

# Bridge House, Homerton High Street, Homerton, London Borough of Hackney: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

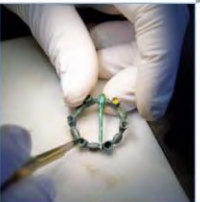
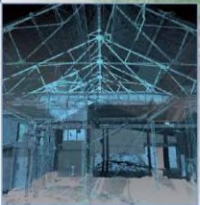
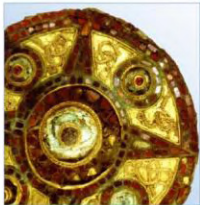
Planning Application: 2012/1731

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 35515 85027

AOC Project No: 33284

Site Code: HOT 16

Date: September 2016



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

# Bridge House, Homerton High Street, Homerton, London Borough of Hackney:

## An Archaeological Evaluation Report

**On Behalf of:** CgMs Consulting  
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London  
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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** TQ 35515 85027

**AOC Project No:** 33284

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Non-Technical Summary

*In July 2016 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by AOC Archaeology on land at Bridge House, Homerton High Street, Homerton, in the London Borough of Hackney (NGR 535515 185027) (Figure 1). The evaluation comprised three trenches, each measuring 10m by 1.8m. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.*

*Natural underlying geology was observed within two sondages excavated within trenches 1 and 3. The sondages were excavated due to the high level of made ground observed on site. No subsoil was observed above this having been removed or truncated by later activity. The remains of a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century walls were identified at a depth of 1.2m below the current ground surface, along with more recent structural remains and concrete surfaces. Finds included slag, glass waste and ceramic saggars. The finds may be from glass production, but as this material was recovered from backfill/made ground, it may have been imported to site. No records of industrial buildings are known to have occupied the site.*

*Due to the lack of earlier remains on site and the known depth of truncation it is not recommended that any further archaeological works are required. However, the final decision rests with the archaeological advisor.*

*Should no further work be required publication of the findings of the evaluation will involve a short summary of the fieldwork submitted to the local fieldwork roundup. An OASIS form has been completed and an electronic copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance and will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by AOC Archaeology prior to construction of a new residential development on the site of Bridge House, Homerton High Street, Homerton, London Borough of Hackney (NGR 535515 185027) (Figure 1). The site is located on the south side of Homerton High Street, between Ponsford Street and Shepherd's Lane. It lies on level ground at approximately 13.5 metres above ordnance datum (AOD).

### 1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The local planning authority is Hackney Borough Council and the planning reference for the development is 2012/1731. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by John Gould, Archaeological Advisor at the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of Historic England's London Local Office.

1.2.2 The approved development involves demolition of the existing building (this had largely been carried out by the time of the archaeological evaluation) and construction of a new residential development with associated landscaping, car parking and access. Archaeological investigation of the site was carried out to fulfil condition 28 to planning reference 2012/1731, which states:

A) 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 by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

B) No development or demolition shall take place other than in accordance with the written scheme of investigation approved under Part (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post-investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the written scheme of investigation approved under Part (A), and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

REASON: To secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of remains.

1.2.3 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield or Historic Wreck designations within or in close proximity to the site. The site is located within the Homerton Archaeological Priority Area (DLO35775) as designated by the London Borough of Hackney.

1.2.4 A desk based assessment (DBA) was completed for the project by CgMs Consulting in May 2016 (CgMs 2016a). The DBA indicated modest potential for remains associated with the Medieval and post-medieval periods on the site, but low potential for all other periods. Bomb damage to the site during the Second World War and the subsequent demolition of the post-medieval buildings that had stood there was thought likely to have had a severe impact on any below ground archaeological deposits, and the construction of Bridge House during the late 20th century is likely to have had a further negative impact due to the cutting of foundations, a partial basement, and services. For this reason, the archaeological evaluation trenches targeted an area to the immediate north of Bridge House, outside the footprint of the building (Figure 2).

- 1.2.5 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for three evaluation trenches, each measuring 10m by 1.8m, was produced by CgMs Consulting in July 2016 (CgMs 2016b) and approved by John Gould, Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS. The WSI was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines, including:
- Historic England – Management of Archaeological Projects (HE 2015a).
  - Historic England – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (HE 2015b).
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA 2014a).
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (CIfA 2014b).
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014c).
- 1.2.6 The evaluation was designed to inform the local planning authority on the character of any surviving archaeological remains as part of the planning application.

### 1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey records the solid geology of the site as London Clay, overlain by a drift geology of Taplow Gravel Formation (BGS online, accessed July 2016). The site lies on level ground, at approximately 13.5m AOD.
- 1.3.2 The development area is an urban site, bounded by Homerton High Street to the north, Shepherd's Lane to the east, Ponsford Street to the west and residential properties to the south. The overall size of the site is approximately 0.3ha.
- 1.3.3 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known to exist within 750m of the site.

## 2. Historical and Archaeological Background

The following information has been extracted from the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment undertaken by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2016a).

### 2.1 The Prehistoric Periods

**(Palaeolithic c. 500,000 – 10000 BC; Mesolithic c. 10000 to 4000 BC; Neolithic c. 4000-2200 BC; Bronze Age c. 2200-700 BC and Iron Age c. 700 BC - AD 43)**

- 2.1.1 Six Palaeolithic handaxes and one retouched flake have been recovered from c.300m to the south-east of the site (MLO12123) and another handaxe has been found at Paragon Road c.300m to the south-west (MLO1638). Palaeolithic flint artefacts found in Lower Clapton, c.700m north-west of the site, included 159 handaxes, 18 roughouts, 4 cores, 69 retouched flint flakes and 210 unretouched flint flakes, and 9 miscellaneous implements (MLO10654, MLO39795). A shoulder blade of mammoth, interpreted as a kill site, has also been identified in Lower Clapton, with an associated flint tool (MLO1669, MLO36409). From c.500m to the west of the site there have been more Palaeolithic finds including 8 handaxes, and 14 retouched and 28 unretouched flint flakes (MLO9178), and two further handaxes have been recovered from the area of Clapton Park, c.600m to the north of the site (MLO1662; MLO1891). There are no recorded early prehistoric finds from the immediate vicinity of the site, however; the desk-based assessment concluded there was low potential for finds of early prehistoric date from within the site itself (CgMs 2016).
- 2.1.2 The only record relating to later prehistoric activity within a 750m radius of the site relates to a single Neolithic flint axe roughout found in the general vicinity of Homerton (MLO1660). There are no

recorded remains of prehistoric date within the proposed development area itself and overall the potential of the site for remains of later prehistoric date can be identified as low (CgMs 2016).

## **2.2 Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)**

- 2.2.1 It has been suggested that Homerton High Street, to the immediate north of the site, was a minor Roman road, which ran east from Ermine Street to Leyton (MLO1859; Margary 1955). There are reports from the late 18th century of a Roman road surface and coins found in the vicinity of Homerton High Street, but no details (MLO10312) and although a significant number of archaeological investigations have taken place adjacent to Homerton High Street over recent years the only evidence for Roman activity in the immediate area has been a residual fragment of Roman tile recovered from Link Street, c.150m to the west of the site (MLO61924).
- 2.2.2 Several other Roman roads have been identified at a distance of approximately 600m from the site: these run through Hackney to the west (MLO1676), Haggerston to the north-west (MLO3229), and Clapton Park to the north (MLO106811). A Roman burial and isolated coins have been recorded close to the Roman road alignment at Clapton Park (MLO1673, MLO38734, MLO1680), while a scatter of Roman potsherds are recorded from near the Haggerston road (MLO3717). The GLHER also records that 12 sherds of Samian pottery were discovered 'somewhere in Homerton' to the south of the site (MLO8368). Due to the speculative nature of the Homerton High Street Roman road alignment and lack of supporting evidence from recent archaeological investigations, the archaeological potential of the study site for the Roman period was defined in the desk-based assessment as low (CgMs 2016).

