

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**58 High Street South, East Ham,
London Borough of Newham**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Maisie Foster

Site Code: HSEH22/36

(TQ 4268 8330)

**58 High Street South, East Ham,
London Borough of Newham**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ecus Ltd

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HHM 22
HSEH 22/36

March 2022

Summary

Site name: 58 High Street South, East Ham, London Borough of Newham

Grid reference: TQ 4268 8330

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th February to 3rd March 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Jon Tierney and Maisie Foster

Site code: HSEH 22/36

Summary of results: The foundation trenches only revealed a considerable thickness of modern made ground and the natural geology was not encountered. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London or Archaeology Data Service in due course, with accession code HHM 22.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 28.03.22
	Andy Taylor ✓ 28.03.22

58 High Street South, East Ham, London Borough of Newham An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Maisie Foster

Report 22/36

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 58 High Street South, East Ham, London Borough of Newham, E6 6ET (TQ 4268 8330) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Emily Taylor of Ecus Ltd, Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4JX, working in partnership with Reports4Planning for SDUK Ltd (the Client).

Planning permission (19/02794/FUL) has been gained from the London Borough of Newham for the erection of a one-bedroom residential building and the alterations of a building to the rear of the development area. The consent is subject to a condition (9) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks.

This work is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and London Borough of Newham's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Adam Single, Archaeology Advisor for Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), the archaeological advisor to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Tierney and Maisie Foster between 24th February and 3rd March 2022. The site code is HSEH 22/36 and the London code is HHM 22.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with the Museum of London or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within East Ham, a district of the London Borough of Newham. The site is situated on the western side of High Street South mid terrace, and comprises No. 58a High Street. The area is currently utilised as a covered walkway, and area of hard standing which provides access to a residential dwelling and an enclosed storage space to the rear of the site. The site is relatively level lying *c.*5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Flood Plain Gravel (BGS 1976). The natural geology was not reached in any trenches.

Archaeological background

The site's potential has been addressed in a desk-based assessment (Ecus 2021, ref. 16848). In summary, the archaeological potential of the site stems from it lying within two Archaeological Priority Areas (APA). In terms of prehistoric archaeology, the potential appears to be low, with one findspot and feature (a Bronze Age drainage ditch) to the southeast of the site. Modest Roman potential is derived from the site's location along the Manor Park to North Woolwich Roman Road (which follows the course of High Street North and South). The site is thought to contain low potential for early medieval remains, it also lies within the historic settlement area of East Ham, where there is medium potential for medieval remains relating to the area's development. During the early 18th century, the site was also the location of the post-medieval Clock House Farm (Ecus 2021), and some potential existed for post-medieval agricultural or transport infrastructure remains on the site.

Objectives and methodology

The principal aim of the watching brief is to mitigate the impact of the proposed construction works through the identification, recording and assessment of heritage assets; thus achieving 'preservation by record' and contributing to the understanding of the use and development of the site. To achieve this project's aims all foundation trenches were monitored by a trained and experienced archaeologist.

Concrete was broken out using a hydraulic breaker, under archaeological supervision. All trenching was undertaken by a small 1.5ton excavator fitted with 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All deposits encountered during the watching brief were fully recorded, both through a written, drawn and photographic record. 'Finds' were collected from all deposits where located, to provide a material record of the deposits modern date. Due to the depth of trenches, all recording was done from the edge of the trench at a safe distance. Spoil heaps were monitored frequently for archaeological material.

Specific objectives of the archaeological watching brief on site are:

- understand the chronological development of the site enhancing its chronology, phasing and character from the prehistoric period onwards;
- define and establish the precise physical extent and condition of the buried archaeological resource within the site;
- understand the archaeological resource and historical past of Newham; and
- to contribute to an increased understanding of the archaeological potential of the two APAs within which the site is located.

