

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

The Royal Oak Public House  
High Street  
Teddington  
London Borough of Richmond

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Richard Humphrey		November 2005
Graphics Prepared by:	Adrian Nash		November 2005
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>J Brown</i>	November 2005
Project Manager Sign-off:	Jon Butler	<i>Jon Butler</i>	November 2005

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Royal Oak Public House, High Street, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond**

**Central National Grid Reference TQ 1645 7110**

**Site Code: ROK 05**

**Written and researched by Richard Humphrey  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, November 2005**

**Project Manager: Jon Butler**

**Commissioning Client:**

**CgMs Consulting on behalf of Barratt West London**

**Contractor:**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96, Endwell Road  
Brockley  
London  
SE4 2PD**

**Tel: 0207 732 3925  
Fax: 0207 732 7896**

**Email: [jbutler@pre-construct.com](mailto:jbutler@pre-construct.com)**

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

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# 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the site of the Royal Oak Public House, High Street, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond. The site central National Grid Reference is TQ 1645 7110. The watching brief was undertaken in two phases between 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and between 25<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The commissioning client was CgMs Consulting on behalf of Barratt West London.
- 1.2 Monitoring of five trenches dug across the site prior to construction, revealed surviving archaeology in only one, which consisted of an 18<sup>th</sup> century foundation wall. The sequence of deposits observed across the site was one of natural sands and gravels overlain by of topsoil/garden soil.
- 1.3 Monitoring of the ground reduction in preparation for the construction of a new access road revealed only modern made ground.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in two phases at the site of the former Royal Oak Public House, High Street, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond (Fig.1). The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 1645 7110. The watching brief area was defined by brick walls to the east, south and west and the High Street to the north (Fig.2).
- 2.2 The work, completed prior to and during construction of a development of five new houses and a restaurant/flat complex, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Barratt West London and was undertaken following English Heritage guidelines<sup>1</sup> and followed the methodology laid out in the method statement<sup>2</sup>
- 2.3 The site had previously been the subject of an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment<sup>3</sup>, which revealed a low potential for surviving archaeology from the prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods. There was, however, a moderate/high potential for medieval and post-medieval period archaeology. Past post depositional impacts across the northern and central parts of the site had been severe. The southern part of the site had suffered little from the impact of past development. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage therefore required that archaeological monitoring of the construction of a new access road at the rear of the site be the major component of the archaeological investigation on the site.
- 2.4 The watching brief conducted between the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005 was prior to any construction working having taking place on the site. The watching brief conducted by Richard Humphrey between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005 was during construction work was taking place. The groundworks were performed by J Reddington Ltd.
- 2.5 John Brown undertook the first phase of the Watching Brief and Richard Humphrey the second phase. The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Jon Butler.

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<sup>1</sup> English Heritage, Greater London Advisory Service, "Archaeological Guidance Papers: 3 Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London; 4 Archaeological Watching Briefs (1992).

