Old Ford. However there is a lack of evidence of activity during the Roman period recorded in the vicinity of the site. Again this is may be because of the unsuitability of the immediate area for human occupation, dictated by the environmental and topographic location.

4.5 Saxon/Early Medieval

4.5.1 There are no records pertaining to Saxon or early medieval activity within 250m of the study site. This is probably due to the generally marginal nature of the area in terms of its potential for occupation.

4.6 Medieval

4.6.1 Stratford literally means 'street by the ford' and the name dates back to the second half of the 11th century, when it was given to the northernmost of three wards in the ancient parish of West Ham.

4.7 Post-Medieval

- 4.7.1 There is more evidence for activity within the vicinity of the study site during the post-medieval period. This is partly due to increased exploitation of the resources of the River Lea and its tributaries, but also as a consequence of land raising and reclamation in the lower Lea Valley from the 17th century onwards, which led to extensive housing and industrial development across the area.
- 4.7.2 A short distance to the northwest of the study site, recent excavations have uncovered extensive remains of an 18th century watermill at 150 High Street/1 Warton Road.
- 4.7.3 Archaeological investigations at 160-188 High Street revealed evidence of a timber revetment, constructed alongside an artificially created water course. A series of possible ditches was also identified on the site. These appear to have been backfilled in the 19th century.
- 4.7.4 The earliest map to show the area of the study site is John Rocque's plan of 1746, which shows the road now followed on the same alignment by the High Street. There also appear to buildings in the vicinity of the northwest and southwest boundaries of the site. Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 also clearly shows the road and appears to indicate buildings in the vicinity of the study site, though these may be beyond the northwest boundary of the site.
- 4.7.5 Milne's Land Use Survey of London dated 1800 also suggests some type of development along the northwestern boundary of the site, but is lacking in any detail. Clayton's map of 1821 shows the area around the study site divided into a number of plots, suggesting development was taking place in this area, though the print on the copy viewed is too small to give any further detail.
- 4.7.6 Stanford's Map of 1862 appears to show significant development on the study site but lacks in detail. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1867 shows the site in much greater detail and indicates that it has been extensively developed. Along much of the southwestern boundary the site is occupied by properties that face onto New Union Street to the southwest. These properties back onto a row of further properties that face onto William Street (later Deason Street), which is aligned northwest-southeast across the centre of the site. To the northeast of William Street are a number of structures possibly suggesting some light industrial usage and beyond these, but still within the boundary of the study site, are a small group of properties facing onto West Street to the northeast. There are properties facing High Street along the northwestern boundary of the site, but these extend beyond the boundary of the site, showing that High Street was narrower than it is now. The far southeast of the study site is occupied by two properties facing northwest towards South Street and others facing southeast towards West Ham Gas Works.
- 4.7.7 Bacon's map of 1888 shows the area in less detail, but further developments in the area are shown. Further streets have been constructed northwest of High Street, along with a large 'Board School' building. Stanley Street and Livingstone Road have appeared to the south of New Union Street, which is now called Union Street (somewhat confusing as there is another Union Street a short distance to the north).
- 4.7.8 The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1894-6 shows a similar layout on the study site to the 1st Edition, but it appears to show nine different properties along the High Street Frontage of the site (though three of these may have faced onto Union Street, William Street and West Street respectively). Elsewhere the level of development has not significantly increased since that shown on the Bacon map, though extra gasometers have been added at West Ham Gas Works.
- 4.7.9 The name change from William Street to Deason Street is confirmed by the 1916 Ordnance Survey map. Further changes are also shown on this map. Significantly the properties at the northern corner of the site, formerly fronting High Street and West Street have disappeared and there appears to be a space here. Northeast of this, West Street and the original Union Street have been renamed Wise Road. A number

of buildings northeast of this area appear to have been demolished, as do some properties along the southern side of High Street.

