

46-52 FAIRFIELD ROAD
AND 74 WICK LANE
London
E3

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

An archaeological evaluation report

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An archaeological evaluation report

Site Code: FWT07
National Grid Reference: 537420 183180

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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 Fairfield Road/Wick Lane, London E3. The report was commissioned from MoLAS by AllenBuild Ltd on behalf of their clients Fairfield Road and Wick Lane Properties Ltd.

Following the recommendations of English Heritage two evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. Trench 1 revealed a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural gravel. The only archaeological features present were a number of Victorian rubbish dumps. Trench 2 had been truncated and revealed only natural gravel.

The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site. The archaeological potential for the site appears to be very low. Although the artefacts within Trench 1 were intrinsically interesting this report concludes that the impact of the proposed redevelopment is unlikely to affect any buried archaeological remains. In the light of revised understanding of the archaeological potential of the site the report concludes the impact of the proposed redevelopment will have no deleterious effect on any buried deposits.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The evaluation took place at 46-52 Fairfield Road / 744 Wick Lane, hereafter called 'the site'. The site is bounded by Fairfield Road to the west, Wick Lane to the east, Bow Bus Station to the south and railway lines to the north. The centre of the site lies at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 537420 183180 (Fig 1). Modern ground level within the site sloped from 10m OD by Trench 1 in the centre to 6.85m OD by Trench 2 at the eastern end of the site. The site code is FWT 07.

A desk-top *Archaeological Impact Assessment* was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Miller 2005). 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 two trenches in May 2007.

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 (Lakin 2007).

1.3 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by AllenBuild Limited 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

1.4 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 identified?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site?
- Does the area lie within the area of the Roman settlement or in its hinterland?
- Is there any evidence for Saxon activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence for medieval activity on the site?
- What evidence is there for the post-medieval development of the site?

2 The evaluation

2.1 Methodology

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

Two evaluation trenches were excavated at the site. Trench 1 on higher ground to the west and Trench 2 on lower ground to the east.

On the higher ground, the concrete ground slab had been broken out and cleared by contractors. To the east, deeper demolition had reduced the ground level to a greater degree. Trenches were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by staff from MoLAS. Further hand excavation and recording was undertaken by MoLAS staff.

The locations of the evaluation trenches were recorded by MoLAS Geomatics section using a combination of GPS (Trimble 5800 rover receivers with TSCE 5700 datalogger) linked to a fixed base station at MoLAS offices and an optical total station instrument (Leica TCR805 Reflectorless EDM). AutoCAD Release 2005 was used as the main CAD drafting package, and as an accessible intermediary environment between survey software and presentation graphics environments. This information was then plotted on to the Ordnance Survey 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 above Ordnance Datum were recorded using a site topographical survey supplied by the developers.¹

The site has produced 1 trench location plan; 7 context records; 1 section drawing and two trench plans at 1:20. Two boxes of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code FWT07 in the MoL archive.

¹ Glanville, Site Survey, April 2007; the levels were based on LUL data and are exactly 100m above OD levels. This report uses corrected levels data.

2.2 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see (Fig 2).

2.2.1 Evaluation Trench 1

Location	centre of the site
Dimensions	25.8m by 1.9m by 1.75m depth (max)
Modern slab at west end of trench	10.0m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	9.7m OD (average)
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	1.5m deep (max)
Level of base of trench	8.25m OD (max)
Natural observed	9.12m OD (average)

The trench was located just to the east of where the concrete ground slab still survived. The trench revealed natural gravels within a matrix of coarse orange sand [3]. The gravels were located at an average height of 8.4 but there was considerable undulation within them. In some areas the gravel lay within denser patches of browner clay; a sondage through one revealed it to be shallow and sterile. Overlying this, at an average level of 9.12 but sloping slightly down to the east, was a layer of mid brown silty gravelly subsoil [2] at an average thickness of 0.5m. There was no trace of any artefactual material within this subsoil. Overlying the subsoil was a fairly homogenous layer of mid grey / brown topsoil [1] at an average thickness of 0.4m. There were occasional flecks of brick / tile and very few fragments of pottery and animal bone. Overlying this topsoil was a rubble make up layer, at an average of 0.3m, for the former concrete surface slab. The hazy interface between these layers suggested a natural pedogenesis.

The only trace of anthropomorphic activity revealed was recent cut features recorded in the centre of the trench. In plan, the major feature was a 1.6m diameter circular pit [4]. There were also two smaller possibly rectangular features just to the west [6], [7]. In section however, these features were not so clearly defined and there may have been a number of recuts. The large amount of recovered finds therefore have been assigned to the fill [5] which appeared to be very mixed with silts, clays and clinker layers.

2.2.2 Evaluation Trench 2

Location	Lower ground, eastern end of the site
Dimensions	5m by 1.65m by 0.5m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	6.85m OD
Base of modern fill/slab	6.43m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	0.5m deep
Level of base of trench	6.43m OD
Natural observed	6.47m OD

The east end of this trench was defined by a former wall foundation. Some 10m to the north the surviving floor slab of the former basement lay at 7.1m OD. The size of the trench was also restricted by access routes on to the site. The ground level in the area

of this trench had been truncated during demolition activity and only natural gravel [3] was observed within the trench.

