

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT
2 CARPENTER'S PLACE,
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH**

MAY 2006

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**2 CARPENTER'S PLACE
LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH
EVALUATION**

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Carpenter's Place,
London Borough of Lambeth**

Site Code: CAX 06

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2970 7535

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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 at 2 Carpenter's Place, London Borough of Lambeth. The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2970 7535. The evaluation was undertaken between and April 2006, and the commissioning client was TBAC Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation comprised three trenches located within the footprint of the proposed development, inside the warehouse that currently occupies the site.
- 1.3 The evaluation identified the presence of the Lynch Hill Gravel formation and an overlying clayey soil. Located above this was a horticultural horizon that was probably worked continuously from the century, and possibly earlier, up to the early to mid century. The existing warehouse was constructed at about this time, and several service trenches and concrete foundation rafts and ground beams were found that relate to this structure.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 10th and 11th April 2006 by Andrew Sargent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, and was commissioned by TBAC Ltd. The evaluation was undertaken at 2 Carpenter's Place, London Borough of Lambeth, inside the existing warehouse structure, which is to be demolished and redeveloped as business units and housing.
- 2.2 The original evaluation programme specified the excavation of 5% of the redevelopment area, comprising three trenches each ca. 5.5 x 1.8m. These were to be excavated in accordance with PPG 16 and local policies, in order to assess the nature, extent and date of any archaeological remains encountered, and to locate any areas where archaeological deposits have been truncated. In particular, the evaluation was intended to locate the line of a Roman Road known as Stane Street. Medieval successors to the road have since shifted its course toward the northwest, thus testifying to its earlier existence but confusing its original location.
- 2.3 The evaluation followed a geotechnical investigation of the site by Albury SI in December 2004 (Albury 2004).
- 2.4 The site is bounded by the footprint of the current warehouse structure, which has frontage on Carpenter's Place to the northeast, but is otherwise surrounded by other buildings. It is approximately 36m x 15m, and is approximately rectangular in shape, aligned northeast to southwest.
- 2.5 The central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2970 7535.
- 2.6 The evaluation was supervised by the author, project managed by Peter Moore and was monitored on behalf of Lambeth Council by Diane Walls, English Heritage (GLAAS).
- 2.7 The site was given the unique code CAX 06.

3 GEOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The underlying geology (as identified in this evaluation and in a geotechnical investigation undertaken in December 2004) comprises the Lynch Hill Gravel formation overlain by associated clayey and granular soils.
- 3.2 No previous archaeological investigations have taken place on the site.
- 3.3 Some prehistoric material has been reported in the surrounding area.
- 3.4 The principle archaeological feature in the vicinity of the site is the Roman road known as Stane Street. The road is known to follow the line of the current Balham High Road, but north of here it kinks northwest to form Clapham South Side, then Clapham High Street, before joining Clapham Road and once again following its original alignment. The extrapolated line of the Roman Road runs through the centre of the site to the southeast of Clapham High Street.
- 3.5 This road had medieval successors and as such the site had the potential for roadside activity dating from the Roman period into the medieval period, the latter possibly connected to the development of the original village of Clapham.
- 3.6 Historical maps show that by 1874 the area had been developed with residential accommodation, although the site itself appears to have been gardens or open land. By 1951 a printing works and adjacent engineering works had been built on the site, and this industrial usage has continued to the present day (Albury 2004).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised three trenches, measuring ca. 5.5 x 1.8m. The trenches were positioned in a staggered line from the west corner to the east corner of the site (see figure 2), to be excavated in accordance with the specifications outlined in the method statement for the site (Moore 2005).
- 4.2 The concrete warehouse floor surface sealing the trenches was broken out and all subsequent excavation of the trenches was undertaken using a JCB mechanical digger. All of the trenches were excavated in spits with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 No archaeological features were encountered, and machining was halted once natural clayey soils had been located along the length of the each trench and the Lynch Hill Gravel formation identified in a sondage excavated at one end. The trenches were cleaned using appropriate hand-tools. The average depth below ground surface to the natural geology was less than 1.05m across the site. Any identified deposits were investigated, photographed and recorded using the single context recording method, and pro-forma context and planning sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively where appropriate.
- 4.4 A Bench Mark was located on the side of a building at the junction of Tremadoc Road and Clapham High Street at a height of 17.49mOD. This was transferred to the site to create a temporary benchmark atop a concrete machine base on the floor of the warehouse with a height of 20.04mOD.

