



OAK WHARF
Timberwharf Road
London
N16

London Borough of Hackney

An archaeological evaluation report

July 2007



MUSEUM OF LONDON

Archaeology Service

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An archaeological evaluation report

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National Grid Reference: 534384 188158

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Summary (non-technical)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service on the site of Oak Wharf, Timberwharf Road Hackney London N16 6DB. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by Kier Partnership Homes Ltd on behalf of the client Family Mosaic.

Following the recommendations of Archaeological desk based assessment (Archaeological Solutions 2004) a single evaluation trench was excavated on the site and two augerholes drilled.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. Previous work undertaken by the Lea Valley Mapping Project indicated that the area around the site is likely to have been a low-lying wetland marsh for most of the prehistoric and historic periods, characterised by thick peat and alluvial deposits.

On-site evaluation of the sequence of sediments at Oak wharf confirms the presence of peat and alluvial clays (between approximately +4.92m and +0.86m OD). The deposits date from the current interglacial period (the Holocene). The organic sediments recorded at the base of the sequence appear to date to the early prehistoric period and are of geoarchaeological interest, having good potential for past landscape reconstruction. These deposits were sealed by 2m of modern made ground.

In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment is minimal.

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Front cover: The evaluation trench looking east

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Areas of evaluation

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at Oak Wharf, Timberwharf Road, Hackney, London N16 6DB, hereafter called ‘the site’. The site is situated on the west bank of the River Lea and is bounded by the River on the east, by the Ravensdale Commercial Estate to the south, commercial buildings fronting Maple Close to the north and Timberwharf Road to the west. The centre of the site lies at National Grid reference 534384 188158 (see Fig 1).

Modern pavement level near to the site lies at *c* 7.55m OD. The standing buildings on the site have recently been demolished apart from a few key structures (including a crane) which are to be preserved as part of the new development.

A desk-top *Archaeological assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Archaeological Solutions Ltd 2004). The *assessment* document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently carried out on a single trench and a geoarchaeological borehole survey.

1.2 Planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Method Statement* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MoLAS, 2007).

1.3 Planning background

The evaluation was carried out to assess the archaeological potential of the site, as indicated by the previous desk based assessment (Archaeological Solutions 2004), and in response to the planning condition attached to the development scheme.

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Kier Partnership Homes Ltd on behalf of the client Family Mosaic and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the *Evaluation report* which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage,

1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or
- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

1.5 Aims and objectives

All research is undertaken within the priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology, 2002*.

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

- What are the earliest deposits on the site?
- How does the palaeoenvironmental sequence on the site relate to the buried topography of the surrounding area?
- Is there any evidence for Prehistoric human activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence for palaeochannels on the site and how do they relate to Prehistoric and later human activity?
- To what extent have the alluvial deposits on the site been disturbed?
- Does any evidence from any other archaeological period survive on the site?

2 Topographical and historical background

A detailed description of the geology, archaeology and history of the site was provided in the earlier *Archaeological assessment* (Archaeological Solutions Ltd 2004). A brief resume was also provided in the method statement for the archaeological evaluation (Lyon 2007 section 1.3).

2.1 Geoarchaeological Background

The Oak Wharf site on Timberwharf road lies at the western edge of the alluvial floodplain of the River Lea (BGS sheet 257). The main course of the Lea lies to the east of the site, running along the edge of the Warwick reservoirs close to the valley side. This course is unlikely to represent the natural drainage pattern, which remains difficult to determine due to heavy modification (for example by culverting, backfilling, diversion, stream and weir creation).

The area has been subject to a number of different phases of leveling up in the modern period. The main deposits of archaeological interest lie between the base of the modern leveled made ground and the surface of the Tertiary bedrock. Bedrock pre-dates human evolution and is represented by the 50 million year old Eocene London Clay below river **alluvium** and gravel.

Mapping of the gravel surface topography undertaken as part of the Lea Valley Mapping Project (LVMP) (Burton *et al* 2004) suggests the valley sides are characterised by outcropping London Clay and have been subject to considerable erosion by tributaries of the Lea. Increased scour or a river meander cutting into the **Quaternary** gravels and bedrock of the valley side may be responsible for the deepened floodplain in the area of the site.

