

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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5-17 Michael Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Type of project

Archaeological Evaluation

Quality Control

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**An Archaeological Evaluation at 5-17 Michael Road, Fulham, London  
Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, SW6**

**Site Code: MCX 07**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 2588 7698**

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, October 2007**

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**Commissioning Client: F. H Warr & Sons Limited**

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## **CONTENTS**

1	Abstract	1
2	Introduction	2
3	Planning Background	5
4	Archaeological and Historical Background	6
5	Archaeological Methodology	8
6	The Archaeological Sequence	9
7	Conclusions	16
8	Bibliography	17
9	Acknowledgements	18

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1	OASIS Report Form
Appendix 2	Context Register
Appendix 3	Stratigraphic Matrices
Appendix 4	Lithic Assessment
Appendix 5	Pottery, Clay Pipe and CBM Spot Dating

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

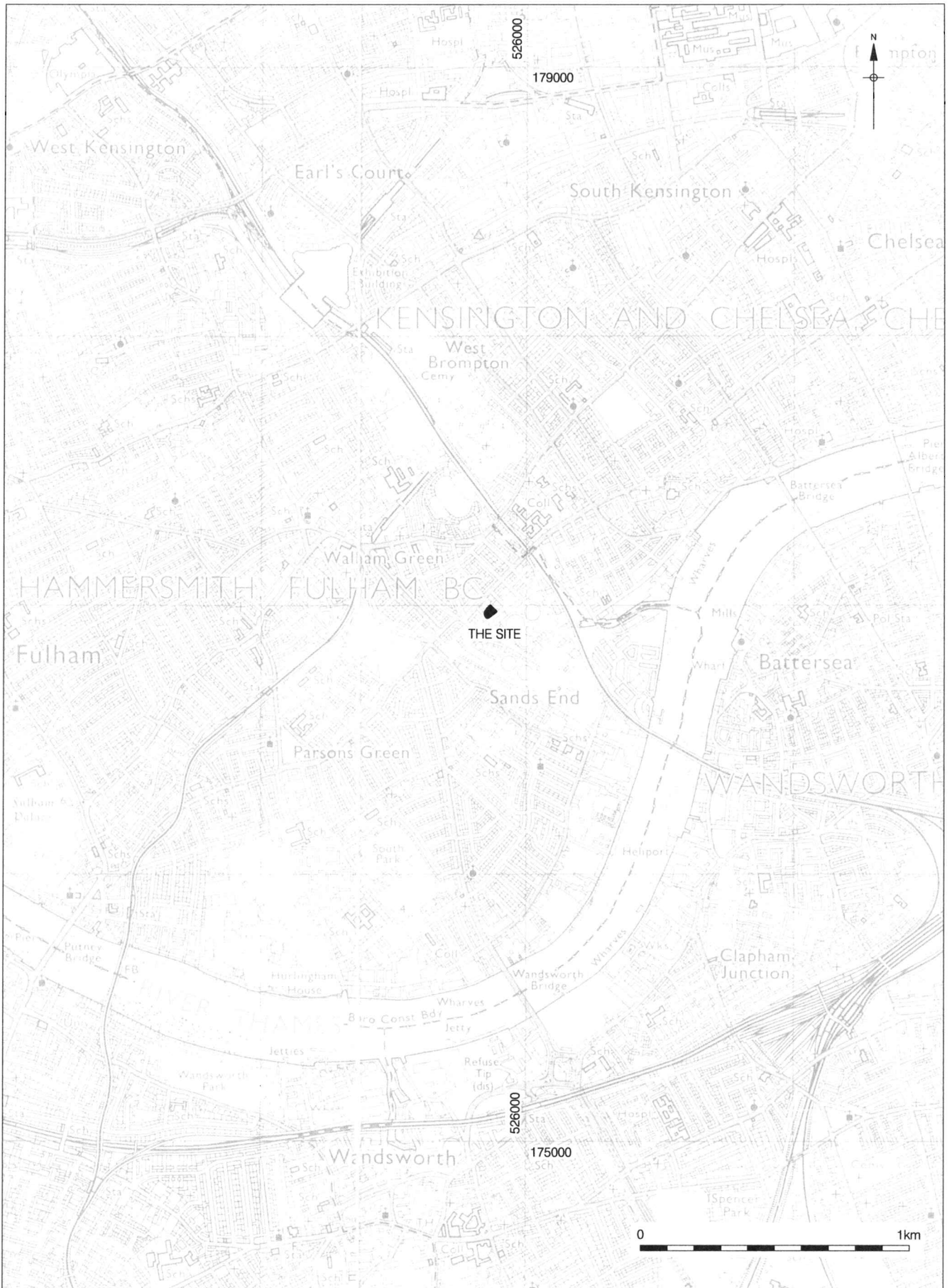
Fig. 1	Site Location	3
Fig. 2	Trench Location	4
Fig. 3	Plan of Trench 1	13
Fig 4	Plan of Trench 2	14
Fig 5	Section 2	15

# 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken at 5-17 Michael Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, SW6. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 2588 7698 (Fig.1).
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches each measuring 6m X 2m, both located in the car park to the rear of the Warr's Harley Davidson showroom and workshop which currently occupy the northern part of the site. The trenches were broken out and reduced, under the supervision of the author, using a 180° mechanical excavator until archaeologically sensitive levels were reached. All further excavation was accomplished using hand tools.
- 1.3 The evaluation took place in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the car park which would entail the extension of the showroom and associated workshops to the south and the excavation of an extensive basement. No basement currently exists on this part of site and any excavation would potentially impact on any extant archaeological remains.
- 1.4 The evaluation found evidence of nineteenth century terraced housing, post-medieval ploughsoil levels and a prehistoric ground horizon. Pits dating to the post-medieval and possibly prehistoric periods truncated the prehistoric ground horizon.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 5-17 Michael Road, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, SW6 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd between the 25th of September 2007 and the 1st of October 2007. A Harley-Davidson showroom and associated workshops and offices currently occupy the site. The evaluation consisted of two trenches each measuring 6m x 2m which constituted approximately 5% of the proposed area of the redevelopment.
- 2.2 The work was commissioned by Drummond Robson on behalf of F. H. Warr & Sons Limited. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd undertook the evaluation under the supervision of Douglas Killock and the project management of Peter Moore.
- 2.3 The site is situated on the corner of Michael Road and Edith Row, Fulham.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code MCX 07.



