

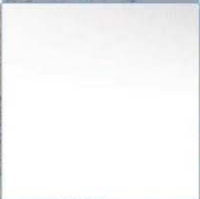
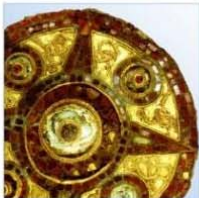
# Dagenham Retail Park (East Thames Plaza), Dagenham, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

National Grid Reference Number: TQ546451,183703

AOC Project No: 33430

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Date: March 2017



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

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# Dagenham Retail Park (East Thames Plaza), Dagenham, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**National Grid Reference (NGR):** 546451,183703

**AOC Project No:** 33430

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

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## Non-Technical Summary

*In March 2017 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by AOC Archaeology ahead of the proposed redevelopment at Dagenham Retail Park East Thames Plaza), London Borough of Barking and Dagenham NGR 546451,183703 (Figure 1). The evaluation comprised eight trenches, measuring between 10.00m and 5.00m long by 1.8m wide. The work was commissioned by the Archaeology Collective.*

*The earliest identified deposit was natural terrace gravels, which were identified in all trenches ranging in height from 5.33mOD in Trench 7 to 5.78mOD in Trench 1, perhaps indicating the gravels slope from north to south across the site towards the River Thames. In trenches 5, 6, 7, and 8 brickearth was recorded at a varying height of 5.51mOD to 5.64mOD. The most significant archaeological feature was recorded in Trench 6 and identified as a pit filled with large fragments of Early Iron Age dated pottery. As the pottery appeared to have been laid at the base of the pit there is a possibility the deposition may have some significance. Linear features were also recorded in trenches 2 and 7, although no dating evidence was recovered from these features. They may relate to boundary ditches or enclosures.*

*Overlying the above, in trenches 1,2 and 3 was a layer of buried subsoil recorded at a between 5.69mOD and 5.845m OD, which in turn, within trenches 1, 3 and 4, was overlaid by a buried topsoil horizon. Modern made ground associated with the modern carpark was observed above this.*

*The findings of this evaluation have revealed evidence which correlates with the 'specific aims' of the evaluation, encapsulated in the Written Scheme of Excavation (Archaeology Collective 2017, Section 2.2). The most relevant research objectives being the fourth to sixth bullet points of section 2.2 of the Written Scheme which were: the need to establish if prehistoric archaeology was to be found in the 2017 evaluation trenches (answer: yes); to determine if there was Roman archaeology in the 2017 evaluation trenches (answer: no); and to determine if any of the 1985 Passmore Edwards Museum evaluation trenches could be located (answer: yes, the north-western corner of the 1985 trench 3 was picked up in the 2017 trench 1 and probably its eastern side at the western end of 2017 trench 2).*

*This evaluation report will be referred to by the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (Adam Single, Archaeology Advisor) when issuing archaeological advice to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Given the discovered remains on the site, it is likely that their advice will be to mitigate the impacts upon these remains via mitigation (archaeological excavation and recording in advance of construction."*

*The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings and digital photographs, will be collated and deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). Copies of the evaluation report will be issued to Archaeology Collective's' client Meadow Dagenham Ltd, 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).*

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Site Location

1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by AOC Archaeology prior to construction of a hotel development on the site of Dagenham Retail Park, (East Thames Plaza), London Borough of Barking and Dagenham NGR 546451,183703 (Figure 1). The site (c. 0.3ha in size) lies in the southwest corner of Dagenham Leisure Park, with Ripple Road to the south and Dagenham Avenue footpath to the west. A commercial unit formerly housing Pizza Hut and Dagenham Vue Cinema are located directly to the north and northeast. The majority of the site is given over to the western end of the customer car park serving the Leisure Complex.

## 1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The local planning authority is the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Archaeological advice to the council is currently provided by Adam Single, Archaeological Advisor for Historic England's Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). Previously advice was provided by John Gould.

1.2.2 The application site lies entirely within the Barking and Dagenham (Tier 2) Ripple Road Archaeological Priority Area (APA). This APA, in turn lies directly north of Tier 2 Barking Level and Dagenham Marsh APA. The Ripple Road APA has been classified as such because: "Ripple Road APA is an area with considerable archaeological potential. Any further remains which could be uncovered through archaeological investigations of the Ripple Road and the area immediately adjacent would add to our knowledge of the use and development of the road. Remains which could be uncovered could include prehistoric features such as trackways, ditches and remains of settlement. There is also a potential for Roman remains, particularly burials, which are often located along or near to roadways on the outside of settlements. Remains of medieval houses and farmsteads could also be present." (Historic England 2016, 89).

1.2.3 The first phase of archaeological investigation was the production of a Desk Based Assessment produced by Archaeology Collective (2016). This indicated that due to the potential for archaeological remains on site further archaeological work (subsequent to the Desk-Based Assessment) might be warranted. The Archaeology Collective Desk-Based assessment had identified a 'potential' for the site to preserve archaeological remains (Archaeology Collective 2016, 6.3) and this was coupled with evidence that remains may actually extend into the site based upon archaeological work immediately adjacent to the site (6.4 of the Archaeology Collective desk-based assessment).

1.2.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was produced by Archaeology Collective in 2017 (Archaeology Collective, 2017) and approved by John Gould, Archaeological Advisor at GLAAS during that period. The WSI was designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines, including:

- Historic England – Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 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).

1.2.5 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 (online viewer) identifies the underlying solid geology as London Clay Formation. This is sedimentary bedrock, comprising clay, silt and sand formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago during the Palaeogene Period in an environment dominated by deep seas.

1.3.2 The overlying superficial geology is shown as Taplow Gravel Formation comprising sand and gravel formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period in an environment previously dominated by rivers. This deposit is locally lensed with silt, clay or peat.

## 2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The following information is summarised from the archaeological desk based assessment of the site prepared by Archaeology Collective (2017).

### 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 The Greater London HER contains no records for early prehistoric activity within the site. There are and twelve records within the local area related specifically to the early prehistoric period. These include remains of geoarchaeological interest (which is a part of the character of this area) being close to the river Thames, there are important alluvial, peat and gravel deposits. MLO107515 was the location of a geoarchaeological assessment which recorded the presence of a palaeochannel. It is thought that there is a good chance for archaeological and geoarchaeological survival in this area. A further Palaeochannel (MLO99275) was recorded at Renwick Road Junction.

2.1.2 A deposit of peat was recorded below alluvium at Choats Road (MLO107513) there were no datable archaeological finds, although wood was recorded. The deposit was dated to between the Mesolithic and early Bronze Age.

2.1.3 Flint artefacts have also been recorded, these came from gravel deposits (and the different properties of the alluvium and the gravels should be noted in this area. In the study area, flint artefacts (MLO5917) comprised a lower Palaeolithic handaxe and a broadly contemporary struck flake.

2.1.4 Further, later struck flints were identified at Merrields Crescent (MLO107515) and were dated to the Neolithic. Five facies were identified via geoarchaeological assessment from Pleistocene floodplain gravels through early Holocene sands and clays to peats, estuarine muds.

2.1.5 By far the most significant find from the Neolithic period, or from any period, for this area is the Dagenham Idol (MLO5743). This was revealed during groundworks for a sewer and is the only one of its type from Greater London. It was associated with the Gorsebrook, on the edge of this area, at its eastern limit:

“The Dagenham Idol, a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age wooden figure, was found in 1922 during the installation of sewer pipes on the edge of the marshes south of the Ripple Road near to Gores Brook. A possible deer skeleton was also found approximately 30 yards south of it, but was

subsequently lost. These were probably contained within a peat layer and are described in a contemporaneous article as having been found 'in soil of a peaty nature'. The figure, which is armless and naked, is made from a complete roundwood stem of Scots pine wood, which would have been at least 30 years old at the time of its creation. It has been carbon dated to 2459-2110 BC, placing it in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

- 2.1.6 It is an early example of an anthropomorphic wooden figure and one of few examples in Britain. Wooden figures are often found in wetland areas, such as on the edges of bogs or estuarine areas. They are more often found in mainland Europe, particularly in Germany and Scandinavia. Only seven have been found in the Britain and Ireland, most notably the Balluchulish figure and the figures at Roos Carr. It is posited that they were used as cult objects or effigies, and are often found in liminal spaces. The chronology of wooden anthropomorphic figures in Europe spans from the Mesolithic to the thirteenth century AD, 88 with the majority occurring between approximately 500BC to 300AD, whilst that of Britain and Ireland is smaller, ranging from the Neolithic to the Iron Age/Roman era." (Historic England 2016).
- 2.1.7 The most likely remains of this date, within the local area, would be chance finds associated with the gravel deposits on which the site sits. The richer palaeoenvironmental deposits would tend to be south of Ripple Road. The highly significant remains associated with the Goresbrook are almost 1km to the east.
- 2.1.8 Goresbrook Park to the east of the site produced a lithic tool datable to the Bronze Age. More significant remains occurred to the south-east at Pooles Lane where a causeway was identified, along with a peat deposit (MLO59097, 59100). This is precisely the mix of remains we might associate with wooden artefacts of a religious nature. Causeways across wet/liminal zones close to settlement, yet of a very different character. There are other findspots and an undated ditch (MLO73352, 77435) in the area.
- 2.1.9 However, it is the zone of land close to the Dagenham Docks station which contains the highest potential for further significant finds. The land either side of the sinuous Goresbrook must be seen in the same way.