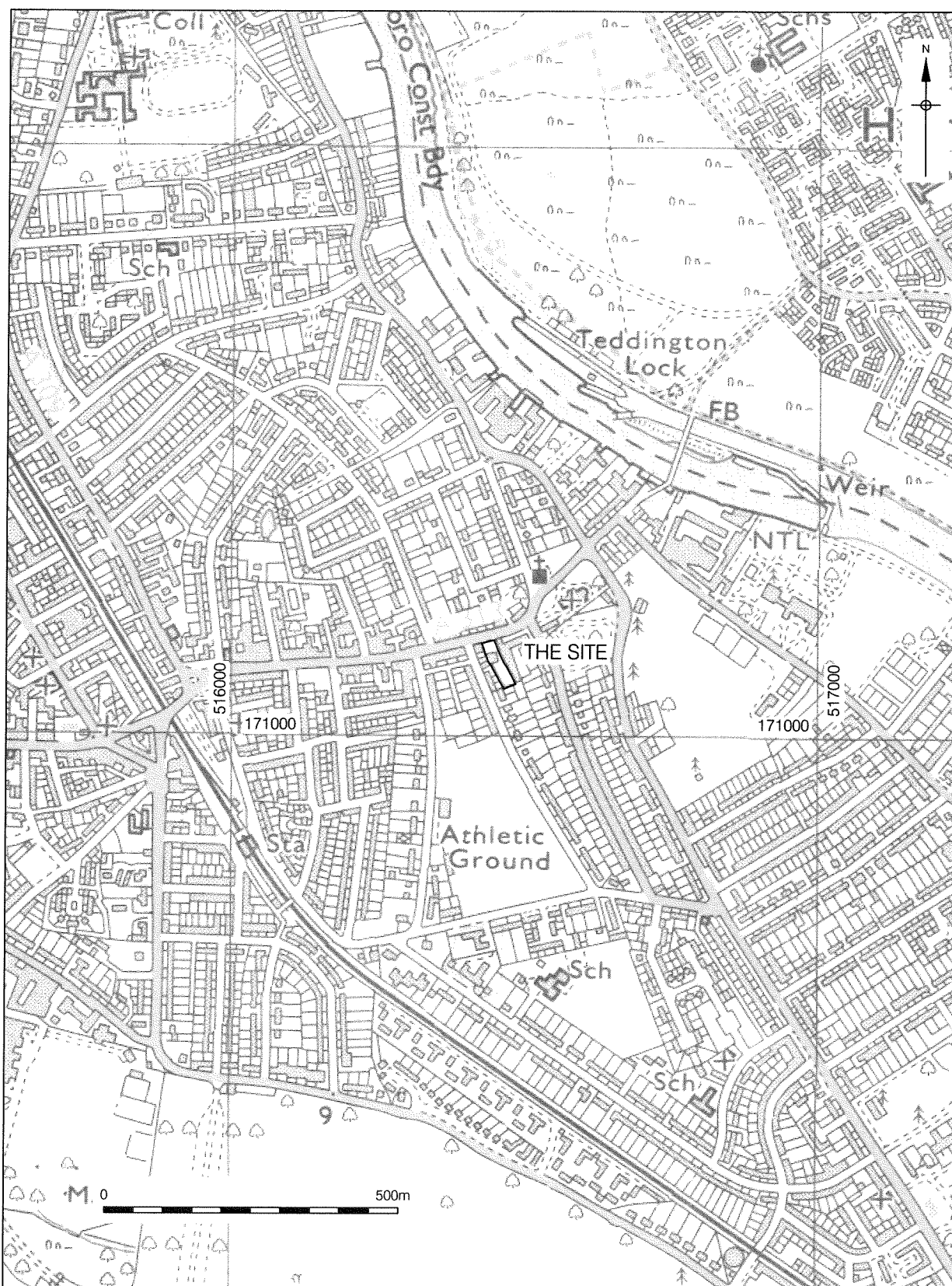
<sup>2</sup> Butler, J., 2005, Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Royal Oak Public House, High Street, Teddington, London Borough of Richmond, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished document.

<sup>3</sup> Meager, R., 2005, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Royal Oak Public House, High Street, Teddington, CgMs Consulting unpublished report.

2.6 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code ROK 05.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The study site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the local planning authority in the Borough of Richmond's Unitary Development Plan.
  
- 3.2 The study site has the benefit of planning consent for redevelopment subject to a PPG 16 style archaeological planning condition which required a Archaeological Watching Brief to be undertaken on the site.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1990.

