

**FORMER KING GEORGE IV PUBLIC
HOUSE SITE, MARSH ROAD, PINNER,
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
HA5 5NE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PCA REPORT NO: R11795

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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FORMER KING GEORGE IV PUBLIC HOUSE SITE,
MARSH ROAD, PINNER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Harrow, London HA5 5NE:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Harrow

Site Code: KOG14

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 1215 8950

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the former King George IV public house site, Marsh Road, Pinner, in the London Borough of Harrow. The archaeological investigation was conducted between 9th and 11th June 2014, and was commissioned by Croft Capital. The archaeological consultant for the project was Peter Mills, Mills Whipp Projects, and the evaluation was monitored by the archaeological advisor to Harrow, Gillian King of English Heritage (GLAAS).
- 1.2 The works comprised the excavation of two test trenches. The southern trench measured 16m in length by 1.8m wide and the northern trench was subdivided into two test pits that measured between 3.5m and 5.5m in length by between 1.8 and 3m wide. The trench plan was designed by Mills Whipp Projects, and was placed to provide an even spatial distribution of the site. The footprint of the now demolished King George IV public house occupied the centre of the site: the backfilled cellar of this building was observed in these works.
- 1.3 The lowest levels observed were seen towards the north of the site and characterised by dark brown clay and gravel at a height of approximately 5m below ground level. These were thought to represent the Woolwich and Reading beds that form the Lambeth Group series geological deposits. Overlying these were thick layers of alluvially deposited material, interpreted as representing riverine deposits associated with the River Pinn, the course of which would have dominated the palaeotopography of the area. Associated with these alluvial deposits were interleaving and sometimes thick gravel lenses that reflected differential energy levels, flow rates and deposition processes operating in the river in the past. This sequence was reflected during the follow-up geotechnical investigation, with bands of alluvial clay recorded to the 3m depth of the window samples. A single borehole was sunk to 9m depth, which identified the dark brown clay and gravel horizon (Lambeth Group) at 4.8m below ground level.
- 1.4 To the south of the public house and the associated truncation caused by its cellar, a natural gravel lens was overlain by a thin alluvial layer. This represented the highest level of naturally deposited material, and it was considered that this horizon may have contained the greatest archaeological potential. This horizon was cleaned and investigated, with only later post-medieval features being recorded, most likely associated with the public house. Post-medieval ground raising deposits, containing a single piece of well-abraded residual tile, and modern deposits completed the archaeological sequence. The results of the works prove the survival of an intact alluvial sequence across the site where not truncated by the public house cellar. No archaeological finds, features or deposits pre-dating the later post-medieval period were observed from within this sequence, reflecting the riverine nature of the site through the deposition processes of the River Pinn over time. The only period represented during the investigation was the later post-medieval, and included a soak-way and pit cuts most likely associated with the public house.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on the former King George IV public house site, Marsh Road, Pinner, in the London Borough of Harrow (Figure 1). The proposed development comprises mixed retail and residential land use built on piled foundations. The works were commissioned as part of a submission to a planning application.
- 2.2 The site is bounded to the north by a mainline and London Underground Railway Bridge, to the east by Marsh Road, to the south by an office building and to the west by the canalised River Pinn.
- 2.3 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as defined by the London Borough of Harrow. The site does not contain, nor is adjacent to, any Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 The investigation was conducted between 9th and 11th June 2014, and was commissioned by Croft Capital and coordinated by the archaeological consultants, Mills Whipp Projects. The works were supervised by Richard Humphrey and managed by Tim Bradley, of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The archaeological works were monitored by the archaeological advisor to the London Borough of Harrow, Gillian King of English Heritage. All work was undertaken following the appropriate English Heritage guidance¹.
- 2.5 Background research of archaeological and historical records for the site concluded that there was a low potential for archaeological survival and no evidence for occupation of the site until the mid 18th century at the earliest².
- 2.6 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation³ which was approved by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS). The WSI posed the following research objectives:

To determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment. An adequate representative sample of all areas threatened should be studied and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods. In addition to the excavation of human made deposits some assessment of naturally deposited levels will be necessary, especially when these are organically preserved and laid down within archaeological periods. This is particularly important when dealing with peat, palaeochannels and alluvial formations which can provide valuable information about the natural environment before, during and after occupation of adjacent inter-stratified landscapes in order to answer questions of why people originally selected a site for occupation, what impact they had on the environment and it on them and why the eventually abandoned it.

In addition⁴;

¹ (2009) GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Papers: Fieldwork (Survey, Evaluation and Excavation). English Heritage

² Mills, P. (2014) *Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Pinner, London Borough of Harrow: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mills Whipp Projects, unpublished report

³ Ibid

- To assess the level of truncation from modern activity on site,
- To assess the interface of the soil deposits with the natural drift geology for archaeological features,
- To assess the site for prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology.

2.7 The works comprised the excavation of two trenches. In a deviation from the Written Scheme of Investigation, and because of on-site conditions, the northern trench (Trench 1) was subdivided into two test pits, excavated at each end of the trench (Figure 2). Excavation was conducted by a JCB 3CX fitted with a flat bladed grading bucket with further examination of archaeologically relevant deposits completed using hand tools.

2.8 The central National Grid Reference for the site is TQ 1215 8950.

2.9 The site was allocated the unique site code KOG14.

2.10 The completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will be deposited with London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: Planning Policy Framework NPPF

3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27 2012. 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 Guidance: The London Plan

3.2.1 The proposed development is subject to the considerations of policy 7.8 from The London Plan (2011):

Historic environment and landscapes

Policy 7.8 Heritage assets and Archaeology

Strategic

A London's historic environment, including natural landscapes, conservation areas, heritage assets, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and memorials should be identified, preserved and restored.

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

Planning decisions

C Development should preserve, refurbish and incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.

D New development in the setting of heritage assets, and conservation areas should be sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and architectural detail.

E New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources and significant memorials. Where the artefact or memorial cannot be moved from the site without damaging its cultural value, the assets should where possible be made available to the public on-site.

LDF preparation

F Boroughs should, in LDF policies, seek to maintain and increase the contribution of built heritage to London's environmental quality and economy while allowing for London to accommodate change and regeneration.

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

3.3 Local Guidance: Archaeology in Harrow

3.3.1 The geology and topography of Harrow made the area popular with early settlers. Traces of early man have been found in Middlesex and evidence of prehistoric man has been found in Harrow Weald. Roman evidence has been excavated in Stanmore and Saxon in Sudbury and central Harrow⁵.

