

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY LONDON BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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An Archaeological Evaluation at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich

Site Code: RYM08

National Grid Reference: TQ 430 771

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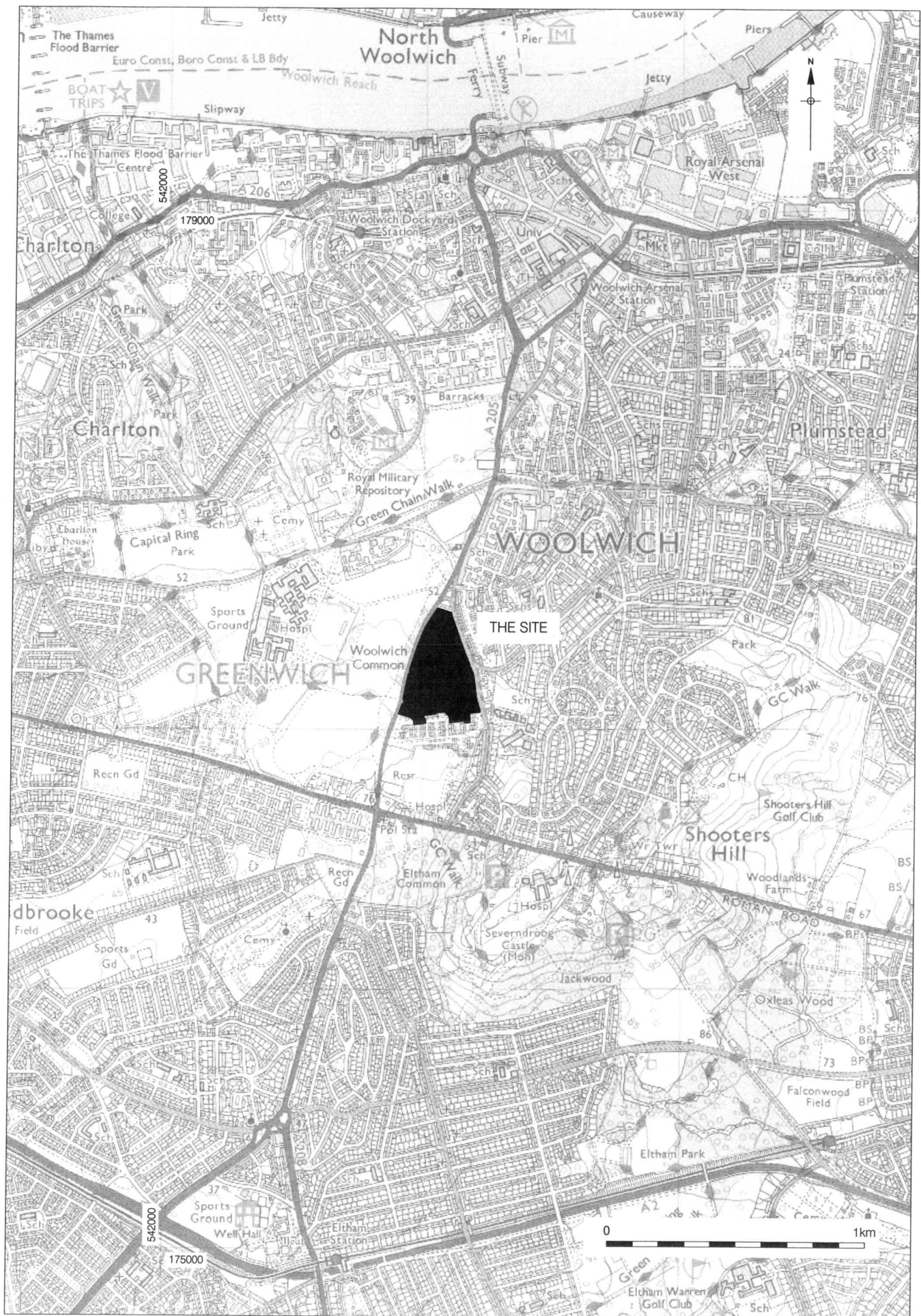
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This document details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation conducted at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich. The evaluation, conducted in advance of the redevelopment of the site, consisted of six trenches undertaken between 10th and the 18th March 2008 and a further two trenches undertaken between 9th and the 13th of June 2008. The site was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 430 771.
- 1.2 Natural clay and brickearth layers were encountered in all areas of investigation, however, whilst an undated subsoil horizon was recorded in Trench 4 the horizon did not exist elsewhere suggesting the majority of the site has been subject to widescale horizontal truncation during the construction of the Royal Military Academy in the 19th century. Whilst the absence of pre-19th century archaeological features may be a consequence of this extensive truncation, the lack of residual material dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and earlier post-medieval periods strongly suggests that the site was not utilised prior to the early 19th century.
- 1.3 The 19th-20th century archaeological material comprised the remains of the buildings, drainage systems and gardens contemporary and associated with the construction and use of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich during the 19th and 20th century.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation, commissioned by Durkin Estates Limited and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the supervision of the authors, was conducted at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich. The evaluation was conducted in two phases, the first was undertaken by Joanna Taylor between the 10th and the 18th March 2008 and the second was undertaken by John Payne between 9th and the 13th of June 2008. The site was centred at National Grid Reference TQ 430 771.
- 2.2 The primary phase of evaluation consisted of six trenches located in the north, south, and east and west of the site whilst the later phase consisted of two trenches located centrally within the courtyards of the Royal Military Academy itself.
- 2.3 The Royal Military Academy has until recently been used by the Ministry of Defence, for various uses including the housing of the Royal Artillery Institution Museum. At present the northern half of the site is covered with Tarmac surfaces, whilst the southern half is occupied by an extensive range of buildings associated with the sites former use.
- 2.4 Ordnance Datum Benchmarks, located within the confines of the site, were utilised during the evaluation.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefactual material will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code RYM08.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Borough of Greenwich Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in July 1996. The plan contains the following policies which provide a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

Policy Env 54

In areas of archaeological search, where development proposals may affect archaeological remains the council will expect applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications. The council may require a preliminary site evaluation before proposals are considered.

Policy Env 55

Where sites of archaeological significance or potential are discovered the council will seek that:

- 1. The most important archaeological remains and their settings are preserved in situ (if appropriate for public access and display) and that where appropriate they are given statutory protection;*
- 2. Sites not requiring preservation in situ shall be made available for an appropriate level of archaeological investigation and excavation by a recognized archaeological organization before development begins.*

Policy Env 56

There will be a presumption against any development which would adversely affect any scheduled ancient monument or other nationally important archaeological sites and monuments in their settings.

- 3.4 The site lies within an "Area of Archaeological Importance" as defined by the London Borough of Greenwich's U.D.P.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY (Fig 12)

- 4.1 The solid geology of the site is London Clay, which overlies Harwich gravel on the northern side (BGS 1998). A geotechnical survey of the site indicated that between 0.15m and 0.90m of topsoil overlay the natural clay, except for the southwest corner of site, where the former swimming pool had caused truncation to a depth of around 1.40m (RPS 2006).
- 4.2 The site is located at the former Royal Military Academy in the London Borough of Greenwich (TQ 430 771). It is bounded to the north and west by the A205 (South Circular Road), to the east by Red Lion Lane and to the south by Prince Imperial Road. The site slopes considerably, from 65.00m AOD at the southern end to 52.00m AOD at the northernmost point.
- 4.3 Evaluation of the site in 2008 demonstrated that the natural sequence on site was typified as naturally deposited clay overlain by natural brickearth. Whilst significant truncation had occurred to the upper natural horizon in all but one trench, it was nonetheless evident that a general slope in the natural topography from north to south existed.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The historical and archaeological background has been discussed in the desk-based assessment (DBA) commissioned by the developer as a part of the planning application (RPS, Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, an archaeological desk based assessment 2006). The DBA has assessed the archaeological potential of the area based on the GLSMR findings within a radius of 750 metres from the centre of the site. An outline of these findings is summarised below.

5.2 Prehistoric

- 5.2.1 There is very little prehistoric activity recorded in the immediate area. An evaluation at the Woolwich War Memorial located a prehistoric paleochannel and a tree throw pit that contained a single burnt flint; this pit may also have been of prehistoric date. Excavations undertaken on the line of the road to the War Memorial Hospital discovered an Iron Age pit, possibly recut in the Roman period, no other prehistoric activity is recorded in the area. This lack of prehistoric activity may be due to the heavy soils associated with the underlying London Clay or may simply be due to the lack of archaeological investigation in the area.

