

**BECKENHAM PLACE PARK,
BECKENHAM,
LONDON BR3 5DE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF THE AREA OF THE RESTORED
LAKE**

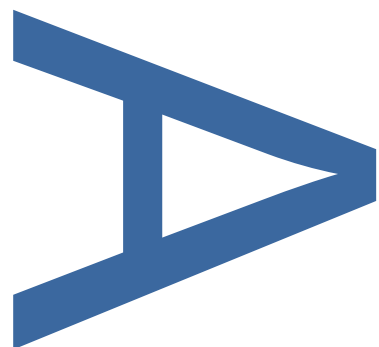
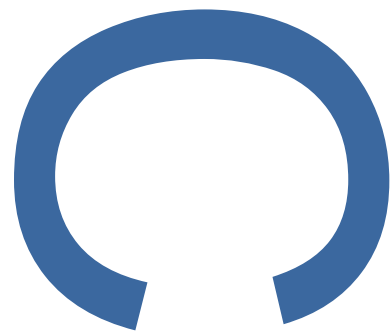
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BECKENHAM PLACE PARK, BECKENHAM BR3 5DE

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RESTORED LAKE

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Site Code: BPL17

Central NGR: TQ 38308 70762

Local Planning Authority: London Borough of Lewisham

Planning Reference: DC/16/099042

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham, London BR3 5DE, prior to the restoration of the former 18th century ornamental lake. The park comprises former 18th century manorial grounds that had been subsequently converted into a golf course in the 20th century. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 38308 70762 in the London Borough of Lewisham.
- 1.2 Following a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (Mayo 2017), an archaeological evaluation was carried out between 8th-18th May 2017 following preparatory tree clearance but prior to any groundworks. The investigation comprised of eight archaeological evaluation trenches that had been placed to investigate the edges (and therefore the original construction) of the lake on its planned periphery. Due to the presence of contaminated backfill in the former lake, overhanging tree canopies and the risk of undermining tree root systems, some of the original planned trenches outlined in the WSI were duly modified.
- 1.3 In this phase Trenches 1, 4, 6 & 7 revealed, in part, the construction of the lake which had used the natural sloping topography into the valley base to create the water feature. This natural feature had been enhanced by a light sculpting of the surface which seemed to have removed pre-existing top and sub soils to reveal the underlying brickearth. In two instances evidence for a possible waterproof clay lining of the lake were observed and a sequence for the natural sedimentation of the lake – which included laminated clay and organic layers - were also recorded. A possible cut channel belonging to the same period was recorded in Trench 2.
- 1.4 Large quantities of burnt flint were recovered from the surface of the brickearth and in some instances on the interface of what appeared to be colluviums of eroded head deposits found on the higher ground, where it covered the brickearth. Evidence for a prehistoric curvilinear ditch (oriented approximately south-west to north-east) was recorded in both Trenches 2 and 4, whilst a layer of burnt flint and charcoal was uncovered in Trench 5 on one of the upper slopes above the north-east to south-west running valley.
- 1.5 Natural brickearth was found in Trenches 2, 4, 7 and 8. However, all the brickearth layers exposed at the lower levels (and thus nearer to the lake edge) may have been subject to truncation as part of the process of creating a natural shelving fall for the water feature.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the site of a former 18th century ornamental lake within the grounds of Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham, London BR3 5DE in the London Borough of Lewisham. The work was undertaken between the 8th and 18th May 2018. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 38308 70762 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site lies within the Beckenham Place Park Archaeology Priority Area (APA 20) and has been the subject of a number of studies including the Beckenham Place Park Conservation Plan (LUC 2016a), the Regeneration of Beckenham Place Park heritage assessment (LUC 2016b) and an Archaeological Impact assessment (LUC 2016c). Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) had previously prepared a desk-based assessment for the project (Reade 2017) which supported the planning application for the current scheme. PCA also prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2018) which designed the evaluation work, and was approved in advance by Mark Stevenson of Historic England's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 2.3 The evaluation was designed to consist of ten linear trenches of 30m x 2m each aimed at assessing the presence of archaeological remains within the stratigraphic sequence to natural deposits (Figure 2). A number of changes had to be made on the ground due to constraints such as tree canopy and root systems, as well as the discovery of contaminated dump layers within the fill of the lake itself. Trench 4 was rotated clockwise to avoid tree canopies at its south-west end and was extended a further 10 metres, finally being oriented NW-SE. Trench six was reconfigured as an 'L' shaped trench designed to explore the earthworks along the southern limit of the lake and to avoid excavating further contaminated fill of the lake to the north. The north end of Trench 7 was rotated slightly clockwise to present a section across the lake edge, finally being oriented NNE-SSW. Finally, Trench 8 was moved from its original position in the planned wetland area due to concerns over its proximity to the trees and roots. It was moved to south of Trench 2 to try and verify the possible continuation of a ditch [78] that had been recorded running roughly north-north-east to south-south-west. Its final orientation was E-W.
- 2.4 This evaluation was the second phase of archaeological intervention following from an earlier pre-determination evaluation of the proposed new car park in April 2017 (Seddon). This demonstrated that modern landscaping had truncated all layers down to the natural Head deposits. It further recorded that there had been some impact to the archaeological resource by both the landscaping of the park in the 18th century and during the work undertaken to create a golf course in the mid-20th century.
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation was conducted by PCA under the supervision of Wayne Perkins and the project management of Chris Mayo. The archaeological work was commissioned by the London Borough of Lewisham and monitored by Mark Stevenson of

GLAAS on behalf of the London Borough of Lewisham.

- 2.6 The site was recorded continuing use of site code BPL17, issued by the Museum of London prior to the first evaluation. This code will also be used for subsequent archaeological work in accordance with the agreed WSI (Mayo 2018). The complete archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will, upon completion of the project, be deposited with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) under that code.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Guidance: National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27th 2012, and 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, published July 22nd 2011 and amended in 2015. Policy 7.8 headed “Heritage Assets and Archaeology” details guidance relating to strategy and planning decisions that affect the historic environment and the outlines the formulation of Local Development Framework for each London Borough.

3.3 Local Policy: Archaeology in Lewisham

- 3.3.1 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is the London Borough of Lewisham. A new Local Plan for the Borough is currently being prepared, however the previous Lewisham Unitary Development Plan (2004) has been superseded. The current Local Development Framework for Lewisham primarily comprises the London Plan, the Lewisham Core Strategy (2011), the Site Allocations Local Plan, the Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan and the Development Management Local Plan. (2011), is gradually being replaced with new Local Development Framework policies. Consultation on a first draft of The New Southwark Plan, including a review of The Southwark Plan and the Core Strategy, took place between the 31st of October 2014 and the 6th of March 2015 and it is intended that the New Plan should be adopted by December 2017.
- 3.3.2 The Core Strategy (2011) sets out the overarching policies for directing and managing development, including how this related to heritage assets. The Core Strategy Vision for Lewisham states in Objective 10 that 'local, including historic, character will be at the heart of new design' and that the borough's heritage assets will be preserved and enhanced. The high-level objectives and spatial strategies of the Core Strategy set out how this vision will be achieved through protecting local character, heritage assets and their settings and managing growth and development by applying spatial policies appropriate to the locality
- 3.3.3 The Core Strategy also includes the following policy regarding heritage assets:

Core Strategy Policy 16

Conservation areas, heritage assets and the historic environment

Council will ensure that the value and significance of the borough's heritage assets and their

settings, which include the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, registered historic parks and gardens and other non designated assets such as locally listed buildings, will continue to be monitored, reviewed, enhanced and conserved according to the requirements of government planning policy guidance, the London Plan policies, local policy and English Heritage best practice.

The Council will work with its partners, including local communities, to ensure that the borough's heritage assets and those yet to be identified will be valued positively and considered as central to the regeneration of the borough as detailed in the Core Strategy spatial policies.

The World Heritage Site buffer zone for the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site is identified on the Proposals Map (see also Core Strategy Policy 18). The Council will ensure that its Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity will be protected and enhanced and will ensure the implementation of the World Heritage Site Master Plan.

The Council will continue to review its conservation areas, designating new ones and preparing associated management plans and policies to conserve their character

- 3.3.4 The Development Management Local Plan (2014) includes the following policies regarding designated (DM Policy 36) and non designated (DM Policy 37) heritage assets:

DM Policy 36

New development, changes of use and alterations affecting designated heritage assets and their setting: conservation areas, listed buildings, schedule of ancient monuments and registered parks and gardens

A. General principles

1. For development proposals affecting heritage assets the Council will require a statement that describes the significance of the asset and its setting, and an assessment of the impact on that significance.
2. Where the significance of an asset may be harmed or lost through physical alteration or destruction, or development within its setting, the Council will require clear and convincing justification. The Council will consider the wider public benefits which may flow from the development where these are fully justified in the impact assessment.
3. The Council encourages the adaptation of historic buildings to improve energy efficiency in line with the detailed guidance provided by English Heritage. Careful consideration should be given to the most appropriate options for insulation, power use and power generation. Intrusive interventions, such as externally mounted micro-generation equipment or external wall insulation, should be avoided where these would unacceptably alter the character and appearance of the heritage asset. The Council encourages the retention and thermal upgrading of historic windows.

B. Conservation areas

4. The Council, having paid special attention to the special interest of its Conservation Areas, and the desirability of preserving or enhancing their character or appearance, will not grant planning permission where:

- a. new development or alterations and extensions to existing buildings is incompatible with the special characteristics of the area, its buildings, spaces, settings and plot coverage, scale, form and materials
- b. development, which in isolation would lead to less than substantial harm to the building or area, but cumulatively would adversely affect the character and appearance of the conservation area
- c. development adjacent to a Conservation Area would have a negative impact on the significance of that area.

5. The Council will encourage the reinstatement or require the retention of architectural and landscaping features, such as front gardens and boundary walls, important to an area's character or appearance, if necessary by the use of Article 4 Directions.

6. The Council will require bin stores and bike sheds to be located at the side or rear of properties where a front access to the side and rear exists.

C. Listed buildings

7. In order to ensure the conservation of Listed Buildings the Council will:

- a. Only grant consent for alterations and extensions to Listed Buildings which relate sensitively to the building's significance and sustain and enhance its significance and integrity
- b. Have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of Listed Buildings in considering any application in their vicinity, and consider opportunities for new development within the setting to enhance or better reveal the significance of the asset
- c. Use its powers under Sections 47, 48 and 54 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, to ensure that Listed Buildings are maintained to a reasonable standard.

8. When considering applications for change of use of Listed Buildings, the Council will consider the contribution of the existing use and the impact of any proposed new use to the significance and long-term viability of the historic building. The Council will seek to ensure that the building is put into an optimum viable use i.e. the one that causes least harm to the significance of the building, not just through initial changes but also as a result of subsequent wear and tear or any likely future changes. The implications of complying with Building Regulations, such as fire escapes, will be taken into account prior to determining applications for change of use.

D. Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens

9. Scheduled Monuments will be protected and preserved in accordance with Government regulation. Where the site or setting is adversely affected planning permission will be refused. Gardens, or on their settings, the Council will consider that any loss or substantial harm to these assets will be in wholly exceptional circumstances. The Council will apply the provision in point 2 of the above policy to the assets.

DM Policy 37

Non designated heritage assets including locally listed buildings, areas of special local character and areas of archaeological interest

A. General principles

the significance of non-designated heritage assets.

Development proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets should be accompanied by a heritage statement proportionate to the significance of the asset and which justifies the changes to the asset.

Non-designated heritage assets may be identified during the development management process.

B. Locally listed buildings

4.The Council will seek to retain and enhance locally listed buildings and structures and may use its powers to protect their character, significance and contribution made by their setting, where appropriate.

5.The Council will resist the demolition of locally listed buildings and expect applicants to give due consideration to retaining and incorporating them in any new development. C. Areas of special character

6.Development in areas of special local character should sustain and enhance the characteristics that contribute to the special local spatial, architectural, townscape, landscape or archaeological distinctiveness of these areas.

