

An Archaeological Evaluation of Land Bounded by Tooley Street, Shand Street and Barnham Street, London Borough of Southwark, SE1.

Site Code: TSZ 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3328 7998

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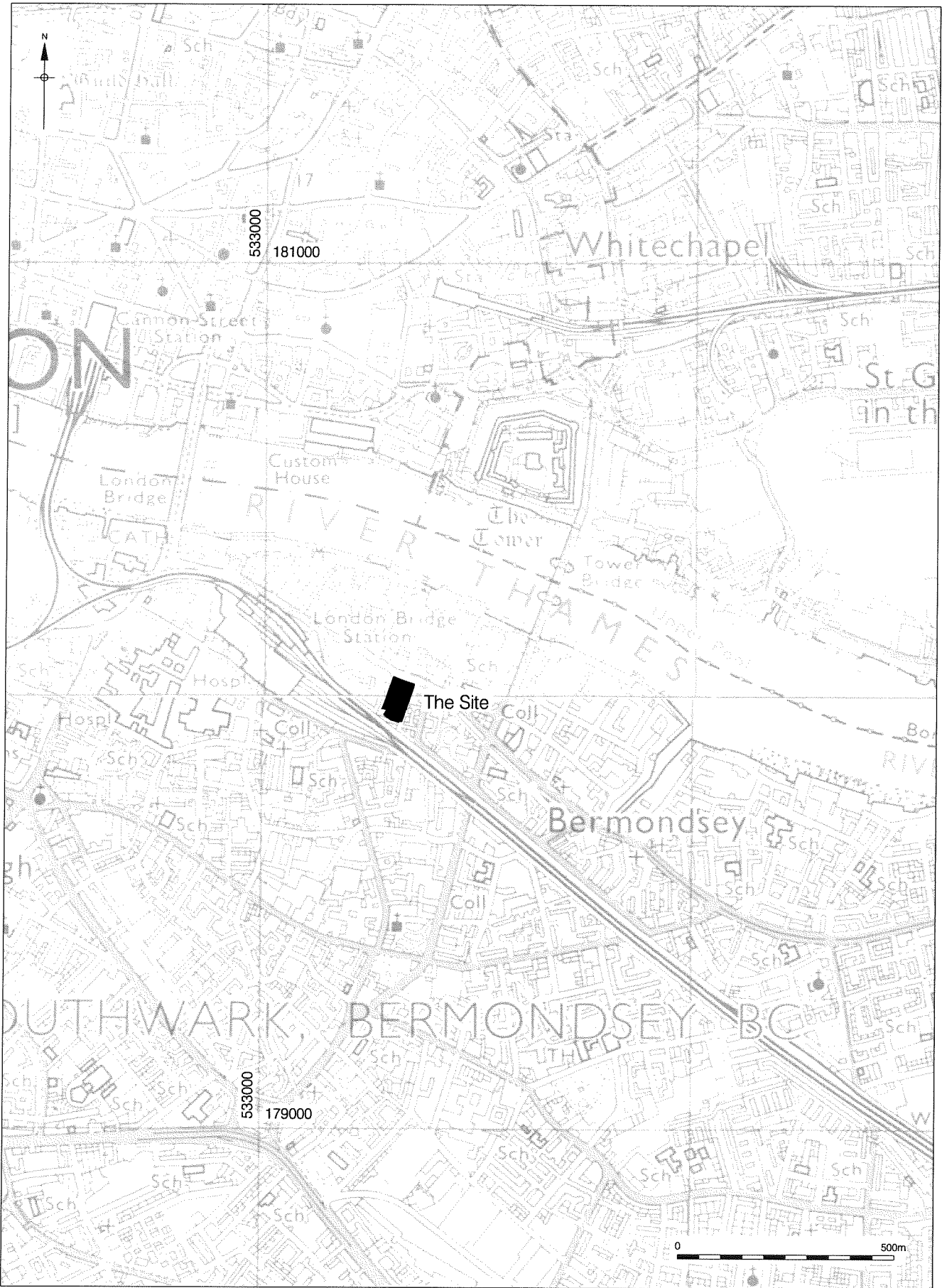
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land bounded by Tooley Street, Shand Street and Barnham Street, London Borough of Southwark, SE1.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed development of a six-storey office building on the site.
- 1.3 Three trenches were excavated across the site, two in the northern area and one to the south. Archaeological features dating to the post-medieval period were encountered cutting into alluvial deposits and the depth of the underlying sands and gravels were recorded in two locations.