3.3.2 Greater London Historic Environment Record (HER) provides a computerised record of information regarding London's archaeological and historic fabric. The information held assists with the early identification of the archaeological and historic interest of an area or site when development is proposed⁶.

3.4 Archaeological Priority Areas

3.4.1 Areas which are suspected to contain below ground archaeology are designated, with the help of English Heritage, as Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs).

There are nine APAs including:

- Possible site of Roman settlement of Sullonicae (along Brockley Hill, Edgware)
- Edgware Village (along Edgware High Street , Edgware)
- Roman tile manufacture in Canons Park (Edgware)
- Medieval Stanmore (along Old Church Lane , Stanmore)
- Possible site of medieval Bentley Priory (east of Clamp Hill, Stanmore)
- Medieval Pinner (including the High Street and surrounding roads in Pinner)
- Old Pinner Deer Park (either side of George V Avenue , Pinner)
- Historic Harrow (core area of Harrow on the Hill)
- Parts of Grim's Dyke (in Hatch End and Pinner)

Where development is proposed within an APA, English Heritage will require applicants to provide sufficient information to assess the archaeological implications of the development.

⁵ Mills, P. (2014) *Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Pinner, London Borough of Harrow: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mills Whipp Projects, unpublished report

⁶ Ibid.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The underlying geology is the Lambeth Group (Woolwich and Reading beds) - a mottled clay with sand and pebble beds. This is sealed by variable alluvial deposits associated with the cutting and re-cutting of the channel of The Pinn over time.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The site is flat at a height of approximately 49m OD. The River Pinn extends north to south across the centre of the site- the proposed development is on the eastern side of the river.

4.3 Geotechnical Investigations

4.3.1 Geotechnical investigations on the site were undertaken immediately following the evaluation trenching. The window samples recorded alluvial clays with bands of sand and gravel to 3m depth (full depth of window samples). A single borehole was sunk to 9m depth. This recorded a lower solid geology of chalk and flint at 7.20m below ground level, sealed by brown clay and gravel (Lambeth Group) to 4.80m below ground level. This was in turn sealed by sandy clay (alluvium) to 0.25m below ground level, where modern deposits capped the sequence. The sequence recorded during the geotechnical investigations directly mirrors that recorded in the evaluation trenching.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following is summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation⁷:
- 5.2 Traces of an Iron Age earthwork, Grim's Dyke has been identified about 1km north of Pinner. No prehistoric material has been found within the study area or the wider area despite several archaeological investigations.
- 5.3 The principal Roman feature near the site is the Roman road, Watling Street, some 8km to the east. No Roman material has been found within the study area. In the wider area no stratified Roman material has been reported. The subject site probably lay in open marginal land during the Roman period.
- 5.4 The etymology of the name Pinner is obscure. As a family name, 'de Pinnora', first appears in 1232. The first element may represent a personal name or the Old English *pinn*, 'pin' or 'peg', while the second element could be the Latin for 'bank or slope'. The river name, Pinn, is generally supposed to be a late back-formation. The first reference to Pinner occurs in a charter of 793 AD when the chapel at Pinner Hill was given by Offa to St Alban's Abbey. The land was taken from the monks but restored by Ethelred in 1007. No Saxon material has been found in the vicinity of the site. The subject site probably lay in open marginal land during the Saxon period.
- 5.5 The manor of Pinner, mentioned in 1486 and 1500, was probably 'Females' or 'Fearnals' manor, mentioned in 1573, an estate which the rentals describe as a freehold hide in Pinner. There is a complex manorial history which is not relevant to the subject site. The church in the High Street of St John the Baptist was built in 1321. In 1336 the right to a fair was granted. Pinner chapel did not become a separate parish until 1766, being part of Harrow parish. The mediaeval village was centred on St John the Baptist's church c.400m to the north-east of the subject site. Investigations, including an extensive Watching Brief (Mills 1985) have not revealed any significant medieval deposits in the centre of Pinner. The site lay in open marginal land during the medieval period.
- 5.6 A documentary source suggests the George PH existing on Marsh Road from 1751. However, Rocque's map of 1757 (figure not reproduced) shows the site as open ground beside the Pinn stream. Similarly, in 1786 the site is shown as open ground (figure not reproduced). To the south lay Pinner Marsh, hence Marsh Road. The apparent absence of the pub on the earlier maps may be simple oversight by the cartographers. Alternatively, it is possible the earlier pub lay elsewhere. By 1875 Pinner had expanded and the subject site was occupied by two buildings, one of which may be the first version of the George PH.
- 5.7 Pinner rapidly changed with the arrival of the railway. The station was opened in 1885, following a prior expansion to nearby Harrow-on-the-Hill station in 1880. It remained the terminus of the Metropolitan Railway until 1887 when the line was further extended to Rickmansworth. The pub recently demolished was built in 1889 and is shown in 1896 with an outbuilding to the north. By 1913 further outbuildings had been added.
- 5.8 In 1915, the Metro-land project was conceived in order to move people out of central London into

⁷ Mills, P. (2014) *Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Pinner, London Borough of Harrow: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mills Whipp Projects, unpublished report

rural Middlesex. This accelerated the suburban growth of the area. In Pinner houses built during this expansion were required to be worth at least £1,000 compared to Harrow-on-the-Hill where prices were subject to a £750 minimum. The OS map of 1932 shows the same layout as in 1913. By 1960 the southern outbuildings had been demolished. The pub itself was demolished in 2013.

