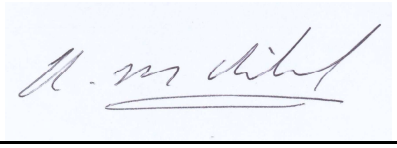
Historic England

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Archaeological Priority Areas Appraisal

October 2017

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Author(s):	Adam Single, Joanna Taylor, Sandy Kidd, Jane Sidell, Iain Bright, Patrick Booth
Derivation:	Final version submitted to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Origination Date:	2 October 2017
Reviser(s):	
Date of last revision:	
Date Printed:	2 October 2017
Version:	2.10
Status:	Final
Summary of Changes:	
Circulation:	London Borough of Tower Hamlets and London APA Advisory Panel
Required Action:	
File Name / Location:	S:\Glaas\Archaeological Priority Areas\Tower Hamlets\TH APA Appraisal
Approval: (Signature)	

This document has been produced by Adam Single, Joanna Taylor, Sandy Kidd, Jane Sidell, Iain Bright and Patrick Booth (all Historic England).

Contents

Introduction	page 4
Explanation of Archaeological Priority Areas	page 5
Archaeological Priority Area Tiers	page 7
Tower Hamlets: Historical and Archaeological Interest	page 10
Archaeological Priority Areas in Tower Hamlets	page 16
Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas	page 21
Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas	page 53
Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Areas	page 127
Glossary	page 136

Introduction

This document has been produced by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), part of the London office of Historic England. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Archaeological Priority Area Appraisal is part of a long term commitment to review and update London's Archaeological Priority Areas (APA). The review will use evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) in order to provide a sound evidence base for local plans that accords with the National Planning Policy Framework and its supporting Practice Guidance.

The appraisal is an opportunity to review the current APA framework in Tower Hamlets and produce revised areas and new descriptions. The proposals are being submitted to Tower Hamlets for consideration and are recommended for adoption in support of the Local Plan.

Explanation of Archaeological Priority Areas

An Archaeological Priority Area (APA) is a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries.

APAs exist in every London borough and were initially created in the 1970s and 1980s either by the boroughs or local museums. The present review of these areas is based on evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). Guidelines have been published to promote consistency in the recognition and definition of these areas across Greater London[1] and have been used in the preparation of this document.

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. However, heritage assets of archaeological interest can also hold other forms of heritage significance – artistic, architectural or historic interest. For many types of above ground heritage asset (e.g. historic buildings, landscapes and industrial heritage) these other interests may be more obvious or important. Sometimes heritage interests are intertwined – as is often the case with archaeological and historical interest. While the APA system does not seek to duplicate protection given by other heritage designations, such as Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas, it does aim to overlap and integrate with such approaches. Understanding archaeological significance can enhance appreciation of historical or architectural interest and vice versa.

APAs highlight where important archaeological interest might be located based on the history of the area and previous archaeological investigations. They help local planning authorities to manage archaeological remains that might be affected by development by providing an evidence base for Local Plans. This evidence base identifies areas of known heritage assets of historic and archaeological interest and wider zones where there is a likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets will be discovered in the future. APAs act as a trigger for consultation with the borough's archaeological adviser and are justified by a description of significance which will inform development management advice and decision making. The appraisal can also indicate how archaeology might contribute towards a positive strategy for conserving and enjoying the local historic environment, for example through recognising local distinctiveness or securing social or cultural benefits.

However, archaeological research and discovery is a dynamic process so it is not possible to anticipate all eventualities, threats and opportunities. This appraisal should

[1] That is the boroughs advised by GLAAS: not the City of London and Southwark which have their own archaeological advisers.

therefore be seen as providing a flexible framework for informed site specific decision making but not a straightjacket.

Archaeological Priority Area Tiers

Previously all parts of Tower Hamlets were either inside or outside an Archaeological Priority Area. Under the new system all parts of the borough will fall into one of four different tiers of archaeological significance and potential. The tiers vary depending on the archaeological significance and potential of that particular area. New Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs) have been categorised into one of Tiers 1-3 while all other areas within the borough will be regarded as being in Tier 4. Tier levels indicate when there is a need to understand the potential impact of the proposed development on the heritage asset's significance. The type of planning applications and the tier level it is located in indicate the likelihood that archaeology will be a consideration in reaching a planning decision.

Consultation guidelines are set out in the GLAAS Charter. New guidelines will link the tiers to specific thresholds for triggering archaeological advice and assessment. It is expected that as a minimum all major applications[2] within Archaeological Priority Areas (Tiers 1-3) would require an archaeological desk based assessment, and if necessary a field evaluation, to accompany a planning application. In the more sensitive Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas this procedure would also apply to some smaller scale developments. Outside Archaeological Priority Areas (Tier 4) some major developments, such as those subject to Environmental Impact Assessment, may warrant similar treatment. Pre-application consultation with GLAAS is encouraged to ensure planning applications are supported by appropriate information.

Tier 1 is a defined area which is known, or strongly suspected, to contain a heritage asset of national importance (a Scheduled Monument or equivalent); or is otherwise of very high archaeological sensitivity. Thus Tier 1 covers heritage assets to which policies for designated heritage assets would apply and a few other sites which are particularly sensitive to small scale disturbance[3]. They will be clearly focused on a specific heritage asset and will normally

[2] Major applications include development involving 10 or more dwellings or an application site of 0.5 hectares or more on outline applications. For other types of applications including commercial or industrial development a major application may be defined as being 1000m^2 floorspace or more or an application site of 1 hectare or more on an outline application.

[3] However, this does not mean that the policies for assets of national importance would apply to every development in a Tier 1 APA as that will depend upon the nature of the proposals and results of site-specific assessment and evaluation.

be relatively small. Scheduled Monuments would normally be included within a Tier 1 APA[4].

Tier 2 is a local area 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 assets considered of less than national importance considering the scale of any harm and the significance of the asset. Tier 2 APAs will typically cover a larger area than a Tier 1 APA and may encompass a group of heritage assets.

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 distribution.

Tier 4 (outside APA) 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 on greenfield sites, in relation to large scale development or in association with Listed Buildings or other designated heritage assets.

New information may lead to areas moving between the four tiers set out above. For example, a positive archaeological evaluation could result in a Tier 2 area (or part of it) being upgraded to Tier 1 if the remains found were judged to be of national importance. It is important to understand that the new tiered system is intended to be dynamic and responsive to new information which either increases or decreases the significance of an area.

[4] Tier 1 APAs around Scheduled Monuments will often extend beyond the boundary of the scheduled area to reflect the full extent of the asset, including the potential for associated remains. It will not usually be practicable for an APA to define the totality of Scheduled Monument's setting. Instead they will attempt to reflect areas close to the monument that would be especially sensitive. A few Scheduled Monuments which have been designated for their historical or other non-archaeological interest will not merit the definition of a Tier 1 APA.

This document comprises an appraisal of all the new APAs in Tower Hamlets which have been allocated to one of Tiers 1-3. Each APA has an associated description which includes several different sections. A "Summary and Definition" section provides a brief overview of the key features of the APA, the justification for its selection, how its boundaries were defined and gives an explanation as to why it has been placed in a particular tier group. A "Description" section goes into more detail about the history and archaeology of the APA to describe its overall character. Finally a "Significance" section details the heritage significance of the APA with particular reference to its archaeological interest and related historical interest. Each description will also have a list of "Key References" along with a related map showing the extent of the APA boundary. A glossary of relevant terms is included at the end of the document.

Tower Hamlets: Historical and Archaeological Interest

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is located in east London and lies within the government's Inner London Natural Character Area (112). Tower Hamlets Borough Council are the planning authority for most of the borough, but the London Legacy Development Corporation are responsible for planning in a small portion of the north-east of the borough occupied by part of the Olympic Park.

Tower Hamlets' southern and eastern borders are defined by the rivers Thames and Lea respectively whilst its eastern edge is occupied by the City of London and its northern edge by the London Borough of Hackney. The underlying solid geology is Lambeth Group sandstone and mudstone beneath the Isle of Dogs, Wapping and parts of the Lea Valley and London Clay beneath the rest of the borough.

The south and east of the borough was historically low-lying alluvium bordering the rivers. Here developed river channels and marshes that persisted into the twentieth century before final reclamation. Historic water action has created extensive bands of peat within and beneath the alluvium in many areas. The geoarchaeology of the Lea Valley has been extensively studied and modelled in recent years as a result of developments including the Olympic Park.

Although rarely rising above 15m above sea level, higher and drier ground occupies the remaining majority of the borough, characterised by a well-drained drift geology of gravels or brickearth.

In previous centuries the borough was part of the county of Middlesex with the Lea serving as the boundary with Essex. Its proximity to Roman and later London meant that the area was strongly influenced by the neighbouring capital as London grew. Its modern name derives from the settlements that lay beyond the Tower of London and which supported the Tower's militia. Rapid urban development in the 18th century including the creation of docks and development of industry changed the borough significantly.

Designated archaeological assets in the borough are the Scheduled Monuments of the Tower of London (also a World Heritage Site), Tower Hill West, portions of the London Wall, St Mary Spital, the Great Eastern Launchways and Bonner Hall Bridge and Three Colts Bridge.

Prehistoric (500,000 BC to 42 AD)

Human activity during the long timespan and environmental changes of the palaeolithic period is reflected in limited archaeological material recorded in the borough. However, this may be a result of the character and location of past investigations rather than a genuine dearth.

A handaxe found at Bromley by Bow and flint flakes at Old Ford, Bethnal Green

and elsewhere attest to very early human activity. The borough's gravels have potential to contain evidence of Pleistocene and Early Holocene human activity and palaeoenvironmental data and improved understanding of its geoarchaeology will assist in better identifying evidence from the period.

Excavations for West India Dock and Shadwell Dock around 1800 AD exposed a buried prehistoric forest along with records of shell, animal and human remains at depths of up to 4m below contemporary ground level that is thought to represent a later palaeolithic landscape.

The Mesolithic period also provides a few examples of flintwork; from Tower Bridge, Trinity Square, Westferry Road, Poplar, Old Ford and Bethnal Green. From this period onwards, a marshland landscape developed along the river valleys, as a result of retreating ice caps raising sea levels.

The marshes included small areas of dry land separated by numerous water channels or tributaries. The wetland environment preserves a rich palaeoenvironmental record and there is potential for human activity evidence to be preserved on contemporary land surfaces and within the peat deposits that are recorded in the borough. When these marshes were reclaimed in the 19th century, large expanses were buried under made ground, leaving their archaeology intact. This buried prehistoric landscape is a key archaeological interest in the area.

Small settlements developed on drier areas in the marsh or alongside the edge of the marsh and river channels as people took advantage of an abundant supply of water and local wildlife. The Neolithic Yabsley Street burial in Blackwall is strong evidence for more permanent settlement in the valleys. Fieldwork at Leman Street in 2003 recovered neolithic pottery. Blackwall has also produced a Neolithic axe while tool finds from Tower Bridge, Wapping, Minories and Gillender St among others represent contemporary activity.

A preserved later prehistoric forest dating from the later Neolithic to the early Bronze Age is recorded at Junction Dock on the Isle of Dogs. A Bronze Age timber structure from Atlas Wharf also on the Isle of Dogs appears to have been built over a contemporary channel and may have been used for woodworking and/or possible occupation. The gravels of the borough were likely in use for farming by this period and finds of Bronze Age metalwork in Bromley and on Minories indicate activity there.

During the Iron Age, the area would have been under the influence of the Catuvellani tribe and their capital at Colchester. A trackway leading west from there and crossing the north of the borough has been posited as the basis for Old Street although the route's presence within Tower Hamlets has not been conclusively identified. Old Ford, however, has produced Iron Age occupation evidence, as has Stepney. Spotfinds are recorded at Blackwall, Victoria Park and around Leman Street and Minories.

Important aims relating to prehistoric Tower Hamlets should include better understanding the distribution of cultural and ecofactual material via geoarchaeological modelling. Period specific objectives would include improving the picture of human

interaction with the rivers and marshes and the development of a settled lifestyle during the Neolithic and how that developed into the settlement patterns and the cleared and managed landscape of later prehistory and the Roman period. The role of the Thames and Lea as boundaries between differing later prehistoric societies may also be explored.

Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)

London was a founded in the wake of the Claudian conquest and the borough sat on the eastern edge of the Roman city. The Roman city wall lies under the Tower London and is visible to the Tower's immediate north while the Roman river wall parallels the Thames. Stone Roman buildings survive in this area while work at Trinity Place hints that specialist tasks related to the unusual Camolundum form 306 bowls took place in the shadow of the city wall, alongside domestic activity.

A significant Roman cemetery (The Eastern Cemetery) grew up along the Colchester road at Aldgate and another along the line of Ermine Street, located around Spitalfields. These appear to have been sited on areas of early Roman quarrying and possible industrial use including glassmaking. A number of high status burials have been found including the famous Spitalfields Princess.

Satellite settlements are known at Old Ford, on the Colchester Road and at Shadwell on a Roman route now followed by The Highway. There is some possibility that another stood further along The Highway at Ratcliff.

The Colchester road has been found well-preserved at Old Ford, where it forded the Lea, along with structural, funerary and agricultural remains from a significant settlement that dates from the 1st-2nd centuries AD and persisted into the 4th.

The Shadwell settlement includes a preserved bath house dating from the mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD as well as evidence of riverside commercial activity and a cemetery. A square structure nearby commonly identified as a Roman signal tower at the settlement has been more recently reassessed as a mausoleum.

Key archaeological interests would be to understand how land was used and managed on the edge of *Londinium*, how its satellite settlements developed and how its communications routes worked. The development of the Shadwell settlement as a commercial site outside the Roman city would bear further investigation along with other uses of the river downstream of the capital.

Anglo-Saxon (410 AD to 1065 AD) & Medieval (1066 AD to 1539 AD)

Post-Roman settlement in Tower Hamlets developed from the Roman pattern

with Saxon maintenance of the city wall and outlying settlement known at Wapping and Stepney. Early bishops of London maintained a high status residence at Bishopswood, later Bonner Manor, and the large parish of Stepney was part of the bishop's manorial holdings. Saxon spotfinds have been made at Mile End, Brick Lane and Shadwell.

The earliest documentary evidence of milling on the Lea dates from the Saxon period.

In 895, Viking ships sailed up the Lea to Ware in Hertfordshire. They were forced to flee over land when King Alfred blockaded the Lea near London. The Lea's mills ground flour for London while other industries included cloth dyeing and fulling as well as livestock slaughter for the City's markets. The river and the borough's location lent Tower Hamlets well to serving London's needs.

The Thameside settlements including Limehouse, Blackwall, Wapping and Ratcliff were likely flourishing as ship building and supply centres by the end of the period, being also outside the jurisdiction of the city guilds.

In 1110 the Lea was bridged at Bow, replacing the ford at Old Ford, and the road east from London realigned on a route south of the old Roman road.

During the later Middle Ages, there were five monastic sites in the borough. The Benedictine convent of St Leonard's Priory was founded in Bromley-by-Bow in the late 11th or early 12th century. Four other sites fringed the City: St Katharine's Hospital, founded 1149 and which survived until St Katharine's Docks wither created in 1825; a house of Austin Canons, later St Mary Spital, stood in Spitalfields from 1235 until the Dissolution; Minories represents the Abbey of St Claire occupied Franciscan Minoresses between 1293 and 1534; finally, the Cistercian Abbey of St Mary Graces was founded in 1350 on what later became the site of the Royal Mint. Structural elements of it are preserved under modern development there. A leper hospital also stood at Mile End from sometime before 1274 until its last buildings were demolished in the 17th century.

Secular sites in the borough include several grand houses at Stepney (including Worcester House, partly uncovered by Crossrail), Gissing Place at Old Ford, Mile End Manor and Bromley Hall while excavations at Ratcliff have uncovered a more ordinary dwelling from the 15th/16th century. Stepney especially was a popular resort for wealthy Londoners, including the Mayor of London whose house at Stepney was used by Edward I to hold a parliament.

Floods from the Lea and Thames often threatened the borough. Population decline during the Black Death led to flood defences being neglected and rising sea levels led to breaches. The worst incident came in 1448 when over 1,000 acres of the Isle of Dogs were inundated, leaving a settlement and its chapel to St Mary there abandoned.

Plague resulted in plague pits and cemeteries being dug in the borough as it stood on the edge of the city, including at East Smithfield and Whitechapel.

Archaeological interest in the medieval period is likely to focus on understanding sub-Roman continuity, examining how the settlement pattern observed on early maps came into existence, the rise and fall of the monastic sites, how early industries developed and how the

proximity of London and the presence of the rivers influenced the local area.

Post medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD) & Modern (1901 AD to present day)

That the City of London had long ago spread beyond the mediaeval walls is shown by the route of its Civil War defences extending out to Whitechapel. London's growth transformed Tower Hamlets' remaining rural character into an industrial one. The pre-industrial economic activities of milling, maritime services and farming were augmented and then replaced by chemical and engineering industries. Many of these relied on water and water power but they and others also tended to be smelly and antisocial. Examples include numerous distilleries and breweries, dye and colour works, foundries, gasworks and the Thames Ironworks. In 1576, the Red Lion in Mile End was the site of London's first purpose built theatrical venue and may have been chosen as the site in order to be just outside the jurisdiction of the City.

Following the re-admittance of Jews into England under Oliver Cromwell, the area became a focus for the new Anglo-Jewish community in London. Surviving buildings and cemeteries in the area are an important testament to the re-establishment of Jews in England and one example of the waves of immigration that have characterised the area since the late middle ages. These include Huguenot weavers in Spitalfields, Chinese seamen in Limehouse, Ashkenazi Jews fleeing Russian pogroms and South Asian arrivals in Brick Lane and surroundings, all of whom have left archaeological evidence. Many non-Anglican populations are represented in the borough's numerous burial grounds.

By the late 18th century, the volume of commercial shipping could no longer be tended to in river and large inland docks were created along the Thames with connected warehousing and other infrastructure including railways, new roads such as Commercial Road and hydraulic power networks. First came London Docks at Wapping and West India Dock near Poplar from 1799-1802. These were followed by East India Dock in 1803, Limehouse Basin and the Regent's Canal in 1820, St Katharine's in 1825 developed by Thomas Telford, Poplar Dock in 1828, The Hertford Union Canal in 1830 and Millwall Dock in 1868.

Other early feats of engineering in the borough include the Brunels' Thames Tunnel (constructed 1825-1843) and the later Rotherhithe and Blackwall tunnels as well as the Greenwich foot tunnel. Millwall developed a strong shipbuilding tradition and SS Great Eastern, the largest ship of her time was launched there in 1858.

Bishopsgate was the site of the City of London's first mainline railway station in 1840. Now demolished, its early viaduct, the Braithwaite Viaduct is listed. The station and its railway line east cut through notorious slums. Slums characterised the east of the borough into the twentieth century despite pioneering housing and recreational developments such as the Boundary Estate and Victoria Park.

Between the 1960s and 1980s, the docks and much of the industrial

infrastructure closed or was in decline. Many sites were subsequently redeveloped as offices and housing.

Key archaeological questions on the period would include examination of the development of the borough's urban character from rural roots, studying and raising the profile of the archaeology of minority groups and examining the development of industrial processes within individual sites.

Archaeological Priority Areas in Tower Hamlets

A total of 31 Archaeological Priority Areas are recommended for Tower Hamlets of which six are Tier 1 APA, 23 are Tier 2 APAs and two are Tier 3 APAs. The APAs would cover approximately 74% of the borough, an increase from approximately 23% previously.

Tier 1 APAs	Size (HA)
1.1 Great Eastern Launchways	3.41
1.2 Tower of London, St Mary Graces and Tower Hill	19.58
1.3 St Mary Spital	2.91
1.4 Shadwell Roman Settlement	6.56
1.5 Atlas Wharf	3.46
1.6 Mile End Jewish Cemeteries	2.40
	Total = 38.32

Tier 2 APAs	
2.1 St James's Cemetery and Bonner Manor	3.46
2.2 Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds	19.66
2.3 Mile End	22.49
2.4 Bethnal Green	25.28
2.5 Victoria Park	88.58
2.6 The Highway	20.33
2.7 Wapping	65.85
2.8 Mile End Road	22.50
2.9 Whitechapel	15.28
2.10 St Katharine's Docks	23.45
2.11 Aldgate and Portsoken	28.87
2.12 Spitalfields and Brick Lane	38.11
2.13 Shadwell	46.90
2.14 Ratcliff	16.79
2.15 Limehouse	57.73
2.16 Poplar	30.44
2.17 Blackwall	47.41
2.18 Limmo	56.01
2.19 Bow	10.21
2.20 Old Ford	69.67

2.21 Stepney	8.47
2.22 London to Colchester Roman Road	34.03
2.23 Shoreditch	19.37

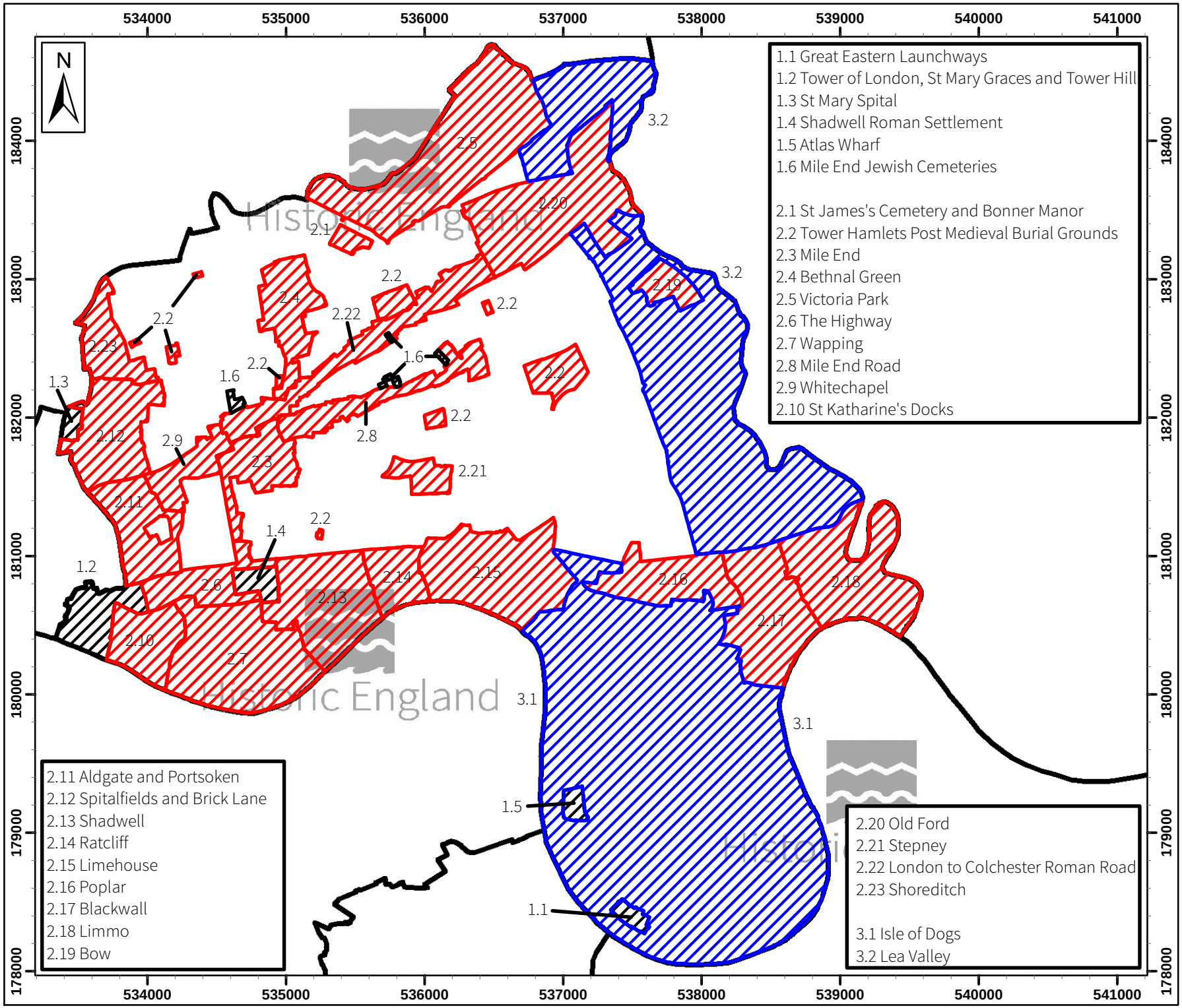
Total = 770.89

Tier 3 APAs

3.1 Isle of Dogs	433.12
3.2 Lea Valley	225.35

Total = 658.47

Total area of all Archaeological Priority Areas in Tower Hamlets = 1467.68



Tower Hamlets Archaeological Priority Areas

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

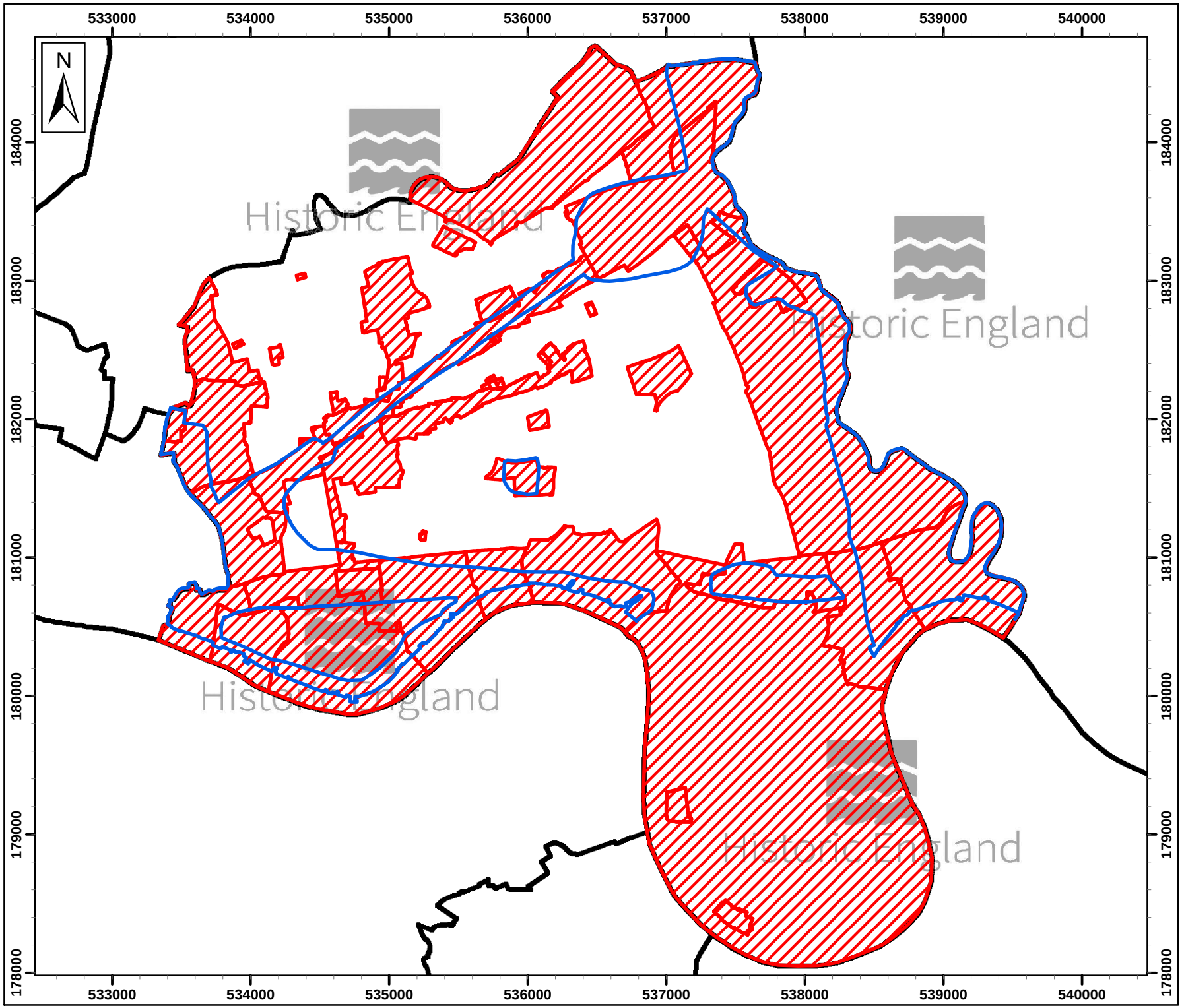
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:36,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets Archaeological Priority Areas and former Archaeological Priority Areas

Tower Hamlets APA

Former Tower Hamlets APA

Scale (at A4): 1:36,000

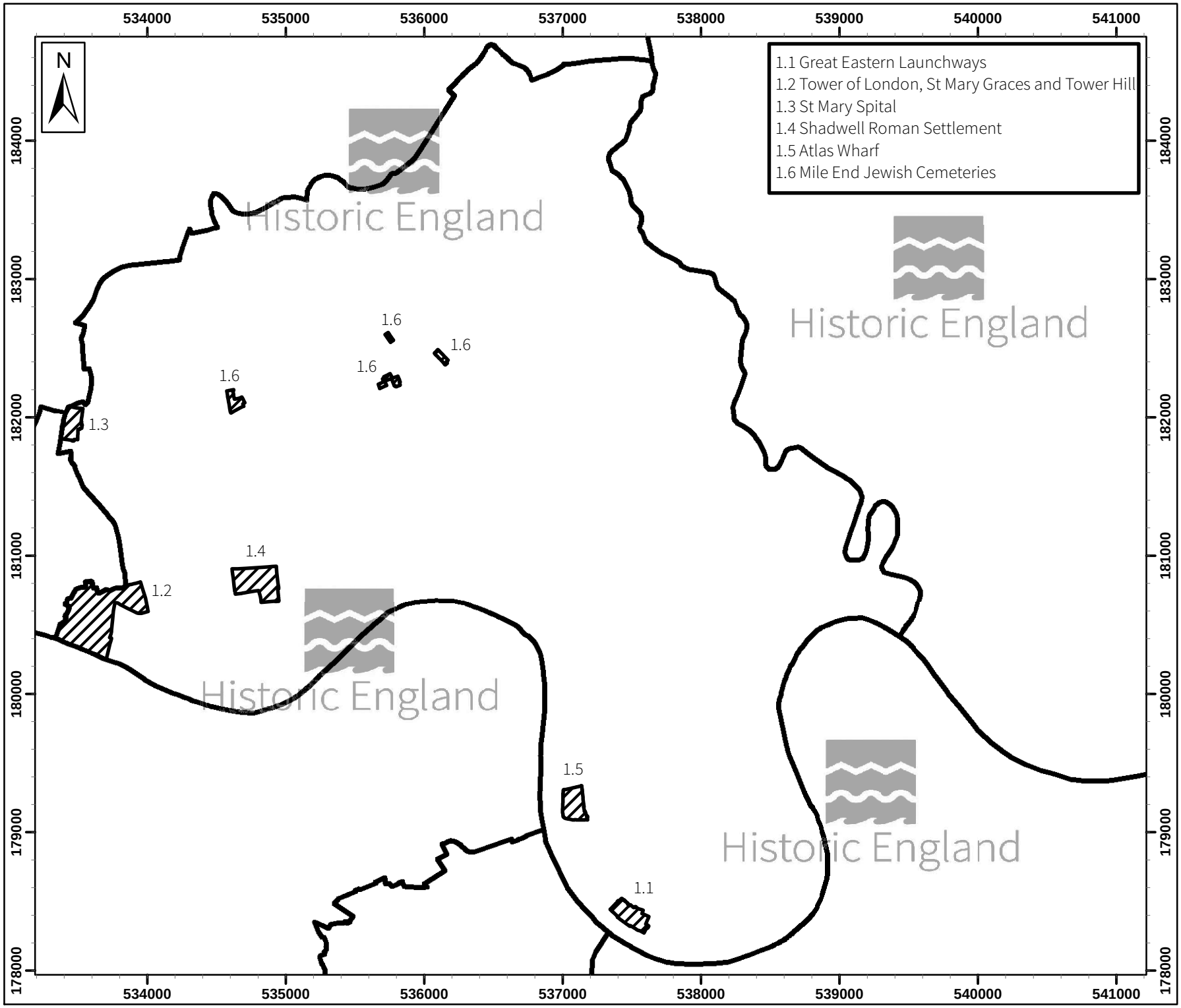
This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas



Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:36,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas

Tower Hamlets APA 1.1: Great Eastern Launchways page 23

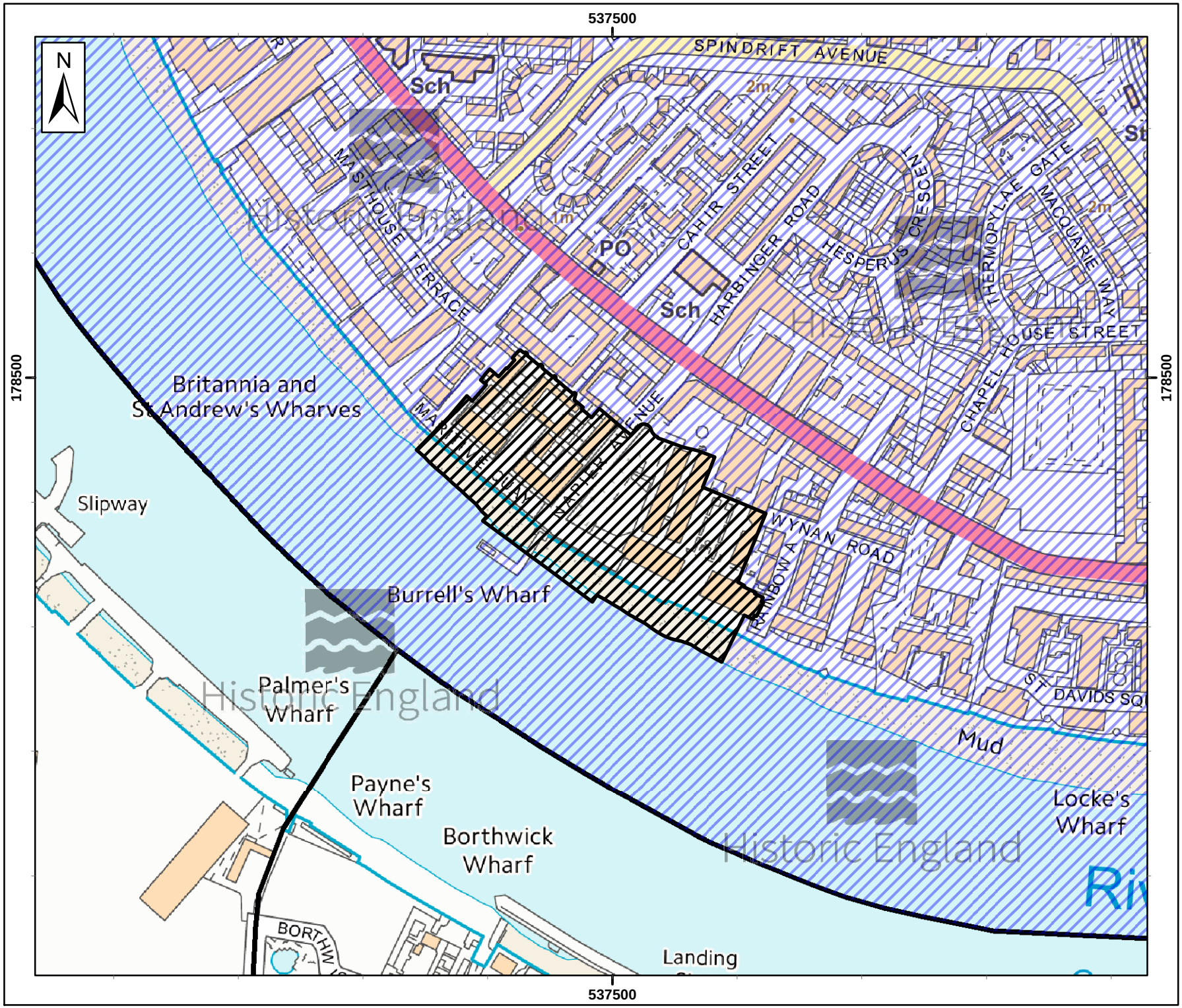
Tower Hamlets APA 1.2: Tower of London, St Mary Graces and Tower Hill page 27

Tower Hamlets APA 1.3: St Mary Spital page 33

Tower Hamlets APA 1.4: Shadwell Roman Settlement page 37

Tower Hamlets APA 1.5: Atlas Wharf page 41

Tower Hamlets APA 1.6: Mile End Jewish Cemeteries page 43



Tower Hamlets APA 1.1
Great Eastern Launchways

Great Eastern Launchways APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.1: Great Eastern Launchways

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the launchways and associated features built in the 1850s for the SS Great Eastern steamship. It is categorised as Tier 1 for its high industrial archaeological significance and designated heritage asset status.

