

**12 PARK ROAD, HACKBRIDGE,
SURREY SM6 7ER**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SITE CODE: PRA13

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON**

**PLANNING REFERENCE:
D2012/65391/FUL**

**GLAAS (EH) REFERENCE:
LAG/29/205**

PCA REPORT NO: R11575

NOVEMBER 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

12 PARK ROAD, HACKBRIDGE, SURREY SM6 7ER

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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12 PARK ROAD, HACKBRIDGE, SURREY SM6 7ER

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Site Code: PRA13

Central NGR: TQ 2856 6561 (528567,165619)

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Sutton

Planning Reference: D2012/65391/FUL

GLAAS (EH) reference: LAG/29/205

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at 12 Park Road, Hackbridge, Surrey SM6 7ER. The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 2856 6561. The evaluation was undertaken between the 18th and 19th of November 2013, and was commissioned by Powerscourt Developments Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of two trenches measuring 6.0m by 1.8m. Both of these were located within an existing building and designed to target an area within the footprint of the proposed building. The location of the trenches was based on the trench location proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2013) produced and approved prior to the commencement of the evaluation.
- 1.3 No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trenches. The excavation of the trenches revealed that the stratigraphic sequence comprised modern brick rubble overlying truncated natural gravel.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd within a building located at 12 Park Road, Hackbridge, Surrey SM6 7ER (fig. 1). The evaluation was conducted between the 18th and 19th of November 2013 and was commissioned by Powerscourt Developments Ltd.
- 2.2 The evaluation consisted of two trenches located within the footprint of the proposed building (Fig. 2). Excavation of the trenches was carried out in accordance with the methodology laid out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2013).
- 2.3 The evaluation was project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author. Mark Stevenson of English Heritage monitored the work on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton.
- 2.4 Upon completion of all phases of the work the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC) under the site code PRA13.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 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.
- 3.1.2 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.

3.2 Regional Policy: The London Plan

- 3.2.1 The relevant Strategic Development Plan framework is provided by “The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London Consolidated with Alterations since 2004” (Feb 2008). It includes the following policy relating to archaeology within central London:

Policy 4b.15 Archaeology

The Mayor, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museum of London and Boroughs, will support the identification, protection, interpretation and presentation of London’s archaeological resources. Boroughs in consultation with English Heritage and other relevant statutory organisations should include appropriate policies in their DPDs for protecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological assets within their area.

3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in the London Borough of Sutton

- 3.3.1 This study aims to satisfy the objectives of the London Borough of Sutton which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The Local Development Framework - Core Planning Policy, adopted December 2009, contains Core Policy BP12 and Policy DM4 relating to heritage.

3.4 Site Specific Planning Background

- 3.4.1 The London Borough of Sutton has granted planning permission for the redevelopment of the site (reference number D2012/65391/FUL). This will include the:

“Demolition of existing single storey workshop & erection of three 2-bedroomed houses & parking, refurbishment & conversion of 2-storey existing office & workshop block to form three 2-bedroomed and one 1-bedroom flats along with three parking bays/bin & cycle store at corner of Park Road and Wandle Road.”

- 3.4.2 Planning permission was granted on the proviso that a number of archaeological conditions were met, conditions 24 and 25, as follows:

(24) *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme pursuant to this condition. The archaeological works shall be carried out by a suitably qualified investigating body acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: To ensure that there is an opportunity to properly investigate and record information on this site, which is considered to be of high archaeological interest.

(25) *The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority and shall allow that person to observe the excavations and record items of interest and finds.*

Reason: To ensure that there is an opportunity to properly investigate and record information on this site, which is considered to be of high archaeological interest.

3.4.3 The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined in the London Borough of Sutton's Core Planning Strategy, adopted December 2009. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

3.5 Research Objectives

3.5.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation outlines the following research objectives, which the evaluation sought to address:

- To determine the palaeotopography of the site.
- To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity. Is there evidence for land-use or settlement on the Hackney Gravel Member? If no evidence for occupation exists, are there any artefactual remains attesting to the prehistoric periods?
- To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity. Is there any evidence at the site for archaeological remains associated with the nearby road which has previously been recorded at Beddington Park?
- To establish the presence or absence of Saxon and medieval activity. Is there any evidence at the site for archaeological remains associated with the nearby River Wandle and its exploitation?
- To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity. Is there any evidence that the site had previously been utilised or, as suggested by map regression, had the site lain undeveloped until the late 19th century? If so, is there a reason for the lack of previous construction at the site.
- To establish the extent of the past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

