

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT
THE GILBRAN SITE,
489 PURLEY WAY,
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON**

MARCH 2006

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**489 PURLEY WAY
LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON
EVALUATION**

Quality Control

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at 489 Purley Way, Croydon.

Site Code: GPZ 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 3115 6448

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at 489 Purley Way, Croydon. The evaluation was commissioned by Hyde Housing in advance of proposed redevelopment of the land and took place between the 6th and 10th of March 2006. The site was located on the eastern side of Purley Way (A23) and to the south of Denning Avenue, immediately south of Central Parade.
- 1.2 An evaluation comprising 5 trenches was required by the representative of the Local Planning Authority following the findings of a Desk Based Assessment¹. Trench 1 was to be located in the south east corner of the site, Trench 2 was to be located in the north east corner of the site, Trench 3 was to be located in the north west corner of the site, Trench 4 was to be located to the west of the site along the northern edge of the Propeller public house, and Trench 5 was to be located to the south west of the site, immediately to the rear of the Propeller public house.
- 1.3 All of the trenches were sealed by concrete and make up forming the hard standing for a car park. Once this concrete had been broken out and removed, a sequence emerged in all of the trenches, revealing 19th to early 20th century made ground immediately overlying a deposit of late post medieval made ground. This in turn sealed a yellow green deposit, recorded as brickearth like in nature. In two of the trenches (Trenches 4 and 1), machined sondages revealed that this brickearth-like deposit was found to be sealing a layer of natural gravel. Further machining in Trench 1 revealed the natural gravel to be overlying Upper Chalk.
- 1.4 Several features were recorded cutting into the natural brickearth-like material. Two pits or possibly ditch butt-ends were recorded in Trench 1, one pit, one posthole and one irregular shaped feature were recorded in Trench 2 and one pit was recorded in Trench 3. No archaeological remains were encountered in Trench 5. Due to the depth at which the natural brickearth like deposit was recorded in Trench 4, it was deemed unsafe to fully evaluate this trench. Instead, two machine sondages were recorded at the western and eastern ends of the trench before they were immediately backfilled for safety reasons.

¹ Holden, S. 2005 'Gilbran and Waylands Sites, 489 Purley Way, Croydon: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment' Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished report.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at 489 Purley Way, Croydon. The evaluation took place between the 6th and 10th of January 2006.
- 2.2 The five trenches were all located in the car park of the Propeller public house, 489 Purley Way, Croydon, which was abandoned at the time of the evaluation. The site was bounded to the north by Central Parade and Denning Avenue, to the east by houses on Denning Avenue and also by a clinic and houses on Coldharbour Road, to the south by the Waylands Day Centre site and to the west by Purley Way (A23).
- 2.3 A detailed specification for the evaluation was included within the Method Statement² and was prepared prior to the fieldwork.
- 2.4 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3115 6448.
- 2.5 The site was given the code GPZ 06.
- 2.6 The project was monitored for the client by Ryan McDade and for the local planning authority by Rob Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS). The site was project managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author, Alexis Haslam.

² Brown, G. and Mayo, C. 2006 'Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Gilbran and Waylands Sites, 489 Purley Way, London Borough of Croydon' Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd unpublished report.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1988.

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed development of the site consists of the demolition of the Propeller public house at 489 Purley Way, and the potential erection of a leisure community and learning disabilities resource centre, with an associated block and car parking facilities..
- 3.2 The London Borough of Croydon fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are custodians. The council's deposited draft 'Croydon Unitary Development Plan' adopted in 1997 contains policy statements in respect of protecting the buried archaeological resource.
- 3.3 The proposed development is subject to the council's Archaeology and Urban Conservation policies:

SP6 – The Council will protect and enhance Croydon's archaeological heritage.

Site Evaluation

AR1. An archaeological site evaluation report will be required for development proposals which involve significant ground disturbance in the Archaeological Priority Zones defined on the Proposals Map. Elsewhere, an evaluation report will be required if the Council has good reason to believe that remains of archaeological importance would be affected. The reports should be prepared by professionally qualified and competent archaeologists.

Minimising Disturbance

AR2. The siting and design of development should have regard to the desirability of minimising the disturbance of archaeological remains.

Preserving Important Remains

AR3. There will be a presumption against development which would harm archaeological remains of national importance. Decisions on development proposals affecting other remains will take account of the archaeological importance of these remains, the need for the development, the likely extent of any harm, and the prospects of the proposals successfully preserving by record the archaeological interest of the site.

Recording Other Remains

AR4. On sites where archaeological remains do not need to be preserved in situ, the Council will make sure that there is investigation, excavation, recording, analysis and

publication to a specification agreed by the Council, secured where appropriate by the use of agreements.

- 3.4 The Croydon UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata. Once the results of the Desktop Assessment are known, and where follow-up trial work is known to be necessary or otherwise, an informed decision on the necessity or otherwise for further archaeological strategies may be taken. These strategies may be preservation in situ, excavation, or watching brief.

- 3.5 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the development site.

4 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London – 1:50,000 series for England and Wales) shows the underlying geology of the study site to comprise Cretaceous Upper Chalk. It is also noted that unclassified terraces are recorded to the north east of the site along with outcrops of Thanet Beds and Woolwich and Reading Beds. Recent excavations in 1993 at an archaeological excavation located at 542 – 546 Purley Way, to the west of the site, recorded periglacial deposits of fragmented chalk mixed with some sandy silt or silty sand and occasional gravel or broken flint. A layer of geologically recent colluvium overlies this³.
- 4.2 The study site is located at a height of approximately 48m OD to 49m OD and overlooks the Wandle Valley to the north, with the River Wandle running approximately 1km to the north of the site. The course of the river through central Croydon was culverted in the late 1840's. To the south, the land rises quite steeply to a height of c.100m OD over c.2km.

³Potter, G. 1994 '542 – 546 Purley Way' MoLAS unpublished report.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The approximate timescales used in this report are:

Prehistoric	
Palaeolithic	450,000 - 12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12, 000 - 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 - 1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 - 600 BC
Iron Age	600 BC - AD 43
Historic	
Roman	AD 43 - 410
Saxon / Early Medieval	AD 410 - 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 - 1485
Post-Medieval	AD 1486 - 1799
Modern	AD 1800 - Present

The archaeological information presented below has been collected and reviewed from the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) and concerns an area defined by a c.1km radius of the study site. The archaeological potential for the site has been outlined previously in the Desk Based Assessment⁴.

5.2 Palaeolithic

5.2.1 Evidence for Lower Palaeolithic activity in the area is represented by two fragments of mammoth tusks recovered from Croydon gravels approximately 1km from the site.

5.2.2 There are a number of isolated findspots of Palaeolithic hand axes within the study area. An assemblage of cores, flakes and implements were recovered from a site on Waddon Avenue (SMR 020521, TQ 3120 6490).

5.3 Mesolithic

5.3.1 At Waddon Goods Yard (SMR 023156, TQ 3111 6485, sitecode PUY96), excavations in 1996-97 produced a varied assemblage of flint artefacts dated to the Mesolithic period. Other assemblages have been found in Beddington and Old Palace Road.

5.4 Neolithic

⁴Holden, S. 2005 'Gilbran and Waylands Sites, 489 Purley Way, Croydon: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment' Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report.

