

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT
MULBERRY UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE (UTC)
64 PARNELL ROAD BOW, LONDON, E3**

**A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND
UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN REPORT**

**NGR: 53700, 18352
(TQ 3700 8352)**

Planning Reference: PA/15/03501

ASE Project No: 160253

Site Code: PLR16

ASE Report No: 2016422

OASIS ID: archaeol6-267025



By Ian Hogg

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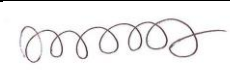
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Abstract

This report presents the results of the archaeological investigation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Mulberry University Technical College (UTC) 64 Parnell Road, Bow between May and June 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client Wates Construction in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

The excavations revealed evidence of Roman activity which had been suggested by previous evaluation and watching brief work. The only evidence of prehistoric activity was a sherd of Bronze Age pottery and two struck flints. Post-medieval activity was found associated with Victorian terraces which previously occupied the site.

No prehistoric features were recorded during excavations, despite these being common on surrounding sites. The earliest features comprised four pits dated to the 1st century AD; these features are of uncertain function, possible for gravel extraction or planting pits. One of the pits was cut by Roman boundary ditch running perpendicular to the London to Colchester Roman road just to the north. The northern portion of this ditch contained significant amounts of Late Roman pottery while the southern part contained Early Roman remains; these earlier finds could be residual or it could indicate a later recut further north. These features contained some domestic finds as well as small amounts of building material which that suggest structural remains lay relatively nearby. The environmental remains indicate the ditches were probably not part of an agricultural field system or associated with industry; rather they likely represent land division on the boundary of the roadside settlement. The presence of small amounts of undiagnostic cremated bone could be related to the Roman roadside cemetery known to have existed close by.

The Roman remains were overlain in part by topsoil which was found during previous works to contain Roman finds. No significant activity was recorded on site until the latter half of the 19th century when cartographic evidence shows a row of terraced housing was built on site. Remains of these houses, the boundary walls and an associated well were recorded during the excavations, although the majority of these remains had been removed during the construction of the later phases of the fire station.

The report is written and structured so as to conform to the standards required of post-excavation analysis work as set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008). Interim analysis of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental material has indicated a provisional chronology, and assessed the potential of the site archive to address the original research agenda, as well as assessing the significance of those findings. This has highlighted what further analysis work is required in order to enable suitable dissemination of the findings in a final publication. It is suggested that this should take the form of an article in the London Archaeologist Journal.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The site comprises the proposed Mulberry University Technical College (UTC) at 64 Parnell Road, Bow, a rectangular parcel of land located to the east of Parnell Road (Figures 1 and 2, NGR TQ 3700 8352).
- 1.1.2 The site lies to the north of Bow, and immediately south of Roman Road. It is bounded to the west by Parnell Road, to the north by Roman Road, to the east by basketball courts and to the south by housing and a car park.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site occupies an area of relatively flat and level ground on the eastern side of Parnell Road. Parnell Road itself comprises a mixture of residential houses and flats, shops, commercial premises and community facilities. The crossroads between Roman Road and Parnell Road lies at 12.6m Ordnance Datum (OD); falling gently to 11.0m OD outside property numbers 33-45 Parnell Road, approximately 160m to the south-east. The area to the rear of the former fire station is currently a small park, which occupies an area that was previously Lefevre Road, with terraced housing fronting onto it (Mott MacDonald 2016).
- 1.2.2 The bedrock geology beneath the area of the proposed development consists of London Clay. This is part of the Thames Group of the Eocene Epoch, and consists of fine, sandy, silty clays. The overlying superficial geology comprises the riverine Taplow Gravel formation of sand and gravel; deposited as river terraces, floodplain alluvium, and bogs during the Quaternary Period (Mott MacDonald 2016).

1.3 Scope of the Project

- 1.3.1 The site was redeveloped to create a university technical college. The development received planning permission in 2015 (Planning Ref: PA/15/03501) and included an archaeological condition. Condition 5 required:

No development above ground floor slab shall take place until the following are submitted to and approved in writing by the Council as local planning authority:

- a) *The implementation of a programme of archaeological and historic buildings recordings in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation to be submitted and approved by the local planning authority. No development or demolition shall take place other than that which has been approved in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation as above.*
- b) *The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation Written Scheme of Investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (as approved) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.*

- 1.3.2 The site of the proposed development lies within an Archaeological Priority Area, as defined in the Local Planning Authority's planning policy map, due to the proximity of the former London to Colchester Roman road and the Roman period settlement at Bow. The desk-based assessment highlighted the presence of the London to Colchester Roman Road running parallel to the northern boundary of the site (Mott MacDonald 2015).
- 1.3.3 Previous archaeological excavations adjacent to the former Bow Fire Station have suggested there is high potential for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods to be present within the footprint of the area of the proposed development (Mott MacDonald 2015). An evaluation and watching brief were undertaken on the site in 2015 (PCA 2015a and b); the works found that despite extensive modern truncation possible Roman remains did exist in some areas of the site.
- 1.3.4 A general Written Scheme of Investigation (Mott MacDonald 2016) was prepared. A subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2016) was prepared and duly approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning authority. Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake the archaeological works at the site, consisting of an archaeological excavation and watching brief.
- 1.3.5 The site was staffed by ASE archaeologists, managed by Andy Leonard and directed by Ian Hogg. The post-excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

1.4 Circumstances and Dates of Work

- 1.4.1 The excavations and watching brief were undertaken by ASE between May and June 2016.

1.5 Archaeological Methodology

- 1.5.1 Archaeological works were focused on the eastern part of the site where the current development would have an impact on any archaeological remains. The excavation areas themselves were divided into Area 1 in the north-east and Area 2 in the south-east (Figure 2). The majority of each area was excavated to the formation level for the piling mat (0.7m below the concrete slab). Localised areas of greatest impact were excavated to their required depth (1.0m or 1.5m bgl) or to the top of the archaeology or natural deposits.
- 1.5.2 The initial watching brief focussed on the removal of a water tank and a tower base which lay partially within Area 1. Subsequent monitoring was undertaken on ground reduction across the rest of the site.
- 1.5.3 The ground slab was initially broken out before the areas were stripped to the required level; in the case of the main 0.70m strip this was still within the modern made ground. The resultant surfaces were cleaned and a pre-excavation plan prepared. This was made available to CgMs and John Gould of GLAAS as soon as possible.

- 1.5.4 All planning was done by hand at a scale of 1:50 and was tied into ordnance datum.
- 1.5.5 All excavation work was carried out in line with the standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b) and the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS 2014) and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2016).
- 1.5.6 After the cleaning and planning of the excavation areas; the following excavation strategy was employed:
- all structures were fully cleaned and excavated and all relationships recorded
 - pits were initially 50% excavated and fully recorded. The remaining 50% was subsequently removed for artefact retrieval
 - at least 10% of linear features were excavated
 - masonry features were cleaned sufficiently to establish relationships
- 1.5.7 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.
- 1.5.8 A full digital photographic record of all features was maintained. Black and white, and colour (35mm transparency) photographs were taken of notable features only. This illustrates the principal features and finds both in detail and in a general context. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.
- 1.5.9 All finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy.
- 1.5.10 The excavation area and spoil were metal detected for artefact recovery.
- 1.5.11 Samples were collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silted features, and sealed features containing evident carbonised remains or water-logged deposits.
- 1.5.12 The sampling aimed to recover spatial and temporal information concerning the occupation of the site.
- 1.5.13 A standard bulk sample size of 40litres (or 100% of small features) was taken from dated/datable sealed contexts to recover environmental remains such as fish, small mammals, molluscs and botanicals.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

- 1.6.1 This post-excavation assessment (PXA) and updated project design (UPD) report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008).
- 1.6.2 The report seeks to place the results from the site within the local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and summarise the results; specify their significance and potential, including any capacity to address the original research aims, listing any new research criteria; and to lay out what further analysis work is required to enable their final dissemination, and what form the latter should take.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 The site is located in the valley of the River Lea (or Lee), which rises in Bedfordshire and joins the Thames to the south. The course of the river has altered over time, with several phases of re-cutting documented. It is possible that settlement may have been focussed on the slightly higher-lying regions of the valley, with the lower-lying ground closer to the river itself (in the vicinity of the area of the site) being utilised more for subsistence and other activities.
- 2.1.2 There is a single finds spot of a middle Palaeolithic discoidal knife recovered from the fill of a Roman quarry pit adjacent to the northern edge of site. It is thought that it may originally have been located within the underlying Terrace Gravels later used in the construction of the London to Colchester Roman road. This was identified during a 1995 archaeological excavation across a large area immediately adjacent to the north-western boundary of the proposed development, a location now named Tamar Close. The investigations demonstrated that the site is located upon natural brickearth (stripped for construction of the Roman road), overlying superficial geological deposits of the Thames Gravels sequence. A number of other prehistoric features, probably of Middle or Late Bronze Age, were also recorded at this site. These included evidence of what may have been a ring-shaped enclosure, a scatter of pits containing pre-Roman finds, and the possible remains of a substantial post-built structure. Pottery and lithics recovered from the latter feature indicate a Bronze Age date. The vast majority of the features uncovered at this site, however, were of Roman origin, including the Roman road.
- 2.1.3 Two struck flints and a chisel-type arrowhead of probable Mesolithic to Neolithic date were found within the fill of a Roman ditch. These finds were recovered during a 2006 archaeological excavation located immediately adjacent to the southern edge of the proposed development area, to the rear of the Overland Children's Centre. In addition to the possible Mesolithic to Neolithic finds; this excavation also revealed residual Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pottery and a scatter of burnt flint.
- 2.1.4 During a 1998 archaeological evaluation at Lefevre Walk Electricity Substation (approximately 135m to the south-east of the site) prehistoric flint flakes, as well as Roman pottery, were recovered as both residual finds and from a layer of reworked brickearth overlying the natural gravels. In addition to the Bronze Age finds already noted above, features and finds of this period were also discovered at a location approximately 70m to the west-north-west of the site, during a 1995 archaeological excavation at 91-93 Parnell Road. A gully and an L-shaped arrangement of post- and stake-holes dating to the Late Bronze Age were recorded cutting into the natural brickearth in the south-western corner of this site. These features yielded a number of struck lithics and pottery.
- 2.1.5 Archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken in 2005 at the Bow North Youth Centre, approximately 30m to the south-east of the site, revealed fragments of burnt flint, a single fragment of daub, and a single fragment of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery. In addition, Late Iron Age ditches

yielded 234 pottery sherds of this era. These finds were interpreted as evidence of prehistoric activity although it was felt the precise nature of this activity could not be ascertained through the evidence uncovered.