Low lying areas on the valley floor such as this may have been exploited by migrating channels during the **Holocene** and standing water bodies which have silted up through time. Abandoned channels and pools would have created areas of marsh and wetland. Historic borehole data shows thick alluvial and peat deposits (often over 3m thick) in the area of the site.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *Method Statement* (MoLAS, 2007), and the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994).

A single evaluation trench was excavated and a geoarchaeological borehole survey was carried out.

The trench was excavated by machine to the first significant archaeological horizon and monitored by a member of staff from MoLAS.

The location of the evaluation trench was recorded by MoLAS and the on site engineer. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was made in accordance with the principles set out in the MoLAS site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by using an on site TBM set up by the on site engineer (value 8.62m OD).

Boreholes were recovered using a gouge auger driven by a 2-stroke percussion engine. The meter-long gouge drilled through the sediments using the weight and action of the engine and was removed by hand with a jack. Boreholes were terminated when river terrace gravel was proved. The sedimentary criteria (relating to colour, compaction, texture, structure, inclusions, clast-size and nature of deposit boundaries) were logged to MoLAS standards on site from the gouge window. The interpretation is based on the field observation of the deposits. The characteristics of the site were then assessed on the basis of the landscape setting and buried topography as described by the LVMP. This is largely achieved by grouping deposits within the auger holes into **facies** and making correlations between key deposits noted in other borehole records. This informs on the potential for deposits of geoarchaeological and archaeological importance.

The site has produced: 1 trench location plan; context records; 1 section drawing at 1:20; and 10 photographs.

The site records can be found under the site code OWF07 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench location see **Error! Reference source not found.**

<i>Evaluation Trench 1</i>	
Location	East end of site
Dimensions	20m by 7.50 by 3.4m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	8.40–96m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	c 6.40m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	3.12m deep
Level of base of deposits observed in Augerhole	1.72m OD
Natural observed	1.92m OD

Trench 1 was located central in the east end of the site and orientated east–west. To reach the required depth and for health and safety reasons the trench was stepped. Up to 2m of made ground consisting of dumped deposits was found over a layer of alluvial clay. The made ground was removed by machine down to the surface of the alluvial clay. Once the clay level was reached the machine removed the deposit, in spits, down to the required trench depth, of 3.4m. No archaeological deposits were present within the deposit.

Two augerholes were also sunk from the surface of the alluvial deposit. The eastern of these (AH1) is described in detail in Table 1, with the sequence discussed from the oldest deposits to the most recent. The western borehole (AH2) is referred to in the discussion (section 3.3).

Oak Wharf Auger borehole AH1				
Facies	Unit	Deposit thickness (m from top of AH)	Description	Interpretation
4	c +5.04m OD			
	1.11	0.08–0.20	Firm brown, massive grey SILTY CLAY with frequent to common CBM	Alluvial clay made ground (Post medieval to modern)
3	c +4.92m OD			
	1.10	0.20–0.60	Stiff, massive greenish grey blue grey SILTY CLAY heavily mottled black (Manganese) with common small fragments of shell	Alluvial clay with signs of post-depositional weathering. (Iron Age/Roman or later historic period)
	c +4.72m OD Diffuse gradational boundary			
1.9	0.60–1.00	Stiff to plastic, massive orange SILTY CLAY mottled greenish grey/blue grey silty CLAY with common small fragments of shell	Weathered (oxidised) alluvium, suggesting sub-aerial exposure. (Iron Age)	
c +4.12m OD				

