

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Westgate Street,
London Borough of Hackney
E8**

**NGR: 5347 1838
(TQ 347 838)**

Planning Ref: RM/14730

**ASE Project No: 5866
LAARC Site Code: LWG13**

**ASE Report No: 2013055
OASIS ID: archaeol6-144961**

By Giles Dawkes

March 2013

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Westgate Street,
London Borough of Hackney
E8**

**NGR: 5347 1838
(TQ 347 838)**

Planning Ref: 2012/2222

**ASE Project No: 5866
LAARC Site Code: LWG13**

**ASE Report No: 2013055
OASIS ID: archaeol6-144961**

By Giles Dawkes

March 2013

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, Notting Hill Housing Trust, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Westgate Street, London Borough of Hackney. Two trial trenches were excavated on the 4th March 2013.

The two trenches were devoid of archaeological features and finds and the site appears to have been extensively truncated by later 20th century re-developments. The underlying natural clay was identified at c. 16m AOD.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive
Table 2: Trench 1 recorded contexts
Table 3: Trench 2 recorded contexts

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Trench location
Figure 3: Trench 1: Section and photograph
Figure 4: Trench 2 photograph

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, Notting Hill Housing Trust, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Land at Westgate Street, London Borough of Hackney. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 347 838 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located at around c.17-17.6m AOD and the underlying geology is Hackney Gravels. In some parts of Hackney the terrace gravels are overlain by a thin covering of brickearth (British Geological Survey Sheet 256, North London 1994).

1.2.2 The site bounded to the south by Bocking Street and to the east by open land adjacent to the railway viaduct.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent (ref: 2012/2222) has been granted by The London Borough of Hackney for a residential redevelopment at the site.

1.3.2 The first phase of work had comprised the preparation of a Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2012a) and subsequently the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) archaeologist recommended an archaeological evaluation by trenching to determine the presence (or absence) of archaeological remains. The object of this exercise was to determine whether a further stage of archaeological mitigation work would be required.

1.3.2 Condition 9 attached to the planning permission stated:

A) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved 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 of made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

REASON: Heritage assets of archaeological interest may survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development (including historic building recording), in accordance with recommendations given by the borough and in PPS5/NPPF.

1.3.3 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012b) and a Method Statement (ASE 2013) were prepared and approved by GLAAS prior to the commencement of the work. The evaluation was then carried out in accordance with these documents.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The WSI (CgMs 2012b) outlined the following aims and objectives:

- *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 development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).*
- *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.*
- *Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:*
 - 1) *To establish the presence or otherwise of any prehistoric activity, together with any earlier or later activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity*
 - 2) *To establish the environmental context of any prehistoric activity, together with any earlier and/or later activity*
 - 3) *To evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development*
 - 4) *To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site on the 4th March 2013. The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is derived from the Desk Based Assessment and is summarised here with due acknowledgement (CgMs 2012a). For a full account of the archaeological background of the site and area, the reader is referred to that document, which includes a full search of sites, buildings and findspots on the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) with a 750m radius of the site (referred to below by the prefix MLO).

2.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.2.1 The Hackney Gravels underlying the study site have proved to be one of the richest sources of Palaeolithic material in the country (BGS 1996: 130; Wymer 1999: 63). In Stoke Newington and Clapton, northeast and northwest of the study site, significant flint assemblages together with floral and faunal remains were observed during basement excavation, brickearth and gravel extraction in the late nineteenth century, notably by Worthington G. Smith. These finds were predominantly observed in or below the brickearth, overlying the gravel terraces, usually in their primary context (Gibbard 1994: 80-85; Wymer 1999: 47, 63).

2.2.2 A flint handaxe has been identified at Paragon Road to the northeast of the study site (MLO1638, TQ3514 8467), while another has been identified in 'South Hackney' to the southeast (MLO1929, TQ3540 8400). Worthington Smith recorded Palaeolithic finds and a possible chipping floor at London Fields to the northwest of the study site (MLO12119, TQ3460 8430).

2.2.3 The sole find of Mesolithic date within a 750m radius of the study site comprised a single unstratified blade from 277-287 Mare Street some distance to the north of the study site (MLO73894, TQ3487 8466).