The known extent of the launchways was scheduled in 2015 although the full construction site is likely to extend outside the scheduled area. The expected full extent is included within the tier 1 APA defined to cover remains of or directly associated with a Scheduled Monument.

Description

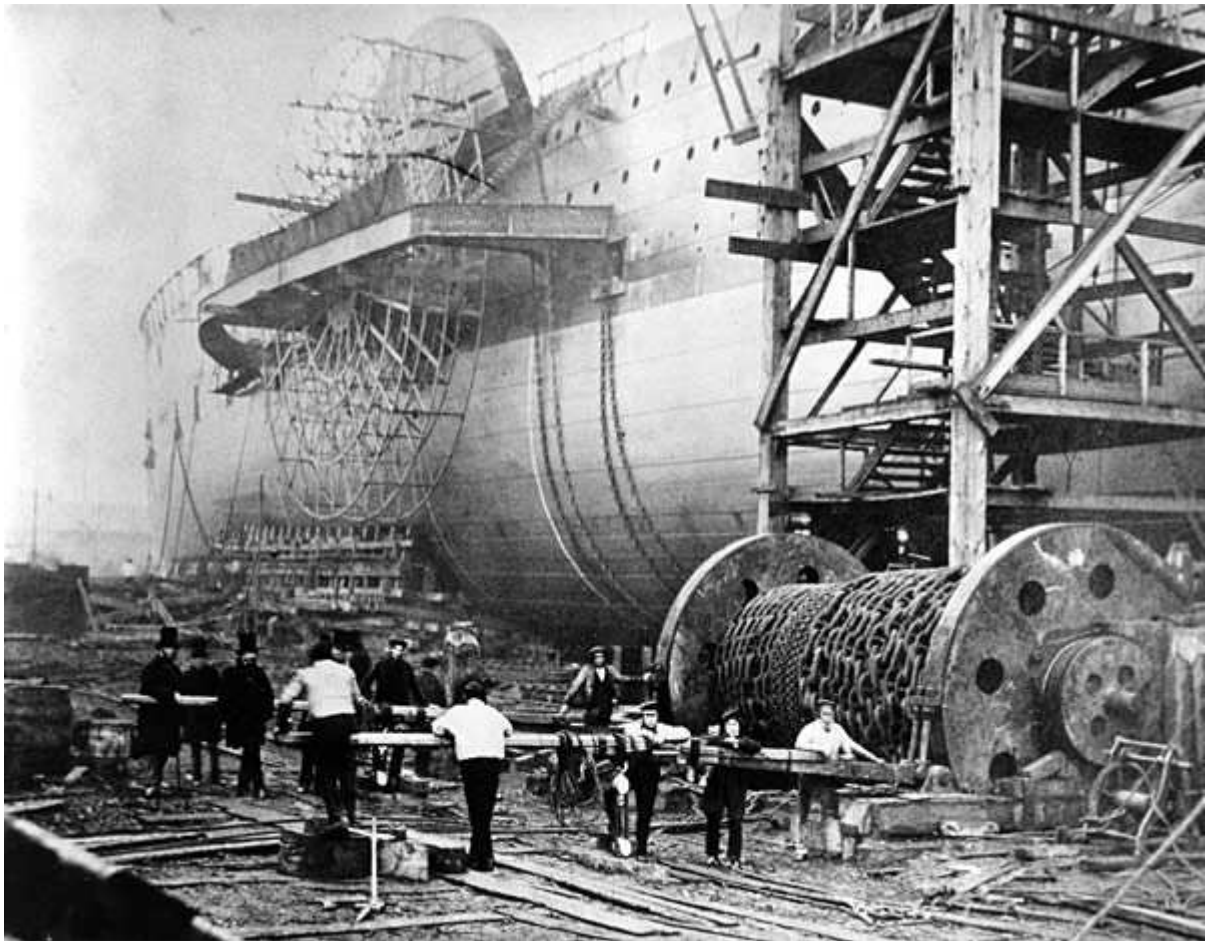
Built on behalf of shipbuilders J Scott Russell & Co in 1857, the two launchways were constructed for the sideways launch of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's SS Great Eastern in 1858. The unusual launch process proved both problematic and time-consuming, taking two months.

The south launchways were exposed during the 1980s, treated with wood preservative and put on public display.

Related features are mostly buried but two boreholes were sunk at the site in 1995 by Museum of London Archaeology Services as part of an archaeological evaluation secured by a planning condition. These found timbers originally attributed to the north launchways but which may be part of the ship's building deck instead.

The western ends of both sets of launchways can additionally be seen protruding out into the river. On the foreshore, remains of the concrete beds cast around the launch way piles, and some of the pile heads, are evident.

As well as the deck and lauchways there would have been smaller piled platforms which supported the checking drums for the launch. These are recorded as being 20 ft square but without establishing the extent of the building platform these cannot be located with certainty. For this reason, it is only the areas of the two launch ways and the area in between which are presently scheduled.



The Great Eastern near launch with checking drum in foreground (Creative Commons: Public Domain)

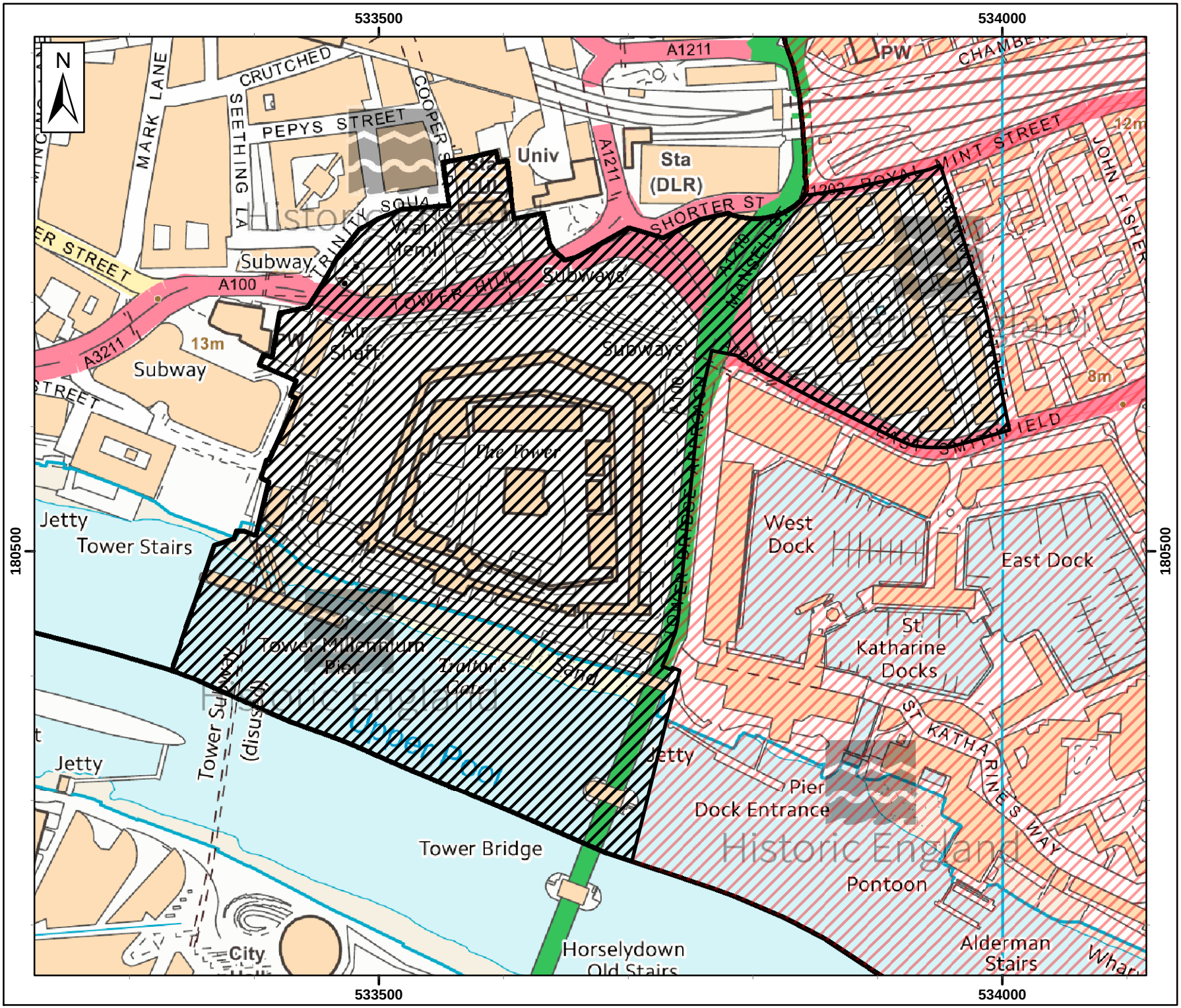
Significance

The remains are a physical connection to both by far the largest ship of her time and Brunel's ambitious vision. Great Eastern's gross tonnage was unmatched for over 40 years. The remains of her extensive construction and launch site are therefore of great industrial heritage significance, providing physical evidence of innovation by one of the foremost engineers of the industrial revolution.

Key References

Scheduled Monument Description, Site of the launch ways of the SS Great Eastern

Masthouse Terrace/Napier Avenue, Isle of Dogs, Tower Hamlets, E1: Archaeological & Geoarchaeological Evaluation, Museum of London Archaeology Service, 1995



Tower Hamlets APA 1.2
Tower of London, St Mary Graces and Tower Hill

Tower of London, St Mary Graces and Tower Hill APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.2: Tower of London, St Mary Graces and Tower Hill

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the World Heritage Site of the Tower of London and the preserved remains of St Mary Graces as well as its preceding plague cemetery and the wider Tower Hill area. It also includes the Tower foreshore and Tower Bridge. It is a Tier 1 APA in view of its extensive designated and non-designated remains of national importance.

The APA incorporates the south-eastern extremity of the Roman city of *Londinium*. The area later developed into the site of the medieval and post-medieval Royal palace of the Tower of London and its Liberties. It extends up to the modern boundary with the City of London and so includes Trinity Square Gardens, Tower Gardens and the scheduled City Wall. On its north and west sides the APA abuts the nationally significant archaeological assets of the City of London with which the Tower was intimately associated. Its north eastern portion encompasses the Old Royal Mint at East Smithfield, under which lie preserved remains of a Black Death plague cemetery and the fourteenth century Abbey of St Mary Graces.

Description

Due to the complexity of the subject matter it is not possible to provide a full description of the Tower and its environs here. Development proposals affecting the Tower and its setting should refer to the World Heritage Site description of Outstanding Universal Value and the Site's Management Plan for recent overviews as well as the more specialised publications and site reports relevant to particular proposals.

Prehistoric activity in the Tower's environs is indicated by a Bronze Age axe and Mesolithic blade.

Past investigations indicate that Roman archaeological remains may include evidence relating to a Roman road followed to the west by Great Tower Street and to the east by the Highway. Further remains are likely to represent the Roman river frontage and river defences as well as contemporary industrial, commercial and residential activity. Excavations at Cooper's Row have uncovered evidence of Roman domestic activity but also notable quantities of Camulodunum type 306 pottery, a vessel type with suggested ritual associations and which may indicate a connection to the city's religious life.

East Smithfield was an area of open land outside the City walls and evidence suggests it was used by the Romans for quarrying before developing as a market and civic site in the medieval period. The Tower was built on the site of Roman buildings of both stone and timber and coin evidence indicates Roman occupation until the end of that period.

The churches of All Hallows Barking (just outside the APA in The City) and St Peter ad Vincula have likely Anglo-Saxon roots but there is little excavated evidence of activity from the period.

Between 1348 and 1350, during the Black Death, both East Smithfield and Charterhouse served as emergency burial grounds for victims. The East Smithfield site was known as New Churchyard of Holy Trinity, belonging to a priory in Aldgate. 420 individuals were excavated in 1987 from East Smithfield and subsequent analysis of some of the remains identified the Black Death pathogen in them. An estimated 2000 further burials lie in the east of the APA and have not been excavated.

The St Mary Graces Cistercian Abbey, also called Eastminster, was founded by Edward III immediately after the Black Death in 1350 and structural elements of it survive beneath the modern development, having been uncovered in 1986. Some are accessible in the basements.

After the Dissolution, the ruined site of St Mary Graces was occupied by the Royal Navy as a victualing yard before passing to the Royal Mint after that institution left the Tower of London in 1809.

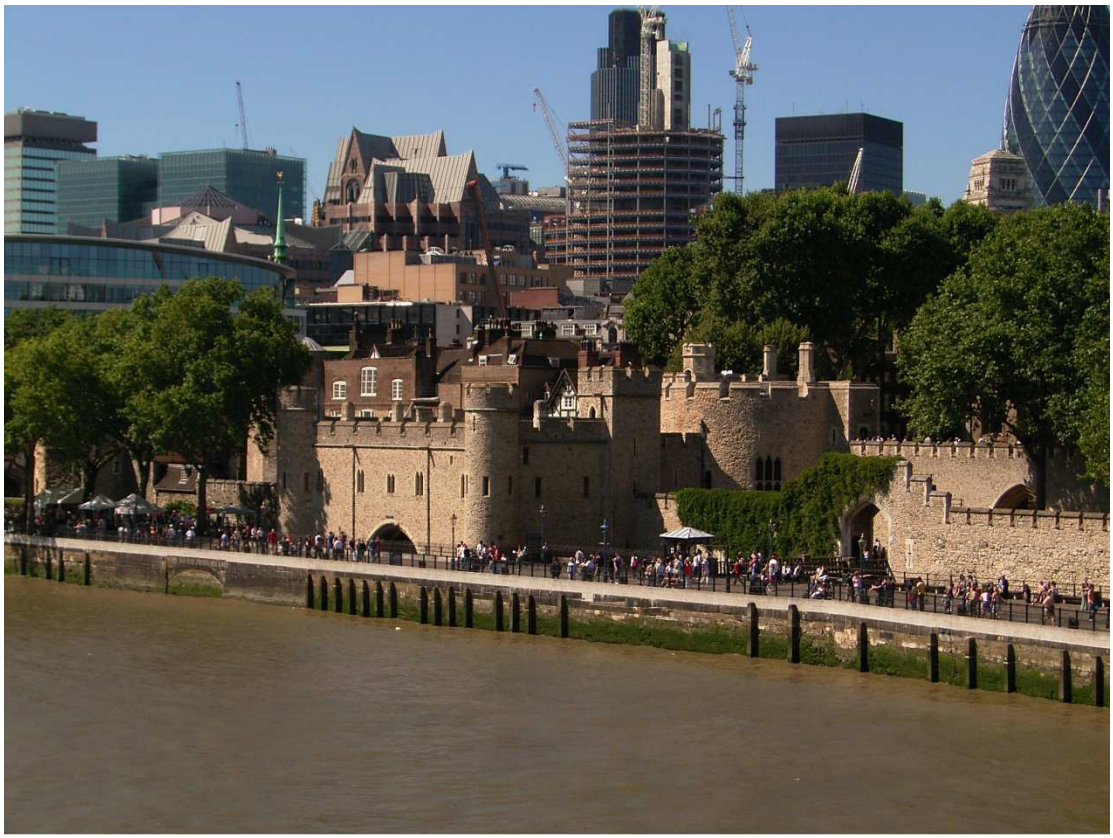


Photo: Historic England

The Tower began as a Norman keep (The White Tower) and ditch soon after the Conquest and was later converted into a larger fortress with curtain wall and bastions under Richard I and Henry III in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. A further outer wall was added by Edward I between 1275-85, creating the modern form of the White Tower, encircled by its Inner and Outer Wards.

The Tower served to protect English monarchs during times of trouble and was besieged several times. It hosted coronation and battle celebrations and was also the home of the royal menagerie from the time of King John until that of Queen Victoria.

By the Tudor period it had acquired a role more closely aligned with the exercise of political power than a royal residence, accommodating political and religious prisoners and acquiring a permanent garrison to police London under Cromwell.

It hosted the Royal Mint until 1812 and imprisoned spies were held there into the 20th century. Tower Bridge was built between 1886 and 1894 and its northern bridgehead along with the foreshore constitute a key part of the setting of the Tower of London.

Tower Bridge constructed in 1886-94 is an iconic structure and an outstanding example of late Victorian engineering.

Significance

Across the APA archaeological significance resides not just in buried deposits but also in the standing structures and in artefacts, environmental deposits and submerged assets. The importance of these assets is such that physical preservation will usually be expected.

The Tower of London is of international significance, a status reflected in its World Heritage Site inscription. The Tower is also a Scheduled Monument, as are the neighbouring Tower Hill West and Roman City Wall Scheduled Monuments, also included in the APA. The White Tower has been described as the most complete 11th century palace in Europe and key source in understanding mediaeval military architecture. Remains of equivalent national importance can be expected elsewhere in the APA as well including on the Tower foreshore where waterlogged structures and portable antiquities are found.

Standing remains of St Mary Graces and the unexcavated portion of the Black Death plague cemetery are undesignated remains of national importance providing a rare example of physical remains associated with the worst outbreak of epidemic disease in English history.

The location of the Tower in the corner of the walled city of *Londinium* next to the Thames may well have been a key location controlling access to the port in Roman times, although both survival and interpretation of these remains is compromised by the later constructions above them. Further discoveries could prove significant to understanding how *Londinium's* maritime connections were managed, including defence against sea-borne attack.

In addition to its architectural significance the construction and machinery of Tower Bridge is a remarkable example of industrial archaeology which contributes to the significance of this grade I listed structure.

Highly significant multiperiod archaeology can be expected to survive across the APA and could be harmed by even minor works, including groundworks, alterations to standing historic fabric and changes to river management.

The Tower and associated remains across the APA have exceptional educational and tourism value. They attract large numbers of visitors and tell key elements of the history of London and England from Roman to modern times covering many of the defining moments of our national story. Carefully considered opportunities to better reveal and interpret more of the area's archaeology and history could be encouraged to provide public benefit.

Key References

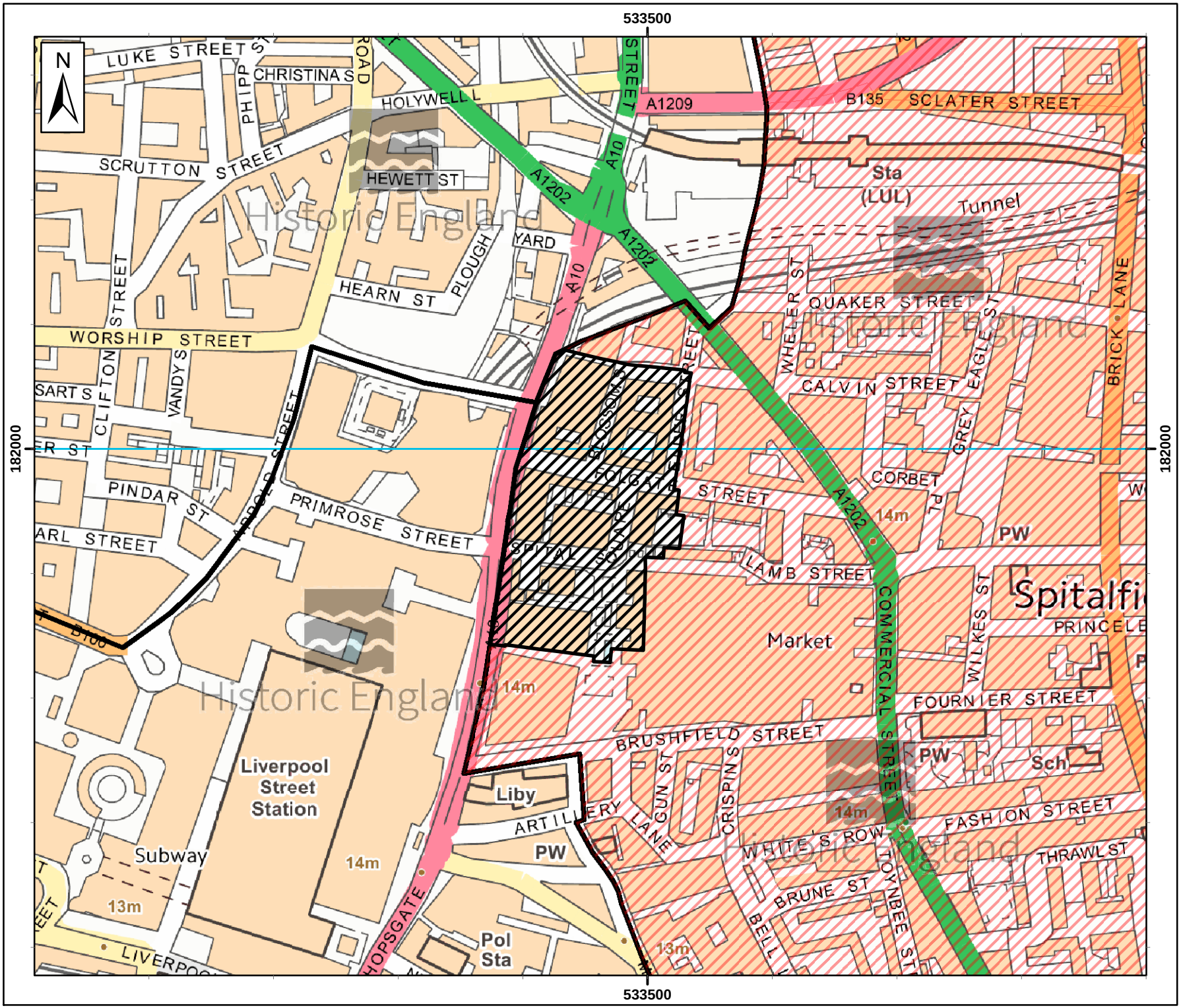
Tower of London - WHS Description, UNESCO, 1988 – GLHER ref DLO33116

Scheduled Monument Description, Tower of London, GLHER ref DLO13214

Scheduled Monument Description, Tower Hill West, GLHER ref DLO13268

Tower of London Word Heritage Site Management Plan, HRP, 2007

A History of the County of London: Volume 1, London Within the Bars, Westminster and Southwark. Victoria County History, 1909



Tower Hamlets APA 1.3
St Mary Spital

St Mary Spital APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 3
Archaeological
Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.3: St Mary Spital

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the Scheduled Monument of St Mary Spital and adjacent areas not covered by the scheduling. It is a Tier 1 APA because of its association with a Scheduled Monument and specifically the potential for medieval and Roman remains.

Description

The APA incorporates the buried remains of the 12th century Augustinian Priory and hospital of St Mary, a large cemetery to the south of the Priory and a 14th century chapel, crypt and charnel house.

The Priory was founded in 1197 and then re-founded and rebuilt in 1235. From this point it expanded to become one of the key religious houses in London, before experiencing a period of decline.

Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Priory church was largely demolished whilst many of the surrounding buildings, including the charnel house and chapel, were converted into houses.

The greater part of the cemetery was used as a venue for public sermons given from an open air pulpit. Much of the southern part was used as a practice ground by the Honourable Artillery Company of London and the Gunners of the Tower. Part of the site boundary wall from this period has been found as well as the 17th century Master Gunner's House.

In the 1670s the monastic buildings were demolished and streets of terraced houses were laid out, largely for Huguenot silk weavers turning the area into a wealthy suburb.

In 1682, a licence was granted to hold a market on the remaining part of the Spital Fields and several of the streets of terraced houses were demolished and replaced with warehouses. In the 1990s the market closed and after several years of discussion, planning permission was given for complete redevelopment.

This led to major archaeological investigations which culminated in the almost complete excavation of the Priory cemetery in 1999. In the course of the excavations, archaeologists found approximately 400 Roman burials including the remains of a timber mausoleum and the grave of a wealthy woman laid in a lead coffin within a stone sarcophagus.

They also found the remains of the medieval priory church, houses, infirmary and gardens. To the south, over 10,500 skeletons buried between 1100 and 1540 were

carefully excavated. Also discovered was the medieval charnel house, built in about 1310. The monument is now on display and visible beneath a glass floor in front of 1 Bishops Square.

The Charnel House Photo: Historic England

Significance

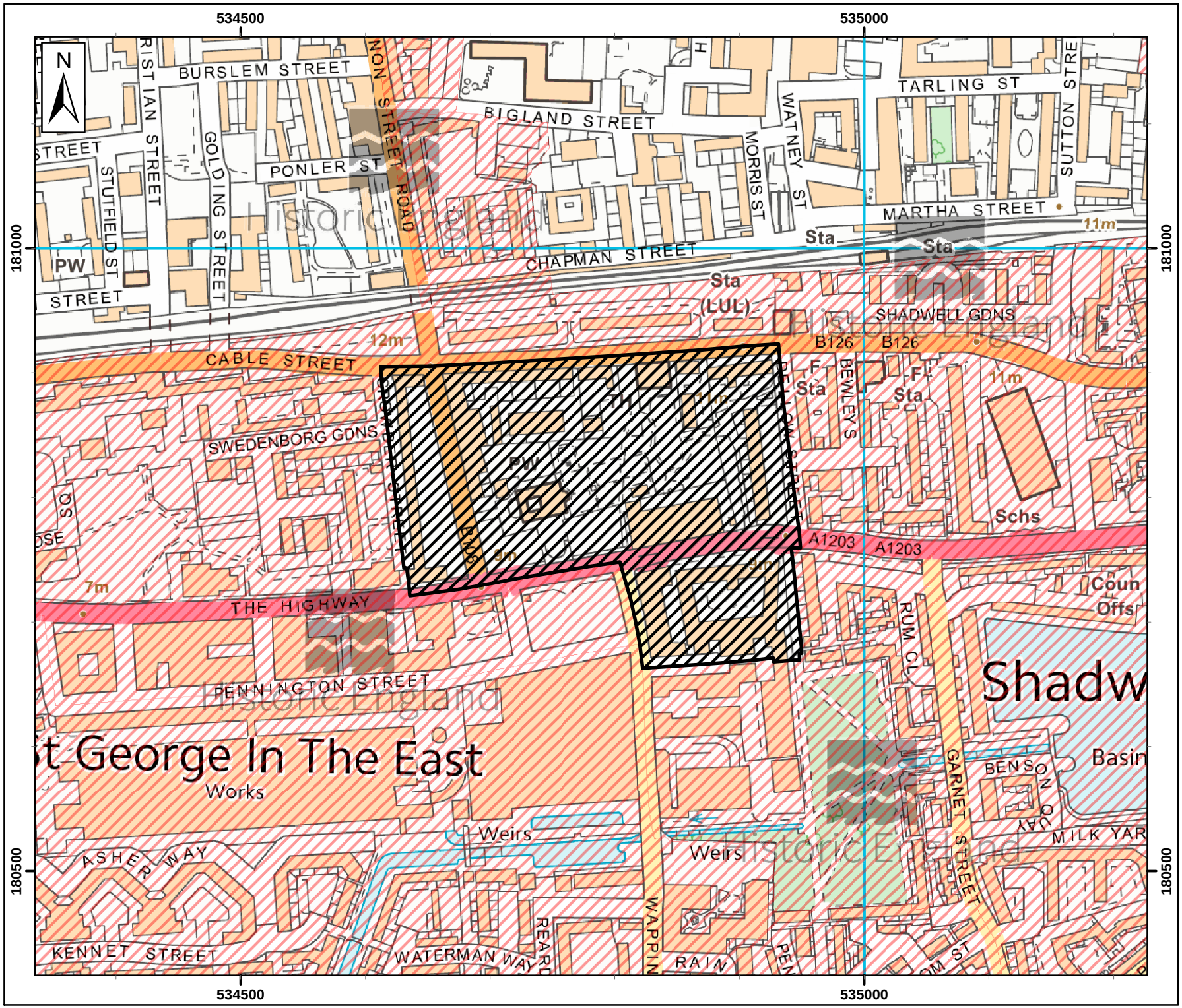
The preserved remains are nationally important elements of a medieval hospital whilst the cemetery represents the largest ever excavation of a medieval English burial ground.

Further contemporary burials and earlier Roman inhumations can be expected in areas not excavated with potential to inform further on pathologies and demographics from both periods. Archaeological evidence of the area's subsequent development as a wealthy post-mediaeval suburb will inform on the growth of London.

Key References

Scheduled Monument Description, Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital

Excavations at the Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital, Thomas, Sloane and Phillpotts, MoLA, 1997



Tower Hamlets APA 1.4
Shadwell Roman Settlement

Shadwell Roman Settlement APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.4: Shadwell Roman Settlement

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the known and conjectured extent of the core of the Roman settlement at Shadwell. It is assigned to Tier 1 because the Shadwell bath house is a well preserved high status Roman building which is considered of equivalent significance to a Scheduled Monument.

Description

The Shadwell Roman settlement stood on a road (now called The Highway) leading east from the city of *Londinium* along the river terrace edge.

It includes the Shadwell bath house, now preserved in situ beneath a modern development and higher ground to the north now occupied by the church of St George in the East and surroundings where other Roman remains are recorded, including at Cannon Street Road.

Roman activity dates from the 2nd century AD, intensifying in the 3rd century with a range of clay and timber buildings which may have an official function. Commercial activity is attested by a possible hard and market place, interpreted as fronting a branch of the Thames immediately to the south.

The bath house at 172-179 The Highway dates from the mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD and may have been demolished deliberately c. 400. It was extended twice during its lifetime.

Photo: HE

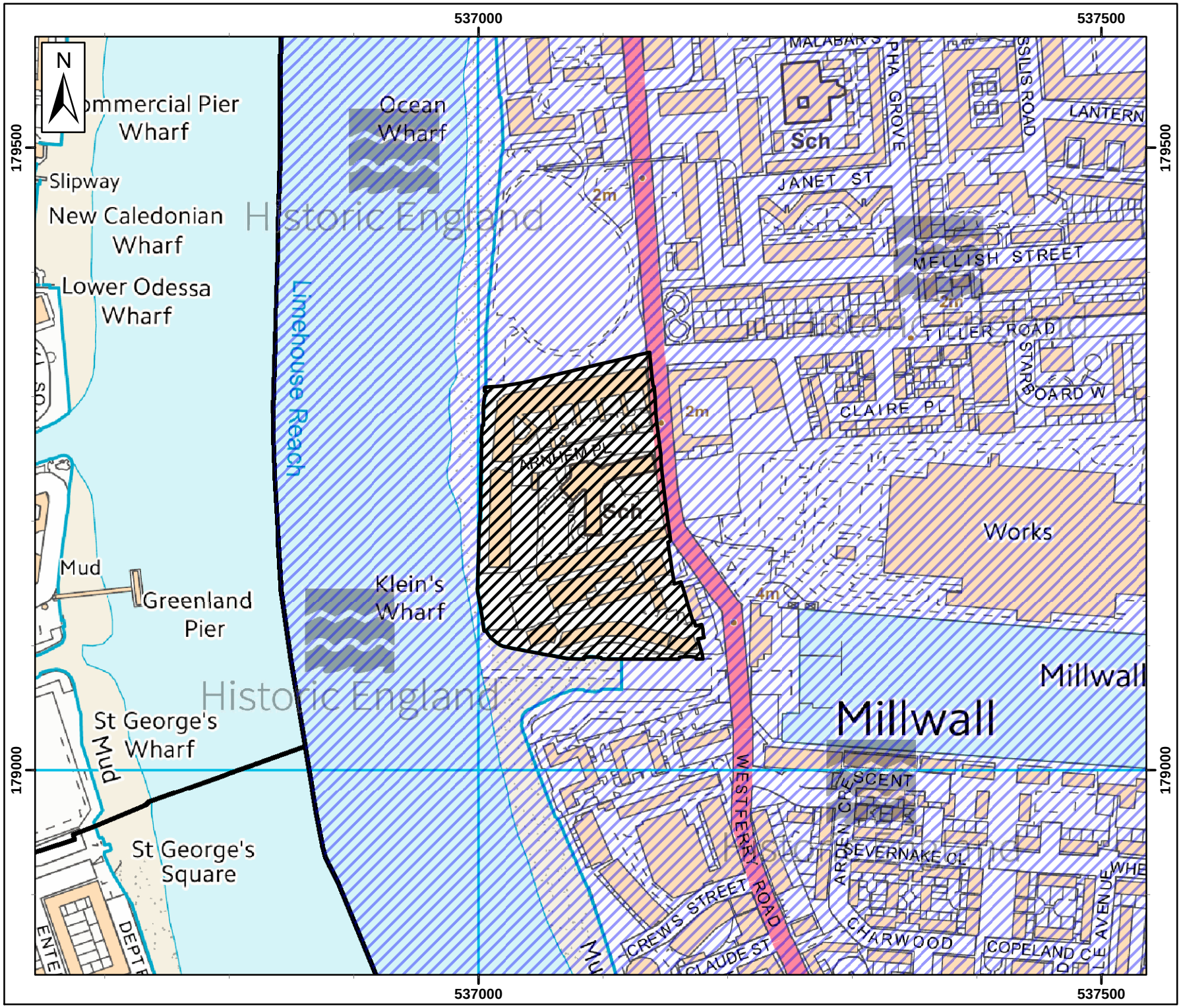
A square structure nearby commonly identified as a Roman signal tower at the settlement has been more recently reassessed as a mausoleum.

Significance

The Roman settlement is an important example of activity outside the formal city because it shows that high status buildings were constructed outside the walls, as also found in Southwark. Surviving areas can have well preserved remains and have potential to inform on changes in commercial and official activity during the second half of the Roman occupation and may inform on the relative importance of London itself during this period.

Key References

A Roman Settlement and bath house at Shadwell – Excavations at Tobacco Dock and Babe Ruth restaurant, The Highway, London PCA Monograph, 2011



Tower Hamlets APA 1.5
Atlas Wharf

Atlas Wharf

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.5: Atlas Wharf

Summary and Definition

This Tier 1 APA covers the known and conjectured extent of the Bronze Age Atlas Wharf activity site, a significant discovery from the Isle of Dogs Tier 3 APA and one that is likely to be illustrative of other, as yet undiscovered, prehistoric channel side sites in Tower Hamlets. It is assigned to Tier 1 because it is considered to be an undesignated heritage asset of national importance.

Description

An investigation by the Museum of London Archaeology Service at Westferry Road in 1998 showed a Bronze Age buried landscape was present on the site, with an associated timber structure. The structure appears to be a possible wood workers' platform extending over a channel. It was added to and adapted over a long period of time.

The platform may have parallels with the Cambridgeshire Must Farm site which was also built over a channel and on excavation was found to represent a very well-preserved settlement.

At a later date, but still in the Bronze Age, the site appears to have been flooded causing the platform to be abandoned and the land surface to be sealed by a sterile alluvial deposit.

The site remained out of use until the 18th century when a river defence wall was constructed along with drains and ditches. The remains of barrels and timbers were found associated with these later features.

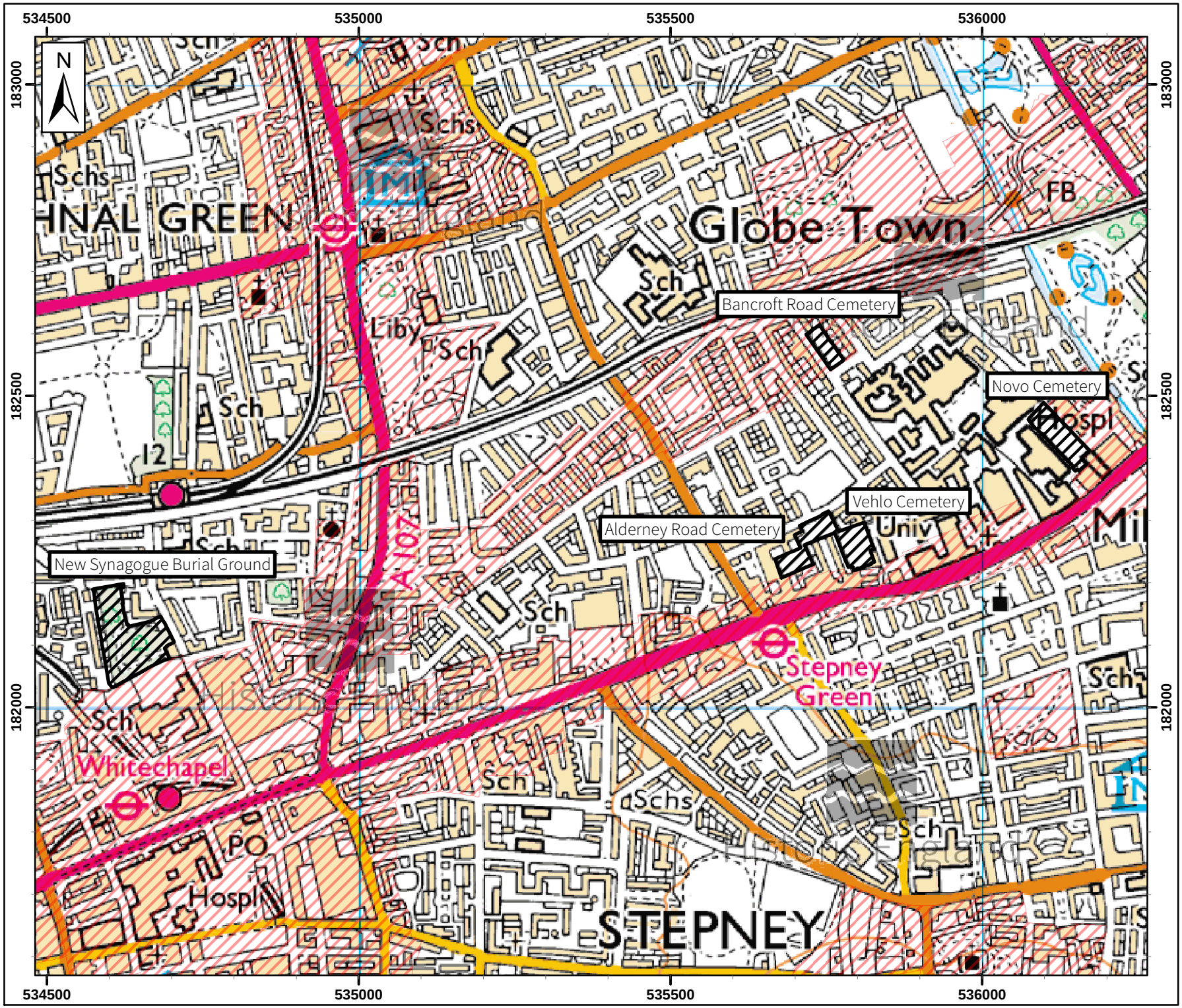
Significance

Prehistoric cultural evidence in a channel side setting is important both in itself and in terms of demonstrating further potential for these remains on the Isle of Dogs. The discovery of Atlas Wharf added a new site type to those known from Bronze Age London.