- 4.7.10 Unfortunately no maps of the area dating to the inter-war years were available, but some changes to the layout of the site were clearly made at this time. During the 1920s a sub-station appears to have been built on the apparently vacant plot of land at the northern corner of the site. During the 1920s or 1930s some of the buildings along the High Street frontage (were demolished to make way for a single structure; the new 'Green Gate' public house, which was set further back from the High Street than the earlier buildings.
- 4.7.11 The East End of London, including the area around the study site, suffered heavily from bombing during the Second World War. Wartime bombing records show that the junction of High Street and Union Street, immediately adjacent to the site, was hit twice by bombs; by an incendiary device on 27th September 1940 and by a high-explosive bomb on 13th October 1940. The latter of these at least is likely to have caused extensive damage to buildings on the site. Further records of bombing in the local area include high-explosive devices at the junction of Wise Street and High Street on 7th September and 8th November 1940, an incendiary device in Wise Street on the night of 8th/9th March 1941, a high-explosive device in Union Street on 19th March 1941, and a high-explosive device at the gas works on 21st April 1941.
- 4.7.12 Bomb damage is evident on the Ordnance Survey Maps of 1952-4. At the western corner of the study site there is now a large empty area. It is not clear whether this was cleared as a result of bomb damage or was cleared between the wars along with other buildings along the High Street frontage. The new 'Green Gate' public house is clearly shown as 227-223 High Street, occupying the corner of High Street and Deason Street, and the timber yard on the other side of Deason Street is clearly shown as such. A small structure at the north of the timber yard is shown as 231-229 High Street and at the northern corner of the site the electricity sub-station is clearly illustrated. To the south, Union Court is shown as entering the site from Union Street. Further to the southwest the plot between 209 and 217 High Street is shown as empty, presumably as a result of bomb damage, and most buildings either side of Livingstone Road have been removed. Structures including gasometers are missing from the gasworks, probably also because of bomb damage reasons, and buildings northeast of 273 High Street are also missing. The High Street itself has been widened considerably.
- 4.7.13 The 1976 Ordnance Survey Map shows there to have been some major changes in the vicinity of the study site. With the exception of the 'Green Gate', the electricity sub-station, the small structure at 231-229 High Street and structures southeast of Union Court all other buildings on the site fronting Union Street and Deason Street have been removed, leaving a large empty space in the centre of the site.
- 4.7.14 The 1989 Ordnance Survey Map shows further changes. The structures southeast of Union Court have been removed, indeed Union Court is no longer shown. A structure (presumably the still extant, brick surrounded raised lawn) has appeared in front of the sub-station, but the only structures on site are the three buildings along the High Street frontage.
- 4.7.15 The most noticeable recent development in the vicinity of the site has been the establishment of Rick Roberts Way, post-1989. At its northwestern end it follows the former line of Union Street, but towards the southeast it curves eastwards, cutting across the former positions of properties that fronted the northeastern side of Union Street.

5 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Geology

5.1.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) of England and Wales (Sheet 256, North London), the site's geological sequence consists of Eocene London Clay overlain by River Terrace Gravels, the most recent of which is the Lea Valley Gravel, deposited c. 15,000 – 10,000 BP. The Terrace Gravels are sealed by more recent (Holocene) alluvial deposits, mostly comprised of sand, silt and clay. These are likely to be overlain by recent made ground.

5.1.2 A short distance from the site, archaeological investigations as part of the 2012 London Olympics project, immediately to the southwest of Rick Roberts Way, did find evidence of a palaeochannel, believed to be a former course of the Channelsea River (Birchenough *et al.* 2008). Because of the presence of the former channel a very deep stratigraphic sequence was recorded on the site. The surface of natural Terrace Gravel was recorded at maximum elevation of -0.2m OD and above this were extensive deposits of alluvial material with some archaeological horizons. Approximately 5m of alluvial and archaeological deposits were recorded. The base of modern made ground was recorded at c. 4.25m OD and the modern ground surface varied in elevation between 5.18m OD and 6.23m OD.

