

**An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2) at H. Smith's Yard, Bellefield  
Road, Fordcroft, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley.**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4668 6757**

**Site Code: BFF 05**

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## 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of a second phase of archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at H. Smith's Yard, Bellefield Road, Fordcroft, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley. The central National Grid Reference is TQ 4668 6757. The evaluation was undertaken between 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The commissioning client was Green Acre Homes South East Limited.
- 1.2 The land lies within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, being Roman Bath House & Saxon Cemetery (SAM 145). Scheduled Monument Consent is being sought to develop the land for residential dwellings. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for an archaeological evaluation of the site. This was accomplished in two phases, the first of which took place in May 2005 (Wragg 2005). This report details the second phase of work, comprising five trial trenches along the southwestern edge of the site.
- 1.3 The earliest deposits encountered on site were natural river terrace gravels overlain by natural brickearth.
- 1.4 Two undated features, a large ditch and a possible metalled surface, were discovered overlying the natural deposits and underlying definite Roman period features.
- 1.5 Cut into these features were a posthole and a large shallow pit filled with a deposit saturated with charcoal and containing many pottery sherds dated to a period between the later 1<sup>st</sup> century and earlier 3<sup>rd</sup> century. This was overlain by a burnt surface, suggesting a sequence of light industrial activities. Two other features dating to this period were discovered, comprising another large shallow pit underlying a ditch running northwest-southeast along the southwestern boundary of the site. Both were filled with a contemporary ploughsoil.
- 1.6 These features were sealed by one or more horticultural horizons, which occasionally also overlay shallow post-medieval truncations and, in one instance, two large pits dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These horizons were probably associated with the use of the site as allotments prior to the construction of the existing yard in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, at which time they were probably severely horizontally truncated.
- 1.7.1 Various layers of ground makeup were uncovered indicating that the yard surface had evolved over time. The southwestern wall of a probable sunken chamber, possibly a

shot-blasting pit, was located at the eastern end of the site. All trenches were sealed by the most recent yard surface, comprising a concrete slab.



## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation was commissioned by Green Acre Homes South East Limited and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Planning Permission is being sought to develop the land for residential use. However, the site lies within an area designated Scheduled Ancient Monument Roman Bath House & Saxon Cemetery (SAM 145), and thus Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for an evaluation to determine the survival, nature and significance of the archaeological remains on the site. This was accomplished in two phases, the first of which took place in May 2005. This report details the second phase of work, located in the area intended for the gardens of the new houses.
- 2.2 The site is located within H. Smith's Yard, Bellefield Road, Fordcroft, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley. The site is bounded to the north by Bellefield Road, to the east by houses on Bellefield Road and to the south and west by the remainder of H. Smith's Yard (see Fig 1).
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 4668 6757.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the code BFF 05.
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation was supervised by Andrew Sargent and managed by Gary Brown. Its progress was monitored by Mark Stevenson, English Heritage GLAAS and Dr Steven Brindle, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, London Region.
- 2.6 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000



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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:625

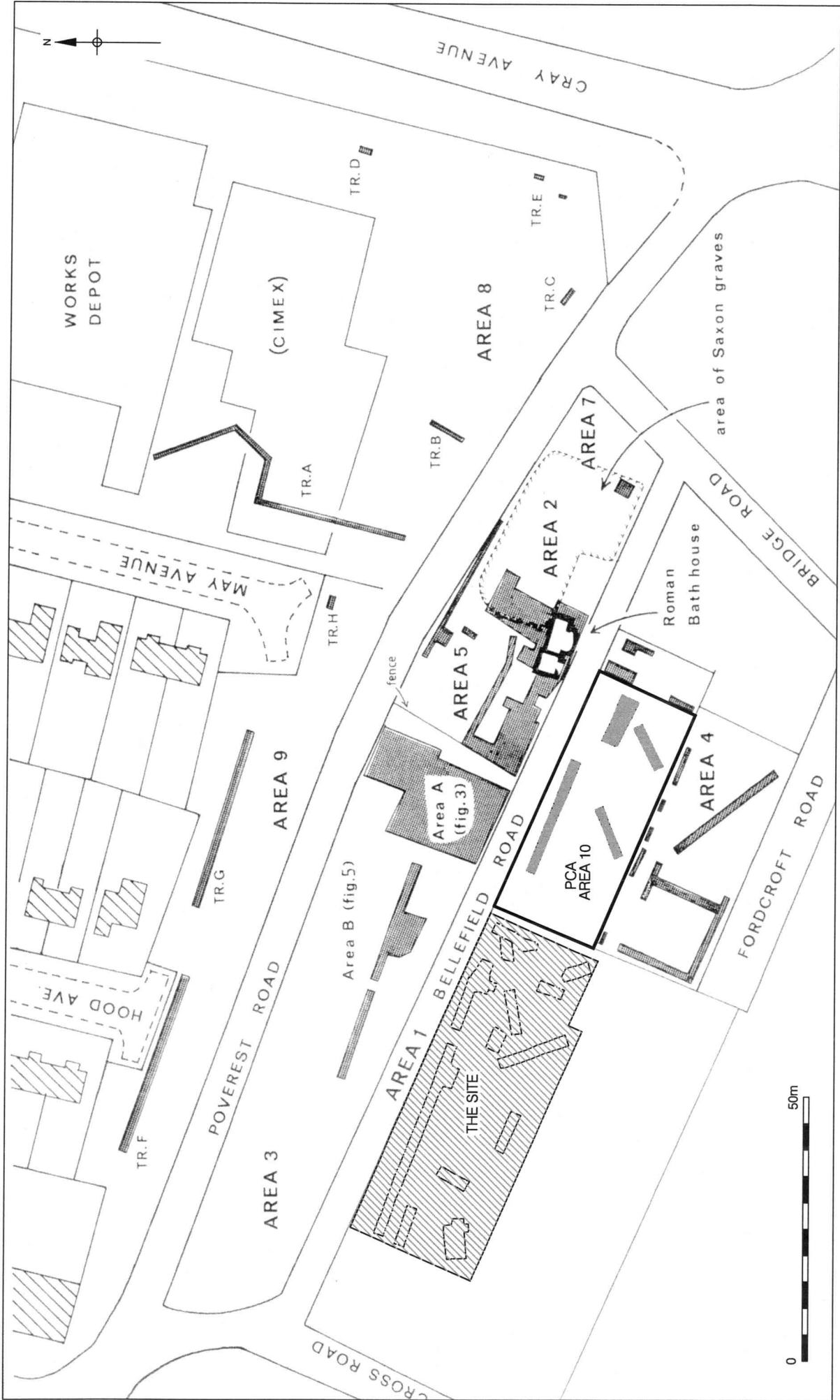


Figure 3  
 Previous Areas of Excavation (after Philp and Keller 1995)  
 1:1000

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The study site lies in the valley of the River Cray approximately 200m west of the river. It slopes gently downwards towards the river from a height of 52.35mOD in the west to 50.60mOD in the east. There are no existing watercourses or bodies of water within the site boundary.
  
- 3.2 The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 271) indicates that the underlying geology of the site comprises a natural River Terrace deposit of Taplow Gravel. Recent borehole surveys in the area suggest that a deposit of brickearth overlies this.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The following discussion draws heavily on research undertaken in May 2005 for the first phase of the current investigation (Wragg 2005). This relied upon several sources relating to aspects of the archaeology of the area. In particular, there have been a number of investigations in and around the Roman bathhouse and Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the east of the site (see Fig 3). P. J. Tester discovered the cemetery during excavations between 1965 and 1968 (summarised in Philp & Keller 1995). Further investigations between 1971 and 1980 (Palmer 1984) exposed the building itself, and examined areas to the north, west and south of it. The South East London Archaeological Unit excavated the area to the west of the bathhouse in 1988 (Philp & Keller 1995). The building was examined again on a smaller scale in 1993 (Tyler & Tyler 1995). Finally, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd conducted an archaeological evaluation of the land immediately to the east of the study site in 2003, and undertook a watching brief on the subsequent groundworks (Wragg 2003 & 2004). In the larger region, an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for the nearby Former AEI Reddiffusion Site on Cray Avenue (Densem & Potter 2002), and a register of sites and finds within the Cray valley, compiled by Michael Meekums (2001) of the Orpington and District Archaeological Society, have been very useful.

