

**GUNNERSBURY MEWS, CHISWICK,
W4 4AN**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

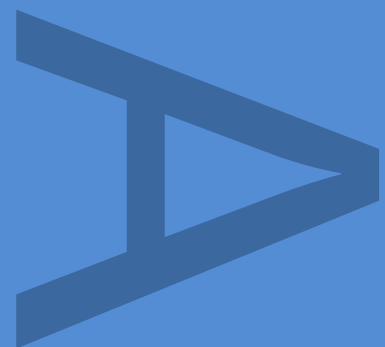
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LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW**

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

GUNNERSBURY MEWS, CHISWICK, W4 4AN
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Archaeological work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick in the London Borough of Hounslow, W4 4AN between 8th – 10th April 2013. The evaluation consisted of three trenches, Trench 1 towards the north and Trench 2 & 3 within a grassed area to the south away from Chiswick High Road.
- 1.2 The proposed development will comprise residential houses, town houses and duplex accommodation. The houses will have basements beneath the footprint of the structures, necessitating excavations to a depth of approximately 4.00m below ground level. In addition groundworks are required for the installation of an attenuation tank.
- 1.3 Prior to the archaeological evaluation a geotechnical survey was undertaken on site which revealed that the Kempton Park gravel formation was present at a depth of 0.80m – 0.90m below ground level (bgl) towards the south of the site. However, towards the north, the borehole log reveals its presence at a depth of 2.30m bgl, suggesting that a high degree of truncation has occurred in this area.
- 1.4 The archaeological evaluation appeared to confirm the findings of the geotechnical survey. Trench 1 demonstrated that natural sands and gravels had been horizontally truncated in the post-medieval period. Subsequent to this a layer of agricultural soil was established, into which a NE-SW ditch was cut which was dated to the 17th century. Overlying this was a later layer of horticultural soil which appears to date to the 18th-19th century. Towards the south of the site natural brickearth was seen to overlie the Kempton Park formation in Trench 3, however this had been truncated towards the north in Trench 2. In both trenches 19th century made ground sealed the earlier horizons. Trench 2 was heavily truncated towards the northern end by 19th-20th century services.
- 1.5 Given the absence of significant archaeological features and finds from the site, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited does not consider that further archaeological work for this development would be necessary or appropriate.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) between 8th-10th April 2013 at Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4 4AN (Figure 1). The project was commissioned by Mills Whipp Projects on behalf of the client, Clifton Cape Ltd. The site work was supervised by Iain Bright and managed by Chris Mayo of PCA. The project was monitored on behalf of the LPA by Gillian King of English Heritage.
- 2.2 The investigation was designed to ascertain the presence or absence of features and/or deposits of archaeological interest on the site, and is undertaken in response to a planning condition attached to the planning permission (Ref: 00248/BX/P6).
- 2.3 The development site is situated on the southern side of Chiswick High Road and is centred at TQ 1975 7840. The site comprised of a narrow passageway which runs south from Chiswick High Road, and leads to an area to the south consisting of an old works plus a plot of vacant grassland to the rear. The proposed development will see the construction of a number of residential units which will include basements. Additional works include the installation of an attenuation tank within the site.
- 2.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for the project Mills Whipp Projects (2013), which comprised three trenches. The trenches were located in order to provide an even spatial distribution across the site whilst avoiding known services and were concentrated on areas where the proposed major groundworks are to take place (Figure 2). The trenches were c. 7.50m long by 2.00m wide.
- 2.5 The site archive was identified using the site code GBY13.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The proposed development of the site is subject to planning guidance and policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), The London Plan and policies of the London Borough of Hounslow, which fully recognise the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians.

3.2 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

3.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27th 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

3.3 Regional Policy: The London Plan

3.3.1 The London Plan, published July 2011, includes the following policy regarding the historic environment in central London:

POLICY 7.8 HERITAGE ASSETS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Strategic

A London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

B Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Planning decisions

C Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset.

LDF preparation

F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and enhance the contribution of built, landscaped and buried heritage to London's

environmental quality, cultural identity and economy as part of managing London's ability to accommodate change and regeneration.

- G Boroughs, in consultation with English Heritage, Natural England and other relevant statutory organisations, should include appropriate policies in their LDFs for identifying and protecting heritage assets scheduled ancient monuments, archaeological assets, memorials and natural landscape character within their area.

3.4 Local Policy: Archaeology in Hounslow and the Unitary Development Plan (UDP)

3.4.1 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the Hounslow Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in September 2007. The Plan contains the following policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

POLICY ENV- B.3.1 ANCIENT MONUMENTS

IN ITS ROLE AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY, THE COUNCIL WILL ENHANCE AND PRESERVE THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND THEIR SETTINGS IN HOUNSLOW AND PROTECT THEM FROM ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THEM. THE SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN HOUNSLOW ARE LISTED BELOW AND SHOWN ON MAP ENV-B3:

1. ROMANO-BRITISH SITE, 910 METRES WEST OF EAST BEDFONT PARISH CHURCH.
2. DOUBLE DITCHED ENCLOSURE BESIDE A30 ROAD, 460 METRES WEST OF EAST BEDFONT PARISH CHURCH.
3. KEMPTON PARK PUMPING STATION, FELTHAMHILL ROAD, HANWORTH.
4. PAIR OF LATE 18TH CENTURY GARDEN FEATURES AT TUDOR HOUSE, CASTLE WAY, HANWORTH.
5. CHISWICK HOUSE, BURLINGTON LANE, CHISWICK.