	1.8	1.00–1.50	Firm plastic, massive orange SILTY CLAY mottled greenish grey/blue grey SILTY CLAY with common small fragments of shell becoming more orange with abundant large iron-rich silty concretions	Alluvial clay with concretions suggesting weathering of organic clasts or material within root channels. (Iron Age)
	c +3.62m OD			
	1.7	1.50–1.75	Soft plastic, massive grey/blue slightly SILTY CLAY with root material occasional orange brown iron-rich clasts of degraded plant material	Floodplain alluvium subject to weathering and plant growth on surface (late Holocene – prehistoric, Iron Age)
c +3.47m OD				
	1.6	1.75–2.00	Very soft and plastic massive black CLAY with very small traces of fine root material with no clastic material	Alluvial clay deposited under very low-energy anoxic conditions (early or mid-Holocene – Neolithic or Bronze Age)
	c +3.12m OD Clear boundary			
	1.5	2.00–2.60	Soft to very soft very dark reddish brown slightly spongy CLAYEY PEAT with woody clasts becoming more clay-rich with depth. Sampled at 2.00m bgl AH1 <1>. Part of (animal?) bone recovered from core.	Waterlogged peatlands or very organic alluvium (Mesolithic boreal peat or possibly Bronze Age alder carr)
c +2.52m OD				
2	1.4	2.60–2.65	Band of very soft coarsely bedded light brown grey/whitish SILT	Silt inwashed into fen marsh/swamp on sides of Lea or possible lake or mere on surface of peat (early Holocene - possibly Neolithic).
	c +2.47m OD			
	1.3	2.55–2.75	Very soft very plastic dark brown PEATY CLAY with organic clasts	Boreal peat with clay component introduced by alluviation, pooling on surface of peat or slope wash (early Holocene - Mesolithic)
c +2.37m OD				
	1.2	2.75-3.20	Very soft mid brown dark brown slightly spongy CLAYEY PEAT with root material and some organic clasts. Sampled at 2.90m bgl AH1 <2>	Possible post-glacial wetland on sides of Lea. Boreal peat directly overlying gravel (early Holocene - Mesolithic)
	c +1.92m OD			
	1	1.1	3.20–3.40	Compact (?) coarse grey sands clast-supported black and grey small sub-rounded to sub-angular flint GRAVEL
c +1.72m OD Limit of borehole				

Table 1 Deposit sequence recorded in auger borehole 1 (AH1)

3.3 Discussion and interpretation of the deposit sequence (see Table 1 and glossary for highlighted terms)

3.3.1 *Facies 1: Gravels (unit 1.1) > +1.92m OD*

Clast-supported sub-rounded small black and grey flint gravels in a coarse grey sand matrix are recorded at the base of the sedimentary sequence. Gravel was noted only in the bottom of the core as the auger was unable to penetrate further than approximately 0.20m into the gravel surface. These gravels form part of the East Tilbury Marshes Gravel, the downstream equivalent of the Kempton Park Gravel (as mapped by the BGS) deposited during the mid to late **Devensian** glaciation 30 to 140 thousand years before present (kyr BP), **MIS 6** to **MIS 2** (Bridgland, 1994 and Gibbard, 1994). The gravel surface at Oak Wharf lie slightly lower than those previously recorded by boreholes in the area at +1.92m (AH1) and +0.86m OD (AH2) compared to approximately +2 to +3m OD (e.g. TQ38nw489 and TQ38nw141). The LVMP suggests that this deepening may be due to increased scour by tributary rivers at the end of the last glaciation (15–10 kyr BP) or a river meander cutting back into the valley sides.

3.3.2 *Facies 2: organic-rich sediments (units 1.2 – 1.5) +3.12 to +1.92m OD*

Directly overlying gravels soft mid- to dark brown clay-rich peat was recorded with some root material and organic clasts. Clay content increased up-profile grading into soft and plastic dark brown peaty clay. It is thought that these deposits accumulated with the development of wetland environments in this deepened part of the valley side, building up during the Mesolithic period (12-7 kyr BP). Tributaries in the vicinity (see above) would provide the water source and waterlogged conditions needed for peat accumulation.

A band of coarsely bedded light whitish grey silt is clearly noted in both augerholes, sandwiched within organic deposits (Fig 1). This deposit was very soft and may represent marl gathering in a **fen** lake or pool of standing water where the pre-Holocene gravel surface was low. Very dark reddish brown spongy clayey peat with woody fragments overlies the silt to a height of +3.12m OD. The date of deposition of the upper peat units are unknown, and may represent early Holocene Mesolithic wetlands or Bronze Age alder **carr**. Samples were taken at the top and bottom of facies 2 deposits for radiocarbon dating that would delineate the time frame of the lower part of the sequence. Of note was part of an animal bone found in the core at the top of unit 1.5 (retained within sample AH1 <1>). Animal bone and crannog piles (Gaz828) were found in the lower alluvium during construction of the Warwick reservoir in 1894.