5.9 Archaeological investigations have revealed few post mediaeval structures of significance.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and method statement⁸.
- 6.2 Two trenches were excavated (Figure 2). These were positioned so as to provide an even spatial distribution across the area. Each trench was approximately 1.8m wide- the width of the grading bucket used by the machine, although trenches were occasionally widened to facilitate removal of modern obstructions and to 'batter' the sides to prevent them from collapsing when the trench was excavated deeper.
- 6.3 The south-east end and centre of Trench 1 was positioned over the footprint of the recently demolished George IV PH that included a basement/cellar. This had been backfilled with loosely consolidated demolition rubble. Excavation at the south-east end of the trench revealed truncation from the cellar directly above a natural alluvial sequence. It was decided not continue with the excavation of the centre of the trench through similar loose material, and to investigate the north-western end of the trench instead, beyond the cellar. As a result of this, Trench 1 was formed of two separate test-pits at the ends of the trench as opposed to a single, continuous excavation (Figure 2).
- 6.4 A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed grading bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove overburden down to the highest archaeological or natural horizon. Where possible, the features and deposits identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. The archaeological deposits were assigned individual context numbers and recorded onto pro-forma sheets and recorded in plan and section as appropriate. Upon completion of the trench excavations, 1:20 scale plan drawings were made as well as 1:10 scale section drawings. Natural and archaeological levels were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets using the Museum of London single context recording system. Heights of deposits in relation to Ordnance Datum were also recorded. A digital photographic record was made.
- 6.5 Trench excavation through undifferentiated alluvial horizons continued as deep as possible, within the limitations of the machine. The alluvial deposits observed strongly suggested the site was positioned over a previous course(s) of the River Pinn, so an attempt was made to observe the height at which the underlying Lambeth Group geology was observed and to test the authenticity of these deposits. These were only seen in a deeper test sondage dug at the north-west end of Trench 1.
- 6.6 Trench locations were triangulated from extant buildings. A temporary benchmark for the ground height of 49.00m OD was also provided in the WSI⁹.

⁸ Mills, P. (2014) *Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Pinner, London Borough of Harrow: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mills Whipp Projects, unpublished report; Bradley, T. (2014) *Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Pinner, London Borough of Harrow: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

⁹ *ibid*

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

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

7.1.2 Trench 1 was positioned on a north-west to south-east alignment towards the north of the site and measured approximately 16m long by 1.8m to 3m wide. Both ends of the trench were excavated to significant depth, therefore recording the profile of deposits both within and outside the backfilled cellar (Figure 2). Trench 2 was positioned away from the truncation caused by the public house cellar towards the south of the site on a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 16m long by 1.8m wide (Figure 2).

7.2 Phase 1: Natural (Lambeth Group - Woolwich and Reading Beds)

7.2.1 At the base of a test sondage dug through alluvial deposits at the north-west end of Trench 1, what has tentatively been interpreted as the upper levels of the Lambeth Group deposits [3] was observed at a height of 5m below ground level, approximately 43.82m OD (Figure 4). This horizon was recorded as small to medium sized pebbles contained within a very dark brown clay matrix. This was markedly different from the overlying clean, blue-grey alluvial clay. No anthropogenic material was observed in this stratum. The same horizon was recorded a short distance to the south at 4.80m below ground level during the geotechnical investigation of the site.

7.3 Phase 2: Alluvially deposited layers- clay and gravel

7.3.1 Blue-grey alluvial clay measuring between 1.80m and 2.90m thick was observed in Trench 1 and recorded as layer [2] (Figure 4). The top of the layer was seen ranging from 46.46m OD to 46.72m OD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were seen within or associated with this layer, which is interpreted as representing Holocene deposition from the River Pinn channel.

7.3.2 A 0.45m thick gravel layer, [1], was recorded as overlying [2] at the south-east end of Trench 1 at a height of 46.91m OD (Figure 4). The surface of this was examined from the top of the trench with no anthropogenic activity seen. This deposit is likely to represent is a natural gravel deposition resulting from increased flow rate, and higher energy levels and source materials within the River Pinn channel.

7.3.3 Towards the south-east and centre of the trench, the upper levels of [2] and [1] were seen to be directly truncated by the late 19th century public house cellar.

7.3.4 A deeper slot excavated at the western end of Trench 2 revealed a comparable geoarchaeological sequence to that seen in Trench 1. Alluvium [15] and gravel [22] were recorded as within a possible localised palaeochannel or streamlet [16] within the wider alluvial environment (Figure 4). The alluvium measured 1.70m thick at a height of 47.00m OD: the base of the layer was not observed. Gravel [22] was not fully excavated although where seen measured 1.35m by 0.90m in plan at a height of 46.71m OD (Figures 3 and 4). The course of the possible channel was not observed owing to the dimensions of the trench although it was thought to approximately follow the north to south course of the modern canalised river, and may reflect an identifiable previous course

of the Pinn.

- 7.3.5 The two 'fills' of channel [16] were overlain by a large gravel deposit recorded as [21] at the western end of the trench, that is most likely the same as deposit [5] recorded towards the east (Figure 3). This measured a minimum of 0.90m thick and was composed of loose mid orange-brown small to medium stone-sized sandy gravel, recorded at heights of between 47.00m OD and 47.46m OD. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were seen within or cut into the surface of this layer.
- 7.3.6 Excavation ceased at the upper level of layer [5] to the east of the trench as, like [21], this was considered the horizon most likely to present positive occupation results from the prehistoric and later periods. The level was cleaned by hand with no features pre-dating the later post-medieval period being observed. The height of the layer was recorded at 47.93m OD and it was composed of similar material to [21].
- 7.3.7 Initially recorded as a cut feature, but more likely to represent a variation in natural alluvial and gravel deposition, [18] was seen to separate layers [21] and [5] (Figures 3 and 4). It extended on a north to south alignment across Trench 2 and measured 0.80m wide. Alluvial clay [17] was recorded as filling the feature although this may have been a deposit of natural material that extended beneath layer [5] to the east. The top of the feature was recorded at 47.48m OD. Alluvial clay [23] was also recorded as overlying gravel [5] although this too may represent laminations of gravel and clay deposition in the Pinn (Figure 4).
- 7.3.8 At the eastern end of the trench, layer [5] dropped in height to 47.26m OD. Here, alluvial clay [6] was recorded as being in a potential channel [11]. The clay was identical to other alluvium seen over the site, being blue-grey and devoid of culturally-modified material. Feature [11] appeared on an approximate north-south alignment and was initially interpreted as a streamlet associated with the Pinn channel.
- 7.3.9 Gravel layer [12] measured 0.40m thick at 47.78m OD and was seen in section to seal gravel [5] and the alluvial fill of channel [11]. This has been interpreted as a representative of a high energy deposition event in the Pinn. No archaeological finds or features were seen associated with it.
- 7.3.10 Completing the natural sequence, layer [4] sealed gravel layers [12], [5] and [21] and alluvial clay layers [15], [17] and [23] (Figure 4). It measured 0.75m at its thickest and comprised of moderately compacted light green-brown silty-clay, recorded at a height of 48.38m OD.

