

**An Archaeological Evaluation at St Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow,
London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

Site Code: DVA 08

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 334 792

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at St Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow, in advance of a new housing development.
- 1.2 It was proposed that eight trenches would be excavated outside the footprint of the St Andrew's Hospital building. Seven out of these eight trenches were successfully excavated and recorded. The trenches located towards the north eastern corner of the site revealed the natural Taplow Terrace gravels of the River Thames, whereas those located towards the south and west of the site exposed ground that had been heavily disturbed by construction activity undertaken in the 19th century for the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum.
- 1.3 Three of the trenches (Trenches 3, 6 and 8) contained small shallow circular features cut into the natural gravel that yielded no cultural dating material and were interpreted as being natural in origin. However one trench contained the corner of what is interpreted as a medieval land boundary ditch, with pottery dating to c. 1200 – 1350 AD. The remainder of the features and deposits encountered related to the construction of the 19th century asylum buildings. Ceramic and cast iron service pipes, a basement wall, a brick culvert and a brick support foundation for one of the suspended walkways were all exposed and recorded.
- 1.4 The evaluation revealed that the land within the site of the old hospital building has, for the most part, been heavily truncated by buildings and services associated with the former St. Andrew's Hospital complex. Evidence for medieval activity was observed in the far north eastern corner of the site in Trench 3, however given the significant disturbance recorded across the majority of the site, and the absence of further archaeological evidence, it is unlikely that any further archaeological deposits or features survive in any other area of the site.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at St Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow, in advance of the new housing development. The National Grid Reference of the site is TQ 3340 7920.
- 2.2 The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting following an archaeological desk based assessment (Darton 2007) that concluded the site had some potential for the survival of archaeological features and horizons. The field investigation was conducted between 11th –18th September and was supervised by Iain Bright and project managed by Tim Bradley for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The archaeological consultant for the project is Lorraine Darton, CgMs Consulting. All work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines.
- 2.3 The site is centered at TQ 3340 7920 within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The site is a rectangular area of land measuring c. 2.5 hectares in extent. The site is bounded to the north by a railway viaduct and Bromley-by-Bow station, to the east by a road bridge (A102) crossing the railway viaduct, to the south east by Twelve Trees Crescent, to the south by Devas Street and to the west by Brickfield (Fig.1).
- 2.4 Seven of the eight proposed trenches were excavated due to one trench having to be abandoned because of severe truncation by 19th century services. The remaining trial trenches were excavated to the following dimensions as detailed in the Specification document (Darton 2008):
- Trench 2 15m x 1.8m
- Trench 3 10m x 1.8m
- Trench 4 10m x 1.8m
- Trench 5 15m x 1.8m
- Trench 6 10m x 1.8m
- Trench 7 15m x 1.8m
- Trench 8 15m x 1.8m
- 2.5 The proposed locations for Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6 were deemed unsuitable upon arrival to the site for logistical reasons and such repositioning was agreed following discussions between the project manager and the site foreman. All trenches were located outside the footprint of the old hospital buildings (Fig. 2).
- 2.6 The site records will be archived at the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre under the site code DVA 08.



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:10,000

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

- 3.1.1 The geology of the site is known to consist of London Clay, forming the London Basin overlain by the Taplow Terrace Gravels of the River Thames (Darton 2007).

3.2 Topography

- 3.2.1 The study site is situated close to the edge of a river terrace above the western side of the valley of the River Lea.
- 3.2.2 The topography of the study site is fairly level across the gravel terrace. Modern ground level across the site varies between 8.00 – 9.00m OD.
- 3.2.3 The River Lea flows c. 250m east of the study site southwards to its confluence with the River Thames c. 2km to the south east.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has previously been reported in the archaeological desk-based assessment (Darton 2007). A summary of these findings was noted in the Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (Darton 2008). The most relevant aspects of this work are included here.

4.2 Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 The topographic position of the study site on the gravel terrace close the edge of the floodplain of the River Lea, suggests it to be well sited for prehistoric activities associated with the exploitation of the resources along the River Lea. Worked flint tools dating from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic periods have been found in the area along with a Bronze Age metalwork hoard (Darton 2007).

4.3 Roman

- 4.3.1 Few finds of Roman material have been made in the vicinity of the study site. Indeed only a single cache of Trajanic coins has been recovered c. 500m north east of the study site (ibid).

4.4 Saxon/Early Medieval

- 4.4.1 A manor of Bromley is recorded in 1096 AD but this appears to be a post Conquest creation. The main focus of settlement in this period is likely to have been c. 600m to the north east of the study site around the crossing over the River Lea at Bow Bridge, which was certainly in existence by AD 1110.
- 4.4.2 Local sources suggests a Saxon and early Medieval village centered around Bromley High Street known as 'Brambelage'; these are however of doubtful accuracy.
- 4.4.3 During this period the study site probably comprised agricultural land used as pasture (ibid).

4.5 Late Medieval

- 4.5.1 During this period the study site almost certainly lay within lands belonging to the priory of St Leonard, Stratford at Bow. This small religious house of Benedictine nuns is first recorded in 1122AD.
- 4.5.2 A water mill is recorded at the River Lea in 1551 at 'Foure Milstrett', c. 100m east of the study site, this may equate with a mill recorded as belonging to the Priory of Holy Trinity Aldgate in 1227. The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record places this mill within the study site, however there is no documentary or cartographic evidence to show the precise location of this mill.

4.6 Post Medieval

- 4.6.1 In 1747 the study site lay in agricultural land on the west side of 'Four Mill Street' as is shown in John Rocque's map of that year. The nearest residences to the study site at this time were houses on Four Mill Street to the north and south of the study site.
- 4.6.2 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 shows the northern half of the study site as undeveloped land, with terraced houses with backyards built along Charles Street, Nelson Street and Park Street at the southern boundary of the site.

- 4.6.3 The new Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum was erected in 1869-71 at Devon's Road in Bow, on a narrow 4.5 acre site immediately to the south of the Stepney workhouse. The Asylum opened its doors on August 17th, 1871, to serve "the sick, bedridden and infirm". The buildings, designed by A & C Harston, followed the example of the recently erected St Thomas's Hospital and were based on the pavilion system with separate blocks connected by corridors and bridges. A central administrative block contained offices, nurses' rooms, the boardroom and chapel, with kitchens and laundry to the rear. At each side were placed two three-storey ward blocks, the inner ones being double-width wards with a central corridor.
- 4.6.4 In 1920, the site was renamed St Andrew's Hospital after a nearby church destroyed during the First World War. It was administered by the Metropolitan Asylums board from 1925 until 1933, when responsibility transferred to the London County Council. Between 1968 and 1975, Twelve Trees Crescent was constructed along the south eastern corner of the site, and the A102 road bridge was constructed along the eastern boundary of the site crossing the railway.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the Specification prepared by Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting (Darton 2008). The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 5.2 All trenches were located outside the footprint of the former hospital building that had been demolished prior to the evaluation. A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove overburden down to the highest archaeological horizon. A total of seven out of the proposed trenches were opened across the study site (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was abandoned after preliminary excavation revealed a deep 19th century service inspection chamber with pipes extending along the length of the proposed trench. It was deemed unsafe to proceed due to the depth of the chamber and also the chamber had clearly truncated any archaeological deposits in the area. In Trenches 2, 4 and 7 a sondage was excavated by machine through the redeposited gravels to investigate their depth and the nature of the natural deposits located below.
- 5.3 The features identified within the trenches were then cleaned and investigated by hand. Investigation was limited to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. This was conducted by the excavation of slots through features and by half sectioning.
- 5.4 The archaeological deposits were assigned individual context numbers and recorded onto pro-forma sheets and recorded in plan and section as appropriate. A photographic record was made (colour and black & white).
- 5.5 A known Ordnance Survey benchmark was utilised and subsequently transferred to other points on site to allow levels to be accurately taken in all trenches. The value of the benchmark (located in the north east corner of the site) was 8.95m OD. The trenches were located by a PCA surveyor.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 As previously stated, Trench 1 was abandoned after preliminary excavation revealed a deep 19th century service inspection chamber with pipes extending along the length of the proposed trench. It was deemed unsafe to proceed due to the depth of the chamber. The extent of the trench, as excavated, was surveyed and is shown on the trench location plan (Fig. 2).