- 5.4.1 Approximately forty pieces of flint were recovered from the Waddon area in 1914 (SMR 020160, TQ 3080 6510). At Progress Way (SMR 021921, TQ 3088 6508, sitecode PWP93) a late Neolithic 'burning pit' was found that yielded a C14 date calibrated to 2565-2140 BC. Further evidence was found on the site for Neolithic activity in the form of five postholes in alignment, separated by c.2m and possibly representing a structure.
- 5.4.2 A possible hearth was identified during an evaluation at Pegasus Way (SMR 022332, TQ 3110 6350, sitecode IMW97), filled with burnt flint, charcoal and a burnt flake.
- 5.4.3 At Waddon Goods Yard (SMR 023157, TQ 3111 6485, sitecode PUY96) a late Neolithic oblique arrowhead was recovered with an assemblage of debitage waste formed in the production of flint artefacts. Excavations at 7-8 Commerce Way (SMR 025521, TQ 3084 6551, sitecode CMM97) revealed several widely spaced features containing struck and burnt flint.

5.5 Bronze Age

- 5.5.1 There are a number of isolated findspots of socketed axes from the study area that may represent casual loss or, more likely, purposeful burials.
- 5.5.2 Archaeological Investigations undertaken by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS) in 1993 at 542-546 Purley Way, immediately opposite the site on the western side of Purley Way (SMR 021651, TQ 3103 6427, sitecode PUW93), recovered nearly 1,400 pieces of struck flint dated late Neolithic to late Bronze Age but with evidence of earlier activity dated to the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic. A considerable quantity of burnt flint was also recovered, however pottery was limited to a few sherds of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date. A small pit contained sufficient charcoal within its fill to obtain a radiocarbon date that fell into the early to middle Bronze Age (Potter 1994).
- 5.5.3 Excavations at 14 Progress Way (SMR 021920, TQ 3088 6508, sitecode PWP93) produced a number of struck flints and late Bronze Age pottery. At 61-61A Hailing Park Road, excavations in 1996 produced finds of struck and burnt flint from across the site (SMR 022222, TQ 3190 6390, sitecode HPR96). Nine pieces of worked flint were recovered from a 'buried soil' during excavations at Pegasus Way (SMR 022333, TQ 3110 6350, sitecode IMW97). Bronze Age artefacts were also recovered from the fills of several pits at 7-8 Commerce Way (SMR 025522, TQ 3084 6551, sitecode CMM97).

5.6 Iron Age

- 5.6.1 A survey by the Croydon Natural History Society (CNHS) suggests that Stafford Road could follow the alignment of an Iron Age trackway (SMR 020699, TQ 3107 6459). Sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from 9 Rectory Grove (SMR 020192, TQ 3200 6550) during excavations by CNHS in 1971.
- 5.6.2 Excavations at Alnwick Road (SMR 030250 TQ 3072 6503) by CNHS in the 1920's produced a wide range of archaeological evidence including pottery and flint flake artefacts and a hearth c.4 feet across, formed of burnt flint, charcoal and burnt clay. A fragment of skull, dated 100 BC was also recovered.

5.7 Unclassified Prehistoric

- 5.7.1 At the site of the Purley Way Water Palace (SMR 025406, TQ 3138 6364, sitecode WYC98), excavations by MoLAS revealed no features but recovered a number of struck and burnt flint pieces from a colluvial deposit.
- 5.7.2 Five trial trenches were excavated at ZK Park (TQ 3075 6540). From within the fills of a gully located in one of these, a single flint scraper was recovered. The similarity of this feature to those excavated on the nearby site at Progress Way suggests a Neolithic date, although the limited number of finds from the ZK Park excavations reduces the certainty of this.
- 5.7.3 To the northeast of the study area at Beddington, excavations by MoLAS uncovered a long occupation sequence, which includes late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age fields, a late Iron Age enclosed settlement and early Roman finds (Howell, 2005).

5.8 Roman

- 5.8.1 Also located during excavations by MoLAS at Beddington was a villa established in the late 2nd century AD. This villa included a house, bathhouse and five other buildings, two of which were barns, although there was no direct evidence of crop or livestock production. In the late 3rd century AD wings were added to the house, the bathhouse was modified and the barns were replaced by a large aisled structure. Unlike many other villa sites there is no evidence for continued occupation in the post Roman to early Saxon period (*ibid*).

- 5.8.2 There have been a large number of finds of Roman coins over the past two centuries in the Croydon area. Of particular note are the hoard of 36 coins found at Waddon New Road (SMR 020599, TQ 3170 6550) and of the 3,800 dated at between 337-361 AD, from 56 Waddon Road (SMR 020271, TQ 3203 6520).
- 5.8.3 There are at least five suggestions of Roman roads passing through the area. These are of Purley Way (SMR 020664, TQ 3132 6525), Imperial Way (SMR 020665, TQ 3081 6440), Mere Bank (SMR 020697 TQ 3100 6375 - theory supported by a section dug in 1925, showing rammed chalk on a bed of flints 6-8 inches thick and 14 feet wide), St Andrews School (SMR 020667 TQ 3167 6507) where a layer of flint 6-7 inches thick and 12-15 feet wide was discovered and at London Road (SMR 020662, TQ 3211 6449).
- 5.8.4 Although no features of Roman date were recorded at 542-546 Purley Way (SMR 021654, TQ 3103 6427, sitecode PUW93), abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during the excavations. Similarly, sherds were also found at 61-61A Haling Park Road (SMR 022223, TQ 3190 6390, sitecode HPR96) and a fragment of Roman *Imbrex* roof tile was found during excavations at Waddon Goods Yard (SMR 023158, TQ 3111 6485, sitecode PUY97).

5.9 Saxon

- 5.9.1 The name, Croydon, is of Saxon origin derived from 'crogdene', and is believed to translate as either 'crooked valley' or 'safron valley'. In the fifth to sixth centuries it was the site of an important pagan Saxon cemetery.
- 5.9.2 There is a record of a minster at Croydon as early as 809 when King Coenwulf of Mercia held his witan there in the time of Archbishop Wulfred. Following the Norman invasion of 1066 it lay at the heart of a huge estate belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Lanfranc founded a manorial house on the site of Old Palace School and a nucleus of settlement was formed around this and the church. Nine coins of Aethelred, Alfred, Coenwulf, Coelnoth, Egbert and Aethelwulf have been found in this area. That of Alfred appears to be unique.
- 5.9.3 A few abraded sherds of pottery dated 900 – 1050 were recovered from the excavations at 542-546 Purley Way (SMR 021655, TQ 3103 6427, sitecode PUW93).
- 5.9.4 A stream channel located at Mill Lane (SMR 021735, TQ 3220 6570, sitecode MLC94) produced a Saxo-Norman date from a C14 sample taken from the silted fills. The

presence of charred cereal grains, grape pip and disturbed ground weeds suggests human activity, possibly agricultural, in the area.

- 5.9.5 Two possible construction trenches of Saxon date were recorded at 7-8 Commerce Way (SMR 025524, TQ 3084 6551, sitecode CMM97) with chaff tempered pottery being recovered from one of them. Postholes dated to the Saxon period were also recorded on the site.

5.10 Medieval

- 5.10.1 Whitgift School is the site of Haling Manor (SMR 020825, TQ 3210 6400) and building works turned up finds of early-medieval shell-tempered pottery. A chalk and clay oven was exposed measuring 1.4m by 1.0m, and may have a possible documentary association for a Ralph Dede Halinge, 1202. The land around the manor is likely to have been agricultural up until the 16th century when gardens and formal grounds were laid out. Haling House is recorded on Rocque's map of 1762.

- 5.10.2 Waddon Mill is mentioned in 1648 as being on the river flowing from Croydon to Beddington (probably the River Wandle) and is likely to have stood here for some time. A mill, probably of 19th century date, is recorded as being present in 1928.

- 5.10.3 Excavations in the late 1960's by CNHS at 2 Rectory Grove (SMR 020389, TQ 3185 6546) revealed a building of chalk and flint, bonded with a yellow mortar and with a floor of crushed green sand together with pits containing rubbish and pottery.