Specific aims of the archaeological watching brief on site are to:

- determine, identify and understand any archaeological evidence relating to prehistoric settlement and movement in this area given that High Street South is suggested to have possibly followed the course of an earlier trackway;
- determine, identify and understand any remains relating to the establishment and continued use of High Street South, a route which has origins from the Romano-British (and potentially earlier). These remains could contribute to our understanding about the development of the road and as well as movement and transport infrastructure and the relationship between the historic core of *Londinium* and its surrounding landscape;
- determine, identify and understand any remains relating to Romano-British roadside settlement and associated activity such as farming. Such remains could contribute to developing our understanding of relationship between Roman settlement, landscape and economy within the hinterland of *Londinium*;
- determine, identify and understand any remains relating to early medieval settlement activity along the course of High Street South;
- determine, identify and understand remains relating to the chronological development of medieval settlement and the hamlet of East Ham enhancing understanding about its chronology, phasing and character during this period;
- determine, identify and understand any medieval remains relating to roadside activity and transport through this area and how this contributes to our understanding of settlement and the surrounding landscape in the hinterland of London;
- determine, identify and understand any remains relating to Clock House Farm, especially its origins and development. This will contribute to our understanding of settlement in this area during the post-medieval period and the people who lived there; and
- identify and understand remains relating to the development use of the site following urbanisation of the area and construction of terrace housing in the early twentieth century.

Where relevant, the aims of the watching brief and its results will contribute to those research aims outlined in *A Strategy for Researching the Historic Environment of Greater London* (Historic England 2015). The following Structural Elements will be considered:

- a city in its hinterland and world context (SE1);
- inhabiting the pre-urban landscape (SE2);
- an evolving urban settlement (SE3);
- identifying places and communities (SE4);
- buildings for living and working (SE5)
- artefacts: manufacture and consumption (SE6).

Further research aims which may be relevant are detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation. These include the following aims from the Research Framework for London Archaeology (framework objectives):

Major Themes:

- TD1 – investigation of roadside settlement and farmsteads;
- TD2 –and examining evolving settlement patterns, the creation of suburbs and how location impacted upon the people living there;
- TD4 – understanding evolution of the road system and how this influenced development and change;

- TD6 – establishing patterns of building development to understand growth, types and functions;
- TE4 – identifying assemblage characteristics and economics for different parts of London; and
- TC2 – understanding the transition periods in London and how it will continue to grow, develop and change.

Roman Research Priorities:

- R2 – notably the relationship between the landscape, river and settlement and impact of settlement on the environment during the Romano-British period;
- R4 – analysing the road system, river crossings and street layouts;
- R7 – identifying those living in Roman London; and
- R8 – identifying the character of roadside settlement.

Medieval Research Priorities:

- M1 - understanding the nature and extent of urban development; and
- M5 – understanding the character of development.

London after 1500 Research Priorities:

- L2 – identifying and understanding construction in this period and impacts changes had on communities lives;
- L3 – contributing to defining the nature and extent of different neighbourhoods in London;
- L8 – understanding the growth of London and history of food production; and
- L10 – understanding cultural and economic change, daily work and life in London and overall growth of the area.

Where relevant, the results will be considered Where relevant, the results of the watching brief will also be considered in relation to Historic England’s Thematic Research Strategies including

- Prehistory (Historic England 2010a);
- Urban Historic Environment (Historic England 2010b); and
- Romano-period Historical Environment (Historic England 2012)

Results

During the course of the watching brief, six foundation trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. These trenches were located in the hardstanding area, towards the front of the plot at 58 High Street South (Fig. 2).

Trench 1: [Pl. 6]

Trench 1 was located at the south corner of the site, *c.* 1m from the side of 60A and B High Street South. It measured 1.56m in length by 0.66m in width and was dug to a maximum depth of 2.46m. After the breaking of concrete, the trench revealed 5 distinct layers of modern made ground from which dating evidence was recovered where possible. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of dark silty clayey sand (50) overlying 0.27m of a mid-grey brown silty clay modern made ground with modern brick, tile, bone china and clay pipe inclusions (51). This deposit sat above 0.16m of light grey brown modern made ground (52) with modern tile and bone china inclusions, which overlay 0.99m of mid grey brown silty clay modern made ground (53). This deposit had a large modern service pipe running through it on an E-W alignment and a deposit of modern house bricks, which was visible only in the easternmost corner. The modern date of the bricks was apparent from the type and finish, however It was not clear from the small amount exposed in the trench what type of modern structure the bricks may have represented.

The final deposit to be impacted by this trench was a light red brown silty clay modern made ground (54). No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed, and natural geology was not reached.