6.2 Trench 2

- 6.2.1 As with a number of the subsequent trenches, the natural gravel in this part of the site was located at a depth indicative of previous disturbance probably related to the construction of the original asylum buildings in the 19th century. A mid greyish sandy gravel [76], [66], [67], & [69] was exposed via machine excavation 2.80m below ground level (BGL) at a level of approximately 6.17m OD. Overlying this was a deposit of mid brownish yellow sandy gravel with frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded pebble inclusions. This deposit represents natural gravel and was encountered at a height of 8.21 to 8.48m OD.
- 6.2.2 Three cuts [68], [75] & [83] were observed within the natural gravel which probably relate to the construction of the pier bases of the raised walkway that connected the two wards immediately east and west of the trench location. Cut [68] was observed in the north eastern corner of the trench with cut [75] located in the south eastern corner whilst cut [83] was seen in the south west facing section. Cut [83] had a gradual slope and was present from approximately 8.21m OD. Within this cut lay a block [74] of yellow stock bricks, square in shape, and measuring approximately 1.20m x 1.20m. It is likely that this forms a brick foundation base for the aforementioned raised walkway. The cut was filled with a loose to moderately compacted dark greyish brown silty clay [73] & [82]. This deposit showed considerable signs of root disturbance and contained a frequent amount of organic material that suggests that the area had once been utilised as a garden space within the hospital grounds. Also contained within deposit [73] were occasional fragments of CBM and pottery. The pottery consisted of one piece of yellow slip ware, one fragment of transfer printed ware and one piece of refined white slip ware all dating to the mid – late 19th century.
- 6.2.3 A trench [77] had been cut into [73] for service pipes relating to the asylum/hospital building. The cut was of a linear shape in plan and orientated NW-SE extending along the width of the trench. The width of cut [77] was approximately 1.10m and it contained a moderate greyish brown sandy silt [78] with occasional small pebble inclusions and CBM fragments. This deposit was located between 7.73m and 7.84m OD.
- 6.2.4 Overlying fill [78] was a layer [65] of firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional CBM and 19th century pottery fragments. This deposit was recorded in section with dimensions of 8.00m x 1.10m but was observed along the whole length of the trench during excavation. As with [73], this deposit showed extensive signs of root disturbance and the presence of organic material. The deposit was observed at 8.60m OD. Cut into it towards the north western end of the trench was another service trench [70] measuring 1.90m by 0.74m and containing a compact mid greenish grey clayey silt [71] with occasional CBM fragments.
- 6.2.5 Overlying service trench [70] were 0.40m thick layers of concrete and tarmac. Current ground level was at c. 9.00m OD.

6.3 Trench 3

- 6.3.1 The earliest recorded deposit in this trench was encountered at between 8.01m and 8.11m OD and consisted of a loose reddish yellowish brown sandy gravel [2] including frequent medium sized rounded to sub rounded pebbles. This deposit forms the natural Taplow Terrace gravels and was observed running for 8.00m (N-S) x 1.80m (E-W).
- 6.3.2 A small sub-circular feature [10] was observed towards the north end of the trench measuring approximately 0.42m in diameter. The sides were sharp and the base was relatively flat. The feature contained a fill [11] of loose mid yellowish brown gravelly sand with a thickness of approximately 140mm. The top of the deposit was recorded at a level of 8.02m OD. No cultural material was obtained from the deposit for dating and it whilst it was not possible to ascertain a definitive date or function for this small feature, a natural origin is likely. Similar features were observed in Trenches 6 and 8.
- 6.3.3 Also observed in the north end of the trench was cut [12] which truncated the gravels to a depth of 1.00m. The cut was aligned N-S from the northern end of the trench for approximately 1.40m before turning in a south easterly direction and continuing into the limit of excavation. The sides of the cut were concave at the top with a gradual-sharp slope and the base was relatively flat where seen. At the bottom of the feature a lower fill of yellowish reddish brown sand [16] was encountered at a level of 7.05m OD. Above this was a layer of mid grey sandy clay [15] containing occasional small rounded pebbles and appearing alluvial in nature. This deposit was approximately 180mm thick. Sealing this was a loose mixed light greyish sandy clay layer [14] with occasional small rounded pebbles. One piece of CBM was recovered from this layer. The deposit was 0.20m thick and observed at a level of c. 7.44m OD. Overlying this the upper fill consisted of light brown sandy clayey gravel [13] which included frequent sub angular to sub rounded pebbles and flint nodules, moderate fragments of charcoal and CBM and occasional pottery sherds. The pottery recovered consisted of two pieces of London type ware (dating between 1080 and 1350 AD) and one piece of Essex miscellaneous sandy orange ware (1200 – 1550 AD). A spot date for this deposit can therefore be said to be between 1200 and 1350 AD. The deposit was approximately 0.50m thick and contained a lens of reddish sand. It seems likely given the date and knowledge of land use during the medieval period that this feature forms part of a land boundary ditch, which initially silted up and then was subsequently backfilled.
- 6.3.4 The southern end of the trench displayed signs of post-medieval activity associated with the hospital complex, comprising a brick lined culvert [5] with associated cut [6] and fill [7], and a basement foundation wall [4] with cut [8] and fill [9]. The linear cut [6] for the culvert measured 3.20m (N-S) by 0.60 (E-W) and was observed at 8.17m OD. It was filled with a compact mid yellowish brown sandy gravel [7] with frequent pebbles and flint nodules. The culvert itself [5] was formed from machine made yellow stock brick comprising a course of stretchers held together with portland cement mortar. The roof of the culvert was arched. The basement foundation wall [4] was itself made from yellow stock brick with an English bond and was recorded running N-S for 1.40m within the east facing section. The cut [8] for this wall was encountered at a level of 8.14m OD and ran N-S for approximately 2.60m and E-W for 0.34m. It was filled by compact mid yellowish brown sandy gravel [9] containing frequent small well sorted pebble inclusions. Adjacent to and just north of this deposit as observed in the east facing section lay a 0.30m thick deposit of dark greenish grey silty clay [3] which ran north for 2.00m. Observed at around 8.30m OD it is likely that this deposit forms a layer of made ground or bedding for the adjacent basement structures.
- 6.3.5 Overlying these features and deposits was a layer of made ground [1] which comprised a compact dark greyish brown sandy rubble which included a moderate

amount of brick fragments and debris. This layer was approximately 0.70m thick and the top of it was encountered at current ground level (9.07m OD).