- 5.10.4 In the area of Waddon Court Road (SMR 020649, TQ 3120 6510) a survey of 1646 identified a fair old timber built manor house with two tiled barns, two stables a garden orchard and two yards containing three acres. In 1648 the manor, with the manor or farmhouse of Waddon and the watermill, was sold to Sir William Brereton.

- 5.10.5 A shallow trench, possibly of 12th or 13th century date was located during the excavations at 542-546 Purley Way (PUW93) (Potter, 1994).

5.11 Post-Medieval

- 5.11.1 At 2 Rectory Grove (SMR 020418, TQ 3185 6546), excavations by CNHS recorded pits containing a large quantity of bone, suggested as waste from tanners and bone boilers.

- 5.11.2 The end of a brick barrel-vaulted cellar was recorded at 375 Purley Way (SMR 020417, TQ 3120 6510), which is believed to have belonged to Waddon Manor House (a successor to that mentioned above in paragraph 5.5.4). Pits, clay pipes and pottery, all dated to the 17th century, were discovered and probably represent ancillary services to Waddon House and its estate.
- 5.11.3 The 1844 Tithe Map shows the study site over plots 2166 and 2167, recorded in the ledger as *Cold Harbour field and Garden*, owned by *A of C* (the Archbishop of Canterbury). A narrow strip of land running east-west immediately to the south of the site, 2169, is recorded as a *Meadow* belonging to *John Wood*. The site is surrounded shown as surrounded by fields, much owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 5.11.4 The Ordnance Survey Map of 1868 shows the land divided up in much the same way as the earlier Tithe Map, but in more detail. To the southern end of the study site, a curved line is depicted although it is not clear what this represents. It could possibly represent a quarry or similar cutting.
- 5.11.5 There is little change to the site shown on the Ordnance Survey Map dated 1894-8 or the 1913 edition, although the curved line is once again depicted at the position of the Propeller public house but this time with hachures, strengthening the likelihood of a cutting having been made.
- 5.11.6 The 1933 Ordnance Survey Map shows the parade of shops immediately to the north of the Propeller public House as having been constructed by this time.
- 5.11.7 By 1955 the Propeller public house had been constructed, with the site remaining unchanged up to the present day.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 In accordance with the method statement, five evaluation trenches were excavated in order to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- 6.2 The trenches were opened with the use of a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket and breaker. All machining was monitored by the archaeologist, checking for archaeological deposits and features through the made ground and onto the natural brickearth, gravels and chalk. All machining was preceded by scanning for live services using a CAT scanner.
- 6.3 The trenches were hand cleaned, examined and recorded in both plan and section.
- 6.4 The single context system was used for recording, developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLAS 1994). Plans were recorded at a scale of 1:50 and 1:20, and sections were recorded at a scale of 1:10.
- 6.5 The trenches were surveyed using a total station and located to the national grid. A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on the site and was taken from a Bench Mark on number 100 Stafford Road (value 50.75m AOD). The TBM had the value 49.12m AOD, and was used to level all five trenches.
- 6.6 No unusual health and safety issues were encountered during the evaluation. The level of the natural deposits in Trench 4 were deemed to be at an unsafe depth to work in. With no option of stepping or battering back the trench due to the fact it was cut through concrete, it was decided merely to excavate machined sondages at both the western and eastern ends of the trench down onto natural deposits.
- 6.7 The trenches had the following dimensions:

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)
1	18.0	1.6
2	19.8	2.0
3	18.65	1.85
4	20.0	2.0
5	11.7	1.9

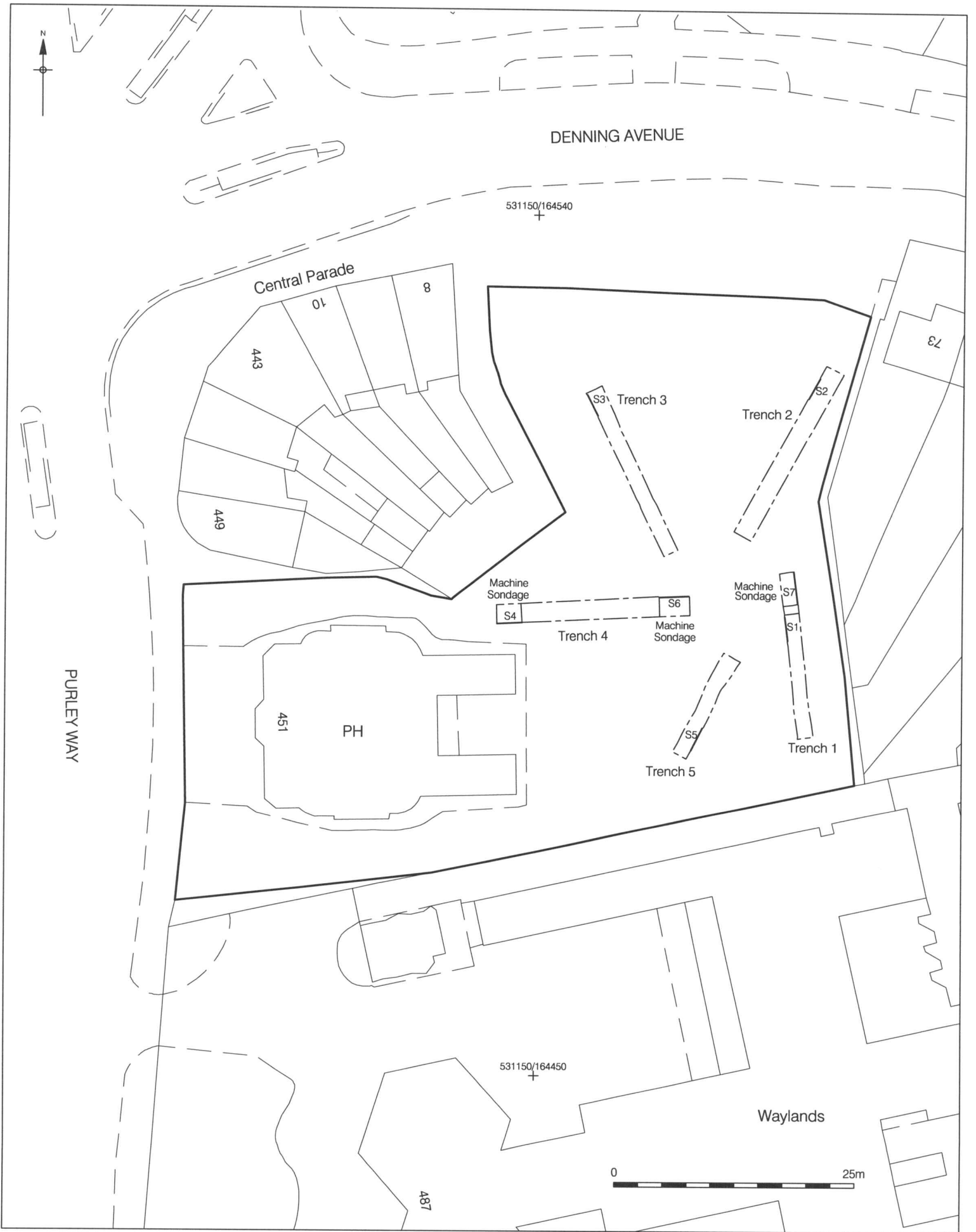


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

7.1 Trench 1

7.1.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.1.1.1 Trench 1 measured 18m in length from north to south and 1.6m in width from east to west. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the Cretaceous Upper Chalk [36], recorded as a compact deposit of white chalk. This deposit was revealed only in a machine sondage at the northern end of Trench 1, which measured 3.40m in length from north to south and 1.6m in width. The natural Upper Chalk [36] was recorded at a highest level of 47.69m AOD. Immediately overlying the natural Upper Chalk [36] was a layer of natural gravel [35] (possibly in the form of either Thanet or Woolwich and Reading beds which are recorded to the north east of the site), which was recorded as a firm to loose deposit of gravel, dark orange brown in colour and up to 0.12m thick at a highest level of 47.81m AOD. Again, this deposit of natural gravel was only revealed in the machine sondage. Immediately overlying [35] was [9], a firm, mid yellowish green deposit of sandy silt. An exact geological interpretation of this deposit has been somewhat problematic. It does not appear on the Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) sheet 270 (South London 1:50,000 series), although it is likely to be a recently formed drift deposit, either in the form of brickearth or colluvium. Deposit [9] was identified as the natural into which any potential archaeology would be cut and was recorded at a highest level of 48.55m AOD. It was revealed to be up to 0.42m in thickness in the machine sondage to the northern end of the trench, where it was recorded at a highest level of 48.23m AOD.

