PEARTREE STREET,
LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
EC1

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PCA REPORT NO: 11105

SITE CODE: PEA11

NOVEMBER 2011

PCA

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

PEARTREE STREET
LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Peartree Street, London EC1, London Borough of Islington

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3210 8250

Site Code: PEA11

Written and researched by Tim Bradley & Tony Baxter

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, November 2011

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Peartree Street, London Borough of Islington. The field evaluation was undertaken between 17th and 21st October 2011. The commissioning client was Mount Anvil and the archaeological consultant was Richard Meager, CgMs Consulting.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation originally consisted of three trenches, one large stepped trench (Trench 1) designed to target an organic deposit previously identified during geotechnical investigations of the site undertaken by Fernlea House Limited in 1997, and two further trenches (Trenches 2 and 3) excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m to target the remains of the former gasworks. The scope of the evaluation was reduced with the elimination of Trench 1 following detailed review of the contamination report for the site, which suggested that the levels of contamination with the area of Trench 1 was sufficiently elevated to preclude archaeological investigation in this location (see Section 6 below).

1.3 The results of the evaluation suggest that any archaeological deposits pre-dating the later post-medieval period have been truncated by the combined effects of the construction and demolition of the 19th century Chartered Gas Works, although in neither of the trenches was natural recorded to confirm this. The earliest deposits encountered were masonry structures associated with the Retort House of the Chartered Gas Works identified in Trench 3 and the made ground backfilling a Gasometer within Trench 2, the heights and differing characters of which indicated truncation associated with the infilling and levelling of the gas works prior to the constructing of the 20th century buildings also recorded within Trench 2.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 17th and 21st October 2011, in advance of redevelopment of land at Peartree Street in the London Borough of Islington, EC1 (Fig. 1). The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 3210 8250, with the site covering an area of approximately 1,700 square metres.

2.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches, each measuring 15m x 1.8m at ground level (Fig. 2). A third trench, proposed in the northern area of the site, was not excavated because of the considerably elevated levels of ground soil contamination in this location (see Section 6).

2.3 The commissioning client was Mount Anvil, through their archaeological consultant Richard Meager, CgMs Consulting. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of James Langthorne and the project management of Tim Bradley. The evaluation was monitored by Kim Stabler, GLAAS, the archaeology advisor to the London Borough of Islington, and Richard Meager, CgMs Consulting, for the client.

2.3 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London LAARC.

2.4 The site was allocated the site code: PEA11.

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

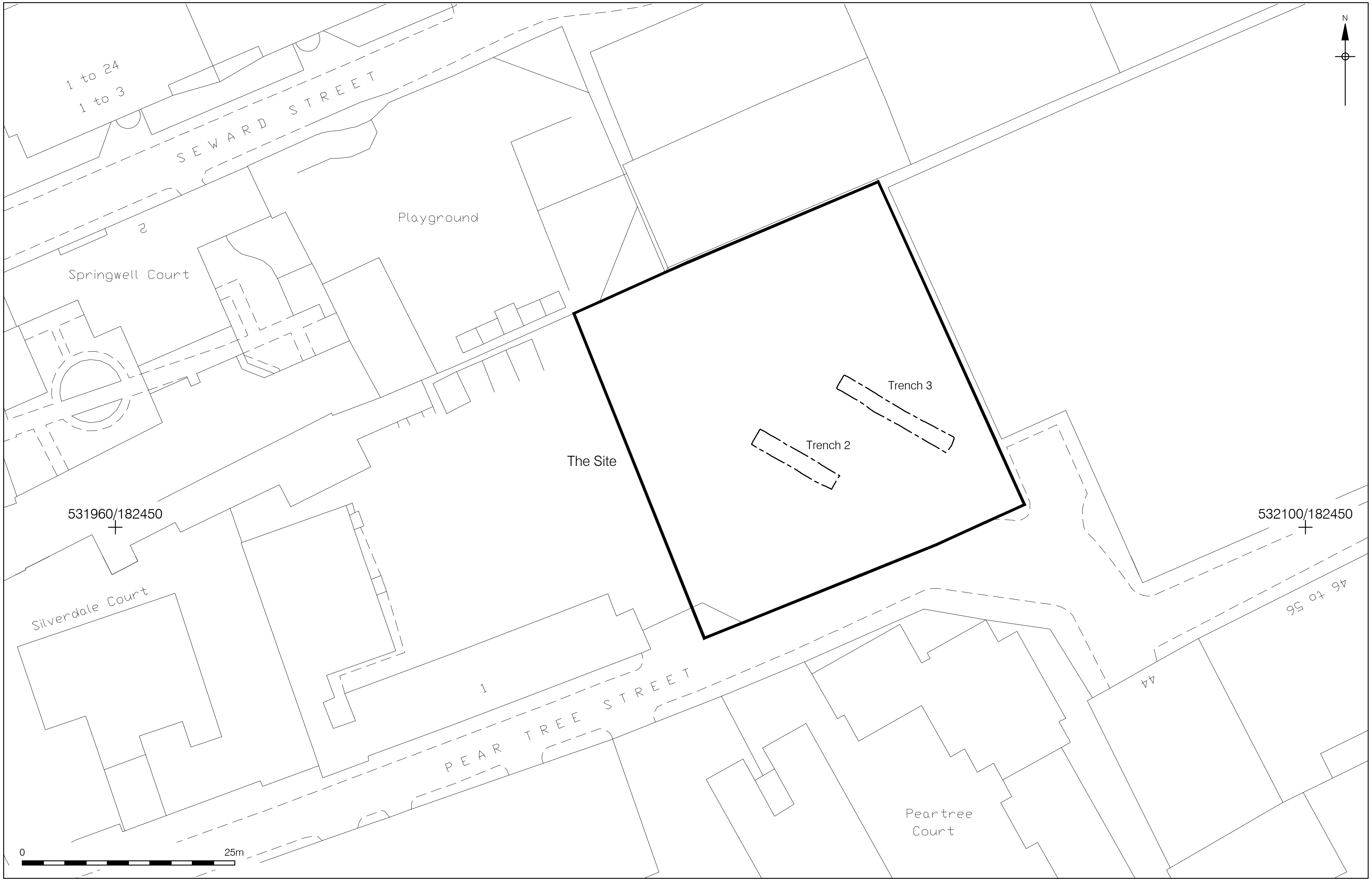

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The planning background for the Central Street and Seward Street site was laid out in full in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment[1]. The following is a reiteration of the contents of that document:

3.2 In March 2010, the Departments of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) jointly published *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation preservation and investigation of Heritage Assets.