- 4.1.1 The British Geological Survey shows that the site is located on the boundary between two sedimentary bedrock units forming the bedrock geology of the area. These are London Clay, formed between 34 and 56 million years ago and the slightly older formation known as the Lambeth Group, which formed between 56 and 66 million years ago, which underlies the London Clay formation. Both of the bedrock units are overlain, in the area of the site, by the sand and gravel of the Hackney Gravel Member which formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period. The Hackney Gravel Member has been described as sand and gravel, locally with lenses of silt, clay or peat (British Geological Survey 2013).

4.2 Topography

- 4.2.1 The topography of the site is flat although this is a result of levelling prior to the construction of the present building which occupies almost the entire site. Within the building the ground level was uniformly recorded at 26.90m OD. The site is located approximately 250m from the current route of the River Wandle, which flows to the southwest.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2013) summarises the archaeological and historical background of the site and outlines the archaeological potential for each period. The archaeological and historical background presented below has been reproduced from the Written Scheme of Investigation.

5.2 Prehistoric (450,000 BC – 43 AD)

- 5.2.1 The superficial gravel deposits which underlie the site are well known to have offered favourable land for both exploitation of resources and settlement, and it is manifested in the archaeological record. Considerable evidence of Bronze Age activity in the form of pits, ditches and possibly ritual deposits were recovered to the south-west of the site. Such features are also recorded within the wider area as truncating natural gravels. A number of Late Bronze Age settlements and hoards have been identified within the region, indicative of an increase in human occupation at this time. Evidence for the prehistoric period and particularly the Bronze Age may therefore exist in the form of ditches, pits and postholes with added potential for residual lithics dating from the Mesolithic and Neolithic. Iron Age ditches have also been found in the area. Environmental evidence of this period may be present in the form of braided river channels and alluvium. The archaeological potential for the prehistoric period is considered to be high.

5.3 Roman (AD 43 – 410)

- 5.3.1 Residual Roman artefacts have been recovered within the wider area, and traces of a north-east south-west aligned road has been recorded near to the study site, at Beddington Park. Despite this, no archaeologically attested settlement locations dating to this period have been identified within the immediate vicinity. The focus for settlement may therefore have existed elsewhere, with isolated farmsteads occupying the neighbouring field systems. Evidence may however exist in the form of ditches, residual artefacts or a continuation of the road surface, and as such the archaeological potential for this period is considered to be moderate.

5.4 Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

- 5.4.1 Nearby Carshalton is documented from the Saxon period, under numerous names, all of which refer to the presence of a settlement by a stream. The numerous water courses throughout the wider vicinity were clearly an important resource that attracted settlement, presumably since the prehistoric period. The majority of the entries highlighted on the GLHER relate to documented mills as existing prior to the Domesday, but several archaeologically attested features have been documented in the area, and include a hearth and cemetery site. Occupation may therefore have been sporadic but did exist at the time within the wider area. Given the archaeologically identified features and favouritism for settlement in close proximity to streams, the archaeological potential for the Saxon period is

considered to be moderate.

5.5 Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

5.5.1 During the later medieval period Hackbridge (meaning “hook bridge”) and nearby Wallington were minor settlements within the parish and manor of Beddington. However, Wallington gave its name to the local Hundred, suggesting some form of earlier administrative importance. In contrast, Hackbridge was a comparatively late settlement, and comprised a few houses where a bridge crossed the River Wandle. During this period the site lay in open land to the north of the settlement.

5.5.2 The medieval period is well represented in the GLHER. The wider vicinity was crossed by numerous braided channels and streams at this time, and therefore evidence of ditches and other water management efforts and highly likely to exist, and have been archaeologically identified within the proximity of the site. Documentary and cartographic sources locate mills within the area which increases the likelihood of evidence pertaining to water management. The site may have remained as undeveloped open fields, as arable or pasture at this time, and evidence may therefore be limited to property boundaries and cultivation soils. Medieval material within alluvial deposits laid during flooding from the nearby water course may also exist. The archaeological potential for the medieval period is subsequently deemed to be moderate.