6.4 Trench 4

- 6.4.1 As with Trench 2, the natural gravels in this area of the site had to be exposed by a machine dug sondage into the eastern end of the trench. This revealed cleaner natural gravels at a level of c. 7.75m OD.
- 6.4.2 Overlying this was a very mixed series of interleaved layers forming a general made ground deposit likely to date to the late 19th to early 20th century. The deposits [56], [59], [60], [61], [62], [63] and [64] varied from moderately compact to moderately loose in nature and were a mixture of light to dark brown with, in some instances, an orange hue. Mainly formed of clayey silt and sandy gravel, the nature of these deposits suggest that the ground had been disturbed a number of times, most likely as a result of service installations and the construction of the parking area at the entrance to the site. Observed along the whole length of the trench and encountered between at levels of 8.36m and 8.42m OD these deposits contained occasional flecks of CBM and moderate to frequent amounts of sub-angular to sub-rounded pebble inclusions.
- 6.4.3 Cut into layers [56], [59], [60], [61] and [62] was a late 19th century – early 20th century ceramic drain pipe with an associated cut [58] and fill [57]. The construction cut for the pipe was linear and orientated NE-SW. It measured 3.92m by 1.80m and was filled with a moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent flecks of CBM and frequent small sub-angular pebbles. The cut and fill were recorded at a level of 8.37m OD.
- 6.4.4 Present above these deposits was a layer of demolition rubble which formed the present day ground make up (utilised as a car park for the construction staff on site). Current ground level at the location of the trench was recorded at 9.03m OD.

6.5 Trench 5

- 6.5.1 The natural gravel [81] in Trench 5 was encountered at a level of 7.88m OD and comprised a moderate medium reddish brown sandy gravel with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular pebble inclusions. This was exposed towards the western end of the trench in an area measuring 1.80m by 0.70m.
- 6.5.2 A steep linear and vertically sided cut [55] was observed towards the western end of the trench, cutting the natural gravel and filled with a moderately compact yellowish greyish brown fine clayey silt [54]. The deposit contained moderate to frequent sub angular pebbles and fragments of post-medieval and modern CBM and pottery. The feature measured 1.80m by 1.02m, was orientated E-W and encountered at a height of c. 7.90m OD. Although not fully excavated it appears likely that this feature was a modern service trench, possibly related to the nearby railway lines immediately adjacent to and north of the trench location.
- 6.5.3 Observed towards the eastern end of the trench was a thin dump layer [52] comprising of a moderately loose orangey yellow coarse gravelly sand with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. This was recorded at a height of 8.05m OD and was overlain by a layer of mixed made ground [53], which was found throughout the remainder of the trench. Moderately compact and varying from light yellowish grey, dark grey, orangey brown, blackish grey and yellowish grey this deposit consisted mainly of a coarse sandy silt and contained very frequent large fragments of charcoal and clinker-like debris which were probably dumped layers related to the construction of the railway line. A frequent number of glass and CBM fragments were

also noted. This layer was 1.30m thick and located up to the current ground level of 9.18m OD.

6.6 Trench 6

- 6.6.1 The natural Taplow Terrace gravels [51] were recorded at a height of c. 7.90m OD towards the northern end of the trench and measured approximately 5.00m (N-S) by 1.70m (E-W) at the widest point. The deposit consisted of a mid yellowish brown sandy gravel with frequent rounded pebbles of varying size. Cut into the gravel towards the north of the trench was a small sub-circular feature [39] measuring 0.36m by 0.46m with a depth of 120mm. It was filled with a loose mid greyish green clayey gravelly sand [40] with moderate well-sorted small to medium pebble inclusions. As with the small circular feature in Trench 3 [10], no dating material was recovered from the deposit and it is interpreted as being natural in origin.
- 6.6.2 A slumped layer of demolition rubble [50] was observed in the east facing section overlying the gravel. It comprised of a compact mid reddish brown sandy rubble containing very frequent red brick fragments and was recorded as being 1.00m thick at extremis. The top of the deposit was noted at a height of 8.97m OD with the slumped base occurring around 7.93m OD.
- 6.6.3 A series of cuts [37], [41] and [45] were made into the gravel, all probably relating to the construction of the 19th century asylum. Cut [37] was orientated N-S and located alongside the east facing section in the north west corner of the trench. It measured 2.54m x 0.32m where observed and was filled with a compact mid greenish grey clayey silt [38] with occasional CBM fragments and sherds of late 19th century pottery. This deposit was recorded at a height of 7.93m OD. Contexts [41] and [45] are probably part of the same construction cut – having been truncated by a later concrete encased pipe. Cut [41] was orientated N-S from the west facing LOE before it was truncated by the later feature. South of the later feature, cut [45] continued in an easterly direction back into the west facing limit of excavation. A further cut [80] was observed approximately half way down the length of the trench running E-W and filled with a firm dark greenish grey clayey silty sand [49] and [79] with moderate CBM fragments. The fill of this cut continued for 5.00m to the southern limit of the trench and was observed at a level of 7.82m OD.
- 6.6.4 Sealing these deposits towards the southern end of the trench (recorded in section only) were two layers of made ground [48] and [47]. The compact mid reddish brown rubble layer [48] was recorded at 8.77m OD with a maximum thickness of 1.00m. This was sealed by a layer of compact grey and brown silty rubble with a thickness of approximately 0.20m which continued up to current ground level.

6.7 Trench 7

- 6.7.1 This trench was not fully excavated as a buried concrete encased pipe was cut into redeposited gravel along the length of the trench. In addition, across the centre of the trench lay a pipe running N-S which was suspected of containing asbestos. An attempt to excavate a sondage at the western end of the trench to locate the depth of the natural gravels failed, as the concrete encased pipe could not be removed (the pipe was observed at c. 6.70m OD). As such the earliest encountered deposit consisted of a loose to moderately compact mid yellowish reddish brown sandy gravel [84] which represented the disturbed/redeposited natural gravels. The redeposited gravel was recorded at a level of 7.98m OD and ran across the length of the trench as excavated.
- 6.7.2 A trench had been cut into this layer [35] for the buried concrete encased services. This cut extended E-W for 14.00m along the length of the trench and was

approximately 1.00m wide. It was filled with a compact dark greyish green clayey silt [36] which lay at a height of 8.34m OD. Partially overlying this (as recorded in section) was a layer of compact dark greenish grey silty sand [34] with occasional pebble inclusions. This layer was approximately 0.20m thick and encountered at a height of c. 8.55m OD.