3 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'.

3.1 The archaeological coverage

Trench 1 occupied the area just to the east of centre. Trench 2 was limited in size because of building remains and access ways. Trench 1 was dug to an average depth of 1.40m and natural gravel was revealed along most of its base. The edges of the truncated ground to the east also revealed natural horizons at similar depths. It is probable therefore that most of the site occupied a plateau west of the Lea whose configuration was the same across the site.

This area will have been above the valley floor and the gravels were almost certainly Taplow Gravels of the Pleistocene period. The patches of clay within it produced no meaningful pattern but they may represent periglacial features. Certainly the gravel / clay horizon appears to undulate and only the pedogenic subsoil provided a more stable land surface. The overlying topsoil might have horticultural or even agricultural origins. The nature of the terrain and the absence of any major structural features suggest that the site was open land until relatively recent times.

The only features found in the evaluation were rubbish pits in Trench 1. These contained an assemblage of artefactual material. The assemblage dates to a specific period within the mid 19th century and almost certainly represents a 'household clearance'. The clay pipes (see below 3.2.2) are common for the period and could have been used by anyone. The glass comprised mostly domestic bottle fragments, though larger carboy fragments were also present. The pottery (3.2.1) appears to have come from a higher status background. The possible origins of the assemblage are explored below (4.4).

3.2 Finds Assessments

3.2.1 Pottery, Jacqui Pearce

Post-medieval pottery	110 sherds	42 ENV	14680g
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The post-medieval pottery from FWT07 was spot-dated and recorded in accordance with current MoLAS procedure, using established Museum of London codes for fabric, form and decoration. The data was entered onto the MoLAS Oracle database, along with quantification by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grammes.

3.2.1.1 Post-medieval (c 1500–1900)

Pottery was found in two contexts ([1] and [5]). There are sherd-links between the two contexts, which have the general appearance of a dumped pit fill deposit. Most sherds

are large and there are numerous joining sherds and complete or reconstructable vessel profiles. Much of the pottery recovered was probably discarded at the same time or over a short period. The two contexts together have a coherence in terms of fabrics and forms that allows them to be closely dated to the middle decades of the 19th century (c 1840–80). This dating corresponds closely to that derived from the clay tobacco pipes. The finds were probably discarded by a single household since they include pieces from a number of different sets or services.

The fabrics (wares) and forms identified are typical of those in widespread circulation and use in the mid 19th century, not only across London but throughout the country. They are dominated by the factory-made finewares that swamped the British ceramic market at this period and were largely made at centres in the Midlands (especially in the Potteries) and north of England (see Table 1). These refined earthenwares include both plain white pottery (REFW) and a range of decorative types of which transfer-printing was the most popular, especially among the middle classes. This form of mass-produced decoration was used mostly for tablewares (tea services and dinner services particularly), with blue underglaze transfers (TPW2) by far the commonest type. Found in a multitude of different patterns, certain enduring designs are recovered from most 19th-century excavated contexts in London, with ‘Willow’ outnumbering all others. Several pieces with this pattern were found at FWT07, all from dinner services, including part of a large, rectangular meat dish, a tea plate and a tureen. A dessert plate with the ‘Eton College’ pattern represents another popular design.

Other patterns found on the site have not been identified since the sherds are too small, including part of a large chamber pot in which only a small area of decoration remains. There is also part of a saucer decorated with a sheet print in the ‘tree’ pattern. Part of a large rectangular plate, also used for serving, has green transfer-printed decoration (TPW4), again in a pattern that is as yet unidentified, although part of a mark remains on the back. The handle from a tureen lid also has green transfer-printed decoration, while part of a jug handle has ‘flow blue’ transfer-printing (TPW FLOW), popular from the 1820s onwards. A near complete but broken cup and part of a saucer from the same set are decorated in flow blue with overglaze painting, and date after c 1840 (TPW6).

Table 1 Breakdown of post-medieval pottery by fabric type

Type	SC	% SC	ENV	% ENV	WT	% WT
English stoneware	30	27.3%	5	11.9%	9958	67.8%
English porcelain	5	4.5%	3	7.1%	193	1.3%
Factory-made refined earthenwares	47	42.7%	27	64.3%	2380	16.2%
Imports	1	0.9%	1	2.4%	64	0.4%
Red earthenwares	2	1.8%	2	4.8%	214	1.5%
Slipwares	24	21.8%	3	7.1%	1848	12.6%
Unidentified	1	0.9%	1	2.4%	23	0.2%
Total	110	100.0%	42	100.0%	14680	100.0%

Simple and cheap decoration was either painted or sponged. A cup with a series of vertical lines painted around the body in flow blue, and part of a bowl with overall blue sponged decoration exemplify these common types. More refined ceramics are represented by sherds from two cups and a saucer in bone china with moulded decoration and applied blue motifs in the so-called ‘Chelsea sprig’ pattern. Everyday

kitchen wares that could also be brought to the table include REFW (a plain rounded bowl) and yellow ware with simple slip decoration (YELL SLIP). Yellow ware became very popular throughout the country from the mid 19th century onwards and was used principally for a range of bowls, dishes, jugs and other kitchen wares. Several sherds from a large, rectangular baking dish in redware with trailed slip decoration (SLRE) were also found. Made at various factories in the Midlands and the North these were another popular type at this date, used in kitchens throughout the country.

