

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION AT
ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
CADOGAN STREET
LONDON BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA**

SEPTEMBER 2006

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
CADOGAN STREET, LONDON SW3**

EVALUATION

Quality Control

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**An Archaeological Investigation at St Joseph's RC Primary
School, Cadogan Street, London SW3**

Site Code: CDB02

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2767 7866

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2006

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September 2006**

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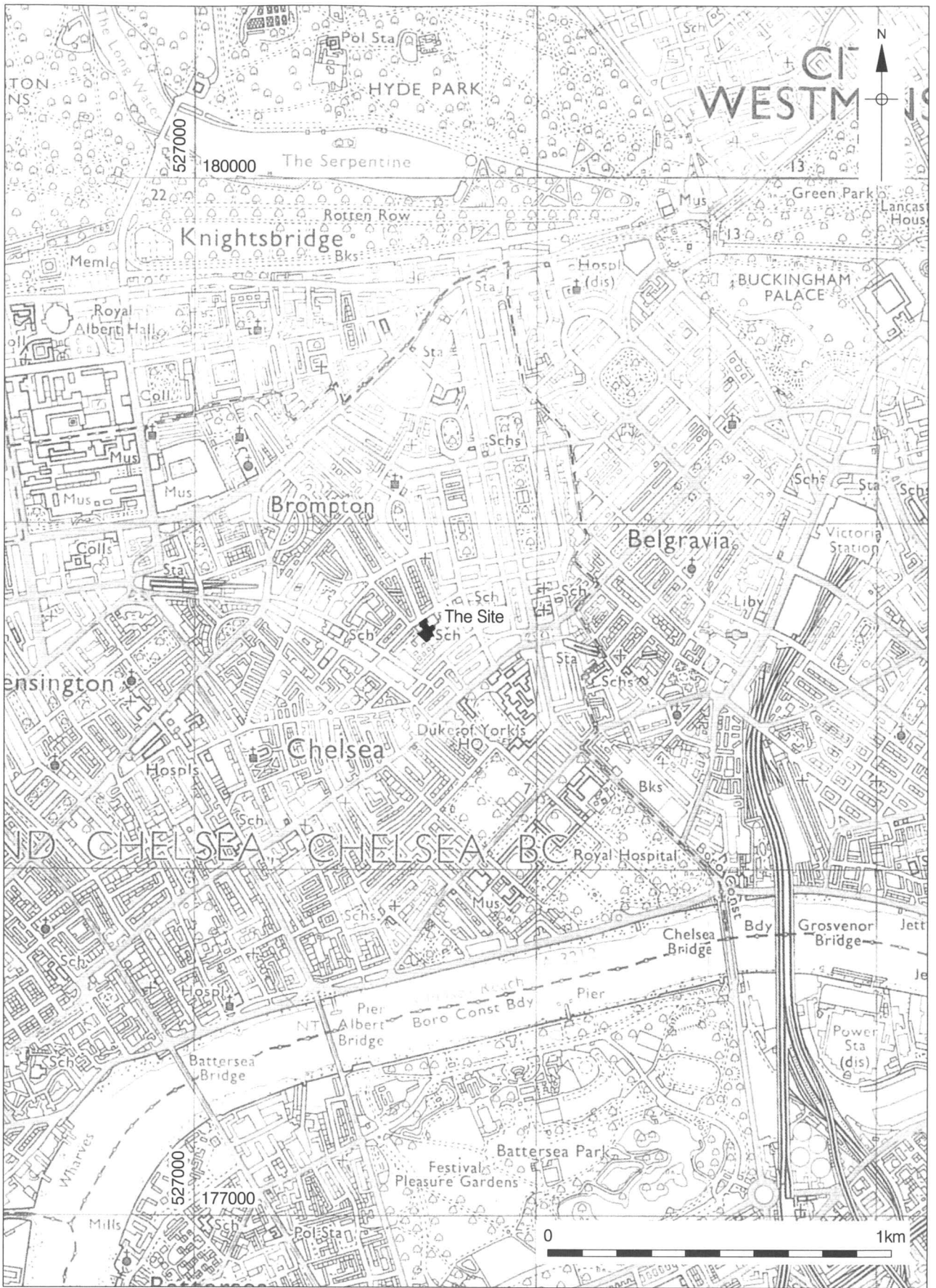
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between the 8th and 15th of June 2006 at St Joseph's RC Primary School, Cadogan Street, London SW3. The project was commissioned by Peter Sugden of Southern Testing Laboratories Limited. The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Chris Mayo and the site was supervised by Guy Seddon
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 2767 7866. Its borders are Cadogan Street to the north, Draycott Terrace to the east, the properties fronting Draycott Place to the south and the properties on Draycott Avenue to the west (Figure 1). The site is occupied by St Joseph's RC Primary School to the west and St Thomas More RC Secondary School to the east; the trenches were located in the playground of the former.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in conjunction with a geotechnical evaluation carried out by Southern Testing Laboratories Limited. The aim of the project was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains, particularly human burials, in the location of the trenches. The excavation of two service trenches was also monitored as an archaeological watching brief.
- 1.4 The investigation revealed human burials in five of the six trenches, but none in the watching brief trenches. The burials were cut into an undated layer above the natural brickearth, and sealed by a layer of made ground. Following a previous investigation by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2002, efforts were made to stabilise the playground by injecting high-density foam into the ground. This was seen in at least one grave to have impacted upon burials, presenting potential problems should any form of exhumation be required.