5.2 Topography

5.2.1 The site is generally flat at a level of c. 4.00m OD. However, a bund of dumped material is present along the southern side of the site (perhaps dumped as part of the construction of Rick Roberts Way). The top of this dumped material is at c. 6.20m OD (information taken from the topographic survey).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of four trenches within the curtilage of the proposed development was outlined in the written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation (Hawkins 2009) (see Figure 2). A service plan provided by the commissioning client indicated an east-west aligned sewer bisecting the site. Trench 1 was located to the south of the alleged sewer while Trench 2 was positioned to the north. However, the absence of the sewer became evident during excavation and the two trenches were combined to form Trench 1/2. Trench 3 was aligned roughly northwest-southeast and measured 9m x 37m at the top and 2m x 30m at the base and Trench 4 was aligned east-west and measured 9m x 17m at the top and 2m x 10m at the base.
- 6.2 Prior to excavation the perimeter of each trench was marked using survey spray paint and then scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT). The trenches were excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. Excavation progressed through modern material until the top of the natural geology was discernable.
- 6.3 All deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets. Trench plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. The trenches and all archaeological features were surveyed using a GPS surveying system at which time a temporary benchmark was also established at a height of 4.18m OD in the northern portion of the site. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in colour and monochrome slide and digital formats.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.1.1 The natural sequence was represented by a layer of loosely compacted mid-reddish yellow sandy gravel observed across the entire site at a maximum height of 2.10m OD (in Trench 1/2) in the south, sloping down towards the east to a maximum height of 1.01m OD (in Trench 3). Overlying the gravel horizon was a yellow clay deposit recorded at a maximum height of 2.52m OD in the south (in Trench 1/2) and 1.68m OD in the east (in Trench 3). This horizon was recorded in Trenches 1/2, and 3 as [22], [8], and [37] respectively. In the western end of Trench 4 the natural sequence comprised natural gravel, the top of which appeared to have been truncated by 19th century activity on the site. The gravel horizon seen in Trench 4 was first observed at a height of c. 0.18m OD in the western part of the trench and at 1.00m OD in the eastern end where it was overlain by the same horizon of yellow clay observed in the other trenches. Only a 0.20m thick section of this clay survived (to a height of 1.20m OD) in the eastern end of the trench and therefore both the clay and the gravel appeared to have been truncated by the construction of brick and concrete footings during the late 19th century.

7.2 Phase 2 – Medieval

7.2.1 The truncated remains of an east-west aligned ditch [25] dating to the medieval period was recorded as cutting the alluvial deposit in the southern extent of Trench 1/2. It survived to a maximum height of 2.14m OD and a maximum depth of 1.42m OD. The ditch was filled by [24] comprising soft dark bluish grey clay containing occasional inclusions of rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles. Excavation of a slot through a section of the ditch yielded CBM fragments and pottery sherds consistent with the medieval period. The pottery comprised two sherds of London type ware (1080-1350) and two sherds of Essex medieval greyware (1175-1400) one of which was part of a glazed jug. This gives a general date for the fill of the ditch of 1175-1350.

7.2.2 In the central portion of the trench a single piece of timber was observed. This was initially thought to represent the remains of a possible timber revetment, but upon further investigation it became evident that the timber was not in situ. Due to its fragile nature collection for further analysis was impossible.

7.2.3 An environmental sample taken from the ditch fill contained significant amounts of burnt wood. The sample also contained significant numbers of fruit seeds (peach, apricot). One bird bone (not chicken) was present and one piece of large animal bone (sheep). The bones were not burnt. Large numbers of water snails and other molluscs were also evident in the sample. The sample contained one sherd of pottery, which was identified as a London-type ware jug sherd with a date range of 1080 – 1350.