7.The Council will resist demolition of unlisted buildings in areas of special local character where these contribute to architectural and townscape merit and local distinctiveness of the area.

3.4 Site Specific Constraints

3.4.1 The proposed development site lies within the Beckenham Place Park Archaeology Priority Area (APA 20) as defined by the London Borough of Lewisham.

3.4.2 The proposed development site contains the Beckenham Place Park Conservation Area, which comprises the southern portion of the site. The conservation area focuses on the Grade II* listed Beckenham Place Mansion and the associated parkland. When designated a conservation area, this part of the park was within the borough of Bromley and included some Victorian houses to the south causing what appears to be a somewhat arbitrary boundary which cuts across the park and includes the mansion but not the homestead.

3.4.3 The Stable Block, outbuilding and garden walls and the two North Lodges are Grade II listed structures within the boundary of the wider development site. The two South Lodges, which are also Grade II listed is now located outside of the study site. The Grade II* Beckenham Place Park Mansion is also within the boundaries of the site.

3.4.4 No Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Wreck sites or Historic Battlefield designations lie within the vicinity of the site.

3.5 Site Specific Planning Background

3.5.1 Planning permission has been granted for the park restoration scheme, as follows:

Application No: DC/16/099042

Development: The proposed regeneration of part (west of rail line) of Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham Hill Road, BR3 comprising of: the rebuilding and change of use of the stable block to include a café (A3) and education use (D1); alteration and extension of the Gardener's Cottage for volunteer use; alterations to and refurbishment of Southend Lodge and extension of associated park depot, including the provision of new storage buildings; alterations to and refurbishment of the Gatehouse; demolition of park storage and toilet structures; excavation to provide a lake and wetland area with associated boardwalk areas; relocation and extension of car park; and extensive landscape works including re-contouring of land, re-surfacing of existing paths, provision of new paths, new street furniture, play and gym equipment, boardwalks, lighting, signage and boundary treatment; tree removal and new planting.

3.5.2 The planning consent included the following condition relating to archaeology:

3. a) No development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until a programme of archaeological evaluation site work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, has been implemented.

b) Dependent upon the results presented under Part (a), no development other than demolition to existing ground level shall take place until a programme of archaeological mitigation site work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, has been implemented.

c) The site investigation and post-investigation assessment pursuant to Part (b) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to occupation of the development.

Reason: To comply with Policies 15 High quality design for Lewisham and 16 Conservation areas, heritage assets and the historic environment of the Core Strategy (June 2011) and Policy 7.8 of the London Plan (July 2016).

3.5.3 PCA has discussed the proposed scheme with Mark Stevenson of GLAAS and agreed that for the restoration of the lake, the footprint of the work area would be subject to an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was designed within an archaeological WSI prepared for the entire restoration project (Mayo 2018), and is only the first stage of possible mitigation works for the restored lake.

3.5.4 Elsewhere within the site, other works associated with the park's restoration will be subject to further archaeological mitigation in accordance with the approved WSI.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.1.1 The complex geology of Beckenham Place Park has resulted in a diverse range of habitats. The British Geological survey¹ identifies three bedrock geologies underlying the site. The northwest area of the park and a small section in the south lies on the 'London Clay Formation', which is a clay and silt deposit formed in an environment of deep seas 34 to 56 million years ago. The central portion of the park, where the restored lake will be located, is situated on the underlying 'Harwich Formation' (previously known as the Blackheath Beds) is a sedimentary Bedrock comprising sand and gravel formed in shallow seas formed 34 to 66 million years ago, with bands of 'Lambeth Group' sedimentary clay, silt, and sand formed in an environment dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas 55 to 66 million years ago.

4.1.2 There are also multiple superficial deposit recorded within the study site. The primary superficial geology is 'Head', which comprises clay, silt sand and gravel deposits formed up to 3 million years ago from accumulation of material by downslope movement, such as landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash. The eastern portion of the study site is comprised of the Kempton Park Gravel Formation, which is sand and gravel associated with the river terrace deposits of the Ravensbourne. The terrace gravels give rise to well-drained, acidic soils (<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks/beckenham-place-park/Pages/Geology.aspx> [accessed 27/01/17]). The restored lake sits astride both of these deposits, according to the BGS.

4.2 Topography

4.2.1 The Park is dissected by two valleys running north to south eroded in the past by surface drainage. The hills fall away to the north. The Mansion sits on the westernmost hill, Stumps Hill, overlooking a now largely dry valley. To the south-east the land rises up to Summerhouse Hill Wood before dropping down again to the flood plain of the River Ravensbourne, which drains into the Thames.

4.2.2 The areas of the park are divided into topographic zones as outlined in the Heritage Statement (LUC 2016b); the area of the lake lies within the East Parkland, which occupies 27ha in the very centre of the park from the northern extent to the road known as Beckenham Place Park in the south. It represents the main area of open parkland that lay to the east of the mansion house and would have historically included the Home Farm that lay to the north of the Pleasure Grounds, a former watercourse that was dammed to form the artificial lake and now, in part, forms a straightened waterfilled ditch.

4.2.3 The locale of the former lake is currently a gently undulating landscape which drops from south, at an elevation of approximately 42m OD, to the north to the lake, at a current elevation of approximately 32m OD where it plateaus before rising again to the north, west and east.

¹ (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

Thus the location of the lake is identifiable as a hollow in the wider landscape (Plate 1).

Plate 1: View taken just north of the Homesteads, looking west across the park and the southern edge of the lake location. The mechanical excavator is visible at the centre of shot, working on Trench 3.



- 4.2.4 The Ravensbourne River runs roughly north-south in the eastern portion of the park, outside of the current proposed development area.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The full archaeological and historical background to the site is presented in the desk-based prepared by PCA to support the planning application (Reade 2017). In summarising the baseline assessment for each archaeological and historical period, the report stated the following:

General

- 5.2 The evidence for the archaeological potential of the study site is potentially biased by the relative lack of interventions within the vicinity of the study site. Of the archaeological watching brief and evaluations that have occurred within the search radius, significant later truncation has been noted, thereby provided little reliable information on the presence or absence of archaeological horizons in the area. Beckenham Place Park, as it has remained relatively undeveloped as parkland, has the potential for a site with limited later impact upon any potential archaeological resource.

Prehistoric

- 5.3 There is no evidence for human activity dating to the Prehistoric period within the study area, both in regards to the palaeo-topography as well as human occupation and exploitation of the environment; however, although the Archaeological Priority Area of Thames and Ravensbourne Terrace Gravels, which is associated with evidence for successive prehistoric communities, technically does not continue south through the study area, the river and the terraced gravels do comprise the superficial geology of the eastern portion of the park and the eastern edge of the proposed development site. There is a slightly higher potential for archaeological remains dating to the Prehistoric period within the immediate vicinity of the Ravensbourne, however, this is primarily focused to the east of the current proposed development site and the archaeological potential for Prehistoric remains is therefore considered to be low.

Roman and Early Medieval / Saxon

- 5.4 The pattern of evidence for the Roman and early medieval periods is difficult to interpret. On the one hand there is a very real dearth of archaeological evidence for these periods within the area surrounding the study site in Beckenham and Bromley. On the other hand, the presence of a Roman road and the Ravensbourne River, combined with broader evidence for scattered occupation along these features to the south suggests there may be potential for human activity in the area that has not yet been documented. This seems particularly the case in consideration of the early medieval evidence for large settlements in Beckenham and Bromley but with a disproportionately small amount of archaeological evidence recorded. On balance, the potential for archaeological remains dating to the Roman and early medieval period is considered to be low–medium.

Medieval

- 5.5 There are a number of known medieval manorial estates within the vicinity of the study site, and it is believed that a medieval Manor House was situated within the immediate vicinity of the current Beckenham Place Manor House (ie the Mansion). There is also evidence for groundworks such as former field boundaries, wood banks, and ridge and furrow visible through ground survey, aerial photographs, and satellite data. While these features have not been dated, it is probable that they relate to the medieval use of the area and it is therefore concluded that the potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval period is high.

Post-Medieval

- 5.6 After purchasing the Lordship of the Manor of Beckenham and the old Manor House in 1773, John Cator commenced the emparkment of Beckenham Place in earnest. The Ordnance Surveyor Sheet from 1799 shows the results of the emparkment works, with a significantly reduced woodland, pleasure grounds and walled gardens around the mansion and the stable block, an artificial lake in the centre of the park formed by damming a narrow stream, and large areas of open parkland that would have been used as wood pasture.
- 5.7 The cartographic evidence also suggests the presence of a number of associated structures, such as an ice well, some outbuildings/greenhouses near to the current Homestead, and the home farm that have since been demolished. The potential for encountering archaeological remains of the post-medieval period is therefore high within the vicinity of these known features and ground works.

Modern

- 5.8 The 1907 Ordnance Survey map clearly shows the layout of the northern portion of the Beckenham Place Park at the start of the 20th century. This includes the positioning and extent of the Homestead and Stable Block and the footprint of the home farm buildings to the north. This map also shows that the artificial lake has been filled in or squared off, with a narrow bridge or sluice gate across it. The Foxgrove Golf Club is established on the grounds of the estate during this year, though it is not yet labelled as such on this map, and it appears that there is a loss in parkland tree planting indicated.
- 5.9 In 1927 the London County Council purchased the freehold of the house and park from the Cator estate Beckenham Place Park and the golf course was opened to the public in 1933, with the clubhouse transferred to the Mansion from the Foxgrove Club. The Ordnance Survey map of 1938 is indicative of this shift, and shows the Golf Club House near to the Summerhouse Hill Wood. Stumpshill Wood in the west of the park has also been cut back in order to facilitate the construction of a number of houses along Southend Road, the rear of these properties forming the current southwestern boundary of the park and of the proposed development site.
- 5.10 The Ordnance Survey map of 1955 indicates that the homestead and stable yard buildings have changed in layout from those shown in 1938, the home farm is no longer in existence,

and the artificial lake has become a smaller oval pond. The general landscaping of the golf course can now be seen in the alignment of many of the trees in the northern area of the site.

Previous Investigations

- 5.11 In reviewing the DBA, Mark Stevenson of GLAAS recommended that some small-scale pre-determination work was required in the area of the proposed new car park, which was considered to have some potential for archaeological remains, in particular for evidence of medieval land management in form of field boundaries. It was also considered to have a low potential for remains of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval provenance.
- 5.12 Accordingly a test-pit evaluation was implemented (Seddon 2017). The results of the evaluation showed that the 20th century construction of the golf course across the area had had a detrimental effect on any archaeological horizons which may have existed, causing horizontal truncation to the natural deposits. The effect of this has been the total removal of any archaeological deposits or features that may have been present within the area of investigation. The only archaeological evidence was in the form of a layer of subsoil dated to the 20th century, a part of the golf course structure.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The methodology for the proposed excavation of ten trenches was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced for the site (Mayo 2018).
- 6.2 The trenches were located in order to examine the structure and profile of the 18th century lake as well as targeting a linear anomaly indicated on the LiDAR readout running SW to NE to the west of the lake edge. Trench 6 was located to investigate the raised earthworks that had been created along the southern edge of the lake and to see how they related (if at all) to the cutting of the lake profile.
- 6.3 Trench 3 encountered the backfill of the 20th century lake which was found to contain contaminated materials. This material was also loose and unstable. Therefore, it was backfilled almost immediately following excavation and tested at its south-western end to verify that the material persisted for its total length.
- 6.4 Trench 4 was rotated clockwise to change its orientation to NW-SE to avoid the tree canopy. Furthermore, it was extended for an additional 10m at the north-west end to relate the lake cut to the underlying natural (brick-earth).
- 6.5 Trench 6 was altered to form an 'L' shape to avoid the contaminated backfill generally found at each point the lake fill was encountered. It also investigated the earthwork landscape feature.
- 6.6 Trench 7 was rotated clockwise slightly to a NE-SW orientation to create further room for Trench 6.
- 6.7 Trench 8 was re-located to run parallel to and south of Trench 2 in an attempt to redefine the linear anomaly noted above.
- 6.8 Trenches 9 & 10 were not excavated due to overhanging tree canopies and the likelihood of undermining the buried tree root systems.
- 6.9 All trenches were excavated by a JCB under archaeological supervision until either significant archaeological horizons or natural deposits were encountered, at which point deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand. The table below summarises the dimensions of each of the trenches:

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Max. Depth (BGL) (m)
1	NW-SE	30.00	1.80	1.30
2	E-W	30.00	1.80	1.20
3	NE-SW	30.00	1.80	1.35
4	NW-SE	40.00	1.80	1.27

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Max. Depth (BGL) (m)
5	E-W	30.00	1.80	1.00
6	NW-SE to NE-SW	5.00	1.80	0.96
7	NE-SW	30.00	1.80	1.06
8	W-E	30.00	1.00	1.40

- 6.10 Once excavation had been completed and the trenches cleaned, all deposits were then recorded on proforma context sheets. Trench plans were drawn at scales of 1:50 and 1:20 and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. A digital photographic record was also kept of all eight trenches.
- 6.11 Two temporary benchmarks at a height of 31.47m OD (TBM 1) and 32.71m OD (TBM 2) were established on site for levelling purposes using the GPS system. This system was used to set out and locate the trenches upon excavation.
- 6.12 The completed archive produced during the evaluation, comprising written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be deposited with LAARC, identified by site code BPL17.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE, BY TRENCH

The archaeological sequence at the site has been separated into five phases, as follows:

Phase	Period	Date range	Activity
Phase 1	Natural	Pleistocene - Holocene	Geological
Phase 2	Prehistoric	Mesolithic – Bronze Age	Burnt layer, possible ditch
Phase 3	Post medieval	18 th Century	Lake cut
Phase 4	Post Medieval	18 th – 19 th Century	Natural silting of lake
Phase 5	Modern	20 th Century	Backfilling of lake and creation of golf course.

7.1 Trench 1

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a blueish light grey sandy clay with gravel [56] seen at the base of Section 50 (Plate 2, Figure 4) which had been cut or truncated to create the lake profile [55]. Its highest level was 30.14m OD sloping gently down to 29.59m OD at the south-east end of Trench 1 but as stated above, this was likely to have been its truncated height. As it rose to the north-west it was seen to be sealed by both a brownish mid-grey layer of sandy clay [61] overlain by a reddish-brown brick-earth [59], possibly present as a colluvium working its way downhill into the valley base.

Phase 3: Post Medieval (18th Century)

- 7.1.2 The cut of the lake was identified as [55] in Section 50 (Plate 2, Figure 4) and as [125] in Section 51 at the north-west end (not illustrated). This was seen to shelf down from 30.14m OD in the north-west to 29.45m OD in the south-east.

Plate 2: Trench 1, Section 50, NE facing, scale 1m & 0.5m.



Phase 4: Post Medieval (18th – 19th Century)

- 7.1.3 The natural silting of the lake was visible in Section 50 (Plate 2, Figure 4) as alternating laminations of clay alluvium and organic layers [53,54] sealed by a more substantial, highly organic layer [52] which was 0.37m thick. All layers followed the gentle downward slope of the lake edge falling away to the south-east. Organic layer [52] was at 30.03m OD at its highest to 29.95m OD at its lowest.

Phase 5: Modern (20th Century)

- 7.1.4 The modern backfill of the lake was represented by clay capping layer [51] which was sealed by the turf and topsoil landscaping [50] (Plate 2, Figure 4), recorded at 30.69m OD sloping down to 30.45m OD.

7.2 Trench 2

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.2.1 The earliest strata encountered in Trench 2 was naturally deposited blueish light grey sandy clay [69] (that was equivalent to [56] and [62] in Trench 1), recorded at its highest at 31.06m OD in Section 52 as it sloped upwards to the west (Plate 4, Figure 4). This is likely to represent the natural Pleistocene or Holocene deposits accumulated within the valley base. It was overlain with colluvial brickearth and eroded Head deposits.
- 7.2.2 Its eastern limit was unclear and poorly defined. It may have been truncated by a putative cut for the lake but this was not proven by excavation and the sequence was poorly understood in this section.
- 7.2.3 The sequence above it appeared to be layers of made ground. Layers [66], [67] and [68] all showed evidence of anthropic materials such as specks of ceramic building material (CBM) and flecks of charcoal which were a variation on mid-brown silty clays. There is the possibility that layer [66] was in fact the fill of a broad 'U' shaped ditch but this was not proven through excavation.
- 7.2.4 It appeared in later sections that the blueish sandy clay [69] was overlain by a cap of reddish mid brown sandy clay brickearth recorded in both sections 53 and 55 (the latter not illustrated) and numbered [73] and [128] respectively. This layer was identified in most of the trenches and seemed to take the form of a colluvium having travelled downhill and feathering out into a thin lens above the blue-grey clay layer.

Phase 2: Prehistoric

- 7.2.5 The LiDAR scan included within the desk-based assessment (Reade 2017 and Figure 5) shows a curvilinear feature arcing across the study site from south-west to northeast, running counter to the camber of the valley which falls from west to east at this point. A linear, conforming to this orientation, was uncovered during the machining of the trench; however, the cut of ditch [78] was diffuse and fill [77] only slightly darker than the surrounding

brickearth. It required over-cutting to clearly see it in section. It was a friable orange-ish mid brown clayey silt and both struck and burnt flint was recovered from this fill (Appendix 7). The cut of the ditch was recorded at 31.62m OD, it being 0.30m deep.

Plate 3: Trench 2, Section 55 (south-facing), ditch [78], scale 0.5m (line shows actual ditch cut)



Plate 4: Trench 2, Section 52 (north-facing), possible channel/ditch [65], scale 1m



Phase 4: Post Medieval (18th – 19th Centuries).

- 7.2.6 The archaeological sequence recorded in Section 52 was further confused by the presence of a possible channel or ditch [65], filled with a firm brownish light grey silty clay. Although hand-cleaned it provided no finds, contained a single homogenous fill and was archaeologically sterile. The ditch was not located in any of the other trenches and is poorly understood in relation to the underlying layers that it had cut. Its absence elsewhere suggests an anomaly or short run of drainage ditch. If the underlying layers that it had cut were the result of natural

silting of the lake, they had been cut by this later channel. The feature was capped by the modern landscaping layers.

Phase 5: Modern (20th Century)

7.2.7 Layers [63], [72] & [127] represent made ground overlain by turf and topsoil landscaping numbered [63], [71] & [126]. A small fragment of stem from a clay tobacco pipe was recovered from [63] but this was a residual artefact.

7.3 **Trench 3**

Phase 1: Natural

7.3.1 The excavation of Trench 3 was hampered by the presence of contaminated made ground which was composed of loose brick rubble and fragmentary building materials. Further problems arose with the natural being just at the limit of a workable depth so it had to be systematically backfilled once recording was complete.

7.3.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3 was a naturally deposited layer of firm, blueish light grey clay [96] recorded at a height of 30.13m OD, approximately 1.44m below ground level and therefore at the limit of safe working depths. Furthermore, this deposit is likely to be present in a truncated or disturbed form as made ground and backfill deposits directly overlay it.

Phase 5: Modern

7.3.3 Made ground layers were recorded as [75] in Section 54 (Plate 5, Figure 4) and as [80-82] in Section 56 (not illustrated). Turf and topsoil landscaping layers were recorded as [74] and [79] respectively.

Plate 5: Trench 3, Section 54 (south-east facing), natural clay [76] at base, scale 1m



7.4 Trench 4

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.4.1 A total of four sections were recorded in Trench 4 but the natural was only seen in Section 59 as [94/95] and as [138] in Section 60 (Plates 6 and 7, Figure 4). In both instances it was composed of a firm, reddish mid brown (orange) sandy clay mottled with pockets of light blue clay; it took the appearance of brickearth. As had been discovered in Trench 2 to the north, the layer sloped downhill from west to east and seemed to be the result of a Holocene-era colluvium eroded down in a lens over the grey clays underneath.

Phase 2: Prehistoric

- 7.4.2 In Section 60 a linear was investigated that had a 'U' shaped profile: this was well defined on its south-eastern edge but was poorly defined on its north-western side (Plate 6, Figure 4). However, it was identified as the cut of a ditch [97] which may have been the southern counterpart to the ditch [78] seen in Trench 2 to the north (this will be discussed in a later section of the report, Chapter 8). Unfortunately, its fill [96] – consisting of a greyish mid brown silty clay - did not contain any finds.

Plate 6: Trench 4, Section 60 (north-east facing) showing ditch [97], orange line shows poorly defined ditch cut, scale 1m.



Phase 3: Post Medieval (18th Century)

- 7.4.3 The cut of the 18th century ornamental lake and its clay lining was recorded in Section 59 where a long section was created to show its profile. Cut [139] was recorded at its north-west end at 32.49m OD which gradually sloped down to 32.04m OD cutting the underlying brickearth [95]. The exploitation of the natural fall of the ground along with the removal of top and any sub soils seems to have been used in this location to create the lake profile. A layer (or indeed fill) of firm, greyish dark brown clay [93] was interpreted as the clay lining for the lake which was 0.24m at its thickest at the south-east end tapering up to 80mm at the north-west end. However, no lake 'fills' representing the natural silting of the lake were apparent, but they may have been located further to the east and in deeper ground beyond the trench.

Phase 5: Modern

- 7.4.4 Sealing all the deposits was made ground recorded as [92] in Section 59 and as [84] and [91] in Sections 67 and 58 respectively (not illustrated). Modern landscaping of turf and topsoil was recorded as [90], [93], [136] & [137]

Plate 7: Trench 4, Section 59 (north-east facing), white line indicates top of clay lining [93]

Scale 1m



7.5 Trench 5

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.5.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 5 was a colluvially derived and eroded Head layer [141], composed of a friable, brownish dark yellow silty sand, recorded at 33.43m OD at the east end of the trench, falling to 30.86m OD at the west end. As in Trench 4, it seemed to be present as colluvial soil eroded from higher ground.

Phase 2: Prehistoric

- 7.5.2 At the surface of layer [141] was an area or layer of burning which contained charcoal, burnt and struck flint [124] (Plate 8, Figure 4). This area was superficially hand cleaned by trowel but its limits were not detected; the loose spoil was kept as an environmental sample and sieved, producing a further 101 burnt flint fragments. It was recorded at a height of 30.86m OD at the east end falling to 30.38m OD at the west.

Phase 5: Modern (20th Century)

- 7.5.3 Deposit [124] was overlain by a modern landscaping layer numbered [123] in Section 70 (Plate 8, Figure 4) and [130] and [132] in Sections 67 and 69 respectively (not illustrated). Turf and topsoil was recorded as [122], [129] and [131] over the three sections.

Plate 8a: Trench 5, Section 70, view to the N showing burnt layer, scale 1m



*Plate 8b: Trench 5, burnt layer [124],
view to W, scale 1m*



*Plate 8c: Trench 5, burnt layer [124], view
to S, scale 1m*

7.6 Trench 6

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.6.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 6 was what appeared to be a colluvial layer of Head that had been eroded from the higher ground but was only present as a thin 'lens' overlying the brickearth below. It was recorded as [110] in Section 64 (Plate 9, Figure 4) and [121] in Section 68 (not illustrated). It was recorded at a height of 33.38m OD in the south of Trench 6 falling to 33.04m OD in the north at Section 64.