7.1.2 Phase 3 - Post Medieval

7.1.2.1 Two features were recorded at the base of Trench 1, cutting into deposit [9]. At the northern end of the trench, a semi circular feature [6] was recorded extending into the eastern limit of excavation, measuring 0.84m from east to west (as seen), and 1.00m from north to south. The cut itself had fairly steeply sloping sides and a marginally convex base and was up to 0.15m in depth at a highest level of 48.14m AOD. This feature was interpreted during the evaluation as being either a pit, or possibly the butt end of an east – west aligned ditch. Filling [6] was [5], a firm deposit of sand silt matrix, mottled mid yellowish green to mid orange brown in colour and found to be containing both pottery and struck flint. Although a medieval glazed tile was recovered from [5], the pottery appears to be post-medieval in date.

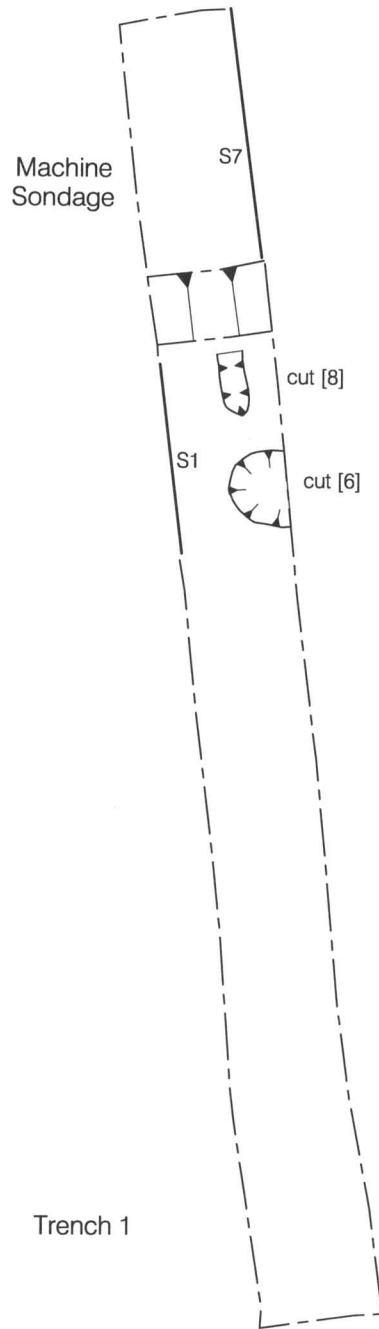
7.1.2.2 Immediately to the north of [6] was [8], a linear feature aligned in a north – south direction and truncated to the north by the machine sondage excavated in order to determine the sequence of natural deposits on the site. Cut feature [8] measured 0.81m in length as seen from north to south, 0.35m in width from east to west and was up to 0.07m in depth at a highest level of 48.13m AOD. It had fairly shallow concave edges and a slightly concave base. Due to the shallow, yet linear nature of this feature, it was interpreted as a gully. Filling [8] was [7], a firm, mid brown deposit of sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks. It was found to contain both pottery and struck flint, the pottery dating to the post-medieval period

7.1.3 Phase 4 - Late Post Medieval

7.1.3.1 Sealing both fills [5] and [7] was [4], a firm, mid orange brown layer of sand silt matrix. This deposit was up to 0.43m in thickness at a highest level of 48.62m AOD and contained inclusions of both peg and pan tile and chalk flecks.

7.1.4 Phase 5 – Modern

7.1.4.1 Sealing layer [4] was [3], a firm, dark brown grey layer of clay silt. This deposit was recorded as being up to 0.20m in thickness at a highest level of 48.80m AOD. Inclusions within this deposit consisted of occasional fragments of CBM and late 19th to early 20th century glass and pottery. Overlying [3] was modern make up and concrete recorded at a highest level of 49.31m AOD.



Trench 1



Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:100

7.2 Trench 2

7.2.1 Phase 1 – Natural

7.2.1.1 The earliest deposit discovered in this trench was natural deposit [25], which was identical to deposit [9] recorded in Trench 1. Deposit [25] was recorded at a highest level of 48.23m AOD.

7.2.2 Phase 2 - Undated Cut Features

7.2.2.1 Three features were recorded at the base of Trench 2 as cutting into [25]. Towards the southern end of the trench and also cutting into [25] was [22], a small, sub circular feature extending into the south eastern limit of excavation. This feature measured 0.26m from north to south, 0.16m from east to west as seen, and was up to 0.08m in depth at a highest level of 47.89m AOD. The small, yet circular nature of this feature led to it being interpreted as a posthole. Filling [22] was [21], a soft, dark yellowish brown deposit of clay silt sand matrix containing inclusions in the form of occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from this fill.

7.2.2.2 Immediately to the south east of feature [22] was [24], an irregular shaped feature which extended into the north eastern limit of excavation. Cut [24] measured 1.22m from east to west, 1.26m from north to south and was up to 0.09m in depth at a highest level of 47.94m AOD. It was recorded as having shallow, yet concave sides with a flat base, and for this reason was interpreted as a possible east – west aligned gully. However, the irregular nature of this feature does mean that this interpretation was incredibly tentative. Filling [24] was [23], a soft, dark yellowish brown deposit of clay silt sand matrix containing occasional small sub rounded to sub angular pebbles. No finds were retrieved from this fill.

7.2.3 Phase 3 - Post Medieval

7.2.3.1 At the northern end of Trench 2 was sub ovoid feature [20], which was recorded as extending into both the north eastern and north western limits of excavation. This feature measured 1.02m from north to south and 0.72m from east to west as seen and was up to 0.27m in depth at 47.85m AOD. It was recorded with both concave sides and a concave base and for this reason was interpreted as a pit cut. Filling [20] was [19], a soft, light brownish grey deposit of silty sand containing frequent charcoal fragments and occasional small sub angular pebbles. Finds recovered from this fill

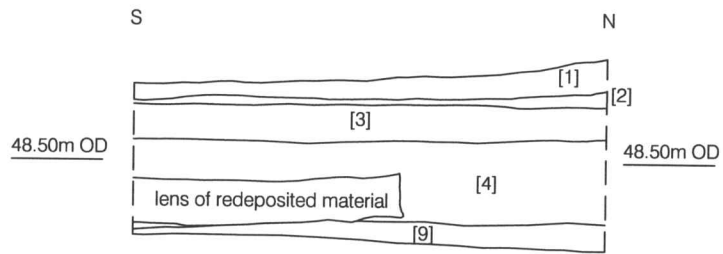
included pottery and both burnt and struck flint. However, cbm was also recovered from fill [19] and was discovered to be post-medieval in date.