## **2.2 Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)**

- 2.2.1 The Greater London HER contains two records for the Roman period for the local area. However, one of these is highly significant in relation to the site. MLO66641 is immediately north of the application site. It was evaluated via trial trenching which revealed significant remains of this date. These were four cremation burials contained within a late 1st/early 2nd century AD rectangular ditched enclosure located just beyond the northern boundary of the site.

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

- 2.3.1 The Greater London HER contains no records for the early medieval period for the site or the local area. Although, Dagenham ('Daecca's home') was (British History Online 13-10-2016) probably one of the earliest Saxon settlements in Essex: the name is first recorded in a charter of A.D. 687. From the 13th century onwards references to the parish, its farms and hamlets, are sufficiently numerous to suggest a flourishing community.
- 2.3.2 The character of land-use of the application area and its immediate surroundings was farmland in the post-medieval period (and well into the 20th century). Also, given that the settlement core of Dagenham has been static through this period, it is highly likely that this stretch of land was in use as farmland,

located right on the edge of the Barking Levels and the Dagenham Marsh to the south. It was 'relatively' dry land on gravel and would have been useful agricultural land.

- 2.3.3 Any archaeological finds are likely to be associated with farms and farming. These will tend to comprise field ditches, livestock enclosures and potentially domestic remains.

## **2.4 The Post-Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern (AD 1900 – Present) Periods**

- 2.4.1 The Greater London HER contains twenty-nine records for post-medieval and modern activity within the local area.

- 2.4.2 The majority of these are buildings, the location of farms, flood defences. These build a picture, along with cartographic sources of land-use in this extraordinary period of change. The borough shifted from an agrarian economy to an industrial one. The importance of the docks grew exponentially and remain so. The amount of green space reduced enormously while the growth of residential and industrial land use rocketed.

- 2.4.3 Cartographic sources were inspected as part of our research. The earliest available map to show the study area is Chapman and Andre's Map of Essex dating from 1772. Although not detailed, this shows the application site as part of open ground on the north side of "Riple Side". The map also depicts the latter as representing the northern boundary of Barking Marsh.

- 2.4.4 A larger scale Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing of 1799 shows more detail than the Chapman & Andre Map and depicts the site and its immediate environs as being part of a field system extending north from Ripple Road. The field boundary crossing the south-west corner of the local area is likely to be preserved below ground as an infilled ditch. An un-designated heritage asset of low-local importance.

- 2.4.5 An 1805 First Edition map extract shows a more clearly defined topographical distinction between the Barking Levels and the higher land rising up to the north. It demonstrates that both Ripple Side and the site were, by this time, located on relatively flat dry ground above the marshes.

- 2.4.6 The next available detailed map available to inform this desk based assessment was the 1844 Tithe Map of Barking. This shows the site and surrounding land as still being undeveloped land. Plot 570 on the Tithe Map is recorded in the accompanying apportionment as being arable land whereas adjacent land parcels are referred to as being "Common" land, presumably forming part of Goresbrook Fields or Common.

- 2.4.7 The Ordnance Survey map extracts dating from 1862 to 1946 depict little change in the character and field layout of the land occupied by the site. Its environs are changing though; Goresbrook Road had been constructed between 1921 and 1946, with dense housing development occurring on its northern side. On the southern side of the road, a school is marked on the 1946 map to the northeast of the site. This is the Sacred Heart School site archaeologically evaluated in 1996. The same map also depicts a semi-circular array of detached buildings on the south side of the road within the I land parcel also containing the local area. By comparison the 1946 map shows that settlement along Ripple Road had only increased incrementally since the 18th century.

- 2.4.8 The 1960 Ordnance Survey map extract shows the southwest-northeast aligned Dagenham Avenue for the first time but still depicts the local area and its immediate environs as open ground (thought to be allotments and playing fields attached to the school).

- 2.4.9 The map regression suggests that the site has been agricultural or open ground from at least the 18th century until its development as part of the Dagenham Leisure Park in 1995. During the lifetime of the



Leisure Park thus far it has been utilised as part of a car park and not been subject to building construction.

- 2.4.10 Given that most ploughsoil/subsoil cover over sub-surface archaeological remains is often around 400-600mm, it is likely that, if currently unknown, undesignated remains had existed on the site, they would be preserved beneath the existing car park. The most likely remains at this time are those of an infilled post-medieval field boundary crossing the south-western part of the site.

## **2.5 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 2.5.1 The most directly relevant of these field investigations was a large scale trial-trenching exercise (ELO3147; Tamblyn, February 1996) conducted in 1995 across the entirety of the Dagenham Leisure Park footprint, prior to its construction. The most significant archaeological remains recorded during the evaluation were four cremation burials contained within a late 1st/early 2nd century AD rectangular ditched enclosure located just beyond the northern boundary of the site. Four ditches of possible early Roman date and two ditches and two pits of suspected prehistoric date were found elsewhere within the evaluation footprint. A Watching Brief (LP Archaeology 2016) was also carried out within the Dagenham Retail Park, this revealed no archaeological remains.
- 2.5.2 A trial trench evaluation was carried out on the site of Castle School in 1998 (Weale, December 1998). Although this site lay only a short distance northwest of the enclosed cremation burials referred to immediately above, no archaeological features of a similar nature or date were encountered. No securely datable remains from other periods were present either.
- 2.5.3 An archaeological evaluation of the former Parks Police Centre of the junction of Dagenham Avenue and Goresbrook Road was undertaken in 2011 (EL011718; Capon 2011). Building activity in the area had removed most of the upper soil horizon so only the base of one undated archaeological feature was recorded.
- 2.5.4 In August 1996 an archaeological trial-trench evaluation was carried out c. 100m to the northwest of the application site on the site of the former Sacred Hearts School on Goresbrook Road (ELO3148; Tamblyn, August 1996). The investigation revealed remains of the school and a post-medieval ditch, but nothing else of archaeological significance.
- 2.5.5 In 1996 a report was published of a 1993 archaeological investigation of land south of Ripple Road (GLHER MLO6641; Divers 1996). The fieldwork revealed a section of a unique gravel causewayed road dating to the middle Bronze Age. It is believed that this causeway would have provided a means for cattle to be brought down to summer pasture from the higher river terraces to the north.

## **3 Strategy (Archaeology Collective 2017)**

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

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were defined as being:
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains,
  - To record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on development area.
  - To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on development area. It is anticipated that previous impacts on potential archaeological deposits within the site will have derived largely from the stripping of topsoil ahead of the creation of the existing car park. Localised effects may be present from when the car park had

trees planted/inserted. These effects will have had a comparatively low impact on below ground remains, if any were present.

3.1.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were defined as being:

- To mechanically excavate eight trenches, located on the Plan at Appendix 2.1 (six of the trenches are 10m long by 1.8m wide while two of them are 5m long by 1.8m wide, so as to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground,
- To clean the base and representative sections of the trenches and record them in both plan and representative section,
- To partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date,
- To establish if any prehistoric evidence is present within the evaluation trenches. The site is within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Archaeological Priority Area 2.2 called Barking and Dagenham APA 2.12: Ripple Road. The Historic England appraisal says: "This Archaeological Priority Area covers a corridor of archaeological potential along the Ripple Road, covering the geological change from peat deposits along the foreshore and the gravel to the north. This area has been designated as a Tier 2 APA as significant finds and features have been found close to the road, particularly dating to the prehistoric era. These include the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age Dagenham Idol, and a nearby Bronze Age trackway. Evidence of Roman activity in the form of burials and cremations has also been found in this APA. There is a potential for further archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards within this area, particularly dating to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods." The desk-based assessment concluded that the site had a low medium potential to contain remains of prehistoric – modern date,
- To establish if any evidence of the Roman activity is present in the evaluation trenches. Evidence in the form of four cremation burials within a late 1st/early 2nd century AD rectangular ditched enclosure was found in trench 20 of the 1985 archaeological evaluation carried out by the Passmore Edwards Museum before the Dagenham Retail Park, within which the site lies, was developed.
- To establish if any of the evaluation trenches opened in 1985 by the Passmore Edwards Museum are intersected by the forthcoming evaluation trenches: if so this would enable the location of the 1985 investigation, and its trenches, to be more securely and accurately located. The trench layout plan at Appendix 2.2 of the Archaeology Collective written scheme of investigation (2017) showed the only one trench of the twenty six from 1985 projected to be lying on the subject site. The 1985 trenches in the vicinity of and in one case on the subject site are shown blue on the plan at Appendix 2.2. The remaining 1985 trenches not shown on the plan lie north, east and south of the subject site, and beyond the extent of the plan at Appendix 2.2. Our proposed evaluation trench layout is largely governed by the presence of buried services, intending to avoid them. It is deliberate that our proposed trench 3, shown red on Appendix 3, bisects perpendicularly the line of the 1985 trench 3, to give the best opportunity of locating the 1985 trench, as the precise location of the 1985 work is a little uncertain. It is co-incidental that that the two trenches, from different years, that we anticipate as intersecting, are both numbered trench 3.
- To establish if any evidence of medieval/post-medieval field boundaries are present on the site. (A north-south field boundary is shown on the series of maps dating from 1799-1946 in the desk-based assessment).