7.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval ground raising

- 7.4.1 The first evidence of anthropogenic activity on the site was recorded as layer [10]. This was a post-medieval ground raising horizon, most likely implemented following management of the Pinn and the associated reclamation of previously marginal land on its banks. This was recorded throughout Trench 2 where not truncated by the later public house cellars at a height of 48.58m OD and was 0.40m thick (Figure 4). Brick retrieved from this layer has been dated to between 1700 and 1900¹⁰.
- 7.4.2 A similar layer recorded at the north-western end of Trench 1 contained residual medieval peg tile

¹⁰ Sudds, B. (2014) *Assessment of CBM from Former George IV Public House, Harrow*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

and post-medieval brick¹¹ (Figure 4).

7.5 Phase 4: Late 19th century occupation

- 7.5.1 Three cut features were observed truncating the post-medieval ground raising horizons. A brick soak-away, [8], that measured 1.30m in diameter was recorded towards the north east of the trench extending into the northern limit of excavation. Brick samples were dated to between 1750 and 1900¹² with a suggestion of re-use of earlier bricks. A small ovoid pit cut [14] was recorded to the south west which measured 0.70m by 0.35m in plan at a height of 47.69m OD. Fill [13] contained peg tile dated to between 1480 and 1900¹³. A further pit cut to the south of the [14] contained the partial skeleton of a large pony¹⁴ and 19th century pottery¹⁵. There is a suggestion that the animal bones may have been from a local knackers yard although it is equally plausible that remains are directly related to the public house.
- 7.5.2 The late 19th century public house cellar dominated much of the centre of the site. Truncation was seen to extend directly down on to alluvial and natural gravel horizons.

7.6 Phase 5: Modern

- 7.6.1 The archaeology sequence was completed by modern ground raising, a precursor to a tarmac surface seen over most of the site at a height of 49.00m OD.

¹¹ Sudds, B. (2014) *Assessment of CBM from Former George IV Public House, Harrow*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Rielly, K. (2014) *Assessment of Animal Bone from Former George IV Public House, Harrow*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

¹⁵ Jarrett, C. (2014) *Assessment of Pottery from Former George IV Public House, Harrow*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Dark brown gravel and clay that has been interpreted as representing the Lambeth Group geological deposit was recorded at a height of 43.82m OD (-5m BGL) in a test sondage excavated through the north-western end of Trench 1. This deposit represented the earliest naturally formed deposits observed during the evaluation. No anthropogenic activity was observed associated with this layer, which was also identified at a similar depth to the south of Trench 1 during the geotechnical investigation of the site.
- 8.2 Thick alluvial clay deposits recorded across the site, ranging in height from 46.72m OD in Trench 1 to 47.00m OD in Trench 2, are likely to represent alluvial deposition within fluctuating channels of the River Pinn. The course of the river is likely to have varied considerably over time, with the thick deposits observed suggestive of a high-energy channel or series of streamlets that would have dominated the valley floor. The nature and course of the river varied with occasional gravel deposits forming from differential (increased) flow rates and high energy levels, perhaps representative of seasonal variations or flood events. These variable alluvial formations were also recorded within all the geotechnical investigations across the site.
- 8.3 The geoarchaeological results of the work are important as they provide an insight in to the palaeotopography of the area that can be used to explain the apparent lack of occupation over the site, specifically that it was dominated by the River Pinn.
- 8.4 No finds, features or deposits were observed from the prehistoric, Roman or Saxon periods. A single piece of residual tile represented the only remains seen from the medieval period.
- 8.5 The first evidence of human habitation over the study area was recorded as a post-medieval possible ground raising deposit, likely to have been laid down as a precursor to the construction of the public house building. Activity from this phase of occupation was further observed as pit cutting and a brick-built soak-away, all likely to be associated with the public house which would have been established at this time.
- 8.6 The archaeological sequence was completed by modern levelling horizons and tarmac hard standing.
- 8.7 Past post-depositional impacts on archaeological layers included the cellar from the public house as well as concrete-encased drain runs and associated manholes. Beyond these structures impacts were seen to be localised with the good survival of geoarchaeological levels observed within the trenches.
- 8.8 Based on the remains observed during these works, no further work is anticipated in advance of this development.
- 8.9 Once the project is deemed complete, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will eventually be deposited with LAARC under site code KOG14.

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Croft Capital for commissioning the work and Mills Whipp Projects who acted as consultants for the project. Thanks also to Gillian King of English Heritage for monitoring the project on behalf of the London Borough of Harrow.
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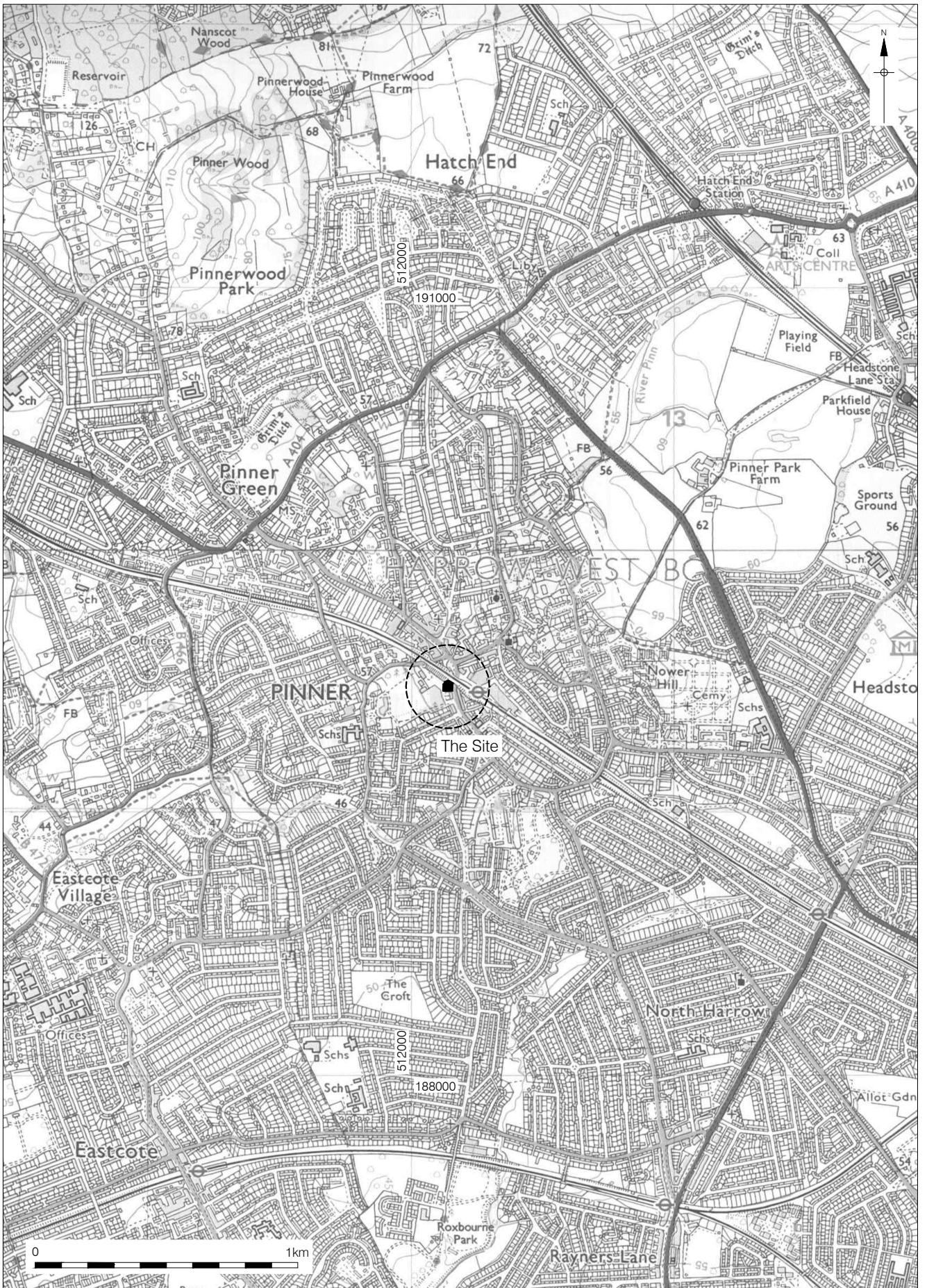
Mills, P. (2014) *Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Pinner, London Borough of Harrow: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Mills Whipp Projects, unpublished report

