

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane & Glamis Place
Shadwell, London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

NGR: TQ 3552 8085

**ASE Project No: 7684
Site Code: PES15**

**ASE Report No: 2015274
OASIS id: archaeol6-219427**



Commissioned by CgMs Consulting

By Steve White

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane & Glamis Place in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets between the 29th and 31st of July, 2015.

Four trial pits were machine excavated by the ground work team; the purpose of which was to locate any remains of World War 2 air raid shelters on site. Some 20th century foundations were located c. 0.35m below ground level in the main court yard, and it is believed that these are the remains of air raid shelters in question. No other archaeological features were observed. Natural deposits were observed between 2.20m and 2.55m below ground level.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane & Glamis Place, Shadwell, London Borough of Tower Hamlets (Figure 1, NGR: TQ 3552 8085) during the excavation of four geotechnical trial pits.

1.1.2 The site is bounded by Elf Road to the north, Brodlove Lane to the east, residential properties on the south side of Glamis Place and allotments to the west. It measures around 0.71ha in area.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015) the solid geology of the site comprises London Clay, overlain by superficial deposits of Taplow Gravels.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area and consequently an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment was prepared to review the site's archaeological potential (CgMs 2015). That document identified the potential for archaeological deposits of Roman and post-medieval date to exist on the site.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlined the scope of the archaeological works, in the form of a watching brief during geotechnical works on site, was subsequently prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2015) and duly approved by GLAAS. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (GLAAS 2015; CIfA 2014a; 2014b).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims of the watching brief, as set out in the WSI, were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.

- To determine the state of preservation and nature of air raid shelters on the site

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out between the 29th and 31st of July 2015 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015). The fieldwork was carried out by Steve White (Archaeologist) and managed by Andy Leonard. The post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson and Diccon Hart.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological information is drawn from the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2015) with due acknowledgement. For a complete archaeological and historical background to the site please refer to that document.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The landscape of the area during the prehistoric period was probably a mix of open farmland punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society. However, there are no known occurrences for remains of this period on the GLHER and consequently the potential for prehistoric period is considered low.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 The line of The Highway, approximately 50m south of the site, is the line of a Roman road thought to run between Tower Hill and Ratcliff and it is for this reason that the site is designated as part of an Archaeological Priority Area.
- 2.3.2 A possible Roman ditch was uncovered during an archaeological evaluation at Brodlove Lane, about 75m to the northeast of the site.
- 2.3.3 There have also been two instances of Roman burials found within the vicinity of the site although the exact location of these is a little vague. Consequently the potential for archaeological remains of the Roman period is considered high.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.1 The site lies within the vicinity of Ratcliff, originally the Saxon "Red Cliff". Two Viking spearheads were found in the 1930s close to the Shadwell Basin but otherwise the GLHER is devoid of material from this period.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 The Estate and Manor of St Pauls, Shadwell was located c. 200m north of the site and comprised a Manor House, a Chapel and several outbuildings. Further medieval settlement in the area clustered around Shadwell, located southwest of the site. Shadwell originated as a small village supporting a medieval shipyard, which continued to expand into the post-medieval period. However, the site itself was located within Shadwell Field, north of The Highway, and consequently was probably in agricultural use at the time.