- To inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological or geoarchaeological works on the development area by means of an illustrated report, and to address the impact of the proposed scheme upon the archaeological results as contained in the report.

## 3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches between 10m long and 5.00m long and by 1.8m in width (Figure 2).
- 3.2.2 The WSI prepared by Archaeology Collective (2017) defined the site procedures for the archaeological evaluation. All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (CIfA 2015, HE 2015). A unique site code for the project (**CKD 17**) was issued by LAARC and 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.
- 3.2.3 The evaluation was conducted by Les Capon, under the overall management of Catherine Edwards, Project Manager. The site was monitored by Adam Single of GLAAS and Joe Abrams of Archaeology Collective.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1**

| Context Number | Thickness | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation  |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 101            | 0.08m     | 6.39m             | Car Park: Bricks  |
| 102            | 0.06m     | 6.31m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose   |
| 103            | 0.15m     | 6.25m             | Made ground: Mid brown silt with demolition rubble. Compact   |
| 104            | 0.20m     | 6.10m             | Made ground: Dark brown silt with red brick and concrete rubble. Compact                                      |
| 105            | 0.06m     | 5.90m             | Buried topsoil: Dark brown/ black silt. No stone inclusions. Very firm  |
| 106            | 0.06m     | 5.84m             | Subsoil: Mid brown / red brown sandy silt with occasional sub angular and angular stone inclusions. Very firm |
| 107            | >0.14m    | 5.78m             | Natural gravel: Yellow brown. Firm  |

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the northern extent of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 2 & 3, Plates 1 & 2). The trench measured 5.00m long by 1.80m wide.
- 4.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a yellowish brown gravels (107) interpreted as a naturally lain gravel deposit. This was overlain by a 0.06m thick mid brown/red brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions (106) interpreted as a subsoil horizon. This in turn was overlain by a 0.06m thick layer of dark brown buried topsoil (105). Cutting into this horizon was [109], a cut which is thought to represent the north-west corner of the 1985 Passmore Edwards Museum evaluation Trench 3. The cut was filled with (108), a red brown sandy silt.

- 4.1.3 Overlying the above were a series of made ground deposits recorded as (104), (103) and (102). These are all associated with the preparation of the overlying carpark surfacing (101).



*Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north*



*Plate 2: Trench 1, looking east*

- 4.1.4 No archaeological remains were uncovered in Trench 1.

## 4.2 Trench 2

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 2**

| Context Number | Thickness | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation  |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 201            | 0.08m     | 6.23m             | Car Park: Bricks  |
| 202            | 0.08m     | 6.15m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose   |
| 203            | 0.34m     | 6.07m             | Made ground: dark brown silt, with brick rubble, concrete and glass. Frequent sub angular and angular stone inclusions. Very firm |
| 204            | 0.10m     | 5.73m             | Subsoil: Mid brown clayey silty sand with sub angular and angular stone inclusions. Very firm                                     |
| 205            | >0.12m+   | 5.61m             | Natural gravels: Yellow brown sandy gravel. Firm  |

4.2.1 Trench 2 (Plates 3 & 4) was located in the northern extent of the site, orientated roughly east-west measuring 10.00m by 1.80m (Figure 2 & 3).



**Plate 3: Trench 2 post excavation**

- 4.2.2 The earliest deposit revealed in the trench was yellow brown sandy gravel (205) interpreted as naturally lain gravels.
- 4.2.3 Cutting into the natural horizon were a series of features. Pit [207], was circular in shape measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.30m deep. The pit was filled (206), a mid brown grey clay silty sand with inclusions of gravel. No datable finds were recovered.
- 4.2.4 Possible ditch [209] was recorded aligned northeast – southwest measuring 1.70m x 0.50m x 0.20m. The ditch had gradual sloping sides and concave base. The ditch contained a posthole within the base of the ditch [210]. The posthole measured 0.19m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The fill of the ditch and posthole was recorded as (208), a mid brown grey clay silty sand with frequent gravel. A second linear feature was recorded in the trench and recorded as [212]. The feature was aligned east-west measuring 2.40m x 0.30m x 0.09m deep. The cut recorded as a gradual sloping sides and a flat base also containing a possible posthole recorded as [213]. Both the linear and post hole were backfilled by (211), a mid brown grey clayey sandy silt with inclusions of burnt flint and CBM.

- 4.2.5 Overlying the above was a 0.10m thick mid brown silty sandy with gravel inclusions (204) interpreted as a subsoil horizon. Above this were made ground deposits (203) and (202), associated with the preparation of the overlying carpark surfacing (201).
- 4.2.6 At the west end of the trench was a deposit similar to (108) that was unexcavated but which was thought to be fill of Passmore Edwards 1985 evaluation trench 3 – see Fig 3.



Plate 4: Trench 2 Ditch [210] looking east

### 4.3 Trench 3

Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 3

| Context Number | Thickness | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation  |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 301            | 0.08m     | 6.16m             | Car Park: Bricks  |
| 302            | 0.08m     | 6.08m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose   |
| 303            | 0.22m     | 6.00m             | Made ground: Dark brown silt, with red brick and concrete rubble. Very firm/ compact                            |
| 304            | 0.09m     | 5.78m             | Redeposited topsoil: Dark brown sandy silt with frequent sub angular and angular stone inclusions. Very compact |
| 305            | 0.10m     | 5.69m             | Subsoil: Brown sandy silt with sub angular and angular stone inclusions. Firm                                   |
| 306            | NFE       | 5.59m             | Natural gravels: Yellow brown sandy gravel. Firm  |

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 (Figure 2 & 4, Plate 5) was oriented roughly east-west and measured 10.00m long by 1.8m wide.
- 4.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a yellowish brown gravels (306) interpreted as a naturally lain gravel deposit. This was overlain by a 0.10m thick mid brown/red brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions (305) interpreted as a subsoil horizon. This was overlain by a 0.09m thick layer of dark brown buried topsoil (304). Above the above were a series of made ground deposits recorded as (303) and (302). These are all associated with the preparation of the overlying carpark surfacing (301).



*Plate 5: Trench 3 post excavation looking west*

4.3.3 No archaeological features were observed in Trench 3.

#### 4.4 Trench 4

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 4**

| Context Number | Thickness | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation  |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 401            | 0.08m     | 6.02m             | Car Park: Bricks  |
| 402            | 0.08m     | 5.94m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose   |
| 403            | 0.14m     | 5.86m             | Made ground: Dark brown silt, with red brick and concrete rubble. Very firm/ compact                            |
| 404            | 0.20m     | 5.72m             | Redeposited topsoil: Dark brown sandy silt with frequent sub angular and angular stone inclusions. Very compact |
| 405            | >0.35m+   | 5.52m             | Natural gravels: Yellow brown sandy gravel. Firm  |

4.4.1 Trench 4 (Figure 2 & 4, Plate 6) was located in the eastern part of the site and was oriented roughly east to west and was 10.00m long by 1.80m wide.



*Plate 6: Trench 4 sample section looking north*

4.4.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a yellowish brown gravels (405) interpreted as a naturally lain gravel deposit. This was overlain by a 0.20m thick dark brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions (404) interpreted as a buried topsoil. Overlying the above was made ground deposit recorded as (403) overlaid by the sand bedding layer (402) and carpark surfacing (401).

## 4.5 Trench 5

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 5**

| Context Number | Thickness | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation   |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 501            | 0.08m     | 6.14m             | Car Park: Bricks   |
| 502            | 0.05m     | 6.06m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose  |
| 503            | 0.37m     | 6.01m             | Made ground: Mixed layer of hard brown/ dark brown mottled sandy clay silt with inclusions of angular stones, more of a lens. CBM. Very firm |
| 506            | 0.16m     | 5.64m             | Brickearth: Yellowish brown sandy clay. Firm   |
| 507            | >0.10m    | 5.48m             | Natural gravels: Yellow brown sandy with circa. 80% gravel. Firm   |

4.5.1 Trench 5 (Figure 2 & 4, Plate 7) was oriented northeast to southwest and measured 10.00m in length and 1.80m wide.

4.5.2 The earliest deposit revealed in the trench was yellow brown sandy gravel (507) interpreted as naturally lain gravels. Overlying the gravel was (506), a 0.16m thick layer of yellow brown sandy clay interpreted as brickearth. Cutting into the brickearth was posthole [505], measuring 0.35m in diameter and 0.09m deep. The posthole was filled by (504), a grey silty sand with inclusions of gravel. No datable finds were recovered.