- 2.1.6 The GLHER records a finds spot for parts of two Late Iron Age coins just to the rear (east) of the proposed development area, in Lefevre Park. However, the reference to these finds (LAMAS Vol 30 1979) refers only to "Parts of two tin coins from Lefevre Road, probably 2nd-1st century BC, information from M. J. Hammerson". Lefevre Road, which now consists of Legion Terrace, Lefevre Walk, and the south-western end of Pancras Way, extended for approximately 390m in length. Therefore the location of these finds is somewhat arbitrary.
- 2.1.7 Features of uncertain, but possibly Late Iron Age date were uncovered during a 2005 archaeological excavation at 586 Roman Road, approximately 215m to the south-west of the proposed development site. This cluster of post-holes and shallow features were cut into the natural brickearth. Although no dateable material was found within these features, they were sealed by a dump of re-deposited brickearth dated to between 100 BC and AD 100.

2.2 Romano-British

- 2.2.1 The site is located immediately adjacent to the line of the former London to Colchester Roman Road (Margary 1973), which was constructed in around AD 50. Evidence of the road has been uncovered at a number of sites on the northern side of the proposed development area, clustered along the B119 Roman Road. The most notable of these was the 1995 archaeological excavation adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. This excavation, which encompassed an area previously occupied by 19th century terraced houses and later structures, as well as part of the B119 road, revealed the well-preserved full width of the Roman period road, which was found to have included a central carriageway with lower auxiliary tracks on either side. There was evidence of repair and resurfacing work to the southern track, as well as of several major phases of development, including the elevation of the auxiliary tracks and transformation into a dual carriageway.
- 2.2.2 This archaeological excavation, undertaken in advance of a large-scale redevelopment project at F-Block and adjacent land, 271-321 Lefevre Walk Estate, extended across a substantial area. This site was noted above as also yielding evidence of prehistoric activity. Despite numerous modern intrusions from the previous structures to occupy the site; extensive evidence of Roman period agricultural practice was revealed on either side of the road and a small group of inhumation burials from the second half of the Roman period was found in the northern part of the site. To the south of the Roman road, several features interpreted as quarry pits were identified. These were probably associated with the extraction of sands and gravels for the construction of the road itself, as the material would have been required to form the upper layers of the agger (central section of the road). It is likely that extraction from these vast pits commenced at the outset of the construction of the Roman road, as at least one of them appeared to pre-date the southern boundary ditch of the road.

- 2.2.3 Evidence of Roman period roadside structures from F-Block and adjacent land, 271-321 Lefevre Walk Estate included a short length of the base of a wattle and daub wall and a brickearth floor. It appeared that this building had been destroyed by fire. Numerous contemporary ditches were also encountered on the southern side of the Roman road. It is thought they were cut during the last quarter of the Roman period in order to delineate rectilinear fields or paddocks. These slightly later Roman period features appeared to encroach on the original road zone.
- 2.2.4 A 2006 archaeological excavation located immediately adjacent to the south-eastern edge of the site, to the rear of the Overland Children's Centre, identified Roman features as well as the prehistoric ones. A possible early Roman ploughsoil was observed, in combination with four phases of 3rd and 4th century pitting and ditches. This activity was sealed by medieval and post-medieval agricultural soils. This evidence concurs with the Roman period boundary ditches identified on the southern side of the Roman road at site, on the other side of the site.
- 2.2.5 Archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken in 2005 at the Bow North Youth Centre, approximately 30m to the south-east of the site also identified Roman features. A Roman period ditch, two pits, and two linear cuts were identified. Roman pottery, animal bone and iron slag was collected from the ditch fill. It was observed that some of the pot sherds were coated with soot internally, which it has been suggested might be evidence of iron-working usage. In combination with the slag identified this may indicate a Roman period iron-working site at this location. Other finds included ceramic building material.
- 2.2.6 The GLHER has recorded an event of archaeological trial trenching within the site. It is noted that this investigation, carried-out in 1976 by the Inner London Archaeological Unit (ILAU) failed to identify any Roman period features, and therefore establish the southern extent of the Roman settlement at Old Ford. However, it appears that this record is erroneously located. There is no sitecode and no report available for these investigations. The only source cited is a brief mention in the 1976 Excavation Round-up of the London Archaeologist. This article, and subsequently the GLHER record, cites the location as the junction of Parnell Road and Usher Road. Usher Road runs parallel to the western side of Parnell Road (south west of the proposed development area), which indicates that the archaeological investigations were not in fact carried-out within the area of the site.
- 2.2.7 The GLHER have pinned the location of a 1995 archaeological watching brief as within the site of the former Bow Fire Station. However, a review of the two archaeological reports generated as a result of this fieldwork has shown that this in fact relates to a substantial phase of archaeological watching brief work undertaken on four separate large swathes of the Old Ford and Bow wider areas. One of these four large swathes was named the 'Lefevre Walk Estate' area. The 'Lefevre Walk Estate' location spans the area between Parnell Road to the west, and the dismantled railway to the east; Old Ford Road to the north (B118) and Tredegar Road to the south (B142) (with the specific exclusion of the former Bow Fire Station and Overland Children's Centre sites). The locations investigated across this considerable area (near to, but not within the site) identified possible Roman ploughsoils, as well as a

pit or dump containing Roman period pottery in the north-eastern part of this area (near the corner where Old Ford Road crosses the dismantled railway). No structures, burials or any part of the Roman road were recorded within the limited confines of the test pits.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3.1 Evidence for activity relating to these periods within the vicinity of the site is sparse, and suggests only activity of a horticultural or agricultural nature. This concurs with the cartographic evidence, which indicates the area as still largely rural in nature on the much later maps of the mid-19th century. A rural settlement was re-established at Old Ford, however, in the late 11th century. This is not surprising, given that it is likely that both the former Roman road and the Roman crossing of the River Lea (or Lee) at Old Ford would be likely to have remained in use. The river may also have remained navigable at that time and would have been a resource for subsistence and industrial processes, such as for the 13th century fulling mill recorded as located on the river, to the east of the area of the proposed development. In the 12th century the river crossing at Old Ford was deemed too hazardous and was relocated slightly further south to Bow.
- 2.3.2 Old Ford itself is not featured in the Domesday survey, as the ancient parish of Stratford Bow, including Old Ford, appears to have formed a part of the Manor of Stepney, which extended from the outer edge of London at that time, to the River Lea to the east until at least the 14th century. The Manor of Stepney was held by the Bishop of London until the 16th century.
- 2.3.3 The GLHER records the discovery of a field boundary and a large early medieval ditch during archaeological evaluation and watching brief works at Ruston Street, approximately 240m to the north-west of the site. The field boundary contained material dating to the 11th to 12th century. Also thought to be of Saxon date was a smaller secondary ditch containing an articulated horse leg. The archaeological investigations at this site also recorded possible late medieval or post-medieval rubble-filled pits, one of which contained possible evidence of metal working.
- 2.3.4 At the site of the archaeological excavations at the Bow North Youth Centre, approximately 30m to the south-east of the current site, a probable medieval (or early post-medieval) horticultural soil was observed.
- 2.3.5 A 1991 archaeological excavation on the western side of Armagh Road, approximately 150m to the west of the area of the site identified mostly Roman period remains, but also medieval activity. The medieval activity comprised ditches.
- 2.3.6 Approximately 130m to the north-north-east of the site two pits were recorded as containing medieval pottery, found beneath a layer of redeposited brickearth.

2.4 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.4.1 For much of this period the area of the site would have remained largely rural and agricultural in nature. However, towards the end of the period, from the mid-18th century onwards, the area became progressively more urban.
- 2.4.2 Crosse's 1861 New Plan of London is the earliest map identified to depict buildings within the proposed development area, though the eastern corner appears to have still been undeveloped. By the time of the 1873 Ordnance Survey map, terraced houses and other buildings occupy the western, northern, and eastern edges of the site, with the area in between consisting of their rear gardens. In the period between the 1861 and 1873 maps it appears that the houses fronting onto Parnell Road, initially labelled as Park Terrace, may have been either redeveloped, or had extensions added to the rear. However, rather than a genuine phase of construction or redevelopment at the site; this may be a simplistic feature of the earlier map, in that Park Terrace may have been symbolically represented as a rectangular block, without detailing the precise shapes or features that may have been in existence even at that time.
- 2.4.3 A widely-available 1905 photograph of Bow Fire Station is of the original 1869 fire station building on Glebe Road or Bow Road East, to the south of the Parnell Road site. Archives from London County Council relating to local authority correspondence of 1908 detail discussion of the fact that the original Glebe Road site was unsuitable for expansion, and explains the selection of the new 64 Parnell Road site (Mott MacDonald 2015).
- 2.4.4 A description from the architect within council correspondences includes mention of a basement to contain the "...coke store, stoker and heating chamber, serving radiators for warming the appliance room." The architect's drawings for the 1909 building (dated 1905) indicate that the shallow basement rooms occupied only the eastern corner of the part of the building that fronted onto Parnell Road (*ibid.*). This is likely to be approximately in the area of the front part of the former houses 70-72 Parnell Road. This was more recently the area of the forecourt in front of the current fire station building, occupied by paving and concrete, trees, and bollards. The architectural drawings indicate that the depth of the basements and foundations was between 6' 6" (1.98m) and 10' (3.04m) below ground level. Ground level is indicated on these sections as 40.50' O.D. (12.34m OD) (*ibid.*).