5.3 Roman

- 5.3.1 The search radius for the area incorporates part of the proposed line of Watling Street, a major Roman Road which runs from Dover to St Albans via London (Margary 1955). The existing Shooters Hill Road is thought to follow the line of the Roman Road, although its exact location is not known. A possible Roman Road was found at Shooters Hill to the southeast of the site and to the south of the existing Shooters Hill Road during a watching brief undertaken in 1995. Although the site itself lies 500m to the north of the present Shooters Hill Road, it would not be unusual to have settlement or settlement activity within the vicinity. Minor roads, villas, farmsteads and burials are all associated with major Roman Roads. The excavations at the War Memorial Hospital recorded a Roman pit recutting an earlier Iron Age pit, plus what is described as a 'hut' with two clear subsequent occupations.

5.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 5.4.1 In the Saxon and Medieval periods, evidence for activity within the search radius is minimal. The only artefact of possible Saxon date is a 'Jews harp' found in 1925 on

Shooters Hill, where it had been reused as a fastening for an allotment Gate. Evidence for Medieval activity comes in the form of a few sherds of pottery found during excavations at the Catherine Wheel Memorial Hospital site. No associated archaeological features are recorded. Despite this lack of activity the Roman Watling Street must have continued as a major route way through the Saxon and Medieval periods.

5.5 Post-medieval

5.5.1 Settlement expanded in the area in the post-medieval period. An Inn located beside Watling Street was constructed c1660, this was excavated at the site of Hazelwood House, itself an 18th century building. Three post-medieval potteries are known in the area, one of which is recorded on the SMR to the east of the site. The underlying geology of London Clay is likely to have been extracted for both pottery and brick making, and although no extraction sites are recorded in the vicinity they must have been local. A Wash House is also recorded to the west of the site.

5.5.2 The history of the Royal Military Academy has been fully documented and mapped elsewhere, a brief outline of which has been summarised below:

- Construction of the original Royal Military Academy began in 1801 and the buildings were occupied by 1806.
- This initial construction consisted of four main buildings located to the north of Middle Road, which is an east-west aligned road running through the site. To the north of Middle Road and surrounding these buildings a ha-ha was constructed.
- A second phase of major construction was undertaken between 1859 to 1863 to the south of Middle Road when east and west wings, workshops, gymnasium a school of arms and racquet courts were added. These were followed in 1867 and 1871 by the construction of Billiard Rooms.
- The central block of the Academy, including entire Military and Historical library was destroyed by fire in 1873. The building was subsequently rebuilt.
- The ha-ha was at this time infilled and the north-south central road was removed.
- A new west wing, dining hall serving room and anteroom were completed in 1878.
- In 1892 an addition to the east wing is started and in 1902 St Michael and All Angels chapel replaced an old gun shed.
- The Royal Military Academy moved to Sandhurst in 1947 and the vacant buildings were reused both by the Ministry of Defence and also used to

house the Royal Artillery Institution Museum. The Chapel became the Woolwich Garrison Church.

- Between 1965 and 1969 the School of arms was demolished and new Married Officers Quarters, new kitchens and a squash court were built.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Nine evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich.
- 6.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were in the area of the former Parade Ground, which is located in the northern half of the site, these trenches were placed in areas to be impacted by the construction of a drainage system associated with the proposed development. Trench 3 was located in the central southern area of site, to the south of the church. Trench 4 was located in the southeast corner of the site within the footprint of the southernmost of the proposed new buildings. Trench 5 was located to the west of the existing building on the line of an envisaged service corridor. Trenches 6 and 7 were located to the south of Middle Road also within areas impacted by the proposed development. Trenches 8 and 9 were located to the north of Middle Road within the courtyard areas of the existing buildings and also within areas to be impacted by the development.
- 6.3 The dimensions of the evaluation trenches are listed below:
- Trench 1 measured 14.30m E-W x 2.00m N-S
 - Trench 2 measured 16.00m E-W x 2.80m N-S
 - Trench 3 measured 26.10m E-W x 2.20m N-S
 - Trench 4 measured 14.00m N-S x 2.20m to 3.20m E-W
 - Trench 5 measured 27.90m N-S x 2.00m E-W
 - Trench 6 measured 27.90m E-W x 1.90m N-S
 - Trench 7 measured 29.50m E-W x 2.00m N-S
 - Trench 8 measured 14.40m NE-SW x 1.90m NW-SE
 - Trench 9 measured 17.80m NE-SW x 1.90m NW-SE
- 6.4 The evaluation trenches, and mitigation area, were machine excavated using a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued through undifferentiated deposits in spits of no greater than 200mm until the first significant archaeological horizon, or natural horizon, was attained.
- 6.5 Following fill clearance, all faces of the excavation areas that required examination were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological deposits was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section.

- 6.6 Recording was undertaken using the single context recording system as specified in the Museum of London Site Manual. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and full or representative sections at a scale of 1:10. Contexts were numbered sequentially and recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets.
- 6.7 The locations of the trenches and their baselines were surveyed by total station theodolite. A photographic record was also kept. Finds were collected according to standard retrieval methods.
- 6.8 Ordnance Datum Benchmarks, located within the site, were utilised during the evaluation.
- 6.9 The site was given the code RYM08.

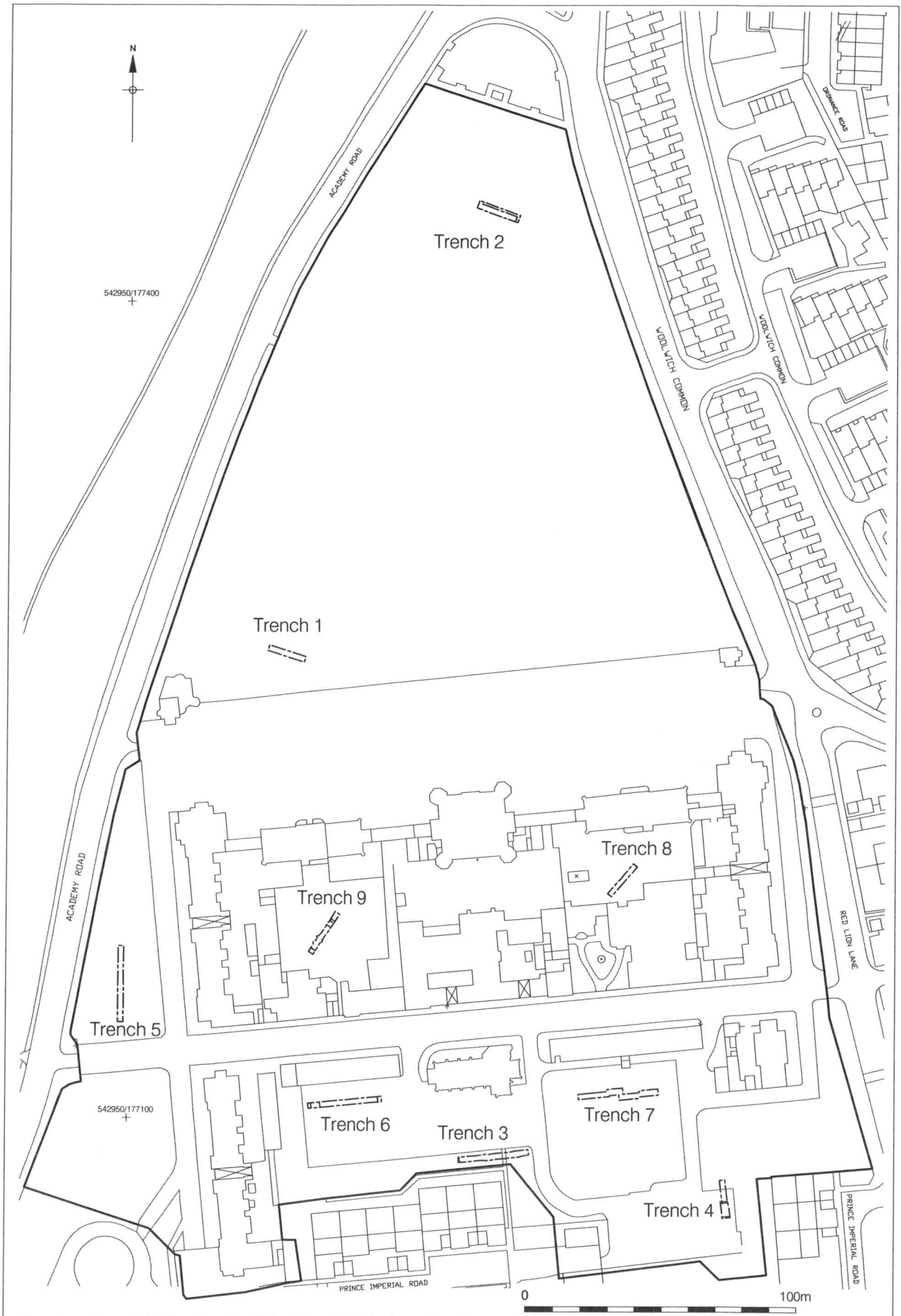


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,000 at A4

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The following description of the stratigraphy details the main characteristics of each context and its position in the phased stratigraphic matrix. Further information regarding the contexts, e.g. soil descriptions, dimensions, Ordnance Datum levels etc, can be found in Appendix 1.