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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4

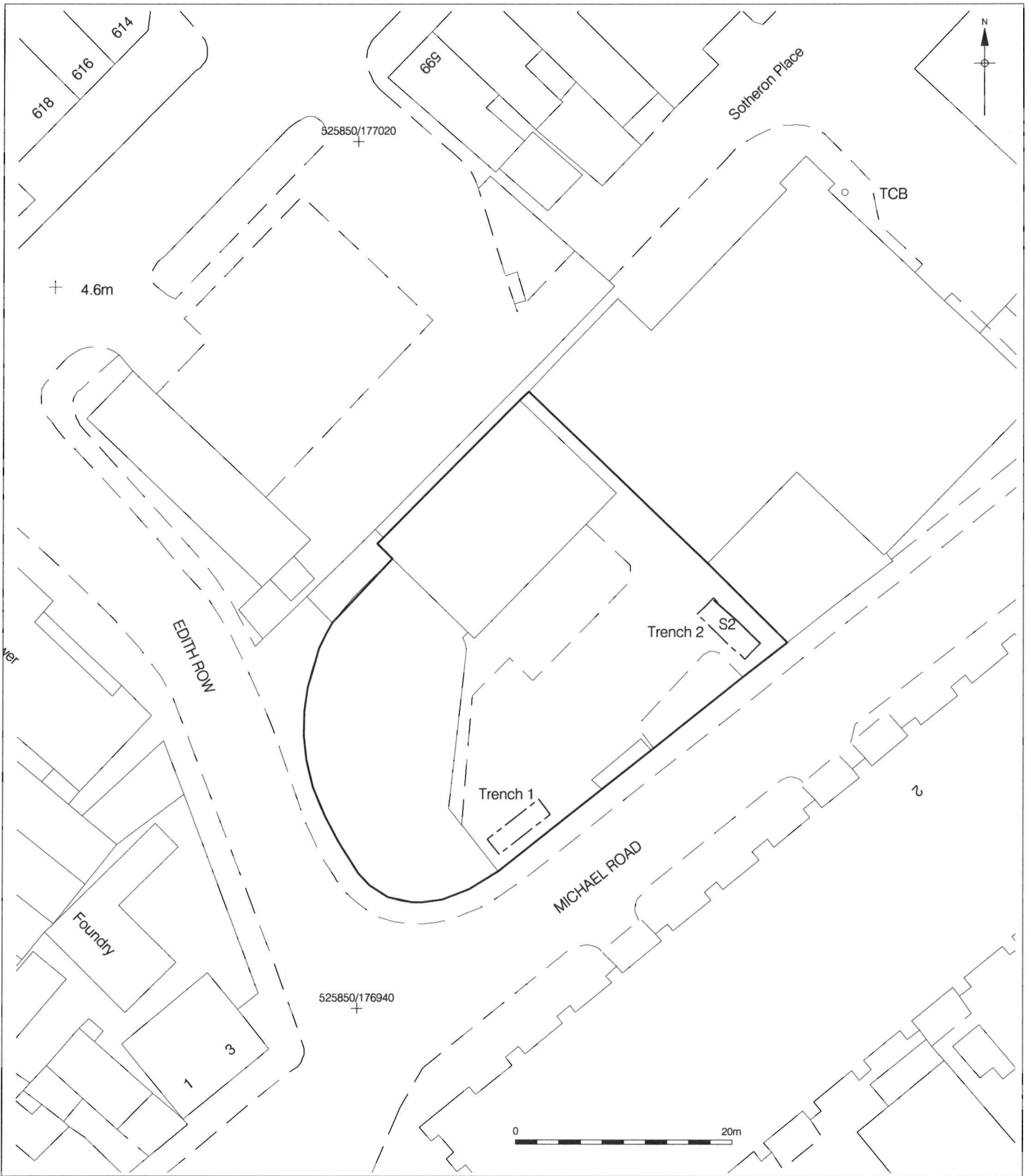


Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:500 at A4

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site is located immediately to the west of an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's Unitary Development Plan.
- 3.2 Ms Kim Stabler of English Heritage, GLAAS, determined that an evaluation should be carried out on the site to determine the presence of archaeological remains. This followed the production of a draft desk-based assessment of the site by AOC Archaeology Group in June 2002<sup>1</sup>.
- 3.3 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd for the investigation of the site<sup>2</sup> and approved by Ms Stabler prior to the beginning of the evaluation. The aims of the evaluation were:
- To locate, define, and date any surviving archaeological deposits, features or finds on the site.
  - To locate and define previous activities that have truncated earlier archaeological remains
  - Locate and define any prehistoric or Roman activities on the site
  - Locate and define any medieval or post-medieval settlement, agricultural practices or other activities on the site connected with Sandford Manor

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<sup>1</sup> AOC Archaeology 2002, An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of 5-17 Michael Road, SW6, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Unpublished Draft Document for AOC Archaeology

<sup>2</sup> P. Moore 2007, Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at Warr's Harley-Davidson Showroom, 5-17 Michael Road, London SW6, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Unpublished Document for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited



## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The archaeological background was covered in the draft desk based assessment produced by AOC Archaeology Group. The details produced below are largely taken from that document.

### 4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 The site is situated above terrace gravels which are capped by a sandy brickearth subsoil. These soils were attractive to early agriculturalists as they are comparatively light, free draining and easily worked with wooden ards or ploughs. A nearby water source would also have been available as the site lies to the north of a now defunct stream that ran from Eel Brook Common to Chelsea Creek<sup>3</sup>. A polished Neolithic axe was found at 61 Britannia Road around 200m to the north-west of the site. Iron Age pottery has been recovered from sites located on Imperial Road and Harwood Road, both located to the west of the site, and the Gas Board Depot to the south-west. The area was clearly occupied in the later prehistoric period.