2.5 Previous fieldwork

- 2.5.1 During 2015 Pre-Construct Archaeology conducted an evaluation and watching brief on the site (PCA 2015a and b). The evaluation (PCA 2015b) involved three, 10m long evaluation trenches within the rear yard of the former Bow Fire Station. The archaeological watching brief monitored a total six test pits and three percussion bore-holes (PCA 2015a).
- 2.5.2 Roman deposits were encountered in only the southern of the three evaluation trenches. A single deposit of potentially Roman date was identified in the southern limits of Trench 3. The upper horizon of the deposit was recorded from 11.42m OD, and was truncated by post-medieval activity. The deposit extended across the trench for 3.88m north-east to south-west and was 0.80m thick and was 'V' shaped at its base suggesting a fill of a linear feature, or a dump within a natural depression (PCA 2015b).
- 2.5.3 Three sub-phases of post-medieval activity were noted across the remainder of the site, associated with comprising levelling/pitting; and construction and demolition of the 19th century terraces located on the northern and eastern sides of the site. The date range of these deposits suggests post-medieval activity had commenced in the 18th century (PCA 2015b).
- 2.5.4 The archaeological watching brief on test pits and boreholes did not encounter any deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period. A deposit of undisturbed brick-earth overlain by dark-brown organic material was undated and may relate to garden activity to the rear of the terraced properties (PCA 2015a).

3.0 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 A series of research aims were outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2016) and are detailed below.

3.2 The specific objectives were:

- (OR1) To establish the existence and/or nature of any prehistoric activity occurring on the site
- (OR2) Compare this with other prehistoric evidence from other sites in the immediate area including excavations in 1995 at the adjacent Parnell Street/ Appian Street Site (LEK95)
- (OR3) To understand the existence and/or nature of any Roman activity occurring on the site
- (OR4) To understand the nature of settlement along the London to Colchester Roman Road
- (OR5) To compare this with the evidence for Roman activity from other sites in the immediate area including excavations in 1995 at the adjacent Parnell Street/ Appian Street Site (LEK95)

3.3 In addition, a number of objectives that apply to this sites relationship with the wider region were identified in the Research Framework for London Archaeology. These were:

- (OR6) Understanding later farming communities from the middle Bronze Age to middle Iron Age (c. 1500- 150BC), in particular preparing settlement plans for this period
- (OR7) Understanding whether the transition from the late pre-Roman Iron Age to Roman Britain was wholly about change, or whether there is more evidence than previously thought for continuity
- (OR8) Identifying a pre-Roman *Londinium* road pattern? Was it not more likely that road transport was used rather than local river transport?
- (OR9) Studying the impact of Roman settlement on the environment
- (OR10) Elucidating the relationship of the central core on Roman *Londinium* to nucleated settlements and villas, or agricultural settlements; did people gradually drift into the roadside settlements and the city itself?

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Individual contexts, referred to thus [***], have been sub-grouped and grouped together during post-excavation analysis. Features are either referred to by their context, sub-group (SG**) or group label (GP**). In this way, associated contexts may be identified and discussed together.

4.1.2 Environmental samples are listed within triangular brackets <*>, and registered finds thus: RF<*>. References to sections within this report are referred to thus (3.7).

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The excavations revealed evidence for multi-period activity on the site from the prehistoric period onwards, however, the majority of activity is dated to the Roman period with residual prehistoric finds and some post-medieval features.

4.2.2 The archaeology is discussed under provisional date-phased headings determined primarily through assessment of the dateable artefacts, predominantly the pottery, and secondarily through the creation of relative chronologies where stratigraphic relationships exist.

4.2.3 The prehistoric activity on site comprised two undiagnostic pieces of worked flint and a single residual sherd of Bronze Age pottery. No features of prehistoric date were recorded.

4.2.4 The Roman period is represented by one, or possibly two, ditches aligned south-east to north-west and four pits. The pits were recorded in the south of the site; three of them contained a single sherd of Early Roman pottery. The ditch or ditches were recorded within two deeper parts of Area 2 and while running on the same line and having a similar profile, the southern portion produced significantly earlier pottery than the northern part suggesting that the ditch may have been recut.

4.2.5 No Saxon or medieval features were recorded on site although some sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from the evaluation. The next phase of activity dated to the mid to late 19th century. Terraced houses were constructed on the site around 1860 and structural remains on site including a wall foundation, probable boundary wall and well are likely to be related to this phase of activity. The bricks of these features appear to have been of an earlier type and could have been reused. The previous evaluation found further evidence of the terraced housing to the north of Area 1 (PCA 2015a and b).

4.3 Period 1: Natural Deposits

4.3.1 Natural Taplow Gravels were recorded at between 10.44m and 11.18m aOD. These were found to be heavily truncated across much of the site due to the removal of the Victorian housing and the subsequent fire station as well as the construction of the later fire station. Most of the basements for the housing and fire station had previously been removed; other substantial truncations included the base of a practice tower, a water tank and a diesel tank. The watching brief recorded areas of natural brickearth overlying the gravels along the northern and southern boundaries of the site. Undisturbed topsoil overlying the natural deposits was recorded in the south-east and the east of the site.

4.4 Period 2: Prehistoric

4.4.1 The prehistoric period is represented by a single Bronze Age pottery sherd and two undiagnostic struck flints. Given the amount of Bronze Age activity recorded on surrounding sites, the presence of residual finds is unsurprising.

4.5 Period 3: Roman

4.5.1 Period 3.1: Roman AD 60-410 (Figure 3)

4.5.1.1 The majority of archaeological features on site were Roman. Stratigraphically earliest, were four pits in the south of Area 2. The heavy truncation of these features made interpretation difficult and the natural deposits in this area also showed signs of root disturbance. However, they do appear to be regularly cut and given the frequent discovery of gravel extraction pits on surrounding sites, they could be for this purpose. One pit was cut by an Early Roman ditch.

Pit [213]

4.5.1.2 The easternmost pit [213] (SG11) was located the south-east of Area 2. It was only partially exposed, but appeared to be subcircular with steeply sloping sides; it measured at least 0.57m in diameter and 0.28m in depth. The pit fill [212] was a sterile mid reddish brown sand silt which did not contain any finds; the environmental samples contained indeterminate cereal remains.

Pit [215]

4.5.1.3 The largest pit [2015] (SG12) was located on the southern edge of Area 2; it appeared to be subcircular but was only partially exposed within the area and was truncated by Roman ditch (GP7) and modern activity. The pit had gently sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.78m in diameter and 0.35m in depth. Again the fill [214] comprised reddish brown sand silt, it contained a single worked flint and one sherd of 1st century AD pottery.

Pit [217]

4.5.1.4 Pit [217] (SG13) was also situated on the southern edge of Area 2; and was only partially exposed. It appeared to be subcircular in shape with moderately sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.20m in diameter and 0.30m in depth. The fill [216] comprised reddish brown gravelly silt; this fill contained a single worked flint and one sherd of Early Roman pottery.

Pit [219]

4.5.1.5 The pit [219] (SG14), was exposed only partially beneath the southern baulk of Area 2 and was heavily truncated by modern activity. The shape of the pit could not be discerned but it had steep sides and a concave base; it measured 1.50m in diameter and 0.30m in depth. The pit fill [218] again comprised reddish brown gravelly silt and contained a single sherd of Early Roman pottery.

Ditches GP's 7 and 10

4.5.1.6 A north - south aligned feature was recorded in Area 2. This ditch was originally thought to be a single feature; however dating evidence has cast doubt on this.

4.5.1.7 The early ditch GP7 [205] (SG9) measured at least 2.50m in length, 1.42m in width and 0.46m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The fill [204] comprised mid brown gravelly silt and contained Roman pottery, animal bone, CBM and a residual Bronze Age pot sherd. The Roman pottery is later 1st century in date.

4.5.1.8 In the northern part of Area 2, ditch GP10 [208], [210] SG15 appeared along an extremely similar axis to the ditch recorded to the south, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base; it measured 8.00m in visible length, up to 1.78m in width and 0.51m in depth. The ditch fill [207] [209] was similar to the southern ditch and comprised mid brown gravelly silt. The finds from the fill included animal bone, CBM and pottery dating to AD270-410.

4.5.1.9 The disparity of the dating of these ditch section has been sufficient to divide them into separate groups, however, given the ambiguity of the physical remains they have been placed in a single period. It remains a possibility that the earlier pottery found in the south in GP7 could be residual, which given that this ditch cut the early Roman pit SG12 cannot be discounted. The amount of Early Roman pottery retrieved from this ditch slot and the lack of any later material could equally suggest that the northern ditch is a later recut.

Buried Topsoil SG8

4.5.1.10 All Roman features were sealed in the south-eastern corner of the site by a dark brown grey silt buried topsoil deposit [4], [203] (SG8) up to 0.25m in thickness (this deposit was = identified in the watching brief as context [5] and in the evaluation as context [18] (PCA 2015 a and b). Roman finds were only retrieved from evaluation deposit [18] but did not contain any closely dateable material. Medieval and post-medieval material was absent suggesting a Roman date for the deposit.

4.6 Period 4: Later Post-Medieval

4.6.1 Period 4.1: Mid-Late 19th Century 1825-1895 (Figure 4)

4.6.1.1 As suggested by cartographic evidence (Motte MacDonald 2015, 5-6), the site appears to have lain undisturbed for much of the medieval and post-medieval period. Nineteenth century activity comprised features related to various phases of construction of later-Victorian terraced housing and a late 19th century fire station.

Levelling Deposit [211]

4.6.1.2 The earliest post-medieval deposit was a levelling later overlying the buried Roman topsoil in the south of Area 2 [211] (SG10). This highly compact deposit comprised dark grey silt with small flecks of charcoal and CBM; it measured up to 0.18m in thickness. This deposit was probably laid down to provide a firmer surface for the construction phases.

Boundary Wall SG7

4.6.1.3 The levelling deposit [211] was cut by a foundation trench for a property boundary wall [201]. This was aligned east to west and was truncated at its western end. It measured at least 6.05m in length, 0.26m in width and 0.16m in depth; the foundation trench did not extend into the natural deposit but stopped at the top of the buried topsoil.

4.6.1.4 The boundary wall itself [200] was constructed from frogged red bricks measuring 210mm x 106mm x 69mm; they were laid in header pattern and bonded with cement mortar. This feature represents the boundary wall between two of later 19th century terraced houses (Mott MacDonald 2015a).

Well GP5

4.6.1.5 A partly exposed well in the north-west of Area 1 was not fully excavated. The well, cut [107], despite not being fully exposed appeared to be circular with vertical sides. It measured 1.25m in diameter with a visible depth of 0.29m. The well lining [105] comprised shallow frogged red brick laid in stretcher bond; the bonding material was not visible. The bricks measured 230mm x 115mm x 62mm and were dated to the 18th or early 19th centuries. The construction fill [106] comprised orange grey gravel. The well was filled by loose, dark grey gravelly silt [104] which contained three sherds of pottery dated 1825-1875.

