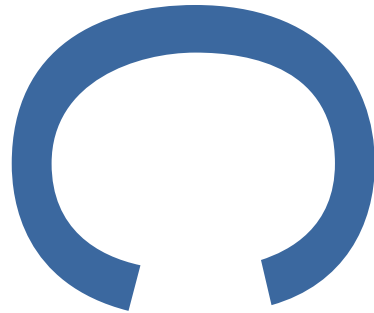
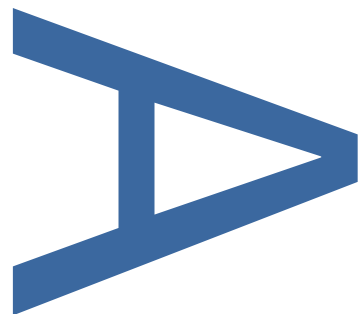


**Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road,  
Brentford**



**Archaeological Evaluation**



<b><i>Planning reference</i></b>	<b>P/2022/1142</b>		
<b><i>Local planning authority</i></b>	<b>London Borough of Hounslow</b>		
<b><i>PCA report no.</i></b>	<b>R15341</b>	<b><i>Site Code</i></b>	<b>HDB23</b>
<b><i>PCA project no</i></b>	<b>K8118</b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b>February 23</b>

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED**

**[www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

Project Information	
Site name	Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow TW8 0AA
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation
Site address	Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow TW8 0AA
NGR	TQ 17905 77405
Local planning authority	London Borough of Hounslow
Planning reference	P/2022/1142
Commissioning client	RPS Group
Project dates	09 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> January
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PCA Information			
PCA project code	K8118	PCA report number	R15341
PCA Project Manager	Neil Hawkins		
PCA office	London		
Address	Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre, Endwell Road, London SE4 2PD		
Telephone	02077323925		
E-mail	<a href="mailto:NHawkins@pre-construct.com">NHawkins@pre-construct.com</a>	Internet	<a href="http://www.pre-construct.com">www.pre-construct.com</a>

Quality Control		
Written by:	AW	February 2023
Graphics by:	MM	
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation commissioned by RPS group and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow, TW8 0AA. The site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 17905 77405.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was carried out between 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023, and consisted of three trenches targeting the northern frontage of the site where an area of intact, higher brickearth was interpreted as being present.
- 1.3 Natural gravels were recorded within the evaluation trenches in deeper sondages, between 2.09m OD in Trench 1, sloping down to 1.28m OD in the eastern end of the same trench. It was then recorded at 0.86m OD in Trench 2 and 1.21m OD in Trench 3. This suggests a very general slope from west to east across the site, with a slight undulation in the surface of the gravel in Trench 2. This deposit, and the levels it was recorded at, are consistent with the known underlying geology as described by the British Geological Survey and an archaeological deposit model undertaken for the site.
- 1.4 Recorded sealing the natural gravel within all evaluation trenches was a consistent sequence of sterile and homogeneous alluvial clay deposits, with no recorded organic content or peat. These were recorded between 3.93m OD and 3.35m OD and were between 1.83m thick in Trench 1 and 2.77m and 2.64m thick in Trenches 2 and 3 respectively. The general thickening of the alluvium from west to east relates directly to surface of the underlying gravel which slopes from west to east. This alluvial sequence is consistent with the known sequence of the site as described by an archaeological deposit model for the site.
- 1.5 Cutting the surface of the alluvial sequence in Trenches 1 and 3 were a late post-medieval posthole, and a post-medieval quarry pit respectively. Recovered from these features was a very small assemblage of clay tobacco pipe, pottery, glass and peg tile which date to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cartographic evidence illustrates the northern frontage of the site to be occupied by buildings from at least the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, associated with the roadside settlement along the High Road, Brentford.
- 1.6 Sealing the later post-medieval deeper cut features and the alluvial sequence, was modern made ground and modern features including an area of a brick basement and concrete beams.
- 1.7 No evidence for intact brickearth as postulated to be present within the site specific deposit model, was recorded during the evaluation. A weathered alluvial horizon was recorded in Trench 1.
- 1.8 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts pre-dating the 18<sup>th</sup> century was encountered during the archaeological evaluation.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has been commissioned by RPS Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow, TW8 0AA (Figure 1). The site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 17905 77405.
- 2.2 The site is generally a rectangular plot of land approximately 1.29ha in area. The site is currently occupied by the Heidelberg Building, to be demolished as part of the redevelopment of the site, which encompasses the greater majority of the site area, along with associated hard standing. The site is bounded to the north by High Street, to the east by buildings, and to the south and west by the River Brent.
- 2.3 Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of the site comprising: Demolition of the existing building and erection of four blocks ranging from three to eleven storeys to provide 333 residential units and commercial space with associated car and cycle parking, landscaping, amenity space and ancillary development (Planning ref: P/2022/1142). An archaeological planning condition was attached to the consent.
- 2.4 In terms of relevant local designations, the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area for Isleworth, Syon Park and Brentford, as defined by the London Borough of Hounslow. The associated GLHER APA description notes that 'Brentford was a Roman roadside station on the road from London to Silchester via Staines. It continued to be occupied through the Saxon period, and developed as a medieval market town, with shipbuilding on the Thames' (HER Ref: DLO33009).
- 2.5 The methodology for the evaluation was outlined in a site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2022), prepared prior to the fieldwork, and approved by Historic England, archaeological advisors to the local planning authority
- 2.6 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches, two with dimensions of 15m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m below ground level, with one step, to expose a basal area of 12.6m x 1.8m, and one with dimensions of 20m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m below ground level, with one step, to expose a basal area of 17.6m x 1.8m. A sondage was excavated in at least one location of each trench to complete the depositional sequence across the site.
- 2.7 The archaeological evaluation was carried between 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 2.8 The investigation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Adrian Wiecek, the project was managed by Neil Hawkins and was monitored by Sandy Kidd of GLAAS on behalf of the local planning authority. The project was commissioned by RPS Group.
- 2.9 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records expected to be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (LAA) identified by the unique site code HDB23.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

3.1 Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of the site comprising: Demolition of the existing building and erection of four blocks ranging from three to eleven storeys to provide 333 residential units and commercial space with associated car and cycle parking, landscaping, amenity space and ancillary development (Planning ref: P/2022/1142).

3.2 The planning permission contains an archaeological condition as follows:

#### **4 Archaeology**

*No demolition or development below ground level shall take place until a stage 1 written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, and the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*

*If heritage assets of archaeological interest are identified by the stage 1 WSI, then for those parts of the site which have archaeological interest a stage 2 WSI shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the stage 2 WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed stage 2 WSI which shall include:*

*A. The statement of significance and research objectives, the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*

*B. Details of a programme for delivering related positive public benefits*

*C. The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the stage 2 WSI.*

*Reason: In order to protect the historic archaeological interest of the site in accordance with Local Plan Policy CC4 and London Plan Policy HC1*

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 The site is located within the alluvial flood plain of the Rivers Brent and Thames. The Brent's confluence with the Thames lies approximately 140m to the south-east of the site at its closest point. The British Geological Survey (BGS Online 2021), records the underlying geology at the study site as London Clay Formation (Clay, Silt & Sand), overlain by alluvial deposits.
- 4.2 The solid geology of the London area is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin. Overlying the London Clay is a series of gravel terraces deposited during periods of glacial and inter-glacial conditions.
- 4.3 Geotechnical investigations recorded on the British Geological Survey in the southern part of the site appear to record a sequence comprising depths of made ground up to 1.35m in thickness, overlying sandy gravel deposits, and the London Clay bedrock. No alluvial deposits are shown within those boreholes, indicating that, if they were present, these deposits have been entirely truncated.
- 4.4 A previous phase of archaeological work within the site also provides evidence pertaining to the likely underlying sequence. That work discovered that natural brickearth at the far northern boundary was found to drop away steeply immediately to the south of the High Street. A thick grey clay-sand layer was also identified which was thought to suggest that the northern part of the site comprised unusable marshland until land reclamation in the 19th century. At the southern part of the site, successive layers of likely terrace gravels were identified. This was capped by depths of made ground associated with land reclamation and modern development. No alluvial or organic deposits are mentioned.
- 4.5 An archaeological deposit model undertaken for the site (RPS 2022b) recorded a general sequence of London Clay, overlain by Kempton Park Gravels, sealed by alluvium across the southern two thirds of the site, and sealed by probable brickearth horizon along the northern frontage of the site. As such the deposit model highlighted the presence of a possible brickearth surface as a deposit of archaeological potential. This brickearth was recorded in two investigations on the northern frontage, in the northwest being recorded at 2m below ground level, and to the northeast recorded at 3.2m below ground level. Both deposits were overlain by made ground. No brickearth was recorded to the south, where alluvial deposits appear to be exclusively recorded sealing gravel and London Clay, increasing in thickness towards the river. No peat deposits were recorded within any of the investigations, but some did record organic material. It should be noted however, that natural Kempton Park Gravel was recorded in one location in the northeastern area of the site (WS07) at 1.7m below ground level, sealed by made ground.
- 4.6 The natural topography of the site would likely slope gently in a south easterly direction towards the River Brent which forms the southern site boundary, and the River Thames,



located c.150m to the south east. The Brent's confluence with the Thames is c.140m to the east of the site.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

5.1 The following background is summarised from a sit specific desk-based assessment (RPS 2022a) undertaken for the site.

