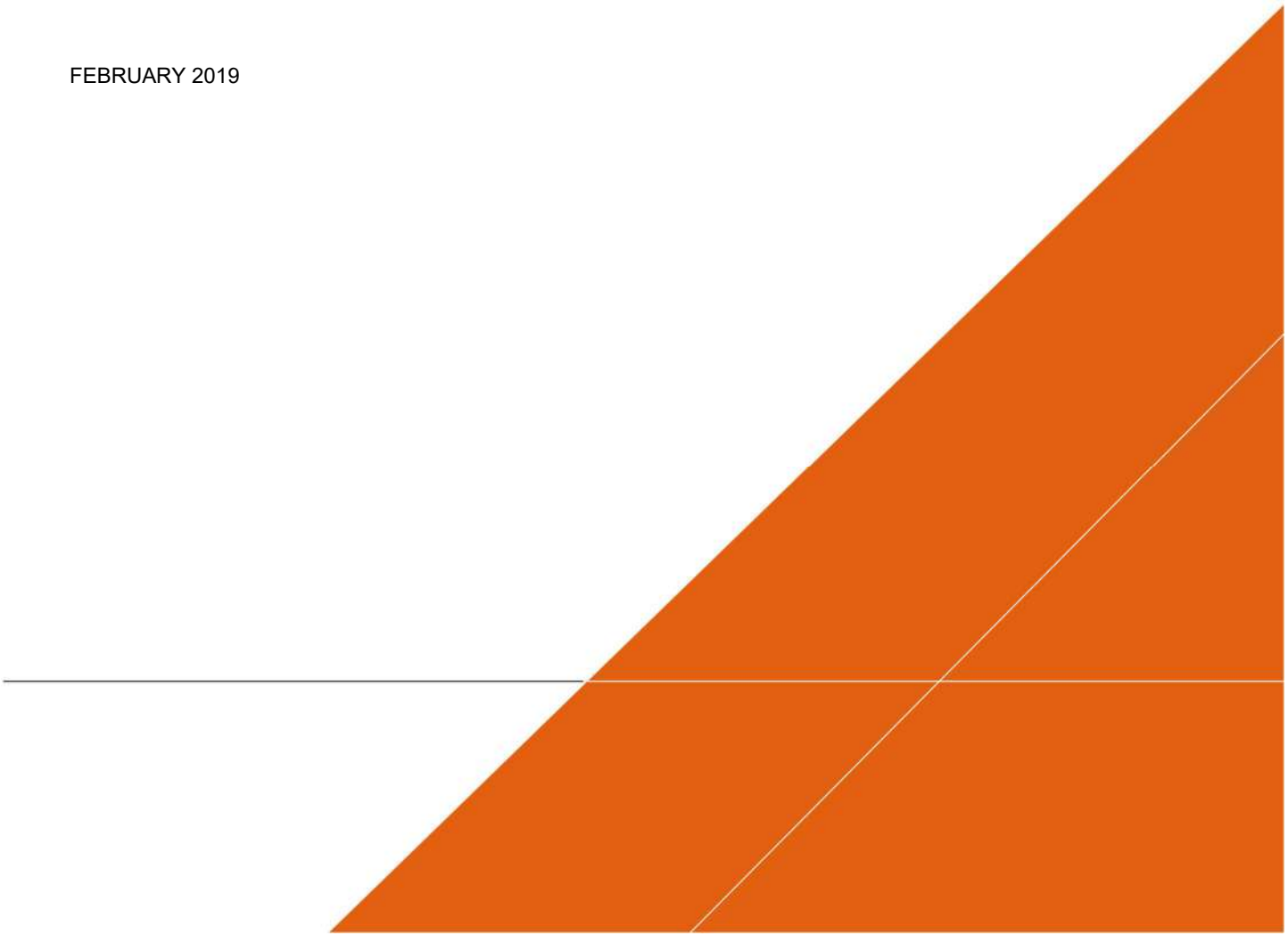
ARCADIS Design & Consultancy for natural and built assets