3.3 Heritage Assets are defined in Annexe 2 of PPS5 as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions and as the valued components of the historic environment. In short, government guidance provides a framework which:

- Protects designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas)
- Protects the settings of these designated assets
- Has a presumption in favour of in-situ preservation of designated and other nationally important archaeological assets
- In appropriate circumstances requires adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions, and
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of archaeological assets whose significance can be realised and public appreciation of the asset can be enhanced.

3.4 In considering any proposal for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS 5, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.5 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by 'The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004' (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:

POLICY 4B.14 ARCHAEOLOGY

THE MAYOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE, THE MUSEUM OF LONDON AND BOROUGHS, WILL SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF LONDON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. BOROUGHS IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS SHOULD

[1] Meager 2008a

INCLUDE APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THEIR UDPS FOR PROTECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS WITHIN THEIR AREA.

3.6 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Islington Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted 28 June 2002. The Plan contains the following saved policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

D43 THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE BOROUGH AND ITS INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC. IN PARTICULAR IT WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED.

IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

D44 THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS WITHIN THE BOROUGH, WHETHER THESE ARE DESIGNATED AS 'SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS' OR NOT. IT WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO SAFEGUARD THE BOROUGH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE THROUGH THE PLANNING PROCESS AND WILL NORMALLY REFUSE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR APPLICATIONS WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OR THEIR SETTINGS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

D45 WITHIN THE 'ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS' SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, ALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS LIKELY TO AFFECT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE SCHEME ON THE BOROUGH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE. THIS SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED BY THE APPLICANT FROM A SUITABLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANISATION ACCEPTABLE TO THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL MAY ALSO REQUIRE AN ASSESSMENT TO BE SUBMITTED FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED THAT IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS MAY BE PRESENT. SMALL SCALE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL DEGREE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVIVAL ON A SITE, (AN 'EVALUATION') MAY BE REQUIRED AS PART OF THE ASSESSMENT.

PRESERVATION IN SITU OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

D46 WHERE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND / OR EVALUATION HAS DEMONSTRATED THE SURVIVAL OF IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, THERE WILL BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THEIR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION IN SITU. THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED, AND WILL CONTROL DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT AND FOUNDATION DESIGN ACCORDINGLY.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND RECORDING

D47 WHERE PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IS NOT JUSTIFIED, THE COUNCIL WILL ENSURE THAT NECESSARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN BY THE APPLICANT TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THEIR PROPOSALS, THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK TO INVESTIGATE AND RECORD REMAINS IN ADVANCE OF DEVELOPMENT WORK, AND SUBSEQUENT

ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS. THIS WILL USUALLY BE SECURED THROUGH SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS.

3.7 Given the archaeological potential of the site, trial trench evaluation was required in advance of the proposed development. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an approved Specification[2], and the results are reported here.

[2] Meager 2011

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The geological and topographical profile of this site has been laid out in full in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment[3]. The following is a summary of the data from that document.

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) as London Clay deposits forming the London Basin.

4.1.2 Further detail is provided by British Geological Survey Sheet 256 (North London: 1994) which shows the site underlain by deposits of Hackney Gravels (defined as 'Post-diversionary Thames River Deposits; gravel, sandy and clayey in part').

4.1.3 Boreholes (BH) and trial pits (TP) carried out at the site in February 1997 by Fernlea House Limited revealed extensive quantities of made ground above naturally occurring sands, gravels and clays. 2.8m of made ground was observed in BH4 on the eastern boundary, while TP4-5, 8 and 10 (central and southern areas if site) terminated within the made ground at a maximum depth of 4.6m below ground level. TP9 north of the central part of the site revealed 4m of made ground over gravel. Contamination was noted in almost all of the intrusions.

4.1.4 Archaeological observations during the excavation of the trial pits revealed potential archaeological horizons dating to the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

4.1.5 Further geotechnical investigations (two window samples) were monitored to a maximum depth of 2.6m by PCA in July 2011. These revealed made ground throughout the sequence, with considerably elevated levels of contamination identified in WS101, located in the central eastern area of the site.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is roughly level with a spot height of 19.5m AOD, positioned immediately north of the junction with Seward Street and Central Street, northeast of the site.

4.2.2 No geological or topographical anomalies are known within the vicinity of the site.

3 Meager 2010

4.2.3 No watercourses or naturally occurring bodies of water are known within the vicinity of the study site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background of this site has been laid out in full in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment[4]. The following is a summary of the data from that document.

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 No archaeological finds or features relating to any prehistoric periods have been identified within the study area. It is thought that during these periods the study site lay within open land or woodland.

5.1.2 It would appear that during the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods the site also lay in an area of agricultural land or woodland, and that during the medieval period the site lay in marginal, agricultural land beyond the extent of known medieval settlement and activity outside the City.

5.2 Post Medieval & Modern

5.2.1 Development of the area of the site is likely to have commenced in the later post-medieval period. Archaeological observations of geotechnical test pits in 1997 identified possible eighteenth century walls and ground surfaces, at depths of c.1.5-2.5m below ground level.

5.2.2 The study site was formerly occupied by the Brick Lane Gasworks, also known as the Great Gas Manufactory, owned by the Chartered Gas Company. It was constructed 1812-1815, and was one of the earliest and most visited gasworks in the world. Much of the technology of the industry was evolved here, including the production and distribution of coal gas. The works were enlarged in 1853-4, before finally closing in 1871. The site was subsequently used as a depot, and also as showrooms and workshops. Some of the gasholders were apparently still present in 1898 (MLO70990).

5.2.3 The 1827 Greenwood plan shows the study site lying west of the Gasworks, occupied by a cooperage building, which may relate to the Golden Lane Brewery company, which formerly lay to the east of the site.

5.2.4 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1874 shows the study site in some detail, occupied by two retort houses and a gasometer for the Gasworks. Archaeological

[4] Meager 2010

observations of the geotechnical test pits in 1997 revealed possible gasworks foundations at a depth of c.1m below ground level.

5.2.5 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey shows the removal of the gasworks The study site is shown largely unoccupied. The Third Edition Ordnance Survey (1913) shows the presence of rectangular buildings running north-south across the western part of the site.

5.2.6 The 1938 Revised Ordnance Survey shows the western end of a building and a gantry extending eastwards, with open space towards Pear Tree Street.

5.2.7 The Bomb Damage map, dated 1946, shows damage to the buildings within the study site. Black signifies total destruction, red signifies serious damage and orange stands for general blast damage.

5.2.8 The 1954 Ordnance Survey shows the absence of the destroyed building in the north western corner of the site. The 1960-61 and the 1968-71 Ordnance Surveys show no significant changes.