### **4.2 The Prehistoric period**

Mesolithic flint artefacts were found at 64 May Avenue to the north of the site, and a scatter of Mesolithic tools and flint waste was recorded at Poverest Road. The 2003 evaluation of the area to the east of the study site recovered a mixed assemblage of struck and burnt flints including one struck flint blade, one multi-platformed flint core and one struck flint flake of probable Mesolithic date. One residual sherd of pottery of possible Iron Age date was found during the evaluation. The first phase of the current evaluation (Wragg 2005) also recovered a small assemblage of residual struck and burnt flints. However, none of these excavations identified any cut features definitely dating to the prehistoric periods, and thus the nature of any occupation in this area remains elusive.

### **4.3 The Roman period**

There is considerable evidence for Roman activity in the immediate environs of the study site. In particular, the remains of a Romano- British bathhouse, occupied in

some form from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup>, stand immediately to the north. To the west of this, excavations have revealed the presence of a kiln or furnace, outbuildings, metalled surfaces, a courtyard and an animal urine soakaway or flue. Excavations to the east of the bath house revealed a ditch, several pits, postholes and an area of flint rubble also dating to this period. The first phase (Wragg 2005) of the current evaluation exposed three phases of activity within the study site. The first, from 50AD to 150AD, comprised two large postholes and two pits, which may be two more large postholes. A large rubbish pit at the eastern end of the study site represented the second phase, dated to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The third phase, dated to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, consisted of a probable well, associated with a burnt surface, a posthole and a possible boundary ditch, again at the eastern end of the site. Romano-British pottery was recovered in 1946 from a sewer trench being dug along Bellefield Road, and also from limited excavations undertaken to the immediate east and south of the site, although these revealed no cut features. The pottery recovered from the eastern excavation was from a thick dark clayey loam deposit in a large basin shaped depression, which may have been a branch of the River Cray. A large quantity of residual Roman pottery and a residual Roman coin were found during the 2003 evaluation to the east of the site, although again, none of the features were definitely Roman in date. Regionally, there is much evidence for Roman activity throughout the Cray Valley. A small Roman cremation cemetery was recorded at 34 May Avenue, 200m to the north of the site. Southeast of the site, on the opposite side of the river, a corn drying oven and pit were recorded near Lower Road, a ditch was excavated at Kent Road, areas of metalling and quarry pits were recorded at Wellington Road, and Roman pottery and building material was recovered from a garden in Chelsfield Road. To the west of the site, 376 silver denarii were found in a hoard at Forest Way. Just over 2km to the southwest, the Crofton Roman Villa sits in the valley of the River Cray at Orpington (Philp 1992). In summary, the evidence suggests a well-populated region with significant activity on and around the study site, although its precise form remains uncertain. In particular, how do the various phases of activity identified in the first phase of the current evaluation relate to activity around the adjacent bathhouse? Furthermore, does this activity extend across the rest of the study site?

#### 4.4 The Anglo-Saxon period

Excavations to the northeast and east of the bathhouse revealed a Saxon cemetery containing 71 burials dating from the mid 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ten burials were recorded in close proximity to the bathhouse during subsequent excavations, and a further burial was found to the west of the bathhouse. An isolated grubenhaus was



recorded in excavations at 10-20 Kent Road some 300m to the east of the site. Other than this there is no evidence for settlement dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the immediate vicinity of the study site, and thus the context of the cemetery remains poorly understood.

#### 4.5 **The Medieval period**

The River Cray is first recorded as such in AD 798, the name meaning clean or pure. The settlement at *Sudcrai* is mentioned in Domesday Book, meaning south of the Cray. The parish church of St Mary Cray stands on the High Street on the other side of the river, 750m northeast of the study site, and dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. By this time the settlement is documented as *Creve Sancte Marie*. It is thought to have comprised a small town concentrated along the High Street. The study site is thought to have comprised open farmland during this period, although a medieval burnt clay hearth was discovered during excavations north of the area.

#### 4.6 **The Post- Medieval period**

Maps of the 16<sup>th</sup> century showing St Mary Cray suggest that the land south of the river containing the study site was open land. The Ordnance Survey map of 1864 shows the site was occupied by a field. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1894-6, 1909, 1937 and 1950 show allotment gardens on the site, associated with surrounding housing developments. The 2003 evaluation recorded a layer of post-medieval plough/garden soil, as did the first phase of the current evaluation (Wragg 2005). In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the site was concreted over to become the yard of H. Smith's demolition company.



## 5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Jon Butler, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, originally prepared a Method Statement for the site (Butler 2005), following a brief for an Archaeological Evaluation by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage (Stevenson 2003). The resulting fieldwork was constrained to the northern half of the site, and once the nature of the construction and remediation measures were known a further phase of work comprising the investigation reported in this document was necessary. Gary Brown, Pre-Construct Archaeology prepared a Method Statement for this second phase (Brown 2006), the purpose of which was:

To determine the nature and survival of any archaeological deposits/features/structures in the southern part of the site which is to be subject to remediation measures whereby between 600mm and 900mm of soil is to be removed. The results will help to inform the planning process. (Brown 2006, p.3)

- 5.2 The Method Statement further identified a number of specific Research Aims:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric, especially Mesolithic activity on the site?
- Is there any evidence of Roman settlement on the site, which can be associated with the Roman bathhouse, putative settlement and road to the north at Poverest Road?
- Is there any evidence of structures, such as a villa or mansio, associated with the Roman bathhouse to the north?
- Clarification that features recorded in the Phase 1 evaluation continue across the garden area.
- Is there any evidence of Saxon inhumation on site, associated with the Saxon cemetery to the north?
- Is there any evidence of the Saxon settlement on site associated with the cemetery at Poverest Road?
- Are there any post-medieval remains on site? (Brown 2006, p.7)

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Four trial trenches (6, 7, 8 and 9) were excavated across the southern half of the site (Fig 2) in accordance with the specifications outlined in the Method Statement (Brown 2006). A fifth trench (10) was excavated after consultation with Stephen Brindle and Mark Stevenson. Trench 6 originally measured c. 8 x 2m but was widened after consultation with Stephen Brindle and Mark Stevenson to c. 4m with an extra square metre excavated southward from its southern edge at its eastern end. Trench 7 measured c. 8 x 2m, as did Trench 8 originally, although this latter trench was later extended to a length of c. 14m, again after consultation with Stephen Brindle and Mark Stevenson. Trenches 9 and 10 both measured c. 6 x 2m.
- 6.2 All trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, in spits, using a toothless bucket until the natural brickearth was encountered. Only Trench 9 was extended below this into the natural terrace gravels, in order to confirm the nature of these deposits. The depth below ground surface to the natural geology was between 0.40 and 0.84m across the site.
- 6.3 All trenches were cleaned, and any features excavated, by hand. All features and deposits were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. The locations of the trenches and their planning baselines were surveyed by total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept of all the trenches in colour slide. Finds were collected according to standard retrieval methods.
- 6.4 An Ordnance Survey benchmark of 64.64mOD was located at 48 Poverest Road. This was transferred to the site to create a temporary benchmark at a height of 51.28mOD.

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 7.1 Trench 6 (see Figs 4, 5 & 6)

7.1.1 Trench 6 was orientated east-west and, after extension, measured c. 8m long by c. 4m wide with a square metre excavated southward from its southern edge at its eastern end. It was c. 0.50m deep at its western end and 0.40m deep at its eastern end.

7.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was a mid orangey brown silty sandy clay [171], hereafter called brickearth, at a maximum height of 51.92mOD at its western end, sloping gently down to a height of 51.59mOD at its eastern end.

7.1.3 This deposit was truncated by a feature in the southeast corner of the trench [158] that was cut from a maximum height of 51.59mOD down to a minimum height of 51.23mOD. The feature was irregular in plan, and extended beyond the limit of excavation. However, extrapolation might suggest a large sub-circular shallow pit with a distinctly uneven base, of which the observed cut represents the northwest quarter of the circumference. This excavated portion measured approximately 1.90m north-south by 1.60m east-west. The feature contained two fills, of which the primary [156] filled only the southern half of the excavated cut, and comprised a pale to mid yellowish greyish brown sandy clay at a maximum height of 51.45mOD and a maximum thickness of 0.30m. The secondary fill [157] was a mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt at a maximum height of 51.71mOD and a maximum thickness of 0.52m, and filled the entire excavated cut. Both fills contained pottery sherds of the hand-made Patchgrove tradition, dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and possibly early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. The worn quality of the sherds and the nature of the fills suggest that the cut, perhaps originally excavated for brickearth extraction, was backfilled with a contemporary horticultural soil or ploughsoil.