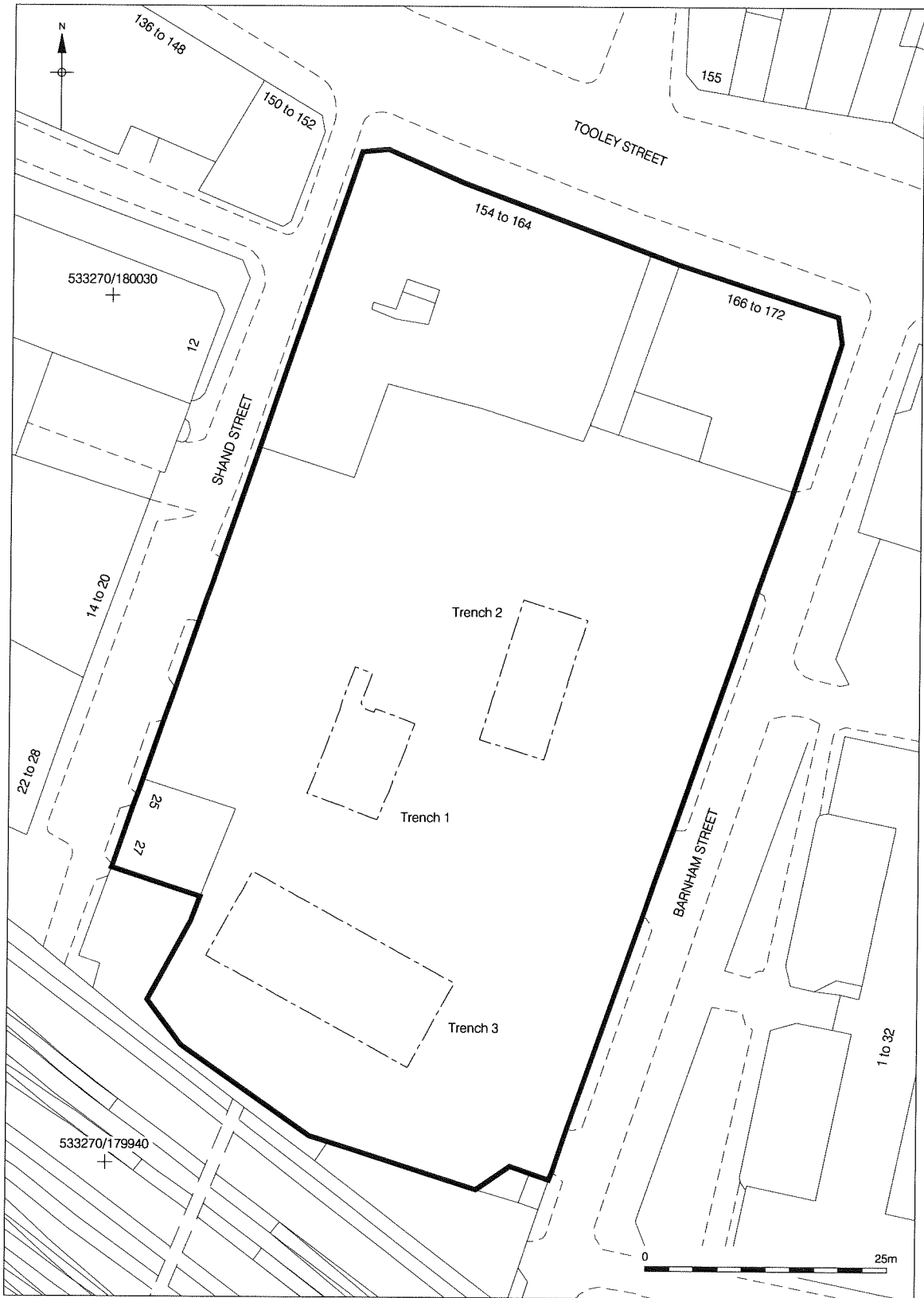
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited of land bounded by Tooley Street, Shand Street and Barnham Street London Borough of Southwark (Figure 1), in advance of a proposed development.
- 2.2 Previous archaeological work on the site consisted of the preparation of an archaeological desktop assessment report (Chandler, 2004) and an archaeological watching brief (Seeley, 2005) by MoLAS.
- 2.3 The evaluation was conducted between the 13th February and 3rd March 2006 and commissioned by James Brannigan of Jackson Coles on behalf of Ilex Limited.
- 2.4 Excavation of three trenches was undertaken using a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision following the demolition of the previous buildings and clearance of the site of asbestos (Figure 2). Excavation continued to reveal features cutting into the alluvial deposits, which were recorded in plan before excavation continued to a depth of c.3.5m where health and safety constraints prevented further excavation.
- 2.5 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 3328 7998.
- 2.6 The site was given the unique code TSZ 06.
- 2.7 The evaluation was supervised by Stuart Holden and assisted by James Langthorne, T Shane Maher and Stuart Watson with the project managed by Peter Moore.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEACH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Planning background