POLICY ENV- B.3.2 SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE BOROUGH AND ITS INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION TO THE PUBLIC. WHERE DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT LAND OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OR POTENTIAL, THE COUNCIL WILL EXPECT APPLICANTS TO HAVE PROPERLY ASSESSED AND PLANNED FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR PROPOSALS.

WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS (MAP ENV-B3) AND FOR OTHER SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (AS IDENTIFIED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORS TO THE COUNCIL):

(I) A WRITTEN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT (ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATEMENT) WILL BE REQUIRED AS PART OF THE DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE A PLANNING APPLICATION.

(II) THE COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE THAT AN ON SITE ASSESSMENT BY TRIAL WORK (ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION) IS CARRIED OUT BEFORE ANY DECISION ON THE PLANNING APPLICATION IS TAKEN.

THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED IN SITU AND IF UNSCHEDULED AND OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE ARE GIVEN STATUTORY PROTECTION. IN SUCH CASES, IF PRESERVATION IN SITU IS BOTH DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE, THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT DESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE THIS OBJECTIVE.

WHERE THE PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU IS NOT APPROPRIATE, THE COUNCIL WILL REQUIRE THAT NO DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE ON A SITE UNTIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY AN INVESTIGATING BODY TO BE NOMINATED OR APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AND SUCH INVESTIGATIONS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DETAILED

SCHEME TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE COUNCIL. WHERE FEASIBLE, THE COUNCIL WILL NEGOTIATE THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC VIEWING DURING THE PERIOD OF EXCAVATION.

3.5 Site Specific Details & Impact Assessment

3.5.1 The development has full planning permission from the London Borough of Hounslow (Ref: 00248/BX/P6), which included an archaeological condition (number 24).

3.5.2 The proposed development will comprise residential houses, town houses and duplex accommodation. The houses will have basements beneath the footprint of the structures. Excavations to a depth of approximately 4.00m below ground level will be necessary here. A piled foundation scheme is currently anticipated (Soil Limited 2012).

3.5.3 The areas of ground reduction comprise of the two basemented areas and excavations for an attenuation tank.

Western basements: total area = 740m²

Eastern basements: total area = 107m²

Attenuation tank: total area = 64m²

Total area of major ground reduction = 911m²

3.5.4 Other proposed development works are surface works within the made ground, i.e. between 100mm and 300mm depth.

3.6 Aims and Objectives

3.6.1 The evaluation was intended to discover the quantity and quality of archaeological remains, as dictated by current best practice.

3.6.2 The evaluation specifically aimed to:

- i) Assess the level of truncation resulting from horticultural activity on the site;
- ii) Assess the level of truncation from modern activity on the site;
- iii) Assess the interference of the soil deposits with the natural drift geology for archaeological features;
- iv) Assess numbers and type of worked flints from the evaluation;
- v) Assess possible prehistoric cut features within the natural gravels;
- vi) Assess deposits and features which might indicate domestic or settlement activity relating to the Bronze Age/Iron Age;
- vii) Assess the site for Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeology.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The underlying drift geology in the vicinity of the site is known to be Kempton Park Gravel. This, in turn, overlies the basal geology which is comprised of London Clay (British Geological Survey, sheet 270). In some areas the Kempton Park Gravel will be overlain with a natural brickearth deposit known as Langley Silt.
- 4.2 A geotechnical investigation of the site was undertaken in 2012 by Soils Ltd. (Soils Ltd. 2012). The borehole survey recorded Kempton Park Gravel at a depth of 0.80m – 0.90m below ground level (bgl) towards the south of the site. Towards the north, the borehole log reveals its presence at a depth of 2.30m bgl, suggesting that a high degree of truncation has occurred in this area.
- 4.3 The site is currently occupied by scrubland at the southern end and a works building towards the central area.
- 4.4 The current ground level across the site is recorded at 9.80m OD – 9.98m OD, dropping slightly to the south.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

What follows is a summary of the relevant historical and archaeological data as presented in the written scheme of investigation, prepared by Mills Whipp Projects (2013).

5.1 Prehistoric

- 5.1.1 No evidence for Palaeolithic or Mesolithic occupation exists within the immediate vicinity of the site. Neolithic flint artefacts, although rare, have been known to have been retrieved in the area according to the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER).
- 5.1.2 Archaeological evidence suggests that during the Bronze Age a “small domestic Late Bronze Age settlement” lay in the vicinity of the former London Bus Works on the northern side of Chiswick High Road approximately 250m north of the site (site code LRT89; GLHER Report 10102). During trial trenching a number of Late Bronze Age post-holes, pits and ditches were recorded. Most contained Bronze Age pottery although some of these features’ fills contained Early Iron Age sherds. A loom weight was also retrieved.
- 5.1.3 Although the Bronze Age settlement north of Chiswick High Street appears to have been occupied in the Early Iron Age (c. 650BC – 43AD), the lack of other such prehistoric finds listed on the GLHER for the study area suggests little activity during this period in the vicinity of the site.