5.2.9 The 1996-7 Ordnance Survey Shows the clearance of the buildings formerly occupying the study site.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

6.1 The excavation of three trenches was outlined in the Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation[5]. The aims of the evaluation were to address the following objectives:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of Post Medieval and Modern activity, together with any earlier or later activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
- To establish the environmental context of Post Medieval and Modern,
- Together with any earlier and/or later activity.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

6.2 As mentioned in Sections 1 & 2 above, and following instructions from the PCA Health & Safety Director Trench 1 was not excavated due to the very elevated levels Arsenic, Lead, Cyanide, TPH, Ammoniacal nitrogen, Benzene, EthylBenzene, Xylene and Toluene outlined in the geotechnical report. Trenches 2 and 3, excavated to a depth of 1.2m depth, were also sited within areas of elevated levels of contamination, and as such the following measures were implemented for the investigations in these locations: Staff operated from a decontamination unit with strictly demarcated clean and dirty areas for all operations; staff were fitted with P3 rated particle filtering and m3 vapour rated half mask (A1B1E1K1P3 filters); disposable overalls with elasticated cuffs and hoods; goggles; gloves; ear defenders; rubber boots with steel toe-caps & insoles. Two gas monitors (1 four gas and 1PID monitor for measuring VOC's) were required for excavation trenches.

6.3 After breaking out the hard-standing with a hydraulic breaker both trenches were excavated with a 7 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket in spits of between 150mm and 200mm, under the supervision of an archaeologist, to a maximum depth of 1.20m. Deeper sondages were excavated at one end of each trench to ascertain the nature of the underlying deposits, and these were backfilled immediately following recording.

6.4 All deposits were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, depending on which scale was more appropriate. The locations of the trenches were surveyed using a total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in black and

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[5] Meager 2011

white, colour slide and digital formats. Finds and brick samples were collected according to standard retrieval methods.

6.5 A surveyed spot height was established on the site using GPS equipment, which had a value of 20.80m OD.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1 – Post-Medieval

7.1.1 Within Trench 3 (Fig. 4) the foremost features identified ([7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15] and [17]) all appeared to relate to industrial activity associated with the production of coal gas within the Retort House located in the area of Trench 3. Towards the northern part of the trench masonry structures [7] (located in the west of the Trench) and [8] (to the east) were recorded at a height of 19.94m OD and 20.13m OD respectively and had a maximum depth of 0.36m as seen. Both structures appeared to be truncated arch bases with the bricks angled towards each other, and it is likely that before horizontal truncation these were in fact the same arched structure running from east to west across the trench, continuing beyond the limits of excavation. Due to soil contamination in this area no brick sample was taken but both appeared to be of the same fabric as the brick sample recovered from masonry structure [9] that abutted them to the south.

7.1.2 Structure [9] was formed of an east-west wall 0.22m in width and running across the trench beyond it limits, with a north-south return in the east, measuring 2.35m in length with a highest level of 20.13m OD and a depth of 0.75m. The north section of the return also had angled bricks set into the top which appeared to be the base of an arch heading to the west parallel with afore mentioned arch [7] and [8].

7.1.3 Structure [9] surrounded structure [10] and measured 1.42m north to south, 0.36m east to west, with a maximum height of 20.10m OD. Both walls were constructed of fresh unfrogged post-Great Fire bricks type 3032 (date range 1825-1900), with [9] also having some reused 3032 and fresh Yellow London Stock Bricks type 3035, suggesting an alteration or repair, although both were bonded with Roman Cement. Directly to the south of [9] was a vertically set iron pipe [17] with a diameter of 100mm, encountered at a 19.80m OD. The pipe probably conveyed gas or heat and is likely to have been related to the masonry structure directly to the north.

7.1.4 Located towards the centre of Trench 3 was a square or rectangular concrete pad/base [11] measuring 0.62m north to south and at least 0.67m east to west with a highest level of 19.67m OD. At the southern part of Trench 3 concrete foundation [12] and masonry wall [13] in the west were separated from masonry walls [14] and [15] to the east by a modern north to south running drain. Structures [13] and [15] are likely to be the same east to west running wall spanning the trench. These walls were constructed from type 3032 bricks and bonded with Roman Cement (date range 1825-1850) and are almost certainly connected to an internal, rather than an external, east-west running wall associated with the Retort House.

7.1.5 It should be noted that none of the above structures within Trench 3 were excavated to their full extent due to the depth of the trench. All were sealed by backfill/demolition deposit [16] recorded at a maximum height of 20.32m OD and a thickness in excess of 2m in the sondage at the northern end of the Trench. One Kiln/Bat Brick type 3261 (1850-1925) was recovered from this deposit within the vicinity of Structures [9] and [10], with the remainder of the deposit being made up by brick rubble and a clinker-type material. The Kiln/Bat Brick and clinker found within [16] might suggest that associated structures [7], [8], [9] and [10] are close to, if not directly related to, a furnace component of the Retort House.

7.1.6 The earliest deposit encountered within Trench 2 (Fig. 3) was a mixed made ground containing gravel and brick rubble. This was seen at a maximum depth of 17.65m OD in the base of a machine excavated sondage located at the southern end of the trench. Due to the unstable nature of the sondage it was not possible to fully record this deposit, however the brick rubble would indicate a late post-medieval character. This deposit was sealed by a thick layer of late post-medieval/early modern made ground [6] encountered at a height of 20.04m OD. The mixed qualities of both these deposits in terms of composition and cultural material (pottery dating to 1760-1780 and glass dating to the late 19th to early 20th century) would suggest they were imported and almost certainly related to the infilling after the abandonment of a large Gasometer associated with the Chartered Gas Works, located within the vicinity of Trench 2.

7.1.7 The rubble and clinker backfill/demolition deposit [16] which sealed the discrete archaeological features found in Trench 3, although different in composition to [6], certainly seems to have occurred during the disuse and demolition of the Retort House. Both the Gasometer and the Retort House are seen on the 1874 OS map (Fig. 6) but not on the 1896 OS map (Fig. 7), suggesting these deposits are of a contemporaneous date and formed within this time span.

7.2 Phase 2 – Modern

7.2.1 Early modern activity encountered within Trench 2 comprised a north to south orientated construction cut [5] for concrete foundation [4] and masonry wall [3], which had a width of 1.15m and continued beyond the eastern and western limits o excavation. Wall [3] was constructed of Fletton Bricks with a concrete type bonding material dating from 1890-1950, the top of which occurred at 20.19m OD. This wall appears to be the west wall of a rectangular building marked on the 1913 OS map (Fig. 8), Directly overlying this wall occurring at a height of 20.34m OD was an east-west orientated concrete foundation [2], presumably representing an internal wall. Sealing the trench was a modern brick rubble deposit [1], probably associated with the demolition of pre-existing buildings and transformation of the site into the current tarmac car park.