Trench 2: [Pl. 1]

Trench 2 was located at the very front of site, in the eastern corner *c.* 1m from the garden wall of property 60A and B High Street South. It measured 1.83m in length by 0.72m in with and was dug to a maximum depth of 2.14m. After the breaking of concrete, the trench revealed 8 distinct layers of modern made ground from which dating evidence was recovered where possible. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of a crushed tarmac type material (55), perhaps used as a levelling deposit for the concrete, overlying 0.2m of mid grey brown modern made ground with substantial hardcore inclusions (56). This sat above (57) a mid red brown clay which overlay 0.99m of a dark grey brown silty clay modern made ground (58) with brick, bone china and clay pipe inclusions. Underlying this was 0.07m of a light brown silty clay modern made ground (59) and 0.56m of a mid-grey brown sand clay modern made ground (60). A deposit of modern bricks, some still mortared together was visible in the western corner of this trench, cutting through both of these made ground deposits. These overlaid 0.11m of a mid-grey brown clay deposit (61), with the final deposit to be impacted by this trench being a light red clayey gravel (62). No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed, and natural geology was not reached.

Trench 3-6: [Pls. 2-5]

Trenches 3 to 6 were located on the western edge of site in a NE-SW alignment *c.* 0.5m from 56A and B High Street South (Fig. 2). These trenches make up one long foundation trench, however due its close proximity to a neighbouring property this trench was divided into four segments and alternately excavated and backfilled. After the careful removal of overlying concrete, all trenches revealed multiple layers of modern made ground, with slight variations in layering and deposits. Dating evidence was recovered from these layers where possible.

Trench 3 measured 2.26m in length by 0.77m in width and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.96m. The trench revealed 9 distinct layers of modern made ground. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of a dark brown black clayey silt modern made ground (63) which has been heavily truncated by a live service pipe, overlying 0.29m of a mid grey brown modern made ground with hardcore inclusions (64). This sat above 0.18m of a mid yellow brown silty clay modern made ground with clay pipe and CBM inclusions (65) which overlay 0.07m of a dark grey black silty clay modern made ground (66). Underlying this was 0.1m of a mid yellow brown silty clay made ground (67), overlying (68) a dark grey black silty clay modern made ground. This overlaid 0.38m of light-yellow grey sandy silty made ground (69) with bone china inclusions and 0.26m of mid grey brown silty clay modern made ground with CBM/building rubble inclusions (70). The final deposit to be truncated by this trench was a mid red brown silt modern made ground. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed, and natural geology was not reached.

Trench 4 measured 2.32m in length by 0.7m in width and was dug to a maximum depth of 2.2m. The trench revealed 6 distinct layers of modern made ground. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of black modern made ground (73) which has been heavily truncated by a live service pipe, overlying 0.52m of a mid orange brown silty clay modern made ground with CBM, bone china inclusions (74). This sat above 0.3m of dark grey brown silty modern made ground (75) with bone china inclusions, which overlays 0.24m of light-yellow brown silty modern made ground (76). This overlaid 0.3m of dark grey brown silty clay (77) modern made ground with CBM inclusions. The final deposit to be truncated by this trench was a mid red orange silty gravel made ground. At the very bottom of this trench at the western end, the very top of a modern service pipe was observed. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed, and natural geology was not reached.

Trench 5 measured 2.1m in length and 0.72m in width and was dug to a maximum depth of 2.05m. The trench revealed 8 distinct layers of made ground, which was truncated by a modern pit [1] along the full length of the trench on the south western side. The pit measured 0.5m+ in width and 2m in diameter and was not bottomed at the trench's maximum depth. The pit had one fill (72) a loose mid grey brown silty clay, which considerate

hardcore/rubble inclusions. The stratigraphy of the trench on its north eastern side consisted of 0.15m of mid black grey silty clay modern made ground (79), overlying (80) a dark grey black modern made ground. This sat above over 0.56m of light-yellow brown clayey silt made ground (81), which building rubble inclusions, which overlays 0.09m of mid brown grey modern made ground (82) with brick inclusions. This overlaid 0.44m of light-yellow brown silt modern made ground (83) and 0.16m of dark grey black modern made ground (84) with bone china inclusions. These overlaid (85) a mid grey brown silty clay modern made ground with the final deposit to be truncated by this trench being a mid orange brown silty clay modern made ground with brick and tile inclusions. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed, and natural geology was not reached.