## **2.3 Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1536)**

- 2.3.1 Homerton is an Anglo-Saxon place name meaning farm of Hunburh. A settlement called Ashumberton was first recorded here in 1343 and was later known as Humberton or Humerton (MLO1619). Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in proximity to Homerton High Street is limited to the identification of a quarry pit and gully containing Saxo-Norman pottery at 2-16 Link Street c.150m to the west of the site (MLO61923), and residual Saxon pottery found within later deposits at Hackney Hospital c.500m to the east (MLO63918). The nearest Anglo-Saxon settlement is thought to be located at Hackney, c.600m to the west of the site, where possible Anglo-Saxon burials have been identified (MLO1534; MLO71661). Due to the paucity of evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of Homerton, the archaeological potential of the study site for this period can be defined as low.
- 2.3.2 The medieval settlement of Humerton was concentrated along Homerton High Street (MLO1596), with the general extent of the settlement indicated by the Homerton Archaeological Priority Area (DLO35775). Contemporary settlements recorded in the area include Lower Clapton to the north-west (MLO1606), Hackney to the south-west (MLO4290), and at Well Street to the south (MLO1591). The local road network, including Homerton High Street, Ponsford Street, Morning Lane and Wick Road, are all thought to have late medieval antecedents (MLO10500; MLO1570; MLO1578; MLO1607).
- 2.3.3 A review of early cartographic sources indicates that the alignment of Homerton High Street was altered in the vicinity of the site during the mid-20th century, with the original road line located approximately 20m further to the north; during the medieval period, the site is therefore likely to have occupied yards and gardens to the rear of any properties fronting onto Homerton High Street. Late medieval occupation evidence in the form of a building with chalk and flint foundations dated to the 14th-15th centuries, together with ditches and a sluice, has been identified at 2-16 Link Street c.150m to the west of the site (MLO71397-MLO71400), while excavations at Sutton House further to

the west of Link Street revealed a substantial building known as the Tannery, together with associated occupation evidence and pits (MLO99501; MLO10623, MLO38807). Residual late medieval pottery has also been recovered from Homerton Hospital c.500m to the east (MLO59341; MLO63917). Due to the site being set back from the late medieval Homerton High Street road frontage, its archaeological potential for remains of this date can be defined as moderate, where not impacted by later activity. Where present, such remains are likely to represent peripheral occupation activity.

## **2.4 Post-medieval (c.1485 - modern) and modern**

- 2.4.1 During the majority of the post-medieval period the study site is likely to have occupied garden and yard plots to the rear of road side properties.
- 2.4.2 Rocque's map of 1745 shows the study site located within ground to the east of the junction of Homerton High Street and Ponsford Road. The area appears to be occupied by road side properties and associated gardens and yards. The character of the site remains unaltered between 1754 and 1799. Merrington's map of 1823 provides more detail showing that the site primarily occupies open ground to the rear of properties fronting onto Homerton High Street to the north and Shepard's Lane to the east, while taking in several of the properties on Bridge Street (later to be renamed Ponsford Street). The open ground comprising the majority of the site is assumed to contain yards and gardens. Starling's map of 1831 confirms this interpretation with multiple linear garden plots depicted, some with outbuildings. The character and layout of the site remain unaltered between 1843 and 1864. The 1870 Ordnance Survey map shows buildings starting to encroach on the open garden and yard space to the rear of the built frontages, particularly in the eastern half of the site. By 1896, several buildings in the western half of the site have also been extended. With the exception of further small building extensions, the layout of the site remains unaltered between 1912 and 1938. The 1945 LCC Bomb Damage map indicates that the buildings on the site were subject to significant damage from aerial bombardment during the Second World War, with the greater majority marked as damaged beyond repair. By 1951, the Ordnance Survey map indicates that wholesale clearance of the bomb-damaged buildings has taken place, with the site now marked as open ground. The layout of the site remains unaltered in 1960 but by 1977 a substantial H-shaped housing complex had been built on the site. This layout remains unaltered to the present day.
- 2.4.3 The archaeological potential for the post-medieval and modern periods can be solely attributed to any pre-19th century occupation evidence present within the site, where not impacted by later development.

## **2.5 Previous Work:**

- 2.5.1 In recent years a number of archaeological evaluations have taken place along Homerton High Street, within approximately 200m of the site, which have identified later post-medieval features and high levels of modern truncation. Examples include an evaluation at Homerton College of Technology, where post-medieval structural remains and pits were located, associated with shallow overburden deposits (ELO8412), several post-medieval quarry pits sealed by a later cultivated soil horizon at 3-8 Furrow Lane (ELO8829), further post-medieval cultivation horizons at 4-11 Fern Street (ELO3313), and an evaluation at 35-37 Homerton High Street, where several cut features were found containing 17th and 18th century pottery (ELO3286). On the southern side of Homerton High Street, an evaluation at 2-46 Sedgwick Street found several post-medieval pits and the remains of a 19th century building (ELO7056); while at Mackintosh Lane the only features encountered were post-medieval plough marks associated with significant levels of 19th and 20th century truncation (ELO6310).



### **3. Strategy**

#### **3.1 Aims of the Archaeological Investigation**

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish whether any archaeological evidence survives on the site.
- The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.
- The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance. The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
  - To determine the presence of any Prehistoric activity.
  - To determine the presence of any Roman activity.
  - To determine the presence of any Anglo-Saxon/early medieval activity.
  - To determine the presence of any medieval and post-medieval activity. Is this evidence indicative of occupation activity?
  - Establish the likely impact of past land use and development.
  - Provide sufficient information to, if appropriate, construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 10m x 1.80m (Figure 2).

3.2.2 All three trenches were truncated by modern yellow plastic gas pipes (at a depth of approximately 0.3m below the current ground surface) and below these (at a depth of approximately 1m) older (metal) gas pipes. All had been disconnected and were entirely removed from each trench during machining. One service was left intact across Trench 1 as this was a telecom cable and, although it was believed to have been disconnected, it was considered safer to work around it rather than sever it.

3.2.3 The WSI prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2016b) defined the site procedures for the archaeological evaluation. All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (ClfA 2015, HE 2015). A unique site code for the project (HOT 16) was issued by the LAARC and was used as the site identifier for all records produced. The archive will be ordered and deposited using the same identifier in accordance with LAARC deposition guidelines.

3.2.4 The evaluation was conducted by the author with assistance from Robert Dunne, under the overall management of Catherine Edwards, Project Manager and Chris Clarke, Associate Director at CgMs Consulting. The site was monitored by John Gould of GLAAS.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context Number	Depth	Height of Deposit (AOD)	Description/Interpretation
1001	0.18m	13.43m – 13.25m	Topsoil
1002	0.50m	13.25m – 12.75m	Dark brown silt with CBM. Made ground.
1003	0.30m	12.75m – 12.45m	Dark brown silt with frequent red and yellow brick. Demolition layer/Made ground.
1005	0.30m	12.45m – 12.15m	Dark brown silt with CBM. Made ground.
1006	0.55m	12.15m – 11.60m	Mid-brown silt with gravel and occasional CBM. Disturbed ground.
1007	NFE	11.60m+	Natural geological deposit

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located on the west side of the site and was aligned north-west to south-easterly (Figure 2). The trench measured 10m long by 1.8m wide.