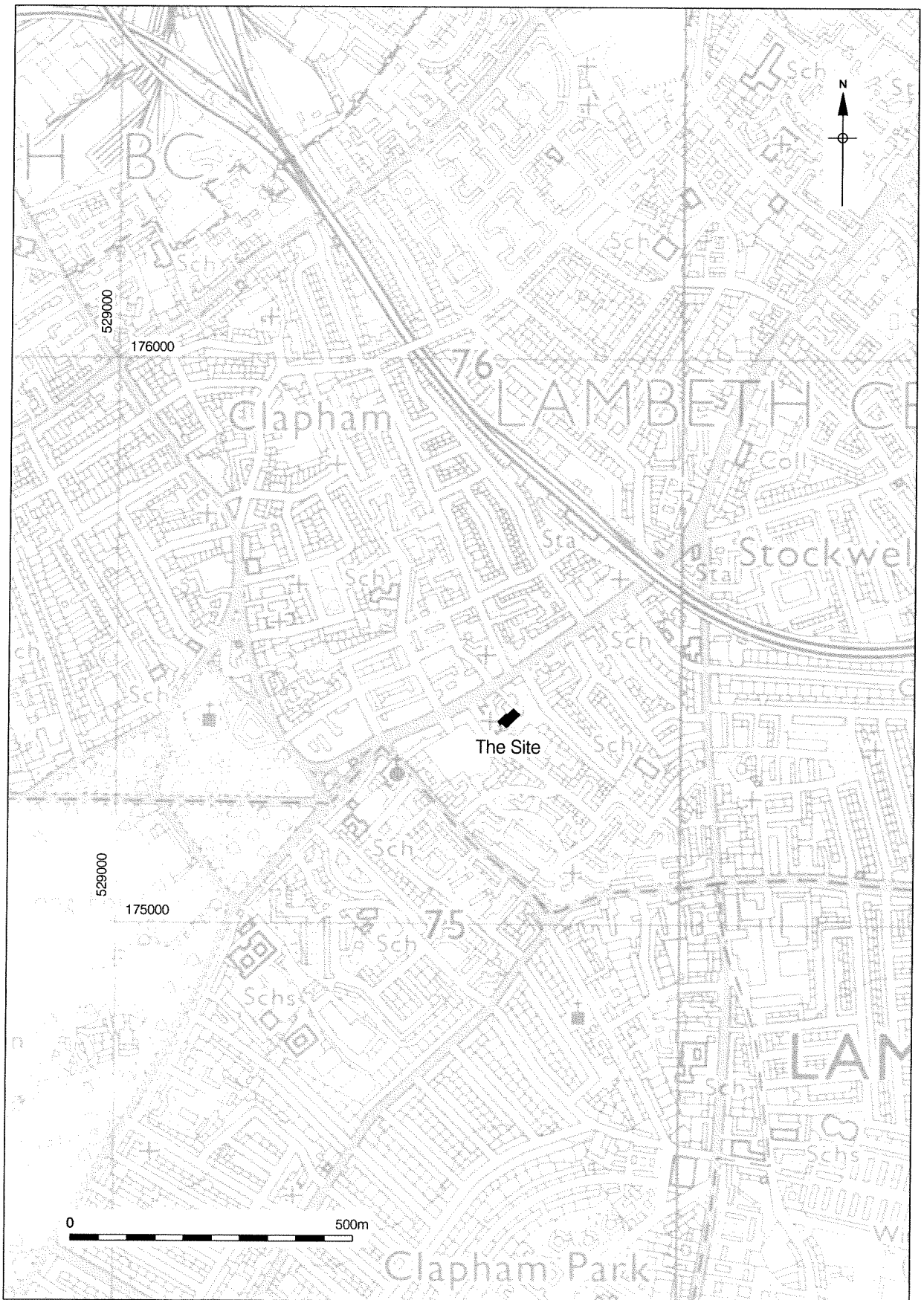
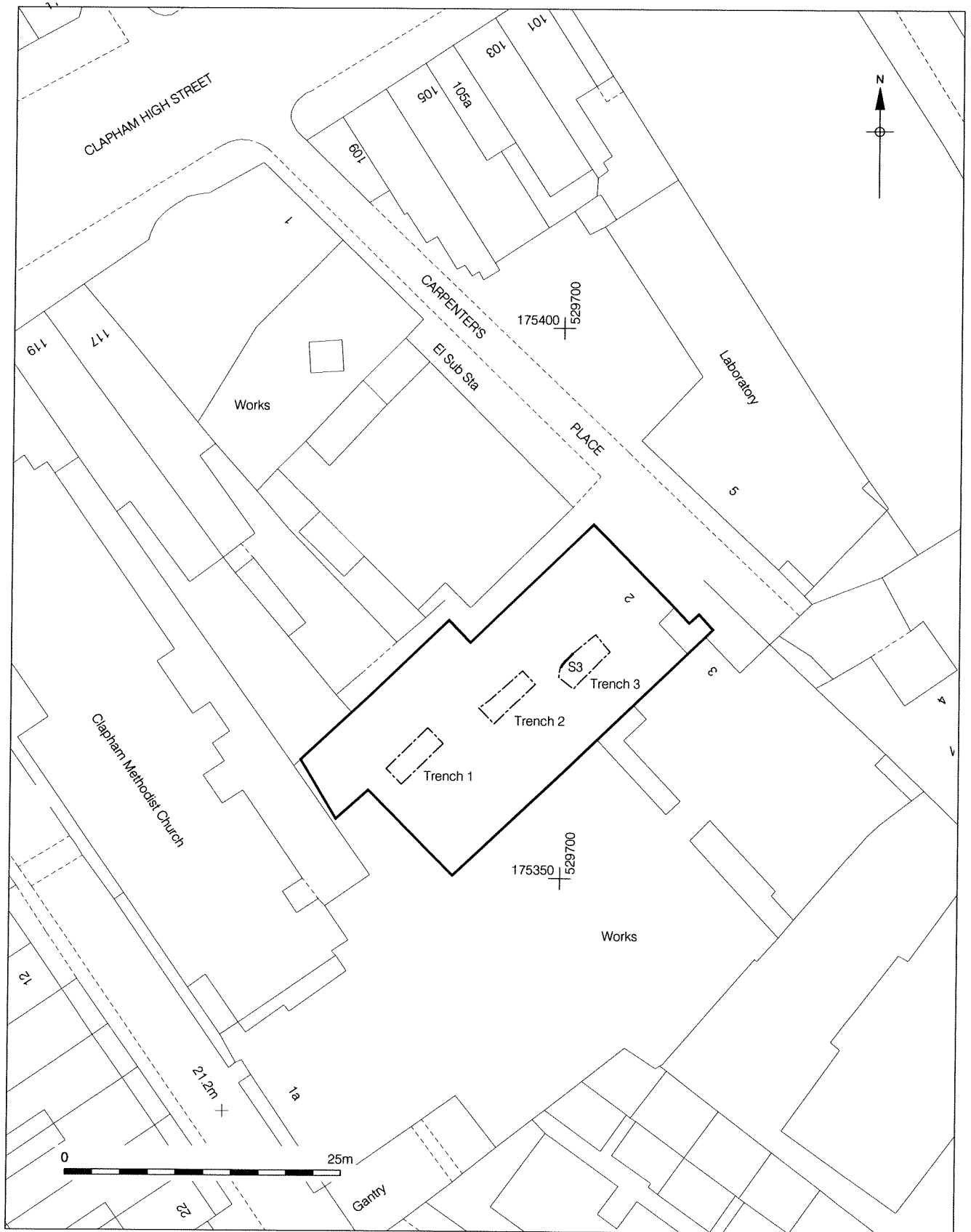


