

Desk Based Assessment for the Sacred Heart
Convent, Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, Essex RM9
6XD

Site Code: SHC17

NGR: TQ 48410 83787



Touchstone Archaeology

Report for London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

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TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY

The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4LR

Tel: 07976 275180

E: zoeschofield1@gmail.com

www.touchstonearchaeology.co.uk

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the proposed development at the site of Sacred Heart Convent, Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, RM9 6XD

NGR: TQ 48410 83787

1. SUMMARY

1.1 *Touchstone Archaeology has been commissioned by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment on the site of the Sacred Heart Convent, Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, Essex RM9 6XD.*

1.2 *The proposed development comprises of the conversion of the former convent to a homeless hostel.*

1.3 *The proposed development area (PDA) is located in the south east of England, in the town of Dagenham. The PDA (NGR: TQ 48410 83787) is found to the south of the town on the Goresbrook Road, within a residential area just south of Gores Park. The site is currently the Sacred Heart Convent, bounded to the north by the Goresbrook Road, to the east by housing, to the west by Harmony House Community Centre and a leisure estate and to the west by the Becontree Ambulance Station (Fig.1-2).*

1.4 *This Desk Based Assessment has examined the wide variety of archaeological data held by GLHER and other sources (section 10.2). Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the proposed development can be summarized as:*

- *Prehistoric: **Moderate***
- *Iron Age: **Low***
- *Romano-British: **Moderate***
- *Anglo-Saxon: **Low***

- *Medieval: **Low***
- *Post-medieval: **Moderate***
- *Modern: **Low***

*The Desk Based Assessment concludes that the site has a **low** potential for archaeological discoveries.*

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The PDA is centered on the National Grid Reference: TQ 48410 83787

The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within a c.500m vicinity of the Proposed Development Area.

2.2 Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated into the assessment.

2.3 This report is a desk-based appraisal from known cartographic, photographic and Archaeological sources and is a research led statement on the archaeological potential of the proposed development.

2.4 It may be that intrusive investigations, such as a Geophysical Survey and/or an Archaeological Evaluation, with machine cut trial trenching, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as a Planning Condition.

3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand); sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the palaeogene period in a local environment previously dominated by deep seas.

3.1.2 The superficial deposits are top low gravel formation (sand and gravel), deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by rivers.

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 The PDA sits at an average height of 6m AOD in the urban town of Dagenham located at almost equal distance between Barking and Rainham. It is situated on the north bank of the River Thames, 1.8km from the waters edge. The A13, formerly Ripple Road is 300m south of the site, The Gores River runs north south through the Goresbrook Park, 350m east of the site (Fig.1).

3.3 Historic Hedgerows

The PDA is located within an urban town and the current boundary was created towards the end of the 20th century, therefore there is no evidence of vegetation that qualifies as 'important' as defined by Schedule 1 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (Plate 7). The proposed development would have no impact on any vegetation.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 The Proposed Development

The proposed development area comprises of c.3800sqm (0.38 hectares) containing a convent building located centrally within formal gardens with a planning application for a homeless hostel.

4.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) Policy 12

The NPPF (2012) paragraphs 126 – 141 is the relevant policy for the historic environment, particularly paragraphs 126 and 128:

4.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Paragraph 126. Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

4.2.2 Paragraph 128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significant.

As a minimum, the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (NPPF 2012).

4.3 Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Guidance that help to preserve the built and archaeological heritage are:

- PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG16 Archaeology and Planning

4.4 Statutory Protection

Both above and below ground archaeological remains that are considered Nationally can be identified and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Any works affecting a scheduled Monument should be preceded by an application to the Secretary of State for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). Geophysical investigation or the use of a metal detector requires advance permission from Historic England.

The legal requirements on control of development and alterations affecting buildings, including those which are listed or in conservation areas (which are protected by law), is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

4.5 Regional Policies

4.5.1 The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham have two policies relevant to archaeology in their Local Development Framework (Planning for the future of Barking and Dagenham – Borough wide development policies: Development plan document; adopted March 2011):

Policy BP2 Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings

Policy BP3 Archaeology

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

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

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

c) Requiring the conservation in situ of other archaeological remains or, where this is not justifiable or feasible and the need for the development and or other material considerations outweigh the importance of the remains, making provision for their excavation, recording and dissemination.

Where appropriate, access to and interpretation of in-situ archaeological remains should be provided, if this is possible without having a detrimental impact on the site.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION

5.3.1 *Barking and Dagenham's Heritage Strategy (2000) states that historic records, archaeological excavations and stray finds have illustrated that the Borough contains potential archaeological sites of all periods of local, national and international significance.*

Barking and Dagenham is largely urban in character and, apart from the local parks and playing fields, significant areas of undeveloped land remain in only two areas; the marshes bordering the Thames and the agricultural land to the north-east at Marks Gate. Where there are likely to be remains of historical interest below ground level, English Heritage, pursuant to the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, may recommend to the Secretary of State the designation of an archaeological area. All important historical sites are recorded on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). The local authority must then be notified prior to any works being undertaken within a designated area. The local authority must maintain a register of land included within an archaeological area. The Borough has one scheduled ancient monument site - The Barking Abbey Ancient Monument Site.

5.3.2 The national planning policy context in relation to archaeology is set out in PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and supporting Planning Practice Guide, which states a preference that local authorities should conserve archaeological remains. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage asset affected including its archaeological interest. The level of detail required should be proportionate to its importance. When considering applications the Council will take into account the relative significance of the remains.

5.3.3 London Plan Policy 4B.15 states that local authorities should have policies for the preservation of archaeological assets and scheduled ancient monuments.

5.3.4 The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) provides a computerised record of information regarding London's archaeological and historic fabric. The information assists with the early identification of the archaeological and historic interest of an area or site when development is proposed. English Heritage maintains the GLHER for London.

5.3.5 When any development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or considered to have the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest (including ancient monuments – both scheduled and unscheduled), a detailed, fully analytical assessment of the site is required and should be set out in the application.

5.3.6 In situ preservation of archaeological remains is favoured where possible. Where preservation of archaeological remains by record is agreed to be appropriate, the applicant will be required to arrange and fund the excavation, investigation, recording of those remains and publication of the findings to an acceptable professional standard.

5.3.7 Archive deposition is an essential part of appropriate excavation recording procedure.

4.5.2 The South-East Research Framework (SERF) is on-going with groups of researchers producing a Resource Assessment, which will identify research questions and topics in order to form a Research Agenda for the future.

4.6 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good Practice Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practice Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government.

The Good Practice Advice notes emphasizes the need for assessments of the significance of any heritage assets, which are likely to be changed, so the assessment can inform the decision process.

Significance is defined in the NPPF Guidance in the Glossary as “the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historical. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also it’s setting”.

The setting of the heritage asset is also clarified in the Glossary as “the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve”.

This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

5. PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham in order to supplement a planning application for the proposed conversion of the Sacred Heart Convent to a Homeless Hostel to establish the potential for archaeological features and deposits.

6.2 Desktop Study – Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011)

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (2014). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

“a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (CiFA 2014)

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1 Desk-Based Assessment

7.1.1 Archaeological Databases

The Greater London Historic Environment Record (HER) provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area (PDA) and the surrounding environs of Dagenham. The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) was also used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius of the proposed development site and relevant HER data is included in the report. The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also searched as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER (Fig.12 & Appendix I).

7.1.2 Historical Documents

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc., were considered not relevant to this specific study.

7.1.3 Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

A cartographic and pictorial document search was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 3-11).

7.1.4 Aerial Photographs

The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 1-2).

7.1.5 Geotechnical Information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

7.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological Studies are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

8. RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

8.1 The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area.

Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated into the assessment.

8.2 Archaeology

8.2.1 The site is located in an Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area (DLO37897), that covers the Ripple Road area the approximate boundary between the low lying marshlands to the south and the higher and drier land to the north. The area has produced significant finds and features from both the prehistoric and Roman period; A wooden idol, made from Scots pine wood and dating from the Neolithic to early Bronze Age is only one of seven examples that have been found in the UK. The wooden figures are generally found in mainland Europe, particularly Germany and Scandinavia and are often found in wetland areas such as bogs or estuarine areas; A causeway or Driftway for cattle, four metres wide and constructed of gravel, burnt flint and sand was uncovered just west of where the idol was found, dating to the middle bronze age. It was traced by borehole for 23 metres; Roman activity along the Ripple Road has been confirmed by cremation burials (ELO3147) dating to the 1st-2nd century and a stone coffin dating to 3rd century.

The Tier III Archaeological Priority Area (DLO37927), found c.400m to the south, covers the Thames foreshore. Due to its marshy history it has a high potential for the preservation of organic material that is found in wetland environments.

Ribbon development along the Ripple Road continued into the post-medieval period and can be traced through Cartographic research.

8.2.2 0-100m Radius:

Aerial photographs of Goresbrook Sports Centre show cropmarks of a junction of three double ditched marsh lanes. Ground radar confirmed that stone had been used in the construction of these roads and evidence of double ditches and a possible trackway. In 1995 an evaluation by Newham Museum Service uncovered two pits, two ditches and a posthole dating to the prehistoric period.

An evaluation on the site of the PDA in 1996 by Newham Museum Service of ten trenches revealed a Post Medieval ditch and modern features associated with the school (ELO3148).

An evaluation at Goresbrook fields in 1995 by Newham Museum Service of 29 trenches discovered a rectangular enclosure containing four Roman cremation burials and a second ditched enclosure and two groups of linear ditches. The cremations contained ceramic grave goods and abraded pottery sherds and were dated to the 1st-2nd century. (ELO3147).

8.2.3 100-200m Radius:

There are no events recorded.

8.2.4 200-300m Radius:

An evaluation at the former Parks Police Centre, Goresbrook Road, in 2011 of 6 trenches by AOC Archaeology Group, identified a series of terrace gravels sealed by natural silts and clays and activity associated with modern buildings (ELO11718).

An evaluation at Merriellands Crescent in 2013 by MOLAS produced Neolithic activity (ELO14474).

An evaluation at Former Castle School in 1998 by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust discovered prehistoric to post-medieval activity (ELO3336).

An evaluation at Chequers Corner in 2011 by Thames Valley Archaeological Survey produced a negative result (ELO11752).