4.1.2 The natural geology comprised a yellow-brown sandy clay (1007) and was exposed at approximately 1.9m depth at an upper height of 11.60m AOD. The natural was observed in a sondage measuring 4.00m x 1.80m, excavated in the centre of the trench to ascertain the depth to the natural horizon (Plate 1). The sondage also demonstrated that no subsoil was present on site, with the overlying deposits lying directly on the natural. This suggests that the site had suffered horizontal truncation.



Plate 1: Sondage in Trench 1, looking south-west

4.1.3 Truncating the natural was a roughly rectangular feature [1013] measuring 1.00m by 0.60m, (Plate 2). The fill (1012) was observed as a grey brown clay with inclusions of 18<sup>th</sup> century brick suggesting that the feature is likely to be related to the construction of past buildings on the site. Despite stepping of the trench sides, to allow access, it was considered unsafe to enter the trench to investigate this feature due to the loose nature of the surrounding material. As such the feature was recorded from the side of the trench.



**Plate 2: The sondage in Trench 1 with feature [1013] visible in the base (looking north-east)**

- 4.1.4 Overlying the natural (1007) was a 0.55m thick layer of loose mid-brown sandy clay and gravel containing occasional fragments of red brick/ceramic building material likely to be of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century or later date (CBM) (1006) (Plate 1; Figure 3). Above this was approximately 0.30m of dark brown sandy clay silt containing moderate amounts of CBM (1005). Towards the north-west end of the trench this was capped by a slab of concrete 0.08m thick [1004]. Layers (1006) and (1007) were similar in colour and have been interpreted as possibly imported made ground to the site, due to the loose nature of the deposits. This may have been to raise the ground for later property extensions and development.
- 4.1.5 At the north-western end of the trench, the concrete layer [1004] was associated with footings of a north-south orientated red brick wall [1010] (Plate 3), bonded with yellow mortar. Remnants of a second wall [1011], aligned roughly north-east to south-west, were identified in section above the concrete (Plate 4). It is possible that these walls are those depicted on the 1843 Hackney St John Tithe Map (CgMs 2016a Figure 9) or the late 19<sup>th</sup> century OS map (Figure 4).



**Plate 3: Wall [1010] and concrete surface [1004] in Trench 1 (looking west)**

- 4.1.6 At the south-east end of the trench, truncating (1005), a small pad of concrete [1009] was identified at an upper height of 12.43m AOD, measuring 0.03m thick. Adjacent to this was a localised deposit

of brown-yellow sandy gravel (1008) measuring an area 1m by 1.5m and containing frequent shards of modern glass.



**Plate 4: Wall [1011] overlying concrete surface [1004] at the north-west end of Trench 1 (looking north-east)**

- 4.1.7 Surrounding and overlying the structural remains [1010] and [1011] was a demolition rubble layer, measuring 0.30m thick and comprised of dark brown sandy clay silt with frequent red and yellow brick fragments and occasional fragments of post-medieval ceramic drain pipe (1003).



**Plate 5: Loose made ground forming the majority of the fill with Trench 1**

- 4.1.8 Above this was a further layer of made ground, 0.50m thick and comprising dark brown sandy silt with moderate amounts of CBM (1002). The uppermost deposit observed in Trench 1 was a capping layer of silty, sandy topsoil containing plant roots, small stones, building rubble and modern rubbish (1001). This topsoil deposit was approximately 0.20m thick.

4.1.9 No archaeological remains were uncovered in Trench 1 aside from the probable 18<sup>th</sup> century feature observed in the base of the trench [1013].

## 4.2 Trench 2

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 2 (Figure 3 & 4)**

Context Number	Thickness	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
2001	0.20m	13.68m – 13.48m	Topsoil
2002	0.10m	13.48m – 13.38m	Green-yellow sandy clay with rubble
2004/2021/2015	0.30m – 0.58m	13.48m – 13.18m	Made ground layer
2009/2010	0.06m	13.18m – 13.12m	Concrete and brick surfaces
2005/2016	0.20m – 0.23m	13.12m – 12.92m	Made ground layer
2017	0.15m	12.92m – 12.77m	Buried asphalt surface
2018	0.25m	12.77m – 12.52m	Made ground.
2019	0.07m	12.52m – 12.45m	Demolition or made ground layer
2022	0.20m	12.98m – 12.78m	Rubble layer. Demolition material.
2023	0.25m	12.78m – 12.53m	Made ground.
2024	0.10m	12.53m – 12.43m	Slumped concrete floor surface.
2014	>0.10m	12.43m	Made ground layer
2020	>0.05m	12.45m	Made ground/infill

4.2.1 Trench 2 (Plate 6) was located in the centre of the site, was 10m by 1.8m, and was oriented east-west, parallel to Homerton High Street (Figure 2). Machine excavation ceased at the first archaeological horizon at a depth of 1.0m below the current ground surface, where several walls and surfaces were visible. A sondage, 2.00m by 2.5m, was excavated at the western end of the trench to try and establish the natural horizon.

4.2.2 Trench 2 contained several phases of structural remains, each with its own sequence of made ground deposits and each truncating the activity horizon of the earlier structure.



*Plate 6: Trench 2 with sondage at western end, looking east*

- 4.2.3 In the base of the sondage a gritty, dark brown silt with inclusions of CBM fragments and mortar recorded at a height 12.45m AOD (2020). Above (2020) was (2019), a 0.07m thin layer of brick rubble, which in turn was overlaid by a 0.25m thick layer of dark brown gritty silt recorded as (2018). All three deposits were only observed within the sondage and are interpreted as general made ground deposits.
- 4.2.4 Possibly cutting into (2018), (no cut was observed), was wall [2011], aligned north-south measuring 2.50m x 0.24m and 0.12m deep, at a height of 12.43m AOD (Plate 7). The wall was formed of unfrogged red brick, bonded by a crumbly lime mortar. The size of the bricks and the type of mortar dates this wall to approximately the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Two perpendicular east-west walls, [2012] and [2013], abutted the western side of [2011]. These walls are considered contemporary based on brick size and formation. Wall [2011] correlates with a property partition wall on early Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 4) and the 1843 Tithe Map (CgMS 2016; Figure 9). These 19<sup>th</sup> century sources do not, however record an associated brick structure which correlates with walls [2012] and [2013]. The southern extent of the wall is obscured by a later wall [2026] which was either truncating the above structure or was an addition to it at a later date. This later wall was formed of later dated red bricks with a white mortar of a 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date.



*Plate 7: Wall [2011] running north-south, looking west*

4.2.5 The lowest deposit located internally to the structure and is related to this phase of activity was gritty 0.15m+ thick, dark brown silt layer (2014), with inclusions of oyster shells and late post-medieval to early modern dated pottery. This has been interpreted as a made ground deposit. This deposit was directly overlain by a slumped and truncated cement surface [2024], measuring 0.40m x 1.50m x 0.10m thick. This ran up to wall [2012] and has been interpreted as a possible floor surface. External to the wall at roughly the same height was (2017), a 0.15m thick layer of asphalt-type material which may be an external path or yard surface (Plate 8). Internally within the structure [2024] was overlain by a 0.25m thick layer of dark brown silt (2023), containing frequent fragments of stone, above which was a 0.20m thick layer of brick rubble (2022), associated with either demolition of the earlier building or the construction of later wall [2026]. Externally to the structure the asphalt layer was overlaid by a 0.23m thick layer of grey brown gritty silt (2016), with inclusions of CBM, stone, mortar, brick flecks and tile.



