

# THE FORMER THAMESIDE HEALTH CENTRE BARKING & DAGENHAM GREATER LONDON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 160901



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# The Former Thameside Health Centre, Barking & Dagenham, Greater London

## Results of a Desk-Based Assessment

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By B. Morris  
Report Version 01  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Work undertaken by SWARCH for NHS Property Services Limited and  
The Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

### Summary

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*South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment for the site of the former Thameside Health Centre, Barking & Dagenham, Greater London, ahead of any proposed redevelopment of the site.*

*The former Thameside Health Centre was built in 1950x69 during a major period of post-war urban expansion; it was demolished in 2008x9 and the site is vacant. The site is located within an extensive area of reclaimed saltmarsh that formerly belonged to the Abbey at Barking (est. AD666) and which was embanked and drained during the medieval period. The historic maps suggest the site is located just to the west of a major watercourse within that drained landscape. The modern history of the site would strongly indicate the buried archaeological potential is low or negligible. However, at a depth of 1.5-2m below current ground levels peat deposits of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are likely to survive; the proximity of the former watercourse could also indicate the presence of buried palaeochannels in this area. Therefore the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site is high.*

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September 2016

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MANDEEP ATWAL, NHS PROPERTY SERVICES LIMITED

THE STAFF OF THE GREATER LONDON HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD [GLHER REPORT 12725]

THE STAFF OF THE LONDON METROPOLITAN RECORDS OFFICE

## PROJECT CREDITS

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>LOCATION:</b>    | THE FORMER THAMESIDE HEALTH CENTRE |
| <b>DISTRICT:</b>    | BARKING & DAGENHAM                 |
| <b>COUNTY:</b>      | GREATER LONDON                     |
| <b>NGR:</b>         | TQ 45995 83114                     |
| <b>PLANNING NO:</b> | PRE-PLANNING                       |
| <b>SWARCH REF:</b>  | LBTV16                             |

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by NHS Property Services Limited and The Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (the Client) to undertake desk-based research for the site of the former Thameside Health Centre, Barking & Dagenham, Greater London. This work was undertaken in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. This programme of research was undertaken in accordance with best practice, and the ClfA (2014) and Historic England (2015) guidelines on the preparation of desk-based assessments.

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located on land to the south of Bastable Avenue, c.2.2km south-east of the historic centre of Barking, within what was once the Eastbury Levels. The land is flat and was reclaimed from the Thames marshes during the medieval period; the site is only c.2m AOD. The BGS lists five borehole logs at a distance of 200-400m from the site; these indicate peat deposits 0.6-2.4m thick survive at a depth of 1.5-2.3m below current ground level (see Table 1). They also indicate the water table sits at 0.3-0.8m below ground level. While none of these boreholes are particularly close to the site (the nearest one is still 200m to the south), they indicate that the potential for buried palaeoenvironmental remains is *high*.

TABLE 1: BOREHOLE DATA HELD BY THE BGS.

| Borehole                         | NGR        | Peat Depth BGL    | Peat Thickness | Water Table BGL |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Borough Barking Trial Borehole 2 | TQ45858293 | 2.74m             | 0.61m          | 0.83m           |
| Borough Barking Trial Borehole 3 | TQ46268294 | 1.83m             | 2.44m          | 0.15m           |
| Borough Barking Trial Borehole 4 | TQ45958285 | 2.35m<br>[+1m MG] | 1.37m          | -               |
| River Roding Barking 3           | TQ45738336 | 1.52m             | 1.22m          | 0.6m            |
| Channel Tunnel Rail Link SA3453  | TQ46058337 | 2.12m             | 1.98m          | -               |

The soils of this area are characterised as 'urban' by the Soil Survey of England and Wales, but are likely to have been the deep stoneless clayey soils of the Wallasea 1 or 2 Formation, with groundwater controlled by ditches and pumping (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology is comprised of the London Clay, overlain by alluvial deposits of Quaternary date (BGS 2016).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

This is the site of the former Thameside Health Centre. It is located off Barstable Avenue on land that was developed for mixed commercial and residential use during the period 1950x69; prior to this it formed part of the extensive reclaimed saltmarsh known as Eastbury Level. The former saltmarshes were reclaimed in stages during the medieval period, a process facilitated by Barking Abbey which was a major local landlord. Deep alluvial deposits seal peat deposits of Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

## 1.4 METHODOLOGY

The desk-based assessment follows the guidance outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA 2014), *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2012), and *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (Historic England 2015). The desk-based assessment was undertaken by B. Morris; the Greater London HER was consulted as part of this research.