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:10,000



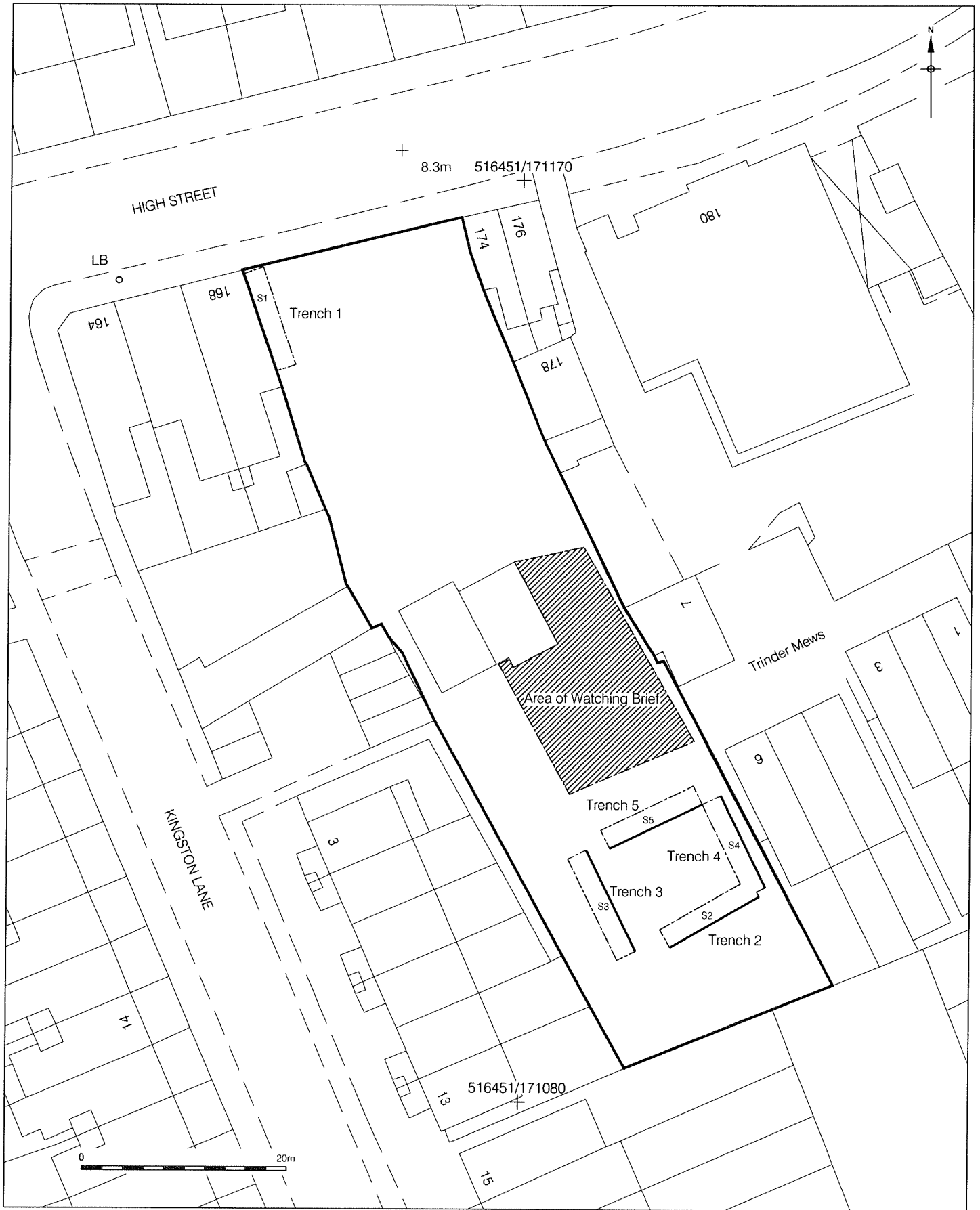


Figure 2  
 Trench Location and Area of Watching Brief  
 1:500

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following is only intended as brief summary of the archaeological and historical background. A fuller explanation is contained in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for this site<sup>4</sup>. Isolated Prehistoric artefacts and medieval features dominate a relatively small number of finds spots from the study area. A Saxon settlement has been suggested at Teddington, primarily on place name evidence. However, no finds of Saxon date have been found in the study area. A medieval settlement is known to have existed at Teddington and is thought to have been centred around the Church of St Mary to the east. A boundary ditch found to the northwest of the study area, (97-111 & 119 High Street), contained pottery dated to 1270-1500. There was felt to be a moderate potential for surviving medieval agricultural systems rather than evidence from settlement.
- 4.2 By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, houses had spread along the High Street as shown in John Rocque's plan of 1745. The site contained a building fronting onto the High Street with an associated rear area to the south. A public house, known as the Royal Oak, is known to have existed on the site from 1730.
- 4.3 The 1800 Teddington Enclosure Map shows that the site was occupied by buildings fronting the High Street with associated buildings to the south.
- 4.4 The 1863 First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows two buildings facing the High Street and associated buildings and gardens to the south. These are arranged around the boundary walls to the east, south and west with an enclosure to the south.
- 4.5 The 1894 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map showed the site labelled as a public house. The two previous buildings fronting the High Street have become one structure with more additions to the ancillary buildings to the south. This arrangement remained the same for the 1915 Third Edition Ordnance Survey map and the 1934 Revised Ordnance Survey map except that the southern boundary had been removed.
- 4.6 The 1959 Ordnance Survey map showed the single building fronting the High Street had been replaced by a single structure set back from the road. A single detached building lay to the southeast of the main building, with the rest of the area marked as being empty. This remained the same in the 1978 Ordnance Survey map.

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<sup>4</sup> Meager, R., 2005, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Royal Oak Public House, High Street, Teddington, CgMs Consulting unpublished report.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The area of the groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed development consisting of a restaurant and flat complex was situated on the north of the watching brief area, labelled as Trench 1 (Fig.2). An 18<sup>th</sup> Century foundation trench and wall were revealed in the north of the trench. To the south of the watching brief area, four trenches (2-5) were dug to a depth of between 2.00m and 2.50m where new houses were due to be built (Fig.2). Ground reduction was conducted at a later date to a depth of approximately 0.50m, extending over an area of approximately 312 square metres to the rear of Trenches 2-5.
