London Borough of Islington

Archaeological Priority Areas Appraisal

July 2018

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Derivation:

Origination Date: 2/8/18

Reviser(s):   Alison Bennett

Date of last revision: 31/8/18

Date Printed:

Version: 2

Status:

Summary of Changes:

Circulation:

Required Action:

File Name/Location:

Approval:

(Signature)

Contents

Acknowlegments

Place Services would like to thank Sandy Kidd and Laura O'Gorman of Historic England for their help in producing this appraisal.

1   Introduction

This document has been commissioned by Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) and produced by Place Services of Essex County Council. The Islington Archaeological Priority Area Appraisal is part of a long-term commitment to review and update London's Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs). The review uses evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) in order to provide a sound evidence base for local plans that accord with the National Planning Policy Framework, its supporting Practice Guidance and the London Plan.

The appraisal follows the Historic England guidance for undertaking a review of Archaeological Priority Areas.

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

2   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 Islington Local Plan Core Strategy (February 2011) and Development Management Policies (June 2013) both make reference to Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs). The new APAs defined in this document will replace those set out in Appendix 7 of the latter document. The present review is based on evidence held in the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER). Guidelines have been created to promote consistency in the recognition and definition of these areas across Greater London and have been used in the preparation of this document[1].

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,

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[1] https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/greater-london-archaeological-priority-area-guidelines/

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. Whilst 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, artistic 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 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 therefore be seen as providing a flexible framework for informed site-specific decision making but not a straitjacket.

3   Archaeological Priority Area Tiers

Previously all parts of Islington were either inside or outside an APA. Under the new system all parts of a borough will be within an area that falls into one of four different tiers of archaeological significance and potential. 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[2]. The consultation guidelines link the tiers to specific thresholds for triggering archaeological advice and assessment. All major applications within APAs (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. They will be clearly focused on a specific heritage asset and will normally be relatively small. Scheduled Monuments would normally be included within a Tier 1 APA.

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 in respect of 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.

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[2] https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/charter-for-greater-london-archaeological-advisory-service/

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.

This document comprises an appraisal of all the new APAs in Islington 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 an explanation 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.

4 The London Borough of Islington: Historical and Archaeological Interest

4.1 Introduction

The London Borough of Islington lies to the north of the river Thames. The area spans from Hillrise in the north to Clerkenwell and Bunhill, in central London, to the south. It was formed in 1965 by the merging of Islington and Finsbury.

Islington Borough lies with the heavily urbanised Inner London National Character Area defined by Natural England. It overlies varying geology mainly composed of London Clay with Thames Gravels to the south and a small area of Brickearth to the east. The Thames Gravels derive from an earlier route of the River Thames before it settled into its current location following the last Ice Age. The area overlooks the Thames River Valley, with the ground rising gradually to the higher ground at Highgate Hill. The valley of the River Fleet lay to the west of the borough.

The Borough name 'Islington' is taken from the town and, originally, the manor of Islington. The name is thought to be from the Saxon 'Giseldone' meaning 'Gīsla's hill'. The historic settlement of Islington developed as a sprawling village along the Great North Road (A1) which bisects the Borough. Islington, and some of the other settlements within the borough, have early medieval origins though dense settled occupation mainly existed after the seventeenth century. Islington has long been heavily influenced by its proximity to the City of London attracting urban fringe land-uses and the gradual expansion of urban settlement northwards across the entire area from the medieval period through to the end of the 19th century. The borough is also home to The New River, a 17th century aqueduct which was the main provider of fresh water to northern London from the River Lea in Hertfordshire till the 20th century.

4.2 Prehistoric (500,000 BC to 42 AD)

The Lower Thames Valley is known for its wealth of early prehistoric ('Palaeolithic') finds. Islington lies between two concentrations of worked flint tools, one around Bloomsbury and the other at Stoke Newington. The scattering of finds from gravels in south Islington may be explained by its marginally higher ground and its proximity to the River Fleet and the River Thames. Palaeolithic activity is focussed around Pentonville, Kingsland and Clerkenwell with findspots of flint tools at Highbury New Park, Old Street, Bath Street, Mildmay Park and Roseberry Avenue. Most of the finds are reworked ('rolled') within the natural gravel deposits. Further discoveries could be made during excavation into the natural geology for basements or infrastructure when it would be important to understand their depositional and geological context. Undisturbed sites of this period are not known in Islington and are very rare nationally.

There is little later prehistoric evidence from Islington, although quite likely this is due to destruction by more recent development rather than actual absence.   The Bronze Age is represented by a socketed axe from Seven Sisters Road and an axe discovered on Rosebury Avenue. There is, similarly, limited Iron Age evidence though two sites in Clerkenwell indicate the presence of Iron Age settlement across the gravel plateau.

No APAs are defined principally for prehistoric archaeology because of the very limited evidence. However, given the rarity of prehistoric sites and finds new discoveries are likely to be of at least local interest.

4.3   Roman (43 AD to 409 AD)

The borough of Islington in the Roman period appears to grow in terms of infrastructure but the evidence suggests no localised settled occupation. Islington lies just to the north of Roman Londinium and between the major Roman roads to York and St Albans. The concentration of finds shows a movement of activity, not only expanding up from the south of the borough, but towards the west with coins, pottery and a tombstone being found around York Way and Barnsbury Square. Grave goods and coins from the Roman period have also been found at Old Street and near Kings Cross. The selection of finds and grave goods indicate that the borough was outside the built-up area of Londinium as there were strictly enforced rules about the location of cemeteries outside areas of human habitation in the Roman period. A quantity of Roman finds from Charterhouse may derive from the Roman cemetery at West Smithfield, or have been imported as part of landfill in the medieval period. Definitive features of settlement, either historical or archaeological, are not evident till the Saxon period. Roman remains are likely to have been heavily impacted by medieval and later development especially in the southern part of the borough.

No APAs are defined principally for Roman archaeology because of the very limited evidence. However, new discoveries of local or greater interest are clearly possible particularly in the APAs in south of the borough.

4.4   Anglo-Saxon (410 AD to 1065 AD)

Within the Anglo-Saxon period the evidence, from both the historical records and the archaeological finds, suggests that there was settlement. The name Islington, which originally only referred to the northern part of the borough, comes from the Saxon name Gisladune (Gisla's Hill) recorded in the Saxon charter. The area also appears in the Domesday Book as Iseldone described as having 27 households. The area known as Tollington, to the north of Islingtone, is recorded as being a settlement from c. 1000, when it was recorded as being required to provide two men for a ship. At this time it was known as Tollandune, meaning 'Tolla's hill'. By 1086 the Domesday Book records the manor of Tolentone, as having only 9 tenants suggesting it was likely that it was little more than a hamlet at this time. Goswell Road, to the west of Islington, lies on an early medieval/Saxon

route from the city of Aldersgate to the village of Islington. The archaeology supports the idea that these were areas of settlement. These include Early Saxon pottery and beads from Clerkenwell, a Late Saxon key from Barnsbury and jewellery from Cowcross Street.

Some of the historic settlement APAs cover areas with potential for Anglo-Saxon settlement archaeology whilst the Clerkenwell finds fall with the APA covering the Priory of The Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. New discoveries of local or greater interest are clearly possible.

4.5   Medieval (1066 AD to 1549 AD)

During the medieval period, the settlements established in the Saxon period continued to expand. Although not explicitly named in the Domesday Book, it seems that the manor of Barnsbury was held by Hugh de Berners from the bishop of London in 1086. The earliest mention of a manor house for Barnsbury is in 1297. Records for a settlement known as Tollington can be dated to c. 1000 and is recorded as a manor at Domesday. The settlement is unlikely to have been more than a hamlet at this time. The lands became subsumed into the new manor and grange of Highbury in the early 14th century. The manor of Canonbury originated in property given to the prior and canons of St Bartholomew, Smithfield, in the 12th century. By 1443 the priory manor was responsible for the supply of fresh water to St. Bartholomew's hospital via an aqueduct, the head of which was within the precincts of Canonbury. Remains of the subterranean brick-built aqueducts, through which water-pipes from Canonbury were carried, have been revealed near the house.

The main streets of Islington village, the High Street, Upper Street and Lower Street, are evident from at least the 12th century and by the 13th century several substantial houses were sited there. Evidence of medieval settlement has come from several sites along Upper Street, Essex Road, Parkfield Street, Ring Cross and St John's Road. A windmill was sited on the northern edge of the village.

New settlements came into being, such as Newington Green, which developed in the late medieval period. A small settlement is recorded at Kingsland from the 14th century.

Both the priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and the nunnery of St. Mary de Fonte were founded in about 1144, by Jordan de Bricet, the lord of Clerkenwell manor, adjacent to each other. The church of St Mary's Nunnery became the parish church for Clerkenwell from the late 12th century. St John's Priory, as the headquarter of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, operated more like a palace than a monastery.

The Black Death arrived in London in 1348 and lasted until springtime 1350. It is assumed that between one third and one half of the population of London died. A cemetery at Smithfield was opened but was quickly filled, so a second cemetery was opened just to the

north at Spital Croft. Excavations at the East Smithfield cemeteries showed the dead neatly stacked five deep in a mass grave. Part of this cemetery lies in Islington.

The London Charterhouse was founded on the site of the Spital Croft cemetery in 1370/1371, just to the east of St John's Priory. The Carthusian monastery was slow to establish itself, but by the 15th century had all the main elements that would be expected.

In 1473 the Highgate Leper Hospital was founded, its location on the higher ground away from the city being an attempt to minimise the dangers of infecting the inhabitants of London. The hospital was used to house individuals afflicted with leprosy until the mid-16th century. St. Bartholomew's Hospital took over the administration of the London Lazar Houses (hospitals for infectious diseases) in 1549.

In the 15th century, the proximity of Islington to London and Westminster and its rural surroundings attracted rich and eminent residents. Islington became affluent in the medieval period due to its use as a stopping place for royalty and became well known for its rich properties. The Kings Head Inn and the Crown Inn also originate from the medieval period and it is likely that many more hostelries once stood along this road. There is also evidence for industrial activity in the form of clay extraction pits and four roof tile kilns.

The three religious houses and the Black Death burial grounds in Clerkenwell are the most important archaeological sites known in Islington. They are identified as 'tier 1' APA to reflect this significance.   The medieval rural settlements and the expanding northern fringe of London are also identified as APA.

4.6   Post medieval (1540 AD to 1900 AD)

At the dissolution of the monasteries, each of the three religious houses fared differently, with varying amounts of demolition and conversion of surviving buildings. St Mary's Church survived as it was the parish church. All three have important remains and the potential to reveal more.

In the 16th century the areas immediately to the north and west of the City still provided space for grazing and cultivation, but these activities were gradually forced beyond Islington and the surrounding villages. The growth in industrial activity can also be attributed to the lower cost of rents, greater space, the exclusion of noisome trades from within the walls and the dwindling power of the craft-guilds outside the City.

By the 17th century traditional sources of water were inadequate to supply the growing population and plans were laid to construct a new waterway, the New River, to bring fresh water from the source of the River Lea, in Hertfordshire, to New River Head, Finsbury. The river was opened on 29 September 1613 by Sir Hugh Myddelton, the constructor of the

project. Northern Clerkenwell was chosen for the terminus of the New River, partly on the basis of its geology and topography and partly because it was owned by one of the New River shareholders, Sir Samuel Backhouse. The Metropolis Water Acts of 1852 and 1871 led to construction of the Round Pond reservoir which was completed in 1856. The New River was piped underground in 1861.

During the Civil War of the 17th century a line of defences and forts was established around London by the Parliamentarians who held London for the duration of the war. The defences, sometimes referred to as Lines of Communication, were approximately 17km long and stretched from Wapping to Pimlico on the north side of the Thames and Vauxhall to Rotherhithe on the south side. They consisted of an embankment fronted by a ditch which was punctuated along its length by forts which were often located where a major road passed through the defences. A major section of the defences, sometimes referred to as Lines of Communication, passed through Islington and one fort is believed to be sited to defend the New River and the waterworks. Remains of these defences have often proved enigmatic during excavations but if any section of the defences or a fort could be positively identified it would greatly enhance our knowledge of London and how it was defended during the Civil War period.

Parish churchyards within Islington were used over the course of several centuries and eventually held tens of thousands of inhumations. Some were also used for plague burials during the outbreak of 1665-1666. It was not until the mid-19th century that the burial grounds reached their capacity and new larger cemeteries were built elsewhere. The inhumations in Islington parish cemeteries could provide information on the population of a particular parish over a prolonged period of time such as their social status, general health and the diseases they were suffering from.

Playhouses and other places of entertainment were being built on the outskirts of London in the 16th century. The most significant early entertainment venue in Islington was the converted Red Bull Inn in Clerkenwell.

Spa resorts became thriving social epicentres for the Stuarts. Over 48 spas were founded in England between 1660 and 1815, and a variety of theatres, shops, coffee-rooms and numerous lodging houses were built around them to entertain the daily coach-loads of visitors. Two were founded in Islington. Sadlers Wells, first mentioned in 1664-5, when one Edward Sadler was living in the Water House at New River Head and discovered a spring or well of mineral water. The water was originally used to make beer until the medicinal benefits of the water were recognised. Land to the south of the New River was purchased by John Langley by 1684, who developed the site by digging wells, putting in drains, laying out gravel walks and adding a balcony to the house that was on the site. In 1685 this site was advertised as the Islington Wells.

Great houses were a major feature of post-medieval Islington. Gloucester House was constructed in the early 17th century. The terrace to the north of Gloucester House survives

as 552-55 Newington Green, and is listed Grade I. The moated enclosure at Highbury Manor, later became known as Highbury castle; however the manor house does not appear to have been rebuilt and is documented as being in ruins in 1611. John Dawes used the site to build Highbury House, Place and Terrace in 1781. By 1797 the astronomer Alexander Aubert had bought the property and had built an observatory of three stories, where there was a reflecting telescope said to be the largest made by James Short. Other additions by Aubert included the placing of a clock from St. Peter-le-Poer, Broad Street, in a turret nearby. In 1805 the house was sold to John Bentley, who walled a large part of the grounds and included a plantation of tobacco in 1809. In the Victorian period the remnants of the moat were incorporated into Highbury Barn's Pleasure Gardens.

During the 18th century the population of Islington grew rapidly, from approximately 325 houses in 1708, to 937 in 1732, 1,200 in 1793, and 1,745 in 1801 as Islington became popular as a retreat from London and Westminster. In the 19th century building rapidly spread across the fields that had originally surrounded the historic core. The arrival of the railway, just to the south of Newington Green, in 1850 brought more development on the fields around the green to cater for the growing number of London commuters.

APAs are defined for the New River, English Civil War defences, Sadler's Wells and post-medieval burial grounds.   The site of the Red Bull playhouse has been included in the 'tier 1' APA for St Mary de Fonte Nunnery to reflect its high historical interest. The historic settlement APAs cover the main areas developed up to the mid-18th century.

4.7   Modern (1901 AD to present day)

By 1903 Islington had the largest population of all the London Boroughs with very little open space. It suffered severe bomb damage in the Second World War especially in the areas of Highbury and Newington Green. Slum clearance by the council enabled the increase in the amount of public open space from 60 acres in 1958 to 107 acres in 1971.

No APAs are defined primarily for modern archaeology. Remains of local interest, such as air raid shelters, could be found almost anywhere in the borough.

5 Archaeological Priority Areas in Islington

A total of 19 Archaeological Priority Areas are recommended for the Borough of Islington of which three are Tier 1 APAs, and 16 are Tier 2 APAs. None are Tier 3. The APAs would cover approximately **14%** of the borough, an increase from approximately **9%** previously.

5.1 Tier 1 APAs   Size (HA)

1.1	St Mary de Fonte Nunnery	6.40
1.2	Priory of The Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem	8.19
1.3	The Charterhouse Carthusian Monastery	10.28
		Total = 24.87

5.2 Tier 2 APAs

2.1	Moorfields	48.77
2.2	Islington Village	32.82
2.3	Tollington settlement and manor house	1.56
2.4	Newington Green hamlet	2.76
2.5	Kingsland medieval hamlet	0.57
2.6	Barnsbury moated manor	0.81
2.7	Moated manor house for Barnsbury Manor	1.03
2.8	Highbury moated manor and grange	2.89
2.9	Canonbury moated manor house	3.35
2.10	St Anthony's Leper Hospital	1.50
2.11	New River and New River Head	12.33
2.12	Sadler's Wells and new Wells Spa	1.64
2.13	Post-medieval burial grounds	4.34
2.14	Regents canal and industry	11.46
2.15	Civil War defences	54.92
2.16	St John's Street	3.11
		Total = 183.86

Total area of all Archaeological Priority Areas in the Borough of Islington = 208.73 hectares

Islington Archaeological Priority Areas

2.1 Moorfields
2.2 Islington Village
2.3 Tollingtonssettlement and Manor House
2.4 Highbury Manor House and Grange
2.5 Newington Green Hamlet
2.6 Kingslsnd Medieval Hamlet
2.7 Barnsbury Moated Manor
2.8 Moated Manor House for Barnsbury Manor
2.9 Canonbury Moated Manor House
2.10 St Anthony's Leper Hospital
2.11 New River and New River Head
2.12 Sadlers Wells and New Wells Spa
2.13 Post-medieval Burial Grounds
2.14 Canalside Industry
2.15 Civil War Defences

1.1 St Mary's Nunnery
1.2 St John Hospitaler Monastery
1.3 Charterhouse Carthusian Monastery

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

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1 Kilometers

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Islington
Archaeological
Priority Areas

Islington
Archaeological
Priority Area

Former Area of
Archaeological Priority

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1
Kilometers

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Islington Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas

Grade

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

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0.1 Kilometers

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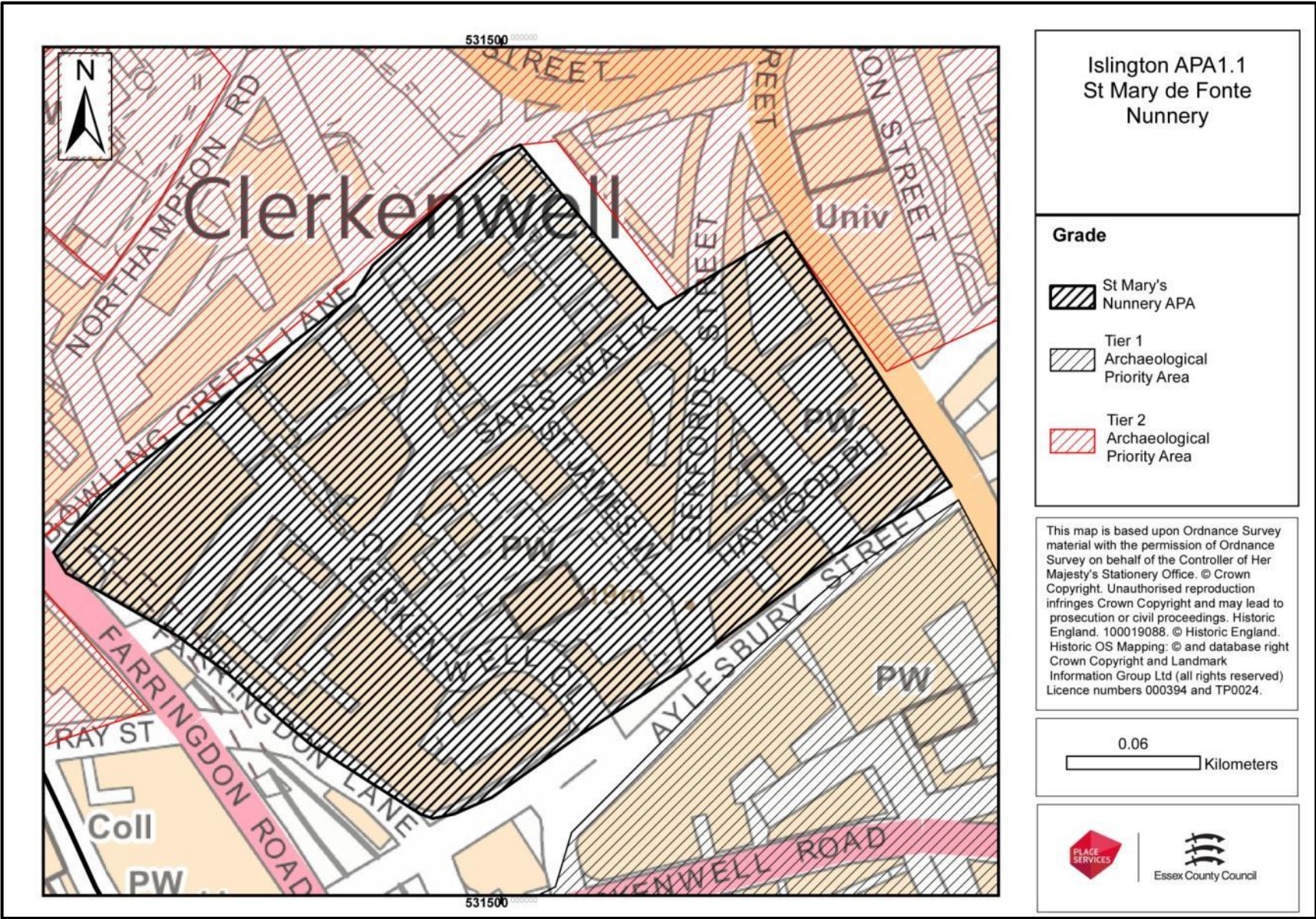**Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Areas**

Islington APA1.1
St Mary de Fonte
Nunnery

Grade

St Mary's
Nunnery APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.3   Islington APA 1.1 St Mary de Fonte Nunnery

5.3.1   Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the former nunnery of St Mary de Fonte. This is one of three religious houses founded in the medieval period and which lay adjacent to each other, formerly grouped together into one APA. This APA includes the parish church of St James that replaced the conventual church in 1788–92, the area of the former nunnery buildings, and the area of the former precinct.

The APA is classified as Tier 1, as it includes a scheduled monument and its setting containing the remains of the medieval nunnery buildings and defined by the monastic precinct .

5.3.2   Description

The archaeology and history of the Augustinian Nunnery of St Mary has been the subject of rigorous research, brought together into the MOLA volume by Barney Sloane (2012).

The earliest archaeology on the site of the nunnery and precinct dates to the Iron Age. One site, south-west of the church, revealed a pit containing daub with wattle impressions. There was also a small quantity of Roman tegula and brick of the 1st to mid-2nd centuries in the upper fills. Another site, spread across three separate excavations in an area north of the church, has revealed a scatter of pits, gullies, and stake holes containing Iron Age pottery. This all indicate the presence of Iron Age settlement across the gravel plateau that later formed the precinct of the nunnery.

A combination of historical pictures and illustrations, archaeological excavations and historic documents has allowed a reconstruction of the history and physical layout of the nunnery to be formalised. Prior to the nunnery being constructed, the evidence indicates a plough soil with small quantities of roof tile and early medieval pottery, suggesting the field had been under cultivation during the 10th and 11th centuries. A possible drainage ditch of Saxo-Norman date was identified to the north of the church.

Historic documents show that the Augustinian nunnery of St Mary was founded by Jordan de Bricet, the lord of Clerkenwell manor, in about 1144, shortly after the adjacent Hospitaller priory of St John, also founded by him. It stood to the north of the priory, in a field next to the Clerks' Well, the boundaries of the nunnery buildings lay to the north of Clerkenwell Green and Aylesbury Street and is bounded by Clerkenwell Close to the west and north, Sans Walk to the north and St James Walk to the east.

The first phase of construction was a group of timber-built structures separated by open areas which had been used for cultivation and rubbish disposal. There is evidence that there is more than one phase of these buildings. They are of potentially great significance as these buildings represent the only archaeological example from a nunnery of the temporary buildings used before stone built claustral buildings were constructed. These may have included a timber built church or chapel, before the first stone church was built no earlier than 1150. This was probably a simple cruciform church.

Documentary evidence suggests that the early precinct boundary was a bank, which was followed by a later precinct wall, though this has as yet to be archaeologically identified. No evidence has been found yet of gates.

The second phase of building work dates from the late 12th and 13th centuries. This saw the nunnery expand to its full conventual layout. Some of the first phase timber buildings were rebuilt in stone, others were altered but remained in timber. Documentary evidence tells us that there was a chapter house by 1185-7, implying that the cloister was also under construction at this time. A dormitory was in place by 1176-86 but possibly still built of timber. Documentary evidence shows the dormitory, refectory, kitchen and infirmary were built at this time, and from the physical evidence for substantial and contiguous ranges set to the north around an inner court, the nunnery was rebuilt in one single event. One of these buildings, known as the 'Nuns' Hall', survived into the 18th century and is known from pictorial evidence. There is documentary evidence for a large number of male religious brothers who would have needed their own accommodation and space in the church. Parochial rights were granted in the late 12th century, leading to the church being extended in the 1180's and 90's to accommodate the parishioners. There were newly defined open areas resulting from the rebuild which, from the archaeological evidence, had different functions. The inner court had small abraded sherds of pottery, some cut features and a sequence of industrial hearths. The outer court was undeveloped and under cultivation, though part of this is assumed to have had tenements for 'corrodians' (lay tenants) and other ancillary structures built by the 13th century. An open area to the south of the church was used for rubbish dumping. Large cut quarry pit features produced the vast bulk of pottery for this period recovered from the whole site and comprised both kitchen and table wares.