- 6.7.3 Overlying these deposits was a further layer of redeposited gravel [33] comprising of a loose mid yellowish brown sandy gravel with a thickness of c. 1.20m. This layer continued up to a height of 8.87m and was overlain in turn with modern tarmac and concrete which was approximately 0.20m thick.

6.8 Trench 8

- 6.8.1 The natural sandy gravels [21] were encountered between 7.79m and 7.97m OD and comprised a compact mid yellowish reddish brown sandy gravel with moderate well sorted pebble inclusions. Another small circular feature [24] was observed cut into the gravel which was subsequently cut by a later 19th century cast iron water pipe [28]. The small feature had concave sides and was between 100-200mm in depth. It was filled with a loose light green gravelly sand [25] with moderate small sub-angular pebbles and flint nodules. The top of this fill was recorded at a height of 7.96m OD. Again the nature or origin of this feature could not be ascertained.
- 6.8.2 The features in the remainder of the trench consisted of a series of cuts and fills related to the 19th century construction of the asylum buildings and their associated services. The earliest of these, cut [31], was observed in the southern half of the trench, linear in shape and running E-W. It contained a compact dark greyish green silty clay [32] with occasional pebble and CBM inclusions. It was recorded at a level of 7.96m OD at the top of the deposit. Cut [31] was in turn truncated by a linear trench [29] running N-S and measuring approximately 0.90m in width. This was filled by a dark greyish green silty clay [30], recorded at a similar level of 7.97m OD. Immediately north of this feature another cut [26] containing the same dark greyish green silty clay [27] was observed, with a black cast iron water pipe [28] protruding from the fill. The pipe measured a diameter of approximately 120mm and probably dated from the mid to late 19th century. Finally, at the north eastern end of the trench a further cut [22] relating to the construction of the asylum was seen running E-W and filled with a dark greyish green silty clay with occasional CBM fragments and sub rounded – sub angular pebbles. This cut was observed at a height of 7.77m OD.
- 6.8.3 Overlying these features were a series of made ground deposits. The first, present at a height of 7.70m OD, consisted of a soft mid greyish green silty clay [20] with occasional pebble inclusions. Above this, at a level of 8.60m OD was a layer of compact dark brownish black silty sandy rubble [18] with frequent CBM fragments. Contained within this deposit was a lens of mid yellow sandy gravel [19], approximately 60mm thick. Finally the upper most layer consisted of a loose medium grey silty sandy rubble with frequent CBM fragments. This was observed at a height of 8.96m OD.