- 5.2 The excavations were monitored by an archaeologist. A 360° tracked excavator was employed which was fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and a toothed bucket.
- 5.3 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and representative sections at a scale of 1:20. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets.
- 5.4 Levels were provided on site by J. Reddington's site engineer.
- 5.5 The site was given the Museum of London code: ROK 05.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was located to the north of the main watching brief area and ran along the western edge of the site. It measured 10.00m by 2.00m and was orientated approximately north-south, running parallel to the existing building to the west. An 18<sup>th</sup> century wall [3] was revealed in the north-west corner of the trench (Fig.3), measuring 1.50m north-south and 0.28m east-west, with a maximum depth of approximately 1.15m. No TBM or Datum was available for level measurements, but the top of the feature is recorded as being 0.83m below ground level and the base approximately 1.85 below ground level.
- 6.1.2 To the east of this wall, the trench was reduced to a level of 1.87m below ground level, extending approximately 1.50m to the south. The reduced area was filled by modern made ground [2] that appeared to be backfill from a modern intrusion.
- 6.1.3 Modern brickwork from an east-west running late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century manhole, measuring 0.68m below ground surface and extending 2.20m to the south, truncated the trench.
- 6.1.4 To the south of this modern intrusion lay an area of modern made ground consisting of a dark-brown sandy silt and a band of demolition rubble towards the west edge of the trench. This measured approximately 1.30m north-south and 1.40m east-west and was approximately 0.63m below ground surface. The easterly edge of this part of the trench was obscured by modern hardcore material. This was truncated to the south by an east-west running modern manhole measuring approximately 1.40m east-west and 0.20m north-south and associated with a modern drain on the easterly edge of the trench.
- 6.1.5 A north-south orientated linear cut [4] was seen in plan on the western edge of Trench 1, to the south of the above intrusion. It measured 2.20m north-south and 1.50m east-west. It was not seen in the west-facing section. The fill was a loose yellowish-brown that was either redeposited natural sand or a sandy-gravel backfill from the cut associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century wall [3], that had since been truncated by a modern manhole. Removal of this fill to a level of 1.85m below the ground surface, revealed brick foundations.
- 6.1.6 On the western edge of trench 1, to the south of the manhole truncation, there remained fletton brick foundations from the still-standing 19<sup>th</sup> century building. These extended to a depth of approximately 1.90m below ground level, extending 2.20m to

the south of the trench.