### **5.2 Previous Archaeological Work**

5.2.1 Previous archaeological work undertaken within the site has comprised a series of nine evaluation trenches across the site, prior to development of the existing building when the site was known as the Old North Thames Gas Site. Natural brickearth was identified at the far northern boundary and found to drop away steeply immediately to the south of the High Street. A thick grey clay-sand layer was found which was thought to suggest that much of the northern part of the site had historically been unusable marshland until reclamation in the 19th century. Successive layers of river terrace gravels were also identified at the southern part of the site. This sequence was overlain by made ground associated with land reclamation.

5.2.2 The work identified no archaeological remains and it was concluded that the site had consisted of marginal land unsuitable for human activity until land reclamation in the 19th century

### **5.3 Prehistory**

5.3.1 No evidence for Palaeolithic activity is recorded within the area. The presence of Palaeolithic material can be notoriously difficult to predict and is typically dependent upon the presence of an appropriate underlying geology sequence (such as terrace gravels or brickearth), as well as suitable topography and access to nearby resources and water. No evidence for Palaeolithic activity was found during previous archaeological work at the site.

5.3.2 Various instances of struck flint and pottery sherd discoveries have been recorded in the area north west of the site at Brentford, which appear to comprise of Mesolithic to Neolithic period flintwork and Neolithic to Bronze Age pottery from a brickearth deposit underlying later Roman deposits. The flintwork comprised a high proportion of unworked debitage and very few domestic artefacts, which indicated that the site was not a settlement site but more likely a flint working area.

5.3.3 Further finds dated to these periods within the area have comprised a Neolithic axe found at Great Western Docks c.200m south of the site, a small flint scatter found at Albany Place c.200m to the north east, Bronze Age and Iron Age weaponry found at Brentford Dock recorded in the area c.75-150m to the south east of the site, and an Iron Age phallerae found in the Thames to the south of the site.

5.3.4 Evidence for likely later Prehistoric peat and alluvial deposits was suggested at Ferry Lane in the area c.200m east of the site.

5.3.5 Archaeological finds dated to these periods have been generally comprised of flintwork and pottery sherd finds associated with a brickearth deposit in the area of Brentford to the

north west of the site, as well as findspots from Brentford Dock to the south which are likely to have been found in the Thames or the Brent. Previous archaeological work at the site identified no evidence for remains dating to this period and confirmed that the brickearth deposit found to the north extends only a short distance into the site's northern boundary before dropping away rapidly. This indicates that this deposit, which may have been associated with prehistoric finds to the north west, is not present across the vast majority of the site.

- 5.3.6 The desk-based assessment for the site concluded that the archaeological potential for these periods is considered to be generally low, although should any brickearth deposits survive along the far northern boundary, these could be considered to retain an associated moderate archaeological potential for prehistoric evidence likely dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

## **5.4 Roman**

- 5.4.1 The High Road at the site's northern boundary is thought to represent the route of the Roman road between London and Staines. Evidence for settlement has previously been identified at Brentford to the north west of the site, including occupation layers, structures, buildings, pits, post holes and burials, all of which appear to be located to the north of the road alignment or to the west of the site away from the Thames. It is generally considered that typical archaeological features associated with Roman roads can include evidence for settlement and occupation, roadside ditches and associated land division, together with quarry pits, burials and chance losses.

- 5.4.2 Previous archaeological work at the site identified no evidence for Roman activity, including along the northern boundary where the posited Roman road is located. The desk-based assessment concluded that it is likely that the site comprised marginal land that would have been unsuitable for occupation activity at this time. It is possible that the site may have been utilised although this is more likely to have been for marginal marshland activity that is likely to have left only ephemeral trace evidence that was not identified during previous trenching.

## **5.5 Anglo-Saxon/Early medieval and medieval**

- 5.5.1 Possible sunken feature buildings (SFBs) are recorded at Brentford to the north west of the site, indicative of occupation at Brentford in the Saxon period.
- 5.5.2 The nearest early medieval estates to the site as recorded by the Domesday Survey of 1086 were located at Hanwell to the north west and at Isleworth to south west. Brentford is not recorded, although there was settlement there at the time which was located within the estate lands of Ealing, Hanwell, and Isleworth.
- 5.5.3 Evidence for medieval period activity within the area is comprised of buildings and structures at Brentford to the north west of the site.

5.5.4 The desk-based assessment concluded that the site likely remained marginal marshland unsuitable for occupation during the Saxon and medieval periods and there was no evidence for activity dating to these periods identified during previous trenching at the site.

## **5.6 Post-medieval and Modern**

5.6.1 A number of the HER records within the area refer to post-medieval and modern archaeological remains which are not discussed in detail here unless relevant to the site. These primarily include evidence for 20th century development in the nearby area, including various factories, wharfs and other buildings, as well as areas of land reclamation and made ground.

5.6.2 During the later post-medieval and modern periods, our understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.

5.6.3 One of the earliest such cartographic sources is the 1766 Rocque Map of London and its environs, which depicts the site to the south of the High Street at Brentford, and to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Thames and Brent. It appears that development was situated along the road at the northern site boundary, which likely comprised the highest point of the site and therefore the most suitable area for development at that time. The remainder and majority of the site appears to comprise of marginal land.

5.6.4 This appears to also be the situation at the site on a 1777 Ealing Parish Map, with development shown along the northern boundary adjacent to the High Street, and the majority of the site shown as open land. A similar situation is also shown on the 1804-06 Ordnance Survey Drawing.

5.6.5 The 1839 Ealing Parish Tithe Map is the first survey of the site undertaken to modern cartographic standards. The northern part of the site is shown as a timber depot, and included various buildings, structures and likely areas of storage space. A dock is shown in the central area of the site, likely indicating that the River Brent and Grand Junction canal were used to move the timber to or from this depot. This part of the River Brent had been canalised as part of the Grand Junction Canal, on which construction was started in the 1790s. The associated Tithe Award describes those land parcels within the site and immediate vicinity as follows:

5.6.6 The Tithe Award makes it clear that the northern part of the site comprised a timber yard and premises, and that the nearby docks were in the same ownership and therefore likely associated with this depot. The eastern site boundary is described within an area of garden whilst the southern area is located within meadow.

5.6.7 Archaeological works at the site have identified that the site likely comprised unusable marshland prior to land reclamation in the 19th century. Land reclamation may have started in the early 19th century for the construction of the timber yard shown on the 1839 Tithe Map.