During the 14th century there was little change to the buildings of the nunnery. The major change was within the outer court where archaeological evidence for domestic buildings is borne out by documentary evidence for 'corrodians' and/or other tenants of the nunnery. It appears that the south-western and western side of the precinct were being parcelled up into plots for leasing or exchange, probably to provide extra income to the nunnery. The loss of cultivated land in the precinct perhaps led to the development of a kitchen garden in the inner (service) court, and the creation of the nuns' garden to the east near the former quarry pits. Excavation also showed that a water pipe was laid through this area, perhaps reflecting a greater demand for water.

In the early to mid-15th century, there is little evidence for any rebuilding of development of the church or claustral buildings. Some architectural fragments found include floor tiles that date to this period. There was evidence of new building work in the service court with the addition of service buildings and rooms: a storage cellar, a possible wash house with courtyard drain and a cess pit. In the outer court there was evidence of a division between tenements and an industrial zone, which included a tiling yard close to the gatehouse. The tenement in the tiling yard and its kilns were demolished by c.1500.

Archaeological evidence for the late 15th and early 16th century suggests that the church, cloister, the claustral ranges, the gatehouse and up to four tenements were rebuilt. Documentary evidence shows at least 17 tenements, with rebuilding or completely new buildings of several of them. These were occupied by high-status secular residents. Architectural fragments found also reflect a higher level of expenditure. These included mouldings, a shuttered window, and a stone fireplace. Personal wealth was indicated by imported pottery, silver tweezers and a composite knife. There is very little archaeological evidence for the religious function of the nunnery. Documentary evidence suggests that the community of nuns maintained their communal life style, perhaps because of the large number of tenants who were the parishioners using the church. Although the palace-monastery of St John, situated just to the south, totally eclipsed the nunnery with royalty and the highest in the land frequently visiting there, the nunnery precinct became a very desirable residence for the well-off.

St Mary's Nunnery was surrendered in 1539. Documentary evidence shows that although some nuns left London, others probably remained residents within the precinct. Archaeological evidence exists for the demolition of the east range of the cloister, and documentary evidence for the demolition of the presbytery. There is no evidence for the fate of the infirmary, but it is likely that its chapel would

have been vandalised, and it is likely that the dormitory was demolished too. Lead was taken from the cloister roof and taken to Westminster Great Hall. The church probably survived because of its parochial function. Only the north aisle was apparently demolished. The nuns' cemetery survived because a parish burial ground was needed. All the other archaeological identified buildings survived until at least the 1580s. Some though may have seen changes earlier. The cellar of the possible guest range was filled in and some internal walls were robbed out. Cess pits were dug at the gatehouse and at a tenement, but had ceased use by c.1580.

Historically, the main nunnery buildings were first converted into an 'urban palace' held by Hendley and others. This survived until at least the late 17th century. The tenements also continued in use but became divided into estate ownerships. The church became the focus of the lay community, and this would have potentially made it easier for the whole of the nunnery to become a secular environment.

The church was rededicated to St James, and rebuilt in 1788-92. St James' cemetery was transformed into public gardens following the Open Spaces Act, 1881. It is the burial place of some of the 200 Islington Protestants martyred at Smithfield during the Reformation in the 1550s, evident from historic records. The victims of the Clerkenwell House of Detention explosion, instigated by the Fenian Conspiracy in 1867, are also buried here. It is ambiguous as to the exact entire location of the cemetery and the name seems to apply to two areas, one of which lies within the nunnery precinct off Bowling Green Land and the other which lies directly underneath St James' Church Gardens.

Adjacent to the eastern corner of the former precinct and included in this APA is the site of the Red Bull Theatre. This was sited in Upper Street, Clerkenwell and was a public outdoor playhouse, converted from an inn c. 1600 -1605. It appears to have been frequented by rowdy neighbourhood theatre goers. He theatre was renovated in 1625 and continued in use until the establishment of the Cromwellian regime from 1642-60 which banned the performance of plays. During this time it may have been used for puppet plays and occasional clandestine activities. The theatre reopened at the Restoration but had fallen mostly out of use by 1663, and had been demolished by 1665.

5.3.3   Significance

The APA is significant as it contains the nationally important remains of a medieval nunnery. Of particular importance are the excavated remains of timber built buildings which represent the only archaeological example from a nunnery of the temporary buildings used before stone built claustral buildings were constructed. The excavations have also revealed some of the details of the stone built buildings, and fragments of decorative features and finds, which contribute to an understanding of the initial layout of the nunnery and how it developed. Being an urban nunnery, its development was different in some respects to rural nunneries and there is scope for further research both into the material culture of St Mary's nunnery and into the differences of St Mary's development and that of other nunneries.

Power (1922) lists 138 medieval nunneries in England. Few sites have been examined in detail and as a rare and poorly understood medieval monument type all examples exhibiting survival of archaeological remains are considered worthy of protection.

The Red Bull playhouse is an interesting example of a conversion from an Inn.   Elizabethan playhouses are a rare class of monument unique (in England) to London. They are of high archaeological and historical interest linked to the development of public entertainment, the theatre and the careers of famous playwrights.   The longevity of the Red Bull spans the transition from pre- to post-Restoration drama. All examples of early such playhouses with significant archaeological survival would be candidates for scheduled monument status.

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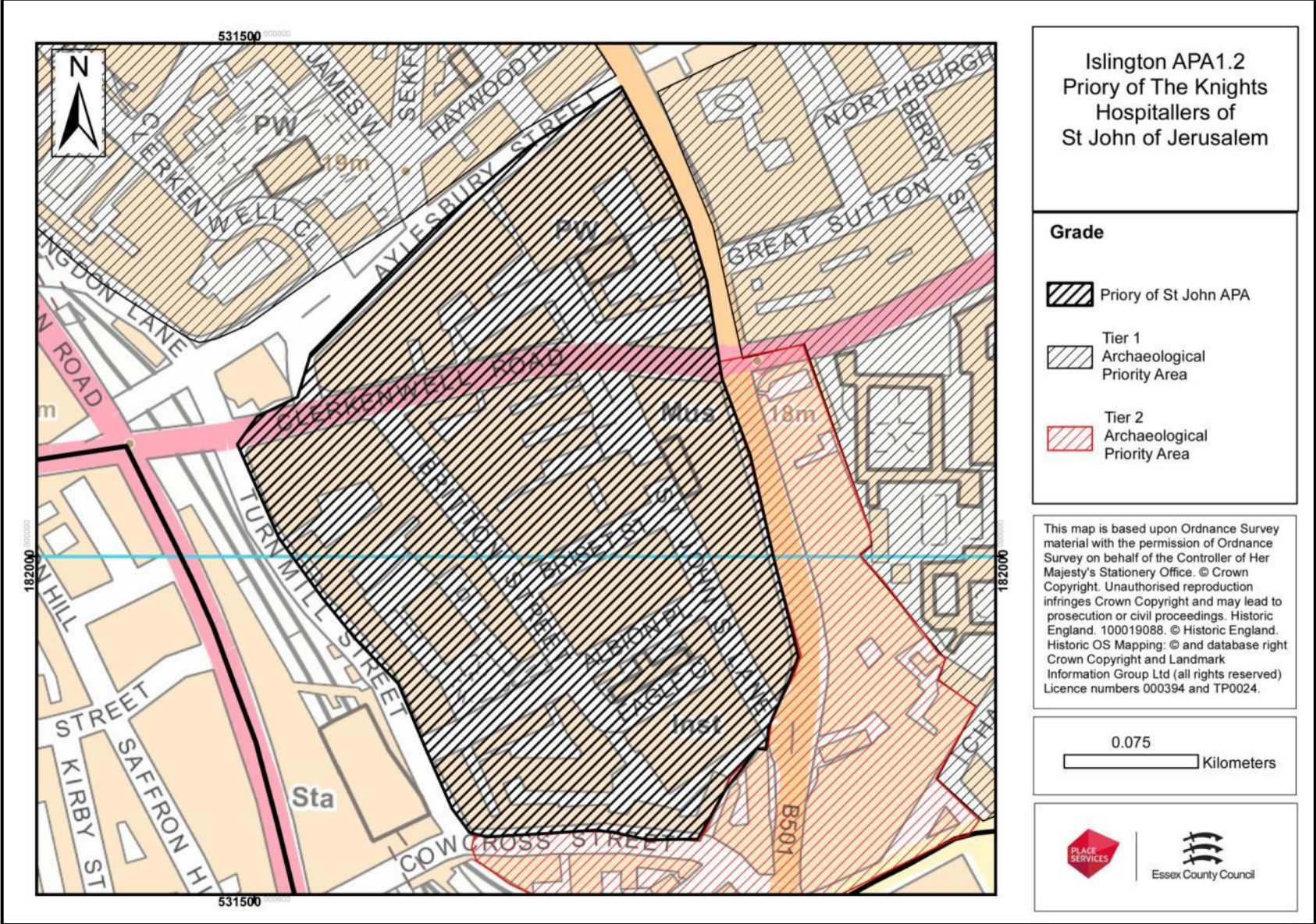
Islington APA1.2
Priory of The Knights
Hospitallers of
St John of Jerusalem

Grade

Priory of St John APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.4   Islington APA 1.2 The Priory of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem

5.4.1   Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the former precinct and site of the monastic buildings of the St John's Priory. This was one of three religious houses founded in the medieval period and which lay adjacent to each other, formerly grouped together into one APA.

The APA is classified as Tier 1, as it contains the nationally important archaeological remains of the buildings and structures of the medieval headquarters of the Knights Hospitallers in the UK. This includes a standing medieval gatehouse, listed Grade I.

5.4.2   Description

The earliest archaeological features excavated are a group of cut features from the northern part of the former precinct which are presumed to be Roman in date. A group of early Saxon (5th/early 6th century) pits was also found. Occasional later Saxon features including at least one grave were found elsewhere within the former precinct. Some of the features may represent a possible farmstead or settlement on the gravel terrace north-east of the Fleet.

St John's Priory was founded in *c.* 1144 on 10 acres of land granted by Jordan de Bricet, the lord of Clerkenwell Manor. It lay to the south of St Mary's nunnery and was separated from it by a wedge of open ground (now Clerkenwell Green) and the nunnery's private road (now Aylesbury Street). The site slopes gently to the west and south. The early layout of the priory has been reconstructed from documentary sources and the results of archaeological investigations presented in a Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph (Sloane and Malcolm, 2004). Archaeological evidence for the earliest phase of the monastery consists of the church and a few traces of open areas nearby. The church had one of the largest examples of a round nave in Britain and a crypt. There is virtually no evidence for an outer precinct at this time and it is assumed the area around the early church was enclosed fields attached to the monastery. The documentary evidence indicates that the size of the community may have been at least 5 brethren, and possibly 7. The foundation was similar to other rural preceptories of the time, though the existence of a Prior of England and the need to manage property meant that St John's was a 'Prioral preceptory', under the Priory of St Gilles in France.

The Priory of England separated from St Gilles in 1185. The combined archaeological and documentary evidence, together with architectural evidence, shows that there was a programme of expansion and building within the priory from the late 12th century onwards. This included a major enlargement of the crypt of the church, which still survives. The documentary evidence suggests that formal quarters would have been required for each of the servants, officers and the religious. It is likely that the Prior would have required separate lodgings in line with his rank. The architectural stone work indicates that the buildings would have been the equal of many palaces and large monastic hospices. Archaeological evidence to the south of the precinct comprises a building, possibly a stable for the Priory, and areas of pitting, open cultivated land, and agricultural waste disposal.

Further building work and expansion continued through the end of the 13th century into the 14th century. Archaeological evidence shows that the round nave was replaced with a rectangular one, and a cloister was built on the south side of the nave. A Great Chamber was built to the north of the

church. There was also developments in the outer precinct. Documentary and archaeological evidence show a division of land along St John's Lane and the construction of tenements. A hospital croft was also built. There is archaeological evidence for butchery industries which appears to be unique to a religious community in London to date. This suggests the priory or its tenants were taking advantage of its position next to two livestock markets, the Cow Market and Smithfield.

Documentary evidence shows that the priory was becoming more important, as it became the centre of administration for the order in England by 1350, and its role in providing hospitality was on a level with the larger royal and noble palaces. Archaeological evidence shows that the inner precinct was extensively developed in the early 14th century, with the completion of the church and the construction of an east range north of the church which was the guest range. Architectural fragments have survived from the church, and others from what appear to be important domestic buildings to the north of the church. Documentary evidence shows that tenements were built along the edges of the outer precinct during the later 14th and 15th century, facing outwards onto the Clerkenwell streets. Archaeological evidence shows that these properties were involved in slaughtering, bone working and possibly tile production. Further back into the precinct were higher status tenements with tiled floors, and rich mansions. There is some archaeological evidence for fire damage in the 14th century, and a large gatehouse was built to control access into St John's Lane. These may have been related to the Peasants' Revolt. Documentary evidence shows that in the 15th century the water system was enlarged and the layout began to be formalised.

Just before the dissolution substantial building work took place, including the construction of St John's Gate. By the dissolution the buildings comprised the church and cloister, the Prior's Hall running north from the church on the east side of the precinct, the Great Chamber to the west, and the Great Hall lying further to the west with the Great Kitchen and a dormitory beyond. The Halls were quite grand buildings, stone faced, and used to house royalty, high ranking churchmen and senior Hospitallers, with their entourages. There were stores and workshops in the south-west corner of the inner precinct and gardens in the south-east part.

St John's was dissolved in 1540, and its church was reduced in size, though the inner precinct survived almost intact. Henry bequeathed the priory site to his daughter Mary. When she became queen she authorised the re-establishment of the English Order of St John in 1557-8, but her death in 1558 cut that short when Elizabeth confiscated the property in 1559.

The only surviving upstanding parts of the priory are the church and St John's Gate. The Great Hall undercroft survives under 49-50 St John's Square. Three tunnel-vaulted cellars survive under 47-48 St John's Square. The lower parts are built from heavy ragstone and chalk blocks which are remnants of the Great Chamber. The upper parts are built of soft red bricks which probably date to a post-Dissolution rebuilding.

There appear to be two burial grounds associated with the priory. The ground to the east of the priory church was used as a burial ground up until at least 1751 when another ground was created to the southwest of the precinct to ease overcrowding. It seems likely that this burial ground was in use from when the main body of the church was originally created in the 16th century though little evidence for this is evident. The other burial ground is located at Benjamen Street. A plaque memorialises the land's bequest by *'John Michele, second son of Simon Michele of St John Clerkenwell gave this ground as a place of burial to the parish of St John Clerkenwell…in memory of his father'*. The site was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln in 1755 as an extra parochial burial ground. The ground closed to burials in 1854 and became a public garden in the 1880s, known as St Johns Church Garden.

In 1873 St John's Gate was acquired by Sir Edmund Lechmere for the new English Order of St John. They also gradually took over the church as their private chapel. They restored and gave these two buildings a new use, and proceeded to buy up neighbouring properties in order to protect these buildings, and to allow for future expansion

The area suffered bomb damage during World War II, which resulted in some post-war rebuilding. Industry declined in the 1960's and 70's. All this left its mark. Since the 1980's the area has seen the re-development of the area with more office space, design studios and restaurants. More recently, the central spaces of the St John's Square on either side of Clerkenwell Road which were given over to car-parking, have been pedestrianised.

5.4.3   Significance

The significance of this APA resides principally in its historical association with one of the main orders of crusading knights who took a leading role in the pan-European defence of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and later the fortresses of Rhodes and Malta.   The priory at Clerkenwell was the headquarters of the order in England, and one of only two headquarters of a crusading order in the country.   The site is well documented archaeologically and has demonstrated remarkable preservation for the heart of London including of the above-ground structure of St John's Gate, the below ground undercofts, and the depth of archaeological remains below existing houses and other buildings. Archaeological investigations have shown that remains of the priory are preserved within the archaeological record and there is great potential for more information to be found relating to its layout and usage.   This is not a conventional 'monastery' and given its high status, wealth, religious-military function, international connections and location next to the city of London it can be expected to have had a distinctive physical form and material culture.   As well as the substantial and ornate building, investigations have found evidence for industry (lead-working) and high-status foodstuffs.   The urbanised outer precinct is an unusual feature which has had less investigation but includes both high-status buildings and remains more typical of urban tenements.   Further information on significance and research potential can be found in the published MoLAS monograph.

The post-dissolution uses are of lesser significance, although evidence related to the Elizabethan re-use of the buildings and later industrial activity is potentially of interest.

The nature of the development within the APA since the dissolution up to the present day means that survival of archaeological remains will be variable and needs to be considered on a case by case basis. Substantial remains associated with the medieval priory could be worthy of preservation in-situ and are potentially of a significance equivalent to a scheduled monument.
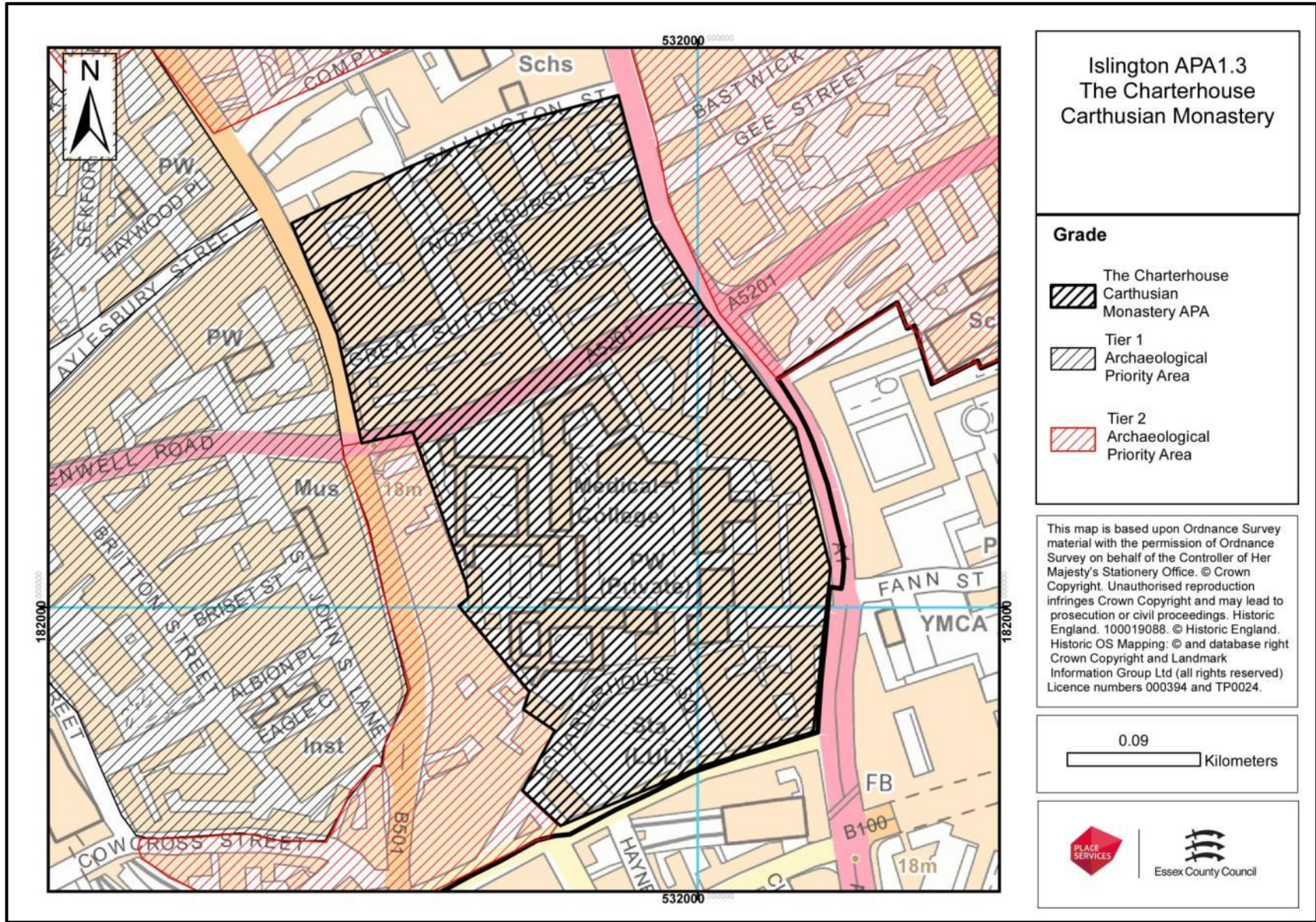
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Islington APA1.3
The Charterhouse
Carthusian Monastery

Grade

The Charterhouse
Carthusian
Monastery APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.5 Islington APA 1.3 The Charterhouse Carthusian Monastery

5.5.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the former precinct and site of the monastic buildings of the Carthusian monastery. This was one of three religious houses founded in the medieval period and which lay adjacent to each other, formerly grouped together into one APA. This APA includes the areas of the Black Death burial grounds within Islington, the site of the Charterhouse Monastery and its precinct, and the site of Suttons School, which was founded after the Dissolution and re-used some of the monastery buildings.

The APA is classified as Tier 1, as it contains the archaeological remains of medieval buildings associated with the medieval monastery and surviving buildings of the Charterhouse listed grade I.

5.5.2 Description

Originally it appears there was a river valley along the west side of the plateau where the monastery was established, following the line of St John Street. It was probably a tributary of the River Fleet.

The earliest archaeological evidence is a residual find of the tip of a pointed biface of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian type, found within a layer that may have been an imported dump layer. There is also an unstratified find of a prehistoric retouched flake, probably used as a knife or scraper.

An early Roman ditch was recorded within the precinct which contained a fragment of human bone, possibly from a disturbed Roman grave nearby. Residual Roman pottery and ceramic building material is relatively common in medieval deposits. The range of pottery forms includes mortaria, amphorae, and domestic wares including jars, flagons and beakers. These date from the mid to late 2nd century and later, a similar period for the Roman cemetery known to have existed at West Smithfield, just to the south of this area. It is difficult to know whether the material was derived from the cemetery, reworked from the fields, or imported in the medieval period within material being used to make up the ground level.

There are a few sherds of Early Medieval Shelly ware and Shell ware, and a small fragment of earlier 5th century decorated glass of Frankish type. This could be contemporary with any continued use of the Roman cemetery.

The earliest medieval activity comprised extensive gravel and possibly brickearth quarrying. Documentary evidence shows that quarrying took place on behalf of the landowners, the adjacent religious houses of St John and St Bartholomew. There are several phases of quarrying and evidence for sporadic dumping of domestic and industrial waste. The first real use of the area dates from c.1140-50, coinciding with the foundation of the nearby religious houses of St Mary and St John. Rubbish disposal increased in the area during the later 12th and early 13th centuries.

Documentary evidence shows that this area was then used for cemeteries of the Black Death victims, one based at West Smithfield on land known as Spital Croft, and the other situated just to the north of Clerkenwell Road and named Pardon Churchyard. Both had small chapels. Archaeological evidence shows that many of the quarry pits were sealed with mid-14th century deposits, but that the burials seems to be less extensive than indicated in some of the documentary sources. The Spital Croft cemetery probably extended no further north than the north side of Charterhouse Square, with its chapel sited just to the north. It was partly excavated in 2013 due to

its situation within the remit of the Crossrail project. 25 individuals were found over 2.4m below the road around Charterhouse Square. Scientific analysis has confirmed they are all plague victims.

Geophysical surveys suggest that the ground extends across the square and revealed the position of the chapel in the centre. An evaluation at 29 and 30a Great Sutton Street recorded a wall of chalk fragments aligned east to west and truncated by 18th and 19th century pits. This may have indicated a boundary wall to the Pardon Churchyard or the Pardon Chapel.

Documentary evidence tells us that the Carthusian monastery was founded on the wishes of Michael de Northburgh, who left a bequest for this on his death in 1361. The London Charterhouse was the fourth house of the order to be founded in England established by Walter de Manny in 1370/1371. Archaeological evidence shows that the permanent monastery was only gradually constructed. Two buildings to the west of the site of the future monastery buildings, constructed in the late 14th century, were probably temporary structures in use while construction took place. A temporary monastery was established in 1370, and may have utilised a documented hermitage as a temporary residence. The two buildings probably became part of the 'inner court', occupied by lay brothers and lay servants, responsible for food production, acquisition, storage and preparation, where the bulk of service functions were carried out. There is evidence for the gradual but progressive infilling of the conjectured valley on the west side of the precinct, to bring it up to the same level as other parts of the precinct. The origin of this material is uncertain but some of it may have been derived from contemporary construction, some from quarrying or landscaping elsewhere in the precinct with probable disturbance of Black Death cemeteries, and some imported from outside the area. The pottery finds from the area of the two buildings are mostly from storage and service functions, indicating they may have come from the monastic kitchens and dining rooms.

During the first half of the 15th century documentary evidence shows that the chapter house, frater, little cloister, great cloister and a piped fresh water supply were built. This was followed by at least two major alterations to the building layout. Documentary evidence also suggests three new cells were built, and a new cell or house for the prior. The archaeological investigations have shown evidence of the water supply arrangements in the area of the north cloister walk, and works to develop the low-lying western side of the inner court. Here the precinct wall and a contemporary wall which subdivided the inner court were found, though unlikely to have dated before the beginning of the 15th century. The function of the inner and outer courts is not clear. Part of the outer court was paved.