*Plate 7: Trench 5 showing possible post hole [505] northeast*

4.5.3 Overlying the above was (503), a 0.37m thick layer of hard brown dark brown mottled sandy clay silt with inclusions of angular stones interpreted as made ground. Above this was sand bedding layer (502) associated with the preparation of the overlying carpark surfacing (501).

#### 4.6 Trench 6

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 6**

| Context Number | Thickness    | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation  |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 601            | 0.08m        | 5.92m             | Car Park: Bricks  |
| 602            | 0.05m        | 5.84m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose   |
| 603            | 0.23m        | 5.79m             | Made ground: Mid brown sandy silt with red brick rubble, porcelain, demolition layer. Very firm |
| 604            | 0.05m        | 5.56m             | Made ground: Grey concrete and mortar. Firm   |
| 610            | 0.08m        | 5.51m             | Brickearth: Yellowish brown sandy clay. Firm  |
| 605            | >0.15m (NFE) | 5.36m             | Natural gravels: Brown sands with 80% gravel  |

4.6.1 Trench 6 (Figure 2 & 5, Plate 8 & 9) was oriented roughly east-west and measured 10.00m in length and 1.90m wide.

4.6.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a brown sand and gravel (605) interpreted as a naturally lain gravel deposit. This was overlaid by (610), a 0.08m thick layer of yellow brown sandy clay interpreted as brickearth.

4.6.3 Cutting into the brickearth was pit [607], a sub-circular shaped feature measuring 0.75m x 0.42m x 0.24m. the sides of the pit were near vertical with a flat base. The pit was filled by (611), a 0.10m thick deposit of light brown yellow silty sand with inclusions of gravel. This probably represents a natural in fill. Overlying this was (606), a 0.08m thick deposit of dark brown silty sandy with inclusions of gravel, a loom weight and large fragments of pottery. The pottery has been provisionally dated to the Early Iron Age (600–400 BC). The pottery fragments appeared to line the base of the pit which may suggest more than simply the deposition of domestic waste.



*Plate 8: Trench 6 showing pit [606] with pottery in situ*

- 4.6.4 Very close to the pit was [609], a shallow linear feature measuring 1.60m x 1.50m x 0.15m deep. The feature was filled by (608), a grey sandy silt with inclusions of small stones. Directly above this was (613), a peat like organic deposit 0.30m thick which possibly associated with a period of waterlogged or a wet environment. This is suggested by the directly overlay of the feature by (612), a compacted layer of made ground which may have been deposited to make the ground more stable prior to the car park creation. The feature appears to have been horizontally truncated suggesting that the feature may have originally deeper.



*Plate 9: Trench 6 showing pit [606] and [609] looking southeast*

- 4.6.5 Overlying the above was (604), a 0.05m thick layer of concrete and mortar which in turn was overlaid by (603), a 0.23m thick made ground deposit, (602), a 0.05m thick yellow sand deposit and finally (601), the current carpark surface.

## 4.7 Trench 7

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 7**

| Context Number | Thickness    | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation   |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|--|
| 701            | 0.08m        | 5.94m             | Car Park: Bricks   |
| 702            | 0.05m        | 5.86m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose  |
| 703            | 0.34m        | 5.81              | Made ground: Very dark mottled brown sandy clay silt with 30% sub rounded and angular stones. Lenses of sandy yellow ground. Compact/ firm |
| 709            | 0.14m        | 5.47m             | Brickearth: Yellowish brown sandy clay. Firm   |
| 710            | >0.15m (NFE) | 5.33m             | Natural gravels: Yellowish brown sand with 90% rounded gravel.   |

- 4.7.1 Trench 7 (Figure 2 & 6, Plate 10) was oriented roughly northwest to southeast and measured 10m in length and 1.80m wide.
- 4.7.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a yellow brown sand and gravel (710) interpreted as a naturally lain gravel deposit. This was overlaid by (709), a 0.14m thick layer of yellow brown sandy clay interpreted as brickearth.
- 4.7.3 Cutting into the brickearth was ditch [708], feature measuring 1.70m x 1.05m x 0.48m deep. The ditch had sharp side and a flat base and was filled by (707) and (706). The lowest fill (707), was recorded as a dark grey brown silty sand whilst the secondary fill was recorded as a dark brown sandy clay with fragments of CBM. No further datable find were recorded.



**Plate 10: Trench 7 showing linear [708], looking north**

- 4.7.4 Also cutting into the brickearth was service trench [705], which was filled by a compact dark brown sandy clay silt (704).
- 4.7.5 Overlying the above was (703), a 0.34m thick made ground deposit, (702), a 0.05m thick yellow sand deposit and finally (701), the current carpark surface.

## 4.8 Trench 8

**Table of the stratigraphic sequence in Trench 8**

| Context Number | Thickness | Height of Deposit | Description/Interpretation  |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 801            | 0.08m     | 5.92m             | Car Park: Bricks  |
| 802            | 0.06m     | 5.84m             | Bedding layer: Yellow sand. Loose   |
| 803            | 0.24m     | 5.78m             | Made ground: Mixed sandy clay silt with inclusion of CBM and angular stones. Very compact |
| 804            | 0.16m     | 5.54m             | Brickearth: Yellowish brown sandy clay. Firm  |
| 805            | >0.15m +  | 5.38m             | Natural gravels: Yellowish brown sand with circa. 80% gravel.                             |

4.8.1 Trench 8 (Figure 2 & 6, Plate 11) was located in the southeast corner of the site, oriented roughly northeast to southwest and measured 5m in length and 1.80m wide.



**Plate 11: Trench 8 sample section, looking northwest**

4.8.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a yellow brown sand and gravel (805) interpreted as a naturally lain gravel deposit. This was overlaid by (804), a 0.16m thick layer of yellow brown sandy clay interpreted as brickearth.

4.8.3 Overlying the above was (803), a 0.24m thick made ground deposit, (802), a 0.06m thick yellow sand deposit and finally (801), the current carpark surface.

## 5 Finds

5.1 During the course of this evaluation a total of 109 sherds of hand-built pottery were recovered from fill (606), in pit [607]. These vessels are examples of hand-built jars with roughly hand finished internal surfaces with occasional vertical finger impressions. All of the sherds found in this assemblage are from an estimated eight vessels. There is little abrasion on the sherds as they are still stratified within their original place of deposition.

5.2 These vessels are particularly well preserved and should be studied further and set within a discussion of their regional significance with parallel examples identified. They warrant illustration as a group.

- 5.3 Five small pieces (12g) of burnt cracked flint were recovered from ditch fill (211).

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The findings of this evaluation have revealed evidence which correlates with the 'specific aims' of the evaluation, encapsulated in the Written Scheme of Excavation (Archaeology Collective 2017, Section 2.2). The most relevant research objectives being the fourth to sixth bullet points of section 2.2 of the Written Scheme which were: *the need to establish if prehistoric archaeology was to be found in the 2017 evaluation trenches (answer: yes); to determine if there was Roman archaeology in the 2017 evaluation trenches (answer: no); and to determine if any of the 1985 Passmore Edwards Museum evaluation trenches could be located (answer: yes, the north-western corner of the 1985 trench 3 was picked up in the 2017 trench 1 and probably at the western end of 2017 trench 2).*
- 6.2 The earliest identified deposit was natural terrace gravels, which were identified in all trenches ranging in height from 5.33mOD in Trench 7 to 5.78mOD in Trench 1, perhaps indicating the gravels slope from north to south across the site towards the River Thames. In trenches 5, 6, 7, and 8 brickearth was recorded at a varying height of 5.51mOD to 5.64mOD. The most significant archaeological feature was recorded in Trench 6 and identified as a pit [608] filled with large fragments of Early Iron Age dated pottery. As the pottery appeared to have been laid at the base of the pit there is a possibility the deposition may have some significance. Linear features were also recorded in trenches 2 and 7, although no dating evidence was recovered from these features. They may relate to boundary ditches or enclosures.
- 6.3 It is possible to tentatively identify a possible enclosure extending north from Trench 2, with its possible southern side represented by ditch [212] and its eastern side represented by ditch [209], with a post-hole identified in the segment of each ditch that was investigated in the evaluation. No dating evidence was recovered from these ditches or from the pit [207] found to the east of the ditches in this trench.
- 6.4 It is also possible to identify another possible enclosure extending north-westwards from Trench 7, with its eastern side represented by ditch [708] (it was cut by a later, modern service trench 705), and with its northern side formed by ditch [607] in Trench 6. Trench 6 also produced the pit [608] that contained large fragments of Early Iron Age pottery and a loom weight and if the ditches do represent an enclosure then they enclosed the pit.
- 6.5 Overlying the above, in trenches 1, 2 and 3 was a layer of buried subsoil recorded at a between 5.69mOD and 5.845m OD, which in turn, within trenches 1, 3 and 4, was overlaid by a buried topsoil horizon. Modern made ground associated with the modern carpark was observed above this.
- 6.6 This evaluation report will be referred to by the Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (Adam Single, Archaeology Advisor) when issuing archaeological advice to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Given the discovered remains on the site, it is likely that their advice will be to mitigate the impacts upon these remains via mitigation (archaeological excavation and recording in advance of construction).