- 5.6.8 The timber yard depot was expanded by 1866 as additional buildings were constructed at the northern half of the site. Further alterations were shown to the depot in 1896, whilst changes were also shown to the dock in the central area of the site. The former meadow at the southern part of the site was now labelled as part of the timber yard and the mapping indicates that this area has been built up, likely to create a stable platform. The 1907 GOAD Plan provides additional details to the former layout of the site, with labels of the function for each building. The extent of the dock is also defined. No change is shown within the site on the 1915 Ordnance Survey plan.
- 5.6.9 An aerial photograph dated to 1929 shows that the dock has been infilled, and a river wall is now shown around the site, which defines the straight edge to the southern boundary of the site. The northern half of the site has undergone further developments, and there also appears to be either a temporary building or storage area shown in the southern part of the site.
- 5.6.10 The 1935 Ordnance Survey plan shows the site had been redeveloped for a motor repair works. This included demolition, alteration and redevelopment of existing buildings, as well as the aforementioned infilling of the dock. A crane is shown at the southern part of the site, likely linked with a wharf along the canal at the site's southern boundary, where mooring posts are also marked.
- 5.6.11 Aerial photographs dated to 1937, 1939 and 1945 show the industrial character of the site. The 1937 and 1939 oblique aerial photographs also provide a side view of the river wall surrounding the southern and western edges of the site.
- 5.6.12 Further extensive demolition and redevelopment is shown within the site on the 1961 Ordnance Survey plan. This was focused at the northern half of the site, whilst the southern area remained a wharf labelled Montgomery's Wharf. A 1969 architectural model for the redevelopment of the Brentford Docks to the south of the site shows the site layout remained unchanged.
- 5.6.13 Further redevelopment is shown by 1979 at which time archaeological works were undertaken within the site prior to a further phase of redevelopment for the existing Heidelberg Building, first shown on a 1983 Ordnance Survey plan. This comprised extensive development across a vast majority of the site footprint, as well as improvements to the site's flood defences along the southern and western boundaries. Minor additional development is shown within the site to the present day.
- 5.6.14 Historic mapping has demonstrated that the site would have included roadside activity from at least the 18th century along the site's northern boundary adjacent to the High Street, whilst the majority of the site remained marginal land until reclamation measures in the 19th century. A timber yard was constructed at the site as well as dock and wharf facilities for the adjacent Grand Junction Canal, and numerous subsequent phases of demolition and redevelopment are shown within the site throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The

existing building was constructed by 1983 and was preceded by a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching.

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 The original methodology for the evaluation is detailed in the site specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2022). This detailed the excavation of four trenches with dimensions of 20m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m below ground level, with one step, to expose a basal area of 17.6m x 1.8m. These trenches were to be undertaken post-demolition of buildings on the site.
- 6.2 Due to the trenches being undertaken prior to demolition and within the open area of the extant building, there was only enough space to excavate three evaluation trenches, two with dimensions of 15m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m below ground level, with one step, to expose a basal area of 12.6m x 1.8m, and one with dimensions of 20m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum depth of 2.4m below ground level, with one step, to expose a basal area of 17.6m x 1.8m. The alignment of two of the trenches was altered from the proposed northwest-southeast, to northeast-southwest, due to spatial constraints within the extant building.
- 6.3 The three evaluation trenches were excavated sequentially, one at a time, due to spatial constraints. Each trench was opened, and once recorded backfilled before the next trench could commence. Trench 3 was excavated in two halves again due to spatial constraints, with the northern half excavated and recorded first, then backfilled before the southern half could commence.
- 6.4 Four sondages were excavated through sterile alluvial deposits to expose the surface of the underlying natural gravels.
- 6.5 All site works were undertaken under the direction of PCA's archaeological supervisor.
- 6.6 The trenches were located by using Total station equipment.
- 6.7 The TBM value 4.98 was established using GPS device.
- 6.8 Trenches were reduced using a 12 ton 360° mechanical excavator. The concrete slab in the location of the trenches was broken out and a toothless bucket were used to remove modern deposits under archaeological supervision.
- 6.9 All archaeological features were cleaned and excavated by PCA staff using hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using the standard single context recording methods. Digital photographs were taken to document the archaeological deposits and features recorded during the evaluation.

## **7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Phase 1: Natural gravel**

#### Trench 1

7.1.1 The earliest deposit recorded within Trench 1 was a pale grey sandy gravel, contexts [129] & [135]. This deposit was encountered in sondages in both ends of the trench, excavated through the overlying alluvium in both ends of the trench and was recorded at 2.09m OD, sloping down to 1.28m OD in the eastern end.

#### Trench 2

7.1.2 The earliest deposit recorded within Trench 2 was a dark greyish brown sandy gravel, contexts [118]. This deposit was recorded at 0.86m OD within a deeper sondage in the northeastern end of the trench.

#### Trench 3

7.1.3 The earliest deposit recorded within Trench 3 comprised a mid greyish brown sandy gravel horizon, context [147]. This deposit was recorded at 1.21m OD with a sondage excavated in the southeastern end of the trench.

### **7.2 Phase 2: Natural alluvium**

#### Trench 1

7.2.1 Sealing the natural gravel in Trench 1 was a sequence of sterile and homogenous alluvial clay deposits, recorded as [127] and [128] in one end of the trench, and as [133], [134] and [135] in the opposite end. These comprised a firm, mid greyish-green silty clay, but in one isolated location was mid orangey-brown in colour. The alluvial sequence was recorded at a highest level of 3.35m OD and had an overall thickness of 1.84m. No anthropogenic material was noted within this sequence nor were there any notable inclusions.

#### Trench 2

7.2.2 Sealing the natural gravel in Trench 2 was a sequence of sterile and homogeneous alluvial clay deposits, [116], [117] and [123]. These comprised a firm, mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent iron staining. The alluvial sequence was recorded at a highest level of 3.93m OD and had a maximum overall thickness of 2.77m. No anthropogenic material was observed within this sequence nor were there any notable inclusions.

#### Trench 3

7.2.3 Sealing the natural gravel in Trench 3 was a sequence of sterile and homogenous alluvial clay deposits, [138], [139], [141], [146] and [150]. These comprised a firm, mid greyish-brown silty clay with frequent iron staining. This alluvial sequence was recorded at a highest level of 3.85m OD and had a maximum thickness of 2.64m. No anthropogenic material was observed within this sequence nor were there any notable inclusions.



### 7.3 **Phase 3: Later Post-Medieval**

#### Trench 1

- 7.3.1 Cutting the surface of the alluvium in the northeastern side of Trench 1 was a rectangular posthole, [101]. This feature had recorded dimensions of 0.68m by 0.4m and was at least 0.27m deep. Recorded at 2.97m OD, the feature was filled by deposits [100], [102], [105] and [107]. Deposit [102] comprised the decayed remnants of a timber post within the centre of the feature. Recovered from fill [100] was a single fragment of a lower wall sherd of a slightly weathered olive-green cylindrical glass wine bottle, probably of an early type, dated c.1740–1850 (Appendix 5) and a single fragment of peg tile dated to AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 7) which suggest deposition in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Trench 3

- 7.3.2 Cutting the natural alluvial sequence throughout the southeastern end of Trench 3 was an extensive pit, [137]/[145]. The pit appeared to be sub-circular in shape and had recorded dimensions of 11m x 1.8m, but continued beyond the trench limit to the east, west and south. Recorded at 4.05m OD, the pit was 2.07m deep and filled by deposits [136], [140], [142], [143], and [144] which represented redeposited, backfilled alluvial deposits. Recovered from fill [136] was a single sherd of Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR), dated 1550–1900, but more likely to post-date c. 1600 when this pottery type became more common place. The sherd is derived from a closed form, probably a chamber pot, and has an internal clear glaze that is subject to laminating (Appendix 3). A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was also recovered and was a thin stem with fine bore that can only be broadly dated c. 1730–1910 (Appendix 4). This suggests deposition during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This extensive pit may represent quarrying of brickearth and alluvial clays present on the southern side of the Brentford High Road.

### 7.4 **Phase 4: Modern**

#### Trench 1

- 7.4.1 Sealing the alluvial sequence in the southwestern side of Trench 1 was a sequence of made ground of a modern date. This made ground sequence, layers [130], [131] and [132], were recorded at a highest level of 4.59m OD and had a combined thickness of 1.34m. The lower deposits within this sequence represented redeposited alluvium layers, which contained occasional inclusions of brick and tile. Recovered from layer [131] was a single fragment of peg tile dated to AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 7) and a single clay tobacco pipe thin stem with fine bore that can only be broadly dated c. 1730–1910 (Appendix 4). These finds are both residual within these later made ground horizons.
- 7.4.2 Completing the sequence within Trench 1 were modern levelling deposits associated with surface concrete, recorded at 5.29m OD. A concrete beam associated with the extant building bisected the centre of the trench along with associated construction cut.