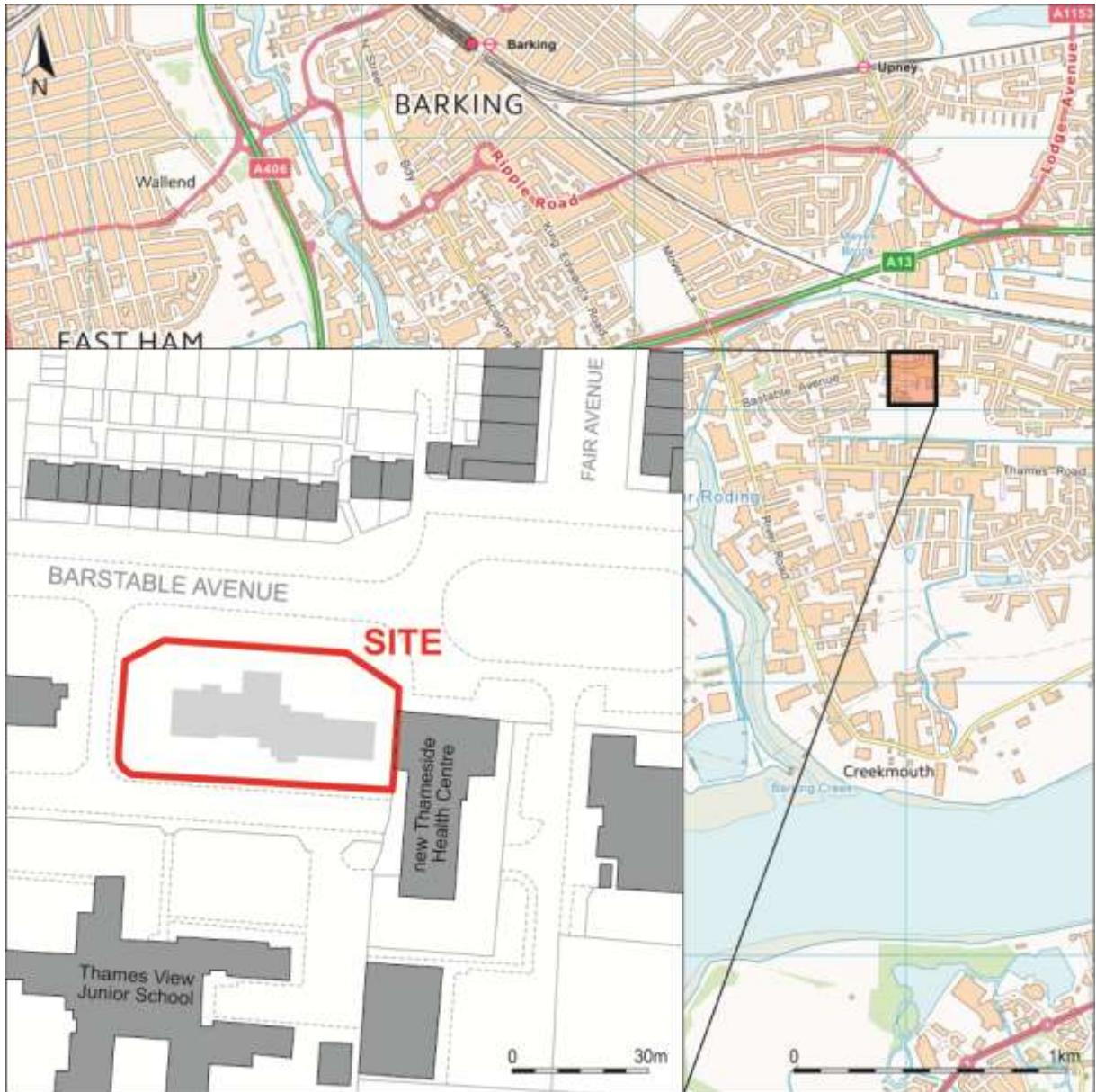


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED; CONTAINS OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2016).

## 1.5 PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

### 1.5.1 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Section 12 of the NPPF is specific to *conserving and enhancing the historic environment*. The relevant paragraphs are reproduced below:

*Paragraph 128: In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their*

*setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

*Paragraph 135: The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.*

*Paragraph 141: Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.<sup>30</sup> However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.*

#### 1.5.2 LONDON PLAN

The London Plan (March 2016) lays out the broad strategies guiding future development in London. Policy 7.8 governs heritage assets and archaeology:

*Paragraph B: Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.*

*Paragraph C: Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.*

*Paragraph E: New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.*

#### 1.5.3 BARKING AND DAGENHAM LOCAL PLAN

The Barking and Dagenham Local Plan (2011) contains provision for the appropriate management of the historic environment. The relevant paragraphs from Policy BP3 are reproduced below:

*The conservation or enhancement of archaeological remains and their settings will be secured by:*

*(a) Requiring an appropriate assessment and evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application for any developments in areas of known or potential archaeological interest.*