Trench 6 measured 2.33m in length by 0.77m in width and dug to a maximum depth of 2m. The trench revealed 5 distinct layers of made ground. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of mid grey black modern made ground (87) overlying 0.4m of a mid brown grey silty clay modern made ground with brick and rubble inclusions (88). This deposit sat above 0.25m of dark grey black silty clay modern made ground (89) with brick, tile and bone china inclusions, which overlay 1m of mid brown grey silty clay modern made ground (90). This deposit had a large modern service pipe in a SW-NE alignment at the eastern end of the trench. The final deposit to be impacted by this trench was a mid orange brown silty clay modern made ground (91). No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed in this trench.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains of various periods to be present on this site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest was observed. A considerable thickness of modern made ground was observed within the trenches, are most likely related to the building and development of the terraced housing during the modern urbanisation of East Ham in the early 20th century, and continued remodelling and reuse of this area into the 21st century. The natural geology nor any earlier deposits were encountered.

In line with the requirements of the local planning authority archaeologist, it is confirmed that in the absence of remains of prehistoric, Roman, early medieval, medieval date, or post-medieval deposits relating to Clock House Farm or other specific (agricultural or transport-related) land uses, little can be contributed to the broader thematic research strategies. As a result of the limited range of deposits encountered in the course of the watching brief, the majority of the specific research aims and priorities were not relevant.

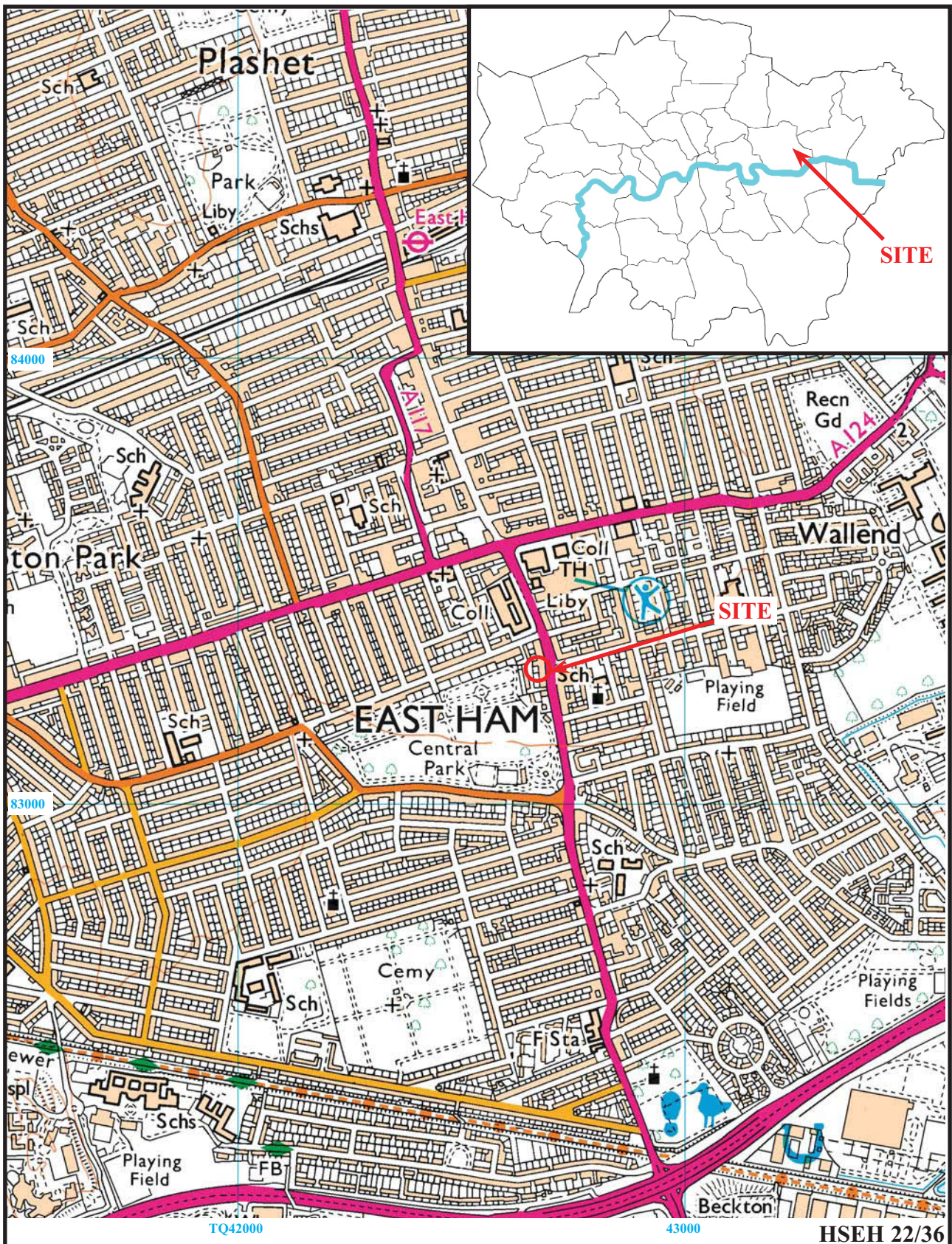
References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 257, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ecus Ltd, 2021, 58 High Street South, East Ham, London, E6 6ET – Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Report ref. 16848, Basingstoke. GLHER ref. 16263
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