5.2 Roman

- 5.2.1 It is believed that a Roman road may have followed the route of Chiswick High Road. Although the approximate route is known, the actual Roman road itself has proved to be elusive and none of the evaluations on Chiswick High Road recorded any Roman material (GLHER Report 10102). Also within the 1km diameter study area around the site there are no entries for the Roman period indicating that little or no road side activity took place in the immediate area around the site.

5.3 Saxon

- 5.3.1 Saxon influence (410 – 1066AD) within Hounslow is evidence by the numerous examples of early place names including Brentford (ford over the River Brent) and Gunnersbury (Gunnhild’s manor). However there is no archaeological evidence within the area of the site for Saxon land use.

5.4 Medieval

- 5.4.1 During the early post-Conquest period the Domesday Book records Chiswick to the east of the site and part of Brentford to the west. During this period the site lay in open farmland on the southern side of the road, west from London. No finds of medieval date are recorded within the GLHER for the study area.

5.5 Post-Medieval & Modern

- 5.5.1 During the post-medieval period Hounslow continued chiefly as a rural area supplying the fast growing capital with food and other necessities until the coming of the railways and the Industrial Revolution. Cartographic evidence shows the agricultural and horticultural character of the area south of Brentford Road (later Chiswick High Road) in which the subject site lay.
- 5.5.2 Gunnersbury station was opened as Brentford Road Station on 1st January 1869 by the London and South Western Railway on a new branch line to Richmond. At this time the site was occupied by a horticultural nursery on its eastern half and an orchard on its western.
- 5.5.3 By 1952 a works building had been constructed towards the centre of the site, seemingly replacing a row of earlier small buildings. A factory had been constructed on the western side of the site.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was conducted according to an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mills Whipp Projects 2013). The fieldwork was designed to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of any archaeological remains on the site and to ensure that features impacted by the proposed development would be preserved in situ or by record following the impact of the redevelopment of the site.
- 6.2 Three trenches were excavated across the site (Figure 2), located in order to provide an even spatial distribution across the site while avoiding known services. They were also concentrated on the areas where proposed major groundworks were to take place, i.e. the two basemented areas and the attenuation tank. Trench 1 was located so as to avoid the existing works building. The trenches were approximately 7.50m by 2.00m, covering 5% of the total area of the site that will be impacted upon by excavations for the basements and the attenuation tank.
- 6.3 A contamination survey was undertaken prior to the archaeological investigation (Soils Ltd. 2012) the results of which indicated the potential for low levels of contamination. In addition to this the area within which Trench 1 was located had been subjected to substantial fly-tipping and the presence of rats was observed on an initial site inspection. As a consequence paper suits and masks were provided and worn appropriately during the course of the archaeological investigation.
- 6.4 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove overburden down to the highest archaeological or natural horizon. The features and deposits 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. The archaeological deposits were assigned individual context numbers and recorded onto pro-forma sheets and recorded in plan and section as appropriate. After full recording and excavation, sondages were machine excavated in Trenches 1 & 3 in order to ascertain the depth of the Kempton Park gravel formation in a safe manner. A photographic record was also made.
- 6.5 The locations of the trenches were obtained by triangulating the position of the baselines established within them with specific corners of the site boundary. Two Temporary Bench Marks (TBM's) were established from site by traversing the value from a known Bench Mark located at 407 Chiswick High Road. The value of the Bench Mark was 10.81m OD and the TBM's established on site were 9.76m OD at the gate adjacent to the north-eastern end of Trench 1 and 9.96m OD on a survey peg that had been placed centrally within the grassed area towards the south of the site.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

The following section details a chronological account of the archaeological features and deposits encountered during the excavation.

7.1 Phase 1: Natural (Figure 4)

7.1.1 A layer of interleaving sands and gravels [3], [6] & [14] representing the Kempton Park gravel formation were observed in all three trenches. It was composed of a loose light reddish yellow sandy gravel and in most cases displayed evidence of bioturbation.

7.1.2 It was encountered at varying depths across the site as tabulated below:

Trench	Context	Highest Level	Lowest Level
1	[14]	7.70m OD	7.60m OD
2	[6]	9.03m OD	8.88m OD
3	[3]	8.38m OD	8.21m OD

The level at which the Kempton Park gravel was encountered in Trench 1 was between 0.68m to 1.33m deeper than that encountered in the two trenches to the south, suggesting that horizontal truncation has occurred in this area, particularly when consideration of the nature of the overlying layers is made.

7.1.3 The variation between the levels of the gravels between Trenches 2 & 3 can be explained by natural variations in the geological topography of the area. This is supported by the presence of a thick layer of natural brickearth [2] that was observed overlying the sand and gravels in Trench 3, which undoubtedly accumulated within a depression that existed within the Kempton Park formation as a result of peri-glacial action. The brickearth comprised of a soft mottled mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay [2] containing occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles. It was noted that the deposit gradually lensed into the gravel towards the base and measured approximately 1.14m in depth. It was observed between 9.35m OD and 9.37m OD.

7.2 Phase 2: Early Post-Medieval

7.2.1 Overlying the truncated natural deposits in Trench 1 was a layer of deposited gravel [13] which was in turn sealed by sandy silt [10] which appears to represent an early post-medieval agricultural layer.