2.6 Post-Medieval

- 2.6.1 While the post-medieval period saw the increased development of Ratcliff, Shadwell and Stepney, the site itself remained undeveloped until the 18th century.
- 2.6.2 The 1746 Rocque Map shows several Rope Walks on the site, used for the burgeoning industrial and maritime industry in the area, and several mixed use buildings are shown surrounding the site.
- 2.6.3 In 1749 a well was sunk in Sun Tavern Fields (the location of the site) which uncovered mineral water. This quickly grew into a small business. An archaeological evaluation to the south of the site identified a post-medieval well some 1.7m below 19th century dumped material which may relate to this mineral water business.
- 2.6.4 There was also a glass works located across Brodlove Lane in Glass House Fields which specialised in making green glass bottles. Overall, it is therefore considered that the site has high potential for remains of the post-medieval period to survive on the site.
- 2.6.5 A 1938 architect's plan shows the location of six air raid (ARP) shelters for the residents on the Peabody Estate. The plan shows the shelters situated within the main courtyard area (shelters A to E) and in the courtyard to the east between the laundry blocks A & B (shelter F). The shelters contained enough space for 625 people. It is likely that the air raid shelters on the Shadwell Estate were privately built 'street communal shelters'. The earlier communal shelters were often built of brick with corrugated iron roofs covered in an earthen bund and partially sunk into the ground (RAF Museum website, 2015). Following the war, communal street shelters were often quickly dismantled. Brick built shelters were often demolished and filled in. Prior to the commencement of the archaeological watching brief it was unknown whether these air raid shelters were demolished or left in situ after the war.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of four geotechnical pits, each measuring approximately 2m by 2m in plan across the site, as shown in Figure 2. The geotechnical pits were specifically targeted on the entrances into the below ground air raid shelters known to be present on the site.

3.1.2 All machine excavation will be undertaken using a suitable mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket wherever practicable. Sufficient time was allowed by the contractor to properly excavate and record any archaeological deposits present.

3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.

3.1.4 A digital photographic record was taken of the work.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) before the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and obtained a unique Site Code for the work (PES15). The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	17
No. of files/paper record	6
Digital photos	24

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 TP1

4.1.1 TP1 was located in the west of the site (Figure 2).

4.1.2 Natural Taplow Gravels [1/003] were encountered at 2.55m below ground level (bgl). These were overlain by up to 2.45m of modern made ground ([1/002]), sealed by tarmac ([1/001]).

4.1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.10
1/002	Layer	Made Ground	Trench	Trench	2.45
1/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	>0.45

Table 2: ATP1 List of recorded contexts

4.2 TP2

4.2.1 TP2 was located towards the centre of the site (Figure 2).

4.2.2 The stratigraphic sequence here consisted of natural Taplow Gravels [2/006], recorded at 2.55m bgl, overlain by 19th-20th century made ground [2/003]. Cut into this made ground were two small concrete wall foundations [2/004] and [2/005], possibly foundations associated with the aforementioned air raid shelters. They were recorded at around 0.25m below ground level. These were overlain by tarmac [2/001] and associated makeup [2/002].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.05
2/002	Layer	Makeup	Trench	Trench	0.20
2/003	Layer	Made Ground	Trench	Trench	2.25
2/004	Masonry	Wall foundation	0.50	0.65	0.20
2/005	Masonry	Wall foundation	0.20	0.40	0.20
ATP2/006	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	>0.45

Table 3: TP2 List of recorded contexts

4.3 TP3

4.3.1 TP3 was located in the centre of the site.

4.3.2 The earliest features encountered in TP3 consisted of a north-south aligned concrete wall foundation [3/004], and a brick base and associated drain [3/005] which appears to represent the below ground remnants of a toilet. These were recorded at c. 0.35m bgl. The presence of this substantial modern masonry limited any further investigation to small hand-excavated sondages, excavated to determine the depth of the surviving masonry. As a consequence, natural deposits were not observed.

4.3.3 The wall foundation and associated toilet base were overlain by a sequence of 19th-20th century made ground [3/003] and tarmac [3/001] and associated makeup [3/002].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.10
3/002	Layer	Makeup	Trench	Trench	0.20
3/003	Layer	Made Ground	Trench	Trench	>0.95
3/004	Masonry	Wall foundation	Trench	0.55	0.20
3/005	Masonry	Brick base/drain	0.95	0.55	0.60

Table 4: TP3 list of recorded contexts

4.4 TP4

4.4.1 TP4 was located in the eastern courtyard of the site.

4.4.2 The sequence in TP4 consisted of natural Taplow Gravels [4/003], observed at 2.20m bgl, overlain by 19th-20th century made ground [4/002] and sealed by concrete slab [4/001].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
4/001	Layer	Concrete	Trench	Trench	0.40
4/002	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	1.80
4/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	>0.20

Table 5: TP4 List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Stratigraphic Sequence

5.1.1 Natural Taplow Gravels were observed between 2.20m in the east of the site (TP4) and 2.55m bgl in the centre and west of the site (TP1 and TP2). This was overlain by modern made ground deposits.

