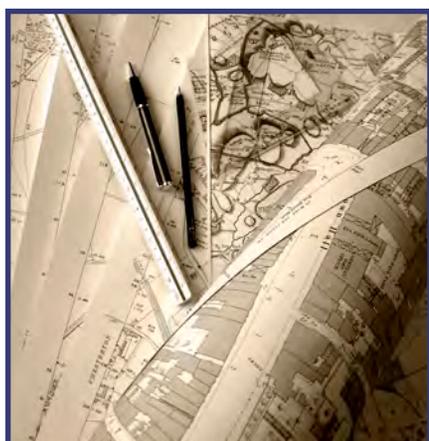


# London Borough of Hackney



## Archaeological Priority Areas Appraisal



**Client: London Borough of Hackney**

Issue No: 2

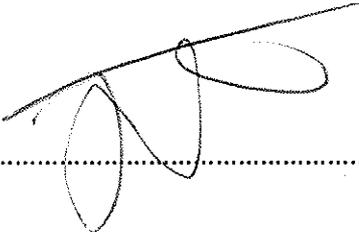
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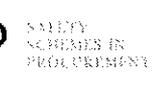
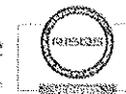
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## LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS APPRAISAL

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. This document has been commissioned by Historic England and produced by Oxford Archaeology. The Hackney Archaeological Priority Area Appraisal is part of a long term commitment by Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service to review and update London's Archaeological Priority Areas (APA). The review uses evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) in order to provide a sound evidence base for local plans that accord with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its supporting Practice Guidance.
- 1.1.2. The appraisal follows the Historic England guidance for undertaking a review of Archaeological Priority Areas.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.1.3. The appraisal is an opportunity to review the existing APAs in Hackney and produce revised area boundaries and new descriptions. The proposals will be submitted to the London Borough of Hackney for consideration and will be recommended for adoption in support of the Local Plan.

### 2. EXPLANATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS

- 2.1.1. An APA is defined as an area where, according to existing information there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries.
- 2.1.2. APAs or their equivalents exist in every London borough and were initially created in the 1970s and 1980s either by the boroughs or by local museums. It is not known whether the APAs in Hackney have been reviewed before now. The present review is based on evidence held within the GLHER, historic maps and a wide range of secondary sources. Guidelines<sup>2</sup> have been produced to ensure consistency in the recognition and definition of these areas across the Greater London Area. These guidelines have been used in the preparation of this document.
- 2.1.3. In the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), archaeological interest means evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places and of the people and cultures that made them.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREA TIERS

- 3.1.1. To assist recognition and management of archaeological significance, APAs are divided into three tiers (1 – 3) indicating different degrees of sensitivity to groundworks. A fourth tier (4) covers all other land reflecting the possibility of discoveries being made outside areas of known potential. The system is designed to be dynamic so that new discoveries and investigations can result in areas being moved from one tier to another, for example if remains of national importance were discovered.

#### 3.2. Tier 1

- 3.2.1. Tier 1 is a defined area which is known, or strongly suspected, to contain a heritage asset of national significance (e.g. a scheduled monument or equivalent); or is otherwise of very high archaeological sensitivity. Thus Tier 1 covers heritages assets to which policies for designated

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<sup>1</sup> Greater London Archaeological Area Priority Area Guidelines. Historic England June 2016

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

heritage assets would apply (NPPF 132 & 139) and a few other sites which are particularly sensitive to small scale disturbance. Tier 1 APAs are usually clearly focused on a specific known heritage asset and are normally relatively small. Scheduled Monuments would normally be included within Tier 1.

### **3.3. Tier 2**

3.3.1. Tier 2 comprises local areas within which the GLHER holds specific evidence indicating the presence or likely presence of heritage assets of archaeological interest. Planning decisions are expected to make a balanced judgement for non-designated heritage assets considered of less than national importance considering the scale of harm and the significance of the asset. Tier 2 APAs will typically cover a larger area than Tier 1 APAs.

### **3.4. Tier 3**

3.4.1. Tier 3 is a landscape scale zone within which the GLHER holds evidence indicating the potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest. The definition of Tier 3 APAs involves using the GLHER to predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest will be discovered in the future. Tier 3 APAs will typically be defined by geological, topographical or land use considerations in relation to known patterns of heritage asset distributions.

### **3.5. Tier 4**

3.5.1. Tier 4 (outside APAs) is any location that does not, on present evidence, merit inclusion within an Archaeological Priority Area. However, Tier 4 areas are not necessarily devoid of archaeological interest and may retain some potential unless they can be shown to have been heavily disturbed in modern times. Such potential is most likely to be identified upon greenfield sites, in relation to large-scale development or in associated with listed buildings or other designated assets.

## **4. HACKNEY: HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

### **4.1. Introduction**

4.1.1. The London Borough of Hackney was created in 1965. Located in Inner London, it was formed from the metropolitan boroughs of Hackney, Shoreditch, and Stoke Newington, and covers just over 19 km<sup>2</sup>. The borough is bordered by the City of London and Tower Hamlets to the south, Islington to the west, Newham to the east, and the boroughs of Haringey and Waltham Forest to the north.

4.1.2. The River Lea forms part of the eastern boundary of the borough and is the main waterway running through it. There are several culverts which have canalised and redirected parts of the Lea as it leads south to the Thames, such as the River Lea Navigation, which runs through Hackney Cut, an artificial channel built in 1770, and Hackney Brook, which was realigned in 1860. In the west of the borough, to the south of De Beauvoir Town, Regent's Canal joins with the Hertford Union Canal south of Victoria Park.

4.1.3. The bedrock geology of the borough is predominantly of the Thames Group formation, consisting of clay mixed with silt, sand and gravel. The Lambeth Group formation underlies Hackney Marshes in the east end of the borough, though this is of a similar geology to the Thames Group. The River Lea and Hackney Marshes are overlain by thick alluvial deposits of clay, silt and sand, while much of the borough south of Stoke Newington is covered by undifferentiated river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. Overlying brickearth deposits occur in the north at Clapton Common, Stamford Hill and Stoke Newington.

4.1.4. The topography of the borough is varied. The land generally rises westwards from the River Lea. Hackney Marshes in the eastern part of the borough lies below 10m aOD. At High Hill Ferry, on the Lee Navigation, the topography rises from 10m to 25m aOD over a short distance.

The land immediately north of Victoria Park in the south-east of the borough is also low-lying at 15m aOD, whereas at Clapham Common and Stamford Hill it reaches 30 m aOD. The natural topography of Hackney has been modified in modern times partly by the management of the watercourses that pass through the borough but also by quarrying, basement digging and waste dumping from London. Following the Second World War the deposition of wartime demolition rubble caused the land surface in certain parts of the borough, notably Hackney Marsh, to rise significantly. These changes to the modern topography of the area may be responsible for the rarity of identified pre-medieval archaeological remains within the borough.

- 4.1.5. The borough includes several historic settlements, the largest of which were Hackney, Clapham, Newington, and Hoxton. Most settlements initially expanded as linear developments along roadsides; Roque's 1746 map of London shows them within an essentially rural, enclosed landscape to the north-east of the City of London. Only the low-lying area of Hackney Marshes was not widely exploited by farming.
- 4.1.6. The borough witnessed rapid population increase in the 19th century, rising from just under 15,000 in 1801 to nearly 375,000 in 1901. The population peaked just before the First World War in 1911 before a general population decline occurred through much of the 20th-century, decreasing below 180,000 in 1981. Recent years have seen a slight upward trend in numbers as development and regeneration projects have taken place in the area.
- 4.1.7. The borough has received a fair amount of archaeological investigation in recent history. Over 470 archaeological events are listed on the GLHER database. These are largely small-scale works including desk-based assessments. Evaluation over a relatively large area at Temple Mills Road/Ruckholt Road in Hackney Marsh in advance of development for the 2012 Olympics (Planning Delivery Zone 7) revealed predominantly post-medieval remains. Monitoring of the Thames Water Victorian mains replacement works at DMA Maiden Lane, west of Stoke Newington, revealed large sections of the New River course laid out in the early 20th-century. There is also a notable concentration of investigations around the Hoxton/Shoreditch area in the far south of the borough. The majority of HER monuments are post-medieval, particularly 18th and 19th-century, in date.
- 4.1.8. The borough contains 25 conservation areas, including Clapton Square, Clapton Common and Clissold Park, and many are in place to protect large areas of Georgian and Victorian housing and areas of industrial heritage.

## **4.2. Prehistoric (500,000 B.P.–A.D. 43)**

- 4.2.1. The Palaeolithic period in Britain, or the Old Stone Age, ranges in date from 500,000 – 10,000 BP.<sup>3</sup> The period falls at the end of the last Ice Age and is characterised in the archaeological record principally by the presence of chipped stone tools. The period is usually divided up into the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. The earliest subdivision the Lower Palaeolithic (500,000 -150,000 BP) marks the first appearance of stone tools in the archaeological record. During the Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 -40000 BP) fine flint tools known as the Mousterian industry appear these have been associated with Neanderthal (*Homo neanderthalensis*) populations. The Upper Palaeolithic (40,000 - 10,000 BP) is characterised by the development of projectile points made from bone and the development of fine blade flint tools. Throughout the Palaeolithic population were nomadic and practiced a hunter gatherer economy.<sup>4</sup>
- 4.2.2. Evidence for Lower Palaeolithic activity associated with pre-modern humans is fairly common in Hackney. Quarrying of brickearth and gravel deposits, alongside housing development in the 19th and 20th centuries, led to the identification of numerous sites with flint tools dating to this

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<sup>3</sup> before the present: in a specified amount of time or at a specified point in time before AD 1950

<sup>4</sup> Historic England Period List <http://heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Periods-List-HE-FISH-WP.pdf>

period (broadly between 500,000–150,000 BP). Biface hand-axes of the Acheulian industry are perhaps the most frequently encountered tool type, with examples being recovered from Dunlace Road, Lower Clapton, Temple Mills, Lea Valley Park, and Tyssen Street, Dalston.

- 4.2.3. Rare examples of Palaeolithic tools in a primary context were recorded at Stoke Newington Common by Worthington G Smith in the late 19th century. Smith identified three Palaeolithic working floors containing mint condition stone tools. The finds were located in close proximity to Palaeolithic faunal and environmental remains also recovered from the common. *In situ* Palaeolithic remains are rare in Britain and are considered to be nationally important. Elsewhere within Hackney Palaeolithic finds have been disturbed by glacial and post-glacial processes, making it difficult to assess the degree of activity in the area. Even where modern excavations have been carried out, such as at Stoke Newington, Lower Palaeolithic material is rarely found *in situ* (Harding and Gibbard 1983). However, the material recovered here, some of which appears to have been redeposited from Stoke Newington sands a short distance to the north, undoubtedly relates to a probable flint-working site. Other possible flint-working sites have been identified at Geldston Road and Alkham Road (Lewis 2000, 41). Locations with clear potential for *in-situ* or only locally reworked remains have been identified as priority areas
- 4.2.4. The Mesolithic Period (or Middle Stone Age) in Britain ranges in date between 10,000 and 4000 BP and marks the beginning of a move from a hunter gatherer society towards a food producing society.<sup>5</sup> There are comparatively few sites with Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic evidence relating to early modern-human activity in Hackney. As with the Lower Palaeolithic evidence, these tend to cluster around the alluvial river valley of the Lea and the brickearth deposits around Stoke Newington and Clapton. A possible Mesolithic flint-working site was identified at Northwold Road, just north of Stoke Newington Common, making Stoke Newington the most likely area in the borough for unexpected development-led discoveries of national archaeological significance.
- 4.2.5. The Neolithic period (2200-4000BC) is characterised by the practice of farming and extensive monumental constructions. Evidence for Neolithic activity is almost completely absent from Hackney Borough. The Bronze Age (2600 - 700 BC) follows on from the Neolithic and is characterised by increasing use of bronze. The adoption of metalworking was accompanied by a change in pottery styles and methods of production. The use of high quality materials to make portable and flexible tools was replaced with a more profligate use of stone and flint, and a wider range of flint implements. Postholes and two parallel ditches dating to the Bronze Age were identified during an evaluation in 2005–6 at Millfields Road, Clapton, indicating domestic and/or agricultural activity in the area. Otherwise, evidence for the Bronze Age is restricted to a few find spots, such as at Stamford Hill, where pottery sherds have been recovered, and more notably, a sword handle found in 1858. A Bronze Age beaker was recovered at Victoria Park Road in 1864, close to the south-east boundary of the borough (Brown and Cotton 2000, 96).
- 4.2.6. The Iron Age (800 BC to AD 43) follows on from the Bronze Age and is characterised by the introduction of iron into the archaeological record. During this period large monuments such as hillforts and oppida were constructed. Iron Age remains, like those from the preceding period are rare in Hackney Borough and largely restricted to stray finds. An Iron Age coin was found on Harcombe Road, Stoke Newington, while a spearhead has been recovered from close to the River Lea in Hackney Marsh.

### 4.3. Roman (AD 43–410)

- 4.3.1. The Roman period traditionally begins with the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43 and ends with the emperor Honorius directing the inhabitants of Britain to see to their own defence in 410

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<sup>5</sup> Historic England Period List <http://heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Periods-List-HE-FISH-WP.pdf>

AD. London was the principal town of Roman Britain, and was a central component of its economic infrastructure, facilitated by the extensive road network which led from the capital. The Roman town walls are situated less than 400m to the south of Hackney Borough and two major Roman roads run through the borough. Ermine Street, today represented by the A10, led directly north from London to the *coloniae* at Lincoln and York, while a second road led north-east to the roadside settlement at Great Dumnow in Essex.

- 4.3.2. Evidence for Roman rural settlement is less pronounced. A relative concentration of sites and find spots is observable around the Shoreditch area in the far south of the borough. Here, a quarry and several ditches with Roman tile were excavated by Archaeology South-East in 2008 (Jamieson and Harward 2008). Unabraded tiles and coarse ware pottery sherds were encountered at No. 183–5 Shoreditch High Street by the Department of Greater London Archaeology in 1989, while at No. 179, AOC Archaeology recovered samian ware and tile in 2004. Isolated finds include a Roman figurine and a bone needle recovered at Paul Street and Scrutton Street respectively. Museum of London Archaeology excavations at Holywell Priory between 2006 and 2007 revealed two skeletons placed in a single grave (and cutting a second grave) close to Roman field boundaries. The inhumations were radiocarbon dated to AD 80–310 (Lewis 2010, 250). Together, these discoveries point to the existence of roadside settlement activity close to where Ermine Street intersected with the Great Dumnow road.
- 4.3.3. A second, albeit more dispersed, group of Roman sites occurs around Hackney Village. These generally consist of isolated finds of coinage, pottery, and ceramic building material. As with the Shoreditch area, this may represent evidence for roadside activity along the Great Dumnow road, close to where it turns to the east and crosses Hackney Marshes. Notably, a coffined inhumation has been recorded in the area, in or close to Rushmore Road.
- 4.3.4. Two stone sarcophagus burials are known from Hackney Marsh/Temple Mills where a Roman coin hoard has also been discovered (Perring and Brigham 2000, 166). A third, marble sarcophagus is known to have been discovered in Clapton (Baker 1995), which may be associated with several further inhumations found in the area of Springfield Park, presumably from a cemetery.

#### **4.4. Early medieval (AD 410–1066)**

- 4.4.1. There is little archaeological evidence of early medieval settlement in the borough, despite some suggestion that place-names such as Hackney, Clapton and Shoreditch have Saxon origins. Hackney, for example, is first recorded in 1198 but its name is suggested to derive from the middle English *Hacka's ey*, meaning 'raised ground in marshland' (Baker 1995).
- 4.4.2. Archaeological evidence for pre-Norman activity is restricted to the recovery of isolated finds, such as a coin of Egbert, King of Wessex A.D. 802–39, found at Stamford Hill (Cowie and Harding 2000, 202). Late Saxon pottery has been recovered at Hackney Hospital on Homerton High Street and at 10–20 Clifton Street in Shoreditch, and a comb was found during archaeological investigation carried out at Shoreditch High Street Overground station.
- 4.4.3. St Leonards Church on Shoreditch High Street is suspected as having been built on a late Saxon predecessor (Cowie and Harding 2000, 202.). At Holywell Priory, an east–west aligned ditch produced some 13th/14th-century pottery as well as a radiocarbon date of AD 990–1160, suggesting that it may have been dug out in the late Saxon period (Lewis 2010, 250).
- 4.4.4. The main Roman roads from London presumably continued to be used during the early medieval period; Ermine Street certainly remained an important thoroughfare in the middle ages. However, the use of the River Lea is indicated by a late Saxon oak boat dating to *c.* 950 which was found during machine-trenching on the former west bank of the river in Springfield Park. An early medieval sword and a horse harness were also discovered nearby.

#### **4.5. *Later medieval (AD 1066–1540)***

- 4.5.1. Hackney is not mentioned in Domesday Book as much of it was held by the Bishop of London in Stepney Manor (Baker 1995). Hackney Manor was still administered with Stepney in 1318 and probably until after the Black Death. Hackney remained property of the Bishops of London until it was granted to the Wentworth family in 1550.
- 4.5.2. Hackney is recorded as having a church by 1275 (founded by the Knights of St John), while a settlement at Dalston is recorded in the 13th century, at Clapton, Homerton and Kingsland in the 14th-century, and at Shacklewell in the 15th century (Gover 1942, 105–7). At least 15 settlements are known to have existed in the borough during the medieval period.
- 4.5.3. Medieval manor houses are known to have stood at Wick on the Templar's estate, at Wenlock's Barn, in Stoke Newington (now on Church Street), in Shacklewell (now in Shacklewell Lane), and in Haggerston (now on Haggerston Road). The Stoke Newington and Haggerston manor houses were established in the 11th century.
- 4.5.4. Holywell Priory was established in the middle of the 12th century in Shoreditch. Excavations in 1989 exposed parts of the priory church, which was further investigated in 2006–7 revealing details about its layout, architecture and chronology (Lewis 2010). Numerous burials associated with the priory have been discovered, as well as the priory orchard and a well. The parish church of St Leonard's stood in Shoreditch in the 11th century and St Mary's stood in Stoke Newington in the 10th century. A medieval leper hospital, run by St Katherine's Augustinian priory from 1280, existed on Kingsland Road, while the remains of a medieval hospital, dating to c 1500, is known at Old Street in the northern part of Shoreditch.
- 4.5.5. Arable farming is rarely mentioned in historical documents dating to the later medieval period, when the land around Hackney appears to have been more commonly used for pasture and hay meadows (Baker 1995). However, a watermill is recorded as being present on the Templars' estate in Hackney (at Temple Mills) in 1307–8.
- 4.5.6. Medieval quarrying is known from excavations at Hoxton Market, 67–73 Worship Street and 10–20 Clifton Street.

#### **4.6. *Post-medieval (AD 1540–1900)***

- 4.6.1. The expansion of London from the later 16th-century undoubtedly affected the regional agricultural economy and the prosperity of local settlements (Schofield 2000, 262). However, the character of Hackney Borough did not drastically alter after the medieval period until the 19th century when population increased significantly. Grassland continued to be maintained as the predominant form of land-use in the immediate post-medieval period. Pasture and hay meadows covered around 75% of the land subject to tithe rents in 1711, and many of the open fields became known as the 'Lammas lands' (Baker 1995). Lammas rights date back to the medieval period and originally concerned the use of Hackney Marshes for seasonal grazing (Lees 1933, 231). By the 17th-century, cattle were the main livestock kept on farms in the borough, but while pastoral farming dominated the local agricultural economy, a wide variety of craftspeople and traders are recorded in Hackney during the later 16th and 17th centuries.
- 4.6.2. Hackney was home to many wealthy merchants and aristocrats during the 16th and 17th centuries. Large rambling houses are noted on several medieval sites, including some of the medieval manor houses which continued into the post-medieval period, such as Wick, Shoreditch Place and Shacklewell (Baker 1995). Because it attracted so many wealthy inhabitants, Hackney had an unusual, dual form of government from 1613, consisting of parish officers 'and other inhabitants' who continued to meet every few months and shared power with the 'gentlemen of the vestry'. Both bodies were merged in an open vestry in 1833.

- 4.6.3. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Tyssen family, descending from the Flemish merchant, Francis Tyssen the elder (d. 1699), were the largest landowner in the borough, holding three manors (Baker 1995). By 1903, most of the freeholds had been mortgaged as housing had spread over most of the farmland and much of the estate had been sold by 1990.
- 4.6.4. Two Elizabethan theatres stood in Shoreditch – the Theatre and the Curtain – both opening in 1576–7. The Theatre appears to have been dismantled in 1598, when some of its timbers were removed and used for the construction of the Globe. The Curtain staged plays until c. 1625, and although playhouses were closed at the beginning of the English Civil War in 1642, the building was modified and maintained until the end of the 17th century, only being demolished in the 18th century. Both the Theatre and the Curtain have been partially excavated in recent years, revealing evidence of their layouts and chronologies.
- 4.6.5. At the beginning of the 19th century, most of the historic settlements in the borough were still distinct. However, by 1831 the number of houses recorded doubled from just over 2,000 and several of the villages had begun to merge (Baker 1995). House-building appears to have been driven primarily by entrepreneurial lessees, rather than local landowners. The expansion of the east end of London was stimulated by the building of Regent's Canal between 1812–6, while construction work on a new town at De Beauvoir began in 1823 and continued through the 1830s (largely to the dismay of Hackney and Shoreditch).
- 4.6.6. Victoria Park was opened immediately south-east of the borough in 1845, encouraging development to St Thomas' Hospital (shown on the 1st edition OS map of London), and building work accelerated across the borough to the end of the 19th century. Open areas of private grounds were maintained only between Clapton common and the Lea. Dalston, Hackney village and Homerton had been almost completely built-up by 1870, while Clapton had effectively merged with Hackney and Dalston, leading Emerson (1862, 281) to remark that it had become 'one of the handsomest suburbs of London'.

#### **4.7. 20th century**

- 4.7.1. Hackney Borough witnessed general population decline through much of the 20th century due to a variety of reasons, including slum clearance, displacement of houses by factories and workshops, and the impacts of the First and Second World Wars. Nonetheless, several technological and infrastructural developments occurred during the early part of this century. Existing horse-tram routes were electrified in many areas between 1907 and 1924, and several new routes were constructed, improving travel between different areas of the suburb and to the City of London. Major developments in the railways also occurred between the 1850s and the 1920s. However, no underground railway stations serve the borough, despite its size and proximity to London. Two proposed lines failed to get through parliament in 1902. Manor House station is located on north-western boundary with Haringey, while Old Street station is situated just south-west of Hackney in Islington.
- 4.7.2. Widespread damage in the Second World War led to further municipal building. Over half of new houses built in the 1950s were provided by Hackney Borough and many more by London County Council and housing associations. High-rise tower blocks became a feature of the urban landscape of Hackney Borough in the 1960s and further demolition and renovations took place in the 1980s, particularly in Stoke Newington and Shoreditch.
- 4.7.3. From the late 19th century, although the overall population fell, there was an increase in ethnic minority populations. Initially, Jewish communities were prominent, though these had started to move north after the Second World War. From the 1950s, increasing immigration from new Commonwealth countries occurred, notably from the Caribbean and Pakistan.
- 4.7.4. Hackney Empire Theatre opened in 1901 on Mare Street and is perhaps one of the most well-known buildings in Hackney Borough. Initially built as a music hall, it is now a Grade II\* listed building. It has an ornate frontage with twin terracotta domes and a central pediment bearing a

statue of Euterpe. Closed between 2001 and 2004, a £17m refurbishment added a 60-seat orchestra pit to the existing 3,000 seats, making the building suitable for opera performances.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS IN HACKNEY

### 5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. A total of 24 Archaeological Priority Areas are recommended for Hackney of which three are Tier 1 APAs, 19 are Tier 2 APAs and two are Tier 3 APAs. The revised APAs would cover approximately 43% of the borough, increasing from 30% previously. A number of the former Archaeological Priority Areas are not included in the new list of APAs. This is because following the appraisal it was decided that they did not fulfil the new selection criteria and have therefore been omitted from the revised list.

### 5.2. Tier 1

APA		Area (ha)
1.1	Upper Clapton	13.32
1.2	Shoreditch Elizabethan theatres and Holywell Priory	4.33
1.3	Lauriston Road Jewish burial ground	0.39
	Total	18.04

### 5.3. Tier 2

APA		Area (ha)
2.1	Abney Park	12.60
2.2	Hackney Settlements	76.63
2.3	Clissold Park	22.69
2.4	New River	30.39
2.5	Kingsland Leper Hospital	0.94
2.6	Springfield Park	22.23
2.7	Hackney burial grounds	5.50
2.8	Roman Road Ermine Street	82.85
2.9	Roman Road London to Great Dunmow	79.62
2.10	Stoke Newington	15.23
2.11	Shoreditch	46.29
2.12	Newington Green Hamlet, Hackney	0.74
2.13	Hoxton	9.83
2.14	Shacklewell	1.39
2.15	Northwold Road and surrounds	34.18
	Total	441.11

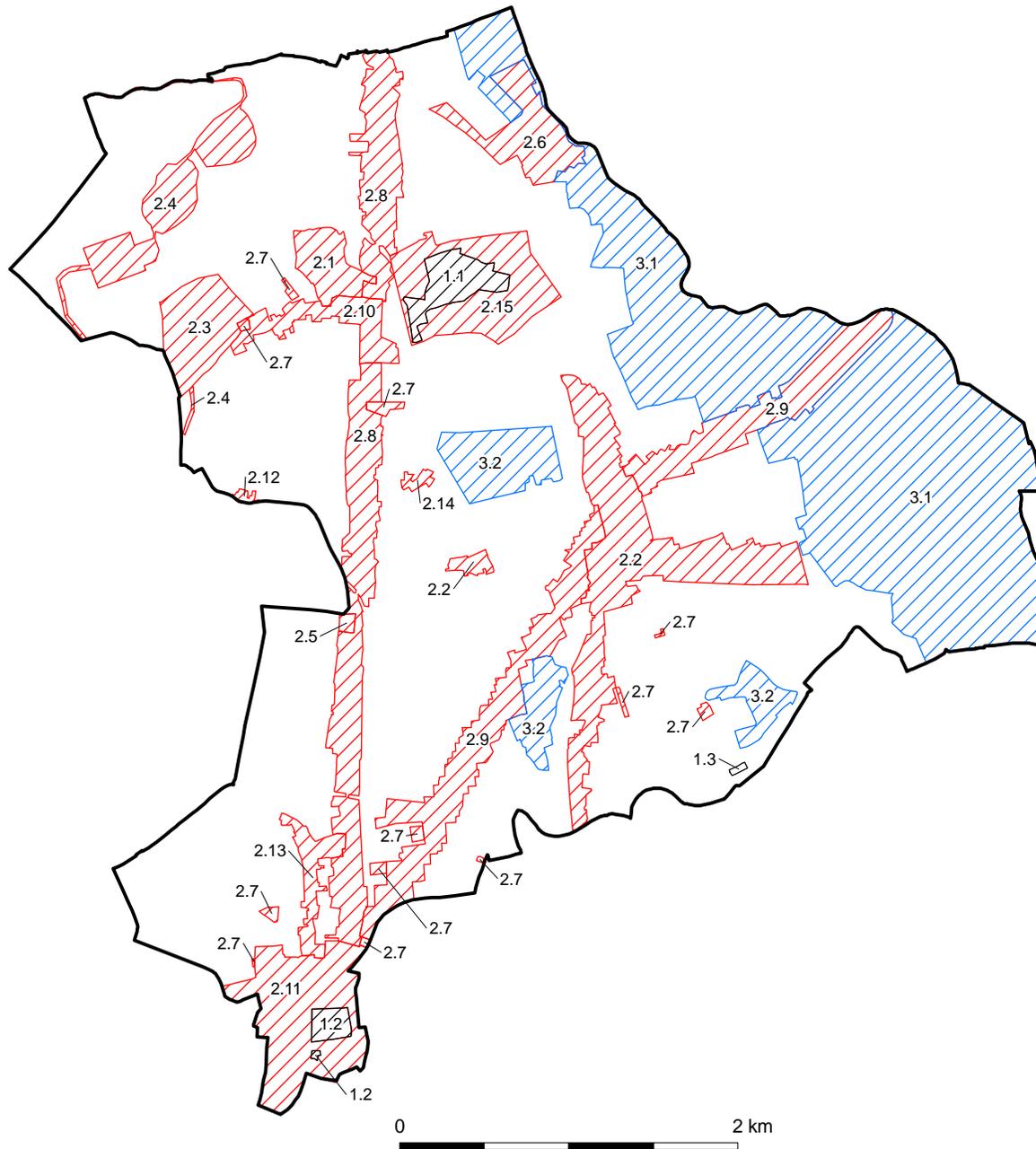
### 5.4. Tier 3

APA		Area (ha)
3.1	Lea Valley, Hackney	321.02
3.2	Hackney Commons	45.24
	Total	366.26

**Total area of all Archaeological Priority Areas in Hackney 825.41**



- Tier 1 APA
- Tier 2 APA
- Tier 3 APA



- 1.1 - Upper Clapton
- 1.2 - Shoreditch Elizabethan theatres and Holywell Priory
- 1.3 - Lauriston Road Jewish burial ground
- 2.1 - Abney Park
- 2.2 - Hackney Settlements
- 2.3 - Clissold Park
- 2.4 - New River
- 2.5 - Kingsland Leper Hospital
- 2.6 - Springfield Park and Clapton Common
- 2.7 - Hackney Burial Grounds
- 2.8 - Roman Road Ermine Street
- 2.9 - Roman Road London to Great Dunmow
- 2.10 - Stoke Newington
- 2.11 - Shoreditch
- 2.12 - Newington Green Hamlet, Hackney
- 2.13 - Hoxton
- 2.14 - Shacklewell
- 2.15 - Northwold Road and surrounds
- 3.1 - Lea Valley, Hackney
- 3.2 - Hackney Commons

Figure 1: Hackney APAs

## 6. AREA DESCRIPTIONS FOR TIER 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS

### *Hackney APA 1.1 Upper Clapton*

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 6.1.1. This Archaeological Priority Area covers an area of Upper Clapton to the east of Kingsland Road and to the south and west of the A107. The APA covers an area of Palaeolithic lithic working sites and the Palaeolithic working floor recorded by Worthington G. Smith in 1894.
- 6.1.2. The APA is classed as a Tier 1 because Palaeolithic sites are rare nationally and are highly sensitive to modern ground disturbance, even in relatively small developments.