7.2 Trench 1 (fig 3)

- 7.2.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the excavation of Trench 1 was a naturally deposited mid blue yellow, clay [1] encountered at 53.82m OD. Overlying this horizon was a 0.09m thick, naturally deposited, mid blue grey, clayey silt layer [5] encountered at 53.90m OD.
- 7.2.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a firm, mid yellow brown, gravelly clay dump layer [6], which contained fragments of red and yellow stock brick suggesting it had been deposited during the later part of the post-medieval period, e.g. c.19th century. The 1.07m thick layer was present throughout the trench and was encountered at 54.97m OD.
- 7.2.3 The trench and its vicinity had been horizontally stripped prior to the archaeological evaluation, however, the trench was located within a grassed area that once formed a parade ground associated with the academy. As such it can be supposed that the upper deposits within the trench had until recently comprised of 19th/20th century topsoil and turf. The topsoil and turf horizon within Trench 2 measured 0.15m in thickness and it is probably that a similar thickness would have been in existence in Trench 1 suggesting that the pre-existing ground level would have been c.55.10m OD.

7.3 Trench 2 (figs 4 and 12)

- 7.3.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the excavation of Trench 2 was a naturally deposited mid blue yellow, clay [2] encountered at 49.67m OD. Overlying this horizon was a 1.80m thick, naturally deposited, mid orange brown, silty clay [4] encountered at 51.42m OD and representative of a naturally formed brickearth horizon. The upper parts of the horizon had experienced a certain amount of bioturbation and as a consequence mechanical excavation was undertaken to confirm its mode of deposition.

7.3.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.20m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, gravelly clay dump layer [3] encountered at 51.82m OD. The layer contained fragments of red and yellow stock brick and pieces of slate suggesting it was deposited during the later part of the post-medieval period, e.g. c.19th century.

7.3.3 The remainder of the trench was comprised of a 0.10m thick topsoil and turf horizon encountered at 52.12m OD and representative of the existent ground level in the vicinity of Trench 2.

7.4 Trench 3 (fig 5)

7.4.1 The earliest deposit in Trench 3 was a naturally deposited firm, light yellow-mid grey brown, clay horizon [23]/[36]. The horizon was encountered between 61.28m OD and 61.78m OD.

7.4.2 Overlying the natural horizon in the central part of the trench was a soft, dark greyish black brown, silty clay dump/levelling layer [35], encountered at 61.81m OD. This was partially overlain by a soft, mid brownish black, silty clay dump/levelling layer [34], encountered at 61.77m OD. The two dump layers contained fragments of CBM and represent a phase of ground raising during the late 19th century.

7.4.3 Located at the eastern and western ends of the trench, and orientated north-south, were external load-bearing wall/foundations [8] and [30]/[31]. Within the internal space defined by the two aforementioned walls were partition walls [10], [14]/[15]/[18]/[22], [26], and [28]. The wall/foundations had been constructed from machine frogged brick and represented part of the external walls and internal partitions of the Royal Artillery Academy's School of Arms, built in the late 19th century. The masonry remains were encountered between 61.36m OD and 61.98m OD and historical maps indicate that the building was demolished in the early 20th century.

7.4.4 Located in the external area, adjacent to the west face of the western external wall, was a north-south orientated granite and bitumen gully/drain [32]. The drain was encountered at 61.86m OD.

7.4.5 Located approximately 4m to the west were a line of kerbstones, [39], abutted on the western edge by a north/north-west-south/south-east orientated granite gully/drain [41]. The gully/drain exhibited no apparent direction of drainage and was uniformly encountered at 62.01m OD. Both the kerbstones and the gully/drain were abutted by

a heavily indurated bitumen and gravel surface [40]/[42] encountered between 61.94m OD and 62.01m OD, indicative of external ground level during the late 19th century. A thin lense of soft, dark brown black, silt, [43], had accumulated above the surface, indicative of standing water, and an obsolete late 19th/20th century service trench [35], filled by [38], was also located in the external area.

7.4.6 Abutting the wall/foundations in the internal space, were concrete surfaces [9], [11], [13], [19], [20], [25], [27], [29] and [47], encountered between 61.39m OD and 61.46m OD. The internal surfaces were approximately 0.55m lower than the external surfaces suggesting that a small sub basement existed.

7.4.7 Sealing the late post-medieval archaeological horizon were a number of mixed demolition layers, [12], [17], [21] and [33], encountered at heights between 61.30m OD and 61.84m OD.

7.4.8 The remainder of the trench was comprised of 20th century hardcore and tarmac, the upper height of which was encountered at 62.34m OD, indicative of ground level in the vicinity of the trench at the time of evaluation.

7.5 Trench 4 (fig 6)

7.5.1 The earliest deposit recorded during the excavation of Trench 4 was a naturally deposited, firm, mid orange brown, silty clay [46]. The layer was encountered at a height of 66.11m OD and represents the naturally formed brickearth horizon.

7.5.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.07m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, clayey silt subsoil [45] encountered at 66.18m OD. The layer contained no evidence of cultural material within its composition and as such its date of deposition/formation is unknown.

7.5.3 The subsoil horizon was sealed by a 0.34m thick, firm, dark brown grey, clayey silt ploughsoil [44] encountered at 66.45m OD. The layer contained fragments of red stock brick suggesting it was formed during the later part of the post-medieval period, e.g. c.19th century.

7.5.4 The remainder of the trench was comprised of early 20th century concrete footings, construction cuts and associated backfill and a large irregular shaped feature possibly representative of a bomb crater at the southern end of the trench. The early 20th century features were sealed by topsoil and turf, encountered at 66.70m OD and representative of the ground surface in the vicinity of Trench 4.

7.6 Trench 5 (fig 7)

- 7.6.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 5 was a naturally deposited firm, mid yellow brown, silty clay [70]. The natural horizon was encountered throughout the trench between heights of 59.30m OD and 58.32m OD.
- 7.6.2 Truncating the natural horizon, and located throughout the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment, were nine bedding pits [50], [52], [54], [56], [61], [63], [65], [67] and [69]. The pits were generally round to sub-round in shape, with gradual sides and flat bases and varied in depth between 0.05m and 0.16m (for individual dimensions see Appendix 1).
- 7.6.3 The bedding pits were filled respectively by loose, mid yellow orange, sandy fills [49], [51], [53], [55], [60], [62], [64], [66] and [68]. Within the fills were fragments of charcoal and CBM flecks. The bedding pits appear to represent an alignment of garden features associated with the use of the Royal Military Academy.
- 7.6.4 The remainder of the trench was comprised of 0.30m of modern topsoil and turf deposits encountered between 59.60m OD and 58.60m OD, representative of ground level in the vicinity of the trench.

7.7 Trench 6 (fig 8)

- 7.7.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 6 was a naturally deposited firm, mid blue yellow, clay [48]. The natural horizon was encountered at a height of 60.05m OD.
- 7.7.2 The natural horizon was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of crushed brick, encountered at 60.23m OD, which itself was overlain by a 0.16m thick layer of clayey gravel, encountered at 60.36m OD. Both layers appeared to date to the 20th century.
- 7.7.3 The remainder of the trench was constituted by services, modern foundations and a 0.14m thick layer of brick rubble overlain by tarmac, encountered at 60.51m OD, representative of ground level in the vicinity of Trench 6.

7.8 Trench 7 (fig 9)

- 7.8.1 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 7 was a naturally deposited firm, mid yellow brown, clay horizon [59]. The natural horizon was encountered at 60.68m OD.

- 7.8.2 The natural horizon was truncated by a 0.75m deep cut feature [58] the edges of which were not contained within the trench. It would appear that the cut feature represents a ground consolidation cut undertaken during construction in the 19th – 20th century, possibly in association with the Royal Military Academy's Billiard Room.
- 7.8.3 The ground consolidation cut was infilled by a loose, mid yellow orange, sand fill [57] within which were occasional fragments of stock brick.
- 7.8.4 The remainder of the trench was comprised of modern foundations and topsoil and turf deposits, encountered at 61.25m OD, representative of ground level in the vicinity of the trench.