Phase 3: Post-Medieval (18th Century)

- 7.6.2 A series of earthworks were created in the park around the same time as the lake was cut in the 18th century. Trench 6 was formed as an inverted 'L' shape to partially section the earthwork bank that ran along the southern edge of the lake. Section 64 revealed two landscaping layers [108] and [109], subtly different to the later 20th century layers added for the creation of the golf course. The former was described as a friable greyish mid brown clayey silt and was 0.35m thick. The latter was similar but had a higher clay content; neither

contained the 20th century debris associated with the upper landscaping topsoil layers. Whilst the lake cut took advantage of the natural fall of the ground the earthwork had been simply constructed upon it.

Phase 5: Modern (20th Century)

- 7.6.3 Modern turf and topsoil layers were recorded as [107] and [121]. CBM, burnt flint and pottery sherds were recovered from [107], all reworked or residual in nature



Plate 9a: Trench 6, Section 63, view to NW showing earthwork on south bank of lake, scale 1m.



Plate 9b: trench 6, Section 63, view to N showing made ground layers over natural, scale 1m.

7.7 Trench 7

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.7.1 The earliest deposit uncovered in Trench 7 was a reddish mid-brown brickearth [106] recorded in Section 63 (Plate 10, Figure 4). This had been cut by [140], interpreted as the lake edge. No sign of any clay lining was visible but the layer fell away sharply to the north in the direction of the lake at this point.

Phase 4: Post Medieval (18th Century)

- 7.7.2 In Trench 7 the underlying natural [106] was sealed by lake deposit [133] which took the form of a blueish dark grey silty clay with orange mottling. This lake-edge deposit had a 'dirty' appearance that may be due to the presence of plant material or organic remains. It was only partly excavated so its depth is unknown and no finds were recovered.

Phase 5: Modern

- 7.7.3 The sedimentary lake deposit [133] was sealed by a number of layers including backfill of the lake [135] (consisting of fragmentary building materials including grey asbestos roofing sheets) and made ground layers [102], [104] & [105]. Turf and topsoil was recorded as layers [101], [103] and [134].

Plate 10: Trench 7, Section 63, view to SE, showing natural brickearth layer [106] sloping downwards towards the north (left of picture), scale 1m



7.8 Trench 8

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.8.1 The earliest deposit uncovered in Trench 8 was the brickearth identified in Trench 2 to the north as [128]. Both Sections 65 and 66 (not illustrated) recorded the brickearth as [113] and [119], its highest level being at 32.20m OD to the west, falling to 31.75m at the east following the natural slope of the ground towards the lake and valley floor.

Phase 5: Modern

- 7.8.2 Made ground landscaping layer was recorded as [112] and modern turf and topsoil layer as [111] and [118] in Sections 65 and 66 respectively (not illustrated).

8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Research Objectives

8.1.1 The following research objectives were contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2018) for the evaluation:

To establish the natural topography and geology of the site, and the height at which it survives.

8.1.2 The evaluation has identified three distinct natural deposits: grey clay, considered to be an alluvially-derived deposit (Phase 1a), overlain by brickearth (Phase 1b), overlain by Head deposits (Phase 1c).

Layer	Trench	Section	Context	Level (m OD)
Grey Clay 1a	1	50	56	30.09
	1	51	61	30.26
	2	52	70	30.74*
	3	54	76	30.33

*This is the highest level recorded but its identification was uncertain in the section.

8.1.3 The blueish grey sandy clay was interpreted as an alluvial valley floor clay layer subsequently cut by the lake in the 18th century.

Layer	Trench	Section	Context	Level (m OD)
Brickearth 1b	1	51	60	30.58
	2	52	69	31.06
	2	53	73	31.81
	4	59	95	31.90
	4	60	138	32.49*
	7	63	106	32.23

*The highest level recorded was located on the higher slope above the valley floor and outside the putative edge of the lake.

8.1.4 The brickearth deposit or layer was believed to be colluvial in nature, eroding downhill and feathering out to a lens overlying the grey clay (1a) underneath. Most of the worked flint was recovered from either its surface or from just a few millimetres below it.

Layer	Trench	Section	Context	Level (m OD)
Eroded Head (colluvium) 1c	7	61	100	32.52
	6	68	121	33.38*
	6	64	110	33.04

*The highest level it was recorded at was a 'slump' layer with a raised profile which looked like a colluvial deposit created in a high-energy environment, such as following heavy rainfall.

8.1.5 On the east side of the site in Trenches 6 and 7 the first layer natural encountered appeared to be a layer of eroded Head deposit that had been washed down from higher ground covering the underlying brickearth (1b). Therefore, it sealed the layer thus making it the last event in the formation processes of the site.

To establish the presence or absence of pre-historic activity if present, its nature and (if possible) date

8.1.6 Two features containing burnt and worked flint were identified, although neither contained pottery or any other finds that would provide a specific date.

8.1.7 A possible curvilinear feature, oriented SW to NE, was detected on the LiDAR survey (Figure 5). Under excavation it resembled a boundary ditch, possessing a rounded, 'U' shaped profile which was recorded in Trenches 2 and 4 and in Sections 55 and 60 respectively. The ditch was higher up on the valley side at the south-west (c.32.69m OD) sweeping down to the north-east (c.31.32m OD) a fall of 1.37m. Its' absence in Trench 8 (placed so as to reveal the ditch) may be explained by it in turn being re-cut by the lake edge in the 18th century (Figure 5).

8.1.8 In Section 55 the ditch was recorded as having a flattened 'U' in profile with gradual sides, measuring 0.97m wide and 0.33m deep. In Section 60 its profile was a little sharper and deeper, being 0.48m deep and at least 0.90m wide (although the west side was poorly defined).

Trench	Section	Cut	Fill	Width (m)	Top of feature (m OD)	Base of feature (m OD)
2	55	[78]	[77]	0.97	31.65	31.32
4	60	[97]	[96]	0.90?	32.69	32.21

8.1.9 From the fill of the ditch [77], five struck flints and 10 burnt flint fragments were recovered, whilst a blade fragment of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic type was recovered from ditch fill [96], although this latter flint is likely to be residual in this context. The other flints fall into Bronze Age/Iron Age technology types and the overall assemblage appears to be dominated by this period (Egberts, Appendix 7). This suggests that even though earlier pieces are likely to be residual, their presence still points towards possible Mesolithic activity within the valley.

8.1.10 In Trench 5 a burnt layer was uncovered; initial cleaning of it failed to bring any definition to the feature or its relationship with the surrounding natural. The layer contained burnt flint, charcoal, 107 burnt flint fragments and 9 struck flints. All spoil from the superficial cleaning operation was retained and kept as an environmental sample that was subsequently wet sieved. Although a further 101 burnt flint fragments were recovered, no other worked flints or flint-working débitage were present.

To establish the presence or absence of Roman activity if present, its nature and (if

possible) date

8.1.11 No Roman archaeology was identified on site.

To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity if present, its nature and (if possible) date

8.1.12 No medieval archaeology was identified on site.

To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity on site

8.1.13 Trenches 1, 2, 4 & 7 all revealed elements that may have been associated with the creation of the ornamental lake. Whilst documentary evidence and the map regression indicates the lake was cut in the 18th Century (Reade 2017:22), silting therefore must have commenced from that point onwards - although the exact time span represented in the early sedimentary layers is uncertain.

Trench	Section	Lake cut	Fills (or layers)	Thickness (m)	Top of fill (m OD)	Lake cut (lowest recorded level) (m OD)
1	50	[55]	[52,53 & 54]	0.41m	30.03	29.59
1	51	[125]	[59, 60 & 61]	0.50	30.50	30.14
4	59	[139]	[93]	0.20	32.49*	31.39
7	63	[140]	[133]	900mm	32.33	32.15

*Highest levels here indicate high ground around the lake, Trench 1 was the only trench partially inside the lake.

8.1.14 Although a clay lining (or some water-retaining material) to the lake had been expected, it did not appear to be present except where noted in Section 59 as fill/layer [93]. This layer was notably different to other fills recorded as a firm, greyish dark brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions. It widened from a thin wedge high in Section 59, thickening to the base where it was c.0.20m thick (Figure 4).

8.1.15 Fills [52] [54] and possibly layer [59] represented an early peat formation, being of a reddish dark brown colour, possibly representing lakeside vegetation subsumed during inundations or formed through layers of natural die back.

To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site

8.1.16 In all likelihood, both the SW-NE ditch [78/97] running along the west wall of the valley and the burnt layer containing the struck and burnt flint [124] on the east side both belong to the

Bronze Age/Iron Age period, whilst the presence of Mesolithic flint material – although residual - represents a background scatter characteristic of dispersed, possibly seasonal activity. It has been noted that much of the flint shows edge damage (Egberts, Appendix 7), suggesting it has moved from its point of fabrication; the implication being that it may have originated from the higher, drier ground on the valley walls.

To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource

- 8.1.17 Truncation to earlier deposits had occurred in the 18th century when the lake was created. Although the natural slope of the valley had been used to create the lake, it had required the removal of both the pre-existing top and sub soils and a light sculpting of the underlying brickearth in some places. It is thought that the lake was created to enhance the park during a time of intensive planting in the 18th century by owner John Cator (Reade 2017:22).
- 8.1.18 Further truncation and damage occurred in the 20th century when the lake was backfilled with modern building debris which would have been affected (one presumes) by lorries (or vehicles) backing up to the lake edge. This was compounded by the creation of a golf course in 1907 which, apart from creating extra bunkers and landscaped features, also introduced new planting. According to London Gardens Online, the park retains much of the form of a landscape park in terms of plantations but parkland standards are reduced and blurred by golf course planting.²

8.2 Conclusions

- 8.2.1 The recent evaluation has shed light upon the formation processes of the valley with a blueish grey clay forming in the base. This was in turn sealed by brickearth colluviums being washed down the valley sides to create 'wedge' shaped layers feathering out towards the base. Finally, on the eastern part of the site it appears that exposed Head deposits of sandier material had also been weathered down, in some places sealing the brickearth.
- 8.2.2 The presence of residual Mesolithic flint suggests that there is a background of dispersed activity on the higher slopes of the valley. Chips and damage to the flint suggests that it has travelled some distance from its original place of fabrication, suggesting occupation of the higher valley sides. Although the size, extent and flow of the tributary that runs through the floor of the valley is unknown, Mesolithic activity in river valleys is a common feature of the period. Without further work it is not possible to predict the scale of the original stream that flows through the valley. Seasonal occupation of valley floors and sandbanks along the River Thames such as at Horselydown is in line with similar sites at 283 Tooley Street, Butler's Wharf (Ridgeway 2003: 103) and on eyots such as at Addington Street, Lambeth (Powell & Leivers 2013: 24). A similar pattern has emerged in the River Lea valley, a tributary of the Thames. Further Mesolithic activity has been noted in the lower Colne Valley where

² <http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=LEW002>

Mesolithic camps (or seasonal flint knapping areas) in the county have been discovered on higher ground at Cholesbury, Coleshill, Kimble Farm and Bolter End. There has been a growing corpus of evidence to suggest that the Chiltern plateau may have been quite heavily exploited (Farley 1978: 614). Excavations during works for the new HS2 line on the slopes above the west bank of the River Colne at Chalfont uncovered a similar pattern of light, seasonal upland exploitation (Perkins 2018: 12).

8.2.3 The SW-NE ditch runs along the west wall of valley and counter to the falling camber of the land which is predominantly down towards the east. It is, however, located above the meander corridor of the stream in the base of the valley. Although the Mesolithic blade found in fill [96] can be discounted as residual, fill [77] contained both struck and burnt flint. Unfortunately, no closely dateable material such as pottery was recovered.