7.2.4 Phase 4 - Late Post Medieval

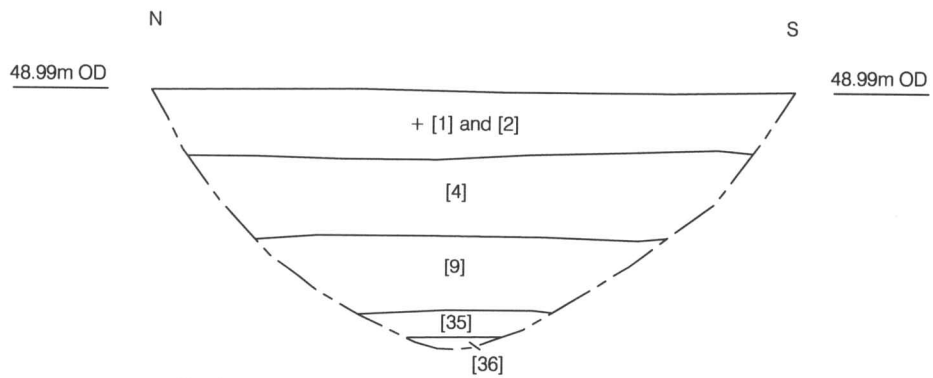
7.2.4.1 Sealing fills [19], [21] and [23] was [18]. This layer was identical to layer [4] recorded in Trench 1 and was up to 0.36m in thickness at a highest level of 48.16m AOD.

7.2.5 Phase 5 - Modern

7.2.5.1 Overlying [18] was [17], a layer identical to deposit [3] recorded in Trench 1. This layer was up to 0.43m in thickness at a highest level of 48.53m AOD.



Section 1
Trench 1, east facing



Section 7
Trench 1, west facing



Figure 4
Trench 1: Sections 1 and 7
1:40

7.3 TRENCH 3

7.3.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.3.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered at the base of Trench 3 was [16] which was identical to [9] discovered at the base of Trench 1. Deposit [16] was recorded at a highest level of 48.15m AOD.

7.3.2 Phase 2 - Undated Cut Features

7.3.2.1 Cut into [16] at the southern end of the trench was [15], a sub circular feature which extended into both the south eastern and north eastern limits of excavation. This cut had fairly gently sloping edges and a slightly concave base and measured 0.95m from east to west and 0.60m from north to south. It was up to 0.07m in depth at a highest level of 48.15m AOD. Filling [15] was [14], a firm, mid brown deposit of sandy silt with inclusions of occasional cbm flecks. Finds recovered from this fill included possible daub and burnt flint. Unfortunately, neither of these finds have proved to be particularly diagnostic.

7.3.3 Phase 4 - Late Post Medieval

7.3.3.1 Sealing fill [14] was [13], a deposit identical to layer [4] recorded in Trench 1. Deposit [13] was up to 0.14m thick at a highest level of 48.11m AOD.

7.3.4 Phase 5 - Modern

7.3.4.1 Sealing [13] was [12], a deposit identical to layer [3] recorded in Trench 1. This deposit was up to 0.27m thick at a highest level of 48.39m AOD. Overlying [12] was [26], a firm, light yellowish grey deposit of rubble. This deposit was up to 0.40m in depth at a highest level of 48.72m AOD. Deposit [26] was modern concrete and make-up recorded at a highest level of 48.98m AOD.

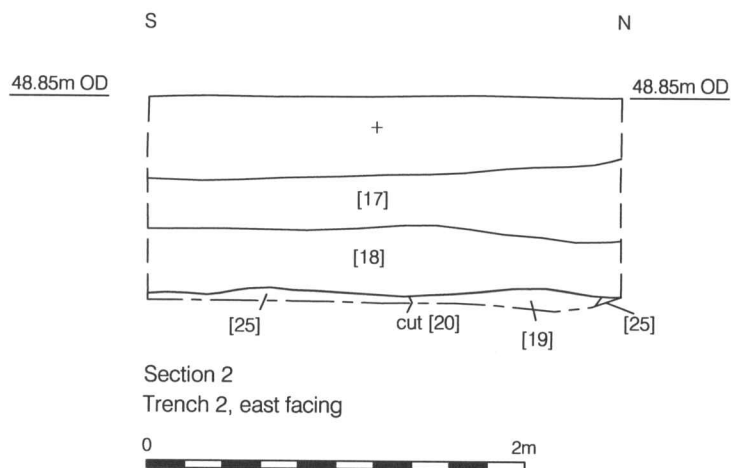
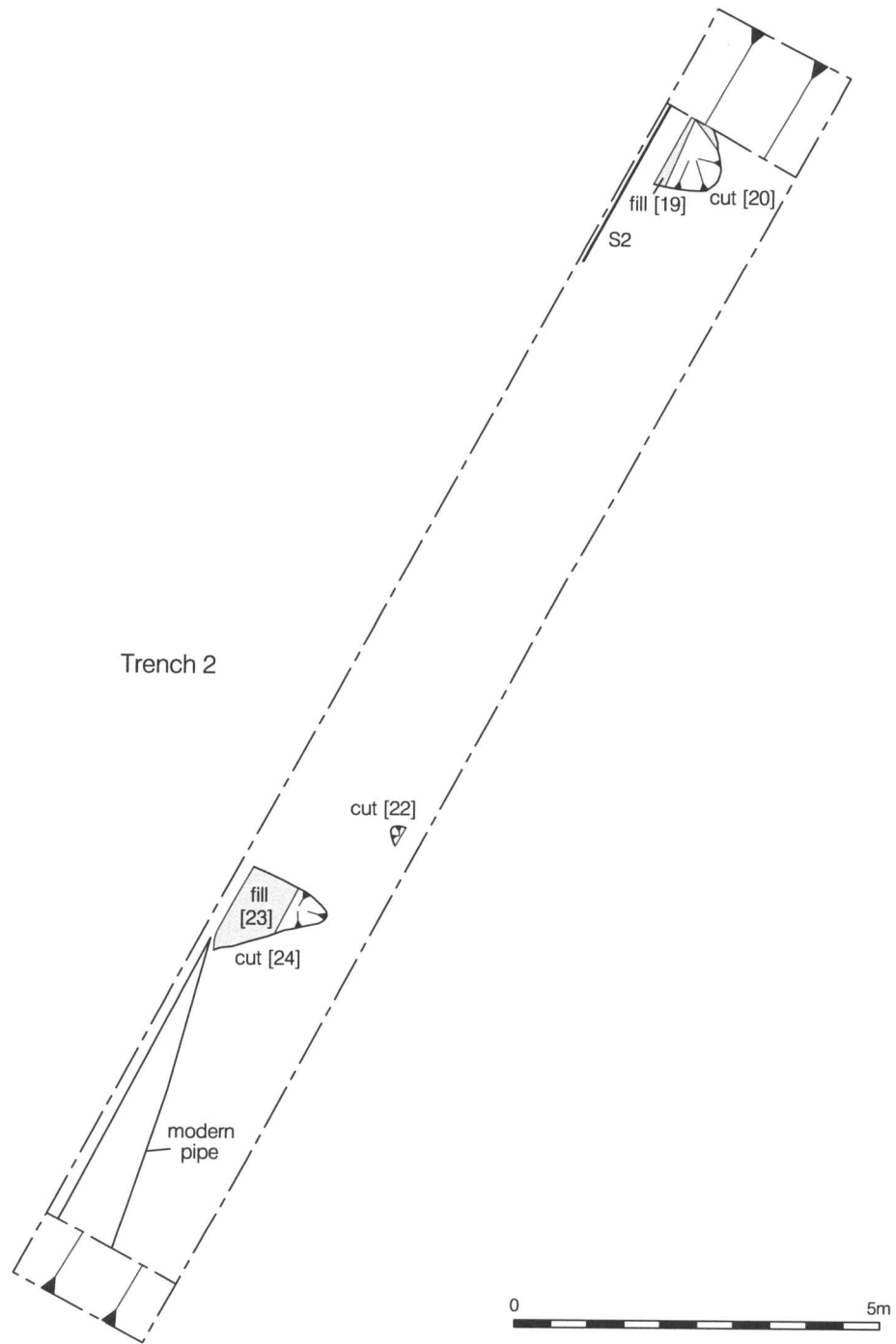


Figure 5
Plan and Section of Trench 2
Plan 1:100; Section 1:40

7.4 TRENCH 4

7.4.1 Trench 4 was not fully excavated due to health and safety reasons. The latest natural deposit recorded at the base of the trench was deemed to be at too great a depth for secure working conditions. As the trench itself was cut through concrete, there was no possibility of either stepping or battering back. It seems likely that this area of the site had undergone some form of quarrying or ground reduction during the late 19th to early 20th centuries as evidenced on the Ordnance Survey Maps of 1868, and 1913. The archaeological sequence was however identical to the other trenches on the site. Due to the fact that Trench 4 could not be excavated safely, it was decided to excavate two machine sondages, one at either end of the trench

7.4.2 Machine Sondage 1 – Western end of Trench 4

7.4.2.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.4.2.1.1 Trench 4 measured 20m from east to west and 2m in width from north to south.