### Trench 2

- 7.4.3 Sealing the natural alluvial sequence in Trench 2 were a series of modern made ground deposits, [115], [119], [120], [121] and [122]. The lowest level of the deposits consisted of redeposited alluvial layers such as those recorded in Trench 1, which contained brick and tile inclusions, with the upper deposits being levelling layers of mixed sandy-silt. This sequence of made ground was recorded at a highest level 4.08m OD and had a combined overall thickness of 0.45m. No dating evidence was recovered from this sequence.
- 7.4.4 Modern levelling deposits capped by surface concrete, recorded at 5.27m OD, completed the sequence in Trench 2
- 7.4.5 In the southwestern end of the trench a modern brick basement truncated the underlying made ground through the centre of the trench and extended south beyond the trench. This was removed by machine to record the underlying depositional sequence.

### Trench 3

- 7.4.6 Modern levelling layers capped by surface concrete, recorded at 5.29m OD, sealed the quarry pit and made ground in Trench 3, and completed the depositional sequence. Modern concrete beams bisected the trench in two locations.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded a broadly uniform sequence of natural gravels, sealed by a natural sequence of floodplain alluvium. Evidence for later post-medieval activity was represented by two features, a rectangular posthole and an extensive quarry pit. Modern deposits completed the depositional sequence.
- 8.2 Natural gravels were recorded within all three evaluation trenches in sondages excavated in the base of the trenches. These gravels were recorded between a high of 2.09m OD in the western end of Trench 1, sloping down to 1.28m OD in the eastern end of the same trench. It was then recorded at 0.86m OD in Trench 2 and 1.21m OD in Trench 3. This suggests a very general slope from west to east across the site, with a slight dip in the levels in Trench 2.
- 8.3 An archaeological deposit model undertaken for the site (RPS 2022b) suggested natural gravels attributed to the Kempton Park Gravel Formation were recorded at a highest level 1.3m OD and recorded a natural slope downwards from northwest to southeast reflecting the river valley slope towards the River Thames to the southeast. Therefore, the gravels recorded during the evaluation are consistent with those previously mapped within the deposit model, with a highest OD height to the northwest, sloping down to the east/southeast.
- 8.4 Sealing the natural gravel within all evaluation trenches was a consistent sequence of alluvial clay deposits. These were recorded between 3.93m OD and 3.35m OD and were between 1.83m thick in Trench 1 and 2.77m and 2.64m thick in Trenches 2 and 3 respectively. The general thickening of the alluvium from west to east relates directly to surface of the underlying gravel which slopes from west to east, discussed above. The alluvial sequence recorded in all trenches was relatively uniform, comprising sterile and homogenous clay deposits ranging in colour from greyish green to greyish brown with no organic content. No peat was recorded within the sequence. In Trench 1 the uppermost alluvial deposit differed somewhat in colour, being mid-brownish-orange in colour, but was the same consistency as the deposits below. This deposit most likely represents a weathered alluvial horizon, which was exposed at some point and oxidised an orange colour. No anthropogenic material or notable inclusions were recorded within the alluvial deposits.
- 8.5 The archaeological deposit model undertaken for the site (RPS 2022b) describes a varying sequence of alluvial deposits recorded at a highest level of 3.08m OD. These deposits were identified to become thicker towards the southeast from 1.25m thick in the northwest to 2.3m thick in the southeast. The surface height and thickness of the alluvial sequence recorded during the evaluation was therefore consistent with the deposit model. The archaeological deposit model did record evidence for some organic matter (though not peat) in some of the interventions (*ibid*). No such organic deposits were recorded within

- the evaluation and if present on the site, are more likely to be located further south/southeast where the alluvium thickens.
- 8.6 Recorded cutting the surface of the alluvial deposits in Trenches 1 and 3 respectively, were a small rectangular posthole and an extensive probably quarry pit. The rectangular feature in Trench 1 contained the decayed remnants of the timber post which sat centrally within the wider cut. No associated postholes were recorded elsewhere, but it may have formed a structure aligned north-south and therefore not be present in the other evaluation trenches. Dating evidence from this feature comprised the lower wall sherd of a slightly weathered olive-green cylindrical glass wine bottle, probably of an early type, dated c.1740–1850 (Appendix 5) and a single fragment of peg tile dated to AD 1700-1900 (Appendix 7) which suggest deposition in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8.7 The extensive quarry pit in Trench 3 encompassed the greater majority of the southern extent of the trench and was just over 2m deep. Dating evidence from the pit consists of a single sherd of Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR), dated 1550–1900, but is more likely to post-date c. 1600 when this pottery type became more common place. The sherd is derived from a closed form, probably a chamber pot, and has an internal clear glaze that is subject to laminating (Appendix 3). A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was also recovered and was a thin stem with fine bore that can only be broadly dated c. 1730–1910 (Appendix 4). This suggests deposition during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century, probably to backfill this feature prior to development of the area. This extensive pit is interpreted as being a quarry, to extract the previously underlying brickearth and alluvial clays which would have been present on the southern side of the Brentford High Road.
- 8.8 Cartographic sources indicate the northern frontage of the site to have been occupied by buildings from at least the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century as represented by Rocque's map of 1766. The rest of the site appeared to remain open and undeveloped however, until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The small artefactual assemblage recovered from the two later post-medieval features and modern deposits provide limited information, being clay tobacco stems, peg tile fragments, a single sherd of a probable chamber pot, and fragments of cattle and sheep size animal bone (Appendix 6). These all date to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The distinct lack of post-medieval archaeological evidence along the northern frontage of the site illustrates considerable modern truncation in that location, which has removed any previous buildings which would have been extant, leaving only the lower levels of deeper cut features.
- 8.9 The archaeological deposit model for site (RPS 2022b) identified two deposits in separate locations on the northern frontage which were interpreted as 'brickearth', as such the archaeological evaluation targeted the northern extent of the site were possible brickearth may have survived. The evaluation trenches recorded no such evidence for brickearth,

instead recording a relatively uniform sequence of gravel, overlain by alluvium, sealed by modern deposits. The possible brickearth identified by the deposit model was located at 3.48m OD, within the Ordnance Datum height range the alluvium was encountered at in the evaluation trenches. Trench 1 did record an alluvial deposit of a more orangish-brown colour, but the same soil matrix as the alluvium. This is interpreted as a weathered alluvial horizon and not brickearth. It may therefore be that the deposits interpreted as brickearth in the deposit model may also have been weathered alluvium as oppose brickearth. The original description of the deposit as alluvium by a geotechnical engineer during the excavation of the original geotechnical borehole may attest to this.

- 8.10 The depositional sequence of the site was capped by modern deposits and modern features including a section of a basement and modern concrete beams. These modern deposits comprised the uppermost 2m of the site below surface level and therefore if any brickearth, or post-medieval buildings are features were previously present, have been entirely removed by modern activity.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS Group for commissioning the archaeological work.
- 9.2 Thanks are also extended to Sandy Kidd of GLASS, who monitored the fieldwork on behalf of the local planning authority.
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Neil Hawkins for managing the project on behalf of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and editing the report.
- 9.4 The author would also like to thank the specialists, Chris Jarrett, Karen Deighton, and Amparo Valcarcel for their analyses and reports. Thanks also to Malgorzata Malecka for the CAD illustrations.
- 9.5 Finally, the author would like to thank Lantern demolition for their assistance on site and Jake O'Donoghue and Tamsin Cornelius for their efforts on site.