8.2.5 300-400m Radius:

Evaluations at Merriellands Crescent in 2013 and 2014 by MOLAS produced a negative result (ELO14025/ELO15059).

An evaluation at Poole Lane, Ripple Road in 1993 by Newham Museum Service of two trenches uncovered a Bronze Age causeway (ELO3149).

An evaluation at Darcy Gardens and Coombes Road allotments in 2006 by AOC Archaeological Group of seven trenches uncovered modern activity from the allotments and an undated a linear ditch and post-hole (ELO6950).

8.2.6 400-500m Radius:

There are no events recorded.

8.2.7 Established stratigraphy

An evaluation at Goresbrook Fields, c.100m southeast of the site, encountered natural Holocene and Pleistocene gravel at 5.94 and 6.30mOD and an evaluation at the former Parks Police Centre, c.250m west, encountered natural of reddish yellow sand with high gravel content representing terrace gravels at 5.67mOD of intrusive events within the Goresbrook area, no established stratigraphy exists for this site.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Table of Historical Periods

Paleolithic	c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC
Neolithic	c. 4,300 BC – c. 2,300 BC
Bronze Age	c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC
Iron Age	c. 600 BC – c. AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – c. AD 410
Anglo-Saxon	AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval	AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern	AD 1901 – present day

Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods

9.2 This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape (500m radius centered on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on page 14 in **Table 1**.

9.3 Introduction

The Archaeological record within the assessment area is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain through to the modern period. The geographic and topographic location of Dagenham is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel, settlement, industry and communication since the Paleolithic.

9.4 History of the Locality

9.4.1 Approximately 450,000 years ago the great 'Anglian' Ice Age displaced the River Thames from its previous northerly route via Clacton towards its present course. After that, in warmer periods pre-modern humans (Neanderthals and their ancestors) migrated into southern England where they hunted and butchered animals such as antelope, bison, deer and even mammoths using wooden spears and stone tools.

9.4.2 The borough of Dagenham and Barking would have lain on the edge of a great well-watered wooded lowland plain stretching as far as the Low Countries and Germany. This would have been a rich environment for Mesolithic people to hunt, fish and gather wild plants. Populations would have been low and small bands would have moved around the landscape exploiting its diverse resources. Findings of Flint Flakes and a site of Mesolithic activity has been found in the nearby town of Rainham and the Barking and Dagenham marshes, designated as an archaeological priority area has high potential for the preservation of organic material from the prehistoric periods.

9.4.3 In 1922, during the installation of sewer pipes along the edge of the marshes the skeleton of a deer and a wooden idol were found within a peat layer. The skeleton was lost and the idol is now held at the Valence House Museum. The idol was made of Scots pinewood and depicted a male with no arms and a globular socket that may have held a phallus (060178/00/00/MLO574).

9.4.4 In 1993 a Bronze Age causeway constructed from gravel, burnt flint and sand. Borehole surveys confirm that the causeway was 4m wide and c.23m in length and it is hypothesized that it was used as a Driftway for livestock. It was dated by radiocarbon analysis on the peat above and beneath it (062037/00/00/MLO590). Cropmarks at Goresbrook Park, suggest a trackway and ditches survive beneath the surface and this was confirmed by geophysical survey (061164/00/00/MLO240)

9.4.5 Barking and Dagenham lies approximately 15km east of the Roman city of *Londinium*. The London to Colchester Roman road passes through the north of the borough

and evidence of Roman activity has been found at Goresbrook Fields in 1995 when four Roman cremations from the 1st-2nd century were discovered within an enclosure (ELO3147/MLO66641).

9.4.6 Dagenham first appears in a document as *Dæccanhaam* in a charter of Barking Abbey dating from 666 AD. The name derives from the Old English *ham* meaning ‘farmstead’ and the name of the owner *Dæcca* – ‘*the farmstead of Daecca*’

9.4.7 Dagenham is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey but the manor of Cockermouth lay in the southwestern corner of the parish and was a free tenement held by Barking Abbey until the dissolution when it passed to Anthony Browne. It consisted of 220 acres and was sublet to several tenants and changed hands several times until the land was eventually severed from the manorial rights between 1768-1829. The manor house became known as Pound House Farm named for the local ‘Pound’ on site. It stood at the junction of Ripple Road and Chequers Lane and was demolished to make way for a new house built on the site in the 19th century, which was then subsequently demolished in the early 20th century.

9.4.8 From the 13th century onwards there are numerous references to the parish, its farms and hamlets. The bridge first mentioned in 1299 as Dagenham Beam Bridge meaning a plank bridge. It was replaced with a stone bridge in 1564 and maintained by Barking Abbey until the dissolution when responsibility was abandoned until it was accepted as a county bridge in 1694.

9.4.9 The parish was largely undeveloped marshland until the 18th century and settlement was focused on the village of Dagenham. In 1653 the village consisted of a church and a single street, Crown Street, with buildings favouring the north side. In 1670 it contained 150 houses and by 1801 the population was 1057.

9.4.10 By the 18th Century the road to London was known as Ripple Street, now Ripple Road, it turned north into Broad Street, formerly French Lane, towards Dagenham village and crossed Dagenham Bridge. The London to Tilbury road was taken over by the Tilbury

Fort Turnpike Trust in 1809 and underwent improvements. The Railway arrived in 1839 and continuous extensions and the addition of stations saw the town connected to London and Southend by 1856. The line was electrified in 1902-8, in 1848 a sub-post office was opened and in 1893 the telegraph was installed. Despite this the area remained largely rural with the Ripple Road populated by farms.

9.4.11 In the early 20th century the Beacontree housing estate was built. It began in 1919, but suffered a post war slump and was not completed until 1939. It was described as the largest housing estate in the world, providing 24,000 houses on a 3,000 acre estate for working class people. The houses were designed in a neo-Georgian style by G. Topham Forest, architect to L.C.C. Ford Dagenham opened in 1931 providing work for many of the residents of the Beacontree estate.

9.4.12 The Sacred Heart Convent began life in the early 1930's as a small school to serve the new population. The building was constructed in a neo-Georgian style in a mixture of red and plum coloured bricks in English bond, a pitched tiled roof and brick chimneys. The building is a rectangle with a raised wing at each end with hipped roofs. A cupola is located centrally on the roof. The main entrance doors are at the centre of the front elevation and are framed by a scrolled pediment and mock Doric columns, with symmetrical sash windows fanning out to each side on two levels. The west wing has two arched windows. It is set within gardens of lawn and vegetation to the boundary, wall of brick piers interspersed with railings frames the front and provides an entrance path to the building.

The school and buildings continued to develop and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Secondary (modern) School for Girls opened in 1961. It later became the Goresbrook County Secondary School. The Sacred heart convent closed in 1991. To the rear of the convent the Trustees of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary built Harmony House, which opened in 2001.

9.5 Regression 1869 – 1992

9.5.1 Historic maps

9.5.1.1 In an extract from the Topographical Map of the County of Essex by John Chapman and Peter Andre in 1777, the PDA is located in a rural area just north of the Barking Level and Dagenham Marsh and Ripple Side (later to become Ripple Road). Ripple side is populated on the south side by several farmsteads. A road to the west and the river Gore to the east lead to north to 'Parsloes' Manor House. Broad Street leads from Ripple Side and the Manor of Cockermouth in the southeast to Dagenham village in the northeast. Barking is a far larger settlement to the west (Fig.3).

9.5.1.2 In a sketch that is labeled pre 1800AD the PDA lies in a strip of land to the south of Ripple Side. White's Farm is marked to the north and the manor house of Cockermouth has been replaced with Pound House. Trackways leading north-south are shown to the west (Fig.4).

9.5.2 The Ordnance Survey Maps

9.5.2.1 Historic OS map 1861-62 1:2500

The PDA forms part of field 801 (28.462) and the northwest corner of 802 (4.859). Field 802 is on the north side of Ripple Street directly opposite Osborne's Farm and contains a gravel pit to the south end. Several trackways lead north south to the west and north of the PDA and one leading east west meets the corner of the PDA. The area is entirely rural to the north of Ripple Street and roadside farms are to the south (Fig.5).

9.5.2.2 Historic OS map 1897 1:2500

The field boundaries have broken down and the trackways have disappeared. The PDA forms part of field 581 (33.315). The gravel pit has disappeared and four terraced cottages have been constructed to the north side of Ripple Street. Osborne's Farm, Willishaws farm and Scratton's Farm are still in situ (Fig.6).

9.5.2.3 Historic OS map 1919 1:2500

The field boundaries have broken down further and the PDA forms part of field 581 (58.709). A trackway has been reinstated and runs north south from Ripple Street to cross the river in the north. An earthwork has appeared in place of the gravel pit and Osborne's Farm has been demolished and developed into a row of eight cottages and a single dwelling (Fig.7).

9.5.2.4 Historic OS map 1939 1:2500

The area around the PDA has been entirely developed. The Goresbrook Road and Dagenham Avenue have been constructed to service the new housing estate that surrounds them and Goresbrook Park with children's playground and pavilion has been created within the estate. A convent has been constructed within the PDA. A school has been constructed to the west and to the east and the fields around the convent have been given over to Allotment Gardens. The Ripple Road has been improved and widened and the farms have been lost to modern development (Fig.8).

9.5.2.5 Historic OS map 1962 1:2500

The convent is set within gardens and a path that leads to the Goresbrook Road. The Sacred Heart Convent Secondary School has been constructed to the south and the school to the east has been named Goresbrook County Secondary School. An Ambulance Station is to the west. Tennis courts have been added to Goresbrook Park (Fig.9).

9.5.2.6 Historic OS map 1969-71 1:1250

The gardens of the convent have been redesigned with a larger path to the front and Castle School has been constructed to the west (Fig.10).

9.5.2.7 Historic OS map 1991-92 1:1250

Sacred Heart Secondary School has been extended and a new housing development has been constructed in place of the Allotment Gardens and school playing field to the east (Fig.11).

9.6 Aerial photographs

9.6.1 1945

The 1940 image is grainy and unclear but the convent can be seen to the west of the Goresbrook County Secondary School and the Allotment Gardens can be seen to the east. The area to the south of Goresbrook Road remains undeveloped (Plate 1).