5.6 Post-Medieval and Modern (AD 1539 – Present)

5.6.1 Documentary and cartographic sources suggest that the site remained largely undeveloped, sitting as agricultural land, throughout the post-medieval period until the construction of the Herald Printing Works, which were depicted on the OS map of 1896. Wandle Road and Park Road have been set out with piecemeal housing established on these new streets thereafter. There is the potential for evidence of agricultural land management to exist along with remains of 19th century development. The archaeological potential for the post-medieval period is considered to be moderate.

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Both trenches were set out by the developer and the concrete slab broken out prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation using a 360° mechanical excavator. In both trenches the slab exposed a layer of modern brick rubble. This was removed in 100mm spits using a flat bladed ditching bucket, monitored by the attending archaeologists. Removal of the rubble continued to the top of the underlying natural gravel, which was then cleaned by hand. No archaeological features were evident below the rubble.
- 6.2 Each trench measured 6m by 1.8m. No archaeological features were revealed in the excavated trenches. Trench locations were triangulated using known points within the existing building.
- 6.3 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified Pre-Construct Archaeology's Field Operations Manual 1 (Taylor 2009). Representative plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. Where referred to in the text context numbers are given in square brackets, i.e. pit [1].
- 6.4 Both trenches were photographed using a high resolution digital camera.
- 6.5 A temporary bench mark (TBM) was established on top of a drain cover in the middle of the junction of Wandle Road and Park Road immediately to the northwest of the site. This was established using a Leica GPRS unit and the value of the TBM was recorded as 26.78m OD.
- 6.6 The project was given the unique site code PRA13. This was used to identify all archival material arising from the project.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological evaluation was a layer of loose coarse yellow gravelly sand [1] and [2]. This was first seen at a height of 26.19m OD in the eastern part of the site while in the western it was reached at 25.65m OD.

7.2 Phase 2: Modern

- 7.2.1 Overlying the natural gravel was a layer of modern brick rubble varying in thickness from 0.51m in the east to 1.04m in the west. This was sealed by a reinforced concrete slab forming the floor of the current building at 26.89m OD.

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Interpretation

- 8.1.1 The natural gravel occurred substantially higher in the eastern part of the site. This is a likely result of truncation occurring during the construction of the present building. The top of the gravel appeared to have been truncated and was sealed in both trenches by modern brick rubble.

8.2 Conclusions

- 8.2.1 It was the goal of the evaluation to address a number of objectives set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation:

8.2.2 To determine the palaeotopography of the site.

The natural gravel was reached in both trenches. This appeared to be consistent with the description provided by the British Geological Survey of the Hackney Gravel Member which is shown as forming the superficial geological deposits underlying the site. However, the top of the deposit appeared to have been truncated during the construction of the building currently occupying the site. It is therefore difficult to estimate the palaeotopography of the site. The British Geological Survey shows that a borehole previously carried out approximately 50m to the north of the site reached the Hackney Gravel Member at approximately 26.5m OD. This is reasonably consistent with the height of the gravel in the eastern part of the site (26.19m OD), suggesting perhaps that truncation in this portion of the site is slight.

8.2.3 To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric activity. Is there evidence for land-use or settlement on the Hackney Gravel Member? If no evidence for occupation exists, are there any artefactual remains attesting to the prehistoric periods?

No prehistoric deposits, finds or features were recorded on the site. This may be a result of modern truncation of the Hackney Gravel Member rather than a reflection of the trends of the wider area.

8.2.4 To determine the presence or absence of Roman activity. Is there any evidence at the site for archaeological remains associated with the nearby road which has previously been recorded at Beddington Park?

The archaeological evaluation revealed no evidence for Roman activity on site.

8.2.5 To establish the presence or absence of Saxon and medieval activity. Is there any evidence at the site for archaeological remains associated with the nearby River Wandle and its exploitation?

There was no evidence for Saxon or medieval activity within the site and no archaeological remains associated with the River Wandle and its exploitation.

8.2.6 To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity. Is there any evidence that the site had previously been utilised or, as suggested by map regression, had the site lain undeveloped until the late 19th century? If so, is there a reason for the lack of previous construction at the site.

Due to the fact that the construction of the current building seemed to have removed all potential archaeological deposits above the level of the natural gravel and no features were seen cut into the gravel it was impossible to determine the nature of the previous land use of the site and whether the site had been previously developed.