7.1.4 Cutting this feature, and running approximately northwest-southeast across the trench, was a ditch or gully [126]. At its northwest end it was cut from a height of 51.92mOD down to 51.63mOD, whilst at its southeast end it was cut from a height of 51.71mOD down to 51.45mOD. At its largest it was c. 0.60m wide by c. 0.30m deep, and had evidently been severely truncated by later horticultural activity, particularly at its southeastern end. It was filled by a mid orangey brown sandy clay [125], at a height of 51.92mOD and 0.29m thick at its northwestern end and at a height of 51.72mOD and 0.26m deep at its southeastern end. This fill also contained pottery sherds belonging to the Patchgrove tradition, and, as with the fills of pit [158] beneath

it, probably derived from a contemporary ploughsoil. The gully itself may have been a boundary ditch or field drain sloping downward and eastward towards the River Cray. It is the same as ditches [132] and [122] in Trenches 7 and 8 respectively.

- 7.1.5 The remaining features in this trench all probably date to the post-medieval period. Truncating both pit [158] and gully [126], with a direct stratigraphic relationship to the latter, feature [162] was sub-trapezoidal in plan and continued beyond the southeastern limit of excavation. It was cut from a maximum height of 51.70mOD down to a minimum of 51.54mOD, and was c. 0.80m north-south by c. 1.50m east-west. This shallow bowl was filled with a very compact pale greenish greyish brown sandy clay [161] at a maximum height of 51.70mOD and a maximum thickness of 0.15m. It contained no dateable finds, but its compaction and peculiar colouring were strongly suggestive of some form of post-medieval industrial process. Pit [160] was cut into fill [125] at the southern edge of the trench, extending very slightly beyond the limit of excavation. It was sub-ovoid in plan, c. 0.45m north-south by c. 0.70m east-west, and was cut from a maximum height of 51.75mOD down to a minimum of 51.71mOD. It was filled with a mid brownish grey silty sandy clay [159] at a maximum height of 51.75mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.04m, containing flecks of post-medieval CBM, probably derived from the overlying horticultural soil [170]. Also cutting gully fill [125], and truncating the northeastern side of gully [126], pit [150] lay in the central area of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, c. 90m in diameter, and was cut from a maximum height of 51.75mOD down to a minimum of 51.49mOD. It was filled by a mid brownish grey sandy clay [149] at a maximum height of 51.74mOD and a maximum thickness of 0.28m, containing fragments of CBM and sherds of pottery all dated to the post-medieval period and probably derived from a contemporary horticultural soil. Pit [152] truncated the northeastern edge of feature [150], and was cut from a maximum height of 51.71mOD [152] down to a minimum of 51.32mOD. It was sub-ovoid in plan, measuring c. 1.50m northeast-southwest by c. 1.10m northwest-southeast. It was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy clay at a maximum height of 51.75mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.42m. This fill contained post-medieval CBM and pottery sherds dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was again probably derived from a contemporary horticultural soil. Finally, pit [154] was cut into the natural brickearth deposit toward the eastern end of the trench, from a maximum height of 51.76mOD down to a minimum of 51.66mOD. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring c. 0.90m in diameter, and was filled with a mid orangey brown sandy clay at a maximum height of 47.50mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.10m. This fill contained a fragment of post-medieval glass, and, as with most of the other post-medieval features in this trench, was probably derived from a contemporary horticultural soil. None of these features can be interpreted to

fulfil a specific function, and all have probably been severely truncated by later horticultural activity.

7.1.6 All the features in this trench, except for feature [162], were sealed by a deposit of mid olive brown silty clay. This sloped gently from a maximum height of 52.33mOD in the northwest corner of the trench down to a minimum height of 51.59mOD in the southeast corner of the trench, where it dissipated just short of feature [162]. It was a maximum of 0.35m thick and contained no dateable material. However, from its stratigraphic position and the nature of its makeup, it was assumed to represent the remnant of a post-medieval horticultural soil, possibly associated with the allotments that occupied the site until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was probably significantly truncated by later ground levelling preparatory to the formation of the existing yard.

7.1.7 This deposit was sealed by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century hard core rubble, sloping from a maximum height of 52.33mOD in the northeast corner of the trench down to a minimum of 51.87mOD in the southeast corner of the trench, and with a maximum thickness of 0.24m. It represents mid 20<sup>th</sup> century ground levelling processes and provided a makeup layer for deposit [168]. This formed the modern concrete yard surface, again sloping gently from northwest to southeast, from a maximum of 52.43mOD to a minimum of 51.97mOD, with a maximum thickness of 0.12m.

## 7.2 Trench 7 (see Figs 4 & 5)

7.2.1 Trench 7 was orientated northwest-southeast, and measured c. 8m long by c. 2m wide. It was c. 0.60m deep along its entire length.

7.2.2 As in Trench 6, the earliest deposit revealed in this trench was a natural pale orangey brown sandy clay brickearth [142], sloping gently from a maximum height of 51.01mOD at the northwest end of the trench to a minimum of 50.77mOD at the southeast end of the trench.

7.2.3 This deposit was truncated by a gully [132] aligned approximately northwest-southeast and running along the entire length of the trench. It was cut from a height of 51.01mOD down to 50.90mOD at its northwestern end, and from 50.83mOD down to 50.71mOD at its southeastern end. Its width was a maximum of 0.39m and a minimum of 0.20m, and its depth was a maximum of 0.12m and a minimum of 0.08m. It was filled by a mid orangey brown sandy clay [131], at a height of 51.01mOD at the northwestern end of the gully and 50.81mOD at its southeastern end, with a maximum thickness of 0.12m and a minimum of 0.08m. This fill contained no dating

evidence, although this feature is probably the same as gully [126] and fill [125] in Trench 6, and thus can be represented by the 2<sup>nd</sup> to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery found there. Mid way along the trench the feature was joined on its southwestern side by another gully [128] running northeast-southwest, thus forming a T junction. This feature was cut from a height of 50.89mOD down to 50.78mOD, and had an approximately constant width of 0.36m and a depth of 0.11m. No inter-cutting could be discerned between this feature and gully [132], and they were assumed to be contemporary, products of one excavation event. Gully [128] was filled by a mid orangey brown sandy clay at a height of 50.89m and 0.11m thick; again, this contained no dating evidence but was assumed to be the same as fill [131], and therefore dateable to a period not earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The reduced cross-section of the gullies in this trench when compared to that in Trench 6 suggests severe horizontal truncation by later horticultural activity.

7.2.4 The above features were sealed by a layer of mid orangey olive brown sandy clay [147], sloping gently from a maximum height of 51.24mOD at the northwestern end of the trench to a minimum of 51.06mOD at the southeastern end of the trench. This deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.36m and contained no dating evidence. It was overlain by a deposit of mid olive brown sandy silty clay [141], which also sloped gently from a maximum of 51.32mOD midway along the trench to a minimum of 51.20mOD at the southeastern end of the trench. At the northwestern end of the trench the deposit had an irregular profile, perhaps caused by some form of disturbance associated with deposit [145] above. From its maximum midway along the trench, the height of the deposit descended to a minimum of 51.24mOD toward the northwestern end of the trench. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.17m and contained no dating evidence. Deposits [147] and [141] were interpreted as horticultural soils, perhaps representing two different phases of horticultural activity on the site. The later deposit may be associated with the use of the site as allotments up to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

7.2.5 Towards northwestern end of the trench deposit [141] was overlain by a sand and gravel mix at a maximum height of 51.46mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.20m. This contained no dating evidence, but was assumed to represent ground levelling associated with the formation of the existing yard. At the northwest end of the trench this deposit was truncated by a construction trench [144] for a concrete groundbeam [143], aligned northeast-southwest running across the entire width of the trench. It was cut from a height of 51.46mOD, where it was c. 0.40m wide. Its width tapered gradually with increasing depth, and the cut continued below the limit of excavation. This probably formed the foundation for a building associated with the existing yard, now demolished. Overlying deposit [145] at its southeastern end, and

continuing in this direction to cover the middle region of the trench, was a 20<sup>th</sup> century hard core rubble layer, sloping from a maximum height of 51.47mOD at its northwestern end down to a minimum of 51.26mOD at its southeastern end. This deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.15m and formed a makeup layer for the existing concrete yard surface [139]. This also sloped gently, from a maximum of 51.58mOD at the northwest end of the trench to a minimum of 51.31mOD at the southeast end.