5.1.2 Concrete wall foundations, cut into the top of the recent made ground, were recorded in TP2 and TP3, in the main courtyard area in the centre of the site. These foundations only extended to depths of between 0.45m and 0.50m bgl. This would appear to indicate that they were not sunk particularly deep into the ground and were probably of the earlier communal type, which were often built of brick with corrugated iron roofs covered in an earthen bund and only partially sunk into the ground (RAF Museum website, 2015).

5.2 Conclusions and considerations of research aims

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.

5.2.1 The only archaeological features observed comprised the concrete foundations above the made ground.

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains.

5.2.2 The only archaeological features observed were the concrete foundations above the made ground.

- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.

5.2.3 The concrete foundations were located between 0.25m and 0.35m below ground level in the main courtyard area. Natural deposits were observed between 2.20m and 2.55m below ground level.

- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.

5.2.4 No archaeological deposits were observed

- To determine the state of preservation and nature of air raid shelters on the site

5.2.5 The air raid shelters appear to have been of the earlier communal type, although only the basal 0.20m of the concrete foundations were observed.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site Code	PES15				
Identification Name and Address	An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane & Glamis Place, Shadwell				
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Tower Hamlets				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3552 8085				
Geology	London Clay deposits, overlain by Taplow Gravels				
Arch. South-East Project Number	7684				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site			Deep Urban		
Dates of Fieldwork			29/7/2015-31/7/2015		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs				
Project Manager	Andy Leonard				
Project Supervisor	Steve White				
Period Summary					
					Modern
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane & Glamis Place in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets between the 29th and 31st of July, 2015. Four trial pits were machine excavated by the ground work team; the purpose of which was to locate any remains of World War 2 air raid shelters on site. Some 20th century foundations were located c. 0.35m below ground level in the main court yard, and it is believed that these are the remains of air raid shelters in question. No other archaeological features were observed. Natural deposits were observed between 2.20m and 2.55m below ground level.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-219427

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane and Glamis Place, Shadwell
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane and Glamis Place in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets between the 29th and 31st of July, 2015. Four trial pits were machine excavated by the ground work team; the purpose of which was to locate any remains of World War 2 air raid shelters on site. Some early 20th century foundations were located c. 0.35m below ground level in the main court yard, and it is believed that these were the air raid shelters in question. No other archaeological features were observed. Natural deposits were observed between 2.20m and 2.55m below ground level.
Project dates	Start: 29-07-2015 End: 31-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PES15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS TOWER HAMLETS Shadwell Estate, Brodlove Lane and Glamis Place, Shadwell
Postcode	E1W 3DX
Study area	0.71 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3552 8085 51.5098050018 -0.046927893202 51 30 35 N 000 02 48 W Polygon

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
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Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Steve White
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	PES15
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	PES15
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes', 'Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	White, S
Date	2015
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Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Grey Lit