OASIS

Summary for thamesva1-505567

OASIS ID (UID)	thamesva1-505567
Project Name	Watching Brief at 58 High Street South, East Ham, London
Sitename	
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	58 High Street South, East Ham, London
Planning Id	19/02794/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd
Project Dates	23-Feb-2022 - 03-Mar-2022
Location	58 High Street South, East Ham, London NGR : TQ 42667 83307 LL : 51.5306537272682, 0.055368822349761 12 Fig : 542667,183307
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater London District : Newham Parish : Newham, unparished area
Project Methodology	Observed the excavation of foundation trenching through a concreted yard, by a small excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. All observations were noted, photographed, stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered for dating
Project Results	No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the course of this archaeological watching brief
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Foster
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London



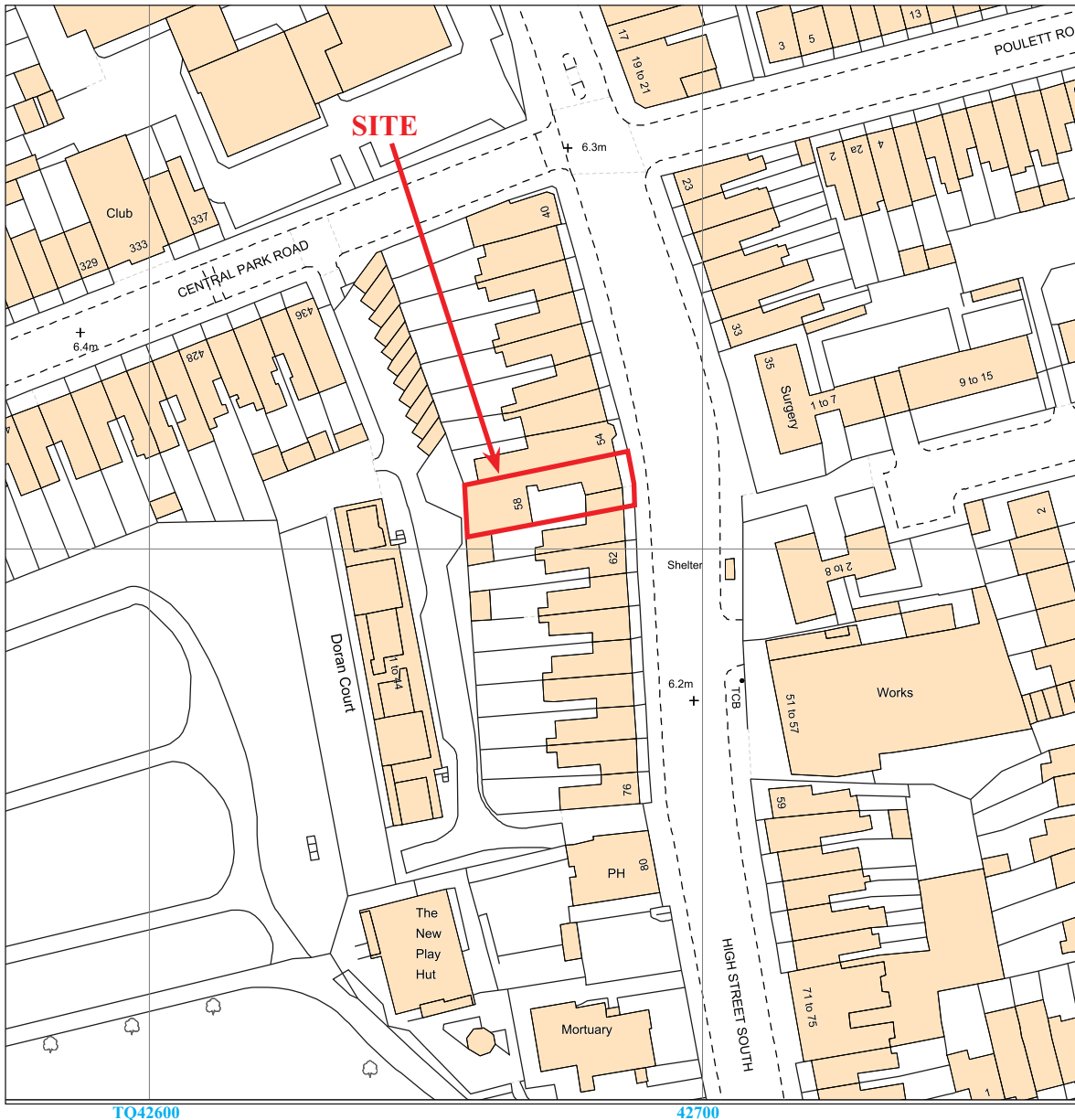
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Figure 1. Location of site within East Ham and Greater London.