## 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 to 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 *London Archaeologist* fieldwork round-up and 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).

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DAGENHAM RETAIL PARK, (EAST THAMES PLAZA), LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

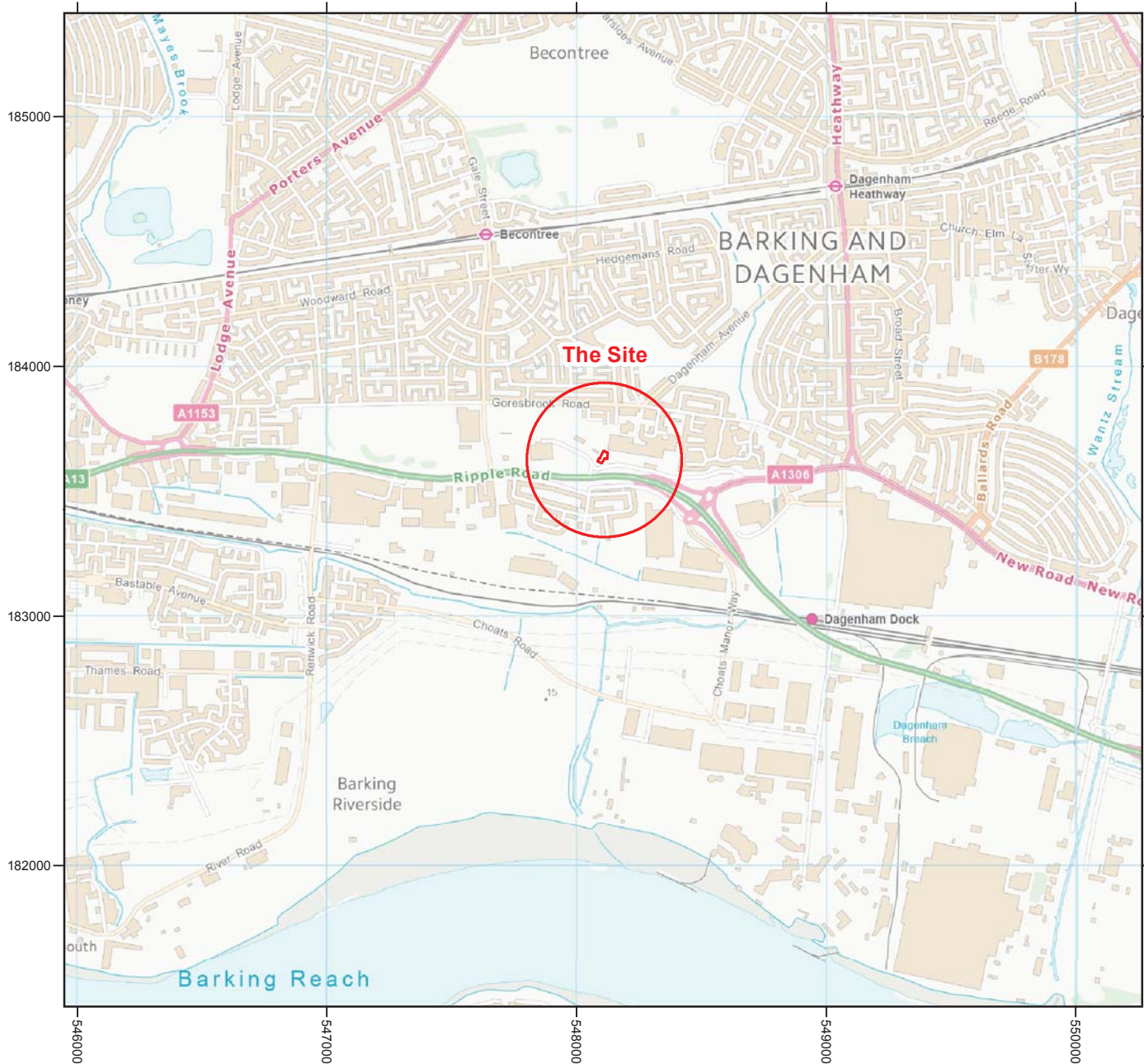
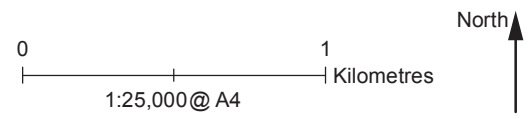


Figure 1:  
Site Location



Contains Ordnance Survey data  
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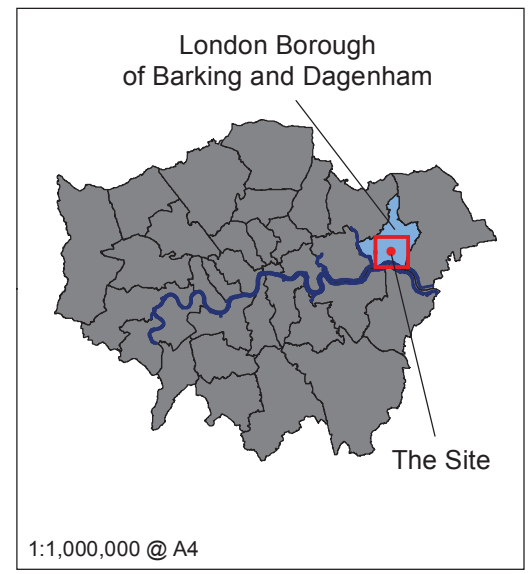






Figure 2: Detailed Site and Trench Location Plan, showing projected location of 1985 evaluation trenches 1-3.