Further ground raising dumps were observed in the both courts. Excavations at Preachers Court showed large pits containing cess/rubbish had been dug in the north-west of the inner court, dating to after c.1480. Possible foul drains were observed in the inner court and beneath one of the cells. The handling of monastic cess refuse and foul water is currently poorly understood and needs further research/excavation. Animal and vegetable food remains together with pottery were found in the rubbish pits and indicates food preparation and consumption. The latest developments include a new range of buildings in stone, certainly for the lowest storey, which may represent a multi-purpose structure such as for storage, stables, offices and barns, which is paralleled on other Carthusian sites. There is also evidence of a new stretch of precinct wall built in brick.

The Charterhouse was dissolved in 1537 and almost the whole precinct was transferred to a single owner, Edward North. There is very little archaeological evidence from the immediately post-dissolution period. This may support the implication that demolition and conversion of monastic building was concentrated on the great cloister and main conventual buildings, becoming the site of the mansion and its courtyard. The church may have been demolished at this time too. The tower/entrance and the chapter house survived and may have been used as the mansion's chapel, as a chapel is mentioned in a documentary source. Excavations at Preachers Court showed a possible temporary smithy, conversion of the monastic range mentioned above into a stable, and a new brick range and yard, dating to after 1550, so probably built by North or his successors the Howards.

This house was then sold before 1609 to Thomas Sutton who wished to found a hospital 'for the maintenance of aged men past work, and for the education of the children of poor parents'. In June 1611 letters patent were issued for the hospital which opened in 1614 admitting 80 male pensioners and 40 boys. Thomas Sutton was the first master, though he died in December 1611. He was reburied in a tomb in the Charterhouse Chapel.

Archaeological evidence shows a building and yard, probably dating to after 1640, though building work may have started earlier, possibly soon after the foundation of the hospital. Its function is unclear but the form may suggest a traditional hospital style accommodation in a hall-type building. There was a large refuse dump which seemed to indicate food preparation and consumption waste from a single event, such as a feast. Pottery included a sherd of imported Chinese Ming/Transitional plate, which together with the types of animal remains indicate high status consumption in the area.

The original entrance gateway to the old hospital is on the north side of the square. This dates from the Tudor period.

Old Charterhouse graveyard, or Sutton's burial ground, was linked with the buildings later use from the 17th century. The burial ground/ graveyard was cleared between 1825-30 to create the Pensioners Court as part of the Charterhouse. It is now preserved as Charterhouse Square, a large open public recreation space.

The school continued to grow, and famous scholars included John Wesley, William Makepeace Thackery and Robert Baden-Powell. By the 19th century, the Charterhouse area had become run-down. The school moved from London to Godalming in Surry in 1872. The Hospital stayed at Charterhouse. The school buildings were then taken over by Merchant Taylors School until 1933, then St Bartholomew's Hospital took over the site of the school.

World War Two bombing badly damaged the Charterhouse; however, during the rebuilding the foundations of the original monastery were discovered and partially preserved.

5.5.3   Significance

The Carthusian Order was founded by St Bruno of Cologne in 1084. The London Charterhouse was one of just twelve Carthusian monasteries in Britain. This is a rare type of monastery within medieval monasticism. Its significance lies in the fact that archaeological excavations have shown that medieval remains of the monastery buildings survive within the APA. There is also the potential for further medieval and post-medieval remains to survive within the area of the precinct, particularly in Charterhouse Square where there are Black Death burials, and The Green, which was the garth of the Great Cloister. The standing buildings also hold archaeological interest.

The nature of the development within the APA since the dissolution up to the present day means that any proposals for future redevelopment will need to be considered on a case by case basis, with detailed assessment as to the possible survival of archaeological features in each case.

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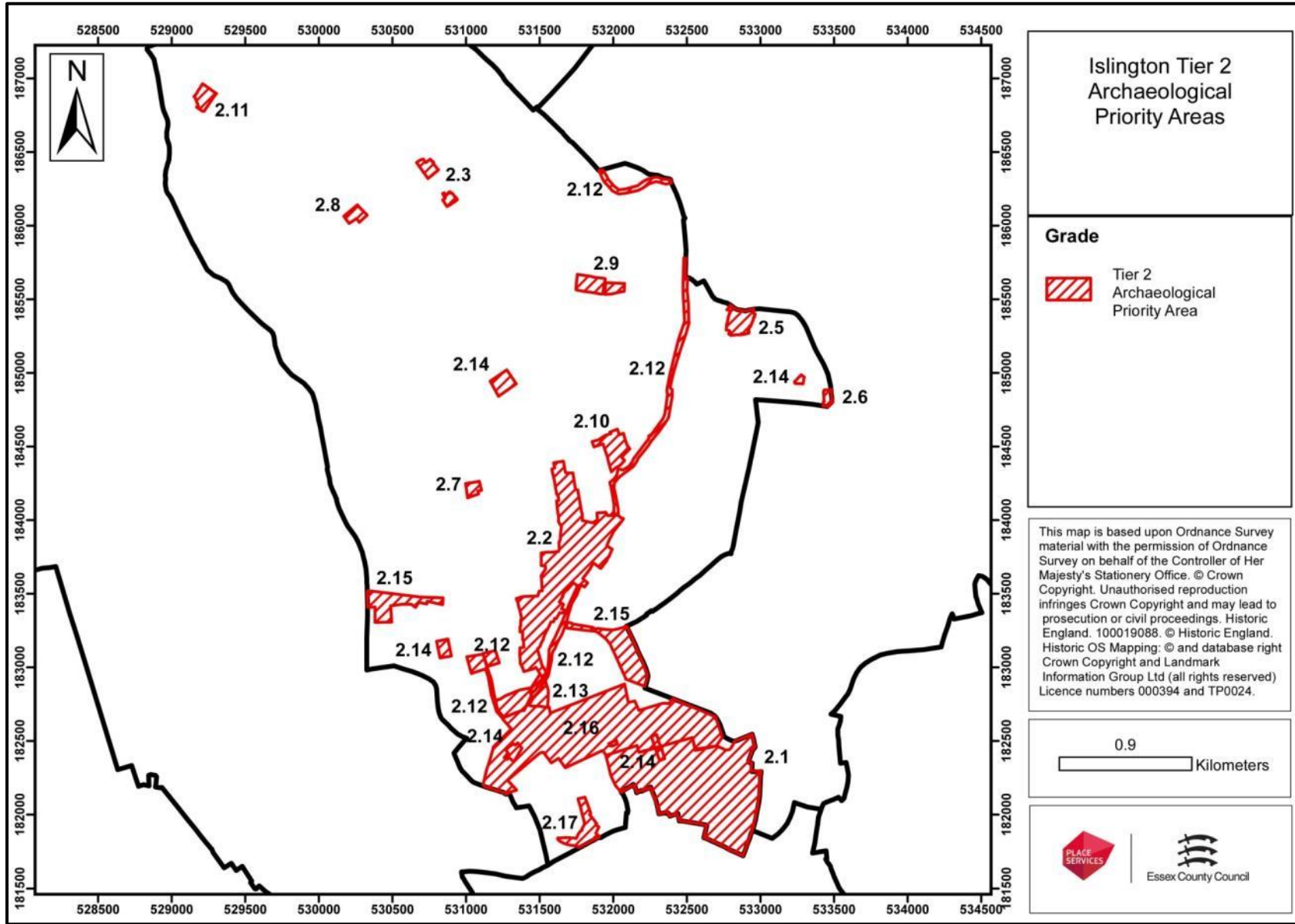 http://www.thecharterhouse.org/explore-the-charterhouse/history

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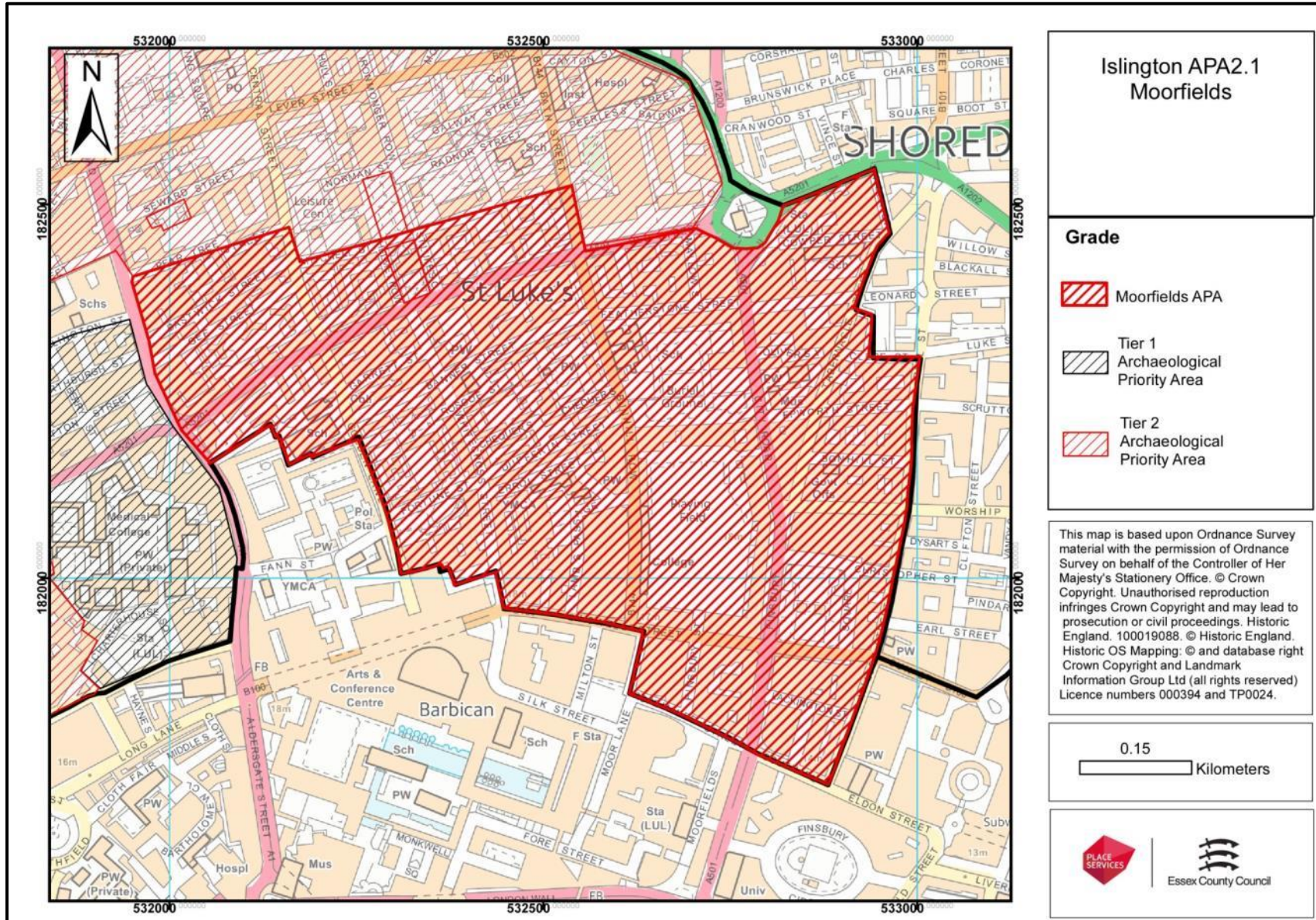
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Islington Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas

Grade

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

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Area descriptions and map extracts for Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Areas

Islington APA2.1
Moorfields

Grade

Moorfields APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
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5.6   Islington APA 2.1 Moorfields

5.6.1   Summary and Definition

This Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic area of Moorfields, Islington. This covers the area that lay between Bishopsgate to Cripplesgate and Finsbury to Holywell. Moorfields lay south of Old Street and extends into the City of London borough.

This APA comprises of the area of Islington originally known as Moorfields only. The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it is a historic urban area with late medieval origins which includes the post medieval sites of St Luke's Hospital, Bunhill Fields and other historic burial grounds. It also has demonstrated potential for prehistoric and Roman finds.

5.6.2   Description

Moorfields lay within an area of low topography to the south of the Islington borough hence its original marsh-like landscape. There is evidence that the area has been occupied since prehistory. Palaeolithic and Late Neolithic activity has been identified from finds of a pointed handaxe and distal blade flake. During excavations at the Artillery Ground, a collection of struck flints and pottery were found on the site in central Moorfields which are likely to be Bronze Age. A chisel of this period has also been discovered. These finds, as well as the supposed Iron Age trackway at Old Street to the north, are clear indications of a prehistoric landscape.

Walbrook Stream became important to Moorfields in the Roman period as it significantly changed the terrain of the area. The stream became blocked, possibly due to construction of the Roman city wall, leading to the formation of the marshland that Moorfields is famous for. Excavations have revealed that the area frequently flooded and attempts to drain the area in the 4th century largely failed; a number of Roman tiles and quarrying areas were also identified. The north of this APA is marked by Old Street, previously known as Ealdestrate, which lies on the route of a Roman road (and perhaps an Iron Age trackway) linking Silchester and Colchester. The Roman archaeology confirms Moorfields peripheral location in relation to Roman London with a number of burials and industrial activity being scattered to the south of the area. These have been seen more recently in the Crossrail excavations along Walbrook Stream.

In the medieval period, evident from excavations along Finsbury Pavement, a manorial site has been identified with a probable moat to the south east of the APA. Moorgate, which was constructed in 1415, allowed a thoroughfare to the area. The word shared by both names 'moor' is a medieval word meaning 'of marshy ground'. The land was used for gatherings and gardening as well as skating in the winter. Extensive attempts at reclamation are evident; Moorfields was first drained in 1415 allowing for allotments and a programme of ditch creation and cleaning in 1477 led to the areas drainage being much improved. The ground was levelled, causeways and bridges were made and the land was constantly being raised and drained. The area was divided into three parts Lower, Middle and Upper Moorfields.

The reclaimed land provides ideal conditions for the preservation of leather, wood and textile artefacts that would usually be archaeologically invisible. This is evident within a number of archaeological excavations where refuse pits and pools have been preserved within layers of fluvial deposits. These pits indicate that Moorfields was used for industry; Windmills, a possible cobbler's workshop from leather finds, frequent brickearth quarrying sites and brick kilns have also been

found. Some buried soil deposits also suggest that the land may have been used for agriculture. Historically, the area was largely described as an unsavoury area with refuse dumps, open sewers and deep black ditches. Archaeological investigations often encounter deep quarry pits for the extraction of brickearth and gravel infilled with late medieval and early post-medieval refuse.

An area of Moorfields was also set aside for the practice of archery from 1498 but was taken over by the Artillery Company in 1638. Originally called the New Artillery Ground to distinguish from an earlier ground at St Mary Spital, the site was the training ground for the London Artillery Company and Trained Bands of men who fought in the Civil War. The original building, the Armoury, was a grand brick structure and smaller buildings stood behind to accommodate each company. Part of the Artillery Ground land, to the north, was set aside and consecrated in 1665 becoming the Bunhill Burial Grounds. The Armoury House is still used as the headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company today.

Theatrical performances were another activity carried out on the outskirts of the city. The Fortune theatre was built as a wooden square structure in 1600 for Philip Henslow and Edward Alleyn. The venue was used by the Admiral's men, who changed their name to Prince Henry's men in 1603. On his death in 1612 they became Palsgrave's men. This theatre burnt down in 1621 and was replaced by a round brick structure in 1623. Various groups of performers followed. Plays continued to be performed long after the parliamentary ban, and only stopped when soldiers partly demolished the building in 1649. It was totally demolished by 1662. The Fortune has not been found archaeologically and its precise location is uncertain although it lay near or under Fortune Street.

In terms of urban settlement however, Moorfields was only built on after the Great Fire of London in 1666 when refugees were evacuated to temporary camps at Moorfields. It is likely that many remained on the area and this led to the area's first sustained settlement. Post Medieval remains of Moorfields are largely indicative of the area being engulfed into the outskirts of central London, with significant outside pressures, such an increase in population density, drastically changing its landscape. This increase in population and relocation of people brought with it new religious groups and put greater pressure on existing burial grounds. The most significant burial ground in Moorfields is Bunhill Fields Burial Ground which opened between 1660 and 1685. Pivotally, due to its place within Moorfields on the outskirts of the City, as well as its lack of association with any specific place of worship, it quickly became London's principal Nonconformist burial ground. It is famously the burial ground for John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe and William Blake. Burials ceased from 1853 due to the 1852 Act of Parliament ordering the grounds closure. The conversion to public space developed in 1869 and it was redesigned as a garden in the 1960s by Sir Peter Shepheard. It is also possible that an anti-aircraft gun was stationed somewhere on the site in the Second World War.

By the late 1700s, non-conformist religious houses and welfare institutions, such as hospitals and workhouses, began to appear in Moorfields and the surrounding areas. Despite being outside the borough of Islington in the City of London, it is worth mentioning that the famous St Mary Bethlehem Hospital (Bedlam) existed to the south of Moorfields in the 17th century and moved to St George's Fields in 1810. The hospital is well renowned for its poor practices, especially during its time at Moorfields, and these came to light in inspections of the 18th century. As a result of the overcrowding, another psychiatric hospital, that of St Luke's Hospital for Lunatics, Moorfields, was used to house many additional patients. Founded in 1750, St Luke's was first based in the converted 'Foundery site' which was the first London foundery for casting brass cannon for the British Board of Ordnance. Subsequently, in 1739 it became the first Methodist chapel in London of John Wesley. The site was converted to the hospital in 1750 which later moved again in 1786 to a purpose-made site in a different part of Old Street. The hospital continued in use till 1917. St Luke's Hospital and Bethlem Hospital are important examples of how mental health treatment in the past has progressed and can be used to highlight the hardship many individuals suffered before welfare reforms.

On the very eastern boundary of Moorfields lies the Methodist centre of Wesley's Chapel Ground and, to the west of Bunhill Fields, the Quaker Burial Ground. In 1778, Wesley's Chapel was built by the founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley; the building is Grade II listed. His house, also Grade II listed, stands behind as a rare example of a decorated Georgian town house. Behind the chapel is the burial ground where crucially John Wesley is also buried. The building and those in its vicinity continue as an important place for Methodists. The area also holds great significance for the Quaker community. Now named The Quaker Gardens, the site served as the first Quaker burial ground from 1661 originally for plague victims. The burial ground expanded steadily eventually holding around 12000 burials eventually being closed in 1855. The site lay largely unused until 1874. The burial ground did encounter some disturbance during a road widening in 1880. The compensation from this allowed for the building of the Meeting House which now stands on the site. Quaker burial grounds are often independent and lacking in tombstones as it was generally believed that memorials or gravestones were a pagan practice. There are some memorials in the garden but these are for the collective burials and for George Fox who is considered the founder of the Religious Society of Friends/Quakers. The burial ground became a recreation area in 1965 and also partly a small garden of the Quakers Horticulture Project.

5.6.3 Significance

This APA is significant as it contains the remains of prehistoric and Roman occupation, medieval reclaimed land and extensive post-medieval development, significant to many minority groups.

To the east of the APA the Roman road which would have formed one of important radial routes out of London's centre appears to follow an earlier Iron Age trackway. Further investigation of this evidence, supported by Roman and Iron Age findspots along Finsbury Road could help understand the landscape around the Roman town and within which it was founded.

From the middle ages Moorfields attracted a range of urban fringe activities. The late medieval and early post-medieval reclaimed land provides an opportunity for the ideal preservation of important leather and textiles finds in waterlogged deposits as well as a wide range of artefacts from commercial and domestic activities in the nearby city. Environmental sampling from the preserved deposits may provide a useful insight into the exploitation of the landscape of Moorfields and the various techniques used to manage it.

The Fortune playhouse could be the most important site in the APA and if substantial remains survive. Elizabethan playhouses are a rare class of monument unique (in England) to London. They are of high archaeological and historical interest linked to the development of public entertainment, the theatre and the careers of famous playwrights. The Fortune has a crucial part to play in understanding the development of London's pre-Restoration purpose-built theatres.

Of the post-medieval period, Bunhill Fields is one of the first Nonconformist burial grounds; its preservation with cramped memorials is a unique insight into central London cemeteries of the 18th and 19th cemeteries and its non-conformist connections make the size and purpose unique and an outstanding example. For these reasons the site is Grade I listed for historic landscape as well as being recognised for its biodiversity. Similarly, the APA also houses the first burial ground of the Quaker community and the burial of its founder. Moorfields also has important military associations for which archaeological remains could survive.

Some development sites in Moorfields have been heavily impacted by modern basements and others are built over deep and extensive intercutting late medieval or early post-medieval quarries. Assessments will need to establish which sites have potential for significant surviving remains either

because they have avoided substantial disturbance or because quarry pits contain well preserved or unusual rubbish deposits.

Overall Moorfields provides the opportunity to further understand character and changing uses of Roman and medieval London's immediate hinterland, and the struggle to reclaim this marginal marshy area.

A number of the sites are preserved today and used as public areas, enjoyed and celebrated: archaeological discoveries could contribute to this local distinctiveness.

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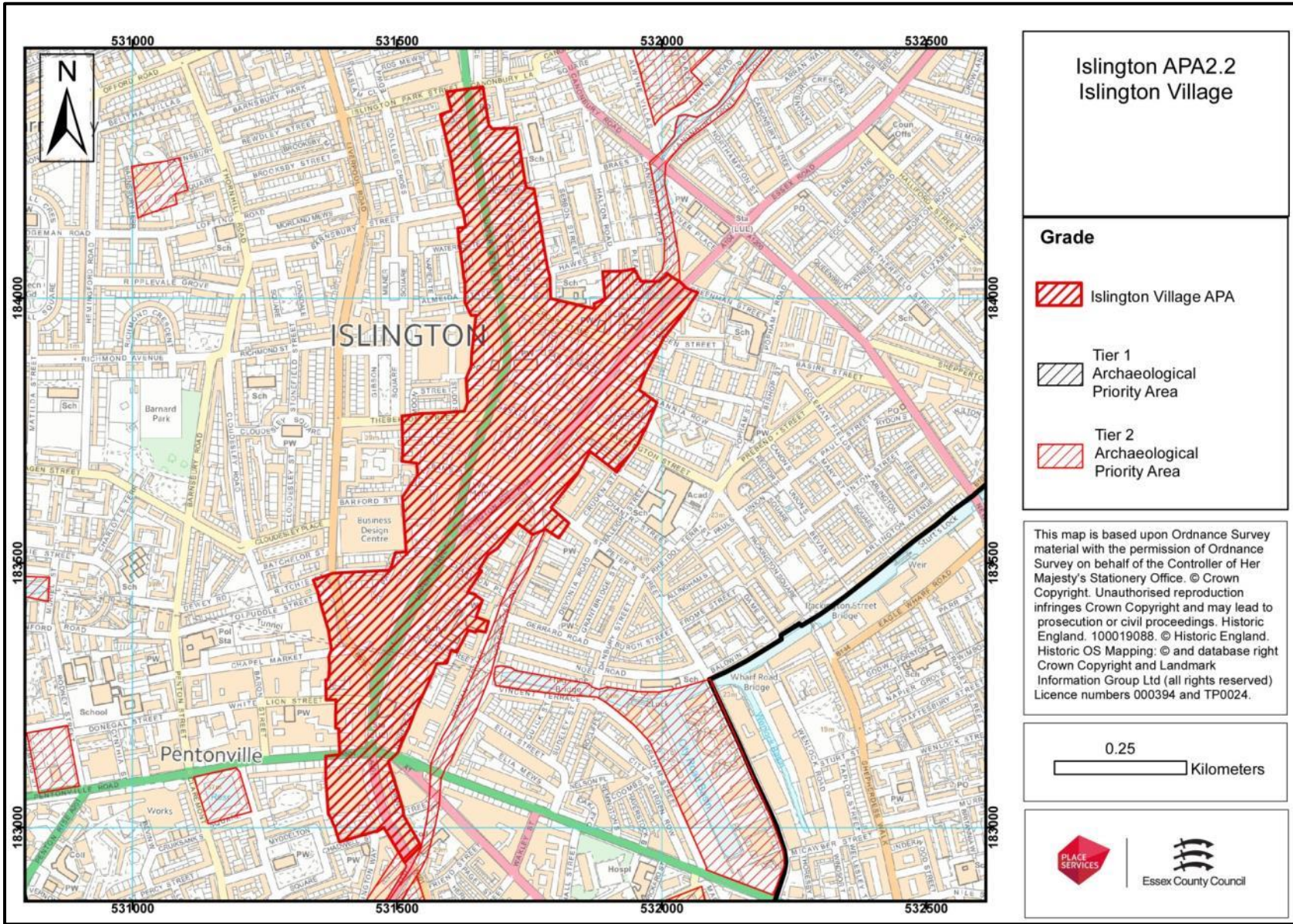Thornbury, W., 1878, Moorfields and Finsbury, in Old and New London: Volume 2, pp196-208

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Islington APA2.2
Islington Village

Grade

Islington Village APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.7 Islington APA 2.2 Islington Village

5.7.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the historic settlement of Islington. It covers the area around Islington Green and along Upper Street which formed the rural settlement pre-dating the expansion of London in the 19th century.