Machine sondage 1 at the western end of the trench measured 2.60m in length and 2m in width. The earliest deposit encountered at this end of the trench base of Trench 4 was the natural gravel [30], which were identical to deposit [35] recorded in Trench 1. Natural deposit [30] was recorded at a highest level of 46.50m AOD. Overlying [30] was [29], a deposit identical to layer [9] recorded in Trench 1. This was up to 1.43m thick at a highest level of 47.88m AOD.

7.4.2.2 Phase 4 - Late Post Medieval

7.4.2.2.1 Sealing natural deposit [29] was layer [28], a deposit identical to that of [4] recorded in Trench 1. This deposit was up to 0.62m thick at a highest level of 48.51m AOD

7.4.2.3 Phase 5 - Modern

7.4.2.3.1 Overlying deposit [28] was made ground [27], which was identical to deposit [3] recorded in Trench 1. Made ground [27] was up to 0.19m in thickness and was recorded at a highest level of 48.61m AOD. Sealing [27] was modern made ground and concrete, recorded at a highest level of 49.00m AOD

7.4.3 Machine Sondage 2 – Eastern end of Trench 4

7.4.3.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.4.3.1.1 Machine sondage 2 at the eastern end of Trench 4 measured 3.10m in length and 2m in width. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was the natural gravel[34] which was identical to deposit [35] recorded in Trench 1. This deposit was recorded at a highest level of 46.79m AOD. Sealing [34] was [33], a deposit identical to [9] discovered in Trench 1. This deposit was up to 1.24m in thickness at a highest level of 48.03m AOD.

7.4.3.2 Phase 4 - Late Post Medieval

7.4.3.2.1 Sealing natural deposit [33] was layer [32], identical to that of deposit [4] recorded in Trench 1. This deposit was up to 0.46m thick at a highest level of 48.47m AOD.

7.4.3.3 Phase 5 - Modern

7.4.3.3.1 Overlying deposit [32] was made ground [31] which was identical to deposit [3] recorded in Trench 1. Made ground [31] was up to 0.22m thick at a highest level of 48.69m AOD. Sealing [31] was modern made ground and concrete recorded at a highest level of 48.99m AOD.

7.5 TRENCH 5

7.5.1 Phase 1 - Natural

7.5.1.1 Trench 5 measured 11.70m in length from north east to south west and was 1.9m in width from north west to south east. The earliest deposit encountered at the base of Trench 5 was [40], which was identical to context [9] recorded in Trench 1. Deposit [40] was recorded at a highest level of 49m AOD.

7.5.2 Phase 4 - Late Post Medieval

7.5.2.1 Sealing natural deposit [40] was deposit [39], which was identical to context [4] recorded in Trench 1. Deposit [40] was up to 0.26m thick at a highest level of 49.05m AOD.

7.5.3 Phase 5 - Modern

7.5.3.1 Overlying deposit [39] was made ground [38], identical to deposit [3] recorded in Trench 1. Made ground [38] was up to 0.09m thick at a highest level of 49.20m AOD. Modern made ground and concrete sealed Trench 5 at a highest level of 49.18m AOD.

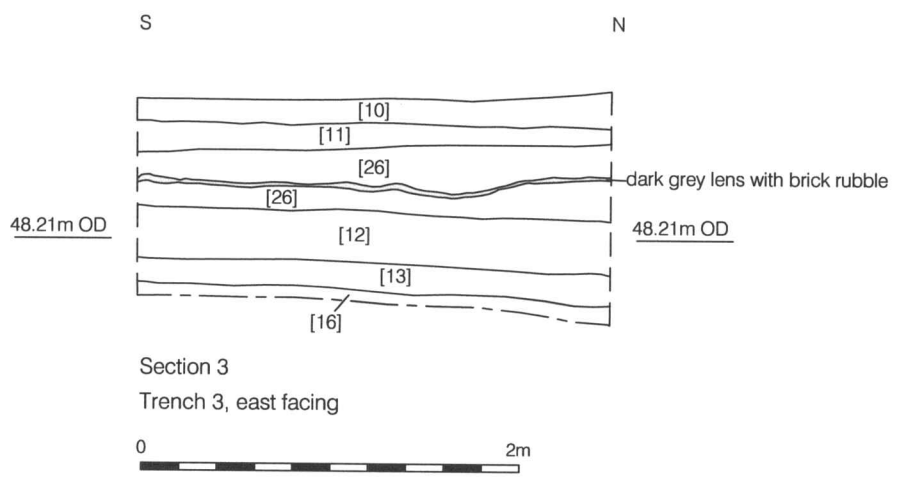
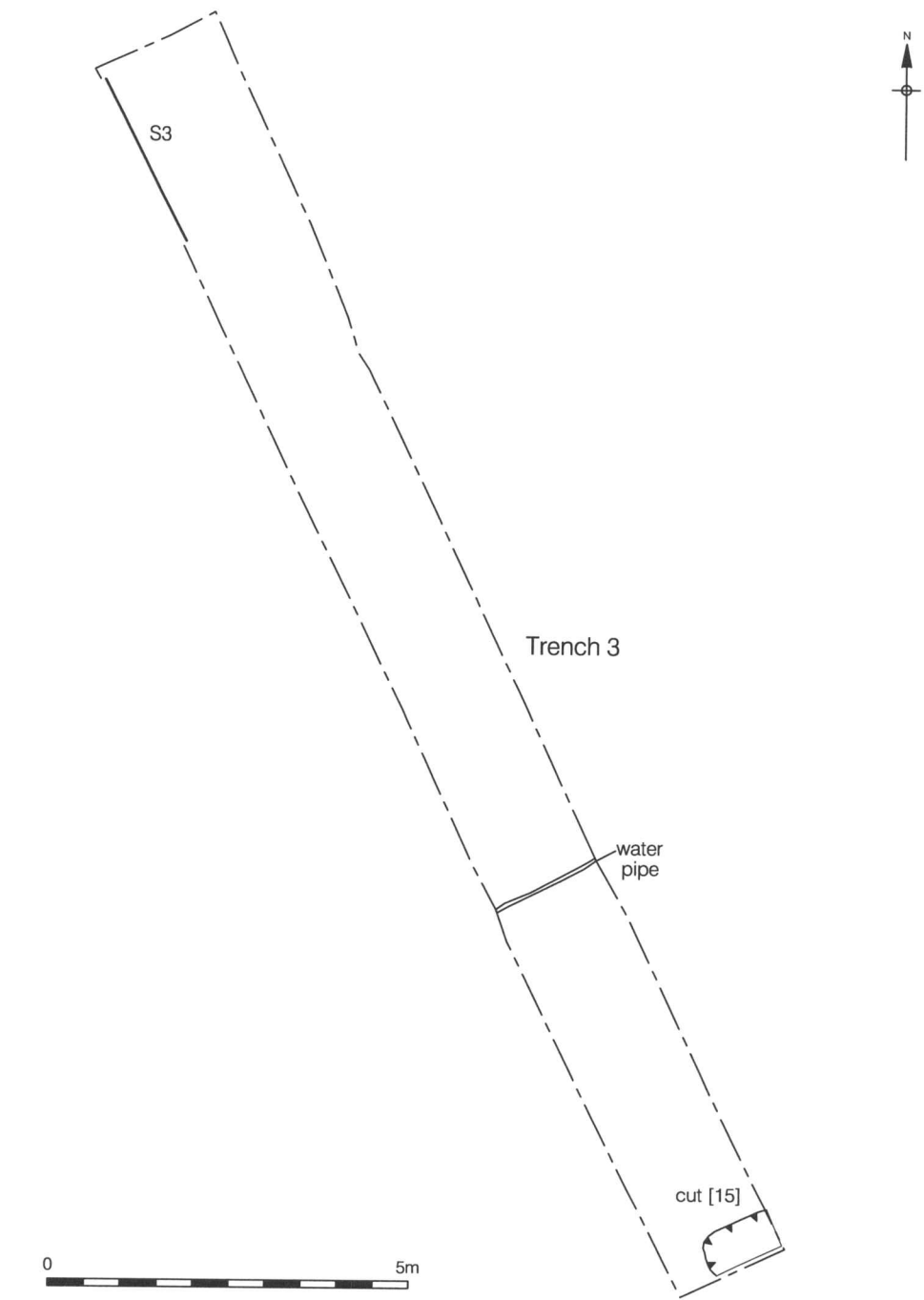