*Plate 8: Trench 2 looking east, showing the east side of the sondage*

4.2.6 Made ground deposit (2005), similar to (2016), discussed above, was observed to the west of the wall, but in this location the deposit was slightly darker in colour and contained fragments of slag

waste and vitrified material. The industrial residue is likely to have been imported to site with the made ground soil, as there are no indications from the site that industrial practices were being carried out on site.

- 4.2.7 Cutting into or laid into (2016) and to the west of [2006], was concrete surface (2009), paved brick surface (2010) and wall [2008]. This sequence forms a later occupation of the site. Concrete surface (2009) measured 1.40m x 1.10m x 0.08m thick, whilst the paved brick surface measured 0.80m x 0.55m x 0.06m at an upper height of 13.18m AOD (Plate 9). The concrete surface (2009) is likely to represent a repair to the brick surface (2010) (Plate 9), forming a yard surface within the rear plot of one of the High Street properties (Figure 4).
- 4.2.8 A series of roughly north-west to south-east oriented walls were observed in the eastern part of Trench 2. Wall [2008] was composed of dark pink-red brick, bonded with mortar. Wall [2006] was aligned roughly north-west to south-east measuring 2.00 x 0.30m x 0.06m deep, at an upper height of 12.93mOD (Plate 10). The wall was formed of orange-red brick with no visible bonding material. The wall was only present in plan and as such it was not clear at what level the wall was originally cut, as no cut was observed in section, probably due to the high level of truncation observed. Directly east of [2006] a concrete slab [2025] and wall [2007] were observed. The concrete slab [2025] was recorded at an upper height of 13.15m AOD, and appeared to have run up to and probably over wall [2006]. Set on the slab, at the very eastern end of the trench, were stepped wall foundations built of pinkish-red and yellow bricks, with a very modern in appearance [2007]. Like the other walls, these foundations were aligned roughly north-west to south-east. The north-west end of wall [2007] appeared to be composed of different, potentially older, brick (orange-red in colour), which may indicate reuse of older bricks on site.
- 4.2.9 These walls roughly correlate with the location of rear partition / boundary walls of the High Street properties based on Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 4) and the 1843 Hackney St John Tithe Map (CgMS 2016; Figure 9). It is possible that these may conform to the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century building layouts but this was not possible to establish within the parameters of the trench



**Plate 9: Concrete slab [2009 and paving [2010]**





Plate 10: Wall [2008] in Trench 2 (looking east), with wall [2006] in the background

- 4.2.10 Between walls [2008] and [2006] was layer (2015), a dark brown silt with a high density brick material and mortar probably demolition rubble from the structure relating to both the wall and the surfaces. Material culture from this deposit suggest a late 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date for this deposit.
- 4.2.11 Overlying the above structural remains were layers (2004) and (2021), a dark brown silt with inclusions of CBM, this is similar to (2015), described above. Finds recovered from (2004) indicate a late 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date for this deposit. Above this was (2002), a thin layer of yellow brown silty clay with rubble inclusions. A modern service was observed cutting through the sequence and recorded as [2003]. The whole trench was overlaid by (2001), a 0.20m thick layer of topsoil.

### 4.3 Trench 3

#### Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 3

Context Number	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
3001	0.20m	13.84m	Topsoil
3002	0.30m	13.64m	Subsoil or made ground deposit of redeposited natural
3003	0.32m	13.34m	Rubble/Demolition layer. Made ground.
3004	0.60m	13.02m	Dark brown-grey sandy clay with occasional CBM. Made ground.
3009	>0.20m	12.20m	Clean, geologically natural, silty clay/clay silt.

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 (Figure 2, Plate 11) was oriented north-east to south-west and was 10m long by 1.8m wide. The proposed position of Trench 3 was amended very slightly and moved 1m to the south-west so that its north-east end did not block access to the site.



*Plate 11: Trench 3 looking north-east prior to excavation of a sondage showing (304)*

- 4.3.2 Trench 3 (Plate 11) exposed various layers of made ground, as in Trench 1. A sondage measuring 3.00m by 1.80m, was excavated at the south-western end of the trench to ascertain the depth below the ground surface of any undisturbed deposits. This exposed an area of clean yellow and orange brown silty clay (3009) at around 1.65m and at 12.20m AOD. The natural geology was truncated by modern services, (3009) to a depth of more than 1.8m (Plate 11). No subsoil was present in the trench which suggests that the area had suffered horizontal truncation. This is also indicated in the interface between the natural and the overlying deposits which was sharp and clean.
- 4.3.3 Overlying the clean clay, were layers of demolition rubble and made ground. Deposit (3005) (Figure 3), a mid to dark brown silty clay at least 0.40m thick, was likely to be the remains of backfill of a modern pipe trench (Plate 12). Overlying this was a dark brown-grey sandy clay with occasional CBM (3004), 0.60m deep. This was overlain by a 0.32m thick layer of rubble and demolition material (3003) and a 0.30m thick layer of redeposited yellow-brown silty clay natural (3002). Cutting into (3002) was the cut for a now removed wall which had been backfilled with rubble (Plate 12). Also cutting (3002) was wall [3006], a east-west aligned wall composed of red brick and located at the north-eastern end of the trench. The wall measured 2.20m x 0.38m x 1.05m deep (Plate 13). Overlying the trench was a 0.20m thick layer of fine silty, disturbed topsoil (3001).



***Plate 12: Section of Trench 3 within sondage looking south. Note truncation of natural geology by modern services.***



***Plate 13: Wall [3006] (truncated by a gas pipe) looking north-east***

## 5. Finds

- 5.1 During the course of this evaluation a small assemblage of post-medieval artefacts were retrieved from seven contexts. The material includes pottery, glass bottles, glass waste and saggars, and clay tobacco pipe.
- 5.2 A small assemblage of 22 post-medieval pottery sherds (1.8kg) from seven contexts (1005, 1008, 2004, 2014, 2015, 3001 and 3006) and are all of a late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The earliest wares present are an example of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century white tin-glazed earthenware (TGWC) chamber pot found residually in made ground and a London area post-medieval red earthenware sherd which could be late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century from the backfill of a cellar (2014). The majority of the material is comprised of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrially-made finewares (Transfer-printed, refined whiteware; Maling products from Newcastle upon Tyne), English Porcelain, English stonewares and a German Selter/Nassau mineral water bottle. All are probably redeposited as they come from made ground layers and do not relate chronologically to a particular sequence of deposition.
- 5.3 Four clay tobacco pipe stems are undiagnostic and from topsoil or made ground deposits (1001, 1005, 2014, and 3001).
- 5.4 The nine fragments of ceramic saggars with bright blue glass on the interior and five lumps of blue glass waste (150g), some adhering to the saggars, are of interest and may suggest redeposition of waste material and site clearance from a glasshouse in the neighbouring vicinity.
- 5.5 Glass bottles were represented by four fragments of glass, all from context (1008). These are all late post-medieval examples of medicinal bottles, cylindrical wine bottles, and drinks bottles of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.6 All of the finds with the exception of the glass waste and saggars are from late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century household waste and clearance. With the exception of the glass waste these items are recommended for discard.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised the natural layers on site and recorded them as yellow-brown sandy clay in Trench one at a height of 11.60mOD and yellow and orange brown silty clay in Trench 3 at a height of 12.20mOD. No subsoil was present on site and no clean buried soil horizons were observed either. This indicates that the site had suffered horizontal truncation in the past.
- 6.2 With regards to the specific aims of the investigation, to establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, Roman and/or medieval activity, the evaluation established an absence of any detectable activity dating to these periods. No finds were recovered from site that pre-date the mid to later post-medieval period indicating that the activities on site are of that period. The lack of material culture of an earlier periods suggests that the settlement activity was located away from the site possibly under the current Homerton high Street.
- 6.3 The majority of deposits recorded on site have been interpreted as made ground deposits, which varied in depth from 1.6m-1.9m below the current ground surface (BCGS). Material culture associated with the made ground deposits suggest a late 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The deepest deposits were identified on the western side of the site, in Trench 1. Due to the presence of structural remains in Trench 2, the full depth of the disturbance was not established, but it is known to be at least 1.2m. The made ground deposits observed in trenches 1 and 3 appeared to be loose generic made ground deposits whilst the deposits within Trench 2 were more formulaic and layered. This is likely to be a direct result of ground raising and preparations for the structures to which the

