

**500 CHISWICK HIGH ROAD,
CHISWICK, LONDON BOROUGH
OF HOUNSLOW, W4:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**



**SITE CODE: CSW15
REPORT NO: R12150**



JULY 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**500 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4:
An Archaeological Evaluation**

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Hounslow

Planning Application Number: 00248/CY/P1

Site Code: CSW15

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 20190 78575

Written by: James Langthorne

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins (MfA)

Commissioning Client: CGMS Consulting

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54, Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road, Brockley
London SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925

E-mail: hhawkins@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

July 2015

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION


Site Name

500 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4

Type of project

An Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K3990
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	J Langthorne		8.06.15
Graphics Prepared by:	J Brown		8.06.15
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	19.06.2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		19.06.2015

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT.....	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	5
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	6
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	7
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	8
7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	8
8	CONCLUSIONS	13
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	14
10	BIBLIOGRAPHY	14

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX	20
APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX.....	21
APPENDIX 3: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM	22

FIGURES

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.....	15
FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION.....	16
FIGURE 3: PLAN OF TRENCH 2.....	17
FIGURE 4: PLAN OF TRENCH 4.....	18
FIGURE 5: SECTION 2, TRENCH 2.....	19

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at 500 Chiswick High Road and 30-32 Chiswick Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4 in advance of redevelopment. The investigation took place between 29th June-2nd July 2015. The work was commissioned by CGMS Consulting and monitored by Gillian King, the Historic England Archaeology Advisor to the London Borough of Hounslow.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of four trenches that were 20m in length and 1.80m wide at base. Trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and extended to a depth at which archaeologically sterile geological deposits were observed.
- 1.3 The results of the archaeological evaluation indicated that the natural topography of the site, as represented by the heights of naturally deposited clay, sand and gravels found in all four trenches, had been significantly impacted by modern activity. This conclusion was supported by the presence of weathered and redeposited natural clay in two of the trenches.
- 1.4 The only discrete feature on site that pre-dated the modern period was a linear garden feature dated to the late 19th-20th century found in Trench 2.
- 1.5 No other archaeological activity or deposits that pre-dated the modern period were recorded during the archaeological evaluation.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted between 29th June- 2nd July by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at 500 Chiswick High Road and 30-32 Chiswick Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4 in advance of redevelopment. The site is centred at TQ 20190 78575.
- 2.2 The evaluation was commissioned by CGMS Consulting and was monitored by the Historic England Archaeological Advisor to the London Borough of Hounslow, Gillian King. The field investigation was supervised by James Langthorne and project managed by Helen Hawkins. All work was undertaken following the appropriate English Heritage (1991, 2008) and Historic England (2015) guidelines.
- 2.3 The boundaries of the site were defined by Chiswick High Road and Chiswick Road to the south, 508 Chiswick High Road to the west, a railway line to the north and 28 Chiswick Road to the east. The Chiswick High Road site covered an area of 10,937 square metres.
- 2.4 The site has previously been the subject of a Historic Environment Assessment (MoLA 2013) that suggested a modest potential for the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval periods.
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation consisted of four trenches of approximately 20m in length and 1.80m at basal width. All trenches were archaeologically investigated and recorded.
- 2.6 The evaluation aimed to address the primary objectives as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2015). These were as follows:
- To determine the natural topography of the site;
 - To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site;
 - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 2.7 The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at LAARC under the site code CSW15.
- 2.8

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The evaluation at Chiswick High Road was set up under the planning regulations that were current in 2013, specifically the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and those criteria required by the London Borough of Hounslow. These have been detailed in the Historic Environment Assessment (MoLA 2013).
- 3.2 The study site lies within the Turnham Green Conservation Area as defined by Hounslow Council. Furthermore the site lies within the Archaeological Priority Area that extends along Chiswick High Road, as identified by Hounslow Council.
- 3.3 The following planning condition was attached to the granting of consent (LB Hounslow planning reference: 00248/CY/P1):
- A) No development shall take place until the applicant (or their heirs and successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation in accordance with a written scheme which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority in writing and a report on that evaluation has been submitted to the local planning authority.*
- 3.4 In accordance with the condition a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared for the fieldwork by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (Hawkins 2015) and approved by Historic England.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The solid geology of the site is shown on the British Geological Survey Geological Map (Sheet 270, South London, Solid and Drift Edition) as London Clay deposits. Overlying the London Clay are Kempton Park Gravels, defined as 'Post Diversionary Thames River Terrace Deposits: gravel, sandy and clayey in part' (MoLA 2013).
- 4.2 A small scale ground investigation was undertaken at 408-430 Chiswick High Road in 2014 (Barr 2014) which generally agreed with the anticipated deposits previously described appearing at a depth of approximately 1m below ground level.
- 4.3 The site is generally flat with a slight gradient from north to south. Levels across the site range from approximately 7.20-7.90m OD
- 4.4 A meander of the River Thames is approximately 1km south-east of the site and the nearest bodies of water are ponds at Chiswick Park around 500m to the north-west.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The following background detail has been summarized from the Desk Based Assessment (MoLA 2013):
- 5.2 There have been a number of finds of prehistoric origin, including a possible settlement dating to the late Bronze Age, in the vicinity of the Chiswick High Road site. As a result the archaeological potential for the site was considered to be moderate.
- 5.3 The Roman period was not well represented in the vicinity of Chiswick High Road site. However the southern edge of Chiswick High Road does run along the putative course of a major Roman road but no findspots or deposits have been found in the area of the site itself. Therefore it was thought that the site had a moderate potential for this period.
- 5.4 As with the Roman period little definite evidence of medieval activity had been encountered within the vicinity of the Chiswick High Road site. However it was considered that the focus of the medieval settlement of Turnham Green would have been the communication route currently known as Chiswick High Road and the medieval hamlet of Little Sutton was also relatively close. The potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval period was therefore low.
- 5.5 The site has been occupied in the late 19th century; six large semi-detached houses and two smaller houses have since been demolished. There was a possibility that the buried remains of these houses, including foundations or cellars might be present on the site. The archaeological potential for post-medieval activity, particularly regarding the foundations of earlier structures, was considered to be high as a result.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2015).
- 6.2 Four trenches were excavated across the site (Figure 2). The dimensions and orientation of each of the trenches are detailed in the following table:

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Max. Depth (m)
1	E-W	20.00	4.00	1.20
2	N-S	19.20	2.10	1.25
3	N-S	18.90	2.52	1.60
4	E-W	17.85	2.25	1.30

- 6.3 A 13 tonne machine fitted with a breaker and flat bladed grading bucket was used under constant archaeological supervision to remove overburden down to the highest archaeological or natural horizon. 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 using the Museum of London single context recording system. Upon completion of the trench excavations, 1:50 scale plan drawings were made as well as 1:10 scale section drawings. Heights of deposits in relation to Ordnance Datum were also recorded. A digital photographic record was made.
- 6.4 Trench locations were recorded by GPS which was also used to establish two temporary benchmarks on site at heights of 7.74m OD and 7.90m OD respectively.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- 7.1 Trench 1
- 7.1.1 Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the site (Figure 2). Potentially active modern services were found in the western extent of the trench and consequently excavation in this area was curtailed.

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east (1m scale)



Phase 1

- 7.1.2 The earliest deposit recorded in the base of Trench 1 was a layer of naturally deposited fairly loose mid reddish grey brown coarse gravel and sand [3]. It was encountered at levels between 6.90-6.98m OD. This layer was cleaned and examined for any potential prehistoric or later activity with no such evidence being observed.
- 7.1.3 Sealing natural gravel [3] was a 0.35m thick layer of naturally deposited firm-compact light orange grey brown clay with occasional small sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded pebbles [2] which was observed at a maximum height of 7.38m OD.

Phase 3

- 7.1.4 Sealing natural clay deposit [2] was a 0.38m thick layer of firm but friable mid-dark blackish grey with occasional yellow mottling silty clay with frequent brick, concrete and tarmac rubble, occasional rebar, ceramic pipe fragments, metal fragments and moderate coarse angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel [1]. This layer of modern made ground was encountered at a maximum height of 7.66m OD
- 7.1.5 Ultimately all deposits in the trench were capped by a 0.10m thick concrete slab and the tarmac of the disused car park [+].
- 7.2 Trench 2
- 7.2.1 Trench 2 was situated in the eastern part of the site (Figs. 2, 3 & 4).

Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 2, east facing section (1m scale)



Phase 1

- 7.2.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 2 comprised firm light orange grey brown clay [6] at heights that varied between 6.65-6.68m OD. This layer was cleaned and examined for any potential prehistoric or later activity with no such evidence being observed.

Phase 2

- 7.2.3 Truncating natural clay [6] at the southern end of Trench 2 was a north-west south-east linear garden feature [8] which measured 2.95m long by 0.80m wide and extended over 0.40m deep. Due to restrictions within the trench it was not possible to reach the base of the feature which was encountered at a maximum height of 6.41m OD. Cut [8] was filled with fairly firm dark grey sandy silt [7]. A fragment of flower pot and CBM dating to the late 19th -20th century was found within the matrix of the fill.

Phase 3

- 7.2.4 Sealing garden feature [8] was a 0.40m thick layer of fairly firm dark grey brown silty clay [5] which was found at a maximum height of 7.08m OD. This modern made ground deposit was further overlain by a 0.35m thick layer of modern rubble [4] at a maximum height of 7.43m OD.
- 7.2.5 All deposits were ultimately sealed by the concrete slab and the tarmac of the disused car park [+].

7.3 Trench 3

- 7.3.1 Trench 3 was the westernmost trench (Figure 2). Two large concrete stanchions prevented excavation in the southern part of the trench.

Plate 4: Trench 3, looking south (1m scale)



Phase 1

- 7.3.2 Natural sand and gravel [16] was recorded in Trench 3 at a height of 6.29m OD. It was characterised as being fairly loose mid brownish grey with light-mid grey mottling coarse gravel and sand. This layer was examined for any potential prehistoric or later activity with no such evidence observed.