Table 2 Breakdown of post-medieval pottery by function

Function	SC	% SC	ENV	% ENV	WT	% WT
Food preparation/serving	28	25.5%	7	16.7%	2149	14.6%
Health/hygiene	11	10.0%	4	9.5%	4600	31.3%
Serving food (dining)	26	23.6%	12	28.6%	1144	7.8%
Serving beverages	1	0.9%	1	2.4%	9	0.1%
Storage	28	25.5%	7	16.7%	6260	42.6%
Teawares	14	12.7%	9	21.4%	452	3.1%
Unidentified	2	1.8%	2	4.8%	66	0.4%
Total	110	100.0%	42	100.0%	14680	100.0%

A number of household storage vessels were recovered from the FWT07 deposit. These include a large, straight-sided jar in brown salt-glazed stoneware (ENGS) that is almost complete but smashed. It has a brown wash around the upper quarter of the body and a screw-thread inside the rim. This would have allowed it to take an air-tight lid. Similar jars are advertised in the 1873 price list of Doulton and Watts of Lambeth as airtight covered jars for pickling and preserving, and in the price list of James Stiff and Sons, Lambeth as 'common covered tripe, lime and butter jars' (Green 1999, 366, 362). Made in various sizes, such vessels were an important household item at a time before refrigeration. In the Doulton list, the jars were also designated for 'orchil', a lichen-based red/purple dye used as paint whitener and litmus (ibid, 167). The Fairfield Road jar is probably earlier than the price lists quoted here, but used for a similar range of functions.

Another large household item in brown salt-glazed stoneware is represented by part of a plain water filter. These would have been an important addition to the wealthier Victorian home and were designed to allow water to percolate slowly through a silicated carbon filter, after which it could be drawn off via a tap fitted in a bunghole just above the base. Part of this bunghole remains in the FWT07 examples, together with one of a pair of handles and part of the top of the vessel. No more than 12 water filters have been identified in 19th-century contexts from London (Nigel Jeffries pers comm.), so this is a most interesting find.

Other stoneware items include the base of a ginger beer bottle with the impressed name of the manufacturer, J. Bourne of Codnor Park, Derby, with part of the legend 'Vitreous stone [bottles] warranted [not to absorb] J Bourne Patent[ee]'. Ginger beer was extremely popular in the 19th century and Bourne bottles are among the commonest found in excavated contexts. This type dates between 1817 and 1834 (Askey 1998, 69). A complete dwarf inkpot in brown salt-glazed stoneware was also found on the site. The only other pottery was part of a bowl and the base of a small jar in London-area post-medieval redware (PMR) and two sherds from a plate in pearlware with blue shell edge decoration of a kind made at the turn of the 18th and

19th centuries. This would have been old when thrown away so may well have been an heirloom, kept as part of a service.

The assemblage from FWT07 probably represents household clearance of unwanted or damaged crockery, perhaps when the householders moved. The range of fabrics and forms found indicates a relatively well off, middle class, Victorian home.

3.2.2 Clay tobacco pipes, Tony Grey

Clay pipe	9 fragments (incl. 3 accessions)
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3.2.2.1 Introduction / methodology

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from FWT07 was recorded in accordance with current MoLAS practice and entered onto the Oracle database. The English pipe bowls have been classified and dated according to the Chronology of London Bowl Types (Atkinson and Oswald 1969), with the dating of some of the 18th-century pipes refined where appropriate by reference to the Simplified General Typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41). The prefixes AO and OS are used to indicate which typology has been applied. Quantification and recording follow guidelines set out by Higgins and Davey (1994; Davey 1997).

3.2.2.2 Quantification

There are nine fragments of pipes including three accessioned fragments. They were recovered from two contexts: a detailed breakdown of the assemblage is given in Table 2. The greater concentration of pipe bowls occurs in context [1] (three bowls and one stem). A lesser concentration occurs in context [5] (one bowl and four stems). Four pipe bowls were recorded and these were datable according to current typologies. Two pipes shows evidence of maker's marks and three are decorated.

Table 3 Clay tobacco pipe quantification

Total no. of fragments	9
No. of bowl fragments	4
No. of stem fragments	5
No. of mouthpieces	0
Accessioned pipes	3
Marked pipes	2
Decorated pipes	3
Imported pipes	0
Complete pipes	0
Wasters	0
Kiln material fragments	0
Boxes (bulk/accessioned)	¼ box bulk/accn.

3.2.2.3 Condition

Although some of the pipe bowls are complete there are no complete pipes. All of the pipe bowls show clear evidence of having been smoked. Apart from damaged bowls there is little sign of wear or excessive fragmentation.