7.2.2 The disturbed natural [13] comprised of an indurated mid yellowish brown silty sandy gravel, which was recorded between 8.10m OD and 8.20m OD and was approximately 0.50m thick. Overlying this was a 0.50m to 0.60m thick deposit of firm light yellowish brown sandy silt [10] which contained occasional chalk flecks and moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles. It was recorded at 8.70m OD to 8.71m OD. This soil layer appeared to be heavily bioturbated, indicating prolonged agricultural use.

7.2.3 Although no datable artefacts were recovered from these layers, they have been attributed

to the early post-medieval period on the basis of securely dated later features and deposits. It is probable that this activity marks an intensification of agricultural activity within the area during this period.

7.3 Phase 3: 17th Century

- 7.3.1 A linear cut feature [9] was observed truncating the early post-medieval soil horizon [10] in Trench 1 (Figures 3 & 4, Plates 1 & 2). It measured at least 2.76m by 0.66m where observed (running beyond the limits of excavation) and displayed a relatively steeply sloping south-eastern side and a flat/slightly concave base. It was NE-SW orientated, recorded at 8.62m OD and measured approximately 0.62m in total depth. This depth and profile was proven in two machine-excavated sondages within the trench prior to backfilling.
- 7.3.2 It contained three distinct fills [8], [11] & [12]. The primary fill consisted of a soft light greyish yellow sandy clay [12] containing occasional flecks of charcoal and iron staining. It was observed at 8.20m OD and measured approximately 0.20m in thickness. It was overlain with a friable mottled light yellowish brown sandy clay [11] which contained moderate sub-rounded to rounded flint pebbles and evidence of iron staining and bioturbation. It was 0.13m thick and recorded between 8.33m OD and 8.43m OD. The upper fill of the linear was composed of a loose mid yellowish brown silty sand containing very occasional flecks of charcoal and CBM, occasional iron staining and moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles. Two sherds of pottery were also recovered from the fill, comprising one Surrey-Hampshire border red ware and one post-medieval redware derived from a jar. The pottery dates the context to 1580 – 1700.
- 7.3.3 It is likely that this linear feature represents agricultural activity on the site during the 17th century, possibly in the form of a land boundary or drainage ditch.

7.4 Phase 4: 18th-19th Century

- 7.4.1 Sealing the linear cut feature [9] in Trench 1 was a 0.67m thick layer of loose mid brown silty sand [7]. This layer contained occasional CBM, flecks and fragments of charcoal, mortar and chalk and sub-rounded flint pebbles. Datable artefacts recovered from this layer include two clay tobacco pipe stems, one thick and the other thin with wide bores, datable to the 17th/early 18th century. In addition two sherds of pottery comprising one creamware plate fragment with a scalloped rim and one Surrey-Hampshire border ware sherd which originally formed part of a bowl or dish. The pottery dates the context to 1760-1830.
- 7.4.2 This layer, recorded at 9.37m OD, was likely formed in the late 18th to 19th century and is indicative of horticultural activity in the area as documented in the historical background section of this report.

7.5 Phase 5: 19th-20th Century

- 7.5.1 19th century activity is attested to in Trenches 2 & 3 by the presence of artefact rich layers of made ground.
- 7.5.2 In Trench 2 the natural brickearth layer seen to the south of the site appears to have been horizontally truncated and redeposited. This redeposited brickearth comprised of a friable light greyish brown sandy clay [5] containing flecks of charcoal and CBM fragments. As evidence elsewhere on site, bioturbation of the soil had also occurred, consistent with the knowledge that the site was utilised as a horticultural nursery and orchard during this period. The layer was encountered at 9.24m OD and measured approximately 0.20m in thickness.
- 7.5.3 Overlying the redeposit brickearth was a firm mid-greyish brown sandy silt layer [4], which was also observed in Trench 3 [1] overlying the natural brickearth. In Trench 2 it measured 0.10m in thickness and was seen at 9.33m OD. To the south, in Trench 3, it was 0.34m thick and recorded as occurring between 9.53m OD and 9.69m OD. The layer contained occasional CBM, flecks of charcoal and mortar, oyster shells and sub-rounded flint pebbles. Three sherds of pottery comprising one creamware fragment originally forming part of a plate, one refined whiteware sherd and one Staffordshire slipware fragment, also from part of a dish were also recovered from this layer, providing a spot date of 1805 – 1830.
- 7.5.4 In Trenches 1 & 2 the later horizons had been substantially truncated by later/20th century activity in the form of utility service pipes and brick inspection chambers. In the case of Trench 2, these truncations extended well beyond the depth of the natural sands and gravels. Overlying Trenches 2 & 3 was a 0.35m to 0.50m thick layer of modern made ground, turf and topsoil [+]. Archaeological horizons in Trench 1 were sealed by a 0.35m thick layer of made ground capped with a c.0.10m thick concrete slab.