3.3.3 *Facies 3: alluvial clays (units 1.6 – 1.10) +4.92 to +3.12m OD*

The change from the clayey peat of facies 2 to very soft, black clay at the bottom of facies 3 (unit 1.6) is marked by a clear, possibly erosive boundary indicating minerogenic sedimentation. Apart from traces of fine root material, the clay (250mm thick) was devoid of inclusions and the black colour suggesting deposition in stagnant water with no oxygen being introduced by water movement, root penetration or exposure to air during or after deposition. Unit 1.6 is overlain by 250mm of soft grey/blue silty clay with iron-rich patches and degraded plant material followed by a

series of firm and stiff silty clays varying in colour from grey/blue (unit 1.7) with orange silty concretions to orange mottled greenish grey with shell fragments (unit 1.8 - 1.9). These silty clays probably represent increased sedimentation from later prehistory (Iron Age). The colouration - greenish grey (iron phosphates or secondary iron alumino-silicates) and orange (iron hydroxides) - indicates **gleying** and rusting in reducing conditions. Mottling within these alluvial layers may represent seasonal variation in the presence of oxygen either in ground water, (by flooding) or via penetrating roots (varying reduction oxidation conditions). The black spherical manganese concretions within the upper alluvium (unit 1.10) are formed by iron-manganese bacterial colonies under conditions where oxygen is re-introduced into the system (i.e. reducing conditions being replaced by oxidising conditions) (Glazovskaya, 1983). This could have taken place with an influx in ground water due to rising river levels through history, or on exposure to air by drainage or root penetration in the later historic period with increased modification of the Lea.

3.3.4 Facies 4: Post medieval made ground (unit 1.11) +5.04 to +4.92m OD

Alluvial deposits are likely to have been subject to levelling, truncation and drainage during later historic and modern times. The firm brown/grey silty clay containing Post medieval material at the top of the borehole represents the presently surviving made ground relating to the last 200 years.

3.4 Summary and geoarchaeological potential

The profile of deposits recorded in the augered boreholes at Oak Wharf confirms predictions of the LVMP that the Pleistocene gravel surface is deepened in this part of the valley (facies 1), creating an early and mid-Holocene wetland zone (facies 2) preserving deposits rich in organic material and with evidence of sedimentation within a lake or **mere**. These organic sediments, shown to exist between approximately +2.70m OD (2m from top of AH) and +1.40m OD (*c* 3.30m from top of AH), have potential for past landscape reconstruction and are therefore of geoarchaeological interest. Closer inspection of the sediments in conjunction with assessment of fossils of plant fragments and microscopic fauna would provide more information on the processes and changes in the local environment taking place in the lower Lea during early prehistory and possibly indirect evidence of nearby human activity.

Although archaeological features were not revealed during trench evaluation the alluvial clays of facies 3 probably date from the late prehistoric and to late historic period, as does archaeological evidence known in this area e.g. Iron Age finds (Gaz436), Saxon pile dwellings to the east and medieval water mills to the north. On-site inspection of alluvial sediments indicates accumulation of clay within stagnant a water body, followed by seasonal flooding or wetting and drying and further weathering of the clays by a through-flow of water or exposure to air.

3.5 Assessment of the evaluation

GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'. In the case of this site no archaeological deposits were identified during the evaluation. Significant geoarchaeological deposits were identified, however. The geoarchaeological profile has been recorded as part of the evaluation and, as such, no further work is recommended.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

What are the earliest deposits on the site?

The earliest deposits on the site relate to an early and mid-Holocene wetland zone possibly within a lake or **mere**.

How does the palaeoenvironmental sequence on the site relate to the buried topography of the surrounding area?

The sequence implies that the area was a lake or **mere** which would suggest that it was lower than the surrounding area.

Is there any evidence for Prehistoric human activity on the site?

No evidence for Prehistoric human activity was recovered from the site.

Is there any evidence for palaeochannels on the site and how do they relate to Prehistoric and later human activity?

No evidence for palaeochannels was recovered from the site.

To what extent have the alluvial deposits on the site been disturbed?

Sharp deposit boundaries may indicate truncation by erosion and depositional hiatuses.

Does any evidence from any other archaeological period survive on the site?

The only deposits found other than the geoarchaeological ones were 20th century dumping deposits, imported onto the site to raise the ground level by *c* 2m.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of archaeological deposits on the site is low but that the potential for survival of geoarchaeological deposits is high. The general characteristics of the deposits recorded confirm that the site lies on the western edge of the floodplain with a deepening of the **Pleistocene** gravel surface. The organic nature of the overlying alluvial deposits indicates the likelihood of preservation of macro- and microfossils appropriate for palaeoenvironmental study (between +2.70m and +1.40m OD (*c* 2 to 3.30m from top of AH)). The sedimentary sequence appears to date - at least in part - to the early to mid-Holocene and as such

may preserve important information on local environments of the Mesolithic to Bronze Age.