*(b) Operating a presumption in favour of the conservation of scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings.*

*(c) Requiring the conservation in situ of other archaeological remains or, where this is not justifiable or feasible and the need for the development and or other material considerations outweigh the importance of the remains, making provision for their excavation, recording and dissemination.*

*Where appropriate, access to and interpretation of in-situ archaeological remains should be provided, if this is possible without having a detrimental impact on the site.*



## 2.0 RESULTS OF A DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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### 2.1 DOCUMENTARY BACKGROUND

The site of the former Health Centre is located within an area that, until the 1950s, formed part of an extensive reclaimed saltmarsh. These Levels were reclaimed in stages throughout the medieval and post-medieval period. Excluding the waters of the Thames was costly: it not only required significant initial investment, but there were also the ongoing costs associated with keeping the embankments in good repair, clearing drainage ditches of silt and maintaining the sluices. Flooding was always an issue, with significant problems recorded for the years 1291, 1375, 1376-77, 1409 and 1489.

The Abbey at Barking – established in AD 666 – held the Demesne farms of Eastbury (*Estberi* 1321, *Eastmersh* 1343) and Westbury, and despite the revenues arising from the farming of the land, responsibility for maintaining and extending sea defences could be onerous. In 1291 the Abbess was licenced to sell timber from the Abbey woods at *Inholte* (Hainault) and *Alfrefenn* (at Tollesbury) to help pay for repairs, and the Abbey was excused of muster duty and similar dues in 1377, 1380, 1392 and several times during the course of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

From the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century the Crown took an interest in the maintenance of sea defences along the Thames. In 1367 a commission *de wallis et fossatis* (walls and ditches) held jurisdiction over the Thames from the City of London to *Berkyngflete* (Creekmouth), and in 1375 a commission was authorised to employ men to repair the walls of the marsh at Barking. In 1440-41 the maintenance of the drainage ditches was supervised through a manor court known as the *Watergang*. Later records indicate owners and tenants had specific responsibilities to maintain and repair the sea defences, a burden that fell disproportionately on the smaller tenants whose (in)ability to keep up with repairs always threatened the integrity of the whole system.

At the Dissolution, Barking Abbey held 285ha of marshland; whilst in 1740 the Eastbury and Westbury marshes covered an area of 142ha, making it highly likely the Abbey controlled the whole area. After 1540 and the loss of the major landowner, various supra-manorial bodies became increasingly important for overseeing the repair and maintenance of the sea defences. The Commissions of Sewers were established by Statute in 1532, and a single Court of Sewers held sway over an areas stretching from West Ham in the west to Mucking in the east. Flood events continued to occur, but the most serious breach (up to 120m wide) occurred at Dagenham in 1707, and flooded 2000ha and took 13 years to repair.

Some of the former demesne lands of the Abbey were acquired by wealthy London merchants who used the rich pasturage for fattening meat animals for the London market. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century butchers were paying up to £10 per acre for the land, and grazing continued to be very important. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century extensive sheepwalks are recorded in the marshes of Barking and Dagenham, with milk for cheese, rather than wool, being the primary commodity. Barking, in common with many of the south Essex manors, is noted for the numbers of sheep listed in its Domesday return, implying cheese had always been an important commodity in the district. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century market gardening became important for some parts of the former manor, but by 1969 commercial and residential development had engulfed the area.

This account is derived from *Barking Reach: Its history, proposed development and ecology* by D.J. Vickers 1992. Also see VCH vol.5 (Powell 1966).



## 2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1777 CHAPMAN AND ANDRE *MAP OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX*; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE 1799 OS SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED (BL).



FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 6" MAP (ESSEX SHEET LXXIV) SURVEYED 1862 PUBLISHED 1875; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 6" MAP (ESSEX SHEET LXXIV) SURVEYED 1893x95 PUBLISHED 1898; THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 6" MAP (LONDON SHEET L) SURVEYED 1913×15 PUBLISHED 1920; THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 7: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 6" MAP (LONDON SHEET L) SURVEYED 1939 PUBLISHED 1946; THE SITE IS INDICATED.



This sequence of early and later OS maps essentially demonstrates the layout of the reclaimed Thames marshes remains essentially the same from c.1799 through to c.1950. Barking Creek and the Thames are embanked, with the reclaimed landscape divided up by open ditches that discharge via sluices into the larger watercourses.

The pattern of field ditches to the east is fairly regular, with long narrow rectangular or sub-rectangular fields with droveways at 90° to the slope. This pattern is reminiscent of the semi-regular 'planned' late Prehistoric or Romano-British fieldscapes of the south Essex claylands (i.e. see Rippon 1991), and perhaps it is not impossible these reclaimed landscapes could be of some antiquity (i.e. Roman landscapes of the Caldicot Level in Gwent, Rippon 1996).