As a site of early human activity over time, with potential to also harbour occupation evidence, further remains would be highly significant

Key References

Evaluation/Excavation at Atlas Wharf, Isle of Dogs, Museum of London Archaeology Service, 1999



Tower Hamlets APA 1.6
Mile End
Jewish Cemeteries

Mile End Jewish Cemeteries APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:8,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.6: Mile End Jewish Cemeteries

Summary and Definition

This APA covers five post medieval burial grounds in Tower Hamlets used by East London Jewish communities from the mid-17th to the early 20th century. They are unique as a representation of the Anglo-Jewish community since its return from medieval expulsion. They are clustered along the north side of the Mile End Road, between Whitechapel Tube station and the Regent's Canal. The APA is graded at Tier 1 in view of the burial grounds' unique concentration, timespan, age and connection with named individuals and nearby contemporary communities.

Bancrtoft Rd. Photo: HE

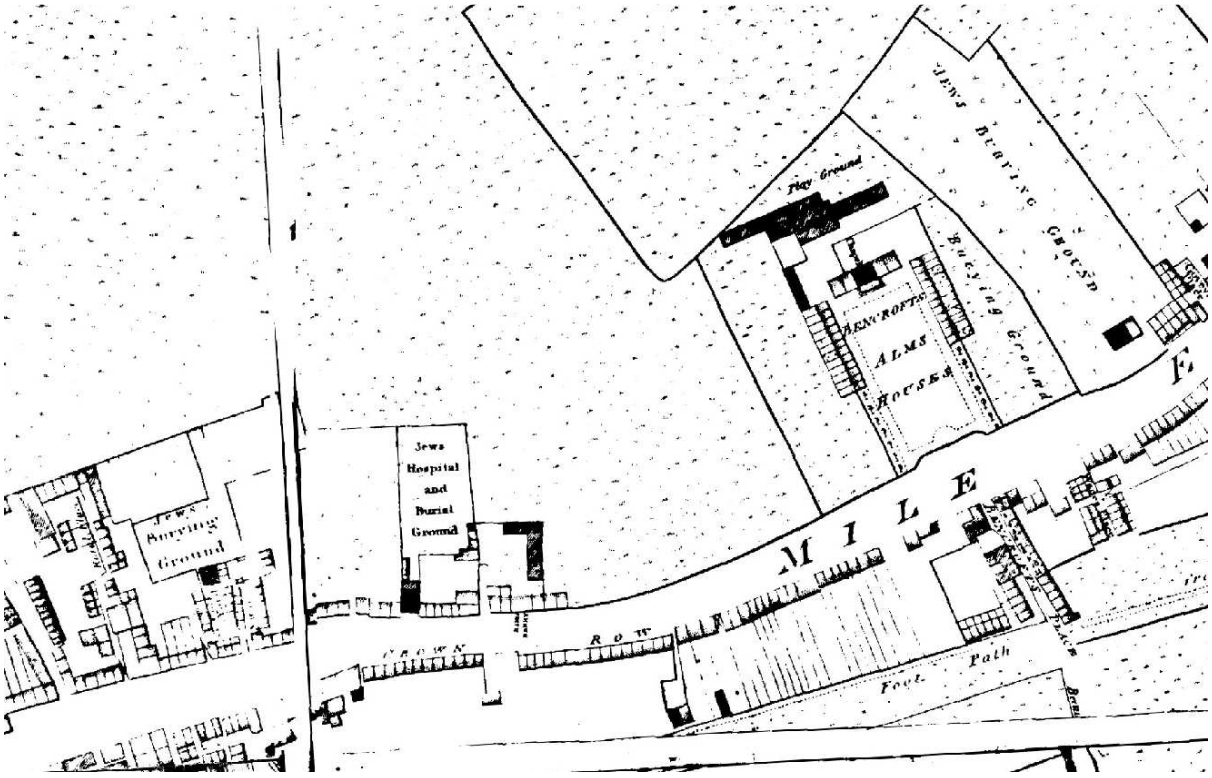
Descriptions

Bancroft Road Cemetery: Believed to have been founded in 1811 by the Maiden Lane Synagogue, a breakaway congregation from the Westminster Synagogue. It was in disrepair by 1884 and Mrs Basil Holmes described it in 1896: "This ground belongs to Maiden Lane Synagogue and is crowded with upright gravestones. The grass is neglected. Burials still take place." It closed in 1907. Bancroft Road was made available for use by Reform Jews early in the development of that movement, when other Jewish burial grounds would not accept them.

New Synagogue Burial Ground, Brady Street: Opened 1761, extended 1795 and closed in 1858. Ashkenazi burial ground with occupants including Nathan Rothschild and Miriam Levy.

Four feet of imported soil in the centre was used to create double layer graves in the Strangers Ground area. Unlike the others, it is technically not a disused burial ground as one burial took place in 1990, in order to maintain the site in use so that it could not be compulsorily purchased and redeveloped.

Alderney Road Cemetery: Founded 1697, enlarged 1733 and the oldest Ashkenazi cemetery in the UK. It closed in 1852 and its lease is held by the United Synagogue, which has proposed limited development in the past. It includes the grave of Jacob Flak, the Baal Shem of London. It is listed in its entirety at Grade II.



Horwood's Map 1819 showing Alderney Rd (left), the Vehlo (centre) and the Novo (right)

The Vehlo Cemetery: Neighbours Alderney Road and the listed Jews' Hospital. This important Sephardic cemetery was founded in 1657, a year after the Jewish resettlement of England under the Commonwealth. It closed in 1758 to be replaced by the Novo. It has numerous famous occupants including Charles II's physician and several Chief Rabbis. It is listed in its entirety at grade II.

The Novo Cemetery, Queen Mary Westfield campus: Opened 1733 as a replacement for the old Vehlo cemetery. Expanded from 3 acres to 4.7 in 1855 and sold to Queen Mary College in 1972. The original (1733) part of the Novo was controversially cleared during the 1970s, with the remains of about 7000 people excavated and reburied in a mass grave in

Essex. 19th century burials remain in the extant section, which is a Grade II Registered Park. A mortuary structure, or *ohel*, demolished in 1922, stood at the Mile End Road entrance.

Significance

The significance of the cemeteries is unique in this country. This is because of the relative rarity of Jewish compared to Christian cemeteries in England, the fact that Tower Hamlet's cemeteries represent the earliest and longest-lived communities following the Cromwellian resettlement and the particular views of the Jewish community on burial grounds and treatment of the dead.

Although there are other Jewish burial grounds in Inner London, none compares to the Tower Hamlets cemeteries in terms of numbers, age, timespan, connection to their nearby communities or notability of buried individuals. They preserve population and burial practice information from specific communities in an unparalleled manner.

Jewish law (*halakhah)*, like Roman law, forbids burials within the walls of a city. Also crucial is the proscription against the disturbance of human remains for any reason (including archaeological investigation and redevelopment), with the presumption being that Jewish cemeteries will remain cemeteries in perpetuity, even after closure. Jewish burials are therefore in theory undisturbed by later burials as in Christian or non-denominational cemeteries.

Although three are designated (listed, HPG), a case could be made for some or all of the cemeteries being of national importance archaeologically, equivalent to a Scheduled Monument. Taken together these arguments would indicate a stronger than usual presumption against disturbance.

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.

Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines, archaeological investigation in post medieval burial grounds would normally only occur when burials more than 100 years old have to be disturbed for other reasons. 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 be considered

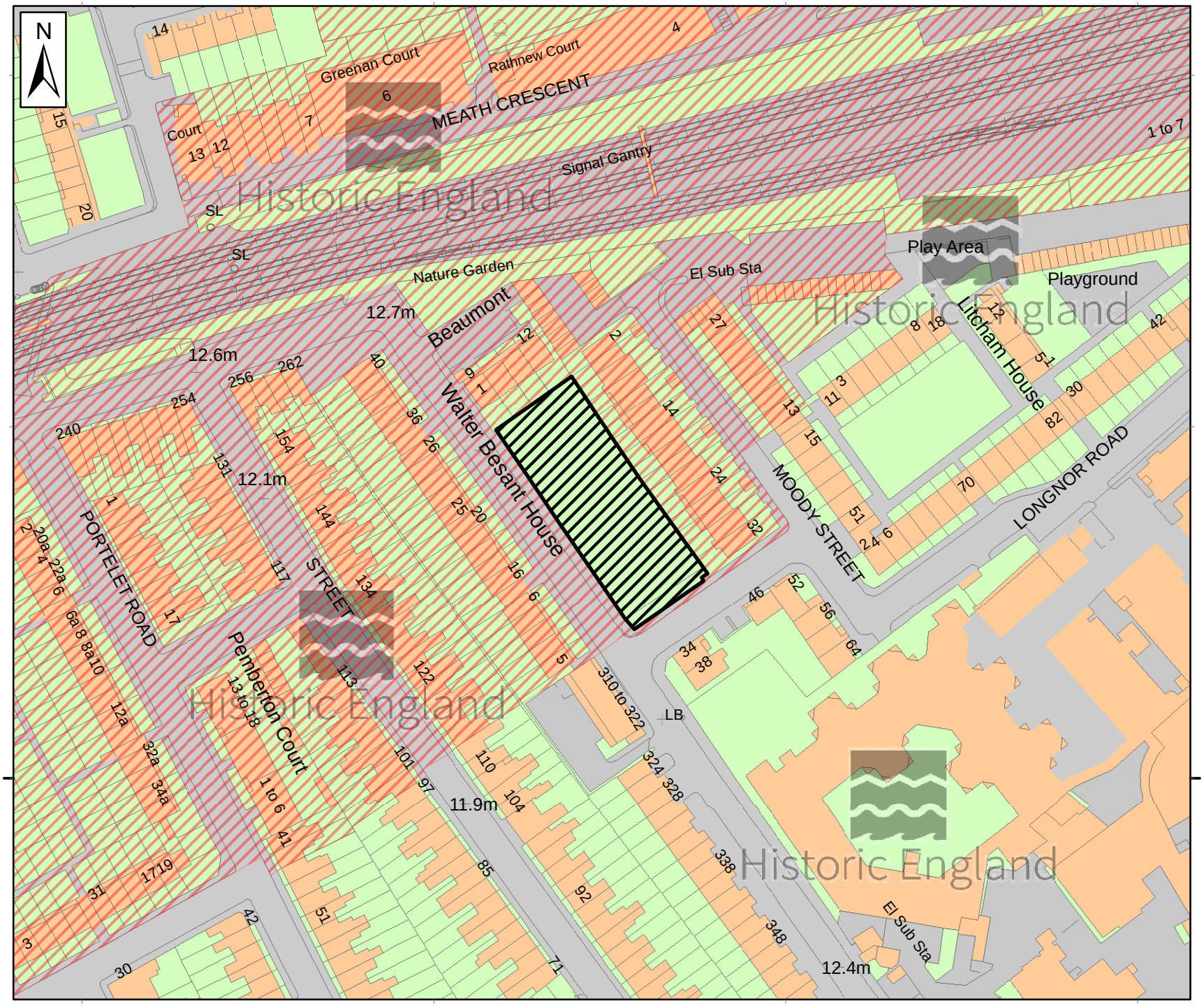
Key References

Jewish Burial Grounds: Understanding Values, Barker Langham on behalf of Historic England December 2015

https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/jewish-burial-grounds-understanding-values/151219-jewish-burial-grounds.pdf/

London Burial Grounds, Isabella Basil Holmes

The archaeology of Anglo-Jewry in London, 1656–c. 1850, Marks, K , London Archaeologist Winter 2009/10



Tower Hamlets APA 1.6
Mile End Jewish Cemeteries
(Bancroft Road Cemetery)

Bancroft Road Cemetery

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

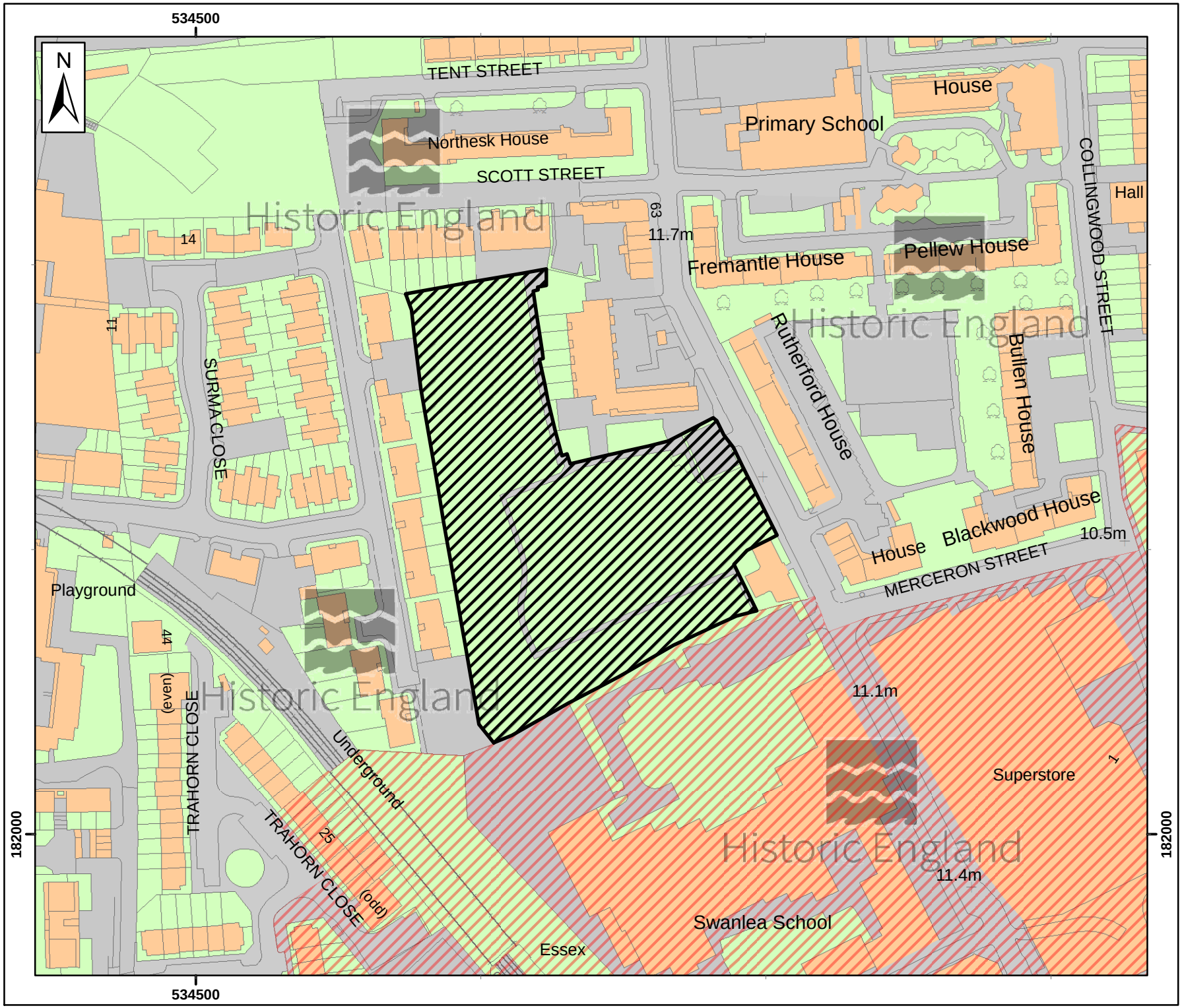
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 1.6
Mile End Jewish Cemeteries
(New Synagogue Burial Ground)

New Synagogue Burial Ground

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

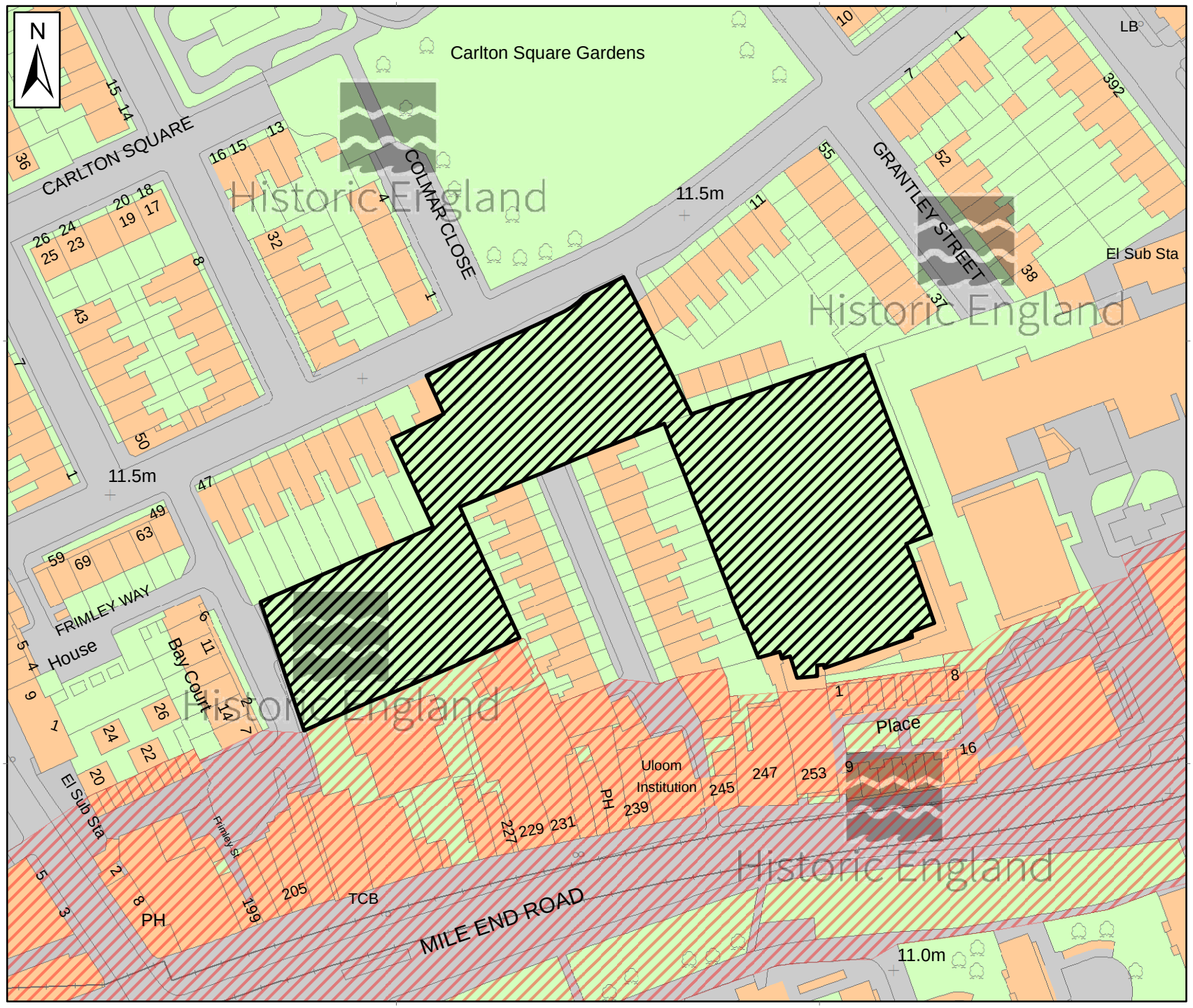
Scale (at A4): 1:1,750

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 1.6
Mile End Jewish Cemeteries
(Alderney Road Cemetery & Vehlo Cemetery)



Alderney Road Cemetery & Vehlo Cemetery

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

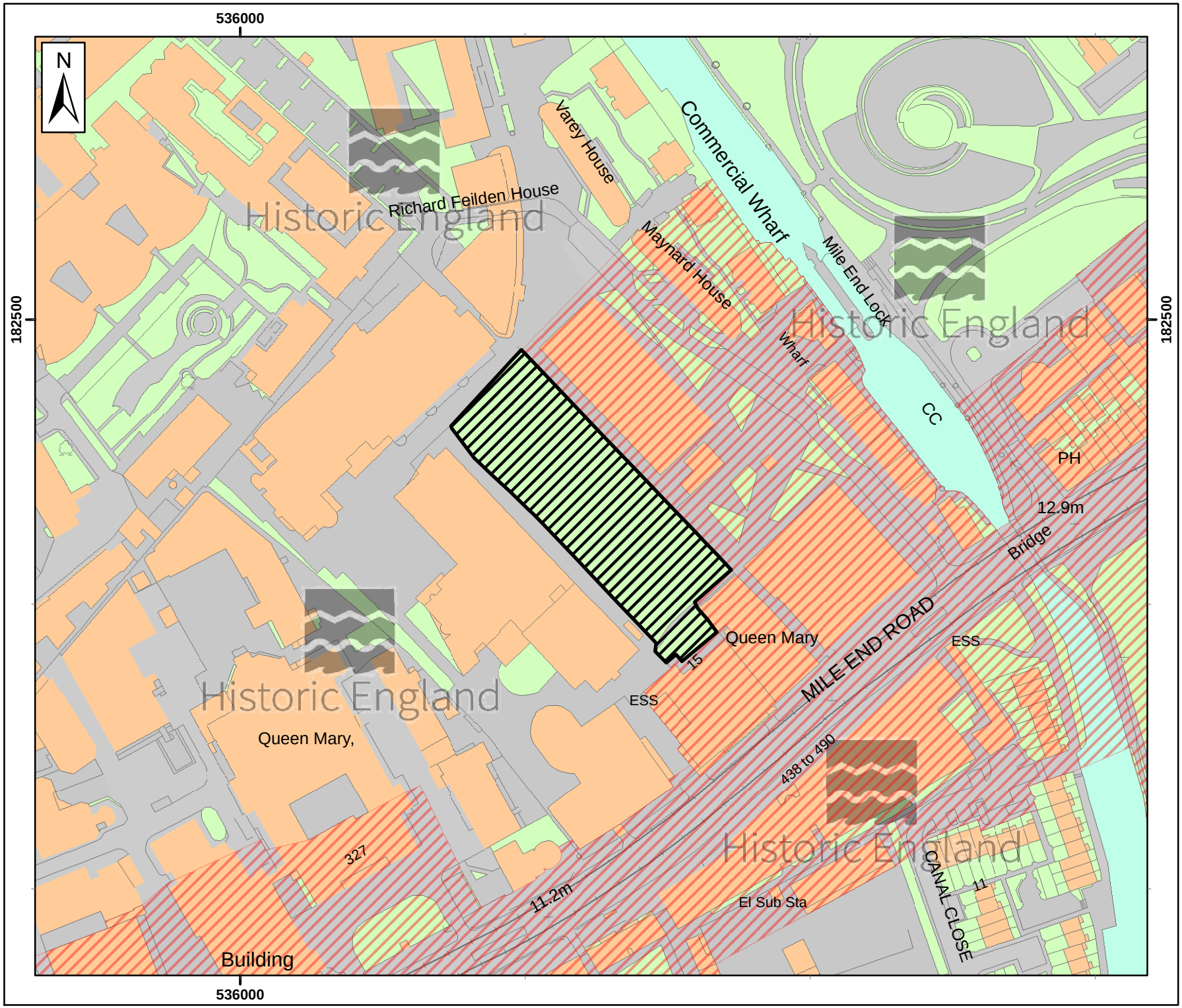
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 1.6
Mile End Jewish Cemeteries
(Novo Cemetery)

Novo Cemetery

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

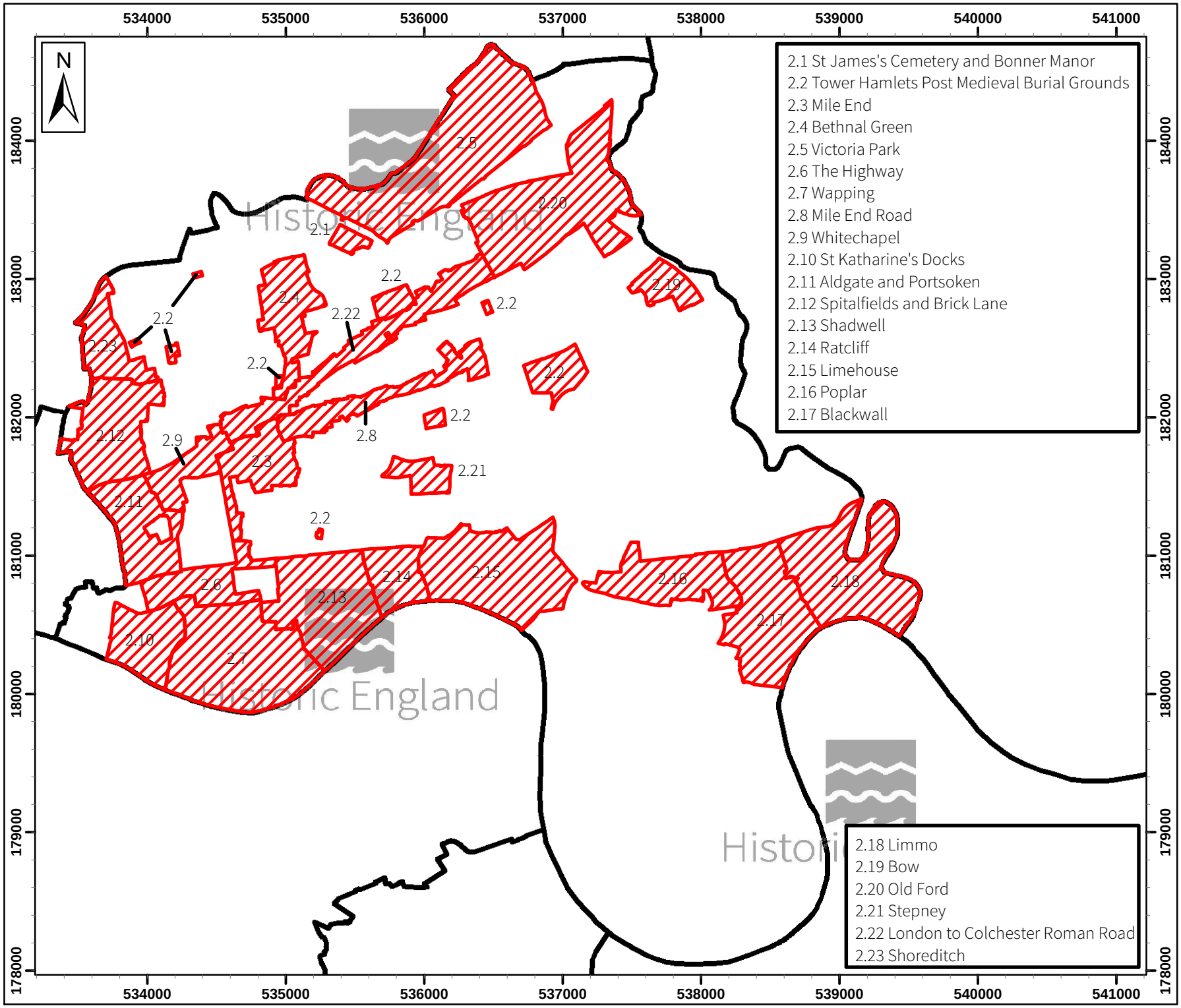
Scale (at A4): 1:1,750

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas



Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:36,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas

Tower Hamlets APA 2.1: St James's Cemetery and Bonner Manor page 55

Tower Hamlets APA 2.2: Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds page 59

Tower Hamlets APA 2.3: Mile End page 71

Tower Hamlets APA 2.4: Bethnal Green page 75

Tower Hamlets APA 2.5: Victoria Park page 79

Tower Hamlets APA 2.6: The Highway page 83

Tower Hamlets APA 2.7: Wapping page 85

Tower Hamlets APA 2.8: Mile End Road page 87

Tower Hamlets APA 2.9: Whitechapel page 89

Tower Hamlets APA 2.10: St Katharine's Docks page 93

Tower Hamlets APA 2.11: Aldgate and Portsoken page 95

Tower Hamlets APA 2.12: Spitalfields and Brick Lane page 97

Tower Hamlets APA 2.13: Shadwell page 99

Tower Hamlets APA 2.14: Ratcliff page 101

Tower Hamlets APA 2.15: Limehouse page 103

Tower Hamlets APA 2.16: Poplar page 107

Tower Hamlets APA 2.17: Blackwall page 109

Tower Hamlets APA 2.18: Limmo page 113

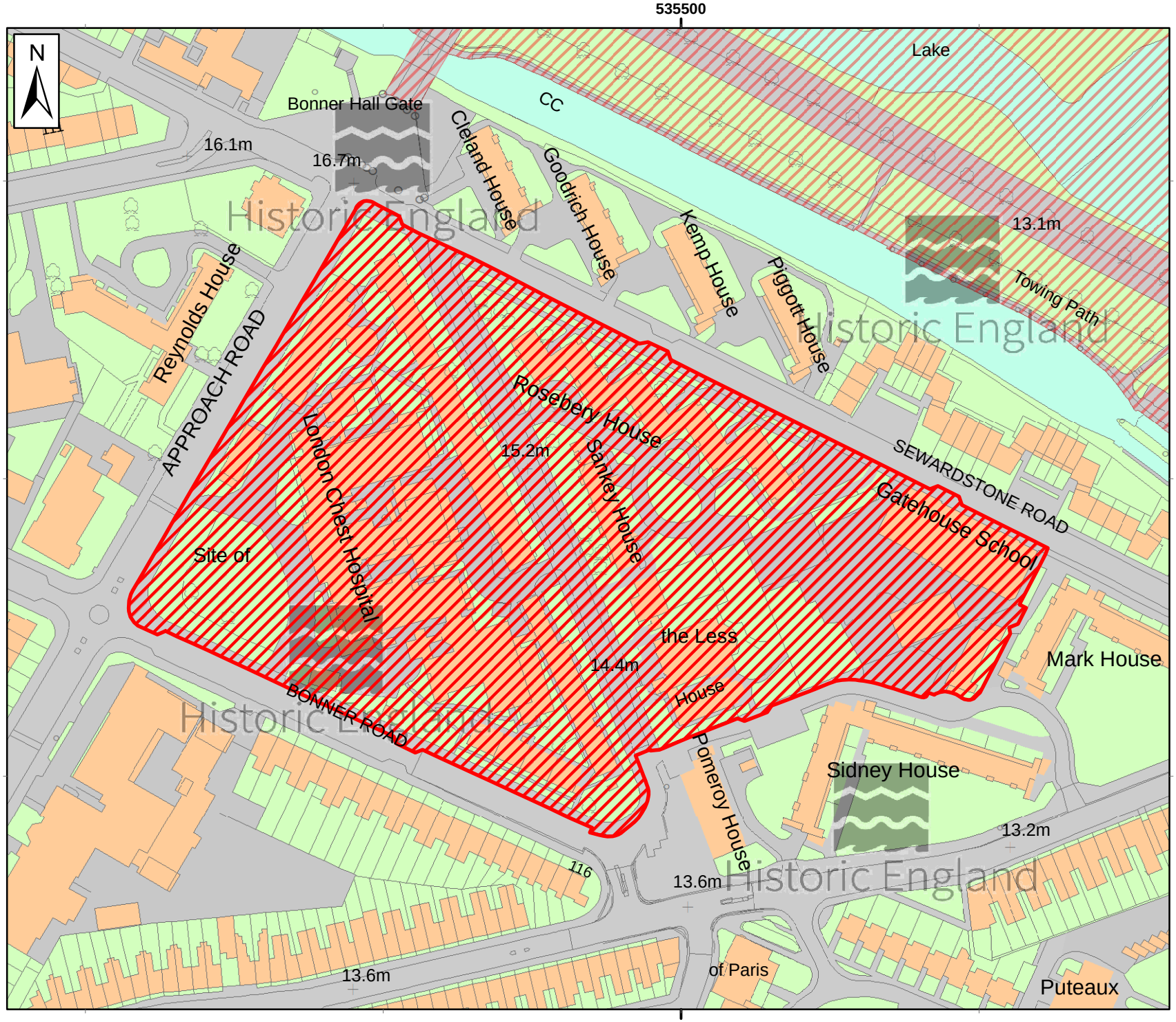
Tower Hamlets APA 2.19: Bow page 117

Tower Hamlets APA 2.20: Old Ford page 121

Tower Hamlets APA 2.21: Stepney page 125

Tower Hamlets APA 2.22: London to Colchester Roman Road page 129

Tower Hamlets APA 2.23: Shoreditch page 133



Tower Hamlets APA 2.1
St James's Cemetery and Bonner Manor

St James's Cemetery and Bonner Manor

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,750

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.1: St James's Cemetery and Bonner Manor

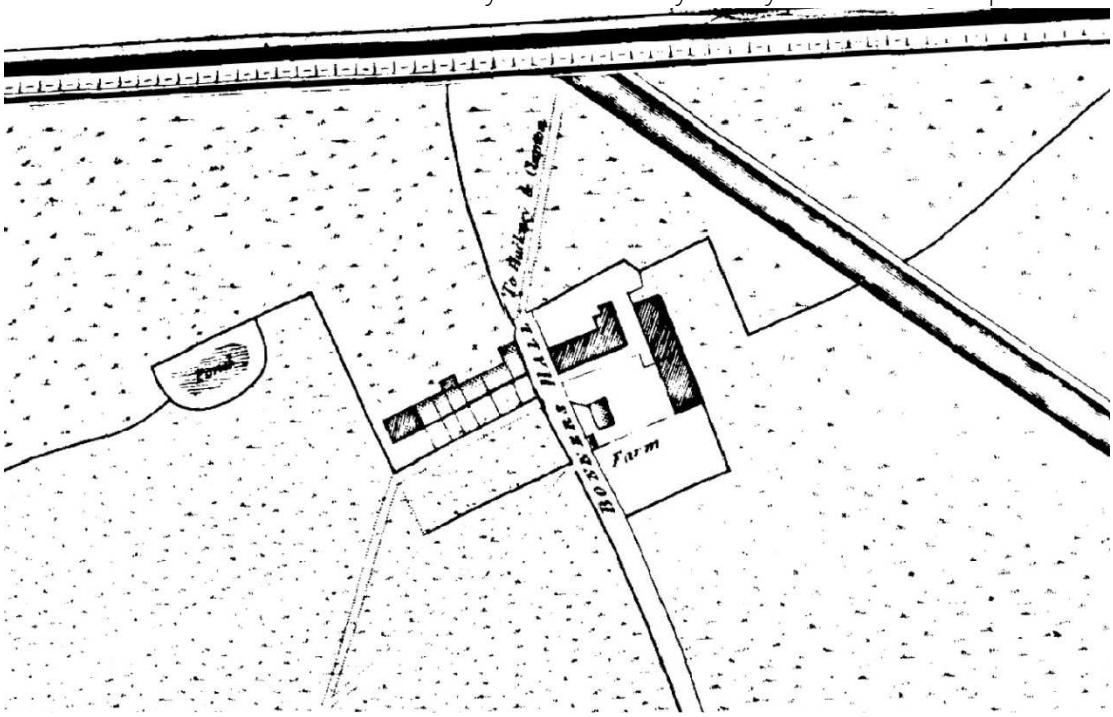
Summary and Definition

The APA covers the post medieval burial ground of St James's Church and also the neighbouring site of Bonner Manor, a mediaeval residence of the Bishop of London.