7.9 Trench 8 (fig 10)

- 7.9.1 The earliest deposit revealed during the excavation of Trench 8 was a naturally deposited firm, light, reddish brown, silty clay [86]. The recorded surface height was between 57.59m and 56.86m OD, sloping towards the east.
- 7.9.2 An east-west orientated drain [77], contained within construction cut [75], truncated the natural horizon. The drain consisted of two east-west aligned parallel rows of bricks, approximately 0.13m apart. The structure measured 0.24m north-south by 0.21m in depth and was encountered at 57.38m OD. The drain was infilled by a soft, light brownish orange, clay fill [85] and a soft, light brownish orange, sandy clay fill [76].
- 7.9.3 A possible pit, [82], was partly revealed within the trench and contained a friable, mid yellow brown, sandy clay fill, [74]. The feature measured 4.33m in width by 0.22m and was encountered at 57.49m OD. The feature contained no cultural material within its fill but is nonetheless considered to be contemporary with the construction and use of the Royal Military Academy during the 19th century.
- 7.9.4 The earlier features were partially sealed by a loose, greyish-yellowish brown, sandy clay levelling layer [73]. The 0.13m thick layer contained fragments of CBM within its composition and was encountered between 57.50m and 57.38m OD.
- 7.9.5 Three pits, [78], [80] and [83], filled respectively by [81], [79] and [84], were located in the central, north and south-west of the trench. The pits were encountered between 57.49m OD and 57.59m OD and pottery dating to the late 18th-late 19th century was retrieved from the pit fills.

7.9.6 A 0.16m thick, friable, dark blackish grey, sandy silt dump/levelling layer [72] was present throughout the trench at heights between 57.68m OD and 57.54m OD. This was overlain by a 0.41m thick, friable, dark blackish grey, sandy silt topsoil layer [71], encountered between 58.13m OD and 57.95m OD. The latter of the two horizons represents ground level in the vicinity of the trench at the time of evaluation. The remainder of the trench was comprised of modern service trenches.

7.10 Trench 9 (fig 11)

7.10.1 The earliest deposit revealed during the excavation of Trench 9 was a naturally deposited, soft, light brownish orange, clay [92] encountered between 58.10m and 57.54m OD, sloping north-east.

7.10.2 Overlying the natural horizon was a 0.10m thick, loose, light whitish yellow, sandy silt dump/levelling layer [93]/[96], encountered between 57.60m to 58.11m OD. A fragment of clay pipe was recovered from the deposit.

7.10.3 Located in the central part of the trench was a north-south orientated brick drain [112], within construction cut [113], which measured 0.21m in width by 0.16m in depth and was encountered at 57.60m OD. The construction cut had been backfilled by a soft, mid brown-dark grey, sandy clay [121] whilst the drain had been infilled by a soft, mid orange brown, sandy clay primary fill [122] and a soft, dark grey, clay silt secondary fill [111].

7.10.4 Traversing the trench was an east-west aligned brick drain, [102]/[107], contained within construction cut [104]/[109] and lain above a firm, light greyish brown, sandy clay foundation fill [105]/[108]. The drain measured 0.20m in width by 0.11m in depth and was encountered at 57.91m OD. The construction cut had been backfilled by a firm, mid brown, silty sand [103]/[123] whilst the drain was infilled by a loose, mid brown, sandy clay fill [101]/[106].

7.10.5 In the south-west of the trench a square brick structure [88], within construction cut [89] and possibly representative of a sump or silt trap associated with the drains discussed above, was located. The sump/silt trap measured 0.46 in diameter, with an internal space of 0.26m, by 0.15m in depth and was encountered at 57.64m OD. The interior was infilled by a loose mid brown silty clay fill [87].

7.10.6 Located in the north, north-east and south-west of the trench were pits [100], [115] and [119] encountered at heights between 57.90m OD and 57.60m OD. The pits varied between 0.64m and 0.22m in depth and contained fills [118]/[120], [114], [99],

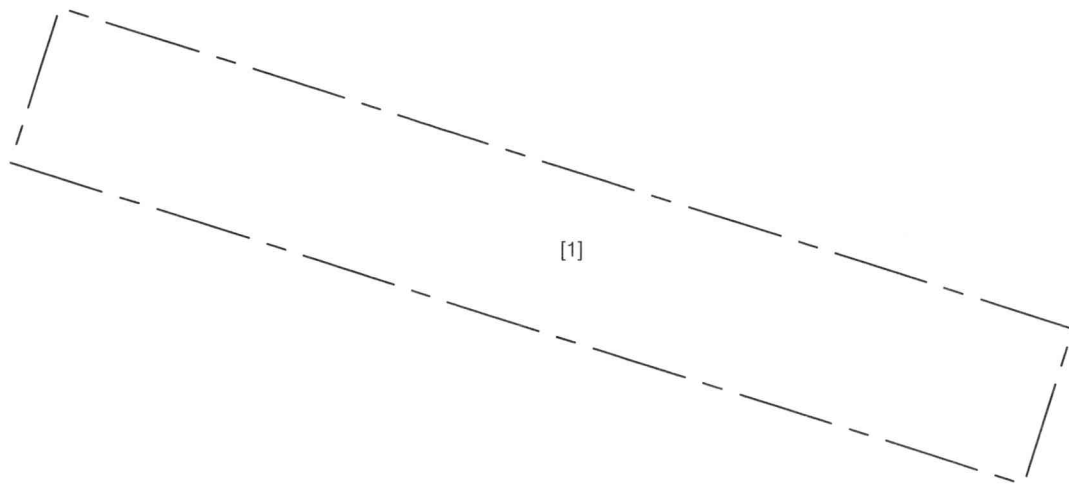
respectively. In general, the pit fills, one of which contained pottery dating to the 19th century, were comprised of demolition material and most probably represent the disposal of excess material in defunct extraction pits.

7.10.7 Overlying the earlier deposits was a 0.14m thick, friable, dark blackish grey, sandy clay levelling layer [91], encountered throughout the trench at heights between 58.20m OD and 57.72m OD.

7.10.8 The dump horizon was truncated by pits [95] and [98], encountered between 58.22m OD and 57.73m OD. Contained within the pits were friable, dark brownish grey, sandy clay fills [94] and [97] respectively, the latter of which contained a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem.