### 7.3 Trench 8 (see Figs 4 & 5)

7.3.1 Trench 8 was aligned approximately northwest-southeast, and, after extension, measured c. 14m long by c. 2m wide. Its depth varied irregularly between 0.50 and 0.70m along its length.

7.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was natural flint gravel in a mid orangey brown brickearth matrix [148], revealed in patches beneath the brickearth in the northwestern half of the trench. This was found at a maximum height of 50.34mOD and a minimum of 50.27mOD, and possibly represents a transition zone between the brickearth above and the terrace gravels assumed to lie beneath. It was overlain by a deposit of mid orangey brown brickearth [137] that varied irregularly in height between a maximum of 50.43mOD towards the middle of the trench and a minimum of 50.32mOD towards its ends. This layer was evidently very thin in the northwestern half of the trench.

7.3.3 This deposit was truncated in the southeastern central portion of the trench by a gully [122] aligned approximately east-west, cut from a height of 50.35mOD down to a minimum of 50.28mOD. It had a maximum width of 0.24m and a maximum depth of 0.08m, and was filled with a mid olive brown sandy silty clay at a height of 50.35mOD and 0.08m thick. This deposit was probably derived from a contemporary horticultural soil or ploughsoil. It contained no dating evidence, but the gully, and probably the fill, are the same as [126] and [125], and [132] and [131], encountered in Trenches 6 and 7 respectively. The feature can therefore be dated to no earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The feature had suffered from tree bole disturbance at its western end.

7.3.4 Just to the north of the gully, and cut into the natural brickearth, was a sub-circular pit or large posthole [120], c. 0.80m to 1m in diameter and 0.19m deep. It was cut from a maximum height of 50.43mOD down to 50.24mOD. It was filled with a mid orangey brown sandy silty clay at a maximum height of 50.43mOD and 0.19m thick. This fill

contained no dating evidence, although it did include a piece of burnt flint. It was probably derived from a contemporary ploughsoil or horticultural soil, and its similarity to the fill of the gully suggests that it may also date from the Roman or early medieval period.

7.3.5 Two inter-cutting pits were located at the southeastern end of the trench, both of which extended beyond the limit of excavation. Their plans might be extrapolated to sub-circular or sub-ovoid, although this is fairly tenuous, as only small fractions of these shapes were observed in the trench. The earlier pit [116] was cut into the natural brickearth from a height of 50.32mOD, down to 49.98mOD, and measured 1.30m northwest-southeast by c. 0.70m northeast-southwest. It was filled by a mid olive brown sandy silty clay [115] at a height of 50.26mOD and 0.25m thick, which contained a sherd of white salt-glazed stoneware dated to between AD 1720 and 1780. The later pit truncated [116] on its western side, and was cut from a height of 50.32mOD, to deeper than 49.66mOD, at which point excavation was halted for health and safety reasons. The pit measured c. 1.20m northwest-southeast by 1.60m northeast-southwest, and was filled by a mid olive brown sandy silty clay [117] at a maximum height of 50.32mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.66m. This fill contained a sherd of black-glazed red earthenware dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a sherd of Frechen stoneware dated from 1550 to 1700, and a sherd of transfer-printed ware, dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Together, these two pits may represent successive episodes of brickearth extraction, with pit fills derived from contemporary ploughsoils or horticultural soils. This sequence of events may have begun in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

7.3.6 All the features in this trench were sealed by a layer of pale olive brown silty clay [146], at a height that varied irregularly from a maximum of 50.64mOD in the northwest-central portion of the trench to minima of 50.44mOD at the northwestern end of the trench and 50.31mOD at the southeastern end of the trench. Its maximum thickness was 0.33m, and it contained no dating evidence. Its stratigraphic position above features [116] and [118] suggests that it dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the earliest, and it may possibly be the same soil from which the fills of pit [118] and possibly pit [116] were derived. It is overlain by a layer of mid olive brown sandy silty clay [136], which again varied irregularly in height from a maximum of 50.69mOD in the northwest-central portion of the trench to minima of 50.59mOD towards the northwestern end of the trench and 50.39mOD at the southeastern end of the trench. It had a maximum thickness of 0.17m and again contained no dating evidence. It was interpreted as a horticultural soil that may be associated with the use of the site as allotments up to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.



7.3.7 Overlying this deposit in the southeastern-central portion of the trench was a layer of dark olive brown clayey sand [138] at a maximum height of 50.68mOD and a fairly constant thickness of c. 0.04m. This was overlain in turn by a sand and gravel mix deposit [135] that covered the southeastern half of the trench. Its height varied from a maximum in its central portion of 50.84mOD to minima of 50.64mOD and 50.61mOD at its northwestern and southeastern ends respectively. It had a maximum thickness of 0.35m and contained no dating evidence. This deposit was sealed by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century hard-core rubble [134] that covered the entire trench, varying in height from a maximum of 50.99mOD in its central portion to minima of 50.79mOD and 50.80mOD towards its northwestern and southeastern ends respectively. It had a maximum thickness of 0.28m, and provided makeup for the existing concrete yard surface [133] that again covered the entire trench but was severely degraded in its central region. Its height varied irregularly along its length, but this variation was fairly small, and the surface maintained a constantly recurring maximum of 50.99mOD.

#### 7.4 Trench 9 (see Figs 4 & 5)

7.4.1 Trench 9 was aligned approximately northwest-southeast, and measured c. 6m long by c. 2m wide. Its depth varied from c. 1.20m towards its southeastern end to c. 1m at its northwestern end.

7.4.2 The earliest deposit in this trench was a layer of mid orangey brown sandy clayey coarse gravel [111] at the northeastern end of the trench, at a maximum height of 49.90mOD and sloping down towards the east to a height of 49.60mOD. This was overlain by a deposit of yellowish brown sandy clayey coarse gravel [110] covering the rest of the trench. This also sloped down towards the east from a maximum height of 49.91mOD to a minimum of 49.47mOD. Furthermore, this western rise was bisected by a U-shaped depression half way along the edge of the trench with a minimum height of 49.47mOD. This may have been the eastern end of a channel, at the point where it opened into the lower ground to the east. Filling this channel, and overlying the lower gravels along the eastern edge of the trench, was a deposit of mid brownish yellow brickearth [109]. This was at a fairly constant height across the trench no greater than 49.98mOD.

7.4.3 Sealing this deposit was a layer of mid olive brown sandy silty clay [108], varying in height from a maximum in the central portion of the trench of 50.19mOD to minima of 49.94mOD and 49.95mOD at the southeastern and northwestern ends of the trench respectively. This deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.27m and contained post-

medieval CBM. It was interpreted as a horticultural soil and had evidently been horizontally truncated by later ground levelling works associated with the formation of the existing yard.

7.4.4 Sealing this deposit was a layer of dark grey sandy clayey gravel [107] varying irregularly in height from a maximum of 50.33mOD at the northwestern end of the trench to a minimum of 50.05mOD towards the southeastern end of the trench. It had a maximum thickness of 0.40m and contained post-medieval glass and CBM. This was overlain by three separate deposits. First, a deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century unglazed patented ceramic tiles [104] at the northwestern end of the trench, with a fairly constant height no greater than 50.43mOD, stepping down to 50.33mOD at its northwest end. It had a maximum thickness of 0.18m. Second, a further deposit of the same form of tile [103] in the centre of the trench, at a maximum central height of 50.52mOD, and dropping off steeply at either end to minima of 50.40mOD at its northwestern end and 50.20mOD at its southeastern end. It had a maximum thickness of 0.27m. Third, a deposit of 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial refuse (burnt material, glass fragments, rubble, etc.) [106] at the southeastern end of the trench, at a fairly constant height no greater than 50.23mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.18m. This latter deposit was overlain in turn by a deposit of dark grey sandy gravel [105], again concentrated at the southeastern end of the trench. It had a maximum height of 50.44mOD at its southeastern end with a maximum thickness of 0.24m, and tapered down to a minimum of 50.20m at its northwestern end. It contained post-medieval glass and metal fragments. All these deposits were sealed by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century hard-core rubble [102], which sloped gently from a maximum height of 50.62mOD at the northwestern end of the trench to a minimum of 50.50mOD at the southeastern end. It had a maximum thickness of 0.39m. All these layers and dumped deposits represent successive episodes of ground making and usage associated with the existing demolition yard.