- 6.1.7 The area to the south of the modern manhole was reduced to a maximum depth of 0.75m below the ground surface. This revealed an area of modern made ground/topsoil with demolition rubble in the form of fletton bricks on the westerly edge of the trench.

## **6.2 Trench 2**

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 measured 2.00m by 10.00m and was orientated approximately east-west and was located on the southern edge of the proposed development plots 1 and 2 to the south of the main watching brief area. Natural sand [7] was observed at a level of 8.67m OD in the north-facing section of trench 2. This was covered by a layer of garden/topsoil [6], approximately 0.60m in thickness that was observed at a ground surface level of 9.15m OD (Fig.4). No archaeological deposits were identified within the trench.

## **6.3 Trench 3**

Trench 3 measured 2.00m by 11.00m and was orientated approximately north-south. It was located on the westerly edge of the proposed development plot 3 to the south of the main watching brief area. Natural gravel [10] was observed at a level of 7.15m OD in the east-facing section. This was covered by natural sand [9] which was observed at a level of 8.45m OD. This was sealed by a layer of garden/topsoil [8] approximately 0.60m in thickness that was observed at a top level of 9.05m OD (Fig.4). No archaeological deposits were identified within the trench.

## **6.4 Trench 4**

- 6.4.1 Trench 4 measured 2.00m by 10.00m and was orientated approximately north-south. It was located on the easterly edge of the proposed development plot 1 to the south of the main watching brief area. Natural gravel [10] was revealed at a level of 7.15m OD in the west-facing section. This was observed below a layer of natural sand [7] which had a top level of 8.67m OD. This was sealed by a layer of garden/topsoil [6], approximately 0.60m in thickness, at a top level of 9.27m OD (Fig.4). No archaeological deposits were observed within the trench.

## **6.5 Trench 5**

- 6.5.1 Trench 5 measured 2.00m by 10.00m and was orientated approximately east-west. It was located on the northern edge of the proposed development plots 1 and 2 to the south of the main watching brief area. Natural gravel [10] was revealed at a level of 7.15m OD in the west-facing section. This was covered by a layer of natural sand [7] at a top level of 8.67m OD. Above this lay a deposit of garden/topsoil [6],

approximately 0.60m in thickness, at a top level of 9.27m OD (Fig.4). A tree bole containing roots and ceramic building material was cut through the top of the topsoil. No archaeological deposits were revealed within the trench.

## **6.5 Watching Brief Area**

6.6.1 This area encompassed the majority of the south of the watching brief area and was reduced following the construction of housing plots 1-5. The area measured approximately 13.00m by 24.60m. Ground reduction of 0.50m to a level ranging from 8.22m OD to 8.75m OD revealed existing modern truncations observed as a service trench running north-south to the east of the area. This extended approximately 8.85m to the north and was 0.90m east-west. A soak away and storm drain had also been dug into this area. The material removed [11] was modern made ground combined with hardcore material. The area between the easterly edge of the service trench and the limit of exaction (a 19<sup>th</sup> century wall), measuring 8.85m north-south and 1.20m east-west, appeared to be dark brown mixed topsoil [12] and contained observable surface finds of clay pipe, animal bone, oyster shell and iron nails. The top of this layer was at a level of 8.75m OD and it's depth unknown, as it was not fully excavated.