#### *Description*

- 6.1.3. The APA covers a series of Palaeolithic lithic working sites recovered from Stoke Newington Common. The first sites were identified by Worthington G Smith in 1894. The most significant of Smith's finds were three levels of Palaeolithic 'working floors' containing mint condition hand-axes, flakes and retouched flakes. In total 230 flint handaxes, 20 roughouts, 20 cores, 320 retouches flakes, 356 flakes, 24 miscellaneous flints, 1 Levallois core and 1 Levallois flake were recorded. The assemblage was dominated by small pointed handaxes and some side-scrapers, with limited evidence for the use of the Levallois technique.
- 6.1.4. The tools were preserved on or under the brickearth in what appeared to be a primary context. The 'working floor', identified on the south side of Stoke Newington Common 1.2m below the ground surface, was identified at several other locations within the APA. Due to varying stratigraphy the 'floor' appeared at different depths at other locations in Stoke Newington and in some instances disappeared completely.
- 6.1.5. Palaeolithic faunal and palaeoenvironmental including mammalian bones (mammoth), shells, plant remains and some birch stakes have been recorded within the APA to the north of the common. The birch stakes may represent a form of hominid tool. Smaller wood (yew) fragments were also recovered from the 'working floor'. These remains also showed little sign of abrasion suggesting that they had not moved far from their primary context. The presence of such remains is significant, as surviving organic material are extremely rare in the Palaeolithic archaeological record.
- 6.1.6. Excavations at Northwold Road in Stoke Newington recovered further well preserved Palaeolithic finds. These remains were probably redeposited from the Stoke Newington sands a short distance to the north. Given their well-preserved condition, they are not considered to be far from their original context. Several researchers have attempted to relocate Smith's Palaeolithic 'floor'. All have been unsuccessful due to the extensive urban development of Stoke Newington. The locality is considered to be of high importance as it contains one of the richest Palaeolithic assemblages in southern England and also is associated with palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 6.1.7. The majority of the APA is currently occupied by residential development but given the depth of the brickearth deposits it is considered likely that further remains survive below the housing development and within the surrounding gardens.
- 6.1.8. A large number of Palaeolithic finds have been identified in the area surrounding the APA. Their presence highlights the potential of the surrounding area to contain further Palaeolithic finds. This wider area of Palaeolithic potential has been classed as Tier 2 (APA 2.15).

#### *Significance*

- 6.1.9. This site is considered significant because *in situ* Palaeolithic deposits are rare nationally. Owing to the extreme scarcity of such sites and the scope of global research into human origins the importance of sites with *in situ* Palaeolithic remains cannot be overstated. During the Pleistocene, Britain was located at the north-west extremity of early human life. Lower

Palaeolithic sites in Britain, whether in primary or secondary contexts thus reflect some of the oldest fossils and artefacts in Europe. Along with middle Palaeolithic sites they are important as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of other human species, now extinct, and help us to reflect on what it means to be human.

6.1.10. Wymer highlights this area as a key lower Palaeolithic site in his survey of all identified sites of this date undertaken in 1999. He also states that this is the most important collection of lower Palaeolithic sites within the Putney-Hackney region of the Middle Thames Valley.

*Key References*

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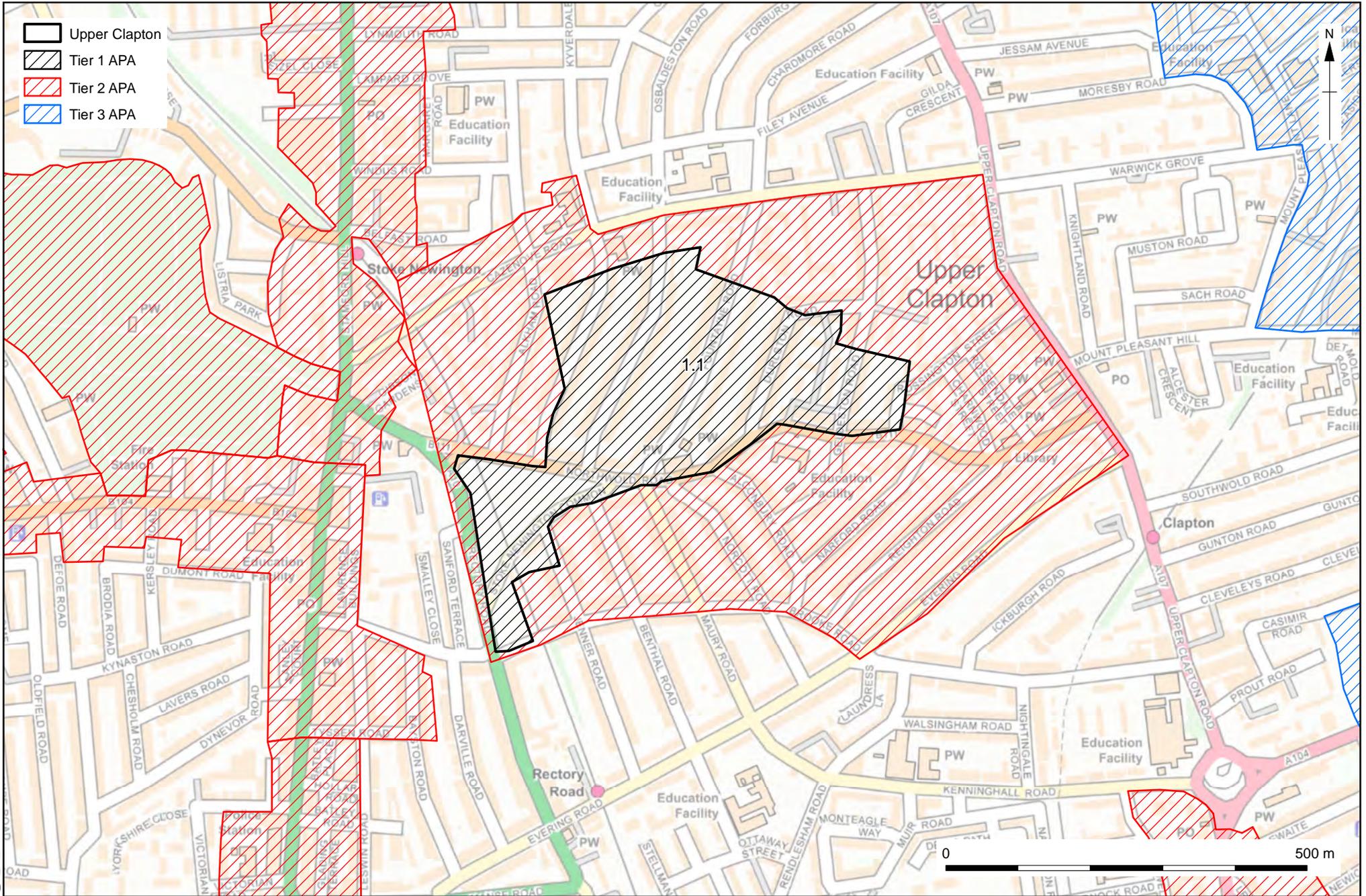
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Wymer, J, 1999 *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain*, Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage.



## ***Hackney APA 1.2 Shoreditch Elizabethan theatres and Holywell Priory***

### *Summary and Definition*

- 6.1.11. This Archaeological Priority Area covers two areas of residential and commercial development covering the area of the Holywell Priory, the Theatre and the Curtain.
- 6.1.12. The APA has been classified as Tier 1 because it contains substantial surviving remains of a medieval priory which are considered to be nationally important. The remains of the Theatre and the Curtain are also considered to be nationally important as they provide rare and unique examples of Elizabethan theatres and are associated with important historical and literary figures, including William Shakespeare.

### *Description*

#### Holywell Priory

- 6.1.13. Holywell Priory was first established as the Augustinian priory of St John the Baptist, which was founded by Robert FitzGelran between AD 1152 and 1158. Its lands originally consisted of three acres of moor through which the Holywell (Haliwell) spring crossed. The precinct of the priory lies between Bateman Row to the north, Holywell Lane to the south, Shoreditch High Street to the east and Curtain Lane to the west.
- 6.1.14. The layout of Holywell Priory is shown on Wyngaerde's Panorama of 1540 and has been confirmed by the archaeological investigation carried out across the site. In this depiction the main conventual buildings were situated to the north of the priory church with the cemetery situated to the south. The western part of the precinct was dedicated to agricultural buildings including the Great Barn and the whole precinct was enclosed by the priory wall. Access to the priory was gained through a main gatehouse situated on Holywell Lane and a minor gate on the western boundary (Curtain Lane), which provided access from the service yard to the open fields beyond.
- 6.1.15. The priory remained in use until the 10th October 1539, when it was surrendered to the Crown's commissioners for its dissolution. By this time the precinct had become less rural and had been divided into three parts, a residence for the Earl of Rutland, a residence for the nuns and a privately owned area.
- 6.1.16. Following its dissolution parts of the various buildings which made up the priory were sold off to private contractors. By 1544 the roofs of the church chapter house and dormitory chapel had been removed, although substantial parts of the walls remained. The priory district continued to be redeveloped over the following decades, with the ecclesiastical structures being pulled down and replaced by private residence and lodgings for noble men. The Great Barn survived the dissolution and in 1576 under the ownership of Giles Allen was divided into 11 separate tenements.
- 6.1.17. Geophysical survey and excavation have identified significant archaeological remains associated with the priory chapel, perimeter wall, cloister wall, cemetery and the Great Barn. A recent excavation at 187-193 Shoreditch High Street revealed the remains of the south gatehouse and the south porch and aisle of the priory church. This excavation revealed *in-situ* Westminster tile floors, which were considered to be of national importance and have been stored for eventual reconstruction. The remainder of the priory church, the burials to the south of the church, the gatehouse/prioress's lodgings and the cloister to the north of the church were all fully excavated and recorded.
- 6.1.18. Archaeological investigation of the priory has mostly been focused on the cemetery and the southern side of the church. The parts of the APA which have not been investigated have the potential to contain relatively well preserved parts of the primary priory buildings.

#### The Theatre

- 6.1.19. In c 1577 the western side of the priory precinct became the location for the first of the Elizabethan London playhouses (known as ‘the Theatre’). The site of the theatre is located to the east of Curtain Road and to the north of New Inn Yard, and is currently occupied by 7-5 New Inn Yard, 3-6 New Inn Broadway and 92-96 Curtain Road.
- 6.1.20. In 1567 James Burbage secured a 21-year lease for this area with the intent of constructing a building devoted to the performance of plays. The Theatre was constructed by James Burbage and John Brayne in 1576 and had a close connection with William Shakespeare. It is believed to have staged a performance of Hamlet in 1596.
- 6.1.21. The Theatre was located a short distance to the north of the Great Barn, a surviving element of Holywell Priory, and the new playhouse was used to shore up the remains of this earlier structure until 1598 when it was dismantled. The structural timbers of the Theatre were then transported to the south of the river for the construction of the Globe. At this time the braces for the Great Barn were sunk further into the ground to support the structure.
- 6.1.22. In 1989 a GPR survey at Curtain Road identified a circular structure 22m in diameter which was interpreted as the remains of the Theatre. Subsequent archaeological evaluation recorded a series of foundations and the remains of what appeared to be a polygon structure. The polygonal structure, considered to be of national if not international importance, was recorded and preserved *in situ*. Further evaluation at the site revealed curving masonry structures, an internal sloping gravel yard and a brick threshold, which were again interpreted as part of the 16th-century playhouse. In 2014 further evaluation works were carried out at 7-15 New Inn Yard Road. The evaluation revealed a previously undisturbed sequence of deposits. Due to the limited extent of the evaluation, the nature of the deposits was not determined but their presence highlighted a potential for further undisturbed remains relating to the Theatre to be present within the APA.

### The Curtain

- 6.1.23. The Curtain theatre was an Elizabethan theatre located in Hewett Street in Shoreditch. The Curtain opened in 1577, a year after the Theatre, and continued staging plays until around 1625. The site of the Curtain is bounded by Curtain Road to the east and Hewett Street to the north, with Plough Yard to the east and Hearn Street to the south. The Curtain took its name from Curtain Close, the walled pasture in which the playhouse was built.
- 6.1.24. It is not certain who built the Curtain but it could have been Henry Lanman, who was the theatre’s manager from 1582 and 1592 and held the lease to a property at Curtain Close during this period. The very first performance of Shakespeare’s Henry V was at the Curtain in 1599 and the Lord Chamberlain’s Men Company of Actors made the theatre their home for a year until 1599 when they relocated to the Globe.
- 6.1.25. In 2011 a trial trench evaluation identified potential remains of the late 16th-century playhouse at this location. The remains were indicative of a structure c 22m in diameter with a central open yard surrounded by 3.8m of gallery space. This was accessed by an *ingressus*<sup>6</sup> on either side of the inner wall which ran parallel to the main entrance.
- 6.1.26. Subsequent evaluation work identified structural remains interpreted as the inner eastern and southern playhouse wall. The location of these features indicated that the Curtain was a 22m wide square structure, rather than the 14-sided polygonal structure, as was previously assumed. The 16th- and 17th-century remains discovered during these investigations were preserved *in situ*.
- 6.1.27. All the London playhouses were closed in 1642 following the outbreak of the Civil War. The archaeological evidence suggests that playhouse was not demolished at this time; rather it was adapted and used throughout the mid-late 17th-century. Demolition and land raising deposits

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<sup>6</sup> an accessway at the side of the stage at ground level

suggest that the site was cleared during the 18th century. Structural remains associated with the playhouse, including the eastern inner wall and remains of the 16th/17th century buildings fronting Curtain Road survived this clearance and appear to have been reused as foundations for later buildings.

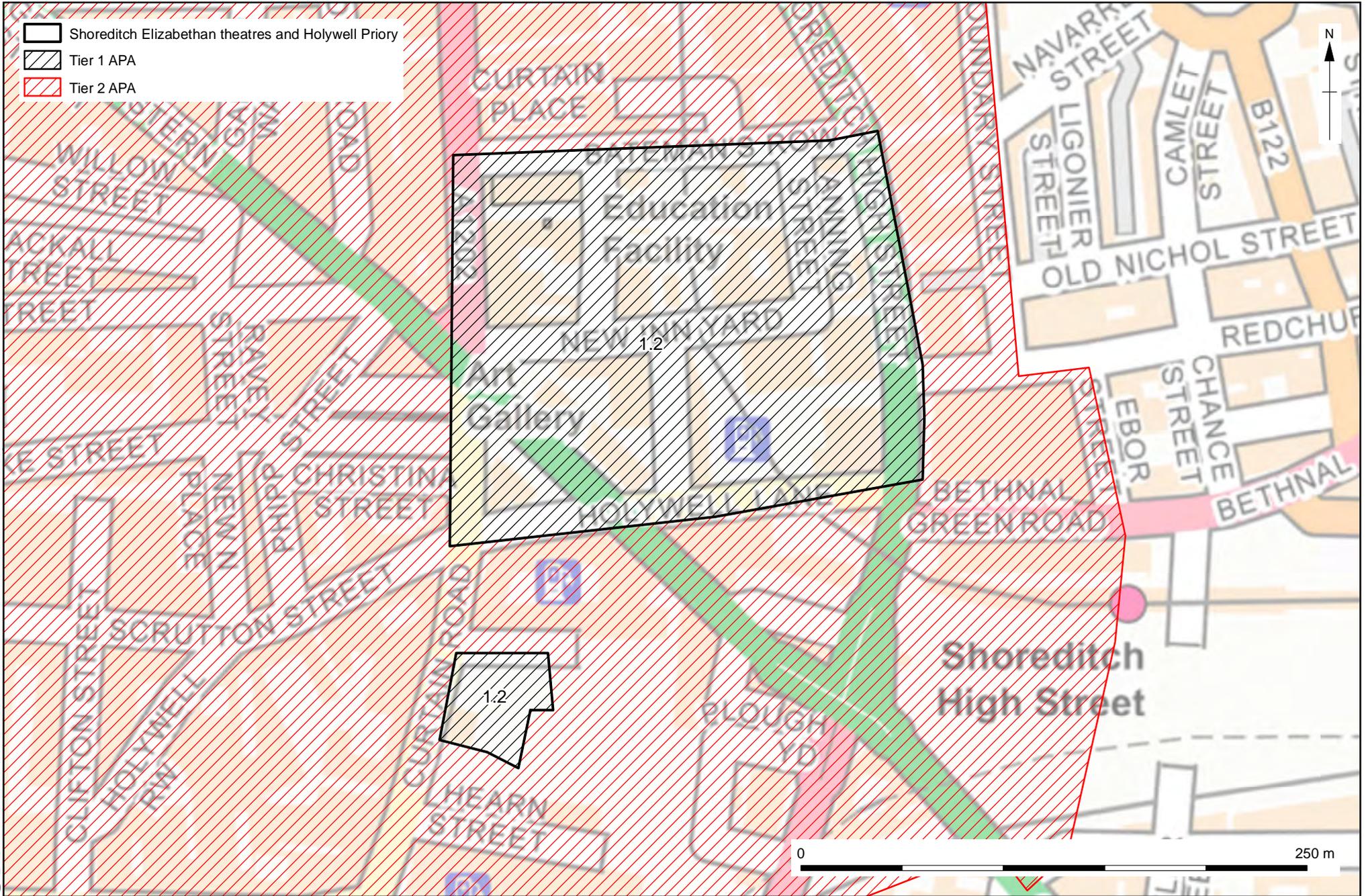
- 6.1.28. The APA has an underlying potential for archaeological evidence of Roman and early medieval archaeological activity. The APA lies approximately 800m to the north of the Roman city of *Londinium*. The major Roman Road Ermine Street (APA 2.8) passes through the APA following the line of the modern Shoreditch High Street. During the Roman period it was common for burials to take place in roadside locations and outside of the city wall and excavations have uncovered Roman burials within the boundary of the medieval priory.
- 6.1.29. The priory site is situated within Shoreditch (APA 2.11), a settlement with possible Anglo-Saxon origins. While not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, the village of Shoreditch is likely to have developed during the late 11th or early 12th century and was located on the junction of modern day Shoreditch High Street, Kingsland Road and Old Street.

#### *Significance*

- 6.1.30. The APA represents important surviving remains of the medieval Holywell Priory and precinct. Significant remains of the earlier and later priory church have been recorded within the APA including in-situ Westminster tile floors, which are considered to be nationally significant. Archaeological intervention has demonstrated that substantial buried remains of the priory survived within the APA and it can be anticipated that similar levels of survival could be expected across much of the claustral buildings north of the priory church. Remains of this nature would be considered nationally important and could contribute to understanding of Monastic and Dissolution archaeology at a national level.
- 6.1.31. The APA contains the remains of two Elizabethan theatres: the Theatre and the Curtain. The theatres represent a rare and unique type of heritage asset within London and have links to important historic and literary figures, including William Shakespeare. Sites containing the remains of contemporary theatres (the Rose and the Globe) are considered nationally important and have been designated as scheduled monuments. Remains associated with the Theatre and the Curtain are thus also likely to be considered to be of national significance by virtue of their rarity and historic value and in particular their link to important historic and literary figures.
- 6.1.32. The APA has been subject to several phases of redevelopment. However, archaeological investigation has demonstrated that archaeological deposits relating to the priory and the theatres are likely to have survived in areas not affected by basements or previous archaeological evaluation works.
- 6.1.33. The APA has an underlying potential to contain Roman burials, and early medieval occupation remains. These would provide an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the treatment of the dead in the Roman period as well as understanding occupation in the hinterland of London.

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- London Borough of Hackney, 2015 The Stage Site bounded by Hearn Street Curtain Road and Hewett Street London EC2



### ***Hackney APA 1.3 Lauriston Road Jewish Burial ground***

#### *Summary and Definition*

6.1.34. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the Lauriston Road burial ground in Hackney, which was used by the London Jewish population from the mid-18th century to late 19th century. The APA is classified as Tier 1, as it covers a burial ground which served distinctive religious communities.

#### *Description*

6.1.35. The United Synagogue Cemetery on Lauriston Road is a Jewish burial ground established in 1788. The cemetery was established by a group of Ashkenazim<sup>7</sup> on behalf of the Hambro Synagogue and remained in use until 1886. Greenwood's map of 1824-26 shows that a small building was located in the central/western part of the APA. The building remained in use until 1881 when it was demolished. The entire burial ground was closed by order of council in 1886, although burials ceased prior to this date.

6.1.36. Between 1788 and 1813, the Hambro's Synagogue Burial Register (Grove Street Cemetery) records 373 burials, in ten rows of graves within the burial ground. The number of additional burials after this date is unknown as there are no surviving registers after 1814. It is likely that further rows of burials exist across the burial ground in the eastern and in the south-western part of the APA, although there are no headstones in these areas.

6.1.37. The burial ground is currently managed by the United Synagogue Burial Society. The area was largely undeveloped prior to 1850, but by 1865 the area around the burial ground has been built up. By the mid-19th century the cemetery had become run down. In 1870 as a result of the dilapidation, both the grounds and the buildings were improved. Improvement works involved partial rebuilding of the Mortuary Hall, repairs to the boundary wall, large iron railings and gates at the entrance, new paths, trees and shrubs and renovations to the tombs.

6.1.38. The burial ground is currently bounded by a high wall on the north-east and southern sides and an iron-railed fence and entrance gates on the west side. The central and eastern parts of the site contain a number of headstones, footstones and grave monuments placed upright and around the perimeter of the APA. There is no documentary evidence for burials in the area of the former lodge in the western part of the APA. However, there is potential for undocumented burials to be present in this part of the APA.

6.1.39. A Second World War air raid shelter was constructed in 1941 to the rear of 103a Lauriston Road (north-west corner of the APA). This would have resulted in localised truncation of any archaeological deposits in the area. The depth of this disturbance is unknown.

#### *Significance*

6.1.40. Lauriston Road forms a group with the Tower Hamlets APA 1.06, Tower Hamlets Jewish cemeteries. The group of cemeteries is unique in England because of the rarity of Jewish cemeteries compared to Christian cemeteries, and due to the particular views of the Jewish community regarding burial grounds and the treatment of the dead. This cemetery in combination with Tower Hamlets APA 1.6 represents the earliest and longest-lived Jewish community in England following the Cromwellian resettlement.

6.1.41. The Jewish law *halakah*<sup>8</sup> forbids burial within the walls of a city. A crucial element of *halakah* is the proscription against the disturbance of human remains for any reason (including

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<sup>7</sup> Ashkenazi Jews, also known as Ashkenazic Jews or Ashkenazim are the Jews of France, Germany and Eastern Europe and their descendants. The adjective Ashkenazic is derived from the Hebrew word Ashkenaz, which is used to refer to Germany.

<sup>8</sup> Jewish Law

archaeological investigation and redevelopment), with the presumption being that Jewish cemeteries will remain cemeteries in perpetuity, even after closure. However, on archaeological and historical grounds alone a case could be made for the cemetery to be of national importance. Taken together these arguments would indicate a stronger than usual presumption against disturbance.

6.1.42. Burials which are more than 100 years old are potential of archaeological interest. The interest in burials and burial grounds relate to differences in burial practices, buildings and monuments which typically reflect a variety of social and religious factors and also to the study of human populations including life expectancy, health and disease.

6.1.43. Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines<sup>9</sup> archaeological investigation of post-medieval burial grounds normally applies to burials which are over 100 years old. This is governed by ecclesiastical or secular jurisdiction and follows nationally accepted codes of practice and ethics (eg BABAO 2010a,<sup>10</sup> b<sup>11</sup>) and, for Christian burial grounds, follows relevant guidance, in particular, that set out by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE 2015<sup>12</sup>, 2017<sup>13</sup>). Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than routine small-scale cemetery operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would need to be considered.

#### *Key References*

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<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.asp?ID=HAC036>

MOLAS, 2006 Jewish Burial Ground, Lauriston Road, Hackney: Archaeological Impact Assessment

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<sup>9</sup> Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England. Historic England 2005.

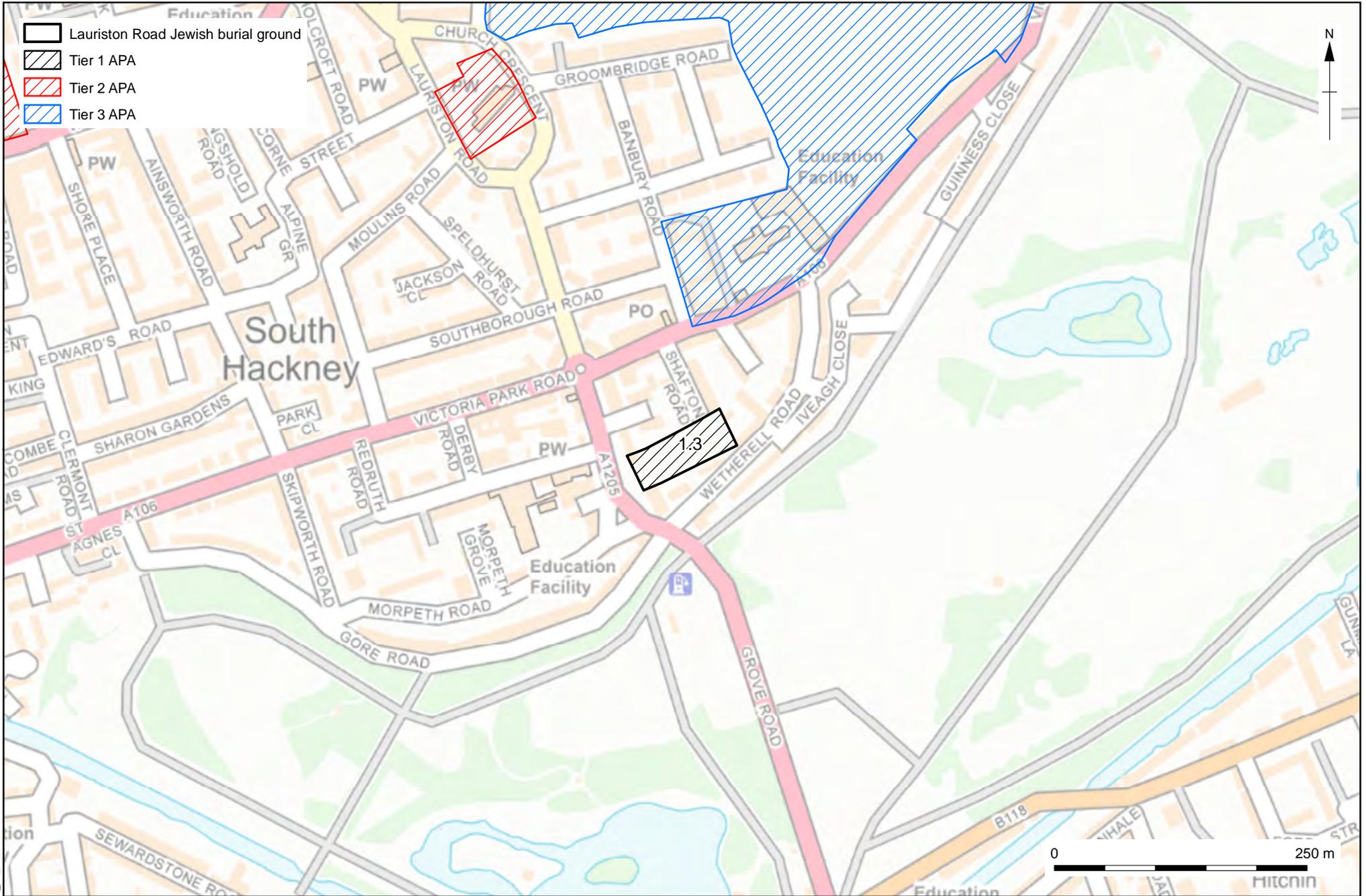
<sup>10</sup> BABAO 2010a British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Conduct. BABAO, London

<sup>11</sup> BABAO 2010b British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Practice. BABAO, London

<sup>12</sup> APABE 2015 Mays, S. Sidell, J., Sloane, B., White, W. and Elders, J. 2015 Large Burial Grounds. Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects. London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

<sup>13</sup> APABE 2017 Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England (2nd edition) London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

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## 7. AREA DESCRIPTIONS FOR TIER 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS

### *Hackney APA 2.1 Abney Park*

#### *Summary and Definition*

7.1.1. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the Grade II registered park and garden Abney Park, which is situated to the north of Stoke Newington and west of the A10. The cemetery was created in the late 19th century from the grounds of the 17th-century Fleetwood and Abney Estates to meet the need for non-conformist burial grounds in London. The APA is classed as Tier 2, as it is a post-medieval burial ground and also a designed landscape with the potential to contain nationally rare Lower Palaeolithic finds.