7.4.5 Deposit [102] was truncated at its northwestern end by a construction cut [112] aligned northwest-southeast, cut from a height of 50.62mOD vertically downwards and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. It was filled by a 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete block-built wall [114] and back filled with dark greyish brown sandy clay [113] containing a polystyrene cup. This may be the southwestern edge of a sunken shot blasting pit known to be somewhere on the site. This structure, and the rest of the trench, was sealed by a modern concrete yard surface [101], sloping gently from a maximum height of 50.74mOD at the northwestern end of the trench to 50.62mOD at its southeastern end. It had a maximum thickness of 0.13m.

## 7.5 Trench 10 (see Figs 4, 5 & 6)

7.5.1 Trench 10 was orientated northeast-southwest, and measured c. 6m long by c. 2m wide. It maintained a depth between 0.55 and 0.65m along its entire length.

7.5.2 The earliest deposit in this trench was natural mid orangey brown brickearth [172], sloping very gently downwards from a maximum of 51.35mOD at its southwest end to a minimum of 51.16mOD at its northeast end.

7.5.3 This deposit was truncated at its northeastern end by a probable ditch [177] aligned approximately east west, and cut from a height of 51.16mOD down to 50.47mOD. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, and thus was greater than 1.40m wide. It had two fills. First, a pale yellowish brown sandy clay [175] at a maximum height of 50.91mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.40m. Above this was a mid orangey brown sandy clay [176] with a maximum height of 51.19mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.30m. Neither fill contained any dating evidence, but both must date to the Roman period or earlier because fill [176] was truncated by a Roman period posthole (see below). A thin spread of small gravels (5-40mm in diameter) [166] overlay the brickearth in the central portion of the trench towards its southeast side. This varied in height between 51.29mOD and 51.17mOD and was irregularly shaped, measuring c. 1.50m northeast-southwest by c. 1.70m northwest-southeast up to the northwestern limit of excavation, beyond which it continued. This also underlay Roman period features, and may represent the disturbed remnant of a metalled surface.

7.5.4 To the north of the surface, and truncating ditch [177], was a posthole [174] cut from a height of 51.30mOD down to 51.15mOD. It was sub-circular in plan and measured c. 0.60m in diameter. It was filled with mid greyish brown sandy clay [173] at a maximum height of 51.30mOD and 0.10m thick. It contained a sherd of possible Verulamium region white ware, dated to between 50 and 160AD. Truncating the gravel surface [166] on its northwest side was a large shallow pit [164], cut from a maximum height of 51.32mOD down to 50.99mOD. Irregularly shaped, it measured c. 2m northeast-southwest and c. 1m northwest-southeast up to the northwestern limit of excavation, beyond which it continued. The primary fill of the pit was a deposit of chalk nodules [165] confined to the northeast end of the pit, at a maximum height of 51.26mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.18m. Overlying this was a deposit of dark brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions [163] at a maximum height of 51.36mOD and with a maximum thickness of 0.32m. This fill contained many sherds of pottery, the majority of which was of the hand-made Patchgrove tradition, including in particular a large jar rim sherd. The pottery also included some

Thameside Kent grey wares. Additionally, a piece of box flue tile with combed keying was recovered. All this evidence dates to a period from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century through the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and possibly into the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Overlying this fill and extending across the possible metalled surface was a teardrop-shaped deposit of sandy clay [155], aligned east-west, and turned dark reddish orangey brown by the effect of heat. This burnt surface measured 1.20m east-west by 0.35m north-south, was at a height of 51.27mOD, and had a maximum thickness of 0.06m. At its west end three roman brick fragments were arranged to form a rough surface. The largest of the three was of Pedalis or Lydion type, whilst the other two were of Bipedalis or Sesquipedalis form. All these date to between 50 and 200AD. This feature may represent the position of a hearth or flue.

- 7.5.5 A linear feature [181], aligned approximately northeast-southwest, truncated the brickearth just within the limit of excavation in the southern corner of the trench. It was cut from a height of 51.31mOD and was not excavated further than this. It was filled with burnt 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse at a height of 51.26mOD. This and all other features in the trench were sealed by a layer of mid olive brown silty clay [180], sloping gently down from a maximum of 51.61mOD at the southwestern end of the trench to a minimum of 51.44mOD at its northeastern end. It had a maximum thickness of 0.24m and contained no dating evidence. It was interpreted as a horticultural soil associated with the use of the site as allotments up to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.5.6 Sealing this layer was a deposit of 20<sup>th</sup> century hard-core rubble [179] containing yellow bricks, which maintained a fairly constant height not greater than 51.77mOD. It had a maximum thickness of 0.33m and represents a ground-levelling event in the history of the formation of the demolition yard. It was sealed by the modern concrete yard surface [178], which maintained a fairly constant height not greater than 51.88mOD and had a maximum thickness of 0.13m.

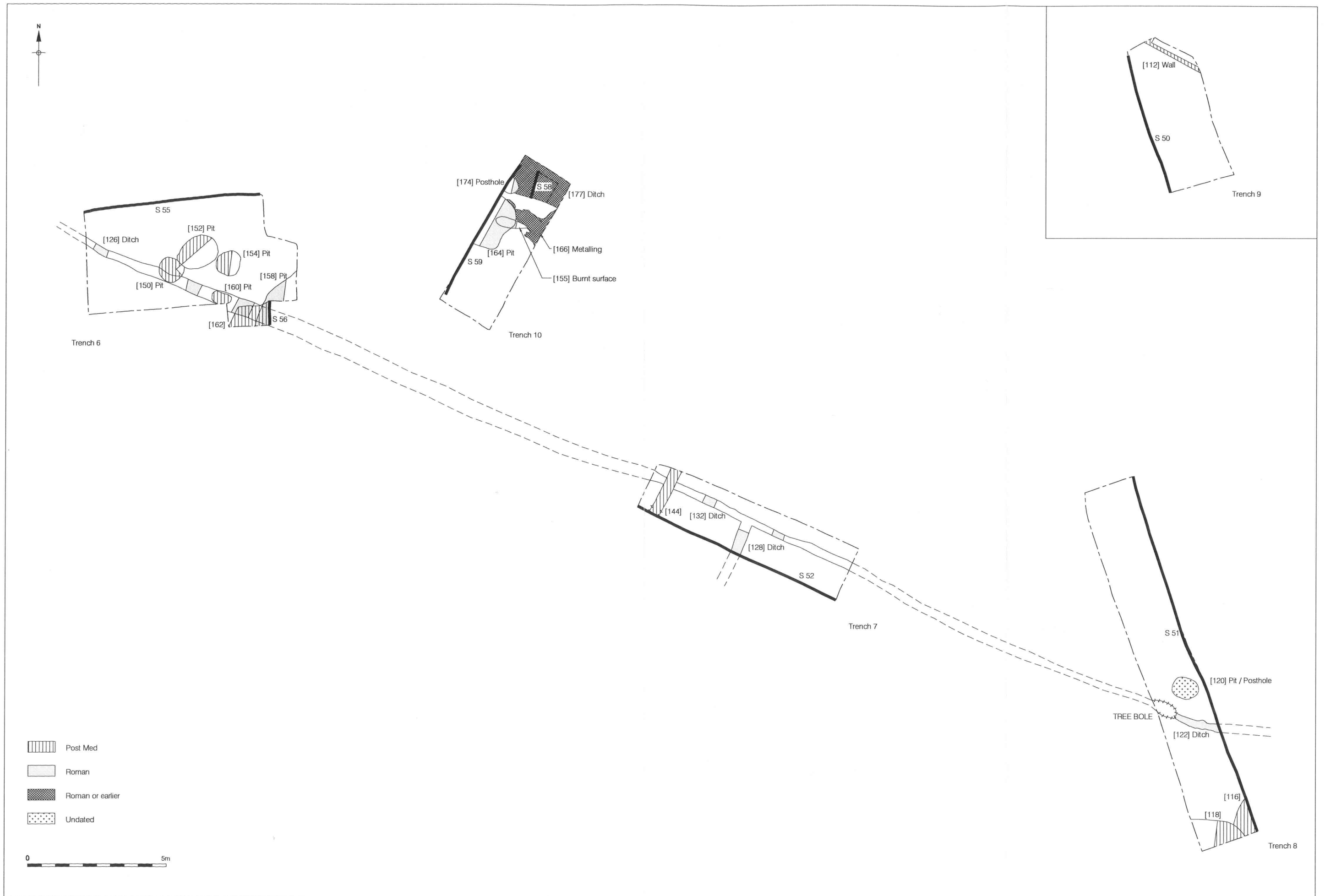
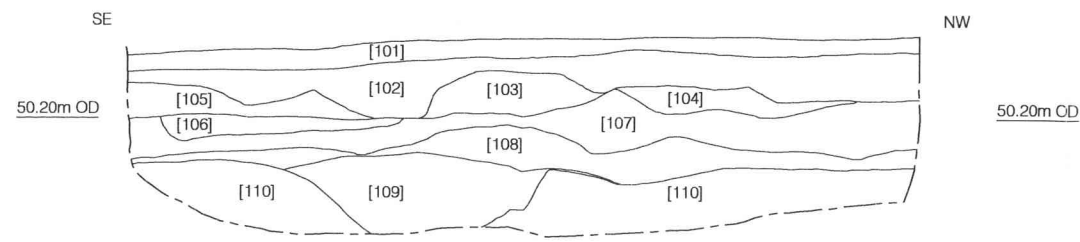
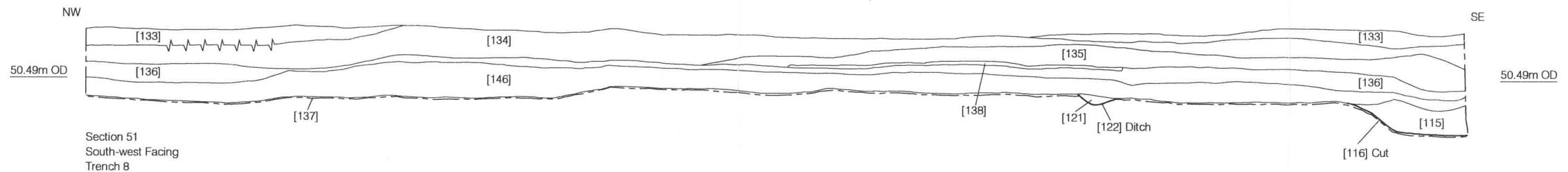