Wall Foundation SG4

4.6.1.6 An extremely truncated portion of wall foundation was visible within the northern face of Area 1 [103] SG4; it sat on the natural deposits. The wall was constructed of frogged yellow bricks measuring 236mm x 106mm x 61mm. The foundation was laid in English bond with cement mortar, its bottom two courses stepped out. The wall was only recorded in section and measured 0.26m in width at its top, 0.46m in width at its base and 0.59m in height. This

foundation is likely to be the southern edge of a wall context [40] recorded in Trench 1 during the 2015 evaluation (PCA 2015b).

4.7 Period 5: Modern

4.7.1 Period 5.1: 20th Century (Figure 5)

4.7.1.1 Much of the site showed signs of heavy modern truncation with many of the post-medieval structural remains having been removed to construct the fire stations which later occupied the site. Large modern, rectangular truncations were recorded in the south-west of Areas 1 and 2. Significant truncation had been caused by the construction of a water tank in the north-west of Area 1 and a practice tower in the south-east. The evaluation, by PCA (2015b), also recorded some significant truncation in each of their trenches.

Type	Description	Quantity
Context sheets	Individual context sheets	32
Section sheets	A4 Multi-context permatrace sheets 1:10	4
Plans	Multi-context plans A4 permatrace sheets 1:20 or 1: 50	6
Photos	Digital images	56
Environmental sample sheets	Individual sample sheets	5
Context register	Context register sheets	2
Environmental sample register	Environmental sample register sheets	1
Photographic register	Photograph register sheets	2
Drawing register	Section register sheets	1
Small finds register	Small finds register sheets	0

Table 1: Site archive quantification table

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

5.1 The Finds

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. The hand-collected finds were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 2); a small number of finds, including registered finds, were also recovered from the residues of environmental samples, quantified in Appendix 2. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
104	3	67						
105			2	5380				
204	7	63	4	575	16	67		
207	1	11	6	867	36	290		
209	3	110	2	314	1	11	1	25
Total	14	251	14	7136	53	368	1	25

Table 2: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The excavation produced just two pieces of struck flint weighing 1g. Two small flakes were recovered. The first one came from context [214] sample <04> and a second one from context [216] sample <03>. They are made from a light brown flint but are otherwise undiagnostic. A small amount of burnt unworked flint (344g) was also present in five samples (<01-05>).

5.3 The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was hand-collected during the excavation (11 sherds, weighing 181g), in addition to 10 sherds, weighing 47g, later recovered from the residues of environmental samples. The pottery was recorded on pro-forma sheets and in an Excel spreadsheet using standard London fabric and form codes (Marsh & Tyers 1978; Davies et al 1994).

5.3.2 The earliest piece is a small relatively thin-walled flint-tempered sherd with a silty matrix and moderate ill-sorted flint inclusions of 0.2-4mm in size. The fabric is probably in keeping with a Late Bronze Age date. Features of this period have been noted on several sites in the immediate vicinity of the current excavation (Mott MacDonald 2015); however the sherd is clearly residual in context [204] where it appears in association with Roman pottery and ceramic building material.

5.3.3 The other pottery from fill [204], of ditch [205], is of early Roman date. No feature sherds are present but the fabrics, including early Roman micaceous sandy ware (ERMS), Highgate ware C (HWC), Alice Holt/Surrey ware (AHSU) and a possible sherd of imported north Gaulish white ware (NGWH), are

indicative of a date of deposition in the later 1st century AD (c.AD70-100). An adjacent pit, [215] also contained a partial rimsherd, probably from a jar, in the 1st century fabric Highgate ware B (HWB). Two similar pits, also located nearby, [217] and [219] each produced one Roman bodysherd. One of these, from fill [216] of pit [217], appeared handmade with some argillaceous grog-like inclusions, indicating that it too is likely to be of early Roman date; the other is an undiagnostic dark surfaced sandy ware. The pottery from these three pits was retrieved from the environmental samples (Appendix 2).

5.3.4 Although it appears to run on the same alignment as ditch [205], fill [209], of ditch [210], contains significantly later Roman material, including a sherd of black-slipped Alice Holt/Farnham ware (AHFA) with criss-crossed combing on an unslipped area, imitating oblique lattice decoration on later black-burnished ware vessels. Another AHFA bodysherd also features oblique burnished lattice decoration and the third sherd in this group is a fragment from a BB1 plain rim dish (5J). Overall this group can be placed in the latter part of the Roman period (c.AD270-410). A single hand-collected sherd in fill [207] of ditch [208], from a necked jar in an unsourced grey ware fabric, containing some rare chalk-like inclusions was difficult to date conclusively but its hard-firing and slightly hooked rim profile suggested later Roman date. This was later confirmed by the presence of sherds of Hadham red ware and Eifelkeramik, recovered from the residue of the environmental sample (again dating to c.AD270-410).

5.4 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.4.1 The excavation works recovered just 3 sherds of post-Roman pottery. The assemblage has been recorded by context for archive with this data being used to create an Excel spreadsheet as part of the digital record.

5.4.2 Context [104] contained three sherds of pottery dated 1825-1875.

5.5 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 Thirteen pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 7081g were recovered from four contexts. This was comprised of assorted Roman material collected from contexts [204], [207] and [209], and two post-medieval bricks taken from standing structure [105]. A breakdown of CBM by form and weight is shown in Table 3.

Form	Quantity	% of total	Weight (g)	% of total
Tegula	7	53.8	1247	17.6
Post-med brick	2	15.4	5342	75.4
Roman brick	2	15.4	210	3.0
Imbrex	1	7.7	49	0.7
?imbrex	1	7.7	233	3.3
Total	13	100%	7,081g	100%

Table 3: Comparative quantities and weight of CBM types

- 5.5.2 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric samples of the fabrics and items of interest have been retained.
- 5.5.3 With the exception of two post-medieval bricks recovered from standing structure [105], all the CBM recovered was Roman and poorly preserved. Three fabrics were identified, of which R1 was the most common. All the CBM from [204], the tegula from [209], and two of the tegula fragments from [207] were in R1. A single piece of tegula another of imbrex from [207] were respectively made from fabrics R2 and R3. The bulk of the Roman CBM was typical in form, being easily recognised as roof tile or brick. The only exception to this was a very thick but slightly curving tile from [204] (?imbrex), which had the curvature common to imbrices, but at 22mm was unusually thick.
- 5.5.4 Both the post-medieval bricks were in Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) fabric 3032 (see Table 5), a stock brick popular during the 18th and early 19th century (Cox 1997). The bricks were fairly large examples (235mm x 111mm x 65-67mm) and each had a very shallow frog with a Greek cross inscribed within it. Generally shallow frogs indicate an earlier date, c. 18th century, but the size and form of the bricks appear later, and no buildings are recorded in the site area until the later 19th century.

Fabric	Description
R1	Dense orange fabric, often nearly sterile; slightly micaceous and with sparse medium quartz.
R2	Micaceous medium orange fabric with fine/medium black oxide speckle; common medium quartz; sparse very coarse red iron-rich deposits up to 2mm.
R3	Dense medium orange fabric with sparse very coarse angular ferrous inclusions up to 4mm and sparse coarse rose quartz.
MOLA 3032	Dark red, reddish purple fabric; parts of the surface are often discoloured by fine yellow speckling. Common burnt black ash and flint inclusions (up to 6mm) with varying amounts of quartz (up to 0.8mm). Clay pipe stems in some bricks

Table 4: CBM fabric descriptions

5.6 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.6.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing 53 fragments, weighing 368g, was hand-collected from 3 contexts including [204], [207] and [209]. A further 18g of bone was retrieved from whole-earth samples <1>, <2>, <3> and <5>.
- 5.6.2 The assemblage is in a poor condition containing highly fragmented bones alongside a number of teeth. The identifiable material from context [204] is limited to 2 cattle molars whilst context [209] contains a single fragment of

bone which perhaps derives from a large-mammal vertebra. The bulk of the animal bone assemblage was recovered from context [207] which contains cattle teeth, a single horse tooth and a horse phalanx. The whole-earth samples produced small, fragmented and eroded bits of bone and tooth enamel, a complete, canine molar was recovered from sample <1>. Samples <2> and <3> contain small (less than 4mm) fragments of unidentifiable, cremated bones.

- 5.6.2 The assemblage does not contain any measurable bones or recordable mandibles and no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology was noted.

5.7 The Shell by Susan Chandler

- 5.7.1 A single *Ostrea edulis* (Oyster) shell was recovered from context [209].

5.8 The Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

- 5.8.1 Two finds recovered from environmental sample <1> ditch fill [207] were assigned Registered Find numbers. RF<1> is a very small medium blue opaque glass disc bead measuring 3.94mm in diameter. The context also contained two Roman hobnails, RF<2>, one of which is clenched.

5.9 The Environmental Samples by Mariangela Vitolo

Introduction

- 5.9.1 During excavation work at the site, five bulk soil samples were taken to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and molluscs as well as to assist finds recovery. Sampled features included three ditches and two pits. The following report assesses the contents of these samples and the potential of the environmental remains to provide information regarding the local vegetation environment, fuel use and selection and the agricultural economy or other plant use.

Methodology

- 5.9.2 Samples were processed by flotation in their entirety. The flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 2). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Identifications of macrobotanical remains have been made through comparison with published reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006, NIAB 2004), and nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

Results

Samples <1> [207], <2> [212], <3> [216], <4> [214] and <5> [218].

- 5.9.3 All the samples produced rather small flots, all of which contained a large amount of coal. Intrusive material, particularly uncharred rootlets and insect cases, were present in most samples, indicating low level disturbance. Charred plant remains were present in modest amounts and were generally poorly preserved. Abraded caryopses of hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum* sp.) and indeterminate cereals (*Cerealia*) were recorded in ditch [208] and pit [212]. Seeds of wild plants were limited to a single fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*).
- 5.9.4 Charcoal was present in very low amounts and no identification work was carried out. The residues yielded a small amount of bone, some of which was charred, and some finds, including magnetic material, fire cracked flint, coal, slag, beads, CBM, pottery and industrial material.

6.0 POTENTIAL & SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

6.1 Realisation of the original research aims

- 6.1.1 *OR1: To establish the existence and/or nature of any prehistoric activity occurring on the site.*

The only direct evidence of prehistoric activity comprised two undiagnostic pieces of worked flint and a residual sherd of Bronze Age pottery. However given the limited size of the area excavated prehistoric remains could feasibly still remain on site.