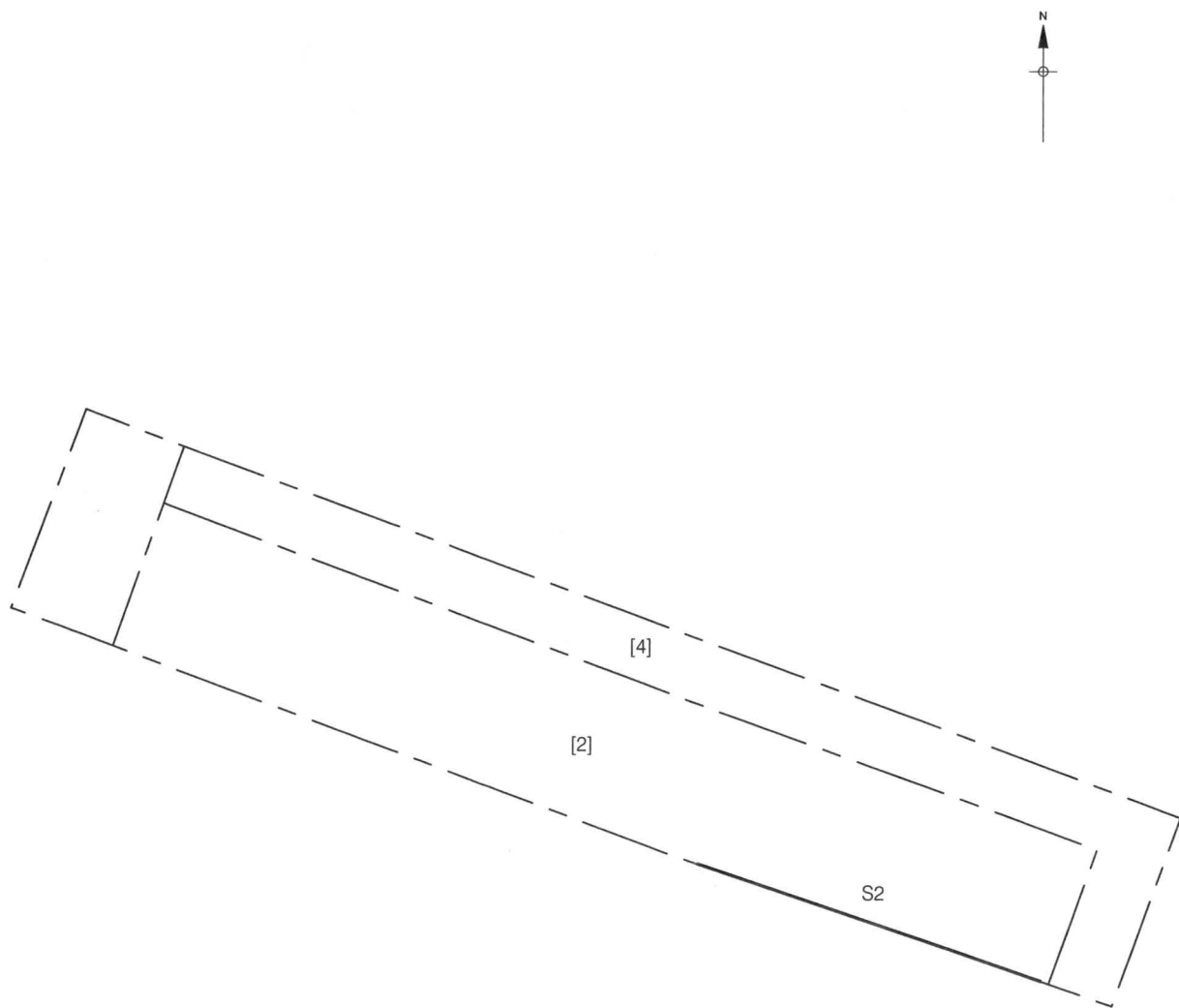
7.10.9 A 0.18m deep, possible bedding trench [117], encountered at 57.70m OD, also truncated the dump layer. The bedding trench contained a friable dark greyish brown sandy clay fill [116] from which fragments of flowerpot and stoneware of 19th century date were retrieved.

7.10.10 The remainder of the trench was comprised of a construction cut [110], containing a concrete pad and brick edging, and a topsoil horizon [90]. The latter was encountered between 58.50m OD and 57.93m OD and represents ground level in the vicinity of the trench at the time of evaluation.



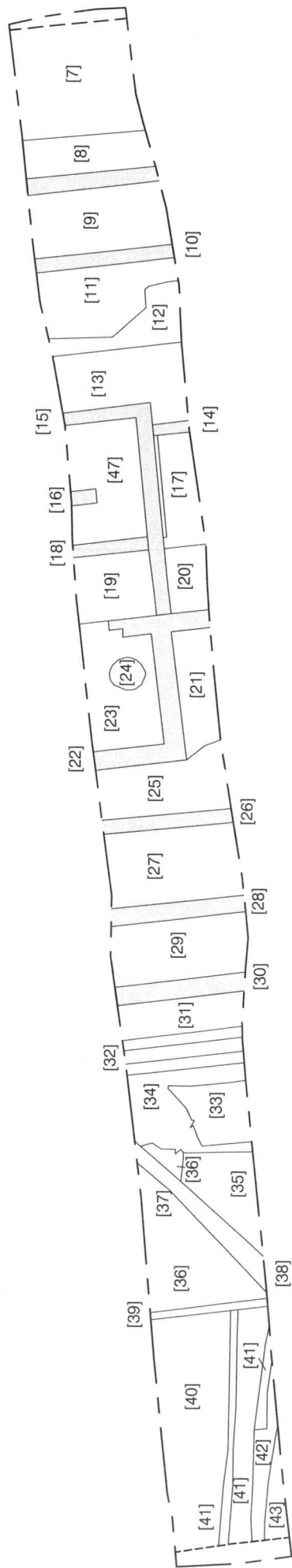
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Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:100 at A4



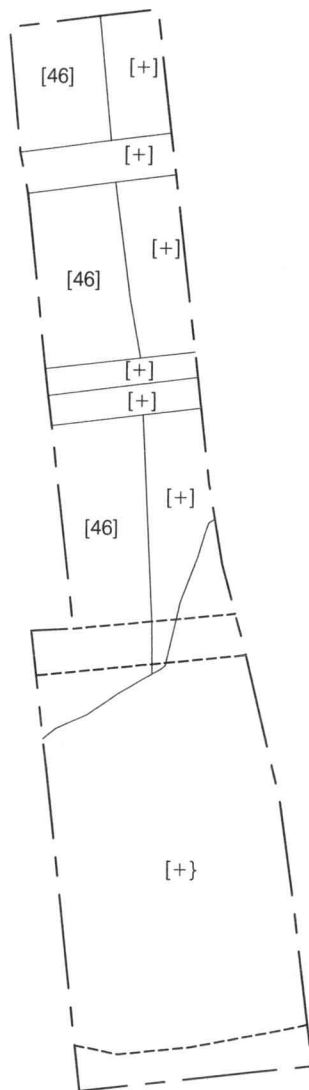
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Figure 4
Plan of Trench 2
1:100 at A4



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Figure 5
Plan of Trench 3
1:100 at A4



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Figure 6
Plan of Trench 4
1:100 at A4

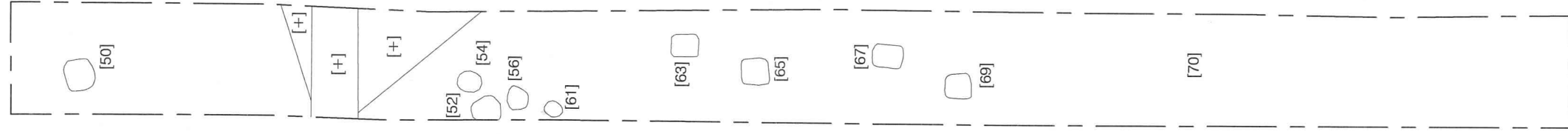
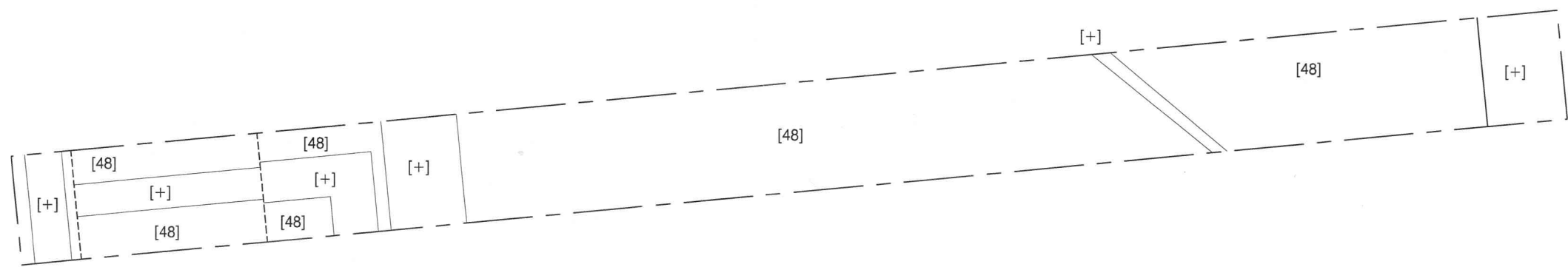
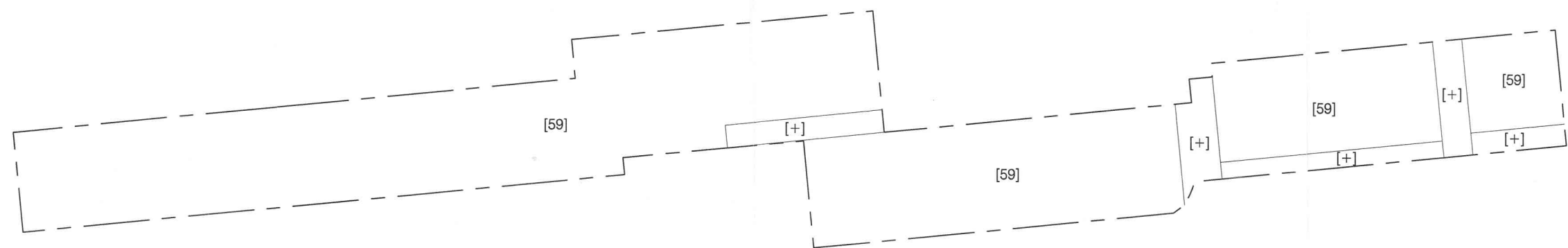