2 INTRODUCTION

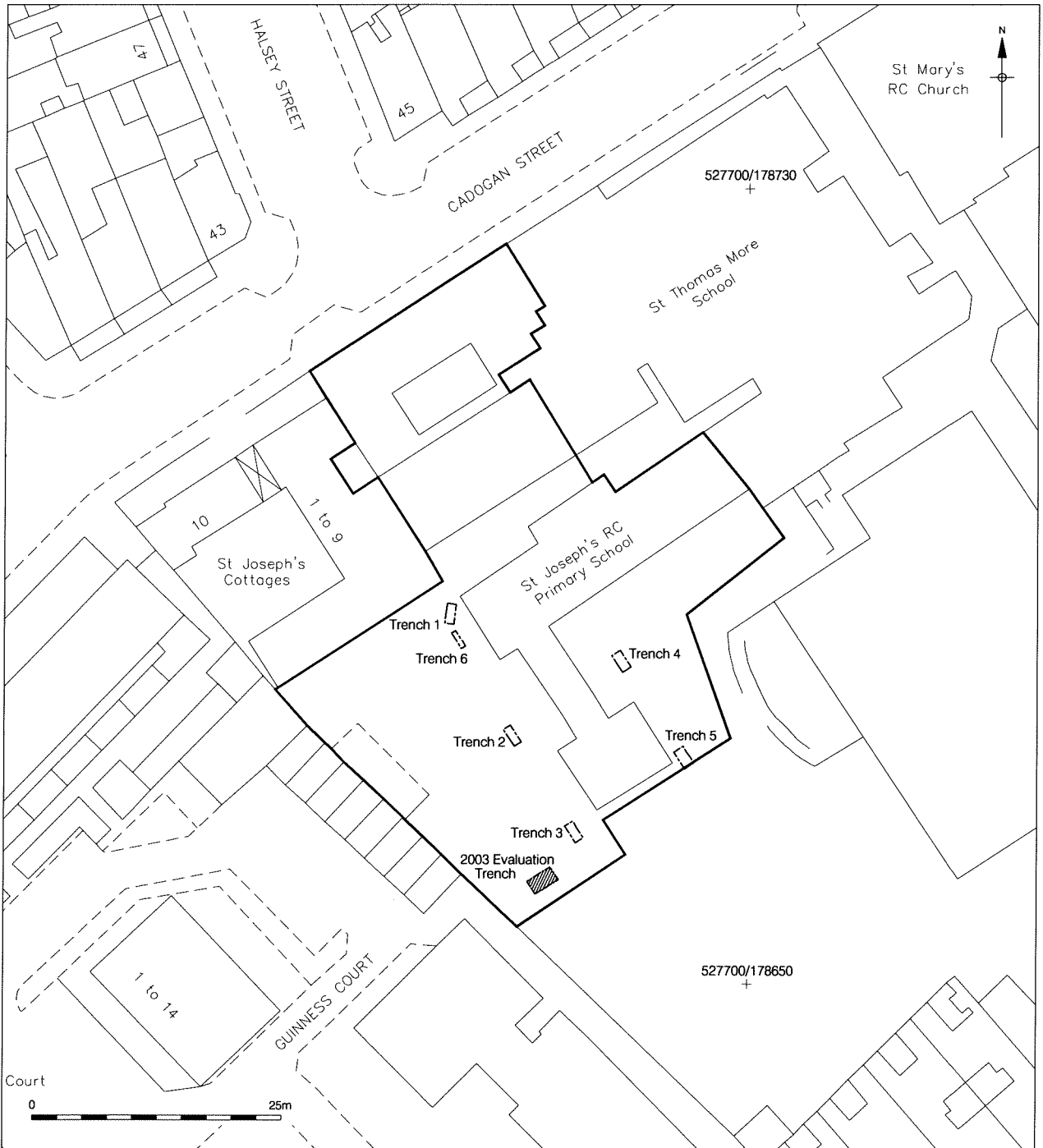
- 2.1 An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at St Joseph's RC Primary School, Cadogan Street, London SW3, between the 8th and 15th of June 2006. The project was commissioned by Peter Sugden of Southern Testing Laboratories Limited, was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Chris Mayo and supervised by Guy Seddon
- 2.2 The site is located within the playgrounds of the school, surrounded by Cadogan Street to the north, Draycott Terrace to the east, the properties fronting Draycott Place to the south and the properties on Draycott Avenue to the west (Figure 1).
- 2.3 The work was undertaken in conjunction with a geotechnical investigation designed to confirm the presence or absence of human remains and inform upon general ground conditions. Pre-Construct Archaeology has previously worked at the site in 2002 to investigate the cause of subsidence in the playground. This was found to be caused by voids in the ground where coffins have degraded. Following that work, efforts were made to strengthen the ground by injecting high-density foam into it. This was seen during this investigation to have impacted directly upon the burials at the site.
- 2.4 The investigation revealed human burials in five of the six trenches, widespread and well spaced but with evidence of intercutting graves as well. The burials were cut into an undated layer above the natural brickearth, and sealed by a layer of made ground.
- 2.5 The Central National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 2767 7866. It was given the unique sitecode CDB02.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25,000. Crown Copyright 1987.

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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:16,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

3 GEOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Previous investigations at the site have shown the underlying geology to comprise a clay-silt deposit of brickearth (Mayo 2002). This material seals river terrace gravels below.
- 3.2 The site can be seen from Ordnance Survey maps to have been developed as St Joseph's Convent and Schools between 1845 and 1860. Prior to this the land was undeveloped. The burial ground attached to the buildings was shown to have been disused by the time of the 1916 OS map, and by 1965 the land had been developed with the construction of St Joseph's RC Primary School and St Thomas More RC Secondary School (Blackledge 2001). The latter has been expanded in the last 10 years and the addition of new buildings has shown the existence of burials to the east of the investigation area.
- 3.3 In January 2002 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to investigate the cause of subsidence in the playground at St Joseph's RC Primary School. It was discovered that the playground had suffered from collapse of subsoil and surfaces into voids created by the decomposition of coffins in the burial ground of the convent.
- 3.4 Following the investigation in 2002, a program of intermediate engineering work was undertaken to remedy the problem of subsidence. This involved the injection of high-density foam into the ground in a grid-like pattern. The entry holes by which this was done are visible in the surface of the playground.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The investigation followed a specification which proposed six trial trenches measuring 2m by 1m to confirm the presence or absence of human remains and two trenches to confirm the presence or absence of services, under watching brief conditions (Martin-Bacon 2006). Of the trial trenches, five were excavated by hand under archaeological supervision. The sixth was excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Whilst the hand-dug trenches measured 2m by 1m, the sixth measured 1.90m by 0.5m. The trenches were excavated under supervision to a depth of between 0.85m and 1.09m, before Pre-Construct Archaeology conducted further excavation.
- 4.2 Trenches and features were excavated by the use of hand tools before the compilation of a written, drawn and photographic record. All trenches were recorded using the established single context methodology of the Museum Of London Archaeology Service. Context numbers were begun at [100] to ensure no repetition with previous work.
- 4.3 Following the discovery of human remains in Trench 2, it became apparent that the use of high-density foam following the work in 2002 had impacted upon human remains themselves. After discussions between Wardell Armstrong and Pre-Construct Archaeology, it was decided to archaeologically expose 50% of one of the graves in Trench 2 to inform upon the impact caused by the high density foam and the length of time that any subsequent exhumation may take. This was completed. The remains were not lifted, but recorded and covered in clean soil.
- 4.4 After excavation, features within the trenches were carefully backfilled and then covered with a sheet of ply. These were left *in situ* as the rest of the trench was backfilled, carefully compacted and re-surfaced.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Natural

5.1.1 Revealed in the bases of all the trenches was a layer of clean light brownish yellow clay-silt, the natural brickearth. This was numbered in Trenches 1 to 6 as [104], [113], [129], [140], [152] and [167] respectively. The layer occurred at its highest in Trench 6, to the north of the site at a height of 3.12m OD, then gradually sloped down to the south and east to a minimum height of 2.95m OD in Trenches 3 and 4, with a slight rise of level into Trench 5 at 3.01m OD.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated Layer

5.2.1 An undated layer was found directly above the brickearth. This was numbered [106], [112], [128], [139], [151] and [166] in Trenches 1 to 6 respectively and was a firm, mid grey clayey silt between 0.35m and 0.47m in thickness. The layer formed the 'cemetery horizon' into which all burials were cut.

5.3 Phase 3: 19th Century Burials

5.3.1 In total 14 graves were observed during the investigation. None were apparent in Trench 1, with the graves evenly spaced out within Trenches 2 to 6. All the graves were aligned east- west and filled with a mid yellowish brown coarse sandy gravel of small to medium sized rounded and sub rounded stones. Due to the small size of the trenches the full size of any grave could not be ascertained.

5.3.2 Trench 2 (figure 3) contained three grave cuts, [123], [125] and [127], between 0.1m and 0.2m apart. The graves all measured 0.82m across and were cut from a level of 3.52m OD. None of the graves were fully excavated; however a sondage was excavated on the eastern edge of Trench 2 into grave cut [125] to gain information as to the depth and preservation of the burials. The well-preserved pelvis and sacrum of an adult female, skeleton [141], were discovered within the grave along with traces of a coffin [142]. Although heavily decomposed, the void left by the coffin had been filled by the high-density foam which had been installed to stabilize the playground following the archaeological work in 2002. The impact of this was such that studs from coffin [142] were visible encrusted within the foam. The exposure of the mid-section of the skeleton allowed an estimation to be made of the time that would be required to excavate one individual, bearing in mind the added complexity of the high-

density foam. It was estimated that one grave which had been impacted upon by the foam would take two days to excavate and record.