7.2.2 The southern end of Trench 3 was largely occupied by a concrete slab which overlay the previously mentioned modern north-south drain, both recorded as [+] and subsequently sealed by the bedding layer and tarmac of the extant car park.

8 TRENCH SUMMARY

8.1 Trench 1

8.1.1 The excavation of Trench 1 was abandoned due to the highly elevated levels of contamination as referenced in Section 6.

8.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2, 3 & 5)

8.2.1 Trench 2 revealed two made ground deposits relating to the disuse of the 19th Century Chartered Gas Works. Cut through this was a north-south wall, which was in turn sealed by an east-west concrete foundation. All of the above structural contexts related to 20th century buildings that post-date the Chartered Gas Works. All walls and deposits within the trench were sealed by a modern bedding layer and tarmac for the present day car park.

8.2.2 The walls in Trench 2 all dated to the late 19th to early 20th century and appear to be the north to south orientated building shown on the 1913 OS map (Fig. 8) that superseded the Chartered Gas Works, with an internal east-west concrete foundation.

8.2.3 Trench 2 was positioned within a Gasometer (Fig. 4), although no evidence for this structure was located.

North West Facing Shot of Trench 2

8.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2, 4 & 5)

8.3.1 The earliest features encountered in Trench 3 were parallel walls in the corners of Gas Works structure with associated iron pipe, remnants of a brick arch, concrete base, and also truncated east-west running walls in the southern part of Trench 3. These structures all appear to be related to the Retort House building of the Chartered Gas Works (Fig 4). , All exposed features and structures had been sealed by a rubble and clinker backfill/demolition deposit, which was in turn truncated and sealed by a modern drain cut and the present day tarmac car park.