TFL_PSF_9131 SITE INVESTIGATIONS: SMALL SITES INITIATIVE
LAND AT ARBUTHNOT LANE

Archaeology Desktop Review

FEBRUARY 2019



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Land at Arbuthnot Lane

Archaeology Desktop Review

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SUMMARY

An archaeological desk-top review for the Site located at Arbuthnot Lane and A2 East Rochester Way, has been carried out. This involved a rapid information-gathering and review of the Site and a 500m study area using information from publicly held sources. A brief appraisal of potential heritage/archaeological constraints and opportunities at the Site has been made.

The data reviewed for this appraisal indicates a likely low potential for buried archaeological remains to survive at the Site. This is because the Site remained unoccupied greenspace until the 1930s when it became the location of a housing development. The houses on the Site were demolished in the 1970s. The Site was later disturbed by landscaping which changed its topography. While there remains a possibility of prehistoric remains to exist on Site, the degree of disturbance on the Site is high enough that remains would have been disturbed.

There are no designated assets i.e. scheduled monuments or listed buildings within the Site and there are none within the study area.

The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) who advise the local planning authority are likely to recommend a full archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for the Site as well as an evaluation to be undertaken prior to any planning application submissions.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited (Arcadis) have been commissioned by Transport for London (TfL) 'the Client' to undertake an archaeological desk-top appraisal at the land between Arbuthnot Lane and A2 East Rochester Way ('the Site').

TfL is aiming to divest a number of small sites to enable prospective regeneration. The objective of the Small Sites Initiative is to provide robust and pragmatic advice that sensibly de-risks each of the sites such that unreasonable 'abnormal' development costs are not incurred by developers.

The objective of this archaeology desktop review is to identify potential constraints due to the presence of below ground archaeological remains and above ground heritage assets on the Site.

1.2 Scope of Works

The scope of the review is to carry out a desk-top search of publicly available information on designated and non-designated heritage assets within a study area of 500m of the Site boundary. Using this information, a brief appraisal of potential heritage/archaeological constraints and opportunities at the Site has been made, focusing on key constraints. The review also informs the need for further detailed assessment to support any future planning application.

1.3 Limitations

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This report has been compiled from a number of sources, which Arcadis believes to be trustworthy. However, Arcadis is unable to guarantee the accuracy of information provided by others. The report is based on information available at the time. Consequently, there is a potential for further information to become available, which may change this report's conclusion and for which Arcadis cannot be responsible.

2 Overview

The Site is located in the east London borough of Bexley, between Arbuthnot Lane and the A2 East Rochester Way, centred on NG 548580, 174359. The Site is bounded by East Rochester Way to the south and Arbuthnot Lane from the north-east to the south-west and residential housing and hedgerows to the east. There is a manhole near the southern edge of the Site boundary.

The Site is currently unoccupied greenspace with several trees. The topography of the Site varies between a steep slope along Arbuthnot Lane and then descends steeply above the A2 East Rochester Way. Between these two sloping areas the land is flat and covered in grass and several trees varying in size and form. The topography of the Site ranges from 37.0mAOD and 33.0mAOD.

The Site is located on the Harwich Formation geological bedrock which is largely made up of glauconitic silty or sandy clays, silts and fine to coarse grained glauconitic sands with gravel and flint gravel beds (British Geological Survey Online Map Viewer, access January 2019). It is possible for thin beds of grey clay to occur in some parts, as do shell-rich beds and thin beds of argillaceous limestone (*ibid*). A significant minor component is volcanic ash (*ibid*).

3 Data Sources

Information on designated and non-designated heritage assets that are located within 500m of the Site were assessed. Designated data was derived from the National Heritage List for England on 31 January 2019. Non-designated data was received from the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) on the 06 February 2019.

Numbers in brackets in the text are unique identifiers (Project ID. numbers) assigned to heritage assets for the purposes of this report. A list of all heritage assets including relevant archaeological events can be found in Tables 1 and 2 and seen in Figure 1.