3.1.1 The study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Southwark, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) 'Archaeology and Planning'. It provided guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.1.2 The advice states 'the desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled. Developers and local authorities should take into account archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process' (paragraph 18).

3.1.2 It also states 'where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation' (paragraph 8).

3.2 Archaeology in Southwark

3.2.1 The site is located within the Archaeological Priority Zone of Bankside, Bermondsey, Rotherhithe as defined in the London Borough of Southwark's Unitary Development Plan.

3.2.2 The Council's Archaeology Policy is as follows:

OBJECTIVE E.5: TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING AND DISPLAY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

The archaeological heritage of the borough includes historic centres and ancient monuments, archaeological sites and areas of geology and topography especially attractive for early settlement and is of national and international significance. Many finds and sites in Southwark, particularly those from the Roman, Medieval and Elizabethan periods are very well known, and the Council will do all it can to assist in their preservation, protection and display for all to enjoy.

POLICY E.5.1: The Council will seek to conserve and protect the Borough's archaeological heritage and to enhance the knowledge of its historic development. The Policy will apply to sites of potential archaeological importance where ancient remains are threatened by development.

The Council will expect the applicant to provide information to enable an assessment of the impact of a proposed development on the potential archaeology of the site. This would usually be desk-based information and would be expected prior to the determination of a planning application

Where there is potential for important remains on a site, which may merit preservation *in situ*, then the results of an archaeological field evaluation will, if feasible, be required prior to the determination of a planning application

Where the evaluation reveals important remains their protection and preservation will be the primary objective. This can be achieved by re-designing the proposed development and by foundation modification.

Where important archaeological remains cannot be preserved, or where remains do not merit preservation, then the Council will use planning conditions to ensure excavation and recording of the remains prior to redevelopment i.e. preservation by record.

Archaeological investigations are to be undertaken by a recognised archaeological field unit to a written specification. These will need to be approved by the Council prior to the commencement of any work.

Reason: To protect Southwark's archaeological heritage, which includes remains of national importance. These remains are under constant threat from proposed developments and the Policy will ensure their protection through the planning process. The Council considers that the archaeology of the Borough is a community asset and that its preservation is a legitimate objective, against which the needs of development must be balanced and assessed.

Implementation: By application of the Council's statutory development control powers and by planning and other legal agreements. This policy applies to all sites within the defined Archaeological Priority Zones and, in addition, the Council will apply this policy as appropriate to sites of potential archaeological importance outside the zones. The Department of the Environment has also issued comprehensive guidance (Planning Policy Guidance 16, 'Archaeology and Planning' November 1990). See also POLICY B.3.3: Community Benefit.

3.3 **Research Objectives**

3.3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to define the character and extent of the archaeological remains, and thus indicate the weight, which ought to be attached to their preservation or mitigation. On the basis of the archaeological deposits found in the immediate vicinity it is unlikely that preservation *in situ* will be an issue at this site, but that the evaluation will provide information useful for making an informed and reasonable planning decision regarding any further mitigation.

3.3.2 The following research aims were addressed in the specification:

- To establish the presence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quantity of any archaeological remains which may be threatened by the proposed development.
- To establish the presence of prehistoric settlement or activity.

- To establish the presence of Horselydown eyot and any difference in the use of it both over time and between the north and south of the site.
- To distinguish between in situ and transported artifact collections, showing different activities up-slope on site during the prehistoric period.
- To establish how long the eyot was occupied after the prehistoric period.
- To establish the presence of any Medieval or Post-Medieval settlement, industrial activity or land reclamation measures.

3.4 Jonathon Smith, Senior Archaeological Planning Officer for the London Borough of Southwark inspected and monitored the archaeological works.