8.2.7 To establish the extent of the past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

The construction of the current building seems to have caused the total truncation of archaeological deposits within the site. This is evident from the fact that modern rubble sealed the natural gravel directly. In the western part of the site this truncation was more severe with the gravel surviving only to a height of 25.65m OD as opposed to 26.19m OD in the eastern part of the site. The untruncated height of the gravel was recorded at approximately 26.5m OD in a borehole previously carried out approximately 50m north of the current site. This shows that while the natural gravel on the eastern side of the site had suffered truncation the top of the gravel still remained relatively consistent with the natural height of the gravel recorded in the vicinity of the site.

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 PRA13, 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 Sutton.

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 internally to the building on site and therefore was not affected by weather 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 would like to thank Powerscourt Developments Ltd who commissioned the work. Thanks also to Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for monitoring the work on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing the evaluation and editing the report and Mark Roughley for the illustrations. Thanks also Aidan Turner for his work on site and to Richard Archer who provided logistic support.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 2013, 'Geology of Britain Viewer', available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed on 27th November 2013)

Mayo, C. 2013, *12 Park Road, Hackbridge, Surrey SM6 7ER: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Taylor, J. with Brown, G. 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

PLATES



Plate 1: Overview of Trench 1, facing north

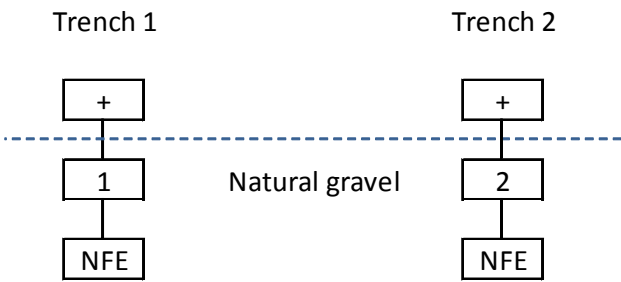


Plate 2: Overview of Trench 2, facing northeast

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	Grid Square/Trench	Type	Description
PRA 13	1	TR 1	Natural	Natural gravel
PRA 13	2	TR 1	Natural	Natural gravel

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-165442

Project details

Project name	12 Park Road, Hackbridge, Surrey
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of the excavation of two trenches was carried out within the footprint of the proposed building at 12 Park Road, Hackbridge, Surrey. The evaluation revealed that modern brick rubble directly sealed the natural gravel indication that the top of the gravel had been truncated during the construction of the present building occupying the site. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were observed.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2013 End: 19-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PRA 13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	D2012/65391/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON SUTTON WALLINGTON AND BEDDINGTON 12 Park Road, Hackbridge, Surrey
Postcode	SM6 7ER
Study area	750.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2856 6561 51 0 51 22 28 N 000 09 09 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.65m Max: 26.19m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Paw Jorgensen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Powerscourt Developments Ltd.