Most of the geoarchaeological sequence on the site will be preserved in situ and so no further work is recommended.

4.3 Significance

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at Oak Wharf involves the construction of a school building and a series of residential blocks. The impact of the proposed development on the geoarchaeological deposits will be limited to piled foundations, which will allow most of the sequence to be preserved in situ.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological response to the deposits revealed during the evaluation rests with the Local Planning Authority and their designated archaeological advisor.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Kier Partnership Homes Ltd on behalf of the client Family Mosaic for funding the project. Also those members of MoLAS who worked on the project partially Mary Nicholls for the geoarchaeological aspects of this report.

7 Appendix: Geoarchaeological Glossary

Alluvium: a broad term referring to material deposited in a river channel or floodplain. Alluvial sediments are usually fine-grained and well-sorted although there is no diagnostic particle size as deposition depends on the energy of the water transport (i.e. from sands and gravels deposited by fast flowing water to clays that settle out of suspension during overbank flooding). Alluvium is frequently laminated or exhibits bedding structures, will often oxidise and change colour following exposure and may be rich in environmental remains such as molluscs or pollen. Impeded drainage leads to peat development and can also be considered to be alluvium, while tufa accumulates where calcium carbonate-saturated water issues from springs.

Carr: a north European wetland, a fen overgrown with trees

Devensian: the last glacial complex in Britain (MIS4-2) equivalent to the northern European **Weichselian** and the Alpine **Wurmian**.

Fen: a type of wetland often marshy and low-lying, deriving most of their water from groundwater rich in calcium and magnesium, and characterised by a distinctive flora. Fens will ultimately become a terrestrial community such as woodland through the process of ecological succession. Fens are often confused with bogs, which are fed primarily by rainwater and often inhabited by sphagnum moss, making them acidic.

Gleying: a biochemical process in which anaerobic microflora take part actively. Plant residues or organic matter dissolved in ground water are necessary as a source of energy for the growth of this microflora. Hence the intensity of gleying depends not only on the soil moisture regime but also on the presence of organic matter.

Holocene: or 'Postglacial' is the most recent epoch (part) of the Quaternary, covering the past 10,000 years, characterised by an interglacial climate. The Holocene in Britain is often referred to as the 'Flandrian'.

Kempton Park Terrace: comprises river gravels mapped at approximately +5m OD. Kempton Park gravels are thought to have been deposited during the Devensian and incorporate Ipswichian Interglacial (MIS5e). In the Lea, Gibbard (1994) terms these gravels the Leyton Member.

Late Glacial: or Devensian Lateglacial, the period following the Last Glacial Maximum lasting until the start of the Holocene. This period is subdivided into a warm interstadial episode (called the Windermere Interstadial in Briatin), followed by a cold snap (the Loch Lomond Stadial) in which local ice re-advance occurred.

Marine Isotope Stage (MIS): the widely used scheme of glacial and interglacial stages as recorded in the deep ocean cores. The oxygen isotope trace (or signal) obtained from marine microfossils within ocean sediments acts as a proxy for global ice volume and therefore records glacial/interglacial fluctuations, providing a climatic

signal of global significance. Each isotopic stage has been assigned a number, even numbers denoting 'glacial' (cold) episodes and odd numbers denoting 'interglacial' (warmer) phases.

Mere: a sheet of standing water, lake or a pond that is broad in relation to its depth.

Pleistocene: referring to the part of the Quaternary pre-dating the climatic amelioration at the start of the Holocene (approximately 2.6 million years ago to 10,000 BP).

Quaternary: the most recent major sub-division (series) of the geological record, extending from around 2.6 million years ago to the present day and characterised by climatic oscillations from full glacial to warm episodes (interglacial), when the climate was as warm as if not warmer than today. The observed pattern is of long glacial stages with cold and warm perturbations (stadials and interstadials) and short interglacials (usually less than 10,000 years). Human evolution has largely taken place within the Quaternary period.

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-29020

Project details

Project name Oakwharf, Timberwharf Road, Hackney N16 6DB

Short description of the project Single trench evaluation of sequence of sediments confirming the presence of thick peat and alluvial clays (between approximately +4.92m and +0.86m OD). The deposits may span our current interglacial (the Holocene). The organic sediments recorded at the base of the sequence appear to represent early periods in prehistory and are of geoarchaeological interest, having good potential for past landscape reconstruction. These were sealed by 2m of modern made ground.