2.3 Neolithic to Roman

2.3.1 No finds or features of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman date have been identified within a 750m radius of the study site and there was thought to be low potential for recovering remains from these periods

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 The presence of medieval settlement extrapolated from the 1745 Rocque map has been identified on Cambridge Heath Road, south of the site (MLO1592, TQ3490 8410; 080206/00/00-MLO159, TQ3490 8410). Mare Street on the eastern boundary of the site is believed to be of Medieval origin (MLO1592, TQ 3490 8410; MLO11647, TQ3480 8410), as is Hackney Road to the northeast (081677/00/00-MLO105, TQ3415 8298). Documents dating to 1443 refer to *Merestret*, and the name applied to a small settlement (MLO25546, TQ3485 8370).

- 2.4.2 The site of a possible Manor House has been identified at 14-18 Shore Street, east of the study site and south of Well Street (MLO18878, TQ3510 8410). Excavation in this area has revealed a revetted stream, later blocked and covered by gravel and chalk floors (MLO39072, TQ3510 8410).
- 2.4.3 Finds and features of medieval date within the study area have included a pit and cultivation soil identified at 64-76 Wilton Way, north of the study site (MLO62992; MLO62993, TQ3480 8475). A well of medieval date has been identified towards Dalston, which may have fed baths in Cold Bath Lane, northeast of the study site (MLO312, TQ3450 8450; MLO313, TQ3540 8430).

2.5 Post Medieval

- 2.5.1 Linear settlement had developed along Mare Street by the end of the sixteenth century, and London Field (singular) is first referred to in 1590. The number of hearths along Mare Street increased from 49 in 1664 to 78 in 1672. Development of the land between Mare Street and London Fields commenced in earnest from the later seventeenth century.
- 2.5.2 John Rocque's Survey of London (1745) shows the site occupied by houses fronting the lane leading to Mare Street. Merrington's Map of 1823 shows the street to the north labelled *Cat and Mutton Lane*. The study site is shown occupied by a rectangular building stepped back from the street frontage. Ordnance Survey maps show that the building went through several successive phases of remodelling/extension before being demolished between 1959 and 1978/1989, after which it was replaced by single storey storage units

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (CgMs 2012b) and in line with accepted professional standards (IfA 2009).
- 3.2 Two trenches measuring 7m x 1.8m were mechanically excavated across the proposed development footprint as shown on Figure 2.
- 3.3 The trenches were positioned in a slightly different location to the proposed locations in the WSI due to the limited amount of space available on site. The trenches were planned by hand using measuring tapes and tied into the Ordinance Survey grid with reference to nearby landmarks.
- 3.4 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.5 The excavation was taken down in spits to the top of the underlying geology which was manually cleaned to identify any archaeological deposits or features. The sections of the trenches were cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy. All removed spoil was scanned for the presence of stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.6 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded using standard ASE *pro-forma* record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection, not in relation to a Munsell colour chart.
- 3.7 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade. The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) has issued to site code LWG 13 to the archive, which will be deposited on completion of all fieldwork and reporting associated with the project. The contents of the archive are quantified in Table 1.

Number of Contexts	8
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	8 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Thickness
1/001	Layer	Modern brick floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
1/002	Layer	Foundation backfill	1.9m	Tr.	1.2m
1/003	Cut	Foundation cut	1.9m	Tr..	1.5m+
1/004	Layer	Modern overburden	Tr.	Tr.	1.5m+
1/005	Layer	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 2: Trench 1 recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Natural sandy clay, [1/005], was encountered at 16.00m AOD.
- 4.1.2 Overlying the natural geology was a modern overburden, [1/004], of brick rubble, gravel and silts with inclusions of plastics.
- 4.1.3 Cutting [1/004] was foundation cut [1/003] for the standing building to the immediate east of the trench. This was filled by backfill [1/002]. The feature was excavated to a safe limit but not bottomed.
- 4.1.4 The trench was sealed by brick floor [1/001]. There were no finds or samples taken from the trench.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Thickness
2/001	Layer	Modern brick floor	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
2/002	Layer	Modern overburden	Tr.	Tr.	1.2m
2/003	Layer	Natural geology	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 3: Trench 2 recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Natural sandy clay, [2/003], was encountered at 15.85m AOD.
- 4.2.2 Overlying the natural geology was modern overburden, [2/002], of brick rubble, gravel and silts with inclusions of plastics.
- 4.2.3 The trench was sealed by brick floor [2/001]. There were no finds or samples taken from the trench.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The evaluation did not identify any archaeological evidence of occupation earlier than that of the 20th century. The two trenches identified a similar modern deposit ([1/004] and [2/002]) overlying the natural geology. It is likely that this is associated with the demolition that occurred on site between the 1959 and 1978/1989 Ordinance Surveys.
- 5.2 The only cut feature identified was clearly associated with a standing building, constructed after the late 1970's. The depth of the foundation recorded suggests that any archaeological deposits within the footprint of the standing buildings would have been lost to truncation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East, 2013 *Method Statement, Archaeological Evaluation, Westgate Street, Hackney*, unpublished report