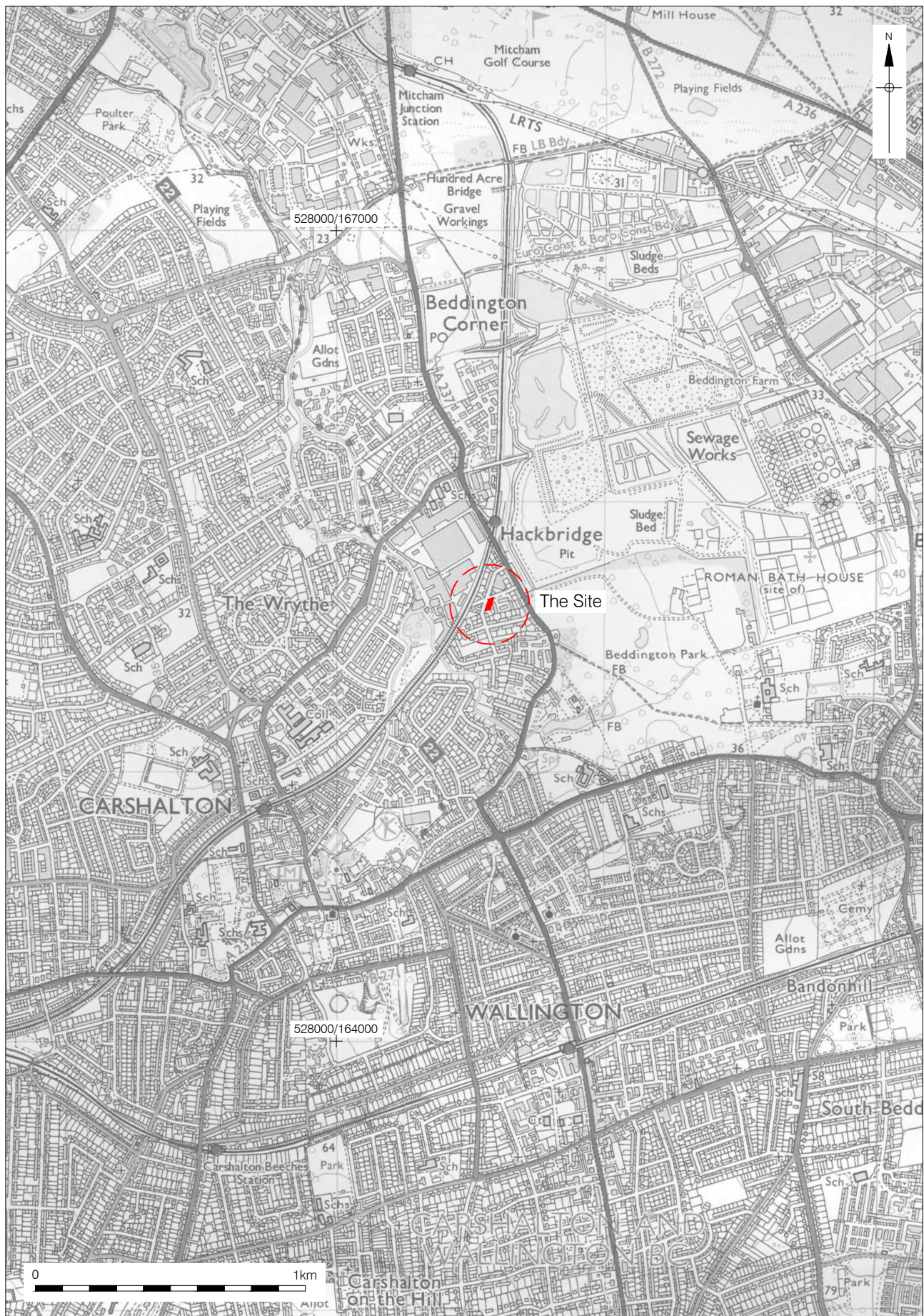
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jorgensen, P.
Date	2013
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Entered on	27 November 2013