walls recorded in the trench belong. The looser deposits recorded in trenches 1 and 3 may have been the results of large scale land management again in preparation for the developments on site, possibly the results of topographic requirements.

- 6.4 The features exposed in the three trenches were of later post-medieval or modern date. The results of the evaluation have been overlain on an 1897 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4) (early maps, for example the 1843 Tithe map (CgMS 2016, Figure 9) have been assessed but not reproduced as they are not sufficiently detailed to allow accurate plotting). This demonstrates that walls [2011], [2008], [2006] and [2007] roughly correlate with the rear boundary walls of the High Street properties in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest wall, based on brick size, is [2011] which was exposed in a sondage adjacent to the west end of Trench 2. This lay at a depth of 1.15m (12.43m AOC). Two associated walls, [2012] and [2013] are considered contemporary, but do not correlate with any known features on historic mapping. The structural remains were overlain by deep deposits of made ground which date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century, based on associated material culture. The results of the evaluation suggest that late 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century activity within the site had a detrimental effect on any early archaeological remains on site.
- 6.5 The evaluation trenches were placed in an area that served as a garden to Bridge House, which was a large, modern residential block. It is likely that the level of truncation/disturbance would be even greater within the former footprint of that building.
- 6.6 The post-medieval glass waste from deposits in Trench 2, while interesting, is likely to have originated off site and was brought to site as part of the made ground, as there is no record of industrial buildings on the site in the late post-medieval to modern period, only residential buildings. It may mean that an as yet unidentified glass works once lay in relatively close proximity to the site, however.
- 6.7 Based on the findings of this evaluation, it is not recommended that any further work be carried out at the site. The final decision in this regard, however, rests with John Gould, the GLAAS archaeologist for the London Borough of Hackney.

## **7. Publication and Archive Deposition**

- 7.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be issued to the client, the Archaeology Advisor to the local Planning Authority and – ultimately – the local studies library, on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time. A digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the HER and NMR. A summary of the findings will be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).
- 7.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings and digital photographs, will be collated and deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC).
- 7.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990) and (Brown & AAF 2007). The archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR).