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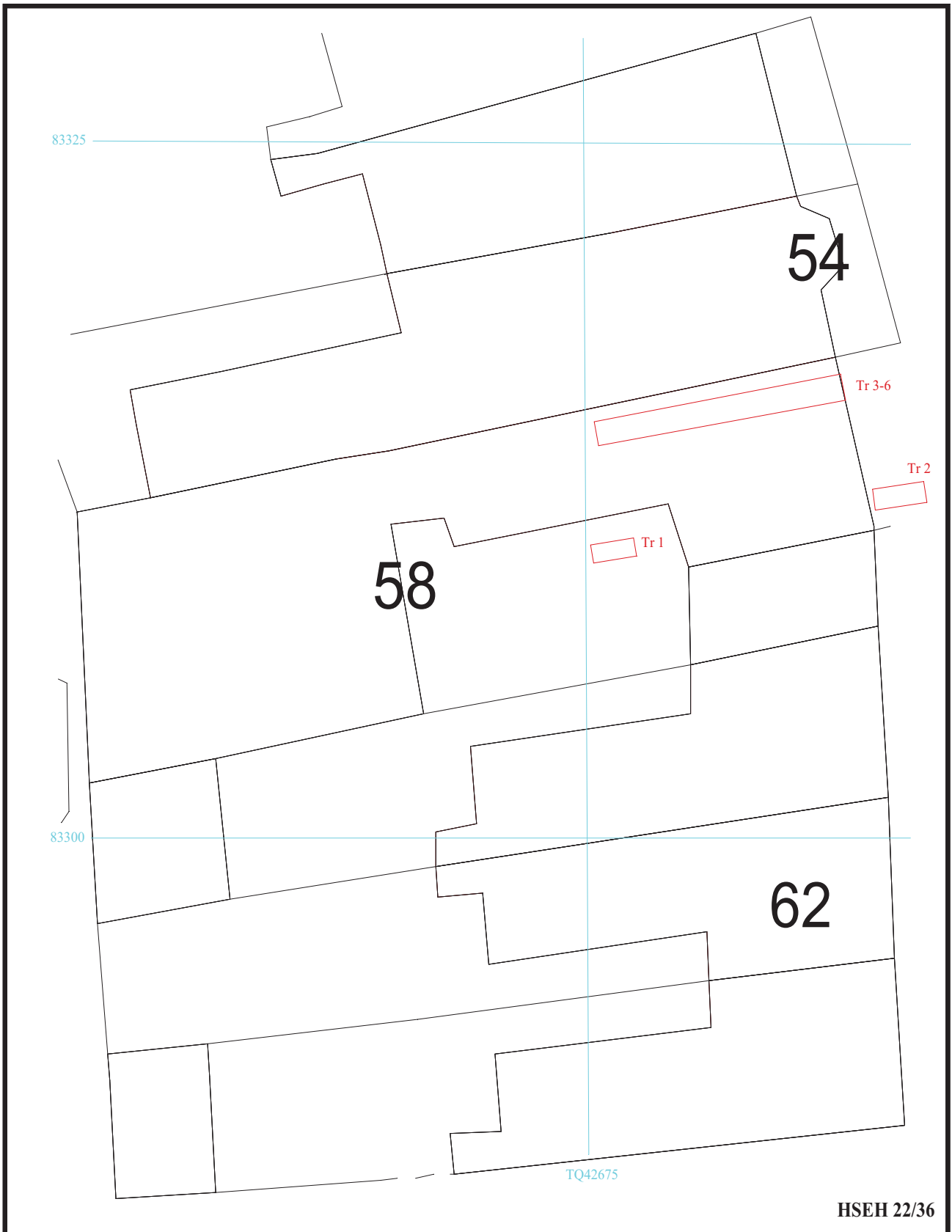
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off High Street South.