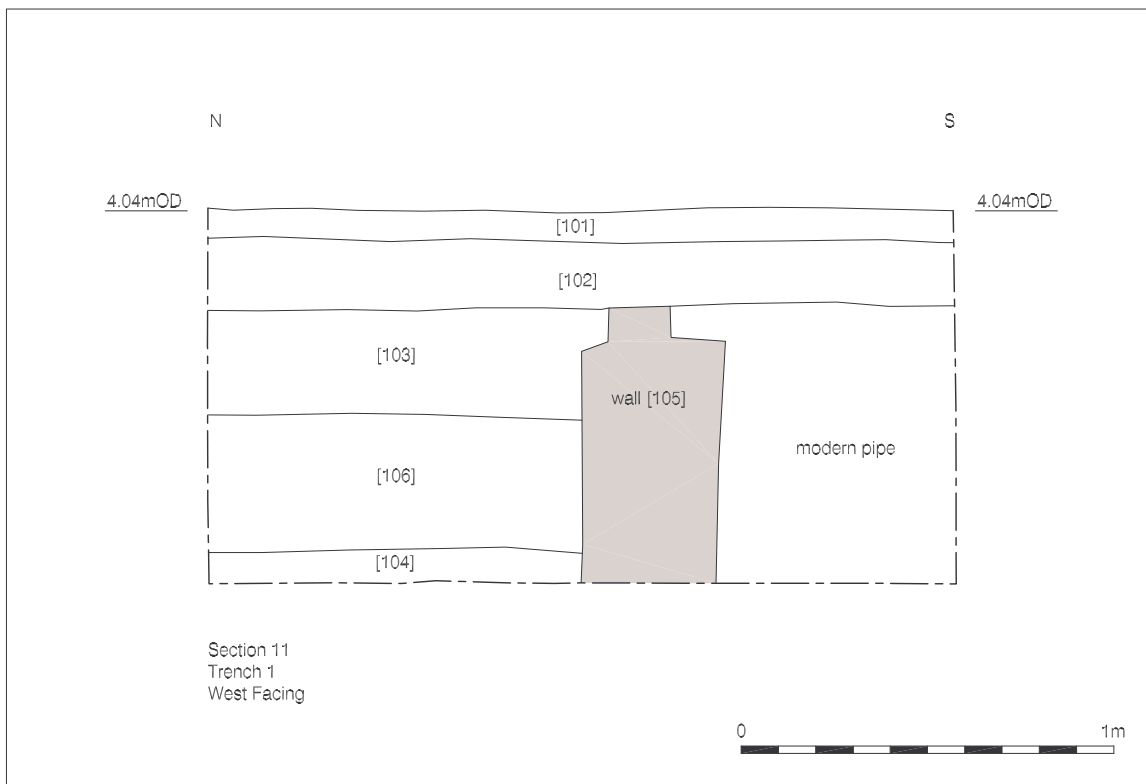
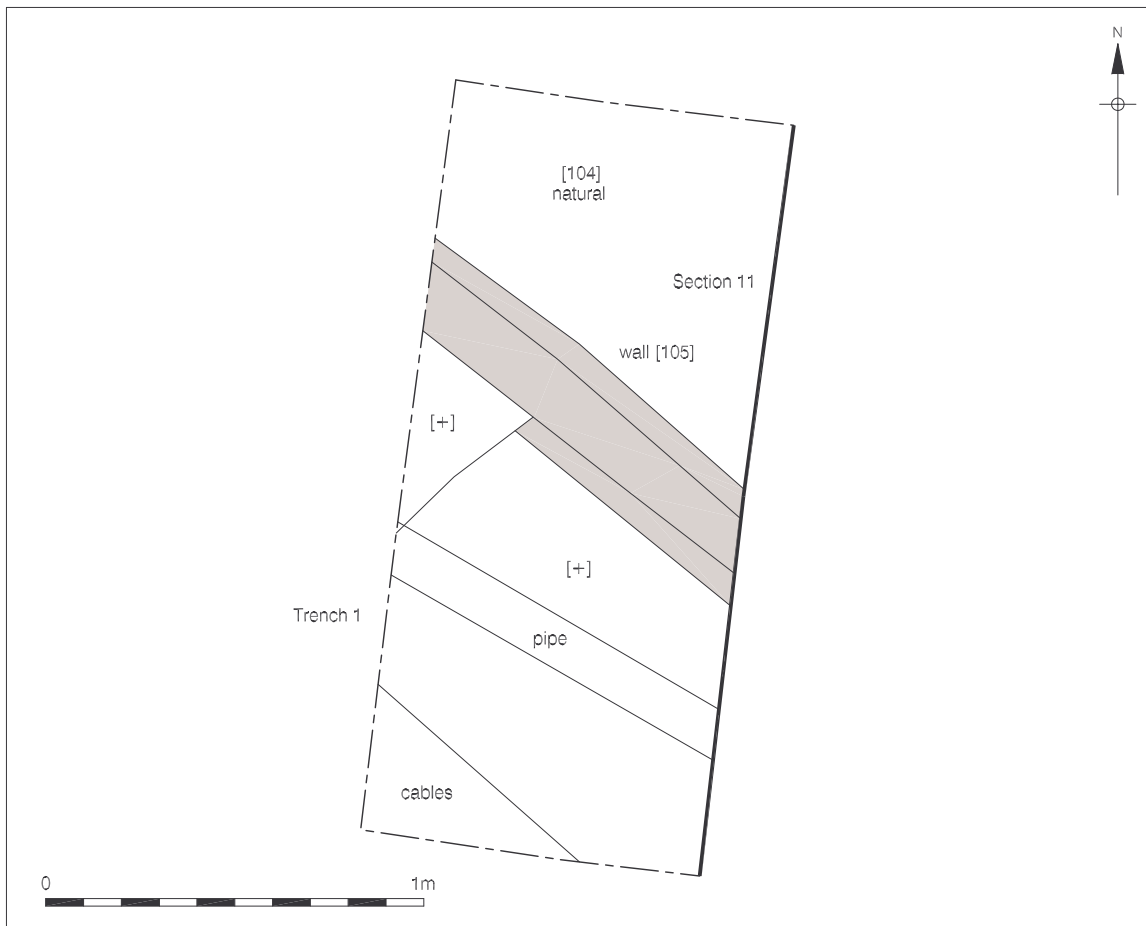
- 5.3.3 Three graves were located in Trench 3, cuts [111], [115] and [117]. All of these continued beyond the limit of excavation with the western end of [111], the southern edge of [115] and the northern edge of [117] apparent. While both [111] and [115] were cut from a level of 3.55m OD the top of grave cut [117] had been truncated by a modern concrete block and so had a highest level of only 2.99m OD.
- 5.3.4 Trench 4 revealed three grave cuts, [134], [136], and [138]. Grave cut [134] measured 0.76m across and was cut from a height of 3.67m OD, [136] was 0.54m across and was cut from 3.44m OD and [138] continued beyond the southern limit of excavation, extending into the trench by only 0.30m and had a highest level of 3.50m OD.
- 5.3.5 A further three graves were apparent in Trench 5, cuts [148], [150] and [156]. Grave [148] was 0.54m across and cut from a level of 3.57m OD. A sondage was excavated along the eastern edge of Trench 5 and into grave [148]. No skeleton or coffin was revealed as it became apparent upon excavation that the eastern end of [148] had been truncated by the western end of grave [156]. This did allow for a lowest level of 1.87m OD to be recorded for the grave cut [148].
- 5.3.6 Trench 6 revealed two graves, cuts [163] and [165]. Grave [163] was 0.70m across and was cut from a height of 3.48m OD. Grave [165] had been truncated by a later pit, [160], so the maximum height recorded for the cut was 3.35m OD.