## 8. Bibliography

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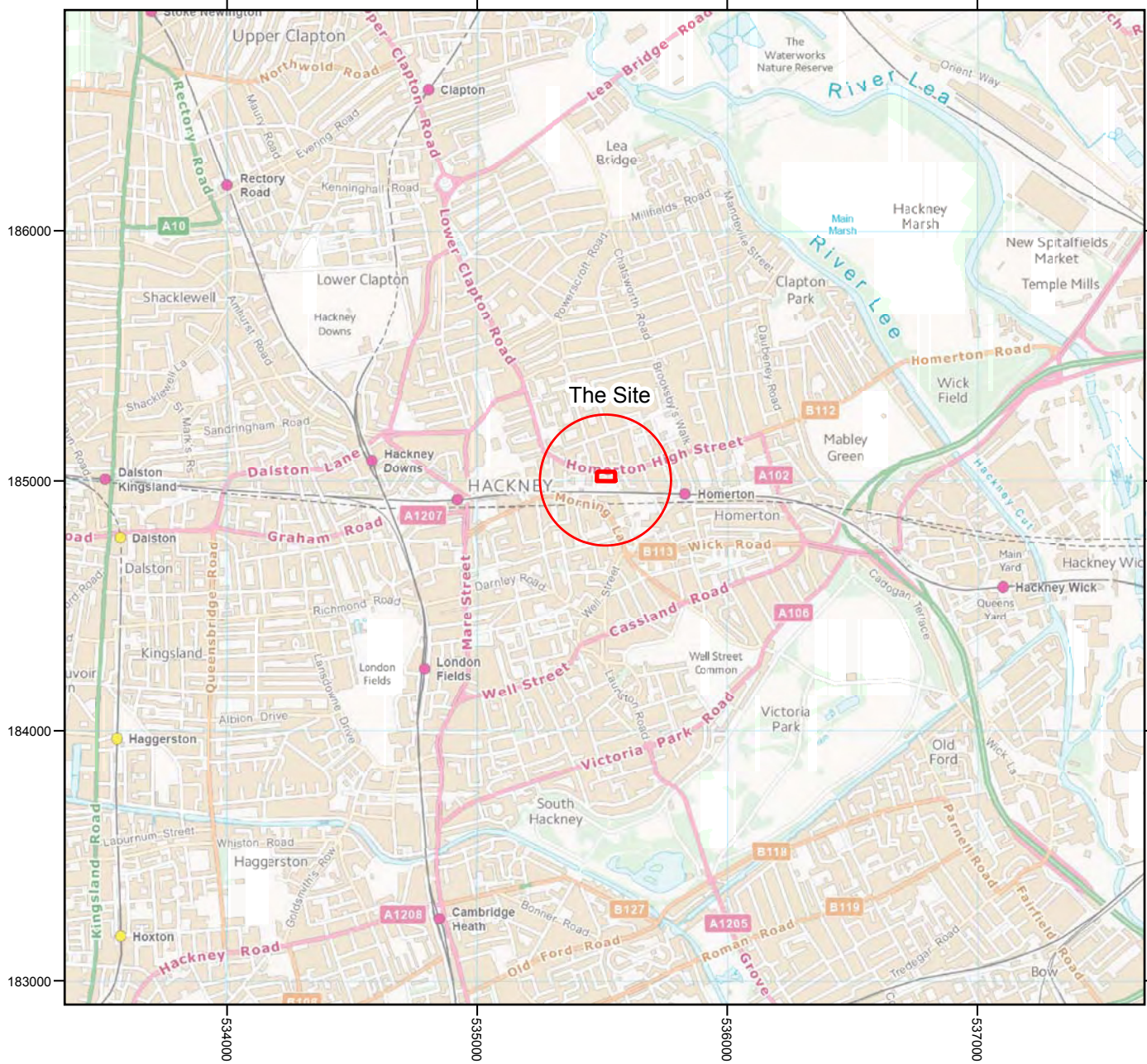
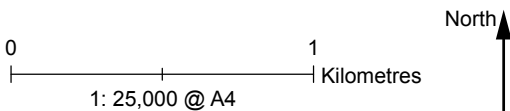
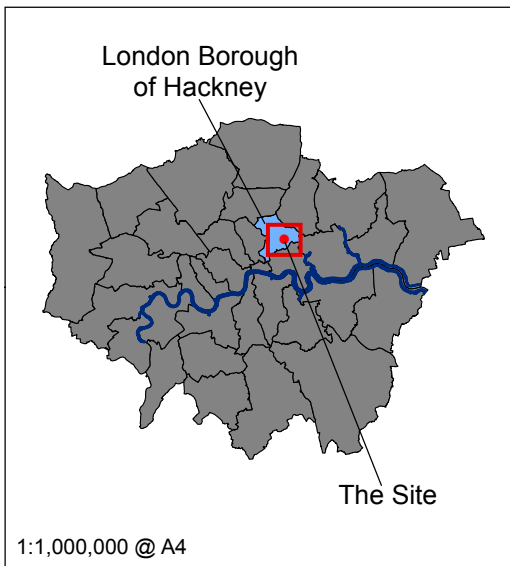
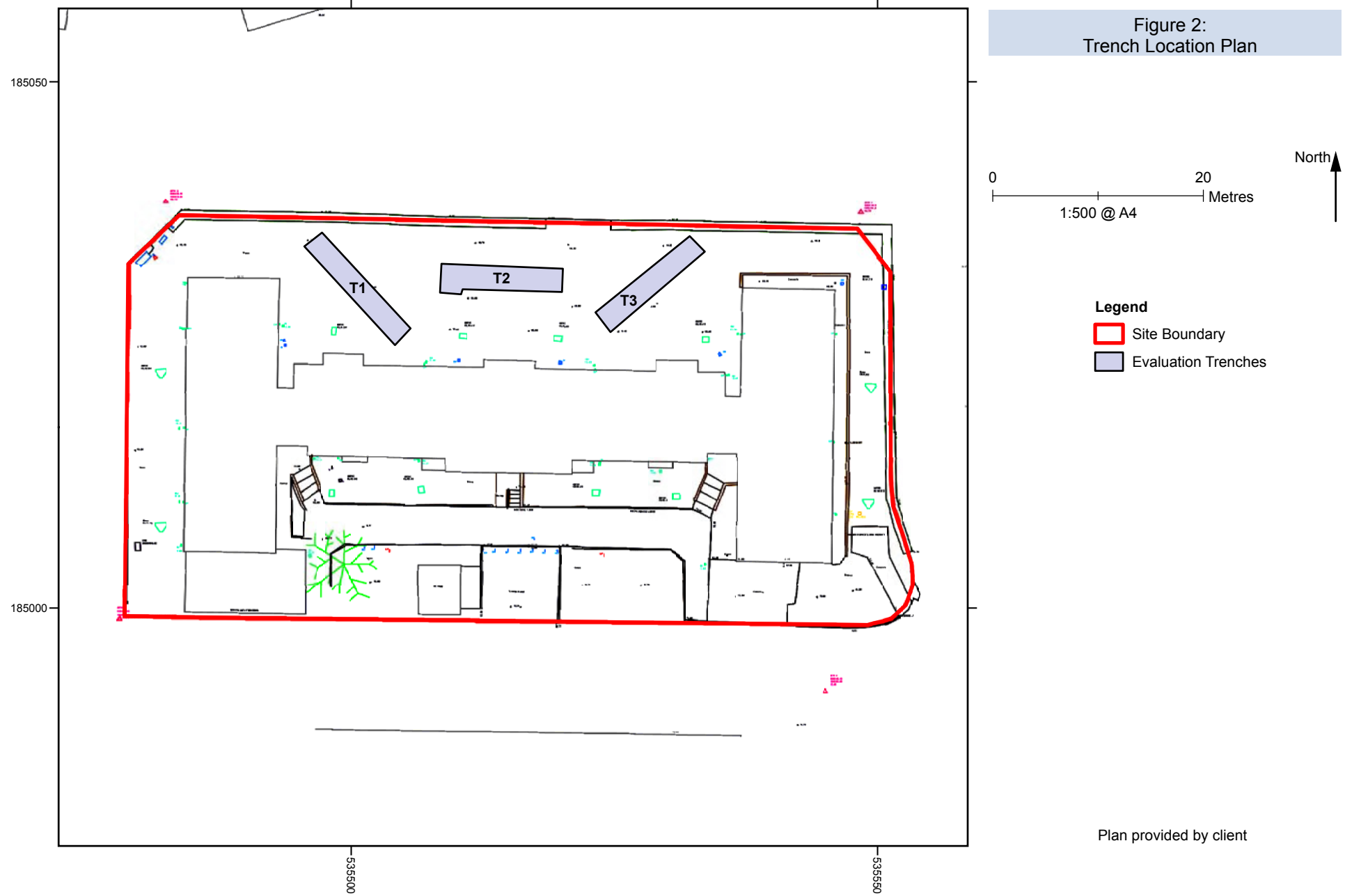


Figure 1:  
Site Location



Contains Ordnance Survey data  
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database right [2016]