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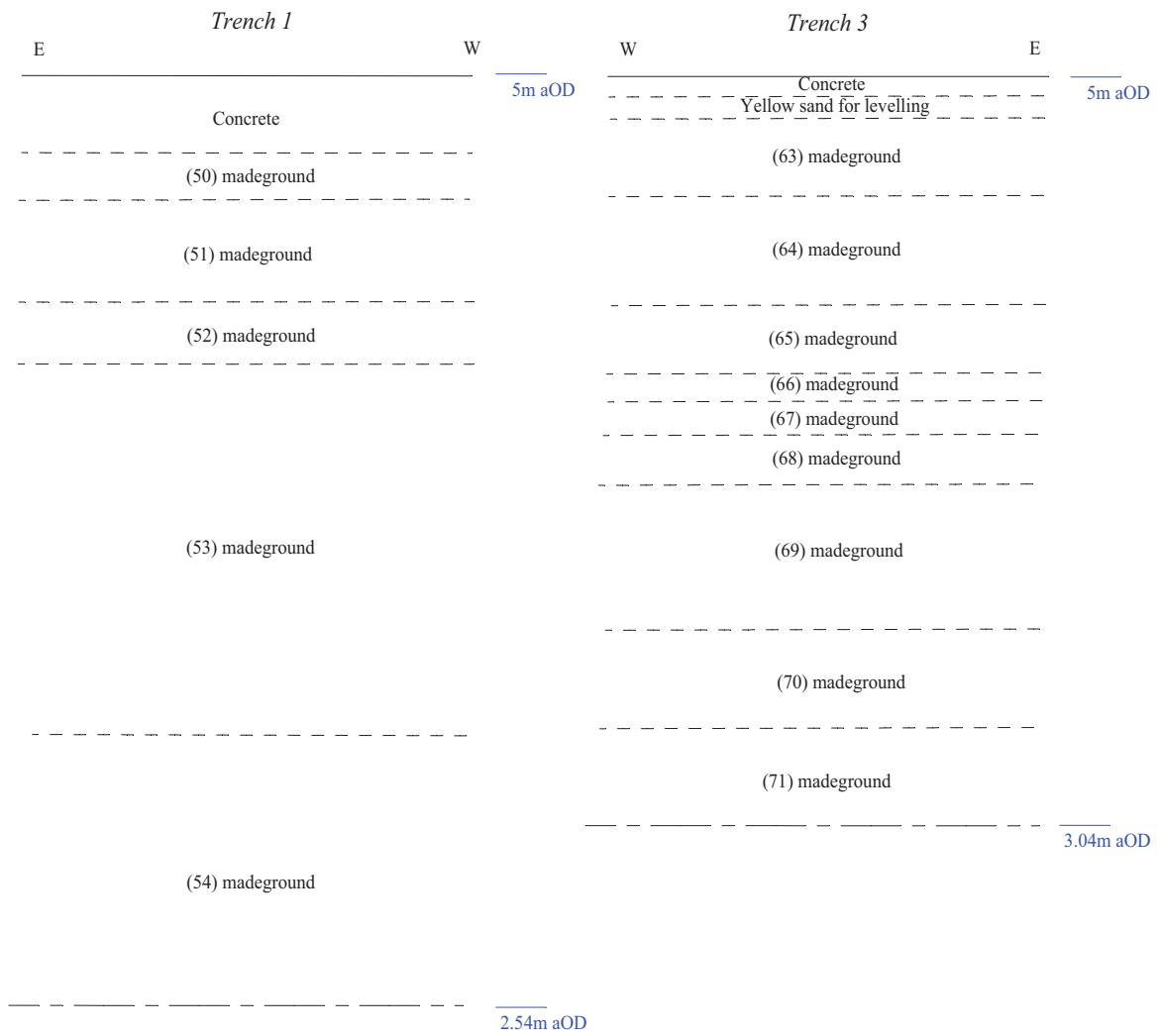




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Figure 3. Location of observations.