8.2.4 The burnt layer [124] in Trench 5 is also enigmatic, containing both burnt and struck flint but no other anthropological material which may have provided a closer date for the feature. Light trowelling of the feature did not delineate the feature or show any discrete limits or edges. However, taking the cultural material into account, it could be one of three possible features –

- A discrete feature (such as a pit or posthole) whose limits were not discernable in plan
- A possible hearth or spread of burnt material
- A burnt mound

8.2.5 Each possibility has its merits but requires further investigation. The first two are reasonably commonplace features that one would find on any prehistoric site; it could be the remains of a one-off seasonal camp leaving the vestiges of a hearth around which flint knapping took place. Its location, on a slightly raised area above the stream in the base of the valley would certainly present it with a good prospect from which to survey the valley floor for game. The presence of burnt flint in quantity in proximity to a watercourse is also suggestive of the little-understood class of monument called a burnt mound. Usually, this assignation is only met when the mound is found in association with pits or troughs that may have once held water (no such features were exposed during this brief investigation) (Barfield & Hodder (1987: 61). Burnt mounds have been variously interpreted as sites where cooking and food preparation may have taken place or where rocks were heated to fuel the steam for a small sweat lodge (Topping 2002:2). Such additional structures may have been made of perishable materials in proximity to the mound

8.2.6 Through excavation the edge or limits of the 18th century ornamental lake were exposed. The lake appears to have been cut following enparkment of the grounds and during a period of landscaping and tree-planting right at the end of the 18th century, and is depicted for the first time on Rocque's Map of 1799.³ The development of the land into parkland was in line with

³ www.beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk/history.html

changes of fashion mid-18th century for open parklands (Taylor 1983:50).

- 8.2.7 The expected clay lining did not appear to exist save for one possible example in Trench 4 as outlined above. Rather, it would appear the builders used the natural fall of the valley floor to create the lake whilst only the minimum of sculpting to the underlying brickearth was necessary. Its profile was gradual as opposed to shelving off steeply. The deepest point of the lake as seen through this exercise was recorded in Trench 3 at 1.44m below ground level, 30.13m OD.
- 8.2.8 A natural silting of the lake then seems to have occurred, illustrated in the south end of Trench 1 where layers or laminations of alluvial clays alternated with what appeared to be early vegetational growth along the lake edge (Section 50, Figure 4).
- 8.2.9 By the 20th century the lake had possibly dried up (it no longer retains water over the long term today) and had been backfilled with building rubble prior to the establishment of the Golf Course in 1907 (Reade 2017:23).
- 8.2.10 Based on these results and the unexpected presence of prehistoric remains, further work is suggested for this development. Both the area around the ditch in Trench 2 and that around the burnt layer in Trench 5 are to be affected by the planned creation of footpaths directly above where they are located - which in turn would provide an opportunity to investigate further.
- 8.2.11 Once the project is deemed complete and this report approved by the London Borough of Lewisham, the completed archive comprising all site records from fieldwork will eventually be deposited with LAARC under site code BPL17 and a summary report published in the *London Archaeologist* annual round-up.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Online Resources

The Friends of Beckenham Place Park

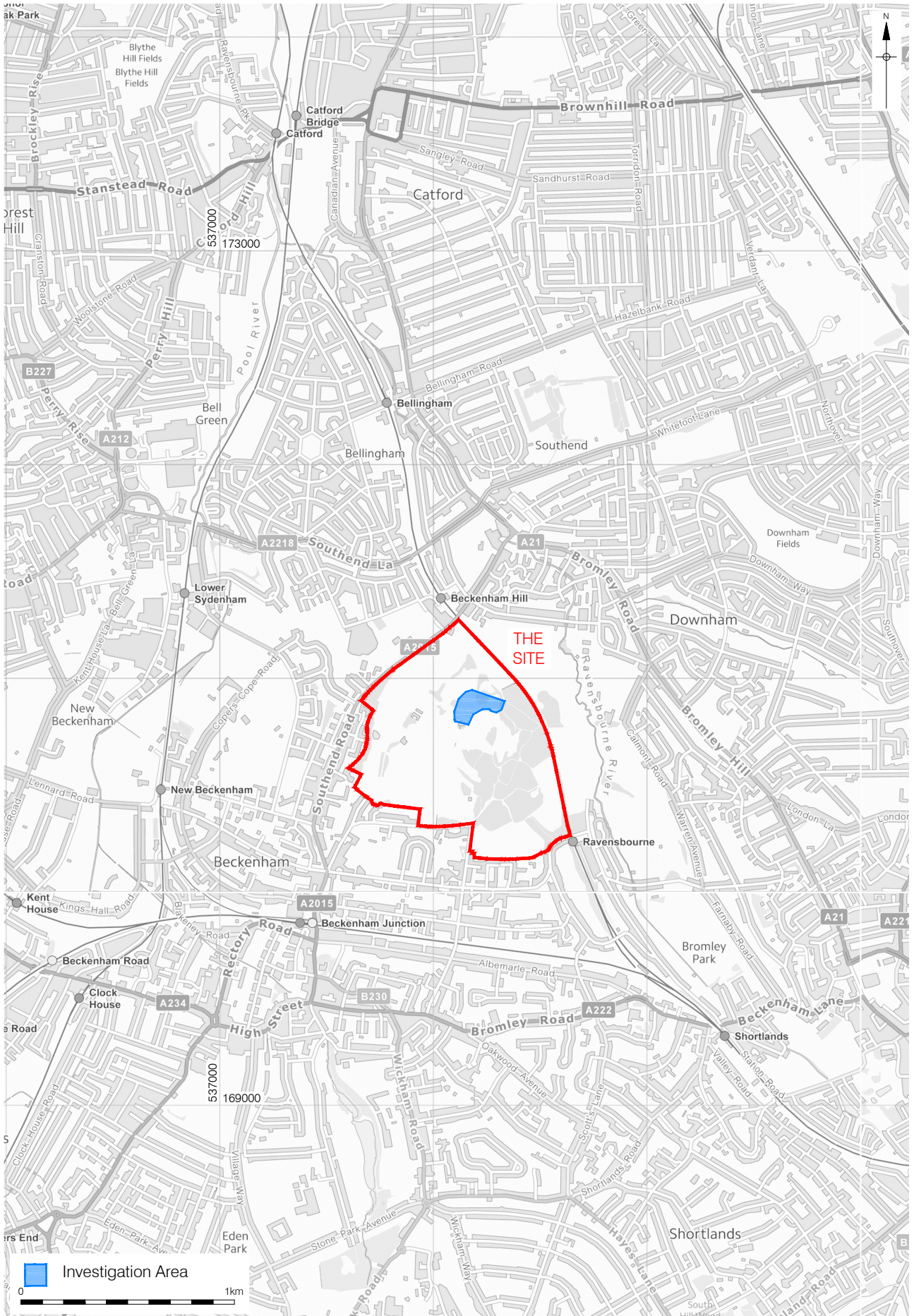
<http://beckenhamplaceparkfriends.org.uk/history.html>

Geology of Britain Viewer

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

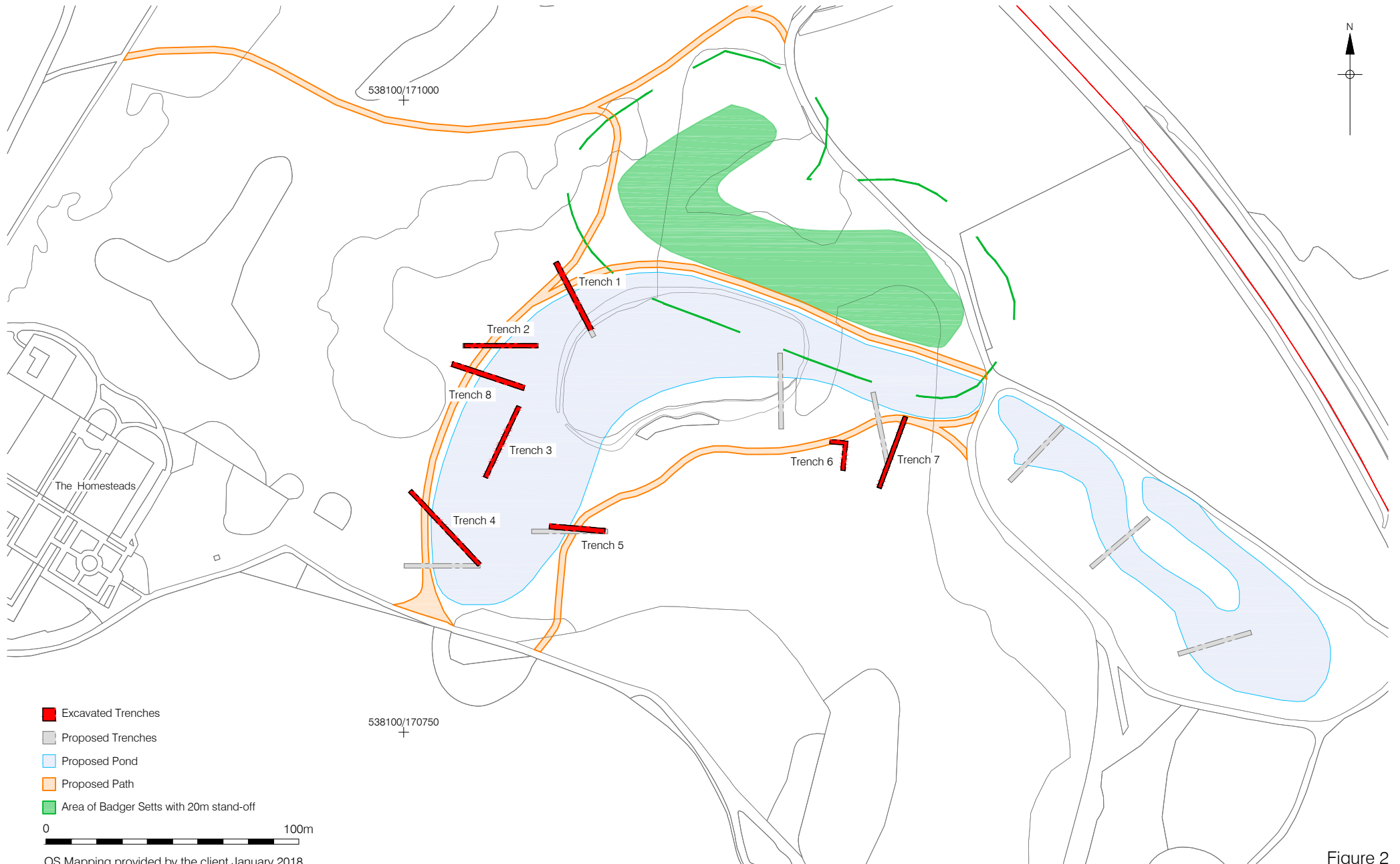
London Gardens Online

<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=LEW002>



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 31/05/18 AT

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4



- Excavated Trenches
- Proposed Trenches
- Proposed Pond
- Proposed Path
- Area of Badger Setts with 20m stand-off

0 100m

OS Mapping provided by the client January 2018
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018
 05/06/18 AT