Figure 1
Site Location
1:10 000



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500

5 TRENCH SUMMARY

5.1 TRENCH 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated northeast by southwest and measured 5.30m long by approximately 2.0m wide, with a depth of approximately 0.90m along its length and approximately 1.40m in the sondage at its northeast end.

5.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was a natural pale grey gravel deposit [9], identified at a height of 18.53mOD. This is the Lynch Hill Gravel formation, and was overlain by three associated natural soils: an orange sand deposit [8] at 18.75mOD, a pale grey deposit of mixed sand and clay [7] at 18.89mOD, and an orangish yellow clay deposit at 19.08mOD.

5.1.3 The natural deposits were overlain by a layer of mid brown sandy silt [5], at a height of 19.44mOD and approximately 0.40m thick. This contained some fragments of CBM and a clay pipe fragment, and was probably a horticultural horizon worked into the early 20th century but originating earlier, perhaps in the 17th or 18th centuries.

5.1.4 Cut into this horizon was a service pipe trench [4] with associated backfill [3], and a construction cut [11] for concrete ground beam [10], all associated with the existing warehouse structure, all running northwest to southeast, and all at heights of between 19.36mOD and 19.39mOD, extending down beyond the limit of excavation. These were covered with a reddish greyish mixed deposit of silty sand and CBM fragments at a height of 19.76mOD and approximately 0.40m thick, forming a makeup layer for the existing concrete surface [1]. This uppermost deposit sealed the trench at a height of 19.92mOD and was approximately 0.20m thick.