9.6.2 2017

By 2017 the area surrounding the convent has been entirely developed with housing, shops, an Ambulance Station and a leisure estate (Plate 2).

9.7 Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings; Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

9.7.1 The site is within an Archaeological Priority Area and there are three Historic Environment Records within the confines of the proposed development area (PDA). There are nineteen monuments, eighteen events, two findspots and one Park within c.500m vicinity of the PDA; no listed building shares intervisibility with the PDA (Fig.12 & Appendix I).

9.8 Setting of Listed Buildings

9.8.1 One of the tasks of the site visit was aimed to identify any designated heritage assets within the wider context of the PDA in accordance with The Setting of Heritage Assets – English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage 2011). This guidance states that “setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset” (The Setting of Heritage Assets, English Heritage 2011).

9.8.2 There are no Listed Buildings within the assessment area.

10. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

10.1 Walkover Survey

10.1.1 The walkover survey is for the purpose of:

1. Identifying any historic landscape features not shown on maps
2. Conducting a rapid survey for archaeological features
3. Making a note of any surface scatters of archaeological material
4. Constraints or areas of disturbance that may affect archaeological investigation

10.1.2 The walkover survey is not intended as a detailed survey but the rapid identification of archaeological features and any evidence for buried archaeology in the form of surface scatters of lithic or pottery artifacts.

10.1.3 The site has historically fields until it was developed in the 1930's as The Sacred Heart Convent.

10.1.4 The PDA consists of The Sacred Heart Convent building set in grounds of lawned gardens with trees and fence to the side and rear boundaries and brick piers and railings to the front opening on to a pathway that leads to the front door (Plates 3-6).

10.1.5 The convent has been in situ since the 1930's and the land around it has been entirely developed therefore a walkover survey would produce no further results and was not conducted.

10.2 Greater London Historic Environment Record

See Appendix I & Fig. 12

10.2.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The Palaeolithic period represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age. The GLHER has no record from this period within the assessment area, therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The GLHER has no record from this period within the assessment area, therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

The Neolithic period was the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry. The GLHER has two records dating to this period within the assessment area. A Geoarchaeological assessment was carried out at Merrielands Crescent, c.300m southeast of the PDA, where five facies were identified, from Pleistocene flood plane gravels to early Paleocene sands, clay pits and estuarine muds (MLO107515). In 1923, in the same area, a wooden idol and a deer skeleton were discovered while installing a sewer (060178/00/00/MLO574). Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

The Bronze Age was a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level. The GLHER has three records dating to this period within the assessment area. A double ditch and probable trackway were identified from aerial photographs of Goresbrook Park, c.100m north (061164/00/00/MLO240). A causeway and peat deposit were discovered at Pooles Lane, c.350m southeast, during an evaluation in 1993 (062037/00/00/MLO590 & 062038/00/00/MLO591). Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **moderate**.

10.2.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or civitas of the Cantiaci). The GLHER has no records dating to this period, therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

10.2.3 Romano-British

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years. There is one GLHER record from this period within the assessment area; four cremation burials from 1st-2nd century, set within a rectangular enclosure were discovered at Goresbrook Fields, c.100m east of the PDA (MLO66641) and cropmarks of three double-ditched marsh lanes have been identified within the same area (060315/00/00/ML0221). Therefore, the potential for finding archaeological features or deposits from this period is considered **moderate**.

10.2.4 Anglo-Saxon

There are no GLHER records from this period within the assessment area; therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the PDA is considered **low**.

10.2.5 Medieval

There are six GLHER records from this period within the assessment area; A 16th century farmhouse named Osborne's is recorded c.250m southeast of the PDA (060611/00/00/MLO798) and a moated site with Manor House formerly the Manor of Cockermouth and later Pound House Farm and tithe barn are recorded c.350m southeast (060179/00/00/MLO2600 & 060179/01/00/MLO437 & 060179/03/00/MLO443 & 060179/02/00/MLO443). A medieval ditch was uncovered at the former site of Castle School, c.300m west of the PDA (062843/00/00/MLO733). Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period in the PDA is considered **low**.

10.2.6 Post Medieval

There are six records held at the GLHER from this period within the assessment area.

A ditch, one sherd of pottery and three fragments of CBM were found during an evaluation on the site of the PDA (MLO67728). A ditch indicating a trackway was uncovered at the former site of the Parks Police Centre, c.150m west (MLO10359). The site of Ripple Road farmhouse, built shortly after 1770 and later named America Farm and Merrieland is recorded c.250m southeast (060180/00/00/MLO108). A single posthole containing animal bone and tile was recorded at the former site of Castle School, c.300m west (062843/00/00/MLO733). A house on Ripple Road close to The Chequers is recorded c.350m southeast (060650/00/00/MLO801). Following the reduction in trade after the opening of the turn pike road in 1810, The Chequers had moved to a new site by 1944 but the original site is recorded c.350m southeast (060621/00/00/MLO799). Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered **moderate**.

10.2.7 Modern

There are no records in the GLHER within the assessment area from this period. Therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered **moderate**.

10.2.8 Farmsteads

There are no farmsteads recorded within the assessment area.

10.2.9 Undated Records

There are no undated records within the assessment area.

10.3 Summary of Potential

10.3.1 The PDA is located in an area that was, until the early 20th century, open fields located on the higher ground north of Ripple Side. In the 1930's the Goresbrook Road was constructed and a housing estate and Goresbrook Park developed to the north. The Sacred Heart Convent was constructed in the 1930's and while the area around the convent was steadily built up, the site itself remained largely unchanged. Both Bronze Age and Roman

archaeology has been found within a short distance of the PDA at Goresbrook Fields and Goresbrook Park and a post-medieval ditch was found on site, however, the site and its boundaries have been subject to modern construction so these potential remains moderate for these periods of archaeology. The site has an overall potential of **low**.

10.3.2 The desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity, map research, the historical environment record results and recent archaeological investigations have shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **Moderate**
- Iron Age: **Low**
- Roman: **Moderate**
- Anglo-Saxon: **Low**
- Medieval: **Low**
- Post-Medieval: **Moderate**
- Modern: **Low**

11. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 Introduction

Cartographic Regression, Topographical Analysis, and Historic Research have provided evidence for the historic use of the site. By collating this information, we have assessed the impact on previous archaeological remains through the following method of categorisation:

- **Total Impact** - Where the area has undergone a destructive process to a depth that would in all probability have destroyed any archaeological remains e.g. construction, mining, quarrying, archaeological evaluations etc.

- **High Impact** – Where the ground level has been reduced to below natural geographical levels that would leave archaeological remains partly in situ either in plan or section e.g. the construction of roads, railways, buildings, strip foundations etc.
- **Medium Impact** – Where there has been low level or random disturbance of the ground that would result in the survival of archaeological remains in areas undisturbed e.g. the installation of services, pad-stone or piled foundations, temporary structures etc.
- **Low Impact** – Where the ground has been penetrated to a very low level e.g. farming, landscaping, slab foundation etc.

11.2 Historic Impacts

11.2.1 Cartographic regression (8.5), Topographic analysis (3.2) and Historical research (8.4) indicate that the PDA was open fields and remained so until the early 20th century when The Sacred Heart Convent was constructed on the site, therefore, previous impacts to archaeological remains from construction are considered to be **high**

11.2.2 Agriculture became gradually more intense over time and by the modern era it was mechanised. Although the farming process rarely penetrates below the upper layers of the ground, plough truncation can have a significant impact on preserved shallow deposits. The Sacred Heart Convent is now within an urban setting but until the early 20th century it remained open fields and may have been subject to the agricultural process, therefore, the damage to archaeological remains from the agricultural process is considered to be **moderate**.

11.3 Summary of Impacts Both Historic and Proposed

11.3.1 The site was historically open fields and may have been farmed or may have been used for grazing, however the site is small and the agricultural layers were probably disturbed during the construction process. There is no evidence that there was any

construction on the site prior to the Sacred Heart Convent but it is reasonable to assume that due to the size of the site and the period in which the construction took place, there may have been a significant amount of impact to any buried archeology in the upper levels.

11.3.2 The level of natural geology of the site is unconfirmed.

12. MITIGATION

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **low** archaeological potential and the periods that have the highest potential for survival are the Bronze Age, Roman and Post-Medieval periods.

13. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 Archive

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham within 6 months of completion.

13.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at GLHER, and therefore considered as being reliable.

13.3 Copyright

Touchstone Archaeology and the author shall retain full copyright of the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive license to London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Zoe Schofield

Touchstone Archaeology

14. REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

Local Development Framework (Planning for the future of Barking and Dagenham – Borough wide development policies: Development plan document; adopted March 2011