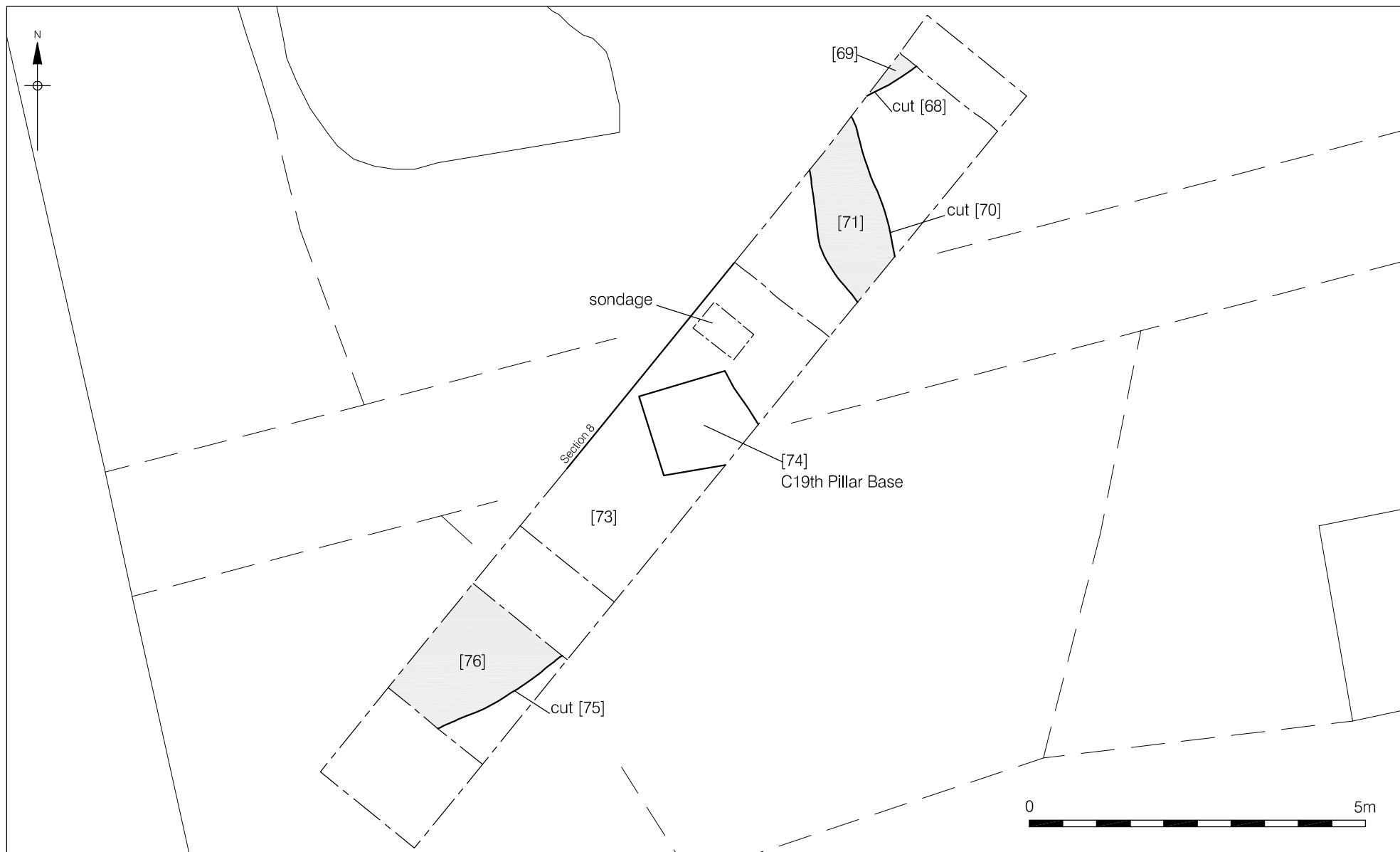


Figure 3
Plan of Trench 2
1:80 at A4



Figure 4
Plan of Trench 3
1:80 at A4

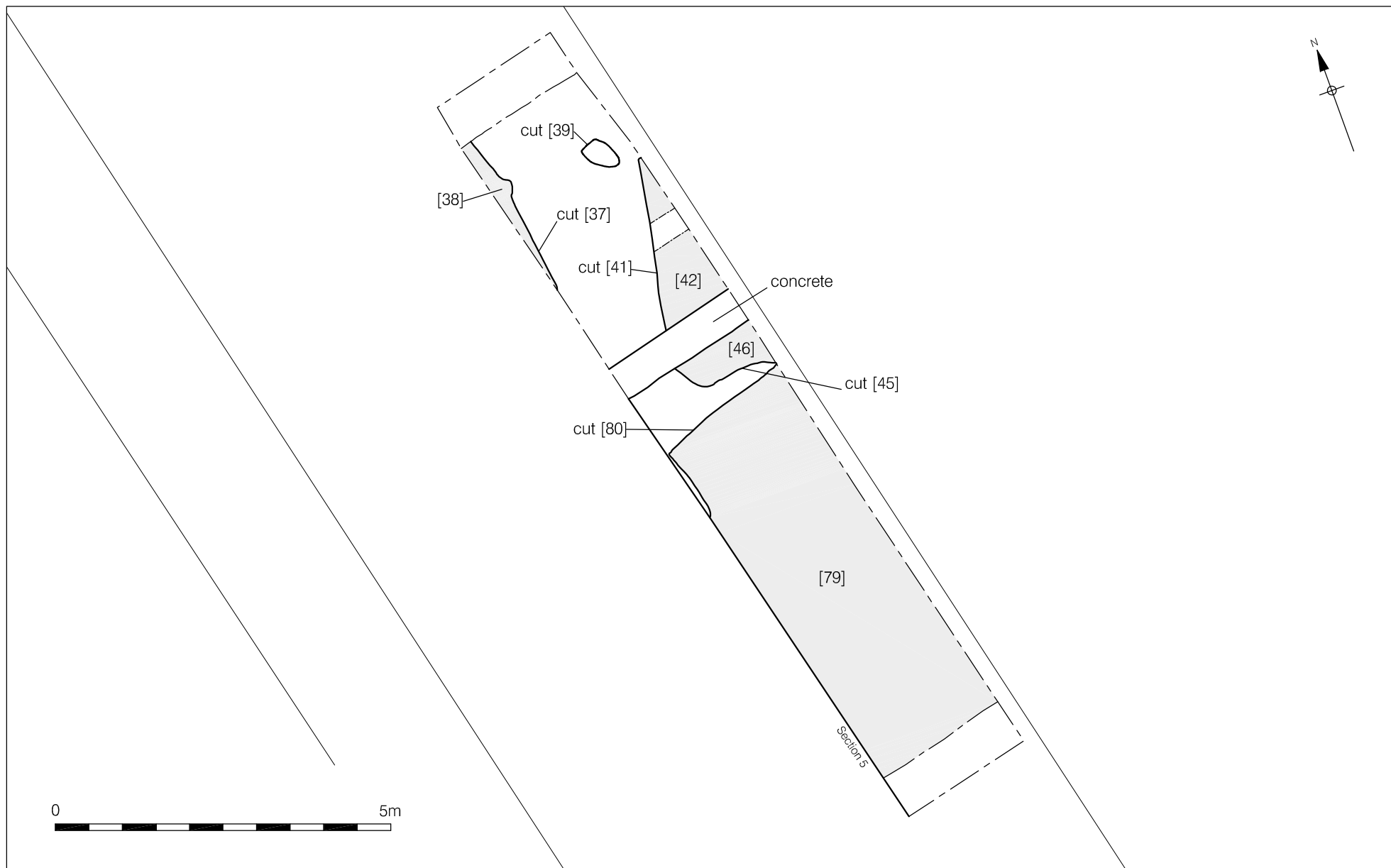