**Plate 1: North-east facing view of excavated
Trench 1**



**Plate 2: South-West facing view of excavated
Trench 1**



Plate 3: North-West facing section of Trench 2



Plate 4: South-West facing view of excavated Trench 3



8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Conclusions

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation conducted at Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick in the London Borough of Hounslow established the presence of post-medieval agricultural/horticultural activity and demonstrated the degree to which this activity impacted upon any potential earlier features and horizons.
- 8.1.2 The levels at which the Kempton Park gravel formation were encountered across the site indicate that a degree of horizontal truncation had occurred towards the north of the site (notably in Trench 1). This supports the findings of the geotechnical borehole survey that had been previously undertaken. Variations in the depth of the gravel towards the south of the site would likely be the result of periglacial action. Natural brickearth overlay the gravel at its deepest point (in Trench 3). No evidence for prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity was observed.
- 8.1.3 Sealing the truncated natural in Trench 1 was a layer of agricultural soil into which was cut a NE-SW aligned ditch containing 16th-17th century pottery. It is likely that this feature represents a land boundary or drainage ditch.
- 8.1.4 Sealing the ditch was a layer of horticultural soil containing 18th-19th century pottery. This soil may relate to the horticultural nursery which was known to exist within the area of the site during this period. To the south natural brickearth appeared to have been truncated and redeposited in Trench 2. Overlying this, and the natural brickearth in Trench 3, was a layer of 19th century made ground. This layer was truncated by 19th-20th century services to the north of Trench 2.
- 8.1.5 A high degree of bioturbation was observed within the soil horizons encountered on site attesting to the agricultural and horticultural function of the site in the post-medieval period.
- 8.1.6 The findings of this investigation indicate that no further features or deposits relating to earlier periods are likely to be encountered within the site.

8.2 Recommendations

- 8.2.1 Given the absence of significant archaeological features and finds from the site, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited does not consider that further archaeological work for this development would be necessary or appropriate. We consider that the features and finds observed during the work are of minor local importance only.

8.3 Site Archive and Publication

- 8.3.1 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published as an entry in the London Archaeologist 'Round Up'.
- 8.3.2 The entire site archive will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under site code GBY13, following approval of this report. PCA will provide a copy of this report to the local studies library, and it will be supplied to the Greater London Historic Environment Record by the Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of

Hounslow.

8.4 Confidence

- 8.4.1 PCA considers that the archaeological evaluation was completed in accordance with all relevant guidelines, best-practice documents and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 8.4.2 The work was undertaken in reasonable conditions.
- 8.4.3 We consider that the results detailed in this report are reliable, and are confident that the evaluation represents an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential of the site.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited wishes to thank Mills Whipp Projects who commissioned the project on behalf of the client, Clifton Cape Ltd.
- 9.2 We also thank Gillian King of English Heritage for monitoring the work.
- 9.3 The supervisor would like to thank Emily Bates for her assistance on site. In addition thanks are extended to the machine driver of O'Connell Plant for his careful excavation of the trench and general assistance on site.
- 9.4 Further gratitude is extended to Chris Cooper for logistical support, Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for his project management and editing of this report.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Mills Whipp Projects 2013. 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick, London, W4 4AN'. Unpublished Report.
- Soils Limited 2012. 'Report on a Ground Investigation at Gunnersbury Mews, London, W4 4AN'. Unpublished Report.

Appendix 1: Context Index

Context	Type	Trench	Section	Description	Date	Phase
1	Layer	3	S1	Subsoil	19th Century	5
2	Layer	3	S1	Brickearth	Natural	1
3	Layer	3	S1	Kempton Park Gravel	Natural	1
4	Layer	2	S2	Subsoil/Made Ground	19th Century	5
5	Layer	2	S2	Redeposited Brickearth	19th Century	5
6	Layer	2	S2	Kempton Park Gravel	Natural	1
7	Layer	1	S3	Horticultural soil	18th-19th Century	4
8	Fill	1	n/a	Fill of [9]	17th Century	3
9	Cut	1	n/a	NE-SW Ditch	17th Century	3
10	Layer	1	S3	Agricultural layer	Early Post-medieval	2
11	Fill	1	n/a	Fill of [9]	17th Century	3
12	Fill	1	n/a	Fill of [9]	17th Century	3
13	Layer	1	S3	Redeposited Sandy Gravel	Early Post-medieval	2
14	Layer	1	S3	Kempton Park Gravel	Natural	1

Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery & Clay Tobacco Pipe Spot Dates by Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Pottery

Context	Quantity	Type	Context Spot Date	Comments
1	1	CREA DEV	1805-1830	plate
1	1	REFW	1805-1830	-
1	1	STSL	1805-1830	dish
7	1	CREA DEV	1760-1830	plate, scalloped rim
7	1	BORDY	1760-1830	bowl/dish
8	1	BORDY	1580-1700	-
8	1	PMR	1580-1700	jar

Clay tobacco pipe

Context	Quantity	Spot Date	Comments
7	2	17 th /early 18 th century	Stems, thick and thin, wide bores