#### *Description*

7.1.2. Abney Park was from the outset conceived as a garden cemetery with an arboretum containing 2,500 trees. It forms a group with several other large private cemeteries scattered across London, informally known as the Magnificent Seven Cemeteries. These cemeteries were established over a ten-year period following an 1832 Act of Parliament which encouraged the creation of private cemeteries in the suburbs of London.

7.1.3. During the 17th century the APA was part of the Abney and Fleetwood Estates. Fleetwood House was built in the 1630s for Sir Edward Hatropp, and fronted what is now Church Street in Stoke Newington. The house was surrounded by gardens and eight acres of land, which stretched predominantly to the north. It passed into the hands of Fleetwood family in 1664, who retained it until 1766. It then passed through a number of hands before becoming a Quaker School in 1820. Abney House was constructed on land adjacent to Fleetwood House in 1700. The designs of the gardens of the two houses were linked. The Abney Estate was divided up for a time in 1810, but then largely reunited in 1827 when it and the Fleetwood estate were purchased by J W Freshfield.

7.1.4. The plans for creating the new private non-conformist cemetery on Abney and Fleetwood lands were drawn up between 1838 and 1840. The designs retained many of the 17th- and 18th-century garden features, such as the Great and Little Elm Walks and the Yew Walks. The landscaping and planting was carried out by George Loddiges, an early 19th-century horticulturalist and owner of Loddiges Nursery, which specialised in rare and exotic plants. The planting for Abney park incorporated every plant from the nursery. The original cemetery was expanded in 1843 to incorporate the land formerly occupied by Abney House. The extension was once again planted and designed by Loddiges. The development of the cemetery continued until 1870, when the New Road linking the entrance drive to the catacombs was built. After this time there were no major alterations.

7.1.5. A Palaeolithic lithic working site and Palaeolithic tools have been recorded within the cemetery, highlighting the potential for further Palaeolithic remains within the APA.

#### *Significance*

7.1.6. The APA represents a good surviving example of an early Victorian (1840) garden cemetery, and contains elements of the late 17th-century gardens associated with Fleetwood House and Abney House which were both designed by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). The cemetery forms one of the Seven Magnificent Cemeteries of London, and has strong connections with London's non-conformist community, which are expressed through its good collection of funerary monuments. The cemetery was planted by the leading C19 nursery, Loddiges of Hackney, with an extensive arboretum and rosarium of considerable horticultural interest, and it is the only surviving example of an English landscape designed by George Loddiges. The APA provides insight into the design and of early Victorian garden cemeteries. Abney Park is particularly significant as it was the first cemetery of its type to be laid out with no invidious dividing lines separating the burial areas of one faith from another. The cemetery chapel was also the first nondenominational cemetery chapel in Europe.

7.1.7. If the opportunity to study any of the burials within these cemeteries ever occurred they could provide information on life expectancy, the general health and social background of the local community, and the range of diseases that prevailed.

7.1.8. Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines<sup>14</sup> archaeological investigation of post-medieval burial grounds normally applies to burials which are over 100 years old. This is governed by ecclesiastical or secular jurisdiction and follows nationally accepted codes of practice and ethics (eg BABAO 2010a,<sup>15</sup> b<sup>16</sup>) and, for Christian burial grounds, follows relevant guidance, in particular, that set out by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE 2015<sup>17</sup>, 2017<sup>18</sup>). Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than routine small-scale cemetery operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would need to be considered.

7.1.9. There is also the potential for evidence of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic activity within the parks. Finds of this period are rare, and whether in primary or secondary deposit represent some of the oldest artefacts in Europe. They are considered important as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of the ancestors of modern humans, including extinct human species.

#### *Key References*

<http://www.abneypark.org/history>

<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.asp?ID=HAC001>

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<sup>14</sup> Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England. Historic England 2005.

<sup>15</sup> BABAO 2010a British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Conduct. BABAO, London

<sup>16</sup> BABAO 2010b British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Practice. BABAO, London

<sup>17</sup> APABE 2015 Mays, S. Sidell, J., Sloane, B., White, W. and Elders, J. 2015 Large Burial Grounds. Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects. London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

<sup>18</sup> APABE 2017 Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England, 2 edn, London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England



## ***Hackney APA 2.2 Hackney Settlements***

### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.10. This Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic settlements of Hackney, Clapton, Homerton and Dalston. The APA has been classified as Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain early medieval, medieval and post-medieval settlement remains. The APA covers a number of burial grounds and thus also has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval burials.
- 7.1.11. A number of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds have been recorded within the APA, and the route of the Roman road between London at Great Dunmow (APA 2.9) passes through the settlement. Accordingly, the APA has the potential to contain evidence of Roman roadside activity and also Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains.

### *Description*

- 7.1.12. The APA covers the historic cores of Hackney, Dalston, Homerton and Clapton as shown on Rocque's 1745 Map of London.
- 7.1.13. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains have been found in the vicinity of the settlements at Clapton and Dalston and within St John's Churchyard Gardens. The geology underlying Clapton is Hackney Gravel Member (river terrace gravels), which has a high potential to contain prehistoric remains. Several finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date have been recorded within the settlement, including a Palaeolithic kill site. Palaeolithic sites with associated faunal remains are particularly significant due to their extreme rarity. The depth of the gravel terraces means that it is likely that Palaeolithic deposits would survive below the level of disturbance caused by the post-medieval and modern development.
- 7.1.14. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds have also been recorded to the west of Dalston at Hackney Brook. These finds were retrieved from the Stoke Newington Brickfield, an area of brickearth exploited for its clay deposits in the post-medieval periods. The old Brickfield extends into the APA and has the potential to contain further such remains, although if they are present, clay extraction may have impacted upon their survival.
- 7.1.15. The projected route of the Roman road running from London to Great Dunmow (APA 2.9) passes through the centre of the APA and as a result, this area has the potential to contain Roman settlement and roadside activity. Finds of coins and pottery dating to this period have also been recorded within the APA. Homerton High Street follows the possible route of a minor Roman road, which is thought to have run east from Ermine Street (AP 2.8) to Leyton. The presence of a Roman road at this location is supported by the 18th century discovery of a Roman stone causeway crossing Hackney Marsh to the east of Homerton. Evidence of Roman activity within the APA has been uncovered during more recent archaeological investigations carried out at Link Street. These investigations uncovered numerous finds of Roman tile and Roman coins. The presence of such finds along the projected route of a Roman road further highlights the potential of the APA to contain remains relating to the Roman road and to other roadside activity. The settlement at Hackney runs along Mare Street, which is believed to follow the course of the Roman road between Cambridge to London. The name Mare Street is probably derived from the middle English word mere meaning boundary, and possibly refers to the historic boundary with Stepney (now Bethnal Green).
- 7.1.16. During the medieval period Hackney, Clapton, Homerton and Dalston were situated in the large medieval manor of Stepney, which had been a demesne of the Bishops of London since the early 7th century. The settlements do not appear in written records until the medieval period, but the place-names Hackney, Dalston, Homerton and Clapton are all Anglo-Saxon, suggesting that the settlements have pre-medieval origins. Hackney is derived from a Saxon place-name 'Hacas ey' meaning a raised place in the marsh. Homerton is believed to be derived of the Saxon place-name meaning 'Farm of Hunburh'. The name Dalston is probably derived from *Dedrelaf's tun* or farm and the name Clapton loosely translates as the farm on the hill and

probably relates to the settlement's position upon high ground rising up from the River Lea. The place-name evidence suggests that settlements were originally agricultural and it is likely that the villages originated as farmsteads and outlying settlements associated with the manor at Stepney. Settlements of this size would not have warranted individual mention in early records such as the Domesday Survey, and instead would have been discussed in reference to the manor.

- 7.1.17. Archaeological investigations at Hackney, Clapton, and Dalston have yet to reveal any evidence relating to the early medieval settlements. The only evidence of early medieval settlement within the APA was recorded during the archaeological investigations carried out at Link Street in Homerton. The investigation revealed surviving remains of a structure dating to the 11th or 12th century alongside Saxon and medieval pottery. A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out elsewhere within Homerton. However, they have yielded very little evidence of the medieval settlement and the majority of the remains found relate to the post-medieval settlement and workhouse.
- 7.1.18. The first written records of the settlements appear in the medieval period. Hackney first appeared as '*Hakeneia*' in 1198, Clapton appeared as '*Clopton*' in 1339, Homerton appeared as '*Humberton*' in 1343 and Dalston, appeared as '*Derleston*' in 1388. Within the APA archaeological remains dating to the medieval period are few. A medieval well has been recorded within Homerton and Hackney and a small number of medieval finds have recovered in the settlement at Homerton. The settlement at Dalston is believed to have been the site of a medieval manor and hunting lodge.
- 7.1.19. The medieval church of St Augustine served all four of these settlements and was first recorded in 1275. At this time the church had both a vicar and a rector and served the entire parish until the area was divided into smaller parishes in the 18th century. Rocque's map of London (1745) shows the early layout of the villages. The settlements appear to have developed in a linear fashion along the roads radiating out from St Augustine's church. By the 18th century the settlements appeared to have been connected. This clustering of settlements is unusual in Hackney, as elsewhere within the borough settlement appears to be dispersed or strung out along Ermine street (APA 2.8). The settlements are also unusual, being served by only one church rather than developing their own.
- 7.1.20. Hackney and the surrounding hamlets of Clapton, Homerton, and Dalston remained largely rural until the dissolution when Henry VIII disbanded monasteries, priories, convents and friaries in England. As a result, the lands belonging to religious orders, including the manor of Stepney were surrendered to the crown and put up for sale. Following the sale of the manor the area surrounding Hackney became popular as a retreat for the nobility due to its healthy environment and proximity (less than 3 miles) to London. Access to the city was provided by the Roman roads from Lincoln (Ermine Street APA 2.8) and Cambridge (Mare Street). The settlement also had good links to the River Lea, which was exploited for communication and transport links in the post-medieval period.

### Hackney

- 7.1.21. The village of Hackney continued to develop throughout the 17th and 18th centuries and became the home to many prominent merchants. Rocque's 1745 map of London shows Hackney as a ribbon develop running along mare street to Cambridge Heath. The east side of Mare Street was extensively developed in the 18th century and St Thomas' Square was set out in 1771. A non-conformist congregation chapel and burial ground dedicated to St Thomas was built on the south side of the square in 1777. St Thomas' burial ground remained open until 1888 when it was laid out as a public garden. The burial ground contains numerous inhumation burials and also surviving headstones and table tombs. The APA also includes the Mare Street Baptist Chapel burial ground, which was originally associated with a small chapel (now destroyed). The area has subsequently been developed, although a series of headstones and table tombs survive in the yard behind the modern development.

### Clapton

7.1.22. The settlement at Clapton grew up along a road shown on Rocque's map as Hackney Lane, which ran approximately along the route of the modern Lower Clapton Road and Amhurst Road. Like Hackney, the settlement developed extensively in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The settlement has continued in use from the 14th century to the present day and thus has the potential to contain roadside and settlement activity dating to these periods.

### Homerton

7.1.23. By 1600 the area along Humberton High Street had been settled by rich Londoners, and an undated timber framed house of two storeys had been built on the north side of Plough Street. The house, interpreted as a manorial seat or possibly a royal official's or citizen's retreat, was divided into several shops, including the Grade II listed building The Plough, before being demolished in the late 19th-century. The 17th-century Tower Place, which was located on the corner of Glyn Road was also believed to have medieval origins due to depictions of the house with a moat. The settlement continued to expand along the High Street throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. By the time of its depiction on Rocque's map, the settlement had become known as Humerton.

7.1.24. To the south of Homerton High Street is the site of the Hackney Union Workhouse. The first workhouse was set up between 1728-29 in a rented house on the north side of the High Street, but shortly after (1741) moved to a larger house on the south of the High Street. This early facility was based within a Tudor cottage with numerous tall chimneys and an inner courtyard and housed 30 people. In 1750 one room within the workhouse was reserved for the treatment of sick paupers. By the following year a larger sick room was needed and the remit of the facility extended to include the insane as well as the sick. To accommodate the additional inmates, the parish erected a number of sheds. In 1768 the parish bought the site of the workhouse and it was enlarged on multiple occasions throughout the 18th and early 19th century. By 1813 it could accommodate 280 inmates, and at this time many of the buildings were replaced as they had fallen into disrepair.

7.1.25. Following the creation of the Hackney Poor Law Union in 1837 a new Union Workhouse was created upon the site of the earlier workhouse this was extended and modernised throughout the 19th and 20th century, and in 1930 the site became known as Hackney Hospital. This part of the APA contains surviving buildings associated with the 19th and 20th century workhouse and has the potential to contain below ground archaeological deposits associated with the earlier workhouse and cottages which were previously contained within the site.

7.1.26. Homerton contains the 19th-century Grade II listed Church of St Barnabas churchyard, which was built in the Victorian period to serve the expanding population of Hackney. The church was built for £3000 in a late medieval style. It was heavily damaged in the Second World War and was restored in the 1950s. The churchyard is likely to contain burials ranging in date from the 19th to early 20th century.

### Dalston

7.1.27. The settlement at Dalston is situated to the east of Dalston Lane. The lane follows a dogleg pattern presumably to keep the road and settlement some distance away from Pigwell brook. In 16th- and 17th-century assessments of the hamlet, Dalston was grouped together with Newington, Shacklewell and Kingsland and as such the exact size of the hamlet during these periods is not known, although in 1605 all four hamlets had approximately the same population as Hackney Village. By 1672 Dalston is recorded as having 23 householders. The hamlet was subject to very little change until the 19th-century when the settlement began to expand. It continued to grow throughout the 19th and 20th century.

### St Johns Churchyard Gardens

- 7.1.28. St John's Churchyard Gardens is situated in the centre of the centre of the APA to the east of Mare Street and south-west of Lower Clapton Road. The gardens have been in use as a burial ground for over 500 years and have been managed as parkland since 1894.
- 7.1.29. The APA is centred around the Church of St John, which was designed by James Spiller between 1792 and 1797. The main building is in the shape of a cross with a tower and steeple. The churchyard contains three listed tombs, associated with the Loddiges, Beaufort and Hunter families. The tombs contain both 18th- and 19th-century burials.
- 7.1.30. The churchyard originally belonged to St Augustine's Church, which was the Hackney Village Church from 1275. All that remains of the earlier church is the Grade I listed St Augustine's Tower, which is Hackney's oldest building, having survived when the rest of the church was demolished in 1798. St Augustine's was built on raised ground close to Hackney Brook. During the 14th century the church was dedicated to the patron saint of the Knights Templar, St Augustine of Hippo, as the Templars owned much of the land in Hackney until their suppression. The old church was rededicated to St John in 1660 when the Knights of St John took over from the Templars.
- 7.1.31. The old church was expanded in 18th century to meet the needs of the growing population of Hackney, and in 1789 the decision was made to demolish the old church and build a new Church of St John. The new church was designed to seat 2000 people and was consecrated in 1797.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.32. The APA is considered significant as it has yielded evidence of rare Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains, including a potential Lower Palaeolithic kill site in Clapton. Lower Palaeolithic finds in associated with faunal remains are particularly rare in England and may represent *in situ* deposits. Finds of this period, whether in primary or secondary contexts, thus reflect some of the oldest fossils and artefacts in Europe. Along with Middle Palaeolithic sites, they are important as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of other human species, now extinct, and help us to reflect on what it means to be human. New discoveries of undisturbed Palaeolithic remains would be of national importance. Mesolithic material is particularly rare in Hackney, and if such material were found, would provide insight into Mesolithic use of the landscape and also technological development in this period.
- 7.1.33. The route of the major Roman road running from London to Great Dunmow (APA 2.9) passes through the APA. In addition, both Mare Street and Homerton High Street are believed to follow the course of minor Roman roads. The APA thus has the potential contain buried remains associated with Roman roads and potentially evidence for settlement and roadside activities in the areas immediately adjacent. Such deposits are considered significant as they can provide insight into the nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londinium*.
- 7.1.34. Hackney, Clapton, Homerton and Dalston have been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus have the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement which could provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The origins of these settlements potentially extend back into the early medieval period. Any potential future work would help to develop our understanding of the early settlements and its origins, particularly how and when the settlement developed.
- 7.1.35. The APA contains several post-medieval burial grounds, as well as St John's Churchyard Gardens, which contain the upstanding remains of a medieval church, this being the oldest surviving building in Hackney. St John's Churchyard Gardens are situated on the site of the former St Augustine's Church and as such has the potential to contain burials dating back to the medieval period. The remaining burial grounds within the APA (St Thomas' Burial Ground, Mare Street Chapel Baptist Burial Ground and Church of St Barnabas Church Yard), were

formed in the 18th and 19th centuries and contain burials dating to these periods. The interest in burials and burial grounds relates to differences in burial practices, buildings and monuments, which reflect social and religious factors, and also to the study of human populations. If the opportunity to study these remains occurred, they could provide information on the life expectancy and the health and social background of the local community.

7.1.36. During the post-medieval period the union workhouse developed to the south of Homerton High Street. The APA has the potential to contain buried archaeological remains associated with the Tudor cottage which originally housed the workhouse as well as the later custom workhouse buildings. Such remains would be helpful in developing a greater understanding of post-medieval hospitals and workhouses and their development.

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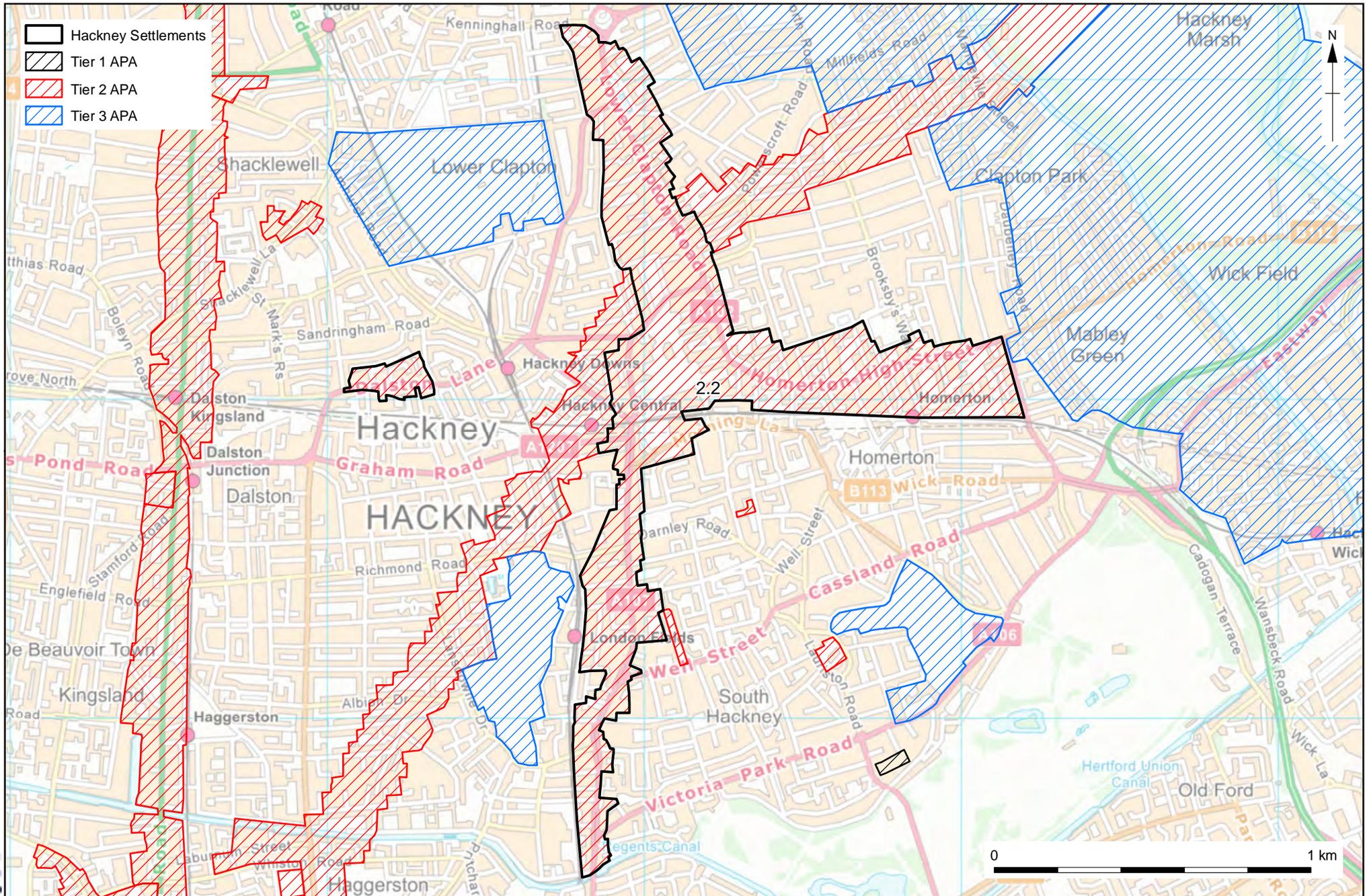
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### ***Hackney APA 2.3 Clissold Park***

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.37. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the area of the Grade II registered park and garden Clissold Park which is situated to the north-west of Stoke Newington and east of the A105. The park is designated as a Conservation Area and as Metropolitan Open Land, it contains the Grade II\* Listed Building Clissold House.
- 7.1.38. The APA is classed as Tier 2 as it has the potential to contain evidence of landscaping and garden design from the 18th and 19th centuries.

#### *Description*

- 7.1.39. During the early part of the 17th century, the APA was a mix of agricultural land in the south-west and common land to the north. The part of the APA currently occupied by Clissold Park was at this time bisected by the course of the New River, an aqueduct completed in 1613 to bring drinking water from Hertfordshire to North London (APA 2. 4).
- 7.1.40. In the mid-18th-century Samuel Hoare, a merchant and strict Quaker, moved to Stoke Newington, attracted by the area's non-conformist religious views. Samuel Hoare's son, Jonathan Hoare, leased the land directly adjacent to St Mary's church and started to lay out the first park, Stoke Newington Park, at the end of the 18th century. The Grade II\* listed Paradise House (now Clissold House) was constructed at this time. The late 18th-century park was laid out with parkland in the southern half around the New River and woodland in the north. The woodland surrounded two lakes, created from Hackney Brook, and originally dug as clay pits to supply the interior bricks for Clissold House. Kitchen Gardens were laid out to the north-east of the house, with designed gardens located between the house and Church Street to the south.
- 7.1.41. During the early 19th century the estate was owned by Thomas Gudgeon, before passing into the hands of Mr Crawshay and then his daughter who married the Reverend August Clissold. During the 19th century the park was still known as Stoke Newington Park. Its design remained broadly unchanged throughout the 19th century, although by the mid-19th century the wooded area in the north of the park had been reduced, and an avenue of trees had been planted running from the north side of the house to the space between the two lakes. No other substantial changes to the park occurred until the late-19th century.
- 7.1.42. During the 19th century the then owner of the estate George Clissold was prevented from selling the freehold portion of the estate for development on two occasions by the actions of the Commons Preservation Society, which was campaigning to save open spaces at this time. In 1887 the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act was passed. As a result of this act the park was purchased by the Metropolitan Board of Works through a special Act of Parliament, after which it was laid out as a public park and re-named Royal Albert Park. It was formally opened as Clissold Park in 24th July 1889. New features were added to the parkland at this time, including a deer pen laid out in 1890 in the area enclosed by the New River. This represented the first animal enclosure laid out in an urban park.
- 7.1.43. The APA contains surviving segments of the New River. The river enters the park through its western boundary flowing east towards the house before curving in front of it. The present day river ends at the southern boundary of the park where it has been tunnelled underground. The former course of the river would have looped past the house to the west, flowing along the southern boundary of the park before being channelled under Stoke Newington High Street.
- 7.1.44. Since the late-19th century, the portion of the New River within the park has been fenced off. A Grade II listed boundary stone dated 1790 lies within the fenced area and represents the last surviving remnant of the historic division between Hornsey Parish and Stoke Newington. Immediately to the east of the boundary stone is the site of the late 18th-century lodge (demolished in the 19th century).

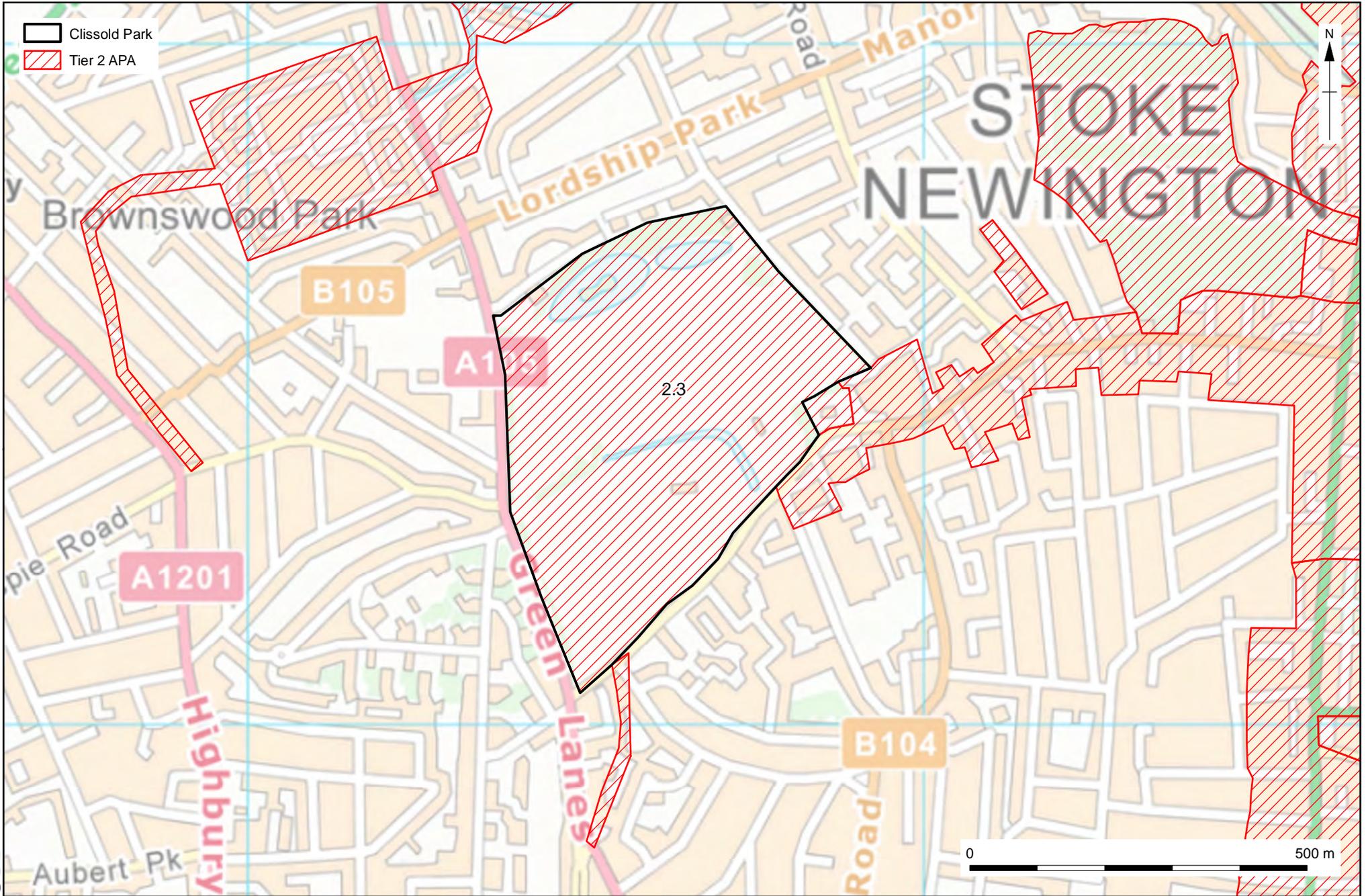
- 7.1.45. The reservoirs and engine house which line the course of the New River, to the north-west of the park, are prominent in views from the Clissold Park and along with views of St Mary's Church in Stoke Newington, they form part of several designed views looking out from the parkland.
- 7.1.46. Clissold Park is located immediately adjacent to the medieval village of Stoke Newington and the site of an early medieval manor (APA 2.10). The parkland also contains the old parish boundary and abuts the medieval churchyard of St Mary's church. Given its proximity to known medieval sites it is considered to have an underlying potential to contain early medieval and medieval settlement remains.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.47. The APA is situated in an area that was once mixed agricultural and woodland. Clissold Park is a Grade II registered park. While the parkland was altered during the late 19th century, it contains well preserved elements of its original design and also contains elements of the earlier 17th-century aqueduct, the New River. The presence of the New River provides an opportunity to further understand 17th-century engineering and construction practices and also provides an example of the development of water management practices throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. To the south of Stoke Newington the course of the New River has been culverted in places, and elsewhere preserved as ornamental water courses, such as that within Clissold Park.
- 7.1.48. Clissold Park has been relatively undisturbed and represents an island of preservation in an otherwise intensively developed area. Part of its significance arises from its potential to contain well preserved earlier archaeological remains. There is an underlying potential for Lower-middle Palaeolithic finds, like those found at nearby Abney Park (APA 2.1) to be present within the parkland. Given its location on the former Stoke Newington Hornsey parish boundary, adjacent to the early medieval manor and medieval village of Stoke Newington, the APA also has the potential to contain remains that would provide insight into the nature and development of the settlement at Stoke Newington during the early medieval and medieval periods.