### 4.3 Roman

4.3.1 The Roman city of *Londinium* was located in what is today the City of London, some distance to the east of the site. To the west the Roman city evidence of settlement is concentrated along the line of the Roman road, which proceeded from the city at Ludgate along the line of what is today Fleet Street and Bayswater Road. To the west of *Londinium* the nearest Roman settlements of any size are found at Brentford and Staines. Very little evidence exists for Roman activity in the area of the site.

### 4.4 Saxon

4.4.1 Fulham may be a Saxon place-name although the precise meaning of the name seems unclear. However, documentary evidence for the manor of Fulham dates back to the early eighth century when ownership passed from the Bishop of Hereford to the Bishop of London. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the presence of a group of Danish raiders in 879 who camped at Fulham, although the site of this encampment is unknown.

### 4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 The Domesday Book records the lands held by the Bishop of London in Fulham. Considerable areas of woodland also existed there as they were recorded as being able to support 1000 pigs. The Bishop of London was also able to call on shares of revenue obtained from the local fisheries and ferry crossings.

4.5.2 Sandford Manor is known to have stood on a site located at what is now Sand's End, about 200m to the east of the site. The manor dated back to the late 13th to 14th

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<sup>3</sup> Pers Comm B. Bishop

century. The current building on the site dates to the 17th century. The Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group attempted to trace the medieval development of the manor house through excavations in 1978, 1980 and 1987 but no trace of the medieval structure was unearthed.

- 4.5.3 The King's Road, which is located 50m to the north of the site, is known to have existed by the late medieval period. A bridge carrying the road across Chelsea Creek was recorded in 1409.

#### **4.6 Post-Medieval**

- 4.6.1 Fulham remained an essentially agricultural suburb late into the post-medieval period. Willows were also cultivated along the river banks and used in basket and sieve making. Rocque's map shows the site and the surrounding area were used for market gardening.
- 4.6.2 The manor house at Sand's End provided the focus of a small settlement. However, as with so many grand houses which were englobed by the expanding city the upkeep of the manor house proved beyond the owners and it was being used as a saltpetre factory by 1762 and had been converted into a pottery by 1790.
- 4.6.3 The industrial nature of the area intensified in 1824 when the old manor house was bought by the Imperial Gas Light and Coke Company. The manor house was used to house employees of the company. Much of the present day road layout was established in this period when Imperial Road and Imperial Square were laid out. Sandford Manor was rebuilt by the company in 1844.
- 4.6.4 Although the gas company dominated the area some land continued to be used as market gardens. The area of the site fell within one such garden. The Ordnance Survey map of 1869 shows buildings on the area of the site. By 1896 numerous terraced houses had been built that fronted onto Edith Row to the west and Stanley Street to the south, Stanley Street is now Michael Road.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches each measuring 6m X 2m (Fig 2). All hard-standing was broken out using a 180° mechanical excavator and modern overburden removed under archaeological supervision until archaeologically sensitive levels were reached. All further excavation was accomplished using appropriate hand tools.
- 5.2 Trench 1 was machined to a level that revealed the foundations of nineteenth brick structures, probably terraced housing, cutting through earlier ground horizons. Although these late buildings were not the focus of the investigation these forms of workers housing are worthy of documentation and provide a beginning to the archaeological sequence. The discovery of a live service trench running north-south through the eastern part of the trench would in any event have precluded further machine excavation below the level achieved.
- 5.3 With the exception of a brick wall located in it's extreme southern periphery Trench 2 was machined to a lower level than Trench 1. Homogenous layers of agricultural/horticultural soils dating to the post-medieval period were removed using the mechanical excavator until an earlier ground horizon was unearthed. The clear interface between these horizons provided the starting point for the hand investigation of Trench 2.
- 5.4 Recording on site was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Representative plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets.
- 5.3 A temporary bench mark was established on the road outside of the car park with a value of 3.38m OD. This value was established by transferring the level from the bench mark located on the corner of Imperial Road and Emden Street, the value of which is 4.06m OD.
- 5.5 The site was given the unique code MCX 07.

## **6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **6.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits**

- 6.1.1 Undisturbed natural sands and gravels were not reached in either of the evaluation trenches. A small band of gravel, which might represent the top of the natural sequence, was seen in the base of pit [21] in Trench 2. This deposit was noted at c. 2.80m OD.
- 6.1.2 Natural sands and gravels were not exposed in Trench 1. A clean sandy brickearth deposit, which might have been naturally formed, was observed in the base of construction cut [28]. This deposit was noted at c. 2.65m OD.

### **6.2 Phase 2 Prehistoric**

- 6.2.1 Developed subsoils which had been subject to human intervention were evident in Trenches 1 and 2 as layers [24] and [22] respectively. These layers consisted of a sandy brickearth which contained flecks of burnt daub, charcoal and occasional fragments of pottery. Both of these layers contained considerable quantities of burnt flint. The presence of this material is usually associated with prehistoric settlement (see Appendix 4). The frequency and size of the fragments recovered suggested that the site is situated on or very close to a settlement dating to this period. Some struck flint was also recovered from layer [22] although the piece was not diagnostic and could not therefore be assigned to a particular period. The pottery recovered from layer [24] demonstrated that it was medieval in date (see below). However, the small quantity of pottery recovered from layer [22] dates to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, no later finds were recovered from this layer. Layer [22] survived to a maximum height of 2.92mOD in the north and sloped down to 2.83m OD in the south.

### **6.3 Phase 3 Medieval**

- 6.3.1 As mentioned above layer [24] represented the earliest developed subsoil found in Trench 1. It consisted of a sandy brickearth and was located in the central area of the trench below the area occupied by layer [16]. It had been truncated to the west by construction cut [28], to the south by construction cut [13] and to the east by the modern service trench. It extended beyond the limits of excavation to the north and survived to a maximum height of 2.67m OD. This layer contained both burnt and struck flint that is probably prehistoric but also produced a piece of sand-tempered medieval pottery dated 1000-1200.
- 6.3.2 A small sub-ovoid pit [21] was excavated in the northern part of Trench 2. The pit measured 1.34m N-S by 0.62m E-W by 0.22m deep. It contained fragments of burnt flint,

which are likely to be prehistoric, and a sherd of flint tempered ware that dates to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. However, a small fragment of very heavily abraded sandy redware demonstrated that this feature was probably medieval or possibly dates to a later period, given that the redware sherd is heavily abraded.