Figure 7
Plan of Trench 5
1:100 at A3



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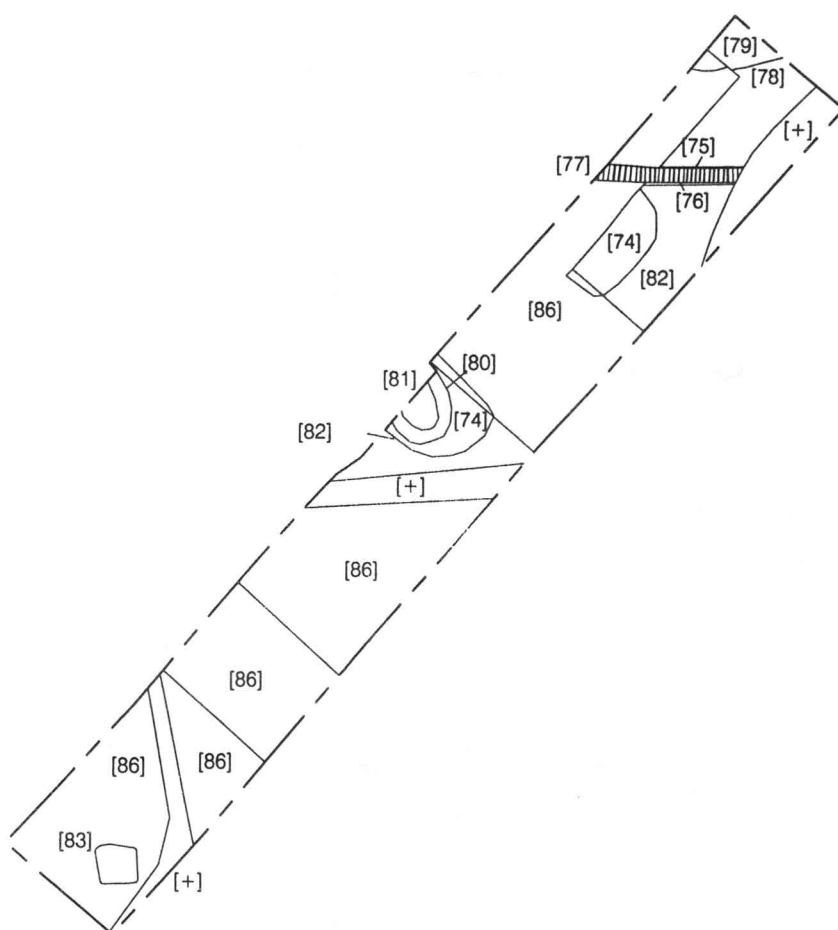
Figure 8
Plan of Trench 6
1:100 at A3



0 5m

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Figure 9
Plan of Trench 7
1:100 at A3



0 5m

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2008

Figure 10
Plan of Trench 8
1:100 at A4

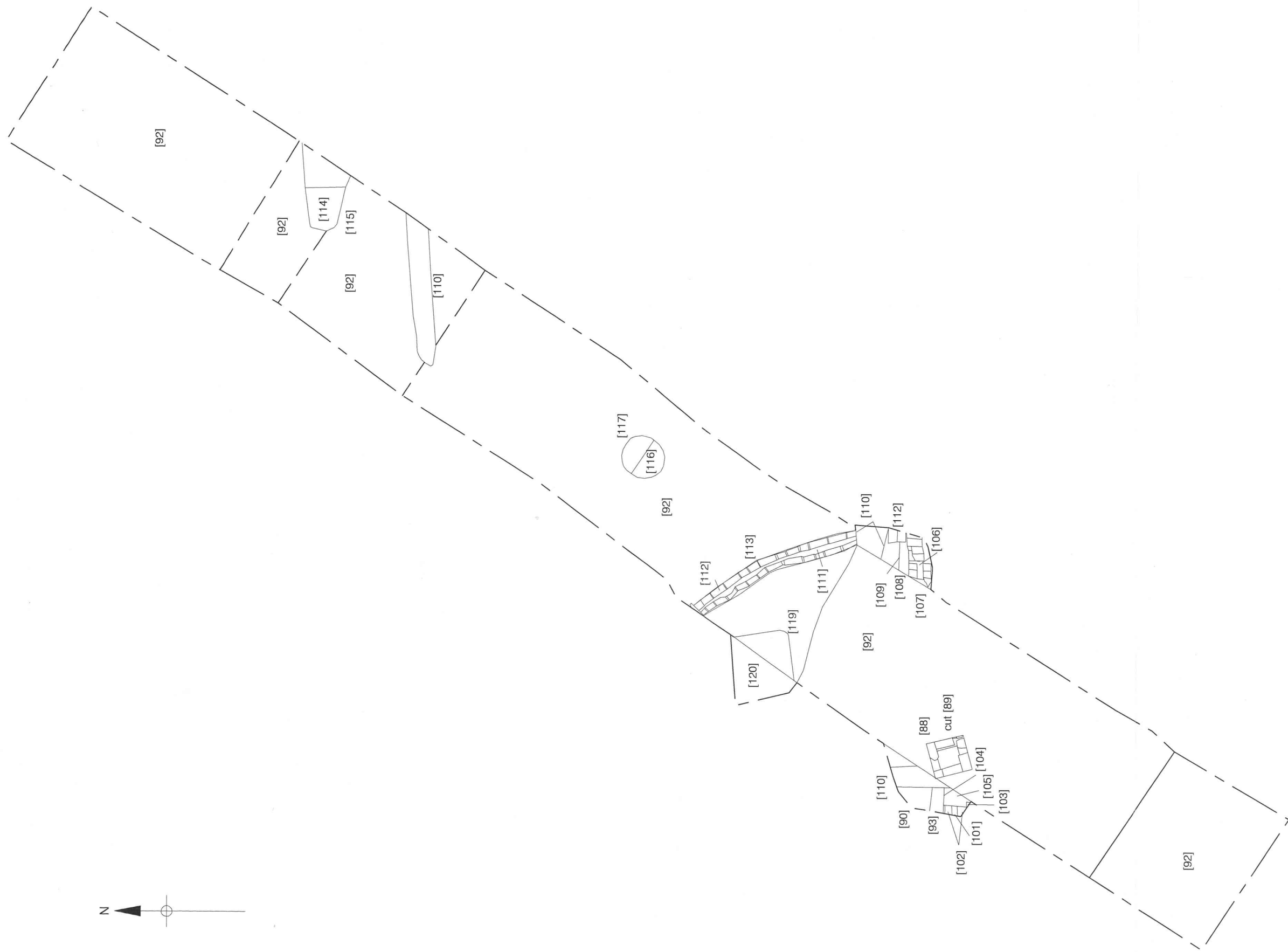
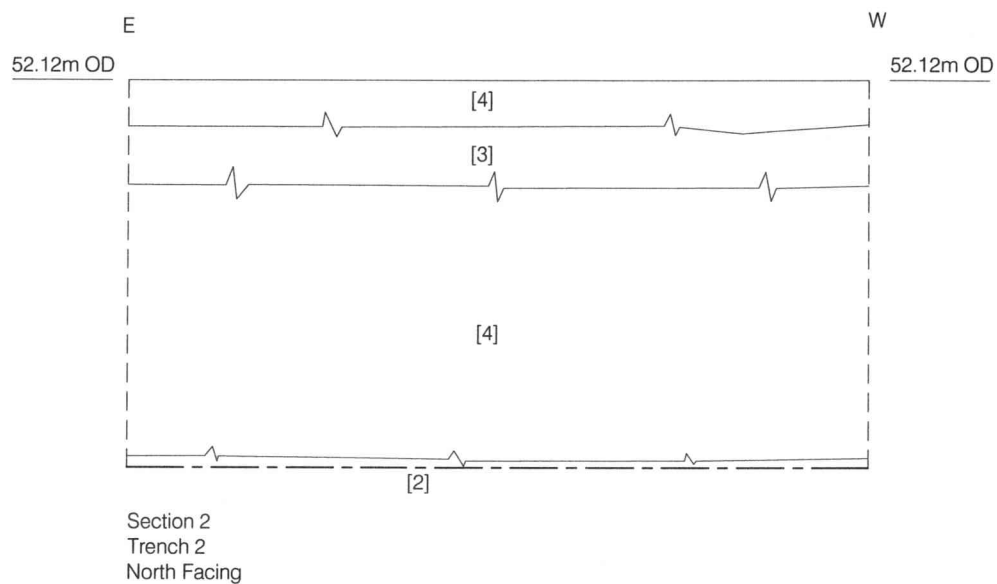