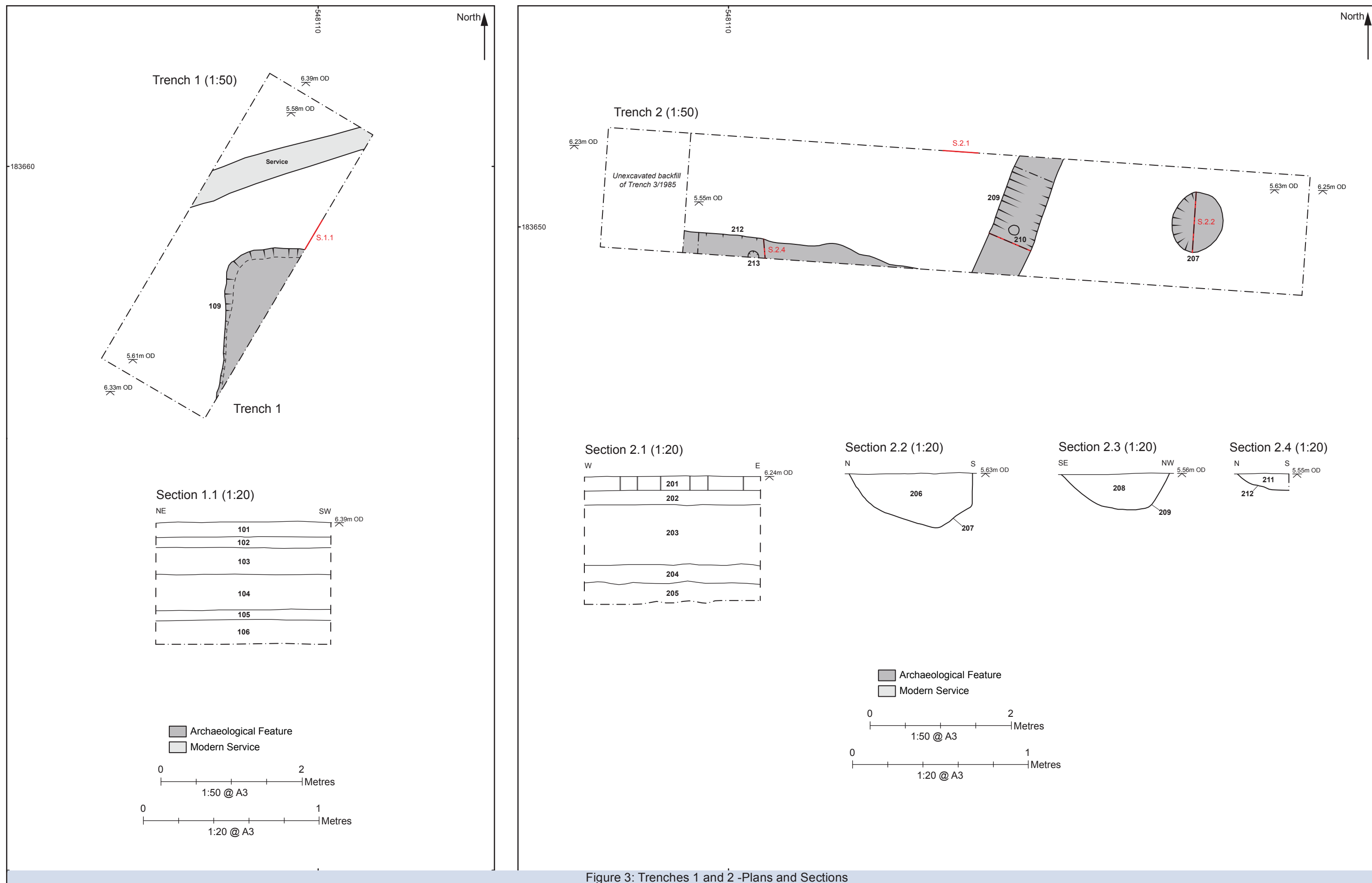


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2 -Plans and Sections

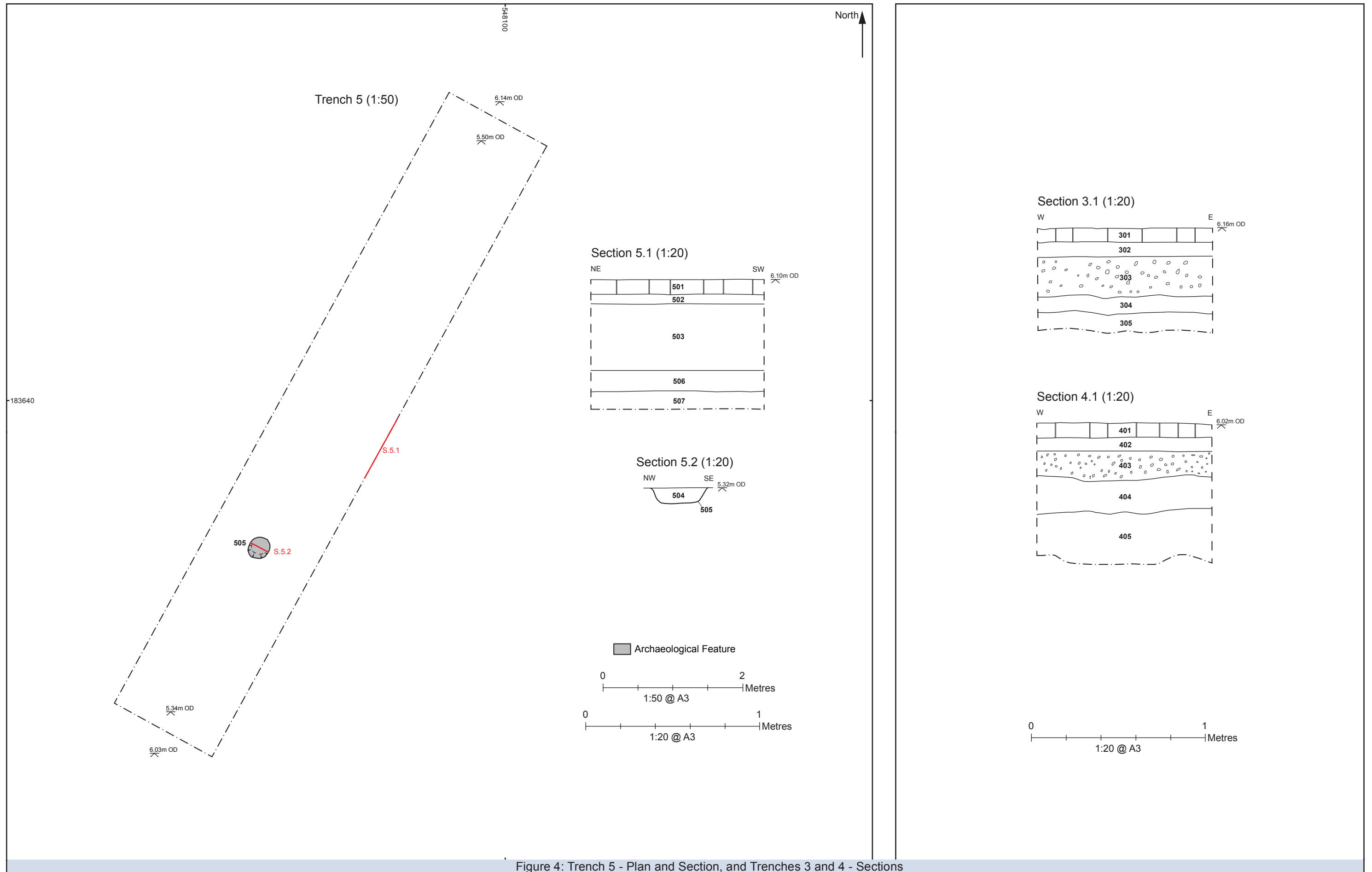


Figure 4: Trench 5 - Plan and Section, and Trenches 3 and 4 - Sections

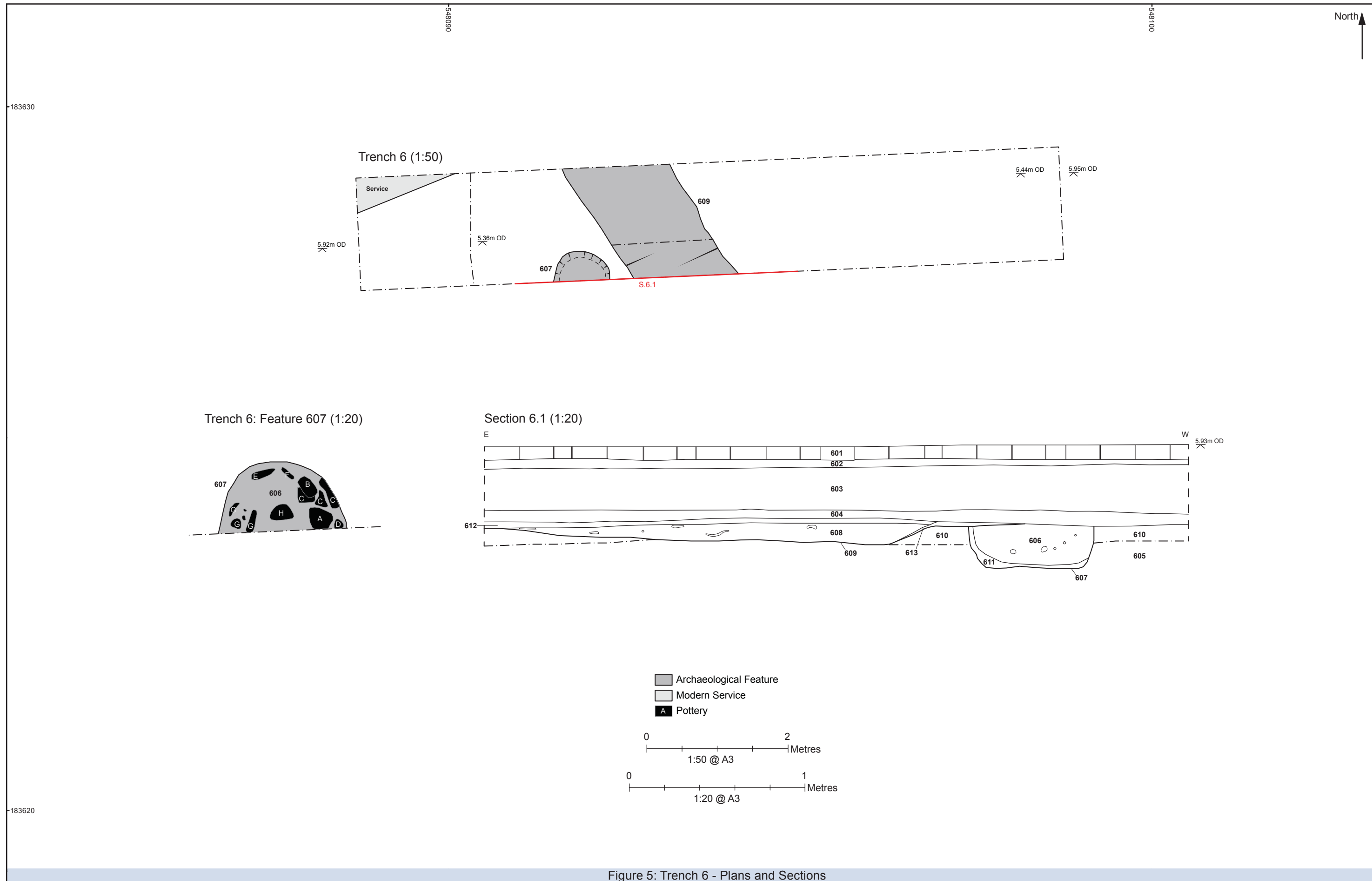


Figure 5: Trench 6 - Plans and Sections

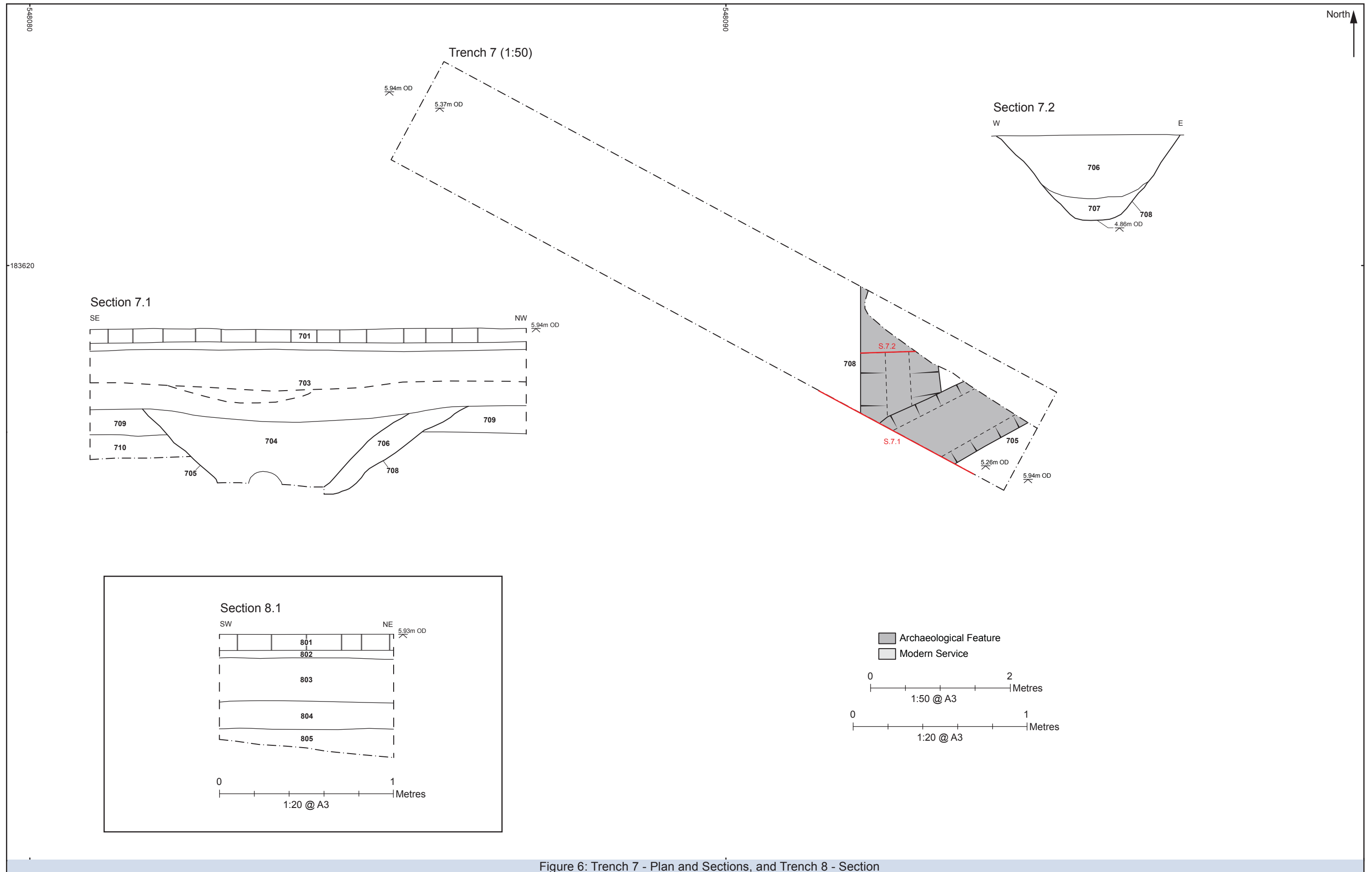


Figure 6: Trench 7 - Plan and Sections, and Trench 8 - Section

## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

| Context         | Context Description          | Length | Width | Depth           |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|
| <b>Trench 1</b> |                              |        |       |                 |
| 101             | Car park bricks              | 5.00m  | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 102             | Bedding Layer                | 5.00m  | 1.60m | 0.06m           |
| 103             | Made ground                  | 5.00m  | 1.60m | 0.15m           |
| 104             | Made ground                  | 5.00m  | 1.60m | 0.20m           |
| 105             | Redeposited topsoil          | 5.00m  | 1.60m | 0.06m           |
| 106             | Subsoil                      | 5.00m  | 1.60m | 0.06m           |
| 107             | Natural gravel               | 5.00m  | 1.60m | >0.14m<br>(NFE) |
| 108             | Fill of [109]                | 1.72m  | 0.80m | 0.16m           |
| 109             | Cut for (108)                | 1.72m  | 0.80m | 0.16m           |
| <b>Trench 2</b> |                              |        |       |                 |
| 201             | Car park bricks              | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 202             | Bedding Layer                | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 203             | Made ground                  | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.34m           |
| 204             | Subsoil                      | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.10m           |
| 205             | Natural gravel               | 10.00m | 1.60m | >0.12m<br>(NFE) |
| 206             | Fill of pit [207]            | 0.70m  | 0.70m | 0.30m           |
| 207             | Cut for (206)                | 0.70m  | 0.70m | 0.30m           |
| 208             | Fill of linear feature [209] | 1.70m  | 0.50m | 0.20m           |
| 209             | Cut for (208)                | 1.70m  | 0.50m | 0.20m           |
| 210             | Posthole in [209]            | 0.19m  | 0.19m | 0.12m           |
| 211             | Fill of linear feature [212] | 2.40m  | 0.30m | 0.09m           |
| 212             | Cut for (211)                | 2.40m  | 0.30m | 0.09m           |
| 213             | Posthole in base of [212]    | 0.15m  | 0.15m | 0.14m           |
| <b>Trench 3</b> |                              |        |       |                 |
| 301             | Car park bricks              | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 302             | Bedding Layer                | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 303             | Made ground                  | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.22m           |
| 304             | Redeposited topsoil          | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.09m           |
| 305             | Subsoil                      | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.10m           |
| 306             | Natural gravel               | 10.00m | 1.60m | NFE             |
| <b>Trench 4</b> |                              |        |       |                 |
| 401             | Car park bricks              | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 402             | Bedding Layer                | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |

|     |                     |        |       |       |
|-----|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 403 | Made ground         | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.14m |
| 404 | Redeposited topsoil | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.20m |

| Context         | Context Description     | Length | Width | Depth           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|