In contrast, the pattern of field ditches to the west, and including the former Health Centre site, is much more irregular, and suggests these ditches follow the semi-regularised line of old water channels within the reclaimed saltmarsh. It is tempting to assume this means the reclamation of this saltmarsh was relatively late in comparison of Ripple Level, but there is no clear evidence either way.

In this western area a natural hierarchy of drainage channels is evident. A major arterial drainage channel is shown originating near Ripple that follows a gently-curving course to discharge into the Barking Creek opposite the site of Creekside House. The 1862×75 OS map (Figure 4) shows this watercourse as flanked by embankments, indicating it was once itself tidal. While less detailed overall, both the 18<sup>th</sup> century maps (Figure 2 and Figure 3) feature a familiar sub-rectangular kink in the embankment flanking the Barking Creek where it discharges through a sluice, indicating this tidal creek had been reclaimed before 1777. A second major arterial channel is shown on the Chapman and Andre map, rising to the north of Eastbury House and discharging into the Barking Creek below Mayes Brook. By 1799 it appears to have been redirected into the Mayes Brook, and the resulting reorganisation of the fieldscape partly accounts for the irregularity of this landscape.

These reclaimed saltmarshes would have been used predominately for grazing (see above), as the high water table and heavy alluvial soils could make them a difficult arable prospect. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century London engulfed this area, but urbanisation was a largely post-War phenomenon. On the 1950 OS map the area is labelled *allotment gardens*, presumably for the expanding settlement of Barking. The 1969 OS map (not shown) indicates the allotments had been replaced by Bastable Avenue, associated houses and streets, and the former Health Centre. The adjacent Junior School first appears on the 1984 OS map.

## 2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located within the urban area of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, in an area of housing that was constructed without archaeological oversight between 1950 and 1969. The fieldwork that has taken place since c.1980 has invariably identified peat deposits sealed beneath later alluvium across the whole area, but little in the way actual archaeology. However, the greater part of this area is classified as an APA (Beckton *Archaeological Priority Area*).

### 2.3.1 PREHISTORIC TO ROMANO-BRITISH

As noted, the natural stratigraphy of the entire area is characterised by peat deposits up to 2.5m thick sealed beneath later alluvium. It is noted in a number of instances that tree trunks survive within these deposits, and at 12 Parkview Gardens/Alfreds Way some of the wood appeared to be worked [MLO74, MLO716]. Beaver-cut wood can be mistaken for anthropogenic material (e.g. see Coles 2006), but as it was reportedly accompanied by *Bos* bones (surprising in a peat context) it may be intrusive. The peat is undated, but is assumed to be late Neolithic and Bronze Age; timber trackways (e.g. at Beckton, Greenwood *et al.* 2006, 12, 50) have been uncovered in similar deposits.

A number of Neolithic or Bronze Age artefacts have been reported from the Barking Creek area (e.g. MLO211, MLO241, MLO319), but these were all found in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century and are poorly located as a result. The association of these finds with the Creek may represent a tradition of votive deposition in a watery place, or simply represent chance finds from eroding deposits.

Building works at 496 Ripple Road exposed a stone coffin with skeletal remains associated with 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Romano-British pottery and a possible cremation burial (MLO317), and there is a very poorly-located report of a Belgic greyware vessel from Barking (MLO108). Otherwise, evidence for late Prehistoric or Romano-British activity is very scarce. However, it is not impossible parts of what is assumed to be a medieval reclaimed landscape could be of late Prehistoric or Romano-British date (compare the Caldicot Level in Gwent, Rippon 1996, and note the red hills common to eastern parts of Essex are notable for their absence here). Fieldwork carried out in at the Stanford Wharf Nature Reserve has established the low-lying areas bordering the Thames were used and utilised during this period (Biddulph *et al.* 2012).

### 2.3.2 MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL

As outlined in the documentary background, this area was probably reclaimed in stages during the medieval period, with earth banks reinforced with timbers established around the edge of intakes to exclude sea water, drained by ditches with sluice gates that emptied into the larger watercourses. The historic cartographic sources indicate the former Health Centre is located adjacent to a major arterial channel that was reclaimed relatively late in the process. The land could be used for arable, but was extensively used for pasture, for sheep producing milk for cheese, and for fattening animals for the London market. There does not seem to be the same tradition of isolated *wick* farmsteads, as can be found to the east around Canvey Island; rather, the land was held by 'upland' farms/owners (Eastbury, Westbury and Ripple Levels were divided up into 182 parcels held by 48 owners in 1740, Vickers 1992).

### 2.3.3 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

This area was largely built up in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with minimal archaeological investigation; the former Thamesview Health Centre was built at the same time. Prior to this the area was used for allotment gardening. The readily-available historic aerial photographs for the site (RAF 1945, *Britain from Above* flight AFL3318) confirm the historic narrative without contributing further.