5.4 Phase 4: Made Ground

- 5.4.1 Sealing the grave cuts was a layer of clay-silt, ranging in thickness from 0.28m to 0.14m. This layer was recorded in the different Trenches 1 to 6 as [103], [121], [109], [132], [146] and [161] respectively and occurred between 3.79m OD and 3.66m OD. This layer was previously recorded in 2002, but at a slightly higher level (3.92m OD). It is possible that it represents made ground deposited following the disuse of the burial ground to seal the graves and level in preparation for the sites' use as a school in the 20th century.

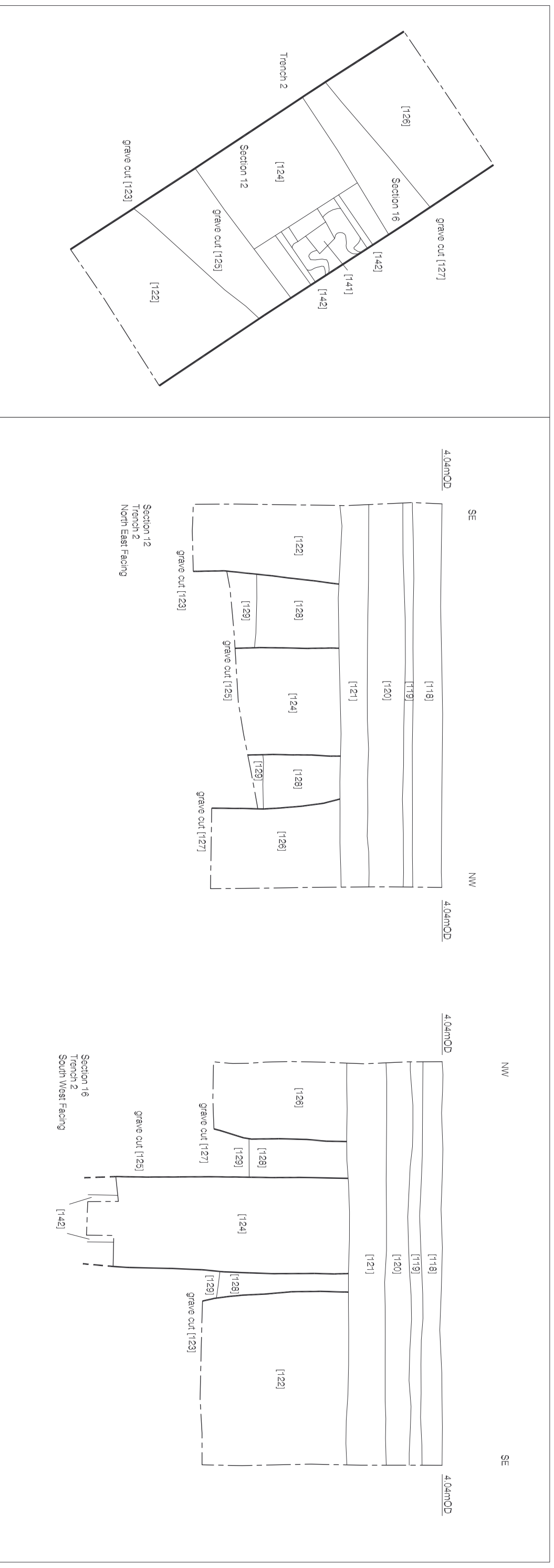
5.5 Phase 5: 20th Century

- 5.5.1 Cutting through the sealing layer in Tr6 was pit [160]. This was full of modern building materials and probably dates to the construction of the southern school block in the 1960s. Sealing this were various layers of hardcore and rubble, levelling the ground for the tarmac playground surface above.



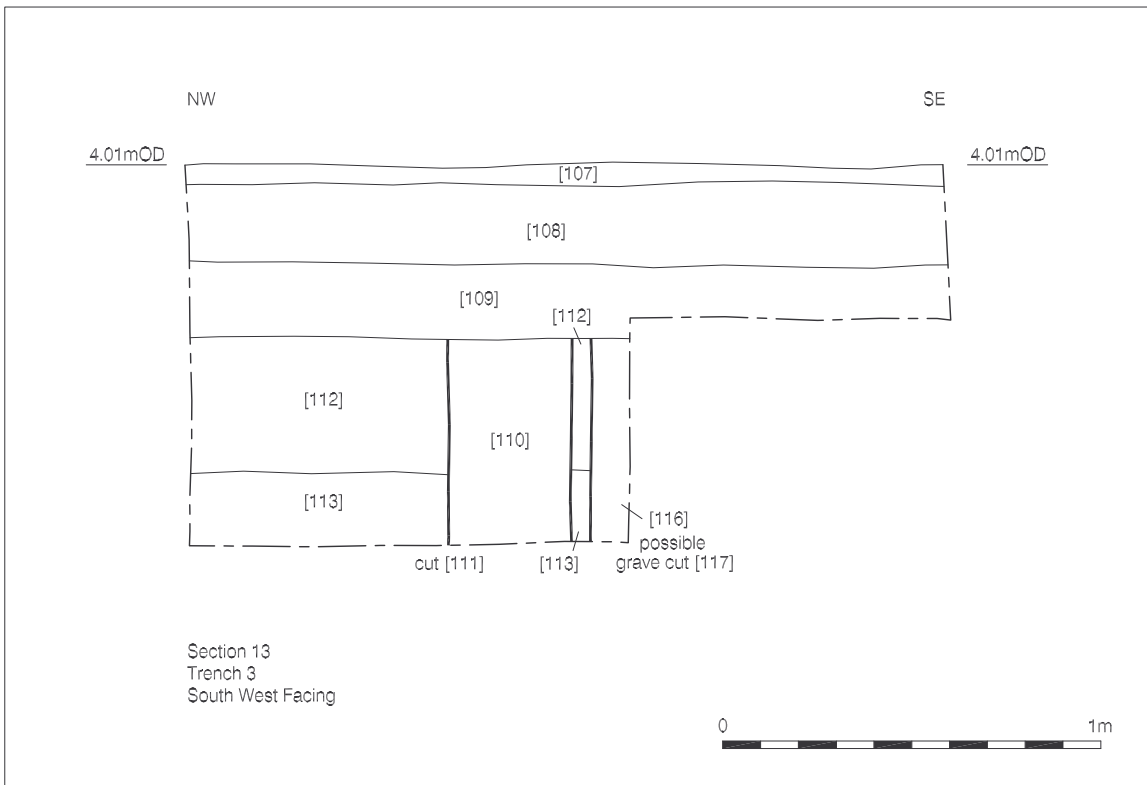
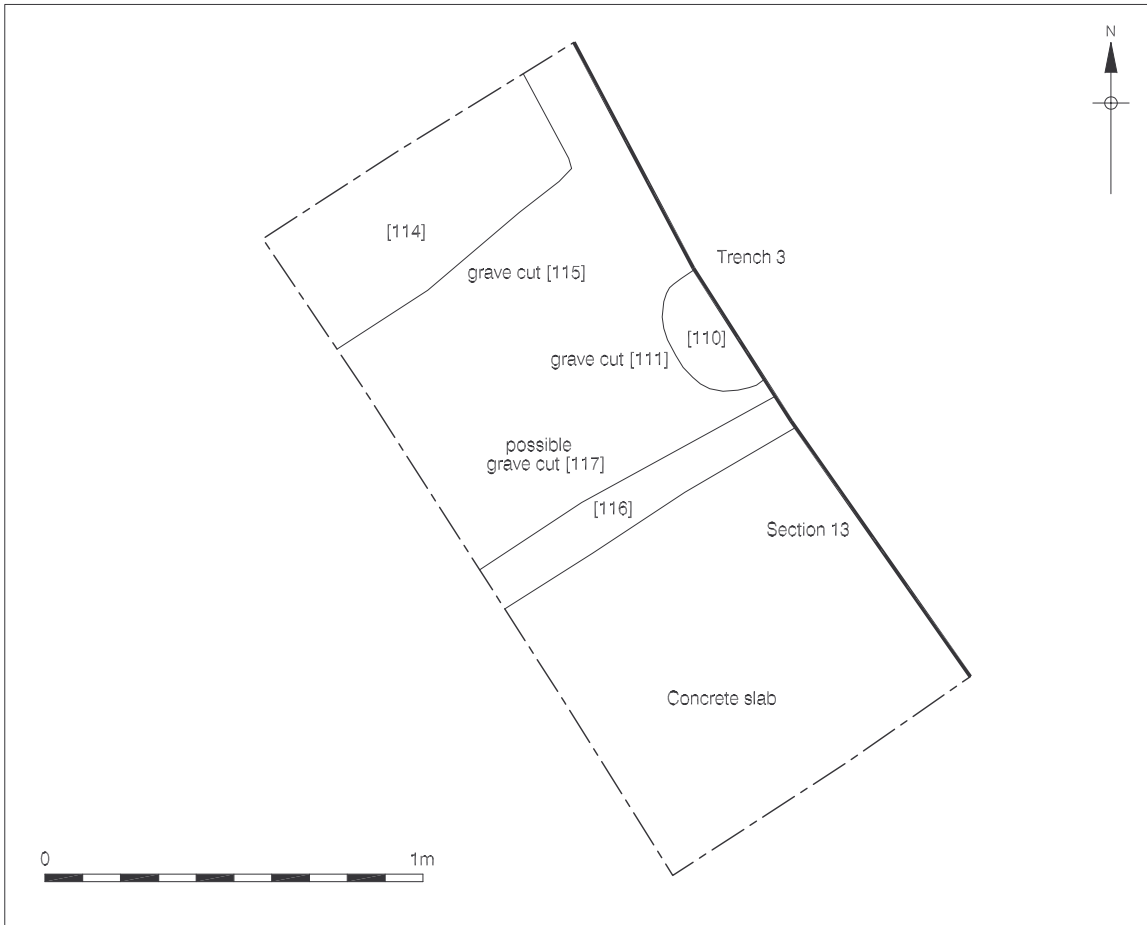
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Figure 3
Trench 1 and Section 11
1:20 at A4