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-148430

Project details

Project name	Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick, W4 4AN: An archaeological evaluation
Short description of the project	Archaeological work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick in the London Borough of Hounslow, W4 4AN between 8th - 10th April 2013. The evaluation consisted of three trenches, Trench 1 towards the north and Trench 2 and 3 within a grassed area to the south away from Chiswick High Road. Prior to the archaeological evaluation a geotechnical survey was undertaken on site which revealed that the Kempton Park gravel formation was present at a depth of 0.80m - 0.90m below ground level (bgl) towards the south of the site. However, towards the north, the borehole log reveals its presence at a depth of 2.30m bgl, indicating that a high degree of truncation has occurred in this area. The archaeological evaluation appeared to confirm the findings of the geotechnical survey. Trench 1 demonstrated that natural sands and gravels had been horizontally truncated in the post-medieval period. Subsequent to this a layer of agricultural soil was established, into which a NE-SW ditch was cut which was dated to the 17th century. Overlying this was a later layer of horticultural soil which appears to date to the 18th-19th century. Towards the south of the site natural brickearth was seen to overlie the Kempton Park formation in Trench 3, however this had been truncated towards the north in Trench 2. 19th century made ground sealed the earlier horizons these trenches. Trench 2 was heavily truncated towards the northern end by 19th-20th century services.
Project dates	Start: 08-04-2013 End: 10-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GBY13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	00248/BX/P6 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HOUNSLOW CHISWICK GUNNERSBURY MEWS, CHISWICK
Postcode	W4 4AN
Study area	1850.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1975 7840 51 0 51 29 28 N 000 16 29 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 8.00m Max: 9.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator Consultant
Project design originator Mills Whipp Projects
Project director/manager Chris Mayo
Project supervisor Iain Bright
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Clifton Cape Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC
Physical Archive ID GBY13
Physical Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient LAARC
Digital Archive ID GBY13
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient LAARC
Paper Archive ID GBY13
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

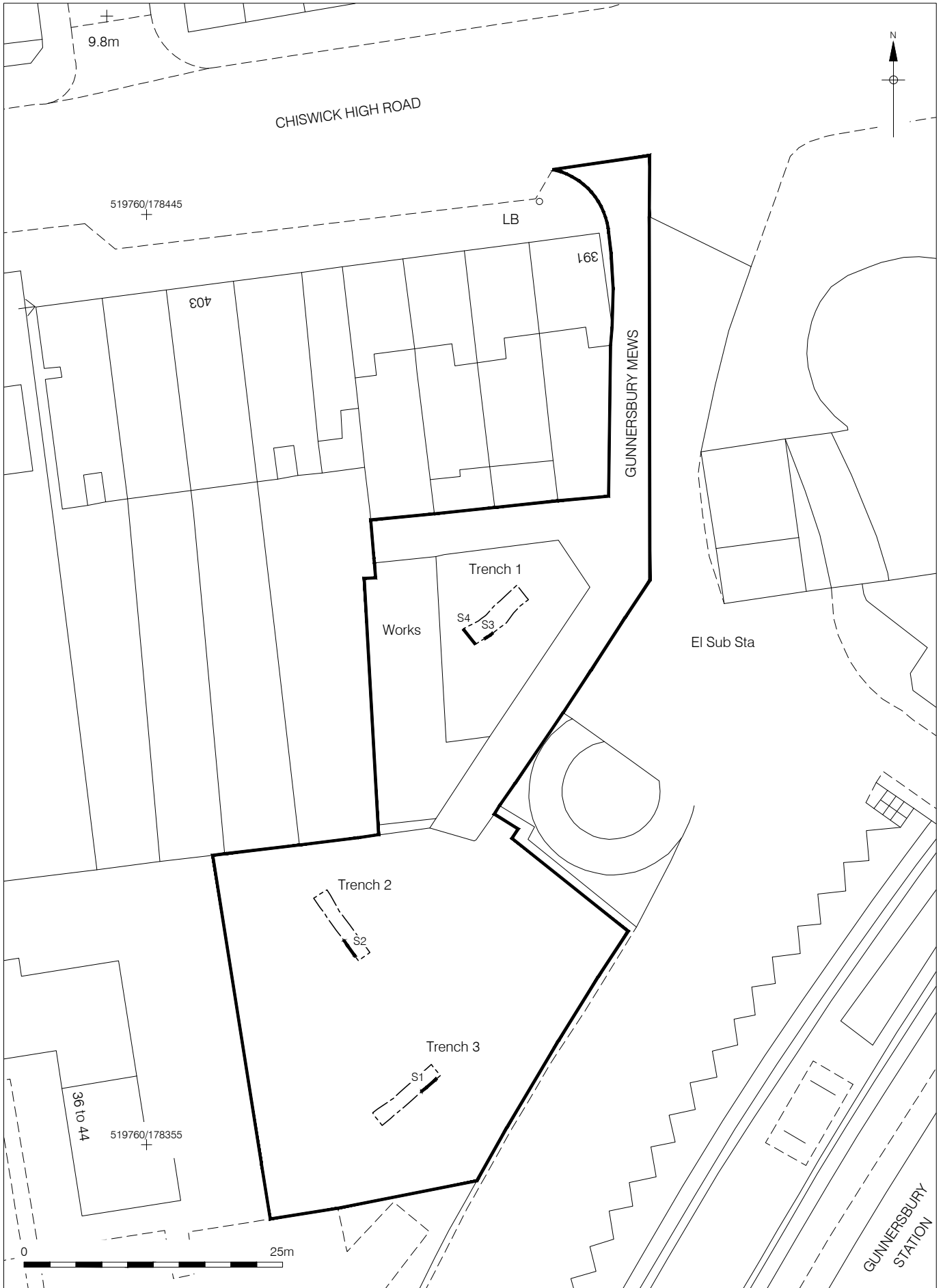
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Gunnersbury Mews, Chiswick, W4 4AN: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s) Bright, I.
Other bibliographic details PCA R11411
Date 2013
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication London
Description A4 spiral bound client document with blue covers