Phase 2

- 7.3.3 Measuring a maximum of 1.20m thick, a layer of weathered firm dark yellow orange clay [10] overlay natural deposit [16]. This natural was recorded at a height of 7.69m OD.

Phase 3

7.3.4 Sealing weathered natural clay [10] was a 0.20m thick layer of modern made ground composed of firm dark grey brown silty clay with moderate brick and concrete rubble. It was recorded at a maximum height of 6.50m OD.

7.3.5 All features and deposits were finally capped by the concrete slab of the recently demolished building [+].

7.4 Trench 4

7.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the southern part of the site as close to Chiswick High Road as was permitted by modern services and the demolition works that were taking place at the same time (Figure 2)

Plate 5: Trench 4, looking west (1m scale)



Phase 1

7.4.2 Fairly loose, mid reddish grey brown coarse gravel and sand with interleaving yellow grey patches of clay was recorded as layer [13] in Trench 4 and seen at a height of 6.89m OD.

Phase 2

7.4.3 Truncating natural sand, gravel and clay [13] was a north-south aligned linear cut [15] of dimensions 2.00m north-south by 0.50m east-west by 0.20m deep. It was encountered at a maximum height of 6.88m OD and was filled by fairly firm mid grey brown silty clay with occasional CBM fragments, root activity and charcoal flecks [14]. This feature was considered to be the remnants of a disused cut for a drain. Drain cut [15] was subsequently sealed by a 0.40m thick layer of firm light-mid orange grey brown slightly silty clay with moderate root activity and occasional charcoal and concrete flecks and fragments [12]. This layer of redeposited clay varied between 7.28-7.34m OD in height.

Phase 3

7.4.4 Redeposited clay [12] was in turn sealed by a 0.60m thick layer of firm but friable mid-dark blackish grey with occasional reddish brown mottling silty clay with frequent brick, tarmac and concrete rubble, occasional-moderate rebar, occasional ceramic pipe fragments, wire and polystyrene [11]. This layer of made ground was recorded at a maximum height of 7.88m OD and was finally overlain by the concrete slab of the recently demolished building [+].