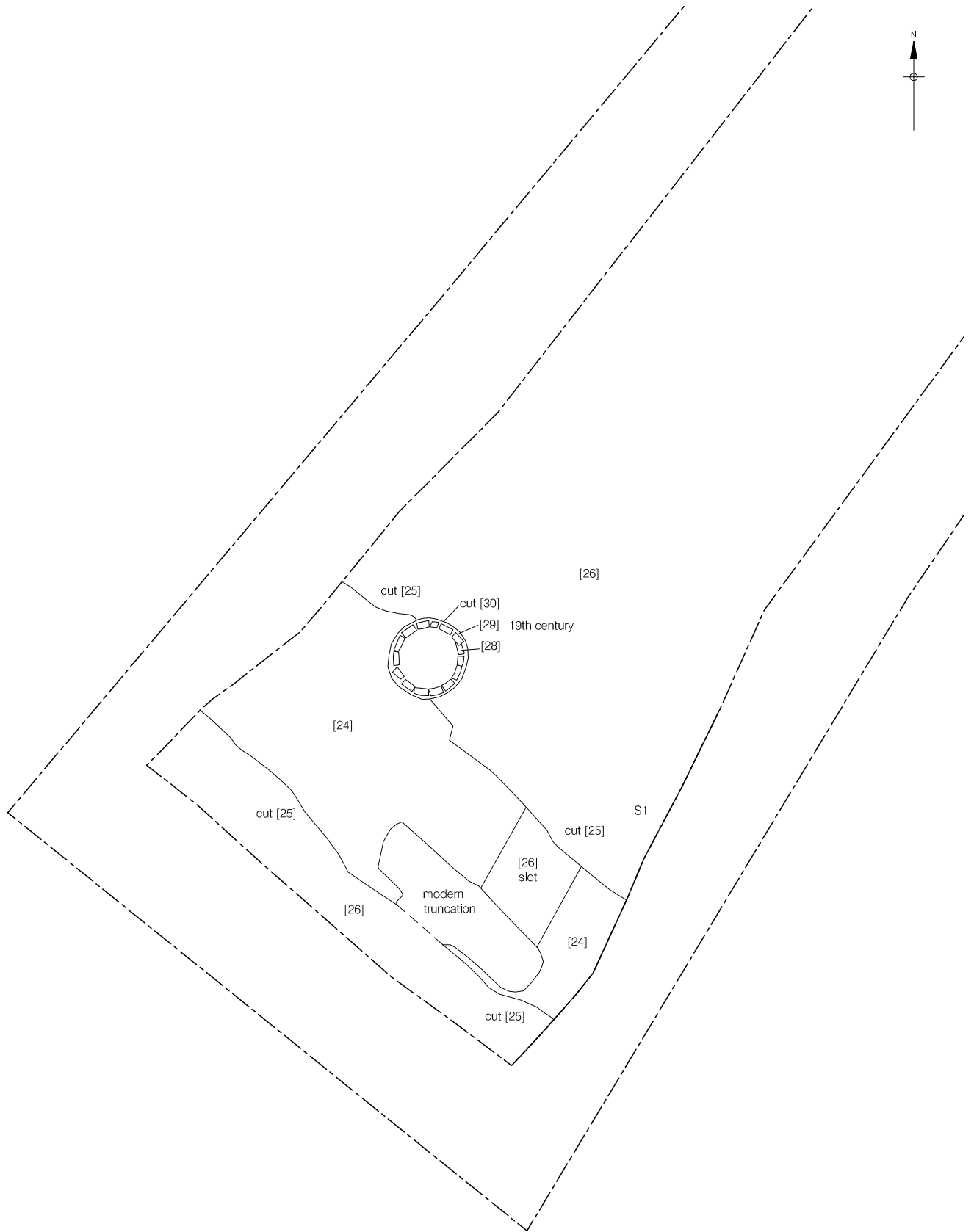
7.3 Phase 3 – Post-Medieval

7.3.1 In Trench 1/2 truncation had occurred in the southwestern portion of the trench where during the 19th century a ditch had been excavated along the same alignment as the medieval ditch [25]. The 19th century ditch, [20], appeared to have truncated the top of the earlier ditch [25]. Cuts [18] and [13] both represent re-cutting of ditch [22]. The cut for the ditch was first observed at 3.14m OD.

7.3.2 In the western portion of the medieval ditch a 19th century circular brick well [28] was observed cutting through the ditch. The well measured 1.34m in diameter and was constructed using red fabric machine made bricks. It was first recorded at a height of 2.50m OD.

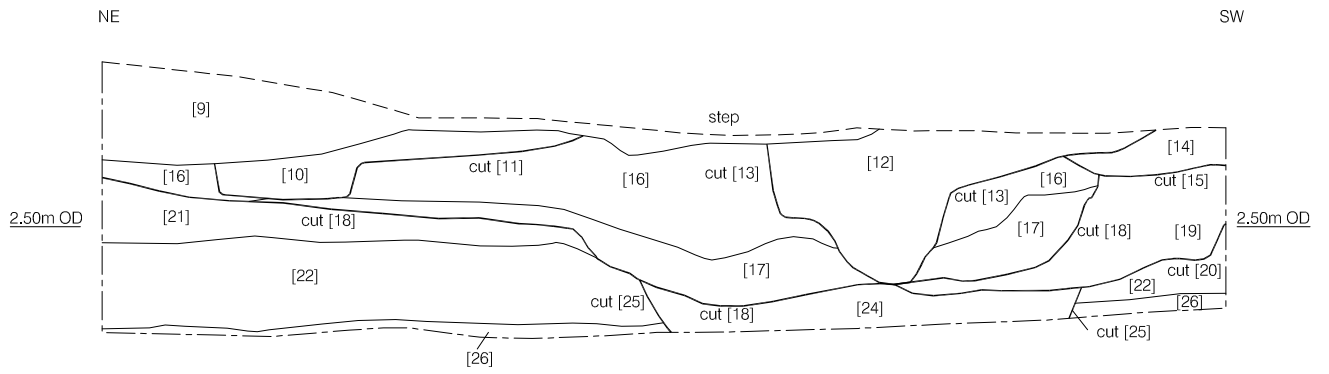
7.3.3 Additional post-medieval truncation was observed in Trenches 3 and 4. Most noticeable was the truncation in Trench 4 where the brick and concrete footings of a 19th or 20th century building had cut into the natural gravel. In the north-east end of

Trench 1/2 a north-south aligned ditch dating to the 19th century cut into the underlying natural deposit [8]. The top of the ditch was located at 1.93m OD and the base was at 1.63m OD.