3.5 There were no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the footprint of the development.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Chandler, 2004) was compiled and an archaeological watching brief (Seeley, 2005) was undertaken by MoLAS prior to the commencement of the evaluation. The results of these documents are summarised below with additional material from other sources.

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 It is known that in the post-glacial times of the Holocene Period, islets of sand and gravel were present in the area. Two of the larger islets are the Bermondsey and Horsleydown Eyots, the site being located over the latter. There is plentiful archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity upon these islets from the Mesolithic period onwards. The River Thames would have provided predictable food sources in addition to a means of transportation and communication, whilst the soils upon the eyot would have been fertile and well drained.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 There is no substantial evidence for settlement of the Horsleydown Eyot in the 1st and 2nd centuries (the main focus of activity concentrated to the west), however, there are finds of pottery and roof tile from the area, together with environmental evidence of crop cultivation. Roman features and deposits have certainly been recorded to the north side of Tooley Street.

4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 It is unknown to what extent the islets were occupied during the early post-Roman periods. The marine transgression resulted in severe flooding of the lower-lying areas around the Horsleydown eyot. The area around the proposed development may have been suitable as open pasture or for cultivation.

4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 Documentary sources indicate that the area of the proposed development was part of the land owned by Henry Yevele, who in 1390 leased the property to two individuals. During this time it consisted of tenements and gardens. There are suggestions that a north-south aligned mill ditch ran through the western part of the site.

4.6 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 4.6.1 Since at least the late-16th century, the site has been occupied by structures, mostly houses but possibly with some small-scale industrial workings. In the late-19th century a pin factory and warehouse occupied the central part of the site although by the end of the 19th century, housing had replaced the latter. By the 1940's, terraced housing along the western and eastern parts of the site had been demolished and replaced by warehouses. Additional buildings, demolished prior to the undertaking of the evaluation, were constructed in the 1950's up to the 1982.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 5.2 The excavation of three trenches, totalling c.40m² at base, was agreed with the Senior Archaeologist for Southwark Borough Council. Due to the depth below ground level at which archaeologically sensitive deposits were likely to be present, the trench edges were stepped to make the excavations safe for working. These consisted of nominally a 1.2m wide step for every 1.2m depth.
- 5.3 Due to the high levels of hazardous materials identified on the site (asbestos, lead, mercury, zinc, copper) suitable personal protective equipment was worn by all personnel likely to come into contact with the contaminated land. In addition, a gas monitoring kit was used to highlight any potentially fatal changes to the atmospheric conditions within the working environment.
- 5.4 Under archaeological supervision, a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used to remove unproductive soils down to the highest archaeological horizon. The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence.
- 5.5 All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were recorded in plan and in section using standard recording methods. A photographic record using 35mm colour transparencies, back and white print film and digital mediums was also made as appropriate. Due to the elevated levels of hazardous contaminants in the ground, the retention of finds was kept to a minimum in order to reduce the risk of harming anyone who may come into contact with the artefacts, unaware of their provenance.
- 5.6 A temporary benchmark (value 4.33m OD) was traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark, located to the southeast of the site, on Druid Street (value 4.13m OD).
- 5.7 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines (English Heritage 1998).

- 5.8 Following the completion of the archaeological investigation, the trenches were backfilled using the excavated material. As large quantities of concrete obstructions were removed during the excavations and not replaced into the trenches, there was a deficit of material for the backfilling of trenches 1 and 2. In order to leave the site safe, the edges of the trenches were battered to a shallow slope.
- 5.9 As well as the known high concentrations of heavy metals within the soil, some asbestos was found during the investigations. This was carefully wrapped and sealed in double bagged, and, together with the asbestos contaminated clothes, put aside for specialist removal by the client. During the course of the excavation of the first trench (Trench 3) the gas monitors warned about the presence of high levels of certain gases. At this point archaeological recording necessarily took place from the trench top. There was no similar dangers alerted in the subsequent two trenches.

6 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 6.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 270 (South London) indicates that the site is likely to be underlain by Quaternary River Terrace (1st Terrace) Gravel, known as the 'Horsleydown Eyot'. This was observed during the watching brief undertaken in 2005 (Seeley, 2005) in Test Pit 2, located towards the southeastern corner of the site at a height of c. -0.31m OD. At the base of Test Pit 5, located in the northeast corner of the site, close to the extant buildings along Tooley Street, Natural yellow sand was recorded at a height of 0.84m OD. In Test Pit 6, located within the buildings Fronting Tooley Street at the eastern side adjacent to Barnham Street, soft, yellow natural sands were present at a height of c. 1.15m OD.
- 6.2 The site is located approximately 300m to the south of the southern bank of the River Thames with current ground level at a height of approximately 4.0m OD.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 Only archaeological features relating to the post-medieval period was identified in any of the three trenches excavated. The alluvial deposits were present in all three trenches and in two of these the depth at which the sands and gravels are present was recorded.