Figure 11
Plan of Trench 9
1:50 at A3



0 2m

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Figure 12
Sample Section 2
1:50 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The earliest deposit recorded on site was naturally deposited clay, overlain by a naturally derived Brickearth, likely to be of late glacial or immediate postglacial origin.
- 8.2 The archaeological deposits encountered and recorded during the course of the evaluation dated to the 19th and 20th century, contemporary with the construction and use of the Royal Military Academy. The archaeological sequences in the evaluation trenches are summarised below:

Trench 1

- Natural deposits
- Modern topsoil

Trench 2

- Natural deposits
- Modern topsoil

Trench 3

- Natural deposits
- 19th century dumps
- Structural remains of late 19th century 'School of Arms'
- Early 20th century demolition material
- Modern levelling and tarmac

Trench 4

- Natural deposits
- Undated subsoil
- 19th/20th century ploughsoil
- Modern topsoil

Trench 5

- Natural deposits
- 19th-20th century garden features
- Modern topsoil

Trench 6

- Natural deposits
- Modern levelling and tarmac

Trench 7

- Natural deposits
- Late 19th-20th century ground consolidation possibly associated with 'Billiard Room'
- Modern topsoil

Trench 8

- Natural deposits
- 19th century drains
- Late 19th/20th century dumps
- Early 20th century pits
- Modern topsoil

Trench 9

- Natural deposits
- 19th century dumps
- 19th century drains
- Late 19th century quarries
- Late 19th/20th century dumps
- Early 20th century pits/horticulture
- Modern topsoil

- 8.3 The absence of the undated subsoil horizon in all areas of investigation apart from Trench 4 suggests that the site has been subject to widescale horizontal truncation, probably during the construction of the Royal Military Academy in the 19th century. Whilst the absence of archaeological features found during the investigations may be a consequence of this extensive truncation, the lack of residual material dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and earlier post-medieval periods strongly suggests that the site was not utilised prior to the early 19th century.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Durkin Estates Limited for funding the archaeological work and Mark Stevenson (GLAAS) for monitoring the project.
- 9.2 The authors would like to thank Jim Heathcote and Paul McGarrity for their assistance during the evaluation and Jennifer Simonson for the surveying. The authors would also like to thank Josephine Brown for the illustrations and Lisa Lonsdale for the logistics. Furthermore, the authors would like to thank Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

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APPENDIX 1: SITE REGISTER

Context no	Sect/elev no	Trench	Type	Description	Phase	Interpretation	N-s	E-w	Depth	High
1	S.1	Trench 1	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid blue yellow, clay	2.00	14.45	n/a	53.82
2	S.2	Trench 2	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid blue yellow, clay	2.00	15.50	n/a	49.67
3	S.2	Trench 2	Layer	Dump/levelling layer	3	Firm, mid yellow brown, gravel clay	n/a	2.50	0.20	51.82
4	S.2	Trench 2	Layer	Natural brickearth?	1	Firm, mid orange yellow brown, silt clay	n/a	2.50	1.80	51.42
5	S.1	Trench 1	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid blue grey brown, clay silt	n/a	2.50	0.10	53.90
6	S.1	Trench 1	Layer	Dump/levelling layer	3	Firm, mid yellow brown, gravel clay, cannonball	n/a	2.50	1.07	54.97
7	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid grey brown, clay	2.00	2.00	n/a	61.67
8	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick, English garden/English garden wall	2.00	0.82	n/a	61.98
9	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	2.00	1.10	n/a	61.44
10	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	e/w foundation	3	Frogged brick	2.00	0.22	n/a	61.46
11	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	2.00	1.10	n/a	61.44
12	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Demolition debris	3	Loose, light red brown, crushed CBM	2.00	1.00	n/a	61.38
13	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	2.00	1.32	n/a	61.46
14	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Step	3	Slate step	0.60	0.15	n/a	61.45
15	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick - internal	1.50	3.50	n/a	61.51
16	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s & e/w foundation	3	Frogged brick	0.40	0.20	n/a	61.47
17	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Demolition debris	3	Loose, light red brown, crushed CBM	0.60	1.87	n/a	61.36
18	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick	1.30	0.22	n/a	61.44
19	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	1.30	1.12	n/a	61.45
20	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	0.60	1.16	n/a	61.39
21	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Demolition debris	3	Loose, light red brown, crushed CBM	0.60	2.16	n/a	61.30
22	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s & e/w foundation	3	Frogged brick	2.00	2.40	n/a	61.36
23	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid grey brown, clay	1.20	2.16	n/a	61.28
24	n/a	Trench 3	Fill	Fill of [124]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, sub ang cobbles clay	0.60	0.45	n/a	61.26
25	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	2.00	1.12	n/a	61.45
26	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick	2.00	2.20	n/a	61.47

Context no	Sect/elev no	Trench	Type	Description	Phase	Interpretation	N-s	E-w	Depth	High
27	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	2.00	1.22	n/a	61.44
28	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick - internal	2.00	0.30	n/a	61.46
29	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	2.00	1.00	n/a	61.43
30	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick - external	2.00	0.30	n/a	61.86
31	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s foundation	3	Frogged brick - external	2.00	0.60	n/a	61.86
32	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s drain	3	Bitumen granite	2.00	0.60	n/a	61.86
33	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Demolition debris	3	Loose, dark red brown, silt clay	1.30	1.00	n/a	61.84
34	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Dump/levelling layer?	3	Soft, mid brown black, silt clay	2.00	1.50	n/a	61.77
35	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Dump/levelling layer?	3	Soft, dark grey black brown, silt clay	1.20	1.80	n/a	61.81
36	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, light yellow brown, clay	2.00	2.60	n/a	61.78
37	n/a	Trench 3	Cut	Construction cut for [38]	3	Linear, sides and base NP - for modern services	3.00	0.25	n/a	61.79
38	n/a	Trench 3	Fill	Fill of [37]	3	Soft, dark brown black, silt	3.00	0.25	n/a	61.79
39	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	n/s kerb stones	3	Granite	2.00	0.16	0.25	62.01
40	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Bitumen surface	3	Bitumen and gravel	1.30	3.94	n/a	61.94
41	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	nww/see drain	3	Granite	0.64	3.92	n/a	62.01
42	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Bitumen surface	3	Bitumen and gravel	2.00	0.40	n/a	62.01
43	n/a	Trench 3	Layer	Accumulated layer	3	Soft, dark brown black, silt	0.40	2.00	n/a	62.04
44	S.3	Trench 4	Layer	Ploughsoil	3	Firm, dark brown grey, clay silt	1.80	n/a	0.34	66.45
45	S.3	Trench 4	Layer	Subsoil	2	Firm, mid yellow brown, clay silt	1.80	n/a	0.07	66.18
46	S.3	Trench 4	Layer	Natural brickearth	3	Firm, mid orange brown, silt clay	1.80	n/a	0.21	66.11
47	n/a	Trench 3	Masonry	Concrete surface	3	Concrete - high grade	1.20	2.00	n/a	61.46
48	S.4	Trench 6	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid blue yellow, clay	2.00	25.50	n/a	60.05
49	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [50]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.52	0.60	0.12	58.32
50	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Square, steep sides, flat base	0.52	0.60	0.12	58.32
51	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [52]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.40	0.33	0.09	58.47
52	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Oval, gradual sides, flat base	0.40	0.33	0.09	58.47
53	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [54]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.41	0.44	0.16	58.63
54	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Round, steep sides, flat base	0.41	0.44	0.16	58.63
55	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [56]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.40	0.42	0.08	58.59