The APA is classified as Tier 2 because it is a historic settlement with early medieval origins and includes part of the area of the introduction of a managed water resource into London, known as the New River. It also includes several historic burial grounds.

5.7.2 Description

The earliest recorded archaeological evidence is of residual Roman pottery sherds found within medieval and post-medieval layers at 21 Popham Street. It indicates the potential of Roman occupation in the vicinity of this site.

The hilltop village of Islington has its origins in the early medieval period and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is recorded as having 27 households. Early medieval enclosure ditches were recorded at Camden Passage.

The first recorded church, St Mary's, was erected in the twelfth century and was replaced in the fifteenth century. The church fell into "very ruinous condition" and the Islington Church Act of 1750 was passed to enable it to be rebuilt. The new building was consecrated on 26 May 1754, designed by Lancelot Dowbiggin and still stands today.

The settlement originally consisted of two streets in addition to the High Street: Upper Street and Lower Street, which diverged from the High Street at Islington Green. Both date to at least the 12th century. In the 13th century several substantial houses were sited in Islington. It is possible that some were inns serving the Great North Road, though the first confirmed evidence for this is during the 16th century. Evidence of medieval settlement has come from several sites along Upper Street, Essex Road, Parkfield Street and St John's Road.

The Great North Road from Aldersgate came into use in the 14th century, connecting with a new turnpike (toll road) up Highgate Hill. This was along the line of the modern Upper Street, with a toll gate at The Angel defining the extent of the village. The *Back Road*, the modern Liverpool Road, was primarily a drovers' road where cattle would be rested before the final leg of their journey to Smithfield market. Pens and sheds were erected along this road to accommodate the animals.

There is the site of a late medieval hermitage with an attached chapel at the junction of City Road with the Great North Road. A medieval windmill was sited to the south of this junction.

In the 15th century, the proximity of Islington to London and Westminster and its rural surroundings attracted rich and eminent residents. Notable inhabitants and mentions of Islington include the fact that Henry VIII hunted duck in the ponds off Upper Street, and Walter Raleigh lived in Upper Street and owned a pub in Lower Street. Lower Street has since been renamed Essex Road. Islington High Street is the former High Street of the historic settlement of Islington. The High Street runs approximately 500 metres from the intersection of Pentonville Road and City Road at the south end to Islington Green at the north end, where it branches into Upper Street and Essex Road (former Lower Street).

 The earliest reference to Islington High Street is its appearance on a 1590 map of the area. At this time there were nine inns (including the famous Angel, which has subsequently given its name to the area around High Street), as well as housing and a public pond. The inns often harboured recusants and

fugitives. Then as now, Islington was and is unusual in that the village church, St Mary's, does not stand on the High Street but is some way off on Upper Street.

By the 17th century traditional sources of water were inadequate to supply the growing population and plans were laid to construct a new waterway, the New River, to bring fresh water from the source of the River Lea, in Hertfordshire to New River Head, below Islington in Finsbury. The river was opened on 29 September 1613 by Sir Hugh Myddelton, the constructor of the project. His statue still stands in Islington where Upper Street meets Essex Road. The course of the river ran to the east of Upper Street, and much of its course is now covered and forms a *linear park* through the area. The River Head lies to the south of the APA and is a separate APA. A spa was developed at Clerkenwell in the 17th century, and visitors often lodged in Islington.

Piecemeal mainly small-scale investigations undertaken in response to development have shown that post-medieval remains are spread throughout the APA, and include ditches, pits, wells, conduits, and cess pits. The HER records the site of the workhouse on the junction of Upper Street and Gaskin Street, south of the church, which was set up in 1731. There was the site of a music hall and exhibition hall near Islington Green. An inhumation cemetery was identified at Andersons Yard. This is thought to be the remains of the Jones Burial Ground. This was a private profit-making enterprise initiated by the minister of the adjacent chapel in Gaskin Street in 1788. Burials ceased in 1853 and bodies were exhumed for reburial elsewhere.

There are two other burial grounds within the APA. One is associated with the Parish Church of St Mary. The church originated in the medieval period but was rebuilt in 1754. The church is listed grade II. Its burial ground was converted to a public park in 1885.

The other burial ground is associated with the Roman Catholic church of St John. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries many of the laws, which restricted Roman Catholics' civil liberties, were removed or limited. The process of removing these laws was referred to as the 'Catholic Emancipation' or 'Catholic Relief'. As a result of the new demand for Catholic worship, the church of St John the Evangelist was built. Today, the site consists of three areas, St John the Evangelist Church, its burial ground to the north east and its associated school to the north. The buildings were all built between 1837-1843 with the school being the earliest, built to serve both as a school and as a church. The church came slightly later and is a prime example of early 19th century church architecture by the architect J.J.Scoles. The school and church are both in use today with thriving communities. While its early use coincided with the buildings, the burial ground has long since been unused and is currently preserved in-situ beneath the children's recreation area to the south east of the school. The burial ground at St John's church is roughly half an acre of land to the northwest of the church. It has been called, in historical records, both St John's Church burial ground and Colebrook Terrace burial ground. Although a strip of the cemetery remains the rest of the site is tar paved for the use of the children of the Roman Catholic Primary. The area that is railed off contains some of the cleared tombstones and a figure of Mary. The church is listed grade II.

During the 18th century the population of Islington grew rapidly, from approximately 325 houses in 1708, to 937 in 1732, 1,200 in 1793, and 1,745 in 1801. Islington became popular as a retreat from London and Westminster. In 1716 Islington High Street came under the control of the newly formed Islington Turnpike Trust. The Trust grew rapidly, and soon had control of most major roads in the area, building a number of major road arteries through the expanding residential areas, including Caledonian Road, Euston Road, City Road and New North Road. In the late 18th century there was an increase in the number of services offered for the residents.

The historic area is most notable for its Georgian townhouses, shops and pubs. Many whole terraces are listed including much of Islington High Street/Upper Street**.** Upper Street is the main shopping street of central Islington.

In the 19th century building rapidly spread across the fields that had originally surrounded the historic core, as new omnibuses enabled more people to commute from Islington into the city. Large houses were divided into multiple occupation. By 1903 Islington had the largest population of all the London Boroughs with very little open space.

Bomb damage during the Second World War opened up various sites that were then used for municipal housing. It was recorded as the most densely populated borough in 1951. Slum clearance by the council enabled the increase in the amount of public open space from 60 acres in 1958 to 107 acres in 1971.

5.7.3   Significance

Islington Village has been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain deposits of a medieval and post-medieval date relating to the development of the settlement. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods. There is a hint of earlier occupation from the Roman period, however, the nature of this is unclear.

Survival of medieval and earlier remains is patchy due to later disturbance but even isolated features could provide an indication of when and how Islington developed.   Post-medieval remains are more widespread and isolated features may be of little interest. Of more significance would be recognisable building or structures remains or distinctive artefactual assemblages or environmental evidence. These could be enhanced by association with standing historic buildings and/or well documented properties. Further documentary research and map regression analysis for the village as a whole would be helpful to better target interventions and articulate significance.

The APA also contains several historic burial grounds which could inform understanding of such matters as demography, health and disease. They would have significant implications for any proposed development.

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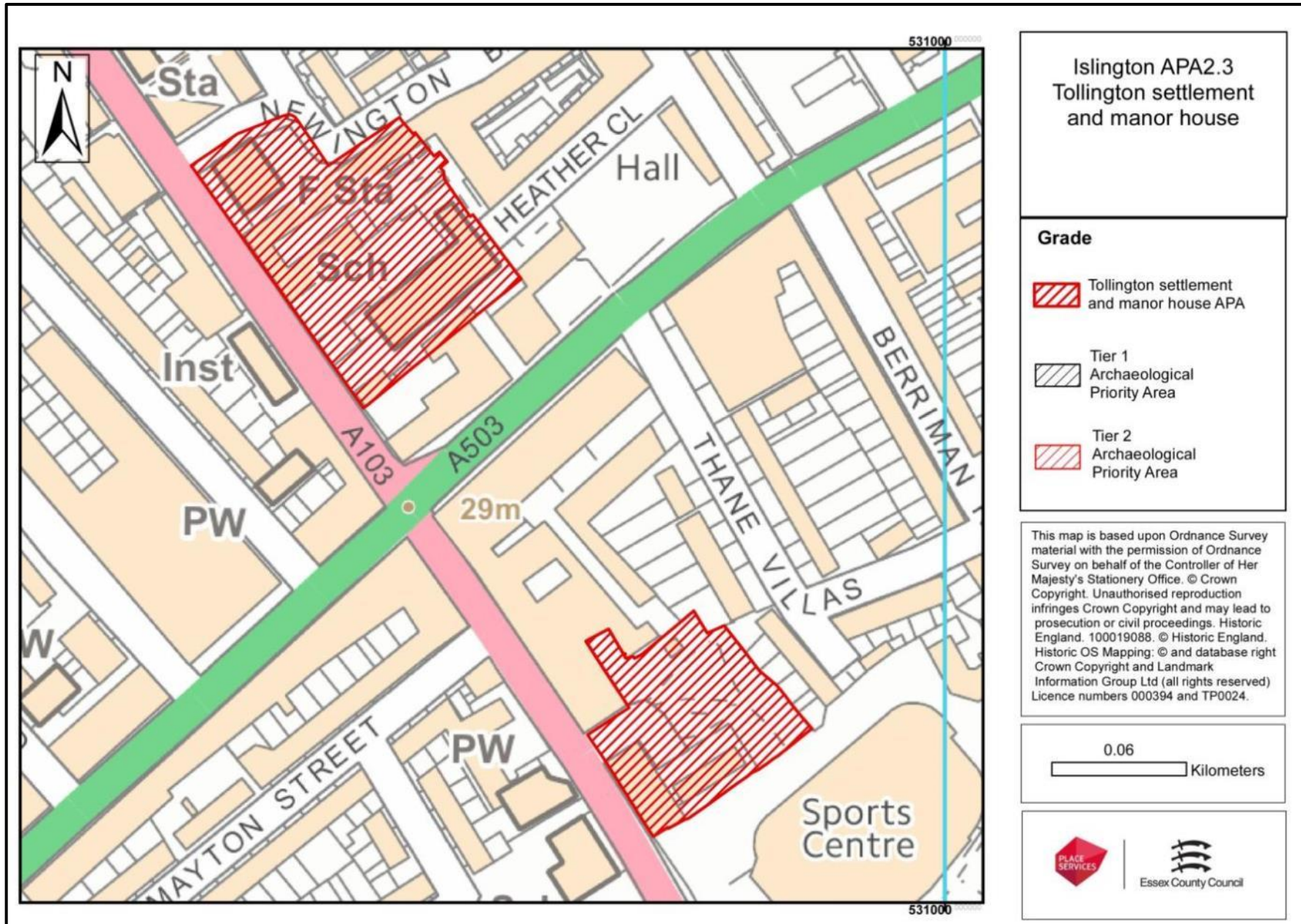
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Islington APA2.3
Tollington settlement
and manor house

Grade

Tollington settlement
and manor house APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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0.06 Kilometers

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5.8 Islington APA 2.3 Tollington

5.8.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of Tollington includes the former medieval moated manorial site and the former settlement to the north. They lie central to the Borough of Islington on the eastern side of Hornsey Road, formerly called Devil's, or Du Val's, Lane as depicted on Roque's 1766 map of London, and further back still Tollington Lane. The settlement can be traced back to c.1000 and is recorded as a manor in the Domesday Book.

The late 19th century Hornsey Road public baths and Montem Primary school, a former board school and laundry are located on the site of the APA and within the location of the former settlement.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of medieval and post-medieval settlement deposits associated with the historic settlement and manorial site of Tollington.

5.8.2 Description

Records for a settlement known as Tollington can be dated to c. 1000, when it was to provide two men for a ship. At this time it was known as Tollandune, meaning 'Tolla's hill'. Prior to 1086 the settlement was on the estate of Edwin, a subject of King Edward. By 1086 the Domesday Book records the manor of Tolentone, as consisting of two hides, which was held by Ranulf, brother of Ilger. The settlement is unlikely to have been more than hamlet at this time, as only 9 tenants are recorded for the manor. The settlement appears to have been situated to the north of Heame Lane, shown as Hem Lane on Carys map of 1786 while the manor house lay to the south.

Little is known about the growth or decline of the settlement along Tollington Lane until around 1540 when 12 tenants are listed for Tollington and Stroud. It seems likely that the manor had already become subsumed into the manor of Highbury. The road along which the settlement was located had fallen into disrepair before the 14th century when the 'Great North Road' came into use and it is reported that the owners of Tollington manor house re-located to Newington Barrow (now Highbury Barn) as travel along the Tollington Road was difficult. Tollington remained in use as a place name to the end of the 17th century when it was superseded by Holloway and the hamlet had ceased to have a separate identity by the 18th century. Roques map of 1766 depicts only a small settlement along the eastern side of the road where it widens surrounded to the north and south by fields. Similarly, Cary's map of 1786 shows the settlement along Devils Lane north of Hem Lane with possibly only 3 buildings. In a map of the suburbs of London in 1823, "Duval's Lane" is shown as running from Lower Holloway towards Crouch End, with scarcely a house on either side.

The manor house was located beside Tollington Lane, now Hornsey Road and was purchased in 1271 by the priory of St John at Clerkenwell. The manor house ceased to be a manorial site after the 14th century when the owners of the estate relocated. Records report that the old manor house fell into disuse beside the largely abandoned road. The site may have become known as Lower Place (1), being renamed once the new manor house at Highbury was built or to distinguish it from Upper Place, sited to the north of the settlement. A survey of 1611 shows a building on the site within a moat, and also an orchard and identifies the building as Devils House. By 1721 the building is recorded as an Inn and at some point is known as De Vols House. The name 'Du Vols house' is supposed to have been named after the famous highwayman of that name, who was hanged in the reign of Charles I. Tradition fixed this lonely place as the retreat of Duval, the famous French highwayman in the reign of Charles II who was hung in 1669.

While it was a public house the site was still accessed via a bridge across the water filled moat, it was said to have been a place "where Londoners went to fish, and enjoy hot loaves, and milk fresh from the cow." The moat was infilled sometime before 1835 and there was no trace of a house by 1848.

On the 1st edition OS maps the site of the manor house is largely open with two small buildings depicted, their function unknown and the remainder of the site remains undeveloped. North of the now Seven Sisters Road the site of the former settlement remains largely open and devoid of residential development. By 1892 the Hornsey Road public baths and wash house had been erected and soon after the Montem Primary school, a former board school, and laundry centre.

There have been no archaeological evaluations within or near to this APA to inform the likely depth of deposits, so the potential for anything of the manorial site or settlement to survive below ground is not known. Moats are deep features and remain open over a significant period of time therefore there is higher potential for survival of deposits associated with the moat which have the potential to contain waterlogged deposits.

5.8.3   Significance

Tollington settlement and manor have been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus have the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains of archaeological interest. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement, which can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The presence of the moat has the potential to retain waterlogged deposits.
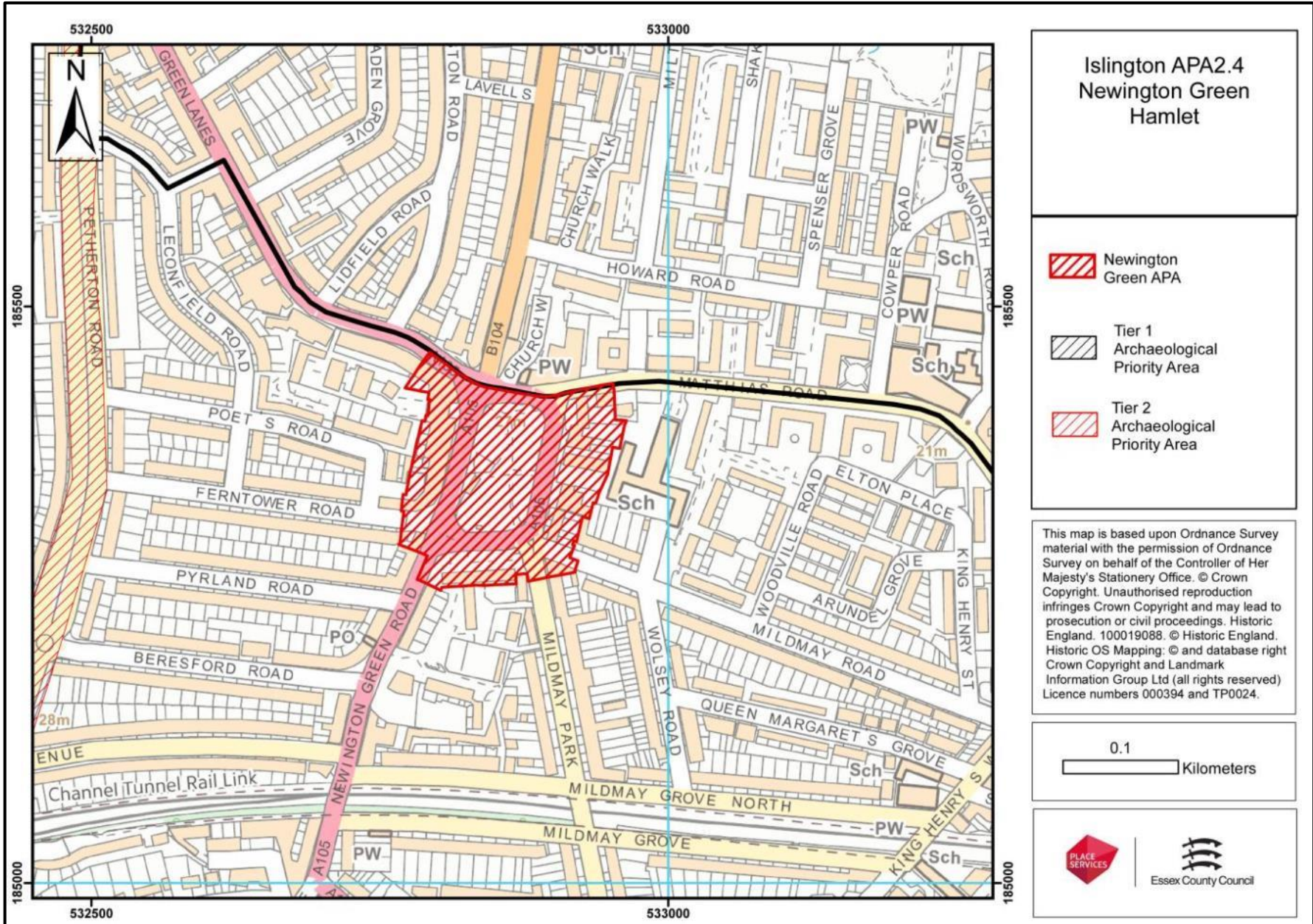
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Islington APA2.4
Newington Green
Hamlet

Newington
Green APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.9 Islington APA 2.4 Newington Green Hamlet

5.9.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers Newington Green and the houses around the south, east and west sides of the green. It lies on the northeast side of the Borough of Islington and is situated immediately to the south of the Hackney APA of Newington Green Hamlet. Newington Green takes its name from the medieval green which is the core of this APA.

The APA is classified as Tier 2, as it contains historic buildings of archaeological interest and has the potential to contain a range of medieval and post-medieval settlement deposits associated with the historic settlement at Newington Green.

5.9.2 Description

The settlement appears to have developed in the late medieval period. By the mid-15th century, a number of houses had been constructed around the green. The surrounding fields were leased to London butchers to fatten cattle before slaughter. By 1541 there was a common well on the green, and houses are noted on the northern side. William Halliday (1565-1623), Alderman of the City of London, held the Mildmay Estate to the south and southeast of Newington Green in 1611. His main house lay on the south side of the Green. There were outbuildings and land including an orchard and garden, which lay south and southeast of the green. By 1622 there were four additional houses in the estate, and by 1649, there were seven houses. Gloucester House was constructed in the early 17th century and was located in the southwest corner of Newington Green, possibly constructed as two separate houses. The terrace of houses to the north of Gloucester House was constructed in1658 and is an example of speculative building in London before the Great Fire. Gloucester House was demolished before 1880, and Mildmay House was demolished in the 1960's. The terrace to the north of Gloucester House survives as 552-55 Newington Green, and is listed Grade I. The green had associations with many dissenters during the English Civil War. By the second half of the 18th century the green had become a centre for radical thinkers and social reformers including several well-known Americans who visited Dr Richard Price, the non-conformist minister at that time (Newington Green Cons Area Statement 2014).

In the early 18th century, Newington Green was still little more than a cluster of large houses around the green. The Weavers Arms Inn was probably established in 1716, and stood on the west side of the green. The Coach and Horses Inn stood on the east side of the green by 1721. More houses were built on the west side of the green. The maps of John Rocque of 1741 and 1766 show the extent of buildings around the green. In 1742 the green was surrounded by railings. Grass plots and gravel walks (in a cruciform pattern) were also laid out at this time. Building was happening along the north side of the green. By 1761 Newington Green was described as a 'pleasant village' with a 'handsome square' and well built houses. The green continued to develop during the 19th century. By 1800 the road pattern around the green was established in what is recognisably approaching its current form. The Weavers Arms was apparently rebuilt as a house in the early 1820s. Numbers 31 and 31 Newington Green, listed Grade II, had been built on the northeast corner of the green by 1828. The arrival of the railway, just to the south of the green, in 1850 brought more development on the fields around the green to cater for the growing number of London commuters. The Mildmay Estate and Park were built over at this time. In 1871 a new hospital was built to replace an earlier Cottage Hospital which had been constructed in 1866 on Newington Green Road. By the end of the 19th century, the whole area to the south and east had been built on. There were still some open areas to the north and west (Newington Green Cons Area Statement 2014).

Social changes in the early 20th century meant that many of the houses around the green were converted to shops on their ground floor. In the early 1940s the area suffered extensive bomb damage, particularly in

the area to the east of the green. After the war the bomb damaged areas were used as sites for council housing. In the 1960s Mildmay House and late 19th century hospital buildings on the south side of the green were demolished to make way for more council housing.

There has been very little archaeological investigation within the APA but on one of the properties on the west side of the green potential was identified for surviving foundations relating to the Late Medieval settlement of Newington Green.

5.9.3   Significance

Newington Green has been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains of archaeological interest particularly reflecting early expansion of affluent families out from the historic core of London. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement, which can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

There would also be an above and below ground archaeological interest in the historic buildings, most notably the two surviving 17th century buildings which are a remarkable Pre-Great Fire survival built in 1658, soon after the English Civil War.

5.9.4   Key References

Baggs, A P, Bolton, D K and Croot, P E C, 1985 Islington: Growth, Newington Green and Kingsland, in A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8, Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes (eds T F T Baker and C R Elrington), London

London Borough of Islington, 2014 Newington Green Conservation Area Statement

Rocque, J, 1766 Map of London
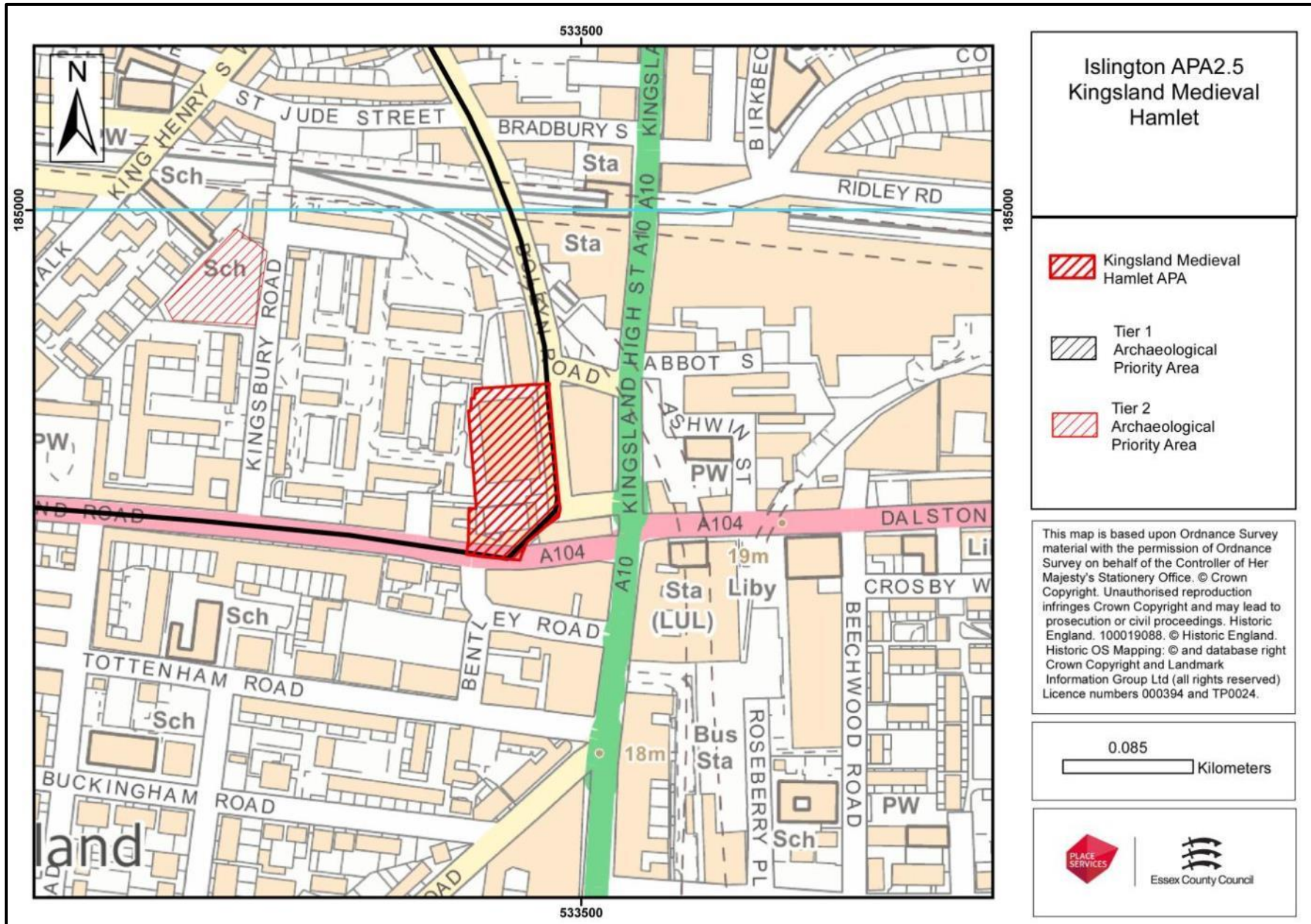
Islington APA2.5
Kingsland Medieval
Hamlet

Kingsland Medieval
Hamlet APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.10 Islington APA 2.5 Kingsland medieval hamlet

5.10.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of Kingsland settlement straddles the boundary of the Borough of Islington and Borough of Hackney at the junction of Balls Pond Road and Kingsland High Street as depicted on Roque's 1766 map of London. Much of the settlement lay within the Borough of Hackney where it forms part of Hackney APA 2.8 and lies adjacent to the medieval leper hospital (Hackney APA 2.5). The settlement can be traced back to the late medieval period.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of medieval and post-medieval settlement deposits associated with the historic settlement of Kingsland.