7.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3 & Figure 4)

7.2.1 This trench measured 14m by 7.5m, orientated north-south and cut from a height between 3.85m OD and 4.05m OD. The length of the trench was curtailed by the presence of a substantial concrete beam at the northern end of the trench that could not be removed.

7.2.2 An area measuring 5m by 7.75m was stripped down to the top of the alluvium into which post-medieval features were cut. Further excavation was undertaken measuring 1.8m by 2.4m to a depth of c. 3.5m below ground level where excavation was halted for health and safety reasons. A hand auger was further employed to ascertain the depths of deposits not exposed within the open excavations.

7.2.3 The lowest deposit attained was a light yellowish brown sand and gravel present at a level of -0.43m OD and is likely to represent the River Terrace Gravels (Horsleydown Eyot). This was overlain by a 1.35m thick deposit of light greenish grey clay alluvium [24] and subsequently a 1.10m thick deposit of mid reddish brown clay alluvium [23]. Cutting into this material was a north-south orientated ditch [22] measuring c. 1m wide at the top and 0.60m deep. This was filled with a mid blueish grey silty clay [21] with flecks of charcoal, snail and oyster shell. Recovered from the fill were fragments of cbm (ceramic building material) in the form of pegged roof tile likely to date from the late-medieval or early-post-medieval periods and a few small sherds of post-medieval glazed pottery dated 1580-1700. Animal bones were also present within the fill but not retained due to the potential contamination. A layer of light greenish brown clay [19] flecked with charcoal and cbm (possibly including medieval tile fragments) sealed this feature and was up to 0.70m thick. Pieces of animal bone were also present in this deposit but were also discarded.

7.2.4 Cutting into [19] in the southwest corner of the excavation, the base of a pit was identified [26]. This measured 1.35m north-south by 0.70m east-west and 0.05m deep although was truncated by the machine excavation. Fragments of pan tile dating to the

late-18th or 19th century were present within the dark greenish grey sandy clay silt fill [25] but were discarded. Circa 1.4m of made ground containing late-post-medieval and modern truncations completed the sequence.

7.3 Trench 2 (Figure 3 & Figure 4)

7.3.1 This trench measured 16.5m by 6.9m and was orientated north-south cut from a height of between 3.98m OD and 4.44m OD.

7.3.2 An area measuring 12.5m by 4.75m was stripped down to the top of the alluvium into which post-medieval features were cut. Further excavation was undertaken measuring 1.8m by 3.75m to a depth of c. 3.5m below ground level where excavation was halted for health and safety reasons. A hand auger was further employed to ascertain the depths of deposits not exposed within the open excavations.

7.3.3 The lowest deposit encountered was natural sand and gravel at a level of -0.80m OD as recorded at the base of the auger hole. This was sealed by 2.60m of light blueish grey silty clay [15] flecked with organic streaks and 1.30m of light blueish grey silty clay [14]. This was cut by a probable ditch [18] orientated north-south seen in the north-facing section of the deepest excavated area, however the feature was not visible in plan. The western edge was cut at an angle of c. 80° leading to a steep concave bottom break of slope. Assuming the feature was roughly symmetrical, extrapolating the known dimensions would imply that it measured c. 1.6m in wide by 0.80m deep. From within the mid blueish grey clay fill [17] which contained fragments of snail and oyster shell and animal bone (not retained), sherds of pottery dated 1480-1550 and post-medieval tile were recovered.

7.3.4 Feature [18] was truncated on the northern side by a large cut [12] that contained fill [11], a firm light yellowish grey clay flecked with charcoal that contained a single residual sherd of pottery dated broadly to the Roman period and fragments of residual medieval roof tile. This cut may have been the original construction cut for a large concrete structure present to the north of the trench, which was backfilled around with brick rubble.

7.3.5 Extending from the eastern limit of excavation a rectangular feature [16] was recorded in plan that truncated the alluvium. This measured 1.30m by 0.90m as seen in plan and was truncated by machining by up to 0.20m. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the light yellowish brown silty clay [10] and the deposit may represent a lens rather than a cut feature.