IFA (2014) STANDARD AND GUIDANCE for historic environment desk-based assessment

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Data provided by GLHER

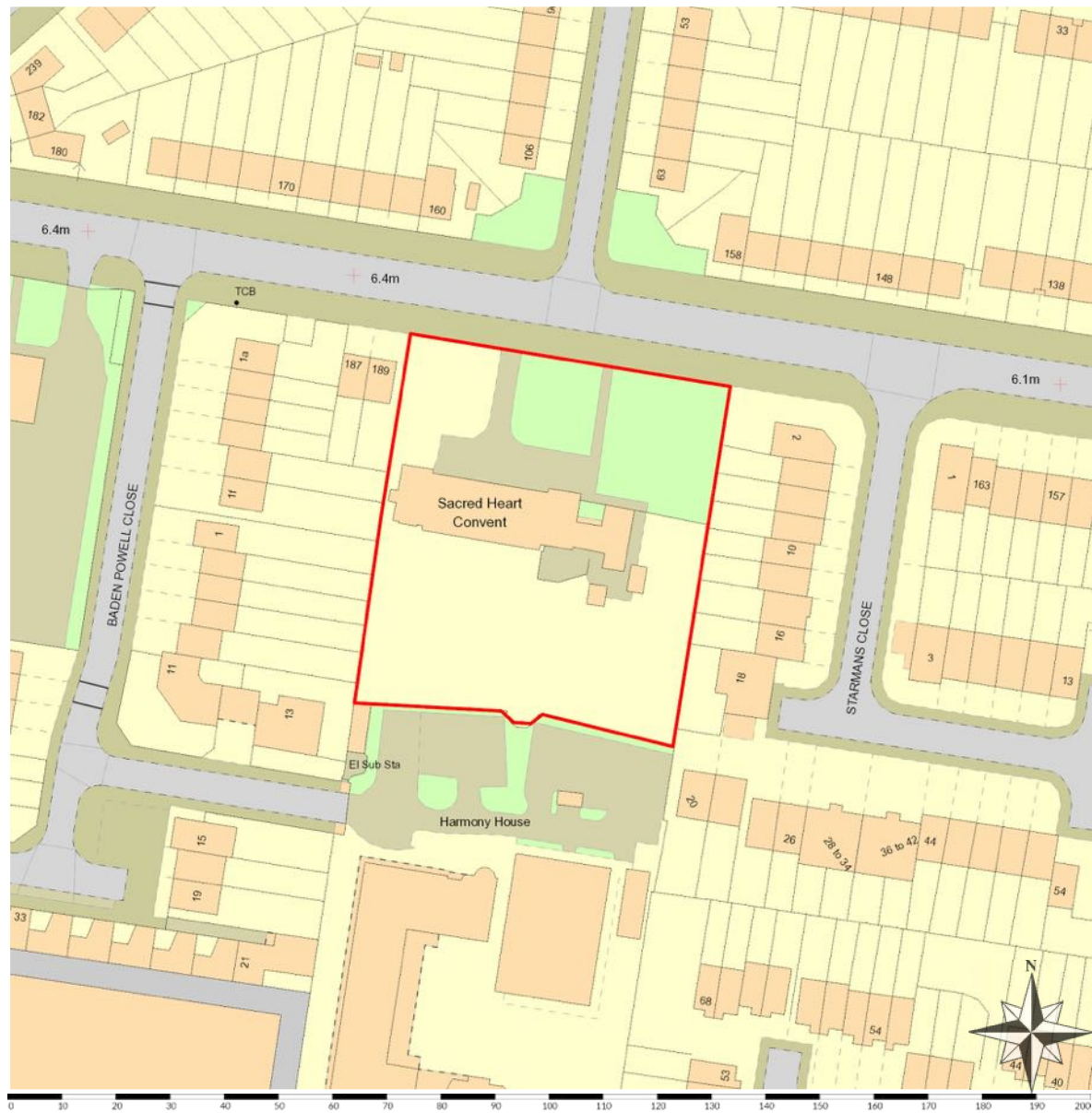
Dunkley M & Hanson I/1995/Resistivity survey at Goresbrook Fields, Dagenham. Newham Museum Service [assessment & evaluation reports].
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record?titleId=1843784>

Tamblyn W S/1996/Archaeological evaluation of The Former Sacred Heart School, Goresbrook Road, Dagenham. Newham Museum Service [assessment & evaluation reports].
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record?titleId=1892337>

Tamblyn W S/1995/Archaeological Evaluation. Goresbrook Fields Dagenham. Newham Museum Service [assessment & evaluation reports].