5.10.2 Description

A small settlement is recorded at Kingsland from the 14th century, much of the hamlet lay along the Kingsland Road and was located north of Kingsland Common (Hackney APA 2.8). There have been no archaeological evaluations within or near to this APA to inform the likely depth of deposits, so the potential for anything of the settlement to survive below ground is not known. Kingsland Road is considered to have followed the course of the Roman road between London, Lincoln and York. Little evidence for Roman activity has been uncovered along this stretch of Road and there is no recorded evidence for Roman activity within the APA.

A medieval leper hospital (Hackney APA 2.5) had existed since 1285, located south of Balls Pond Road on the western side of Kingsland Road. The settlement appears to have developed at this junction north of the leper hospital and along two side roads both east and west of the main road. Within Islington Borough on modern mapping this equates to the areas between Balls Pond Road and Boleyn Road.

The leper hospital was used to house individuals afflicted with leprosy until the mid-16th century and the hamlet of Kingsland does not appear to have grown considerably during this time, the proximity to a leper hospital may have been a factor in this. For assessments in the 16th and 17th centuries the hamlet of Kingsland was considered together with Dalston, Newington and Shacklewell, all four of them together about as populous as Hackney village (Church Street). In 1594 there were a total of 33 names together. In 1664 the Islington part of Kingsland is recorded as having 7 households, two with 6 and one with 7 hearths, and four not chargeable. By 1672 this had risen to 28 householders assessed for hearth tax. There were at least five inns at Kingsland by 1724 and development was confined to the high road, on the west side to Kingsland hospital and buildings west and north of the green and on the east to a short stretch north of the junction with Dalston Lane, which was to become the high street. The settlement is still recorded as Kingsland in the 18th century.

5.10.3 Significance

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

5.10.4 Key References

Baggs, A P, Bolton, D K and Croot, P E C, 198,5 Islington: Growth, Newington Green and Kingsland, in A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8, Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes (eds T F T Baker and C R Elrington), London

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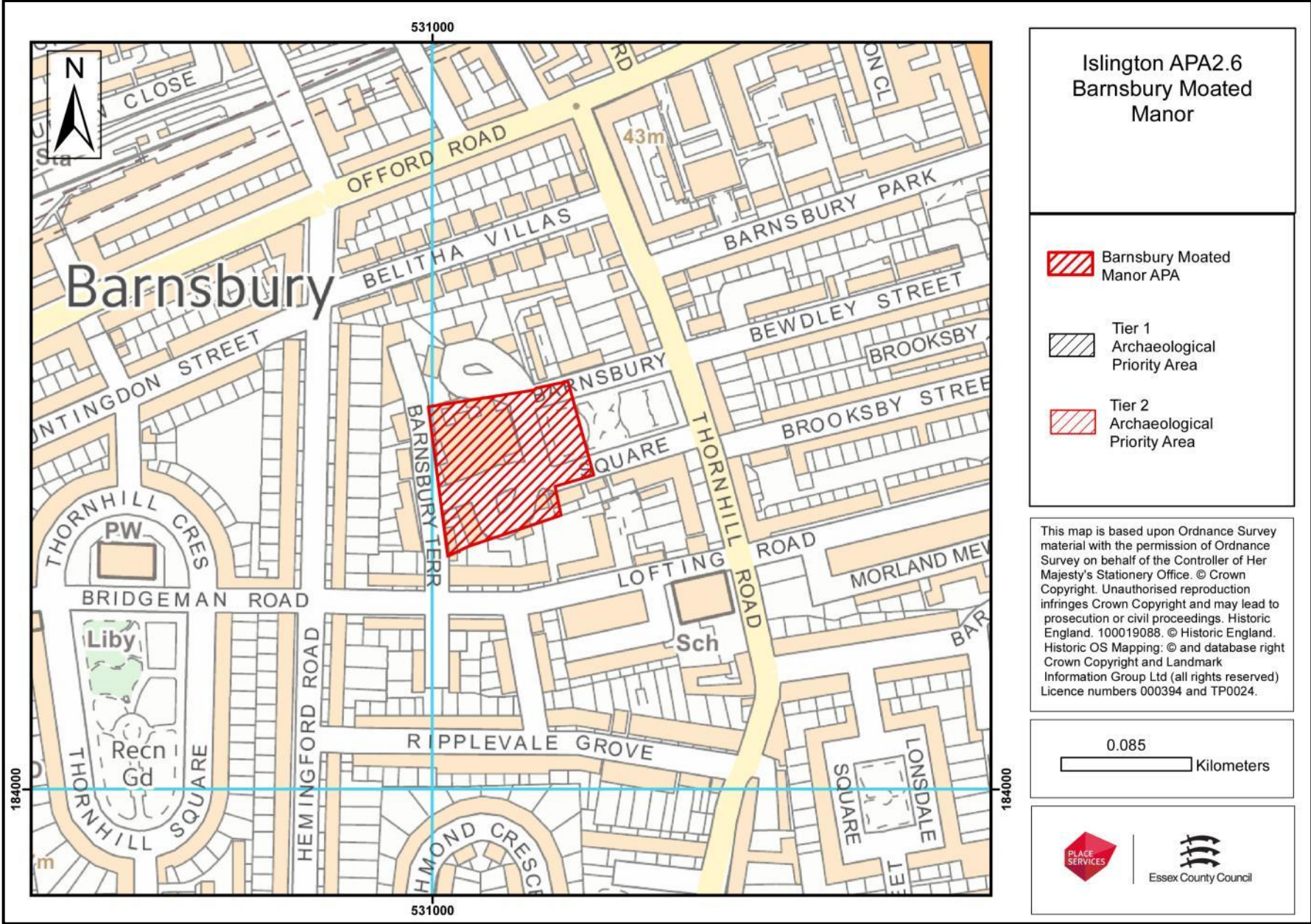
Islington APA2.6
Barnsbury Moated
Manor

Barnsbury Moated
Manor APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Kilometers

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5.11 Islington APA 2.6 Barnsbury moated manor (1)

5.11.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of Barnsbury moated site 1 includes the site of the former medieval moated enclosure and house. The manor house can be traced back to the early 14th century and was in ruins by the end of the century. The moat was located in the area of Barnsbury Square and westward to Barnsbury Terrace between the Caledonian and Liverpool Roads at the northern end of Islington Village. The APA lies partly within the Barnsbury Conservation Area. The manor of Barnsbury is considered to have had another moated site (APA 17) within the Upper Holloway area which may have replaced or succeeded the earlier house.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of high status medieval settlement deposits associated with one of the earlier moated manorial houses of Barnsbury manor.

5.11.2 Description

Although not explicitly named in the Domesday Book, it seems that the manor of Barnsbury, known previously as Bernersbury or Iseldon Berners, was held by Hugh de Berners from the bishop of London in 1086. The manor extended from below Highgate almost to the Angel and consisted of a small village with 11 recorded peasant households and two mills. The name is a corruption of *villa de Iseldon Berners* being so called after the Berners family and the manor continued in the family for several generations. Sir James Berners forfeited the manor on his impeachment in 1388, however by the early 15th century it had been returned to them.

The earliest mention of a manor house for Barnsbury is in 1297 when the Berners' family were in possession of the manor. By 1388, when Sir James Berners forfeited the manor on his impeachment, the house is described as ruinous and there is no evidence that it was inhabited beyond the 15th century. By the 17th century a new manor house was erected within a moated enclosure further north upon a former freehold estate known as the Brewhouse (APA 17).

The exact location of the medieval manor house and its outbuildings are not well documented, but cartographic evidence identifies an earthwork as a 'Roman Camp' in 1728 within lands known to be within the manor of Barnsbury. A rectangular moat is depicted on the Parish map of Islington in 1805 but is not shown on the Rocque map of 1766. The earthwork was still visible in 1830 in the gardens of houses along the west side of Barnsbury Square measuring 6 to 8m wide x 2.4m deep.

There has been some archaeological investigation within the APA which has identified evidence for occupation during the medieval period and continued use of the moated enclosure into the postmedieval period. The moat is considered to have been dug in the 13th/14th century and was up to 7m wide and c.2.5m deep. The amount and distribution of medieval tile fragments recovered from the island during excavation suggest that some form of building had existed during the medieval period however any evidence for structures or buildings appears to have been destroyed by later activity. Medieval mettled surfaces were also found within the island along with evidence for butchery. Test-pits identified fills of the moat dating to the post-medieval and subsequent excavation in the north-west corner of the moat confirmed that the moat must have been redug in the 19th century or regularly cleaned out. Part of the northern and western reaches of the moat were investigated, the northern reach ran for a length of 40m while the western reach continued for 20m. Medieval structural remains included a chalk lined drain that lead into a chalk culvert, this appears to have been infilled by the 13th to 14th century. Possible earlier medieval remains included charcoal fragments and pottery. Several other features were revealed which

related to the later 19th century development of the property and the creation of the landscape that replaced it, including a probable cellar or chamber.

The paucity of finds dating to the medieval period suggests that the moat, or at least part of the moat had been cleared out or even re-excavated prior to the 16th and 17th century. Generally, moats are deep features and remain open over a significant period of time therefore there is higher potential for survival of deposits associated with the moat which also have the potential to contain waterlogged deposits.

5.11.3 Significance

The occupation of Barnsbury manor house during the medieval period was potentially short-lived, however the reasons for this are unknown and the moated site was clearly inhabited for a longer period of time. The site has potential to contain important information related to a high status medieval manor for which there is limited information. Despite possible truncation of remains within the 'island' there is the potential for further evidence within the moats to clarify the nature and longevity of occupation on the site. Further evidence for occupation in the form of food remains may exist within the moated enclosure which can help inform on the status and dietary habits during the medieval occupation of the manorial site.
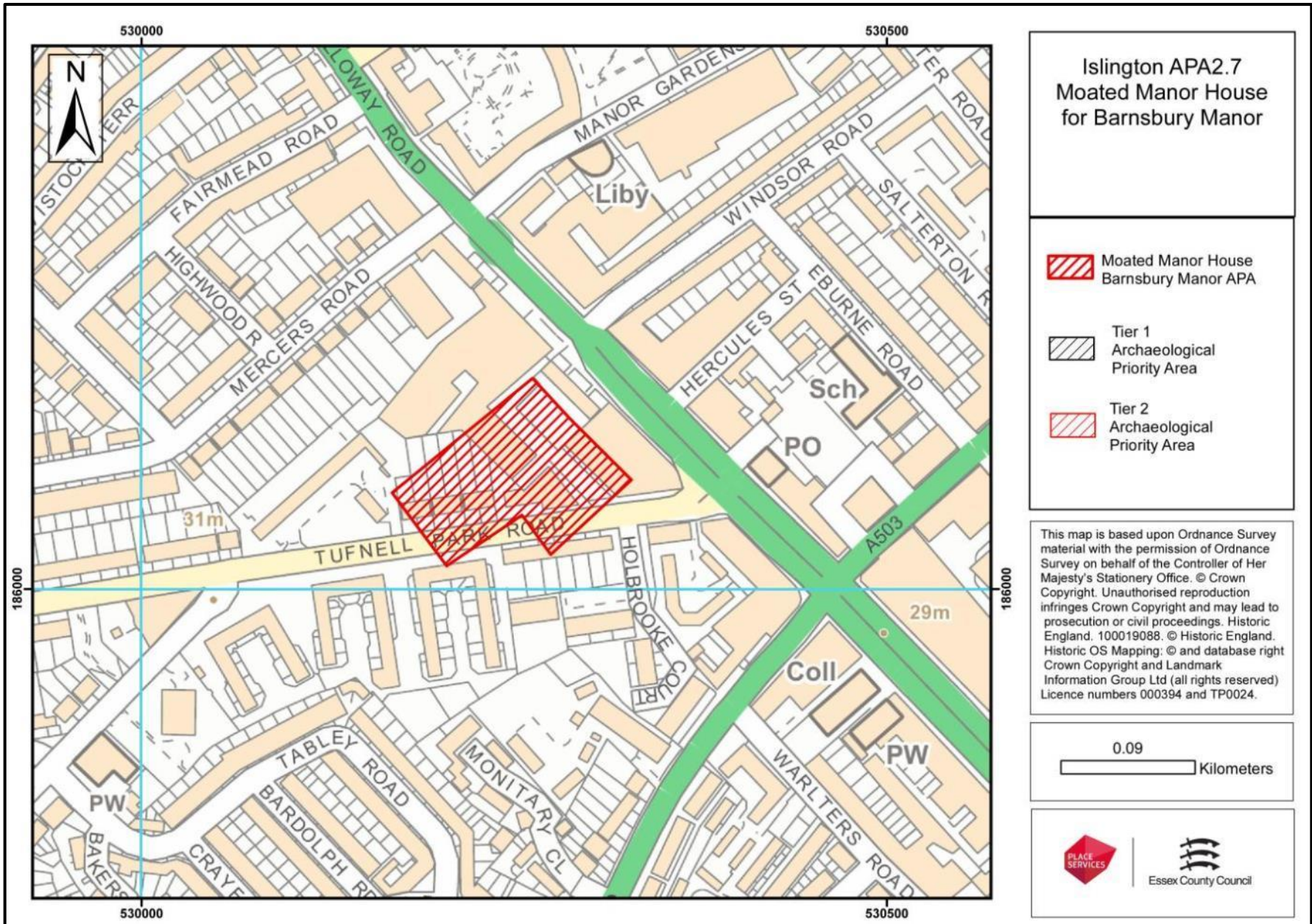
5.11.4 Key References

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Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society Spring 2013 Vol 3 No 1

Islington APA2.7
Moated Manor House
for Barnsbury Manor

Moated Manor House
Barnsbury Manor APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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5.12 Islington APA 2.7 Barnsbury moated manor house (2)

5.12.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of Barnsbury moated manor house is one of two documented sites for Barnsbury manor house which was known to exist in the early post-medieval period within an earlier, possibly medieval moated enclosure.

Barnsbury Manor is recorded as a manor in the Domesday Book when it was granted to Hugh de Berners. The house and moated site was located on the corner of Tufnell Park Road and Holloway Road as depicted on a Parish Map of Islington in 1805-6. The APA lies partly within the Mercers Road and Tavistock Terrace Conservation Area.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of high status medieval and post-medieval settlement deposits associated with the later Barnsbury manor house and possibly earlier manorial properties.

5.12.2 Description

The manor of Barnsbury, known previously as Bernersbury or Iseldon Berners was held by Hugh de Berners from the bishop of London in 1086, which before 1066 had been equally divided between Sired, canon of St. Paul's, and the canons as demesne. The name is a corruption of *villa de Iseldon Berners* being so called after the Berners family and the manor continued in the family for several generations. Sir James Berners forfeited the manor on his impeachment in 1388, however by the early 15th century it had been returned to them. John Bourchier, Lord Berners sold it to Sir Reynold Bray in 1502 who left it to his nephew, however in a settlement of 1510 Barnsbury was among lands allotted to Margery wife of Sir William (later Lord) Sandys. In 1539 Lord Sandys sold the manor to Robert Fowler. It remained in the Fowler family until the middle of the 18th century, when it passed to Sir Thomas Fisher. Through marriage it passed into the Halton family, until 1754, when it was devised to John Jolliffe Tuffnell, Esq. who died in September 1794. On his death his godson, William Tufnell acquired the manor. The Tufnell family built the Tufnell Park Estate.

By the late 14th century the manor house at Barnsbury terrace (APA 14) was described as in a ruinous state. A new site for the manor house may have been sought sometime after this, the lord of the manor was documented as acquiring further land and a freehold estate called the Brewhouse and some copyhold that came to the Fishers in the early 17th century, and was thereafter known as Barnsbury demesne. In 1725 the estate included a moat, which was let to John Warminger, who built a house and outbuildings. In c.1844 it is noted that the house within the moated enclosure was thought to be less than 70 years old and surrounded by an older moat and possibly older outbuildings, including the barn, beerhouse and stables. The house was known as the manor farm or house in the 19th century and formed part of the demesne farm. It was occupied by Manor House school in 1851. The area was affected by bomb damage during WWII and the adjacent Cinema building was hit by the bombing but not destroyed.

The exact location of the manor house and its outbuildings are not well documented, however, cartographic evidence identifies an irregular moat with an L shaped addition on Dents Parish map of 1805-6. Additionally the field just south is called 'the moat' in the Tithe Apportionment of 1805, the one adjacent to the east is the 'moatfield'. The VCH (1911) reference to the location of the moated site may be incorrect as location along Hercules Road would place the manor house on the east side of Holloway Road while the demenses are documented as being on the west side of Holloway Road.

Dent's map of 1805 shows the portion of moat extending as an offshoot from the main enclosure. At 2-4 Tuffnell Park Road evaluation and excavation have revealed the remains of the 'off-shoot' to the moat as depicted on Dents parish map. Excavation of part of the ditch revealed large quantities of waste

and rubbish which potentially indicates that this area housed ancillary buildings such as kitchens, separate from the main manor house.

Moats are deep features and remain open over a significant period of time therefore there is higher potential for these to contain surviving deposits associated with the manor and also have the potential to contain waterlogged deposits. Excavation has revealed that the moat contained two fills. The lower fill was comprised of blue-grey clayey silt, with organic matter and occasional charcoal. The lower fill begun to be deposited in the early post-medieval period although silting may have started earlier. The moat is potentially older potentially dating back to the medieval period. All of the pottery from the upper fill dates from 1580-1650, which suggests it was deliberately dumped in the moat, although intermittent dumping may already have been taking place before the ditch was deliberately filled in. The uppermost fill of the ditch has now been truncated away, which may explains the absence of 19th century material in it.

5.12.3 Significance

The site has potential to provide important information from a high status medieval to post-medieval manor for which there is limited information. The investigated section of moat may have been a later addition, based on the finds assemblage. Despite possible truncation of remains within the 'island' there is the potential for deposits related to the manor surviving within the moat arms. The presence of the moat has the potential to retain deeply buried and possible waterlogged deposits. Survival of both bone and pottery has been demonstrated to be good.

5.12.4 Key References

Baggs, A P, Bolton, D K and Croot, P E C, 1985, Volume 8, Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes (eds T F T Baker and C R Elrington), London

Baker, T F T, 1998, *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 11, Stepney, Bethnal Green. London*

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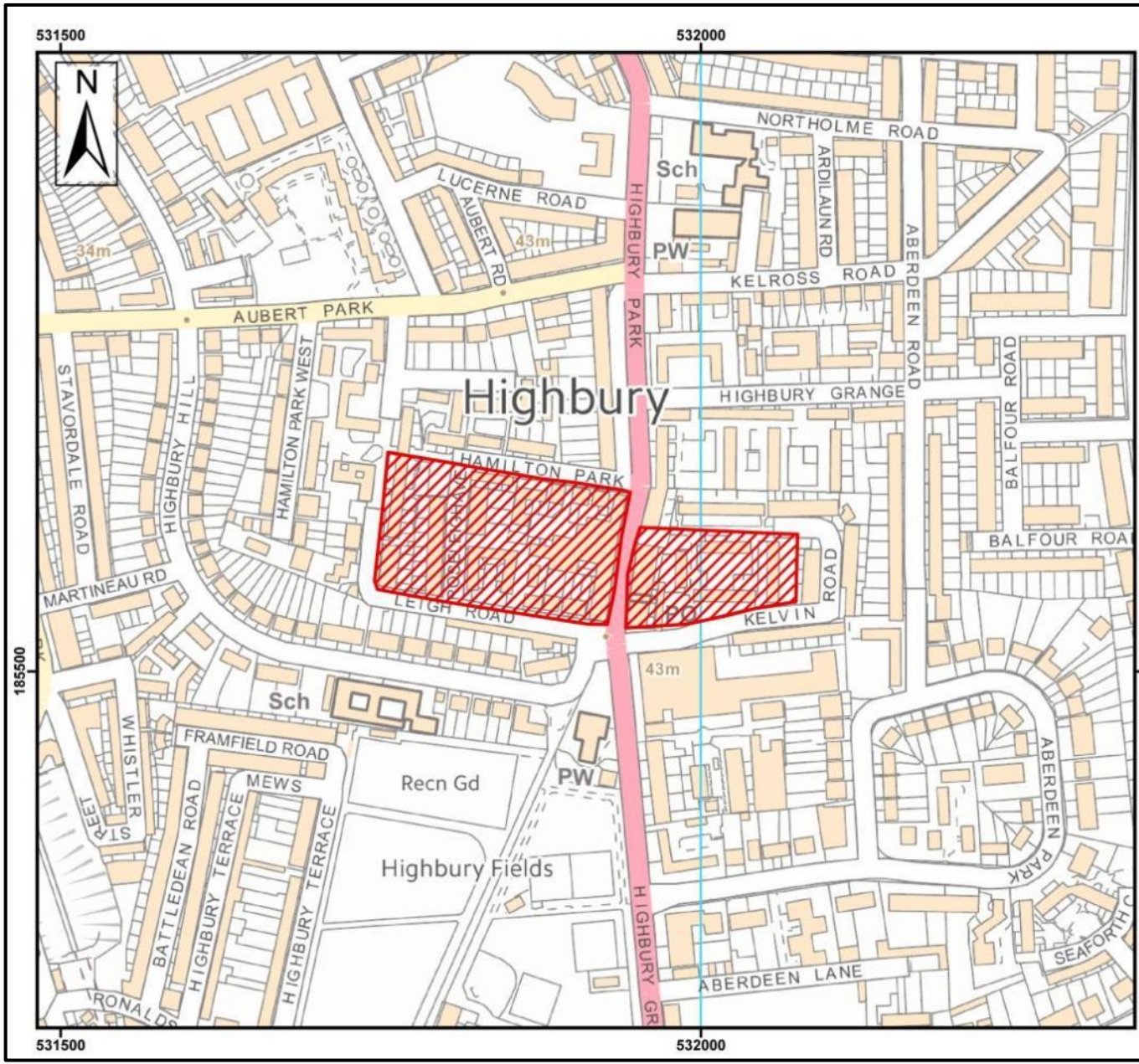
Islington APA2.8
Highbury Grange
and Manor House

Highbury Grange and Manor House APA

Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area

Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

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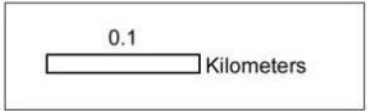
5.13 Islington APA 2.8 Highbury moated manor and grange

5.13.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of Highbury includes the former medieval moated manor and grange. They were located east and west of Highbury Park Road north of Highbury fields within the Borough of Islington as depicted on Roque's 1766 map of London. Highbury Manor was formed from lands which were formerly part of the Domesday Manor of Tollington when it was granted to the Priory of St John of Jerusalem. The manor house and grange can be traced back to the early 14th century. The APA lies partly within the Highbury Fields Conservation Area.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of high status medieval and post-medieval settlement remains associated with Highbury manor house and grange.

5.13.2 Description

The manor of Highbury (also known as Newington Barrow) was formed from lands within the Domesday Manor of Tolentone (Tollington APA 2.3) that was granted to the Priory and hospital of St John of Jerusalem in 1270-1. The manor received its name from the situation on a hill surrounded by the demesne.