- 7.4 Trench 3 (Figure 3)
- 7.4.1 This trench measured 24m by 10m at the top and was orientated east-west, positioned at the south of the site.
- 7.4.2 An area measuring 16.6m by 3.75m was stripped down to the top of the alluvium into which post-medieval features were cut. Further excavation was undertaken measuring 1.8m by 6.25m to a depth of c. 3.5m below ground level where excavation was halted for health and safety reasons. Prior to the completion of detailed recording of this trench, the safety equipment indicated elevated levels of noxious gasses and therefore it was necessary to abandon further work. The remainder of the recording was undertaken from the top of the trench.
- 7.4.3 The lowest recorded deposit was light blueish grey silty clay alluvium [27] measuring in excess of 0.75m in thickness. Cut into this material along the southern limit of excavation was a square pit [2] measuring 0.92m by 1.0m cut from a level of 1.80m OD and filled with animal bone [1], most likely sheep or similar. No excavation was undertaken and no samples of the bone were retained. Pottery recovered from the fill dated to 1580-1700.
- 7.4.4 A sub circular pit [4] measuring c. 2.20m in diameter was cut towards the northern edge of the excavation from a level of 1.88m OD and to the east of this, a square pit [9] measuring 1.82m north-south by 1.62m east-west and possibly lined with (now much decayed) timber [8] at 1.89m OD. These features were half-sectioned by machine allowing their depths to be recorded (0.55m and 0.35m respectively). The fill of [4] was mid blueish grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks [3] containing pottery sherds dated 1580-1700, including 1 from an imported Spanish vessel, whilst that within [9] was light to mid blueish grey silty sand with charcoal flecks [7] containing post-medieval tile and pottery sherds dated 1580-1700.
- 7.4.5 Running parallel to the northern edge of excavation and truncation both [4] and [9] was a liner feature [6] measuring 5.66m east-west and protruding into the excavation area by 0.40m. From the dark blueish black clayey silty sand fill, fragments of post-medieval roof tile with evidence for industrial processing on them were recovered.