BGS 1996 British Geological Survey British Regional Geology *London and the Thames Valley* Fourth Edition

CgMs, 2012a *Desk Based Assessment, Westgate Street, Hackney*, unpublished report

CgMs, 2012b *Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Evaluation Westgate Street, Hackney*, unpublished report

Gibbard, P.L. 1994, *The Pleistocene History of the Lower Thames Valley*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge

IfA, 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Published online at

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_field_eval.pdf

Wymer, J. *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*, Trust for Wessex Archaeology: Salisbury

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd and their client for commissioning the work and GLAAS for monitoring the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LWG 13					
Identification Name and Address	Westgate Street					
County, District &/or Borough	Hackney					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 347 838					
Geology	Hackney gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5866					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. March 13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, The Notting Hill Housing Trust, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Westgate Street, London Borough of Hackney. Two trial trenches were excavated on the 4th March 2013.</p> <p>The two trenches were devoid of archaeological features and finds and the site appears to have been extensively truncated by later 20th century re-developments. The underlying natural clay was identified at c.16m AOD.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-144961

Project details

Project name Westgate Street

Short description of the project

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client, The Notting Hill Housing Trust to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Westgate Street, London Borough of Hackney. Two trial trenches were excavated on the 4th March 2013. The two trenches were devoid of archaeological features and finds and the site appears to have been extensively truncated by later 20th century re-developments. The underlying natural clay was identified at c.16m AOD.

Project dates Start: 04-03-2013 End: 04-03-2013

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes LWG13 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 5866 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type LAYER Modern

Methods & techniques "Test Pits"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Westgate Street

Postcode E8 3GL

Study area 0.10 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 3470 8380 51 0 51 32 11 N 000 03 27 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 16.00m Max: 18.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator GLAAS

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Giles Dawkes

Type of sponsor/funding body private client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Media available "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Media available "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Evaluation Report Land at Westgate Street, London Borough of Hackney