Fig.1. Location Map



Scale: 1:1250 | Area 4Ha | Grid Reference: 548402,183776 | Paper Size: A4

Fig.2. Site Plan 1:1250



Fig.3. 1777 John Chapman and Peter Andre Map

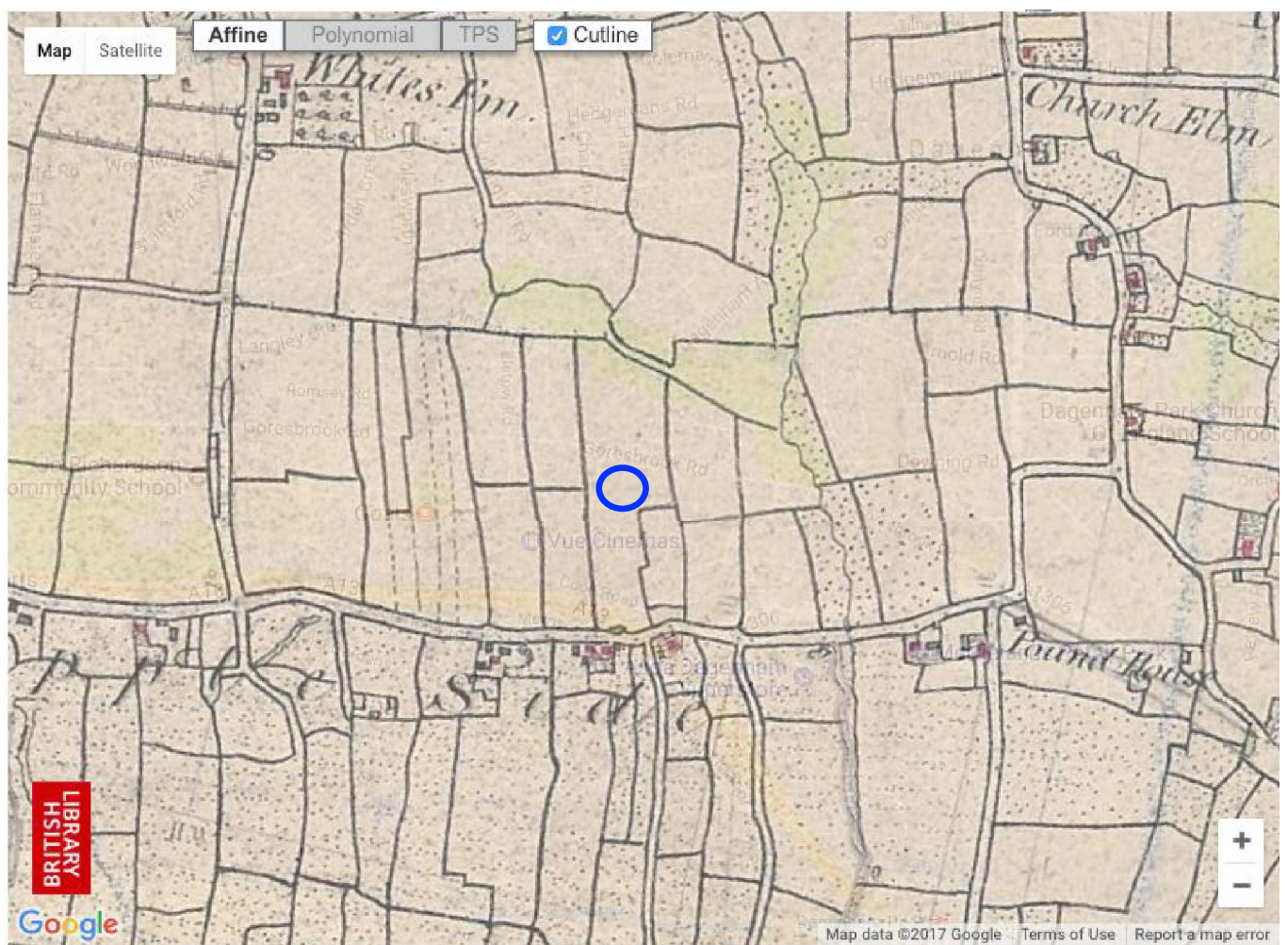


Fig.4. Pre 1800 sketch

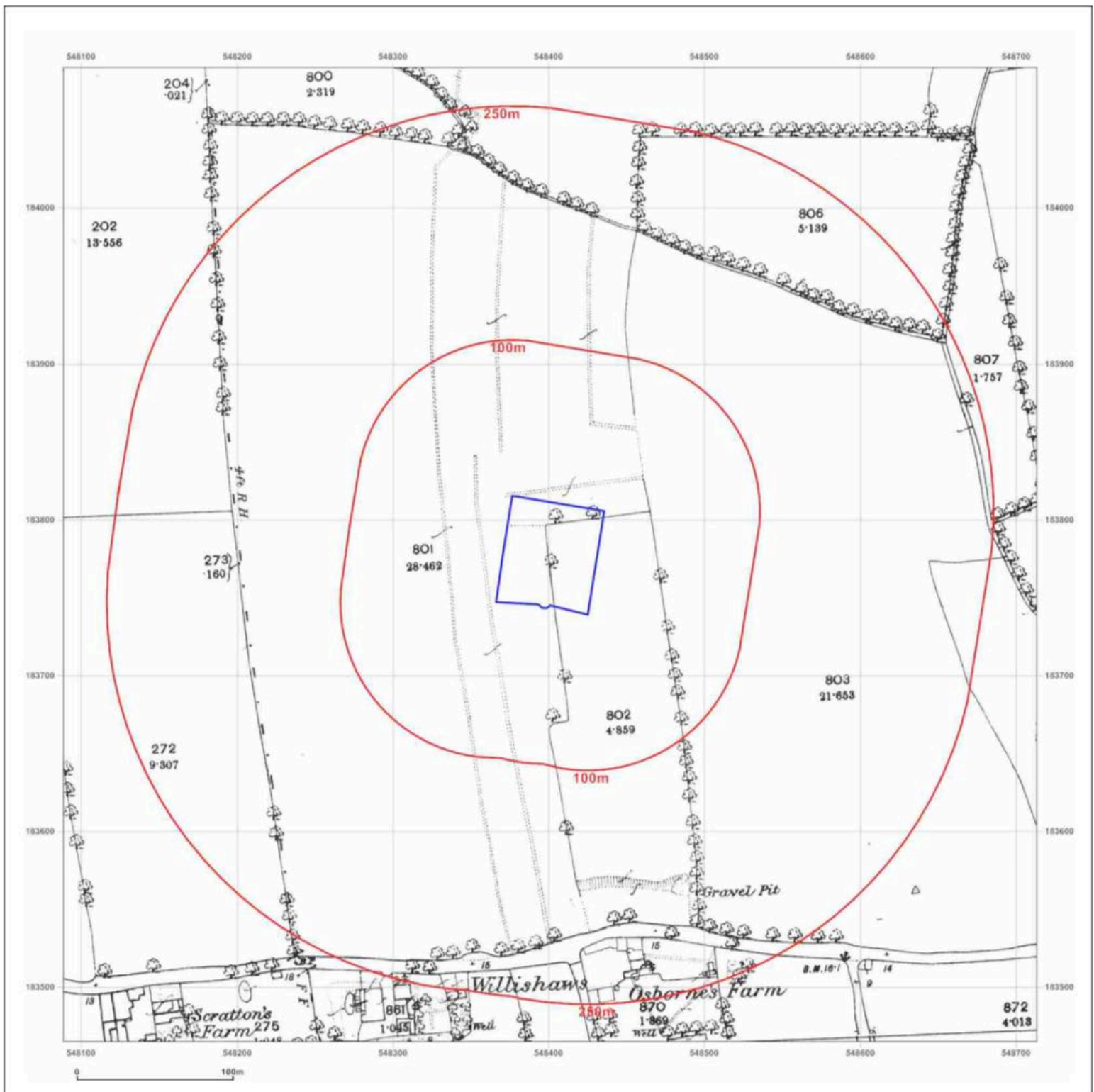


Fig.5. 1861-62 1:2500

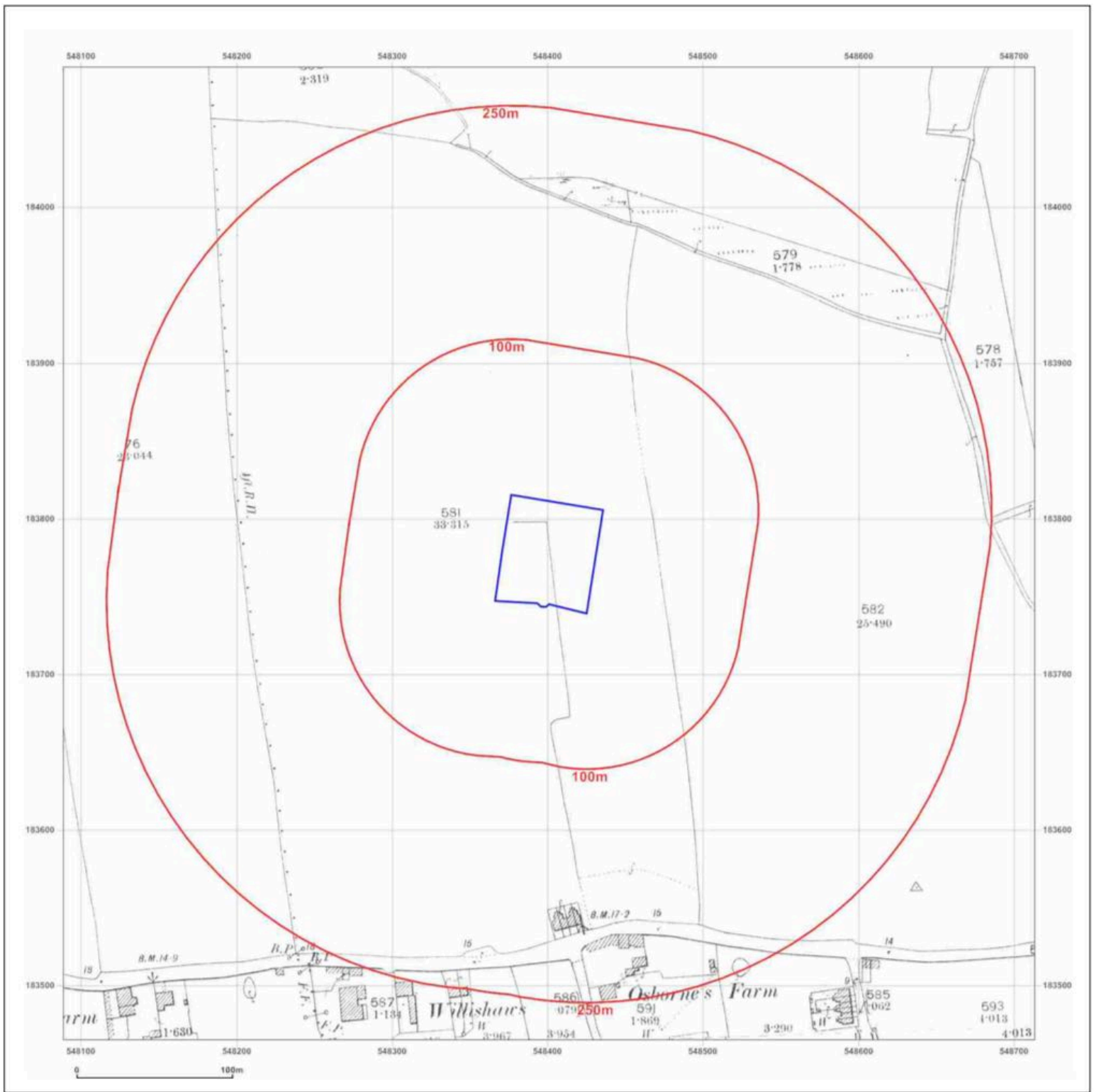


Fig.6. 1897 1:2500

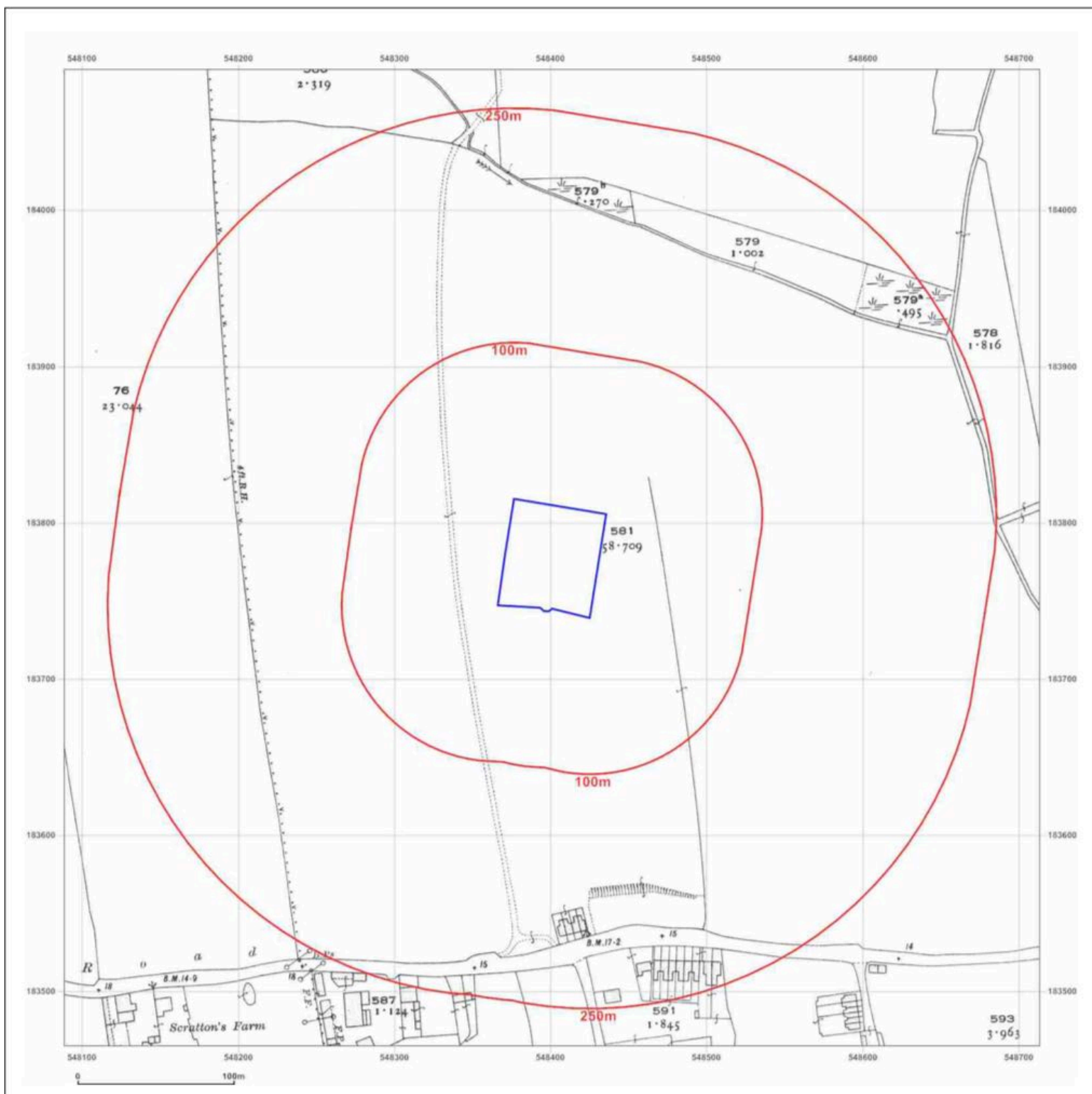


Fig.7. 1919 1:2500

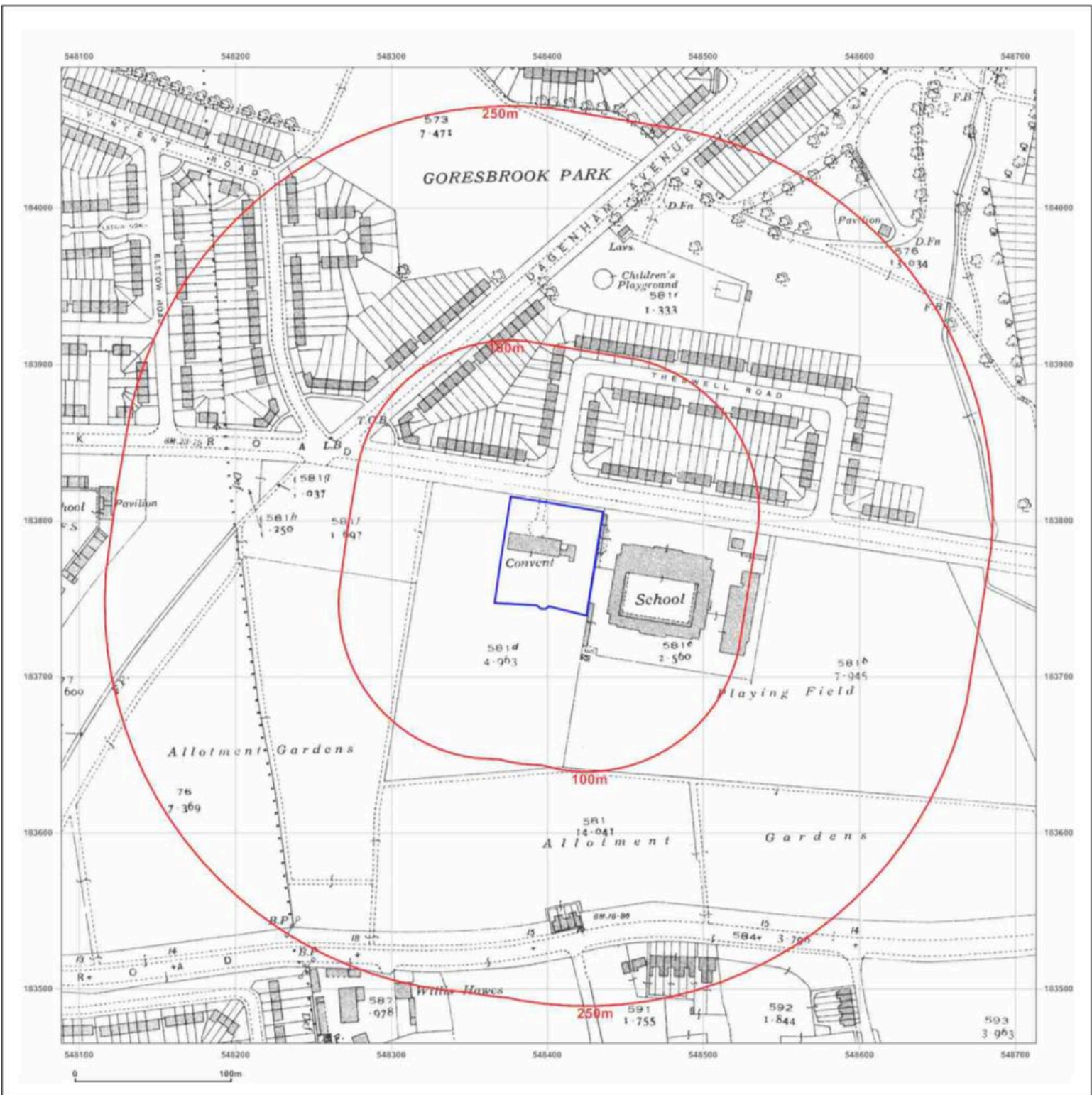