3.2.2.4 Provenance and dating of the clay pipes

All clay pipes recovered were made between *c* 1820 and 1880. Both pipe dated contexts ([1] and [5]) are dated *c* 1840-1880 by type AO29 pipe bowls while context [1] also contains a possible earlier type AO28 dated *c* 1820-60. Two of the AO29 pipe bowls from [1] bear makers' marks and both those plus the possible AO28 are decorated.

Table 4 Clay tobacco pipe dates, by context (B – bowl; M – mouthpiece; S – stem)

Ctxt	TPQ	TAQ	B	S	M	Total
1	1840	1880	3	1		4
5	1840	1880	1	4		5
Total			4	5	0	9

Table 5 The chronological distribution of datable clay pipe bowls (ED – earliest date; LD – latest date)

	LD		
ED	1860	1880	Total
1820	1		1
1840		3	3
Total	1	3	4

3.2.2.5 Character of the pipe assemblage

The pipes are all of London manufacture. None are imported and none decorated. None of the pipes are milled or burnished so they are not of the highest (most expensive) quality.

3.2.2.6 Marked pipes

The makers' marks have been accessioned and are listed below.

3.2.2.6.1 MOULDED MARKS

Illeg B <1> relief moulded on either side of heel from context [1] type AO29 dated *c.* 1840-80. Maker unknown.

CG <3> relief moulded on either side of the heel from context [1] type AO29 dated *c.* 1840-80. Maker unknown (unless first initial is G and maker George Greenland, 1828-32, Bermondsey is listed in Oswald 1975, 137).

1.1.1.6.2 STAMPED PIPES

No stamped pipes.

3.2.2.7 Decorated pipes

Leaves down front seam of bowl <1> [1], type AO29 dated 1840-80.

Leaves down front and back seams of bowl <2> [1], possibly type AO28 dated 1820-40.

Oak leaves and acorns down front and back seams of bowl <3> [1], type AO29 dated 1840-80.

3.2.2.8 *Imported pipes*

None.

3.2.2.9 *Mouthpieces*

None

3.2.3 *Bulk Glass, Geoff Egan*

Post Medieval Green Glass	One shoe-box full, all from [5]
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Eight items have been identified. All are incomplete and are late C19th/early C20th in date. The items consist of:

Carboy base (large vessel)

Flask neck (thin)

Wine-bottle bases x2 & (different vessel) top x1.

Octagonal bottle

Bottle: 'LEA & PERRI[N]'; presumably for the sauce.

Square bottle fragment: ...(S)END'S / [??UNITED] STATES / [SARSPI]RILLA (i.e. medicine).

None of the items are considered to be worthy of further work.

4 Archaeological potential

4.1 Realisation of original research aims

- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*

Although there were some undated clay tobacco pipe stems from the topsoil, the earliest ceramic material retrieved from the site dated to no earlier than the 1840s.

- *Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity on the site?*

There was no evidence for any prehistoric activity at the site.

- *Is there any evidence for Roman activity on the site?*

There was no evidence for any Roman activity at the site.

- *Does the area lie within the area of the Roman settlement or in its hinterland?*

The evaluation suggests that the site lay outside any Roman settlement. There was no evidence to suggest that the site was inside or outside any settlement hinterland. Such a hinterland may have been agricultural or open ground, neither of which need necessarily have left traces of former usage.

- *Is there any evidence for Saxon activity on the site?*

There was no evidence for any Saxon activity at the site.

- *Is there any evidence for medieval activity on the site?*

There was no evidence for any medieval activity at the site.

- *What evidence is there for the post-medieval development of the site?*

There was no evidence for any post-medieval development at the site. The only traces of post-medieval activity comprised mid 19th century rubbish dumps.

4.2 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of natural ground surfaces on the site is high. There is also potential for survival of late cut features such as further rubbish pits. However such survival is likely to be limited to the centre of the site due to truncation at its east and west ends. The average depth of archaeological deposits where they do survive is likely to be 1.5m.

The ceramic assemblage is of interest in that it forms a closely datable, homogeneous group that was most likely discarded over a short period by a single household. As such it has potential to inform further study of the development of domestic housing in the area, social status and preferences, especially when considered alongside other contemporaneous archaeological assemblages from the area.

There is only limited potential for further analysis of the clay pipe assemblage including identification of makers from the one extant complete mark. Further work on the maker's mark might help identify their source.

The glass assemblage has little or no potential for further analysis.

4.3 Significance

The archaeological remains are only of any significance for the material contained within. There is nothing to suggest that the archaeological remains on the site are of regional or national importance.

The pottery is of significance in relation to the site and the immediate locality, throwing light on the occupants of the area and providing a well dated context for domestic activity. It may also have a wider regional significance when compared with other excavated assemblages of similar date, perhaps as part of Nigel Jeffries' and Rupert Featherby's Victorian London Project. The evidence of the clay pipe assemblage from FWT07 is significant only in the local context and in relation to the site.