Author(s)/Editor(s) Giles Dawkes

Other bibliographic details 2013055

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

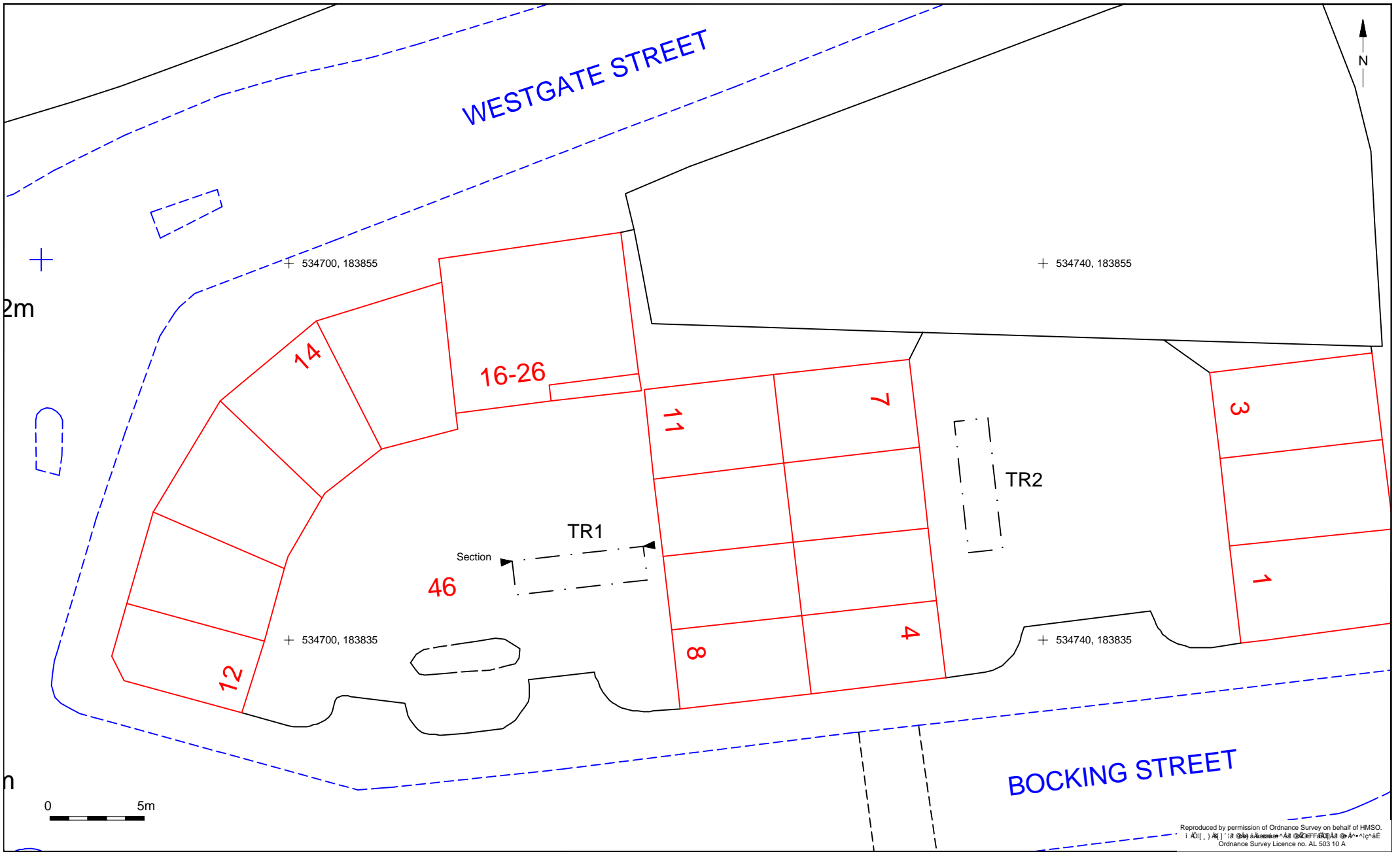
Place of issue or publication Portslade

Entered by Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 5 March 2013

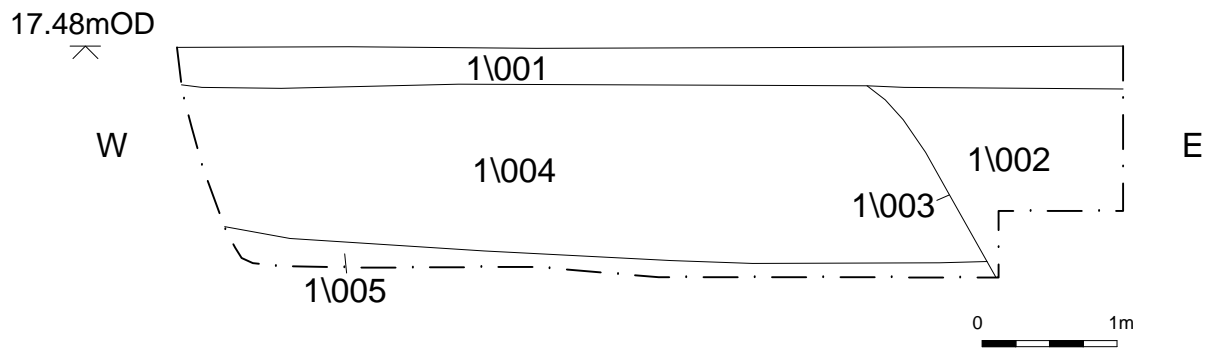


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Westgate Street, London Borough of Hackney		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5866	March 2013	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR			



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 503 10 A

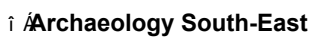
Archaeology South-East		Land at Westgate Street, Hackney	Fig.2
Project Ref: 5866	March 2013	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2013055	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 1 south facing section



Trench 1 facing northeast

		Land at Westgate Street, Hackney	Fig.3
Project Ref: 5866	March 2013	Trench 1: Section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2013055	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 2 facing northeast

Archaeology South-East		Land at Westgate Street, Hackney	Fig.4
Project Ref: 5866	March 2013	Trench 2: Photograph	
Report Ref: 2013055	Drawn by: JC		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East