### 2.3.4 SITE ASSESSMENT

The site was not visited as part of this assessment. Readily-accessible aerial photography indicates the buildings were levelled in 2008×9 and the site is now overgrown. The building occupied the central part of the plot, with an area of tarmac car park to the south-west side; the foundations and services associated with this structure undoubtedly survive. It is probable that if buried archaeological features or deposits are present, they will have been heavily disturbed during the construction, use, and demolition of this building.

### 2.3.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The archaeological potential of the site would appear to be low, based on its location on a reclaimed saltmarsh and the history of its use since 1945. If buried archaeological features or deposits were present, they will have been badly damaged by the former Health Centre. However, the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site is likely to be considerable: at a depth of 1.5-2m below current ground level, peat deposits of 1-2m in thickness are likely to survive. The location of the site adjacent to a former arterial watercourse could indicate those peat deposits will have been subject to erosion and degraded as a result; alternatively, it could suggest that there are palaeo-channel sequences here with the potential to explore the palaeo-environment in this area (i.e. Wilkinson 1988).

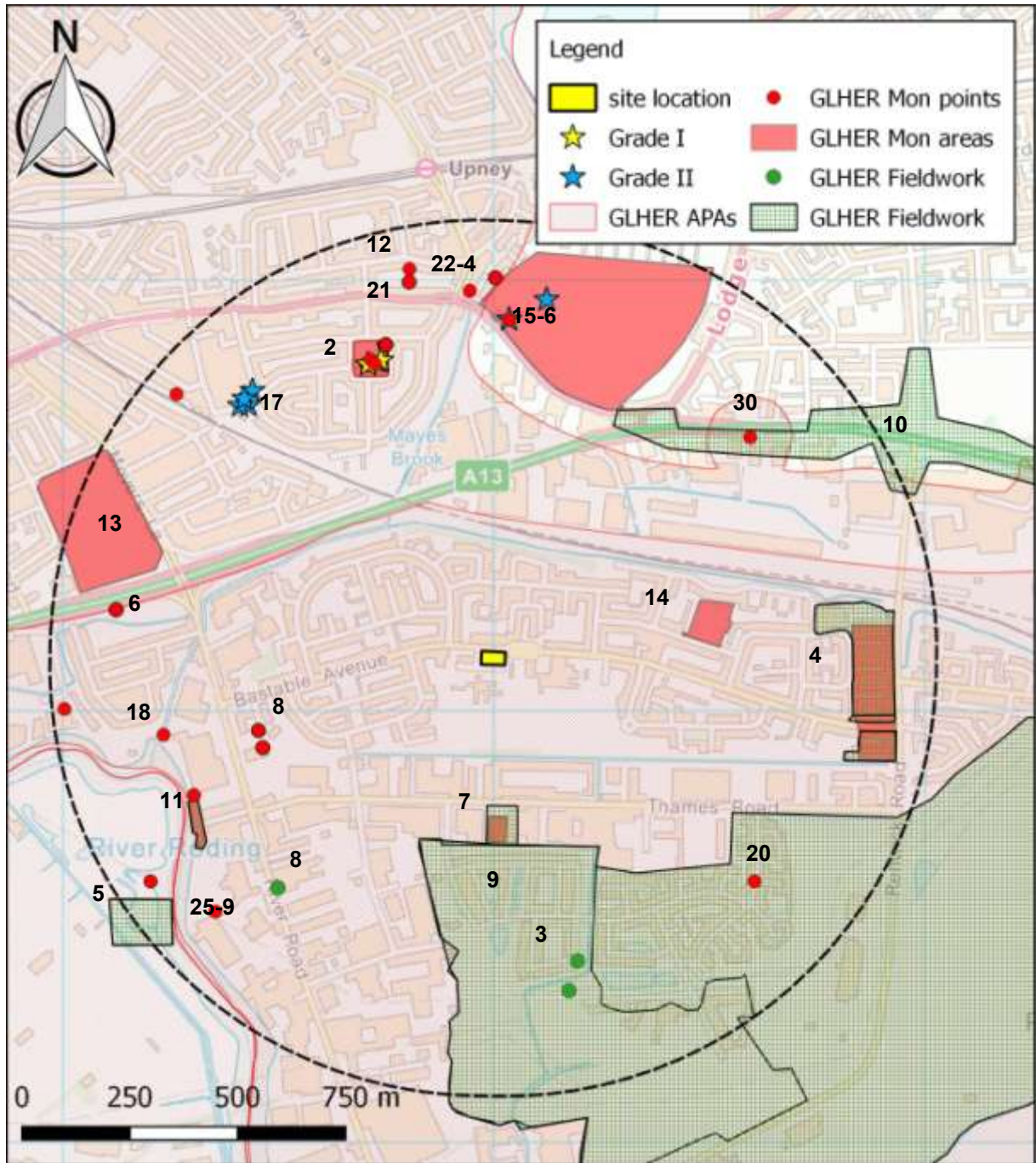


FIGURE 8: MAP OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM (SOURCE: GREATER LONDON HER; CONTAINS DATA OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2016).