4.4 Conclusion

The archaeological and documentary sources agree that the site itself was open ground. To the east of the site, fronting on to what became Old Ford Road (now Wick Lane) was Grove Hall with gardens laid out behind it. The gardens certainly covered much of the present site (Front Cover). The origin of the house is uncertain and it may have been an early 18th century mansion. By the 1830s the estate had perhaps become a little run down and was taken over by Edward Byas and run as a private lunatic asylum. A map of 1862 shows that a small building had been built towards the western end of what is the now the present site (Miller 2005, Fig 7). By the 1890s, however, terraced houses appeared on the Fairfield Road frontage of the site along with some smaller buildings at its eastern end (Miller 2005, Fig 8). It is probable that this was the beginning of the break up of the Grove Hall estate and the house itself appears to have been demolished some time in the same decade.²

It is suggested that the artefactual assemblage may be associated with Grove Hall and the Byas family and their successors. The material was of a higher status than that expected of the smaller terrace housing and certainly not associated with the Grove Hall inmates. However, some of the pottery and glass containers were more 'institutional' and may have belonged to the Asylum establishment. Redevelopment in the 1890s would seem to be the appropriate time for the ejecting of such material.

² Index of Lunatic Asylums and Mental Hospitals; http://www.mdx.ac.uk/WWW/STUDY/4_13_Ta.htm

5 Assessment by EH criteria

The recommendations of the GLAAS 1998 guidelines on *Evaluation reports* suggest that there should be:

‘Assessment of results against original expectations (using criteria for assessing national importance of period, relative completeness, condition, rarity and group value)’ (Guidance Paper V, 4 7)

A set of guide lines was published by the Department of the Environment with criteria by which to measure the importance of individual monuments for possible Scheduling. These criteria are as follows: *Period*; *Rarity*; *Documentation*; *Survival/Condition*; *Fragility/Vulnerability*; *Diversity*; and *Potential*. The guide lines stresses that ‘these criteria should not...be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case’.³

In the following passages the potential archaeological survival described in the initial Assessment document and Section 2.2 above will be assessed against these criteria.

Criterion 1: period

The archaeological remains in the Application site are specifically characteristic of the post-medieval period. Earlier strata revealed are of natural geological origin.

Criterion 2: rarity

There is nothing to suggest that any of the likely archaeological deposits are rare either in a national or regional context.

Criterion 3: documentation

There are no surviving documentary records for remains in the area of the site from before the 18th century. Piecemeal development only started along the Fairfield Road frontage in the early 19th century and the rest of the site had limited development until the 20th century. However, the fragmentary nature of archaeological remains from this period will render most of the documentary information unusable. It is unlikely that any information will be specific enough to relate to individual features.

Criterion 4: group value

It is likely that the archaeological deposits are associated with a contemporary single monument / event, possibly external to the site.

Criterion 5: survival/condition

The evaluation revealed that due to previous construction activity ground levels at the site will be horizontally truncated to dramatically different levels.

³ Annex 4, DOE, Planning and Policy Guidance 16, (1990). For detailed definition of the criteria see that document. Reference has also been made to Darvill, Saunders & Startin, (1987); and McGill, (1995)

Criterion 6: fragility

Although experience from other sites has shown that isolated and exposed blocks of stratigraphy can be vulnerable to damage during construction work, there was no evidence that any such blocks survive at this site.

Criterion 7: diversity

The archaeological deposits which are likely to be found in the site represent a heterogeneous group of archaeological material dating to the mid 19th century. There is no reason to suggest that this group *per se* has any particular value which ought to be protected.

Criterion 8: potential

It remains unlikely that archaeological features of any significance or potential remain at the site below the present ground surface.

6 Proposed development impact and recommendations

The proposed redevelopment at the Fairfield Road / Wick Lane site involves the construction of a mainly residential development of nine stories and a lower ground floor level at the north-east of the site. A commercial unit is incorporated into the development at the Fairfield Road frontage. Older foundations will be removed and new ones installed. However, most construction will rest at not more than about 0.5m below the modern ground surface.

The impact of this on the surviving archaeological deposits will be minimal. It is possible that other 19th century pits may survive at the site but the present evaluation has provided a sample of such remains. Any palaeotopographical evidence for the western slope of the Lea Valley appears to have been truncated by previous activity.

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

7 Acknowledgements

The Museum of London Archaeology Service would like to thank Mr Mike Steed of AllenBuild Limited for commissioning this work. MoLAS would also like to thank Mr Dennis Reid for on site assistance. The site was evaluated by the author with Paul Harrison; surveying was carried out by Mark Burch and Catherine Drew.