Entered by Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 19 April 2013



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 19/04/13 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:10,000 at A4

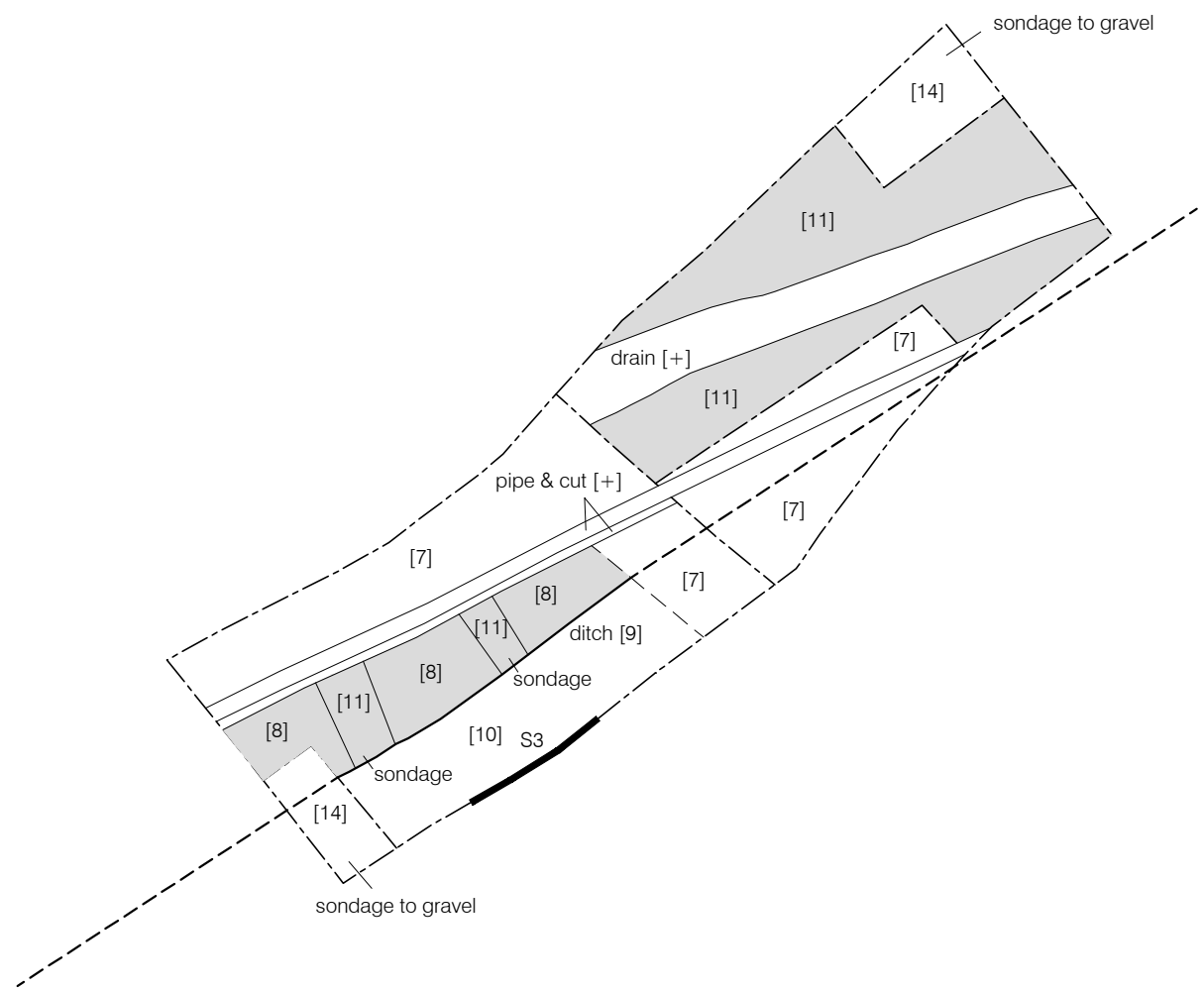


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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:500 at A4

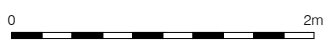


519794/178411
+



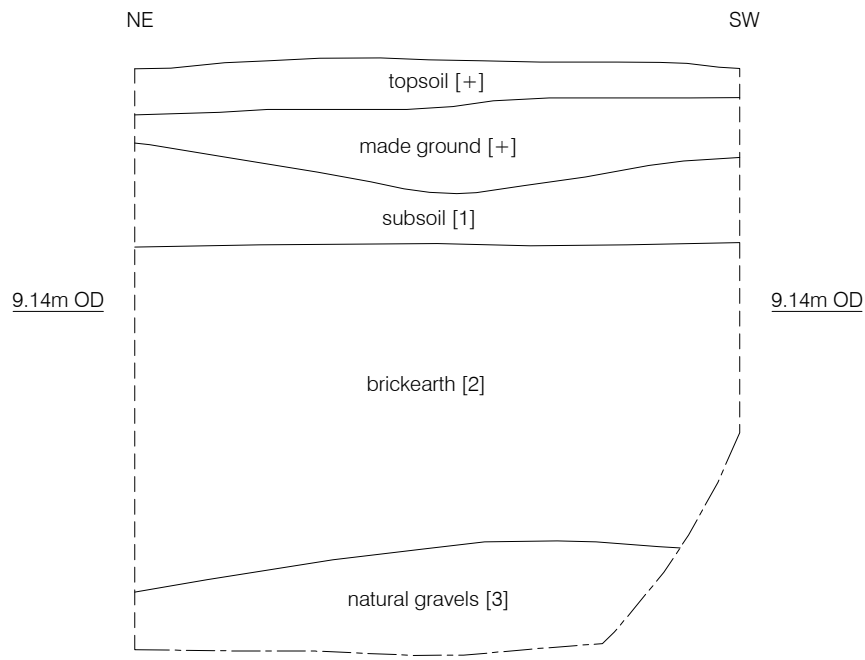
519794/178402
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fill of ditch [9]