North West Facing Shot of Trench 3

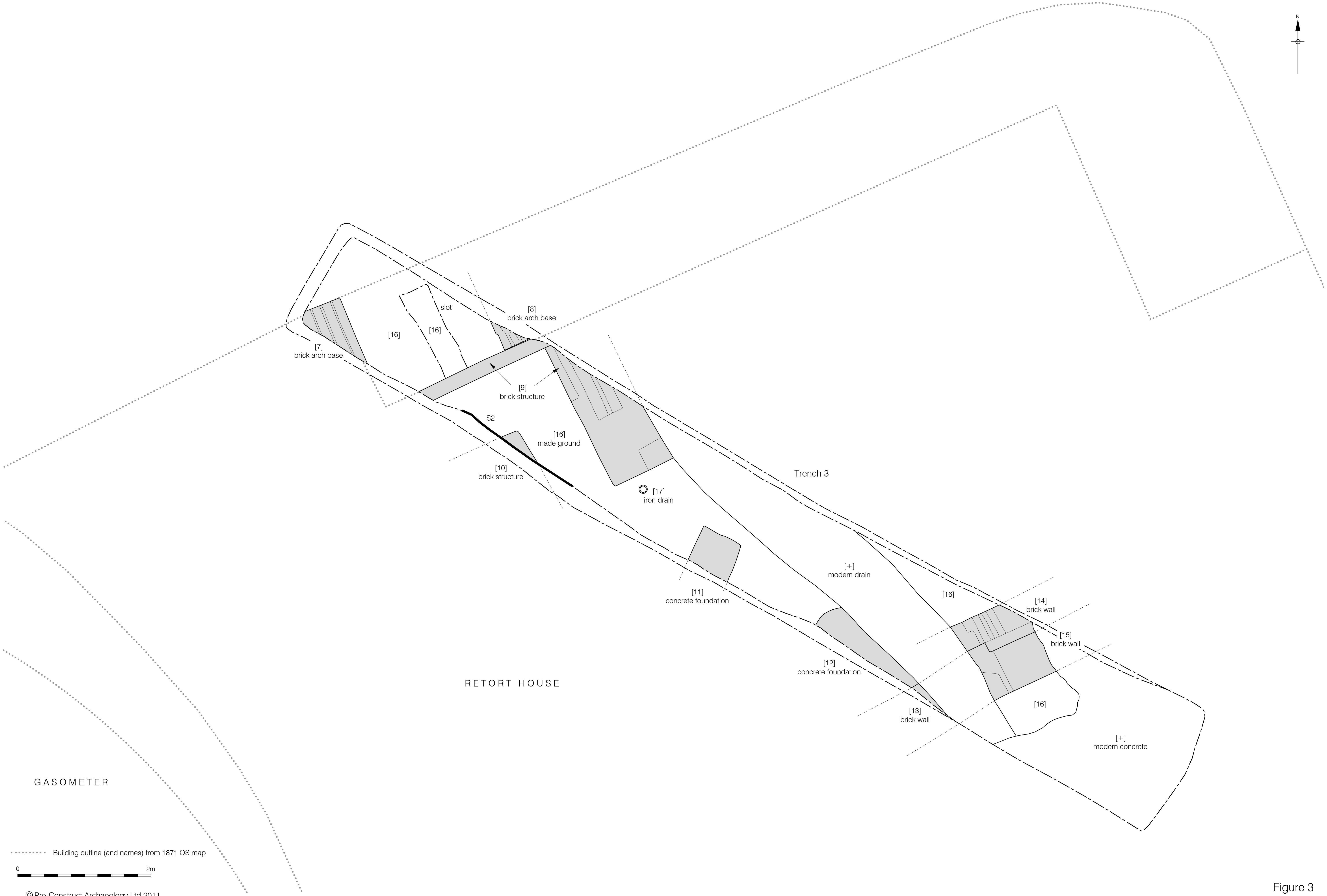


Figure 3
Plan of Trench 3
1:50 at A3

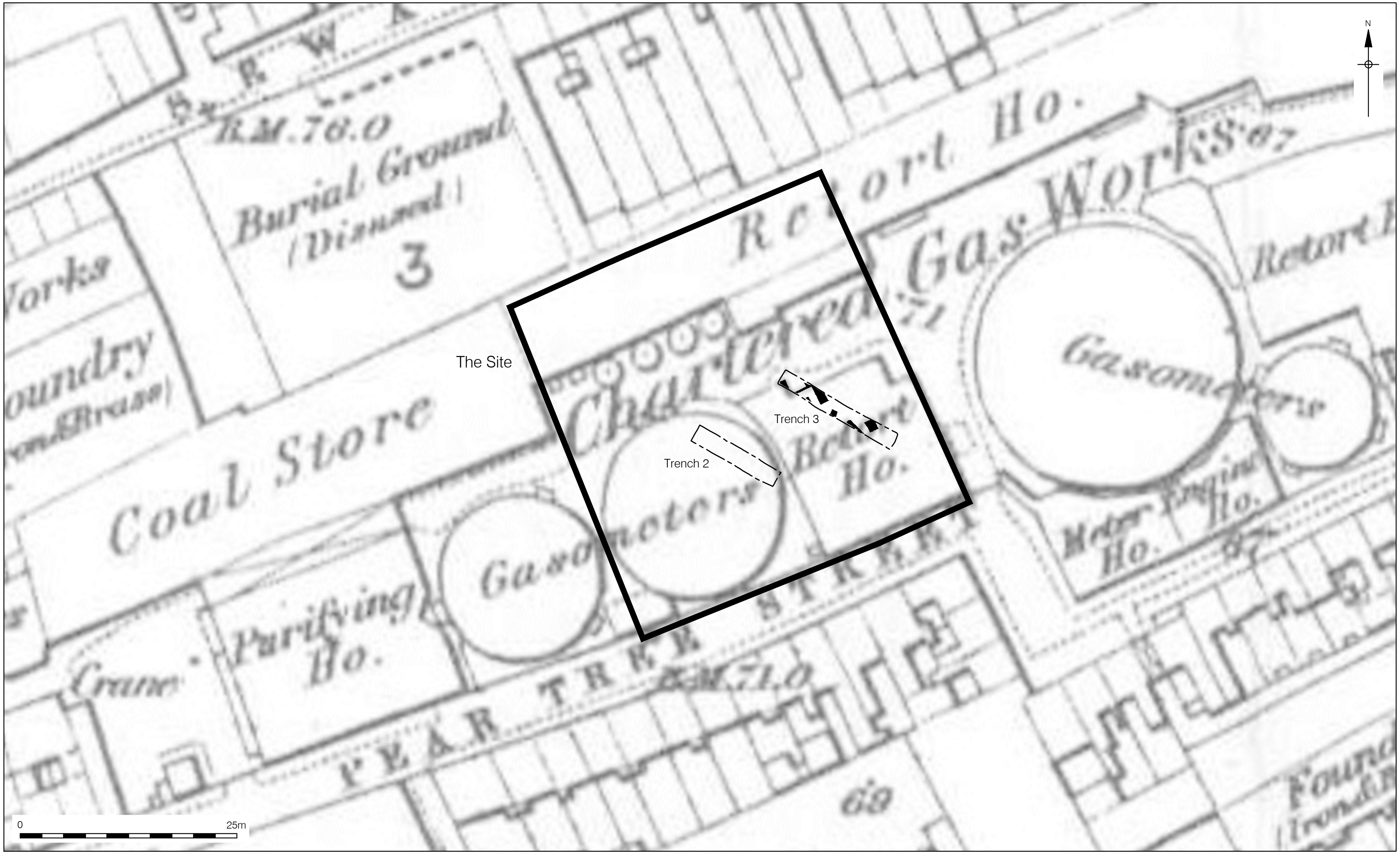


Figure 4
First Edition OS; 1871
1:625 at A4

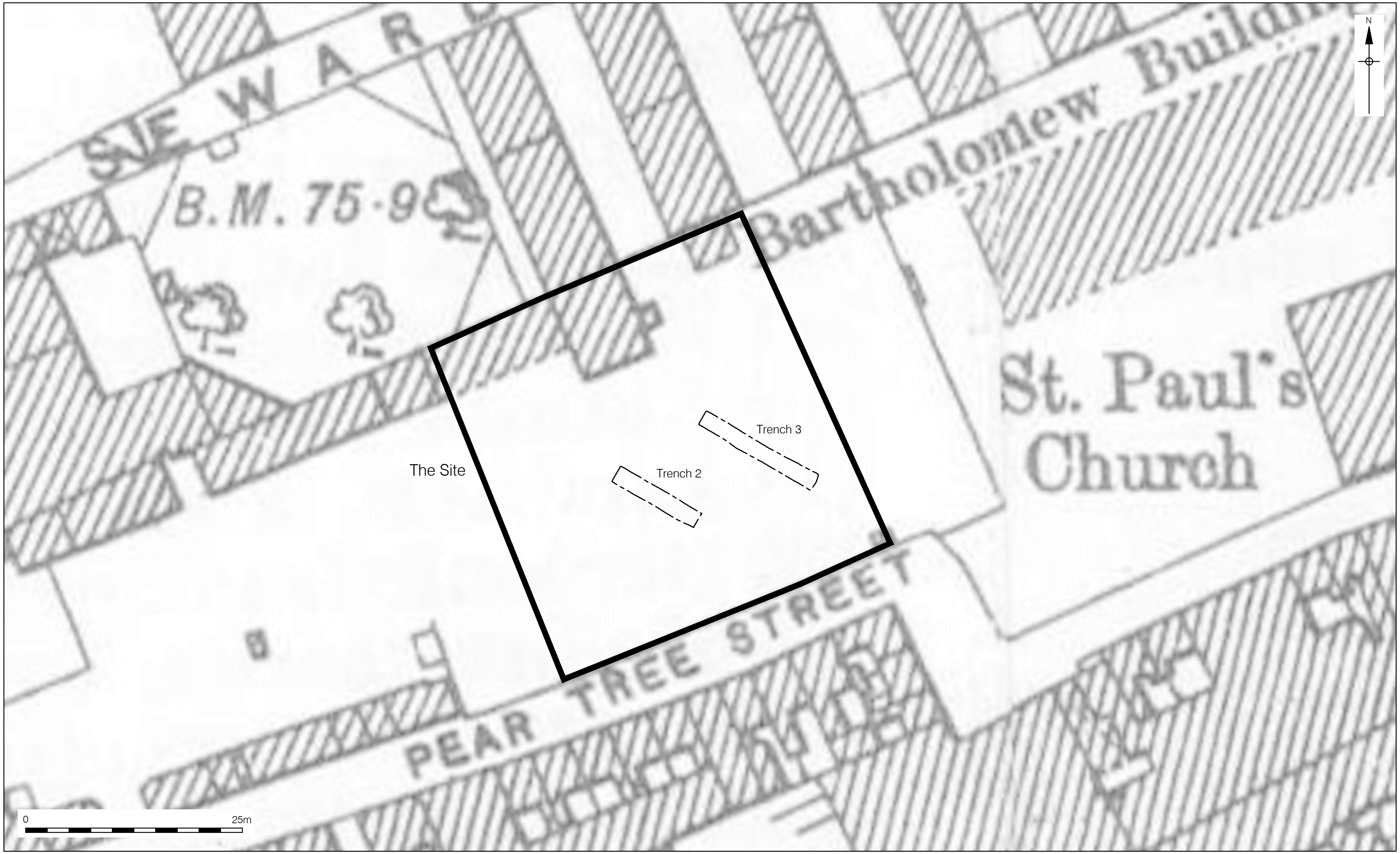


Figure 5
Second Edition OS; 1894-96
1:625 at A4

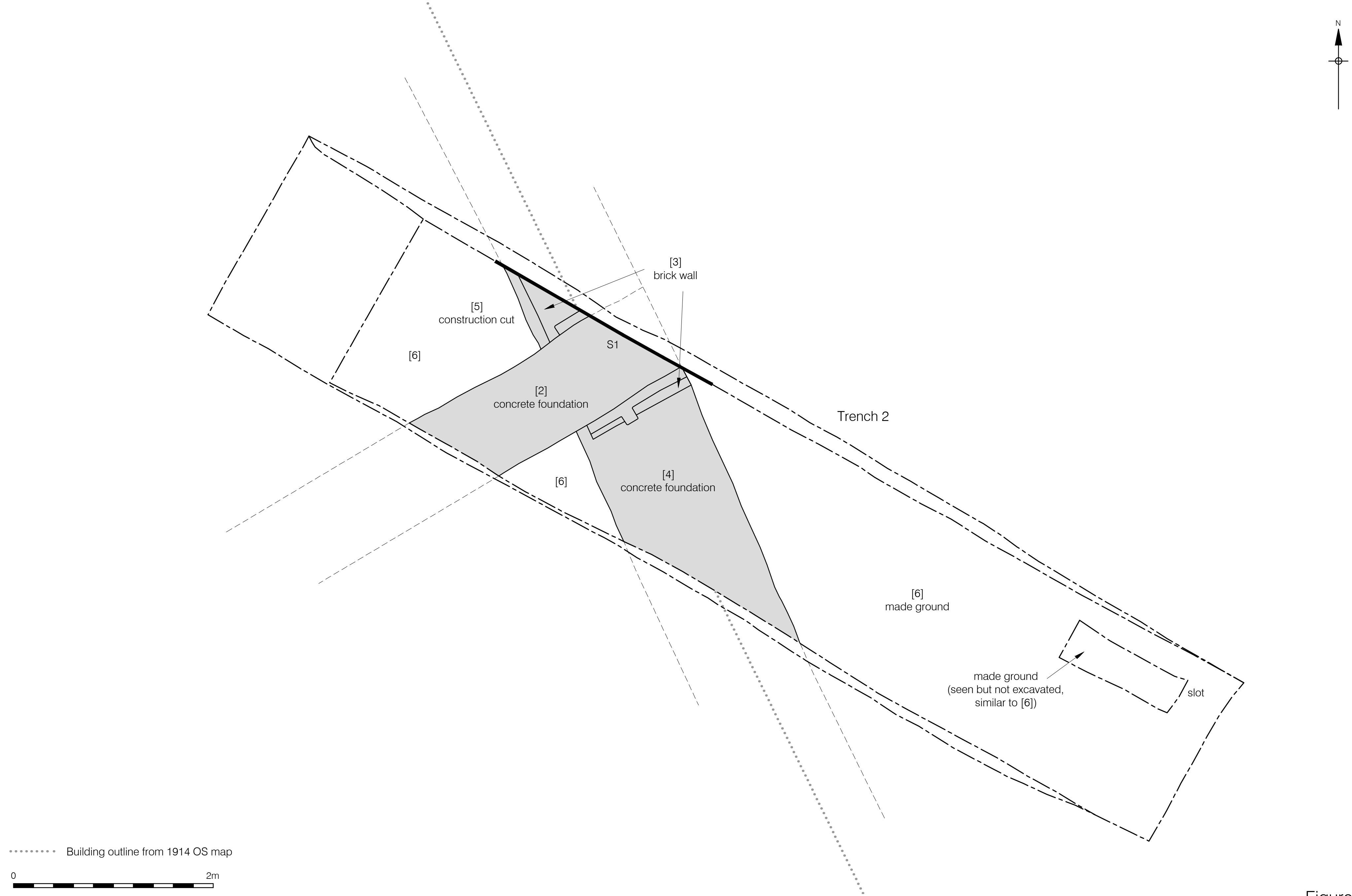


Figure 6
Plan of Trench 2
1:50 at A4

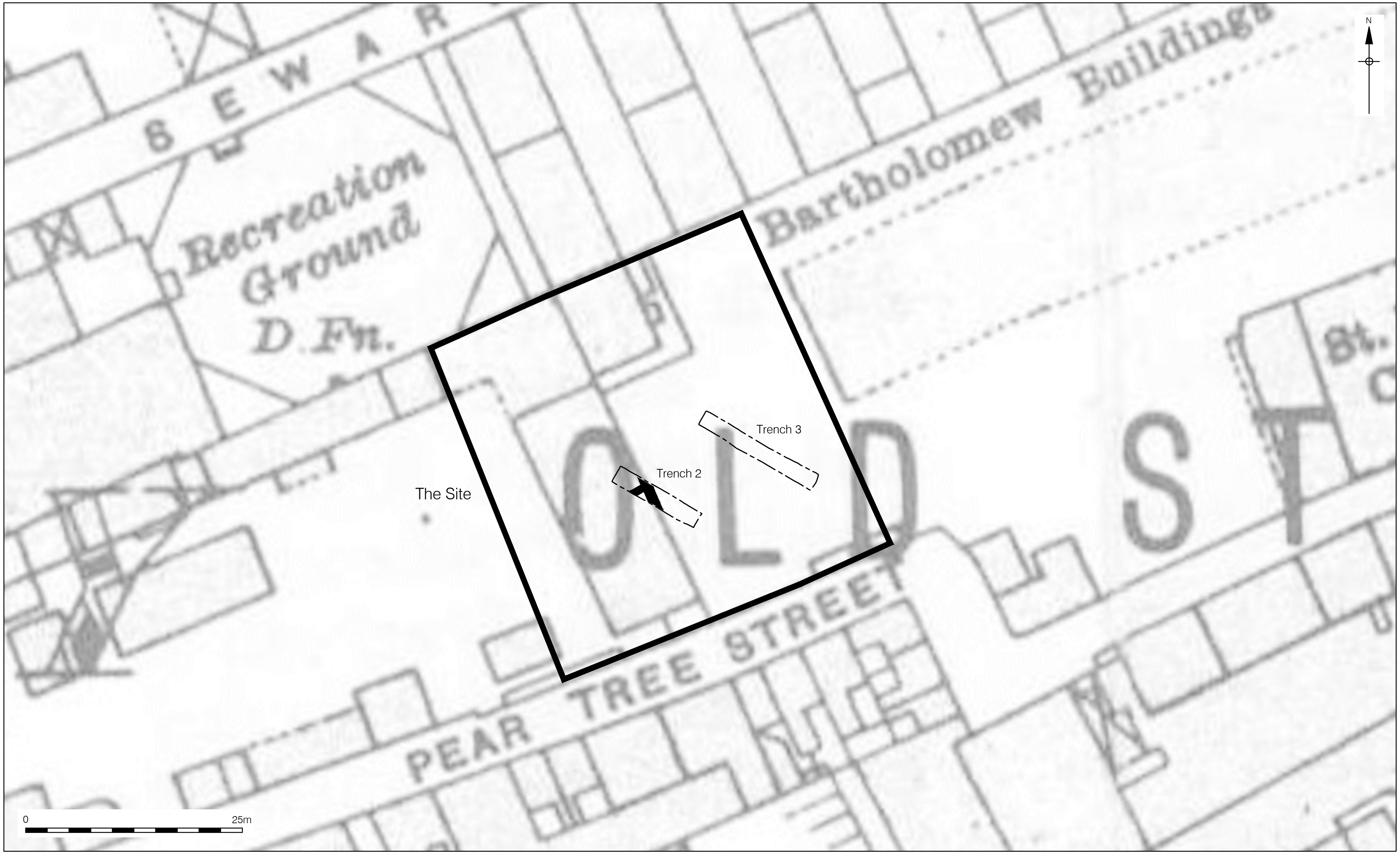
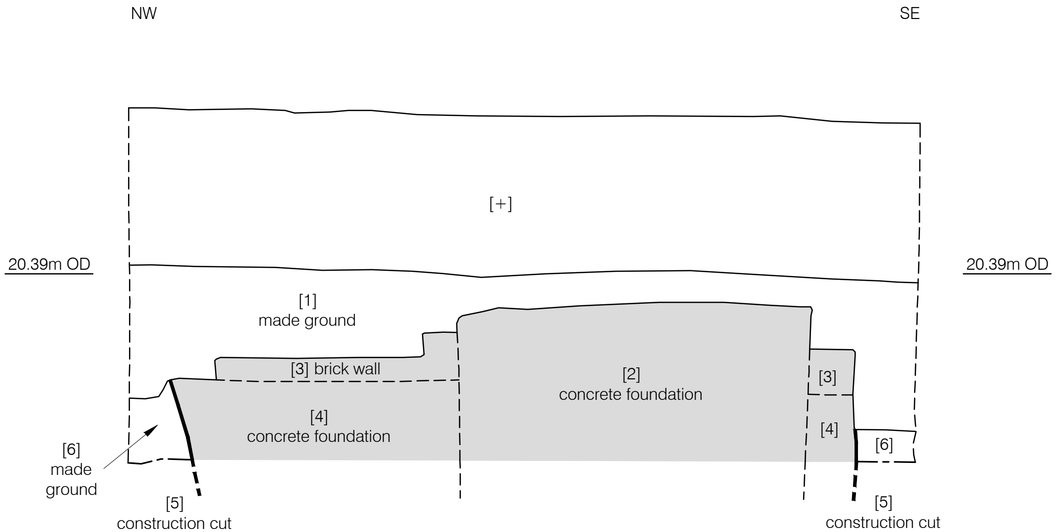
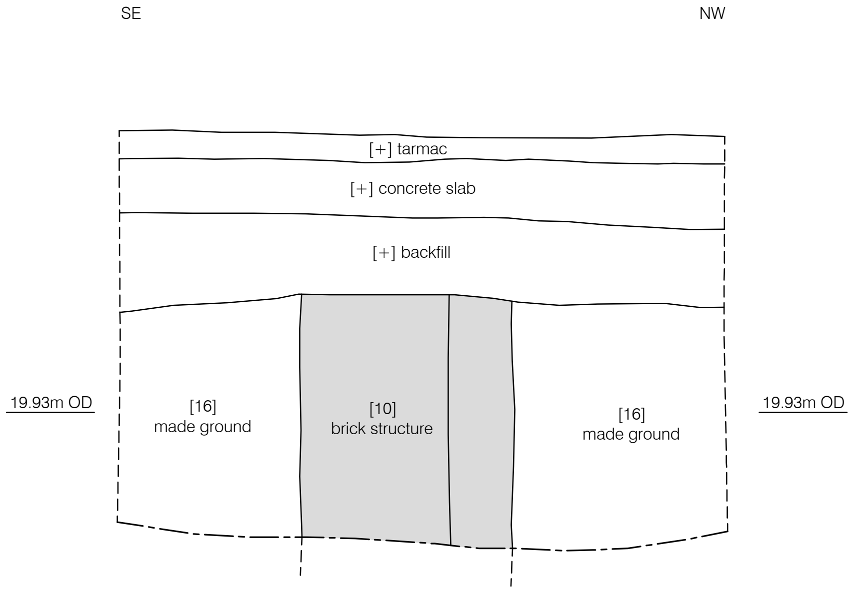


Figure 7
Third Edition OS; 1914-16
1:625 at A4



Section 1
South west facing
Trench 2



Section 2
North east facing
Trench 3

0 1m

Figure 8
Sections 1 & 2
1:25 at A4

9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 No definitive pre 19th century features or deposits were recorded in the course of the evaluation. Structural elements, constructed of concrete and brick, relating to the Chartered Gas Works were recorded and date between 1812 and 1854. In particular structural elements of the Retort House were revealed within Trench 3.

9.2 Although parts of the gas works were anticipated to be located within Trench 2, no structural elements were found. However, and extensive and thick deposit of made ground was interpreted as the infilling of a gasometer, which cartographic evidence records were located at this area of the site. As such, this deposit was assumed to be contemporaneous with demolition and infill deposit sealing the discrete Retort House structures present in Trench 3.

9.3 Part of a masonry structure was encountered within Trench 2, but that post dates the Chartered Gas Works.

9.4 Modern deposits on site consisted of drainage cuts with associated backfills and layers of made ground for the present day car park.