4 Baseline Conditions

4.1 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, archaeological priority area, listed buildings, or registered parks and gardens within the Site and none within the 500m study area. There are no locally listed buildings within the Site but there are nine (**LLB1-LLB9**) within the study area, these are discussed below in the Post Medieval period.

4.2 Non-designated Heritage Assets

There are no non-designated heritage assets within the Site and 16 within the study area. These date from the Neolithic to the Modern period.

Prehistoric (BC500000-43 AD)

There are three non-designated heritage assets of prehistoric date (**2**, **4, 5**) within the study area. The first (**2**) was located 493m north-west of the Site and was recorded as five axes as part of a hoard of seven found in a garden trench that was dug in 1878/1883. The second (**4)** was located 178m north-west of the Site and was recorded as having been the location of a prehistoric flint flake. The third (**5**) was the location of a Late Bronze Age to Iron Age pot.

Roman (AD43-410AD)
There is one asset of Roman date, a cremation (**3/EV2)** located 163m north-west of the Site. The find consisted of human remains in a glass vessel inside an amphora. The associated grave goods included a Samian ware vessel, flagon, dish and brooches.

Medieval (AD410-1540)
There are no recorded non-designated heritage assets of Medieval date within the study area.

Post Medieval (AD1540-1901)
There are 10 Post-Medieval non-designated heritage assets within the study area (**1, LLB1- LLB9**). The first (**1**) is located 438m south-west of the Site and is a house that is included in the Kent Historic Buildings Index as a building of historic interest but is not locally listed. The remainder of these non-designated heritage assets are locally listed buildings all dating to the 19th century. They are located in two groups (**LLB1-LLB6**) are 450m south-west of the Site on Bridgen Road and date to c1820. These houses were locally listed because they retain the local historic and architectural interest that warranted inclusion on the approved Local List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. It possible that these properties were part of the Bridgen Place premises wherein tenants would enter into freehold hereditaments of the properties (Bexley Archives' Online Catalogue, access 12 February 2019).

The second group of locally listed buildings (**LLB7-LLB9**) are 460m north of the Site. 92 Lion Road (**LLB7**) is a mid-19th century house that was included in the list because it retains the local historic and architectural interest that warranted its inclusion on the Local List. 104 and 106 Lion Road (**LLB8, LLB9**) are a pair of semi-detached houses from the 1850s and we included because they are good examples of 19th century houses and include design qualities and material that are typical of the local area. They all make a positive contribution to the varied townscape of the Borough.

Modern (AD1901-Present)
There is one Modern non-designated heritage asset, Bexley Heath Golf Course (**PK1**). The asset was built between 1909 and 1936. It has been recognised as a positive contribution to the Historic Landscape Character of the Borough.

Historic Maps
A brief appraisal of OS historic mapping shows that from the mid-19th century the Site was open greenspace. By 1931, between two to four domestic properties had been developed on the Site. By 1972, the properties on the Site had been demolished and the area appears to have been converted into greenspace. It was between 1972-1979 that the area underwent landscaping works that gave the Site its undulating topography and several trees were planted. It has been maintained in this condition since 1975.

While the vicinity of the Site was not identified with WWII military activity there were strategic targets located there: transport infrastructure and public utilities, munitions works, military barracks and training grounds, AA guns and anti-invasion defences industries important to the war effort. The Borough of Bexley officially recorded 660 high explosive bombs falling within its area, several of these fell in close proximity to the Site.

The Site is identified as being close to the location of High Explosive Bomb damage from between Oct. 7, 1940 and June 6, 1941 (WW2 Bomb Census, access January 2019). The present-day address for the location of this damage is East Rochester Way, Bexleyheath (ibid).

4.3 Previous Archaeological Events

There are two archaeological events that have been identified in within the study area (**EV1**, **EV2**). The first (**EV1**) is located 175m north-east of the Site and was an archaeological desk-based assessment and project design completed by PRM Archaeology in 2005 in advance of a new building development. The second (**EV2**) is unrecorded but likely representative of the same findings as (**3**).