The estate formed the Hospitallers' *camera* of Newington in 1338 with the manor and 2 carucates of land. The manor passed to the Crown at the Dissolution and under Henry VIII's will passed to Princess Mary in 1548.

Moated manor house

Sometime after 1270 a new manor house was built on the hilltop site of High Burh to replace Tolentone House. It became known as Highbury Manor, with Tolentone House referred to as The Lower Place and later still Devils or Du Vals House (Tollington APA (number to be assigned)). When Sir Robert de Hales became the Grand Prior of the Order of St John of Jerusalem he acquired the manor and by 1338 had built a replacement on a grand scale. It is recorded as a substantial stone building surrounded by a large moat and was used as a country residence by the priors of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

When Prior Hales was appointed Lord Treasurer it fell to him to collect the latest Poll Tax. In 1381 the imposition of the Poll Tax sparked off the violent Peasants' Revolt and a large mob, led by Jack Straw, captured the Lord Prior and then destroyed the manor house. It is believed that Jack Straw and some of his followers used the site as a temporary headquarters and consequently the derelict manor became known for the next 500 years as Jack Straw's Castle. The moated enclosure later became known as Highbury castle, however the manor house does not appear to have been rebuilt and, in a survey of 1611, is documented as still being in ruins. A watercolour map (Fig.1) of the area commissioned by the landowner shows the ruins of the house had been removed from within the enormous moated site by 1718.

In 1773 a wealthy stockbroker, John Dawes, acquired land within Highbury Manor and adjoining lands and began to form the Highbury House Estate. He built Highbury House in 1781 at a cost of £10000 and laid out further buildings known as Highbury Place and Terrace. Highbury House was built on the site of the earlier house and was described as an elegant villa with extensive pleasure gardens. The estate was sold off in 1788 by his son and the house was sold to William Devaynes, M.P. The grounds around Highbury House started to be sold off in 1794. By 1797 the astronomer Alexander Aubert had bought the property and had built an observatory of three stories, where there was a reflecting telescope said to be the largest made by James Short. Other additions by Aubert included the placing of a clock from St. Peter-le-Poer, Broad Street,

in a turret nearby, and the filling of the moat except in front of the house. In 1805 the house was sold to John Bentley, who walled a large part of the grounds, which included a plantation of tobacco in 1809 and were noted as productive gardens in 1810.

Two remnants of the old moat become part of Highbury Barn's Pleasure Gardens which were formed in the Victorian era on the site of the manorial farmstead. These were infilled by 1855 and soon after the grounds of the estate were built over. The remaining grounds and house had become a school by 1894. The house was demolished in 1938 and Eton House built on the site (now Leigh Road) in 1939 by the Old Etonian Housing Association.

Hospitallers Grange

The farm associated with the Hospitallers grange was built opposite the moated site on the east side of the track that ran south to Hopping Lane, now St Paul's Road, roughly on the line of Highbury Park / Highbury Grove (the A1201). The monastic grange included the farm and lands owned and run by the Hospitallers to provide food and raw materials for consumption within the monastic house and surplus for profit. The house had been destroyed in 1381, but the grange appears to have continued in use until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 when it is recorded as reverting to the Crown and being leased to Thomas Cromwell.

In 1541 the grange consisted of a walled yard, garden and pasture called Castlehill. Highbury barn is recorded in 1611 and by 1692 Highbury House (later known as Highbury Farm) and farm were built adjoining the surviving barn. In 1718 the barn consisted of a range on three sides of a courtyard, Roques map depicts a walled enclosure as still existing in 1766.

In 1740 a small ale and cake house was opened in the Barn, which, through the 18th and 19th centuries, became a well-known tea-gardens and resort. In 1770 William Willoughby took over Highbury Barn and greatly increased its popularity. He expanded its size and facilities, taking over land and buildings from the farm next door, reaching beyond what is now Kelvin Road and created a bowling green, trap-ball grounds and gardens. It could cater for company dinners of 2,000 people, concerts and dancing and became one of the most popular venues in London. In 1854 events at the annual balls in the grounds of the Barn included the aeronaut Charles Green's balloon ascent. By 1865 there was a huge dancing platform, a rebuilt theatre, high-wire acts, pantomime, music hall and the original Siamese twins. The Barn became the victim of its own success. After a riot, led by students from Bart's Hospital in 1869, locals complained about the Barn's increasingly riotous and bawdy clientele. This led to a court case and in 1871 authorities revoked the Barn's dancing licence.

The site of the manor house and grange remained relatively undeveloped until as late as 1883 by which time the barn had been demolished and the grounds built over. Areas of Highbury were bombed during the Second World War resulting in large-scale rebuilding works to replace bombed buildings and provided new municipal housing. Shops now face each other across Highbury Grange, where the Manor House and its farm stood. Behind the shops, the Manor House land is covered with streets and houses.

There have been no archaeological evaluations within or near to this APA to inform the likely depth of deposits, so the potential for anything of the manorial site or grange to survive below ground is not known. Remains of foundations of a substantial stone building may survive below ground and possibly sediments associated with its destruction. Below ground evidence associated with the structures within the grange may survive as well as occupation layers due to the longevity of the barn and its uses.

Moats are deep features and remain open over a significant period of time therefore there is higher potential for survival of deposits associated with the moat which have the potential to contain waterlogged deposits.

Significance

Hospitallers *Cameras* are rare within England and Highbury moated manor was a large high status site during the 13th century and a historically significant one in the history of the Peasants Revolt, as recognised by the erection of a Plaque on Highbury Barn Tavern. The site 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. The presence of the moat has the potential to retain deeply buried and possible waterlogged deposits.

The grange has been in continuous use since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains of archaeological interest. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement, which can provide an insight into changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Preserved remains could help inform on the process of appropriation and conversion of Hospitallers estates by secular landlords in the 16th century.

*This black and white copy of a watercolour map of the area is from **History of Highbury**. Commissioned by landowner John Austen, drawn by John Johnson & dated 1718*

5.13.3 Key References

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Highbury Wildlife Garden website 2018

Islington APA2.9
Canonbury Manor House

Legend:
- Canonbury Manor House APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

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0.1 Kilometers

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5.14 Islington APA 2.9 Canonbury Manor House

5.14.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of Canonbury Manor house lies within the area bounded by Canonbury Place, Alwyne Place, Alwyne Road and Alwyne Villas near the centre of the Borough of Islington. The manorial site was formerly bounded by Hopping Lane and Upper Street with the Fleet River forming the eastern boundary as depicted on Roque's 1766 map of London. The settlement can be traced back to the 12th century when it was given to the priors and canons of St. Bartholomew. It contains substantial remains of the 16th century and later manorial buildings which are designated as listed buildings including the Grade II* Canonbury Tower.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it is a medieval and post-medieval manor with surviving listed buildings, above and below ground structural remains and associated remains of water supply and post-medieval development of the estate.

5.14.2 Description

The manor of Canonbury originated in property given to the prior and canons of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield by Ralph de Berners in the 12th century. In 1306 the estate included a manor house, possibly the property known as Cotelers (Cutlers). The property either became known as Canonbury House or a new house may have been built by 1362 as Cutlers continues to be referred to in documents until the Dissolution.

By 1443 the priory manor was responsible for the supply of fresh water to St. Bartholomew's hospital via an aqueduct, the head of which was within the precincts of Canonbury. Remains of the subterranean brick-built aqueducts, through which water-pipes from Canonbury were carried, have been revealed near the house. The City of London was first supplied with water in pipes in the year 1236; the supply at Canonbury may have dated from this period. The discovery of brick archways in Canonbury led to the tradition that the monks of St. Bartholomew had a subterranean communication from Canonbury to the priory at Smithfield.

During the residence of the prior William Bolton (1509-32) a new house was built, possibly incorporating part of the existing building. A brick tower may have been erected at this time, or possibly later. The house was probably conventionally arranged around at least one courtyard and had a small park, with garden and offices.

After the Dissolution Canonbury manor reverted to the Crown and it was given to Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex. Thomas Cromwell occupied it from 1533 to 1535 or later during which time further work on the house was completed. After his execution it passed back to the Crown and was sold to the Earl of Warwick, who, as Duke of Northumberland, was executed by Queen Mary in 1553. In 1540 the estate is documented as consisting of a mansion, garden, and dovecot. The manor was then granted to Lord Wentworth who continued to carry out additions and alterations. In 1570 Lord Wentworth sold Canonbury manor to Sir John Spencer, later lord mayor who carried out much of the improvements to the properties, practically rebuilding the house on a much larger scale.

The new building probably formed three sides of a large courtyard open towards the north. The main south range incorporated parts of the earlier building which had formed the north side of a walled garden and octagonal summer houses were built at its southern corners. The central range was greatly altered with a long gallery on the first floor embellished with elaborately moulded plaster ceilings. The tower may have been built or rebuilt and extended at this time with short wings attached.

Around the 1650s Lord Northampton was in debt from the Civil War and began leasing out parcels of land on the estate. Soon after parts of the building were being leased separately as Canonbury House (the south

range), and Turret House (the east range), so called from the bell turret in the middle of the roof. In 1727 Canonbury House was further subdivided in two parts, each with some garden. Parts were let as lodgings, advertised as furnished or unfurnished apartments with a good garden, summer house and coach house, and access to an excellent cold bath.

Further buildings were erected in 1770 by John Dawes along with modifications to the south and central range. The bell-tower on Turret House was removed and the building divided into three substantial houses. The remainder of the range was rebuilt in 1780 as a row of houses. In the 18th century the house was a cluster of detached buildings, with the walled garden serving the main house and a large park on the north side. Within the park were an avenue and canal. Canonbury tavern was built at the south-east corner of the park by 1735. By 1795 the only part of the old mansion which remained was a lodging-house at the north-west corner of the site, which has a large brick tower. A long range of tiled buildings, supposed to have been the stables of the old mansion, but which had become an appendage to the "Canonbury" Tavern, were pulled down in 1840.

The west end of the range was rebuilt early in the 19th century and the vicarage house built on the site of the west range around 1820. In the early and mid-19th century the garden and the park were divided into building plots, the two summer houses being preserved as adjuncts to no. 4 Alwyne Villas and no. 7 Alwyne Road. Following bomb damage in World War II, Alwyne square was rebuilt in 1954 by the developers Western Ground Rents, designed by their surveyor Nash, and now consists of small blocks of flats, and rows of terraced houses. Only one of the original houses remains. The garden contains grass, with some mature horse chestnut trees, and is surrounded by modern railings. Remains of the 19th century additions to the Canonbury Estate survive in Alwyne Square.

The tower was let as rooms until c. 1840, when it became the residence of Lord Northampton's bailiff. It was afterwards rented by the Islington Church of England Young Men's Society, followed by the Canonbury Constitutional Club from 1887 to 1907. In 1907-8 the tower was extensively restored by the Marquess of Northampton and King Edward hall built on the east side as a social club and museum for the Canonbury tenants and their friends in Canonbury, Islington, and Clerkenwell. The hall was let with the tower to the Tavistock Repertory Theatre Co. in 1952 to 2003 and formed its box office and rehearsal rooms in 1983. The Northampton trustees had sold the estate to property companies, Western Ground Rents and the Oriel Property Trust, by 1954. The tower is currently used as offices? (HE description)and includes a Masonic research centre. The tower has been open to the public for private tours since 2016.

In 1925 the RCHME recorded a watch-house within the estate on the South bank of the New River described as a small round building of brick with a pyramidal tiled roof possibly of late 17th-century date.

There have been few archaeological evaluations within or near to this APA. Elements of the estate designed by Spencer and subsequent owners that survive in whole or partly within later buildings are protected as listed buildings. The brick floor and associated walls of a substantial cellar were revealed at No 3 Canonbury Place which are presumed to be the remains of the south range of Canonbury House. The incorporation of earlier buildings into later designs indicates high potential for further survival of below ground remains associated with the post medieval estate. Portions of the late 16th-century wall survive and garden features within the existing gardens as well as close to the river may be preserved.

At present little evidence for the medieval manor house has been uncovered. Remains of the aqueducts have been unearthered nearby; the remains are reported as being only a short distance underground and may have been impacted upon by subsequent developments. Traces of earlier systems and any substantial structures may have survived at depth within the grounds around the earlier manor house.

5.14.3 Significance

Canonbury manor has been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains of archaeological interest. Such deposits present a potential opportunity to assess the buried evidence of historic settlement, which can provide an insight into

changing settlement and land use patterns, as well as evolving lifestyles in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Canonbury Manor was probably the first place in London to supply an independent water supply in pipes. By 1613 London was properly supplied with pure water brought to the city by the New River. Remains of the medieval water supply would provide rare and valuable information on the date and construction methods of these systems. Potentially deeply buried remains may also contain waterlogged deposit which would further inform on the settlement and lifestyles of the monastic manor.

5.14.4 Key References

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Lysons, D., 1795, The Environs of London: Volume 3, County of Middlesex. London.

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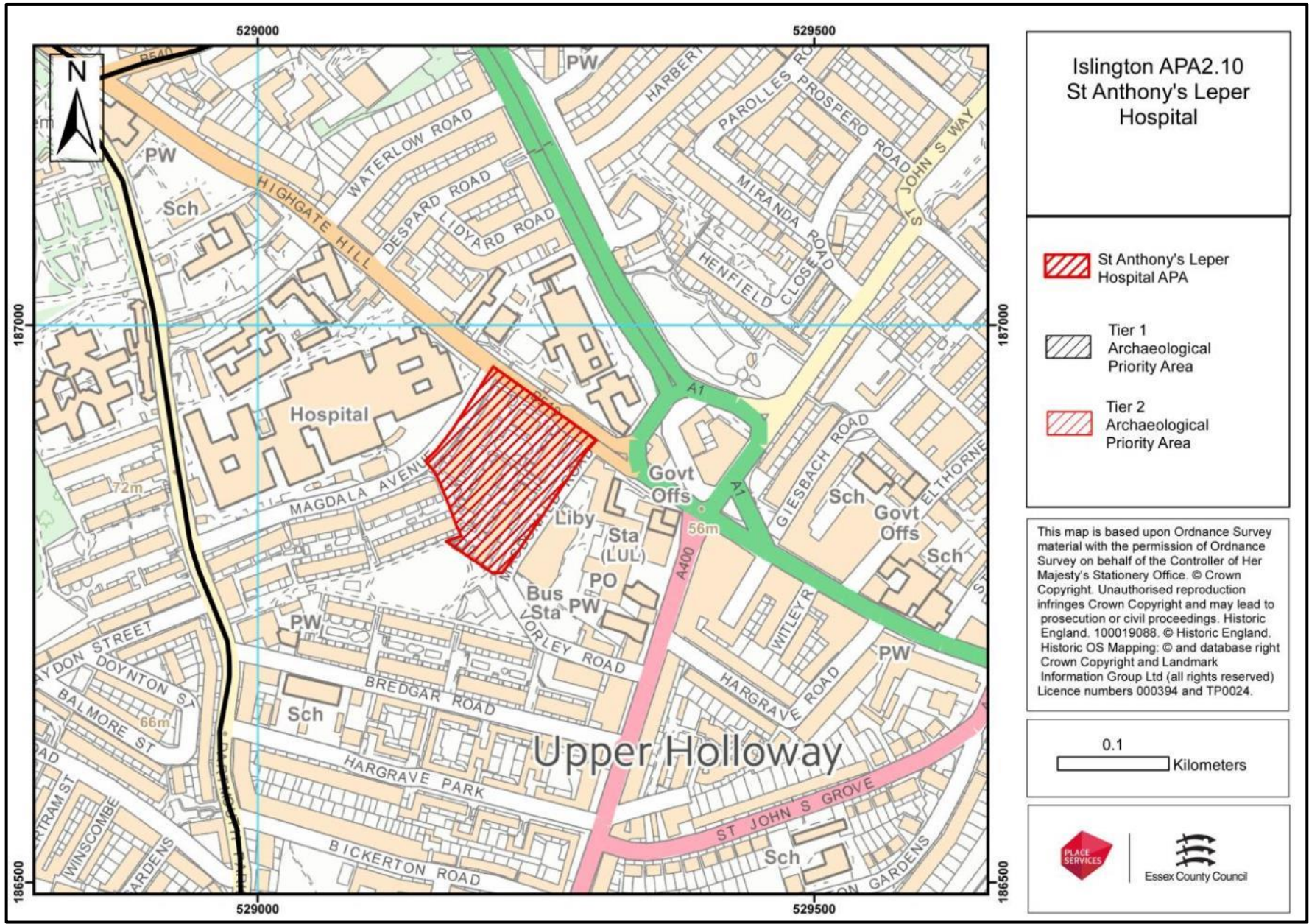
Islington APA2.10
St Anthony's Leper
Hospital

St Anthony's Leper
Hospital APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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0.1
Kilometers

PLACE SERVICES | Essex County Council

5.15 Islington APA 2.10 St Anthony's Leper Hospital

5.15.1 Summary and Definition

This Archaeological Priority Area covers the site of the former St Anthony's Leper Hospital at Highgate bounded to the north-east by Highgate Hill, to the north-west by Magdala Avenue and to the south-east by MacDonald Road.

The APA has been classified as Tier 2, as the medieval hospital is a discrete heritage asset of archaeological and historic interest.

5.15.2 Description

Highgate Leper Hospital was founded in 1473 by William Pole who had been a yeoman of the Crown but was himself a leper. This was after the main thrust of leper hospitals were built where these were almost exclusively under the care of religious houses. The site was given to William Pole by Edward IV. It was located just to the south-east of the medieval village of Highgate. The hospital was used to house individuals afflicted with leprosy until the mid-16th century when the last case of leprosy was recorded in London. From this point onwards people with a variety of diseases were sent to the hospital.

Those afflicted with leprosy lost their common law and property rights and were excluded from the places where people gathered. They were often sent away to isolated leper hospitals such as St Anthony's, which were designed as much to keep them away from others as to provide health care. While living in these hospitals, the patients were expected to live by Christian rule, and as such a chapel would have been a normal part of the hospital. A chapel is assumed to have been here. St. Bartholomew's Hospital took over the administration of the London Lazar Houses in 1549.

Leprosy was declining as an illness through the 16th century so from about 1550 the hospital was operated more as a poor house. The premises comprised a timber building with a tiled roof, containing a hall, a kitchen, three small rooms on the ground floor, and five small rooms above, and an orchard and garden. The hospital closed in 1650 and was sold off. The site was built over in 1852. The site is now occupied by 20th century housing.

Although no burial ground is documented it would be surprising if one did not exist for an establishment of this nature.

There have been no archaeological evaluations within or near to this APA to inform the likely depth of deposits, so the potential for anything of the hospital to survive below ground is not known.

5.15.3 Significance

The APA is significant as it has the potential to contain archaeological remains relating to the medieval leper hospital. If any built remains survive they will be of archaeological interest and could prove helpful in developing a greater understanding of medieval hospitals, in particular leper hospitals.

The site may contain buried remains of its inhabitants, these remains would provide an opportunity to better understand the health of the late medieval and early post-medieval population and also present the possibility of identifying further evidence of leprosy and other medical conditions treated here.

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

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Islington APA2.11
The New River and
NewRiver Head
Reservoirs

New River and New River
Head Reservoirs APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Kilometers

PLACE
SERVICES

Essex County Council

Islington APA2.11
The New River and
NewRiver Head
Reservoirs (south)

New River and New River
Head Reservoirs APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Kilometers

PLACE SERVICES | Essex County Council

Islington APA2.11
The New River and
NewRiver Head
Reservoirs (north)

New River and New River
Head Reservoirs APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Kilometers

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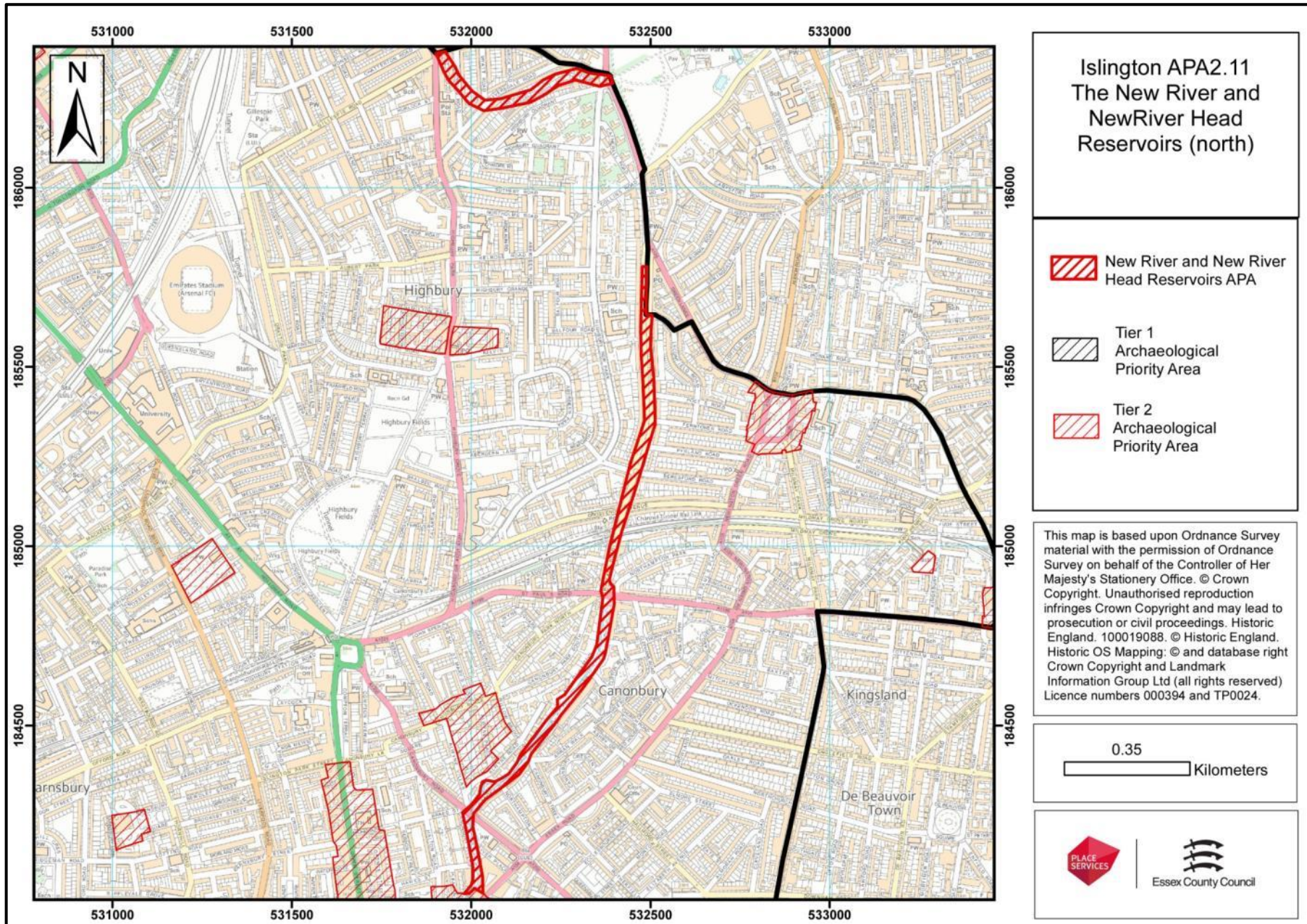
5.16 Islington APA 2.11 New River Head and The New River

5.16.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the former area of the reservoir, filter beds and associated buildings that comprised the New River Head, and the former course of the New River through Islington. The New River entered Islington to the north of Highbury for a short stretch, then looped around Clissold Park in Hackney before re-entering Islington to the south of the Park, and passing to the east of Islington Village. The New River Head lies at the southern terminus of the New River, just to the south of Islington Village. The APA is adjacent to Sadlers Wells APA which is just north-east of the New River Head and on the west side of the new River.

The APA is classified as Tier 2, as it contains the remains of historically important water supply infrastructure: the 17th century aqueduct the New River, the site of the New River Head reservoir and its associated buildings and an associated English Civil War fort.

5.16.2 Description

A Bronze Age spearhead and a Roman glass cinerary urn were found during construction in the 17th century of the New River Head complex. A medieval conduit is also mentioned here associated with the water supply to Charterhouse.

Construction of the New River started in the early 17th century as a result of concerns about the state of water supplying the capital. As the City grew through the 16th century the existing waterways, wells and conduits became both inadequate and polluted. Conduits had been built from the 13th century to carry water from rural springs into the City, but it was decided that a larger supply was needed. Captain Edmund Colthurst started promoting the idea of a new water supply from springs in Hertfordshire in 1602, and started digging a channel in 1604 following a commission from King James I. This was taken over by the Corporation of London in 1609, under the direction of Hugh Myddelton, and completed in 1613. The New River followed the 100ft contour of the Lea Valley, dropping just 5.8 meters over 62 km of distance, and terminated at the Round Pond in Islington. Water was carried on through wooden pipes to households in the northern and western parts of the City. From early on, the Hertfordshire spring water was supplemented by water from the River Lea, and by the mid-19th century almost all the water came from the River Lea. In 1946 the New River was truncated to terminate at Stoke Newington. The New River and New River Head were managed by the New River Company set up in 1619, succeeded by the Metropolitan Water Board in 1904 and then Thames Water in 1973-4.