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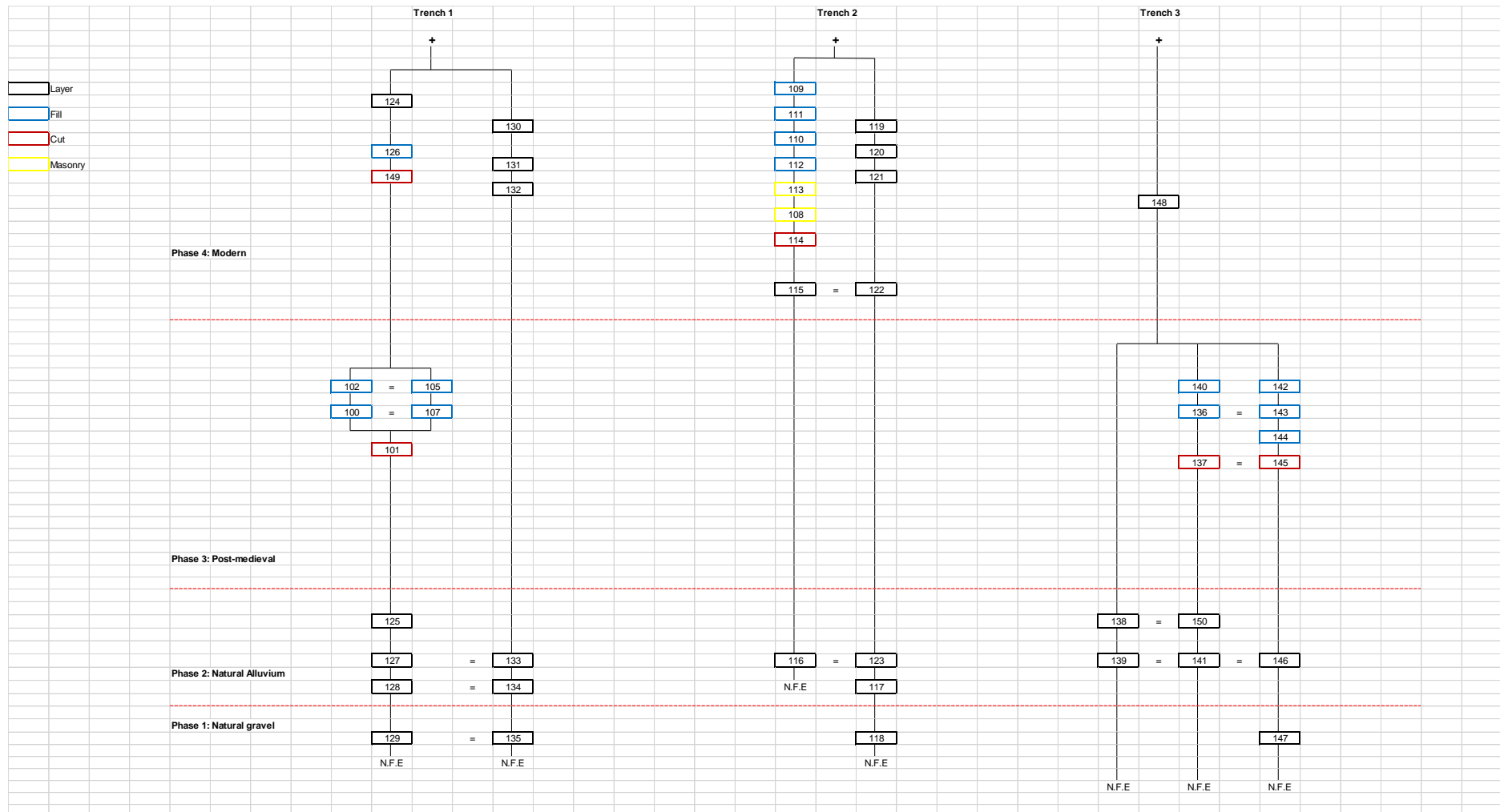
## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	CTX_Type	Trench	Fill_of	Phase	CTX_ Interpretation	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	CTX_Levels_high	CTX_Levels_low
100	Fill	1	101	3	Fill of pit/posthole [101] NFE	0.3	0.2	0.2	2.97	2.69
101	Cut	1		3	Cut of square pit/posthole	0.68	0.4	0.38	2.97	2.69
102	Fill	1	101	3	Possible post packing fill of [101]	0.2	0.18	0.27	2.97	
103	VOID									
104	VOID									
105	Fill	1	101	3	Fill of pit/posthole [101] NFE				2.97	
106	VOID									
107	Fill	1	101	3	Fill of pit/posthole [101] NFE	0.2	0.2	0.27	2.95	
108	Masonry	2		4	Internal wall of modern cellar		0.35	1.35	4.69	3.34
109	Fill	2	114	4	Top backfill of modern cellar		0.92	1.17	4.69	
110	Fill	2	114	4	Backfill of construction cut		0.73	1.16	4.69	
111	Fill	2	114	4	Backfill of modern cellar		0.92	0.28	3.58	
112	Fill	2	114	4	Backfill of construction cut		0.73	0.28	3.57	
113	Masonry	2		4	Block of modern concrete, possibly to support the wall		0.23	0.2	3.46	3.25
114	Cut	2		4	Construction cut of modern cellar		2	1.4	4.69	3.29
115	Layer	2		4	Made ground		1.8	0.25	3.34	3.39
116	Layer	2		2	Alluvial deposit		1.8	0.1	3.09	
117	Layer	2		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	1.91	2.77	
118	Layer	2		1	Natural gravel	2	2	0.08	0.86	0.82
119	Layer	2		4	Demolition layer	2	2	0.35	4.08	4.08
120	Layer	2		4	Levelling layer	2	2	0.25	3.88	3.73
121	Layer	2		4	Levelling layer		1	0.15	3.66	3.63
122	Layer	2		4	Levelling layer	2	2	0.65	3.63	3.52
123	Layer	2		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	0.86	3.63	3
124	Layer	1		4	Made ground	2	2	0.35	3.59	
125	Layer	1	149	2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	0.2	3.35	



Context	CTX_Type	Trench	Fill_of	Phase	CTX Interpretation	CTX_Length	CTX_Width	CTX_Depth	CTX Levels_high	CTX Levels_low
126	Fill	1	149	4	Backfill of construction cut [149]	2	2	0.55	3.21	
127	Layer	1		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	0.6	3.02	2.65
128	Layer	1		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	0.6	2.51	2.32
129	Layer	1		1	Natural gravel	2	2	0.27	2.09	1.97
130	Layer	1		4	Made ground	2	1.95	0.94	4.59	
131	Layer	1		4	Made ground	2	2.2	0.48	3.93	3.66
132	Layer	1		4	Made ground	2	1.9	0.5	3.46	3.45
133	Layer	1		2	Alluvial deposit	2	1.9	0.9	3.25	2.96
134	Layer	1		2	Alluvial deposit	2	1.9	1.15	2.56	2.06
135	Layer	1		1	Natural gravel	2	1.9	0.2	1.41	1.28
136	Fill	3	137	3	Fill of pit [137]		1	0.4	3.48	
137	Cut	3		3	Cut of large pit	2	2	1	3.85	
138	Layer	3		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	0.7	3.93	3.83
139	Layer	3		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2	0.5	3.56	3.21
140	Fill	3	137	3	Fill of pit [137]	2	2	0.7	3.99	
141	Layer	3		2	Alluvial deposit	2	1.4	0.9	3.85	
142	Fill	3	145	3	Fill of pit [145]	2	2.35	0.32	4.08	
143	Fill	3	145	3	Fill of pit [145]	2	2.5	1.6	4.04	
144	Fill	3	145	3	Fill of pit [145]	2	1.5	0.25	2.37	
145	Cut	3		3	Cut of large pit	2	2.5	2	4.05	1.98
146	Layer	3		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2.5	1.4	2.59	
147	Layer	3		1	Natural gravel	2	2	0.22	1.21	1.17
148	Layer	3		4	Made ground	2	2	0.2	4.25	4.23
149	Cut	1		4	Modern cut	2	2	0.55	3.21	2.66
150	Layer	3		2	Alluvial deposit	2	2.35	0.1	3.95	

## APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



## **APPENDIX 3: POST-ROMAN POTTERY**

Chris Jarrett

A single sherd (22g) of pottery was recovered by hand from the archaeological work and was found in fill [136], cut [137], Trench 3 assigned to Phase 3 activity. The sherd of pottery consists of Surrey-Hampshire border redware (RBOR), dated 1550–1900, but more likely to post-date c. 1600 when this pottery type became more common place. The sherd is derived from a closed form, probably a chamber pot, and has an internal clear glaze that is subject to laminating.

The sherd of pottery is of no significance as the item has little meaning. The only potential of the pottery sherd is to broadly date the contexts the item was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the sherd, which can be discarded.

## **APPENDIX 4: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT**

Chris Jarrett

A total of two fragments of clay tobacco pipe, all of which are stems, were recovered by hand from the archaeological work and were found in two contexts. Both fragments consist of thin stems with fine bores that can only be broadly dated c. 1730–1910. The stems were found in layer [131], Trench 1, assigned to Phase 4 activity, and fill [136], cut [137], Trench 3, assigned to Phase 3.