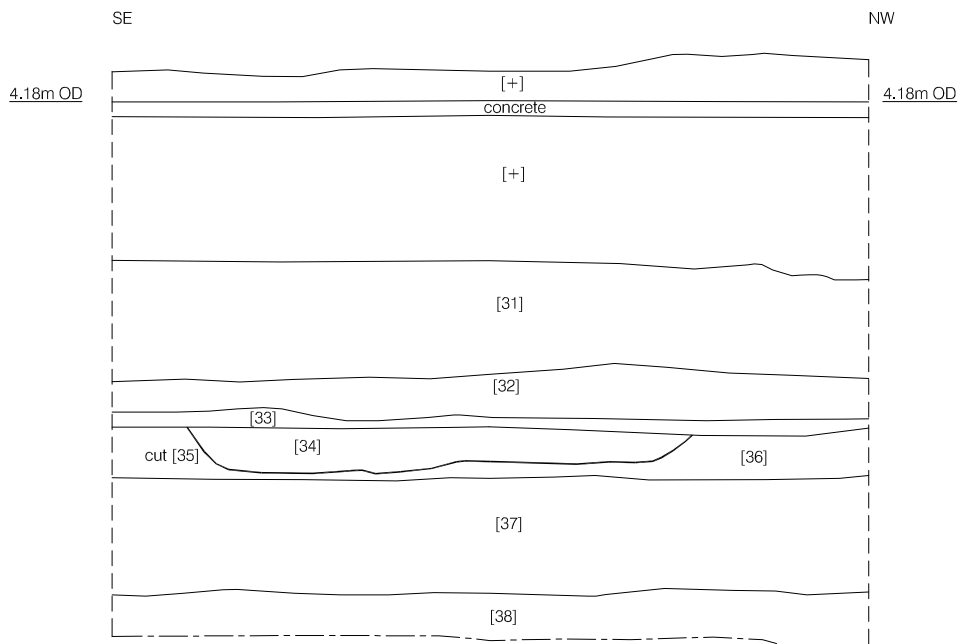


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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1 / 2
1:100 at A4



Section 1
Trench 1 / 2
Northwest Facing



Section 3
Trench 3
Northeast Facing



Figure 4
Sections 1 & 3
1:50 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

- 8.1.1 All the trenches revealed natural deposits that were consistent with the underlying geology of this area, albeit at a level higher than expected. The natural gravel did not appear to have suffered significant truncation by historic and modern development on site except in Trench 4. The yellow clay horizon overlying the natural gravel displayed signs of truncation by 19th and 20th century activity; especially in the eastern portion of the site (Trench 4) where historic maps dating to the mid-19th century record the presence of a large building. Brick and concrete footings, presumably associated with this building, were observed to a depth of 1.20m OD leaving an approximately 0.20m thick section of the yellow clay deposit intact.
- 8.1.2 The medieval ditch recorded in the southern end of Trench 1/2 yielded a few sherds of pottery consistent with the medieval period. These gave a general date of 1175-1350. Amongst the other finds from the backfill of the ditch were fragments of ceramic building material and two animal bones.
- 8.1.3 The ditch is likely to have been backfilled prior to the construction of a large building on this part of the site by 1821. A circular brick well [28] was installed some time during the 19th century, and cut the medieval phase of the ditch. The well therefore also presumably post dates the backfilling of the ditch by 1821. It is probable that the ditch remained in use from the medieval period until the 19th century, although no material was found to prove the continual existence of the ditch between the medieval period and the 19th century.
- 8.1.4 Based on its alignment and location along the current property boundary it is possible that the ditch respects the historic property boundary. However, insufficient cartographic material was available to validate this theory. The ditch is not shown on any of the historic maps.
- 8.1.5 A parish boundary marker dating to 1731 stands along the western perimeter of the site, so the ditch may also represent the parish boundary. The earliest map available for the site was the Rocque plan of 1746 which does not show a parish boundary along this line (Plate 1). No parish boundary is shown on any of the later maps either, although the boundary may have gone out of use by 1746. It is possible that the marker stone was moved from a position on the ditch line to its current position, or that it was moved onto the site from elsewhere in the area. The marker reads 'S M.R 1731 This estate belonging to the parish of St Mary Rotherhithe Extends 5 feet 3 inches Northward from this stone.'