Soils Limited (2014) *Ground Investigation Report at 221 Marsh Road, Pinner, London HA5 5NE* unpublished report (Project Number 14327)

10.2 Internet Sources

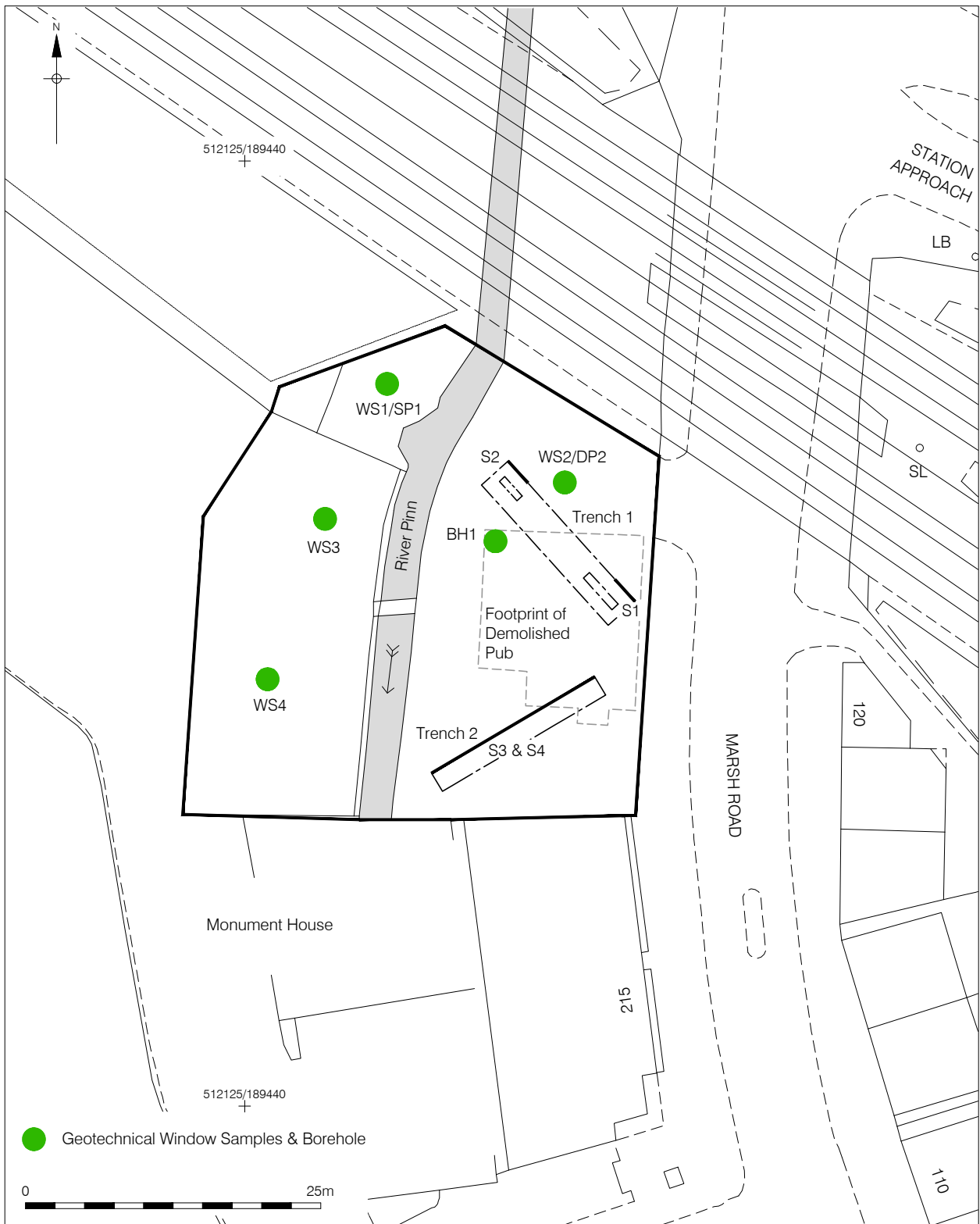
Harrow Core Strategy

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework_policy/596/core_strategy