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8.1 Site Specific

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9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-29592

Project details

Project name	Fairfield Road / Wick Lane
Short description of the project	Evaluation of two trenches. Natural strata overlain by topsoil. Mid 19th century rubbish pit with good domestic assemblage.
Project dates	Start: 30-04-2007 End: 02-05-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FWT07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW 46-52 Fairfield Road and 744 Wick Lane
Postcode E3
Study area 60.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 37420 83180 51.53028494 -0.01865435207270 51 31 49
N 000 01 07 W Point
Height OD Min: 6.47m Max: 9.12m

Project creators

Name of Organisation MoLAS
Project brief originator English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator MoLAS
Project director/manager David Lakin
Project supervisor JMC Bowsher
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of AllenBuild Ltd
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC
Digital Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 46-52 Fairfield Road and 744 Wick Lane, London E3: An
 archaeological evaluation report.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Bowsher, JMC

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher MoLAS

Place of issue or London
publication

Description ring bound report

Entered by Julian Bowsher (JBowsher@museumoflondon.org.uk)

Entered on 2 August 2007

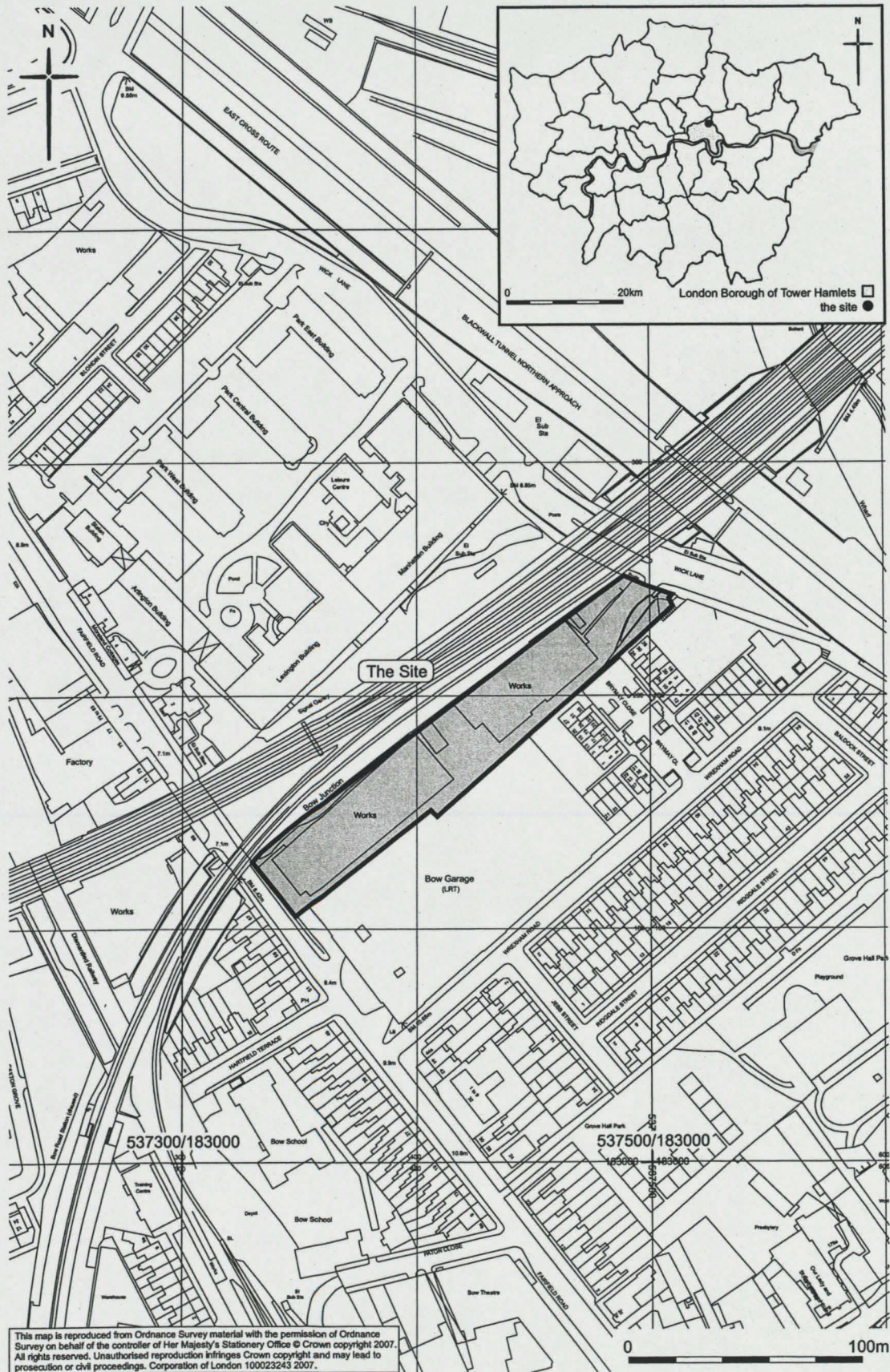


Fig 1 Site location

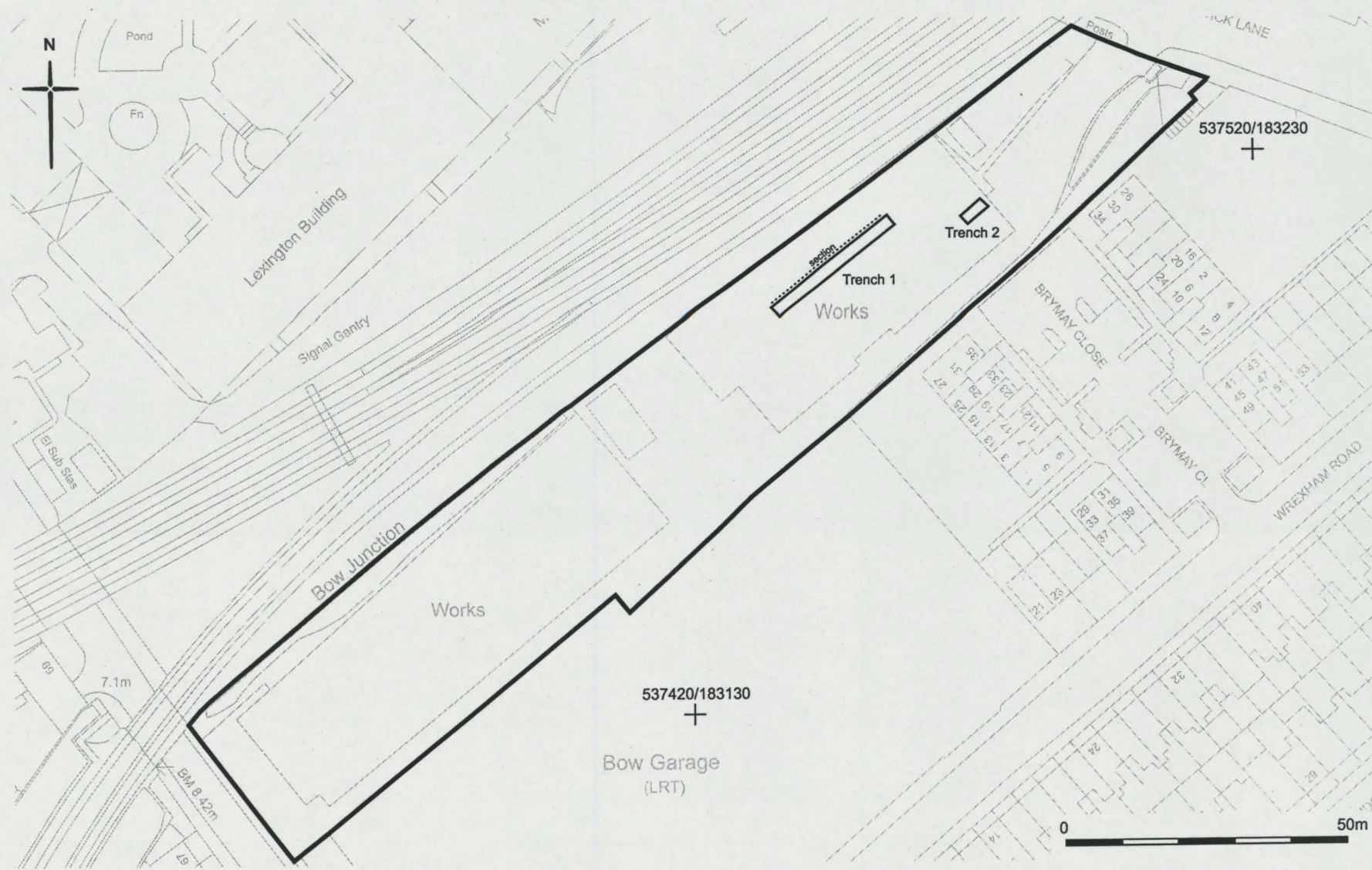
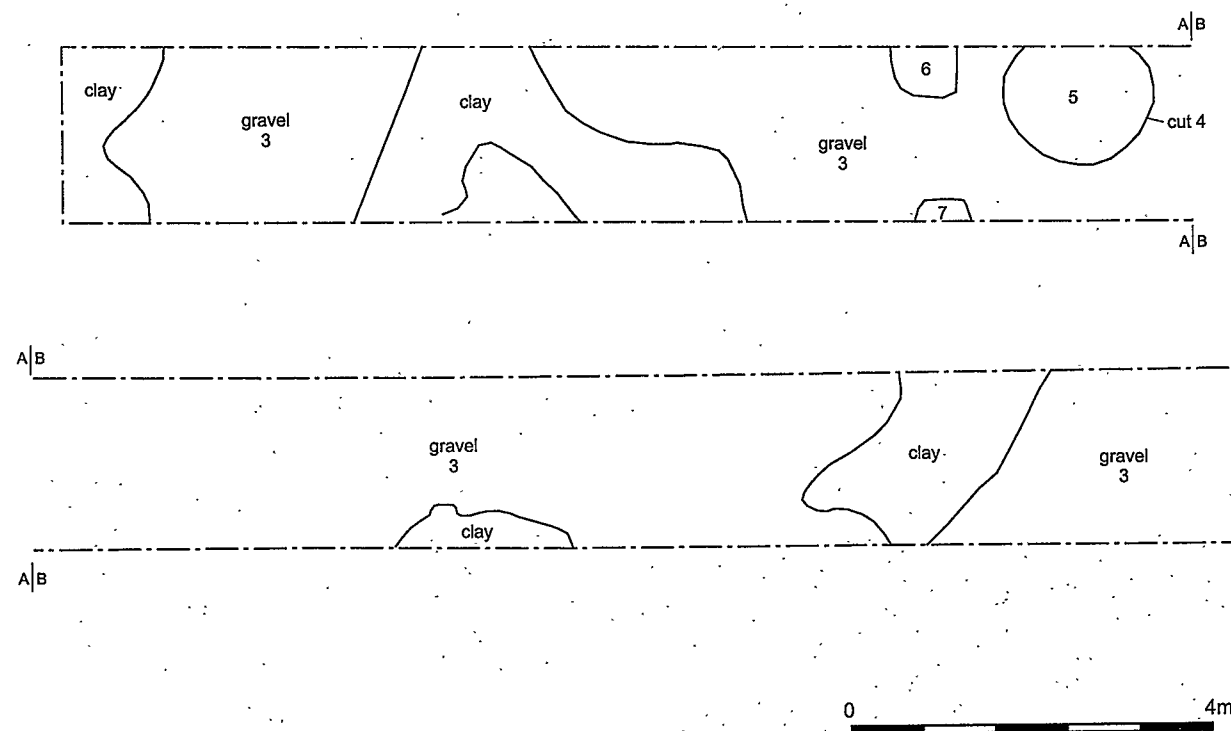