Project dates Start: 25-06-2007 End: 29-06-2007

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes OWF07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type LAKE Mesolithic

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY STOKE NEWINGTON Oakwharf, Timberwharf Road

Postcode N16 6DB

Study area 150.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 34384 88158 51.5757559502 -0.06049831693420 51 34 32 N
000 03 37 W Point

Height OD Min: 1.92m Max: 4.92m

Project creators

Name of MoLAS
Organisation

Project originator brief Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service

Project originator design MoLAS

Project director/manager Jo Lyon

Project supervisor Ken Pitt

Type of Kier Partnership Homes Limited
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Paper Archive LAARC
recipient

Project bibliography 1

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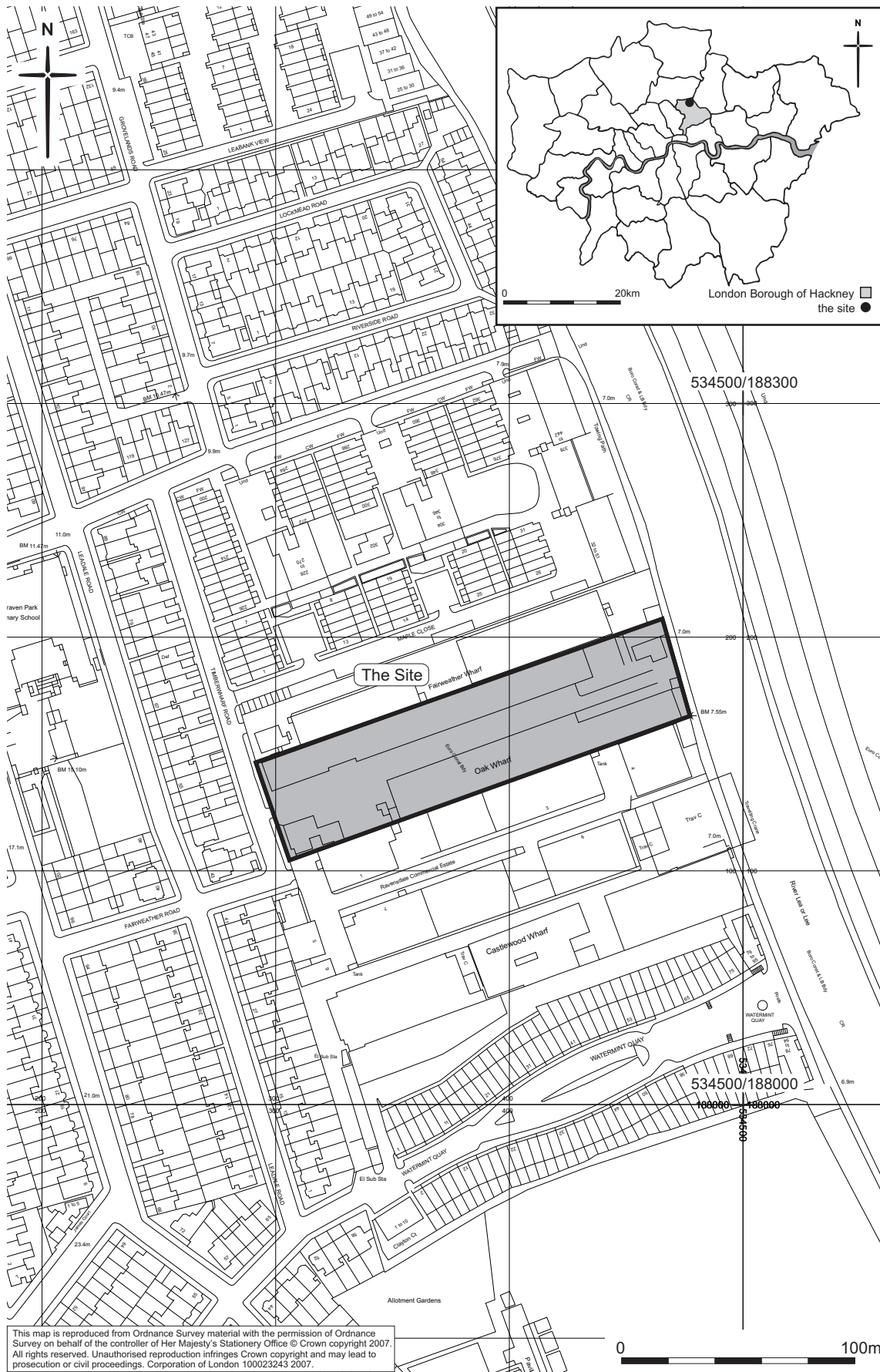
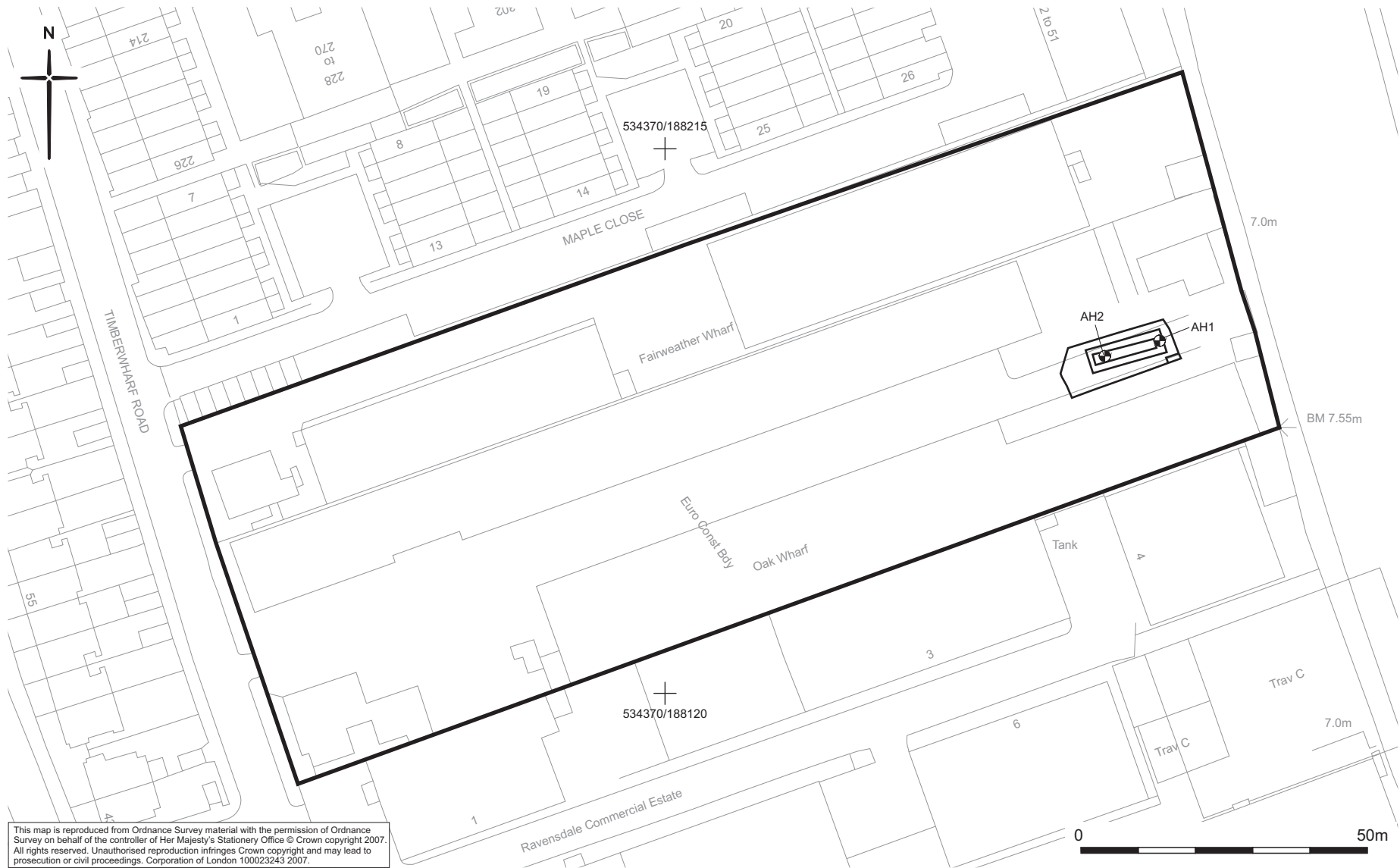


Fig 1 Site location



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Fig 2 Areas of evaluation