8 CONCLUSIONS

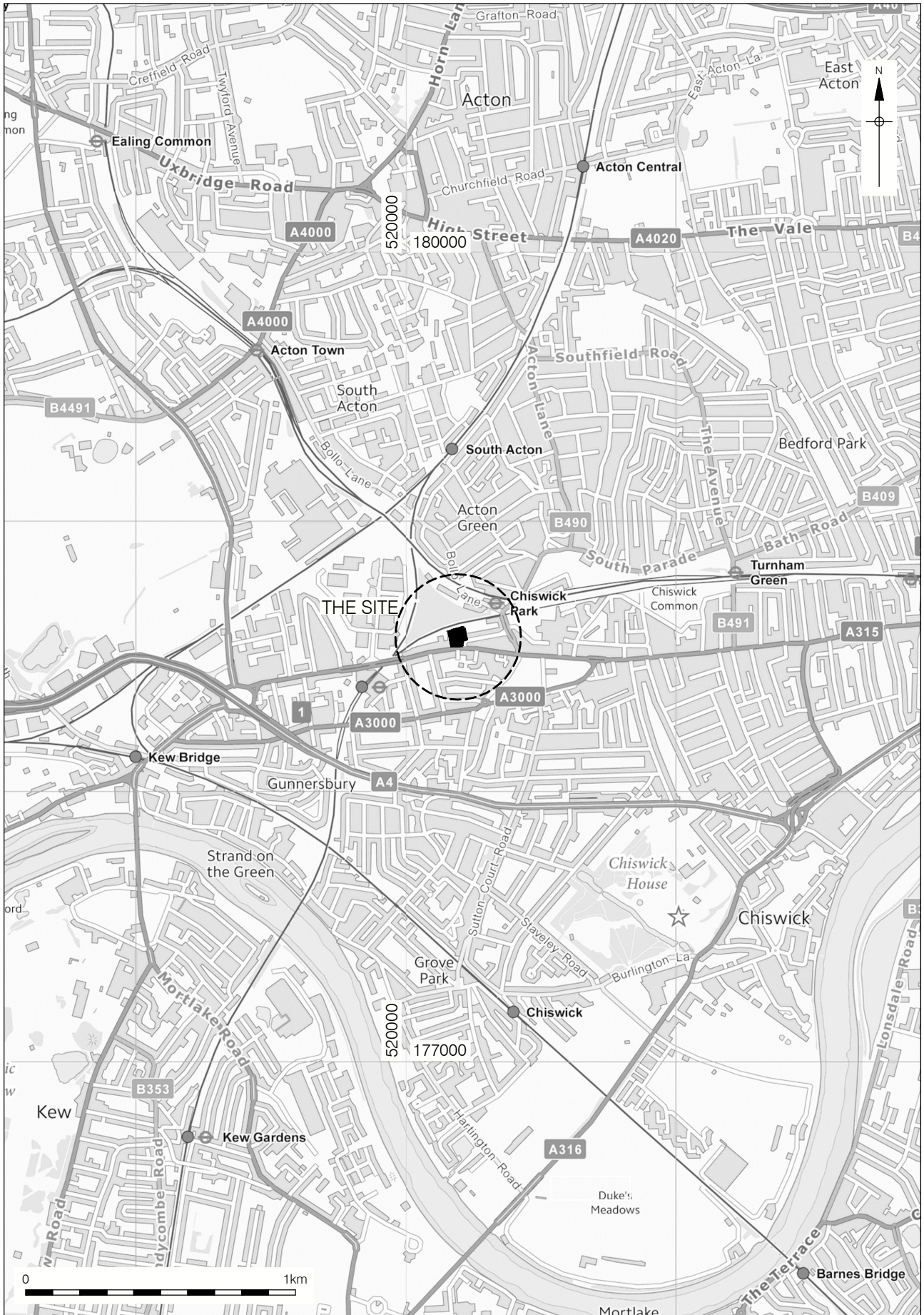
- 8.1 The natural deposits found during the Chiswick High Street investigation comprised reddish grey brown coarse gravels and sand in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 with natural clay being apparent in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. The natural deposits varied in height across the site between 6.50m OD in Trench 3 and 7.38m OD in Trench 2. The conclusion was that the variation in heights of the natural geology was the result of later post-medieval and modern impacts on the site. The presence of weathered and redeposited natural clay in Trenches 3 and 4 also supported this interpretation.
- 8.2 The only discrete archaeological feature found at the site was a garden feature in Trench 2 dated to the 19th -20th century. There was no indication of activity that potentially pre-dated the early modern period at the Chiswick High Road site, not even the anticipated 19th century building foundations or cellars.
- 8.3 The most ubiquitous deposit other than natural deposits were layers of silty clay modern made ground that contained large volumes of brick, concrete and tarmac rubble which were interpreted as the result of demolition works that pre-dated the present building which is now undergoing demolition itself.
- 8.4 Other past post-depositional impacts to potentially surviving archaeological levels included the cutting of modern service runs for drainage or electricity, as seen in Trenches 1, 2 and 4, and the concrete stanchions of the building currently undergoing demolition, as recorded in Trench 3.
- 8.5 The scarcity of any archaeological finds, features or deposits that pre-date the early modern period was likely to have been a result of truncation and removal by modern construction of building foundations and associated deposits.
- 8.6 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 CSW15.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CGMS Consulting for commissioning the works, and Gillian King of Historic England for monitoring the project. We would also like to thank METRO Demolition for facilitating the site work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Jennifer Wilson, Rick Archer and Patric Kavanagh for their assistance on the project, Josephine Brown for the figures and Helen Hawkins for project management and editing this report.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barr, C. 2014. *Chiswick High Road: Geotechnical note*. Ramboll Unpublished Report.
- English Heritage 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2: 2nd Edition)*
- English Heritage 2008, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*
- Hawkins, H. 2015. *500 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London W4: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*
- Historic England 2015 Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service 2015, *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London*
- MoLA. 2013. *500 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London W4: Historic Environment Assessment*. MoLA Unpublished Report.
- The British Geological Survey Sheet 270 (South London 1998)