| 405             | Natural gravel          | 10.00m | 1.60m | >0.35m<br>(NFE) |
| <b>Trench 5</b> |                         |        |       |                 |
| 501             | Car park bricks         | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 502             | Bedding Layer           | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.05m           |
| 503             | Made ground             | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.37m           |
| 504             | Fill of [505]           | 0.35m  | 0.35m | 0.09m           |
| 505             | Posthole                | 0.35m  | 0.35m | 0.09m           |
| 506             | Brickearth              | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.16m           |
| 507             | Natural gravel          | 10.00m | 1.60m | >0.10m<br>(NFE) |
| <b>Trench 6</b> |                         |        |       |                 |
| 601             | Car park bricks         | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 602             | Bedding Layer           | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.05m           |
| 603             | Made ground             | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.23m           |
| 604             | Made ground             | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.05m           |
| 605             | Natural gravel          | 10.00m | 1.60m | >0.15m<br>(NFE) |
| 606             | Fill of pit [607]       | 0.75m  | 0.42m | 0.24m           |
| 607             | Cut for (606)           | 0.75m  | 0.42m | 0.24m           |
| 608             | Fill of [609]           | 1.60m  | 1.50m | 0.15m           |
| 609             | Cut for (608)           | 1.60m  | 1.50m | 0.15m           |
| 610             | Brickearth              | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.10m           |
| 611             | Primary fill of [607]   | 0.75m  | 0.42m | 0.10m           |
| 612             | Made ground             | 3.00m  | 1.60m | 0.06m           |
| 613             | Deposit                 | 1.60m  | 1.50m | 0.03m           |
| <b>Trench 7</b> |                         |        |       |                 |
| 701             | Car park bricks         | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.08m           |
| 702             | Bedding Layer           | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.05m           |
| 703             | Made ground             | 10.00m | 1.60m | 0.34m           |
| 704             | Service fill for [705]  | 1.20m  | 1.50m | 0.50m           |
| 705             | Cut for (704)           | 1.20m  | 1.50m | 0.50m           |
| 706             | Secondary fill of [708] | 1.70m  | 1.05m | 0.36m           |
| 707             | Primary fill of [708]   | 1.00m  | 0.59m | 0.12m           |



| 708             | Cut for ditch (706) (707)  | 1.70m         | 1.05m        | 0.48m           |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 709             | Brickearth                 | 7.70m         | 1.60m        | 0.14m           |
| 710             | Natural gravel             | 7.90m         | 1.60m        | >0.15m<br>(NFE) |
| <b>Trench 8</b> |                            |               |              |                 |
| <b>Context</b>  | <b>Context Description</b> | <b>Length</b> | <b>Width</b> | <b>Depth</b>    |
| 801             | Car park bricks            | 5.00m         | 1.60m        | 0.08m           |
| 802             | Bedding Layer              | 5.00m         | 1.60m        | 0.06m           |
| 803             | Made ground                | 5.00m         | 1.60m        | 0.24m           |
| 804             | Brickearth                 | 5.00m         | 1.60m        | 0.16m           |
| 805             | Natural gravel             | 5.00m         | 1.60m        | >0.15m<br>(NFE) |

NFE = Not fully excavated

## Appendix B – Specialist Report

### Pottery from Cook Road, Dagenham (CKD17)

*Lucy Whittingham*

A total of 109 sherds of hand-built pottery weighing 1.9Kg were recovered from one context (606) in Pit [607] and have been examined by x20 magnification and identified by fabric inclusion and recorded on an excel spreadsheet which will form part of the site archive for (CKD17) to be deposited with LAARC.