The clay tobacco stems are of no significance as the finds are plain, i.e., there are no makers' marks recorded. The only potential of the stems is to broadly date the contexts the finds were recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the stems, which can be discarded.

## **APPENDIX 5: GLASS ASSESSMENT**

Chris Jarrett

A single fragment (27g) of glass was recovered by hand from the archaeological work and was found in fill [100] of cut [101], Trench 1, assigned to Phase 3 activity. The fragment of glass consists of a lower wall sherd of a slightly weathered olive-green cylindrical wine bottle and probably of an early type, dated c.1740–1850.

The fragment of glass is of no significance as the item occurs as a frequently recorded post-medieval find and has little meaning. The only potential of the find is to broadly date the context the item was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the wine bottle fragment, which can be discarded.

## **APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT**

Karen Deighton January 2023

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from 2 contexts during the evaluation. On examination these proved to be:

Context 100 A cattle sized indeterminate fragment.

Context 136 Two sheep sized fused lumbar vertebra.

No evidence of butchery was noted on any of the bones.

## APPENDIX 7: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

### The ceramic building material

*Amparo Valcarcel, January 2023*

A small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered during the evaluation, totalling 2 fragments, weighting 136g. The material consisted of peg tiles, found in contexts [100] and [131]. This form is a long-lived one, being made from as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> until the modern day, and thus is not a particularly reliable dating tool. Having said this, developments in forming and firing, and the presence of fine moulding sand can be indicative of likely period, with the majority of examples recovered from site displaying features typical of the later post-medieval period (AD1700-1900). No further work on this material is recommended.

Context	Fabric	Form	Quant	Earliest material	Latest material	Latest dated material		Spot date
100	2276type	Peg tile fragment	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1700-1900
131	2276type	Peg tile fragment	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1700-1900

## **APPENDIX 8: OASIS FORM**

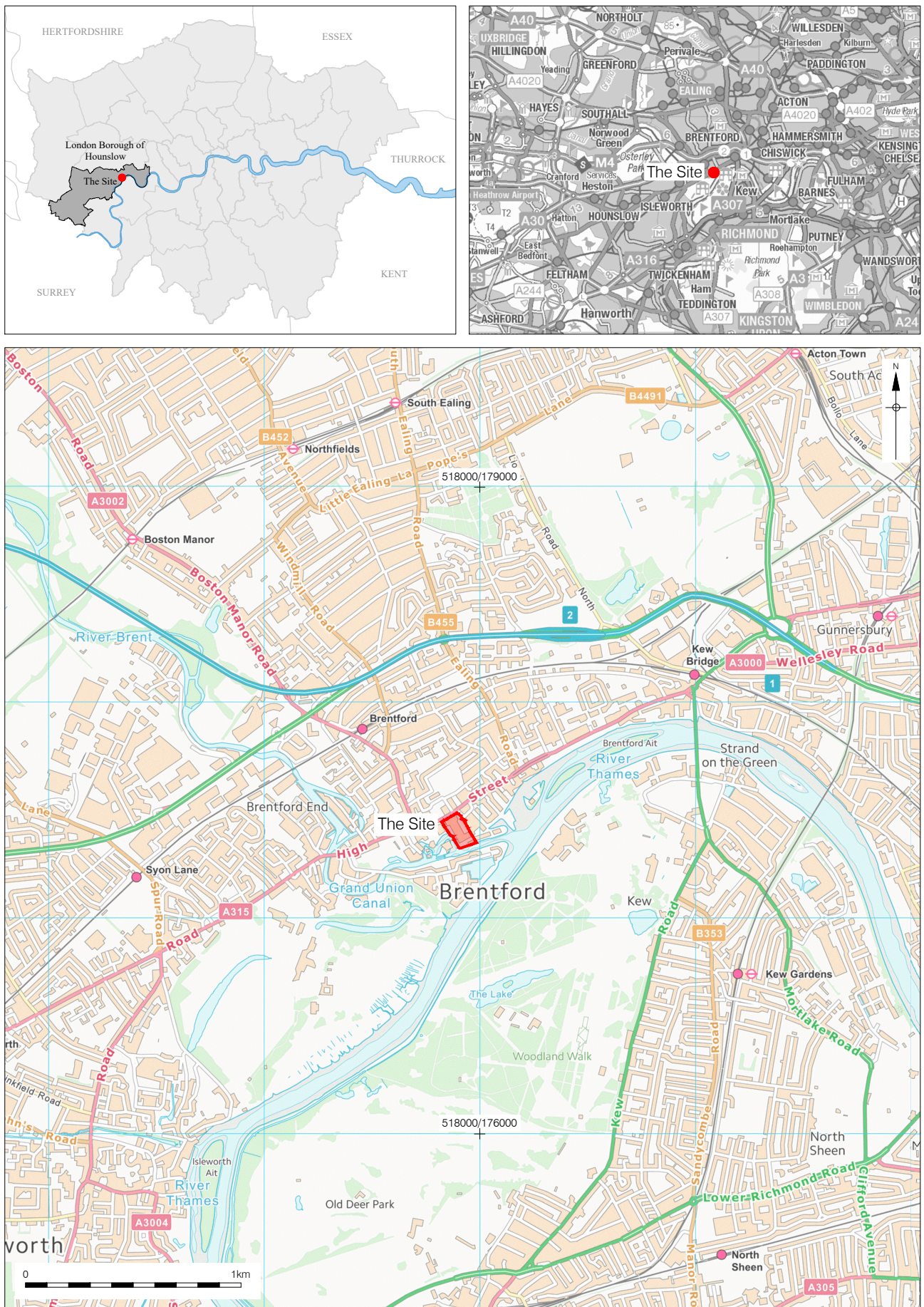


## Summary for preconst1-513406

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-513406
Project Name	Evaluation at Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow
Sitename	Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	HDB23
Planning Id	P/2022/1142
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	09-Jan-2023 - 17-Jan-2023
Location	Heidelberg Building, 69-76 High Road, Brentford, London Borough of Hounslow NGR : TQ 17905 77405 LL : 51.4833184315011, -0.303398256189621 12 Fig : 517905,177405
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater London District : Hounslow Parish : Hounslow, unparished area
Project Methodology	Three evaluation trenches, two with dimensions of 15m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum of 2.4m below ground level, to expose a basal area of 12.6m x 1.8m and one with dimensions of 20m x 4.2m at surface to be excavated to a maximum of 2.4m below ground level, to expose a basal area of 16.6m x 1.8m. These were positioned to target postulated higher brickearth on the northern frontage of the site as identified by a deposit model. Sondages were excavated in all trenches to complete the depositional sequence through alluvium to the surface of the underlying natural gravel.
Project Results	Natural gravels were recorded in all trenches within sondages between 2.09m OD and 0.86m OD. This was sealed by a sequence of sterile and homogenous alluvial clay deposits recorded between 3.93m OD and 3.35m OD and ranged in thickness between 1.83m and 2.77m. Cutting the surface of the alluvium in Trench 1 was a late post-medieval posthole and cutting alluvium in Trench 3 was a late post-medieval quarry pit. A deposit model undertaken on the site identified possible higher brickearth on the northern frontage of the site which the evaluation trenches targeted. No intact brickearth was recorded, sealing the alluvial sequence were modern deposits and features. A small area of weathered brickearth was recorded in Trench 1.
Keywords	Pot - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Clay Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Greater London HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adrian, Wiecek
HER Identifiers	

Archives

Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London;