Fig.8. 1939 1:2500

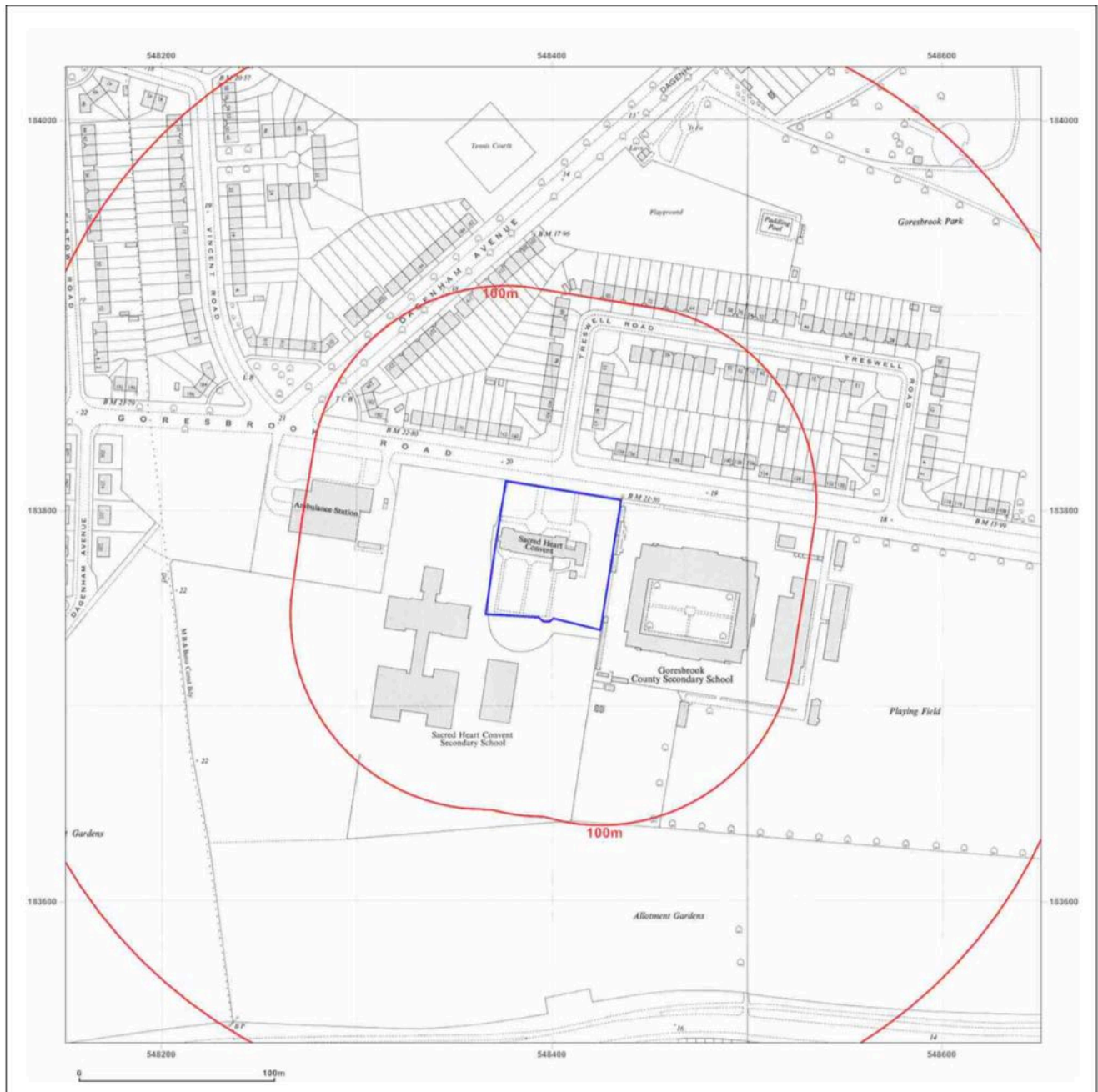


Fig.9. 1962 1:2500

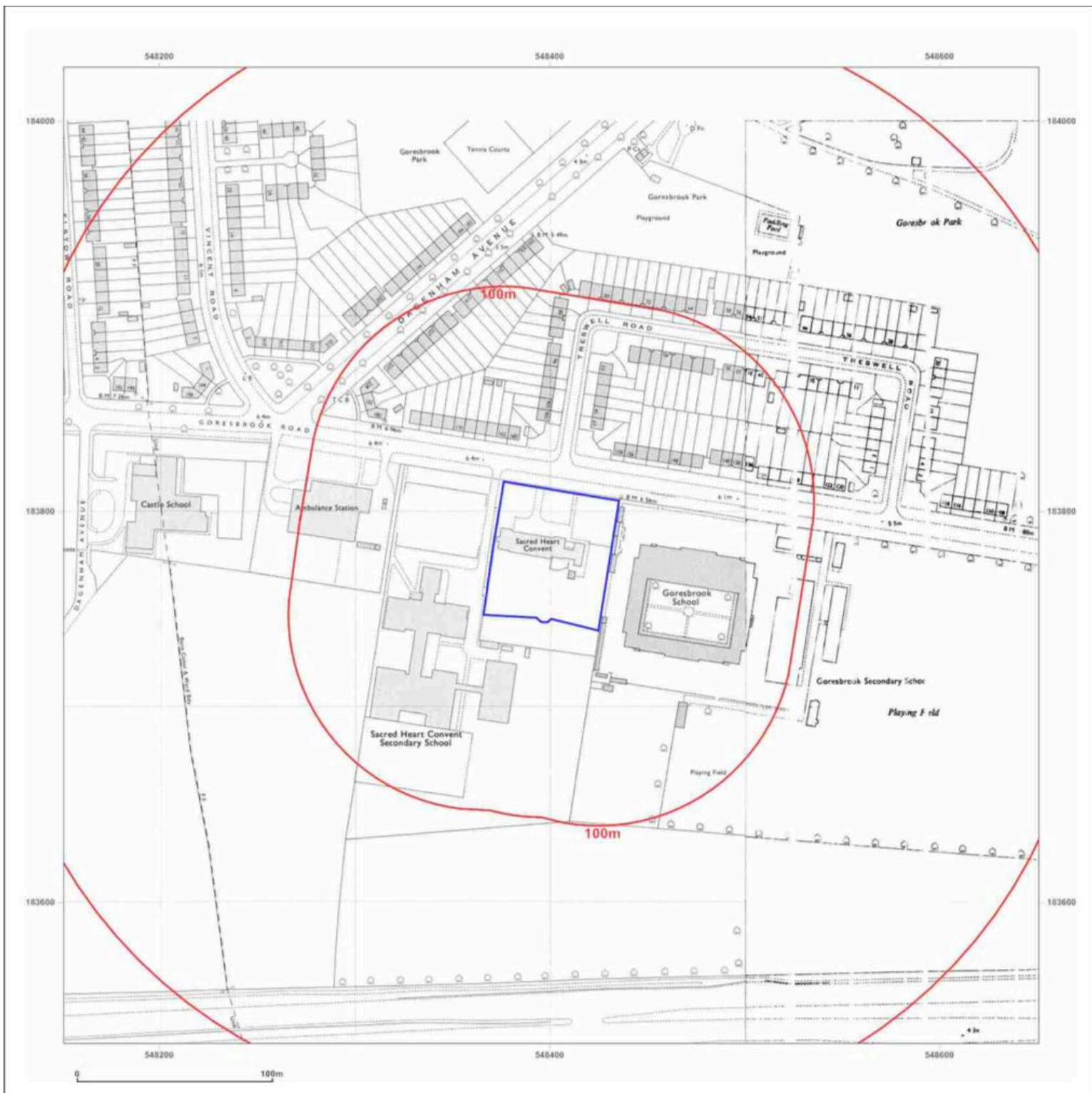


Fig.10. 1969-71 1:1250

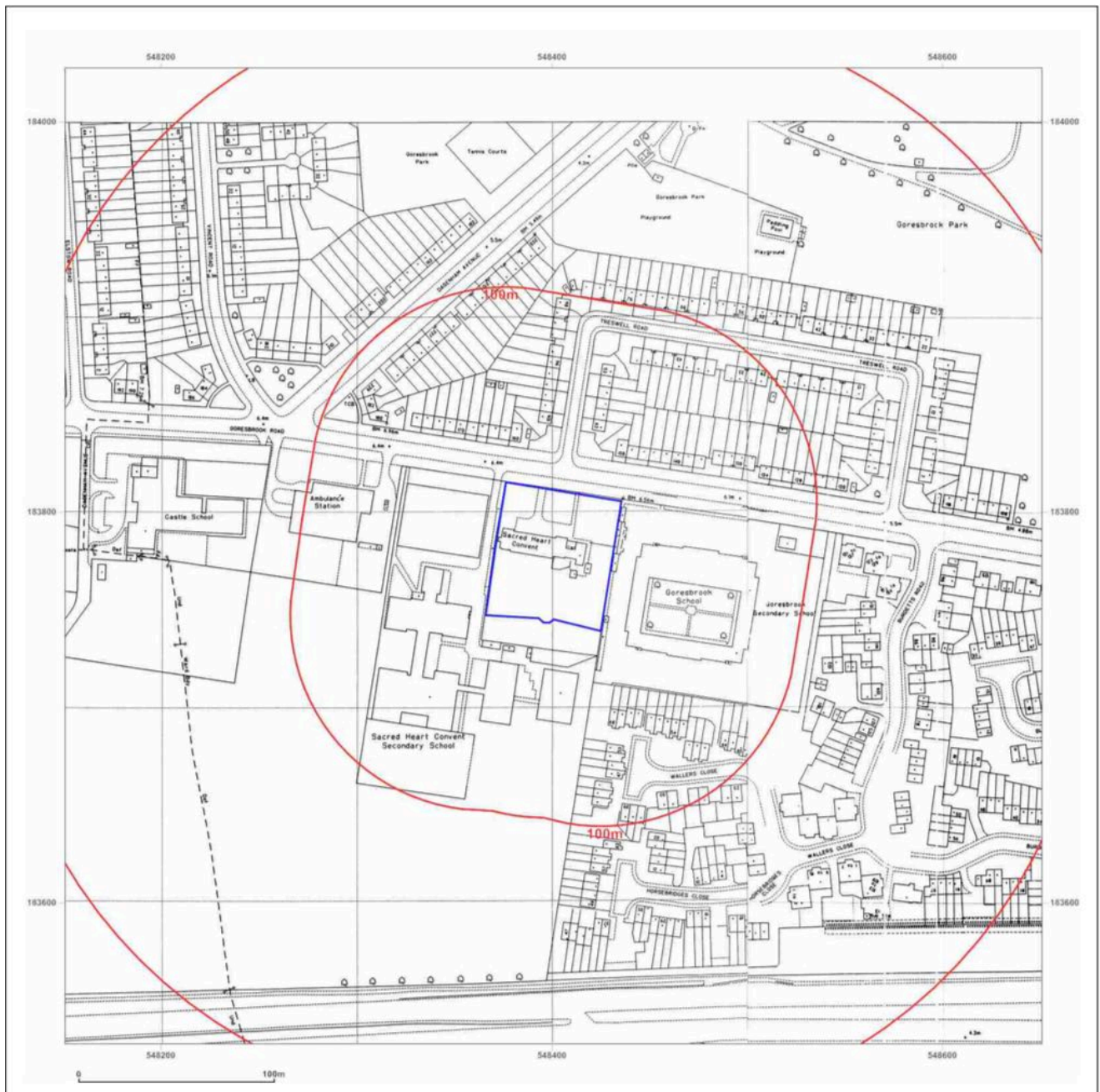
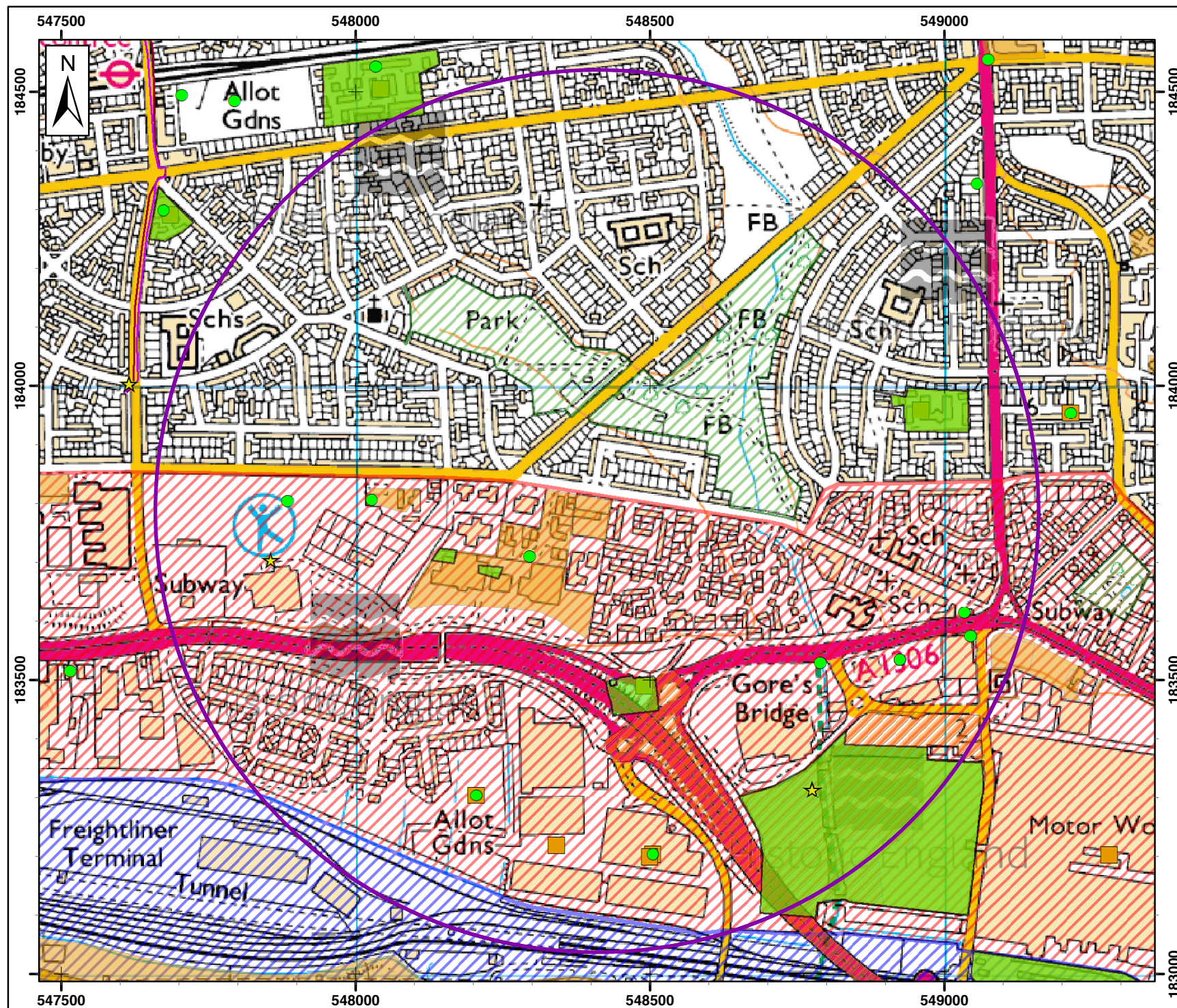


Fig.11. 1991-92 1:1250



GLHER Report 13453
Sacred Heart Convent
TQ 48410 83787
750m Radius Search

1 August 2017

- Archaeology
- ★ Archaeological Find Spot
- ◆ Building ★ Listed Building
- ★ TDP & TAS
- ★ Maritime Archaeology
- Registered Parks & Gardens
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- ▨ Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Areas
- ▨ Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Event Location
- Event Location (Not fully recorded on the GLHER database)
- ▭ Requested Search Area

Scale (at A4): 1:8,500

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Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.