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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 2, looking North, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3 section, looking North.

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58 High Street South, East Ham,
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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 4 looking North.



Plate 4. Trench 5, looking North.



Plate 5. Trench 6 looking North.



Plate 6. Trench 1, looking South, Scale: 2m and 1m.

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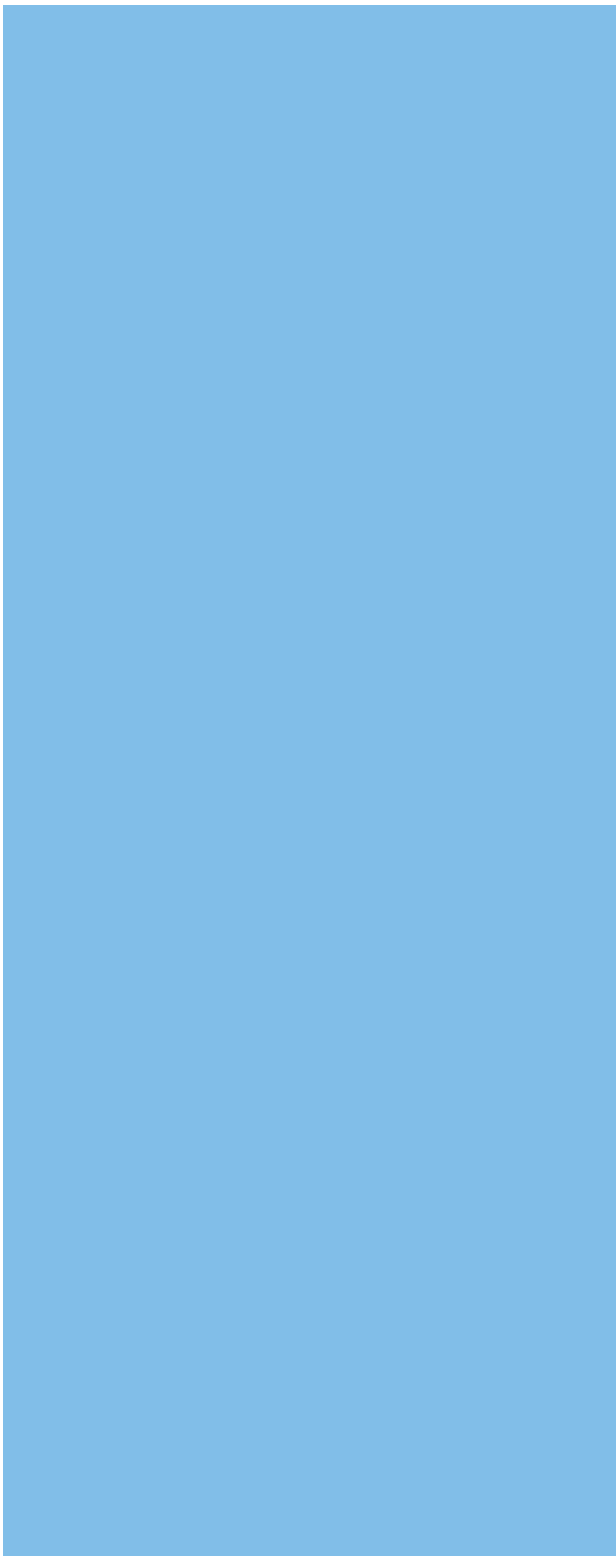
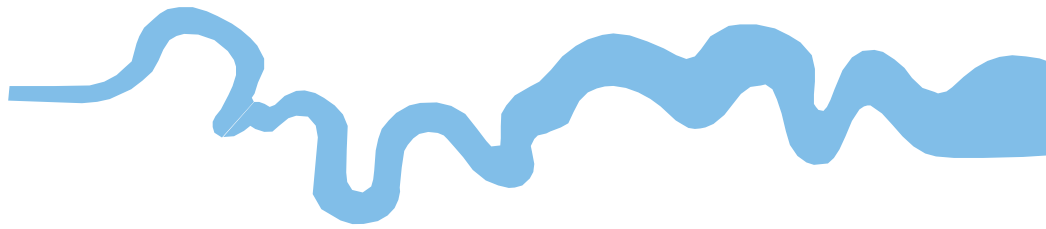
58 High Street South, East Ham,
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Plates 3-6.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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