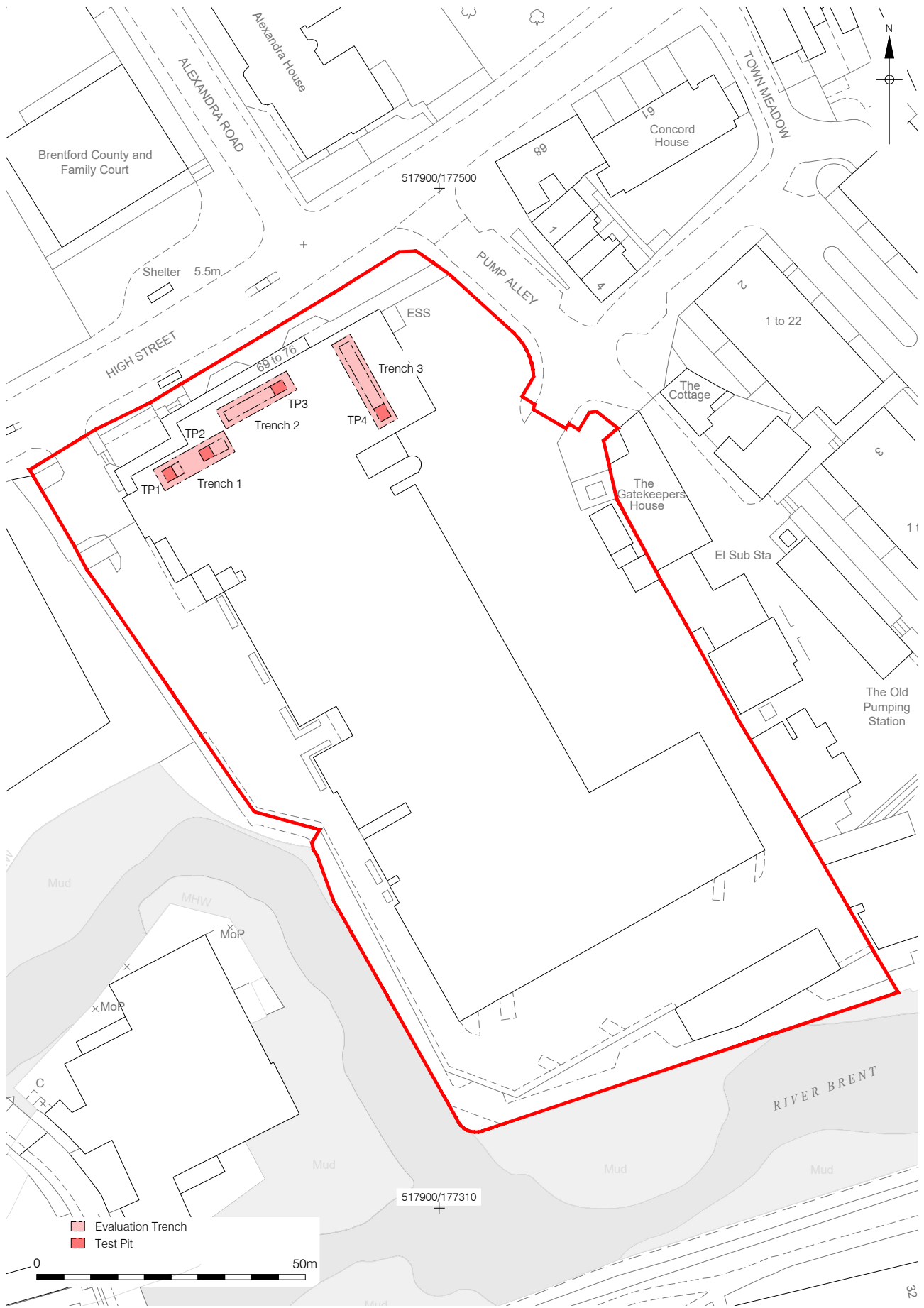


Figure 2  
Detailed Site Location and Trench Locations  
1:1,000 at A4

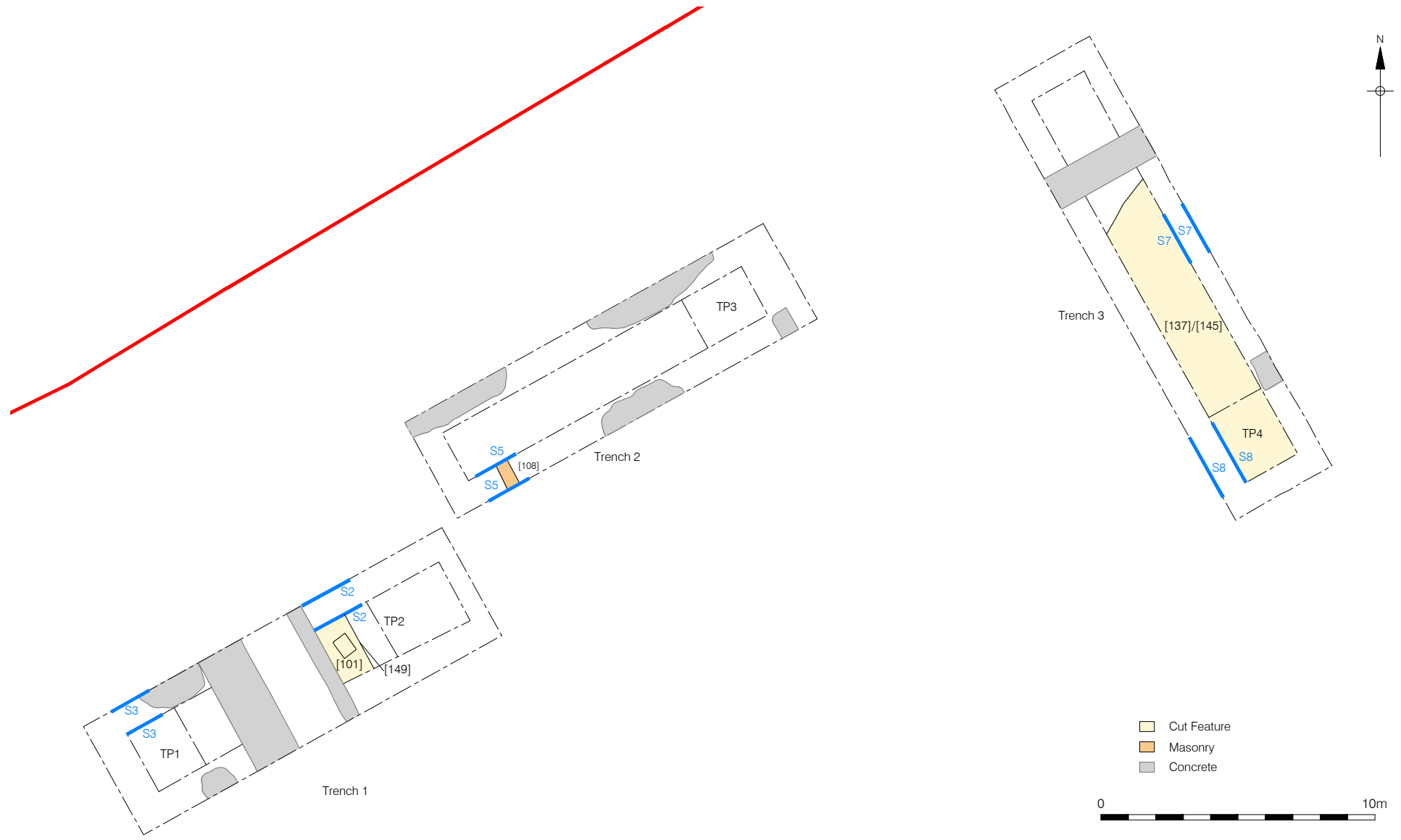
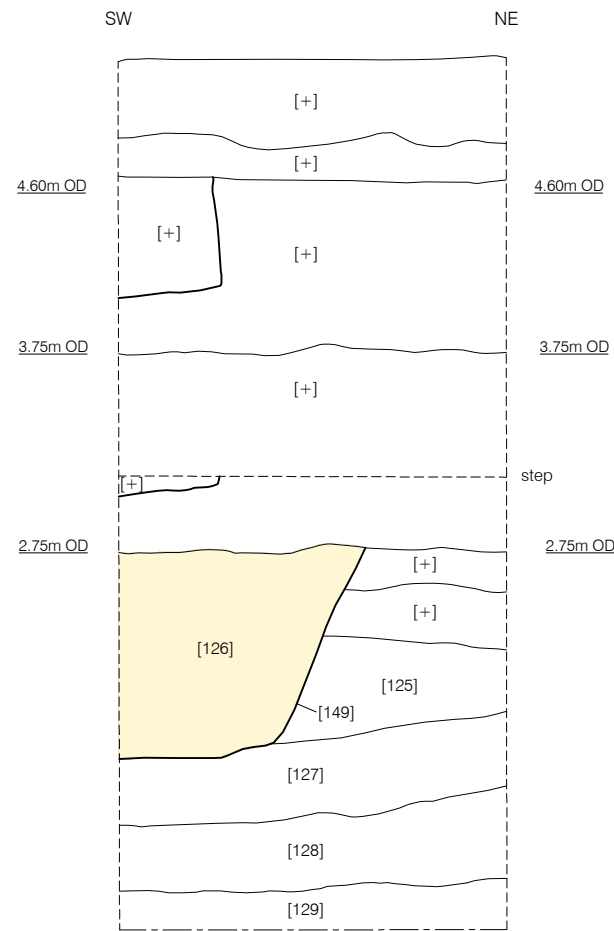
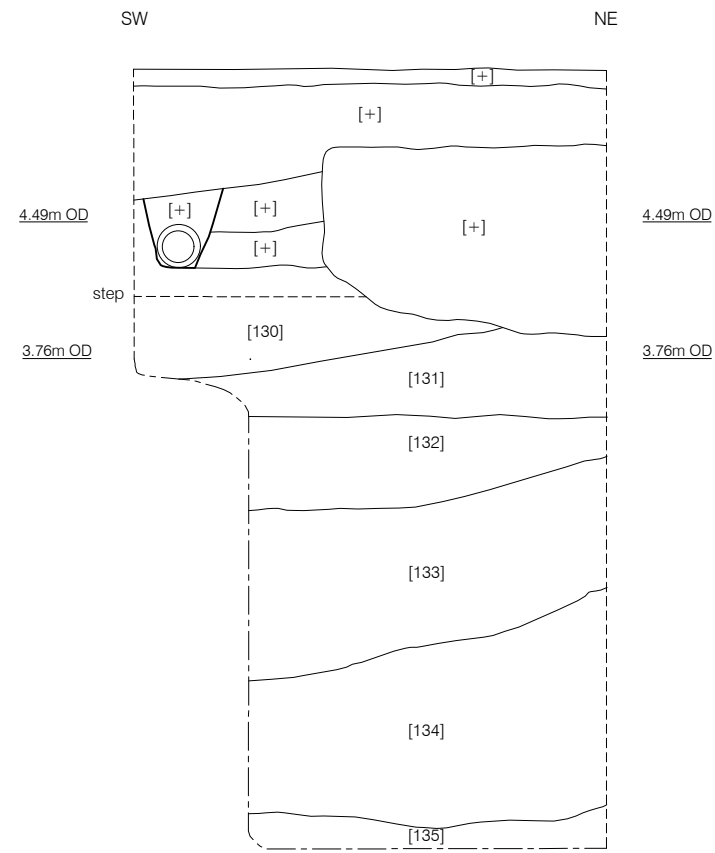