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Entered on	4 August 2015

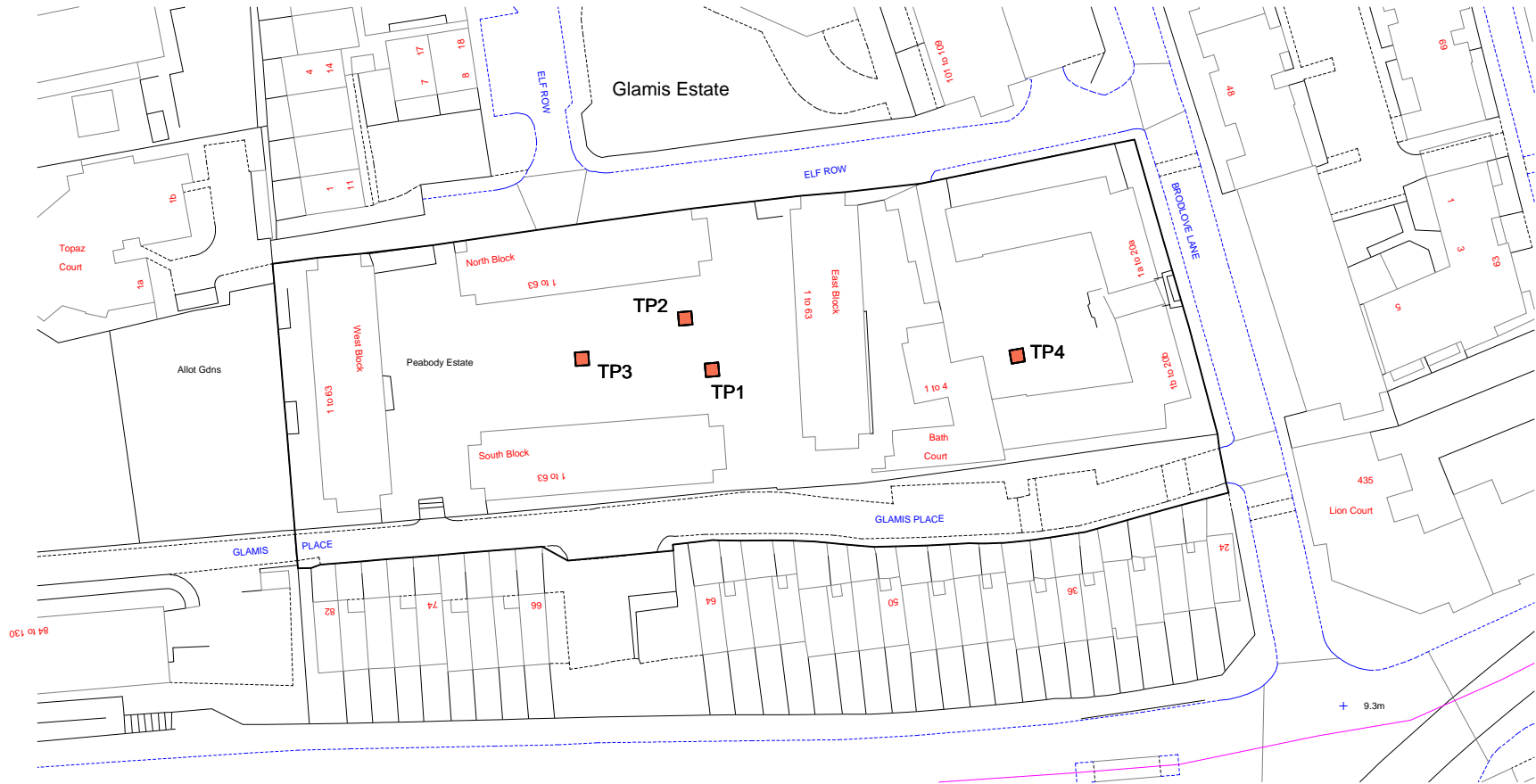


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© Archaeology South-East		Glamis Road, Shadwell		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7684	July 2015	Site location		
Report Ref: 2015274	Drawn by: JLR			