#### *Key References*

- London Borough of Hackney, 2016 Management Plan 2011-2016 Clissold Park (updated January 2016)
- Stone, P, 2010 The New River, *London Historians*, <http://www.londonhistorians.org/>  
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## ***Hackney APA 2.4 The New River***

### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.49. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the course of the New River as shown on Rocque's 1745 map of London. The bulk of the APA is situated to the north-west of Stoke Newington; a small segment is situated to the south of South of Stoke Newington where the river has been piped underground and covered.
- 7.1.50. The APA is classed as Tier 2 as it contains the remains of the 17th-century aqueduct the New River. The APA also includes the 19th-century East and West Reservoir and its associated pumping station.

### *Description*

- 7.1.51. The New River enters the London Borough of Hackney at Green Lanes Bridge in the north-west corner of the borough. It then flows eastwards along the borough boundary before passing under the A503, where it loops south and then west to feed into the East Reservoir at Stoke Newington. The water course historically also fed into the West Reservoir but it no longer does, and the area has since been converted into a water sports centre. The river continues to flow in a south westerly direction until it meets Green Lane, at which point it disappears underground. From Green Lane onwards the APA follows the historic course of the New River<sup>19</sup> west through Brownswood Park then south to the administrative boundary of the borough. The historic course of the New River re-enters Hackney at Clissold Park (APA 2.3). A surviving segment of the former course is still present; it flows east through Clissold Park before looping south and then west around Clissold House. The historic course of the aqueduct would then have travelled west along the southern boundary of the park before being channelled under Stoke Newington High Street and flowing in a south-westerly direction out of the borough along New River Path.
- 7.1.52. The New River was constructed in the 17th century to bring fresh water from Hertfordshire into the city of London. The river began in New Gauge in Hertfordshire and transported water all the way to Saddlers Wells in Clerkenwell. The original water course was ten feet wide with a water depth of four feet. It gently sloped five and a half metres over a distance of sixty kilometres, following the contours of the landscape to ensure the correct the correct volume and flow.
- 7.1.53. The East and West Reservoirs were created between 1830 and 1833 to provide fresh water for London's growing population. At this time London Bridge was also being replaced and allegedly the wood from the 1759 bridge was used to line the reservoirs at Stoke Newington.
- 7.1.54. In the 1850s, the New River's many loops were straightened using culverts and the overall length was reduced to 45km. The Metropolitan Water Act was passed in 1852 in response to numerous outbreaks of cholera in London. The act stipulated that all water supplies brought by open aqueducts (such as the New River) must be cleansed by filtering. In addition, all supply channels within five miles of St Paul's Cathedral must be covered, and this led to the creation of filter beds alongside the New River. These were located to the west of Green Lane in the area currently occupied by a housing estate bounded north by Gloucester Drive, south by Digby Crescent and east Queen's Drive. An engine house was also constructed to pump the filtered water through an underground iron pipe to a new covered reservoir at Claremont Square Pentonville.

### *Significance*

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<sup>19</sup>As shown on the Telford's 1834 Map of the New river from its source near the town of Ware to London and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1869

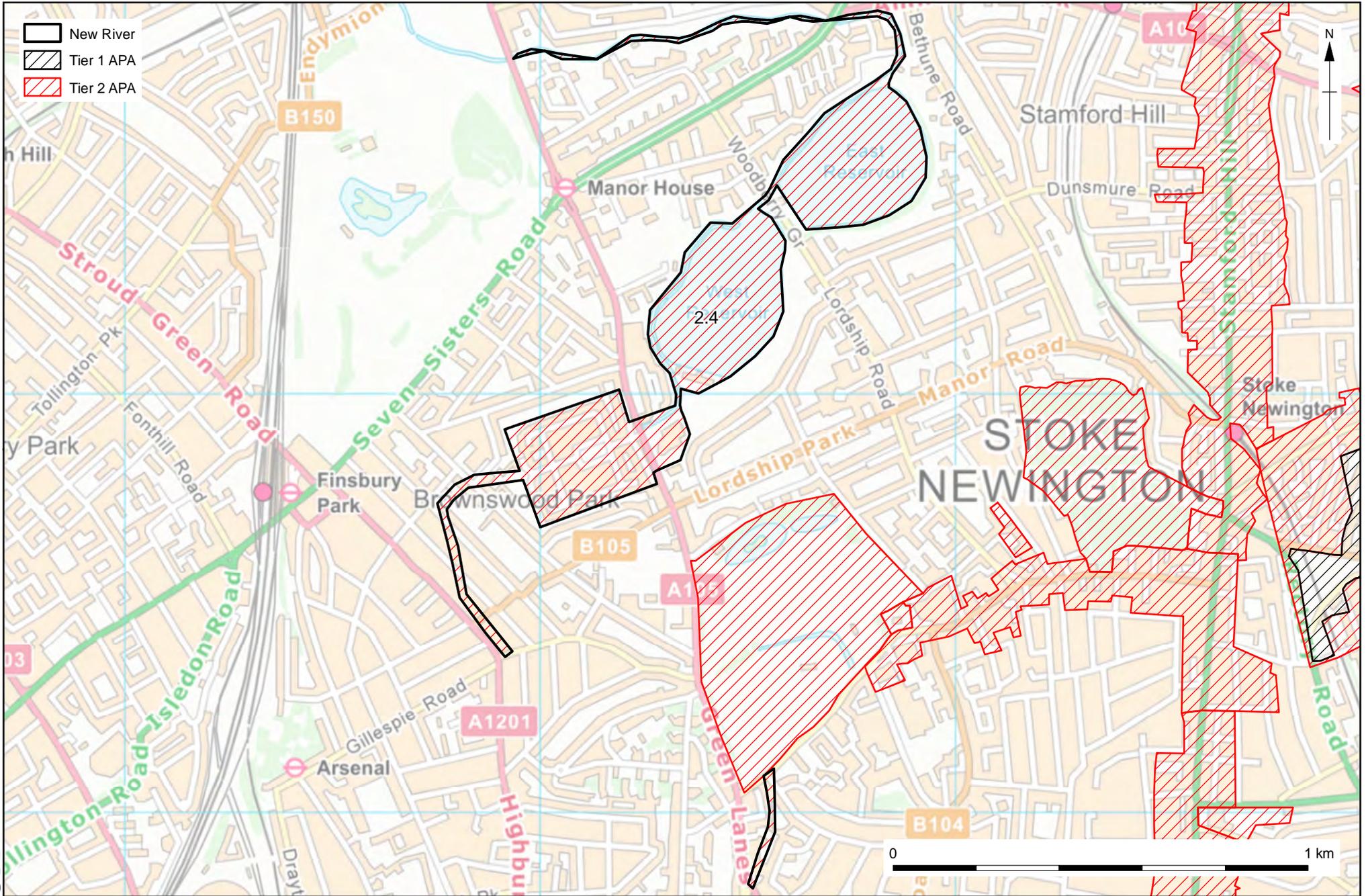
7.1.55. The APA is considered significant, as it contains the remains of the 17th century aqueduct, the New River. Where it survives the New River is a visible remnant of 17th engineering designed to support the expanding population of London in this period. The presence of the New River provides an opportunity to further understand 17th-century engineering and construction practices and also provides an example of the development of water management practices throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. To the south of Stoke Newington the course of the New River has been culverted, although in places it is preserved as ornamental water courses, such as within Clissold Park.

*Key References*

Telford, 1834 *Map of the New River from its Source near the Town of Ware to London*

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### ***Hackney APA 2.5 Kingsland Leper Hospital***

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.56. This Archaeological Priority Area covers the site of the former Kingsland Leper Hospital bounded to the west of Kingsland Road (A10) and to the south of Ball's Pond Road (A104).
- 7.1.57. The APA has been classified as Tier 2, as the medieval hospital is a discrete heritage asset of archaeological and historical interest.

#### *Description*

- 7.1.58. Kingsland Leper Hospital was originally built in 1285, as one of ten leper hospitals located upon the roads leading out of London. It was located immediately to the south of the medieval hamlet of Kingsland, two miles from the medieval city of London and is currently located within a Conservation Area. The hospital was used to house individuals afflicted with leprosy until the mid-16th century when the last case of leprosy was recorded in London. From this point onwards people with a variety of diseases were sent to the hospital.
- 7.1.59. Those afflicted with leprosy lost their common law and property rights and were excluded from the places where people gathered. They were often sent away to isolated leper hospitals such as Kingsland, which were designed as much to keep them away from others as to provide health care. While living in these hospitals, the patients were expected to live by Christian rule, and as such a chapel was an essential part of the hospital. The medieval hospital fronted onto Kingsland Road (APA 2.8) and had a barn behind it, as well as a small chapel to the north, described in Walfords (1878) *Old and New London* as a '*small edifice in the early English Style of Gothic architecture, with pointed windows and a bell turret.*'<sup>20</sup> From 1549 the hospital was run as an outhouse of St Bartholomew's Hospital in Smithfield. It was extended in the 17th-century to include a new '*sweatlie*'<sup>21</sup> ward and by 1669 there were six wards.
- 7.1.60. By the early 18th-century Kingsland Road had been raised and earlier wards were three feet below the existing road level and as such suffered from damp. To improve conditions, the wards were enlarged and rebuilt in 1725 and a couch-room, a surgery and a bath house were added to the hospital. The hospital was shut in 1760 when it became too expensive to run.
- 7.1.61. The medieval chapel was never rebuilt and was kept open following the closure of the hospital. The patients' pew was removed at this time and the other seats were raised. Final dimensions of the chapel were 27ft by 18ft (8.2m by 5.5m) and it extended to height of 20ft (6.1m) with 3ft (0.9m) lying below the level of Kingsland Road. The chapel survived until 1846 when it was demolished to make room for private residences. The building on the corner of Balls Pond Road and Kingsland Road is believed to have its north door in the same position as the north door of the Chapel.
- 7.1.62. The APA has a high potential for well-preserved buried archaeological remains relating to the hospital, although no archaeological work has been carried out to confirm the presence of such remains. While the site has been subject to 19th- and 20th-century development, the current buildings are all situated at the same level as Kingsland Road. The former leper hospital and chapel extended to a depth of almost 1m below Kingsland Road. Following the removal of the chapel in the 1850s it would appear that the ground level was raised to match that of the road. Accordingly, there is potential for significant remains associated with the hospital, particularly the chapel and cemetery to be preserved within the made ground below the current buildings.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.63. The APA is significant as it has the potential to contain archaeological remains relating to the medieval leper hospital. If any built remains survive they will be of archaeological interest and

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<sup>20</sup> Edward Walford, 1878

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

could prove helpful in developing a greater understanding of medieval hospitals, in particular leper hospitals.

7.1.64. The site may contain buried remains of its medieval inhabitants, these remains would provide an opportunity to better understand the health of the medieval population and also present the possibility of identifying further evidence of leprosy.

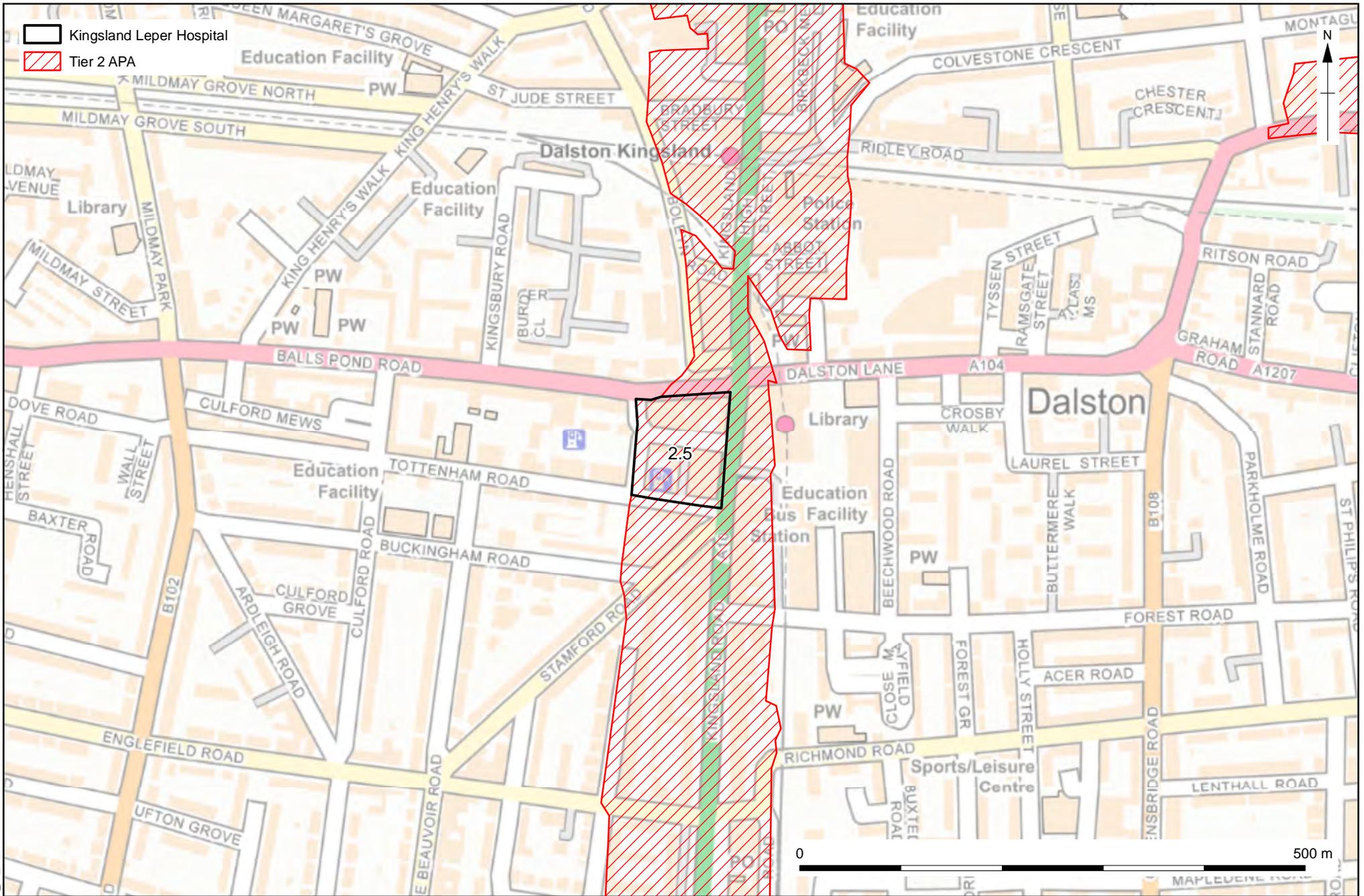
7.1.65. The survival and condition of the site is currently unknown, but if well-preserved buried remains were found they could potentially be of national importance.

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## ***Hackney APA 2.6 Springfield Park and Clapton Common***

### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.66. The Archaeological Priority Area of Springfield Park and Clapton Common is located to the east of Stamford Hill immediately adjacent to the A107. The APA extends east from Clapton Common to the banks of the River Lea encompassing the Grade II registered park and garden Springfield Park.
- 7.1.67. The APA has been classified Tier 2 as it encompasses areas of relatively undisturbed land with the potential to contain Palaeolithic and Roman archaeological remains. The alluvial deposits to the north-east of the APA have the potential to contain waterlogged deposits and palaeoenvironmental evidence that would not otherwise be preserved within the archaeological record.

### *Description*

- 7.1.68. The APA is situated upon the edge of the Lea Valley Floodplain, which has been a focus of activity since the prehistoric period. It is bounded by the River Lea to the east, by Springfield and Hackwood Mount to the south and south-east and by Spring Hill to the north. To the west the APA is defined by Clapton Common with the A107 forming the western most boundary of the APA.
- 7.1.69. During the prehistoric period the north-eastern eastern part of the APA would have been a low-lying wetland area repeatedly flooded by the River Lea. This action has resulted in a build-up of alluvial deposits in the north-eastern part of the APA. To the south-west the ground level rises and the geology transitions to Hackney Gravel and brickearth deposits. A number of natural springs occur within the APA resulting in marshy ground to the north-east and grass turf on higher ground. Palaeolithic activity within the APA is represented by Palaeolithic stone tools found on the high ground to the west and south-west of the APA. These finds highlight the potential for further Palaeolithic remains to be present within these areas of higher ground.
- 7.1.70. Roman vessels, coffins and human bone were excavated from Springfield Park during the late 19th century. The pottery found in association with the burials included high quality samian ware imported from the continent. The presence of the burials and high-status goods are indicative of a nearby Roman settlement. Roman remains are particularly rare within Hackney. The majority of Roman material has been recovered from the south-west of the borough adjacent to the city walls of *Londinium*. Elsewhere within the borough the only other known evidence relates to the proposed routes of Roman Roads (APA 2.8, 2.9). Given the apparent spread of Roman burials within Springfield Park it is possible that the mound identified in the north-west corner of the park is a barrow dating to the Roman period. Elsewhere within the country Roman barrows are often located in proximity to Roman roads. The mound in Springfield Park conforms to this pattern, being located only 700m to the east of the Roman road of Ermine Street. The dating of the mound has not been confirmed, but should it prove to be Roman it would be considered of national importance (Tier 1).
- 7.1.71. Evidence of activity during the Saxon period was provided by the discovery of a Saxon boat during the excavation of a former children's playground. The boat was found adjacent to the river and preserved by the waterlogged conditions. Analysis of the wood and preserved pollen samples retrieved during this excavation suggest that during the Saxon period the River Lea was a fast flowing river with abundant aquatic fauna, and the surrounding area appears to have been used for some form of agriculture or husbandry.
- 7.1.72. No medieval finds have been recovered from the area and it is likely that this area was exploited as a combination of river meadow and common ground in this period. The eastern part of the APA, currently occupied by Springfield, continued in use as meadowland until the 18th century when the area began to be exploited for industrial and commercial functions. A tile yard appeared in the north-east part of the area around this time alongside a number of manufacturing

business, including a calico manufacturers and a varnish factory in the north-east corner. These were served by Giles's Dock, a channel of water leading west from the River Lea to Spring Lane, which was used for loading barges.

- 7.1.73. Between the 18th and 19th-century three houses were built in the APA, the grounds of which cover much of the present day Springfield Park. The 18th-century house The Chestnuts was served by a lodge to the north on Spring Hill and occupied much of the ground within the centre of the park. Springfield House (now White Lodge) was situated within the southwest corner of the park and the third house Spring House was situated in the north-west corner of the park. The Grade II listed building White Lodge is the only one of these buildings to still survive. Little is known about the gardens associated with these houses. However, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of the area shows that they were typical villa gardens of this period. All three houses were purchased by London County Council and the park was opened in 1905. Few changes to the grounds were needed for the park's creation, the main change being the demolition of Spring House, The Chestnuts and various cottages, and the diversion of Spring Lane, which ran north to south through the middle of the park. The parkland has remained largely unchanged and as such it has the potential to contain surviving 18th and 19th-century parkland features, as well as below ground archaeological remains associated with the demolished 18th-century houses.
- 7.1.74. The western part of the APA has been in use as common land from the medieval period onwards. It is situated on a ridge overlooking the Lea Valley and has sweeping views across the Lea towards Epping Forest in the distance. Given the topography of the area and the presence of Roman material to the east of the common it is considered to have potential to contain Roman occupation deposits, although no archaeological investigation has been carried out to support this.
- 7.1.75. The area currently occupied by Clapton Common was part of the larger Broad Common shown on Rocque's map of 1745. Development around the edge of the common began in the mid-18th century. Among the first buildings to be constructed along the common edge were the White Swan Inn (opposite the common) and Clapton Terrace, which was completed by c 1800. In the late 18th century the area to the rear of Clapton Terrace was used as a brick field, and brickearth continued to be dug here throughout the 19th century.
- 7.1.76. By the early 19th century this area was considered to be a very genteel and the present day common area had become encircled by residential housing. Clapton Common was used for grazing into the 19th and early 20th-century. It was acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works, alongside several other areas of Hackney Commons in 1872 and remains in use as a public park.

### *Significance*

- 7.1.77. The APA contains an area of undisturbed common land, and parts of the Lea Valley that have yielded significant archaeological remains. Parts of the APA have been subject to disturbance by 19th- and 20th-century development and clay extraction. These activities would have impacted on below ground archaeological remains. Outside these areas, the APA has been preserved as meadow, common land and parkland since the medieval period and as such it has the potential to contain well preserved archaeological remains.
- 7.1.78. Lower Palaeolithic tools found within the APA highlight the area's potential to contain further remains of this period. Lower Palaeolithic finds are rare and whether in primary or secondary deposit represent some of the oldest artefacts in Europe. They are considered important as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of other human species, now extinct, as well as mankind's earliest direct ancestors.
- 7.1.79. Roman burials have been recorded within the APA and the topography of the area makes it a good location for Roman settlement. The mound in the north-west part of Springfield Park has the potential to be a Roman barrow. Monuments of this type are rare nationally and are often

associated with high-status burial practices. Should the dating and interpretation of this feature be confirmed it would be considered nationally important (Tier 1). Roman remains are particularly rare within the Borough of Hackney and if such remains were present they would provide an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the treatment of the dead in the Roman period as well as an understanding occupation in the hinterland of London.

7.1.80. The APA has the potential to contain remains relating to post-medieval industrial activity along the River Lea. If present, such remain could contribute to understanding of the industrial use of the river in this period, as well as its use as a communication and transport link between London and the surrounding area.

7.1.81. The waterlogged and alluvial deposits found in the low-lying ground to the east of the APA have the potential to preserve organic material not otherwise found in the archaeological record. Waterlogged deposits are of particular significance, as they often contain environmental and organic remains. Such remains are not common in England. They are therefore of great significance as they can provide information about the everyday objects people ate and drank out of (wooden bowls, leather bottles, horn cups), wore (clothes and shoes) and used (boats, trackways and fishtraps). These deposits can also contain environmental evidence and can help reconstruct past landscapes, providing evidence of land use, diet and landscape change which would not otherwise be available. The discovery of the Saxon boat demonstrates the potential for nationally important waterlogged remains.

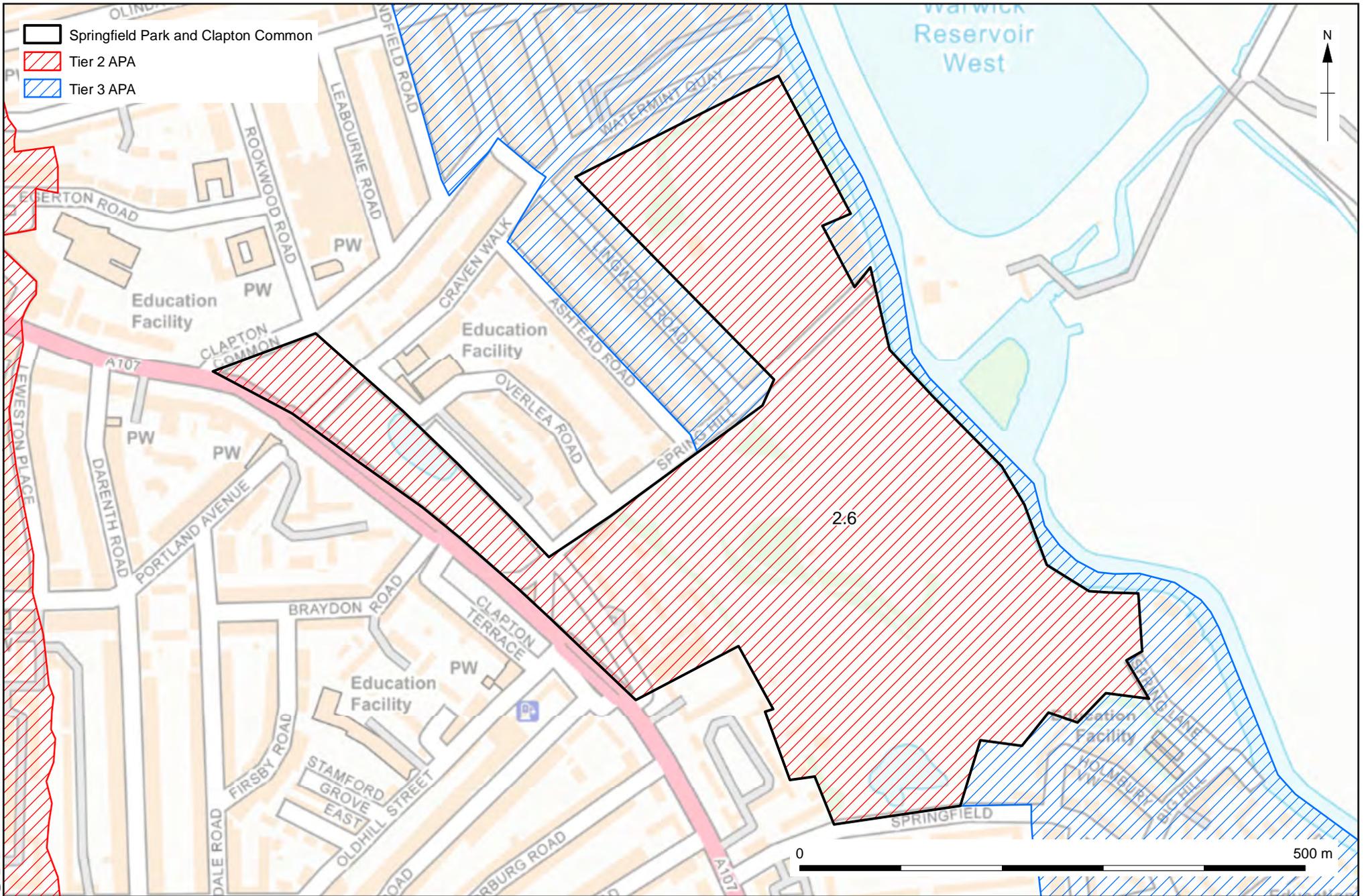
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## ***Hackney APA 2.7 Hackney Burial Grounds***

### *Summary and Description*

7.1.82. This Archaeological Priority Area covers nine churches and their associated burial grounds. The APA is classed as Tier 2 as it covers cemeteries of medieval as well as 18th- and 19th-century origin. Burial grounds not discussed here fall within other APAs and have been discussed within the relevant APA descriptions.

### *Description*

#### Yoakley Road Burial Ground

7.1.83. The Yoakley Road burial ground is a former Quaker burial ground established in 1827. The burial ground was associated with the Friends' Meeting House, which was built on Park Street (now Yoakley Road) in 1828. The APA contains burials dating to the 19th- and 20th-century.

7.1.84. There was a strong Quaker community in Stoke Newington from the 17th-century onwards. In 1827 the decision was taken to build the Friends' Meeting House, which was built in 1828 by William Alderson and extended in 1860. The burial ground, opened in 1827 and enlarged in 1849, continued in use until 1957. The site of the Meeting House and burial ground was sold to the local council in 1955, and the Meeting House was replaced with a smaller brick building which served as a Quaker Meeting House until 1966.

7.1.85. The former Quaker burial ground is divided into two parts; the north part is in use as a small public garden, which comprises a central lawn, with some mature trees around the perimeter. The boundary wall surrounding the garden is lined by uniform tombstones. The southern portion of the garden is situated behind the former Meeting House and appears to be in use as a yard/parking area.

#### St Paul's Burial Ground

7.1.86. This APA marks the site of the 19th-century graveyard and church of St Paul in west Hackney. The church opened in 1823 and was rebuilt in 1960 after being bombed in the Second World War. The graveyard is no longer in use and now forms the West Hackney Recreation Ground. Despite the Second World War bomb damage, the recreation ground is likely to contain 19th century burials.

#### Chatham Place/Mead Place Burial Ground

7.1.87. The burial ground at Chatham Place, the New Gravel Pit Chapel-ground, was formed in the 19th century to serve as a Unitarian burial ground. It is attached to the Unitarian Church and was open until the early 20th century. The burial ground contains post-medieval and modern burials.

#### Lauriston Road Churchyard

7.1.88. The Lauriston Road Churchyard was associated with the 19th-century church of St John of Jerusalem. The churchyard was founded in 1831 and was open for burials until 1861. The churchyard contains burials dating to the 19th-century.

#### Churchyard of St Mary

7.1.89. The churchyard of St Mary is associated with the parish church at Stoke Newington. The church, also called the Ancient Mother church, was built in the medieval period and a new larger parish church, consecrated in 1858, was built in the Rectory Garden. The burial ground was closed to new burials in 1854 following the Burial Grounds Act. The burial ground contains medieval and post-medieval burials.