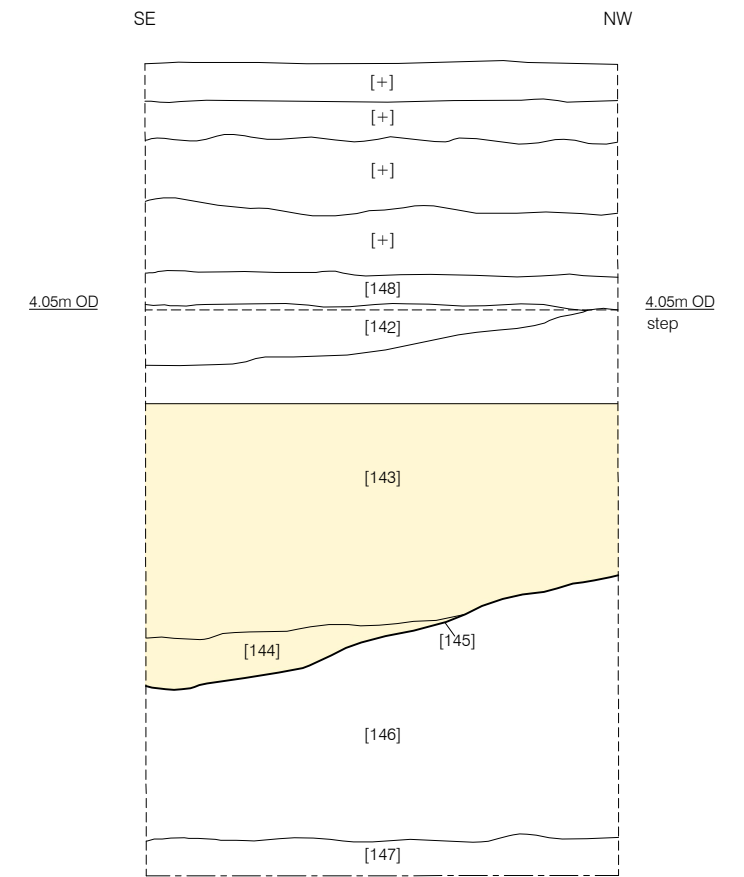
Figure 3  
Plan of Trenches  
1:200 at A4



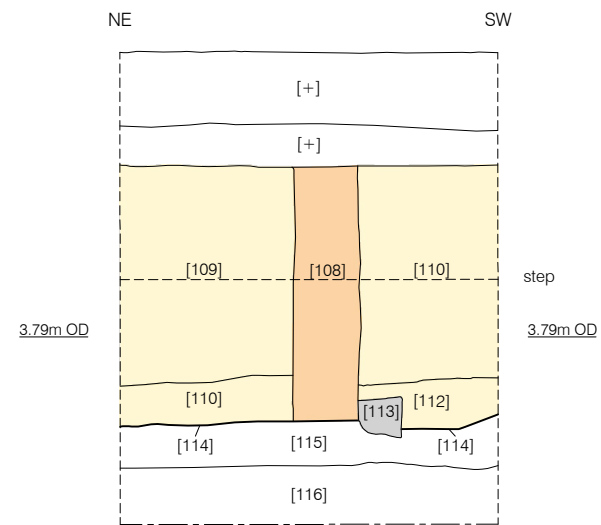
Section 2  
Southeast Facing  
Trench 1/TP2



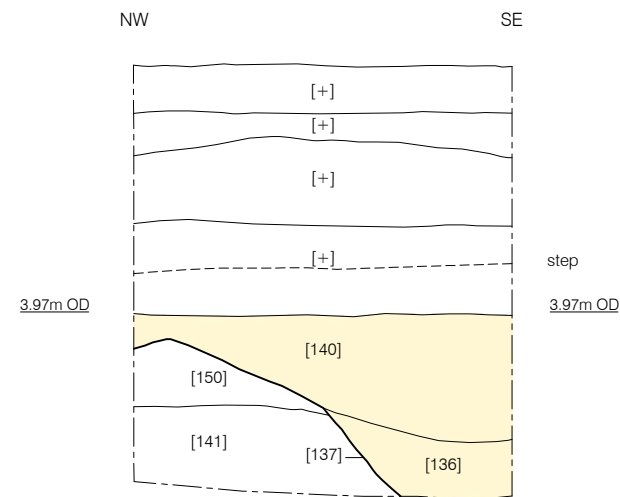
Section 3  
Southeast Facing  
Trench 1/TP1



Section 8  
Northeast Facing  
Trench 3/TP4



Section 5  
Northwest Facing  
Trench 2



Section 7  
Southwest Facing  
Trench 3

- Cut Feature
- Masonry
- Concrete



## PLATES



*Plate 1: General shot of Trench 1, facing southwest 1m scale*



*Plate 2: Northeastern end of Trench 1, facing southeast 1m scale*



*Plate 3: southwestern end of Trench 1, facing southeast 1m scale*



*Plate 4: Sondage in northeastern end of Trench 1, facing south*





*Plate 5: Posthole [101] in Trench 1, facing southwest*



*Plate 6: General shot of Trench 2, facing northeast 1m scale*



*Plate 7: Modern basement [114] in southern side of Trench 2, facing southeast 1m scale*



*Plate 8: Sondage in northeastern end of Trench 2, facing southeast*



*Plate 9: Northwestern end of Trench 3, facing southeast 1m scale*



*Plate 10: Central area of Trench 3 showing Section 7 and pit [137], facing northeast 1m scale*



*Plate 11: Southeastern end of Trench 3, facing west 1m scale*



*Plate 12: Sondage in southeastern end of Trench 3 to gravel, facing southwest*