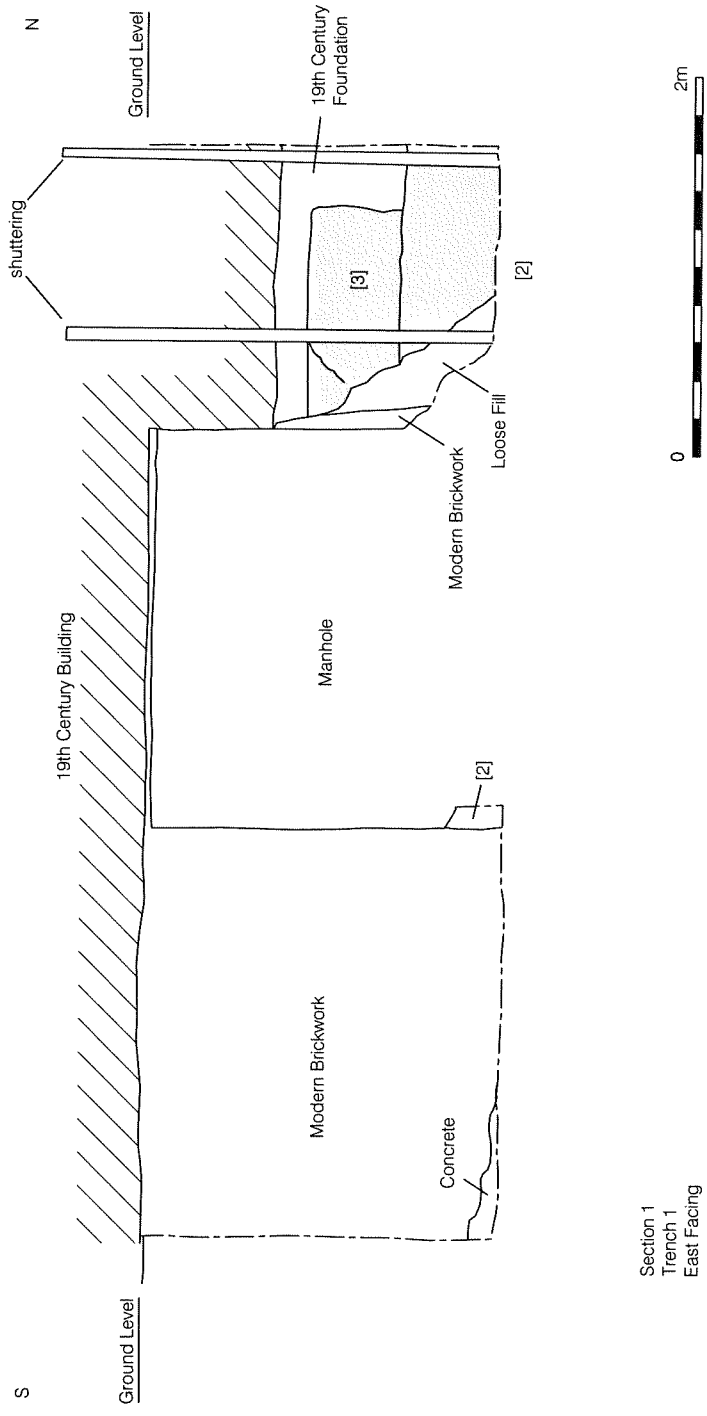
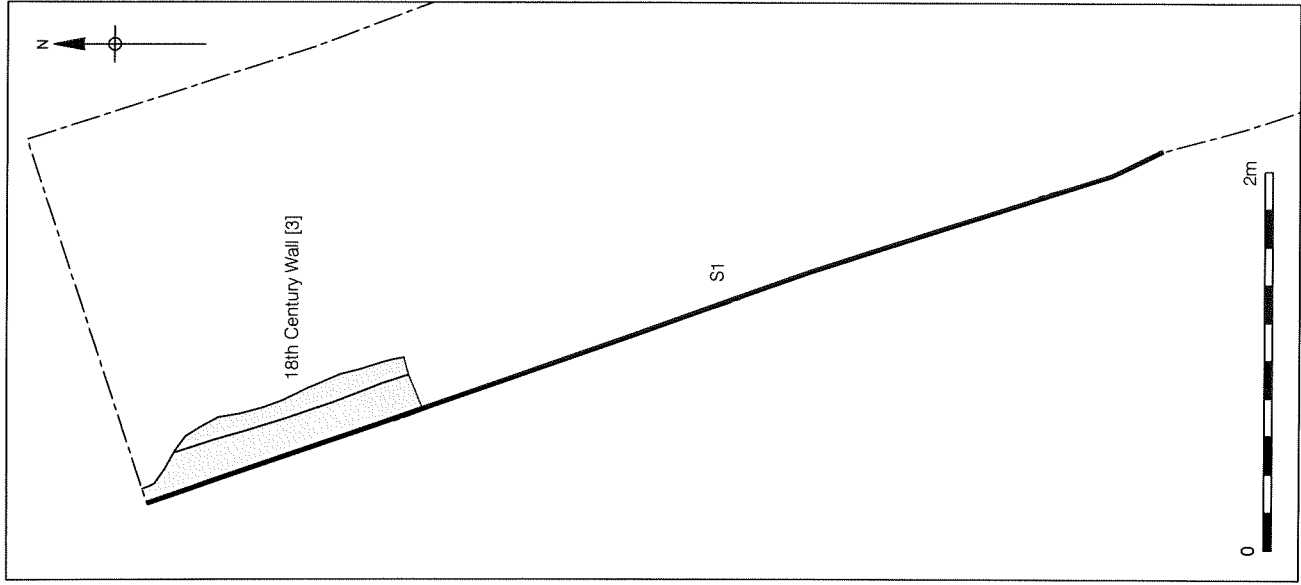