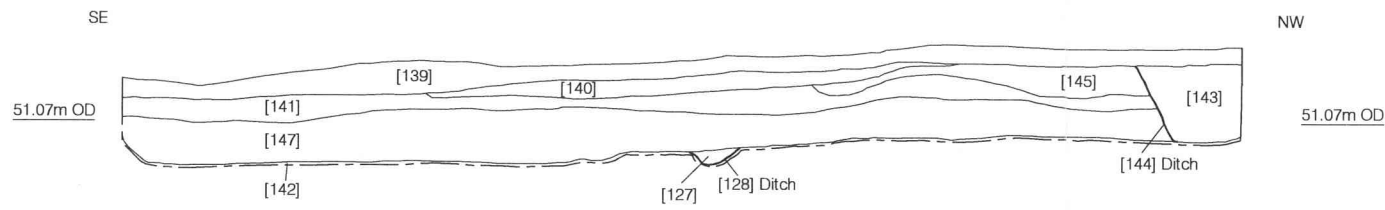
Figure 4  
Trenches 6, 7, 8, 9, 10  
1:125



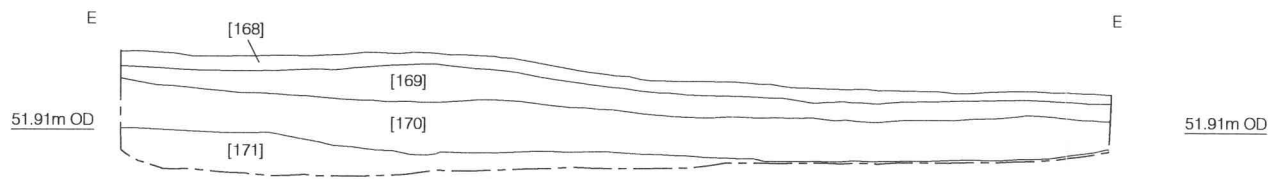
Section 50  
North-east Facing  
Trench 9



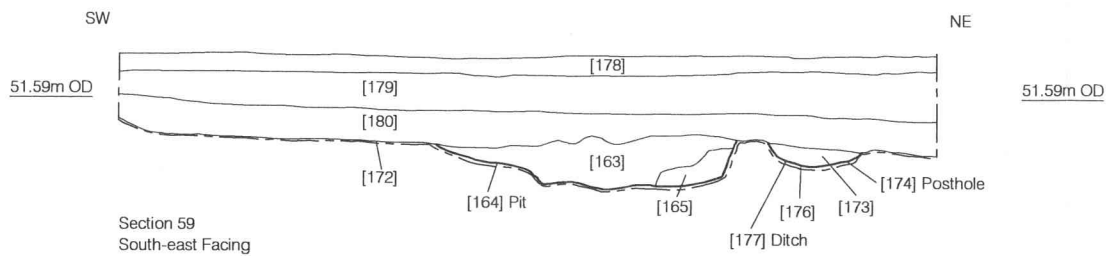
Section 51  
South-west Facing  
Trench 8



Section 52  
North-east Facing  
Trench 7



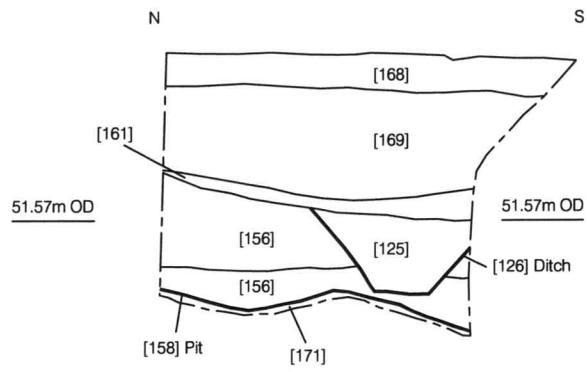
Section 55  
South Facing  
Trench 6



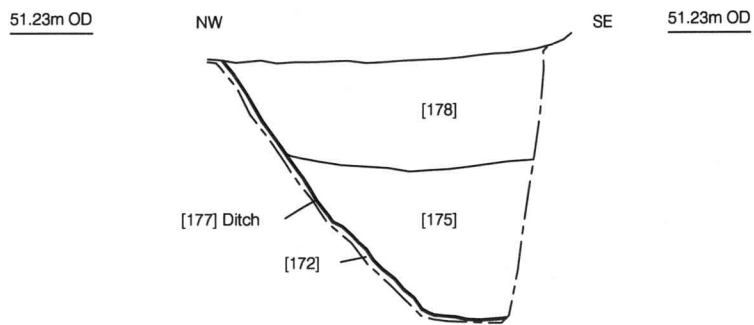
Section 59  
South-east Facing  
Trench 10



Figure 5  
Sections 50, 51, 52, 55, 59  
1:50



Section 56  
West Facing  
Trench 6



Section 58  
South-west Facing  
Trench 10



Figure 6  
Sections 56, 58  
1:20

## 8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest deposits recorded on site were natural river terrace gravels, in Trenches 8 and 9, overlain by natural brickearth, which was found in all trenches. This deposit sloped gradually from 51.92mOD at the western end of the site to 49.98mOD at its eastern end. This follows the general topography of the area, which slopes towards the River Cray to the east. A probable palaeochannel associated with the earlier history of this river may have been located in Trench 9 at the eastern end of the site, truncating the river gravels and filled with brickearth.
- 8.2 No definite evidence for prehistoric activity was found during the investigation.
- 8.3 Two features were discovered overlying the natural deposits that predated the definite Roman period features. Both were in Trench 10, and comprised an east-west ditch cut, 0.69m deep and over 1.40m wide, and the remnant of a possible metalled surface immediately to the south of the ditch. They may not be contemporary, and may also predate the Roman period. However, their position, form and alignment suggest that they are more likely to be earlier elements of the Roman period landscape.
- 8.4 Truncating the surface, the large shallow pit ([164]) may have been associated with some form of light industry, as its fill is saturated with charcoal and it contains many pottery sherds. The burnt surface that in turn overlies the pit suggests that this usage of the site had several phases. This compares well with evidence for industrial processes found in the first phase of this evaluation towards the eastern corner of the site. Both excavations recovered pottery dated to a period between the later 1<sup>st</sup> century and earlier 3<sup>rd</sup> century. This is contemporary with the use of the bathhouse, and indicates that the strip of land to the west of this building, including the entire study site, may have been in use as some form of work yard supporting the settlement associated with the bathhouse. The road and fence line found during earlier excavations between Poverest Road and Bellefield Road may have bounded this space to the north (see Fig 7). The location of the settlement itself is not clear. Several postholes have been discovered across the site, including one in Trench 6, and a large undated example in Trench 8 that is very similar to two postholes found during the first phase of the evaluation, [30] and [35] in Trench 1A (Wragg 2005). However, at the present state of excavation, none of these together constitute a definite structure. Indeed, it is possible that the bathhouse, which is of modest quality, may have existed as part of a villa estate, perhaps to service the estate workers, rather than anything more urban.