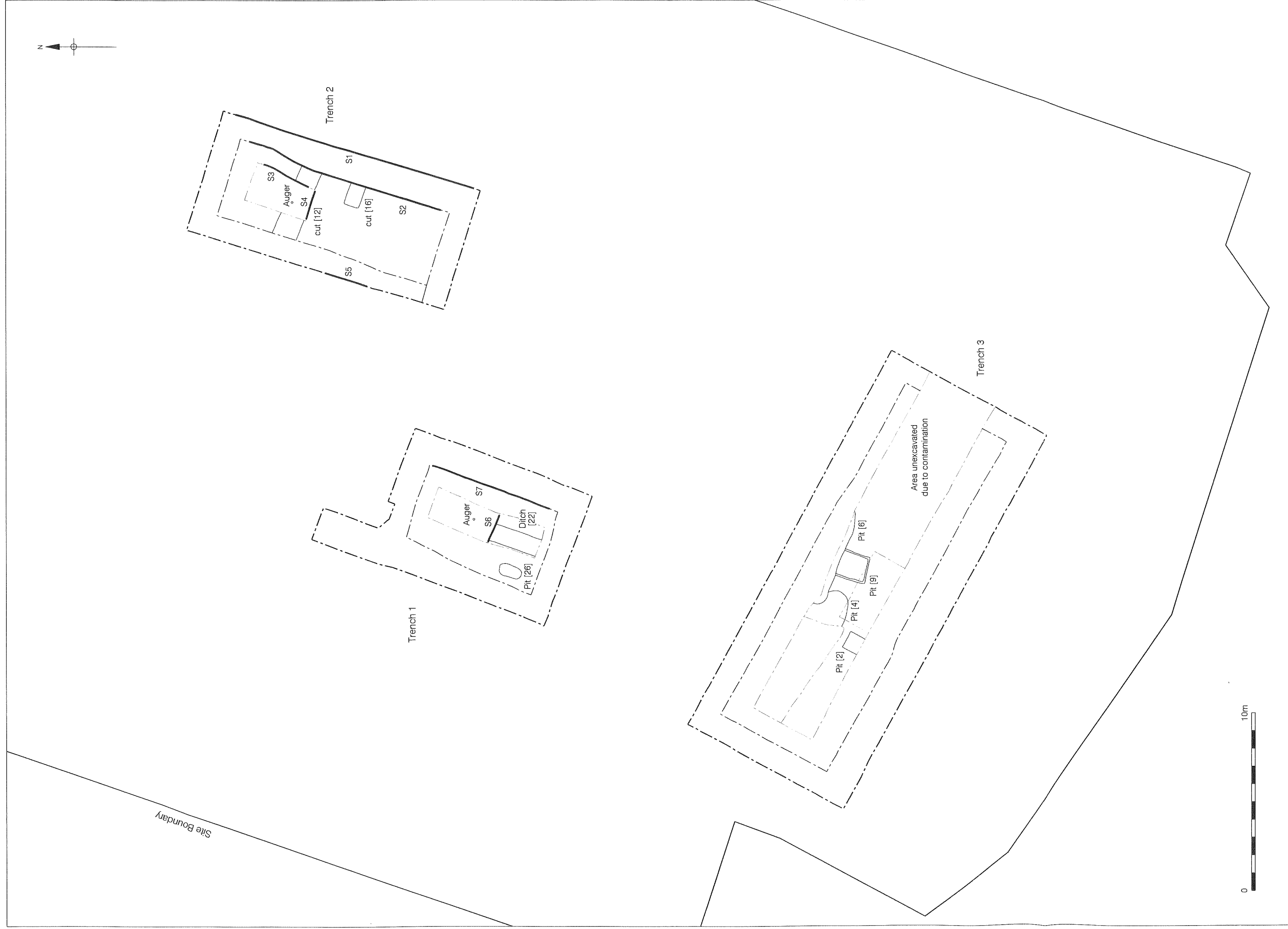


Figure 3
Trenches 1, 2 & 3
1:200

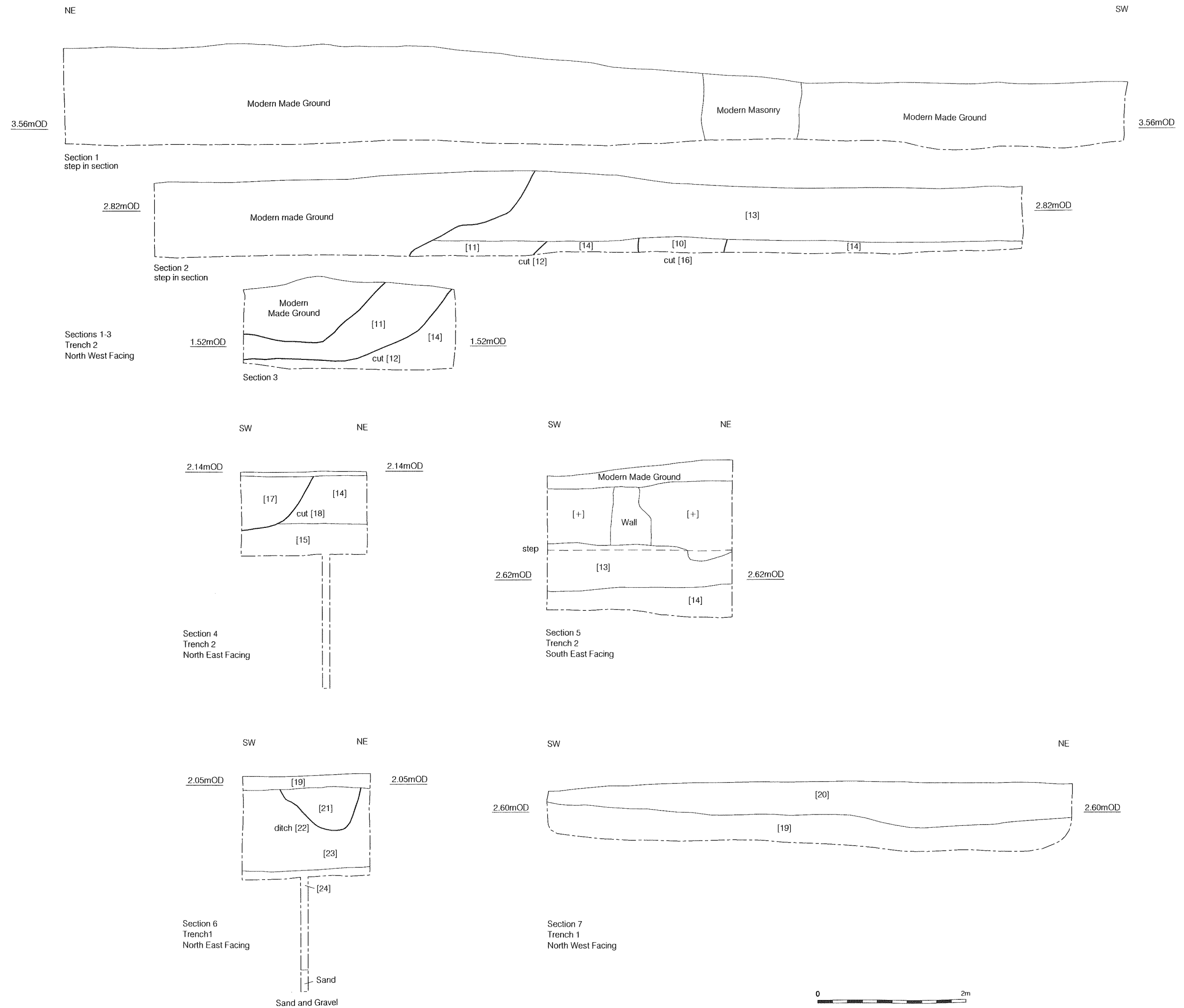


Figure 4
Sections 1-7
1:50

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The recorded presence of the River Terrace Gravels in auger holes within Trenches 1 and 2 at levels of -0.43m OD and -0.80m OD respectively can be used to further develop the model of the Horsleydown Eyot. As the gravels were too deep to be observed by means of trenching, no conclusions can be drawn with regards to the possible activity on the Eyot in this area (or lack of) during the prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 8.2 Evidence for post-medieval activity on the site was exposed and recorded however it is unlikely to dramatically alter the known use of the land in this area. No evidence for earlier activity was recorded other than the residual sherd of Roman pottery, although as from a backfilled deposit of post-medieval date no conclusions can be drawn from its occurrence.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Jackson Coles, in particular James Brannigan, for commissioning the work on behalf of Ilex Limited, and Jonathon Smith of Southwark Borough Council for monitoring the evaluation. The author would like to thank James, Shane and Stuart for their work on site, especially considering the unpleasantness of the ground conditions; also James Taylor for covering for me whilst I was away. Great credit must be awarded to Lisa Lonsdale and Frank Meddens for implementing the necessary health and safety measures allowing the work to be conducted. Fiona Keith-Lucas surveyed the baselines, Hayley Baxter produced the drawings and Chris Jarrett provided the spot dates whilst Peter Moore undertook the project management and editing.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Description