Plan provided by client



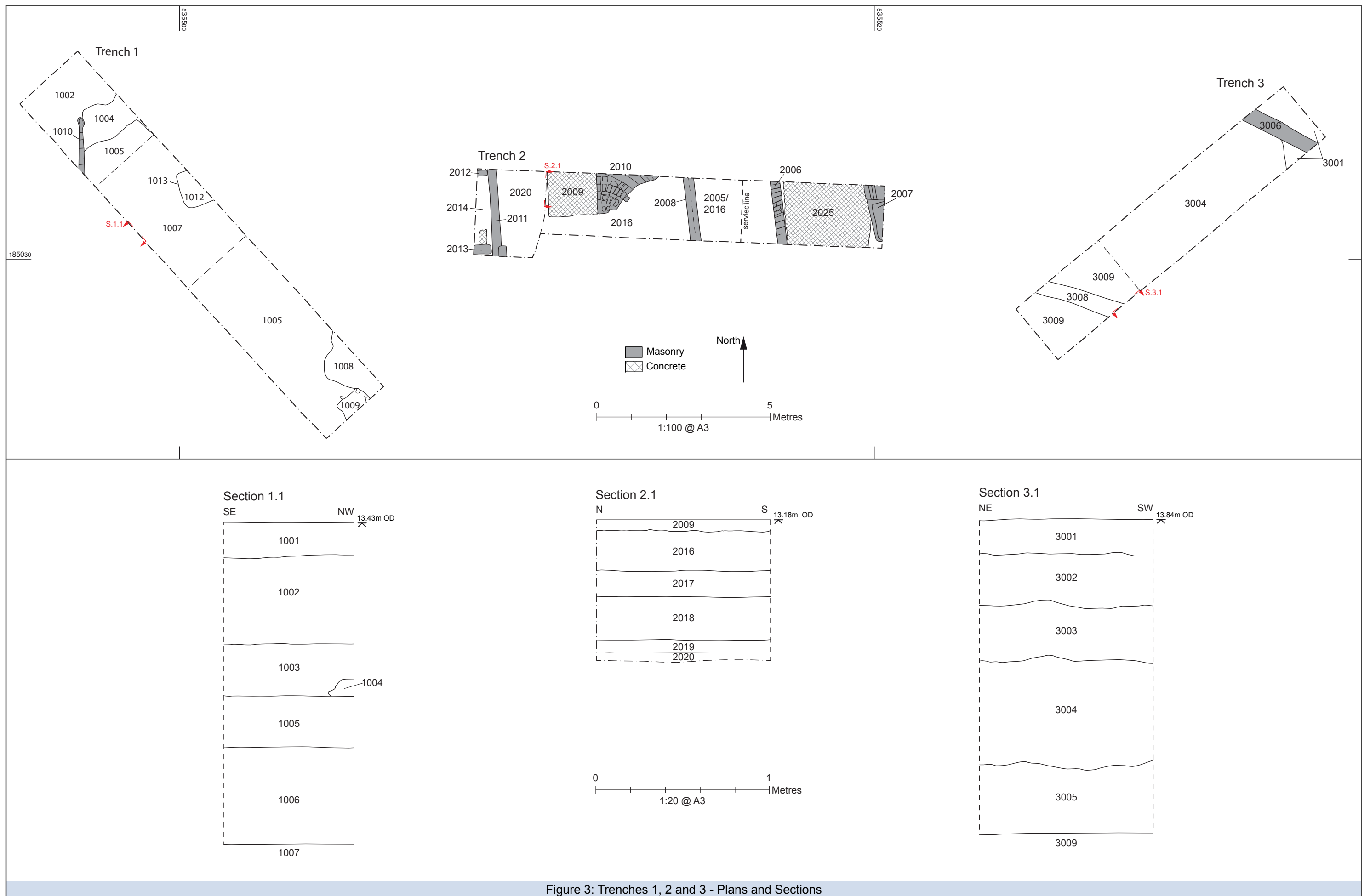
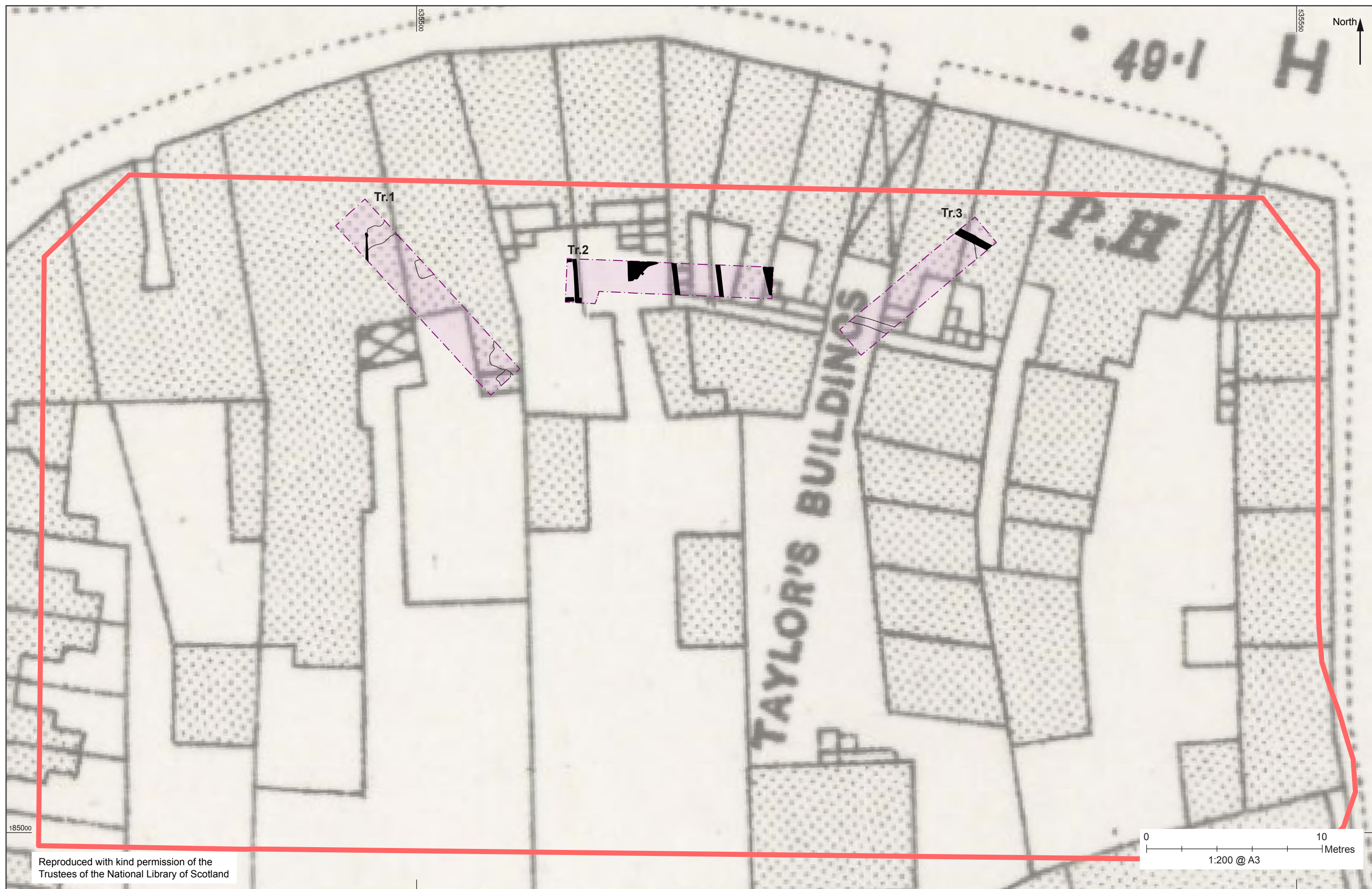


Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2 and 3 - Plans and Sections



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Figure 4: Evaluation Trenches Superimposed on 1897 Ordnance Survey Map

## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1001	Dark brown silt with occasional rubble and rubbish. Topsoil.	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.18m
1002	Dark brown silt with CBM. Made ground.	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.50m
1003	Dark brown silt with frequent red and yellow brick. Demolition layer/Made ground.	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.30m
1004	Modern concrete surface.	> 1.60m	>1.80m	0.10m
1005	Dark brown silt with CBM. Made ground.	> 8.00m	>1.80m	0.30m
1006	Mid-brown silt with gravel and occasional CBM. Disturbed ground.	> 8.00m	>1.80m	0.55m
1007	Natural geological deposit	> 8.00m	>1.80m	NFE
1008	Yellow-brown sandy gravel containing glass and pottery	1.50m	1.00m	NFE
1009	Modern concrete surface	1.20m	1.20m	0.03m
1010	Wall	>1.00m	0.26m	
1011	Wall	-	0.40m	
1012	Fill of unexcavated feature at base of sondage	1.00m	0.60m	N.F.E.
1013	Cut of unexcavated feature at base of sondage	1.00m	0.60m	N.F.E.
2001	Topsoil	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.20m
2002	Yellow-brown sandy clay with rubble	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.10m
2003	Modern truncation	>1.80m	1.00m	>0.60m
2004	Made ground layer overlying 2005	>1.80m	0.80m	0.30m
2005	Slag deposit – infill	>1.80m	0.80m	>0.20m
2006	Wall	>2.00m	0.30m	>0.06m
2007	Wall	>2.00m	>0.50m	c.0.50m
2008	Wall	>2.00m	0.30m	>0.50m
2009	Concrete surface	1.40m	>1.10m	0.08m
2010	Brick surface (paving)	0.80m	>0.55m	0.06m
2011	Mid C18th wall (running north-south)	>2.50m	0.24m	>0.12m
2012	Mid C18th wall (running east west)	>0.40m	0.28m	>0.12m
2013	Mid C18th wall (running east west)	>0.40m	0.24m	>0.12m
2014	Basement(?) infill	1.50m	>0.50m	>0.10m
2015	Made ground	>4.00m	>1.8m	0.35m
2016	Made ground deposit beneath surfaces 2009 and 2010	>4.20m	>2.40m	0.23m
2017	Buried asphalt surface	-	>2.40m	0.15m
2018	Made ground deposit of dark brown silt with occasional CBM.	-	>2.40m	0.25m
2019	Thin layer of crushed/broken brick/CBM. Demolition or made ground layer	-	>2.40m	0.07m