- 6.3.3 Part of a shallow sub-circular pit [19] was evident in the south-east corner of Trench 2. The pit extended beyond the limits of excavation to both the south and east, the area extant measured 1.12m N-S by 0.88m E-W by 0.13 deep. The fill of the pit [18] contained one undiagnostic fragment of pottery that probably dates to the late Iron Age or Roman periods and three fragments of medieval peg tile. The fill [18] also contained both struck and burnt flint, this material is probably prehistoric and results from the disturbance of an earlier ground surface during the excavation of the pit.
- 6.3.4 The function of pit [19] was unclear. As recorded it was extremely shallow but the sides certainly could not be traced to a higher level (Section 2, Fig 5). The pit might represent a planting hole or bed that was dug slightly deeper than the surrounding horticultural soils.

#### **6.4 Phase 4 Post-Medieval Horticultural Soils**

- 6.4.1 Both the prehistoric layer [22] and the medieval layer [24] described above were sealed by post-medieval horticultural soil horizons. These were layers [23], recorded in Trench 1, and layer [25], recorded in Trench 2. A very clear interface existed between the later deposits and the earlier ground surfaces. This was marked by the change from the later mid-light brown soil to the earlier light brownish yellow deposit. The darker colour of the later deposits probably resulted from it containing a higher organic content. This could have resulted from the addition to composted material to horticultural soils used in market gardening. Fragments of clay pipe were also evident throughout the later deposits which clearly indicated that they could not have begun forming before c. 1580 when tobacco became widely enough available for clay pipe production to become a worthwhile commercial venture.
- 6.4.2 Layer [23] contained a fragment of an English stoneware bottle which dated to 1800-1900. It also contained a large body sherd of red grog/sand tempered medieval pottery dated 1100-1300. Although clearly residual in this context the sherd was not heavily abraded and the size alone suggested that it had not been moved far from the location in which it was discarded. Layer [25] contained fragments of post-medieval redware plant pot dated 1800-1900 and a sherd of cream ware dated 1760-1900. It also contained a fragment of peg tile that dated to the late medieval period. It is probable that these layers represent horticultural landuse. Individual cut features could not be distinguished in the sections that formed edges of the trenches but it was clear from the frequency of finds that occurred to the lowest levels that the soil must have been regularly turned, if not the

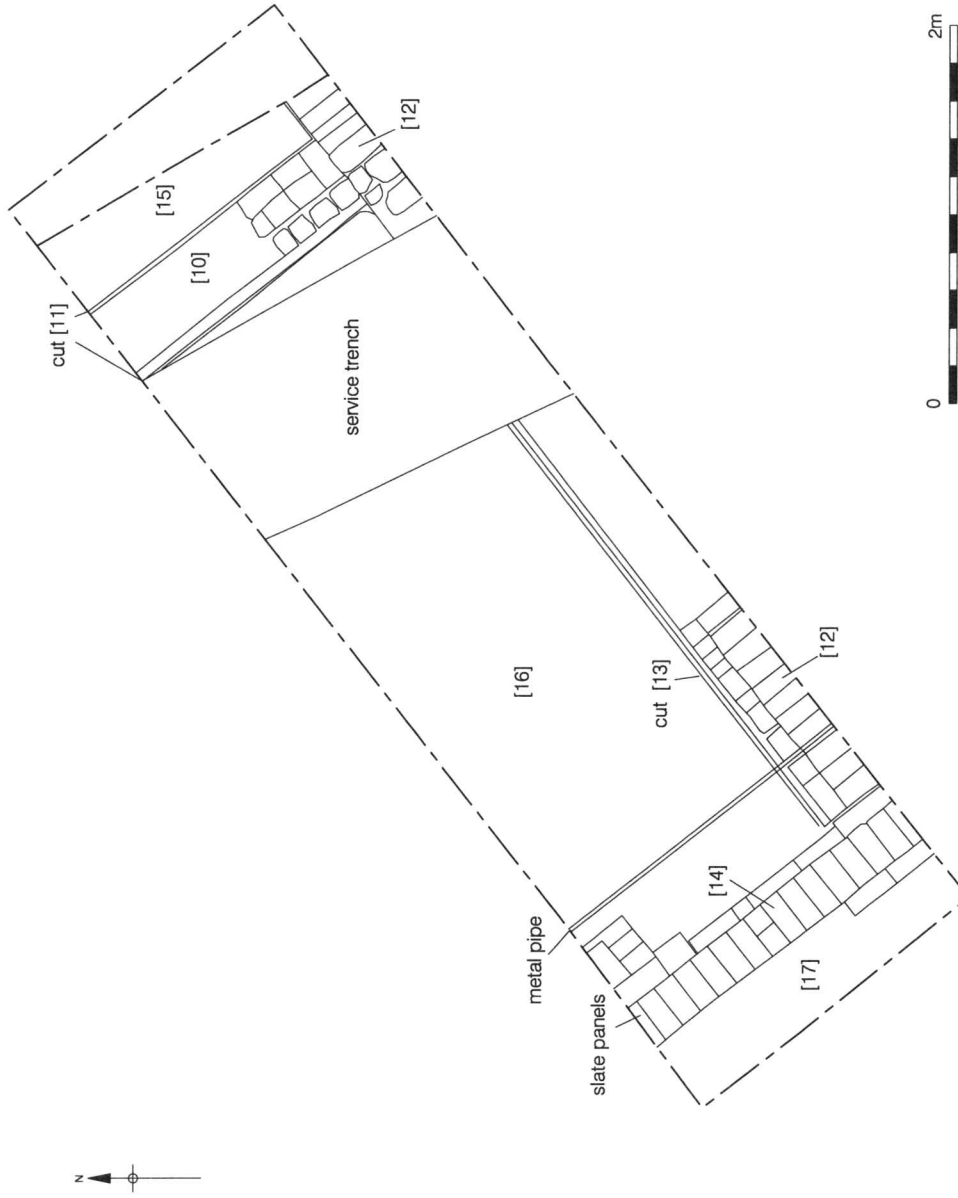
artefacts could not have been deposited. Layer [23] was excavated below the area occupied by the later post-medieval layer [16] (Fig 3). It had been truncated to the west and south by 19th century construction cuts [28] and [13] and to the east by the modern service trench. It continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north and survived to a height of 2.90m OD. Layer [25] occupied the entire area investigated in Trench 2 and extended beyond the limits of excavation in all directions, and survived to a height of 3.19m OD. This deposit was c. 0.30m thick (See Section 2, Fig 5)