This is classified as a Tier 2 APA because they comprise an historic burial ground and a documented heritage asset of archaeological interest.

Description

The manor here was one of the residences of the Bishops of London. First granted in 1207, it included a chapel by 1243 and was the centre of a farmed estate. Records of repairs and additions made in the 14th century include mentions of hall, thatched granges, stables and gardens. In 1465 the manor was called Bishopswood while the supposition that the house was inhabited by Edmund Bonner (bishop in the mid-16th century) led to it being named Bonner Hall by the late 18th century. By the 17th century the manor complex was privately let. After being forfeited in the Civil War, the house was found uninhabitable by Parliamentary surveyors and the complex sold.



Horwood's 1819 map shows two substantial buildings apparently straddling the modern St James's Avenue. These front onto a road linking Old Ford Road with Hackney and Clapton. An enclosure marked farm lies immediately south of the buildings. It lies on a trackway linking Hackney and Clapton with Bethnal Green shown on the map.

The church of St James dates from 1842. It was reconstructed after being badly damaged in 1940. The graveyard to the rear was active from the opening of the church only until 1855. It was an overspill burial ground accepting burials from more central sites and had a contract to bury the paupers of West Ham. Its gravestones have been removed and most is now the playground, car park and outbuildings of Gatehouse School.

The manor was demolished in 1848 and the site reused for the London Chest Hospital, the foundations of which will have affected remains within their footprint. Other modern development may also have affected potential but significant open areas survive. The Hospital was closed, with the intention of sale and redevelopment, in 2015. Aspects of it are of archaeological significance including the innovative ventilation system.

Significance

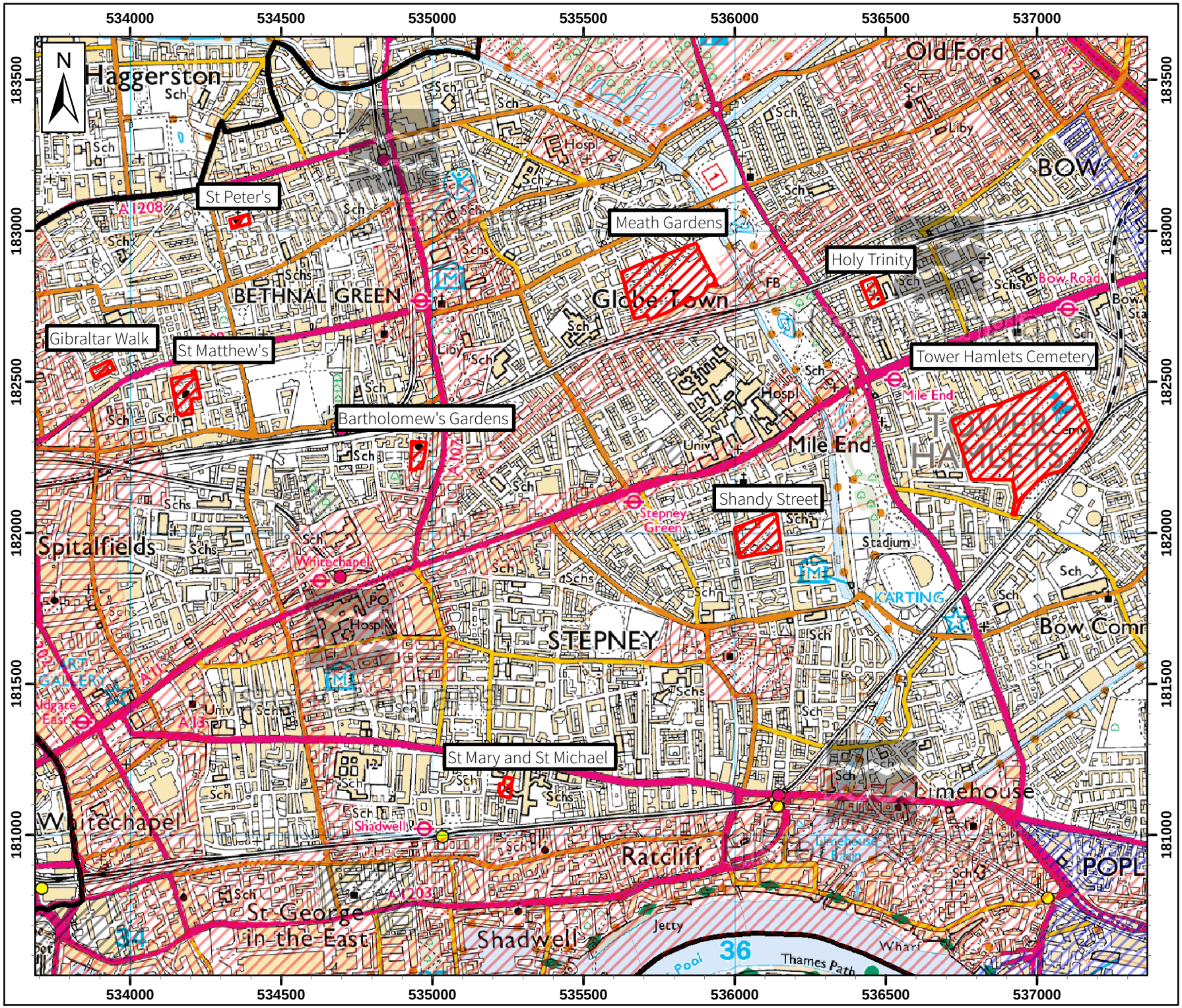
The cemetery provides evidence from a tightly dated assemblage of human remains, potentially from a specific demographic group, namely West Ham paupers. That this represents a tightly dated and distinctive burial group raises its significance. Bonner Manor has potential to provide important information from a high status ecclesiastical medieval manor, for example, on the design of the buildings and their embellishment or the diet of their occupants.

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.

Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines, archaeological investigation in post medieval burial grounds would normally only occur when burials more than 100 years old have to be disturbed for other reasons. 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 be considered.

Key References

VCH Middlesex Vol 11 Stepney



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds

Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:16,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.2: Post Medieval Burial Grounds

Summary and Definition

This APA covers nine large and small post medieval burial grounds in Tower Hamlets that are not parts of other APAs. They are: St Peter's Cemetery; Gibraltar Walk burial ground; Meath Gardens; Tower Hamlets Cemetery; St Matthew's Cemetery; St Mary and St Michael Roman Catholic cemetery; Holy Trinity churchyard; Shandy Street cemetery and St Bartholomew's Gardens.

Descriptions

Church of England

Bartholomew's Gardens, Buckhurst Street: Church built 1843 with the c. 1 acre burial ground converted to a park in 1884 and cleared of grave markers. The 1872 OS map marks it as disused. One memorial remains. The church still stands but it closed in 1983 and was converted to residential in 1996.

Holy Trinity, Morgan Street: Opened 1839 to serve the new Tredegar Square development, closed when full in 1853 and subsequently laid as a park in 1887. The majority of graves have been moved but some remain.

St Matthew's, Bethnal Green: Consecrated in 1746 to serve the new parish of Bethnal Green, created from Stepney as the local population grew, including as a result of the arrival of French Huguenot weavers. A 1754 watch house still stands, built to deter grave robbing. In 1820, the burial vaults were covered by the new national school built on part of the churchyard but c. 50,000 had been buried by 1848. In the cholera epidemic of 1849 the vaults contained 96 coffins piled up and the common graves of cholera victims were a cause of sickness. Burials in St Matthew's churchyard and its vaults were completely discontinued from 1853. The cemetery has been a public park since the late 19th century. Palaeolithic animal remain finds were recorded at depth in 1935 from nearby Busby Street to the west.

St Peter's, Bethnal Green: Consecrated 1841 with sparse burials recorded from 1843 until 1855. By 1896 the cemetery was serving as a public garden. The 19th century church is still in religious use.

Private

Gibraltar Walk: In use from c. 1796 to 1855, mostly now carpark/courtyard and the Equity Square residential block. Some exhumation took place following the Second World War.

Meath Gardens: Formerly known as Victoria Park Cemetery. Established 1842 and closed 1876. Converted to a park 1893. Estimated 300,000 burials.

Shandy Street: In use between 1837-1852. Now a public park. Test pitting has found human bone and gravestone fragments as well as evidence of local clay pipe manufacturing.

Tower Hamlets Cemetery: Opened 1841 and the last of the Magnificent Seven. More than 250,000 burials by the late 19th century along with memorials to those buried at sea. Closed in 1966 but with some later burials. Original planting and structures survive. Listed wall, some listed tombs.

Roman Catholic

St Mary and St Michael: Established 1843, closed 1854. Partial excavation in the south-east corner found 700 burials with a high proportion of juveniles.

Significance

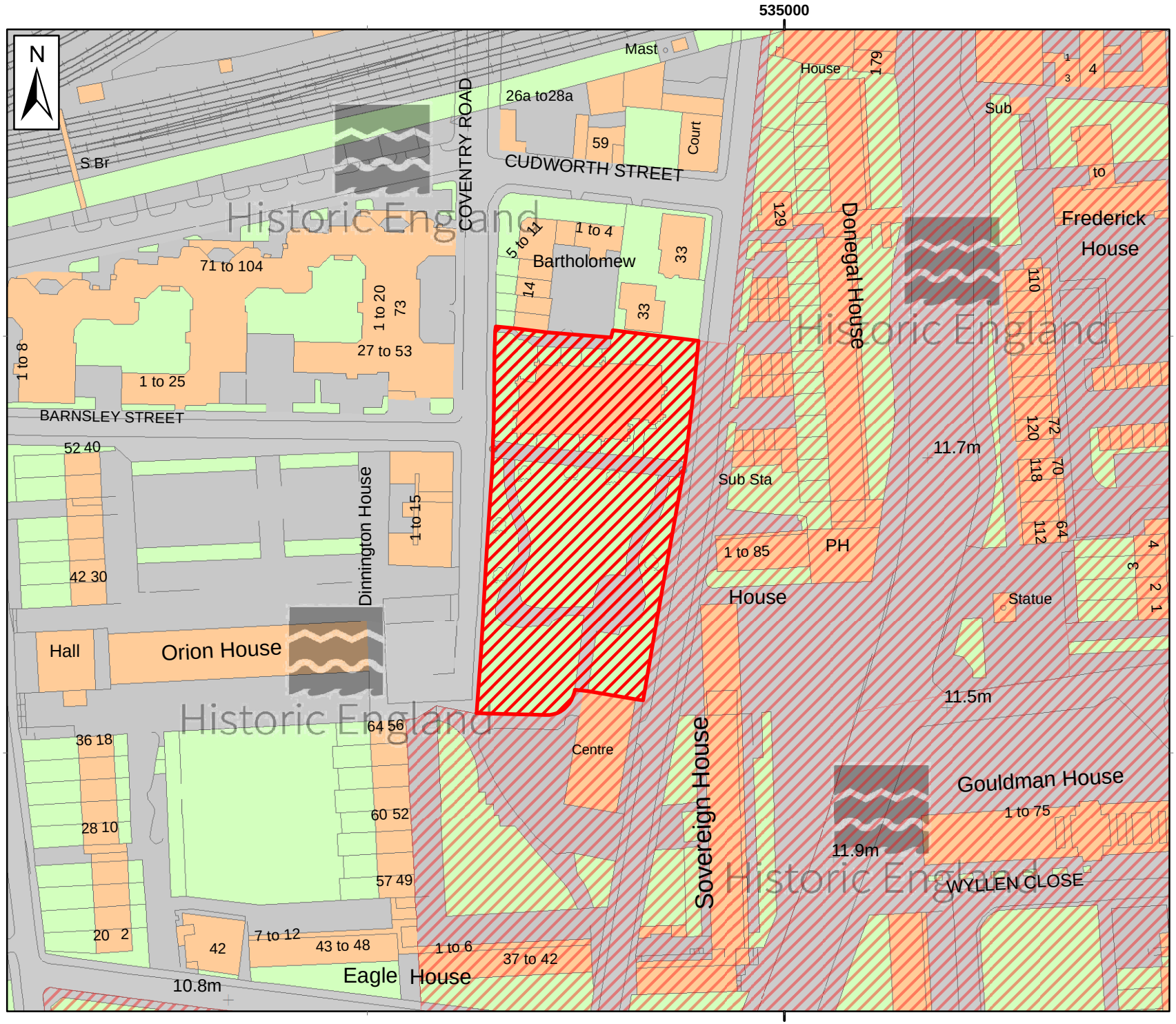
The cemeteries represent the diverse cultures and funerary practices present in the borough from the 18th century onwards and in many cases provide a tightly dated specific population sample for archaeological analysis.

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.

Burial grounds have their own specific legal protections. In accordance with national guidelines, archaeological investigation in post medieval burial grounds would normally only occur when burials more than 100 years old have to be disturbed for other reasons. 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 be considered

Key References

London Burial Grounds, Isabella Basil Holmes



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds (Bartholomew's Gardens)

Bartholomew's Gardens

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

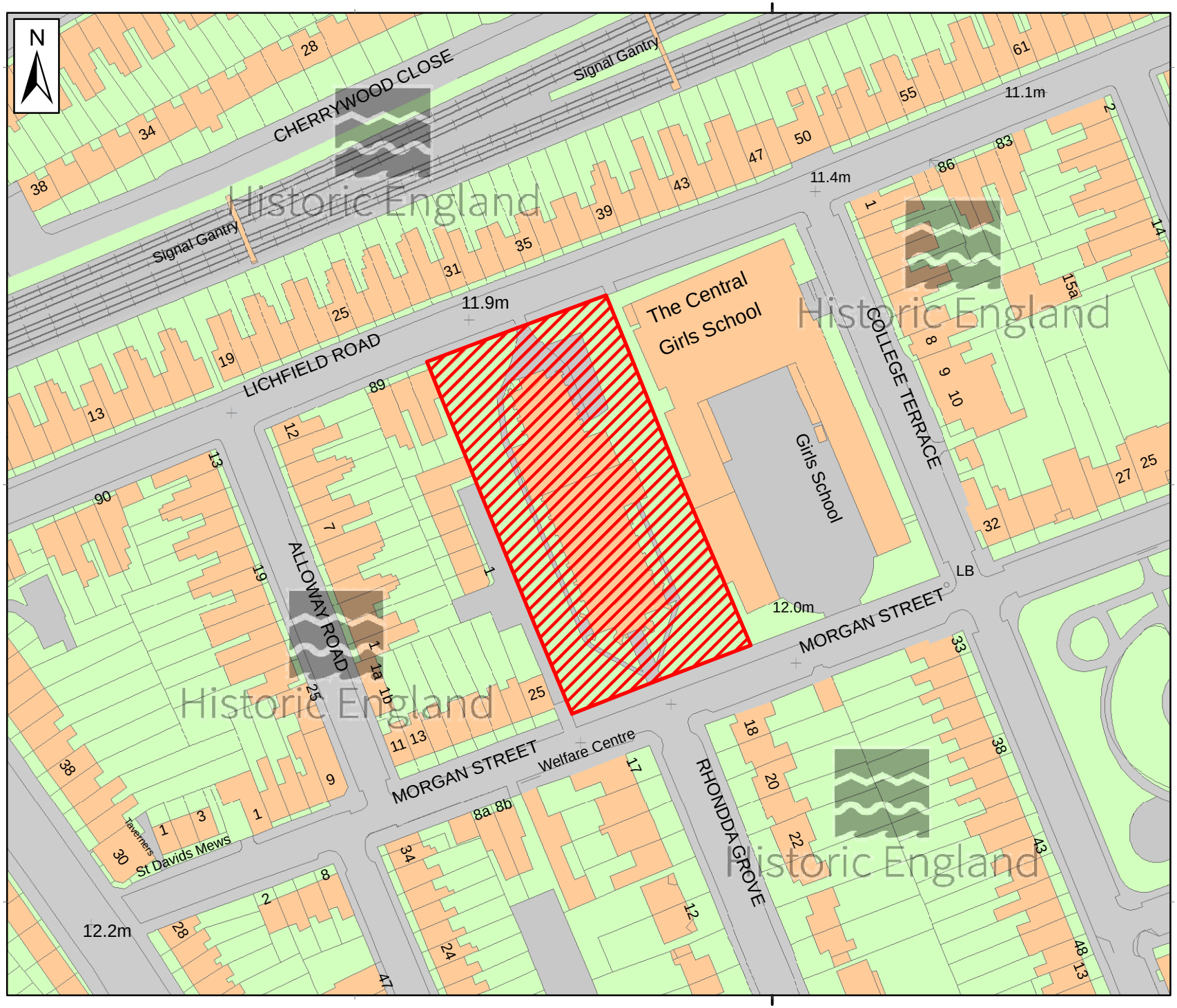
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(Holy Trinity)

Holy Trinity

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(St Matthew's)

St Matthew's

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

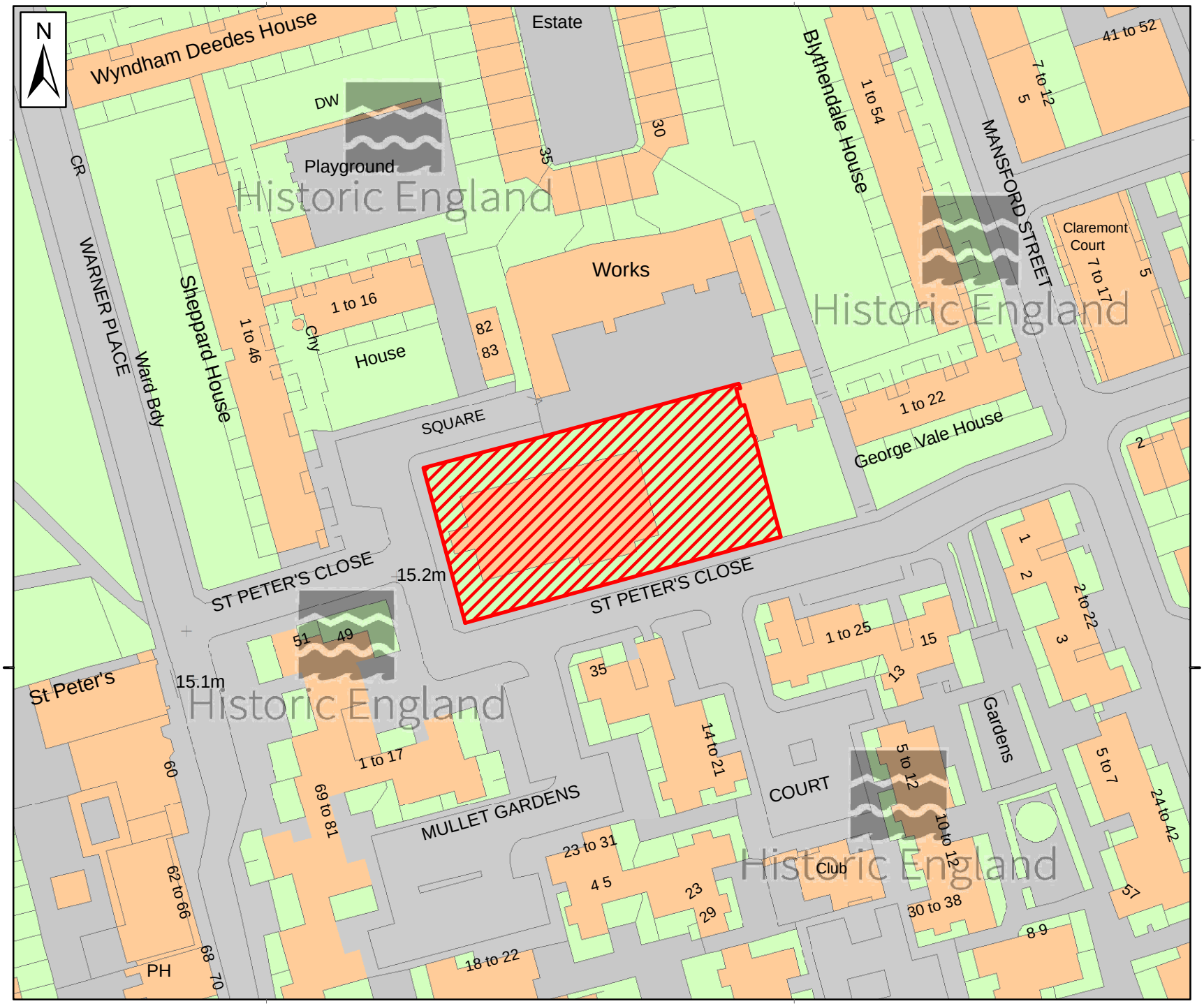
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,750

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(St Peter's)

St Peter's

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

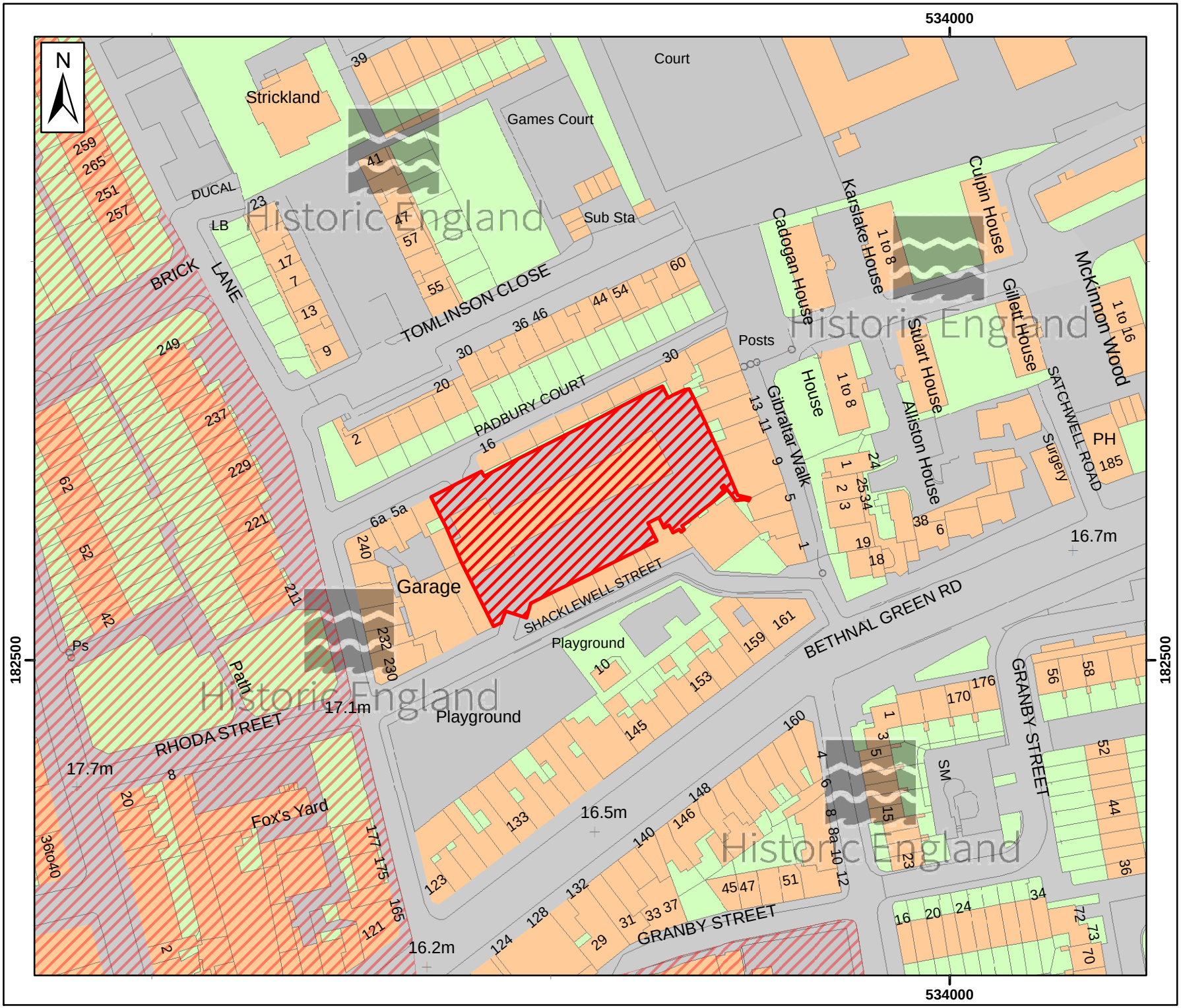
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(Gibraltar Walk)

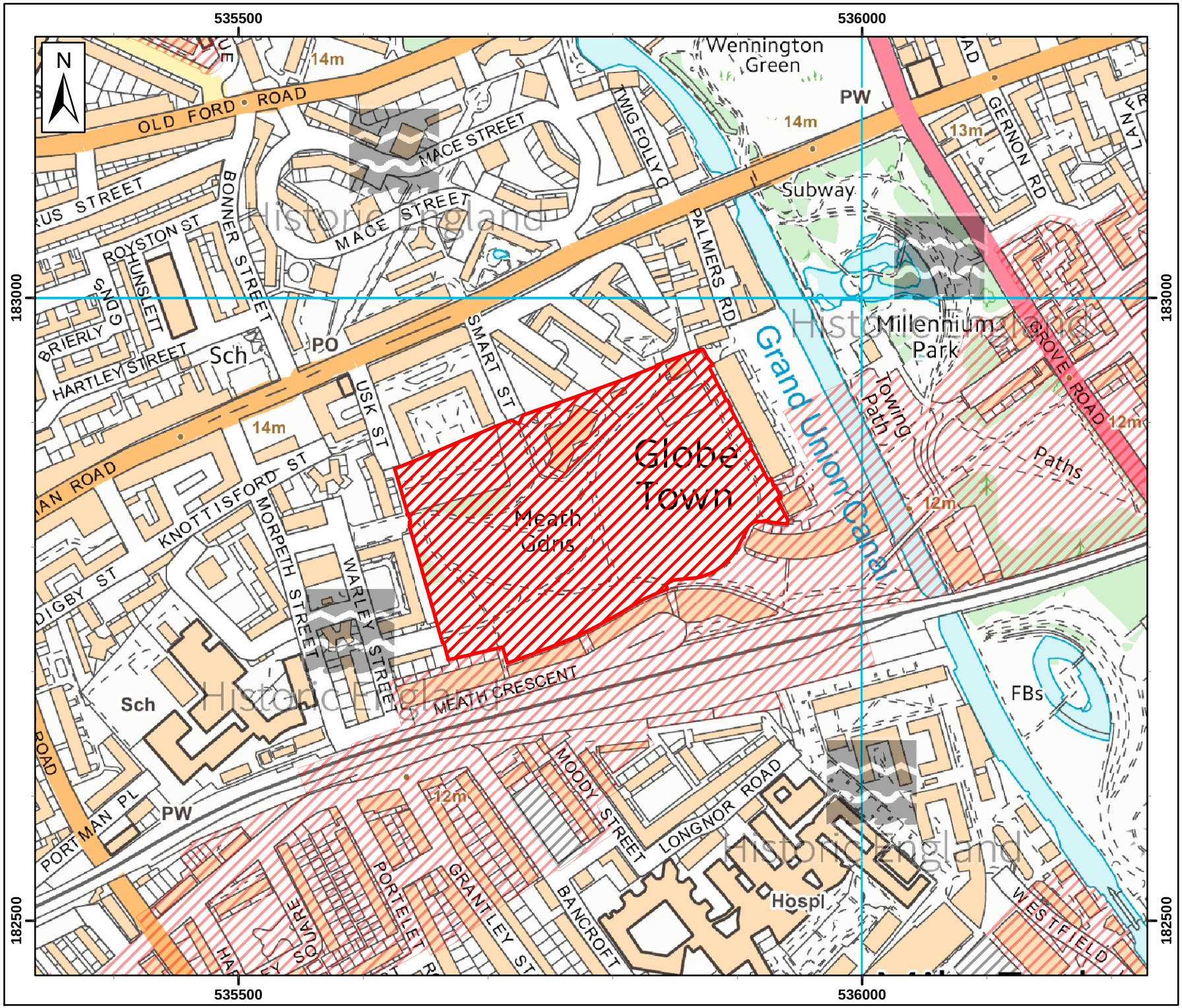
- Gibraltar Walk
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(Meath Gardens)

- Meath Gardens
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds (Shandy Street)

Shandy Street

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

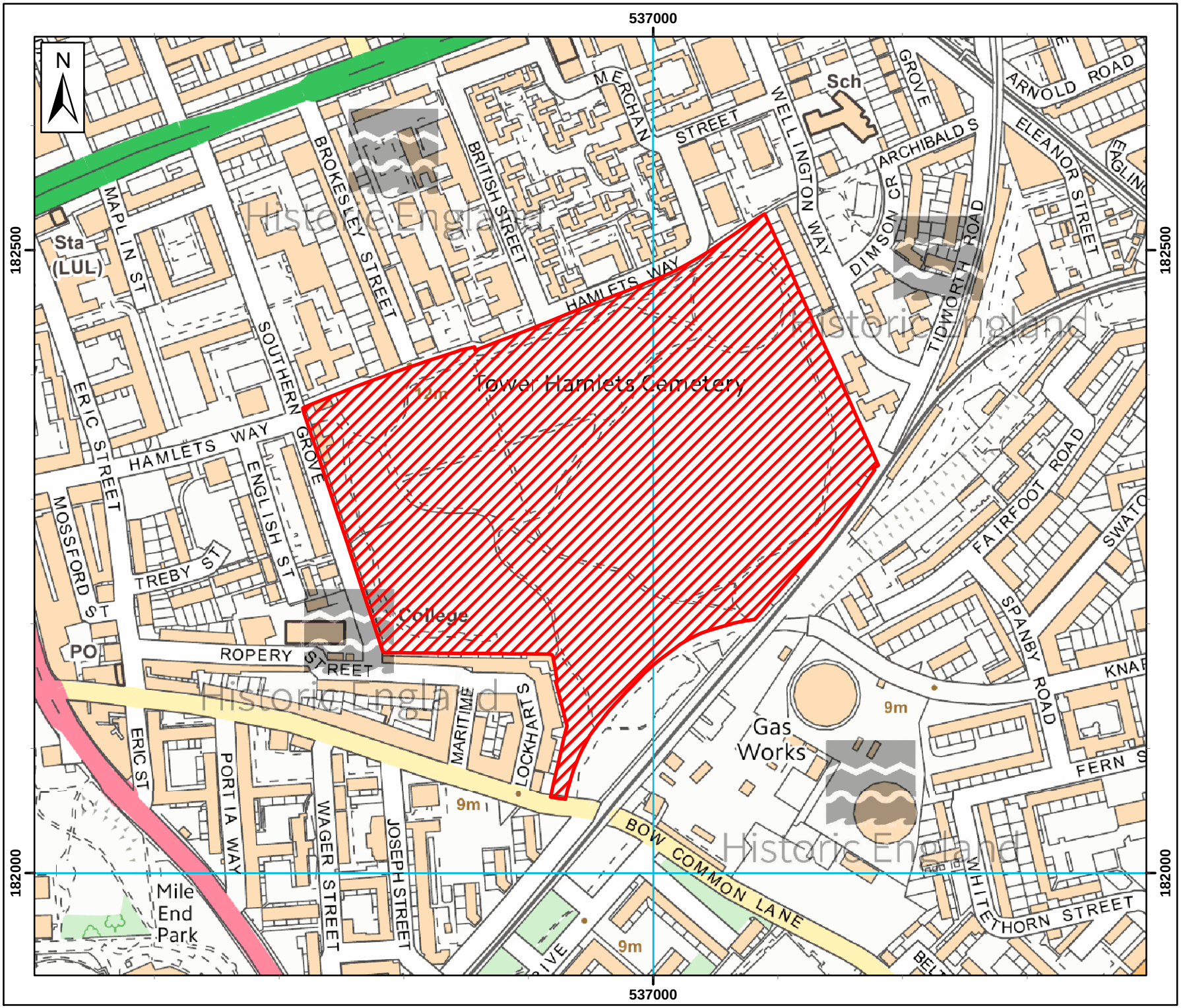
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,750

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(Tower Hamlets Cemetery)

Tower Hamlets Cemetery

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

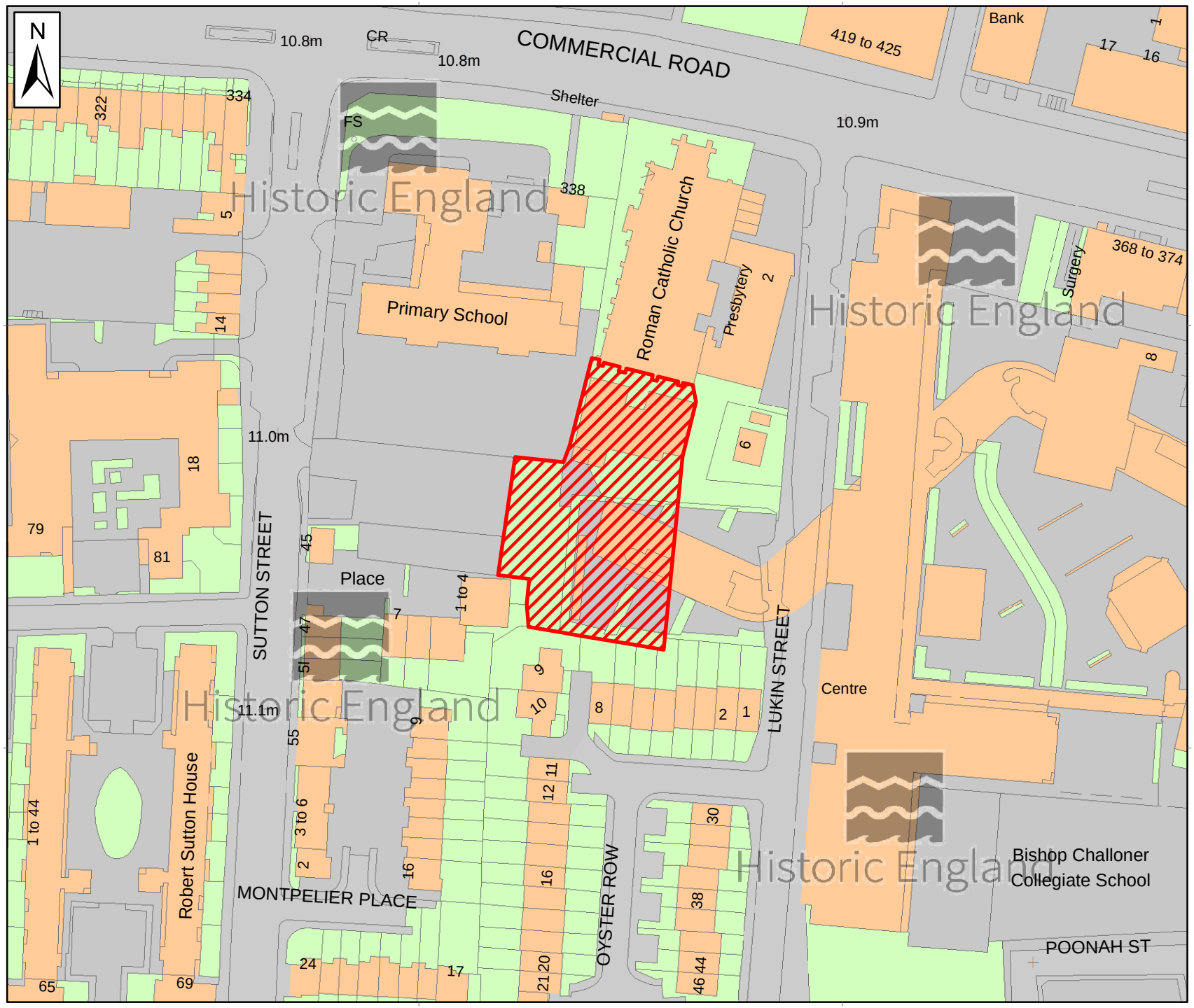
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Tower Hamlets APA 2.2
Tower Hamlets Post Medieval Burial Grounds
(St Mary and St Michael)

St Mary and St Michael

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

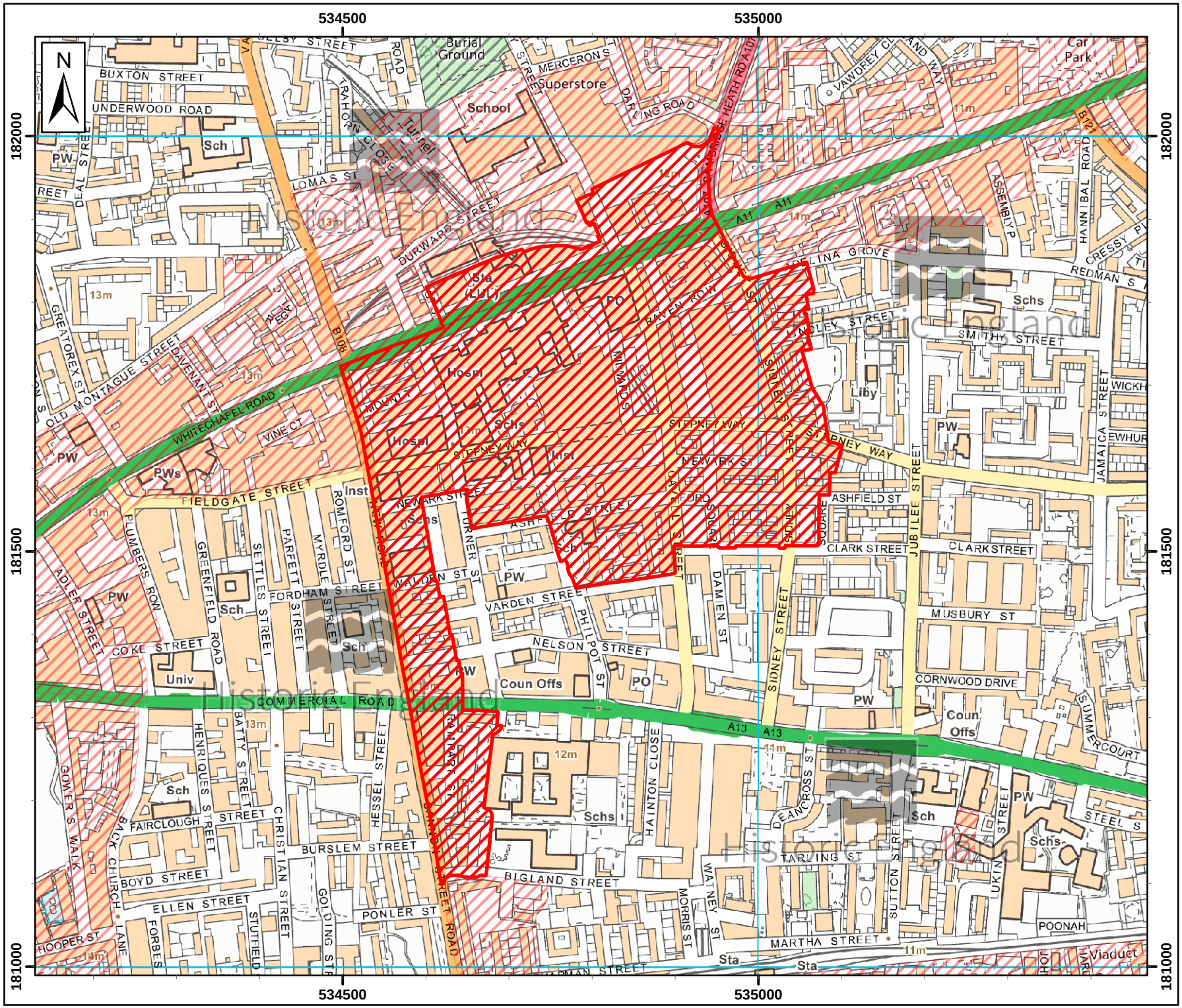
Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:1,250

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England

Tower Hamlets APA 2.3
Mile End

Mile End APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.3: Mile End

Summary and Definition

This APA covers a historic portion of the linear settlement of Mile End, including the site and surroundings of the Royal London Hospital. It is a Tier 2 APA due to the potential for significant post-mediaeval remains that are attested in historical records.