TABLE 1: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: GREATER LONDON HER).

|   | Identifier                      | Site Name       | Record | Notes   |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------|---|
| 1 | DLO35896                        | Beckton APA     | APA    | Tier 3 APA classified on the basis of its extensive historic industry and infrastructure, dominated since the 19 <sup>th</sup> century by large gas- and sewage works. In underdeveloped parts of the APA there is high potential for buried preserved organic remains. |
| 2 | ELO1423<br>ELO2528              | Eastbury Manor  | WB     | Monitoring of the removal of a garden wall concluded it dated to the late 16 <sup>th</sup> century.   |
|   | ELO271<br>MLO76479<br>MLO77463  | Eastbury Manor  | Eval.  | Small trial trench revealed the foundations of a wall shown on a map of 1737.   |
|   | ELO5156<br>MLO77997<br>MLO77998 | Eastbury Manor  | Excav. | Four trenches opened within the building; the stratigraphical sequence supported the phasing for the house.   |
|   | ELO11241                        | Eastbury Square | HBR    | Historic building recording at Eastbury Manor. The House is an  |

THE FORMER THAMESIDE HEALTH CENTRE, BARKING & DAGENHAM, GREATER LONDON

|    | Identifier                                | Site Name   | Record   | Notes  |
|----|---|---|----------|--|
|    | MLO78441<br>MLO65922<br>MLO78429          |   |          | usually-complete example of a small mid-16 <sup>th</sup> century mansion, Grade I Listed [rainwater head dated 1572]. H-plan, three storeys, red brick with plastered brick mullioned windows, one surviving brick stair turret.   |
|    | ELO15066<br>ELO14920                      | Eastbury Square   | Dendro.  | Dendro study identified timbers felled in spring AD1566.   |
|    | ELO2709                                   | Eastbury Square   | Geophys. | Resistance survey.   |
|    | ELO9025<br>MLO77900                       | Eastbury Square   | WB       | Monitoring identified historic floors.   |
|    | ELO9028<br>MLO67250                       | Eastbury Square   | Eval.    | Six trenches identified levelling deposits and 19 <sup>th</sup> century pits.  |
|    | ELO5013<br>MLO149                         | Eastbury Square   | DBA      | -  |
| 3  | ELO11693                                  | Thames Rd/Choats Rd   | WB       | Two test pits excavated; no archaeological features or artefacts.  |
|    | ELO11746                                  | Thames Rd/Choats Rd   | GeoArch. | Monitoring of geotechnical pits indicates 'the area will have been suitable for human use, possibly even habitation, during parts of the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age'.  |
| 4  | ELO11761                                  | Renwick Road  | DBA      | -  |
|    | ELO12392<br>MLO103520                     | Renwick Road  | DBA      | Borehole survey identified peat deposits dated to the Neolithic; they started to develop 4230-3710BC to the south, ceasing to accumulate 1630-1050BC.  |
| 5  | ELO12282<br>ELO12340                      | Jennings Lane/Eric Clarke Lane/<br>Royal Docks Rd/Creakside<br>Backwater/Beckton/Newham | WB       | Monitoring of work at the Beckton Sewage Works failed to identify any archaeological finds or features.  |
| 6  | ELO2714<br>ELO5819<br>MLO255<br>MLO582    | 12 Parkview Gardens/Alfreds<br>Way  | WB       | Construction of fish ponds revealed a thick deposit of peat with well-preserved tree trunks at 0.5m below ground level. The peat contained immature Bos bone (unlikely given bone rarely survives in peat?) and the tree-trunks appeared worked. A pointed stake was also found nearby (beaver?).  |
| 7  | ELO2715<br>MLO67279                       | 18 Thames Road  | Eval.    | Two trenches revealed peat deposits up to 1.25m thick.   |
| 8  | ELO4461<br>ELO4463<br>MLO74<br>MLO716     | River Road (BARDAG site)  | WB       | One trench revealed undated peat deposits and an ephemeral and undated linear feature.   |
| 9  | ELO8369                                   | River Rd (Area North Phases 2B<br>and 2C)   | DBA      | Desk-based analysis of test pit and borehole data. Basal deposits of Pleistocene gravels within a braided river channel are overlain with silty and sandy clays with areas of low-lying organic clays with peat. Blanket peat began to develop during the Neolithic and Bronze Age. These are sealed beneath alluvial deposits dating from the Iron Age, indicating the development of saltmarsh conditions. |
| 10 | ELO8245                                   | A13 Renwick Rd Junction   | GeoArch. | Monitoring of 12 test pits identified Pleistocene gravels overlain with made ground, with some potential for palaeo-environmental deposits in a buried incised channel.  |
| 11 | ELO7534<br>MLO58860<br>MLO99280<br>MLO588 | 8 River Road/Wellbeck Steel   | WB       | Monitoring identified timbers in the side of Barking Creek that probably relate to a pre-1930s wall or jetty. Peat encountered at 2m below ground level with 'frequent' ash tree trunks. Contractors verbal reference to a Victorian bottle bump then sealed with concrete.  |
| 12 | MLO236                                    | Dawson Avenue   | Doc.     | Windmill shown on map of 1653.   |
| 13 | MLO102747                                 | Greatfields Rd Park   | Mon.     | Greatfields Park (formerly Movers Lane Playing Field) as opened in 1929. It contained four tennis lawns (of which one survives), a paddling pool (disused), 18-hole putting green, children's gymnasium, and bandstands (lost). Some of the tree planting survives.  |
| 14 | MLO106942                                 | Newland Park, Roxwell Road  | Mon.     | Open space for the Thames View Estate, reimaged into its current form in 1999/2001 as part of an artscapes project.  |
| 15 | MLO101359<br>MLO101358                    | Rippleside Cemetery   | Mon.     | Public cemetery purchased for £6000 and opened 1886, extended in c.1950. 19 <sup>th</sup> century lodge, chapel, gates and railings survive.   |
| 16 | MLO101018                                 | Rippleside Cemetery War<br>Memorial   | Mon.     | WWI memorial of Portland stone, 'Cross of Sacrifice' type designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield. A free-standing Latin cross on an octagonal base with inscriptions around the sides.   |
| 17 | MLO100787                                 | St Patrick's Church, Blake<br>Avenue  | Mon.     | Grade II church consecrated 1940; built to the designs of AE Wiseman.  |
| 18 | MLO141                                    | River Rd  | Doc.     | Bridge documented in 1608.   |
| 19 | MLO246                                    | River Rd  | Doc.     | Place-name Dampers Dock documented 1545.   |
| 20 | MLO724                                    | Barking Power Station   | Doc.     | Made-ground deposits/landfill documented.  |
| 21 | MLO317                                    | 496 Ripple Rd   | Findspot | Building works revealed a stone coffin containing several  |