- 6.4.3 The early post-medieval horticultural soils described above were sealed by more humic, darker soils represented by layer [26] in Trench 2 and layers [15], [16] and [17] in Trench 1. Layer [26] was evident throughout Trench 2 and extended beyond the limits of the trench in all directions, surviving to a height of 3.37m OD. Layers [15], [16] and [17] were effectively the same deposit, but were allocated separate context numbers as they had been truncated by construction cuts and the service trench (Fig 3). This deposit also extended beyond the limits of the trench in all directions. The highest level recorded on these layers was 3.22m OD on layer [15].
- 6.4.4 In Trench 2 layer [26] was removed by machine and no finds collected from it. In Trench 1 layer [16] was excavated by hand in order to retrieve finds and expose the earlier deposits located in this trench. The transfer-printed pottery recovered from layer [16] has been dated 1850-1900. This layer also contained clay tobacco pipe stems, one of which can probably be dated to the eighteenth century by a spur that survived below the bowl, and residual ceramic building materials dated to the late medieval or Tudor periods.

## **6.5 Phase 5 Nineteenth Century Brick Buildings**

- 6.5.1 Brick walls were evident in both trenches and probably represented terraced housing that had once fronted onto Michael Road or a predecessor of it. In Trench 2 a narrow brick wall [27] was recorded running roughly E-W in the southern part of the trench, extending beyond the limits of excavation to both east and west. The wall measured 0.22m wide, or the width of a single brick laid as a header. Most of the wall was formed from re-used materials; only two complete bricks were evident in the entire wall. The bricks were a mixture of materials from relatively soft orange sandy fabrics likely to have dated from the late sixteenth or more probably the seventeenth centuries through purple and yellow fabrics which were more commonly produced in the second half of the eighteenth century. Some bricks with a purple fabric showed shallow frogs and are likely to date from the first half of the nineteenth century. No yellow stocks were seen and this might imply that the wall pre-dated the second half of the nineteenth century. However, as stated above virtually all of the bricks were clearly reused and as recorded the wall was probably still at foundation level. Has yellow stocks been available at the time of building they would most probably have been used only in the above-ground, visible parts of the build. Wall [27] was recorded at a level of 3.39m OD.

- 6.5.2 Three brick walls were recorded in Trench 1. Wall [14] extended N-S through the western part of the trench and extended beyond the limits of excavation to both north and south and measured 0.36m E-W. The upper part of the wall, possibly intended to stand above ground, was formed from a single width of brick laid as headers and was 0.22m wide. The wall stood on a foundation that stepped out to the east and was recorded at a maximum height of 3.27m OD. The wall was formed from red/purple brick which may date to late second half of the eighteenth century.
- 6.5.3 The most extensive wall recorded in Trench 1, context [12] extended eastward from wall [14] and continued beyond the limits of excavation to the east. The wall had been truncated by the modern service trench but the full dimensions as seen were >4.80m E-W by 0.42m N-S by 0.52m high (including the depth of foundation), the highest level recorded on the wall was 3.29m OD. This wall was not keyed into wall [14] and the latter extended beyond the southern limit of [12], it was thus clear that the walls represented two different builds and it appeared that [14] had been incorporated into a later structure. The mix of materials employed in the building of wall [12] was identical to that use in the construction of wall [27] in Trench 1. Both walls are likely to have formed part of the same building project.
- 6.5.4 A third wall [10] extended north from wall [12] in the eastern part of Trench 1. Although this area of the trench was not excavated the two walls appeared to have been bonded together and were constructed from the same materials. This demonstrated that they were almost certainly part of the same phase of construction. Wall [10] measured >1.50m N-S (it extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north) and was 0.42m wide. The highest recorded level taken on wall [10] was 3.27m OD.
- 6.5.5 The three walls recorded in Trench 1 would have formed a room measuring c. 4.20m E-W, quite generous for a terraced house of the period and certainly not of a size associated with the poorest workers housing. The quality of the materials and standard or workmanship was certainly not of the highest order however and the foundations did not appear to represent the more fashionable town houses which still cover large parts of this quarter of west London.



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Figure 3  
Plan of Trench 1  
1:40 at A4