7.1.90. The APA contains several listed buildings, including the Grade II\* listed Old St Mary's Church, the Grade II listed New St Mary's Church, and several Grade II listed tombs.

#### St Thomas' Place

7.1.91. St Thomas' Place is a former cemetery, which was attached to the chapel of ease of St John at Hackney Church. The chapel was established in 1810 to serve the south part of the parish. The chapel was demolished in 1848, but the burial ground continued to receive burials until 1876. Following the agreement of the Bishop of London in 1884 the burial ground was converted into a public garden. At this time the majority of the chest tombs and gravestones were moved to the north and east perimeter of the garden, with only a few chest tombs left in their original position.

7.1.92. The APA contains 19th-century burials, and has the potential to contain below ground archaeological remains associated with the former chapel.

#### Goldsmiths Burial Ground

7.1.93. Goldsmiths Burial Ground is the site of an 18th-century burial ground associated with the French Hospital at Bath Street in Shoreditch. The burial ground is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868, but had been built over by the time of publication of the 1890 OS map. The APA is currently in use as gardens adjacent to Haggerston Park. It has a high potential to contain 18th and 19th-century burials.

#### St Mary's Secret Garden

7.1.94. St Mary's Secret Garden was founded in 1827 as a churchyard to St Mary's Church. The churchyard remained in use until 1882 when it was laid out as a park. The cemetery sustained major damage during the Second World War and St Mary's Church was completely destroyed. The area is currently in use as a community garden. The area contains 19th-century burials, and has the potential to contain below ground remains associated with St Mary's Church.

#### Chart Street Burial Ground

7.1.95. Chart Street Burial ground is a 19th-century burial ground shown as a 'disused burial ground' on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map. It has the potential to contain post-medieval burials.

#### Churchyard of St John the Baptist

7.1.96. The churchyard of St John the Baptist was built between 1824-26 to serve the newly formed parish of Hoxton. The churchyard is associated with the Grade II\* listed Church of St John the Baptist. The churchyard was closed in 1893 and was converted into a public garden by the Earl and Countess of Meath. The garden is surrounded by 19th-century railings set on a granite plinth with ornamental gates. There is some perimeter planting and seating within the garden and a few gravestones and chest tombs survive to the south of the church. The burial ground contains 19th-century burials and mortuary monuments.

#### St Mary Haggerston Church and Churchyard

7.1.97. St Mary Haggerston Church and Churchyard, located between Queensbridge Road and Thurtle Road, was established in 1827. The cemetery continued in use until 1881 when it was converted into a public garden by the Earl and Countess of Meath, as part of a plan to renovate the neglected cemeteries of London. St Mary Haggerston Church was later destroyed during the Second World War. The churchyard is located in close proximity to the projected route of the Roman road between London and Great Dunmow (APA 2.9) and thus also has the potential to contain Roman roadside and settlement activity.

#### Shoreditch Burying Ground

7.1.98. The site of the Shoreditch Burying Ground, located on Hackney Road, was established in the 18th century and was superseded by a range of 19th-century almshouses. One memorial stone survives within the burial ground marking the grave of Thomas Fairchild, who according to the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, was buried 'by his own request in the furthest corner of the churchyard of the Parish of St Leonard in Shoreditch', where the poor were usually buried. Late 19th-century records describe an 'ancient watch-house' in the burial ground that was later used as a cholera hospital, prior to the site being redeveloped as recreation ground in 1892.

7.1.99. The former Shoreditch Burying ground also has the potential to contain buried archaeological remains associated with the almshouses which were built on the site of the burial ground in the 19th century.

*Significance*

7.1.100. If the opportunity to study any of the burials within these cemeteries ever occurred they could provide information on the life expectancy, general health and social background of the local community, and the range of diseases from they may have suffered.

7.1.101. Burials which are more than 100 years old are potentially of archaeological interest. The interest in burials and burial grounds relate to differences in burial practices, buildings and monuments which typically reflect a variety of social and religious factors and also to the study of human populations including life expectancy, health and disease.

7.1.102. Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines<sup>22</sup> archaeological investigation of post-medieval burial grounds normally applies to burials which are over 100 years old. This is governed by ecclesiastical or secular jurisdiction and follows nationally accepted codes of practice and ethics (eg BABAO 2010a,<sup>23</sup> b<sup>24</sup>) and, for Christian burial grounds, follows relevant guidance, in particular, that set out by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE 2015<sup>25</sup>, 2017<sup>26</sup>). Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than routine small-scale cemetery operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would need to be considered.

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<sup>22</sup> Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England. Historic England 2005.

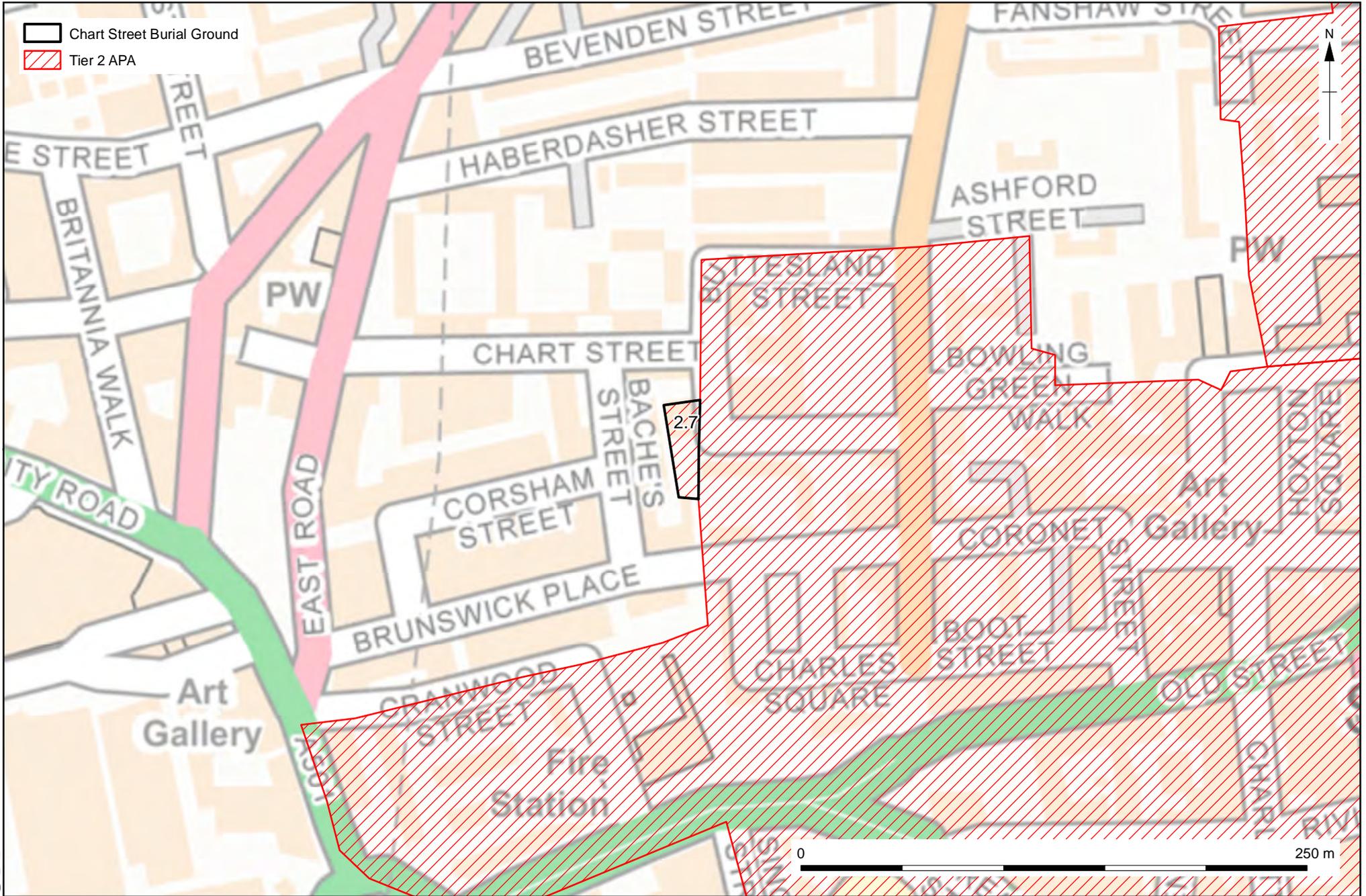
<sup>23</sup> BABAO 2010a British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Conduct. BABAO, London

<sup>24</sup> BABAO 2010b British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Practice. BABAO, London

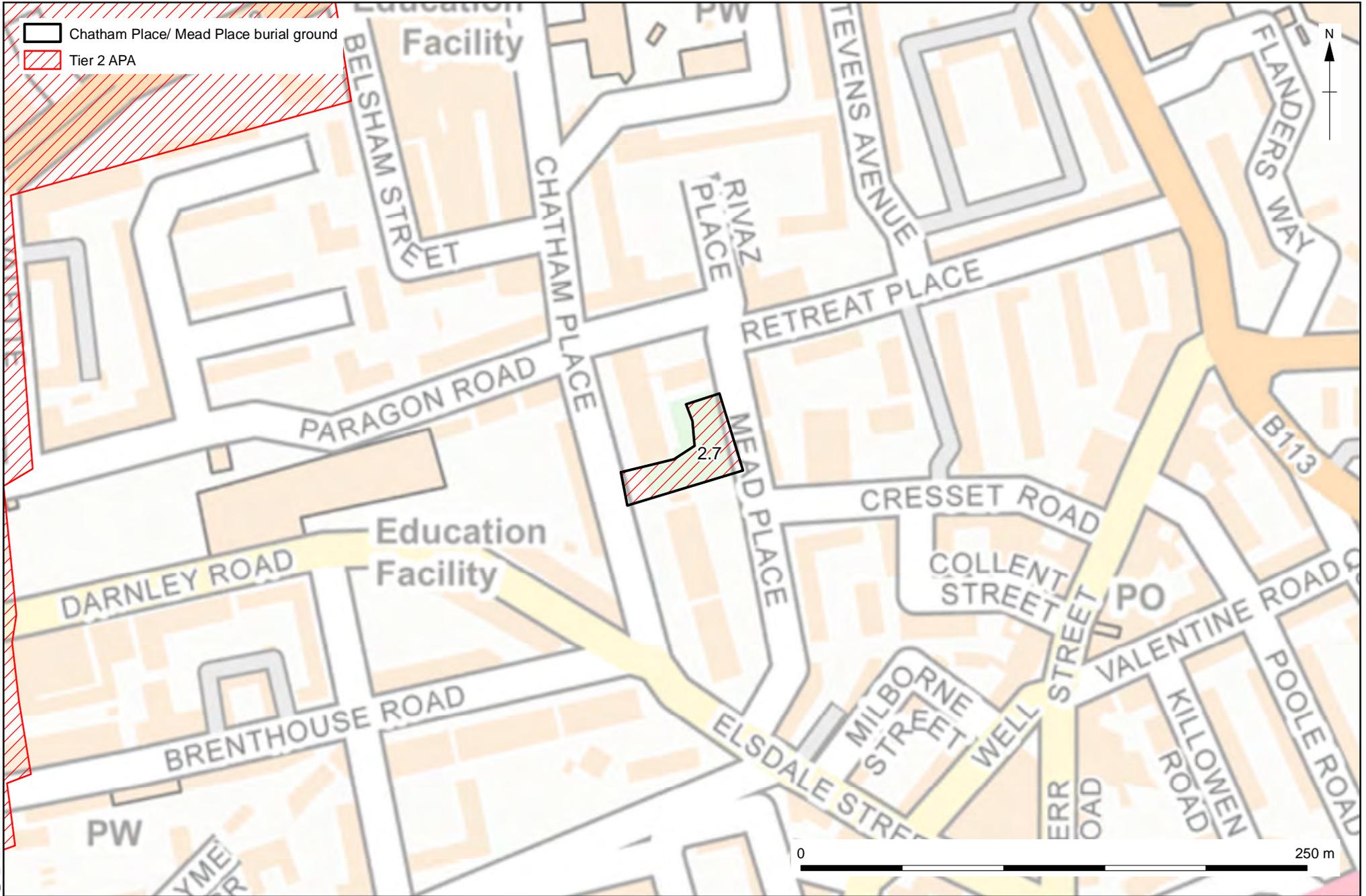
<sup>25</sup> APABE 2015 Mays, S. Sidell, J., Sloane, B., White, W. and Elders, J. 2015 Large Burial Grounds. Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects. London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

<sup>26</sup> APABE 2017 Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England, 2 edn, London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

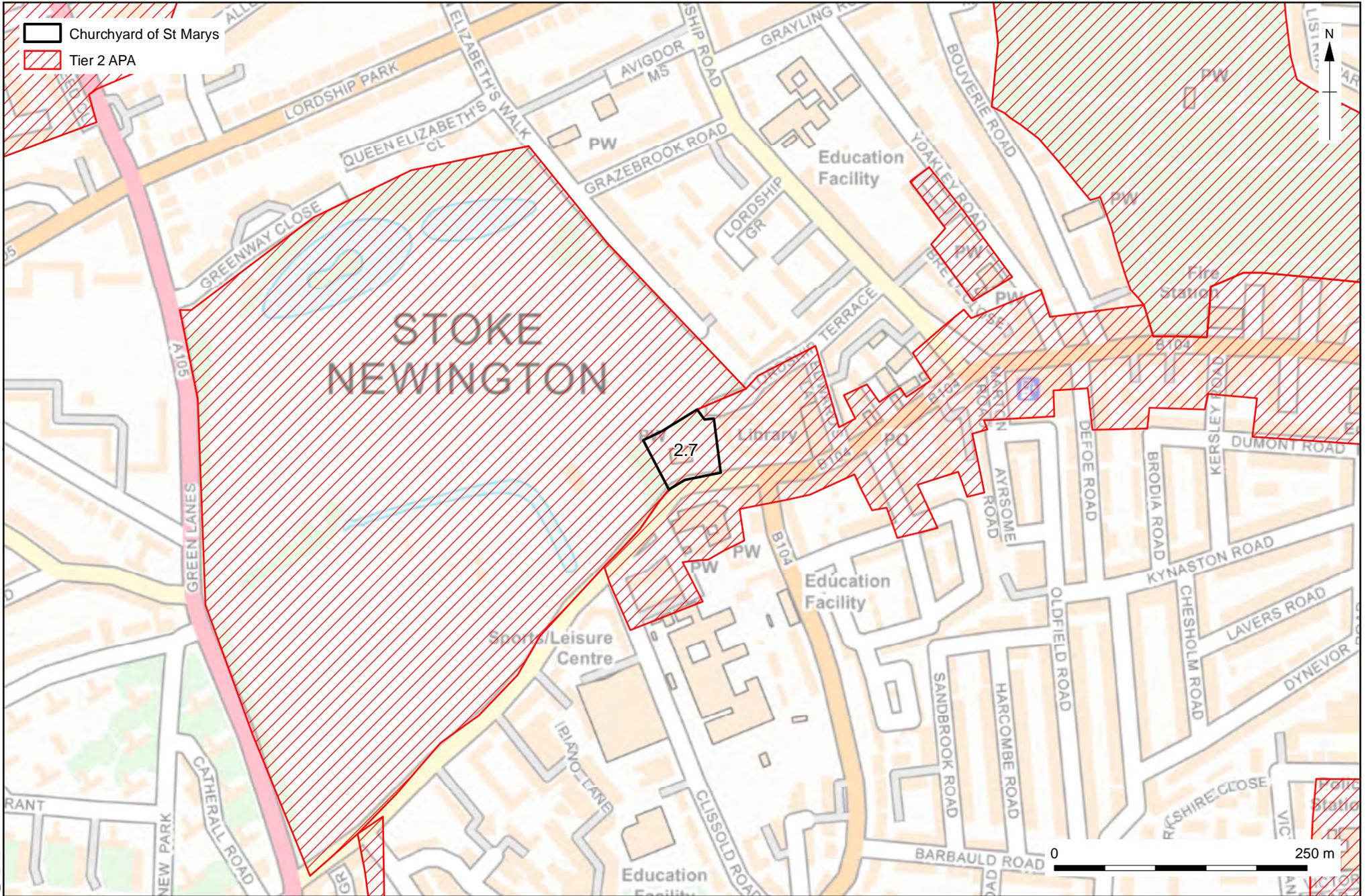




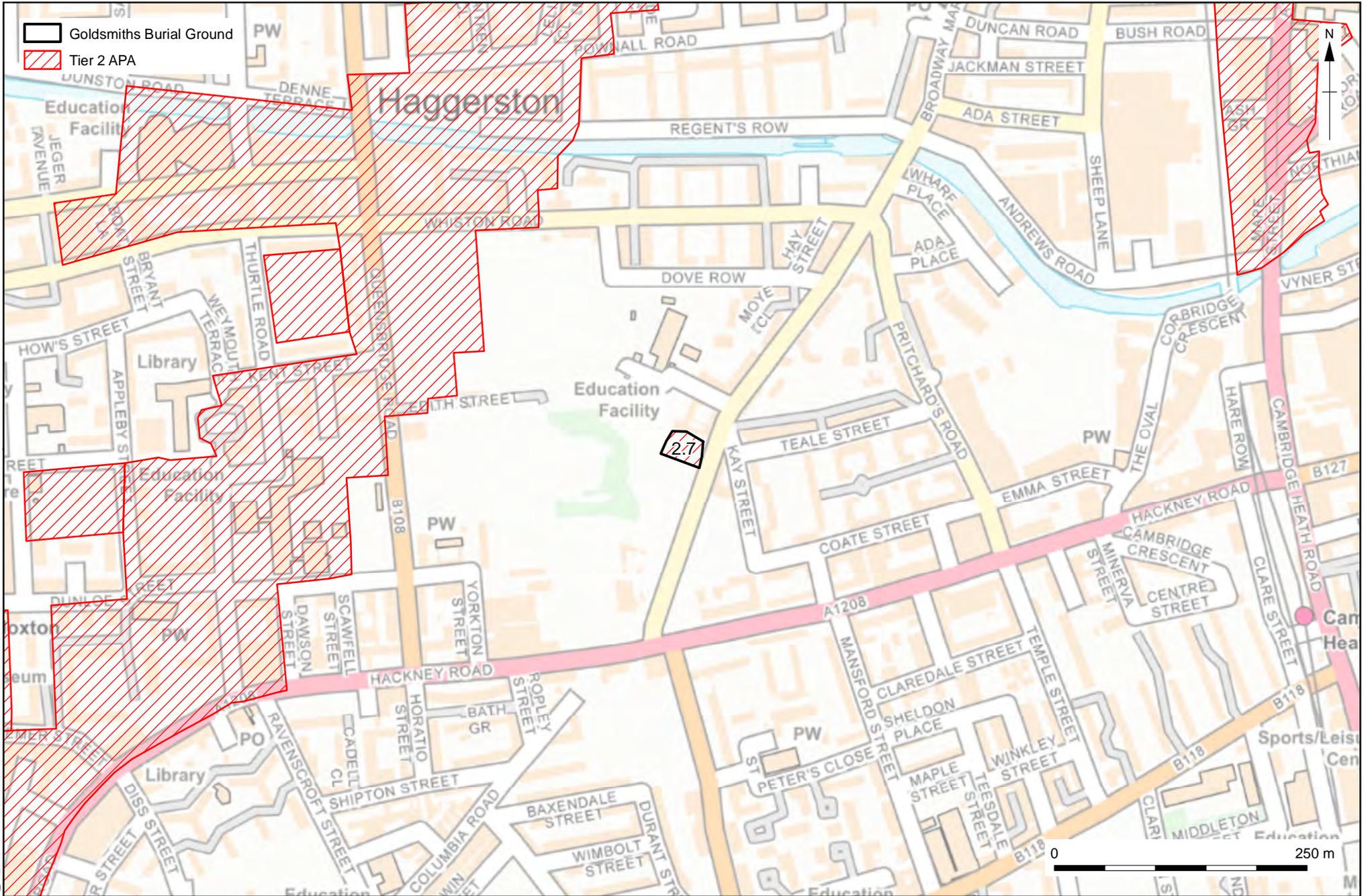
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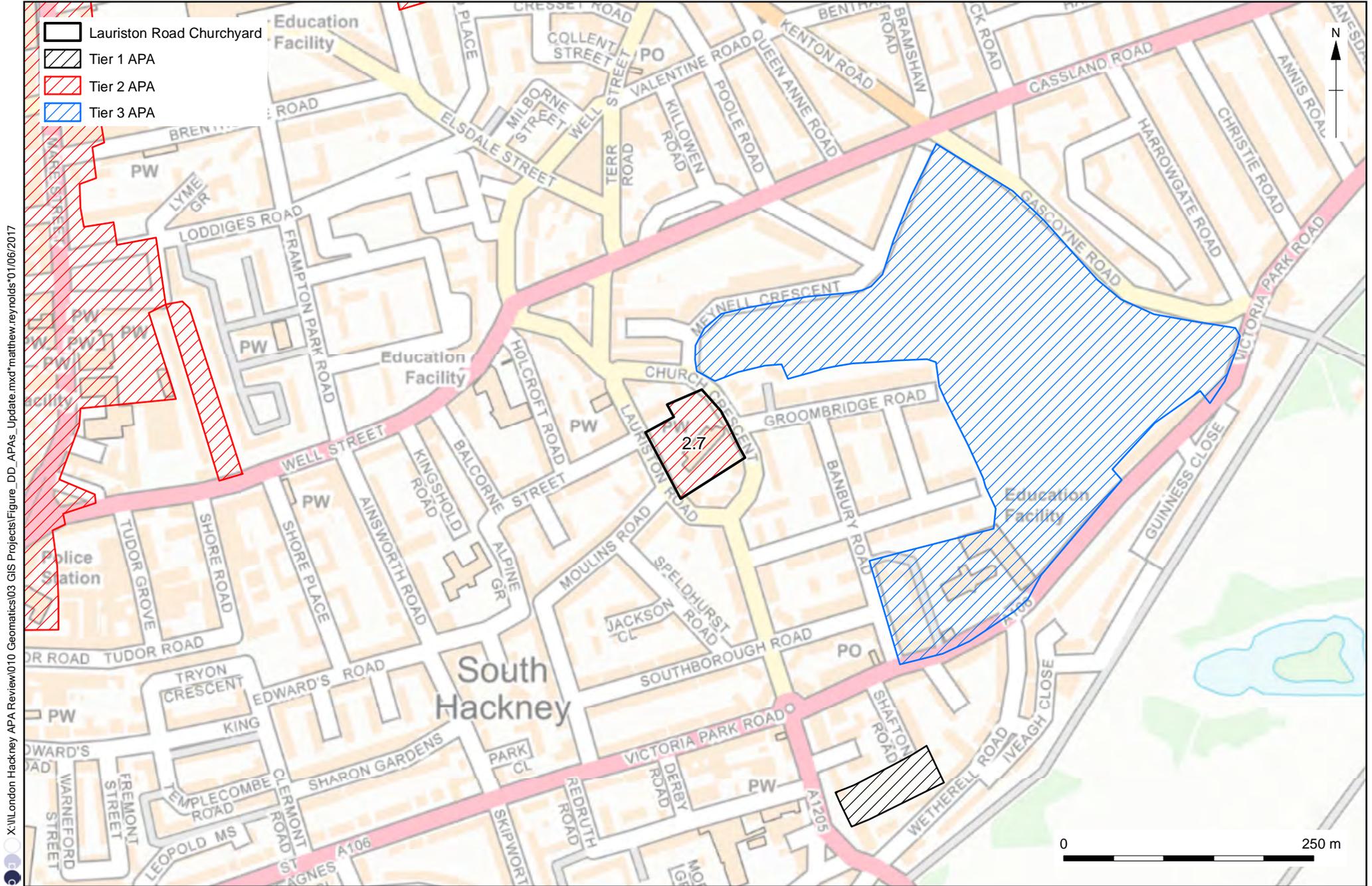






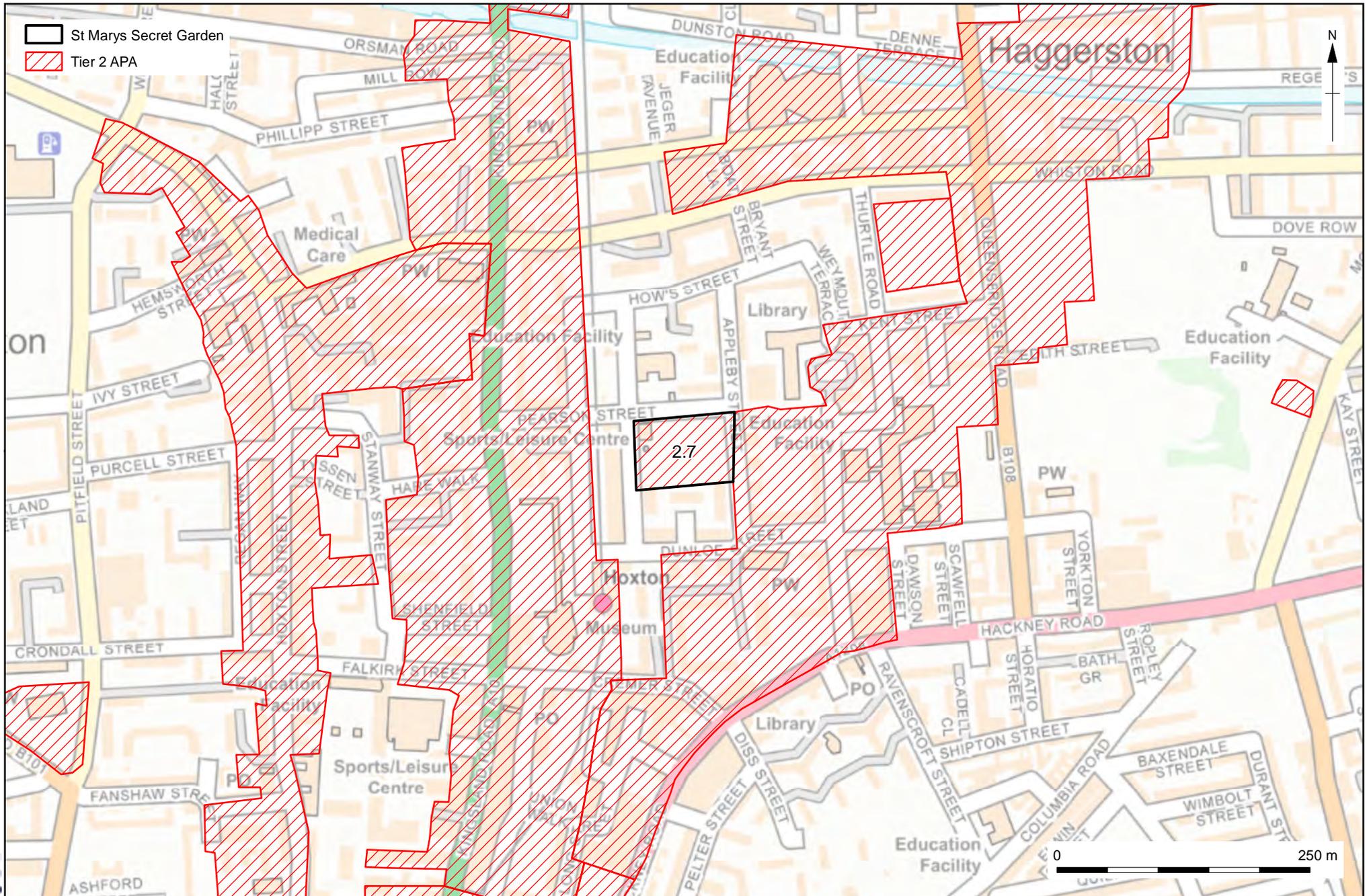
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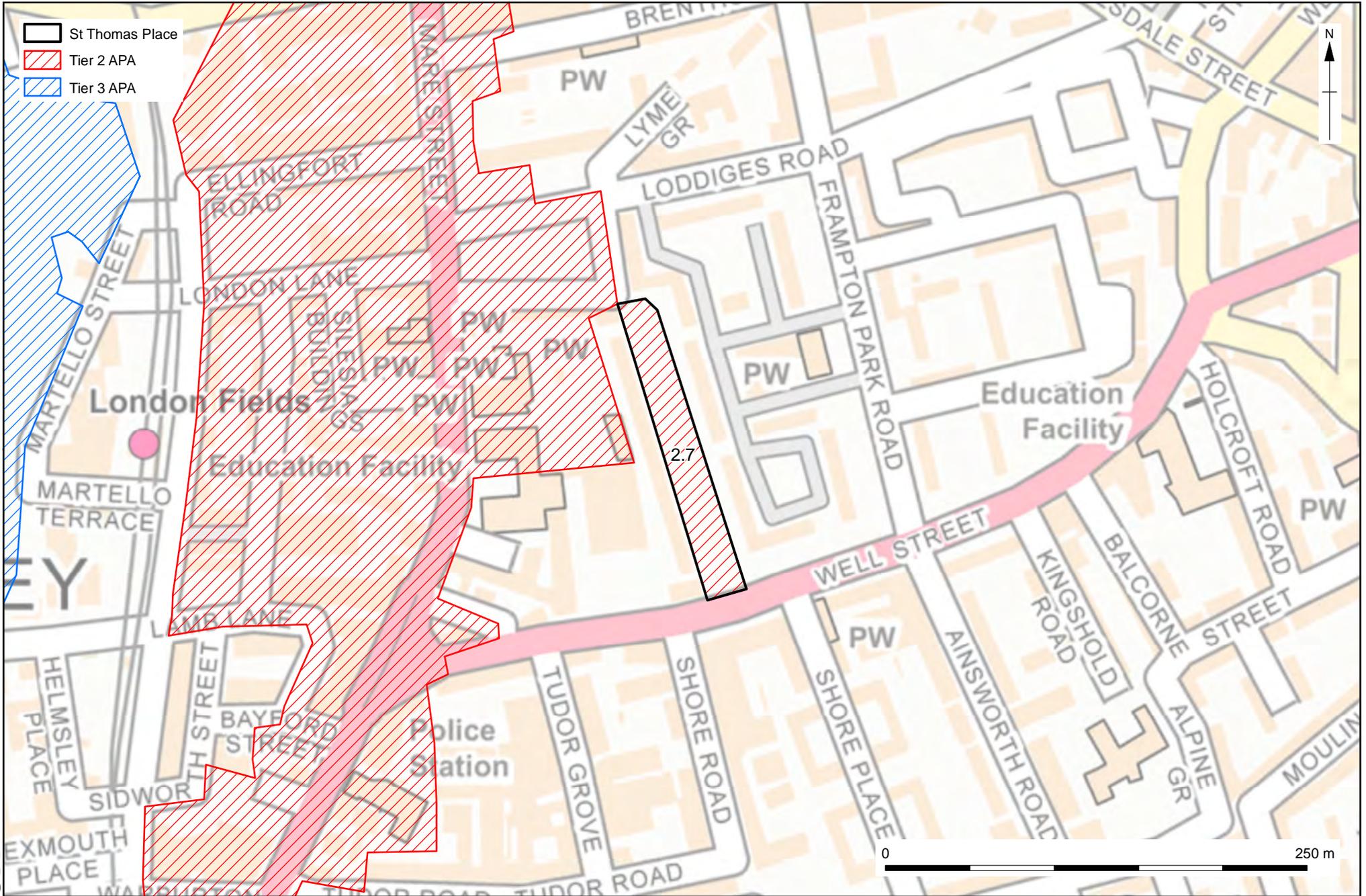








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### **Hackney APA 2.8 Roman Road - Ermine Street (Kingsland Road)**

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.103. This Archaeological Priority Area covers a zone centred on the course of a Roman Road (running between London (*Londinium*) and Lincoln (*Lindum Colonia*) and York (*Eboracum*)), along which the A10/Kingsland Road now runs. Ermine Street intersects with the Old Street Roman Road and the London to Greater Dunmow Roman road (APA 2.9) at Shoreditch (APA 2.11).
- 7.1.104. The APA is classified as Tier 2 as it covers a Roman Road and because it has the potential to contain archaeological remains relating to Roman settlements and Roman roadside activities. The northern part of the APA includes the medieval settlement of Stamford Hill. As such it has the potential to contain below ground occupation deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement. The APA includes a buffer zone encompassing 100m either side of the road, as it is thought likely that there will be evidence of Roman settlement and activities associated with its use adjacent to the road.