Context	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
2020	Deposit to east of wall 2011 – made ground/infill	>1.40m	>2.50m	>0.05m
2021	Generic dark brown silt layer with some CBM (same as 2004 and 2015). Made ground.	>2.00m	2.00m	0.58m
2022	Rubble layer. Demolition material.	-	1.80m	0.20m
2023	Stony dark brown silt layer. Made ground/basement infill.	-	1.50m	0.25m
2024	Slumped concrete floor surface.	-	1.50m	0.10m
2025	Concrete surface at east end of trench	2.35m	>1.80m	-
3001	Topsoil	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.20m
3002	Subsoil or made ground deposit of redeposited natural	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.30m
3003	Rubble/Demolition layer. Made ground.	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.32m
3004	Dark brown-grey sandy clay with occasional CBM. Made ground.	> 10.00m	>1.80m	0.60m
3005	Fill of modern pipe trench	>2.50m	0.70m	0.4m
3006	Brick wall	>2.20m	0.38m	>1.05m
3007	Loose, light grey-brown sandy silt with CBM	-	-	1.1m
3008	Fill of modern pipe trench	>2.50m	0.50m	0.6m
3009	Natural geology. Yellow-brown silty clay/clay silt.	>2.00m	>1.80m	>0.20m

NFE = Not fully excavated



## Appendix B – Finds

### The post-Roman Pottery

*Lucy Whittingham*

#### Methodology

An assemblage of 22 sherds from 17 vessels (1.8kg) has been examined for this report, all of which is post-medieval. The pottery has been quantified using sherd count, weight (g) and estimated number of vessels (ENV) and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet conforming to the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) deposition standards and will form part of the site archive under the sitecode HOT16. A spot date has been calculated on the fabrics present in each context and applied to the stratigraphic phasing to corroborate the chronological sequence.

The pottery is poorly preserved in small fragments and mostly of a domestic nature.

#### Post-medieval Assemblage

The 22 sherds of post-medieval pottery have been collected from seven contexts (1005, 1008, 2004, 2014, 2015, 3001 and 3006) and are all of a late 18<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> -century post-medieval date. The earliest ware present is the handle of a chamber pot in plain white tin-glazed earthenware (TGW C) of a late 17<sup>th</sup> to late 18<sup>th</sup> -century date in context (1005). The remainder of the wares are early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards and include industrially-made household vessels from dinner services, and teawares and for general household use. Examples of Transfer-printed wares (TPW2, TPW4) dating from 1825 onwards include a soup plate, a tureen lid and a green floral decorated saucer. Two household items include a Refined whiteware Keiler marmalade jar made in Newcastle with black transfer pattern (TPW3) and the bowl of a water closet with makers cartouche outlined in black transfer emblem. A Refined whiteware (REFW) storage jar with corrugated sides is also a Maling product from Newcastle upon Tyne, of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century date. One other small storage jar is found in English stoneware with a brown painted upper section (ENGS BRST). Kitchen vessels include a Sunderland (SUND) baking dish with slipware decoration. Teawares include an English Porcelain (ENPO PNTD) cup with gold painted clover decoration on the interior. Drinking wares include the rim of an English stoneware ginger beer/stout bottle and the substantial part of an imported Nassau Selters mineral water bottle from Germany imported from c. 1845 to 1920.

#### Potential and significance

This pottery assemblage is small and represents the material discard of a late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century household. The ceramic assemblage is typical of post-medieval London and of little significance beyond dating the stratigraphic sequence. The pottery is all associated with made ground deposits and the collection is recommended for discard.

#### Recommendations

No further work is recommended for this ceramic assemblage which does not warrant any further illustration or conservation work.

### Glass waste and saggars

*Lucy Whittingham*

Some of the most interesting finds from this site are 9 fragments of ceramic saggars with a bright blue glass on the interior. Lumps of blue glass waste (150g) also adhere to these saggars and prove that they are from

glass manufacture, possibly reusing stoneware pothouse saggars. These were all found in context (2005) and (2015), either side of wall [2008].

### **Potential and significance**

The glass waste found at this site could represent the redeposition of waste from a nearby 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century glass house

### **Recommendations**

No further work is recommended for this assemblage.

## **Glass**

*Lucy Whittingham*

Four fragments of glass bottles were recovered from context (1008). These are all late post-medieval examples of medicinal bottles, cylindrical wine bottles and drinks bottles of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

The earliest bottle represented is from the base of a dark green cylindrical wine bottle, a form which became popular from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Two bases are from clear glass cylindrical bottles with flat bases and a fourth bottle is represented by the tall narrow neck of a clear medicine bottle, typical of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century general pharmaceutical bottle.

### **Potential and significance**

All of the glass bottles are of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date and associated with context (1008). These are everyday household items, and as these do not form a significant part of the site archive the material is recommended for discard.

### **Recommendations**

No further work is recommended for this glass assemblage which does not warrant any further illustration or conservation work.

## **Clay Tobacco Pipe**

*Lucy Whittingham*

Four fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from contexts (1001, 1005, 2014, 3001). No diagnostic fragments were found.

### **Potential and significance**

This assemblage is small and represents post-medieval occupation in the contexts listed above. It is of local significance only and does not warrant further analysis work.



## Appendix C – OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: *aocarcha1-259105*

#### Project details

Project name	Bridge House, Homerton High Street, London
Short description of the project	In July 2016, an archaeological evaluation was carried out by AOC on land at Bridge House, Homerton High Street, Homerton, in the London Borough of Hackney (NGR 535515 185027) (Figure 1). The evaluation comprised 3 trenches, each 10m by 1.8m. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, London, on behalf of Potter Raper Partnership. The remains of a mid-18th century wall were identified at a depth of 1.2m below the current ground surface, along with more recent structural remains and concrete surfaces above that. Finds included slag and vitrified material (perhaps from a kiln) but this appeared to have been used as backfill within one of the trenches and may have been imported from elsewhere as there are no records of industrial buildings on the site at any time. The site was subject to aerial bombardment during the Second World War and there were deep deposits of disturbed/made ground deposits across the evaluated area. It is unlikely that any further archaeological mitigation will be required.
Project dates	Start: 25-07-2016 End: 26-07-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any project codes associated with reference	HOT16 - Sitecode
Any project codes associated with reference	2012/1731 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	WALLS Modern
Significant Finds	SAGGAR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Uncertain
Methods techniques	& "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition  
Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)  
planning process

---

### Project location

Country England  
Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Bridge House, HomertonHigh Street, Homerton  
Postcode E9 6JL  
Site coordinates TQ 35515 85027 51.547345793665 -0.045392483785 51 32 50 N 000 02 43 W Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 11.55m Max: 13.9m

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### Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology  
Organisation  
Project brief CgMs  
originator  
Project design CgMs Consulting Ltd  
originator  
Project Catherine Edwards  
director/manager  
Project supervisor Suzie Westall  
Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body  
Name of Potter Raper Partnership  
sponsor/funding  
body

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### Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC  
recipient  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Industrial"  
Digital Archive LAARC  
recipient  
Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"  
available

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper available Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Report","Unpublished Text"

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Bridge House, Homerton High Street, Homerton, London E9 6JL: An Archaeological Evaluation

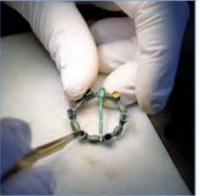
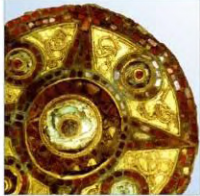
Author(s)/Editor(s) Westall, S.

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

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