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:2000 at A4

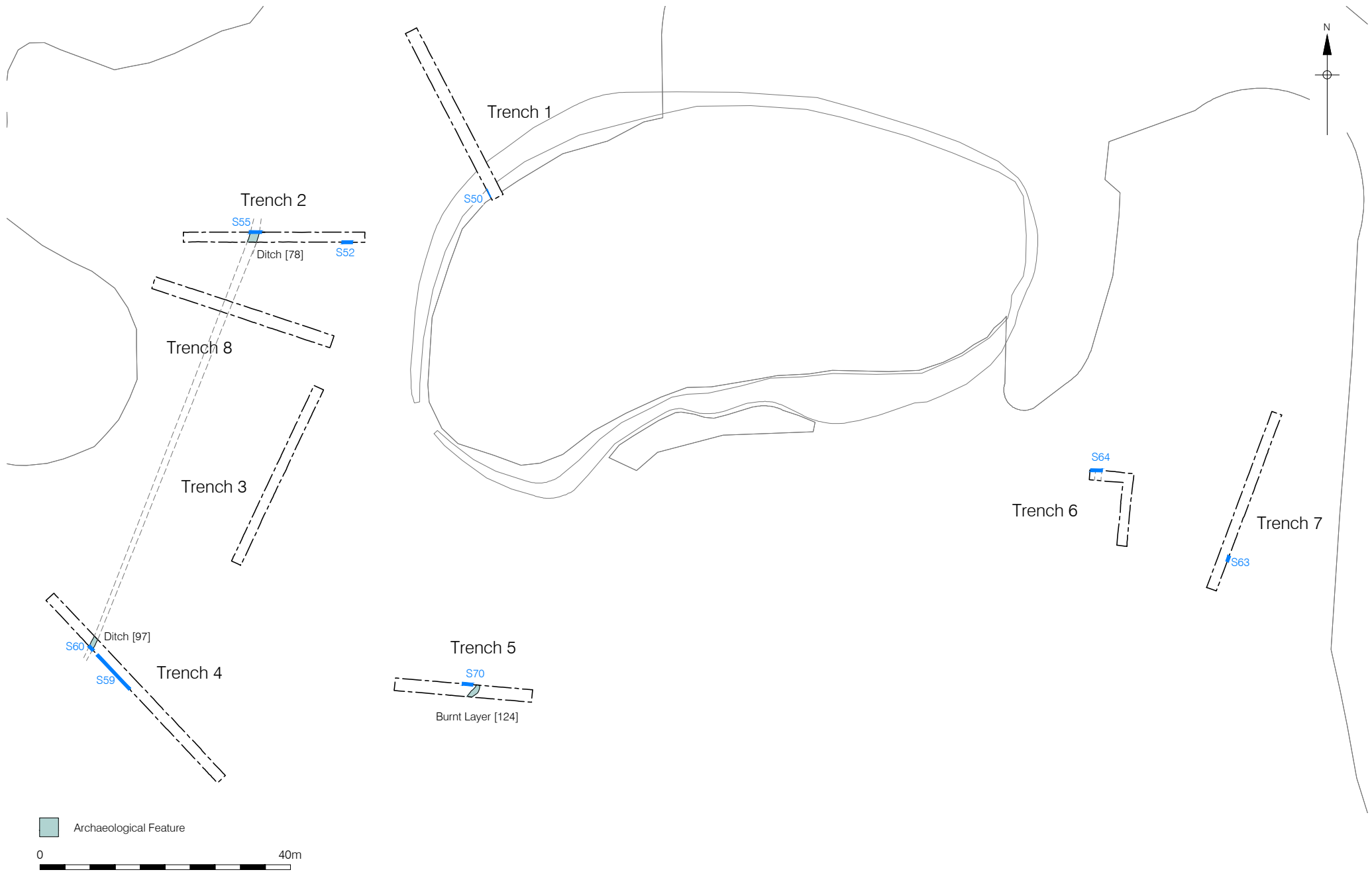
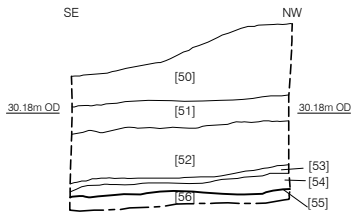
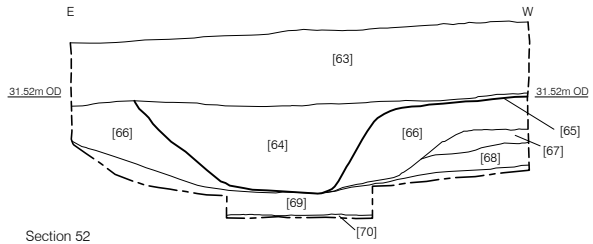


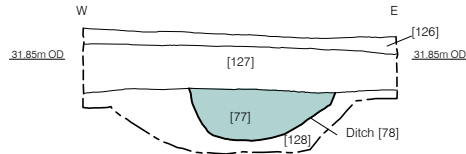
Figure 3
Plan of Trenches
1:800 at A4



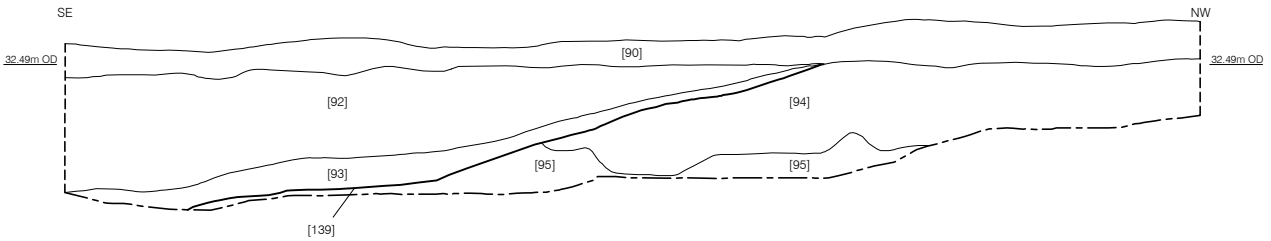
Section 50
North East facing
Trench 1



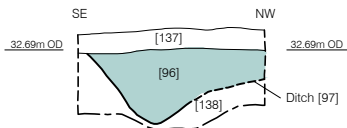
Section 52
North facing
Trench 2



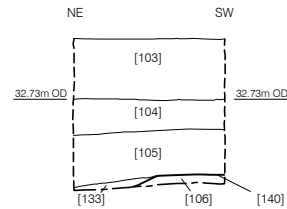
Section 55
South facing
Trench 2



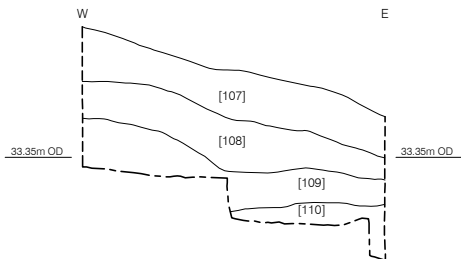
Section 59
North East facing
Trench 4



Section 60
North East facing
Trench 4



Section 63
North West facing
Trench 7

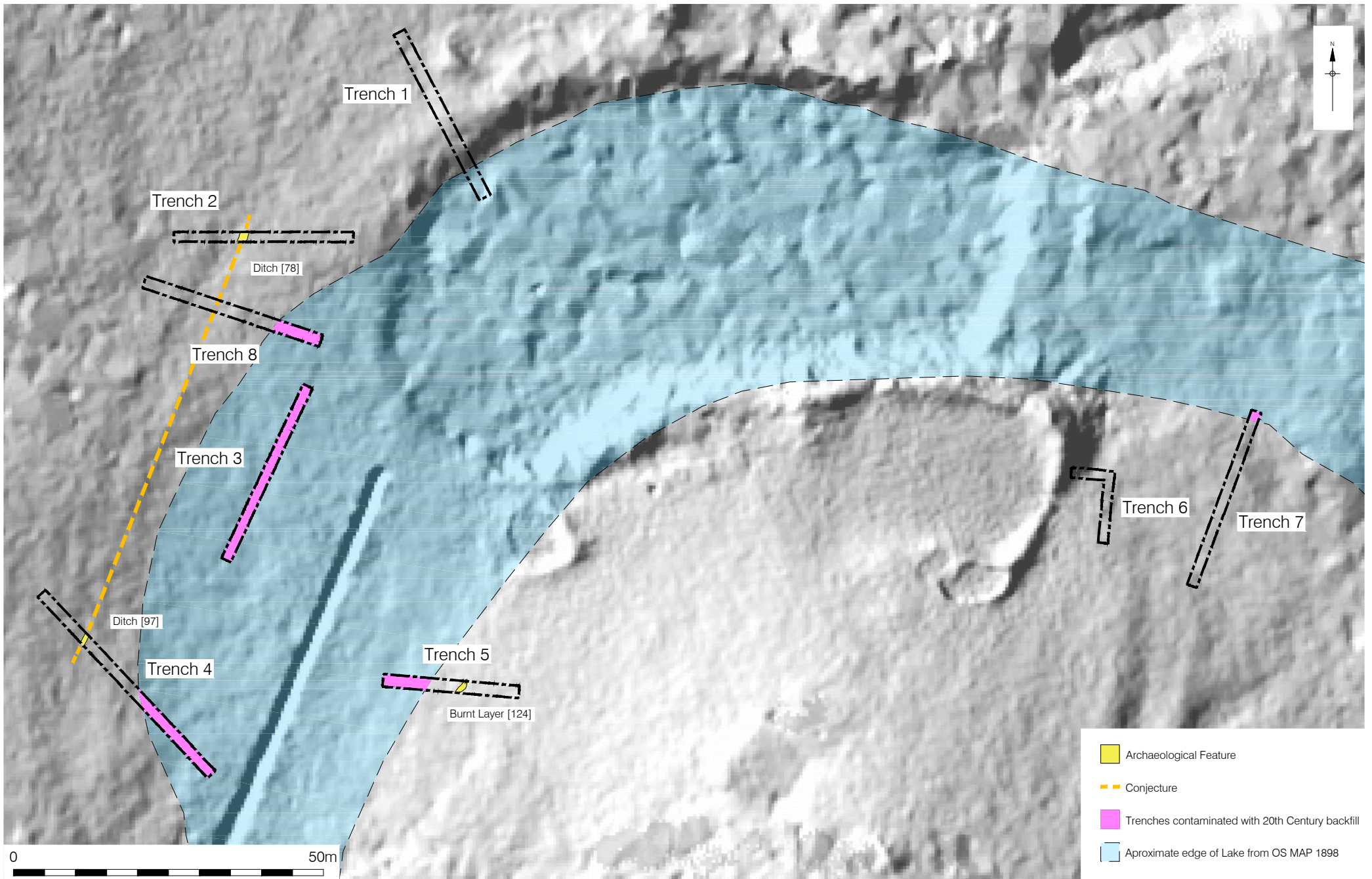


Section 64
South facing
Trench 6



Section 70
South facing
Trench 5





- Archaeological Feature
- Conjecture
- Trenches contaminated with 20th Century backfill
- Aproximate edge of Lake from OS MAP 1898