THE FORMER THAMESIDE HEALTH CENTRE, BARKING & DAGENHAM, GREATER LONDON

|    | Identifier | Site Name                      | Record   | Notes   |
|----|------------|--------------------------------|----------|---|
|    |            |                                |          | skeletons. A 3 <sup>rd</sup> century RB pot was recovered from the coffin, and other pots, including one reportedly containing cremated bone, were found nearby.                  |
| 22 | MLO574     | Near Barking [poorly located]  | Findspot | Part of a Neolithic stone axe found in 1916.  |
| 23 | MLO574     | Barking [poorly located]       | Findspot | Palaeolithic implements in drift deposits at Barking c.1897.  |
| 24 | MLO108     | Barking [poorly located]       | Findspot | 'Belgic' vase of brown greyware found 1901.   |
| 25 | MLO211     | Barking Creek [poorly located] | Findspot | Bronze sword hilt ('The Wells Sword') found c.1 mile 'west' of Barking. 4 rivet holes to the shoulder and a double-engraved line of demarcation between the blade and the handle. |
| 26 | MLO211     | Barking Creek [poorly located] | Findspot | Bronze square-socketed axe, moulded to the top with a raised pellet to each face.   |
| 27 | MLO241     | Barking Creek [poorly located] | Findspot | Bronze looped square-socketed axe, with two curved lines below the mouth.   |
| 28 | MLO319     | Barking Creek [poorly located] | Findspot | Polished stone axe found 1916, late Neolithic or Bronze Age.  |
| 29 | MLO109     | Jenkins Lane [poorly located]  | Findspot | Stone axe-hammer found 1914, late Neolithic or Bronze Age.  |
| 30 | MLO124     | Ripple Rd [poorly located]     | Findspot | South side of the A13. Removal of tree trunk in 1981 revealed left side of a human skull with radius; also, cat jaw and sheep humerus.  |