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
 06/07/15 JB

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4

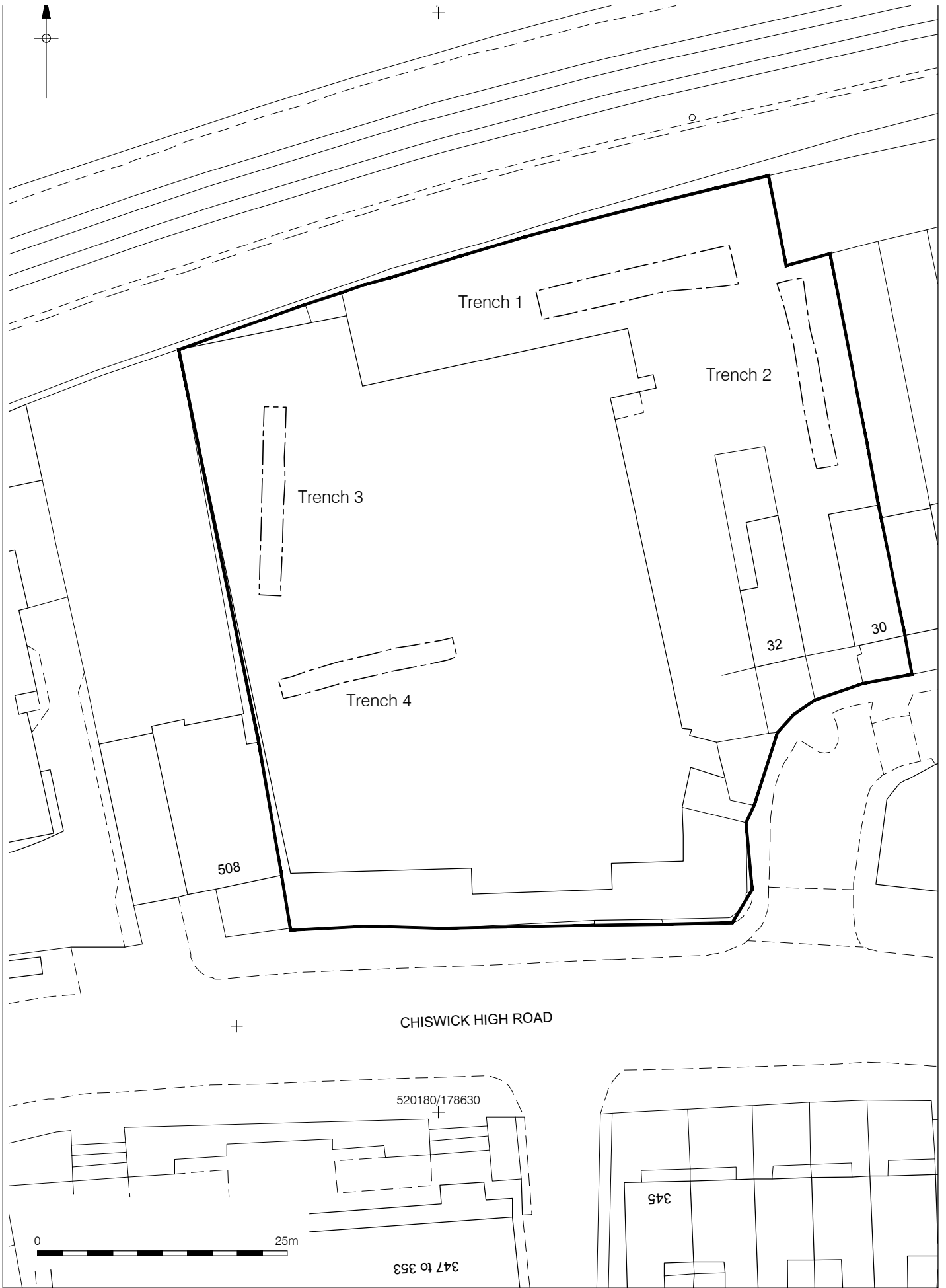
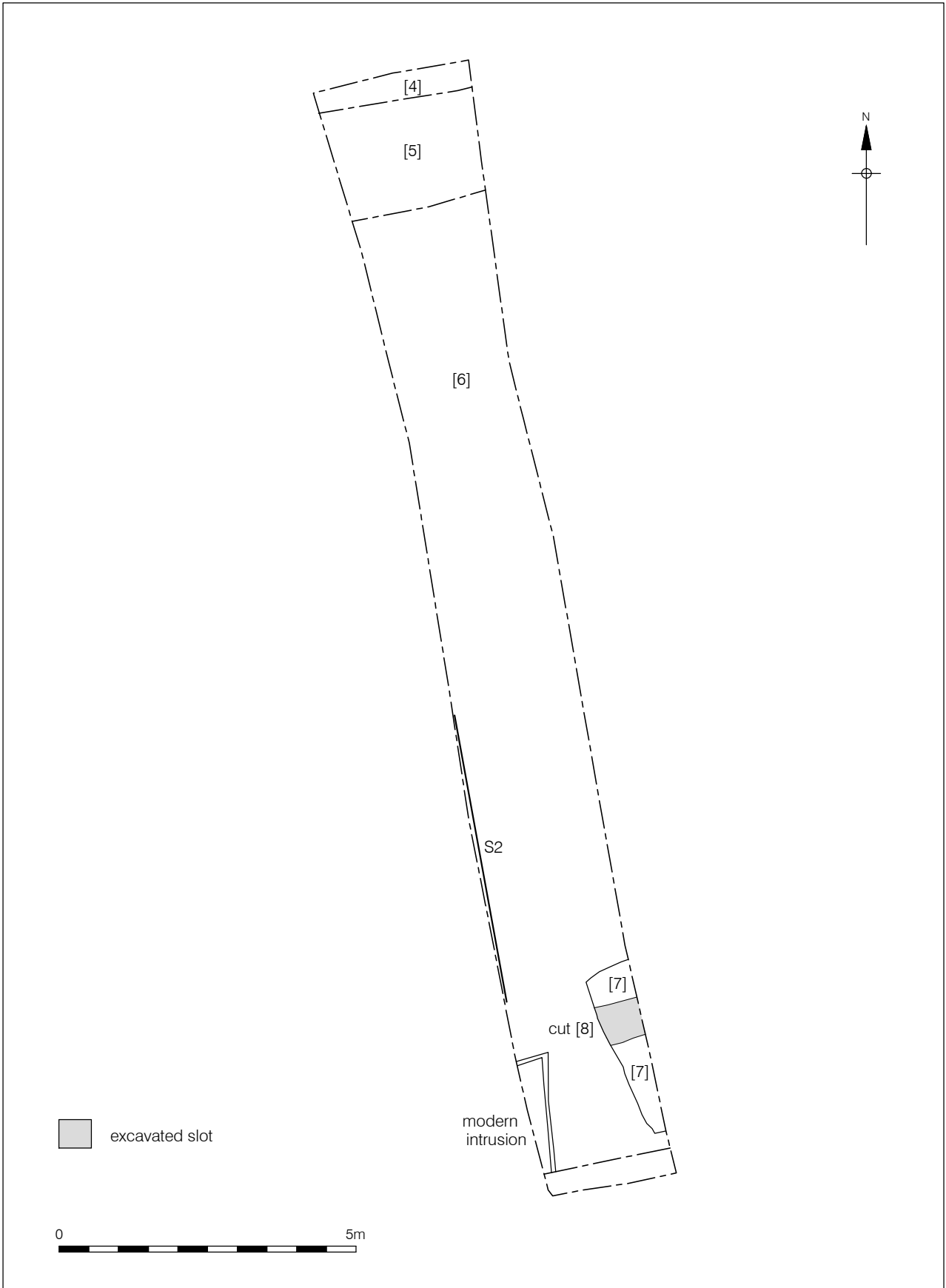