Figure 6
 Plan and Section of Trench 3
 Plan 1:100; Section 1:40

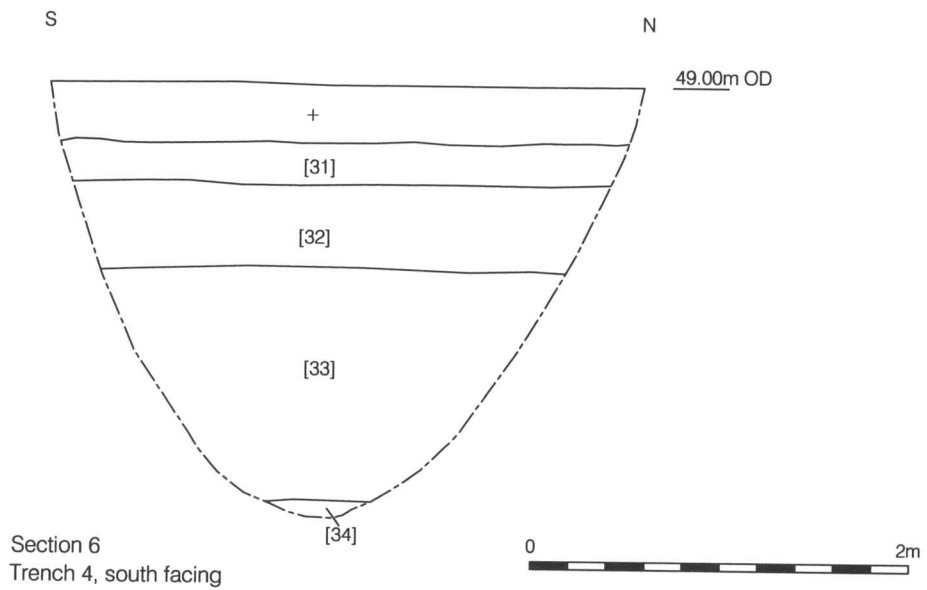
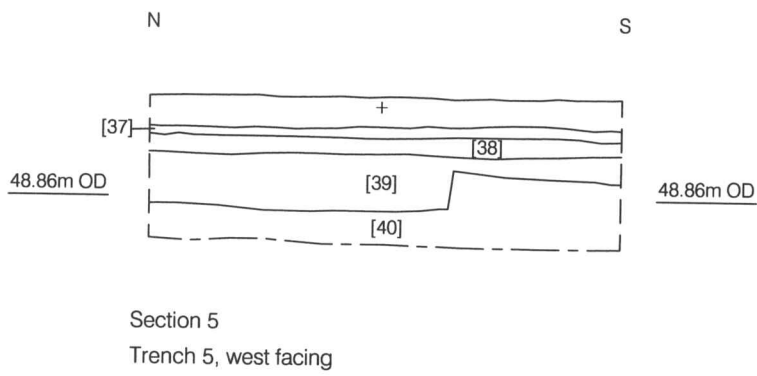
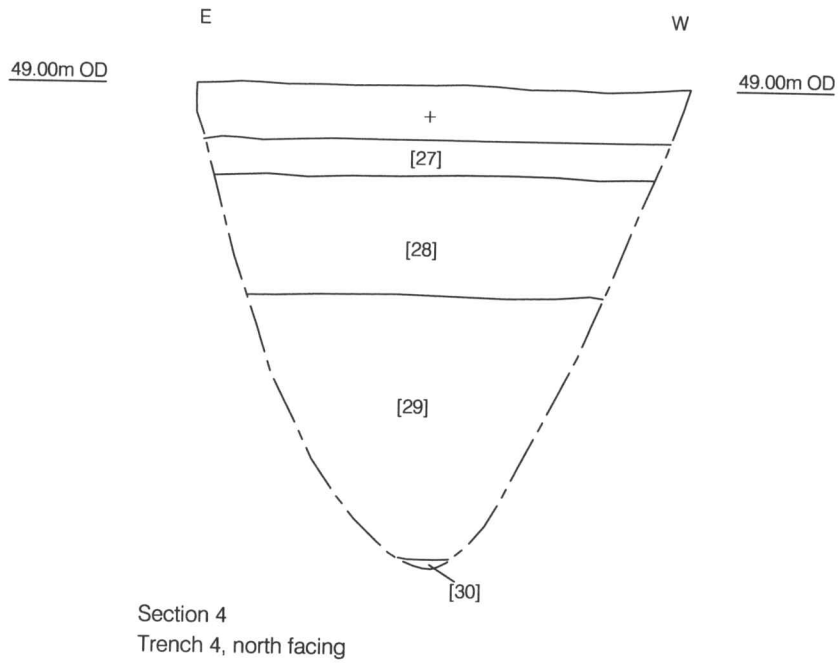


Figure 7
Sections 4, 5 and 6
from Trenches 4 and 5
1:40

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 One of the principal objectives of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity of any period. In total, six cut features were recorded as cutting into the natural deposits on site in the form of pits and gullies.
- 8.2 Unfortunately, with so few diagnostic finds being retrieved from the cut features on the site, it is difficult to give a precise date for the earliest evidence of human activity on the site. A heavily abraded fired clay material was recovered from a pit in Trench 3, which could well be daub and thus prehistoric in date. However, it could just as easily be post medieval. Two of the features excavated in Trench 2 contained no finds whatsoever, and despite evidence of both burnt and struck flint coming from the pit in Trench 2 and the two features in Trench 1, all three of these features have subsequently been dated to the post-medieval period. Thus, in terms of features being dated by the finds retrieved, the earliest secure evidence we have for the occupation of the site dates to the post-medieval period.
- 8.3 The evaluation has confirmed that there are archaeological deposits and features dating to the post-medieval period on the site. As has already been explained, half of the features excavated did not produce diagnostic material, and could possibly be earlier in date.
- 8.4 It is probable that the area immediately occupied by the Propeller public house has been basemented and thus removed any potential archaeology to the extreme west of the site. Furthermore, the depth of Trench 4, particularly at the western end, also appears to confirm that a certain degree of ground reduction has taken place at some point in this area of the site. This is likely to have occurred during the late 19th to early 20th century, as evidenced by a large cut feature being present on the Ordnance survey maps of 1868 and 1913. Such a cut is likely to have removed any potential archaeology.
- 8.5 The natural on the site was discovered to be Cretaceous Upper Chalk. This in turn was sealed by a thin layer of gravel, possibly in the form of either Thanet beds or Woolwich and Reading beds. This gravel was in turn sealed by a form of drift deposit uncharted on British Geological Survey Map 270 (South London 1:50,000 series).