Figure 5
Trenches overlain onto Lidar Data
1:800 at A4

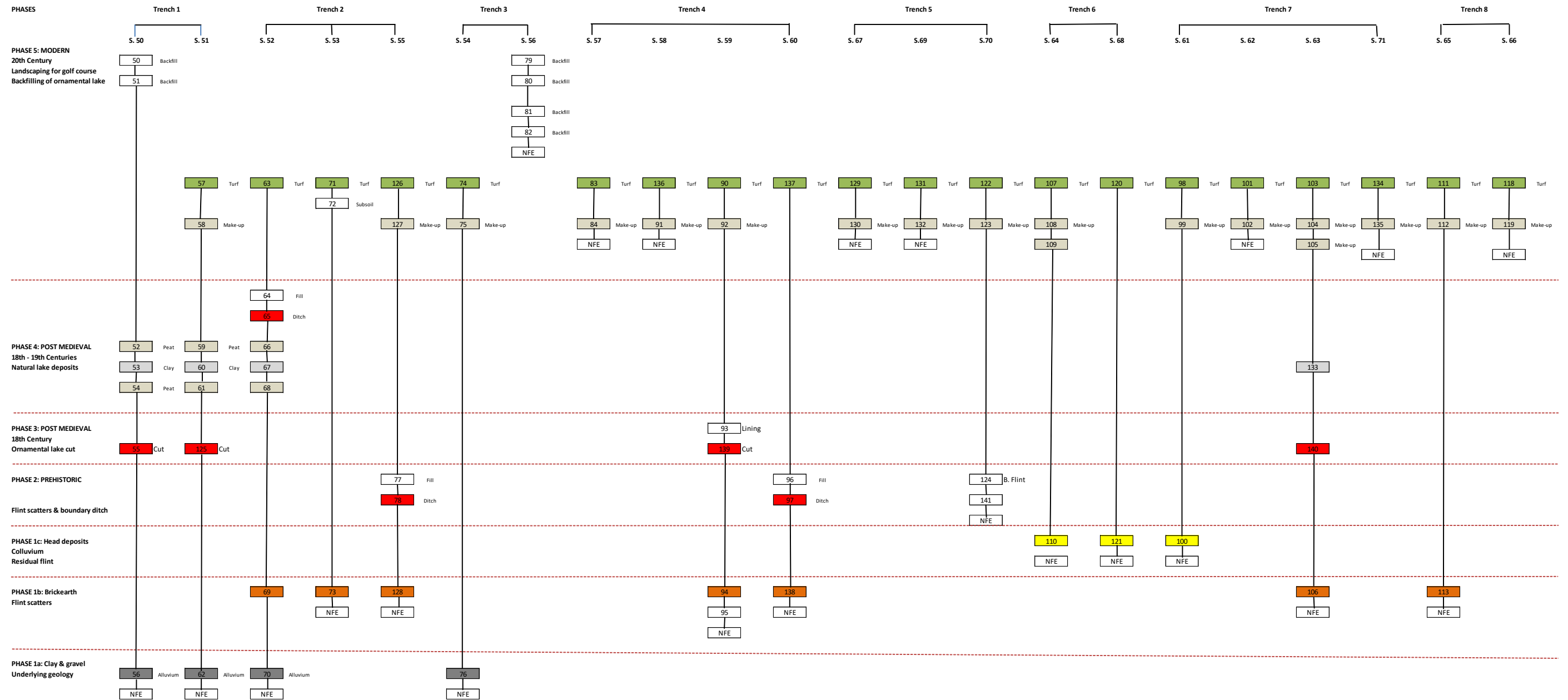
11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context	CTX_Type	Trench		CTX_Interpretation	CTX_Catagory	CTX_Level_s_high	CTX_Level_s_low	Phase
BPL17	50	Layer	1	Backfill of lake		Dump	30.69	30.45	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	51	Layer	1	Backfill of lake		Dump	30.21	30.13	BPL17-PH5
BPI17	52	Layer	1	Highly organic layer		Natural	30.03	29.95	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	53	Layer	1	Clay laminations		Natural	29.75	29.63	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	54	Layer	1	Highly organic layer		Natural	29.69	29.63	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	55	Cut	1	Cut or edge of ornamental lake		Other	29.95	29.51	BPL17-PH3
BPL17	56	Layer	1	Natural alluvial clays		Natural	29.59	29.51	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	57	Layer	1	Turf & topsoil landscaping layer		Garden Soil	31.47	31.42	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	58	Layer	1	Made ground		Make-up	31.08	31.04	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	59								
BPL17	60	Layer	1	Natural clays forming in lake base		Natural	30.58	30.5	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	61	Layer	1	Natural silting of lake		Natural	30.26	30.24	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	62	Layer	1	Underlying natural clay		Natural	30.14	30.12	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	63	Layer	2	Turf and topsoil landscaping layer		Garden Soil	32.02	31.88	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	64	Layer	2	Fill of ditch/channel [65]		Natural Silting	31.52	30.88	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	65	Cut	2	A ditch or gully seen only in section. Appears to cut lake silting deposits		Ditch	31.52	30.88	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	66	Layer	2	Possible lake deposit		Natural	31.52	31.52	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	67	Layer	2	Eroded or re-deposited natural (brick earth)		Natural	31.3	31.3	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	68	Layer	2	Thin layer, containing fragmentary occupation material		Occupation	31.22	31.16	BPL17-PH4
BPL17	69	Layer	2	Brick earth, reddish mid brown sandy clay		Natural	31.22	31.08	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	70	Layer	2	Blueish light grey gravelly clay		Natural	30.74	30.74	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	71	Layer	2	Turf & topsoil landscaping layer		Garden Soil	32.29	32.23	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	72	Layer	2	mid brown silty clay subsoil		Garden Soil	31.99	31.94	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	73	Layer	2	Reddish mid brown sandy clay (brick earth)		Natural	31.81	31.51	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	74	Layer	3	Topsoil and turf 20th century landscaping		Garden Soil	31.98	31.93	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	75	Layer	3	Made ground		Make-up	31.45	31.44	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	76	Layer	3	Blue grey alluvial clay		Alluvial	30.33	30.33	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	77	Fill	2	Fill of ditch [78]		Natural Silting	31.59	31.59	BPL17-PH2
BPL17	78	Cut	2	A shallow ditch with a 'u' shaped profile oriented NNE-SSW		Ditch	31.65	31.32	BPL17-PH2
BPL17	79	Layer	3	Modern backfill of lake		Make-up	31.95	31.91	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	80	Layer	3	Modern backfill of lake		Dump	31.61	31.61	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	81	Layer	3	Modern backfill of the lake		Dump	31.45	31.45	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	82	Layer	3	Modern backfill of the lake		Dump	31.17	31.07	BPL17-PH5

Site Code	Context	CTX_Type	Trench		CTX_Interp retation	CTX_Cate gory	CTX_Level s_high	CTX_Level s_low	Phase
BPL17	83	Layer	4	Turf & topsoil landscaping layer		Garden Soil	32.43	32.3	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	84	Layer	4	Modern backfill of the lake		Dump	32.11	32.03	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	85	Void							
BPL17	86	Void							
BPL17	87	Void							
BPL17	88	Void							
BPL17	89	Void							
BPL17	90	Layer	4	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.77	32.68	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	91	Layer	4	Modern made ground		Dump	32.21	32.18	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	92	Layer	4	Modern backfill in lake		Dump	32.53	32.4	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	93	Layer	4	Clay lining for the ornamental lake		Other	32.51	31.56	BPL17-PH3
BPL17	94	Natural	4	Reddish mid brown sandy clay (brick earth)		Alluvial	32.53	32.53	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	95	Natural	4	Greyish-orange sand (variation in the natural)		Natural	32.04	31.66	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	96	Fill	4	Fill of ditch [97]		Natural Silting	32.69	32.66	BPL17-PH2
BPL17	97	Cut	4	Ditch or gully		Ditch	32.69	32.29	BPL17-PH2
BPL17	98	Layer	7	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	33.08	33.08	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	99	Layer	7	Modern made ground		Make-up	32.96	32.84	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	100	Natural	7	Colluvium: sandy silt		Natural	32.52	32.34	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	101	Layer	7	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.6	32.26	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	102	Layer	7	Modern made ground		Make-up	32.24	32.02	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	103	Layer	7	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	33.13	33.13	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	104	Layer	7	Modern made ground		Make-up	32.73	32.73	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	105	Layer	7	Modern made ground		Make-up	33.53	32.51	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	106	Natural	7	Reddish mid brown sandy clay (brick earth)		Natural	32.23	32.1	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	107	Layer	6	Modern topsoil & turf landscaping		Garden Soil	34.22	32.62	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	108	Layer	6	Modern made ground for landscaping		Make-up	33.85	33.35	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	109	Layer	6	Modern made ground for landscaping		Make-up	32.6	32.2	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	110	Natural	6	Colluvium: yellowish mid brown clayey sand		Natural	33.04	32.94	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	111	Layer	8	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.57	32.52	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	112	Layer	8	Modern made ground for landscaping		Make-up	32.47	32.42	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	113	Natural	8	Greyish mid orange sandy clay (brick earth)		Natural	31.75	31.68	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	114	Layer	5			Garden Soil			
BPL17	115	Void							
BPL17	116	Void							
BPL17	117	Void							
BPL17	118	Layer	8	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping layer		Garden Soil	32.46	32.35	BPL17-PH5

Site Code	Context	CTX_Type	Trench		CTX_Interp retation	CTX_Cate gory	CTX_Level s_high	CTX_Level s_low	Phase
BPL17	119	Layer	8	Modern made ground		Make-up	32.2	32.05	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	120	Layer	6	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	33.81	33.76	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	121	Natural	6	Colluvium		Natural	33.48	33.38	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	122	Layer	5	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	31.46	30.98	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	123	Layer	5	Modern made ground for landscaping		Make-up	31.14	30.8	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	124	Layer	5	A layer of burnt flint and charcoal which may be a 'spread,' a hearth or a 'burnt mound' feature		Occupation	30.88	30.38	BPL17-PH2
BPL17	125	Cut	1	Lake edge or lake cut		Other	30.14	30.14	BPL17-PH3
BPL17	126	Layer	2	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.05	32	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	127	Layer	2	Modern made ground		Make-up	31.95	31.85	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	128	Natural	2	Reddish mid brown sandy clay (brick earth)		Natural	31.62	31.59	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	129	Layer	5	Modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.57	32.52	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	130	Layer	5	Modern made ground layer		Make-up	32.47	32.4	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	131	Layer	5	modern turf & topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.47	32.4	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	132	Layer	5	modern made ground		Make-up	33.43	33.43	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	133	Natural	7			Natural	32.23	32.15	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	134	Layer	7	Modern made ground		Make-up	32.26	32.26	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	135	Layer	7	Modern backfill of lake		Dump	32.08	32.08	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	136	Layer	4	Modern turf and topsoil landscaping		Garden Soil	32.38	32.31	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	137	Layer	4	Modern turf & topsoil		Garden Soil	32.84	32.79	BPL17-PH5
BPL17	138	Natural	4			Natural	32.66	32.66	BPL17-PH1
BPL17	139	Cut	4	Lake cut or edge		Other	32.53	32.04	BPL17-PH3
BPL17	140	Cut	7	Lake cut or edge		Other	32.23	32.15	BPL17-PH3
BPL17	150	Layer	2	Organic layer, may be early peat formation (59)		Agricultural	30.76	30.72	BPL17-PH4

12 APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



13 APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Hayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

13.1 Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
59	3065nr3032	Locally produced late post medieval red brick 68mm thick	1	1664	1900	1664	1900	1750-1900	No mortar
75	3047; 3498	Paving brick post medieval kiln spacer	2	1690	1900	1690	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
84	2276	Tile drain fragments decorated	2	1480	1900	1480	1900	1825-1900	No mortar

13.2 Review

13.2.1 This small building material assemblage (5 fragments 2kg) from Beckenham Place Park, Lewisham is dominated by later post medieval brick, paving brick and decorated drain. The construction brick [59], a thick locally produced red fabric is 19th century in date. Whilst the paving brick is possibly an earlier (18th century). The most unusual object were some moulded tile drain fragments in the local fine sandy fabric 2276 from [84]. These tile drains often have their makers stamp and date of manufacture as at Fulham Palace Gardens where one was manufactured in Cheapside from 1848 (Hayward pers. obs.). Only part of this example survives so any stamp is missing.

13.3 Recommendations

13.3.1 Apart from the unusual decorated drain tile there are no items of particular intrinsic interest. It very much reflects the later post medieval development of this part of south-east London. No further work required.

14 APPENDIX 4: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

14.1 INTRODUCTION

14.1.1 A small sized assemblage of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from the site (less than one box). All of the fragments are in a good condition. Clay tobacco pipes occur in three contexts as small (under 30 fragments) sized groups. The clay tobacco pipes consist of five fragments and occur as two bowls, and three stems. The bowl shapes are solely 18th-century types and the practice for classify these in London are by Oswald's (1975) typology (OS). The material is discussed as a spot dating index and the context containing only stems was broadly dated according to the thickness of the stem and diameter size of the bore.

14.2 SPOT DATING CATALOGUE

14.2.1 Context [75], spot date: c. 1580–170

- One stem with a medium thickness and a wide bore.

14.2.2 Context [84], spot date: c. 1700–1740

- Bowl: OS10; one heeled upright bowl with a rounded front and angled straight back, c. 1700–1740. The bowl is initialled I T on the sides of the heel. A possible local pipe maker for this bowl was John Turner, who was working during the period 1703–1704 at the lower end of Church Street, Greenwich (Bowsher & Woollard 2001).
- Stems: two stems both of which are medium in thickness and have fine bores, however one item is a waster and is in an over-fired, warped and twisted condition and the item is sparsely covered in a muffle-type encrustation. Additionally, there is also an oval-shaped spall on one side of the stem and small linear and rounded voids occur in the clay matrix.