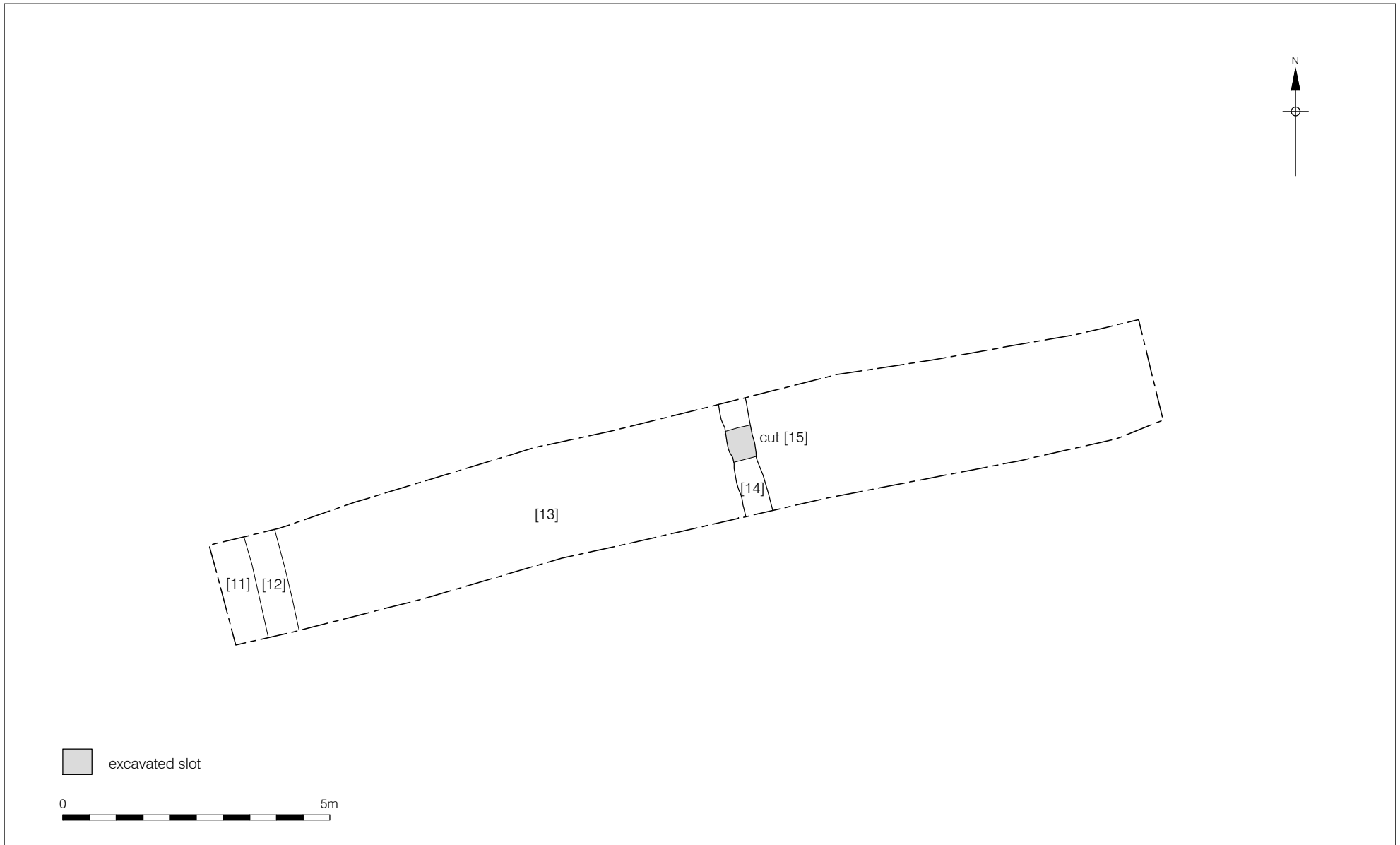
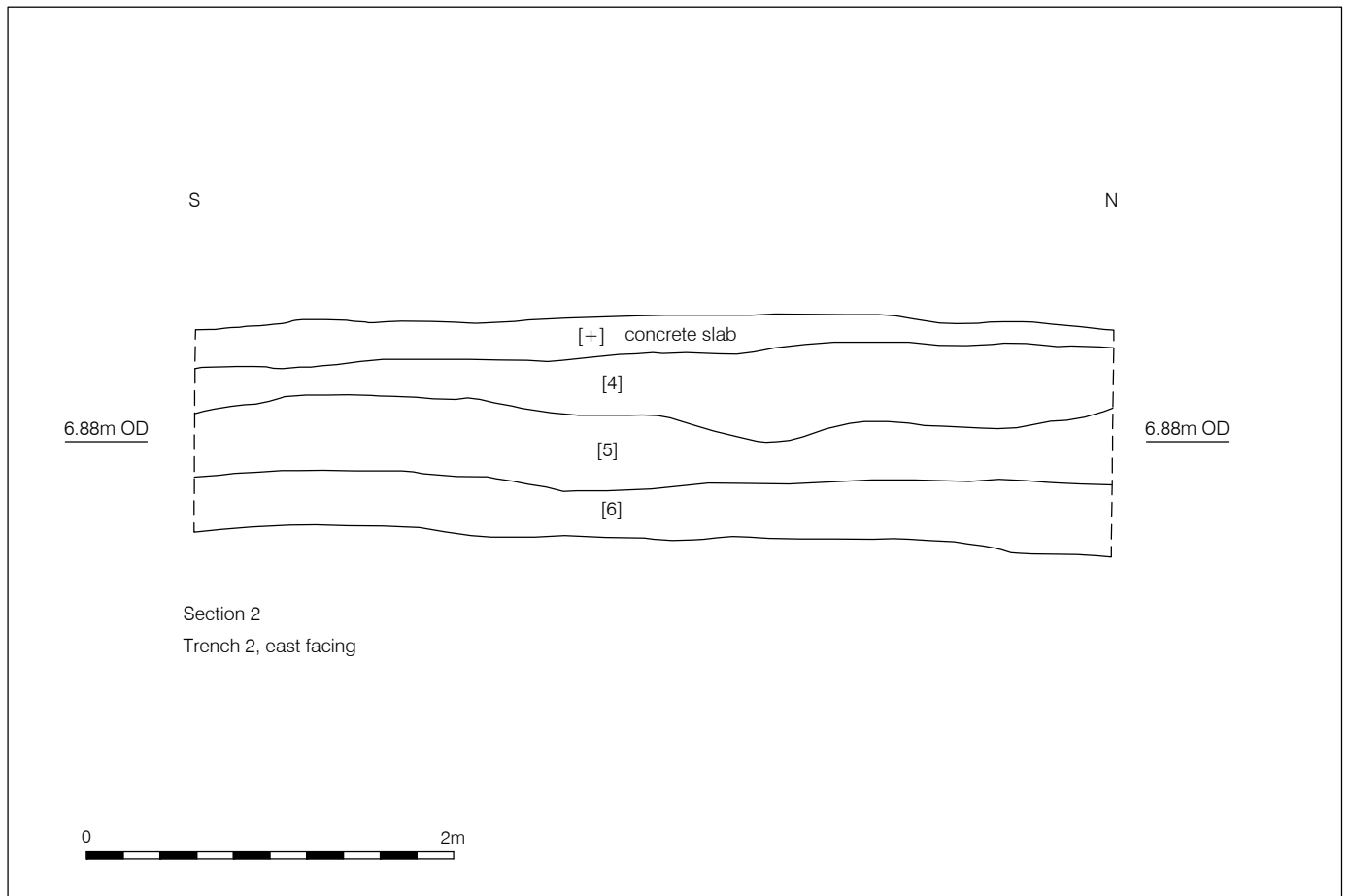