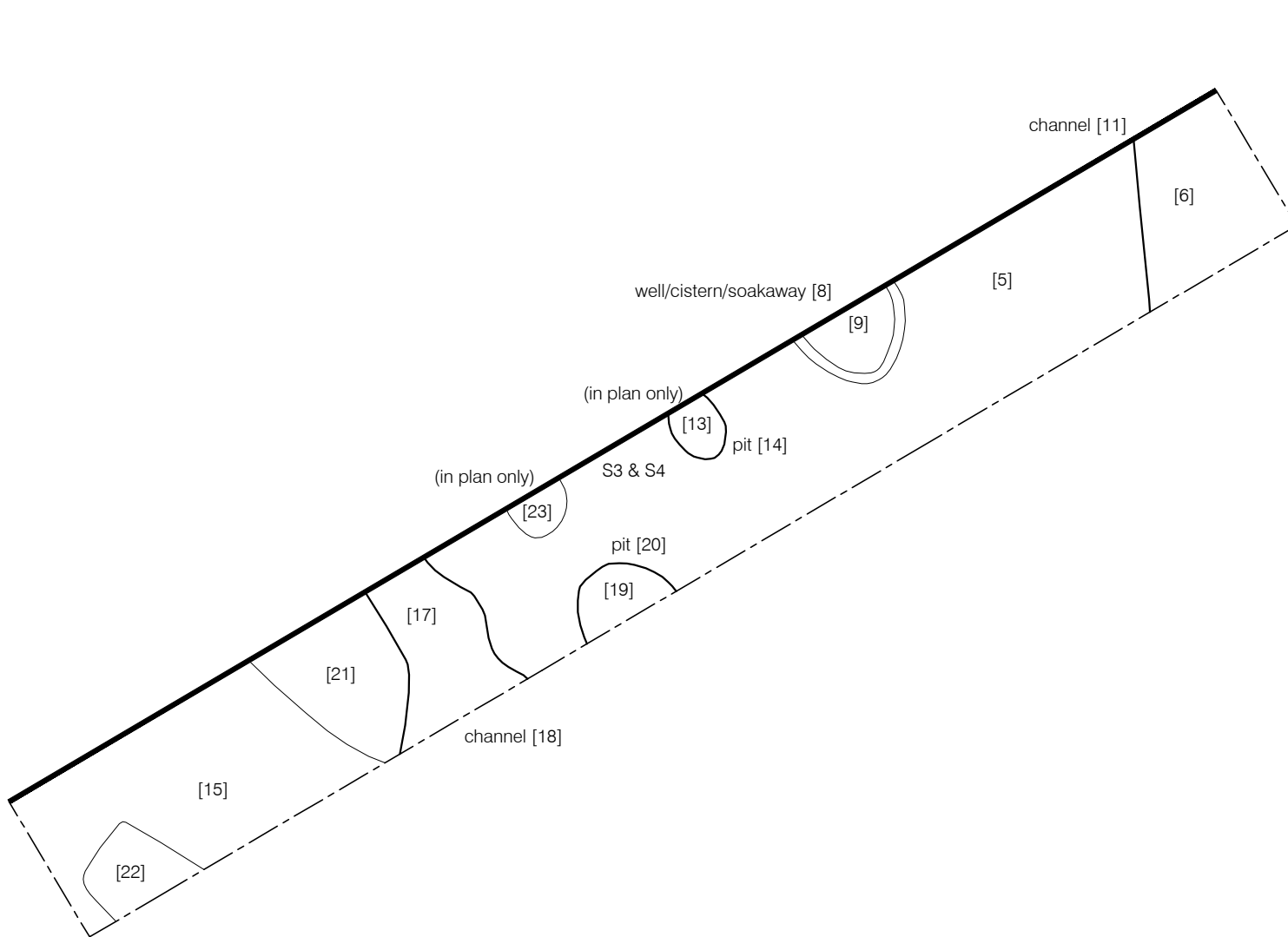
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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 26/06/14 JS
 22/07/14 revision 1 JS

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:500 at A4



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Figure 3
Trench 2 Plan
1:75 at A4

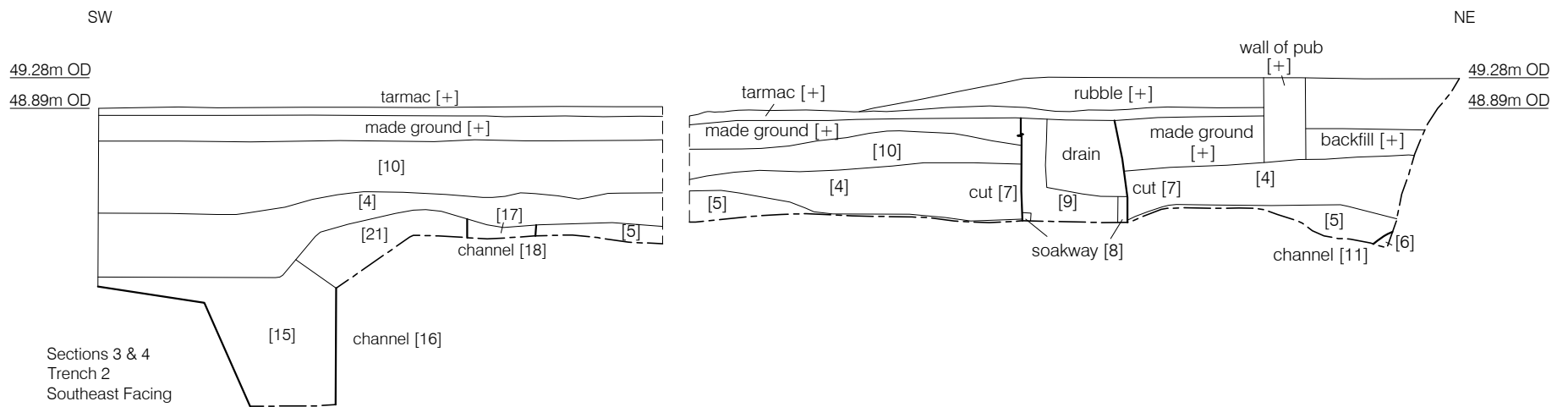
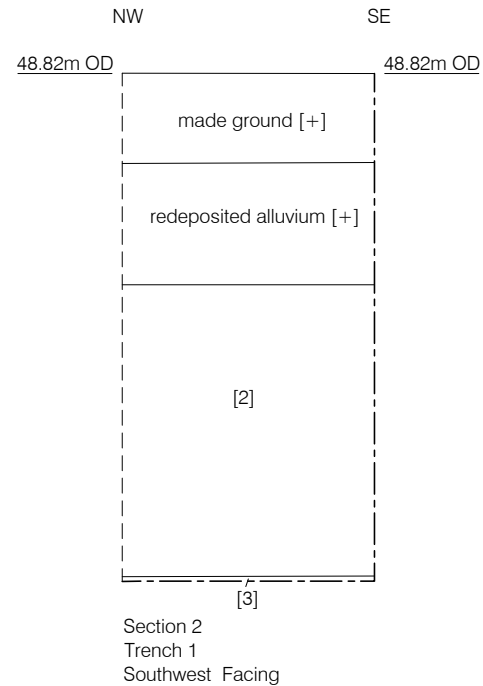
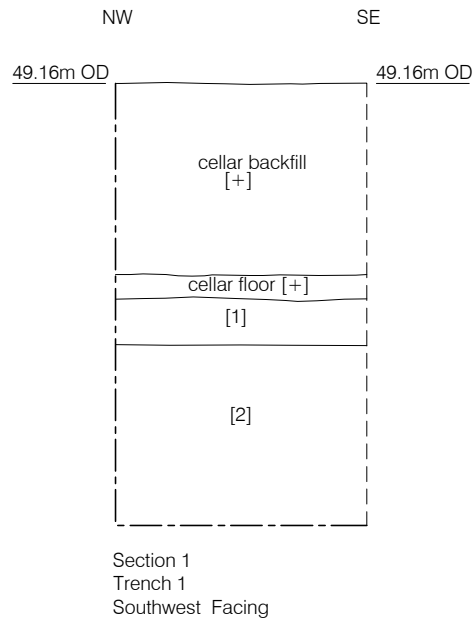