The APA runs from the eastern boundary of Whitechapel, one mile east of Aldgate and ends at the Mile End Road's junction with Cambridge Heath Road. Modern Mile End extends almost as far east as Bow, while historically it was also used to refer to areas now more commonly known as Stepney Green and eastern Whitechapel. However, the APA focuses on the archaeologically-attested medieval and post medieval historic Mile End settlement located on the edge of London as well as a stretch of London's Civil War defences due to the discovery of a large contemporary ditch just to the south.

Description

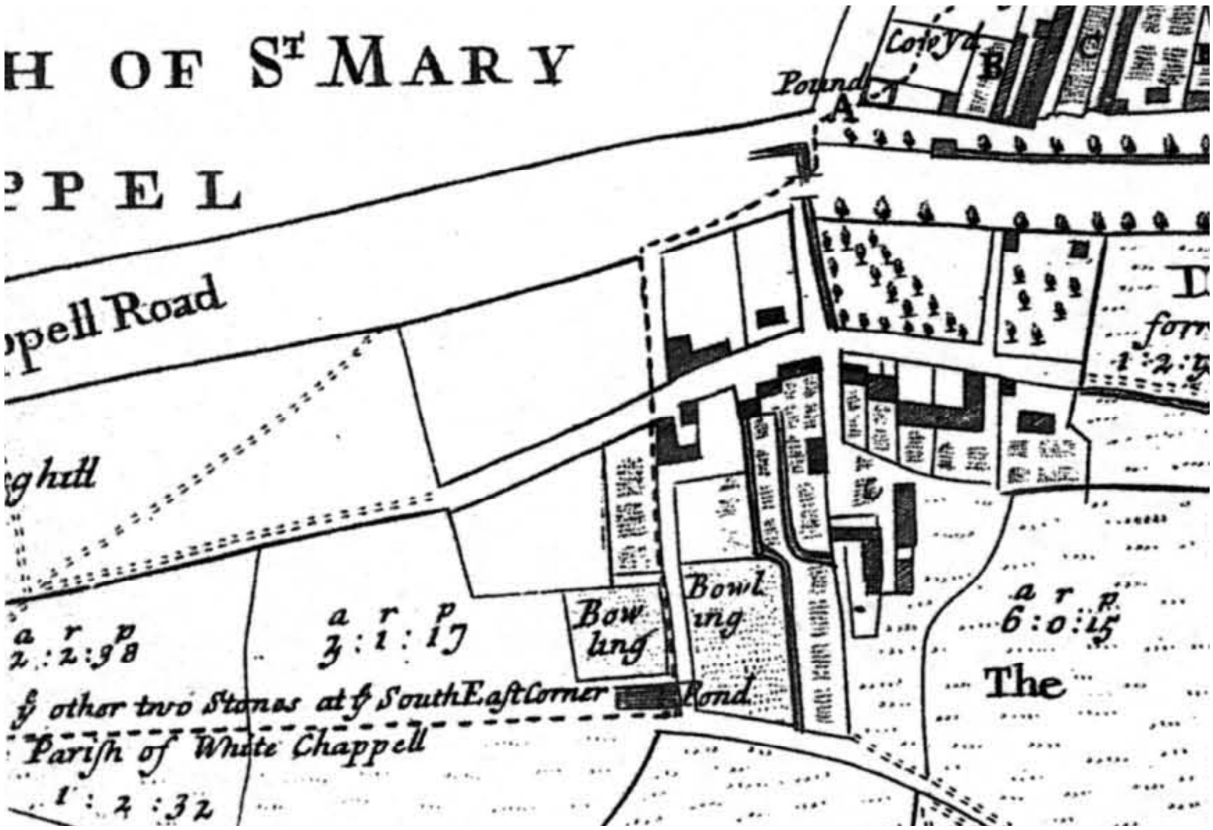
Mile End probably grew up following the realignment of the main road east when Bow Bridge was built in the 12th century, replacing the Roman road and crossing that ran to the north. It was a key location during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, being the point where the rebels from the country met the authority of London and the Crown. By the 17th century, Mile End New Town had developed between Spitalfields and Mile End Old Town.

Linear settlement along Whitechapel High Street and the Mile End Road as part of dispersed settlement in Stepney is represented archaeologically by a number of land uses that appear to have been located at Mile End, being sited purposely on the *de facto* eastern boundary of London at that time.

Sites that reflect Mile End's liminal location include the proposed site of the Red Lion, the oldest Elizabethan theatre in England, possible Civil War defences, various cemeteries, quarrying, a plague pit, hospital and brewery.

Both Whitechapel High Street and the Roman road it developed from, as well as Cambridge Heath Road are of antiquity and their junction is likely to have been a multiperiod focus of activity. Finds of a possible Saxon loom weight and Roman pot at 3-11 Maples St support this while the site of a mediaeval manor house called Ashwyes is located on Sidney St.

During the 1560s, behind a house here named the Red Lion (which was likely the former site of Ashwyes) was built the first public theatrical venue in London since Roman times. The precise location of this site is uncertain with evaluation trial trenching in 2015-16 proving inconclusive.



17th century map of Mile End showing the eastern boundary of Whitechapel

Civil War defences and a fort may survive; a possible contemporary ditch was identified in modern investigations at the London Hospital Medical College. Isaac Newton also wrote of seeing a plague pit in the area.

A culverted stream, The Black Ditch, running from Shoreditch to Limehouse crosses the site running approximately north-south.

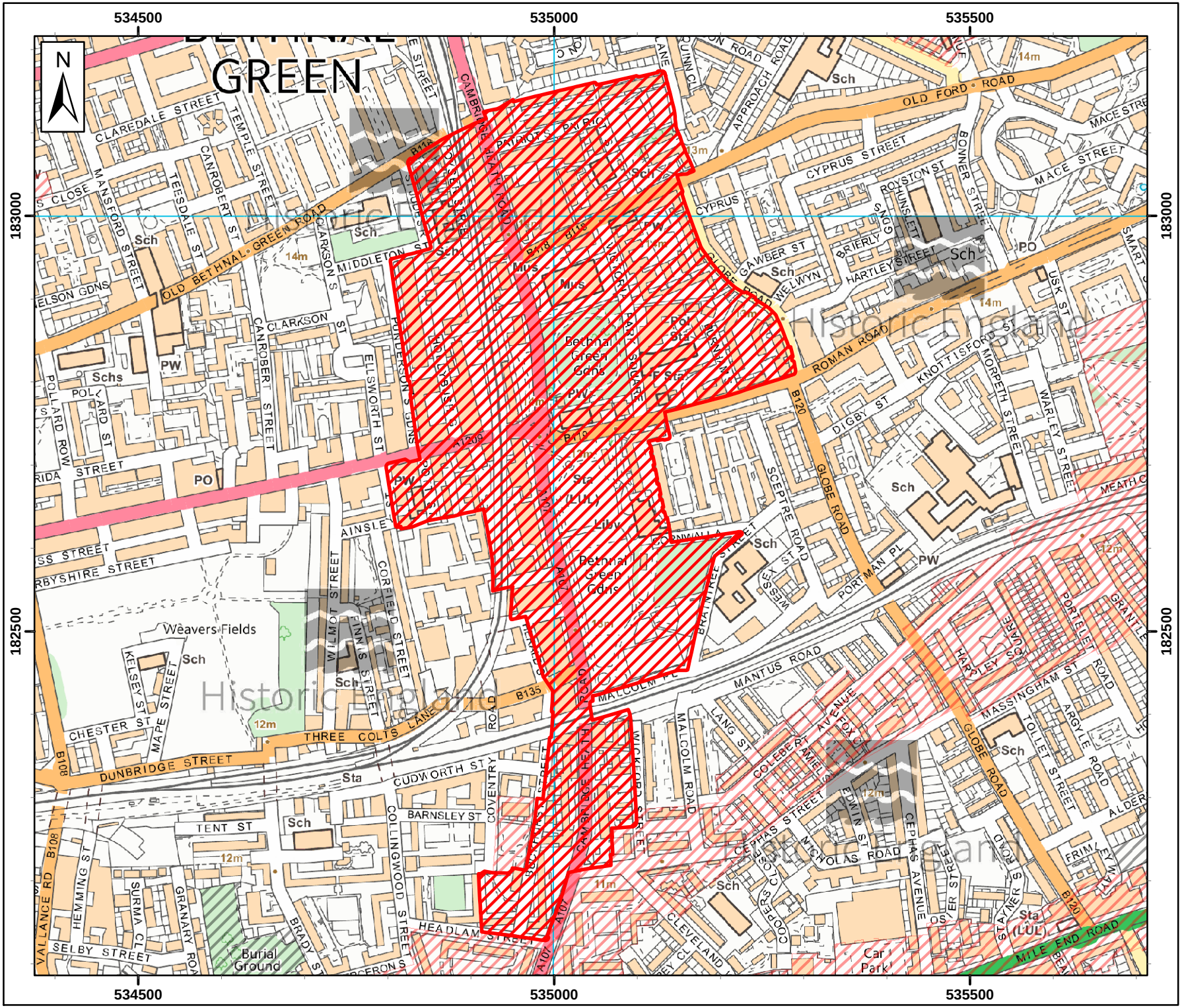
The Royal London Hospital dates from 1740 and its burial ground as well as Nonconformist burial grounds to its south are included in the APA. The area was later the site of the Albion Brewery.

Significance

The area was historically important as its location on the edge of London attracted vital urban activity that was unacceptable in the city itself. It also served as the capital's *de facto* frontier with the rest of the country at historically important points. As London developed, so did the scope and nature of the activities carried out in Mile End, mirroring the development of the city. The area has potential to contain nationally significant remains relating to the Red Lion playhouse as well as medieval and post medieval remains of regional importance.

Key References

Crossrail Red Lion Theatre, Whitechapel Documentary Research Report, C. Phillpotts, 2005



Tower Hamlets APA 2.4
Bethnal Green

Bethnal Green APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.4: Bethnal Green

Summary and Definition

This APA covers the historic extent of Bethnal Green as it developed around the green and along the major thoroughfares. It also includes the post medieval settlement of Dog Row to the south. It is classified as a Tier 2 APA because it is an area of historic settlement.

Description

An early prehistoric flint and an antler hammer have been found within the settlement. Roman activity is supported by the 19th century find of a stone coffin on or near the north end of Corfield St and by the possible Roman road surface said to have been found at the settlement's crossroads during tunnel construction in the 1930s. This has been interpreted as the course of Old Street while the line of the Colchester Roman Road is also likely to cross the APA, either on the line of existing roads or nearby.

The Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green Road, Old Ford Road and Roman Road were all likely extant by the medieval period.

Although both Bethnal Green and Cambridge Heath have Saxon place name roots, a settlement is not recorded until the 12th century, with properties clustered around the north and east of the Green. St George's Chapel is recorded from 1520. Dog Row grew up in the 16th century. Investigations have not been widespread in the area, however, and the degree of survival of remains is not known.

Bethnal Green grew significantly into a high status residential area in the 17th century but became poorer and more industrial during the 18th and 19th centuries.

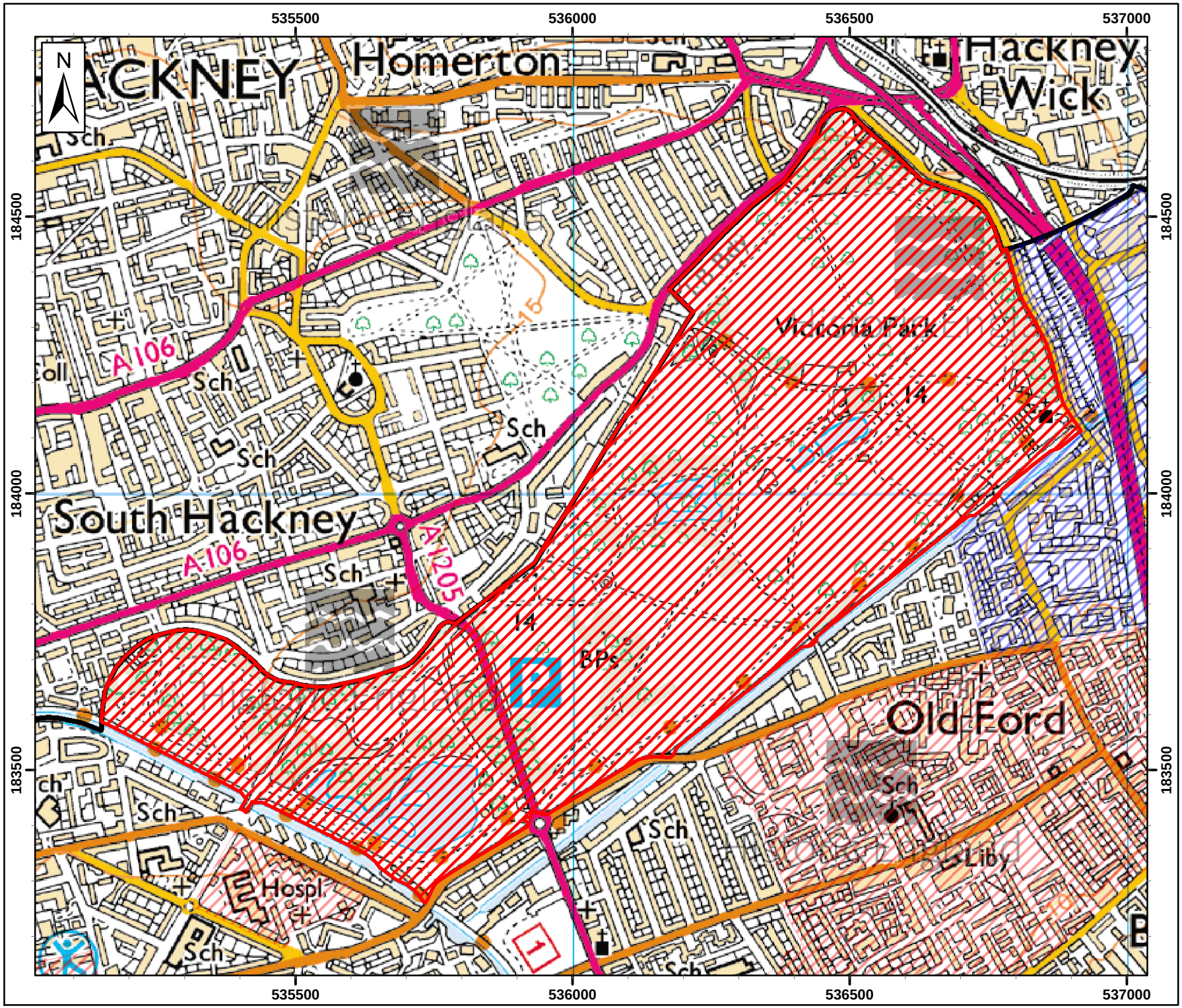
The listed Bethnal Green Viaduct dates from 1838 and is included, as are the Registered Parks and Gardens of Bethnal Green and Paradise Gardens and the Peel Grove cholera burial ground in the north east (pictured).

Significance

Bethnal Green has potential for multiperiod remains including the poorly understood Roman and Saxon activity in the area. It also has potential to provide valuable evidence for the growth of London suburbs and related socio-economic changes during the medieval and post medieval periods although the degree of preservation is not well known.

Key References

A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 11, Stepney, Bethnal Green, Victoria County History, London, 1998



Tower Hamlets APA 2.5
Victoria Park

Victoria Park APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:9,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.5: Victoria Park

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the Registered Park and Garden of Victoria Park. It is bordered by the earlier Regent's Canal and Hertford Union Canal to the west and south and by the borough boundary with Hackney and Cadogan Terrace to the north and east.

The park is a Tier 2 APA as it is a large area of open ground close to known multiperiod sites (including Old Ford, the Lea Valley terrace, Bonner Manor) in an otherwise heavily developed part of London.

Description

Victoria Park was created between 1842 and 1846 and developed from an earlier open space called Bonner Fields, related to nearby Bonner Manor (APA 2.1), that had been quarried for bricks in many places. The park contains numerous landscape features including the c. 1760 alcoves from the old London Bridge

Victoria Park was first proposed in 1840 as a 'Memorial to the Sovereign', which could be used by the population of the east end of London. It was one of three new parks proposed by a central government initiative to serve the expanding population in the suburbs. The park was designed by James Pennethorne (1801-71), with planting by Samuel Curtis (1779-1860). Pennethorne's plan of 1841 was modified several times before work started in 1842. The park was opened to the public in 1845. In the 1850s the horticultural control of the park was directed by John Gibson (1815-75), who had worked with Pennethorne on the design and laying out of Battersea Park. The initial park area of 77ha was increased to 87ha in 1872, incorporating ground which had previously been brick fields, market gardens and farmland. In 1887 the management of the park was transferred to the Metropolitan Board of Works, which was succeeded by the London County Council in 1889.

The park suffered badly from bomb damage during the Second World War and much of the grassland was used for allotments for the war effort. After the war further buildings had to be demolished due to structural damage. There were insufficient funds to reinstate the park properly and its condition began to deteriorate. Management of the park was transferred to the Greater London Council in 1965, which started to rehabilitate it from 1973. After 1986, ownership of the park was divided between the London Boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets. Restoration continued throughout the 1990s under the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which now has sole ownership of the park.

Unquarried parts of the site may preserve archaeological remains – Roman pottery and coin and palaeolithic handaxe finds are recorded from the park.

Three of the bridges crossing the Hertford Union and Regent's canals into the park are Scheduled Monuments.

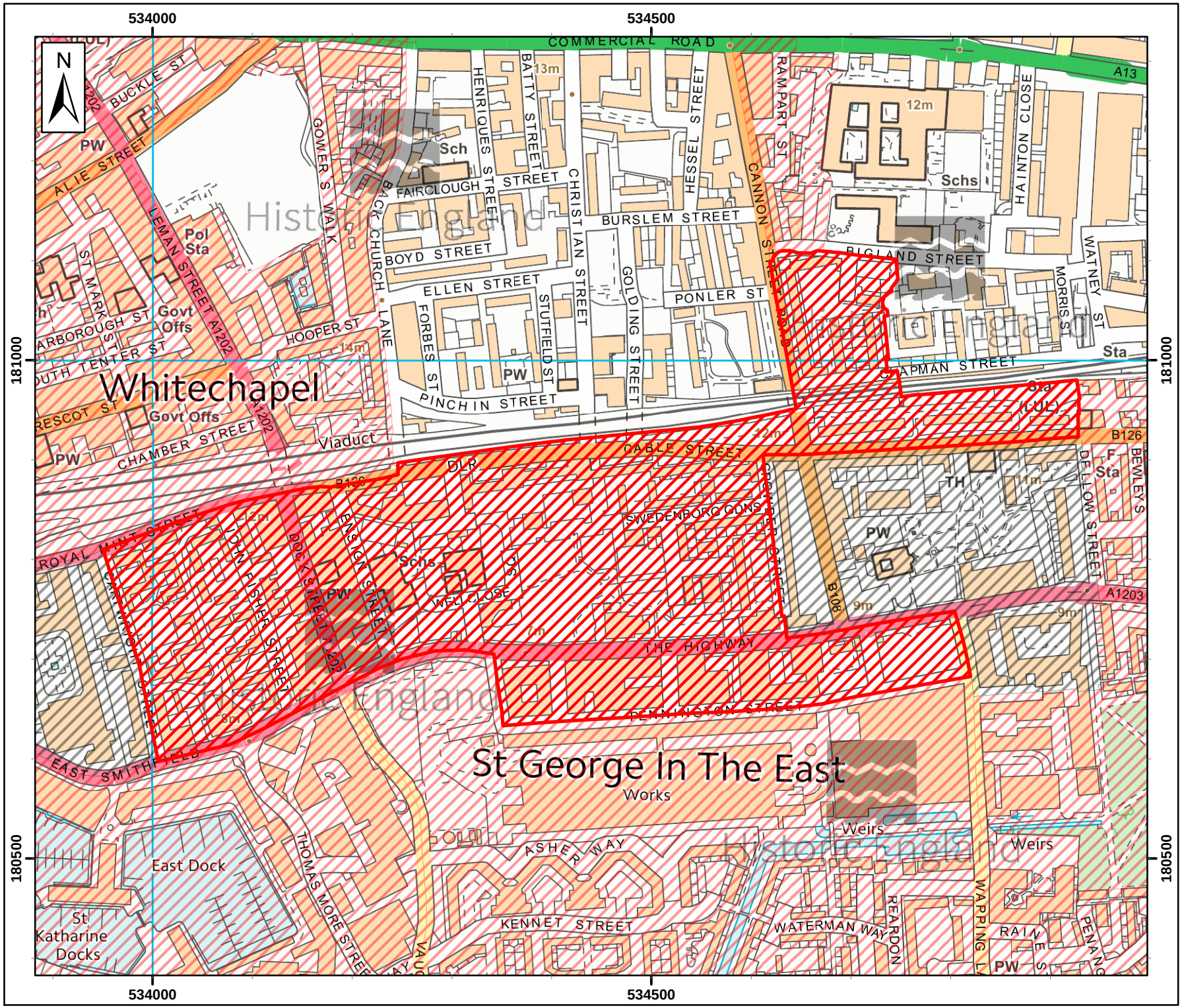
Significance

The Park is Registered at Grade II* and has historical significance as part of Victorian efforts to improve the living conditions of London's East End population. Undisturbed areas may preserve evidence of earlier land use and activity including on the attractive upper terrace of the Lea Valley and the edge of the Roman settlement of Old Ford to the south.

Its social history role includes being the terminus of May 1915 Women's May Day March where it hosted a huge gathering of suffragettes and their supporters, despite police suppression and violence.

Key References

National Heritage List for England entry no 100178 Victoria Park



Tower Hamlets APA 2.6
The Highway

- The Highway APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:5,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.6: The Highway

Summary and Definition

The Highway APA covers the extent of the historic routeway and river terrace edge corridor now followed by the Highway that is not already included in APAs for the historic settlements along its course. The routeway is of at latest a Roman date and both Roman and later remains are recorded along the length of the section covered by the APA.

Description

The APA runs east from East Smithfield, past St George in the East, to Shadwell. Its eastern end abutts the Tier 1 APA for the Shadwell Roman settlement.

Documented in the 15th century as a dry track, The Highway is the modern iteration of a Roman route that led east from the city to Ratcliff and possibly further. The road follows the gravel terrace edge with a noticeable fall to the lower ground at the south. The higher ground to the north of the road has a high potential for multi-period settlement evidence.

A prehistoric pit and possible Roman ditch were recorded at 77-101 The Highway in 1991. Further Roman remains are recorded from Cannon Street Road and an extensive settlement with a commercial role stood at Shadwell. The GLHER records a Saxon settlement preceding St George in the East.

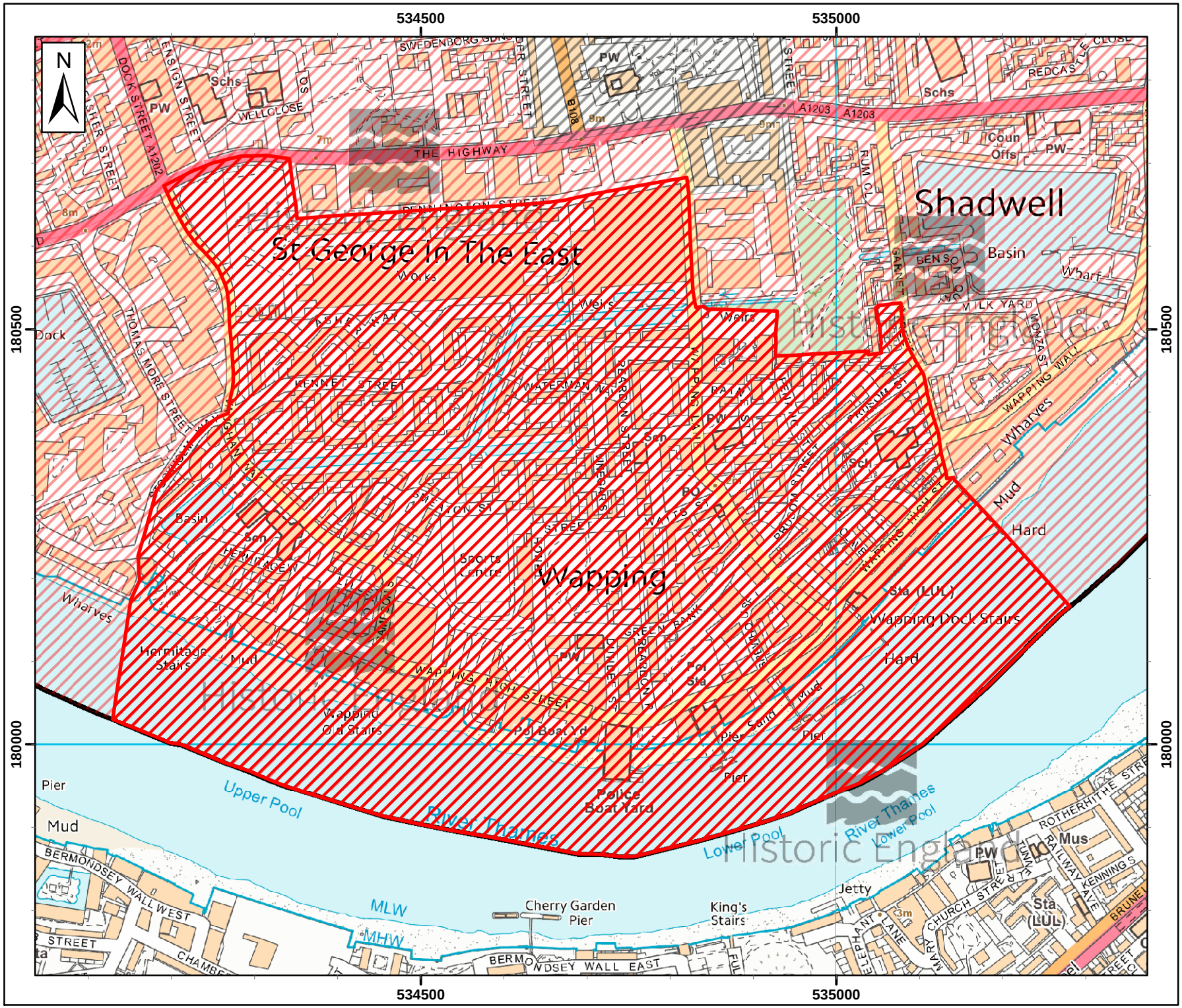
Evidence of early industry including 17th century glassworks is recorded. The APA also includes Aldgate churchyard belonging to St Botolph Aldgate which dates from 1615. Wellclose Square is the site of the Mariner's Church and the Danish Burial ground. The APA also includes Trinity Episcopal Chapel 19th century burial ground on Cannon Street Road.

Significance

The APA is located along a historic routeway on a topographically prominent terrace fronting the Thames. It is likely to contain further evidence of Roman activity as well as important evidence of post-Roman activity on the fringes of the Saxon and medieval city of London. However, intensive modern development will have left large areas archaeologically sterile.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977



Tower Hamlets APA 2.7
Wapping

- Wapping APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.7: Wapping

Summary and Definition

The Wapping APA covers the historic settlement of Wapping as well as the mostly infilled London Docks and the Thames foreshore. It is classified as Tier 2 due to the age of the settlement.

Description

Findspots of Roman and Iron Age material have been made within the APA but Wapping is generally described as an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Geoarchaeological modelling suggests it may have stood as an island in the river during its early history, with the relict river channel to its north later becoming Wapping Marsh, before that was eventually reclaimed in the 16th century. Similar river islands elsewhere are known to have been attractive settlement foci.

Documented evidence includes a medieval hermitage recorded in the west of the APA as well as the linear riverside settlement of Wapping itself. London's Civil War defences are projected as running north-south through the APA, with a fort posited to the north-east of Wapping Gardens.

Industrial archaeological potential exists from the Hermitage Basin pottery works and the docks and wharves as well as the Thames Tunnel. The early 19th century London Docks complex connected to the Thames via Hermitage Basin, Wapping Basin and Shadwell Basin.

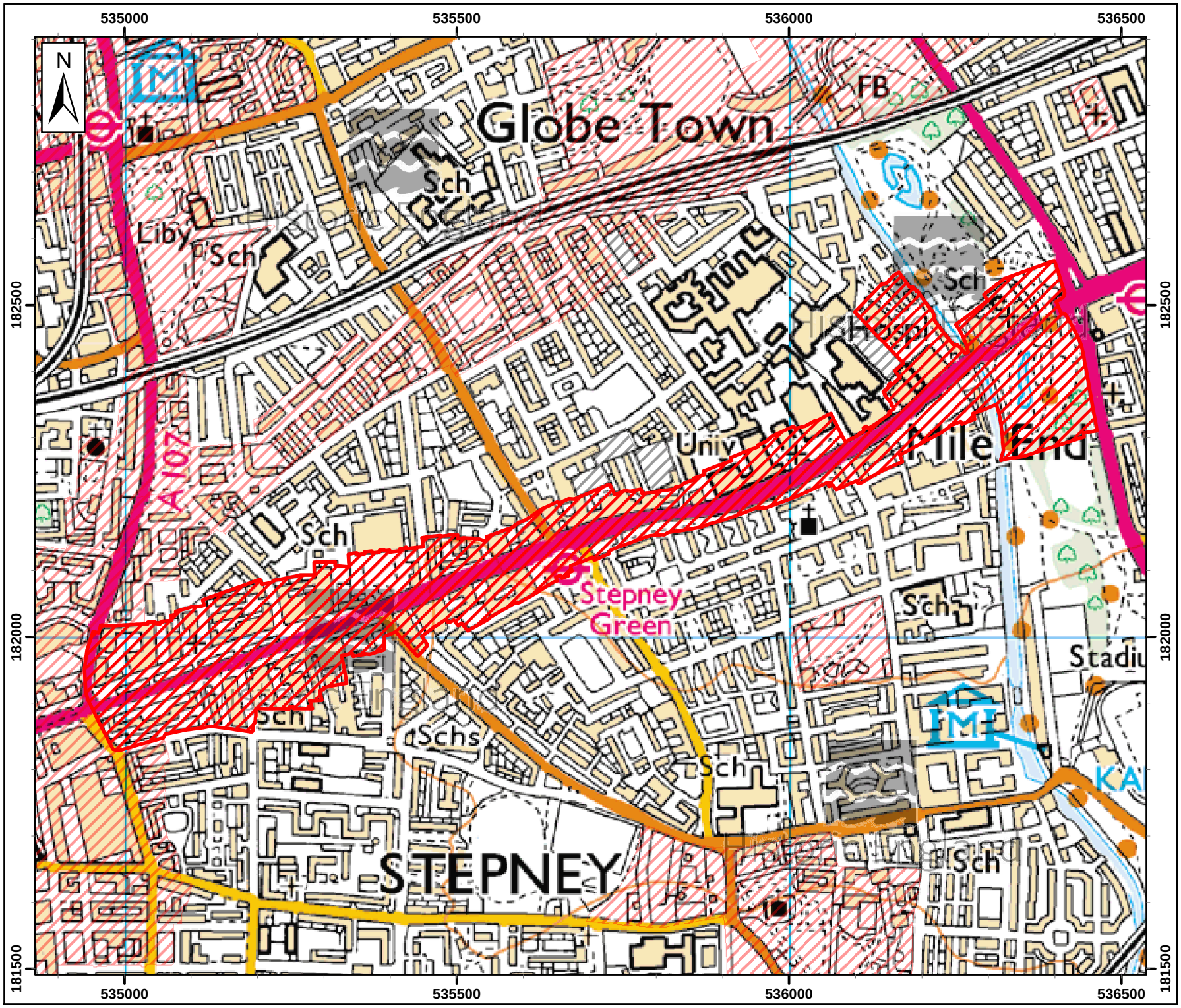
Two small post medieval cemeteries are recorded near Wapping Lane – one off Meeting House Alley, now occupied by St Patrick's RC Primary School, and one at the east of Green Bank, apparently under Jackman House. A larger cemetery is on Scandrett Street and dates from the 17th century.

Significance

There is potential to better define the geomorphology of the braided Thames at this point and its effects on human activity. Saxon and medieval activity may survive in patches and would be very significant but later evidence of the industrialisation and mercantile growth of London is likely to be more common and informative.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black. 1977
Historic Environment Assessment Update – London Dock E1, MOLA, 2013



Tower Hamlets APA 2.8
Mile End Road

Mile End Road APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:7,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.8: Mile End Road

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the extent of linear settlement along Mile End Road between its junctions with Cambridge Heath Road and Burdett Road. It is a Tier 2 APA for its potential to contain remains of medieval activity along the road and the development of later settlement.

Description

Mile End grew up along the road running east from Whitechapel. It was originally a hamlet (see APA 2.3) and is attested from the 13th century.

Activity along the line of the current Mile End Road to the east of the original Mile End settlement probably began in the 12th century when the new Mile End road was created, running east from London to Bow and Essex, replacing the line of the old Roman road that ran to the north.

The St Mary Magdalen leper hospital stood at the eastern end of the APA, probably on the north side of the road near the bridge over the canal. It was founded pre 1274 and its buildings were still standing in the 17th century. Archaeological investigations in this area in 1990 found the remains of a possible mediaeval barn.

Both Globe Road and White Horse Road are dated to the middle ages by the GLHER. The latter is the location of a find of a Roman jar.