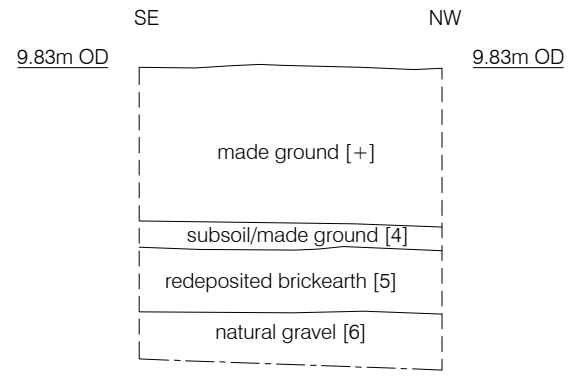


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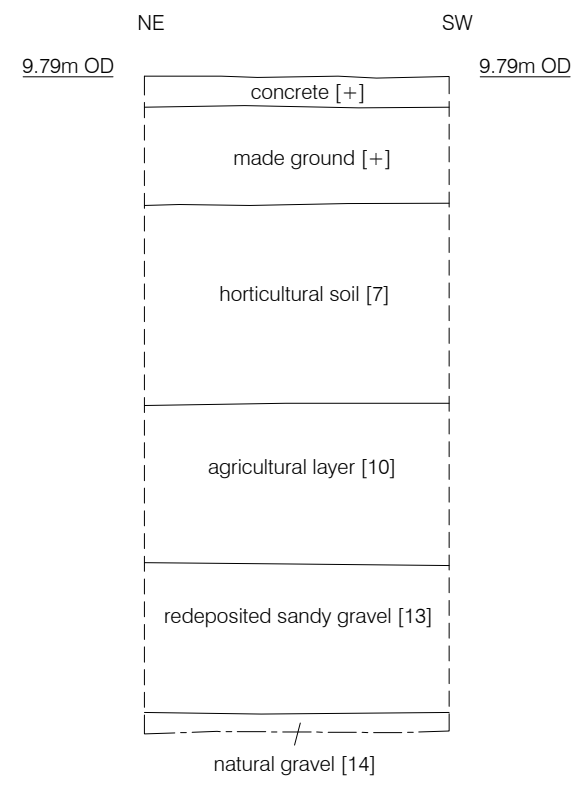
Figure 3
Trench 1 Plan
1:50 at A4



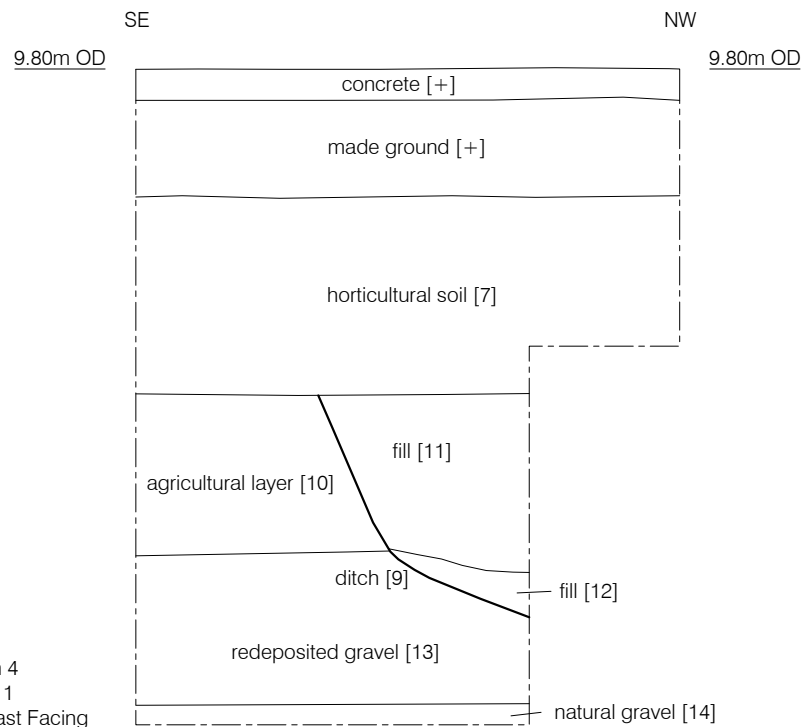
Section 1
Trench 3
Northwest Facing



Section 2
Trench 2
Northeast Facing



Section 3
Trench 1
Northwest Facing



Section 4
Trench 1
Northeast Facing

PCA

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