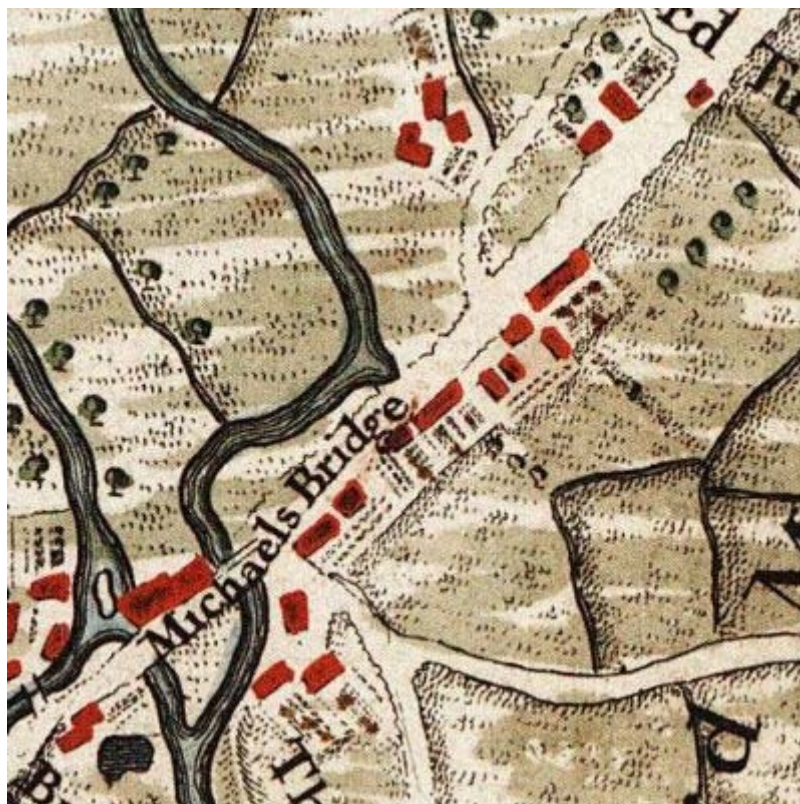


Plate 1 Rocque's map 1746-site is located to the 'e' on 'Bridge'
(www.nmm.ac.uk/collections/explore/chartzoom.cfm/imageID/K1129)

- 8.1.6 Chapman and Andre's map dating to 1777 shows possible development along the northwestern boundary of the site although no evidence of these buildings was found during the evaluation. It is likely that they were demolished in order to free up land for the construction of a large building shown on Clayton's 1821 map as occupying the northwestern portion of the site. It is also likely that the construction of terraced houses along New Union Street (now Rick Roberts Way) and William Street (now Deason Street) in the mid 19th century destroyed any evidence of the earlier development.
- 8.1.7 A number of 19th century features and soil horizons were recorded during the archaeological evaluation. Amongst these was a 0.35m thick light reddish brown silty clay deposit observed at a maximum height of 2.13m OD. This horizon contained frequent inclusions of decayed organic material and a few sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered from the deposit. The top of this layer roughly corresponds to the height of the ground surface around the terraced houses along Wise Road to the northeast. These buildings appear on historic maps around the same time as the terraced houses formerly occupying much of the development site. It is likely that deposit [36] represents the 19th century ground surface now obscured by ground raising activity presumably occurring in the third quarter of the 20th century.
- 8.2 Conclusions
- 8.2.1 An orange clay deposit seen overlying the gravel on the site may represent an alluvial layer related to the palaeo-channel located to the south of Rick Roberts Way. The presence of the medieval ditch suggests that by this period, the site was either dry enough to be of probable agricultural use, or that the ditch was being used to drain the land for use. It is unclear if the ditch had any relationship with the probable medieval mill found to the north of the site.
- 8.2.2 It has been shown by the evaluation that the medieval ditch on the site was recut and still in use by the 19th century. It was probably backfilled only when a large building

was built on the site by 1821. 19th and 20th century truncation had taken place in the eastern portion of the site in the vicinity of Trench 4.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Galliford Try Partnerships for commissioning this archaeological evaluation, and David Divers of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins for project managing the site and editing this report, Aiden Turner for processing the survey data, Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations, Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support, and Luciano De Camillis, and Matt Harrison for their hard work on site.