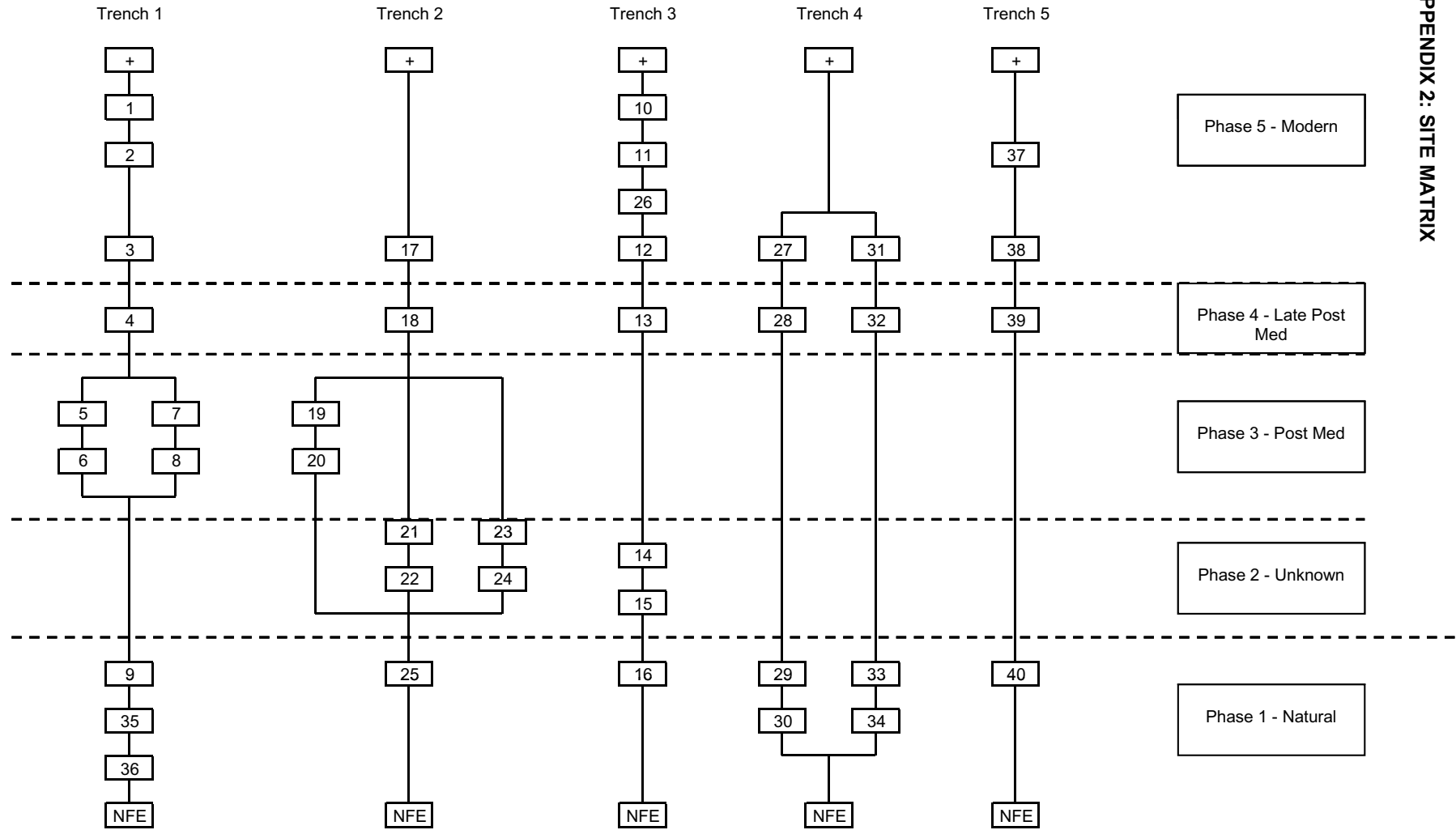
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Ryan McDade for commissioning the work on behalf of Hyde Housing. Thanks also to Rob Whytehead of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) for monitoring the site on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 The author would also like to thank Lisa Yeomans for all of her assistance on site; Nathalie Barrett for the surveying; Josephine Brown for the illustrations; Lisa Lonsdale for technical and logistical support and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench no	Sec. No	Description
1	Layer	1	1	Concrete
2	Layer	1	1	Modern Made Ground
3	Layer	1	1	Victorian Made Ground
4	Layer	1	1	Post Med Layer
5	Fill	1	N/A	Fill of [6]
6	Cut	1	N/A	Ditch butt end or pit
7	Fill	1	N/A	Fill of [8]
8	Cut	1	N/A	Gully
9	Layer	1	1	Natural
10	Layer	3	3	Concrete
11	Layer	3	3	Modern Made Ground
12	Layer	3	3	Victorian Made Ground
13	Layer	3	3	Post Med Layer
14	Fill	3	N/A	Fill of [15]
15	Cut	3	N/A	Pit Cut
16	Layer	3	3	Natural
17	Layer	2	2	Victorian Made Ground
18	Layer	2	2	Post Med Layer
19	Fill	2	2	Fill of [20]
20	Cut	2	2	Pit Cut
21	Fill	2	N/A	Fill of [22]
22	Cut	2	N/A	Posthole
23	Fill	2	N/A	Fill of [24]
24	Cut	2	N/A	Irregular Feature
25	Layer	2	2	Natural
26	Layer	3	3	Rubble Layer
27	Layer	4	4	Victorian Made Ground
28	Layer	4	4	Post Med Layer
29	Layer	4	4	Natural
30	Layer	4	4	Natural Gravel
31	Layer	4	6	Victorian Made Ground

Context	Type	Trench no	Sec. No	Description
32	Layer	4	6	Post Med Layer
33	Layer	4	6	Natural
34	Layer	4	6	Natural Gravel
35	Layer	1	7	Natural Gravel
36	Layer	1	7	Natural Chalk
37	Layer	5	5	Modern Made Ground
38	Layer	5	5	Victorian Made Ground
39	Layer	5	5	Post Med Layer
40	Layer	5	5	Natural



APPENDIX 3 - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-13536

Project details

Project name	489 Purley Way, Croydon
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at 489, Purley Way, Croydon, between the 6th and 11th of March 2006. In all, 5 trenches were excavated. Two features were discovered in Trench 1 in the form of a pit and a gully, both of which were post-medieval in date. A pit, a gully and a posthole were discovered in Trench 2. The pit was dated to the post-medieval period, whilst neither the gully or posthole contained any diagnostic finds. An undated pit was excavated in Trench 3. The level of the natural in Trench 4 was deemed as too deep to work in safely, so was not fully excavated. No features were unearthed in Trench 5.
Project dates	Start: 06-03-2006 End: 10-03-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GPZ 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLAKE Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON PURLEY 489, Purley Way, Croydon
Postcode	CR0 4

Study area	2954.20 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 3115 6448 Point
Height OD	Min: 46.50m Max: 49.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	TPS Consult
Project design originator	Gary Brown / Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Alexis Haslam
Sponsor or funding body	Hyde Housing

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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