- 8.5 The evidence for Roman period activity found in Trench 6 is of a slightly different form to that discussed above. Here, a large pit was excavated, possibly to extract brickearth for building. Later, the in-filled pit was cut by a ditch running northwest-southeast along the length of the study site. Both features were backfilled with what appears to be a contemporary ploughsoil, suggesting proximity to agricultural or horticultural activities. Pottery of similar form to that recovered in Trench 10 was found in this soil, indicating that the features in both trenches may be contemporary, or at least broadly sequential. The ditch may have been cut to separate fields or gardens to the southwest from the putative industrial yard area to the northeast. The ditch junction exposed in Trench 7 might suggest further land division on the southwest side of the ditch, perhaps subdividing garden plots or bounding fields (see Fig 7).
- 8.6 No evidence of funerary or settlement activity dating to the Anglo-Saxon period was discovered during the investigation.
- 8.7 All of the trenches were sealed by one or more horticultural horizons that sloped down gradually from 52.33mOD at the west end of the site to 49.94mOD at the east end of the site. In Trenches 6 and 10 these overlay shallow post-medieval truncations, suggesting that the horizons themselves are fairly recent. They are probably associated with the use of the site as allotments prior to the construction of the existing yard in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Secondary horizons beneath these in Trenches 7 and 8 may date to an earlier period of horticultural exploitation, although in Trench 8 this must still postdate the large pits at its southeast end, possibly excavated for gravel extraction purposes, that were dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 8.8 These horticultural horizons were probably significantly horizontally truncated by ground levelling events during the formation of the existing yard in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Various layers of ground makeup were uncovered in each trench, between c. 0.15 and c. 0.70m deep, indicating that the yard surface had evolved over time. This was especially true in Trench 9, in which c. 0.70m of made ground contained seven separate contexts of deposition. This trench also contained the southwestern wall of a probable sunken chamber, possibly a shot blasting pit, that will have significantly truncated any archaeological deposits to the north of this trench. The most recent yard surface, a concrete slab covering much of the site, sloped gradually from 52.43mOD at the western end of the site to 50.62mOD at the eastern end of the site.

8.9 This investigation has discovered significant evidence for Roman period activity concentrated in the northwestern region of the sampled area, and extending southeastward along its southwestern boundary. This contrasts with the results of the first phase of the investigation, which revealed Roman period features predominantly in the eastern region of the area then investigated, and suggests that such evidence may in fact exist across the entire site, often surviving beneath the remnants of horticultural soils associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> century allotments and not destroyed by later yard formation processes. Further excavation in this area is needed to understand the nature of this occupation, and thus additional active mitigation within this area is highly recommended.

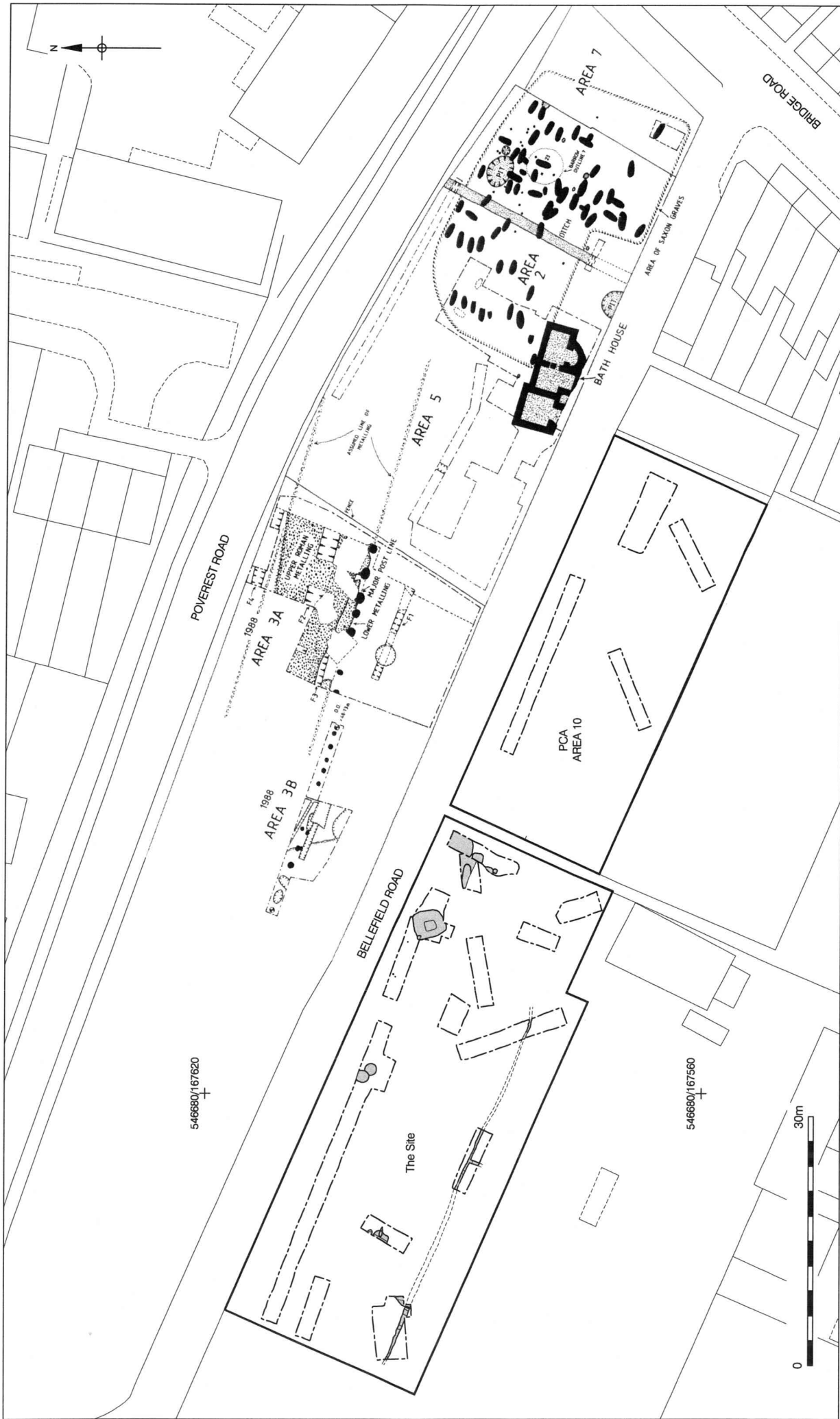


Figure 7  
 Roman Features in Relation to Previously Excavated Features,  
 Including a Roman Bath House and Saxon Cemetery  
 1:625

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Green Acre Homes South-East Ltd. for funding the archaeological work and for their continued interest in the project. Particular thanks go to Simon Holmes, Simon McKeown and Kevin Davenport. Thanks are also due to Mark Stevenson (GLAAS) and Dr Steven Brindle (English Heritage) for making themselves available, often at short notice, for both office based discussions and for site visits.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank the project manager, Gary Brown, for his support during the project, and Dave Harris for the illustrations. Thanks are also due to James Gerrard and Berni Sudds for analysis of the pottery and CBM.