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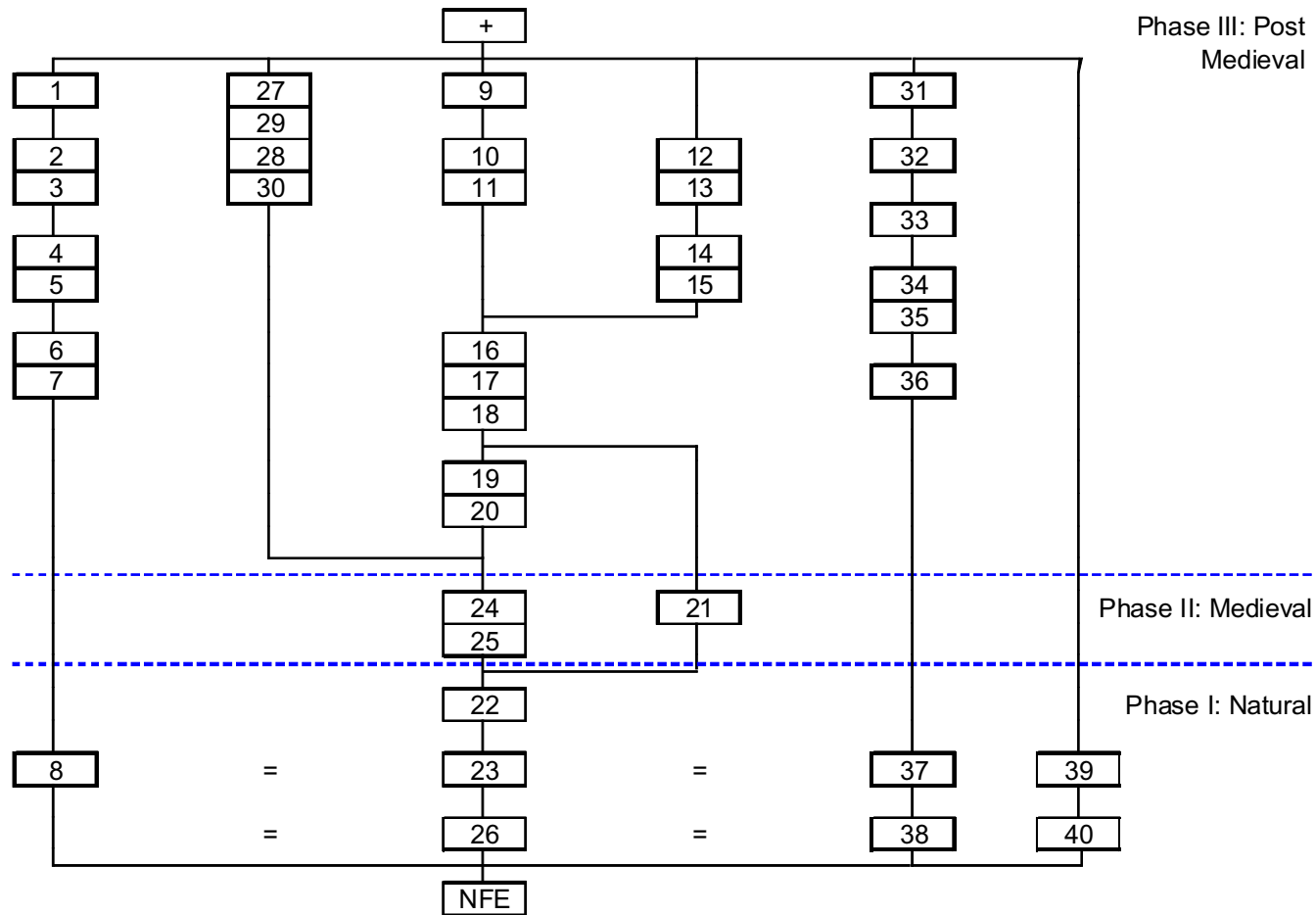
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Plan Number	Section Number	Phase	Type	Description
1	2	-	-	III	Masonry	East-West aligned red brick wall
2	2	-	-	III	Deposit	Fill of [3]
3	2	-	-	III	Cut	19th century pit
4	2	-	-	III	Deposit	Fill of [4]
5	2	-	-	III	Cut	19th century gully
6	2	-	-	III	Deposit	Fill of [7]
7	2	-	-	III	Cut	19th century ditch
8	2	-	-	I	Deposit	Alluvium
9	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Modern made ground
10	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Fill of [11]
11	1	-	1	III	Cut	19th century ditch
12	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Fill of [13]
13	1	-	1	III	Cut	19th century ditch
14	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Fill of [15]
15	1	-	1	III	Cut	19th century ditch
16	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Fill of [18]
17	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Fill of [18]
18	1	-	1	III	Cut	19th century ditch
19	1	-	1	III	Deposit	Fill of [20]
20	1	-	1	III	Cut	19th century ditch
21	1	-	1	III	Layer	Redeposited alluvium
22	1	-	1	I	Layer	Alluvium
23	1	-	1	I	Layer	Alluvium
24	1	TR1	1, 2	II	Deposit	Fill of [25]
25	1	TR1	1, 2	II	Cut	Medieval ditch
26	1	TR1	1	I	Layer	Natural gravel
27	1	TR1	-	III	Deposit	Backfill of [30]
28	1	TR1	-	III	Masonry	Brick well
29	1	TR1	-	III	Deposit	Clay lining of [30]
30	1	TR1	-	III	Cut	19th century well
31	3	-	3	III	Layer	19th century dump layer
32	3	-	3	III	Layer	19th century dump layer
33	3	-	3	III	Layer	19th century dump layer
34	3	-	3	III	Deposit	Fill of [35]
35	3	-	3	III	Cut	19th century pit
36	3	-	3	III	Layer	19th century ground surface
37	3	-	3	I	Layer	Alluvium
38	3	-	3	I	Layer	Natural gravel
39	4	-	-	I	Layer	Yellow clay layer
40	4	-	-	I	Layer	Gravel