5.2 TRENCH 2

5.2.1 Trench 2 was orientated northeast by southwest and measured 5.15m long by approximately 2.00m wide. It was approximately 1.10m deep along its length, extending to 1.50m deep in the sondage at its northeast end.

5.2.2 The earliest deposit located in this trench was greenish pale grey sandy gravel deposit [18] at a height of 18.45mOD and at the limit of excavation. This was identified as the Lynch Hill Gravel formation and was overlain by two natural soils: a

greenish pale grey mixed deposit of clay and gravel [17], at a height of 18.68mOD and approximately 0.20m thick, and a yellowish pale brown clay deposit [16], at a height of 18.90mOD and approximately 0.28m thick.

5.2.3 Overlying these were three horticultural deposits. The earliest was a bluish mid grey silty clay soil [15] with occasional CBM fragments, recorded at a height of 19.12mOD and approximately 0.23m thick. This underlay an orangish greyish mid to dark brown silty sand [14] at a height of 19.38mOD and approximately 0.28m thick, which also contained occasional CBM fragments. Finally, this was overlain by a yellowish greyish mid brown sandy silt [13] at a height of 19.55mOD and approximately 0.24m thick, which again contained occasional CBM fragments, along with moderately occurring mortar and chalk flecks. Although worked into the early 20th century, these three deposits probably represent horticultural activity extending back into the 17th and 18th centuries, and possibly further.

5.2.4 A 20th century truncation [19] was cut from above the uppermost of these horticultural layers to provide for a brick-built circular dome-headed soakaway [20], just grazed by the limit of excavation in the north corner of the trench. The trench was sealed by a reddish greyish mid brown makeup layer of mixed silty sand and CBM fragments at a height of 19.78mOD and approximately 0.40m thick, supporting the existing concrete warehouse floor surface at a height of 19.93mOD.

5.3 TRENCH 3 (see Figure 3)

5.3.1 Trench 3 was orientated northeast by southwest and measured 5.10m long by approximately 2.00m at the northeast end and 2.20m at the southwest end, where the trench had to be widened in order to excavate the sondage past a concrete foundation raft. The trench was approximately 1.05m deep at the northeast end and 1.84m deep in the sondage at the southwest end.

5.3.2 The earliest deposit found in the trench was a pale grey gravel layer [30], recorded at a height of 18.52mOD but sloping away steeply toward the east and beyond the limit of excavation. This, representing the Lynch Hill Gravel formation, was sealed by three associated natural soils: the earliest, a greenish pale grey clay layer [29], was recorded at 18.67mOD and was approximately 0.40m. It was overlain by an orange-yellow sand layer [28] at a height of 19.05mOD and approximately 0.60m thick, in turn overlain by a yellowish pale brown clay deposit [27] at a height of 19.05mOD and

approximately 0.24m thick. These natural soils also sloped away towards the east, but at a progressively shallower incline.

5.3.3 As in Trench 2, these layers were overlain by three horticultural deposits. The earliest was a bluish mid grey silty clay [26] with occasional CBM fragments, recorded at a height of 19.15mOD and approximately 0.10m thick. This deposit was thickest in the west corner of the trench and extended for about 0.90m before tapering away. Overlying this was an orangish greyish mid to dark brown silty sand [25] with occasional CBM fragments, at a height of 19.43mOD and approximately 0.37m thick, in turn overlain by yellowish greyish mid brown sandy silt [24] with occasional CBM fragments and moderately occurring chalk and mortar flecks, at a height of 19.66mOD and approximately 0.27m thick. Again, as with Trench 2, these deposits probably represent horticultural activity that ended in the early 20th century but originated two to three centuries earlier.

5.3.4 A grid of contemporary construction trenches were cut from above these layers, recorded collectively as context [31]. Various features were inserted into these cuts: a brick-built manhole [22] was flush with the concrete floor of the warehouse at 19.93mOD and was just touched by the west corner of the trench; a presumed service run extended southeast from this manhole along the southwest edge of the trench, identifiable by the cut as the pipe itself was not exposed; a T-shaped concrete foundation raft [23] extended along the southeast side of the trench almost to the east corner and branched across the centre of the trench running southeast to northwest, this latter part carrying a concrete groundbeam 0.83m thick with an uppermost height of 19.75mOD. These features were backfilled by a reddish mid grey layer of CBM fragments and silty sand [32] at a height of 19.68mOD, and, at its thickest in the deeper service cut, extending down for 0.99m and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. A deposit of the same composition [21], at a height of 19.80mOD and approximately 0.15m thick, formed a makeup layer for the existing concrete warehouse floor surface [1] at a height of 19.93mOD.