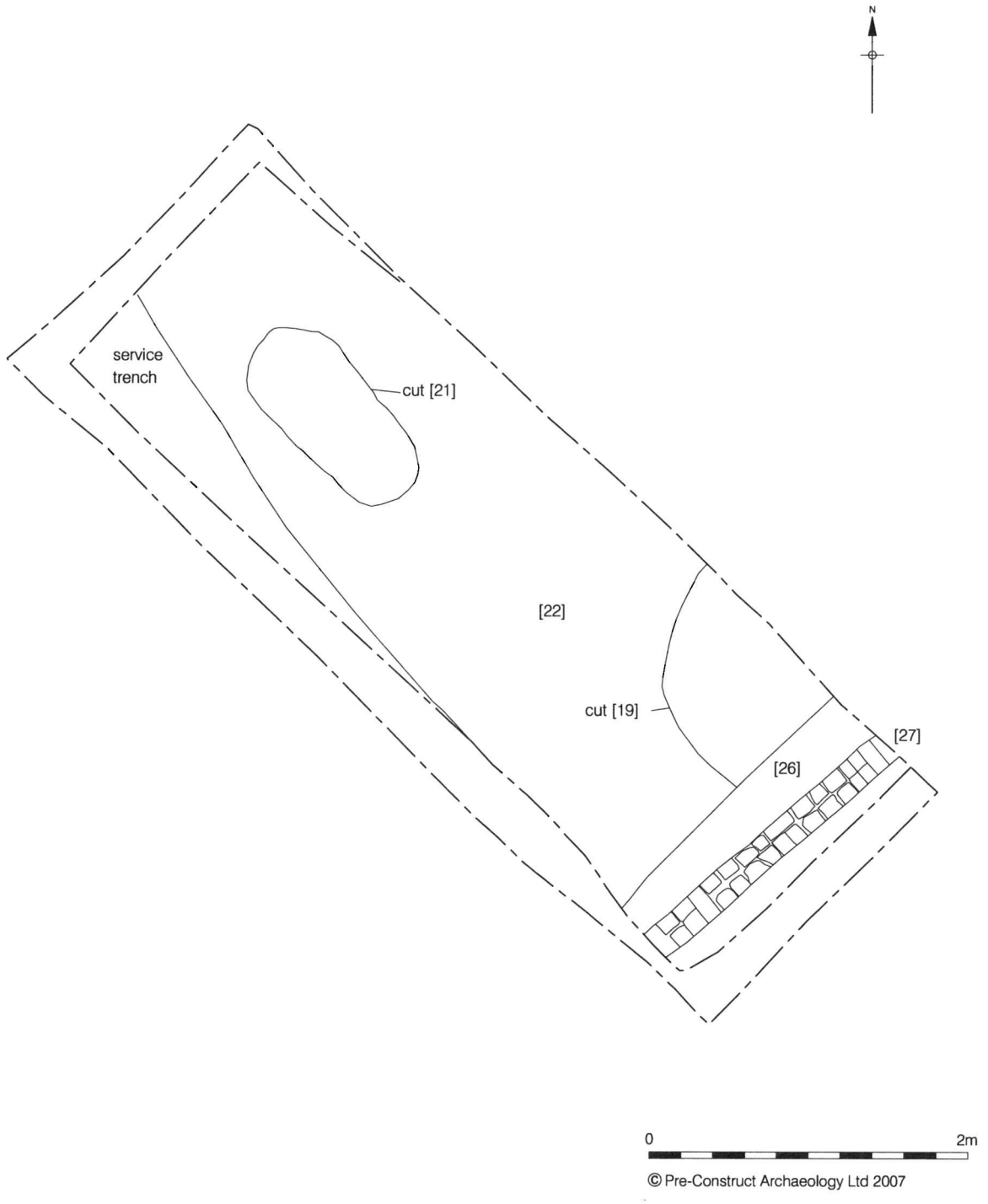
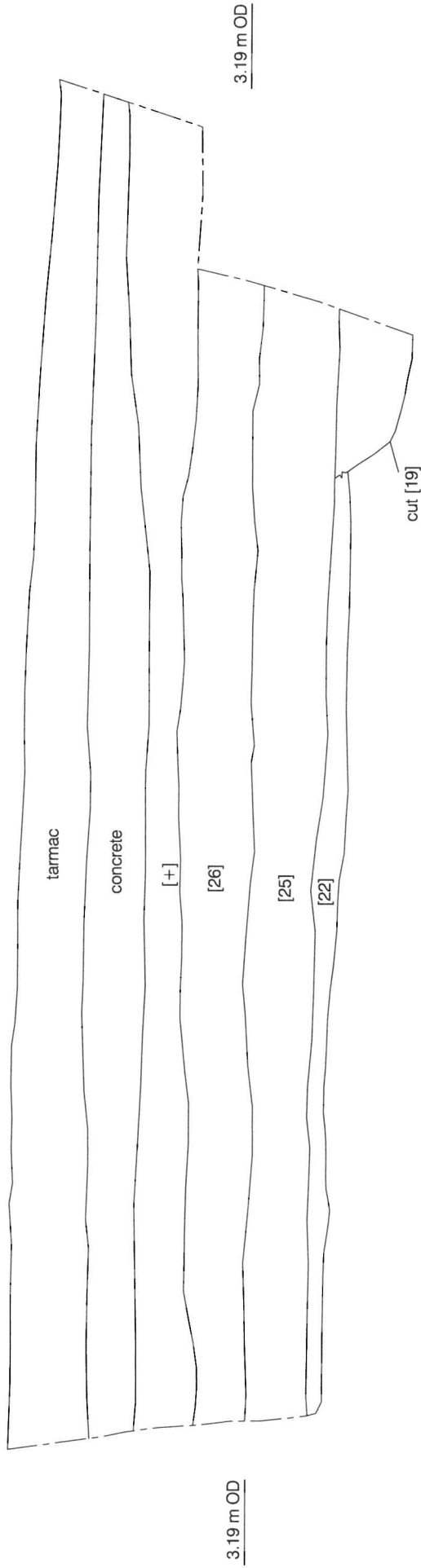


Figure 4  
Plan of Trench 2  
1:40 at A4

NW

SE



Section 2, Trench 2, south west facing



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Figure 5  
Section 2  
1:25 at A4