1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Fig.12. GLHER Map

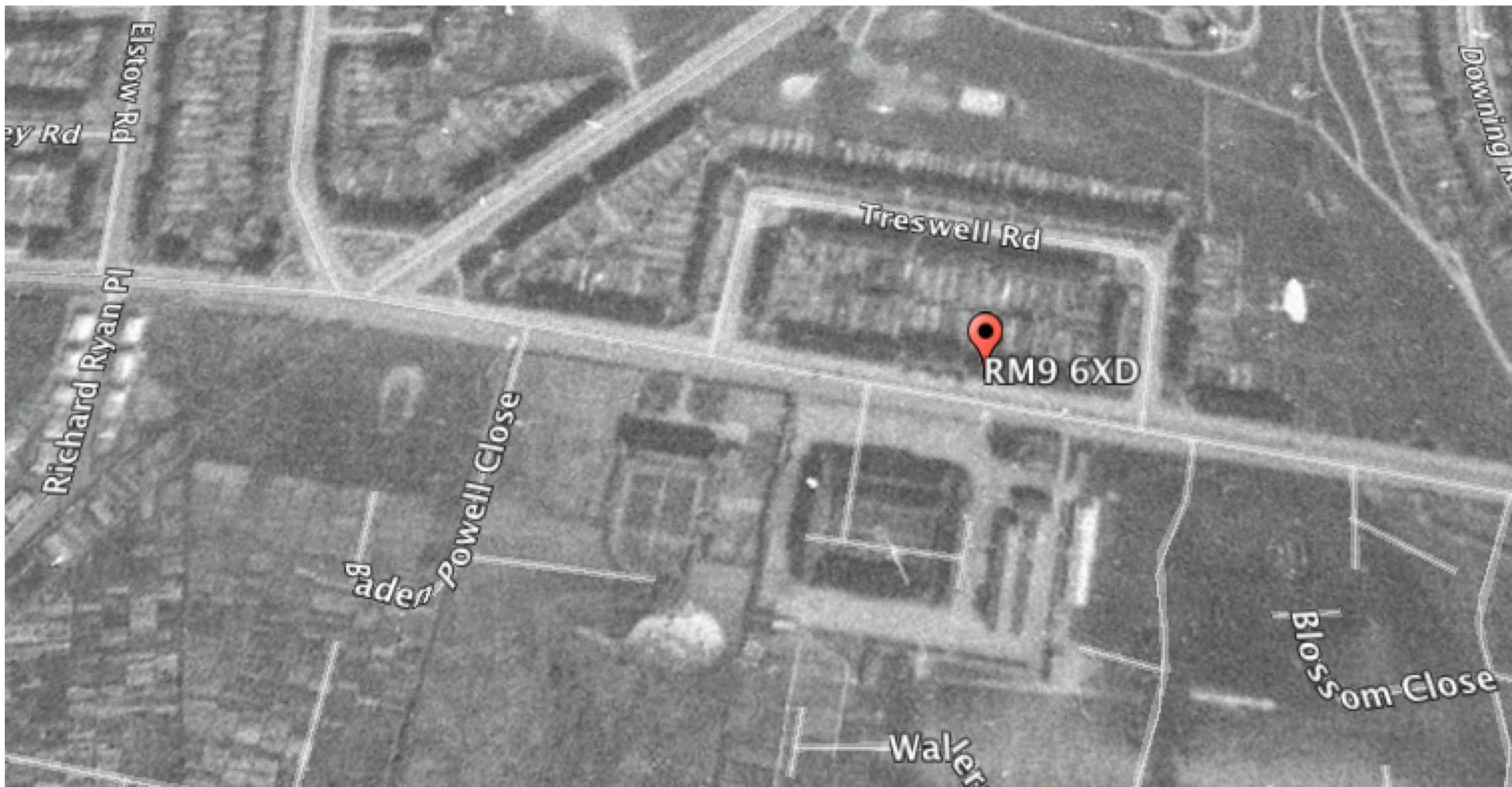


Plate 1. Aerial Image 1945



Place 2. Aerial Image 2017



Plate 3. Sacred Heart Convent facing South



Plate 4. Sacred Heart Convent facing east



Plate 5. Sacred Heart Convent facing north



Plate 6. Sacred Heart Convent facing west

Appendix I

KHER	Type	Location	Period	Description
DL037927	Archaeological Priority Area	c. 400m S		Barking level and Dagenham marsh has evidence of surviving archeological landscapes and a high potential for the preservation of organic remains associated with a wetland environment
DL037897	Archaeological Priority Area	On site	Prehistoric/Roman	Ripple Road has significant finds and features relating to the prehistoric period and evidence of Roman activity
EL011718	Event	c. 250m W	Modern	Goresbrook Road, former Parks Police Centre, evaluation of 6 trenches in 2011 by AOC Archaeology Group, identified a series of terrace gravels sealed by natural silts and clays and activity associated with modern buildings.
EL011751	Event	c. 400m SE	DBA	Checkers Lane, DBA, 2010 Museum of London Archaeology
EL011752	Event	c. 300m SE	Negative	Checkers Corner, evaluation, 2011, Thames Valley Archeological Survey - Negative result
EL011756	Event	c. 300m SE	DBA	Checker Corner, Site 1, DBA 2010 Thames Valley Archeological Services
EL013281	Event	On site	DBA	Sacred Heart Convent, Goresbrook Road, 2013 DBA Archaeology Southeast- Low potential
EL014025	Event	c. 350m SE	Negative	Merrielands Crescent, Watching Brief 2013 MOLA - Negative result
EL014474	Event	c. 300m SE	Neolithic	Merrielands Crescent, evaluation 2013 MOLA
EL014476	Event	c. 350m SE	DBA	Merrielands Crescent DBA 2014 Cotswold Archaeology
EL015059	Event	c. 350m SE	Negative	Merrielands Crescent, evaluation MOLA -Negative result

EL017193	Event	c. 350m S	GAR	Kent Avenue, Desk Based Geoarchaeological deposit model report 2017 Quest Quaternary Scientific
EL017194	Event	c. 450m E	N/A	Goresbrook Avenue, evaluation 2017 Pre Construct Archaeology
EL03147	Event	c. 100m SE	Prehistoric or Roman	Goresbrook fields, evaluation 1995 Newham Museum Service, 29 trenches, Roman cremations within a rectangular enclosure, other features Roman or Prehistoric
EL03148	Event	c. On site	Post Medieval	Sacred Heart School, Goresbrook Road, evaluation 1996 Newham Museum Service, ten trenches, modern features associated with the school and a Post Medieval ditch
EL03149	Event	c. 350m SE	Bronze Age	Poole Lane, Ripple Road, evaluation 1993 Newham Museum Service, two trenches, Bronze Age causeway
EL03336	Event	c. 300m W	Prehistoric – Post-Medieval	Former Castle School, evaluation 1998 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
EL06606	Event	c. 700m NW	Medieval- Post Medieval	Hedgemans Road, evaluation 2005 CGMS Consulting, 23 trenches, ditches possibly associated with Gale Street Farm and activity for post 1930 allotments
EL06950	Event	c. 400m E	Modern	Darcy Gardens and Coombes Road allotments, evaluation 2006 AOC Archaeological Group, seven trenches, modern activity from allotments, a linear ditch and post hole.
EL07851	Event	c. 600m SE	Unknown	Watching Brief 1997 MOLA, detailed alluvial sequence recorded
EL09010	Event	N/a	DBA	Dagenham Heathway to Wennington, DBA 1992 Newham Museum Service
MLO104524	Park	c. 150m N	Modern	Goresbrook Park 1930 with sandpit play ground and paddling pool

Appendix I

MLO98204	Monument	c. 400m E	Modern/Unknown	Darcy Gardens and Coombes Road, Allotments, evaluation 2006 by AOC Archaeology group, a ditch and post hole of unknown date
MLO97987	Event	c. 700m NW	Medieval- Post Medieval	Hedgemans Road, evaluation 2005 by CGMS Consulting, ditches
062842/00/00 MLO732	Monument	c. 300m W	Prehistoric	Former Castle School, evaluation Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, Prehistoric ditch and Post-Medieval ditch recorded
062843/00/00 MLO733	Monument	c. 300m W	Post Medieval	Former Castle School, evaluation 1998 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, single post hole containing animal bone and tile and a modern ditch and pits recorded
061164/00/00 MLO240	Find spot	c. 100m N	Bronze Age	Goresbrook Park, evaluation 1990 double ditches and a probable track way identified on aerial photographs, finds of a bronze age flint tool
060315/00/00 MLO221	Monument	c. 300m W	Roman/Prehistoric	Goresbrook Sports Ground, aerial photograph of crop marks of three double ditched marsh lanes possibly Roman or Prehistoric
MLO66641	Monument	c. 100m E	Roman	Goresbrook Fields, evaluation 1995, uncovered four Roman cremations and a rectangular ditch enclosure, 1 st -2 nd century
MLO66640	Monument	c. 400m E	Prehistoric	Goresbrook Avenue/Ripple Road, evaluation 1995 by Newham Museum Service, uncovered pits, ditches and a post hole
MLO10359	Monument	c. 150m W	Post Medieval	Goresbrook road, former Parks Police Centre, evaluation 2011 by AOC Archaeology, found a ditch indicating a track way that is on the 1864 OS map
MLO67728	Monument	On site	Post Medieval	Sacred Heart School, evaluation 1996 by Newham Museum Service finds, ditch, one shard of pottery and three fragments of CBM
MLO107515	Monument	c. 300m SE	Neolithic	Merrields Crescent , GEO Archaeological

				assessment 2013 by MOLA, five facies were identified from Pleistocene flood plane gravels to early Paleocene sands, clay and pits and estuarine muds.
060178/00/00 MLO574	Find spot	c. 300m SE	Neolithic	Merrielands Crescent, during the installation of sewage pipes in 1932, a wooden doll was found 30 yds. from the skeleton of a deer within a peat layer at a depth of nine feet, the idol was a male figure 19.5 inches, made from wood with quartz pebbles for eyes (missing) and a socket above the crotch for the insertion of a phallus. The idol lacks arms and is now in the Valance House Museum
062037/00/00 MLO590	Monument	c. 350m SE	Bronze Age	Pooles Lane, evaluation 1993 by Newham Museum Service, found a causeway constructed from gravel, burnt flint and sand towards the top of the peat deposit, dated by samples taken for radiocarbon analysis from the peat above and beneath it. The causeway was 4m wide and continued for 23m.
062038/00/00 MLO591	Monument	c. 350m SE	Bronze Age	Pooles Lane, evaluation 1993 for Passmore Edwards Museum, revealed a peat deposit that contained the causeway
060534/00/00 MLO143	Monument	c. 700m SE	Medieval- Post Medieval	Flood defenses, Highams Wall earth work built at 90 degrees to the river wall, separating Barking and Dagenham marshes
060650/00/00 MLO801	Monument	c. 350m SE	Post Medieval	Ripple Road, a house near The Chequers, dilapidated by 1900
060179/00/00 MLO260	Monument	c. 350m SE	Medieval- Post Medieval	Moated site with manor house, the Manor of Cockermouth, 1250 AD, rectangular plot of 600 acres of mostly marsh, Manor House known as Pound House Farm, demolished in 19 th century
060179/01/00 MLO437	Monument	c. 350m SE	Medieval- Post Medieval	Ripple Road, the moat of the Manor house of Cockermouth

Appendix I

060179/02/00 MLO443	Monument	c. 350m SE	Medieval- Post Medieval	Ripple Road, a documentary survey of the Manor of Cockermouth by the Crown in 1664 refers to a tithe barn
060179/03/00 MLO443	Monument	c. 350m SE	Medieval- Post Medieval	Ripple Road, the manor house of Cockermouth. Manor demolished in 19 th century and replaced by Pound House, again demolished in 1922 and named after the Manorial pound which occupied part of the yard
060621/00/00 MLO799	Monument	c. 350m SE	Post Medieval	Ripple Road, the Chequers, has moved to a new site by 1944 following the reduction in trade after the opening of the turn pike road in 1810
060180/00/00 MLO108	Monument	c. 250m SE	Post Medieval	Ripple Road farmhouse, built shortly after 1770. In 19 th century named America Farm, possibly after a banker who held the farm in 1824 and fled to America in disgrace, in 1844 comprised of 167 acres, later named Merrieland.
060611/00/00 MLO798	Monument	c. 250m SE	Medieval- Modern	Ripple Road, 16 th century farm and farmhouse named Osbournes demolished by 1964