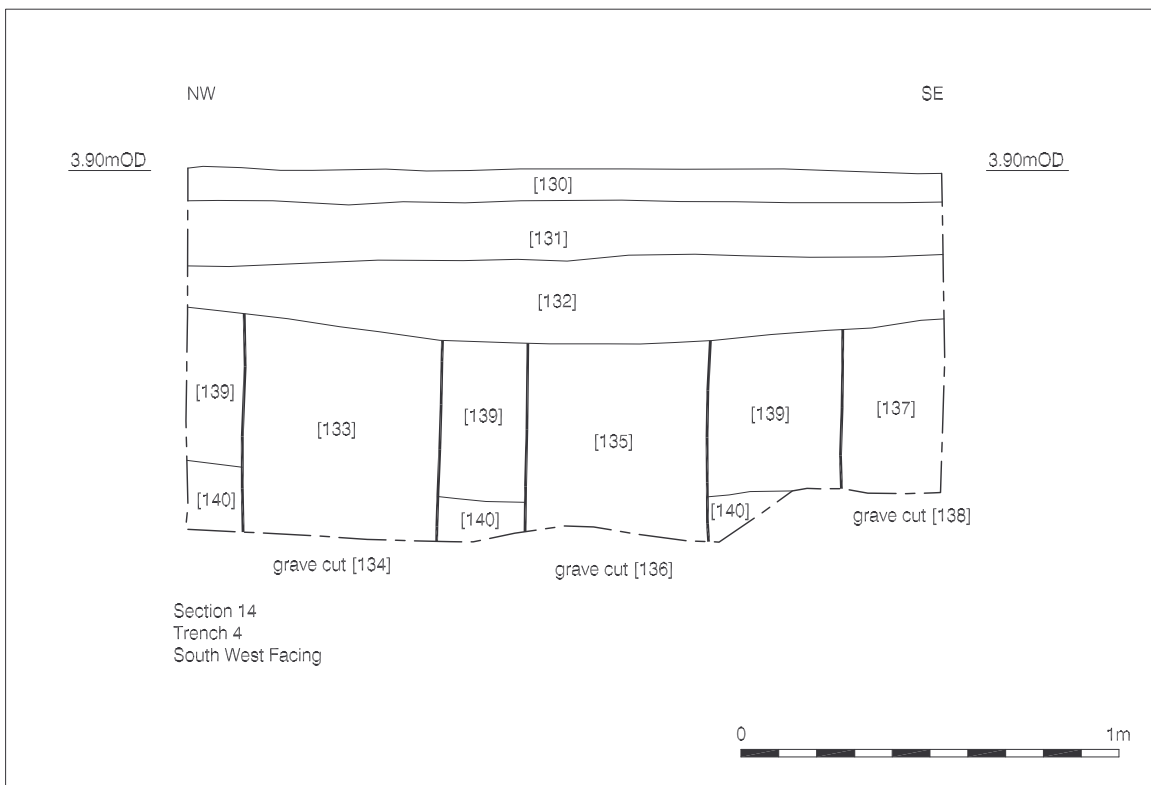
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Figure 4
Trench 2 and Sections 12 & 16
1:20 at A3



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Figure 5
Trench 3 and Section 13
1:20 at A4



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Figure 6
Trench 4 and Section 14
1:20 at A4