Geographic and pragmatic reasons led to the choice of northern Clerkenwell for the terminus of the New River: high ground, an existing pond, London Clay geology and it was owned by one of the New River shareholders, Sir Samuel Backhouse. The Round Pond was the first part to be constructed. It was 200 ft (71m) in diameter and lined with oak, and surrounded by a high brick wall. Once the pond was filled the outward flow was controlled through a cistern and stopcocks in the basement of the Water House on the pond's southern edge. Overflow water was meant to flow via a ditch into the River Fleet, but started to form its own amorphous pond to the north-east and south-west of the Round Pond. This continued to grow and became known as the Outer Pond.

During 1642 or 1643 a large civil war fort, mainly of earth, with four half-bulwarks was constructed to defend the New River and the waterworks (see APA 2.15). This may have been sited near the site of the Upper Pond and would have been demolished soon after the end of the civil war in 1647.

An additional high-level reservoir, the Upper Pond, was built in 1708 in open ground to the north at what is now Claremont Square, which is the highest ground locally. This gave a better head of pressure, allowing

more distant and higher-lying areas in and around the West End to be supplied. The reservoir was progressively embanked, to raise the water level, and was originally an open body of water. A windmill was initially used to pump water from the Round Pond to the Upper Pond, but did not work well. The stump of the windmill survives within the site. It was replaced by an atmospheric steam engine from 1768.

By 1730 excavations had given the Outer Pond a more defined shape, the margins had been embanked and an outer cistern-house built. A 'middle' cistern house was constructed to the south-west of the Water House.

Much of the land around New River Head remained open fields for longer than the surrounding landholdings, with significant areas containing the growing network of pipes radiating from the Round Pond. The New River Company acquired 44 acres around New River Head and the Upper Pond in 1744. Apart from the Round Pond, the rest of the New River Head site was relatively open. The original low fences started to be replaced in 1770 by high brick walls, completed in 1780. As demand for water grew, more small reservoirs were constructed in the locality in the late 18th/early 19th centuries. The early 19th century also saw replacement of the wooden pipes by cast-iron mains, completed by 1819. The Round Pond was relined in 1842, with the decayed oak being replaced with fender piles and cast iron plate wharfing. Most of this around the northern bank of the pond survives. Several stretches of post-medieval water pipes have been found during building work in the vicinity and within The New River Head site. A stretch of the original perimeter wall of 1806-7 survives along Myddleton Passage. Historic graffiti is preserved in the brickwork, carved by policemen based in Kings Cross Police Station in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Metropolis Water Acts of 1852 and 1871 required water filtration through sand, covered reservoirs and the provision of a constant or on-demand supply. This led to reconstruction of the Round Pond, which was given a sloping revetment or retaining wall within its iron sides, to give greater support to the banks. The upper face, which sloped down to an inner dwarf brick wall, and the bottom of the pond were paved with York-stone slabs, to prevent the water becoming too muddy. The Outer Pond was reformed as three new filter beds. Work was completed in 1856. Water passed from the Round Pond to the three new filter beds along radiating channels before percolating down through ever-finer layers of gravel and sand to holes in the brick-paved floors. The Round Pond remained open to the elements, as it was not a reservoir, but a collecting pool for feeding the filter beds. The New River was piped underground in 1861. The margins of the western filter bed are also still recognizable, as the site is still sunken as car-parking under a private communal garden known as 'The Garden Deck'. The Yorkstone-faced and bullnose-capped revetment of the 1850s can still be seen around the south and west perimeter. A two stage archaeological evaluation within the site found a timber pipe and part of the clay bund of the early 18th century, and part of the 19th century filter beds.

Claremont Square was constructed between 1815 and 1828. The reservoir was covered as part of Metropolis Acts improvements. It is brick-lined and enclosed by massive walls up to eight feet thick built within the sides of the old pond to hold about 3.5 million gallons of water. Across the floor a grid of arcaded walls rises to segmentally arched vaults, at a level high enough to permit the supply of water to Islington. The vaults were grassed over and a public drinking-fountain, one of several in Clerkenwell supplied by the New River Company, was put up in 1862 at the north-west corner of the reservoir enclosure.

The Round Pond became redundant and was drained in 1914-15. The Water House was also demolished which created space for the Metropolitan Water Board's central offices, now designated grade II*. The rest of the filter-bed system continued in use until 1946, when the New River was terminated further north at Stoke Newington. The filter beds and some of the course of the New River were then grassed over. A pumping station for the London Ring Main, constructed in 1986–94, is situated on the south of the site facing Amwell Street. The rest of the site has been redeveloped partially with blocks of flats and apartments, preserving some of the openness that was part of the character of this site.
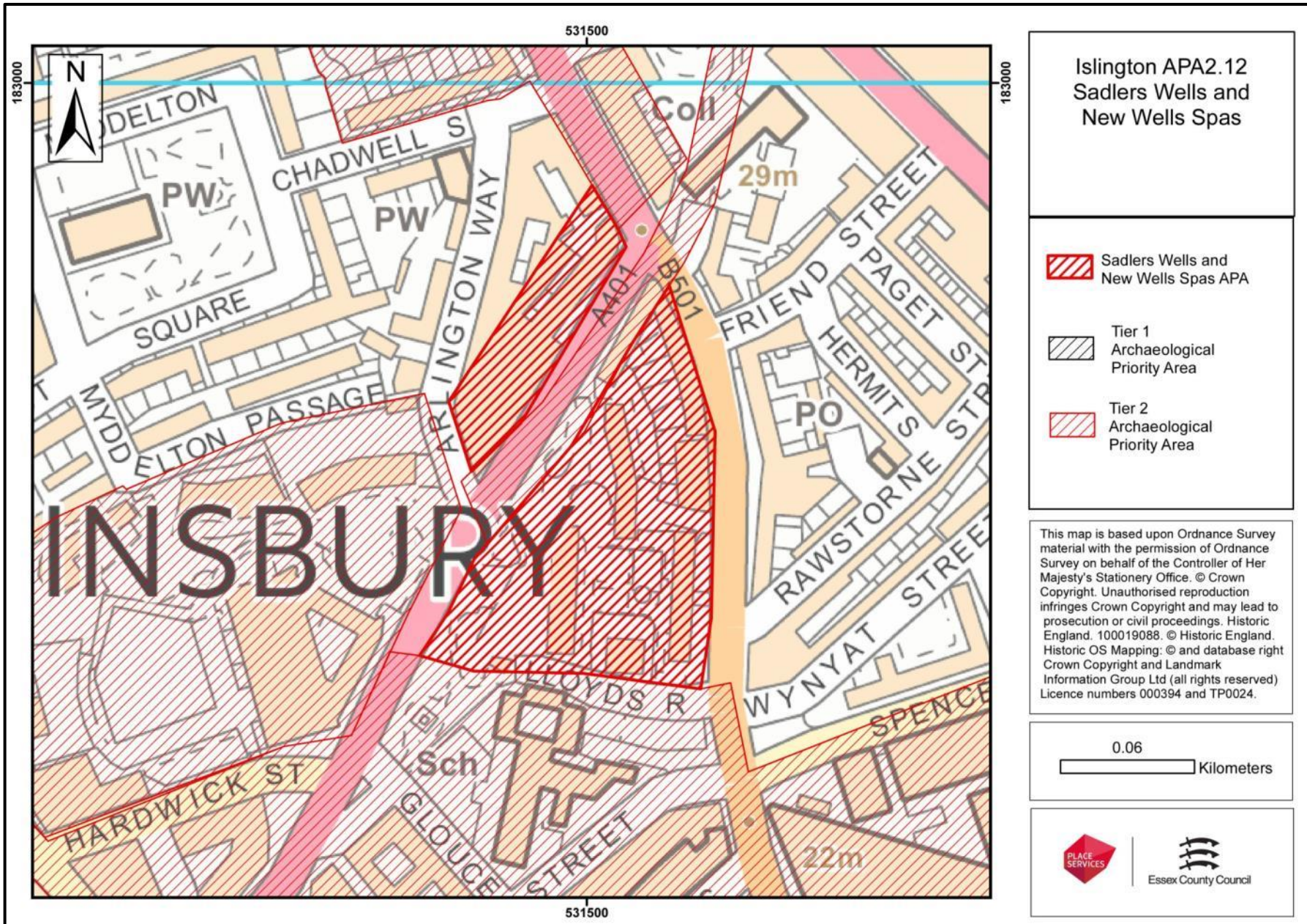
5.16.3 Significance

The APA is significant as it contains the remains of the early 17th century waterworks, reservoirs and former course of the aqueduct. The New River was by far the most ambitious public water supply system constructed in post-Roman England before the late 18th-century. The surviving elements of the New River and New River Head provide a visible remnant of 17th and 18th century engineering designed to support the expanding population of London. It also provides the opportunity to further understand 17th and 18th century engineering and provides an example of the development of water management practices throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Opportunities may arise to reveal hidden features or further improve interpretation of the New River, for example by reflecting its route and history in the design of new public realm.

5.16.4 References

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Islington APA2.12
Sadlers Wells and
New Wells Spas

Legend:
- Sadlers Wells and New Wells Spas APA
- Tier 1 Archaeological Priority Area
- Tier 2 Archaeological Priority Area

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0.06 Kilometers

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5.17 Islington APA 2.12 Sadler's Wells and New Wells Spa

5.17.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers the former area of the Sadler's Wells and New Tunbridge Wells, situated originally either side of the New River and adjacent to New River Head (APA X), just to the south of Islington Village (APA 3).

The APA is classified as Tier 2, as it contains the sites of the original wells, buildings and gardens associated with the two spas, and has the potential to contain a range of post-medieval remains.

5.17.2 Description

The earliest archaeological finds are a group of Palaeolithic worked flints from near the theatre.

The first record of Sadler's Wells comes from 1664-5 when one Edward Sadler was living in the Water House at New River Head. In 1671 he took a lease on one acre of land on the north side of the New River close to the New River Head. He then built a 'great brick messuage' on this land. Soon after that, probably between 1674 and 1684, he and others had discovered a spring or well of mineral water. He also discovered part of a medieval conduit in his garden.

Sadler's Wells was described as a music house in 1683, and stood at the west end of the property. The well was situated in the garden, and had a stone cover and oak supports. The water was originally used to make beer until its medicinal benefits were recognised. It was then claimed that 500 or 600 people a day were visiting Sadler's Wells to take the waters. This well is probably the one that survives in the basement of the modern theatre.

By 1684 Sadler had also taken a lease on some land to the south of the New River. This land was sold to John Langley, who developed the site by digging wells, putting in drains, laying out gravel walks and adding a balcony to the house that was on the site. In 1685 this site was advertised as the Islington Wells.

The earliest datable view of the site is from 1730 and shows the area of land to the east of the music house laid out as gardens with many trees. The whole property was encircled by a brick boundary wall. Neither of the two houses at Sadler's Wells and Islington Wells apparently had a room designed specifically for musical entertainment.

The waters at Sadler's Wells began drying up between 1693 and 1697, however, advertisements continued until 1700, but by this time the other entertainments on offer had eclipsed taking the waters.

Sadler appeared to have died in 1699, and the name Sadler's Wells has persisted. Various owners extended the building and the uses of the building changed over time, but always within the entertainment sphere. These uses included theatre, music hall, aquatic theatre, cinema, wrestling, and horse races in the garden, and an ice rink and winter garden. By the early 20th century the theatre had closed and became derelict. After fundraising the Sadler's Wells was rebuilt and opened again in 1930. The present building dating from 1998 retained elements of the older 1930s building but was massively extended and modernised. Archaeological investigations at the time revealed post-medieval features, probably 17th and 18th century in date, comprising a robber trench, a dump of crushed brick, foundation trenches for two brick walls which predated the present theatre, and a 19th century cess pit,

The Islington Wells were also called New Tunbridge Wells as the medicinal was similar to that at Tunbridge Wells in Kent. The spa comprised gardens, walk, coffee houses set around Spa Green, and the entertainments included a miniature zoo and Merlin's Cave. The spring flowed until the 1960's, though the area had already started to be built over from 1810. London County Council acquired the land in 1891. Rosebery Avenue was laid out 1889-1892 over some of the site, and the remainder of the land was laid out

as public gardens with trees. The gardens were opened to the public in 1895. The gardens were changed in 1946 when the Spa Green Estate was built.

5.17.3 Significance

Public gardens have been a distinctive feature of London from the 17th century and rose to prominence in the 18th century as 'pleasure gardens'. Sadler's Wells is a well-known example of a smaller rustic north London garden which originated as a 17th century spa; the main form of public healing place at the time. The APA therefore relates to a place of historical significance which may contain remains of the original gardens and features relating to the two spa sites that could illustrate and improve understanding of health, leisure and recreation in post-medieval London. Artefactual and environmental evidence is likely to be of particular relevance in this respect.

5.17.4 Key References

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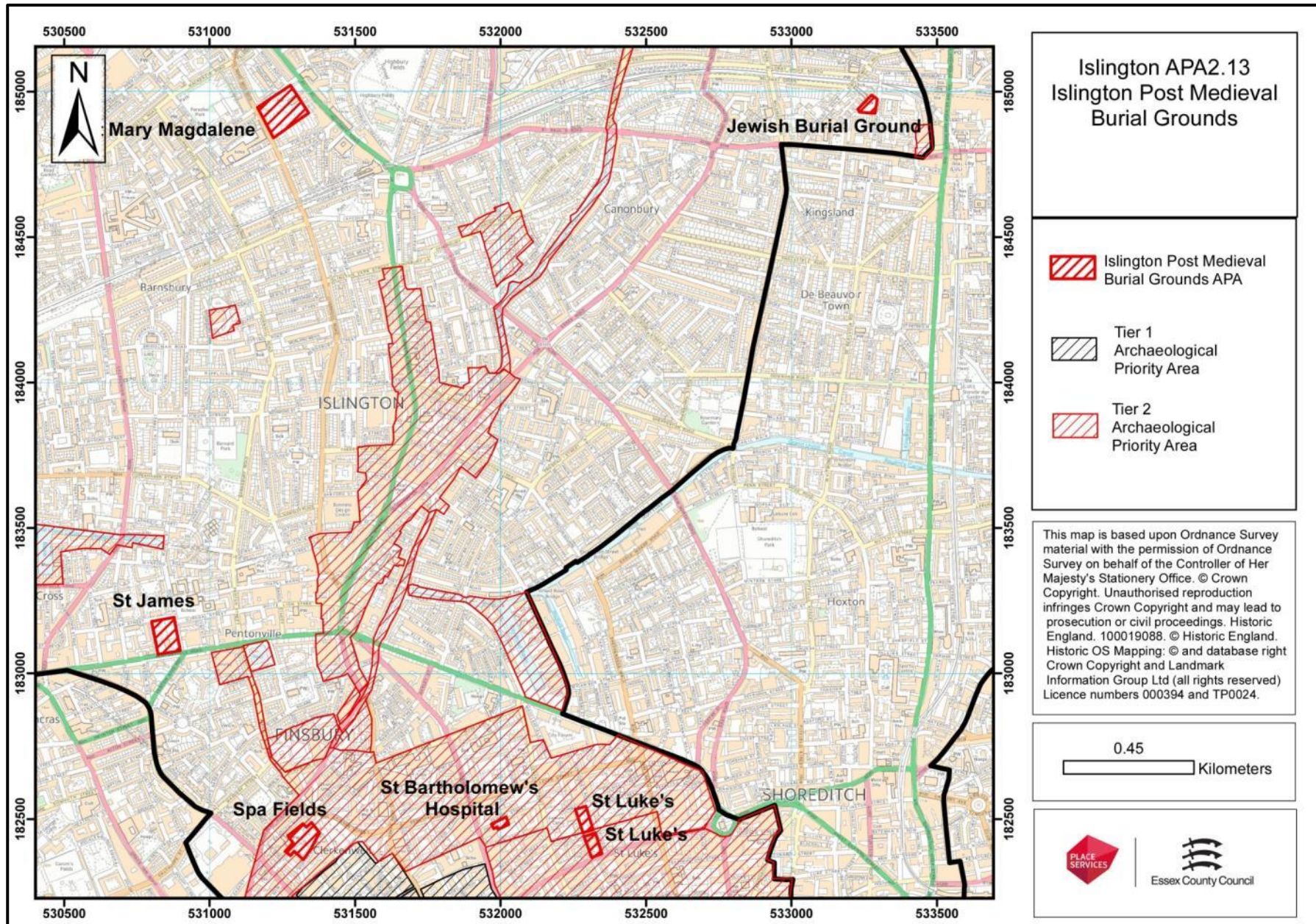
Islington APA2.13
Islington Post Medieval
Burial Grounds

Islington Post Medieval
Burial Grounds APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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0.45
Kilometers

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5.18 Islington APA 2.13 Post Medieval Cemeteries

5.18.1 Summary and Definition

This Archaeological Priority Area includes four post medieval cemeteries and burial grounds. These are St. Lukes Gardens, Seward Street Recreation Ground, Spa Fields Park and Joseph Grimaldi Park. The sites are all situated to the south of Islington and are preserved in-situ as gardens, recreation grounds and places of leisure. The earliest burial ground, linked with St Lukes Church, opened in 1733 and was in use for over one hundred years closing in 1853. These cemeteries are listed below under both their original and current names.

This APA is classified as Tier 2, as it covers 19th century or earlier burial grounds, which are heritage assets of archaeological interest.

5.18.2 Descriptions

St Luke's Church Burial Ground/ St Luke's Church Gardens:

St Luke's Church, now converted to the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) Discovery Education Space, lies to the south east of Islington, along Old Street. It was built in 1733 to alleviate the heavily overcrowded St Giles-without-Cripplegate church. The church had two burial grounds; one which surrounded the church in close proximity and the other which lay past Mitchell Street to the north. Due to the marshland of Moorfields on which the site is built, the church had frequent issues with subsidence and as a consequence was rebuilt three times and abandoned in 1959. The recent renovation by the LSO means that the burials beneath the Grade I listed church in the crypt have been recorded, removed and reburied. The burial ground to the north of Mitchell Street is still extant and was closed to burials (along with the crypt) in 1853. Under the 1906 Open Spaces Act it was landscaped, cleared of monuments and made into a garden. Notably buried here is the City of London surveyor and architect, George Dance the Elder. Within the garden, no headstones survive however the remaining chest tombs, the outside railings and gate are Grade II listed. The church itself was not abandoned until 1959.

St Bartholomew's Hospital Burial Ground/Seward Street Recreation Ground:

Seward Street Recreation Ground was originally the burial ground for unclaimed bodies of patients from Saint Bartholomew's Hospital. The ground was originally an area for Medieval and early Post Medieval waste disposal before it was levelled and used by the hospital from 1740. Archaeological investigation has been undertaken to the west of the site and the human remains from this area were recovered; the remaining burials beneath the playground are preserved in-situ. The above associated archaeological report identifies a number of phases of burial with varying practices which makes this site unusual in its diversity and the conditions of the bodies (often having had autopsies). Like many of London's burial grounds, the site became overcrowded and was eventually closed in the 19th century. From 1891 the site became a public playground and was maintained by the Vestry of St Luke's. The site is now a tarmacked recreation ground for the nearby Dallington School.

Spa Fields Burial Grounds/ Spa Fields Park:

Spa Fields Park follows the bend of Northampton Road in Finsbury. Originally the site of the amusement centre 'The Pantheon', the site was converted to a chapel when bought by the Countess of Huntingdon in 1776. The chapel, Spa Fields Nonconformist Chapel, was later demolished and the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer was built in its place. The gardens to the east of the church became a burial ground in the 1780s when the land was leased by the landowners to private speculators. These speculators subsequently turned

the land into a burial ground, later becoming notorious for its unsanitary conditions. In the interest of generating income, the site, originally only thought to take 2722 burials, was taking 1500 a year reputedly sustained by the recycling of burial space and burning of remains. Burials were cheaper here than at local churchyards and so it was mainly used by the poorer inhabitants of Clerkenwell. The site continued to be used for fifty years.

This site's unsavoury reputation, due to the huge levels of overcrowding, led to its closure in 1853. The practices were brought to the public eye and the scandal that ensued became a catalyst for the large scale closure of inner city cemeteries and the move towards more open suburban cemeteries. In 1860 the gravestones were removed to make way for a public garden and drill ground for the Territorial Army. In 1885 it was made into a recreation ground by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association and in 2004 it was redesigned by urban designers Parklife which included new landscaping, new recreation areas, picnic areas and buildings. This site drastically changed the layout of urban cemeteries in London.

St James' Chapel Burial Ground/Joseph Grimaldi Park:

Formerly the burial ground of St James' Episcopal Chapel, Clerkenwell, the Joseph Grimaldi Burial Ground became a park in 1897. When the park was created many of the stones were stacked against the northern wall. The park is named after the actor, clown and comedian Joseph Grimaldi (1778 – 1837) who was buried here in 1837. His grave remains as one of the only marked graves in the now garden and the headstone and footstone are Grade II listed. Grimaldi was a pivotal figure in the entertainment sector of the Regency era and a well-known figure in the Clerkenwell district. The church was original Pentonville chapel and is the official church of the International Circus Clown's Club holding an annual service for circus members. It was the only episcopal burial ground in the district.

Jewish Burial Ground:
The Jewish Burial Ground at Balls Pond Road opened between 1840 and 1843 and was owned by a Reform congregation when it broke away from the Bevis Marks Sephardic cemetery. Significantly, it was the first cemetery of West London Synagogue of British Jews.
The site was in use until 1951 and is enclosed in high brick walls. To the north east it is bordered by flats and a caretakers lobby. The memorials are all still preserved in-situ and the site is landscaped with plane trees along the edges. The site is an interesting juxtaposition between a Jewish Cemetery and an English country garden. In 1995 the cemetery was at risk of being sold by the West London Synagogue for housing development but a campaign led by the Jewish community saved the cemetery. The site is significant both for the Anglo-Jewish community and historically as many important local dignitaries are buried here including the first Jewish baronet and the famous Anglo-Jewish architect, David Mocatta.

St Mary Magdalene Gardens:
St Mary Magdalene Church on Holloway road was built in 1814 as a chapel of ease for the Islington Parish Church and became a parish in its own right from 1894. The site is four acres and though the burial plot was largely cleared of headstones and tombs, some memorials remain near to the church. The area is heavily landscaped with shrubberies and formal lawns as well as 39 plane trees.
It was converted to a public garden in 1894 funded by London County Council and the local vestry.

5.18.3 Significance

This APA contains several historic burial grounds which could inform understanding of such matters as demography, health and disease. Human remains over 100 years old and generally considered to be of archaeological interest but it is normally preferable to leave them undisturbed and proposed removal would have significant implications for any development.

Many burial grounds are central to our connection with social memory, local history and, interestingly, continuity with most of the sites mentioned above having transitioned into gardens. There is a continuity of use through space and preservation but also enjoyment and as places of peace. These sites often have a strong local connection with other important heritage sites, such as between the sites of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital and Spa Fields. Therefore, they are significant both archaeologically and as unique insights into economy, society, fashion and many other aspects of past daily life.

The cemeteries are mainly preserved in situ but with few memorials or original landscaping remaining. Generally the change of use to gardens is unlikely to have greatly disturbed the below ground remains so the value of these sites as undeveloped pockets in an urban London makes them a fascinating resource for surviving archaeological remains. Similarly, their association with local histories and important individuals, such as Joseph Grimaldi, make them invaluable as community centres. This being said their negative associations, such as in the example of Spa Fields and its association with overcrowding and malpractice, are also crucially significant historical facts to be preserved and remembered.

The threats to these sites, which suffer greatly from the trials of economic decline and development, make it essential that contingencies are made for their safeguarding for future generations, especially as green spaces in central London. Neglect can lead to these habitats being destroyed; ecosystems which provide an unusual shady, clean, quiet environment to an otherwise open landscape for urban birds and molluscs.

From the 19th century, the closure of burial grounds and cemeteries was a consequence of the Burials Act of the 1850s. Important considerations in the archaeological assessment of post medieval burial grounds is the number of burials affected, the date range of the assemblage, their state of preservation and social identity. These factors should be considered in accordance with published Historic England guidelines when assessing the impact of a development.