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The evaluation clearly demonstrated that the site was frequented during the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Although the frequency of pottery was not high the quantity of burnt flint, and above all the size of the fragments, recovered from such a small sample area showed a clear prehistoric presence. Some of the prehistoric material occurred as residual finds in later contexts but this merely demonstrated that earlier ground horizons had been disturbed by later activity.
- 7.2 A prehistoric ground horizon was evident in Trench 2; this was recorded as layer [22]. A similar ground horizon containing high quantities of burnt flint, layer [24], was excavated in Trench 1 but contained a sherd of medieval pottery. This could demonstrate that layer [24] is medieval or might indicate that finds from more than one period have become mixed during the excavation of layers of similar composition. It is possible that a more refined excavation technique, such as removing this horizon in spits, could separate the medieval and prehistoric ground levels.
- 7.3 Two pits dating to the medieval period were recorded in Trench 2 although it is unclear what form of activity these represent. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the course of the evaluation, one a large body sherd from layer [23]. This sherd is unlikely to have been any great distance from the point at which it was discarded and is larger than the small abraded sherds often associated with the manuring of fields. Medieval building materials were also recovered. These finds are probably associated with the nearby Sandford Manor.
- 7.4 Two distinct horizons of agricultural/horticultural soils were evident in both trenches. Both of these apparently date to the nineteenth century although historic maps show that the area was in use as market gardens from at least the middle of the eighteenth century. The increasing pressure of urbanisation was apparently resisted into second half of the nineteenth century when the site was covered by brick buildings in the form of terraced houses.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- B. Bishop, 2007 *An Archaeological Evaluation at 5-17 Michael Road, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Site Code: MCX 07, Lithic Assessment*
- F Meddens, 2007 *An Archaeological Evaluation at 5-17 Michael Road, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Site Code: MCX 0, 7Pottery, Clay Tobacco Pipe and CBM Spot Dating* Unpublished Document for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
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## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Drummond Robson for commissioning the work on behalf of F H. Warr and Son Limited. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank the staff of Warr's Harley-Davidson for their cooperation in gaining access to the site and their help in moving numerous very heavy bikes and other vehicles around the car park to facilitate the evaluation.

9.2 The author would like to thank;

- Lisa Lonsdale for her help with the logistics and machine hire
- Josephine Brown for the illustrations
- Andy Stewart for his hard work on site
- Barry Bishop for the lithic report
- Dr Frank Meddens for the pottery, clay pipe and cbm spot dating report
- Peter Moore for his editing and project management

## Appendix 1 OASIS Report Form

## 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

### 1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-32327

#### Project details

Project name 5-17 Michael Road

Short description of the project Field evaluation revealing post-medieval brick buildings, probable post-medieval horticultural soils, medieval frequentation/settlement and probable prehistoric frequentation/settlement

Project dates Start: 25-09-2007 End: 01-10-2007

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes MCX 07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type PLOUGHSOIL Post Medieval

Monument type TERRACED HOUSES Post Medieval

Monument type LANDUSE SITE Medieval

Monument type LANDUSE SITE Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds TILE Post Medieval

Significant Finds TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval

Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Late Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM FULHAM 5-17 Michael Road
Postcode	SW6 2ER
Study area	480.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2588 7698 51.4772562154 -0.187159585187 51 28 38 N 000 11 13 W Point
Height OD	Min: 2.65m Max: 2.80m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore



Project supervisor	Douglas Killock
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private company
Name of sponsor/funding body	F. H. Warr & Sons
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	'Ceramics', 'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at 5-17 Michael Road, Fulham, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, SW 6
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Killock, D

Date	2007
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**2 OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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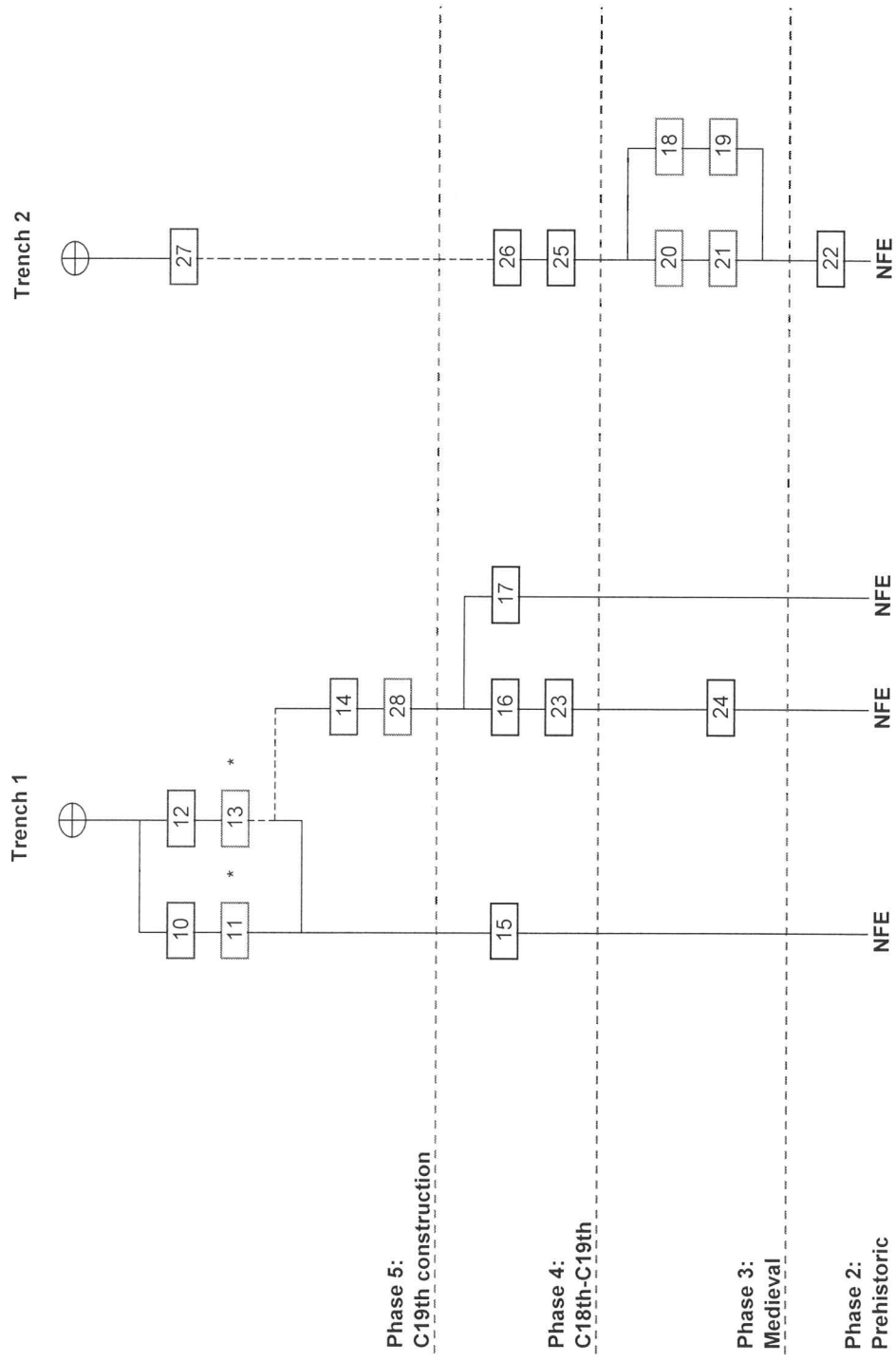
Cite only: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm> for this page