Figure 3  
Trench 1: Plan and Section  
1:40

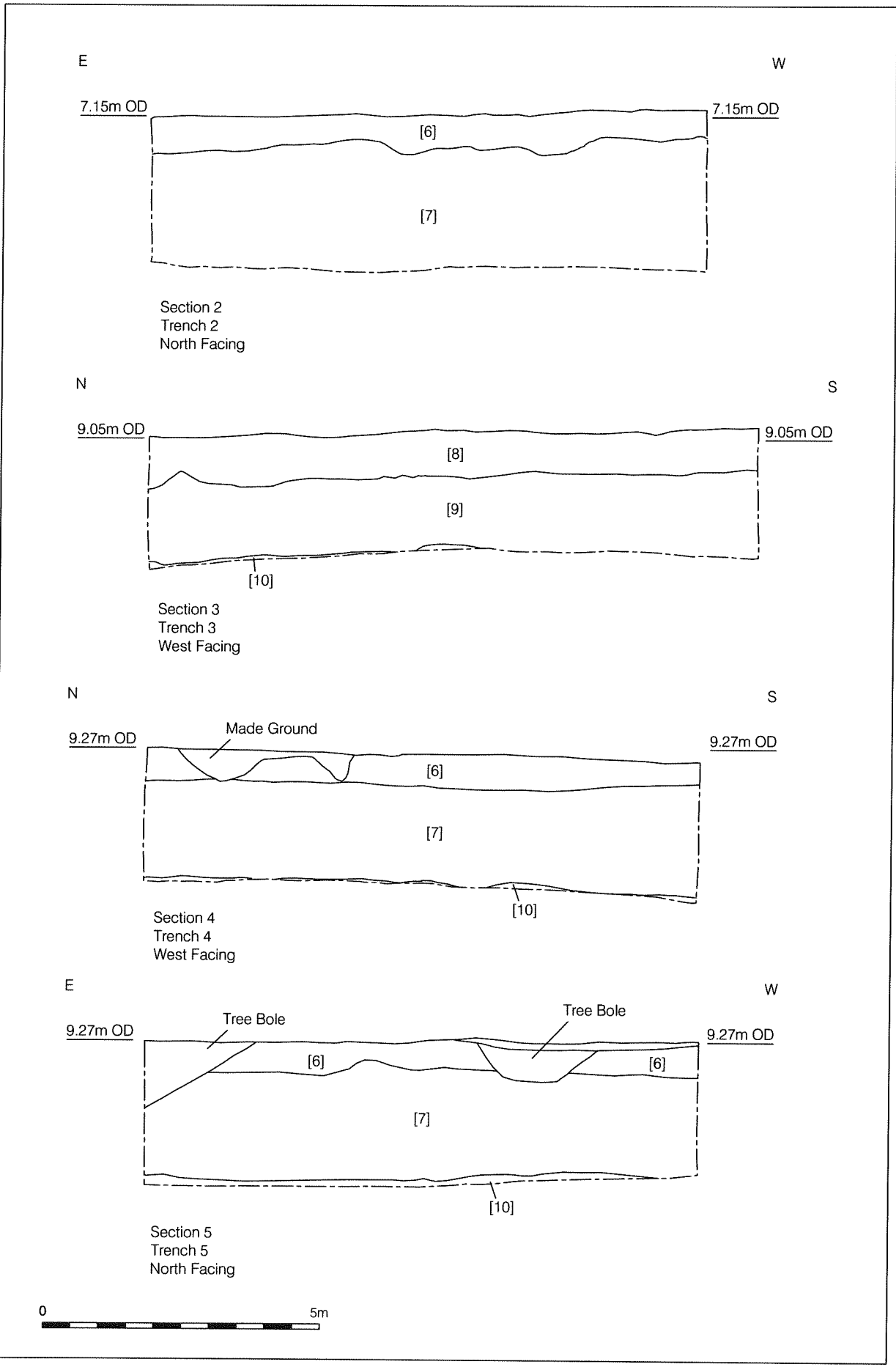


Figure 4  
 Sections 2-5  
 1:100



## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Natural gravel was observed to the south of the site at a consistent height of 7.15m OD . This was covered by a deposit of natural sand which was observed at a depth of c.0.60m below the ground surface at a top height of between 8.45m OD and 8.67m OD.
- 7.2 The 18th century wall running north-south along the north-western boundary of the site is likely to be the division wall of two properties that fronted the High Street, from the earlier phase of public house construction. .
- 7.3 Between 0.60m and 0.80m of topsoil/garden soil covered the site at a top level of 9.25m OD. This was observed in Trenches 1 to 5 and only partially in the reduction of main area of the watching brief where only modern made ground was removed.
- 7.4 Construction and demolition of the public house dating from 1730 to modern appears to have had a severe destructive effect on archaeological deposits within the watching brief area.
- 7.5 No other archaeological material was identified in the watching brief area.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting who commissioned the work on behalf of Barratt West London who generously funded this project.
  
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Steve Smith from Barratt West London for his assistance on site, Adrian Nash for the illustrations, and Jon Butler for his project management and editing.

## Appendix 1 Context Index

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
1	Layer	Dark brown/ mid brown clay, sand, silt	Modern ground make-up
2	Fill	Brownish grey sandy gravel/silt	Fill of drain run
3	Masonry	North south aligned brick wall	18th Century foundations
4	Cut	Linear, vertical cut	Cut for modern drain