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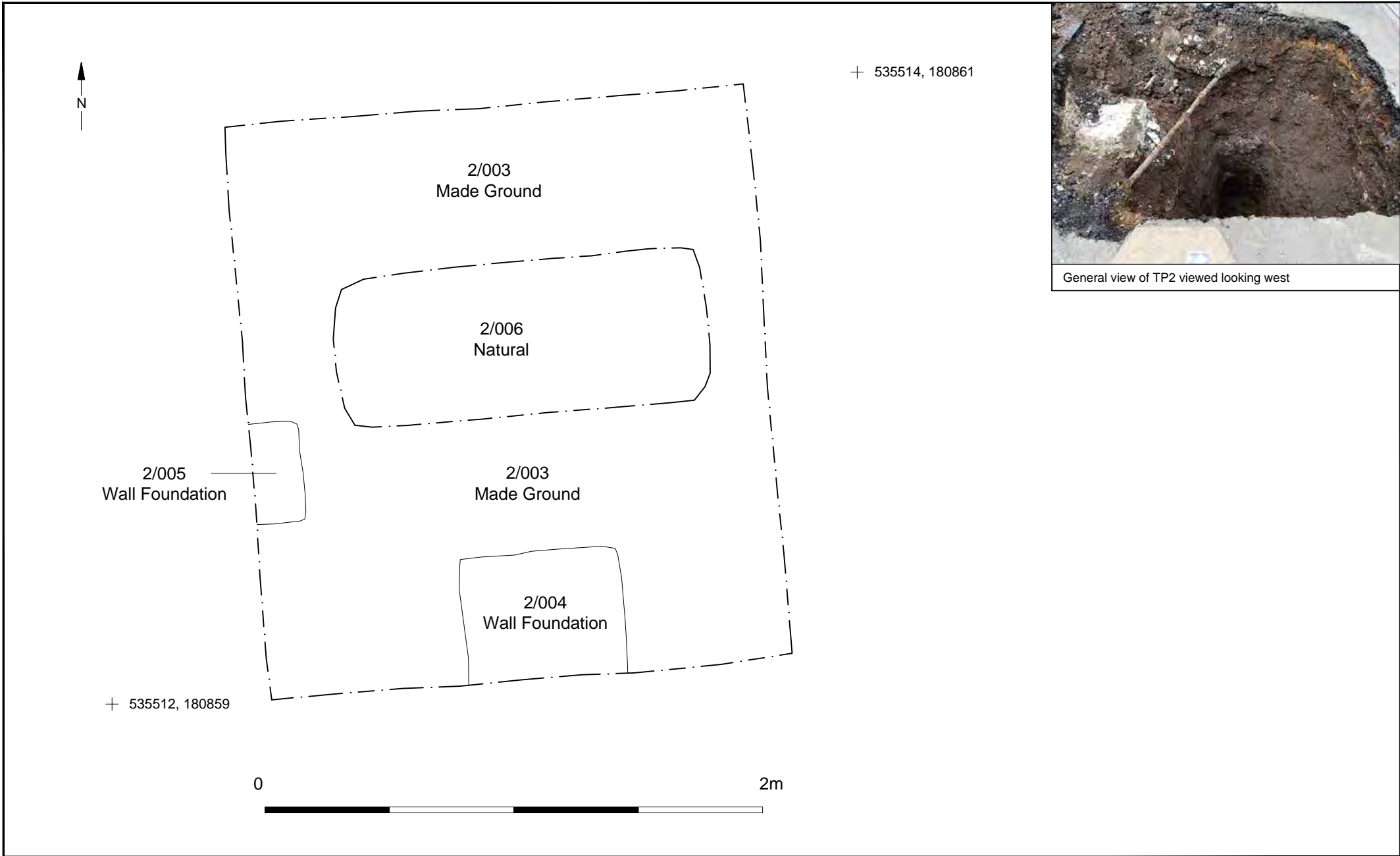
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Archaeology South-East		Glamis Road, Shadwell	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7684	August 2015	Test pit location	
Report Ref: 2015274	Drawn by: DJH		



Archaeology South-East		Glamis Road, Shadwell	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7684	August 2015	Plan and photograph of TP2	
Report Ref: 2015274	Drawn by: DJH		



		Glamis Road, Shadwell		Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7684	August 2015	Plan and photograph of TP3 showing possible Air Raid Shelter remains		
Report Ref: 2015274	Drawn by: DJH			



View of TP1 looking east



View of TP4 looking south

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