Plate 1: Trench 2, looking west with 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north with 1m scale, features [18], [23] and [20]



Plate 3: Trench 2, west end, looking north with 1m scale, [15] and gravel [21]





Plate 4: Trench 2, east-end, looking north, 1m scale, feature [11]



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking north with 1m scale, soak-away [8]

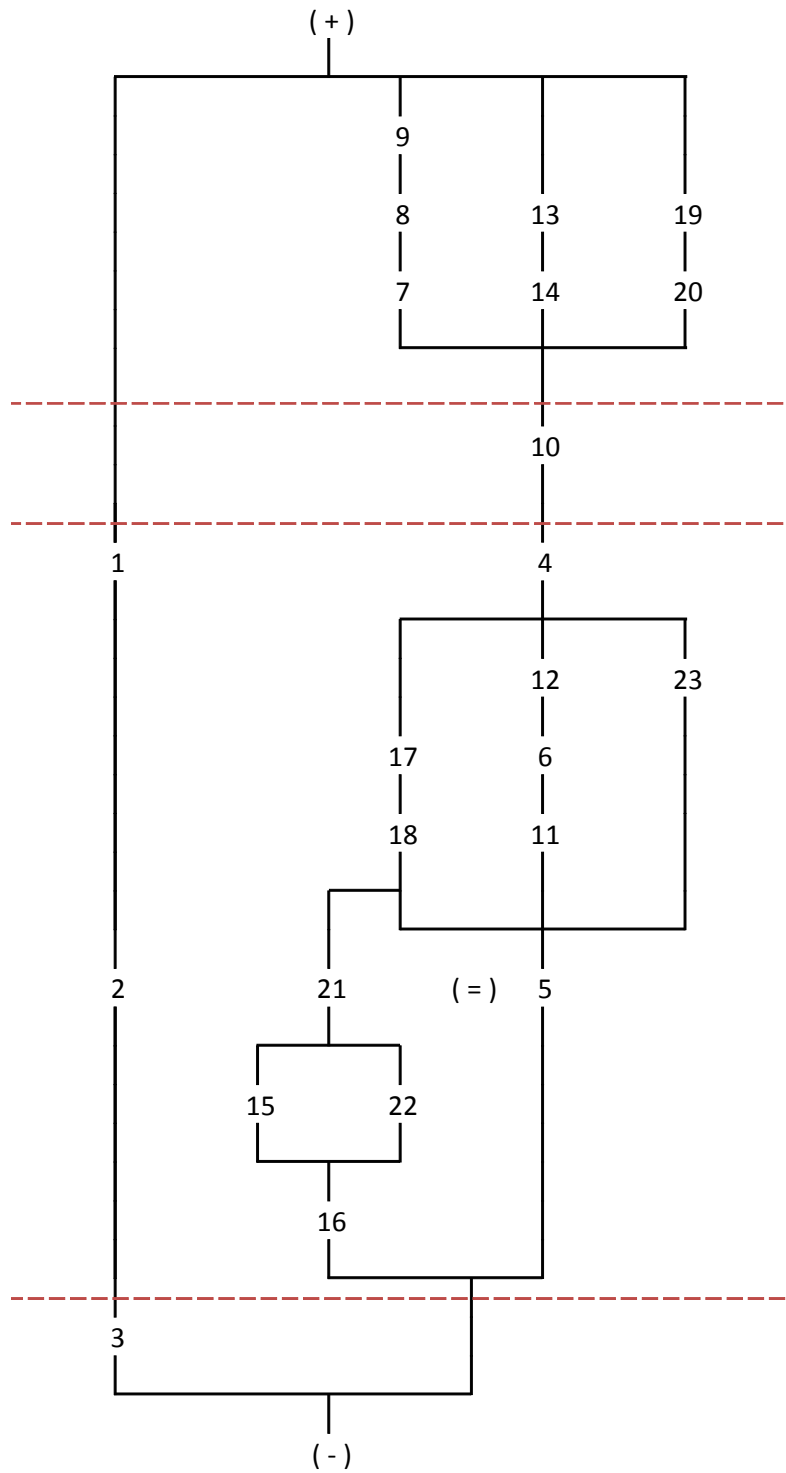
Plate 6: Trench 1, north-west end, looking south-east, showing deeper sondage



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

No.	Type	Trench	Comments
1	Layer	1	Natural gravel lense
2	Layer	1	Alluvium
3	Layer	2	Interface between alluvium and natural gravels
4	Layer	2	Alluvium sealing gravels
5	Layer	2	Gravel bank
6	Layer	2	Alluvium/channel?
7	Cut	2	Cut for well/ soak away
8	Masonry	2	Well/ soak away/ cistern
9	Fill	2	Backfill of [8]
10	Layer	2	Post-medieval ground raising
11	Cut	2	Channel?
12	Layer	2	Gravels washed over alluvium- flooding
13	Fill	2	Fill of [14]
14	Cut	2	Post-medieval pit cut
15	Fill	2	Fill of [16]
16	Cut	2	Channel?
17	Fill	2	Fill of channel [18]
18	Cut	2	Channel?
19	Fill	2	Fill of [20]
20	Cut	2	Post-med pit cut
21	Layer	2	Gravel layer
22	Layer	2	Gravel layer
23	Layer	2	Len of alluvium

APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

Chris Jarrett

A single sherd of pottery weighing 104g was recovered from the excavation and this was found in deposit [19]. The pottery consists of a single sherd of post-medieval fine red earthenware (PMFR), dated in London 1580-1700, although this may very well represent a product of a Hertfordshire kiln which may have continued in production until the 19th, possibly 20th century and supplied local markets rather than The City. The sherd is glazed inside and out and could have been derived from either a deep bowl or jar. The condition of the pottery sherd is very good and it is likely to have been deposited soon after breakage.

APPENDIX 4: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

Kevin Rielly

A total of 4 very well preserved bones were found in the later post-medieval deposit [19], all representing the partial remains of a large adult horse. These include a near complete left and right mandible, a hyoid fragment, a right radius/ulna and a 3rd phalange. The size of this animal can be estimated from the lateral length of the radius, using factors described in Boessneck and von den Driesch (1974), a length of 348mm translating as a shoulder height of 1512mm. This stature is indicative of a large pony. Its presence may be indicative of a nearby knackers yard.

References

Boessneck, J and von den Driesch, A, 1974, Kritische anmerkungen zur widderristhöhenberechnung aus Längenmassen vor und frühgeschichtlicher tierknochen, *Saugetierkd Mitt* 22 (4), 325-48.

APPENDIX 5: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

Berni Sudds

Three brick samples from well/ soakaway [8] and a small assemblage of loose ceramic building material was recovered from site, dating to the medieval and post-medieval period.

The building materials were examined using the London system of classification. Where possible a fabric number is allocated to each object, specifying its composition, form, method of manufacture and approximate date range. Examples of the fabrics can be found in the archives of PCA and/or the Museum of London. The assemblage is catalogued below (see Table 1).

Context	Type	Fabric	No	Date range	Spot date
U/S	Medieval peg tile (local fabric). Medium/coarse moulding sand. Abraded.	Local 1	1	1180 – 1500	-
	Post-medieval brick (unfrogged?). Small, abraded fragment.	Nr.3046	1	1450 – 1900	
8	Narrow unfrogged local 3033-type bricks. 100-101mm x 61-41mm. Soft buff-grey lime, sand and gravel mortar.	Local 3033-type	2	1700 – 1900	1750 – 1900
	Frogged local 3033-type brick (with rare clinker/ burnt organic inclusions). Shallow frog to sanded side. 101mmx66mm.	Local 3033-type	1	1750 – 1900	
10	Unfrogged brick. Nr 3033 but with clinker/ burnt organic inclusions, flint and silt. High-fired, bloated? Thick example. 110mmx82mm.	Local 3033 variant.	1	1700 – 1900	1700 – 1900
13	?Peg tile fragment. Lower, sanded side missing.	Nr.2586	1	1480 – 1900?	1480 – 1900?

Table 1: Distribution of the ceramic building material.

The majority of the small assemblage is dated to the post-medieval period. The three bricks sampled from well/ soakaway [8] are all in a local red/orange 3033-type fabric, which has a longer date range on the outskirts of London than observed in the centre. The presence of a shallow frog to the sanded side of one of these samples indicates it post-dates the mid or late 18th century. There is also evidence for re-use on the bricks, indicating a later date for construction, perhaps during the 19th century. The thickness of the unfrogged brick fragment from layer [10] is also suggestive of a late 18th or 19th century date, although the brick is highly-fired and as a result possibly misshapen.

A further non-diagnostic fragment of red brick and two fragments of peg tile comprise the remainder of the loose assemblage. The fragment from pit fill [13] has the base missing, but on the basis of firing and moulding is likely to be of post-medieval date. The unstratified piece exhibits coarse moulding sand, suggestive of an earlier, medieval date but is evidently abraded.

The assemblage can be well-paralleled in London in terms of fabric and form and, aside from providing evidence of date, has little intrinsic value. No further analysis of this material is recommended.

APPENDIX 6: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-181550

Project details

Project name	Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Harrow, London HA5 5NE:
Short description of the project	An evaluation was conducted by PCA on the George IV pub, Pinner, Harrow between 9th and 11th June 2014. The works comprised the excavation of two test trenches. The lowest levels were seen 5m below ground level. These are Lambeth Group geological deposits. Overlying these were thick alluvial deposits from the River Pinn, the course of which would have dominated the palaeotopography of the area. Associated with these alluvial deposits were sometimes thick gravel. To the south of the public house and the associated truncation caused by its cellar, a natural gravel lense was seen to be overlain by a thin alluvial layer. This was thought to represent the highest level of naturally occurring materials that may have yielded archaeological cut features from the prehistoric period. This was cleaned and investigated with only later post-medieval features, most likely associated with the public house, observed. Post-medieval ground raising and modern deposits completed the archaeological sequence. The results of the works prove the survival of an intact geoarchaeological sequence across the site where not part truncated by the cellar. No archaeological results from this period were observed. The only period represented in the works was the post-medieval and this by a soak-way and pit cuts most likely associated with the public house.
Project dates	Start: 09-06-2014 End: 11-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KOG14 – Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches" ,"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HARROW PINNER Site of Former King George IV Public House
Postcode	HA5 5NE
Study area	640.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1215 8950 51.592690813 -0.38081105851 51 35 33 N 000 22 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43.82m Max: 43.82m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Mills Whipp
Project design originator	Mills Whipp
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Richard Humphrey
Type of sponsor/funding	Developer

body

Name of
sponsor/funding
body

Croft Capital

Project archives

Physical Archive
recipient

LAARC

Digital Archive
recipient

LAARC

Paper Archive
recipient

LAARC

Project bibliography 1

Publication type

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title

Former King George IV Public House Site, Marsh Road, Harrow, London HA5 5NE:

Author(s)/Editor(s)

Humphrey, R.

Date

2014

Description

Eval report

Entered by

Richard Humphrey (richardhumphrey1980@hotmail.com)

Entered on

16 June 2014

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