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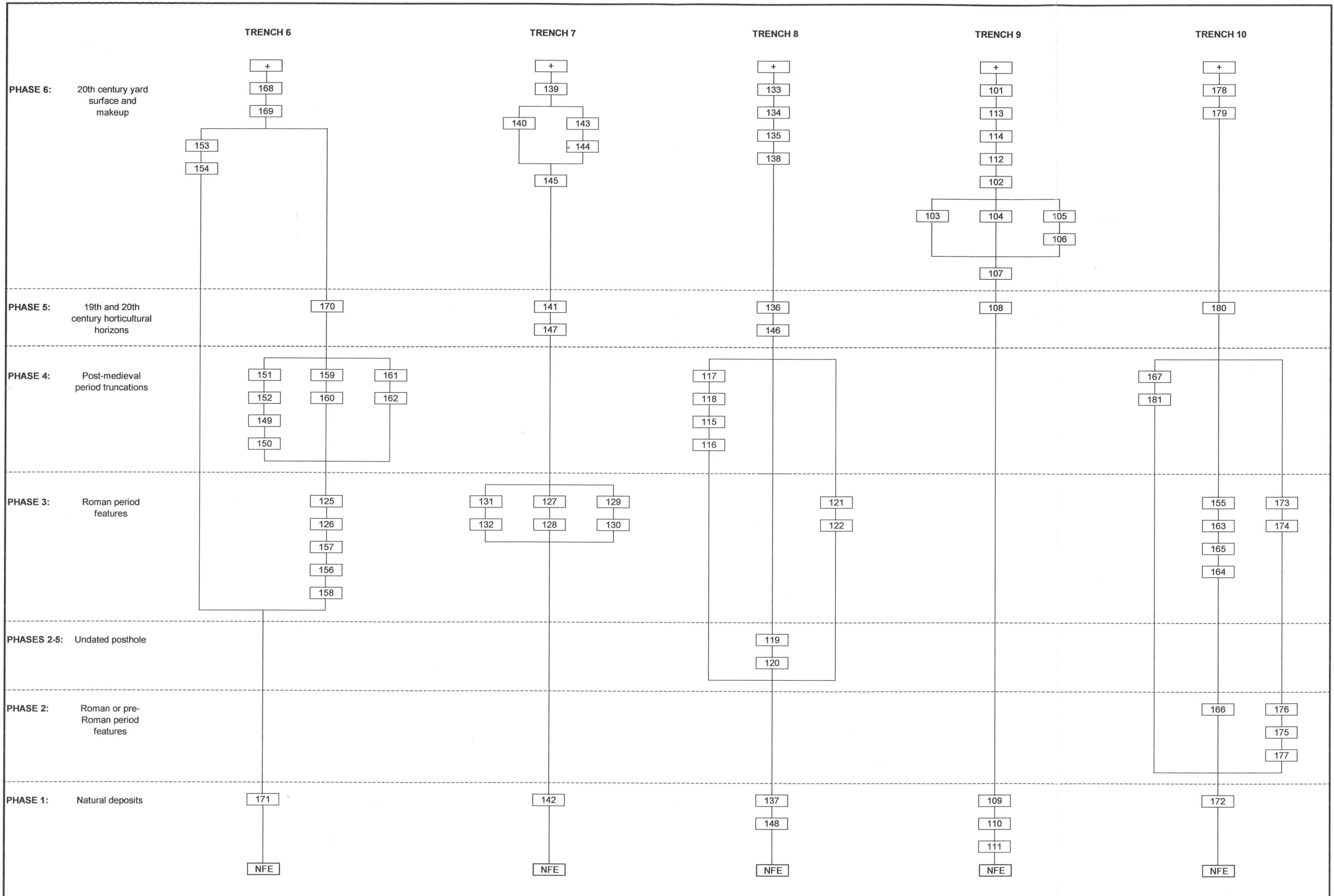
## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

CONTEXT NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH
101	Layer	Concrete yard surface	9
102	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century hard-core	9
103	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century moulded tile deposit	9
104	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century moulded tile deposit	9
105	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground	9
106	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground	9
107	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground	9
108	Layer	Horticultural horizon	9
109	Layer	Natural brickearth	9
110	Layer	Natural gravel	9
111	Layer	Natural gravel	9
112	Cut	Construction cut for [114]	9
113	Fill	Backfill of [112]	9
114	Masonry	20 <sup>th</sup> century wall	9
115	Fill	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century fill of [116]	8
116	Cut	Pit	8
117	Fill	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century fill of [118]	8
118	Cut	Pit	8
119	Fill	Fill of [120]	8
120	Cut	Posthole	8
121	Fill	Fill of [122]	8
122	Cut	E-W ditch	8
123	VOID		
124	VOID		
125	Fill	Roman fill of [126]	6
126	Cut	NW-SE ditch	6
127	Fill	Fill of [128]	7
128	Cut	NE-SW ditch	7
129	Fill	Fill of [130] – same as [131]	7
130	Cut	NW-SE ditch – same as [132]	7
131	Fill	Fill of [132]	7
132	Cut	NW-SE ditch	7
133	Layer	Concrete yard surface	8
134	Layer	Hard-core makeup for [133]	8
135	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground	8
136	Layer	Horticultural horizon	8
137	Layer	Natural brickearth	8
138	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground	8
139	Layer	Concrete yard surface	7
140	Layer	Hard-core makeup for [139]	7
141	Layer	Horticultural horizon	7
142	Layer	Natural brickearth	7
143	Masonry	Concrete groundbeam	7
144	Cut	Construction cut for [143]	7
145	Layer	20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground	7

CONTEXT NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH
146	Layer	Horticultural horizon	8
147	Layer	Horticultural horizon	7
148	Layer	Natural gravel	8
149	Fill	Post-medieval fill of [150]	6
150	Cut	Pit	6
151	Fill	Post-medieval fill of [152]	6
152	Cut	Pit	6
153	Fill	Post-medieval fill of [154]	6
154	Cut	Pit	6
155	Layer	Roman burnt surface	10
156	Fill	Roman primary fill of [158]	6
157	Fill	Roman secondary fill of [158]	6
158	Cut	Pit	6
159	Fill	Post-medieval fill of [160]	6
160	Cut	Pit	6
161	Fill	Post-medieval fill of [162]	6
162	Cut	Pit	6
163	Fill	Roman secondary fill of [164]	10
164	Cut	Pit	10
165	Fill	Primary fill of [164]	10
166	Layer	Gravel layer, possible metalling	10
167	Fill	20 <sup>th</sup> century fill of [181]	10
168	Layer	Concrete yard surface	6
169	Layer	Hard-core makeup for [168]	6
170	Layer	Horticultural horizon	6
171	Layer	Natural brickearth	6
172	Layer	Natural brickearth	10
173	Fill	Roman fill of [174]	10
174	Cut	Posthole	10
175	Fill	Primary fill of [177]	10
176	Fill	Secondary fill of [177]	10
177	Cut	E-W ditch	10
178	Layer	Concrete yard surface	10
179	Layer	Hard-core makeup fro [178]	10
180	Layer	Horticultural horizon	10
181	Cut	Linear cut	10



# APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRICES



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-16521**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2) at H. Smith's Yard, Bellefield Road, Fordcroft, Orpington
Short description of the project	This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation (phase 2) undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at H. Smith's Yard, Bellefield Road, Fordcroft, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley. The central National Grid Reference is TQ 4668 6757. The evaluation was undertaken between 19th and 28th June 2006. The commissioning client was Green Acre Homes South East Limited, who are seeking planning permission to redevelop the site. The land lies within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument Roman Bath House and Saxon Cemetery (SAM 145). Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent was granted for an archaeological evaluation. Evidence of Roman industrial and possibly agricultural activity was recorded, which may have been associated with the bathhouse to the east, possibly as part of a work yard and horticultural area. No evidence of Anglo-Saxon funerary or settlement activity associated with the cemetery to the northeast was observed. The site had suffered slight post-medieval truncation.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2006 End: 28-06-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BFF 05 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	preconst1-8308 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GRAVEL SURFACE Uncertain

Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLES Roman
Monument type	BURNT SURFACE Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY ORPINGTON H Smith's Yard, Bellefield Road
Postcode	BR5
Study area	1500.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 4668 6757 Point
Height OD	Min: 49.98m Max: 51.92m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief	English Heritage

originator

Project design originator Gary Brown

Project director/manager Gary Brown

Project supervisor Andrew Sargent

Sponsor or funding body Greenacre Homes (South East) Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2) at H. Smith's Yard, Bellefield Road, Fordcroft, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sargent, A.

Date 2006

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

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Description Paper Document

Entered by Andrew Sargent (asargent@pre-construct.com)

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**OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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