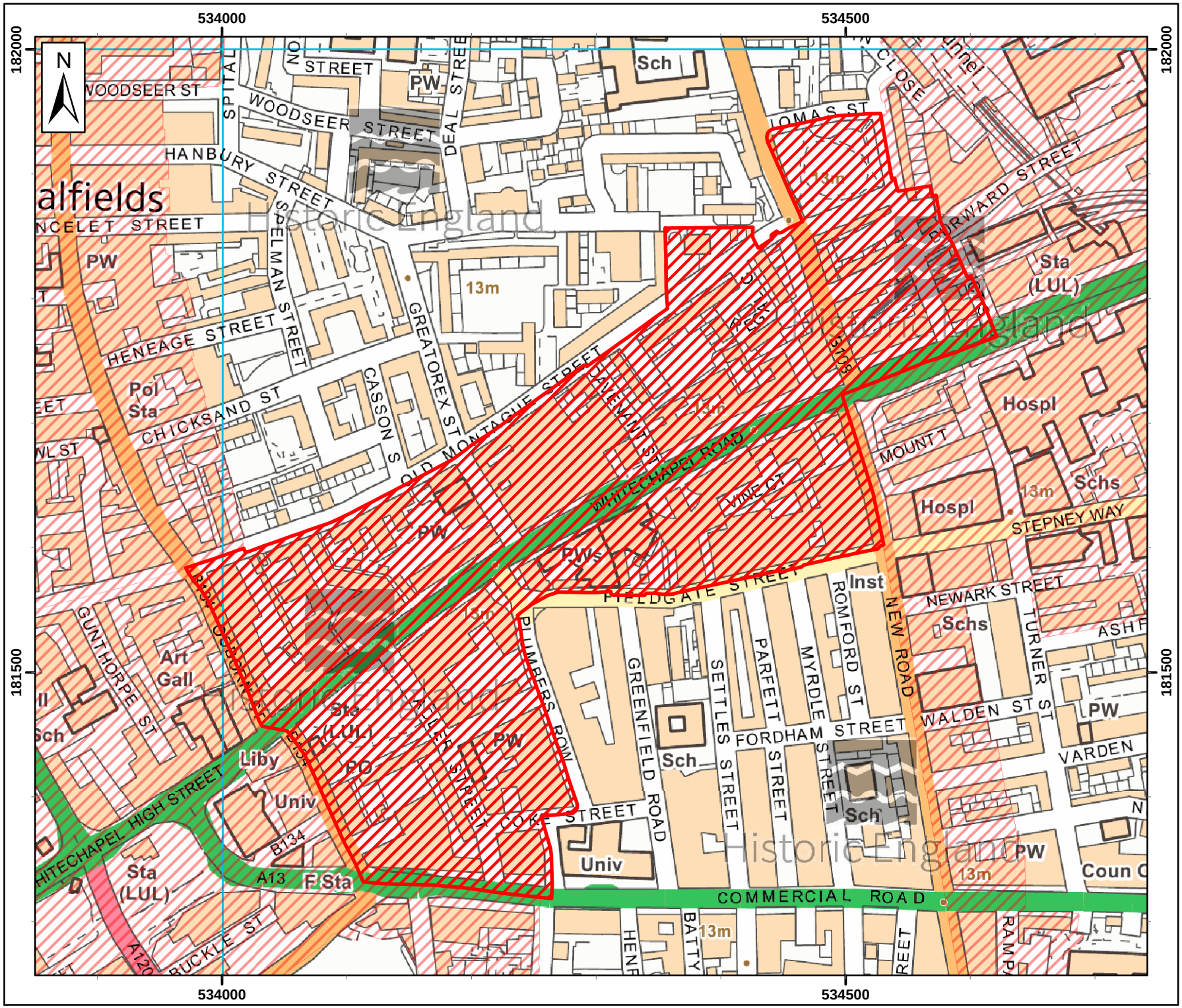
Later named Mile End Old Town, linear development from the Mile End Road's junction with Cambridge Heath Road, began to intensify during the later 17th century. The Mile End Jewish burial grounds were created around this time (see APA 1.6).

Significance

Mile End has potential to demonstrate evidence of the medieval and post mediaeval growth of London as well as possible evidence from leper burial assemblages.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977



Tower Hamlets APA 2.9
Whitechapel

Whitechapel APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.9: Whitechapel

Summary and Definition

The Whitechapel APA runs along the Whitechapel Road corridor from its junction with Osborn Street near Aldgate as far as Whitechapel Tube station and the Mile End APA.

It is a Tier 2 APA for its potential to contain remains of Roman and later activity including settlement along a historic routeway.

Description

The western portion of the Whitechapel Road follows the route of the Roman road from London to Colchester. Within the APA, that road diverges northwards from the modern road towards Old Ford, possibly following the line of Ducking Pond Row on early 19th century maps.

Roman London's eastern cemetery may extend into the western portion of the APA. Evidence of Roman cultivation was identified at Green Dragon Yard and a Roman amphora found at Old Montague Street, although later quarrying will have affected the potential for extensive survival from the period.

Suburban settlement at Whitechapel may date from the 11th century and appears to have become sufficiently developed and independent from the Saxon manor of Stepney for it to have built its own chapel of ease by 1329, before becoming a separate parish by 1338.

The white painted chapel of St Mary Matfelon gave its name to the settlement and stood on the site of Altab Ali Park. A succession of churches stood on the site until 1952 when the park was first created. Remains of the churches and the burial ground survive beneath the park.

An additional burial ground for the church and the nearby Whitechapel Workhouse was consecrated at Davenent Street, north of the main road, in 1796. It closed in 1856 and is now a park.

Vallance Road is the site of a Quaker burial ground dating from 1687-1857 and which is also now a park.

The projected line of London's Civil War defences runs through the east of the APA.

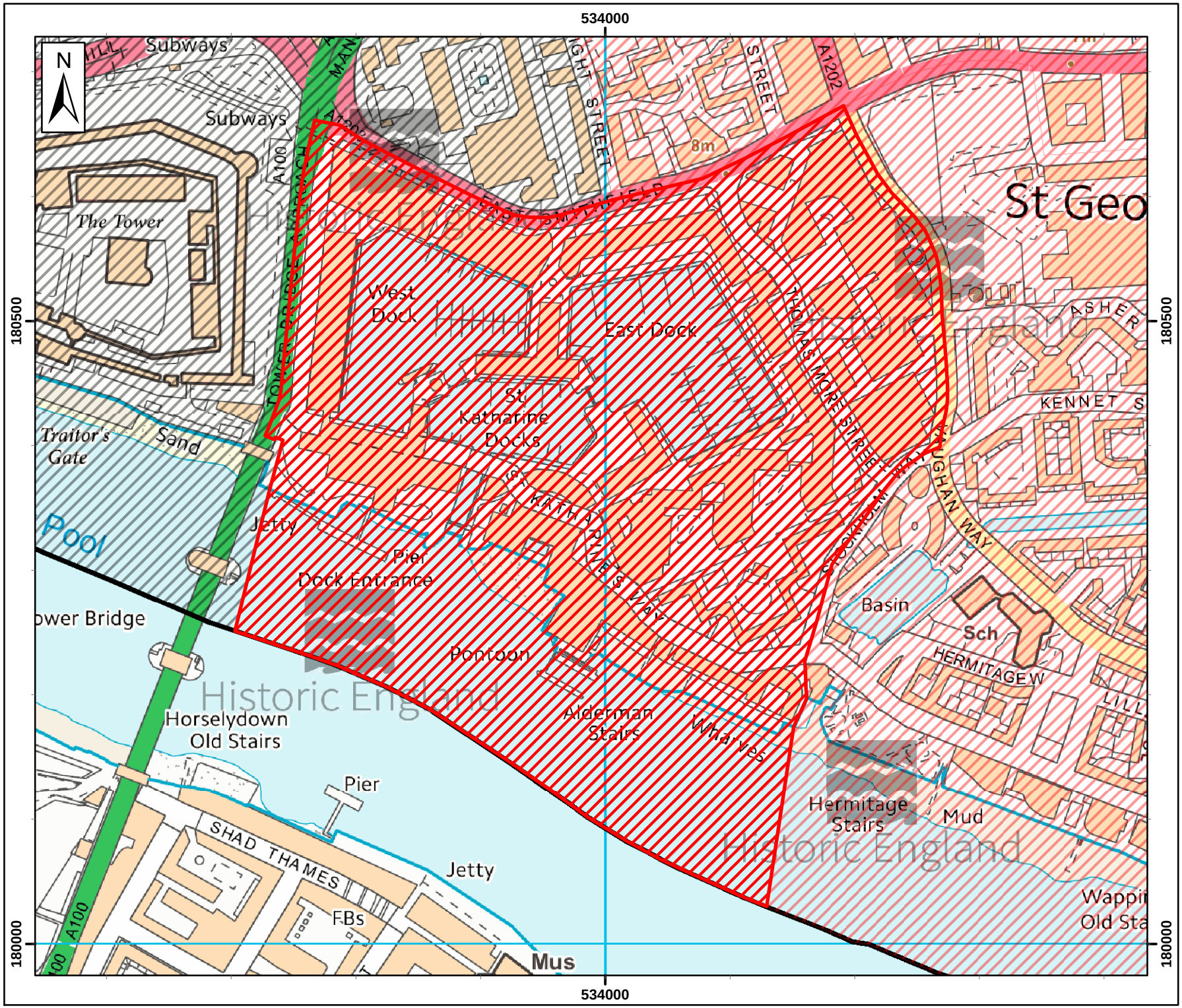
Whitechapel has industrial archaeological interest from its history or early urbanisation and the APA includes the site of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry as well as breweries, refineries, abattoirs and distilleries.

Significance

The area preserves evidence of activity from the Roman period onwards and can inform on the early urbanisation of London's suburbs alongside the demographic information contained in its cemeteries.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977



Tower Hamlets APA 2.10
St Katharine's Docks

St Katharine's Docks APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.10: St Katharine's Docks

Summary and Definition

The APA covers the extent of the medieval hospital of St Katharine's by the Tower along with the later St Katharine's Docks which replaced it, as well as immediate surroundings and the Thames foreshore to the south. The area is a Tier 2 APA because it includes these two specific undesignated heritage assets.

Description

A Roman spearhead find is recorded from St Katharine's Hospital which was founded in 1147 by Queen Matilda. Its chapel was a Royal Peculiar with its patrons the Queens of England. At the Reformation it became a Protestant house and continued to operate until 1825 when the buildings were demolished and the house moved elsewhere.

St Katharine's Docks which replaced it were designed by Thomas Telford and closed in 1968. They consisted of two linked basins and used steam engines designed by Watt and Boulton to maintain the water level in them. The Red Lion Brewery (initially operating as the Kings' Brewhouse) represented an industry from the 15th century through to the 1930s, stood in the south-east of the APA

A significant length of Thames foreshore from Tower Bridge to Hermitage Basin is also included in the APA. Riverside features including mooring bollards and jetties are recorded as well as finds of discarded or lost items from all periods.

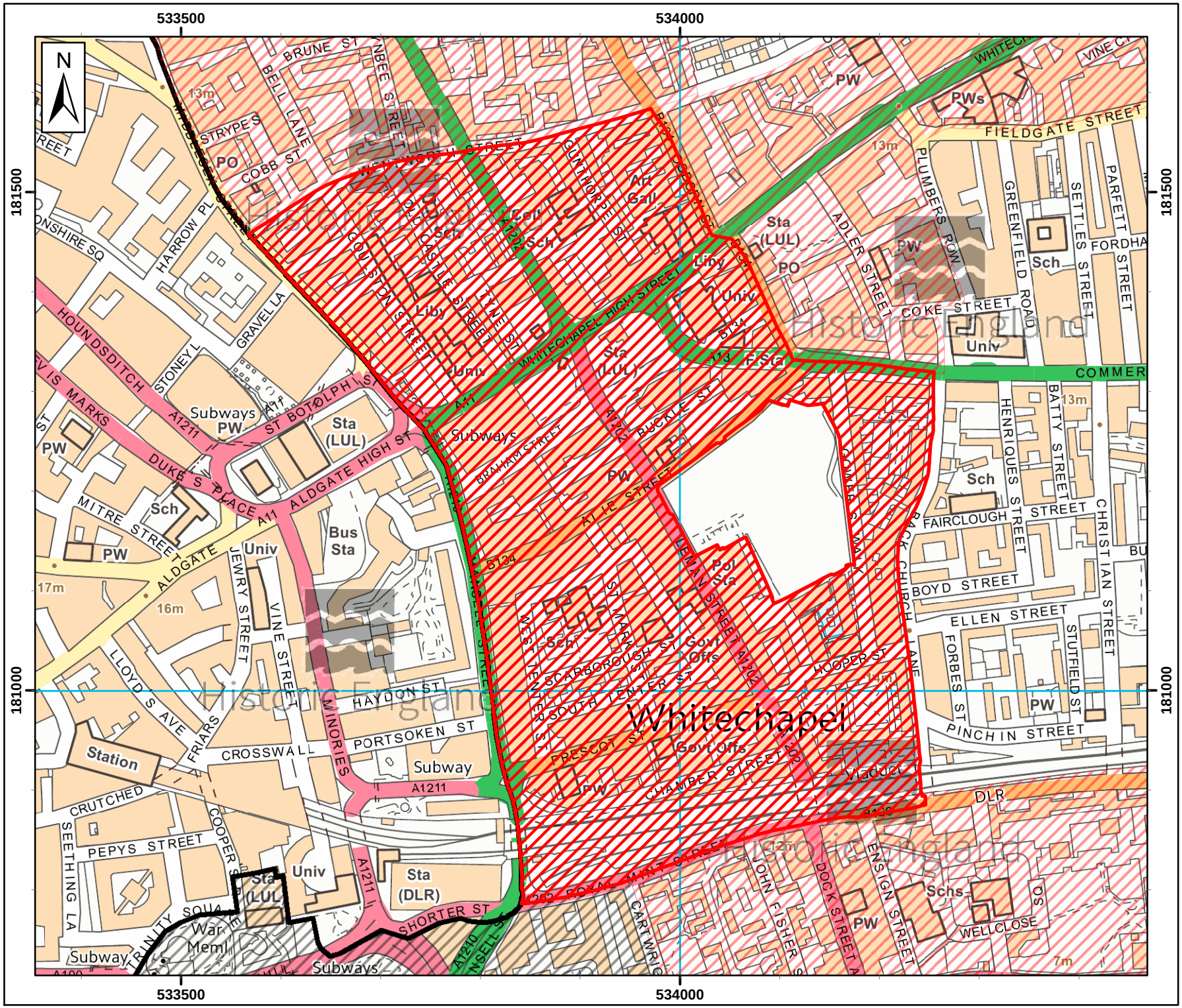
Significance

Fragments of the Hospital and its burial ground lay outside the dock excavations and may survive although overall the hospital will have been very heavily damaged by the dock construction. As at neighbouring Wapping, the highest potential is for industrial archaeology relating to the post medieval development of London. This is predominately related to the docks and commerce, but also includes brewing.

Timber structures and artefacts may survive along the Thames foreshore, with the possibility that they are associated either with St Katharine's Hospital or the Tower of London as it lies only a short distance upstream.

Key References

*A History of the County of London: Volume 1, London Within the Bars, Westminster and Southwar*k, pp 525-530 Chapter 21 - Victoria County History, London, 1909



Tower Hamlets APA 2.11
Aldgate and Portsoken

Scale (at A4): 1:5,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.11: Aldgate and Portsoken

Summary and Definition

The Aldgate and Portsoken APA covers Roman London's eastern cemetery and one of the City's post-medieval industrial suburbs. It excludes the Goodmans Fields site, which has been comprehensively redeveloped and investigated. It is a Tier 2 APA because it contains a known a Roman cemetery and an area of post medieval settlement and industry.

Description

Roman London's eastern cemetery was located in the western portion of the APA and replaced earlier Roman gravel quarrying. The eastern cemetery dates form the later 1st century AD and inhumations continued throughout the Roman period. Notable grave finds include the millefiore glass bowl from Prescott Street. The cemetery appears to have developed only on the south side of the Colchester road.

Portsoken was the name given to the strip of open land maintained by the later Saxons along the eastern edge of the City wall either side of Aldgate and was defended by a group called the Cnightengild under a liberty known as a soke. Land further east was farmed as Goodman's Fields and belonged to the Abbey of St Clare at Minories. The Austin Friars acquired Portsoken in 1108.

During the 17th century the area became industrialised and was the site of glass, brick and pipemaking as well as further quarrying which has removed some earlier remains.

The east of the APA includes the site of the private Sheen's burial ground (1776-1856).

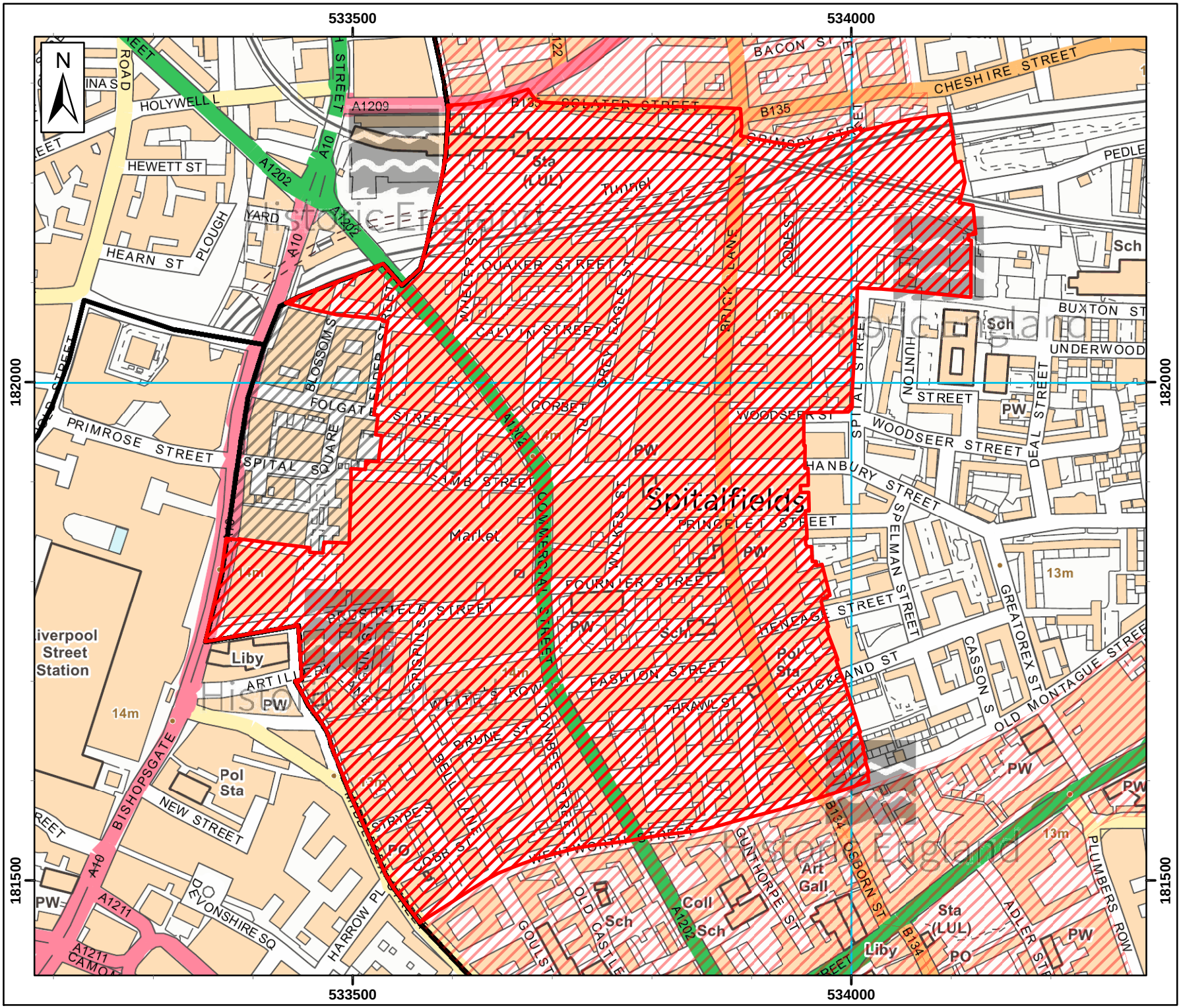
The south of the APA includes the modern DLR line which replaced the site of the Midland Railway's City Goods station (1862-1951).

Significance

The area preserves evidence of extramural activity from the Roman period onwards including an extensive cemetery with potential to inform on Roman burial practices and demographics. It also contains evidence of the early industrial development of London in the post medieval era.

Key References

The Eastern Cemetery of Roman London Excavations 1983-1990, B. Barber and D. Bowdler, MoLAS/English Heritage, 2000



Tower Hamlets APA 2.12
Spitalfields and Brick Lane

Spitalfields and Brick Lane APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:5,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.12: Spitalfields and Brick Lane

Summary and Definition

The APA extends north from Wentworth Street to Sclater Street and is fringed by the boundary with the City and Hackney in the west and the rear of the properties fronting Brick Lane to the east. It is a Tier 2 APA for its potential to contain multiperiod remains peripheral to the Tier 1 remains of St Mary Spital and also Roman burials from the Ermine Street cemetery and evidence of London's urban and industrial development.

Although the 18th century city extended further east than the eastern boundary of the APA, there has been extensive post-war development in Mile End New Town that limits archaeological potential.

Description

Spitalfields lay outside the Roman city and was used for quarrying and possibly industrial use in the early Roman period until given over to burial. Rare Roman glassworking evidence was excavated from Spitafields in the 1980s, unique in London.

Its name derives from it forming the lands belonging to St Mary's Hospital and appears to have been fields, tenter grounds and gardens until the 17th century when streets and houses began to be laid out and occupied by Huguenot weavers and later Jewish and other immigrant populations.

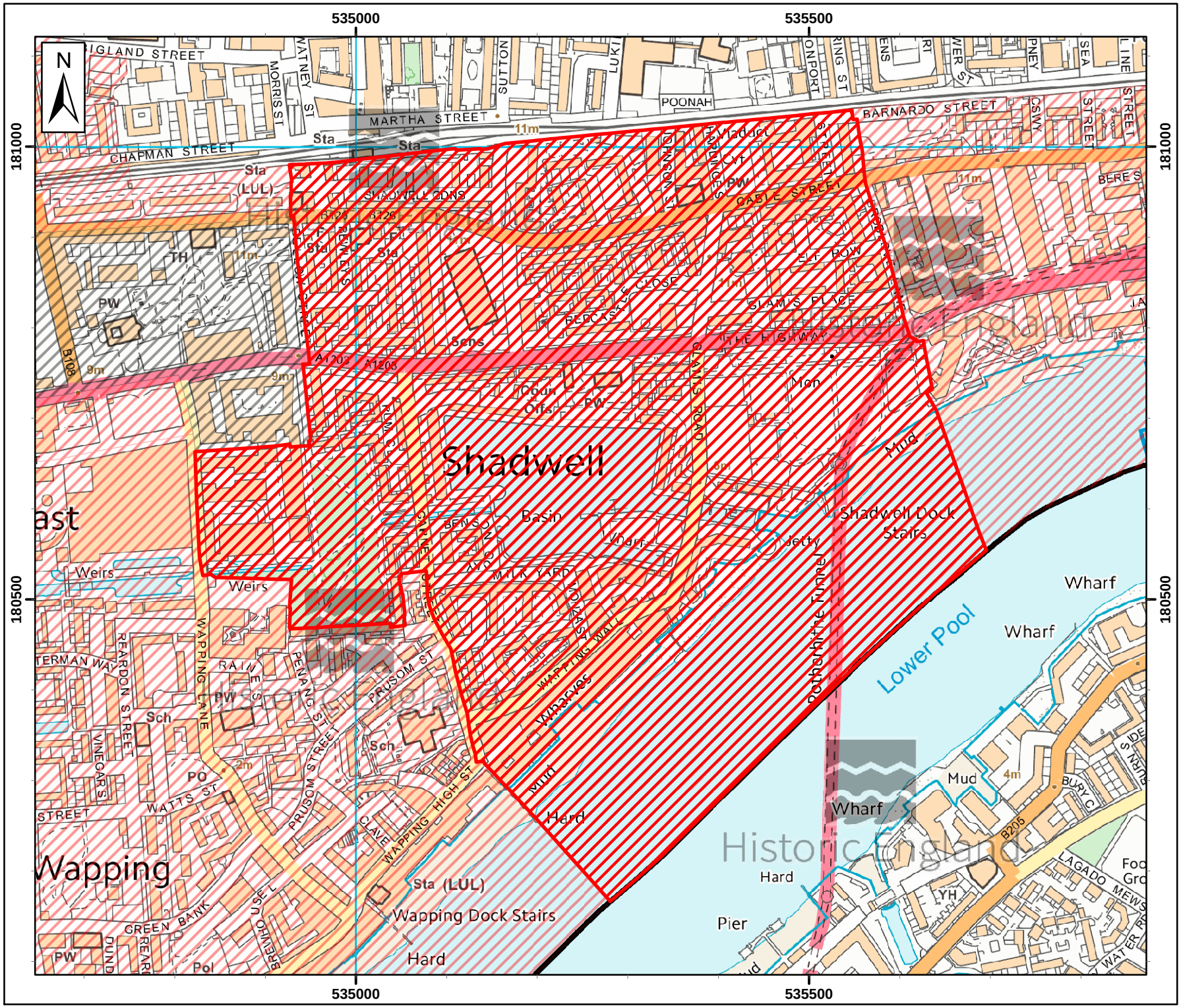
In 1729 a cemetery was founded for Christ Church Spitalfields on Fournier Street. It contained 68,000 burials with a high proportion of Huguenots. The church's vaults were cleared and archaeologically examined the 1980s. Closed in 1892, it is now a park.

The core of St Mary Spital is contained within APA 1.3. However, peripheral activity is likely to extend into the area of this APA.

Brick Lane was a site of quarrying and brickmaking and later other industries including the extensive Trueman's Brewery.

Significance

The area preserves evidence of extramural activity from the Roman period onwards and remains have the potential to provide information on London's various discrete populations, urban development and industrialisation over recent centuries.



Tower Hamlets APA 2.13
Shadwell

Shadwell APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:5,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.13: Shadwell

Summary and Definition

The Shadwell APA covers the historic settlement of Shadwell as well as Shadwell Basin and the Thames foreshore. It lies adjacent to Shadwell Roman settlement (APA 1.4) and is classified as Tier 2 due to the age of the post-Roman settlement and the potential for multiperiod remains.

Description

The excavation of Shadwell Basin as one of the London docks c. 1830 revealed a prehistoric forest.

Antiquarian records of Roman burials and grave goods have been made near King David Lane and Redcastle Close at the former Sun Tavern Fields and near Shadwell Basin. These fringe the Roman route of The Highway which bisects the APA.

A Saxon spearhead was recovered in Shadwell and a medieval watermill was located in the settlement according to a 14th century inspection of the estates belonging to St Paul's.

Industrial archaeological potential exists along the riverside and around Shadwell Basin including warehousing, cooperages, mills, dry docks and breweries.

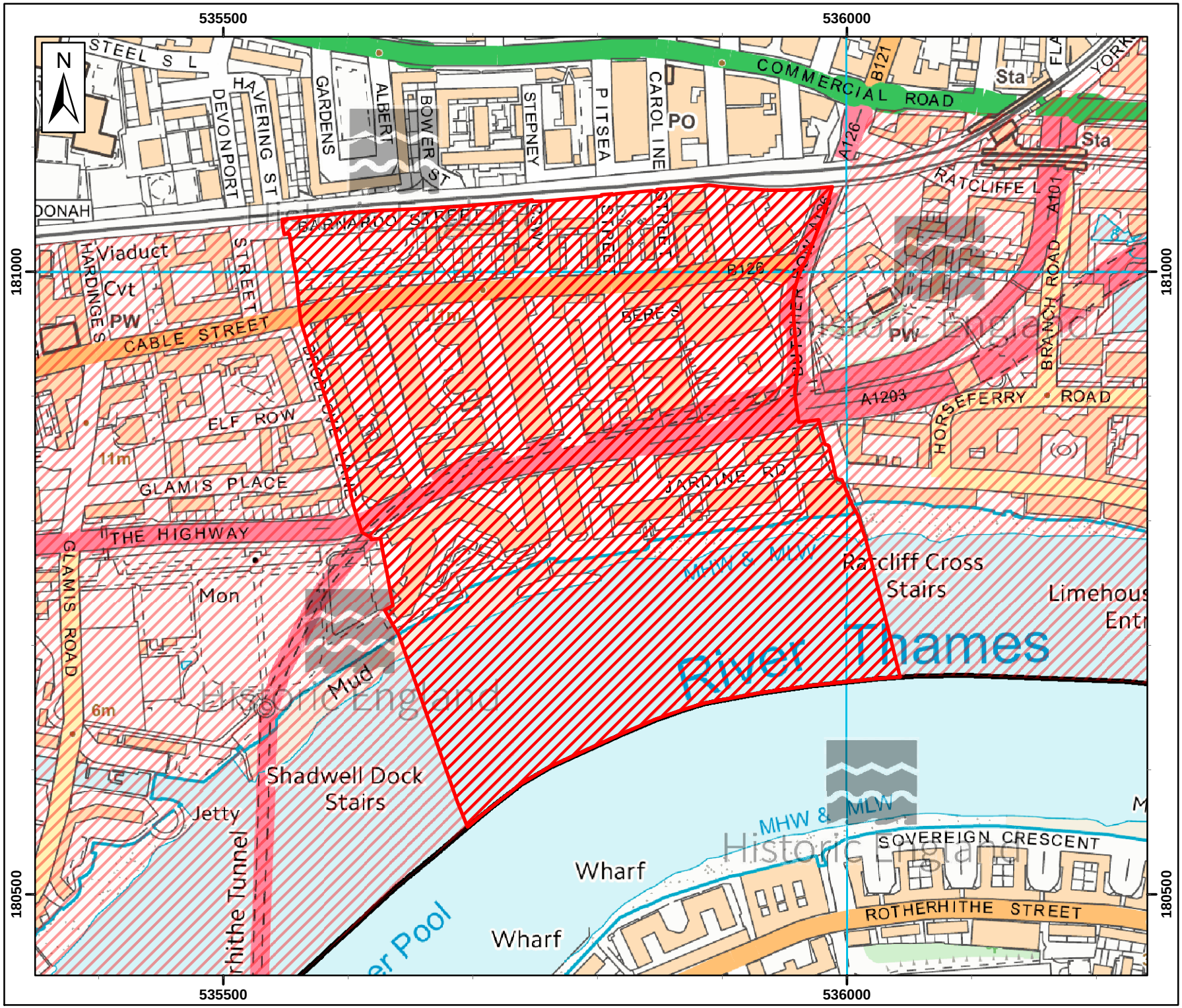
The post medieval cemeteries of St Paul's (1671-1886) just north of the Basin and the Polish Catholic cemetery of Our Lady of Czestochowa and Casimir (1856-1930), just north of the Highway are within the APA.

Significance

There is potential to better define the early prehistory and palaeoenvironment of the Thames at this point. Roman remains have the potential to help us better understand *Londinium*'s extra-mural settlement and Roman and medieval activity may survive in patches but later evidence of the industrialisation and mercantile growth of London is likely to be more common. Possibly The Highway led to a riverside settlement east of that at the neighbouring Shadwell Tier 1 APA and which may be present in this APA.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977



Tower Hamlets APA 2.14
Ratcliff

Ratcliff APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.14: Ratcliff

Summary and Definition

The Ratcliff APA covers the historic settlement of Ratcliffe as well as its Thames foreshore. It is classified as Tier 2 due to the age of the settlement which dates from at least the establishment of the medieval Ratcliffe Cross and is likely earlier.

Description

There is limited prehistoric material from the APA but Neolithic and Bronze Age peat was identified during construction of the Limehouse Link.

Ratcliff (derived from Red Cliff) was likely an elevated spot at the Thames and therefore a dry point of access to the river, unlike the surrounding marsh. Butcher Row and White Horse Lane lead north to Saxon Stepney and are dated to the middle ages by the HER. Ratcliff may either be the "hythe" of Stybba, from which Stepney's place name derives or it may be a later point of access to the Thames following changes to river levels in the early middle ages.

The Roman route of The Highway crosses the APA and Ratcliff has been suggested as having hosted a similar settlement to that at Shadwell by both antiquarian and later writers. This is currently only supported by a Roman tile find from Butcher Row.

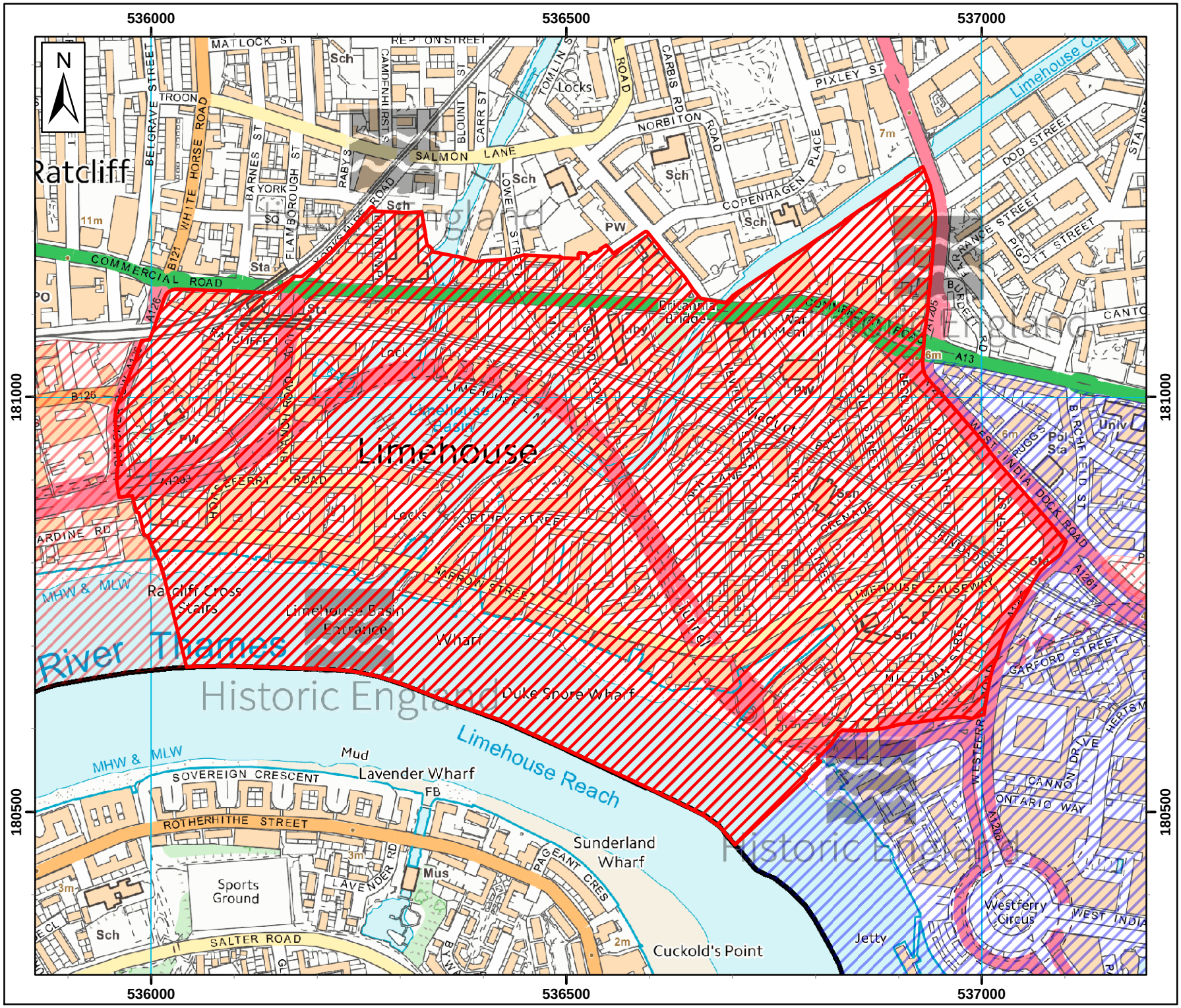
Ratcliffe Cross was erected at the junction of Butcher Row and The Highway during the middle ages. Industrial archaeological potential exists along the riverside and around the historic glassworking at Glasshouse Fields and from the sugar refinery at Butcher Row. Within the APA are the post medieval Quaker cemetery on Cable Street which opened in 1666 and closed in 1916 and St James's Churchyard on Butcher Row which operated from 1838 to 1891 and is now a park.