Figure 5
Plan of Trench 6
1:80 at A4

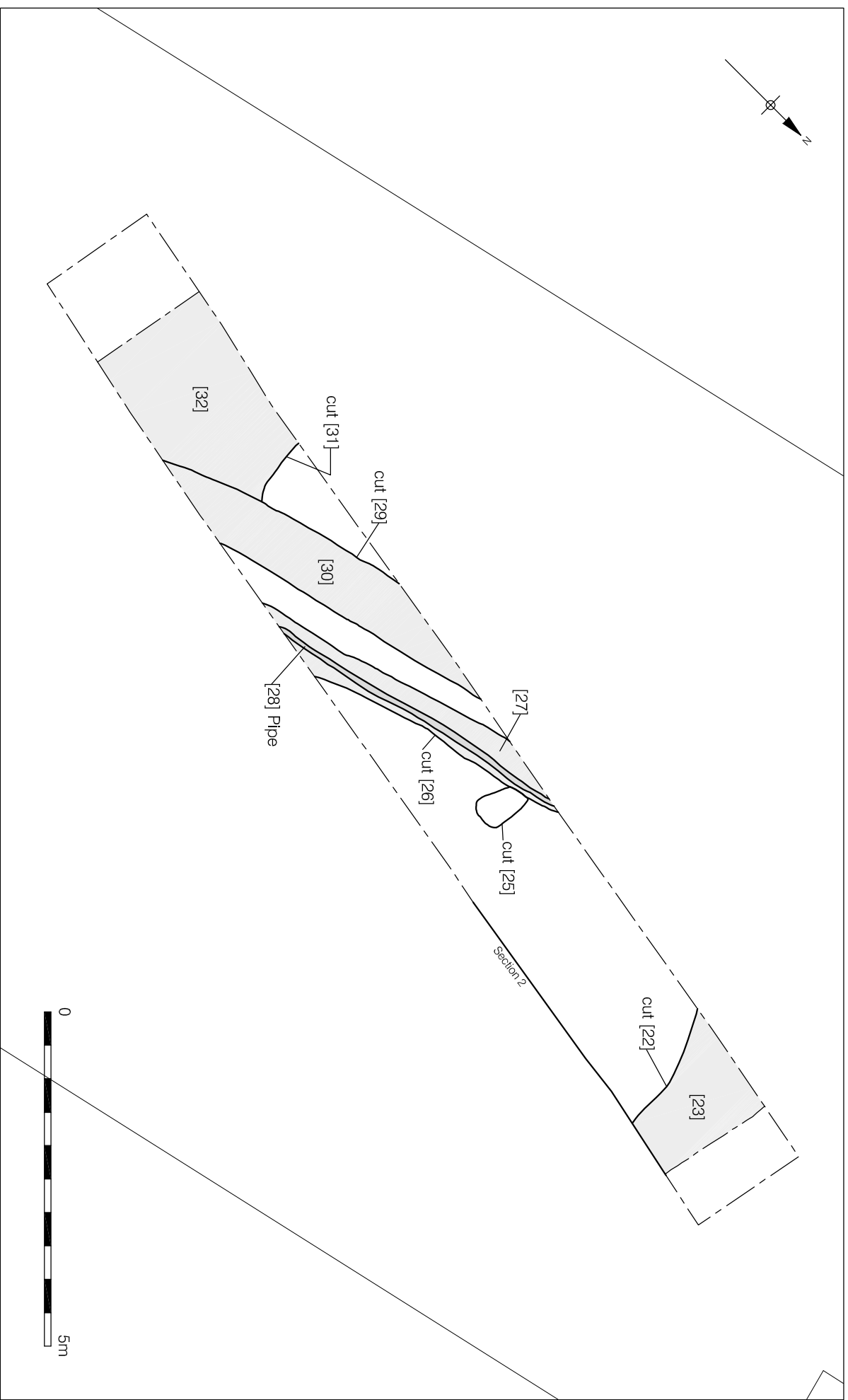
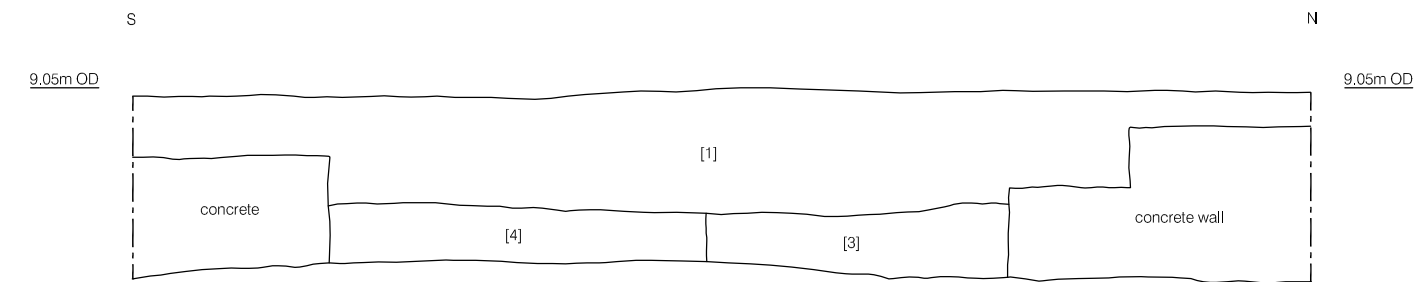
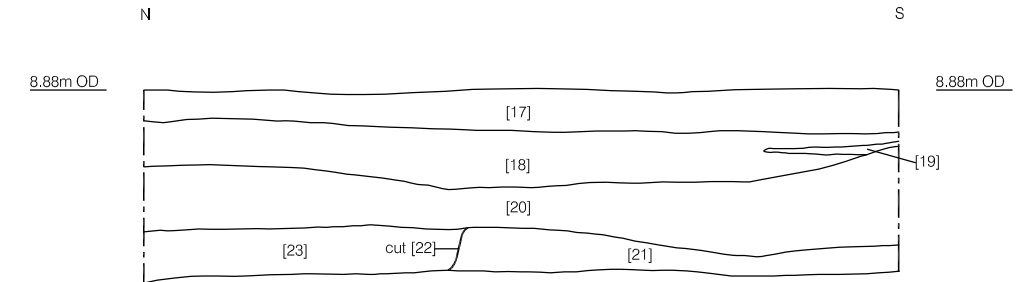