- 6.1.2 *OR2: Compare this with other prehistoric evidence from other sites in the immediate area including excavations in 1995 at the adjacent Parnell Street/ Appian Street Site (LEK95).*

The fieldwork which has occurred on surrounding sites has found evidence for Bronze Age or Early Iron Age settlement activity to the north of the site (PRB95). The site immediately to the north of the current excavations (LEK95) found evidence for Bronze Age pitting as well as a circular enclosure ditch and substantial post built structure, both of possible Bronze Age date. There was a paucity of dating evidence in many of these features.

There is comparatively little Later Iron Age activity close to the site with the exception of ditches and postholes recorded to the south and west of the site. The lack of any prehistoric features on site is slightly surprising given the extent of the remains just to the north. The lack of prehistoric finds is less surprising given relatively little cultural material was retrieved from the prehistoric features to the north.

- 6.1.3 *OR3: To understand the existence and/or nature of any Roman activity occurring on the site*

Stratigraphically, the earliest activity on site was four Early Roman pits in the south of Area 2. The function of these features remains somewhat unclear. Given the high number of Roman quarry pits recorded on surrounding sites such as the one to the north (LEK95) and the need of significant amounts of gravel for the road itself and building construction, it is possible that the features were for gravel extraction. However, as discussed below, many of these features were very large unlike the pits on site which would have yielded relatively little gravel.

The Later Roman ditch, possibly re-cutting an Early Roman ditch ran perpendicular to the London to Colchester Roman road and as such appear likely to be boundary ditches for land division. The purpose of this land division is less clear; as discussed below, field systems of Roman date have been recorded on surrounding sites. However, the environmental samples did not contain significant cereal remains; it could be the site lay within the liminal land between the main settlement and the surrounding fields.

6.1.4 *OR4: To understand the nature of settlement along the London to Colchester Roman Road*

The remains recorded on the site can provide only limited information on the roadside settlement at Bow. The pitting could be related to gravel extraction, a necessity in a roadside settlement as the road would have been a major economic factor. The ditch or ditches ran on a perpendicular alignment to the road and suggest land division. The presence of CBM within the later Roman contexts indicates the presence of structural remains in the vicinity, although these finds were not recovered in sufficient quantities to suggest that the structures lay very close to the site.

The settlement at Bow appears to have emerged or significantly developed as a direct result of the construction of the London to Colchester Road and of the development of Londinium itself. While the settlement may have been relatively self-sustained as alluded to by the field systems recorded on sites to the north and south; it is likely to have also relied heavily on the trade which the road brought in.

6.1.5 *OR5: To compare this with the evidence for Roman activity from other sites in the immediate area including excavations in 1995 at the adjacent Parnell Street/ Appian Street Site (LEK95).*

The area surrounding the site has been investigated extensively revealing settlement evidence focussed to the north and west of the site. As well as structural and occupation evidence, a surrounding agricultural field system has been noted on both the northern and southern sides of the Roman road (Mott MacDonald 2015). Evidence from the 1995 excavations immediately north of the site found evidence for the Roman road itself as well as a small inhumation cemetery, settlement and field systems. Some of the boundary ditches on that site ran perpendicular to the Roman road, like the Roman ditch or ditches on the current site suggesting organised land division. The purpose of that land division could have been agricultural as seen to the north and south of the current excavation. However, the environmental samples do not correlate with this. The site may have lain on the edge of the settlement, on the border of the surrounding field systems.

The Early Roman pits have been suggested to be related to gravel quarrying. Roman quarry pits have been noted on surrounding sites including the one just to the north; however, many of these quarry pits were of significant size given the need for gravel for construction and maintenance of the Roman road as well as use in the construction of buildings. The pits appear to be very small for such essential gravel extraction. Most of the Roman features contained cremated bone which could be related to the nearby cemetery, it is unclear whether this bone was human or animal. Its presence within both ditches and pits is not suggestive of deliberate deposition.

6.1.6 *OR6: Understanding later farming communities from the middle Bronze Age to middle Iron Age (c. 1500- 150BC), in particular preparing settlement plans for this period*

Only a single residual sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recorded on site; the only flintwork comprised two undiagnostic pieces. As noted above, the paucity

of prehistoric evidence is somewhat surprising given the amount of Bronze Age activity recorded during 1995 excavations to the north. These excavations found evidence for occupation including at least two post-built structures as well as a probable circular enclosure ditch and pitting. This evidence is not particularly suggestive of a farming community and given the lack of prehistoric features during the current excavations any further interpretation would be very tenuous.

- 6.1.7 *OR7: Understanding whether the transition from the late pre-Roman Iron Age to Roman Britain was wholly about change, or whether there is more evidence than previously thought for continuity.*

The lack of prehistoric features and of any Late Iron Age evidence at all on site is telling. The majority of the features were of Early Roman date with pottery present as well as CBM suggesting that the Early Roman settlement contained relatively substantial structures, although no direct structural evidence was recorded. The on-site evidence suggests a hiatus between the prehistoric, specifically Bronze Age, activity and the Early Roman settlement.

While much of the prehistoric activity close to the site has dated to the Bronze Age (Mott MacDonald 2015a), some evidence of Late Iron Age activity is noted. Ditches of Late Iron Age date were recorded to the west of the site and two coins of this date were purportedly found immediately to the east of the site. Late Iron Age remains to the south of the site including a series of postholes were overlain by early Roman dumped material into which Roman features were cut suggests a continuation of use. The site immediately to the north of the current excavations (LEK95) deposit containing significant Bronze Age and Roman remains did not contain much Late Iron Age activity. This site reinforces the evidence found during the current excavations.

- 6.1.8 *OR8: Identifying a pre-Roman Londinium road pattern? Was it not more likely that road transport was used rather than local river transport?*

No evidence of a prehistoric road pattern was recorded on site. The presence of some prehistoric material close to the Roman road could possibly suggest an earlier trackway or route; however no direct evidence of this has been recorded.

The paucity of prehistoric finds or dating evidence on site does not allow any analysis of the preferred method of travel during the prehistoric period.

- 6.1.9 *OR9: Studying the impact of Roman settlement on the environment.*

The limited nature of the Roman remains comprising either a single Late Roman ditch or perhaps an Early Roman ditch and a later recut as well as four pits of uncertain function, make any interpretation of the environment at this time difficult; allied to this is the small flot size produced by the environmental samples from these features. The samples did produce some charred cereal remains and the lack of wild plants suggests a managed environment. However, the presence of larger amounts of coal than might be expected suggests that the ditch was not part of an agricultural field system but more likely part of the land division within or adjacent to the road side settlement. The pits showed signs of root disturbance and could have been

tree boles or planting pits, features which would not be typical of agricultural landscapes. They could also have been for gravel extraction, something unlikely to have occurred within the agricultural areas.

Excavations on adjacent sites have found systems of late Roman ditches delineating paddocks or fields (Mott MacDonald 2015a); while the late Roman ditch on site could be a part of these ditches, the environmental remains do not support this. Other sites within the area have recorded possible iron working as well as settlement activity and burials. It appears more likely that the roadside settlement at Bow contained various activities taking place in close proximity.

6.1.10 OR10: *Elucidating the relationship of the central core of Roman Londinium to nucleated settlements and villas, or agricultural settlements; did people gradually drift into the roadside settlements and the city itself?*

Given the relatively low level of activity recorded on site, assessing the relationship between the settlement at Bow and *Londinium* is difficult. It is clear that the settlement at Bow emerged in large part due to its location on the London to Colchester road and would have benefitted greatly from the trade between these two major settlements. The settlement's proximity to *Londinium* would have allowed goods and products to flow in and out of the settlement. While imported Roman pottery was recorded, it was not in sufficient quantities to comment on the nature of this trade.

6.2 Significance and potential of the individual datasets

6.2.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Introduction

6.2.1.1 The significance of the remains at 64 Parnell Road lies primarily in contributing to the understanding of the Roman roadside settlement at Bow. The paucity of prehistoric remains is also notable given the presence of significant Bronze Age remains on neighbouring sites and the lack of any precursor to the Early Roman features is also interesting.

Roman

6.2.1.2 The Roman features comprised four Early Roman pits, and either a later Roman ditch or possibly an Early Roman ditch with later recut. The pits were of unclear function, possibly planting pits or for gravel extraction, a very important resource in a settlement relying on trade from the road. The lack of any Iron Age remains suggests that the settlement emerged as a direct result of the establishment of the London to Colchester Road and possibly of the establishment of *Londinium*.

6.2.1.3 The Late Roman ditch, possibly re-cutting an earlier version are suggestive of land division, running perpendicular to the London to Colchester Roman road. The environmental samples from these ditches are not suggestive of them forming part of a field system, nor did they contain industrial residues. The lack of either agricultural or industrial remains or indeed significant domestic material could suggest that the ditch lay on the periphery of the settlement

between agricultural land and the settlement core. The presence of Roman CBM admittedly in small quantities could indicate that structural remains lay within the vicinity.

6.2.1.4 For all their limitations, the remains at Parnell Road do aid the understanding of the roadside settlement at Bow. They can aid with the analysis of its origins as a trade based settlement relying on the large towns at either end of the road for commerce. The site when allied to the remains from other sites in the area can help with the understanding of the land use within the settlement and in its hinterland.

6.2.1.5 Taken as a whole, the Roman remains have local significance and some limited potential for further analysis.

Post-Medieval

6.2.1.6 The post-medieval remains were associated with later Victorian terraced housing that formerly occupied the site. These remains comprised a wall foundation, a boundary wall and a well. The brick samples from these features appear likely to be of an earlier date suggesting they were reused. The previous evaluation (PCA 2015b) also found structural evidence of 19th century housing in Trench 1 to the north of Area 1.

6.2.1.7 Given their limited nature, the post-medieval remains have little significance and hold no potential for further analysis.

Modern

6.2.1.8 The modern remains on site comprised 20th century truncations including the removal of the many of the 19th century building remains as well as the construction of a tower base and water tank in Area 1. They hold no potential for further study.

6.2.2 **The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hegarat

6.2.2.1 This very small assemblage of burnt and unburnt flint has no wider significance. There is no potential for further work.

6.2.3 **The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery**

6.2.3.1 The very small size of the assemblage means that it is of limited significance beyond the dating evidence that it provides.