9.5 No natural deposits were encountered in machine excavated sondages within either Trenches 2 or 3 with the maximum depths reached being 17.65m OD and 18.24m OD respectively. The evaluation of Seward Street to the east (site code TDI 09) encountered natural deposits at a height range of between 14.96m OD in the north, 16.71m OD in the east and 15.98m OD in the south, confirming that there were indeed unlikely to encounter natural deposit at the maximum depth reached. This was further supported by the lack of any archaeological deposits that pre-dated the early 19th century.

9.6 Cartographic evidence (eg Rocque 1745, Parish Map St. Giles Cripplegate 1755, Richard Horwood 1799) indicate that the site had been residential properties, some containing large garden areas, prior to the comprehensive construction of the Chartered Gas Works in the early 19th century. No evidence for the residential properties were found in the course of the evaluation, although fragmentary elements of such have been recorded nearby. Evidence for elements of the gas work's Retort House were recorded in the course of the excavation as was the presumed infilling of a gasometer. Further, post-gas works, redevelopment of the site was recorded in the form of a wall to a property indicated on the 1913 OS map.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mount Anvil for commissioning the work and Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting and Kim Stabler of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service for monitoring the work. Thanks are also extended to Mount Anvil for their assistance on site.

10.2 The author would like to thank Tim Bradley for project managing the site and Gary Brown for editing this report, Rik Archer for surveying the site, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, Sophie White for Logistics, Kevin Hayward for dating the masonry samples recovered from the site and Tony Baxter and Ian Cipin for their work on site.

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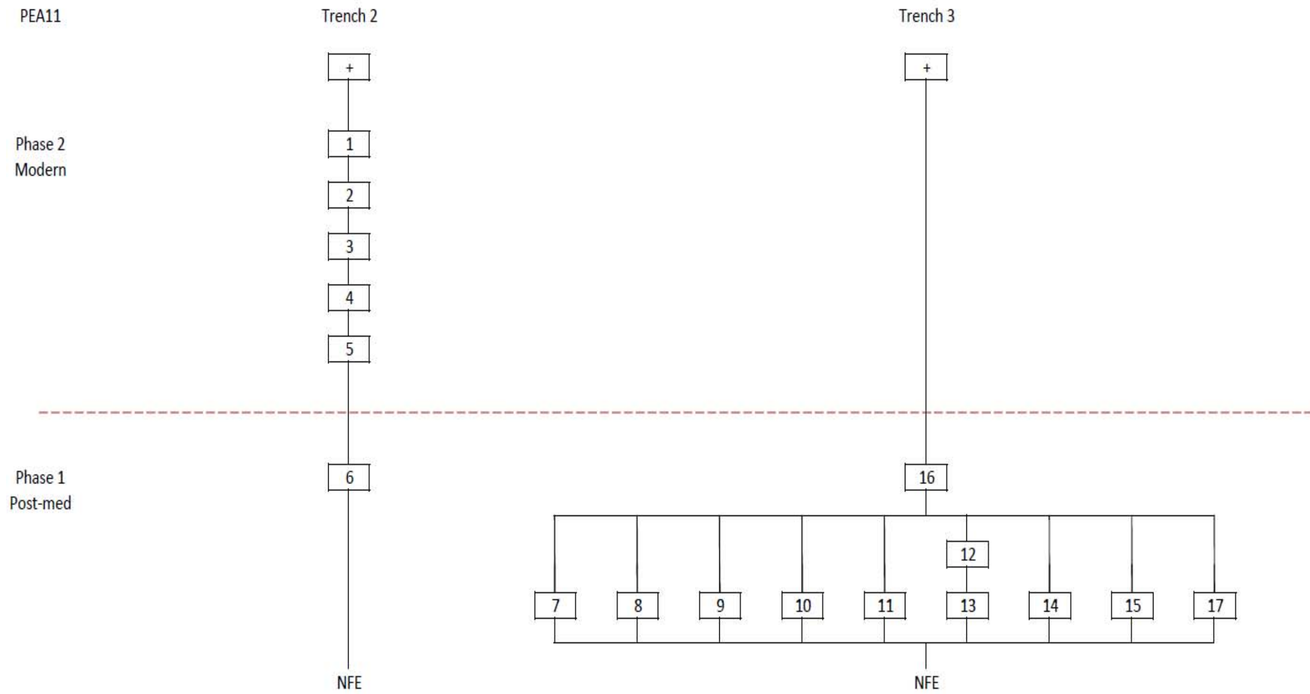
Meager, R. 2011 *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Peartree Street, London, EC1V 3SB.* CgMs Consulting Unpublished Report.

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
PEA11	1	2	N/A	S1	Layer	Made Ground	20thC	2
PEA11	2	2	TR2	S1	Masonry	E-W Concrete Fondation	20thC	2
PEA11	3	2	TR2	S1	Masonry	N-S Brick Wall	20thC	2
PEA11	4	2	TR2	S1	Masonry	N-S Concrete Fondation	20thC	2
PEA11	5	2	TR2	S1	Cut	Construction Cut	20thC	2
PEA11	6	2	TR2	S1	Layer	Made Ground	19thC	1
PEA11	7	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	Brick Arch Base	19thC	1
PEA11	8	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	Brick Arch Base	19thC	1
PEA11	9	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	Brick Srtucture	19thC	1
PEA11	10	3	TR3	S2	Masonry	Brick Srtucture	19thC	1
PEA11	11	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	Concrete Fondation	19thC	1
PEA11	12	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	Concrete Fondation	19thC	1
PEA11	13	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	E-W Brick Wall	19thC	1
PEA11	14	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	E-W Brick Wall	19thC	1
PEA11	15	3	TR3	N/A	Masonry	E-W Brick Wall	19thC	1
PEA11	16	3	TR3	S2	Layer	Made Ground	19thC	1
PEA11	17	3	TR3	N/A	Pipe	Iron Pipe	19thC	1

APPENDIX 2 – SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3 – OASIS FORM

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Peartree Street, London EC1, London Borough of Islington
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trenches meaasuring 15m x 1.8m. The earliest deposits encountered were masonry structures associated with the Retort House of the Chartered Gas Works identified in Trench 3 and the made ground backfilling a Gasometer within Trench 2, the heights and differing characters of which indicated truncation associated with the infilling and levelling of the gas works prior to the constructing of the 20th century buildings also recorded within Trench 2.
Project dates	Start: 17-10-2011 End: 21-10-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	MASONRY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON ISLINGTON ISLINGTON Peartree Street, Islington
Postcode	EC1
Study area	1600.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3210 8250 51.5254461082 -0.09556766018630 51 31 31 N 000 05 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project	Tim Bradley

director/manager	
Project supervisor	James Langthorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mount Anvil

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Media available	'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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Entered on	4 November 2011

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