14.2.3 Context [9], spot date: c. 1700–1740

- Bowl: OS10; one heeled upright bowl with a rounded front and angled straight back, c. 1700–1740 and in a fragmentary state. The item it is initialled on the sides of the heel, although the letters are smudged.

14.3 SIGNIFICANCE, POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

14.3.1 The assemblage has little significance as the material occurs as small sized groups without much meaning. The occurrence, however, of the waster stem found in context [84] is of slight interest and could indicate the occurrence of a clay tobacco pipe kiln and workshop, possibly of an 18th-century date, located in the vicinity of the site. The only potential of the clay tobacco pipes is to date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage at this stage.

14.4 REFERENCES

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15 APPENDIX 5: GLASS ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

- 15.1 A total of two fragments of glass (117g), representing different vessels and dating solely to the post-medieval period, was found in two contexts. The earliest fragment (99g) consists of the base of a free-blown English wine bottle made in dark olive green soda glass and has a tall rounded kick. The vessel may be a mallet-type wine bottle, dated c. 1725–1760 and was found in context [102]. The second item (18g) of glassware is a fragment of moulded, clear soda vessel glass, surviving as a rounded body shard, possibly from a closed shape, with external closely spaced, fine, rounded section fluting and it dates broadly to the mid 19th - 20th century. This vessel was found in context [84].
- 15.2 The assemblage has little significance as the material occurs as small sized groups without much meaning. The only potential of the glass is to broadly date the contexts it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the assemblage at this stage.

16 APPENDIX 6: POST-ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

16.1 INTRODUCTION

16.1.1 A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (less than one box). The pottery solely dates to the post-medieval period. Very few of the sherds are abraded and residual pottery is generally low. Therefore, the material appears to have been deposited fairly rapidly after breakage and under mostly secondary conditions. The fragmentation of the pottery ranges from mostly sherd material to two vessels with a complete profile and one item is intact. The pottery was quantified by sherd count (SC) and estimated number of vessels (ENV's), besides weight. Pottery was recovered from five contexts and as small sized groups (fewer than 30 sherds).

16.1.2 The assemblage consists of 27 sherds/22 ENV/2.372kg, of which none are unstratified. The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in a database format by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology (2014). The pottery is discussed as an index.

16.2 Index

16.2.1 Context [59], spot date: 1660–1800

- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 59g, form: unidentified. Convex base, internal glaze
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 50g, form: sugar cone mould. Body sherd, internally smoothed
- Staffordshire-type combed slipware (STSL), 1660–1870, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 7g, form: porringer. Splayed base
- Total: three sherds/3 ENV/117g

16.2.2 Context [75], spot date: 1890–1950

- Blackware (BLACK), 1600–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 20g, form: unidentified. Splayed base. ?chamber pot
- English stoneware with Bristol glaze (ENGS BRST), 1830–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 58g, form: upright bottle. Body sherd, clear glazed
- English stoneware with Bristol glaze (ENGS BRST), 1830–1900, 4 sherds, 1 ENV, 310g, form: upright bottle. Shoulder, external brown glaze, body sherds, clear glazed
- English stoneware with Bristol glaze (ENGS BRST), 1830–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 231g, form: mustard jar. Intact. Rounded rim, continuous rounded concave neck, shoulder, cylindrical wall. Flat base. Black printed (c. 1890+) oval on the front of the wall containing

'BEAUFOY'S/___/ PREPARED/.TABLE MUSTARD'/___/CARON BRAND/LONDON SW.8'.
An illegible small circular maker's stamp, containing a number on the back of the lower wall.
Grey Bristol glaze

- Industrial porcelain (INDPO), 1800–2000, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 84g, form: electrical insulator. Rim sherd, simple, cylindrical wall above a cordon. Internal double wall above a hole with a ?screw thread. ?Burnt or black staining
- Miscellaneous unsourced medieval/post-medieval pottery (MISC), 1480–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 12g, form: unidentified, Splayed base. Burnt, heated industrial/factory made ?REFW
- Total: nine sherds/6 ENV/116g

16.2.3 Context [84], spot date: c. 1850–1910

- English stoneware with Bristol glaze (ENGS BRST), 1830–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 39g, form: cylindrical jar. Base and wall with narrow panels. Clear grey glaze, post c. 1850
- Miscellaneous unsourced medieval/post-medieval pottery (MISC), 1480–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 28g, form: flower pot. Rim sherd, collared, flaring wall. High-fired silty/pasty fabric with some calcareous material
- Refined white earthenware (REFW), 1805–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 16g, form: unidentified. Body sherd. Heavily crazed glaze, burnt slightly. ?rounded bowl
- Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 20g, form: plate. Base, foot ring. Asiatic pheasant design, c. 1830–1910
- Total: four sherds/4 ENV/103g

16.2.4 Context [102], spot date: 1830–1900

- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 127g, form: unidentified. Convex base, body sherd. ?Large vessel.
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 52g, form: rounded bowl. Rounded wall with incised horizontal line. The glaze is largely missing
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 58g, form: chamber pot. Flat rim, ?pre c. 1750
- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 2 sherds, 1 ENV, 1.045kg, form: flower pot. Complete profile. Medium sized. Rounded rim. Flared wall, central basal drainage hole. Partially reduced surface firing.
- Refined white earthenware (REFW), 1805–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 31g, form: rounded bowl. Base, foot ring
- Refined white earthenware (REFW), 1805–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 11g, form: saucer. Rim, internal curved fluting, 'spiralling' out from the centre
- Refined white earthenware with under-glaze polychrome-painted decoration in 'chrome' colours (REFW CHROM), 1830–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 9g, form: saucer. Base, foot ring. Blue

scrolls and leaves and flowers, painted over with orange red lines and shading

- Total: nine sherds/7 ENV/1.333kg

16.2.5 Context [107], spot date: 1815–1900

- London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), 1580–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 103g, form: bowl or dish. Base
- Refined whiteware with under-glaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW), 1780–1900, 1 sherd, 1 ENV, 2g, form: bowl or dish. Rim-wall carination. Internal ?European landscape with a ?cow
- Total: two sherds/3 ENV/105g

16.3 **Significance and potential of the assemblage and recommendations for further work**

16.3.1 The assemblage has no significance at a local level and has little meaning, as well as consisting of pottery types that are frequently recovered from archaeological excavations in the London area. The pottery has the potential to date the contexts it was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the pottery.

16.4 **Reference**

Museum of London Archaeology 2014 Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes. <http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>. Accessed March 22nd 2018.

17 APPENDIX 7: LITHICS ASSESSMENT

By Ella Egberts, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

17.1 Introduction

17.1.1 Archaeological investigations at the above mentioned site resulted in the recovery of quantities of struck flint and unworked burnt stone. The assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details of the material (Catalogue L01). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses have been conducted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here.

17.2 Quantification

	Decortication flake	Flake	Flake fragment	Blade fragment	Core	Conchoidally fractured	Burnt stone (no.)	Burnt stone (wt. g)
Total	5	4	1	1	4	11	235	2231

Table L01: Quantification of the struck and burnt flint from Beckenham Place.

17.2.1 A total of 15 struck flints, 11 conchoidally shattered flints and 235 (2.2kg) unworked burnt stones were recovered from Beckenham Place. The material was recovered from a variety of contexts. Context [124], a burnt flint layer, contained the largest amount of struck (N=9) and unworked burnt flint (N=208, 1.5kg). Context [77], a fill of a ditch, contained 5 of struck flint along with 10 pieces of unworked burnt stones (152.5g). The only remaining blade fragment (SF1) was found in the fill of a ditch (context [96]). The other contexts only contained burnt flint. Five large pieces of burnt flint (291g) were obtained from made ground, context [112]. In addition, a sample was taken from the 'burnt flint layer' context [124] to assess the concentration of burnt flint and presence of worked flint. A representative subsample (10 litre sample, 2kg of sieved material) included 101 unworked burnt flint fragments (256.1g) and no worked flint.

17.3 Raw material

17.3.1 The struck flints are made from translucent, fine-grained orange to red flint. Cortex is of a weathered nodular character. This type of raw material was likely to have been gathered from fluvial or head deposits present in the vicinity of the site (BGS 2018).

17.4 Condition

17.4.1 All of the struck flint is in slightly chipped or chipped condition, indicating it has moved to

some extend after discard.

17.5 Description

17.5.1 The small amount of worked flint obtained from Beckenham Place shows possibly two technological and typological components. The blade fragment appears to come from a well knapped, systematically produced piece, typical for Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint working. The other flakes are more crudely knapped, some badly detached, others with an obtuse striking platform. The minimally worked cores are unsystematically knapped and shows only evidence of a few small, badly detached flake removals. This part of the assemblage is more suggestive of a later prehistoric date. Because some flint working techniques used in different periods can (accidentally) result in similar looking pieces and because of the limited size of the assemblage it cannot be fully certain that two periods are represented by the struck flints but based on the technological and typological aspects of the assemblage a Mesolithic/Neolithic and Bronze Age/Iron Age date is proposed with the latter being the most dominant.

17.6 Significance

17.6.1 Although only a small assemblage, the technological and typological characteristics of the struck flint from Beckenham Place indicate that people were present at the site during the Mesolithic/Neolithic and Bronze Age/Iron Age. The age of the burnt flint is unknown but the quantity, especially recorded for the 'burnt flint layer' points to some activity which further fieldwork may illuminate.

17.7 Recommendations

17.7.1 The struck flint assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it does demonstrate prehistoric activity at the site which further fieldwork could potentially elucidate. Should further work be considered, the assemblage reported here should be re-documented in conjunction with any additional flintwork following the completion of the archaeological programmes. From the point of view of the lithic material, any further fieldwork should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted.

17.8 Bibliography

BGS 2018. British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>? (accessed 22-05-2018)

18 APPENDIX 8: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-318984

Project details

Project name	Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham, London Borough of Lewisham BR3 5DE
Short description of the project	A total of 8 evaluation trenches were opened with the express intention of investigating the construction techniques used for the creation of an ornamental lake that had been added to the parklands around the Manor House in the 18th Century. During excavation, a number of Mesolithic flint tools were recovered, often from the interface with the underlying brick-earth geology. However, they were mainly in residual contexts or had been moved from their original positions due to hill-wash and soil creep. A SW to NE aligned linear had been detected on a LiDAR survey and this was picked up in two trenches. It was interpreted as a prehistoric boundary ditch with a flattened 'U' profile. Finds included both struck and burnt flint but no pottery or other dating material. On higher ground to the east a burnt layer was uncovered in Trench 5. A large quantity of burnt flint fragments and several struck flint flakes were recovered, suggesting a Bronze Age to Iron Age date. The burnt area may be a feature, hearth remnant or potential burnt mound. Finally, a number of the trenches showed a profile through the lake edge which revealed that there was little in the construction save for the utilisation of the natural fall of the valley. Trench 4 detected what may have been a clay lining but this was absent in the other profiles. The in-filling of the lake with building materials (containing contaminated material) was the result of the creation of a 20th century golf course and prohibited further excavation in some cases.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2018 End: 18-05-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BPL17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Beckenham Place Park Archaeology Priority Area (APA 20)
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Late Bronze Age
Monument type	BURNT AREA Late Bronze Age
Monument type	ORNAMENTAL LAKE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	MESOLITHIC BLADE Late Mesolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT FLAKES Late Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON LEWISHAM LEWISHAM AND BLACKHEATH Beckenham Place Park
Postcode	BR3 5DE
Study area	65714 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 38308 70762 51.418465917549 -0.010721328395 51 25 06 N 000 00 38 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 32.52m Max: 33.38m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from

Project design originator	County/District Archaeologist)
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Chris Mayo
Type of sponsor/funding body	Wayne Perkins
Name of sponsor/funding body	Local Authority
	London Borough of Lewisham
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	BPL17
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	BPL17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	BPL17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Matrices", "Plan", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham, London BR3 5DE: An Archaeological Evaluation of the Restored Lake Area
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Perkins, W.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R13284
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