Table 1: Non-designated Heritage Assets within the 500m Study Area

Project ID	Asset Name	Site Type	Period	GLHER Number
1	13 BRIDGEN RD	HOUSE	Post Medieval	MLO6645
2	MOUNT RD	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	MLO8415
3	28 IRIS AVE	CREMATION	Roman	MLO8430
4	31 IRIS AVE	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric	MLO8457
5	UPTON	FINDSPOT	Iron Age	MLO8469
PK1	Mount Drive, Bexleyheath Golf Course	GOLF COURSE	20th Century/Modern	MLO98353
LLB1	No 1 - 5 Bridgen Road Bexley	HOUSE	C1820	DLO33187
LLB2	No 1 - 5 Bridgen Road Bexley	HOUSE	C1820	DLO33187
LLB3	No 1 - 5 Bridgen Road Bexley	HOUSE	C1820	DLO33187
LLB4	Nos 7 & 9 Bridgen Road Bexley	HOUSE	C1820	DLO33188
LLB5	Nos 7 & 9 Bridgen Road Bexley	HOUSE	C1820	DLO33188

Project ID	Asset Name	Site Type	Period	GLHER Number
LLB6	No 11 Bridgen Road Bexley	HOUSE	1827	DLO33189
LLB7	92 Lion Road, Bexleyheath	HOUSE	19th Century	DLO33275
LLB8	104 & 106 Lion Road	HOUSE	19th Century	DLO33401
LLB9	104 & 106 Lion Road	HOUSE	19th Century	DLO33401

Table 2: Archaeological Events within 500m Study Area

Project ID	Event Name	Event Date	Event Type	GLHER Number
EV1	Townley Grammar School for Girls Townley Road Bexleyheath.	2005	DBA & Project Design Report	ELO14515
EV 2	28 IRIS AVE	None recorded	None recorded	ELO5452