Significance

There is potential to better define the question of Roman activity in the area especially in terms of the terminus of The Highway and what it represents. Also there is a need to understand the origins and the development of the medieval Ratcliffe settlement. Evidence of the industrial and mercantile growth of London is also likely to be present.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977



Tower Hamlets APA 2.15
Limehouse

- Limehouse APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.15: Limehouse

Summary and Definition

The Limehouse APA lies along the Thames between Butcher Row and West India Dock Road and Westferry Road, its northern boundary is just to the north of Commercial Road. It encompasses the historic settlement of Limehouse as well as Limehouse Dock and Limehouse DLR. It is classified as a Tier 2 APA for its potential to contain remains of the commercial and industrial development of Limehouse as well as proposed Roman activity.

Description

During the Roman period, the Limehouse area was located c. 2.5km east of the Roman settlement of *Londinium* and c. 1.5km from the Roman bathhouse at Shadwell (see APA1.04). The Highway, an east-west orientated Roman road possibly passed through the Limehouse area and it should not be discounted that Roman roadside activity may exist.

Aside from residual material found along the Limehouse shoreline there is a lack of evidence for activity during the Saxon period, whilst in addition Limehouse was not recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Limehouse is first recorded in 1367 as 'le Lymostes', a name derived from the lime kilns which had been established at Limekiln Dock by 1363. The character of Limehouse during the medieval period was determined by its growth as a riverside strip development with commerce focused around maritime trade.

The foreshore between Narrow Street and the River Thames was reclaimed in the late 16th century, with wharves constructed during the late 16th and early 17th century. Archaeological investigations in the area have revealed evidence of post medieval buildings and foreshore development, which include in situ evidence of revetments, wharf deposits and ship fitting. The commercial and industrial nature of the area during the post medieval period is well attested and remains evident in many of the street names which survive today.

During the 1740s, the Limehouse porcelain factory on Narrow Street produced some of the first porcelain in England which became known as Limehouse ware.

Waterways connecting the River Thames with Regent's Canal Lock were constructed in the 19th century. One of London's early immigrant populations settled the area from China during this time and may have left archaeological traces.

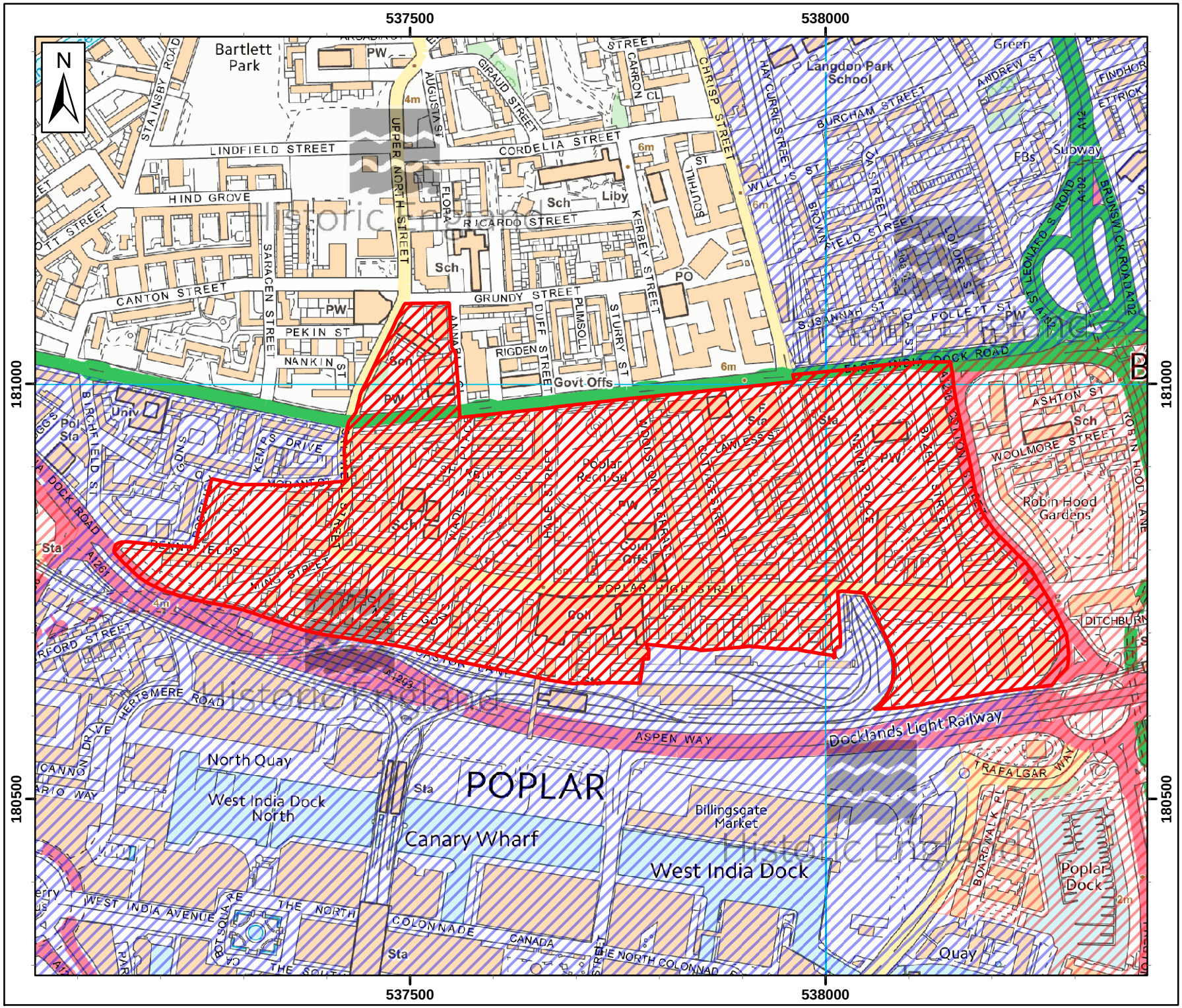
Sources indicate that Limehouse suffered considerable damage during World War Two bombing raids with the central-east section of the APA being particularly affected. As a consequence of the damage the modern street pattern in this area owes little to the preceding post medieval streetscape. Limehouse Link was constructed during the latter part of the 20th century and despite bypassing the core of the Limehouse APA, the eastern extent will have been disturbed during the construction of the tunnel.

Significance

The Limehouse APA offers much archaeological potential, particularly with regards to the presence of in situ archaeological remains of medieval and post medieval date and industrial archaeology from the 19th century. Specifically, remains of maritime services and wharves, pottery manufacture and evidence of early modern immigration may be expected.

Key References

Lysons, D. 1795. 'Limehouse', in The Environs of London: Volume 3, County of Middlesex (London, 1795), pp. 236-241. British History Online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-environs/vol3/pp236-241



Tower Hamlets APA 2.16
Poplar

Poplar APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.16: Poplar

Summary and Definition

The Poplar APA covers the historic settlement of Poplar. It is classified as Tier 2 because it is a settlement with medieval origins.

Description

Poplar is believed to date from the medieval period as its name is first attested in 1327. There is evidence of settlement from the 17th century but the High Street is likely to have developed along a medieval marsh wall or causeway with associated land reclamation dating from the 15th century.

9-11 Poplar High Street preserved evidence of a 17th century malting house and pub. From the development of Blackwall Yard in 1614, the settlement became closely linked with seafaring and commerce.

Poplar Workhouse stood between 1757 and 1960 to the south of the High Street, replacing an earlier building on the north side built in 1735.

The APA extends north of East India Dock Road in one area to encompass the cemetery of Trinity Congregational Chapel. It also includes Wade's Place (1801-1899) Catholic cemetery, St Matthias' churchyard (1657-1977) and All Saints Poplar's cemetery (1823-1893) and its neighbouring cholera burial ground.

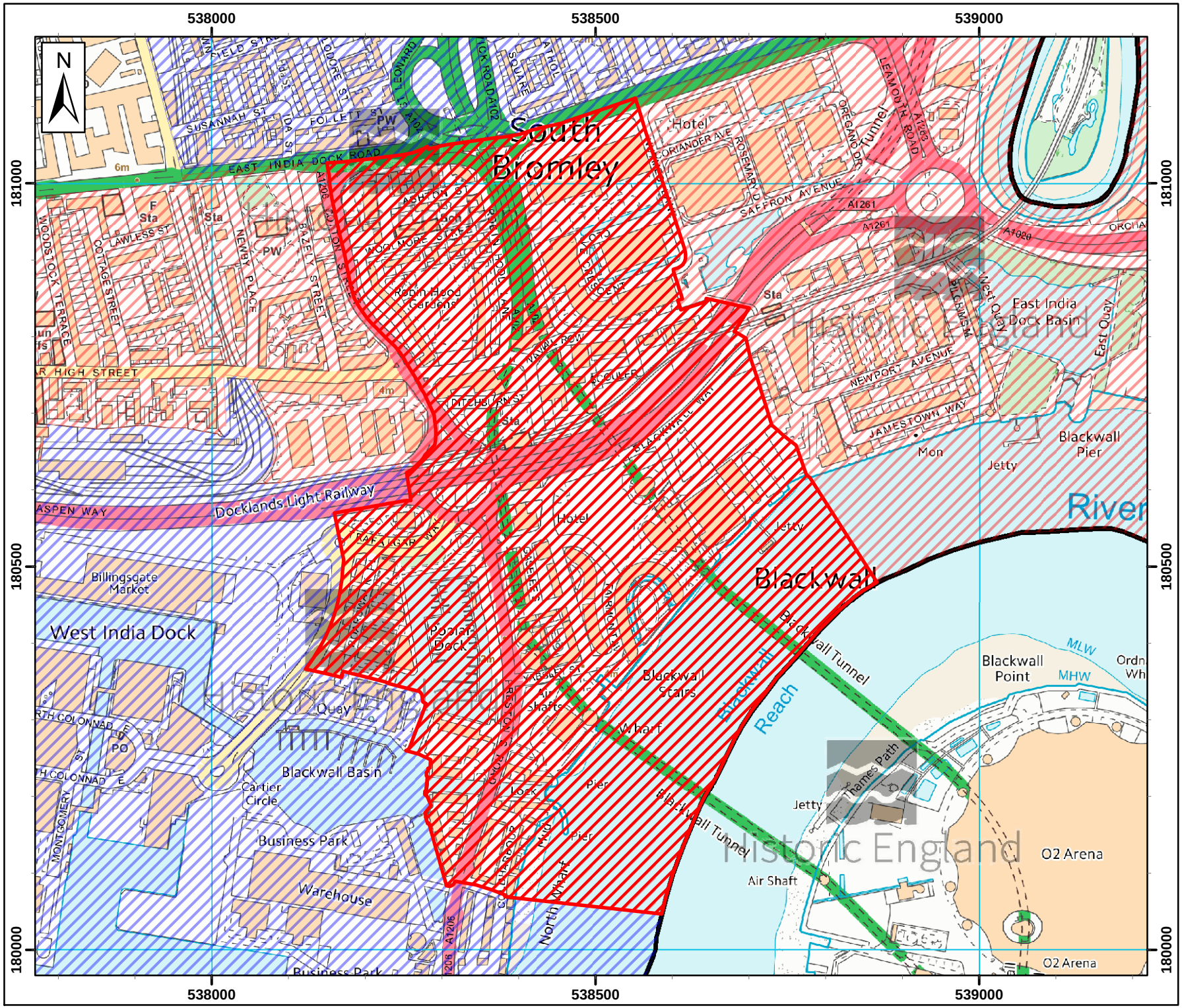
Significance

Poplar contains a number of historic burial grounds and evidence of the development of settlements and flood defences associated with the distinctive seafaring and related commercial communities in the area from the middle ages onwards is likely to be preserved beneath made ground as encountered at, for example, Robin Hood Gardens.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977

Survey of London: Volumes 43 and 44, Poplar, Blackwall and Isle of Dogs.



Tower Hamlets APA 2.17
Blackwall

Blackwall APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.17: Blackwall

Summary and Definition

The APA is defined by Managers Street and Lovegrove Walk to the south and properties fronting the eastern side of Lancaster Drive to the south-east. The eastern and north-east boundary of the APA circumnavigates the eastern extent of Blackwall Basin and the western extent of Poplar Dock, with the southern edge of Aspen Way defining the western projection of the APA.

The course of Prestons Road and Cotton Street mark the northern continuation with East India Dock Road defining the northern extent of the APA. Nutmeg Lane, the rear of properties fronting the western edge of John Smith Mews and the eastern boundary of Blackwell Yard define the eastern extern of the APA. The remaining part of the APA is composed by the River Thames.

Description

Whilst palaeoenvironmental evidence of Palaeolithic date has been recorded in the Blackwall area, there is a general lack of evidence for human activity at this time. In contrast, significant evidence of occupation and settlement dating from the late Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age has been found in Blackwall with the increase in activity related to a drop in sea-level, the formation of extensive peat marshes along the Thames and the creation of an economically attractive environment for prehistoric groups. An excavation conducted at Yabsley Street encountered an early Neolithic burial radiocarbon dated to 4220-3979 cal BC, whilst environmental analysis of nearby peat deposits suggest that arable farming was occurring within the vicinity at a contemporary time. Although largely supposed, the evidence does suggest that a Neolithic settlement may have existed in the Blackwall area.

Sea levels rose during the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age and the Thames floodplain became uninhabitable. Settlement located on the floodplain is likely to have shifted further to the north onto the gravel terrace, whilst the low lying floodplains would have been economically attractive for exploitation. Evidence relating to the exploitation of the intertidal zone is known from the Blackwall area with the remains of timber trackways and organic artefacts surviving in waterlogged deposits of this date.

A medieval settlement at Blackwall is named by the 14th century and developed along a single street, known as 'Blackwall', and 'Blackwell Stairs', a slipway and staircase leading to the River Thames. The wall element of the name 'Blackwall' may be a reference to flood defences built between the River Thames and riverside marshes, i.e. an earthen bank. A number of medieval tidal mills were interspersed across the riverside marshes and remained in place until the 16th century.

Land reclamation and consolidation of the flood defences was undertaken during the 16th century and a proposal to construct a barrier across the river at Blackwall to prevent Spanish ships reaching the capital was put forward during the Spanish Armada. Robert Adams's map of the Thames of 1588 shows a barrier and a star-shaped fort at Blackwall although there is no evidence to indicate that the fort was built.

The Thames shoreline was of great importance to the development of Blackwall with Blackwall named as the most expensive anchorage along the Thames by the late 17th century. Shipbuilding, ship-repairs and other associated industries had been of importance to the area during from the late 15th century and in 1614 the East India Company's principal shipyard was built at Blackwall. Residential development associated with the shipyard was constructed during the 1620s and 1630s and continued throughout the 17th century as demand for labour in the area increased.

In 1652 the East India Company sold Blackwall Yard to the shipwright Henry Johnson and the principal ship yard eventually fell into decline in 1718. The decline of the shipyard caused great poverty in Blackwall and the area did not substantially expand until the construction of the East India Docks at the beginning of the 19th century. A number of inns had existed at Blackwall throughout the post medieval period and by the first half of the 19th century, Blackwall had at least nine inns, five of them sited along the riverfront.

The London and Blackwall Railway was formed in 1836, with the line opened in 1840 and incorporative of the Eastern Counties and Thames Junction Railway by the 1850s. By the latter decades of the 19th century the area had fallen into decline and much of 'Old Blackwall' was cleared for the construction of the Blackwall Tunnel, the first bore of which was undertaken in 1897.

The importance of the London Docks and the associated industrial areas of East London was highlighted during the Blitz of the Second World War.

There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks or Conservation Areas located within the APA. However, a number of Listed Buildings are designated and include structural elements of East India Docks as well as a number of other docks located within the Archaeological Priority Area.

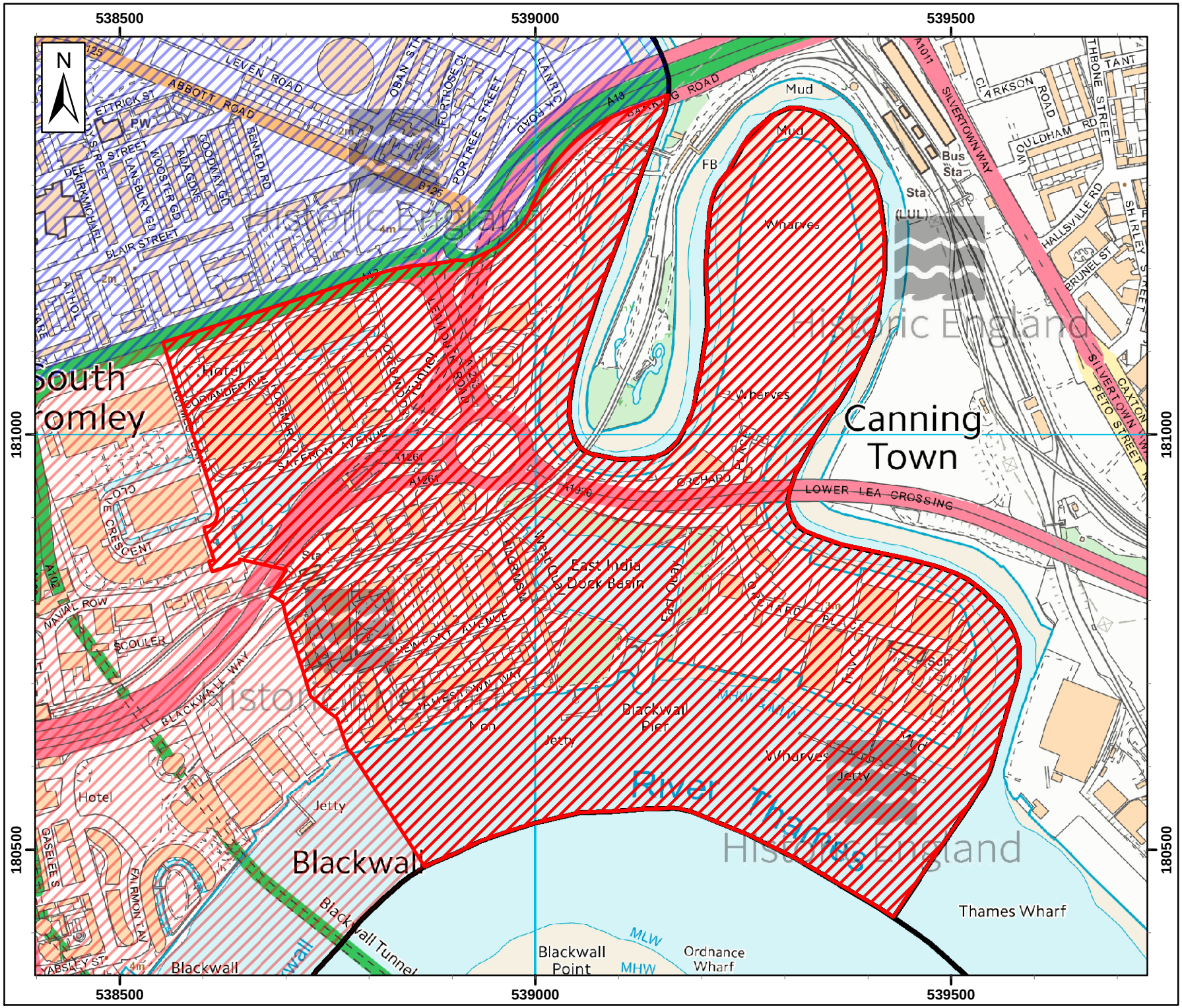
Significance

The Neolithic remains at Yabsley Street are of at least regional significance and indicate the potential for further survival from the period nearby. The area preserves remains of Blackwall's significant industrial and commercial power from the middle ages until the 19th century. Important palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological deposits are also expected.

Key References

Hobhouse, H. 1994. 'Old Blackwall', in *Survey of London: Volumes 43 and 44, Poplar, Blackwall and Isle of Dogs*, pp. 548-552. *British History Online*

Saunders, A. (Ed) 2005. The London County Council Bomb Damage Maps 1939-1945. London: London Topographical Society.



Tower Hamlets APA 2.18
Limmo

- Limmo APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:6,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.18: Limmo

Summary and Definition

The Limmo Archaeological Priority Area occupies the west bank of the mouth of the River Lea and that river's confluence with the Thames. It comprises two peninsulae created by meanders in the Lea and fronts the Thames to its south. The area saw the establishment of numerous industries from the 18th century onwards and the made ground beneath it is likely to preserve earlier remains, including those of geoarchaeological interest.

The Limmo Archaeological Priority Area has been classified as Tier 2 because it was also an extensive area of historic industry in the medieval and post medieval periods.

Description

Surviving prehistoric features in this area are likely to be deeply buried due to thick layers of made ground that have been deposited on top of them over the centuries. A fossil forest and elephant tooth encountered during the excavations for East India Dock Basin in the 19th century represents the Palaeolithic climate and environmental evidence preserved at depth within the APA.

Finds of Bronze Age axe and sword were made in the APA during the early 20th century and Roman pottery is recorded from the western edge, close to Blackwall.

A reference to a mill in Domesday may refer to a site at the confluence of the Lea and Thames but the area was likely mostly grazing marsh during the early middle ages.

12th century records attest to flood defences being created in the APA and a moated orchard and house within the APA known as Orchard House in the 16th century may have its roots in a medieval manor.

The Lea was a major communications route into the 20th century and used for the transport of goods northwards to Hertfordshire. Its commercial role is reflected in the siting of the now mostly-infilled East India Docks within the APA.

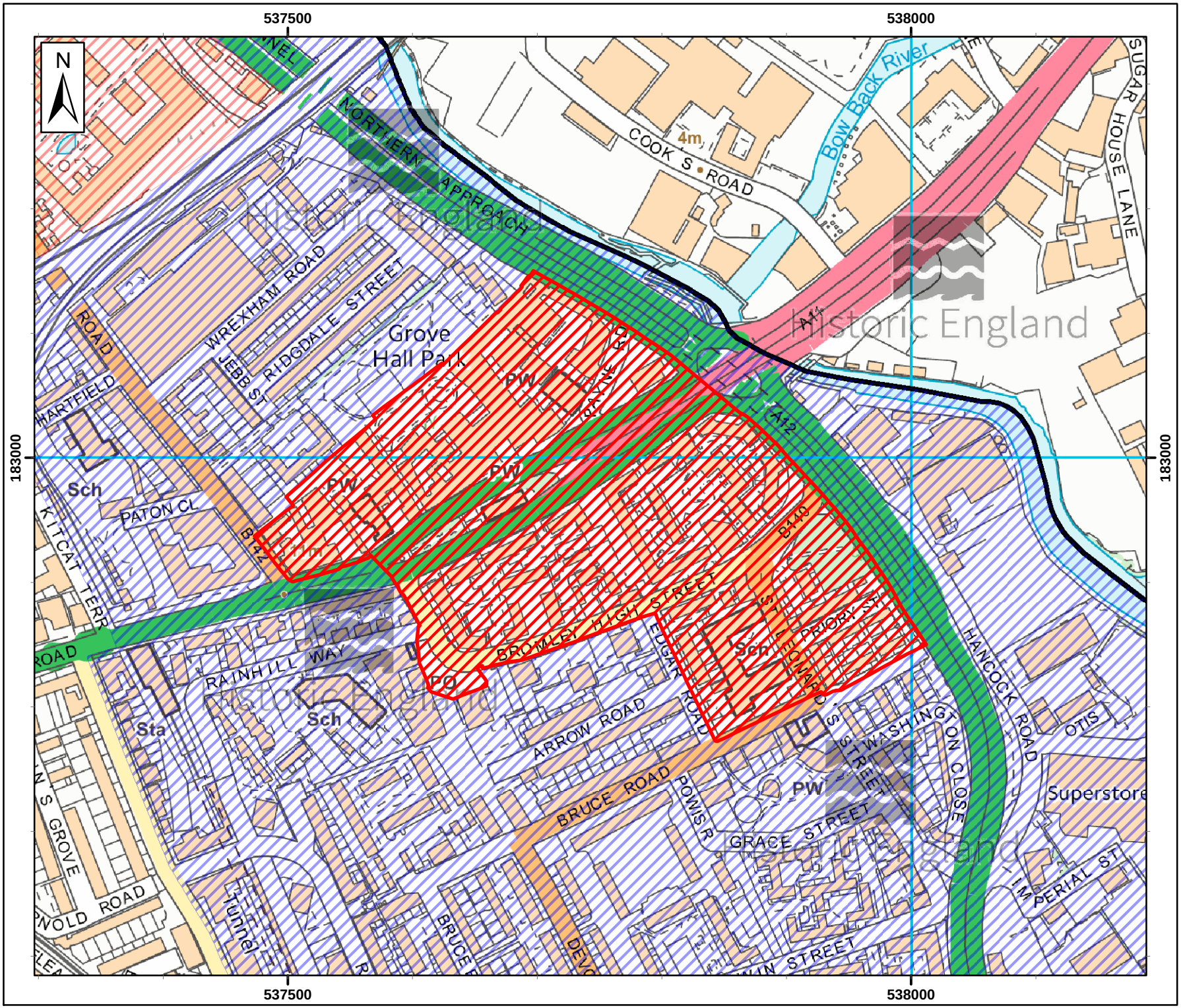
A shipbuilding and breaking industry developed around Orchard House during the 18th and 19th centuries, likely as an extension of the industry at Blackwall. By the 1830s, the shipbuilding presence was significant and included the excavation of a wet dock. In 1857, the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company acquired much of the Limmo peninsula, later expanding across the Lea to occupy a site in Essex as well.

Significance

There is extensive palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological potential to reconstruct past environments and landscapes, even in areas truncated by dock excavation. Industrial archaeological remains relating to known significant engineering projects and other Victorian development in the area are very likely.

Key References

Mapping past landscapes in the lower Lea Valley – a geoarchaeological study of the Quaternary sequence, J. Corcoran, C. Halsey, G. Spurr et al, MoLA, 2011


537500
538000
183000
N
Bow Back River
COOK S ROAD
SUGAR HOUSE LANE
NORTHERN APPROACH
A12
A11
A13
A14
A15
A16
A17
A18
A19
A20
A21
A22
A23
A24
A25
A26
A27
A28
A29
A30
A31
A32
A33
A34
A35
A36
A37
A38
A39
A40
A41
A42
A43
A44
A45
A46
A47
A48
A49
A50
A51
A52

Tower Hamlets 2.19: Bow

Summary and Definition

The Bow Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic settlement and surrounds of Bromley-by-Bow, centring on Bow Road.

The Bow Archaeological Priority Area has been classified as Tier 2 as a historic settlement.

Description

Bow developed from the earlier Lea-side manor of Bromley to the south in the 12th century. Its origins derive from the shift in the alignment of the main road running east from London, from Old Ford southwards. This realignment dates to c1100 when the Bow Bridge was built, replacing the ford. It faced Stratford across the river and was originally known as Stratford at Bowe.

By the 14th century, Bow as a settlement was distinct from Stratford and from older Bromley to the south and had its own chapel of ease, St Mary's. Bow was severed from the parish of Stepney in 1719.

St Leonard's Priory was a house of Benedictine nuns at Bow first mentioned in 1122, just to the south east of the settlement. A poor foundation originally, it became fashionable during the 14th century and following the Dissolution, its Lady Chapel became the parish church of St Mary Stratford by Bow.

Its plan is not known and much of the site was demolished in 1634 and replaced, by MP Sir John Jacob, with a brick manor house and later cut through by the Northern Approach Road to the Blackwall Tunnel. However, the graveyard survives as a small park.

Remains of the later manor house, Bromley House were uncovered during the 1990s.

Other grand houses grew up in Bow during the 16th and 17th centuries and remains of some survive north of St Mary's Church. These include the home of Elizabethan naval hero Edmund, Lord Sheffield at 219 Bow Road.

The noted Bow China Works are across the borough boundary in Newham but grew up using bone ash from Bow's slaughterhouses serving London that stood on the west side of the Lea.

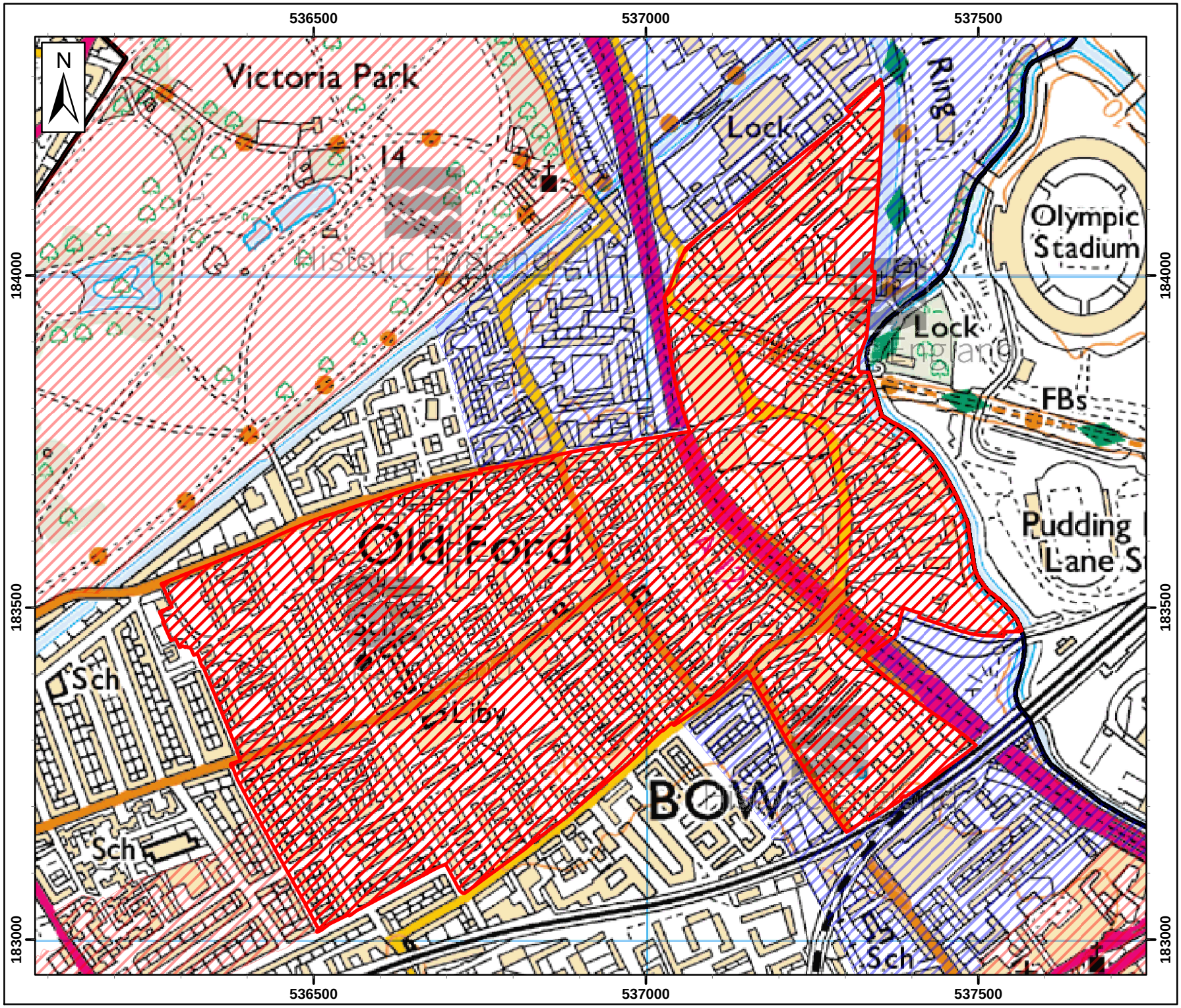
The partially cleared Payne Road Baptist Burial Ground survives at the APA.

Significance

The settlement at Bow preserves a wide range of medieval and post medieval settlement, commercial and religious activity and the development of it over 700 years.

Key References

Ashbee, CR, Survey of London: Volume 1, Bromley-By-Bow



Tower Hamlets APA 2.20
Old Ford

Old Ford APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:7,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.20: Old Ford

Summary and Definition

The Old Ford APA encompasses the known extent of a Roman settlement as well as its immediate surroundings and the likely location of the Roman river crossing over the Lea. It is a Tier 2 APA for its potential to contain evidence of Roman buildings, industry, burial and other activities as encountered in previous investigations.

Description

Some evidence of prehistoric activity has been found within the Old Ford Archaeological Priority Area, in particular during archaeological investigations at Lefevre Walk and Parnell Road. This includes an early prehistoric flint scatter and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. The Leaside portion of the APA contains palaeoenvironmental evidence and buried land surfaces from the early Holocene onwards.

The Roman road from London to Colchester passes through the Old Ford APA on an east-west orientation and its corridor is described in APA 2.22. The Roman road is broadly located beneath Roman Road, with sections of the road and its road-side ditches encountered during archaeological interventions along the course. The projected course of the road suggests that a crossing of the River Lea had once existed within the APA boundary.

Excavations at Crown Wharf Ironworks in the north-east of the APA uncovered Roman timber footings suggesting a jetty or bridge on the Lea. Herringbone masonry dredged from the river nearby in 1906 is interpreted as evidence of the Roman ford. A c. AD 200 gravel surface at Wick Lane and a coffin nearby along with cultivation soils and quarrying indicate extensive activity in the surrounds of the settlement, along the roadline.

Archaeological investigations undertaken alongside the projected frontages of the Roman road within Old Ford have produced evidence of associated roadside development, indicating that a Roman roadside settlement had existed at this location. Evidence relating to a Roman cemetery has also been found on a number of sites within the boundaries of the APA and further indicates that the area was occupied during the Roman period.

There is little evidence to suggest the Old Ford settlement continued in occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods and instead it is probable that the landscape served a largely agricultural use. In 1110, the new crossing of the Lea at Bow would have turned the old road through old Ford into a backwater. The retention of the alignment and location of the Roman road within the modern street pattern suggests that it would have remained evident within the landscape at this time, perhaps as a trackway passing through undeveloped, agricultural land.

Old Place, probably the same as the Gissing Place recorded in 1418, stood in the east of the APA and was known as King John's Palace during the 18th century when in ruins. Mills stood on the Lea during the Saxon period and middle ages and a fulling mill is recorded in 1355 at Old Ford, possibly the same as one also recorded in 1086.

The area was transformed during the 19th century with the construction a railway line and dense areas of terraced housing.

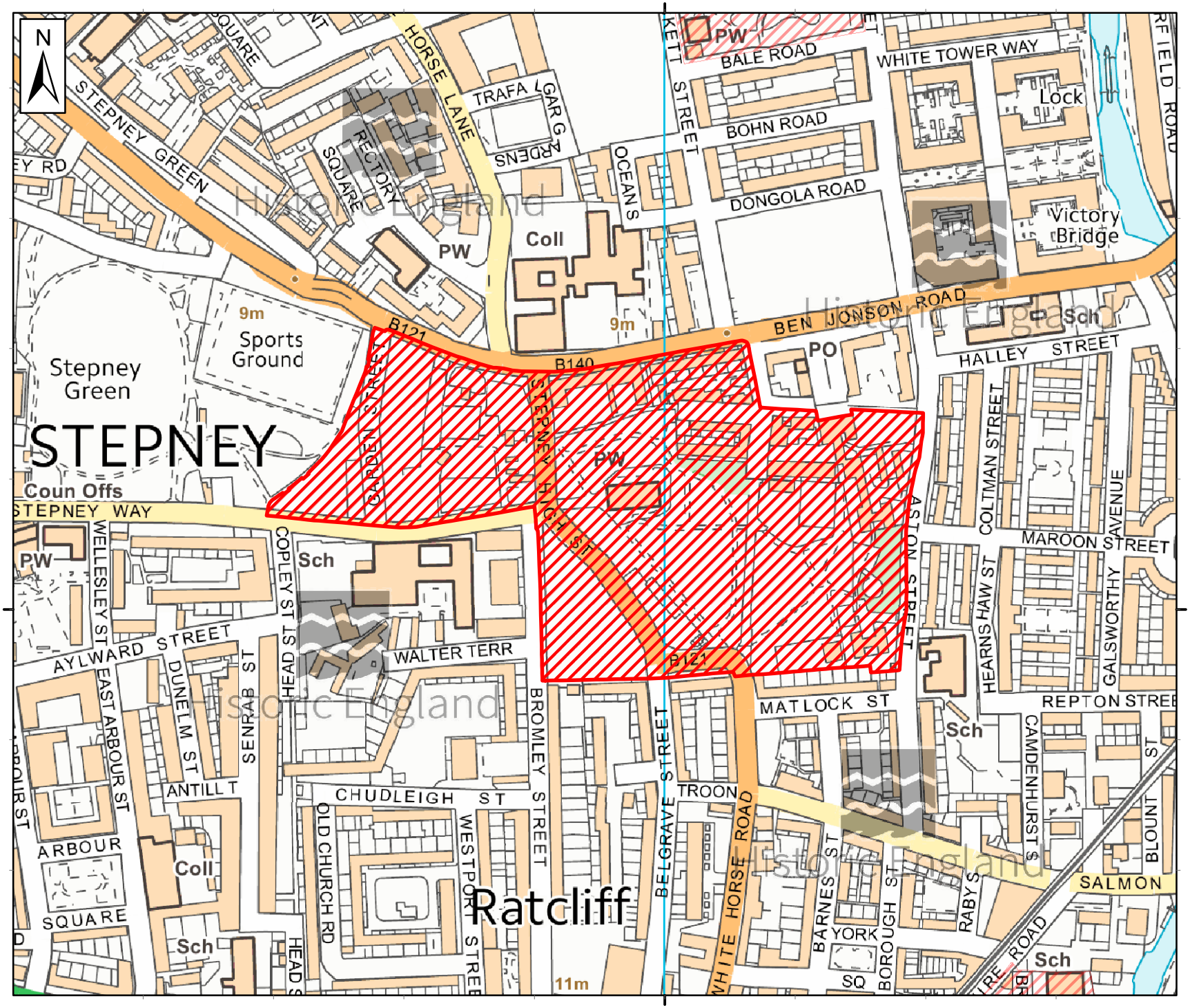
Significance

The Old Ford APA offers much archaeological potential, particularly relating to the development of the Roman settlement on the outskirts of London and the Roman river crossing as well as later occupation and activity along the Lea. Old Ford is one of a small number of such nucleated settlements alongside the main roads leading out of *Londinium* with others at Enfield (Ermine Street), Brockley Hill and Crayford (Watling Street) and Brentford (Silchester Road). Judging from the evidence of similar settlements outside Greater London these were larger than farmsteads and show evidence of deliberate planning. They can perhaps be compared with the small medieval market towns which often grew up on or near their sites a thousand years later. Further evidence of the extent, nature and form of these middle-order settlements could help understand the organisation of the landscape around *Londinium*, which is notable for the rarity of Roman villas which are found clustered around most other major Roman towns in the South and East of England.