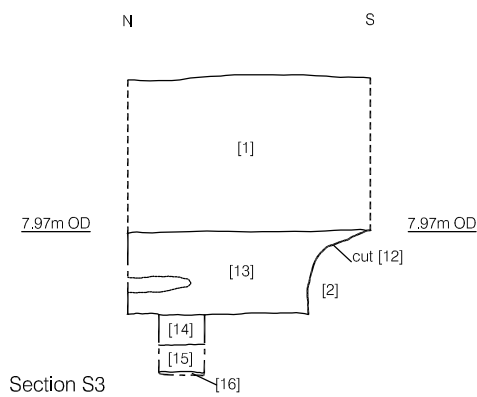
Figure 6
Plan of Trench 8
1:80 at A4



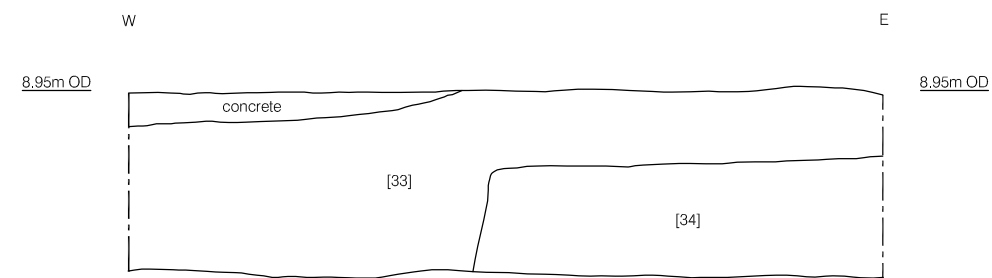
Section S1
Trench 3
East Facing



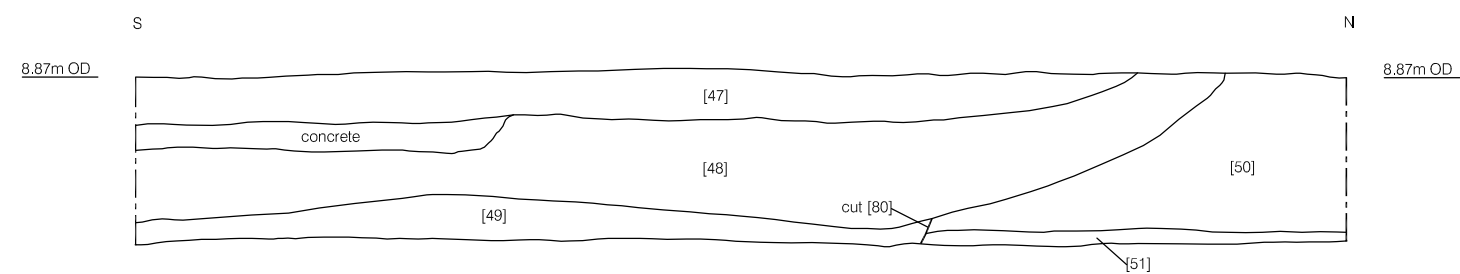
Section S2
Trench 8
West Facing



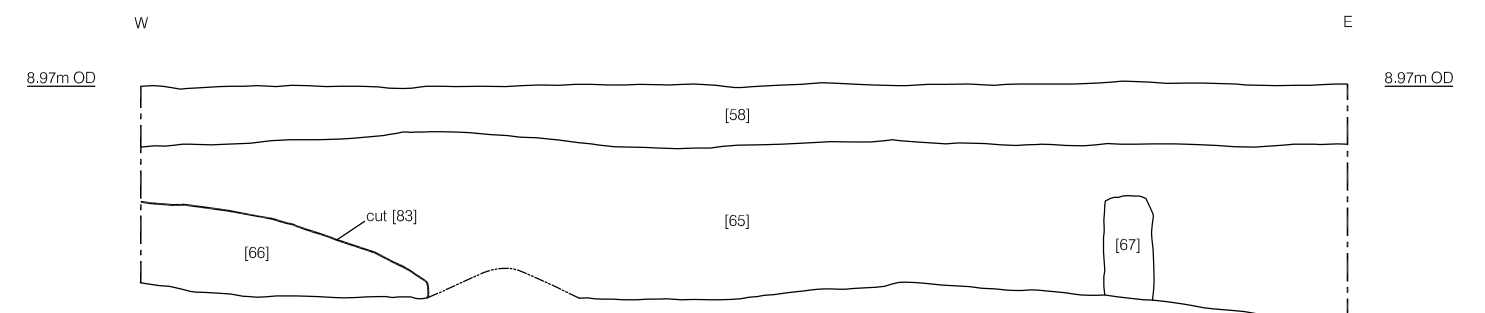
Section S3
Trench 3
West Facing



Section S4
Trench 7
South Facing



Section S5
Trench 6
East Facing



Section S8
Trench 2
South Facing



Figure 7
Section 1 to 6
1:50 at A3

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Where encountered the natural deposits were consistent with those which were expected for the area, namely the Taplow Terrace gravels of the River Thames. The trenches in which these gravels were observed tended to be located towards the north eastern portion of the site. The trenches located further south and to the west appeared to be more heavily truncated by construction cuts for building foundations and service pipes relating to the 19th century asylum building.
- 7.2 Three small amorphous features were observed in three separate trenches that were cut into the natural gravel layers. These features were shallow and displayed a marked absence of cultural material within their associated fills. It is likely that these features are natural in origin.
- 7.3 The earliest confirmed feature was located in Trench 3 in the far north eastern corner of the site. It is likely that the feature represents the corner of a land boundary ditch due to its shape and depth. The pottery evidence from the fills within the ditch suggest a date between the 13th-14th centuries, when it is known that the land belonged to the church and was probably being utilised for agricultural purposes.
- 7.4 The remainder of the features across the site relate to the construction of the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum c. 1870. Aside from ceramic and cast iron service pipes, a basement wall, a brick culvert and a brick support foundation for one of the suspended walkways were all exposed and recorded.
- 7.5 Whilst the trenches were positioned outside the footprints of the known buildings associated with the Hospital complex, the evaluation revealed that the area of the site had been heavily disturbed by the previously development of the area. Evidence for medieval activity was observed in the far north eastern corner of the site in the form of a probable field boundary. However, given the extensive truncation recorded across the site, it is unlikely that any further archaeological deposits or features survive in any other area of the proposed development.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Lorraine Darton, CgMs Consulting, for commissioning this project and David Divers of English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for monitoring the work.
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Veyssel Apaydin and Joe Brooks for on site assistance and John Evans, Les Thompson, Billy Collison and Peter Robertson for their kind assistance and co-operation during the evaluation. The author would also like to thank Lisa Lonsdale for logistical support, Aidan Turner for surveying, Hayley Baxter for illustrations and Tim Bradley for his project management and Helen Clough for editing this report.

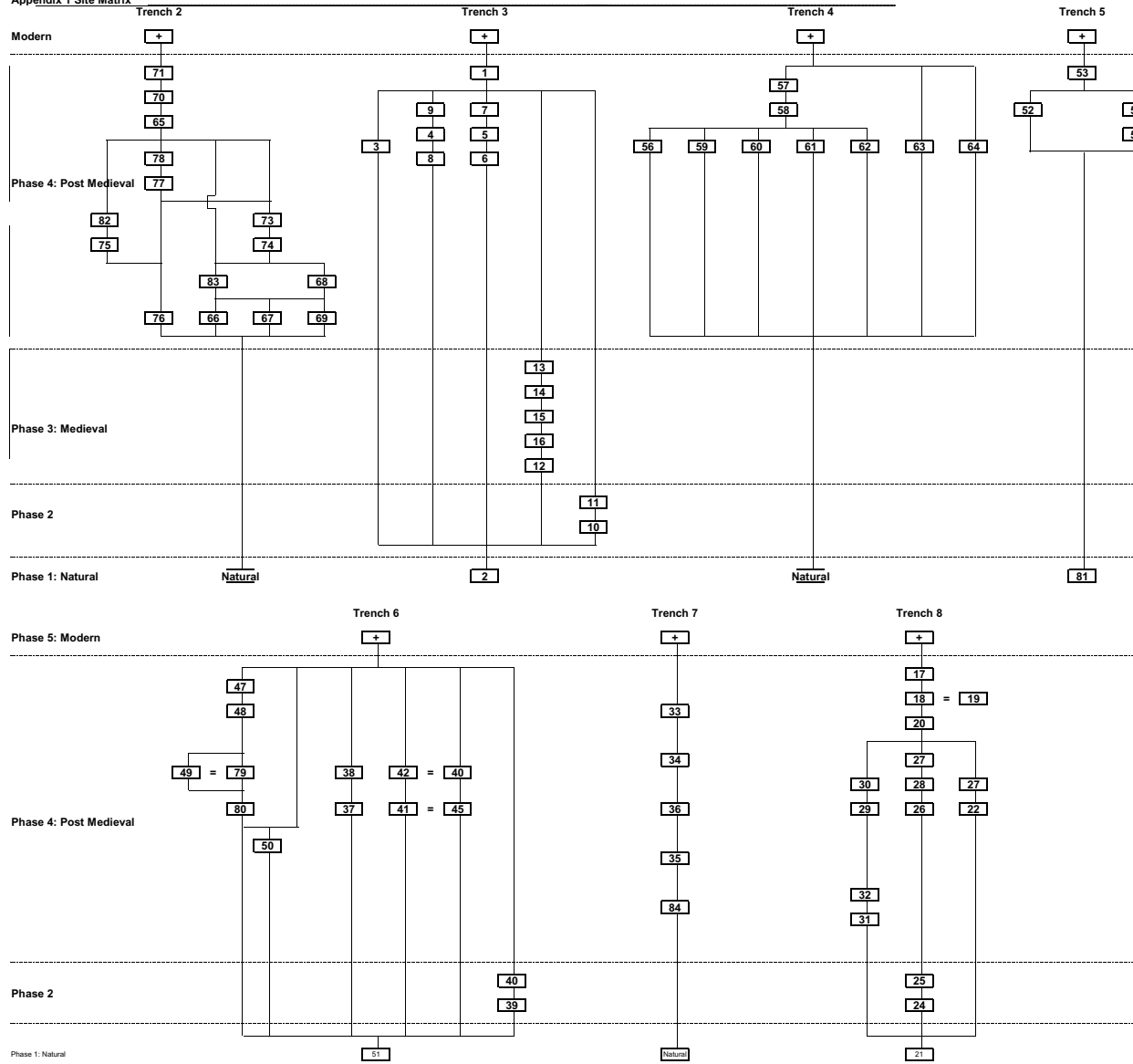
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Appendix 1 Site Matrix