6.2.3.2 There is no potential for further analysis on the prehistoric and Roman pottery assemblage

6.2.4 **Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

6.2.4.1 The post-Roman pottery assemblage is small, mixed, generally lacking in feature sherds and has no clean groups of note. The wares present are all well known. As such the assemblage has very limited significance.

6.2.4.2 The assemblage is not deemed to hold any potential for further analysis beyond the work undertaken for this assessment.

6.2.5 **The Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

6.2.5.1 The CBM assemblage is not unusual for a London-based excavation, from which one would anticipate a mixed collection of CBM types from multiple periods. The fact that only Roman material was recovered from contexts [204], [207] and [209] would suggest these are Roman period deposits, but nothing is unusual or well-preserved enough to be particularly significant, even on a local level.

6.2.5.2 The post-medieval bricks were made from a very common London fabric type. The presence of the same makers' mark on both bricks is of limited significance as it could be used to link these bricks with a particular brickyard, but apart from this and indicating the presence of a c.19th century structure on site – for which there is also documentary evidence – these bricks are of no national or international significance, and only limited local significance.

6.2.5.3 There is potential for associating the post-medieval bricks to a specific brickyard based on the makers' mark within the frog, but such a project would benefit from a wider data set including other sites that also produced this brick type. For that reason although there is some potential for further work it is not recommended at this time.

6.2.6 **The Animal Bone**

6.2.6.1 The assemblage is of limited local significance only. Due to the size and condition of the assemblage it holds no potential for further work.

6.2.7 **The Shell** by Susan Chandler

6.2.7.1 The significance of the assemblage is low due to its small size and common nature. There is no potential for further work.

6.2.8 **The Registered Finds** by Susan Chandler

6.2.8.1 The small assemblage provides ephemeral evidence for Roman activity on site and dating evidence for the feature in which the objects were found.

6.2.8.2 The objects have been recorded for the site archive. There is no potential for further work however the presence of these objects should be noted in any publication text.

6.2.9 **The Environmental Samples** by Angela Vitolo

Significance

6.2.9.1 These samples have yielded a very small amount of poorly preserved charred plant remains and charcoal and as such are of low significance.

Potential

6.2.9.2 The bulk soil samples have yielded sparse charred plant remains, which just represent a background signature. Charcoal was also present in very small amounts. Therefore, these samples hold little potential for further work.

7.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

7.1 Revised research agenda: Aims and Objectives

- 7.1.1 This section combines those original research aims that the site archive has the potential to address with any new research aims identified in the assessment process by stratigraphic, finds and environmental specialists to produce a set of revised research aims that will form the basis of any future research agenda. Original research aims (OR's) are referred to where there is any synthesis of subject matter to form a new set of revised research aims (RRA's) posed as questions below. The following aims have been created with reference to the Research Framework for London (Museum of London 2002) and where possible the aims have been included.
- 7.1.2 RRA 1: (OR3, OR4, OR5, OR7) Can further comparison with surrounding sites and particularly the 1995 excavations to the north (LEK95) add further understanding of the origins of the settlement at Bow?
- 7.1.3 RRA2: (OR3, OR4, OR5) Can comparison with features on surrounding sites help with understanding the function of the pits?
- 7.1.4 RRA3: (OR3, OR4, OR5, OR9) How does the Roman ditch or ditches compare to those on surrounding sites, is the possible recut a common feature of ditches on surrounding sites?
- 7.1.5 RRA4: (OR3, OR4, OR5, OR9) Can the ditch or ditches when combined with information from surrounding site inform on land division within the settlement at Bow?
- 7.1.6 RRA5: (OR3, OR4, OR5, OR10) To what extent can the economic reliance of the settlement, on the road and *Londinium*, be discerned from this and other sites?

7.2 Preliminary Publication Synopsis

- 7.2.1 It is suggested that the results of the excavation be published as a small article or note in the London Archaeologist. Such an article would use documentary research and analyse other Roman sites nearby to contextually place the site spatially, chronologically and socially.
- 7.2.2 Specialist contributions will be presented as appropriate within an integrated narrative with supporting specialist data where required. Illustrations, photographs, plans and maps will be included where appropriate to aid the narrative.
- 7.2.3 The publication should seek to address the individual site-specific research questions identified in the post-excavation assessment and updated project designs and should be presented within a chronological framework.
- 7.2.4 It is proposed that the article will follow the publication synopsis outlined below, resulting in an article of approximately 1500 words. The word count for each section has been approximated in brackets.

Working title

Excavations at 64 Parnell Road, Bow: Roman activity in a roadside settlement on the periphery of Londinium.

Introduction (c.400)

*Circumstances of fieldwork and background
Site location, geology and topography
Archaeological and Historical background*

Excavation results (c. 400)

Integrated narrative text by land use and function

Specialist Appendices (c. 400)

*Prehistoric and Roman Pottery
Ceramic Building Material
Registered Finds
Animal Bone
Environmental and Macrobotanical Remains*

Discussion (suggested topics) (c.200)

*The emergence of the roadside settlement at Bow
Land use and settlement layout of the settlement*

Summary and Conclusions c. (100)

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Figures: *Selected plans, sections and photographs*

7.3 Publication project

7.3.1 Stratigraphic Method Statement

7.3.1.1 Once subgrouping is finalised, the subgroups will be grouped and a basic land use model will be established for the site. This will provide a land-use led chronological framework for the full analysis and reporting of the site.

7.3.1.2 After completion of analysis and documentary research, an integrated period-driven narrative of the site sequence will be prepared. This will draw on specialist information in order to fully address the revised research aims. The narrative will include relevant selection of period/phase plans, sections, photographs and finds illustrations.

Stratigraphic Tasks	
Finalise subgrouping.	0.25 day
Define groups.	0.25 day
Draw date phased group matrices.	0.25 day
Define landuse.	0.25 day
Describe landuse.	0.5 days
Define periods.	0.5 day
Describe periods.	0.5 day
Documentary research.	1 day
Digestion and association of finds and environmental publication reports	0.5 day
Prepare narrative of the site sequence.	1 day
Total	5 days
Illustration	
There will be c.3 stratigraphic figures, and c.3 site photographs.	1 day
Production	
Editing of the period-driven narrative.	1 day
Project Management.	0.5 day
Publication grant	Fee

Table 5: Resource for completion of the period-driven narrative of the site sequence

7.4 Artefacts and Archive Deposition

7.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. Following completion of all post-excavation work, including any publication work, the site archive will be offered to the London Archaeological Archive and Research centre (LAARC) in the first instance.

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ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and John Gould of GLAAS for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Ian Hogg. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations. Andy Leonard managed the excavations, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

Appendix 1: Context Register

Context	Type	Interpretation	Parent	Subgroup	Group	Period
1	Masonry or other construction	Concrete slab	1	1	1	5.1
2	Deposit	Modern made ground		2	1	5.1
3		Natural		3	2	1
4	Deposit	Buried topsoil horizon		8	3	3.1
100	Masonry or other construction	Concrete slab	4	1	1	5.1
101	Deposit	Modern made ground		2	1	5.1
102	Deposit	Natural		3	2	1
103	Masonry or other construction	Wall		4	4	4.1
104	Fill	Well fill	107	5	5	4.1
105	Masonry or other construction	Well	105	6	5	4.1
106	Fill	Construction fill	107	6	5	4.1
107	Cut	Well cut	107	6	5	4.1
200	Masonry or other construction	Wall	200	7	6	4.1
201	Cut	Foundation cut	201	7	6	4.1
202	Deposit	Modern made ground		2	1	5.1
203	Deposit	Buried topsoil horizon		8	3	3.1
204	Fill	Fill, basal	205	9	7	3.1
205	Cut	Ditch, boundary	205	9	7	3.1
206	Deposit	Natural		3	2	1
207	Fill	Fill, basal	208	15	10	3.1
208	Cut	Ditch, boundary	208	16	10	3.1
209	Fill	Fill, basal	210	15	10	3.1
210	Cut	Ditch, boundary	210	15	10	3.1
211	Deposit	Made ground		10	8	3.1
212	Fill	Fill, basal	213	11	9	3.1
213	Cut	Pit	213	11	9	3.1
214	Fill	Fill, basal	215	12	9	3.1
215	Cut	Pit	215	12	9	3.1
216	Fill	Fill, basal	217	13	9	3.1
217	Cut	Pit	217	13	9	3.1
218	Fill	Fill, basal	219	14	9	3.1
219	Cut	Pit	219	14	9	3.1

Appendix 2: Environmental Quantification

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	207	ditch	40	40					**	7					Mag.Mat. ****/11g, FCF **/69g, coal **/2g, glass */<1g, bead */<1g, slag ***/8g, CBM */82g, slate */<1g, pot */23g, Fe */3g, flint with mortar */9g
2	212	pit	40	40							*	<1			FCF **/80g, Mag.Mat. ****/5g, slag ***/6g, coal **/2g, lead/shot? */<1g, pot */<1g, glass */<1g
3	216	ditch	40	40	**	<1	**	1	*	<1			*	<1	Flint */<1g, pot */17g, coal **/5g, glass */<1g, Industrial material ***/4g, Mag.Mat. ****/4g, FCF **/116g
4	214	pit	40	40	**	<1	**	<1							Mag.Mat. ****/8g, flint*/1g, pot*/6g, Industrial material ***/2g, coal **/<1g, FCF */43g
5	218	ditch	40	40	**	<1	**	<1	*	<1					CBM */123g, mag.mat. ****/10g, coal ****/2g, industrial material ****/4g, pot */2g, FCF */36g

Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Industrial debris hammerscale
1	207	2	20	20	20	20	****	*	Cerealia (2)	+				***
2	212	2	10	10	10	40	**							***
3	216	1	10	10	30	10	**							***
4	214	1	10	10	20	30	**	*	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (Hulled) <i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp. (1)	+				***
5	218	1	10	10	30	10	**				*	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	++	***

Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

HER Summary

Site Code	PLR16				
Identification Name and Address	Mulberry UTC, 64 Parnell Road, Bow				
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Tower Hamlets				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3700 8352				
Geology	Taplow Gravels				
Arch. South-East Project Number	160253				
Type of Fieldwork		Excav.	Watching Brief		
Type of Site	Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork		Excav. 07-06-2016 to 15-06-2016	WB. 01-06-2016 to 27-07-2016		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting				
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson				
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg				
Period Summary					Roman
			PM	Other Modern	
<p><i>The excavations revealed evidence of Roman activity which had been suggested by previous evaluation and watching brief work. The only evidence of prehistoric activity was a sherd of Bronze Age pottery and two struck flints. Post-medieval activity was found associated with Victorian terraces which previously occupied the site.</i></p> <p><i>No prehistoric features were recorded during excavations, despite these being common on surrounding sites. The earliest features comprised four pits dated to the 1st century AD; these features are of uncertain function, possible for gravel extraction or planting pits. One of the pits was cut by Roman boundary ditch running perpendicular to the London to Colchester Roman road just to the north. The northern portion of this ditch contained significant amounts of Late Roman pottery while the southern part contained Early Roman remains; these earlier finds could be residual or it could indicate a later recut further north. These features contained some domestic finds as well as small amounts of building material which that suggest structural remains lay relatively nearby. The environmental remains indicate the ditches were probably not part of an agricultural field system or associated with industry; rather they likely represent land division on the boundary of the roadside settlement. The presence of small amounts of undiagnostic cremated bone could be related to the Roman roadside cemetery known to have existed close by.</i></p> <p><i>The Roman remains were overlain in part by topsoil which was found during previous works to contain Roman finds. No significant activity was recorded on site until the latter half of the 19th century when cartographic evidence shows a row of terraced housing was built on site. Remains of these houses, the boundary walls and an associated well were recorded during the excavations, although the majority of these remains had been removed during the construction of the later phases of fire station.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeo16-267025

Project details

Project name Mulberry UTC, 64 Parnell Road, Bow

The excavations revealed evidence of Roman activity which had been suggested by previous evaluation and watching brief work. The only evidence of prehistoric activity was a sherd of Bronze Age pottery and two struck flints. Post-medieval activity was found associated with Victorian terraces which previously occupied the site.

Short description of the project

No prehistoric features were recorded during excavations, despite these being common on surrounding sites. The earliest features comprised four pits dated to the 1st century AD; these features are of uncertain function, possible for gravel extraction or planting pits. One of the pits was cut by Roman boundary ditch running perpendicular to the London to Colchester Roman road just to the north. The northern portion of this ditch contained significant amounts of Late Roman pottery while the southern part contained Early Roman remains; these earlier finds could be residual or it could indicate a later recut further north. These features contained some domestic finds as well as small amounts of building material which that suggest structural remains lay relatively nearby. The environmental remains indicate the ditches were probably not part of an agricultural field system or associated with industry; rather they likely represent land division on the boundary of the roadside settlement. The presence of small amounts of undiagnostic cremated bone could be related to the Roman roadside cemetery known to have existed close by.

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Project dates Start: 01-06-2016 End: 27-07-2016

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes PLR16 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 160253 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type DITCHES Roman

Monument type PITS Roman

Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds CBM Roman

Investigation type ""Part Excavation"", ""Watching Brief""

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW Mulberry University
 Technical College, 64 Parnell Road

Postcode E3 2RU

Study area 2400 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3700 8352 51.533442855341 -0.024573811635 51 32 00 N 000 01 28
 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 10.44m Max: 11.18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator GLAAS

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal", "Worked
 stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

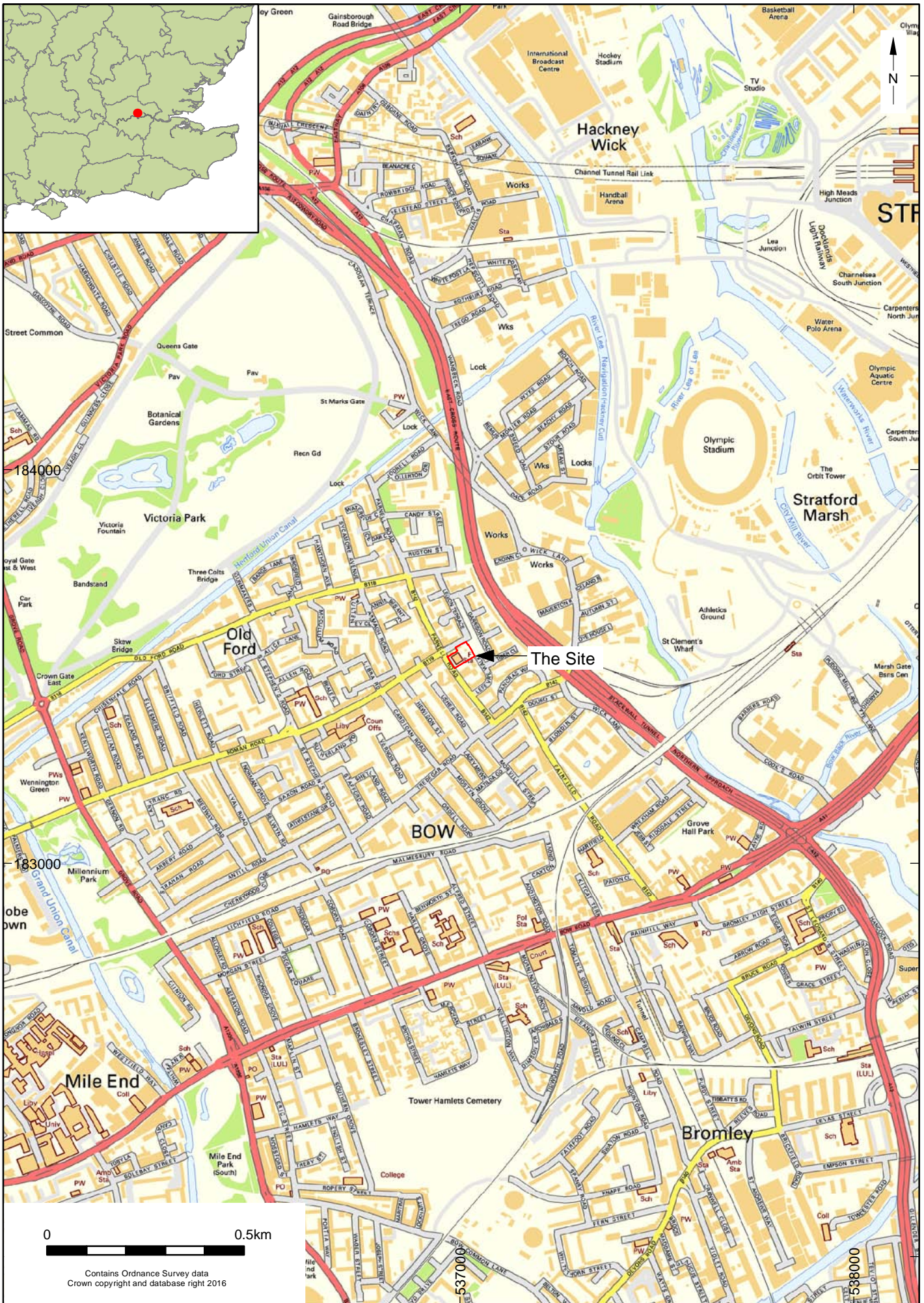
Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

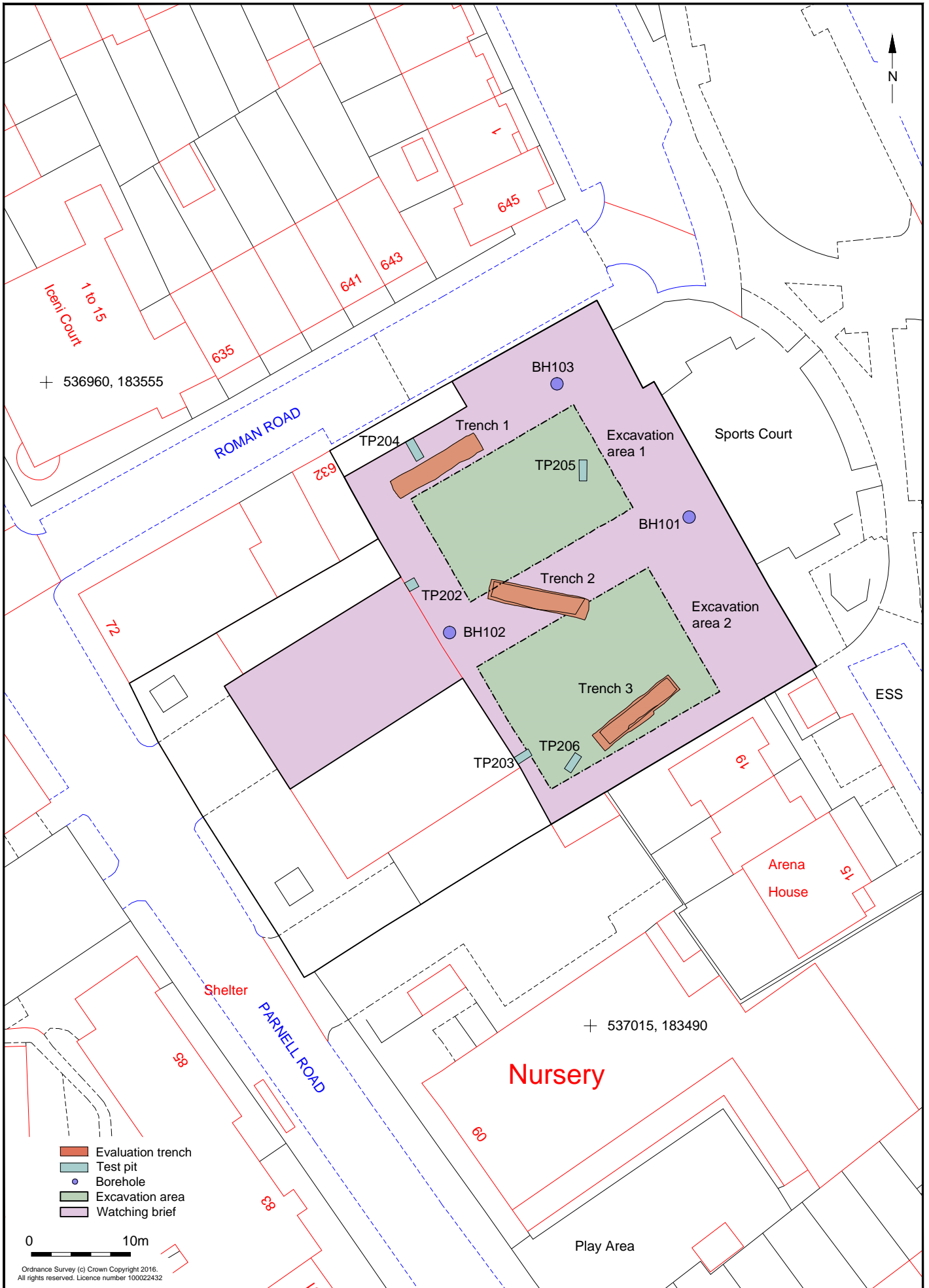
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