#### *Description*

- 7.1.105. The medieval settlements of Stoke Newington (APA 2.10), Shoreditch (APA 2.11) and Kingsland Leper Hospital (APA 2.5) are adjacent to Kingsland Road, but have been excluded from this APA.
- 7.1.106. The village of Stamford Hill is first mentioned in the 13th century as *Suandfordhill*, later becoming known as Stamford Hill in the 17th century. Very little is known about the medieval history of Stamford Hill during these periods, but it is likely that it was named after the ford that crosses Hackney Brook. No archaeological evidence of the medieval settlement has been found, although this may be a result of the lack of archaeological work carried out in the area.
- 7.1.107. During the 17th century settlement appears to have been located away from Stamford Hill and focused upon the junction between Kingsland Road and Church Street in Stoke Newington. During this period the only settlement activity recorded related to a wine tavern at Stamford Hill. During the early 18th century settlement developed at the top of Stamford Hill and a toll gate was set up in 1713 just to the north of the junction between Kingsland Road and the way across Clapton Common. At this time Stamford Hill was the site of a gibbet used to display the remains of criminals executed at Tyburn.
- 7.1.108. Kingsland Road has been in use between the Roman period and the present day and the immediate environment of the road are therefore likely to contain evidence of settlement and activity that relates to all the intervening periods.

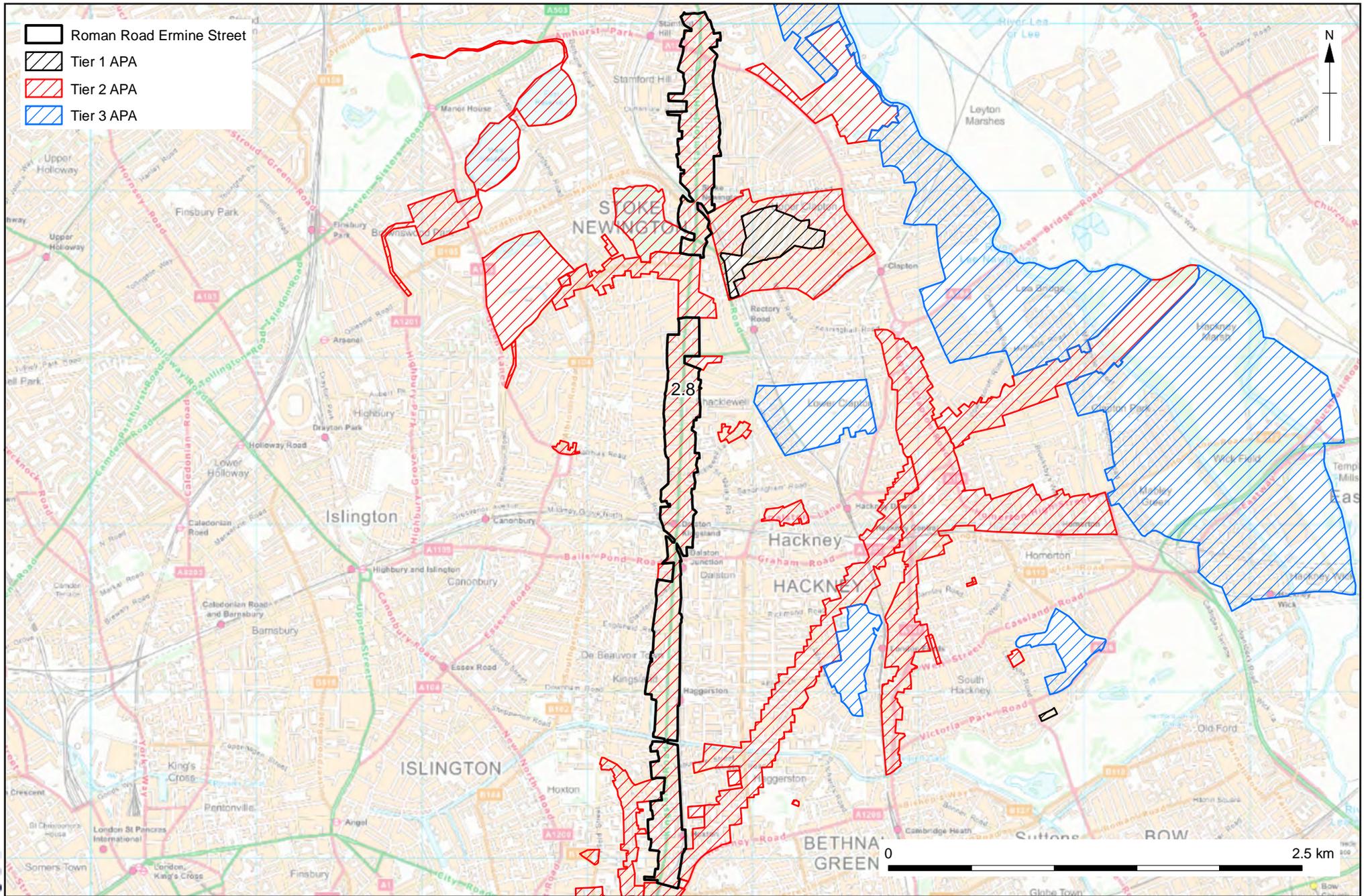
#### *Significance*

- 7.1.109. The site has the potential to contain remains related to a Roman road and potentially evidence for settlement, roadside activities or the environment in the areas immediately adjacent. Such deposits can provide insight into the nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londinium*.
- 7.1.110. The site also passes through Stamford Hill which has medieval origins. As the road remained in use during the medieval and post-medieval periods there is the potential for evidence of activities or settlement associated with all of these periods in the vicinity of the road.
- 7.1.111. The Ermine Street road corridor is heavily built-up with patchy survival of pre-modern remains anticipated so archaeological assessment should focus on larger sites to identify parts of them where archaeological remains could have survived modern development.

#### *Key References*

Margary, I D, 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*, 3 edn, London

VCH 1995, Hackney: Newington and Stamford Hill, in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 10*, Hackney (ed. T F T Baker), London



### ***Hackney APA 2.9 Roman Road (London to Great Dunmow)***

#### *Summary and Definition*

7.1.112. The Archaeological Priority Area covers a zone centred on the Roman road which connected London and Great Dunmow in Essex.

7.1.113. The APA has been classified as Tier 2 because it covers a Roman road and there is potential for Roman settlement and roadside activities adjacent to the routeway.

#### *Description*

7.1.114. The APA covers the conjectured route of a Roman road which connected London and Great Dunmow. The route of the road has yet to be confirmed by archaeological investigation within Hackney. However, elements of a Roman road on this alignment were discovered just over the Hackney border in Waltham Forest. The remains of the road were discovered 1.83m below the Victorian road surface and suggested that the road followed a north-east to south-west orientation. A buffer zone encompassing approximately 100m either side of the road has been included within the APA as it is thought likely that there will be evidence of Roman settlement and activities associated with its use, adjacent to the road. The road intersects with the Roman roads of Ermine Street (APA 2.8) and Old Street within the historic settlement at Shoreditch (APA 2.11). These areas have been excluded from the APA, as has the medieval settlement running along the possible Roman road of Mare Street (APA 2.2), which divides the APA into two sections.

7.1.115. The Roman road passes adjacent to the site of Haggerston medieval manor and settlement. Two large manor houses are recorded at this location upon Chassereau's map of the area, produced in 1745. The two buildings are believed to be the remains of the medieval manor, which was split into two buildings at some point during the post-medieval period. The APA thus has the potential to contain below ground archaeological remains relating to the medieval manor and later post-medieval settlement.

7.1.116. The eastern extent of the road passes through the Lea Valley (APA 3.1), which has the potential to contain prehistoric and waterlogged deposits.

#### *Significance*

7.1.117. The APA has the potential for remains related to a Roman road and potentially associated evidence of settlement and roadside activities in the areas immediately adjacent. Such deposits can provide insight into the communications network, nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londonium*.

7.1.118. The site of a medieval manor is recorded within the APA. As such there is potential for evidence of activity or settlement remains associated with this period in the vicinity of the road.

7.1.119. The eastern part of the APA passes through the Hackney Marshes (part of the Lea Valley APA, APA 3.1). The area has the potential to contain prehistoric and Roman waterlogged archaeological deposits. The road presumably crossed the marsh on an earthwork or timber causeway with bridges or fords, which should survive beneath later made ground and alluvium. Such deposits are particularly significant as they preserve material that would otherwise not survive within the archaeological record such as organic and environmental remains.

7.1.120. Waterlogged archaeological deposits are not common in England and as a result, organic materials are fairly rare in within the English archaeological record. They are therefore of great significance as they can provide information about the everyday objects people ate and drank out of (wooden bowls, leather bottles, horn cups), wore (clothes and shoes) and used (boats, trackways and fishtraps). These deposits can also contain environmental evidence which if present can help reconstruct past landscapes, providing evidence of land use, diet and landscape change which would not otherwise be available.

7.1.121. Away from the Lea valley, most of the road corridor is heavily built up with patchy survival of pre-modern remains anticipated, so archaeological assessment should focus on larger sites to identify parts of them where archaeological remains could have survived modern development.

*Key References*

Chasserau, P, 1745 An Actual Survey of the Parish of St. Leonard, in Shoreditch, Middlesex, taken in the year 1745. Retrieved from

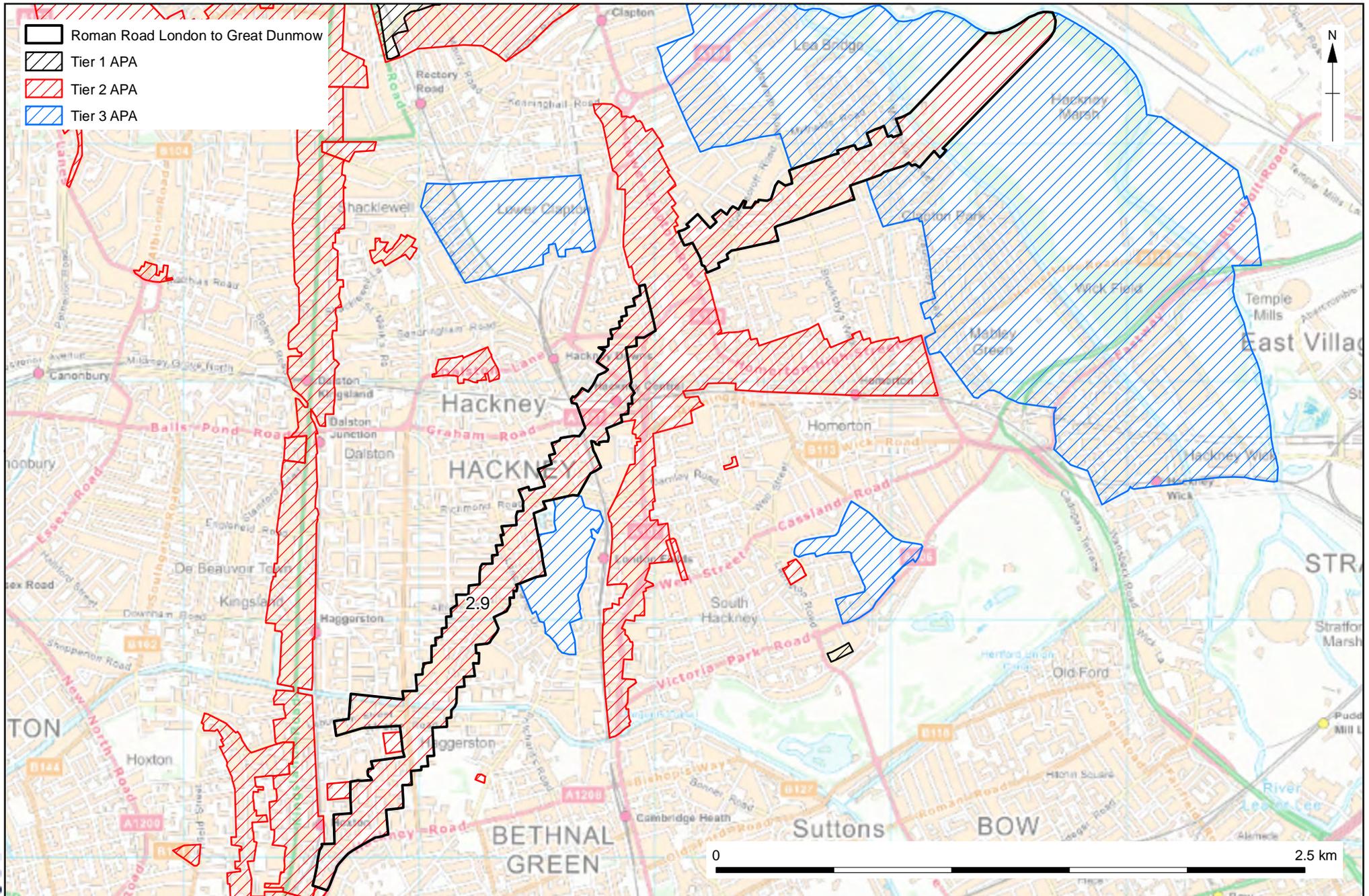
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## **Hackney APA 2.10 Stoke Newington**

### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.122. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic core of Stoke Newington. The APA contains an area of the medieval settlement at Stoke Newington, including the site of a medieval manor situated to the west of the village. The APA contains St Marys church (APA 2.7) and part of the route of the Roman road, Ermine Street (APA 2.8). Several Palaeolithic sites, including a rare Palaeolithic land surface, have been recorded within the APA.
- 7.1.123. The APA has been classified as Tier 2, because it has the potential to contain below ground deposits related to the medieval and post-medieval settlements, including burials. The proximity of the Roman road means that the APA also has the potential to contain archaeological remains relating to Roman settlement and roadside activity. Significant Palaeolithic remains have been recorded within the APA reinforcing the potential for prehistoric remains in the area.

### *Description*

- 7.1.124. The APA covers the location of the historic core of Stoke Newington, which is centred on Church Street. The settlement is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Neutone*, a large settlement of 41 households which formed part of the demesne of St Paul's Cathedral. While the village is not mentioned in any known Anglo-Saxon charters, it is possible that the settlement had early medieval origins and formed part of the 24 hides 'next to the wall of London', which were gifted to St Paul's by King Athelbert. The prefix Stoke first appears in 1274 and was used to distinguish the village from Newington Barrow and Newington Berners in Islington. It may refer to tree stumps, suggesting woodland clearance in the area, or to a timber structure.
- 7.1.125. The early Stoke Newington was based around the manor (located beneath the current town hall) and the Church of St Mary's, which dates back to 1314. The remains of the medieval manor house, which included chalk and Kentish ragstone foundations, were uncovered during an excavation carried out prior to the construction of the town hall in the 1930s.
- 7.1.126. The settlement at Stoke Newington remained a village throughout the medieval period. In the 15th and 16th centuries new houses were built along Church Street and leased to wealthy individuals looking to escape the unhealthiness of London. The village continued to expand throughout the following centuries and a number of large houses were built within the village, including Fleetwood House (now Abney Park (APA 2.1)). During the post-medieval period Stoke Newington became a focus of nonconformist religious, developing a large nonconformist community.
- 7.1.127. The APA has continued in use from the medieval period to the present day, and as a result it has the potential to contain archaeological settlement remains of medieval and more recent date. Stoke Newington contains a number of extant post-medieval listed buildings and is designated as a conservation area. A limited number of archaeological investigations have been carried out within the village, these have revealed evidence for the post-medieval settlement at Stoke Newington. Apart from the work carried out at St Mary's Church in the 1930s, no evidence of the medieval settlement has been recorded. The later post-medieval and modern activity may have truncated any medieval deposits within the village. Alternatively, the lack of medieval evidence may be a result of the limited number of investigations carried out in the area.
- 7.1.128. Archaeological investigations carried out at Defoe Road uncovered rare Palaeolithic remains, including deposits thought to be a continuation of the *in situ* 'working floor' identified by Worthington G Smith in 1894 (APA 1.1). Further deposits of this nature, as well as preserved Palaeolithic finds, were also recorded within Abney Park (APA 2.1) to the north of the APA. Such features in combination with the underlying brickearth geology of the APA highlight its potential to contain further Palaeolithic sites and finds.
- 7.1.129. The Roman road Ermine Street (APA 2.8) runs through the eastern part of the APA. The road marks the main route between the Roman settlements of London, Lincoln and York. This area

has the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the Roman road and also remnants of Roman roadside and settlement activity.

#### *Significance*

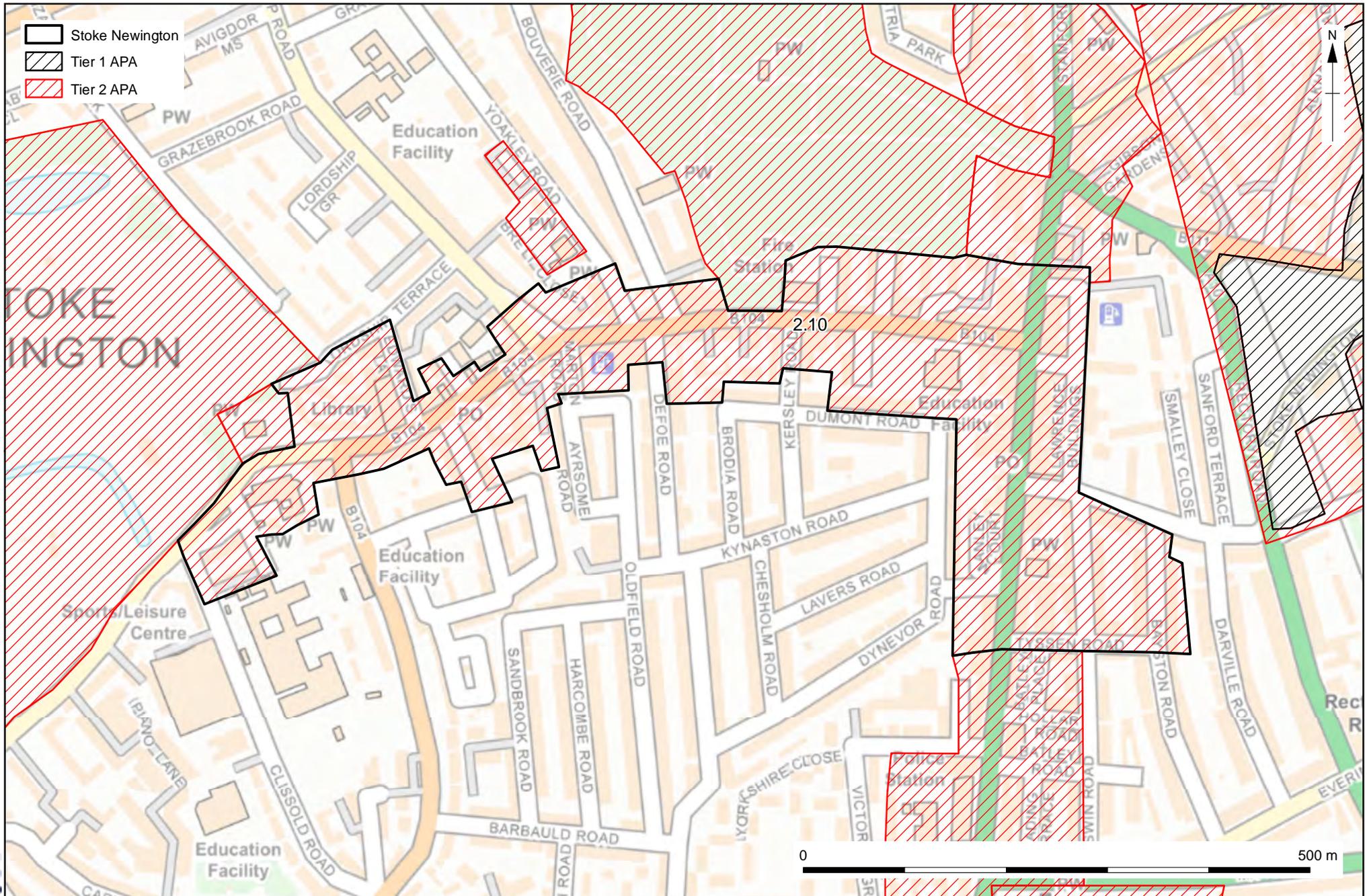
- 7.1.130. The core of Stoke Newington presents a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement. Such remains can provide an insight into changing settlement patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles.
- 7.1.131. The origins of Stoke Newington are unknown, but potentially extend back into the early medieval period. Any potential future work would help to develop our understanding of the early settlement and its origins, particularly how and when the settlement developed as a 'new village' (Neutone), perhaps a deliberate late Saxon foundation planted by St Paul's on its new estate. The APA has the potential to contain buried remains relating to the Roman road Ermine Street and may contain evidence of roadside and settlement activities. Such deposits can provide insight into the nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londonium*.
- 7.1.132. The APA contains significant recorded *in situ* Palaeolithic remains. Because of the extreme scarcity of such sites and the scope of global research into human origins the importance of sites with *in situ* Palaeolithic remains cannot be overstated. During the Pleistocene, Britain was located at the north-west extremity of early human life. Lower Palaeolithic sites in Britain, whether in primary or secondary contexts thus contain some of the oldest fossils and artefacts in Europe. Along with middle Palaeolithic sites they are important as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of extinct human species, and help us to reflect on what it means to be human. Further discoveries of this nature would be of national importance.

#### *Key References*

London Borough of Hackney, 2014 Stoke Newington Conservation Area Appraisal

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## **Hackney APA 2.11 Shoreditch**

### *Summary and Definition*

7.1.133. This Archaeological Priority Area covers the mid-18th century London suburb of Shoreditch.

7.1.134. The APA has been classified as Tier 2, because it is a historic settlement and also contains archaeological remains relating to Roman settlements and roadside activity and London's English Civil War defences. It contains three former burial grounds, situated at St Leonard's Church, Curtain Road and Willow Street. The Elizabethan theatres and Holywell Priory Tier 1 APA (APA 1.2) is contained within Shoreditch.

### *Description*

7.1.135. The APA covers the 18th-century suburb of London known as Shoreditch. Prior to the construction of the Holywell Priory in the 12th century the area was predominantly rural and swampy. The historic course of the river Walbrook originated in Shoreditch broadly at the intersection between Curtain Road and Holywell Lane. During the Roman period the course of the river flowed south into the Roman town of *Londinium*. The name of the river, Walbrook, is thought to result from the river's passage through the Roman city wall between Bishopsgate and Moorgate. During the Roman period the river provided fresh water for the city and then transported waste out of the city. The Walbrook divided the Roman city into two halves. The Temple of Mithras was situated on the eastern bank. The upper part of the river was covered over in the 15th century and the river now runs completely underground.

7.1.136. Old Street runs east to west through the APA. The road was recorded as *Ealdstrate* and *le Oldestrete* in the 13th and 14th centuries and is thought to follow the route of a Roman or possibly pre-Roman road which connected London, Chelmsford (*Caesaromagus*) and Colchester (*Camulodunum*). Remains of the road were discovered in 1867 during sewer excavations, when two Roman road surfaces were discovered. The earliest was situated approximately 3.4m below the ground surface and had Roman coins beneath it. The second surface was 0.5m higher and further Roman coins were found between the two surfaces. During the Roman period it was common for burial to occur outside of the city wall and often on the roadside. *Londinium's* northern cemetery extended along both sides of Ermine Street (APA 2.8) from just beyond the city gate at Bishopsgate to south Shoreditch. Several burials were recorded during the excavations at Holywell Priory and along Bishopsgate to the south. Accordingly, the APA has the potential to contain further Roman burial remains. As a Roman road passes through the APA the area is also considered to have the potential to contain archaeological remains relating to the road and roadside activities.

7.1.137. Shoreditch, possibly from the Saxon word meaning 'sewer ditch', does not seem to have had any real form until the medieval period (1152-1158), when Holywell Priory (APA 1.2) was founded to the west of Shoreditch High Street. The priory was situated to the north of the medieval city walls and the surrounding landscape was largely rural in nature. St Leonard's Church also had its origins in this period; the present day church is situated on the site of an earlier 13th-century church, which in turn may have been built upon an older Saxon church. The churchyard surrounding St Leonard's has the potential to contain human remains dating back to the medieval period and possibly earlier. The burial ground continued in use until 1856 and includes the crypts of several prominent figures associated with the Elizabethan theatres (APA 1.2), including James Burbage, who built the theatre, and his son Cuthbert, who built the Globe.

7.1.138. During the medieval period Shoreditch was situated to the north of London's city walls. The priory remained the main feature in the area until it was dissolved in 1539. From this point onwards Shoreditch began to be developed as a suburb of the city with development spreading along Shoreditch High Street and Old Street. The area became increasingly industrial, with a particular focus on brick making. In the 16th century, the area around Curtain Road became the site of London's first playhouses, the Theatre and the Curtain (APA 1.2 classified as Tier 1). The plots of land behind the main roads were developed in a piecemeal fashion at this time and

a number of 'summer houses' surrounded by gardens were built in the area by wealthy Londoners.

7.1.139. The last Elizabethan theatres were closed in the early 17th century at or before the outbreak of civil war. Two Civil War forts associated with the defences surrounding London are recorded within the APA. These commanded Kingsland Road the main road to the north. The Civil War defences of London were created in 1642/3 and extended from Wapping on the north side of the Thames and extended north-west through Shoreditch, west to Hyde Park, and south to Tothill fields. The defences appear to have been in earthen construction with timber palisading and revetting. By 1643 the main forts were complete and the construction of a connecting rampart and ditch was underway. The earthworks were described by the Scottish traveller William Lithgow who walked the circuit in April 1643 and located 28 earthworks. According to these descriptions the defences passed into the APA from Fort 3 in Brick Lane, continuing to Fort 4 in Shoreditch and Fort 5 in Hoxton. They then turned west following the line of Beveden Street to Fort 6 between Goswell and Central Street. The APA is thus considered to have the potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with the siege defences of London, although these may have been impacted by the extensive development of the area during between the 16th and 19th centuries.