All of the pottery is tempered with quartz sand and crushed burnt flint mostly of approx. 1mm size but ranging up to 3mm in size. The fabric is consistently similar in all of the pottery sherds suggesting that they are from the same local source. The pottery has been identified as of early Iron Age date (600–400 BC) (*Jon Cotton pers comm*).

These vessels are examples of hand-built jars with reduced cores and oxidised surfaces with a rough surface treatment. Most of the vessels have a pronounced shoulder decorated with thumbbed/indented finger impressions and a simple upright rim also decorated on the external edge with thumbbed indentations. Most of the rims are simple everted rims ranging from small jars with rims of 18mm diameter to larger jars of 34mm diameter. The vessels are relatively thin-walled of 0.7–0.8mm thickness and the one base found in Pot A is flat and thickened to 1mm. One sherd has vertical incised decoration in the form of two groups of parallel vertical incised lines possibly made by an organic implement such as a twig. The internal surfaces of all vessels are roughly finished by hand with occasional vertical finger impressions.

All of the sherds found in this assemblage, from the same pit, are from an estimated eight vessels, recovered and identified in plan as Pot A–H (Figure 5). On further examination of the sherds an estimated five/six vessels have been identified by the rim forms and sizes, scattered across the pit and not found to be a single groups of sherds from a single vessel. For example sherds from Pot F join with the large flat base recovered as Pot A; the rim sherds collected as Pot H are probably the same vessel as Pot D and the rims from a minimum of four vessels were recovered as Pot G. Rims from Pot G, E and F make up one of these vessels. In conclusion this deposit is a contemporary group of EIA vessels and probably deposited together as a group within this pit, as storage vessels. There is little abrasion on the sherds as they are still stratified within their original place of deposition.

These vessel are particularly well preserved and should be studied further and set within a discussion of their regional significance with parallel examples identified. They warrant illustration as a group.

*Table 1: EIA pottery from Pit [607]*

| Cxt No | Sherd count | Wt (g) | Fabric |       | Comment   | Date |
|--------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|---|------|
| 606    | 26          | 534    | FLIN   | Pot A | Body sherds from the base of Vessel A vessel with oxidised/burnished exterior   | EIA  |
| 606    | 2           | 152    | FLIN   | Pot B | 2 Body sherds from a thick-walled (7mm) lower part of jar with vertical drag/smoothing marks  | EIA  |
| 606    | 22          | 448    | FLIN   | Pot C | Body sherds with reduced core, oxidised surfaces. Parallel incised lines vertically incised in pairs (maybe organic /twig) on the external surface of one sherd | EIA  |
| 606    | 1           | 87     | FLIN   | Pot D | 1 rim from jar with thumbbed imprints on pronounced shoulder and on upright rim possibly same vessel as Pot G 3 rims (49g)                                      | EIA  |
| 606    | 6           | 83     | FLIN   | Pot E | 3 rims and 3 body sherds from jar with thumbbed imprints on pronounced shoulder and on upright rim possibly same vessel as Pot G 3 rims (49g)                   | EIA  |

|              |     |      |        |       |  |     |
|--------------|-----|------|--------|-------|--|-----|
| 606          | 4   | 73   | FLIN   | Pot F | Body sherds and 2 rims with thumb indentation on shoulder and rim exterior. Same vessel as in Pot G  | EIA |
| 606          | 2   | 25   | FLIN F | Pot F | 2 body sherd   | EIA |
| 606          | 1   | 16   | FLIN F | Pot F | Body sherds joins base of Pot A  | EIA |
| 606          | 16  | 197  | FLIN   | Pot G | Body sherds of 4 vessels including 8 rims with thumb everted jar rims all with thumb/finger indentations on shoulder                         | EIA |
| 606          | 1   | 17   | FLIN   | Pot G | Body sherd with lighter oxidised surface, poss higher sand content   | EIA |
| 606          | 1   | 38   | FLIN   | Pot G | 1 rim sherd from shouldered jar with thumb shoulder and finger impressions on the external edge of a simple upright rim                      | EIA |
| 606          | 2   | 38   | FLIN   | Pot G | 2 rims joining. Rim slightly everted plain upright rim with thumb impressions on the exterior edge. Finger imprints on the cordoned shoulder | EIA |
| 606          | 3   | 49   | FLIN   | Pot G | 3 rims joining into 1 vessel. Small jar with thumb imprints on pronounced shoulder and on upright rim.                                       | EIA |
| 606          | 2   | 8    | FLIN   | Pot G | 2 rims, small vessel with inturned/folded rim  | EIA |
| 606          | 3   | 81   | FLIN   | Pot H | 3 body sherds from the same vessel with thumb impressions on the shoulder, probably the same vessel as in Pot D (87g)                        | EIA |
| 606          | 15  | 135  | FLIN   | Frag  | Body sherds  | EIA |
| 606          | 2   | 15   | FLIN   | Frag  | 2 rims; thumb imprints on pronounced shoulder and on upright rim possibly same vessel as Pot G 3 rims (49g)                                  | EIA |
| <b>Total</b> | 109 | 1996 |        |       |  |     |

### Burnt flint from Cook Road, Dagenham (CKD17)

*Lucy Whittingham*

Five small pieces (12g) of burnt cracked flint were recovered from context (211).

## Appendix C – OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: aocarcha1-280717

#### Project details

Project name Dagenham Retail Park

In March 2017 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by AOC Archaeology ahead of the proposed redevelopment at Dagenham Retail Park East Thames Plaza), London Borough of Barking and Dagenham NGR 546451,183703 (Figure 1). The evaluation comprised eight trenches, measuring between 10.00m and 5.00m long by 1.8m wide. The work was commissioned by the Archaeology Collective. The earliest identified deposit was natural terrace gravels, which were identified in all trenches ranging in height from 5.33mOD in Trench 7 to 5.78mOD in Trench 1, perhaps indicating the gravels slope from north to south across the site towards the River Thames. In trenches 5, 6, 7, and 8 brickearth was recorded at a varying height of

Short description of the project 5.51mOD to 5.64mOD. The most significant archaeological feature was recorded in Trench 6 and identified as a pit filled with large fragments of Early Iron Age dated pottery. As the pottery appeared to have been laid at the base of the pit there is a possibility the deposition may have some significance. Linear features were also recorded in trenches 2 and 7, although no dating evidence was recovered from these features. They may relate to boundary ditches or enclosures. Overlying the above, in trenches 1,2 and 3 was a layer of buried subsoil recorded at a between 5.69mOD and 5.845m OD, which in turn, within trenches 1, 3 and 4, was overlaid by a buried topsoil horizon. Modern made ground associated with the modern carpark was observed above this.

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CKD17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 33430 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type PIT Early Iron Age

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type POSTHOLE Uncertain

Significant Finds CERAMICS Early Iron Age

Significant Finds LOOMWEIGHT Early Iron Age

Significant Finds FCF Uncertain

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Methods & techniques             | "Sample Trenches"   |
| Development type                 | Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)               |
| Prompt                           | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF                         |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application   |
| Project location                 |   |
| Country                          | England   |
| Site location                    | GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM DAGENHAM Dagenham Retail Park |
| Site coordinates                 | TQ 4645 8368 51.5325 0.1116666666667 51 31 57 N 000 06 42 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth                | Min: 5.33m Max: 5.78m   |
| Project creators                 |   |
| Name of Organisation             | AOC Archaeology Group   |
| Project brief                    | Archaeology Collective originator                                 |
| Project design                   | Archaeology Collective originator                                 |
| Project director/manager         | Catherine Edwards   |
| Project supervisor               | Les Capon   |
| Type of sponsor/funding body     | Consultancy   |
| Project archives                 |   |
| Physical Archive                 | LAARC recipient   |
| Physical Contents                | "Ceramics"  |
| Digital Archive recipient        | LAARC   |
| Digital Contents                 | "Ceramics"  |
| Paper Archive recipient          | LAARC   |
| Paper Contents                   | "Ceramics"  |

Paper Media "Context  
available Project sheet", "Map", "Matrices", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey  
bibliography 1", "Unpublished Text"

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Dagenham Retail Park (East Thames Plaza), Dagenham, London Borough of  
Barking and Dagenham: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, c

Date 2017

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