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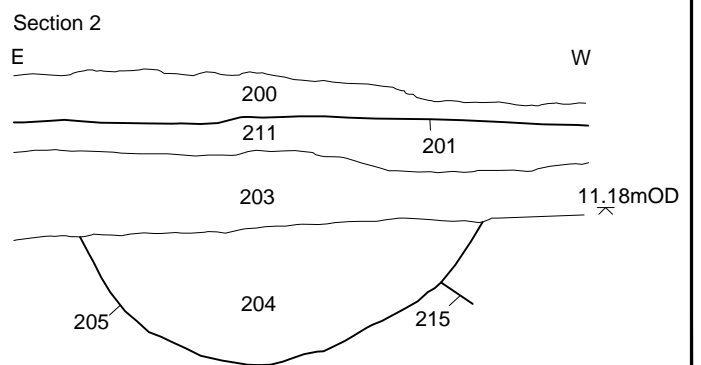
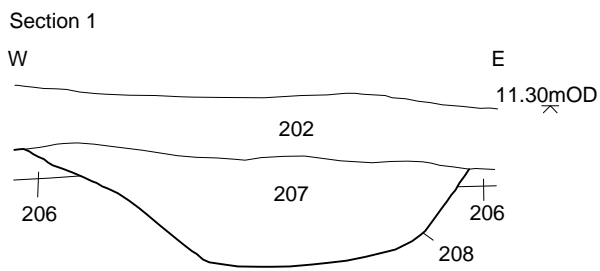
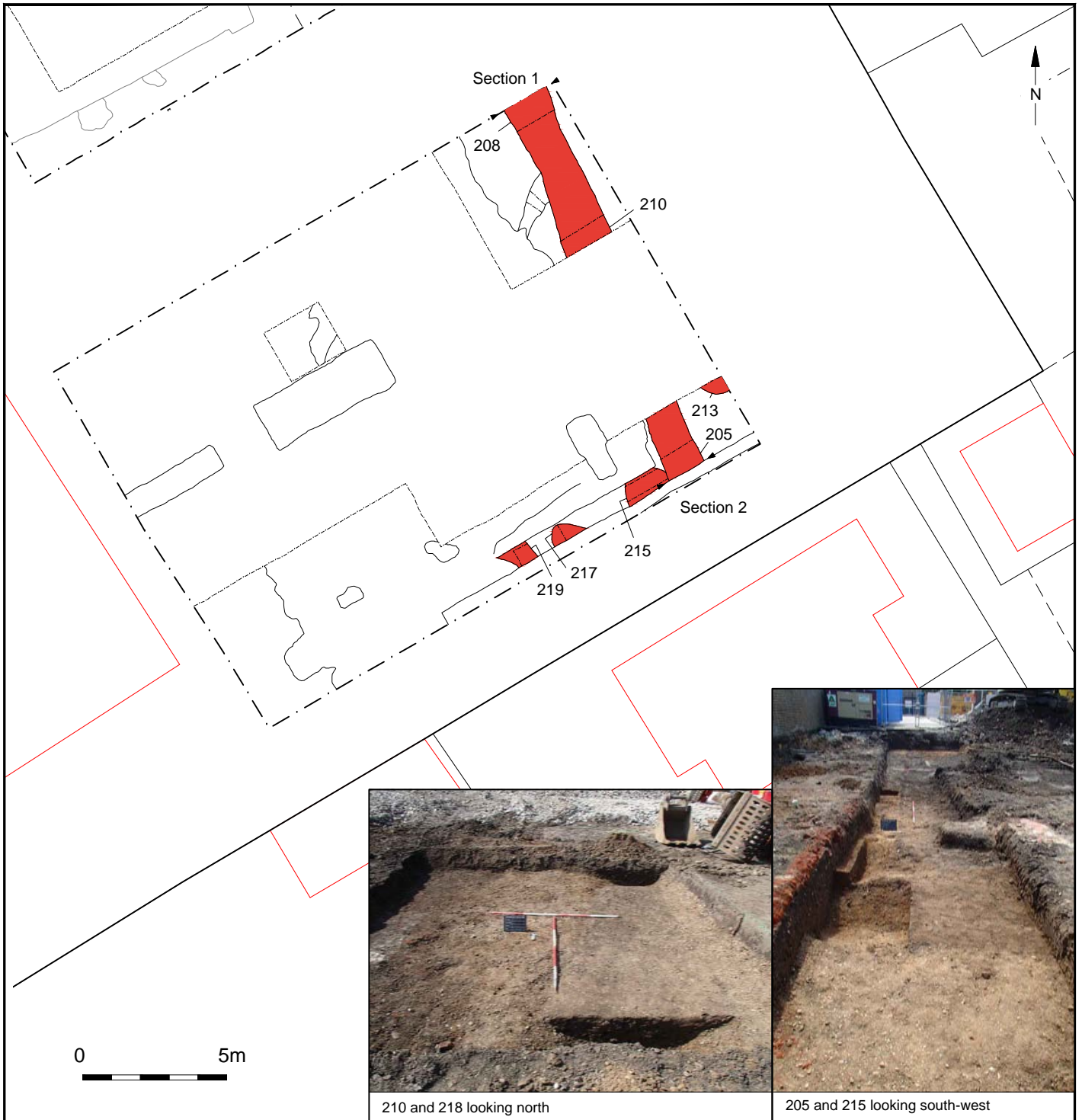
Entered on 9 December 2016



© Archaeology South-East		64 Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160253	09 - 2016	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: NG			

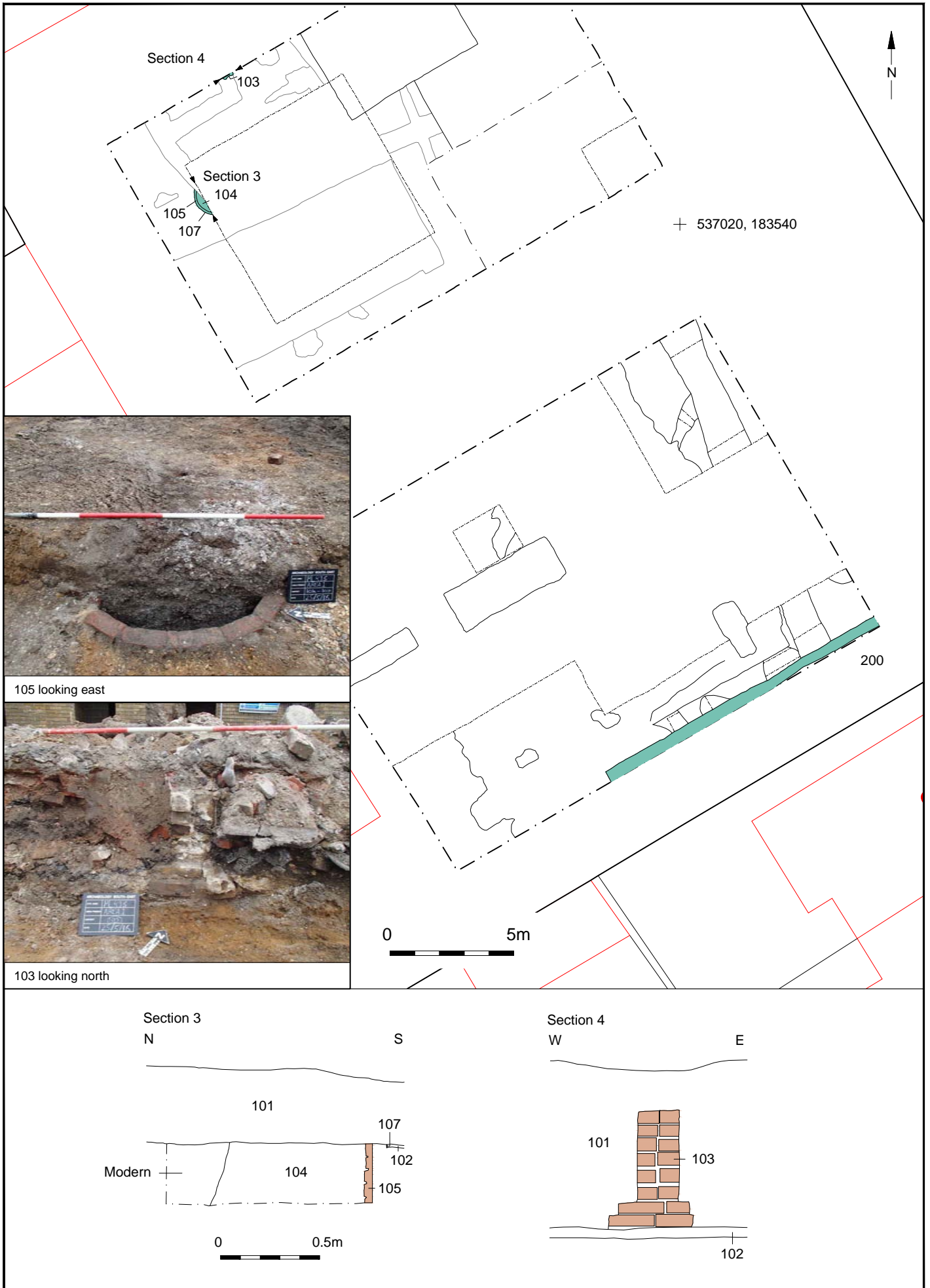


© Archaeology South-East		64 Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160253	Dec 2016	Previous and current archaeological work on site		
Report Ref: 2016422	Drawn by: NG			



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© Archaeology South-East		64 Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160253	August 2016	Period 3.1: Roman, plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016422	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		64 Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 160253	August 2016	Period 4.1: Post Medieval plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2016422	Drawn by: NG		



© Archaeology South-East		64 Parnell Road, Tower Hamlets		Fig. 5
Project Ref: 160253	August 2016	Period 5.1: Modern plan and photographs		
Report Ref: 2016422	Drawn by: NG			

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