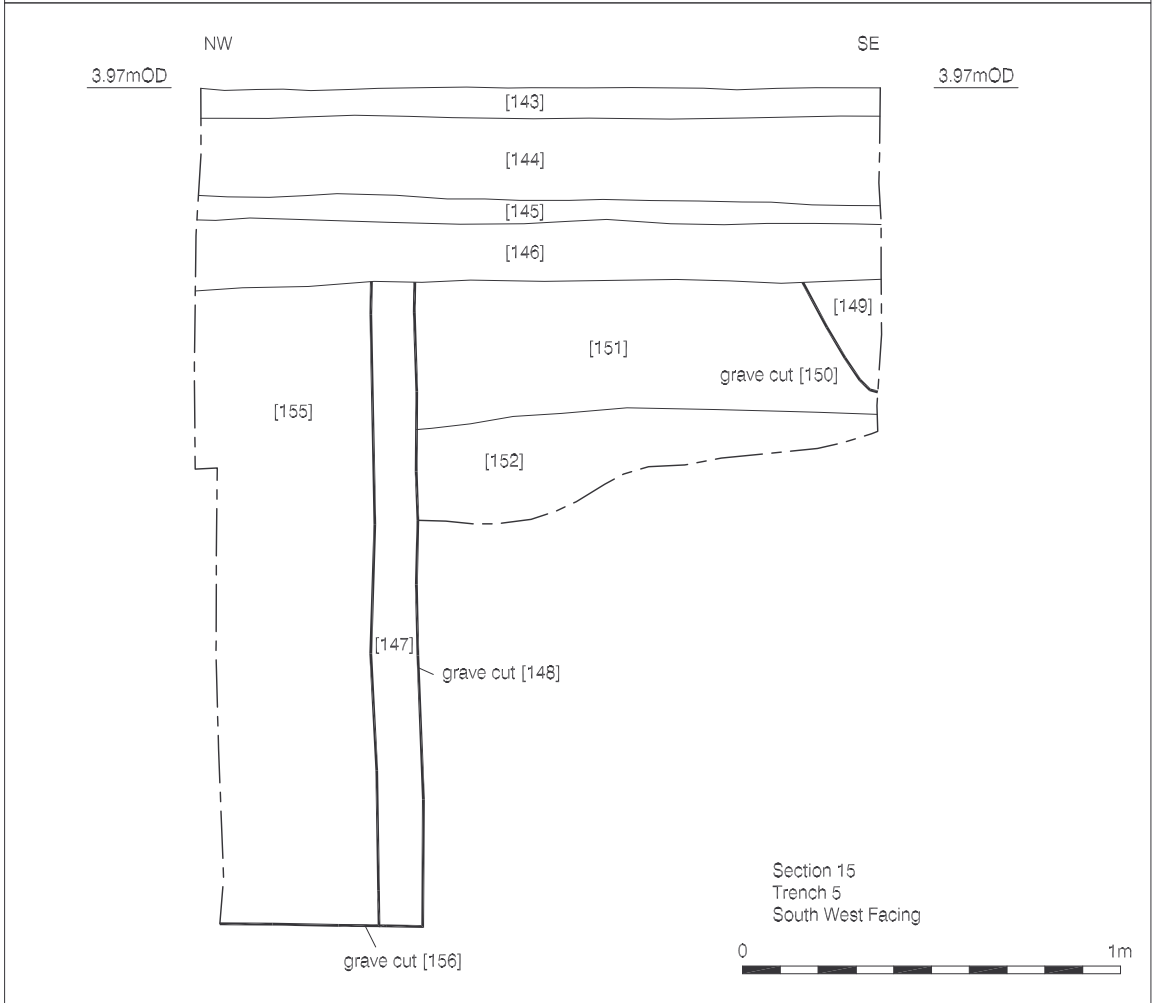
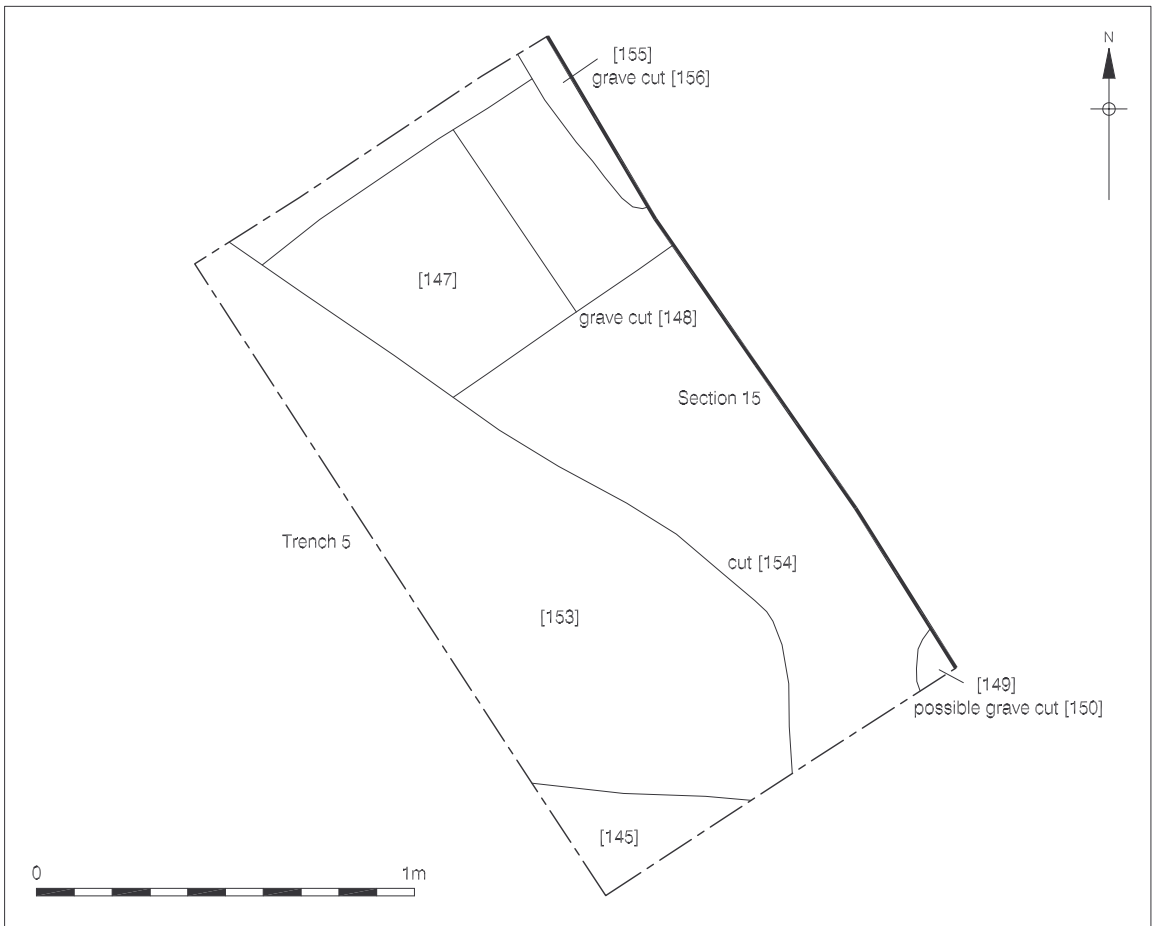