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX

HFO 09 Site Matrix



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-56387

Project details

Project name	Land at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of land at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London Borough of Newham was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in February 2009. One ditch dating to the medieval period was recorded during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 09-02-2009 End: 17-02-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HFO09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM STRATFORD Land at Rick Roberts Way

Postcode	E15 2
Site coordinates	TQ 3848 8369 51.5346087034 -0.00318042451798 51 32 04 N 000 00 11 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Helen Hawkins
Project director/manager	Helen Hawkins
Project supervisor	Paw Jorgensen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Galliford Try Partnerships

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Survey'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive	LAARC

recipient

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, E16

Author(s)/Editor(s) Jorgensen, P

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication Brockley, London

Description Unpublished Report

Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, E16

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hawkins, H

Date 2008

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Place of issue or publication Brockley, London

Description Unpublished Report

**Project
bibliography 3**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, E15 2LS
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hawkins, H
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Brockley, London
Description	Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation

Entered by	Paw Jorgensen (pjorgensen@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	5 March 2009

APPENDIX 4 BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

D Hodgson PCA

Brief Summary of Bioarchaeological Remains from Sample taken at Rick Roberts Way, Stratford (Site Code: HFO-09)

The Bioarchaeological remains from the single sample taken from context (24) at Rick Roberts Way are summarised in Table 1. These remains were retrieved by floatation of 10 litres of the sample, a further 10 litres is available for any further investigation that may be required.

The sample contains significant amounts of burnt wood, which constitutes over 90% of the sample. Some of this wood shows possible evidence of having been previously worked.

Both the residue and the flot contain significant numbers of fruit seeds (peach, apricot). These do not appear to be burnt. One small bird bone (not chicken) was present in the sample and one piece of large animal bone (sheep). The bones were not burnt.

Large numbers of water snails and other molluscs are also evident in both the flot and the residue.

The sample contained one sherd of pottery, which was identified as a London-type ware jug sherd with a date range of 1080 – 1350.

Table 1: Bioarchaeological remains from Rick Roberts Way (site code: HFO-09)

Sample Number	Context Number	Volume processed (litres)	Charred		Uncharred		Monocotyledonous Plant remains	Animal Bone ¹	Animal Bone (Burnt) ₁	Fish Bone ¹	Snail remains	Oyster remains	Coal/ coke
			Wood	Seeds	Wood	Seeds							
<1>	(24)	10	5	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	5	-	-

¹ = Passed to finds department

Key	Individuals
1 =	1 to 25
2 =	26 to 50
3 =	51 to 75
4 =	76 to 100
5 =	101 +