7.1.140. The APA contains two post-medieval burial grounds, located at Curtain Road and Willow Street, both of which have now been built over. The burial ground at Curtain Road, known as Holywell Mount burial ground, appears to have been in use since the medieval period and was much used at the time of the Plague. The church associated with Holywell Mount burial ground was demolished in 1935 and was situated on the site of 21 Curtain Road. Willow Street is the site of a disused mid-19th-century United Methodist church and possibly cemetery. It since fell out of use, and by the time of the 1872 OS map, a school had been built on the site.

7.1.141. Between 1736 and 1740 St Leonard's church was rebuilt in the neo-classical style by George Dance the Elder, and from this point onwards Shoreditch began to develop in a more rapid fashion, resulting in the development of the open fields between Old Street and Shoreditch High Street, becoming largely built over and laid out with rows of streets. The 19th-century saw rapid population growth within Shoreditch resulting from the general expansion of London's population and improved transport links between the city and surrounding area. The increased communication and transport links led to the industrialisation of Shoreditch in the mid-19th century.

### *Significance*

7.1.142. The APA is considered significant due to its potential to contain buried archaeological remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement at Shoreditch. Shoreditch presents a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement. Such remains can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The early origins of the settlement at Shoreditch could potentially extend back into the early medieval period. Its peripheral location may have attracted noxious or socially unsavoury trades, industries and activities banished from the city itself. Any potential future work would help to develop our understanding of the early settlement and its origins, particularly how and when the settlement developed and how it related to the City.

7.1.143. The site has the potential to contain remains related to a Roman road and evidence for settlement and roadside activities in immediately adjacent areas. Such deposits can provide insight into the nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londinium*.

7.1.144. The APA has the potential to contain Roman, medieval and post-medieval burials. If the opportunity to study any of the burials occurred the remains could provide information on the life expectancy, the general health and social background of the local community, and the range of diseases from which they may have suffered.

- 7.1.145. Burials which are more than 100 years old are potentially of archaeological interest. The interest in burials and burial grounds lies in how they inform on differences in burial practices, buildings and monuments, which typically reflect a variety of social and religious factors, as well as human populations, including with regard to life expectancy, health and disease.
- 7.1.146. Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines<sup>27</sup> archaeological investigation of post-medieval burial grounds normally applies to burials which are over 100 years old. This is governed by ecclesiastical or secular jurisdiction and follows nationally accepted codes of practice and ethics (eg BABAO 2010a,<sup>28</sup> b<sup>29</sup>) and, for Christian burial grounds, follows relevant guidance, in particular that set out by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE 2015<sup>30</sup>, 2017<sup>31</sup>). Such disturbance could be for development or purposes other than routine small-scale cemetery operations. The views and feelings of relatives and associated faith communities, when known, would need to be considered.

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<sup>27</sup> Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England. Historic England 2005.

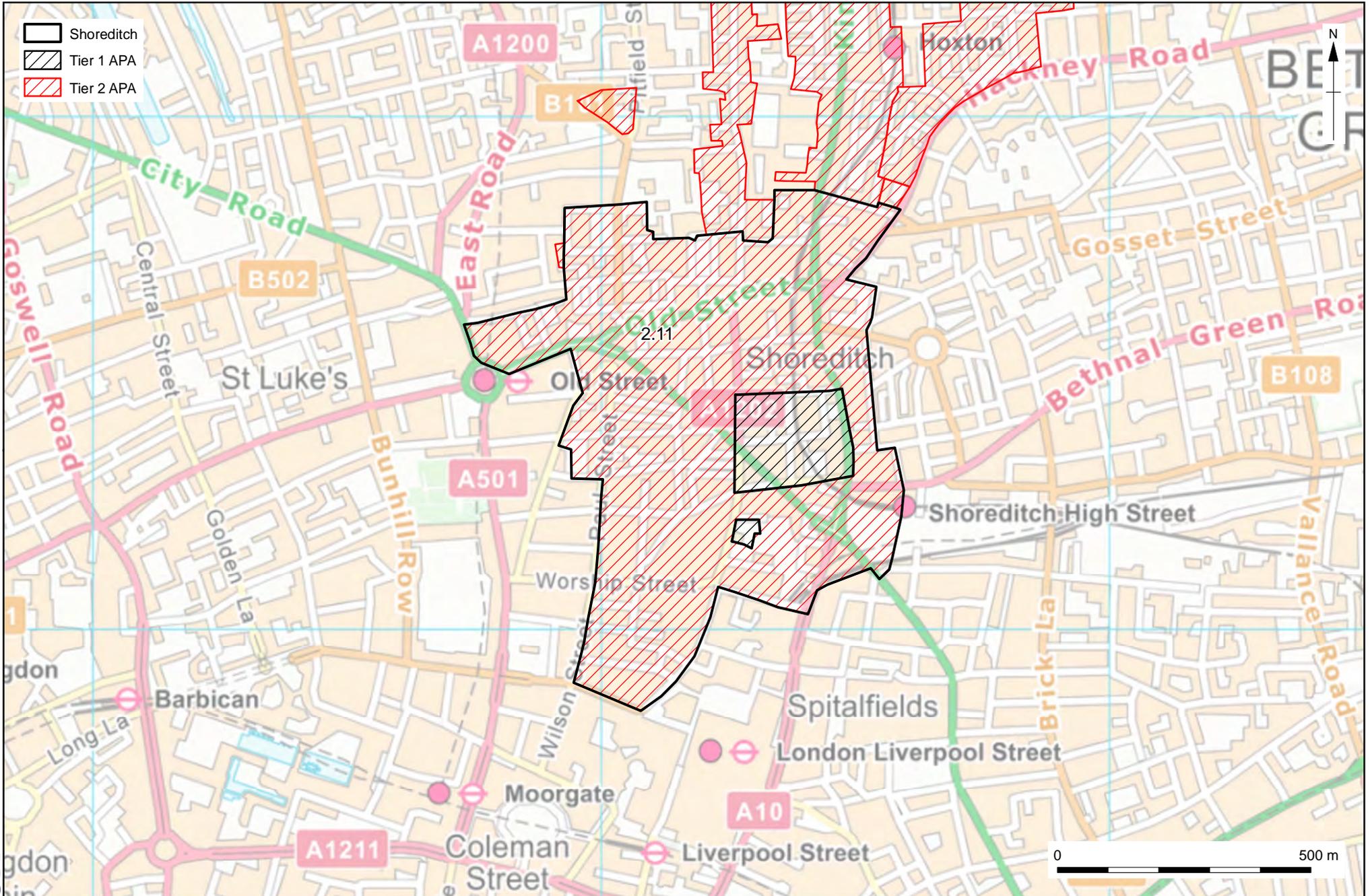
<sup>28</sup> BABAO 2010a British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Conduct. BABAO, London

<sup>29</sup> BABAO 2010b British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology Code of Practice. BABAO, London

<sup>30</sup> APABE 2015 Mays, S, Sidell, J., Sloane, B., White, W. and Elders, J. 2015 Large Burial Grounds. Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects. London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

<sup>31</sup> APABE 2017 Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England, 2 edn, London: Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England

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### ***Hackney APA 2.12 Newington Green Hamlet***

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.147. The Archaeological Priority Area of Newington Green Hamlet lies on the western extremity of the borough of Hackney and is defined to the south by the A105 and Mathias Road. The APA is situated immediately to the north of the Islington APA of Newington Green Hamlet within the Newington Green (North) Conservation Area. It contains six Grade II listed buildings ranging in date from the 17th to the 19th century.
- 7.1.148. The APA is considered Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of medieval and post-medieval settlement deposits associated with the Newington Green.

#### *Description*

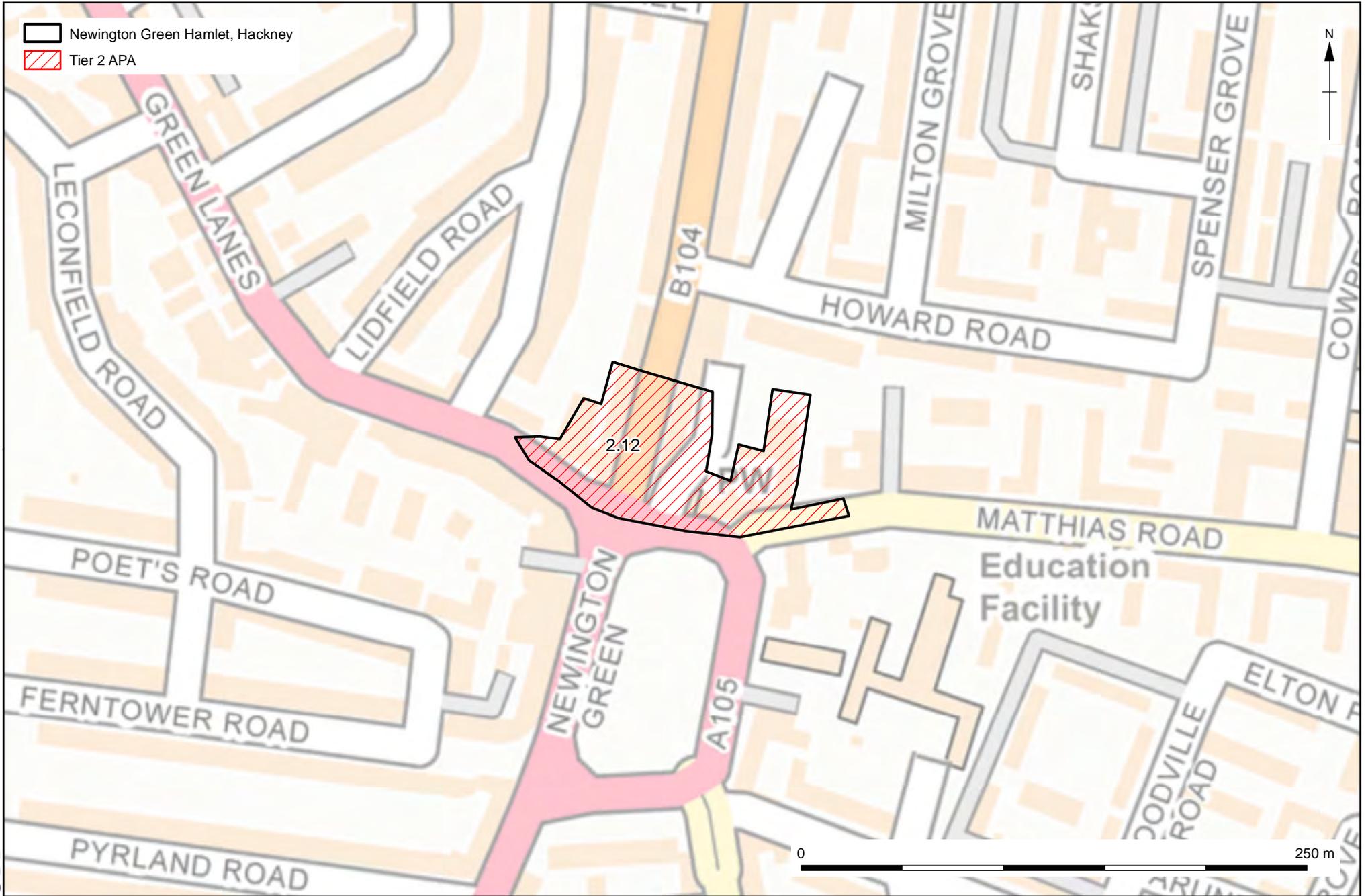
- 7.1.149. The APA covers the northern part of the hamlet, which is depicted on Roque's 1745 map of Hackney. The settlement appears to have developed in the late medieval period, prior to which the green was a forest clearing. By the mid-15th century, a number of houses had been constructed around the green, including a large timber framed house, known as Bishops Palace, which was located on the north-east corner of the green. The Palace is thought to have been owned by the earl of Northumberland, having been gifted to him by Henry VIII. It stood until the late 18th century. During the 17th century, the area around Newington Green became a haven for nonconformist preachers and teachers. Following the Toleration Act of 1689 a Presbyterian Chapel was built on the north side of the green. This is still standing today and is the oldest active nonconformist church in Britain.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.150. Newington Green has been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement, which can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

#### *Key References*

- Baggs, A P, Bolton, D K and Croot, P E C, 1985 Islington: Growth, Newington Green and Kingsland, in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8, Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes* (eds T F T Baker and C R Elrington), London
- London Borough of Hackney, 2004 Newington Green (North) conservation Area Appraisal
- Rocque, J, 1745 *Map of London*



### ***Hackney APA 2.13 Hoxton***

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.151. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic core of Hoxton. It is centred on Hoxton Street and includes St Leonard's Hospital immediately to the east.
- 7.1.152. It has been classified as Tier 2 because it has the potential to contain a range of medieval and post-medieval deposits relating to the settlement at Hoxton, as well as post-medieval deposits and burials associated with St Leonards Hospital.
- 7.1.153. The APA is located to the west of the Roman Road Ermine Street (APA 2.8) and as such has the potential to contain Roman settlement and roadside activity.

#### *Description*

- 7.1.154. The APA contains the historic core of Hoxton, as shown on Rocque's 1745 map of London, and also the site of St Leonard's hospital situated to the east of Hoxton Street and west of Kingsland Road. The settlement dates back to the early medieval period and was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Hodgesdon*, a quite large settlement of 26 households in the demesne of St Paul's Cathedral. The settlement originally formed around the medieval lane which follows the same course as the modern day Hoxton Street. The core of Hoxton has been occupied from the early medieval period and has the potential to contain archaeological deposits relating to this and later periods.
- 7.1.155. St Leonard's Hospital lies adjacent to the historic core of Hoxton and was built on the site of an 18th-century workhouse constructed between 1774-1777. The workhouse contained an infirmary, an apothecary, two sick wards and a burial ground located in the south-west corner of the site (consecrated in 1784). In 1863 the workhouse was replaced due to the poor condition of the original building. In 1930 the London County Council took over the running of St Leonard's; the workhouse was closed and the buildings incorporated into the infirmary, which from then on was known as St Leonard's Hospital.
- 7.1.156. The APA falls within the Hoxton Street and Kingsland Conservation Area and contains 13 listed buildings. Two of the Grade II listed buildings are associated with the hospital and the remainder are associated with the post-medieval settlement and Grade I listed Church of Columba and St Columba's Vicarage, which are also present within the APA.
- 7.1.157. The area has the potential to contain a range of below ground occupation deposits related to the early medieval and later settlement at Hoxton and the use of the area in the 18th and 19th centuries as a workhouse and hospital. It is also likely to contain 18th and 19th century burials associated with the workhouse and hospital.
- 7.1.158. The APA lies immediately to the west of Kingsland Road, which follows the projected course of the Roman road between London, Lincoln and York (APA 2.8) and to the north of Old Street, which is the projected route of the Roman road between London, Chelmsford and Colchester. In the Roman period it was common for settlement and burial activities to occur in roadside locations. Accordingly, the APA also has an underlying potential to contain Roman roadside and settlement remains.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.159. The APA has the potential to contain remains related to a Roman road and potentially evidence for settlement and roadside activities in the areas immediately adjacent. Such deposits can provide insight into the nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londinium*.
- 7.1.160. Hoxton has been continuously settled since the early medieval period and thus has the potential to contain early medieval, medieval and post-medieval settlement remains. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement,

which can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

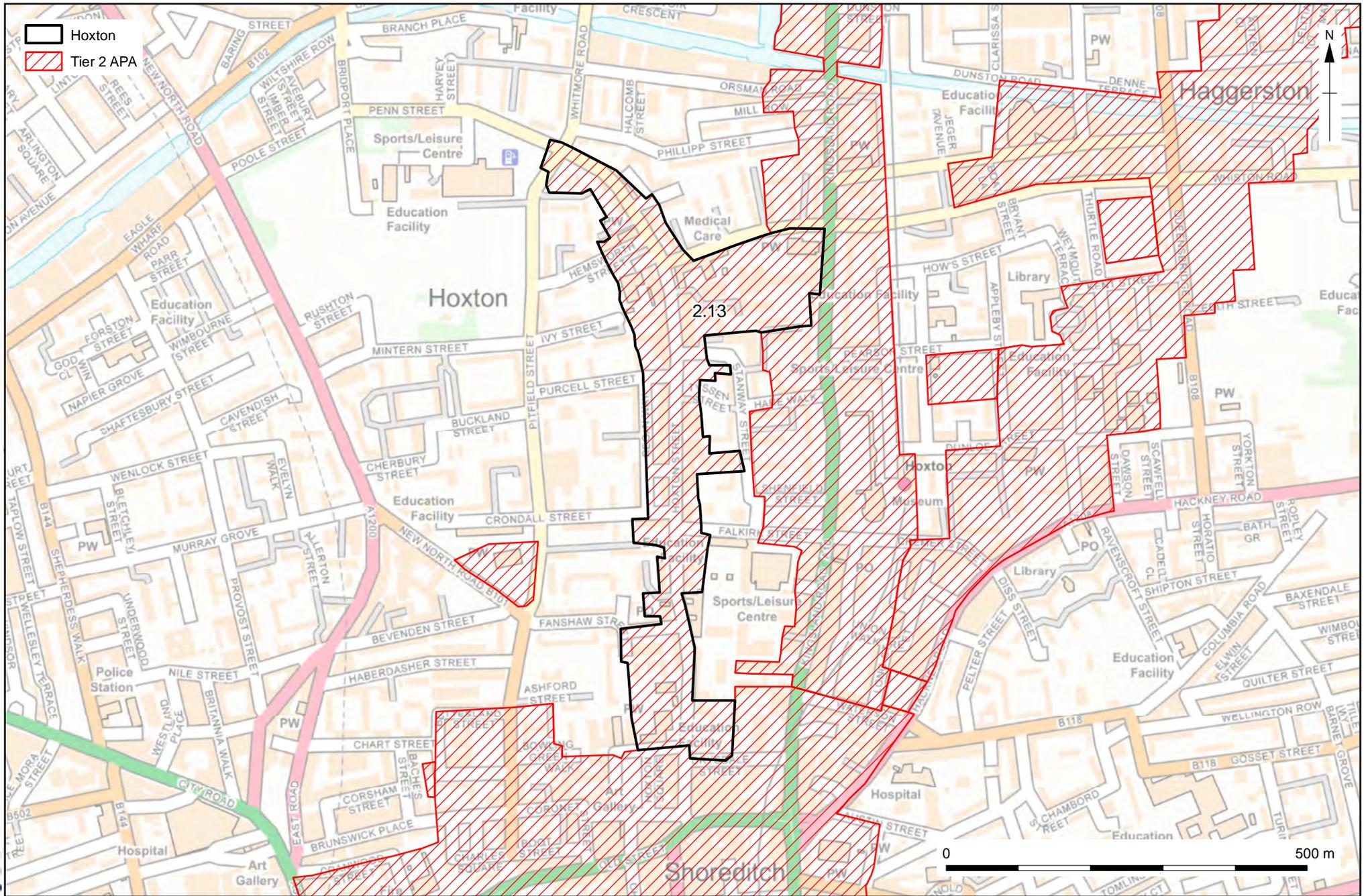
7.1.161. During the post-medieval period a workhouse with associated cemetery developed to the east of Hoxton Street. The APA has the potential to contain buried archaeological remains associated with the workhouse, as well as extant 19th century hospital buildings, which are still in use as part of the modern hospital. Such remains would be helpful in developing a greater understanding of post-medieval hospitals and workhouses and their development through the post-medieval period.

7.1.162. The APA is likely to contain 19th and 20th century burials associated with the hospital. Burials of over 100 years in age are potentially of archaeological interest and provide an opportunity to investigate the lifespan, health and disease of the local population.

*Key references*

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Shoreditch/>

[http://www.health.hackneysociety.org/page\\_id\\_\\_154.aspx?path=0p4p](http://www.health.hackneysociety.org/page_id__154.aspx?path=0p4p)



### ***Hackney APA 2.14 Shacklewell***

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.163. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic core of Shacklewell and has the potential to contain archaeological remains relating to the medieval settlement and its associated manor house. The APA has also yielded evidence of prehistoric remains, including a Palaeolithic lithic working site, and a Neolithic arrowhead.
- 7.1.164. The APA has been classified as Tier 2 as it has the potential to contain below ground archaeological remains relating to medieval settlement and has the potential to contain well preserved Palaeolithic remains.

#### *Description*

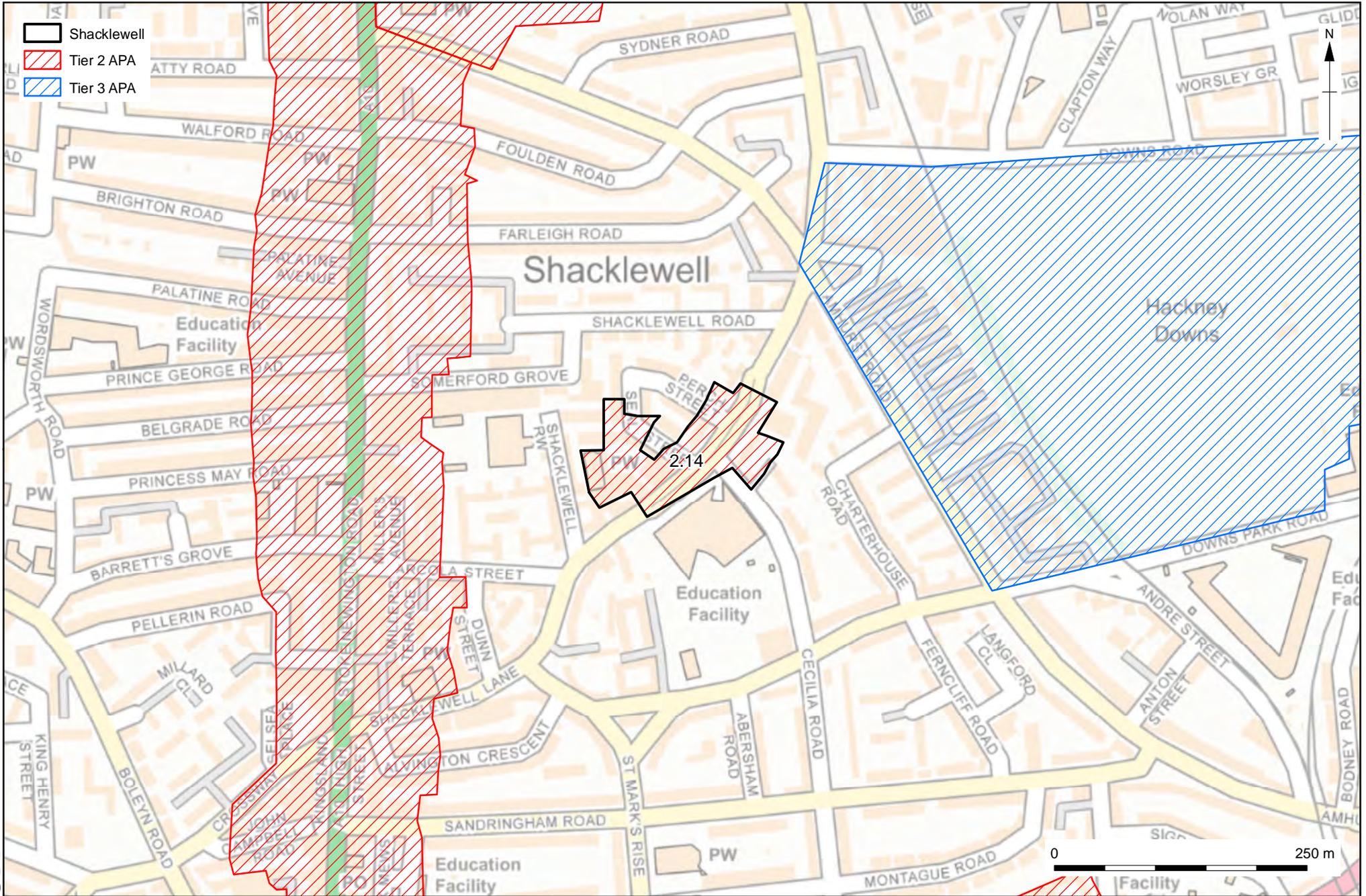
- 7.1.165. The APA covers the historic core of Shacklewell as shown on Rocque's 1745 Map of London. The settlement was originally located to the east the High Road (now Amherst Road) between Dalston and Stoke Newington Common, centred on the course of the modern day Shacklewell Lane.
- 7.1.166. The village was located a quarter of a mile from the High Road and surrounded a strip of waste which formed the village green. It is first mentioned in 1410 when a London saddler called Thomas Cornish had a tenant there. By the 16th century the village was part of a manor belonging to Sir John Heron, allegedly the richest man in Hackney. At this time, it included the holdings of five tenants and formed part of a larger estate held in turn by the Heron, Rowe and Tyssen families. By the time of its depiction on Roque's 1745 map, the village contained a large manor house, thought to be medieval in origin. The site of the manor house is currently occupied by later housing and the 20th century Grade II\* listed church of St Barnabas.
- 7.1.167. Evidence of Palaeolithic activity, including a lithic working site and deposits of faunal remains have been recorded within the APA and in the area immediately to the south. There is the potential for further such remains within the Hackney Gravel and brickearth deposits underlying the area, although in parts of the APA the survival of such remains would have been impacted by 18th century gravel extraction.
- 7.1.168. A Neolithic arrowhead was also recovered in the APA and provides a rare example of Neolithic activity within the borough of Hackney.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.169. Shacklewell has been continuously settled since the early medieval period and thus has the potential to contain early medieval, medieval and post-medieval settlement remains. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement, which can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 7.1.170. The APA also has an underlying potential to contain Palaeolithic remains. Remains of this date, particularly those dating to the lower Palaeolithic finds are rare, and whether in primary or secondary deposit represent some of the oldest artefacts in Europe. They are considered important, as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of older, extinct human species, as well as mankind's earliest direct ancestors.

#### *Key references*

VCH, 1995 Hackney: Shacklewell, in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 10, Hackney* (ed. T F T Baker), London



### **Hackney APA 2.15 Northwold Road and surrounds**

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 7.1.171. This Archaeological Priority Area covers an area surrounding Northwold Road in Upper Clapton. The APA covers a wide area of brickearth deposits which have yielded well preserved Palaeolithic finds. It surrounds the Tier 1 APA Upper Clapton, which contains a nationally significant Palaeolithic lithic working site and findspots (APA 1.1).
- 7.1.172. The APA is classed as a Tier 2, because it has the potential to contain rare *in situ* Palaeolithic sites, which are highly sensitive to modern ground disturbance. In addition, the APA has the potential to contain evidence of Mesolithic and Roman remains.

#### *Description*

- 7.1.173. Palaeolithic activity has been recorded within and under the brickearth deposits beneath Northwold Road and the surrounding area. Clusters of Palaeolithic finds have been recorded near Narford Road (5 hand axes, 4 retouched flakes and 1 flake), Reighton Road (4 flint hand axes, 1 flake and 1 quartzite handaxe), and Alkham Road (4 flint hand axes). In addition, a large number of unprovenanced Palaeolithic tools comprising 45 flint handaxes, 4 roughouts and 50 flakes have been retrieved from the wider Upper Clapton area. The Palaeolithic tools recovered from this area are well preserved, suggesting that they are close to their original point of deposition.
- 7.1.174. The APA surrounds, the Tier 1 APA Upper Clapton (APA 1.1). The Tier 1 APA contains nationally significant Palaeolithic lithic working floors, which were identified by Worthington G Smith in 1894, as well as preserved finds and faunal remains which are indicative of *in situ* Palaeolithic remains. While no *in situ* Palaeolithic finds have been recorded in the APA, given its proximity to APA 1.1 and the well preserved nature of the finds recovered from APA, it is considered to have the potential to contain rare *in situ* Palaeolithic finds.
- 7.1.175. The majority of the APA is currently occupied by residential development, but given the depth of the brickearth deposits it is considered likely that further remains survive below the housing development and within the surrounding gardens.
- 7.1.176. A Mesolithic flintworking and possible occupation site have also been recorded within the APA, highlighting the potential of the area to contain further Mesolithic remains.
- 7.1.177. The APA lies adjacent to the Roman road of Ermine Street (APA 2.8) and has the potential to contain remains Roman roadside remains and settlement activity. The site of a Roman coffin has been recorded within the area, highlighting its potential to contain further such remains.

#### *Significance*

- 7.1.178. This site is considered significant because it has the potential to contain *in situ* Palaeolithic deposits which are nationally rare. The extreme scarcity of such sites and the scope of global research into human origins means that the importance of sites with *in situ* Palaeolithic remains cannot be overstated. During the Pleistocene, Britain was located at the north-west extremity of early human life. Lower Palaeolithic sites in Britain, whether in primary or secondary contexts, thus reflect some of the oldest fossils and artefacts in Europe. Along with middle Palaeolithic sites they are important as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of other human species, now extinct, and help us to reflect on what it means to be human.
- 7.1.179. Wymer highlights this area as a key lower Palaeolithic site in his survey of all identified sites of this date undertaken in 1999.<sup>32</sup> He also states that this is the most important collection of lower Palaeolithic sites within the Putney-Hackney region of the Middle Thames Valley.