5 Key Constraints and Risks

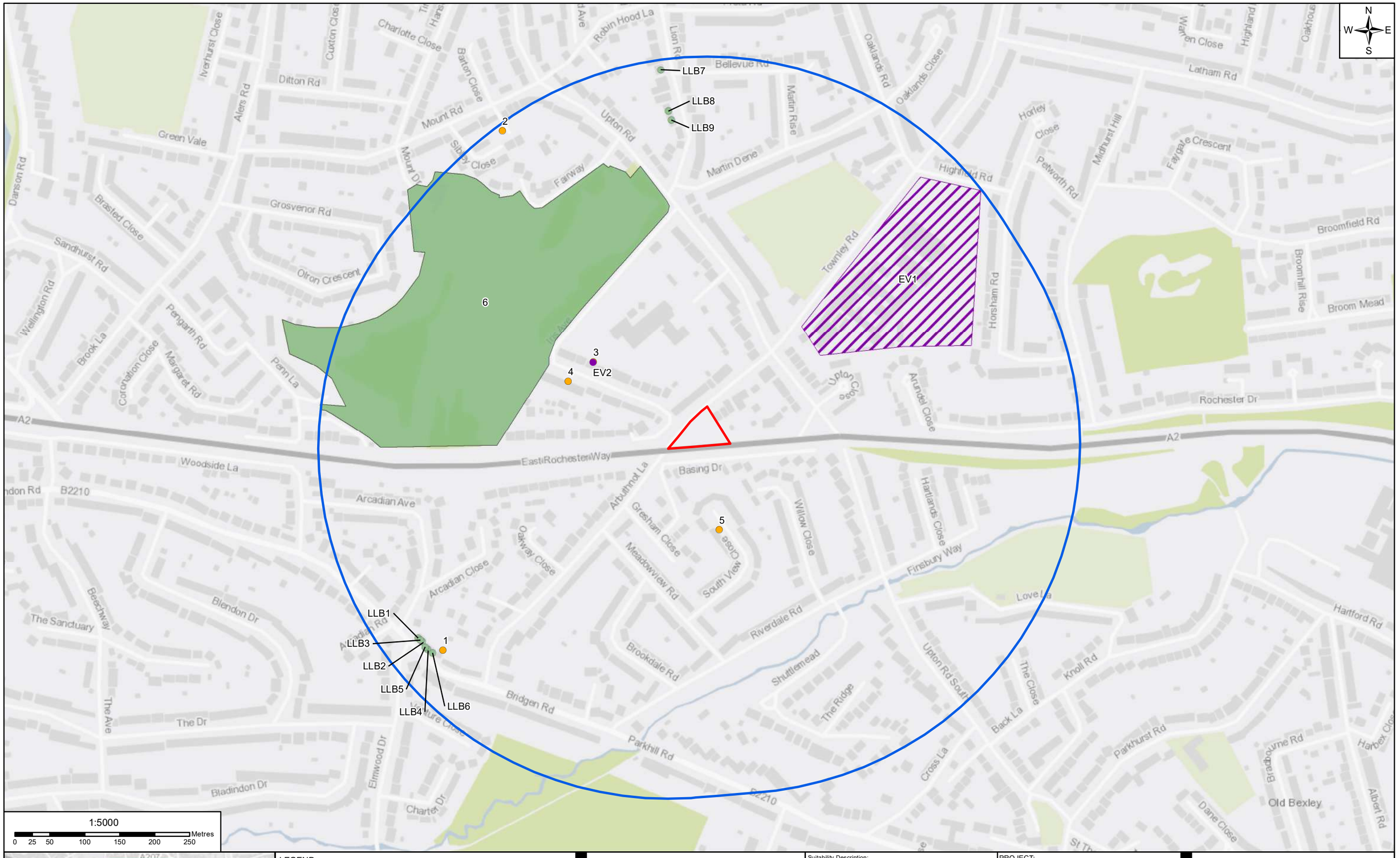
This review has assessed that there is low potential for buried archaeological remains to survive at the Site.

The Site was the location of housing development between the 1930s – 1970s. The Site later underwent changes to its topography and elevation. The area may also have received damage from bombing during World War II.

In summary, there are no designated assets within the Site or the study area. While there are a number of non-designated assets within the study area, they are unlikely to experience an impact to their setting.

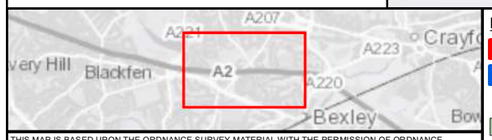
6 Recommendations

For any future planning application, the potential for below ground remains need to be fully evaluated. The Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) who advise the local planning authority might recommend a full archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for the Site as well as an evaluation undertaken prior to planning permission. The DBA would include a specific archaeology site walkover, relevant documentary research, a map regression exercise as well as preparation of distribution maps showing designated and undesignated heritage assets. The evaluation would likely consist of a programme of trial trenching and subsequent reporting. If heritage assets of significance are encountered during the evaluation stage, there may be a requirement for archaeological mitigation. Should it be necessary, this requirement would be dealt with through a condition of planning consent.



1:5000

0 25 50 100 150 200 250 Metres



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REV	Date	Description	Drawn	Check	Approv
01	15/02/19	Initial Issue	MS	JN	JG

LEGEND:

- Site Boundary
- 500m Buffer
- Non-Designated Assets
- Non-Designated Assets
- Locally Listed Building
- Archaeological Events
- Archaeological Events

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PRELIMINARY/CONFIDENTIAL

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Approved	J. Goad	Date 15FEB19	Signed
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Original Size:	A3	Grid:	OS
Suitability Code:	S2	Project Number:	10024781

PROJECT:

TFL PHASE 2 SITE INVESTIGATIONS
SMALL SITES INITIATIVE

TITLE:

10024781-ARC-03-XX-RP-YY-0001-01
FIGURE 1

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