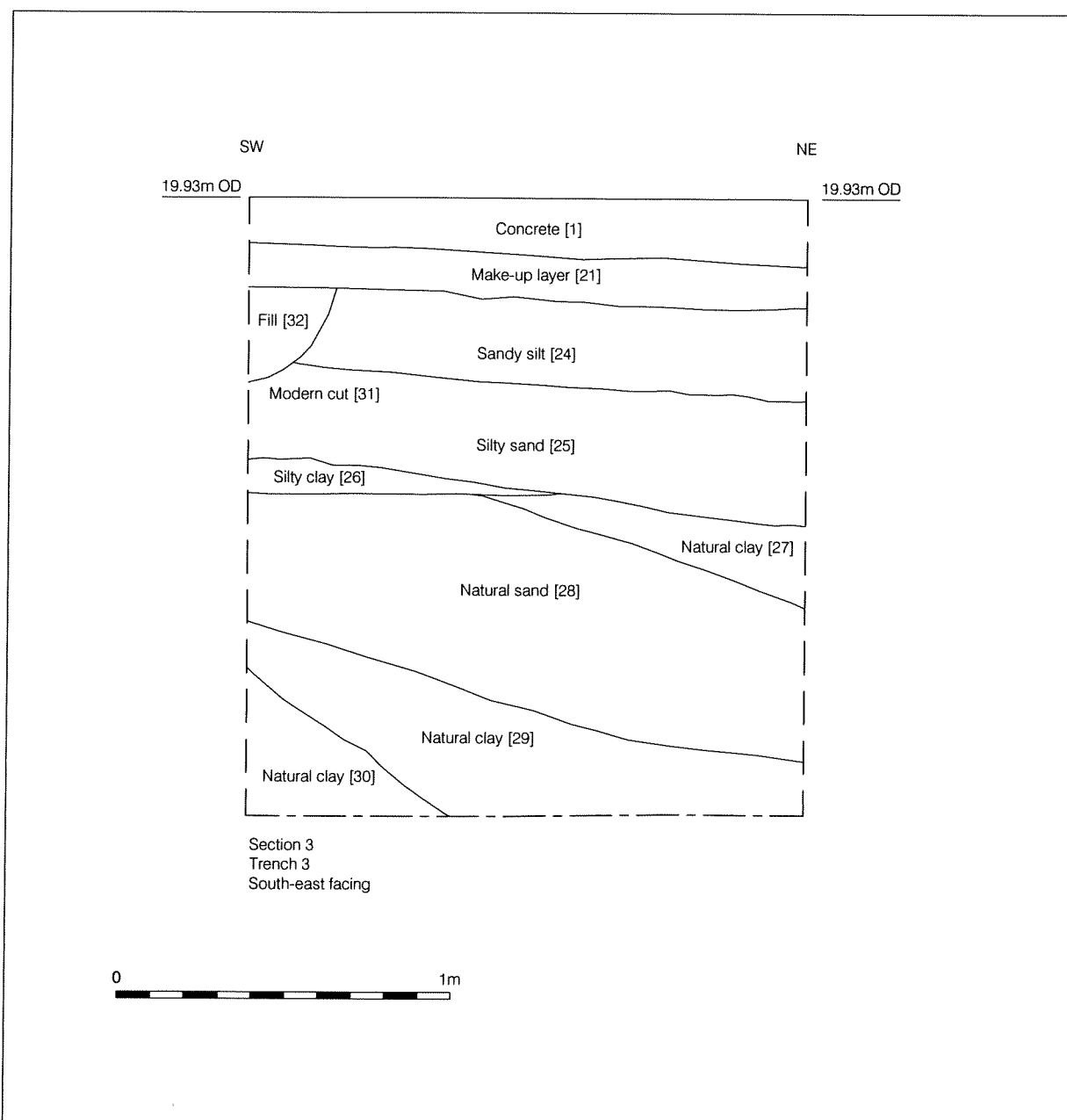


Figure 3
Sample Section
1:20

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 All of the trenches exposed the underlying natural deposits. In each trench the earliest deposit comprised the Lynch Hill Gravel formation, which remained fairly level at approximately 18.50mOD in Trenches 1 and 2, but dropped off dramatically in Trench 3, diving from a similar height down to 18.09mOD in the space of 0.90m. The area examined is too small to allow firm conclusions to be drawn about the natural topography, but this could indicate the presence of a palaeochannel running north to south. The overlying natural soils also followed this contour. The most recent of these consistently comprised a layer of yellowish pale brown clay, varying irregularly in height from 19.08mOD to 18.86mOD. Underlying this were combinations of clay, sand and gravel that vary from trench to trench.
- 6.2 Overlying these natural deposits was a horticultural horizon. In Trenches 2 and 3 three separate layers could be discerned within this horizon, whilst in Trench 1 it appeared more homogenous. The most recent working of the soil probably dates to the early to mid 20th century, as indicated by the CBM fragments contained within it. However, artefacts such as a piece of clay pipe found in deposit [5] and a glazed tile found in deposit [15] suggest that the soil was perhaps initially worked in the 18th or even 17th centuries.
- 6.3 All the other features on the site relate to the industrial development of the site in the mid 20th century. The services and concrete foundation rafts and groundbeams found in Trenches 1 and 3 are all connected with the construction of the existing warehouse building.
- 6.4 No archaeological features or artefacts earlier than the 18th century were identified on the site, and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological work is required on this site. Whilst no evidence for the Roman or medieval roads was found, there was also no evidence for substantial truncation which might have removed them.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank TBAC Ltd for commissioning the evaluation, Conor McCormack of bivid for his assistance and setting the site up, and Anthony Thomas of bivid for his early assistance in the work. Thanks are also extended to Dianne Walls of GLAAS for monitoring the work.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank Adrian Nash for the CAD illustrations, Peter Moore for project management and Chris Mayo for the editing.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Moore, Peter. 2005. *Method Statement for the Archaeological Evaluation of No 2 Carpenters Place, London Borough of Lambeth*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Unpublished Report