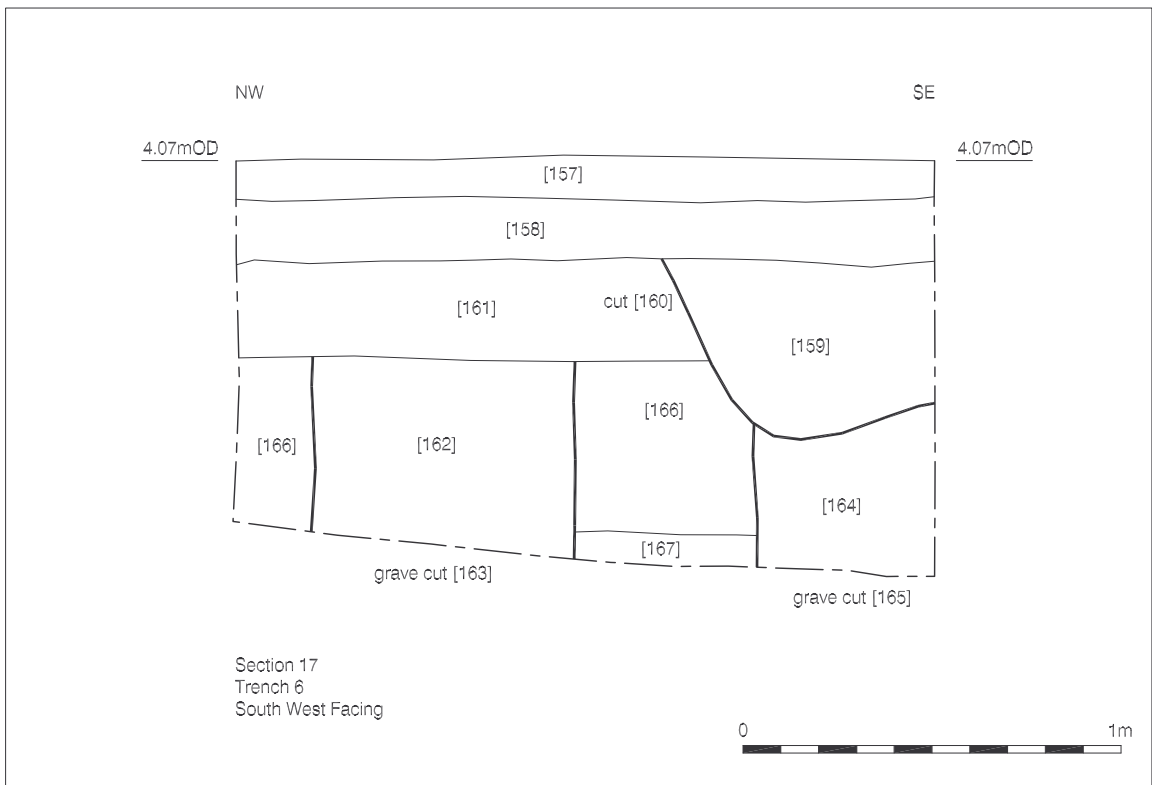
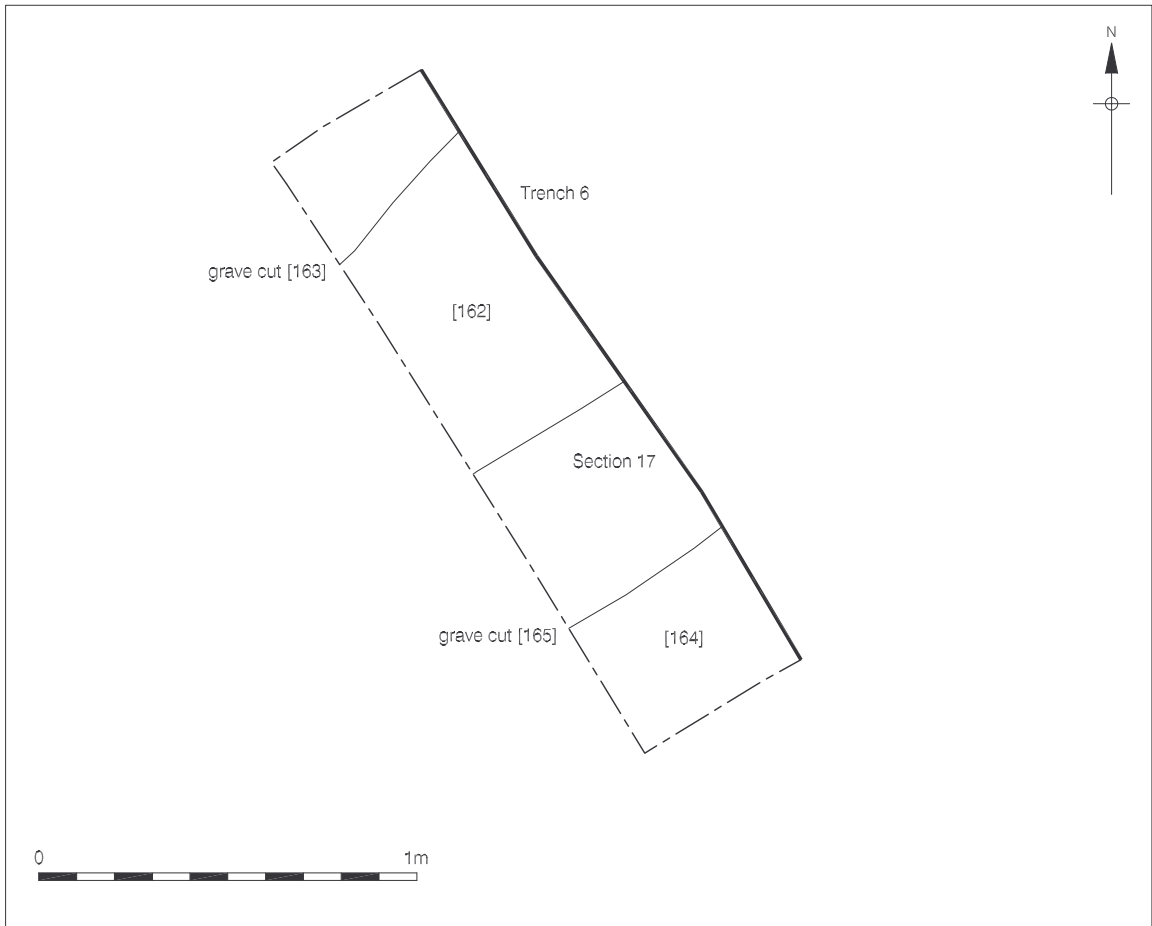