1	Fill	Bone fill of [2]
2	Cut	Square post-med pit
3	Fill	Fill of [4]
4	Cut	Cut of sub circular post-med pit
5	Fill	Fill of [6]
6	Cut	Linear post-med feature
7	Fill	Fill of [9]
8	Fill	Possible decayed timer lining of [9]
9	Cut	Cut of square post-med pit
10	Fill	Fill of [16]
11	Fill	Fill of [12]
		? Construction cut for concrete
12	Cut	structure
13	Layer	Dumped post-med material
14	Layer	Alluvium
15	Layer	Alluvium
16	Cut	Possible feature
17	Fill	Fill of [18]
18	Cut	Cut of ?ditch
19	Layer	Post-med alluvium
20	Layer	Alluvium
21	Fill	Fill of [22]
22	Cut	Cut of ditch
23	Layer	Alluvium
24	Layer	Alluvium
25	Fill	Fill of [26]
26	Cut	Cut of post-med pit
27	Layer	Alluvium

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-13446

Project details

Project name	Land off Tooley Street, Southwark
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land bounded by Tooley St, Shand St and Barnham St located upon the Horsleydown Eyot. Natural sand and gravel was encountered in two locations at -0.43m and -0.80m OD using a hand auger. Alluvial deposits cut by post-medieval features were also recorded.
Project dates	Start: 13-02-2006 End: 03-03-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Associated project reference codes	TSE 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SOUTHWARK BERMONDSEY ROTHERHITHE AND SOUTHWARK Tooley Street, Southwark
Postcode	SE1
Study area	7200.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3328 7998 Point
Height OD	Min: -0.80m Max: -0.43m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Stuart Holden
Sponsor or funding body	Ilex Ltd
Entered by	Stuart Holden (sholden@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	9 March 2006