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context No	Trench No	Description
1	1	Concrete surface
2	1	CBM/silty sand makeup deposit
3	1	Backfill of pipe cut [4]
4	1	Pipe trench cut
5	1	Sandy silt deposit; 19 th century horticultural horizon
6	1	Natural clay deposit
7	1	Natural gravel/clay deposit
8	1	Natural sand deposit
9	1	Natural gravel deposit
10	1	Concrete foundation raft
11	1	Cut for [10]
12	2	CBM/silty sand makeup deposit
13	2	Sandy silt deposit; 18 th -20 th century horticultural horizon
14	2	Silty sand deposit; 18 th -20 th century horticultural horizon
15	2	Silty clay deposit; 18 th -20 th century horticultural horizon
16	2	Natural clay deposit
17	2	Natural clay/gravel deposit
18	2	Natural sandy gravel deposit
19	2	Construction cut for soakaway [20]
20	2	Brick-built soakaway
21	3	CBM/silty sand makeup deposit
22	3	Brick-built manhole
23	3	Concrete foundation raft and groundbeam
24	3	Sandy silt deposit; 18 th -20 th century horticultural horizon
25	3	Silty sand deposit; 18 th -20 th century horticultural horizon
26	3	Silty clay deposit; 18 th -20 th century horticultural horizon
27	3	Natural clay deposit
28	3	Natural sand deposit
29	3	Natural clay deposit
30	3	Natural gravel deposit
31	3	Construction cut for [22] and [23]
32	3	Backfill of construction cut [31]

APPENDIX 2 – OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-14998

Project details

Project name	2 Carpenters Place, Clapham
Short description of the project	In April 2006, PCA carried out an evaluation at 2 Carpenters Place, Clapham, comprising three trenches located within the footprint of a proposed new development, inside the warehouse that currently occupies the site. The evaluation identified the presence of the Lynch Hill Gravel formation and an overlying clayey soil. Located above this was a horticultural horizon that was probably worked continuously from the 18th century, and possibly earlier, up to the early to mid 20th century. The existing warehouse was constructed at about this time, and several service trenches and concrete foundation rafts and ground beams were found that relate to this structure.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2006 End: 11-04-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CAX 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LAMBETH CLAPHAM 2 Carpenters Place
Postcode	SW4
Study area	550.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 2970 7535 Point
Height OD	Min: 18.90m Max: 19.08m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	TBAC Ltd

Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore
Project supervisor	Andrew Sargent
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	CAX 06

Project bibliography 1

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