Figure 7
Trench 5 and Section 15
1:20 at A4



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Figure 8
Trench 6 & Section 17
1:20 at A4

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The investigation revealed human burials in Trenches 2 to 6 but not in Trench 1. A total of fourteen graves were revealed, occurring at a maximum height of 3.67m OD.
- 6.2 The regular dispersal of the graves is indicative of a well-planned and managed graveyard, although the intercutting graves in Trench 5 suggest continued use and could lead to complex stratigraphic relationships within areas of the site.
- 6.3 The depth of the burials, along with the complicating issue of the high-density foam, indicates that complete exhumation and recording of each grave will take at least 2 man-days for those graves affected by the foam.
- 6.4 The watching brief conducted on the excavation of two narrow trenches to confirm the presence or absence of services revealed no archaeological features or deposits. The trenches followed the alignment of existing service runs only.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Peter Sugden of Southern Testing Laboratories Limited for commissioning the work, and Dave Hodgkinson and Helen Martin-Bacon of Wardell Armstrong for their consultation and assistance. The project was monitored by Diane Walls of English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- 7.2 The author would like to thank Amelia Fairman for her invaluable help in the field, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Chris Mayo for project management and editing.

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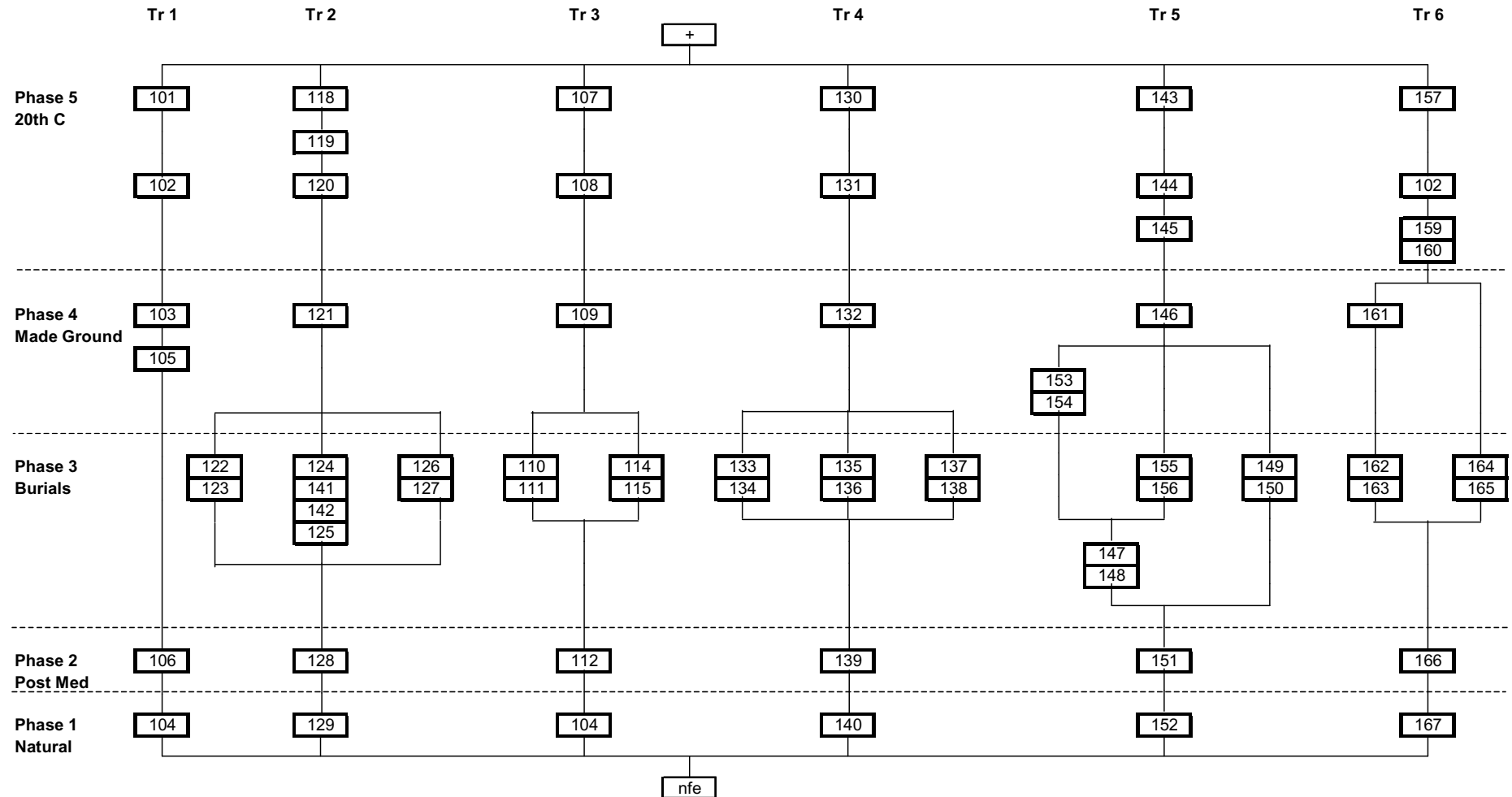
Mayo, C, 2002 'An Archaeological Investigation at St Joseph's RC Primary School, Cadogan Street, London SW3', unpub rep for Pre-Construct Archaeology

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Plan No	Section No	Photo	Type	Trench No	Fill of	Filled by	Same as
101	*	11	Y	Layer	1	*	*	107, 118, 130, 143, 157
102	*	11	Y	Layer	1	*	*	108, 120, 131, 144, 158
103	*	11	Y	Layer	1	*	*	109, 121, 132, 146, 161
104	*	*	Y	Natural	1	*	*	113, 129, 140, 152, 167
105	Tr1	11	Y	Wall	1	*	*	*
106	Tr1	11	Y	Layer	1	*	*	112, 128, 139, 151, 166
107	*	13	Y	Layer	3	*	*	101
108	*	13	Y	Layer	3	*	*	102
109	*	13	Y	Layer	3	*	*	103
110	Tr3	13	Y	Fill	3	111	*	*
111	Tr3	13	Y	Grave cut	3	*	110	*
112	Tr3	13	Y	Layer	3	*	*	106
113	Tr3	13	Y	Natural	3	*	*	104
114	Tr3	*	N	Fill	3	115	*	*
115	Tr3	*	N	Grave cut	3	*	114	*
116	Tr3	*	N	Fill	3	117	*	*
117	Tr3	*	N	Grave cut	3	*	116	*
118	*	12	Y	Layer	2	*	*	101
119	*	12	Y	Layer	2	*	*	*
120	*	12	Y	Layer	2	*	*	102
121	*	12	Y	Layer	2	*	*	103
122	Tr2	12	Y	Fill	2	123	*	*
123	Tr2	12	Y	Grave cut	2	*	122	*
124	Tr2	12	Y	Fill	2	125	*	*
125	Tr2	12	Y	Grave cut	2	*	124, 141, 142	*
126	Tr2	12	Y	Fill	2	127	*	*
127	Tr2	12	Y	Grave cut	2	*	126	*
128	Tr2	12	Y	Layer	2	*	*	106
129	Tr2	12	Y	Natural	2	*	*	104
130	*	14	Y	Layer	4	*	*	101
131	*	14	Y	Layer	4	*	*	102
132	*	14	Y	Layer	4	*	*	103
133	Tr4	14	Y	Fill	4	134	*	*
134	Tr4	14	Y	Grave cut	4	*	133	*
135	Tr4	14	Y	Fill	4	136	*	*
136	Tr4	14	Y	Grave cut	4	*	135	*
137	Tr4	14	Y	Fill	4	138	*	*
138	Tr4	14	Y	Grave cut	4	*	137	*
139	Tr4	14	Y	Layer	4	*	*	106
140	Tr4	14	Y	Natural	4	*	*	104
141	Tr2 & 141	*	Y	Skeleton	2	125	*	*
142	Tr2 & 141	*	Y	Coffin	2	125	*	*

143	*	15	Y	Layer	5	*	*	101
144	*	15	Y	Layer	5	*	*	102
145	*	15	Y	Layer	5	*	*	*
146	*	15	Y	Layer	5	*	*	103
147	Tr5	15	Y	Fill	5	148	*	*
148	Tr5	15	Y	Grave cut	5	*	147	*
149	Tr5	15	Y	Fill	5	150	*	*
150	Tr5	15	Y	Grave cut	5	*	149	*
151	*	15	Y	Layer	5	*	*	106
152	Tr5	15	Y	Natural	5	*	*	104
153	Tr5	*	Y	Fill	5	154	*	*
154	Tr5	*	Y	Modern trunc.	5	*	153	*
155	Tr5	15	Y	Fill	5	156	*	*
156	Tr5	15	Y	Grave cut	5	*	155	*
157	*	17	Y	Layer	6	*	*	101
158	*	17	Y	Layer	6	*	*	102
159	*	17	Y	Fill	6	160	*	*
160	*	17	Y	Modern pit	6	*	159	*
161	*	17	Y	Layer	6	*	*	103
162	Tr6	17	Y	Fill	6	163	*	*
163	Tr6	17	Y	Grave cut	6	*	162	*
164	Tr6	17	Y	Fill	6	165	*	*
165	Tr6	17	Y	Grave cut	6	*	164	*
166	Tr6	17	Y	Layer	6	*	*	106
167	Tr6	17	Y	Natural	6	*	*	104

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-18221

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Investigation at St Josephs RC Primary School, Cadogan Street, London
Short description of the project	An archaeological investigation run in conjunction with a geotechnical evaluation to record the archaeological sequence encountered and assess the viability of continuing the geo-tech work on a day to day basis, with regard to the victorian graveyard upon which the school is sited.
Project dates	Start: 08-08-2006 End: 10-08-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CDB02 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	GRAVES Post Medieval
Monument type	GRAVES Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA CHELSEA St Joseph's RC Primary School
Postcode	SW3 2RB
Study area	12.00 Square metres

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Wardell Armstrong
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Engineering consultants
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southern Testing Laboratories Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Plan', 'Section'

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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