Key References

Roman Roads in Britain, I. Margary, 1955

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, Inner London Archaeology Unit



Tower Hamlets APA 2.21
Stepney

- Stepney APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:4,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.21: Stepney

Summary and Definition

This APA covers the historic extent of Stepney. Stepney is classified as Tier 2 because it is a documented medieval rural settlement with evidence for prehistoric settlement underneath it.

Description

Stepney occupies a slight prominence in what was a surrounding marsh until the post medieval period.

Excavations on Stepney High Street during the 1970s identified late Bronze Age/early Iron Age remains that may represent a small settlement from the 7th or 8th century BC. White Horse Road and the High Street may represent the route of an early trackway from the river northwards. There is limited evidence for Roman activity.

Historical evidence suggests a 10th century foundation for a settlement at *Stybban Hythe,* including a Saxon Crucifixion relief in St Dunstan's Church. The Domesday Book records a large, valuable and unusually complicated *vill*, most of the elements of which were held directly or indirectly by the Bishop of London. Remarkably, seven mills were recorded, presumably reflecting a role supplying London with flour. Whilst the focus of the late Saxon settlement probably lay around the church within the APA it is likely that there were also outlying hamlets whilst the mills themselves would have been sited along the nearby rivers.

The medieval manor of Stepney was an extensive holding of the Bishop of London and by the 13th century it was a notable village at a desirable but convenient distance from London for the well-to-do. Tenements lined the High Street, White Horse Lane and Cable Street. In 1299 Edward I held a parliament in Stepney at the home of the Mayor of London.

The APA includes the remains of the moated late medieval and Tudor Worcester House, part excavated during Crossrail works.

Significance

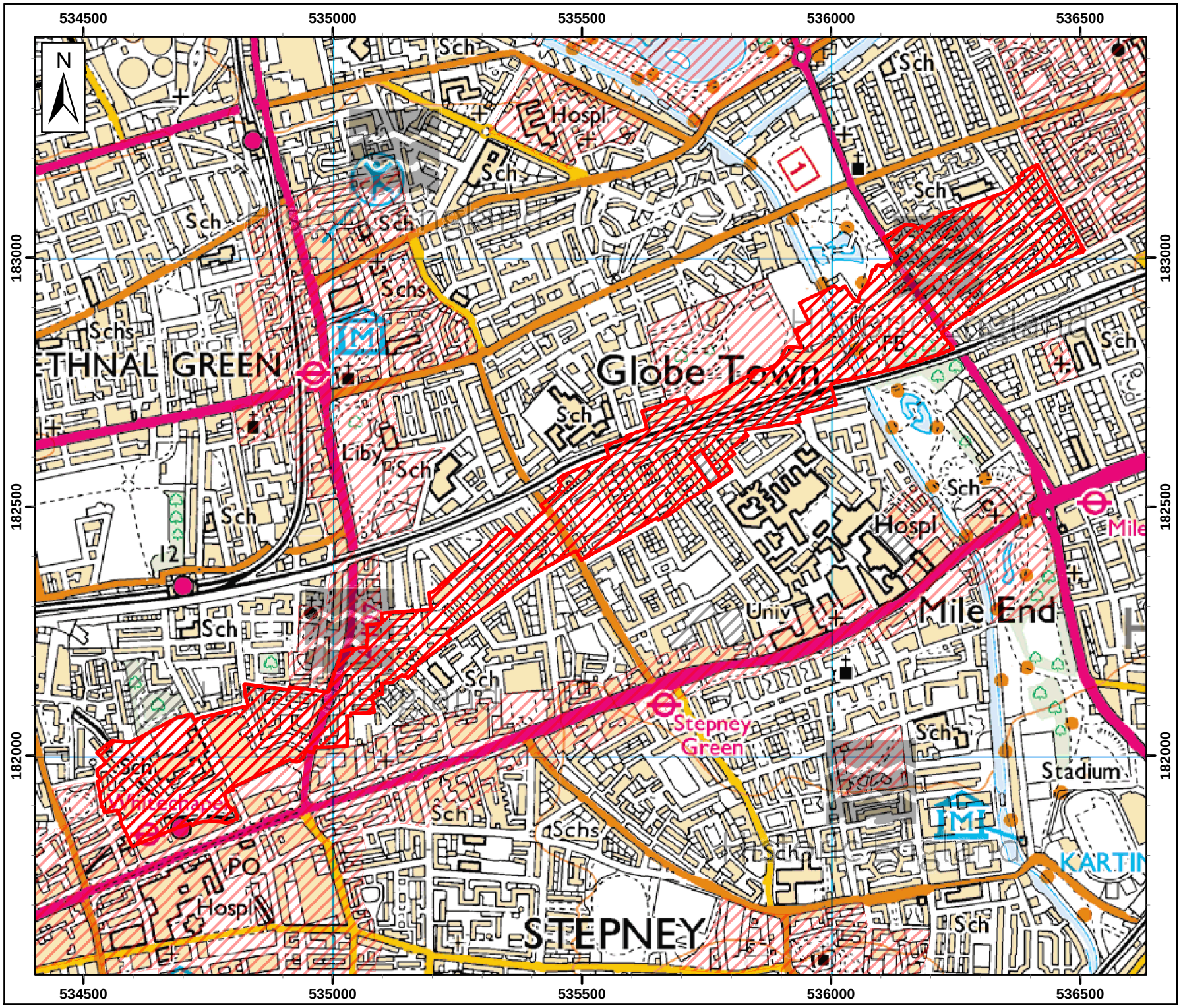
Stepney has potential for prehistoric remains but most significantly to provide evidence for the development of an important medieval settlement from its Saxon roots, as well as the remains of high status medieval and post medieval buildings. The role of late Saxon and medieval Stepney in London's food supply would be of interest, for example, in relation to mills, barns or preserved plant or animal remains.

Key References

The Archaeology of Tower Hamlets, G. Black, 1977

Stepney Green: Moated Manor House to City Farm, D. Sankey, Crossrail, 2016

A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 11, Stepney, Bethnal Green. Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1998



Tower Hamlets APA 2.22
London to Colchester Roman Road

London to Colchester Roman Road APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:10,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.22: London to Colchester Roman Road

Summary and Definition

This Archaeological Priority Area covers the projected route of the London to Colchester Roman road through Tower Hamlets. It runs from Aldgate where the northern edge of the eastern cemetery was located, through the Roman settlement at Old Ford, then ends at the Lea. The road continues its route east via Stratford in Newham. It is categorised as Tier 2 for its potential to contain remains of the Roman road and roadside activity.

Description

The Roman road that connected London with Colchester ran through the northern part of the borough. The route of Whitechapel High Street is thought to follow the same line but the east end of the High Street was later diverted southwards to take a new route east via Mile End and Bow. The route of the Roman road between Whitechapel and Old Ford and the Lea is therefore unclear and not followed by any modern road.

The picture is complicated and confused by antiquarian observations with limited detail, extensive medieval quarrying, some sources positing a second, parallel road to Chelmsford for which there is limited evidence and the presumed but not well attested eastwards continuation of Old Street from Shoreditch High Street to the north.

A section of the Roman road was uncovered 3m below the modern surface in 1938 during Underground extension works at Aldgate. Roman spotfinds are present along the route but it is not attested again until seen at Old Ford during rescue excavations in 1969-71, at around 0.5m depth. This work dated the road to a point soon after the invasion.

The road is thought to have crossed the River Lea at Old Ford near to Iceland Wharf and Bundock's Wharf and subsequently followed the route of Roman Road when it reached the far bank.

The projected route of the road in the Lea Valley would have passed through the southern part of the Olympic site just to the south of the athletics stadium. However, excavations that took place prior to the development of the Olympic Park failed to find any trace of the Roman road. Previous development along the route has been intensive and may have removed any archaeological trace of the road in many places.

It is also possible that the road followed a different route on either side of Old Ford that is yet to be identified.

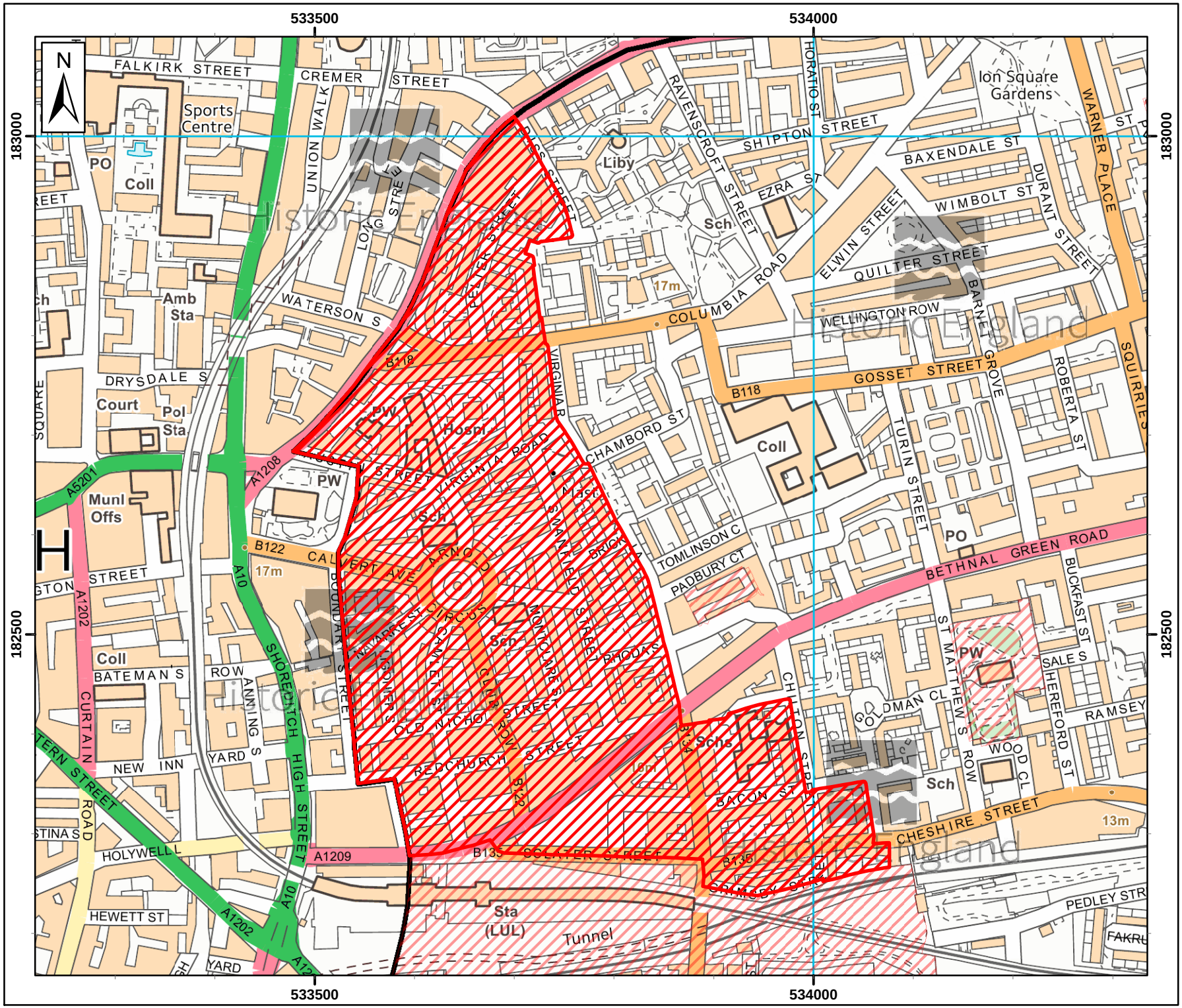
It is not known whether the road crossed the Lea by way of a bridge or a ford. In 1906, brickwork dredged from the river at Iceland Wharf was attributed to a Roman ford but later discoveries of timber piles may indicate a bridge.

Significance

The road is important because it linked London and Colchester which were two of the most significant towns in Roman Britain. Investigation of roadside cemeteries and settlements along the route may help in determining its route, functions and development.

Key References

Roman Roads in Britain (3rd ed.), I.D. Margary, 1973



Tower Hamlets APA 2.23
Shoreditch

Shoreditch APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:5,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 2.23: Shoreditch

Summary and Definition

The Shoreditch APA extends north from Sclater Street along the Hackney boundary as far as Diss Street. Its eastern edge is defined by Virginia Road and the northern end of Brick Lane.

It is a Tier 2 APA for its potential to contain multiperiod remains and also Roman burials from the Ermine Street cemetery and evidence of London's urban and industrial development.

Description

Shoreditch lay outside the Roman city and was used for quarrying and possibly industrial use in the early Roman period until given over to burial along the line of Ermine Street running north from Bishopsgate. A Roman route to Haggerston has also been proposed as crossing the APA, as has a continuation of Old Street.

Saxon remains were recovered from excavations from the Overground at Bishopsgate Goods Yard immediately south of the APA.

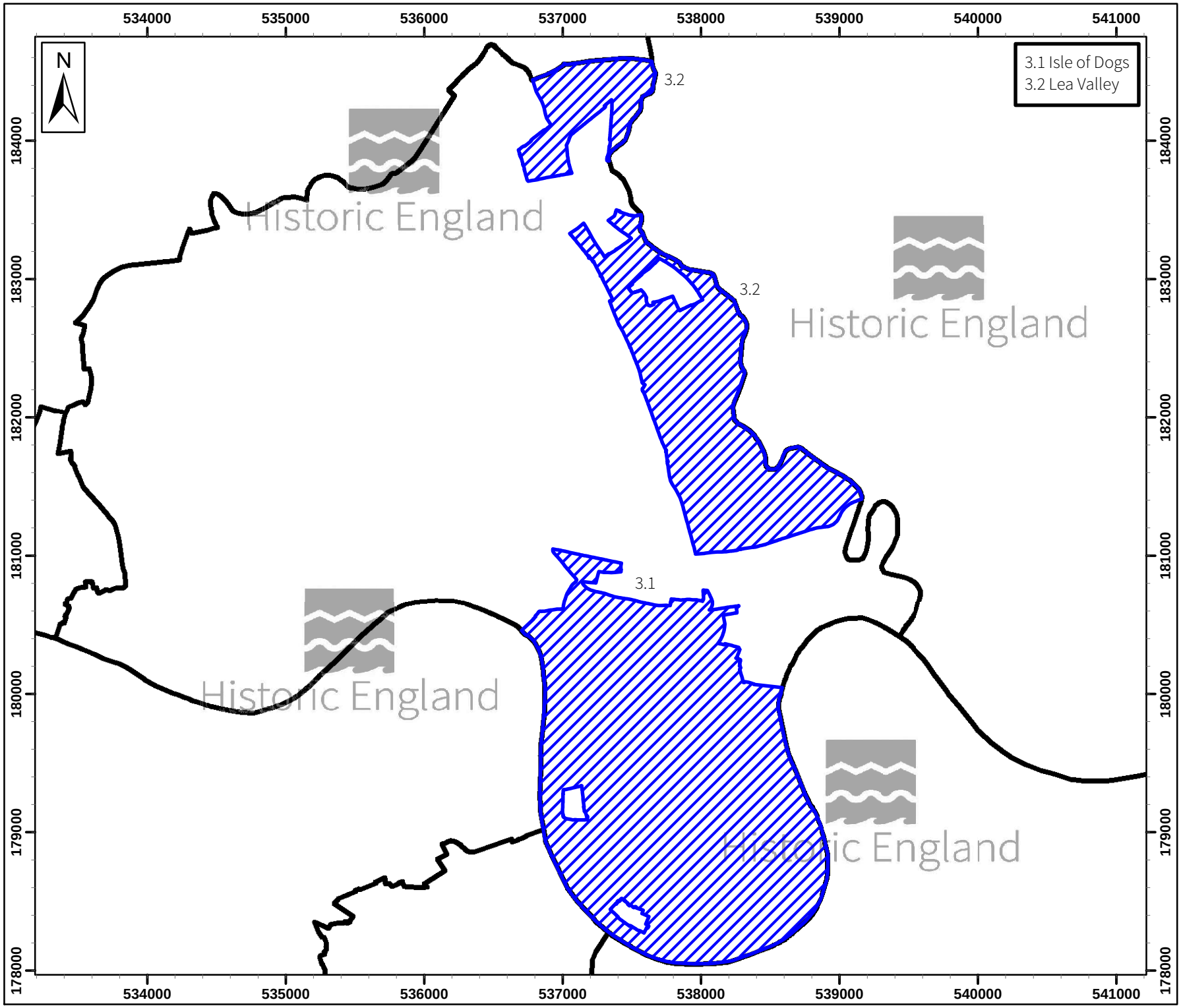
The area was part of the parish of St Leonard's Shoreditch, now just over the borough boundary in Hackney, and was a notorious slum into the 19th century.

The projected line of London's Civil War defences crosses the APA and a contemporary fort is proposed in its south-east corner and at its western edge.

The development of the Boundary Estate in 1900 was an important stage in the improvement of living conditions. Archaeological investigation of its central mound open space identified ex situ cultural material from the 17th century onwards.

Significance

The area preserves evidence of extramural activity and communications links from the Roman period onwards and later remains have the potential to provide information on various discrete populations, urban development and industrialisation.



Tower Hamlets Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Areas

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:36,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

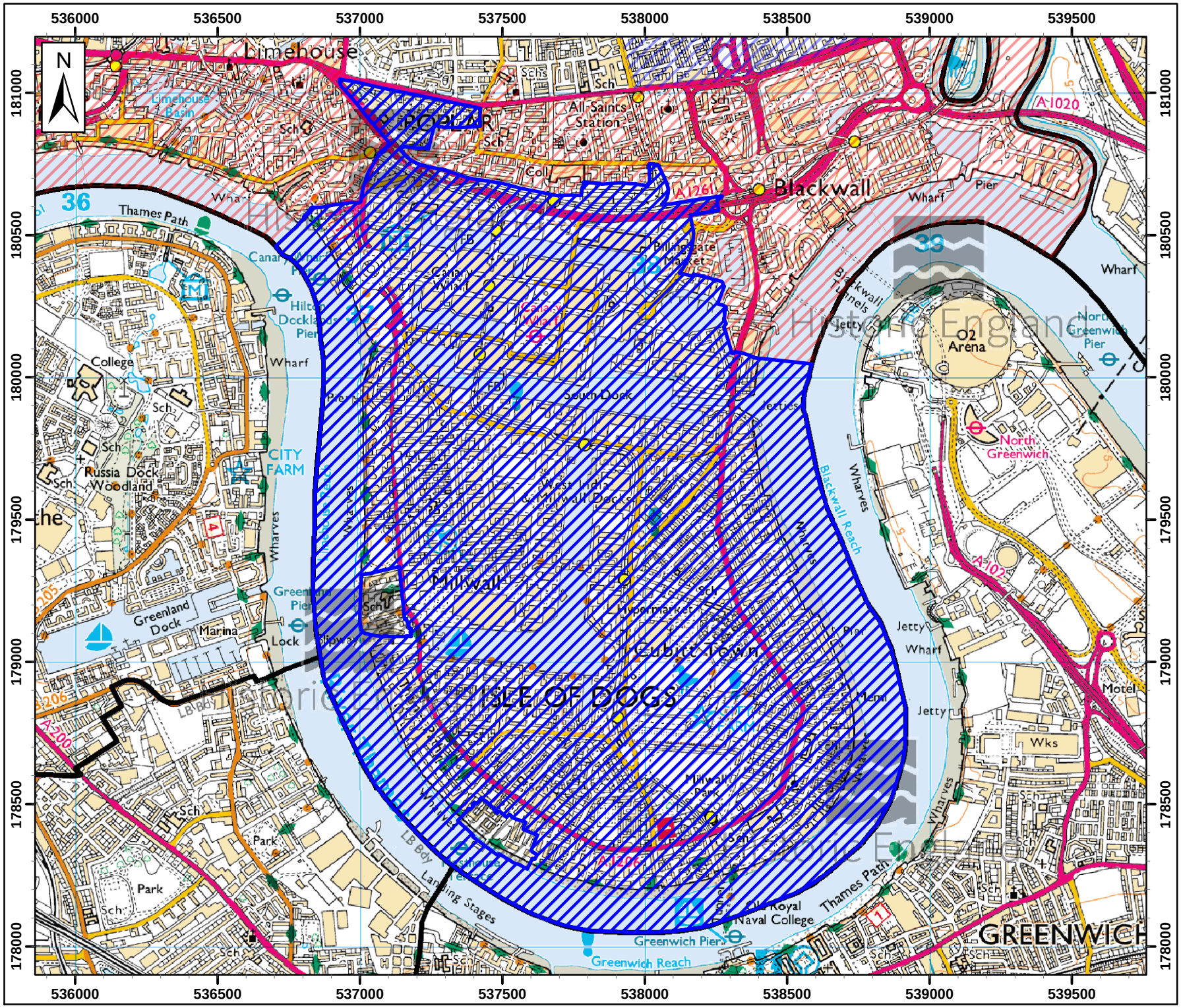
Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England
1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Areas

Tower Hamlets APA 3.1: Isle of Dogs page 137

Tower Hamlets APA 3.2: Lea Valley page 141



Tower Hamlets APA 3.1
Isle of Dogs

Isle of Dogs APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:17,500

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 3.1: Isle of Dogs

Summary and Definition

The Isle of Dogs Archaeological Priority Area covers the low-lying land south of Poplar surrounded on three sides by the Thames and called the Isle of Dogs. Excavations and deposit modelling connected with redevelopment since the 1980s has indicated that that the area has potential for prehistoric finds, features and deposits.

The Isle of Dogs Archaeological Priority Area has been classified as Tier 3 because it is an extensive area containing palaeoenvironmental evidence for past wetland and riverine environments and potential for prehistoric remains. It was also an extensive area of historic industry and trade in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The APA surrounds but does not cover the Tier 1 APAs for Atlas Wharf and the Great Eastern Launchways.

Description

The area would have been dry land at the beginning of the Holocene, and would have been transformed into intertidal marshes by rising sea levels during the early Neolithic. Low terrace gravels underlie the APA, cut by shifting and braided channels during early prehistory, alongside sand and gravel bars. During the Bronze Age layers of peats and alluvial clays formed, reflecting rises and falls in sea levels. Former main channels may exist.

Excavations since the 1980s, in the north of the Isle of Dogs have found evidence of prehistoric activity. Although overall the intensity of prehistoric archaeology is relatively low, the buried landscape or channels and prominences are well preserved and likely to contain intact remains. One of the earliest Neolithic burials in the British Isles was found close to northeast corner of the APA at Yabsley Street (see Blackwall APA).

Construction of the docks in the early 19th century caused massive ground disturbance but also revealed a buried prehistoric forest indicating the exceptional preservation conditions within the former marshland.

Atlas Wharf preserves a Bronze Age buried landscape with associated timber structure. The structure appears to be a possible wood workers' platform extending over a channel. It was added to and adapted over a long period of time. Further similar remains can be expected in this APA.

During the middle ages the Isle of Dogs saw limited settlement including the Chapel of St Mary and activity around the road to the ferry to Greenwich. The land was liable to flooding, however, and its river defences were frequently breached,

notably in 1448 when its resident population may have left the Isle altogether. It subsequently developed again from a fish and fowling area to a milling location in the 18th century with windmills built on the river defences, including 12 at Millwall. This industrial character developed into the 19th century with dockyards and industrial works created along the riverside.

From 1802 the area saw the opening of the West India and then Millwall Docks, along with allied trade and industry. Parts of this complex are listed, reflecting the national importance of the docks and their role in the international mercantile supremacy of London until they closed in the 1980s. Numerous industrial archaeology remains survive relating to this period.

Significance

The Isle of Dogs will have formed a distinctive topographical feature of the tidal Thames since the end of the last Ice Age and has likely been exploited at least intermittently since then. The presence of a very early Neolithic burial shows that some of the first farmers to migrate into Britain from the continent would have travelled up the Thames and found this a suitable environment to settle in.

Any surviving prehistoric features in the APA are likely to be deeply buried due to thick layers of made ground that have been deposited on top of them over the last two hundred years. Like other estuarine wetlands in London and the rest of England, the Isle of Dogs has potential for archaeological remains related to wetland activities such as fishing and wildfowling e.g. boats, fish traps and trackways. Wetlands were also sometimes used for settlements and attracted ritual activity including the deposition of religious offerings and disposal of the dead. Such remains could be well preserved due to burial in marshy waterlogged conditions thus providing a wealth of evidence not found on dryland sites.

Roman and medieval occupation seems to have been sparse and perhaps episodic due to the perils of flooding. Nevertheless such remains as there are could be well preserved and informative about the use of this marginal environment.

Geo-archaeological deposit modelling will be essential to understand the potential of most major development sites for medieval or earlier remains.

In the early 19th century the Isle of Dogs saw the development of the West India Docks, which illustrate the rapid growth of Britain's maritime trade and form part of the enormous complex of London's docks stretching downstream of the City.

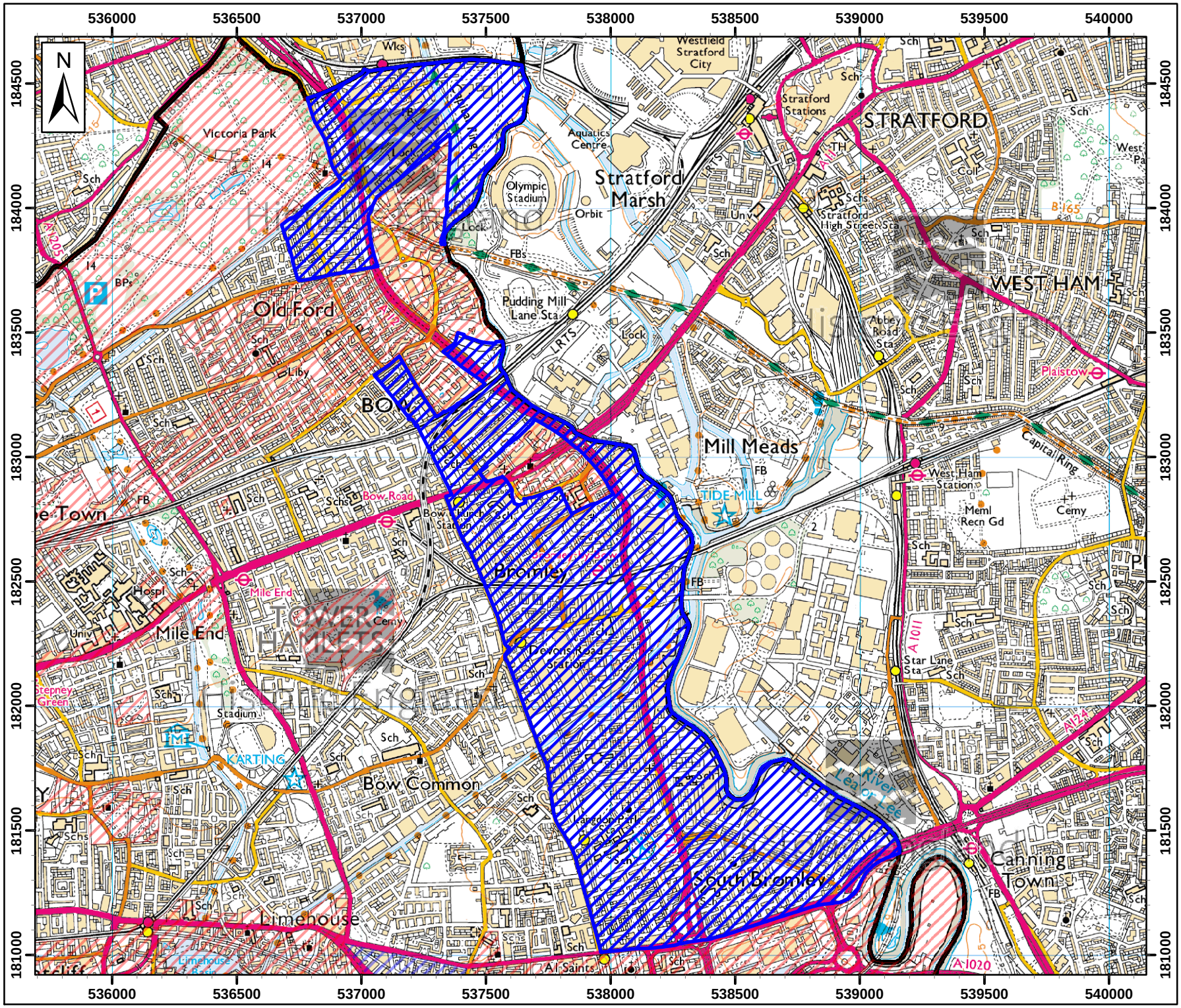
The docks are an iconic part of London's industrial and commercial heritage and their development is fairly well-documented. Wartime damage and regeneration since the 1980s has led to significant loss of historic fabric but many features have been protected and help provide new developments with a locally distinctive character. Archaeological intervention has a part to play in managing future change,

including identifying buried industrial features which may be worthy of retention or recording or could inspire creative new design which reflect the area's industrial heritage.

Key References

Poplar, Blackwall and Isle of Dogs, Survey of London: Volumes 43 and 44, pp575-582

From Ice Age to Essex, A history of the people and landscape of East London, P. Greenwood, D. Perring and P. Rowsome, Museum of London Archaeology Service, 2006



Tower Hamlets APA 3.2
Lea Valley

Lea Valley APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 3 Archaeological Priority Area

Scale (at A4): 1:20,000

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Historic England. 100019088. © Historic England. Historic OS Mapping: © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (all rights reserved) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024.

Notes:
Any Listed Building information shown on this map extract is provided solely to indicate the location of the listed building(s) and does not attempt to indicate the curtilage or the full extent of the listing(s). Any archaeological priority area(s) shown on this map extract are those used by the Historic England archaeological advisors and there may be minor differences when compared to the relevant borough UDP or LDF.

Historic England

1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001
www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Tower Hamlets APA 3.2: Lea Valley

Summary and Definition

The Lea Valley Archaeological Priority Area runs along the western banks of the River Lea and its various channels from the borough border with Hackney almost to its mouth at the Thames. Extensive excavations that took place in advance of the Olympic Park construction demonstrated that the Lower Lea Valley had potential for prehistoric finds, features and deposits. In later periods the area saw the establishment of numerous industries which required water for power and used the rivers to transport their produce.

The Lea Valley Archaeological Priority Area has been classified as Tier 3 because it is an extensive area containing palaeoenvironmental evidence for past wetland and riverine environments and potential for new discoveries of well-preserved prehistoric sites. It was also an extensive area of historic industry in the medieval and post medieval periods.

It is associated with some or all of Tier 2 APAs for Bow, Old Ford, Victoria Park, Limmo and Blackwall and APAs for the Lea Valley in neighbouring boroughs.

Description

The valley is a mosaic of deeply buried islands, gravel terraces, channels and wetlands that have been exploited by humans since early prehistory. The relationship between landscape, river and settlement over time is well preserved in areas not subject to historical quarrying.

Extensive borehole data from the Lea Valley permits a good understanding of the buried sequences and formation processes in the valley. Continuing modelling and landscape zoning of different character areas refines our understanding of the prehistory of the valley and allows targeted investigations in areas of potential.

There is potential for material predating the last ice age to be preserved. Fragments of Arctic Beds containing late Pleistocene evidence may survive within the low terrace although the greatest potential for these is thought to lie on the east bank of the Lower Lea. Better potential is expected for late glacial and early Holocene environmental evidence in palaeochannels as well as human activity on terraces and channel edges.

Excavations that took place in advance of the development of the Olympic Park found evidence of prehistoric settlement although overall the intensity of prehistoric archaeology found was relatively low. Finds included prehistoric pottery, a Neolithic hand axe made of flint and the remains of a Bronze Age farmstead. Surviving prehistoric features in this area are likely to be deeply buried due to thick layers of made ground that have been deposited on top of them over the centuries.

The course of the A118 road which links Stratford and Bow in Tower Hamlets was established in the early 12th century. The Lea crossing at Old Ford slightly to the north had become unusable so a number of bridges over the Lea, Channelsea and other river channels were established along with a linking causeway. These bridges were rebuilt on several occasions and the causeway has developed into the modern four lane road.

The Tudor Bromley Hall and the surrounding medieval manorial settlement of Lower Bramerley are included.

Significance

There is extensive palaeoenvironmental and geoarchaeological potential to reconstruct past environments and landscapes.

The River Lea has been manipulated, exploited and traversed over multiple historic periods. It was an important communication link for river traffic that travelled along it but its numerous channels were also problematic for road traffic that wanted to cross it. It is therefore a feature that assisted and hampered different methods of travel through the area. Evidence relating to transport across and along the Lea would therefore be of interest.

There is evidence of settlement in the area during the prehistoric period and the area has also been a site for varying scales of river based industrial activity since at least the time of the Domesday survey. The construction of the Olympic Park in the northern part of the site will have had an impact on any surviving archaeological deposits. However, despite the intensity of modern development, significant archaeological remains and deposits may survive deeply buried in other parts of the APA including undeveloped areas of the Tower Hamlets portion of the former Olympic Park.

Key References

Mapping past landscapes in the lower Lea Valley – a geoarchaeological study of the Quaternary sequence, J. Corcoran, C. Halsey, G. Spurr et al, MoLA, 2011

From Ice Age to Essex, A history of the people and landscape of East London, P. Greenwood, D. Perring and P. Rowsome, Museum of London Archaeology Service, 2006

By River, Fields and Factories: The Making of the Lower Lea Valley, Archaeological and cultural heritage investigations on the site of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, A. B. Powell, Wessex Archaeology, 2012

Renewing the past, Unearthing the history of the Olympic site, Wessex Archaeology, 2012

Glossary

Archaeological Priority Area: Generic term used for a defined area where, according to existing information, there is significant known archaeological interest or particular potential for new discoveries. They are sometimes called other names including Archaeological Priority Zones, Areas of Archaeological Significance/Importance/Interest or Areas of High Archaeological Potential.

Archaeological interest: There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. 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 (NPPF definition). There can be an archaeological interest in buildings and landscapes as well as earthworks and buried remains.

Conservation: The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance (NPPF definition).

Designated heritage asset: A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF definition).

Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing) (NPPF definition).

Historic environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged and landscaped and planted of managed flora (NPPF definition).

Historic environment record: Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use (NPPF definition). Historic England maintains the Historic Environment Record for Greater London.

Potential: In some places, the nature of the archaeological interest cannot be specified precisely, but it may still be possible to document reasons for anticipating the existence and importance of such evidence. Circumstantial evidence such as geology, topography, landscape history, nearby major monuments and patterns of previous discoveries can be used to predict areas with a higher likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

Research framework: A suite of documents which describe the current state of knowledge of a topic or geographical area (the 'resource assessment'), identifies major gaps in knowledge and key research questions (the 'agenda') and set out a strategy for addressing them. A resource assessment and agenda for London archaeology has been published and a strategy is in preparation.

Setting of a heritage asset: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral (NPPF definition).

Sensitivity: The likelihood of typical development impacts causing significant harm to a heritage asset of archaeological interest. Sensitivity is closely allied to significance and potential but also takes account of an asset's vulnerability and fragility.

Significance: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting (NPPF definition).