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28/11/13 MR

Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

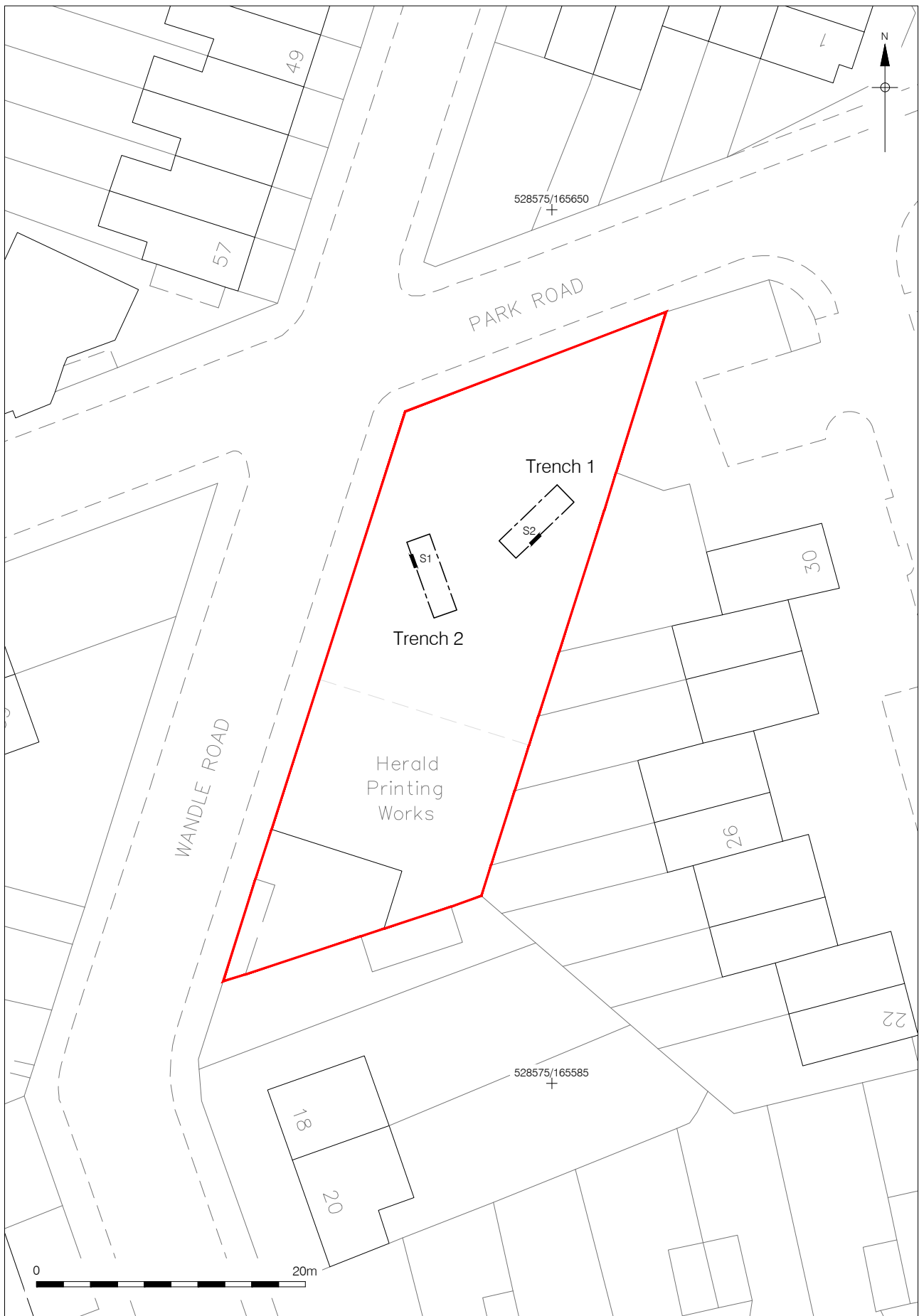


Figure 2
 Detailed Site and Trench Location
 1:400 at A4

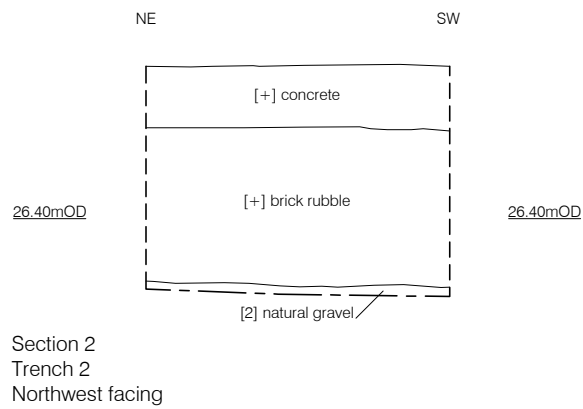
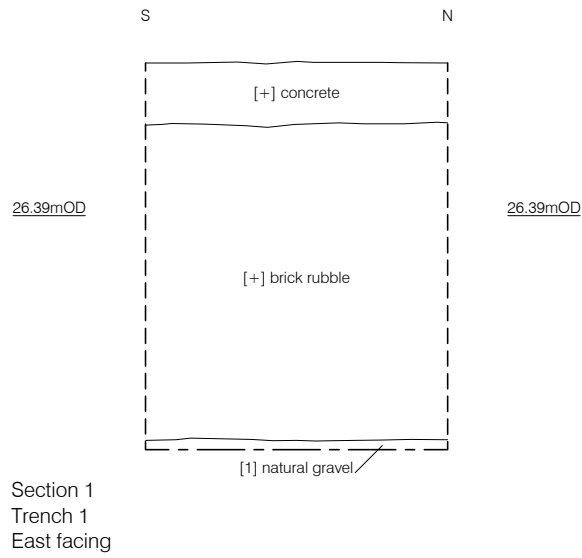


Figure 3
Sections 1 and 2
1:25 at A4

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