## Appendix 2 Context Register



## Appendix 3 Stratigraphic Matrices

MCX 07: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES  
TRENCHES 1-2



\* NB These features were actually bonded together

## **Appendix 4 Lithic Assessment**

**By Barry Bishop**

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 5-17 Michael Road, Fulham, London  
Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham  
Site Code: MCX 07**

**Lithic Assessment**

**Barry Bishop October 2007**

Introduction

An Archaeological Evaluation at the above site recovered three struck flints and just under 0.5kg of burnt flint. This report quantifies the material (see Table1), describes its characteristics and comments on its significance.

Quantification

Context	Decortication Flake	Flake	Conchoidal shatter	Burnt Flint (no.)	Burnt Flint (wt:g)
18	1			1	35
20				5	28
22		1		9	271
23				4	23
24			1	6	86

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material by Context

Distribution

The bulk of the burnt flint and two of the struck flints were recovered from layers that were possibly prehistoric in date, [22] and [24]. Smaller quantities of burnt flint were recovered from the fill of a possible prehistoric pit [20] and the remainder of the lithic material was recovered from later features where it had been residually deposited.

Burnt Flint

Burnt flint weighing a total of 443g was recovered, the majority of it from the possible prehistoric layers. Considering the limited areas investigated, this represents a relatively high quantity. This material was variably burnt but mostly quite heavily and several large fragments were present. Burnt flint can arise from the incidental burning of naturally occurring pebbles during hearth use, although the quantities present may suggest that at least some may have resulted from deliberate attempts at heating it.

Struck Flint

None of the struck pieces were particularly diagnostic; they had all been made on alluvial pebble flint and they had been relatively crudely produced. The flakes were quite small, thick and broad and the conchoidally shattered fragment most probably represented a core that had disintegrated during reduction. The flake from pit [19] was residually deposited but the struck pieces from layers [22] and [24] was in good condition and were unlikely to have moved far from where originally deposited.

With such small quantities of undiagnostic material, any attempts at dating are fraught with uncertainty. Very tentatively, the material was perhaps more characteristic of later rather than earlier prehistoric industries, and a Bronze Age or perhaps Iron Age date may be preferred.

Discussion

The struck flint clearly indicates activity at the site during the prehistoric period, although the quantities present and the lack of diagnostic pieces mean that accurate dating cannot be established. It is also difficult to assess the importance of the burnt flint, given the limited areas investigated. Nevertheless, the quantities recovered so far may be regarded as high and, if this were to be repeated across the site, it may indicate relatively intensive or prolonged activity. Its presence may relate to settlement-type activities of some significance or duration, or, as the densities are higher than usually encountered on later prehistoric settlement sites, activities of a more specialised function. The deliberate heating of flint is often documented from prehistoric sites and a variety of reasons have been forwarded, including for cooking and a variety of craft and industrial processes (eg Barfield and Hodder 1987; Barfield 1991; Jeffery 1991). The resultant accumulations of burnt flint, often termed



'burnt mounds' are frequently found adjacent to watercourses and, in this light, it is interesting to note that this site was located near the north bank of a now defunct stream channel. Several such sites have been identified in the London region, the nearest perhaps being to the north at the Phillimores in Bayswater (Moore *et al.* 2003).

#### Recommendations

Due to its size and lack of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. Should further fieldwork be considered, attention 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 and, through consideration of other recovered artefact groups and environmental based evidence, this information should be incorporated into establishing as detailed and complete an understanding as possible of the prehistoric exploitation of the area.

#### Bibliography

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## **Appendix 5 Pottery, Clay Tobacco Pipe and CBM Spot Dating**

**By Dr Frank Meddens**

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 5-17 Michael Road, Fulham, London  
Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham  
Site Code: MCX 07**

**Pottery, Clay Tobacco Pipe and Ceramic Building Materials Spot Dating**

Dr Frank Meddens October 2007

Pottery Spot Dates

Context No	No of Sherds	Type	Date Range
16	8	Transfer-printed ware	1850-1900
16	1	Cream ware	1850-1900
18	1	Undiagnostic greyware body sherd	LIA-Roman
20	1	Flint tempered ware	LBA-EIA
20	1	V heavily abraded sandy redware	Medieval?
22	1	Flint tempered ware	LBA-EIA
22	1	Very small frag flint tempered ware	0-0
23	1	English stoneware bottle	1800-1900
	1	Large body sherd, red grog tempered/sand tempered	1100-1300
24	1	Sand tempered	1000-1200
25	3	PM redware plant pot	1800-1900
25	1	Cream ware	1760-1900

The prehistoric material present may all be residual. None of the pottery in itself merits further study unless further work is undertaken on the site.

Clay Tobacco Pipe Spot Dates

16	5	Stems, one with spur	Probably 1700-1800
23	1	Stem	1580-1910
25	4	Stems	1580-1910

Ceramic Building Material Spot Dates

16	2	Peg tile, sandy fabric	Med-Tudor
16	1	Yellow brick frag	Med-Tudor
18	3	Peg tile	Med-Tudor
23	1	Peg tile, sandy red fabric	Med-Tudor
25	1	Peg tile	Med-Tudor
28	1	Peg tile	Med-Tudor