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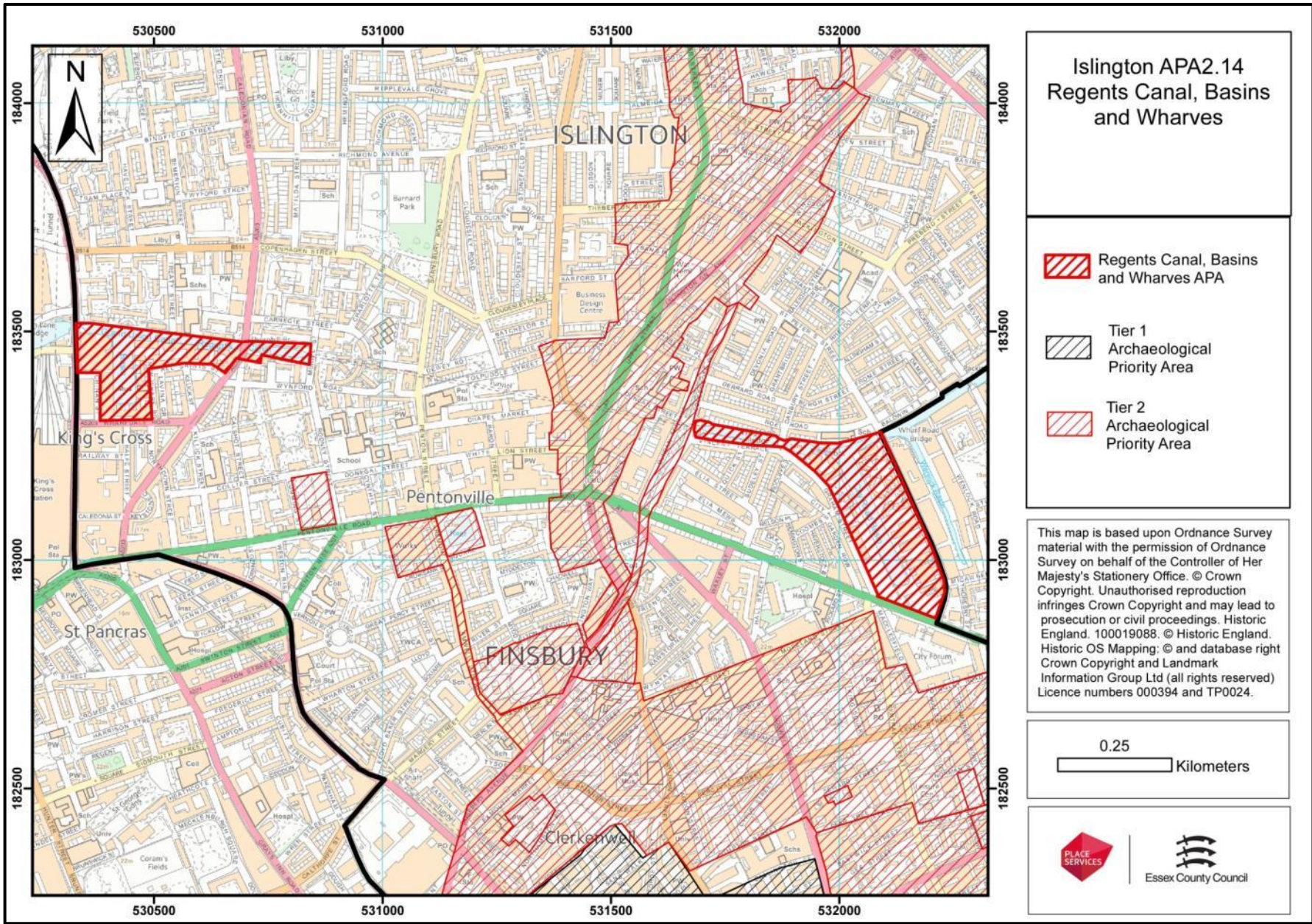
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Islington APA2.14
Regents Canal, Basins
and Wharves

Regents Canal, Basins
and Wharves APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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Kilometers

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5.19 Islington APA 2.14 Regents Canal, Basins and Wharves

5.19.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area covers Regents Canal, Battlebridge Basin, City Road Basin and the wharves of the Regents Canal.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it contains structures and buried remains of industrial works and warehouses associated with the historic use of the canal. The former southern end of City Road Basin south of City Road is excluded following its investigation and destruction prior to redevelopment.

5.19.2 Description

The Regents Canal was built to link the Paddington arm of the Grand Junction Canal with the Thames at Limehouse. The Regents Canal Act was passed in 1812 and the company was formed to build it. John Nash was a director, and his assistant James Morgan was appointed as the canal's engineer. The stretch from Paddington to Camden opened in 1816, and the rest opened in 1820. It was constructed within open ground, as shown on Greenwood's map of 1824. The canal passes through a tunnel, 878m long, under Islington town. The entrances to the tunnel and the tunnel itself are Listed Grade II.

The canal became important for the transport of local goods, especially coal. This led to the development of wharfs, warehouses and depots along the canal side. City Road Basin was built with the canal. Several privately owned basins were also constructed along the canal including Battlebridge Basin, formerly Horsefall Basin, also built with the canal, and not opened until 1822.

City Road Basin proved to be more convenient than Paddington and soon was functioning as a distribution centre for goods into London. Battlesbridge Basin handled ice from Norway. The canal had a growing traffic in coal, timber, bricks, sand and other building materials from the eastern end of the canal to areas further west. The southern end of the City Road Basin was investigated in 2014-15 revealing details of its construction.

An ice well was excavated beside Battlebridge Basin at the London Canal Museum. This was one of two wells which were constructed in the early 1860's. The ice trade declined after 1930 and the wells were used for dumping building material, possibly as a result of building debris clearance after the Blitz during World War Two.

By 1862 the former open areas around the canal had been built up. A Cement and Lime works is shown near Battlebridge Basin on the south side of the canal which had been demolished by 1916. Other businesses marked include timber yards, sawmills, coal yards, a Cattle Food and Cake Mill and various warehouses.

Monitoring of a trial pit on the site of the lime kiln revealed a brick foundation which probably related to a nearby tower, dating from the late 19th – early 20th century. The Albion Foundry at 32 York Way was subject of a building recording which showed that the foundry was erected as a purpose-built copper works in 1866-7 for the firm of Henry Pontifex & Sons. They produced copper sheets and manufactured apparatus for use in the brewing and other industries. Brass founding also was undertaken here. Evaluation revealed the remains of the 19th century foundry structures, which included brick machinery bases, flues, floors and internal partitions. These overlay cultivation soils and dumped 18th century deposits.

The decline in the use of the canal started in the 1920's with growing competition from railways and roads, and by the 1950s, many of the wharf areas had become run-down or derelict. Recent regeneration projects have helped open up the canal to greater leisure use.

City Road Basin now terminates just to the north of City Road. The part south of City Road was excavated before being filled in and developed to form City Forum. The excavations revealed that the initial use of the site was as open land used for quarrying and rubbish pits. There is then evidence of ground raising and a garden soil, indicating horticulture. Early 19th century development of the canal basin was seen and the way it was constructed. The basin wall was constructed of red bricks on a bed with two to three steps at the base. On the eastern side of the canal basin an inlet or smaller dock was recorded. Evidence of buildings surrounding the basin were also recorded, most probably the remains of warehouses built alongside the canal basin. Other brick structures with concrete foundations were also revealed and probably relate to the later use of the site as a transport depot in the 20th century.

5.19.3 Significance

This APA is significant because it contains evidence of the canal's construction, operation and industrialisation of London. Limited archaeological investigations have shown that remains of the first industrial buildings do survive alongside the canal, which can add to further knowledge of the industrial activity of the 19th and early 20th centuries that depended on the canal.

The canal and its associated industry provides locally distinctive historic character with high potential for interpretation and place-shaping by reflecting the area's history in new development. Distinctive structures may be worthy of preservation.
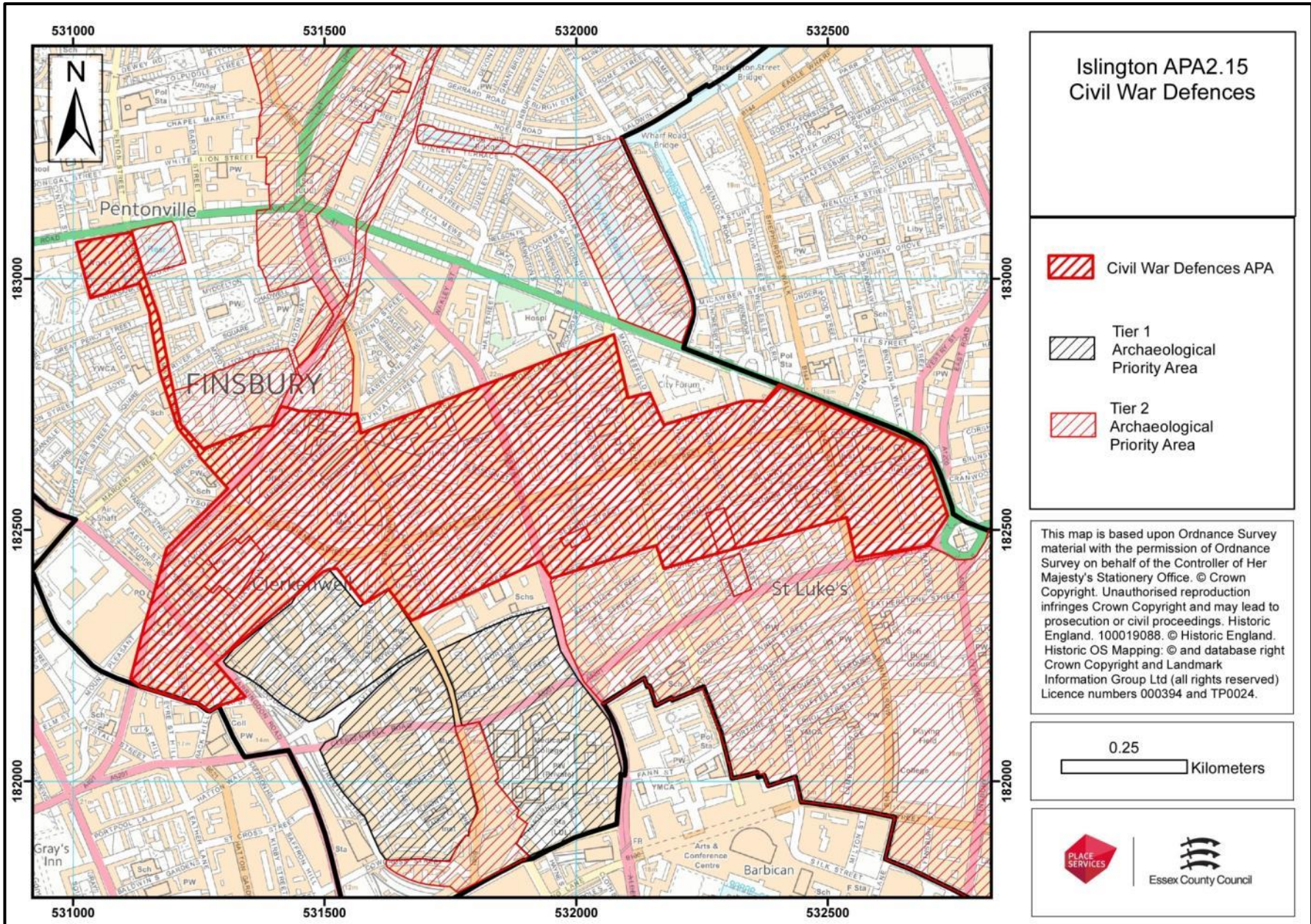
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Islington APA2.15
Civil War Defences

Civil War Defences APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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0.25 Kilometers

5.20 Islington APA 2.15 Civil War Defences

5.20.1 Summary and Definition

This Archaeological Priority Area covers the Civil War Defences of the 17th century which lie within Islington. These comprise of three separate forts along the defensive line. These include the sites of Upper Pond New River Fort, Waterfield Fort (St Johns Street) and Moundmill Fort.

The APA is classified as Tier 2 because the defences are a large complex heritage asset of historic and archaeological interest that was pivotal to London's defence in the years 1642 -1646. The APA will also contain significant remains of other periods reflecting the location of the defences on the historic city's urban-rural fringe.

5.20.2 Description

The Civil War defences were built in open countryside just outside the limit of development of London at the time. It appears that the area crossed by the defences was agricultural land. It is not known how this land was used in prehistoric times, but the find of a Palaeolithic hand axe from the south-western end of this APA indicates that people were using this landscape in prehistoric times.

The south of the eastern end of this APA is marked by Old Street, previously known as Ealdestrate, which lies on the route of a Roman road (and perhaps an Iron Age trackway) linking Silchester and Colchester. A few Roman finds have come from here including a pottery vessel, a gaming piece and a couple of coins. Roman coins have also come from a site on Faringdon Road. This area is very much on the periphery of the Roman town and outlying cemeteries.

Through the medieval period this area would have mostly been fields within which there might be traces of field ditches and stock enclosures or urban-fringe activities such as quarrying, rubbish dumps or industrial activities.

Consideration of the defence of London began in 1642, at the beginning of the First Civil War, when conflict began between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists over the manner of governing England. In terms of progress, although the defences were only authorised by an Act of common council in February 1643 and

approved later by the Lords and Commons, contemporary sources suggest that work began earlier than the Act. The line ran north-west to Shoreditch, west to Hyde Park, and south to Tothill Fields. It returned at Vauxhall on the south bank, ran north-east to St Georges Fields, east to the Elephant and Castle and then north-east to complete the circuit at Rotherhithe. Despite the fact that much of the conflict was at a great distance from the capital, the seventeen kilometre line of communication was created to serve many functions. In terms of defence, the embankments and forts served to protect the capital which housed the country's largest armoury and magazine as well as being the seat of leadership and authority. This served also for internal uprisings which could therefore, in the instance of a
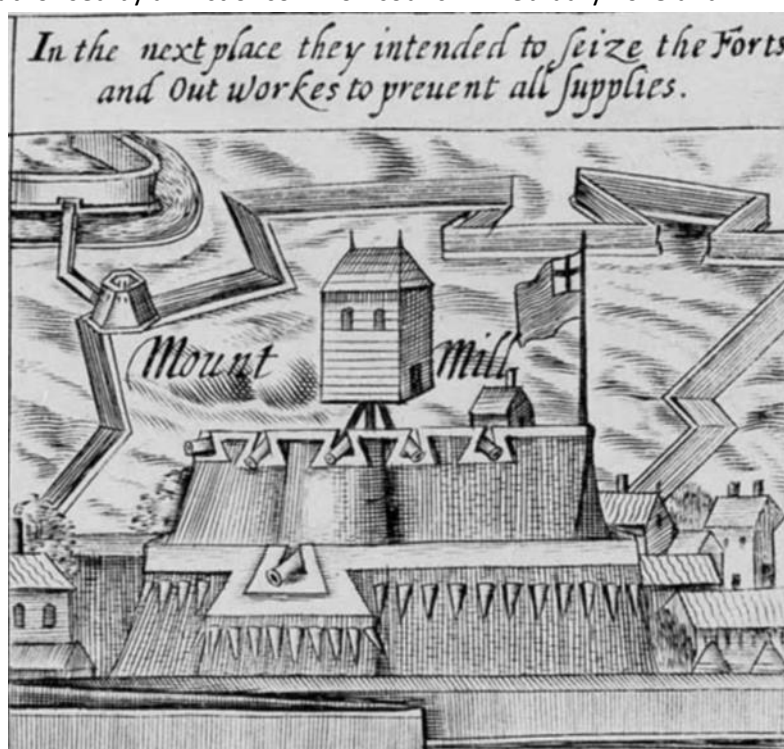
coup, not receive further back-up. Symbolically, the defences served as a reassurance to the general population and also acted as a useful constraint to allow for the control of egress and ingress into the city. The defences mainly consisted of forts joined by a rampart or ditch with the city wall being considered as the second line of defence. Their construction became a large volunteer led project mainly undertaken by unpaid labour.

From remaining archaeological and historical evidence, the exact positions and nature of the lines and forts is difficult to ascertain. Our main source from historic records is William Lithgow (1585-1645), who did a walkover survey of the 28 earthworks of uncertain veracity. He describes the lines as a rampart fronted by a ditch presumably the material from ditch being used for rampart. From Lithgow's record the forts were constructed from turf, sand, wattles and earth with timber lined port holes for cannon and palisades of sharp wooden stakes projecting from the bulwarks and court du guard buildings of timber roofed with tile stones with some stone and brick usage. The forts appear to range from rectangular and bastioned forts to star forts. The earliest plots are one of 1720 in Wiliam Stukeley's `British Coins', which depicts 15 roughly drawn strongpoints, and a map by George Vertue of 1739 which shows 21 works, plus works which extended from the main line at Islington. Again the interpretation and veracity of these maps is much debated. The defences are considered to have been finished in May 1643, although subsequent modifications may have occurred. Areas in front of the defences were cleared to allow for full visibility of any enemies encroaching on the defences.

A comprehensive list of those sites in Islington has been made as far as possible. A succinct summary of the history and approximate location of each site is listed below. The precise location of the defences is not well understood but the most plausible interpretation at present is that the line enters into the district from the east along Bevenden Street crossing to Mount Mill Fort which sat between Goswell Road and Central Street, north of Seward Street. The line then continued along Sebastian Street to the junction at Spencer and St John Street at which stood Waterfield Fort. The rampart then continued south west along Myddelton Street. Blackmary Hole (Hill) fort sits along this road in the Camden district and is not in this APA. Importantly, midway between Blackmary Hill and Waterfield the defence branches to the north, the protruding rampart ending in the fort at New River. The fort at New River was large with four half bulwarks which was constructed to defend the New River and the waterworks. A small redoubt also existed to the north east of the works at Islington pound; this site was not connected to the main ramparts but existed as a defensive position outside the ramparts.

The most evident and significant site appears to be that of Mount Mill Fort which defended entry into the City from Islington, at which there was a breast work and boundary surrounding the windmill. Lithgow describes the two bastions facing towards the fields, of Mount Mill, as having three gun ports. The five angled fort structure was the lower fort and the upper fort was circular and within this stood the windmill. Lithgow also suggests that it was one of the chief forts and the first erected. The fort to the west of Mountmill, Waterfield fort, also comprised of a breastwork and battery. Archaeological investigations on both sides of Goswell Road have revealed ditches believed to have formed part of the fort or associated outworks.

Any sign of the Civil War defence lines and forts had all but disappeared by the drafting of Rocque's map of London of 1746.

After the Civil War the defences appear to have been levelled, infilled or even in places used for the disposal of human remains.   Daniel Defoe recorded an emergency plague burial ground at Mount Mill in 1665. Charnel pits have found at King Square. At the British Museum (nearby in Camden) cattle burials were found alongside the defences.

5.20.3 Significance

This APA is significant as has the potential for remains of mid-17th century Civil War defences including ramparts, forts and batteries. Despite the limited archaeological evidence within Islington, it is known that one of the fort's bastions stood at the junction of the modern Sebastian Street and Goswell Road (a mound in this location is clearly pictured on John Rocque's map of 1746-7). As some remains for other Civil War

forts, including Southampton fort near The British Museum, have been discovered the potential for surviving remains in Islington too. The foundations of the ramparts are likely to have made a strong base for road building and it is likely that some of the roads follow the course of fortifications. The infilling and after-use of the defences may also be of interest.

The Civil War Defences of London were unusual for many reasons; for one they were a huge public project which enlisted volunteers from across the local community including all walks of life and ages. Due to this, it appears that the fortifications were not necessarily uniform and, with the clear additional strategic additions at Islington, this would be a unique fortification. Further study and investigation into the remains alongside documentary and cartographic records provides an opportunity to further understand the Civil War fortifications, establish their locations and address significant questions around their construction and use.

Although no longer obvious within the modern townscape there is potential to interpret the route of the Civil War defences with a guided walk and panels.

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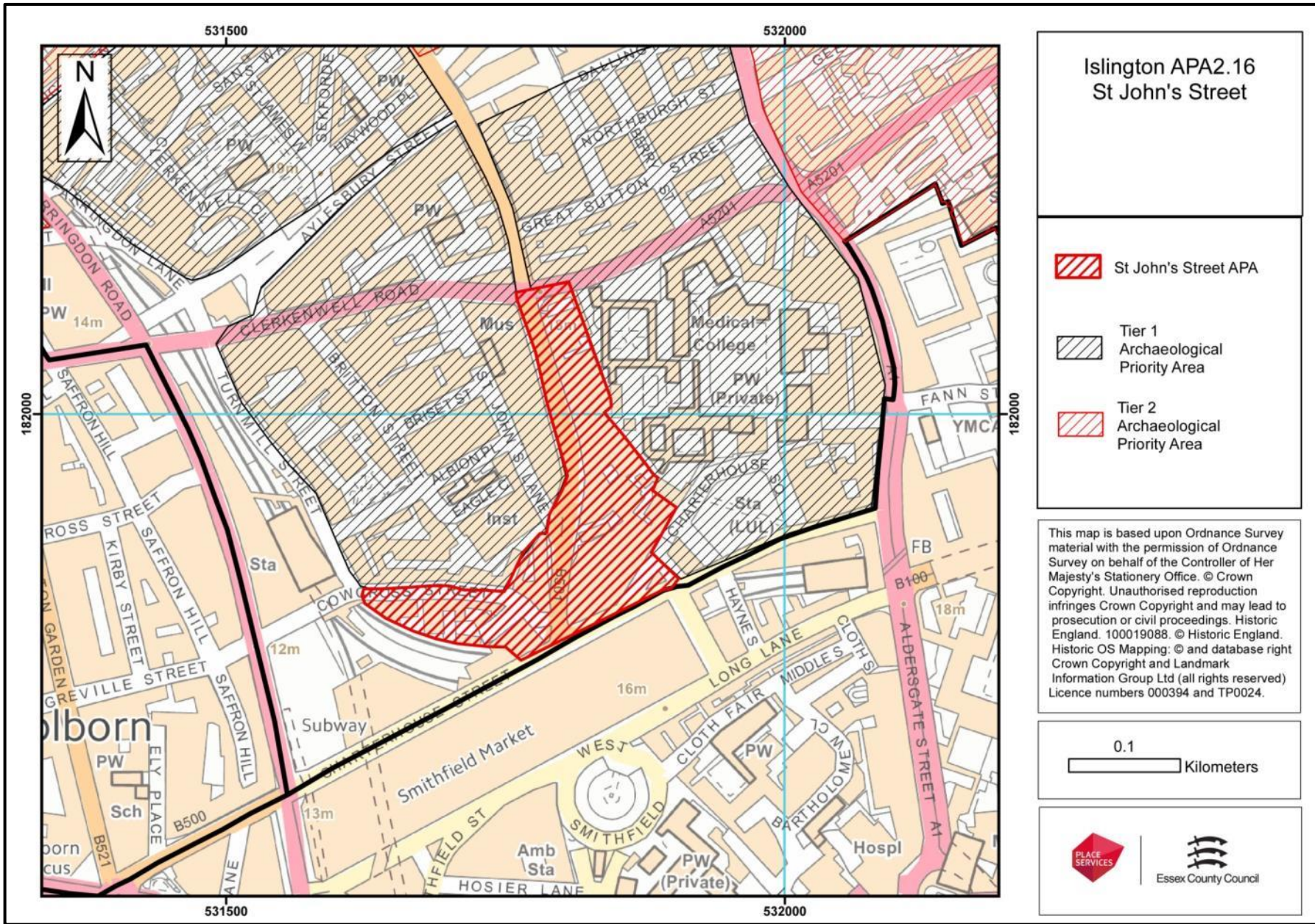
Islington APA2.16
St John's Street

St John's Street APA

Tier 1
Archaeological
Priority Area

Tier 2
Archaeological
Priority Area

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0.1 Kilometers

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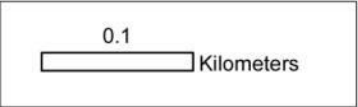
5.21 Islington APA 2.16 St John's Street medieval settlement

5.21.1 Summary and Definition

The Archaeological Priority Area of St John's Street medieval settlement lies between St John's Priory (APA 1.2) and Charterhouse (APA 1.3) and along Cowcross Street to the south of St John's Priory. The settlement can be traced back to the medieval period.

The APA is allocated to Tier 2, as it has the potential to contain a range of medieval and post-medieval settlement deposits associated with the historic settlement of this area.

5.21.2 Description

The earliest documentary reference to St John's Street is in 1170 when it was described as the street which went from Smithfield towards Islington. Archaeological investigation along the south-eastern edges of St John's Priory has revealed that the frontages of St John's Street were being developed in the late 12th and 13th century. This would have included inns and alehouses which belonged to the religious houses and would have provided income, but also extra accommodation for visitors. These dated from at least c.1200, but additional inns opened during the 14th and early 15th centuries. At the time the area was right on the edge of London, with open fields beyond the religious houses. St John's Street was one of the routes for drovers and traders coming into the markets in and around Smithfield where the livestock market had been established by 1123. The cattle market at Cow Cross, at the southern end of St John's Street, flourished in the 13th and 14th centuries

The Cow Cross gave its name to Cowcross Street, which was probably in existence before the foundation of St John's Priory. Cowcross Street was also used as a drove road, and was possibly more important than St John's Street as Cowcross Street and Turnmill Street beyond it were a route to High Barnett and the north generally.

No major excavations have taken place within the APA. Archaeological evidence within the APA all dates to the medieval period or later, and for the medieval period is limited to a few features. The current buildings within the APA date from the early 18th century onwards and are a mixture of terraced housing, warehouses and workshops, much as the original medieval use of the area would have been.

5.21.3 Significance

St John's Street and Cowcross Street settlement has been continuously settled since the medieval period and thus has the potential to contain medieval and post-medieval settlement remains of archaeological interest particularly reflecting the domestic and commercial aspects of the initial development by the religious houses. Evidence for the functioning of the livestock market would be of particular interest.

5.21.4 Key References

Temple, P. (ed.), 2008, 'St John Street: Introduction; west side', in Survey of London: Volume 46, South and East Clerkenwell, pp. 203-221.

6 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 (NPPF definition). 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. 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. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance (NPPF definition).