Appendix 2: Context Index

| Site Code | Context No. | Plan | Section / Elevation | Type | Description | Date |
|-----------|-------------|------|---------------------|-----------|--|---------------|
| DVA08 | (+) | N/A | N/A | Layer | Modern ground level | Modern |
| DVA08 | 1 | Tr 3 | S1 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 2 | Tr 3 | S3 | Deposit | Natural sandy gravel | Natural |
| DVA08 | 3 | Tr 3 | S1 | Deposit | Made ground / Bedding | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 4 | Tr 3 | S1 | Masonry | C19 wall foundations relating to asylum | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 5 | Tr 3 | S1 | Masonry | Brick lined culvert | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 6 | Tr 3 | N/A | Cut | Construction cut for culvert [5] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 7 | Tr 3 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [6] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 8 | Tr 3 | N/A | Cut | Construction cut for wall [4] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 9 | Tr 3 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [8] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 10 | Tr 3 | N/A | Cut | Cut of small circular feature | Unknown |
| DVA08 | 11 | Tr 3 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [10] | Unknown |
| DVA08 | 12 | Tr 3 | N/A | Cut | Cut for possible agricultural feature | Medieval |
| DVA08 | 13 | Tr 3 | N/A | Fill | Upper fill of [12] | Medieval |
| DVA08 | 14 | Tr 3 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [12] | Medieval |
| DVA08 | 15 | Tr 3 | S3 | Fill | Lower fill of [12] | Medieval |
| DVA08 | 16 | Tr 3 | N/A | Deposit | Natural sandy base | Natural |
| DVA08 | 17 | Tr 8 | S2 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 18 | Tr 8 | S2 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 19 | Tr 8 | S2 | Deposit | Lens of sandy gravel within (18) | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 20 | Tr 8 | S2 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 21 | Tr 8 | S2 | Deposit | Natural sandy gravel | Natural |
| DVA08 | 22 | Tr 8 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of C19 asylum | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 23 | Tr 8 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [22] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 24 | Tr 8 | N/A | Cut | Cut for small feature | Unknown |
| DVA08 | 25 | Tr 8 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [24] | Unknown |
| DVA08 | 26 | Tr 8 | N/A | Cut | Cut for service pipe trench | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 27 | Tr 8 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [26] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 28 | Tr 8 | N/A | Structure | Cast Iron water pipe | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 29 | Tr 8 | N/A | Cut | Cut for posited service pipe trench | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 30 | Tr 8 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [29] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 31 | Tr 8 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of C19 asylum | Post-Medieval |

| Site Code | Context No. | Plan | Section / Elevation | Type | Description | Date |
|-----------|-------------|------|---------------------|---------|--|---------------|
| DVA08 | 32 | Tr 8 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [31] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 33 | Tr 7 | S4 | Layer | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 34 | Tr 7 | S4 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 35 | Tr 7 | N/A | Cut | Cut for posited service pipe trench | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 36 | Tr 7 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [35] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 37 | Tr 6 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of C19 asylum | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 38 | Tr 6 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [37] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 39 | Tr 6 | N/A | Cut | Cut for small circular feature | Unknown |
| DVA08 | 40 | Tr 6 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [39] | Unknown |
| DVA08 | 41 | Tr 6 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of C19 asylum | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 42 | Tr 6 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [41] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 43 | N/A | N/A | N/A | VOID | N/A |
| DVA08 | 44 | N/A | N/A | N/A | VOID | N/A |
| DVA08 | 45 | Tr 6 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of C19 asylum | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 46 | Tr 6 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [45] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 47 | Tr 6 | S5 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 48 | Tr 6 | S5 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 49 | Tr 6 | S5 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 50 | Tr 6 | S5 | Layer | Demolition layer | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 51 | Tr 6 | S5 | Deposit | Natural sandy gravel | Natural |
| DVA08 | 52 | Tr 5 | S6 | Layer | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 53 | Tr 5 | N/A | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 54 | Tr 5 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [55] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 55 | Tr 5 | N/A | Cut | Cut for posited service pipe trench | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 56 | Tr 4 | S7 | Layer | Made ground | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 57 | Tr 4 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [58] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 58 | Tr 4 | N/A | Cut | Cut for drain pipe | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 59 | Tr 4 | N/A | Layer | Made ground/dump layer | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 60 | Tr 4 | N/A | Layer | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 61 | Tr 4 | N/A | Layer | Made ground/dump layer | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 62 | Tr 4 | N/A | Layer | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 63 | Tr 4 | N/A | Layer | Made ground/dump layer | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 64 | Tr 4 | N/A | Layer | Made ground/dump layer | Post-Medieval |

| Site Code | Context No. | Plan | Section / Elevation | Type | Description | Date |
|-----------|-------------|------|---------------------|---------|--|---------------|
| DVA08 | 65 | Tr 2 | S8 | Layer | Made ground/garden soils | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 66 | Tr 2 | S8 | Deposit | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 67 | Tr 2 | S8 | Deposit | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 68 | Tr 2 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of the raised walkway | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 69 | Tr 2 | N/A | Deposit | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 70 | Tr 2 | N/A | Cut | Cut for posited service pipe trench | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 71 | Tr 2 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [70] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 72 | N/A | N/A | N/A | VOID | N/A |
| DVA08 | 73 | Tr 2 | N/A | Layer | Made ground/garden soils | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 74 | Tr 2 | N/A | Masonry | Pillar base support relating to raised walkway | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 75 | Tr 2 | N/A | Cut | Cut for posited service pipe trench | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 76 | Tr 2 | N/A | Deposit | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 77 | Tr 2 | N/A | Cut | Cut for concrete encased pipe | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 78 | Tr 2 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [77] | |
| DVA08 | 79 | Tr 6 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [80] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 80 | Tr 6 | N/A | Cut | Cut relating to construction of C19 asylum | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 81 | Tr 5 | N/A | Deposit | Natural sandy gravel | Natural |
| DVA08 | 82 | Tr 2 | N/A | Fill | Fill of [75] | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 83 | Tr 2 | S8 | Cut | Cut relating to construction of the raised walkway | Post-Medieval |
| DVA08 | 84 | Tr 7 | N/A | Layer | Redeposited natural gravel | Post-Medieval |

Appendix 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-49012

Project details

Project name Archaeological Evaluation at St Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow

Short description of the project Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation at St Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow, in advance of a new housing development. Seven trenches were excavated outside the footprint of the St Andrew's Hospital building. The trenches located towards the north-eastern corner of the site revealed the natural Taplow Terrace gravels of the River Thames, whereas those located towards the south and west of the site exposed ground that had been heavily disturbed by construction activity undertaken in the 19th century for the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum. One trench contained the corner of what is believed to be a medieval land boundary ditch, with pottery dating to c. 1200 - 1350 AD. The remainder of the features and deposits encountered related to the construction of the nineteenth century asylum buildings.

Project dates Start: 11-09-2008 End: 18-09-2008

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes DVA08 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Monument type BOUNDARY DITCH Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Methods & 'Targeted Trenches' techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW St Andrews Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow

Postcode E3 3

Study area 2.50 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 533400 179200 50.9397310996 0.182770288469 50 56 23 N 000 10 57 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 6.17m Max: 8.11m

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Organisation

Project brief CgMs Consultants Ltd
originator

Project design Lorraine Darton
originator

Project Tim Bradley
director/manager

Project supervisor Iain Bright

Type of CgMs Consulting
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive LAARC
recipient

Physical ID Archive DVA08

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital recipient Archive LAARC

Digital Archive ID DVA08

Digital Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital available Media 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper recipient Archive LAARC

Paper Archive ID DVA08

Paper Contents 'Ceramics'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey',

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at St Andrew's Hospital, Bromley-by-Bow, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Author(s)/Editor(s) Bright, I.

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Entered on 30 September 2008