Figure 2
 Trench Locations
 1:500 at A4







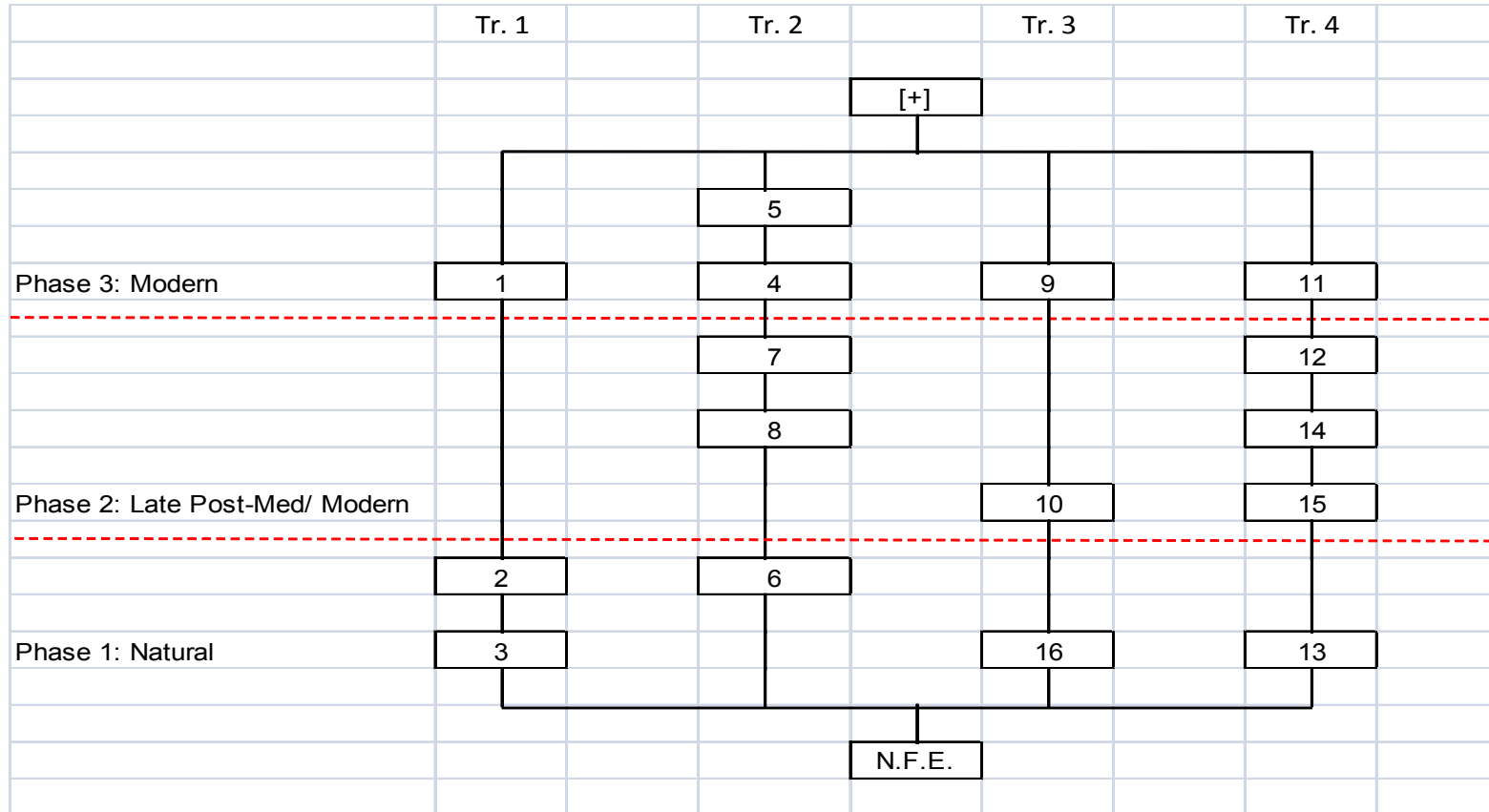
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
06/07/15 JB

Figure 5
Section 2, Trench 2
1:40 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Type	Trench	Comments	Phase
1	Layer	1	Made Ground	3
2	Layer	1	Natural Clay	1
3	Layer	1	Natural Sand and Gravels	1
4	Layer	2	Modern Rubble	3
5	Layer	2	Made Ground	3
6	Layer	2	Natural Clay	1
7	Fill	2	Fill of [8]	2
8	Cut	2	Garden Feature	2
9	Layer	3	Made Ground	3
10	Layer	3	Weathered Clay	2
11	Layer	4	Made Ground	3
12	Layer	4	Weathered Clay	2
13	Layer	4	Natural Sand and Gravels	1
14	Fill	4	Fill of [15]	2
15	Cut	4	Pipe cut	2
16	Layer	3	Natural Sand and Gravels	1

APPENDIX 2: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-217223

Project details

Project name 500 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London W4

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation consisting of four trenches. The results of the evaluation indicated that the natural topography of the site, as represented by the heights of naturally deposited clay, sand and gravels found in all four trenches, had been significantly impacted by modern activity. This conclusion was supported by the presence of weathered and redeposited natural clay in two of the trenches. The only potential archaeological feature on site that pre-dated the modern period was a linear garden feature that dated to the 19th-20th century.

Project dates Start: 29-06-2015 End: 02-07-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CSW15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type GARDEN FEATURE Modern

Monument type DRAIN CUT Modern

Significant Finds CBM Modern

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

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 HOUNSLOW CHISWICK 500 Chiswick High Road
Postcode W4 5RH
Study area 10937.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 20190 78575 51.4928327037 -0.268519017558 51 29 34 N 000 16 06 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 6.50m Max: 7.38m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Organisation

Project brief CgMs Consulting
originator

Project design Helen Hawkins
originator

Project Helen Hawkins
director/manager

Project supervisor James Langthorne

Type of House builder
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical Archive ID CSW15

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive LAARC
recipient

Digital Archive ID CSW15

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
available

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper Archive ID CSW15

Paper Contents "none"

Paper available Media "Context sheet", "Diary", "Matrices", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 500 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London Borough of Hounslow, W4:

Author(s)/Editor(s) Langthorne, J.

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology

Place of issue or publication London

Description A4 softcover grey literature report.

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