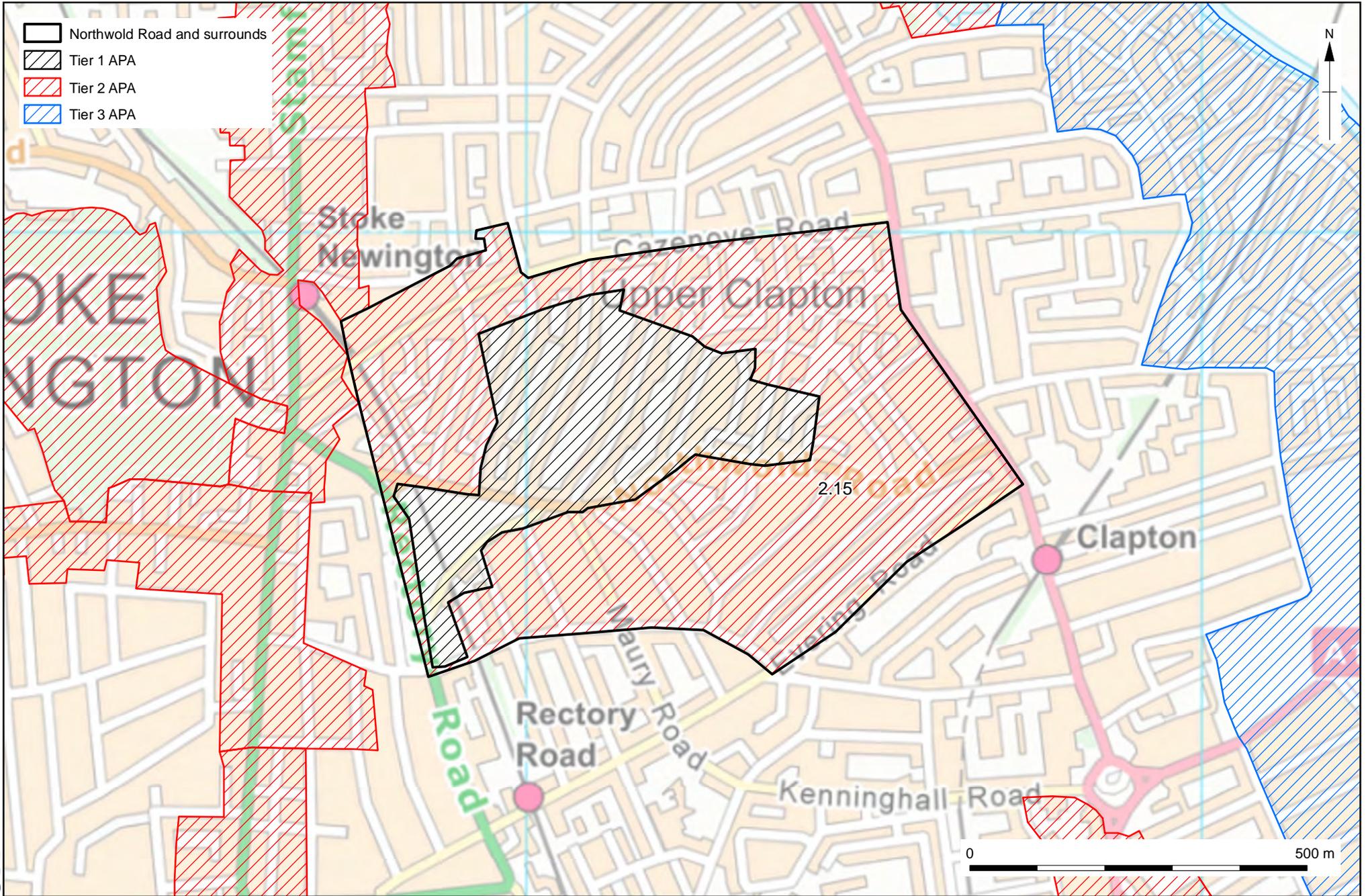
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<sup>32</sup> Wymer 1999 The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain. Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage.

- 7.1.180. Mesolithic material is particularly rare in Hackney, and if such material were found would provide insight into Mesolithic use of the landscape and also technological development in this period.
- 7.1.181. The APA has an underlying potential to contain Roman burials. If further remains of this nature were found they would provide an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the treatment of the dead in the Roman period and would also provide information on the life expectancy, the general health and social background of the local community, and the range of diseases from which they may have suffered.

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## 8. AREA DESCRIPTIONS FOR TIER 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS

### *Hackney APA 3.1 Lea Valley*

#### *Summary and Definition*

- 8.1.1. The Archaeological Priority Area of the Lea Valley covers the floodplain of the River Lea, stretching south from Craven Park Road to the railway line as it passes through Hackney Wick. The eastern boundary of the APA is defined by the course of the River Lea. The APA broadly covers an area of alluvial deposits associated with the River Lea, as defined by the British Geological Survey (BGS), as well as stretches of prominent river terraces which run along the western edge of the river valley. To the east the APA adjoins the Waltham Forest APA of the River Lea and its tributaries, Harringey's Lea Valley APA to the north and to the south the APA adjoins the Newham and Tower Hamlets APAs of the River Lea. The APA is divided in two by the route of the London to Great Dunmow Roman road (APA 2.9, which is classified as Tier 2). The APA also includes Springfield Park and Clapton Common (APA 2.6), which was classified as Tier 2 due to its potential to contain Roman burials. The current land use within the APA is a mix of residential and commercial development and parkland (Springfield Park, Millfields Park, Mabeley Green and Hackney Marshes).
- 8.1.2. The APA has been classed as Tier 3 because it covers an extensive area with a high potential for the preservation of organic remains and the potential to contain palaeoenvironmental evidence for past wetland and riverine environments. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic artefacts have been recorded within the APA, as have well preserved early medieval and medieval watercraft. The APA was also an extensive area of historic industry in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

#### *Description*

- 8.1.3. The Archaeological Priority Area covers the floodplain of the River Lea as it passes through Hackney. It is broadly defined by the extent of the alluvial deposits recorded by the BGS and the prominent river terraces which form the banks of the Lea Valley. The River Lea originates to the north and west of Luton in the Chiltern Hills, travelling south for 85.2km before joining the River Thames. Throughout history the river has been used as a boundary. In the 9th century it marked the division between Saxon, Christian England and the land ruled by Danelaw. Subsequently it formed the historic county boundary between Middlesex and Essex, and presently it forms the boundary between the London boroughs of Hackney and Waltham Forest.
- 8.1.4. The modern ground level of the valley floor dips from *c* 8m aOD in the north of the APA to 6-7m aOD in the south of the APA. The valley had a steeper gradient in the past but has been levelled out by the natural deposition of alluvium and raising of the artificial ground. Made ground has been mapped across the recreation grounds covering Hackney Marshes and Wick field. The natural land surface lies approximately 2-3m below the current land surface in these areas.
- 8.1.5. The terraces which run along the western bank of the Lea Valley are associated with the Lynch Hill and Hackney Gravels, which are well known for containing Palaeolithic activity. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic tools and prehistoric alluvial deposits have been recorded within the APA, as have finds dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age period. While no *in situ* prehistoric sites have been recorded within the area, there is the potential for previously unrecorded remains to be present. Any surviving prehistoric features are likely to be deeply buried due to the thick layers of made ground deposited within the area as a result of 20th century land reclamation.
- 8.1.6. The route of a Roman road running from London to Great Dunmow (APA 2.9) passes through the APA, fording the River Lea and passing into the London borough of Waltham Forest to the east. The road has been designated Tier 2 due to the potential for Roman settlement and roadside activity along the route of the road. An area of ground metalling found on the valley floor does not correspond to the projected route of the road, suggesting that the Roman river crossing may have been made up of separate runs of roads, bridges and fords, which were used

to take the easiest route across the streams and boggy areas of the valley floor. This seems to have been the case for the medieval footbridge, located in the vicinity of Lea Bridge Road, which was recorded as crossing the valley by means of 12 wooden footbridges.

- 8.1.7. Springfield Park (APA 2.6) is situated in the northern part of the APA. The APA was designated Tier 2 as a result of the high status Roman burials recorded within it. An additional Roman sarcophagus burial was recorded in the southern part of the APA on a raised area of river gravel. Both this burial and the burials at Springfield Park were positioned on areas of high ground overlooking the valley floor. The landscape position of these burials and their location in respect to settlement and river crossing appears to have been a dominant factor in their location, and as such there is potential for further remains of this type to be present in these areas.
- 8.1.8. The River Lea was being used for navigation purposes from at least the early medieval period. The earliest record of this type of usage dates from 1220, when Margaret, Countess of Winchester, made a grant to the Cannons of Holy Trinity of free passage for their corn from Ware to London. Several well preserved watercraft, including an early medieval logboat, a possible medieval ferry and a boat of unknown type which could be either an early medieval logboat or a medieval ferry, have been recorded within the APA. The logboat provides direct evidence for the use of the smaller channels of the Lea in the early medieval period. The presence of these preserved watercrafts highlights the potential of the APA to contain waterlogged organic deposits and evidence relating to the use of the river in the early medieval and medieval periods. Further evidence of preserved organic archaeological remains were discovered during the excavation of the Victorian reservoir, just outside Hackney to the east of the northern part of the APA. The remains included evidence of wetland and dryland occupation, structures and environmental evidence. The remains were preserved within the alluvium and highlight the potential for further such remains to be present within the APA.
- 8.1.9. From the 13th century onwards the river was utilised to transport fresh produce and grain into London. It was subject to the first act for the navigational improvements of any river in the British Isles in 1424 and subsequent improvement acts followed in 1430 and 1571. The later act granted powers to the Mayor of London to add new cuts linking the river to London. The Hackney Cut was constructed in the mid-18th century to improve the navigation of the river and provide a means of transport for the timber yards and brick and other industries that developed along the banks of the Lea.
- 8.1.10. The APA is also likely to have been the site of a number of early riverside industries. Mills have been recorded on the banks of the River Lea since at least the early medieval period and powered by the numerous river channels. The presence of these earlier mills are reflected by the place names within the APA. Millfields Park, in the centre of the APA, is an area of former Lammas land<sup>33</sup> known as Mill Field, named after the famous corn mill built on the River Lea in the late 14th-century. A second mill was built in this area in the 15th century, at which time the names north Mill Field and South Mill Field came into use. During the 18th and 19th century the area the area was partially developed by the construction of the railway, which divided Mill Fields into three sections. The area is now in use as parkland. The APA is thus also considered to have the potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with mills and other riverside industries.
- 8.1.11. The Hackney Marshes form the southern part of the APA. During the medieval period the marshes were Lammas land.<sup>34</sup> In 1185 records show that the land was divided into marshy meadows and bogs and by 1745 there were nearly 300 strips of less than five acres each. In the late 19th century the lands were purchased by London County and Hackney Borough Councils for use as public land. The area was later designated as Metropolitan Open Land. In the 1930s

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<sup>33</sup> Parish lands to which tenants has pasturage rights from Lammas Day (1st August).

<sup>34</sup> Parish lands to which tenants has pasturage rights from Lammas Day (1st August).

the marshes were drained, revealing evidence of Roman occupation, including Roman burials (APA 2.6) and a causeway.

8.1.12. Lea Bridge Road runs through the centre of the APA, crossing the River Lea at Lea Bridge.

The first bridge built at this location was built of timber and was constructed in 1757 to replace Jeremy's Ferry. Both the bridge and the ferry are shown on Rocque's 1745 map of the area. The bridge was replaced in 1820 and again in 1892. During the 1830s Paradise Dock (later Lea Bridge Dock) had been cut and a cluster of buildings had grown up around it. This development was supplemented by further residential, commercial and industrial development, and is now designated as Lea Bridge Conservation Area. In 1995 the 19th century bridge was replaced with the present day road bridge.

8.1.13. During the Second World War, Hackney Marsh was used to detonate unexploded ordnance and to deposit rubble created during the Blitz. The deposition of rubble on the area raised the ground level of the marsh by nearly 2m. The area now occupied by Mabley Green was part of the Hackney Marshes until it was acquired by the government during the Second World War.

Following its acquisition, the site was developed as the Government War Departments National Projectile Factory. The area was subsequently cleared to form the present day green.

*Significance*

8.1.14. The APA is situated on the floodplains of the River Lea. While recorded prehistoric activity is limited to the occasional find, it is likely that the resources of the river valley were seasonally exploited throughout the prehistoric period. As a result, there is potential for previously undiscovered prehistoric deposits to be present within the APA. These deposits, if present are significant because of their ability to develop our understanding of the prehistoric use of the Lea Valley, and in particular further our understanding of the prehistoric use of wetland/ floodplain environments.

8.1.15. From the early medieval period onwards the River Lea was an important communication link, used to transport produce, grain and industrial goods into London from the hinterland of the city. The many channels of the River Lea have inhibited this use and as such the river has been repeatedly altered and adjusted to improve navigation of the river. Numerous waterside industries have developed along the banks of the river, including timber-yards, brickmaking industries and mills dating from the early medieval to modern periods. The APA thus also has the potential to contain archaeological deposits relating to the use of the river for industrial purposes and as a communication and transport link between the city and its hinterland in these periods.

8.1.16. Due to its position, situated on the floodplain of the River Lea, the APA has the potential to contain waterlogged archaeological deposits from all periods of history. Waterlogged deposits are of particular significance as they often contain environmental and organic remains. Such remains are not common in England and as a result are fairly rare in within the English archaeological record. They are therefore of great significance as they can provide information about the everyday objects people ate and drank out of (wooden bowls, leather bottles, horn cups), wore (clothes and shoes) and used (boats, trackways and fishtraps). These deposits can also contain environmental evidence that can help reconstruct past landscapes, providing evidence of land use, diet and landscape change which would not otherwise be available.

8.1.17. The APA has been subject to some disturbance caused by bomb damage during the Blitz and the post-medieval and modern development of parts of the APA. It is likely that prehistoric deposits, particularly those dating to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, would survive below the wartime demolition rubble. Large parts of the APA, particularly within areas of marshes and parkland, have never been developed and as such, in the areas which have not been disturbed by bomb damage, the APA has the potential to contain well preserved archaeological deposits. Groundworks which are deep enough to penetrate beneath modern made ground may therefore have affected archaeological remains, but shallower disturbance is unlikely to have done.

Understanding the nature and depth of deposits through geotechnical investigations and geo-archaeological modelling is therefore likely to be a key element in site assessment.

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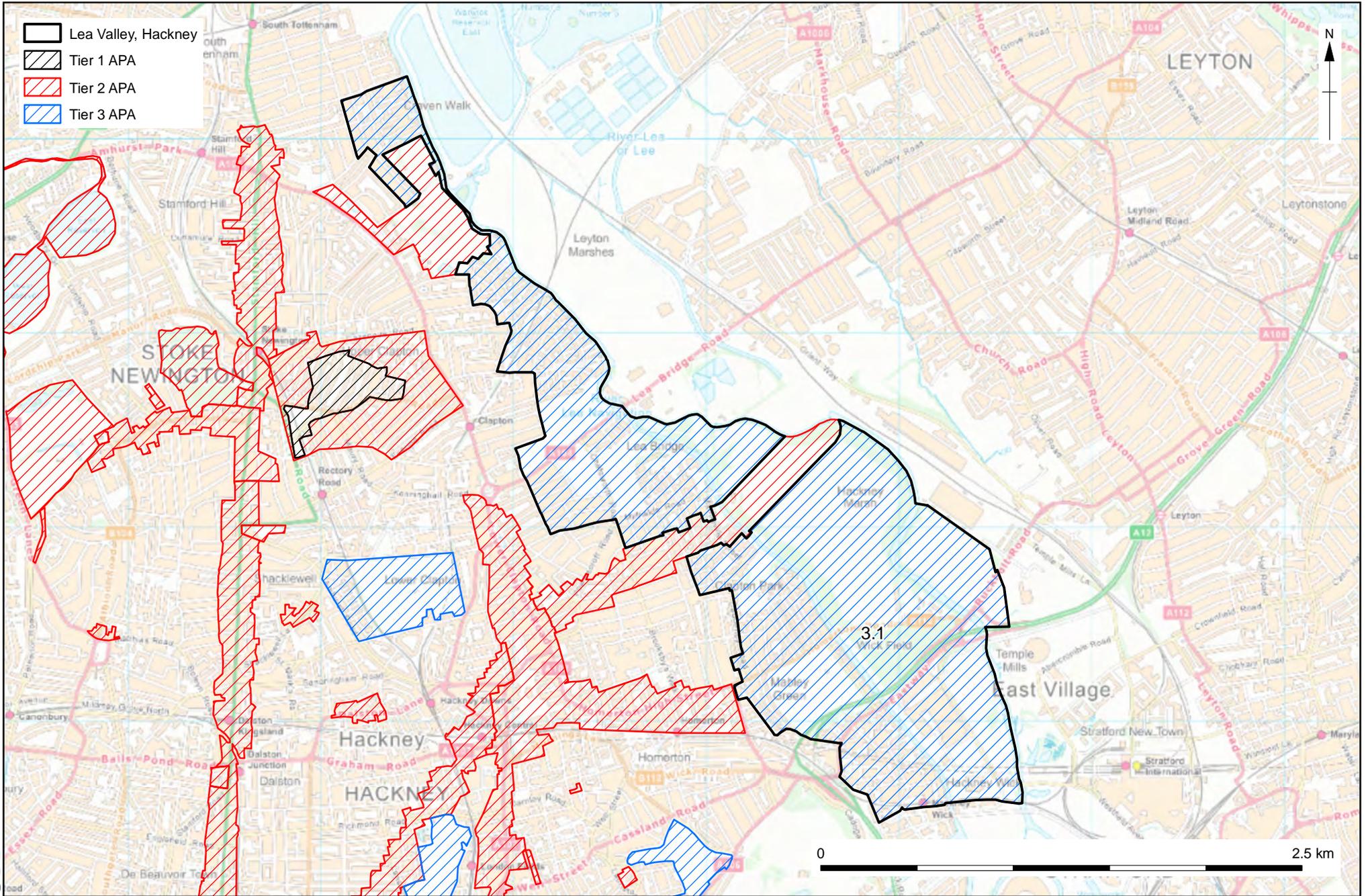
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### ***Hackney 3.2 Hackney Commons***

#### *Summary and definition*

8.1.18. The Archaeological Priority Area of Hackney Commons comprises Hackney Downs, Well Street Common and London Fields.

8.1.19. The APA has been classified Tier 3 because it covers areas of common land and parkland that have been subject to little or no development. These areas represent islands of preservation with the potential to contain well preserved archaeological remains dating to the pre-medieval periods. Such remains are particularly rare within the London Borough of Hackney.

#### *Description*

8.1.20. Hackney Downs in combination with Well Street Common and London Fields form the Tier 3 APA Hackney Commons. All three areas were part of Hackney Lammas land<sup>35</sup> until they were acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works under the Metropolitan Commons Supplemental Act of 1872. Under the terms of the Act 180ha of land across Hackney, which included Hackney Downs, London Fields, Well Street Common, Millfields Park, Stoke Newington Common and Clapton Common, as well as various strips of land at Dalstan Lane and Grove Street (Lauriston Road), were to be preserved as public open space and parkland.

#### Hackney Downs

8.1.21. Hackney Downs was surrounded by fields until the mid-19th century and was used for activities such as horse-racing, cricket, football and rugby. By 1865 Downs Road and Downs Park Road edged the common land and building development had begun in the area.

8.1.22. Following the Metropolitan Commons Supplemental Act of 1872 the Downs was opened as a public park in 1885 and was laid out with a pattern of radiating paths surrounded by plane, lime and ash trees. The parkland is largely made up of grassland surrounded by trees, including a double avenue of trees along Queens Down Road. There has been little development within the park itself although a few facilities have been added, including public toilets (1908), Hackney Downs Lodge (1959), an extension to the bowling green and the construction of a playground and sports court (1960). Further additions of sports courts, play areas a community room and rangers officer were added in 2010. When compared with the surrounding area Hackney Downs represent a rare island of preservation and has the potential to contain early archaeological remains.

8.1.23. The APA contains the site of an ancient spring, which originally flowed on the western edge of the Downs but by the late 19th-century was diverted underground. Lower Palaeolithic tools and faunal remains have been recorded within the APA, highlighting the potential of the area to contain further Palaeolithic remains.

#### Well Street Common and Surrounds

8.1.24. Well Street Common is a well preserved area of ancient common land. The area has never been developed and has the potential to contain well preserved archaeological remains. The first record of the common dates to 1442 when it is described as 'Well Street Fields' an area of common land located to the west of Well Street. The common was associated with a small hamlet situated on Well Street which had a population of 24 in the early 1600s. By the late 18th century, housing had spread along Casslands Road. The housing, referred to as Hackney Terrace, was made up of large houses with long rear gardens and a communal walled pleasure ground, which had a gate leading out onto the common.

8.1.25. The area surrounding the common was rural in nature until the early 19th century. The construction of Victoria Park in 1845 led to the creation of new roads which in turn facilitated

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<sup>35</sup> Parish lands to which tenants has pasturage rights from Lammas Day (1st August).

the spread of housing. The French Hospital, built in 1865 by Robert Lewis Roumieu, was part of this development and was located on previously rural land to the south-west of the common.

8.1.26. The hospital was originally built as an almshouse for Huguenot refugees and was named La Providence. It covered three acres of land and could provide accommodation for 40 female and 20 male patients, together with accommodation for the staff, including a steward, a cook and at least three resident nurses. From the 1870s onwards the western part of the hospital housed a nursery garden with greenhouses in the south-west corner of the site. This area also included the original lodge building, which was demolished in 1930 following the purchase and redevelopment of this part of the hospital grounds by London County Council. During the Second World War the hospital building was used as a military hospital and after the war the building was converted into a school. The main hospital building is preserved within the present day school and is a Grade II\* listed building.

8.1.27. Well Street Common has not been subject to any archaeological work, but due to its undisturbed nature has the potential to contain undisturbed prehistoric and Roman remains. Archaeological evaluation carried out within the APA at the adjacent Mossbourne academy site recorded finds of Neolithic or Bronze Age and Roman pottery. The presence of these finds highlights the potential of the APA to contain further remains of this date. The APA particularly in the area of the hospital also has the potential to contain post-medieval deposits associated with the post-medieval hospital and later school.

#### London Fields

8.1.28. To the west of Hackney is an area of parkland known as London Fields. This area was recorded as common land and pasture adjoining Cambridge Heath in 1275 when the settlement at Hackney was first formed. The first recorded use of the name London Field dates to 1540 and is likely to relate to the field's position on the main foot route from the village of Hackney to the city of London. During the 16th century six acres of London Fields are recorded as belonging to the Hospital of Savoy, although by 1553 the hospital had been dissolved and the fields passed into the ownership of St Thomas' Hospital. By the end of the 16th century the part of the APA between Mare Street and London fields had become a distinct settlement containing a number of coaching inns.

8.1.29. London Fields remained in use as common land until the late 19th century when following the passing of the Metropolitan Commons Supplemental Act of 1872 it was laid out as a park. It has remained in use as parkland ever since and represents an island of undisturbed green space in the otherwise well-developed borough of Hackney. It has a particular potential to contain archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods due to its location adjacent to the London to Great Dunmow (APA 2.9) and Mare Street Roman roads. Finds of Palaeolithic date have been recorded within the APA, reinforcing the prehistoric potential of the area. The APA was reputedly a burial place for plague victims in 1665. As such the APA also has the potential to contain 17th century inhumations.

8.1.30. In 1802 the Great Eastern Railway line was opened, which ran along the eastern boundary of London Fields. As well as disturbing any archaeological remains in its vicinity, the railway improved communication and transport links to the area and resulted in the gradual industrialisation of the land to the east of the park. The park has remained relatively unchanged since it was first laid out. It has some potential to contain archaeological remains associated with a Second World War anti-aircraft battery located in the south-west corner of the park and a bomb shelter located in the vicinity of the present day tennis courts.

#### *Significance*

8.1.31. The Hackney Commons of Hackney Downs, Well Street Common and London Fields represent rare pockets of preservation within the otherwise intensively developed London Borough of Hackney. The intensive development elsewhere in the borough has resulted in a scarcity of pre-medieval remains within the borough. Part of the significance of the Hackney

Commons arises from their relatively undisturbed state and thus their potential to contain well preserved pre-medieval remains.

- 8.1.32. Hackney Downs and London Fields in particular have potential to contain Lower and Middle Palaeolithic remains similar to those already discovered within the parks. Finds of this period, whether in primary or secondary context, represent some of the oldest artefacts in Europe. They are considered important, as they offer rare glimpses into the ways of life of other human species, now extinct, as well as mankind's earliest direct ancestors. London Fields is also the recorded site of a 17th century plague pit. It thus has the potential to contain 17th century inhumations. Burials which are more than 100 years old are potentially of archaeological interest. Plague pits are of interest, as they differ markedly from traditional burial practices. They can provide insight into the treatment of the dead in this period and also to the study of human populations, including life expectancy, health and disease.
- 8.1.33. The Well Street Common area has potential to contain prehistoric and Roman remains, as finds dating to these periods have been recovered from the surrounding area. If present these remains would provide an opportunity to further understand prehistoric activity within the borough. If Roman remains are present they would provide insight into the nature and extent of settlement in the hinterland of *Londinium*. The south-west corner of Well Street Common also has the potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with the 19th century French Hospital, which occupies the south-west corner of the APA. Such remains would be helpful in developing a greater understanding of post-medieval hospitals and their development throughout the post-medieval period.

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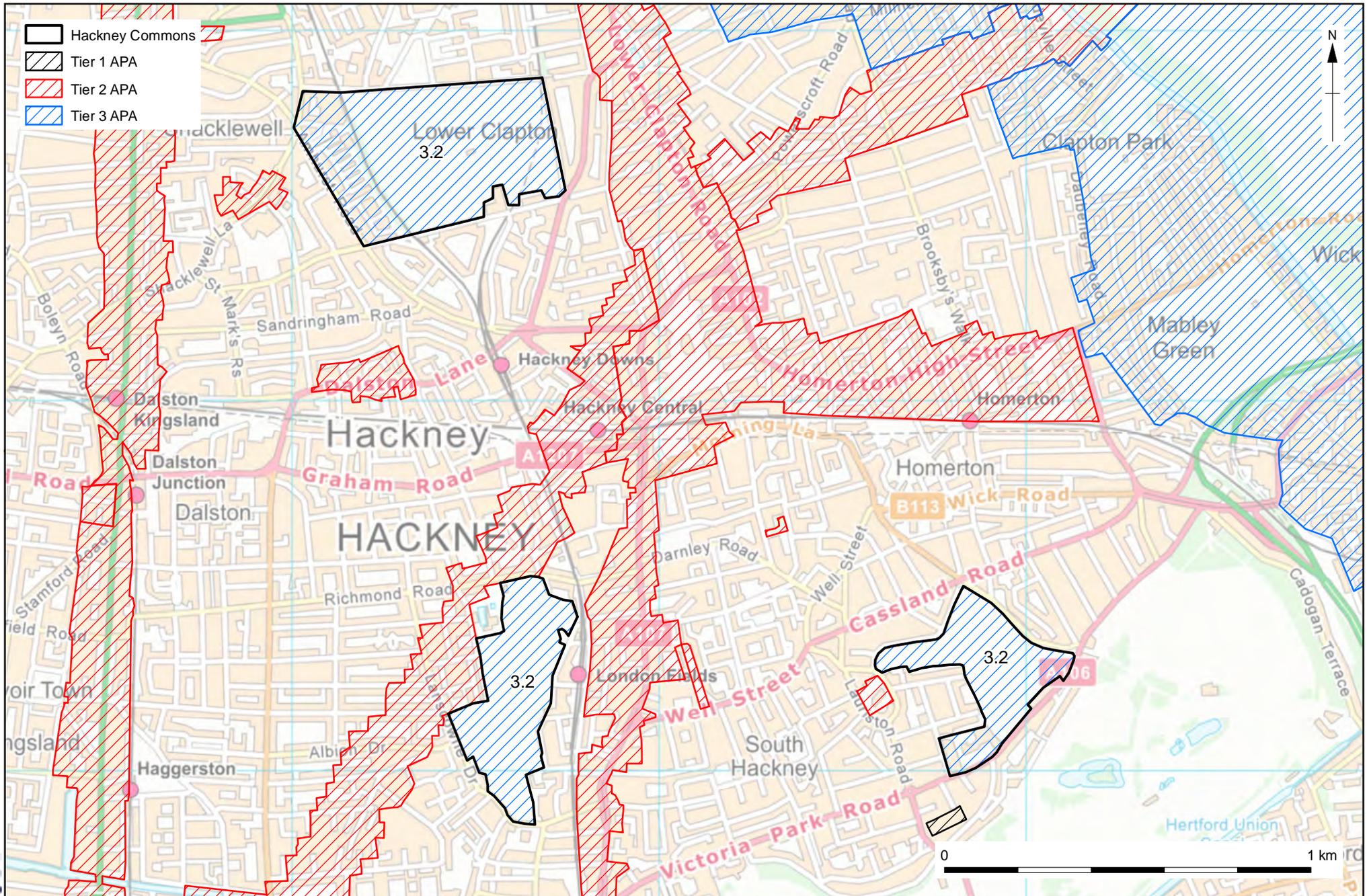
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