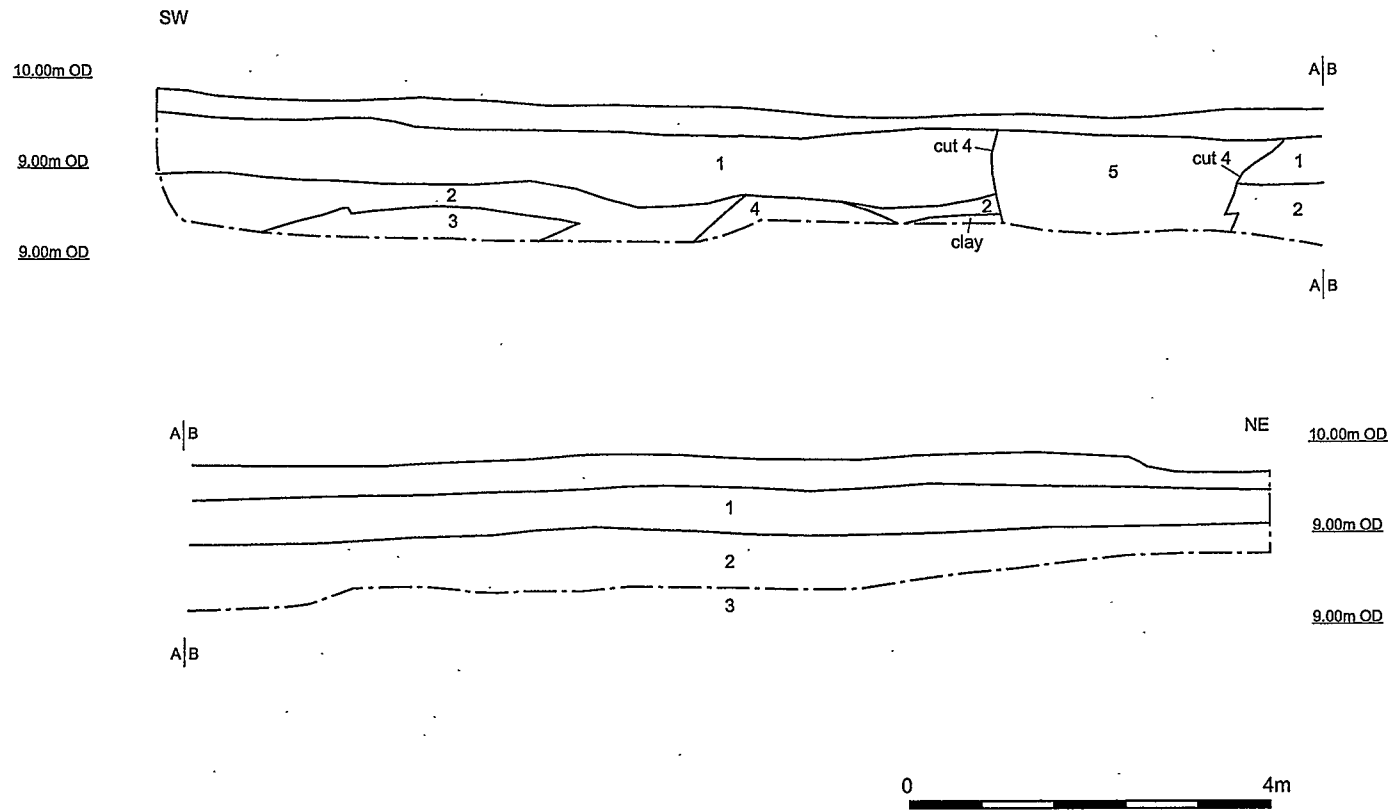
Fig 2 Trench location



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Fig 3 Trench 1, plan

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Fig 4 Trench 1, south facing section

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