5	Layer	Yellowish brown gravelly sand	Modern backfill or natural sand
6	Layer	Dark greyish brown clay sandy silt	Topsoil/ garden soil
7	Natural	Brownish greenish yellow sand	Natural sand
8	Layer	Dark greyish brown clay sandy silt	Topsoil/ garden soil same as [6]
9	Layer	Brownish greenish yellow sand	Natural sand same as [7]
10	Layer	Yellowish brown sandy gravel	Natural gravel terrace
11	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy silty clay	Modern made ground
12	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt	Topsoil/ garden soil

## Appendix 2 OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-10937**

### Project details

Project name Royal Oak, High Street Teddington

Short description of the project Five test trenches dug across the site prior to construction, only one revealed any surviving archaeology, notably an 18th century foundation wall. Natural sands and gravels were observed. Deposits of topsoil/garden soil overlay the sands and gravels. A later ground reduction exercise during site construction removed nothing more than modern made ground.

Project dates Start: 22-04-2005 End: 27-10-2005

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes ROK05 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location	
Country	England
	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES
Site location	TEDDINGTON AND HAMPTON Royal Oak, High Street, Teddington
Study area	414.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 1645 7110 Point
Height OD	Min: 6.70m Max: 8.67m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Richard Meager
Project director/manager	Jon Butler
Project supervisor	John Brown; Richard Humphrey
Sponsor or funding body	Barratt West London
Project archives	

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Project bibliography 1	
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