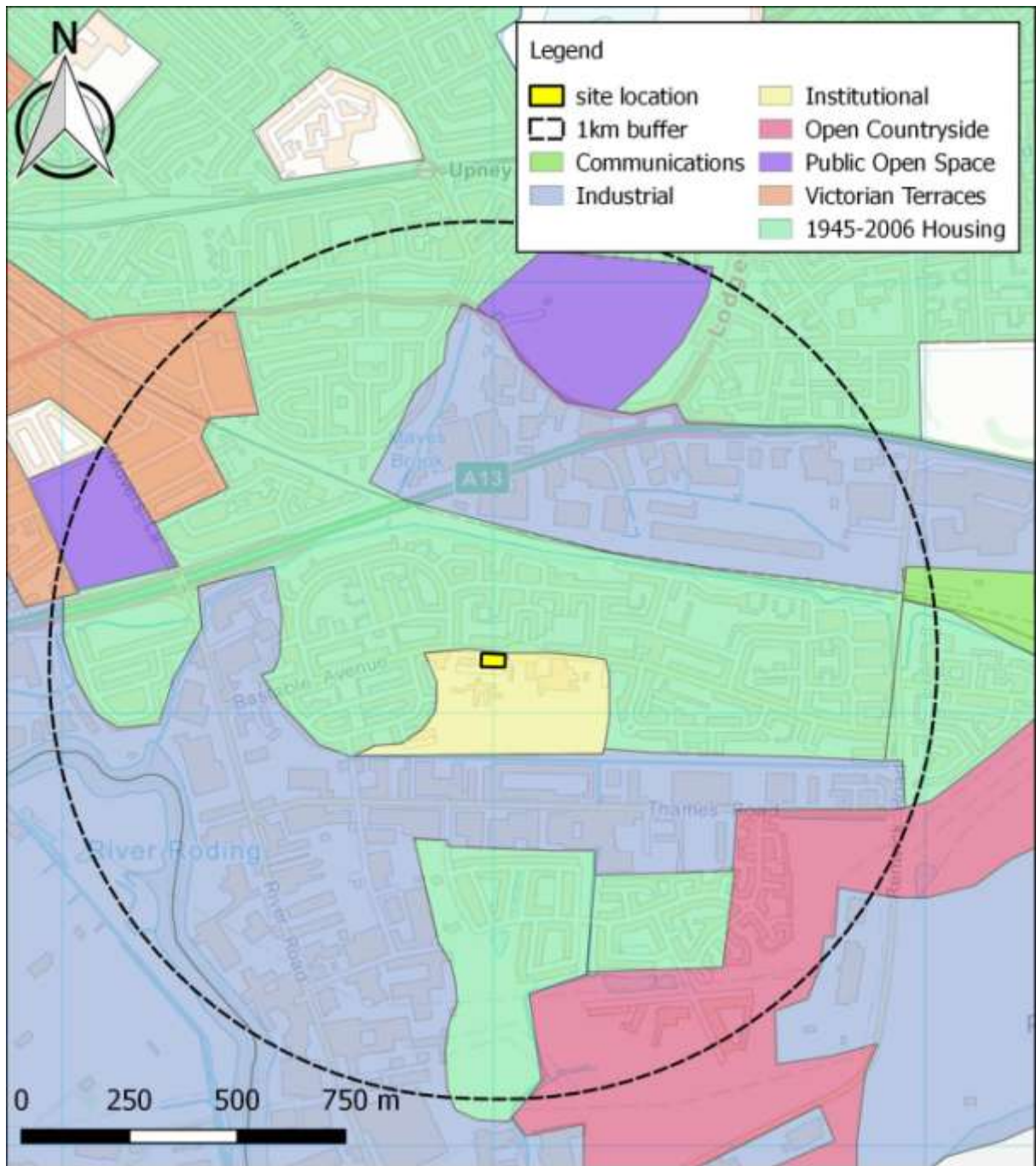


FIGURE 9: EXTRACT FROM THE GREATER LONDON DRAFT HLC (SOURCE: GREATER LONDON HLC; CONTAINS DATA OS DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT 2016).

## 3.0 CONCLUSION

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### 3.1.1 SUMMARY

The former Thameside Health Centre was built in 1950×69 during a major period of post-war urban expansion; it was demolished in 2008×9 and the site is vacant. The site is located within an extensive area of reclaimed saltmarsh that formerly belonged to the Abbey at Barking (est. AD666) and which was embanked and drained during the medieval period. The historic maps suggest the site is located just to the west of a major watercourse within that drained landscape. The modern history of the site would strongly indicate the buried archaeological potential is *low* or *negligible*. However, at a depth of 1.5-2m below current ground levels peat deposits of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are likely to survive; the proximity of the former watercourse could also indicate the presence of buried palaeochannels in this area. Therefore the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site is *high*.

### 3.1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of this desk-based assessment we would recommend:

- Archaeological monitoring during any groundworks that have the potential to expose or disturb buried peat deposits, subject to an appropriate risk management strategy;
- Appropriate palaeoenvironmental sampling if buried peat deposits or palaeochannels are exposed during works.

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