Context no	Sect/elev no	Trench	Type	Description	Phase	Interpretation	N-s	E-w	Depth	High
56	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Round, gradual sides, irregular base	0.40	0.42	0.08	58.59
57	S.5	Trench 7	Fill	Fill of [58]	3	Loose, mid yellow orange, sand	20.00	2.00	0.75	61.05
58	S.5	Trench 7	Cut	Ground consolidation	3	Shape unknown, sides NP, flat base	20.00	2.00	0.75	61.05
59	S.5	Trench 7	Layer	Natural clay	1	Firm, mid yellow brown, clay	20.00	2.00	n/a	60.68
60	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [61]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.34	0.28	0.06	58.41
61	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Circular, irregular sides, sloping base	0.34	0.28	0.06	58.41
62	n/a	Trench 6	Fill	Fill of [63]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.48	0.38	0.16	58.69
63	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Rectangular, steep sides, flat base	0.48	0.38	0.16	58.69
64	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [65]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.50	0.48	0.05	58.69
65	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Sub square, steep sides, flat base	0.50	0.48	0.05	58.69
66	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [67]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.46	0.42	0.09	58.80
67	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Square, gradual sides, flat base	0.46	0.42	0.09	58.80
68	n/a	Trench 5	Fill	Fill of [69]	3	Firm, mid grey brown, silt clay	0.48	0.44	0.09	58.79
69	n/a	Trench 5	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Square, steep sides, flat base	0.48	0.44	n/a	58.79
70	n/a	Trench 5	Layer	Natural brickearth	3	Firm, yellow brown, silty clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	59.3
71	S.6&7	Trench 8	Layer	Redeposited topsoil	3	Friable, dark grey black, sandy silt	14.4	1.94	0.41	58.13
72	S.6&7	Trench 8	Layer	Redeposited topsoil	3	Friable, dark black grey, sandy silt	14.4	1.94	0.16	57.68
73	S.6	Trench 8	Layer	Levelling deposit	3	Loose, mid grey & mid yellow brown, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.13	57.5
74	S.6	Trench 8	Layer	Fill of [82]	3	Friable, mid yellow brown, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.22	57.49
75	S.6	Trench 8	Cut	Construction cut for [77]	3	Linear, e-w aligned, vertical sides, flat base	0.42	1.9	0.28	57.38
76	S.6	Trench 8	Fill	Fill of [75]	3	Soft, light brownish orange, sandy clay	0.42	1.9	0.28	57.4
77	S.6	Trench 8	Masonry	Drain	3	Brick land drain	0.24	1.9	0.21	57.3
78	S.6	Trench 8	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Shape unknown, sloping sides, base not seen	0.25	1.24	0.25	57.49
79	S.6	Trench 8	Fill	Fill of [78]	3	Friable, dark grey black, sandy clay	0.7	1.24	0.25	57.49
80	S.6	Trench 8	Cut	Pit?	3	Shape incomplete, steep sides, base not seen	1.08	0.82	0.44	57.49
81	S.6	Trench 8	Fill	Fill of [80]	3	Friable, dark grey black, sandy clay	1.08	0.82	0.44	57.49
82	S.6	Trench 8	Cut	Area of disturbance	3	Shape incomplete, irregular sides, irregular base	1.8	1.34	0.22	57.49
83	n/a	Trench 8	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Square, steep sides, irregular base	0.52	0.52	0.1	57.59
84	n/a	Trench 8	Fill	Fill of [83]	3	Firm, dark brown grey, silty clay	0.52	0.52	0.1	57.59
85	S.6	Trench 8	Fill	Fill within [77]	3	Soft, light brownish orange, clay	0.1	0.37	0.1	57.19
86	S.6	Trench 8	Layer	Natural brickearth	3	Firm, light reddish brown, silty clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	57.59

Context no	Sect/elev no	Trench	Type	Description	Phase	Interpretation	N-s	E-w	Depth	High
87	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [88]	3	Loose, mid brown, silty clay	0.25	0.28	0.1	57.65
88	n/a	Trench 9	Masonry	Silt trap	3	Brick silt trap	0.46	0.46	0.15	57.65
89	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Construction cut	3	Square, vertical sides, flat base	0.46	0.46	0.15	57.64
90	S.8 & 10	Trench 9	Layer	Redeposited topsoil	3	Friable, dark grey black, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.3	58.5
91	S.8, 9 & 10	Trench 9	Layer	Redeposited topsoil	3	Friable, dark black grey, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.14	58.2
92	S. 8, 9 & 10	Trench 9	Layer	Natural clay	1	Soft, light brownish orange, clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	58.1
93	S.10	Trench 9	Layer	Levelling deposit	3	Loose, mixed yellow white & mid brown, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.2	58.11
94	S.10	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [95]	3	Friable, dark brown grey, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.46	58.22
95	S.10	Trench 9	Cut	Pit?	3	Shape incomplete, steep sides, flat base	n/a	n/a	0.46	58.22
96	S.8	Trench 9	Layer	Levelling deposit	3	Loose, light white yellow, mixed sandy clay & mortar	n/a	n/a	0.1	57.6
97	S.8	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [98]	3	Friable, dark brown grey, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.34	57.73
98	S.8	Trench 9	Cut	Pit?	3	Shape incomplete, steep sides, flat base	n/a	n/a	0.34	57.73
99	S.8	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [100]	3	Friable, dark brown grey, sandy clay	n/a	n/a	0.22	57.61
100	S.8	Trench 9	Cut	Pit?	3	Shape incomplete, steep sides, flat base	n/a	n/a	0.22	57.6
101	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill within [102]	3	Loose, mid brown, silty clay	0.08	0.2	0.07	57.91
102	n/a	Trench 9	Masonry	Drain	3	Brick drain	0.22	0.22	0.07	57.91
103	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [104]	3	Firm, mid brown, silty sand	0.04	0.2	0.11	57.91
104	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Construction cut	3	Linear, vertical sides, flat base	0.34	0.36	0.28	57.91
105	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [104]	3	Firm, mid brown, sandy silt	0.28	0.1	0.09	57.85
106	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill within [107]	3	Friable, mid yellow brown, sandy silt	0.07	0.74	0.13	57.83
107	n/a	Trench 9	Masonry	Drain	3	Brick drain	0.26	0.58	0.18	57.89
108	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [109]	3	Soft, mid brown grey, sandy clay	0.4	0.58	0.06	57.71
109	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Construction cut	3	Linear, vertical sides, concave base	0.4	0.58	0.23	57.89
110	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Modern construction cut	3	Rectangular, vertical sides, irregular base	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
111	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill within [112]	3	Soft, dark grey, clayey silt	2.14	0.06	0.03	57.76
112	n/a	Trench 9	Masonry	Drain	3	Brick drain	2.8	0.21	0.16	57.86
113	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Construction cut	3	Curvilinear, vertical sides, flat base	2.8	0.35	0.31	57.86
114	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [115]	3	Loose, dark grey brown, sandy silt	0.78	1.04	0.25	57.68
115	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Pit?	3	Shape incomplete, vertical sides. Flat base	0.78	1.04	0.34	57.77
116	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [117]	3	Friable, dark grey black, sandy clay	0.52	0.5	0.18	57.7
117	n/a	Trench 9	Cut	Horticultural feature	3	Circular, vertical sides, flat base	0.52	0.5	0.18	57.7
118	S.9	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [119]	3	Loose, mixed dark grey & white, CBM, mortar & sandy clay	0.74	0.8	0.17	57.62
119	S.9	Trench 9	Cut	Pit?	3	Shape incomplete, steep sides, concave base	0.74	0.8	0.64	57.9

Context no	Sect/elev no	Trench	Type	Description	Phase	Interpretation	N-s	E-w	Depth	High
120	S.9	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [119]	3	Friable, mixed dark grey & light brown yellow	0.74	0.8	0.43	57.93
121	S.9	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [113]	3	Soft, mixed mid brown & dark grey, clay & sandy clay	2.8	0.34	0.15	57.92
122	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill within [112]	3	Soft, mid orange brown, sandy clay	2.8	0.05	0.07	57.73
123	n/a	Trench 9	Fill	Fill of [109]	3	Soft, mixed mid brown grey & light brown, clay & sandy clay	0.4	0.58	0.18	57.18
124	n/a	Trench 3	Cut	Possible sinkhole	3	Circular, sides & base not seen	0.6	0.45	n/a	61.26

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-45127

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich
Short description of the project	The evaluation found evidence of natural clay and brickearth layers in all areas of investigation, however, whilst an undated subsoil horizon was recorded in on evaluation trench the horizon did not exist elsewhere suggesting the majority of the site has been subject to widescale horizontal truncation during the construction of the Royal Military Academy in the 19th century. Whilst the absence of pre-19th century archaeological features may be a consequence of this extensive truncation, the lack of residual material dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and earlier post-medieval periods strongly suggests that the site was not utilised prior to the early 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2008 End: 13-06-2008
Any associated project reference codes	RYM08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	MASONRY Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Part Excavation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON GREENWICH WOOLWICH Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich
Study area	1111111.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 430 771 51.4742570327 0.05927907061150 51 28 27 N 000 03 33 E Point
Height OD	Min: 49.67m Max: 61.67m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project originator	brief Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project originator	design Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	John Payne/Joanna Taylor
Type of sponsor/funding body	of Durkin Estates Limited

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
------------------	---

Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London Borough of Greenwich
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Taylor, J
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London

